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**Statistics and Research Branch**

**Perceptions of Crime:  
Findings from the  
2010/11  
Northern Ireland  
Crime Survey**

**Research and Statistical Bulletin 1/2012**

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## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- ◆ Drugs (71%), alcohol (66%) and a lack of discipline from parents (62%) were the three factors most commonly identified by NICS 2010/11 respondents as *major* causes of crime in Northern Ireland today. When asked which single factor they considered to be the *main* cause of crime, 24% of respondents cited 'lack of discipline from parents' while a further 23% cited 'drugs'.
- ◆ Around three-fifths (62%) of NICS 2010/11 respondents felt that crime levels in Northern Ireland had increased in the preceding two years, similar to the 2009/10 figure (64%) but lower than in 2003/04 (79%). These results illustrate the tendency of most people to believe the level of crime is increasing, even when it is not. The decrease since 2003/04 may reflect to some extent the recent falls in crime evidenced by both the NICS and police recorded crime statistics.
- ◆ As in previous sweeps of the survey, NICS 2010/11 respondents continued to be more positive in their perceptions of crime levels in their local areas than at the regional level with around one-third (35%) believing that local crime levels had increased in the preceding two years.
- ◆ Based on a seven-strand composite measure, findings from NICS 2010/11 show that 13% of respondents perceived the level of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in their local area to be high, a similar proportion to that recorded in England and Wales (14%; BCS 2010/11).
- ◆ Of the socio-demographic groups examined by NICS 2010/11, the most likely to perceive ASB as a problem in their area included: residents of the 20% most deprived areas of Northern Ireland (33%); people living in social rented accommodation (31%); women aged 16-24 (26%); single parents (26%); and recent victims of crime reported to the police (26%).
- ◆ Despite a lower prevalence of crime in Northern Ireland, respondents to NICS 2010/11 displayed higher levels of worry about crime than their counterparts in England and Wales (BCS 2010/11): violent crime (19% v 13%); burglary (16% v 10%); and car crime (13% v 10%).
- ◆ While NICS 2010/11 respondents displayed higher levels of worry about crime than their BCS 2010/11 counterparts, they were, with the exception of burglary (15% v 13%), less likely to perceive themselves to be at risk of victimisation: violent crime (10% v 13%) and car crime (15% v 17%).
- ◆ Findings from NICS 2010/11 reveal a disparity between people's perceived likelihood of being a victim of crime and their actual risk, whereby the perceived risk far exceeds the actual risk. For instance, 15% of people thought they were likely to be a victim of burglary in the next 12 months, compared with an actual risk of two per cent. A similar pattern emerged in terms of car crime (15% v 3%) and violent crime (10% v 2%).
- ◆ Two-thirds (67%) of NICS 2010/11 respondents felt that 'fear of crime' has a minimal impact on their quality of life, with a further 28% claiming it has a 'moderate effect'. The remaining five per cent believed that their quality of life is greatly affected by their 'fear of crime'.
- ◆ Among those NICS 2010/11 respondents most likely to state that their lives are greatly affected by a 'fear of crime' were: residents in areas of self-perceived high ASB (15%); recent victims of crimes reported to the police (13%); and those with a limiting illness or disability (10%).

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The focus of this publication

This bulletin draws on findings from the 2010/11 Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS), a representative, continuous, personal interview survey of the experiences and perceptions of crime of 4,081 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 2010/11 NICS and those of the 2010/11 British Crime Survey (BCS; Chaplin *et al.*, 2011), the equivalent survey for England and Wales, as well as with earlier sweeps of the NICS. In addition, findings from NICS 2010/11 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.

A separate NICS 2010/11 bulletin presenting findings on experience of crime (Toner and Freel, 2011) has already been published. Additional reports including those on perceptions of policing, justice and organised crime (Campbell and Freel, forthcoming) and night-time economy (Toner and Freel, forthcoming) will publish separately.

## 1.2 About the Northern Ireland Crime Survey

Closely mirroring the format and core questions of the BCS, the NICS is an important source of information about levels of crime and public attitudes to crime. Its results play an important role in informing and monitoring government policies and targets, such as, strategies relating to public confidence, crime reduction and community safety.

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 about 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 drug misuse and 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 PSNI Crime Statistics User Guide ([http://www.psnipolice.uk/user\\_guide.pdf](http://www.psnipolice.uk/user_guide.pdf)).

For the most part, the interviewer-administered modules for NICS 2010/11 were based on BCS 2010/11. 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.

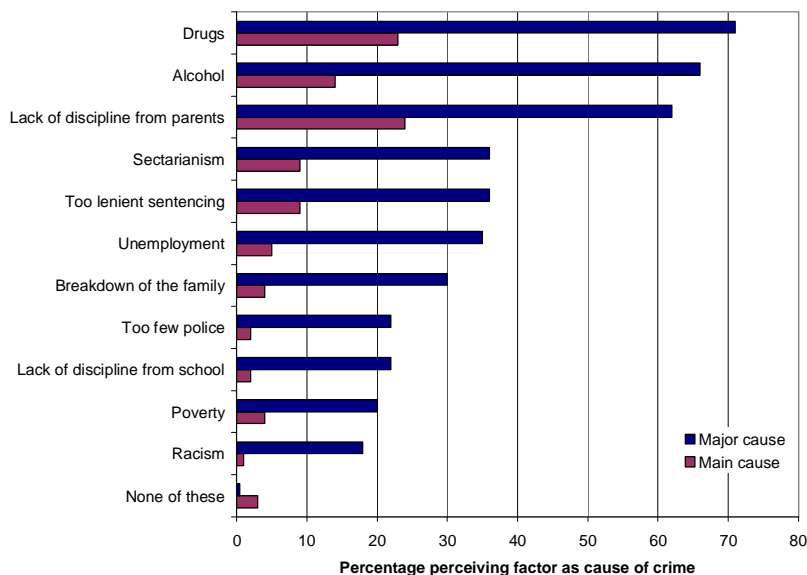
## 2. PERCEPTIONS OF CAUSES OF CRIME, CRIME LEVELS AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

### 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 2010/11 show that drugs, alcohol and lack of discipline from parents (71%, 66% and 62% 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, 24% of respondents cited 'lack of discipline from parents' while a further 23% cited 'drugs'. Alcohol (14%) was identified as the next most common cause of crime (Table A1; Figure 2.1).

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



Source: NICS 2010/11

### 2.2 Perceptions of changes 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 when it is not, and that the situation is worse at the regional level than in their own area. Thus, it is the trend in this proportion, rather than the actual value, that is of primary interest.

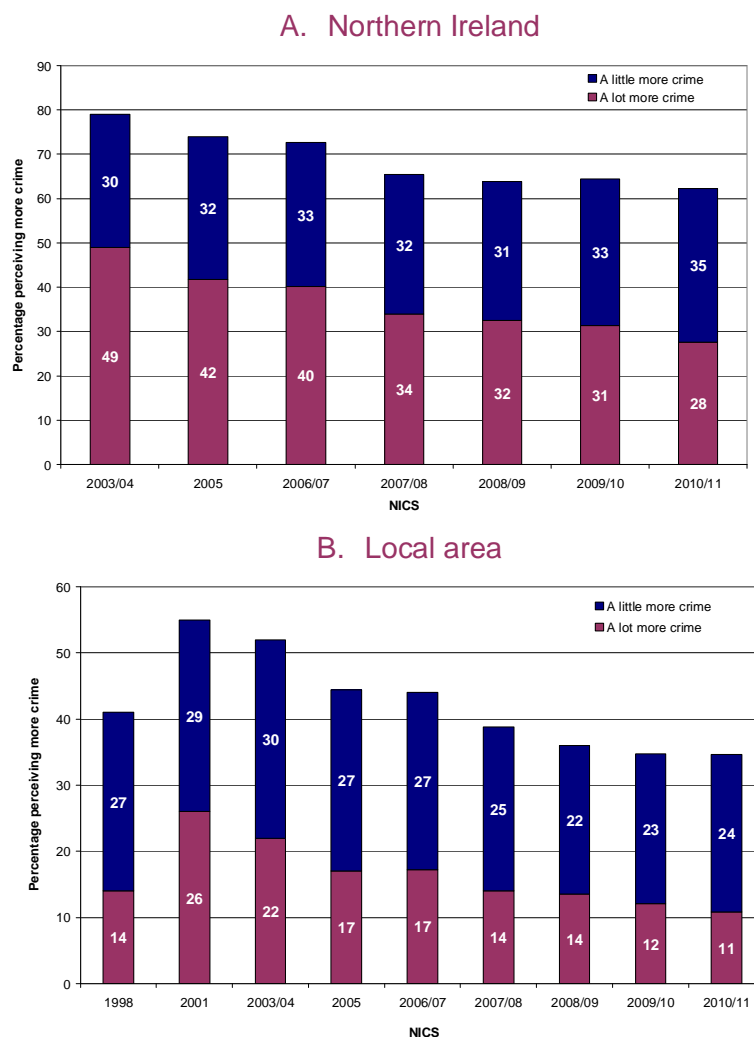
- ◆ Tables A2, A3 and Figure 2.2 illustrate that the proportions of NICS 2010/11 respondents believing that crime is on the increase, either locally (35%) or in Northern Ireland as a whole (62%), are among the lowest levels ever recorded by the survey, remaining on a par with those observed the previous year.



## NICS 2010/11: Perceptions of Crime

- ◆ While the proportion of NICS 2010/11 respondents who believed that crime levels across Northern Ireland had increased in the preceding two years (62%) remained similar to that observed in recent surveys, it is significantly lower than in 2003/04, when a high of 79% was recorded. Within this group, the proportion of NICS respondents citing 'a lot more crime' fell ( $p < 0.05$ ) from 31% in 2009/10 to 28% in 2010/11 and compares with a high of 49% observed in 2003/04. The decrease since 2003/04 may reflect to some extent the recent falls in crime evidenced by both the NICS (Toner and Freel, 2011) and police recorded crime statistics (Table A2; Figure 2.2A).
- ◆ As in previous sweeps of the survey, NICS 2010/11 respondents were more positive in their perceptions of crime levels within their local areas than at the regional level. Just over one-third (35%) of NICS 2010/11 respondents felt that crime had increased in their local area, with just over a tenth (11%) of all respondents believing there was 'a lot more crime' (Table A3; Figure 2.2B).
- ◆ Comparisons between NICS 2010/11 and BCS 2010/11 (Chaplin *et al.*, 2011) indicate that while adults in Northern Ireland are more likely than their counterparts in England and Wales to have perceived an increase in crime levels within the local area (35% v 28% respectively), views concerning the regional crime level are more closely aligned (62% v 60%) (Tables A2 and A3).

