



## National Survey for Wales 2017-18 Play

16 October 2018  
SB 64/2018

In 2017-18, the National Survey included questions on parental satisfaction with places for children and young people to play or meet up, as well as satisfaction with clubs and organised activities. A question was also asked on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This bulletin sets out the results.

### Key findings

**54%**  
of parents are  
satisfied with play  
areas for children



- 52% of parents of children aged 1-10 were satisfied with clubs and organised activities.



- 34% of parents of children aged 11-15 were satisfied with places in the local area for their child to meet and get together with friends, and 38% were satisfied with organised clubs and activities for 11-15 year olds.

- For both age ranges, parents in urban areas were more satisfied with play and recreation provision than those in rural areas.

- Parents' concern about the safety of the local area as a reason for dissatisfaction with play areas increased between 2014-15 and 2017-18
- 48% of **non-parents** were satisfied with places for children and young people to play and meet up.
- 34% of people had heard of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), with 13% saying they had a fair idea of the rights it involves.



### About this bulletin

This bulletin provides more detailed analysis of the 2017-18 results for the questions on play and the UNCRC. It also compares the results with those from 2014-15.

The full questionnaire is available on the [National Survey web pages](#).

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## Introduction

In 2010 the Welsh Government introduced the Children & Families (Wales) Measure, under which local authorities were given a duty to assess for and secure sufficient play opportunities for all children in their area. More recent guidance, [Wales – A play friendly country](#), was released in 2014.

Play is listed as a child's right under the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child, which states in article 31 that "*Children have the right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of cultural, artistic and other recreational activities.*"

Wales is the first country in the world to legislate for this, with the first Play Sufficiency Assessments (PSAs) being completed by local authorities in March 2013. These have been followed by annual Play Action Plans and a second set of PSAs in March 2016. A third round of PSAs is due in March 2019.

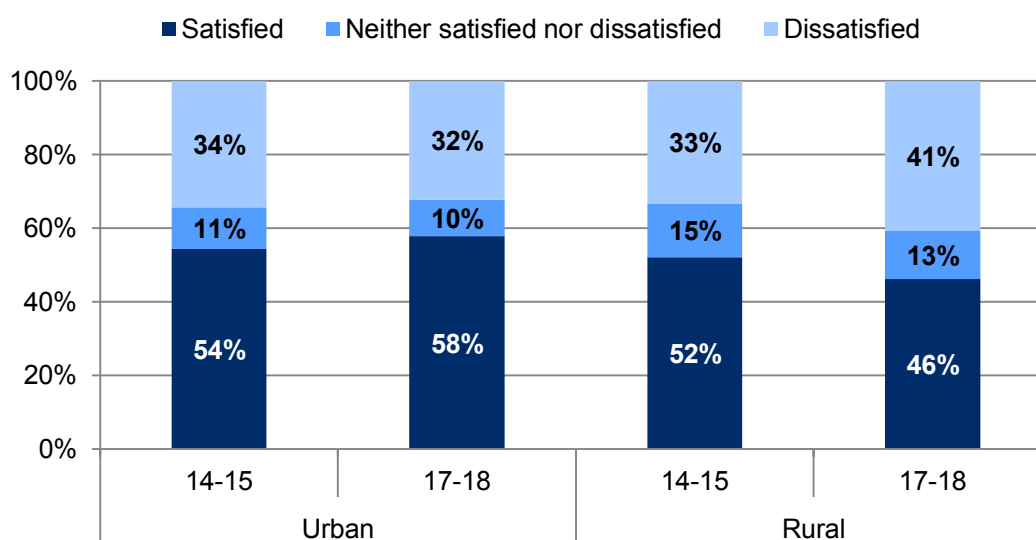
The National Survey questions on play were first asked in 2014-15 to monitor the implementation and delivery of this policy, and were included in 2017-18 to allow for a comparison over time. The questions cover parents' satisfaction with places for their child to play and with the available clubs and organised activities, and give a different perspective to the PSAs on the success of the policy.

## Satisfaction with places for children aged 1-10 to play

Parents with a child aged under 11 were asked how satisfied they were with outdoor and indoor spaces for their child to play in the local area.<sup>1</sup> 54% of parents were satisfied (18% very satisfied, and 36% fairly satisfied), and 35% were dissatisfied. This is consistent with the results from 2014-15.

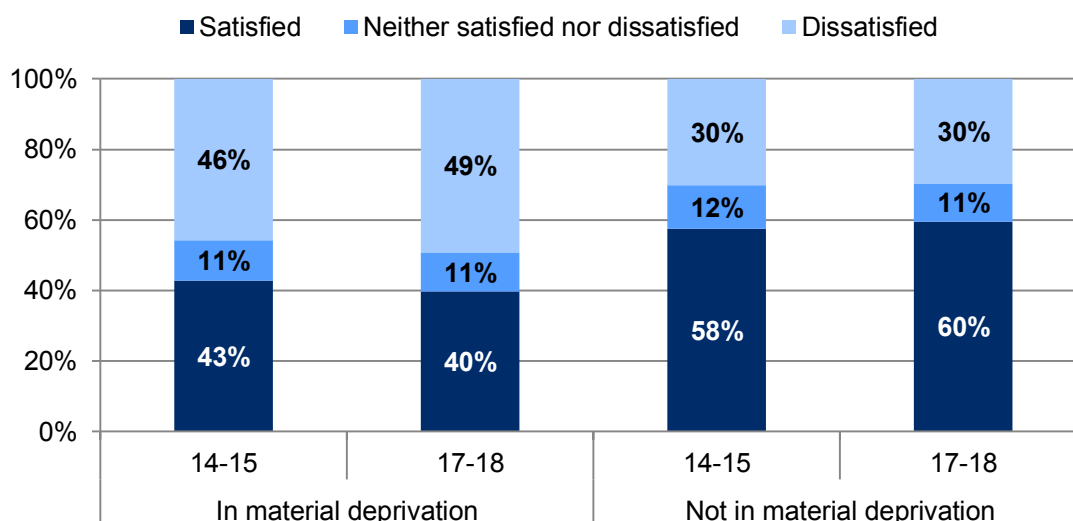
As shown in Chart 1, parents in urban areas were more satisfied (58%) with places for their child to play than those in rural areas, where 46% were satisfied.

