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Analytical Services Group

**Perceptions of Crime:
Findings from the
2014/15
Northern Ireland
Crime Survey**

Research and Statistical Bulletin 1/2016

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January 2016



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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- ◆ Drugs (73%), alcohol (62%) and a lack of discipline from parents (51%) were the three factors most commonly identified by NICS 2014/15 respondents as major causes of crime in Northern Ireland today. When asked which single factor they considered to be the main cause of crime, the most common responses, cited by 29% and 20% of respondents respectively, were drugs and a lack of discipline from parents.
- ◆ Almost three-fifths (58%) of NICS 2014/15 respondents thought crime levels in Northern Ireland had increased in the preceding two years. Although this proportion remained on a par with NICS 2013/14 (57%), the NICS 2014/15 figure is 21 percentage points below that observed in 2003/04 (79%).
- ◆ As in previous sweeps of the survey, NICS 2014/15 respondents continued to be more positive in their perceptions of crime trends in their local area than at the regional level with 28% believing local crime levels had increased in the preceding two years.
- ◆ Based on a seven-strand composite measure, findings from NICS 2014/15 show that 8% of respondents perceived the level of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in their local area to be high, a statistically significant decrease ($p < 0.05$) from 2013/14 (10%). The NICS 2014/15 figure of 8% compares with 11% in England and Wales (Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) 2014/15). Across the individual categories, 'rubbish or litter lying around' was most commonly identified as a problem in both jurisdictions (26% and 29% respectively).
- ◆ Of the demographic and socio-economic groups examined in NICS 2014/15, those most likely to perceive ASB as a problem in their local area included: single parents (23%); people living in the 20% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland (21%); people living in social rented accommodation (21%); respondents who are divorced (20%); and respondents aged 16-24 (17%).
- ◆ Despite a lower prevalence of crime in Northern Ireland, respondents to NICS 2014/15 displayed higher levels of worry about the crime types examined than their counterparts in England and Wales: violent crime (15%, NICS 2014/15 v 11%, CSEW 2014/15); burglary (15% v 10%); and car crime (11% v 7%).
- ◆ For the crime types examined, the vast majority of NICS 2014/15 respondents believed it unlikely that they would fall victim during the coming year. Overall, 11% of respondents to NICS 2014/15 believed they would experience some form of vehicle-related theft, 10% thought it was likely that they would be the victim of burglary, while 7% perceived themselves to be at risk of violent crime.
- ◆ At 69%, the majority of NICS 2014/15 respondents felt that 'fear of crime' has a minimal impact on their quality of life, a further 25% claimed it has a moderate effect, while the remaining five per cent stated their quality of life is greatly affected by their 'fear of crime'.
- ◆ Among those NICS 2014/15 participants most likely to state that their lives are greatly affected by 'fear of crime' were: residents in areas of self-perceived high ASB (15%); single parents (15%); respondents who are divorced (13%); residents of the 20% most deprived areas of Northern Ireland (12%); respondents with a limiting illness or disability (12%); and recent victims of crime reported to the police (12%).

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The focus of this publication

This bulletin draws on findings from the 2014/15 Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS), a representative, continuous, personal interview survey of the experiences and perceptions of crime of 2,074 adults living in private households throughout Northern Ireland. Previously conducted on an ad hoc basis in 1994/95, 1998, 2001 and 2003/04, the NICS began operating on a continuous basis in January 2005.

In addition to describing respondents' perceptions of causes of crime, recent changes in crime levels and the extent of anti-social behaviour in the local area, the bulletin illustrates three commonly used measures of concern about crime:

1. worry about crime and personal safety;
2. perceptions of the risk of victimisation; and
3. perceptions of the effect of 'fear of crime' on quality of life.

Comparisons are made, where appropriate, between the results of the 2014/15 NICS and those of the 2014/15 Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW, formerly known as the British Crime Survey (BCS); ONS, 2015), as well as with earlier sweeps of the NICS. In addition, findings from NICS 2014/15 are examined across the following socio-demographic (personal, household and area) groups, the first six of which (listed below) relate to equality categories specified in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998:

1. religious belief;
2. age;
3. living arrangements (marital status);
4. sex (gender);
5. disability (or illness);
6. household type (child dependants);
7. self-perceived nationality;
8. household income;
9. housing tenure;
10. type of area (urban / rural);
11. policing district (see Technical Annex for details);
12. multiple deprivation measure rank (MDM 2010);
13. perceived level of anti-social behaviour in area;
14. experience of crime reported to the police; and
15. daily newspaper readership.

Throughout this report key findings are commented on in the text, with full numerical details on each section available in the relevant tables comprising the Tabular Annex.

An additional NICS 2014/15 report on experience of crime (Campbell, forthcoming), will publish separately.

1.2 About the Northern Ireland Crime Survey

Closely mirroring the format and core questions of the CSEW, the NICS is an important source of information about community safety issues such as levels of, and public attitudes to, crime and anti-social behaviour. Its results play an important role in informing and monitoring government policies and targets contained within strategies including the 2011-15 Programme for Government (Northern Ireland Executive, 2012), and the Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2014-2017 (Northern Ireland Policing Board, 2014).

An alternative, but complementary, measure of crime to offences recorded by the police, the main aims of the NICS are to:

- ◆ measure crime victimisation rates experienced by people living in private households, whether or not these crimes were reported to or recorded by the police;
- ◆ monitor trends in the level of crime, independent of changes in reporting levels or police recording practices;
- ◆ measure people's perceptions of and reactions to crime (for example, the level and causes of crime, the extent to which they are concerned about crime and the effect of crime on their quality of life);
- ◆ identify the characteristics and circumstances of people most at risk from and affected by different types of crime;
- ◆ measure public confidence in policing and the wider criminal justice system; and
- ◆ collect sensitive information, using self-completion modules, on people's experiences regarding crime-related issues such as domestic violence.

Recorded crime figures cannot, by their nature, provide an impression of the extent of concern about crime (often described as 'fear of crime') among different sections of the community. Hence, it is necessary to complement the police figures with information drawn from the NICS, which, for the crime types it covers, provides a more complete measure of the extent and impact of crime against private households and their adult occupants. Further information on recorded crime statistics can be found in the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics (PSNI, 2015a).

The interviewer-administered modules for NICS 2014/15 were generally based on CSEW 2014/15. However, some modification has been necessary to reflect local issues and the fact that the smaller NICS sample size would not have generated robust results for follow-up questions asked of small sub-sections of the sample.

Additional information, covering issues such as sampling design and methodology is available within the NICS User Guide (DoJ, 2012a) and associated Quality Report (DoJ, 2012b).

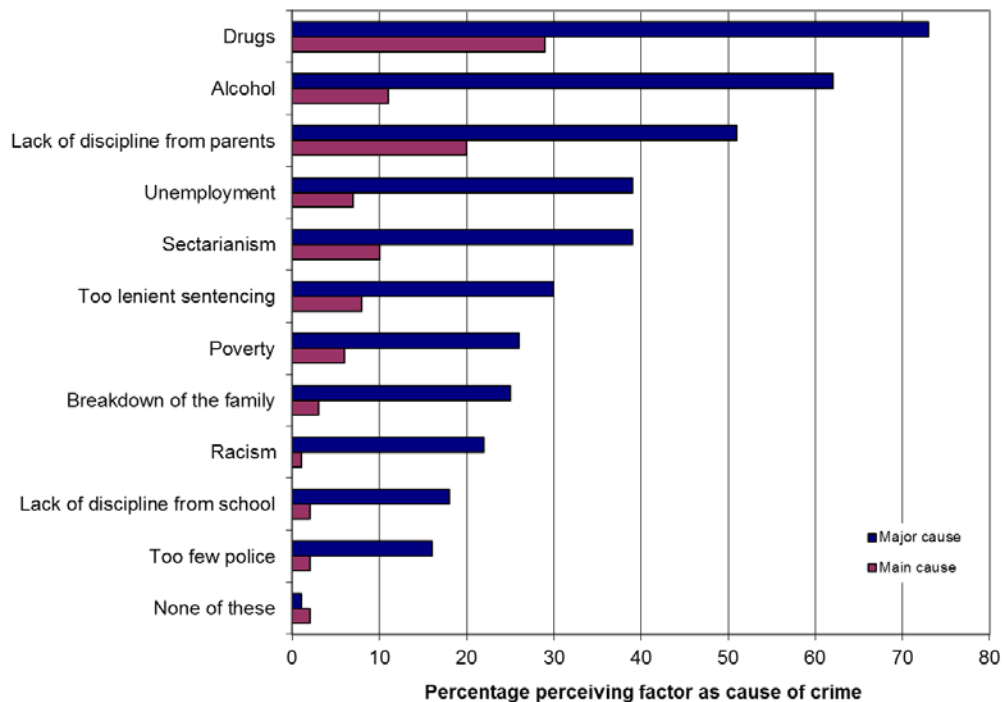
2. PERCEPTIONS OF CAUSES OF CRIME, CRIME LEVELS AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

2.1 Causes of crime

Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS) respondents were asked to select from a list the factors they considered to be *major* causes of crime in Northern Ireland today. If a respondent selected more than one factor, they were then asked which of these factors they believed to be the *main* cause of crime.

- ◆ Findings from NICS 2014/15 show that drugs, alcohol and a lack of discipline from parents (73%, 62% and 51% respectively) remain the three factors most commonly identified as major causes of crime in Northern Ireland today. When asked which single factor they considered to be the main cause of crime, the most common responses were drugs and a lack of discipline from parents, cited by 29% and 20% of respondents respectively (Table A1; Figure 2.1).

Figure 2.1: Perceptions of causes of crime (%) in Northern Ireland



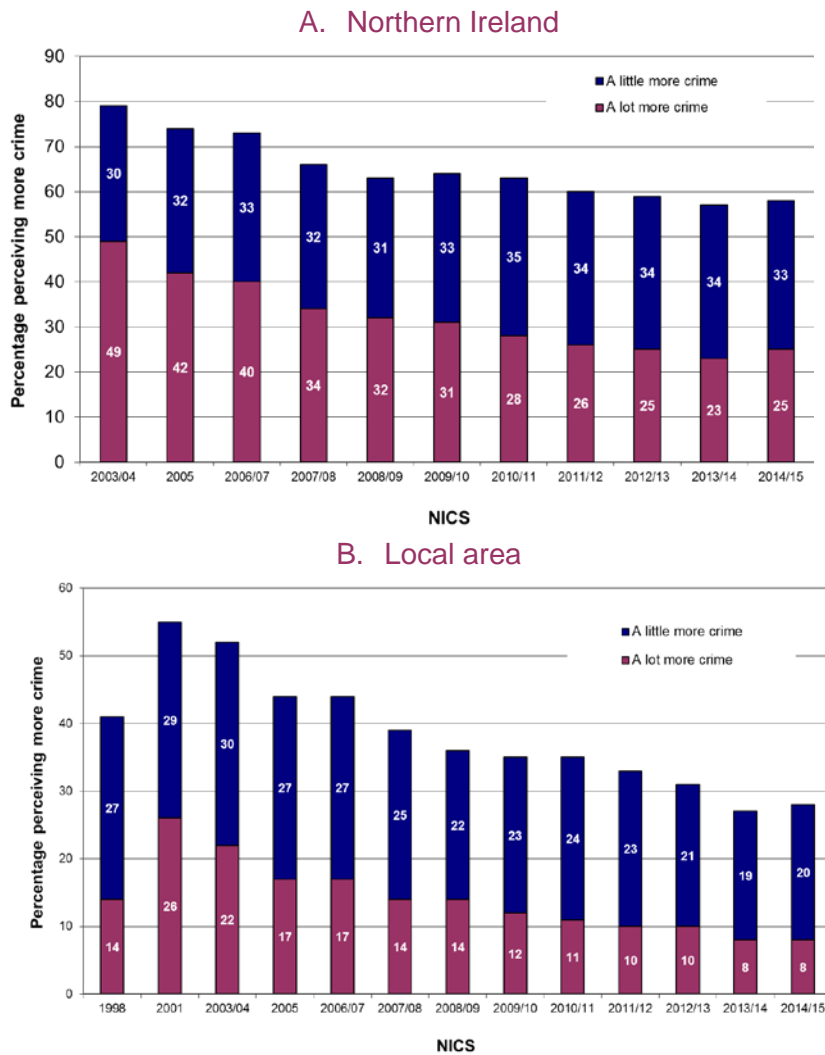
Source: NICS 2014/15

2.2 Perceptions of change in crime levels

NICS participants were also asked how they perceived the level of crime to have changed, if at all, in both Northern Ireland and their local area during the two years prior to interview, based on a five-point scale ranging from 'a lot more crime' to 'a lot less crime'. Typically, people are inclined to believe crime is on the increase, even if it is not, and that the situation is worse at the regional level than in their own local area. Thus, it is the trend in this proportion, rather than the actual value, that is of primary interest.

