

Acknowledgements

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Barometer 2007 is a freely available resource for anyone interested in information pertaining to children and young people in Northern Ireland. Comments on what you feel should be included in the next edition of the Barometer series are always welcome, as is information on how the data contained in Barometer 2007 has been employed.

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DEMOGRAPHICS

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

The size of the resident population in Northern Ireland at 30 June 2006 is estimated to be 1.742 million people. The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) estimate this as an increase of 17,000 people (1.0%) from mid-2005.¹ NISRA further determines that the increase in population between 2005 and 2006 was a result of the following factors:

- A natural change of 8,300 people (22,700 births and 14,400 deaths);
- Estimated net migration into Northern Ireland from Great Britain of 900 people; and
- Estimated net international migration into Northern Ireland from outside the UK of 9,000 people.²

Age distribution of the youth population

Between 2005 and 2006 the number of children (defined as those less than 16yrs old) has declined by 0.3% (from 381,200 to 380,100). In the ten-year period between 1996 and 2006 the number of children has fallen from 415,100 to 380,100 a fall of 8.4%. This fall reflects the declining birth rate in the 1990s.³

Table 1 below presents the composition of the youth population (0-24) by gender and age group.

TABLE 1: The age distribution of the youth population in Northern Ireland by gender (2006)

Age Range	Male	Female	Total	% of Total Pop
0-4	57,400	54,700	112,100	6.4
5-9	60,300	56,900	117,200	6.7
10-14	63,900	60,700	124,600	7.2
15-19	67,100	63,500	130,600	7.5
20-24	35,100	62,000	127,100	7.3
All 0-24	283,800	297,800	611,600	35.1
ALL AGES	853,400	888,200	1,741,600	100

Source: Northern Ireland Annual Abstract of Statistics (NISRA), 2006

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

Each year the Department of Education in Northern Ireland undertakes a School Census exercise. Information is collected on the number of pupils who have English

as an additional language* and a breakdown of their “first” language. The statistics for the 2006 School Census show that:

Primary School

- Over 2,400 primary school children (Year 1 - Year 7) have a language other than English as their “first” language, representing 1.5% of the primary school population. This is an increase from the 1,800 children in the 2005 School Census
- Polish was the most common additional language, 600 primary school children, with A8 languages (e.g. Polish, Lithuanian etc.) making up almost 45% of this primary school total – with over 1,000 children having an A8 language as their “first” language.⁴

Secondary School

- In the 2006 School Census, 1,100 post primary school children have a language other than English as their “first” language; this is an increase from 700 children in the 2005 School Census. The 1,100 school children equates to around 0.75% of the post primary school population.
- A8 languages (e.g. Polish, Lithuanian etc) make up to 40% of this post primary school total – with over 400 children having an A8 language as their “first” language.⁵

Table 2 presents the top 5 Languages/Nationalities of Children with English as an Additional Language in Year 1 – Year 7 at school in Northern Ireland 2005/06 - 2006/07

TABLE 2: Top 5 Languages/Nationalities of Children with English as an Additional Language

Language other than English/Nationality	NI 2005 School Census Count (Year 1 to Year 7)	NI 2006 School Census Count (Year 1 to Year 7)
Polish	196	610
Lithuanian	175	362
Portuguese	139	217
Filipino	177	168
Cantonese	195	142
Total	1,771	2,425

Source: Mid-Year Population Estimates, NISRA, 2007

Table 2 above, illustrates that in 2006, 25% of children who are classified as speaking English as an additional language are of Polish Nationality.

* Pupils counted as having English as an additional language where: - English is not their first language and they have difficulty with the English language and require additional support.

SOCIAL TRENDS

Marriage

The number of marriages registered in Northern Ireland in 2006 was just under 8,300, a small increase on the 8,140 marriages registered in 2005. The average age at marriage has increased markedly in the last two decades:

- The average age at marriage for all brides in 2006 was almost 31 (30.9 years) compared to 25 (25.1 years) in 1986.
- The average age for the groom in 2006 was just over 33 (33.2 years), compared to 27 (27.2 years) in 1986.⁶

Marriage among young people aged 16-24

Table 3 below presents the percentage of brides and grooms aged under 25 relative to the number of marriages over the last five years.

TABLE 3: Percentage of brides and grooms aged under 25, 2002-2006

Year	No. of Marriages	% of grooms aged under 25	% of brides aged under 25
2006	8,259	10.0	19.2
2005	8,140	10.8	21.3
2004	8,328	11.3	22.0
2003	7,757	12.1	24.1
2002	7,599	13.3	25.4

Source: Extracted from NISRA Statistical Report: Marriages, Divorces and Civil Partnerships in NI, June 2007

The data set out in table 3 above shows that although the total number of marriages has increased over the last five years there has been a consistent decline in the number of marriages where the bride or groom (or both) is under 25.

Civil Partnerships

The Civil Partnership Act came into force in December 2005, enabling same-sex couples to obtain legal recognition of their relationship. During 2006 there were 116 civil partnerships registered; 2.6% of male civil partners and 6.9% of female civil partners were aged under 25.⁷

Divorce

Just over 2,600 divorces were registered in Northern Ireland in 2006, which is the highest annual number ever recorded.

HOUSEHOLDS

The Continuous Household Survey which is carried out by NISRA on an annual basis identifies four main categories of households in Northern Ireland; one person, couples with no children, couples with children (either dependent, non-dependent or both) and lone parents. During 2006/07, the most common type of household is made up of couples with children which accounts for 32% of all households. A further 14% of households consist of lone parents with children; therefore, 47% of all households in Northern Ireland have children within them.⁸

Household Composition

The Continuous Household Survey further provides a number of facts about the composition of households in Northern Ireland and family structures during 2006/07. They are as follows:

- 29% of households with dependent children are headed by a lone parent, 26% of which are lone mothers;
- 71% of households with dependent children are headed by a married/cohabiting couple; and
- The number of households headed by a lone parent has increased by 16% from 1983 whilst the number of households headed by a married/cohabiting couple has decreased by 18% in the same period.⁹

Adoptions

The number of children on the Adopted Children Register during 2005 was 140, a decrease of 21 from the previous year. The number of adoptions has been falling steadily over the last thirty years, almost reaching a level not seen since the 1930s.¹⁰

¹ Mid-Year Population Estimates, NISRA Statistical Press Release, 31 July 2007

² *ibid*

³ Mid-Year Population Estimates, NISRA Statistical Press Release, 31 July 2007

⁴ Long-term International Migration Estimates for Northern Ireland (2005-6), NISRA Statistical Press Release, July 2007

⁵ *ibid*

⁶ Marriages, Divorces and Civil Partnerships in Northern Ireland, NISRA Statistical Press Release, 28 June 2007

⁷ *ibid*

⁸ Continuous Household Survey, NISRA, 2006-07

⁹ *ibid*

¹⁰ Eighty-Fourth Annual Report of the Registrar General, NISRA, 2006

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES

SOCIAL/WELFARE ISSUES

At April 2006, almost 54,000 families were in receipt of both Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. A lone parent headed almost 55% of those families.¹

The number of NI families who received Child Benefit in 2005 was 2% higher than in 1995. However, the number of children for whom this benefit was paid was 6% lower in 2005 than in 1995.²

The Department for Social Development produces ongoing statistical reports on the characteristics of people who are in receipt of key benefits, entitled the Northern Ireland Client Group Analysis. The figures presented by the Client Group Analysis are based on a 5% sample of information. Key facts about benefit claimants at November 2006 include:

- 65,280 claimants of key benefits had children and/or young dependants.
- 34% (22,500) of claimants with children had a youngest child aged under 5. The majority of the under 5s were children of lone parents.³

Characteristics of recipients of key benefits

Among the main findings of the Client Group Analysis relating to children and young people at November 2006 it was found that:

- 108,800 children under the age of 16 were living in families in which a key benefit was claimed. The majority of these children (65,480) were living in lone parent families.
- 17,780 young people aged 16-18 (35% of all 16-18 year olds in full-time education) were living in families with a key benefit claimant.⁴

Table 4 below shows the gender of claimants of key benefits who are under the age of 25. A comparison is made between August 2003 and August 2006. Overall the number of claimants has decreased proportionally for both genders.

TABLE 4: Claimants of key benefits under the age of 25

Age	Male		Female	
	2003	2006	2003	2006
Under 18	1,080	940	1,220	1,040
18 to 24	14,560	13,460	14,880	13,840
Total under 25	15,640	14,400	16,100	14,880

Source: Client Group Analysis, DSD, August 2006

Claimants with children and young dependents under age 19

Table 5 below shows the children of claimants of key benefits by statistical group and age of child at November 2006

TABLE 5: Children of claimants of key benefits

	All ages (n)	Percentage of children/dependants			
		Under 5	5-10	11-16	16 and over*
Unemployed	5,000	22	32	24	22
Sick and Disabled	70,740	18	29	34	18
Lone Parents	48,400	28	35	28	8
Others	2,400	18	41	28	13
All	126,580	22	32	31	17

Source: Client Group Analysis, DSD, November 2006

From the data presented in table 5 above, the child dependents of lone parent families have a distribution of age that is the youngest of all the statistical groups with 63% of the children in lone parent families being under the age of 11.

Benefits paid in respect of children and young people

Child benefit is a non-contributory, non-means tested, non-taxable benefit paid to all families with children up to the age of 16. NISRA discloses the following fact about Child Benefit in Northern Ireland:

- In 2005, there were 230,000 families in Northern Ireland who were receiving Child Benefit. This represents 437,500 children for whom benefit was being paid.

Table 6 overleaf, shows the number of families receiving Child Benefit in relation to the number of children in the family.

* A further 1% (1,220) represent children whose ages are not known

TABLE 6: Families receiving Child Benefit by number of children in family 2000-2005

No. of children in family	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
1	87,917	88,037	89,146	93,400	93,600	94,600
2	80,321	79,908	80,221	83,900	83,400	83,800
3	37,014	35,959	37,724	37,000	37,200	36,200
4	12,949	12,285	11,828	12,500	12,200	11,700
5 or more	4,852	4,463	4,144	4,500	3,900	3,700
All families receiving Child Benefit	223,053	220,652	221,063	231,300	230,300	230,000
Children for whom benefit paid	437,561	428,892	426,389	446,900	441,900	437,500

Source: Northern Ireland Abstract of Statistics, 27 October 2006

Table 6 above shows that the number of children in families is slowly decreasing; in 2005 more than 40% of families had only one child.