**Chart 1: Satisfaction with places for under 11s to play, by urban/rural area<sup>2</sup>**



Levels of satisfaction also varied by the economic status of the parent, as shown in Chart 2. 60% of parents not in material deprivation were satisfied with places for children to play, compared with 40% of parents in material deprivation. These figures have not changed greatly since 2014-15.

**Chart 2: Satisfaction with places for under 11s to play, by material deprivation<sup>3</sup>**



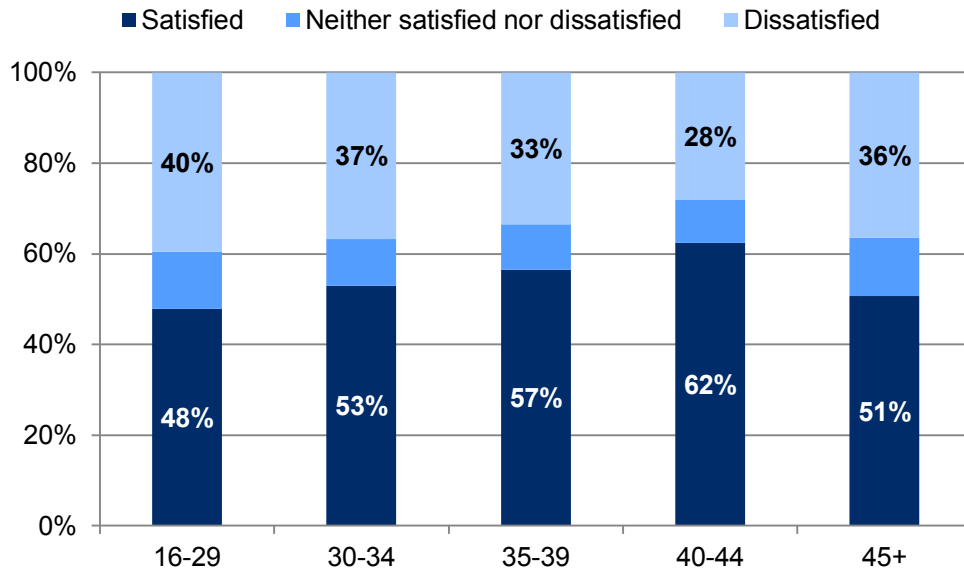
<sup>1</sup> If household contained more than one child aged 1-10, a random child was selected

<sup>2</sup> Urban/Rural – see [Terms and definitions](#)

<sup>3</sup> Material deprivation – see [Terms and definitions](#)

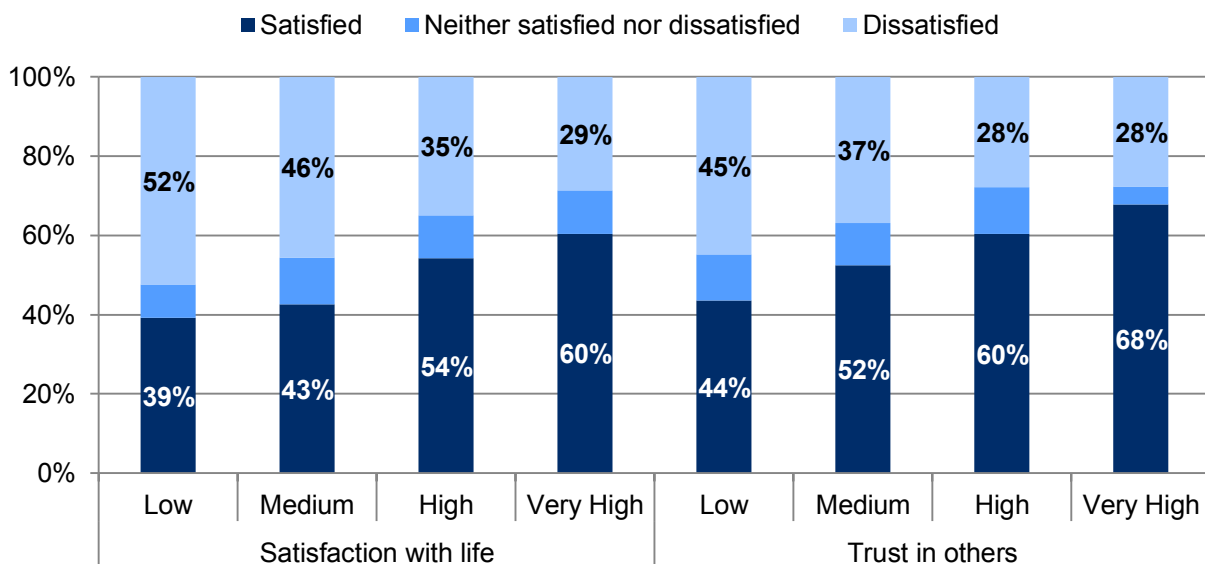
Chart 3 shows that there was an increase in satisfaction relative to the parent's age: those aged 40 to 44 were more satisfied than those aged 16 to 29 (62% and 48% respectively were satisfied). Satisfaction levels decreased for parents over the age of 45 (51%).