- ◆ Tables A2, A3 and Figure 2.2 illustrate that the proportions of NICS 2014/15 respondents believing that crime is on the increase, either locally (28%) or in Northern Ireland as a whole (58%), are among the lowest levels ever recorded by the survey.
- ◆ While the proportion of NICS 2014/15 respondents who believed that crime levels across Northern Ireland have increased in the preceding two years (58%) remained unchanged ($p < 0.05$) from that observed in 2013/14 (57%), it is significantly lower than in 2003/04 when a high of 79% was recorded. This decrease since 2003/04 may reflect to some extent the overall decline in crime evidenced by both the NICS and police recorded crime statistics (PSNI, 2015b) over the past decade or so (Table A2; Figure 2.2A).
- ◆ As in previous sweeps of the survey, NICS 2014/15 respondents were more positive in their perceptions of crime levels within their local areas than at the regional level with 28% believing crime in their local area had increased in the preceding two years. While this proportion showed no statistically significant change ($p < 0.05$) since 2013/14 (27%), it compares favourably with that observed in NICS 2001 when the proportion who felt crime had increased was almost double the rate recorded in 2014/15 (55% v 28% respectively). This reduction was primarily due to a drop in the proportion who felt there was ‘a lot more crime’, from 26% to 8%, over the same period (Table A3; Figure 2.2B).

Figure 2.2: Perceptions of changing crime levels (%) in Northern Ireland and the local area



2.3 Perceptions of anti-social behaviour in Northern Ireland and England and Wales

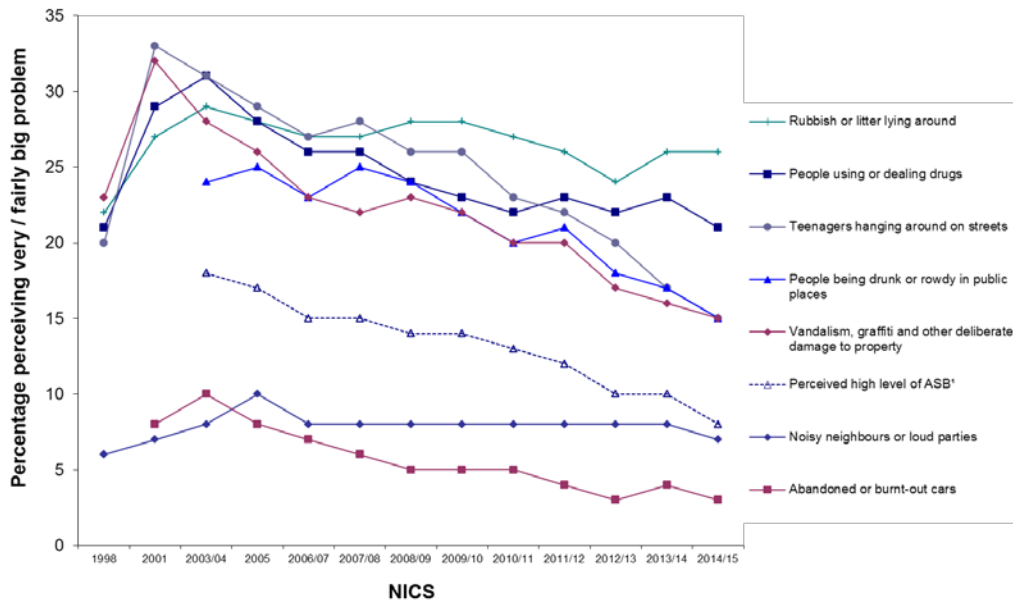
Respondents to the NICS and CSEW were asked to rate how much of a problem different types of anti-social behaviour (ASB) are in their area using a four-point scale ranging from 'very big problem' to 'not a problem at all'. Since 2003/04, responses to the following seven strands have been used to form a composite measure (see Section 4.3 of the NICS User Guide (DoJ, 2012a) for more information) to gauge the overall perceived level of ASB in the local area:

1. abandoned or burnt-out cars;
2. noisy neighbours or loud parties;
3. people being drunk or rowdy in public places;
4. people using or dealing drugs;
5. teenagers hanging around on the streets;
6. rubbish or litter lying around; and
7. vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property.

This composite measure has been selected by the Department of Justice (DoJ) as a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) within its 2011-15 Programme for Government commitment to improve community safety by tackling ASB. The Department's aim is to achieve a statistically significant reduction ($p < 0.05$) in the proportion of respondents perceiving a high level of ASB in their local area by March 2015, from a 2010/11 baseline of 13% (Northern Ireland Executive, 2012). This Programme for Government has been extended to March 2016 (Table A4).

- ◆ Based on this composite measure, findings from NICS 2014/15 show that there has been a statistically significant reduction ($p < 0.05$) from the previous year in the proportion of respondents who perceived the level of ASB in their local area to be high (down from 10% to 8%). The proportion perceiving a high level of ASB has fallen gradually over the last decade and compares with the 2003/04 figure of 18%. The equivalent figure for England and Wales (CSEW 2014/15) was 11% (Table A4).
- ◆ None of the seven individual ASB strands showed a statistically significant change ($p < 0.05$) between NICS 2013/14 and 2014/15. The apparent decreases, particularly in the proportions perceiving 'people being drunk or rowdy in public places' and 'teenagers hanging around on streets' as very or fairly big problems, have contributed to the overall reduction ($p < 0.05$) in the perceived high level of ASB, from 10% to 8% (Table A4).
- ◆ The ASB types most likely to be perceived by NICS 2014/15 respondents as problems in the local area were 'rubbish or litter lying around' (26%) and 'people using or dealing drugs' (21%) whereas 'abandoned or burnt-out cars' (3%) and 'noisy neighbours or loud parties' (7%) were considered the least problematic forms of ASB (Table A4; Figure 2.3).

Figure 2.3: Perceptions of ASB (%) in the local area



1. Derived from responses to the seven individual ASB strands.

- ◆ A similar trend is reflected in England and Wales with CSEW 2014/15 respondents also most likely to perceive ‘rubbish or litter lying around’ (29%) and ‘people using or dealing drugs’ (24%), and least likely to consider ‘abandoned or burnt-out cars’ (2%) and ‘noisy neighbours or loud parties’ (12%), as problems (Table A4).
- ◆ NICS respondents were then asked to select the type of ASB that, in their view, causes the single biggest problem in their local area. With the exception of 37% who responded that none of the seven ASB strands represented the single biggest problem, the most common response, cited by 22% of NICS 2014/15 participants, was ‘rubbish or litter lying around’. ‘Abandoned or burnt-out cars’ was least likely to be considered as the single biggest local problem (less than 0.5%) (Table A5).

2.4 Perceptions of anti-social behaviour by personal, household and area characteristics

Tables A6 and A7, containing results from NICS 2014/15, indicate that there were marked differences across demographic and socio-economic groups in their perceptions of ASB in Northern Ireland.

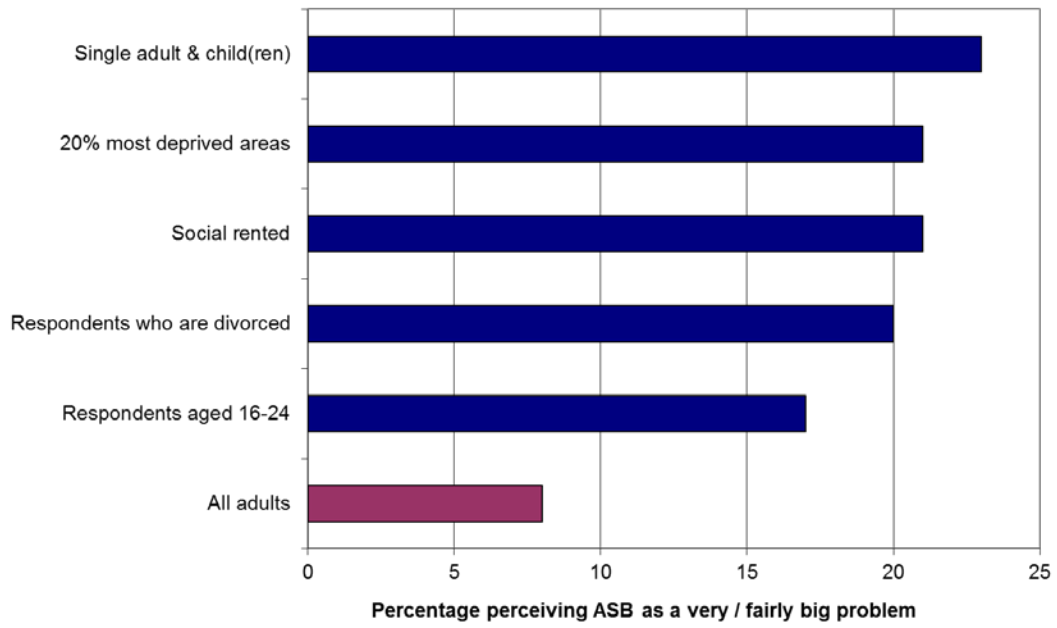
- ◆ NICS 2014/15 findings suggest that the proportion of people perceiving a high level of ASB in their local area tends to decrease with age, with 17% of 16-24 year olds citing a high level of ASB in their area, compared with 2% of those aged 75 and over (Table A6).
- ◆ Catholic respondents (10%) were more likely than Protestants (6%) to perceive ASB to be at a high level in their area, a trend generally reflected in most of the individual strands of ASB examined. The greatest difference, in percentage point terms, was observed in the rates for ‘people using or dealing drugs’ (25%, Catholics v 18%, Protestants) (Table A6).
- ◆ Perceptions of ASB by perceived nationality suggest that NICS 2014/15 participants who consider their nationality to be Irish (11%) were more likely than their British (6%) or Northern Irish (8%) counterparts to report a high level of ASB in their local area (Table A6).

- ◆ In terms of experience of crime, equal proportions of NICS 2014/15 respondents who had been victims of crime and those who had never been a victim (both 8%) perceived a high level of ASB in their area. However, when the views of victims were considered independently, recent victims of crime (within the preceding two years) (16%) were more than twice as likely as those who had been victimised longer ago (6%) to perceive ASB as a problem (Table A6).

The greatest variations of perceived ASB within a single group were observed in terms of deprivation in an area.

- ◆ NICS 2014/15 findings indicate that respondents residing in the 20% most deprived areas of Northern Ireland, as measured by the 2010 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (MDM) rank, were more likely than those in other deprivation bands to perceive ASB as a problem in their area, both in terms of the perceived high level of ASB (composite measure) and across each of the seven strands considered. Over a fifth (21%) of people living in the 20% most deprived areas viewed ASB as a problem, contrasting with 2% of those in the 20% least deprived areas. With regards to the seven individual ASB strands, the greatest disparity between these deprivation bands, in percentage point terms, occurred in the proportion who identified 'people using or dealing drugs' as a problem with a rate of 43% observed for the 20% most deprived areas compared with 9% for the 20% least deprived (Table A7).
- ◆ In addition, people living in social rented accommodation (21%) were over four times as likely as owner-occupiers (5%) and almost twice as likely as private renters (11%) to consider their local area to have a high level of ASB (Table A7).
- ◆ In terms of household type, single parent families (23%) were more likely than households with two adults and children (10%), or no children at all (9%), to perceive ASB to be at a high level in their area (Table A7).
- ◆ Results suggest that, on the whole, the proportion perceiving a high level of ASB in their local area tends to decrease as household income increases. For example, 13% of households with an annual income of less than £10,000 considered ASB to be problematic compared with 3% of households earning £50,000 or more (Table A7).
- ◆ Urban dwellers (11%) were almost four times as likely as their rural counterparts (3%) to perceive a high level of ASB in their area (Table A7).
- ◆ In summary, Tables A6, A7 and Figure 2.4 suggest that among those NICS 2014/15 respondents most likely, in percentage terms, to perceive ASB as a problem in their local area were:
 - single adults with children (23%);
 - people living in the 20% most deprived areas of Northern Ireland (21%);
 - respondents living in social rented accommodation (21%);
 - respondents who are divorced (20%); and
 - respondents aged 16-24 (17%).

Figure 2.4: Those most likely to perceive ASB as a problem (%) in the local area



Source: NICS 2014/15

3. WORRY ABOUT CRIME AND PERSONAL SAFETY

3.1 Worry about crime and personal safety in Northern Ireland and England and Wales

Worry about becoming a victim of crime is measured by the NICS in two ways: firstly, about specific crimes; and secondly, with regard to personal safety when alone after dark, either at home or walking in the local area (Tables A8 – A10).

Respondents to NICS 2014/15 were asked how worried they are about becoming a victim of the following crimes using a four-point scale, ranging from 'very worried' to 'not at all worried':

1. home being burgled;
2. being mugged and robbed;
3. physical attack by a stranger;
4. physical attack because of their race, religion, sexuality or disability;
5. rape;
6. theft of a car; and
7. theft from a car.

