

Northern
Ireland
Office

Statistics and Research Branch

**Perceptions of Crime:
Findings from the
2007/08
Northern Ireland
Crime Survey**

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- ◆ Almost two-thirds (65%) of NICS 2007/08 respondents believed that crime levels across Northern Ireland had increased in the preceding two years. This is a lower proportion than ever previously recorded by the NICS (73% in 2006/07; 74% in 2005; and 80% in 2003/04) and is now on a par with England and Wales (65%), recorded through the 2007/08 British Crime Survey (BCS). While these results illustrate the tendency of most people to believe crime is increasing even when it is not, the decrease since 2003/04 may reflect, to some extent, the recent falls in crime evidenced by both the NICS and recorded crime statistics.
- ◆ NICS 2007/08 respondents were more positive in their perceptions of crime levels within their local areas than at the regional level. Under two-fifths (39%) of respondents, the lowest since 1998 (41%), felt that crime had increased in their local area, a similar proportion to that measured in England and Wales (39%; BCS 2007/08).
- ◆ Based on a composite measure drawn from a range of seven categories, findings from NICS 2007/08 show that 15% of people in Northern Ireland perceived the level of anti-social behaviour in their local area to be high, unchanged from 2006/07, but lower than in 2005 (17%) and 2003/04 (21%). This is similar to the equivalent figure for England and Wales (16% in BCS 2007/08).
- ◆ Of the socio-demographic groups examined by NICS 2007/08, the most likely to perceive anti-social behaviour as a problem in their area were: residents of the 20% most deprived areas of Northern Ireland (35%); people living in social rented housing (30%); respondents from Belfast (Policing Districts A and B) (27%); young women, aged 16-24 (26%); and single adults with children (25%).
- ◆ Despite the lower prevalence of crime in Northern Ireland, respondents to NICS 2007/08 continued to display higher levels of worry, than their counterparts in England and Wales (BCS 2007/08), across all crime types: violent crime (19% v 15%); burglary (16% v 12%) and car crime (15% v 12%).
- ◆ Based on NICS 2007/08, women were much more likely than men to have high levels of worry about crime and personal safety. The greatest differential related to worry about violent crime (26% v 10%), followed by burglary (20% v 12%) and car crime (18% v 12%). Women were also a lot more likely than men to feel very unsafe walking alone in their area after dark (18% v 5%).
- ◆ NICS 2007/08 respondents living in areas where they perceive anti-social behaviour (ASB) to be high, were much more likely to worry about all types of crime and personal safety than those from low ASB areas: car crime (32% v 12%), violent crime (34% v 16%), burglary (28% v 14%) and walking alone after dark (25% v 9%).
- ◆ As in previous sweeps, vehicle-related theft was identified most frequently by respondents to NICS 2007/08 as the crime type they felt most likely to experience as victims. Around a fifth thought they would fall victim to theft of a car, or theft from a car (both 19%, down from 30% and 29% (respectively) in 2003/04). People were least likely to think they would be mugged and robbed or physically attacked by a stranger (both 9%).
- ◆ Almost two-thirds (64%) of NICS 2007/08 respondents felt that 'fear of crime' has a minimal impact on their quality of life, with a further third (32%) claiming it has a moderate effect. The remaining 4% of people considered that their quality of life is greatly affected, the lowest proportion ever recorded by the NICS.
- ◆ The NICS 2007/08 respondents most likely to feel that 'fear of crime' has a great effect on their quality of life were: residents living in areas they perceive to have high levels of anti-social behaviour (13%); people with a limiting illness or disability (10%); people who are separated (10%); and those living in social rented housing (9%).

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The focus of this publication

This bulletin is based on findings from the 2007/08 Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS), a representative, continuous personal interview survey of the experiences and perceptions of crime of 3,933 adults living in private households throughout Northern Ireland. Previously conducted on an ad hoc basis in 1994/95, 1998, 2001 and 2003/04, the NICS began operating on a continuous basis in January 2005.

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

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

The publication makes comparisons between the NICS 2007/08 results and those of the 2007/08 British Crime Survey (BCS), the equivalent survey for England and Wales, as well as with earlier sweeps of the NICS. In addition, the findings from NICS 2007/08 are examined across the following 14 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. living arrangements;
4. sex (gender);
5. disability (or illness);
6. household type (child dependants);
7. self-perceived nationality;
8. household income;
9. housing tenure;
10. type of area (urban / rural);
11. policing district (see Technical Annex for details);
12. multiple deprivation measure rank (MDM 2005);
13. perceived level of anti-social behaviour in area; and
14. daily newspaper readership.

A separate NICS 2007/08 report on confidence in policing and the criminal justice system has been released (French, 2008), while an additional NICS 2007/08 bulletin, presenting findings on experience of crime, will publish separately (Freel and Quigley, forthcoming).

1.2 About the Northern Ireland Crime Survey

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

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

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

Recorded crime figures cannot, by their nature, provide an impression of the extent of concern about crime (often described as 'fear of crime') among different sections of the community. Hence, it is necessary to complement the police figures with information drawn from the NICS, which, for the crime types it covers, provides a more complete measure of the extent and impact of crime against private households and their adult occupants.

For the most part, the interviewer-administered modules for NICS 2007/08 were based on BCS 2007/08 and the self-completion modules on BCS 2001/02. However, some modification was necessary to reflect local issues and the fact that the smaller NICS sample size would not have generated robust results for follow-up questions asked of small sub-sections of the sample.

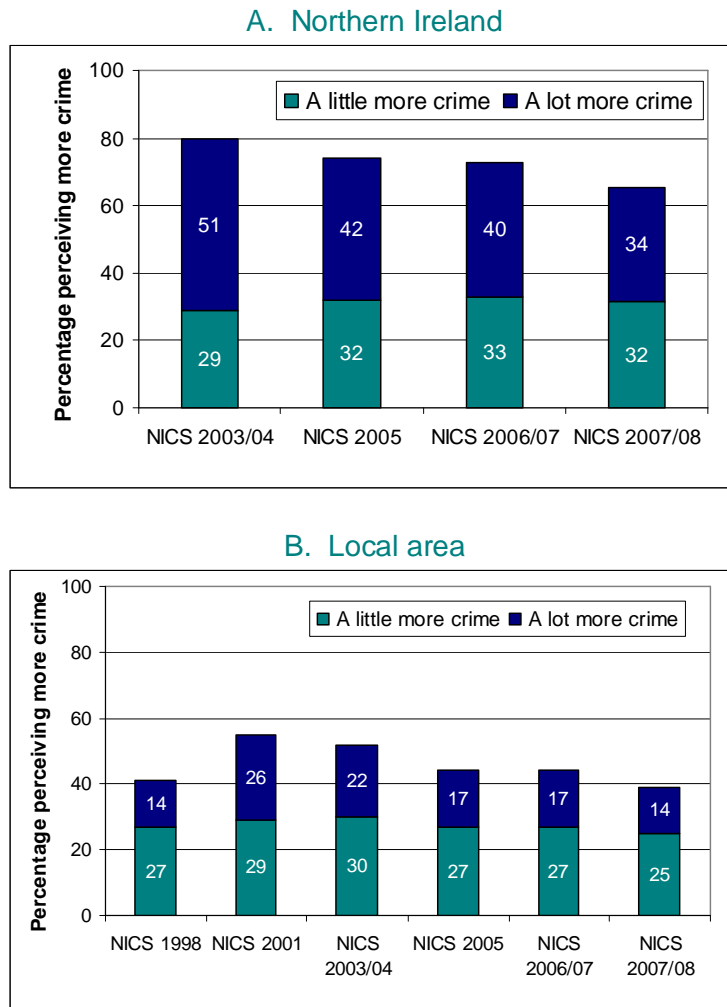
2. PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME LEVELS AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

2.1 Perceptions of changes in crime levels

The NICS asks respondents what they believe has happened to levels of crime in Northern Ireland and their local area during the two years prior to interview, based on a five-point scale ranging from 'a lot more' to 'a lot less'. Typically, people are inclined to believe crime is on the increase, even when it is not, and that the situation is worse at the regional level than in their own area. Thus, it is the trend in this proportion, rather than the actual value, that is of primary interest.

- ◆ Tables A1 and A2 and Figure 2.1 illustrate that the proportions of respondents believing that crime is on the increase, either locally (39%) or in Northern Ireland as a whole (65%), are at their lowest levels recorded by any sweep of the survey.
- ◆ Almost two thirds (65%) of NICS 2007/08 respondents believed that crime levels across Northern Ireland had increased either a little or a lot in the preceding two years, down from 73% in 2006/07. The proportion of respondents believing crime levels had increased 'a lot' also fell from 40% in 2006/07 to 34% in 2007/08, perhaps reflective of the fact that both recorded crime statistics and the NICS indicate that crime has fallen in recent years (Table A1 and Figure 2.1A).
- ◆ As in all sweeps of the survey to date, NICS 2007/08 respondents were more positive in their perceptions of crime levels within their local areas than at the regional level. Under two-fifths (39%) of NICS 2007/08 respondents, the lowest since 1998 (41%), felt that crime had increased in their local area, with a seventh (14%) feeling there was a lot more crime, (Table A2 and Figure 2.1B).
- ◆ Findings from NICS 2007/08 reveal that the proportion of respondents perceiving crime to have increased in Northern Ireland are on a par with those measured in England and Wales (BCS 2007/08; Kershaw *et al.*, 2008) both regionally / nationally (both 65%) and locally (both 39%) (Tables A1 and A2).

