



Ruthless Research

***Final report:***

# **Youth theatre sector review 2020**

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*Submitted by:*  
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### About Ruthless Research

Ruthless Research is an Edinburgh-based independent research consultancy, through which Ruth Stevenson provides a range of qualitative and quantitative research solutions to organisations who work for the benefit of the community.

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## Background and context

### Background

Youth Theatre Arts Scotland (YTAS) wanted to undertake research to review the information that they hold about the youth theatre sector in Scotland, which will be used to inform their understanding of their stakeholders and explore ways to best engage with the youth theatre sector in Scotland.

A mapping exercise was undertaken to:

- Gather a comprehensive picture of youth theatre provision across Scotland;
- Identify gaps in provision;
- Provide a narrative report identifying key findings and detailed analysis of the provision;
- Compare findings to the previous Sector Review undertaken in autumn 2015.

The report that follows discusses the findings from the mapping exercise, providing a snapshot of youth theatre provision in Scotland at the beginning of 2020 (prior to the Covid-19 pandemic) and comparing it to the sector in 2015.

### Methodology

This mapping exercise was conducted by independent researcher Ruth Stevenson.

Representatives of youth theatres in Scotland were invited to complete a mapping form which was available online between 8th September and 6th October 2020. Questions specifically referred to the period of 'the year April 2019 – March 2020' – which immediately precedes the Covid-19 pandemic and initial lockdown. The questions and approach used to set up this mapping form were similar to those used for the YTAS sector review in 2015, to enable comparison between the years as much as possible, however:

- There were some changes to question wording where YTAS priorities or data needs had changed.
- In 2020 findings are based on complete data provided personally by each youth theatre, whereas in 2015 we sourced and included additional data for some other known youth theatres that had not completed the full survey.

Mapping entries were cleaned and de-duped, and further information was requested to fill any gaps. This information was transferred into a database for collation and analysis. In total, the database includes detail about 99 youth theatres, providing activities across 217 venues.

The database contains the results of a focused search for youth theatre venues and activities in Scotland, however it may be that some venues or activities were missed or incomplete information was recorded if information was not provided when asked.

It is relevant to note that many youth theatres were closed or had furloughed staff during the early months of the Covid-19 pandemic, and although we tried to maximise participation by

conducting the survey during autumn 2020, many may still have been working in different, disrupted or reduced ways which may have impacted on response rates.

The analysis of this database was conducted by Ruth Stevenson and the findings are provided in the following report. As part of the analysis of the database, population figures have been based on [mid-year estimates 2019 from the Office for National Statistics](#).

## KEY FINDINGS

### The national picture

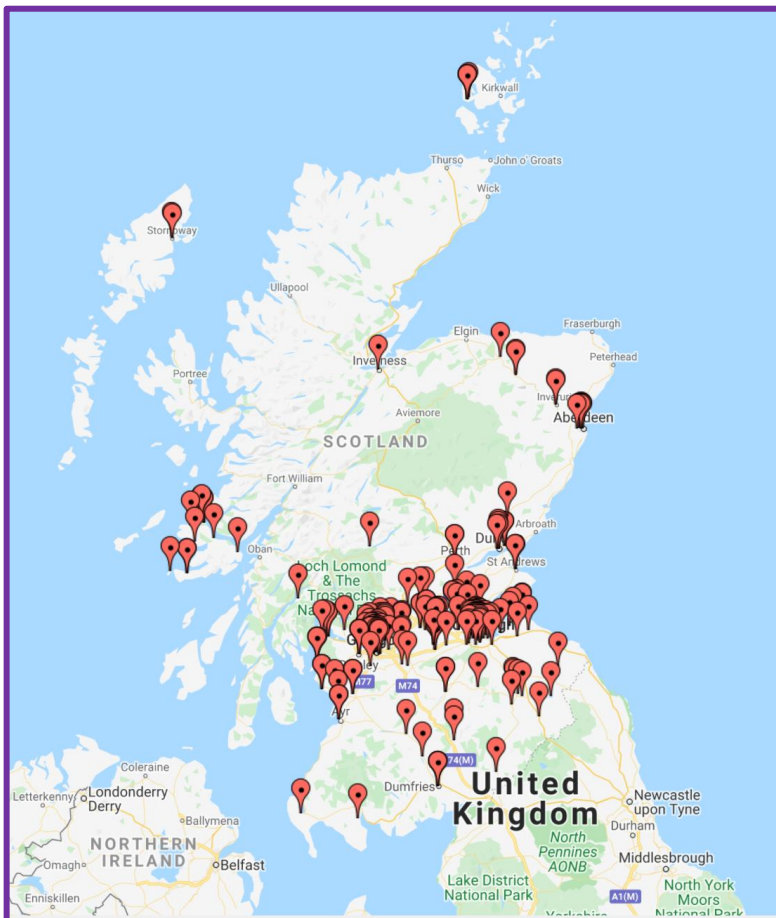
In total 217 youth theatre venues in Scotland were identified and entered into the mapping database. With a Scottish under 25 population of 1,568,301 and a database containing 217 venues, the mapping process has identified one youth theatre venue for every 7,227 members of the Scottish population aged under 25.

This compares to one youth theatre venue for every 4,701 young people in 2015, however it is difficult to say whether this represents a genuine reduction in provision or a difference in our methodology.

This report describes patterns in the composition of the complete database at the end of the data collection period.

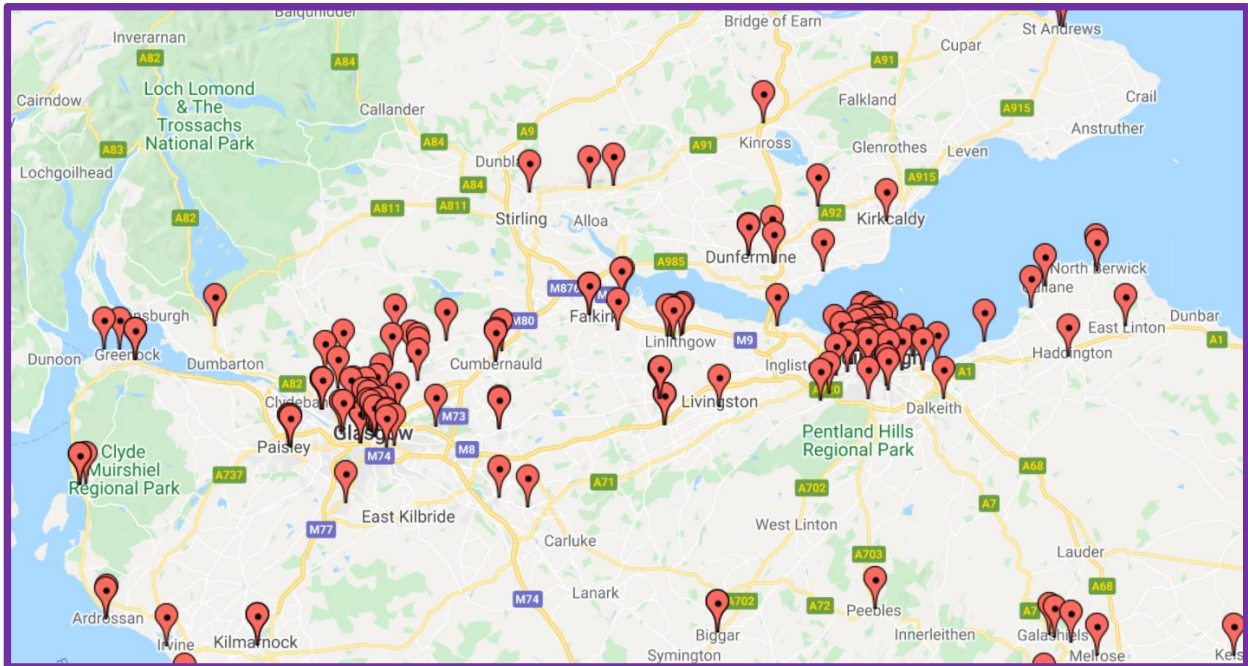
### The geography of youth theatre

The following map shows the geographic distribution of the 217 youth theatre venues.



