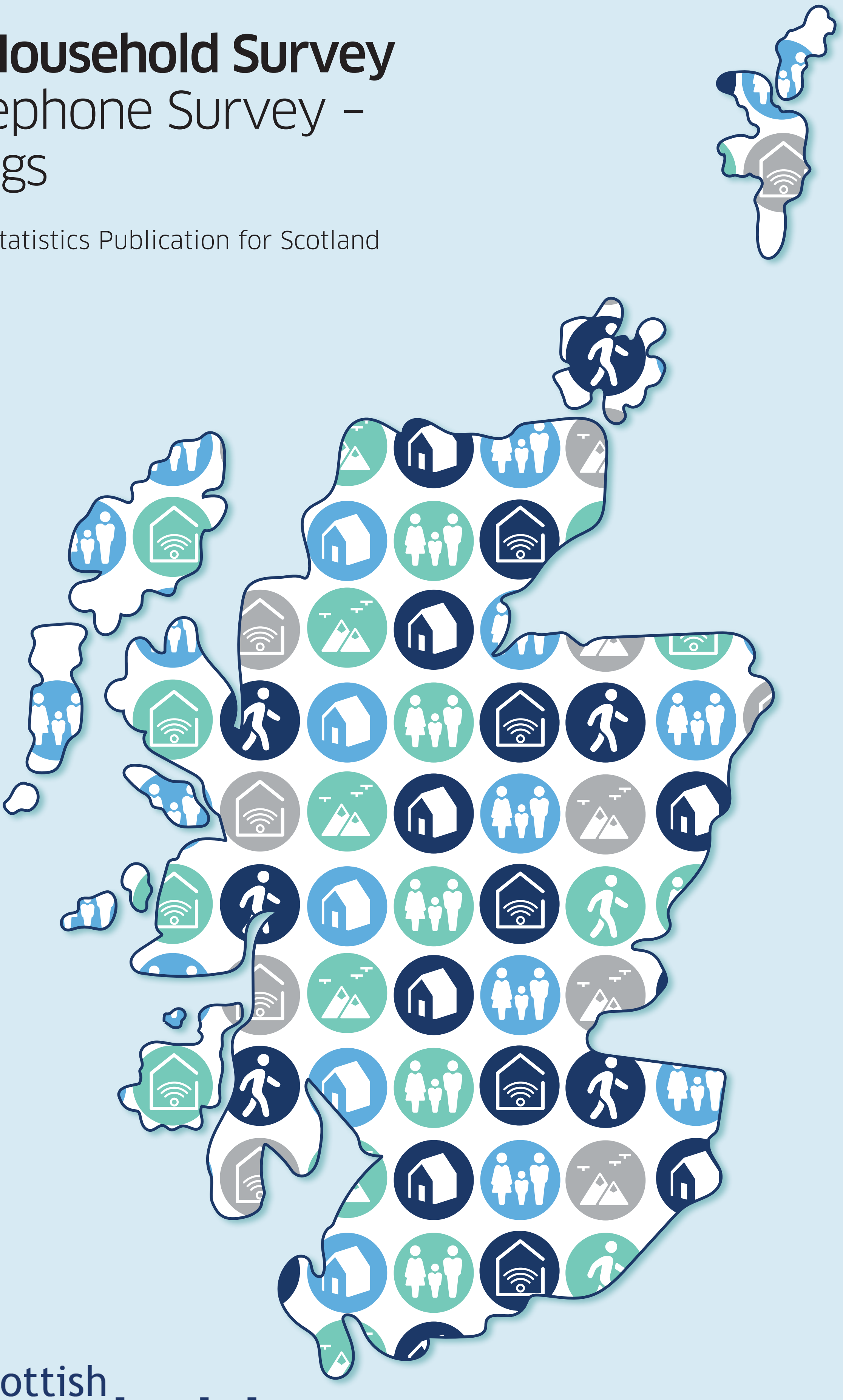
Scottish Household Survey
2021 Telephone Survey – key findings

An Experimental Statistics Publication for Scotland



Scottish Household Survey
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Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Contents

Acknowledgements

The Scottish Government thanks the people across Scotland who gave their time to take part in the Scottish Household Survey 2021.

We would also like to thank all the Scottish Government lead analysts who contributed to the project.

Finally, special thanks to Ipsos MORI and their interviewers for their flexibility, help and support as we developed, tested and implemented new modes of data collection.

Introduction

The Scottish Household Survey (SHS) is an annual survey of the general population in Scotland, carried out since 1999. It aims to collect reliable and up-to-date information on a range of topics, through a random sample of people in private residences. It is a voluntary and interviewer-led survey.

Typically, SHS respondents are interviewed face-to-face, in their homes. However, in March 2020 the fieldwork approach was altered in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This resulted in the majority of the 2020 survey fieldwork, and all of the 2021 survey fieldwork, being carried out using telephone interviewing. The 2022 survey returned to face-to-face interviewing.

This report presents key findings from the SHS 2021 telephone survey. Results for the Scottish Surveys Core Questions, Transport and Travel in Scotland and the Scottish House Condition Survey are reported separately.

As with the 2020 results, the results of the 2021 SHS telephone survey are published as experimental statistics. They are not directly comparable to SHS face-to-face survey results for previous years (2019 and earlier). Response rates for the telephone surveys were lower than usual, and there was a change in the profile of respondents (e.g. people with degree level qualifications were over-represented). There are also potential mode effects (respondents answering differently over the telephone than they would face-to-face). For more detail, please see the 2020 and 2021 methodology reports.

The results from the 2020 and 2021 telephone surveys are broadly comparable. However, 2020 data was collected in October 2020 and January-March of 2021, while the 2021 data was collected over the course of a whole year, between April 2021 and March 2022. So users should consider potential seasonal effects when making comparison between the two survey years.

Around 10,000 households were interviewed for the SHS 2021 telephone survey, compared to around 3,000 for the SHS 2020. This means that we can publish local authority level results for SHS 2021, which was not possible for SHS 2020.

Throughout this report, tables are referenced. These are published in Excel format as supporting documents to the report, and include specific results for particular groups in the population (e.g. men and women, urban and rural areas). Some of the differences between groups may be due to random sampling variation i.e. chance. Similarly, some apparent differences between 2020 and 2021 results may occur by chance, particularly given the relatively small achieved sample size for 2020. We use standard statistical tests of significance to determine the likelihood of differences being due to chance. When this report refers to differences between groups or years, these differences are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level unless explicitly stated otherwise. Some differences between groups in the Excel tables that appear large may not be mentioned in this report, because they are not statistically significant.

1. Housing

Note that the results for 2020 and 2021 are not directly comparable to SHS results from previous years due to the move to telephone / video interviewing due to COVID-19, which has also impacted on the profile of the achieved sample in these years.

Also note that this change in methodology for 2020 and 2021 has required a change to the weighting methodology. For the results presented on housing this includes a calibration to housing tenure as at 2019, in which the proportions of total rented and total owner occupier households have been adjusted to match the 2019 estimates. One consequence of this is that any results presented on the overall proportions of households by tenure do not represent any updates to these figures since 2019, and therefore cannot be used as any meaningful estimates of the total number of households by tenure in either 2020 or 2021. In addition, some caution is needed in using any cross-tenure ‘all household’ figures presented for these years, given that these are also affected by the tenure composition being calibrated to 2019.

Further information on these changes is set out in the 2020 and 2021 methodology reports.

The summary results presented in this section focus on describing a high level overview of some the key differences in characteristics of households between each tenure category. These within-tenure findings are less likely to have been affected by the methodology changes as outlined above.

The full set of housing tables, presenting results across a range of housing related questions, are provided in the Excel supporting documents. The caveats as set out above should be considered when interpreting any findings from these.

Dwelling type and area deprivation of households by tenure

In 2021, the majority of owner occupied properties (80%) were houses, the majority of private rented properties (69%) were flats, and social rented properties were split more evenly into 46% houses and 54% flats (Table 1.7).

46% of social rented households were in the 20% most deprived Scottish Index of Multipe Deprivation (SIMD) areas, compared to only 2% in the 20% least deprived areas (Table 1.8). This compares to 25% of owner occupied households being in the 20% least deprived areas, and 12% in the 20% most deprived areas. Private rented sector households were distributed more evenly, with 21% to 22% across all deprivation quintiles, except for 16% in the 20% least deprived areas.

Length of time at address by tenure

Owner occupiers tended to have lived at their current address the longest, with 53% of adults having lived there for eleven years or more (Table 1.26), whilst 32% of private rented sector adults had lived at their address for less than a year.

Ethnicity of adults by tenure

48% of adults in private rented households reported their ethnicity as ’White: Scottish’ (Table 1.24), which is lower than for owner occupied (74%) and social rented households (83%).

Also among adults in private rented households, 19% reported their ethnicity as ‘White: Other’ (i.e. not 'White: Scottish’, ‘White: Other British’, or ‘White: Polish’), compared to 4% for owner occupied households and 3% for social rented households. Whilst 5% reported their ethnicity as Asian, higher than for owner occupied (1%) and social rented (1%) households, and 4% reported their ethnicity as another minority ethnic group, higher than for owner occupied households (1%).

Economic status of adults by tenure

60% of adults in social rented households were not in employment (Table 1.25). An estimated 24% were permanently retired from work, 15% were permanently sick or disabled (higher than those in all other tenures), 5% were at school or in further or higher education, 8% were unemployed and seeking work, and 6% were looking after the home or family.

