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Experience of Sexual
Violence and Abuse:
Findings from the
2008/09
Northern Ireland
Crime Survey

Research and Statistical Bulletin 9/2009

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DEFINITION AND KEY FINDINGS

- ◆ Sexual violence and abuse is defined as “any behaviour perceived to be of a sexual nature which is unwanted or takes place without consent or understanding” (DHSSPS and NIO, 2008). It is conceptualised here as:
 1. **Stalking or sexual harassment** (obscene or threatening messages; obscene, threatening, nuisance or silent phone calls; someone loitering outside home or workplace; or being followed around and watched);
 2. **Sexual victimisation** (indecent exposure; sexual threats; being forced by someone to watch pornography; or unwanted sexual touching or groping); and
 3. **Serious sexual assault** (forced or attempted sexual intercourse or other sexual activity).
- ◆ A fifth (19.4%) of people currently aged 16-64 have experienced at least one type of sexual violence or abuse in their lifetimes. Women (25.6%) are twice as likely as men (12.3%) to have had such an experience.
- ◆ Of the three sexual violence and abuse offence groups, sexual victimisation (12.9%) has the highest lifetime prevalence rate, ahead of stalking or sexual harassment (9.7%) and serious sexual assault (3.9%). Within these groups, the most prevalent offence types are: indecent exposure (7.0%); obscene, threatening, nuisance or silent phone calls (5.9%); and obscene or threatening messages (3.9%).
- ◆ Among the socio-economic groups most likely to have experienced sexual violence or abuse are: single adults with children (39.9%); people living in areas with a high level of anti-social behaviour (31.3%); single people (27.2%); people aged 16-24 (26.9%); and people privately renting (26.3%).
- ◆ A third (34.1%) of victims of sexual violence or abuse experienced this in the three years prior to interview, including half (49.5%) the male victims and 28.0% of female victims. During this period, almost half (45.6%) the victims of stalking or sexual harassment experienced this, a much greater proportion than for those subjected to sexual victimisation (20.8%) or serious sexual assault (10.3%).
- ◆ In the 12 months before interview, 2.6% of adults experienced sexual violence or abuse, while men (2.5%) are as likely as women (2.6%) to have been victims. Over a three-year period, the overall victimisation rate was 6.4%, with no statistically significant difference between the rates for men (5.7%) and women (7.1%).
- ◆ Among the groups most likely to have been victimised in the three years prior to interview are: people aged 16-24 (18.3%); single adults with children (16.1%); people who are privately renting (14.7%); single people (14.7%); people who visit the pub in the evening once a week or more (12.2%) and those living in areas with high levels of anti-social behaviour (11.3%). These groups are also those most likely to experience violent crime in general.
- ◆ Incidents of sexual victimisation and serious sexual assault are most likely to (first) happen when victims are young. For instance, a third (33%) of victims of serious sexual assault, and 29% of those subjected to sexual victimisation were aged 15 years or under when these incidents (first) occurred.
- ◆ Serious sexual assault is more likely than sexual victimisation to be a repeat offence and to involve the same perpetrators. Two-fifths (40%) of serious sexual assault victims have experienced this four or more times, compared with 24% of those affected by sexual victimisation. For nine-tenths of victims of sexual victimisation (91%) or serious sexual assault (90%), the perpetrators were exclusively male.
- ◆ Perpetrators of stalking or sexual harassment are most likely to have been ‘a former husband, wife or partner of the victim’ or ‘someone the victim had never seen before’ (both 23%). Almost half (46%) of cases of sexual victimisation, compared with 10% of serious sexual assaults, have involved ‘someone the victim had never seen before’. Victims of serious sexual assault (31%) were three times as likely as those who have been sexually victimised (11%) to cite a ‘former husband, wife or partner’.
- ◆ Three-fifths of sexual victimisation (63%) or serious sexual assault (58%) victims have told someone about the incidents. Victims of sexual victimisation are most likely to have told a family member other than their husband, wife or partner (48%), a friend or neighbour (43%) or the police (27%).
- ◆ Four-fifths (80%) of NICS 2008-09 victims of serious sexual assault sustained physical injuries, emotional problems or other conditions, compared with 37% of victims of sexual victimisation.
- ◆ Most victims of sexual victimisation or serious sexual assault had not knowingly been under the influence of alcohol or drugs. For both offence groups, four-fifths (81%) of victims had not been drinking, and 95% or more had not taken drugs. Almost half the victims of serious sexual assault (47%) believe the perpetrators had taken alcohol, compared with 31% of those sexually victimised. They are much less likely to believe the perpetrators had taken drugs (11% and 8% respectively).

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The focus of this publication

This bulletin draws on findings from the 2008/09 Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS), a continuous, representative, personal interview survey of the experiences and perceptions of crime of 3,856 adults living in private households throughout Northern Ireland. Previously conducted on an ad hoc basis in 1994/95, 1998, 2001 and 2003/04, the NICS began operating on a continuous basis in January 2005.

The consultation document 'Hidden Crimes, Secret Pain' (January 2007) and the resulting 2008-13 Regional Strategy and 2008-09 Action Plan entitled 'Tackling Sexual Violence and Abuse' (June 2008), issued jointly by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) and the Northern Ireland Office (NIO), have drawn attention to the limited knowledge about the incidence, prevalence and circumstances of sexual violence in Northern Ireland.

The Regional Strategy, for instance, highlights the incomplete picture painted by police recorded crime statistics. Referring to these as representing "only the tip of the sexual violence iceberg", it states that "they can only quantify offences that are actually reported. In addition, not every crime reported is recorded as a crime, or as the same crime that the victim perceives to have taken place." It also stresses that service uptake figures from the healthcare and voluntary sectors are "insufficient to understand the nature and real extent of sexual violence".

Key Proposal 1 of the Action Plan commits DHSSPS and NIO to "... support and sponsor a comprehensive study with the aim of providing reliable estimates of the prevalence of sexual violence among women and men in Northern Ireland, from childhood to adulthood ... In addition, the study will also develop insights into who had been victimised, who the perpetrators were, the context in which the abuse occurred, the impact of the abuse on the lives of those who had been victimised, and the patterns of disclosure of the abuse to others." Having previously considered various options, the optimum method was considered to be the incorporation of a suite of questions on "... experience of sexual violence and abuse into the domestic violence self-completion module of the 2008/09 Northern Ireland Crime Survey".

The main aims of this suite of questions would be to:

- ◆ "measure the lifetime and recent prevalence of sexual harassment, stalking, sexual victimisation and very serious sexual assault, including rape;
- ◆ gather basic details on the characteristics of victims and perpetrators, including whether they were under the influence of alcohol or drugs; and
- ◆ establish the extent to which victims were physically or mentally affected and whether they told anyone else about the incidents."

The Regional Strategy defines sexual violence and abuse as:

"Any behaviour perceived to be of a sexual nature which is unwanted or takes place without consent or understanding...It is an inclusive term which includes the sexual victimisation of adults and children."

1.2 Developing the self-completion module

In attempting to conceptualise sexual violence and abuse, a working group consisting of policy and statistical staff from DHSSPS and NIO has drawn heavily on development work undertaken or commissioned by the Scottish Government for the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS). Paying

particular heed to the sensitivity of the subject matter, the working group recognised that the definitions and language to be used in Scotland would be more appropriate to Northern Ireland than the more explicit terminology used in the 2008/09 British Crime Survey (BCS) inter-personal violence module. It also recognised the widespread consultation the Scottish Government had undertaken in developing its sexual violence and abuse module. This had included close liaison with bodies representing particularly vulnerable groups and seeking the approval of the appropriate ethics committee.

In line with the SCJS, the concept of sexual violence and abuse has been subdivided into three main offence groupings, namely stalking or sexual harassment, sexual victimisation and serious sexual assault. In turn, each of these contains a further four offences (Table 1).

Table 1: Offence groups and types making up sexual violence and abuse

Offence Group	Offence Type
Stalking or sexual harassment	Obscene or threatening messages Obscene, threatening, nuisance or silent phone calls Someone loitering outside home or workplace Being followed around and watched
Sexual victimisation	Indecent exposure Sexual threats Being forced by someone to watch pornography Unwanted sexual touching or groping
Serious sexual assault	Forced sexual intercourse Attempted forced sexual intercourse Forced other sexual activity Attempted forced other sexual activity

While covering similar offence groups and types, the NICS approach differs from the SCJS in a number of ways. Most importantly, the NICS module has measured lifetime experience of sexual violence and abuse, whereas the SCJS is concerned with experience since age 16. Thus, the results from the two surveys cannot be compared on a like for like basis. In addition, in order to fit the suite of questions into an already packed questionnaire, the NICS has asked fewer questions about stalking or sexual harassment than sexual victimisation and serious sexual assault, has grouped the offence types together when asking follow-up questions and has included fewer questions on domestic violence than before.

1.3 The fieldwork

Of the 2,877 NICS 2008/09 respondents aged between 16 and 64 years, 357 refused to participate in the experience of drugs self-completion module and a further 538 did not participate in the subsequent sexual violence and abuse self-completion module, giving a final sample size for the latter of 1,982. Rather than the sensitivity of the topic, the main reasons given for non-participation in the sexual violence and abuse module related either to the inability of respondents to use the laptop without assistance or to time constraints (linked to the location of the module towards the end the interview).

Respondents were assured in advance of the interviews that any information they provided would be treated as entirely confidential and that the level of detail produced in publications or in any subsequent analyses would not allow for identification of individuals. Given the sensitivity of the topic, respondents to the sexual violence and abuse module were offered additional assurances at regular intervals during the module, as well as the option to skip questions they did not wish to answer. Leaflets on services available to victims of crime were given to each NICS 2008/09 respondent.

1.4 Analysing the data

The findings from the NICS 2008/09 sexual violence and abuse questions have been examined across the following socio-demographic (personal, household and area) groups, the first six of which relate to equality categories specified in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998:

1. religious belief;
2. age;
3. marital status (living arrangements);
4. sex (gender);
5. disability (or illness);
6. household type (child dependants);
7. number of hours out of the home on weekdays;
8. frequency of evening visits to a pub, bar or social club;
9. household income;
10. housing tenure;
11. area type (urban / rural);
12. region;
13. perceived level of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in area; and
14. multiple deprivation measure (MDM) rank.

1.5 About the Northern Ireland Crime Survey

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

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

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

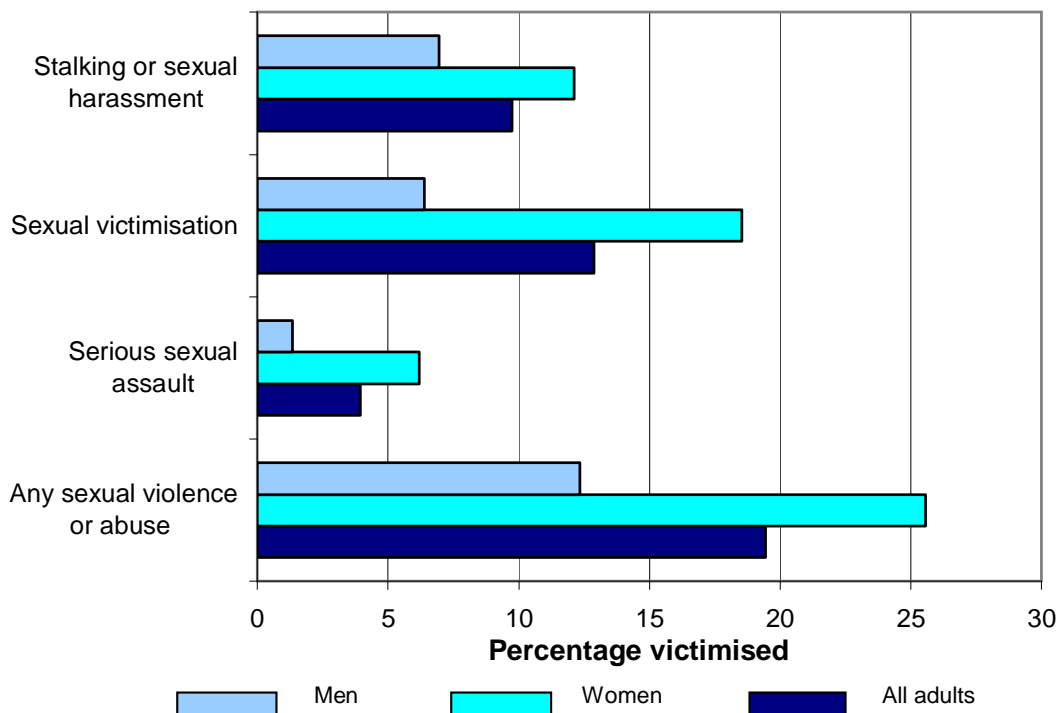
2. LIFETIME EXPERIENCE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

2.1 Lifetime experience of sexual violence or abuse by offence group and type

Table A1 illustrates lifetime experience of sexual violence or abuse among men and women currently aged between 16 and 64. These are subdivided into the offence groups and types shown in Table 1.

- ◆ Almost a fifth (19.4%) of people aged 16-64 have experienced at least one of the specified types of sexual violence or abuse in their lifetimes (Figure 2.1).
- ◆ Women (25.6%) are twice as likely as men (12.3%) to have had such an experience. This is a much lower differential than recorded crime statistics would indicate (PSNI, 2009) (Figure 2.1).
- ◆ Of the three sexual violence and abuse offence groups, sexual victimisation (12.9%) has the highest prevalence rate, ahead of stalking or harassment (9.7%) and serious sexual assault (3.9%) (Figure 2.1).
- ◆ Women (18.5%) are almost three times as likely as men (6.4%) to have experienced sexual victimisation and almost five times as likely to have been victims of serious sexual assault (6.2% v 1.3%). The differential for stalking or sexual harassment is less pronounced, at 12.1% for women and 7.0% for men (Figure 2.1).

