



The Cognitive  
Centre Foundation

for

**The Republic of Ireland  
Probation Service**

# **RISK AND NEED IN OFFENDER POPULATIONS IN IRELAND**

**2006**

**An Analysis of a Sample of 1837 Level of Service Inventory  
– Revised (LSI-R) Tests and 97 Youth Level of Service/Case  
Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) Tests undertaken by  
Probation Officers in Ireland in 2005-6**

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## SUMMARY

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- 1) Comparison between the mean LSI-R scores for the 2005 and 2006 samples shows an overall increase in scores of 0.89 per test. However the increase is smaller in Dublin than in the regions outside Dublin.

All teams and regions show varying degrees of increase in scores with the exception of the South West region where there is a significant reduction in scores.

In Dublin the changes in scores by team range between +0.7 and +1.72 per test, whilst in the regions outside Dublin the changes range between +3.59 and – 2.83 points per test.

This may well indicate an increasing confidence in the use of the tools by probation officers in Ireland. This view may well be supported by the fact that the increase is less in Dublin where for some years the LSI-R had been more widely used than elsewhere in Ireland.

There are regional variations in scores that will require further investigation, but the overall impression is of the tests 'bedding in' to practice in Ireland.

- 2) Overall the patterns of risk and need broadly remain the same. Within that pattern however there are changes that help in understanding the overall increase in scores. They are:

- 1) An increase in scores in the Criminal History sub-component (1-10). This would be caused by the offenders being tested actually having more substantial criminal histories, or by knowledge about their histories being more readily available to the LSI-R users.
- 2) A 6.28% increase in those being scored as unemployed. This also impacts on item 21, 'reliant on social assistance' (+3.08%) and item 20, 'Problems' (in managing finances) (+3.19)
- 3) Increases in those assessed as having a 'current alcohol problem' (item 39 and/or a 'current drug problem' (item 40).

- 3) Errors are still being made throughout the LSI-R test in relation to the basic rules of administration and it is clear that the Quality Control Checklist is not being widely used.

In the main body of the report three officers are identified who are consistently scoring clients higher than their colleagues with their mean scores averaging 10 – 15 points more than the rest of the LSI-R users in their area/region. It is possible that their clients are actually much higher risk than is normal for that area/region due to, for example, particular work responsibilities. If this is not so then there is an issue of inter-rater reliability that needs to be addressed.

### Recommendations:

- a) Users should refer to the manuals and additional guidance notes supplied when using the tests
- b) The Quality Control Checklist should be required to be completed on each test undertaken.
- c) Quality control sampling should be undertaken periodically.
- d) On going 'Refresher' training should be offered at regular intervals.

The mean scores of individual testers should be monitored and action taken if a tester is seen to be scoring outside the normal range in the absence of sound practice reasons.

- 4) The sample of LSI-Rs undertaken on the prison population shows similar levels of risk to those found in the smaller 2005 sample. In the current sample over 70% are assessed as high or very high risk.
- 5) In all 47% of the recommendations for probation scored low or low/moderate. It can be argued that this is inconsistent with the risk principle that interventions should be targeted at high to medium risk offenders. Overall current probation provision does seem to be targeted at too low a level in risk terms. However the Irish Probation Service has historically encompassed a welfare approach and recent targeting may well reflect that. As the Service moves away from the welfare role it is reasonable to expect that higher risk offenders will be targeted for intervention.

- 6) Within the context of increasing scores the need profiles by Area or Region, within Dublin, by gender generally remain constant compared to those in the 2005 study.
- 7) Compared to the 2005 and 2006 sample the YLS/CMI tests score an average of 2.3 points more than those in the 2005 sample. The only two sections remaining reasonably constant are *Prior and Current Offending* and *Substance Use*. This would seem to indicate that whilst the young people tested had very similar criminal histories they scored higher in terms of dynamic risk factors, in particular *Personality*. The conclusion that the increases in scores in the LSI-R sample are due to a 'bedding in' process as users become more confident may also apply to the YLS/CMI sample.

## **1) INTRODUCTION**

This analysis of the second sample of Level of Service Inventory-Revised and Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory tests undertaken by Irish probation officers aimed to make a comparison between the assessments sampled in 2005 and the more recent assessments used for the 2006 sample. It was then intended that the two samples would be combined to allow for more detailed assessment of risk and need levels in Ireland. However it became evident that scores had increased overall with variations throughout the country and until the scores stabilise there is a risk a combined sample would under estimate risk and need levels in Ireland.

The increase in scores may well be a positive sign that there is increasing confidence in the use of the test in Ireland and that the tests are being made on the basis of more knowledge about the clients in question.

Further attention has been paid to quality assurance, and comparisons made with the 2005 study. It was anticipated that the Superuser group would have had an impact on errors in scoring, but the results show that a substantial numbers of errors are still being made. Further recommendations are made concerning improvements that need to be made in the quality of the tests undertaken, how to achieve the improvements and maintain them thereafter.

### **STRUCTURE OF THE STUDY**

The 2006 sample was substantially larger than the 2005 study and the regions outside Dublin more heavily represented

The study, to a great extent mirrors the 2005 study and separate analyses have been undertaken for the four Dublin areas and for the Mid-West, North-West, Southeast and South-West regions. As in the 2005 study comparison are made between Dublin overall and the other regions.

A larger sample of LSI-Rs undertaken in prison settings was available (74) compared to the 2005 sample (32). This has allowed for a further analysis of criminogenic need.

Sufficient tests identified proposals and disposals, which allows for some conclusions to be drawn concerning targeting and the risk levels of those subject to probation and community service.

A further limited sample of Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) has allowed for further analysis and a comparison with the 2005 results.

The samples from the hostel (22) and St. Patricks (20) were too small for analysis.

19 retests were identified but no analysis was possible due to the sample size, and the unavailability of the original tests.

184 Screening Version (LSI-SV) tests were included in the sample and a comparison has been made with full LSI-R tests where the corresponding SV items were scored. This allows for a preliminary 'calibration' of the Screening Version against Irish full LSI-Rs.

Wherever possible comparisons are made with the results from the 2005 study.

## **THE SAMPLE**

The sample comprised:

<b>LSI-R</b>					
<b>Circuit Ct.</b>	121	2	36	9	168
<b>Dublin North</b>	229	7	40	6	282
<b>Dublin South</b>	167	9	9	3	188
<b>Dublin West</b>	160	10	28	0	198
<b>Mid West</b>	210	2	27	0	239
<b>North West</b>	161	0	24	0	185
<b>South East</b>	203	2	34	0	239
<b>South West</b>	186	1	22	0	209
<b>Prison</b>	74	0	0	0	74
<b>St. Patricks</b>	20	0	0	0	20
<b>Homeless</b>	22	0	0	0	22
<b>Unidentified</b>					13
<b>TOTAL</b>	1562	59	221	19	1837
<b>YLS/CMI</b>					
<b>All</b>					97
<b>TOTALS</b>					1934

*Table 1*

There was some difficulty in reading a significant number of the tests due to the omission of data such as name, DOB and gender. Some tests were indecipherable due to photocopying problems. As in the previous study only tests where the item scoring could be identified and gender specified were included in the study. This problem will clearly be resolved when the electronic version of LSI-R comes into use.

## **QUALITY ASSURANCE**

Errors are still being made throughout the test in relation to the basic rules of administration and these are outlined in appendix 1. Particular areas of concern relate to:

- i) Failure to score items 18-20 as 0 when the client is scored as unemployed (item 11). This error was detected in 17.9% of the sample, which represents an increase in errors as compared to the 2005 sample. Items 18 – 20 measure the satisfaction that an individual receives from their employment or education experience, and peer and authority interaction whilst in work or education. Unemployment therefore automatically means that these items must be scored as 0.
- ii) The scoring of items 41 – 45 when items 39 and 40 are scored as satisfactory (2 or 3). The rule is that 41 – 45 should be omitted if neither item 39 nor item 40 is scored as unsatisfactory, i.e. as a risk factor. In a number of cases tests were submitted when all items 41 – 45 were scored 'Yes', but neither 39 nor 40 were scored as a risk factor. This in effect means that the client's substance abuse during the past twelve months had caused them to commit law violations, had adversely affected their ability to work or participate in education, had caused problems in their family/personal relationships, had caused them medical problems and had caused them to display other clinical symptoms of their substance misuse which had contributed to risk. However by not scoring either item 39 or 40 the officer was indicating that in their view this was a satisfactory situation!

Quite obviously a number of users do not understand the rationale behind these particular items, and how they should be scored. What is also clear is that the Quality Control Checklist is not being widely used. All the errors identified would be easily eradicated if the checklist were used with all LSI-Rs undertaken.

The electronic version will prevent these errors being made but it is important that users understand the 'why' as well as the 'what'.

In the main body of the report three officers are identified who are consistently scoring clients higher than their colleagues with their mean scores averaging 10 – 15 points more than the rest of the LSI-R users in their area/region. It is possible that their clients are actually much higher risk than is normal for that area/region due to, for example, particular work responsibilities. If this is not so then there is an issue of inter-rater reliability that needs to be addressed.



**Recommendations:**

- e) Users should refer to the manuals and additional guidance notes supplied when using the tests
- f) The Quality Control Checklist should be required to be completed on each test undertaken.
- g) Quality control sampling should be undertaken periodically.
- h) On going 'Refresher' training should be offered at regular intervals.
- i) The mean scores of individual testers should be monitored and action taken if a tester is seen to be scoring outside the normal range in the absence of sound practice reasons.

## 2) SCORES

Comparison between the means scores for the 2005 and 2006 samples show an overall increase of in scores of 0.89 per test. However the increase is smaller in Dublin than in the regions outside Dublin (*Table 2*).

	Mean Scores 2005	Mean scores 2006	Difference
All Ireland	18.17	19.06	+0.89
All Dublin	19.65	20.36	+0.71
Outside Dublin	16.25	17.91	+1.66

*Table 2*

All teams and regions show varying degrees of increase in scores with the exception of the South West region where there is a significant reduction in scores (*Table 3*).

In Dublin the changes in scores by team range between +0.7 and +1.72 per test, whilst in the regions outside Dublin the changes range between +3.59 and – 2.83 points per test (*Table 3*).

	Mean Scores 2005	Mean scores 2006	Difference
Circuit Ct.	22.11	23.83	+1.72
Dublin North	17.44	18.78	+1.34
Dublin South	18.94	19.9	+0.96
Dublin West	20.20	19.5	+0.70
Mid West	17.23	20.52	+3.29
North West	14.92	15.99	+1.07
South East	12.59	16.18	+3.59
South West	18.83	16.00	- 2.83

*Table 3*

### Comment

Over time and without adequate support and supervision it is recognised that the use of structured assessment tools may become less rigorous with the result that scores fall. On this basis it is encouraging that scores in Ireland have shown an increase overall. The view of Professor Peter Raynor and of the publishers of LSI-R, Multi-Health Systems (Canada) is that this may well indicate an increasing confidence in the use of the tool by probation officers in Ireland. This view may well be supported by the fact that the increase is less in Dublin where for some years the LSI-R had been more widely used than elsewhere in Ireland. Professor Raynor does emphasise however that the increase should be a relatively short-term phenomenon and that such increases should not be seen in future studies.

There have been some very substantial changes in scores in three of the regions outside Dublin, both increases and reductions in scores. This may well be indicative of a 'settling down' or 'bedding in' process, but on the basis of current information it is not possible to draw too many conclusions.

There are three possible reasons for changes in LSI-R scores over time. These are:

- 1) Changes in actual risk levels in the population being studied. This might be caused for example by an increase in unemployment levels in a particular area.
- 2) More information becoming available to users about the individuals being tested. An example would be improved information about prior criminal histories becoming available.
- 3) Changes in the way the test is applied by users.

The mean scores show interesting patterns. In Dublin the highest mean score comes from the Circuit Court grouping which is an expected result. However the remaining three areas are within a relatively narrow range of 18.78 to 19.90. Outside Dublin the three regions bar the Mid West score within .19 of each. This may be further evidence of the 'settling down' or 'bedding in' process.

The Mid-West poses a problem of analysis in that risk/need scores are significantly higher than the other regions outside Dublin. This may reflect a reality, i.e. that the Mid-West region is actually 'riskier' than the North-West,

South-East and South-West of Ireland, or it may be that there is a degree of overscoring of the LSI-R in that region. Indeed if the tests scored by one officer are taken out of the sample then the mean score becomes 18.2.