49% of adults in private rented households were employed full time, and 14% were in further or higher education, which is a figure higher than for other tenures.

Satisfaction with housing by tenure

Owner occupied households (96%) were more likely to be satisfied with their housing than social rented households (83%) or private rented households (81%) (Table 1.40).

2. Neighbourhoods and communities

Neighbourhood

The majority (96%) of adults rated their neighbourhood as either a very good or fairly good place to live (Table 2.1). 58% of adults rated their neighbourhood very good to live, and 37% rated it as a fairly good place to live. This is consistent with the results in 2020.

Respondents' view of their neighbourhood varied by level of deprivation as defined by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). Adults in the 20% least deprived areas were more likely to rate their neighbourhood as a very good place to live than those in the 20% most deprived areas (80% in the least deprived areas, and 30% in the most deprived areas) (Table 2.4). This gap remains stable compared to 2020. Adults in accessible or remote rural areas were more likely to describe their neighbourhood as a very good place to live (71% and 76%, respectively) than those in large and 'other' urban areas (53% and 55%, respectively) (Table 2.1). This has remained stable compared to 2020.

Community

Adults were positive about the people-based features of their neighbourhood, such as kindness and trust: 50% strongly agreed that people in their neighbourhood are kind to each other, and 46% strongly agreed that people in their neighbourhood can be trusted (Table 2.5). However, physical aspects of the neighbourhood, such as the availability of places to socialise and meet new people, were rated less positively: 28% of adults strongly agreed that there were places to meet and socialise in their neighbourhood, and only 21% strongly agreed that there were welcoming places to meet new people (Table 2.5).

81% of adults felt a very strong or fairly strong sense of belonging to their neighbourhood in 2021 (Table 2.10). This varied with age, ethnic group and deprivation. Sense of belonging was lower for people aged 25-34 (Table 2.11), for 'White: Other' and minority ethnic groups (Table 2.12) and people living in the most deprived areas (Table 2.13). Adults owning their own property were more likely to feel a very or fairly strong sense of belonging to their community (86%), while adults who were privately renting were least likely to (58%) (Table 2.14).

Most adults agreed with statements about their involvement with other people in their neighbourhood: if I was alone and needed help, I could rely on someone to help me (89%); if my home was empty, I could count on someone to keep an eye on it (89%); and I could turn to someone for advice or support (80%) (Table 2.15). This varied by area deprivation, with adults from the 20% least deprived areas more likely to agree than those from the 20% most deprived areas (Table 2.18). The majority of adults in Scotland (95%) agreed that they would assist their neighbours in an emergency.

53% of adults perceived at least one problem to be very or fairly common in their neighbourhoods (Table 2.20). Those living in the 20% most deprived areas were more likely to experience neighbourhood problems. The neighbourhood problems that were perceived as most common were rubbish or littering (34%) and animal nuisance (31%) (Table 2.23). Adults living in large urban areas were most likely to identify rubbish or littering as a very or fairly common problem (44%), compared with other groups (Table 2.23).

Neighbourhood safety

The majority of people (82%) said they felt very or fairly safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark (Table 2.44). Women felt less safe than men, with 73% of women feeling very or fairly safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, compared with 93% of men (Table 2.44). People are also likely to feel less safe if aged 60 or over (Table 2.45), disabled (Table 2.50) or from the most deprived areas (Table 2.46).

There is a clear association between how adults rated their neighbourhood and how safe they felt in their communities. 84% of adults who rated their neighbourhood as very/fairly good said they felt safe walking alone at night, compared with just 34% of adults who rated their neighbourhood as very poor (Table 2.52). The vast majority of adults (98%) felt very or fairly safe when in their home alone at night, although this was lower for people who rated their neighbourhood as very poor (83%) (Table 2.61).

Discrimination and harassment

9% reported that they had experienced discrimination (Table 2.28) and 7% had experienced harassment in the last 12 months (Table 2.36). Some groups were more likely than others to report having experienced discrimination or harassment in Scotland, for instance people who are gay, lesbian or bisexual (Table 2.31) and people from minority ethnic groups (Table 2.32). The perceived reasons for discrimination include sex or gender (19%), age (16%) and nationality (16%) (Table 2.35).

3. Finance

The proportion of respondents reporting that they were managing well financially was the same in 2021 as in 2020 at 64% (Table 3.1).

The proportion of households reporting that they managed well financially was higher for those with higher household incomes than for those with lower: 74% of households with a net annual household income over £30,000 reported that they were managing well in 2021, and 2% said that they did not manage well (Table 3.2). The proportion of households with a net annual household income up to £10,000 reporting that they managed well was 39%, with nearly one in five (19%) saying they did not manage well – nearly four times the overall Scottish average of 5%.

Single parent households were the most likely to report that they were not managing well financially (20%) (Table 3.3), above the Scottish average of 5%.

Of the different household tenures, owner occupiers were most likely to report they were managing well financially (74%, compared to 51% for households in the private rented sector and 27% for households in the social rented sector) (Table 3.5). Households in the social rented sector were most likely to report that they were not managing well financially (19%, compared to 8% of private rented and 2% for owner occupiers).

Households relying mainly on benefits (including the state pension) were the most likely to say they were not managing well financially (12%), which is three times the rate for households relying on earnings (4%) (Table 3.6). In contrast, only 2% of households relying on other sources of income (including occupational pension and other investments) reported that they were not managing well financially.

Levels of perceived financial difficulty were higher in more deprived areas: 12% of households in the 20% most deprived Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) areas reported that they were not managing well financially, dropping to 2% for households in the 20% least deprived areas (Table 3.10).

Households where the highest income householder (HIH) was male were more likely to say they managed well financially compared to those where the HIH was female (67% and 60% respectively) (Table 3.7).

Households with a lower net annual household income were more likely to report having no savings than those with higher incomes (Table 3.11).

4. Internet

Internet access

The proportion of households in Scotland with internet access was higher in 2021 (96%) than in 2020 (93%). Household internet access increased with net annual household income (Table 4.1). Home internet access for households with a net annual income of between £6,001 and £10,000 was 81% in 2021, compared with 100% of households with a net annual income of over £40,000. Access differed by area of deprivation (Table 4.2): 93% of households in the 20% most deprived Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) areas in Scotland had internet access at home compared with 99% of households in the 20% least deprived areas. Internet access also varied by tenure (Table 4.3): 88% of those in social rented housing had internet access compared with 98% of households who owned their home.

Internet use

More than 9 in 10 adults (95%) in Scotland use the internet either for work or personal use, an increase from 92% in 2020. Notably, there has been a significant increase in internet use amongst older adults (Table 4.6), with 91% of those aged between 60 and 74, and 71% of those aged 75 and over, now using the internet. There are lower rates of internet use among older adults than among younger adults. In 2021, 100% of adults aged 16-24 reported using the internet compared to 71% of those aged 75+. The percentage of adults who do not use the internet was higher for those living in the 20% most deprived areas than for those in the 20% least deprived areas in Scotland (Table 4.9). Internet use also increased with income (Table 4.8).

Where and how users access the internet

Almost all (99%) adults who use the internet access it at home, followed by 73% who access the internet on the move using a mobile phone or tablet (Table 4.11). The proportion of internet users reporting that they access the internet using a smartphone increased from 86% in 2020 to 89% in 2021 (Table 4.12), which was greater than the proportion who accessed the internet using a PC or laptop (76%). Younger internet users were more likely to access the internet using a smartphone than older users, with 98% of 16-24 year olds using smartphones compared with 48% of adults aged 75+. Older internet users were more likely than younger users to use a tablet to access the internet. Of those who do not use the internet for personal use, the most common reason that could convince people to go online was keeping in touch with family and friends at no extra cost, however this was only reported by 7% of this group, with 90% saying none of the reasons provided could convince them to use the internet (Table 4.18).

Online safety and security

The most common online security measures taken by adults who make use of the internet were avoiding opening emails or attachments from unknown people (85%)

and avoiding giving personal information online (83%). A higher proportion of internet users who were older (Table 4.19) answered that they adopted none of the online security measures mentioned.

5. Physical activity and sport

More than eight in ten (85%) adults had taken part in physical activity and sport in the previous four weeks from when they were surveyed (Table 5.1). The percentage of adults taking part in physical activity and sport has remained stable from 2020 (86%).

Types of physical activity and sport

Recreational walking (for at least 30 minutes) was the most common type of physical activity with just over three quarters (79%) of adults reporting doing this in the past four weeks (Table 5.1). This has decreased slightly from 82% in 2020. Excluding walking, just over half (56%) of the adult population participated in physical activity and sport in the past four weeks, an increase from 44% in 2020.

Cycling (for at least 30 minutes), keep fit/aerobics and running/jogging were also common, with 15% of adults reporting participating in these activities. The proportion of adults who participated in swimming was 11%, an increase from 2% in 2020. Participation in multigym use/weight training almost doubled, increasing from 8% in 2020 to 14% in 2021.

Frequency of participation in physical activity and sport

Frequent participation in physical activity is defined as being active on more than 14 days in the past four weeks from when the respondent was surveyed. Frequent participation was reported by 58% of physically active adults in 2021 (Table 5.8), which has decreased slightly from 2020 (61%).

Participation differences by group

Participation rates in physical activity and sport were higher among men than women (87% and 84% respectively, Table 5.2). Participation in physical activity and sport (including recreational walking) declined with age.