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



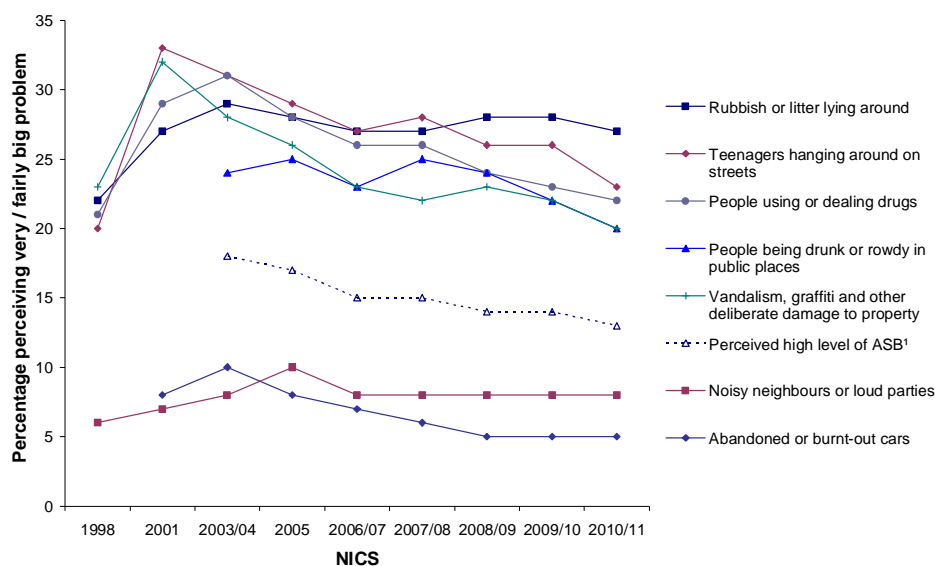
### 2.3 Perceptions of anti-social behaviour in Northern Ireland and England and Wales

Respondents to the NICS and BCS were asked to rate how much of a problem different types of anti-social behaviour (ASB) are in their area. Since 2003/04, responses to the following seven strands have been used to form a composite measure 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.

- ◆ Based on this composite measure, findings from NICS 2010/11 show that 13% of people in Northern Ireland perceived the level of ASB in their local area to be high, similar to that recorded in 2009/10 (14%). The equivalent figure for England and Wales (BCS 2010/11) was 14% (Table A4).
- ◆ The ASB types most likely to be perceived by NICS 2010/11 respondents as problems in the local area were ‘rubbish or litter lying around’ (27%) and ‘teenagers hanging around on streets’ (23%) whereas ‘abandoned or burnt-out cars’ (5%) and ‘noisy neighbours or loud parties’ (8%) were considered the least problematic forms of ASB (Table A4; Figure 2.3).
- ◆ A similar trend is reflected in England and Wales with BCS 2010/11 respondents also most likely to perceive ‘rubbish or litter lying around’ (28%), and least likely to consider ‘abandoned or burnt-out cars’ (4%), as problems (Table A4).
- ◆ Results from NICS 2009/10 and 2010/11 show that statistically significant decreases ( $p < 0.05$ ) were observed for three of the seven strands that make up the overall ASB measure: ‘teenagers hanging around on the streets’ (26% to 23%); ‘people being drunk or rowdy in public places’ (22% to 20%); and ‘vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property’ (22% to 20%) (Table A4).

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



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

- ◆ NICS respondents were then asked to select the type of ASB that, in their view, causes the single biggest problem in the local area. With the exception of a third of adults (33%) who responded that none of the seven ASB strands represented the single biggest problem, the most common response, cited by almost a fifth (19%) of NICS 2010/11 participants, was 'teenagers hanging around on the streets'. This was followed by 'rubbish or litter lying around' (18%). At 1%, 'abandoned or burnt-out cars' was least likely to be considered the single biggest local problem (Table A5).

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

Tables A6 and A7, containing results from NICS 2010/11, indicate that there were marked differences across demographic and socio-economic groups in perceptions of ASB in Northern Ireland.

- ◆ The proportion of people perceiving a high level of ASB in the local area tends to decrease with age, with a fifth (20%) of 16-24 year-olds citing a high level of ASB in their area, compared with 5% of those aged 75+ (Table A6).
- ◆ Catholic respondents (17%) were almost twice as likely as Protestants (9%) to perceive ASB to be at a high level in their area. When consideration is given to the seven individual strands of ASB examined it is apparent that, with the exception of 'rubbish or litter lying around' (both 27%), Catholics were more likely to identify ASB in their local areas with the greatest difference, in percentage point terms, regarding 'people being drunk or rowdy in public places' (24% v 16% respectively) (Table A6).
- ◆ Victims of crime (17%), in particular recent victims (26%), were more likely than non-victims (11%) to perceive ASB as a problem in their area (Table A6).

A similar trend to that observed within religion is apparent in terms of perceptions of ASB by perceived nationality and newspaper readership.

- ◆ NICS 2010/11 respondents who consider their nationality to be Irish (20%) were much more likely than British (9%) or Northern Irish (11%) participants to consider their local area to display a high level of ASB (Table A6).
- ◆ Likewise, readers of the Irish News (15%) were more likely than the Newsletter (8%) or Belfast Telegraph (11%) readership to view ASB as a problem in their area (Table A6).

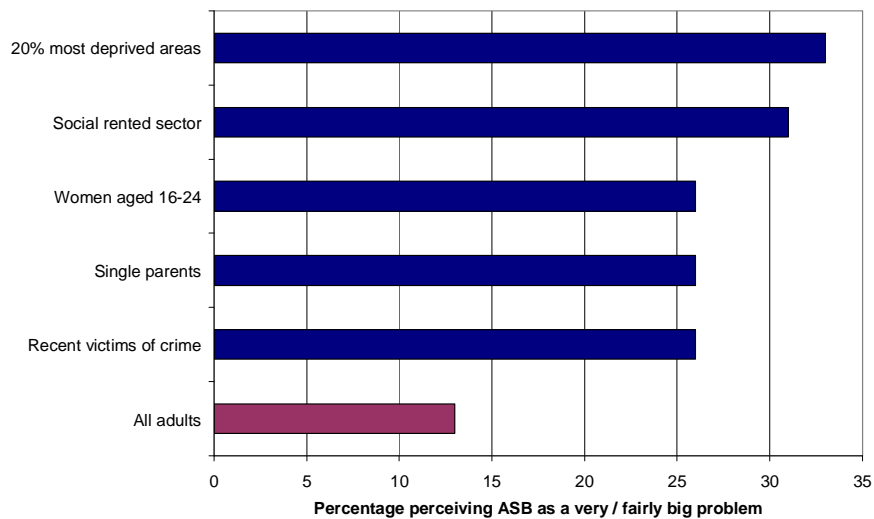
Perhaps unsurprisingly, the greatest variation of perceived ASB within a single group was observed in terms of deprivation in an area.

- ◆ Findings from NICS 2010/11 show that people living in the 20% most deprived areas of Northern Ireland were most likely to view ASB as a problem in their area (33%), contrasting with 4% of those in the 20% least deprived areas, as measured by the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (MDM) rank (Table A7).
- ◆ In addition, people living in social rented accommodation (31%) were more than twice as likely as those in private rented accommodation (14%) and over three times as likely as owner-occupiers (10%) to consider their local area to have a high level of ASB (Table A7).

## NICS 2010/11: Perceptions of Crime

- ◆ A similar pattern was apparent in terms of household type where single parent families (26%) were more likely than households with two adults and children (14%), or no children at all (16%), to perceive ASB to be at a high level in their area (Table A7).
- ◆ On the whole, household income tends to be negatively correlated with the perceived level of ASB in the local area. While a fifth (19%) of households with an annual income of less than £10,000 considered ASB to be problematic, this proportion drops to 6% of households earning £50,000 or more (Table A7).
- ◆ Urban dwellers (19%) were over three times as likely as their rural counterparts (6%) to perceive a high level of ASB in their area, a trend that is exemplified when consideration is given to respondents from Belfast alone (25%) (Table A7).
- ◆ In summary, Tables A6, A7 and Figure 2.4 suggest that among those NICS 2010/11 respondents most likely to perceive ASB as a problem in their area were:
  - people living in the 20% most deprived areas (33%);
  - adults living in social rented accommodation (31%);
  - women aged 16-24 (26%);
  - single adults with children (26%); and
  - recent victims of crimes that were reported to the police (26%).

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



Source: NICS 2010/11

### 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 both the NICS and BCS 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 2010/11 and BCS 2010/11 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. race or sectarian attack;
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 comparable with BCS analyses.

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.

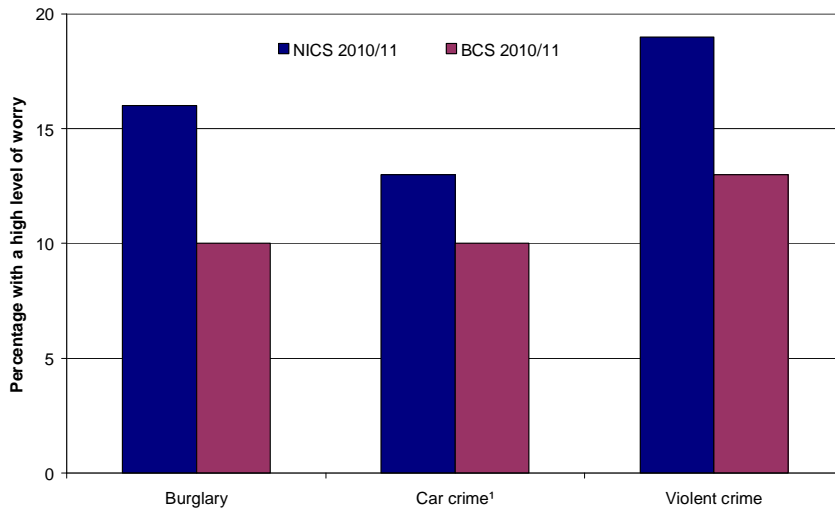
A similar approach is used to determine the worry about violent crime indicator, with responses to each violent crime question of 'very worried' being awarded 2 points and 'fairly worried' 1 point. In this instance, the scale ranges from 0 to 8 points and those scoring 4 or more points are deemed to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

- ◆ Despite both surveys confirming that the risk of becoming a victim of crime remains lower in Northern Ireland than in England and Wales (Toner and Freel, 2011), NICS 2010/11 respondents were more likely than their BCS 2010/11 counterparts to express high levels of worry across each of the crime types examined: violent crime (19% v 13%); burglary (16% v 10%); and car crime (13% v 10%) (Table A8; Figure 3.1).
- ◆ In both jurisdictions, respondents were more likely to worry about being a victim of violent crime than burglary or vehicle-related theft (Table A8; Figure 3.1).

