

statisDCAL – The Arts in Northern Ireland

DCAL Research & Statistical Bulletin 3/2006



Findings from the 2004/2005 Continuous Household Survey

Produced by the Research and Statistics Branch, Department of
Culture, Arts and Leisure

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Attendance

- 1.1 Almost half of all survey respondents (n=4055) had attended an Arts performance or event in the last year (47%).
- 1.2 Looking at respondents who had attended an Arts performance or event at least once in the last year:
 - Females were slightly more likely to attend than males (50% in comparison to 43%).
 - Analysis by age revealed respondents aged 60+ were the least likely to have attended an Arts performance or event in the last year (37%) while around half of respondents in the other age bands had attended an Arts performance or event.
 - Around a third of respondents with a limiting long standing illness had attended an Arts performance or event in the last year (34%) in comparison to just over a half of respondents who did not have a limiting long standing illness (52%).
 - Almost half of both Catholic and Protestant respondents had been to an Arts performance or event in the last year (48% and 46% respectively), while 58% of those whose religion was classified as 'other/none' had been at an Arts performance or event in the last year.
 - When looking at social class, it was found that 73% of those in professional occupations and 63% of those in managerial and technical occupations had attended at least one Arts performance or event in the last year. Of respondents in skilled non-manual occupations 53% had attended at least one Arts performance or event in the last year as had 38% in skilled manual occupations. A third of partly skilled respondents and 23% of unskilled respondents had been to at least one Arts performance or event in the last year. 39% of those whose occupation was 'unknown, unclassified, never worked etc' had attended at least one Arts performance or event in the last year.

Participation

- 1.3 Six percent of respondents had participated in an Arts performance or event in the last year. Two percent had taken part in an Arts performance or event at least once a week, while 1% had taken part at least once a month (but not as often as once a week) and the same percentage once every 2 or 3 months. Two percent had taken part once or twice in the last year.
- 1.4 Analysis of respondents who had participated in an Arts performance or event in the last year revealed the following:
 - A similar percentage of males and females participated (7% and 6% respectively)

- Respondents aged between 16-29 years old had the highest percentage of participants in Arts performances or events (8%). Seven percent of respondents aged 50-59 and 6% of both respondents aged 40-49 and 60+ participated in an Arts performance or event in the last year. The 30-39 age band was the band with the lowest percentage of participants (4%).
- Five percent of respondents with a limiting long standing illness had participated at least once in an Arts performance or event, in comparison to 7% of those who did not have a limiting long standing illness.
- When looking at participation by religion, it was found that 6% of both Catholic and Protestant respondents had participated in an Arts performance or event at least once in the last year. 8% of those who were classified as 'other/ none' had participated in an Arts performance or event at least once in the last year.

Satisfaction

All respondents

- 1.5 Overall, fifty-eight percent of all respondents were very or fairly satisfied with Arts provision in NI.
- Just over half of males expressed satisfaction with Arts provision (52%) in comparison to 62% of females.
 - Satisfaction was higher among respondents not limited by a long standing illness (61%) compared to those with a limiting long standing illness (49%).
 - Generally the higher the level of educational qualifications, the more likely respondents were to be satisfied with Arts provision.

Respondents who attended and/ or participated in an Arts performance in the last year

- 1.6 Of respondents who had either attended an Arts performance or event or taken part in an Arts performance or event in the last year 77% were satisfied (n=1971).
- Slightly more females than males expressed satisfaction with Arts provision in Northern Ireland (80% and 72%).
 - Seventy-three percent of respondents who have a limiting long standing illness expressed satisfaction in comparison to 78% of respondents who do not have a limiting long standing illness.
 - Respondents in the Southern Education and Library Board area were the most likely to be satisfied with Arts provision (81%) while 80% from the North Eastern Education and Library Board area and 78% from the South Eastern Education and Library Board area expressed satisfaction. Three quarters of respondents in the Western Education and Library Board area were very or fairly satisfied while respondents in the Belfast Education and Library Board area were the least likely to be satisfied with Arts provision (69%).

Chapter 2 Introduction

- 2.1 The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) is responsible in Northern Ireland for developing policy, service delivery, administration, and monitoring of arts and creativity, museums, libraries, sport and leisure, visitor amenities, inland waterways and inland fisheries, Ordnance Survey, the Public Record Office, language policy, and for advising on matters relating to National Lottery distribution.
- 2.2 DCAL's mission is: "To protect, nurture and grow our Cultural Capital for today and tomorrow".
- 2.3 A number of goals have been set against this mission statement. As part of the monitoring of some of these goals, DCAL's Research and Statistics Branch run a number of questions annually on the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency's (NISRA) Continuous Household Survey (CHS).
- 2.4 The Continuous Household Survey is based on a sample of 4,500 addresses randomly selected each year from the Valuation and Lands Agency's Valuation List. The sample is stratified by region to ensure proportional sampling across Northern Ireland. The regional strata are: Belfast (Belfast District Council only), East of the Province, and West of the Province. Data is collected using Computer Aided Personal Interview, and the interviews are spread equally over the 12 months from April to March. There were 4,055 respondents to the 2004/05 CHS Arts questions, and respondents were aged 16 and over.
- 2.5 This research and statistical bulletin will profile the responses of the public in Northern Ireland to three questions on their experience of the Arts. The Arts questions asked in the 2004/05 survey were:
 - In the last year, how often, if at all, have you attended an Arts performance or event as a visitor or member of an audience?
 - In the last year, how often, if at all, have you personally taken part in Arts activities?
 - Overall, how satisfied are you with Arts provision in Northern Ireland?

Respondents used their personal interpretation of the term Arts, as they were not given a list of activities to be considered as Arts performances or events. In comparison, respondents in a recent survey commissioned by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport were shown a showcard with lists of activities/ events and asked to indicate which they had attended or participated in. This means that comparison between GB and Northern Ireland data is not entirely feasible as it is not possible to compare like with like.

- 2.6 Participation as defined for DCAL's Public Service Agreement 1 measurement is to have either attended or participated (or both) in Arts activities.
- 2.7 Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act (1998) states that a public authority shall in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation; between men and women generally; between persons with a disability and persons without; and between persons with dependants and persons without.