More important than the mean scores however are the distributions in the Very High through to Low range. These vary even when mean scores are close. Overall the distribution of risk scores shows that allowing for specific issues relating to the Circuit Court and the Mid-West region, Dublin clients score high or very high 8-9% more often than the clients in the rest of Ireland.

Chart 1 below compares the patterns of scoring between 2005 and 2006 and it can be seen that the patterns broadly remain the same. Within that pattern there are changes that help in understanding the overall increase in scores. They are:

- 4) An increase in scores in the Criminal History sub-component (1-10). This would be caused by the offenders being tested actually having more substantial criminal histories, or by knowledge about their histories being more readily available to the LSI-R users.
- 5) A 6.28% increase in those being scored as unemployed. This also impacts on item 21, 'reliant on social assistance' (+3.08%) and item 20, 'Problems' (in managing finances) (+3.19)
- 6) Increases in those assessed as having a 'current alcohol problem' (item 39 and/or a 'current drug problem' (item 40).

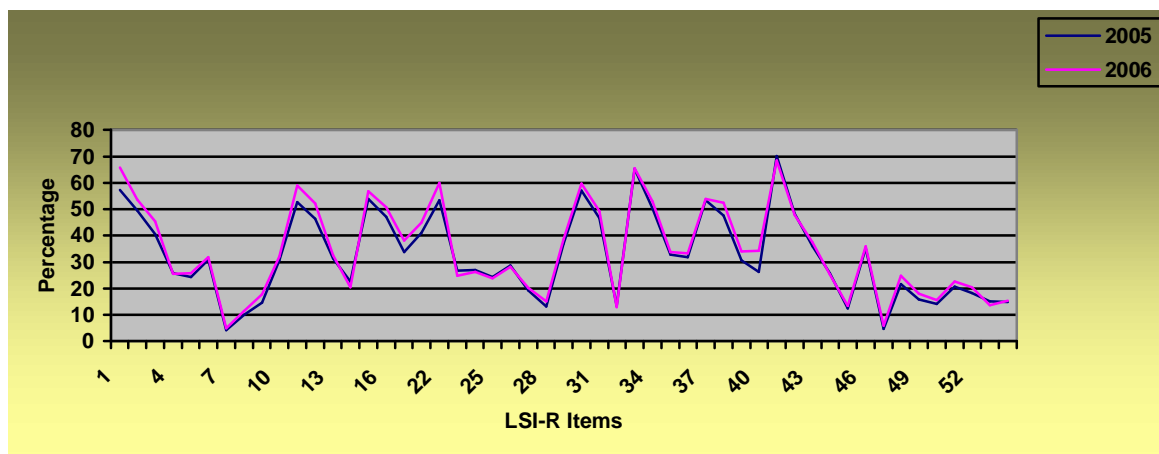


Chart 1

Chart 1 compares the 2005 and 2006 studies in terms of the percentage that individual items scored in the two samples. Within the context of an overall increase in the scores it would be expected that the pattern of need would remain fairly constant. Chart I shows a consistent pattern for the entire sample.

### 3) COMPARATIVE RISK DISTRIBUTIONS BY TEAM/REGION

#### a) All Dublin

**All (n = 664) Mean Score: 20.36 2005: 19.65**

<u>Quartiles</u>	<b>2005</b>	<u>Peter Raynor Distributions</u>		<b>2005</b>
29+	28+	Very High	8.0%	7.1%
21 - 28	19 - 27	High	23.3%	22.4%
13 - 20	11 - 18	Moderate	50.3%	45.4%
12 and Under	10 and under	Low	18.4%	25.1%

#### **Males (n = 174)**

<u>Quartiles</u>	<b>2005</b>	<u>Peter Raynor Distributions</u>		<b>2005</b>
30+	29+	Very High	8.8%	6.5%
22 - 29	20 - 28	High	24.0%	24.2%
14 - 21	11 - 19	Moderate	50.6%	44.0%
13 and Under	10 and under	Low	16.5%	25.3%

#### **Females (n = 53)**

<u>Quartiles</u>	<b>2005</b>	<u>Peter Raynor Distributions</u>		<b>2005</b>
26+	26+	Very High	4.2%	9.6%
20 - 25	18 - 25	High	20.2%	13.8%
10 - 19	12 - 17	Moderate	48.7%	52.1%
9 and Under	11 and under	Low	26.9%	24.5%

The mean score of the sample of tests undertaken by officers in Dublin shows a small increase of 0.71 points compared with the 2005 sample.

There is a significant increase in the number of prior convictions amongst offenders studied in this sample (items 1 – 3) with other scores in the Criminal History sub-component also increasing. There is a 7.85% increase in offenders scored as unemployed (item 11) and a 10.3 increase in those being assessed as having a 'current drug problem' (item 40).

	<b>Mean Scores 2005</b>	<b>Mean Scores 2006</b>
<b>Circuit Ct.</b>	22.11	23.83
<b>Dublin North</b>	17.44	18.78
<b>Dublin South</b>	18.94	19.9
<b>Dublin West</b>	20.20	19.5

*Table 4*

Within Dublin there has been an 'evening up' of scores so that the mean scores of Northside, Southside and Westside are little more than a point apart. The Circuit Court grouping, which include the Bridge Project, would be expected to score higher than the rest of Dublin (table 4)

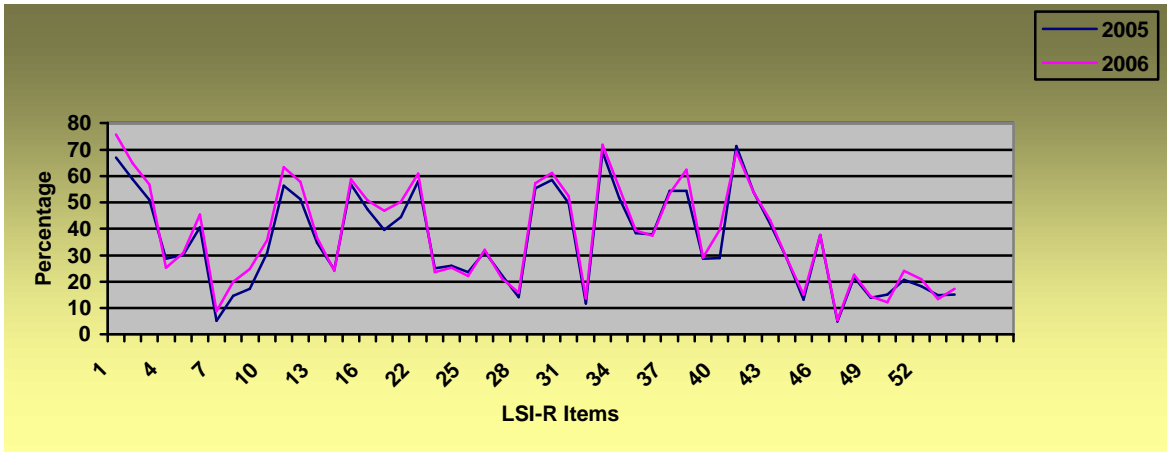


Chart 2

Chart 2 compares mean percentage scores for each item between the 2005 and 2006 studies. Overall the pattern of scoring remains consistent within a small overall increase in scores.

**b) Dublin Northside – Dublin 1, Finglas, Donaghmeded (Dublin C)**

**All (n = 230) Mean Score: 18.78 2005: 17.44**

<u>Quartiles</u>	<b>2005</b>	<u>Peter Raynor Distributions</u>		<b>2005</b>
27+	24+	Very High	3.5%	1.7%
20 - 26	18 - 23	High	23.4%	15.5%
12 - 19	11 - 17	Moderate	52.9%	56.9%
11 and Under	10 and under	Low	20.3%	25.9%

**Males (n = 174)**

<u>Quartiles</u>	<b>2005</b>	<u>Peter Raynor Distributions</u>		<b>2005</b>
28+	24+	Very High	3.4%	2.2%
21 - 27	16 - 23	High	24.7%	15.4%
14 - 20	11 - 15	Moderate	54.6%	55.0%
13 and Under	10 and under	Low	17.2%	27.5%

**Females (n = 53)**

<u>Quartiles</u>	<b>2005</b>	<u>Peter Raynor Distributions</u>		<b>2005</b>
26+	Sample too small	Very High	3.8%	Sample too small
18 - 25		High	18.9%	
8 - 17		Moderate	47.2%	
7 and Under		Low	30.2%	

**Gender not identified (n = 3)**

**Comment**

The mean score of the sample of tests undertaken by officers in Dublin Northside shows an increase of 1.34 points compared with the 2005 sample.

There is an increase of 7.87% in offenders being scored as unemployed (#11), which would be expected to be associated with an overall increase in scores. There were also significant increases in scoring in relation to item 40 'Current drug problem' (+18.9%) and item 46, 'Moderate interference' (+12.8%).

The distribution of scores by interviewer in Dublin Northside would seem to indicate consistency between officers in applying the test.

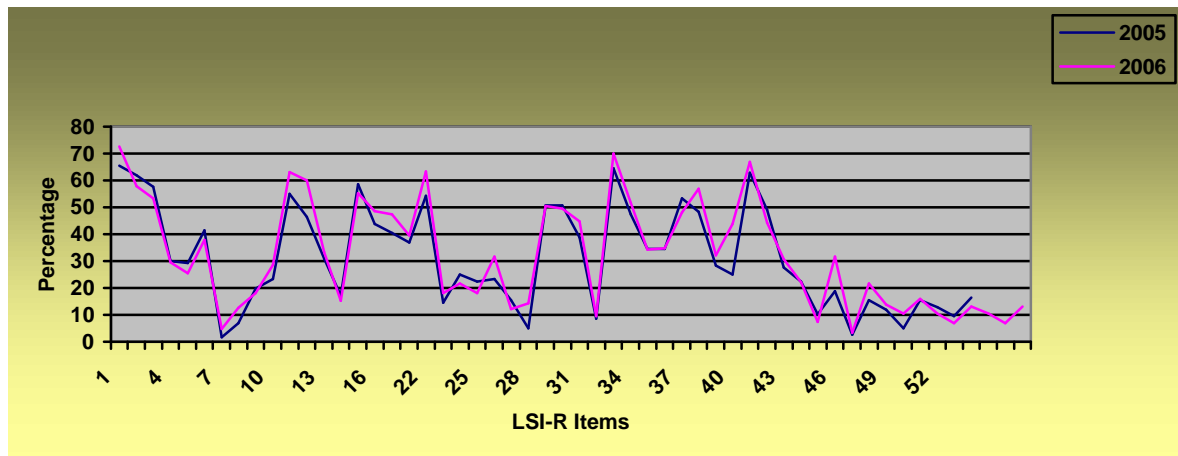


Chart 1

Chart 1 compares mean percentage scores for each item between the 2005 and 2006 studies. Overall the pattern of scoring remains consistent within a small overall increase in scores.

**c) Dublin Southside (Dublin B)**

**All (n = 167) Mean Score: 19.90 2005: 18.94**

<b>Quartiles</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>Peter Raynor Distributions</b>		<b>2005</b>
30+	28+	Very High	6.6%	9.0%
21 - 29	19 - 27	High	24.6%	19.1%
12 - 20	9 - 18	Moderate	49.1%	39.7%
11 and Under	8 and under	Low	19.8%	32.3%

**Males (n = 134)**

<b>Quartiles</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>Peter Raynor Distributions</b>		<b>2005</b>
31+	27+	Very High	8.2%	6.5%
22 - 30	18 - 26	High	24.6%	19.4%
12 - 21	9 - 17	Moderate	47.8%	42.6%
11 and Under	8 and under	Low	19.4%	31.6%

**Females (n = 32)**

<b>Quartiles</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>Peter Raynor Distributions</b>		<b>2005</b>
26+	25+	Very High	0.0%	16.1%
18 - 25	20 - 24	High	21.9%	25.8%
8 - 17	14 - 19	Moderate	56.3%	32.3%
7 and Under	13 and under	Low	21.9%	25.8%

**Comment**

The mean score of the sample of tests undertaken by officers in Dublin Southside shows a small increase of 0.96 points compared with the 2005 sample.

There is a significant increase in the number of prior convictions amongst offenders studied in this sample (items 1 – 3) with other scores in the Criminal History sub-component also increasing. There is a 9.64% increase in offenders scored as unemployed (item 11). These factors would be expected to be associated with an overall increase in scores.

The tests completed by T. Kane show a mean score of 29.2 compared with other testers in the sample whose combined mean score is 18.6. This may indicate that the clients assessed by T. Kane were substantially higher risk than those assessed by other testers, or that T. Kane is applying the test differently compared to other testers.

