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Statistics and Research Branch

**Perceptions of Policing,
Justice and
Organised Crime:
Findings from the
2009/10
Northern Ireland
Crime Survey**

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- ◆ Following a statistically significant increase in the level of public confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements (based on a seven-strand composite measure) between NICS 2003/04 (73%) and 2007/08 (79%), confidence remained unchanged during 2008/09 and 2009/10 (both 79%).
- ◆ In terms of the local police, two-fifths (40%) of NICS 2009/10 respondents, compared with 56% in England and Wales (BCS 2009/10), rated the police in their local area as doing an excellent or good job. In addition, results of a question regarding overall confidence in the local police produced a similar picture, with 59% and 69% (respectively) expressing confidence.
- ◆ Findings from NICS 2009/10 indicate that, at 40%, overall confidence in community engagement by the police and partnership agencies (based on a two-strand composite measure) is almost a fifth lower than the equivalent rate in England and Wales (49%; BCS 2009/10). Adults in England and Wales were more likely to agree that the local police and other agencies both seek peoples views about the ASB and crime issues that matter (47%; BCS 2009/10 v 42% NICS 2009/10) and are dealing with the issues that matter (51% v 37%).
- ◆ Results show that the proportion of NICS 2009/10 respondents who agree that the local police and other agencies seek people's views about the ASB and crime issues that matter has fallen by four percentage points since 2007/08, from 46% to 42%. While the apparent decrease in the proportion agreeing that they are dealing with the issues that matter (from 39% to 37%) is not itself statistically significant, these two strands have combined to contribute to an overall statistically significant decrease in confidence in engagement (based on a two-strand composite measure) from 42% to 40% over the same period.
- ◆ NICS 2009/10 respondents were more likely to think the criminal justice system (CJS) as a whole is fair (58%) than effective (37%). These proportions remain on a par with those measured through NICS 2008/09 (59% and 37% respectively) and compare with 59% and 41% in England and Wales (BCS 2009/10).
- ◆ For the third consecutive year, NICS 2009/10 participants cited 'tougher sentences' (35%) as the most important thing the CJS could do to improve its public confidence rating. Other popular responses included: 'tackle ASB and minor crime' (24%); provide 'a more visible policing presence' (19%); and 'bring more offenders to justice' (18%).
- ◆ Findings from NICS 2009/10 show that the main harm caused by organised crime in Northern Ireland is considered to be 'fear in the community' with over a third (35%) of respondents holding this view. Other common responses included: 'violence in the community' (15%); and 'legitimate businesses lose trade' (12%).
- ◆ The majority (66%) of NICS 2009/10 respondents felt that organised crime overall generates a minimal level of harm in the local area, while 7% considered it to result in a great level of harm. Of the types of organised crime examined, drug trafficking, either the selling or buying of illegal drugs, was believed to promote the greatest level of harm (15%).
- ◆ Two-thirds (66%) of NICS 2009/10 respondents believed that the level of harm caused by organised crime in the local area had remained stable during the previous 12 months, a statistically significant increase since NICS 2008/09 (63%).

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The focus of this publication

This bulletin draws on findings from the 2009/10 Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS), a representative, continuous, personal interview survey of the experiences and perceptions of crime of 4,102 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 focus of this publication is on key attitudinal modules contained within the NICS which are used to monitor the performance of the Department in terms of progress towards specific targets devised as part of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review, namely: confidence in policing and community engagement; confidence in the criminal justice system; and perceptions of the level of harm caused by organised crime in Northern Ireland.

Comparisons are made, where appropriate, between the results of the 2009/10 NICS and those of the 2009/10 British Crime Survey (BCS; Flatley *et al.*, 2010), the equivalent survey for England and Wales, as well as with earlier sweeps of the NICS. In addition, findings from NICS 2009/10 are examined across the following socio-demographic (personal, household and area) groups, the first six of which (listed below) relate to equality categories specified in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998:

1. religious belief;
2. age;
3. living arrangements (marital status);
4. sex (gender);
5. disability (or illness);
6. household type (child dependants);
7. self-perceived nationality;
8. household income;
9. housing tenure;
10. type of area (urban / rural);
11. policing district (see Technical Annex for details);
12. multiple deprivation measure rank (MDM 2010);
13. perceived level of anti-social behaviour in area;
14. whether the respondents had ever been a victim of crime reported to the police;
15. attendance at court as a victim, witness or spectator; and
16. daily newspaper readership.

Throughout this report key findings are commented on in the text, with full numerical details on each section available in the relevant tables comprising the Tabular Annex.

Additional NICS 2009/10 publications, including reports presenting findings on experience of crime (Toner and Freel, forthcoming), and perceptions of crime (Freel, Quigley and Toner, forthcoming), will publish separately.

1.2 About the Northern Ireland Crime Survey

Closely mirroring the format and core questions of the BCS, the NICS is an important source of information about levels of crime and public attitudes to crime. Its results play an important role in informing and monitoring government policies and targets, such as, strategies relating to public confidence, crime reduction, community safety, victims and witnesses, sexual violence and abuse, 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 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 sexual violence and abuse, 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 2009/10 were based on BCS 2009/10. However, some modification has been necessary to reflect local issues and the fact that the smaller NICS sample size would not have generated robust results for follow-up questions asked of small sub-sections of the sample.

1.3 The new Department of Justice

The Department of Justice (DOJ) is a new Northern Ireland Department which came into existence on 12 April 2010 and was established by the Department of Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2010. It has a range of devolved policing and justice functions set out in the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010.

Prior to devolution, policing and justice functions in Northern Ireland were the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Office (NIO). As part of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review, the then NIO, agreed a range of Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets, several of which relied on output from the NICS. Following devolution, these Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were retained by the new DOJ either within the Programme for Government or as Departmental targets, with the final outturns remaining 31 March 2011.

In addition to annual publications such as this, the NICS reports on a quarterly, rolling 12-months basis, via the DOJ website, against the KPIs to which it measures or contributes.

2. CONFIDENCE IN POLICING

2.1 Confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements

Since 2003/04, the Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS) has measured the level of public confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland (hereafter referred to as 'policing'). Such an approach was initially designed and carried out as part of SR 2004 PSA Target 1, the aim of which was to increase confidence in policing by three percentage points, from a composite baseline of 73% in 2003/04 to 76% by 2007/08. The final outturn saw this target exceeded, measuring confidence at 79% (French, 2008).

This same methodology was deployed to form a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) within the CSR 2007 'Making Communities Safer' PSA, with the outturn of the 2004 target setting the new baseline (79%). Following devolution of policing and justice powers in April 2010, this indicator was retained as a Departmental target with the aim of maintaining the high level of confidence in policing (79%) by March 2011.

Progress against this target continues to be monitored through the NICS using a weighted composite measure, constructed from a suite of seven indicators, eliciting views on the fairness and effectiveness of the police and police accountability arrangements.

Ratings for these indicators are based on the proportions of respondents who state that they:

- a. have some, a lot or total confidence in the ability of the police to provide an ordinary day-to-day policing service for all the people of Northern Ireland;
- b. think the police do a very or fairly good job in Northern Ireland as a whole;
- c. believe the police treat Catholic and Protestant members of the public equally in Northern Ireland as a whole;
- d. think the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) is independent of the police;
- e. think the Policing Board helps ensure that the police do a good job;
- f. think the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (OPONI) is independent of the police; and
- g. think the Police Ombudsman helps ensure that the police do a good job.

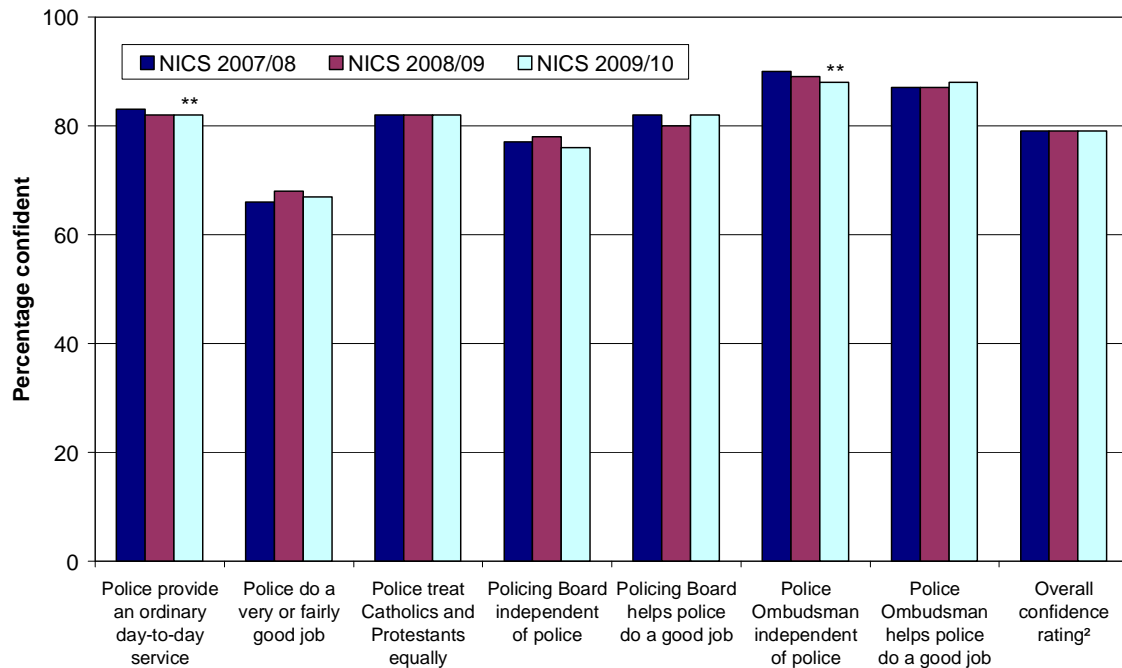
In constructing the composite measure, greater weight is given to the three police indicators (a to c, above), so that the arithmetic mean of their individual confidence ratings is worth two-thirds of the overall confidence rating. The respective means of those relating to the Policing Board (d and e), and the Police Ombudsman (f and g), each account for a sixth of the overall measure. Hence, success in achieving the target depends largely on confidence ratings of the police.

As a note of caution, this seven-strand composite measure should not be misinterpreted purely as personal 'confidence in the police' as its focus is much broader including not only the performance of the police *per se* but also accountability measures put in place following recommendations set out in the Patten Report to reform policing in Northern Ireland.

- ◆ Following a statistically significant increase ($p < 0.05$) between NICS 2003/04 (73%) and 2007/08 (79%), confidence in policing remained unchanged during 2008/09 and 2009/10 (both 79%) (Table A1 and Figure 2.1).
- ◆ With the exceptions of 'the police provide an ordinary day-to-day service', which fell ($p < 0.05$) from 83% in 2007/08 to 82% in 2009/10, and 'the Police Ombudsman is independent of the police', 90% to 88%, the 2009/10 confidence ratings of each individual strand remained on a par with those measured in 2007/08 (Table A1 and Figure 2.1).

- ◆ In 2009/10, the Police Ombudsman (OPONI) continued to generate the highest confidence ratings in terms of being considered independent of the police and helping the police do a good job (both 88%). In contrast, at 67%, NICS 2009/10 respondents were least confident that the police do a very or fairly good job in Northern Ireland as a whole (Table A1 and Figure 2.1).

Figure 2.1: Confidence in policing (%) in Northern Ireland¹



1. *** denotes statistically significant change at the 5% level ($p < 0.05$) compared with baseline year (2007/08).

2. This measure is the weighted mean of responses to the seven individual confidence strands. Greater weighting is given to the three questions on the police.

