

Analytical Services Group

Views on Alcohol and Drug Related Issues: Findings from the October 2016 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey

Research and Statistical Bulletin 8/2017

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Date of publication 8 March 2017



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- Results from the October 2016 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey (NIOS) found that 43.3% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement 'I am concerned about alcohol related issues in my local area'. This compares to 40.3% of respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement.
- Just over two fifths of respondents (42.9%) agreed or strongly agreed with the statement 'I am concerned about drug related issues in my local area' compared with 37.5% who disagreed or strongly disagreed.
- The most cited primary reason given for those reporting concern about alcohol related issues in the local area was 'underage drinking' (59.1%). The most cited secondary issue for respondents in relation to alcohol was 'drinking in public places' (33.1%). For drug related issues, 55.0% of respondents stated 'drug use/abuse' was the primary drug related issue in the local area. The most cited secondary issue for respondents in relation to drugs was 'drug dealing' (43.6%).
- Four fifths of respondents (82.4%) stated there was no change in the level of alcohol related issues in their local area in the last 12 months. A similar proportion of respondents (80.0%) stated there was no change in the level of drug related issues in their local area in the last 12 months.
- Of those respondents who reported having approached a body or representative in the last year, the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) was the most likely organisation to be approached for both an alcohol (64.9%) and a drug (52.8%) related issue in their local area.
- Just over one in eleven respondents (8.8%) had heard of the Northern Ireland Assembly's New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs Phase 2, 2011-16.
- Taking everything into account, 9.4% of respondents expressed a lot or total confidence that enough is being done to tackle alcohol and/or drug related issues across Northern Ireland and 43.4% expressed some confidence, while 47.2% had little or no confidence.
- Respondents expressed higher levels of confidence in the PSNI's work to tackle alcohol and/or drug related issues across Northern Ireland than that of any other organisation, with 25.9% of respondents having a lot or total confidence and 49.9% having some confidence.

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1. Introduction

1.1 The focus of this publication

This bulletin draws on findings from the October 2016 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey and updates the findings of September 2015. Respondents were asked a number of questions on their views on alcohol and drug related issues. The findings provide information to assist in measuring progress with two Northern Ireland Executive strategies: (i) Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities – A Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012-2017 and (ii) the New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs Phase 2 2011-2016.

In 2012, the Department of Justice published Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities – A Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012-2017, which sets out the vision of a safer, shared and cohesive Northern Ireland with less crime and anti-social behaviour and where people have confidence in the agencies that work on their behalf.

The revised New Strategic Direction (NSD) for Alcohol and Drugs Phase 2 2011-2016, led by the Department of Health (DoH), aimed to reduce the level of alcohol and drug related harm in Northern Ireland, and included outcomes to improve community safety and address anti-social behaviour. The NSD highlights the importance of local delivery of services, programmes and initiatives to reduce alcohol and drug related harm.

1.2 About the Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey

The Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey is conducted several times each year by the Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). The survey is designed to provide a snapshot of the behaviour, lifestyle and views of a representative sample of people in Northern Ireland. Further information on sample selection can be found in the <u>Technical Annex</u> section.

The survey comprises two distinct parts: core questions about the respondents and their individual circumstances, and a variety of mainly attitudinal questions commissioned by clients. Where appropriate, differences in relation to gender, area of residence, religion, age and employment status are highlighted.

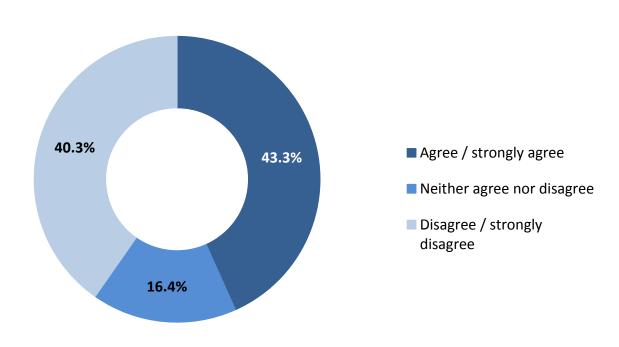
2. Alcohol related issues

2.1 Concern about alcohol related issues in the local area

<u>Table A1</u> shows the proportion of respondents who stated they agreed or disagreed with the statement 'I am concerned about alcohol related issues in my local area'.

43.3% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with this statement. This is a statistically significant increase from the rate of 36.6% reported in September 2015. 40.3% of respondents in 2016 stated they disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement. While this was lower than the rate of 43.9% reported in 2015, the difference was not found to be statistically significantly different (<u>Table A1</u>; Figure 2.1; <u>Table A16</u>).

Figure 2.1: Proportion of respondents agreeing/disagreeing with the statement 'I am concerned about alcohol related issues in my local area' (%)



Source: NI Omnibus Survey, October 2016.

1. Results exclude "don't know" and refusals.

<u>Table A1</u> also shows the demographic breakdown by response to the statement 'I am concerned about alcohol related issues in my local area'.

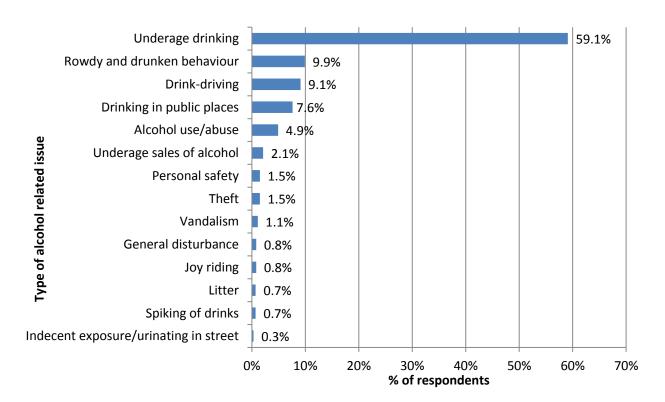
The age group in which most respondents stated they agreed or strongly agreed they were concerned about alcohol issues in their local area were those in the 50 - 64 category (49.1%). Conversely, in the 25 - 34 year old age group, just over half (52.1%) respondents disagreed/strongly disagreed with the statement that they were concerned about alcohol issues in their local area.

 51.4% of respondents from urban areas were concerned about alcohol issues in their local area compared to 30.4% of those from rural ones, with a higher proportion of respondents from urban areas, excluding Belfast (58.9%) reporting concern than those from Belfast (42.0%).

Respondents who agreed or strongly agreed they were 'concerned about alcohol related issues in my local area', were then asked to select five of these issues and place them in order of importance.

 Almost two thirds of these respondents (59.1%) stated 'underage drinking' as the primary alcohol related issue (<u>Table A2</u>, Figure 2.2).

