

Sample Sizes

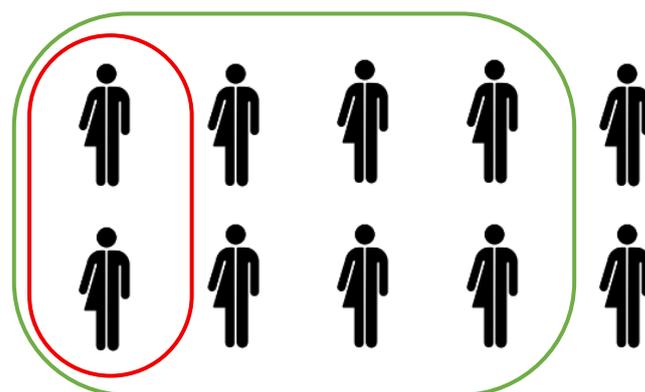
How to capture representative feedback from your participants.

Choosing your data collection tools

The data you collect from project participants is crucial to understanding and analysing the impact of your work. You will need to consider the **group size** and **diversity of experience** of your project participants when deciding on your sample size and research method. Ensure you use an **appropriate research method** that is **accessible** and **engaging** for your participants as this may strengthen your response rate.

Ensuring buy-in

It is always helpful to **talk with both your delivery staff and participants (where appropriate)** before undertaking research to better understand the range and diversity of your participants' experiences, so you can best capture their valued and insightful perspectives. You can also ensure that the young people you consult **understand the questions** themselves and why you're asking them. They could potentially inform **how you shape and action your data collection** too.



Calculating sample size

Say you have 10 participants, consulting only 2 of them may not give you representative feedback as their experiences may not represent those of the majority. If you asked a third participant, would they tell you something different? Collecting data on as many individual stories as possible and points of view from a diversity of backgrounds will give you a great picture of your project's impact and the progression that's been achieved.

Now imagine that you have 100 participants! You may need to consider a wider breadth of research methods that are effective when speaking to a larger group of people, such as an online survey or feedback forms. You can then ensure you hear from a representative proportion of your group of participants. Take a look at this breakdown of collection methods and how to decide which is best for your project here, and evaluation scales suitable for all age-ranges here.

Points to consider

- The combined number of participants of your projects. Ensure the group of participants you consult will have had a variety of experiences that are as representative of the entire group as possible.
- If you have carried out multiple projects, in different settings and with different groups, make sure you aim to hear from participants from across your activities. You may want to analyse data from different groups separately or even compare experiences across your projects/settings.
- Lastly, as a researcher, consider your relationship with the participants particularly if you're also a music leader or project facilitator. Ask yourself the question that if someone else were to conduct research with your project participants, would their findings be similar?
- [You can also calculate your sample size here](#), taking into account your confidence level, interval and total group size.

Further resources

NPC's Guidance on sampling <https://www.thinknpc.org/themes/measure-and-manage-impact/impact-measurement-evaluation-and-data/3-sampling/>

[Youth Music: Quantitative analysis](#)

[Youth Music: Qualitative analysis](#)

[Youth Music: Evaluation scales](#)

Get in touch with Youth Music

Email your Grants and Learning Officer, or contact us on:

- **Email:** grants@youthmusic.org.uk
- **Telephone:** 020 7902 1060

If you are successful in your grant application, Youth Music will provide further evaluation support and resources.

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