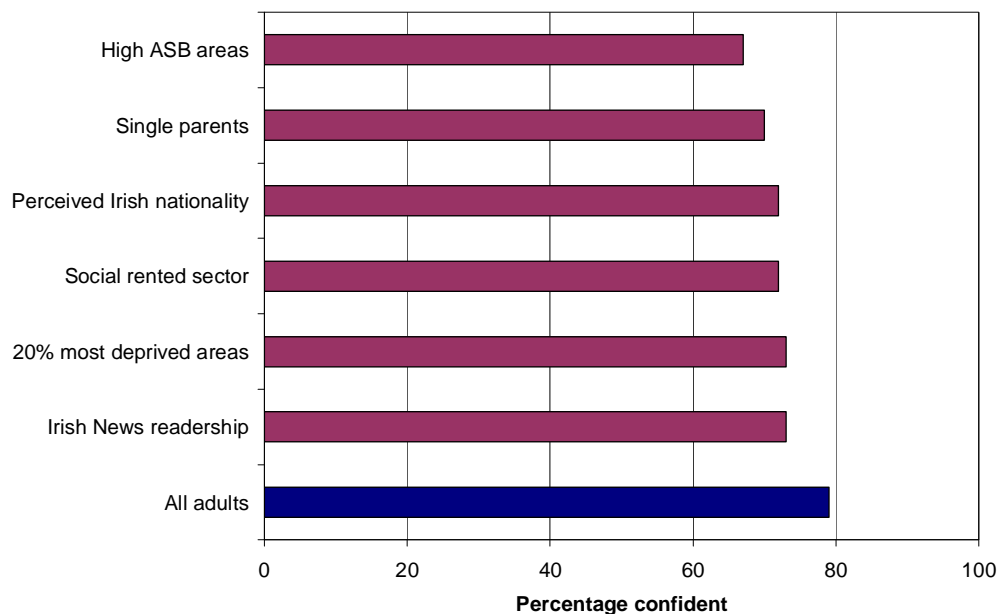
2.2 Confidence in policing by demographic characteristics

When it came to rating the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland, levels of confidence appear to show more variation among certain demographic groups than those for the criminal justice system. A full breakdown of ratings is presented in Tables A2 and A3.

- ◆ Findings from NICS 2009/10 suggest a general relationship between overall confidence in policing and age of respondent. While younger people (aged 16-24) were least likely to express confidence in policing (76%), those aged 75+ displayed the highest confidence level of any the age examined (84%) (Table A2).
- ◆ Protestants (81%) were more likely to display confidence in policing than Catholic respondents (76%). At 18 percentage points, the greatest difference in confidence levels between these groups concerned equal treatment by the police (Protestant 89% v Catholic 71%). However, this trend is reversed when consideration is given to the role of both the Policing Board and the Police Ombudsman in helping the police do a good job, where higher proportions of Catholics (84% and 92% respectively) expressed confidence than their Protestant counterparts (81% and 85%) (Table A2).

- ◆ NICS 2009/10 participants who considered their nationality to be Irish (72%) were also much less likely to display overall confidence in policing than those adults with a British (81%) or Northern Irish (82%) nationality (Table A2 and Figure 2.2).
- ◆ At 67%, adults living in areas perceived to have a high level of anti-social behaviour (ASB) displayed the lowest level of confidence in policing of all the socio-demographic groups examined. This compares with 81% of people from areas of low ASB. While respondents from high ASB areas consistently expressed lower confidence levels than their low-ASB counterparts across each of the seven indicators examined, the greatest disparity is found within the proportions who believe the police do a good job in Northern Ireland as a whole (48% v 70%; Table A2 and Figure 2.2).
- ◆ Similarly, confidence in policing was lower within the 20% most deprived areas of Northern Ireland (73%) and highest within the 20% least deprived areas (83%; Table A2 and Figure 2.2)
- ◆ In summary, Tables A2, A3 and Figure 2.2 suggest that among the NICS 2009/10 respondents least likely to express confidence in policing were:
 - those living in areas they perceive to have high levels of anti-social behaviour (67%);
 - single adults with child(ren) (70%);
 - adults who perceive their nationality to be Irish (72%);
 - those living in social rented accommodation (72%);
 - residents of the 20% most deprived areas (73%); and
 - readers of the Irish News (73%).

Figure 2.2: Those least likely to have confidence in policing (%)



Source: NICS 2009/10

2.3 Ratings and perceptions of the local police

In addition to policing in Northern Ireland, the NICS continues to measure perceptions of the local police both in general terms as well as in specific aspects of their work.

Developed specifically to gauge confidence in the unique police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland, results in Sections 2.1 and 2.2 (Tables A1 to A3) cannot be compared with other jurisdictions. However, Table A4 compares perceptions of police performance in the local area in Northern Ireland and England and Wales, based on the question ‘Taking everything into account, how good a job do you think the police in this area are doing?’.

It should be noted that this question and its response options differ from those covered by the question within the composite measure framework ‘Do you think the police do a good job or a poor job in Northern Ireland as a whole?’ (see Section 2.1). The focus here is on the local rather than on the regional area. It is also possible that some respondents may have interpreted the middle option (‘a fair job’) as a positive or satisfactory response, while viewing the ‘neither a good nor a poor job’ option presented by the KPI question as a neutral response. This may partially explain the lower confidence ratings produced by the question on the local police.

- ◆ Over half of BCS 2009/10 respondents (56%) rated their local police as doing an excellent or good job, compared with two-fifths (40%) of NICS 2009/10 participants (Table A4 and Figure 2.3).
- ◆ Almost one-in-five adults in Northern Ireland (18%) rated the performance of their local police as ‘poor’ or ‘very poor’, a proportion nearly twice that of the 10% in England and Wales (Table A4 and Figure 2.3).

Figure 2.3: Ratings of local police performance (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales

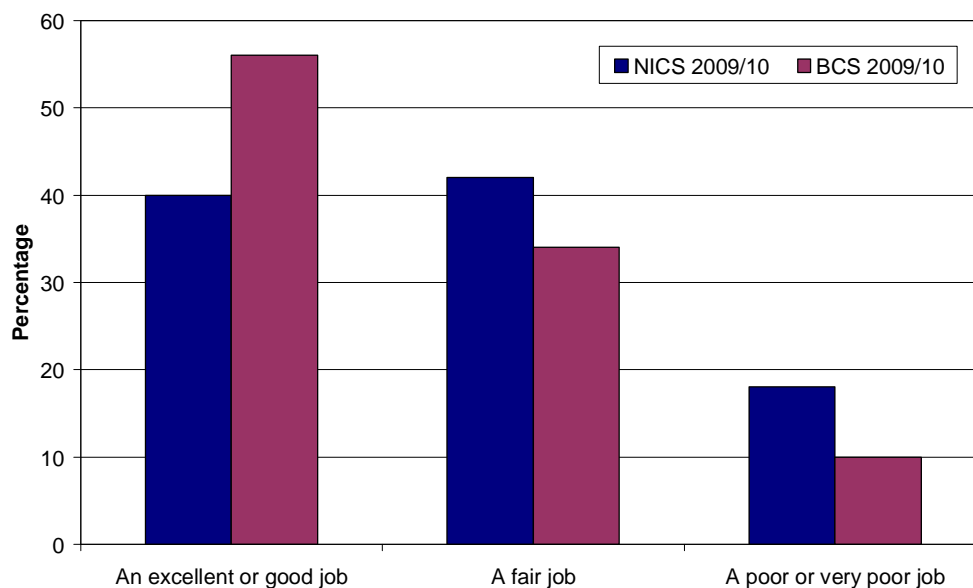


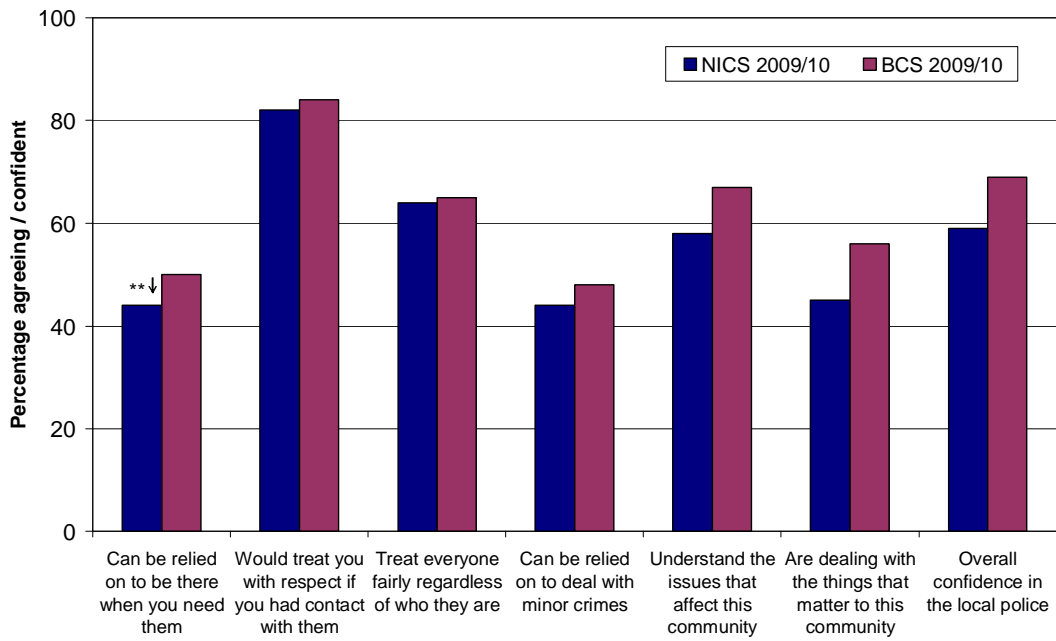
Table A5 contains the proportions of NICS and BCS respondents who claimed they 'strongly agree' or 'tend to agree' with seven statements concerning the local police. The first six of these are 'funnel-type' questions, designed to help generate a more considered response to the seventh, overall confidence measure:

- a. can be relied on to be there when you need them;
- b. would treat you with respect if you had contact with them;
- c. treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are;
- d. can be relied on to deal with minor crimes;
- e. understand the issues that affect this community;
- f. are dealing with the things that matter to this community; and
- g. taking everything into account, I have confidence in the police in this area.

The alternative response options were: 'neither agree nor disagree', 'tend to disagree' and 'strongly disagree'. Although this presented a neutral option, the emphasis here on specific aspects of local police activity may have contributed to some confidence ratings being lower than those indicators comprising the seven-strand composite measure, which concern general police performance and behaviour at the Northern Ireland level.

- ◆ When taking everything into account, a larger proportion of BCS 2009/10 respondents (69%) than NICS 2009/10 participants (59%) expressed confidence in their local police, reinforcing the trend that adults in England and Wales rate the local police more highly than their Northern Ireland counterparts (Table A5 and Figure 2.4).
- ◆ Across each of the seven statements examined, respondents to BCS 2009/10 were more likely than their NICS counterparts to express confidence in the police, with the greatest disparities found concerning the statements (the local police) 'understand the issues that affect this community' (67% v 58%) and 'are dealing with the things that matter to this community' (56% v 45%) (Table A5 and Figure 2.4). This issue of community engagement is further explored in Section 3.
- ◆ In both jurisdictions, respondents were most likely to agree with the statement (the local police) 'would treat you with respect if you had contact with them' (84%, BCS 2009/10; 82% NICS 2009/10), and least likely to express agreement that (the local police) 'can be relied on to deal with minor crimes' (48% v 44%) (Table A5 and Figure 2.4).
- ◆ With the exception of a decrease ($p < 0.05$) in the proportion of respondents agreeing that the local police 'can be relied on to be there when you need them', which fell from 46% in NICS 2008/09 to 44% in NICS 2009/10, all other indicators of confidence in the local police remained unchanged during the 12 months to March 2010 (Table A5).

Figure 2.4: Confidence in the local police (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales¹



1. *** denotes statistically significant change (increase, ↑; decrease, ↓) at the 5% level (p<0.05) compared with previous year.

3. CONFIDENCE IN ENGAGEMENT

3.1 Confidence in community engagement by the local police and partnership agencies in Northern Ireland and England and Wales

Since October 2007, both the NICS and BCS have measured levels of public confidence in the local police and other agencies working in partnership on anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime issues. Reflecting variations in the local government and partnership arrangements in the two jurisdictions, the questions differ slightly between the two surveys, although they are still regarded as comparable. The NICS questions refer specifically to 'the police and other agencies, including district councils'. The BCS questions refer to 'the police and local councils', although 'other agencies' are referred to in an introductory paragraph.