**Chart 3: Satisfaction with places to play for under 11s, by parental age**



The survey also asked questions about overall life satisfaction and about trust in other people. 60% of the parents who were had a very high satisfaction with life were also satisfied with places for children to play, compared with 39% of those who had low life satisfaction. Similarly, 68% of parents who had the highest agreement that most people can be trusted were satisfied with places for children to play compared with 44% of those who had low levels of trust in others.

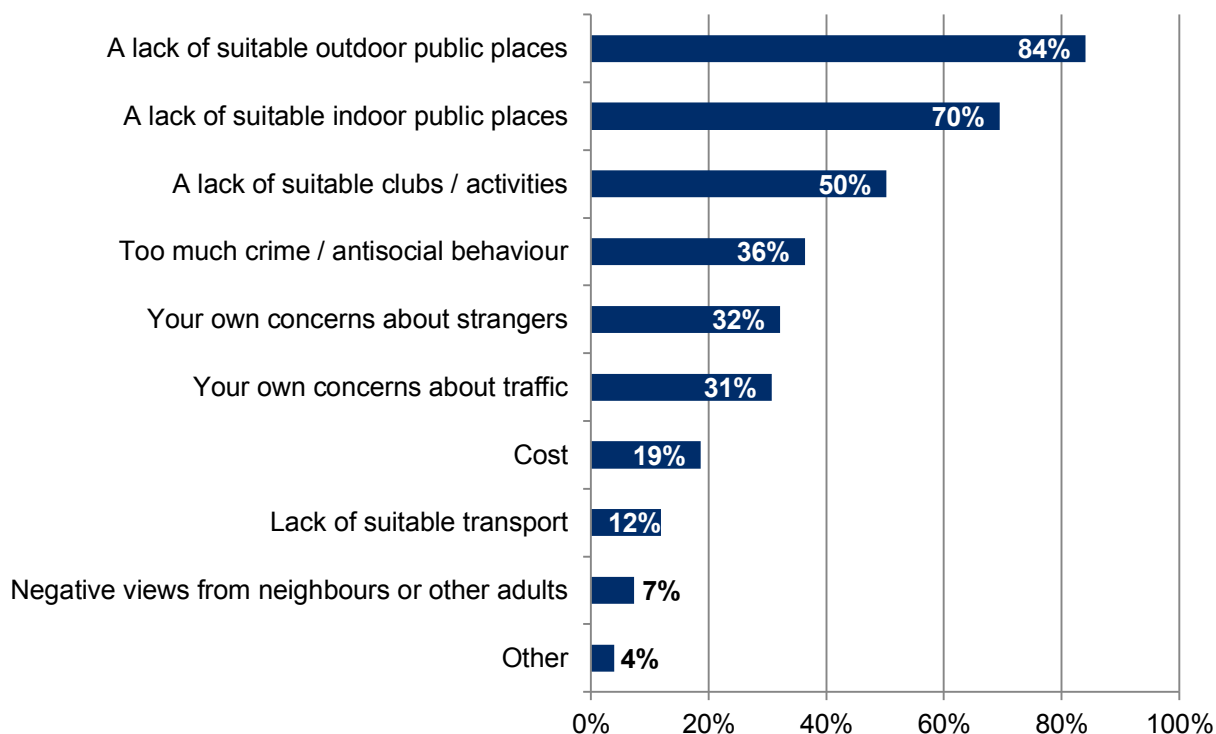
**Chart 4: Satisfaction with places for under 11s to play, by satisfaction with life and trust in others**



## Reasons for dissatisfaction

Parents who were dissatisfied with play areas for their children under 11 were asked why that was. As shown in Chart 5<sup>4</sup>, the most commonly-stated reasons for dissatisfaction with places for under 11s to play were 'a lack of suitable outdoor public places (84%), followed by 'a lack of suitable indoor public places' (70%). 50% of parents were dissatisfied with club and organised activities (compared with 36% in 2014-15).

**Chart 5: Reasons for dissatisfaction with places for under 11s to play**



Since 2014-15, there has been an increase in parental concern over the safety of the local area as a reason for dissatisfaction with play areas.

- 36% stated there was too much crime/antisocial behaviour, compared with 21% in 2014-15.
- 32% stated they had concerns about strangers, compared with 16% in 2014-15.
- 31% had concerns about traffic, compared with 16% in 2014-15.

## Further analysis - reasons for satisfaction

More in-depth analysis was undertaken to find out which groups of parents were most likely to be satisfied with play provision for under 11s in the local area.

We have used a statistical method sometimes known as 'controlling for other factors'<sup>5</sup>. This involves studying each factor's link with the outcome of interest (in this case, parental satisfaction) whilst holding the values of other factors constant.

<sup>4</sup> As respondents were able to select more than reason, proportions do not add to 100%.