Two composite indicators for worry about car crime and violent crime are constructed from the responses to the individual car crime and violent crime questions. These additional indicators, together with the proportion of respondents who claimed to be 'very worried' about burglary, are compared with CSEW analyses. CSEW 2014/15 figures relating to personal safety (walking alone in the local area after dark and home alone at night) are also presented.

For the worry about car crime indicator, responses to each car crime question of 'very worried' are awarded 2 points and 'fairly worried' 1 point. Those respondents scoring a combined 3 or 4 points are considered to have a high level of worry about car crime. This measure refers only to respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

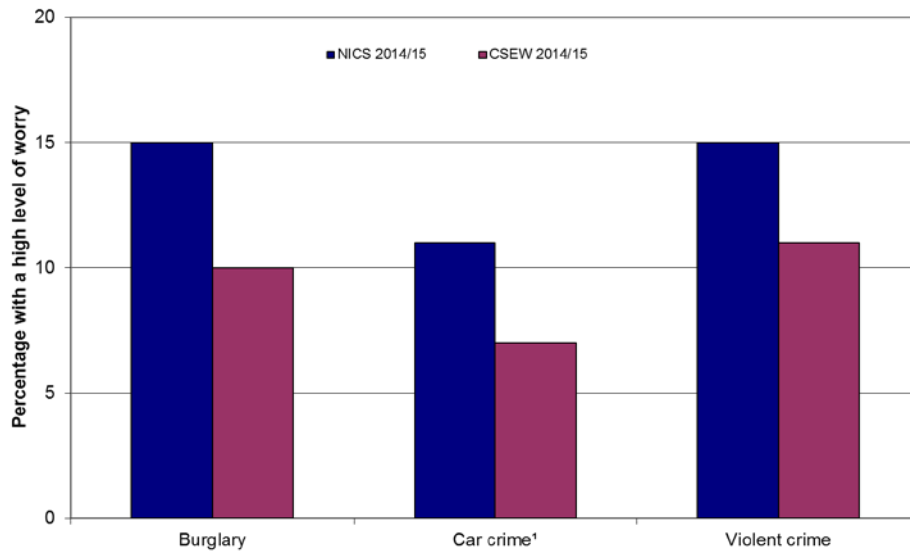
A similar approach is used to determine the worry about violent crime indicator, with responses to each violent crime question of 'very worried' being awarded 2 points and 'fairly worried' 1 point. In this instance, the scale ranges from 0 to 8 points and those scoring 4 or more points are deemed to have a high level of worry about violent crime.

Since 2007/08, NICS respondents have also been asked how worried they are about becoming a victim of (all types of) crime in general, using the same four-point scale ('very worried' to 'not at all worried'). Responses to this question are included within Table A8.

Table A8 shows the proportions of respondents in Northern Ireland and England and Wales who expressed high levels of worry about burglary, car crime and violent crime. Results show that people in Northern Ireland tend to display higher levels of worry about these crimes than their counterparts in England and Wales.

- ◆ Despite a lower prevalence of crime in Northern Ireland than in England and Wales, NICS 2014/15 respondents were more likely than their CSEW 2014/15 counterparts to express high levels of worry across the following crime types examined: violent crime (15% v 11%); burglary (15% v 10%); and car crime (11% v 7%) (Table A8; Figure 3.1).

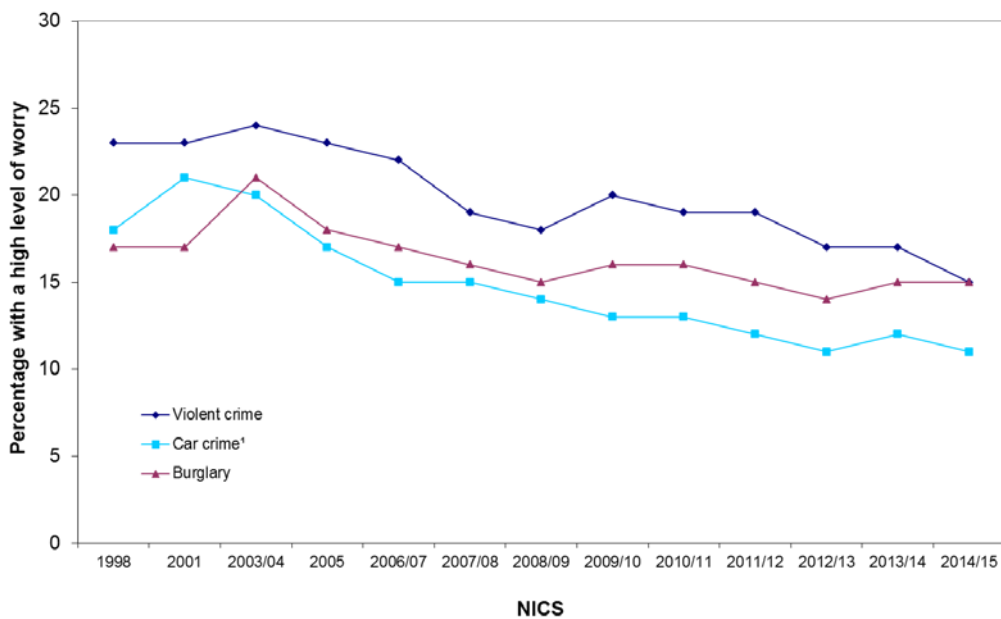
Figure 3.1: Worry about crime (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales



1. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

- ◆ While NICS 2014/15 findings show the proportions expressing high levels of worry about burglary (15%) and violent crime (15%) were unchanged ($p < 0.05$) from those observed in 2013/14 (15% and 17% respectively), they compare favourably with NICS 2003/04 rates of 21% and 24% (respectively) (Table A8; Figure 3.2).
- ◆ Similarly, while the proportion of NICS 2014/15 respondents reporting a high level of worry about car crime (11%) remained on a par with that recorded the previous year (12%, NICS 2013/14), this proportion has generally been decreasing since 2001 when a rate of 21% was observed (Table A8; Figure 3.2).

Figure 3.2: Worry about crime (%) in Northern Ireland



1. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

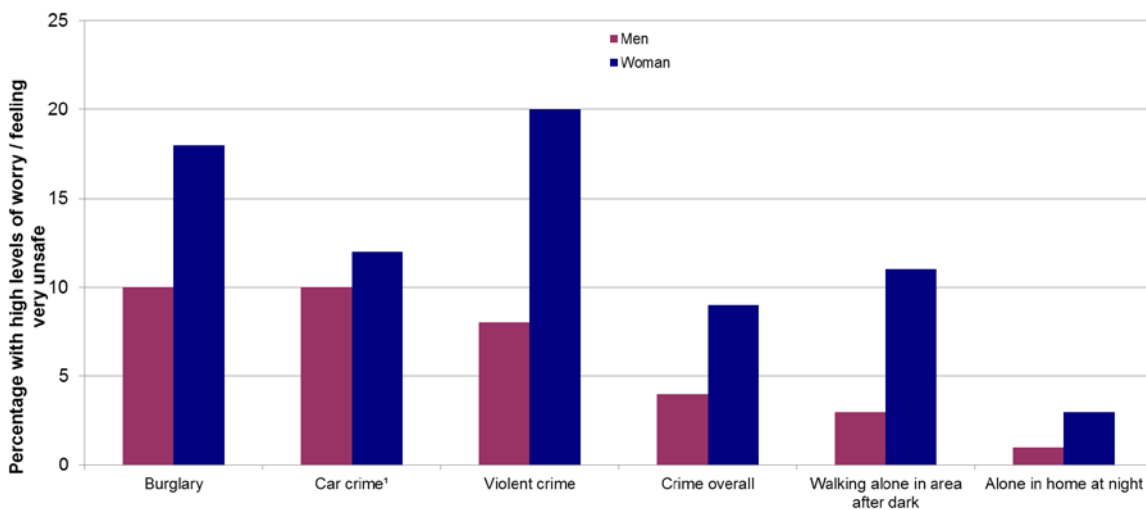
- ◆ As in previous sweeps, 2014/15 respondents in both Northern Ireland and England and Wales were much more likely to feel ‘very unsafe’ when walking alone in their area after dark (7% and 8% respectively) than when alone in their home at night (2% and 1% respectively) (Table A8).
- ◆ Consistent with levels of worry about crime, both measures of personal safety were unchanged ($p < 0.05$) between NICS 2013/14 and 2014/15: walking alone in area after dark (7% in both years); and alone in home at night (2% in both years). While the proportion feeling very unsafe when alone in home at night has remained at 2% each year over the last decade, the proportion who feel very unsafe walking alone in their area after dark has fallen gradually with the 2014/15 rate of 7% almost half of that observed in 2003/04 (13%) (Table A8).

3.2 Worry about crime and personal safety by personal, household and area characteristics

Tables A9 and A10 present a socio-demographic breakdown of NICS 2014/15 respondents according to their levels of worry about crime and personal safety in Northern Ireland.

- ◆ NICS 2014/15 findings show that women were more likely than men to worry about all forms of crime and personal safety examined: violent crime (20%, women v 8%, men); burglary (18% v 10%); car crime (12% v 10%); crime overall (9% v 4%); walking alone after dark (11% v 3%); and home alone at night (3% v 1%) (Table A9; Figure 3.3).

Figure 3.3: Worry about crime and personal safety (%) by gender



Source: NICS 2014/15

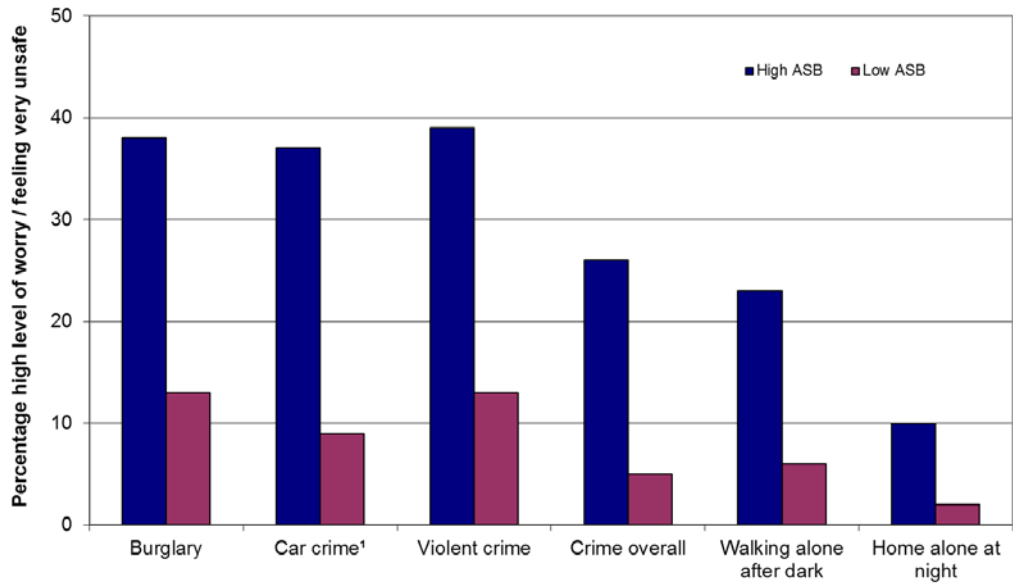
1. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

- ◆ NICS 2014/15 results suggest that worry about crime varies by age and crime type. For example, findings show that while older respondents were more likely to worry about burglary (16%, aged 60 and over v 12%, aged 16-29 years), they were less likely to express worry about crime overall (6% v 9% respectively) (Table A9).
- ◆ In relation to personal safety, older respondents were more likely than younger people to worry about walking alone in their area after dark with 10% of respondents aged 60 and over feeling 'very unsafe' compared with 5% of 16-29 year olds (Table A9).
- ◆ Adults who had recently (within the preceding two years) been victims of crime which had been reported to the police displayed higher levels of worry than non-victims about each of the crime and personal safety categories examined: burglary (26%, recent victims v 14%, non-victims); car crime (22% v 10%); violent crime (23% v 15%); all crime (13% v 7%); walking alone after dark (13% v 7%); and home alone at night (8% v 1%) (Table A9).
- ◆ Respondents with a long-standing illness or disability, and in particular a limiting illness or disability, expressed higher levels of worry about all crime types than those with no illness or disability. For example, 22% of respondents with a limiting disability reported high levels of worry about burglary, compared with 12% of those with no illness or disability (Table A9).
- ◆ On the whole, it appears that as annual household income increases levels of worry about crime and personal safety decrease. For example, 25% of NICS 2014/15 respondents from households with a total annual income of under £10,000 expressed a high level of worry about violent crime, a rate that reduces to 5% for those earning £50,000 or more (Table A10).
- ◆ Respondents living in social rented accommodation displayed higher levels of worry than other tenure groups. In percentage point terms, the greatest disparities were most often observed with owner-occupiers: car crime (17%, social renters v 10%, owner-occupiers); violent crime (25% v 12%); crime overall (12% v 6%); and alone in home at night (6% v 1%) (Table A10).
- ◆ Respondents from the 20% most deprived areas of Northern Ireland reported higher levels of worry than those in other deprivation bands and displayed above average rates across all crime and personal safety categories: burglary (24%, 20% most deprived areas v 15%, NICS 2014/15 average); car crime (19% v 11%); violent crime (27% v 15%); crime overall (14% v 7%); walking alone after dark (15% v 7%); and alone in home at night (6% v 2%) (Table A10).