Participation in physical activity and sport (including recreational walking) was lower for those living in the most deprived areas, as defined by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. Those living in the 20% most deprived areas were significantly less likely to have participated in physical activity (76%) than those in the 20% least deprived areas (92%, Table 5.6). Participation in walking (for at least 30 minutes) also increased with decreasing levels of deprivation (69% amongst most deprived and 85% amongst least deprived, Table 5.6).

Disabled people were significantly less likely to be physically active (65%) compared to non-disabled people (92%, Table 5.11).

Satisfaction with sport and leisure facilities

Satisfaction with sport and leisure facilities among all respondents (including non-users) was 46%. 86% of sport and leisure facilities users in the past 12 months were satisfied (Table 5.21).

Active travel

18% of respondents used a method of active travel to get to work or further/higher education (Table 5.35), a proportion that has remained stable from 17% in 2020. This included 14% who walked and 4% who cycled. Over half of school children (56%) used a means of active travel to get to school (Table 5.40).

6. Public services

Satisfaction with public services

In 2021, 55% of adults were satisfied with all three of the main public services (local health services, schools and public transport). This is a combined measure of the three services and gives an indication on the ‘quality of public services’. The indicator is based on the percentage of adults who said that they were very or fairly satisfied with all three services, or with one or two services if they had no opinion on the other service(s) (Table 6.13).

55% represents a significant decrease in combined satisfaction from 2020, where combined satisfaction was 61% (Table 6.13). The decrease was mainly driven by a drop in satisfaction with local health services (from 88% in 2020 to 78% in 2021) (Table 6.1). The high satisfaction levels in 2020 may have been influenced by positive perceptions of the response of local health services to COVID-19 at the start of the pandemic.

Looking at each public service individually, 78% of adults were satisfied with local health services (Table 6.1); 74% of adults were satisfied with local schools (Table 6.5); and 70% of adults were satisfied with public transport (Table 6.9).

Satisfaction with public services by service users

Service users were more satisfied with local schools and public transport than the whole adult population, but there was no difference in satisfaction with local health services between service users and non-users (Tables 6.4, 6.8, and 6.12).

Satisfaction with public services by urban and rural areas

58% of adults living in large urban areas were satisfied with the quality of public services (local health services, schools and public transport combined), in comparison to 48% of adults living in remote rural areas (Table 6.14). This is influenced by a large difference in satisfaction with the quality of public transport. Adults living in large urban areas were much more satisfied with the quality of public transport (78%) than those in remote rural areas (44%) (Table 6.10).

Satisfaction with public services by level of deprivation

Satisfaction with the quality of public services (local health services, schools and public transport combined) did not vary significantly by level of deprivation, as measured by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). 58% of adults in the 20% least deprived areas were satisfied, compared to 55% of adults living in the 20% most deprived areas (Table 6.15).

Perceptions of local councils

Survey respondents were asked to agree or disagree with various statements about their local council. The statement respondents agreed with most was that their local council does the best it can with the money available (50% of adults agreed) (Table

6.16). However, this opinion varied greatly across age groups. 38% of 16 to 24 year-olds agreed with this statement while a significantly greater 60% of those aged 75 or over agreed (Table 6.17). Adults from the 20% least deprived areas were somewhat more likely to agree with this statement (51% of adults) than adults from the 20% most deprived areas (46% of adults) (Table 6.18).

Approximately one quarter of adults (24%) felt they could influence decisions affecting their local area. At the same time, more adults want to be more involved in the decisions their council make that affect their local area (44% in 2021 compared to 39% in 2020) (Table 6.16).

The highest proportion of adults who said they wanted more involvement in council decisions affecting their local area were in the age groups 25 to 34 (52%) and 35 to 44 (53%). In contrast, adults aged 75 and over were significantly less likely than all other age groups to want this (26% of adults in this age group) (Table 6.17). Adults from the 20% least deprived and 20% most deprived areas were equally interested in being more involved in the decisions their council make (44% of adults from both areas) (Table 6.18).

Adults from the 20% least deprived and 20% most deprived areas had differing views on whether their local council addresses the key issues affecting quality of life in their local neighbourhood. 42% of adults from the 20% least deprived areas agreed to this, while only 31% of adults from the 20% most deprived areas agreed to this (Table 6.18).

7. Environment

Climate change

There has been an increase in the proportion of adults viewing climate change as an immediate and urgent problem, from 80% in 2020 to 83% in 2021 (Table 7.1).

By age group, the largest increase is amongst those aged 75+, increasing from 69% in 2020 to 76% in 2021 (Table 7.5). However, this is still lower than the results for all other age groups which range from 82 to 86%.

Women remain more likely than men to view climate change as an immediate and urgent problem, although the gap has narrowed; 84% compared to 82% in 2021 and 82% compared to 77% in 2020 (Table 7.6).

In 2021, 90% of adults with a degree or professional qualification perceived climate change as an immediate and urgent problem, compared to 69% for adults with no qualifications (Table 7.2). For adults with a degree or professional qualification this proportion was similar to the previous year (89% in 2020) but for adults with no qualifications this was a notable increase from 59% in 2020.

Visiting the outdoors

More than seven in ten adults (71%) visited the outdoors at least once a week in 2021, a decrease from 79% in 2020 (Table 7.11). The higher figure for 2020 may partly reflect the impacts of Covid – for example, the reduced range of other recreational options available due to restrictions at the time. It should also be noted that figures for 2021 were collected over a whole year (April 2021 to March 2022) whereas the 2020 figures were collected over a shorter period (October 2020 to March 2021) and the frequency of people's visits to the outdoors may vary over the course of a year.

The proportion of adults visiting the outdoors at least weekly in 2021 was lower for older age groups (58% for those age 75+ compared to 77% for those age 35-44) (Table 7.15). For all age categories 16-59 the proportion was more than seven in ten. Similar proportions were recorded for women (70%) and men (72%) (Table 7.16).

Adults who reported their general health to be bad or very bad were less likely to visit the outdoors at least weekly (41%) than those reporting good or very good general health (76%) (Table 7.17). Furthermore, disabled adults were less likely to visit the outdoors at least weekly (58%) than non-disabled adults (75%) (Table 7.18).

Adults living in the 20% most deprived areas, as defined by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) were less likely to have visited the outdoors at least weekly (56%) compared to those in the 20% least deprived areas (79%) (Table 7.13). For the 20% most deprived areas, this was a drop from 68% in 2020 but for the 20% least deprived areas the proportion was more similar to 2020 (83%). This suggests that those in the most deprived areas have seen a greater reduction in their visits to the outdoors than their more advantaged counterparts as Covid restrictions eased.

Adults in the 20% most deprived areas were also more likely not to have visited the outdoors at all in 2021 (12%) than those in the 20% least deprived areas (3%) (Table 7.13).

The proportion of adults visiting the outdoors at least weekly was highest in remote small towns (82%) and lowest in large urban areas (68%) (Table 7.14).

Access to green and blue space

Most adults (70%) reported living within a five minute walk of their nearest area of green or blue space in 2021, around the same proportion as 2020 (68%) (Table 7.21). This proportion was lower for adults in the 20% most deprived areas (62%) compared to other areas (all 70% or above) (Table 7.22). This proportion was also lower for adults in large urban areas (64%), particularly when compared to adults in remote rural areas (80%) (Table 7.23).

In 2021 half of adults (51%) visited their nearest area of green or blue space every day or several times a week (Table 7.30). Frequency of visits was lower amongst disabled people or those who reported poorer general health. Adults who reported their health to be bad or very bad were less likely to visit their nearest green or blue space every day or several times a week (30%) than those who reported their general health to be good or very good (54%) (Table 7.35). The most frequent visiting was also lower amongst disabled people (40%) compared to non-disabled people (54%) (Table 7.36).

Those who lived closer to their nearest green or blue space were more likely to use it more frequently: 59% of those living within five minutes' walk visited every day or several times a week compared to 17% of the smaller proportion living more than ten minutes' walk away (Table 7.39). Furthermore, the proportion of people who lived more than ten minutes' walk from their nearest green or blue space and who did not use it at all (27%) was more than double the corresponding proportion of people who lived within five minutes' walk (11%).

Most adults (81%) were very or fairly satisfied with their nearest area of green or blue space in 2021 (Table 7.51). Satisfaction with their nearest green or blue space was highest amongst those who rated their neighbourhood as a very good place to live (86%) compared to those who rated their neighbourhood as very poor (45%) (Table 7.41). More than half of adults who reported being very or fairly satisfied with their nearest green or blue space in 2021 visited it every day or several times a week (56%) compared to 40% of those who reported being very or fairly dissatisfied with this space (Table 7.42).

8. Volunteering

The 2021 SHS asked respondents about any formal volunteering (giving unpaid help to organisations or groups) that they had undertaken during the previous 12 months.

Volunteering rates

Levels of formal volunteering have remained stable since 2020, with 27% of respondents in 2021 having volunteered for an organisation or group in the previous 12 months (Table 8.1).