Figure 2.1: Perceptions of crime levels (%) in Northern Ireland and the local area



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

Respondents to the NICS and BCS are asked to rate how much of a problem different types of anti-social behaviour (ASB) are in their area. The following seven strands are used to form a composite measure to gauge the overall perceived level of ASB in the local area:

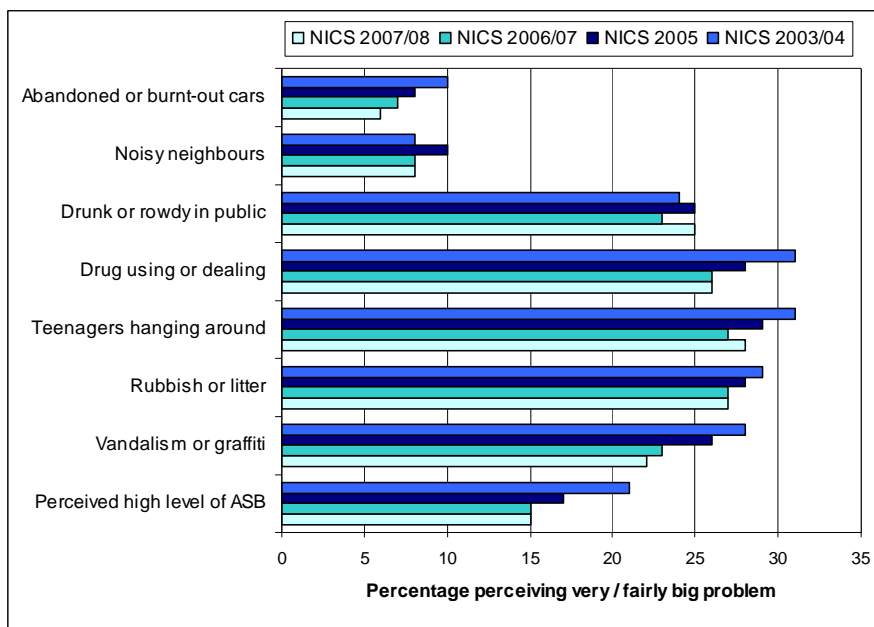
1. abandoned or burnt-out cars;
2. noisy neighbours or loud parties;
3. people being drunk or rowdy in public places;
4. people using or dealing drugs;
5. teenagers hanging around on the streets;
6. rubbish or litter lying around; and
7. vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property.

- ◆ Based on this composite measure, findings from NICS 2007/08 show that 15% of people in Northern Ireland perceived the level of ASB in their local area to be high (the same proportion as in 2006/07). The equivalent figure for England and Wales was 16% in BCS 2007/08 (Table A3).

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- ◆ The three ASB types most likely to be perceived by NICS 2007/08 respondents as problems in the local area were: teenagers hanging around on the streets (28%); rubbish or litter lying around (27%); and people using or dealing drugs (26%). While this follows a similar profile to England and Wales, the respective BCS 2007/08 rates were generally higher at 31%, 30% and 26% respectively (Table A3 and Figure 2.2).
- ◆ Findings from NICS 2007/08 show that abandoned or burnt out cars (6%) and noisy neighbours (8%) were perceived to be the least problematic ASB types. Again, results from BCS 2007/08 mirror this trend with equivalent rates of 7% and 10% respectively (Table A3 and Figure 2.2).
- ◆ Across the seven strands that make up the overall ASB measure there were no statistically significant changes between the results of NICS 2006/07 and 2007/08 (Table A3).

Figure 2.2: Types of ASB perceived to be a problem (%) in the local area



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

Tables A4 and A5, containing results from NICS 2007/08, indicate that there are marked differences in the levels of perception of ASB between various socio-demographic groups in Northern Ireland.

- ◆ People's perceived level of ASB in the local area tends to decrease with age. In addition, females (16%) were slightly more likely than males (14%) to consider ASB a problem. These differences are exemplified as 26% of women and 19% of men aged 16-24 years, perceive ASB as a problem compared with 8% and 10% (respectively) of those aged 75+ (Table A4).

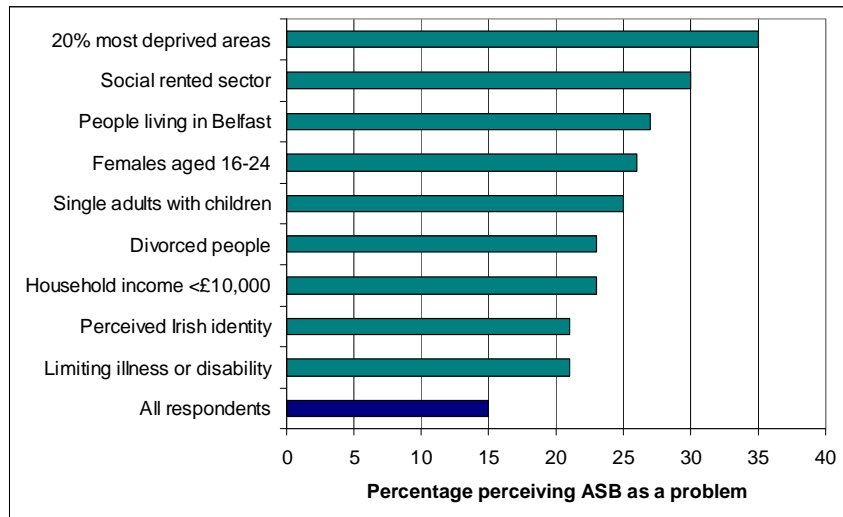
NICS 2007/08: PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME

- ◆ A greater proportion of Catholic (20%) than Protestant (11%) respondents perceived ASB to be a problem. This theme is prevalent across all seven individual strands of ASB. Disparities between the two main religious communities were greatest with regard to people being drunk or rowdy (30% Catholics v 19% Protestants); people using or dealing drugs (31% v 21%) and vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property (27% v 18%) (Table A4).
- ◆ Overall, differences in perceptions of ASB are also evident among those respondents perceiving their nationality to be either Irish (21%) or British (11%). The greatest disparities, with regard to nationality, included: rubbish or litter lying around (35% Irish v 23% British); abandoned or burnt out cars (13% v 2%); and people being drunk or rowdy (30% v 20%) (Table A4).
- ◆ People who consider themselves to have a long-standing illness or disability that limits their activities were much more likely to view ASB as a problem in their area (21%) than those with no long-standing illness or disability (13%). This differential prevails throughout all strands of the composite measure and is greatest with regard to teenagers hanging around (34% v 26% respectively) (Table A4).
- ◆ In relation to newspaper readership, those who read national tabloids (14%) were much more likely than readers of national broadsheets (8%) to view ASB as a problem in the local area. Among the three main regional daily papers, those who read the Irish News most often were most likely to view ASB as an issue (16%), compared with readers of the Belfast Telegraph (13%) and the Newsletter (9%) (Table A4).
- ◆ People who are divorced (23%), separated (20%), single (20%) or co-habiting (16%) were more likely than those who are married (12%) or widowed (10%) to view ASB as a local problem. In terms of household type, single adults with children (25%) were more than twice as likely as householders aged 60+ (11%) to share this view (Table A5).
- ◆ Household income tends to be negatively correlated with perceived levels of ASB in the local area. Just under a quarter (23%) of households with an annual income of less than £10,000 perceived ASB to be problematic, with proportions then falling progressively to 8% of those households earning £50,000 or more (Table A5).
- ◆ People living in social rented accommodation (30%), were more likely than those in private rented (20%) and owner-occupied (11%) accommodation to view ASB as a problem in the local area (Table A5).
- ◆ Residents of Belfast (Policing Districts A and B) were three times as likely as those from rural areas to consider ASB a problem in the local area (27% v 9%) (Table A5).
- ◆ Featuring for the first time are the views of respondents according to the Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank (MDM), by quintile, of the area they reside. Of all the socio-demographic groups examined, people living within the 20% most deprived areas (1st quintile) were most likely to view ASB as a problem in their area (35%). This contrasts with 6% of those living in the least deprived areas (5th quintile) (Table A5).

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- ◆ In summary, Tables A4 and A5 and Figure 2.3 reveal that the most likely NICS 2007/08 socio-demographic groups to perceive ASB as a problem in their area were:
 - people living in the 20% most deprived areas (35%);
 - people living in social rented accommodation (30%);
 - people living in Belfast (Policing Districts A and B) (27%);
 - women aged 16-24 (26%);
 - single adults with children (25%);
 - people who are divorced (23%);
 - households earning less than £10,000 per annum (23%);
 - people with a perceived Irish identity (21%); and
 - people with a limiting long term illness (21%).

Figure 2.3: Those most likely to perceive ASB as a problem (%) in the local area



Source: NICS 2007/08

3. WORRY ABOUT CRIME AND PERSONAL SAFETY

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

Worry about becoming a victim of crime is measured by both the NICS and BCS in two ways: firstly, about specific crimes; and secondly, with regard to personal safety when alone after dark, either at home or walking in the local area (Tables A6 – A10).

As shown in Table A6, respondents to NICS 2007/08 and BCS 2007/08 were asked how worried they are about becoming victims of the following crimes using a four-point scale, ranging from 'very worried' to 'not at all worried':

1. home being burgled;
2. being mugged and robbed;
3. physical attack by a stranger;
4. race or sectarian attack;
5. rape;
6. theft of a car; and
7. theft from a car.

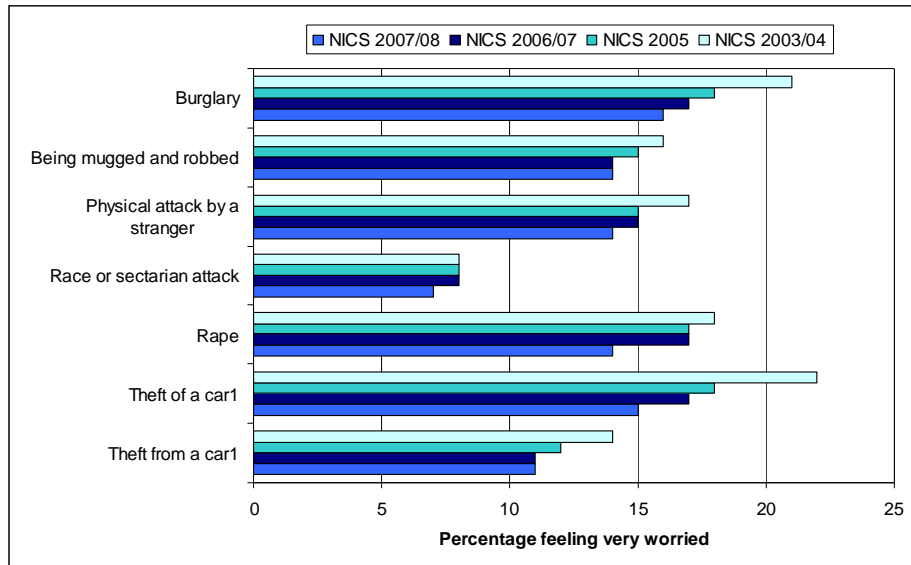
Two additional composite indicators for worry about car and violent crime are constructed from the responses to the individual car and violent crime questions. These additional indicators, together with the proportion of respondents who claimed to be 'very worried' about becoming a victim of burglary, are comparable with Statutory Performance Indicators within the Police Performance Assessment Framework in England and Wales (Tables A7–A10).

