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In 1997 the Youth Council for Northern Ireland published Barometer 1997, which quickly proved to be one of the Council's most sought-after and widely quoted publications. I am therefore delighted to introduce Barometer 2001, which not only includes all key headings from its predecessor, but extends to an additional twenty pages of statistics and information illustrating the position of children and young people in Northern Ireland at the start of the twenty-first century.

Experience shows us that statistics can quickly age, trends can reverse, and patterns of behaviour can vary substantively from year to year. Inherent within this rapid pace of change is the danger that policies become out-dated, and that emerging issues are overlooked. With this in mind, the Council intends to publish this Barometer on our website (www.youthcouncil-ni.org.uk) and ensure that regular updates are posted onto the site. In making the Barometer more of an interactive and dynamic tool, we would welcome any comments, suggestions, research findings, or additional relevant data from our readers.

On behalf of the Youth Council I wish to thank all those persons and organisations who have already contributed to the compilation of Barometer 2001, and I am confident that this publication will prove invaluable to all those whose work impacts on children and young people.

Maire Young
Chairperson
Youth Council for Northern Ireland

Acknowledgements

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In the collation of this publication many people gave of their time and expertise. Particular thanks are due to Darren Curtis for compilation of statistics, Margaret McTeggart for her contribution to the Crime section, Tricia McKenna for design, Clare Harvey for co-ordinating and editing the document, and Youth Council staff for commenting on and proof-reading the report. Any errors remain the responsibility of the Youth Council.

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION

The estimated population of Northern Ireland at 30 June 1999 was 1,691,824.⁽¹⁾

In 1989 over 40% of the population were aged under 25. This proportion has now decreased to an estimated 36.9%. Despite this, the Northern Ireland population continues to have the youngest age structure within the UK.⁽²⁾

Youth population in 1989 and projected for 1999

	All ages	% under 25	% under 16
1989	1590435	41.29	26.25
1999	1691824	36.97	24.32

Source: NISRA Mid-Year Population Estimates for 1999⁽³⁾

Age distribution of NI population by gender

Age range	Total	Male	Female	Total (%)
0-4	120391	61729	58662	7.12
5-9	129749	66368	63381	7.67
10-14	134762	69146	65616	7.96
15-19	127150	65137	62013	7.52
20-24	113504	58523	54981	6.71
All 0-24	625556	320903	304653	36.97
All ages	1691824	828597	863227	100.0

Source: NISRA Mid-Year Population Estimates for 1999⁽⁴⁾

FAMILY STRUCTURE

- The average age for marriage in 1999 was 29 for men and 27 for women. This is an increase from 1989, where it was 26 and 24 respectively⁽⁵⁾
- In 1999, 2410 children under the age of 16 were affected by the divorce of their parents⁽⁶⁾
- 23% of all families with dependent children in Northern Ireland are headed by lone parents⁽⁷⁾
- 10% of lone parent families are headed by a woman aged 24 or less.⁽⁸⁾

Socio-Economic Overview

Northern Ireland has a relatively high proportion of young adults (20-24) who continue to live in the parental home. Over three-quarters of young males and more than half of young females live with their parent/s (as compared to one half and one third respectively in England) ⁽⁹⁾

RELIGIOUS BELIEF

The reported religion of children in pre-school and grant-aided schools is as follows:

	Pre-school (%)	Grant aided (%)
Roman Catholic	51.6	50.6
Protestant	40.7	42.7
Other Christian	1.3	1.3
Non Christian	0.5	0.3
No religion/ Not recorded	5.9	5.0

Source: *Enrolments at schools and in funded pre-school education in Northern Ireland 2000/01*, Department of Education ⁽¹⁰⁾

Levels of religious belief

A recent research project surveyed 1000 school children (aged 14-17) from a sample of 15 schools throughout Northern Ireland, seeking attitudinal data on nationality, religious and political beliefs. ⁽¹¹⁾

- Over half of those questioned agreed that they were either 'deeply religious' or that they regularly practice their religion, while a further 20% agreed that they were religious but not affiliated to any organised religion. 15% stated they held no religious beliefs at all and 6% replied 'don't know'.
- The survey found that younger respondents tended to report more religious belief than the older respondents.
- Significantly more Catholics (over 74%) than Protestants (33%) responded that they were either 'deeply religious' or 'regularly practice' their religion.
- The study also found no significant differentiation in levels of religious belief between males and females.

ETHNICITY

Research carried out by the Multi-Cultural Resource Centre ⁽¹²⁾ gives an approximate breakdown of ethnic minority groupings within Northern Ireland (although the figures are expected to be much higher in the 2001 census).

Socio-Economic Overview

Community	Numbers	Main languages	Main geographical areas within NI
Chinese ^a	8000	Chinese (Cantonese)	S/E Belfast, Craigavon L'Derry, Down, Lisburn
European Union	N/K ^b	Various	Various
Indian	1500	Hindi, English Punjabi	Belfast and various Belfast/L'Derry
African ^c	1500	English, Swahili Fulani, Xhosa, Arabic, Shona, Yoruba	Belfast, B'mena Co Antrim
Irish Travellers	1500	English, Gammon ^d	W Belfast, Derry, Craigavon, Newry
North American	1500	English	Various
Pakistani	1000	Urdu, English, Punjabi, Mirpuri	Greater Belfast Craigavon
Jewish Community	500	English ^e	North Belfast
Bangladeshis	450	Bengali, Sylheti	Various
Central/Eastern Europeans ^f	300	Albanian, Polish, Romanian, Serbo-Croat & others	Various
Others (communities with 20-300 persons):			
Iranians	Japanese	Sri Lankan	
Arabs ^g	Turkish	Kurds	
Vietnamese	Malays		
Latin Americans ^h	New Zealand		
Filipinos	Guyanese		
South Koreans	Thais		
Australians	Indonesians		

Source: Multi-Cultural Resource Centre.. Further references at the end of the section of a to h

Racial Attitudes and Prejudice in Northern Ireland

Recent research commissioned by an inter-departmental group ⁽¹³⁾ examined race relations in Northern Ireland. Although the research respondents were primarily adults, the findings have implications for young people in Northern Ireland, and particularly for those young people from ethnic minority groupings. Key findings to emerge from the report included:

- Contrary to popular opinion, issues of race and ethnicity are far from unimportant or insignificant in the attitudes of people living in Northern Ireland.

Socio-Economic Overview

- In terms of statements of general principle, a significant majority of those in Northern Ireland appear to hold quite positive and liberal attitudes towards race relations. For example, 83% support the need for effective equal opportunities policies for minority ethnic people in relation to employment and housing. A further 87% felt that school children should be taught about minority ethnic people's traditions and cultures in schools.
- However, when it comes to more specific matters, eg. when the identity of particular minority groups are named and/or when considering issues which might affect respondents more personally, racial attitudes in Northern Ireland tend to be significantly more negative. For example, a quarter of all respondents were unwilling to accept either an African Caribbean, Chinese or South Asian person as resident in their local area. Similarly, over two out of every five people also stated that they were unwilling to accept a member of any of these groups as a close friend.
- Within this, the most negative attitudes appear to be reserved for Travellers.* For example, 40% of those surveyed felt that the nomadic lifestyle of Travellers should not be supported or resourced by the Government. More generally, 57% would not be willing to accept Travellers as residents in their local area while two thirds (66%) would not willingly accept a colleague at work who is a Traveller.
- Overall, racial prejudice appears to outweigh sectarian prejudice in the initial attitudes of the population in Northern Ireland. Around twice as many respondents in the survey stated that they would be unwilling to accept and/or mix with members of minority ethnic communities than they would members of the other religious tradition (i.e. Catholic or Protestant) to themselves.

ECONOMIC PROFILE

International Comparatives of Poverty

In 1998/99 it was estimated that one in three children in the UK lived in poverty.⁽¹⁴⁾

The EC defines the poverty line at 60% of the national median equivalised level. Analysis provided by Eurostat reveals that the UK has the highest proportion of children living in poverty, as follows:

The term 'Travellers' is used throughout this report in order to refer to people identified as 'Irish Travellers' in the Race Relations (NI) Order 1997. The Order defines such people as: 'a community of people . . . who are identified (by both themselves and others) as people with a shared history, culture and traditions including, historically, a nomadic way of life on the island of Ireland'.

Poverty Rates by Member State and Age

Country	All population	Under 16	16-24
All EU	17	20	22
Belgium	17	19	20
Denmark	11	4	22
Germany	16	20	23
Greece	21	18	24
Spain	18	23	23
France	16	18	25
Ireland	18	23	19
Italy	19	22	27
Luxembourg	12	18	17
Netherlands	12	16	12
Austria	13	16	12
Portugal	22	23	17
UK*	19	26	21

Source : Eurostat, 2001 ⁽¹⁵⁾

- * Figures are not available for each region within the UK. It is known however that NI has a higher rate of child poverty than the UK average ⁽¹⁶⁾

One of the many indicators of deprivation is entitlement to free school meals. In 2000, 23.4% of primary school pupils were entitled to free school meals, 31.4% of secondary school pupils, and 7.95% of grammar school pupils, with an overall entitlement total of 22.5%. Pupils in Catholic maintained and in Irish medium schools were more likely to be entitled to free school meals ⁽¹⁷⁾

Earnings

The average gross weekly wage in Northern Ireland at April 1999 was £344.90, around 4% higher than at April 1998.

Average gross weekly earnings by age in April 2000

Age group	(£)		
	Male	Female	All
NI 18-20 years	202.9	171.4	187.2
NI 21-24 years	239.3	215.9	227.6
NI average (all ages)	393.3	307.3	350.3
UK average (all ages)	453.3	337.6	395.5

*Source Dept of Economic Development New Earnings Survey 2000 ⁽¹⁸⁾

Socio-Economic Overview

Student Debt

The NUS/USI reported in December 2000 that student debt and hardship are increasing. The NUS/USI Student Income and Expenditure Survey (1998) found that 20% of their sample of higher education students in Northern Ireland owed more than £4000 to the Student Loans Company. Students in further education colleges have a shortfall of £2344 per year.⁽¹⁹⁾

A UK-wide survey by Barclays Bank⁽²⁰⁾ in 1999 revealed that graduates expect to have an average debt of £5286, an increase of 17.5% on the 1998 figures. An NUS study⁽²¹⁾ in 1999 found that 73.3% of full-time undergraduates, 71.4% of part-time undergraduates and 76.6% of postgraduates were in debt

Footnotes

- 1 Northern Ireland Annual Abstract of Statistics 2000, National Statistics Publication. [The population estimate is based on 1991 census data, taking account of all births, deaths and migrations in the intervening years. A study by the NI Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) recently confirmed that some young children were not being included in census returns, leading to an under-enumeration of children in demographic data. From 2001, NISRA intend to adjust for under-enumerated groups such as young children].
- 2 78th Annual Report of the Registrar General, 1999 for the year ending 31/12/99, 2000.
- 3 Mid-year population estimates for 1999, NISRA
- 4 Ibid
- 5 78th Annual Report of the Registrar General, 1999 for the year ending 31/12/99, 2000
- 6 Ibid
- 7 Focus on Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (1997)
- 8 Figures provided by Gingerbread NI
- 9 Focus on Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (1997)
- 10 Enrolments at schools and in funded pre-school education in Northern Ireland 2000/01, Department of Education
- 11 The Youthquest Survey: a report on young people's views and experiences in Northern Ireland. Smyth, M and Scott M, Community Conflict Impact on Children and Joint Society for a Common Cause. 2000
- 12 Multi Cultural Resource Centre, Estimated Population of Ethnic Minorities in Northern Ireland 2000.