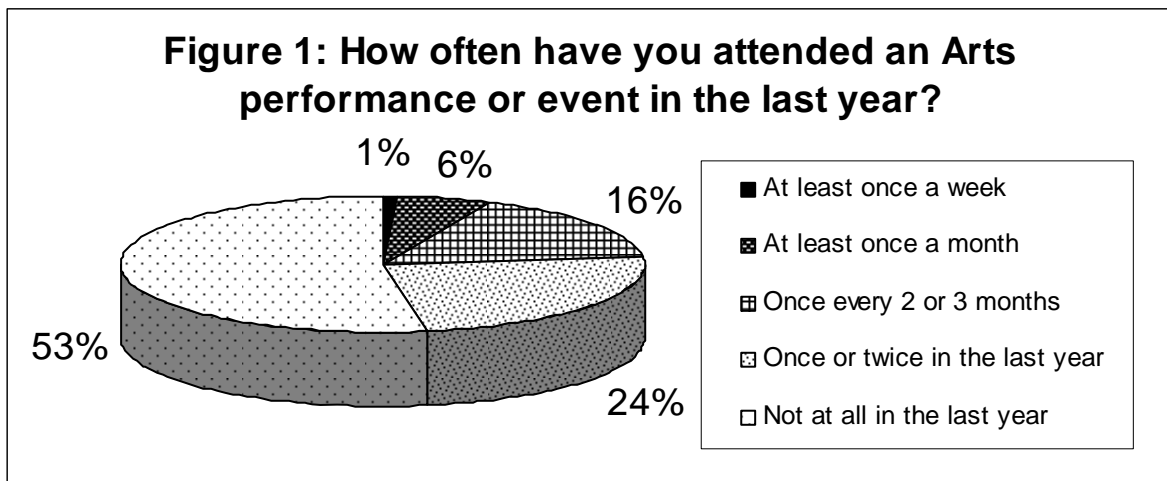
2.8 Some of this information is collected in the CHS. Where possible, the analysis contained in this bulletin will consider the Section 75 characteristics of respondents. The Arts questions are analysed according to the following list of variables:

- Education and Library Board area*;
- Gender;
- Age;
- Marital Status;
- Limiting Long-standing Illness;
- Religion;
- Highest Educational Qualification;
- Social Class based on Current and Previous Occupation.

2.9 This bulletin will give detailed analysis of each of the variables listed in paragraph 2.8 in relation to attendance at Arts performances or events, participation in Art performances or events, and satisfaction with Arts provision in Northern Ireland. The section on satisfaction with Arts provision in Northern Ireland will be further analysed in relation to all those who were surveyed and those who attended/participated.

* While Education and Library Boards are not responsible for Arts provision, their areas constitute the smallest geographical sub-division of Northern Ireland for which meaningful analysis of the CHS data is possible.

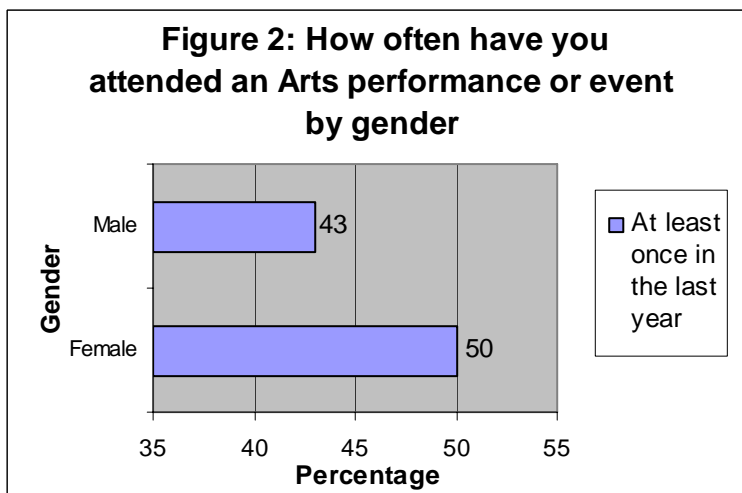
Please note that due to rounding some totals may not add up to 100%.



3.1 Almost half of all respondents had attended an Arts performance or event in the last year (47%) (n=4055). Figure 1 above provides a breakdown of frequency of attendance at Arts performances or events. Attending an Arts performance or event includes visiting an event or being in the audience at a performance; it does not include participating in the event or performance. Less than 1% had attended a performance or event at least once a week, while 6% had attended at least once a month but not as often as once a week. 16% had attended an arts performance or event once every 2 or 3 months, while almost a quarter had attended once or twice in the last year (24%).

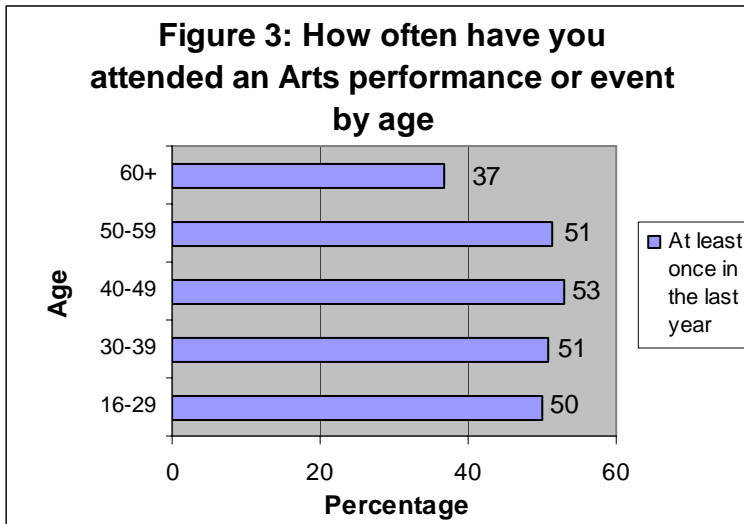
3.2 **Education and Library Board area**
 Respondents in the South Eastern Education and Library Board area were the most likely to have attended an Arts performance or event in the last year (57%) followed by 46% in both the Belfast Education and Library Board and the Western Education and Library Board areas. Forty-four percent of respondents in the North Eastern Education and Library Board area and 42% in the Southern Education and Library Board area had been to at least one Arts performance or event in the last year.

3.3 **Gender**



As shown in Figure 2 slightly fewer males (43%) than females (50%) had attended an Arts performance or event in the last year.

3.4 Age



Around a half of 16-29 year olds, 30-39 year olds and 50-59 year olds (50%, 51% and 51% respectively) had attended an Arts performance or event in the last year, as did 53% of 40-49 year olds (Figure 3). Respondents aged 60+ were the least likely to have attended any Arts performances or events in the last year (37%).