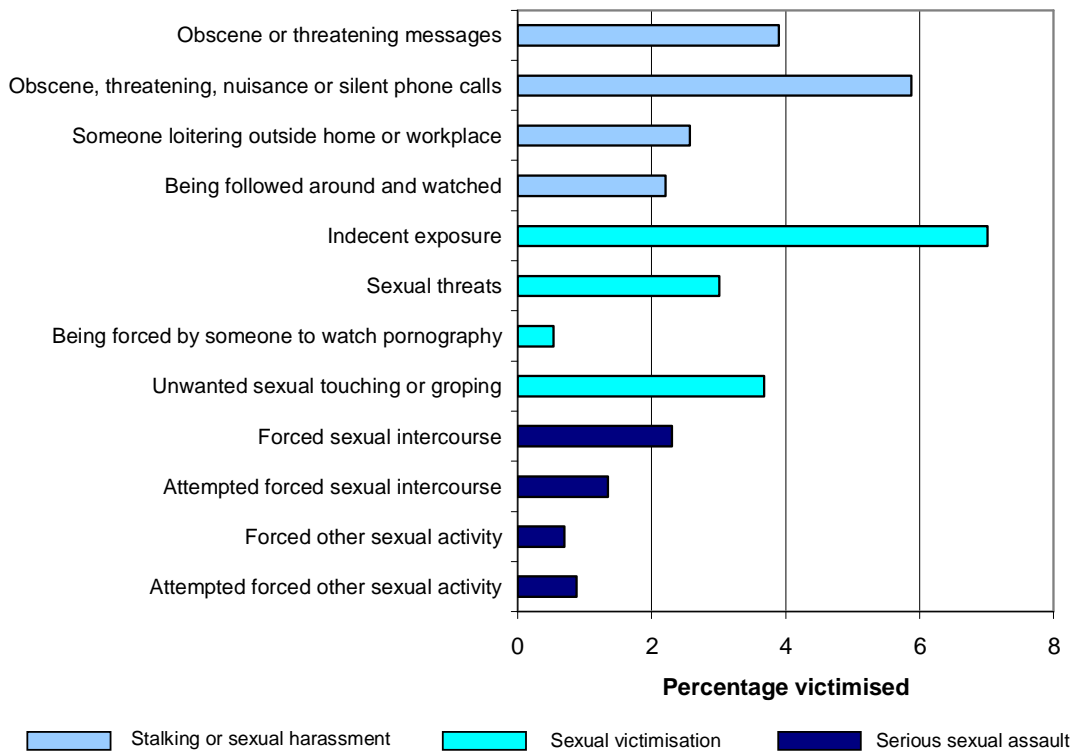
Figure 2.1: Lifetime experience of sexual violence or abuse by offence group and sex of respondent (%)



Source: NICS 2008/09

- ◆ Of the four stalking or sexual harassment offence types, people are most likely to have received obscene, threatening, nuisance or silent phone calls (5.9%) or obscene or threatening messages (3.9%). Less common are someone loitering outside the victim’s home or workplace (2.6%) and being followed around and watched (2.2%). While women (3.6%) are six times as likely as men (0.6%) to have experienced being followed around and watched, the difference between the sexes for receiving obscene or threatening messages (4.2% v 3.6%) was not statistically significant (Figure 2.2).
- ◆ Within the sexual victimisation group of offences, indecent exposure (7.0%) was the most prevalent, followed by unwanted sexual touching or groping (3.7%), sexual threats (3.0%) and being forced by someone to watch pornography (0.5%). With the exception of the latter offence, women are much more likely than men to have experienced sexual victimisation, for example, 9.9% of women have been victims of indecent exposure, compared with 3.7% of men (Figure 2.2).
- ◆ Among serious sexual assaults, forced sexual intercourse (2.3%) was more prevalent than attempted forced sexual intercourse (1.3%), attempted forced other sexual activity (0.9%) and forced other sexual activity (0.7%). The largest differentials in the lifetime experience of women and men related to forced sexual intercourse (3.8% v 0.6%) and attempted forced sexual intercourse (2.4% v 0.2%) (Figure 2.2).

Figure 2.2: Lifetime experience of sexual violence or abuse by offence type (%)



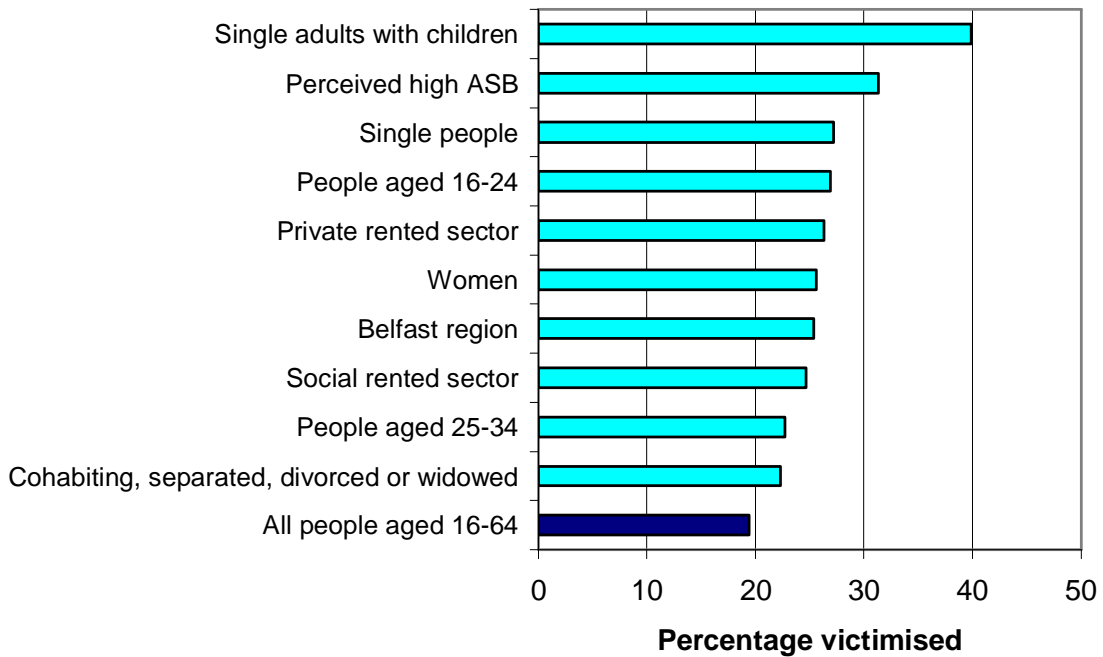
Source: NICS 2008/09

2.2 Lifetime experience of sexual violence or abuse by personal, household and area characteristics

Table A2 presents a socio-demographic breakdown of lifetime experience of sexual violence or abuse, subdivided by offence group and type. Table A3 further sub-divides the data by sex of respondent.

- ◆ Table A2 and Figure 2.3 illustrate that the socio-demographic groups most likely to have ever experienced some form of sexual violence or abuse are:
 - single adults with children (39.9%)
 - people living in areas where they perceive the level of ASB to be high (31.3%)
 - people who are single (27.2%), not living as a couple (26.7%), not married (25.4%) or cohabiting, separated, divorced or widowed (22.3%)
 - people aged 16-24 (26.9%) or 25-34 (22.7%)
 - people in private rented (26.3%), any rented (25.7%) or social rented (24.7%) sectors
 - women (25.6%)
 - people living in Belfast (25.4%)

Figure 2.3: Those most likely to have ever experienced sexual violence or abuse (%)¹



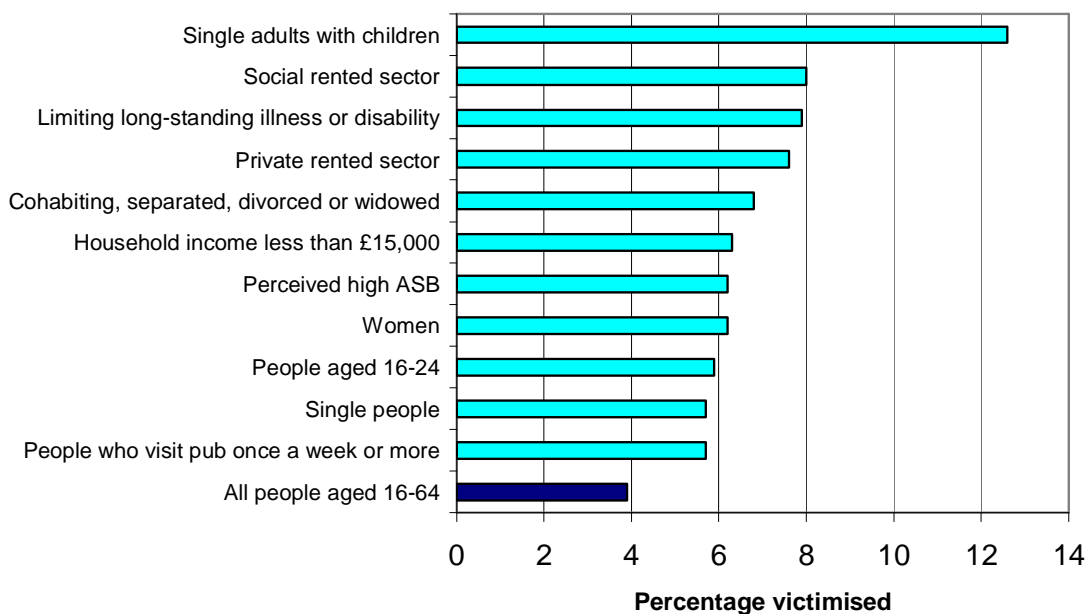
Source: NICS 2008/09

1. The groups 'people who are not living as a couple' (26.7%), 'people who are not married' (25.4%) and 'any rented sector' (25.7%) have not been illustrated as they strongly overlap with other groups.

- ◆ People who are single parents (39.9%) are over twice as likely as any other household type, for example those containing two or more adults and children (18.7%), to have been victims of sexual violence or abuse at some stage in their lives. People not living as a couple (26.7%) are almost twice as likely as those living as a couple (15.2%) to have been victims. A similar contrast applies between people who are not married (25.4%) and those who are married (14.7%) (Table A2).

- ◆ As mentioned earlier, women (25.6%) are twice as likely as men (12.3%) to have experienced sexual violence or abuse in their lifetimes. In addition, people living in areas they perceive to have high levels of ASB (31.3%) are much more likely than those living in low ASB areas (17.5%) to have been victims (Table A2).
- ◆ Current age group appears to be inversely related to the risk of lifetime experience of sexual violence or abuse. While factors such as accuracy of recall, changing societal norms and lifestyles and modern technology may be at play, people who are aged 16-24 (26.9%) or 25-34 (22.7%) are over twice as likely as those aged 55-64 (11.1%) to have been victims (Table A2).
- ◆ People renting their homes (25.7%) are more likely than owner-occupiers (17.0%) to have suffered sexual violence or abuse. Similarly, Belfast residents are more likely to have been victimised (25.4%) than those living in the East (19.3%) or West (16.8%) of Northern Ireland (Table A2).
- ◆ Of the three sexual offence groups, stalking or sexual harassment presents virtually the same picture as any sexual violence or abuse, with the three most likely socio-demographic groups to have experienced this being single adults with children (27.2%), people living in areas where they perceive the level of ASB to be high (15.9%) and single people (15.2%). The figures for sexual victimisation are not dissimilar, being headed by people living in areas where they perceive the level of ASB to be high (23.0%), single adults with children (22.7%) and those privately renting their accommodation (19.9%) (Table A2).
- ◆ The lifetime experience figures for serious sexual assault are, however, somewhat atypical from those for any sexual violence or abuse. While single adults with children (12.6%) and people living in rented accommodation (7.7%) are again included among the groups most likely to have experienced serious sexual assault, also featuring are people with a limiting, long-standing illness or disability (7.9%), those who are cohabiting, separated, divorced or widowed (6.8%), people living in households earning less than £15,000 (6.3%) and those who visit a pub, bar or social club in the evening once or more each week (5.7%) (Table A2 and Figure 2.4).

Figure 2.4: Those most likely to have ever experienced serious sexual assault (%)¹



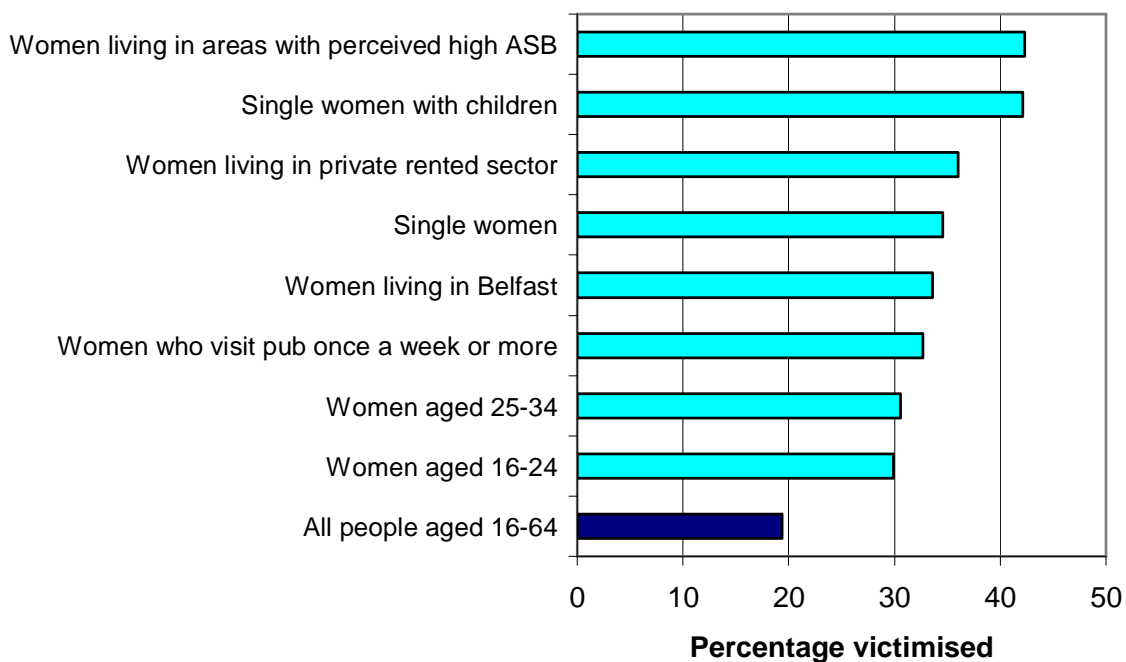
Source: NICS 2008/09

1. The groups 'people who are not living as a couple' (6.2%), 'people who are not married' (6.1%) and 'any rented sector' (7.7%) have not been illustrated as they strongly overlap with other groups.

