



Analysis of Participation in Post-16 Education and Training in Wales : 2005/06

Summary:	This publication provides information about participation in the post-16 education and training sectors in Wales. It includes a series of maps detailing participation rates by unitary authority.
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▪ **OVERVIEW**

- 1 This publication provides data about post-16 learner participation in Wales at both a national and UA level. It is the second of an annual series of publications intended as a source of information to support national and local planning and policy making within the post-16 education and training sector.
- 2 The information within this publication relates to Welsh-domiciled learners enrolled during the 2005/06 academic year at further education (FE) institutions, other training (OT) providers, Local Education Authority community learning (CL) providers and school sixth forms. This information has been sourced from the Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR), Post-16 Pupil Level Annual Schools Census (PLASC) and the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record.
- 3 Note the content of this publication differs slightly from its predecessor in terms of data coverage and population estimates and, as such, direct comparisons should not be made. However, figures for the 2004/05 academic year have been recalculated on the same basis as 2005/06 and are detailed within this document (see Annex C).

▪ **INTRODUCTION**

- 4 Information on Standard Participation Rates (SPRs) in post-16 education and training is presented in a series of maps in Section 1. The maps detail learner SPRs by Unitary Authority (UA) and compare them to the Welsh national participation rate. Each map focuses on a particular cohort of post-16 learners and is colour-coded to allow the reader to easily identify areas of high and low participation.
- 5 Section 2 compares SPRs for all the cohorts within each UA and is presented as a series of bar charts.
- 6 Context statistics and detail of the methodology employed are found in the Annexes.

Data coverage

- 7 In generating the participation rates data relating to the following learners has been used:
 - Welsh domiciled learners enrolled at Welsh Further Education Institutions (FEIs)
 - Welsh domiciled FE learners enrolled at UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)
 - Welsh domiciled Work Based Learning (WBL) learners at other training providers (OT)
 - Welsh domiciled learners enrolled with Welsh LEA community learning (CL) providers
 - Pupils enrolled at school sixth forms in Wales (excluding Independent Schools).

The participation rates do not include:

- Welsh domiciled pupils enrolled at school sixth forms in England
- Welsh domiciled learners enrolled with English Community Learning providers
- Welsh domiciled learners at English FEIs
- Welsh domiciled WBL learners at English training providers

Data is not currently available regarding these cohorts of learners. This lack of data may in some cases result in an underestimate of participation rates, in particular for those UAs bordering England.

- 8 To ensure that any double counting of learners is kept to a minimum the participation rates are all calculated on the basis of a census date in December. For the 2005/06 academic year this was December 2005.
- 9 All references to post-16 learners in this publication exclude learners studying at HE level. References to FE learners include learners accessing CL provision.

Standardised participation rates

- 10 The maps and charts show standardised learner participation rates for each UA in Wales. The SPRs are a measure of how many learners were domiciled in a UA as compared to the number of learners that might be expected to have come from that area based on Welsh national averages. Full details of the methodology adopted can be found in Annex D.
- 11 The SPRs have been calculated so as to take account of the gender and age profiles of the population of each UA. If this was not done comparisons between authorities would not be on an equal basis. For instance, an area with a high proportion of people aged over 40 would not be expected to yield as many learners as a similar area with the same sized population but with a high proportion of the population aged under 30. In this example, it might be that both areas actually do have the same number of learners and so would have the same absolute participation rates. However, when the gender and age profiles are included in the participation rate calculations it would clearly be seen that the first area has a higher participation level in real terms than the second area, i.e. it has a higher standard participation rate.
- 12 A map area shaded red indicates that the participation rate in that area was very low compared to the Welsh national average for the particular cohort of learners being analysed. Conversely, where the SPR is very high the authority is shaded dark green. An authority with a participation rate precisely in line with the Welsh national average will have a SPR of 100 and be shaded yellow. SPRs above 100 reflect high participation rates and values below 100 low participation rates.
- 13 In each map legend the figure in parentheses refers to the number of unitary authorities which fall into each participation range. The actual SPR values are given in the tables beneath the maps.
- 14 Annex B presents the absolute percentage participation rates for each UA where the number of learners domiciled in the authority is divided by the total population for that authority. (Annex C provides the comparative values for 2004/05.)

Population data

- 15 The population figures used to derive the participation rates were obtained from a combination of 2001 Census figures and population growth rate data. The base 2001 Census data was modified to place students at their home address. A growth rate was then derived from mid-year population estimate data and applied to the population data. Further details of the methodology employed can be found in Annex A.

- **SECTION I COMMENTARY**

General

- 16 The maps presented in this section show that there were significant variations in levels of participation, by post-16 learners, between UAs.
- 17 The UAs with the highest SPRs for post-16 learners were Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire and Denbighshire. The UAs with the lowest SPRs were Ceredigion, Powys and Monmouthshire.

Participation by age

- 18 The absolute participation levels (see Annex B) for the under 20 learner cohort were considerably higher than for the over 19 cohort as would be expected due to high numbers continuing from compulsory education into further education or training. Despite the difference in absolute participation, Maps 2 and 3 show that the SPRs for the two cohorts followed a broadly similar pattern across UAs; although the variation in SPR was greater for the over 19 cohort and resulted in more UAs falling in the Very High or Very Low categories.

Participation by gender

- 19 Maps 4 and 5 show that whilst many UAs had a similar SPR for male and female learners there was some geographic variation between the two cohorts. Most notably Powys had a considerably higher SPR for female learners than for male despite the fact that the UA had a below average SPR for both cohorts. The other UA with a noticeable difference was Denbighshire, here the SPR for female learners was again markedly higher than for males; in this case Denbighshire had an above average SPR for both cohorts.

Participation in WBL provision

- 20 The SPRs for the WBL cohort exhibit a large variation between UAs. Monmouthshire had the lowest SPR whilst Torfaen had the highest. This is of particular note since they are neighbouring authorities but with historically diverse social and economic backgrounds.

Participation in Sixth form and FE provision

- 21 SPRs for sixth form learners were above the national average in thirteen UAs and markedly above (> 30%) the national average in six UAs (Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Bridgend, Newport, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Vale of Glamorgan). However, the variation between UAs was the largest out of all the cohorts considered. Wrexham and Neath Port Talbot had markedly low SPRs for sixth form learners. However, comparison with the SPRs detailed in Map 8 indicate that learners aged under 20 domiciled in these UAs predominantly access FE provision.

- **SECTION 2 COMMENTARY**

- 22 This section displays graphically the pattern of participation for all the learner cohorts within each UA. Whilst some UAs show a similar SPR trend for all cohorts others exhibit some major anomalies.
- 23 In Gwynedd the SPR for sixth form learners is 30 percentage points below average but this is mirrored by a 32 point above average SPR for the FE learners aged under 20. This suggests that the natural progression for school leavers at 16 is not into a school sixth form but to an FE college. The SPRs for the remaining cohorts all display a consistent participation level approximately 10 points above the national average.
- 24 A pattern similar to that in Gwynedd is found in Wrexham. Here the sixth form cohort is 40 points below average whilst the young FE learners only display a 30 point increase above average. As in Gwynedd the remaining cohorts also display a consistent participation level but in Wrexham's case it is closer to 10 points below the national average.
- 25 In Ceredigion all cohorts are below the national average with the exception of the sixth form cohort which is substantially above with an SPR of 160. The same pattern is displayed in Powys, Monmouthshire, Cardiff, Ceredigion, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Newport.
- 26 Carmarthenshire and Merthyr Tydfil have cohort SPRs which all fall very close to the national average.
- 27 All cohorts have SPRs markedly above average in Pembrokeshire. In Gwynedd, Conwy, Neath Port Talbot, Vale of Glamorgan and Denbighshire all cohorts but one (in each UA) show above average participation levels.
- 28 Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent are worth noting for their generally below average cohort SPRs but in both cases the WBL cohort is well above the national average.

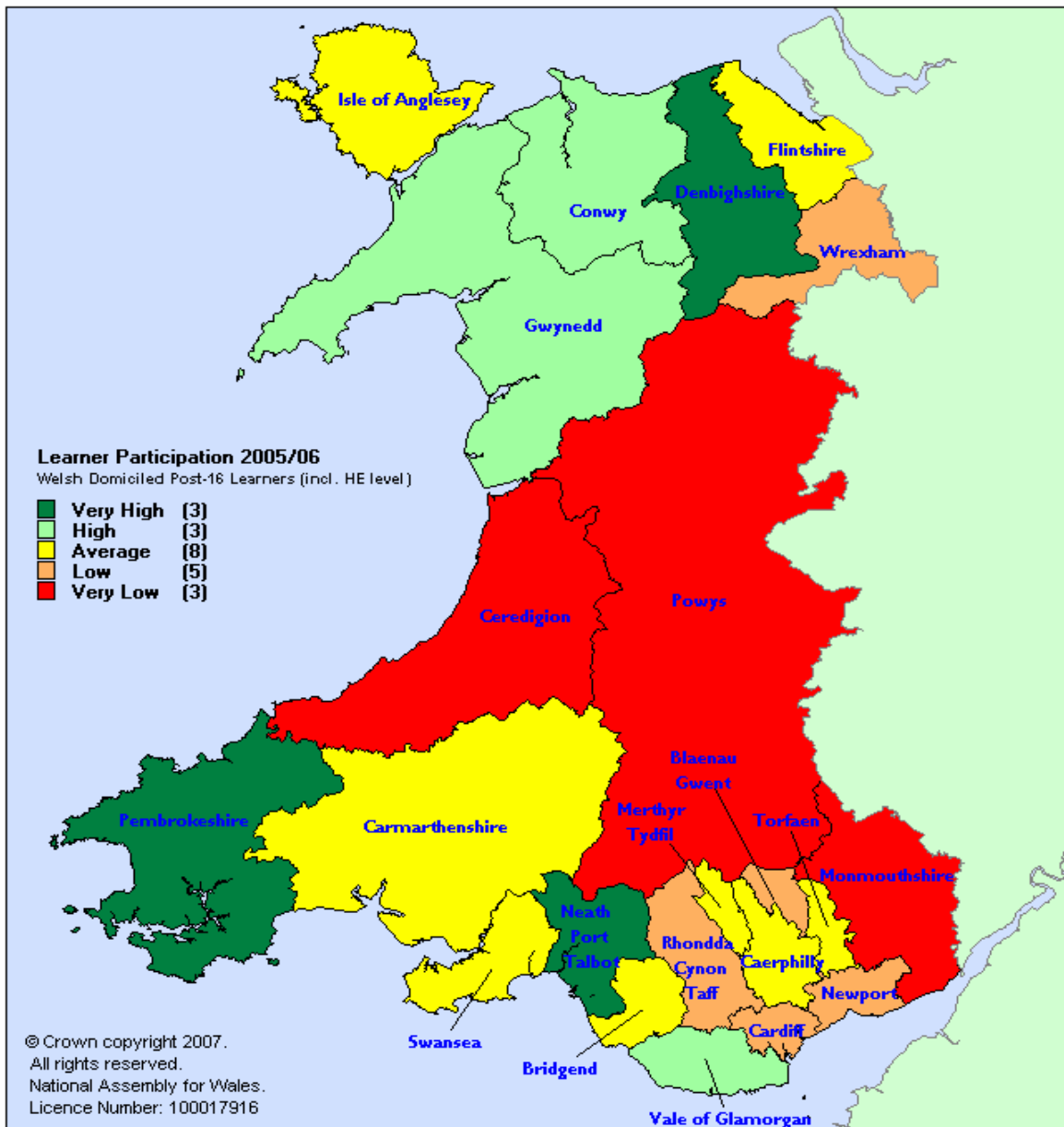
- **PARTICIPATION RATE TRENDS**

- 29 Annex A compares the SPRs of the learner cohorts for the academic years 2004/05 and 2005/06. Both sets of figures are SPRs which have been established against the national average rates for the given year and for this reason it is not appropriate to compare the SPRs from different years directly. However, the standard deviation (shown in the bottom line of the table) can be used to measure the variation of participation rates across Wales.
- 30 It can be seen that in all 10 learner cohorts studied the national variation in learner participation rates was higher in 2005/06 than 2004/05. This indicates that the gap between areas of low participation and high participation has widened in the course of a year. Continuing analysis over future years is required to establish whether this can be interpreted as a trend.