Focus is on the proportion of respondents who 'strongly agree' or 'tend to agree' that the local police and other agencies:

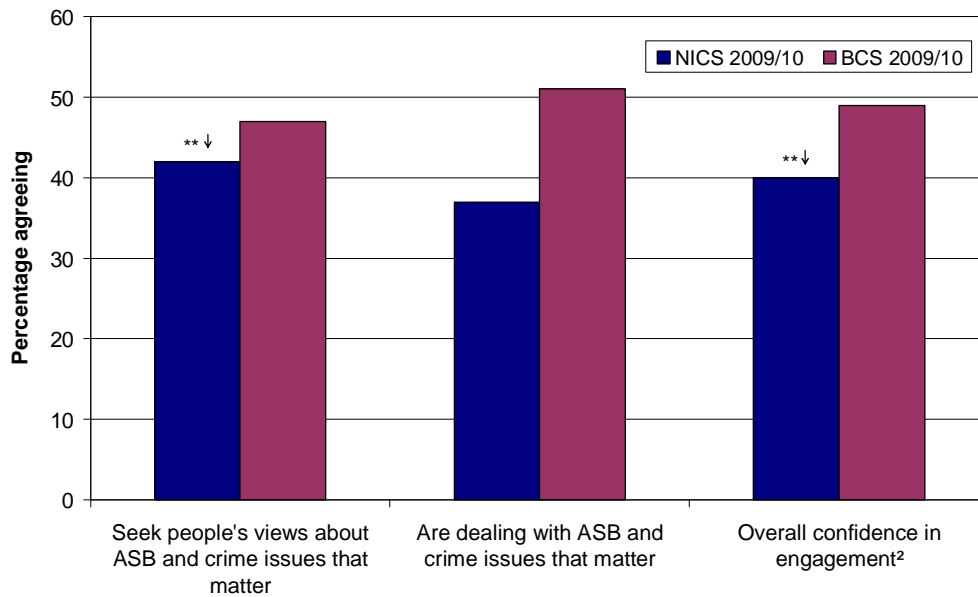
- a. seek people's views about the ASB and crime issues that matter in this area; and
- b. are dealing with the ASB and crime issues that matter in this area.

The alternative response options for these questions are: 'neither agree nor disagree', 'tend to disagree' and 'strongly disagree'.

Within Northern Ireland, results of these two questions have been combined to form a single KPI, together with an associated single baseline, based on the period October 2007 to March 2008 inclusive (Table A6). Such an approach has not been adapted in England and Wales, whose KPI is restricted to 'dealing with the ASB and crime issues that matter'.

- ◆ Under half (42%) of NICS 2009/10 respondents agreed that the local police and other agencies seek people's views about the ASB and crime issues that matter in their area. This compares with an equivalent rate of 47% in England and Wales (BCS 2009/10) (Table A6 and Figure 3.1).
- ◆ People in England and Wales were even more likely than those in Northern Ireland (51% v 37%) to agree that the local police and other agencies are dealing with the ASB and crime issues that matter (Table A6 and Figure 3.1).
- ◆ Based on a composite measure, findings from NICS 2009/10 indicate that, at 40%, overall confidence in engagement is almost 10 percentage points below that in England and Wales (49%, BCS 2009/10) (Table A6 and Figure 3.1).
- ◆ Findings from NICS 2009/10 suggest that the proportion of respondents who agree that the local police and other agencies seek people's views about the ASB and crime issues that matter has fallen by four percentage points, from 46% in 2007/08 to 42%. The apparent decrease in the proportion agreeing that they are dealing with the local issues (from 39% to 37%) is not statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) (Table A6).
- ◆ Results indicate that the decrease in overall confidence in engagement (based on the composite measure) from 42% in 2007/08 to 40% in the 12 months to March 2010, is statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) (Table A6).

Figure 3.1: Confidence in engagement (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales¹



1. *** denotes statistically significant change (increase, ↑; decrease, ↓) at the 5% level ($p < 0.05$) compared with baseline year (2007/08).

2. The BCS overall confidence in engagement rating is presented for comparison purposes only.

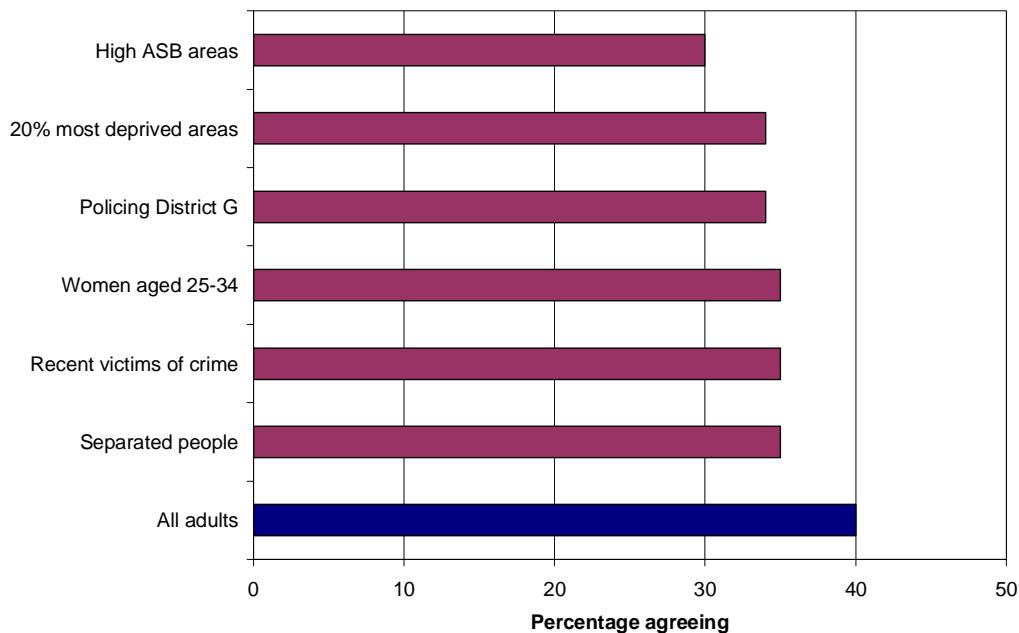
3.2 Confidence in engagement by demographic characteristics

Perceptions of the police and other agencies engaging with local communities, through seeking and dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in the local area, varied across certain demographic and socio-economic groups in Northern Ireland. For a full breakdown of these findings see Tables A7 and A8.

- ◆ While NICS 2009/10 participants remained more likely to agree that the local police and partnership agencies seek people's views about crime and ASB (42%), than deal with such issues (37%), this was not a universal trend across all socio-demographic groups. For example, a greater proportion of women aged 75+ agreed that crime and ASB issues were being dealt with, than their views were being sought (48% v 41%) (Table A7).
- ◆ Victims of crimes that were reported to the police (36%) were less likely than non-victims (42%) to hold confidence in community engagement by the local police and partnership agencies, a stance that was greater regarding 'dealing' with local issues (32% v 40%) than 'seeking' peoples views (40% v 44%). There was no real difference in the attitudes of recent victims (within the last 2 years) and those who had been victimised longer ago (Table A7).
- ◆ Of all the socio-demographic groups examined, respondents from areas of self-perceived high anti-social behaviour (30%) were the group least likely to express overall confidence in engagement, compared with 41% of those from low anti-social behaviour areas. Much of this disparity can be attributed to attitudes concerning 'dealing with ASB and crime issues that matter', where under a quarter of those from areas of high ASB (24%) agreed with the statement (Table A8 and Figure 3.2).

- ◆ In summary, Tables A7, A8 and Figure 3.2 show that among the NICS 2009/10 respondents least likely to hold confidence in community engagement by the local police and other agencies in Northern Ireland were:
 - residents of areas of high anti-social behaviour (30%);
 - those living in the 20% most deprived areas (34%);
 - people living in Policing District G (Foyle, Limavady, Magherafelt and Strabane) (34%);
 - women aged 25-34 (35%);
 - recent victims of crime (within last 2 years) reported to the police (35%); and
 - adults who were separated (35%).

Figure 3.2: Those least likely to have confidence in engagement (%)



Source: NICS 2009/10

- ◆ In contrast, at 50%, adults living within Policing District H (Ballymena, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Larne and Moyle) were most likely to display overall confidence in community engagement. This proportion was influenced by the particularly high level of agreement that the local police and partnership agencies seek people’s views about the ASB and crime issues that matter, expressed by two-thirds (59%) of respondents (Table A8).
- ◆ Other groups displaying above average rates of overall agreement included: those with a self-perceived nationality other than British / Irish / Northern Irish (48%); men aged 75 and over (46%); and widowed respondents (46%) (Tables A7 and A8).

4. CONFIDENCE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Since October 2007, the NICS has measured public confidence in both the fairness and effectiveness of the criminal justice system (CJS). This approach led to the development of a new series of questions, replacing those used to construct a six-strand composite measure to gauge confidence in the CJS between NICS 2003/04 and 2007/08 (French, 2008).

4.1 Confidence in the fairness of the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland and England and Wales

NICS respondents are asked to what extent they agree or disagree with the following statements concerning the fairness with which the CJS responds to a variety of people in different circumstances:

- a. gives witnesses and victims the support they need;
- b. treats those accused of crime as innocent until proven guilty;
- c. takes into account the views of witnesses and victims;
- d. when sentencing takes into account the circumstances surrounding the crime;
- e. is too soft on those accused of committing a crime;
- f. achieves the correct balance between the rights of offenders and victims; and
- g. discriminates against particular groups or individuals.

These 'funnel-type' questions are immediately followed by an overall fairness in the CJS question which forms a KPI.

Table A9 and Figure 4.1 show the proportions of NICS 2009/10 and BCS 2009/10 respondents who stated that they 'strongly agree' or 'tend to agree' with the above statements. The alternative response options were: 'neither agree nor disagree', 'tend to disagree' and 'strongly disagree'. It should be emphasised that two of the above statements (e. and g.) relate to what would be negative outcomes: 'too soft on those accused of committing a crime'; and 'discriminates against particular groups or individuals'.

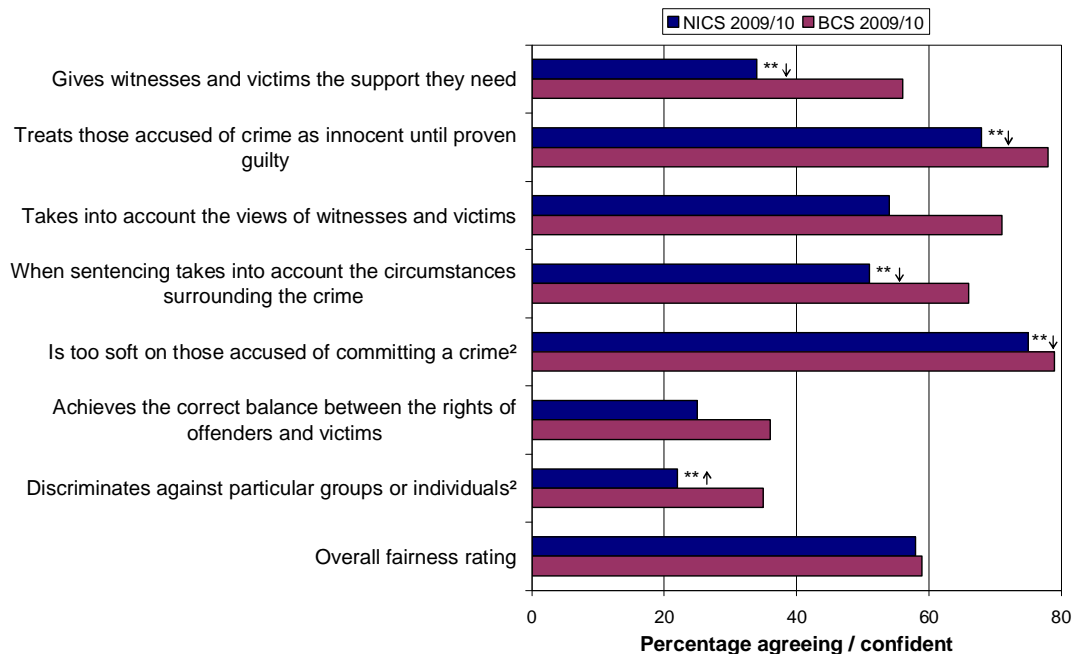
- ◆ Almost three-fifths of NICS 2009/10 participants (58%) thought the CJS as a whole is fair, a similar proportion to that recorded in England and Wales (59%; BCS 2009/10) (Table A9 and Figure 4.1).
- ◆ While the proportion expressing overall confidence in the fairness of the CJS was similar in both jurisdictions, ratings of specific aspects (a. to g. above) were not. In percentage point terms, adults in England and Wales were much more likely than their Northern Ireland counterparts to agree that the CJS gives witnesses and victims the support they need (56% v 34%), whereas NICS respondents were more favourable when it came to the CJS discriminating against groups or individuals (22% v 35%) (Table A9 and Figure 4.1).

