

Research Study Conducted for
Scottish Executive Education Department

Being Young in Scotland 2005

Young People's Participation in Youth Work, Arts, Culture
and Sport

Research Study Conducted for
Scottish Executive Education Department & YouthLink
Scotland By MORI

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Introduction

Background and Objectives

This report presents findings from the 2005 YouthLink Scotland State of the Nation Survey, incorporating the results from both the Schools omnibus and the young people survey of 17-25 year olds. This study represents the second wave of the survey with the first having been conducted in 2003. This project was carried out by MORI Scotland, on behalf of YouthLink Scotland, the national youth agency for Scotland and Scottish Executive Education Department (SEED).

Part of YouthLink Scotland's strategy is to develop a central body of data on young people, aimed to aid those engaged in developing youth policy and services to young people. It will enable interested parties to access relevant, up-to-date information on what young people in Scotland feel, want, do and aspire to. The **Children and Young People's Group (SEED)**, on the other hand, has a remit to promote effective co-ordination and integration across the Executive of policies and resources affecting children and young people. It develops and administers policies for children's rights, support for families, child protection, regulation of childcare centres and pre-school education and looked after children.

This questions that SEED commissioned covers issues such as:

- Lifestyles : Leisure, Sport & the Arts
- Participation in Youth Work, Volunteering, Caring, Culture & Arts & Sport
- Awareness of the Scottish Youth Parliament

Methodology

Two different methodologies were used for each element of the project. In the schools omnibus, sessions were conducted among 11 to 16 year olds (S1 to S4) where they were asked to complete a self completion questionnaire. The young people's survey of 17-25 year olds was conducted in home and also incorporated a self completion questionnaire.

Schools Omnibus

The sample of schools comprised 287 secondary state schools throughout Scotland. The sampling universe included all state secondary schools with and without special education units in all educational authorities, but excluded special schools. This sampling frame was stratified by educational authority and within each stratum, schools were selected proportional to the size of the school register, thus producing a nationally representative sample of secondary schools.

The age groups included in the survey were 11-16 year olds in curriculum years S1 to S4. Each school was randomly allocated one of these curriculum years, from which MORI interviewers selected up to two classes at random (using a random number grid) to be interviewed. Interviewers were instructed to interview in mixed ability classes such as personal development classes. Interviewing was carried out through self-completion questionnaires with the whole class in one classroom period. A MORI interviewer was present to explain the survey to pupils, to reassure them about the confidentiality of the survey, to assist them in completing the questionnaire, and to collect completed questionnaires. In classes where four or more children were absent during the self-completion session, up to two follow-up visits were arranged to interview these pupils.

Fieldwork for the study was conducted between 31 January – 31 March 2005. Of the 287 schools approached, 103 agreed to participate in the survey and 59 schools refused to participate during the fieldwork period giving a response rate of 36%. Sixty four schools were visited overall and fully completed questionnaires were obtained from 2,150 pupils, at an average of 20 pupils per class.

Data are weighted by school year and local authority. The weights were derived from data supplied by the Scottish Executive publication 'Pupil and teacher projections for Scotland' and 2004 census data. The effect of weighting is shown in the sample profile in the Appendices.

Young People 17-25 Years

All Census Output Areas (OAs) in Scotland were sorted into Wards within the 32 local authorities, and then ranked by the proportion of young people aged 17-25 years, with all OAs containing at least 90 young people (Census data) being included in the subsequent sampling. A total of 127 output areas were then selected, with a probability of selection proportional to the size of the 17-25 years population of each. Within each selected OA quotas were set to control age and gender to ensure the sample is representative. Interviewers screened households within the selected OAs in order to find 17-25 year old respondents – interviewing was conducted during the day, in the evenings and at weekends in order to gain interviews.

The survey comprises a representative quota sample of 1,028 young people aged 17-25 years in 127 output area sampling points across Scotland. All interviews were conducted in home on 16 February – 31 March 2005.

Data have been weighted by gender, age and region back to the known population and distribution to ensure the survey findings are representative. The weights were derived from data supplied by the 2001 Census data. The effect of weighting is shown in the sample profile in the Appendices.

A detailed breakdown of the composition of the achieved sample is included in the appendices.

It should be noted that the profile of the 17-25 years sample in 2003 and in 2005 varies. This is due to two factors:

- When the sampling was conducted for the 2003, the most up-to-date information available was from the 1991 census. By 2005, the 2001 census was available. There was a significant difference in the way that students were enumerated in the two censuses, however. In 2001, they were enumerated at their term-time addresses, but in 1991 they were enumerated at their parents' addresses. As a result, the OA Census population counts used in 2005 include those living in communal establishments, as well as high density student housing areas. Because the 1991 census enumerated at their parents' addresses, they were more widely distributed, and did not form the same kind of 'clusters'.
- A further alteration to the methodology is the timing of the survey. In 2003 fieldwork was postponed due to the Scottish Parliamentary Elections. The fieldwork period for 16-25 years was 12 May – 20 July (holiday season) 2003. In 2005 fieldwork took place between 16 February – 31 March.