Types of volunteering

When asked which types of organisations or groups they had volunteered with, 30% of those who volunteered said they volunteered with groups and organisations working on 'local, community or neighbourhood' issues. This is a statistically significant increase compared with 25% in 2020. The high level of volunteering with this type of organisation may reflect the importance of local, community-based volunteering during the COVID-19 pandemic. 'Youth or children's activities outside school' was the second most popular type of volunteering (17%); followed by 'Physical activity, sport and exercise' (16%), an area of volunteering where participation had increased significantly since 2020 (12%) (Table 8.12)

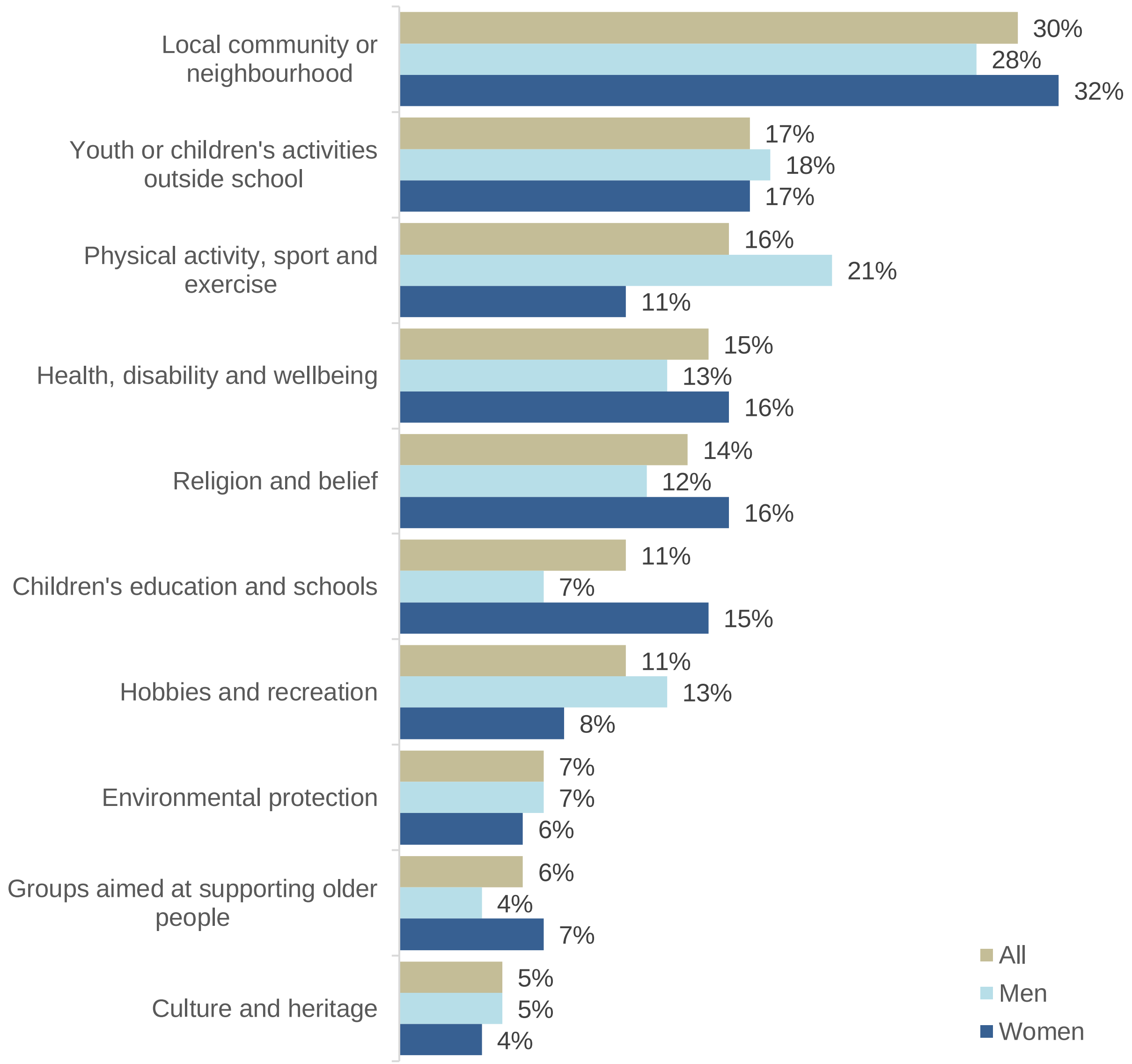
Age, gender and volunteering

In 2021, as in 2020, men and women were equally likely to undertake formal volunteering, with 27% of men saying they had volunteered, compared with 28% of women (Table 8.3)

Women were more likely than men to volunteer with organisations supporting children's education and schools (15% of female volunteers compared with 7% of male volunteers); and organisations linked with religion and belief (16% of female volunteers compared with 12% of male volunteers) (Table 8.14)

Men were more likely than women to volunteer with organisations supporting physical activity, sport and exercise (21% of male volunteers compared with 11% of female volunteers); and with organisations focusing on hobbies and recreation (13% of male volunteers compared with 8% of female volunteers) (Table 8.14)

Chart 8.1: Types of organisation volunteered with, by gender



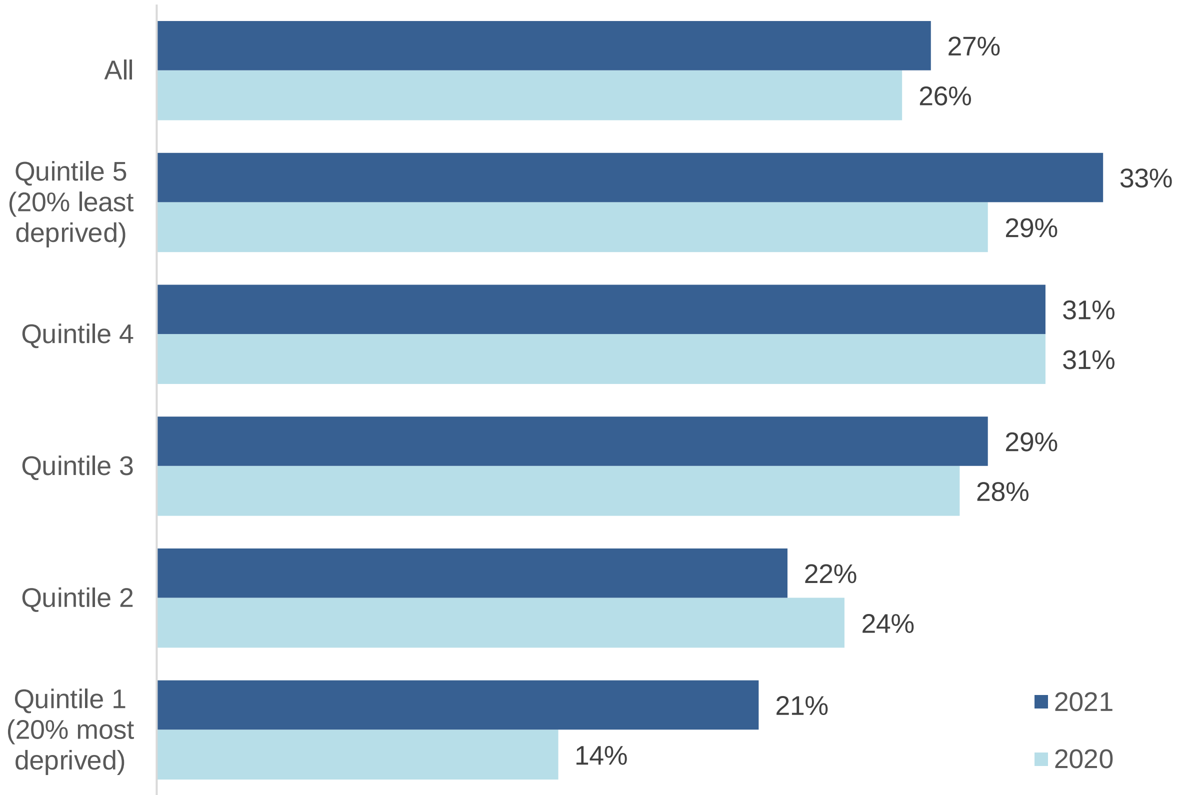
Participation in formal volunteering was fairly similar across different age groups in 2021, with 26% of people aged 16 to 34; 28% of people aged 35 to 59; and 28% of people aged 60 and over having volunteered in the past 12 months (Table 8.2) Younger volunteers (aged 16 to 59) were more likely than older volunteers (aged 60 or over) to be supporting organisations working with children and young people or engaging in physical activities, sport and exercise (Table 8.13).

Income, deprivation and volunteering

People living in higher-income households and less deprived areas (as defined by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation – SIMD) are more likely to volunteer than those from lower-income households and more deprived areas. 30% of those living in households with a net income of over £30,000 per year had volunteered in the previous 12 months, compared with 19% of people from households earning up to £15,000 and below (Table 8.11).

Similarly, 33% of adults living in the 20% least deprived areas (SIMD quintile 5) had volunteered, compared with 21% of those living in the 20% most deprived areas (Table 8.7). However, the percentage of people volunteering in the 20% most deprived areas (Quintile 1) had increased significantly since 2020, when just 14% of adults volunteered.