Figure 2.2: Primary reason given for concern about alcohol related issue in their local area (%)



Source: NI Omnibus Survey, October 2016.

1. Results exclude "don't know" and refusals.

 The secondary alcohol related issue most reported by respondents was 'drinking in public places' (33.1%), and 'rowdy and drunken behaviour' (23.0%) was the most reported tertiary issue (<u>Table A2</u>).

2.2 Levels of change in alcohol related issues in the local area in the last 12 months

<u>Table A3</u> shows the perceptions of change in the level of alcohol related issues in the local area in the last 12 months by demographics.

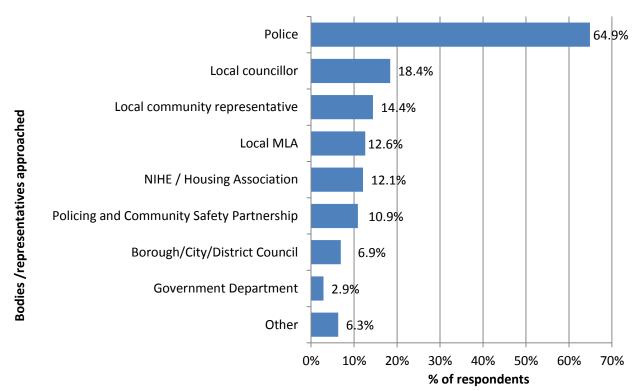
- The majority of respondents (82.4%) stated they felt the level of alcohol related issues had remained the same in the last 12 months. The proportion who felt it had improved (7.0%) was less than the proportion who felt it had worsened (10.6%). These rates were not found to be statistically significantly different from those found in 2015 when 9.0% respondents felt things had improved and 9.0% felt things had gotten worse (Table A3; Table A16).
- 16.1% of respondents living in the Western Health and Social Care Trust perceived the level of alcohol related issues to have gotten worse over the previous 12 months.
- 12.9% of respondents from urban areas stated they felt that the level of alcohol related issues in their local area had become worse in the last 12 months, compared to 7.1% from rural areas. Similarly, 13.6% of Catholic respondents perceived that the level of alcohol related issues in their local area had become worse in the last 12 months, compared to 8.8% of Protestant respondents (Table A3).

2.3 The effect of alcohol related issues in the local area

<u>Table A4</u> shows the bodies/representatives approached by respondents in the last year about an alcohol related issue in their local area.

- Most of the respondents (89.9%) had not approached anyone in the last year about an alcohol related issue in their local area.
- Of those respondents who had approached a body/representative in the last year about an alcohol related issue, 64.9% approached the PSNI. Other bodies/representatives approached included local councillors (18.4%), local community representatives (14.4%), MLAs (12.6%), Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) or Housing Association (HA) (12.1%), Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) (10.9%), Borough/City/District council (6.9%) and Government Departments (2.9%) (Table A4; Figure 2.3).

Figure 2.3: Bodies / representatives approached in the last year about an alcohol related issue in their local area (%)



Source: NI Omnibus Survey, October 2016.

- 1. Results exclude "don't know", "none" and refusals.
- 2. Respondents were asked to select, from a list, the bodies/representatives they approached about an alcohol related issue in their local area. More than one option could be selected.
- Almost one in twelve respondents (8.6%) stated they had been affected as a result of alcohol related issues in their local area (<u>Table A5</u>).
- Of those respondents who said they had been affected, the most cited issues were 'rowdy and drunken behaviour' (49.3%) and 'general disturbance' (39.2%) (<u>Table A6</u>; Figure 2.4).

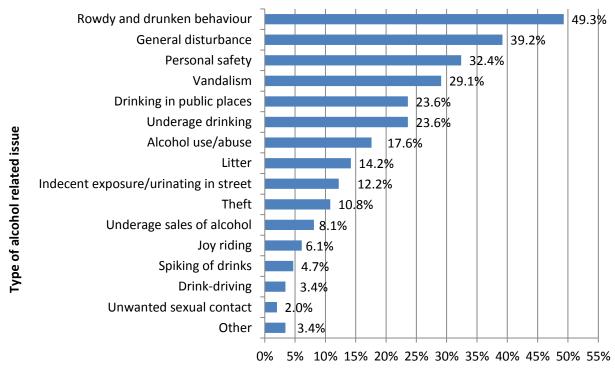


Figure 2.4: Alcohol related issues affecting NIOS respondents or their family (%)

% of respondents

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, October 2016.

- 1. Results exclude "don't know" and refusals.
- 2. Respondents were asked to select, from a list, the alcohol related issues they or their family have been affected by in their local area. More than one option could be selected.

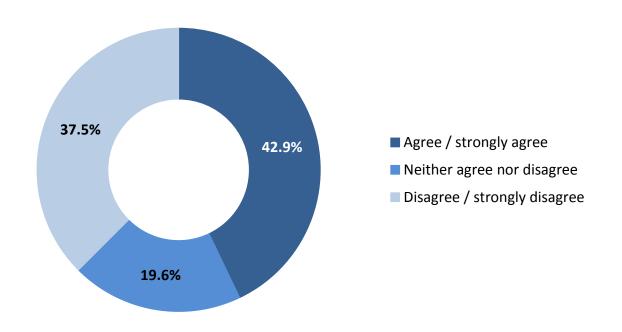
3. Drug related issues

3.1 Concern about drug related issues in the local area

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed with the statement 'I am concerned about drug related issues in my local area', using a five-point scale ranging from 'strongly agree' to 'strongly disagree'.

 42.9% of respondents stated they either agreed or strongly agreed and 37.5% of respondents stated they disagreed with the statement that they were 'concerned about drug related issues in my local area'. These rates were both found to be statistically significantly different from those found in 2015, when 35.5% agreed or strongly agreed and 44.2% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement (<u>Table A7</u>; Figure 3.1; <u>Table A16</u>).

Figure 3.1: Proportion of respondents agreeing/disagreeing with the statement: 'I am concerned about drug related issues in my local area' (%)



Source: NI Omnibus Survey, October 2016.

1. Results exclude "don't know" and refusals.

Results of this question broken down by various demographic characteristics are presented in <u>Table A7</u>.

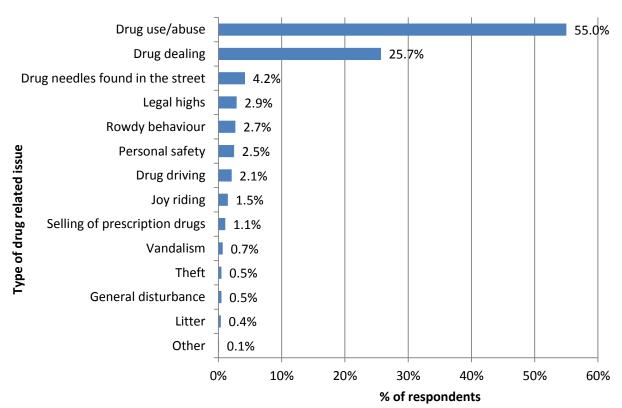
49.4% of those respondents in the 50 – 64 year old age group stated they agreed or strongly agreed they were 'concerned about drug related issues in my local area', compared with only 36.5% of respondents in the 25 – 34 year old age group. (<u>Table A7</u>).

