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1. Background

The findings in this report are sourced from the Children's Omnibus Survey 2007. This survey tracks 7-18 year olds attendance to and participation in the arts in Wales.

Aims and Objectives

The main aim of this survey is to track the frequency with which children and young people attend and participate in arts events and activities. The survey was run for the first time in 2007. As future surveys are conducted data will be accumulated allowing for trends and patterns to emerge.

Sample and Methodology

This report is based on a combined set of data from the March and November editions of the Children's Omnibus 2007. The combined data has been selected so the sample size is big enough to be reliable. The overall sample size of the combined data set is 1,001 children and young people. Quota sampling was used to ensure all demographic areas were covered and young people were interviewed face to face by a research executive.

Unless otherwise stated findings relate to those children and young people who either attend or participate once a year or more often.

2. Executive Summary

Introduction

The findings in this report are sourced from the Children's Omnibus Survey 2007. This survey tracks the attendance and participation in the arts in Wales of 1,001 children and young people (aged 7-18 years).

Overall the research shows that children and young people have a very high level of engagement with the arts in Wales:

- The vast majority of children and young people in Wales attend or take part in arts events and activities, with levels of participation much higher than among the adult population

The research also showed that:

- North Wales has the highest level of attendance and participation for most activities.
- The ability to speak Welsh increases the proportion who attend and take part in the arts.
- However, for drama, visual art and craft and musical activities the highest levels of participation can be found in the Mid and West Wales region.
- Attendance to and participation in the arts declines with age, the younger age groups attend and participate more than the older groups.
- While gender and socio economic group have an affect on the proportion of children and young people attending events these have no impact on the proportion taking part in arts activities.

Key Findings

- ***Almost three quarters of children and young people attend arts events and over 80% participate in arts activities.*** This is much higher than adult engagement levels which show only 32% take part once a year or more.
- ***North Wales has the highest proportion of those attending arts events, 83%, and participating in the arts, 90%,*** while South Wales has the lowest proportion with 65% attending and 78% participating.
- ***Girls are more frequent attenders of the arts than boys.*** While just over three quarters of girls attend events once a year or more this falls to 66% of boys.
- However, ***participation is not affected by gender*** as over 80% of both boys and girls participate in arts activities once a year or more.
- ***While socio economic group has an effect on arts attendance, it does not impact on participation levels.*** 80% from the ABC1 group attend arts events compared to 65% of the C2DE group, but equal proportions of both groups participate in the arts, (83%).
- ***Attendance and participation declines with age*** - the younger age groups attend and participate more than the older groups. While 77% of 7-10 year olds attend once a year or more, 68% of 16-18 year olds do the same. The pattern is similar for participation with 93% of 7-10 year olds taking part compared to 60% of 16-18 year olds.
- ***Despite this pattern there is one activity which is most popular among the middle age group of 11-15 year olds and this is media arts. 61% participate in this activity compared to around 46% of the other two age groups.***
- However, with both attendance and participation these levels of engagement are still very strong with over half of each age group getting involved in the arts.
- ***The ability to speak Welsh is also an important factor. If children and young people can speak Welsh they are more frequent attenders and participators of the arts*** with 78% attending and 90% participating.
- ***Use of the internet seems to have a link with attendance and participation in the arts.*** If children and young people regularly use the internet nearly three quarters attend and just over 80% participate, whereas for those who never use it 46% attend and 74% participate.
- ***While attendance to events by children and young people tends to be in their own time*** and organised outside the school/college environment, ***participation in arts activities tends to be in school/college time*** and organised by the school/college.

Artforms

The research also focused on individual artforms to assess and compare attendances and participation.

- *The highest attended event is plays (42%)* and then live music (36%).
- *Three of the individual artforms have participation levels just over 50%*, visual arts and crafts, media arts, creative writing.

Plays/Drama

- While *half of those in the ABC1 group attend plays once a year or more* this is much lower for those in the C2DE group where only a third do so.
- *Just over a third of children and young people participate in drama activities* once a year or more. The vast majority do so as an activity organised by their school/college and in school/college time, (81%).

Music

- While *almost three in ten children and young people attend musicals once a year or more* there are still just over 60% who state they have never attended this type of event.
- *Just under half of children and young people take part in musical activities once a year or more*, (46%).

Dance

- *Attending performances of dance is more popular with girls than with boys*. While a quarter of all girls attend once a year or more, only 15% of boys do the same. Of all those who do attend dance performances six in ten do so as an event in their own time organised outside their school/college.
- *Almost double the proportion of girls, (31%) take part in dance compared with boys, (16%)*. While nearly a quarter of children and young people participate in dance activities once a year or more just over 70% have never taken part in this type of event.

Visual Arts and Crafts

- *Of the three in ten who attend art or craft galleries or exhibitions, just over half do so in their own time* and as an event organised outside school/college. A higher proportion of those who do not have a mobile phone attend, 35%, compared to those who do, (26%).

- *While just over 70% of 7-10 year olds participate in visual arts and crafts once a year or more only 18% of 16-18 year olds do so.* Just over three quarters of those who take part in this activity do so in school/college time and organised through their school/college.

Literary events and Creative writing

- *Only one in five children attend literary events once a year or more* with nearly three quarters stating they never attend this type of event. *The majority of those who do attend do so in their own time*, outside of school/college, (74%).
- The *overwhelming majority of children and young people who take part in creative writing do so in school/college time* and the activities are organised through their school/college, (82%).