Chart 8.2: Formal volunteering by SIMD quintile, 2020 and 2021

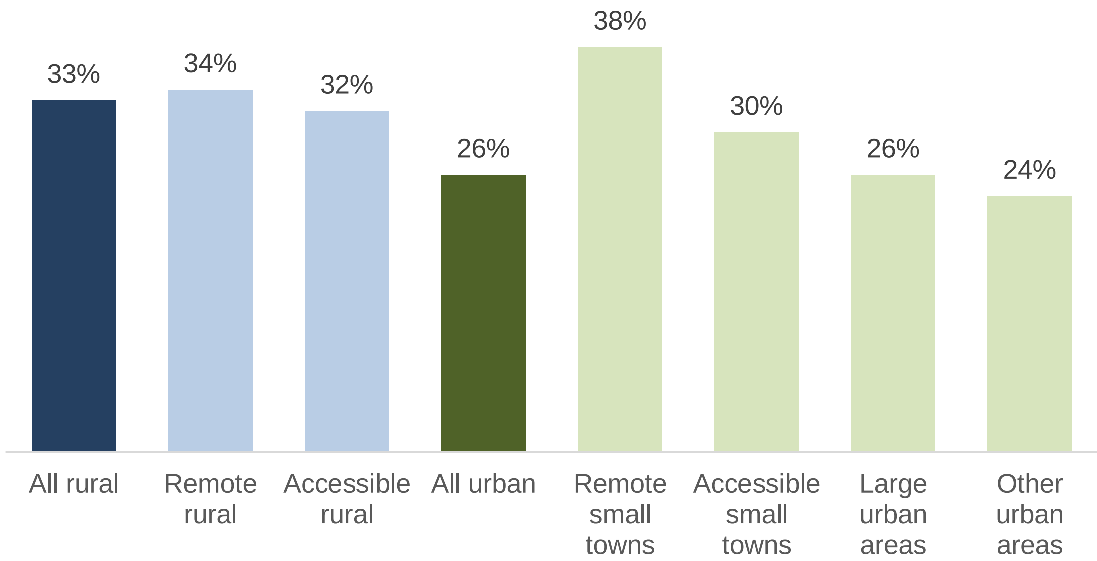


People living in the most deprived areas were more likely to volunteer for organisations working on health, disability and wellbeing than people from any other area (22% compared with 15% across all areas) (Table 8.18).

Rural/urban location and volunteering

Volunteering is more common in rural areas: 33% of respondents living in rural areas had volunteered, compared with 26% of those living in urban areas (Table 8.9).

Chart 8.3: Formal volunteering by six-fold urban rural classification



Volunteers living in remote rural and accessible rural areas were much more likely to volunteer for local community or neighbourhood organisations/groups (45% and 38% respectively) than people in large urban areas (25%) (Table 8.21).

Volunteering and disability

Disabled adults were less likely to volunteer than non-disabled adults (23% compared with 29%) (Table 8.6). Disabled people who did volunteer were much more likely to volunteer with organisations working on health, disability and wellbeing than non-disabled people (22% compared with 13%) (Table 8.17).

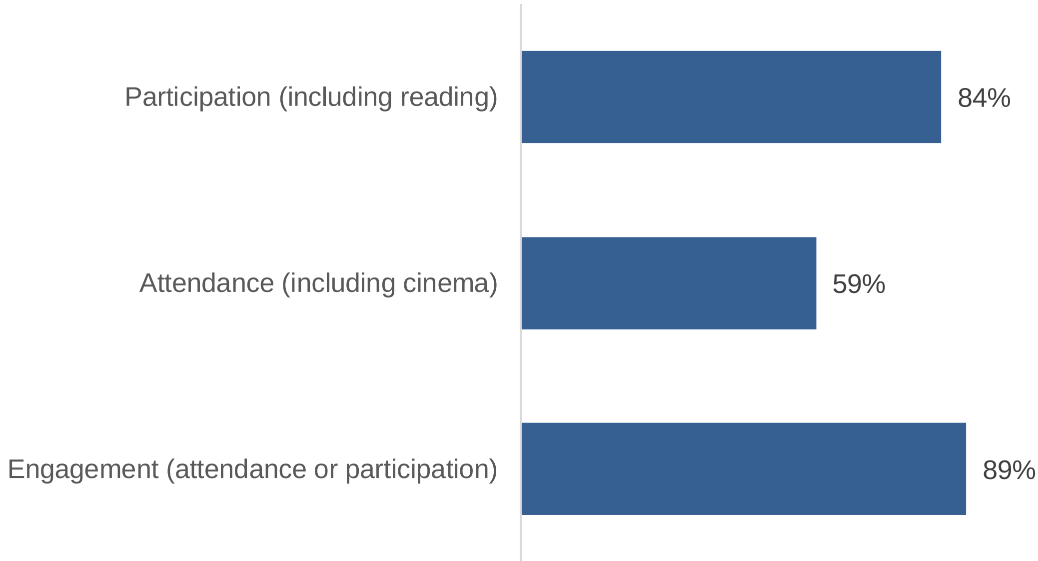
Volunteering and ethnicity

People who identified as 'White: Other British' were most likely to volunteer (34%) (Table 8.5). Overall, there was less variance in the rate of formal volunteering between different ethnic groups in 2021 than in 2020.

9. Culture and heritage

2021 data shows that 89% of adults had been culturally engaged in the last year, either by attending a cultural event or place of culture or participating in a cultural activity (Table 9.1). 59% of adults had attended a cultural event or place of culture (Table 9.2) (an increase from 44% in 2020) and 84% of adults had participated in a cultural activity (Table 9.15).

Chart 9.1: Cultural engagement, attendance and participation



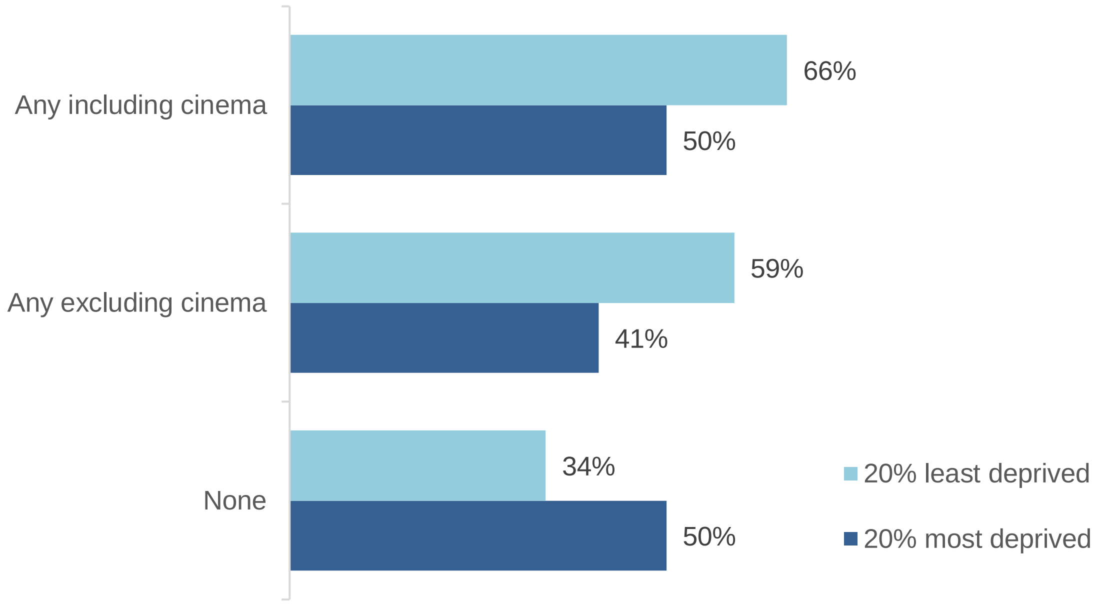
Cultural attendance

Cultural attendance is captured in the SHS by asking respondents if they have attended specific events or places, from the available list asked of respondents in the survey, at least once in the last 12 months.

When excluding cinema, the most common cultural event to attend, 51% of adults had attended a cultural event or place of culture in the last year (Table 9.2). This has increased from 39% in 2020.

In 2021, rates of cultural attendance were highest among those living in the 'least deprived' areas as measured by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). 50% of adults living in the 20% most deprived areas had attended a cultural event or place of culture, including the cinema, compared to 66% of adults living in the 20% least deprived areas (Table 9.5). When cinema attendance is excluded this difference was similar, with 41% of those living in the most deprived and 59% in the least deprived attending or visiting a cultural event or place.

Chart 9.2: Attendance at cultural events or places of culture by deprivation



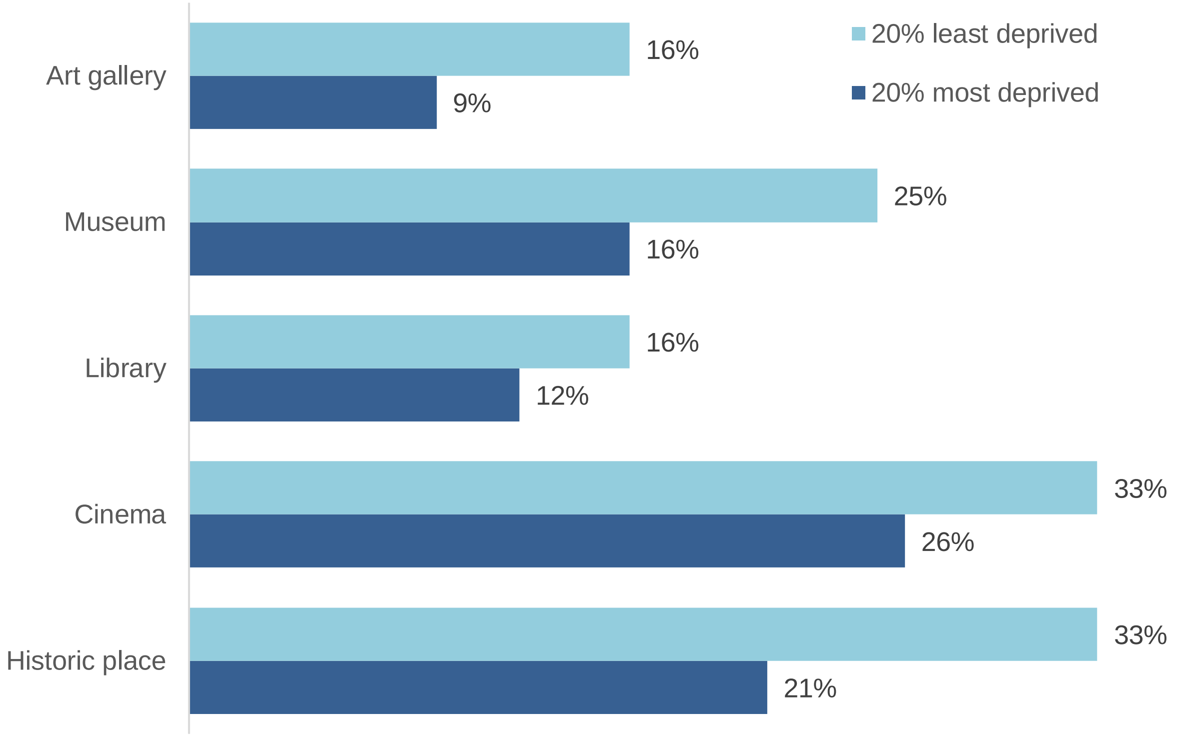
Attendance at cultural events or places of culture also varied by age (Table 9.3). In 2021, 71% of adults aged 16 to 24 had attended a cultural event or place of culture including the cinema, compared to 34% of adults aged 75 or over (Table 9.3). While the variation in age has been maintained from 2020, for both age groups, attendance was higher.