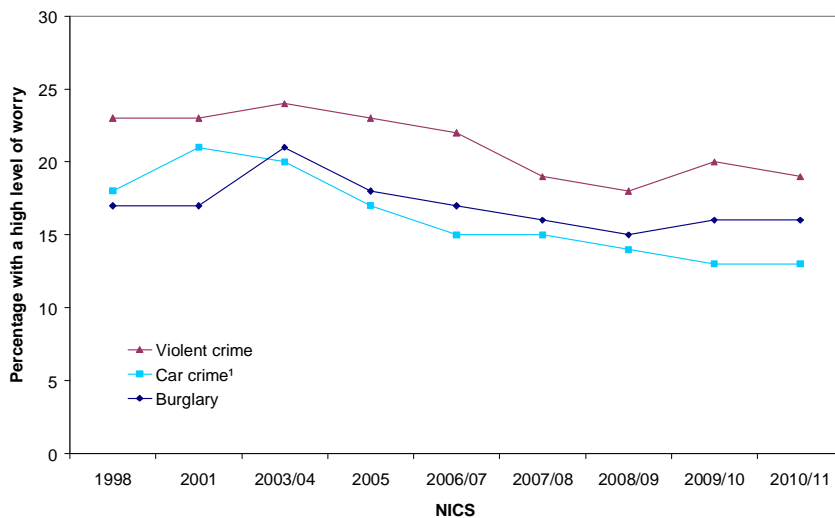
Figure 3.1: Worry about crime (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales



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

- ◆ The proportion of NICS 2010/11 respondents who claimed to be ‘very worried’ about crime overall (9%) remained on a par with 2009/10 (8%) and compares with 7% in England and Wales (BCS 2010/11) (Table A8).
- ◆ While the proportions of NICS 2010/11 respondents reporting a high level of worry about burglary (16%) and violent crime (19%) were unchanged ( $p < 0.05$ ) since the previous year, these rates have generally been decreasing since highs of 21% and 24% (respectively) were observed in NICS 2003/04 (Table A8; Figure 3.2).
- ◆ Similarly, at 13% in 2010/11, while the level of worry about car crime remained on a par with that recorded in 2009/10 (13%), it compares favourably with a high of 21% reported in NICS 2001 (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.

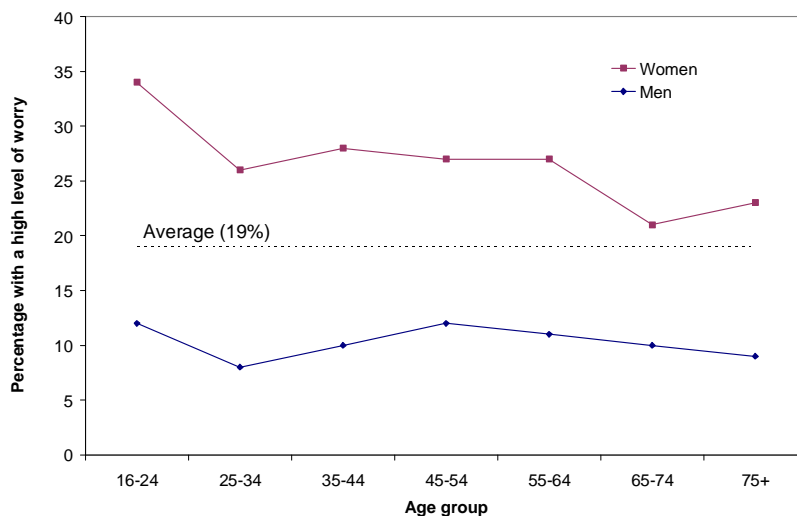
- ◆ As in previous sweeps, respondents in both Northern Ireland and England and Wales were much more likely to feel ‘very unsafe’ about walking alone in their area after dark (9% v 7% respectively) than being alone in their home at night (2% v 1%) (Table A8).
- ◆ Consistent with levels of worry about crime, NICS 2010/11 findings show no statistically significant change ( $p < 0.05$ ) since 2009/10 in the proportions of adults feeling ‘very unsafe’ when walking alone in their local area at night (9%) or when home alone at night (2%) (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 2010/11 respondents according to their levels of worry about crime and personal safety in Northern Ireland.

- ◆ NICS 2010/11 findings show women were more likely than men to worry about crime and personal safety; the greatest disparities, in percentage point terms, were observed in the levels of worry about violent crime (27% v 10% respectively) and burglary (21% v 11%) (Table A9).
- ◆ The relationship between a person’s age and their level of worry about crime varies according to the crime type. For instance, younger respondents aged 16-24 displayed the highest levels of worry about violent crime (23%) and car crime (21%) while adults aged 45-54 displayed the greatest level of worry about burglary (19%). These rates compare with NICS 2010/11 averages of 19%, 13% and 16% respectively. There was less variation between age groups in worry about crime overall with proportions of respondents ‘very worried’ ranging between 7% and 11% (Table A9).
- ◆ When age and gender are combined, it is apparent that young women aged 16-24 displayed the highest worry rating for violent crime (34%) compared with the NICS 2010/11 average (19%). The levels of worry about violent crime expressed by women of all ages were more than double that of their male counterparts (Table A9; Figure 3.3).

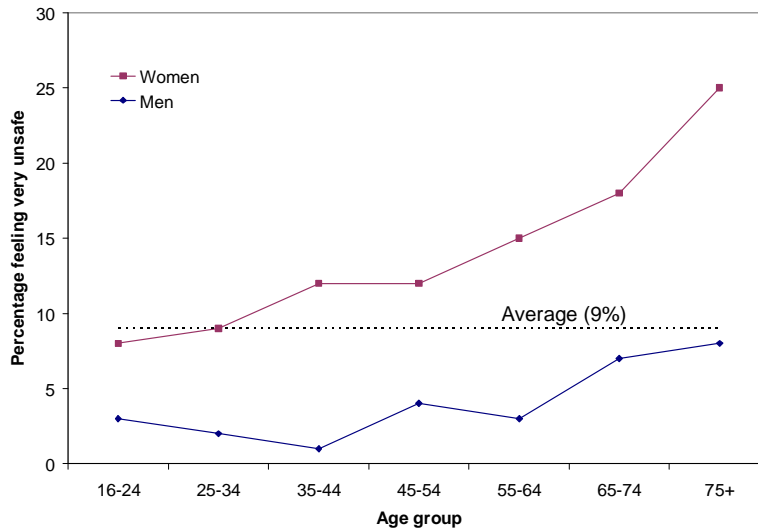
Figure 3.3: Worry about violent crime (%) by gender and age



Source: NICS 2010/11

- ◆ With regards to personal safety, older respondents were much more likely than younger people to worry about walking alone in the area after dark, with those aged 75+ (18%) more likely to feel 'very unsafe' than those aged under 35 (5%). This is particularly evident for women as a quarter (25%) of those aged 75+ felt 'very unsafe' compared with 8% of women aged 16-24. The respective figures for males were 8% and 3% (Table A9; Figure 3.4).

Figure 3.4: Worry about personal safety while walking alone in the local area after dark (%) by gender and age



Source: NICS 2010/11

- ◆ Perhaps unsurprisingly, adults who had been recent victims of crime which were reported to the police displayed much higher levels of worry about each of the crime and personal safety categories examined: burglary (26%); car crime (19%); violent crime (27%); all crime (18%); walking alone after dark (16%); and home alone at night (6%). These rates compare with NICS 2010/11 averages of 16%, 13%, 19%, 9%, 9% and 2% respectively (Table A9).
- ◆ Single parents displayed particularly high levels of worry about violent crime (31%) and burglary (27%) compared with NICS 2010/11 averages of 19% and 16% respectively (Table A10).
- ◆ On the whole, there appears to be a negative correlation between household income and worry about crime and personal safety, whereby levels of worry decrease as income increases. For example, 26% of respondents from households with a total income of under £10,000 expressed a high level of worry about violent crime, compared with 8% of those earning £50,000 or more. In terms of worry about crime overall, the equivalent rates are 14% and 1% respectively (Table A10).
- ◆ People living in social rented accommodation were much more likely than other tenure groups to reveal high levels of worry about crime and personal safety, displaying above average rates across the board; for instance, 29% of those living in social rented accommodation expressed a high level of worry about violent crime compared with 17% in owner-occupied and 19% in private rented accommodation (Table A10).

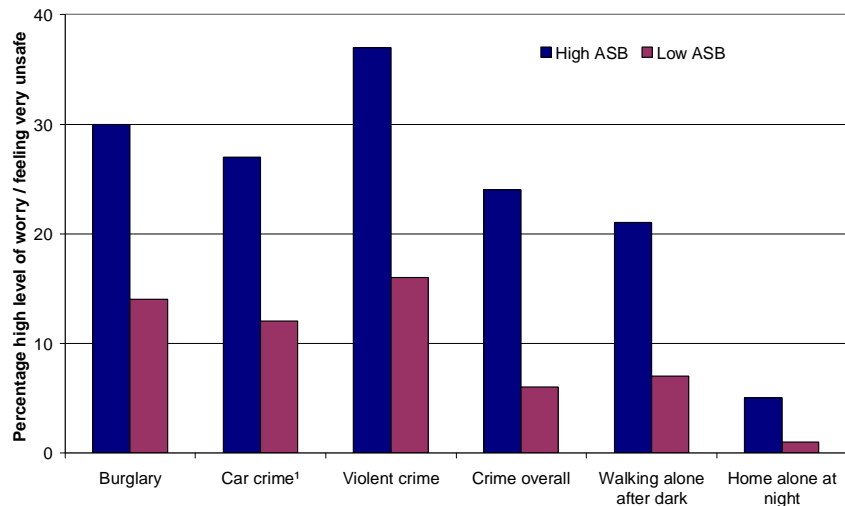


- ◆ Respondents from Northern Ireland’s 20% most deprived areas tended to display higher levels of worry about all types of crime and personal safety examined, with the greatest contrast with those living in the least deprived areas: burglary (24% v 11%); car crime (22% v 10%); violent crime (29% v 15%); crime overall (16% v 6%); walking alone after dark (16% v 6%); and home alone at night (4% v 1%) (Table A10).

A perceived high level of ASB in the local area has a strong positive correlation with a high level of worry about crime and personal safety. Of all the demographic and socio-economic groups examined, respondents from high ASB areas displayed the highest levels of worry across each crime type examined.