While the overall fairness rating remained unchanged between NICS 2008/09 (59%) and NICS 2009/10 (58%), statistically significant changes ($p < 0.05$) were evident within five of the seven specific aspects of the CJS.

- ◆ In the 12 months to March 2010, statistically significant decreases ($p < 0.05$) were evident in the proportions of NICS respondents who agreed that the CJS: 'gives witnesses and victims the support they need' (from 37% to 34%); 'treats those accused of crime as innocent until proven guilty' (73% to 68%); and 'when sentencing, takes into account the circumstances surrounding the crime' (54% to 51%). While the proportion agreeing that the CJS 'discriminates against particular groups or individuals' increased ($p < 0.05$) from 20% to 22%, this represents a negative outcome (Table A9 and Figure 4.1).

- ◆ In contrast, a statistically significant improvement ($p < 0.05$) occurred in the proportion of NICS participants agreeing that the CJS 'is too soft on those accused of committing a crime', falling from 77% in 2008/09 to 75% in 2009/10 (Table A9 and Figure 4.1).

Figure 4.1: Confidence in the fairness of the criminal justice system (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales¹



1. *** denotes statistically significant change (increase, ↑; decrease, ↓) at the 5% level ($p < 0.05$) compared with previous year.
 2. These statements relate to what would be negative outcomes.

4.2 Confidence in the effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland and England and Wales

NICS respondents are also asked for their views on the effectiveness of the organisations that make up the CJS in achieving particular outcomes, as well as how they feel about the overall effectiveness of the CJS. Respondents are asked the following seven 'funnel-type' questions, which ask how confident they are that the:

- police are effective at catching criminals;
- Public Prosecution Service (PPS) is effective at prosecuting people accused of crime;
- courts are dealing with cases promptly;
- courts are effective at giving punishments which fit the crime;
- prisons are effective at punishing convicted offenders;
- prisons are effective at rehabilitating convicted offenders; and
- probation service is effective at preventing criminals from reoffending.

Table A10 and Figure 4.2 contain the proportions of NICS and BCS respondents who stated that they are very or fairly confident in the effectiveness of the CJS organisations in achieving the seven desired outcomes as well as in the effectiveness of the CJS as a whole, the latter of which has also been designated a KPI. The alternative response options were 'not very confident' and 'not at all confident'.

- ◆ In 2009/10, the proportion of NICS participants who considered that the CJS as a whole is effective remained stable, at 37%, and below the equivalent rate of 41% in England and Wales (BCS 2009/10) (Table A10 and Figure 4.2).

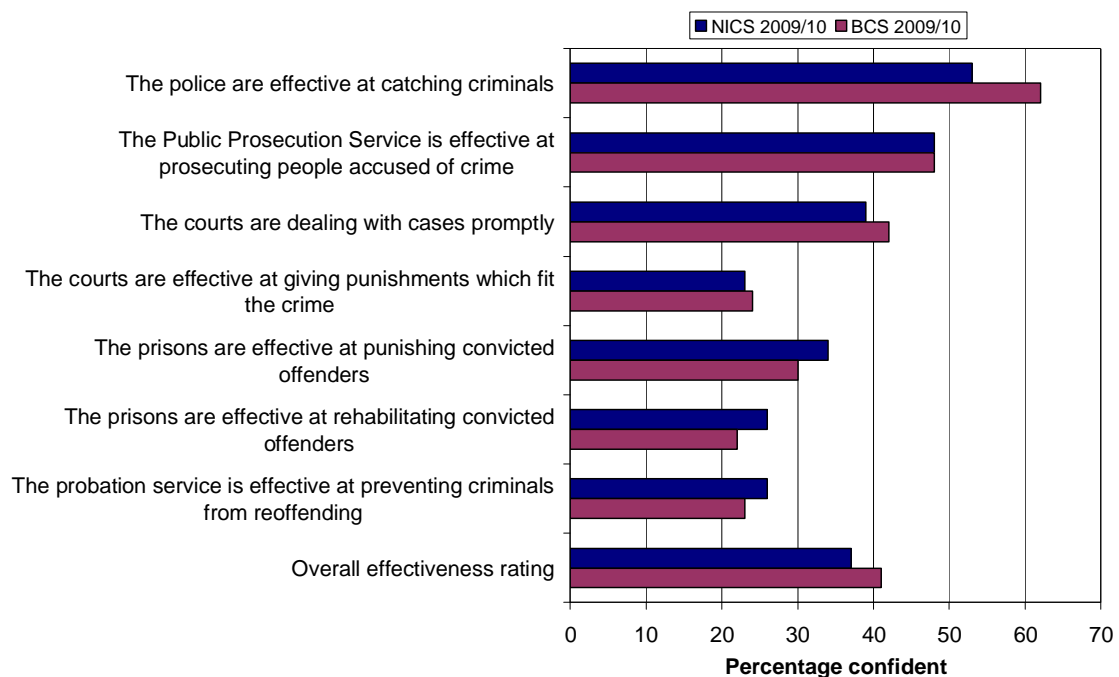
Despite the overall effectiveness rating being higher in England and Wales than in Northern Ireland, this trend was not consistent across within the roles of the CJS agencies examined (a. to g. above).

- ◆ While BCS 2009/10 respondents were more likely than their NICS counterparts to express confidence that the: ‘police are effective at catching criminals’ (62% v 53% respectively); ‘courts are dealing with cases promptly’ (42% v 39%); and ‘courts are effective at giving punishments which fit the crime’ (24% v 23%), they were less likely to think the: ‘prisons are effective at punishing convicted offenders (30% v 34%); ‘prisons are effective at rehabilitating convicted offenders (22% v 26%); and ‘probation service is effective at preventing criminals from reoffending (23% v 26%)’. There was no difference between both jurisdictions (both 48%) in the proportion confident that the ‘PPS is effective at prosecuting people accused of crime’ (Table A10 and Figure 4.2).

Between NICS 2008/09 and 2009/10, there were no statistically significant changes ($p < 0.05$) in the level of public confidence in the effectiveness of specific roles of the CJS agencies examined (Table A10 and Figure 4.2).

- ◆ Findings from NICS 2009/10 indicate that the courts are perceived as being more effective at dealing with cases promptly (39%) than at giving punishments which fit the crime (23%). Similarly, the prisons are seen to be more effective at punishing convicted offenders (34%), than they are at rehabilitating convicted offenders (26%) (Table A10 and Figure 4.2).

Figure 4.2: Confidence in the effectiveness of the criminal justice system (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales



4.3 Confidence in the criminal justice system by demographic characteristics

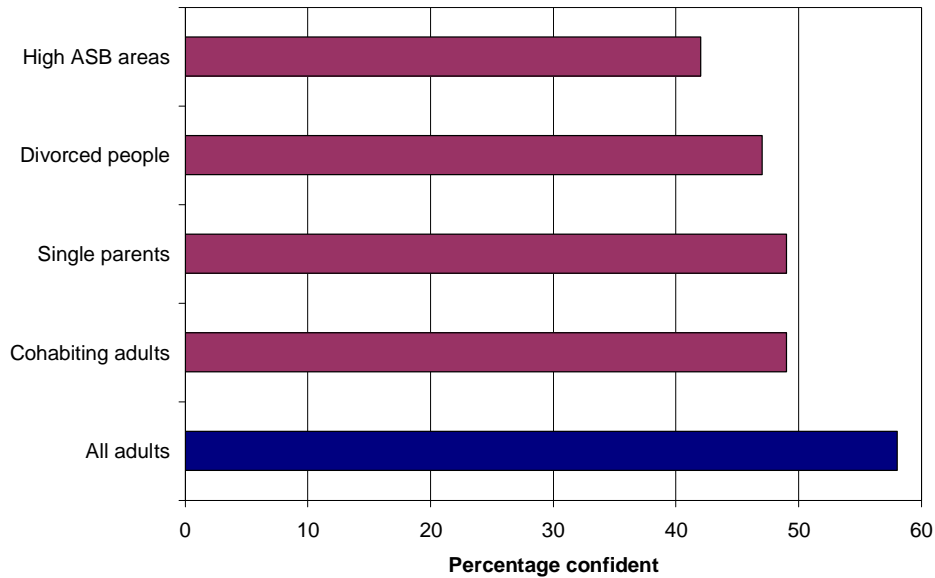
Tables A11 and A12 provide a breakdown of confidence levels in the fairness and effectiveness of the CJS among NICS 2009/10 respondents by their demographic and socio-economic characteristics. The overall trend that adults in Northern Ireland are more likely to view the CJS as fair (58%) than effective (37%) is reflected through all of the socio-demographic groups examined.

- ◆ Those who perceived their nationality to be something other than British/Irish/Northern Irish expressed the highest levels of confidence that the CJS as a whole was both fair (78%) and effective (66%) (Table A11).
- ◆ In contrast, respondents from self-perceived areas of high anti-social behaviour were least likely to believe that the CJS as a whole is fair (42%) and joint least likely (with divorced respondents and those who had attended court more than two years prior to interview) to consider the CJS as effective (29%). These proportions compares with 60% and 39% (respectively) of respondents from low ASB areas (Table A12; Figures 4.3 and 4.4).

Findings from NICS 2009/10 indicate that levels of confidence in the CJS were higher among those respondents who had not previously had any direct contact with the system, either through being a victim of crime reported to the police or by attending court as a victim/witness/spectator.

- ◆ NICS 2009/10 respondents who had been victims of a crime that was subsequently reported to the police expressed lower levels of confidence in both the fairness (52%) and effectiveness (32%) of the CJS than those who had never been victims (62% and 41% respectively). When the views of victims were considered independently, there was no real difference in the level of confidence expressed by recent victims (within the last two years) and those who had been victimised longer ago (fairness, both 52%; effectiveness, 33% v 32% respectively) (Table A11).
- ◆ Similarly, those who had attended court as either a victim, witness or spectator were less likely to be confident that the CJS was fair (52%) or effective (31%), than those people who had never attended court (59% and 39% respectively). However, the levels of confidence expressed by respondents who had recently attended court (within the last two years) that the CJS was both fair (58%) and effective (39%) were on a par with those who had never attended court, and compare with 51% and 29% (respectively) of those whose attendance was longer ago (Table A11).
- ◆ Tables A11, A12 and Figure 4.3 indicate that among the NICS 2009/10 respondents least likely to express confidence in the fairness of the CJS as a whole were:
 - people living in areas they perceive to have high levels of ASB (42%);
 - adults who were divorced (47%);
 - single adults with child(ren) (49%); and
 - those who were cohabiting (49%).

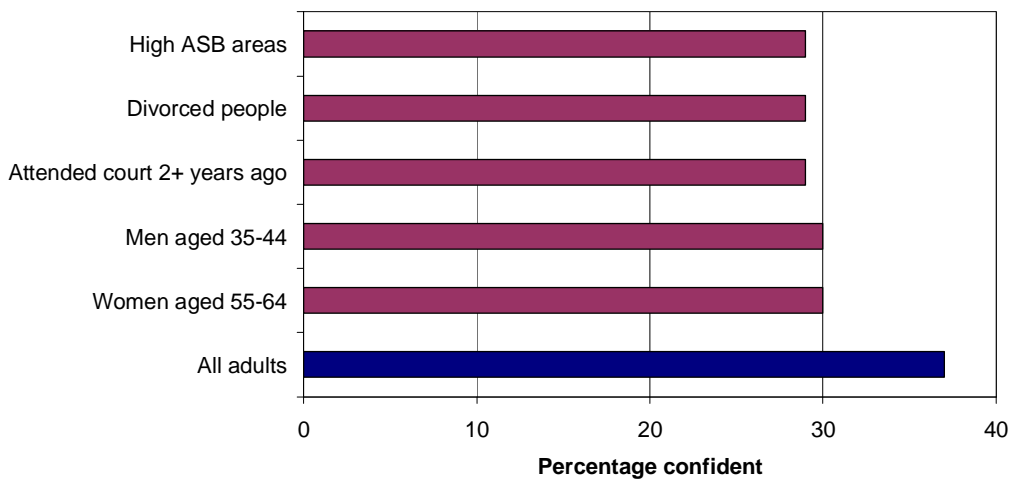
Figure 4.3: Those least likely to have confidence that the CJS as a whole is fair (%)



Source: NICS 2009/10

- ◆ Similarly, Tables A11, A12 and Figure 4.3 show that the NICS 2009/10 participants least likely to hold confidence in the effectiveness of the CJS as a whole included:
 - people living in areas they perceive to have high levels of ASB (29%);
 - adults who were divorced (29%);
 - those who attended court as a victim, witness or spectator over two years ago (29%);
 - men aged 35-44 years old (30%); and
 - women aged 55-64 years old (30%).