Only 46% of disabled adults had attended a cultural event or place of culture, including the cinema, compared to 63% of non-disabled adults (Table 9.7). This has increased from 2020 (up from 32% for disabled adults and 48% for non-disabled adults).

In 2021, the cinema (30% of adults) or a historic place (28% of adults) were the most common cultural events or places of culture to attend (Table 9.2). Attendance at the following events and places was higher in 2021 than 2020: cinemas, live music events, theatres, historic places, museums, art galleries, exhibitions, street arts, culturally specific festivals, book festivals or reading groups and streaming of live performances in local venues. Attendance at libraries, classical music performances or operas, dance shows and archive or records offices remained stable between 2020 and 2021.

Similar to 2020, adults living in the 20% least deprived areas were more likely to have attended libraries, historic places, museums and art galleries and a live music event in the last year than those living in the 20% most deprived areas (Table 9.5).

Chart 9.3: Common cultural events or places of culture attended by deprivation



Cultural participation

Cultural participation is captured in the SHS by asking respondents if they have done at least one activity from an available list in the last 12 months. There was a new activity added to the survey in 2020 that asked if people had participated in 'viewing performances online'.

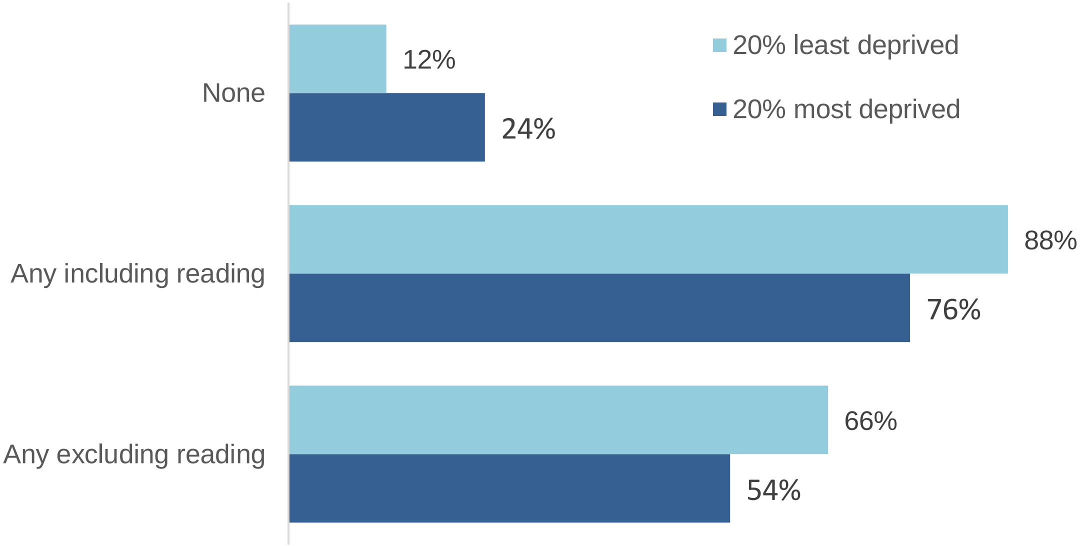
In 2021, 84% of adults had participated in a cultural activity, including reading, in the last year. When excluding reading, 62% of adults had participated in a cultural activity (Table 9.15). These figures are similar to 2020.

When excluding reading, the most common cultural activity, adults aged 16 to 24 (71%) were more likely to have participated in a cultural activity than adults aged 75 or over (46%) (Table 9.16).

Eighty-eight percent of women had participated in a cultural activity, including reading, in the last year, compared to 79% of men. Excluding reading, 65% of women had participated in a cultural activity compared to only 58% of men (Table 9.15).

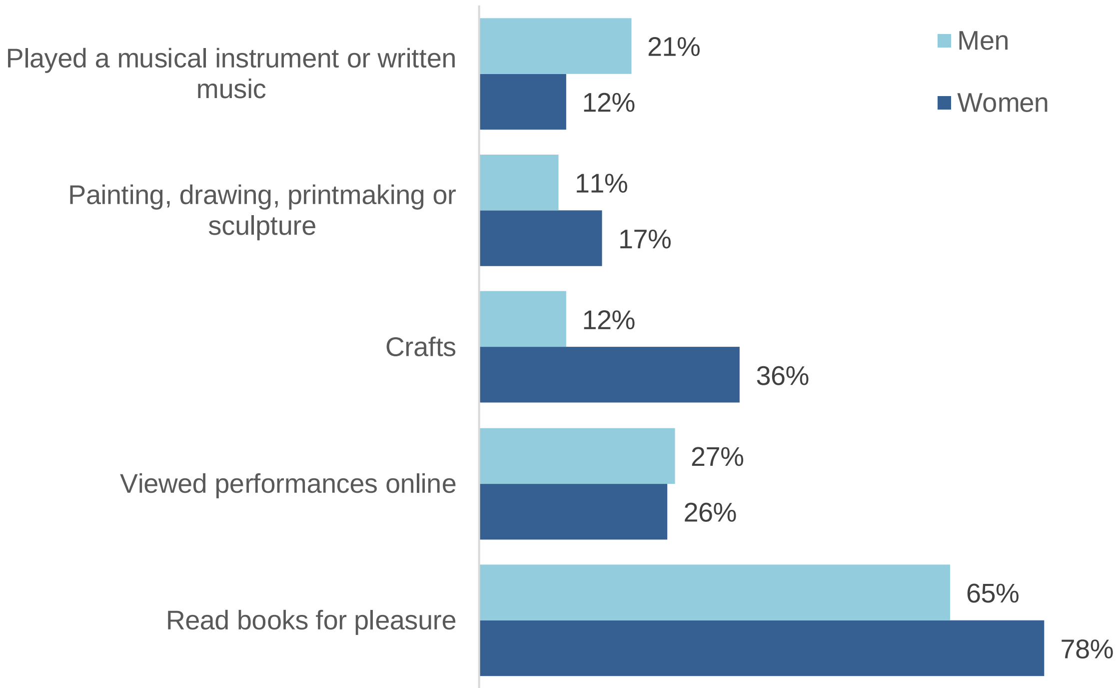
Adults living in the 20% most deprived areas were less likely to have participated in a cultural activity (54%), including or excluding reading, than those living in the 20% least deprived areas (66%) (Table 9.18).

Chart 9.4: Participation in cultural activities by deprivation



In 2021, similar to 2020, the most common cultural activity to participate in was reading books for pleasure, with 72% of adults having read in the last year (Table 9.15). 79% of adults who read books did so at least once a week (Table 9.27) (this has decreased from 85% in 2020).

Chart 9.5: Common cultural activities participated in by gender



Women were more likely than men to read or participate in crafts or painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture (Table 9.15). Men were more likely than women to have played a musical instrument or written music. A similar proportion of men and women viewed performances online (men 27%, women 26%)

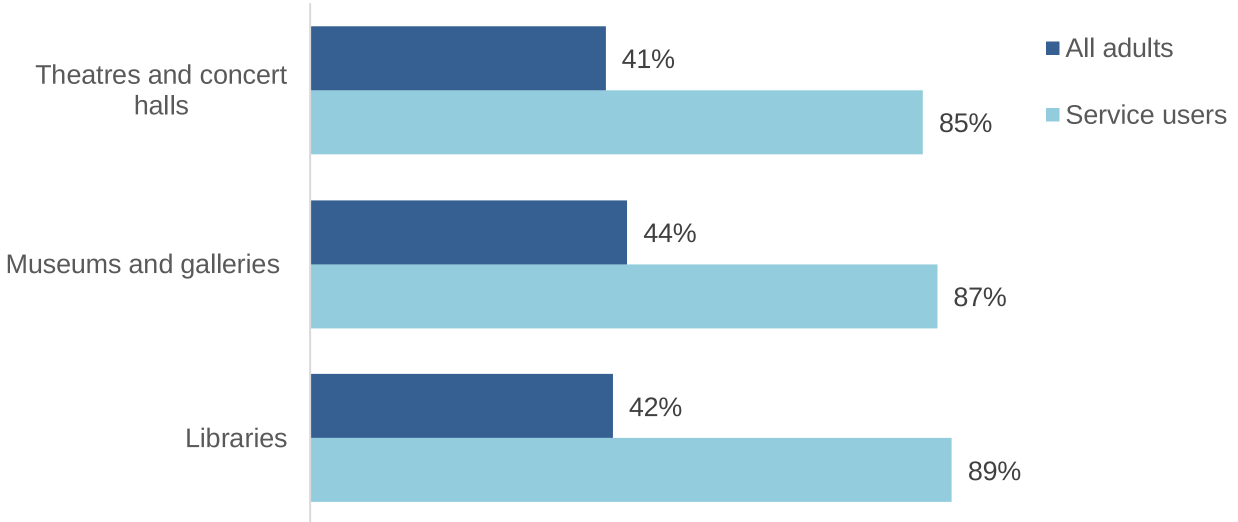
In 2021, adults living in the 20% least deprived areas (79%) were more likely to read books for pleasure than adults living in the 20% most deprived areas (63%) (Table 9.18).