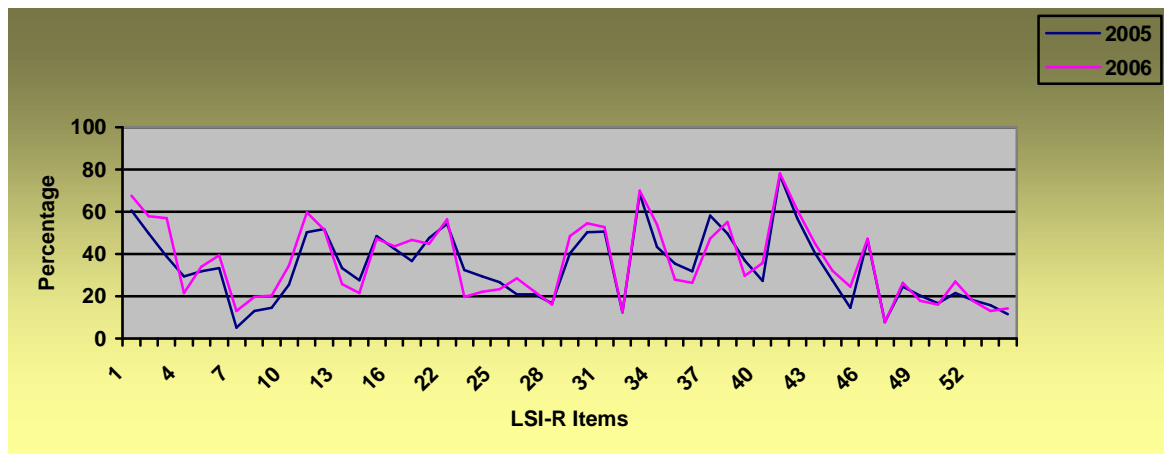


Chart 2

Chart 2 compares mean percentage scores for each item between the 2005 and 2006 studies. Overall the pattern of scoring remains consistent within a small overall increase in scores.

**d) Dublin Westside – Ballyfermot, Clondalkin, Blanchardstown (Dublin A)**

**All (n = 161) Mean Score: 19.50 2005: 20.20**

<u>Quartiles</u>	<b>2005</b>	<u>Peter Raynor Distributions</u>	<b>2005</b>
28+	27+	Very High	4.5% 3.0%
22 - 27	22 - 26	High	24.5% 26.5%
14 - 21	13 - 21	Moderate	54.2% 54.9%
13 and Under	12 and under	Low	16.8% 15.7%

**Males (n = 131)**

<u>Quartiles</u>		<u>Peter Raynor Distributions</u>	
29+	29+	Very High	3.8 % 4%
22 - 28	21 - 28	High	25.6% 32%
14 - 21	13 - 20	Moderate	55.7% 48%
13 and Under	12 and under	Low	14.5% 16%

**Females (n = 24) Sample too small)**

**Gender not identified in 6 tests.**

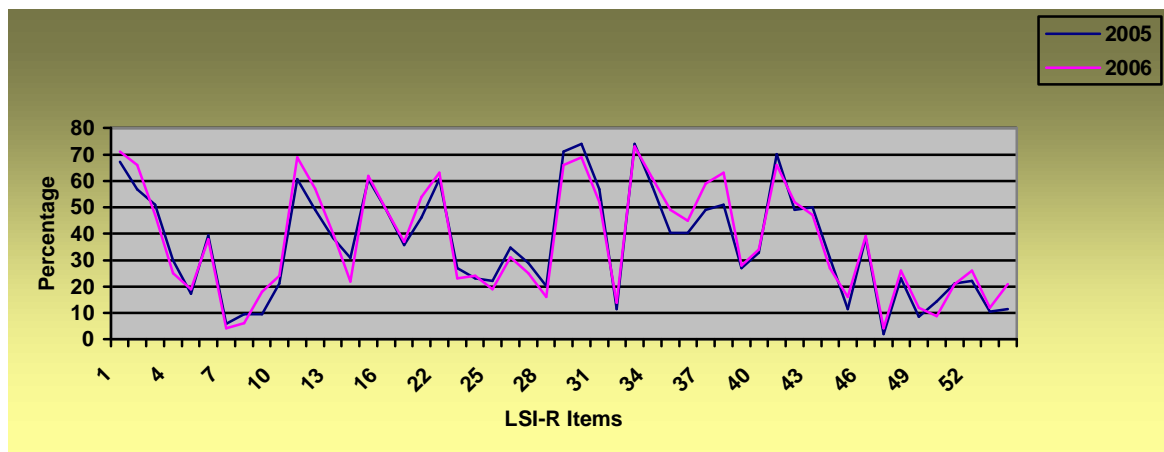
**Comment**

The mean score of the sample of tests undertaken by officers in Dublin Westside shows a small increase of 0.7 points compared with the 2005 sample.

There is a 8.42% increase in the number of offenders tested who are scored as unemployed (item 11), a 7.85% increase in those assessed as having problems managing their finances, and a general increase in the scoring the 'Companions' subcomponent.

The distribution of scores by interviewers in Dublin West would seem to indicate consistency between officers in applying the test.

Chart 3 compares mean percentage scores for each item between the 2005 and 2006 studies. Overall the pattern of scoring remains consistent within a small overall increase in scores.



*Chart 3*



e) **Circuit Court Northside & Southside Dublin and Bridge Project (Dublin D)**

All (n = 121) Mean Score: 23.83 2005: 22.11

<u>Quartiles</u>	<b>2005</b>	<u>Peter Raynor Distributions</u>	<b>2005</b>
36+	32+	Very High	23.5 % 11.9%
25 - 35	24 - 31	High	20.0% 29.9%
15 - 24	12 - 23	Moderate	41.7% 35.1%
14 and Under	11 and under	Low	14.8% 23.1%

**Males (n = 106)**

<u>Quartiles</u>		<u>Peter Raynor Distributions</u>	
35+	33+	Very High	24.5% 11.5%
25 - 34	24 - 32	High	19.8% 32.0%
15 - 24	12 - 23	Moderate	41.5% 35.3%
14 and Under	11 and under	Low	14.2% 21.3%

**Female Samples too small**

**Comment**

The mean score of the sample of tests undertaken by officers in Dublin Northside shows an increase of 1.72 points compared with the 2005 sample. The items where there is a significant change in patterns of scoring are:

A feature of the increase in scores in this sample is that there has been a 9.87% increase in scoring in the Criminal History sub-component. This sub-component is almost entirely factual, static risk factors and may indicate that the clients are more criminally 'experienced' or that more is known about the criminal histories of those being assessed.

There are also increases in relation to employment and education scores which would again suggest that the client group being tested do have more problems in those areas compared to the 2005 sample, or that more is known about the clients being assessed.

There are other significant increases in scoring in relation to problems in managing finance (item 21), involvement in organised activities (item 30), current drug problems (item 40) and attitudes towards crime and convention (items 51 and 52).

The tests completed by E. Kavanagh show a mean score of 33.4 compared with other testers in the sample whose combined mean score is 21.86. This may indicate that the clients assessed by E. Kavanagh were substantially higher risk than those assessed by other testers, or that E. Kavanagh is applying the test differently compared to other testers.

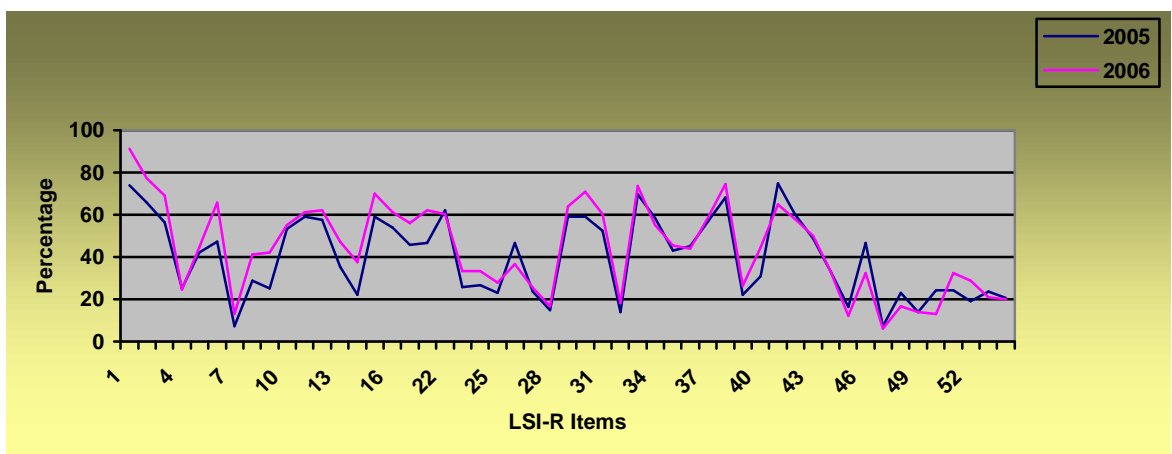


Chart 6

Chart 6 compares mean percentage scores for each item between the 2005 and 2006 studies. Overall the pattern of scoring remains consistent within a small overall increase in scores.

f) **South West – Cork, Kerry, Limerick (Non Dublin C)**

All (n = 181) Mean Score: 16.00 2005: 18.83

Quartiles	2005	Peter Raynor Distributions	2005
23+	24+	Very High	2.8%
16 - 22	18 - 23	High	13.8%
9 - 15	11 - 17	Moderate	50.8%
8 and Under	10 and under	Low	32.6%
			25.9%

Males (n = 147)

Quartile	2005	Peter Raynor Distributions	2005
23+	24+	Very High	2.0%
16 - 22	18 - 23	High	14.3%
8 - 15	11 - 17	Moderate	50.3%
7 and Under	10 and under	Low	33.3%
			27.5%

Females (34)

Quartile	2005	Peter Raynor Distributions	2005
23+	Female Sample too small	Very High	5.9%
17 - 22	Female Sample too small	High	11.8%
9 - 16	Female Sample too small	Moderate	52.9%
8 and under	Female Sample too small	Low	29.4%

**Comment**

The mean score of the sample of tests undertaken by officers in the South West Region shows a fall in mean scores of 2.83 points compared with the 2005 sample. There are falls in scores in all sub components with the exception of an 8.1% increase in those reported as being in receipt of social assistance (item 21) and a small increase in the scores in the Emotional/Personal subcomponent.

The reduction in scores is within the context of those tested scoring higher in relation to previous convictions.

The distribution of scores by interviewers in the South West Region would seem to indicate consistency between officers in applying the test.

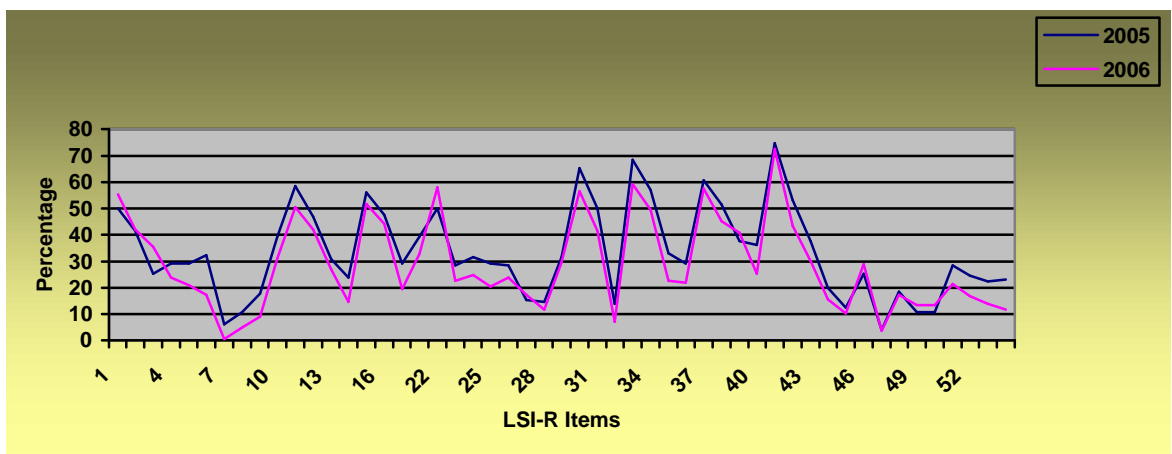


Chart 7

Chart 7 compares mean percentage scores for each item between the 2005 and 2006 studies. Overall the pattern of scoring remains consistent within a small overall increase in scores.