Figure 4.4: Those least likely to have confidence that the CJS as a whole is effectiveness (%)



Source: NICS 2009/10

4.4 Increasing confidence in the criminal justice system

Using two separate questions, the NICS asks respondents what, in their opinion, would be the most and second most important things the CJS could do to improve its public confidence rating. Table A13 and Figure 4.5 combine the results of these questions and, thus, the percentages add to more than 100%.

- ◆ For the third consecutive year, the majority of respondents (35%) cited ‘tougher sentences’ as one of the two most important things the CJS could do to improve its public confidence rating while a further quarter (24%) selected ‘tackle ASB and minor crime’. Other prominent views included: ‘a more visible policing presence’ (19%); and ‘bring more offenders to justice’ (18%) (Table A13 and Figure 4.5).
- ◆ Respondents to NICS 2009/10 were least likely to say that an increase in their level of confidence in the CJS may be brought about if it were to: ‘reduce worry about crime’ (4%); (introduce) ‘more appropriate sentencing for young people’ (4%); or ‘treat people equally’ (6%) (Table A13 and Figure 4.5).

Figure 4.5: Perceptions of how the criminal justice system could increase its confidence rating (%)



Source: NICS 2009/10

5. PERCEPTIONS OF HARM CAUSED BY ORGANISED CRIME

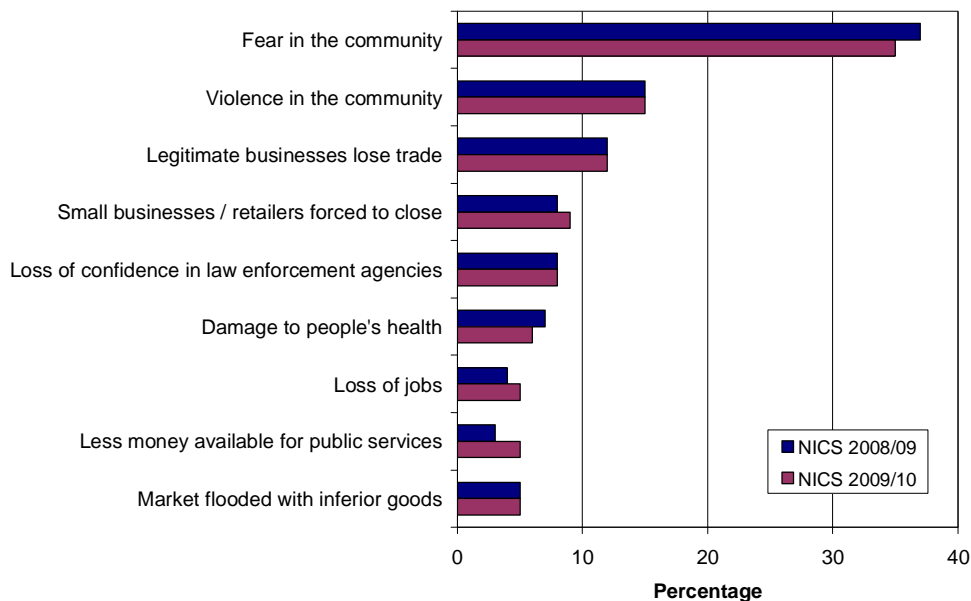
Since June 2008, the NICS has included a module asking respondents about their views on the harm that may be caused by organised crime in Northern Ireland.

5.1 Perceptions of the main harm caused by organised crime

Table A14, together with Figure 5.1 identify the main types of harm attributed to organised crime in Northern Ireland by respondents to NICS 2008/09 and 2009/10.

- ◆ Findings from NICS 2009/10 show that ‘fear in the community’ continues to be perceived as the main harm caused by organised crime in Northern Ireland with over a third (35%) of respondents voicing this opinion (c.f. 37% in NICS 2008/09). Other common responses included: ‘violence in the community’ (15%); and ‘legitimate businesses lose trade’ (12%) (Table A14 and Figure 5.1).
- ◆ Respondents to NICS 2009/10 were least likely to consider ‘market flooded with inferior goods’, ‘less money available for public services’ or ‘loss of jobs’ (all 5%) as the predominant harm associated with organised crime (Table A14 and Figure 5.1).

Figure 5.1: Perceptions of the main harm caused by organised crime (%)



5.2 Perceptions of the level of harm caused by organised crime

NICS respondents are asked for their views on the level of harm caused by various forms of organised crime in their local area on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is no harm and 10 is extreme harm. In order to standardise the results, the following conventions have been used to gauge the perceived level of harm:

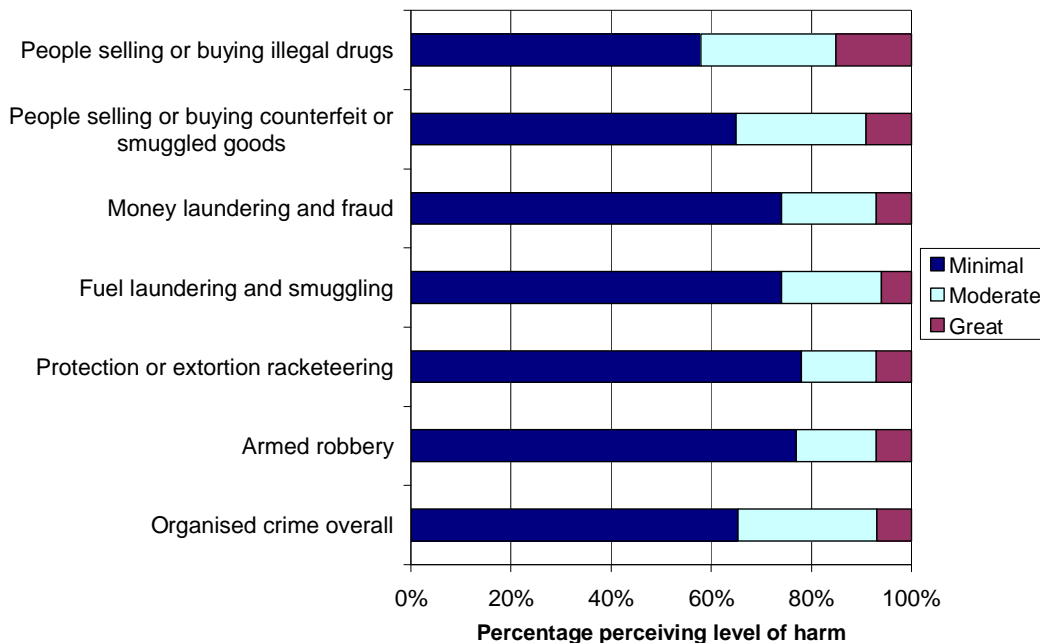
1. minimal harm (responded in the range 1 to 3);
2. moderate harm (responded in the range 4 to 7); and
3. great harm (responded in the range 8 to 10).

NICS 2009/10: Perceptions of Policing, Justice and Organised Crime

The following six specific forms of organised crime were examined in NICS 2009/10 and were immediately followed by the general question 'Overall, how much harm is caused in your area by organised crime', again using the same response scale of 1 to 10:

- a. people buying or selling illegal drugs;
 - b. people selling or buying counterfeit or smuggled goods;
 - c. money laundering and fraud;
 - d. fuel laundering and smuggling;
 - e. protection or extortion racketeering; and
 - f. armed robbery.
- ◆ Findings from NICS 2009/10 indicate that the majority of people (66%) felt that organised crime overall generates a minimal level of harm in the local area. In contrast, 7% of respondents considered organised crime to result in a great level of harm (Table A15 and Figure 5.2).
 - ◆ Drug trafficking, either the selling or buying of illegal drugs, was considered to promote the greatest level of harm (15%) of the various forms of organised crime examined, while, in contrast, fuel laundering and smuggling (6%) was least likely to be viewed as promoting a great level of harm (Table A15 and Figure 5.2).

Figure 5.2: Perceived level of harm caused by organised crime (%) in the local area

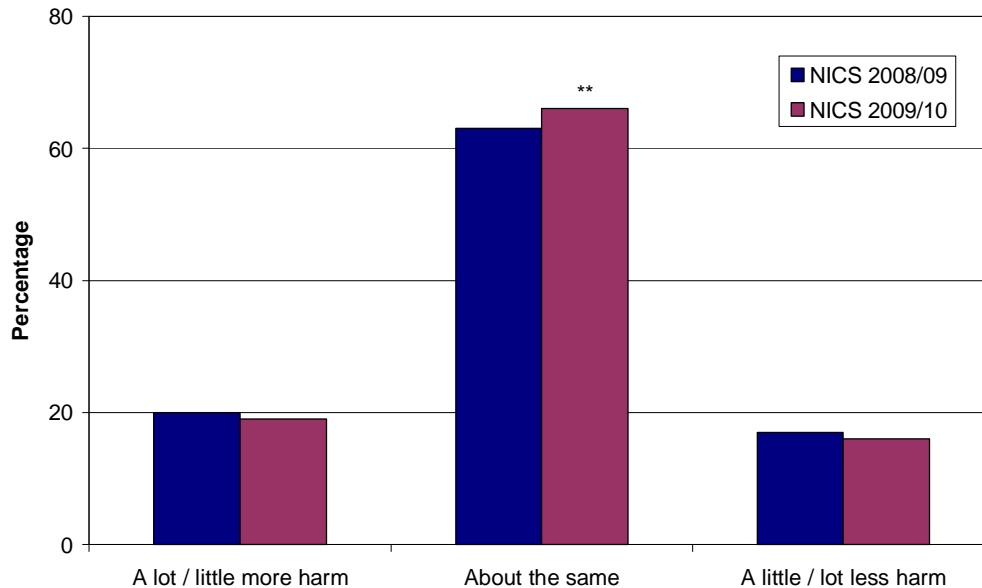


Source: NICS 2009/10

- ◆ Two-thirds (66%) of NICS 2009/10 respondents believed that the level of harm caused by organised crime in the local area had remained stable during the previous 12 months. This represents a statistically significant increase ($p < 0.05$) since NICS 2008/09 (63%) (Table A16 and Figure 5.3).

- ◆ In contrast, the apparent decreases in the proportions claiming the level of harm had increased (from 20% in 2008/09 to 19% in 2009/10) and reduced (17% to 16%) were not statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) (Table A16 and Figure 5.3).

Figure 5.3: Perceived change in the level of harm caused by organised crime (%) in the past 12 months¹



1. '**' denotes statistically significant change at the 5% level ($p < 0.05$) compared with previous year.

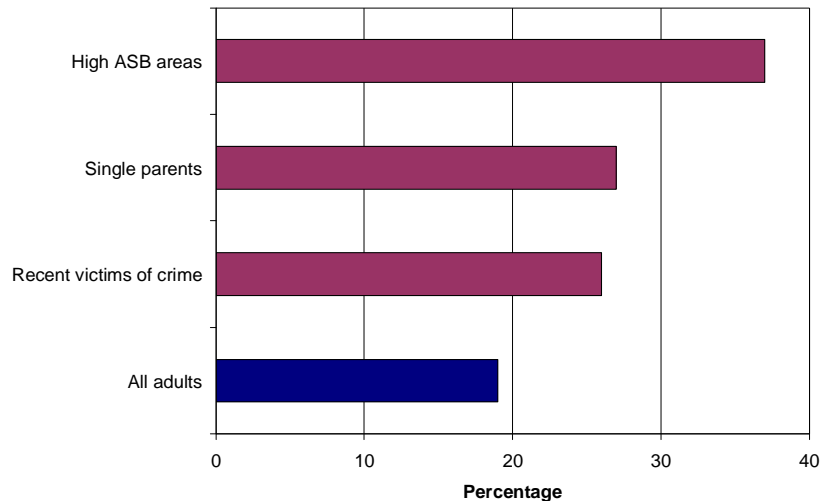
5.3 Perceptions of the level of harm caused by organised crime by demographic characteristics

As with confidence ratings, perceptions of the level of harm caused by organised crime vary between different demographic groups. A full breakdown of results is presented in Tables A17 and A18.

