

Scotland's People

Key Findings | 2016

A National Statistics publication for Scotland



Acknowledgements

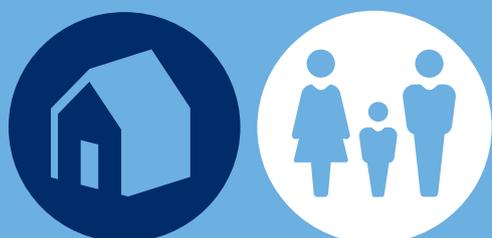
The Scottish Government acknowledges and thanks the 10,470 people across Scotland who gave their time to take part in the Scottish Household Survey 2016.

This report was produced by the Scottish Household Survey Project Team at the Scottish Government.

The map on the front cover has been produced by the Office of the Chief Statistician and Strategic Analysis. It is a plot of all the survey sampling points of the three major Scottish Government population surveys, including the Scottish Household Survey, Scottish Health Survey, and Scottish Crime and Justice Survey. This map provides a broad picture of the sample in the surveys and reflects distribution of households across Scotland. As each dot on the map can represent hundreds of households there is no risk of identifying which households have taken part in the survey from this graphic.

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 continuous and relentless efforts during the fieldwork.



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National indicators in SHS



The Scottish Household Survey provides nine of the 55 national indicators (NI) in the Government's National Performance Framework

- **NI 4** Traffic Congestion
- **NI 33** Public Service Quality - Improve people's perceptions of the quality of public services
- **NI 34** Public Service Responsiveness - Improve the responsiveness of public services
- **NI 39** Internet use - Widen use of the Internet
- **NI 40** Neighbourhood rating - Improve people's perceptions of their neighbourhood
- **NI 41** Cultural engagement - Increase cultural engagement
- **NI 43** Scotland's Outdoors - Increase people's use of Scotland's outdoors
- **NI 48** Public or Active transport
- **NI 54** Greenspace - Improve access to local greenspace

Introduction



What is the Scottish Household Survey?

This is an important study that provides essential information to the Scottish Government, local councils and charities on a range of policy areas. The survey covers a range of different topics including homes, neighbourhoods and views on local public services.

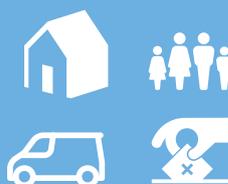
The Scottish Government, local councils and various charities use the results to improve the lives of people in your area and across Scotland.

Every year the Scottish Government invites households across Scotland to take part in this annual survey of over 10,000 households. Information is collected from a random sample of pre-selected homes in Scotland. In order to get a true picture of all types of people living in Scotland, we choose addresses at random from a list supplied by the Post Office. This means we cannot ask someone else to replace chosen households as this would bias the results. Interviewers go into people's homes and ask questions face-to-face. Answers are recorded on computers. All areas of Scotland are covered. Taking part in the survey is voluntary.

Why is it important?

It is a unique chance for people in Scotland to tell about their views and experiences on a range of issues and to shape each local area and Scotland as a whole. The survey has run since 1999. It has helped shape various public services over that time.

At national and local level, analysis of SHS data is also used to identify which people or areas need funding most, including in transport and housing. For example, Scottish Government analysis of SHS data identified lower internet access by those living in social housing. Up until then it had been thought that access to the internet was lowest by those that rented from private landlords. Knowing the facts meant that funding could be correctly targeted at social housing tenants in order to provide affordable broadband access and training. So far there has been a 19% increase in the number of social housing tenants online.



What does it provide?

The survey provides robust evidence on the composition, characteristics, attitudes and behaviour of private households and individuals, as well as evidence on the physical condition of Scotland's homes.

The current scale of the SHS enables all users to obtain a robust deeper understanding of issues and performance, by being able to analyse across key demographic household characteristics such as deprivation, age, income, gender, rurality, ethnicity and other equalities. This is crucial to informing the Fairer Scotland agenda.

What is involved for those who take part?

Each home selected to take part receives an advance letter and leaflet in the post explaining an interviewer from Ipsos MORI will call. Shortly after the interview, at a convenient time selected by the householder, a qualified surveyor conducts a non-intrusive survey of homes assessing its condition and energy efficiency.

The interview is in two parts. The first part asks the owner or main tenant (or partner) about their home and their household. The second part asks an adult, chosen at random from your household, about a range of topics including their neighbourhood, use of transport and local services.



Confidentiality

The Scottish Household Survey report is produced under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. National Statistics are produced free of political interference, to agreed standards, and undergo regular quality assurance reviews.

For more information,
<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/code-of-practice/>

Composition of households

Characteristics of adults

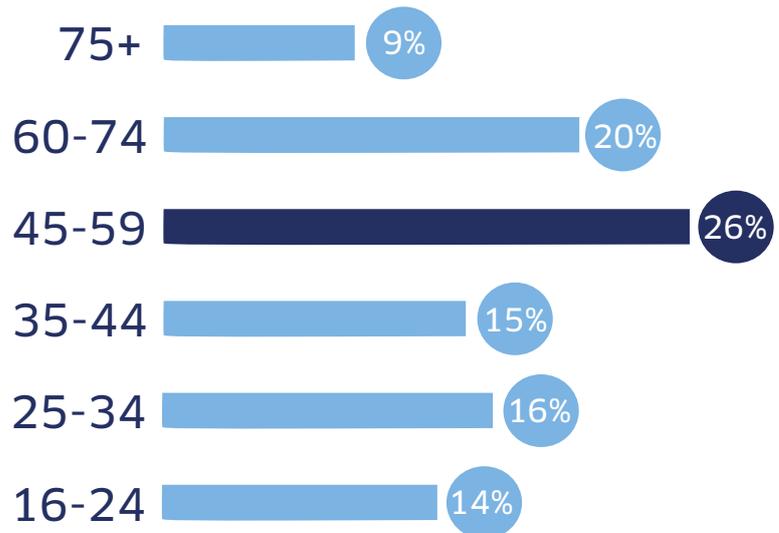
Over a quarter (26%) are between 45 and 59-years old.

