

3. Children, Young People and the Arts

Children (aged 5–14 years) and young people (aged 15–24 years) have different participation rates in cultural activities, compared to adults.

CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

In April 2006, the ABS Survey of Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities collected information about children's participation in their free time in four organised cultural activities, other selected leisure activities (including art and craft), and their attendance at cultural venues.

In the 12 months to April 2006, 25% (5,900) of children aged 5–14 years in the NT were involved in at least one of four selected organised cultural activities (playing a musical instrument, singing, dancing or drama) outside of school hours.

Playing a musical instrument was the most popular of the selected cultural activities, with 19% of children in the NT involved. By comparison, 10% were involved in dancing, and 6% were involved in singing or drama.

A higher proportion of girls than boys in NT (34% compared with 17%) participated in at least one of these cultural activities.

Children's participation in cultural activities by age group

The table below shows the participation of children in the four selected organised cultural activities by age group.

3.1 CHILDREN INVOLVED IN SELECTED ORGANISED CULTURAL ACTIVITIES(a)(b), NT and Australia, April 2006

	NT				Australia	
	5–8 years	9–11 years	12–14 years	Total(c)	Participation rate	Participation rate
	Number.	Number	Number	Number		
	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%
Playing a musical instrument	*0.9	*2.0	*1.5	4.3	18.7	19.5
Dancing	*1.3	**0.5	**0.5	*2.2	*9.6	12.5
Singing or Drama	**0.6	**0.2	*0.7	*1.5	*6.3	8.9
At least one of these activities(d)	*2.0	*2.0	*1.9	5.9	25.4	32.6

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Outside of school hours.

(b) In the 12 months before interview.

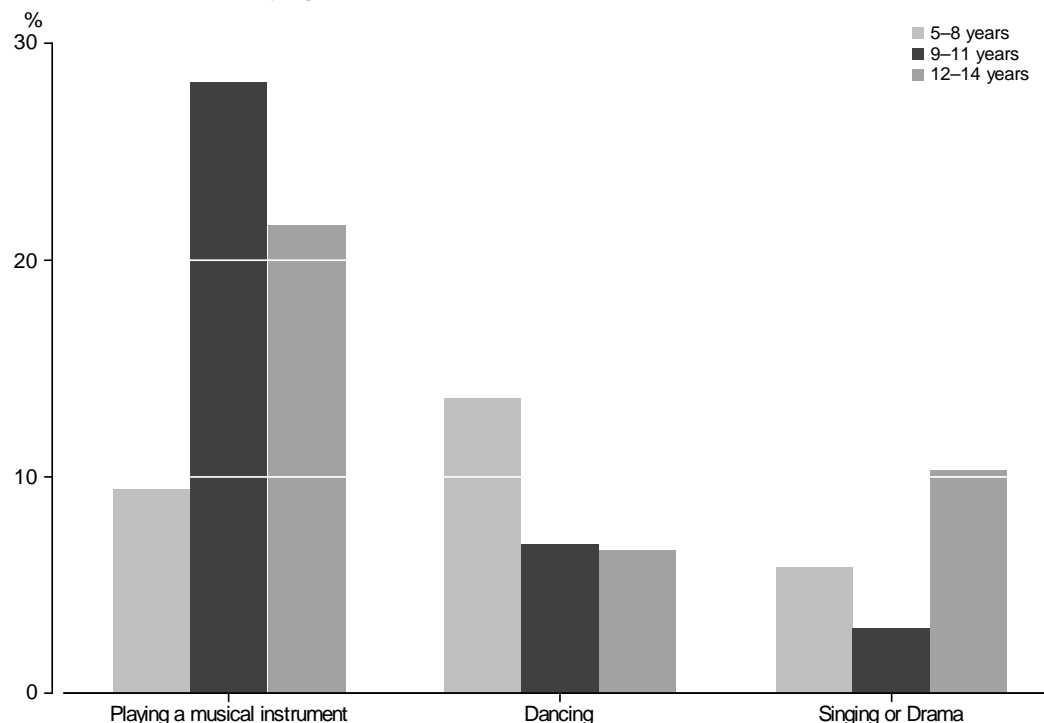
(c) Sum may not add to total due to rounding errors.

(d) Sum of activities does not add to total because some children were involved in more than one activity.

Source: ABS, *Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, April 2006, data available on request.*

The participation rate for playing a musical instrument was highest in the 9–11 years age group; the participation rate in dancing was highest in the 5–8 years age group; and the participation rate in drama was highest in the 12–14 years age group.

3.2 PARTICIPATION RATES OF CHILDREN INVOLVED IN SELECTED ORGANISED CULTURAL ACTIVITIES(a)(b), NT, By age, April 2006



(a) Outside of school hours.

(b) In the 12 months before interview.

Source: ABS, *Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, April 2006*, data available on request.

