Taking Part 2016/17:
DANCE
This report provides an overview of engagement in dance for adults living in England.

Data is taken from the Taking Part Survey 2016/17 and makes comparisons earlier years.

All statistically significant differences are noted in the text and on the charts:
- a statistically significant difference is a difference which is probably true and not due to chance
- a non-statistically significant difference is probably not a true difference and is likely to be due to chance

* indicates a statistically significant difference between 2016/17 and the earliest survey year shown.

---- indicates the period in which statistical significance has been tested. In this report, significance testing has been applied between 2010/11 and 2016/17.

More information about the Taking Part Survey can be found in Appendix A. A Technical Note on the survey is in Appendix B.
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Key findings

- Overall, 16 per cent of adults in England engaged in dance in 2016/17 – a statistically similar proportion as 2010/11 (fig 1).

- Around one in ten adults (11.6 per cent) had attended a dance event (fig 10).

- Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 there were changes to dance participation. There were both decreases in overall participation in dance (fig 15), and the proportion of adults who had ‘only participated’ in dance (fig 2).

- Regional engagement was similar between 2010/11 and 2016/17.

- In 2016/17, adults in London and the East of England were significantly more likely to have engaged in dance. Adults in Yorkshire and Humberside were significantly less likely to have engaged in dance (fig 9b).

- In 2016/17, significant factors that impacted dance engagement included gender, age, disability status and region (fig 3, 4, 5 and 9a).

- Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 there was a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of adults that had participated in African people’s or South Asian and Chinese dance (fig 12) and Other dance (not for fitness) (fig 17).

- In 2016/17 there was an increase in attendance of other live dance (fig 14) since 2010/11 – 6.7 per cent and 4.6 per cent respectively.
Dance

The Taking Part survey asks adults in England about whether they have engaged in a range of dance events and activities in the past 12 months. For this profile, engagement in dance is defined as having participated in or attended at least one activity or event listed below in the past year.

Dance events:
- Ballet
- African people’s or South Asian and Chinese dance
- Contemporary dance
- Other live dance

Dance activities:
- Ballet
- Other dance (not for fitness)
Engagement in dance

The proportion of adults in England who had engaged in dance in 2010/11 (16.9 per cent) was statistically similar to the proportion that had done so in 2016/17 (16.0 per cent).

Figure 1 – Engagement in dance in the past 12 months
Figure 2 outlines how adults in England engaged with dance; whether through attendance of dance events, participation in dance activities, both or neither.

Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 there was a **statistically significant decrease** in the proportion of adults who had ‘**only participated**’ in dance.

*Figure 2 – Engagement in dance*
**Engagement in dance by gender**

Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 there was no statistically significant change in the proportion of men or the proportion of women who had engaged in dance.

However in 2016/17, **gender was a significant factor** in an adult’s likelihood to engage in dance.

*Figure 3 – Engagement in dance by gender*
Engagement in dance by age group

Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 there was no statistically significant change in the proportion of any age group of adults who had engaged in dance.

However in 2016/17, **age was a significant factor** in an adult’s likelihood to engage in dance.

*Figure 4 – Engagement in dance by age group*
Engagement in dance by disability

Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 there was no statistically significant change in the proportion of adults who had engaged in dance by disability status.

However in 2016/17, disability was a significant factor in an adult’s likelihood to engage in dance.

Figure 5 – Engagement in dance by disability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010/11</th>
<th>2016/17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No longstanding disability or illness</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longstanding disability or illness</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Engagement in dance by ethnic group**

Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 there was no statistically significant change in the proportion of adults who had engaged in dance by ethnic group.

Likewise in 2016/17, ethnic group was not a significant factor in an adult’s likelihood to engage in dance.

*Figure 6 – Engagement in dance by ethnic group*
Engagement in dance by socio-economic group

Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 there was no statistically significant change in the proportion of adults who had engaged in dance by socio-economic group.

Likewise in 2016/17, socio-economic group was not a significant factor in an adult’s likelihood to engage in dance.

Figure 7 – Engagement in dance by socio-economic group
Engagement in dance by urban/rural

Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 there was no statistically significant change in the proportion of adults who had engaged in dance by urban or rural location.

Likewise in 2016/17, urban or rural location was not a significant factor in an adult’s likelihood to engage in dance.

Figure 8 – Engagement in dance by urban or rural location
Engagement in dance by region

Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 there was no statistically significant change in the proportion of adults who had engaged in dance by region.

However in 2016/17, an adult’s **region was a significant factor** in an adult’s likelihood to engage in dance.

*Figure 9a – Engagement in dance by region*
In 2016/17, 16.0 per cent of adults in England had engaged in dance.

Regions where engagement was **significantly higher** than the national average:

- London – 20.3 per cent
- East of England – 14.1 per cent

Regions where engagement was **significantly lower** than the national average:

- Yorkshire and Humberside – 12.7 per cent

All other regions were statistically similar to the national average.

Map image created using [Datawrapper](https://datawrapper.de/)
Dance attendance

Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 there was no statistically significant change in the proportion of adults who had attended a dance event at least once in the past year.

*Figure 10 – Attended a dance event at least once in the past 12 months*
Ballet (attendance)

4.3 per cent of adults in England had attended ballet in 2016/17 – a statistically similar proportion as 2010/11 (3.7 per cent).

