

National Survey for Wales 2016/17

FAQs

What is the National Survey for Wales?

Welsh Government and its partner organisations have previously commissioned a range of large-scale surveys of people in Wales. The surveys include the Welsh Health Survey (run by Welsh Government), the Active Adults Survey (run by Sport Wales), the Arts in Wales Survey (run by Arts Council of Wales), and the Welsh Outdoor Recreation Survey (run by Natural Resources Wales).

These surveys are heavily used sources of information that inform a wide variety of policy decisions. They are used by central and local government, the NHS, the third sector, academia, as well as members of the public.

In 2014, a Welsh Government cabinet decision was made to integrate the several existing surveys into one survey managed by the Welsh Government. The Welsh Government awarded the contract for conducting the survey to the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Field work for the new National Survey for Wales began in 2016 and is planned to run continuously for a period of five years, with survey results published annually. The official name of the new integrated survey is the 'National Survey for Wales'.

What sporting issues does the survey cover?

The National Survey for Wales covers a wide range of topics - reflecting the high level of interest in the survey across numerous Welsh Government departments. Core questions on sport participation, latent demand, sports club membership, motives for participation, volunteering and coaching have been retained from the Active Adults Survey.

A range of demographic information is also collected for analysis, including gender, age, disability and household structure. The sample is designed to allow analysis at a local authority level as well as other geographical analysis.

Why make these changes?

The new approach has a range of advantages:

- It will allow for much richer analysis across topics currently included in separate surveys.
- It will mean that people across Wales spend much less time taking part in our surveys.
- It will allow us to minimise the risk of fieldwork problems as we will not have different surveys competing for the same pool of interviewers.
- The new survey approach will be more cost-effective than that of previous survey vehicles. This is primarily due to the efficiencies of running a single survey, rather than multiple surveys that ask many of the same questions.
- We anticipate it will provide a greater degree of flexibility for adding or removing questions. This will enable us to be more responsive and adapt the survey to the issues that are most relevant for society.

How is the National Survey for Wales conducted?

The first wave of the new survey, conducted by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), ran between end of March 2016 and March 2017. It involved conducting more than 10,000 interviews of people aged 16 and over, based on a randomly selected sample of residential addresses across Wales.

The survey questionnaire and all supporting materials were available as standard in both Welsh and English. Interviews were also offered in other languages with the help of an interpreter, if required.

When is the data collected?

Each survey wave runs over a 12-month period to avoid any seasonal effects on the results – e.g. participation in sport usually increases over the summer months.

What other information has been collected through the National Survey for Wales?

The variety of topics included in the survey are shown below:

<p>The following sections have been retained from the previous National Survey for Wales:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tenure/ Accommodation ▪ Community cohesion ▪ Active Travel ▪ Play ▪ e-Safety ▪ Personal care plans ▪ GP services ▪ Hospitals ▪ Ambulance services ▪ Social care services ▪ Satisfaction with local authority services ▪ Democracy ▪ Future generations ▪ Welsh Government ▪ Satisfaction with education/ health services ▪ Household/ Child material deprivation ▪ Internet ▪ Welsh language ▪ Discrimination ▪ Sexual orientation ▪ Religion ▪ Demographics 	<p>A number of sections have been added from other national surveys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Household pensioner material deprivation ▪ Attendance at arts/ cultural events ▪ Barriers to attending arts/ cultural events ▪ Attitudes to arts and culture ▪ Outdoor recreation ▪ Biodiversity ▪ Sports participation and demand ▪ Volunteering ▪ Mental well-being ▪ Alcohol consumption ▪ Smoking ▪ Exercise ▪ Fruit and vegetables ▪ Illnesses and other health problems ▪ Pregnancy ▪ BMI
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How has Sport Wales ensured that the questions included in the survey are useful for stakeholders?

Sport Wales is committed to ensuring that the National Survey for Wales meets not only our own needs, but also the needs of our partners. To achieve this, we have sought to involve stakeholders throughout the review process.

Stakeholders from a range of public bodies, local authorities, national governing bodies of sport and others were consulted on the proposed survey changes, as well as on what data they felt it would be useful to collect for their purposes.

Can comparisons be made between the results of the National Survey for Wales and previous figures from the Active Adults Survey?

It is not possible to directly compare these figures because it is a different survey and there are too many differences in the way the data has been collected.

Does this mean that we will have a new baseline?

Yes, we will treat the National Survey 2016/17 results as a new baseline from which to measure progress and as an opportunity to explore the links between sport and other policy areas.

How can I tell if my local authority or sport has increased its participation levels?

We would advise against making any comparisons between the National Survey for Wales' results and previous figures from the Active Adults Survey due to the change in survey methodology.

Presented results report a 'new baseline' rather than demonstrating statistically significant differences in participation over time.

When will the results be released?

The first headline results on sport participation and volunteering, broken down by local authority, age and gender were released on 28th June 2017 as part of the National Survey for Wales.

Results for future survey cycles are expected to be released at a similar time during the summer each year.

Further analysis of the data will take place in the coming months, and will lead to a further set of data releases and research findings on sport and participation, released by Sport Wales in the Autumn of 2017. This analysis will look further at the links between sport and activity and other factors within the National Survey for Wales, for example, healthy behaviours, mental health, and social cohesion.