- ◆ Consistent with the overall findings, the belief that the level of harm caused by organised crime in the local area had remained stable during the previous 12 months was the most commonly cited response across each of the socio-demographic groups examined, ranging from 74% (adults aged 75+; women aged 75+; and rural dwellers) to 47% (respondents from high ASB areas) (Tables A17 and A18).
- ◆ At 37%, respondents from areas of high ASB were more likely than any other group examined to believe that the harm caused by organised crime had increased in their area during the previous 12 months, a rate that is almost double the NICS 2009/10 average (19%) (Table A18 and Figure 5.4).
- ◆ While adults living in the 20% most deprived areas of Northern Ireland were more likely than people in other areas to suggest the level of harm caused by organised crime had increased (23%), they were also more likely than respondents from other areas to claim it had fallen (24%) (Table A18).

- ◆ Tables A17, A18 and Figure 5.4 show that among the NICS 2009/10 respondents most likely to have perceived an increase in the level of harm caused by organised crime in the local area were:
 - people living in areas they perceive to have high levels of ASB (37%);
 - single adults with child(ren) (27%); and
 - recent victims of crime (within last 2 years) reported to the police (26%).

Figure 5.4: Those most likely to have perceived an increase in the level of harm caused by organised crime (%) in the local area



Source: NICS 2009/10

- ◆ In contrast, young men aged 16-24 were more likely than any other demographic group examined to believe that the level of harm caused by organised crime had decreased during the previous 12 months (28%, compared with a NICS 2009/10 average of 16%) (Table A17).

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TABULAR ANNEX

Table A1: Confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements (%) in Northern Ireland¹

% saying	NICS 2003/04 ²	NICS 2007/08	NICS 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	Statistically significant change, 2007/08 to 2009/10? ³
Overall confidence rating⁴	73	79	79	79	
The police provide an ordinary day-to-day service for all the people of NI	75	83	82	82	** ↓
The police do a very or fairly good job in NI as a whole	58	66	68	67	
The police treat Catholics and Protestants equally in NI as a whole	72	82	82	82	
The Policing Board is independent of the police	74	77	78	76	
The Policing Board helps the police do a good job	80	82	80	82	
The Police Ombudsman is independent of the police	89	90	89	88	** ↓
The Police Ombudsman helps the police do a good job	85	87	87	88	
<i>Unweighted base⁵</i>	<i>3,104⁶</i>	<i>3,903</i>	<i>3,831</i>	<i>4,058</i>	

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

2. The three questions on the police were not included in NICS 2003/04. In turn, these figures have been sourced from NISRA's April 2004 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey, which also involves personal, face-to-face interviewing in people's homes, albeit using a smaller sample over a shorter fieldwork period.

3. Statistical significance of change at the 5% level (two tail tests) is indicated by a double asterisk (**).

4. This measure is the weighted mean of the responses to the seven individual confidence strands. Greater weighting is given to the three questions on the police.

5. Unweighted base refers to 'police provided an ordinary day-to-day service'. Bases for other police indicators will be similar but will be lower for Policing Board and Police Ombudsman indicators which are based on those who had heard of each organisation.

6. Due to Note 2, unweighted base refers to the overall NICS 2003/04 sample.

NICS 2009/10: Perceptions of Policing, Justice and Organised Crime

Table A2: Confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements, by personal characteristics (%) in Northern Ireland¹

	% saying							Overall confidence rating ²	Unweighted base ³
	The police provide an ordinary day-to-day service for all the people of NI	The police do a very or fairly good job in NI as a whole	The police treat Catholics and Protestants equally in NI as a whole	The Policing Board is independent of the police	The Policing Board helps the police do a good job	The Police Ombudsman is independent of the police	The Police Ombudsman helps the police do a good job		
ALL ADULTS	82	67	82	76	82	88	88	79	4,058
Age									
16-24	85	69	72	58	86	68	92	76	369
25-34	82	68	81	73	81	87	88	79	653
35-44	82	65	79	79	82	90	88	79	731
45-54	78	66	82	81	78	90	85	78	694
55-64	81	68	85	80	84	92	89	81	643
65-74	81	66	89	79	79	92	89	81	548
75+	86	75	87	73	88	92	89	84	410
Men	79	66	82	78	80	90	86	78	1,798
16-24	84	71	70	58	83	74	85	75	168
25-34	83	67	84	74	77	85	86	79	267
35-44	78	62	81	81	76	93	85	77	328
45-54	77	66	83	84	77	92	84	78	331
55-64	77	64	86	82	83	93	87	79	308
65-74	79	63	88	79	80	94	89	80	226
75+	81	69	86	78	86	95	88	81	170
Women	83	69	81	75	84	87	90	80	2,250
16-24	86	68	74	57	89	63	98	76	201
25-34	81	68	78	73	84	88	90	78	386
35-44	86	68	77	76	87	87	90	80	403
45-54	78	65	81	79	80	89	87	78	363
55-64	84	72	83	79	85	90	91	82	335
65-74	83	68	91	79	79	91	88	82	322
75+	91	81	87	68	89	88	90	85	240
Religion									
Catholic	81	65	71	72	84	86	92	76	1,631
Protestant	82	70	89	79	81	89	85	81	2,131
Perceived nationality									
British	82	69	89	79	82	89	86	81	1,965
Irish	76	61	66	70	81	86	90	72	1,081
Northern Irish	86	71	84	79	83	88	89	82	846
Other	90	69	89	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	n<100	135
Disability or illness									
Long-standing illness or disability	78	64	80	76	82	88	88	77	1,164
Limits activities	77	62	78	76	81	89	88	76	913
Does not limit activities	82	70	86	75	85	85	86	80	251
No long-standing illness or disability	83	69	82	76	82	88	88	80	2,892
Victim of crime reported to police									
Victim	77	63	82	79	79	90	87	77	1,702
Within last 2 years	75	61	79	72	79	85	86	75	521
More than 2 years ago	78	65	83	82	79	92	87	79	1,181
Never a victim	85	70	81	74	85	87	89	80	2,353
Daily newspaper readership									
National broadsheets	86	76	86	84	85	93	91	85	468
National tabloids	81	68	81	75	82	88	88	79	1,847
Irish News	78	60	66	72	81	87	92	73	606
Newsletter	80	67	90	74	80	90	84	80	395
Belfast Telegraph	86	73	86	81	84	91	89	83	1,154

Source: NICS 2009/10

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. This measure is the weighted mean of the responses to the seven individual confidence strands in the table. Greater weighting is given to the three questions on the police.
3. Unweighted base refers to 'police provided an ordinary day-to-day service'. Bases for other police indicators will be similar but will be lower for Policing Board and Police Ombudsman indicators which are based on those who had heard of each organisation.

NICS 2009/10: Perceptions of Policing, Justice and Organised Crime

Table A3: Confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements, by household and area characteristics (%) in Northern Ireland¹

	% saying							Overall confidence rating ²	Unweighted base ⁷
	The police provide an ordinary day-to-day service for all the people of NI	The police do a very or fairly good job in NI as a whole	The police treat Catholics and Protestants equally in NI as a whole	The Policing Board is independent of the police	The Policing Board helps the police do a good job	The Police Ombudsman is independent of the police	The Police Ombudsman helps the police do a good job		
ALL ADULTS	82	67	82	76	82	88	88	79	4,058
Living arrangements (respondent)									
Living as a couple	82	68	84	80	82	91	88	80	2,165
Married	82	68	84	80	82	92	88	81	1,933
Cohabiting	78	67	79	75	78	83	87	77	232
Not living as a couple	82	67	78	69	82	83	89	77	1,883
Single	82	65	75	66	83	81	89	76	968
Separated	78	60	75	78	77	85	89	75	196
Divorced	71	63	84	78	76	88	86	76	229
Widowed	87	75	87	71	86	87	89	83	490
Household type³									
HRP aged under 60:									
Single adult & child(ren)	74	56	72	68	75	81	81	70	276
Adults & child(ren)	82	68	79	75	83	87	89	79	982
No children	80	67	81	78	81	87	87	78	1,423
HRP aged 60 and over	83	70	86	76	83	91	89	81	1,377
Household income									
Less than £10,000	78	64	78	67	81	81	88	75	844
£10,000 less than £20,000	77	63	81	74	80	89	89	77	1,076
£20,000 less than £30,000	83	68	83	79	82	89	88	80	667
£30,000 less than £40,000	83	67	80	77	83	88	88	79	417
£40,000 less than £50,000	87	73	82	78	84	90	88	82	287
£50,000 or more	91	78	87	87	84	93	90	86	310
Tenure									
Owner-occupied	83	69	84	79	83	90	88	81	2,719
Social rented	74	61	75	66	77	82	86	72	603
Private rented	82	67	77	68	81	83	88	77	720
Area type									
Belfast	81	69	75	74	81	86	90	77	636
Urban, excluding Belfast	83	70	83	79	83	90	88	81	1,727
All urban	83	69	81	78	83	89	88	80	2,363
Rural	80	65	83	74	81	88	88	78	1,695
Policing District⁴									
A&B (Belfast)	81	69	75	74	81	86	90	77	636
C	84	70	88	83	85	93	89	83	704
D	83	73	88	84	82	89	85	83	635
E	79	66	79	70	83	88	88	77	630
F	83	63	77	71	81	88	88	77	446
G	78	66	79	71	84	86	90	77	520
H	82	63	84	76	79	87	87	78	487
Perceived level of ASB⁵									
High	70	48	70	72	68	85	82	67	485
Low	83	70	83	76	84	88	89	81	3,230
Multiple Deprivation Measure rank⁶									
1st quintile Most deprived	75	60	70	73	78	85	87	73	747
2nd quintile	82	67	82	70	82	86	90	79	833
3rd quintile	80	68	83	77	81	88	90	79	806
4th quintile	84	69	83	77	87	91	89	81	804
5th quintile Least deprived	85	73	88	84	82	90	85	83	769

Source: NICS 2009/10

- Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
- This measure is the weighted mean of the responses to the seven individual confidence strands in the table. Greater weighting is given to the three questions on the police.
- HRP: Household Reference Person (in order of sequence, the person who owns or rents the accommodation, highest earner or oldest person).
- See Figure B1 in Tabular Annex. When combined, PSNI policing districts A and B equate to Belfast City Council area.
- 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 2010 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure).
- Unweighted base refers to 'police provided an ordinary day-to-day service'. Bases for other police indicators will be similar but will be lower for Policing Board and Police Ombudsman indicators which are based on those who had heard of each organisation.

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Table A4: Perceptions of how good a job the local police are doing (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales¹

% saying the local police are doing	NICS 2007/08	NICS 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	Statistically significant change, 2008/09 to 2009/10? ²	BCS 2009/10
An excellent or good job	41	42	40		56
A fair job	43	41	42		34
A poor or very poor job	17	17	18		10
<i>Unweighted base</i>	3,833	3,756	3,985		43,686

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Statistical significance of change at the 5% level (two tail tests) is indicated by a double asterisk (**).

Table A5: Confidence in the local police (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales¹

% saying strongly agree / tend to agree that the local police	NICS 2007/08	NICS 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	Statistically significant change, 2008/09 to 2009/10? ³	BCS 2009/10
Overall confidence in the local police²	60	60	59		69
Can be relied on to be there when you need them	45	46	44	** ↓	50
Would treat you with respect if you had contact with them	81	83	82		84
Treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are	64	66	64		65
Can be relied on to deal with minor crimes	43	45	44		48
Understand the issues that affect this community	57	60	58		67
Are dealing with the things that matter to this community	42	46	45		56
<i>Unweighted base⁴</i>	3,885	3,821	4,066		44,293

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Based on respondents agreeing with the statement, 'Taking everything into account, I have confidence in the police in this area'.
3. Statistical significance of change at the 5% level (two tail tests) is indicated by a double asterisk (**).
4. Unweighted base refers to overall confidence in the local police. Other bases will be similar.

Table A6: Confidence in the local police and other agencies working in partnership on ASB and crime issues (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales^{1,2,7}

% saying strongly agree / tend to agree that the local police and other agencies	NICS 2007/08 ³	NICS 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	Statistically significant change, 2007/08 to 2009/10? ⁴	BCS 2009/10
Overall confidence in engagement^{5,6}	42	41	40	** ↓	49
Seek people's views about the ASB and crime issues that matter in this area ⁷	46	44	42	** ↓	47
Are dealing with the ASB and crime issues that matter in this area ⁷	39	38	37		51
<i>Unweighted base⁸</i>	1,953	3,661	3,903		43,555

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. The NICS questions specifically relate to 'the police and other agencies, including district councils'. The BCS questions relate to 'the police and local councils', although 'other agencies' are referred to in an introductory paragraph.
3. Estimates for 2007/08 are based on six months of data, October 2007 to March 2008, as the questions were introduced during the 2007/08 survey year.
4. Statistical significance of change at the 5% level (two tail tests) is indicated by a double asterisk (**).
5. This measure is the arithmetic mean of the responses to both strands in the table.
6. The BCS overall confidence rating is presented for comparison purposes only.
7. ASB: Anti-social behaviour.
8. Unweighted base refers to police and other agencies seek views. Base for dealing with issues will be similar.