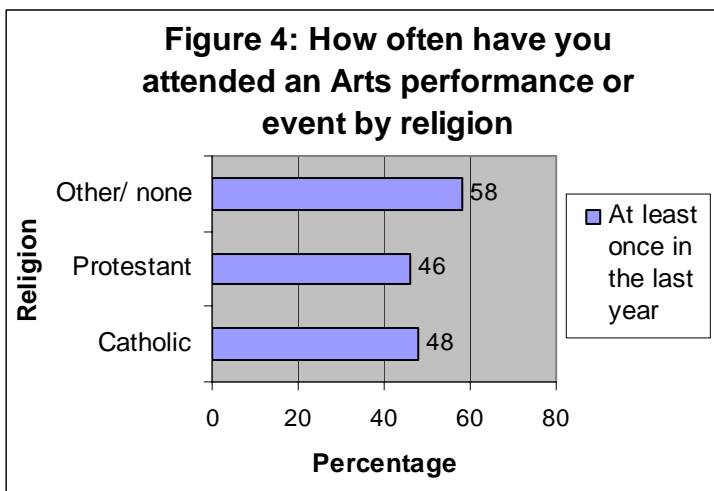
3.5 Marital status

When looking at attendance by marital status, it was found that 51% of married respondents had attended at least one Arts performance or event in the last year in comparison to 48% of cohabiting respondents and 45% of single respondents. Forty-three percent of divorced respondents had attended a performance or event in the last year, as had 41% of separated respondents. Widowed respondents were the least likely to have attended at least one Arts performance or event in the last year (32%).

3.6 Limiting long-standing illness

Respondents who had a limiting long standing illness were less likely to have attended an Arts performance or event in the last year (34%) than those who did not have a limiting long standing illness (52%).

3.7 Religion



As can be seen from Figure 4 less than half of both Catholic respondents (48%) and Protestant respondents (46%) had attended an Arts performance or event at least once in the last year. Fifty-eight percent of those whose religion was 'other/ none' had attended an Arts performance or event at least once in the last year.

3.8 Highest educational qualification

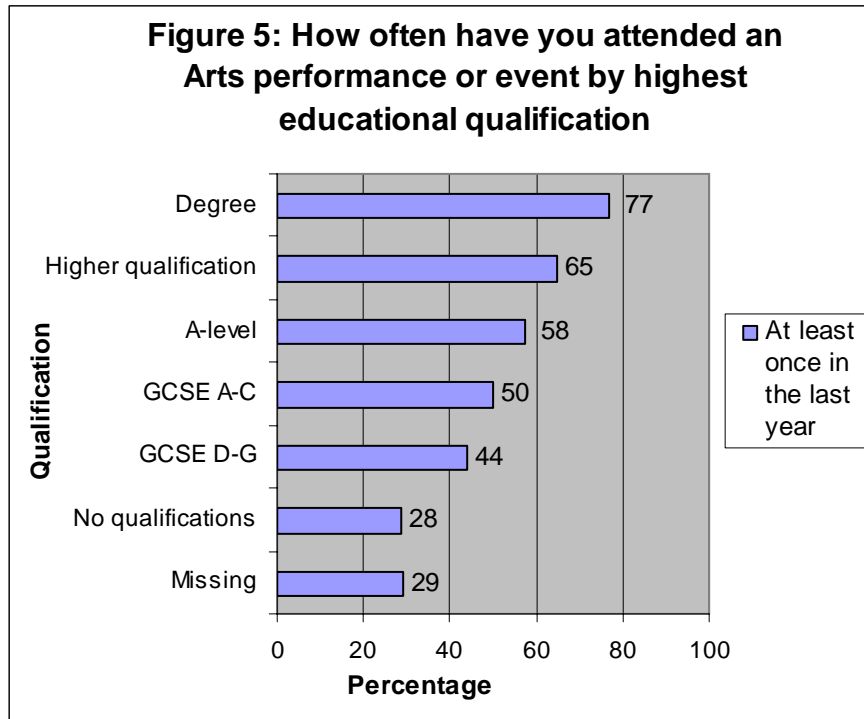
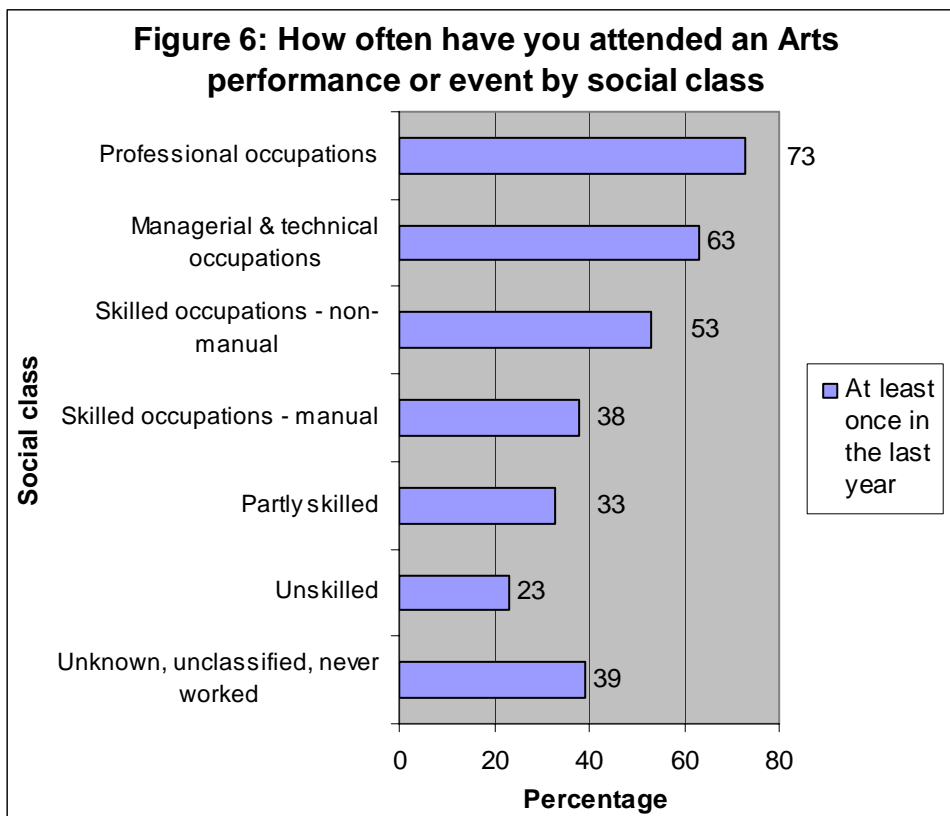
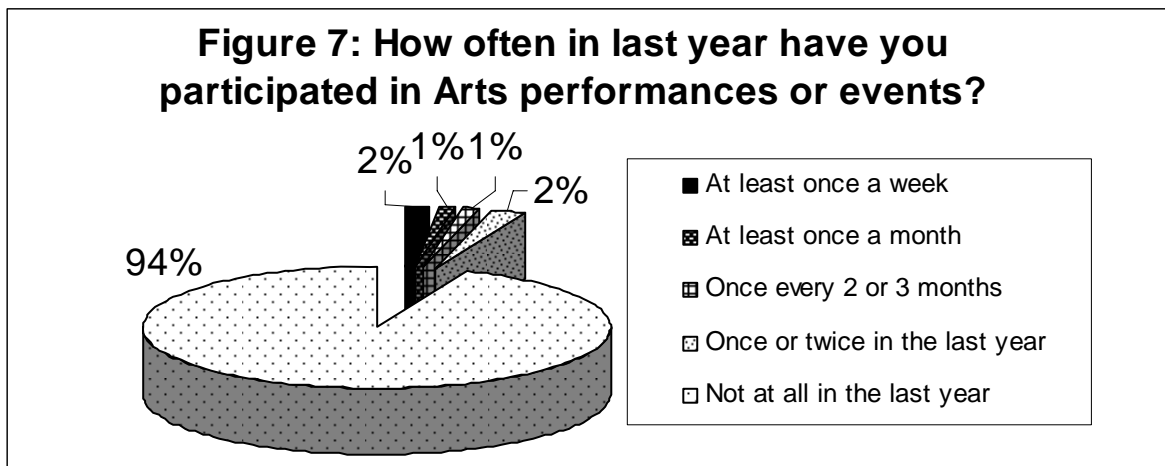