As in 2015, there was a reasonable spread of activity across Scotland with a cluster in the Central Belt and up the east coast. In 2020 the most northerly venue was in Orkney, whereas in 2015 the most northerly venue was in Shetland.

The following map shows more detail for the Central Belt region, where the majority of activity was located.



This map is available online via [this link](#) where each venue is labelled and it is possible to zoom in and out.

The following map ([link here](#)) shows the headquarters location of member (green) and non-member (blue) youth theatres.



## Number of classes

We asked the youth theatres to tell us how many separate classes they provided.

	2020 %
0	8
1	12
2-5	32
6-10	19
11-20	18
21+	8
Data not provided	3

In 2020 around one in ten (12%) of the youth theatres ran one class only, and just under one in ten (8%) ran more than 21 separate classes. The greatest proportion of the youth theatres (32%) ran 2-5 separate classes.

8% of the youth theatres said that they did not run any separate classes

The average number of classes run by each youth theatre was 9.4.

We recorded this question in a different way in 2015 and 2020, so findings are not directly comparable between years.

## Youth theatre participation

We asked the youth theatres to tell us about the number of participants that were involved in their activities.

	2015 Number	2020 Number
Number of participants engaged weekly	16,777	13,851
Number of participants engaged in holiday or project activity	11,702	7,790
<b>Total number of participants engaged</b>	<b>28,479</b>	<b>21,641</b>

In total the mapping exercise identified an estimated 21,641 young people involved in youth theatre in Scotland in 2020, as compared to 28,479 in 2015. As fewer venues were identified in 2020 it is no surprise that participation figures were also lower.

An estimated 13,427 of these young people attend activities run by YTAS members (up from 12,455 in 2015), of which 8,061 attend activities run by YTAS members weekly.

## Youth theatre staffing

We asked the youth theatres to tell us about the way that they staffed their organisations.

	2015 Number	2020 Number
Number of paid staff	903	686
Number of volunteers	913	401
<b>Total number of staff / volunteers</b>	<b>1,816</b>	<b>1,087</b>

In total the mapping exercise identified an estimated 1,087 people working in youth theatre in Scotland in 2020, a lower figure than in 2015. Again, as fewer venues were identified in 2020 it is no surprise that staffing figures were also lower.

In 2020 around two thirds of staff were paid and a third were volunteers, as compared to half staff and half volunteers in 2015. Looking at the absolute figures, the number of volunteers in the sector across Scotland has fallen proportionally more than the number of paid staff.

We asked the youth theatres to tell us about their employment arrangements for sessional workers.

The average hourly rate typically paid to sessional workers in 2020 was £23.38.

The following table details the activities that sessional staff were paid for by youth theatres in 2020.

	2020 %
Delivery of activities	75
Preparation time	37
Travel time	13

Whilst three quarters (75%) of the youth theatres told us that they paid sessional staff for delivery of activities, only 37% paid sessional staff for preparation time and 13% paid sessional staff for travel time.

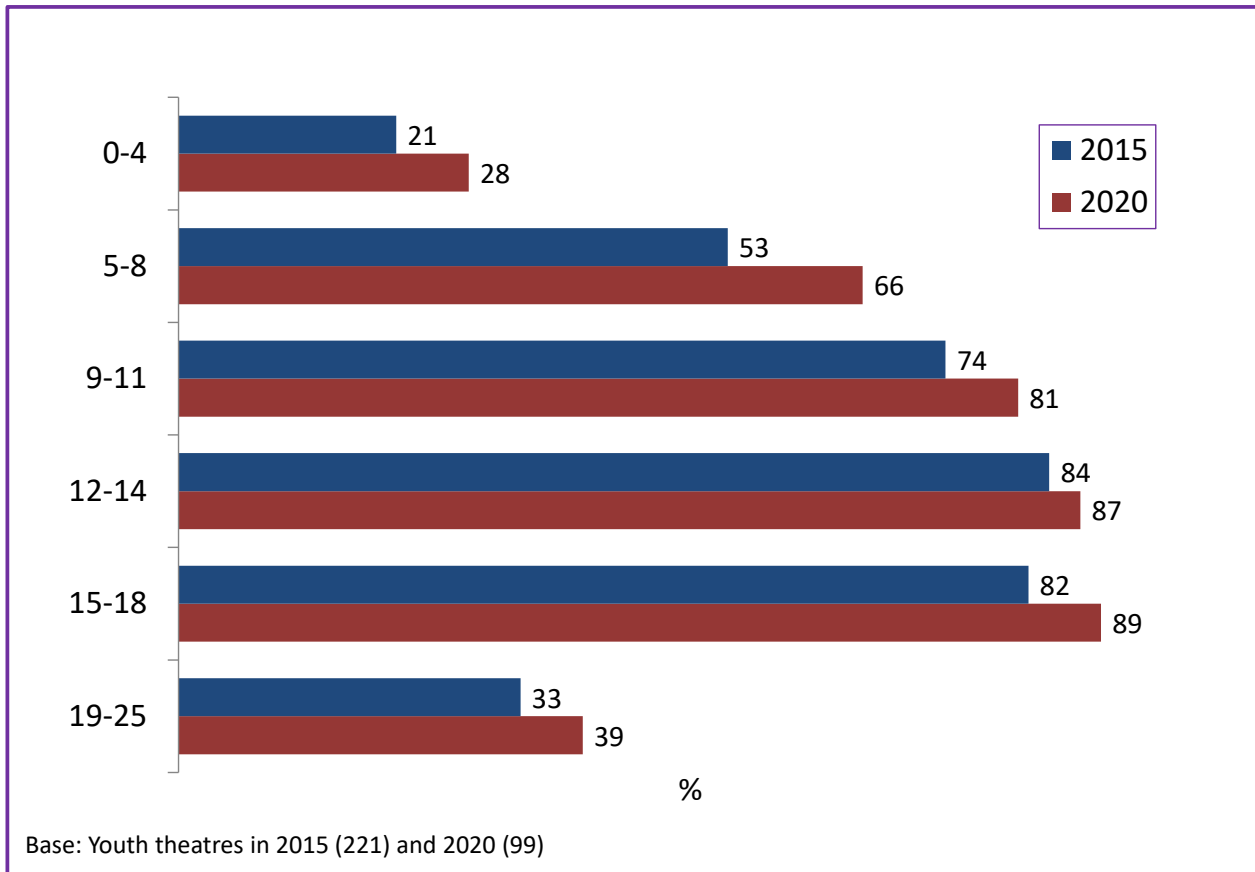
Some youth theatres noted that they paid different fees depending on level of responsibility, or that they would pay a set 'sessional rate' for a two hour session but that it was acknowledged this was to include preparation time.



## Youth theatre participants

We asked the youth theatres to tell us more about the participants involved in their activities.

The following graph provides information about the ages of participants involved in youth theatre across Scotland.



In both 2015 and 2020 the majority of venues provided youth theatre activities for high school aged children. Although relatively fewer provided activities for older or younger age groups, provision rose in the older and younger age groups between 2015 and 2020.

The following table provides information about the gender of participants involved in youth theatre in Scotland.

	2015 %	2020 %
Male	34	37
Female	66	62
Other	(not asked)	1

In both 2015 and 2020 the mapping exercise identified an estimated gender split of approximately two thirds female and one third male youth theatre participants across Scotland. In 2020 we also included a category for other gender identities, and an estimated 1% of participants were in this category in 2020.