A perceived high level of ASB in the local area tends to generate high levels of worry about crime and personal safety with respondents from high-ASB areas displaying some of the highest rates of all the demographic and socio-economic groups examined.

- ◆ Respondents who perceive ASB to be high in their area were much more likely than those from low-ASB areas to worry about all types of crime and personal safety: burglary (38% v 13%); car crime (37% v 9%); violent crime (39% v 13%); crime overall (26% v 5%); walking alone after dark (23% v 6%); and home alone at night (10% v 2%) (Table A10; Figure 3.4).

Figure 3.4: Worry about crime and personal safety (%) by perceived level of ASB



Source: NICS 2014/15

1. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

4. PERCEPTIONS OF THE LIKELIHOOD OF VICTIMISATION

4.1 Perceptions of the likelihood of victimisation in Northern Ireland

A person's perception of the likelihood that they will be a victim of crime may be influenced by their level of worry about crime. In addition to questions on worry about crime (Section 3), the NICS asked respondents how likely they think it is that they will be a victim of the following offences in the next 12 months, using a four-point scale ranging from 'very likely' to 'very unlikely':

1. home being burgled;
2. theft of a car;
3. theft from a car;
4. being mugged and robbed; and
5. physical attack by a stranger.

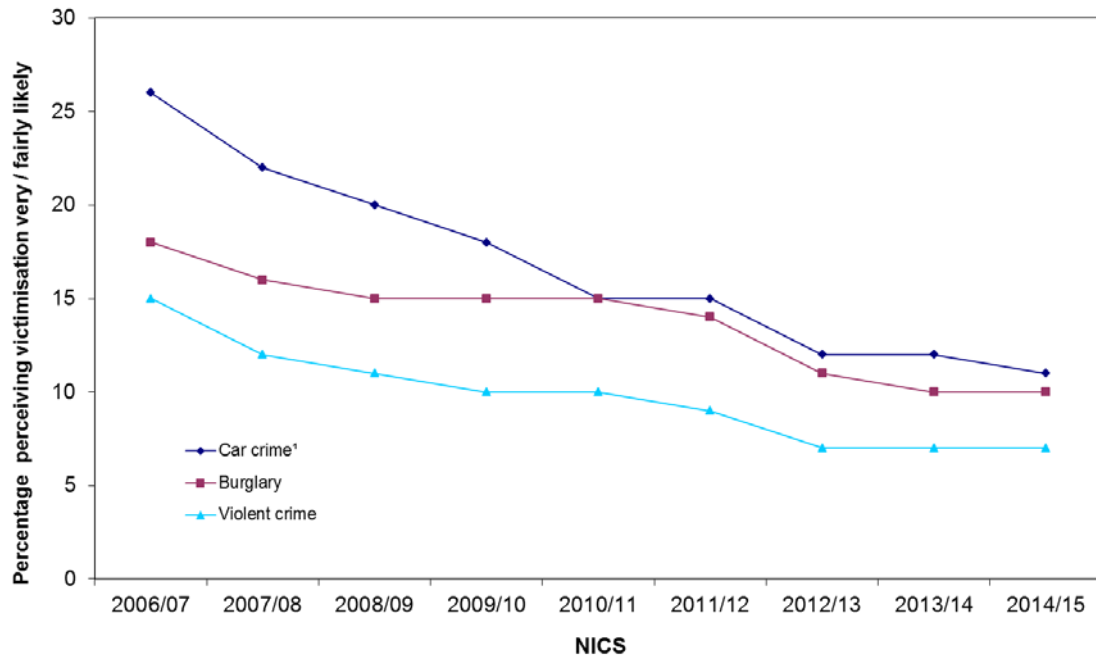
Two composite indicators to measure the perceived likelihood of being a victim of car crime and violent crime are constructed from the responses to the individual car crime and violent crime questions. These additional indicators, together with the proportion of respondents who say they are very or fairly likely to have their home burgled in the next year, comprise the three crime groups presented in this section (Tables A11–A13).

The perceived likelihood of being a victim of car crime is a composite measure of respondents who think they are very or fairly likely to either have a car/van stolen or have something stolen from a car/van in the next year, or both. This measure refers only to respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

Similarly, the perceived likelihood of being a victim of violent crime is a composite measure of anyone who thinks they are very or fairly likely to be either mugged/robbed or physically attacked by a stranger in the next year, or both.

- ◆ In line with results from previous sweeps, the vast majority of NICS 2014/15 respondents believed it unlikely that they would fall victim to any of these crimes during the coming year. For example, it is apparent from Table A11 that over nine in ten people surveyed (93%) did not think they would experience violent crime.
- ◆ Overall, 11% of respondents to NICS 2014/15 believed they would experience some form of vehicle-related theft, 10% thought it was likely that they would be the victim of burglary, while 7% perceived themselves to be at risk of violent crime. While no statistically significant changes ($p < 0.05$) were observed compared with NICS 2013/14 for any of the three measures (12%, 10% and 7% respectively), the proportions of respondents believing it likely that they would fall victim to each of these crime types have been falling gradually and compare with highs observed in 2006/07: car crime (26%, NICS 2006/07 v 11%, NICS 2014/15); burglary (18% v 10%); and violent crime (15% v 7%) (Table A11; Figure 4.1).

Figure 4.1: Perceptions of the risk of victimisation (%) in Northern Ireland



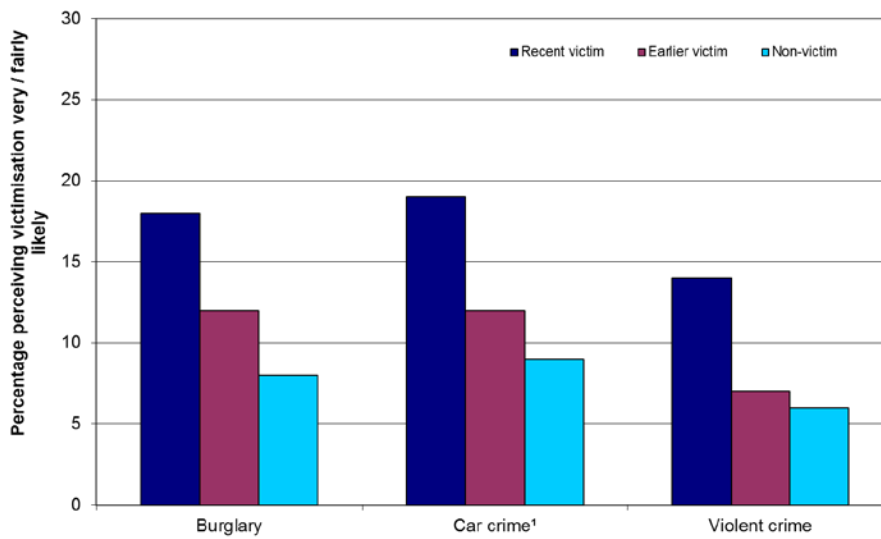
1. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

4.2 Perceptions of the likelihood of victimisation by personal, household and area characteristics

Tables A12 and A13 show the perceived likelihood of NICS 2014/15 respondents that they would be a victim of specific crimes in the next year, broken down by personal, household and area characteristics.

- ◆ While NICS 2014/15 findings indicate that there is no consistent pattern and the perceived likelihood of victimisation varies by age and crime type, respondents aged 75 and over were among those least likely to perceive themselves to be at risk, displaying below average rates for all three crime types examined: burglary (6%, aged 75 and over v 10%, NICS 2014/15 average); car crime (6% v 11%); and violent crime (3% v 7%) (Table A12).
- ◆ Respondents who had been a victim of crime in the past were more likely to perceive themselves to be at risk of further victimisation in the coming year. NICS 2014/15 findings show that this disparity was particularly evident for recent victims of crime (within the preceding two years): burglary (18%, recent victims of crime v 8%, non-victims); car crime (19% v 9%); and violent crime (14% v 6%) (Table A12; Figure 4.2).

Figure 4.2: Perceptions of the risk of victimisation (%) by experience of crime

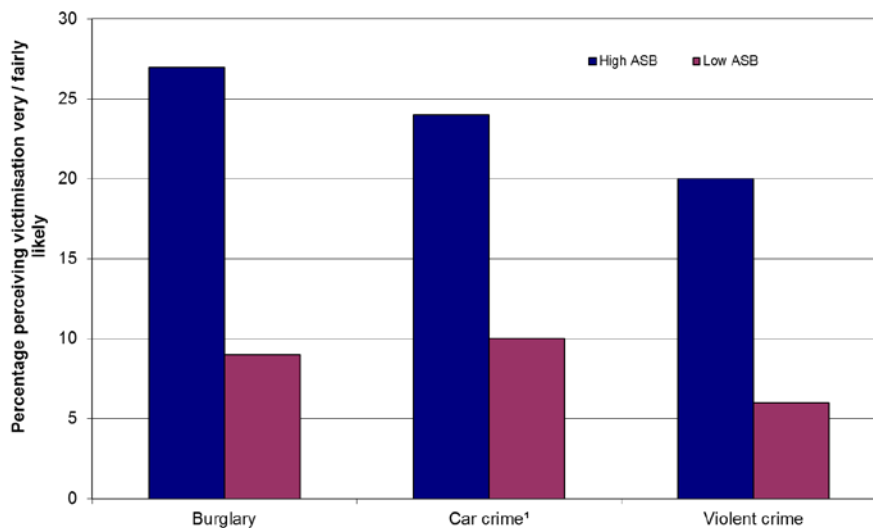


Source: NICS 2014/15

1. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

- ◆ Respondents residing in the 20% most deprived areas of Northern Ireland were much more likely than those in other deprivation bands to consider themselves to be at risk of violent crime (13%) in the following 12 months and compare with 5% of respondents from the 20% least deprived areas. Respondents from the 20% most deprived areas were also more likely than those in the other deprivation bands to believe they would be a victim of car crime (16%) and burglary (14%) (Table A13).
- ◆ As with worry about crime, respondents in high-ASB areas displayed some of the highest perceived levels of risk of all the demographic and socio-economic groups considered with rates varying greatly between areas of high and low ASB across each of the crime types: burglary (27%, high-ASB areas v 9%, low-ASB areas); car crime (24% v 10%); and violent crime (20% v 6%) (Table A13; Figure 4.3).

Figure 4.3: Perceptions of the risk of victimisation (%) by perceived level of ASB



Source: NICS 2014/15

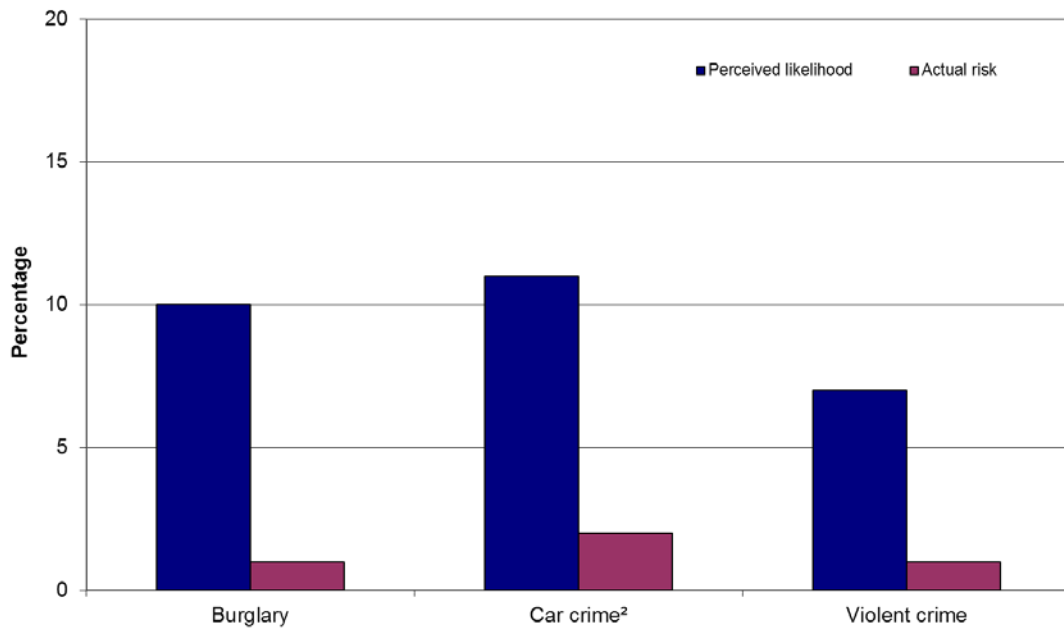
1. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

4.3 Perceptions of the likelihood of victimisation, and actual risk, in Northern Ireland

NICS findings reveal a disparity between a person’s perceived likelihood of being a victim of crime and their actual risk, whereby the perceived risk far exceeds the actual risk across each of the crime types considered.