 47.8% of respondents from urban areas stated they were concerned about drug issues in their local area, compared with 34.8% of respondents from rural ones. Further, a higher proportion (53.9%) of respondents from urban areas, excluding Belfast stated they were 'concerned about drug issues in their local area' than in the Belfast urban area (40.2%).

Respondents who had agreed or strongly agreed they were 'concerned about drug related issues in my local area', were then asked to select five drug related issues and place them in order of importance.

 More than a half (55.0%) of these respondents cited 'drug use/abuse' as their main drug related issue whilst just over a quarter (25.7%) cited 'drug dealing' (<u>Table A8</u>; Figure 3.2).





Source: NI Omnibus Survey, October 2016.

1. Results exclude "don't know" and refusals.

 'Drug dealing' (43.6%) was cited as the second most important drug related issue causing concern to respondents (<u>Table A8</u>).

3.2 Levels of change in drug related issues in the local area in the last 12 months

<u>Table A9</u> shows the perceptions of change in the level of drug related issues in the local area in the last 12 months by demographics.

- 80.0% of respondents stated they felt the level of drug related issues had remained the same in the last 12 months.
- 15.3% of respondents perceived that the level of drug related issues had worsened in the last 12 months, compared with 4.7% who thought it had improved. These rates were not found to be statistically significantly different from those found in 2015 when 13.1% respondents felt things had gotten worse and 5.2% felt things had improved (<u>Table A9</u>; <u>Table A16</u>).

Results of this question broken down by various demographic characteristics are presented in <u>Table A9</u>.

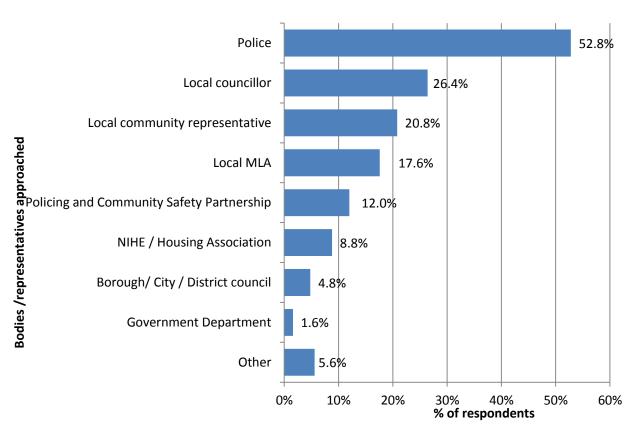
- 19.8% of respondents living in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust perceived the level of drug related issues to have become worse over the preceding 12 months, compared to 13.1% of respondents living in the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust area (<u>Table A9</u>).
- In relation to age, 3.1% of respondents from the 35 49 year old age group felt that the level of drug related issues in their local area had gotten better in the last 12 months, compared to 16.8% who responded that the level of drug related issues in their local area had gotten worse in the last 12 months (<u>Table A9</u>).
- 16.0% of respondents in urban areas reported that they perceived drug related issues had become worse in the previous 12 months, compared to 14.2% of respondents from rural areas (<u>Table A9</u>).

3.3 The effect of drug related issues in the local area

<u>Table A10</u> shows the bodies/representatives approached by respondents in the last year about a drug related issue in their local area.

- Most of the respondents (92.7%) had not approached anyone in the last year about a drug related issue in their local area.
- Of those respondents who approached a body or representative about a drug related issue, the most likely were the PSNI (52.8%). Other bodies/representatives approached included local councillors (26.4%), local community representatives (20.8%), MLAs (17.6%), Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (12.0%), Northern Ireland Housing Executive or Housing Association (8.8%), Borough/City/District council (4.8%) and Government Departments (1.6%) (Table A10; Figure 3.3).

Figure 3.3: Bodies / representatives approached in the last year about a drug related issue in their local area (%)



Source: NI Omnibus Survey, October 2016.

- 1. Results exclude "don't know", "none" and refusals.
- 2. Respondents were asked to select, from a list, the bodies/representatives they approached about a drug related issue in their local area. More than one option could be selected.

One in twenty respondents stated they had been affected as a result of drug related issues in their local area (5.0%) (<u>Table A11</u>). However due to the small number of respondents, it is not possible to disaggregate information further about these issues.

Attitudes towards tackling alcohol and/or drug related issues across Northern Ireland

4.1 New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs Phase 2 2011-16

Alcohol and drug misuse have been identified as significant public health and social issues in Northern Ireland over recent years. In 2006, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS), now Department of Health, launched a cross-departmental strategy, entitled the *New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs* (NSD), that sought to reduce the harm related to both alcohol and drug misuse in Northern Ireland. Following an update in 2010, to see how effective the NSD had been, it was agreed to review and revise the existing NSD and extend to 2016. The *New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs Phase 2 2011-16*, was launched in early 2012 (DHSSPS, 2011).

• Just over one in eleven respondents (8.8%) stated they had heard of the Northern Ireland Assembly's New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs Phase 2 2011-16 (<u>Table A12</u>).

4.2 Confidence in work to tackle alcohol and/or drug related issues in Northern Ireland

Respondents were asked how much confidence they had in the work of five key organisations, to tackle alcohol and/or drug related issues in Northern Ireland using a five-point scale, ranging from 'total confidence' to 'no confidence at all'.

 Taking everything into account, 9.4% of respondents expressed a lot or total confidence that enough is being done to tackle alcohol and/or drug related issues across Northern Ireland and 43.4% expressed some confidence, while 47.2% had little or no confidence (<u>Table A13</u>; Figure 4.1).

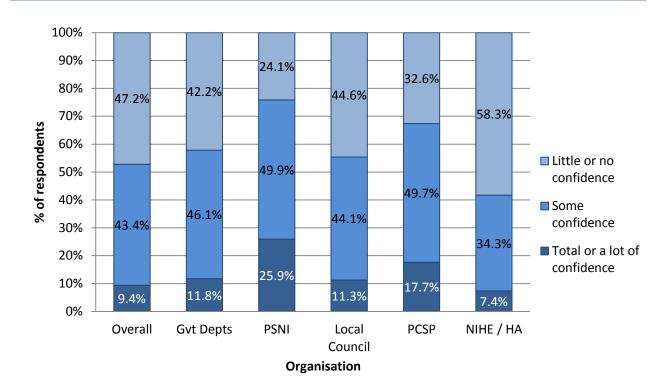


Figure 4.1: Confidence in work to tackle alcohol and/or drug related issues in Northern Ireland by organisation (%)

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, October 2016.