Media Arts/Film Production

- *Media arts is most popular with 11-15 year olds.* While six in ten of this group participate once a year or more around 46% of 7-10 year olds and 16-18 year olds do so.
- *Making films and videos has the lowest rate of participation* amongst children and young people with only 17% doing so once a year or more.

Conclusions

Overall, children and young people are very involved in the arts in Wales, with attendance rates over 70% and participation rates over 80%. Participation rates in particular are much higher than the adult population.

There are some areas where there are opportunities for development and further research. These include ensuring that engagement doesn't decline as age increases, improving attendance rates to events such as opera and classical music, and assessing why attendance and participation is higher in North Wales than in other regions.

However these findings are very encouraging and reflect a positive outlook on the levels of engagement of young people in the Arts in Wales.

3. Main Report

3.1 Introduction and Background

The findings in this report are taken from the Children's Omnibus Survey which was run for the first time in March 2007. It is designed to be representative of the child and young people population resident in Wales aged 7-18 years of age. The questions which The Arts Council of Wales include within this survey all relate to the frequency of attendance and participation to arts events.

This survey will complement the Annual Welsh Omnibus survey which focuses on those aged 16 and over.

The findings outlined in this report highlight the key patterns to emerge from the data. Findings are only reported on if there are actually significant differences in the key demographics. Unless otherwise stated any subset which falls lower than 50 children and young people has not been reported on as the sample size becomes too small to be reliable.

The findings in this report will be compared with future survey results as the Omnibus will run on an annual basis. This will allow for trends to accumulate and be studied.

3.2 Sample and Methodology

This report is based on an amalgamated set of data taken from the March run of the survey and the November run of the survey. The reason for only reporting on the amalgamated, rather than the individual data sets, is because the small sample size would generate unreliable results. In the individual sets of data from the March Omnibus and November Omnibus the overall sample size is big enough to be reliable. However, in some cases when this is broken down by key demographics and analysed the sample size becomes too small to remain reliable. Therefore, to overcome this the two datasets have been combined so all demographics can be reported on.

The overall sample size of the amalgamated dataset is 1,001 children and young people.

The Children's Omnibus survey was carried out by Beaufort Research on behalf of the Arts Council of Wales. For the survey 43 sample points were selected after stratification by region (based on unitary authority). Sampling points were selected to ensure a broadly representative geographical spread across the country and each region and to cover a mixture of urban and rural areas. Quota sampling was used to ensure that all demographic areas were covered. For all interviews with 7-11 year olds, consent was given by the responsible adult before the start of the interview.

4. Main Findings

The main findings firstly focus on attendance and then participation. Both start with the overall data and then break down into attendance and participation by art form. For each art form gender, region, socio-economic status and Welsh language ability are commented on as well as any other demographics where the sample size is big enough or key differences are apparent.

4.1 Section One: An overview of Attendance and Participation

Overall Attendance

The children and young people in this survey were asked the question 'How often do you attend any arts activities?' Arts activities include: plays, musicals, opera, classical music, other live music, dance performances, art or craft galleries or exhibitions, readings, storytelling or other literature events.

Nearly three quarters of children and young people attend an arts activity once a year or more. This figure is very similar to the Adult Omnibus survey.

Previous research on children and young peoples levels of arts attendance has shown that a high proportion attend arts events at least once a year or more. The 2006 report 'Participation in the Arts by young people'¹ found that over 90% of the 11-16 year olds they surveyed took part in arts events once a year or more. This suggests that there is a history of high levels of attendance by children and young people at arts events in Wales and that this trend looks set to continue.

Focusing on ACWs regions, those living in the North Wales region have the highest proportion attending once a year or more, 83% compared to 77% in the Mid and West Wales region and 65% in the South Wales region.

Attendance at arts events declines with age. While just over three quarters of 7-10 year olds attend, 70% of 11-15 year olds attend, dropping to 68% of 16-18 year olds. However when focusing on school year although the pattern is the same for the first two age groups, 77% of Years 2- 6 and 69% of Years 7-11 attend, for the older year groups (12-13) there is actually a slight increase, up to 72%.

Gender is a factor in attendance with more girls attending than boys, 77% of girls compared to 66% of boys. Social class also has an impact with nearly 80% of those in the ABC1 group attending arts events compared with 65% of those in the C2DE group. This matches the Adult Omnibus Survey findings closely with practically the same proportions in each socio-economic group.

¹ CRG were commissioned by The Arts Council of Wales to carry out research to explore and quantify the involvement of Welsh secondary school pupils in the arts. The report 'Participation in the Arts by Young People in Wales' was published in March 2006. This research focused on a different age range to the Children's Omnibus and the methodology used is not comparable.

If children and young people speak Welsh or where Welsh is the main language of the household their attendance at arts activities is higher. Over three quarters of those who speak some level of Welsh attend once a year or more, compared with 68% of those who speak no Welsh.

If Welsh, or Welsh and English are spoken in the home then 80% of this group will attend once a year or more. This compares to 71% where only English is spoken or 69% where an 'other' language is spoken.

There is little difference between those who do or do not receive digital TV or own a mobile phone and their attendance to the arts. However, the frequency of their use of the internet does impact on the frequency of their attendance. Of those who do use the internet 73% attend arts events once a year or more compared to only 46% of those who never use the internet (however this is only 23 out of a group of 51 children and young people).²

In terms of household composition there is not much difference between households where there is one or where there are two or more adults aged 16+. Nearly three quarters (74%) attend where there is only one adult and 72% attend where there are two. In terms of whether there are children under the age of 16 in the household, exactly the same proportion of children and young people attend where there is one or where there are two or more children, 72% in both cases.