Free School Meals

In 2006/07 19% of pupils attending primary and post-primary schools in Northern Ireland were entitled to free school meals. This represents a 2% drop from 2002/03.⁵

Table 7 shows the distribution of pupils entitled to free school meals by school type.

TABLE 7: The distribution of pupils entitled to free school meals by school type.

School Type		Number	%
Primary schools (n=30,101)	Controlled	11,450	15.3
	Catholic Maintained	16,969	23.2
	Other Maintained (inc Irish Medium)	644	45.0
	Controlled Integrated	360	17.3
	Grant Maintained Integrated	678	14.1
	All Primary	30,101	19.2
Secondary (non-grammar) (n=23,362)	Controlled	7,129	20.5
	Catholic Maintained	13,759	33.1
	Other Maintained (inc Irish Medium)	657	36.0
	Controlled Integrated	481	24.0
	Grant Maintained Integrated	1,817	20.8
	All Secondary	23,362	26.7
Grammar Schools (n=3,958)	Controlled	565	3.8
	Voluntary (Catholic Management)	2,813	10.2
	Voluntary (Other Management)	580	2.9
	All Grammar	3,958	6.4
All schools		57,421	18.6

Source: Enrolments at schools and in funded pre-school education in Northern Ireland, Department of Education Statistical Press Release, 28 February 2007

Some patterns are evident from this data:

- Among pupils attending primary schools, the management type with the highest proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals is the Other Maintained sector but this sector represents only 2% of all primary schools.
- Catholic Maintained primary schools have proportionally the highest number of pupils entitled to free school meals (23%). This compares with 15% of pupils from Controlled primary schools.
- Among secondary schools, 33% of pupils attending Catholic Maintained schools were entitled to free school meals compared to 20.5% among pupils attending secondary schools under Controlled Management.
- Of pupils attending grammar schools, 10% qualified for free school meals under Catholic management and 3% for schools in the Controlled Sector.

CHILD POVERTY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Over the period 2002/03 to 2004/05, 25% of children in Northern Ireland – some 100,000 in total - were living in income poverty. Approximately half of these children were living in one parent families.⁶

Low Income Households

The Households Below Average Income (HBAI) Report 2005/06 identified some key factors concerning child poverty in NI:

- One in four (25%) children experiencing poverty in NI lives in families with four or more children. The child poverty rate for children in large families is considerably higher (40%) than the general child poverty rates for NI (25%).
- Almost a third (32%) of children living in households with a disabled adult are experiencing poverty. A similar proportion (30%) of children living in households with a disabled child is experiencing poverty.
- Patterns of child poverty across NI show a deeply unequal distribution. For example, in Cookstown, Magherafelt, Londonderry, Omagh, Strabane and Coleraine more than one in three children is living in poverty. This is more than three times the rate of child poverty in Banbridge, which has the lowest rate of child poverty at 11%.⁷

Table 8 overleaf illustrates the quintile distribution of net equalised disposable household income (after household contributions) for children

TABLE 8: Net equivalised disposable household income (AHC) for children

	% of children					All children (millions)
	Bottom quintile	Second quintile	Middle quintile	Fourth quintile	Top quintile	
Northern Ireland	25	26	24	16	10	0.4
UK	28	24	20	16	12	12.8

Source: Adapted from Households Below Average Income (HBAI), 2005-06

Table 8 above shows that Northern Ireland has a slightly lower bottom quintile figure in comparison with the UK. However the second and middle quintile figures for Northern Ireland are slightly higher in comparison with the UK.

Child poverty rates by Parliamentary constituency

Table 9 below shows child poverty rates in NI according to Parliamentary constituency. Figures are shown before and after housing costs are removed/added.

TABLE 9: Child poverty rates by Parliamentary constituency

Parliamentary constituency	Before Housing Costs		After Housing Costs	
	Number	%	Number	%
Belfast East	3,100	23	3,900	29
Belfast North	6,100	34	5,800	33
Belfast South	2,500	18	2,700	20
Belfast West	6,500	29	6,800	30
East Antrim	3,100	15	3,600	18
East Londonderry	7,300	32	7,000	30
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	7,800	27	8,300	29
Foyle	10,100	33	10,800	36
Lagan Valley	2,100	10	2,600	12
Mid Ulster	7,000	34	7,300	35
Newry and Armagh	4,700	20	5,300	22
North Antrim	7,800	23	6,600	20
North Down	3,600	16	3,900	18
South Antrim	5,800	19	6,300	20
South Down	7,800	24	8,600	26
Strangford	5,200	22	5,400	23
Upper Bann	7,600	23	7,400	22
West Tyrone	6,100	29	7,500	35
All	104,000	24	109,800	25

Source: Annual Child Poverty Report, Save the Children, 2007 (DSD 2007. Figures averaged over three years: 2002/3 to 2004/05).

FAMILY AND CHILDCARE

Per Capita Spending on Family and Childcare

DHSPSS Key Indicators provide us with the most recent information on per capita spending on family and childcare in 2004/05. The table below shows a comparison of Per Capita Spending on Family and Childcare in England and Northern Ireland 2002-2005.

TABLE 10: Comparison of Per Capita spending

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Northern Ireland	233.6	262.4	287.6
England	344.0	360.9	402.1

Source: Key Indicators of Personal Social Services for Northern Ireland, DHSPSS, 2006

Table 10 shows that per capita spending on family and childcare in 2004/05 equalled £287.6 per head of children's population, a 9.7% increase from 2003/04. This is consistently and significantly lower than per capita spending on children in England which was £402.1 per child in 2004/05.⁸

¹ Northern Ireland Annual Abstract of Statistics, 2006

² *ibid*

³ Northern Ireland Client Group Analysis, Department of Social Development, November 2006

⁴ *ibid*

⁵ Enrolments at schools and in funded pre-school education in Northern Ireland, Department of Education Statistical Press Release, 28 February 2007

⁶ Monitoring Poverty and Social Exclusion in Northern Ireland, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Peter Kenway et al, 2006

⁷ Households Below Average Income, DWP, 2005/06

⁸ Key Indicators of Personal Social Services for Northern Ireland, DHSPSS, 2006

EDUCATION

SCHOOL ATTENDEES

In 2006/07, the total number of pupils attending primary and post schools in Northern Ireland was 306,785. Of these, 157,020 attend primary schools and 149,765 attend post-primary schools.^{1*}

Of pupils in post-primary education, 58% attend a secondary school and 42% a grammar.²

Pupils by school and management type 2006/07

Table 11 sets out the numbers of pupils attending schools in Northern Ireland according to the various management types. Percentage figures are in brackets.

TABLE 11: Pupils attending schools by management type

School Type	Controlled	Maintained	Integrated	Voluntary (Catholic)	Voluntary (Other)
PRIMARY	74,726 (48)	75,413 (48)	6,881 (4)	0	0
SECONDARY					
Secondary	34,723 (40)	42,071 (48)	10,726 (12)	0	0
Grammar	14,751 (24)	0	0	27,514 (44)	19,980 (32)
Total	124,200	117,484	17,607	27,514	19,980

Source: Enrolments in schools and pre-schools 2006/07: Basic statistics. Department of Education press release, 14 March 2007

From the data set out in Table 11 only 4% of pupils attending primary school in Northern Ireland went to integrated schools compared to 12% of pupils in secondary (non-grammar) education. 44% of pupils attending grammar schools do so in a school under Voluntary (Catholic) management.

A further 4,557 pupils attend Special Schools, 251 attend Hospital Schools and 773 attend Independent Schools.³

Community background of pupils by school type

Figures produced by the Department of Education disclose that in 2006/07 there were 79,834 pupils from a Roman Catholic background and 61,310 pupils from a Protestant background attending primary schools in Northern Ireland. In secondary (non-grammar) schools, there were 46,482 pupils from a Roman Catholic background and 34,361 pupils from a Protestant background in attendance. In grammar schools, 29,981 pupils were Roman Catholic and 25,466 were Protestant.⁴

* Prep departments and Special Schools not included in this number

Table 12 below, sets out the percentage of pupils from each community background attending primary and post-primary schools in Northern Ireland.

TABLE 12: Community background of pupils by school type

School Type		% Protestant	% Roman Catholic	% Other
Primary	Controlled	77	5	18
	Catholic Maintained	1	98	1
	Controlled Integrated	48	27	25
	Grant Maintained Integrated	36	42	22
Secondary	Controlled	85	2	14
	Catholic Maintained	<1	99	<1
	Controlled Integrated	64	19	17
	Grant Maintained Integrated	40	46	15
Grammar	Controlled	78	6	16
	Voluntary (Catholic Management)	<1	98	<1
	Voluntary (Other Management)	69	10	21

Source: Enrolments in schools and pre-schools 2006/07: Basic statistics. Department of Education press release, 14 March 2007

NUMBER OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

Statistics released by the Department of Education show that in 2006/07, there were 879 primary schools in Northern Ireland. This compares to 899 in 2001/02.⁵

A decline in the number of secondary schools in the same period is also evident. In 2001/02 there were 164 secondary (non-grammar) schools in Northern Ireland and 159 by 2006/07. There was two less grammar schools in 2006/07 than in 2001/02.⁶

PUPIL/TEACHER RATIOS

The 2006/07 pupil/teacher ratios for the main schools sectors are set out in table 13 below

Table 13: Pupil/teacher ratios according to school sector

School Sector	PTR 2005/06
Nursery	25.9
Primary	20.8
All Secondary	14.5
Special	5.9
All Grant-Aided Schools	16.9

Source: Pupil Teacher Ratios in Grant Aided Schools in Northern Ireland 2006/07, Dept of Education Press Release, 21 June 2007

Pupil/Teacher Ratios from 2003/04 to 2006/07

Table 14 below presents the pupil: teacher ratios (PTR) for primary and post-primary schools, broken down by management type.

