

Statistics for Mission 2017

Social Action

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Social action and community outreach activities, 2017

A one-off section in Statistics for Mission 2017 asked about social action and community outreach. Churches were asked about their involvement in a range of different types of social action, including food banks, community cafes and night shelters. Churches were asked whether they ran projects, hosted them, carried them out in partnership with other groups, or supported them in other ways (e.g. with donations or volunteers).

Almost 13,000 churches responded to this question. Between them, these churches were involved in almost 33,000 social action projects. These churches ran more than 13,100 projects. Over 1,800 of those responding reported that they ran three or more different social action projects. In addition to running projects themselves, churches hosted another 3,600 projects; a further 4,900 projects were carried out in partnership with other organisations; an additional 11,100 projects were supported by churches in other ways (Figure A).

80% of churches that responded were involved in one or more forms of social action. 49% of churches ran at least one social action project; an additional 7% of churches hosted at least one project; an additional 8% of churches carried out at least one project in partnership with other organisations. An additional 15% of churches supported at least one project in other ways (Figure B).

Figure A: Number of social action projects in which churches were involved, 2017²

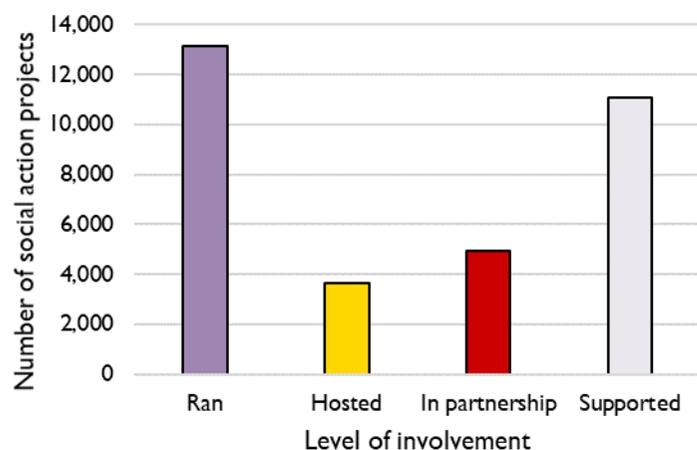
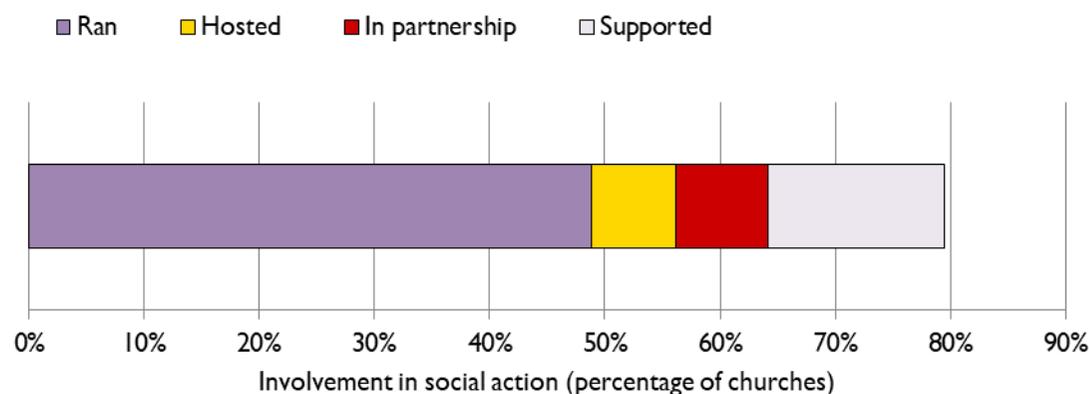