- ◆ NICS 2014/15 results show that 10% of people thought they were very or fairly likely to be a victim of burglary, compared with an actual risk of one per cent. A similar pattern emerged in terms of car crime (11% v 2%) and violent crime (7% v 1%) (Figure 4.4).

Figure 4.4: Perceived likelihood of victimisation and actual risk (%)¹ by individual crime type



Source: NICS 2013/14 and 2014/15

1. Rates for the perceived risk are based on NICS 2014/15 findings while those for actual risk are based on NICS 2013/14 (Campbell, 2015). NICS 2014/15 victimisation rates will be available in the 'Experience of Crime: Findings from the 2014/15 Northern Ireland Crime Survey' report (forthcoming).

2. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

5. PERCEPTIONS OF THE EFFECT OF ‘FEAR OF CRIME’ ON QUALITY OF LIFE

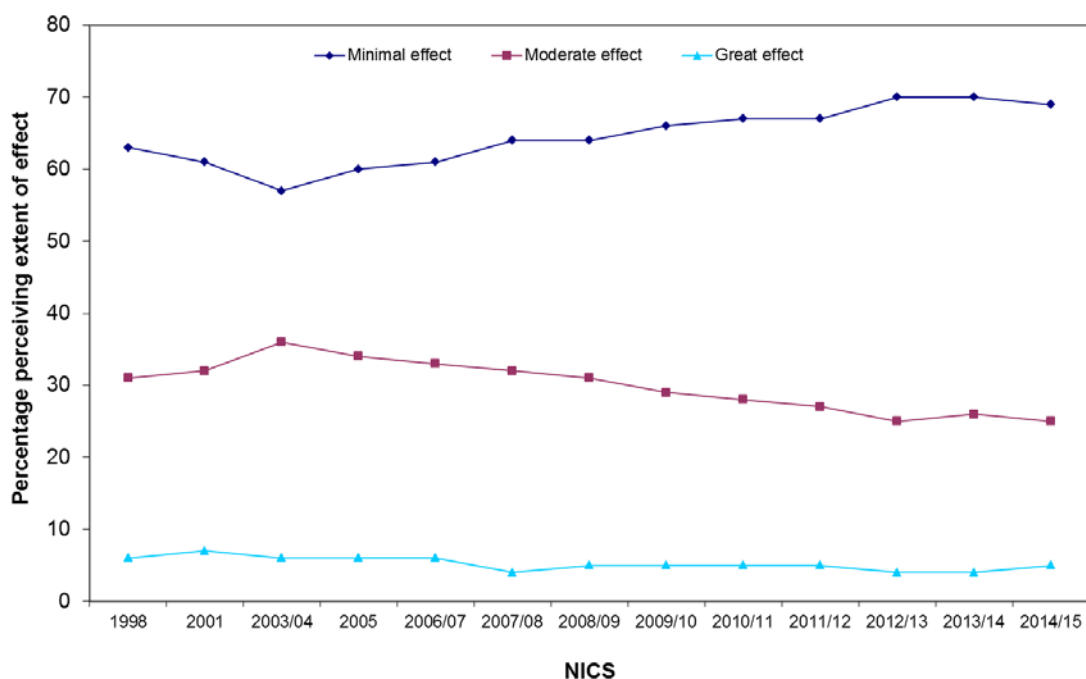
5.1 Perceptions of the effect of ‘fear of crime’ on quality of life in Northern Ireland and England and Wales

While a basic level of concern about crime may be beneficial in that it encourages people to take measures to reduce their likelihood of victimisation, ‘fear (about being a victim) of crime’ can become problematic if it has a detrimental impact on a person’s quality of life.

Respondents to NICS and CSEW were asked how much their own quality of life is affected by their ‘fear of crime’ on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is no effect and 10 is a total effect. In order to standardise the results, the following conventions have been used to gauge the effect of ‘fear of crime’ on quality of life:

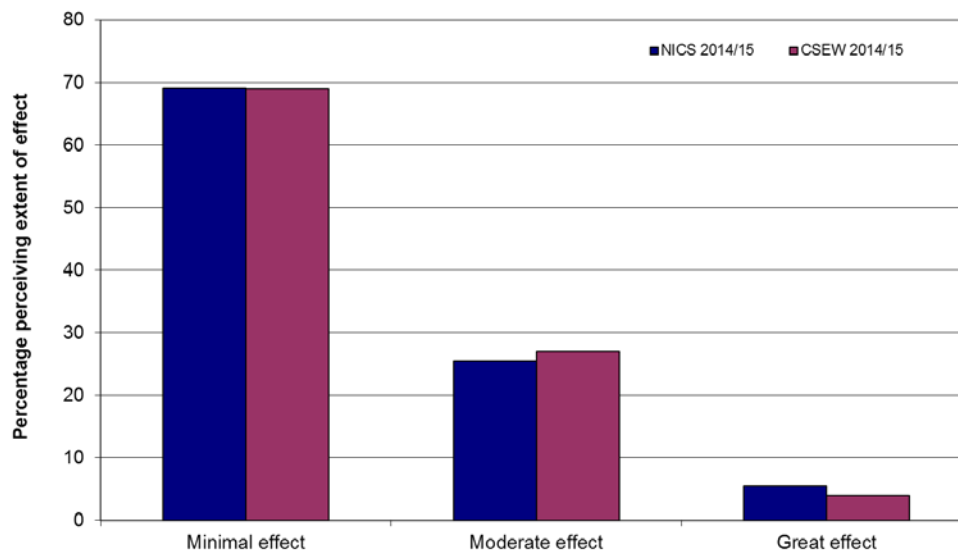
1. minimally affected (responded in the range 1 to 3);
 2. moderately affected (responded in the range 4 to 7); and
 3. greatly affected (responded in the range 8 to 10).
- ◆ At 69%, the majority of NICS 2014/15 respondents felt that ‘fear of crime’ has a minimal impact on their quality of life, with a further 25% claiming it has a moderate effect. The remaining five percent of people considered that their quality of life is greatly affected by their ‘fear of crime’ (Table A14; Figure 5.1).
 - ◆ While each of these proportions remained unchanged ($p < 0.05$) since 2013/14 (70%, 26% and 4% respectively), the proportion who felt ‘fear of crime’ has a minimal impact has shown a gradual increase over the last decade or so and compares favourably with 2003/04 when a low of 57% was observed. This increase since 2003/04 has been mirrored by a reduction ($p < 0.05$) in the proportion claiming a moderate effect, from 36% to 25%; the proportion reporting a great effect on their quality of life has remained relatively stable over the same period (Table A14; Figure 5.1).

Figure 5.1: Perceptions of the effect of ‘fear of crime’ on quality of life (%) in Northern Ireland



- ◆ CSEW 2014/15 results mirror those from NICS 2014/15 with the majority of respondents claiming ‘fear of crime’ has a minimal effect on their quality of life (69% for both Northern Ireland and England and Wales). Similar proportions of respondents stated ‘fear of crime’ has either a moderate (27%, CSEW 2014/15 v 25%, NICS 2014/15) or a great effect (4% and 5%) on their quality of life (Table A14; Figure 5.2).

Figure 5.2: Perceptions of the effect of ‘fear of crime’ on quality of life (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales



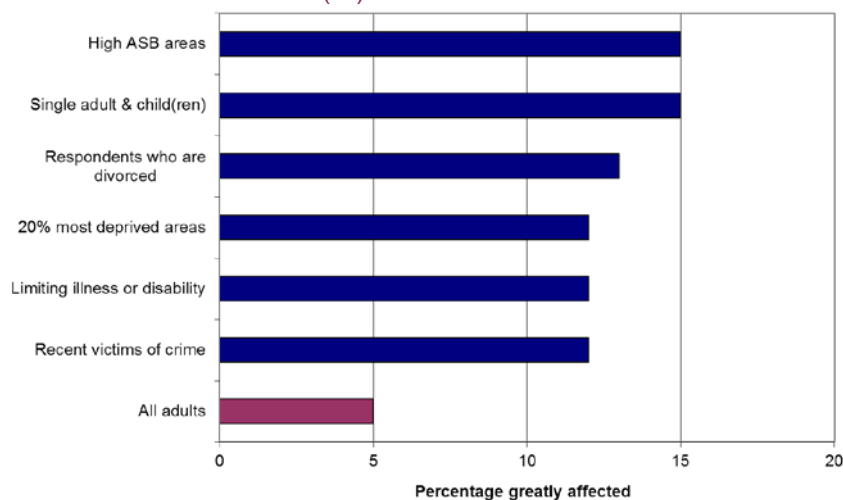
5.2 Perceptions of the effect of ‘fear of crime’ on quality of life by personal, household and area characteristics

Tables A15 and A16 show differences for NICS 2014/15 respondents in terms of the perceived effect of ‘fear of crime’ on quality of life within various socio-demographic groups in Northern Ireland.

- ◆ Findings from NICS 2014/15 show that women were more likely than their male counterparts to claim that their quality of life is greatly (7% v 3% respectively) or moderately (28% v 22%) affected by their own ‘fear of crime’. In turn, a greater proportion of men (75%) than women (65%) reported a minimal effect (Table A15).
- ◆ Respondents with a long-standing illness or disability (9%), and in particular a limiting illness or disability (12%), were more likely than those with no illness or disability (4%) to state their lives are greatly affected by a ‘fear of crime’ (Table A15).
- ◆ With regards to experience of crime, respondents who had been a victim of crime reported to the police (7%) were more likely than those who had never been a victim (4%) to state ‘fear of crime’ has a great effect on their quality of life. At 12%, recent victims (within the preceding two years) were three times as likely as non-victims (4%) to report a great effect (Table A15).
- ◆ NICS 2014/15 findings indicate that the perceived effect of ‘fear of crime’ on quality of life varies by living arrangements. While overall there appears to be no real difference in the proportion of people living as a couple (5%) and not living as a couple (6%) who consider their lives to be greatly affected, those who were divorced (13%) were more likely than, for example, married (4%) or single (4%) people to report their ‘fear of crime’ greatly affects their quality of life (Table A16).

- ◆ At 15%, single parent families were much more likely than households with two adults and children or no children at all (4% and 6% respectively) to claim ‘fear of crime’ has a great impact on their quality of life (Table A16).
- ◆ People living in social rented accommodation (11%) were more likely than other tenure groups to say that ‘fear of crime’ greatly affects their quality of life: owner-occupiers (5%); and private renters (4%) (Table A16).
- ◆ Respondents in lower income groups tended to be more likely to say their lives are greatly affected by their ‘fear of crime’. Of those households earning under £10,000 per annum, 11% of respondents reported a great effect, a proportion that reduces to 2% of those from households earning £50,000 or more (Table A16).
- ◆ Consistent with findings on worry about crime and perceived risk of victimisation, participants living in areas with a self-perceived high level of ASB (15%) were much more likely than those from areas of low ASB (5%) to state ‘fear of crime’ has a great effect on their quality of life. A further 45% of respondents from high-ASB areas reported a moderate effect compared with 24% of their low-ASB counterparts. In turn, a lower proportion reported that ‘fear of crime’ has a minimal effect (39%) on their quality of life, 33 percentage points below that for people in low-ASB areas (72%) (Table A16).
- ◆ In terms of deprivation, respondents living in the 20% most deprived areas of Northern Ireland were at least twice as likely as those in other deprivation bands to claim ‘fear of crime’ has a detrimental effect on their quality of life. Within this group, 12% felt ‘fear of crime’ has a great impact on their quality of life with 31% stating a moderate impact, resulting in one of the lowest ‘minimally’ affected proportions observed across the socio-demographic groups examined (57%) (Table A16).
- ◆ In summary, Tables A15, A16 and Figure 5.3 show that among those NICS 2014/15 respondents most likely, in percentage terms, to state that their lives are greatly affected by ‘fear of crime’ were:
 - those living in areas perceived to have a high level of ASB (15%);
 - single adult with children (15%);
 - respondents who are divorced (13%);
 - people living in the 20% most deprived areas of Northern Ireland (12%);
 - those with a limiting illness or disability (12%); and
 - recent victims of crime that were reported to the police (12%).