(Further references to the table:

- a) The Chinese Community includes Hong Kong, Malaysia, Taiwan, Singapore, and mainland China. The community is largely Cantonese speaking although Mandarin and Hakka also spoken. All are colloquially referred to as "Chinese"
- b) European Union countries (excluding UK and Ireland) are Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Greece, Finland, Austria, Sweden and Denmark. There are no figures for the number of citizens from these countries resident in Northern Ireland, although the number should be in thousands.
- c) The African community includes Nigerians, Sudanese, Kenyans, Ghanaians, Zambians, Zimbabweans, South Africans, Moroccans, Algerians and others.
- d) Gammon is also known as Cant and Shelta.
- e) Hebrew is used in the scripture texts and Yiddish is sometimes spoken in older family circles.
- f) Central and Eastern Europeans include all European countries that are not in the European Union, including Romania, Kosovo, Serbia, Bosnia, Croatia, Poland, Russia and many others.
- g) The Arab communities include Palestinians, Lebanese, Syrians, Egyptians, Libyans, Saudis, Iraqis, Moroccans, Algerians and others from North Africa, the Middle East and other areas.

Socio-Economic Overview

- h) Latin Americans include Colombians, Ecuadorians, Argentineans, Chileans, Mexicans, Peruvians, Paraguayans, Brazilians, Cubans, Venezuelans and others.
- 13 Connolly, P. & Keenan, M, Racial Attitudes and Prejudice in Northern Ireland. Belfast: NISRA, 2000.
- 14 Office for National Statistics, Households Below Average Income 1994/95 to 1998/99, Government Statistical Service, 2000
- 15 Eurostat : the social situation in the European Union, 2001 (this table is based on ECHP data from 1996)
- 16 Poverty is a war against children, Save the Children NI 1995
- 17 Enrolments at schools and in funded pre-school education in NI 2000/01 DENI.
- 18 New Earnings Survey 2000, Department of Economic Development
- 19 NUS/USI Student Income and Expenditure Study 1998
- 20 Barclays Bank Student Debt Survey, 1999
- 21 NUS Student Hardship Survey, 1999

Education

Participation rates of 16 and 17 year olds in full time education in Northern Ireland and England

	Northern Ireland	England
Males	63.7	60.9
Females	78.5	68.2
Total	71.0	64.4

Source : Extracted from : Participation in full time education by 16 and 17 year olds, 1999/00 Statistical press release DE 2000 ⁽⁶⁾

Pupil/teacher ratios

Between 1992/93 and 1996/97, the overall pupil:teacher ratio decreased from 18.2 pupils per teacher to 16.7. Thereafter, it increased slightly to 16.9 in 1999/2000. Pupil:teacher ratios were lowest in special schools (6.2) and highest in nursery schools (25.7) ⁽⁷⁾

Pupil/Teacher Ratios in Northern Ireland in 1998/99 and 1999/2000

School sector	1998/1999	1999/2000
Nursery	23.7	25.7
Primary	19.9	20.2
All secondary	14.6	14.7
Special	6.4	6.2
All grant aided schools*	16.8	16.9

*Includes special schools

Source: DE : Pupil: Teacher Ratios in grant-aided schools in NI 1999/2000 ⁽⁸⁾

A comparison of pupil/teacher ratios compared to England in 1997/98 and 1998/99

School sector	1997/98		1998/99	
	NI	England	NI	England
Nursery	24.4	18.6	23.7	18.4
Primary	19.6	23.7	19.9	23.5
All secondary	14.5	16.9	14.6	17.0
Overall*	16.7	19.8	16.8	19.7

*Includes special schools

Source: DE : Pupil: Teacher Ratios in grant-aided schools in NI 1999/2000 ⁽⁹⁾

School suspensions and expulsions

School suspensions and expulsions were monitored during the school year 1996-97 by researchers from Queens University Belfast. The report ⁽¹⁰⁾ found that:

- During the academic year 1996/97, 2631 pupils were reported as having been suspended from school. The total number of suspensions (as some pupils received multiple suspensions over the time frame) was 3748. The vast majority of these pupils were from post primary education and in particular secondary schools, with male suspensions outnumbering female suspensions by approximately 5:1.
- Reasons for suspension tended to be repetitive acts of “low level misbehaviour” with acts of violence accounting for 19% of all suspensions, and just under 6% of pupils were suspended for truancy. Bullying was cited as a reason for suspension in only 2% of the cases.
- While 74% of all suspended pupils received only one period of suspension, 11% of suspended pupils experienced three or more suspensions. This group of pupils were more likely to be male, attending secondary schools, in receipt of free school meals, have lower rates of attendance and be known to a range of support agencies.
- During the time frame there were 76 pupils reported as expelled from school, with this group having a similar profile to that of pupils who experienced multiple suspensions. Only five of these pupils returned to full-time education. The education that the remaining expelled pupils subsequently received was mainly in the form of home tuition (30%), although 15% had no form of educational input.

Pupils’ attitudes towards school

A 1997/98 survey of over 6500 school pupils provides an insight into their opinions of the school experience.

General perception of school

Statement	% of respondents		
	Year 8	Year 10	Year 12
I like it a lot	38	24	17
I like it a bit	47	51.5	51.5
I don't like it much	8	16.5	21
I don't like it at all	7	8	11

Source: Health Promotion Agency for Northern Ireland ⁽¹¹⁾

Asked about the pressure caused by schoolwork, it is apparent that perceived pressure increases as pupils progress through school, and that girls in Year 12 are most likely to feel under pressure.

Education

Boys' and girls' perceptions of pressure caused by schoolwork

Boys	Year 8	Year 10	Year 12
Not a lot	27.6	24.1	11.1
A little	46.5	47.7	40.6
Some	17.7	18.6	29.1
A lot	8.2	9.5	19.3
Girls	Year 8	Year 10	Year 12
Not a lot	34.6	16.9	5.1
A little	49.4	49.4	36.5
Some	11.8	19.8	29.1
A lot	4.1	14.0	29.3

Source: The Health Promotion Agency for Northern Ireland ⁽¹²⁾

Examination results

Results for the 11+ 2000/2001

Grade	No. of Pupils
A	6420
B1	1316
B2	1305
C1	1458
C2	1461
D	5103

Source CCEA ⁽¹³⁾

Northern Ireland is the only jurisdiction within the UK to retain the 11+. A report ⁽¹⁴⁾ of the effects of the selective system of secondary education (which hinges upon 11+ results) was published by the Department of Education in 2000. This reported that:

- Preparation for transfer tests (11+) resulted in a narrowing of the curriculum
- Out-of-school coaching is widespread, and parents who can afford it pay up to £15 per hour for this support
- The parents of approximately a third of pupils opt their children out of the 11+ tests
- Teachers in secondary schools reported that many pupils arrive with a sense of failure
- The most important factor for a pupil in achieving a high GCSE score is gaining a place in grammar school. All other things being equal, being in a grammar school will add almost 16 GCSE points (equivalent to 3 GCSEs at grade C) to a pupil's attainment at 16 years.

SCHOOL LEAVERS

Qualifications of school leavers

In 1999/00 all Education and Library Boards in Northern Ireland had higher proportions of pupils achieving 5 or more A* to C graded results than the UK average and had lower proportions of pupils with no graded results. ⁽¹⁵⁾

The proportion of school leavers achieving two or more A levels or equivalent increased from 30.8% in 1994/5 to 35.6% in 1999/00 ⁽¹⁶⁾

The proportion of school leavers achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A*-C or equivalent increased from 52.9% in 1994/5 to 57.1% in 1998/99, and then slightly decreased in 1999/00 to 55.4% ⁽¹⁷⁾

The proportion of pupils leaving school with no GCSEs decreased from 5.5% in 1994/5 to 4.6% in 1998/9, and then increased to 5.2% in 1999/00 ⁽¹⁸⁾

Highest qualification of school leavers by sex 1999/2000

	Males %	Females %	All %
A Levels:			
3 or more (or equivalent)	22.7	33.3	27.9
2 (or equivalent)	6.1	9.5	7.7
1	1.4	1.5	1.4
GCSE's:			
5 A*-C (or equivalent)	19.0	20.7	19.8
1-4 A*-C (or equivalent)	23.1	19.5	21.4
Other grades (1+D-G)	20.8	12.1	16.6
No GCSE's*	6.9	3.4	5.2

Source: *Extract from:* Qualifications and destinations of NI school leavers 1999/00 DE Statistical press release, 2001⁽¹⁹⁾

* Overall 5.2% of pupils left school without GCSE's. 0.9% of grammar school pupils and 8.0% of secondary (non grammar) pupils left with no GCSE's or no graded results. However they may have obtained other qualifications, such as RSA/OCR, City and Guilds, etc.