◆ Although sex of respondent does not appear to be the main socio-demographic variable associated with lifetime experience of sexual violence and abuse victimisation, when it is used to subdivide lifetime experience (Table A3, Figure 2.5), all of the socio-demographic groups most likely to have been victims are female:

- women living in areas where they perceive the level of ASB to be high (42.3%)
- single women with children (42.1%)
- women in private rented (36.0%) or any rented (32.7%) accommodation
- women who are single (34.6%), not living as a couple (33.8%) or not married (32.0%)
- women living in Belfast (33.6%)
- women who visit a pub, bar or social club in the evening once a week or more (32.7%)
- women aged 25-34 (30.6%) or 16-24 (29.9%)

Figure 2.5: Those most likely to have ever experienced sexual violence or abuse by sex of respondent (%)¹



Source: NICS 2008/09

1. The groups 'women not living as a couple' (33.8%), 'women who are not married' (32.0%) and 'women living in any rented sector' (32.7%) have not been illustrated as they strongly overlap with other groups.

- ◆ The highest prevalence rates for male sexual violence or abuse victimisation relate to those aged 16-24 (23.2%, n<100), who are single (19.4%) or who are living in social rented accommodation (19.1%, n<100) (Table A3).
- ◆ In terms of lifetime experience of sexual violence or abuse, there are differences in the age group patterns for men and women. Although, for both sexes, younger people are more likely than older people to have been victimised, the gap for 16-24 year-olds (23.2%, n<100 for men v 29.9% for women) is much narrower than that for those aged 55-64 (4.2% v 17.9%). In addition, the rates for women aged 16-24 (29.9%), 25-34 (30.6%) or 35-44 (28.6%) are very similar (Table A3).

- ◆ As before, the socio-demographic results for serious sexual assault differ somewhat from those for any sexual violence or abuse. Of particular note are the relatively high rates for women who visit a pub, bar or social club in the evening once a week or more (12.2%) and women with a limiting, long-standing illness or disability (11.9%), featuring just behind single women with children (13.0%) (Table A3).
- ◆ Women (11.2%) and men (3.3%) living in rented accommodation also had relatively high rates for serious sexual assault, with that for the social rented sector being the highest for men (4.2%, n<100). Males with a limiting, long-standing illness or disability also exhibited a relatively high level of risk (2.7%) (Table A3).

3. RECENT EXPERIENCE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

3.1 Background

Partly to reflect the fact that people's circumstances, lifestyles and levels of risk of victimisation change as they journey through life, and partly to enable policy-makers to direct their priorities towards those most at risk, it is important to examine the experience of sexual violence and abuse in recent years. Due to sample size limitations, and to enable meaningful socio-demographic analyses to take place, it has been decided to focus in particular on people's experiences in the three years before interview rather than the normal one year associated with crime victimisation analyses.

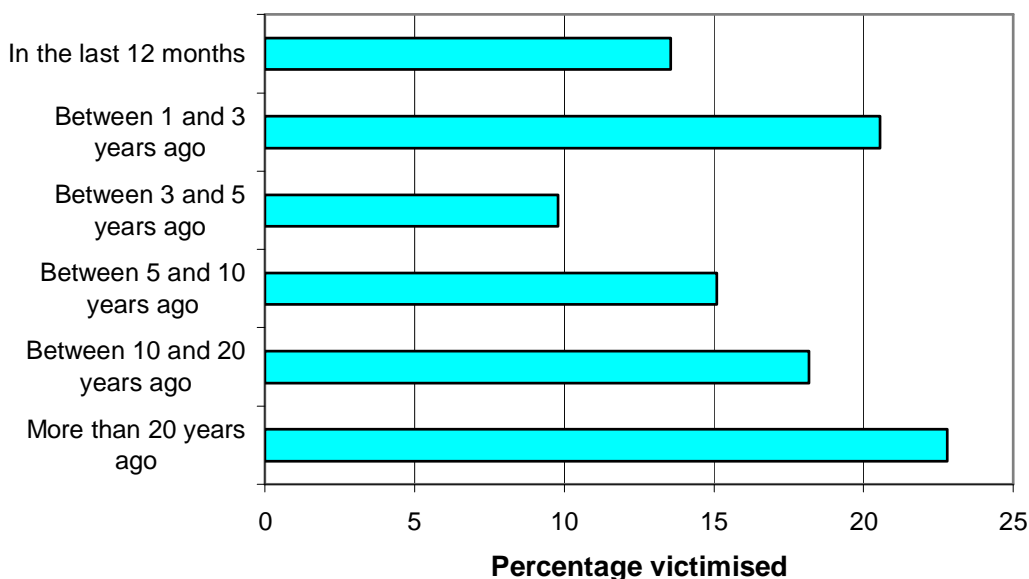
3.2 Recent experience of sexual violence or abuse by offence group

When the (most recent) incident of sexual violence or abuse happened is illustrated using two different bases, victims and respondents. The first of these, shown in Tables A4 and A5, is based on a follow-up question asked of those respondents who indicated they have ever been a victim of any of the offence types. The second, shown in Tables A6 and A7, is based on a composite measure of the 'ever been a victim' and 'how long ago' questions, thus enabling estimates to be given of the prevalence rates for all adults aged 16-64.

As they are based on victims only, the proportions contained in Tables A4 and A5 will be higher than the respondent-based rates in Tables A6 and A7.

- ◆ A third (34.1%) of lifetime victims of sexual violence or abuse experienced this in the three years prior to interview. Almost half (45.6%) the victims of stalking or harassment experienced this in the same period, a much greater proportion than for those subjected to sexual victimisation (20.8%) or serious sexual assault (10.3%). Three-fifths of victims of sexual victimisation (60.0%) or serious sexual assault (59.3%, n<100) had experienced these ten or more years before interview (Table A4, Figure 3.1).

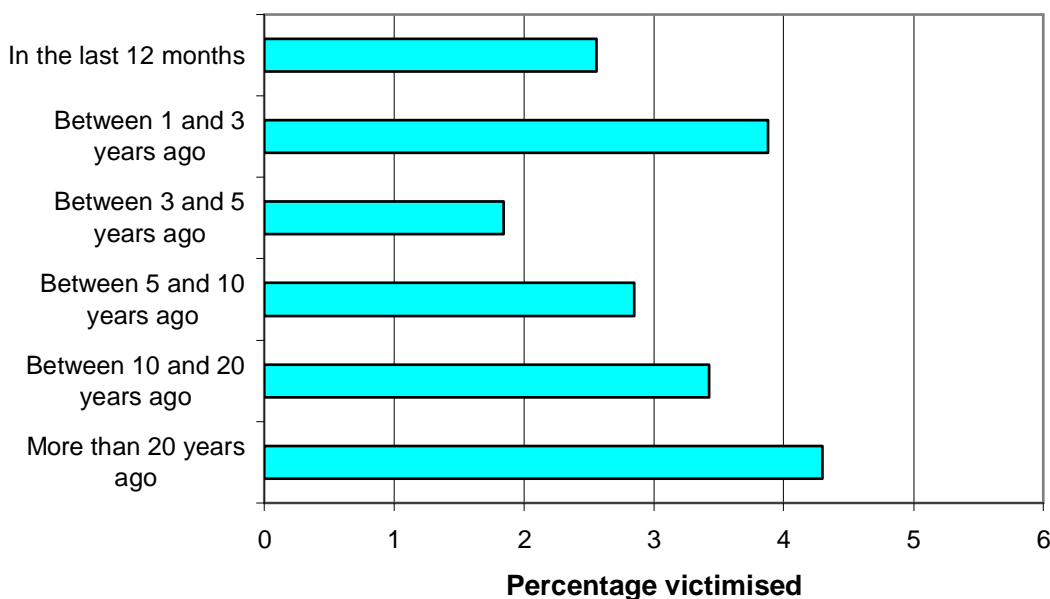
Figure 3.1: When (most recent) incident of sexual violence or abuse happened (based on all victims) (%)



Source: NICS 2008/09

- ◆ Based on victims, the one-year prevalence rate for any sexual violence or abuse was 13.6%. Here again, stalking or sexual harassment dominated (18.6%), compared with sexual victimisation (7.8%) and serious sexual assault (1.4%) (Table A4).
- ◆ The above patterns may be associated with increasing accessibility to a wider range of means of electronic communication, particularly prevalent among younger people. They may also relate to the fact that older members of the population who have been victims are more likely to have experienced this some time ago. It is, therefore, possible that recall of less serious incidents that happened some time ago may not be as reliable as that for more recent incidents.
- ◆ Half (49.5%, n<100) the male victims of sexual violence or abuse experienced this in the three years prior to interview, compared with 28.0% of female victims. While this may be related in part to modern communication technology, it also suggests males are more likely to be victimised these days than in the past (Table A25).
- ◆ Table A6 and Figure 3.2 show that 2.6% of adults aged 16-64 experienced some form of sexual violence or abuse in the 12 months prior to interview. For the youngest respondents, this may have included incidents before age 16. Once again, this is most likely to have taken the form of stalking or sexual harassment (1.8%), followed by sexual victimisation (1.1%) and serious sexual assault (0.1%). A similar pattern is reflected in the time periods up to ten years before interview. However, before that, sexual victimisation was by far the most prevalent offence group (7.2%), with serious sexual assault (2.2%) and stalking or sexual harassment (2.1%) on a par with each other.

Figure 3.2: When (most recent) incident of sexual violence or abuse happened, if ever (based on all respondents aged 16-64) (%)¹



Source: NICS 2008/09

1. Based on a composite measure of the 'ever been a victim' and 'how long ago' questions.

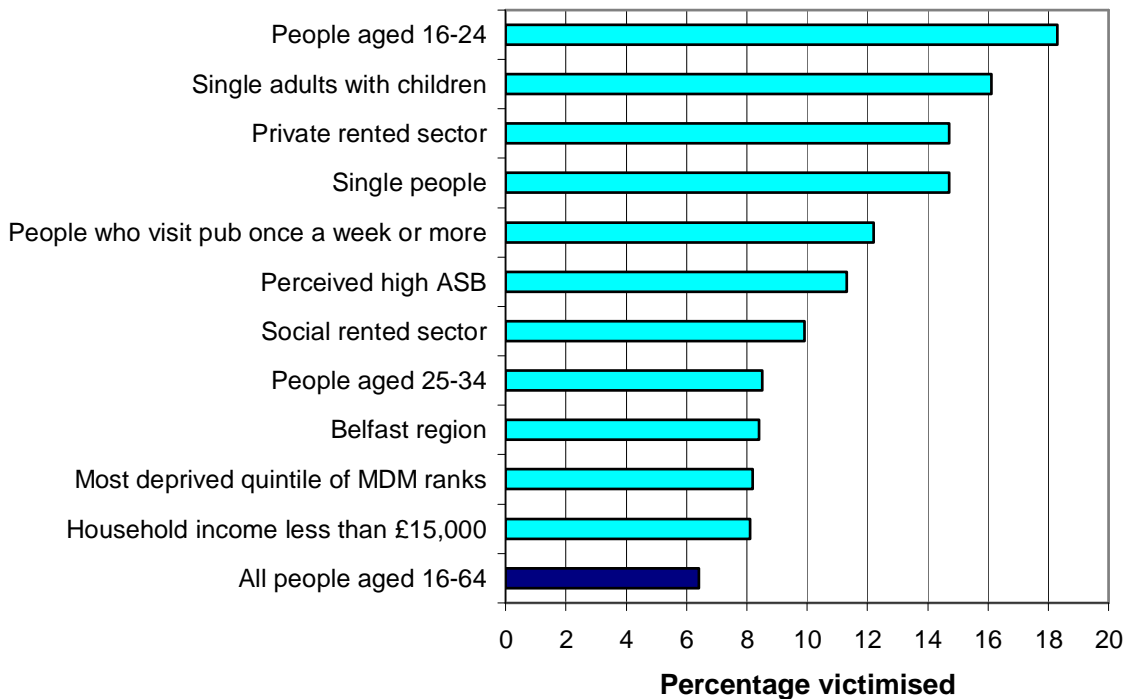
- ◆ Male respondents to NICS 2008/09 (2.5%) are as likely as women (2.6%) to have experienced sexual violence or abuse in the 12 months prior to interview. In each of the time periods prior to that, however, women were much more likely than men to have had such an experience. For example, 6.4% of women were (most recently) victims of sexual violence or abuse 20 or more years prior to interview, compared with 1.8% of men (Table A7).

3.3 Recent experience of sexual violence or abuse by personal, household and area characteristics

Table A8 presents a socio-demographic breakdown of experience of sexual violence or abuse in the three years prior to interview, subdivided by offence group and type. Table A9 further sub-divides the data by sex of respondent. As the victimisation rate for serious sexual assault is very low (0.4%), to minimise the risk of disclosure, socio-demographic breakdowns for this offence group are not presented.

- ◆ Figure 3.3 shows that the socio-demographic groups most likely to have experienced sexual violence or abuse in the three years prior to interview are people who are:
 - aged 16-24 (18.3%) or 25-34 (8.5%)
 - single adults with children (16.1%)
 - living in private rented (14.7%), any rented (12.9%) or social rented accommodation (9.9%)
 - single (14.7%), not living as a couple (12.8%) or not married (11.7%)
 - likely to visit a pub, bar or social club in the evening once a week or more (12.2%)
 - living in areas where they perceive the level of ASB to be high (11.3%)
 - living in Belfast (8.4%)
 - living in the most deprived quintile of MDM ranks (8.2%)
 - living in households with an income of less than £15,000 (8.1%)
- ◆ Most of the groups featured in Figure 3.3 are also among those most likely to experience violent crime in general (Toner and Freel, 2009).

