**Participation in Sports**

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 sports. The findings of the survey show that participation in sport by adults in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough was similar to that for Northern Ireland overall and in 2019/20, participation in sport had increased to 61% in the borough compared to 56% in Northern Ireland. In 2021/22 however, participation in sport by adults in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough fell to just 40% which was 5 percentage points below the Northern Ireland average. The decrease was much greater in the borough than in Northern Ireland overall.

| Participated in sport | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon | Northern Ireland |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2017/18 | 54% | 54% |
| 2018/19 | 55% | 56% |
| 2019/20 | 61% | 56% |
| 2021/22 | 40% | 45% |

*Table 1: Participation in sport by adults in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2017/18 – 2021-22[[2]](#footnote-2). Source: Continuous Household Survey, Department for Communities.*

*Figure 1: Participation in sport by adults in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2017/18 – 2021/22. Source: Continuous Household Survey, Department for Communities.*

In the borough and Northern Ireland overall the proportion of respondents who normally participate in sport on at least one day per week has increased since 2017/18 from 48% and 49% respectively to 56% and 52% respectively in 2019/20. The increase has been greater in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon.

| Normally participates in sport on at least one day per week | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon | Northern Ireland |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2017/18 | 48% | 49% |
| 2018/19 | 50% | 51% |
| 2019/20 | 56% | 52% |

*Table 2: Participation in sport by adults in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2017/18 – 2019-20[[3]](#footnote-3). Source: Continuous Household Survey, Department for Communities.*

*Figure 2: Participation in sport by adults in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2017/18 – 2019/20. Source: Continuous Household Survey, Department for Communities.*

The Northern Ireland Young Life and Times survey (YLT)[[4]](#footnote-4) gives young people aged 16 the chance to give their views and experience on a number of topics. Similarly the Northern Ireland Kids’ Life and Times survey (KLT)[[5]](#footnote-5) gives primary 7 children a voice on issues important to children.

In 2016 the YLT and KLT both asked how many times during a normal week would respondents spend at least 60 minutes during a day playing sports or doing some physical activity[[6]](#footnote-6). The target set by the Public Health Agency and Department of Health for young people under 18 years of age is 60 minutes every day. Results from the KLT show that almost a third (32%) of primary 7 children in the borough meet this target, just below the overall results for Northern Ireland (36%). The proportion of 16 year olds meeting the target is considerably lower, just 6% in the borough and 8% in Northern Ireland overall.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon** | **Northern Ireland** |
| **Kids’ Life and Times survey** | 32% | 36% |
| **Young Life and Times survey** | 6% | 8% |

*Table 2: Proportion of KLT (primary 7 children) and YLT (16 year olds) respondents meeting the physical activity target level (60 minutes or more every day) in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2016. Source: Sport NI using evidence from the 2016 Young Life and Times (YLT) and Kids’ Life and Times (KLT) surveys.*

*Figure 2: Proportion of KLT (primary 7 children) and YLT (16 year olds) respondents meeting the physical activity target level (60 minutes or more every day) in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2016. Source: Sport NI using evidence from the 2016 Young Life and Times (YLT) and Kids’ Life and Times (KLT) surveys.*

The reasons given for not taking part in sport or physical activity more often by respondents in the borough were at similar levels to Northern Ireland respondents overall. In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon poor health and disability was identified by 7% of 16 year olds and 8% of primary 7 pupils. 30% of respondents to the YLT in the borough had a lack of knowledge of activities with 18% of KLT respondents in the borough giving this same reason. Costs and transport were also identified by the 16 year olds in the borough as issues.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon** | **Northern Ireland** |
| **Poor health or a disability** | **YLT** | 7% | 8% |
| **KLT** | 8% | 6% |
| **Lack of knowledge about activities** | **YLT** | 30% | 27% |
| **KLT** | 18% | 16% |
| **Lack or cost of transport** | **YLT** | 17% | 17% |
| **Cost involved** | **YLT** | 28% | 26% |

*Table 3: Reasons preventing KLT (primary 7 children) and YLT (16 year olds) respondents from taking part in sport and physical activity more often in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2016. Source: Sport NI using evidence from the 2016 Young Life and Times (YLT) and Kids’ Life and Times (KLT) surveys.*

*Figure 3: Reasons preventing KLT (primary 7 children) and YLT (16 year olds) respondents from taking part in sport and physical activity more often in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2016. Source: Sport NI using evidence from the 2016 Young Life and Times (YLT) and Kids’ Life and Times (KLT) surveys.*

Further information on participation in sports can be found via the following links:

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

<http://www.sportni.net/research/recent-research/2017-2/>

1. Continuous Household Survey - <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/central-survey-unit/continuous-household-survey> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Due to the reduced sample size in 2020/21, no information for the 11 local government districts were produced for this year. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Due to the reduction in the size of the questionnaire the days per week question was not included for 2021/22 however it has since been reinstated. At present, no further updates are available for this measure. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Young Life and Times Survey (ARK) - <https://www.ark.ac.uk/ylt/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Kids’ Life and Times Survey (ARK) - <https://www.ark.ac.uk/klt/> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. This is the last time a sport module was included in the questionnaire however Sport NI have indicated that they may want to update the questions although this would not be until 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)