**g) South East – Clonmel, Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford, Carlow (Non Dublin A)**

**All (n = 98) Mean Score: 16.18 2005: 12.59**

<b>Quartiles</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>Peter Raynor Distributions</b>		<b>2005</b>
24+	17+	Very High	5.5%	2.5%
15 - 23	11 - 16	High	15.9%	7.4%
8 - 14	6 - 11	Moderate	43.8%	40.2%
7 and Under	5 and under	Low	34.8%	50.0%

**Males (n = 179)**

<b>Quartile</b>		<b>Peter Raynor Distributions</b>		
25+	20+	Very High	5.6%	3.0%
15 - 24	11 - 16	High	16.8%	9.1%
8 - 14	6 - 10	Moderate	44.7%	42.4%
7 and Under	5 and under	Low	33.0%	45.5%

**Females (22)**

**Female Samples too small**

**Comment**

The mean score of the sample of tests undertaken by officers in the South East Region shows an increase in mean scores of 3.59 points compared with the 2005 sample.

Increases in scores are seen consistently throughout the test including an 11% increase in those scored as unemployed (item 11) and an 11% increase in those scored as reliant on social assistance (item 21).

There are increases of 9.48% and 11.4% respectively recorded in relation to 'Alcohol problem, current' (item 38) and 'Drug problem, current' (item 40).

The distribution of scores by interviewers in the South East Region would seem to indicate consistency between officers in applying the test.

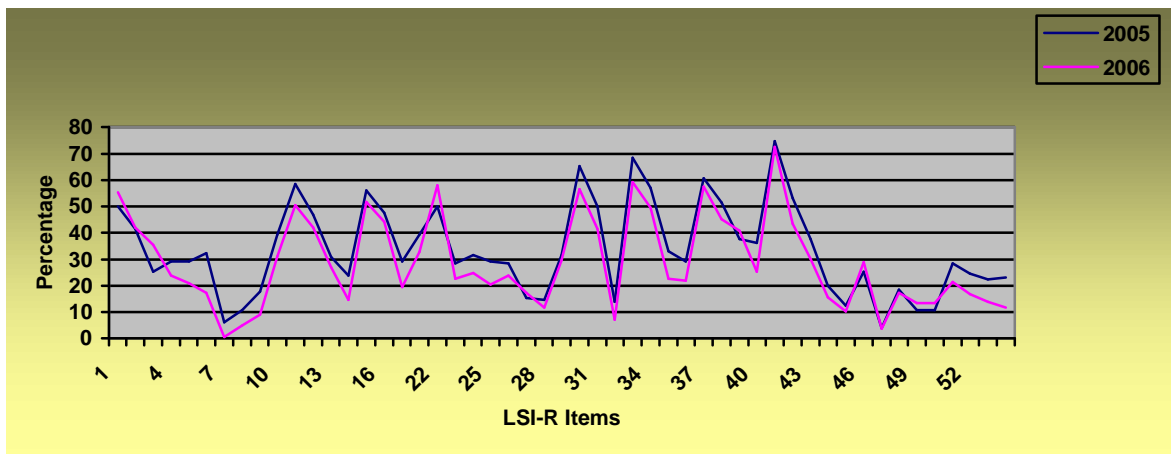


Chart 8

Chart 8 compares mean percentage scores for each item between the 2005 and 2006 studies. Overall the pattern of scoring remains consistent within a small overall increase in scores.

**h) Mid West – Galway, Athlone, Portlouse (Non Dublin D)**

**All (n = 238) Mean Score: 20.52 2005: 17.23**

<b>Quartiles</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>Peter Raynor Distributions</b>		<b>2005</b>
31+	26+	Very High	15.9%	5.6%
22 - 30	17 - 25	High	23.6%	16.0%
14 - 21	7 - 16	Moderate	45.2%	43.8%
13 and Under	6 and under	Low	15.4%	34.7%

**Males (n = 160)**

<b>Quartile</b>		<b>Peter Raynor Distributions</b>		
31+	26+	Very High	16.9%	4.0%
24 - 31	17 - 25	High	24.4%	19.2%
14 - 23	7 - 16	Moderate	42.5%	43.4%
13 and Under	6 and under	Low	16.3%	33.4%

**Females (48)**

<b>Quartiles</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>Peter Raynor Distributions</b>		<b>2005</b>
29+	25+	Very High	12.5%	10.0%
22 - 28	16 - 24	High	20.8%	10.0%
15 - 21	7 - 15	Moderate	54.2%	40.0%
14 and Under	6 and under	Low	12.5%	40.0%

**Comment**

The mean score of the sample of tests undertaken by officers in the Mid West Region shows an increase in mean scores of 3.29 points compared with the 2005 sample.

Increases in scores are seen consistently throughout the test including substantial increases in the Criminal History subcomponent and a 12% increase in those scored as unemployed (item 11)

There are increases of 23.2% and 13.5% respectively recorded in relation to 'Alcohol problem, current' (item 38) and 'Drug problem, current' (item 40).

The tests completed by L. Long show a mean score of 33.5 compared with other testers in the sample whose combined mean score is 18.2. This may indicate that the clients assessed by L. Long were substantially higher risk than those assessed by other testers, or that L. Long is applying the test differently compared to other testers.

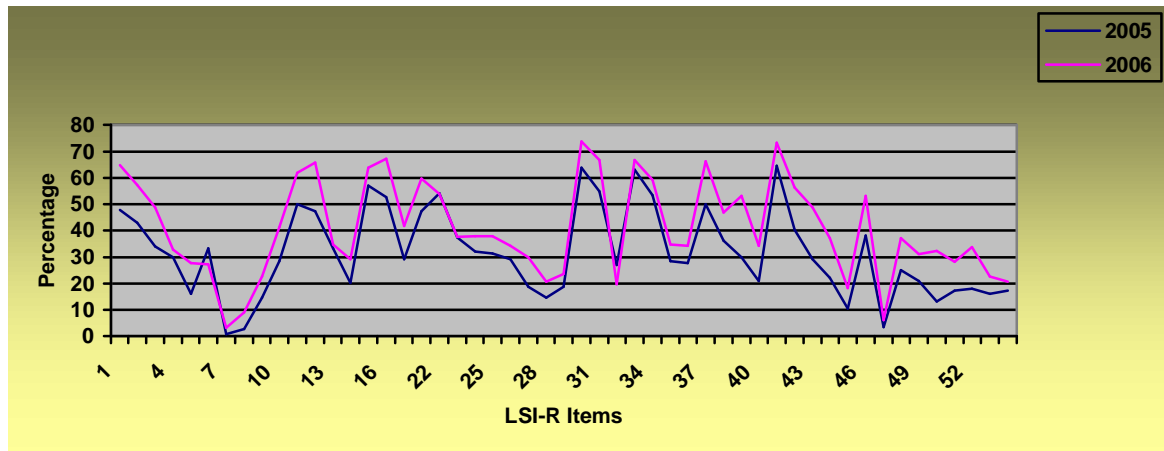


Chart 7 compares mean percentage scores for each item between the 2005 and 2006 studies. Overall the pattern of scoring remains consistent within a small overall increase in scores

i) **North West – Castlebar, Sligo, Navan, Dundalk (Non Dublin B)**

All (n = 61) Mean Score: 15.99 2005: 14.92

Quartiles	2005	Peter Raynor Distributions	2005
25+	20+	Very High	5.6% 2.7%
15 - 24	14 - 19	High	16.2% 13.5%
9 - 14	7 - 13	Moderate	44.7% 51.4%
8 and Under	6 and under	Low	33.5% 32.4%

**Males (n = 140)**

Quartile	2005	Peter Raynor Distributions	2005
25+	20+	Very High	6.4% 3.2%
16 - 24	14 - 19	High	17.9% 12.9%
8 - 15	7 - 13	Moderate	41.4% 51.6%
7 and Under	6 and under	Low	34.3% 32.6%

**Females (21)**

**Female Samples too small**

**Comment**

The mean score of the sample of tests undertaken by officers in the North West Region shows an increase in mean scores of 1.07 points compared with the 2005 sample. It should be noted that the 2005 sample comprised only 38 tests.

Increases in scores are primarily caused by increases in the Criminal History, Financial and Family/Marital subcomponents and higher scoring in relation to the Education items (15-17).

The distribution of scores by interviewers in the North West Region would seem to indicate consistency between officers in applying the test.

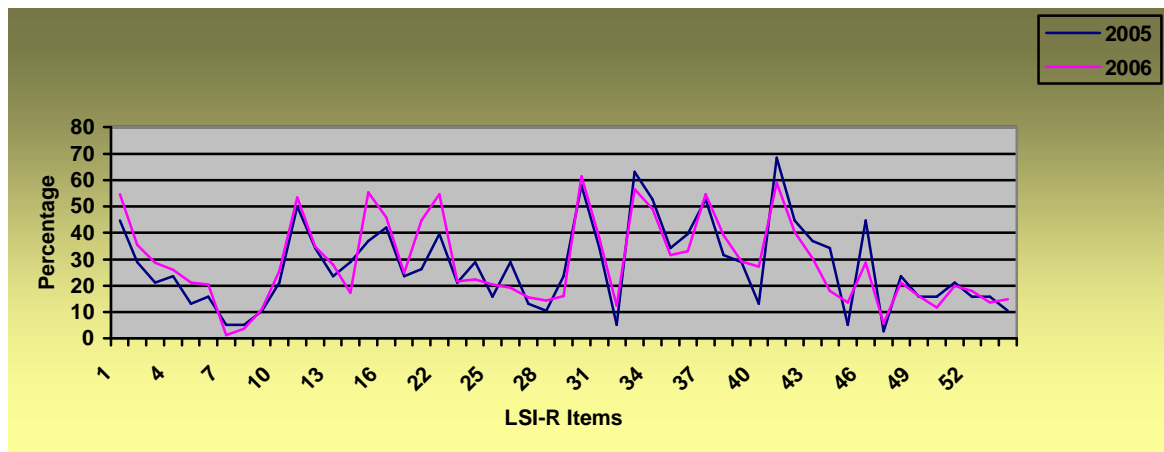


Chart 8

Chart 8 compares mean percentage scores for each item between the 2005 and 2006 studies. Overall the pattern of scoring remains consistent within a small overall increase in scores.

**j) Prison**

**All (n = 74)**

<b><u>Quartiles</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>Peter Raynor Classification</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	
36+	37+	Very High	20.3%	29.3%
30 – 35	31 – 36	High	50.0%	34.2%
25 – 29	22 - 30	Moderate	28.4%	29.3%
24 and under	21 and under	Low	1.4%	7.3%

**Males (n= 69)**

<b><u>Quartiles</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>Peter Raynor Classification</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	
36+	37+	Very High	20.3%	29.3%
31 – 35	31 – 36	High	49.3%	34.2%
25 – 30	22 - 30	Moderate	29.0%	29.3%
25 and under	21 and under	Low	1.45%	7.3%

Both female samples too small.

The sample of LSI-Rs undertaken on the prison population shows similar levels of risk to those found in the smaller 2005 sample. In the current sample over 70% are assessed as high or very high risk.

**k) Homeless Team**

A sample of 22 tests was identified as from the Homeless Team. The sample is too small for detailed analysis, but the average score is 28.2 and the range 11 to 42

**l) St Patricks**

A sample of 20 tests was identified as from St. Patricks. The sample is too small for detailed analysis, but the average score is 31.9 and the range 20 to 40.

#### 4) RISK DISTRIBUTIONS - Proposals & Disposals

##### i) Probation Proposals (192)

<u>Quartiles</u>	<u>Peter Raynor Classification</u>	
24+	Very High	1.6%
19 – 23	High	17.2%
14 – 18	Moderate	66.7%
13 and under	Low	14.6%

On the basis of the sample where the proposal was recorded two thirds of the cases where probation was recommended fall within the moderate category. This category is quite broad (11 – 26) and it might be helpful in reviewing targeting to split this category into low/moderate (11 – 17) and high/moderate (18 – 25). On this basis of the 123 cases falling into the moderate category 57 scored low/moderate and 66 scored high/moderate.

In all 47% of the recommendations for probation scored low or low/moderate. It can be argued that this is inconsistent with the risk principle that interventions should be targeted at high to medium risk offenders. Overall current probation provision does seem to be targeted at too low a level in risk terms. However the Irish Probation Service has historically encompassed a welfare approach and recent targeting may well reflect that. As the Service moves away from the welfare role it is reasonable to expect that higher risk offenders will be targeted for intervention.

##### ii) Probation Disposals (167)

<u>Quartiles</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>Peter Raynor Classification</u>		<u>2005</u>
25+	23+	Very High	1.2%	2.4%
19 – 24	19 – 22	High	18.9%	14.1%
13 – 18	12 – 18	Moderate	62.8%	63.5%
12 and under	11 and under	Low	17.7%	20%

The probation disposals broadly reflect the patterns of proposals as would be expected.