Adults aged 75 or over (80%) were more likely to read books for pleasure than adults aged 16 to 24 (56%) (Table 9.16). Adults aged 16 to 24 were more likely to view performances online (36%) than adults aged 75 and over (9%).

Satisfaction with services

This section presents the reported levels of satisfaction (including users and non-users of these services) for three different types of local authority cultural service (libraries, museums and galleries, theatres or concert halls).

Chart 9.6: Very/fairly satisfied with local authority services



In 2021, approximately nine out of ten users were satisfied with local authority libraries, museums and galleries, and theatres and concert halls (Tables 9.64, 9.66 and 9.68). These figures have maintained since 2020.

It should be noted that satisfaction levels for 'all adults' are generally lower than among service users. This is because non service users are included, who may express no opinion about the service.

In 2021, 89% of men who had used local authority libraries were very or fairly satisfied with the service, similar to 90% of women who had used the service (Table 9.28).

10. Childcare

The childcare results presented focus mainly on households with a child aged two to five years old and not yet at school. However, the results on household childcare costs and affordability include responses from all households with at least one child aged zero to eleven years old.

The results of the 2021 Scottish Household Survey are comparable with the results from the 2020 survey (but not to previous years). However, the number of responses to childcare questions was very low in 2020, and so large percentage differences between the years may be the result of normal variation. Any comparisons between the two years should therefore be treated with caution.

Types of childcare

There are many types of childcare available in Scotland, including:

- Local authority nursery or pre-school
- Private nursery or pre-school
- Third sector nursery or pre-school
- Childminder
- Playgroup
- Family centre
- A relative or friend

Some parents/carers choose to use one of the above types of childcare, or a mix of two or more types. Others choose to use no childcare. Overall, 86% of households with a child aged two- to five-years-old not yet at school used at least one of the above types of childcare (Table 10.1).

In 2021, the most common forms of childcare used were a local authority nursery and a private nursery, used by 40% and 34% of households respectively. A further 17% used a relative or friend for childcare, and 10% used a childminder. 14% of households used no childcare.

Nurseries were the most commonly used type of childcare for households with a child aged four- or five-years-old (and not at school), with 63% using a local authority nursery, 26% using a private nursery, and 3% using a third sector nursery (Table 10.2). A child may attend one or more types of nursery. Use of a local authority nursery was lower among households with a three-year-old (43%) or two-year-old (15%). This difference by age is likely to be due to the eligibility criteria for accessing government-funded Early Learning and Childcare (ELC). Funded ELC can be accessed through local authority childcare providers, some private and voluntary providers, and some childminders. The statutory entitlement to funded ELC begins the term after the child's third birthday, although some local authorities offer funded provision earlier, for example, from the child's third birthday. Around a quarter of two-year-olds are also eligible for funded ELC as they meet certain criteria and retain this eligibility until their three-year-old eligibility begins.

Use of local authority nurseries generally decreased as area deprivation, as defined by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), decreased. Half (51%) of households in the 20% most deprived areas used a local authority nursery, compared with less than a third (29%) in the 20% least deprived areas (Table 10.3). Private nursery use increased as area deprivation decreased, with less than a quarter (23%) using a private nursery in the 20% most deprived areas compared with 44% in the 20% least deprived areas. Use of a relative or friend for childcare increased as area deprivation decreased. A quarter (25%) of households in the 20% least deprived areas used this form of childcare, compared with 6% in the 20% most deprived areas.

Hours of childcare used

During term-time, 44% of households that used some form of childcare used between 21 and 30 hours of childcare per week (Table 10.7), the same proportion as in 2020. A further 22% used between 11 and 20 hours, with 21% using more than 30 hours per week. Households with a two-year-old were more likely to use between 1 and 10 hours per week (18%) than households with a three-year-old (7%), or a four- or five-year-old (5%) (Table 10.8).

During school holidays, 32% of households used no or less than one hour of childcare per week. 28% of households used between 21 and 30 hours, with a further 15% using between 11 and 20 hours, and 14% using more than 30 hours per week (Table 10.10).

Main reasons for using childcare

The most common reason given for using childcare was so that parents/carers can work (75%), and the second most common reason was for their child’s social development (37%) (respondents could choose more than one reason) (Table 10.13). These were also the most common reasons for using childcare in 2020. A quarter (25%) of households used childcare for their child’s learning and language development, broadly the same proportion as in 2020 (23%), but this varied depending on the age of the child. Almost a third (31%) of households with a three-, four- or five-year-old used childcare for this reason, compared with 11% of households with a two-year-old (Table 10.14).

16% of households said that they used childcare to help prepare their child for school, but this also varied depending on the age of the child. Around a quarter (26%) of households with a four- or five-year-old stated this reason, compared with only 5% of households with a two-year-old (Table 10.14).

For households with a two-year-old, the most common reasons for using childcare were so that the parent or carer could work (79%), and for their child’s social development (29%) (Table 10.14).

Use of funded childcare

As highlighted above, all three- and four-year-olds, and an estimated 25% of two-year-olds, are entitled to ELC that is funded by the Scottish Government. The statutory entitlement begins the term after the child's third birthday, although some local authorities will start provision from the date the child turns three. Two-year-olds are eligible for funded ELC if they meet certain criteria and they remain eligible even if circumstances change and they no longer meet the two-year-old eligibility. Some children may also receive ELC funded at the local authority's discretion. Funded ELC reported on here is a combination of both types. From August 2021, the statutory entitlement was 1,140 hours per year. Prior to this children were entitled to 600 hours per year, but may have been offered or provided with more at the discretion of the local authority. The increase to 1,140 hours was due to occur in August 2020, but was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, many local authorities rolled out the expanded provision as planned and so may have been offering the full entitlement prior to August 2021.

Overall, 60% of households said that their child was entitled to funded ELC (Table 10.16), but this varied greatly by age. Only 16% of households with a two-year-old stated that their child was entitled to this, compared with 79% of households with a three-year-old and 82% of those with a four- or five-year-old (not yet at school). A small proportion of households (5%) did not know whether their child was entitled to this childcare.

Of those entitled to funded ELC, 91% said that they received it during term-time and 93% said that they received it during the school holidays (Table 10.17, Table 10.22). During term-time, around half (54%) used between 21 and 30 hours per week, with a further 31% using between 11 and 20 hours per week (Table 10.18). Approximately half (48%) used these hours across five or more days, with around a quarter (26%) using them across three days and 12% across one or two days (Table 10.20).

During school holidays, half of those receiving funded ELC (50%) used between 21 and 30 hours, with another quarter (26%) using between 11 and 20 hours per week (Table 10.23). 37% used these hours across five or more days, with 31% using them across three days and 20% across one or two days (Table 10.24).

Across the full year, 44% of households receiving funded ELC used the full entitlement of 1,140 hours, with 45% using less than this (Table 10.21). The remainder did not know how many hours they used annually.

Views on funded ELC

95% of households using funded ELC were either very satisfied or fairly satisfied with it (Table 10.25), broadly the same as in 2020 (97%). Only 1% of households were dissatisfied with the funded ELC they received.

When asked about issues in using funded ELC, the most common issues noted were not enough funded hours to meet needs (10% of respondents), lack of flexibility in the days or times offered (10%), and lack of provision in the school holidays (6%) (respondents were able to select more than one issue) (Table 10.26). The proportion of households that noted a lack of flexibility in the days or times offered was related to area deprivation, with 16% of households in the 60% least deprived areas highlighting this, compared with 2% of households in the 40% most deprived areas. However, almost three quarters (72%) of households stated that they did not have problems with funded ELC.

Parents/carers were also asked whether they agreed with the following statements regarding their funded childcare provider: “They give me good ideas for ways to help my child learn” and “They communicate with me regularly about my child’s progress”. The majority of households (83% and 92% respectively) stated that they either strongly agreed or tended to agree with these statements (Table 10.28, Table 10.29). 7% either tended to disagree or strongly disagreed with the first statement, and 5% tended to disagree or strongly disagreed with the second.

Childcare costs for one pre-school child aged 2+

This section presents the amount spent on childcare per month, by households who have a child aged between two and five years old that is not yet at school, for that child only. It does not cover childcare costs for any other children in the household, even if there are other children within that age group.

During term time, the majority (57%) of households stated that all the childcare they used was free or funded by the local authority/Scottish Government (Table 10.31). This is broadly the same as in 2020, when 59% of households said that all childcare was free or funded. A further 29% spent less than 10% of their average monthly income on childcare (30% in 2020), with 11% spending between 10 and 20% of their income (9% in 2020).