- ◆ Respondents living in areas where they perceive ASB to be high were much more likely to worry about all types of crime and personal safety than those from low ASB areas: car crime (27% v 12%); violent crime (37% v 16%); burglary (30% v 14%); crime overall (24% v 6%); walking alone after dark (21% v 7%); and home alone at night (5% v 1%) (Table A10; Figure 3.5).

Figure 3.5: Worry about crime and personal safety (%) by perceived level of ASB



Source: NICS 2010/11

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 and England and Wales

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 and BCS 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, which are comparable with BCS analyses (Tables A11–A13).

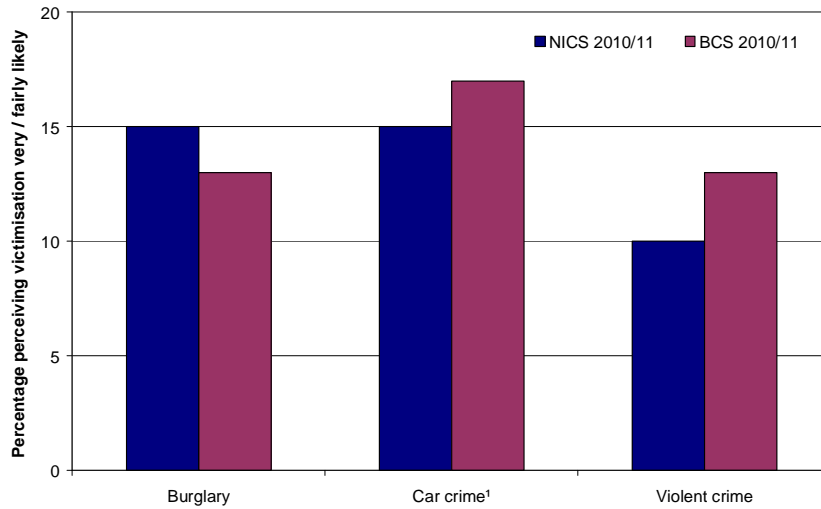
The perceived likelihood of being a victim of car crime is a composite measure of respondents who think they are very or fairly likely to either have a car/van stolen or have something stolen from a car/van in the next year, or both. This measure refers only to respondents residing in households owning, 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 2010/11 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 nine in ten people surveyed (90%) did not think they would experience violent crime.
- ◆ Overall, respondents to NICS 2010/11 believed they were equally likely to become a victim of burglary or car crime (both 15%) with one-tenth perceiving themselves to be at risk of violent crime (10%) (Table A11; Figures 4.1 and 4.2).
- ◆ With the exception of burglary (15% v 13%), NICS 2010/11 respondents were less likely than their counterparts in England and Wales (BCS 2010/11) to perceive themselves to be at risk of victimisation: violent crime (10% v 13%); and car crime (15% v 17%) (Table A11; Figure 4.1). These findings are generally consistent with recorded crime statistics and NICS data (Toner and Freel, 2011), both of which indicate a lower prevalence of crime in Northern Ireland than in England and Wales.

## NICS 2010/11: Perceptions of Crime

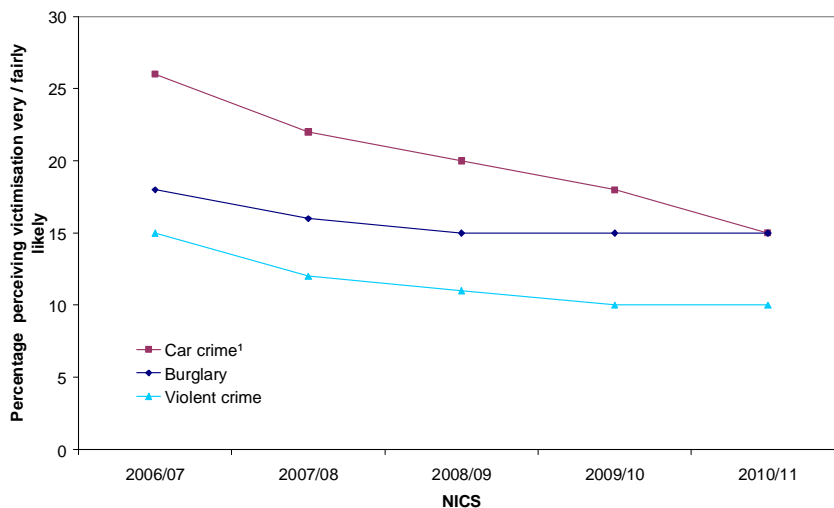
Figure 4.1: Perceptions of the risk of victimisation (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales



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

- ◆ While a statistically significant decrease ( $p < 0.05$ ) was observed in the perceived level of risk of car crime, falling from 18% in 2009/10 to 15% in 2010/11, there were no changes in the perceived risk of burglary or violent crime. However, when compared with NICS 2006/07, statistically significant decreases were apparent in the proportions of respondents believing it likely that they would fall victim to each of the three crime types examined: car crime (26% in 2006/07 to 15% in 2010/11); violent crime (15% to 10%); and burglary (18% to 15%) (Table A11; Figure 4.2).

Figure 4.2: Perceptions of the risk of victimisation (%) in Northern Ireland



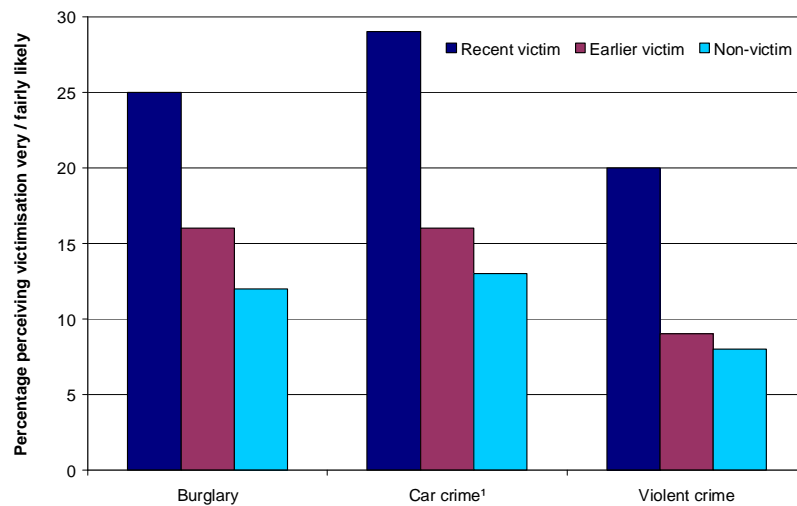
1. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

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

Tables A12 and A13 show the perceived likelihood of NICS 2010/11 respondents that they would be a victim of specific crimes in the next year, broken down by personal, household and area characteristics.

- ◆ 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 2010/11 findings show that this disparity is increased when consideration is given to recent victims of crime (within the preceding two years) who were more than twice as likely as non-victims to believe they would experience each of the crime types examined: burglary (25% v 12%); car crime (29% v 13%); and violent crime (20% v 8%) (Table A12; Figure 4.3).

Figure 4.3: Perceptions of the risk of victimisation (%) by experience of crime

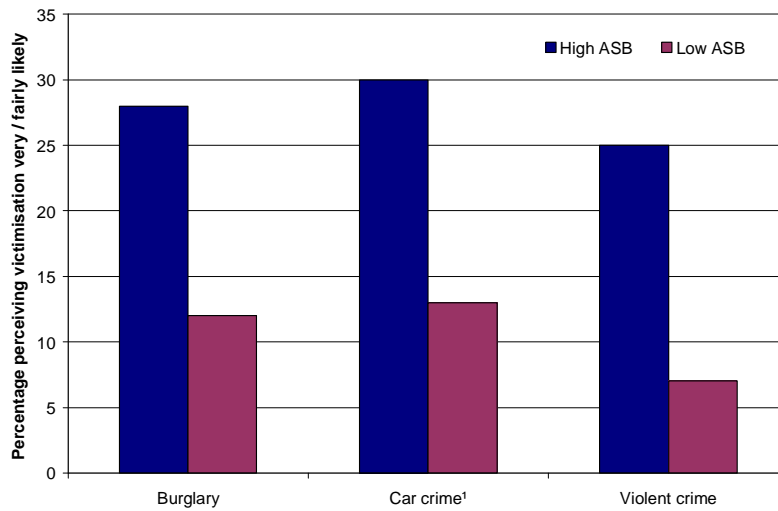


Source: NICS 2010/11

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

- ◆ Single parents were more likely than respondents from other household types to perceive themselves to be at risk of victimisation and, with rates for burglary, car crime and violent crime of 22%, 23% and 17% respectively, were higher than the NICS 2010/11 averages of 15%, 15% and 10% respectively (Table A13).
- ◆ While there was no simple correlation between deprivation and perceived likelihood of victimisation, respondents residing in the 20% most deprived areas of Northern Ireland were more likely to consider themselves to be at risk of crime in the following 12 months. For instance, over a fifth (22%) of people from the 20% most deprived areas thought it likely they would experience car crime, with 20% fearing burglary, compared with rates observed in the 20% least deprived areas of 11% and 12% respectively (Table A13).
- ◆ As with worry about crime, the perceived risk of victimisation varies greatly between areas of high and low ASB. NICS 2010/11 participants in high ASB areas displayed the highest perceived levels of risk of all demographic and socio-economic groups, across each of the crime types examined: violent crime (25% in high ASB areas v 7% in low ASB areas); car crime (30% v 13%); and burglary (28% v 12%) (Table A13; Figure 4.4).

Figure 4.4: Perceptions of the risk of victimisation (%) by perceived level of ASB



Source: NICS 2010/11

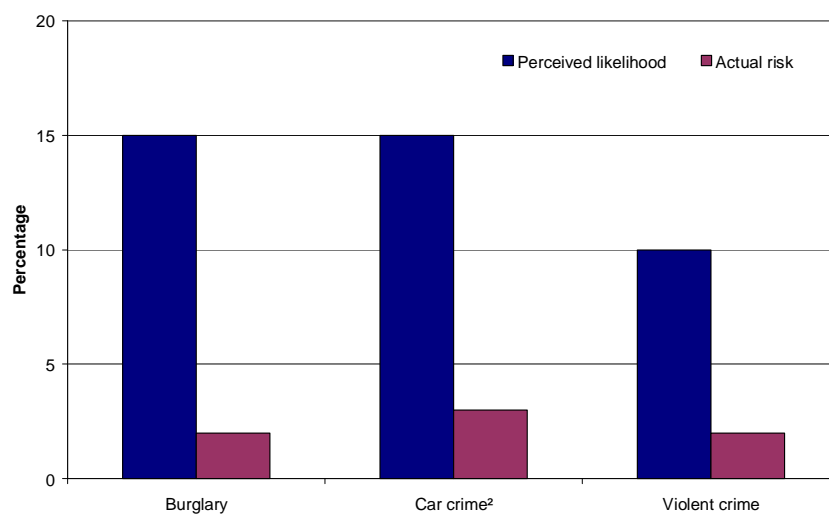
1. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

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

Findings from NICS 2010/11 reveal a disparity between a person’s perceived likelihood of being a victim of crime and their actual risk (Toner and Freel, 2011), whereby the perceived risk far exceeds the actual risk across each of the crime types considered.