Over a half (55%) are aged 45-years or more.

There are more women (52%) than men (48%).

Three in ten adults reported a long-term physical or mental health condition.

Age of adults

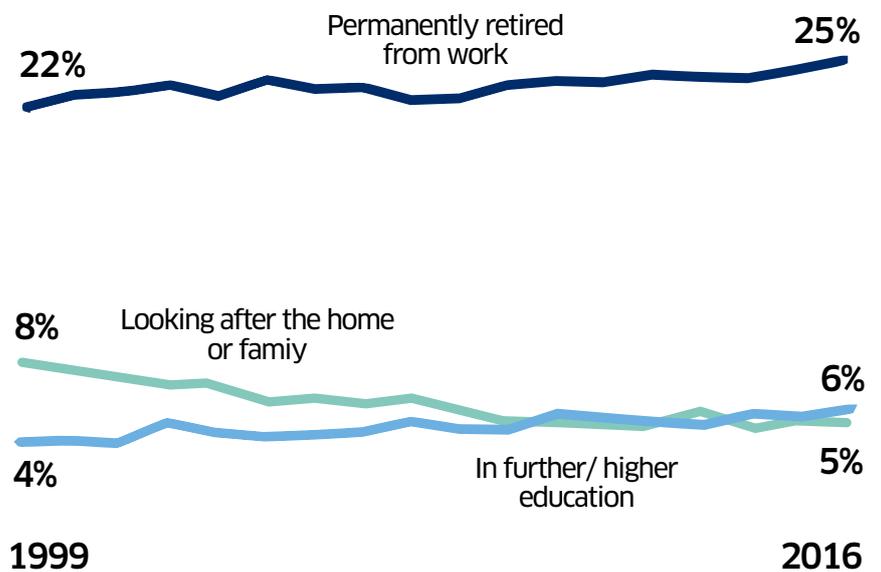


Economic status

The proportion of people who are permanently retired from work increased to 25%.

The proportion of those looking after the home or family decreased to 5%.

The proportion of those in further/higher education increased to 6%.

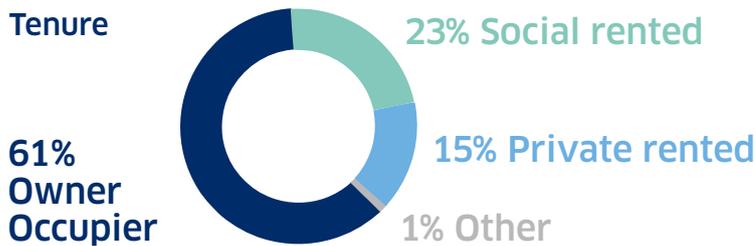




Characteristics of households

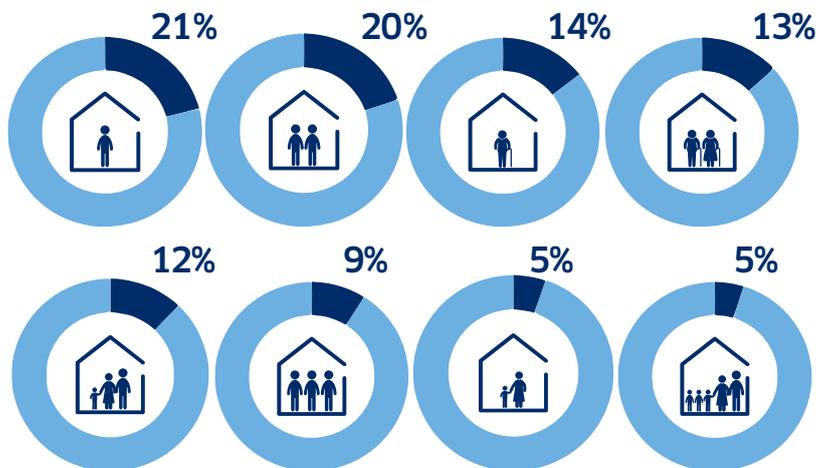


83% of people in Scotland live in urban areas, while only 17% live in rural areas.



61% of households were owner occupied.

Household type*



More than a third of adults live alone (35%):

- 21% as single adult
- 14% as single older households.

Only 5% are large families consisting of two adults and three or more children, or three or more adults with one or more children.

* For full definition on household type please see Glossary.

Does not add to 100% because of rounding.