Overall Participation

The children and young people who took part in this survey were asked the question 'How often do you take part in any arts activities?' Arts activities are defined as drama/theatrical activities, musical activities, dance, film/video making or photography, visual arts and crafts, media arts or creative writing.

In contrast to the Adult Omnibus Survey, an overwhelming proportion of children and young people take part in arts activities. Just over 80% participate in arts activities once a year or more and only 16% state they never take part in any arts activities. This compares to 32% of the adult population.

The 'Participation in the Arts by Young People' research also found a high level of children and young people taking part in arts activity with 90% doing so at this frequency. Again this suggests a history of high levels of participation which seem to be continuing into the future.³

As with attendance, the highest proportion of activity takes place in the North Wales region, 90%, with 85% of those in Mid and West Wales taking part and 78% of those in South Wales participating. The pattern with age is exactly the same as attendance, with

² Caution should be addressed in using this figure as the sample size is too small to be reliable. The figure has only been included to demonstrate the difference within the internet use category.

³ CRG were commissioned by The Arts Council of Wales to carry out research to explore and quantify the involvement of Welsh secondary school pupils in the arts. The report 'Participation in the Arts by Young People in Wales' was published in March 2006. This research focused on a different age range to the Children's Omnibus and the methodology used is not comparable.

a decline as age increases. While 93% of those aged 7-10 years take part, this declines to 87% for 11-15 year olds and 60% for 16-18 year olds.

However, unlike attendance where gender did seem to be an influencing factor, with participation the same proportion of boys and girls take part in arts activities, 83% of each. This is the same for social class, with 83% of ABC1s and C2DEs taking part. So these findings suggest that gender and social class do not significantly affect the participation rate of children and young people in the arts.

The ability to speak Welsh seems to have a link with frequency of participation in the arts. Nearly 90% of those who are able to speak Welsh at some level take part once a year or more compared to 78% who have no Welsh speaking ability.

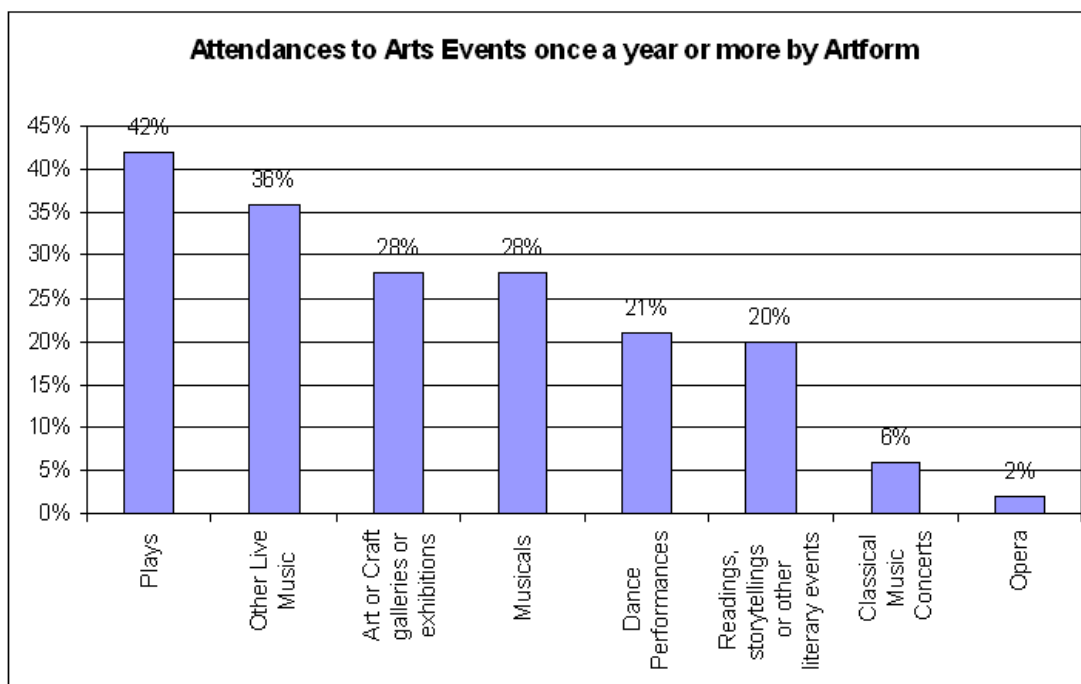
Whether a child or young person receives digital TV or has a mobile phone does not seem to have much of a link with participation in the arts. However, as was the case with attendance, use of the internet does have an affect. While 83% of those who use the internet participate in arts activities, 74% of those who never use the internet participate once a year or more.

Household composition also seems to have an affect on participation. Where there is only one adult aged 16+ in the household 91% of this group participate in arts activities once a year or more, compared to 81% where there are two or more adults in the household. If there are two or more children under 16 in the household a higher proportion participate in arts activities compared to households where there is only one, 87% compared to 81%.

4.2 Section Two: Attendance and Participation by Artform

Attendance by Artform

This section will focus on attendance only and how it differs by each individual artform. The following graph displays attendance to each artform by children and young people once a year or more often.



Base: All Children and Young People

As the graph demonstrates plays are the most frequently attended art form, with just under half of children and young people attending once a year or more, 42%, other live music is the next frequently attended art form, 36% followed by art or craft exhibitions and musicals, both 28%. 20% of children and young people attend dance performances and literary events. The activities with the least frequent attendance are classical music concerts, 6% and opera 2%.