Figure B: Percentage of churches involved in social action projects, 2017¹

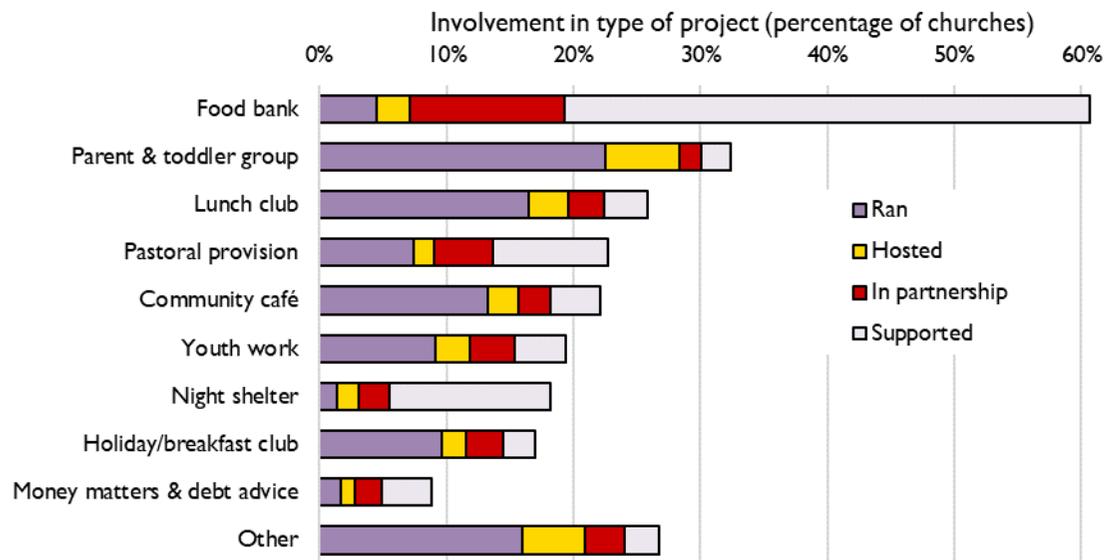


Note: Figures A and B are based on 12,927 responses

¹ In some cases, churches may have run a project, and hosted it, and offered donations and volunteers. To avoid double-counting of projects, types of involvement are treated hierarchically so that, for example, the yellow bar in Figure B shows those churches that did not run a project themselves in 2017, but did host a project.

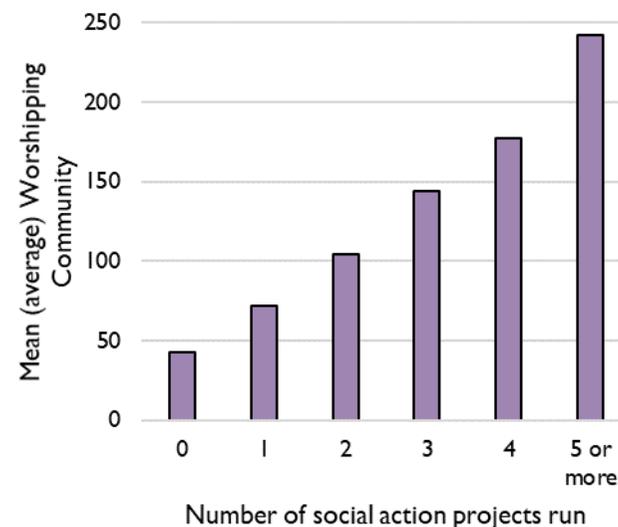
Churches were involved in a wide range of different types of social action project. 23% of churches reported that they ran parent/carer and toddler groups; 16% of churches reported that they ran lunch clubs. When including all forms of involvement, Food banks were the most commonly supported type of social action project: over 60% of churches supported food banks in some way, often with volunteers and/or donations, and often in partnership with other organisations (Figure C).

Figure C: Percentage of churches involved in different types of social action projects, 2017²



Note: Figure C is based on 12,927 responses

Figure D: Mean (average) Worshipping Community in churches that ran different numbers of social action projects, 2017



Note: Figure D is based on 11,543 responses with complete Worshipping Community information

Unsurprisingly, larger churches seem able to lead and support more forms of social action. The average Worshipping Community of those churches that ran one social action project was 70 people, whereas the average Worshipping Community of those churches that ran five or more social actions project was 240 people (Figure D).

² In some cases, churches may have run a project, and hosted it, and offered donations and volunteers. To avoid double-counting of projects, types of involvement are treated hierarchically so that, for example, the yellow bar shows those churches that did not run a project themselves in 2017, but did host a project.