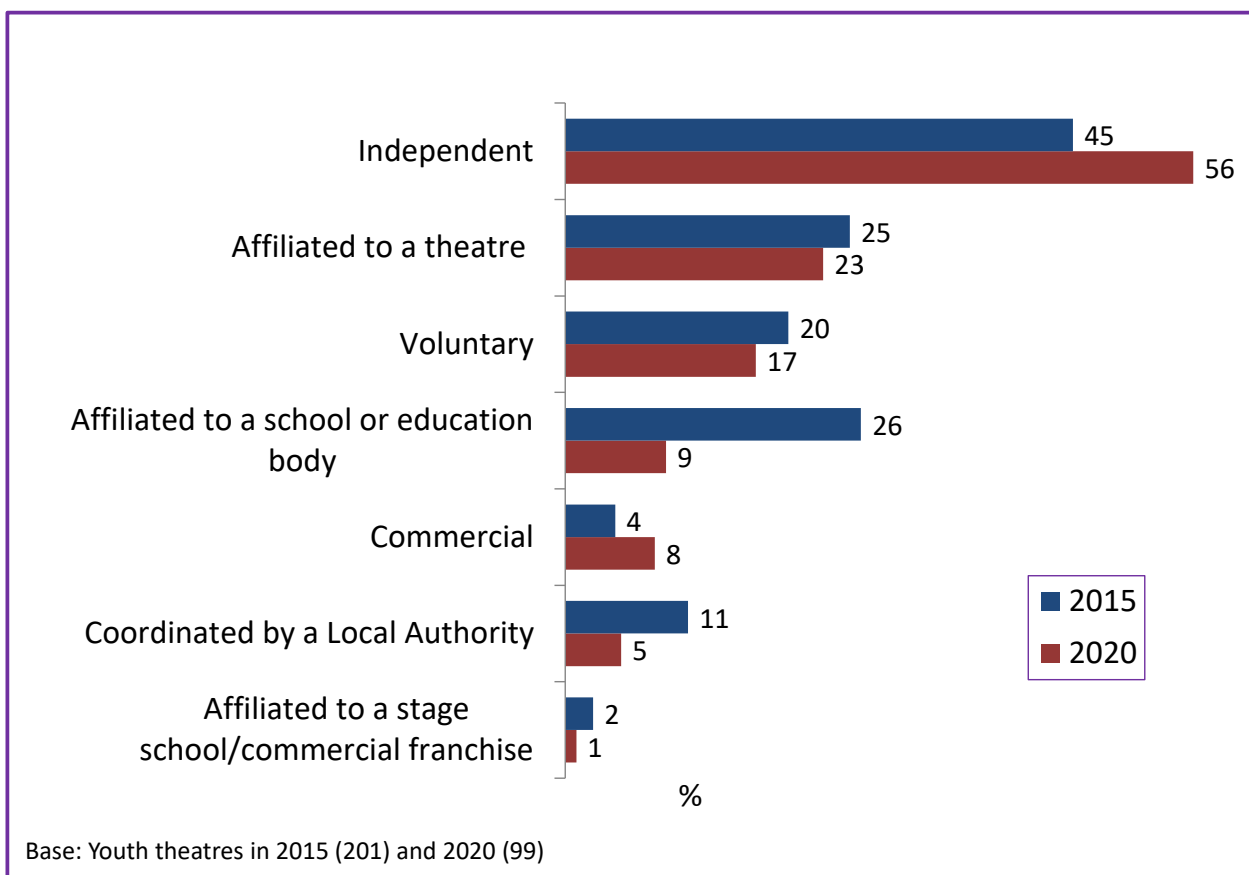
## Youth theatre organisations

In total, 99 youth theatre organisations were identified as operating across 217 venues. This is an average of 2.19 venues per organisation (as compared to 1.29 venues per organisation in 2015).

The following table lists the youth theatre organisations operating at more than three venues in 2020.

Organisation	Number of venues
Mull Youth Theatre	12
Strange Town	12
Borders Youth Theatre	8
Live Drama	6
Mix Up Theatre	6
The Mill Youth Theatre	6
ShowWorks Theatre	5
Creative Spark Theatre Arts	4
Dundee Schools Music Theatre	4
Stromness Drama Club	4
Aberdeen Performing Arts Youth Theatre	3
Aberdeen Youth Music Theatre	3
Bunbury Banter Education	3
Captivate Drama	3
Firefly Arts	3
Ignite Theatre	3
LAMP Children's Theatre	3
NUC Acting Up	3
PACE Youth Theatre	3
Peek Youth Theatre	3
Performance Collective Stranraer	3
Stagecoach Performing Arts Glasgow	3

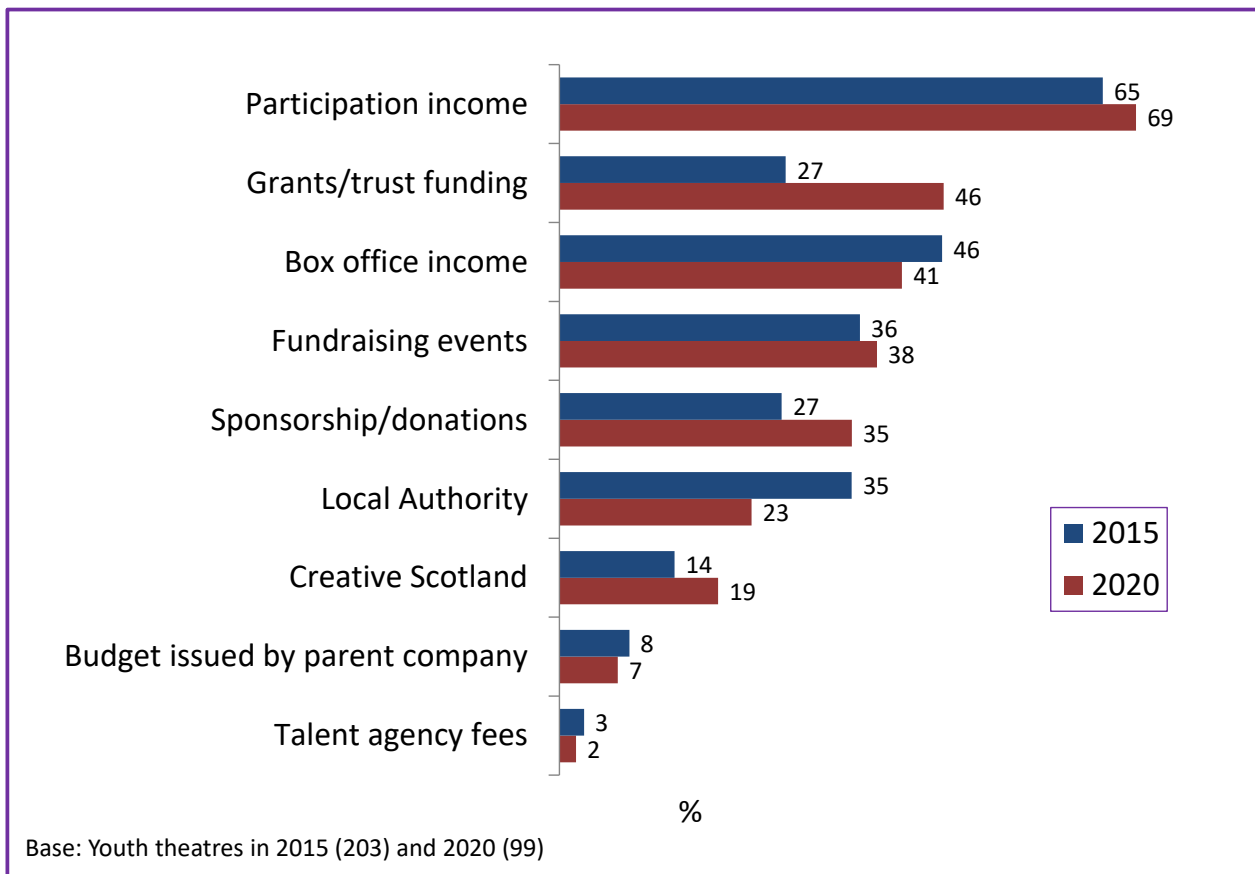
The following graph provides information about the status or affiliation of the organisations offering youth theatre activity.