4.2.1 Attendance at Plays

There is nearly a 50:50 split between those who have ever attended a play and those who have never attended one. As stated above just over four in ten attend once a year or more (42%). This is actually higher than the Adult Omnibus Survey findings where only 30% attend plays.

The highest frequency of attendance by children and young people occurs in the North Wales region and Mid and West Wales region with 50% in both areas attending. This compares to only 35% of those in the South Wales region.

A slightly higher proportion of girls attend than boys, 45% compared to 40%. There is a bigger difference in the two main social class groups with half of those in the ABC1 group attending compared to only 33% of those in the C2DE group.

Attendance to plays follows the overall pattern and declines as age increases. While half of all 7-10 year olds attend plays once a year or more, 45% of 11-16 year olds do so and just over a quarter of 16-18 year olds attend this art form, (27%).

If a child or young person speaks Welsh they are more likely to attend plays. Half of those who have some Welsh speaking ability attend plays compared to almost 40% of those who don't speak any Welsh.

If children and young people never use the internet they are less likely to attend plays with only a quarter of this group (13 out of 51 children or young people)⁴ doing so. This compares to 43% of those who used it in the last week and 45% who used it longer than a week ago.

There is a ten percentage point difference in attendance to plays by those with only one adult (16+) in the household, 51%, compared to those with two or more adults, 41%. There is a slightly higher attendance by those who have two or more children aged under 16 in the household, 45%, compared to those with one, 41%.

Just over half of those who attend plays attended during school time and as an event organised through their school/college. Nearly 30% attend in their own time and not organised through their school or college, while 13% attend out of school time but still organised through their school/college.

4.2.2 Attendance at Other Live Music Events

Other live music includes any type of musical performance that is not covered through, musicals, opera or classical music. This type of arts activity is far more frequently attended than other types of musical performances, with 36% attending once a year or more. This is more or less the same proportion as in the Adult Omnibus Survey. Those in the North and Mid and West Wales region attend more frequently than those in the South Wales regions. Just over four in ten attend in the North and Mid and West Wales region compared to 31% in the South.

This particular activity tends to be more popular with the older age groups. While just under a quarter of 7-10 year olds attend once a year or more, 35% of 11-15 year olds do so and just over half (56%) of 16 –18 year olds attend.

More girls than boys attend other live music events. There is an eight percentage point difference in the attendance of boys (32%) to girls (40%) and a bigger difference between the two socio economic groups, 43% of ABC1, and 29% of C2DEs.

If Welsh is the main language spoken at home then the child or young person is more likely to attend live music than if English is the main language of the home. While 46% of those who come from predominantly Welsh speaking homes attend once a year or more, 36% attend from English speaking homes.

⁴ Caution should be addressed in using this figure as the sample size is too small to be reliable. The figure has only been included to demonstrate the difference within the internet use category.

Those children and young people who have a mobile phone are more frequent attenders of live music. Nearly four in ten attend once a year or more compared to three in ten who don't have a phone.

Household composition has an affect on attendance of live music events. When there is only one child under the age of sixteen in the household nearly 40% attend once a year or more, however if there are two or more children in the household 31% attend once a year or more.

The majority attend music in their own time and the events are organised outside of the school/college setting, (85%).

4.2.3 Attendance at Art or Craft Galleries or Exhibitions

Almost 30% of children and young people attend art or craft galleries or exhibitions once a year or more which is around the same proportion as the Adult Omnibus Survey. However, six in ten young people state they never attend art or craft galleries or exhibitions.

Regionally there are not significant differences in attendance. The highest is in the Mid and West Wales region, (31%), compared to 28% in North Wales and 27% in South Wales. While there is barely any difference between boys and girls there is a bigger difference between ABC1s and C2DEs. Just over three in ten of those in the former group attend once a year or more while 24% of those from the C2DE group attend at this rate.

The youngest of the age groups tend to attend more than the older groups. 34% of 7-10 year olds attend whereas around a quarter of 11-18 year olds attend once a year or more.

Again as with other art forms the ability to speak Welsh or live in a household where this is the main language seems to have an affect on the frequency of attendance to art or craft galleries or exhibitions. While 33% who have some Welsh speaking ability attended art or craft exhibitions once a year or more, if they have no Welsh speaking ability only a quarter attend.

If the main language spoken at home is Welsh then 35% attend art and craft galleries or exhibitions but if it is English then 27% attend.

More children and young people who do not have a mobile phone attend exhibitions of art or craft once a year or more than those who do, 35% compared to 26%. In terms of household composition slightly more children attend from households where there are two or more children under the age of 16 to those where there is only one, 30% and 25% respectively.

Just over half of children and young people that actually attend exhibitions of art and craft do so in their own time and organised outside the school/college setting. Nearly 40% take part in an activity organised by their own school/college and organised in school/college time.

4.2.4 Attendance at Musicals

Nearly six in ten children and young people have never attended a musical. Of those who have done so, nearly 30% attend once a year or more. This is a higher attendance rate than the Adult Omnibus Survey where 25% attend musicals.

Attendance among girls is higher than boys with 31% attending once a year or more compared to 24% of boys. There is also a difference in socio economic group with only 22% of those in the C2DE group attending compared to 34% of those in the ABC1 group.

In terms of regional differences these reflect the overall pattern of attendance. The highest frequency of attendance to musicals is in the North Wales region with 36% in this area attending once a year or more. 27% do so in the Mid and West Wales region while just under a quarter do so in the South Wales region.