Education

Preliminary analysis of the examination results for 2001 reveal an increase of 1.5 % of pupils attaining Grade A at GCE A level, and an increase of 1% at grades A-E. Overall the qualifications attained were of a higher standard than within the UK as a whole, as follows:

2001 GCE A Level Results

	Nationally %	NI only %
% A grade	18.6	24.6
Grades A-E	89.8	92.1

Source Department of Education 2001 ⁽²⁰⁾

This trend was also apparent in AS level results

2001 GCE AS Level Results

	Nationally %	NI only %
% A grade	17.0	28.0
Grades A-E	86.6	92.5

Source Department of Education 2001 ⁽²¹⁾

Staying-on at school after Year 12

Overall 48% of pupils stayed on at school after Year 12 (the final year of compulsory education). A report which provides baseline information in terms of New Targeting Social Need ⁽²²⁾ found that:

- The staying-on rate for statemented pupils in mainstream schools in 1999/00 was 14%
- The number of Traveller pupils in Year 12 in 1998/99 was 18, and none of these stayed on to Year 13. The staying on rate for Travellers was also 0 in the previous 5 years
- The staying on rate in 1999/00 for schools under Catholic Management was 50%, and for schools under other management was 45%
- The staying on rate for pupils entitled to free school meals in 1999/00 was 27%

Destination of School Leavers

Destinations of school leavers by sex and school type 1999/00

	BOYS %	GIRLS %	ALL %
GRAMMAR			
Institutions of Higher Education	59.5	72.3	66.1
Institutions of Further Education	28.3	20.7	24.4
Employment	6.5	4.3	5.3
Unemployment	1.2	1.2	1.2
Training	3.6	0.6	2.0
Unknown	1.0	1.0	1.0
SECONDARY			
Institutions of Higher Education	5.0	11.7	8.1
Institutions of Further Education	26.1	43.7	34.2
Employment	20.1	15.5	17.9
Unemployment	5.6	5.5	5.5
Training	41.9	22.3	32.8
Unknown	1.4	1.3	1.4
ALL			
Institutions of Higher Education	24.6	36.8	30.5
Institutions of Further Education	26.9	34.2	30.4
Employment	15.2	10.8	13.1
Unemployment	4.0	3.7	3.9
Training*	28.1	13.3	20.9
Unknown	1.2	1.2	1.2

* 'Training' includes those entering the Jobskills programme, which may be situated at Further Education Colleges, but which is recorded under Training rather than FE

Source : Extract from : *Qualifications and destinations of NI school leavers 1999/00 DE 2001* ⁽²³⁾

- The proportion of school leavers continuing on to Higher Education has increased from 26.05 in 1994/5 to 30.5% in 1999/00, whereas the proportion continuing on to Further Education decreased from 35.0% in 1994/5 to 30.4% in 1999/00 ⁽²⁴⁾
- The proportion of young people known to be unemployed directly after leaving school increased from 2.6% in 1994/5 to 3.9% in 1999/00 ⁽²⁵⁾

FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Enrolment

Over the period 1989/90 to 1998/99, total male enrolments in Further Education colleges increased by 23%, female enrolments by 69%. The total number of teachers employed in FE colleges increased by 7%. ⁽²⁶⁾

Education

NI domiciled students in Further and Higher Education

	1989/90	1997/98	1998/99
NI domiciled Full-time Undergraduates In Universities/TTI's (a)/FEC's (b)	23379	36842	37311
NI domiciled Part-time Undergraduates In Universities/TTI's/FEC's	5358	17244	17497
NI domiciled Full-time Students in Further Education (excluding HE)	15685	21069	20124
NI domiciled Part-time Students in Further Education (excluding HE)	38599	53266	55020*

(a) Teacher Training Institutions

(b) Further Education Colleges

Source: Department of Higher & Further Education, Training and Employment ⁽²⁷⁾

Subject Choice

Subject choices of undergraduate university students by gender

The subjects chosen by NI domiciled (full-time) undergraduates on Higher Education courses in the UK (excluding the ROI) for the year 1998/99 is as follows:

Subject	% studying specific subjects		
	Male	Female	All
Medicine & Dentistry	2.7	2.7	2.7
Subjects allied to medicine	4.7	15.9	11.2
Biological sciences	5.6	6.7	6.2
Veterinary science	0.3	0.1	0.2
Agriculture & related subjects	1.3	1.2	1.3
Physical sciences	4.2	3.1	3.6
Mathematical science & Informatics	1.7	1.5	1.6
Information technology	10.4	3.4	6.3
Engineering and technology	13.3	1.4	6.5
Architecture	8.1	1.8	4.5
Social studies	4.5	8.2	6.6
Law	2.7	2.6	2.6
Business & administrative studies	16.4	21.4	19.3
Mass communication & documentation	1.5	2.1	1.8
Language and related disciplines	2.0	4.7	3.5
Humanities	3.0	2.0	2.4
Creative arts	5.5	6.4	6.0
Education & Leisure	2.7	5.3	4.2
Combined	9.2	9.4	9.3

Source: DENI ⁽²⁸⁾

First Destinations of Students Gaining Qualifications from Higher Education Institutions in NI 1998/99

	%
Professional occupations	46.6
Associate professional & technical occupations	20.0
Managers & administrators	11.5
Clerical & Secretarial occupations	10.6
Sales occupations	4.9
Personal & protective service occupations	3.9
Others/not known (a)	2.5

(a) Other occupations include Craft & related occupations & plant machine operatives

Source: Executive Information Service – Dept of Higher and Further Education, Training & Employment ⁽²⁹⁾

Footnotes

- 1 Enrolments at schools and in funded pre-school education in Northern Ireland, 2000/01
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- 4 Ibid
- 5 Participation in full time education by 16 and 17 year olds 1999/00 Statistical press
release, Department of Education 2000
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- 7 From Compendium of NI education statistics 1986/87-98/99. Department of Education
- 8 Figures for 1998/99 extracted from Compendium of NI education statistics 1986/87-
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- 16 Ibid
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- 21 Ibid
- 22 New Targeting Social Need (NTSN): analysis of existing information on education
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- 23 Qualifications and destinations of NI school leavers 1999/00 Department of Education
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- 25 Ibid
- 26 Northern Ireland Annual Abstract of Statistics 2000, National Statistics Publication.
- 27 Consultation Document on Student Finance in Northern Ireland, Department of Higher
& Further Education, Training and Employment, 2000.
- 28 Calculated from figures provided by DENI Statistical press release 2000.
- 29 Press Release: Executive Information Service, Dept of Higher and Further Education,
Training and Employment, 6 October 2000: Destinations of Students Gaining
Qualifications at UK Higher Education Institutions 1998/99.

UNEMPLOYMENT

As of June 2001, the overall unemployment rate within Northern Ireland was 5.9%, whereas the youth (18-24) unemployment rate was 9.7% ⁽¹⁾

Governmental statistics provide two definitions of unemployment, the claimant count definition and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition.

Claimant Count

Claimant count unemployment figures are derived from records of claimants held at Social Security Offices. The term 'claimants' includes those who claim Jobseekers Allowance and National Insurance credits, but excludes students seeking vacation work.

In July 2001 there were 12,373 young people (under 25) claiming an unemployment related benefit at a Social Security Office. This figure represents 29.7% of all persons claiming such benefits.

At the time of going to press (Autumn 2001), overall unemployment was at its lowest in Northern Ireland since 1975. However, whilst the following table illustrates the significant drop in unemployment in Northern Ireland, the proportion of youth unemployment to adult unemployment has increased.

Unemployment of under 25s in relation to all persons registered unemployed in Northern Ireland

	1993	1995	1997	2001*
NI youth unemployment	27287	20701	15634	12373
Total NI unemployment	105336	88043	63858	41727
Youth unemployment as a % of all unemployment	25.9	23.5	24.5	29.7

*Figures as of July 2001

Source : Data extracted from Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment press release, August 2001 ⁽²⁾

It is noted that youth unemployment peaks over the summer months, given the impact of school leaving. Monthly youth unemployment figures (using the claimant count method) from June 2000 to July 2001 are as follows:

Training and Employment

Youth Unemployment June 2000 – July 2001 (claimant count)

	Male	Female	Total	% of the unemployed
2000				
Jun	7212	3551	10763	26.5
Jul	8008	4629	12637	28.8
Aug	8069	4776	12845	29.1
Sep	7892	4527	12419	29.3
Oct	7188	3814	11002	27.1
Nov	7004	3433	10437	26.1
Dec	7179	3205	10384	26.0
2001				
Jan	7501	3338	10839	26.3
Feb	7394	3394	10788	26.3
Mar	7274	3309	10583	26.3
Apr	7032	3275	10307	26.1
May	6862	3120	9982	25.7
Jun	6985	3581	10566	27.3
Jul	NK	NK	12373	29.7

Source : figures for June 2000-June 2001 extracted from Overview of Labour Market Statistics. Statistics and Research Branch DETINI.⁽³⁾

ILO measure of unemployment

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) measure of unemployment refers to people without a job who were available to start work in the two weeks following their Labour Force Survey interview, and had either looked for work in the four weeks prior to interview or were waiting to start a job they had already obtained. The ILO unemployment rate is the percentage of economically active people who are unemployed on the ILO measure. Using this definition, the ILO unemployment rate for 18-24 year olds compared to the 25-49 year old rate is as follows:

Unemployment by age, using ILO measure

	18-24 rate %	25-49 rate %
April - June 1998	9.8	6.4
April - June 1999	10.3	8.1
April - June 2000	9.5	6.2
April - June 2001	9.7	5.4

Source : Extracted from Labour Force Survey DETINI, August 2001⁽⁴⁾

TRAINING

Employment and Training Measures July 2000 – April 2001

	July 2000	April 2001
Jobskills (primarily 16-17 yrs)	10450	11400
New Deal (18-24 yrs)	3080	2725

NB Figures are rounded to the nearest 50

Source: *Employment and Training measures May 2001 DHFETE Statistics Research Branch* ⁽⁵⁾

The New Deal for 18-24 year olds was introduced in Northern Ireland in April 1998. It is aimed at those who have been unemployed and claiming Jobseekers Allowance for a period of 6 months. The New Deal comprises a Gateway Stage, whereby participants receive intensive careers advice and guidance designed to enable them to find unsubsidised employment. Participants who do not find unsubsidised employment can take up one of the four New Deal options, these being:

Employment option: a subsidised job with an employer

Full time Education/Training: mainly aimed at those without NVQ2 level qualifications

Voluntary Sector: working in the voluntary sector

Environmental Taskforce: working on an environmental project

In April 2001, there were 2725 young adults involved in the New Deal, with under half of these on the Gateway Stage, and the remainder on one of the four options, as follows:

18-24 year olds on New Deal, April 2001

Total**	Gateway*	Employment	Education/ Training	Voluntary	Environmental
2725	1286	208	428	455	84

*Gateway includes those awaiting their first New Deal interview

**Total includes an additional 264 who had completed New Deal and were on the follow through programme

Source: *Employment and Training measures May 2001 DHFETE Statistics Research Branch* ⁽⁶⁾

STATUS O

'Status O' is the term used to describe those young people who are unemployed according to the ILO definition, and who are not in education, training or employment. In 1993 the NIERC surveyed a representative sample of almost 1000 young people eligible to leave school (16 years). The labour market activities of this cohort were subsequently tracked over a six-year period, and the follow up report published in 2000.