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

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

- ◆ Table A6 shows that a greater proportion of respondents in Northern Ireland (NICS 2007/08) than in England and Wales (BCS 2007/08) were very worried about each of the seven crime types examined.
- ◆ The crime types found to be of most concern to NICS 2007/08 respondents were: home being burgled (16%) and theft of a car (15%). A similar pattern occurred within the BCS 2007/08, with 'very worried' proportions of 12% and 11% respectively (Table A6 and Figure 3.1).

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



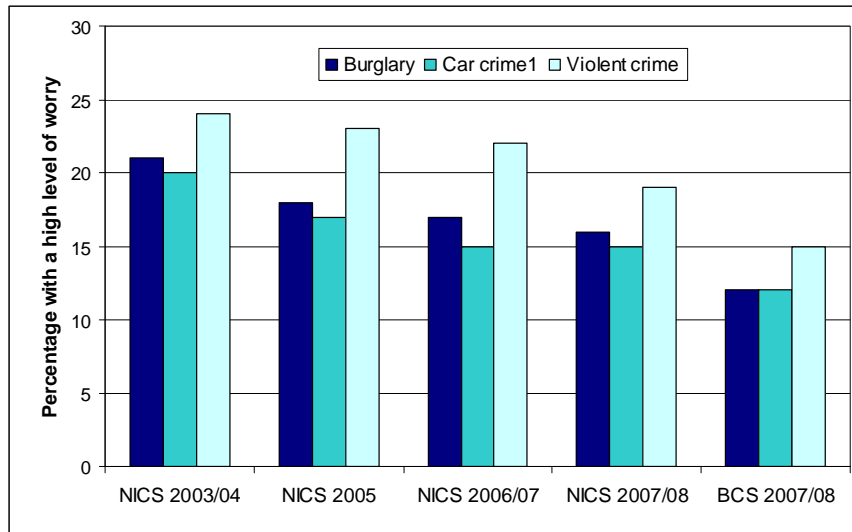
1. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

- ◆ The 2007/08 surveys highlight the fact that people in Northern Ireland are more likely than their counterparts in England and Wales to feel ‘very worried’ or ‘fairly worried’ about each of the seven types of crime reported, with burglary (54% v 43%) and theft of car (48% v 39%) representing the greatest disparities (Table A6).
- ◆ With regard to personal safety, people responding to NICS 2007/08 were more likely to feel very worried about walking alone in the dark (12%) than being alone in their home at night (2%) (Table A7).

Table A8 and Figure 3.2 show the proportions of respondents in Northern Ireland and England and Wales who are considered to have high levels of worry about burglary, car crime and violent crime. The findings for these performance indicators provide further confirmation that people in Northern Ireland have higher levels of worry about crime than those in England and Wales.

- ◆ While a statistically significant decrease ($p < 0.05$) occurred between NICS 2006/07 and 2007/08 in the proportion of respondents with a high level of worry about violent crime (down from 22% to 19%), there were no real changes in the proportions of worry about burglary (16%) or car crime (15%) (Table A8 and Figure 3.2).
- ◆ In line with previous sweeps of the surveys, 2007/08 respondents in both Northern Ireland (19%) and England and Wales (15%) were most likely to have a high level of worry about violent crime. The respective indicators for burglary (16% v 12%) and car crime (15% v 12%) also indicated that larger proportions of people in Northern Ireland have higher levels of worry than in England and Wales (Table A8 and Figure 3.2).

Figure 3.2: Worry about crime indicators (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales



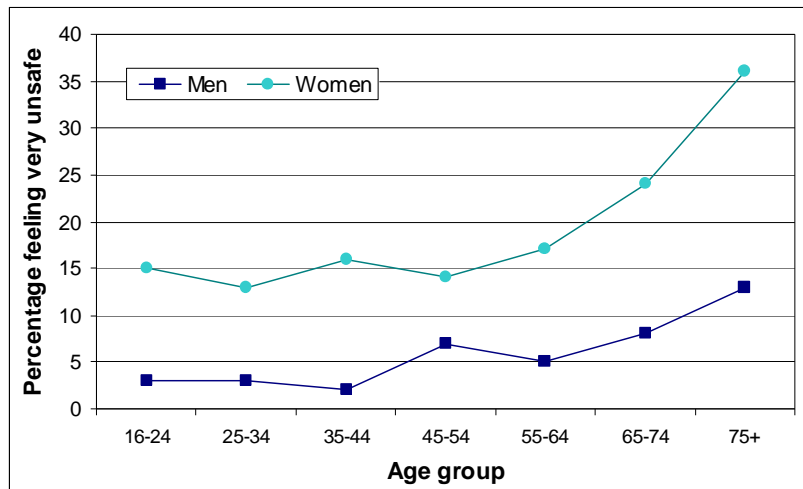
1. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

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

Tables A9 and A10 present a socio-demographic breakdown of NICS 2007/08 respondents according to their levels of worry about crime and personal safety in Northern Ireland.

- ◆ The relationship between a person's age and their level of worry about crime varies according to the crime type. For instance respondents aged 16-24 (25%), 25-34 (19%) and 35-44 (20%) were most likely to be very worried about violent crime, while those aged 55-64 (18%) and 65-74 (21%) were more likely to worry about being burgled (Table A9).
- ◆ In terms of personal safety, older respondents aged 75 and over (26%) were much more likely to feel very unsafe walking alone in the area after dark than younger people aged 16-24, 25-34 or 35-44 (all 9%) (Table A9).
- ◆ Women were much more likely than men to have high levels of worry about crime and personal safety. Within the three worry about crime indicators, the greatest differential related to violent crime (26% v 10%), followed by burglary (20% v 12%) and car crime (18% v 12%). Women were also a lot more likely than men to feel very unsafe walking alone in their area after dark (18% v 5%) and being alone in their homes at night (3% v <1%) (Table A9 and Figure 3.3).

Figure 3.3: Worry about personal safety while walking alone in the local area after dark (%) by gender and age



Source: NICS 2007/08

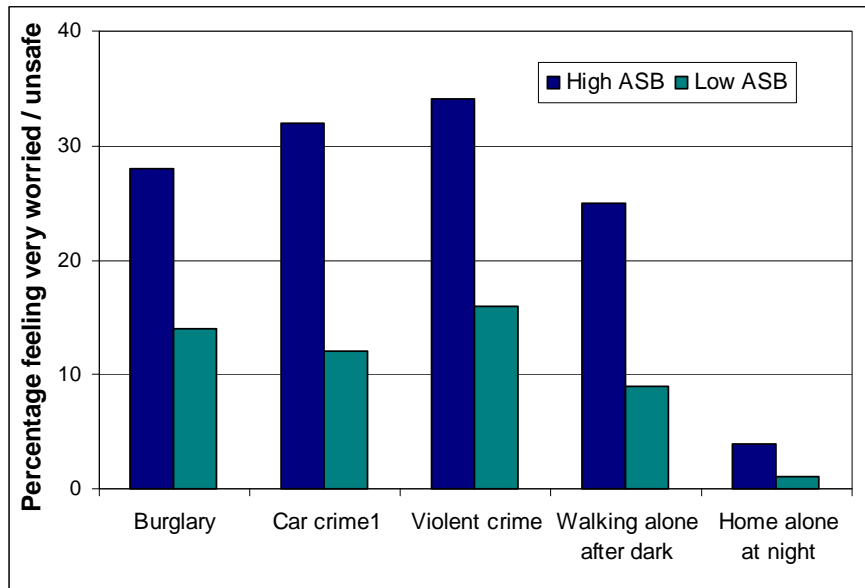
- ◆ Within the individual violent crime types, women (22%) were four times more likely than men (5%) to be very worried about rape and around twice as likely to be very worried about physical attack by a stranger (19% v 8%), being mugged or robbed (18% v 9%) or race or sectarian attack (9% v 5%) (Table A9).
- ◆ When age and gender are combined, it is apparent that young women aged 16-24 had by far the highest worry rating for violent crime at 38%, twice the NICS 2007/08 overall average (19%). Women aged 16-24 also displayed the highest worry levels within three of the four individual violent crime types: rape (31%), physical attack (29%) and race or sectarian attack (15%). With regard to being mugged and robbed (24%), only females aged 65-74 (25%) displayed a higher rate. Across all of the male age groups, levels of worry about crime and personal safety were generally below average (Table A9).
- ◆ Catholic respondents were, across the board, more likely than Protestants to express high levels of worry about crime and personal safety. For example, a greater proportion of Catholics worried about car crime (18% v 13%), violent crime (21% v 17%) and burglary (18% v 15%), while 14% felt very unsafe walking alone in their local area after dark, compared with 9% of Protestant respondents.
- ◆ Respondents who perceive themselves as British, Irish or Northern Irish showed little difference in terms of levels of worry about crime and personal safety. In contrast, people of other nationalities displayed above average levels of worry across all categories of crime and personal safety, exemplified in worry about race or sectarian attack (21% v 7% overall average) (Table A9).
- ◆ Those respondents with a limiting long standing illness or disability expressed the highest levels of worry about all types of crime and personal safety with well above average rates for burglary (24%), being mugged or robbed (22%), car crime (21%) and walking alone after dark (21%) (Table A9).