Attendance tends to decline with age with the youngest age group having the highest attendance rate. While 34% of 7-10 year olds attend once a year or more, 27% of 11-15 year olds do so and 21% of 16-18 year olds attend at this rate.

Those who have some Welsh speaking ability tend to attend musicals more so than those with no Welsh speaking ability, 34% compared to 23%.

Interestingly a slightly higher proportion of those without a mobile phone attend musicals once a year or more, 31%, compared to those who do have a phone, 27%.

In terms of household composition a higher proportion of those with two or more children under 16 in the household attend musicals than those with only one child under 16, 31% compared to 23%.

Most children and young people who attend musicals do so in their own time and organised out of the school/college environment, nearly 50%. Another four in ten do so in school/college time and organised through their school or college.

4.2.5 Attendances at Dance Events

Just over two in ten children and young people attend performances of dance once a year or more and over a quarter (27%) ever attend. However, nearly three quarters of children and young people never attend dance performances.⁵

Around a quarter of those in the North (27%) and the Mid and West Wales region (26%) attend once a year or more while only 15% in the South Wales region attend. This is also another activity where attendance declines with age. While 23% of 7-10 year olds attend once a year or more, this drops to 20% of 11-15 year olds and 18% (44 out of a sample of 242 children and young people) of 16-18 year olds.

⁵ The Adult Omnibus Survey figure is not provided here as the way dance is measured in this survey is not the same and so cannot be compared. In this survey people are asked about attendance to ballet and contemporary dance as two separate artforms. Therefore it cannot be compared to the children's dance category.

This type of art event is much more popular with girls than boys, with a 10 percentage point difference between the two. While a quarter of all girls attend dance events once a year or more only 15% of boys attend at the same rate. There is also a slight difference in socio economic background with 23% of those in the ABC1 group attending once a year or more and 18% in the C2DE group.

Most of those who do attend dance performances do so organised out of the school college environment and in their own time, 60%, while 30% do so as an activity organised by their school/college and in school/college time.

4.2.6 Attendance at Readings, Storytellings or other Literature Events

Two in ten children and young people attend literary events once a year or more. This compares to only one in ten in the Adult Omnibus Survey. However, a large proportion of children and young people never attend this type of event with 71% never attending.

The regional pattern of attendance once a year or more for this particular art form is similar to others with the greatest proportion of attenders being in the North Wales region, 24%, followed by the Mid and West Wales region, 21% and then the South Wales region, 19%. More girls than boys attend this type of event with 22% of girls attending compared to 18% of boys.

However, in terms of social class there is barely any difference between the two main groups, 21% of those in the ABC1 group attend compared to 20% of those in the C2DE group.

There does seem to be a marked difference in attendance to literary events in terms of those who do and those who do not have a mobile phone. While only 17% of those who have a mobile attend, 32% of those who don't have a mobile attend once a year or more.

Nearly three quarters of those who do attend literature events do so in school/college time and organised through their school college, 74%.

4.2.7 Attendance at Classical Music Concerts

The overwhelming majority of children and young people have never attended a classical music concert, 91%. Only 6% attend once a year or more. This is lower than the Adult Omnibus Survey where 11% attend performances of classical music. Because of the low attendance rate in the Children's Omnibus Survey it becomes unreliable to analyse this group by subsets because of the small sample size.

The majority of those who attend classical music concerts do so in their own time, 45% with nearly another four in ten doing so in school time and organised by their school, 38%.

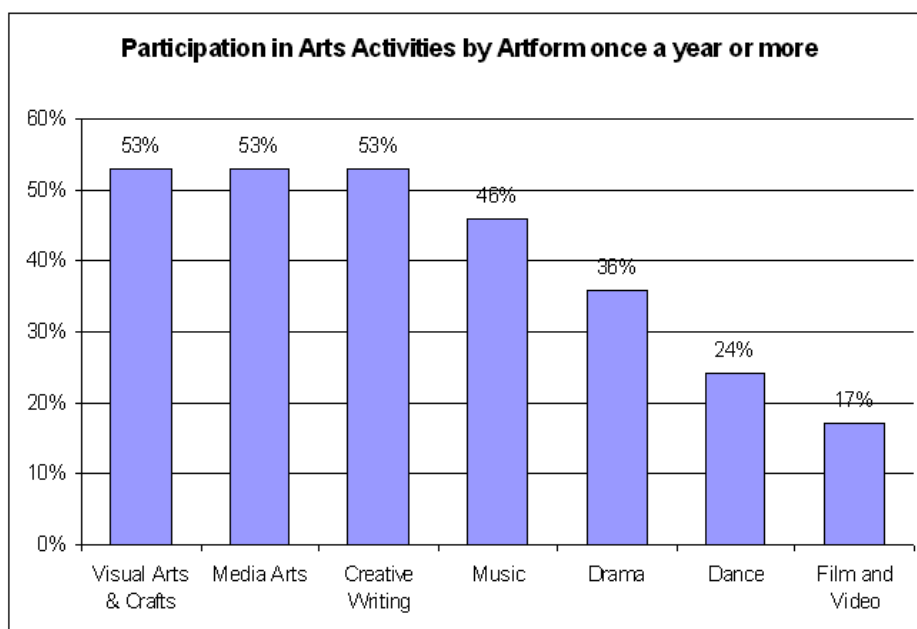
4.2.8 Attendance at Opera Performances

As with classical music a very high proportion of children and young people never attend performances of opera, 95%. Only 2% attend opera once a year or more. This is actually lower than the Adult Omnibus Survey where 6% attend once a year or more. Because of the very small sample size in the Children's Omnibus Survey it becomes unreliable to break this group into any subsets as the sample becomes too small.