Training and Employment

During the time span October 1993 to March 1999, it was found that over a third of the cohort had experienced at least one month of joblessness, and that 17% had experienced at least one spell of joblessness of 12 months or more, as follows:

Spells of joblessness within the NIERC cohort, October 1993-March 1999

	Proportion of cohort (%)
At least one spell of joblessness* of one month or more	35
At least one spell of joblessness of 3 months or more	29
At least one spell of joblessness of 6 months or more	24
At least one spell of joblessness of 12 months or more	17

*Jobless defined as ILO measure of unemployment plus others not in education, training or employment

Source: Extracted from :*Marginalised young people and social inclusion policy in Northern Ireland, NIERC* ⁽⁷⁾

The NIERC report found that many of the jobless at age 18 were those who had been jobless and marginalised at age 16 and 17. It was also found that young males were more likely to experience joblessness at age 18 if they had been poorly qualified at the end of fifth form, or if they were Catholic, or if their father was unemployed. ⁽⁸⁾

Footnotes

- 1 Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment NI press release 15 August 2001
- 2 Data extracted from Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment NI press release 15 August 2001
- 3 Figures for June 2000-June 2001 extracted from Overview of Labour Market Statistics, Statistics and Research Branch, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment NI. Figures for July 2001 extracted from Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment NI press release 15 August 2001
- 4 Extracted from Labour Force Survey, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment NI, August 2001
- 5 Employment and Training Measures May 2001 Department of Higher and Further Education, Training and Employment NI, Statistics and Research Branch
- 6 Ibid
- 7 Marginalised young people and social inclusion policy in Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Economic Research Council, 2000
- 8 Ibid

GENERAL WELL-BEING

One of the most important sources of data relating to young people and health issues is the Health Behaviour of School Children (HBSC) survey. This is a cross-national study conducted in 28 countries in collaboration with the World Health Organisation. Within Northern Ireland the study is published by the Health Promotion Agency NI. The HBSC study gathers quantitative data from a representative sample of 11-15 year olds, and is updated every four years. The most recent data available relates to the 1997/98 survey, which studied 6,589 school children in Northern Ireland.

Asked 'How healthy do you think you are?', responses indicate that the majority of young people feel they are 'very' or 'quite' healthy, with notable differences according to age and gender, as follows:

BOYS	All %	Primary 7 %	Year 9 %	Year 12 %
Very healthy	27.5	35.4	27.7	23.6
Quite healthy	64.8	58.3	65.0	66.7
Not very healthy	7.7	6.3	7.4	9.7
GIRLS	All %	Primary 7 %	Year 9 %	Year 12 %
Very healthy	16.8	30.5	17.9	7.5
Quite healthy	70.4	64.4	71.0	69.6
Not very healthy	12.8	5.0	11.1	23.0

Source: Extracted from: *Health Behaviour of School Children, Health Promotion Agency* ⁽¹⁾

Food and Diet

The World Health Organisation surveyed 120,000 young people and found that 75% of 15 year olds in NI eat crisps every day, and that children from Northern Ireland are the largest consumers of sweets, chocolates and soft drinks among young people from the 28 countries included in the study. ⁽²⁾

A survey was commissioned in 1999 to assess eating habits among 5-17 year olds in Northern Ireland, with proxy data being collected from their parents. The sample involved data on over 700 young people in this age group. ⁽³⁾ It was found that:

- Most children have breakfast at weekends, and 86% are reported to eat breakfast on all five weekdays. However only 70% of 12-17 year old girls eat breakfast on all five weekdays.
- Only 10% of children are eating the recommended number of portions of fruit and vegetables per day.
- Almost half (47%) of all children in the sample were reported to eat confectionery at least once a day
- There is a high consumption of fatty and sugary snacks, which may displace other more nutritious meals.

Secondary analysis of the HBSC data ⁽⁴⁾ revealed that girls are much more concerned with the appearance of their bodies than boys (67% of girls would like to make changes to their body compared to 42% of boys). This concern with body image increases with age for both

genders, but the increase is more dramatic for girls, with a notable increase about body image for girls between Year 8 and Year 9.

Students who report being on or feeling that they should be on a diet (1997/98)

Age bands	Male	Female
	%	%
11 years	28	36
13 years	30	53
15 years	26	55

Source: World Health Organisation ⁽⁵⁾

MENTAL HEALTH

Telephone Helplines

- By 1999 the telephone counselling service Childline was receiving 5000 calls from children in Northern Ireland each week (but could only answer one fifth of them). 14% of calls taken from NI in the year up to October 1999 were from children who were being bullied, 12% from children suffering sexual abuse, and the remainder from children with fears surrounding physical abuse, family/relationship problems and pregnancy. ⁽⁶⁾
- From April 1999 to March 2000 a total of 1724 people contacted AIDs Helpline NI, 641 (37%) of whom were aged under 30. ⁽⁷⁾
- Over the financial year 1999/2000 Contact Youth (providing telephone counselling, 1:1 counselling, and school based counselling to 12-26 year olds) dealt with over 1400 young people. The main categories of topics were substance misuse, abuse, relationships and depression. ⁽⁸⁾ During the year 2000-2001, the total number of calls to the telephone counselling service has increased by over 100%, to 2976 calls ⁽⁹⁾

In a recent survey of 414 young people aged 16-25, which was aimed specifically at exploring young people's worries, coping strategies, and sources of support, the most common worries were reported by young people as:

Most common worries (prompted) (%)

Not having any money	68
A return to the Troubles	52
The future	50
My appearance (weight, height, looks)	47
Crime or violence	43
Not being able to get a job	35
Not being able to make a decision about what I'm going to do	35
The drugs problem in Northern Ireland	33
Being in a job/course I don't enjoy	30
Schoolwork/exams	30
Problems with my boyfriend/girlfriend	29
Lack of confidence	27

Source : Extracted from 'Research to support young people's mental health and well being. Health Promotion Agency' 2001 ⁽¹⁰⁾

Health and Well-Being

When asked about the future, the majority of young people surveyed (79%) indicated they felt 'OK' or 'optimistic'. However more than one in ten (12%) said they were 'not sure things will get sorted' and a further 7% reported that they felt hopeless because they perceived too many problems ahead, with females appearing to be less optimistic than males. ⁽¹¹⁾

Suicide

Over the years 1987–1999, the number of young people aged 15-24 who have committed suicide has ranged from 23 to 43 per annum.

Suicides by 15-24 year olds in Northern Ireland 1987-1999

	Total	Male	Female
1987	26	19	7
1988	43	37	6
1989	23	19	4
1990	34	18	6
1991	25	21	4
1992	23	21	2
1993	37	33	4
1994	39	30	9
1998	28	23	5
1999	36	28	8

Source : Data supplied in Annual reports of the Registrar General ⁽¹²⁾

In 1998 the number of suicides within the entire population of Northern Ireland was 126, with suicides by those under the age of 25 equating to 18.2% of all suicides ⁽¹³⁾ In 1999 the total number of suicides was 121, with suicides by those under the age of 25 equating to 29.7% of all suicides. Despite this increase, the age range 25-34 remains the 'peak' age for committing suicide, with the under 25s being the next age grouping at risk. ⁽¹⁴⁾

A national study which monitored suicide throughout the UK for the years 1997-2000 found that just under 1 in 5 of the under 25s who committed suicide in Northern Ireland were known to be in contact with mental health services in the year before death (as compared to almost 1 in 3 of the over 25s). ⁽¹⁵⁾

Research has found that gay men in Northern Ireland are 30 times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual counterparts. Suicidal thoughts were reported by 54.1% of respondents in a survey of gay men, and the average age for the first suicide attempt was 20.4. ⁽¹⁶⁾

CHILD ABUSE

Number of children on the Child Protection Register by Category of Abuse at 31 March 1998 and 31 March 2000

Category of Abuse	Number of children	
	1998	2000
Neglect, physical abuse & sexual abuse	7	3
Neglect & physical abuse	51	115
Neglect & sexual abuse	27	29
Physical & sexual abuse	34	25
Neglect only	556	548
Physical abuse only	285	293
Sexual abuse only	237	236
Emotional abuse only	189	234
All categories	1386	1483

Source: Community Statistics 2001, DHPSSNI ⁽¹⁷⁾

Whilst the number of children on the Child Protection Register has increased between 1998 and 2000, it has decreased by 4% over the period 1995/96 – 1999/00 ⁽¹⁸⁾. However the proportion of children listed under the category Sexual Abuse Only has increased substantially, from 144 in the year 1995/96 to 236 in the year 1999/00.

In 2000, the NSPCC made a presentation to Assembly members, in which they claimed that an average of 4 children were abused each day in the year up to August 1999. 1440 offences were reported to the police involving children under 16. The NSPCC estimated that 66% of offences against children go unreported, and there may be up to 12 offences against children each day or almost 90 a week in Northern Ireland. ⁽¹⁹⁾

CHILDREN IN CARE

Children looked after as of 31 March 1998 and admissions to care, by gender, April 1997-March 1998, and April 1999-March 2000

	Admissions to Care			Children looked after		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1997/98	537	419	956	1194	1160	2354
1999-00	546	488	1034	1248	1174	2422

Source: Community Statistics 2001, DHSSPS ⁽²⁰⁾

Whilst admissions of children to being looked after increased between 1997 and 2000, the number has decreased by 7% over the period 1995/96-1999/00. ⁽²¹⁾

Health and Well-Being

Children looked after by age at 31 March 2000

Under 1 year	55
1-4	363
5-11	871
12-15	727
16+	406
All ages	2422

Source: Community Statistics 2001, DHPSSNI ⁽²²⁾

Children looked after by Placement as at 31 March 2000

	Number	% of all looked after
Residential Care	285	12
Foster Care	1611	67
Placed with family	472	19
Other	54	2
Total	2422	100

Source – Community Statistics 2001, DHPSSNI ⁽²³⁾

SEXUAL HEALTH

In 1997/98 30% of 15 year old boys and 26% of 15 year old girls surveyed in the HBSC study reported having had sexual intercourse (compared to 33% and 37% in Scotland). ⁽²⁴⁾

The majority of those who had experienced sexual intercourse (79.2%) reported using some form of contraception. ⁽²⁵⁾

The 'Towards Better Sexual Health' project is an ongoing study by the University of Ulster and the Family Planning Association, which is investigating the sexual attitudes and lifestyles of young people in Northern Ireland. Preliminary analysis of their data has shown that the majority of under 16s who have experienced sexual intercourse feel that this experience had been 'too early' or felt that they had been pressurised into having sex. The study also shows that 41% of those who had experienced intercourse before the age of 16 had not used a condom ⁽²⁶⁾

Number of people visiting the Belfast Brook Advisory Centre

Age group	1998/99	1999/2000	% difference
Under 16	510	738	45 % increase
16-19	3349	3768	12.5% increase
20-24	1430	1186	21% decrease*
Total	5289	5692	7.6

*Since July 2000 all clients were under 20 years of age.