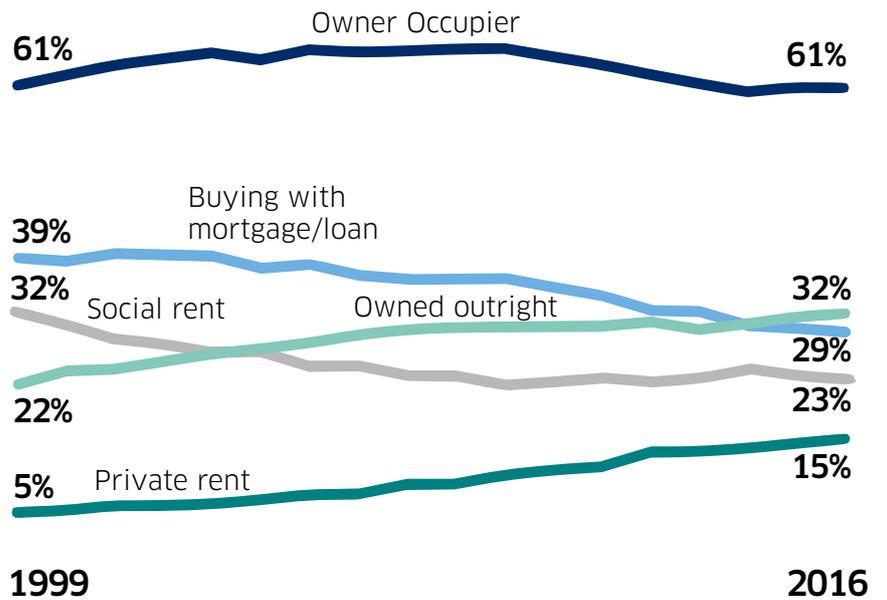
Housing

Tenure over time

The private rented sector has grown steadily from 5% in 1999 to 15% in 2016.

The social rented sector declined from 32% in 1999 to 23% in 2007, and has remained around this level since then.

Whilst the proportion of owner occupied homes in 2016 is at a similar level to 1999, there has been an increase in those owning outright and a decrease in those buying with a mortgage throughout this time period.



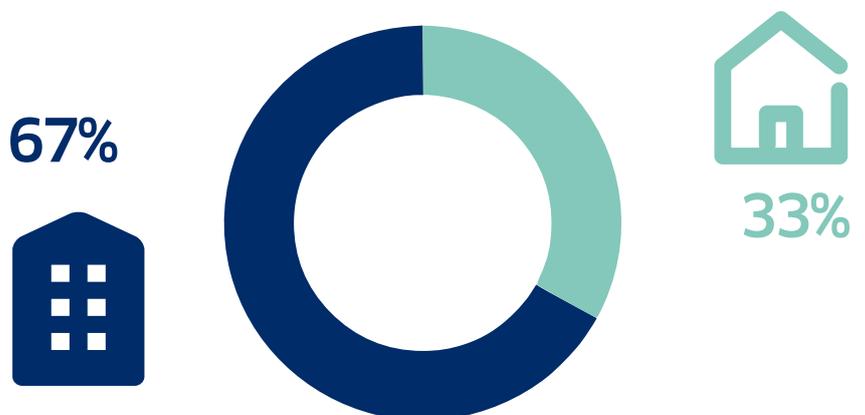
Housing stock

67% of private rented properties were flats in 2016.

In the social-rented sector, 56% of such properties are flats.

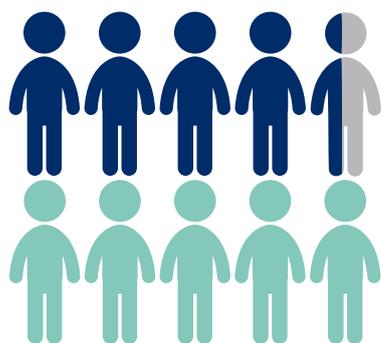
In comparison, only 20% of owner-occupied properties are flats.

Stock in private-rented sector





Aspirations in social-rented sector

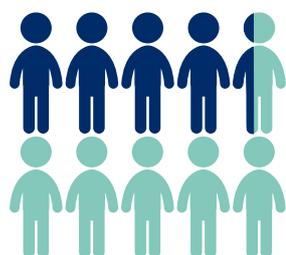


Aspirations

44% of social rented households would most like to live in an owner-occupier property.

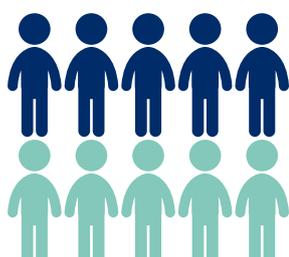
Around half (49%) would like to continue to live in a social rented property.

Length of time at current address



< 1 year

41% of those renting from a private landlord had been at their address for less than a year.



20 years plus

In contrast, half of those who own outright had lived at their address for more than 20 years.

Neighbourhoods and communities



Scotland is a nice place to live

Ratings of neighbourhoods have been consistently high with over nine in ten adults viewing their neighbourhood as a very or fairly good place to live since 1999.