These two factors have impacted on the overall sample as follows:

- A higher proportion of the sample are students in the 2005 sample
- A lower proportion are in work
- More young people rent their accommodation and many have very low incomes.

It is worth bearing these differences in mind when comparing the 2003 and 2005 results.

Analysis

When coding urban/rural indicators it is not always possible to provide data for every case. This can be due to a variety of reasons, respondent errors such as incomplete and incorrect postcodes given and partly because information does not exist for all postcodes. In this study all successful matches are provided.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), constructed by the Scottish Executive, was used to analyse the results of the YouthLink Scotland State of the Nation survey. The appendices provide a full explanation of how the IMD was used.

Presentation and interpretation of the data

Throughout this report we have used the term 'young people' as a summary term for 17-25 year olds. On the other hand, we have used the term 'school pupils' when referring to 11-16 year olds.

When interpreting the findings it is important to remember that the results are only based on a sample of the population, and not on the entire population. Consequently, results are subject to sampling tolerances, and not all differences between subgroups are therefore significant. A more detailed discussion on sampling tolerances can be found in the appendices.

Where percentages do not sum up to 100%, this may be due to computer rounding, the exclusion of don't know/not stated categories or multiple answers. Throughout the report, an asterisk (*) denotes any value less than one half of a percent but more than nought and a hyphen (-) represents nought.

Publication of Data

As with all our studies, these results are subject to our Standard Terms and Conditions of Contract. Any publication of results requires the prior approval of MORI. Such approval will only be refused on the grounds of inaccuracy and misrepresentation.

Acknowledgements

It is clear that schools are increasingly working under great pressure from a number of different sources. They also receive numerous requests to participate in research studies. Consequently, we wish to record our gratitude to the many schools that took part and we are indebted to all pupils and staff who made this survey possible.

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Checked & Approved:

Simon Brauholtz

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Margaret Frazer

Checked & Approved:

Justine Menzies

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Summary of Findings

Lifestyles

Leisure, Sport & the Arts

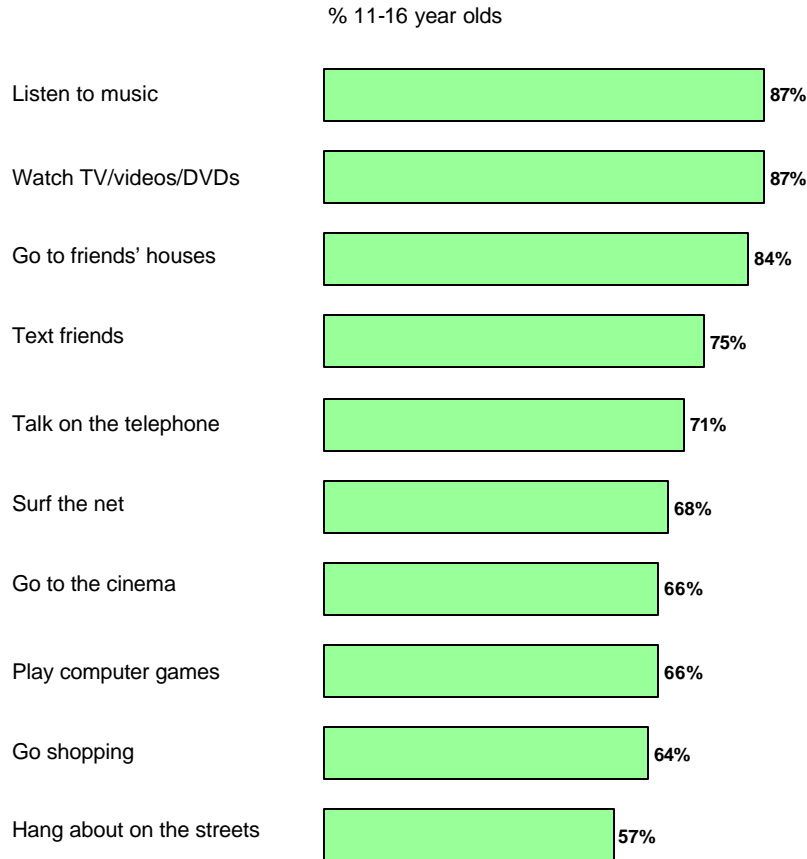
When asked what 11 – 16 year olds are most likely to do in their spare time, the top 3 activities are watching T.V./Videos/DVDs (87%), listening to music (87%) and going to friends' houses (84%).