Figure 5 depicts the breakdown of respondents by highest educational qualification. The higher the educational qualification of the respondent, the more likely they were to have attended an Arts performance or event. Respondents with a degree were the most likely to have attended an Arts performance or event (77%) followed by 65% of respondents with higher educational qualifications (for example, HNC, HND, nursing qualifications). Fifty-eight percent of respondents whose highest educational qualifications were A-Levels had attended an Arts performance or event in the last year. Half of the respondents with GCSE grades A-C and 44% of those with GCSE grades D-G had attended an Arts performance or event in the last year. Twenty-nine percent of respondents whose qualifications were not stated had attended an Arts performance or event while respondents with no qualifications were the least likely to have attended an Arts performance or event (28%).

3.9 Social class current and previous occupation



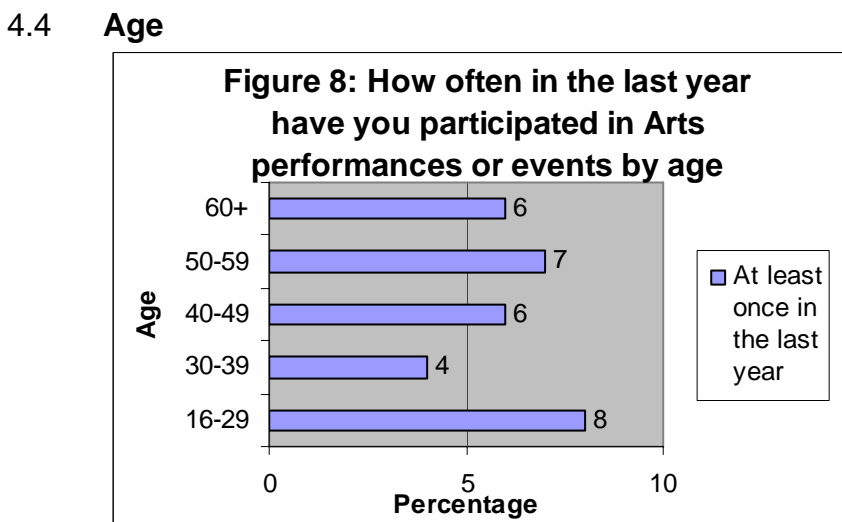
Analysis by social class of the respondents' current and previous occupation revealed that 73% of those in professional occupations and 63% of those in managerial and technical occupations had attended at least one Arts performance or event in the last year. Just over half of respondents in skilled non-manual occupations (53%) had attended at least one Arts performance or event in the last year as had 38% in skilled manual occupations and a third of partly skilled respondents. Unskilled respondents were the least likely to have attended an Arts performance or event in the last year (23%), while 39% of those whose occupation was 'unknown, unclassified, never worked etc' had also attended an Arts performance or event.



4.1 The definition of participation is taking part in an Arts event or performance; it does not include respondents who have attended a performance or event only. Figure 7 provides a breakdown of the frequency of participation. The vast majority of respondents had not taken part in Arts performances or events in the last year (94%). Two percent had taken part in an Arts performance or event at least once a week, while 1% had taken part at least once a month (but not as often as once a week) and the same percentage once every 2 or 3 months. Two percent had taken part once or twice in the last year.

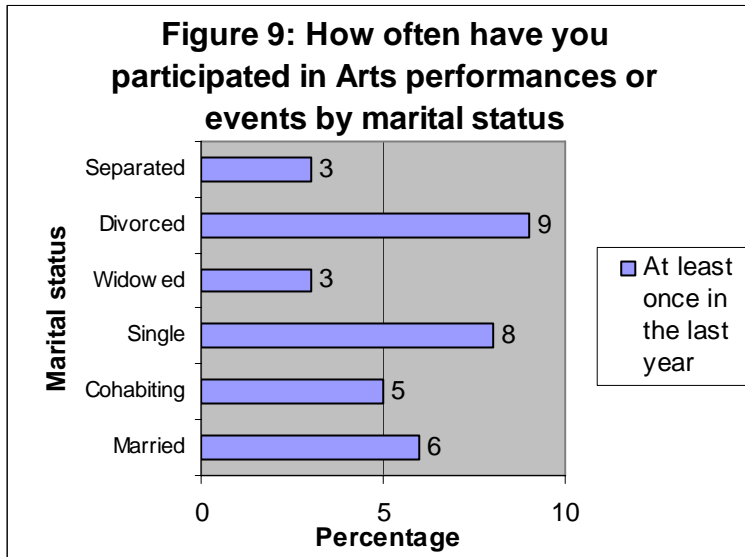
4.2 **Education and Library Board area**
 Levels of participation were fairly even across the Education and Library Board areas. Seven percent of respondents in the North Eastern Education and Library Board and South Eastern Education and Library Board areas had participated in an Arts performance or event in the last year. Slightly fewer in the Belfast Education and Library Board and Southern Education and Library Board areas (6%) had participated in an Arts performance or event in the last year while 5% had participated in the Western Education and Library Board area in the last year.

4.3 **Gender**
 Seven percent of males and 6% of females took part in an Arts performance or event in the last year.