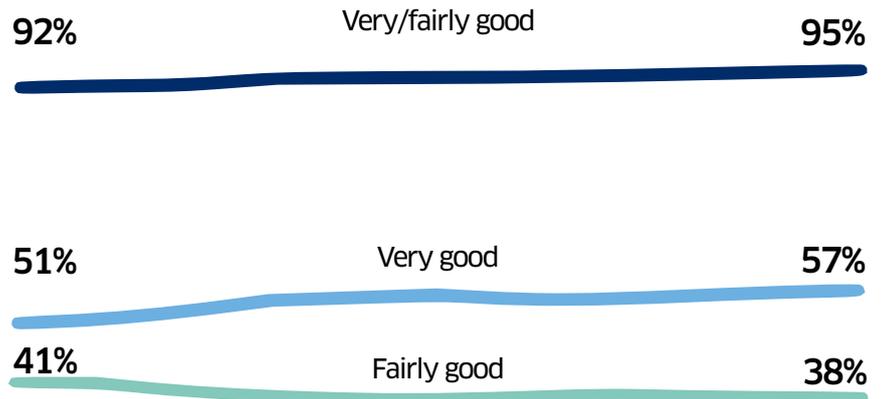
Since 2006 the proportion of adults rating their neighbourhood as:

- a very/fairly good place to live increased to 95%;
- a very good place to live increased to 57%.

This varies by level of area deprivation. Adults in less deprived areas are more likely to rate their neighbourhood as a very good place to live.

Although there is a large gap in neighbourhood ratings between those living in the most and least deprived areas, this gap is narrowing over time.

Most potential neighbourhood problems are not considered to be particularly common. The most common issue in 2016 was animal nuisance, reported as being common by 31%.



2006

2016

57% of adults rated their neighbourhood as a very good place to live



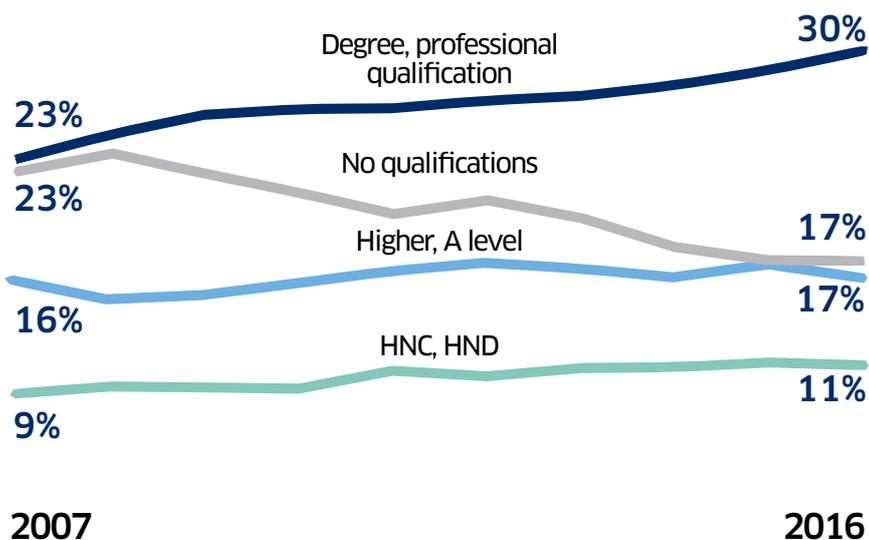
3 in 4 adults would assist neighbours in an emergency



Animal nuisance was reported as the most common neighbourhood problem (31%)



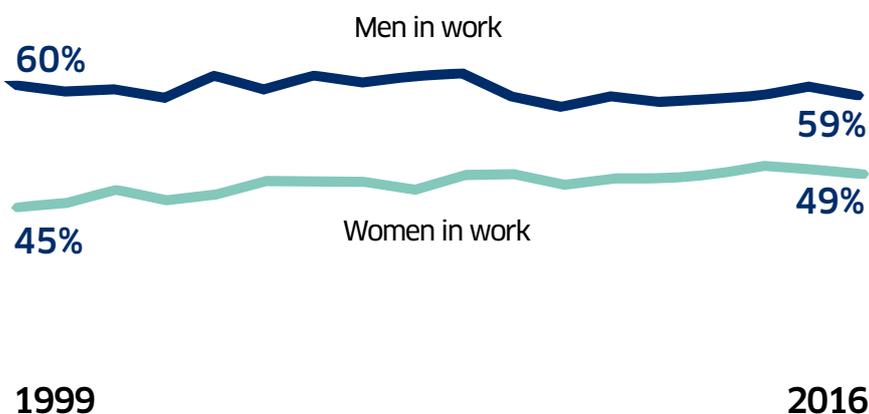
Economic activity



Qualifications

83% of adults held some kind of qualifications as compared to 77% of adults in 2007.

This increase is mainly due to an increase in people having a degree or professional qualification.



Employment by gender over time

The percentage of women in work has increased since 1999, narrowing the gap between the number of men and women currently in work*.

* In work includes full and part-time employment and the self-employed. Based on adults aged 16+.

Household finances



More and more households manage well financially.

Most households reported they managed well or very well financially in 2016, a 15% increase since 1999.

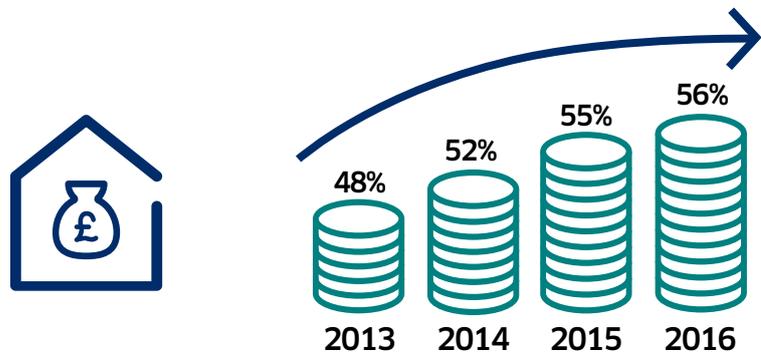
56% of adults reported they managed well financially in 2016

The proportion of households who don't manage well decreased by **5%** since 1999.

