**Culture and Arts**

The Continuous Household Survey (CHS)[[1]](#footnote-1) is designed to provide a regular source of information on a variety of issues relevant to Northern Ireland including participation in arts and culture. Data from the 2023/24 survey shows that engagement and participation in culture and arts by adults in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon was similar to that for Northern Ireland overall.

In the borough, 86% of respondents had engaged in culture and arts in the 12 months prior to being surveyed compared to 83% in Northern Ireland overall. Just over a third (35%) of those surveyed in the borough had participated in arts activities, slightly higher than the comparable figure for Northern Ireland overall (30%). It was reported that 78% of respondents from the borough stated that they had attended an arts event within the previous year, similar to Northern Ireland at 76%. Approximately 3 in every 10 people surveyed in the borough had used the public library service in the previous 12 months while for Northern Ireland overall the figure was lower at 23%. Only 36% of respondents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon had visited a museum or science centre in the previous 12 months, just less than the 39% recorded for Northern Ireland overall. Finally, just 3% of respondents from the borough had visited the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) or used PRONI online services within the twelve months prior to the survey. The equivalent figure for Northern Ireland was 5%.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon (%) | Northern Ireland  (%) |
| Engaged in culture and arts | 86 | 83 |
| Participated in arts activities | 35 | 30 |
| Attended an arts event | 78 | 76 |
| Used the public library service | 30 | 23 |
| Visited a museum or science centre | 36 | 39 |
| Visited PRONI | 3 | 5 |

*Table 1: Engagement in culture and arts by adults in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2023/24. Source: Continuous Household Survey, Department for Communities.*

*Figure 1: Engagement in culture and arts by adults in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2023/24. Source: Continuous Household Survey, Department for Communities.*

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (NILT)[[2]](#footnote-2) deals with the attitudes, values and beliefs of the people in Northern Ireland on a wide range of social policy issues, including culture and traditions.

The NILT survey asks respondents how much they agree that:

* The culture and traditions of the Catholic community add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society.
* The culture and traditions of the Protestant Community add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society.
* The culture and traditions of people from different minority ethnic groups adds to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society.

Results for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough for the combined years of 2021, 2022 and 2023 are similar to those for Northern Ireland overall when it comes to the culture and traditions of the Catholic and Protestant community adding to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society. Approximately 64% of respondents in the borough agree that the culture and traditions of the Catholic community add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society. The proportion in agreement was slightly higher in Northern Ireland overall (70.1%). With regards the culture and traditions of the Protestant community adding to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society, results were very similar for the borough and Northern Ireland overall with 63% and 64% respectively agreeing with this. Agreement that the culture and traditions of different minority ethnic groups add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society is similar to that for Catholic/Protestant communities, albeit slightly lower in the Borough. The levels of agreement in Northern Ireland overall for the culture and traditions of different minority ethnic groups is 65.9% while agreement in the borough is slightly lower at 59.8%.

|  | **The culture and traditions of . . . . . add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society** | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **The Catholic**  **community** | | **The Protestant community** | | **Different minority**  **ethnic groups** | |
| **ABC** | **NI** | **ABC** | **NI** | **ABC** | **NI** |
| **Strongly agree** | 22.0% | 27.1% | 16.7% | 19.2% | 13.7% | 21.0% |
| **Agree** | 42.1% | 43.0% | 46.3% | 44.8% | 46.1% | 44.9% |
| **Neither agree nor disagree** | 25.2% | 20.8% | 23.5% | 21.6% | 28.5% | 24.6% |
| **Disagree** | 5.2% | 5.1% | 9.2% | 9.1% | 6.2% | 4.8% |
| **Strongly disagree** | 2.5% | 1.5% | 1.5% | 2.9% | 1.8% | 1.7% |
| **Don’t know** | 2.8% | 2.4% | 2.6% | 2.4% | 3.7% | 2.8% |

*Table 2: Percentage of people who agree that the culture and traditions of the Catholic community/Protestant Community/different minority ethnic groups add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2021-23. Source: Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (ARK).*

*Figure 2: Percentage of people who agree that the culture and traditions of the Catholic community/Protestant Community/different minority ethnic groups add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2021-2023. Source: Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (ARK).*

Further information on culture and arts can be found via the following links:

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-research/sport-museums-and-libraries-statistics>

<https://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/>

1. <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/central-survey-unit/continuous-household-survey> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (ARK) - <https://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)