Figure 5.3: Those most likely to perceive their quality of life is greatly affected by ‘fear of crime’ (%) in Northern Ireland



Source: NICS 2014/15

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TABULAR ANNEX

Table A1: Perceptions of the causes of crime (%) in Northern Ireland^{1,2}

	Major causes of crime ³	Main cause of crime
Drugs	73	29
Alcohol	62	11
Lack of discipline from parents	51	20
Unemployment	39	7
Sectarianism	39	10
Too lenient sentencing	30	8
Poverty	26	6
Breakdown of the family	25	3
Racism	22	1
Lack of discipline from school	18	2
Too few police	16	2
None of these	1	2
<i>Unweighted base</i>	2,071	2,071

Source: NICS 2014/15

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Respondents were asked to select from a list the factors they considered to be the major causes of crime in Northern Ireland today. If respondents selected more than one factor they were asked which of the factors they believed to be the main cause of crime. If respondents gave only one factor, this was taken as the main cause.
3. Percentages may add to more than 100 as respondents could select more than one cause.

Table A2: Perceptions of change in overall crime levels (%) in Northern Ireland¹

	NICS 2003/04	NICS 2005	NICS 2006/07	NICS 2007/08	NICS 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	NICS 2010/11	NICS 2011/12	NICS 2012/13	NICS 2013/14	NICS 2014/15	Statistically significant change, 2013/14 to 2014/15? ³
More crime²	79	74	73	65	64	64	62	59	59	57	58	
A lot more crime	49	42	40	34	32	31	28	26	25	23	25	
A little more crime	30	32	33	32	31	33	35	34	34	34	33	
Same	14	17	18	20	23	24	25	28	29	31	31	
Less crime	7	9	10	14	13	11	13	12	12	12	10	
<i>Unweighted base</i>	2,704	3,578	3,678	3,790	3,737	3,977	3,916	3,925	3,898	3,458	2,003	

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. The proportion of respondents believing there has been 'a little more crime' or 'a lot more crime'; these figures may not sum to the 'more crime' composite figure due to rounding.
3. Statistical significance of change at the 5% level (two-tailed test) is indicated by a double asterisk (**).

Table A3: Perceptions of change in local crime levels (%) in Northern Ireland^{1,2}

	NICS 1998	NICS 2001	NICS 2003/04	NICS 2005	NICS 2006/07	NICS 2007/08	NICS 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	NICS 2010/11	NICS 2011/12	NICS 2012/13	NICS 2013/14	NICS 2014/15	Statistically significant change, 2013/14 to 2014/15? ⁴
More crime³	41	55	52	44	44	39	36	35	35	33	31	27	28	
A lot more crime	14	26	22	17	17	14	14	12	11	10	10	8	8	
A little more crime	27	29	30	27	27	25	22	23	24	23	21	19	20	
Same	47	36	36	42	42	45	48	49	49	51	53	55	56	
Less crime	12	8	12	13	14	16	16	16	16	16	17	17	16	
<i>Unweighted base</i>	2,648	2,597	2,644	3,076	3,171	3,295	3,291	3,495	3,494	3,497	3,524	3,109	1,816	

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Based on respondents who had been living in their area for more than three years.
3. The proportion of respondents believing there has been 'a little more crime' or 'a lot more crime'; these figures may not sum to the 'more crime' composite figure due to rounding.
4. Statistical significance of change at the 5% level (two-tailed test) is indicated by a double asterisk (**).

NICS 2014/15: Perceptions of Crime

Table A4: Perceptions of different types of anti-social behaviour as very / fairly big problems (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales¹

	NICS 1998	NICS 2001	NICS 2003/04	NICS 2005	NICS 2006/07	NICS 2007/08	NICS 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	NICS 2010/11	NICS 2011/12	NICS 2012/13	NICS 2013/14	NICS 2014/15	Statistically significant change, 2013/14 to 2014/15 ³	CSEW 2014/15
Perceived high level of ASB²	-	-	18	17	15	15	14	14	13	12	10	10	8	** ↓	11
Abandoned or burnt-out cars	-	8	10	8	7	6	5	5	5	4	3	4	3		2
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	6	7	8	10	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	7		12
People being drunk or rowdy in public places	-	-	24	25	23	25	24	22	20	21	18	17	15		18
People using or dealing drugs	21	29	31	28	26	26	24	23	22	23	22	23	21		24
Teenagers hanging around on streets	20	33	31	29	27	28	26	26	23	22	20	17	15		17
Rubbish or litter lying around	22	27	29	28	27	27	28	28	27	26	24	26	26		29
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property	23	32	28	26	23	22	23	22	20	20	17	16	15		16
Unweighted base⁴	3,058	3,007	3,104	3,691	3,788	3,932	3,855	4,098	4,077	4,063	4,055	3,596	2,071		8,190⁵

¹ Denotes indicator was not included in survey.

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. ASB: Anti-social behaviour (measure derived from responses to the seven individual strands in the table).
3. Statistical significance of change at the 5% level (two-tailed test) is indicated by a double asterisk (**).
4. Unweighted base refers to rubbish or litter lying around. Other bases will be similar.
5. CSEW unweighted base refers to people using or dealing drugs. Other CSEW bases will be similar.

Table A5: Perceptions of different types of anti-social behaviour as the single biggest problem (%) in the local area¹

	NICS 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	NICS 2010/11	NICS 2011/12	NICS 2012/13	NICS 2013/14	NICS 2014/15
Abandoned or burnt-out cars	1	1	1	1	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	4	4	4	4	4	5	4
People being drunk or rowdy in public places	11	11	10	10	8	8	9
People using or dealing drugs	8	7	9	9	10	11	12
Teenagers hanging around on streets	23	21	19	18	16	13	10
Rubbish or litter lying around	16	16	18	18	18	19	22
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property	7	7	7	7	6	5	5
None of these	31	32	33	33	37	38	37
Unweighted base	3,852	4,090	4,066	4,055	4,049	3,594	2,072

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

NICS 2014/15: Perceptions of Crime

Table A6: Perceptions of anti-social behaviour, by personal characteristics (%) in Northern Ireland¹

	% saying 'very' or 'fairly' big problem							Perceived high level of ASB ²	Unweighted base ³
	Abandoned or burnt-out cars	Noisy neighbours or loud parties	People being drunk or rowdy in public places	People using or dealing drugs	Teenagers hanging around on streets	Rubbish or litter lying around	Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property		
ALL ADULTS	3	7	15	21	15	26	15	8	2,071
Age (3 groups)									
16-29	7	8	24	25	21	30	24	16	290
30-59	2	8	14	21	16	24	15	7	1,070
60+	3	5	10	20	10	26	10	5	707
Age (7 groups)									
16-24	7	6	28	27	18	35	29	17	156
25-34	5	9	21	22	25	24	15	12	306
35-44	2	9	13	19	16	22	15	6	346
45-54	1	6	13	21	15	24	17	7	381
55-64	4	7	12	22	13	27	12	6	354
65-74	2	4	11	22	9	29	13	6	310
75+	1	3	7	11	6	19	5	2	214
Men	2	7	14	18	15	27	15	7	890
16-24	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	77
25-34	3	9	17	16	26	26	11	10	114
35-44	3	10	13	20	23	26	16	8	144
45-54	0	7	11	16	15	24	17	5	188
55-64	3	5	11	15	9	24	11	4	151
65-74	1	4	10	27	6	30	14	4	128
75+	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	88
Women	4	7	15	23	15	25	16	9	1,177
16-24	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	79
25-34	6	10	23	26	24	22	19	13	192
35-44	2	8	13	18	11	20	14	5	202
45-54	3	6	14	27	15	23	16	9	193
55-64	5	9	12	28	16	28	12	8	203
65-74	3	4	12	19	11	29	12	7	182
75+	0	2	7	5	4	19	4	1	126
Religion									
Catholic	5	7	16	25	16	25	17	10	835
Protestant	2	7	13	18	13	25	13	6	1,052
Perceived nationality									
British	2	7	14	20	13	24	14	6	965
Irish	5	5	16	26	16	27	18	11	524
Northern Irish	3	7	12	18	15	27	14	8	490
Other	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	80
Disability or illness									
Long-standing illness or disability	3	8	16	26	15	27	16	9	632
Limits activities	4	9	17	29	15	28	17	10	474
Does not limit activities	2	5	13	21	12	24	11	7	157
No long-standing illness or disability	3	6	14	19	15	25	15	8	1,436
Experience of crime reported to police									
Victim	3	8	14	23	17	27	18	8	834
Within last 2 years	5	13	21	30	25	33	27	16	203
More than 2 years ago	2	6	12	21	14	25	15	6	631
Never a victim	3	6	15	20	14	25	14	8	1,235
Daily newspaper readership									
National broadsheets	3	7	12	14	14	25	18	8	254
National tabloids	3	7	16	22	15	27	15	8	788
Irish News	4	4	11	21	12	26	14	7	310
Newsletter	4	6	11	17	9	31	7	2	188
Belfast Telegraph	2	8	15	18	13	23	16	8	482

Source: NICS 2014/15

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. ASB: Anti-social behaviour (measure derived from responses to the seven individual strands in the table).
3. Unweighted base refers to rubbish or litter lying around. Other bases will be similar.

NICS 2014/15: Perceptions of Crime

Table A7: Perceptions of anti-social behaviour, by household and area characteristics (%) in Northern Ireland¹

	% saying 'very' or 'fairly' big problem							Perceived high level of ASB ²	Unweighted base ⁶
	Abandoned or burnt-out cars	Noisy neighbours or loud parties	People being drunk or rowdy in public places	People using or dealing drugs	Teenagers hanging around on streets	Rubbish or litter lying around	Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property		
ALL ADULTS	3	7	15	21	15	26	15	8	2,071
Living arrangements (respondent)									
Living as a couple	2	6	12	18	12	24	12	6	1,086
Married	2	5	11	17	11	24	12	5	970
Cohabiting	6	9	20	20	18	20	16	13	116
Not living as a couple	5	9	20	27	20	29	20	12	981
Single	6	9	22	27	21	29	23	14	520
Separated	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	97
Divorced	3	13	24	39	22	33	25	20	133
Widowed	2	5	8	14	13	18	9	3	231
Household type³									
HRP aged under 60:									
Single adult & child(ren)	8	13	36	45	34	41	31	23	119
Adults & child(ren)	4	7	14	19	18	24	18	10	476
No children	3	8	19	23	15	25	17	9	705
HRP aged 60 and over	3	5	9	20	11	26	10	4	771
Household income									
Less than £10,000	6	9	20	28	18	28	20	13	327
£10,000 less than £20,000	4	8	16	26	16	27	18	10	520
£20,000 less than £30,000	3	9	18	22	20	32	16	10	364
£30,000 less than £40,000	2	6	13	23	13	21	15	7	229
£40,000 less than £50,000	0	4	7	8	9	22	13	3	162
£50,000 or more	3	4	9	14	10	23	8	3	213
Tenure									
Owner-occupied	2	5	10	17	11	23	12	5	1,366
Social rented	7	15	30	44	28	33	28	21	308
Private rented	4	8	21	24	20	29	19	11	391
Area type⁴									
Belfast	4	9	17	22	19	30	20	11	687
Urban, excluding Belfast	5	10	22	30	20	26	18	12	626
Rural	1	3	8	14	8	22	10	3	755
All Urban	4	9	19	26	20	28	19	11	1,313
Policing District⁴									
A&B (Belfast)	5	10	22	28	25	35	26	13	323
C	0	7	10	19	13	20	10	5	339
D	5	7	15	19	16	29	20	11	332
E	3	4	14	21	13	27	12	7	336
F	2	4	13	17	10	12	6	5	229
G	5	9	14	23	17	27	23	11	249
H	2	6	15	22	11	25	8	4	248
Multiple Deprivation Measure rank⁵									
1st quintile Most deprived	10	14	29	43	29	39	30	21	366
2nd quintile	4	7	17	23	14	25	16	8	443
3rd quintile	1	6	13	19	13	24	13	7	438
4th quintile	2	4	10	18	12	24	13	6	422
5th quintile Least deprived	0	5	8	9	11	19	8	2	402

Source: NICS 2014/15

- Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
- ASB: Anti-social behaviour (measure derived from responses to the seven individual strands in the table).
- HRP: Household Reference Person (in order of sequence, the person who owns or rents the accommodation, highest earner or oldest person).
- When combined, PSNI policing districts A & B equate to Belfast Local Government District area (pre 1st April 2015). See Table B1 in Technical Annex for full geographical breakdown of policing districts. For the area type breakdown, Belfast is based on the Belfast Metropolitan Urban area which extends beyond the Belfast Local Government District.
- Rank order of super output areas (derived from 2010 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure).
- Unweighted base refers to rubbish or litter lying around. Other bases will be similar.