During the school holidays, a smaller proportion of households (44%) stated that all childcare was free or funded (Table 10.32). A further 35% spent less than 10% of their average monthly income, with 15% spending between 10 and 20%. This is again broadly similar to 2020 figures.

Across the full year, the majority of households (56%) stated that all childcare was free or funded (Table 10.30), the same proportion as in 2020. Almost a quarter (24%) spent between £1,000 and £5,000 on childcare annually, again the same proportion as 2020. A further 12% spent between £5,000 and £10,000 annually, broadly the same as in 2020 (13%). A small proportion of households spent less than £1,000 annually (4%) or more than £10,000 annually (3%).

Household childcare costs

This section presents costs for all children aged up to eleven years old.

During school term time, 71% of households had no childcare costs (Table 10.34). Around a fifth of households (22%) spent less than 10% of their average monthly income on childcare, with 6% spending between 10 and 20%. Equivalent information on costs for the full household is not available for 2020 and so no annual comparisons can be made.

During school holidays, around three quarters (77%) of households stated that they had no childcare costs, with almost all other households (22%) spending less than 10% of their average monthly income (Table 10.35).

When asked if they used salary sacrifice childcare vouchers, tax-free childcare, tax-credits, universal credit, or student support to pay for childcare, almost half of households (45%) said that they did not (Table 10.33). A quarter (25%) used salary sacrifice childcare vouchers, and a further 22% used tax-free childcare.

Affordability of childcare

All households with at least one child aged up to eleven years old were asked how easy or difficult they found it to afford childcare.

More than half said that they found it easy (15%) or very easy (44%) to afford childcare, with a further quarter (25%) stating they found it neither easy nor difficult (Table 10.37). This is broadly the same as in 2020, when 19% stated that they found it easy and 42% very easy to afford childcare, with 22% finding it neither easy nor difficult. However, 6% of households said that they found it difficult to afford childcare, and 3% found it very difficult. This is again broadly the same as in 2020, when 3% stated that they found it difficult to afford childcare, and 4% found it very difficult.

11. Trust in institutions

Respondents were asked to what extent they trusted a series of public institutions.

Overall, levels of trust had dropped significantly for all institutions since 2020, except the Civil Service. This may reflect an adjustment of public attitudes after particularly high levels of public trust in public institutions during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. The institutions that saw the biggest fall in the percentage of people who said they trusted them were the Education System (down by 9 percentage points) and the Health System (down by 7 percentage points) (Tables 11.23 and 11.30).

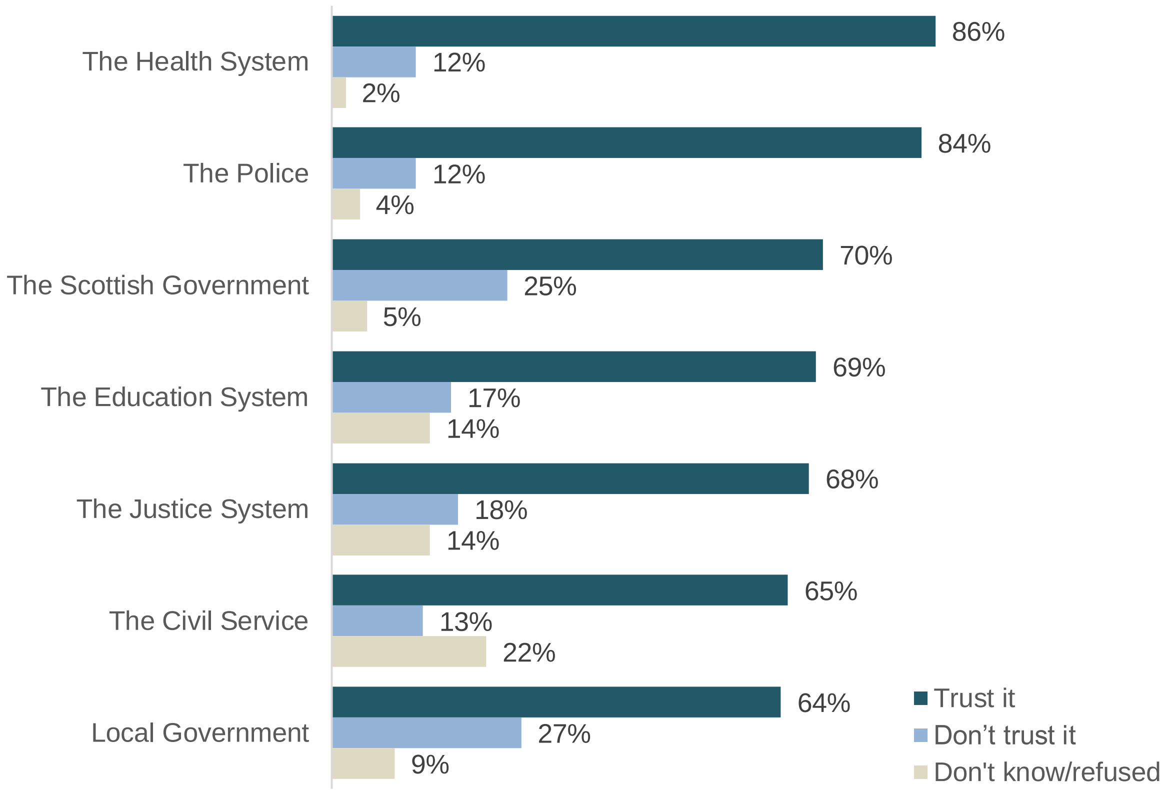
Nevertheless, 86% of respondents trusted the Health System, making it the institution that they were most likely to express trust in, followed by the Police (84%) (Tables 11.30 and 11.37).

64% of respondents reported that they trust Local Government, and 65% said they trusted the Civil Service, making them the public institutions that they were least likely to express trust in (Tables 11.9 and 11.16).

The institutions that respondents were most likely to express distrust in were the Scottish Government (25%) and Local Government (27%) (Tables 11.2 and 11.9).

Care must be taken when making comparisons between institutions, because the percentage of respondents who said they didn’t know or were not sure whether they trust an institution varies considerably. For example, 22% of respondents said they didn’t know whether they trusted the Civil Service compared, with only 2% of adults for the Health System (Table 11.1).

Chart 11.1: Trust in public institutions



Trust and gender

For most institutions, men or women expressed similar overall levels of trust. Men were more likely than women to express trust in the Health System (88% of men compared with 85% of women), while women were more likely to say they trusted the Police (85% of women compared with 83% of men) (Tables 11.32 and 11.39).

Trust and age

Trust in institutions varied by age, with adults aged 16 to 24 being more likely than adults aged 75 or over to express trust in the Education System (78% compared with 48%) (Table 11.24); the Scottish Government (80% compared with 52%) (Table 11.3); Local Government (69% compared with 60%) (Table 11.10); and the Health System (92% compared with 82%) (Table 11.31).

Trust and disability

Disabled people were less likely than non-disabled people to express trust in public institutions. This difference was statistically significant for all of the institutions in the survey. The highest level of distrust was towards Local Government, both for disabled people (33%) and non-disabled people (25%) (Table 11.13).

Trust and ethnicity

The institution which adults from a ‘White: Scottish’ ethnic group trusted most was the Health System (86% trust it) (Table 11.33) and the institution which they distrusted the most was Local Government (29% distrust it) (Table 11.12).

Adults from a Minority ethnic group also had the highest level of trust for the Health System (89% trust it) (Table 11.33). Their highest level of distrust was recorded for Local Government (16% distrust it) (Table 11.12), and the Justice System (16% distrust it) (Table 11.47).

Trust and urban rural classification

Adults in large urban areas trusted the Scottish Government more than adults in remote rural areas (74% versus 69%) (Table 11.8). At the same time, adults in remote rural areas trusted Local Government more than adults in large urban areas (68% versus 63%) (Table 11.15).

These patterns of trust were also reflected in the levels of distrust for these institutions. Adults from remote rural areas distrusted the Scottish Government significantly more than those in large urban areas (27% versus 21%) (Table 11.8), and adults from large urban areas distrusted Local Government significantly more than those in remote rural areas (27% versus 23%) (Table 11.15).

Trust and deprivation

People living in the most deprived areas, as measured by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), were generally less likely to express trust in public institutions than people living in the areas of least deprivation. Trust in public institutions was significantly lower in the most deprived areas, for all institutions except the Scottish Government, compared with the areas of least deprived areas The Justice System was the institution for which there was the greatest difference in trust between people living in the 20% of most deprived areas compared with those in the 20% least deprived areas (56% versus 77%) (Table 11.49).

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Official Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. As with the 2020 results, the results of the 2021 SHS telephone survey are published as experimental statistics. They are not directly comparable to SHS face-to-face survey results for previous years (2019 and earlier). Response rates for the telephone surveys were lower than usual, and there was a change in the profile of respondents (e.g. people with degree level qualifications were over-represented). There are also potential mode effects (respondents answering differently over the telephone than they would face-to-face). For more detail, please see the 2020 and 2021 methodology reports.

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How to access background or source data

The data collected for this publication:

- Will be made available via the UK Data Service.
- May be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact SHS@gov.scot for further information.

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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

ISBN: 978-1-80525-705-9 (web only)

Published by The Scottish Government, April 2023

Produced for The Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA
PPDAS1273442 (04/23)