

Active Lives Children and Young People Survey – Academic Year 2019/20

Notes to editors

About Active Lives Children and Young People

The Active Lives Children and Young People Survey is conducted by Ipsos MORI on behalf of Sport England. The data presented here were collected between September 2019 and July 2020 (2019/20 academic year) in England. The data were collected using CAWI online questionnaires, usually administered in schools.

From March 2020 through to the end of the summer term, school sites were closed to most pupils owing to coronavirus (Covid-19). Therefore, the Active Lives Children and Young People Survey was adapted to be completed from home. The survey continued because it was important for Sport England to understand children and young people's participation in sport and physical activity and their attitudes and wellbeing during the coronavirus pandemic when most pupils weren't at school. Please note however, the initial phase of the restrictions (full lockdown) is not covered by this data, with spring fieldwork ending two weeks early due to the school closures, and summer fieldwork starting later from mid-May.

Questionnaires were completed by pupils in Years 1-2 and their parents, and pupils in Years 3-11 (as well as one teacher from each school where possible). A sample of schools was drawn from the Department for Education list of schools (Get Information about Schools 2018/19) and up to three year groups, with one class per year group, in each school selected. Pupil and parent responses were received from 1,395 sampled schools. There were additional schools who took part through an opt-in process, but for our published analysis only sampled schools were included.

There were 100,798 pupil and 3,081 parent responses. The sample includes state primary, state secondary and independent schools and each school was allocated to a term. The published pupil-level data are weighted to make the weighted achieved sample match the population as closely as possible. Confidence intervals apply to the percentages and population estimates presented in the report and report tables. Confidence intervals for the percentages presented in the report can be found in the linked report tables. Confidence intervals indicate that, if repeated samples were taken and confidence intervals computed for each sample, 95% of the intervals would contain the true value. Family affluence was measured using a standard set of questions about their household from the 'Family Affluence Scale'. [For details see the published technical note.](#)

How lockdown affected collection of the data

The Active Lives Children and Young People Survey is a school-based survey (i.e. historically always completed at school as part of lessons). From 20 March 2020, schools, colleges and nurseries were closed in the UK due to the coronavirus pandemic and remained closed until 1 June 2020, when there was a phased reopening for reception, Years 1 and 6. The Active Lives Survey fieldwork in spring term finished two weeks early before the end of term, in line with the school closures.

Due to the closure of schools, the Active Lives Children and Young People Survey had to be adapted for at-home completion. The adaptations involved minor questionnaire changes (e.g. to ensure the wording was appropriate for both the new lockdown situation and to account for the new survey completion method at home) and communication changes. Active Partnerships (who help deliver the survey) had to be alerted to the new survey format and their help was requested to check schools still wished to take part.

The circumstances and adaptations resulted in a delay to survey fieldwork restarting. This means our data doesn't cover the full lockdown period, and instead restarts from mid-May 2020 (when the survey was relaunched). We've produced an additional coronavirus report, which outlines changes during this 'easing restrictions' phase of lockdown, from mid-May to the end of July.