**Culture and Arts**

The Continuous Household Survey (CHS)[[1]](#footnote-1) is designed to provide a regular source of information on a variety of issues relevant to Northern Ireland including participation in arts and culture. The findings of the survey from the combined years of 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16 show that engagement and participation in culture and arts by adults in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon was similar to that for Northern Ireland overall.

In both the borough and Northern Ireland overall 86% of respondents had engaged in culture and arts in the 12 months prior to being surveyed. Around a third (33%) of those surveyed in the borough had participated in arts activities similar to Northern Ireland overall (34%). 77% of respondents in the borough had attended an arts event. A quarter (25%) of those surveyed in the borough had used the public library service in the previous 12 months while for Northern Ireland overall the figure was similar at 27%. Less than half (44%) of respondents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon had visited a museum or science centre in the previous 12 months, similar to Northern Ireland overall at 47%. Those who had visited the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) were the same for both the borough and Northern Ireland.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon** | **Northern Ireland** |
| **Engaged in culture and arts** | 86% | 86% |
| **Participated in arts activities** | 33% | 34% |
| **Attended an arts event** | 77% | 79% |
| **Used the public library service** | 25% | 27% |
| **Visited a museum or science centre** | 44% | 47% |
| **Visited PRONI** | 3% | 3% |

*Table 1: Engagement in culture and arts by adults in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2013/14 to 2015/16. Source: Continuous Household Survey, Department for Communities.*

*Figure 1: Engagement in culture and arts by adults in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2013/14 to 2015/16. Source: Continuous Household Survey, Department for Communities.*

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (NILT)[[2]](#footnote-2) deals with the attitudes, values and beliefs of the people in Northern Ireland on a wide range of social policy issues, including culture and traditions.

The NILT survey asks respondents how much they agree that:

* The culture and traditions of the Catholic community add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society.
* The culture and traditions of the Protestant Community add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society.
* The culture and traditions of people from different minority ethnic groups adds to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society.

Results for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough for the combined years of 2019, 2020 and 2021 are similar to those for Northern Ireland overall when it comes to the culture and traditions of the Catholic and Protestant community adding to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society. Approximately 65% of respondents in the borough agree that the culture and traditions of the Catholic community add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society. The proportion in agreement was slightly higher in Northern Ireland overall (69.5%). Results were similar for those surveyed in the borough (64.5%) and Northern Ireland (67.7%) agreeing that the culture and traditions of the Protestant community add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society. Agreement that the culture and traditions of different minority ethnic groups add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society are lower than for Catholic/Protestant communities. The levels of agreement in Northern Ireland overall for the culture and traditions of different minority ethnic groups is 64.5% while agreement in the borough is even lower at 54.1%.

|  | **The culture and traditions of . . . . . add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society** | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **The Catholic**  **community** | | **The Protestant community** | | **Different minority**  **ethnic groups** | |
| **ABC** | **NI** | **ABC** | **NI** | **ABC** | **NI** |
| **Strongly agree** | 23.9% | 26.2% | 16.7% | 20.6% | 11.1% | 20.0% |
| **Agree** | 40.7% | 43.3% | 47.8% | 47.1% | 43.0% | 44.5% |
| **Neither agree nor disagree** | 22.7% | 20.3% | 21.8% | 19.4% | 26.9% | 23.1% |
| **Disagree** | 6.1% | 5.4% | 9.4% | 7.9% | 10.8% | 6.0% |
| **Strongly disagree** | 3.9% | 1.9% | 2.1% | 2.4% | 3.6% | 2.6% |
| **Don’t know** | 1.9% | 2.6% | 1.6% | 2.4% | 3.7% | 3.6% |
| **Prefer not to say** | 0.7% | 0.2% | 0.7% | 0.2% | 0.8% | 0.2% |

*Table 2: Percentage of people who agree that the culture and traditions of the Catholic community/Protestant Community/different minority ethnic groups add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2019-21. Source: Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (ARK).*

*Figure 2: Percentage of people who agree that the culture and traditions of the Catholic community/Protestant Community/different minority ethnic groups add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2019-2021. Source: Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (ARK).*

Further information on culture and arts can be found via the following links:

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-research/sport-museums-and-libraries-statistics>

<https://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/>

<https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Home.aspx> and type Northern Ireland Life and Times into the search bar.

1. <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/central-survey-unit/continuous-household-survey> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (ARK) - <https://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)