Figure 3.3: Those most likely to have experienced sexual violence or abuse in the three years prior to interview (%)¹

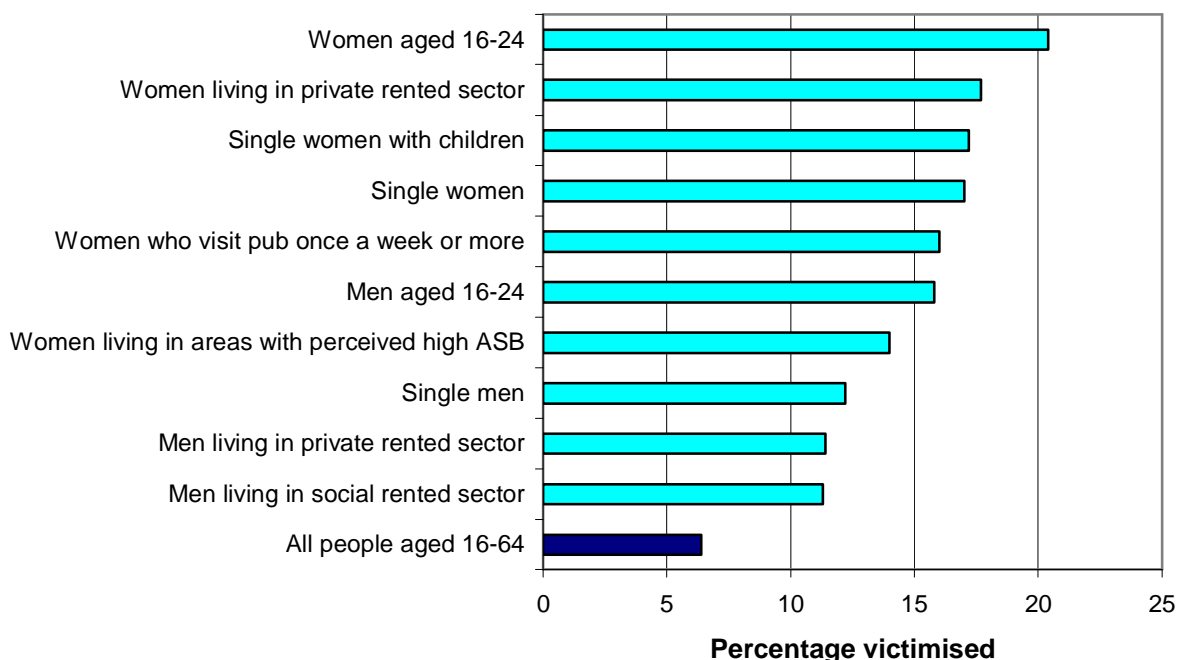


Source: NICS 2008/09

1. The groups 'people who are not living as a couple' (12.8%), 'people who are not married' (11.7%) and 'people living in any rented sector' (12.9%) have not been illustrated as they strongly overlap with other groups.

- ◆ For the most part, although ordered slightly differently, the same groups are most likely to have been victims of stalking or sexual harassment and sexual victimisation in the last three years. The most likely victims of stalking or sexual harassment are single adults with children (13.7%), people aged 16-24 (10.8%) and single people (9.7%); whereas people aged 16-24 (11.3%), those privately renting their accommodation (9.4%) and single people (7.9%) are most likely to have experienced sexual victimisation (Table A8).
- ◆ Further to the point made earlier that sex of respondent is not the main socio-demographic variable associated with lifetime prevalence of sexual violence or abuse, the three-year victimisation rate for women (7.1%) does not feature in the above lists. Indeed, it is not statistically significant from that for men (5.7%). It appears, therefore, that other factors must be at play (Table A8).
- ◆ When sex is used to subdivide experience of sexual violence and abuse in the last three years, women have higher rates than men within most socio-demographic sub-groups (Table A9 and Figure 3.4). However, unlike with lifetime experience, some of the most likely victims are male:
 - women aged 16-24 (20.4%)
 - women in private rented (17.7%) or any rented accommodation (14.2%)
 - single women with children (17.2%)
 - women who are single (17.0%), not living as a couple (13.9%) or not married (12.5%)
 - women who visit a pub, bar or social club in the evening once a week or more (16.0%)
 - men aged 16-24 (15.8%)
 - women living in areas where they perceive the level of ASB to be high (14.0%)
 - men who are single (12.2%), not living as a couple (11.3%) or not married (10.6%)
 - men in private rented (11.4%), any rented (11.4%) or social rented accommodation (11.3%)

Figure 3.4: Those most likely to have experienced sexual violence or abuse by sex of respondent in the three years prior to interview (%)¹



Source: NICS 2008/09

1. The groups 'women / men not living as a couple' (13.9% v 11.3%), 'women / men who are not married' (12.5% v 10.6%) and 'women / men living in any rented sector' (14.2% v 11.4%) have not been illustrated as they strongly overlap with other groups.

- ◆ A not dissimilar pattern is found for sexual victimisation in the last three years, although men who visit a pub, bar or social club in the evening once a week or more (6.8%) also feature among the most likely groups of victim, while the equivalent group for women is third most likely (9.4%), behind women privately renting (10.1%) and women aged 16-24 (13.8%) (Table A9).
- ◆ In contrast, women dominate the most likely socio-demographic groups to have been victims of stalking or sexual harassment in the last three years, with men aged 16-24 (8.3%) the only male group to feature. The three most likely sub-groups to have been victimised are single women with children (14.6%), women who visit a pub, bar or social club in the evening once a week or more (13.5%) and women aged 16-24 (12.8%) (Table A9).

3.4 Predictive models for recent experience of sexual violence or abuse

- ◆ Obviously, several of the above socio-demographic groups strongly overlap with each other. As well as the overlaps between single people, people not living as a couple and people who are not married, members of these groups are more likely to be younger, living in rented accommodation, and more frequent pub visitors. Tables A10 and A11 are, therefore, used to illustrate predictive models developed, using binary logistic regression, to establish how much of the variance in, respectively, risk of sexual violence or abuse and sexual victimisation over the last three years can be explained by such variables when controlling for other factors.
- ◆ Table A10 illustrates the selected logistic regression model for experience of any sexual violence or abuse in the three years prior to the interview. The predictor variables (PVs) included in the model relate to age group, living arrangements, household type, tenure and number of visits to a pub, bar or social club each week. As their odds ratios are greater than one, the predictor groups within each PV are more likely than the reference groups to be at risk of sexual violence or abuse.
- ◆ Based on the Nagelkerke R^2 value (0.15), the model explains around 15% of the variation in recent experience of sexual violence or abuse. People aged 16-24 and people who are not married appear to be contributing most to the model, ahead of single adults with children, people who live in rented accommodation and those who tend to visit a pub, bar or social club in the evening once a week or more. Had the model allowed for statistically significant change at the 10% level ($p < 0.10$), people who live in areas of high ASB would also have been included and a higher R^2 value could have been generated (Table A10).
- ◆ Table A11 contains the logistic regression model for experience of sexual victimisation over the same recall period. While PVs relating to age group, living arrangements, tenure and number of evening visits to the pub each week again feature, household type does not. The model explains about 20% of the variation in experience of sexual victimisation in the three years prior to interview. People aged 16-24 and people who are not married contribute most to the model, ahead of people living in social rented housing and those who visit the pub one or more evenings a week.
- ◆ Of particular interest to policy-makers will be the absence of sex of respondent from either predictive model. While this PV would have featured in models based on lifetime experience, cross-tabulations of the three-year victimisation rates for the two sexes show no statistically significant differences ($p = 0.22$ for sexual violence or abuse; $p = 0.43$ for sexual victimisation).

4. FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

4.1 Background

This section focuses on follow-up questions with respondents who have experienced sexual violence and abuse, including age (first) victimised, frequency of victimisation, sex of perpetrator and relationship to victim, whether the victim told anyone else about the incident(s), injuries or conditions resulting from the incident(s) and the possible influence of alcohol or drugs on the actions of either party.

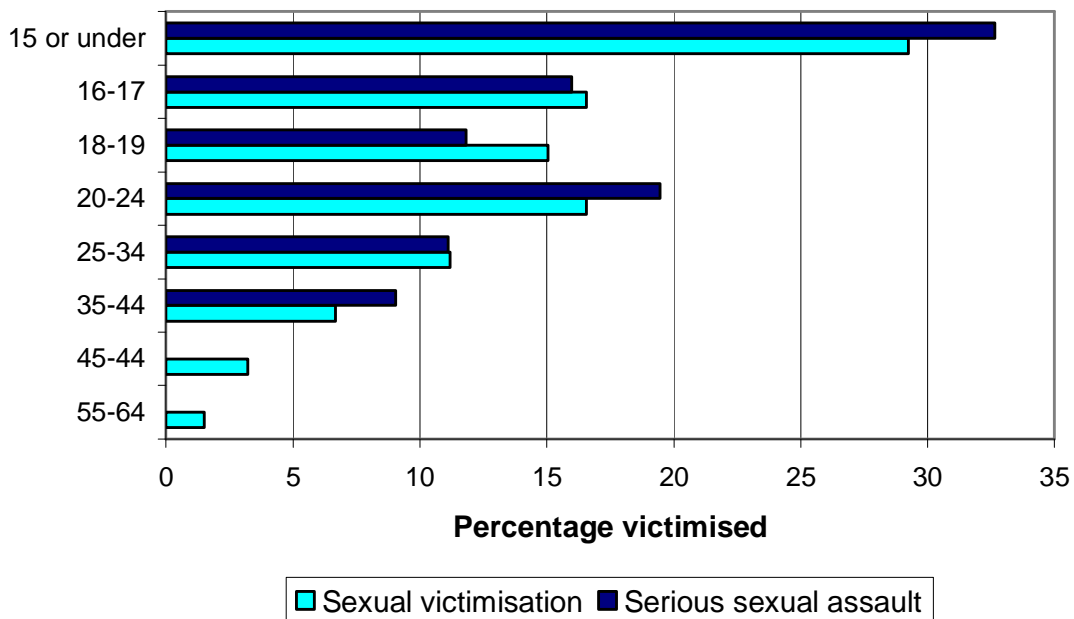
Only a limited number of these follow-up questions were asked of victims of stalking and sexual harassment. In addition, because of the relatively low lifetime prevalence rate for serious sexual assault, the unweighted base is too small to provide robust estimates for some questions. Where this is the case, and a clear pattern has emerged, a broad indication of the results will be given.

4.2 Age of victim when (first) incident happened

The victims of half (50.1%) of all sexual offences recorded by PSNI during 2008/09 were aged under 16, while a further quarter (24.6%) were aged between 16 and 24. It was, therefore, anticipated that many NICS 2008/09 victims of sexual violence or abuse would have experienced this at an early age.

- ◆ Table A12 confirms that incidents of both sexual victimisation and serious sexual assault are most likely to (first) happen when victims are young. For instance, a third (33%, n<100) of victims of serious sexual assault, and 29% of those subjected to sexual victimisation were aged 15 years or under when these incidents (first) occurred. For both offence groups, almost half of the victims hadn't reached age 18, and around four-fifths were under 25, when they (first) happened.

Figure 4.1: Age of victim when (first) incident of sexual victimisation or serious sexual assault happened (%)



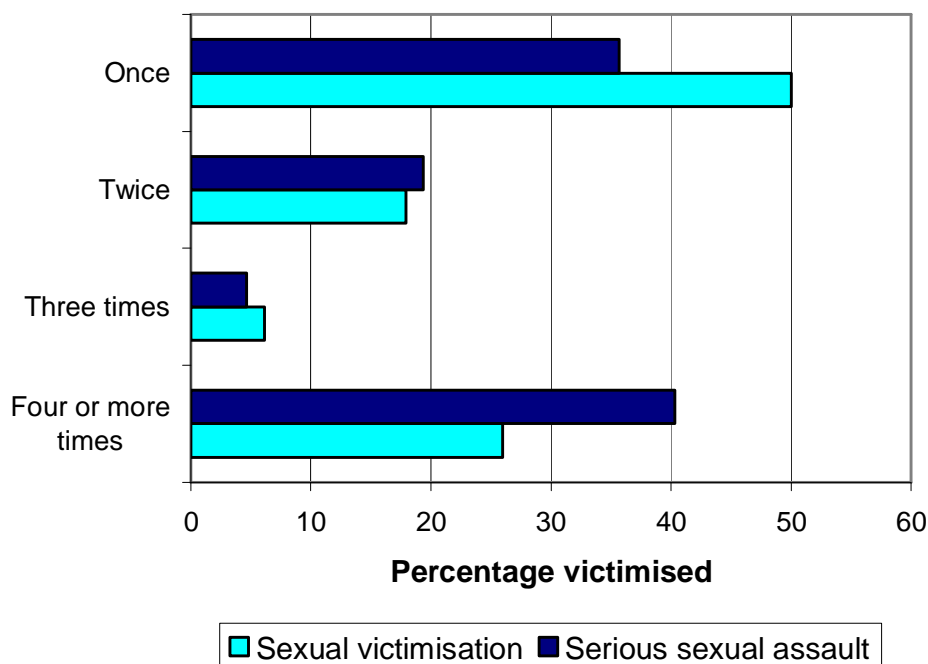
Source: NICS 2008/09

4.3 Number of times victimised

Findings from BCS 2001 show that victims of sexual assault are highly likely to experience repeat victimisation, “where the same person is subject to multiple incidents of the same type of event” (Walby and Allen, 2004).

- ◆ Table A13 and Figure 4.2 show that serious sexual assault is more likely than sexual victimisation to be a repeat offence. Two-fifths (40%, n<100) of serious sexual assault victims have experienced this four or more times and 64% have been victimised more than once. For half (50%) of victims of sexual victimisation, this was a one-off experience, although almost a quarter (24%) of victims have experienced it four or more times (Table A13).