Over three-quarters (77%) of NT children playing a musical instrument received lessons during the 12-month period. This compares with 71% of those involved in singing, all of those involved in dancing and 58% of those involved in drama.

CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION IN OTHER LEISURE ACTIVITIES

The 2006 ABS survey also collected data on six selected leisure activities undertaken by children in the two school weeks immediately prior to interview. It showed that 97% of children in NT had watched TV or videos outside of school hours; 80% did homework or other study; 81% of children read for pleasure; 77% had been bike riding and 71% had played electronic or computer games. Just over half (56%) of children in NT participated in art and craft activities.

3.3 CHILDREN INVOLVED IN SELECTED LEISURE ACTIVITIES(a)(b), NT and Australia, April 2006

	NT				Australia	
	5–8 years	9–11 years	12–14 years	Total(c)	Participation rate	Participation rate
	Number	Number	Number	Number		
	'000	'000	'000	'000		
Skateboarding or rollerblading	*2.2	*1.9	*1.3	5.4	23.1	23.6
Bike riding	7.6	5.2	5.0	17.8	76.6	67.8
Watching TV, videos or DVDs	8.9	6.8	6.8	22.6	97.3	97.4
Playing electronic or computer games	6.5	5.2	4.9	16.6	71.2	63.6
Art and craft	6.8	3.6	*2.5	12.9	55.6	49.1
Reading for pleasure	7.3	5.7	5.8	18.8	80.8	74.5
Homework or other study	6.8	6.0	5.8	18.6	80.1	82.9

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(a) Outside of school hours.

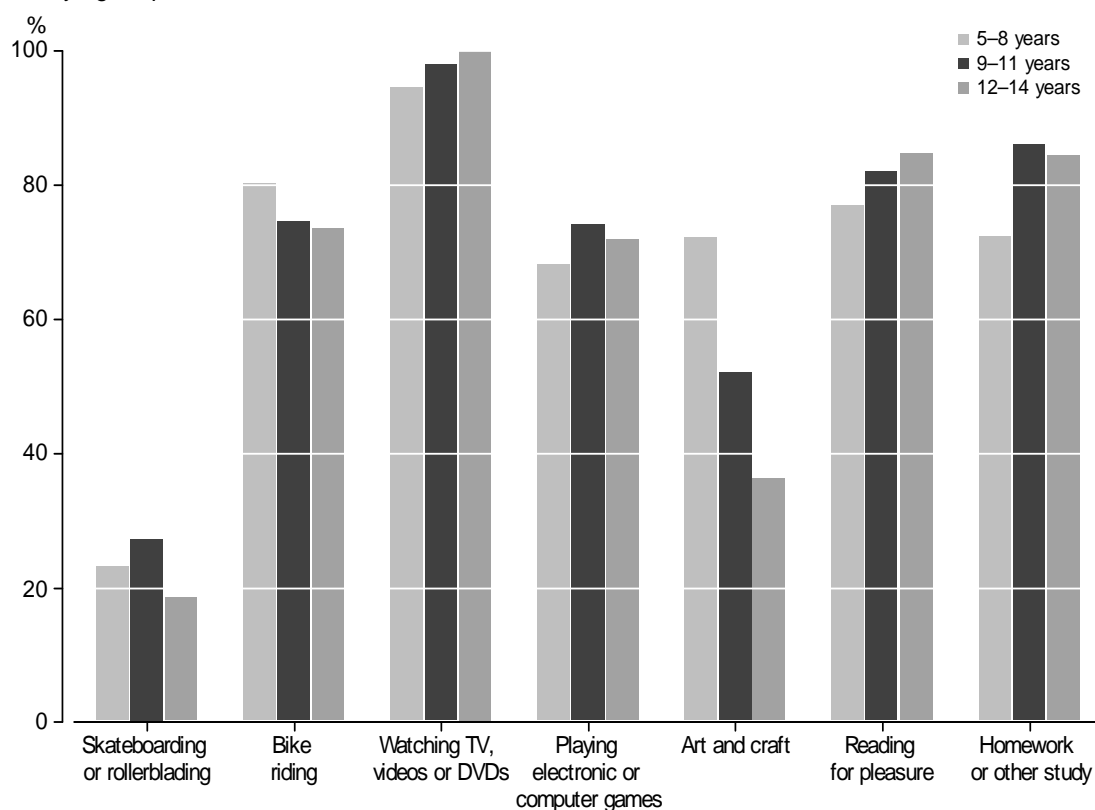
(b) In the two school weeks immediately prior to interview.

(c) Sum may not add to total due to rounding errors.

Source: ABS, *Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, April 2006*, data available on request.

The leisure activities with the greatest differences between age groups were art and craft activities, where the participation rates were higher in the 5–8 year age group, and homework or other study where participation rates were lower in the 5–8 year age group.