In looking at the activities which school pupils are less likely to become involved in, these tend to include: going to an art gallery (4%), museums (7%), attending a religious centre (10%), while among young people it is more likely to be to go skateboarding (3%), to a youth club /centre/project (5%) and to hang about streets (7%).

Graph 1: Top leisure Activities among 11 – 16 year olds

**Top Leisure Activities among
11-16 year olds**

QCAS1 In a typical week which of these are you most likely to do?



Base: All respondents (2,150 11-16 year olds)

Source: MORI

Among school pupils, females are also more likely than males to listen to music (91% versus 83%), while males are more likely to play computer games (88% versus 45%) or surf the net (71% versus 65%) although females are more likely to use email (53% versus 43%). As one would anticipate, females are more likely to go shopping (86% versus 41%) or help with chores around the house (53% versus 39%). Interestingly, males are more likely to take part in sport/games/fitness (69% versus 40%).

Table 1: Leisure Activities among 11-16 year olds, by Gender & Age

**Leisure Activities among 11-16 year olds,
by gender and age**

QCAS1 *In a typical week which of these are you most likely to do in your spare time?*

	All	Gender		Age				
		Female	Male	11-12	13	14	15	16
Listen to music	87	91	83	87	88	86	90	75
Watch TV/videos/DVDs	87	86	87	87	87	86	87	61
Go to friend's houses	84	88	81	83	84	86	85	58
Text friends	75	84	66	72	74	76	80	55
Talk on the telephone	71	83	58	70	68	72	75	49
Surf the net	68	65	71	61	69	73	70	68
Go to the cinema	66	70	62	66	69	66	64	24
Play computer games	66	45	88	69	71	63	61	55
Go shopping	64	86	41	64	64	64	64	50
Read books or magazines	57	67	48	63	60	52	55	37

Base: All respondents (2,150 11-16 year olds)

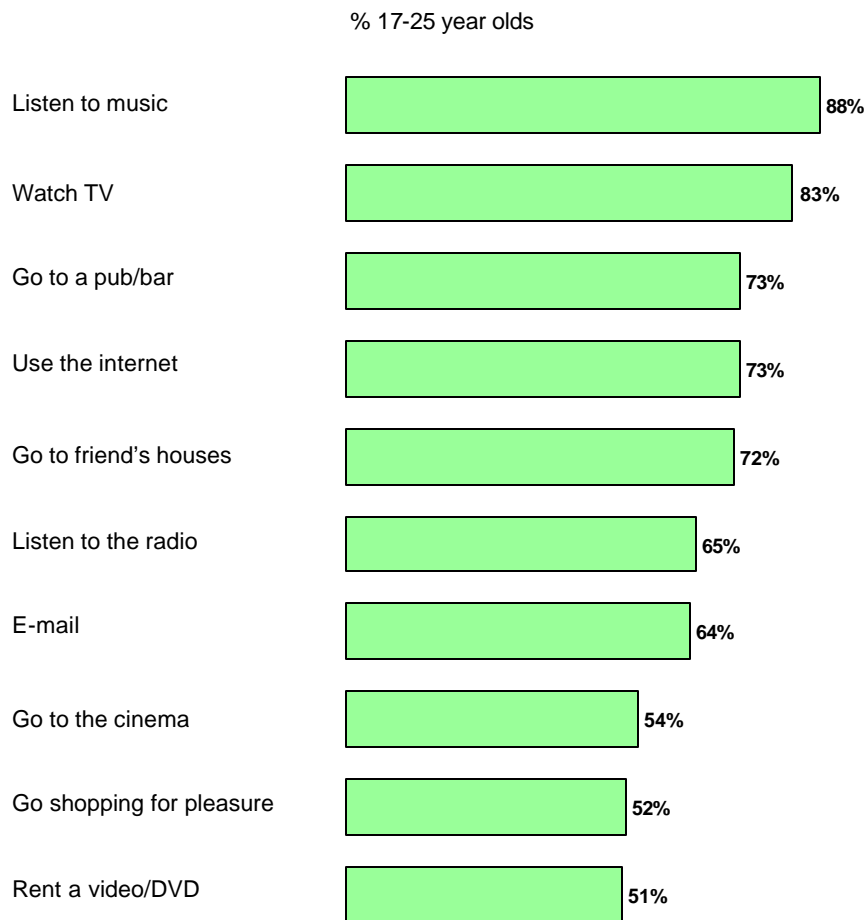
Source: MORI

As witnessed among school pupils, young people, 17 – 25 year olds also have listening to music (88%) among their top three leisure pursuits, followed by watching T.V. (83%), as well as using the internet (73%) and going to a pub/bar (73%).

Graph 2: Top Leisure Activities among 17 – 25 year olds

Top Leisure Activities among 17-25 year olds

QCAS1 In a typical week which of these are you most likely to do?