Figure 11 – Attended ballet in the past year
African people’s dance or South Asian and Chinese dance

Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 there was a small but statistically significant decrease in the proportion of adults in England who had attended African people’s dance or South Asian and Chinese dance – from 2.3 per cent to 1.7 per cent.

Figure 12 – Attended African people’s or South Asian and Chinese dance in the past year
Contemporary

In 2016/17 3.3 per cent of adults in England had attended ballet in 2016/17 – a statistically similar proportion as 2010/11 (2.8 per cent).

Figure 13 – Attended contemporary dance in the past year
Other live dance

Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 there was a **statistically significant increase** in the proportion of adults in England who had attended **another type of live dance event** – from 4.6 per cent to 6.7 per cent.

*Figure 14 – Attended other live dance in the past year*
Participation in Dance

In 2010/11 and 2016/17 a statistically significant decrease in proportion of adults in England had participated in dance – 8.1 per cent and 6.7 per cent respectively.

Figure 15 – Participated in dance at least once in the past 12 months
Ballet (participation)

In 2010/11 and 2016/17 a statistically similar proportion of adults in England had taken part in ballet – 0.4 per cent and 0.5 per cent respectively.

Figure 16 – Participated in ballet in the past year
**Other dance – not for fitness**

Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 there was a **statistically significant decrease** in the proportion of adults in England who had participated in **other dance (not for fitness)** in 2016/17 since 2010/11 – 7.8 per cent and 6.3 per cent respectively.

*Figure 17 – Participated in dance (not for fitness) in the past year*
Appendix A - About the Taking Part survey

Taking Part is a major, continuous survey of cultural and sport participation in England, commissioned by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport in partnership with Arts Council England, Sport England and Historic England.

Every year it collects detailed information from adults (aged 16 and over) in England about their attendance at a wide variety of arts events, museums, galleries, libraries and heritage sites, and about their participation in creative activities and sport in the last 12 months. The survey has been conducted since July 2005 and since 2008 there has also been a child survey.

Findings from Taking Part, including national trends and some regional analysis, are released twice a year by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. An annual report summarises trends over the financial year. All these reports can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-culture-media-sport/series/taking-part

In March 2016 DCMS published a strategy outlining proposed developments to the Taking Part survey over the next five years: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/taking-part-a-strategy-for-the-next-five-years
### Appendix B - Technical note

**Arts Engagement**

‘Engagement’ in the arts is calculated by looking at attendance and/or participation in a range of arts events and activities. Adult ‘engagement’ is calculated by the proportion of adults who engage in the arts at least once in the past 12 months, whether it is through attending arts events, participating in arts activities, or through a mixture of both. This includes any of the following activities or events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dancing – ballet or other dance (not for fitness)</td>
<td>Visual arts exhibition (e.g. paintings, photography or sculpture)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singing – live performance, rehearsal or practice (not karaoke)</td>
<td>Craft exhibition (not crafts market)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playing a musical instrument – live performance, rehearsal, practice or playing for own pleasure</td>
<td>Event that includes video or digital art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing music</td>
<td>Event connected with books or writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theatre – live performance, rehearsal or practice</td>
<td>Street arts (art in everyday surroundings such as parks, streets or shopping centre)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opera or musical theatre - live performance, rehearsal or practice</td>
<td>Public arts display or installation (an artwork such as a sculpture which is outdoors or in a public place)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carnival (e.g. as a musician, dancer or costume maker)</td>
<td>Circus (not animals)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street arts (art in everyday surrounding such as parks, streets, shopping centre)</td>
<td>Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circus skills (not animals) – performance, learning or practice</td>
<td>Culturally specific festival (e.g. Mela, Baisakhi, Navratri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual arts (e.g. painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture)</td>
<td>Theatre (e.g. play, drama, pantomime)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photography (as an artistic activity, not family or holiday snaps)</td>
<td>Opera or musical theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film or video – making as an artistic activity (not family or holidays)</td>
<td>Live performances (e.g. classical, jazz or other live musical event but not karaoke)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital art – producing original digital artwork or animation with a computer</td>
<td>Live dance event (e.g. ballet, African People’s dance, South Asian, Chinese, Contemporary or other live dance event).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craft – any craft activity (e.g. textiles, wood, mental work, pottery, calligraphy)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative writing – original literature (e.g. stories, poems or plays)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book club – being a member of one</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data conventions**

The figures in this report are rounded to the nearest decimal place – therefore the totals may not always add up to 100 per cent.

Statistically significant differences on the charts:

* indicates a statistically significant difference between 2016/17 and the earliest survey year shown.

----- indicates the period in which statistical significance has been tested. In this report, significance testing has been applied between 2010/11 and 2016/17.
Statistical significance

Significance testing has been used to identify where differences are statistically significant at the 95 per cent level and not due to chance. Only where the differences are significant are they noted in the text and on the charts. A significant increase or decrease at the 95 per cent level means that there is less than a 5 per cent (1 in 20) chance that the difference observed within the sampled respondents is not representative of the population as a whole.

Weighting

The data are weighted to ensure the representativeness of the Taking Part sample. Weighting is based on mid-2016 population estimates from the Office for National Statistics.