SECTION 1

Maps

Map 1: Standard Participation Rates for All Welsh Domiciled Post-16 Learners in 2005/06



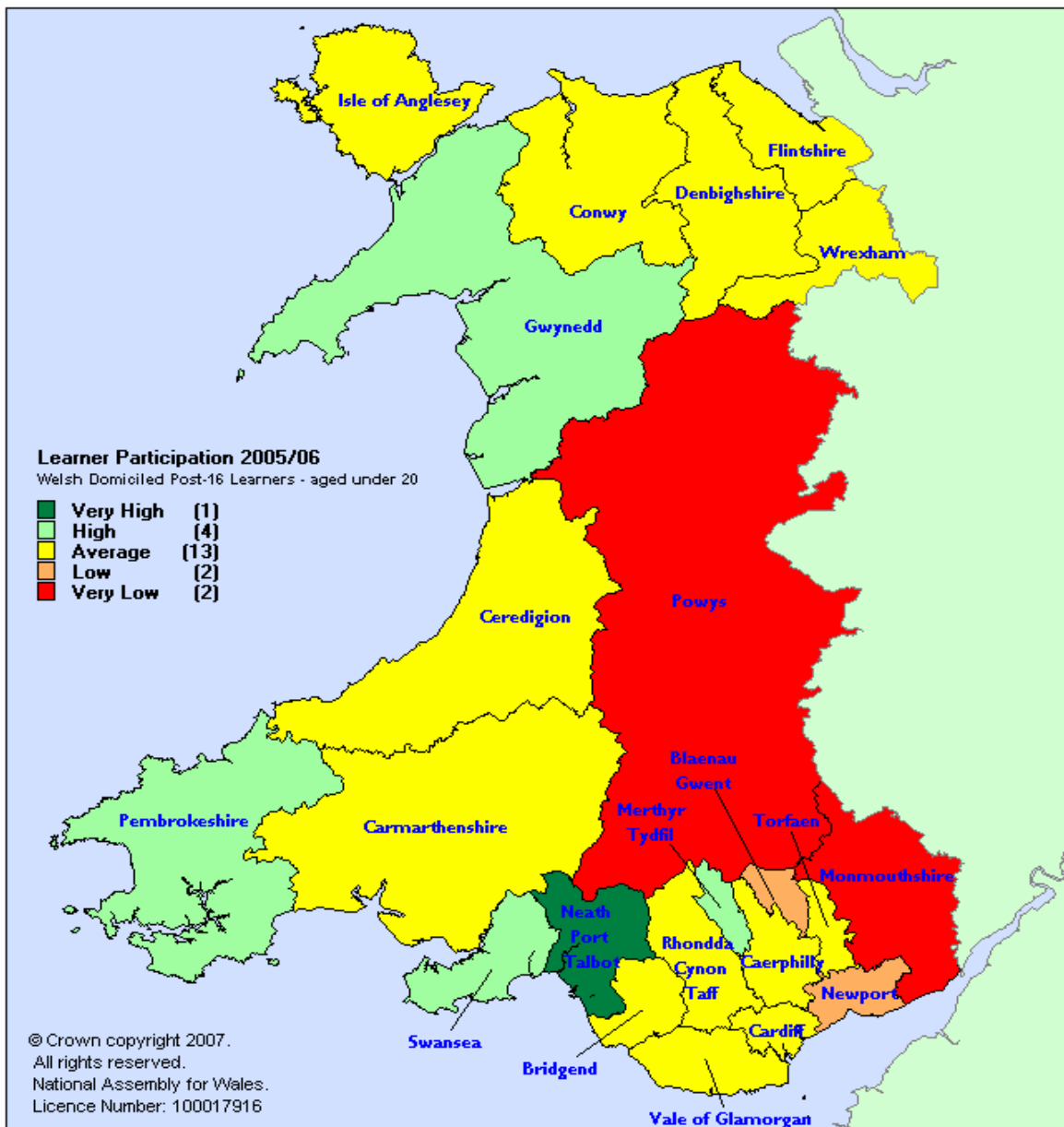
Unitary Authority	Standard Participation Rate	Unitary Authority	Standard Participation Rate
Isle of Anglesey	98	Neath Port Talbot	133
Gwynedd	111	Bridgend	104
Conwy	112	Vale of Glamorgan	107
Denbighshire	116	Rhondda Cynon Taff	89
Flintshire	102	Merthyr Tydfil	101
Wrexham	92	Caerphilly	98
Powys	83	Blaenau Gwent	94
Ceredigion	83	Torfaen	98
Pembrokeshire	126	Monmouthshire	75
Carmarthenshire	103	Newport	86
Swansea	103	Cardiff	92

Standard Deviation = 13.9

Coverage: All Welsh domiciled Post-16 learners at: Welsh FEIs (FE level, WBL and Community Learning); UK HEIs (FE level only); Welsh Work Based Learning Providers (WBL); School Sixth Forms (in Wales)

Sources: LLWR (Lifelong Learning Wales Record); January 2006 Post-16 PLASC (Pupil Level Annual Schools Census); HESA Student Record

Map 2: Standard Participation Rates for All Welsh Domiciled Post-16 Learners aged 19 and under in 2005/06



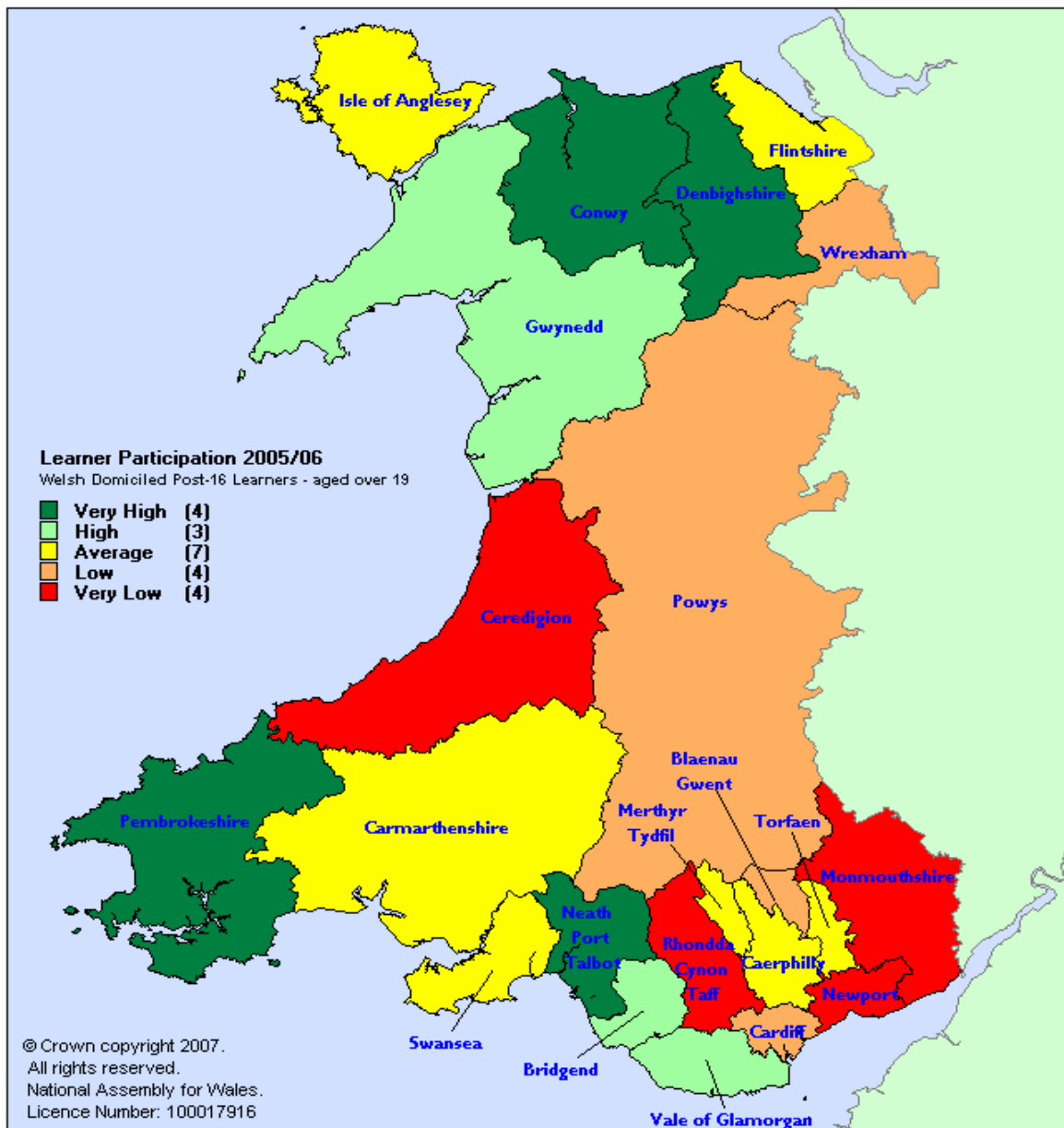
Unitary Authority	Standard Participation Rate	Unitary Authority	Standard Participation Rate
Isle of Anglesey	102	Neath Port Talbot	136
Gwynedd	111	Bridgend	100
Conwy	103	Vale of Glamorgan	102
Denbighshire	101	Rhondda Cynon Taff	96
Flintshire	101	Merthyr Tydfil	105
Wrexham	97	Caerphilly	98
Powys	76	Blaenau Gwent	93
Ceredigion	99	Torfaen	98
Pembrokeshire	114	Monmouthshire	72
Carmarthenshire	99	Newport	91
Swansea	108	Cardiff	96

Standard Deviation = 12.5

Coverage: Welsh domiciled Post-16 learners aged 19 and under on 31 August 2005 at: Welsh FEIs (FE level, WBL and Community Learning); UK HEIs (FE level only); Welsh Work Based Learning Providers (WBL); School Sixth Forms (in Wales)

Sources: LLWR (Lifelong Learning Wales Record); January 2006 Post-16 PLASC (Pupil Level Annual Schools Census); HESA Student Record

Map 3: Standard Participation Rates for All Welsh Domiciled Post-16 Learners aged over 19 in 2005/06



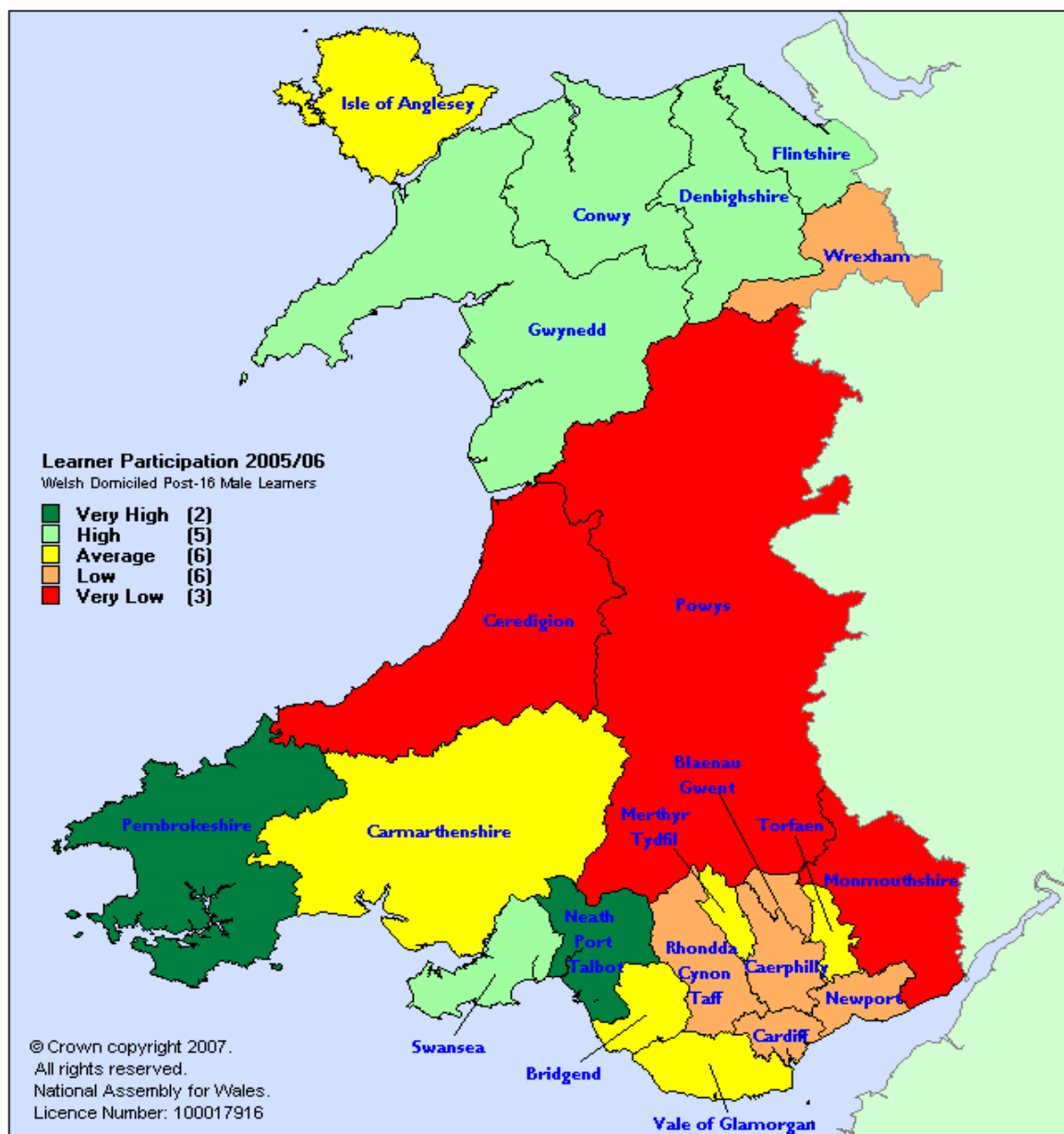
Unitary Authority	Standard Participation Rate	Unitary Authority	Standard Participation Rate
Isle of Anglesey	96	Neath Port Talbot	131
Gwynedd	111	Bridgend	107
Conwy	118	Vale of Glamorgan	111
Denbighshire	125	Rhondda Cynon Taff	85
Flintshire	103	Merthyr Tydfil	99
Wrexham	90	Caerphilly	98
Powys	87	Blaenau Gwent	95
Ceredigion	75	Torfaen	98
Pembrokeshire	133	Monmouthshire	78
Carmarthenshire	104	Newport	84
Swansea	101	Cardiff	90

Standard Deviation = 15.9

Coverage: Welsh domiciled Post-16 learners aged over 19 on 31 August 2005 at: Welsh FEIs (FE level, WBL and Community Learning); UK HEIs (FE level only); Welsh Work Based Learning Providers (WBL); School Sixth Forms (in Wales)

Sources: LLWR (Lifelong Learning Wales Record); January 2006 Post-16 PLASC (Pupil Level Annual Schools Census); HESA Student Record

Map 4: Standard Participation Rates for All Welsh Domiciled Post-16 Male Learners in 2005/06