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- ◆ Broadsheet readers were much less likely than tabloid readers to be very worried about all types of crime: burglary (8% v 17%), violent crime (14% v 19%) and car crime (11% v 15%). There was little difference between the readers of Northern Ireland's main daily newspapers although readers of the Irish News displayed slightly higher levels of worry about burglary (18%), car crime (17%) and violent crime (20%) (Table A9).
- ◆ Almost a third of single parents had high levels of worry about violent crime (29%), as well as having high levels of worry about rape (23%) and physical attack (21%), compared with overall NICS 2007/08 averages of 19%, 14% and 14% respectively (Table A10).
- ◆ As with perceived levels of ASB, there appears to be a negative correlation between household income and worry about crime and personal safety, in that levels of worry decrease as income increases. For example, 27% of respondents from households with a total income of under £10,000 were very worried about violent crime, compared with 11% of those earning £50,000 or more. In terms of walking alone after dark, the equivalent levels of worry are 22% and 5% respectively (Table A10).
- ◆ People who own their own homes appeared less likely to be worried about crime and personal safety than those renting their homes. For example, 16% of owner occupiers claimed to be very worried about violent crime, compared with around a quarter of those living in social rented (26%) and private rented (24%) accommodation (Table A10).
- ◆ There is little variation in the levels of worry about crime between respondents living in rural and urban areas. However, in terms of walking alone in the area after dark, people living in rural areas (8%) were less likely to be worried than people living in urban areas (15%) (Table A10).
- ◆ Residents of Policing District E (covering Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon and Newry and Mourne) expressed the highest levels of worry for violent crime (26%), burglary (23%) and car crime (21%), compared with NICS 2007/08 averages of 19%, 16% and 15% respectively (Table A10).
- ◆ Respondents from within the 20% most deprived areas (1st quintile) had the highest levels of worry about crime and personal safety, while people from the least deprived areas (5th quintile) displayed the lowest levels of worry: car crime (25% v 11%), violent crime (25% v 12%), burglary (22% v 13%) and walking alone after dark (21% v 8%) (Table A10).
- ◆ A perceived high level of ASB in the local area has a strong positive correlation with a high level of worry about crime and personal safety. Respondents living in areas where they perceive ASB to be high were much more likely to worry about all types of crime and personal safety than those from low ASB areas: car crime (32% v 12%), violent crime (34% v 16%), burglary (28% v 14%) and walking alone after dark (25% v 9%) (Table A10 and Figure 3.4).

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



Source: NICS 2007/08

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

4. PERCEPTIONS OF THE RISK OF VICTIMISATION

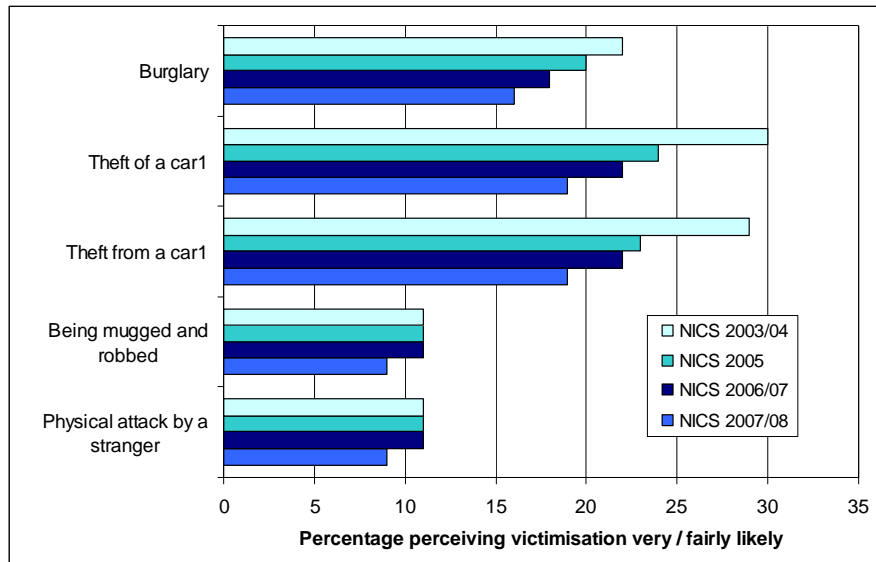
4.1 Perceptions of the risk of victimisation in Northern Ireland

A person's perception of the likelihood that they will be a victim of crime may be influenced by their level of worry about crime. The NICS asks respondents how likely they think it is that they will become a victim of specific offences in the following year, on a four-point scale ranging from 'very likely' to 'very unlikely'. The crime types examined are:

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

- ◆ In line with results from previous sweeps, most NICS 2007/08 respondents believed it fairly or very unlikely that they would fall victim to any of these crimes during the next twelve months. From Table A13 it can be seen that 91% of respondents thought it fairly or very unlikely that they would be mugged and robbed or physically attacked by a stranger.
- ◆ As has been the case in previous sweeps, NICS 2007/08 respondents were most likely to consider they would be victims of vehicle-related thefts. Around a fifth thought it likely that they would be victims of theft of, or theft from a car (both 19%), compared with 30% and 29% (respectively), in NICS 2003/04 (Table A13 and Figure 4.1).

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



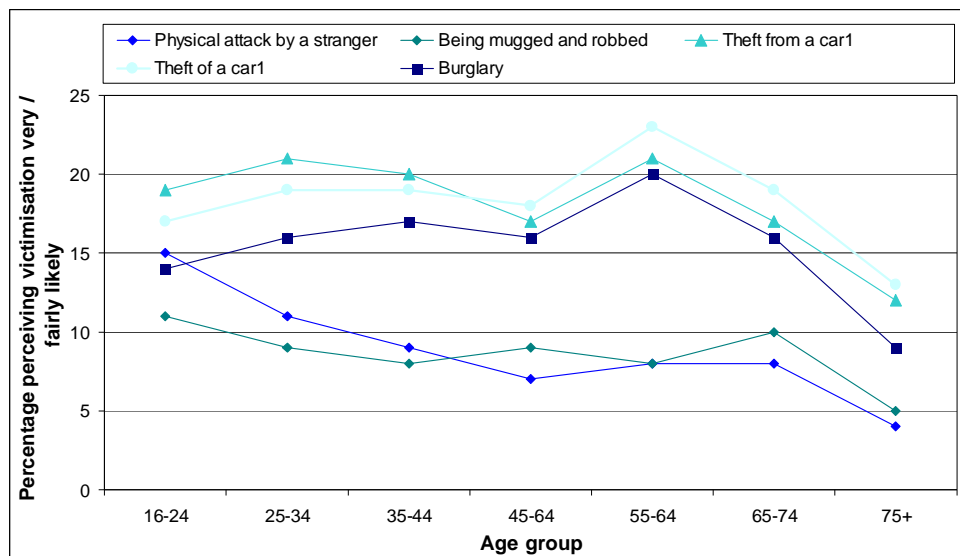
1. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

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

Tables A11 and A12 show the perceived likelihood of NICS 2007/08 respondents that they would be a victim of specific crimes in the next year, broken down by personal, household and area characteristics.

- ◆ From Table A11 it can be seen that men and women perceived themselves to be most at risk from vehicle related thefts. Marginally more women (20%) than men (18%) believed they would be victims of theft of a car, with similar proportions (19% v 18%) concerned about theft from a car.
- ◆ It is apparent from Figure 4.2 that older people aged 75 and over represented the group least likely to believe they may be victims of crime in the coming year. In addition, all NICS 2007/08 respondents, regardless of age, perceived themselves at greatest risk of vehicle-related theft (Table A11).
- ◆ Catholic respondents were more likely than Protestants to believe that they would be a victim of crime in the next twelve months. This is apparent across each of the crime types, with the greatest differential related to burglary (18% v 14%) (Table A11).
- ◆ Respondents who consider their nationality to be other than British, Irish or Northern Irish displayed the highest perceived risk of victimisation, with above average rates for: burglary (23% v 16%); being mugged and robbed (18% v 9%); and physical attack by a stranger (13% v 9%) (Table A11).

Figure 4.2: Perceptions of the risk of victimisation (%) by age group



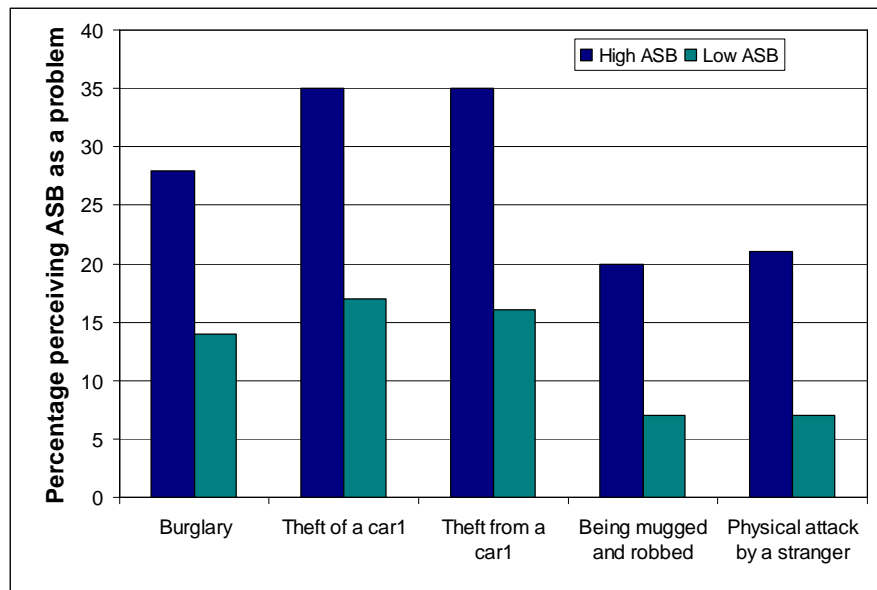
Source: NICS 2007/08

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

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- ◆ Respondents with a limiting long-standing illness or disability were generally more likely than those with no disability to perceive that they may become victims of crime in the next twelve months. For example almost a quarter of people with a limiting illness or disability thought they might be a victim of theft of, or theft from, a car (24% and 23% respectively), compared with 18% of those with no illness or disability (Table A11).
- ◆ With the exception of burglary (both 16%), broadsheet readers were less likely than tabloid readers to consider themselves at risk of: theft of a car (16% v 20%); theft from a car (17% v 21%); being mugged / robbed (5% v 9%); and physical attack (5% v 11%). With regard to regional newspapers, Irish News readers were the only group to display above average levels of risk for each crime type (Table A11).
- ◆ Among those living as a couple, married respondents were less likely than cohabiting people to consider themselves at risk of crime, with the greatest differentials related to physical attack (7% v 15%) and theft from a vehicle (18% v 23%). With regard to those not living as a couple, widowed respondents consistently displayed below-average levels of risk, while divorcees appeared to believe they were most at risk of victimisation (Table A12).
- ◆ In terms of income, it is apparent from Table A12 that households earning less than £10,000 per annum consider themselves to be at greatest risk of: theft of a car (24%); theft from a car (22%); being mugged and robbed (13%) and physical attack (13%). These rates compare with overall NICS 2007/08 averages of 19%, 19%, 9% and 9% respectively.
- ◆ Across all crime types, owner-occupiers were less likely than people living in social rented accommodation to perceive themselves to be at risk of victimisation, for example, theft from a car (17% v 26%) and being mugged and robbed (7% v 14%) (Table A12).
- ◆ While there is no strong correlation between deprivation and perceived likelihood of victimisation, respondents residing in the 20% most deprived areas (1st quintile) had by far the greatest proportions of people believing they are likely to be victims of each crime type in the next twelve months. The highest proportions were for theft from a car (28%) and theft of a car (27%), compared with averages for both of 19% (Table A12).
- ◆ As with worry about crime, the greatest differences within a socio-demographic group related to the self-perceived level of ASB in the area. More than a third of respondents perceiving ASB to be high believed that they were likely to be victims of car related crime (theft of or theft from a car, both 35%) in the next twelve months compared with less than a fifth (17% and 16% respectively) of respondents living in areas of low ASB. The respective perceived levels of risk for the remaining crime types were: being mugged and robbed (20% v 7%), physical attack by a stranger (21% v 7%) and burglary (28% v 14%) (Table A12 and Figure 4.3).