Source: Belfast Brook Advisory Centre ⁽²⁷⁾

Teenage Pregnancy

7.3% of all Northern Ireland births in 1999 were to mothers under the age of 20. Whilst the numbers of births to women under 20 has remained fairly constant over the past decade, the percentage of these births within marriage has significantly decreased. ⁽²⁸⁾

Numbers and % of live births to women under 20

Year	Total live births to under 20's	% of births within marriage
1991	1783	18.2
1992	1855	17.7
1993	1592	11.7
1994	1545	11.0
1995	1428	9.5
1996	1582	7.7
1997	1644	6.8
1998	1735	6.6
1999	1701	6.3

Source: Registrar General NI ⁽²⁹⁾

Over the past 25 years, the number of births to under 20 year olds has decreased, although there has been an increase in births to girls aged 15 or under. Age specific fertility rates indicate the number of live births occurring to women of a particular age, expressed per 1,000 women. For example, in 1974, 14 of every 1000 16 year olds gave birth, as compared to 12 per 1000 in 1999.

Age specific fertility rates (expressed per 1000 women in age group)

Age of mother	1974	1984	1994	1999
15 and under	-	3	4	5
16	14	8	10	12
17	34	23	22	28
18	60	44	40	47
19	87	63	54	57

Source: Registrar General NI ⁽³⁰⁾

Health and Well-Being

Sexually transmitted diseases (STD's)

Genito-Urinary Medicine Clinics cases of sexually transmitted diseases: Initial Contacts Year ending 31 March 2000

Condition	Sex	Under 25	Over 25	All ages
Primary & Secondary Infectious Syphilis	M	0	1	1
	F	0	0	0
Uncomplicated Gonorrhoea	M	39	62	101
	F	13	8	21
Gonococcal Ophthalmia Neonatorum	M	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0
Uncomplicated Gonorrhoea Homosexually acquired	M	1	8	9
	F	-	-	-
Uncomplicated Chlamydial Infection	M	207	256	463
	F	298	129	427
Anogenital Herpes Simplex – first attack	M	30	51	81
	F	70	48	118
Anogenital Warts – first attack	M	502	663	1165
	F	575	360	935
HIV antibody counselling - with testing	M	153	394	547
	F	158	199	357

Source: Regional Information Branch, DHPSSNI ⁽³¹⁾

Abortion

Age of women travelling to England from Northern Ireland for an abortion, 1999

Age	Number	% of total number attending FPA
Under 16	9	2.1
16-19	75	17.9
20-24	140	33.4
25-29	93	22.2
30-34	62	14.8
35-39	30	7.2
40+	10	2.4
Total	419	100
Under 25's	224	53.4

Source: Family Planning Association Northern Ireland. ⁽³²⁾

ALCOHOL USE

Data pertaining to 11-15 year olds

The data in this section is extracted from the 1997/98 Health Behaviour of School Children (HBSC) survey⁽³³⁾, with comparisons made to the preceding 1992 and 1994 HBSC surveys where relevant.

- 74% of the pupils (aged 11-15) who took part in the HBSC study of 1997/98 reported that they had tasted alcohol. This is a similar finding to the preceding HBSC studies of 1992 and 1994.
- Of the total sample from the 1997/98 HBSC survey, around 1 in 5 of respondents reported to drinking alcohol on a weekly or daily basis, with a further 14% saying they drank on a monthly basis. Taking the definition of 'regular' to be daily, weekly or monthly, almost one third of the sample were found to be regular drinkers, one third were irregular drinkers, and one third were non-drinkers.
- Whilst the proportion of young people who have tasted alcohol has remained constant over the past decade, it is noted that the percentage who drink on a weekly basis has doubled. In 1988, 9% of pupils reported drinking at least once weekly – this figure rose to 12% in the 1994 HBSC study, and to 20% in the 1997/98 HBSC study.
- In the 1997/98 study, alcopops were the most frequently mentioned drink, with 20% of the survey group reporting that they drink these at least monthly, and 18.2% drinking beer or lager. 74% of beer drinkers are boys, whereas alcopop drinkers comprise equal numbers of boys and girls.
- 31.5% of those boys who drink regularly reported being drunk more than 10 times. The figure for girls is 23.2%. Just over one fifth (20.7%) of this group said they had never been drunk.
- **Reasons for drinking:** When asked to choose from a list provided, both boys and girls most commonly cited "to celebrate" followed by "like the taste" (selected by 83% of boys and 87.3% of girls). Whereas there were essentially no gender differences for "to feel relaxed" (63.3% of boys, 62.9% girls) and "to be sociable" (49.9% boys, 51.9% girls), there was a marked gender difference for "to be confident", with 65.3% of girls choosing this compared with only 28.2% of boys. 57.7% of boys and 49.8% of girls said they drank to get drunk, and 69.3% of boys and 73% of girls said drinking alcohol cheers them up. 30.5% of girls and 16.5% of boys said "to escape problems".

Data pertaining to 15-16 year olds

The data in this section is extracted from a 1999 study of drinking, smoking and illicit drug use amongst 15 and 16 year olds in Northern Ireland⁽³⁴⁾, with comparisons made to the preceding 1995 study where relevant. The study was part of a larger UK-wide study conducted by the Alcohol and Health Research Centre based in Edinburgh. Within Northern Ireland the study involved a representative sample of 723 school pupils aged 15-16, and the data collection took place between March and June 1999.

- Approximately 90% of the 15-16 year old respondents had at some time consumed alcohol.
- Nearly 70% of boys and 65% of girls had consumed alcohol in the past 30 days (prior to the study). 51% of boys and 46% of girls had reportedly experienced intoxication during this period.

Health and Well-Being

- A substantial proportion of those who were drinkers reported consuming alcohol in licensed premises, or in open-air settings.
- Pupils from Catholic managed schools were less frequent drinkers than those from other school types.
- A comparison with parallel UK-wide data shows that teenagers in Northern Ireland are more likely than their counterparts in the UK to be non-drinkers, and that girls from Northern Ireland are less likely to have experienced intoxication. In contrast the level amongst boys was similar to that of boys in other parts of the UK
- A comparison of the 1999 data with the previous 1995 study revealed there had been a significant rise in the proportion of boys (60.8%) consuming five or more alcoholic drinks in a row over the past 30 days. This is numerically the highest for any part of the UK.

SMOKING

Data pertaining to 11-15 year olds

The data in this section is extracted from the 1997/98 Health Behaviour of School Children (HBSC) Survey ⁽³⁵⁾, with comparisons made to the preceding 1992 and 1994 HBSC surveys where relevant.

- The 1997/98 HBSC survey found that 41% of the sample had tried smoking at least once, the majority of these having tried a cigarette before the age of 13.
- A regular smoker is defined as someone who smokes at least weekly, and an occasional smoker is someone who smokes less than once a week. The term 'current' smoker includes both regular and occasional smokers. In total 18.5% of the HBSC sample are current smokers (16.7% boys and 20.6% girls). However there are significant increases in smoking patterns according to age, as follows:

Patterns of smoking by age and gender

School Year	Boys		Girls	
	% current smokers	% regular smokers (at least weekly)	% current smokers	% regular smokers (at least weekly)
Primary 7	5.6	2.3	3.1	1.0
Year 8	8.8	5.0	7.1	3.9
Year 9	15.9	9.7	16.6	12.6
Year 10	21.1	15.7	24.4	17.3
Year 11	24.2	19.4	33.3	25.6
Year 12	23.7	18.4	39.5	33.9

Source: The Health Promotion Agency for Northern Ireland

- The HBSC survey found that more boys are likely to experiment with cigarettes at an earlier age than girls, but that from Year 9 onwards, more girls than boys are smoking. Between Year 11 and Year 12, the number of boys smoking begins to fall, while the number of girls smoking continues to increase, with almost 40% of girls smoking in Year

12. The survey also shows that, as they grow older, a greater proportion of girls is smoking regularly compared with boys. In Year 12, 30.6% of girls smoke every day – more than double the number of boys (14.3%). There is little difference in the number of cigarettes smoked weekly by boys or girls who are regular smokers, but although more girls than boys are daily smokers, the boys who smoke daily appear to smoke more heavily than girls.

- A comparison between the 1994 and 1998 HBSC surveys reveals that the percentage of pupils who smoke at least once a week has increased for girls in Year 12 (Form 5) although there are signs of a slight decrease for boys of the same age.

Regular smokers (at least weekly), 1994 and 1997/8

	1994 HBSC Survey		1997/8 HBSC Survey	
	Boys %	Girls %	Boys %	Girls %
Form 1/Year 8	3	4	5	4
Form 3/Year 10	10	13	16	17
Form 5/Year 12	22	26	18	34

Data pertaining to 15-16 year olds

The data in this section is extracted from a more recent study of drinking, smoking and illicit drug use amongst 15 and 16 year olds in Northern Ireland ⁽³⁶⁾, with comparisons made to the preceding 1995 study where relevant. The study was part of a larger UK-wide study conducted by the Alcohol and Health Research Centre based in Edinburgh. Within Northern Ireland the study involved a representative sample of 723 school pupils aged 15-16, and the data collection took place between March and June 1999.

- Two thirds of the sample had smoked cigarettes at some time.
- Over 35% of girls and nearly 29% of boys had smoked cigarettes within the past 30 days (prior to the study).
- 20.7% of boys and 23.8% of girls were daily smokers
- The level of smoking amongst boys (but not girls) was higher than that in the rest of the UK
- When the 1999 data was compared to the previous 1995 study, there appeared to be no significant changes in smoking patterns.

ILLICIT DRUGS

Data pertaining to 11-15 year olds

The data in this section is extracted from the 1997/98 Health Behaviour of School Children (HBSC) Survey ⁽³⁷⁾, with comparisons made to the preceding 1992 and 1994 HBSC Surveys where relevant. It is noted that the HBSC study does not include volatile solvents within the definition of illicit drug.

Health and Well-Being

- The 1997/98 HBSC survey found that 23% of the survey group had been offered illicit drugs. The average age for first offer of drugs was 13, although 5.1% of those who had been offered drugs reported being offered them at age 10 or under. Of those offered drugs for the first time, only 5.7% said it took place at school. While the majority of young people were offered drugs by someone they knew, 16.6% were offered drugs by someone their own age whom they did not really know and 27.9% by an adult.
- 12.3% of the total sample said they had tried drugs at least once (13.7% of boys, 10.7% of girls). The proportion of pupils who had tried drugs increased substantially according to age, with under 5% of Year 8 pupils saying they had tried drugs, as compared to almost 30% of Year 12 pupils.
- 7.1% admitted to currently using drugs (excluding solvents).
- Overall 2.9% could be designated as regular drug users – mainly boys in Years 10 and 12. ('Regular' is defined as using drugs at least a few times a month or more frequently).
- The 1997/98 HBSC survey found no significant rise in drug use among Year 8 to Year 12 pupils when compared to the 1994 survey.