Base: All respondents (1,028 17-25 year olds)

Source: MORI

Among young people, those aged 17 – 18 are more inclined to listen to music than their older counterparts (i.e. 25 year olds) (92% versus 83%). Females within this age group are also more likely to watch T.V. than males (87% versus 80%). 19 – 22 year olds are more likely than 25 year olds to use the internet (19 – 20, 79%; 21- 22, 78% versus 64%, 25 year olds).

Table 2: Leisure Activities among 17– 25 year olds, by Gender & Age

**Leisure Activities among 17-25 year olds,
by gender and age**

QCAS1 *In a typical week which of these are you most likely to do in your spare time?*

	All	Gender		Age				
		Female	Male	17-18	19-20	21-22	23-24	25
Listen to music	88	90	88	92	91	88	85	83
Watch TV	83	87	80	86	85	83	83	79
Go to a pub/bar	73	70	76	66	83	80	73	57
Use the internet	73	71	74	71	79	78	67	64
Go to friend's houses	72	73	71	77	72	75	71	57
Listen to the radio	65	71	58	61	67	62	66	72
E-mail	64	65	62	56	70	72	59	57
Go to the cinema	54	57	52	55	58	59	49	42
Go shopping for pleasure	52	70	34	51	52	51	54	52
Rent a video/DVD	51	55	47	55	51	49	50	49

Base: All respondents (1,028 17-25 year olds)

Source: MORI

As previously highlighted, one of the main forms of leisure time is to watch T.V. On a typical day, young people and school children are most likely to watch around two or three hours television.

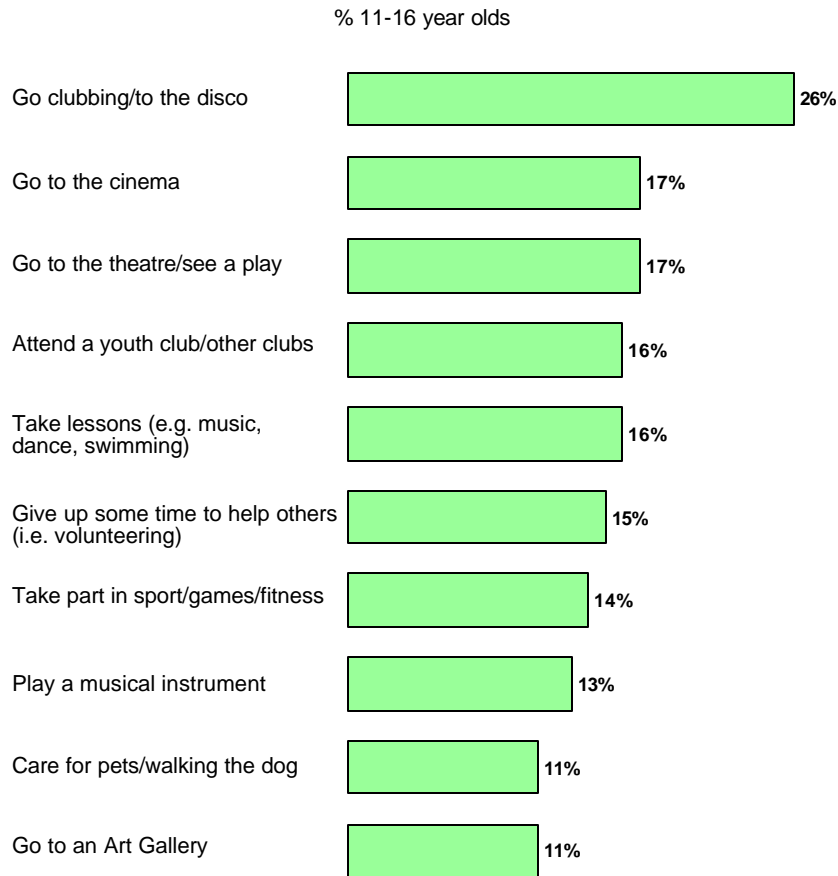
When asked which type of activities they would like to do that they currently aren't involved in, the top three which school pupils were more likely to select include go clubbing/to the disco (26%), go the cinema or theatre/see a play (jointly 2nd at 17%) and take lessons (e.g. music, dance, swimming) (16%) or attend a youth club (16%).

As previously highlighted, one in four (26%) of this age group who do not already go clubbing or to a disco would like to do so and it is the most commonly mentioned activity that 11-16 year olds say they would like to do. This is probably due to the revival of under 18s discos in recent years, with many of these discos catering for young people aged 12-17. The first ever under 18s club charter was launched in Edinburgh in October 2004 and aims to promote Edinburgh as a safe and enjoyable city for young club go-ers. Initiatives like this can only hope to increase the popularity of under 18s discos and youth clubs in Scotland for young people aged under 18 and in turn help to tackle the problems of hanging about on the street and anti-social behaviour.