TABLE 14: PTRs from 2003/04 to 2006/07

School Type		2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Primary	Controlled	20.3	20.2	20.6	20.8
	Maintained/GM	19.8	19.9	20.5	21.0
Grammar	Controlled	15.5	15.4	15.5	15.6
	Maintained/GM	15.2	15.1	15.2	15.2
Secondary	Controlled	14.2	13.9	14.1	14.2
	Maintained/GM	14.1	13.7	13.8	13.9

Source: Pupil: Teacher Ratios in Grant Aided Schools in Northern Ireland 2006/07, Dept of Education Press Release, 21 June 2007

SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS

In 2005/06, there were 5,577 suspensions and 54 expulsions of pupils from schools in Northern Ireland.⁷ Table 15 shows this information by Education and Library Board Area.

TABLE 15: Suspensions and Expulsions 2005-06

	Suspensions	Expulsions
NEELB	1237	16
SELB	1198	16
WELB	994	8
SEELB	1072	7
BELB	1076	7
TOTAL	5577	54

Source: Department of Education, 2007

The statistics above, supplied by the Education and Library Boards, show that:

- The highest number of suspensions took place in NEELB (1,237) and the lowest number in WELB (994).
- The highest number of expulsions took place in NEELB and SELB (both 16). SEELB and BELB had the lowest recorded number of expulsions (both 7).

Further information asserts that of the total suspended 4,276 were male and 1,301 female. This gender disparity is also evident in expulsion numbers as of the 54 students expelled 40 were male and 14 female.⁸

QUALIFICATIONS GAINED BY NI STUDENTS

The department of Education has released a statistical bulletin commenting on the achievement of NI students, over a five year period, relative to school attended. Key points are shown below:

Grammar Schools

- The proportion of grammar school students achieving at least two A-levels or equivalent has increased from 76.0% in 2000/01 to 79.7% in 2005/06.
- The proportion of pupils achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A*-C or equivalent has increased from 95.7% in 2000/01 to 96.3% in 2005/06.

Secondary Schools

- The proportion of secondary school students achieving at least two A-levels or equivalent has increased from 13.6% in 2000/01 to 22.8% in 2005/06.
- Whereas the proportion achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A*-C or equivalent has also increased from 34.7% in 2000/01 to 44.1% in 2005/06.⁹

Furthermore, the proportion of pupils at schools under Catholic management who achieved two or more A-levels or equivalent was higher than the proportion of pupils at school under Other management at 47.4% and 42.5% respectively.¹⁰

Qualifications gained by school leavers 2005/2006

In 2005/06, 64.2% of all pupils in Northern Ireland left school with five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C. The Department of Education has also released the following information about the qualifications of school leavers in 2005/06.

- The proportion of school leavers achieving two or more A-levels (or equivalent) was 44.7% in 2005/06, an increase of 7.3% from 2000/01.
- The proportion of pupils leaving school with no GCSEs has decreased by 1.3% from 5.8% in 2000/01 to 4.5% in 2005/06.¹¹

Qualifications gained by school leavers relative to gender 2005/06

Table 16 overleaf presents the qualifications achieved by school leavers by gender, derived from statistics released by the Department of Education.

Table 16: The distribution of qualifications by school leavers in 2005/2006

	Male (%)	Female (%)
A Level		
3 passes	32.6	47.3
2 passes	4.0	5.9
GCSE		
5+ A*-C	19.1	16.2
Grades D-G	15.2	8.9
No qualifications	4.3	2.1

Source: Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers 2005/06, Department of Education Statistical Press Release, 29 May 2007

It is clear from the data set out in Table 16 that girls are continuing to outperform boys in terms of the highest qualification achieved. 47.3% of females who left school in 2006 did so having passed three or more A-Levels compared to 32.6% of males. The statistical press release from the Department of Education also asserts that:

- 53.2% of females left school with at least two A-levels compared to only 36.6% of males.
- 6.1% of males left school with no GCSEs compared with 2.8% of females.¹²

Qualifications gained by school leavers relative to school attended

Table 17 overleaf, presents the qualifications achieved by school leavers relative to school attended in 2005/2006.

TABLE 17: Qualifications of school leavers relative to school attended 2005/06

Type of school	Qualification	Achievement (%)	
Grammar	A-Level	3 passes	75.5
		2 passes	4.2
		1 pass	2.5
	GCSE	5+ A*-C	14.1
		1-4 A*-C	3.1
		Grades D-G	0.2
No GCSEs		0.5	
Secondary	A-Level	3 passes	17.4
		2 passes	5.4
		1 pass	1.4
	GCSE	5+ A*-C	19.9
		1-4 A*-C	29.2
		Grades D-G	19.6
		No GCSEs	7.0

Source: Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers 2005/06, Department of Education Statistical Press Release, 29 May 2007

From the information presented in Table 17 a number of patterns are evident:

- Over 80% of pupils leaving grammar schools in Northern Ireland in 2005/06 did so having achieved at least one A-level pass although the vast majority (75.5%) left having achieved at least three A-level passes. This contrasts with secondary school leavers, of whom less than a quarter (24%) left with A-level passes.
- Almost two thirds of all secondary school leavers attained GCSEs compared to 17% of leavers from grammar schools.
- Whereas 0.5% of grammar school leavers did not gain any GCSEs, this was the case with almost 7% of leavers from secondary schools.

DESTINATIONS OF SCHOOL LEAVERS

In total, 37.4% of school leavers entered institutions of Higher Education. This figure is however subject to considerable variation in terms of gender as this applies to 44.3% of females but only 30.9% of males.¹³

Destinations of school leavers by type of school attended

Table 18 overleaf, shows the distribution of school leavers coming from grammar and secondary schools in 2005/06.

TABLE 18: First destinations of school leavers by school type

Type of Destination	Grammar school students (%)	Secondary school students (%)	All students (%)
Institutions of Higher Education	71.0	16.3	37.4
Institutions of Further Education (HE Courses)	0.6	0.9	0.8
Institutions of Further Education (Other Courses)	17.6	33.5	27.4
Employment	4.8	15.3	11.3
Unemployment	1.0	4.8	3.3
Training	3.5	26.7	17.7
Unknown	1.5	2.5	2.1

Source: Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers 2005/06, Department of Education Statistical Press Release, 29 May 2007

From the statistics set out in Table 18 above, pupils enter disparate destinations after leaving school. Over two thirds of pupils leaving grammar schools go into Higher Education compared to 18.2% who enter Further Education. This contrasts with pupils from secondary schools, a third of whom enter Further Education and a further 26.7% who enter training.

Destinations of school leavers by type of school attended and gender

Table 19 below shows the destination distribution of school leavers according to gender and type of school attended.

TABLE 19: First destinations of students leaving school by school type and gender 2005/06

Type of Destination	Grammar		Secondary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Institutions of Higher Education	64.7	77.1	11.0	22.2
Institutions of Further Education (HE Course)	0.7	0.6	0.6	1.1
Institutions of Further Education	19.8	15.5	27.9	39.8
Employment	6.0	3.6	18.2	12.2
Unemployment	0.9	1.0	4.7	4.8
Training	6.1	0.9	35.3	17.3
Unknown	1.8	1.2	2.3	2.6

Source: Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers 2005/06, Department of Education Statistical Press Release, 29 May 2007

From the data set out in Table 19, the following trends are apparent:

- Females leaving grammar schools are more likely to enter Higher Education than males, 77% compared to 65%.

- Among secondary school leavers, females are twice as likely to progress into Further Education, 22% compared to 11%. Conversely, twice the population of males as females entered training after leaving school.

Further figures produced by the statistical report showed that pupils leaving grammar schools under Catholic management have a slightly higher tendency to enter Higher Education.¹⁴

PARTICIPATION OF 16 AND 17 YEAR OLDS IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING

16 and 17 year olds in full-time education

Figures released by the Department for Education and Learning have shown that the participation rate of 16 and 17 year olds in full-time education in Northern Ireland in 2005/06 was 86.6% (80.4% for males and 93.2% for females). Furthermore:

- Participation rates in Northern Ireland were higher than in England. This was the case for both 16 and 17 year olds, and applied to both males and females.
- A higher participation rate is evident among females. Whereas 93% of females aged 16 and 17 were involved in full-time education and training, this was the case with only 80% of males.¹⁵

Participation of 16 year olds in full-time education and training

Table 20 below presents the distribution of 16 year olds who are participating in full-time education and training in schools and Further Education colleges.

TABLE 20: The distribution of 16 year olds in education and training in 2005/06

Educational Establishment	% in education		
	Male	Female	All
Schools	52.4	66.1	59.5
FE Colleges: Mainstream Courses	23.4	26.3	25.0
Jobskills Courses	14.4	1.5	7.7
Jobskills – Non FE	9.8	6.1	7.9
Total in Full-time Education	11,596	12,385	23,981
Population	13,571	12,842	26,413
Participation Rate	85.4%	96.4%	90.8%

Source: Participation in full-time education and vocational training by 16 and 17 year olds in Northern Ireland, Department of Education Statistical Press Release, 12 September 2006

From the data presented in table 20 above, 96.4% of females aged 16 participate in full-time education and training (an increase of 13.4% from 2002/03). Similarly

85.4% of males aged 16 participate in full-time education and training (an increase of 12.6% from 2002/3). Also,

- A much higher proportion of females choose to continue their education in schools (66%) rather than Further Education (26%).
- Within Further Education males are more likely to be involved in Jobskills courses than females. Whereas 14.4% of males (plus 9.8% Non FE) are on Jobskills courses, this is the case with only 1.5% of males (plus 6.1% Non FE).

Participation of 17 year olds in full-time education and training

Table 21 below sets out the proportion of 17 year olds in full-time education and training in 2005/06.