Data pertaining to 15-16 year olds

The data in this section is extracted from a more recent study of drinking, smoking and illicit drug use amongst 15 and 16 year olds in Northern Ireland⁽³⁸⁾, with comparisons made to the preceding 1995 study where relevant. The study was part of a larger UK-wide study conducted by the Alcohol and Health Research Centre based in Edinburgh. Within Northern Ireland the study involved a representative sample of 723 school pupils aged 15-16, and the data collection took place between March and June 1999. It is noted that, unlike the HBSC Survey, this study includes volatile solvents within the definition of illicit drug.

- 40% of boys and 30% of girls had used some form of illicit drug at some time.
- Almost all of reported drug use related to limited use of cannabis and to volatile glues and solvents. Few of those surveyed were either frequent cannabis users or had tried any other form of drug.
- Less than 1% of those surveyed reported ever having injected drugs.
- Pupils from Catholic managed schools were less likely to have used solvents than other teenagers.
- Boys in Northern Ireland reported levels of illicit drug use very similar to those amongst boys in England and Wales, but lower than that amongst boys in Scotland.
- The level of drug use amongst girls was a little lower than that amongst girls elsewhere in the UK, with the exception of solvent abuse, which was more commonplace amongst both boys and girls in Northern Ireland than their counterparts in the rest of the UK.
- Although the level of girls who use illicit drugs was still below the levels in the rest of the UK, it had significantly increased since the previous 1995 study. The 1995 study had revealed drug use by girls in Northern Ireland to be relatively low, whereas the 1999 study indicated a speedy 'catch up' rate with the rest of the UK.

The national study of health behaviours, conducted by the Alcohol and Health Research Centre at Edinburgh, provides regional comparative data of a sample of 15-16 year olds, as follows:

Percentage of 15-16 year olds among the regions 1999

	N. Ireland	England	Scotland	Wales	All regions
Been drunk (ever)	71.9	75.6	77.3	79.7	75.8
Smoked cigarettes (ever)	66.7	64.8	66.0	61.4	64.9
Used cannabis (ever)	33.4	34.9	40.9	30.4	35.4
Used illicit drug other than cannabis (ever)	12.2	11.3	15.8	13.0	12.0

Source: Alcohol and health research centre at Edinburgh – European school survey project on alcohol and other drugs. As reported in the Guardian, February 21, 2001⁽³⁹⁾

The school survey project on alcohol and other drugs formed part of a larger European study involving 60,000 teenagers in 30 countries, under the general co-ordination of the Swedish Council for Information on alcohol and other drugs, conducted in association with the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe. Overall it was found that teenagers from the United Kingdom were the second highest group out of 30 countries in terms of alcohol consumption, and the highest group out of 30 countries in terms of experience of illicit drugs and daily smoking.⁽⁴⁰⁾

Data pertaining to 18-30 year olds

In 2000 the Health Promotion Agency NI commissioned a survey of attitudes of 18-30 year olds to illicit drugs⁽⁴¹⁾. A total of 990 individuals from around Northern Ireland participated in the survey. The survey found that:

- Two thirds had never taken drugs
- 9% had taken drugs once, and a further 25% had taken drugs more than once.
- Those who had taken drugs were more likely to be male, aged 18-25 and in the C2DE social class
- One third of the sample felt that drug taking is normal for someone their age, and half believed that drug taking is completely socially acceptable.
- Cannabis and ecstasy were the most frequently taken drugs. Just over three-quarters of drug users said that it was 'very easy' or 'easy' to get hold of drugs.

Illicit drug-related deaths in Northern Ireland

Drug related deaths due to use of opiates and related narcotics have increased within the Northern Ireland population (although most of these deaths are in the 25+ age range).

Opiates and related narcotic deaths in NI (all ages)

	1992	1994	1996	1998
Deaths	6	2	9	11

Source : Health Promotion Agency ⁽⁴²⁾

The number of recorded solvent-related deaths has fluctuated over the past decade

Solvent related deaths in NI (all ages)

	1991	1993	1995	1997	1998
Deaths	10	6	1	3	6

Source : Health Promotion Agency ⁽⁴³⁾

MORTALITY

Deaths of children aged 1-14

A total of 74 children aged 1-14 died in Northern Ireland in 1999. External causes of injury and poisoning caused 20 of these deaths, while cancer caused 16 deaths. A further 10 were caused by congenital anomalies. ⁽⁴⁴⁾

Deaths of people aged 15-34

A total of 340 people aged 15 –34 died in Northern Ireland in 1999. External causes of injury and poisoning caused more deaths than any other cause (61% of deaths of persons aged 15-34). More than half of all suicides and half of all motor transport accidents involved people aged 15-34. ⁽⁴⁵⁾

Footnotes

- 1 The Health Behaviour of School Children, Health Promotion Agency, 2000
- 2 As reported in the Newsletter 02/02/00
- 3 Children's eating habits in Northern Ireland as reported by their parents. Summarised in research and evaluation review 1999-2000. Health Promotion Agency
- 4 Exploring the mental well being of young people in Northern Ireland: secondary analysis of the Health Behaviour of School Children Survey. Health Promotion Agency 2001
- 5 Health and Health Behaviour among young people WHO Policy Series : Health Policy of Children and Adolescents Issue 1: International report World Health Organisation 2000
- 6 As reported in the Irish News 06/10/99
- 7 Statistics provided by AIDS Helpline NI, 2000
- 8 Contact Annual Report 1998-99
- 9 Figures provided by Contact, July 2001
- 10 Extracted from Research to support young people's mental health and well being. Health Promotion Agency 2001
- 11 Ibid
- 12 Figures extracted from Annual Reports of the Registrar General NI
- 13 Seventy-seventh Annual Report of the Registrar General NISRA 1998
- 14 Seventy-eighth Annual Report of the Registrar General NISRA 1999
- 15 Five Year report of the national confidential inquiry into suicide and homicide by people with mental illness. Department of Health 2001
- 16 R G White & A M McCracken: How Hard Can It Be?: Attempted Suicide In Gay Men, the Psychosocial Stressors and Associated Risk Factors, The Rainbow Project, Belfast, 1999. (122 gay males surveyed aged between 18 and 61 years)
- 17 Community Statistics DHPSSNI 2001
- 18 Ibid
- 19 As reported in the Newsletter 02/08/99
- 20 Community Statistics DHSSPSNI 2001
- 21 Ibid
- 22 Ibid
- 23 Ibid

Health and Well-Being

- 24 Health and Health Behaviour among young people WHO Policy Series : Health Policy of Children and Adolescents Issue 1: International report World Health Organisation 2000
- 25 The Health Behaviour of School Children, Health Promotion Agency, 2000
- 26 Preliminary analysis of the Towards Better Sexual Health project, as reported in Scope magazine (NICVA) June 2001
- 27 Statistics provided by Belfast Brook Advisory Centre 2000
- 28 From figures in Annual Reports of the Registrar General
- 29 Seventy-eighth Annual Report of the Registrar General NISRA 1999
- 30 Ibid
- 31 Genito-Urinary Medicine Clinics: Cases of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Initial Contacts Year Ending 31 March 2000, supplied by The Regional Information Branch, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, 2001.
- 32 Family Planning Association NI Fact Sheet: Abortion 1999
- 33 The Health Behaviour of School Children, Health Promotion Agency, 2000, with additional information extracted from HBSC surveys pertaining to 1992 and 1994
- 34 Drinking Smoking and Illicit drug use amongst 15 and 16 year old school pupils in Northern Ireland. Alcohol and Health Research Centre, City Hospital Edinburgh August 2001
- 35 The Health Behaviour of School Children, Health Promotion Agency, 2000, with additional information extracted from HBSC surveys pertaining to 1992 and 1994
- 36 Drinking Smoking and Illicit drug use amongst 15 and 16 year old school pupils in Northern Ireland. Alcohol and Health Research Centre, City Hospital Edinburgh August 2001
- 37 The Health Behaviour of School Children, Health Promotion Agency, 2000, with additional information extracted from HBSC surveys pertaining to 1992 and 1994
- 38 Drinking Smoking and Illicit drug use amongst 15 and 16 year old school pupils in NI. Alcohol and Health Research Centre, City Hospital Edinburgh August 2001
- 39 A summary of the European School survey project on alcohol and other drugs, as reported in The Guardian February 21 2001
- 40 Ibid
- 41 Survey of Attitudes of 18-30 year olds in Northern Ireland to illicit drugs, as reported in Research and Evaluation Review 1999-2000 Health Promotion Agency
- 42 Illicit drug use in Northern Ireland. Health Promotion Agency 2000
- 43 Ibid
- 44 Seventy Eighth Annual Report of the Registrar General NISRA 1999
- 45 Ibid

JUVENILE OFFENDERS

Juvenile Liaison Scheme

The Juvenile Liaison Scheme has increasingly involved other agencies in dealing with young people outside the formal criminal justice system through the development of Juvenile Liaison Bureaux. The Bureaux, comprising of representatives of social services, probation and the education and welfare services gather information and advise on the best course of action to take in order to assist the police in reaching a decision about the disposal of a case.

Juvenile Liaison Referrals

	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00
Referrals to Juvenile Liaison Officer	14601	10988	12323
Cases Pending	1673	1374	1112
Potential Offenders given Warnings and Advice	7206	5826	7354
Official Cautions Given	1588	1327	1325
Prosecutions	1317	714	643
No further Police Action Taken	2817	1747	1889

Source: Chief Constable's Reports ⁽¹⁾

Referrals declined sharply between 1997/98 and 1998/99 by 3,613 and began to increase again in 1999/00 to 12,323 but still remain lower than in 1995 (13,500). The number of offenders given warnings and advice, declined sharply in 1998/99 to just over 50%, but by 1999/00 was rising again towards the 1995 level of two-thirds of the young people coming into contact with the police through the scheme. Official cautions, on the other hand, have decreased from around 16% in 1995 to 11% in 1999/2000. The last Barometer found that prosecutions through the scheme in 1995 had fallen to around 10%. Since then there has been an even more significant decrease, 1317 in 1997/98 declining to 643 in 1999/00 which represents just over 5% of the total referrals.

