



National Survey for Wales: Headline results, April 2019 – March 2020

14 July 2020
SFR 76/2020

The National Survey for Wales involves interviews with around 12,000 randomly-selected adults a year. The survey covers a wide range of issues, asking about people's experiences and views. Some of the results are used to measure progress towards the goals of the [Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015](#). The results in this release are based on face-to-face interviews carried out between April 2019 and March 2020 and should not be confused with the monthly telephone survey results for May 2020 onwards that are being published separately.¹

This release contains only a selection of results. Results on many more topics, including detailed breakdowns, are available in our interactive [Results viewer](#), and further analysis on particular topics will be published throughout the year.

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About this release

This release provides headline results from the National Survey for Wales in 2019-20.

Since 2016-17 the survey has replaced, and incorporated questions from, the Welsh Health Survey, the Arts in Wales Survey, the Welsh Outdoor Recreation Survey and the Active Adults Survey.

More information about methodology, topics and definitions can be found in [Key quality information](#).

The [full questionnaire](#) and [questionnaire guidance](#) provide further context about why we ask these questions. [Background information](#) is available on the [National Survey web pages](#).

¹ Due to the coronavirus situation, from April 2020 we started running a monthly telephone version of the National Survey in place of the usual face-to-face version. The [first results](#) from this were published on 25 June 2020, with further monthly reports to follow.

Introduction

The National Survey is one of the main ways in which the Welsh Government and Welsh Government sponsored bodies can find out about the views and lives of people in Wales. The main themes of the survey each year cover views on public services such as health, education and transport and also people’s well-being. This report provides results from a full survey year and on the same basis as in previous years since 2016-17.

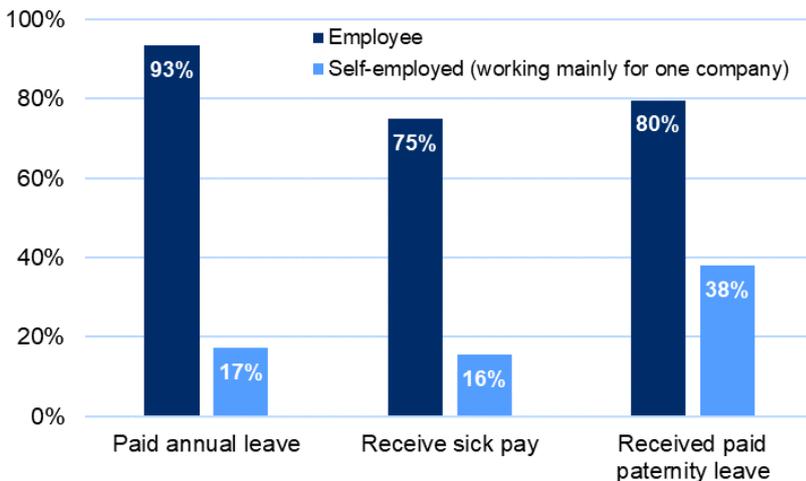
In March 2020 face-to face social surveys were suspended due to the coronavirus situation, and the National Survey is currently running as a telephone survey with figures from each month’s fieldwork released in the following month. We ask some questions in the telephone survey that were also asked in the full-year survey (for example, satisfaction with GP care, sense of loneliness, and employment status) . Given the switch to telephone interviews and the current changes in society it is possible that the results in the monthly 2020 reports may differ significantly from those published in this 2019-20 report and from earlier years.

Fair work



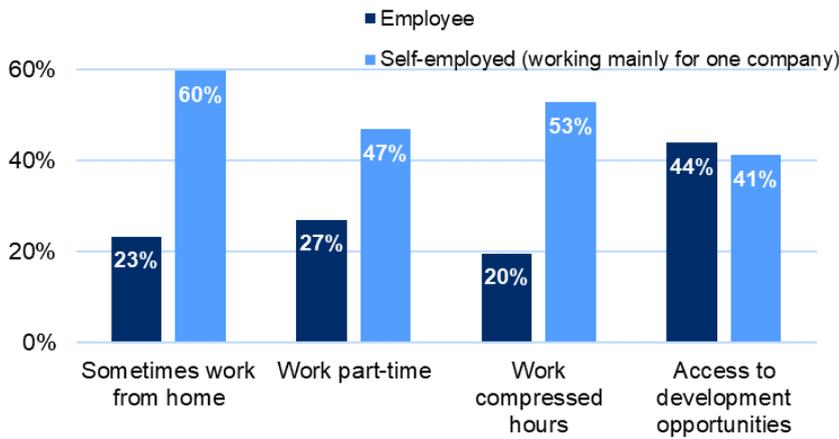
People who were employed (and those who were self-employed, but mainly work for only one company) were asked a series of questions about their job. Chart 1 shows a large disparity between the employed and the self-employed who mainly work for only one company in whether they are paid for **annual leave**, **sick pay** and **paternity leave**.

