**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 most recent data available refers to 2019/20 and shows 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 the borough, 86% of respondents had engaged in culture and arts in the 12 months prior to being surveyed compared to 87% in Northern Ireland overall. Around a third (34%) of those surveyed in the borough had participated in arts activities similar to Northern Ireland overall (33%). While 80% of respondents stated that they had attended an arts event, the proportion in the borough was lower at just 77%. 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 slightly lower at 23%. Only 38% 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 37%. Finally, just 4% of respondents from the borough had visited the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) at least once in the twelve months prior to the survey. The equivalent figure for Northern Ireland was 5%.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|   | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon (%) | Northern Ireland (%) |
| Engaged in culture and arts | 86 | 87 |
| Participated in arts activities | 34 | 33 |
| Attended an arts event | 77 | 80 |
| Used the public library service | 25 | 23 |
| Visited a museum or science centre | 38 | 37 |
| Visited PRONI | 4 | 5 |

*Table 1: Engagement in culture and arts by adults in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2019/20. 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 2019/20. 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)