



**Ipsos MORI**  
Social Research Institute



**October 2018**

# **Active Lives Survey 2017/2018**

## **Year 3 Technical Note**

May 17 – May 18

**Ipsos MORI**

**The Active Lives Survey was conducted by Ipsos MORI on behalf of Sport England which commissioned the survey with additional funding from Public Health England, the Department for Transport and Arts Council.**

## Fieldwork and Survey Design

The data presented here were collected between May 2017 and May 2018 in England. The data were collected using an CAWI online questionnaire (57.3%) and a paper self-completion questionnaire (42.7%). The questionnaire can be completed by members of the public aged 16 or over and is available through both online and paper versions. Valid responses which could be used for analysis were received from 187,533 people in total.

The Active Lives Survey is a 'push-to-web' survey involving four postal mail-outs designed to encourage participants to complete the survey online. The survey is 'device-agnostic' and can be completed on mobile or desktop devices. The first two mail-outs are letters with information about how to access the survey online and a passcode for accessing the survey. At the third mailing a paper self-completion questionnaire is sent out to maximise response. A final letter reminder is sent as the fourth mailing which includes a reminder of how to access the online questionnaire (it does not include a paper questionnaire).

The sample is selected from the Postcode Address File using random probability sampling and one letter is sent to each address inviting up to two adults from the household to take part.

The sampling was designed to achieve pre-determined numbers of returns from adults within each local authority across the year of the survey. For the majority of the local authorities (267 from 326) the target number of completed questionnaires was 500 returns. For the two smallest Local Authorities (City of London and Isles of Scilly) the target was reduced to 250. For the eight largest Local Authorities (Birmingham, City of Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Nottingham and Sheffield) the target was increased to 2000.

## Weighting

Weighting is required to reduce the bias in survey estimates. Weights are produced to make the weighted achieved sample match the population as closely as possible.

For the Active Lives Survey the weights correct for the disproportionate selection of addresses across local authorities and for the selection of adults and youths within households. They also adjust the achieved sample by month to control for seasonality. In addition, by weighting to population estimates and national estimates from the Annual Population Survey 2016, the weights should also reduce bias in the survey estimates. The control totals are produced from a mix of: 2016 mid-year population estimates (region with Local Authority), 2016-17 Labour Force Survey (number of people in household) and 2017-18 Labour Force Survey (everything else).

### **There were five stages to the weighting strategy:**

1. calculation of an individual (within household) selection weight;
2. initial calibration to local authority and age/sex population estimates and month counts assuming a proportionate sample;
3. a second stage of calibration to the same measures as well as national estimates from the Annual Population Survey;
4. trimming of the second stage of calibration; and
5. a final adjustment to regional counts.

Multiple weights have been produced to allow correct weighting of the variables for different types of analysis. Most analysis has used the weight which covers the whole sample or the weight for online cases only. These two weights will be provided on the main dataset. Full details of the weighting scheme will be provided in the technical report which will be published alongside the data together with information on the correct weight to use.

## Confidence Intervals

Confidence intervals for the measures 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. Confidence intervals vary for each measure and each demographic breakdown.

Confidence intervals have been calculated using the complex survey package in SPSS, which takes account of design effects. They are presented for rates (%) in the report tables. Confidence intervals would also apply to the population estimates presented in the report and report tables.

## Significance Testing

The report and accompanying tables shows data for the last two survey years (2016-17 and 2017-18). This has allowed for analysis of the change in participation and activity levels over time. To compare data across the two survey years, significance testing has been applied to the report tables. This indicates whether changes observed across survey years are likely to be 'true' changes in the population, rather than just observed by chance.

Standard errors were generated using the complex samples module in SPSS: these were then applied to t-tests to assess statistical significance.

Only differences which are statistically significant are reported on as differences in the commentary. Where results are reported as being the same for two groups, this means there is no statistically significant difference.

## Population estimates

These are estimates of the number of people in a particular group (for example, the number of people in the inactive group, or the number of males who have attended a live sports event at least twice in the last year).

These estimates have been calculated using the rate (%) and the 2017 mid-year population estimates from the ONS, and therefore the true value would lie within a range around the estimates. The confidence intervals for the population estimates can be calculated by dividing the population estimate by the rate (%) and multiplying by the lower and upper confidence interval rates in the report tables.