Chart 1: Employment terms by employment status



However, Chart 2 shows that the self-employed (who mainly work for only one company) are likely to have more **flexible** work arrangements than employees and that both groups have similar **access to development opportunities**.

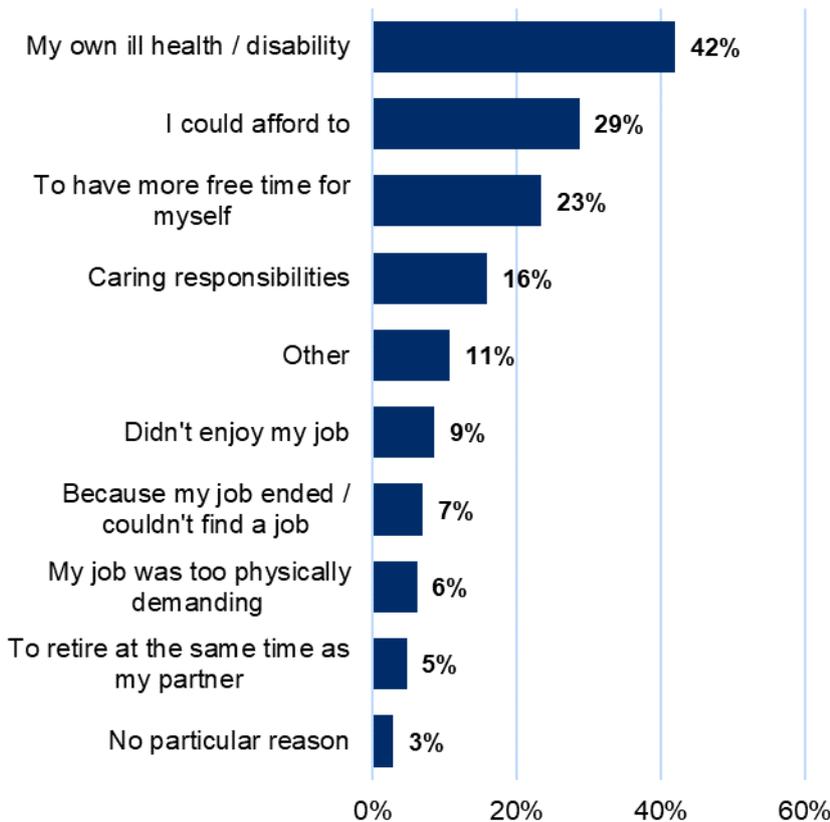
Chart 2: Working arrangements by employment status



Retirement planning

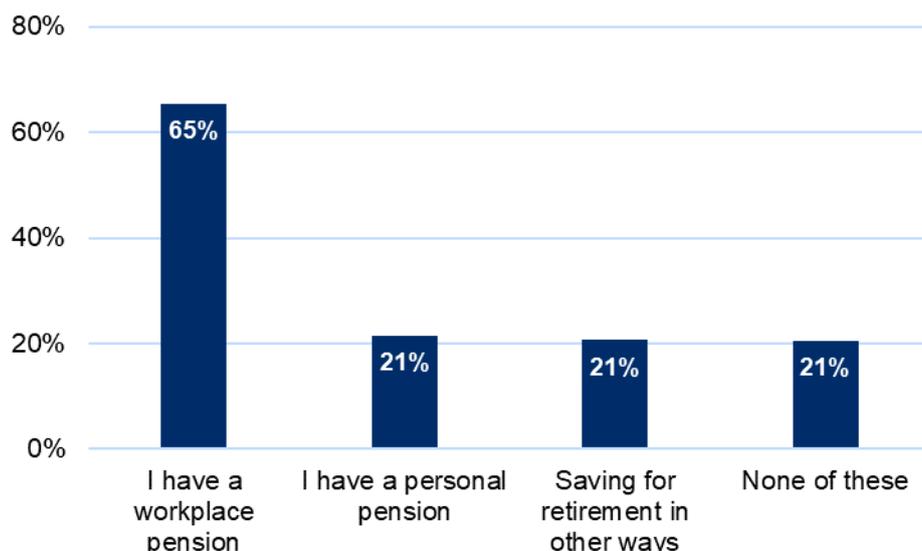
In 2019-20 the National Survey asked a new set of questions about **retirement** and **planning for the future**. **26%** of people consider themselves to be retired, with **1 in 7** (14%) of this group younger than their official state pension age. Chart 3 shows the main reasons people retired early – respondents could select more than one answer.