<sup>5</sup> This analysis is known as logistic regression. Information about the method can be found in [Regression analysis](#)

The following factors each had a separate link with satisfaction when other factors were controlled<sup>6</sup>:

- Not being in material deprivation
- Living in private rented accommodation
- Trusting other people
- Living in an urban area
- Living in a less-deprived area (WIMD area classification)
- Having a degree-level qualification

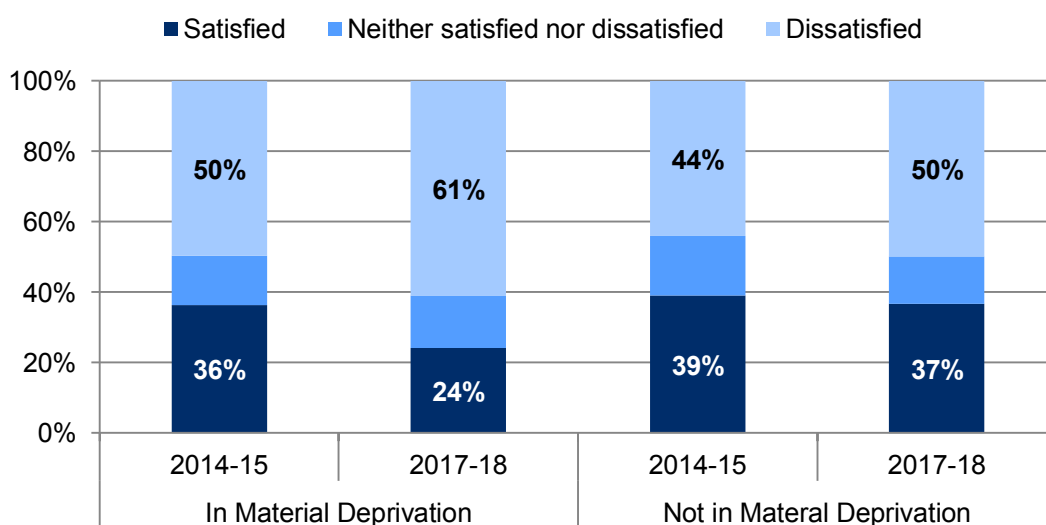
### Satisfaction with places for children aged 11-15 to meet and get together with friends

34% of parents with a child aged 11-15 said that they were satisfied with places for their child to meet and get together with friends in the local area, with 52% saying that they were dissatisfied. There has been an increase in dissatisfaction since 2014-15, when 46% said they were dissatisfied.

Fathers tended to be more satisfied than mothers, with 39% of men being satisfied (15% of which were very satisfied) compared with 30% of women (of which 8% were very satisfied).

People in material deprivation were less satisfied with places for their children to meet and get together with friends. Chart 6 shows that 24% of parents in material deprivation were satisfied with places for their child to meet with friends, compared with 36% in 2014-15. 37% of parents who were not materially deprived were satisfied, a similar proportion to that in 2014-15.

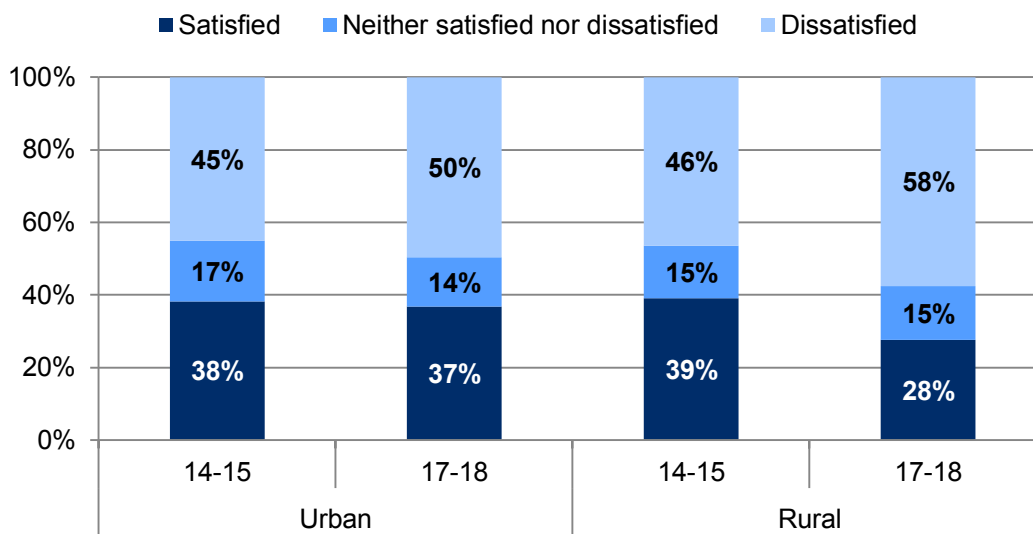
**Chart 6: Satisfaction with places for 11-15 year olds to meet with friends, by material deprivation**



<sup>6</sup> The factors that were included at the start of the regression analysis were: parental age, ethnicity, religion, material deprivation, welsh language use, economic status, tenure type, general health, satisfaction with life, trust in other people, understanding of the UNCRC, urban/rural area classification, WIMD classification, limiting illness, highest qualification

As seen in Chart 7, 37% of parents in urban areas were satisfied with places for their 11 to 15 year old child to meet with friends, compared with 28% being satisfied in rural areas. Satisfaction has decreased particularly in rural areas since 2014-15, when 39% of parents said they were satisfied.