1. Results exclude "don't know", "none" and refusals.

- Respondents expressed higher levels of confidence in the PSNI's work to tackle alcohol and/or drug related issues across Northern Ireland than that of any other organisation, with 25.9% of respondents having a lot or total confidence and 49.9% having some confidence (<u>Table A13</u>; Figure 4.1).
- In contrast, respondents appeared least confident in the efforts of NI Housing Executive/Housing Associations in tackling alcohol and/or drug related issues, with 58.3% having little or no confidence (<u>Table A13</u>; Figure 4.1).

<u>Table A14</u> looks at respondents' overall level of confidence that enough is being done to tackle alcohol and/or drug related issues in Northern Ireland by demographics.

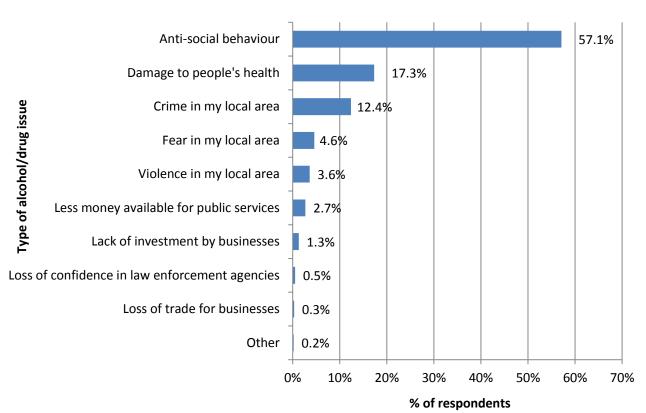
- Results show that, in 2016, 52.8% of respondents had total, a lot or some confidence that enough is being done to tackle alcohol and/or drug related issues in Northern Ireland'. While this is a very slight increase on the rate of 52.7% for 2015, the difference is not statistically significant (<u>Table A14</u>; <u>Table A16</u>).
- 54.0% of respondents from the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust had little or no confidence that 'enough is being done to tackle alcohol and/or drug related issues in Northern Ireland', compared to 35.1% from the Southern Health and Social Care Trust (<u>Table A14</u>).

4.3 Harm caused by alcohol and/or drug related issues in the local area

Respondents were asked to state their top three harms caused by alcohol and/or drug related issues in their local area (<u>Table A15</u>).

 Results show that 57.1% of respondents stated the primary harm caused by alcohol and/or drug related issues was 'anti-social behaviour'. 'Damage to people's health' was the second most cited primary harm stated by respondents (17.3%) and 'Crime in my local area' was the third (12.4%) (Table A15; Figure 4.2).

Figure 4.2: Biggest harm caused by alcohol and/or drug related issues in the local area



Source: NI Omnibus Survey, October 2016.

1. Results exclude "don't know" and refusals.

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Tabular Annex

Table A1: Concern about alcohol related issues in the local area by demographics (%) ¹

Table A1: Concern about alconol related	Agree /	Neither	Disagree /	
Demographic	strongly	agree nor	strongly	Unweighted
	agree	disagree	disagree	base
All adults	43.3%	16.4%	40.3%	945
Age of household reference person (HRP) ¹				
16-24	n<100	n<100	n<100	66
25-34	31.3%	16.7%	52.1%	100
35-49	41.0%	21.7%	37.3%	248
50-64	49.1%	14.1%	36.8%	259
65 and over	43.8%	14.6%	41.6%	272
Gender				
Male	45.8%	16.0%	38.2%	435
Female	41.2%	16.8%	42.0%	510
Religion				
Catholic	47.1%	13.3%	39.6%	360
Protestant	40.6%	18.3%	41.1%	454
Other	n<100	n<100	n<100	16
Health and Social Care Trust				
Belfast	41.5%	14.3%	44.2%	166
Northern	40.5%	18.6%	40.9%	251
South Eastern	42.5%	16.1%	41.4%	195
Southern	39.9%	16.1%	44.0%	181
Western	55.1%	15.4%	29.5%	152
Employment status	27.00/	10 70/	42 40/	110
In paid employment Not in paid employment	37.9% 48.4%	19.7% 13.8%	42.4% 37.8%	446 479
	40.470	13.0%	37.8%	475
Marital status Single, that is never married	40.7%	17.8%	41.5%	271
Married and living with husband / wife	40.7%	17.8%	41.5% 38.4%	433
Married and separated from husband / wife	n<100	n<100	n<100	46
Divorced	n<100	n<100	n<100	87
Widowed	38.8%	11.9%	49.3%	108
Level of qualifications				
Primary	47.1%	11.2%	41.7%	259
Secondary	46.3%	16.4%	37.3%	382
Tertiary	36.6%	20.6%	42.8%	304
Dependants				
Has dependants	44.7%	17.6%	37.7%	343
No dependants	42.4%	15.6%	42.0%	602
Disability / illness				
Has disability / illness	50.0%	9.6%	40.4%	243
No disability / illness	41.4%	18.3%	40.3%	702
Area type				
Belfast	42.0%	16.0%	42.0%	281
Urban, excluding Belfast	58.9%	11.7%	29.4%	325
All urban	51.4%	13.6%	35.1%	606
Rural	30.4%	21.0%	48.6%	339

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, October 2016. ¹ Results exclude "don't know" and refusals.

Alcohol related issue	Primary issue	Secondary issue	Tertiary issue	Quaternary issue	Quinary issue
Underage drinking	59.1%	6.6%	2.9%	4.1%	2.9%
Rowdy and drunken behaviour	9.9%	18.7%	23.0%	4.7%	5.7%
Drink-driving	9.1%	12.6%	15.6%	13.4%	3.7%
Drinking in public places	7.6%	33.1%	2.3%	3.0%	3.0%
Alcohol use/abuse	4.9%	8.8%	10.4%	11.6%	10.4%
Underage sales of alcohol	2.1%	4.4%	13.3%	11.9%	9.7%
Personal safety	1.5%	1.9%	3.9%	7.8%	11.1%
Theft	1.5%	3.3%	4.0%	5.9%	5.0%
Vandalism	1.1%	3.4%	7.9%	10.1%	12.2%
General disturbance	0.8%	1.1%	4.0%	8.3%	10.7%
Joy riding	0.8%	1.5%	1.1%	4.2%	4.5%
Litter	0.7%	1.5%	4.1%	6.3%	5.4%
Spiking of drinks	0.7%	2.1%	4.6%	3.8%	7.0%
Indecent exposure/urinating in street	0.3%	0.8%	1.7%	4.7%	5.0%
Unwanted sexual contact	0.0%	0.3%	0.9%	0.6%	3.5%
Other	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Unweighted base	415	405	388	369	329

Table A2: Main alcohol related issues in the local area (%) ¹

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, October 2016.