As shown in Figure 8 respondents in the youngest age category (16-29) were the most likely to have participated in at least one Arts performance or event in the last year (8%) followed by respondents aged 50-59 (7%). Six percent of both 40-49 year olds and respondents aged 60+ had participated in an Arts performance or event in the last year. The group least likely to have taken part in a performance were aged 30-39 (4%).

4.5 Marital status



As shown in Figure 9, divorced respondents were the most likely to have participated in an Arts performance or event (9%), followed by single respondents (8%). Six percent of married respondents and 5% of cohabiting respondents had participated in an Arts performance or event. Three percent of widowed and separated respondents had participated in an Arts performance or event.

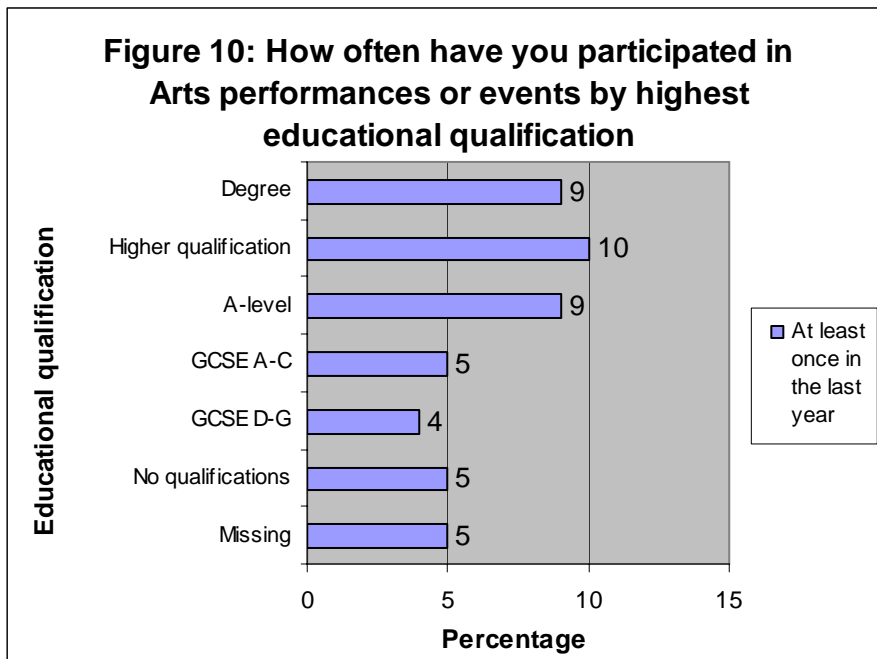
4.6 Limiting long-standing illness

A similar percentage of respondents with a limiting long standing illness had participated at least once in an Arts performance or event as those without (5% and 7% respectively).

4.7 Religion

Analysis by religion revealed 6% of both Catholic and Protestant respondents had participated in an Arts performance or event at least once in the last year. 8% of those who were classified as 'other/ none' had participated at least once in the last year.

4.8 Highest educational qualification



It was found that respondents whose highest educational qualification was A-level or above were most likely to have taken part in an Arts performance or event (Figure 10). Nine percent of respondents who had a degree and 10% of those who had higher qualifications (below degree level) took part in an Arts performance or event in the last year, whilst of respondents whose highest qualification were A-levels, 9% had participated in the last year. Five percent of those with GCSE grades A-C as their highest qualification, and 4% of those with GCSE grades D-G as their highest qualification were participants. Respondents with no qualifications and those whose educational qualifications were unknown were the least likely to have taken part in an Arts performance or event (both 5%).

4.9 Social class current and previous occupation

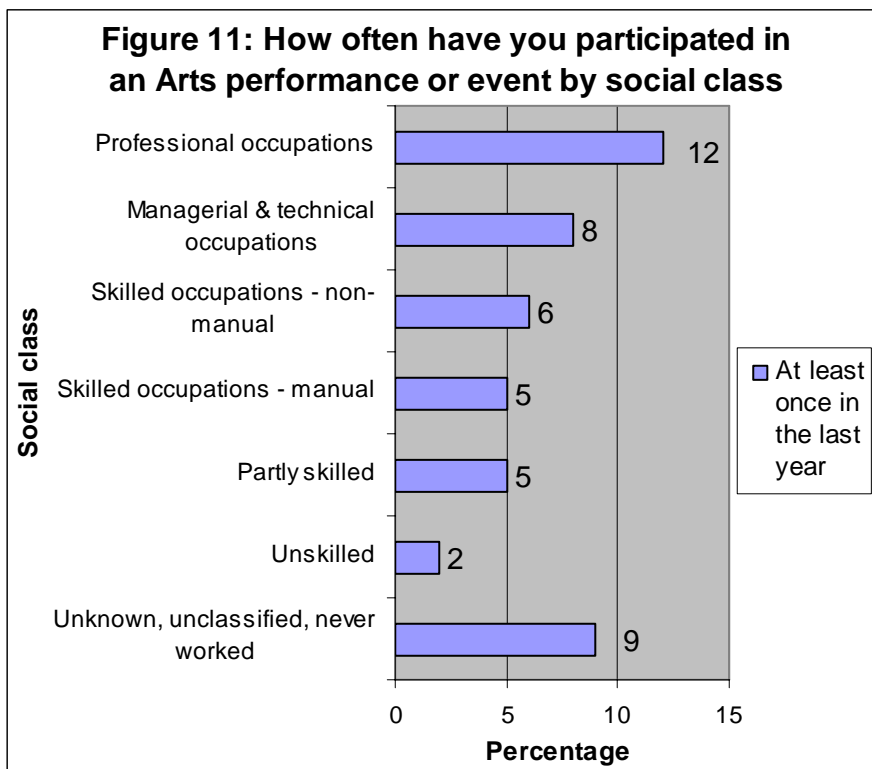
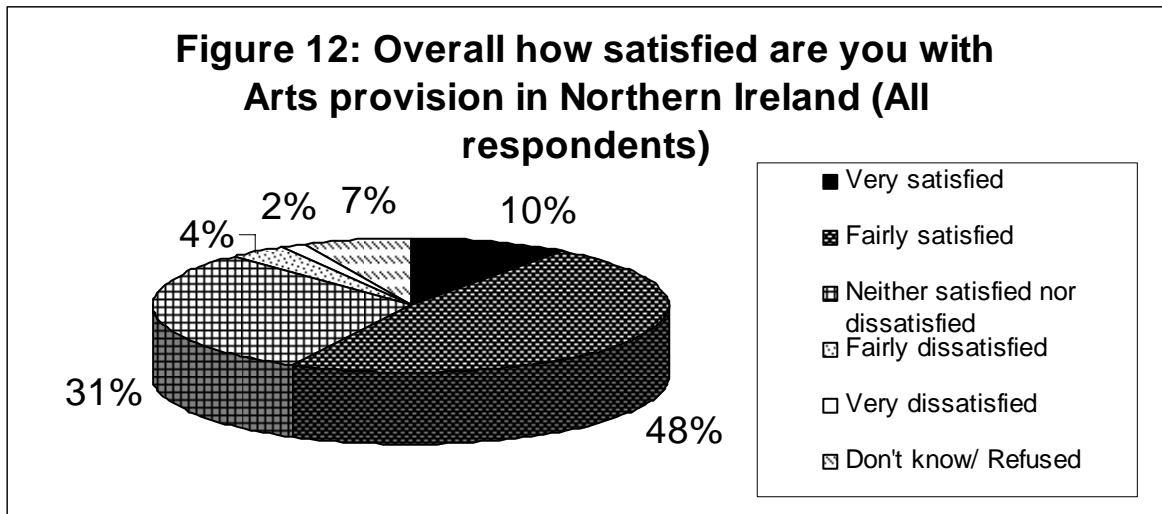