More than half of the organisations (56%) were independent, and this categorisation was the most prevalent in both 2015 and 2020. However, in 2020 substantially more youth theatre organisations were independent than in 2020 (56% as compared to 45%), and substantially fewer were affiliated with a school or education body (9% as compared to 26%). It may be that the slight change in methodology has contributed to this shift.

Overall in 2020, 50% of the youth theatre organisations told us that they were registered charities, and 45% told us that they were registered companies.

The following graph details the sources of income for the youth theatre organisations.



In both 2015 and 2020, the source of income used by the most organisations was participation income. However, 2020 saw a reduction in box office and Local Authority income as sources, and an increase in grants/trust funding and sponsorships/donations as sources.

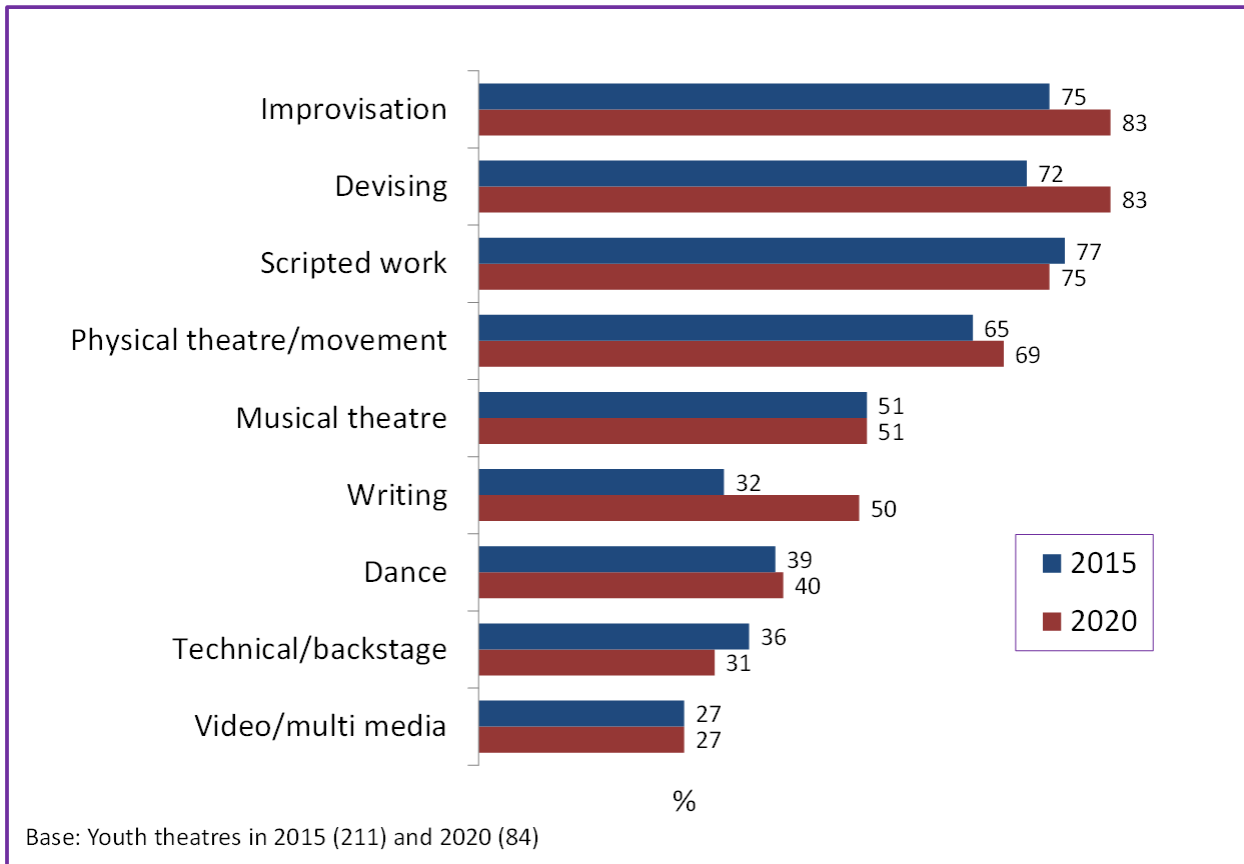
The following table provides information about the main income sources for the youth theatres.

	2015 %	2020 %
Participation income	36	48
Grants/trust funding	4	15
Box office income	13	11
Creative Scotland	6	6
Local Authority	23	5
Fundraising events	7	3
Budget issued by parent company	4	2
Data not provided	7	10

Showing a similar pattern, the main source of income for youth theatres was most often participation income which was the main source of income for more youth theatres in 2020 as compared to 2015. The Local Authority as a main source of income fell substantially from 23% in 2015 to 5% in 2020, and grants/trust funding as a main source rose substantially from 4% in 2015 to 15% in 2020.

## Youth theatre activities

We asked the youth theatres to provide information about their activities.



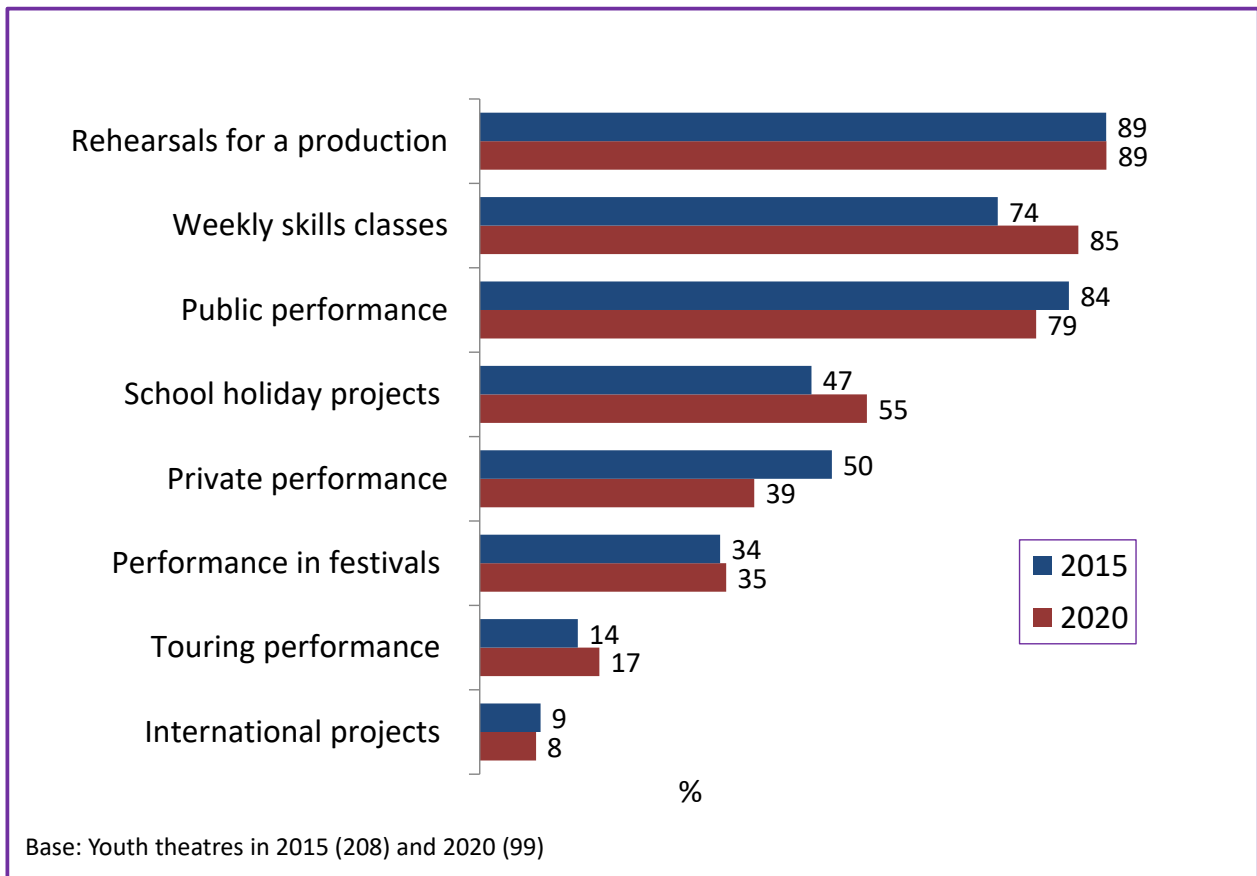
Patterns of provision of activities were similar in 2015 and 2020. The most notable difference was an increase in provision of writing activities (offered by 32% of youth theatres in 2015 rising to 50% in 2020). Provision of devising and improvisation activities also rose in 2020.