Figure 4.2: Number of times victims have experienced sexual victimisation or serious sexual assault (%)



Source: NICS 2008/09

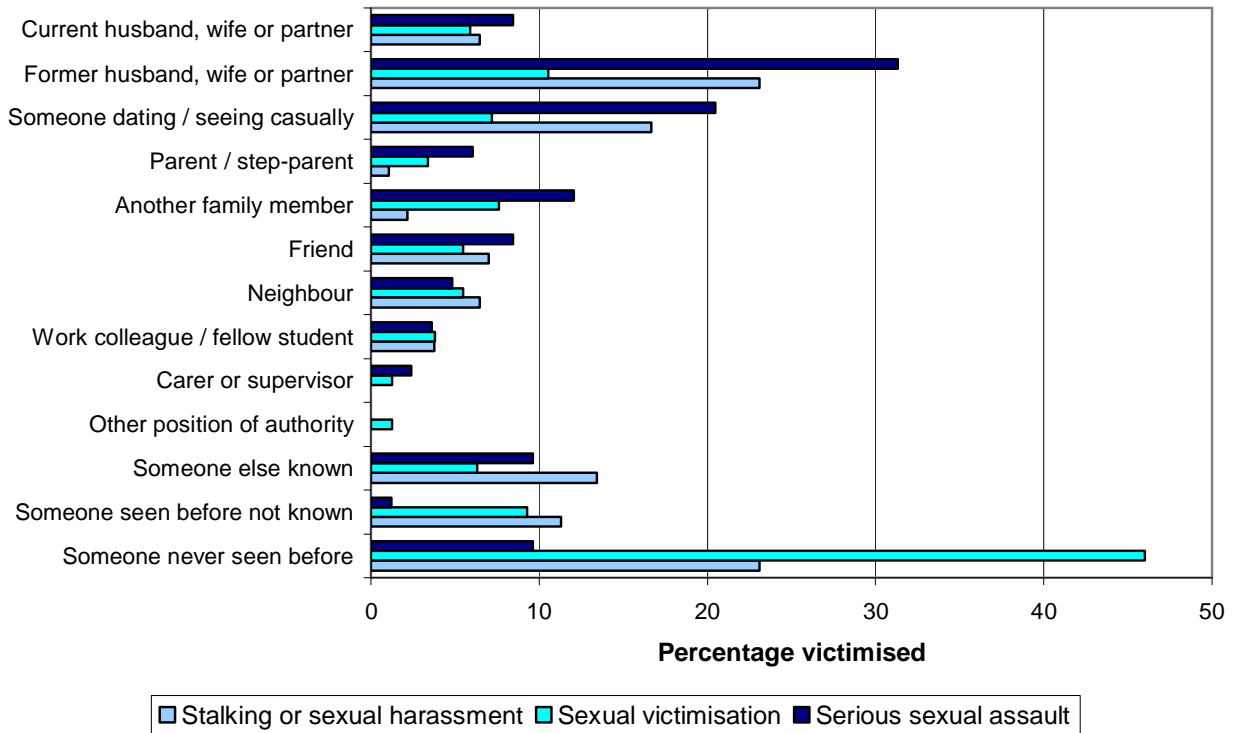
4.4 Characteristics of perpetrators and their relationship to victims

Tables A14 to A16 focus on the characteristics of the perpetrators, their relationship to victims and whether the perpetrators engaged in repeat victimisation.

- ◆ For nine-tenths of victims of either sexual victimisation (91%) or serious sexual assault (90%, n<100), the perpetrators were exclusively male. A further 2% of people who have suffered sexual victimisation and 5% of victims of serious sexual assault said both males and females were offenders. For the remaining 7% of those who have experienced sexual victimisation and 5% of serious sexual assault victims, the perpetrators were exclusively female (Table A14).
- ◆ Perpetrators of stalking or sexual harassment are most likely to have been ‘a former husband, wife or partner of the victim’ or ‘someone the victim had never seen before’ (both 23%). Other likely offender groups include ‘date / someone the victim had been seeing casually’ (17%), ‘someone else known to the victim’ (13%) and ‘someone the victim had seen before but didn’t know’ (11%) (Table A15 and Figure 4.3).

- ◆ Almost half (46%) of cases of sexual victimisation, compared with 10% (n<100) of serious sexual assaults, have involved ‘someone the victim had never seen before’. In contrast, victims of serious sexual assault (31%) were three times as likely as those who had been sexually victimised (11%) to cite a ‘former husband, wife or partner’ as the perpetrator. For serious sexual assault, other offender categories with relatively high rates were ‘date / someone seeing casually’ (20%), ‘another family member’ (12%) and ‘someone else known to the victim’ (10%) (Table A15 and Figure 4.3).

Figure 4.3: Victim-perpetrator relationship in incident(s) of sexual violence or abuse (%)



Source: NICS 2008/09

- ◆ Although, as shown in Table A12, 33% of victims of serious sexual assault and 29% of sexual victimisation were aged 15 years or under when the incidents (first) happened, Table A15 indicates the involvement of ‘parents / step-parents’ is relatively rare, at 6% for serious sexual assault and 3% for sexual victimisation (Table A15 and Figure 4.3).
- ◆ Further analysis of the NICS dataset shows that, for the most part, sexual victimisation before age 18 has involved indecent exposure by ‘someone the victim had seen before but didn’t know’, while serious sexual assaults on people in that age group are most likely to have been perpetrated by a ‘date / someone the victim had been seeing casually’.
- ◆ For those victims who have experienced more than one incident of sexual victimisation, the same perpetrators were involved in over half (56%) of cases. While the unweighted base is too small to provide robust estimates, victims of more than one incident of serious sexual assault are much more likely to cite the same perpetrators (Table A16).

4.5 Whether victims told anyone else about the incidents

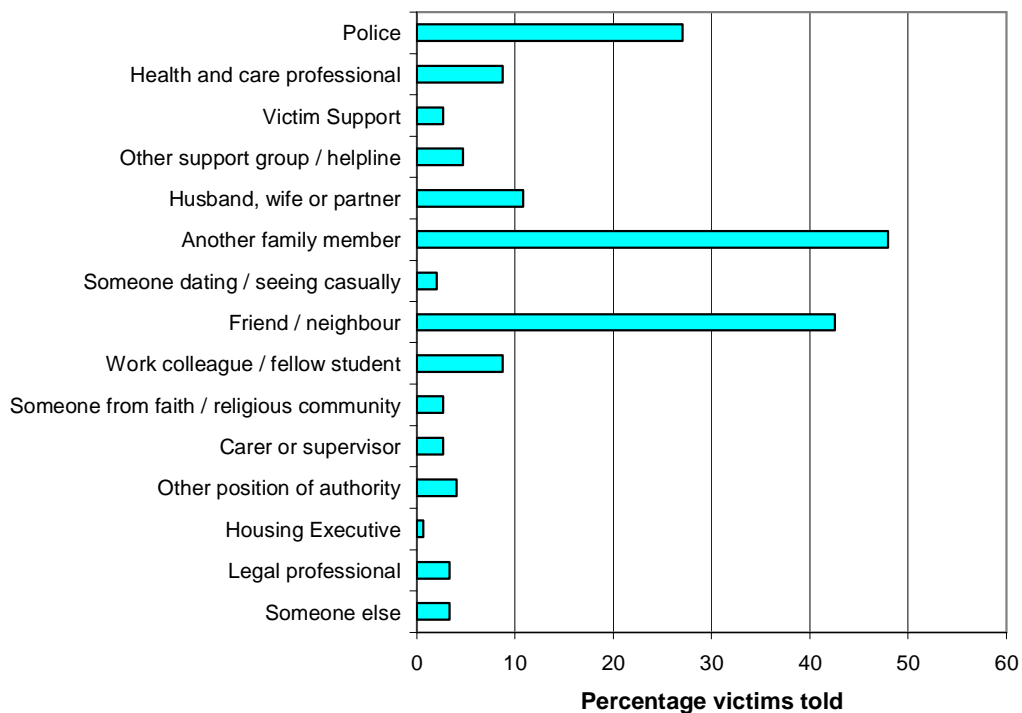
Given the high proportion of victims who are very young, and the inherent reluctance of many people to discuss such an intimate subject, it is widely believed that a relatively small percentage of sexual offences are reported to the police.

Findings from BCS 2001 indicate victims of sexual assault or stalking are most likely to tell friends, relatives or neighbours about such incidents. In addition, while the police come to know about a minority of cases (an eighth of assaults and a third of stalking incidents), victims are much more likely to contact them than support groups and help-lines (Walby and Allen, 2004).

Respondents to the NICS 2008/09 sexual violence and abuse module were asked whether they had told anyone else about the incident(s) and, if so, were asked to choose as many categories of people as appropriate from a list of options. While not comparable with the BCS data, a similar pattern emerges.

- ◆ Around three-fifths of NICS 2008/09 victims of sexual victimisation (63%) and serious sexual assault (58%) have told someone else about at least some incidents (Table A17).
- ◆ Victims of sexual victimisation are most likely to have told a family member other than their husband, wife or partner (48%), a friend or neighbour (43%) or the police (27%). Quite high proportions of victims told their husband, wife or partner (11%), a work colleague / fellow student (9%) or a health and care professional (9%), although they were less likely to have contacted Victim Support (3%) or other support groups / help-lines (5%) (Tables A18 and Figure 4.4).

Figure 4.4: Who victims told about incidents of sexual victimisation (%)



Source: NICS 2008/09

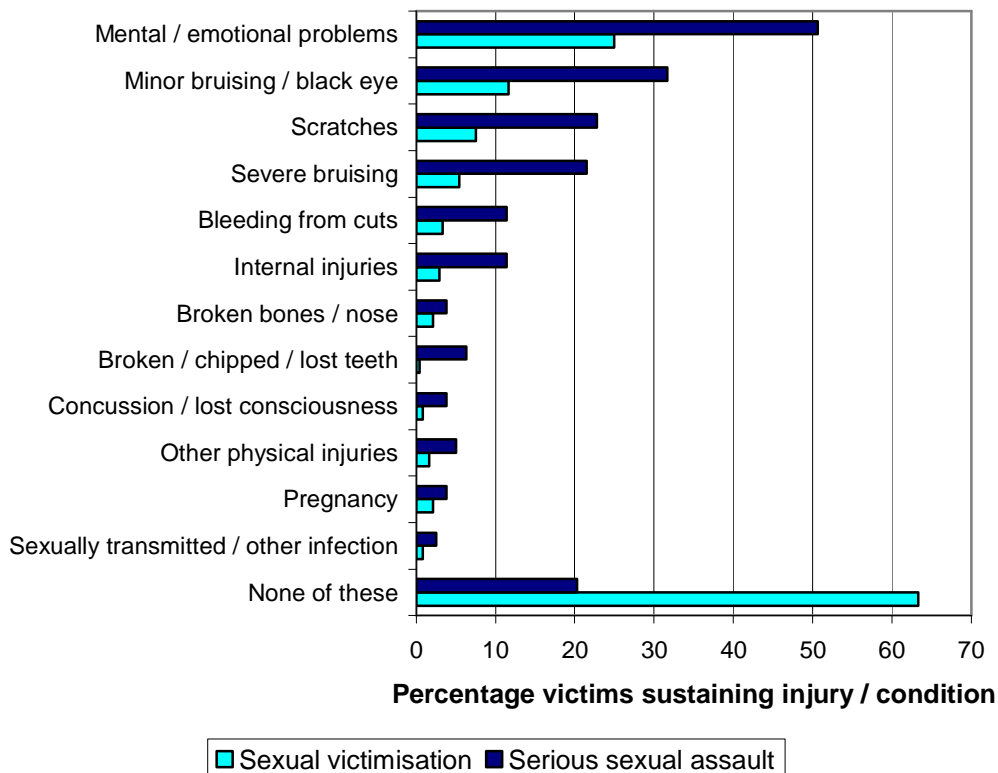
- ◆ While the unweighted base is too small to provide robust estimates in Table A18, the pattern for victims of serious sexual assault is similar. They are, however, more likely to have contacted a health and care professional, Victim Support or other support groups / help-lines than those affected by sexual victimisation.

4.6 Resulting injuries or conditions

Based on the 2008-09 recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland, with the exception of the more serious crimes, most sexual offences do not result in physical injury. The data do not, however, measure the extent to which emotional problems and other conditions have resulted from such incidents.

- ◆ Four-fifths (80%) of NICS 2008-09 victims of serious sexual assault sustained physical injuries, emotional problems or other conditions as a result of the incidents, compared with under two-fifths (37%) of victims of sexual victimisation. Half (51%) of victims of serious sexual assault and a quarter (25%) of those subjected to sexual victimisation developed mental or emotional problems following the incidents (Table A19, Figure 4.5).
- ◆ Physical injuries are less prevalent than mental or emotional problems for both offence groups. Victims of serious sexual assault are most likely to have been physically injured, with a third (32%) sustaining minor bruising or black eyes, 23% scratches and 22% severe bruising, compared with prevalence rates of 12%, 8% and 5% respectively for sexual victimisation (Table A19, Figure 4.5).
- ◆ On the more serious end of the scale, victims of serious sexual assault are most likely to have suffered injuries or developed conditions, notably bleeding from cuts and internal injuries (both 11%). Less prevalent among these victims are broken / chipped / lost teeth (6%), broken bones / nose (4%), severe concussion / loss of consciousness (4%), other physical injuries (5%), pregnancy (4%) and sexually transmitted / other infection (3%) (Table A19, Figure 4.5).
- ◆ While some victims of sexual victimisation stated they sustained serious injuries and / or became pregnant, it is likely these related to incidents more akin to sexual assault, the questions for which were asked subsequent to those on sexual victimisation. This may have led to unintended overlap between responses to the offence groups (Table A19, Figure 4.5).

Figure 4.5: Injuries or conditions resulting from incident(s) of sexual victimisation or assault (%)



Source: NICS 2008/09

4.7 Influence of alcohol or drugs

Earlier, it was reported that people who tend to visit a pub, bar or social club in the evening on a regular basis are more likely than those who do not to be victims of sexual violence or abuse. This is consistent with a Home Office report which states, “violence in general commonly occurs in and around licensed premises and alcohol is a factor in many such incidents” (Finney, 2003).