Figure 11 provides a comparison of participation by different social classes. Respondents in professional occupations were the most likely to have participated in an Arts performance or event (12%). The next highest level of participation was in managerial and technical occupations (8%). Six percent of those in skilled non-manual occupations had taken part in at least one Arts performance or event as had 5% of those in skilled manual occupations and 5% of respondents in partly skilled occupations. Respondents in unskilled occupations were the least likely to have taken part in an Arts performance or event in the last year (2%). Nine percent of respondents whose occupation was 'unknown, un-classified, never worked etc' had participated in at least one Arts performance or event in the last year.



- 5.1 This chapter examines satisfaction with Arts provision in Northern Ireland. It looks at levels of satisfaction among all respondents and also looks at levels of satisfaction among the subgroup of respondents who attended or participated in Arts performances or events in the last year.
- 5.2 Figure 12 shows the breakdown of satisfaction among all respondents. Over half of all respondents (n=4055) were very or fairly satisfied with Arts provision in NI (58%).
- 5.3 Just under half of all respondents had either attended or participated in an Arts performance or event or both in the last year (49%). (This is the figure used for the measurement of DCAL’s Public Service Agreement relating to participation.)

Levels of satisfaction were higher among the subgroup of respondents who attended or participated than among all those surveyed. Of respondents who had either attended an Arts performance or event or taken part in an Arts performance or event in the last year 77% were satisfied (n=1971).

5.4 Education and Library Board area

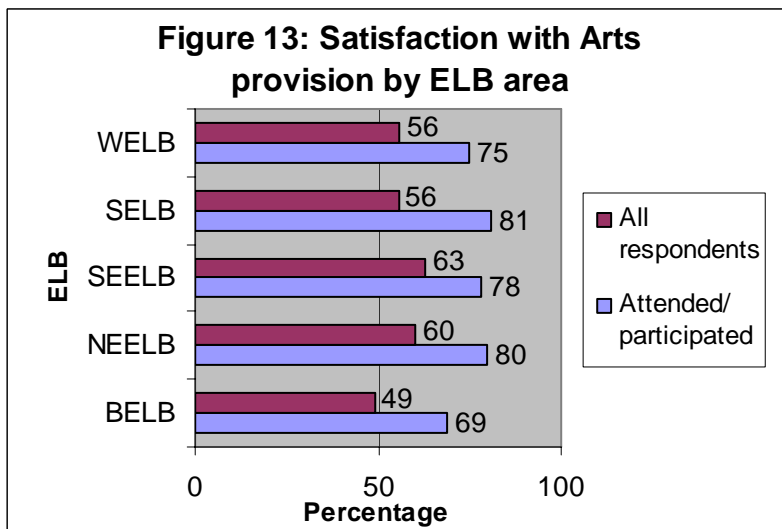


Figure 13 reveals that when considering all respondents, those from the South Eastern Education and Library Board area were the most likely to be satisfied (63%). Sixty percent of respondents from the North Eastern Education and Library Board area were very or fairly satisfied while 56% from both the Southern Education and Library Board and Western Education and Library Board areas expressed satisfaction. Respondents from the Belfast Education and Library Board area were the least likely to be satisfied (49%).

Looking at respondents who had attended or participated in an Arts performance or event, respondents in the Southern Education and Library Board area were most likely to express satisfaction (81%). Eighty percent in the North Eastern Education and Library Board area, and 78% in the South Eastern Education and Library Board area were very or fairly satisfied with Arts provision. Three quarters of respondents from the Western Education and Library Board area were satisfied, while respondents from the Belfast Education and Library Board area were least likely to be satisfied (69%).

5.5 Gender

Just over half of all male respondents were satisfied with Arts provision in Northern Ireland (52%) in comparison to 62% of all females.

Just under three quarters of male respondents who had attended or participated in an Arts performance or event were satisfied with Arts provision in Northern Ireland (72%) in comparison to 80% of females who had attended or participated in an Arts performance.

5.6 Age

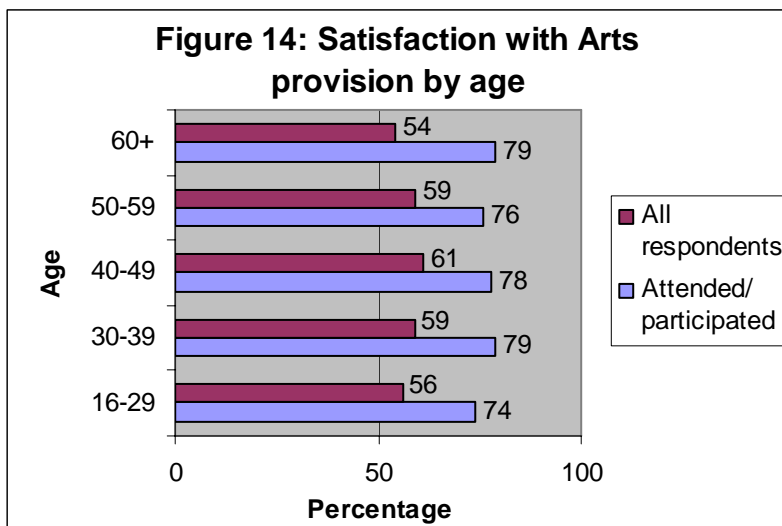


Figure 14 shows the comparison of satisfaction by age between all respondents and those who participated or attended. Overall there was little variation with age.