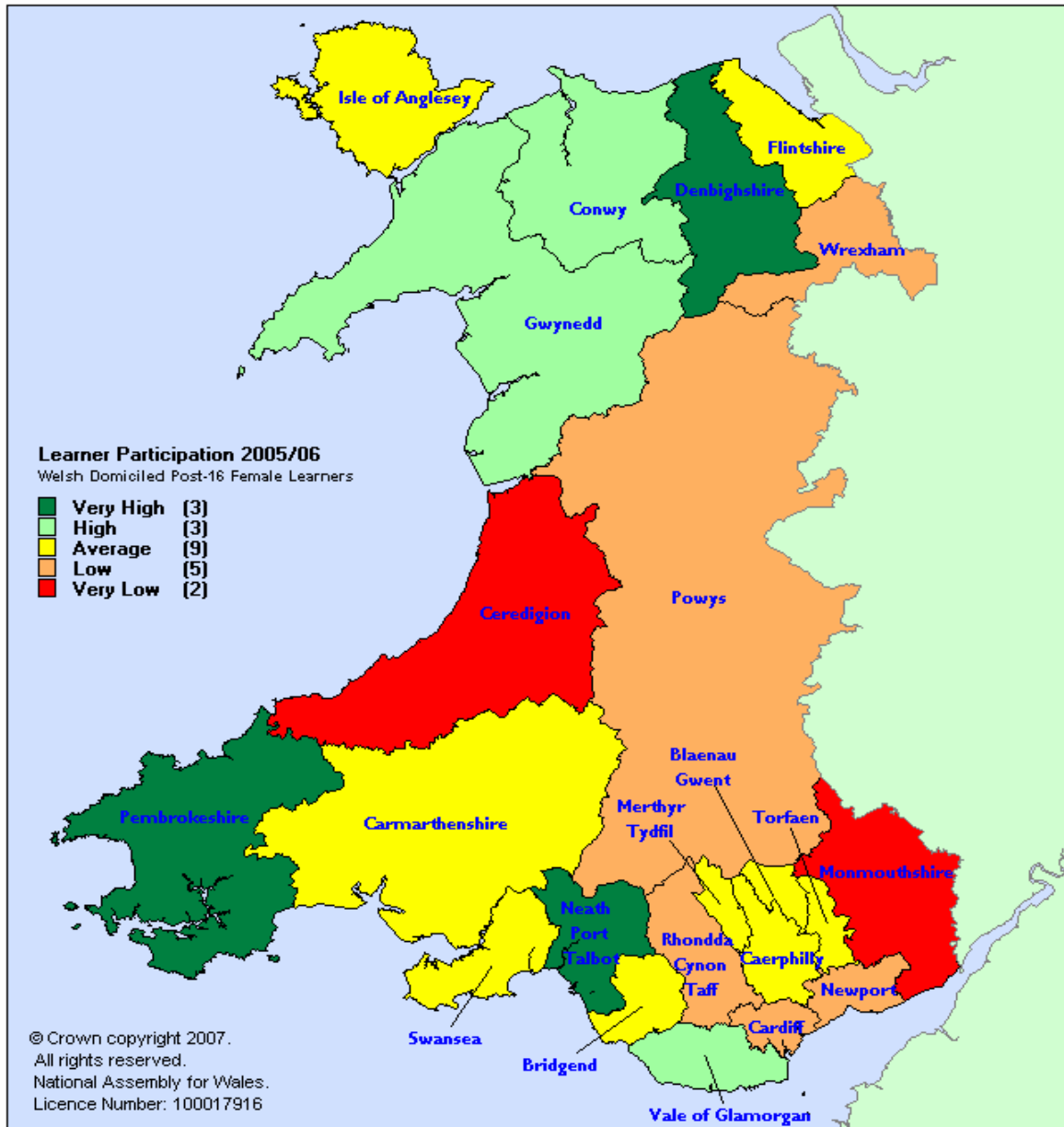
Unitary Authority	Standard Participation Rate	Unitary Authority	Standard Participation Rate
Isle of Anglesey	102	Neath Port Talbot	143
Gwynedd	115	Bridgend	105
Conwy	112	Vale of Glamorgan	104
Denbighshire	109	Rhondda Cynon Taff	89
Flintshire	110	Merthyr Tydfil	104
Wrexham	94	Caerphilly	93
Powys	73	Blaenau Gwent	91
Ceredigion	81	Torfaen	98
Pembrokeshire	118	Monmouthshire	72
Carmarthenshire	103	Newport	88
Swansea	108	Cardiff	92

Standard Deviation = 15.6

Coverage: Welsh domiciled Post-16 Male learners at: Welsh FEIs (FE level, WBL and Community Learning); UK HEIs (FE level only); Welsh Work Based Learning Providers (WBL); School Sixth Forms (in Wales)

Sources: LLWR (Lifelong Learning Wales Record); January 2006 Post-16 PLASC (Pupil Level Annual Schools Census); HESA Student Record

Map 5: Standard Participation Rates for All Welsh Domiciled Post-16 Female Learners in 2005/06



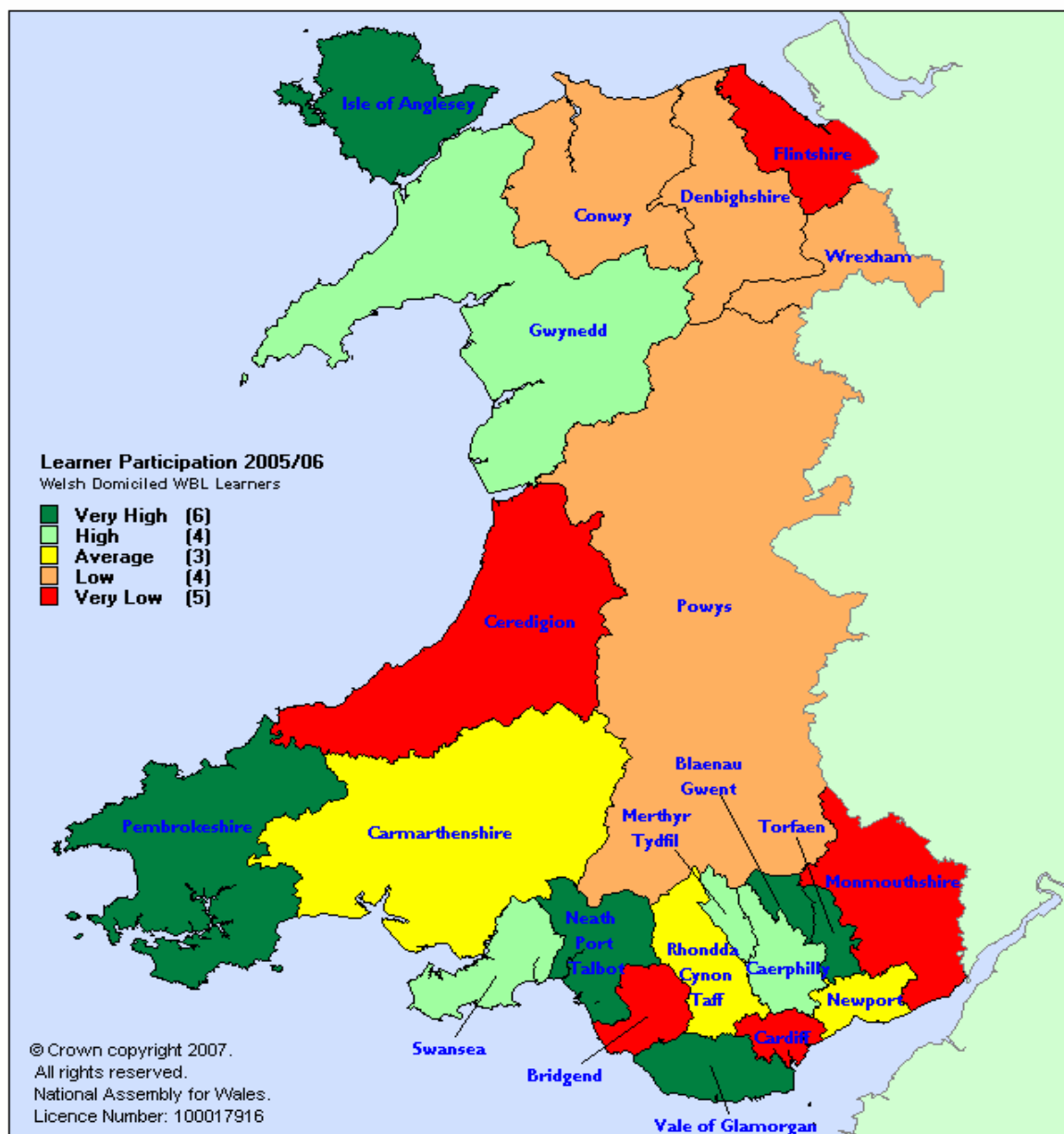
Unitary Authority	Standard Participation Rate	Unitary Authority	Standard Participation Rate
Isle of Anglesey	96	Neath Port Talbot	126
Gwynedd	108	Bridgend	104
Conwy	113	Vale of Glamorgan	109
Denbighshire	122	Rhondda Cynon Taff	89
Flintshire	97	Merthyr Tydfil	99
Wrexham	91	Caerphilly	102
Powys	90	Blaenau Gwent	96
Ceredigion	85	Torfaen	98
Pembrokeshire	131	Monmouthshire	78
Carmarthenshire	102	Newport	85
Swansea	100	Cardiff	93

Standard Deviation = 13.5

Coverage: Welsh domiciled Post-16 Female learners at: Welsh FEIs (FE level, WBL and Community Learning); UK HEIs (FE level only); Welsh Work Based Learning Providers (WBL); School Sixth Forms (in Wales)

Sources: LLWR (Lifelong Learning Wales Record); January 2006 Post-16 PLASC (Pupil Level Annual Schools Census); HESA Student Record

Map 6: Standard Participation Rates for All Welsh Domiciled Work Based Learning Learners in 2005/06



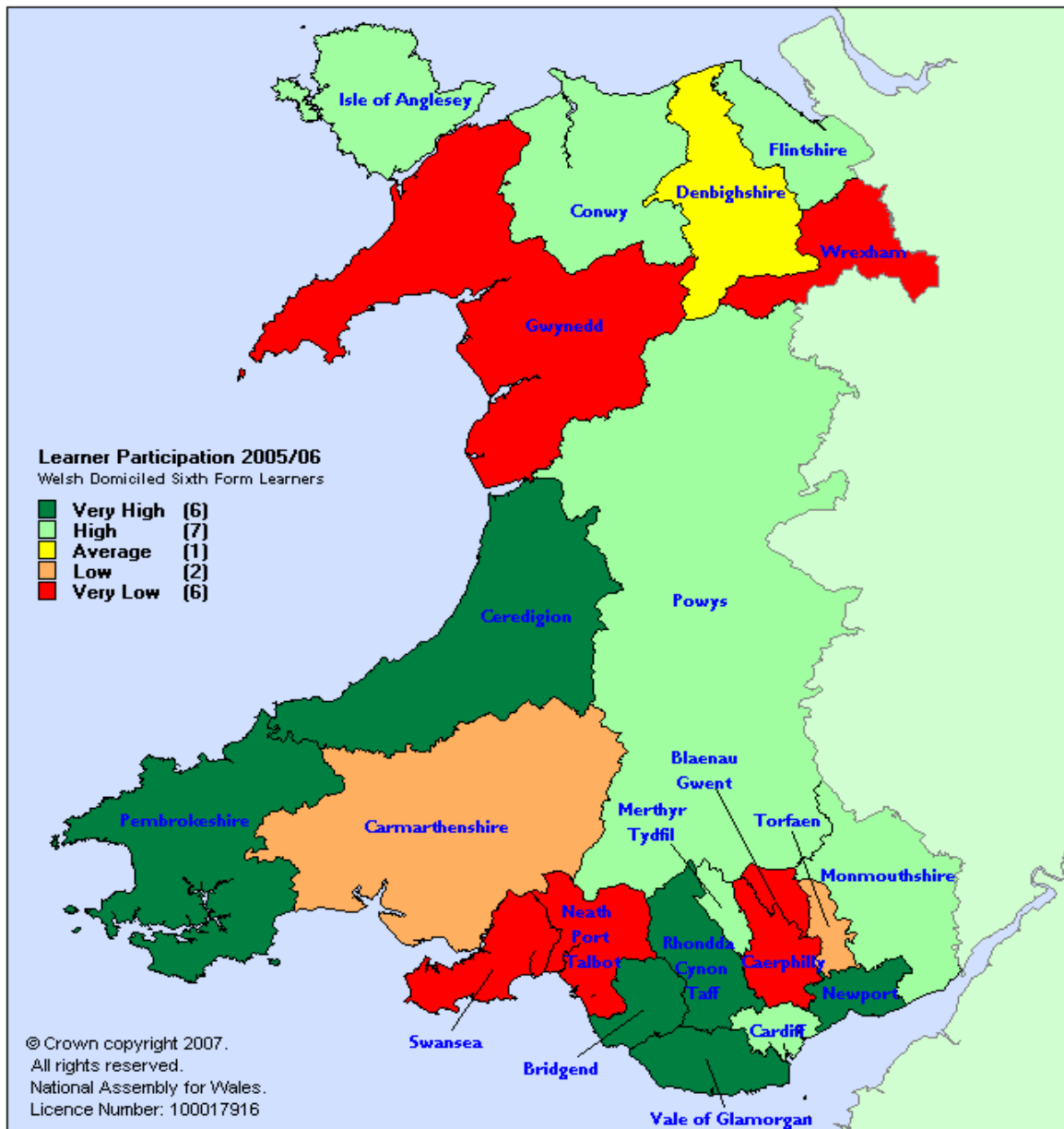
Unitary Authority	Standard Participation Rate	Unitary Authority	Standard Participation Rate
Isle of Anglesey	134	Neath Port Talbot	117
Gwynedd	115	Bridgend	84
Conwy	88	Vale of Glamorgan	122
Denbighshire	93	Rhondda Cynon Taff	100
Flintshire	72	Merthyr Tydfil	114
Wrexham	90	Caerphilly	113
Powys	91	Blaenau Gwent	126
Ceredigion	76	Torfaen	142
Pembrokeshire	137	Monmouthshire	69
Carmarthenshire	100	Newport	98
Swansea	106	Cardiff	78

Standard Deviation = 21.3

Coverage: Welsh domiciled WBL learners at: Welsh FEIs (WBL); Welsh Work Based Learning Providers (WBL)

Sources: LLWR (Lifelong Learning Wales Record)