Table A7: Confidence in community engagement by the local police and other agencies, by personal characteristics (%) in Northern Ireland¹

	% agreeing that the local police and other agencies		Overall confidence in engagement ³	Unweighted base ⁴
	Seek people's views about the ASB and crime issues that matter in this area ²	Are dealing with the ASB and crime issues that matter in this area ²		
ALL ADULTS	42	37	40	3,903
Age				
16-24	46	40	43	362
25-34	38	36	37	634
35-44	41	33	37	712
45-54	42	35	38	664
55-64	43	39	41	619
65-74	43	38	41	523
75+	46	44	45	379
Men	43	36	40	1,735
16-24	47	40	43	167
25-34	41	38	39	258
35-44	44	30	37	316
45-54	42	35	38	316
55-64	42	36	39	296
65-74	42	39	41	219
75+	51	41	46	163
Women	41	37	39	2,158
16-24	45	39	42	195
25-34	36	34	35	376
35-44	40	35	37	396
45-54	41	36	38	348
55-64	44	41	43	323
65-74	44	36	40	304
75+	41	48	44	216
Religion				
Catholic	40	36	38	1,558
Protestant	44	37	41	2,061
Perceived nationality				
British	45	38	42	1,894
Irish	39	33	36	1,038
Northern Irish	41	37	39	820
Other	47	49	48	122
Disability or illness				
Long-standing illness or disability	41	37	39	1,104
Limits activities	41	36	39	863
Does not limit activities	41	39	40	241
No long-standing illness or disability	43	37	40	2,798
Victim of crime reported to police				
Victim	40	32	36	1,654
Within last 2 years	39	32	35	503
More than 2 years ago	40	32	36	1,151
Never a victim	44	40	42	2,246
Daily newspaper readership				
National broadsheets	45	37	41	456
National tabloids	42	38	40	1,784
Irish News	38	33	36	576
Newsletter	48	38	43	373
Belfast Telegraph	43	39	41	1,129

Source: NICS 2009/10

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. ASB: Anti-social behaviour.
3. This measure is the arithmetic mean of the responses to both strands in the table.
4. Unweighted base refers to police and other agencies seek views. Base for dealing with issues will be similar.

Table A8: Confidence in community engagement by the local police and other agencies, by household and area characteristics (%) in Northern Ireland¹

	% agreeing that the local police and other agencies		Overall confidence in engagement ³	Unweighted base ⁸
	Seek people's views about the ASB and crime issues that matter in this area ²	Are dealing with the ASB and crime issues that matter in this area ²		
ALL ADULTS	42	37	40	3,903
Living arrangements (respondent)				
Living as a couple	42	36	39	2,089
Married	42	36	39	1,868
Cohabiting	47	34	40	221
Not living as a couple	43	39	41	1,804
Single	44	38	41	945
Separated	35	35	35	190
Divorced	37	36	37	217
Widowed	45	46	46	452
Household type⁴				
HRP aged under 60:				
Single adult & child(ren)	41	33	37	270
Adults & child(ren)	42	36	39	954
No children	41	35	38	1,375
HRP aged 60 and over	44	40	42	1,304
Household income				
Less than £10,000	39	38	39	809
£10,000 less than £20,000	43	38	40	1,040
£20,000 less than £30,000	42	35	38	648
£30,000 less than £40,000	49	39	44	401
£40,000 less than £50,000	43	35	39	278
£50,000 or more	42	34	38	306
Tenure				
Owner-occupied	43	36	39	2,616
Social rented	37	35	36	578
Private rented	45	40	43	694
Area type				
Belfast	50	42	46	607
Urban, excluding Belfast	40	37	38	1,689
All urban	43	38	40	2,296
Rural	42	36	39	1,607
Policing District⁵				
A&B (Belfast)	50	42	46	607
C	36	34	35	693
D	36	37	36	628
E	41	34	38	574
F	41	41	41	412
G	37	32	34	505
H	59	40	50	484
Perceived level of ASB⁶				
High	36	24	30	473
Low	43	38	41	3,119
Multiple Deprivation Measure rank⁷				
1st quintile Most deprived	34	33	34	728
2nd quintile	45	36	41	795
3rd quintile	47	36	41	761
4th quintile	45	41	43	774
5th quintile Least deprived	40	38	39	753

Source: NICS 2009/10

- Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
- ASB: Anti-social behaviour.
- This measure is the arithmetic mean of the responses to both strands in the table.
- HRP: Household Reference Person (in order of sequence, the person who owns or rents the accommodation, highest earner or oldest person).
- See Figure B1 in Tabular Annex. When combined, PSNI policing districts A and B equate to Belfast City Council area.
- 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 2010 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure).
- Unweighted base refers to police and other agencies seek views. Base for dealing with issues will be similar.

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Table A9: Confidence in the fairness of the criminal justice system (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales¹

% saying strongly agree / tend to agree that the criminal justice system	NICS 2007/08 ²	NICS 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	Statistically significant change, 2008/09 to 2009/10 ⁵	BCS 2009/10
Overall fairness rating³	-	59	58		59
Gives witnesses and victims the support they need	37	37	34	** ↓	56
Treats those accused of crime as innocent until proven guilty	70	73	68	** ↓	78
Takes into account the views of witnesses and victims	55	56	54		71
When sentencing takes into account the circumstances surrounding the crime	52	54	51	** ↓	66
Is too soft on those accused of committing a crime ⁴	76	77	75	** ↓	79
Achieves the correct balance between the rights of offenders and victims	23	24	25		36
Discriminates against particular groups or individuals ⁴	22	20	22	** ↑	35
Unweighted base⁶	2,032⁷	2,858	3,979		43,086

'-' Denotes indicator was not included in survey.

- Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
- Estimates for 2007/08 are based on six months of data, October 2007 to March 2008, as the questions were introduced during the 2007/08 survey year.
- Based on respondents saying they are very / fairly confident that 'the criminal justice system as a whole is fair' (introduced in July 2008).
- As these would be perceived as negative outcomes, a high rating would be undesirable.
- Statistical significance of change at the 5% level (two tail tests) is indicated by a double asterisk (**).
- Unweighted base refers to overall fairness rating. Due to Note 3, other NICS 2008/09 bases will be higher.
- Unweighted 2007/08 base refers to agreement that the CJS is too soft on those accused of committing a crime. Other bases will be similar.

Table A10: Confidence in the effectiveness of the criminal justice system (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales¹

% saying very / fairly confident	NICS 2007/08 ²	NICS 2008/09	NICS 2009/10	Statistically significant change, 2008/09 to 2009/10 ⁴	BCS 2009/10
Overall effectiveness rating³	37	37	37		41
The police are effective at catching criminals	46	52	53		62
The Public Prosecution Service is effective at prosecuting people accused of crime	50	49	48		48
The courts are dealing with cases promptly	39	38	39		42
The courts are effective at giving punishments which fit the crime	21	24	23		24
The prisons are effective at punishing convicted offenders	36	34	34		30
The prisons are effective at rehabilitating convicted offenders	30	27	26		22
The probation service is effective at preventing criminals from reoffending	27	27	26		23
Unweighted base⁵	2,008	3,751	3,978		43,128

- Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
- Estimates for 2007/08 are based on six months of data, October 2007 to March 2008, as the questions were introduced during the 2007/08 survey year.
- Based on respondents saying they are very / fairly confident that 'the criminal justice system as a whole is effective'.
- Statistical significance of change at the 5% level (two tail tests) is indicated by a double asterisk (**).
- Unweighted base refers to overall effectiveness rating. Other bases will be similar.

Table A11: Confidence in the criminal justice system, by personal characteristics (%) in Northern Ireland^{1,2}

	% confident that		Unweighted base ³
	The CJS as a whole is fair	The CJS as a whole is effective	
ALL ADULTS	58	37	3,979
Age			
16-24	66	54	365
25-34	60	39	633
35-44	53	35	725
45-54	50	33	684
55-64	58	32	632
65-74	59	33	538
75+	62	39	392
Men	59	38	1,767
16-24	68	57	168
25-34	64	44	257
35-44	52	30	325
45-54	51	33	328
55-64	61	34	303
65-74	59	34	222
75+	64	37	164
Women	56	37	2,202
16-24	64	53	197
25-34	56	36	376
35-44	54	38	400
45-54	50	33	356
55-64	56	30	329
65-74	59	32	316
75+	60	42	228
Religion			
Catholic	59	40	1,598
Protestant	56	34	2,092
Perceived nationality			
British	56	34	1,936
Irish	55	39	1,064
Northern Irish	61	39	833
Other	78	66	118
Disability or illness			
Long-standing illness or disability	55	34	1,135
Limits activities	53	32	890
Does not limit activities	63	38	245
No long-standing illness or disability	58	39	2,841
Victim of crime reported to police			
Victim	52	32	1,687
Within last 2 years	52	33	514
More than 2 years ago	52	32	1,173
Never a victim	62	41	2,292
Attended court as victim / witness / spectator			
Attended court	52	31	801
Within last 2 years	58	39	140
More than 2 years ago	51	29	661
Never attended court	59	39	3,178
Daily newspaper readership			
National broadsheets	65	45	468
National tabloids	56	36	1,819
Irish News	56	39	599
Newsletter	54	32	392
Belfast Telegraph	60	37	1,138

Source: NICS 2009/10

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. CJS: Criminal Justice System.
3. Unweighted base refers to fairness rating. Base for effectiveness rating will be similar.

Table A12: Confidence in the criminal justice system, by household and area characteristics (%) in Northern Ireland^{1,2}

	% confident that		Unweighted base ⁷
	The CJS as a whole is fair	The CJS as a whole is effective	
ALL ADULTS	58	37	3,979
Living arrangements (respondent)			
Living as a couple	56	34	2,125
Married	57	34	1,901
Cohabiting	49	36	224
Not living as a couple	60	42	1,844
Single	63	48	957
Separated	50	33	193
Divorced	47	29	222
Widowed	63	35	472
Household type³			
HRP aged under 60:			
Single adult & child(ren)	49	32	272
Adults & child(ren)	56	38	969
No children	58	40	1,399
HRP aged 60 and over	60	34	1,339
Household income			
Less than £10,000	57	38	820
£10,000 less than £20,000	56	34	1,063
£20,000 less than £30,000	56	35	661
£30,000 less than £40,000	56	36	410
£40,000 less than £50,000	58	36	283
£50,000 or more	64	45	309
Tenure			
Owner-occupied	57	35	2,680
Social rented	50	34	589
Private rented	63	47	692
Area type			
Belfast	56	42	620
Urban, excluding Belfast	59	37	1,690
All urban	58	38	2,310
Rural	57	36	1,669
Policing District⁴			
A&B (Belfast)	56	42	620
C	61	32	695
D	55	34	622
E	55	35	609
F	60	46	443
G	59	40	505
H	57	36	485
Perceived level of ASB⁵			
High	42	29	484
Low	60	39	3,174
Multiple Deprivation Measure rank⁶			
1st quintile Most deprived	53	33	723
2nd quintile	58	37	819
3rd quintile	59	39	790
4th quintile	56	38	791
5th quintile Least deprived	60	37	758

Source: NICS 2009/10

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. CJS: Criminal Justice System.
3. HRP: Household Reference Person (in order of sequence, the person who owns or rents the accommodation, highest earner or oldest person).
4. See Figure B1 in Tabular Annex. When combined, PSNI policing districts A and B equate to Belfast City Council area.
5. ASB: Anti-social behaviour (measure derived from responses to seven questions on perceptions of ASB in the local area).
6. Rank order of super output areas (derived from 2010 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure).
7. Unweighted base refers to fairness rating. Base for effectiveness rating will be similar.