##### iii) Probation and Community Service Disposals (31)

<u>Quartiles</u>	-	<u>Peter Raynor Classification</u>	
24+	-	Very High	0.0%
16 – 23	-	High	16.1%
11 – 15	-	Moderate	64.5%
10 and under	-	Low	19.4%

The Probation and Community Service disposals show a similar pattern to the Probation disposals.

## 5) Community Service Orders using the LSI-R Screening Version (LSI-SV) (n = 221)

The distribution of the screening version tests is as follows:

LSI-SV Score	Nos.
0	24
1	36
2	38
3	37
4	32
5	21
6	19
7	13
8	1

Table 1

In terms of understanding the actual risk levels of LSI-SV it is necessary to calibrate the Screening Version with the full LSI-R in Ireland. This has been done by studying the screening version items scored in the full LSI-R tests. Thus for example the mean score of those full LSI-R tests where three SV items are scored is 14.0. This offers a broad understanding of what the screening version scores mean in terms of the Raynor (1998) risk bandings.

LSI-SV Score	LSI-R Mean Score
0	<b>4.7</b>
1	<b>9.3</b>
2	<b>14.0</b>
3	<b>18.3</b>
4	<b>23.1</b>
5	<b>29.6</b>
6	<b>30.2</b>
7	<b>38.2</b>
8	<b>39.9</b>

Table 2

Table 2 shows the mean full LSI-R score for each SV score. From this the following risk bandings emerge:

### **Risk Bandings (Raynor 1998)**

	<b><u>LSI-R</u></b>	<b><u>LSI-SV</u></b>
<b>Very High</b>	<b>36+</b>	<b>7 - 8</b>
<b>High</b>	<b>26 – 35</b>	<b>5 - 6</b>
<b>Moderate</b>	<b>11 – 25</b>	<b>2 - 4</b>
<b>Low</b>	<b>10 and under</b>	<b>0 – 1</b>

The Screening Version needs to be used with the knowledge that within any given range of scores there can be significant variations in actual risk. For example of the LSI-R tests where none of the SV items were scored 9.5% score in the LSI-R moderate risk banding, and the range of scores is 0 to 20. The Screening Version is thus reliable most of the time but users may need to use professional discretion more often than with the full LSI-R.

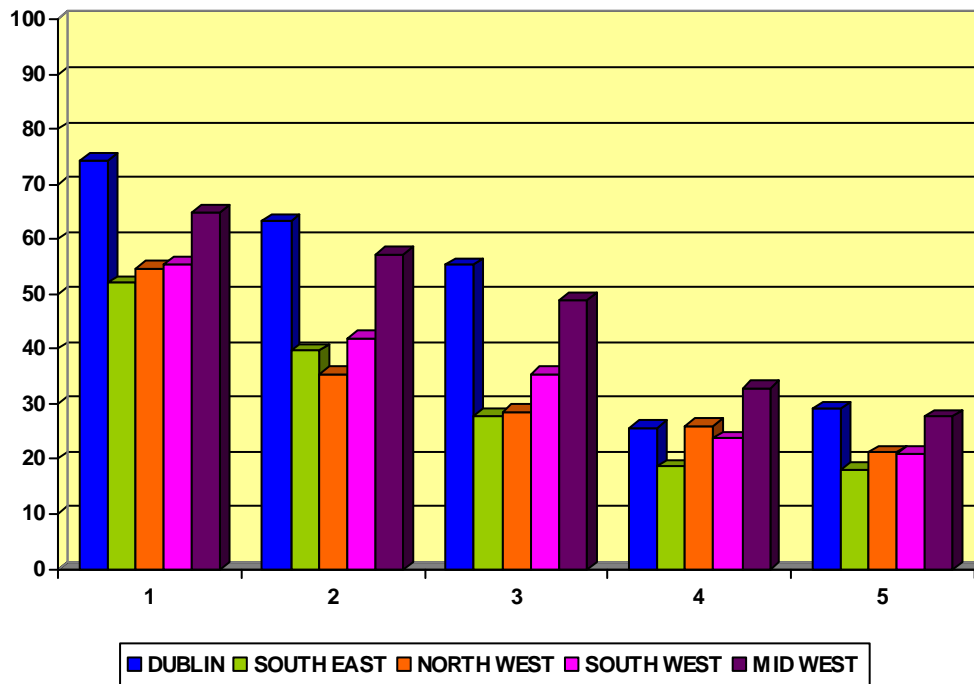


## 6) COMPARISON BETWEEN NEEDS PROFILES

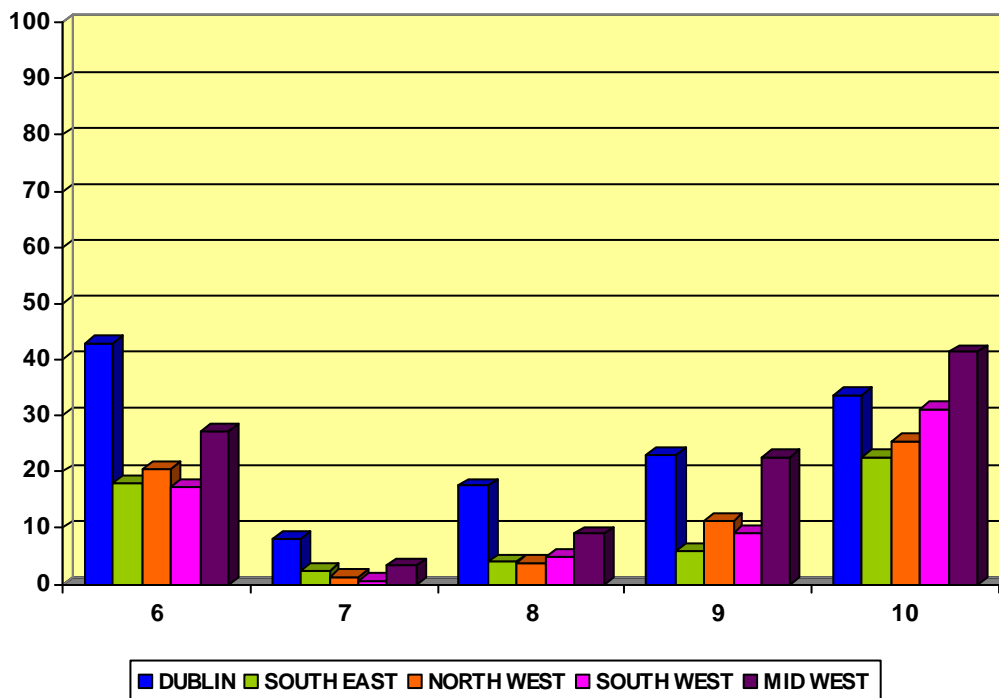
The need profiles by Area or Region, within Dublin, by gender and by age carried out in the 2005 study have been repeated. Within the context of increasing scores the patterns and profiles generally remain constant. For example, the differing profiles of male and female look very similar to the 2005 sample.

### i) By Region or Area

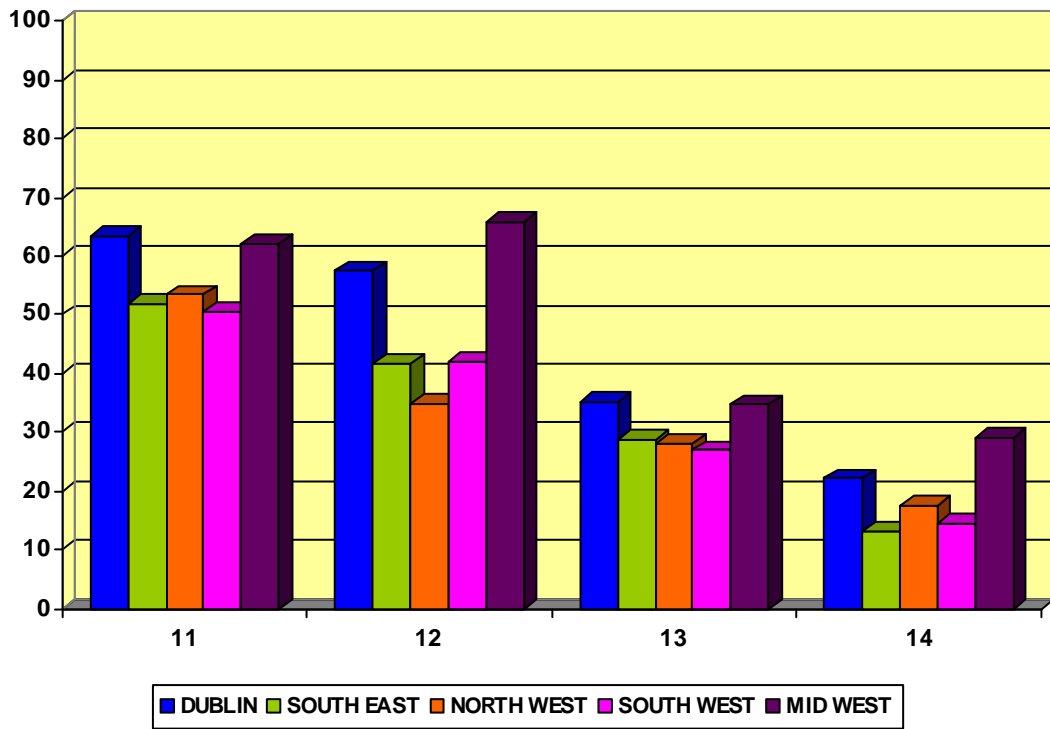
#### a) CRIMINAL HISTORY (% scored as risk)



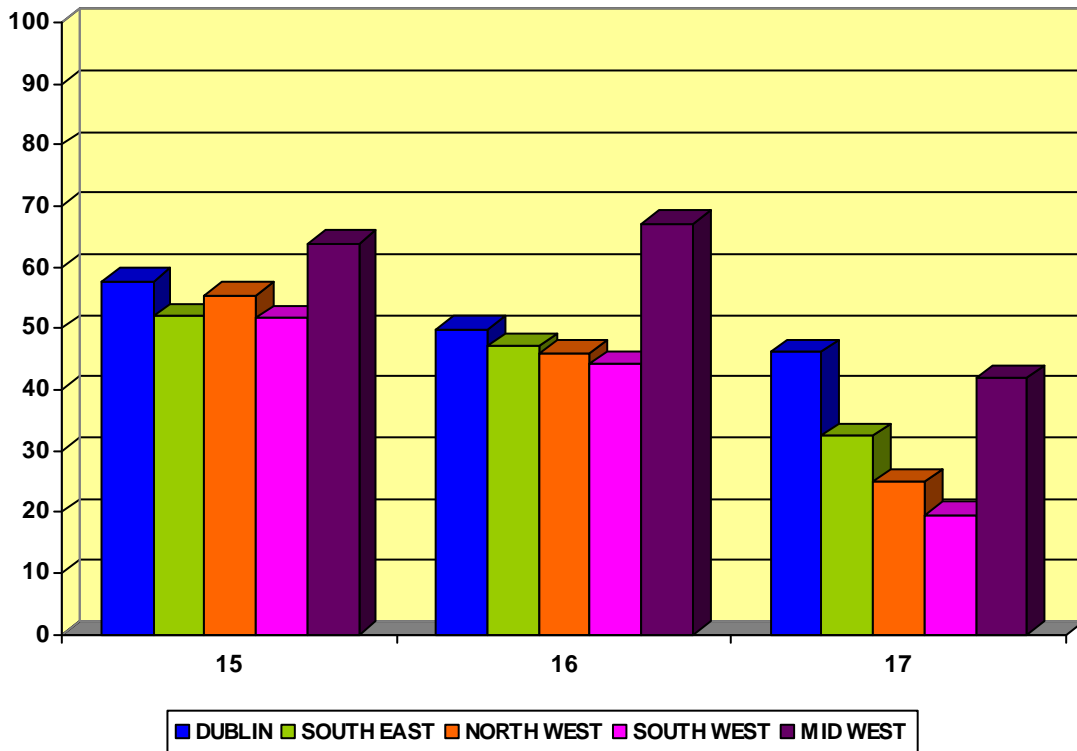
#### b) CRIMINAL HISTORY (% scored as risk)