Map 7: Standard Participation Rates for All Welsh Domiciled Sixth Form Learners in 2005/06



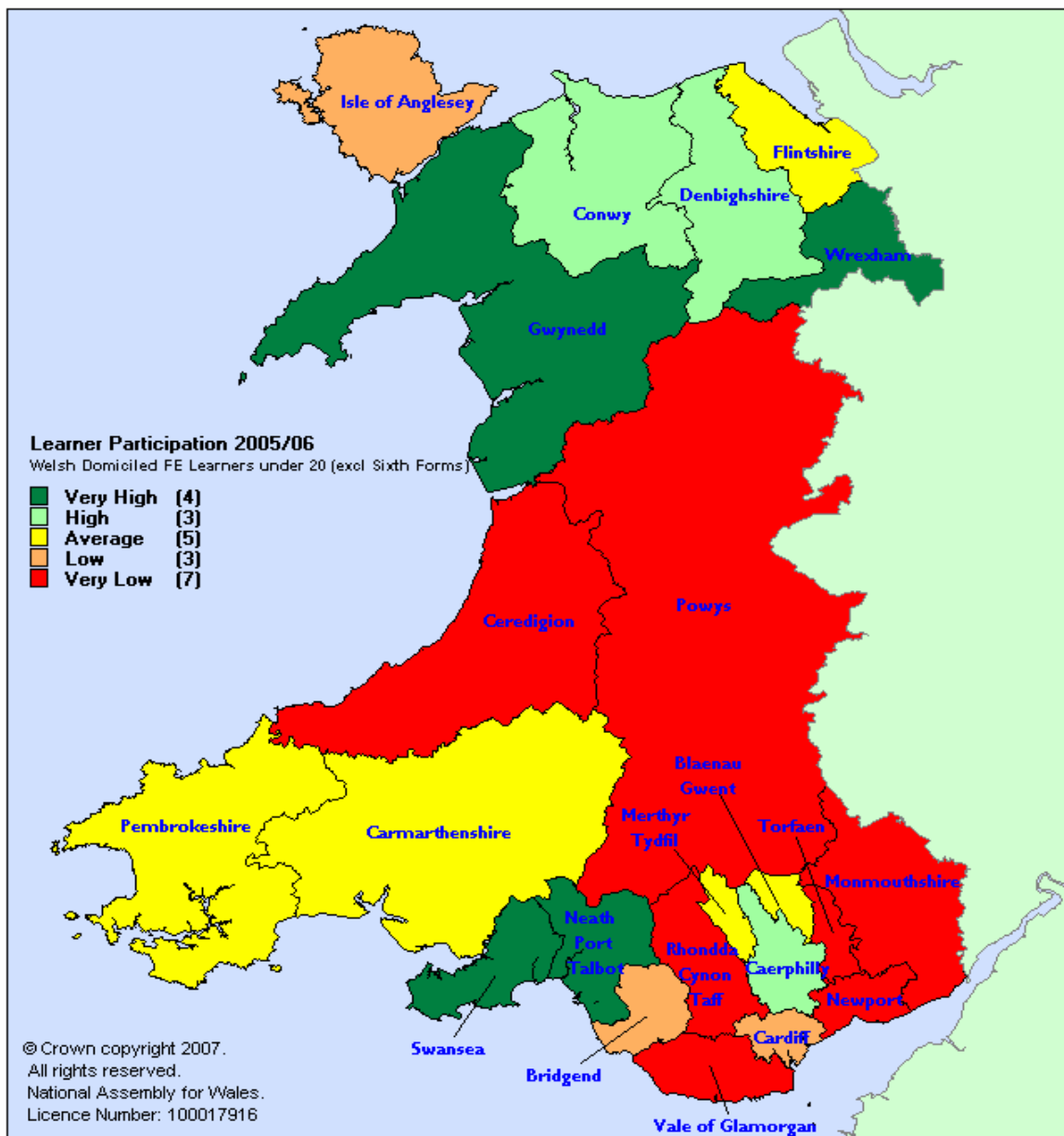
Unitary Authority	Standard Participation Rate	Unitary Authority	Standard Participation Rate
Isle of Anglesey	105	Neath Port Talbot	31
Gwynedd	71	Bridgend	132
Conwy	110	Vale of Glamorgan	135
Denbighshire	105	Rhondda Cynon Taff	128
Flintshire	114	Merthyr Tydfil	108
Wrexham	41	Caerphilly	76
Powys	107	Blaenau Gwent	66
Ceredigion	159	Torfaen	94
Pembrokeshire	132	Monmouthshire	113
Carmarthenshire	91	Newport	118
Swansea	71	Cardiff	109

Standard Deviation = 31.1

Coverage: Welsh domiciled Sixth Form learners aged 19 and under at: School Sixth Forms (in Wales)

Sources: January 2006 Post-16 PLASC (Pupil Level Annual Schools Census)

Map 8: Standard Participation Rates for All Welsh Domiciled FE Learners (excluding Sixth Forms) aged 19 and under in 2005/06



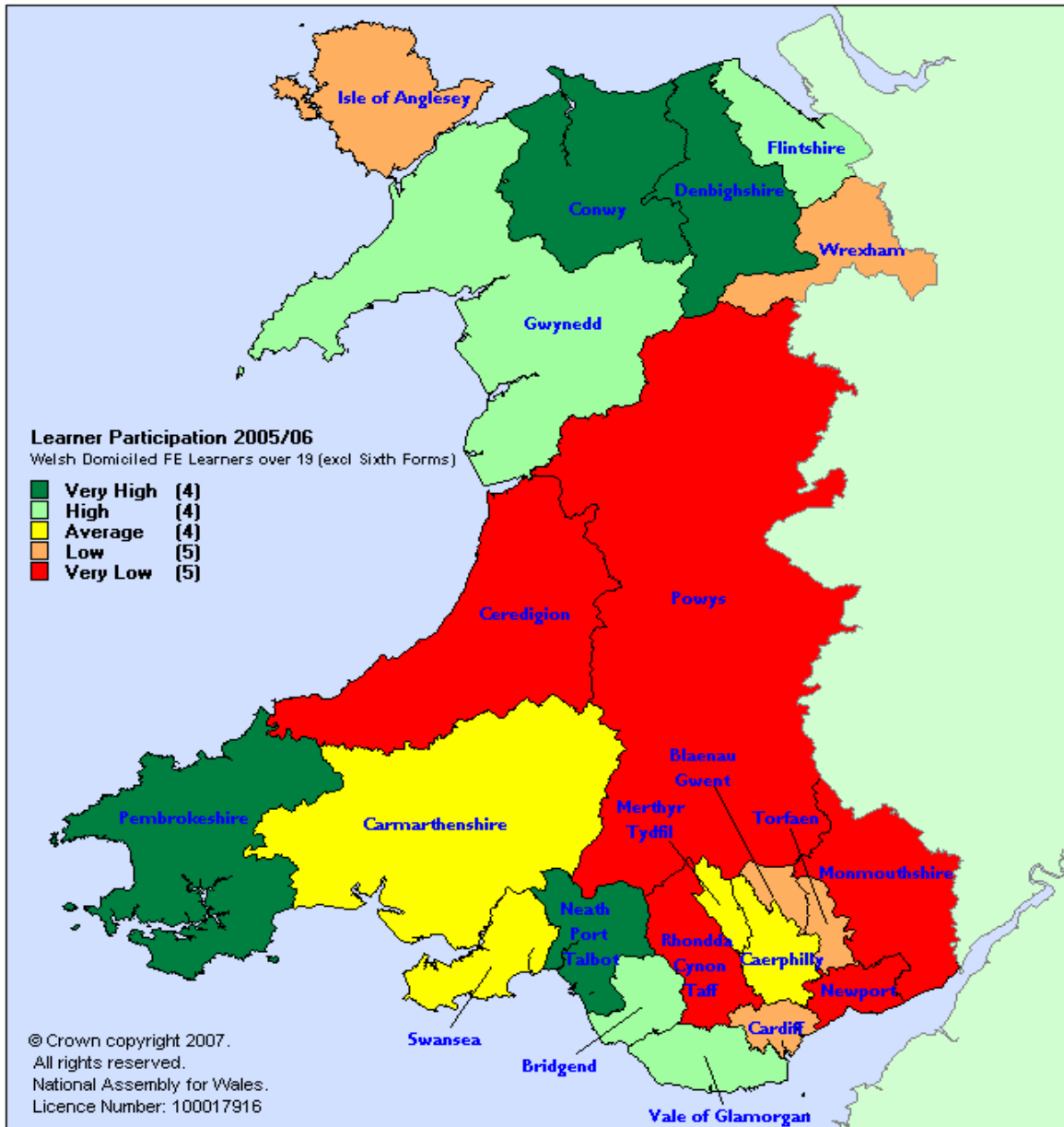
Unitary Authority	Standard Participation Rate	Unitary Authority	Standard Participation Rate
Isle of Anglesey	94	Neath Port Talbot	197
Gwynedd	132	Bridgend	87
Conwy	110	Vale of Glamorgan	83
Denbighshire	106	Rhondda Cynon Taff	76
Flintshire	99	Merthyr Tydfil	96
Wrexham	130	Caerphilly	107
Powys	60	Blaenau Gwent	101
Ceredigion	75	Torfaen	83
Pembrokeshire	103	Monmouthshire	48
Carmarthenshire	105	Newport	73
Swansea	124	Cardiff	95

Standard Deviation = 30.2

Coverage: Welsh domiciled FE learners aged under 20 (excl. Sixth Forms) at: Welsh FEIs (FE level and Community Learning); UK HEIs (FE level only);

Sources: LLWR (Lifelong Learning Wales Record); HESA Student Record

Map 9: Standard Participation Rates for All Welsh Domiciled FE Learners (excluding Sixth Forms) aged over 19 in 2005/06



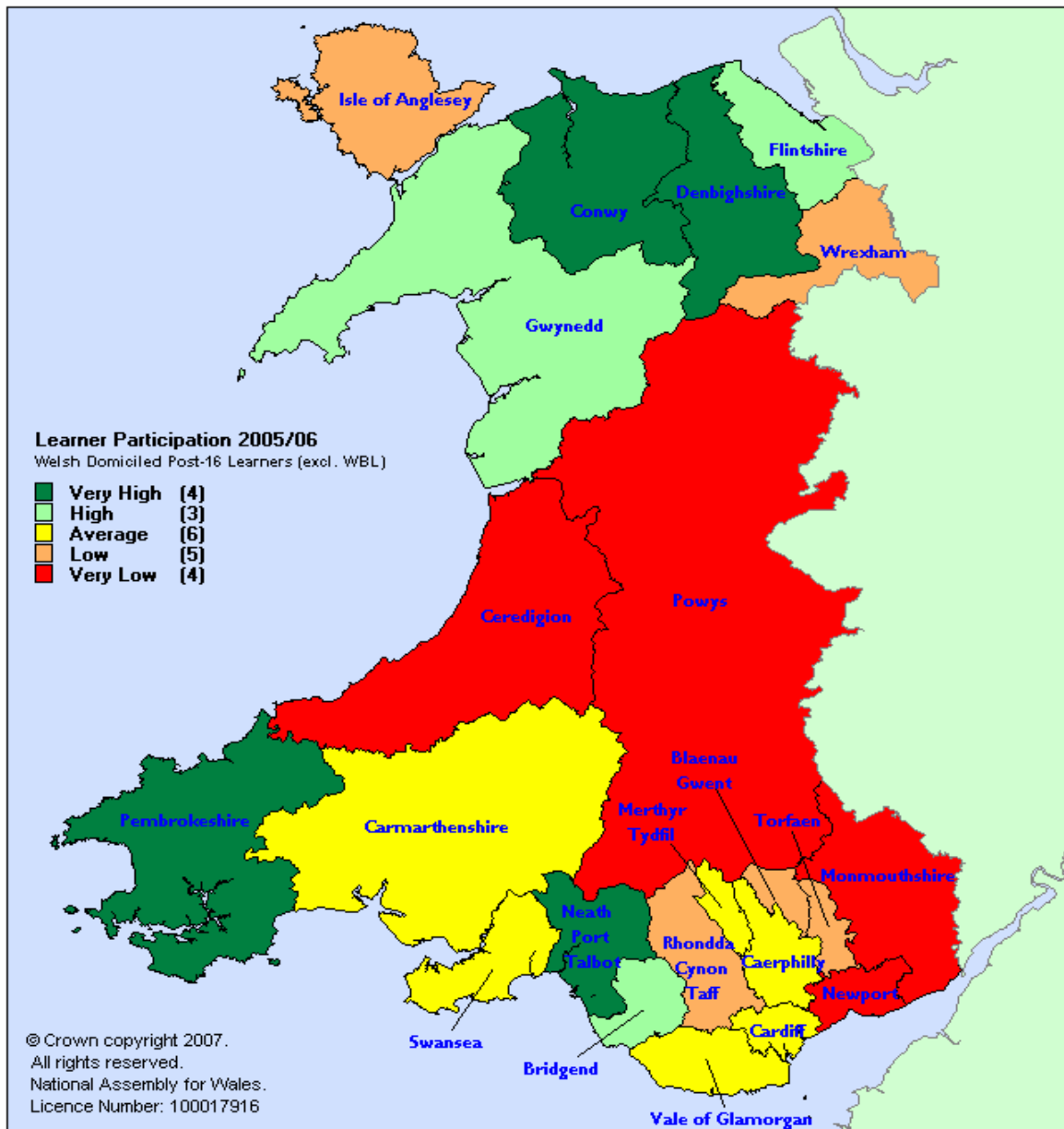
Unitary Authority	Standard Participation Rate	Unitary Authority	Standard Participation Rate
Isle of Anglesey	90	Neath Port Talbot	136
Gwynedd	110	Bridgend	110
Conwy	120	Vale of Glamorgan	106
Denbighshire	129	Rhondda Cynon Taff	82
Flintshire	109	Merthyr Tydfil	97
Wrexham	91	Caerphilly	95
Powys	84	Blaenau Gwent	89
Ceredigion	76	Torfaen	93
Pembrokeshire	130	Monmouthshire	79
Carmarthenshire	105	Newport	81
Swansea	102	Cardiff	92