¹ Results exclude "don't know" and refusals.

Demographic	Better	About the same	Worse	Unweighted base
All adults	7.0%	82.4%	10.6%	881
Age of household reference person (HRP) ¹				
16-24	n<100	n<100	n<100	57
25-34	n<100	n<100	n<100	90
35-49	6.0%	83.2%	10.8%	230
50-64	5.5%	85.4%	9.1%	244
65 and over	7.1%	83.6%	9.3%	260
Gender				
Male	6.3%	82.8%	11.0%	416
Female	7.7%	81.9%	10.4%	465
Religion				
Catholic	7.2%	79.1%	13.6%	337
Protestant	6.2%	85.0%	8.8%	428
Other	n<100	n<100	n<100	13
Health and Social Care Trust		/		
Belfast	11.5%	76.3%	12.2%	147
Northern	4.4%	87.1%	8.5%	238
South Eastern	7.3%	81.4%	11.3%	187
Southern	4.6%	89.1%	6.3%	165
Western	9.4%	74.5%	16.1%	144
Employment status				
In paid employment	6.2%	85.7%	8.1%	416
Not in paid employment	7.5%	80.7%	11.8%	446
Marital status				
Single, that is never married	9.3%	75.5%	15.2%	248
Married and living with husband / wife	5.4%	85.7%	8.9%	408
Married and separated from husband / wife	n<100	n<100	n<100	40
Divorced	n<100	n<100	n<100	85
Widowed	6.5%	88.7%	4.8%	100
Level of qualifications	6.204		0.00/	200
Primary	6.3%	84.7%	9.0%	238
Secondary	8.7%	79.2%	12.1%	365
Tertiary	5.3%	85.1%	9.6%	278
Dependants		<u> </u>		
Has dependants	5.5%	83.0%	11.5%	322
No dependants	8.1%	82.0%	9.9%	559
Disability / illness				
Has disability / illness	7.6%	79.2%	13.2%	230
No disability / illness	6.9%	83.4%	9.8%	651
Area type				
Belfast	8.9%	78.1%	13.1%	257
Urban, excluding Belfast	9.8%	77.8%	12.4%	304
All urban	9.4%	77.8%	12.9%	561
Rural	3.2%	89.7%	7.1%	320

Table A3: Perceptions of change in the level of alcohol related issues in the local area in the last 12 months by demographics (%)¹

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, October 2016.

Results exclude "don't know" and refusals.

Table A4: Bodies/representatives approached in the last year about an alcohol related issue in the local area ^{1, 2}

Bodies/representatives	% of respondents who approached someone ²
Police	64.9%
Local councillor	18.4%
Local community representative	14.4%
Local MLA	12.6%
NIHE / Housing Association	12.1%
Policing and Community Safety Partnership	10.9%
Borough/City/District Council	6.9%
Government Department	2.9%
Other	6.3%
Unweighted base	95

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, October 2016.

¹ Results exclude "don't know", "none" and refusals.

² Respondents were asked to select, from a list, the bodies/representatives they approached about an alcohol related issue in their local area. More than one option could be selected.

³ Caution should be exercised when interpreting percentages in this table, due to small numbers or respondents.

Table A5: Proportion of respondents affected as a result of alcohol related issues in the local area ¹

Were respondents affected	% respondents affected
Yes	8.6%
No	91.4%
Unweighted base	946

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, October 2016.

¹ Results exclude "don't know" and refusals.

Table A6: Alcohol related issues in the local area affecting the respondent or their family ^{1, 2}

Alcohol related issue	Respondents affected (%)
Rowdy and drunken behaviour	49.3%
General disturbance	39.2%
Personal safety	32.4%
Vandalism	29.1%
Drinking in public places	23.6%
Underage drinking	23.6%
Alcohol use/abuse	17.6%
Litter	14.2%
Indecent exposure/urinating in street	12.2%
Theft	10.8%
Underage sales of alcohol	8.1%
Joy riding	6.1%
Spiking of drinks	4.7%
Drink-driving	3.4%
Unwanted sexual contact	2.0%
Other	3.4%
Unweighted base	85

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, October 2016.

¹ Results exclude "don't know", "none" and refusals.

² Respondents were asked to select, from a list, the alcohol related issues they or their family have been affected by in their local area. More than one option could be selected.

³ Caution should be exercised when interpreting percentages in this table, due to small numbers or respondents.

	Agree /	Neither	Disagree /	Unweighted
Demographic	strongly agree	agree nor disagree	strongly disagree	base
All adults	42.9%	19.6%	37.5%	935
Age of household reference person (HRP) ¹				
16-24	n<100	n<100	n<100	66
25-34	36.5%	19.8%	43.8%	100
35-49	41.5%	22.4%	36.2%	247
50-64	49.4%	16.0%	34.6%	258
65 and over	39.0%	24.1%	36.8%	264
Gender	42 40/	10.00/	27 40/	420
Male	43.1%	19.8% 10.2%	37.1%	430
Female	42.6%	19.3%	38.1%	505
Religion	17 50/	15 00/	26 60/	250
Catholic Protestant	47.5% 38.8%	15.9% 22.9%	36.6% 38.3%	359 445
Other	58.8% n<100	22.9% n<100	58.5% n<100	443 16
	11100	111100	11<100	10
Health and Social Care Trust Belfast	43.4%	19.6%	37.1%	163
Northern	43.4 <i>%</i> 41.8%	22.6%	37.1%	249
South Eastern	42.4%	17.4%	40.2%	192
Southern	39.6%	19.3%	41.1%	180
Western	48.7%	17.3%	34.0%	151
Employment status				
In paid employment	41.5%	20.9%	37.6%	445
Not in paid employment	43.9%	19.5%	36.6%	470
Marital status				
Single, that is never married	42.2%	16.3%	41.5%	271
Married and living with husband / wife	43.5%	21.8%	34.7%	429
Married and separated from husband / wife	n<100	n<100	n<100	44
Divorced Widowed	n<100 33.3%	n<100 21.2%	n<100 45.5%	86 105
	55.570	21.2/0	45.576	105
Level of qualifications Primary	42.0%	18.9%	39.1%	254
Secondary	42.0% 44.9%	17.9%	37.1%	379
Tertiary	40.9%	22.1%	37.0%	302
Dependants				
Has dependants	45.8%	19.1%	35.1%	341
No dependants	41.0%	20.0%	39.1%	594
Disability / illness				
Has disability / illness	49.5%	16.7%	33.8%	237
No disability / illness	41.1%	20.4%	38.5%	698
Area type				
Belfast	40.2%	21.7%	38.2%	276
Urban, excluding Belfast	53.9%	17.6%	28.5%	322
All urban	47.8%	19.4%	32.8%	598
Rural	34.8%	19.8%	45.4%	337

Table A7: Concern about drug related issues in the local area by demographics (%) 1

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, October 2016.