NICS 2014/15: Perceptions of Crime

Table A8: Worry about crime and personal safety (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales¹

	NICS 1998	NICS 2001	NICS 2003/04	NICS 2005	NICS 2006/07	NICS 2007/08	NICS 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	NICS 2010/11	NICS 2011/12	NICS 2012/13	NICS 2013/14	NICS 2014/15	Statistically significant change, 2013/14 to 2014/15 ³	CSEW 2014/15
% with high levels of worry															
Burglary	17	17	21	18	17	16	15	16	16	15	14	15	15		10
Car crime ²	18	21	20	17	15	15	14	13	13	12	11	12	11		7
Violent crime ⁵	23	23	24	23	22	19	18	20	19	19	17	17	15		11
% very worried															
Crime overall	-	-	-	-	-	9	8	8	9	8	7	7	7		N/A
% feeling very unsafe															
Walking alone in area after dark	8	11	13	11	11	12	10	10	9	8	7	7	7		8
Alone in home at night	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		1
<i>Unweighted base⁴</i>	3,057	3,010	3,104	3,691	3,790	3,933	3,856	4,102	4,080	4,061	4,054	3,594	2,073		8,207

¹- Denotes indicator was not included in survey.

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.
3. Statistical significance of change at the 5% level (two-tailed test) is indicated by a double asterisk (**).
4. Unweighted base refers to worry about burglary. Other bases will be similar with the exception of car crime which is based on vehicle-owners only.
5. As described in Section 3.1, the violent crime indicator is constructed from four questions. For the question on 'worry about physical attack because of their race, religion, sexuality or disability', the CSEW does not refer to 'sexuality or disability'.

NICS 2014/15: Perceptions of Crime

Table A9: Worry about crime and personal safety, by personal characteristics (%) in Northern Ireland¹

	% with high levels of worry			% very worried	% feeling very unsafe		Unweighted base ³
	Burglary	Car crime ²	Violent crime	Crime overall	Walking alone in area after dark	Alone in home at night	
ALL ADULTS	15	11	15	7	7	2	2,073
Age							
16-29	12	10	17	9	5	3	291
30-59	15	11	14	7	6	2	1,070
60+	16	12	15	6	10	3	708
16-24	13	n<100	19	10	4	2	157
25-34	11	7	15	7	7	3	306
35-44	10	9	12	5	5	2	346
45-54	17	12	14	8	7	1	381
55-64	17	13	15	7	7	1	354
65-74	21	14	21	8	11	4	310
75+	10	8	6	4	11	1	215
Men	10	10	8	4	3	1	890
16-24	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	77
25-34	6	n<100	7	3	3	0	114
35-44	7	11	5	3	3	1	144
45-54	12	9	5	4	4	0	188
55-64	10	11	7	3	1	0	151
65-74	18	9	10	6	6	3	128
75+	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	88
Women	18	12	20	9	11	3	1,179
16-24	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	80
25-34	15	7	20	10	9	6	192
35-44	13	8	16	6	7	3	202
45-54	22	15	24	12	10	3	193
55-64	23	15	21	10	12	2	203
65-74	23	17	28	10	15	4	182
75+	12	n<100	6	4	18	2	127
Religion							
Catholic	17	12	16	8	8	3	836
Protestant	13	11	14	6	7	2	1,053
Perceived nationality							
British	14	11	15	6	7	2	966
Irish	15	12	14	8	8	3	525
Northern Irish	14	11	13	6	6	2	490
Other	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	80
Disability or illness							
Long-standing illness or disability	21	14	19	10	12	4	634
Limits activities	22	15	21	11	13	5	476
Does not limit activities	17	11	15	8	10	0	157
No long-standing illness or disability	12	10	13	6	5	2	1,436
Experience of crime reported to police							
Victim	16	12	15	7	8	3	835
Within last 2 years	26	22	23	13	13	8	204
More than 2 years ago	13	9	12	5	6	2	631
Never a victim	14	10	15	7	7	1	1,236
Daily newspaper readership							
National broadsheets	11	10	10	6	1	1	254
National tabloids	16	11	16	6	5	1	788
Irish News	16	11	12	7	4	2	310
Newsletter	12	8	10	4	7	2	188
Belfast Telegraph	13	12	16	8	4	1	482

Source: NICS 2014/15

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

2. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

3. Unweighted base refers to worry about burglary. Other bases will be similar with the exception of car crime which is based on vehicle-owners only.

NICS 2014/15: Perceptions of Crime

Table A10: Worry about crime and personal safety, by household and area characteristics (%) in Northern Ireland¹

	% with high levels of worry			% very worried Crime overall	% feeling very unsafe		Unweighted base ⁷
	Burglary	Car crime ²	Violent crime		Walking alone in area after dark	Alone in home at night	
ALL ADULTS	15	11	15	7	7	2	2,073
Living arrangements (respondent)							
Living as a couple	15	11	13	7	6	2	1,086
Married	15	11	13	6	7	2	970
Cohabiting	14	n<100	12	11	4	3	116
Not living as a couple	14	11	17	8	8	3	983
Single	13	10	17	7	5	2	521
Separated	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	98
Divorced	27	n<100	25	17	13	5	133
Widowed	14	7	15	5	17	3	231
Household type³							
HRP aged under 60:							
Single adult & child(ren)	29	n<100	29	14	13	3	119
Adults & child(ren)	11	9	14	6	6	3	476
No children	15	12	14	7	6	1	706
HRP aged 60 and over	16	12	15	6	9	2	772
Household income							
Less than £10,000	20	16	25	12	10	4	328
£10,000 less than £20,000	20	12	18	10	11	3	520
£20,000 less than £30,000	14	13	15	6	7	1	364
£30,000 less than £40,000	10	11	13	6	3	2	229
£40,000 less than £50,000	10	5	7	2	3	1	162
£50,000 or more	8	6	5	2	2	0	213
Tenure							
Owner-occupied	14	10	12	6	6	1	1,366
Social rented	20	17	25	12	16	6	309
Private rented	12	12	17	9	6	3	392
Area type⁴							
Belfast	15	11	17	9	9	4	687
Urban, excluding Belfast	15	12	15	6	9	1	626
Rural	13	10	12	6	5	1	757
All Urban	15	11	16	8	9	3	1,313
Policing District⁴							
A&B (Belfast)	17	13	22	12	12	5	323
C	13	7	12	7	5	2	339
D	16	12	15	6	5	2	332
E	15	12	12	7	9	2	336
F	12	12	15	6	5	2	229
G	18	14	18	8	8	1	250
H	8	7	8	4	5	1	249
Multiple Deprivation Measure rank⁵							
1st quintile Most deprived	24	19	27	14	15	6	366
2nd quintile	16	13	15	9	8	2	443
3rd quintile	11	10	11	6	5	1	439
4th quintile	13	10	16	6	6	2	423
5th quintile Least deprived	10	7	8	2	3	1	402
Perceived level of ASB⁶							
High	38	37	39	26	23	10	168
Low	13	9	13	5	6	2	1,797

Source: NICS 2014/15

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.
3. HRP: Household Reference Person (in order of sequence, the person who owns or rents the accommodation, highest earner or oldest person).
4. When combined, PSNI policing districts A & B equate to Belfast Local Government District area (pre 1st April 2015). See Table B1 in Technical Annex for full geographical breakdown of policing districts. For the area type breakdown, Belfast is based on the Belfast Metropolitan Urban area which extends beyond the Belfast Local Government District.
5. Rank order of super output areas (derived from 2010 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure).
6. ASB: Anti-social behaviour (measure derived from responses to the seven individual strands in Table A4).
7. Unweighted base refers to worry about burglary. Other bases will be similar with the exception of car crime which is based on vehicle-owners only.

NICS 2014/15: Perceptions of Crime

Table A11: Perceptions of the risk of victimisation (%) in Northern Ireland¹

% perceiving it likely that they will be a victim within the next year	NICS 2006/07	NICS 2007/08	NICS 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	NICS 2010/11	NICS 2011/12	NICS 2012/13	NICS 2013/14	NICS 2014/15	Statistically significant change, 2013/14 to 2014/15? ³
Burglary	18	16	15	15	15	14	11	10	10	
Car crime ²	26	22	20	18	15	15	12	12	11	
Violent crime	15	12	11	10	10	9	7	7	7	
<i>Unweighted base⁴</i>	3,708	3,855	3,774	4,006	3,987	3,992	3,980	3,527	2,051	

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.
3. Statistical significance of change at the 5% level (two-tailed test) is indicated by a double asterisk (**).
4. Unweighted base refers to perceived likelihood of being a victim of burglary. Bases for violent crime will be similar but will be lower for car crime which is based on vehicle-owners only.

NICS 2014/15: Perceptions of Crime

Table A12: Perceptions of the risk of victimisation, by personal characteristics (%) in Northern Ireland¹

	% perceiving it likely that they will be a victim within the next year			Unweighted base ³
	Burglary	Car crime ²	Violent crime	
ALL ADULTS	10	11	7	2,051
Age				
16-29	9	11	11	290
30-59	11	11	6	1,058
60+	9	10	5	699
16-24	9	14	13	156
25-34	12	8	10	305
35-44	12	11	4	344
45-54	11	9	6	376
55-64	8	13	5	348
65-74	11	12	8	307
75+	6	6	3	211
Men	8	10	7	878
16-24	n<100	n<100	n<100	77
25-34	9	n<100	9	114
35-44	13	13	5	143
45-54	7	8	5	184
55-64	7	15	6	148
65-74	10	12	10	127
75+	n<100	n<100	n<100	85
Women	11	12	7	1,169
16-24	n<100	n<100	n<100	79
25-34	14	10	10	191
35-44	10	10	4	201
45-54	14	9	8	192
55-64	9	12	4	200
65-74	12	12	6	180
75+	7	n<100	0	126
Religion				
Catholic	11	9	6	833
Protestant	10	11	6	1,041
Perceived nationality				
British	10	11	7	956
Irish	12	11	7	522
Northern Irish	7	9	5	486
Other	n<100	n<100	n<100	79
Disability or illness				
Long-standing illness or disability	12	9	8	624
Limits activities	13	11	8	468
Does not limit activities	9	6	9	155
No long-standing illness or disability	9	11	6	1,426
Experience of crime reported to police				
Victim	13	14	9	822
Within last 2 years	18	19	14	202
More than 2 years ago	12	12	7	620
Never a victim	8	9	6	1,229
Daily newspaper readership				
National broadsheets	7	10	4	253
National tabloids	9	11	7	781
Irish News	10	11	7	309
Newsletter	10	10	4	184
Belfast Telegraph	10	12	5	481

Source: NICS 2014/15

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

2. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

3. Unweighted base refers to perceived likelihood of being a victim of burglary. Bases for violent crime will be similar but will be lower for car crime which is based on vehicle-owners only.

NICS 2014/15: Perceptions of Crime

Table A13: Perceptions of the risk of victimisation, by household and area characteristics (%) in Northern Ireland¹

	%perceiving it likely that they will be a victim within the next year			Unweighted base ⁷
	Burglary	Car crime ²	Violent crime	
ALL ADULTS	10	11	7	2,051
Living arrangements (respondent)				
Living as a couple	10	11	6	1,075
Married	10	11	6	961
Cohabiting	12	n<100	10	114
Not living as a couple	10	10	8	972
Single	9	12	10	513
Separated	n<100	n<100	n<100	98
Divorced	11	n<100	7	132
Widowed	11	7	3	229
Household type³				
HRP aged under 60:				
Single adult & child(ren)	14	n<100	15	117
Adults & child(ren)	12	11	6	476
No children	10	9	8	696
HRP aged 60 and over	9	12	6	762
Household income				
Less than £10,000	9	6	10	327
£10,000 less than £20,000	12	13	8	518
£20,000 less than £30,000	11	13	6	362
£30,000 less than £40,000	13	11	5	228
£40,000 less than £50,000	5	7	4	160
£50,000 or more	8	8	3	213
Tenure				
Owner-occupied	10	10	5	1,354
Social rented	12	9	13	305
Private rented	10	12	11	389
Area type⁴				
Belfast	13	14	9	682
Urban, excluding Belfast	8	8	6	618
Rural	9	10	5	748
All Urban	11	11	8	1,300
Policing District⁴				
A&B (Belfast)	13	15	11	319
C	6	7	5	337
D	14	17	10	328
E	13	9	5	333
F	9	7	6	226
G	9	12	7	249
H	3	5	3	245
Multiple Deprivation Measure rank⁵				
1st quintile Most deprived	14	16	13	365
2nd quintile	9	8	7	435
3rd quintile	9	12	6	433
4th quintile	9	12	4	420
5th quintile Least deprived	9	9	5	398
Perceived level of ASB⁶				
High	27	24	20	167
Low	9	10	6	1,778

Source: NICS 2014/15

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.
3. HRP: Household Reference Person (in order of sequence, the person who owns or rents the accommodation, highest earner or oldest person).
4. When combined, PSNI policing districts A & B equate to Belfast Local Government District area (pre 1st April 2015). See Table B1 in Technical Annex for full geographical breakdown of policing districts. For the area type breakdown, Belfast is based on the Belfast Metropolitan Urban area which extends beyond the Belfast Local Government District.
5. Rank order of super output areas (derived from 2010 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure).
6. ASB: Anti-social behaviour (measure derived from responses to the seven individual strands in Table A4).
7. Unweighted base refers to perceived likelihood of being a victim of burglary. Bases for violent crime will be similar but will be lower for car crime which is based on vehicle-owners only.