Graph 3: Top Leisure Activities 11 – 16 year olds would like to become more involved in

Top Leisure Activities 11-16 year olds would like to become more involved in

QCAS2 And which, if any, would you like to do that you do not currently do?



Base: All respondents (2,150 11-16 year olds)

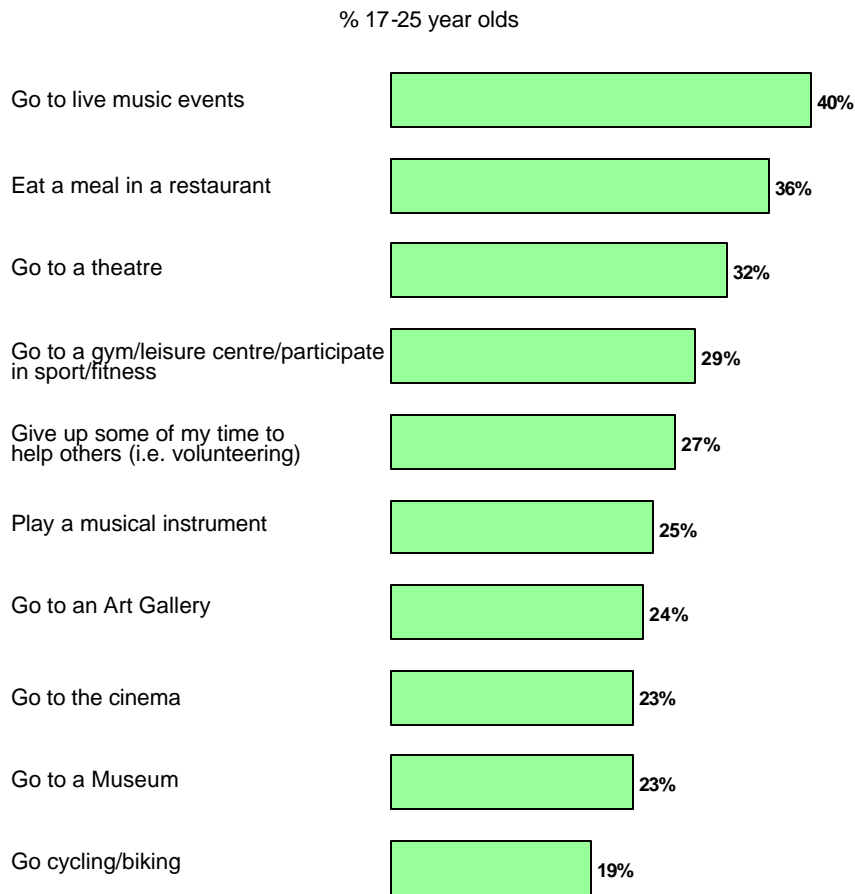
Source: MORI

A similar trend is apparent among young people who were also more likely to say they would like to go to the theatre (32%) among their top three. The top choice, however, was going to live music events (40%), followed by eating a meal in a restaurant (36%).

Graph 4: Top Leisure Activities 17 – 25 year olds would like to become more involved in

Top Leisure Activities 17-25 year olds would like to become more involved in

QCAS2 And which, if any, would you like to do that you do not currently do?



Base: All respondents (1,028 17-25 year olds)

Source: MORI

Participation in Youth Work, Volunteering, Caring, Culture & Arts & Sport

Across a wide range of activities and indicators of participation, there is a clear decline as high school children become older, with something of a recovery once they leave school, but continuing the decline thereafter. The trend is particularly prominent in expressive and participative activities, such as sports clubs and classes, musicianship, and the arts. Attendance at youth clubs reveals the same pattern, as does membership of uniformed clubs. It is noticeable that propensity to spend time caring for a family member or relative also declines with age. On the other hand, attendance at cultural facilities and live music events rises somewhat with age. Volunteering and participation in representative youth forums remains the preserve of a very small minority across age groups.

Table 3: Participation in Activities, by Age

	Age								
	11-12	13	14	15-16	17-18	19-20	21-22	23-24	25
At least once a fortnight	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Taking part in sports club or class	66	60	53	46	37	54	44	38	34
Making music	44	38	38	33	23	24	23	16	18
Taking part in arts activities	36	26	24	19	11	13	11	11	7
Youth club	29	23	22	15	4	3	3	1	1
Looking after family/relative	25	19	17	16	10	5	6	4	8
Youth café/meeting place	24	21	21	20	20	21	19	14	10
Uniformed club	21	12	8	7	1	3	1	3	1
Attending cultural facilities	6	3	3	4	6	10	15	14	8
Attending live music events	5	4	4	5	8	15	17	14	4
Volunteering/fundraising	4	5	4	4	5	7	8	3	2
Youth council or forum	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	0
Pupil/student council	2	2	2	1	4	5	2	3	2
Base	491	541	488	629	190	319	274	156	77

None of the activities about which we asked increases in popular participation between the ages of 11 and 16, suggesting that if young people are not engaged by the time they enter high school, it is unlikely that significant numbers will be drawn into these kinds of activities. It is, of course, a time when the demands of the school curriculum vie with personal and social development for young people's time and energy.