Chart 3: Reasons for early retirement



People aged 30 and over were asked if they had started **preparing financially** for retirement. Chart 4 indicates that **two thirds** (65%) of this group have a **workplace pension** to which their employer contributes. **21%** had made no financial plans for the future.

Chart 4: Preparation for retirement – adults aged 30+



Satisfaction with public services

People were also asked to rate their satisfaction with how the Welsh Government is doing its job, from 0 (extremely dissatisfied) to 10 (extremely satisfied). The average rating given was **5.3 out of 10**.

Those who had recent experience of using health services were asked for their satisfaction with these services.

89% were satisfied with the care they received from their **GP**



91% were satisfied with the care received at their last NHS **hospital** appointment



These results remain unchanged since the questions were asked in 2018-19.

Deprivation

13% of **adults** in Wales were classified as **materially deprived**², (that is, not able to afford basic things like having a damp-free home). Adult deprivation has decreased from **16%** in 2017-18.

16% of **non-pensioner** adults and **4%** of **pensioners** were materially deprived, whilst **6%** of parents had materially deprived **children**.

68% of people said they have **no difficulties keeping up with bills and credit commitments**. This proportion has remained constant over the past four years.



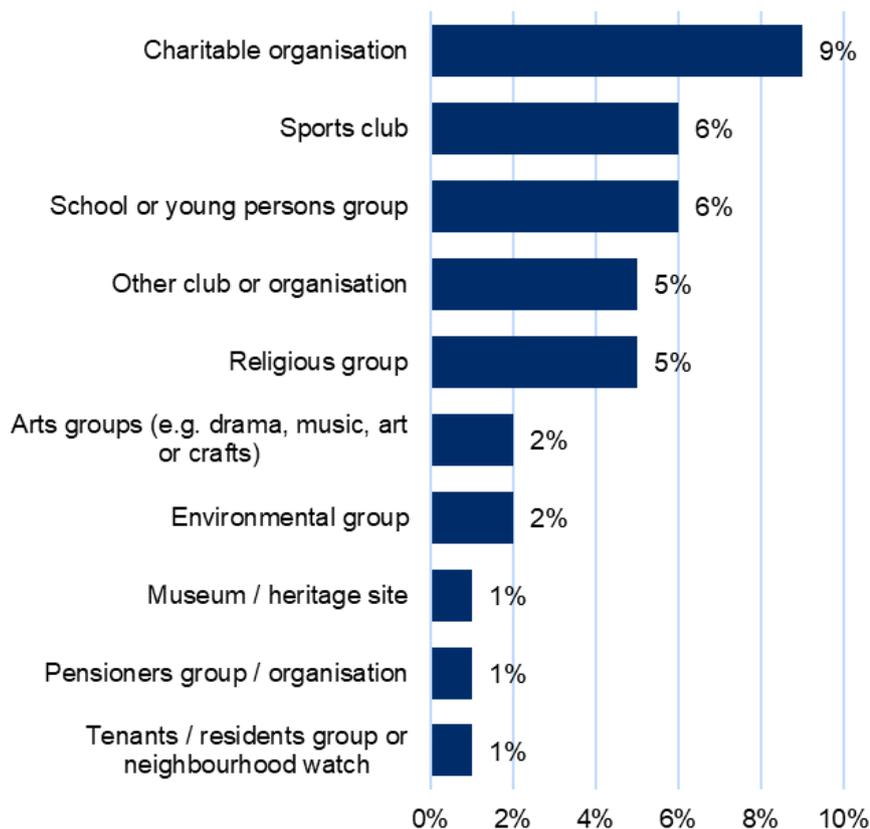
² National well-being indicator 19. More detail on how material deprivation is calculated can be found in the bulletin published on [Poverty](#) based on 2017-18 results .