In terms of the 2% who do attend an opera performance nearly three quarters do so in their own time and organised outside of the school/college environment.

4.3 Participation by Artform

This section will focus on participation and how it differs by each individual artform. The following graph displays participation to each artform by children and young people once a year or more often.



Base: All Children and Young People

As the graph above demonstrates just over half (53% of children and young people) participate in visual arts & crafts, media arts and creative writing. These are the most popular forms of activity followed by music, 46%, drama, 36%, dance, 24% and film and video, 17%.

4.3.1 Participation in Visual Art and Craft Activities

Just over half of all children and young people have ever participated in visual art and craft activities, 57% and nearly the same proportion participate in these activities once a year or more, 53%. This is much higher than the Adult Omnibus Survey where only 20% participate once a year or more.

This particular activity seems to be most popular amongst those in the Mid and West Wales region, with 61% participating. Just over half of those in the North Wales region participate once a year or more, 54%, and 49% in the South Wales region participate in this activity.

While there is barely any difference in participation by gender or socio economic group, age does seem to make a difference to frequency of involvement. Just over 70% of the youngest age group (7-10 year olds) participate once a year or more, six in ten 11-15 year olds participate and this declines to just under two in ten (18%) of 16-18 year olds.

The Welsh language also has a part to play in influencing the rate of participation in visual arts and crafts by children and young people. Of those who are either fluent in Welsh or have some Welsh speaking ability, 60% participate in these activities once a year or more while 49% of those with no Welsh speaking ability take part in visual arts and crafts.

The majority of children and young people who participate in visual art and craft activities take part in school/college time and organised by their school/college, 77%. Another 20% do so in their own time and organised outside of school/college time.

4.3.2 Participation in Media Arts

Just over half of all children and young people ever take part in media arts, 55% and a similar proportion take part once a year or more often, 53%.⁶

This particular artform follows the regional pattern of many of the others with the highest proportion of children and young people taking part being in the North Wales region, 67%, followed by Mid and West Wales, 55% and then South Wales, 45%.

In terms of age groups this activity is most popular among the middle age group. 61% of 11-15 year olds take part compared to around 46% of both 7-10 year olds and 16-18 year olds.

While gender and socio economic groups do not seem to have much affect on activity rates with fairly even proportions of each group (just over half in each case) taking part, the ability to speak Welsh does have an impact. A higher proportion of those who have some Welsh speaking ability, 61%, take part than those who do not speak any Welsh, 47%.

Not surprisingly for this particular artform those who used the internet either in the last week or longer than the last week have higher participation rates than those who never use the internet, 54% compared to 17% (however this is only 9 out of a group of 51 people so a very small sample size).⁷

The majority of children and young people who took part in media arts activities did so either in school/college time and organised by their school/college, 51% or in their own

⁶ This category was not included on the Adult Omnibus Survey in order to make a comparison.

⁷ Caution should be addressed in using this figure as the sample size is too small to be reliable. The figure has only been included to demonstrate the difference within the internet use category.

time and not organised by their school/college, 47%. While a slightly higher proportion of C2DEs than ABC1s take part in school time and organised through their school/college, (53% compared to 49%), more ABC1s, 50%, take part out of school time than C2DEs, 43%.

4.3.3 Participation in Creative Writing (Poetry or Stories)

Again as with the previous artform over half of children and young people have ever taken part in creative writing activities, 57% and a further 53% take part once a year or more often. Again this is much higher than the Adult Omnibus Survey where only 8% take part.

Regional differences are fairly similar to other artforms. Just over six in ten of those in the North Wales region participate once a year or more, 58% of those in the Mid and West Wales region and 47% of those in the South Wales region.

A slightly higher proportion of girls participate in this type of activity once a year or more, 56% of girls compared to 50% of boys. However there is absolutely no difference in social class with 53% of each group taking part.

Again the ability to speak Welsh to some degree seems to mean a higher proportion of children and young people take part, 62% compared to 47% of those with no Welsh speaking ability.

A slightly higher proportion of those without a mobile phone, 59% take part in creative writing than those with one, 51%. Again a much higher proportion of those who used the internet in the last week or longer than the last week take part, 54%, compared to those who never use it, 39% (however this is only 20 out of a group of 51 people so a very small sample size).⁸

There is a difference of 18 percentage points when it comes to the number of adults aged 16+ in the household and whether the child or young person takes part in creative writing. Where there is only one adult aged 16+ in the household, 68% of children and young people take part once a year or more. Where there are two or more adults in the household, 50% take part once a year or more.

There is also a difference in participation rates depending on the number of children under the age of 16 in the home. While 50% take part once a year or more where there is only one child in the household, 60% take part where there are two or more in the house.

The overwhelming majority of children and young people take part in creative writing activities in school/college time and which are organised through their school college, 82%. A further 15% take part in activities during their own time which are organised outside the school/college environment.

⁸ Caution should be addressed in using this figure as the sample size is too small to be reliable. The figure has only been included to demonstrate the difference within the internet use category.