The following table provides information about the main focus for youth theatres in Scotland.

	2015 %	2020 %
Devising	29	35
Musical theatre	20	24
Scripted work	26	12
Improvisation	10	9
Dance	2	1
Physical theatre / movement	0	1
Video / multi media	1	0
Other	12	14
Data not provided	0	4

In both 2015 and 2020 the main focus of activity was most often devising or musical theatre. Patterns in the main focus of activity were very similar in 2015 and 2020, the main difference being that scripted work as the main focus fell from 26% in 2015 to 12% in 2020.

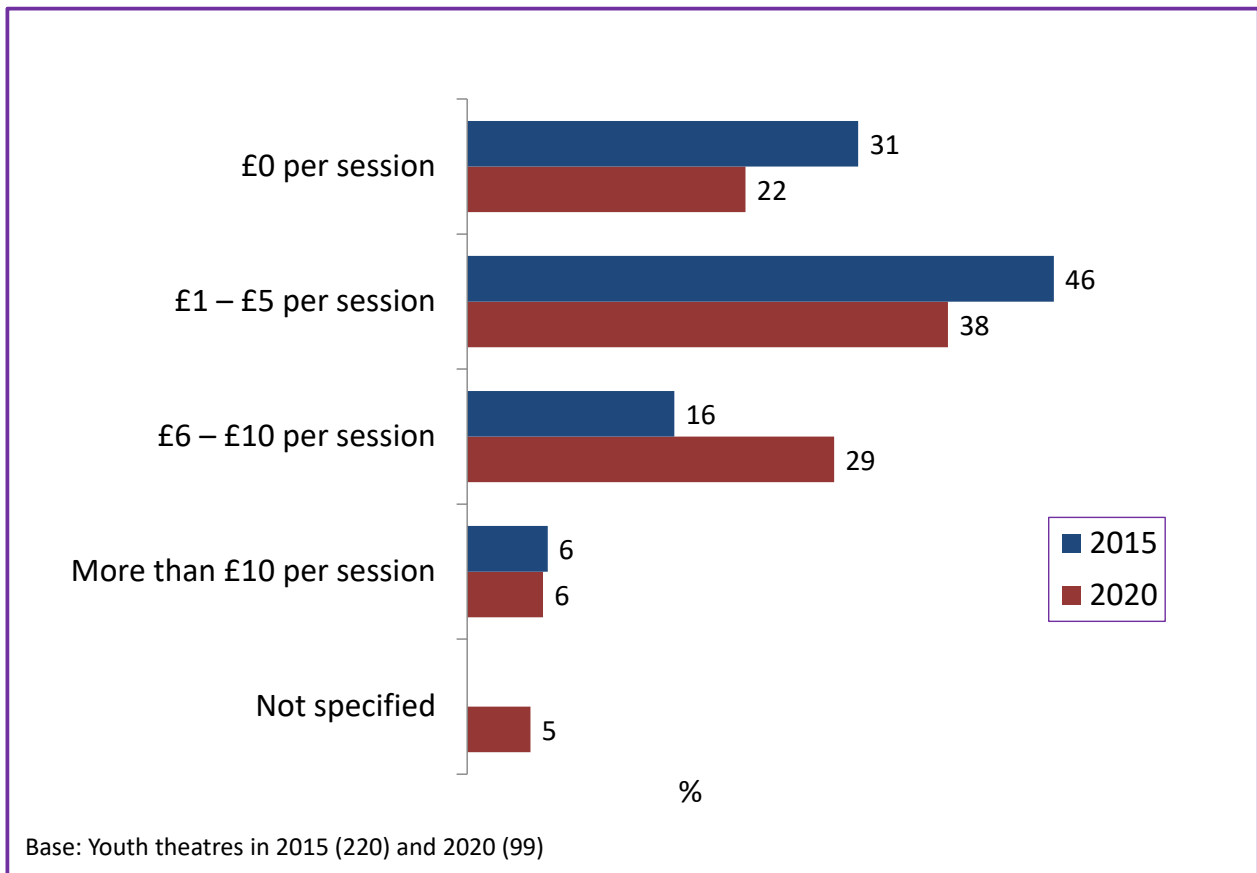
The following graph provides information about the type of projects undertaken by youth theatre activities in Scotland.



In both 2015 and 2020, the project types undertaken by most organisations were rehearsals for a production, weekly skills classes, and public performances.

2020 saw a rise in provision of weekly skills classes (from 74% in 2015 to 85% in 2020) and school holiday projects (from 47% in 2015 to 55% in 2020) and touring performances (from 14% in 2015 to 17% in 2020)

The following graph provides information about participant costs for youth theatre activities in Scotland.



In both 2015 and 2020, fees for youth theatre classes were most often £1-5 per session.

However, in 2020 it was notable that a lower proportion of the youth theatres charged the lower fees (free or £1-5) as compared to 2015, and a greater proportion charged £6-10 per session indicating an increase in the cost of participation.

In 2020, 51 youth theatres (52%) said that they offered financial support for participants which compares to 91 'venues' (a slightly different measure) in 2015.

## The regional picture

### Number of venues by region

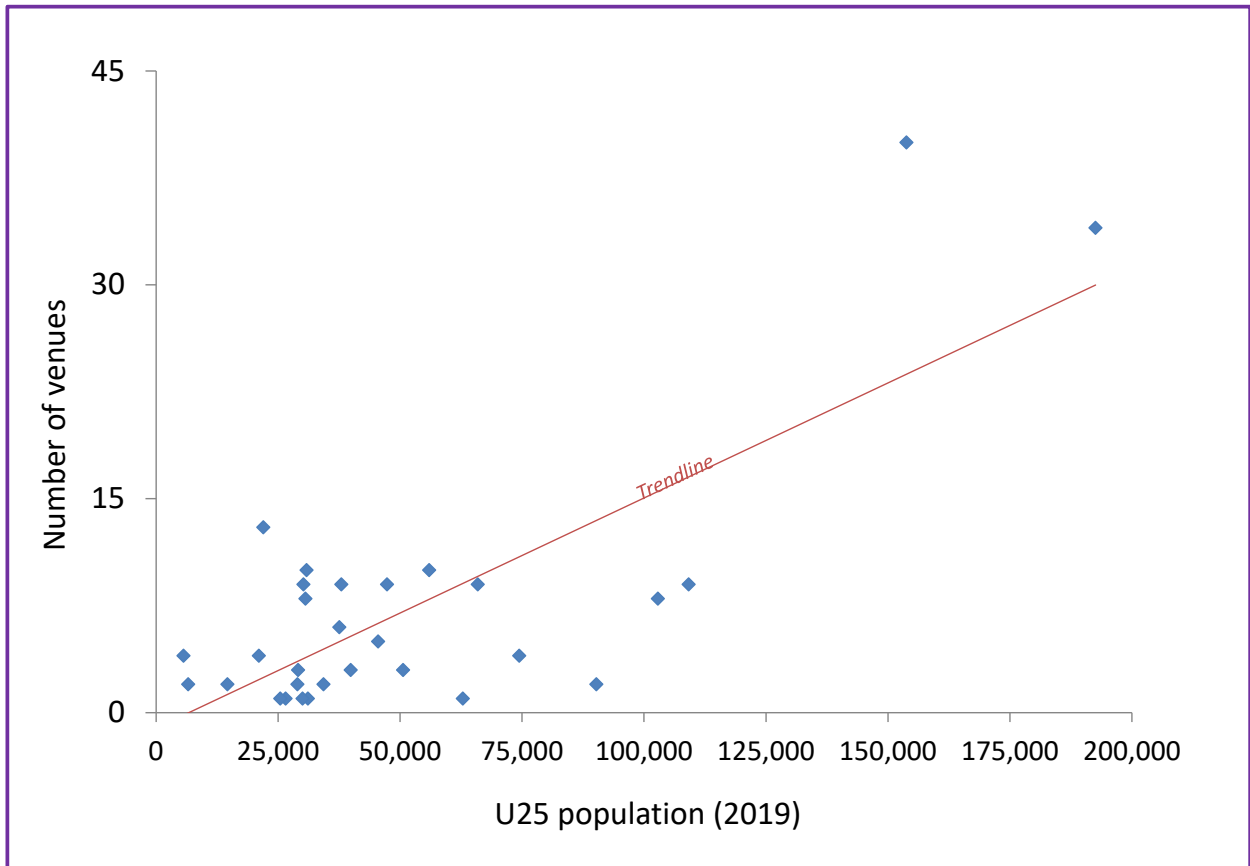
Each of the entries in the database was classified according to its Local Authority region. The following table details the number of youth theatre venues in each Local Authority region.