Volunteering



26% of people **volunteered**³ by giving their time for free to clubs and organisations. People most commonly volunteered for charities, sports clubs and school/youth groups, as shown in Chart 5.

Chart 5: Percentage of people who volunteer, by club or organisation



Sport participation and enjoyment

In order to monitor adult participation in sport, the National Survey includes a set of questions asked on behalf of [Sport Wales](#).



59% of people had participated in some sport or physical activity in the past 4 weeks. By far the most commonly-reported such activity was to have **walked more than 2 miles (31%** of people), followed by attending the **gym or fitness classes (17%)**, **indoor swimming (12%)**, and **jogging (9%)**.

11% of adults **participated** in a sporting or physical activity **around once a week**, **7%** participated **twice a week**, and **32%** at least three times a week.⁴

³ Well-being of Future Generation National Indicator 28.

⁴ National well-being indicator 38.

People were asked whether they enjoyed taking part in sport at school. **55%** said that they enjoyed it a lot, **23%** enjoyed it a little and **22%** didn't enjoy taking part in sport at school at all.

Lifestyle behaviours

The National Survey includes questions about the following five lifestyle behaviours.⁵ There has been no significant change in the results for any of the 5 behaviours since 2016-17.



18% of adults reported that they **currently smoke**. Smoking was more common for those in materially deprived households, and less common among people aged over 75.



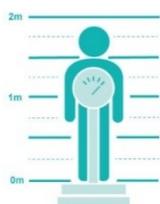
19% were found to **drink more than the weekly guideline** amount (average weekly consumption above 14 units). Drinking above weekly guidelines was more common among men and people aged 45 to 74.



25% ate at least the guideline amount of **five portions of fruit or vegetables** the previous day. People who were materially deprived were less likely to do this.



53% met the guideline amount of **150 minutes' activity** in the previous week. Men were more likely to have done so than women. **33%** were inactive (active less than 30 minutes the previous week). Inactivity was highest among older adults (aged 75 or over) and those who were materially deprived.



61% were **overweight or obese**; **25%** were **obese**. Men were more likely to be overweight or obese (67% of men) than women (55%). Obesity was most prevalent for those aged 45 to 74.

25% of adults reported **four or five** of the **healthy lifestyle behaviours** (not smoking, not drinking above guidelines, eat 5 fruit or veg, active, healthy weight); whilst **10%** reported **fewer than two of the five healthy lifestyle behaviours**.⁶ These results remain unchanged over the last four years.

71% of adults said they are in **good or very good health**.

⁵ 1) Not smoking, 2) Not drinking above weekly guidelines 3) Eating five or more portions of fruit and vegetables the previous day 4) Being physically active for at least 150 minutes in the previous week, and 5) maintaining a healthy weight.

⁶ National well-being indicator 3.

Loneliness



The survey also included a series of questions which assess levels of loneliness. Based on these, **15%** of people in Wales were found to be **lonely**.⁷ People in **material deprivation** were **more likely** to be lonely (41% of those in material deprivation were found to be lonely, compared with 12% of people who were not materially deprived).

Chart 6: People who are lonely, by age

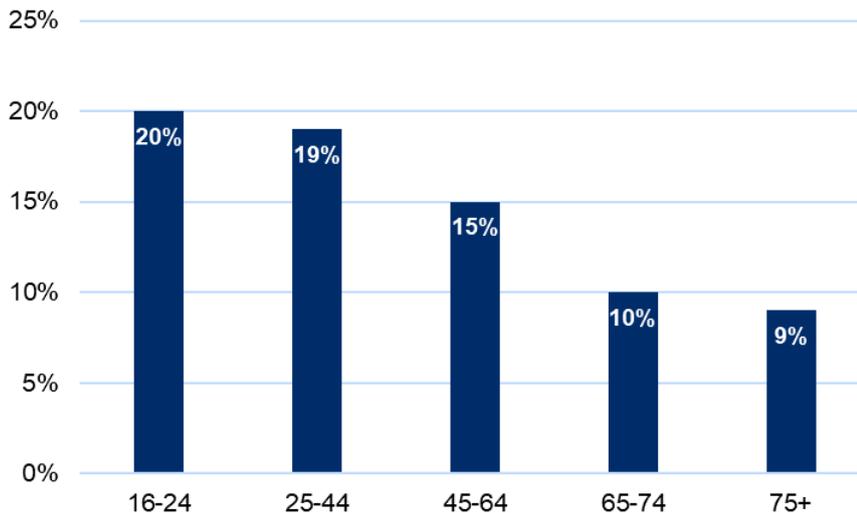


Chart 6 shows that levels of reported loneliness **decrease as age increases**. 20% of 16 to 24 year olds are lonely compared with 9% of those aged 65 and older.