According to another Home Office report (Finney, 2004), “international research indicates a strong association between alcohol use – both drinking ‘in the event’ and long term drinking patterns – and sexual violence.” It cites a United States survey of 10,000 state prisoners, which found 57% of those convicted of rape had been drinking at the time of the incident (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1983). The report also states both perpetrators and victims of sexual violence and abuse are more likely to be problem drinkers.

The ‘SAVI report’ (McGee et al., 2002), based on research conducted in the Republic of Ireland by the Royal College of Surgeons, found that alcohol was involved in almost half of the cases of sexual assault that occurred as an adult, but that illicit drugs were rarely a factor.

- ◆ The vast majority of NICS 2008-09 respondents who have experienced sexual victimisation or serious sexual assault were not knowingly under the influence of alcohol or drugs when the incidents occurred. For both offence groups, four-fifths (81%) of victims had not been drinking alcohol, and 95% or more had not taken drugs (Table A20).
- ◆ Victims had knowingly been drinking alcohol in 14% of sexual victimisation cases and 11% of sexual assaults, while, for both offence groups, the proportion knowingly having taken drugs was 1%. A further 2% of victims of sexual victimisation said they suspect someone had given them more or stronger alcohol without them realising, with the equivalent figure for drugs being 1% (Table A20).
- ◆ According to their victims, almost half (47%) of perpetrators of serious sexual assault had been under the influence of alcohol prior to at least some incidents, equal to the proportion believed not to have taken alcohol (47%). For sexual victimisation, the respective figures were 31% and 45%, while an additional 25% answered ‘don’t know / can’t remember’, a much higher proportion than the 6% for serious sexual assault (Table A20).
- ◆ With regard to drugs, victims are much less likely to believe the perpetrators had taken these prior to incidents, at 11% for serious sexual assault and 8% for sexual victimisation. However, the very high proportion of victims saying ‘don’t know / can’t remember’ (35% for sexual victimisation and 11% for serious sexual assault) suggests it would have been difficult for many to provide a fully informed response to the question (Table A20).

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TABULAR ANNEX

Table A1: Lifetime experience of sexual violence or abuse among adults aged 16-64 (%)^{1,2}

	Men	Women	All Adults
ANY SEXUAL VIOLENCE OR ABUSE	12.3	25.6	19.4
Stalking or sexual harassment	7.0	12.1	9.7
Obscene or threatening messages	3.6	4.2	3.9
Obscene, threatening, nuisance or silent phone calls	4.1	7.4	5.9
Someone loitering outside home or workplace	1.6	3.4	2.6
Being followed around and watched	0.6	3.6	2.2
Sexual victimisation	6.4	18.5	12.9
Indecent exposure	3.7	9.9	7.0
Sexual threats	1.0	4.8	3.0
Being forced by someone to watch pornography	0.5	0.6	0.5
Unwanted sexual touching or groping	1.5	5.6	3.7
Serious sexual assault	1.3	6.2	3.9
Forced sexual intercourse	0.6	3.8	2.3
Attempted forced sexual intercourse	0.2	2.4	1.3
Forced other sexual activity	0.3	1.0	0.7
Attempted forced other sexual activity	0.4	1.3	0.9
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>839</i>	<i>1,080</i>	<i>1,919</i>

Source: NICS 2008/09

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

2. Unweighted bases are given for sexual victimisation; the bases for the other measures will be similar.

NICS 2008/09: EXPERIENCE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

Table A2: Lifetime experience of sexual violence or abuse among adults aged 16-64, by personal, household and area characteristics (%)^{1,2}

	Stalking or sexual harassment	Sexual victimisation	Serious sexual assault	Any sexual violence or abuse	Unweighted bases
ALL ADULTS	9.7	12.9	3.9	19.4	1,919
Age group					
16-24	13.7	19.1	5.9	26.9	219
25-34	12.3	15.9	4.8	22.7	421
35-44	10.6	12.6	3.9	20.3	536
45-54	8.7	10.2	2.9	17.1	393
55-64	3.7	7.8	2.8	11.1	350
Sex					
Men	7.0	6.4	1.3	12.3	839
Women	12.1	18.5	6.2	25.6	1,080
Religion					
Catholic	9.9	12.4	2.8	19.5	798
Protestant	9.3	12.4	3.9	18.7	1,011
Living arrangements (respondent)					
Living as a couple	6.7	10.1	2.6	15.2	1,050
Not living as a couple	15.0	17.6	6.2	26.7	869
Married	6.4	9.5	2.2	14.7	925
Not married:	14.0	17.1	6.1	25.4	994
Single	15.2	17.9	5.7	27.2	595
Cohabiting, separated, divorced or widowed	12.1	15.7	6.8	22.3	399
Disability or illness					
Limiting long-standing illness or disability	7.4	13.9	7.9	19.5	300
No long-standing illness or disability	9.6	12.7	3.3	19.1	1,513
Hours out of home (weekday)					
Less than 3 hours	9.1	13.3	3.3	20.6	382
3 but less than 7 hours	8.7	14.4	4.4	19.4	518
7 hours or more	10.5	12.0	3.9	19.1	1,017
Evening visits to the pub					
None	8.3	11.0	3.6	17.7	800
Less than once a week	10.0	13.5	3.5	20.5	809
Once a week or more	12.6	15.7	5.7	21.2	310
Household type³					
HRP aged under 60:					
Single adult & child(ren)	27.2	22.7	12.6	39.9	211
Adults & child(ren)	8.2	13.4	2.4	18.7	614
No children	9.4	12.5	4.2	18.5	878
HRP aged 60+	8.1	8.1	3.7	15.9	216
Household income					
Less than £15,000	12.3	13.5	6.3	22.0	504
£15,000 less than £30,000	10.6	13.5	4.2	20.5	564
£30,000 less than £45,000	8.1	11.2	2.3	17.1	387
£45,000 or more	8.8	10.2	2.1	16.9	312
Tenure					
Owner-occupied	8.5	11.0	2.6	17.0	1,325
Rented:	13.2	17.5	7.7	25.7	588
Social rented	13.8	13.2	8.0	24.7	260
Private rented	12.8	19.9	7.6	26.3	328
Area type					
Urban	10.2	13.6	4.4	20.5	1,125
Urban, excluding Belfast	9.4	12.4	4.1	18.6	799
Rural	9.2	12.0	3.4	18.1	794
Region					
Belfast	12.3	16.7	5.2	25.4	326
East of Northern Ireland	9.5	13.6	4.1	19.3	1,001
West of Northern Ireland	8.9	9.9	3.0	16.8	592
Perceived level of ASB⁴					
High	15.9	23.0	6.2	31.3	294
Low	8.6	11.5	3.7	17.5	1,461
Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank⁵					
1st quintile (most deprived)	11.8	10.8	4.0	20.3	334
2nd quintile	7.9	10.4	2.8	15.4	346
3rd quintile	9.8	13.7	3.7	20.2	364
4th quintile	10.9	14.4	4.6	21.7	407
5th quintile (least deprived)	8.7	13.9	4.1	19.3	453

Source: NICS 2008/09

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

2. Unweighted bases are given for sexual victimisation; the bases for the other measures will be similar.

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

4. ASB: Anti-social behaviour (measure derived from responses to seven questions on perceptions of ASB in the local area).

5. Rank order of super output areas (derived from 2005 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure).

NICS 2008/09: EXPERIENCE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

Table A3: Lifetime experience of sexual violence or abuse among men and women aged 16-64, by personal, household and area characteristics (%)^{1,2,3}

	Stalking or sexual harassment		Sexual victimisation		Serious sexual assault		Any sexual violence or abuse		Unweighted bases	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
ALL ADULTS	7.0	12.1	6.4	18.5	1.3	6.2	12.3	25.6	839	1,080
Age group										
16-24	10.6	16.2	14.7	23.0	0.8	10.1	23.2	29.9	89	130
25-34	8.4	15.5	8.8	22.0	2.0	7.1	13.2	30.6	172	249
35-44	5.0	14.7	3.5	19.5	1.2	6.0	9.0	28.6	223	313
45-54	10.0	7.6	5.0	15.2	0.5	5.1	14.3	19.8	187	206
55-64	1.5	5.9	2.7	13.0	2.4	3.2	4.2	17.9	168	182
Religion										
Catholic	8.5	10.9	5.5	17.8	1.3	4.0	13.1	24.6	326	472
Protestant	6.1	12.3	6.7	17.9	1.2	6.4	11.7	25.4	462	549
Living arrangements (respondent)										
Living as a couple	5.6	7.7	4.2	15.5	1.2	4.0	9.5	20.3	500	550
Not living as a couple	9.6	19.1	10.4	23.3	1.6	9.7	17.6	33.8	339	530
Married	5.2	7.4	3.5	15.1	1.2	3.2	8.8	20.1	443	482
Not married:	9.4	17.6	10.3	22.5	1.6	9.7	17.1	32.0	396	598
Single	10.1	19.8	11.6	24.0	1.9	9.3	19.4	34.6	257	338
Cohabiting, separated, divorced or widowed	7.7	14.5	7.2	20.4	0.9	10.2	11.6	28.2	139	260
Disability or illness										
Limiting long-standing illness or disability	3.5	10.4	5.6	20.4	2.7	11.9	9.4	27.1	129	171
No long-standing illness or disability	6.4	12.3	6.1	18.4	1.2	5.2	11.5	25.4	654	859
Hours out of home (weekday)										
Less than 3 hours	4.5	10.9	2.0	17.9	1.0	4.2	7.4	25.6	108	274
3 but less than 7 hours	4.1	10.9	9.3	16.9	2.0	5.6	12.2	23.0	168	350
7 hours or more	8.1	13.8	6.3	20.3	1.2	7.8	13.1	27.6	563	454
Evening visits to the pub										
None	5.8	9.9	5.1	15.1	0.8	5.6	10.9	22.3	307	493
Less than once a week	7.2	12.3	6.1	19.7	1.6	5.2	12.4	27.0	334	475
Once a week or more	8.2	20.0	8.8	27.8	1.9	12.2	14.4	32.7	198	112
Household type⁴										
HRP aged under 60:										
Single adult & child(ren)	n<50	28.5	n<50	23.7	n<50	13.0	n<50	42.1	13	198
Adults & child(ren)	4.8	10.9	7.1	18.6	1.1	3.5	12.3	24.1	270	344
No children	8.3	10.5	7.1	18.7	1.7	7.1	13.3	24.3	465	413
HRP aged 60+	7.3	8.6	0.5	13.8	0.0	6.5	8.1	21.6	91	125
Household income										
Less than £15,000	5.5	15.4	5.5	17.2	2.2	8.2	9.2	27.9	156	348
£15,000 less than £30,000	6.3	14.1	4.9	20.7	1.0	6.9	10.9	28.5	248	316
£30,000 less than £45,000	7.4	8.8	4.7	16.9	0.5	4.0	12.3	21.3	176	211
£45,000 or more	7.6	10.7	5.6	17.3	1.3	3.4	12.3	23.8	184	128
Tenure										
Owner-occupied	6.5	10.3	4.4	16.9	0.7	4.3	10.4	22.8	598	727
Rented:	8.4	16.9	10.9	22.7	3.3	11.2	16.8	32.7	236	352
Social rented	10.2	16.0	11.0	14.6	4.2	10.3	19.1	28.0	87	173
Private rented	7.5	17.6	10.9	28.3	2.9	11.9	15.8	36.0	149	179
Area type										
Urban	7.9	12.1	7.0	19.3	1.4	6.9	13.2	26.8	485	640
Urban, excluding Belfast	7.6	10.9	6.4	17.7	1.0	6.8	12.5	23.9	354	445
Rural	5.8	12.1	5.6	17.6	1.2	5.3	11.3	24.1	354	440
Region										
Belfast	8.6	15.2	8.7	23.0	2.6	7.2	15.1	33.6	131	195
East of Northern Ireland	6.9	11.9	7.3	19.3	1.3	6.7	12.6	25.3	447	554
West of Northern Ireland	6.3	11.0	3.8	15.1	0.9	4.9	10.7	21.9	261	331
Perceived level of ASB⁵										
High	10.3	19.9	8.3	33.8	1.6	9.7	16.4	42.3	101	184
Low	6.2	10.8	6.2	16.4	1.3	5.8	11.4	22.9	629	796
Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank⁶										
1st quintile (most deprived)	9.5	13.5	2.8	16.7	0.4	6.6	12.1	26.2	119	211
2nd quintile	7.0	8.8	8.8	11.8	0.6	4.5	13.1	17.3	138	195
3rd quintile	3.8	15.6	6.0	21.3	1.3	6.1	10.5	29.8	158	199
4th quintile	9.2	12.3	7.5	20.6	2.6	6.4	15.0	27.3	172	223
5th quintile (least deprived)	6.1	11.0	6.2	20.6	1.3	6.6	11.2	26.5	197	244

Source: NICS 2008/09

- Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
- Unweighted bases are given for sexual victimisation; the bases for the other measures will be similar.
- Statistics from unweighted bases less than 100 should be viewed with caution to avoid drawing unwarranted conclusions from the data.
- HRP: Household Reference Person (in order of sequence, the person who owns or rents the accommodation, highest earner or oldest person).
- ASB: Anti-social behaviour (measure derived from responses to seven questions on perceptions of ASB in the local area).
- Rank order of super output areas (derived from 2005 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure).

Table A4: When (most recent) incident of sexual violence or abuse happened (based on victims) (%)^{1,2}

How long ago did the (most recent) incident happen?	Stalking or sexual harassment	Sexual victimisation	Serious sexual assault	Any sexual violence or abuse
In the last 12 months	18.6	7.8	1.4	13.6
Between 1 and 3 years ago	27.3	13.1	9.0	20.6
Between 3 and 5 years ago	12.7	6.5	11.7	9.8
Between 5 and 10 years ago	19.2	12.7	18.6	15.1
Between 10 and 20 years ago	15.1	25.7	31.0	18.2
More than 20 years ago	7.0	34.3	28.3	22.8
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	212	245	83	382

Source: NICS 2008/09

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Statistics from unweighted bases less than 100 should be viewed with caution to avoid drawing unwarranted conclusions from the data.