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



Source: NICS 2007/08

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

- ◆ While respondents from Belfast (Policing Districts A and B) were most likely to see themselves at risk of vehicle-related theft (theft of a car, 29%; and theft from a car, 28%), those living in Policing District E (Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon and Newry and Mourne) showed the highest level of risk for physical attack (14%) and being mugged and robbed (13%). In addition, those from rural areas perceived themselves to be at lower risk, across all crime types, than their urban-dwelling counterparts, especially with regard to vehicle-related theft (17% v 21%) (Table A12).

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

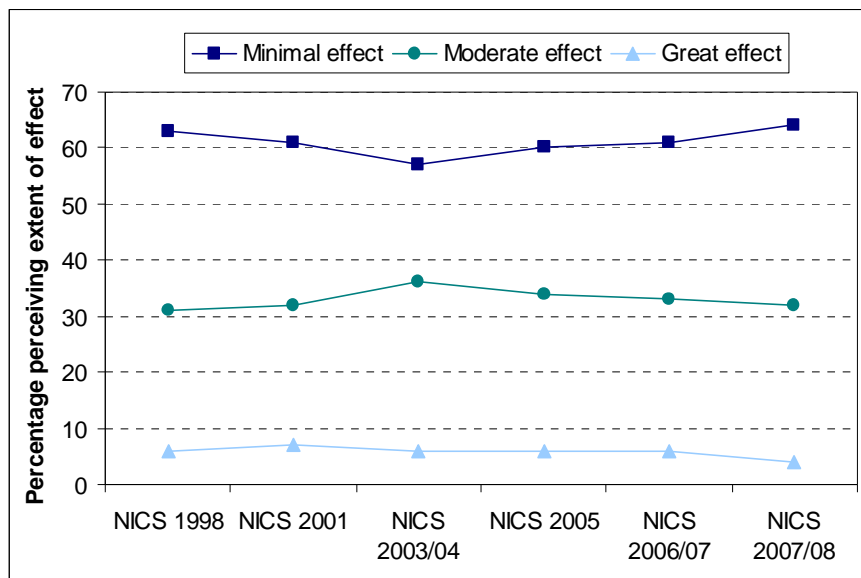
5.1 Perceptions of the effect of ‘fear of crime’ on quality of life in Northern Ireland and England and Wales

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

Respondents to NICS 2007/08 and BCS 2007/08 were asked how much their own quality of life is affected by ‘fear of crime’ on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is no effect and 10 is a total effect. In order to standardise the results, the following conventions have been used to gauge the effect of ‘fear of crime’ on quality of life:

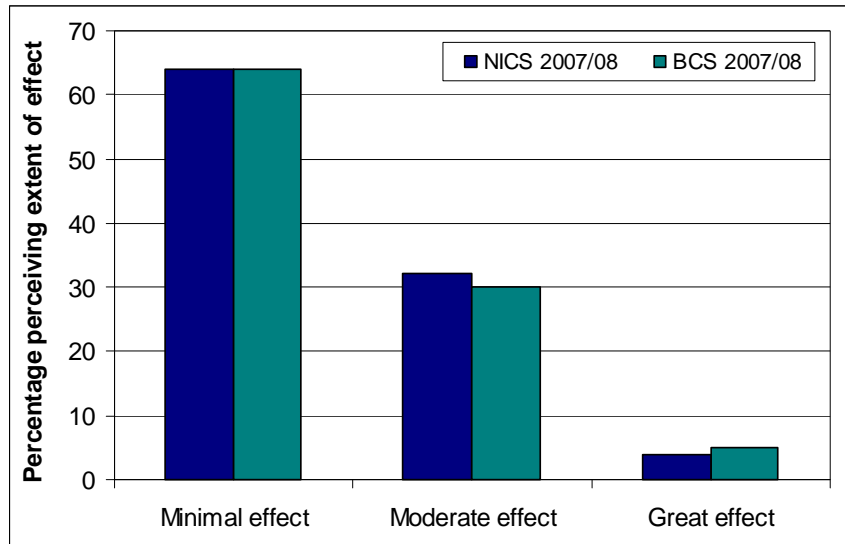
1. minimally affected (responded in the range 1 to 3);
 2. moderately affected (responded in the range 4 to 7); and
 3. greatly affected (responded in the range 8 to 10).
- ◆ Almost two-thirds (64%) of NICS 2007/08 respondents felt that ‘fear of crime’ has a minimal impact on their quality of life, with a further third (32%) claiming it has a moderate effect. Only 4% of people considered that their quality of life is greatly affected by their ‘fear of crime’, the lowest proportion recorded by any sweep of the NICS (Table A14 and Figure 5.1).

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



- ◆ Results from NICS 2007/08 are generally on a par with those in England and Wales, with the same proportion (64%) of BCS 2007/08 respondents claiming their lives are minimally affected by ‘fear of crime’. A further 30% stated that it has a moderate impact, while 5% claimed it has a great effect on their quality of life (Table A14 and Figure 5.2).

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



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

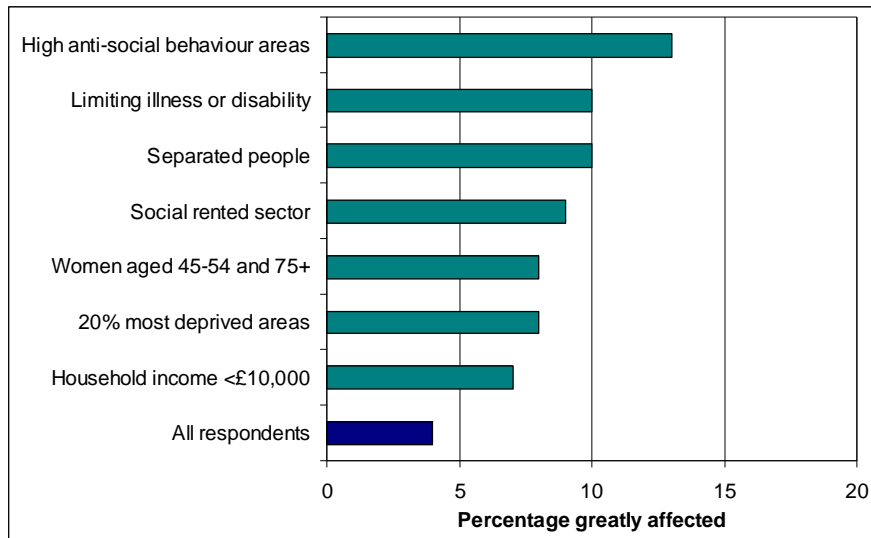
Tables A15 and A16 show differences for NICS 2007/08 respondents in terms of the perceived effect of ‘fear of crime’ on quality of life within various socio-demographic groups in Northern Ireland.

- ◆ When age is considered within three categories, it is apparent that younger people (aged 16-29) are much less likely than older people (aged 60+) to report that ‘fear of crime’ is greatly affecting their quality of life (1% v 6%) (Table A15).
- ◆ In addition, women (6%) were twice as likely as men (3%) to state that ‘fear of crime’ has a great impact on their quality of life (Table A15).
- ◆ Respondents with a long-standing illness or disability (9%), and in particular a limiting illness or disability (10%), were three times more likely than those with no illness or disability (3%) to state their lives are greatly affected by a ‘fear of crime’ (Table A15).
- ◆ There was little evidence of differences in terms of the perceived effect of ‘fear of crime’ on quality of life within the religion, perceived nationality and newspaper readership socio demographic-groups (Table A15).

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- ◆ While, overall, there appears to be no real difference in the proportion of people living as a couple (4%) and not living as a couple (5%) who consider their lives to be greatly affected by a 'fear of crime', those who were separated (10%) or divorced (9%) were much more likely than single (3%) or married (4%) respondents to report their 'fear of crime' greatly affects their quality of life (Table A16).
- ◆ People in the lowest income group were also more likely to say their lives are greatly affected by 'fear of crime'. Of those people earning under £10,000 per annum, seven per cent thought their lives were greatly affected, a proportion that reduces to just one per cent of those from households earning £50,000 or more (Table A16).
- ◆ Respondents living in social rented accommodation (9%) were more than twice as likely as owner-occupiers and private renters (both 4%) to say their 'fear of crime' greatly affects their quality of life (Table A16).
- ◆ Similarly, people living in areas perceived to have high levels of ASB (13%) were more than four times as likely as those from areas of low ASB (3%) to claim a 'fear of crime' greatly affects their quality of life. A further 48% of respondents from high ASB areas claimed a moderate effect, compared with 29% of those from areas where ASB is perceived to be low (Table A16).
- ◆ There is little apparent difference in the proportion of respondents from urban (5%) and rural (4%) areas who stated their lives are greatly affected by 'fear of crime'. In geographical terms, those living in Policing Districts D (covering Antrim, Carrickfergus, Lisburn and Newtownabbey) and E (Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon and Newry & Mourne) (both 6%) were most likely to claim a 'fear of crime' greatly impacts their quality of life (Table A16).
- ◆ In terms of deprivation, there does not appear to be a direct correlation between 2005 MDM rank order and the perceived effect of 'fear of crime' on quality of life. While people living in the 20% most deprived areas (1st quintile) of Northern Ireland were most likely to claim their lives are greatly affected by 'fear of crime' (8%), those living in the middle quintile of super output areas (3rd quintile) were least likely to hold this view (2%) (Table A16).
- ◆ In summary, Tables A15, A16 and Figure 5.3 show that respondents to NICS 2007/08 most likely to state that their lives are greatly affected by 'fear of crime' include:
 - residents in areas perceived to have a high level of ASB (13%);
 - respondents with a limiting illness or disability (10%);
 - people who are separated (10%);
 - those living in the social rented sector (9%);
 - women aged 45-54 and 75 and over (both 8%);
 - residents of the 20% most deprived areas (8%); and
 - people living in households with an income less than £10,000 (7%).