Results exclude "don't know" and refusals.

Drug related issue	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Quaternary	Quinary
	issue	issue	issue	issue	issue
Drug use/abuse	55.0%	10.1%	7.5%	4.0%	5.2%
Drug dealing	25.7%	43.6%	3.5%	3.2%	2.7%
Drug needles found in the street	4.2%	2.7%	9.8%	1.6%	3.9%
Legal highs	2.9%	13.1%	12.7%	11.2%	3.1%
Rowdy behaviour	2.7%	5.1%	10.0%	11.0%	8.5%
Personal safety	2.5%	1.5%	5.9%	15.8%	16.7%
Drug driving	2.1%	9.5%	14.4%	10.3%	8.2%
Joy riding	1.5%	0.8%	2.1%	5.2%	3.9%
Selling of prescription drugs	1.1%	4.4%	11.9%	9.9%	9.9%
Vandalism	0.7%	2.7%	5.3%	4.9%	11.3%
Theft	0.5%	3.8%	9.5%	7.9%	7.8%
General disturbance	0.5%	1.4%	2.9%	7.6%	13.0%
Litter	0.4%	0.5%	3.4%	2.9%	2.1%
Indecent exposure/urinating in street	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	3.6%	1.6%
Unwanted sexual contact	0.0%	0.9%	0.6%	0.7%	1.4%
Other	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.4%	0.6%
Unweighted base	390	357	331	294	258

Table A8: Main drug related issues in the local area (%) ¹

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, October 2016. ¹ Results exclude "don't know" and refusals.

Demographic	Better	About the same	Worse	Unweighted base
All adults	4.7%	80.0%	15.3%	856
Age of household reference person (HRP) ¹				
16-24	n<100	n<100	n<100	56
25-34	n<100	n<100	n<100	89
35-49	3.1%	80.1%	16.8%	225
50-64	4.9%	82.8%	12.3%	235
65 and over	5.9%	81.7%	12.3%	251
Gender				
Male	4.9%	79.4%	15.8%	404
Female	4.5%	80.6%	14.9%	452
Religion				
Catholic	3.1%	76.6%	20.3%	330
Protestant	5.7%	83.4%	10.9%	410
Other	n<100	n<100	n<100	13
Health and Social Care Trust				
Belfast	5.6%	74.6%	19.8%	141
Northern	2.5%	82.5%	15.0%	230
South Eastern	5.4%	81.5%	13.1%	179
Southern	5.7%	81.0%	13.2%	162
Western	5.4%	77.9%	16.8%	144
Employment status				
In paid employment	3.6%	80.6%	15.8%	401
Not in paid employment	6.2%	80.0%	13.8%	436
Marital status				
Single, that is never married	4.3%	73.9%	21.8%	245
Married and living with husband / wife	4.6%	82.7%	12.7%	393
Married and separated from husband / wife	n<100	n<100	n<100	40
Divorced	n<100	n<100	n<100	84
Widowed	n<100	n<100	n<100	94
Level of qualifications				
Primary	6.4%	84.4%	9.2%	233
Secondary	4.6%	77.0%	18.3%	352
Tertiary	3.3%	80.4%	16.2%	271
Dependants				
Has dependants	3.9%	81.5%	14.6%	311
No dependants	5.2%	78.9%	15.9%	545
Disability / illness				
Has disability / illness	10.0%	73.7%	16.3%	220
No disability / illness	3.2%	81.8%	15.0%	636
Area type				
Belfast	4.9%	77.3%	17.8%	244
Urban, excluding Belfast	6.1%	79.3%	14.6%	293
All urban	5.4%	78.6%	16.0%	537
Rural	3.3%	82.5%	14.2%	319

Table A9: Perceptions of change in the level of drug related issues in the local area in the last 12 months by demographic (%)¹

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, October 2016.

Results exclude "don't know" and refusals.

Table A10: Bodies/representatives approached in the last year about a drug related issue in the local area ^{1, 2}

Bodies/representatives	% of respondents who approached someone ²
Police	52.8%
Local councillor	26.4%
Local community representative	20.8%
Local MLA	17.6%
Policing and Community Safety Partnership	12.0%
NIHE / Housing Association	8.8%
Borough/ City / District council	4.8%
Government Department	1.6%
Other	5.6%
Unweighted base	73

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, October 2016.

- ¹ Results exclude "don't know", "none" and refusals.
- ² Respondents were asked to select, from a list, the bodies/representatives they approached about a drug related issue in their local area. More than one option could be selected.
- ³ Caution should be exercised when interpreting percentages in this table, due to small numbers or respondents.

Table A11: Proportion of respondents affected as a result of drug related issues in the local area ¹

Were respondents affected	% respondents affected
Yes	5.0%
No	95.0%
Unweighted base	944

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, October 2016.

Results exclude "don't know" and refusals.

Table A12: Awareness of the new Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs Phase 2 2011-16¹

Were respondents aware of the	% respondents
strategy	aware
Yes	8.8%
No	91.2%
Unweighted base	944

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, October 2016.

Results exclude "don't know" and refusals.

Table A13: Confidence in work to tackle alcohol and/or drug related issues in Northern Ireland ¹

Public Body	Total or a lot of confidence	Some confidence	Little or no confidence	Unweighted base
Overall	9.4%	43.4%	47.2%	917
NI Government Departments	11.8%	46.1%	42.2%	914
PSNI	25.9%	49.9%	24.1%	924
Local Council	11.3%	44.1%	44.6%	887
Local Policing and Community Safety Partnerships	17.7%	49.7%	32.6%	823
NI Housing Executive / Housing Associations	7.4%	34.3%	58.3%	786

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, October 2016.

¹ Results exclude "don't know" and refusals.