Single parent and single adult households were most likely to report that they do not manage financially, compared to Scotland overall.

The gap in number of households who manage well in the 20% most deprived areas and those in the rest of Scotland narrowed since 2013 (23%) to 20% in 2016.

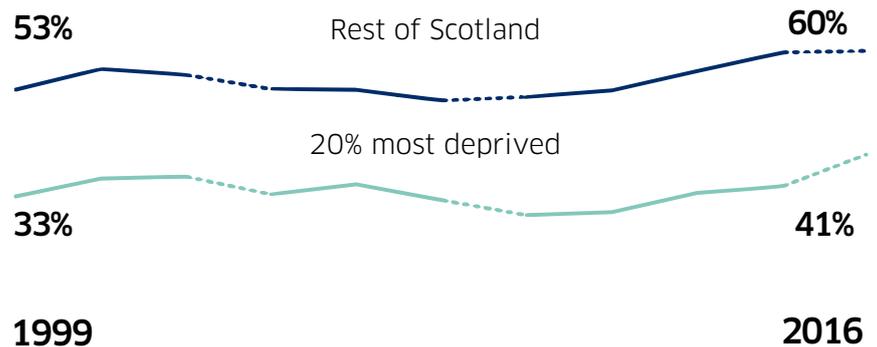
Households who manage well over time



Households who don't manage well



Households who manage well by deprivation



Internet



Home internet access in Scotland is high and continuing to increase.



Internet access

82% of Scottish households reported having internet access at home in 2016.

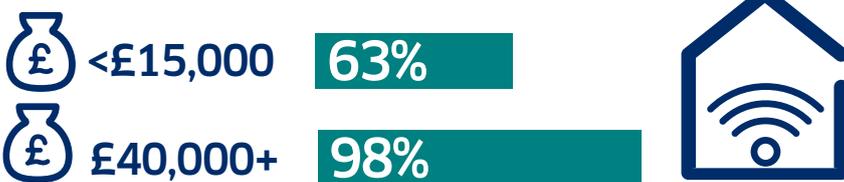
Home internet access has increased over the past decade from **42%** in 2003.

Adults who don't use the internet



Only one in six adults did not use the internet in 2016. In 2015 this was one in five.

Internet access by income



Home internet access varied with income, with those on the lowest incomes being less likely to have home internet access.

Sport and physical activity

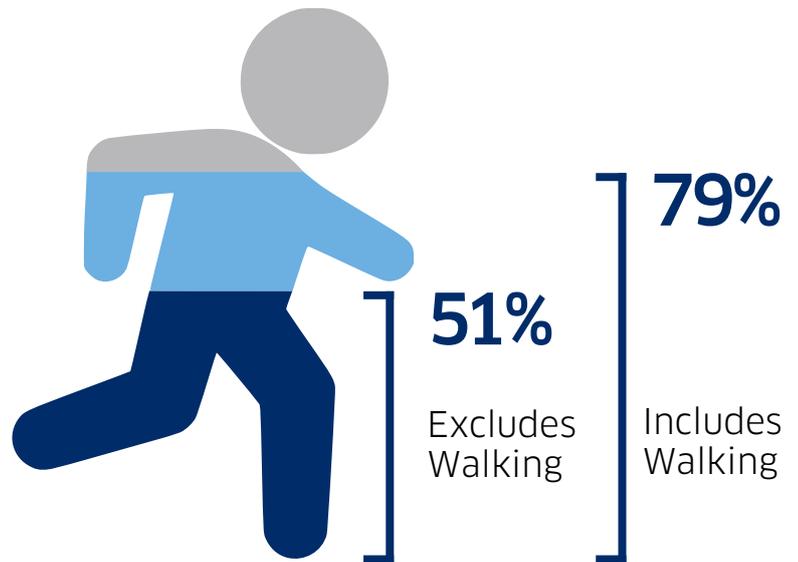


Sport and Physical Activity

In 2016 the vast majority of adults (79%) had taken part in physical activity and sport in the previous four weeks.

Participation in all physical activity and sport remained relatively constant between 2007 and 2010 (around 72%). Recently people have become more active. The rise in physical activity is driven by the rise in recreational walking.

Participation in sport & exercise in past month



Frequent participation (on more than 15 days in the past 4 weeks) was undertaken by just under half (48%) of people.

This was a slight drop from 50% in 2015 but a pronounced improvement from the 36% of 2007.