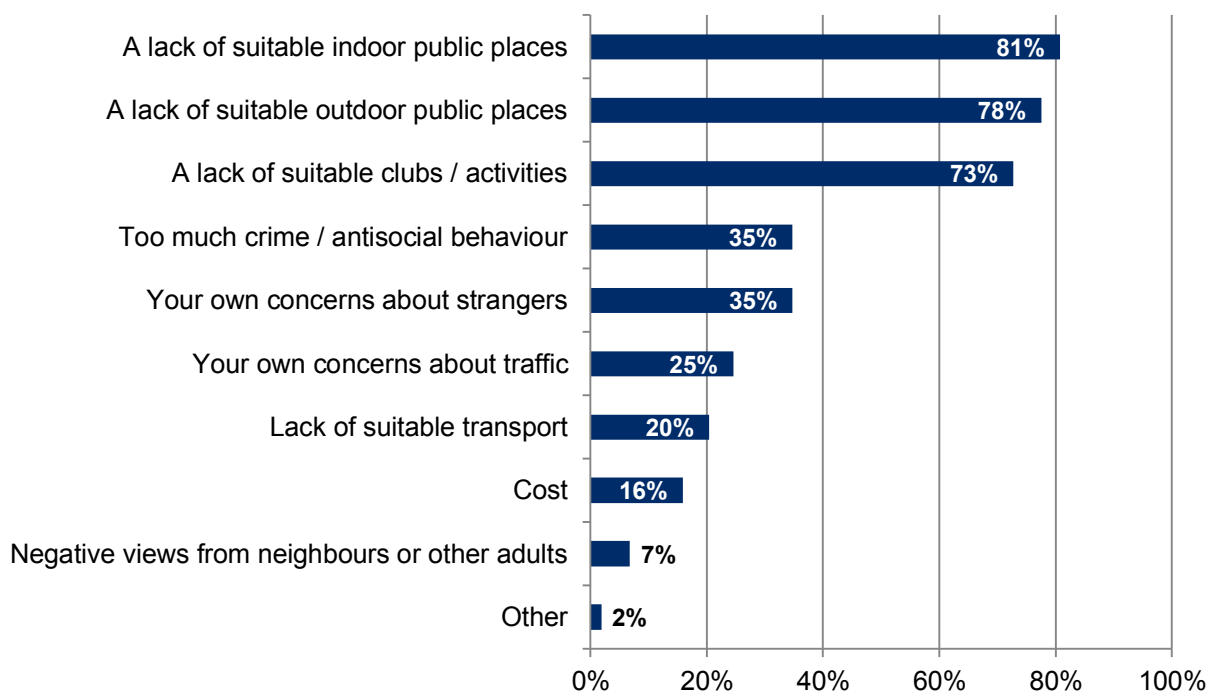
**Chart 7: Satisfaction with places for 11-15 year olds to meet with friends, by urban/rural area classification**



**Reasons for dissatisfaction with places for 11-15 year olds to meet**

As shown in Chart 8<sup>7</sup>, 81% of dissatisfied parents felt that their local area lacked suitable indoor places, and 78% felt it lacked suitable outdoor places for their child to meet and get together with friends.

**Chart 8: Reasons for dissatisfaction with places for 11-15 year olds to meet and get together**



<sup>7</sup> As respondents were able to select more than reason, proportions do not add to 100%.

As with the results for parents of under 11s, concerns about safety in the local area had increased between 2014-15 and 2017-18:

- 35% stated there was too much crime/antisocial behaviour, compared with 18% in 2014-15
- 35% had concerns about strangers, compared with 14% in 2014-15.
- 25% had concerns about traffic, compared with 11% in 2014-15.

### **Further analysis – reasons for dissatisfaction**

More in-depth analysis was undertaken to find out which groups of parents were most likely to be dissatisfied with places for 11-15 year olds to meet and get together with friends. As with the analysis on the results for parents of under 11s, we have used a statistical method sometimes known as 'controlling for other factors'<sup>8</sup>. This involves studying each factor's link with the outcome of interest (in this case, parental dissatisfaction) whilst holding the values of other factors constant.

The following factors each had a separate link with dissatisfaction when other factors were controlled<sup>9</sup>:

- Being female
- Living in social housing
- Not having heard of the UN Convention on Rights of the Child
- Living in a rural area

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<sup>8</sup> This analysis is known as logistic regression. Information about the method can be found in [Regression analysis](#)

<sup>9</sup> The factors that were included at the start of the regression analysis were: parental age, ethnicity, religion, material deprivation, welsh language use, economic status, tenure type, general health, satisfaction with life, trust in other people, understanding of the UNCRC, urban/rural area classification, WIMD classification, limiting illness, highest qualification