- ◆ NICS 2010/11 results show that 15% of people thought they were very or fairly likely to be a victim of burglary, compared with an actual risk of two per cent. A similar pattern emerged in terms of car crime (15% v 3%) and violent crime (10% v 2%) (Figure 4.5).

Figure 4.5: Perceived likelihood of victimisation and actual risk (%)<sup>1</sup> by individual crime type



Source: NICS 2010/11

1. See Toner & Freel, 2011. ‘Experience of Crime: Findings from the 2010/11 Northern Ireland Crime Survey’.

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

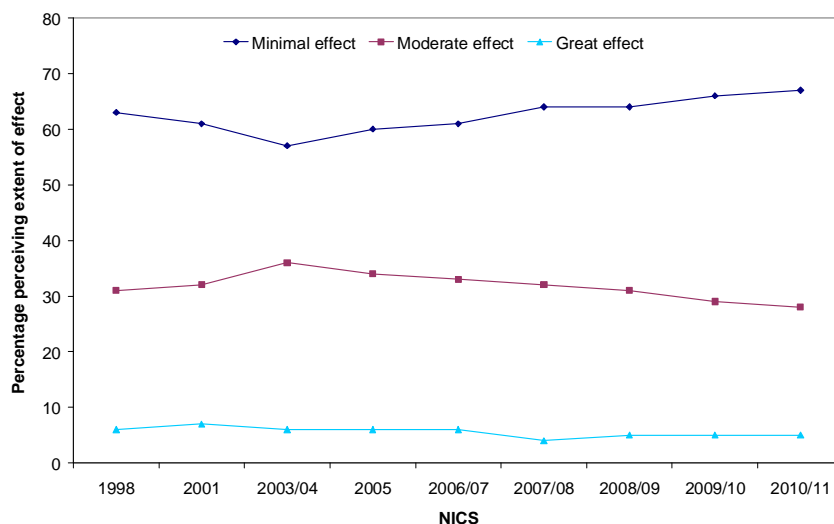
### 5.1 Perceptions of the effect of 'fear of crime' on quality of life in Northern Ireland and England and Wales

While a basic level of concern about crime may be beneficial in that it encourages people to take measures to reduce their risk 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 BCS 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:

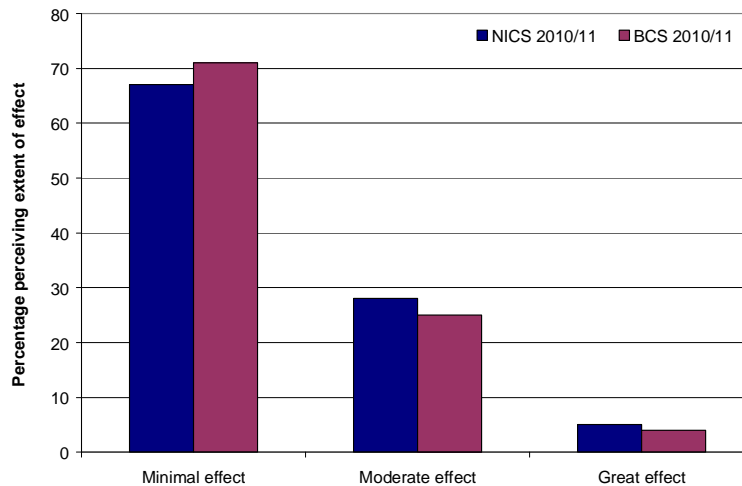
1. minimally affected (responded in the range 1 to 3);
  2. moderately affected (responded in the range 4 to 7); and
  3. greatly affected (responded in the range 8 to 10).
- ◆ Two-thirds (67%) of NICS 2010/11 respondents felt that 'fear of crime' has a minimal impact on their quality of life, with a further 28% claiming it has a moderate effect. The remaining 5% of people considered that their quality of life is greatly affected by their 'fear of crime' (Table A14; Figure 5.1).
  - ◆ While there was no statistically significant change ( $p < 0.05$ ) since NICS 2009/10, the proportion of NICS 2010/11 respondents (67%) stating a 'minimal effect' has increased since 2003/04 when a low of 57% was observed. This increase has been compensated for by a subsequent statistically significant reduction ( $p < 0.05$ ) in those claiming a 'moderate effect', from 36% to 28%, 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



- ◆ Results from England and Wales show a similar trend to that in Northern Ireland with 71% of BCS 2010/11 respondents claiming their lives are minimally affected by ‘fear of crime’, a further 25% stating that it has a moderate impact and 4% claiming it has a ‘great effect’ 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

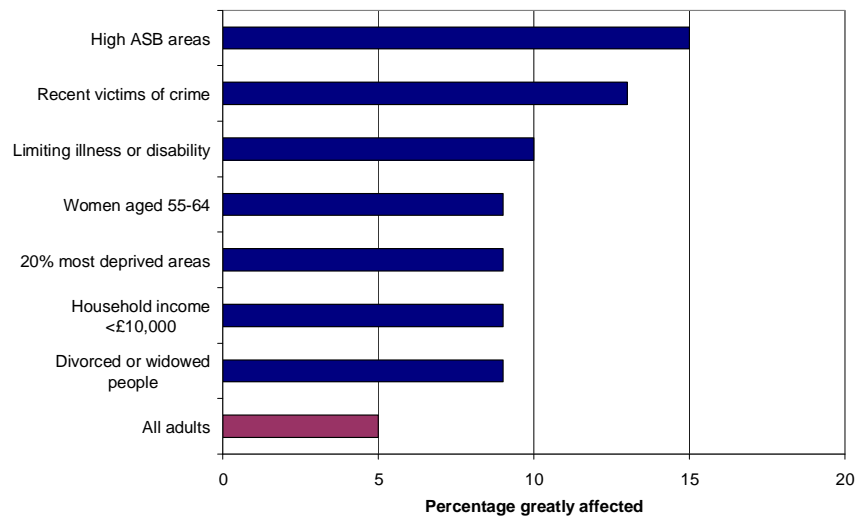
Tables A15 and A16 show differences for NICS 2010/11 respondents in terms of the perceived effect of ‘fear of crime’ on quality of life within various socio-demographic groups in Northern Ireland.

- ◆ Respondents with a long-standing illness or disability (9%), and in particular a limiting illness or disability (10%), were more than twice as likely as those with no illness or disability (4%) to state their lives are greatly affected by a ‘fear of crime’ (Table A15).
- ◆ In terms of experience of crime, respondents who had been a victim of crime at some point in the past were more likely than those who had never been a victim of crime to state their lives are affected by a ‘fear of crime’. In particular, recent victims of crime (13%) were more than three times as likely as non-victims (4%) to report a great effect (Table A15).
- ◆ 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 by a ‘fear of crime’, those who were divorced or widowed (both 9%) were more likely than, for example, cohabiting (3%), married (5%) or single (5%) people to report their ‘fear of crime’ greatly affects their quality of life (Table A16).
- ◆ People in lower income groups tended to be more likely to say their lives are greatly affected by ‘fear of crime’. Of those households earning under £10,000 per annum, 9% of respondents thought their lives were greatly affected, a proportion that reduces to just 2% of those from households earning £40,000 or more (Table A16).

## NICS 2010/11: Perceptions of Crime

- ◆ Consistent with NICS findings on worry about crime and perceived risk of victimisation, people who lived in high ASB areas (15%) were more likely than those from areas of low ASB (3%) to claim their quality of life was greatly affected by a 'fear of crime' (Table A16).
- ◆ In terms of deprivation, those living in the 20% most deprived areas of Northern Ireland were more likely to claim a 'fear of crime' had a detrimental effect on their quality of life. Within this group, 9% claimed 'fear of crime' had a great impact, while a further 34% stated a moderate effect. These proportions compare with 3% and 26% (respectively) within the 20% least deprived areas (Table A16).
- ◆ In summary, Tables A15, A16 and Figure 5.3 show that among those NICS 2010/11 respondents most likely 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%);
  - recent victims of crime (within the preceding two years) (13%);
  - respondents with a limiting illness or disability (10%);
  - women aged 55-64 (9%);
  - people living in the 20% most deprived areas (9%);
  - households earning less than £10,000 per annum (9%); and
  - respondents who are divorced or widowed (9%).

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



Source: NICS 2010/11



## REFERENCES

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**Toner, S. and Freel, R.** (Forthcoming). *The Night-time Economy: Findings from the 2009/10 and 2010/11 Northern Ireland Crime Surveys*. DOJ Research and Statistical Bulletin. Belfast: DOJ.

## TABULAR ANNEX

Table A1: Perceptions of the causes of crime (%) in Northern Ireland<sup>1,2</sup>

	Major causes of crime <sup>3</sup>	Main cause of crime
Drugs	71	23
Alcohol	66	14
Lack of discipline from parents	62	24
Sectarianism	36	9
Too lenient sentencing	36	9
Unemployment	35	5
Breakdown of the family	30	4
Too few police	22	2
Lack of discipline from school	22	2
Poverty	20	4
Racism	18	1
None of these	<0.5	3
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>4,064</i>	<i>4,064</i>

Source: NICS 2010/11

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 changes in overall crime levels (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales<sup>1</sup>

	NICS 2003/04	NICS 2005	NICS 2006/07	NICS 2007/08	NICS 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	NICS 2010/11	Statistically significant change, 2009/10 to 2010/11? <sup>3</sup>	BCS 2010/11
<b>More crime<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>79</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>62</b>		<b>60</b>
A lot more crime	49	42	40	34	32	31	28	**↓	27
A little more crime	30	32	33	32	31	33	35		33
Same	14	17	18	20	23	24	25		34
Less crime	7	9	10	14	13	11	13		6
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,704</i>	<i>3,578</i>	<i>3,678</i>	<i>3,790</i>	<i>3,737</i>	<i>3,977</i>	<i>3,916</i>		<i>11,584</i>

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 changes in local crime levels (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales<sup>1,2</sup>

	NICS 1998	NICS 2001	NICS 2003/04	NICS 2005	NICS 2006/07	NICS 2007/08	NICS 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	NICS 2010/11	Statistically significant change, 2009/10 to 2010/11? <sup>4</sup>	BCS 2010/11
<b>More crime<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>41</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>		<b>28</b>
A lot more crime	14	26	22	17	17	14	14	12	11		9
A little more crime	27	29	30	27	27	25	22	23	24		19
Same	47	36	36	42	42	45	48	49	49		56
Less crime	12	8	12	13	14	16	16	16	16		16
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,648</i>	<i>2,597</i>	<i>2,644</i>	<i>3,076</i>	<i>3,171</i>	<i>3,295</i>	<i>3,291</i>	<i>3,495</i>	<i>3,494</i>		<i>11,584</i> <sup>5</sup>

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 (\*\*).
5. BCS unweighted base refers to perceived change in national crime level. Base for local crime level will be similar.