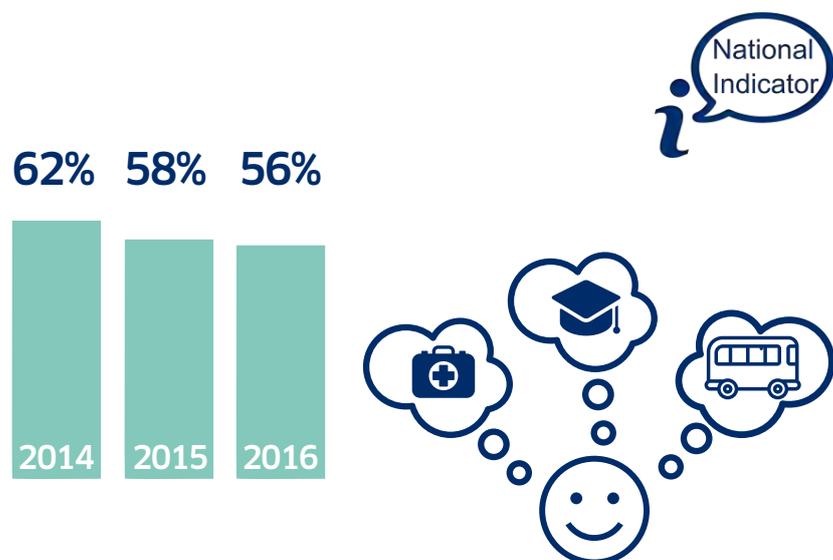
Regular sports participation (including walking) since 2007



Local services



Satisfaction with local services



Local services

In 2016, 56% of adults were satisfied with three public services: local health services, schools and public transport.

Satisfaction with the three public services is at its lowest level since first measured in 2007, and down from a peak of 66% in 2011.

Satisfaction with the three public services among service users is generally higher than that of the whole adult population, and is more stable over time.

Adults living in urban areas were more satisfied with the quality of the three public services than those in small towns and rural areas - mainly due to greater satisfaction with public transport.

Involvement with decision making



In 2016, just over a third (34%) of adults said they would like to be more involved in the decisions their council makes. 23% agreed that they can influence decisions affecting their local area.

Generally, older adults were more likely than younger adults to say they are satisfied with local government performance and less likely to want to be more involved in making decisions.

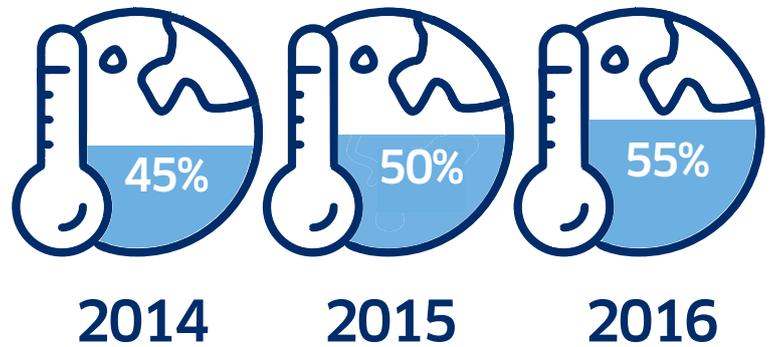
Environment

Climate change

An increasing proportion of adults in Scotland believe that climate change is an immediate and urgent problem.

Over half of adults (55%) view climate change as an immediate and urgent problem, a 5% increase since 2015.

Concern about climate change has increased in particular among the 16-24 age group, and is lowest among the 75+ age group.



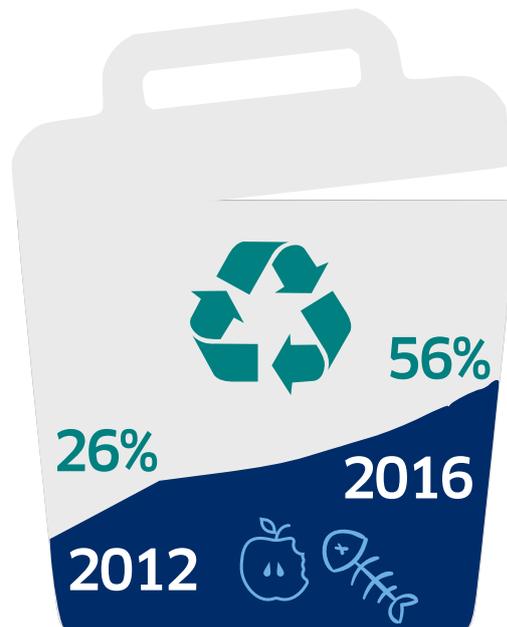
Recycling

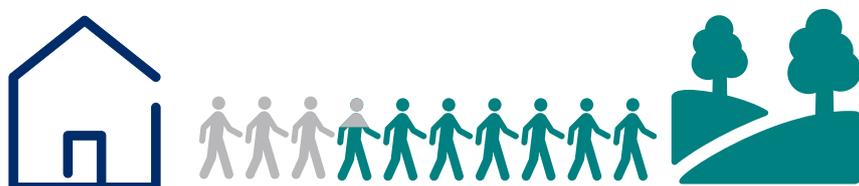
More households are now disposing of their food waste in local authority-provided food caddies (56% in 2016 compared with 26% in 2012).

While more people in houses than flats use food waste recycling caddies, the proportion of use in flats is increasing.

There is a higher rate of food waste composting in rural areas.

Use of food waste caddies





 **5 Min**



Access to outdoors

Most adults (65%) live within a five minute walk of their nearest area of greenspace, a similar proportion to 2015.