Are the sport questions in the National Survey for Wales (which were previously asked in the 'Active Adult Survey') still referred to as the 'Active Adults Survey'?

No. This survey will always be referred to as the 'National Survey for Wales'. Sport Wales' releases based specifically on the sport questions will be called 'Sport and Active Lifestyles Releases'. We cannot compare with the 'Active Adults Survey' and will be working from a new baseline.

What is the definition of 'sports club membership'?

An adult is counted as being a member of a sports club if they report that they are a member of a pure sports clubs that cover one or more sports, as well as clubs that take place at leisure centres and fitness centres.

We do not ask whether the respondent is affiliated to the governing body for the sports that they take part in at these sports clubs – the level of affiliated membership is collected by each sport's governing body.

What is meant by 'volunteering in sport'?

We define sport volunteers as those that actively help on an unpaid basis to run any sporting activity after school or at a club. Sports volunteers helps with activities such as administration, coaching, catering, and transport.

What geographical breakdowns of the data are available?

Where possible, data is reported for Local Authorities, Local Health Boards, Sport Wales Regions and by Urban Rural Classification (ONS 2011).

What procedures are in place to ensure these statistics are trustworthy, high quality and of public value?

Sport Wales is a producer of Official Statistics, responsible for collecting, compiling, processing, analysing, interpreting and disseminating statistics in line with the principles set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. All elements of the National Survey for Wales are consistent with the Market Research Society Code of Conduct and the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

All information collected, including all personal details are treated in the strictest confidence in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

Why is there a lack data for adults from 'Black and Minority Ethnic groups'?

The National Survey for Wales has a smaller survey sample than Sport Wales' School Sport Survey. As with many other surveys of this kind, given the smaller numbers it is not possible to provide a full statistically robust view of BME groups. Where data is available, it is shown in the published Tables of Statistics on the Sport Wales website.

How accurate is the data?

Like other random probability surveys, the National Survey for Wales has been weighted to ensure the sample is representative of the population of adults in Wales. Full details on the weighting process are contained in the Technical Report, which is available on request.

All figures from the National Survey are estimates with a margin of error around them. Confidence intervals are included in the data tables to show the range the true figure is likely to lie within.

Confidence intervals can be used to help tell whether a difference in the survey results between groups is likely to show a real difference in the population ("statistically significant") or is more likely to be down to the particular people who happened to take part

in the survey. As a rough guide, if the confidence intervals for the two groups don't overlap, the difference is statistically significant.

This approach is not as rigorous as doing a formal statistical test, but is straightforward, widely used and reasonably robust. For more information on the use of confidence results to identify differences, see the Quality Report (<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/national-survey/design-methodology/technical-information/?skip=1&lang=en>).

What is Body Mass Index (BMI)?

The body mass index (BMI) is a measure that uses your height and weight to work out if your weight is healthy. The BMI calculation divides an adult's weight in kilograms by their height in metres squared.

What does MVPA mean?

MVPA is an acronym for Moderate or Vigorous Physical Activity. Within the National Survey for Wales 'Moderate Activity' is considered to be any activity undertaken for at least 10 minutes at a time which requires some effort and can make you breathe somewhat harder than normal. Examples include digging in the garden, spring cleaning or other heavy housework, gentle swimming or cycling. It does not include walking.

Within the National Survey for Wales 'Vigorous Activity' is considered to be any activity undertaken for at least 10 minutes at a time which takes hard physical effort and can make you breathe much harder than normal. Examples include running, fast cycling, or a workout at the gym that makes you out of breath or sweaty.

What is meant by 'material deprivation'?

By material deprivation we mean not being able to afford basic things like keeping the house warm.

What is meant by 'economically inactive' and how does it differ from 'unemployment'?

'Unemployed' people are defined as those without a job who have been actively seeking work in the past 4 weeks and are available to start work in the next 2 weeks. It also includes those who are out of work but have found a job and are waiting to start it in the next 2 weeks.

The 'economically inactive' are those people not in employment who have not been seeking work within the last 4 weeks and/or are unable to start work within the next 2 weeks.

Why are there two measures for Welsh language?

There are two measures for Welsh Language included in our data release. The first provides an estimation of the number of people in Wales who are *able* to 'speak' Welsh.

The second provides an estimation of the number of people who *use* Welsh language in everyday life. i.e. they speak Welsh on a daily basis.

The Census is the main source of information about the proportion of people who can speak Welsh; while the National Survey is used to monitor the trend for adults between Censuses.

Where can I find out more information?

A set of web pages about the National Survey for Wales is run by the Welsh Government (<http://www.gov.wales/nationalsurvey>), which includes background information on the survey, a description of the survey method and questionnaire coverage, latest news (for example, when new data or reports are being release), results and reports from the development work, and further information on data linkage. Electronic copies of the survey materials are also included on the website. In addition to that ONS have set up a webpage (<https://www.ons.gov.uk/surveys/informationforhouseholdsandindividuals/householdandindividualsurveys/nationalsurveyforwales>) specifically for the National Survey for Wales. The

webpage provides information to respondents and the general public about ONS' role as the organisation commissioned to conduct this survey on behalf of the Welsh Government.

Information on both websites is available in Welsh and English.