TABLE 21: The distribution of 17 year olds in education and training in 2005/06

Educational Establishment	% of those in education		
	Male	Female	All
Schools	50.0	60.1	54.9
FE Colleges: Mainstream Courses	25.4	32.3	29.0
Jobskills Courses	15.3	1.5	7.9
Jobskills – Non FE	10.4	6.1	8.1
Total in Full-time Education	10,497	11,902	22,399
Population	13,908	13,225	27,133
Participation Rate	75.5%	90.0%	82.6%

Source: Participation in full-time education and vocational training by 16 and 17 year olds in Northern Ireland, Department of Education Statistical Press Release, 12 September 2006

From Table 21, it is evident that as young people move from age 16 to 17, their participation in full-time education and training declines (from 90.8% to 82.6%). Furthermore, a higher proportion of young people at aged 17 have chosen to enter Further Education, rather than remain in school, compared to those aged 16.

Participation in full-time education/vocational training by 16 and 17 year olds

Table 22 overleaf shows the participation in full-time training by 16-17 year olds from 2000 to 2005

TABLE 22: Participation rates in full-time training

Year	Age 16 (%)	Age 17 (%)	Age 16 and 17 (%)
2000/01	76.4	65.7	71.0
2001/02	76.3	67.1	71.8
2002/03	77.8	66.2	72.0
2003/04	78.0	70.6	74.3
2004/05	82.0	74.9	78.4

Source: Compendium of Northern Ireland Statistics 1992/93 to 2004/05, Department of Education Statistical Press Release, 23 May 2006

FURTHER EDUCATION

Figures relating to the numbers and characteristics of students attending courses in Further Education have been collected by the Northern Ireland Neighborhood Information Service (NINIS) through NISRA. In general, in 2004, there were 31,841 full-time and 108,424 part-time students enrolled on courses of Further Education in Northern Ireland.

The age profile of these students as disclosed by this information shows:

- 50% of these students are aged under 19 years;
- 14% are aged between 20 to 25.
- 36% are aged 26 and over.¹⁶

¹ Enrolments in schools and pre-schools 2006/07: Basic statistics. Department of Education press release, 14 March 2007

² *ibid*

³ Enrolments in schools and pre-schools 2006/07: Basic statistics. Department of Education press release, 14 March 2007

⁴ *ibid*

⁵ Enrolments in schools and pre-schools 2006/07: Basic statistics. Department of Education press release, 14 March 2007

⁶ *ibid*

⁷ Figures derived from the department of Education 2005/06

⁸ *ibid*

⁹ *ibid*

¹⁰ Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers 2005/06, Department of Education, Statistical Press Release, 29 May 2007.

¹¹ Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers 2005/06, Department of Education, Statistical Press Release, 29 May 2007.

¹² *ibid*

¹³ *ibid*

¹⁴ Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers 2005/06, Department of Education, Statistical Press Release, 29 May 2007.

¹⁵ Participation in full-time education and vocational training by 16 and 17 year olds in Northern Ireland, Department of Education Statistical Press Release, 12 September 2006

¹⁶ Figures derived from Enrolments in Further Education data catalogue, Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service, NISRA, 2006

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

In August 2007, 3.6% of the workforce in Northern Ireland was unemployed. The number of unemployed persons was estimated at 28,000.¹

Furthermore, according to the Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey the (unadjusted) youth unemployment rate in Northern Ireland was 10.1% (of those aged 18-24) between June and August 2007. This represents an increase of 1% over the year and remains considerably higher than the rate for all persons.²

There were 7,935 claimants under the age of 25 in September 2007, a decrease of 5.1% (425 claimants) over the month and a decrease of 18.8% (1,838) over the year.³

Claimant Count

Table 23 below represents the claimant count for youth (under 25s) unemployment (not based on the Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey).⁴

TABLE 23: Youth unemployment, September 2006-07

Date	Youth Claimants	% of total unemployed
2006		
September	9,773	34.4
October	9,126	33.4
November	8,474	32.3
December	8,192	31.9
2007		
January	8,505	32.1
February	8,574	32.6
March	8,379	32.3
April	8,068	32.0
May	7,824	32.0
June	7,746	32.7
July	8,085	33.3
August	8,360	33.7
September	7,935	33.3

Source: Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment Statistics, October 2007

ILO Measure of Unemployment

The 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 for August 2006 to July 2007 is displayed in table 24 overleaf.⁵

TABLE 24: ILO defined unemployment comparing the 18-24 age group with the over 25s

Timing of figures	ILO unemployment rate	
	18-24 rate (%)	25-49 rate (%)
Aug-Oct 2006	9.0	3.9
Nov-Jan 2007	-	3.4
Feb-April 2007	7.1	3.3
May-Jul 2007	9.3	2.2
-sample size too small for reliable estimate		

Source: Extracted from Labour Force Survey, DETINI, September 2007

Unemployment can also affect young people in other ways. Children and young people who are dependents of those who are in receipt of benefits stood at 126,580 in November 2006, compared to 133,080 in November 2005. (For more information see section on socio-economic issues.)

Unemployment by gender

Table 25 below illustrates youth unemployment as broken down by gender between September 2006 and September 2007. The figures are based on the claimant count for each month and expressed as a percentage of total unemployment among males and females.

TABLE 25: Claimant count for 16-24 age group by gender September 2006 – September 2007

Date	Youth unemployment		% of all unemployed	
	Male count	Female count	Male	Female
2006				
September	6403	3370	30.9	43.7
October	6151	2975	30.3	42.3
November	5870	2604	29.8	40.0
December	5830	2362	29.8	38.5
2007				
January	6031	2474	29.9	39.1
February	6020	2554	30.2	40.1
March	5947	2432	30.1	39.2
April	5759	2309	30.1	38.2
May	5603	2221	30.2	38.0
June	5395	2351	30.2	40.3
July	5453	2632	30.6	40.8
August	5539	2821	30.8	41.2
September	5376	2559	30.5	41.2

Source: Labour Market Statistics, Statistics and Research Branch DETINI, October 2007

The data presented in table 25 above appears to show a tendency for females to be numerically less likely to be unemployed. However, the female youth unemployment count represents a considerably higher proportion of female unemployment as a whole in comparison with males. In September 2007, for example, the male youth unemployment

count constituted 30.5% of all male unemployment, but the female youth unemployment count, although numbering less than half the male count, constituted 41.2% of total female unemployment.

¹ Overview of Labour Market Statistics, Dept of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, October 2007

² *ibid*

³ *ibid*

⁴ The Northern Ireland Youth Claimant Count, Dept of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, October 2007

⁵ Overview of Labour Market Statistics, Dept of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, October 2007

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

GENERAL HEALTH

The Health and Social Wellbeing Survey 2005/06 was based on a systematic random sample of 5,000 addresses drawn from the Land and Property Services Agency's property database. The survey consisted of a household interview followed by an individual interview with each person in the household aged 16 and above. Table 26 below, taken from the Health and Social Wellbeing Survey 2005/06, illustrates the perceived general health of 16-24 year olds in Northern Ireland.

TABLE 26: General state of health, by gender, of young people aged under 25

Gender	State of Health (%)		
	Good	Fairly Good	Not Good
Male	81	17	2
Female	76	16	8
All	78.5	16.5	5

Source: NI Health and Social Wellbeing Survey, NISRA, 2005/06

Table 26 indicates that more than three-quarters of 16-24 year olds believe that they are in good health. Only 5% would describe their health as not good but this represents a gender inequality of 6%.¹

Children with limiting long-standing illness by sex and age, 2002-03 to 2005-06

Table 27 overleaf, adapted from the Continuous Household Survey (CHS), presents all children under 16 with limiting long-standing illness. Results are shown by percent in each year from 2002/03 to 2005/06.

TABLE 27: Children with limiting long-standing illness under the age of 16, 2002/03-2005/06

<i>All Children aged less than 16 (%)</i>					
Age/Gender	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Base (2005-06) =100%
Males					
0-3	3	6	5	3	146
4-7	13	7	10	7	176
8-11	7	9	10	10	157
12-15	10	9	10	8	182
All male children	9	8	9	7	661
Females					
0-3	3	2	3	9	165
4-7	5	7	5	8	162
8-11	9	4	7	7	193
12-15	5	6	5	9	200
All female children	6	5	5	8	720
All					
0-3	3	4	4	6	311
4-7	9	7	8	8	338
8-11	8	6	8	8	350
12-15	8	7	7	8	382
All children	7	6	7	8	1,381

Source: Continuous Household Survey, Central Survey Unit, NISRA, 2006

DENTAL HEALTH

Level of satisfaction with NHS dentists

The NI Life and Times Survey 2006 asked a sample group of the population the question, how satisfied are you with NHS dentists? The results for those aged 18-24 is shown below.

TABLE 28: Level of satisfaction with NHS dentists

Level of satisfaction	%
Very satisfied	19
Quite satisfied	55
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	13
Quite dissatisfied	7
Very dissatisfied	2
Don't know	5

Source: NI Life and Times Survey, 2006

From the answers given in table 28 previous it is clear that almost two thirds of young people aged 18-24 are satisfied with NHS dentists. Although 9% are dissatisfied with NHS dentists this represents the proportionally lowest level of dissatisfaction across all age groups.²

Dental Treatment

Table 29 below shows the number and age of children in Northern Ireland who received fillings as part of their dental treatment over a five year period.

TABLE 29: Number of fillings received by children 2002/03 – 2006/07

Year	Age of child			
	0-2	3-5	6-12	13-17
2006/07	20	543	74,541	125,695
2005/06	17	735	87,281	132,684
2004/05	2	884	91,830	135,003
2003/04	7	1,195	109,761	148,992
2002/03	14	1,482	133,183	169,944

Source: CSA Information & Research Unit, 2007

Table 29 above shows that in all age groups, aside from those aged 0-2, the number of fillings administered has steadily reduced over the last five years.

NUTRITION

The NI Health and Social Wellbeing Survey asked a randomised sample of population about the number of portions of fruit or vegetable they consumed in a day. Shown in table 30 below are the results for the 16-24 age group by gender.

TABLE 30: Number of portions of fruit or vegetable per day by age and gender

Gender	Portions of Fruit and Veg per day %	
	Less than 5	5 or more
Male	86	14
Female	73	27
TOTAL	79.5	20.5

Source: NI Health and Social Wellbeing Survey 2005/06,

From the data set out in table 30 it is clear that almost 80% of 16-24 year olds are not getting the recommended five portions of fruit or vegetable per day. However 13% more females than males receive the suggested level.