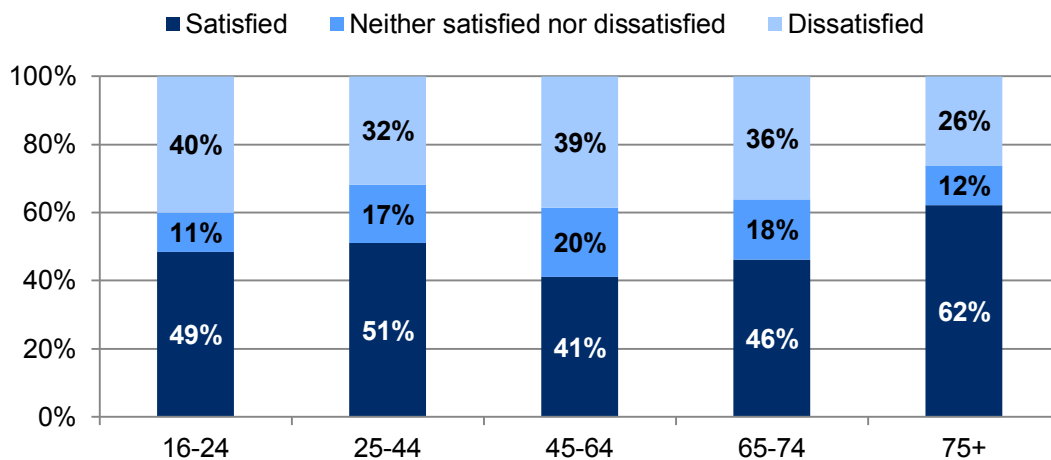
## Non-parents

Non-parents were asked whether they were satisfied or dissatisfied with places available for children and young people to play or meet up. 48% said that they were satisfied (15% very satisfied, and 33% fairly satisfied).

Chart 9 shows that when broken down by age, non-parents over the age of 75 were most satisfied (62%) with play and recreation spaces, and those aged 45-64 were the least (41%)

The proportion of people answering “Don’t know” to this question was 12%, higher than for the majority of questions in the survey. This is likely due to some people without children feeling that they did not have enough knowledge of play areas to answer the question.

**Chart 9: Non-parent satisfaction with places for young people to play, by age**



## Satisfaction with clubs and organised activities

The survey asked parents how satisfied they were with club and organised activities in the local area. For children under 11, 52% of parents were satisfied (19% very satisfied, 34% fairly satisfied); while 38% were satisfied for children aged 11-15 (14% very satisfied, 24% fairly satisfied).

Parents who were in material deprivation were more dissatisfied than those not in material deprivation. This is shown in Chart 10.

- 37% of parents in material deprivation were satisfied when asked about clubs and activities for under 11s, compared with 57% of parents not in material deprivation who were satisfied.
- 23% of parents in material deprivation were satisfied when asked about clubs and activities for their 11-15 year olds, compared with 43% of parents not in material deprivation who were satisfied.

**Chart 10: Satisfaction with clubs and organised activities, by material deprivation**

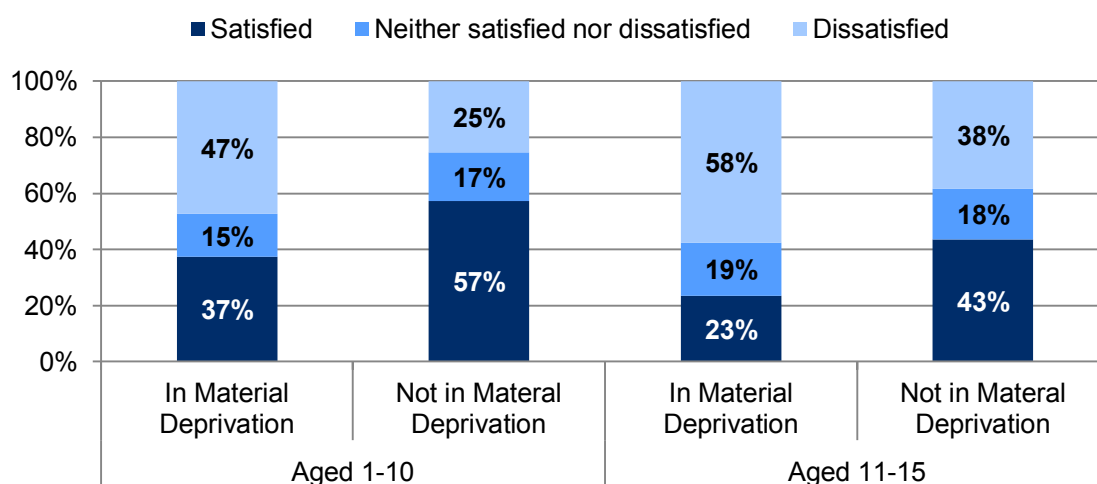
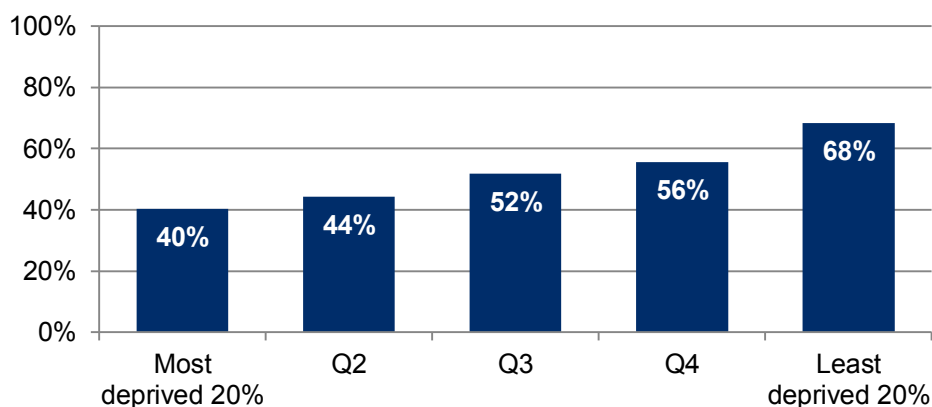


Chart 11 shows that when broken down by WIMD area deprivation<sup>10</sup> there was a clear trend: parents of under 11s living in more deprived areas were less satisfied than those living in less deprived areas, increasing from 40% in the most deprived areas to 68% in the least deprived areas.