## NICS 2010/11: Perceptions of Crime

Table A4: Perceptions of different types of anti-social behaviour as very / fairly big problems (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales<sup>1</sup>

	NICS 1998	NICS 2001	NICS 2003/04	NICS 2005	NICS 2006/07	NICS 2007/08	NICS 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	NICS 2010/11	Statistically significant change, 2009/10 to 2010/11? <sup>3</sup>	BCS 2010/11
<b>Perceived high level of ASB<sup>2,6</sup></b>	-	-	18	17	15	15	14	14	13		14
Abandoned or burnt-out cars	-	8	10	8	7	6	5	5	5		4
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	6	7	8	10	8	8	8	8	8		11
People being drunk or rowdy in public places	-	-	24	25	23	25	24	22	20	**↓	24
People using or dealing drugs	21	29	31	28	26	26	24	23	22		26
Teenagers hanging around on streets	20	33	31	29	27	28	26	26	23	**↓	25
Rubbish or litter lying around	22	27	29	28	27	27	28	28	27		28
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property	23	32	28	26	23	22	23	22	20	**↓	21
<b>Unweighted base<sup>4</sup></b>	3,058	3,007	3,104	3,691	3,788	3,932	3,855	4,098	4,077		44,551 <sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 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. BCS unweighted base refers to people using or dealing drugs. Other BCS bases will be similar.
6. Figures for NICS 2003/04 and 2009/10 have been revised and may differ to those previously published.

Table A5: Perceptions of different types of anti-social behaviour as the single biggest problem (%) in the local area<sup>1,3</sup>

	NICS 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	NICS 2010/11
Abandoned or burnt-out cars	1	1	1
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	4	4	4
People being drunk or rowdy in public places	11	11	10
People using or dealing drugs	8	7	9
Teenagers hanging around on streets	23	21	19
Rubbish or litter lying around	16	16	18
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property	7	7	7
None of these	31	32	33
<b>Unweighted base<sup>2</sup></b>	3,852	4,090	4,066

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Unweighted base refers to rubbish or litter lying around. Other bases will be similar.
3. Figures for 2008/09 and 2009/10 have been revised and may differ to those previously published.

NICS 2010/11: Perceptions of Crime

Table A6: Perceptions of anti-social behaviour, by personal characteristics (%) in Northern Ireland<sup>1</sup>

	% saying 'very' or 'fairly' big problem								Unweighted base <sup>3</sup>
	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	Perceived high level of ASB <sup>2</sup>	
<b>ALL ADULTS</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4,077</b>
<b>Age (3 groups)</b>									
16-29	8	13	30	30	29	31	26	19	664
30-59	5	9	21	22	24	26	20	14	2,077
60+	3	4	12	17	14	27	15	7	1,327
<b>Age (7 groups)</b>									
16-24	8	11	33	33	29	33	26	20	358
25-34	6	13	25	25	29	28	26	18	633
35-44	4	9	20	21	24	22	17	11	760
45-54	7	10	22	24	26	27	23	16	684
55-64	4	6	16	19	17	30	17	9	612
65-74	3	5	13	17	16	30	15	8	556
75+	2	2	8	13	11	20	12	5	465
<b>Men</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1,805</b>
16-24	6	9	28	27	24	31	22	15	171
25-34	5	13	25	26	26	27	24	17	279
35-44	4	10	17	20	23	22	17	11	316
45-54	7	12	23	26	28	29	24	17	311
55-64	2	4	13	19	13	28	16	7	290
65-74	2	5	11	14	15	27	14	6	254
75+	1	1	8	13	11	22	12	5	184
<b>Women</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2,263</b>
16-24	10	13	37	40	35	35	30	26	187
25-34	7	13	25	24	31	29	27	19	354
35-44	4	8	22	21	26	21	17	11	444
45-54	6	8	21	23	25	25	22	15	373
55-64	5	8	18	20	20	32	19	11	322
65-74	5	4	15	20	17	32	17	10	302
75+	3	2	8	13	10	19	11	4	281
<b>Religion</b>									
Catholic	8	10	24	26	25	27	23	17	1,658
Protestant	3	6	16	19	20	27	17	9	2,111
<b>Perceived nationality</b>									
British	3	7	15	19	19	26	16	9	1,904
Irish	9	11	25	28	26	29	27	20	1,059
Northern Irish	3	8	21	22	23	27	18	11	938
Other	10	14	34	20	33	29	20	20	153
<b>Disability or illness</b>									
Long-standing illness or disability	6	10	22	27	24	30	22	16	1,252
Limits activities	7	11	23	28	26	32	23	17	970
Does not limit activities	3	7	19	24	20	25	18	12	282
No long-standing illness or disability	5	8	20	21	22	26	19	12	2,820
<b>Experience of crime reported to police</b>									
Victim	6	10	23	25	28	32	24	17	1,632
Within last 2 years	8	15	32	35	37	38	35	26	495
More than 2 years ago	4	8	20	21	24	29	20	13	1,137
Never a victim	5	7	18	20	19	24	17	11	2,440
<b>Daily newspaper readership</b>									
National broadsheets	3	7	18	18	20	23	19	9	449
National tabloids	5	8	22	24	24	28	21	14	1,742
Irish News	6	9	21	24	22	27	23	15	623
Newsletter	4	4	12	19	13	26	14	8	457
Belfast Telegraph	4	7	20	21	24	25	19	11	1,036

Source: NICS 2010/11

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. ASB: Anti-social behaviour (measure derived from responses to the seven individual strands in Table A4).
3. Unweighted base refers to rubbish or litter lying around. Other bases will be similar.

NICS 2010/11: Perceptions of Crime

Table A7: Perceptions of anti-social behaviour, by household and area characteristics (%) in Northern Ireland<sup>1</sup>

	% saying 'very' or 'fairly' big problem								Unweighted base <sup>6</sup>
	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	Perceived high level of ASB <sup>2</sup>	
<b>ALL ADULTS</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4,077</b>
<b>Living arrangements (respondent)</b>									
Living as a couple	4	7	17	18	21	26	18	11	2,085
Married	4	6	16	18	20	25	17	10	1,902
Cohabiting	7	12	31	23	33	33	24	19	183
Not living as a couple	6	11	24	29	25	29	23	16	1,983
Single	7	12	28	31	27	29	26	18	1,051
Separated	4	11	20	30	25	37	20	18	175
Divorced	8	14	27	30	32	31	28	21	264
Widowed	2	4	11	17	15	24	14	6	493
<b>Household type<sup>3</sup></b>									
HRP aged under 60:									
Single adult & child(ren)	9	17	38	40	36	30	32	26	293
Adults & child(ren)	5	8	21	21	26	25	19	14	957
No children	6	11	25	26	25	29	24	16	1,415
HRP aged 60 and over	3	4	12	16	14	26	15	7	1,411
<b>Household income</b>									
Less than £10,000	6	12	24	31	27	32	26	19	877
£10,000 less than £20,000	7	10	23	25	23	30	22	15	1,042
£20,000 less than £30,000	5	8	23	25	24	29	20	14	630
£30,000 less than £40,000	3	7	16	17	18	26	14	8	409
£40,000 less than £50,000	5	5	13	15	20	22	18	8	278
£50,000 or more	2	4	17	15	22	21	14	6	285
<b>Tenure</b>									
Owner-occupied	4	6	16	19	19	25	17	10	2,709
Social rented	11	19	40	43	40	41	37	31	632
Private rented	5	11	24	20	24	25	20	14	715
<b>Area type</b>									
Belfast	6	16	29	34	36	39	35	25	645
Urban, excluding Belfast	7	10	26	28	28	28	25	17	1,680
All urban	7	12	27	30	30	31	27	19	2,325
Rural	3	4	12	14	14	23	11	6	1,752
<b>Policing District<sup>4</sup></b>									
A&B (Belfast)	6	16	29	34	36	39	35	25	645
C	2	5	19	22	22	23	15	9	704
D	7	9	18	21	28	30	21	13	632
E	5	9	22	20	20	25	18	14	628
F	3	4	12	12	9	16	10	6	487
G	7	7	22	20	25	29	23	14	504
H	5	8	17	27	16	27	16	11	477
<b>Multiple Deprivation Measure rank<sup>5</sup></b>									
1st quintile Most deprived	14	18	36	44	41	44	41	33	767
2nd quintile	5	8	22	24	22	30	21	14	853
3rd quintile	4	7	15	16	16	22	14	9	853
4th quintile	3	6	16	17	18	24	16	9	814
5th quintile Least deprived	1	4	14	16	19	20	12	4	778

Source: NICS 2010/11

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. ASB: Anti-social behaviour (measure derived from responses to the seven individual strands in Table A4).
3. HRP: Household Reference Person (in order of sequence, the person who owns or rents the accommodation, highest earner or oldest person).
4. See Figure B1 in Technical Annex. When combined, PSNI policing districts A and B equate to Belfast City Council area.
5. Rank order of super output areas (derived from 2010 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure).
6. Unweighted base refers to rubbish or litter lying around. Other bases will be similar.

## NICS 2010/11: Perceptions of Crime

Table A8: Worry about crime and personal safety (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales<sup>1</sup>

	NICS 1998	NICS 2001	NICS 2003/04	NICS 2005	NICS 2006/07	NICS 2007/08	NICS 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	NICS 2010/11	Statistically significant change, 2009/10 to 2010/11? <sup>3</sup>	BCS 2010/11
<b>% with high levels of worry</b>											
Burglary	17	17	21	18	17	16	15	16	16		10
Car crime <sup>2</sup>	18	21	20	17	15	15	14	13	13		10
Violent crime	23	23	24	23	22	19	18	20	19		13
<b>% very worried</b>											
Crime overall	-	-	-	-	-	9	8	8	9		7
<b>% feeling very unsafe</b>											
Walking alone in area after dark	8	11	13	11	11	12	10	10	9		7
Alone in home at night	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		1
<i>Unweighted base<sup>4</sup></i>	3,057	3,010	3,104	3,691	3,790	3,933	3,856	4,102	4,080		11,627

<sup>1</sup> 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.

