ACTIVE LIVES
ADULT SURVEY
November 16/17
REPORT
Published March 2018

With only two full years of data it is too early to meaningfully talk about trends over time, but based on these results, it is fair to say that the picture is one of stability.

Alongside presenting the latest national picture of engagement in sport and physical activity, we have included references to where there have been statistically significant changes in the last year, which you will see indicated with arrows. Where there is no change, or it is within the margin of error and therefore too small to be confident there is a genuine difference, it is recorded as ‘no change’.

The intention of this report is to give the big picture in an easily digestible format. For those who want to explore the data further, there are links in this report to the data tables. If you would like to carry out your own analysis of the data, I would recommend you take a look at our Active Lives Analysis Tool, which can be found at active.lives.sportengland.org. The tool will enable you to explore the data and focus on your own areas of interest.

Finally, the fourth Active Lives Adult Survey Report (May 2017 to 2018) will be released in October 2018, when two full years of volunteering data will enable us to draw comparisons and shed light on how levels of volunteering to support sport and physical activity are changing.

Lisa O’Keefe
Insight Director
Levels of Activity

This chapter presents information on three levels of activity:

- **Inactive** (less than 30 minutes a week)
- **Fairly Active** (30-149 minutes a week)
- **Active** (at least 150 minutes a week)

**Definition**

Note: We count most sport and physical activity, but exclude gardening. However, Public Health England does include gardening in its local level physical activity data. You can view the PHE data [here](#). This will be updated in early April to include the November 2016/17 data.
HEADLINES
Our data shows that 6 in 10 adults (27.7m) are getting the health benefits from achieving 150+ minutes of activity a week.

INACTIVE
LESS THAN 30 MINUTES A WEEK
25.7%
25.7% of people (11.5M) do less than 30 minutes a week

FAIRLY ACTIVE
30-149 MINUTES A WEEK
12.5%
12.5% (5.6M) are fairly active but don’t reach 150 minutes a week

ACTIVE
150+ MINUTES A WEEK
61.8%
61.8% (27.7M) do 150 minutes or more a week

LINK TO DATA TABLES
12-MONTH COMPARISON
Activity levels have not changed in the last 12 months.

HOW WE MEASURE CHANGE
Active Lives figures are based on the response of 200,000 adults, which we then scale up to provide an England-wide picture. That means there will naturally be small fluctuations when we compare the figures we have now with 12 months ago.

In accordance with Government Statistical Service good practice guidance, we highlight changes within the report where we are confident that there are genuine differences. If the data is showing only small differences which are within the margin of error, they are noted as “no change”.

LINK TO DATA TABLES
Socio-economic groups

Our data shows there are significant disparities between different socio-economic groups.

- People who are long term unemployed or have never worked (NS-SEC 8) are the most likely to be inactive (38%) and the least likely to be active (49%)
- People who are in managerial, administrative and professional occupations (NS-SEC 1-2) are the least likely to be inactive (17%) and the most likely to be active (71%).

There have been no changes compared to 12 months ago for any of these groups.

Note: Full details of what the NS-SEC categories mean can be found on the definitions page.
LEVELS OF ACTIVITY

GENDER
Activity levels have not changed compared to 12 months ago for either men or women, so we continue to observe the same gap between them. Men (64% or 14.0m) are more likely to be active than women (60% or 13.7m).
There have been no changes in activity levels among people with a disability compared to 12 months ago.

Inactivity is more common for those with a disability (43%) than those without (21%). Furthermore, it increases sharply as the number of impairments an individual has increases – 51% of those with three or more impairments are inactive.

This is important because over half of all disabled people (52%) have three or more impairments, while 21% have two impairments and 26% have just one impairment (of 14 impairment types), source Life Opportunities Survey June 09/12.
Inactivity levels generally increase with age, but the sharpest increase comes between ages 75 and 84 (48%) and age 85+ (71%).

Whilst activity levels have fallen slightly among the two age groups covering 16-34 year olds, with fewer achieving 150+ minutes a week, 75% of young people remain active.