Standard Deviation = 17.2

Coverage: Welsh domiciled FE learners aged over 19 (excl. Sixth Forms) at: Welsh FEIs (FE level and Community Learning); UK HEIs (FE level only);

Sources: LLWR (Lifelong Learning Wales Record); HESA Student Record

Map 10: Standard Participation Rates for All Welsh Domiciled Post-16 Learners (excluding WBL) in 2005/06



Unitary Authority	Standard Participation Rate	Unitary Authority	Standard Participation Rate
Isle of Anglesey	93	Neath Port Talbot	136
Gwynedd	110	Bridgend	108
Conwy	116	Vale of Glamorgan	104
Denbighshire	120	Rhondda Cynon Taff	87
Flintshire	108	Merthyr Tydfil	99
Wrexham	93	Caerphilly	95
Powys	82	Blaenau Gwent	88
Ceredigion	85	Torfaen	91
Pembrokeshire	124	Monmouthshire	77
Carmarthenshire	103	Newport	84
Swansea	103	Cardiff	95

Standard Deviation = 15.0

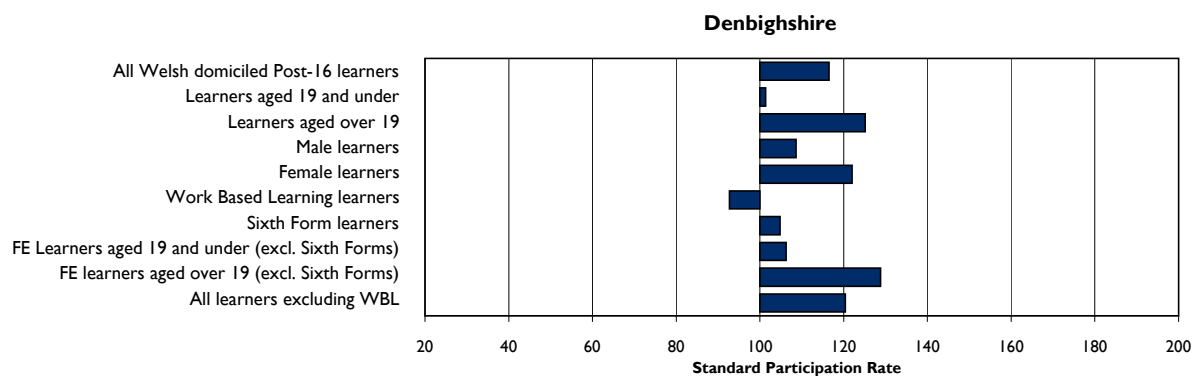
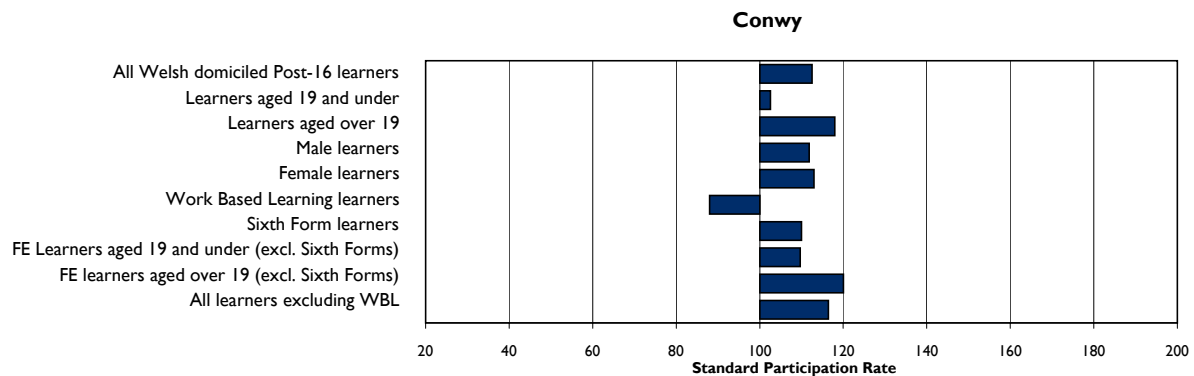
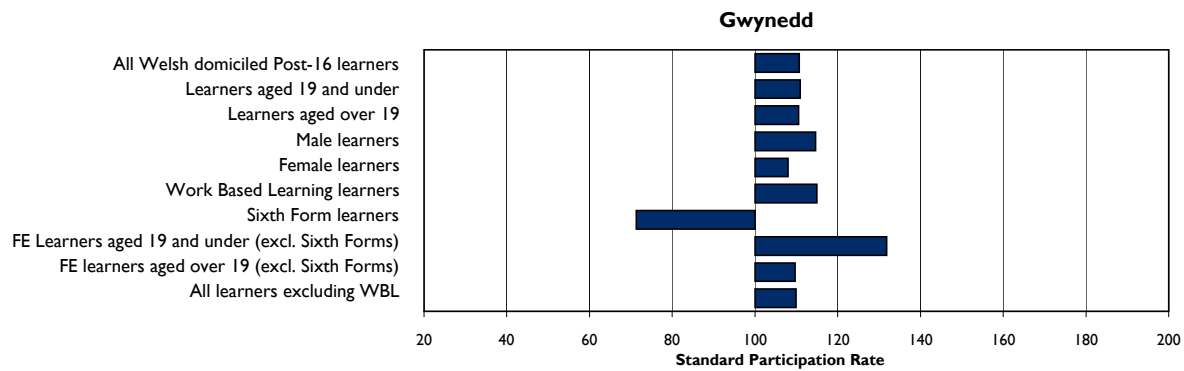
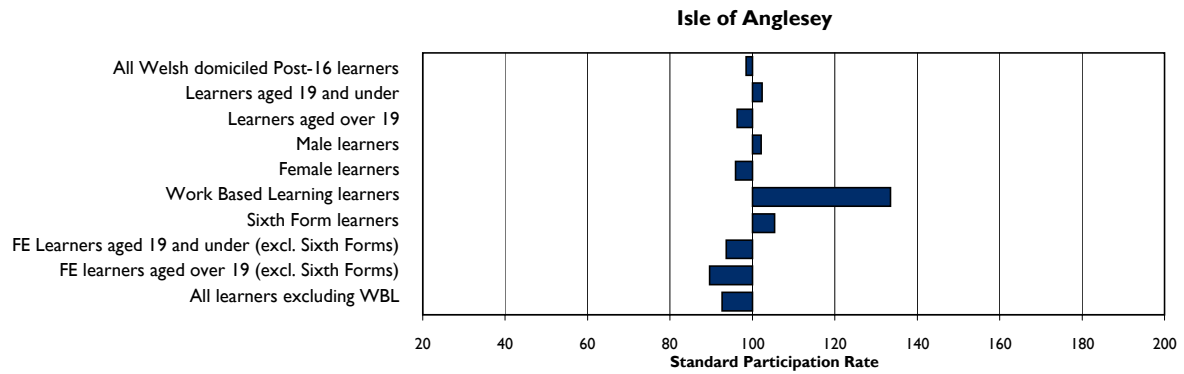
Coverage: Welsh domiciled Post-16 learners (excl. WBL) at: Welsh FEIs (FE level and Community Learning); UK HEIs (FE level only); School Sixth Forms (in Wales)

Sources: LLWR (Lifelong Learning Wales Record); January 2006 Post-16 PLASC (Pupil Level Annual Schools Census); HESA Student Record

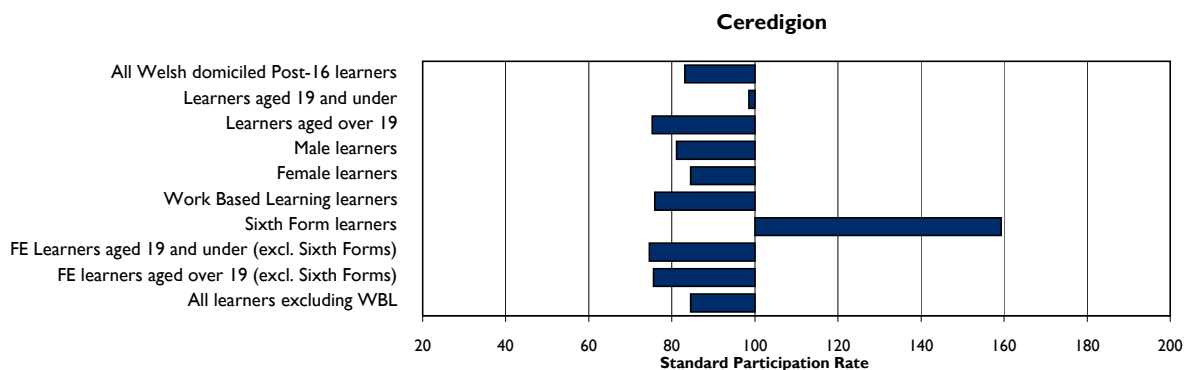
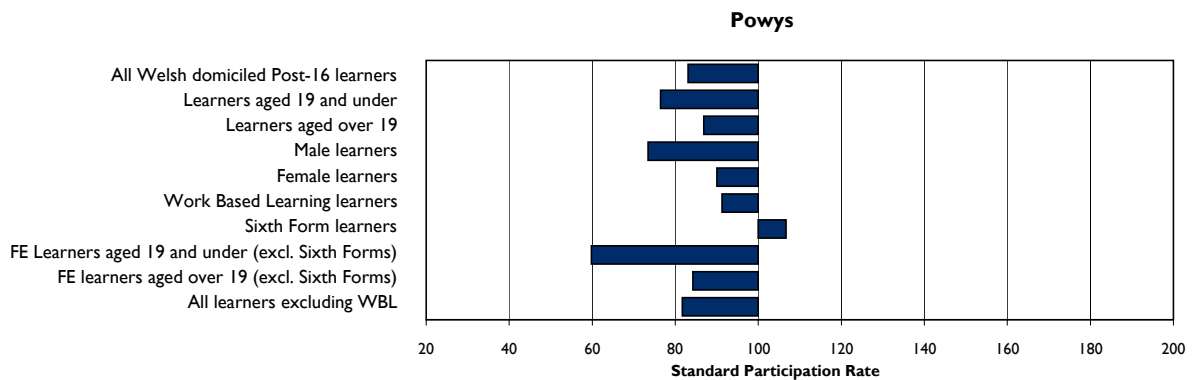
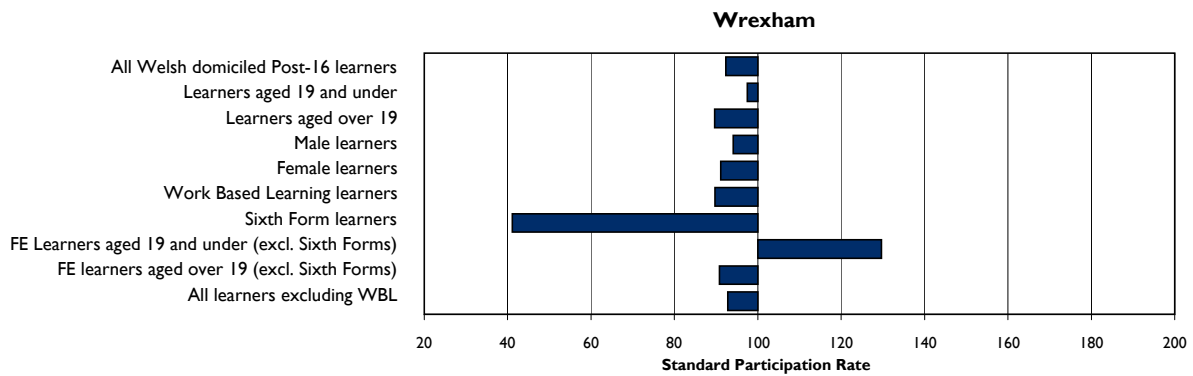
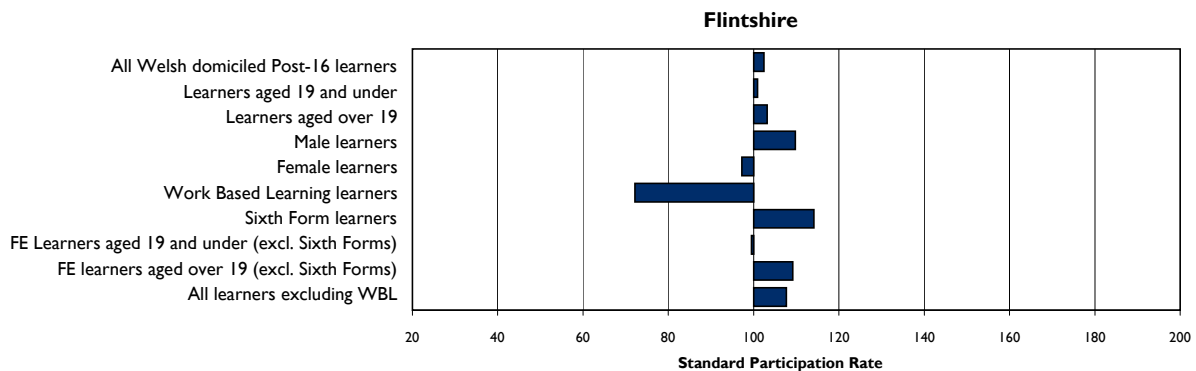
SECTION 2

Bar Charts

Comparison of Standard Participation Rates by Unitary Authority and defined learner cohorts - 2005/06