NICS 2010/11: Perceptions of Crime

Table A9: Worry about crime and personal safety, by personal characteristics (%) in Northern Ireland<sup>1</sup>

	% with high levels of worry			% very worried	% feeling very unsafe		Unweighted base <sup>3</sup>
	Burglary	Car crime <sup>2</sup>	Violent crime	Crime overall	Walking alone in area after dark	Alone in home at night	
<b>ALL ADULTS</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4,080</b>
<b>Age</b>							
16-29	14	18	20	9	5	2	664
30-59	17	14	20	9	8	2	2,079
60+	16	10	16	8	13	2	1,328
16-24	15	21	23	11	5	2	358
25-34	14	17	17	7	5	2	633
35-44	16	13	20	8	8	1	760
45-54	19	13	20	11	8	3	684
55-64	17	11	20	9	9	2	614
65-74	17	12	15	10	13	1	557
75+	15	7	16	7	18	2	465
<b>Men</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1,808</b>
16-24	12	n<100	12	6	3	1	171
25-34	8	13	8	4	2	<0.5	279
35-44	12	12	10	6	1	<0.5	317
45-54	11	11	12	7	4	2	311
55-64	12	9	11	6	3	<0.5	292
65-74	13	12	10	7	7	1	254
75+	9	7	9	3	8	0	184
<b>Women</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2,263</b>
16-24	19	n<100	34	16	8	4	187
25-34	20	20	26	9	9	4	354
35-44	18	13	28	10	12	2	443
45-54	26	16	27	14	12	3	373
55-64	21	13	27	11	15	4	322
65-74	22	13	21	14	18	2	303
75+	20	7	23	10	25	4	281
<b>Religion</b>							
Catholic	18	15	21	10	10	3	1,660
Protestant	15	12	18	9	8	2	2,113
<b>Perceived nationality</b>							
British	16	14	18	9	9	2	1,904
Irish	17	13	20	10	11	3	1,060
Northern Irish	16	13	18	7	7	1	939
Other	17	11	21	9	5	3	154
<b>Disability or illness</b>							
Long-standing illness or disability	20	14	22	12	15	3	1,252
Limits activities	23	14	24	14	18	4	970
Does not limit activities	13	12	16	6	7	1	282
No long-standing illness or disability	15	13	18	8	7	2	2,823
<b>Experience of crime reported to police</b>							
Victim	18	14	19	9	10	3	1,633
Within last 2 years	26	19	27	18	16	6	495
More than 2 years ago	14	13	15	6	8	2	1,138
Never a victim	15	13	19	9	8	1	2,442
<b>Daily newspaper readership</b>							
National broadsheets	12	8	10	5	5	1	449
National tabloids	17	15	21	9	8	2	1,743
Irish News	16	14	20	8	8	2	622
Newsletter	15	14	15	6	9	1	457
Belfast Telegraph	15	12	18	8	7	2	1,036

Source: NICS 2010/11

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 2010/11: Perceptions of Crime

Table A10: Worry about crime and personal safety, by household and area characteristics (%) in Northern Ireland<sup>1</sup>

	% with high levels of worry			% very worried	% feeling very unsafe		Unweighted base <sup>7</sup>
	Burglary	Car crime <sup>2</sup>	Violent crime	Crime overall	Walking alone in area after dark	Alone in home at night	
<b>ALL ADULTS</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4,080</b>
<b>Living arrangements (respondent)</b>							
Living as a couple	16	12	18	8	8	2	2,086
Married	16	12	18	8	8	2	1,903
Cohabiting	18	17	18	8	7	4	183
Not living as a couple	16	16	20	10	10	2	1,985
Single	16	18	20	9	7	2	1,052
Separated	16	8	18	9	10	4	175
Divorced	22	15	24	13	9	3	265
Widowed	17	13	20	11	20	3	493
<b>Household type<sup>3</sup></b>							
HRP aged under 60:							
Single adult & child(ren)	27	16	31	13	13	7	293
Adults & child(ren)	16	16	20	9	7	2	958
No children	16	13	19	10	7	2	1,416
HRP aged 60 and over	15	10	16	8	12	2	1,412
<b>Household income</b>							
Less than £10,000	24	21	26	14	16	4	877
£10,000 less than £20,000	19	15	21	10	12	3	1,042
£20,000 less than £30,000	14	13	18	10	7	<0.5	632
£30,000 less than £40,000	16	11	16	6	2	1	409
£40,000 less than £50,000	11	8	12	5	4	1	278
£50,000 or more	6	8	8	1	4	1	285
<b>Tenure</b>							
Owner-occupied	16	12	17	8	8	2	2,708
Social rented	25	23	29	17	18	4	633
Private rented	14	15	19	9	6	2	717
<b>Area type</b>							
Belfast	23	20	27	15	12	3	647
Urban, excluding Belfast	17	15	21	10	11	2	1,682
All urban	19	16	22	11	11	3	2,329
Rural	13	11	15	7	6	1	1,751
<b>Policing District<sup>4</sup></b>							
A&B (Belfast)	23	20	27	15	12	3	647
C	13	10	18	7	6	1	703
D	16	16	18	9	11	3	632
E	16	13	19	9	8	2	628
F	15	11	14	6	7	2	488
G	18	16	21	9	10	3	505
H	11	9	16	8	8	1	477
<b>Multiple Deprivation Measure rank<sup>5</sup></b>							
1st quintile Most deprived	24	22	29	16	16	4	769
2nd quintile	20	15	20	11	10	3	853
3rd quintile	13	12	16	7	6	2	854
4th quintile	14	12	16	7	8	1	813
5th quintile Least deprived	11	10	15	6	6	1	779
<b>Perceived level of ASB<sup>6</sup></b>							
High	30	27	37	24	21	5	507
Low	14	12	16	6	7	1	3,253

Source: NICS 2010/11

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. See Figure B1 in Technical Annex. When combined, PSNI policing districts A and B equate to Belfast City Council area.
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 2010/11: Perceptions of Crime

Table A11: Perceptions of the risk of victimisation (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales<sup>1</sup>

% 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	Statistically significant change, 2009/10 to 2010/11? <sup>3</sup>	BCS 2010/11
Burglary	18	16	15	15	15		13
Car crime <sup>2</sup>	26	22	20	18	15	**↓	17
Violent crime	15	12	11	10	10		13
<i>Unweighted base<sup>4</sup></i>	3,708	3,855	3,774	4,006	3,987		11,506

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 2010/11: Perceptions of Crime

Table A12: Perceptions of the risk of victimisation, by personal characteristics (%) in Northern Ireland<sup>1</sup>

	% perceiving it likely that they will be a victim within the next year			Unweighted base <sup>3</sup>
	Burglary	Car crime <sup>2</sup>	Violent crime	
<b>ALL ADULTS</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3,987</b>
<b>Age</b>				
16-29	13	16	14	655
30-59	16	17	10	2,046
60+	13	12	7	1,277
16-24	11	13	14	354
25-34	15	22	12	623
35-44	14	14	9	752
45-54	19	19	11	673
55-64	19	16	9	598
65-74	12	12	7	537
75+	7	6	5	441
<b>Men</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1,779</b>
16-24	12	12	13	170
25-34	14	19	11	276
35-44	13	14	9	314
45-54	17	17	12	308
55-64	18	13	10	285
65-74	9	10	6	248
75+	7	7	4	178
<b>Women</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2,199</b>
16-24	10	14	16	184
25-34	16	24	13	347
35-44	15	14	9	438
45-54	20	20	10	365
55-64	19	18	8	313
65-74	16	13	7	289
75+	7	6	6	263
<b>Religion</b>				
Catholic	16	19	12	1,628
Protestant	13	13	8	2,063
<b>Perceived nationality</b>				
British	13	12	8	1,857
Irish	17	19	13	1,039
Northern Irish	14	16	8	923
Other	17	20	16	148
<b>Disability or illness</b>				
Long-standing illness or disability	15	17	11	1,206
Limits activities	15	18	12	933
Does not limit activities	16	15	10	273
No long-standing illness or disability	14	15	9	2,778
<b>Experience of crime reported to police</b>				
Victim	18	19	12	1,595
Within last 2 years	25	29	20	486
More than 2 years ago	16	16	9	1,109
Never a victim	12	13	8	2,391
<b>Daily newspaper readership</b>				
National broadsheets	16	17	8	440
National tabloids	14	14	10	1,721
Irish News	16	18	9	618
Newsletter	13	12	8	444
Belfast Telegraph	15	13	9	1,014

Source: NICS 2010/11

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 2010/11: Perceptions of Crime

Table A13: Perceptions of the risk of victimisation, by household and area characteristics (%) in Northern Ireland<sup>1</sup>

	% perceiving it likely that they will be a victim within the next year			Unweighted base <sup>7</sup>
	Burglary	Car crime <sup>2</sup>	Violent crime	
<b>ALL ADULTS</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3,987</b>
<b>Living arrangements (respondent)</b>				
Living as a couple	15	15	8	2,053
Married	15	15	8	1,871
Cohabiting	16	16	11	182
Not living as a couple	14	16	12	1,925
Single	15	18	15	1,028
Separated	18	14	5	170
Divorced	17	12	11	257
Widowed	10	11	7	470
<b>Household type<sup>3</sup></b>				
HRP aged under 60:				
Single adult & child(ren)	22	23	17	288
Adults & child(ren)	13	15	8	946
No children	16	18	13	1,391
HRP aged 60 and over	14	13	7	1,361
<b>Household income</b>				
Less than £10,000	16	18	14	855
£10,000 less than £20,000	16	17	11	1,017
£20,000 less than £30,000	14	15	7	620
£30,000 less than £40,000	14	12	7	406
£40,000 less than £50,000	15	17	9	273
£50,000 or more	10	12	3	284
<b>Tenure</b>				
Owner-occupied	14	15	8	2,647
Social rented	17	21	15	618
Private rented	15	16	14	703
<b>Area type</b>				
Belfast	18	19	14	630
Urban, excluding Belfast	15	17	11	1,644
All urban	16	17	12	2,274
Rural	13	13	7	1,713
<b>Policing District<sup>4</sup></b>				
A&B	18	19	14	630
C	9	10	5	681
D	18	21	12	616
E	21	20	11	623
F	16	14	9	481
G	10	14	11	488
H	8	11	7	468
<b>Multiple Deprivation Measure rank<sup>5</sup></b>				
1st quintile Most deprived	20	22	17	747
2nd quintile	12	15	9	835
3rd quintile	15	15	9	833
4th quintile	16	16	9	804
5th quintile Least deprived	12	11	6	756
<b>Perceived level of ASB<sup>6</sup></b>				
High	28	30	25	500
Low	12	13	7	3,189