It is also noticeable how participation in sports clubs or classes declines consistently up until the ages of 17-18, coinciding with the transition to employment, training or continuing education, and then recovers at the age of 19-20. Indeed the 17-18 year old period seems to be a watershed for several

activities, and while most are in decline, it is at this stage that significant numbers of young people start going to cultural facilities and live music events.

Participation in Sports

Participation in sports declines markedly from the age of 11 (66% do so at least once a fortnight) to the ages of 17 and 18 (37%). It rises at the age of 19/20 to regain the levels of 14 year olds, when substantial numbers of young people are in higher or further education, but then declines immediately once again.

Boys are substantially more likely to participate in sports clubs and classes than are girls, with the gap particularly stark among 15-16 year olds. Once beyond this age, however, the gap disappears, and it is only once young people reach the age of 21 that men's participation in sports once again outstrips that of women.

Table 4: Difference in Sports Participation, by Sex within Age

At least once a fortnight	Age					
	11-12	13-14	15-16	17-18	19-20	21-25
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Taking part in sports club or class						
Boys/young men	73	65	59	36	54	44
Girls/young women	60	49	33	39	55	36
Gender difference	+13	+16	+26	-3	-1	+8

The degree of rurality of where people lives has little impact on their propensity to take part in sports clubs and classes while they are at school, although once over the age of 17, it is those who live in urban areas that are more likely to do so (43% at least once a fortnight) than are those in rural areas (33%).

The level of deprivation (measured using the Scottish IMD), has a more consistent impact, with those in the most deprived neighbourhoods less likely to take part in sports clubs and classes than are those in Scotland's least deprived communities. Thus, while around half (47%) of 11-16 year olds in 'deprived neighbourhoods' participate, this rises to 67% of those in the least deprived. Similarly, 32% of 17-25 year olds in the most deprived neighbourhoods do so, rising to 47% in the least deprived. Young people aged 17-25 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) are substantially less likely to take part in sports than are others. For example, just 14% of this group take part in sports at least once a fortnight, compared to 42% of the age group as a whole.

Attendance at Cultural Facilities

Very few young people are such avid users of cultural facilities (such as theatres, museums, historical sites, galleries) that they go weekly (2% of 11-16 year olds and 4% of 17-25 year olds), but if we examine the proportions that attend at least once every couple of months, the numbers are larger, but still reveal some interesting trends.

Young women are more likely to visit cultural facilities than are young men, something that is most marked among 17-18 year olds, although it is also prominent among 11-14 year olds.

Table 5: Difference Attendance at Cultural Facilities, by Sex within Age

At least once every couple of months	Age					
	11-12	13-14	15-16	17-18	19-20	21-25
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Attending cultural facilities						
Boys/young men	28	22	20	25	46	48
Girls/young women	38	35	28	45	50	54
Gender difference	-10	-13	-8	-20	-4	-6

School children living in the most deprived neighbourhoods are half as likely to attend cultural facilities at least once every couple of months (21%) than are those living in the least deprived areas (40%). A similar, although slightly less stark, comparison is true among 17-25 year olds according to the neighbourhoods in which they live (58% of those in the least deprived, compared with 36% of those living in the most deprived areas). Rurality has no impact among school children, although those aged 17-25 are more likely to visit cultural facilities (50% at least once every couple of months) than are those living in rural areas (25%). Perhaps the behaviour of young people is significantly affected by organised school trips, which are as common among rural schools as among urban ones.

Non-white young people are more likely to visit cultural facilities at least once every few months. Among those still at school the gap is slight (36% of non-white young people compared with 28% of white), but once they leave school, 64% of non-white 17-25 year olds attend, while 45% of whites do. It is possible that responses might have been affected by interpretations of the term 'cultural facilities', although the question did provide specific examples, as other questions also suggest a lower degree of engagement with other of activities associated with the arts.

Participation in Uniformed Clubs

One in five children aged 11-12 are members of, or take part in, uniformed clubs at least once a fortnight (21%). Indeed it is broadly the case that this is one area of activity that young people either take part in at least once a week, or not at all. Participation declines rapidly, so that by the age of 13, half as many are participating (11%) and the decline is steady from that age.

There is very little difference between the sexes on this measure of activity, nor is there any difference between white and non-white school children, those in urban and rural areas or levels of neighbourhood deprivation.