Demographic	Total or a lot of confidence	Some confidence	Little or no confidence	Unweighted base
All adults	9.4%	43.4%	47.2%	917
Age of household reference person (HRP) ¹				
16-24	n<100	n<100	n<100	65
25-34	4.2%	45.8%	50.0%	100
35-49	11.6%	40.1%	48.3%	240
50-64	8.6%	39.8%	51.5%	256
65 and over	9.0%	48.6%	42.3%	256
Gender				
Male	8.8%	43.3%	47.8%	423
Female	9.8%	43.5%	46.7%	494
Religion				
Catholic	9.7%	38.3%	52.0%	349
Protestant	9.6%	46.6%	43.8%	442
Other	n<100	n<100	n<100	13
Health and Social Care Trust				
Belfast	5.0%	41.0%	54.0%	156
Northern	9.6%	36.9%	53.5%	246
South Eastern	12.1%	46.7%	41.2%	190
Southern	9.6%	55.3%	35.1%	175
Western	9.8%	37.3%	52.9%	150
Employment status				
In paid employment	8.0%	42.3%	49.7%	439
Not in paid employment	9.9%	44.7%	45.4%	458
Marital status				
Single, that is never married	10.2%	44.9%	44.9%	265
Married and living with husband / wife	8.5%	41.2%	50.3%	423
Married and separated from husband / wife	n<100	n<100	n<100	45
Divorced	n<100	n<100	n<100	86
Widowed	n<100	n<100	n<100	98
Level of qualifications				
Primary	11.3%	45.9%	42.9%	246
Secondary	9.2%	38.9%	51.9%	374
Tertiary	8.3%	47.3%	44.3%	297
Dependants				
Has dependants	6.8%	42.2%	51.0%	339
No dependants	11.0%	44.1%	44.9%	578
Disability / illness				
Has disability / illness	10.3%	38.9%	50.7%	236
No disability / illness	9.2%	44.6%	46.2%	681
Area type				
Belfast	5.2%	46.0%	48.8%	269
Urban, excluding Belfast	12.8%	40.6%	46.6%	319
All urban	9.3%	43.0%	47.6%	588
Rural Source: NI Omnibus Survey, October 2016	9.3%	43.9%	46.7%	329

Table A14: Overall level of confidence that enough is being done to tackle alcohol and/or drug related issues in Northern Ireland by demographics (%) 1

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, October 2016.

¹ Results exclude "don't know" and refusals.

Table A15: Top three harms caused by alcohol and/or drug related issues in the local area (%)¹

Type of harm	Primary harm	Secondary harm	Tertiary harm
Anti-social behaviour	57.1%	15.9%	9.6%
Damage to people's health	17.3%	18.5%	17.5%
Crime in my local area	12.4%	33.2%	14.2%
Fear in my local area	4.6%	12.8%	20.6%
Violence in my local area	3.6%	7.9%	19.6%
Less money available for public services	2.7%	4.2%	7.2%
Lack of investment by businesses	1.3%	2.6%	3.5%
Loss of confidence in law enforcement agencies	0.5%	2.6%	5.4%
Loss of trade for businesses	0.3%	2.3%	1.8%
Other	0.2%	0.2%	0.7%
Unweighted base	773	720	658

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, October 2016. ¹ Results exclude "don't know" and refuse

Results exclude "don't know" and refusals.

Table A16: Comparison of main results from 2015 to 2016

% Agreeing with the statement:					
	Year	% agree	% neither agree nor disagree	% disagree / strongly disagree	Unweighted base
I am concerned about alcohol related	2016	43.3%**	16.4%	40.3%	945
issues in my local area (%)	2015	36.6%	19.6%	43.9%	1,105
I am concerned about drug related	2016	42.9%**	19.6%	37.5%**	935
issues in my local area (%)	2015	35.5%	20.2%	44.2%	1,096
Perceptions of cha	nge over	the last 12 m	onths in the le	vel of:	
	Year	Better	About the same	Worse	Unweighted base
Alcohol related issues in	2016	7.0%	82.4%	10.6%	881
the local area (%)	2015	9.0%	82.0%	9.0%	1,028
Drug related issues in	2016	4.7%	80.0%	15.3%	856
the local area (%)	2015	5.2%	81.7%	13.1%	1,002
Overall level of confidence that enoug	gh is bein	g done to tacl	kle alcohol and	l/or drug relate	d issues in
	Northe	rn Ireland (%)			
	Year	Total or a lot of confidence	Some confidence	Little or no confidence	Unweighted base
	2016	9.4%	43.4%	47.2%	917
	2015	8.4%	44.3%	47.2%	1,078

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2015 and October 2016.

¹ Results exclude "don't know" and refusals.

****** Shows where there has been a statistically significant change from the previous year.

		% Agreeing with	the statement:		
	Year	% agree	% neither agree nor disagree	% Disagree / strongly disagree	Unweighted base
I am concerned about	2016	43.3%	16.4%	40.3%	945
alcohol related issues in	2015	36.6%	19.6%	43.9%	1,105
my local area %	2014	44.0%	16.0%	40.0%	1,078
	2013	41.8%	17.2%	41.0%	1,159
	2012	46.1%	16.0%	37.9%	1,126
	2016	42.9%**	19.6%	37.5%	935
I am concerned about	2015	35.5%	20.2%	44.2%	1,096
drug related issues in my	2014	36.7%	20.2%	43.1%	1,067
local area %	2013	34.1%	22.3%	43.5%	1,151
	2012	38.2%	20.4%	41.4%	1,112
Percep	tions of	change over the	last 12 months	in the level of:	
	Year	Better	About the same	Worse	Unweighted base
	2016	7%**	82.4%	10.6%	881
	2015	0.00/	02.00/	0.0%	
Alcohol related issues in	2015	9.0%	82.0%	9.0%	1,028
	2013	9.0% 10.0%	82.0% 79.7%	9.0% 10.2%	
Alcohol related issues in the local area %					1,013
	2014	10.0%	79.7%	10.2%	1,013 1,077
	2014 2013	10.0% 10.4%	79.7% 79.1%	10.2% 10.5%	1,013 1,077 1,043
the local area %	2014 2013 2012	10.0% 10.4% 10.9%	79.7% 79.1% 78.6%	10.2% 10.5% 10.4%	1,013 1,077 1,043 856
the local area % Drug related issues in the	2014 2013 2012 2016	10.0% 10.4% 10.9% 4.7%	79.7% 79.1% 78.6% 80.0%	10.2% 10.5% 10.4% 15.3%	1,013 1,077 1,043 856 1,002
the local area %	2014 2013 2012 2016 2015	10.0% 10.4% 10.9% 4.7% 5.6%	79.7% 79.1% 78.6% 80.0% 80.6%	10.2% 10.5% 10.4% 15.3% 13.8%	1,013 1,077 1,043 856 1,002 975
the local area % Drug related issues in the	2014 2013 2012 2016 2015 2014	10.0% 10.4% 10.9% 4.7% 5.6% 6.0%	79.7% 79.1% 78.6% 80.0% 80.6% 79.9%	10.2% 10.5% 10.4% 15.3% 13.8% 14.1%	1,013 1,077 1,043 856 1,002 975 1,048
the local area % Drug related issues in the	2014 2013 2012 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012	10.0% 10.4% 10.9% 4.7% 5.6% 6.0% 5.4% 5.0%	79.7% 79.1% 78.6% 80.0% 80.6% 79.9% 83.5% 83.0% one to tackle alco	10.2% 10.5% 10.4% 15.3% 13.8% 14.1% 11.1% 12.0%	1,013 1,077 1,043 856 1,002 975 1,048 981
the local area % Drug related issues in the local area %	2014 2013 2012 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012	10.0% 10.4% 10.9% 4.7% 5.6% 6.0% 5.4% 5.0%	79.7% 79.1% 78.6% 80.0% 80.6% 79.9% 83.5% 83.0% one to tackle alco	10.2% 10.5% 10.4% 15.3% 13.8% 14.1% 11.1% 12.0%	1,013 1,077 1,043 856 1,002 975 1,048 981
the local area % Drug related issues in the local area %	2014 2013 2012 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 that en	10.0% 10.4% 10.9% 4.7% 5.6% 6.0% 5.4% 5.0% nough is being do Northern Total or a lot	79.7% 79.1% 78.6% 80.0% 80.6% 79.9% 83.5% 83.0% one to tackle alco Ireland % Some	10.2% 10.5% 10.4% 15.3% 13.8% 14.1% 11.1% 12.0% Dhol and/or drug Little or no	1,013 1,077 1,043 856 1,002 975 1,048 981 g related issues in Unweighted base
the local area % Drug related issues in the local area %	2014 2013 2012 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 that en Year	10.0% 10.4% 10.9% 4.7% 5.6% 6.0% 5.4% 5.0% nough is being do Northern Total or a lot of confidence	79.7% 79.1% 78.6% 80.0% 80.6% 79.9% 83.5% 83.0% one to tackle alco Ireland % Some confidence	10.2% 10.5% 10.4% 15.3% 13.8% 14.1% 11.1% 12.0% ohol and/or drug Little or no confidence	Unweighted