Looking at all respondents, 61% of those aged 40-49 were satisfied with the provision of Arts in Northern Ireland as were 59% of those aged between 30 and 39 and of those aged 50-59. Fifty-six percent of those in the youngest age category (16-29) were very or fairly satisfied with Arts provision in Northern Ireland. Of the respondents aged 60+, 54% were satisfied with Arts provision in Northern Ireland.

When looking at satisfaction by age in respondents who had attended or participated in an Arts performance or event, respondents aged between 30 and 39

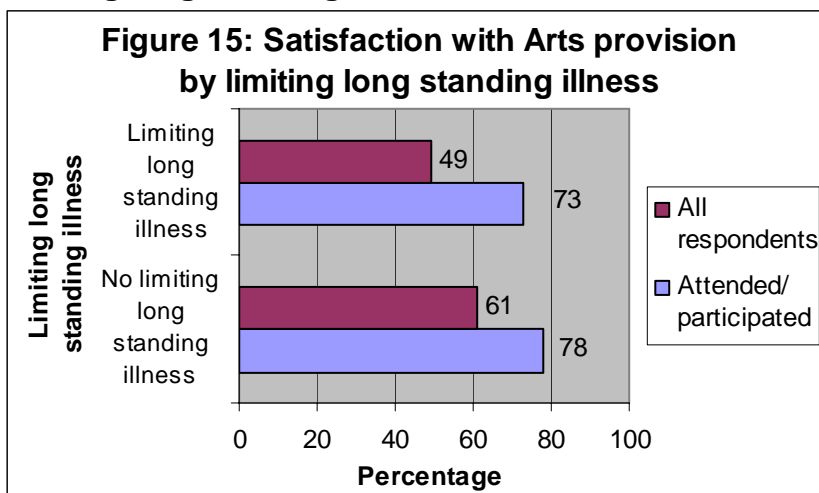
and those aged 60+ were the most likely to be satisfied (both 79%). Seventy-eight percent of respondents aged 40-49 and 76% of those in the 50-59 band were very or fairly satisfied. The youngest respondents were the least likely to express satisfaction (74%).

5.7 Marital status

When satisfaction by marital status among all respondents was investigated, it was found that 61% of married respondents and 55% of divorced respondents expressed satisfaction with Arts provision. Fifty-four percent of both single and widowed respondents stated they were very or fairly satisfied with Arts provision in Northern Ireland. Cohabiting and separated respondents were the least likely to express satisfaction with Arts provision (51% and 48% respectively).

Analysis of satisfaction by marital status among respondents who had attended or participated in an Arts performance or event revealed that widowed respondents showed the highest levels of satisfaction (84%). Eighty-two percent of divorced or separated respondents and 78% of married respondents stated they were very or fairly satisfied with Arts provision in Northern Ireland. Single respondents and respondents cohabiting were the least likely to express satisfaction with Arts provision in Northern Ireland (73% and 71% respectively).

5.8 Limiting long-standing illness



Just under half of all respondents who had a limiting long standing illness (49%) were very or fairly satisfied, in comparison to 61% of all those who did not have a limiting long standing illness (Figure 15).

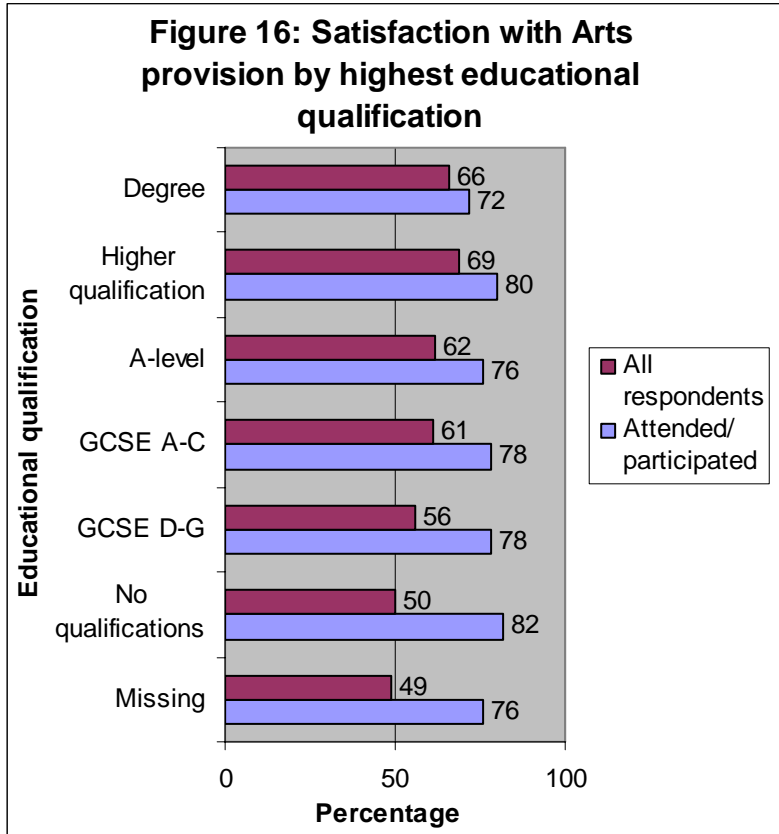
Within the subset of respondents who had attended or participated in an Arts performance or event, those who had a limiting long standing illness were slightly less likely to state they were very or fairly satisfied (73%), compared to respondents who did not have a limiting long standing illness (78%).

5.9 Religion

Out of all those surveyed, the same percentage of Catholics and Protestants were very or fairly satisfied (58%). Fifty-one percent of respondents whose religion was classed as 'other/ none' expressed satisfaction with Arts provision in Northern Ireland.

Analysis of respondents who had attended or participated in an Arts performance or event by religion revealed that the same percentage of Catholic and Protestant respondents were satisfied (78%). Sixty-three percent of respondents whose religion was classed as 'other/ none' expressed satisfaction with Arts provision in Northern Ireland.