Welsh language

The [Census](#) is the main source of information about the proportion of people who can speak Welsh; the National Survey is used to monitor the trend for adults in-between Censuses.

In the National Survey, **16%** of adults aged 16 and over reported that they can **speak Welsh**. **10%** reported that they **can speak more than a few words of Welsh and also speak it every day**.⁸



Overall, **5%** of people say they would ideally prefer to speak in Welsh when speaking with staff at local services and facilities. Among people with some Welsh speaking ability, **22%** say they would prefer to speak in Welsh with staff.

Internet use

88% of **households had access** to the internet at home. **90%** of adults aged 16 and over said they themselves use the internet (at home, work, or elsewhere). This has increased steadily from 77% in 2012-13.



⁷ Well-being of Future Generation National Indicator 30, calculated using the [De Jong Gierveld loneliness score](#).

⁸ National well-being indicator 36.

Chart 7: Activities undertaken by internet users in last three months

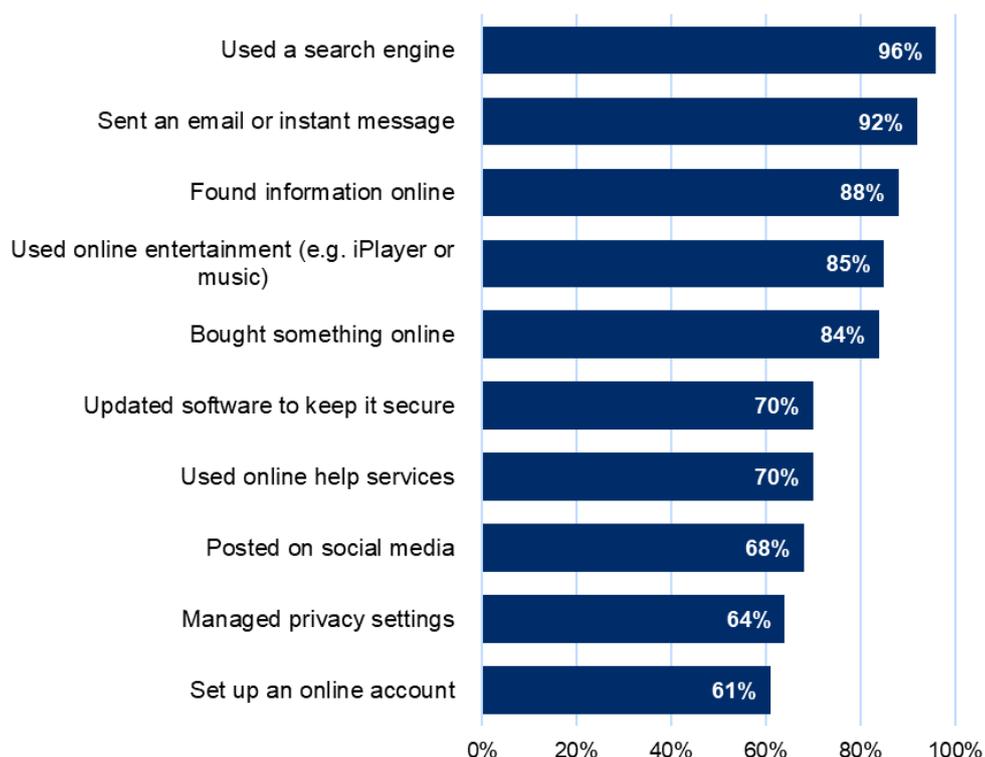


Chart 7 shows that the most common activity done by **96%** of internet users in the last three months was using a search engine whilst setting up an online account was the least common (**61%**). For most activities an additional 1% of people had carried out the task with the help of someone else.

Satisfaction with schools

Parents of school age children were asked about their satisfaction with their child's school.



90% were satisfied with their child's **primary school**



79% were satisfied with their child's **secondary school.**

In general, parents were more content with primary than with secondary schools.