Table 6: Difference in Participation in Uniformed Clubs, by Sex within Age

At least once a fortnight	Age					
	11-12	13-14	15-16	17-18	19-20	21-25
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Taking part in uniformed clubs						
Boys/young men	19	12	9	-	3	2
Girls/young women	23	9	6	1	3	2
Gender difference	-4	-3	+3	-1	-	-

Those who take part in activities provided by 'youth workers' or who undertake volunteering are also more likely to be members of uniformed clubs, although it is at least likely that the correlation is in the opposite direction. On the other hand, young carers (those who provide some level of support or care for family members) are no more or less likely to take part in uniformed clubs.

Caring for Family and Relatives

Young people become less likely to say they spend time looking after a close family member as they become older, and this activity is at its peak at the 11-12 year old stage, when around a quarter say they are doing so. Since this caring responsibility may be a child helping to look after a young sibling, the trend may be because, as they and their sibling become older, the need for them to provide care also declines. Girls in each age group are more likely to be providing this care for family members than are boys.

Table 7: Difference in Caring for Family/Relatives, by Sex within Age

At least once a fortnight	Age					
	11-12	13-14	15-16	17-18	19-20	21-25
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Looking after/caring for close family/relative						
Boys/young men	21	15	15	9	2	3
Girls/young women	28	21	18	10	9	7
Gender difference	-7	-6	-3	-1	-7	-4

Caring is most common among 11-16 year olds where neither parent works (29%), or if they live in the most deprived neighbourhoods (22%), and those who themselves have a disability or long-term illness (28%). Although less likely generally to say they care for a family member, it is relatively more common among some groups of 17-25 year olds, notably non-whites (16%), and those who are themselves disabled (16%).

Young people who provide care for family members are most likely to say that they spend time listening to someone's problems and keeping them company - 71% of 17-25 year old carers who responded to the question indicated this, as did 54% of school children. Apart from that, younger carers are more likely to say they have the main responsibility for cleaning the house (30%) than to say they do other things, while older carers undertake a rather wider range of functions, including being the main person responsible for cleaning the house (41%), weekly food shopping (41%), help with washing or feeding someone (34%) and looking after the money in the house and paying the bills (29%).

Most young carers provide care for less than 5 hours a week. Having excluded those who failed to complete the question, 69% of 11-16 year old carers provide this amount of care, and 54% of 17-25 year olds do too. Most of the rest provide between 5 and 10 hours care a week. This perhaps explains why, when asked whether their caring responsibilities have an impact on their ability to take part in other activities that they would like to do, very few say that it does. Fewer than one in ten school children say that they are prevented from doing other things they would like to (8%), as are just 2% of 17-25 year old carers.

School children who care for family members are also more likely to undertake other kinds of volunteering, and this makes no difference whether they are providing care for under 5 hours a week, or more than this. Asked directly whether they gave up time, unpaid, to help people other than family members in the past six months, 43% of those providing care for over 5 hours said they also undertook voluntary activities, as did 39% of those who provide care for under 5 hours. This compares with 28% of school children as a whole who say they have volunteered in the past six months.

Volunteering and Fundraising

Although with some activities it is fairly easy to establish a level of participation that one might conclude constituted 'regular', this is more difficult in the case of volunteering and fundraising. For example, very few say they do these things at least once a week, while 59% of 11-16 year olds, and 66% of 17-25 year olds say they never volunteer or fund raise.

For this reason, the measure we are using in this analysis is 'at least once every couple of months' as being our indicator of active engagement in fundraising and volunteering.

Table 8: Difference in Volunteering and Fundraising, by Sex within Age

At least every couple of months	Age					
	11-12	13-14	15-16	17-18	19-20	21-25
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Volunteering, including raising money for charity						
Boys/young men	23	23	18	19	28	19
Girls/young women	41	33	26	41	31	26
Gender difference	-18	-10	-8	-22	-3	-7

The differences between the sexes in the frequency of caring for a family member are also reflected in the propensity to volunteer or raise money for charity. In each age group, girls are more likely to say they give up time for charity than are boys. The differences are particularly stark among 11-12 year olds, and 17-18 year olds. Young people (aged 17-25) who are not in education, employment or training are particularly unlikely to undertake voluntary or fundraising activities. Just 11% say they do so at least once every couple of months. A sub-set of this group, the unemployed, are similarly unengaged in voluntary and fundraising activities, 10% doing so at least once every couple of months. By comparison, 20% of 17-25 year olds in employment do.

Encouraging Greater Attendance at Cultural and Arts Facilities

Asked what would encourage them to take part in arts and cultural activities, the two most common responses among those aged 17-25 relate to costs, but the top issue for the younger group is whether or not their friends are interested in participation.

