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## Children's Omnibus 2013: Full report

### Introduction

The Children's Omnibus survey is conducted twice a year in April and November on behalf of the Arts Council of Wales by Beaufort Research. The Arts Council has taken part in this survey since 2007. The survey primarily focuses on levels of attendance and participation by children and young people in the arts in Wales.

The Children's Omnibus 2013 report summarises the key results for the amalgamated data set for 2013 and follows the headline figures which were released in December 2013.

The results are based on 1,014 interviews completed with a representative sample of children and young people in Wales aged 7 to 18 years.

The full report can be found at the following link:

[www.artscouncilofwales.org.uk/c\\_research/childrens-omnibus-survey-2013](http://www.artscouncilofwales.org.uk/c_research/childrens-omnibus-survey-2013)

## Key Findings from the Children's Omnibus Report 2013:

### Attendance

During 2013, 85.4% of children and young people in Wales attended an arts event<sup>1</sup> once a year or more. Not only has this increased from the previous year (by 5.9 percentage points) but over the last four years there has been an increase of 9 percentage points.

#### Attendance at Arts events once a year or more:

- More girls(87.7%), than boys (83.4%), attended arts events once a year or more, a trend also reflected in the previous two years. However, boys have experienced a much bigger increase in attendance levels than girls since 2012, up by almost 10 percentage points compared to a 2.7 percentage point increase for girls.
- There have been positive trends in attendance levels by both socio economic grades from the previous year, with attendance among the lower C2DEs increasing by 5.8 percentage points from 2012.
- The South West and South Central region had the highest levels of attendance in 2013, 91.2% and 89.7% respectively. Despite having the lowest levels of attendance, the South East region still experience an increase of 5.8 percentage points from the previous year, bringing it to 67% in 2013.
- Carnivals and street arts, and plays were the two artforms which had the highest levels of attendance during 2013, at 51.3% and 50.7%. This is similar to 2012. Attendances to other live music events have continued to decline over the three years while attendances to exhibitions of arts and crafts and literary events have increased.
- The majority of attendance to all arts events is in children and young people's own time (71.8%) and not organised through school/college and during school/college time.

#### Participation in arts activities once a year or more often:

In 2013, 84.3% of children and young people took part in arts activities once a year or more, an increase of 4.1 percentage points from the previous year. This is the highest level of participation recorded since the survey began in 2007.

- Girls were slightly more likely to take part in the arts than boys, 85.6% v 83.2%. However, gender has less of an impact on participation in the arts compared to attendances to the arts.
- Levels of participation among C2DEs have increased by 5 percentage points from 2012 to 82.1% and this has narrowed the gap between the two groups, (86.5% of ABC1s take part in the arts once a year or more).

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<sup>1</sup> This figure is based on attendance at 9 artforms which have been included in the survey since 2010. The following artforms are included: plays, musicals, opera, classical music concerts, other live music, dance performances, art or craft galleries or exhibitions, readings, storytellings or other literature events and carnival and street arts.

- The South Central region had the highest levels of participation at 94.0%. The South East region had the lowest levels of participation, 63% and a slight decrease from the previous year when 69% took part in arts activities once a year or more.
- The most popular artforms for children and young people to take part in were creative writing (63.4%), followed by visual arts and crafts (59.8%). All artforms experienced some level of increase from the previous year.
- The majority of participation in arts activities is organised through schools/colleges and during school/college time, 71.4%

## Frequency

The Arts Council of Wales includes questions on the Children's Omnibus twice a year, in April and November.

## Terms and Definitions

**Attendance** is experiencing the arts as an audience member.

Artforms included within attendance are: plays, musicals, opera, classical music concerts, other live music, dance performances, art or craft galleries or exhibitions, readings, storytellings or other literature events and carnival & street arts.

**Participation** is active involvement in the arts, such as attending workshops, classes or rehearsals.

Artforms included under participation are: musical activities, drama or theatrical activity, dance, film and video making or photography, visual arts and crafts, digital arts and creative writing.

**Children and young people** are those aged 7-18 years of age.

**Social Grade** is based on the Chief Income Earner in the household. Everyone in the household has the same social grade as the Chief Income Earner. **ABC1s** are the professional, qualified and non-manual occupations and **C2DEs** are the skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers and non-working people.

## Further Information

If you have any comments or queries on this data release or if you would like to be added to our regular users list then please contact our research team. [Research@artscouncilofwales.org.uk](mailto:Research@artscouncilofwales.org.uk)

Website: [www.artscouncilofwales.org.uk](http://www.artscouncilofwales.org.uk)

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## Next Update

December 2014.