Table A5: When (most recent) incident of sexual violence or abuse happened, by sex (based on victims) (%)^{1,2}

How long ago did the (most recent) incident happen?	Any sexual violence or abuse	
	Men	Women
In the last 12 months	21.9	10.3
Between 1 and 3 years ago	27.6	17.7
Between 3 and 5 years ago	12.4	8.9
Between 5 and 10 years ago	10.5	16.6
Between 10 and 20 years ago	11.4	21.0
More than 20 years ago	16.2	25.5
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	85	297

Source: NICS 2008/09

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Statistics from unweighted bases less than 100 should be viewed with caution to avoid drawing unwarranted conclusions from the data.

Table A6: When (most recent) incident of sexual violence or abuse happened (based on all respondents) (%)^{1,2}

How long ago did the (most recent) incident happen?	Stalking or sexual harassment	Sexual victimisation	Serious sexual assault	Any sexual violence or abuse
Ever (including time period not specified)	9.7	12.9	3.9	19.4
In the last 12 months	1.8	1.1	0.1	2.6
Between 1 and 3 years ago	2.6	1.9	0.3	3.9
Between 3 and 5 years ago	1.2	0.9	0.4	1.8
Between 5 and 10 years ago	1.9	1.2	0.7	2.8
Between 10 and 20 years ago	1.5	2.9	1.2	3.4
More than 20 years ago	0.7	4.3	1.1	4.3
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,897</i>	<i>1,919</i>	<i>1,898</i>	<i>1,883</i>

Source: NICS 2008/09

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Totals for specific time periods may not add up to ever victimised total as some victims did not specify how long ago (most recent) incident happened.

Table A7: When (most recent) incident of sexual violence or abuse happened, by sex (based on all respondents) (%)^{1,2}

How long ago did the (most recent) incident happen?	Stalking or sexual harassment		Sexual victimisation		Serious sexual assault		Any sexual violence or abuse	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Ever (including time period not specified)	7.0	12.1	6.4	18.5	1.3	6.2	12.3	25.6
In the last 12 months	1.6	1.9	1.2	1.1	0.1	0.0	2.5	2.6
Between 1 and 3 years ago	1.9	3.2	1.6	2.3	0.0	0.6	3.2	4.5
Between 3 and 5 years ago	1.0	1.4	0.6	1.0	0.3	0.6	1.4	2.2
Between 5 and 10 years ago	1.3	2.4	0.1	2.2	0.1	1.3	1.2	4.2
Between 10 and 20 years ago	0.9	2.0	0.6	5.0	0.2	2.0	1.3	5.3
More than 20 years ago	0.1	1.2	1.6	6.6	0.6	1.4	1.8	6.4
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>817</i>	<i>1,071</i>	<i>833</i>	<i>1,071</i>	<i>828</i>	<i>1,067</i>	<i>809</i>	<i>1,060</i>

Source: NICS 2008/09

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Totals for specific time periods may not add up to ever victimised total as some victims did not specify how long ago (most recent) incident happened.

NICS 2008/09: EXPERIENCE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

Table A8: Experience of sexual violence or abuse in the last 3 years among adults aged 16-64, by personal, household and area characteristics (%)^{1,2,3}

	Stalking or sexual harassment	Sexual victimisation	Any sexual violence or abuse	Unweighted bases
ALL ADULTS	4.4	3.1	6.4	1,919
Age group				
16-24	10.8	11.3	18.3	217
25-34	6.2	4.1	8.5	417
35-44	2.5	1.0	3.3	528
45-54	3.5	0.8	4.0	392
55-64	1.2	0.6	1.7	350
Sex				
Men	3.6	2.7	5.7	833
Women	5.2	3.4	7.1	1,071
Religion				
Catholic	4.3	3.1	6.4	793
Protestant	4.2	2.9	6.2	1,002
Living arrangements (respondent)				
Living as a couple	1.8	1.1	2.7	1,045
Not living as a couple	9.0	6.4	12.8	859
Married	1.7	0.6	2.3	921
Not married:	7.9	6.1	11.7	983
Single	9.7	7.9	14.7	589
Cohabiting, separated, divorced or widowed	4.6	3.0	6.3	394
Disability or illness				
Limiting long-standing illness or disability	4.0	2.4	6.5	268
No long-standing illness or disability	4.4	3.1	6.3	1,501
Hours out of home (weekday)				
Less than 3 hours	3.6	0.9	4.1	380
3 but less than 7 hours	4.3	3.7	6.5	513
7 hours or more	4.8	3.4	7.2	1,009
Evening visits to the pub				
None	2.5	1.6	3.7	794
Less than once a week	5.0	2.6	6.7	802
Once a week or more	7.8	7.7	12.2	308
Household type⁴				
HRP aged under 60:				
Single adult & child(ren)	13.7	5.3	16.1	206
Adults & child(ren)	3.1	3.4	5.5	610
No children	4.9	3.1	6.7	873
HRP aged 60+	2.9	0.7	3.6	215
Household income				
Less than £15,000	6.6	2.9	8.1	494
£15,000 less than £30,000	5.0	2.5	6.7	563
£30,000 less than £45,000	2.6	2.3	4.2	386
£45,000 or more	3.1	2.9	5.6	311
Tenure				
Owner-occupied	3.0	1.5	4.1	1,318
Rented:	8.3	7.3	12.9	581
Social rented	7.8	3.7	9.9	256
Private rented	8.5	9.4	14.7	325
Area type				
Urban	5.3	3.6	7.4	1,116
Urban, excluding Belfast	5.2	3.1	7.0	794
Rural	3.4	2.4	5.3	788
Region				
Belfast	5.6	4.9	8.4	322
East of Northern Ireland	4.2	2.7	5.9	994
West of Northern Ireland	4.3	2.7	6.4	588
Perceived level of ASB⁵				
High	7.4	5.7	11.3	289
Low	3.9	2.5	5.4	1,452
Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank⁶				
1st quintile (most deprived)	5.9	3.0	8.2	331
2nd quintile	5.1	3.6	7.2	342
3rd quintile	4.5	4.2	7.0	361
4th quintile	3.5	1.7	4.4	403
5th quintile (least deprived)	3.9	3.0	6.3	452

Source: NICS 2008/09

- Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
- Unweighted bases are given for sexual victimisation; the bases for the other measures will be similar.
- As victimisation rate for serious sexual assault is very low (0.4%), demographic breakdowns are not shown to prevent possible disclosure.
- HRP: Household Reference Person (in order of sequence, the person who owns or rents the accommodation, highest earner or oldest person).
- ASB: Anti-social behaviour (measure derived from responses to seven questions on perceptions of ASB in the local area).
- Rank order of super output areas (derived from 2005 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure).

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Table A9: Experience of sexual violence or abuse in the last 3 years among men and women aged 16-64, by personal, household and area characteristics (%)^{1,2,3,4}

	Stalking or sexual harassment		Sexual victimisation		Any sexual violence or abuse		Unweighted bases	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
ALL ADULTS	3.6	5.2	2.7	3.4	5.7	7.1	833	1,071
Age group								
16-24	8.3	12.8	8.3	13.8	15.8	20.4	87	130
25-34	3.6	8.4	5.7	2.7	7.1	9.6	171	246
35-44	2.2	2.7	0.0	1.8	2.2	4.0	221	307
45-54	3.8	3.1	1.4	0.2	4.8	3.2	186	206
55-64	1.5	0.9	0.0	1.2	1.5	1.8	168	182
Religion								
Catholic	3.5	4.9	2.8	3.4	5.4	7.2	324	469
Protestant	3.7	4.7	2.9	3.0	6.1	6.2	458	544
Living arrangements (respondent)								
Living as a couple	2.1	1.6	0.9	1.2	2.6	2.8	497	548
Not living as a couple	6.4	10.9	5.8	6.9	11.3	13.9	336	523
Married	2.1	1.4	0.2	1.0	2.1	2.4	441	480
Not married:	5.7	9.5	6.0	6.2	10.6	12.5	392	591
Single	6.6	12.6	6.8	8.9	12.2	17.0	254	335
Cohabiting, separated, divorced or widowed	3.7	5.1	4.1	2.3	6.5	6.2	138	256
Disability or illness								
Limiting long-standing illness or disability	2.2	5.4	3.4	1.7	5.8	7.1	126	142
No long-standing illness or disability	3.4	5.2	2.4	3.8	5.2	7.2	648	853
Hours out of home (weekday)								
Less than 3 hours	3.0	3.9	0.5	1.0	3.2	4.5	108	272
3 but less than 7 hours	2.4	5.3	2.0	4.6	3.5	7.9	166	347
7 hours or more	4.0	5.8	3.2	3.8	6.6	7.9	559	450
Evening visits to the pub								
None	2.2	2.7	1.5	1.6	3.3	4.1	305	489
Less than once a week	4.4	5.5	1.3	3.7	5.3	7.9	331	471
Once a week or more	4.4	13.5	6.8	9.4	9.9	16.0	197	111
Household type⁵								
HRP aged under 60:								
Single adult & child(ren)	n<50	14.6	n<50	5.7	n<50	17.2	13	193
Adults & child(ren)	2.2	3.8	2.8	3.9	5.0	5.9	267	343
No children	4.6	5.2	3.2	3.0	6.6	6.9	462	411
HRP aged 60+	3.7	2.4	0.0	1.2	3.8	3.6	91	124
Household income								
Less than £15,000	3.9	7.9	2.6	3.0	4.0	10.0	153	341
£15,000 less than £30,000	3.4	6.3	1.6	3.3	5.0	8.2	248	315
£30,000 less than £45,000	3.1	2.2	2.0	2.6	5.2	3.4	175	211
£45,000 or more	3.6	2.4	2.4	3.7	5.6	5.7	184	127
Tenure								
Owner-occupied	2.9	3.1	0.9	2.0	3.7	4.4	595	723
Rented:	5.5	10.4	7.8	6.9	11.4	14.2	234	347
Social rented	6.8	8.5	6.2	2.1	11.3	9.1	87	169
Private rented	4.9	11.7	8.5	10.1	11.4	17.7	147	178
Area type								
Urban	4.4	6.1	2.7	4.3	6.3	8.3	481	635
Urban, excluding Belfast	4.8	5.5	2.2	3.8	6.4	7.5	351	443
Rural	2.6	4.0	2.6	2.3	4.9	5.6	352	436
Region								
Belfast	3.1	7.6	4.2	5.5	5.8	10.4	130	192
East of Northern Ireland	4.1	4.2	2.6	2.8	5.9	5.8	444	550
West of Northern Ireland	3.0	5.4	2.1	3.2	5.2	7.5	259	329
Perceived level of ASB⁶								
High	5.7	8.6	3.8	7.1	7.5	14.0	107	182
Low	3.1	4.5	2.3	2.7	5.0	5.8	662	790
Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank⁷								
1st quintile (most deprived)	3.8	7.4	1.6	4.0	5.6	10.0	122	209
2nd quintile	4.5	5.6	5.4	2.1	7.4	7.0	150	192
3rd quintile	1.1	7.9	3.1	5.2	4.3	9.7	165	196
4th quintile	4.5	2.6	1.8	1.6	5.4	3.6	181	222
5th quintile (least deprived)	4.3	3.5	1.8	4.1	6.1	6.5	208	244

Source: NICS 2008/09

- Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
- Unweighted bases are given for sexual victimisation; the bases for the other measures will be similar.
- Statistics from unweighted bases less than 100 should be viewed with caution to avoid drawing unwarranted conclusions from the data.
- As victimisation rate for serious sexual assault is very low (0.4%), demographic breakdowns are not shown to prevent possible disclosure.
- HRP: Household Reference Person (in order of sequence, the person who owns or rents the accommodation, highest earner or oldest person).
- ASB: Anti-social behaviour (measure derived from responses to seven questions on perceptions of ASB in the local area).
- Rank order of super output areas (derived from 2005 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure).

Table A10: Logistic regression model for experience of any sexual violence or abuse in the last 3 years among adults aged 16-64 (%)^{1,2}

Predictor variables included in model ^{3,4}	Wald	Statistical significance ⁵	Odds ratio ^{6,7}	Confidence interval	
				Lower	Upper
Age group					
16-24	17.79	0.00 **	2.59	1.67	4.04
25-64			1.00		
Living arrangements					
Not married	11.62	0.00 **	2.61	1.50	4.54
<i>Married</i>			1.00		
Household type⁸					
HRP single adult under 60 & child(ren)	5.45	0.02 **	2.02	1.09	3.76
<i>HRP not single adult under 60 & child(ren)</i>			1.00		
Tenure					
Rented	4.67	0.03 **	1.65	1.08	2.52
<i>Owner-occupied</i>			1.00		
Evening visits to the pub					
Once a week or more	4.93	0.03 **	1.61	1.05	2.49
<i>None or less than once a week</i>			1.00		
Constant	335.27	0.00	0.02		
<i>Nagelkerke R square⁹ = 0.15</i>				<i>Unweighted base = 1,864</i>	

- Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
- Model illustrated is based on the enter method of binary logistic regression.
- The predictor variables 'single or not', 'living as a couple or not', 'social rented or not' and 'privated rented or not' were excluded from the analysis as they are highly correlated ($\phi > 0.5$) with other predictor variables.
- Additional predictor variables considered which are not shown in the model to be significantly associated with experience of sexual violence or abuse in the last 3 years include: sex, religion, illness or disability, hours out of home, household income, area type (i.e. urban or rural), region and multiple deprivation measure rank.
- *** Indicates change is statistically significant at the five per cent level ($p < 0.05$).
- Odds ratios of greater than one indicate relatively higher odds compared with the reference category in that variable, when holding all factors constant.
- Reference categories are shown in italics and are generally the group least likely to have experienced sexual violence or abuse in the 3 years prior to interview.
- HRP: Household Reference Person (in order of sequence, the person who owns or rents the accommodation, highest earner or oldest person).
- This model explains around 15% of the variation in experience of any sexual violence or abuse in the last 3 years based only on the factors included in the table.