For example, on Page 4 the report states:

25.2% of people (estimated 11.3m) do not take part in at least 30 moderate intensity equivalent (MIE) minutes of physical activity a week including any kind of walking, cycling, dance, fitness or sports (excluding gardening).

The report tables show the lower and upper confidence intervals for this figure to be: 25.3% and 25.9%. The rate is 25.6%.

The lower confidence interval for the population estimate is therefore 11,216,300 (11.2m)  
 $(11,349,300/0.256) * 0.253$ .

The upper confidence interval for the population estimate is therefore 11,482,300 (11.5m)  
 $(11,349,300/0.256) * 0.259$

# Definitions used in the report

## Article I. Activity data in the report

The data were collected by asking which activities from a list people had done in the last 12 months, on how many days they had done each activity in the last 28 days, how long they usually spent doing the activity per day and whether it raised their breathing rate or made them out of breath or sweaty.

**Moderate activity:** This is defined as activity where you raise your heart rate and feel a little out of breath.

**Vigorous activity:** This is where you are breathing hard and fast and your heart rate has increased significantly (you will not be able to say more than a few words without pausing for breath)

People could also mention activities which were not listed on the questionnaire and these were coded to the relevant activity. These data then fed into the measures presented in the analysis (inactivity and taking part). The data have been cleaned such that duplicated fitness activities within a single questionnaire have been removed, missing durations have been imputed using the median duration for that activity and extreme durations have been capped at the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile for that activity. The questionnaire was set up such that people selected the activities they did. Any activity which was not selected was assumed not to have been done.

## 1. Inactivity

**KPI2:** *Decrease in the percentage of people physically inactive.*

The Chief Medical Officer defines an inactive person as someone who, over the course of a week, does not achieve a total of 30 moderate intensity equivalent (MIE) minutes of physical activity. Breaking that down further:

- Moderate intensity equivalent (MIE) minutes means each 'moderate' minute counts as one minute. Any vigorous activity counts for double, so each vigorous minute counts as two moderate minutes.
- The 30 MIE minutes can be achieved in one go or in chunks of at least 10 minutes across different days through a combination of physical activities.

Associated measures are 'fairly active' which refers to 30-149 minutes by the same definition and 'active' which refers to 150 or more minutes. KPI2 in sporting future guidelines refer to all sports, fitness, cycling, walking, dance and gardening activity. Gardening does not however fall under Sport England's remit and so, unless referenced otherwise, this is excluded from the data presented.

## 2. Taking part in Sport and Physical Activity

*KPI1: Increase in percentage of the population taking part in sport and physical activity at least twice in the last month.*

This is measured as the equivalent of 30 minutes or more activity at least twice in the last 28 days. Each session must last at least 10 minutes and be of at least moderate intensity.

An individual can reach the minimum threshold by a combination of two 30-minute sessions across the last 28 days or by six 10-minute sessions, for example. This is measured for all activities including sports, fitness, dance, cycling and walking (including for travel).

In the analysis, specific activities have been grouped together into composites to look at groups of sports or disciplines. When creating composites across activities anyone who did not tick any of the relevant activities which feed into the composite were treated as not having done that composite activity. Therefore, there are no missing values for these composites. In some cases, intensity was assumed and not asked (assumed always to be light, moderate or vigorous). Activities done by those aged 65 and over were assumed to be at least moderate in all cases and therefore counted in the taking part measure. Results are also presented for smaller groups of specific activities.

**The table below shows the specific activities which are included under each of the composite activity groupings used in the report. Where relevant, the wording or description given in the questionnaire is also included for reference.**