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Table A13: The most important things the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland could do to improve its public confidence rating (%)^{1,2,3}

% saying	NICS 2007/08	NICS 2008/09	NICS 2009/10
Tougher sentences	36	38	35
Tackle ASB and minor crime ⁴	25	27	24
A more visible policing presence	16	18	19
Bring more offenders to justice	27	19	18
Tackle youth crime	10	13	12
Put the interests of victims at the heart of the system	7	10	11
Tougher prison regimes	10	12	11
Reduce crime	11	9	11
Reduce the level of re-offending	11	11	10
Better police response times	7	9	10
More consistent sentencing	9	8	8
Speed up the delivery of justice	9	7	8
Respond to what matters most to local communities	7	7	8
Treat people equally	4	5	6
More appropriate sentencing for young people	3	4	4
Reduce worry about crime	4	3	4
None of these	<1	1	1
<i>Unweighted base</i> ⁵	3,887	3,825	4,057

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Measure combines responses regarding the most and second most important things the criminal justice system could do to improve its public confidence rating.
3. As results relate to two questions, the percentages add to more than 100%.
4. ASB: Anti-social behaviour
5. Unweighted base refers to the most important thing the criminal justice system could do to improve its public confidence rating.

Table A14: Perceptions of the main harm caused by organised crime (%) in Northern Ireland¹

% saying	NICS 2008/09	NICS 2009/10
Fear in the community	37	35
Violence in the community	15	15
Legitimate businesses lose trade	12	12
Small businesses / retailers forced to close	8	9
Loss of confidence in law enforcement agencies	8	8
Damage to people's health	7	6
Loss of jobs	4	5
Less money available for public services	3	5
Market flooded with inferior goods	5	5
<i>Unweighted base</i>	3,090	3,905

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

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Table A15: Perceptions of the level of harm caused by organised crime (%) in Northern Ireland¹

Perceived level of harm (%) caused by...	NICS 2008/09 ²			NICS 2009/10		
	Minimal	Moderate	Great	Minimal	Moderate	Great
Organised crime overall	63	28	9	66	28	7
People selling or buying illegal drugs	52	31	18	58	27	15
People selling or buying counterfeit or smuggled goods	61	30	9	65	26	9
Money laundering and fraud ³	-	-	-	74	19	7
Fuel laundering and smuggling ³	-	-	-	74	20	6
Protection or extortion racketeering	74	18	9	78	15	7
Armed robbery	75	16	8	77	16	7
<i>Unweighted base</i> ⁴	2,840			3,671		

'-' denotes variable was not included in the survey.

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. NICS 2008/09 figures are based on the period June 2008 to March 2009.
3. Individual questions on 'money laundering and fraud' and 'fuel laundering and smuggling' were introduced to the NICS in May 2009.
4. Unweighted base refers to organised crime overall. Other bases will be similar.

Table A16: Perceptions of change in the level of harm caused by organised crime (%) in Northern Ireland¹

% perceiving...	NICS 2008/09 ²	NICS 2009/10	Statistically significant change, 2008/09 to 2009/10? ³
A lot / little more harm	20	19	** ↑
About the same	63	66	
A little / lot less harm	17	16	
<i>Unweighted base</i>	2,834	3,629	

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Estimates for 2008/09 are based on 10 months of data, June 2008 to March 2009, as the questions were introduced during the 2008/09 survey year.
3. Statistical significance of changes is indicated by a double asterisk (**) for significance at the 5% level (two-tail tests).

Table A17: Perceptions of change in the level of harm caused by organised crime, by personal characteristics (%) in Northern Ireland¹

	% saying			Unweighted base
	The level of harm caused by organised crime has increased	The level of harm caused by organised crime has remained the same	The level of harm caused by organised crime has decreased	
ALL ADULTS	19	66	16	3,629
Age				
16-24	18	58	24	328
25-34	19	67	14	580
35-44	21	65	14	666
45-54	20	66	15	642
55-64	17	69	14	585
65-74	20	66	14	467
75+	13	74	13	351
Men	17	66	17	1,656
16-24	16	57	28	156
25-34	17	68	15	245
35-44	19	66	15	301
45-54	19	67	14	314
55-64	15	69	16	284
65-74	20	65	15	200
75+	13	73	14	156
Women	20	66	15	1,963
16-24	20	59	20	172
25-34	21	66	13	335
35-44	22	64	14	365
45-54	20	65	15	328
55-64	19	68	13	301
65-74	20	66	14	267
75+	13	74	13	195
Religion				
Catholic	21	65	15	1,472
Protestant	18	66	16	1,909
Perceived nationality				
British	18	66	16	1,757
Irish	22	62	16	989
Northern Irish	16	68	16	764
Other	n<100	n<100	n<100	96
Disability or illness				
Long-standing illness or disability	19	64	17	1,033
Limits activities	20	63	17	809
Does not limit activities	17	65	18	224
No long-standing illness or disability	18	67	15	2,594
Victim of crime reported to police				
Victim	21	62	16	1,556
Within last 2 years	26	58	16	473
More than 2 years ago	19	64	17	1,083
Never a victim	17	68	15	2,067
Daily newspaper readership				
National broadsheets	20	68	12	433
National tabloids	20	63	17	1,693
Irish News	20	62	18	566
Newsletter	17	72	11	370
Belfast Telegraph	19	64	17	1,053

Source: NICS 2009/10

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

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Table A18: Perceptions of change in the level of harm caused by organised crime, by household and area characteristics (%) in Northern Ireland¹

	% saying			Unweighted base
	The level of harm caused by organised crime has increased	The level of harm caused by organised crime has remained the same	The level of harm caused by organised crime has decreased	
ALL ADULTS	19	66	16	3,629
Living arrangements (respondent)				
Living as a couple	18	67	15	1,944
Married	18	68	14	1,745
Cohabiting	18	60	22	199
Not living as a couple	19	63	17	1,675
Single	20	61	19	876
Separated	21	61	17	173
Divorced	22	59	19	207
Widowed	16	72	11	419
Household type²				
HRP aged under 60:				
Single adult & child(ren)	27	58	15	248
Adults & child(ren)	18	67	15	881
No children	17	64	18	1,311
HRP aged 60 and over	19	68	13	1,189
Household income				
Less than £10,000	18	66	16	750
£10,000 less than £20,000	18	65	17	964
£20,000 less than £30,000	22	64	15	607
£30,000 less than £40,000	20	65	16	393
£40,000 less than £50,000	13	72	16	270
£50,000 or more	21	70	10	286
Tenure				
Owner-occupied	18	68	14	2,456
Social rented	23	56	21	532
Private rented	18	63	19	631
Area type				
Belfast	20	56	23	537
Urban, excluding Belfast	20	60	19	1,562
All urban	20	59	20	2,099
Rural	16	74	10	1,530
Policing District³				
A&B (Belfast)	20	56	23	537
C	18	66	15	621
D	16	64	20	576
E	18	68	15	543
F	19	69	11	420
G	17	71	12	472
H	22	68	11	460
Perceived level of ASB⁴				
High	37	47	16	467
Low	16	69	15	2,924
Multiple Deprivation Measure rank⁵				
1st quintile Most deprived	23	53	24	662
2nd quintile	17	65	17	749
3rd quintile	16	72	12	732
4th quintile	20	67	13	710
5th quintile Least deprived	17	69	14	685

Source: NICS 2009/10

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. HRP: Household Reference Person (in order of sequence, the person who owns or rents the accommodation, highest earner or oldest person).
3. See Figure B1 in Tabular Annex. When combined, PSNI policing districts A and B equate to Belfast City Council area.
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 2010 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure).

TECHNICAL ANNEX

Sampling and fieldwork

The initial NICS 2009/10 sample consisted of 6,852 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 5,990 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 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010, which involved complete interviews with 4,102 people aged 16 years and over. This represents an eligible response rate of 68%.

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

Rounding, error and statistical significance

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

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

Because NICS estimates are subject to sampling error, differences between estimates from successive years of the survey or between population subgroups may occur by chance. Statistical significance tests are used to identify which differences are unlikely to have occurred by chance.

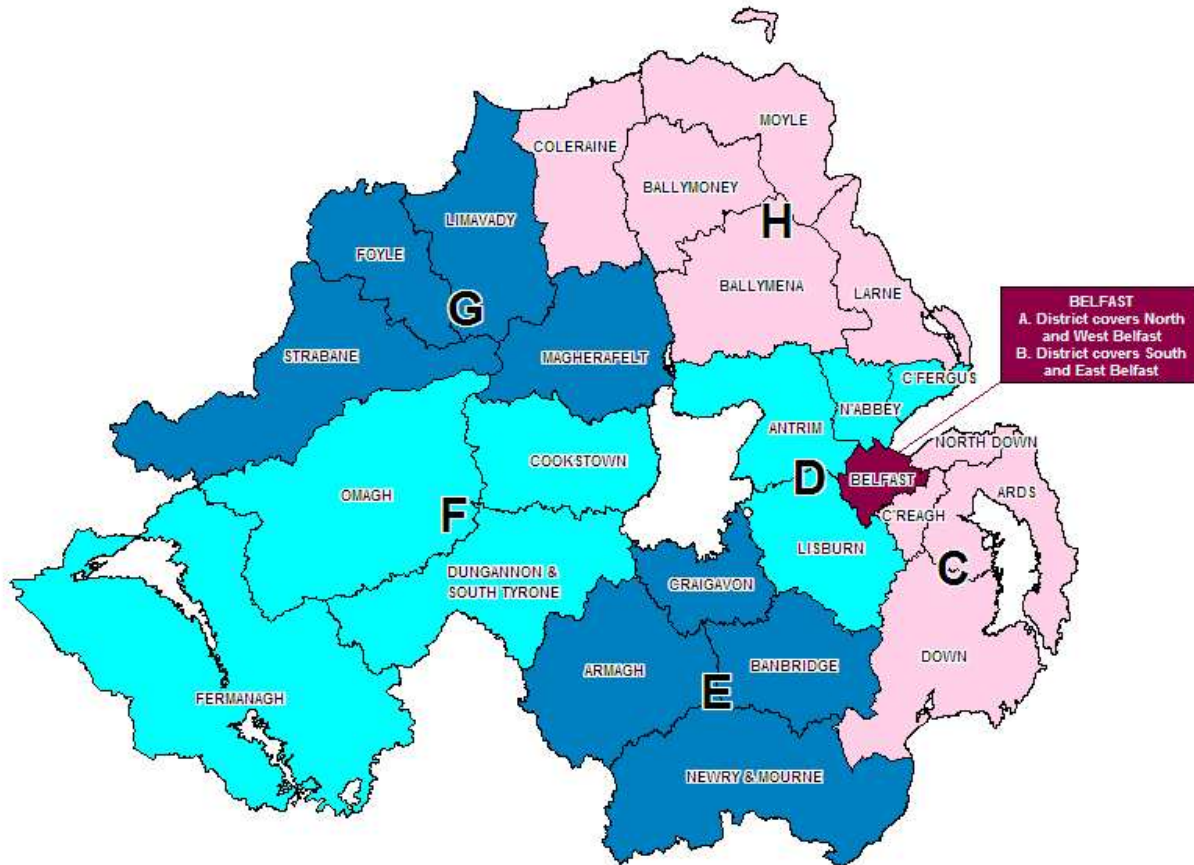
For the purposes of this bulletin, where differences have emerged as being statistically significant, these have been reported at the 5% ($p < 0.05$) level of probability (two-tailed tests). This means that, for any observed result that is found to be statistically significant, one can be 95% confident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

Table B1: Sample profile for NICS 2009/10

Group	Sub-group	Unweighted number	Unweighted %	Weighted %
Sex	Men	1,810	44	46
	Women	2,282	56	54
Age group	16-24	372	9	13
	25-34	659	16	15
	35-44	741	18	18
	45-54	699	17	18
	55-64	650	16	16
	65-74	552	13	12
	75+	419	10	8
Religion	Catholic	1,650	40	42
	Protestant	2,139	52	51
Area type	Urban	2,391	58	56
	Urban, excluding Belfast	1,748	43	41
	Rural	1,711	42	44
Policing district¹	A&B (Belfast)	643	16	14
	C	716	17	17
	D	635	15	15
	E	637	16	16
	F	452	11	12
	G	525	13	13
	H	494	12	13
	Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank²	1st quintile (most deprived)	762	19
2nd quintile		841	21	20
3rd quintile		810	20	21
4th quintile		814	20	21
5th quintile (least deprived)		774	19	20

1. See Figure B1. When combined, PSNI policing districts A and B equate to Belfast City Council area.
2. Rank order of super output areas (derived from 2010 Multiple Deprivation Measure).

Figure B1: Map of PSNI Policing Districts



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

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