**Chart 11: Percentage satisfied with clubs and organised activities for under 11s, by WIMD area deprivation**



<sup>10</sup> WIMD – see [Terms and definitions](#)

## United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Parents and non-parents were asked whether they had heard of and what they understood about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

13% said they had heard of it and that they had a fair idea of the rights it involves, 21% had heard of it but were not sure what rights it involves, and 65% had not heard of it. 66% of people in households with a child under the age of 16 had not heard of it.

**Chart 12: Knowledge of the UNCRC, by highest level of qualification**

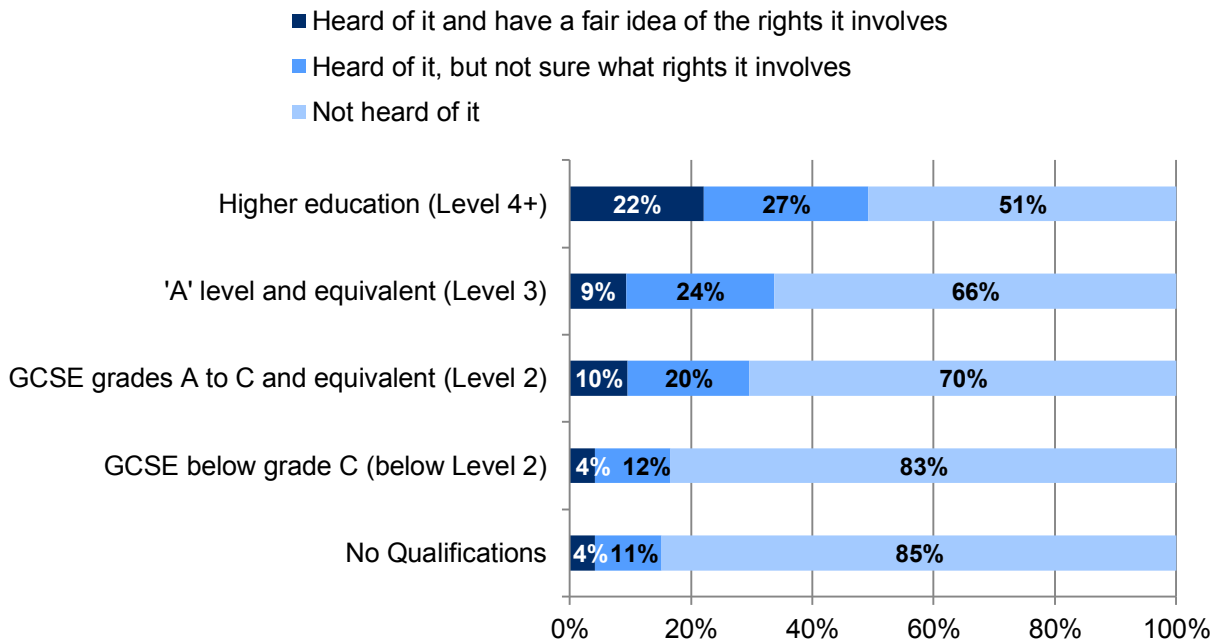


Chart 12 shows that people with higher qualification levels<sup>11</sup> were more likely to have heard of the UNCRC. Those who had no qualifications were least likely to have heard of it (15%), whilst 49% of those with a higher education qualification had heard of it.

<sup>11</sup> Qualifications – see [Terms and definitions](#)

## **Terms and definitions**

### **Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation**

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) is used as the official measure of deprivation in Wales. Deprivation is a wider concept than poverty. Deprivation refers to wider problems caused by a lack of resources and opportunities. WIMD is constructed from eight different types of deprivation. These are: income, housing, employment, access to services, education, health, community safety and physical environment. Wales is divided into 1,909 Lower-Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) each having about 1,600 people. Deprivation ranks have been worked out for each of these areas: the most deprived LSOA is ranked 1, and the least deprived 1,909. For this bulletin, we have grouped the people living in the 20 % of LSOAs that are most deprived based on WIMD score and compared them against the 20% of the LSOAs that are least deprived. – see also Material Deprivation below.

### **Urban / rural**

“Urban” includes settlements with a population of 10,000 or more and small towns and their fringes, where the wider surrounding area is less sparsely populated. “Rural” includes all other areas.

### **Material deprivation**

Material deprivation is a measure which is designed to capture the consequences of long-term poverty on households, rather than short-term financial strain.

Non-pensioner adults were asked whether they had things like ‘a holiday away from home for at least a week a year’, ‘enough money to keep their home in a decent state of decoration’, or could ‘make regular savings of £10 a month or more’. The questions for adults focussed on whether they could afford these items. These items are really for their ‘household’ as opposed to them personally which is why they were previously called ‘household material deprivation’.

Pensioners were asked slightly different questions such as whether their ‘home was kept adequately warm’, whether they had ‘access to a car or taxi, when needed’ or whether they had their hair done or cut regularly’. These also asked whether they could afford them, but also focussed on not being able to have these items for other reasons, such as poor health, or no one to help them etc. these questions were less based on the household and more about the individual.

Those who did not have these items were given a score, such that if they didn’t have any item on the list, they would have a score of 100, and if they had all items, they had a score of 0. Non-pensioners with a score of 25 or more were classed as deprived and pensioners with a score of 20 or more were classed as deprived.