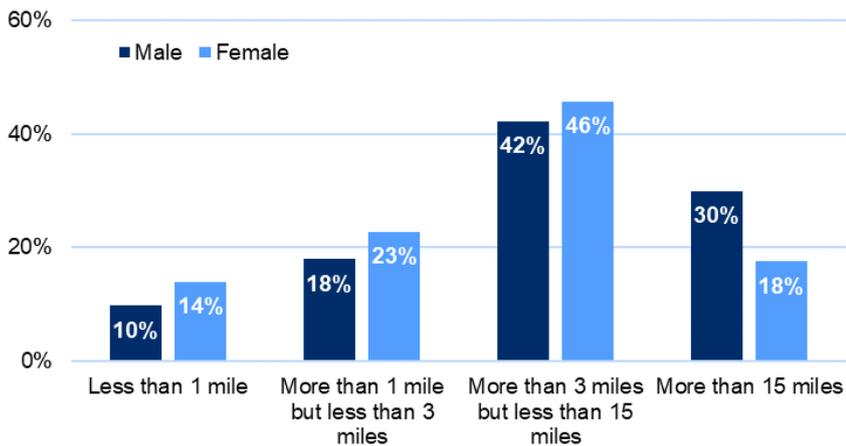
Parents agree that	Primary school	Secondary school
... the school prepares their child well for next stage of education	89%	77%
... the school helps their child develop into a well-rounded individual	92%	80%
... the standard of teaching at child's school is high	88%	72%

Transport

In 2019-20 people were asked about their overall satisfaction with bus and train services. They were asked to respond even if they didn't use buses / trains. **62%** were satisfied with bus services⁹ and **63%** were satisfied with train services¹⁰.

People who were working, including all employees and self-employed people, were asked about their **regular journey** from home to work. **71%** said they generally travelled to the **same workplace** and **17%** to a few different workplaces. A further **5%** didn't have a specific workplace, whilst **7% worked from home**.

Chart 8: Distance travelled to regular workplace, by sex



A similar proportion of men and women travelled between three and fifteen miles to work but in general men were likely to travel a longer distance than women – **30%** of **men** travelled more than 15 miles compared with **18%** of **women**.



By far the most popular **mode of transport** used to get to work was car or van (**75%**) – **13%** walked or ran, **6%** went by bus or coach, **3%** travelled by train and **2%** cycled.



Discrimination at work

Employees were asked about **discrimination** and **bullying** in the workplace. Overall **10%** said that they had experienced discrimination. Although they were not asked what type of discrimination the results varied by the ethnicity of the respondent – **9%** of **white** (Welsh, English, British etc.) people had personally experienced discrimination compared with **28%** of people from **black**, **Asian** and other **minority ethnic** backgrounds.

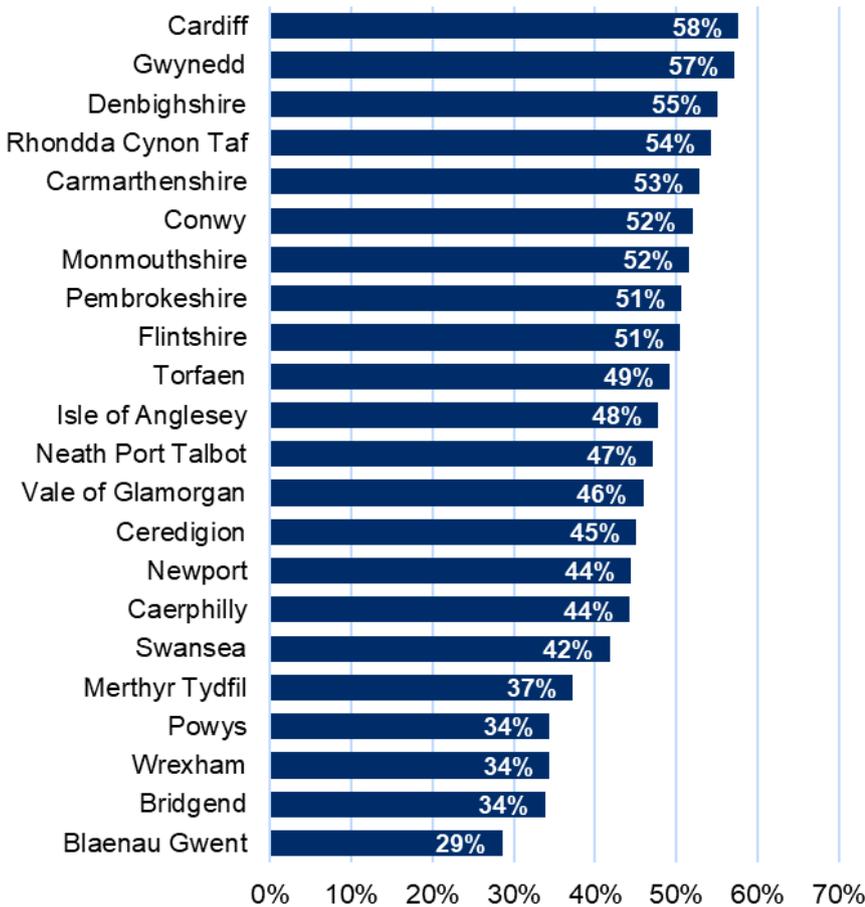
⁹ This result excludes 32% of people who responded 'Don't know' or 'No local bus services in my area'.