PROSECUTIONS, CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCING

The RUC follows Home Office counting rules in recording crime. Due to changes in counting procedures, and the consequent overload on government statisticians, at the time of going to press (Autumn 2001) detailed figures on these matters are currently only available up to 1998, and have therefore not been included.

Imprisonment

The figures for sentences of imprisonment passed on males aged 14 to 20 are as follows: -

Offence	1997	1998
Violence against the person	70	78
Sexual offences	4	5
Burglary	64	53
Robbery	25	20
Theft	75	77
Fraud and forgery	3	5
Criminal damage	26	36
Drug offences	16	15
Motoring offences	16	27
Other offences	30	32
Total	329	348

Source: *The Northern Ireland Prison Population. Statistical Bulletin 1/99. Northern Ireland Office. December 1999* ⁽²⁾

The population of the Young Offenders Centre on 12 March 2001 was 122 of which 78 were convicted offenders and 44 were remanded in custody awaiting trial. ⁽³⁾

DEVELOPMENTS IN LEGISLATION

Two pieces of legislation are having and will continue to have a major impact on how children and young people are treated in Northern Ireland by the criminal justice system. These are the Criminal Justice (Children)(Northern Ireland) Order 1998 which came into effect on the 1st. January 1999 and legislation that will implement some, at least, of the 294 recommendations of the Review of the Criminal Justice System, which was published in March 2000.

Significantly, the latter recommends that the age of criminal responsibility remain at 10, that 10-13 year olds are kept out of the custodial system, and that 17 year olds should be brought within the jurisdiction of the youth court but still be sent to the Young Offenders Centre, which is a designated prison, rather than to a Juvenile Justice Centre. The Review also recommends that Restorative Justice concepts are built into the youth justice system. All cases would involve a multi-agency "conference" that could recommend an agreed solution to the court.

Both the 1998 Order and the Criminal Justice Review reflect an increasing emphasis on young people's rights and the desire to reduce the custody of young people to a minimum, developing instead effective community based alternatives.

YOUNG PEOPLE AS VICTIMS OF CRIME

Children killed in the Troubles

Age Group	Number killed
0 - 2	17
3 - 5	10
6 - 9	18
10 - 12	22
13 - 15	64
16 - 17	142
Total	273

Source: *The Cost of the Troubles Study* ⁽⁴⁾

209 of the children killed were boys, 64 girls. 73% were Catholic, 19% Protestant and 8% not from Northern Ireland or unknown. 88% were killed by shootings or explosions.

Those responsible...	No.	%
Republican Paramilitaries	89	33
Loyalist Paramilitaries	77	28
Security Forces	68	25
Accidental shootings	10	4
Other/don't know	15	5
LVF	1	-
Real IRA	13	5
Total	273	100

Source: *The Cost of the Troubles Study* ⁽⁵⁾

Young people as victims of paramilitary threats and attacks

An analysis of the statistics of the Base 2 Project, which provides a crisis intervention service to those under paramilitary threat, can provide an insight into the operation of the informal justice system operating in Northern Ireland. The figures show a general increase in the numbers of people utilising the service with the majority of threats issued against males. Republican threats increased in 1997–1998, before declining in the latter two years. Threats from loyalist sources increased over the four-year period, resulting in them being responsible for the majority of threats recorded in the years 1999 and 2000. In addition there was a small number of threats emanating from the community in all four years studied. An analysis of the age of those using this project shows that the numbers of those aged 11-18 years and 18-25

years has fluctuated, while the over-25 age group has consistently increased in number over the four years, with a major increase in the year 2000. Despite this significant increase it is still those under 25 who account for the majority of cases handled by Base 2 in the period under investigation.

Number of individuals presenting themselves as under threat of physical punishment from paramilitary organisations

	1997	1998	1999	2000
Total no. of Referrals	563	646	624	854
11 – 18	106	97	100	121
18 - 25	237	246	201	284
25+	220	303	323	449
Male	495	553	523	658
Female	68	93	101	196
Republican	329	337	253	262
Loyalist	218	292	358	371
*Community	16	17	13	221

* The loyalist feud was identified as the reason for 196 of the 221 referrals in the year 2000

Source: Base 2 Project, NIACRO ⁽⁶⁾

In 1995 the RUC Central Statistics Branch recorded a total of 220 paramilitary-style attacks, 3 shootings by loyalist groups and 217 assaults, 76 by loyalists and 141 by republican groups. By the end of 2000 the number of paramilitary-style attacks had risen to 266.

Casualties as a result of paramilitary type shootings

	1997	1998	1999	2000
Total no.	72	72	73	136
Under 20	17	12	18	26
20-29	31	41	38	80
30+	24	19	17	30
Republican	26	38	26	50
Loyalist	46	34	47	86

Source: RUC Statistics Branch ⁽⁷⁾

There were no female casualties during this period. There have been 2 since 1990, 1 in 1991 and 1 in 1992 both carried out by loyalist groups.

Casualties as a result of paramilitary type assaults

	1997	1998	1999	2000
Total no.	156	144	134	130
Under 20	36	29	49	39
20-29	85	71	49	53
30+	35	44	36	38
Republican	78	55	44	53
Loyalist	78	89	90	77

Source: RUC Central Statistics Branch ⁽⁸⁾

In this 4-year period, a total of 25 assaults were carried out on females, 14 by loyalist groups and 11 by republicans.

Young people as victims of ordinary crime

Young people in Northern Ireland aged 16 to 29 are over three times as likely to suffer violent assault as any other age range. 11.1% of this age group suffered violence in 1997 (compared with 0.6% of over 60s). Males are almost three times as likely to suffer violence as females. ⁽⁹⁾

A study commissioned by the Inter-departmental social steering group on behalf of the Regional Forum on Domestic Violence calculated that a minimum of 11,000 children live in a domestic violence situation in Northern Ireland. Exposure to domestic violence is either by witnessing or experiencing violence within the family unit. The report suggests that this figure of 11,000 is an under-estimate, given that domestic violence often goes unreported. ⁽¹⁰⁾

Footnotes

- 1 Chief Constable’s Report, 2000
- 2 The NI Prison population in 1998. Statistical bulletin 1/99. Northern Ireland Office, December 1999
- 3 Prison population statistics, extracted from website of the NI Prison Service
- 4 The Cost of the Troubles, Community Conflict Impact on Children, by kind permission of Dr Marie Smith and University of Ulster
- 5 Ibid
- 6 Figures provided by Base 2 project, NIACRO
- 7 RUC Statistics Branch
- 8 Ibid
- 9 Fear of crime and victimisation in Northern Ireland, Research Findings 1/99, Northern Ireland Office, December 1999
- 10 Executive information service press release. Children in Northern Ireland: domestic violence and professional awareness. September 2001

Accommodation

HOMELESS FAMILIES

On average, NI households are larger than households in the rest of the United Kingdom. In 1998-99, the average NI household comprised 2.71 persons, the average GB household, 2.36. ⁽¹⁾

Some 68% of houses in Northern Ireland in 1998-99 were either owned outright or owned with a mortgage, while close to a quarter were rented from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). ⁽²⁾

In the five years between 1 April 1994 and March 1999, a total of 55152 households have presented as homeless to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). This figure represents well over 100000 people. ⁽³⁾

Between April 1999 and March 2000, 10997 households presented as homeless to the NIHE, a decrease of 4.8% on the previous year's figure. This figure increased for the year 2000-2001, to 12,694 households presenting as homeless (an increase of 15% on the previous year). ⁽⁴⁾

Households presenting as homeless to NIHE from 1994 to 1999

	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
No. of Presenters	10068	10768	11092	11672	11552
% Increase/Decrease	+3.5	+6.9	+3	+5.2	-1
No. awarded A1 status	4104 (39.9%)	4319 (40.1%)	4708 (42.4%)	4956 (42.4%)	4991 (43.3%)

Source: Council for the Homeless NI ⁽⁵⁾

Reasons for homelessness were highlighted by the Council for the Homeless (Northern Ireland) for 1999/2000:

Reason	Number	%
Sharing breakdown/family dispute	2964	27.0
Marital/relationship breakdown	1570	14.3
No accommodation in NI	1564	14.2
Loss of rented accommodation	1249	11.4
Intimidation	877	8.0
Neighbourhood dispute	872	7.9
Domestic violence	590	5.4
Institutional release	268	2.4
Accommodation not reasonable	230	2.0
Mortgage default	179	1.6
Fire/flood/other emergency	141	1.3
Other	493	4.5
Total	10997	100

Source: Council for the Homeless NI ⁽⁶⁾

HOMELESS YOUNG PEOPLE

During 1998/99, 11552 households presented to the NIHE as homeless. Of these, 50% were single people and one quarter of this figure aged between 16 and 25 years. ⁽⁷⁾

According to a study by Extern in 1999, over 50 children aged under 16 years run away from home in Northern Ireland each week. 2700 children run away each year. 381 children were forced to leave home and 680 slept rough. ⁽⁸⁾

Numbers of 16-25 year olds presenting to NIHE as homeless between April 1999 and March 2000

Presenters	Number	% of total presenters
Single males 16-18 years	344	3.1
Single males 19-25 years	1006	9.1
Single females 16-18 years	480	4.4
Single females 19-25 years	684	6.2
Single males 26-59 years	2202	20.0
Single females 26-29 years	739	6.7
Couples	523	4.8
Families	4541	41.3
Pensioner households	478	4.3
Total	10997	100

Source: Council for the Homeless NI ⁽⁹⁾

When the Simon Community was founded in 1971, it received requests for help from 53 homeless people. During the year 2000, the organisation received 5,921 requests for help. Over half of those who approached the Simon Community in 2000 were aged 17-25, with a fifth aged 16-18. Over three-quarters were male. ⁽¹⁰⁾

Presentations to Simon Community Projects Across NI

Location of Project	Total No. of Presentations	% presentations aged 16-18	% presentations aged 19-25	% aged 26+
Belfast	2318	(%'s are no longer calculated for Belfast as a total)		
Bangor	256	23	34	43
Coleraine	364	18	24.5	57.5
Downpatrick	164	22	35	43
L/Derry	432	12.5	34.5	53
Larne	306	32	21	47
Total	4065		26	61

Source: Simon Community NI ⁽¹¹⁾

HOUSING SHORTAGE

Northern Ireland Housing Stock by tenure (1997- 99)

	Thousands		
	1997	1998	1999
Owner occupied	412.0	424.5	429.5
NIHE	135.0	130.5	124.0
Rented from Housing Associations	14.5	15.0	16.5
Private rented and other	24.5	26.0	30.5
Vacant	32.0	30.0	35.0
All tenures	618.0	626.0	636.0

Source: Department for Social Development. ⁽¹²⁾

STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation provided by universities in NI

	Approx. no. of residential places provided by Institution	Estimated no. of students living away from home while attending the Institution	Est. no. of students living at home while attending University
QUB	2000	8000	4000
UU*	932	3330	3960
Est. Total	2932	11330	7960

* Figures for UUJ only

Source: QUB and UUJ. ⁽¹³⁾

Footnotes

- 1 Northern Ireland Annual Abstract of Statistics 2000, National Statistics Publication.
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 Council for the Homeless (Northern Ireland), Detailed Research on Homelessness in Northern Ireland April 1999-March 2000, Council for the Homeless NI, Belfast, 1999.
- 4 Department of Social Development – press release. September 2001
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 Northern Ireland Housing Executive, 1997, taken from Council for the Homeless (Northern Ireland), Detailed Research on Homelessness in Northern Ireland April 1999-March 2000, Council for the Homeless NI, Belfast, 1999.
- 8 As reported in the Belfast Telegraph, 11/11/99.
- 9 Taken from Council for the Homeless (Northern Ireland), Detailed Research on Homelessness in Northern Ireland April 1999-March 2000, Council for the Homeless NI, Belfast, 1999.
- 10 Simon Community Northern Ireland. Factsheet to mark 30th Anniversary, 2001
- 11 Statistics provided by Simon Community Central Office, 2000
- 12 NI Department for Social Development, Northern Ireland Housing Statistics, NISRA, 2000
- 12 Statistics provided by QUB & UUU Accommodation Offices, 2000.