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



Source: NICS 2007/08

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TABULAR ANNEX

Table A1: Perceptions of changes in overall crime levels (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales^{1,2}

	NICS 2003/04 ²	NICS 2005	NICS 2006/07	NICS 2007/08	BCS 2007/08
A lot more crime	49	42	40	34	35
A little more crime	30	32	33	32	31
Same	14	17	18	20	29
Less crime	7	9	10	14	5

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. NICS 2003/04 rates have been revised and may differ from those previously published.

Table A2: Perceptions of changes in local crime levels (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales^{1,2}

	NICS 1998	NICS 2001	NICS 2003/04	NICS 2005	NICS 2006/07	NICS 2007/08	BCS 2007/08
A lot more crime	14	26	22	17	17	14	13
A little more crime	27	29	30	27	27	25	26
Same	47	36	36	42	42	45	49
Less crime	12	8	12	13	14	16	12

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Based on respondents who had been living in their area for more than three years.

Table A3: Perceptions of different types of anti-social behaviour as very / fairly big problems (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales^{1,2}

	NICS 1998	NICS 2001	NICS 2003/04	NICS 2005	NICS 2006/07	NICS 2007/08	Statistically significant change, 2006/07 to 2007/08 ³	BCS 2007/08
Perceived high level of ASB⁴	-	-	21	17	15	15		16
Abandoned or burnt-out cars	-	8	10	8	7	6		7
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	6	7	8	10	8	8		10
People being drunk or rowdy in public places	-	-	24	25	23	25		25
People using or dealing drugs	21	29	31	28	26	26		26
Teenagers hanging around on streets	20	33	31	29	27	28		31
Rubbish or litter lying around	22	27	29	28	27	27		30
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property	23	32	28	26	23	22		27

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. '-' denotes indicator was not included in survey.
3. Statistical significance of changes is indicated by a single (*) for significance at the 5% level (two tail test).
4. ASB: Anti-social Behaviour (measure derived from responses to the seven individual strands in the table).

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Table A4: Perceptions of anti-social behaviour, by personal characteristics (%) in Northern Ireland¹

	% saying 'very' or 'fairly' big problem							Perceived high level of ASB ²
	Abandoned or burnt-out cars	Noisy neighbours or loud parties	People being drunk or rowdy in public places	People using or dealing drugs	Teenagers hanging around on streets	Rubbish or litter lying around	Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property	
Age (3 groups)								
16-29	9	12	35	29	33	31	28	20
30-59	6	8	25	27	28	25	22	14
60+	3	5	16	18	22	26	17	10
Age (7 groups)								
16-24	10	12	40	32	35	33	32	22
25-34	8	10	24	24	28	25	21	16
35-44	6	8	27	30	30	23	24	13
45-54	6	7	25	28	29	27	22	16
55-64	5	7	19	21	24	29	20	14
65-74	3	5	19	22	23	28	17	11
75+	2	4	12	15	19	21	15	9
Men	6	7	25	25	28	26	22	14
16-24	8	10	37	30	31	30	29	19
25-34	9	8	25	24	29	24	22	15
35-44	6	8	27	27	29	21	23	12
45-54	6	7	24	26	29	25	23	16
55-64	5	6	19	20	24	32	19	11
65-74	2	4	20	23	24	27	17	11
75+	2	2	11	17	20	20	18	10
Women	6	9	24	26	28	27	22	16
16-24	11	15	43	33	38	37	34	26
25-34	8	11	23	24	28	27	20	16
35-44	6	8	26	32	30	24	25	14
45-54	6	7	25	29	29	28	21	16
55-64	4	8	19	21	24	27	21	17
65-74	3	5	18	20	23	29	17	10
75+	2	5	12	14	18	21	13	8
Religion								
Catholic	10	8	30	31	32	31	27	20
Protestant	3	7	19	21	24	23	18	11
Perceived nationality								
British	2	7	20	22	25	23	19	11
Irish	13	8	30	31	33	35	28	21
Northern Irish	5	9	26	26	27	24	21	15
Other	6	11	33	30	32	26	28	17
Disability or illness								
Long-standing illness or disability	7	9	27	31	32	30	26	19
Limits activities	8	10	27	31	34	31	27	21
Does not limit activities	4	7	25	29	29	27	25	15
No long-standing illness or disability	6	7	24	24	26	25	21	13
Daily newspaper readership								
National broadsheets	4	5	23	20	22	26	19	8
National tabloids	6	8	26	27	28	26	23	14
Irish News	4	5	23	20	22	26	19	16
Newsletter	6	8	26	27	28	26	23	9
Belfast Telegraph	4	7	21	22	26	26	21	13
ALL	6	8	25	26	28	27	22	15

Source: NICS 2007/08

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. ASB: Anti-social Behaviour (measure derived from responses to the seven individual strands in the table).

NICS 2007/08: PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME

Table A5: Perceptions of anti-social behaviour, by household and area characteristics (%) in Northern Ireland¹

	% saying 'very' or 'fairly' big problem							Perceived high level of ASB ²
	Abandoned or burnt-out cars	Noisy neighbours or loud parties	People being drunk or rowdy in public places	People using or dealing drugs	Teenagers hanging around on streets	Rubbish or litter lying around	Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property	
Living arrangements (respondent)								
Living as a couple	5	7	22	24	25	25	20	12
Married	4	6	21	22	24	24	19	12
Cohabiting	10	15	35	34	31	31	27	16
Not living as a couple	8	9	29	29	32	29	26	18
Single	9	10	32	29	32	29	28	20
Separated	7	11	30	33	36	30	25	20
Divorced	8	10	33	39	41	34	30	23
Widowed	3	6	15	21	25	26	17	10
Household type³								
HRP aged under 60:								
Single adult & child(ren)	10	13	35	38	38	34	33	25
Adults & child(ren)	7	8	25	27	27	24	21	13
No children	6	10	29	28	32	29	25	18
HRP aged 60 and over	4	5	17	19	22	26	18	11
Household income								
Less than £10,000	9	13	31	32	34	32	28	23
£10,000 less than £20,000	6	8	29	30	33	31	27	18
£20,000 less than £30,000	5	9	24	23	25	25	21	13
£30,000 less than £50,000	4	6	21	22	25	24	19	11
£50,000 or more	3	3	17	19	20	18	16	8
Tenure								
Owner-occupied	5	6	20	22	24	23	18	11
Social rented	12	17	39	41	45	43	35	30
Private rented	7	11	34	31	33	30	31	20
Area type								
Belfast	9	12	37	33	41	40	34	27
Urban, excluding Belfast	7	10	28	29	32	27	24	17
All urban	7	11	31	30	34	31	26	19
Rural	4	5	17	20	20	22	17	9
Policing District⁴								
A&B (Belfast)	9	12	37	33	41	40	34	27
C	4	5	19	20	26	21	16	8
D	5	7	17	23	26	26	20	12
E	6	7	27	28	25	26	23	16
F	2	6	16	17	17	15	12	8
G	11	11	32	32	35	32	29	20
H	5	7	23	27	23	26	21	13
Multiple Deprivation measure rank⁵								
1st quintile (most deprived)	17	14	43	46	47	46	40	35
2nd quintile	6	9	28	28	30	28	23	15
3rd quintile	4	8	23	21	24	24	21	12
4th quintile	2	4	16	19	19	20	17	7
5th quintile (least deprived)	2	5	15	16	20	16	12	6
ALL	6	8	25	26	28	27	22	15

Source: NICS 2007/08

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. ASB: Anti-social Behaviour (measure derived from responses to the seven individual strands in the table).
3. HRP: Household Reference Person (in order of sequence, the person who owns or rents the accommodation, highest earner or oldest person).
4. When combined, PSNI Policing Districts A and B equate to Belfast Local Government District area. See Table B1 in Technical Annex for full geographical breakdown of policing districts.
5. Rank order of super output areas (derived from 2005 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure).

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Table A6: Worry about crime (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales¹

	NICS 2001	NICS 2003/04	NICS 2005	NICS 2006/07	NICS 2007/08	BCS 2007/08
Burglary						
Very worried	17	21	18	17	16	12
Fairly worried	37	40	37	38	37	31
Not very worried	36	31	36	35	38	44
Not at all worried	10	8	9	10	8	13
Being mugged and robbed						
Very worried	13	16	15	14	14	11
Fairly worried	25	29	26	28	26	24
Not very worried	43	41	44	44	47	47
Not at all worried	19	14	15	15	13	19
Physical attack by a stranger						
Very worried	15	17	15	15	14	11
Fairly worried	23	24	24	25	23	23
Not very worried	40	40	42	42	46	44
Not at all worried	21	19	19	19	17	22
Race or sectarian attack						
Very worried	11	8	8	8	7	5
Fairly worried	15	14	15	14	13	8
Not very worried	38	39	42	43	46	33
Not at all worried	36	39	35	35	34	54
Rape						
Very worried	16	18	17	17	14	11
Fairly worried	12	15	16	14	11	10
Not very worried	30	28	32	33	35	32
Not at all worried	42	39	36	37	41	47
Theft of a car²						
Very worried	23	22	18	17	15	11
Fairly worried	36	40	36	34	33	28
Not very worried	30	29	35	36	37	43
Not at all worried	11	10	11	12	14	18
Theft from a car²						
Very worried	16	14	12	11	11	10
Fairly worried	34	39	35	33	31	29
Not very worried	37	36	40	41	41	43
Not at all worried	13	11	13	14	16	18

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

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

NICS 2007/08: PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME

Table A7: Worry about crime and personal safety (%) in Northern Ireland¹

	% feeling very worried about						% with high levels of worry about			% feeling very unsafe	
	Being mugged and robbed	Physical attack by stranger	Race or sectarian attack	Rape	Theft of a car ²	Theft from a car ²	Burglary	Car crime ²	Violent crime	Walking alone in area after dark	Alone in home at night
NICS 1998	14	16	10	17	19	13	17	18	23	8	1
NICS 2001	13	15	11	16	23	16	17	21	23	11	1
NICS 2003/04	16	17	8	18	22	14	21	20	24	13	2
NICS 2005	15	15	8	17	18	12	18	17	23	11	2
NICS 2006/07	14	15	8	17	17	11	17	15	22	11	2
NICS 2007/08	14	14	7	14	15	11	16	15	19	12	2

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

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

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

	NICS 2003/04	NICS 2005	NICS 2006/07	NICS 2007/08	Statistically significant change, 2006/07 to 2007/08 ²	BCS 2007/08
High level of worry about:						
Burglary	21	18	17	16		12
Car crime ³	20	17	15	15		12
Violent crime	24	23	22	19	** ↓	15

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

2. Statistical significance of changes is indicated by a double asterisk (**) for significance at the 5% level (two tail test).