¹⁰ This result excludes 35% of people who responded 'Don't know' or 'No local train services in my area'.

Local authority services

People were asked for their views on the services offered by their local authority and about their involvement with the local authority. **47%** agreed that their local authority provides **high quality services**. This varied by local authority from **29%** of people in **Blaenau Gwent** to **58%** of people in **Cardiff**, as shown in Chart 9.

Chart 9: Agreement that local authority provides high quality services



76% of people felt they can find out what **services** their local authority provides and **75%** agreed they can **access information** about the council in the way they would like to.

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 2019 and 16 March 2020, at which point fieldwork was halted due to the coronavirus situation. Since late April 2020, the National Survey has instead been carried out by telephone. Results from the telephone survey are published separately on a monthly basis.

24,883 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 with them, covering a range of views, behaviours, and characteristics. A total of 12,393 interviews were achieved with a response rate of 59%.

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 Welsh 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.

From April 2020 the coronavirus situation has meant that we have made changes to the National Survey data collection process. A separate [quality report](#) has been published which discusses technical changes and comparability issues.

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.

The continued designation of these statistics as National Statistics was confirmed in 2017 following a compliance check by the Office for Statistics Regulation [[letter of confirmation](#)]. These statistics last underwent a full assessment [[full report](#)] against the Code of Practice in 2013.

Since the latest review by the Office for Statistics Regulation, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

- provided more detailed breakdowns in the [Results viewer](#) and made it easier for users to compare results across years;

- updated the survey topics annually to ensure we continue to meet changing policy need; and
- made regression analysis a standard part of our outputs to help users understand the contribution of particular factors to outcomes of interest.

Equalities data

Availability of data for equality dimensions:

Equality dimension	Collected	Included in release	Available in the Results viewer	Available on request
Race/Ethnicity	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Age groups	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sex	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Impairments and disability	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sexual orientation	Yes	No	No	Yes
Religion or belief	Yes	No	No	Yes
Marriage and civil partnership	Yes	No	No	Yes
Pregnancy and maternity	Yes	No	No	Yes
Gender identity	No	No	No	No

The National Survey for Wales captures data during the interview based around the Equality Act 2010 which uses the medical definition of disability (“any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last for 12 months or more”).

Questions collecting equalities data are included in the National Survey as shown above, however in many cases the sample sizes and quality of the data were not sufficient to provide a breakdown by these groups. Also, unless a significant difference exists between elements of a group then they may not be discussed in this report. Analysis of all results is available on request.

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 publish indicators (“national indicators”) for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals.

The National Survey collects information for [15 of the 46 indicators](#), 9 of these are reported on here:

- 3 Percentage of adults, who have fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours (not smoking, healthy weight, and meet guidelines on fruit and vegetables, drinking, and physical activity).
- 19 Percentage living in households in material deprivation.
- 20 Percentage moderately or very satisfied with their jobs.
- 28 Percentage who volunteer.
- 30 Percentage who are lonely.
- 35 Percentage attending or participating in arts, culture or heritage activities at least 3 times a year.
- 36 Percentage who speak Welsh daily and can speak more than just a few words of Welsh.
- 37 Percentage of people who can speak Welsh.
- 38 Percentage participating in sporting activities three or more times a week.

Results for these indicators are available as open data on [StatsWales](#). 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](#).

This release includes one contextual indicator, namely, the ‘percentage of people who can speak Welsh.’ which was referenced in the technical document or the Well-being report in the previous link.

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.

Next update

This release presents a small selection of results. There will be a number of more detailed, topic-specific outputs published throughout the year.

We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics: email surveys@gov.wales

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