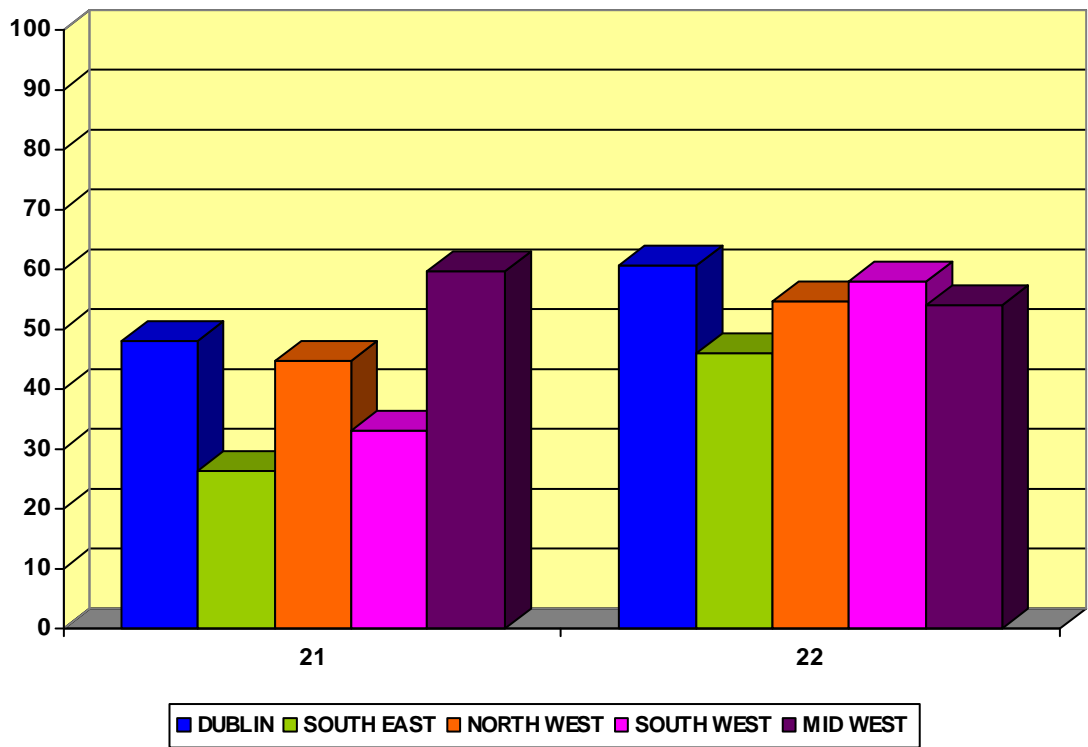
**c) EMPLOYMENT (% scored as risk)**



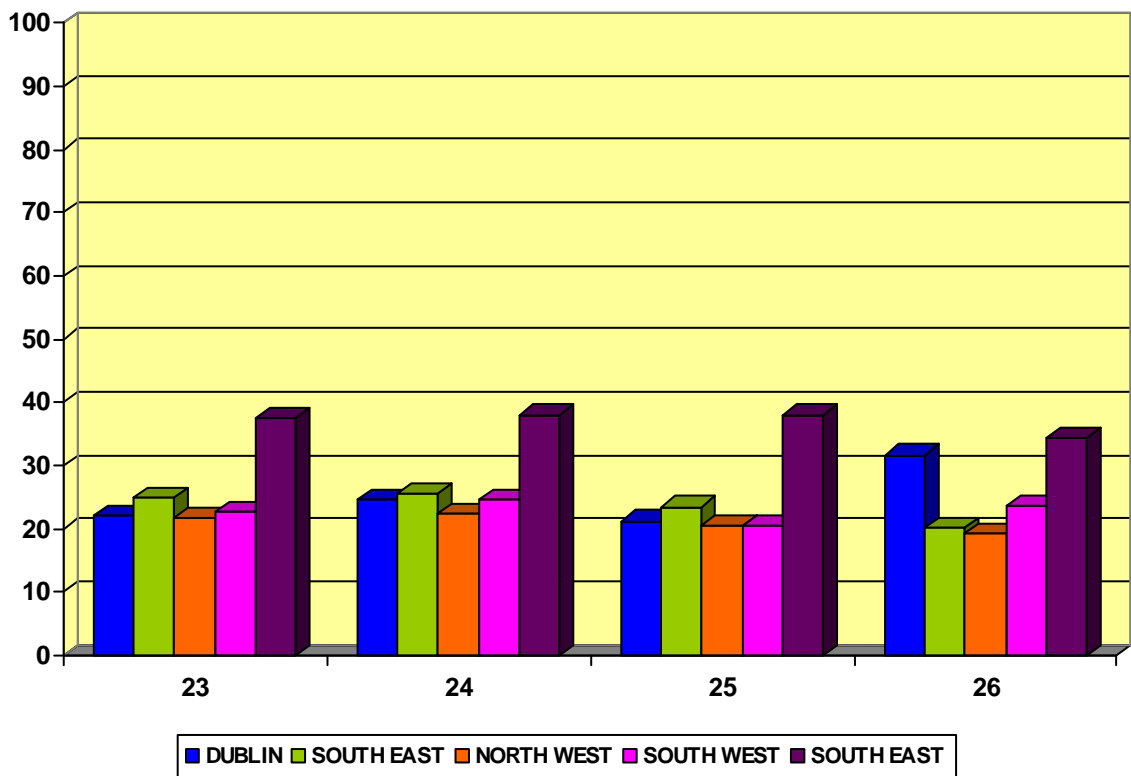
**d) EDUCATION (% scored as risk)**



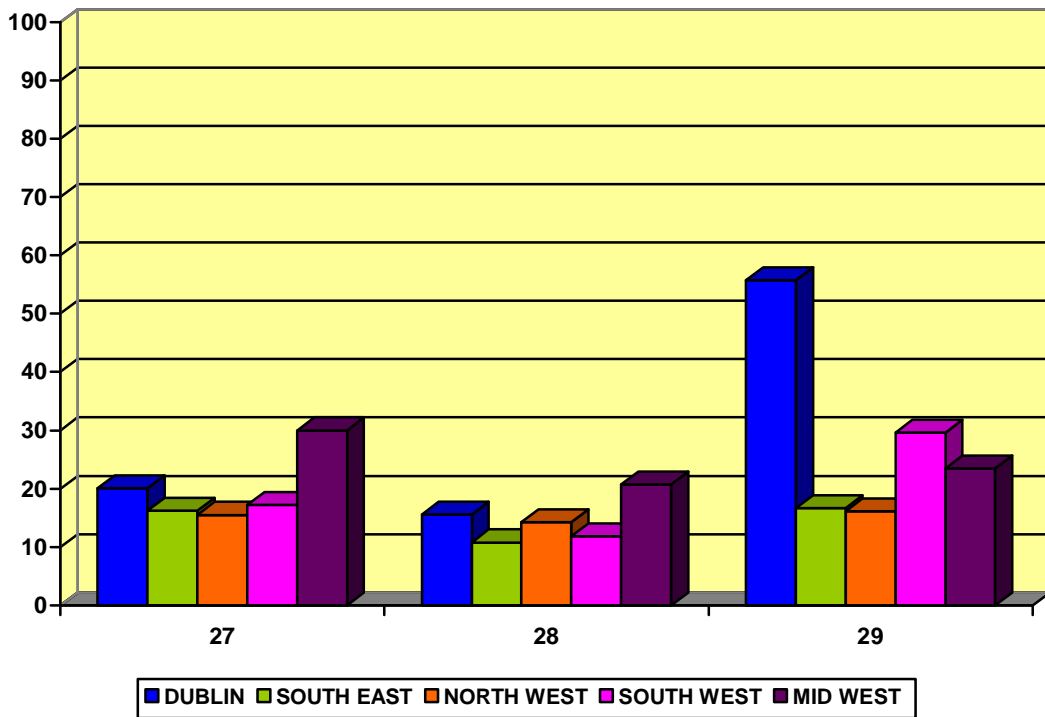
e) **FINANCE** (% scored as risk)



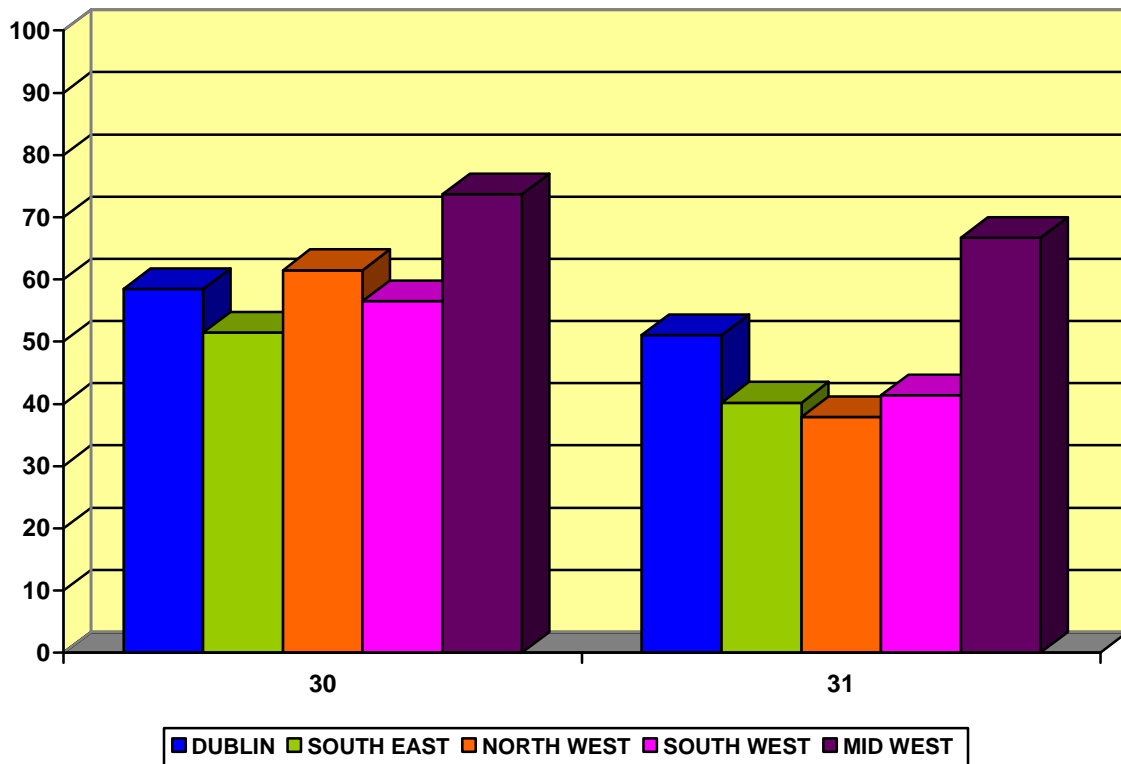
f) **FAMILY/MARITAL** (% scored as risk)



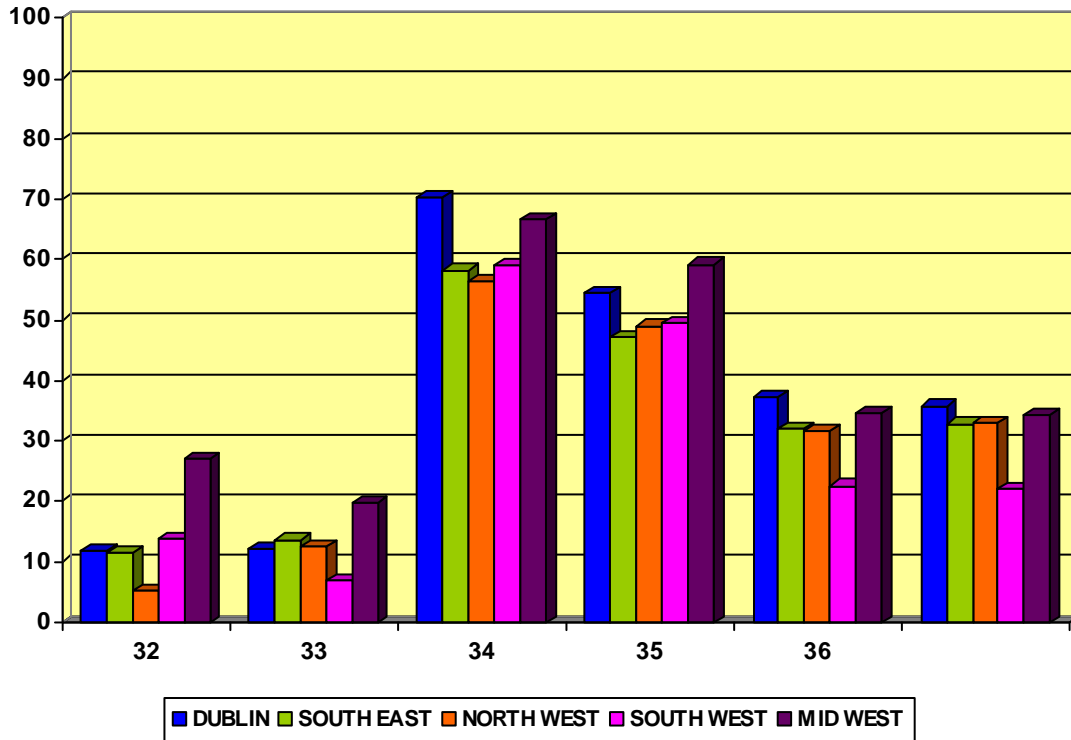
**g) ACCOMMODATION** (% scored as risk)



