



STATISTICAL RELEASE

Participation in Sporting and Cultural Activities – Analysis of the UK 2000 Time Use Survey

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The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has today published a report detailing findings from analysis of the UK 2000 Time Use Study. The report, and earlier analysis, is available to view on the research pages of the Department's website: www.culture.gov.uk

The report, *Examining participation in sporting and cultural activities: Analysis of the UK 2000 Time Use Survey*, was commissioned by the Department in autumn 2003 as part of a wider time use analysis plan co-ordinated by the Office for National Statistics.

The study grouped respondents by their tendency to do more or less of different types of activity in a given period of time, and examined the factors that are likely to determine these tendencies. It employed techniques such as latent class and cluster analysis.

Among findings of the analysis were:

- Those who participate in sporting activities are also more likely to participate in cultural activities, and vice-versa.
- For both sport and culture, the biggest single groups were of people who tend to do very little of anything.
- Higher levels of household income, education and social class usually predicted higher rates of participation in most cultural and sporting activities.
- Having taken into account household income and social class, it was found that not having access to a car or other vehicle inhibits the amount of sporting and cultural activities that individuals are able to participate in.
- There were no especially marked regional differences in participation in culture and sport.

Using classifications that were given labels for ease of reference by the report authors, it was found that the population of the UK falls into five distinct 'cultural classes': 'Family day trippers', 'Cultural slouches', 'Cultural consumers', 'High culture vultures' and 'Heritage seekers';

And five distinct 'sporting classes': 'Fit non-competitors', 'Sedate competitors', 'Couch potatoes', 'Active competitors' and 'Sport crazies'.

The findings show that people's level of education plays a key role in determining their participation in both sporting and cultural activities. Having a degree, for example, was associated with, among other activity patterns, being a 'fit non-competitor' (pursuing individual rather than team sports) or a 'sports crazy' but not being a 'couch potato'.

Age was another important factor in participation levels. Unsurprisingly, the findings suggest that older people are less likely to take part in tough sports like ball games and exercise in a gym, but are more likely to be involved in recreational walking or hiking. Again, older people were more involved in cultural activities like visiting plays, concerts and opera.

Gender was a significant factor in participation especially in sporting activity. Men, for example, are much more likely to take part in 'active aerobic' exercise (characterised by being physically demanding) and be 'sports crazy'. Meanwhile women make up the larger part of the group labelled 'couch potatoes'. However, this wasn't all one-way, with women forming the larger part of the group labelled 'fit non-competitors'.

Notes:

1. The analysis was undertaken by Dr Patrick Sturgis (University of Surrey) and Dr Jonathan Jackson (London School of Economics). Their first report, *A Preliminary analysis of the UK 2000 Time Use Survey*, commissioned by DCMS in July 2003, is also available on the Department's website.

2. The UK 2000 Time Use Survey was conducted between June 2000 and September 2001 and was co-funded by the ESRC, DCMS, DH, DfES, DfT and ONS. The survey is managed by the ONS. This analysis was part of a wider analysis plan across a number of topic areas being co-ordinated by the ONS. Results from the survey can be found on the ONS web site (www.statistics.gov.uk/timeuse)