Table A17: Comparison of main results from 2012 to 2016

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and October 2016.

8.2%

10.0%

46.6%

47.0%

45.2%

43.0%

1,125

1,096

¹ Results exclude "don't know" and refusals.

2013

2012

** Shows where there has been a statistically significant change from 2012 - 2016.

Technical Annex

Sampling and fieldwork

The sample of those surveyed in the October 2016 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey was drawn from the Land and Property Services Agency list of private addresses, the most up-to-date listing of private households in Northern Ireland.

At each address, the interviewer lists all members of the households eligible for inclusion in the sample, that is, all persons aged 16 or over. The interviewer's computer then randomly selects one person from each household to complete the interview. From a set sample of 2,156 addresses, 1,920 were eligible and 946 interviews were achieved giving an eligible response rate of 49%.

Selecting only one individual for interview at each address means individuals living in large households have a lower chance of being included in the sample than individuals living in smaller households. The data presented in this bulletin have been weighted to prevent a bias towards smaller households.

To assess how accurately a survey sample reflects the population of Northern Ireland, the characteristics of the sample are compared with the characteristics of the Northern Ireland population from Mid-Year Population Estimates. The Omnibus Sample has also been compared to the achieved sample of the Continuous Household Survey. <u>Table B2</u> shows a profile of the survey sample. <u>Table B3</u> shows a comparison with Mid-Year Population Estimates and the Continuous Household Survey sample.

Weighting

Selecting only one individual for interview at each sampled address means that the probability of selection for the survey is inversely related to the size of the household. In other words, individuals living in large households have a lower chance of being included in the sample than individuals in small households.

Before analysis, all households which provided a selected respondent are examined and the data are weighted in relation to the number of eligible adults at the address derived from the details of household structure recorded by interviewers on the questionnaire. This weighting process adjusts the results to those that would have been achieved if the sample had been drawn as a random sample of adults rather than of addresses. In this sample, 37% of households consisted of one adult, while 47% of households consisted of two adults. 12% of households contained three adults, while 4% of households consisted of four or more adults.

Note: on occasions, in tables showing weighted data, the sum of column totals does not equal the grand total. This is due to the rounding process associated with weighting. The percentages in the tables are based on weighted data but the totals are unweighted.

Table B1: Weighting of the Sample, October 2016

Number of adults 16 and over	Number	Household size X Number	Relative Scaled Weight
1	356	356	0.547453704
2	444	888	1.094907407
3	109	327	1.642361111
4	29	116	2.189814815
5	7	35	2.737268519
6	1	6	3.284722222

Rounding and error

Percentages may not always sum to 100 due to the effect of rounding 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. The number of cases upon which analysis is based is important, as it influences the precision (standard error) of the estimates. The Department of Justice does not routinely publish estimates where the unweighted base is less than 100 cases.

Because Omnibus Survey estimates are subject to sampling error, differences between estimates from successive years of the survey or between population subgroups may occur by chance.

Notes to readers

On 1 April 2015 the Education Authority was created and assumed the responsibility of the former Education and Library Boards (ELBs). Therefore, it is not appropriate to report NIOS findings by ELBs, as in previous years.

Demographic	Unweighted number	Unweighted %	Weighted %
All respondents	946	100.0%	100.0%
Gender			
Male	435	46.0%	47.6%
Female	511	54.0%	52.4%
Age group			
16-24	66	7.0%	10.2%
25-34	100	10.6%	10.2%
35-49	248	26.2%	26.3%
50-64	259	27.4%	28.5%
65 and over	273	28.9%	24.8%
Religion			
Catholic	360	43.4%	45.7%
Protestant	454	54.7%	52.6%
Other	16	1.9%	1.7%
Health and Social Care Trust			
Belfast	166	17.5%	15.5%
Northern	251	26.5%	27.9%
South Eastern	196	20.7%	19.7%
Southern	181	19.1%	20.4%
Western	152	16.1%	16.5%
Area type			
Belfast	282	29.8%	27.3%
Urban, excluding Belfast	325	34.4%	34.4%
All urban	607	64.2%	61.7%
Rural	339	35.8%	38.3%

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, October 2016. ¹ Results exclude "none" and refusals.

Table B3: Representativeness of the Sample, October 2016

		Mid-Year Population Estimates 2014	CHS 2015/16 (all members of household 16+)	Omnibus (all members of household 16+)	Omnibus Selected Respondent
Age	16-24	15%	15%	10%	10%
	25-34	17%	15%	12%	10%
	35-49	26%	26%	26%	26%
	50-64	23%	24%	27%	29%
	65 and Over	19%	20%	25%	25%
Gender	Male	49%	47%	49%	48%
	Female	51%	53%	51%	52%
	Base = 100%	1,456,715	4,773	1,728	946

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, Autumn 2016.

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