PHYSICAL EXERCISE AND SPORT

The NI Health and Social Wellbeing Survey 2005/06 recorded the following results concerning the level of physical activity of 16-24 year olds by gender.

TABLE 31: Level of physical activity by gender

Gender	Recommended Physical Activity Level (%)	
	Above Recommended Level	Below Recommended Level
Male	33	67
Female	26	74
All	29.5	70.5

Source: NI Health and Social Wellbeing Survey, 2005/06

The Health Promotion Agency recommends that each person undertakes a minimum of 30 minutes of moderate physical activity on at least 5 days of the week.³ Table 31 indicates that more than two-thirds of 16-24 year olds are not getting the recommended amount of physical activity.

TEENAGE PREGNANCY

Published on 30th November 2006, the 2005 Annual Report, which is the 84th report of the Registrar General for Northern Ireland, disclosed the following facts about teenage pregnancy:

- In 2005, there were 22,328 live births in Northern Ireland. Of these, 1,395 were born to mothers under the age of 20. This represents 6% of all live births.
- Of these births to teenage mothers, 45 (or 3.2%) were within marriage.⁴

Table 32 below shows the frequency of live births from 2002-2005. This information discloses that from 2002 the number of births to teenage mothers has decreased by 107.

TABLE 32: Births to teenage mothers 2002–2005

Year	All live births to under 20s	% of births within marriage
2002	1502	4.1
2003	1484	3.7
2004	1486	3.2
2005	1395	3.2

Source: Data supplied by annual reports of the Registrar General, 2006

SEXUAL HEALTH

The Health Promotion Agency asserts that 63 new cases of HIV were diagnosed in Northern Ireland during 2005, the highest since records began. 12 people (19%) were under the age of 24, a figure that has almost doubled since 2003.⁵

Table 33 below lists the number of young people under 25 diagnosed with the four most common Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) during 2005. Results are shown as a comparison through gender between 2004 and 2005.

TABLE 33: Prevalence of STIs in under 25s

STI	2004	2005	2004	2005
	Male		Female	
Herpes	30	26	89	104
Gonorrhoea	49	61	14	26
Chlamydia	398	409	552	620
Genital Warts	483	563	626	676

Source: Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre NI, HPA, 2006

As table 33 above shows, the prevalence of STIs among under 25s has increased significantly between 2004 and 2005.⁶

MENTAL HEALTH

The Health and Wellbeing Survey 2005/06 asked people to record their perceived level of stress over the previous 12 month period. The result of this survey for the 16-24 age group is detailed below:

TABLE 34: Level of stress in 16-24 year olds

Level of Stress	%
No worry or stress	22
Just a little	53
Quite a lot	19
A great deal of worry or stress	6

Source: NI Health and Social Wellbeing Survey, 2005/06

Table 34 indicates that more than half of 16-24 year olds encountered just a little stress over the past 12 months. Further results show that 14% more boys than girls would describe themselves as having no worry or stress in their life.⁷

Counselling

Contact Youth analysed 218 questionnaires completed by a sample of school age children who had undergone counselling with them in the 2005 academic year. Questions were asked before and after the counselling period (lasting an average of 4 weeks). When asked

the question how depressed they felt in the last 4 weeks the children responded as shown below:

TABLE 35: Frequency of depression before and after counselling

How often depressed	No. of respondents	
	Before counselling	After counselling
Never	24	52
Seldom	46	93
Occasionally	68	48
Frequently	63	19
Always	17	4

Source: Contact Youth Counselling Services, Outcomes Evaluation 2006

Table 35 above shows a clear improvement in perceived depression level after counselling. There were 80 (36.7%) clients who, before counselling, said they were either “frequently” or “always” depressed, after counselling this number was reduced to 23 (10.5%).⁸

MORTALITY

Deaths of children aged 1-14

In 2005, there were 52 deaths among children aged 1-14 in Northern Ireland. 20 of these deaths were a result of external causes of mortality such as transport accidents and poisoning.⁹

Deaths of young people aged 15-24

A total of 179 people aged 15-24 died in Northern Ireland in 2005, 72% of which were male. 69% of these deaths were caused by external sources, largely accidental, 18% were caused by suicides and self-inflicted injury (93.5% of which were male).¹⁰

Suicides

Table 36 below shows the number of deaths arising through suicides and self-inflicted injury (including one death of undetermined intent) among under 25 year olds. Data, supplied by the Annual Reports of the Registrar General, is shown as a gender and four year comparison.

TABLE 36: Deaths arising through suicide and self-inflicted harm 2002-2005

Year	Male	Female	Total
2005	32	3	35
2004	18	4	22
2003	19	5	24
2002	22	3	25

Source: Annual reports of the registrar general, 2006

Table 36 previous shows that the declining rate of suicide seen between 2002 and 2004 came to an abrupt end in 2005 with a sharp increase in the young male suicide rate.

FAMILY AND CARE SERVICES

Children in care

Community statistics produced by DHSSPS indicate that at 31 March 2006, there were 2436 children looked after by HSS Trusts in Northern Ireland (1285 boys and 1151 girls).¹¹

A child is looked after by the Health and Social Services Trust if he or she is in their care or provided with accommodation for a continuous period of more than 24 hours in exercise of its Social Services function.¹² Further information, displayed in the table below, shows the breakdown of children looked after by type of care as a comparison 2002-2006.

TABLE 37: Children looked after 2002-2006

Children looked after	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
In residential homes	299	12	296	12	325	13	317	13	321	13
In foster care	1513	62	1577	64	1529	61	1606	63	1522	62
Placed with family	534	22	494	20	561	22	500	20	486	20
Other	107	4	79	3	95	4	108	4	107	4
All children looked after	2453	100	2446	100	2510	100	2531	100	2436	100

Source: Community Statistics, DHSSPS, 2007

Further statistics produced by DHSSPS show the age breakdown of children in care. 18% of looked after children were over the age of 16 compared to 31% aged 12-15 and 34% aged 5-11. The under 5s constituted 16% of children in care. During the year ending 31 March 2006, 814 children were admitted to care in Northern Ireland. Almost one fifth (160) of all admissions to care were in South and East Belfast.¹³

Length of time in care

Table 38 overleaf shows the length of time children spent in care, as of 31 March 2006, by age group.

TABLE 38: Length of time in care by age

Time in Care	Age (years)					Total
	<1	1-4	5-11	12-15	16 & over	
Under 2 weeks	4	3	7	5	0	19
2 weeks <3 mths	18	23	27	28	11	107
3 mths <6 mths	17	24	25	34	7	107
6 mths <1 yr	21	50	54	48	20	193
1 yr <2 yrs	0	108	140	108	46	402
2 yrs <3 yrs	0	80	132	61	42	315
3 yrs or more	0	46	445	479	323	1,293
Total	60	334	830	763	449	2,436

Source: Community Statistics, DHSSPS, 31 March 2006

Table 38 above shows that at 31 March 2006 over half (53.1%) of looked after children had been in care for 3 years or more, with over 80% in care for 1 year or longer. The table also indicated that older children (16 years & over) were less likely than younger children to have spent shorter periods of time (less than 6 months) in care.¹⁴

CARE LEAVERS

107 boys and 113 girls aged 16 & over ceased to be looked after in Northern Ireland during the year ending 31 March 2006. Over a third of these young people had spent more than 5 years in care, and 14% had been looked after for 10 years or more.

Educational Attainment of Care Leavers:

- 55% of care leavers left with school with no qualifications, compared to only 3% of Northern Ireland school leavers as a whole.
- 9% of care leavers achieved 5 or more GCSE grades A*-C, this compares to 14% in 2001/02. 64% of Northern Ireland School Leavers achieved these grades.
- A slightly higher proportion of Protestants (42%) than Catholics (38%) left care with GCSEs or other qualifications.¹⁵

Economic Activity of Care Leavers

- The percentage of care leavers unemployed after leaving care decreased from 32% in 2001/02 to 8% in 2005/06. However the percentage of sick or disabled care leavers increased from 6% in 2001/02 to 25% in 2005/06.
- Care leavers were almost six times more likely to be unemployed or economically inactive than the rest of the population aged 16-18 years.¹⁶

Disability Status of Care Leavers

- Over 1 in 6 (18%) of young people leaving care had received a statement of special education need.* Around 4% of Northern Ireland school children as a whole were covered by a statement of special educational need.
- 15% of care leavers aged 16-18 had disabilities; over 80% had a learning disability and 10% had mental health needs.¹⁷

CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER

At 31 March 2006, Northern Ireland had the highest rate (37.7) of children on the child protection register per 10-000 population aged under 18. The rate for Wales was 33.4, for England 23.9 and 21.6 in Scotland.¹⁸ Table 39 below shows the number of children on the Child Protection Register at 31 March 2006 by category of abuse as a comparison 2002-2006.

TABLE 39: No. children on Child Protection Register by category of abuse

Category of abuse	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Neglect, physical and sexual abuse	11	9	11	15	18
Neglect and physical abuse	104	119	122	153	142
Neglect and sexual abuse	29	23	30	49	46
Physical and sexual abuse	32	28	31	30	39
Neglect (only)	625	651	509	554	582
Physical abuse (only)	359	376	330	316	323
Sexual abuse (only)	159	178	164	234	226
Emotional abuse (only)	212	224	220	242	263
All categories of abuse	1,531	1,608	1,417	1,593	1,639

Source: Community Statistics, DHSSPS, 2006

The highest proportion of children on the child abuse register (582), were in the “Neglect only” category of abuse. Of the children on the register, almost 9% were under one year old, 26.5% were aged 1-4, 38% aged 5-11, 21% aged 12-15 and 5.7% were aged 16 and over.¹⁹

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Visual and Audio Impediments

Table 40, overleaf, extracted from DHSSPS Community Statistics 2006/07, relates to the number of young people with visual and audio impediments who had contact with health providers in NI during 2006/07. The third column represents the sum of all those aged 24 and under expressed as a percentage of all age groups.

* Children have special educational needs if they have a difficulty which calls for specific educational provision to be made for them.