Composite	Activities included
<b>Walking for leisure</b>	Walking for leisure (including dog walking and rambling and Nordic walking). Only walks of at least 10 minutes continuous walking are counted and walking around shops is excluded.
<b>Walking for travel</b>	Only walks of at least 10 minutes continuous walking are counted and walking around shops is excluded.
<b>Cycling for leisure and sport</b>	Cycling for leisure, Mountain biking, BMX, Road cycling or racing, Track cycling, Cyclo-cross, Cycling for Leisure and all other cycling, Exercise bike, Cycle class (e.g. spinning, RPM).
<b>Cycling for travel</b>	Cycling for travel (including commuting).
<b>Creative or Artistic Dance</b>	Creative or Artistic Dance. For example, ballet, ballroom, belly dancing, contemporary, contact improvisation, Flamenco, folk, hip-hop, historical/period, Irish, jazz, jive, Latin American, line or square dancing, salsa, street dance, South Asian, tango or tap.
<b>Fitness activities</b>	<p><b>Combining several activities in a gym.</b></p> <p><b>Fitness machines</b> such as Cross training machine (e.g. Cross trainer, SkiErg), Exercise bike, Rowing machine, Step machine, Treadmill, Other exercise machine.</p> <p><b>Fitness class</b> such as Pilates, Yoga, Boxing class (e.g. Boxercise, body combat), Cardio class (e.g. aerobics, step aerobics, body attack), Core strength class (e.g. legs bums and tums, body balance), Cycle class (e.g. spinning, RPM), Dance-based class (e.g. Zumba, fitsteps, raverise or body jam), Water-based class (e.g. aquaerobics, aquafit), Weights-based class (e.g. body pump, kettlebell), Other fitness or exercise class.</p> <p><b>Weights session</b> such as Resistance weights machines, Free weights (includes kettlebells and dumb-bells), Weightlifting or powerlifting (using a barbell).</p> <p><b>Interval sessions</b>, such as Circuit training, Cross training, Bootcamp (e.g. drill sergeant, military fitness), Cross fit, High intensity (e.g. HIT, insanity).</p> <p><b>Generic fitness session</b>, covering things such as Body weight exercises (e.g. pull ups, press ups, sit ups), Skipping, Aerial fitness.</p>
<b>Sporting Activities</b>	<p><b>Team Sports:</b> Football, Cricket, Rugby union, Rugby league, Touch rugby, Wheelchair rugby, Netball, Basketball, Wheelchair basketball, Field hockey, Volleyball, Rounders, Dodgeball, Baseball or softball, Lacrosse, Goalball, Handball, Gaelic sports, Other team sport.</p> <p><b>Racket Sports:</b> Tennis, Badminton, Squash or Racketball, Table Tennis.</p> <p><b>Adventure sports:</b> Hill or mountain walking or hiking, Rock climbing or bouldering, Climbing or bouldering wall, Caving or pot holing, Abseiling, Orienteering, Parkour or free running, High ropes.</p> <p><b>Water sports:</b> Rowing, Sailing, Windsurfing, Gliding, paragliding or hang gliding, Canoeing or kayaking, Rafting, Water skiing or wakeboarding, Surfing, board surfing, body boarding, kite surfing, paddle boarding, Scuba diving or snorkelling, Life-saving, Other water sports such as dragon boat racing.</p> <p><b>Leisure games and activities:</b> Angling or fishing, Archery, Fencing, Ice skating, Frisbee or ultimate Frisbee, Rounders, Garden trampolining, Ten-pin bowling,</p>



	<p>Croquet, Cue based sports (e.g. billiards, snooker and pool), Darts, Skittles, Other leisure activity or game.</p> <p><b>Combat sports, Martial Arts or Target Sports:</b> Archery, Boxing, Fencing, Judo, Taekwondo, Martial arts, Shooting, Wrestling, Tai Chi</p> <p><b>Winter sports:</b> Skiing, Snowboarding, Sledding, luge, tobogganing, Ice hockey, Curling, Ice skating, Other winter sports.</p> <p><b>Swimming, diving or water polo:</b> Swimming indoors and outdoors, Diving, Water polo.</p> <p><b>Running, athletics or multi-sports:</b> Track and field athletics, Running or jogging, Fell or trail running, Triathlon (includes aquathlon and duathlon), Modern Pentathlon, Obstacle course (e.g. Tough mudder, Spartan, Rat Race).</p> <p><b>Golf.</b></p> <p><b>Horse riding.</b></p> <p><b>Bowls or Boules.</b></p> <p><b>Gymnastics, trampolining or cheerleading.</b></p> <p><b>Roller or skating sports:</b> Roller-skating, inline skating, rollerblading, Roller hockey, Skateboarding, Ice skating.</p> <p><b>Motorsports:</b> Karting or go-karting, Motorcycle racing, Motorcar racing.</p>
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***The report presents certain activities from within the sporting activities group. This table shows what they include.***