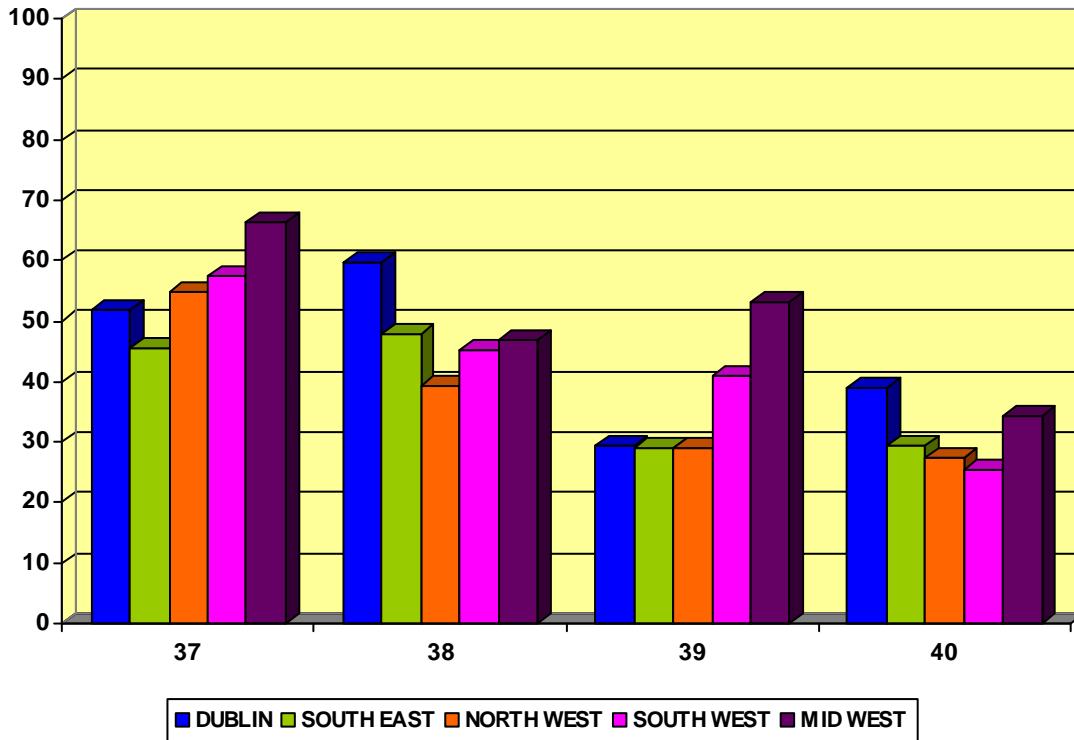
**h) LEISURE/RECREATION** (% scored as risk)



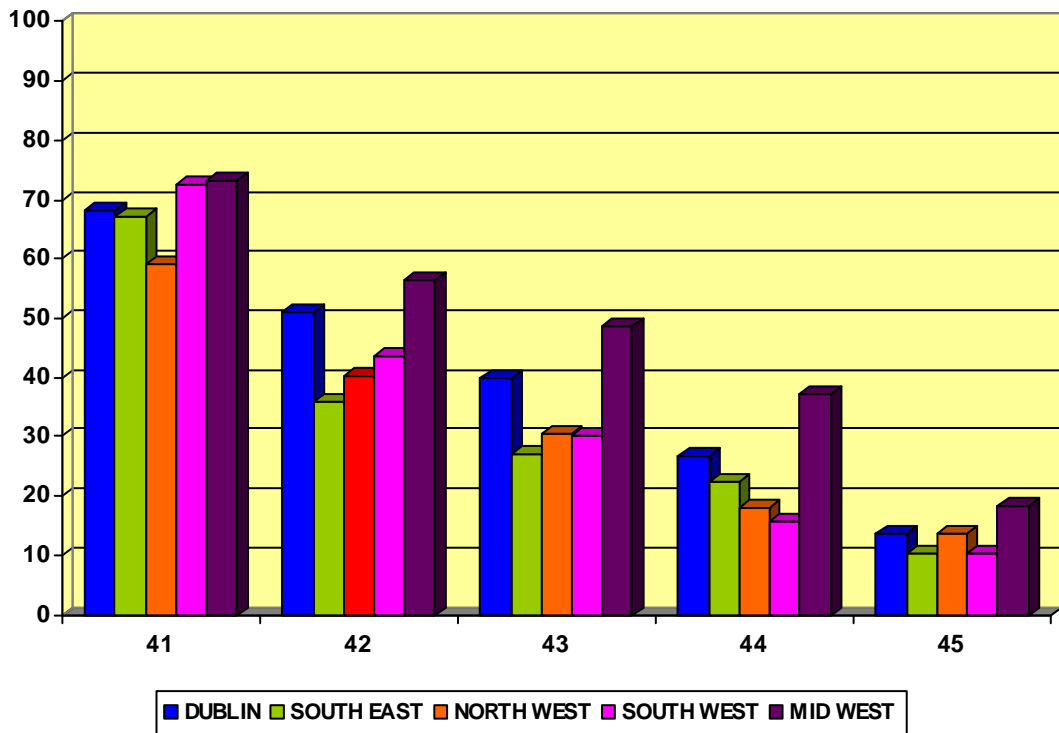
i) **COMPANIONS** (% scored as risk)



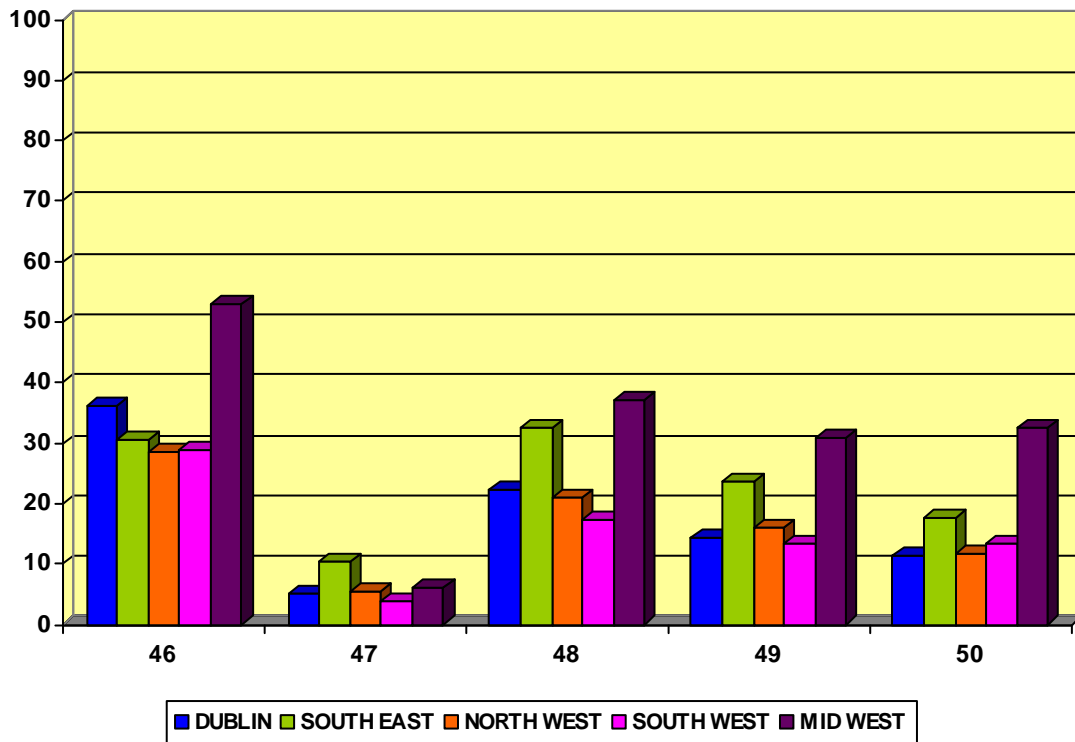
j) **ALCOHOL/DRUGS – Past and current problem** (% scored as risk)



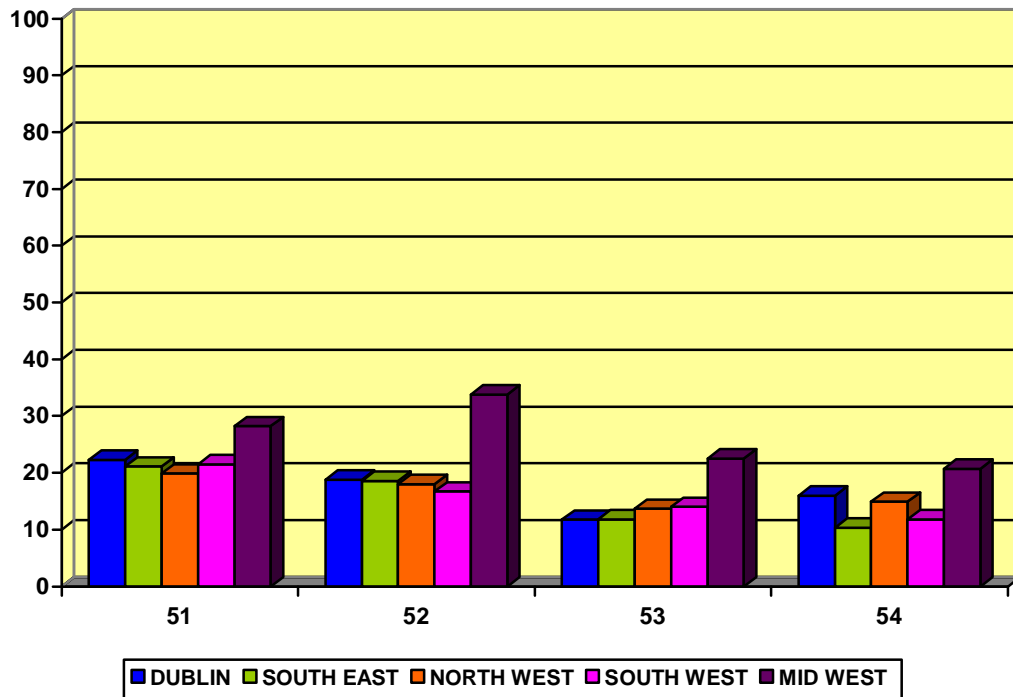
**k) ALCOHOL/DRUGS – Impact on functioning (% scored as risk)**



**l) EMOTIONAL/PERSONAL (% scored as risk)**

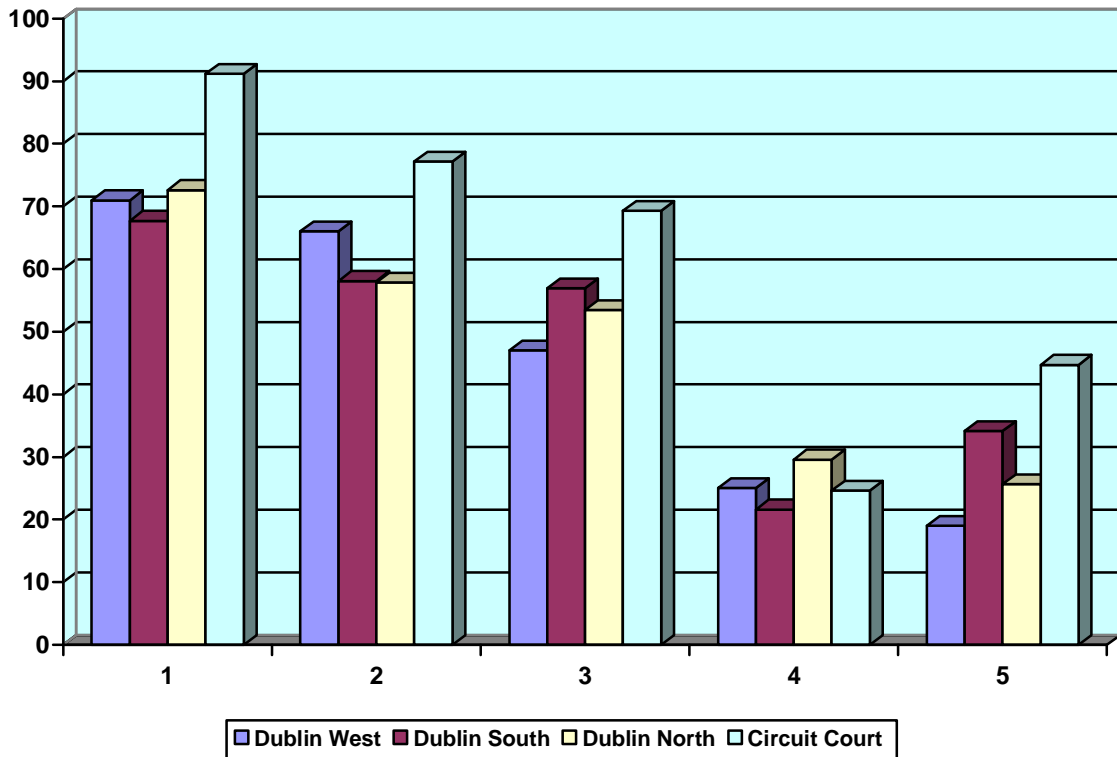


m) **ATTITUDE/ORIENTATION** (% scored as risk)