3.4 PARTICIPATION RATES OF CHILDREN INVOLVED IN SELECTED LEISURE ACTIVITIES(a)(b), NT, By age, April 2006



(a) Outside of school hours.

(b) In the two school weeks immediately prior to interview.

Source: ABS, *Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, April 2006*, data available on request.

CHILDREN'S ATTENDANCE AT CULTURAL VENUES AND EVENTS

In NT, over three quarters (77%) of children aged 5–14 years attended at least one of the selected cultural venues or events outside of school hours. The highest participation was at public libraries (57%). Nearly half (49%) of children visited a museum or art gallery, and over a quarter (27%) of children attended a performing arts event.

3.5 CHILDREN'S ATTENDANCE AT SELECTED CULTURAL VENUES AND EVENTS(a)(b), NT, April 2006

	5–14 years			
	NT		Australia	
	Number '000	Attendance rate %	Number '000	Attendance rate %
Museum or Art gallery	11.5	49.6	995.2	37.3
Public library	13.2	56.9	1 467.5	55.1
Performing arts	6.2	26.6	809.6	30.4
Attended at least one of these (c)	17.8	76.6	1 879.7	70.5

(a) Outside of school hours.

(b) In the 12 months before interview.

(c) Sum of activities does not add to total because some children attended more than one cultural venue or event.

Source: ABS, *Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, April 2006*, data available on request.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ATTENDANCE AT CULTURAL VENUES AND EVENTS

According to the 2005–06 survey on Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events, young people aged 15–24 years had the highest attendance rates at cinemas (92%), museums (34%) and popular music concerts (42%) compared to the other selected cultural venues and events. Compared with those aged 25 years or more, young people (aged 15–24 years) were more inclined to go to popular music concerts, theatre performances and the cinema, and were less likely to attend art galleries, museums, zoological parks and gardens and botanic gardens.

3.6 ATTENDANCE AT SELECTED CULTURAL VENUES AND EVENTS(a), NT, By age group, 2005–06

	15–24 years.....		25 years and over.....	
	Number '000	Attendance rate %	Number '000	Attendance rate %
	Art gallery	*3.5	*17.4	25.3
Museums	*6.7	*33.6	35.7	39.2
Zoological parks and aquariums	*4.9	*24.4	35.1	38.5
Botanic gardens	*4.6	*22.9	38.5	42.3
Library	*4.9	*24.5	26.3	28.9
Popular music concert	*8.3	*41.8	24.5	26.9
Classical music concert	**1.0	**5.0	*7.8	*8.6
Theatre performance	*2.8	*14.0	10.7	11.7
Dance performance	**1.1	**5.5	9.6	10.5
Musicals and operas	**1.1	**5.7	9.3	10.2
Other performing arts	*2.8	*14.2	13.6	14.9
Cinema	18.3	91.8	57.4	63.0
At least one venue or event	18.3	91.8	80.7	88.6

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) In the 12 months before interview.

Source: ABS, *Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events, Australia, 2005–06 (cat. no. 4114.0)*.

YOUNG PEOPLE EMPLOYED IN CULTURAL OCCUPATIONS

The Census data show that in August 2006, of all employed young persons aged 15–24 years in NT, 270 (1.8%) had their main job in a cultural occupation.

Young persons aged 15–24 years accounted for 11% of all persons with their main job in a cultural occupation in NT.

Table 3.7 displays data at a broad occupation level. Appendix 1 shows that the cultural occupations providing the largest number of jobs for young people were park rangers (36 persons), library assistants (17 persons) and visual arts and crafts professionals nec (15 persons).

The Census data provides information on the person's main job. It does not provide information about second jobs or unpaid work.

3.7 PERSONS EMPLOYED IN CULTURAL OCCUPATIONS(a)(b) AS MAIN JOB, NT, By Age, 2006

	15-24 years no.	25 years and over no.
Heritage collections		
Built, Collectable and Environmental Heritage Workers	51	363
Library and Archive Workers	22	284
Other Heritage Workers	–	–
<i>Total Heritage Workers</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>647</i>
Arts		
Writers and Print Media Workers	14	148
Performing Artists and Music Composers	22	131
Performing Arts Support Workers (other than Equipment Operators)	18	101
Visual Arts and Crafts Professionals	22	237
Architects and Urban Planners	6	164
Design Workers	31	178
Broadcasting, Film and Recorded Media Equipment Operators	22	46
Printing Workers	18	114
Other Arts Support Workers	19	113
Other Arts Workers	7	41
<i>Total Arts Workers</i>	<i>189</i>	<i>1 276</i>
Other Cultural Workers	9	320
Total employed in cultural occupations	270	2 245

– nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Occupations considered as 'cultural' based on inclusion in the Australian Culture and Leisure Classifications.

(b) Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.

Source: ABS, *Census of Population and Housing, 2006, data available on request.*