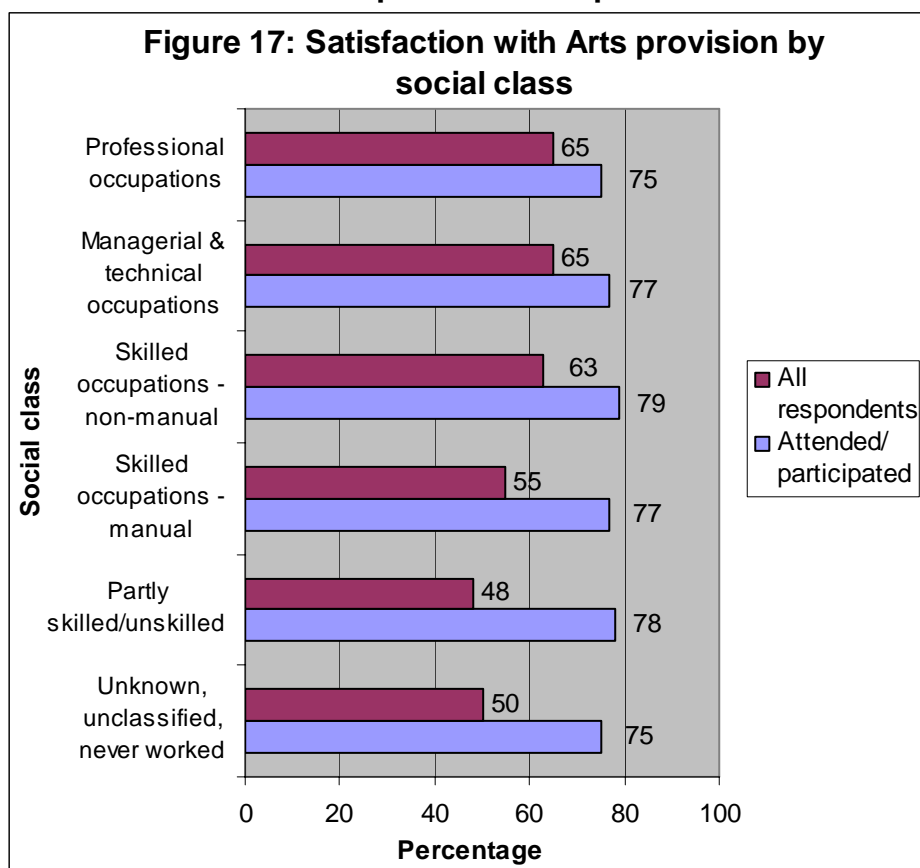
5.10 Highest educational qualification



Looking at all respondents, generally the higher the qualification of the respondent the more likely they were to report satisfaction (Figure 16). Sixty-six percent of those with a degree were very or fairly satisfied with Arts provision in Northern Ireland, as were 69% of respondents with higher educational qualifications (below degree level), and 62% of those with A-levels as their highest qualification. Of respondents who were educated to GCSE level, 61% of those with grades A-C and 56% of those with grades D-G expressed satisfaction with Arts provision in Northern Ireland. Around half of respondents who had no qualifications (50%) or whose qualifications were unknown (49%) were satisfied in this regard.

When looking at satisfaction among respondents who had attended or participated in an Arts performance or event by highest educational qualification, respondents with no qualifications were most likely to be satisfied (82%). Eighty percent of respondents with higher educational qualifications (below degree level) were satisfied with Arts provision, while 78% of those whose highest educational qualifications were GCSEs (both grades A-C and D-G) expressed satisfaction with Arts provision in Northern Ireland. Seventy-six percent of respondents with A-levels or whose qualifications were unknown were very or fairly satisfied with Arts provision in Northern Ireland. The group least likely to report satisfaction were those with a degree (72%).

5.11 Social class current and previous occupation



The level of satisfaction among all respondents increased the higher the grade of social class (Figure 17). Respondents in both professional occupations and managerial/ technical occupations were the most likely to have expressed satisfaction with arts provision (65%). Of respondents in skilled non-manual and skilled manual groups, 63% and 55% respectively were very or fairly satisfied. Exactly half of respondents whose occupation was 'unknown, unclassified, never worked etc' indicated they were satisfied with the provision of Arts in Northern Ireland while partly skilled or unskilled respondents were the least likely to be satisfied (48%).

When respondents who had attended or participated in an Arts performance or event were analysed by social class of the respondent's current and previous occupation, respondents who were in skilled non-manual occupations were the most likely to express their satisfaction (79%). Seventy-eight percent of respondents who were partly skilled workers or classified as unskilled expressed satisfaction with Arts provision. The same percentage of respondents in managerial and technical occupations expressed satisfaction as skilled manual workers (77%). Three quarters of respondents who were in professional occupations or whose occupation was 'unknown, unclassified, never worked etc' indicated they were satisfied with the provision of Arts in Northern Ireland.

- 6.1 The Continuous Household Survey (CHS) is one of the largest continuous surveys carried out in Northern Ireland. The survey is designed, conducted and analysed by the Central Survey Unit (CSU) of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). It is based on a sample of the general population resident in private households and has been running since 1983. The survey is designed to provide a regular source of information on a wide range of social and economic issues relevant to Northern Ireland.
- 6.2 Each year CSU sets the content of the questionnaire in consultation with client departments. The questionnaire consists of both a household interview and an individual interview with each person aged 16 and over at each sampled household. Both the household and individual questionnaires consist of core items that are included each year, modules that recur on a regular cycle and ad hoc modules. Core items include accommodation, tenure, type of heating and fuel usage, employment status, employment activity, educational qualifications, adult and child health and family information. Non-core items include prevalence of smoking, level of alcohol consumption, and sports and leisure activities.
- 6.3 The CHS is based on a set sample of 4,500 addresses selected each year from the Valuation and Lands Agency's property database. A simple random sample of all the addresses in Northern Ireland is drawn using the regional strata: Belfast (Belfast District Council only), East of the Province, and West of the Province. Data is collected by personal interview using CAPI (Computer Aided Personal Interview), and the interviews are spread equally over the 12 months from April to March (allocated on a monthly basis).
- 6.4 The questions on sport and leisure activities include questions on Arts activities. These questions include:
- In the last year, how often, if at all, have you attended an Arts performance or event as a visitor or member of an audience?
 - In the last year, how often, if at all, have you personally taken part in Arts activities?
 - Overall, how satisfied are you with Arts provision in Northern Ireland?
- 6.5 The questions were asked in such a way that the term Arts was self-defined: respondents were not provided with a list of events or activities which were classed as the Arts.
- 6.6 Attendance at an event or performance means to have visited or been in the audience at a performance or event which the respondent defined as being part of or related to the Arts.

Participating in an event or performance means to have taken part or had involvement in a performance or event, and does not include being in attendance only.

Satisfaction with Arts provision in Northern Ireland was looked at in terms of all respondents. Satisfaction was also investigated in terms of respondents who attended and/ or participated in Arts activities because this subgroup is used for measuring DCAL's PSA 1 relating to participation in cultural activities.

- 6.7 The Arts activities in this bulletin are not confined to Northern Ireland, the respondent was free to consider any events/ performances that they had attended or been involved in regardless of where they took place.