Region	2015 %	2020 %	2020 No.	Change (% points)
Edinburgh Council	7	19	40	+12
Glasgow Council	8	16	34	+8
Argyll and Bute Council	1	6	14	+5
West Lothian Council	4	5	10	+1
East Dunbartonshire Council	4	5	10	+1
Aberdeen Council	6	4	9	-2
Dundee Council	1	4	9	+3
Dumfries and Galloway Council	4	4	9	0
Fife Council	6	4	9	-2
Scottish Borders Council	4	4	9	0
East Lothian Council	4	4	8	0
North Lanarkshire Council	4	4	8	0
North Ayrshire Council	1	3	6	+2
Falkirk Council	4	2	5	-2
Aberdeenshire Council	5	2	4	-3
Orkney Council	1	2	4	+1
Inverclyde Council	1	2	4	+1
Perth and Kinross Council	4	1	3	-3
Renfrewshire Council	3	1	4	-2
South Ayrshire Council	2	1	3	-1
Clackmannanshire Council	0	1	2	+1
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	0	1	2	+1
East Ayrshire Council	1	1	2	0
South Lanarkshire Council	3	1	2	-2
Stirling Council	1	1	2	0
Angus Council	2	*	1	-2
East Renfrewshire Council	1	*	1	-1
Highland Council	11	*	1	-11
West Dunbartonshire Council	3	*	1	-3
Moray Council	4	*	1	-4
Midlothian Council	1	0	0	-1
Shetland Council	1	0	0	-1
<b>Total number of venues</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>217</b>	

In 2020, the largest number of venues were recorded in Edinburgh and Glasgow. This illustrates a move towards the Central Belt since 2015, with fewer venues being recorded in Highland, Moray, Perth and Kinross, and Aberdeenshire.



The number of venues recorded in each of the Local Authority regions was then analysed against recent under 25 population figures for the corresponding areas to find out whether population and youth theatre provision were related.



When recorded activities were compared to the populations of the areas, on the whole more youth theatre venues were available in areas with higher populations.

The following table details the number of youth theatre venues compared to the under 25 population in each Local Authority region.

Region	Ratio of venue to u25 population (1 venue per ... population)
Orkney Islands Council	1,413
Argyll and Bute Council	1,572
East Dunbartonshire Council	3,084
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	3,309
Scottish Borders Council	3,357
East Lothian Council	3,829
City of Edinburgh Council	3,845
Dumfries and Galloway Council	4,219
Dundee City Council	5,263
Inverclyde Council	5,275
West Lothian Council	5,597
Glasgow City Council	5,663
North Ayrshire Council	6,259
Clackmannanshire Council	7,322
Aberdeen City Council	7,327
Falkirk Council	9,105
South Ayrshire Council	9,706
Fife Council	12,131
Renfrewshire Council	12,661
North Lanarkshire Council	12,857
Perth and Kinross Council	13,302
Stirling Council	14,491
East Ayrshire Council	17,164
Aberdeenshire Council	18,606
West Dunbartonshire Council	25,483
Moray Council	26,543
East Renfrewshire Council	30,052
Angus Council	31,138
South Lanarkshire Council	45,117
Highland Council	62,890

In 2020 the regions with the best ratios of youth theatre venues to population were Orkney, Angus and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. The regions with the least good ratios of youth theatre venues to population were Falkirk, Highland and South Lanarkshire.

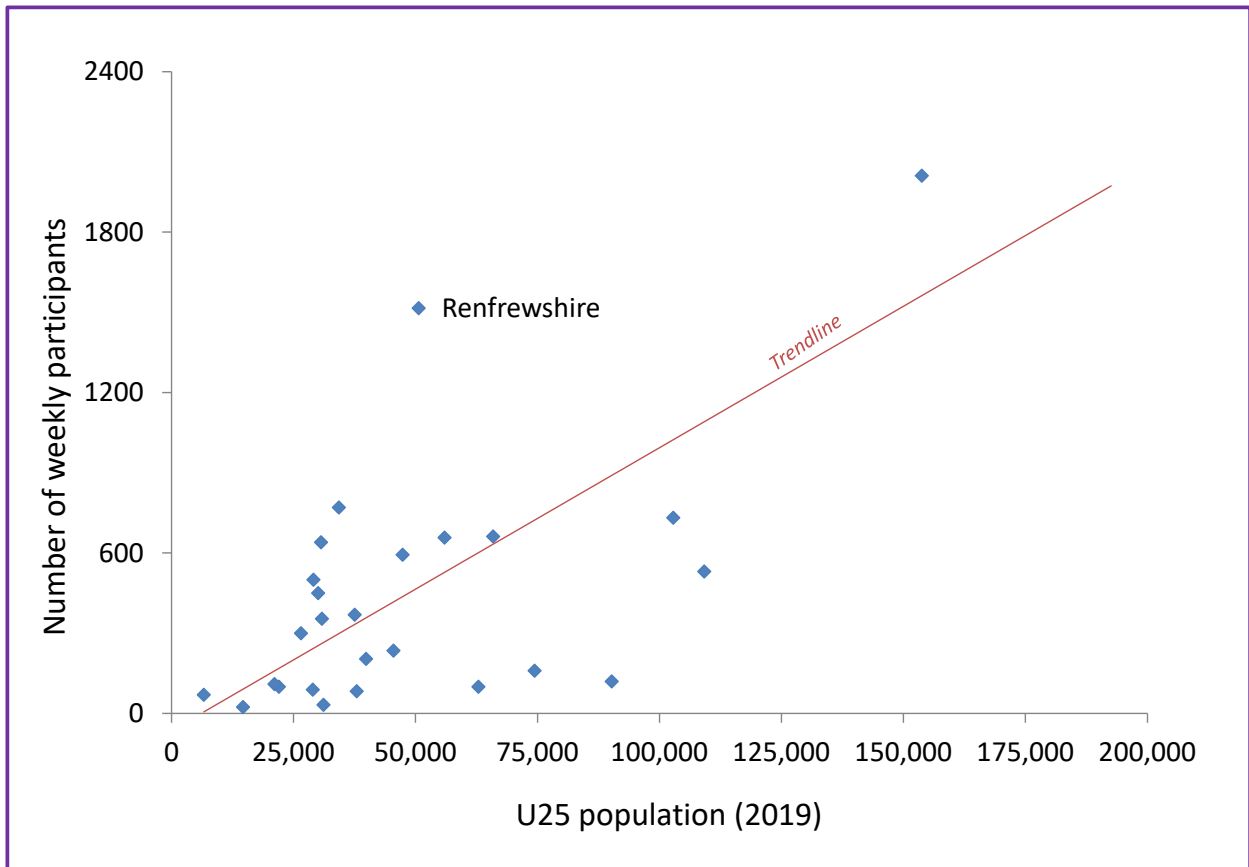
## Number of weekly participants by region

The following table provides information about the number of weekly participants in each Local Authority region.