In contrast, activity levels have increased slightly among the 55-64 and 65-74 age groups.
TYPES OF ACTIVITY

THIS CHAPTER PRESENTS DATA BROKEN DOWN BY ACTIVITY GROUP AND LOOKS AT THOSE WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED AT LEAST TWICE IN THE LAST 28 DAYS.

PARTICIPATION – OUR DEFINITION

LOOKING AT PARTICIPATION AT LEAST TWICE IN THE LAST 28 DAYS PROVIDES:

• AN ENTRY LEVEL VIEW OF PARTICIPATION OVERALL
• A USEFUL MEASURE OF ENGAGEMENT IN DIFFERENT SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES
• AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF ACTIVITIES TO ACHIEVEMENT OF 150+ MINUTES A WEEK

WE MEASURE SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IF IT’S DONE...

AT LEAST TWICE IN THE LAST 28 DAYS

AT LEAST MODERATE INTENSITY

LINK TO DATA TABLES
Types of activity

Adults achieving 150+ minutes of activity a week do so through a blend of activities

Analysis of numbers engaging in activities at least twice in the last 28 days helps us understand the contribution of different activities.

Whist overall activity levels remain stable, we have seen some changes in the amount of people taking part in some of these activities.

**Taken part at least twice in the last 28 days (age 16+) for selected activity groups**

- **Walking for leisure**: 18.3M (Nov 15/16), 18.6M (Nov 16/17)
- **Walking for travel**: 14.0M (Nov 15/16), 14.5M (Nov 16/17)
- **Fitness activities**: 13.2M (Nov 15/16), * (Nov 16/17)
- **Running, athletics or multi-sports**: 6.9M (Nov 15/16), 7.0M (Nov 16/17)
- **Cycling for leisure (excluding exercise bike/spinning)**: 5.0M (Nov 15/16), 5.0M (Nov 16/17)
- **Swimming activities**: 4.9M (Nov 15/16), 4.6M (Nov 16/17)
- **Team sports**: 3.5M (Nov 15/16), 3.2M (Nov 16/17)
- **Cycling for travel**: 3.2M (Nov 15/16), 3.2M (Nov 16/17)
- **Adventure sports**: 2.2M (Nov 15/16), 2.6M (Nov 16/17)
- **Racket sports**: 2.4M (Nov 15/16), 2.3M (Nov 16/17)

* Arrows show change in the number of participants on 12 months ago

**Notes**

- Fitness activities data for Nov 15/16 as a whole is not available, however, data for two specific types of fitness activity can be provided:
  - **Fitness class**: 6.3M (Nov 15/16), 6.5M (Nov 16/17)
  - **Interval sessions (e.g. circuits, HIIT)**: 1.9M (Nov 15/16), 2.4M (Nov 16/17)

See the **Notes** page for more details.
A volunteer makes all the difference. And it benefits both the volunteer and the person receiving the support. Whether it’s serving refreshments, coaching a player or assisting people with disabilities to take part, we need people to give their time.

WE COUNT A PERSON AS HAVING VOLUNTEERED IF:

- THEY HAVE TAKEN PART IN A VOLUNTEERING ROLE TO SUPPORT SPORT/PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
  
  (A full list of roles can be found in our definitions at the end of this report on page 17).

- A PERSON HAS VOLUNTEERED AT LEAST TWICE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS
Further breakdowns on the profile of volunteers can be found in the data tables linked to this report.

**VOLUNTEERING**

**ROLES UNDERTAKEN AMONG ADULTS (AGED 16+) WHO VOLUNTEERED AT LEAST TWICE IN THE LAST YEAR (NOV 16/17)**

- Provided transport: 41%
- Coached or instructed: 39%
- Provided any other help: 38%
- Admin or committee role: 35%
- Refereed, umpired or officiated: 25%
- Stewarded or marshalled: 23%

**15%**

**6.6M ADULTS VOLUNTEERED**

**AT LEAST TWICE IN THE LAST YEAR TO SUPPORT SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**
CREATE A LIFELONG SPORTING HABIT

WELLBEING, INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Data linked to the following metrics for different levels of engagement in sport and physical activity can be found in the data tables linked to this report:

- Mental wellbeing
- Individual development
- Social and community development

MENTAL WELLBEING is presented as an average level of agreement to the following questions (scale of 0-10):

- “Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?”
- “Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?”
- “Overall, to what extent do you feel that the things you do in life are worthwhile?”
- “Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday?”

INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT is presented as an average level of agreement to the following question:

- “I can achieve most of the goals I set myself?”

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT is presented as an average level of agreement to the following question:

- “Most people in our local area can be trusted?”

LINK TO DATA TABLES
Wellbeing, Individual and Community Development

Some activity is good, more is better in terms of mental wellbeing.

Volunteering is positively associated with individual development.

Further breakdowns across all six metrics linked to both activity levels and volunteering can be found in the data tables linked to this report.
Data for local areas, including, nine regions, 44 County Sports Partnerships, and 353 local authorities are available for the following measures:

1. Levels of activity
   - Link to data tables

2. Participating at least twice in the last 28 days
   - Link to data tables

3. Volunteering at least twice in the last 12 months
   - Link to data tables

Details of change in the last 12 months can be found in the tables.
**Definitions**

**Moderate activity** is defined as activity where you raise your heart rate.

**Vigorous activity** is where you’re out of breath or are sweating (you may not be able to say more than a few words without pausing for breath).

**NS-SEC** groups are defined as:
- NS-SEC 1-2: Managerial, administrative and professional occupations (e.g. chief executive, doctor, actor, journalist)
- NS-SEC 3: Intermediate occupations (e.g. auxiliary nurse, secretary)
- NS-SEC 4: Self employed and small employers
- NS-SEC 5: Lower supervisory and technical occupations (e.g. plumber, gardener, train driver)
- NS-SEC 6-7: Semi-routine and routine occupations (e.g. shop assistant, bus driver)
- NS-SEC 8: Long term unemployed or never worked
- NS-SEC 9: Students and other.

**Limiting disability** is defined as an individual reporting they have a physical or mental health condition or illness that has lasted or is expected to last 12 months or more, and that this has a substantial effect on their ability to do normal daily activities.

**Volunteering roles** are defined as:
- Provided transport: To help people other than family members take part in sport
- Coached or instructed: For an individual or team(s) in a sport or recreational physical activity (other than solely for family members)
- Refereed, umpired, or officiated: At a sports match, competition or event
- Administrative or committee role: For a sports organisation, activity or event (e.g. chairman, treasurer, social secretary, first aider, welfare officer)
- Stewarded or marshalled: At a sports activity or event
- Provided any other help: For a sport or recreational physical activity (e.g. helping with refreshments, sports kit or equipment).

[Link to more information on measures and demographics]
THE ACHIEVED SAMPLE was 198,911 (16+).

DATA HAVE BEEN WEIGHTED to Office for National Statistics (ONS) population measures for geography and key demographics.

CONFIDENCE INTERVALS can be found in the linked tables. These indicate that if repeated samples were taken and confidence intervals computed for each sample, 95% of the intervals would contain the true value. Only significant differences are reported within the commentary. Where results are reported as being the same for two groups, any differences fall within the margin of error.

SIGNIFICANCE TESTS can be found in the linked tables. The tests indicate that if repeated samples were taken, 95% of the time we would get similar findings, i.e. we can be confident that the differences seen in our sampled respondents are reflective of the population. When sample sizes are smaller, confidence intervals are larger, meaning differences between estimates need to be greater to be considered statistically significant.

POPULATION TOTALS are estimated values and have been calculated using ONS mid-2016 estimates. Confidence intervals also apply to these. More detail can be found here.

FITNESS Activities
During the first six months of surveying, a number of respondents were double counting a gym session and the individual activities that they did within the gym. We resolved this problem by re-wording the question, however, this means the first point at which we can report this data is May 16/17. We can however show 12 month change for fitness classes and interval sessions which were unaffected by this.

REVIZIONS to the Nov 15/16 data relating to levels of activity are presented as part of this release with full breakdowns available in the tables. For more details please see our website.