Source: NICS 2010/11

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. See Figure B1 in Technical Annex. When combined, PSNI policing districts A and B equate to Belfast City Council area.
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 2010/11: Perceptions of Crime

Table A14: Perceptions of the effect of 'fear of crime' on quality of life (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales<sup>1</sup>

	NICS 1998	NICS 2001	NICS 2003/04	NICS 2005	NICS 2006/07	NICS 2007/08	NICS 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	NICS 2010/11	Statistically significant change, 2009/10 to 2010/11? <sup>2</sup>	BCS 2010/11
Minimal	63	61	57	60	61	64	64	66	67		71
Moderate	31	32	36	34	33	32	31	29	28		25
Great	6	7	6	6	6	4	5	5	5		4
<i>Unweighted base</i>	3,049	3,008	3,099	3,691	3,789	3,929	3,854	4,099	3,879		5,697

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 2010/11: Perceptions of Crime

Table A15: Perceptions of the effect of 'fear of crime' on quality of life, by personal characteristics (%) in Northern Ireland<sup>1</sup>

	Minimal	Moderate	Great	Unweighted base
<b>ALL ADULTS</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3,879</b>
<b>Age</b>				
16-29	69	27	4	664
30-59	65	29	6	2,079
60+	68	27	6	1,327
16-24	70	26	4	358
25-34	65	32	3	632
35-44	67	28	5	761
45-54	65	29	6	684
55-64	64	28	7	614
65-74	66	28	6	557
75+	71	24	5	464
<b>Men</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1,808</b>
16-24	76	21	4	171
25-34	67	29	4	279
35-44	74	22	4	317
45-54	70	24	5	311
55-64	71	23	6	292
65-74	69	26	5	254
75+	74	22	3	184
<b>Women</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2,262</b>
16-24	65	31	4	187
25-34	63	34	3	353
35-44	62	32	5	444
45-54	61	33	6	373
55-64	58	33	9	322
65-74	63	30	6	303
75+	69	25	6	280
<b>Religion</b>				
Catholic	65	29	6	1,660
Protestant	68	27	5	2,113
<b>Perceived nationality</b>				
British	69	27	4	1,904
Irish	64	29	7	1,060
Northern Irish	68	27	5	939
Other	59	37	4	153
<b>Disability or illness</b>				
Long-standing illness or disability	58	33	9	1,252
Limits activities	57	33	10	970
Does not limit activities	63	32	5	282
No long-standing illness or disability	70	26	4	2,822
<b>Experience of crime reported to police</b>				
Victim	58	34	8	1,633
Within last 2 years	45	42	13	495
More than 2 years ago	64	31	5	1,138
Never a victim	72	24	4	2,441
<b>Daily newspaper readership</b>				
National broadsheets	70	27	3	449
National tabloids	67	28	5	1,742
Irish News	65	30	5	623
Newsletter	69	27	4	457
Belfast Telegraph	68	28	4	1,035

Source: NICS 2010/11

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

NICS 2010/11: Perceptions of Crime

Table A16: Perceptions of the effect of 'fear of crime' on quality of life, by household and area characteristics (%) in Northern Ireland<sup>1</sup>

	Minimal	Moderate	Great	Unweighted base
<b>ALL ADULTS</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3,879</b>
<b>Living arrangements (respondent)</b>				
Living as a couple	68	28	5	2,086
Married	68	28	5	1,903
Cohabiting	67	29	3	183
Not living as a couple	65	28	6	1,984
Single	67	28	5	1,052
Separated	65	29	7	175
Divorced	59	33	9	265
Widowed	65	26	9	492
<b>Household type<sup>2</sup></b>				
HRP aged under 60:				
Single adult & child(ren)	54	39	7	292
Adults & child(ren)	67	29	4	958
No children	66	28	6	1,417
HRP aged 60 and over	69	26	5	1,411
<b>Household income</b>				
Less than £10,000	61	30	9	876
£10,000 less than £20,000	63	30	7	1,042
£20,000 less than £30,000	69	28	3	632
£30,000 less than £40,000	71	26	3	409
£40,000 less than £50,000	73	25	2	278
£50,000 or more	77	21	2	285
<b>Tenure</b>				
Owner-occupied	68	27	5	2,709
Social rented	56	35	8	632
Private rented	68	28	4	716
<b>Area type</b>				
Belfast	58	34	8	646
Urban, excluding Belfast	63	31	6	1,681
All urban	62	32	6	2,327
Rural	72	24	4	1,752
<b>Policing District<sup>3</sup></b>				
A&B	58	34	8	646
C	71	26	3	703
D	63	33	4	632
E	62	30	8	628
F	72	24	4	488
G	70	25	5	505
H	73	23	4	477
<b>Multiple Deprivation Measure rank<sup>4</sup></b>				
1st quintile      Most deprived	56	34	9	769
2nd quintile	69	26	5	852
3rd quintile	67	28	5	854
4th quintile	69	28	4	813
5th quintile      Least deprived	71	26	3	779
<b>Perceived level of ASB<sup>5</sup></b>				
High	42	43	15	507
Low	71	26	3	3,252

Source: NICS 2010/11

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. See Figure B1 in Technical Annex. When combined, PSNI policing districts A and B equate to Belfast City Council area.
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

The initial NICS 2010/11 sample consisted of 6,750 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 5,984 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 2010 to 31 March 2011, which involved complete interviews with 4,081 people aged 16 years and over. This represents an eligible response rate of 68%.

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. Statistical significance tests are used to identify which differences are unlikely to have occurred 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.

Further information on the 2010/11 sweep of the NICS is contained within the NICS 2010/11 Technical Report, available upon request.

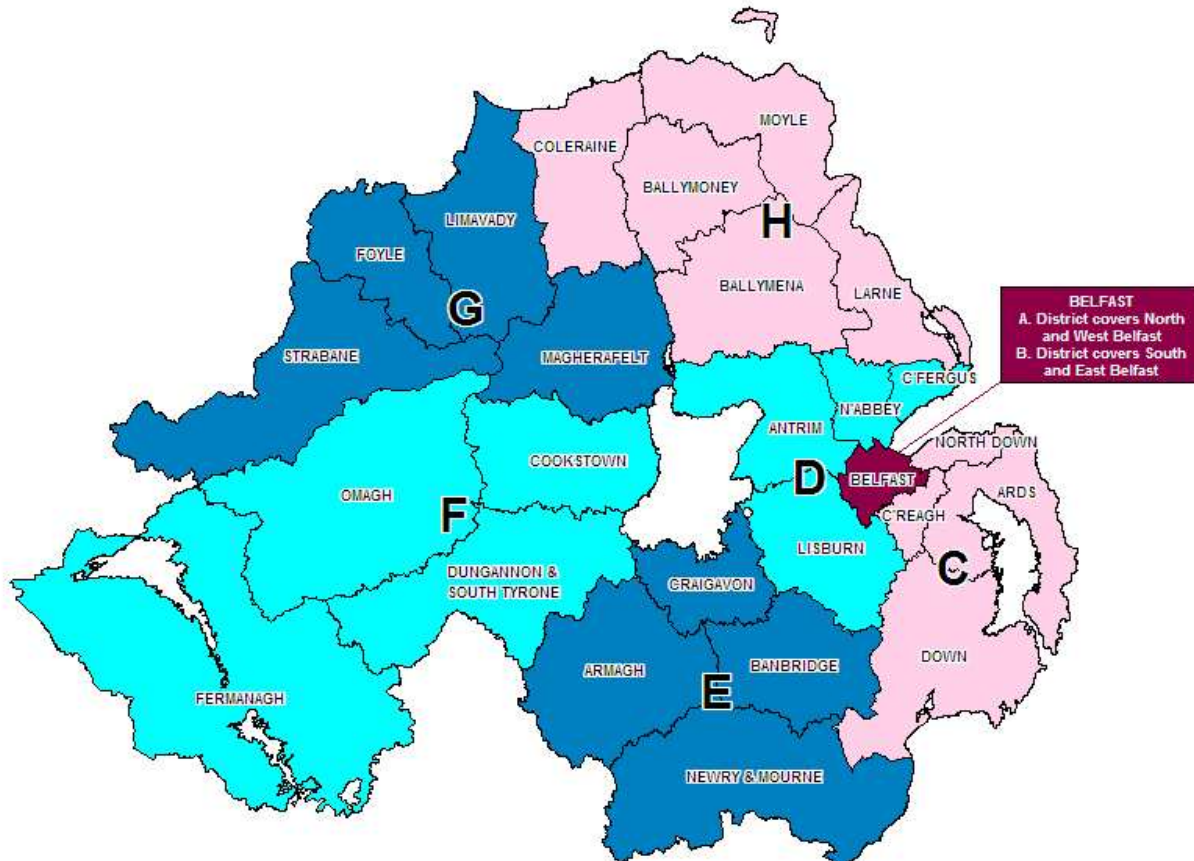
## NICS 2010/11: Perceptions of Crime

Table B1: Sample profile for NICS 2010/11

Group	Sub-group	Unweighted Number	Unweighted %	Weighted %
<b>Sex</b>	Men	1,808	44	47
	Women	2,264	56	53
<b>Age group</b>	16-24	358	9	12
	25-34	633	16	15
	35-44	761	19	19
	45-54	684	17	18
	55-64	614	15	15
	65-74	557	14	12
	75+	465	11	9
<b>Religion</b>	Catholic	1,660	41	43
	Protestant	2,113	52	50
<b>Area type</b>	Urban	2,329	57	54
	Urban, excluding Belfast	1,682	41	40
	Rural	1,752	43	46
<b>Policing district<sup>1</sup></b>	A&B (Belfast)	647	16	14
	C	704	17	17
	D	632	15	15
	E	628	15	16
	F	488	12	13
	G	505	12	13
	H	477	12	12
	<b>Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank<sup>2</sup></b>	1st quintile (most deprived)	769	19
2nd quintile		853	21	20
3rd quintile		854	21	22
4th quintile		814	20	21
5th quintile (least deprived)		779	19	20
<b>Vehicle-owning households</b>		3,219	79	85

1. See Figure B1. When combined, PSNI policing districts A and B equate to Belfast City Council area.
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.



**NOTES**

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