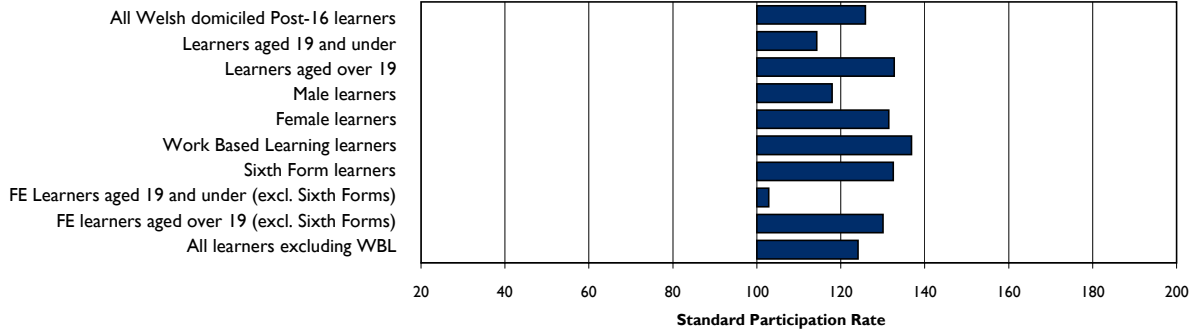


Comparison of Standard Participation Rates by Unitary Authority and defined learner cohorts - 2005/06

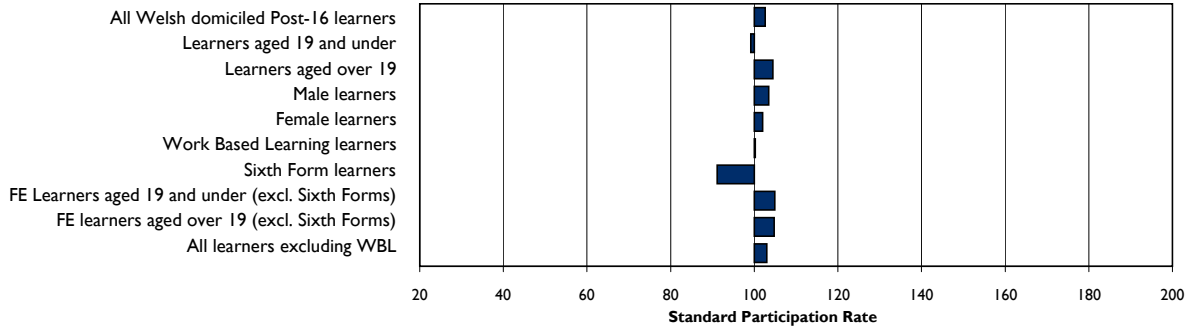


Comparison of Standard Participation Rates by Unitary Authority and defined learner cohorts - 2005/06

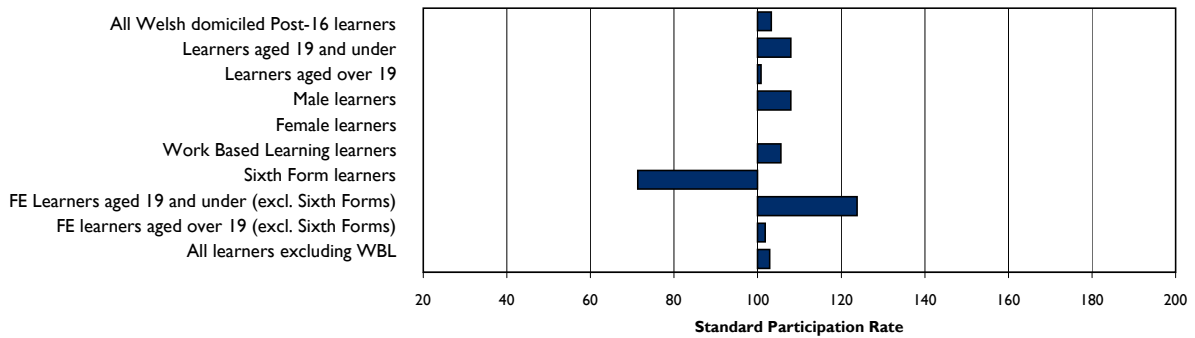
Pembrokeshire



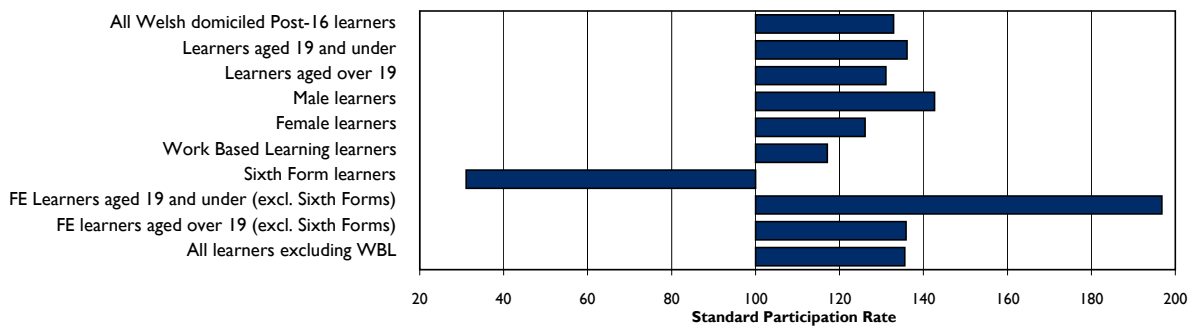
Carmarthenshire



Swansea

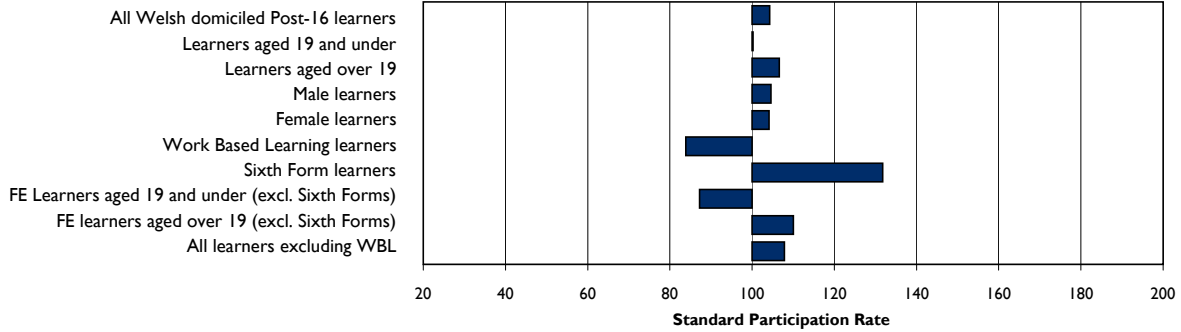


Neath Port Talbot

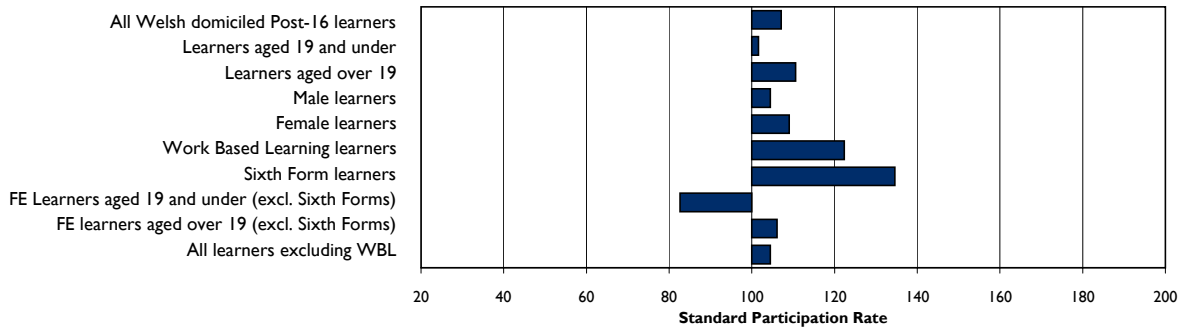


Comparison of Standard Participation Rates by Unitary Authority and defined learner cohorts - 2005/06

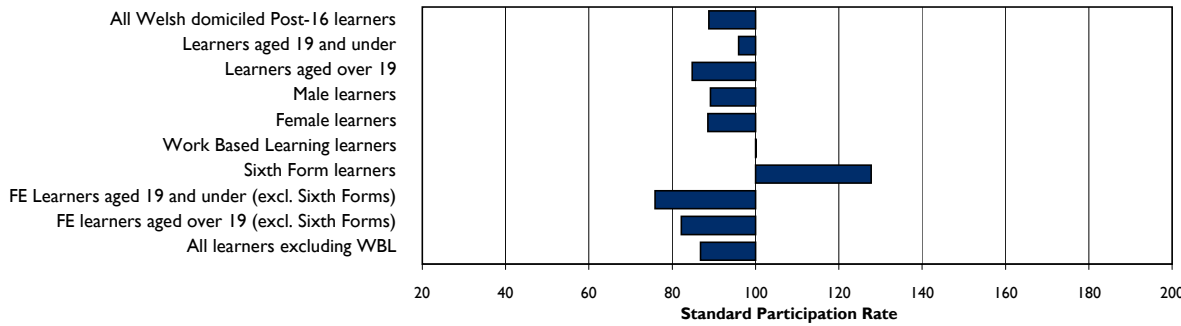
Bridgend



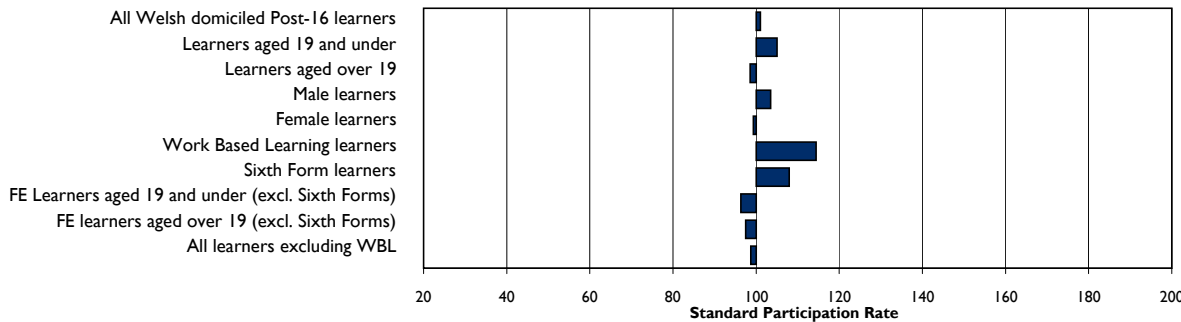
The Vale of Glamorgan



Rhondda Cynon Taff

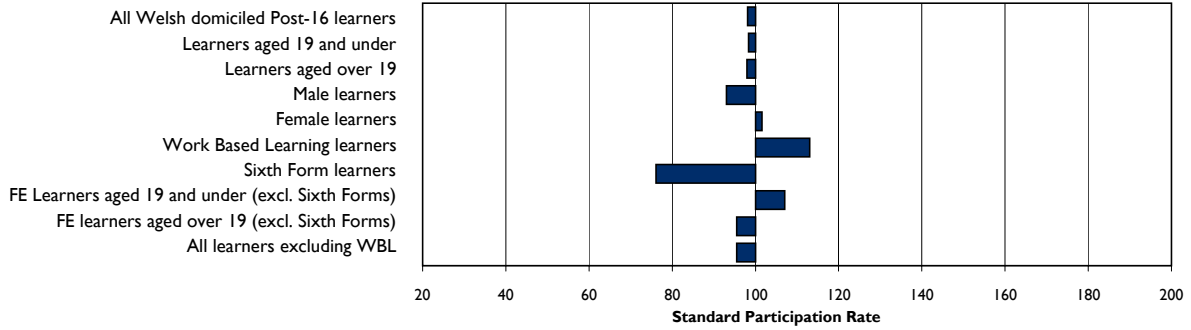


Merthyr Tydfil

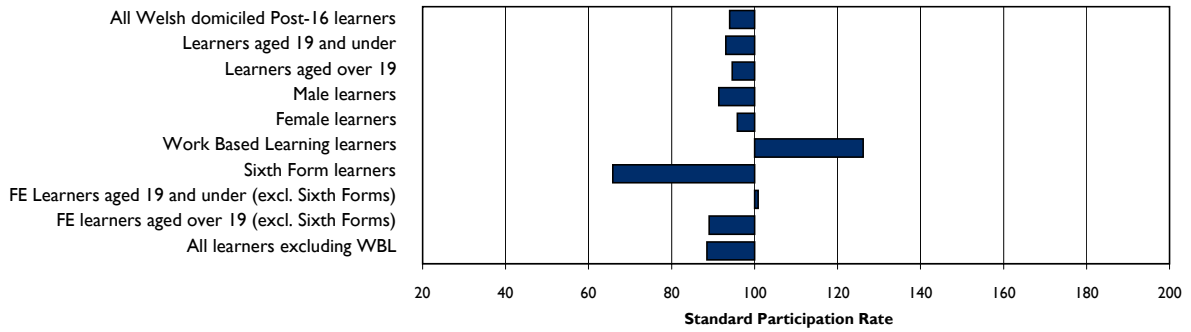


Comparison of Standard Participation Rates by Unitary Authority and defined learner cohorts - 2005/06