TABLE 40: Children and young people with visual and audio impairments by age

Condition	Age 0-4	Age 5-15	Age 16-24	% of all ages
Hard of hearing	40	122	96	17%
Deaf with speech	12	78	53	40%
Deaf without speech	14	21	35	20%
Partially sighted	53	142	127	32%
Blind	10	45	85	17%

Source: Extracted from Community Statistics, DHSSPS

Learning Disabilities

Table 41, also derived from the DHSSPS Community Statistics, shows children and young people aged 24 and under with learning disabilities who had contact with health providers in NI during 2006/07.

TABLE 41: Children and young people with Learning Disabilities by age

Age	(n)	% of total
0-4	192	2.1%
5-11	1,560	16.5%
16-24	1,534	16.2%
All ages	9,459	100%

Source: Extracted from Community Statistics, DHSSPS

Physical Disabilities

Table 42, also derived from the DHSSPS Community Statistics, shows children and young people aged 24 and under with physical disabilities who had contact with health providers in NI during 2006/07.

TABLE 42: Children and young people with Physical Disabilities by age

Age	(n)	% of total
0-4	183	2.4%
5-15	551	7.2%
16-24	525	6.9%
All ages	7,651	100%

Source: Extracted from Community Statistics, DHSSPS

ALCOHOL, CIGARETTE AND DRUG USE

The 2004 Young and Life Times (YLT) surveyed 1,983 16-year olds across Northern Ireland. YLT asked respondents whether they had ever used any alcohol, tobacco, drugs or solvents. Extracted results are shown below:

TABLE 43: Frequency of substance use in 16-year olds

	%			
	Never		A few or many times	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Drunk alcohol	25	22	68	69
Smoked tobacco	55	48	31	38
Used illegal drugs	77	83	16	10
Taken solvents	94	94	2	4 [†]

Adapted from YLT Survey, Ark, 2005

Table 43 above shows that over two thirds of young people said they had drunk alcohol a few or many times. Males were significantly more likely than females to say they had never smoked (55% and 48%) however more males (16%) than females (10%) said they had used illegal drugs a few or many times.

Pressure to use alcohol, cigarettes or drugs

Respondents from the 2005 YLT survey were asked if they ever felt pressurised to use alcohol, cigarettes or drugs. Table 43 below records their answers by gender.

TABLE 44: Pressure to use alcohol, cigarettes or drugs

	%			
	Yes		No	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Drink alcohol	31	26	67	72
Smoke tobacco	21	22	76	77
Use illegal drugs	11	7	86	91

Adapted from YLT Survey, Ark, 2006

Table 44 above indicates that almost a third (31%) of males have felt pressurised to drink alcohol. Females are slightly less likely than males to be pressurised into drinking alcohol or using illegal drugs but are marginally more likely to be pressurised into smoking tobacco.

KNOWLEDGE AND USE OF ALCOHOL, CIGARETTES AND DRUGS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

NISRA recently published a report on the knowledge and use of alcohol, cigarettes and drugs by primary school children in Northern Ireland in 2006. The findings are based on responses to a questionnaire from a representative sample of 3,734 primary school children in P5, P6 and P7.

[†] Note: Results do not total 100 because of proportion of unanswered questions.

Alcohol

- 38% of all P5 to P7 primary school children surveyed reported that they had tried alcohol, 34% of which were currently using alcohol.
- The largest proportion of those who had tried alcohol first did so at 9 years old (24%).
- The majority (85%) of those who had tried alcohol reported that their parents or someone who was looking after them were aware of the situation.²⁰

Cigarettes

- 11% (423) of all P5 to P7 primary school children surveyed reported that they had tried smoking cigarettes.
- 2% (64) of all P5 to P7 primary school children surveyed reported that they were currently smoking cigarettes.
- Almost 9 in 10 (86%) of children who have heard of cigarettes think that it is dangerous to smoke cigarettes sometimes, 89% deem it dangerous to be in the same room with someone who is smoking.²¹

Illicit Drugs

- 81% had heard of drugs before the survey, 5% of which have been offered them.
- Less than 2% of all P5 to P7 primary school children surveyed reported that they had tried drugs.
- More than nine in ten (95%) of those who have heard of drugs agreed that it is dangerous to take drugs.²²

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION AMONG 18-24 YEAR OLDS

The Continuous Household Survey has provided information relating to the level of alcohol consumption by age. Table 45 below outlines the alcohol consumption in those aged 18-24 years by gender.

TABLE 45: Alcohol consumption by age and gender 2006/07

Alcohol consumption level	Male (%)	Female (%)	All (%)
Non-drinker	9	14	12
Below sensible	47	57	54
Above sensible, below dangerous	27	24	25
Above dangerous	17	5	9

Source: Continuous Household Survey, 2006/07

The data presented in table 45 previous, shows an obvious disparity between the number of males (17%) drinking above a dangerous level and females (5%). Yet overall the number of 16-24 year olds drinking at a dangerous level has decreased from 15% in 2002-03.²³

CIGARETTE SMOKING

The Continuous Household Survey has provided further survey data relating to the prevalence of cigarette smoking among young people aged 16-24. The data is split into two age categories: 16-19 and 20-24 for comparative purposes.

TABLE 46: Prevalence of cigarette smoking among young people aged 16-24 by gender in 2006/07

Gender	Age group	
	16-19 (%)	20-24 (%)
Male	13	37
Female	31	33
Total	24	35

Source: Continuous Household Survey, 2006/07

From Table 46 above it is noted that proportion of females aged 16-19 smoking cigarettes is more than double that of males in the same age group.

Further analysis shows that in comparison with 2004/05 the number of male cigarette smokers aged 16-19 has decreased from 19% to 13% but conversely the number of female cigarette smokers aged 16-19 has increased from 19% to 31% in the same period. This trend is reversed in the 20-24 age group. A comparison with 2004/05 data records a decrease from 38% to 33% in the number of female cigarette smokers but an increase from 32% in 2004/05 to 37% in 2006/07 in the number of male cigarette smokers.²⁴

Smokers Helpline NI

Between January 2003 and September 2005 a total of 97,390 calls were made to the Smokers' Helpline of which 81% (78,838) were answered. More than one quarter of calls (26%) were from young people under 16 years old, although the service was not actively promoted to this age group. A further 14% were from callers aged 16-24.²⁵

ILLICIT DRUG USE

Table 47 below, adapted from the Continuous Household Survey, shows the number of young people aged under 25 who admit to having used illicit drugs. The age categories are split between those aged 19 and under and those between the ages of 20 and 24, gender comparisons are also made.

TABLE 47: Illicit drug use among 16-24 year olds

Gender	Age group	
	16-19 (%)	20-24 (%)
Male	15	30
Female	17	26
Total	32	56

Source: Continuous Household Survey 2005/06

Table 47 indicates that more than half the 20-24 year olds surveyed have used illicit drugs. Female drug use is higher than males in the 16-19 age group but this trend is reversed in the 20-24 age group.

The Continuous Household Survey also records the age at which illicit drug users claim to have first used drugs, table 47 displays this information through a gender comparison.

TABLE 48: Age first used illicit drugs

	Males	Females	All
Less than 14	5	7	6
14-15	19	14	17
16-17	30	26	28
18-20	34	22	29
21-24	6	9	7
ALL	83	58	141

Source: Continuous Household Survey 2005/06

Table 48 above indicates that the highest proportion (40%) of illicit drug users began taking drugs between the ages of 16 and 20. Proportionally females were more likely to start taking illicit drugs at a younger age. Less than 5% of users began taking drugs when they were aged between 21 and 24.

The Drug Misuse Database

The Drug Misuse Database collates data from 48 treatment services across NI on problem drug users presenting to services for the first time or for the first time in six months or more. During the period 1 April 2006 – 31 March 2007 1,464 individuals presented for treatment and gave their consent for their details to be included on the DMD. Of this number:

- Over one quarter (29%) were aged 21 years and under.
- Just over a third (34%) of male clients were aged 18-25 years compared to just under one fifth (19%) of female clients.

- Cannabis was the most commonly reported main drug of misuse, and was listed as the main problem drug by 66% of under 25s.²⁶

The Drug Addicts Index

There were 288 persons registered on the Northern Ireland Drug Addicts Index at 31 December 2006, an increase of 27 from the previous year. Table 49 below displays the number of registered addicts under the age of 25 over the last four years.²⁷

TABLE 49: Registered Addicts Under 25 2003-06

	2003	2004	2005	2006
20 years and under	3	3	2	1
21-24 years	29	28	22	17
All ages	241	259	261	288

Source: NI Drug Addicts Index 2006, DHSSPS, December 2006

Table 49 above shows that although the total number of registered addicts has steadily increased over the last four years the number of addicts under 25 has steadily fallen. In 2006 6% of registered addicts were under the age of 25 compared to 13% in 2003.

Northern Ireland Needle and Syringe Exchange Scheme

The Northern Ireland Needle and Syringe Exchange Scheme (NSES) which began operation in April 2001 recorded 9,997 visits during 2006/07. 18% (1802) of participants during this period were aged 25 and under.²⁸

BULLYING

The University of Ulster has recently published a research report into the nature and extent of bullying within our schools. The research revealed that 43% of primary school children and 29% of post-primary perceive that they had been bullied at least once. The frequency of bullying experienced by Year 6 and Year 9 pupils over “the last couple of months” is shown in the table below.

TABLE 50: The frequency of bullying experienced by Year 6 and Year 9 pupils

	Year 6 %	Year 9 %
Not at all	56.7	71.2
Once or twice	26.2	21.1
Two or three times a month	7.9	2.6
Once a week	4.3	2.3
Several times a week	4.9	2.7

Source: The Nature and Extent of Bullying in Schools in the North of Ireland, Dept of Ed., June 2007

Table 50 previous shows that just over half of Year 6 pupils perceive that they have experienced no bullying at all in the preceding months compared with more than two-thirds of Year 9 pupils. The nature of bullying varied considerably with being “called mean names, made fun of or teased in a hurtful way” occurring most frequently, and cited by 36.4% of pupils.²⁹

The research also found that, in both primary and post-primary schools, 22% of pupils admitted acting as ‘the bully’ at one time or another. Boys tended to be the victims and perpetrators of physical bullying, whereas girls were more inclined to bully through exclusion.³⁰

Frequency teachers/adults stop bullying

When asked how often teachers or other adults at school tried to put a stop to the bullying of a pupil, almost half (48.5%) replied almost always. Table 51 below uses this information to elicit a comparison between the results from 2002 and 2006.