NICS 2014/15: Perceptions of Crime

Table A14: Perceptions of the effect of 'fear of crime' on quality of life (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales¹

	NICS 1998	NICS 2001	NICS 2003/04	NICS 2005	NICS 2006/07	NICS 2007/08	NICS 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	NICS 2010/11	NICS 2011/12	NICS 2012/13	NICS 2013/14	NICS 2014/15	Statistically significant change, 2013/14 to 2014/15? ²	CSEW 2014/15
Minimal	63	61	57	60	61	64	64	66	67	67	70	70	69		69
Moderate	31	32	36	34	33	32	31	29	28	27	25	26	25		27
Great	6	7	6	6	6	4	5	5	5	5	4	4	5		4
<i>Unweighted base</i>	3,049	3,008	3,099	3,691	3,789	3,929	3,854	4,099	4,079	4,062	4,054	3,596	2,074		3,633

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

2. Statistical significance of change at the 5% level (two-tailed test) is indicated by a double asterisk (**).

NICS 2014/15: Perceptions of Crime

Table A15: Perceptions of the effect of 'fear of crime' on quality of life, by personal characteristics (%) in Northern Ireland¹

	Minimal	Moderate	Great	Unweighted base
ALL ADULTS	69	25	5	2,074
Age				
16-29	73	22	5	291
30-59	69	26	5	1,071
60+	68	26	6	708
16-24	77	19	4	157
25-34	66	29	4	306
35-44	68	26	6	346
45-54	70	25	5	382
55-64	68	27	5	354
65-74	66	26	8	310
75+	71	23	6	215
Men	75	22	3	890
16-24	n<100	n<100	n<100	77
25-34	72	26	2	114
35-44	70	25	5	144
45-54	78	21	2	188
55-64	76	22	3	151
65-74	72	21	7	128
75+	n<100	n<100	n<100	88
Women	65	28	7	1,180
16-24	n<100	n<100	n<100	80
25-34	63	31	6	192
35-44	67	26	7	202
45-54	62	30	8	194
55-64	63	30	7	203
65-74	61	29	9	182
75+	64	28	8	127
Religion				
Catholic	69	25	5	836
Protestant	69	26	5	1,053
Perceived nationality				
British	67	27	6	966
Irish	69	26	6	525
Northern Irish	74	22	4	490
Other	n<100	n<100	n<100	80
Disability or illness				
Long-standing illness or disability	61	29	9	635
Limits activities	58	30	12	477
Does not limit activities	71	27	3	157
No long-standing illness or disability	72	24	4	1,436
Experience of crime reported to police				
Victim	61	31	7	835
Within last 2 years	51	37	12	204
More than 2 years ago	64	30	6	631
Never a victim	74	22	4	1,237
Daily newspaper readership				
National broadsheets	76	19	5	254
National tabloids	66	29	4	788
Irish News	71	25	4	310
Newsletter	70	25	5	188
Belfast Telegraph	68	27	5	482

Source: NICS 2014/15

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

NICS 2014/15: Perceptions of Crime

Table A16: Perceptions of the effect of 'fear of crime' on quality of life, by household and area characteristics (%) in Northern Ireland¹

	Minimal	Moderate	Great	Unweighted base
ALL ADULTS	69	25	5	2,074
Living arrangements (respondent)				
Living as a couple	69	26	5	1,086
Married	70	26	4	970
Cohabiting	62	28	10	116
Not living as a couple	69	24	6	984
Single	73	23	4	522
Separated	n<100	n<100	n<100	98
Divorced	53	35	13	133
Widowed	67	23	10	231
Household type²				
HRP aged under 60:				
Single adult & child(ren)	61	24	15	120
Adults & child(ren)	70	26	4	476
No children	70	24	6	706
HRP aged 60 and over	68	27	5	772
Household income				
Less than £10,000	66	24	11	328
£10,000 less than £20,000	65	27	7	520
£20,000 less than £30,000	68	27	4	364
£30,000 less than £40,000	69	28	4	229
£40,000 less than £50,000	71	27	3	162
£50,000 or more	79	19	2	213
Tenure				
Owner-occupied	70	25	5	1,367
Social rented	60	30	11	309
Private rented	73	23	4	392
Area type³				
Belfast	62	32	7	688
Urban, excluding Belfast	69	26	5	626
Rural	75	20	5	757
All Urban	65	29	6	1,314
Policing District³				
A&B (Belfast)	61	32	8	324
C	69	27	4	339
D	64	30	6	332
E	69	25	6	336
F	75	19	7	229
G	71	25	5	250
H	80	17	3	249
Multiple Deprivation Measure rank⁴				
1st quintile Most deprived	57	31	12	366
2nd quintile	72	24	4	443
3rd quintile	72	22	6	439
4th quintile	71	26	3	423
5th quintile Least deprived	71	25	3	403
Perceived level of ASB⁵				
High	39	45	15	168
Low	72	24	5	1,797

Source: NICS 2014/15

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

2. HRP: Household Reference Person (in order of sequence, the person who owns or rents the accommodation, highest earner or oldest person).

3. When combined, PSNI policing districts A & B equate to Belfast Local Government District area (pre 1st April 2015). See Table B1 in Technical Annex for full geographical breakdown of policing districts. For the area type breakdown, Belfast is based on the Belfast Metropolitan Urban area which extends beyond the Belfast Local Government District.

4. Rank order of super output areas (derived from 2010 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure).

5. ASB: Anti-social behaviour (measure derived from responses to the seven individual strands in Table A4).

TECHNICAL ANNEX

Sampling and fieldwork

With effect from April 2014 the target achieved sample size of the NICS was reduced from 3,500 interviews to 2,000 interviews. This reduction was occasioned by the need to make savings generally in the levels of Departmental spending. The initial NICS 2014/15 sample consisted of 3,375 addresses, randomly selected from the Land and Property Services domestic property database. Visits to each address by an interviewer from the NISRA Central Survey Unit resulted in an eligible sample of 2,899 occupied addresses, from which attempts were made to interview one randomly selected adult respondent at each address.

Selecting only one person at each address means that individuals living in large households have a lower chance of being included in the sample than those living in small households. Accordingly, the data presented in this publication have been weighted by household size to prevent a bias towards smaller households.

In January 2005, the NICS began operating on a continuous basis. This bulletin refers primarily to fieldwork undertaken during the financial year 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015, which involved complete interviews with 2,074 people aged 16 years and over. This represents an eligible response rate of 72%.

Respondents were assured in advance of the interviews that any information they provided would be treated as entirely confidential and that the level of detail produced in publications or in any subsequent analyses would not allow for identification of individuals. The interviews typically lasted just under an hour for non-victims, although those involving respondents who disclosed several crimes could last much longer.

Rounding, error and statistical significance

Don't knows, refusals and non-valid responses have been excluded from the analyses. Percentages may not always sum to 100 due to the effect of rounding to the nearest whole number, or because respondents could give more than one response.

Due to a combination of both sampling and non-sampling error, any sample is unlikely to reflect precisely the characteristics of the population.

Because NICS estimates are subject to sampling error, differences between estimates from successive years of the survey or between population subgroups may occur by chance.

For the purposes of this bulletin, where differences have emerged as being statistically significant, these have been reported at the 5% ($p < 0.05$) level of probability (two-tailed tests). This means that, for any observed result that is found to be statistically significant, one can be 95% confident that this has not happened by chance.

As a result of the sample reduction, the confidence limits of any percentages from the survey are now wider than was the case previously and the margin of difference between findings now required to achieve 'statistical significance' has widened accordingly. This means that absolute differences in percentages which would previously have been 'statistically significant' with the larger numbers then sampled (and the much narrower range of error for any findings) may not necessarily now be found to be statistically significant with the reduced sample size. As the Department of Justice does not routinely publish NICS estimates where the unweighted base is less than 100 cases, the sample reduction also means findings for

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some socio-demographic sub-groups, which would previously have been included, are no longer published.

Further information on the 2014/15 sweep of the NICS is contained within the NICS 2014/15 Technical Report (forthcoming, via the Northern Ireland Department of Justice website: <https://www.dojni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-crime-survey>)

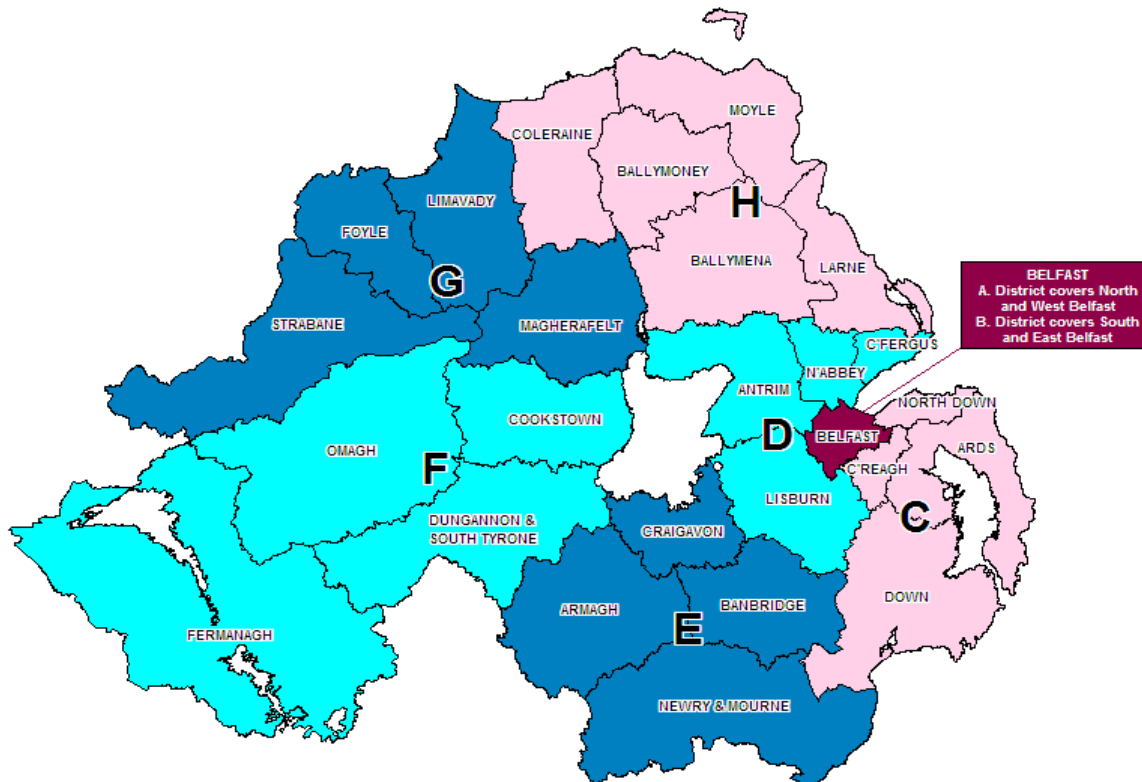
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Table B1: Sample profile for NICS 2014/15

Group	Sub-group	Unweighted Number	Unweighted %	Weighted %
Sex	Men	890	43	45
	Women	1,180	57	55
Age group	16-24	157	8	11
	25-34	306	15	15
	35-44	346	17	16
	45-54	382	18	21
	55-64	354	17	17
	65-74	310	15	13
	75+	215	10	8
Religion	Catholic	836	40	42
	Protestant	1,053	51	49
Area type	Urban	1,314	63	61
	Urban, excluding Belfast	626	30	29
	Rural	757	37	39
Policing district¹	A&B (Belfast)	324	16	15
	C	339	16	16
	D	332	16	17
	E	336	16	17
	F	229	11	12
	G	250	12	13
	H	249	12	12
	Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank²	1st quintile (most deprived)	366	18
2nd quintile		443	21	20
3rd quintile		439	21	22
4th quintile		423	20	22
5th quintile (least deprived)		403	19	20
Vehicle-owning households		1,708	82	88

1. See Figure B1. When combined, PSNI policing districts A and B equate to Belfast City Council area (pre 1st April 2015).
2. Rank order of super output areas (derived from 2010 Multiple Deprivation Measure).

Figure B1: Map of PSNI Policing Districts



1. Based on Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland data © 2007.
2. Policing Districts in place up to 31st March 2015 and for which the 2014/15 survey period refers; new Policing Districts came into effect 1st April 2015.

NOTES

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