Out of School Activities

LEISURE TIME

Data from the 1997/8 Health Behaviour of School Children survey of 11-15 year olds in Northern Ireland was included within an international comparative study, published under the auspices of the World Health Organisation. The WHO report found that young people from Northern Ireland spend relatively high amounts of time with friends, and playing computer games.

Students who report spending time with friends after school 4-5 days a week (1997/98)

Age Bands	Male (%)	Female (%)
11 years	78	85*
13 years	48	44
15 years	45	38

* This is the highest figure amongst 28 countries covered in the survey.

Source: World Health Organisation ⁽¹⁾

Students who report watching television four hours or more a day (1997/98)

Age Bands	Male (%)	Female (%)
11 years	27	25
13 years	34	32
15 years	28	23

Source: World Health Organisation ⁽²⁾

Students who report playing computer games four hours or more a week (1997/98)

Age Bands	Male (%)	Female (%)
11 years	42	16*
13 years	46	14*
15 years	37	9

* These figures are the highest of all 28 countries surveyed.

Source: World Health Organisation ⁽³⁾

A survey of 700 15 and 16 year olds from across Northern Ireland found the following out of school activities:

Percentage of pupils who, at least once per month:

	%
Ride around on a motorcycle or moped	10
Play computer games	76
Participate in sport or exercise	92
Read books for enjoyment	49
Go out in evenings (discos etc)	91
Have a hobby	72
Play on slot machines to win money	25

Source: Alcohol and Health Research Centre ⁽⁴⁾

The study of 16 and 17 year olds also found that around half of respondents watch TV or video for at least three hours on an average weekday.

TV and video watching on an average weekday

	%
None	1
Less than an hour	6
About one hour	15
About two hours	27
About three hours	22
About four hours	13
Five or more hours	16

Source: Alcohol and Health Research Centre ⁽⁵⁾

GENERAL LEISURE SPENDING

The 1999/00 Northern Ireland Family Expenditure Survey reported that the average weekly expenditure of households in Northern Ireland was £316.90, which was £31.30 lower than the United Kingdom average of £348.20. Households in Northern Ireland spent higher amounts on food, non-alcoholic drink, tobacco, fuel and power than those in the United Kingdom as a whole, but spent less on TV/videos/audio equipment, housing, alcohol, rail fares, professional fees, holidays, leisure goods and leisure services than those in the UK as a whole. ⁽⁶⁾

PART TIME WORK

A survey of 12-15 year olds across Northern Ireland found that around 1 in 5 respondents had a paid job (other than working for their parents).

Percentage of 12-15 year olds who have part time jobs

	%
Yes	19
No	80
Refusal to answer	1

Source: NI Young Life & Times Survey, 1999 ⁽⁷⁾

Out of School Activities

Save the Children NI conducted more detailed research into the labour activity of school children ⁽⁸⁾ although it is noted that this survey was limited to Belfast. The researchers surveyed 545 15 and 16 year olds from 12 different schools, and found that 22% had a part time job.

Hours worked per week (15 and 16 year olds)

No. of hours	No. of pupils	%
1-5	45	37.5
5-10	30	25.0
Over 10	35	29.2
Variable	10	8.3
Total	120	100

Source: Save the Children ⁽⁹⁾

Hourly rates of pay

Amount	No of pupils	%
Under £1 per hour	14	11.7
£1-£2 per hour	31	25.8
£2-£3 per hour	33	27.5
£3-£4 per hour	22	18.3
£4-£5 per hour	14	11.7
Over £5 per hour	6	5.0
Total	120	100

Source: Save the Children ⁽¹⁰⁾

Gender and term time employment

Type of job	No. of males	%	No. of females	%
Newspaper round	23	26.7	7	20.6
Shop work	11	12.8	10	29.4
Hotel/catering	8	9.3	7	20.6
Manual work	16	18.6	0	0
Working in a pub	6	7.0	0	0
Office work/computers	2	2.3	3	8.8
Milk delivery	5	5.8	0	0
Other delivery	4	4.7	0	0
Other	11	12.8	7	20.6
Totals	86	100	34	100

Source: Save the Children ⁽¹¹⁾

SPORT

Figures provided by the Sports Council for Northern Ireland ⁽¹²⁾ indicate that participation in sport is highest among young people within the population, with 72% of 16 - 19 year olds participating in sport compared to 62% of 20 - 24 year olds and 59% of adults. The highest participation levels are among young males.

YOUTH SERVICE

Youth Service Expenditure

Total education board and Youth Council expenditure on the youth service for the financial year 2000/1 amounted to £18,567,257 ⁽¹³⁾

Youth Clubs and Organisations

There are 2214 voluntary and 149 controlled youth groups in Northern Ireland which are registered with the education and library boards. Since 1995 membership of youth groups has increased by 2627 (1.5%). The breakdown of membership in 2000/1 is as follows:

Age Range	Voluntary Groups	Controlled Groups	All Groups	% of members in youth service	% of y/p in age range
5-9	52874	4816	57690	32	44.4
10-15	74162	12939	87101	48	53.9
16-18	21479	3693	25172	14	32.8
19-25	8990	1677	10667	6	6.5
Total	157505	23125	180630		

Source: DE ⁽¹⁴⁾

Whilst total membership has increased since 1995, there has been a decrease in membership of controlled groups, with increases in the number of members of voluntary youth groups, as follows:

Youth Service Membership 1995/6 and 2000/1

Year	Members of Voluntary Groups	Members of Controlled Groups	Total Members
1995/6	153721	24282	178003
2000/1	157505	23125	180630

Volunteering

A survey of over 750 teenage members of youth groups found that over half were involved in some form of voluntary/community service as part of their youth group participation. Members from uniformed youth groups were the most likely to participate in voluntary or community service activities. ⁽¹⁵⁾

Out of School Activities

Foreign Exchanges

During the financial year 1998/99, almost a thousand young people were funded to participate on international exchanges through the Youth Council for Northern Ireland's International Committee. The majority of visits involved Germany, with the USA in second place. ⁽¹⁶⁾

Community Relations Activities

The Youth Service Community Relations Support Scheme funds community relations projects for youth, community and sports groups. In the year 1999-2000 the Scheme supported the participation of 17,795 young people within a community relations programme. ⁽¹⁷⁾ A survey of over 500 youth workers in 2001 found that over half said they organised structured community relations activities within their groups, with practice levels being highest among youth groups which operate on a full-time basis. ⁽¹⁸⁾

Duke Of Edinburgh's Award

Northern Ireland continues to have a relatively high participation rate of young people pursuing the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Approximate figures for 2001 highlight a continuing steady growth in participation, with around 12500 participants at any given time. There are approximately 5000-5500 new entrants at any given year and 3000-3500 young people complete the Award each year. ⁽¹⁹⁾

POLITICAL ACTIVITY

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey and Young Life and Times 1998 found that interest in politics increases with age, as follows:

How much interest do you generally have in what is going on in politics?

Statement	1998		
	% total adult	% 12-17	% 18-24
Great deal	11	2	8
Quite a lot	23	10	15
Some	34	25	37
Not very much	24	33	26
None at all	8	28	14
Don't know	0	2	0
Refusal – no answer	0	0	0

Source: NI Life and Times and Young Life and Times survey, 1998 ⁽²⁰⁾

Which NI political party would you support?

Party	Total %	16-24 %
SDLP	25	24
UUP	22	14
DUP	11	13
Sinn Fein	7	7
PUP	2	3
Alliance Party	4	1
NI Unionist Party	0	1
UDP	1	1
UK Unionist Party	1	1
Women's Coalition	1	1
Other	0	0
Other answer	1	0
None	13	14
Don't know	13	21

Source NI Life and Times survey 1999 ⁽²¹⁾

Footnotes

- 1 Health and Health Behaviour Among Young People, WHO Policy Series: Health Policy for Children and Adolescents Issue 1: International Report, WHO 2000.
- 2 Ibid
- 3 Ibid
- 4 Drinking, smoking and illicit drug use amongst 15 and 16 year old school students in Northern Ireland Alcohol and Health Research Centre, Edinburgh 2001
- 5 Ibid
- 6 NI Family Expenditure Survey 1999/00, Office of National Statistics
- 7 NI Young Life and Times Survey, Queens University Belfast 1999
- 8 Save the Children NI Play Fair with Working Children 1999
- 9 Ibid
- 10 Ibid
- 11 Ibid
- 12 Figures provided on Sports Council for Northern Ireland website.
- 13 Figures provided by the Department of Education, September 2001
- 14 Ibid. Figures refer to membership - as an individual may be a member of more than one group, 'total membership' is likely to over-represent the number of young people
- 15 Benefits of the Youth Service: a study of the experiences of 14-18 year old members of registered youth groups in Northern Ireland. Youth Council for Northern Ireland. 1988
- 16 Youth Council for Northern Ireland, International Committee
- 17 Research on the Youth Service's Community Relations Support Scheme. Department of Education May 2001
- 18 An audit of community relations and education for citizenship in the youth service. RDP Consultancy, on behalf of the Joined in Equity, Diversity and Interdependence initiative. To be published November 2001
- 19 Figures provided by Duke of Edinburgh's Award, 2001
- 20 NI Young Life and Times Survey, Queens University Belfast 1999
- 21 Ibid