Region	2015 %	2020 %	2020 No.	Change (% points)
Glasgow City Council	10	17	2422	+7
City of Edinburgh Council	10	15	2011	+5
Renfrewshire Council	10	11	1516	+1
East Ayrshire Council	5	6	770	+1
North Lanarkshire Council	6	5	732	-1
Aberdeen City Council	4	5	662	+1
West Lothian Council	3	5	658	+2
East Lothian Council	2	5	640	+3
Dundee City Council	2	4	593	+2
Fife Council	8	4	531	-4
South Ayrshire Council	4	4	500	0
East Renfrewshire Council	1	3	450	+2
North Ayrshire Council	0	3	369	+3
East Dunbartonshire Council	1	3	354	+2
The Moray Council	0	2	300	+2
Falkirk Council	4	2	235	-2
Perth and Kinross Council	2	1	204	-1
Aberdeenshire Council	3	1	160	-2
South Lanarkshire Council	2	1	120	-1
Inverclyde Council	1	1	110	0
Argyll and Bute Council	0	1	100	+1
Highland Council	7	1	100	-6
Stirling Council	2	1	89	-1
Dumfries and Galloway Council	2	1	83	-1
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	0	1	70	+1
Angus Council	1	0	32	-1
Clackmannanshire Council	0	0	24	0
Scottish Borders Council	3	0	16	-3
Orkney Islands Council	0	0	0	0
<b>Total weekly participants</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13,851</b>	

In both 2015 and 2020, the largest number of weekly participants engaged were recorded in Renfrewshire, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

The number of weekly participants recorded in each of the Local Authority regions was then analysed against under 25 population figures for the corresponding areas to find out whether population and weekly participation were related.



When recorded weekly participants were compared to the populations of the areas, it tended to be that more individuals participated weekly in areas with higher populations.

The following table details weekly attendance compared to the under 25 population in each Local Authority region.

Region	Ratio of w/attenders to u25 population (1 w/attender per ... population)
Renfrewshire Council	33
East Ayrshire Council	45
East Lothian Council	48
South Ayrshire Council	58
East Renfrewshire Council	67
City of Edinburgh Council	76
Dundee City Council	80
Glasgow City Council	80
West Lothian Council	85
East Dunbartonshire Council	87
Moray Council	88
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	95
Aberdeen City Council	100
North Ayrshire Council	102
North Lanarkshire Council	141
Inverclyde Council	192
Falkirk Council	194
Perth and Kinross Council	196
Fife Council	206
Argyll and Bute Council	220
Stirling Council	326
Dumfries and Galloway Council	457
Aberdeenshire Council	465
Clackmannanshire Council	610
Highland Council	629
South Lanarkshire Council	752
Angus Council	973

In both 2015 and 2020 the regions with the best ratios of weekly attendance to population were Renfrewshire and East Ayrshire.

In 2020, the regions with the least good ratios of weekly attendance to population were Highland, Falkirk and Angus.

## Number of staff by region

The following table provides information about the number of paid youth theatre staff in each Local Authority region.

Region	2015 %	2020 %	2020 No.	Change (% points)
Glasgow City Council	41	37	253	-4
Renfrewshire Council	2	10	67	+8
City of Edinburgh Council	11	9	64	-2
Dundee City Council	1	5	37	+4
West Lothian Council	2	4	30	+2
Aberdeen City Council	6	3	24	-3
East Renfrewshire Council	0	3	24	+3
East Ayrshire Council	6	3	22	-3
Fife Council	3	3	22	0
North Lanarkshire Council	5	3	22	-2
East Lothian Council	2	3	20	+1
Falkirk Council	2	3	19	+1
North Ayrshire Council	0	2	16	+2
East Dunbartonshire Council	1	1	10	0
Perth and Kinross Council	2	1	10	-1
Dumfries and Galloway Council	1	1	9	0
South Lanarkshire Council	2	1	7	-1
Aberdeenshire Council	2	1	5	-1
Inverclyde Council	0	1	4	+1
The Highland Council	4	1	4	-3
Stirling Council	1	0	3	-1
Clackmannanshire Council	0	0	2	0
Scottish Borders Council	3	0	1	-3
Angus Council	0	0	0	0
Argyll and Bute Council	0	0	0	0
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	0	0	0	0
Orkney Islands Council	0	0	0	0
The Moray Council	1	0	0	-1
West Dunbartonshire Council	0	0	0	0
<b>Total number of paid staff</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>686</b>	

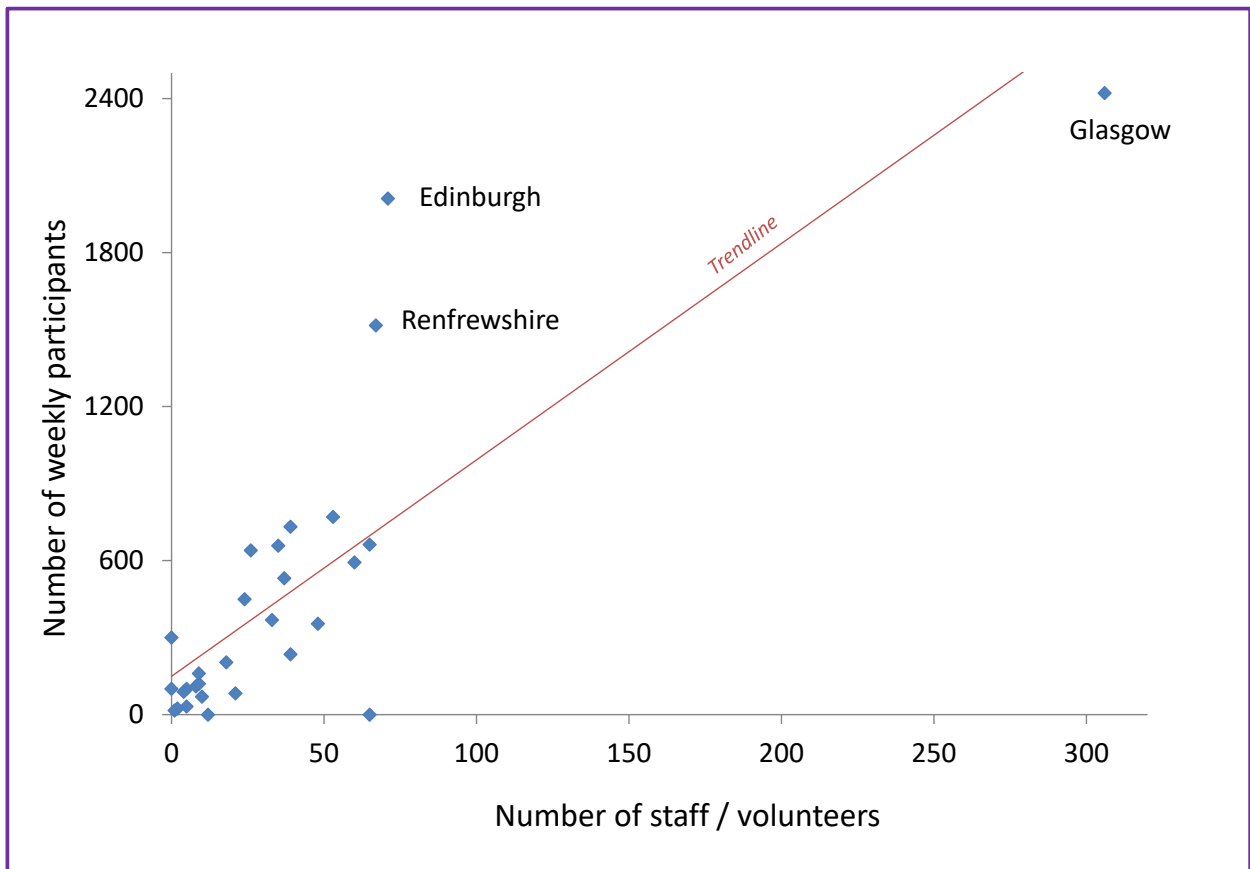
In 2020, the largest number of paid youth theatre staff were recorded in Glasgow, Renfrewshire and Edinburgh. Although Glasgow and Edinburgh were in the largest three in 2015, Renfrewshire has increased substantially from 20 paid staff in 2015 to 67 in 2020. Other regions showing increases in paid staff were Dundee (from 12 in 2015 to 37 in 2020) and West Lothian (from 16 in 2015 to 30 in 2020).