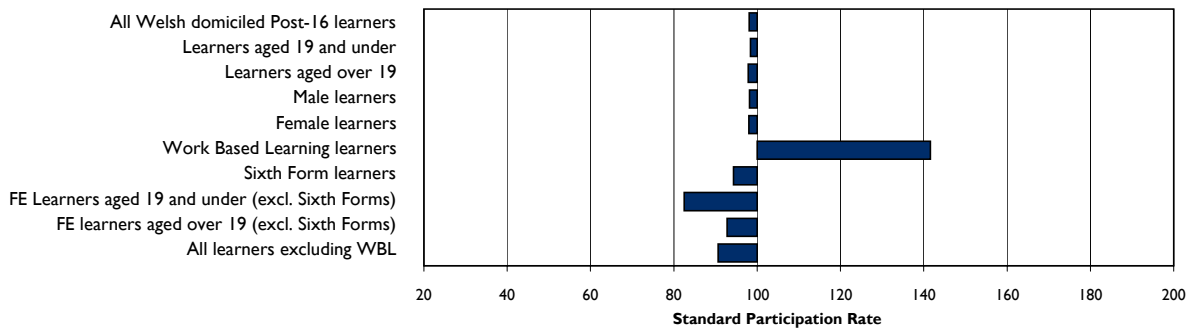
Caerphilly



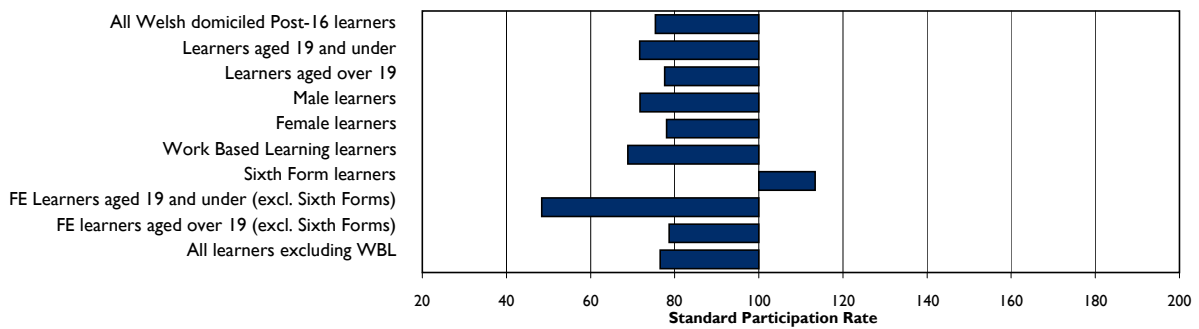
Blaenau Gwent



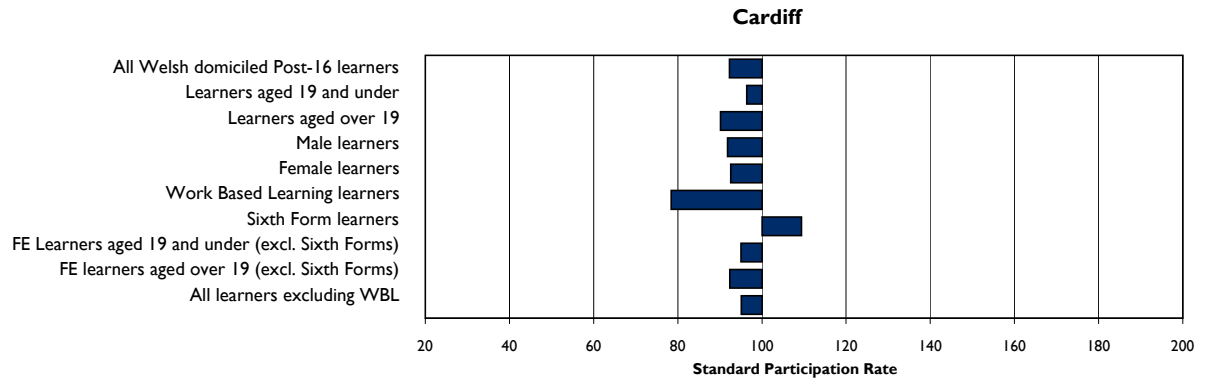
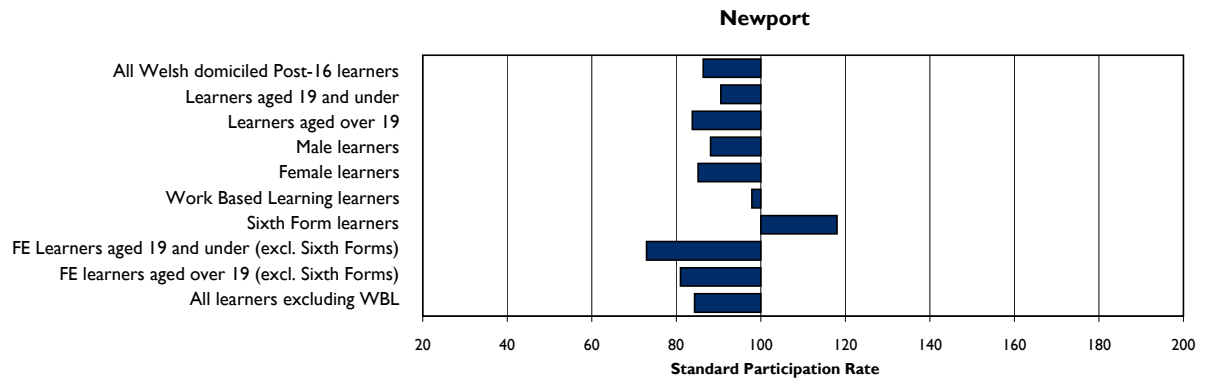
Torfaen



Monmouthshire



Comparison of Standard Participation Rates by Unitary Authority and defined learner cohorts - 2005/06



ANNEXES

Trends in Standard Participation Rates by unitary authority of domicile - 2004/05 & 2005/06

Unitary Authority	All post-16 learners		Learners aged 19 and under		Learners aged over 19		Male learners		Female learners	
	2004/05	2005/06	2004/05	2005/06	2004/05	2005/06	2004/05	2005/06	2004/05	2005/06
Isle of Anglesey	93	98	99	102	90	96	92	102	93	96
Gwynedd	98	111	94	111	101	111	96	115	100	108
Conwy	118	112	104	103	126	118	116	112	119	113
Denbighshire	120	116	100	101	131	125	114	109	124	122
Flintshire	106	102	100	101	109	103	112	110	102	97
Wrexham	93	92	95	97	92	90	92	94	94	91
Powys	78	83	81	76	77	87	72	73	83	90
Ceredigion	84	83	96	99	78	75	79	81	87	85
Pembrokeshire	124	126	118	114	127	133	117	118	128	131
Carmarthenshire	107	103	103	99	109	104	109	103	106	102
Swansea	101	103	108	108	98	101	108	108	96	100
Neath Port Talbot	115	133	116	136	114	131	129	143	106	126
Bridgend	104	104	102	100	106	107	107	105	102	104
The Vale of Glamorgan	111	107	110	102	111	111	109	104	112	109
Rhondda Cynon Taff	90	89	98	96	85	85	91	89	89	89
Merthyr Tydfil	97	101	107	105	91	99	99	104	96	99
Caerphilly	103	98	102	98	104	98	98	93	106	102
Blaenau Gwent	91	94	98	93	87	95	87	91	94	96
Torfaen	99	98	98	98	99	98	99	98	98	98
Monmouthshire	79	75	73	72	82	78	71	72	84	78
Newport	88	86	94	91	85	84	91	88	87	85
Cardiff	97	92	96	96	97	90	96	92	98	93
Standard Deviation	12.6	13.9	10.0	12.5	15.7	15.9	14.7	15.6	12.3	13.5

Trends in Standard Participation Rates by unitary authority of domicile - 2004/05 & 2005/06

Unitary Authority	WBL learners		Sixth Form learners		FE learners (excl. 6th forms) aged 19 and under		FE learners (excl. 6th forms) aged over 19		All learners excluding WBL	
	2004/05	2005/06	2004/05	2005/06	2004/05	2005/06	2004/05	2005/06	2004/05	2005/06
Isle of Anglesey	123	134	111	105	82	94	86	90	89	93
Gwynedd	96	115	74	71	105	132	102	110	99	110
Conwy	105	88	111	110	109	110	125	120	120	116
Denbighshire	95	93	107	105	100	106	134	129	123	120
Flintshire	76	72	110	114	100	99	113	109	110	108
Wrexham	91	90	41	41	128	130	93	91	93	93
Powys	100	91	106	107	66	60	72	84	75	82
Ceredigion	76	76	149	159	75	75	78	76	85	85
Pembrokeshire	142	137	133	132	111	103	122	130	121	124
Carmarthenshire	101	100	93	91	110	105	110	105	108	103
Swansea	107	106	71	71	125	124	98	102	100	103
Neath Port Talbot	117	117	33	31	163	197	116	136	115	136
Bridgend	86	84	131	132	89	87	108	110	107	108
The Vale of Glamorgan	140	122	139	135	90	83	105	106	107	104
Rhondda Cynon Taff	94	100	127	128	80	76	84	82	89	87
Merthyr Tydfil	106	114	115	108	98	96	91	97	96	99
Caerphilly	110	113	76	76	115	107	103	95	102	95
Blaenau Gwent	117	126	66	66	111	101	85	89	88	88
Torfaen	137	142	94	94	85	83	96	93	93	91
Monmouthshire	70	69	111	113	50	48	83	79	80	77
Newport	99	98	115	118	81	73	82	81	87	84
Cardiff	76	78	108	109	95	95	101	92	101	95
Standard Deviation	20.7	21.3	30.2	31.1	23.8	30.2	16.3	17.2	13.4	15.0

ABSOLUTE PARTICIPATION RATES - 2005/06

Unitary Authority	Post-16 learners			Post-16 learners (aged under 20)			Post-16 learners (aged over 19)			WBL learners		
	No. of learners	Census population	%	No. of learners	Census population	%	No. of learners	Census population	%	No. of learners	Census population	%
Isle of Anglesey	5,523	68,420	8.1	2,093	16,286	12.8	3,430	52,134	6.6	1,073	68,420	1.6
Gwynedd	10,562	117,355	9.0	3,658	27,982	13.1	6,904	89,373	7.7	1,652	117,355	1.4
Conwy	10,051	111,742	9.0	3,272	25,366	12.9	6,779	86,376	7.8	1,087	111,742	1.0
Denbighshire	9,229	96,525	9.6	2,927	23,024	12.7	6,301	73,501	8.6	1,043	96,525	1.1
Flintshire	12,888	150,780	8.5	4,446	37,082	12.0	8,442	113,698	7.4	1,347	150,780	0.9
Wrexham	10,080	130,294	7.7	3,652	31,323	11.7	6,428	98,971	6.5	1,469	130,294	1.1
Powys	8,841	131,943	6.7	2,977	31,090	9.6	5,864	100,853	5.8	1,360	131,943	1.0
Ceredigion	5,116	74,101	6.9	2,041	16,126	12.7	3,075	57,974	5.3	754	74,101	1.0
Pembrokeshire	12,188	119,183	10.2	4,088	29,361	13.9	8,100	89,822	9.0	1,891	119,183	1.6
Carmarthenshire	14,798	177,193	8.4	5,095	42,356	12.0	9,704	134,837	7.2	2,076	177,193	1.2
Swansea	19,534	224,884	8.7	7,029	53,019	13.3	12,505	171,865	7.3	3,097	224,884	1.4
Neath Port Talbot	15,283	137,601	11.1	5,606	33,187	16.9	9,677	104,414	9.3	1,978	137,601	1.4
Bridgend	11,595	132,244	8.8	4,022	32,864	12.2	7,574	99,380	7.6	1,367	132,244	1.0
Vale of Glamorgan	11,250	122,949	9.2	4,093	31,984	12.8	7,158	90,965	7.9	1,891	122,949	1.5
Rhondda Cynon Taff	17,550	232,832	7.5	6,841	58,940	11.6	10,709	173,892	6.2	2,987	232,832	1.3
Merthyr Tydfil	4,875	55,596	8.8	1,940	14,429	13.4	2,935	41,167	7.1	818	55,596	1.5
Caerphilly	14,286	171,235	8.3	5,306	44,587	11.9	8,980	126,649	7.1	2,447	171,235	1.4
Blaenau Gwent	5,524	69,164	8.0	2,036	17,401	11.7	3,488	51,763	6.7	1,088	69,164	1.6
Torfaen	7,614	91,281	8.3	2,877	23,266	12.4	4,737	68,016	7.0	1,606	91,281	1.8
Monmouthshire	5,501	88,614	6.2	1,931	21,454	9.0	3,569	67,160	5.3	709	88,614	0.8
Newport	10,290	139,488	7.4	4,099	37,686	10.9	6,190	101,801	6.1	1,733	139,488	1.2
Cardiff	24,741	302,241	8.2	8,872	76,331	11.6	15,869	225,910	7.0	3,518	302,241	1.2
Total	247,319	2,945,666	8.4	88,900	725,144	12.3	158,419	2,220,522	7.1	36,992	2,945,666	1.3

Sources: LLWR (Lifelong Learning Wales Record)
January 2006 Post-16 PLASC (Pupil Level Annual Schools Census)
HESA Student Record;
2001 Census (adjusted population)