Sporting Activity: Composite	Activities
<b>Badminton</b>	Badminton
<b>Basketball</b>	Basketball (does not include Wheelchair basketball)
<b>Bowls</b>	Bowls including carpet bowls, crown green bowls, flat green bowls, short mat bowls
<b>Boxing</b>	Boxing and boxing fitness
<b>Climbing or mountaineering</b>	Includes hillwalking, hiking, rock climbing and bouldering (including on climbing walls)
<b>Cricket</b>	Long and short form cricket and nets and practice and other cricket
<b>Equestrian</b>	Hacking or pony trekking, Schooling, Show jumping, Dressage, Eventing, Other horse riding
<b>Football</b>	11 a-side, small sided, futsal, walking football and other football
<b>Golf</b>	Full course golf, Short course golf, par 3, pitch and putt, putting, Driving range, Adventure or crazy golf
<b>Gymnastics</b>	Gymnastics and trampolining (excluding garden trampolining)
<b>Netball</b>	Netball
<b>Rowing</b>	Water based rowing and rowing machine
<b>Rugby union</b>	15 a-side, Rugby Sevens, touch and tag rugby
<b>Running</b>	Running or jogging and treadmill
<b>Snowsport</b>	Skiing and snowboarding

<b>Squash</b>	Squash and racketball
<b>Swimming</b>	Swimming (indoors, outdoor pool and open water)
<b>Table tennis</b>	Table Tennis
<b>Tennis</b>	Tennis
<b>Track and field athletics</b>	Track and field athletics

### 3. Sports spectating

*KPI9: Number of people who have attended a live sporting event more than once in the past year.*

This is measured as having watched two or more live sports events, whether professional or amateur, over the previous 12 months.

The question was asked as part of a list of different activities. They were asked:

- Have you done this activity (attended a live sports event) in the past 12 months?
- If you have done this activity in the past 12 months how many times have you done it? Additional information provided was: Include all matches and competitions, including professional sport as well as watching family and friends compete.
- Answers of 'twice' or 'three or more' were included in this measure. There were some missing data from the postal questionnaire, if people did not answer this question. These people are excluded from the base. Therefore, the base for the analysis is 187,533.

## Article II. Key demographic variables

### 1. Age and gender

The report contains breakdowns by **age and gender**. Gender includes the category 'in another way' but the data for this group have been suppressed owing to small numbers.

### 2. Number of long term limiting impairments

The questionnaire asked whether people had any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that have lasted or are expected to last 12 months or more. Those who said yes were asked whether these physical or mental health conditions or illnesses have a substantial effect on their ability to do normal daily activities. All those who reported any conditions or impairments were asked whether the disability or illness affected them in any of 13 ways (including other). These were long term pain, chronic health condition, mobility, dexterity, mental health, visual, breathing, memory, hearing, learning, speech, behavioural, other (more detailed descriptions were provided on the questionnaire). Those who answered yes to the impairment having a substantial effect were considered to have a limiting impairment. The number of limiting impairments was derived from the question which asked about

types of impairment. It should be noted that this is the number of impairments from a set list reported by people who said that any of their conditions or illnesses have a substantial effect.

Those in the no limiting impairments category are those who reported no conditions or illnesses and those who reported that any conditions they have do not have a substantial effect on their ability to do normal daily activities.

### 3. Social Status

The measure used is a National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) measure derived using the self-coded method<sup>1</sup>. This collects information about employment status (self-employed or employed), the size of organisation and supervisory roles. People are then asked to place themselves in one of eight occupational groups. From this a five class NS-SEC measure can be derived. Testing of this method by ONS showed a 75% agreement with the interviewer coded method. More details about this method can be obtained from ONS, since the standard self-coded method was used.

### 4. Current education stage

Those who reported that they were in full or part time education when asked about their working status were asked about where they are studying. In addition, those who did not report being in full or part time education were asked whether they were studying for a recognised qualification. Those who were studying for a recognised qualification were asked where they were studying. Young people (14-15) were all asked where they were studying as it was assumed they were in education. Note that the sample for analysis by education stage only includes online cases as the question was not included on the adult paper questionnaire. The analysis was weighted accordingly.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 14 in the ONS Socio-economic classification guidance.

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20160105160709/http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/classifications/current-standard-classifications/soc2010/soc2010-volume-3-ns-sec--rebased-on-soc2010--user-manual/index.html>

## Note on Terminology

In the report tables, the term “respondents” is used as the heading for the unweighted base for each column. The term respondents have been used because the term participant which is usually used to refer to people who take part in a survey is confusing in the context of a survey about sports participation where participation has a different meaning.

The term rate (%) means the weighted percentage of respondents who gave that answer.

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### **About Ipsos MORI's Social Research Institute**

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