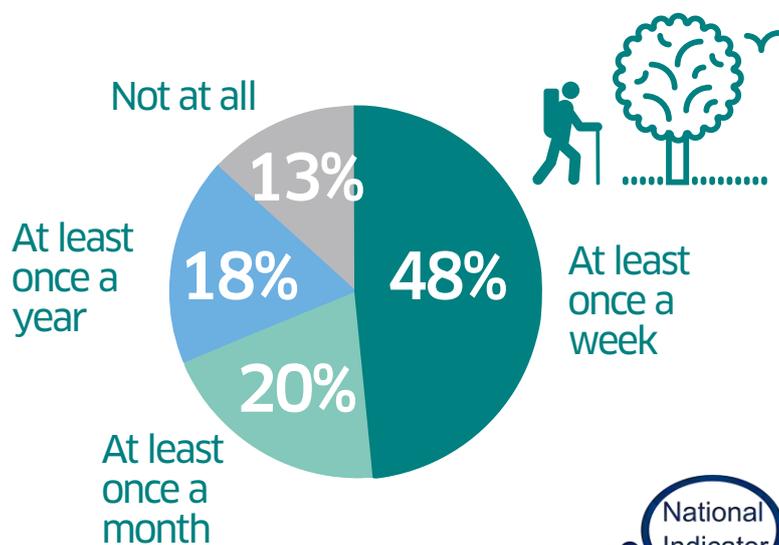
Those living closer to their nearest greenspace are more likely to use it more frequently.

More than a third of adults (36%) visit their nearest area of greenspace at least once a week, which is around the same proportion since 2012 when the question was first asked.

Visits to outdoors

Around half of adults (48%) visited the outdoors at least once a week in the last year. This is around the same proportion as in 2015.

Adults living in the most deprived areas were more likely not to have made any visits to the outdoors in the past twelve months (19%) compared to those in the least deprived areas (7%).



Does not add to 100% because of rounding.

Volunteering



Volunteering

Levels of volunteering have remained relatively stable over the last five years, with around three in ten adults providing unpaid help to organisations or groups.

In 2016, 27% of adults provided unpaid help to organisations or groups in the last 12 months.

Stable level of volunteering



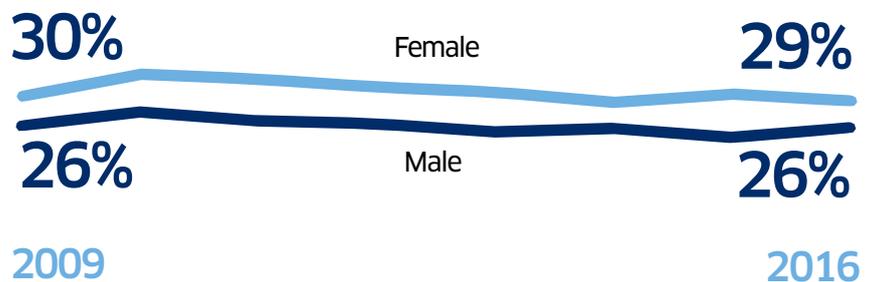
The profile of volunteers has also remained relatively stable over time.

Overall, in 2016 as in every other year, more women (29%) than men (26%) volunteered in the last 12 months.

Volunteers are more likely to be:

- women
- from higher socio-economic and income groups
- from rural areas
- from less deprived areas.

Gender gap



Culture



Culture



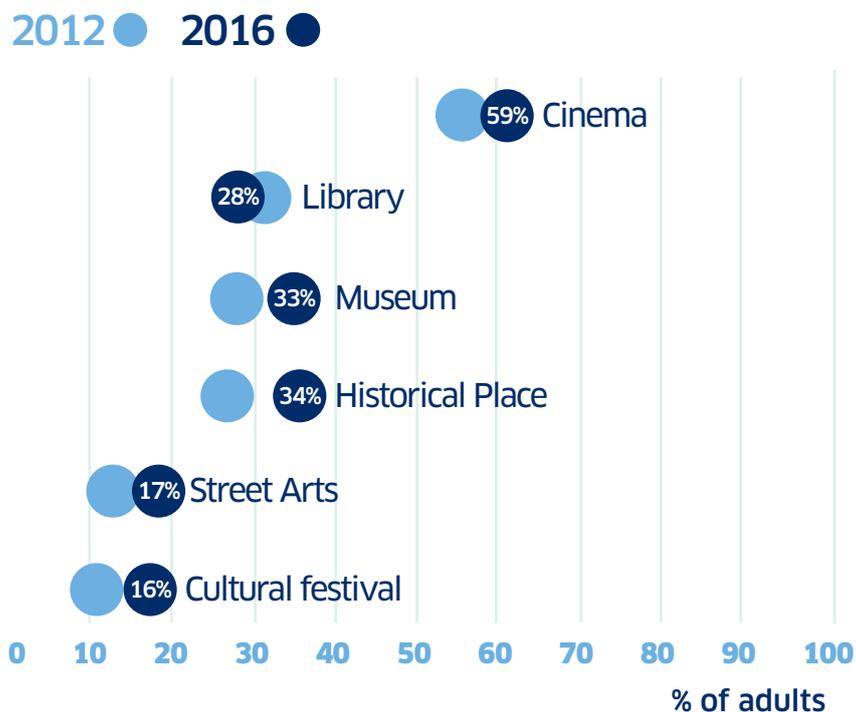
Cultural engagement

There are high and increasing levels of cultural participation in Scotland.