4.3.4 Participation in Musical Activities

While just over half of children and young people have ever taken part in musical activities, (52%) just under half take part once a year or more, 46%. In the Adult Omnibus Survey only 11% take part once a year or more.

in this particular artform it is the Mid and West Wales region which has the highest proportion of participation once a year or more, 53%. However, North Wales is not far behind with 47% of its children and young people taking part and South Wales, 42%.

Frequency of participation in this artform declines with age. While 66% of those aged 7-10 years participate once a year or more, 43% of 11-15 year olds and only 24% of 16-18 year olds take part at the same rate. There is barely any difference between boys and girls, around 46% of each, there is only a four percentage point difference between ABC1s (48%) and C2DEs (44%).

Over half of those who speak welsh take part in musical activities, (53%), compared to those who are not able to speak any Welsh, (42%).

Those with a mobile phone are less likely to take part in musical activities compared to those without one, 43% compared to 58%.

If there is only one adult aged 16+ in the household, a higher proportion of children and young people take part in musical activities, 54% compared to 45% where there are two or more adults. Also if there are two or more children under the age of 16 they are more likely to take part in musical activities once a year or more (53%) compared to 37% where there is only one child in the household.

Nearly three quarters of those who do take part in musical activities do so in school/college time and organised through school/college, (71%). Another quarter take part in their own time and organised outside the school/college setting.

4.3.5 Participation in Drama/Theatrical Activities

Just over half the children and young people surveyed stated they never take part in drama activities, 56%. Only 36% participate once a year or more often. However, this is still much higher than the Adult Omnibus Survey where only 5% take part once a year or more.

Under half the children and young people within each region actually participate in this type of activity once a year or more, 45% in Mid and West Wales, 38% in the North Wales and 31% in the South Wales region. As age declines so does participation in theatrical activities. While nearly half of all 7-10 years olds take part once a year or more, four in ten 11-15 year olds and only 13% of 16-18 year olds (however this is only 32 out of 242 people) take part once a year or more.

There is only a very small difference in the participation of boys and girls in drama activities. While 35% of boys take part, 37% of girls do so. There is more or less the

same difference in terms of social class, 38% of those in the ABC1 group participate once a year or more compared to 34% in the C2DE group.

Again the Welsh language seems to have an effect on the participation rate. While 45% of those who are either fluent or can speak Welsh to some degree take part in drama activities once a year or more, only three in ten who cannot speak Welsh take part at the same rate.

A higher proportion of children and young people who do not have a mobile phone take part in this type of arts activity, 43%, than those who do have a phone, 34%. While 36% of those who have used the internet to some degree participate, only a quarter of those who never use it participate (13 out of 51 people, sample size very small).⁹

43% of children and young people who live in a household with only one adult aged 16+ participate in drama activities whereas 35% of those from households with two or more adults take part. If there is only one child under the age of 16 in the household then 34% of children and young people will take part compared to 41% where there are two or more children under the age of 16.

The vast majority of children and young people take part in drama/theatrical activities during school/college time and organised through their school/college, 81%. A further 15% take part their own time and organised outside the school/college environment.

4.3.6 Participation in Dance Activities

Nearly a quarter of children and young people, 24%, take part in dance activities once a year or more. Only 9% of adults take part in this activity. However, just over 70% of children and young people never participate in dance activities.

Of those who participate once a year or more around a quarter from each region take part in dance activities, 28% in the North, 25% in Mid and West and 21% in the South Wales region.

Almost double the amount of girls take part in dance than boys, 31% compared to 16%. There is a slightly higher proportion of those in the ABC1 group who take part compared to those in the C2DE group, 26% compared to 22%.

A slightly higher proportion of those who do not have a mobile phone take part in dance activities than those who do, 30% compared to 22%.

There is around a ten percentage point difference in participation levels of those who live in a household with one adult aged 16+, than those with two adults. 34% of the first group participate in dance once a year or more compared to only 22% of the latter group. There is also a higher proportion of those where there are two or more children aged under 16 in the household who participate in dance, 27% compared to those who live in a household with only one child aged under 16, 21%.

⁹ Caution should be addressed in using this figure as the sample size is too small to be reliable. The figure has only been included to demonstrate the difference within the internet use category.

Around half of those (55%) who take part in dance activities do so in school/college time and organised through their school/college. Almost another 40% take part in their own time and organised outside the school/college environment.

4.3.7 Participation in Film and Video Making Activities

Film and video making has the lowest rate of participation of all the artforms with only 22% ever taking part in it and 17% taking part once a year or more often. In the Adult Omnibus Survey 7% take part in this activity once a year or more.

Because such a low proportion take part in this activity it becomes hard to comment on the data as the sample size becomes too small to be reliable.

Of the areas where the sample is big enough to comment on it shows that this activity is more popular with girls than boys, 20% of girls take part compared to 15% of boys. A higher proportion of those in the ABC1 group take part, 20%, compared to those in the C2DE group, 14%.

Of those who take part in film and video making activities, over half do so in their own time and not through their school/college, 58% and 35% do so in school/college time and organised through their school/college.

5. Conclusions

While there are some differences among artforms these findings show that attendance and participation among children and young people is very high and in the case of participation much higher than the adult population.

Many of the participatory activities have equal proportions of girls and boys taking part and very similar proportions from both the higher and lower socio economic groups.

However, in most cases levels of attendance and participation declines as age increases. This is one area which may be a cause for concern as these young people enter adulthood.

Also, the numbers of children and young people stating they have ever attended some artforms is very low, especially for opera, classical music and dance. These areas may not be areas which children and young people are traditionally exposed to at school and therefore only access outside the school/college setting. Therefore, if they only get involved in the arts in school/college they might be missing out on opportunities to access these artforms altogether.