Parents of children were also asked a set of questions about what they could afford for their children.

In this bulletin the non-pensioner and pensioner measures of deprivation are combined to provide an ‘adult’ deprivation variable. The terms ‘adult’ and ‘household’ deprivation may be used interchangeably depending on context.

## Qualifications

Respondents' highest qualifications have been grouped according to the National Qualification Framework (NQF) levels, where level 1 is the lowest level of qualifications and level 8 is doctoral degree or equivalent. For the National Survey, respondents have been grouped into 5 groups, those with no qualifications are in the lowest category and respondents with qualifications at levels 4 to 8 have been grouped together in the highest qualification category. [More information about the NQF levels.](#)

To provide more meaningful descriptions of the qualifications, these short descriptions have been used in this bulletin.

National Qualification Framework levels	Description used in bulletin
NQF levels 4-8	Higher education (Level 4+)
NQF level 3	'A' level and equivalent (Level 3)
NQF level 2	GCSE grades A to C and equivalent (Level 2)
Below NQF level 2	GCSE below grade C (below Level 2)
No Qualifications	No Qualifications

## Key quality information

### Background

The National Survey for Wales is carried out by the Office for National Statistics on behalf of the Welsh Government. The results reported in this bulletin are based on interviews completed between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018.

23,517 addresses were chosen randomly from the Royal Mail's Small User Postcode Address File. Interviewers visited each address and randomly selected one adult (aged 16+) in the household. They then carried out a 45-minute face-to-face interview, covering a range of views, behaviours, and characteristics. A total of 11,381 interviews were achieved with a response rate of 54.5%.

More information on the method is available in the [technical report](#).

### Interpreting the results

Figures quoted in this bulletin are based on only those respondents who provided an answer to the relevant question. Some topics in the survey were only asked of a sub-sample of respondents and other questions were not asked where the question was not applicable. Missing answers can also occur for several reasons, including a refusal or an inability to answer a particular question.

Where a relationship has been discussed between two factors, this does not mean it is a causal relationship. More detailed analysis is required to identify whether one factor causes change in another, or if other factors are actually more important.

The results are weighted to ensure that the results reflect the age and sex distribution of the Wales population.

## Quality report

A summary [Quality report](#) is available, containing more detailed information on the quality of the survey as well as a summary of the methods used to compile the results.

## Sampling variability

As with any survey, estimates from the National Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty. Part of the uncertainty comes from the fact that any randomly-selected sample of the population will give slightly different results from the results that would be obtained if the whole population was surveyed. This is known as sampling error. Confidence intervals can be used as a guide to the size of the sampling error. These intervals are calculated around a survey estimate and give a range within which the true value is likely to fall. In 95% of survey samples, the 95% confidence interval will contain the 'true' proportion for the whole population (that is, the proportion we would get if the survey covered the entire population). In general, the smaller the sample size the wider the confidence interval. Confidence intervals are included in the tables of survey results published in our [Results viewer](#).

The National Survey is also subject to a range of other sources of error: for example, due to non-response; because respondents may not interpret the questions as intended or may not answer accurately; and because errors may be introduced as the survey data is processed. These kinds of error are known as non-sampling error, and are discussed further in the [Quality report](#).

## Significant differences

Where the text of this release notes a difference between two National Survey results, we have checked to ensure that the confidence intervals for the two results do not overlap. This suggests that the difference is statistically significant, i.e. that there is less than a 5% (1 in 20) chance of obtaining these results if there is no difference between the same two groups in the wider population.

Checking to see whether two confidence intervals overlap is less likely than a formal statistical test to lead to conclusions that there are real differences between groups. That is, it is more likely to lead to "false negatives": incorrect conclusions that there is no real difference when in fact there is a difference. It is also less likely to lead to "false positives": incorrect conclusions that there is a difference when there is in fact none. Carrying out many comparisons increases the chance of finding false positives. Therefore, when many comparisons are made the conservative nature of the test is an advantage because it reduces (but does not eliminate) this chance.

## Regression analysis

We separately considered factors likely to have an influence on satisfaction with play provisions for 1-10 year olds and 11-15 year olds, using separate regression models. In each case the selection of the initial variables used in the regression was based on the results from cross-analysis, policy direction, and the practicality of using the variable (e.g. where the sample size is sufficiently robust). The results for some factors were only available for a sub-sample of respondents. For this reason some variables/factors were omitted from the investigation. The final models consisted of those factors that remained significant even after holding the other factors constant. These significant factors are those that have been discussed in this bulletin and the use of regression

analysis is indicated by the statement that we have ‘controlled for other factors’. It is worth noting that had a different range of factors been available to consider from the survey, then some conclusions about which factors were significant may have been different.

More details on the methodology used in the regression analysis in this report are available on our [background information page](#).

## **National Statistics status**

The [United Kingdom Statistics Authority](#) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority’s regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is Welsh Government’s responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

## **Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)**

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators (“national indicators”) that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016.

Information on the indicators, along with narratives for each of the well-being goals and associated technical information is available in the [Well-being of Wales report](#).

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

## Further details

The document is available at:

<https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/national-survey/?tab=current&lang=en>.

The [first release](#) for the survey was published on 20 June 2018.

More detailed information on the survey methodology is set out in the [Technical report](#) for the survey.

## Next update

Not a regular output.

## We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics, which can be provided by email to [surveys@gov.wales](mailto:surveys@gov.wales)

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