TABLE 51: Frequency teachers/other adults try to put a stop to bullying

Frequency	2002 %	2006 %
Almost never	9.2	7.7
Once in a while	11.9	8.7
Sometimes	16.3	13.1
Often	21.0	22.0
Almost Always	41.6	48.5

Source: The Nature and Extent of Bullying in Schools in the North of Ireland, Dept of Ed., June 2007

Table 51 shows that in 2006 it is perceived that teachers/adults are significantly more likely to try to put a stop to bullying than in 2002.

The 2005 Young Life and Times survey of 16 year olds asked respondents if they thought their school provided real help for people who are bullied or not. Results by gender and school type or shown below.

TABLE 52: Do you think your school provides real help for people who are bullied or not?

%	Gender		School type			All respondents
	Male	Female	Planned Integrated	Grammar	Secondary	
Yes	54	55	67	56	53	54
No	21	28	22	25	26	25
Don't Know	20	15	11	18	17	17

Source: YLT 2005

Table 52 above shows that 67% of students who attended integrated schools thought that their school provided real help to pupils who got bullied. Just over half of grammar and

secondary school students perceived a level of assistance for bullied students at their school.³¹

¹ Northern Ireland Health and Social Wellbeing Survey 2005/06, Central Survey Unit, NISRA, 2006

² NI Life and Times Survey 2006, ARK Northern Ireland Social and Political Archive, www.ark.ac.uk/nilt

³ Get a Life, Get Active, Health Promotion Agency, 2007

⁴ Eighty-Fourth Annual Report of the Registrar General, NISRA, 2006

⁵ HIV Diagnoses Surveillance Tables, Health Promotion Agency, Oct 2006

⁶ Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre NI, Health Promotion Agency, Oct 2006

⁷ Northern Ireland Health and Social Wellbeing Survey 2005/06, Central Survey Unit, NISRA, 2006

⁸ Contact Youth Counselling Services Outcome Evaluations, 2006

⁹ Eighty-Fourth Annual Report of the Registrar General, NISRA, 2006

¹⁰ *ibid*

¹¹ Community Statistics, DHSSPS, 1 April 2005 – 31 March 2006

¹² *ibid*

¹³ *ibid*

¹⁴ Community Statistics, DHSSPS, 1 April 2005 – 31 March 2006

¹⁵ Northern Ireland Care Leavers 2005/06, DHSSPS Statistical Bulletin, July 2007

¹⁶ *ibid*

¹⁷ Northern Ireland Care Leavers 2005/06, DHSSPS Statistical Bulletin, July 2007

¹⁸ Community Statistics, DHSSPS, 1 April 2005 – 31 March 2006

¹⁹ *ibid*

²⁰ Knowledge and use of alcohol, cigarettes and drugs primary school survey, NISRA, January 2007

²¹ *ibid*

²² *ibid*

²³ *ibid*

²⁴ Continuous Household Survey 2006-07, Central Survey Unit, NISRA, 2007

²⁵ Research and Evaluation Review 2005-2006, Health Promotion Agency, August, 2007

²⁶ Statistics from the Northern Ireland Drug Misuse Database: 1 April 2006 - 31 March 2007, DHSSPS, October 2007

²⁷ Statistics from the Northern Ireland Drug Addicts Index 2006, DHSSPS, March 2007

²⁸ Northern Ireland Needle and Syringe Exchange Scheme, 2006/07, DHSSPS, August 2007

²⁹ The Nature and Extent of Bullying in Schools in the North of Ireland, DENI, June 2007

³⁰ *ibid*

³¹ Being Part and Parcel of the School: The views and experiences of children and young people in relation to the development of bullying policies in schools, NICCY, 2006

CRIME

IMPRISONMENT

The Northern Ireland Office has produced figures relating to the prison population in Northern Ireland. In 2006, there were 107 young males (aged under 21) under sentence of immediate custody, representing 12.5% of all males under sentence of immediate custody.¹ Table 53 below shows these cases by principal offence from 2002-2006. The statistical report discloses further information about young people among the prison population in Northern Ireland:

- In 2006 there were 2 females aged 14-20 under sentence of immediate custody in Northern Ireland. Of those female prison receptions aged under 21 in 2006, 59 were on remand, 10 were fine defaulters and 9 were sentenced to immediate custody in Young Offenders Centres.
- In 2006 of those male prison receptions aged under 21, 768 were on remand, 372 were fine defaulters, 13 were young prisoners and 220 were sentenced to immediate custody in Young Offenders Centres.²

TABLE 53: Young males (aged 14-20) under sentence of immediate custody (2002-2006)

Principal offence	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Violence against the person	27	35	40	42	39
Sexual offences	6	3	2	4	2
Burglary	9	8	12	12	15
Robbery	14	20	27	25	21
Theft	12	16	8	8	11
Fraud & forgery	1	0	1	0	0
Criminal damage	7	5	7	6	3
Drug offences	4	1	1	1	2
Motoring offences	7	8	11	9	3
Other offences	7	6	8	6	10
TOTAL	93	102	116	112	107

Source: The Northern Ireland Prison Population in 2006, Research and Statistical Bulletin 4/2007, Northern Ireland Office, June 2007

From the information set out in the above table, the total number of young males under sentences of immediate custody was at its highest in 2004 but has decreased to 107 in 2006.

The NIO statistical report also discloses that the most common length of sentence received by young males was between 6 and 12 months, occurring in 35% of cases. 24% received a sentence lasting between 3 and 6 months and 15% received a sentence

lasting between 1 and 2 years. 16% of young males were under a sentence exceeding two years.³

POLICING

The Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) was commissioned to carry out a survey on behalf of the Northern Ireland Policing Board and District Policing Partnerships (DPPs). This postal survey involved questionnaires being sent to 60,000 households across Northern Ireland in May 2006. A total of 12,197 questionnaires were returned, representing a response rate of 20%. Some key results from the survey are detailed below.⁴

Opinions of the PSNI

The survey elicited a rating of satisfaction with local police by age group. Table 54 below shows the level of satisfaction stated by respondents aged 16-24 who were in contact with their local police during 2006.

TABLE 54: Respondents' satisfaction with treatment by local police by age

Level of satisfaction	Rating (%)
Very Satisfied	22
Satisfied	30
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	19
Dissatisfied	17
Very Dissatisfied	12

Source: District Policing Partnership (DPP) Public Consultation Survey, NISRA, May 2006

Table 54 above shows that 29% of respondents aged 16-24 were dissatisfied with the contact they had with local police. Further information shows that respondents aged 16-24 were overall the least satisfied age demographic; respondents aged 61 and over had the greatest satisfaction level (71%).⁵

VICTIMS OF CRIME

23% of 16-24 year olds who completed the DPP Public Consultation Survey had been a victim of crime within the last year, 76% of which reported the crime. Respondents were also asked how safe they felt in their local community. The result for the 16-24 age demographic is shown overleaf.

TABLE 55: Feeling of safety in respondents' local community by age

Safety Rating	%
Very safe	12
Fairly safe	58
A bit unsafe	25
Very unsafe	5

Source: District Policing Partnership (DPP) Public Consultation Survey, NISRA, May 2006

Table 55 indicates that more than two-thirds of residents in the 16-24% age demographic felt more safe than unsafe in their local community. Proportionally for all age groups this is the lowest safety rating, the highest 76%, being found in the 25-40 and 61+ age groups.⁶

Offences committed against young people

Table 56 details offences committed against young people under the age of 17 from 2002/03 to 2006/07. The figures show a continuously increasing number of offences committed against young people, from 5,149 in 2002/03 to 5,623 in 2006/07, a significant increase on 3,348 in 1999/00.⁷

TABLE 56: Offences committed against young people

Offence	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Murder, manslaughter and infanticide	1	4	4	4	1
Serious Assault/GBH	160	130	150	125	158
AOABH/Common Assault	4657	4879	4871	4833	5010
Cruelty to a child	49	75	31	25	38
Child abduction	60	37	43	64	78
Other offences against the person	222	201	269	346	338
Total	5,149	5,326	5,368	5,397	5,623

Source: NSPCC Key Child Protection Statistics (2007)

CHILDREN AS PERPETRATORS

The most recent magistrates' court bulletins indicates that 816 youth defendants were received in the magistrates court during Apr-Jun 2007 and 763 youth defendants were

disposed.⁸ Table 56 below sets out the number and type of charges brought for youth defendants disposed of during this period.

TABLE 57: Number and type of charges brought for youth defendants disposed of by business area

Crime Category	No.	%
Violence against the person	93	12.2
Sexual offences	4	0.5
Burglary	32	4.2
Robbery	8	1.0
Theft	91	12.0
Criminal damage	62	8.1
Offences against the state	1	0.1
Drug offences	20	2.6
Motoring offences	95	12.5
Non-police offences	39	5.1
Other Offences	97	12.7
Combination of charges	221	29.0
Total	763	100

Source: Magistrates Court Bulletin, NICS, Apr-Jun 2007

Almost half (47%) of youth defendants disposed of in Apr-Jun 2007 pleaded guilty to all charges. In one in four cases the charges were withdrawn whilst in one in five cases the youth defendant pleaded not guilty but was found guilty on at least one charge. 6% were acquitted on all charges.⁹

Secure Accommodation

Secure accommodation is provided for the purpose of 'restricting liberty'. In 2005/06, there was one secure unit in Northern Ireland, providing accommodation for up to a maximum of 15 young people at any one time. Table 57 overleaf shows the gender and age at time of admission of young people admitted into secure accommodation during 2005/06.¹⁰

TABLE 58: Admissions into secure accommodation by age and gender 2005/06

Gender	Age at time of admission				All admissions
	Under 12	12-13	14-15	16+	
Boys	1	8	10	3	22
Girls	0	4	17	2	23
Total	1	12	27	5	45

Source: Children Order Statistical Bulletin 2006, DHSSPS, 2006

Table 58, above shows that almost a third (29%) of the admissions into secure accommodation during 2005/06 related to children aged 13 or under. Of the 45 admissions 51% were female and 49% male.