Around nine in ten (92%) adults were culturally engaged in 2016, either by attending or visiting a cultural event or place or by participating in a cultural activity.

The level of cultural engagement has increased by around 5 percentage points since first recorded in 2007.

Change in cultural attendance since 2012



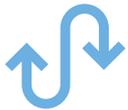
Cultural attendance

Cinemas, museums, historical places, street arts and cultural festivals were visited by more people, an increase of each of these by around 5%.

Libraries were visited by fewer adults; 28% in 2016 compared to 30% in 2012.

Overall, the proportion of those who report they didn't visit any cultural place or event decreased from 22% in 2012 to 17% in 2016.

Technical notes for interpretation



Interpretation of change

All changes highlighted in this report are statistically significant – which means they are very unlikely to have occurred by chance.



Survey design

The Scottish Household Survey has a high sample size (10,700 households, 9,800 adults) which allows annual Local Authority level data and sub-group analysis including a breakdown for some equalities groups.

The survey has a fully unclustered core and modular structure. It includes a “core” set of 20 questions which have been designed to be asked in consistent ways with other surveys, such as age and gender. “Modules” of questions have been designed to be flexible in terms of topic, frequency and geography. For example, questions asked of the “full” sample and asked on an “annual” basis would be able to provide local authority level data on an annual basis. Similarly, questions might only be asked of “1/3” of the sample on a “biennial” basis (i.e. asked every second year). Such questions could only get national level estimates every second year.



Sampling

The SHS sample has been designed by the Scottish Government and allows the annual publication of results. Nationally representative samples of private households and of the adult population in private households are produced.

It is drawn from the small user file of the Postcode Address File (PAF).

The sample design is coordinated with the other two Scottish Government population surveys. Samples of the three surveys can be pooled for further more detailed analysis. From January 2012, a number of core questions are asked the same way in all three Scottish Government cross-sectional surveys, although in a small number of specified instances the questions may differ somewhat but still provide harmonised outputs. Data from all three surveys for these questions is pooled, to provide better estimates at national and local level (Scottish Survey Core Questions). The target sample size for Scotland was 10,678 household interviews.



Response Rate

The SHS response rate declined from 67% in 2014 to 64% in 2015 and 2016.

Key resources



Additional titles in the Scottish Household Survey Reporting series

Scottish Household Survey Annual Report:

- Scotland's People series since 1999
- Annual local authority level results

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002/PublicationAnnual>



Annual Scottish House Condition Survey Key Findings report

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/SHCS/Downloads>



Annual Transport and Travel in Scotland report Transport and Travel in Scotland (TATIS)

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/transport-and-travel-in-scotland-2015-27-september-2016/>



Nine of the 55 national indicators in the Government's National Performance Framework

<http://www.gov.scot/About/Performance/scotPerforms/Calendar>



Additionally some data is available through statistics.gov.scot - Open Data Platform

The [Scottish Surveys Core Questions \(SSCQ\)](#) is an annual Official Statistics publication. SSCQ is a result of a harmonised design across the three major Scottish Government household surveys, envisaged in the [Long Term Survey Strategy](#).



Related Links

- [Major Statistical Surveys](#)
- [Scottish House Condition Survey](#)
- [Scottish Surveys Core Questions \(SSCQ\)](#)
- [Centre of Housing Market Analysis](#)
- [Housing, Regeneration and Planning Research](#)
- [Housing and Regeneration Statistics](#)



Uses

What is the SHS used for?

Scotland's largest random pre-selected survey is at the centre of Scotland's evidence approach to policy-making. This is some of the ways in which the evidence it provides is used:

- Housing data is used to determine the size of the Private Rented Sector in Scotland and is a crucial element of National Records of Scotland (NRS) Household Projections, which Local Authorities use at the core of their Housing Plans. Affordable Housing Funding is allocated using these projections.
- Much of data for key performance monitoring frameworks, including: nearly one in five Scotland Performs indicators; half of the Housing & Regeneration Outcome Indicators; over half of Active Scotland Outcome Indicators; and, over a quarter of the Child Poverty Measurement Framework Indicators.
- The only source of Fuel Poverty evidence and the only nationally representative source of data on energy efficiency, house conditions and quality. This evidence is used extensively in the design, targeting and funding allocations for SG energy efficiency programmes (SEEP).
- The Travel Diary component of the SHS is a unique data source on personal travel patterns, which underpins analysis of future transport needs and economic business cases for national and local transport infrastructure investment projects.
- Transport and Housing Energy Efficiency data are crucial for monitoring carbon emissions, informing Climate Change policies and progress.
- All Local Authorities in Scotland use the data in their Single Outcome Agreements; the Improvement Service use data for the Local Government Benchmarking Framework; Community Planning Partnerships to understand and improve local needs and circumstances. There is particular interest in SHS local data on communities, local services, neighbourhoods, volunteering, recycling and access to outdoors and greenspace.

Contact details

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Mailing list

If you wish to be added to the e-mail mailing list to be kept informed of details of SHS developments, you should register your interest in 'Population and Household Surveys' and/or the Scottish Household Survey' sub-topic on the ScotStat Register.

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/scotstat/Intro>



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This publication is available at www.gov.scot

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

ISBN: 978-1-78851-254-1

Published by The Scottish Government, September 2016

Produced for The Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA
PPDAS296206 (09/17)

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