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

NICS 2007/08: PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME

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

	% feeling very worried about						% with high levels of worry about			% feeling very unsafe	
	Being mugged and robbed	Physical attack by stranger	Race or sectarian attack	Rape	Theft of a car ²	Theft from a car ²	Burglary	Car crime ²	Violent crime	Walking alone in area after dark	Alone in home at night
Age (3 groups)											
16-29	14	16	8	16	18	11	14	17	21	9	3
30-59	13	14	7	14	15	11	17	15	19	10	1
60+	17	12	6	11	15	10	18	14	17	18	2
Age (7 groups)											
16-24	17	20	10	19	22	13	15	22	25	9	4
25-34	11	13	8	14	15	11	14	15	19	9	1
35-44	14	14	7	16	15	11	18	14	20	9	1
45-54	9	11	5	10	13	10	13	14	14	11	2
55-64	14	13	6	13	16	12	18	15	17	11	2
65-74	21	14	7	13	15	11	21	14	19	17	1
75+	16	13	6	11	15	10	18	13	18	26	3
Men	9	8	5	5	12	9	12	12	10	5	<1
16-24	11	11	5	7	n<100	n<100	10	n<100	12	3	1
25-34	5	6	3	5	13	9	10	12	7	3	<1
35-44	9	9	5	6	13	9	15	13	11	2	<1
45-54	7	8	5	3	11	8	11	11	9	7	<1
55-64	11	7	4	6	12	11	13	11	11	5	1
65-74	16	8	5	5	12	8	15	10	11	8	<1
75+	9	7	5	2	7	5	11	6	8	13	<1
Women	18	19	9	22	18	13	20	18	26	18	3
16-24	24	29	15	31	n<100	n<100	20	n<100	38	15	7
25-34	15	18	11	21	16	12	18	16	28	13	2
35-44	19	19	10	25	17	13	20	16	29	16	2
45-54	12	15	5	16	15	13	14	16	18	14	4
55-64	17	18	8	18	19	13	22	18	22	17	3
65-74	25	19	9	20	18	14	26	18	26	24	1
75+	22	18	7	18	23	16	24	21	25	36	5
Religion											
Catholic	17	15	8	15	19	14	18	18	21	14	2
Protestant	12	13	6	13	13	9	15	13	17	9	1
Perceived nationality											
British	14	14	7	14	14	10	16	14	19	11	2
Irish	14	13	6	13	17	13	17	17	18	16	1
Northern Irish	13	13	5	13	17	10	15	15	17	9	2
Other	18	19	21	19	n<100	n<100	22	n<100	30	11	3
Disability or illness											
Long-standing illness or disability	21	18	9	16	20	14	22	19	23	19	3
Limits activities	22	20	10	17	21	16	24	21	25	21	3
Does not limit activities	15	14	5	13	15	9	17	15	17	12	1
No long-standing illness or disability	12	12	6	13	14	10	14	13	17	9	2
Daily newspaper readership											
National broadsheets	8	9	3	9	11	8	8	11	14	6	1
National tabloids	14	14	7	14	16	11	17	15	19	9	1
Irish News	16	14	6	15	18	13	18	17	20	11	1
Newsletter	12	13	5	12	14	11	14	15	17	10	2
Belfast Telegraph	12	12	6	13	14	9	14	13	16	9	2
ALL	14	14	7	14	15	11	16	15	19	12	2

Source: NICS 2007/08

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

NICS 2007/08: PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME

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

	% feeling very worried about						% with high levels of worry about			% feeling very unsafe	
	Being mugged and robbed	Physical attack by stranger	Race or sectarian attack	Rape	Theft of a car ²	Theft from a car ²	Burglary	Car crime ²	Violent crime	Walking alone in area after dark	Alone in home at night
Living arrangements (respondent)											
Living as a couple	13	13	7	13	15	11	17	14	18	10	2
Married	13	12	6	12	14	10	16	13	17	10	1
Cohabiting	16	21	14	21	27	17	22	24	26	17	4
Not living as a couple	15	15	7	15	16	11	16	16	20	14	2
Single	13	15	8	14	16	10	14	16	19	9	2
Separated	14	15	5	14	13	10	14	14	18	14	0
Divorced	18	18	7	18	21	15	21	20	24	18	1
Widowed	20	16	7	16	17	10	22	15	22	28	4
Household type³											
HRP aged under 60:											
Single adult & child(ren)	16	21	10	23	14	9	18	13	29	15	3
Adults & child(ren)	14	14	7	15	14	10	17	14	20	10	1
No children	12	14	8	13	17	12	14	16	18	8	2
HRP aged 60 and over	16	13	6	12	15	11	18	15	17	17	2
Household income											
Less than £10,000	21	20	10	19	21	15	24	22	27	22	3
£10,000 less than £20,000	17	16	9	15	20	15	19	19	21	15	2
£20,000 less than £30,000	13	13	7	12	17	12	14	15	17	9	1
£30,000 less than £50,000	7	12	4	12	13	7	10	12	15	7	1
£50,000 or more	8	8	3	9	7	7	12	8	11	5	1
Tenure											
Owner-occupied	13	12	6	13	14	10	15	13	16	10	1
Social rented	21	20	9	18	26	22	26	27	26	22	3
Private rented	15	17	11	15	19	13	16	18	24	10	3
Area type											
Belfast	13	14	7	14	19	14	17	18	19	15	2
Urban, excluding Belfast	14	15	8	14	16	11	16	15	19	15	2
All urban	14	15	8	14	17	12	17	16	19	15	2
Rural	14	13	6	13	14	10	16	14	18	8	2
Policing District⁴											
A&B (Belfast)	13	14	7	14	19	14	17	18	19	15	2
C	8	8	4	10	8	5	12	8	11	8	1
D	17	14	6	15	18	12	18	17	20	14	2
E	20	20	12	21	22	15	23	21	26	12	4
F	10	8	4	9	9	7	14	9	16	8	1
G	19	18	9	14	20	16	18	19	23	15	1
H	10	13	6	12	12	8	11	12	15	9	1
Multiple Deprivation measure rank⁵											
1st quintile (most deprived)	19	20	9	17	26	21	22	25	25	21	3
2nd quintile	14	14	8	14	16	9	16	13	18	11	1
3rd quintile	13	13	7	14	15	11	16	15	19	10	2
4th quintile	15	15	7	15	13	10	15	14	19	10	1
5th quintile (least deprived)	9	9	3	9	11	7	13	11	12	8	1
Perceived level of ASB⁶											
High	26	24	13	23	33	26	28	32	34	25	4
Low	12	12	6	12	13	9	14	12	16	9	1
ALL	14	14	7	14	15	11	16	15	19	12	2

Source: NICS 2007/08

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.
3. HRP: Household Reference Person (in order of sequence, the person who owns or rents the accommodation, highest earner or oldest person).
4. When combined, PSNI Policing Districts A and B equate to Belfast Local Government District area. See Table B1 in Technical Annex for full geographical breakdown of policing districts.
5. Rank order of super output areas (derived from 2005 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure).
6. ASB: Anti-social Behaviour (measure derived from responses to the seven individual strands in Table A3).

NICS 2007/08: PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME

Table A11: Perceptions of the risk of victimisation, by personal characteristics (%) in Northern Ireland¹

	% saying very / fairly likely they will be a victim in the next year				
	Burglary	Theft of a car ²	Theft from a car ²	Being mugged and robbed	Physical attack by a stranger
Age (3 groups)					
16-29	15	18	19	10	13
30-59	17	19	19	8	8
60+	14	19	18	8	7
Age (7 groups)					
16-24	14	17	19	11	15
25-34	16	19	21	9	11
35-44	17	19	20	8	9
45-54	16	18	17	9	7
55-64	20	23	21	8	8
65-74	16	19	17	10	8
75+	9	13	12	5	4
Men	15	18	18	8	10
16-24	13	16	21	10	18
25-34	13	19	19	8	11
35-44	15	18	21	8	10
45-54	15	17	14	9	7
55-64	22	24	22	7	10
65-74	15	18	17	7	8
75+	12	15	10	6	3
Women	16	20	19	9	8
16-24	15	19	17	12	11
25-34	19	20	22	11	11
35-44	18	20	19	8	8
45-54	16	19	20	9	8
55-64	18	22	20	8	6
65-74	16	21	17	12	8
75+	7	11	14	4	4
Religion					
Catholic	18	20	21	10	10
Protestant	14	18	18	7	8
Perceived nationality					
British	15	17	17	8	8
Irish	18	21	21	10	10
Northern Irish	15	19	19	8	9
Other	23	n<100	n<100	18	13
Disability or illness					
Long-standing illness or disability	18	22	22	12	10
Limits activities	17	24	23	12	10
Does not limit activities	18	18	19	12	12
No long-standing illness or disability	15	18	18	7	8
Daily newspaper readership					
National broadsheets	16	16	17	5	5
National tabloids	16	20	21	9	11
Irish News	18	20	20	10	11
Newsletter	15	18	16	10	8
Belfast Telegraph	16	21	21	8	8
ALL	16	19	19	9	9