¹ The Northern Ireland Prison Population in 2006, Research and Statistical Bulletin 4/2007, Northern Ireland Office, June 2007

² *ibid*

³ *ibid*

⁴ District Policing Partnership (DPP) Public Consultation Survey, NISRA, May 2006

⁵ *ibid*

⁶ *ibid*

⁷ Key Child Protection Statistics in NI, NSPCC, Sept 2007

⁸ Magistrates Court Bulletin, NICS, Apr-Jun 2007

⁹ *ibid*

¹⁰ Children Order Statistical Bulletin 2006, DHSSPS, March 2006

ACCOMMODATION

HOUSING IN NORTHERN IRELAND

In 2005/06, the average size of household in Northern Ireland was 2.52 persons. This represents a reduction on the figures of 2.56 in 2004-05 and 2.61 in 2003-04.¹

In 2006/07, 72.7% of housing in Northern Ireland was owner occupied. A further 27% of housing was rented, of which 14% was rented from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE).²

Accommodation by household type

The Continuous Household Survey has provided details of the type of accommodation lived in by different types of household. Table 59 below shows the type of accommodation lived in by small and large families in 2006-07.

NB: A small family is defined by the Continuous Household Survey as one or two persons aged 16 or over and one or two persons aged under 16. A large family is defined as one or two persons aged 16 or over and three or more persons aged under 16, or three or more persons aged over 16 and two persons under 16.

TABLE 59: Type of accommodation by small and large families 2006-07

Accommodation	Small family	Large family
Detached house	35	53
Semi-Detached house	31	26
Terraced house	31*	21

Source: Continuous Household Survey, 2006/07

*The outstanding 2% of small families live in flats, maisonettes and business premises.

The proportion of large families who live in detached houses is steadily increasing, 53% of families now live in this type of accommodation, compared to 48% in 2002-03 and 39% in 1999-00.

Housing Subsidies

175,000 of the poorest households in Northern Ireland currently receive housing benefit. The number of children living in households which are entitled to housing benefit was estimated to be in the region of 59,800 in 2004/05.³ The table overleaf illustrates the quintile distribution of income for children by various family and household characteristics in 2004/05.

TABLE 60: Quintile Distribution of income for children by various family and household characteristics

Tenure	% of Children					No. of Children ('000)	% of children
	Bottom Quintile	Second Quintile	Third Quintile	Fourth Quintile	Top Quintile		
NIHE	57	29	12	2	0	55.1	12.8
Housing Assoc	31	47	22	0	0	4.1	1.0
Private Rented	29	39	16	8	8	28.6	6.6
Owned with mortgage	20	22	24	21	13	281.9	65.5
Owned outright	28	20	19	16	16	57.6	13.4
Other	30	19	37	14	0	2.9	0.7

Source: Northern Ireland Housing Statistics, NIHE

Table 60 above shows that 12.8% of all children in Northern Ireland (aged 0-17) live in NIHE homes and 47,386 (86%) of those children come from the two poorest income groups.

HOMELESSNESS

Housing statistics provided by NIHE list the reasons given for households presenting as homeless in 2005-06. In total, there were 20,121 households presenting as homeless in 2005-06 compared to 17,362 the previous year.⁴ Reasons given for homelessness are illustrated in table 61 overleaf as a comparison between 2004/05 and 2005/06.

TABLE 61: Reasons for households presenting as homeless

Reason	2004-05 (%)	2005-06 (%)
Sharing breakdown/family dispute	23.7	23.9
Marital/relationship breakdown	14.8	13.4
Domestic violence	4.2	4.0
Loss of rented accommodation	13.0	13.4
No accommodation in Northern Ireland	9.7	9.6
Intimidation	5.5	4.4
Accommodation not reasonable	13.0	14.4
Release from hospital/prison/other institution	2.0	1.7
Fire/flood/other emergency	0.5	0.5
Mortgage default	1.3	1.6
Bomb/fire damage/civil disturbance	0.5	0.3
Neighbourhood harassment	7.0	7.3
Other reasons	5.0	5.4
Total	100	100

Source: Northern Ireland Housing Statistics, NIHE, 2006

Table 61 indicates that the reason given for almost a quarter of households presenting as homeless in 2004/05 and 2005/06 was a sharing breakdown/family dispute. Reasons such as mortgage default, loss of rented accommodation and neighbourhood harassment have all increased in 2005/06. Conversely the number of presenters giving reasons such as domestic violence, intimidation and bomb/fire damage/civil disturbance has decreased since 2004/05.

Young people presenting as homeless

In 2005/06 young single people aged 16-25 constituted 4,125, or 20.5% of the total number of homeless presenters.⁵ Table 62 overleaf shows the breakdown of young single people, by gender, presenting as homeless over the last five years.

TABLE 62: Young single people presenting as homeless

	16-18		19-25	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
2001-02	188	263	1,367	1,096
2002-03	192	291	1,720	1,172
2003-04	237	326	1,810	1,324
2004-05	194	306	1,772	1,441
2005-06	210	312	2,024	1,579

Source: Adapted from statistics supplied by the NIHE, 2006

Table 62 above shows that consistently more single females than males present as homeless in the 16-18 age group but this trend is reversed for those aged 19-25.

Furthermore in 2005/06, there were 6,805 families in Northern Ireland presenting as homeless, representing an increase of 1,105 on the previous year. This represents 33.8% of all homelessness.⁶

Referrals to emergency accommodation

Simon Community Northern Ireland records and collates information about individuals seeking help from its organisation. In 2006/07 3,784 individuals approached Simon Community in need of emergency accommodation. Of these individuals:

- Just over half (51%) were 16-25 years old;
- Over 17% (669) slept rough at some point in the previous two weeks; and
- 31.9% were homeless as a result of family conflict, 13.7% as a dispute with a partner or spouse, 9.3% because of intimidation.⁷

¹ Northern Ireland Abstract of Statistics 2006, NISRA

² Continuous Household Survey Rapid Results 2006-2007, Central Survey Unit, 2007

³ Northern Ireland Housing Statistics, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, 2006

⁴ *ibid*

⁵ *ibid*

⁶ *ibid*

⁷ Simon Community NI, 2006-07

OUT OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

INTERNET ACCESS

The Northern Ireland Continuous Household Survey provides an ongoing study of social and economic issues in Northern Ireland provided by a survey of 4,500 households. The survey recorded Individual Internet access either through a home computer, work computer, digital television or mobile phone.

TABLE 63: Internet access among 16-19 year olds by gender 2002-03 to 2005-06

Year	Male (%)	Female (%)	All (%)
2002-03	64	72	68
2003-04	73	79	76
2004-05	72	81	77
2005-06	81	83	82

Source: Continuous Household Survey, 2005-06

These results show a steady increase in Internet access among 16-19 year olds since 2002-03. The table records that females have consistently greater access to the Internet compared to their male counterparts however the gender gap is beginning to narrow and in 2005/06 the difference was just 2% compared to a difference of 8% in 2002/03.¹

MOBILE PHONE OWNERSHIP

Mobile phone ownership among young people aged 16-19 is illustrated in Table 63, derived from the Continuous Household Survey 2005-06.

TABLE 64: Mobile phone ownership among 16-19 year olds by gender 2002-03 to 2005-06

Year	Male (%)	Female (%)	All (%)
2002-03	79	82	80
2003-04	88	95	92
2004-05	92	95	94
2005-06	93	98	96

Source: Continuous Household Survey, 2005-06

As this table illustrates, mobile phone ownership has steadily increased since 2002-03. In 2005/06 96% of 16-19 year olds own a mobile phone compared with 26% in 1999-00.²

POLITICAL ATTITUDES

Data from the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (2006) revealed that 40% of those aged 18-24 would identify themselves as neither Unionist nor Nationalist. Of the

remainder, 36% would, generally speaking, think of themselves as Unionist and 23% as Nationalist.

Support for political parties

Table 65 below shows the extent of support for the political parties in Northern Ireland among those aged 18-24.

TABLE 65: Support for political parties among young people 2006-07

Political Party	2005 (%)	2006 (%)
Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)	21	14
SDLP	21	13
Democratic Unionist Party (DUP)	18	18
Alliance Party	8	6
Sinn Fein	9	11
Women's Coalition	2	1
Other Party	2	2
None	11	21
Don't know	8	13

Source: Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey, 2004/05 – 2006/07

From table 64 it is observed that between 2005 and 2006 support for the Ulster Unionist Party and the SDLP, by 18-24 year olds, decreased significantly. Sinn Fein was the only party to increase its support. Significantly 2006 saw an increase of 10% on those in the 18-24 demographic who do not support any party.³

OUT OF SCHOOL CLUBS

Out of school clubs provide care for school aged children, usually lasting from the end of the normal school day until the child is collected by the parent/carer. Clubs may be run by HSS Trusts, voluntary organisations, community groups/local committees, or privately. Table 65 overleaf shows the number of out of school clubs, places and providers as a comparison between 2001 and 2006.

Table 66: Number of Out of School Clubs for children aged 4-11, 2001 and 2006

Providers	2001		2006	
	Clubs	Places	Clubs	Places
HSS Trusts	8	182	20	479
District Councils	6	130	6	106
Voluntary Organisations	82	1,651	78	1,976
Other Organisations	83	1,767	155	3,715
Total	179	3,730	259	6,276

Source: Children Order Statistical Bulletin, DHSSPS, 2006

Table 66 above shows that from 2001 to 2006 the number of out of school clubs increased by 45%, from 179 to 259 respectively. Furthermore:

- In 2006 there were 68% more places in out of school clubs than in 2001;
- Out of school club provision by HSS Trusts rose from 8 to 20 clubs from 2001 to 2006, with a corresponding increase of 297 in the numbers of places available; and
- The number of clubs provided by other organisations almost doubled from 83 to 155, with the number of places increasing by 1,948 from 2001 to 2006.⁴

¹ Northern Ireland Continuous Household Survey, Central Survey Unit, 2002/03 – 2005/06

² *ibid*

³ Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey, 2004/05 – 2006/07

⁴ Children Order Statistical Bulletin 2006, DHSSPS, March 2006