ABSOLUTE PARTICIPATION RATES - 2005/06

Unitary Authority	Male post-16 learners			Female post-16 learners			Sixth form learners (aged under 20)			FE learners (aged under 20)		
	No. of learners	Census population	%	No. of learners	Census population	%	No. of learners	Census population	%	No. of learners	Census population	%
Isle of Anglesey	2,379	33,480	7.1	3,144	34,939	9.0	682	16,286	4.2	1,021	16,286	6.3
Gwynedd	4,495	56,858	7.9	6,067	60,497	10.0	701	27,982	2.5	2,367	27,982	8.5
Conwy	4,119	53,571	7.7	5,932	58,171	10.2	1,125	25,366	4.4	1,857	25,366	7.3
Denbighshire	3,552	46,586	7.6	5,677	49,939	11.4	967	23,024	4.2	1,632	23,024	7.1
Flintshire	5,713	73,911	7.7	7,174	76,869	9.3	1,583	37,082	4.3	2,344	37,082	6.3
Wrexham	4,227	63,701	6.6	5,853	66,593	8.8	488	31,323	1.6	2,596	31,323	8.3
Powys	3,281	65,290	5.0	5,560	66,654	8.3	1,319	31,090	4.2	1,241	31,090	4.0
Ceredigion	2,091	36,322	5.8	3,025	37,779	8.0	898	16,126	5.6	857	16,126	5.3
Pembrokeshire	4,664	57,730	8.1	7,524	61,453	12.2	1,474	29,361	5.0	1,975	29,361	6.7
Carmarthenshire	6,046	85,627	7.1	8,752	91,566	9.6	1,465	42,356	3.5	2,888	42,356	6.8
Swansea	8,443	109,764	7.7	11,091	115,120	9.6	1,415	53,019	2.7	4,356	53,019	8.2
Neath Port Talbot	6,687	66,695	10.0	8,597	70,906	12.1	405	33,187	1.2	4,329	33,187	13.0
Bridgend	4,756	64,485	7.4	6,840	67,759	10.1	1,694	32,864	5.2	1,865	32,864	5.7
Vale of Glamorgan	4,550	59,339	7.7	6,700	63,610	10.5	1,711	31,984	5.3	1,776	31,984	5.6
Rhondda Cynon Taff	7,210	112,986	6.4	10,340	119,846	8.6	2,846	58,940	4.8	2,904	58,940	4.9
Merthyr Tydfil	2,048	26,724	7.7	2,827	28,872	9.8	646	14,429	4.5	942	14,429	6.5
Caerphilly	5,550	83,682	6.6	8,736	87,554	10.0	1,305	44,587	2.9	3,085	44,587	6.9
Blaenau Gwent	2,179	33,402	6.5	3,345	35,762	9.4	464	17,401	2.7	1,173	17,401	6.7
Torfaen	3,104	44,273	7.0	4,510	47,009	9.6	895	23,266	3.8	1,278	23,266	5.5
Monmouthshire	2,167	43,354	5.0	3,334	45,260	7.4	975	21,454	4.5	693	21,454	3.2
Newport	4,277	67,385	6.3	6,013	72,103	8.3	1,714	37,686	4.5	1,761	37,686	4.7
Cardiff	10,129	146,203	6.9	14,612	156,038	9.4	2,956	76,331	3.9	4,775	76,331	6.3
Total	101,666	1,431,367	7.1	145,653	1,514,299	9.6	27,729	725,144	3.8	47,713	725,144	6.6

Sources: LLWR (Lifelong Learning Wales Record)
January 2006 Post-16 PLASC (Pupil Level Annual Schools Census)
HESA Student Record
2001 Census (adjusted population)

ABSOLUTE PARTICIPATION RATES - 2004/05

Unitary Authority	Post-16 learners			Post-16 learners (aged under 20)			Post-16 learners (aged over 19)			WBL learners		
	No. of learners	Census population	%	No. of learners	Census population	%	No. of learners	Census population	%	No. of learners	Census population	%
Isle of Anglesey	4,947	68,243	7.2	1,921	16,335	11.8	3,026	51,908	5.8	795	68,243	1.2
Gwynedd	8,877	117,427	7.6	2,924	28,109	10.4	5,953	89,318	6.7	1,106	117,427	0.9
Conwy	10,052	112,128	9.0	3,159	25,665	12.3	6,894	86,463	8.0	1,035	112,128	0.9
Denbighshire	8,935	96,212	9.3	2,701	23,113	11.7	6,234	73,099	8.5	848	96,212	0.9
Flintshire	12,665	150,548	8.4	4,245	37,381	11.4	8,420	113,168	7.4	1,125	150,548	0.7
Wrexham	9,683	129,923	7.5	3,466	31,596	11.0	6,218	98,327	6.3	1,199	129,923	0.9
Powys	7,873	131,161	6.0	2,990	31,224	9.6	4,883	99,938	4.9	1,178	131,161	0.9
Ceredigion	4,889	73,853	6.6	1,891	16,219	11.7	2,997	57,634	5.2	625	73,853	0.8
Pembrokeshire	11,316	118,920	9.5	3,975	29,418	13.5	7,341	89,502	8.2	1,572	118,920	1.3
Carmarthenshire	14,635	176,727	8.3	5,071	42,571	11.9	9,564	134,155	7.1	1,670	176,727	0.9
Swansea	18,096	224,306	8.1	6,748	53,495	12.6	11,348	170,811	6.6	2,528	224,306	1.1
Neath Port Talbot	12,528	137,442	9.1	4,581	33,369	13.7	7,947	104,074	7.6	1,567	137,442	1.1
Bridgend	10,962	131,603	8.3	3,916	32,939	11.9	7,045	98,664	7.1	1,100	131,603	0.8
Vale of Glamorgan	10,965	122,521	8.9	4,177	32,113	13.0	6,789	90,408	7.5	1,721	122,521	1.4
Rhondda Cynon Taff	16,734	232,418	7.2	6,665	59,333	11.2	10,069	173,085	5.8	2,239	232,418	1.0
Merthyr Tydfil	4,485	55,608	8.1	1,933	14,600	13.2	2,552	41,008	6.2	611	55,608	1.1
Caerphilly	14,202	171,227	8.3	5,251	45,021	11.7	8,951	126,206	7.1	1,895	171,227	1.1
Blaenau Gwent	5,084	69,351	7.3	2,040	17,646	11.6	3,045	51,705	5.9	804	69,351	1.2
Torfaen	7,241	91,110	7.9	2,747	23,481	11.7	4,494	67,629	6.6	1,243	91,110	1.4
Monmouthshire	5,419	88,092	6.2	1,859	21,433	8.7	3,560	66,659	5.3	569	88,092	0.6
Newport	9,951	139,331	7.1	4,056	37,874	10.7	5,895	101,457	5.8	1,387	139,331	1.0
Cardiff	24,407	300,461	8.1	8,440	76,864	11.0	15,967	223,596	7.1	2,740	300,461	0.9
Total	233,947	2,938,614	8.0	84,755	729,800	11.6	149,192	2,208,814	6.8	29,559	2,938,614	1.0

Sources: LLWR (Lifelong Learning Wales Record)
January 2005 Post-16 PLASC (Pupil Level Annual Schools Census)
HESA Student Record;
2001 Census (adjusted population)

ABSOLUTE PARTICIPATION RATES - 2004/05

Unitary Authority	Male post-16 learners			Female post-16 learners			Sixth form learners (aged under 20)			FE learners (aged under 20)		
	No. of learners	Census population	%	No. of learners	Census population	%	No. of learners	Census population	%	No. of learners	Census population	%
Isle of Anglesey	2,039	33,289	6.1	2,908	34,954	8.3	704	16,335	4.3	829	16,335	5.1
Gwynedd	3,560	56,792	6.3	5,317	60,635	8.8	705	28,109	2.5	1,714	28,109	6.1
Conwy	4,059	53,633	7.6	5,993	58,495	10.2	1,116	25,665	4.3	1,716	25,665	6.7
Denbighshire	3,499	46,342	7.6	5,436	49,870	10.9	949	23,113	4.1	1,405	23,113	6.1
Flintshire	5,490	73,649	7.5	7,175	76,899	9.3	1,512	37,381	4.0	2,207	37,381	5.9
Wrexham	3,966	63,401	6.3	5,717	66,522	8.6	483	31,596	1.5	2,418	31,596	7.7
Powys	3,032	64,802	4.7	4,841	66,359	7.3	1,290	31,224	4.1	1,259	31,224	4.0
Ceredigion	1,911	36,014	5.3	2,978	37,839	7.9	830	16,219	5.1	791	16,219	4.9
Pembrokeshire	4,380	57,537	7.6	6,936	61,383	11.3	1,429	29,418	4.9	1,946	29,418	6.6
Carmarthenshire	6,004	85,285	7.0	8,632	91,441	9.4	1,474	42,571	3.5	2,801	42,571	6.6
Swansea	7,946	109,280	7.3	10,150	115,026	8.8	1,409	53,495	2.6	4,118	53,495	7.7
Neath Port Talbot	5,689	66,544	8.5	6,839	70,898	9.6	418	33,369	1.3	3,331	33,369	10.0
Bridgend	4,589	64,045	7.2	6,373	67,558	9.4	1,658	32,939	5.0	1,759	32,939	5.3
Vale of Glamorgan	4,453	59,058	7.5	6,513	63,464	10.3	1,716	32,113	5.3	1,771	32,113	5.5
Rhondda Cynon Taff	6,899	112,605	6.1	9,835	119,813	8.2	2,779	59,333	4.7	2,832	59,333	4.8
Merthyr Tydfil	1,863	26,676	7.0	2,622	28,932	9.1	692	14,600	4.7	908	14,600	6.2
Caerphilly	5,495	83,566	6.6	8,707	87,661	9.9	1,285	45,021	2.9	3,057	45,021	6.8
Blaenau Gwent	1,979	33,493	5.9	3,106	35,857	8.7	452	17,646	2.6	1,191	17,646	6.8
Torfaen	2,957	44,196	6.7	4,284	46,915	9.1	876	23,481	3.7	1,219	23,481	5.2
Monmouthshire	2,032	43,034	4.7	3,387	45,058	7.5	928	21,433	4.3	663	21,433	3.1
Newport	4,118	67,113	6.1	5,832	72,218	8.1	1,642	37,874	4.3	1,815	37,874	4.8
Cardiff	9,777	144,510	6.8	14,630	155,951	9.4	2,886	76,864	3.8	4,393	76,864	5.7
Total	95,737	1,424,865	6.7	138,210	1,513,749	9.1	27,234	729,800	3.7	44,142	729,800	6.0

Sources: LLWR (Lifelong Learning Wales Record)
January 2005 Post-16 PLASC (Pupil Level Annual Schools Census)
HESA Student Record;
2001 Census (adjusted population)

Standard Participation Rate Calculations

■ Overview of Methodology

- 1 This report presents a snapshot of the distribution of the domicile of Welsh post-16 learners in December 2004 and December 2005. Each learner's unitary authority of domicile was derived from the postcode of the learner's home address, and the participation rates calculated in relation to the size the resident population. However, in doing so the participation rates have been standardised so as to take account of the differences in population gender and age profiles between authorities.
- 2 This measure of participation is known as the “*Standard Participation Rate*” and is used so as to allow fair comparison between authorities with different population characteristics. It is defined as the number of learners domiciled in an area divided by the expected number of learners for that area multiplied by 100. The expected number of learners is the number of learners that would be domiciled in that authority if the participation patterns by gender and age mirrored those for all of Wales. The higher the Standard Participation Rate the higher the levels of participation in post-16 learning.
- 3 Thus if a particular region has a Standard Participation Rate (SPR) of less than 100 then there were fewer learners living in that area than would be expected based on the Welsh national average. Similarly, an SPR value above 100 indicates a region with a larger percentage of the population in post-16 learning than would be expected from the national average.

■ Mathematical Definitions

- 4 In mathematical terms, the definition of “Standard Participation Rate” used within this report is;

$$\sum_{\text{all } x} \left(\frac{\text{Actual Number of learners in Unitary Authority for defined cohort}}{\text{Expected Number of learners in Unitary Authority for defined cohort}} \right) \times 100 \quad (1)$$

where the,

$$\text{Expected Number of learners in Unitary Authority for cohort} = \frac{\text{Actual Number of learners in Unitary Authority for defined cohort}}{(\text{Population in Unitary Authority for cohort}) \times (\text{National Participation Rate for cohort})} \quad (2)$$

and,

$$\text{National Participation Rate of cohort} = \frac{\text{Total number of Welsh learners in cohort}}{\text{Total Population of Wales in cohort}} \quad (3)$$

■ Postcodes

- 5 Learners are assigned to their unitary authority of domicile according to their postcode. The quality of the data used in the participation analysis is such that approximately 97% per cent of

learners were successfully assigned to a unitary authority from their postcode. Although a 97% per cent success rate at mapping students might seem high, the distribution of learners with unidentified postcodes is not necessarily uniform across Wales and the missing data could therefore result in distortion of the participation rate profile. To avoid this effect unitary authorities have been assigned to those learners with unidentifiable postcodes by assuming that they were domiciled in the same authorities as fellow learners enrolled at their learning provider. To do this a profile of learners by unitary authority and learning provider was generated and these profiles then applied proportionately to the learners with unmapped postcodes so as to assign them to a unitary authority of domicile.

■ Population Data

- 6 The population figures used in the analysis have been arrived at by combining Census based population data with population growth rate data. The base population data used was 2001 Census output area data modified to place students at their home address. A growth rate was then derived from mid-year population estimate data and applied to the population data. The Office of National Statistics (ONS) has introduced, for 2006, a change in the methodology for calculating international migration and hence mid-year estimates. As a result they have also revised the mid-year estimates for 2002 to 2005 and it is these updated figures that have been used when calculating the 2004/05 and 2005/06 SPRs.
- 7 The way in which the population was enumerated during the 2001 Census changed from the method used during the 1991 Census. Full-time students were enumerated at their term-time address only, with limited information collected in relation to their home address. This causes a problem when calculating participation rates. When using a population base with students enumerated at their term-time location, areas with high concentrations of students in term-time, such as Aberystwyth and Cardiff, but with lower numbers of students domiciled there, produce a low participation rate which may not reflect the true participation of those domiciled in these areas.
- 8 To determine an appropriate base population, students enumerated at their term-time address, who live elsewhere in vacation time, need to be removed from the 2001 Census data and enumerated at their vacation or home address. From the 2001 Census, it is possible to determine the exact number and location of students enumerated at their home address who were living away during term-time. However, it is not possible to cross reference this data with students enumerated at their term-time address in order to identify which students to remove.
- 9 The method used calculates the number of students in the UK who were not living with their parents as a proportion of students in the UK that were living away from home. This proportion (approximately 41%) of students is then removed from each unitary authority population.
- 10 However, it is likely that the majority of the students who are living away from home during term-time are younger. Therefore to take this into account the students which are removed are profiled according to the UK age/gender proportions of students enumerated at their home address who are living away during term-time.

- 11 The correct number of students enumerated at their home address who were living away during term-time is then added to derive an estimate of the population with students located as far as is possible at their home address.
- 12 The disadvantage of this method is that it assumes that the same proportion of the population in each unitary authority was recorded as a full-time student living away from home when the 2001 Census was taken, and that the age distribution of these students was also the same in each authority. However, this method produces the nearest estimate, given available data, of a population with students located as far as possible at their home address which is essential for calculating participation rates.