Source: NICS 2007/08

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

NICS 2007/08: PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME

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

	% saying very / fairly likely they will be a victim in the next year				
	Burglary	Theft of a car ²	Theft from a car ²	Being mugged and robbed	Physical attack by a stranger
Living arrangements (respondent)					
Living as a couple	17	19	19	8	8
Married	17	19	18	8	7
Cohabiting	18	22	23	11	15
Not living as a couple	14	18	19	10	11
Single	14	17	19	10	12
Separated	16	19	20	13	10
Divorced	20	26	29	10	12
Widowed	12	14	14	8	7
Household type³					
HRP aged under 60:					
Single adult & child(ren)	13	17	20	11	14
Adults & child(ren)	18	18	19	10	8
No children	16	20	20	8	11
HRP aged 60 and over	14	19	17	8	7
Household income					
Less than £10,000	17	24	22	13	13
£10,000 less than £20,000	17	20	19	12	12
£20,000 less than £30,000	13	18	17	8	9
£30,000 less than £50,000	18	19	19	5	7
£50,000 or more	14	18	19	6	5
Tenure					
Owner-occupied	15	18	17	7	7
Social rented	19	26	26	14	14
Private rented	16	21	23	12	14
Area type					
Belfast	20	29	28	11	11
Urban, excluding Belfast	15	18	18	9	10
All urban	16	21	21	9	10
Rural	15	17	17	8	8
Policing District⁴					
A&B (Belfast)	20	29	28	11	11
C	12	17	18	4	4
D	22	27	24	10	11
E	22	21	21	13	14
F	12	12	13	9	8
G	13	16	15	8	9
H	7	10	12	5	5
Multiple Deprivation measure rank⁵					
1st quintile (most deprived)	20	27	28	14	13
2nd quintile	12	16	16	7	9
3rd quintile	16	18	17	9	8
4th quintile	17	19	18	8	9
5th quintile (least deprived)	14	17	18	5	6
Perceived level of ASB⁶					
High	28	35	35	20	21
Low	14	17	16	7	7
ALL	16	19	19	9	9

Source: NICS 2007/08

- Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
- Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.
- HRP: Household Reference Person (in order of sequence, the person who owns or rents the accommodation, highest earner or oldest person).
- When combined, PSNI Policing Districts A and B equate to Belfast Local Government District area. See Table B1 in Technical Annex for full geographical breakdown of policing districts.
- Rank order of super output areas (derived from 2005 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure).
- ASB: Anti-social Behaviour (measure derived from responses to the seven individual strands in Table A3).

NICS 2007/08: PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME

Table A13: Perceptions of the risk of victimisation (%) in Northern Ireland¹

	NICS 2001	NICS 2003/04	NICS 2005	NICS 2006/07	NICS 2007/08
How likely respondents think it is that the following will happen to them in the next year:					
Burglary					
Very likely	2	3	3	2	2
Fairly likely	16	19	17	16	14
Fairly unlikely	56	60	59	58	60
Very unlikely	26	18	21	24	24
Theft of a car²					
Very likely	5	3	3	3	2
Fairly likely	24	27	21	19	17
Fairly unlikely	54	56	60	59	61
Very unlikely	17	14	16	18	20
Theft from a car²					
Very likely	4	4	4	3	2
Fairly likely	23	25	19	19	17
Fairly unlikely	53	56	60	59	60
Very unlikely	20	16	17	19	21
Being mugged and robbed					
Very likely	1	1	1	1	1
Fairly likely	8	10	10	10	8
Fairly unlikely	59	63	62	62	63
Very unlikely	33	25	27	26	28
Physical attack by a stranger					
Very likely	1	1	1	2	1
Fairly likely	8	10	10	9	8
Fairly unlikely	59	63	61	62	63
Very unlikely	33	26	28	27	28

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

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

NICS 2007/08: PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME

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

	NICS 1998	NICS 2001	NICS 2003/04	NICS 2005	NICS 2006/07	NICS 2007/08	BCS 2007/08
Minimal	63	61	57	60	61	64	64
Moderate	31	32	36	34	33	32	30
Great	6	7	6	6	6	4	5

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

NICS 2007/08: PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME

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

	Minimal	Moderate	Great
Age (3 groups)			
16-29	69	30	1
30-59	63	32	5
60+	62	32	6
Age (7 groups)			
16-24	68	31	1
25-34	68	29	3
35-44	61	35	4
45-54	64	30	7
55-64	62	33	5
65-74	62	33	5
75+	62	32	6
Men	67	29	3
16-24	73	27	0
25-34	72	25	3
35-44	66	32	2
45-54	67	28	5
55-64	65	32	4
65-74	62	33	5
75+	65	32	4
Women	61	34	6
16-24	63	35	2
25-34	65	32	3
35-44	57	38	5
45-54	60	31	8
55-64	60	33	7
65-74	62	33	6
75+	60	32	8
Religion			
Catholic	60	35	5
Protestant	68	29	4
Perceived nationality			
British	66	30	4
Irish	61	34	5
Northern Irish	66	30	4
Other	53	43	5
Disability or illness			
Long-standing illness or disability	55	36	9
Limits activities	53	36	10
Does not limit activities	60	37	3
No long-standing illness or disability	67	30	3
Daily newspaper readership			
National broadsheets	71	27	2
National tabloids	65	32	4
Irish News	63	32	5
Newsletter	70	26	4
Belfast Telegraph	63	34	3
ALL	64	32	4

Source: NICS 2007/08

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

NICS 2007/08: PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME

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

	Minimal	Moderate	Great
Living arrangements (respondent)			
Living as a couple	64	32	4
Married	65	31	4
Cohabiting	62	33	5
Not living as a couple	63	32	5
Single	67	30	3
Separated	56	34	10
Divorced	56	35	9
Widowed	57	37	7
Household type²			
HRP aged under 60:			
Single adult & child(ren)	58	36	6
Adults & child(ren)	64	33	3
No children	65	31	4
HRP aged 60 and over	63	31	5
Household income			
Less than £10,000	57	36	7
£10,000 less than £20,000	57	37	5
£20,000 less than £30,000	67	29	4
£30,000 less than £50,000	67	30	2
£50,000 or more	74	25	1
Tenure			
Owner-occupied	65	31	4
Social rented	54	36	9
Private rented	66	30	4
Area type			
Belfast	62	32	5
Urban, excluding Belfast	61	34	4
All urban	62	34	5
Rural	67	29	4
Policing District³			
A&B (Belfast)	62	32	5
C	67	30	3
D	62	33	6
E	57	37	6
F	68	29	4
G	62	34	4
H	73	24	3
Multiple Deprivation measure rank⁴			
1st quintile (most deprived)	54	38	8
2nd quintile	65	31	4
3rd quintile	65	33	2
4th quintile	66	30	3
5th quintile (least deprived)	69	27	4
Perceived level of ASB⁵			
High	39	48	13
Low	68	29	3
ALL	64	32	4

Source: NICS 2007/08

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. HRP: Household Reference Person (in order of sequence, the person who owns or rents the accommodation, highest earner or oldest person).
3. When combined, PSNI Policing Districts A and B equate to Belfast Local Government District area. See Table B1 in Technical Annex for full geographical breakdown of policing districts.
4. Rank order of super output areas (derived from 2005 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure).
5. ASB: Anti-social Behaviour (measure derived from responses to the seven individual strands in Table A3).

TECHNICAL ANNEX

Sampling and fieldwork

The initial NICS 2007/08 sample consisted of 6,736 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 6,051 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.

In January 2005, the NICS began operating on a continuous basis. This bulletin refers primarily to fieldwork undertaken during the financial year April 2007 to March 2008, which involved complete interviews with 3,933 people aged 16 years and over. This represents an eligible response rate of 65%.

Respondents were assured in advance of the interviews that any information they provided would be treated as entirely confidential and that the level of detail produced in publications or in any subsequent analyses would not allow for identification of individuals. The interviews typically lasted around 50 minutes for non-victims, although those involving respondents who disclosed several crimes could last much longer.

Rounding, error and statistical significance

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

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

Statistical significance tests have been carried out on a range of group differences observed between the results of NICS 2006/07 and 2007/08. These tests are used to establish the degree of confidence with which we can infer the observed findings as an accurate reflection of the views of the population.

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

NICS 2007/08: PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME

Table B1: Sample profile for NICS 2007/08

Group	Sub-group	Unweighted Number	Unweighted %	Weighted %
Sex	Men	1,784	45	47
	Women	2,148	55	53
Age group	16-24	347	9	13
	25-34	660	17	16
	35-44	806	20	20
	45-54	647	16	18
	55-64	566	14	14
	65-74	504	13	11
	75+	402	10	8
Religion	Catholic	1,575	40	42
	Protestant	2,112	54	52
Area type	Urban	2,256	57	55
	Urban, excluding Belfast	1,653	42	40
	Rural	1,677	43	45
Policing district¹	A&B (Belfast)	603	15	14
	C	698	18	17
	D	617	16	16
	E	602	15	16
	F	420	11	11
	G	526	13	13
	H	467	12	12
Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank²	1st quintile (most deprived)	794	20	19
	2nd quintile	793	20	20
	3rd quintile	784	20	20
	4th quintile	822	21	22
	5th quintile (least deprived)	734	19	19
Vehicle-owning households		3,074	78	84

1. When combined, PSNI Policing Districts A and B equate to Belfast City Council area. The other six districts are: C (Ards, Castlereagh, Down and North Down); D (Antrim, Carrickfergus, Lisburn and Newtownabbey); E (Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon and Newry & Mourne); F (Cookstown, Dungannon & South Tyrone, Fermanagh and Omagh); G (Foyle, Limavady, Magherafelt & Strabane); and H (Ballymena, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Larne and Moyle).
2. Rank order of super output areas (derived from 2005 Multiple Deprivation Measure).

Figure B1: Map of PSNI Policing Districts



1. Based on Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland data © 2007.

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Digest of Information on the Northern Ireland Criminal Justice System 6 *June 2008*

Commentary on Northern Ireland Crime Statistics 2004 *August 2005*

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