While household composition does not impact on attendance to arts events by children and young people it does seem to have a correlation with participation. If there is one adult aged 16+ in the household participation rates are ten percentage points higher than if there are two adults. This may be an area for further exploration.

Finally there seems to be a pattern that higher proportions of those in the North and Mid and West Wales regions attend and take part in the arts than in the South Wales region. Again this is a pattern which occurs among the adult population as well.

6. Appendix One: The Questionnaire

SHOW CARD

Q7

How often do you go to the following activities that I read out?

So, how often do you

-Go to Plays
-Go to Musicals
-Go to Opera
-Go to Classical Music Concerts
-Go to Other Live Music
-Go to Dance Performances
-Go to Art or Craft Galleries or Exhibitions
-Go to Readings, Storytellings or other Literature events

The following answers are provided on a show card to help respondents answer the questions:

-Several times a week
-Once a week
-2 or 3 times a month
-Once a month
-Once every 2 to 3 months
-2 or 3 times a year
-Once a year
-Less often
-Never
-&DK

Q8

When you last went to ... (ask for each activity attended at least once a year in Q7) was it:

-organised by school/college during school time
-organised by school/college but out of school time
-in your own time (not organised by school / college)
-&DK

Q9

And how often do you take part in each of the following activities that I read out?

So, how often do you

-Take part in musical activities (such as singing or playing an instrument)
-Take part in drama or theatrical activities (e.g. acting, directing, technicalwork)
-Take part in dance activity (not disco/clubbing)
-Take part in film and video making or photography
-Take part in visual arts or crafts (e.g. painting, textiles)
-Take part in media arts (e.g. website design, working with your PC)
-Take part in creative writing (e.g. poetry or stories)

The following answers are provided on a show card to help respondents answer the questions:

-Several times a week
-Once a week
-2 or 3 times a month
-Once a month
-Once every 2 to 3 months
-2 or 3 times a year
-Once a year
-Less often
-Never
-&DK

Q10

When you last took part in(ask for each activity taken part in at least once a year in Q9) was it:

-in school/college during school time
-in school/college but out of school time
-in your own time (not in school / college)
-&DK

7. Appendix Two: Artforms by Key Demographics

Attendance once a year or more %

Attendance once a year or more at:	Total Attendance	Region			Age			Gender		Social Class		Speaks Welsh			With Mobile Phone		Internet Use			No. of adults 16+ in house hold		No of children under 16 in house hold	
		North	Mid & West	South	7-10	11-15	16-18	Boy	Girl	ABC1	C2DE	Yes, fluent	Yes, non fluent	No	Yes	No	Used last wk	Used longer than last wk	Never used	1	2+	1	2+
Plays	42	51	49	35	51	45	27	40	45	52	33	49	50	38	41	47	43	45	25	51	41	41	45
Musicals	28	36	27	24	34	27	21	24	31	34	22	36	34	23	27	31	31	18	12	30	27	23	31
Opera	2	1	1	3	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	1	2	2	2	3	2	1	3	3	2	4	2
Classical Music concerts	6	5	9	4	8	4	5	6	5	7	4	7	4	6	5	8	6	6	3	8	5	4	5
Other Live music	36	42	41	31	23	35	56	32	40	43	29	42	38	34	38	30	41	20	8	32	37	37	31
Dance Performances	21	27	26	15	23	20	18	15	25	23	18	23	20	21	20	21	22	16	12	24	20	19	22
Art or Craft galleries/exhibitions	28	28	31	27	34	26	24	29	28	32	24	26	37	25	27	35	30	25	11	30	28	25	30
Readings, storytellings or other literary events	20	24	21	19	37	16	4	18	22	21	20	21	26	18	17	32	21	17	23	26	19	15	25

Base: 1,001 Children and young people

(Please note some of the sample sizes in the table above may be very small, e.g. under 50 people)

Participation Once a year or more %

Participation once a year or more at:	Total Participation	Region			Age			Gender		Social Class		Speaks Welsh			With Mobile Phone		Internet Use			No. of adults 16+ in house hold		No of children under 16 in household	
		North	Mid & West	South	7-10	11-15	16-18	Boy	Girl	ABC1	C2DE	Yes, fluent	Yes, non fluent	No	Yes	No	Used last wk	Used longer than last wk	Never used	1	2+	1	2+
Musical Activities	46	47	53	42	66	43	24	45	47	48	44	51	54	42	43	58	46	50	48	54	45	37	53
Drama/Theatrical Activities	36	38	45	31	48	40	13	35	37	38	34	51	43	30	34	43	36	41	26	43	35	34	41
Dance Activity	24	28	25	21	37	22	9	16	31	26	22	26	27	22	22	30	25	21	22	36	22	21	27
Film and Video Making/ Photography	17	18	23	14	15	19	17	15	20	20	14	17	21	16	17	17	19	14	3	18	17	15	19
Visual Arts & Crafts	53	54	61	49	71	60	18	51	55	55	52	56	62	49	51	63	54	54	43	68	51	51	60
Media Arts	53	67	55	45	46	61	47	53	52	53	52	56	63	47	54	48	57	40	17	51	53	57	51
Creative Writing	53	61	58	47	61	60	19	50	56	53	53	57	65	47	51	59	54	55	39	68	50	50	60

Base: 1,001 children and young people

(Please note some of the sample sizes in the table above may be very small, e.g under 50 people)