The following table provides information about the number of youth theatre volunteers in each Local Authority region.

Region	2015 %	2020 %	2020 No.	Change (% points)
Glasgow City Council	11	13	53	+2
Aberdeen City Council	6	10	41	+4
East Dunbartonshire Council	1	9	38	+8
West Lothian Council	4	9	35	+5
East Ayrshire Council	9	8	31	-1
South Lanarkshire Council	7	6	25	-1
Dundee City Council	4	6	23	+2
Falkirk Council	6	5	20	-1
North Ayrshire Council	0	4	17	+4
North Lanarkshire Council	0	4	17	+4
Fife Council	4	4	15	0
Dumfries and Galloway Council	3	3	12	0
Orkney Islands Council	1	3	12	+2
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	0	2	10	+2
Perth and Kinross Council	1	2	8	+1
City of Edinburgh Council	3	2	7	-1
East Lothian Council	1	1	6	0
Stirling Council	0	1	6	+1
Angus Council	1	1	5	0
Argyll and Bute Council	0	1	5	+1
Aberdeenshire Council	5	1	4	-4
Inverclyde Council	1	1	4	0
Clackmannanshire Council	0	0	0	0
East Renfrewshire Council	2	0	0	-2
Renfrewshire Council	2	0	0	-2
Scottish Borders Council	12	0	0	-12
The Highland Council	0	0	0	0
The Moray Council	2	0	0	-2
West Dunbartonshire Council	0	0	0	0
<b>Total number of volunteers</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>401</b>	

Overall, the largest number of youth theatre volunteers were recorded in Glasgow, Aberdeen, East Dunbartonshire and West Lothian.

The number of staff/volunteers recorded in each of the Local Authority regions was then analysed against weekly attendance figures for the corresponding areas.



When recorded weekly participants were compared to the provision of staff/volunteers, there was a clear trend that more staff/volunteers were employed in areas where more individuals participated weekly.



The following table provides information about the number of staff/volunteers compared to the weekly attendance in each Local Authority region.

Region	Number of weekly attenders for each staff/volunteer
Dumfries and Galloway Council	4
Angus Council	6
Falkirk Council	6
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	7
East Dunbartonshire Council	7
Glasgow City Council	8
Aberdeen City Council	10
Dundee City Council	10
North Ayrshire Council	11
Perth and Kinross Council	11
Clackmannanshire Council	12
South Lanarkshire Council	13
Fife Council	14
Inverclyde Council	14
East Ayrshire Council	15
Scottish Borders Council	16
Aberdeenshire Council	18
East Renfrewshire Council	19
North Lanarkshire Council	19
West Lothian Council	19
Argyll and Bute Council	20
Stirling Council	22
Renfrewshire Council	23
East Lothian Council	25
City of Edinburgh Council	28

The regions with the best staff/volunteers to participant ratios were Dumfries and Galloway, Angus and Falkirk.

The regions with the least good staff/volunteers to participant ratios were Renfrewshire, Edinburgh and East Lothian.

## Gaps in regional provision

The following table summarises the regional information provided in this report, in a way which is intended to give an indication of which regions have better than average provision, and which have lower than average provision. To do this, regions appearing in the top half of each ratio table have been given a tick, and the total number of ticks has been added together.

Region	Venue to pop. ratio	Weekly attends to pop. ratio	Staff/ vols to pop. ratio	Sum of ticks
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	✓	✓	✓	3
Dundee City Council	✓	✓	✓	3
East Dunbartonshire Council	✓	✓	✓	3
Glasgow City Council	✓	✓	✓	3
North Ayrshire Council	✓	✓	✓	3
Aberdeen City Council		✓	✓	2
City of Edinburgh Council	✓	✓		2
Clackmannanshire Council	✓		✓	2
Dumfries and Galloway Council	✓		✓	2
East Lothian Council	✓	✓		2
Inverclyde Council	✓	✓		2
South Ayrshire Council		✓	✓	2
West Lothian Council	✓	✓		2
Angus Council			✓	1
Argyll and Bute Council	✓			1
East Ayrshire Council		✓		1
East Renfrewshire Council		✓		1
Falkirk Council			✓	1
Moray Council		✓		1
North Lanarkshire Council		✓		1
Orkney Council	✓			1
Perth and Kinross Council			✓	1
Renfrewshire Council		✓		1
Scottish Borders Council	✓			1
South Lanarkshire Council			✓	1
Aberdeenshire Council				0
Fife Council				0
Highland Council				0
Midlothian Council				0
Shetland Islands Council				0
Stirling Council				0
West Dunbartonshire Council				0

Using this metric, gaps in provision may be evident in regions falling into the shaded section – with highest priority Aberdeenshire, Fife, Highland, Midlothian, Shetland Islands, Stirling and West Dunbartonshire. However, it may be that our mapping exercise did not identify venues in these regions. Gaps in provision may also be evident in any area where ticks are not recorded.

## In summary

In 2020 a total of 99 youth theatre organisations were identified as operating over 217 venues, which is a lower figure than we identified in 2015 (265 organisations operating over 341 venues).

To summarise **some key statistics** about the Scottish youth theatre sector in 2019/2020:

- We identified one youth theatre venue for every 4,701 members of the Scottish population aged under 25.
- The youth theatres that we identified operated across an average of 2.19 venues and offered an average of 9.4 separate classes each.
- We estimated that 21,641 young people were involved in youth theatre in Scotland this year, including 8,061 attending weekly activities run by YTAS members.
- We estimated that 1,087 people worked in Scotland's youth theatre sector this year.
- The most venues, staffing and weekly attendance were recorded across the Central Belt.

Although our mapping exercise identified fewer youth theatres and youth theatre participants across Scotland overall, it also identified a rise in provision by YTAS members. It is also notable that in 2020 we recorded fewer volunteers in the youth theatre sector in absolute and relative terms.

The gender split of participants was very similar in 2015 and 2020, but the age range had changed with more young people in the youngest and oldest age groups participating in 2020.

On the whole, patterns in youth theatre provision were broadly similar in 2015 and 2020:

- The source of income used by the most organisations was participation income.
- The main focus of activity was most often devising or musical theatre.
- The project types undertaken by most organisations were rehearsals for a production, weekly skills classes, and public performances.
- Fees for youth theatre classes were most often £1-5 per session.

However, a number of differences in provision were also identified:

- In 2020 substantially more youth theatre organisations were independent, and substantially fewer were affiliated with a school or education body.
- In 2020 fewer used box office and Local Authority as sources of income, and more used grants/trust funding and sponsorships/donations as sources of income.
- Provision of weekly skills classes and school holiday projects was higher in 2020.
- Provision of writing activities, devising and improvisation activities was higher in 2020.
- Overall the average cost of participation increased.

Using our broad metrics of comparison, gaps in youth theatre provision may be evident in Aberdeenshire, Fife, Highland, Midlothian, Shetland Islands, Stirling and West Dunbartonshire.