Table A11: Logistic regression model for experience of sexual victimisation in the last 3 years among adults aged 16-64 (%)^{1,2}

Predictor variables included in model ^{3,4}	Wald	Statistical significance ⁵	Odds ratio ^{6,7}	Confidence interval	
				Lower	Upper
Age group					
16-24	14.08	0.00 **	3.09	1.71	5.57
25-64			1.00		
Living arrangements					
Not married	9.39	0.00 **	4.15	1.67	10.33
<i>Married</i>			1.00		
Tenure					
Social rented	10.90	0.00 **	2.59	1.47	4.55
<i>Not social rented</i>			1.00		
Evening visits to the pub					
Once a week or more	5.51	0.02 **	1.97	1.12	3.47
<i>None or less than once a week</i>			1.00		
Constant	174.85	0.00	0.00		
<i>Nagelkerke R square⁸ = 0.20</i>				<i>Unweighted base = 1,899</i>	

- Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
- Model illustrated is based on the enter method of binary logistic regression.
- The predictor variables 'single or not', 'living as a couple or not', 'rented or not' and 'privated rented or not' were excluded from the analysis as they are highly correlated ($\phi > 0.5$) with other predictor variables.
- Additional predictor variables considered which are not shown in the model to be significantly associated with experience of sexual violence or abuse in the last 3 years include: sex, religion, illness or disability, hours out of home, household type, household income, area type (i.e. urban or rural), region and multiple deprivation measure rank.
- *** Indicates change is statistically significant at the five per cent level ($p < 0.05$).
- Odds ratios of greater than one indicate relatively higher odds compared with the reference category in that variable, when holding all factors constant.
- Reference categories are shown in italics and are generally the group least likely to have experienced sexual violence or abuse in the 3 years prior to interview.
- This model explains around 20% of the variation in experience of any sexual violence or abuse in the last 3 years based only on the factors included in the table.

Table A12: Age of victim when (first) incident of sexual victimisation or serious sexual assault happened (%)^{1,2,3}

Age of victim when (first) incident happened?	Sexual victimisation	Serious sexual assault
15 years or under	29	33
16-17 years	17	16
18-19 years	15	12
20-24 years	17	19
25-34 years	11	11
35-44 years	7	9
45-44 years	3	0
55-64 years	2	0
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	239	81

Source: NICS 2008/09

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Statistics from unweighted bases less than 100 should be viewed with caution to avoid drawing unwarranted conclusions from the data.
3. This question was not asked of victims of stalking or sexual harassment.

Table A13: Number of times victims have experienced sexual victimisation or assault (%)^{1,2,3}

Number of times victimised	Sexual victimisation	Serious sexual assault
Once	50	36
Twice	20	19
Three times	6	5
Four or more times	24	40
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	212	74

Source: NICS 2008/09

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Statistics from unweighted bases less than 100 should be viewed with caution to avoid drawing unwarranted conclusions from the data.
3. This question was not asked of victims of stalking or sexual harassment.

Table A14 Sex of perpetrator(s) of sexual victimisation or assault (%)^{1,2,3,4}

Sex of person / people who did this	Sexual victimisation	Serious sexual assault
Male	91	90
Female	7	5
Some male, some female	2	5
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	248	85

Source: NICS 2008/09

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Statistics from unweighted bases less than 100 should be viewed with caution to avoid drawing unwarranted conclusions from the data.
3. If victim had experienced more than one incident within an offence group, question was asked of any of those incidents.
4. This question was not asked of victims of stalking or sexual harassment.

Table A15: Victim-perpetrator relationship in incident(s) of sexual violence or abuse (%)^{1,2,3}

Relationship of perpetrator to victim at the time	Stalking or sexual harassment	Sexual victimisation	Serious sexual assault
Current husband, wife or partner	6	6	8
Former husband, wife or partner	23	11	31
Date / someone victim had been seeing casually	17	7	20
Parent / step-parent	1	3	6
Another family member	2	8	12
Friend	7	5	8
Neighbour	6	5	5
Work colleague / fellow student	4	4	4
Someone in a caring or supervisory role	0	1	2
Someone else in a position of authority	0	1	0
Someone else known to victim	13	6	10
Someone victim had seen before but didnt know	11	9	1
Someone victim had never seen before	23	46	10
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	186	237	83

Source: NICS 2008/09

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Statistics from unweighted bases less than 100 should be viewed with caution to avoid drawing unwarranted conclusions from the data.
3. If victim had experienced more than one incident within an offence group, question was asked of any of those incidents.

Table A16: Whether same perpetrator(s) involved in multiple incidents of sexual victimisation (%)^{1,2,3}

Same person / people involved in every incident?	Sexual victimisation
Yes	56
No	44
<i>Unweighted base</i>	102

Source: NICS 2008/09

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Unweighted base for victims of serious sexual assault is too small to provide robust estimates.
3. This question was not asked of victims of stalking or sexual harassment.

Table A17: Whether victim of sexual victimisation or assault told anyone else about the incident(s) (%)^{1,2,3,4}

Whether victim told anyone else about the incident(s)?	Sexual victimisation	Serious sexual assault
Yes	58	51
No	37	42
Some incidents, but not all	5	7
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	242	82

Source: NICS 2008/09

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Statistics from unweighted bases less than 100 should be viewed with caution to avoid drawing unwarranted conclusions from the data.
3. If victim had experienced more than one incident within an offence group, question was asked of any of those incidents.
4. This question was not asked of victims of stalking or sexual harassment.

Table A18: Who victim told about the incident(s) of sexual victimisation (%)^{1,2,3,4}

Which of these people did you tell about the incident(s)?	Sexual victimisation
Police	27
Health and care professional	9
Victim Support	3
Other support group / helpline	5
Your husband, wife or partner	11
Another family member	48
Date / seeing casually	2
Friend / neighbour	43
Work colleague / fellow student	9
Someone from your faith / religious community	3
Someone in a caring or supervisory role	3
Someone else in a position of authority	4
Housing Executive	1
A legal professional	3
Someone else	3
<i>Unweighted base</i>	148

Source: NICS 2008/09

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Unweighted base for victims of serious sexual assault is too small to provide robust estimates.
3. If victim had experienced more than one incident within an offence group, question was asked of any of those incidents.
4. This question was not asked of victims of stalking or sexual harassment.

Table A19: Injuries or conditions resulting from incident(s) of sexual victimisation or assault (%)^{1,2,3,4}

Injuries or conditions sustained by victims	Sexual victimisation	Serious sexual assault
Mental or emotional problems	25	51
Minor bruising or black eye	12	32
Scratches	8	23
Severe bruising	5	22
Bleeding from cuts	3	11
Internal injuries	3	11
Broken bones / nose	2	4
Broken / chipped / lost teeth	0	6
Severe concussion / loss of consciousness	1	4
Other physical injuries	2	5
Pregnancy	2	4
A sexually transmitted or other infection	1	3
None of these	63	20
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>240</i>	<i>79</i>

Source: NICS 2008/09

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Statistics from unweighted bases less than 100 should be viewed with caution to avoid drawing unwarranted conclusions from the data.
3. If victim had experienced more than one incident within an offence group, question was asked of any of those incidents.
4. This question was not asked of victims of stalking or sexual harassment.

Table A20: Influence of alcohol or drugs in incident(s) of sexual victimisation or assault (%)^{1,2,3,4}

Whether victim or perpetrator had taken alcohol or drugs shortly before incident(s)	Sexual victimisation	Serious sexual assault
Whether victim had been drinking alcohol		
Victim had not been drinking alcohol	81	81
Victim had (knowingly) been drinking alcohol	14	11
Victim suspects someone had given them (more / stronger) alcohol without them realising	2	0
Victim doesn't know / can't remember	3	8
Whether victim had taken drugs		
Victim had not taken drugs	96	95
Victim had (knowingly) taken drugs	1	3
Victim suspects someone had given them (more / stronger) drugs without them realising	1	1
Victim doesn't know / can't remember	1	1
Whether perpetrator under influence of alcohol		
Victim thinks perpetrator had been under the influence of alcohol	26	39
Victim does not think perpetrator had been under the influence of alcohol	45	47
Victim thinks perpetrator had been under the influence of alcohol for some incidents, but not all	5	8
Victim doesn't know / can't remember	25	6
Whether perpetrator under influence of drugs		
Victim thinks perpetrator had been under the influence of drugs	7	9
Victim does not think perpetrator had been under the influence of drugs	57	77
Victim thinks perpetrator had been under the influence of drugs for some incidents, but not all	1	2
Victim doesn't know / can't remember	35	11
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>248</i>	<i>83</i>

Source: NICS 2008/09

1. Results exclude refusals.
2. Statistics from unweighted bases less than 100 should be viewed with caution to avoid drawing unwarranted conclusions from the data.
3. If victim had experienced more than one incident within an offence group, question was asked of any of those incidents.
4. These questions were not asked of victims of stalking or sexual harassment.

TECHNICAL ANNEX

B1.1 Sampling and fieldwork

The initial NICS 2008/09 sample consisted of 6,420 addresses, randomly selected from the Land and Property Services domestic property database. Visits to each address by an interviewer from the NISRA Central Survey Unit resulted in an eligible sample of 5,745 occupied addresses, from which attempts were made to interview one randomly selected adult respondent at each address.

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

This bulletin refers to NICS fieldwork undertaken during the financial year 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009, which involved complete interviews with 3,856 people aged 16 years and over. This represents an eligible overall response rate of 65%. The interviews typically lasted just under an hour for non-victims, although those involving respondents who disclosed several crimes could last much longer.

Of the 2,877 NICS 2008/09 respondents aged between 16 to 64 years, 357 refused to participate in the experience of drugs self-completion module and a further 538 did not participate in the sexual violence and abuse self-completion module, giving a final sample size for the latter of 1,982. Rather than the sensitivity of the topic, the main reasons given for non-participation in the sexual violence and abuse module related either to the inability of respondents to use the laptop without assistance or to time constraints (linked to the location of the module towards the end the interview).

Respondents were assured in advance of the interviews that any information they were to provide would be treated as entirely confidential and that the level of detail produced in publications or in any subsequent analyses would not allow for identification of individuals. Given the sensitivity of the topic, respondents to the sexual violence and abuse module were given additional assurances at regular intervals during the module, as well as the option to skip questions they did not wish to answer. Leaflets on services available to victims of crime were given to each NICS 2008/09 respondent.

B1.2 Excluded responses, minimum unweighted bases, rounding and error

Except where stated in footnotes, don't knows, refusals and non-valid responses have been excluded from the analyses. Where appropriate, therefore, the unweighted bases quoted reflect the exclusion of these responses. Statistics are only published where the unweighted base is greater than or equal to 50. In addition, caution should be exercised when interpreting statistics from unweighted bases less than 100, which has traditionally been the minimum threshold for NICS publications. Had the lower threshold not been adopted, this would have precluded analysis of most of the follow-up questions relating to more serious sexual assaults. This, it is believed, would have been to the detriment of policy-makers and others who wish to make use of the information. It would also have meant an unnecessary burden had been placed on respondents to whom we are very grateful for volunteering such sensitive information.

Percentages may not always sum to 100 due to the effect of rounding to the nearest whole number, or because respondents could give more than one response.

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

B1.3 Predictive models

Considerable overlap exists between several socio-demographic sub-groups used to illustrate personal, household and area characteristics, for instance, people who are single, aged 16-24 and living in rented accommodation. Predictive models have, therefore, been developed, using binary logistic regression, to establish how much of the variance in sexual violence or abuse victimisation rates can be explained by such variables when controlling for other factors (Tables A10 and A11).

In preparation for the logistic regressions, binary variables were created for all relevant predictor variables (PVs) and outcome variables (OVs). For the PVs, this was designed to maximise the contrast between a reference sub-group (least likely victims) and the sub-groups most likely to have been victimised. In some cases, sub-groups with similar prevalence rates have been combined to increase the unweighted base to be included. For the OVs, the reference sub-groups have been formed from people who had not been victimised in the previous three years.

Before deciding which PVs to consider, all were cross-tabulated with the OVs to check for statistically significant differences in victimisation rates at the 5% level. This resulted in the rejection of PVs with a Fisher's exact test p-value of 0.05 or greater. In addition, the PVs were cross-tabulated with each other to test for multicollinearity (very high levels of correlation). Where the phi coefficient value for a pair of PVs exceeded 0.5, only one of these would be used.

B1.4 Sample profile

Table B1: Sample profile for NICS 2008/09 sexual violence and abuse module¹

Group	Sub-group	Unweighted Number	Unweighted %	Weighted %
Sex	Men	859	43	46
	Women	1,123	57	54
Age group	16-24	225	11	15
	25-64:	1,757	89	85
	25-34	435	22	20
	35-44	555	28	25
	45-54	405	20	22
	55-64	362	18	17
Religion	Catholic	826	42	42
	Protestant	1,041	53	52
Tenure	Owner-occupied	1,362	69	73
	Rented:	614	31	27
	Social rented	275	14	10
	Private rented	339	17	17
Living arrangements	Living as a couple	1,075	54	62
	Not living as a couple	907	46	38
	Married	946	48	55
	Not married:	1,036	52	45
	Single	620	31	29
Cohabiting, separated, divorced or widowed	416	21	16	
Household type²	HRP aged under 60:			
	Single adult & child(ren)	222	11	6
	Adults & child(ren)	634	32	37
	No children	905	46	46
	HRP aged 60+	221	11	12
Evening visits to the pub	None or less than once a week:	1,664	84	83
	None	832	42	42
	Less than once a week	832	42	41
	Once a week or more	318	16	17
Perceived level of ASB³	High	304	17	16
	Low	1511	83	84

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

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

3. ASB: Anti-social behaviour (measure derived from responses to seven questions on perceptions of ASB in the local area).

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