The groups that are currently least likely to attend arts and cultural facilities are 13-18 year old males, the unemployed and NEETs, those living in the most deprived neighbourhoods, and 17-18 year olds living in rural areas. The factors that these groups highlight that might encourage greater attendance/participation are broadly similar to other young people, although young boys are particularly likely to say that nothing would encourage them (around a quarter say this). It is likely that more could be discovered through qualitative research methods, investigating the image that young people have of the arts and culture, and

exploring in more depth the attitudinal and physical barriers to attendance and participation.

Youth Work, Organisations and Youth Workers

Youth clubs are largely attended by those aged under 15, although around one in eight of those aged 15-16 says they do so too. There is no difference across urban and rural areas, nor between particularly deprived and non-deprived neighbourhoods.

Table 10: Difference Attendance at Youth Clubs, by Sex within Age

At least once a week	Age					
	11-12	13-14	15-16	17-18	19-20	21-25
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Attending a youth club						
Boys/young men	22	21	13	1	2	*
Girls/young women	27	17	11	4	1	1
Gender difference	-5	+4	+2	-3	+1	*

Youth councils and forums are attended by even fewer. Around one in twenty children aged 11-16 says they attend at least once every few couple of months (4%), compared with 2% of those aged 17-25. Groups rather more likely to do so are school children with disabilities (8%) and those living in rural rather than urban areas (5%). School children who also undertake some form of volunteering or fund raising are also noticeably likely to attend youth councils or forums (12%), although it is unclear to what extent the two activities are directly related.

Participation in pupil or student councils is also uncommon. Around one in sixteen (6%) school pupils says that they attend pupil or student councils at least once every couple of months, doubling to 12% of 17-25 year olds. The pattern of attendance is interesting, perhaps reflecting a long-standing use of student politics as a preparation for a future in politics for a small, and largely male, group of enthusiasts.

Table 11: Difference Attendance at Pupil/Student Councils, by Sex within Age

At least every couple of months	Age					
	11-12	13-14	15-16	17-18	19-20	21-25
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Attending a pupil/student council						
Boys/young men	7	7	5	12	19	14
Girls/young women	5	7	3	7	11	9
Gender difference	+2	0	+2	+5	+7	+5

As with unfulfilled participation in arts and cultural activities, school children would be particularly encouraged to take part more if they knew that their friends were also doing so (57% of school children say this), although it is also important that they know more about what opportunities are available (51%), that they are local (48%), and at a suitable time (45%). For those aged 17-25, the most important factor is information (39%), followed by the participation of friends (29%), suitable time and an affordable price.

Few young people recognise Youth workers as a current or potential source of information. However, they are not generally viewed in a negative light, even though many feel unable to say whether youth work organisations are good or poor at taking young people's views into account. Fifty four per cent of 11-16 year olds, and 48% of 17-25 year olds perceive them to be good at taking their views into account, and around a third hold a negative view. There is relatively little difference in views across groups of young people, although 17-25 year olds who are unemployed (35%) or NEET (28%) are rather negative in their perceptions.

Awareness of The Scottish Youth Parliament

Around one in five (18%) of school pupils feel they know *a great deal/fair amount* of the Scottish Youth Parliament which has increased by 4 percentage points since 2003. The majority (53%) say they know *just a little/hardly anything*. Those who say that they have never heard of the Scottish Youth Parliament has decreased by 5 percentage points since 2003 (27% versus 22%). Girls are more likely to say they know *just a little/hardly anything* (59% versus 46%). Those who are older (61%, 14; 59%, 15) are more likely to say they know *just a little/hardly anything* than their younger counterparts (44%, 11 - 12; 47%, 13). In looking at levels of awareness and the perception of the Scottish Youth Parliament among 17 – 25 year olds, around half (49%) say they *know just a little/hardly anything*, while two in five (42%) maintain they have never heard of it at all. Males are more inclined to say they have never heard of the Youth Parliament than females (46% versus 39%), as are those aged 25 (51

As illustrated, many young people have never heard of the Scottish Youth Parliament, and even if they have heard of it, knowledge is shallow and excites little enthusiasm. The organisation appears to have little contact with young people.

Table 12: Involvement with the SYP by broad age group

Extent of involvement in the past	Age	
	11-16	17-25
	%	%
I have never heard of the SYP	48	60
I have heard of the SYP	20	22
I would like to be more involved with the SYP	6	4
I have seen information about the SYP	5	6
I have been on the SYP website	2	1
I have been at an SYP event	1	1
I have met an MSYP	1	2
I know an MSYP	1	1
I have been consulted by the SYP	1	*
I have voted for an MSYP	*	1
I am/have been an MSYP	*	1

As a result of this low profile, few young people feel able to say whether the SYP does a good job of representing the views of young people. Three-quarters of 17-25 year olds say they don't know, and around half of 11-16 year olds say the same. School children that express a view tend to be positive rather than negative by a margin of 2:1, but 17-25 year olds are as likely to be negative as they are positive.