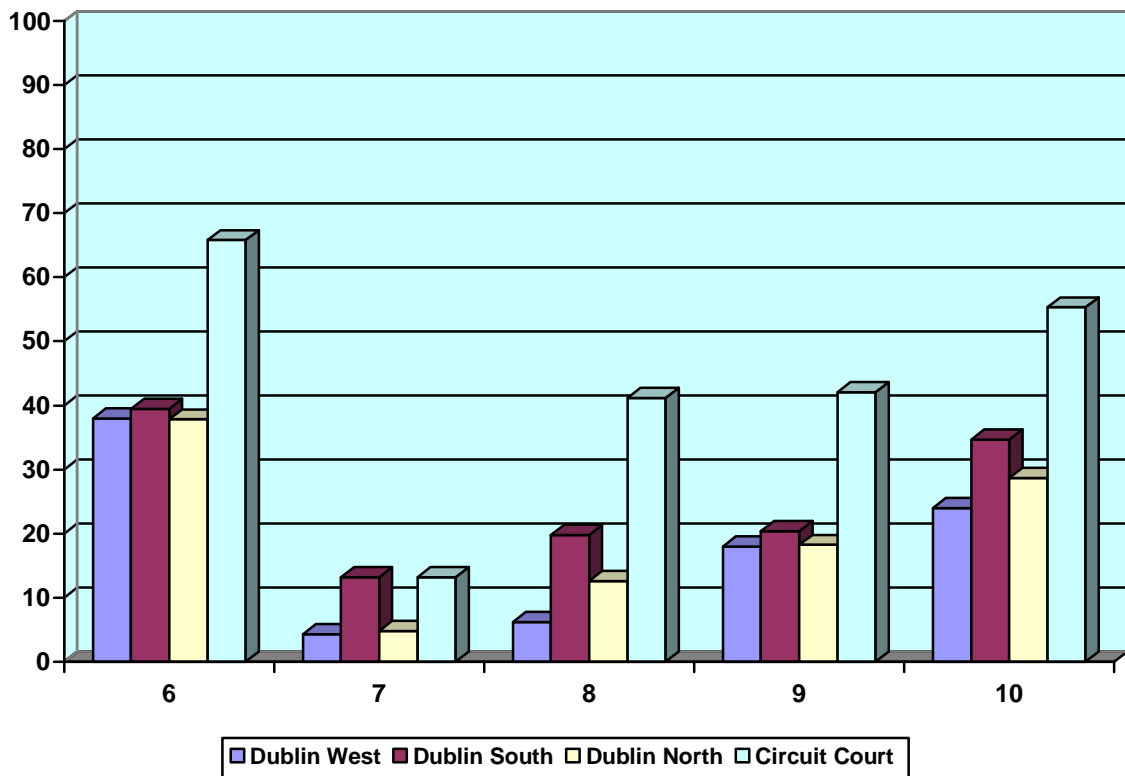


**ii) By Dublin Area**

**1a) CRIMINAL HISTORY (% scored as risk)**

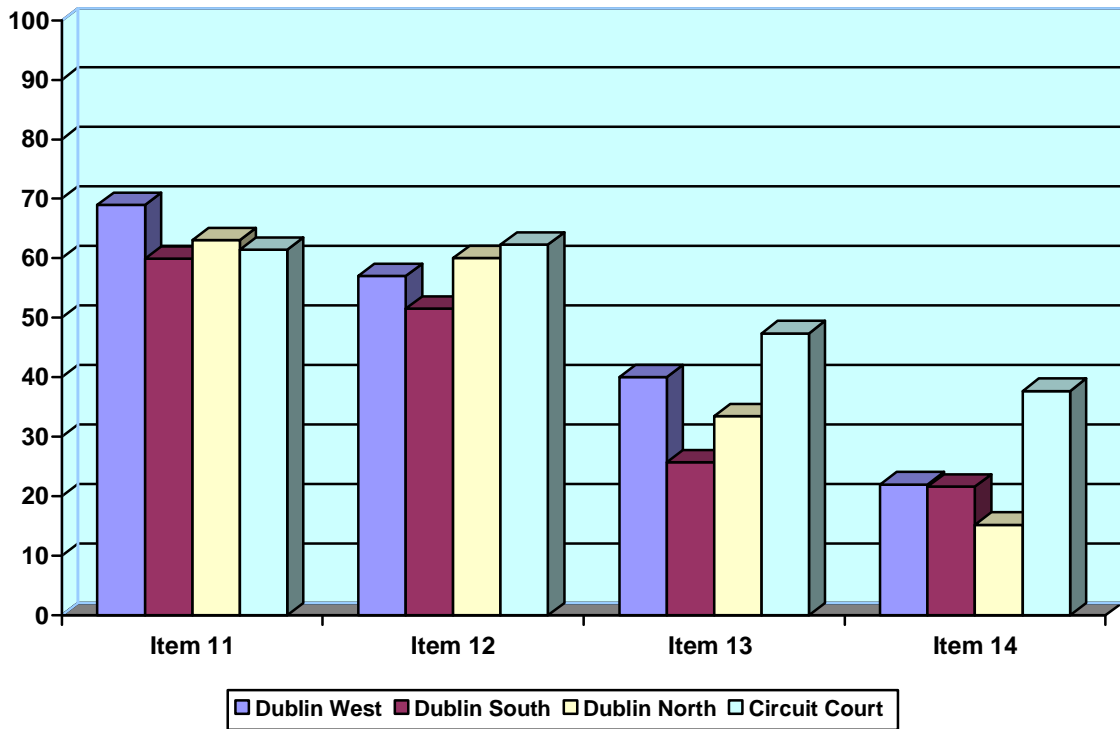


**1b) CRIMINAL HISTORY (% scored as risk)**

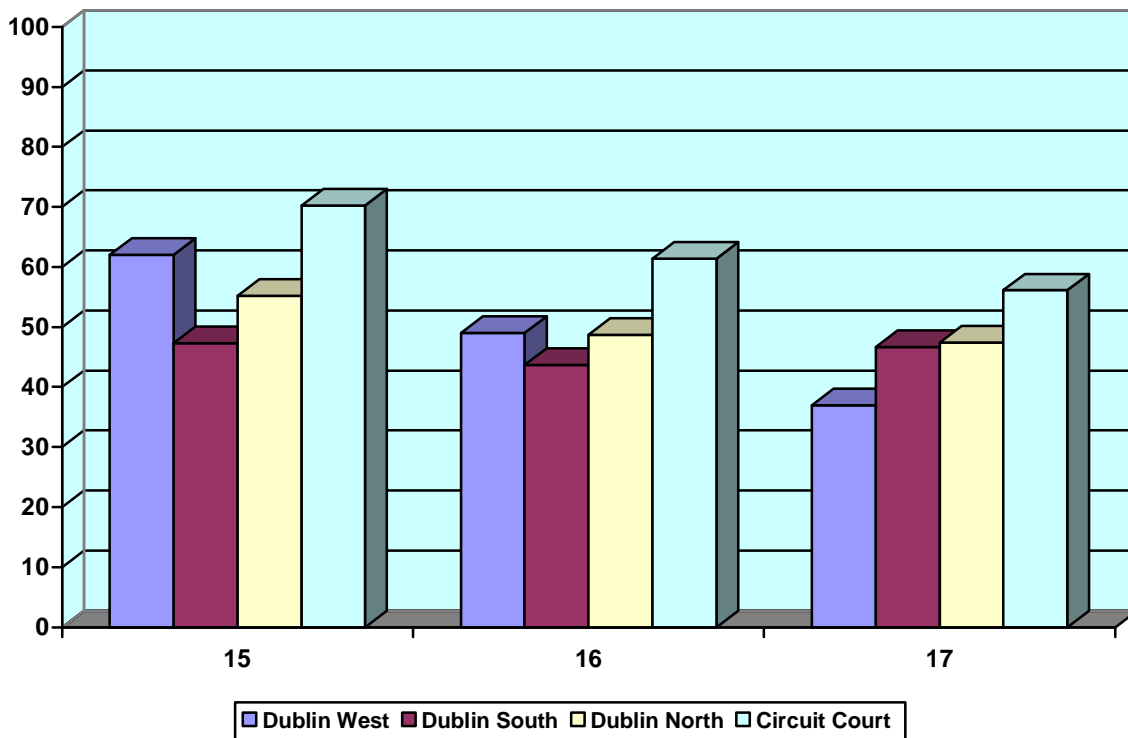




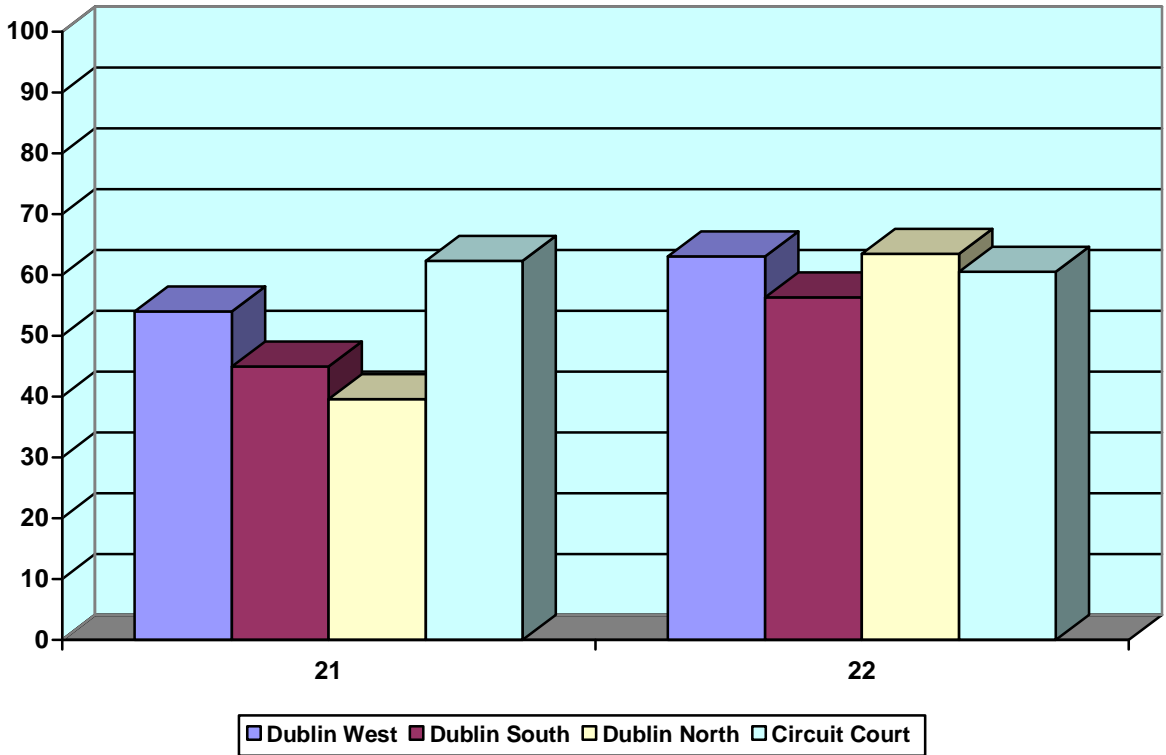
**2) EMPLOYMENT** (% scored as risk)



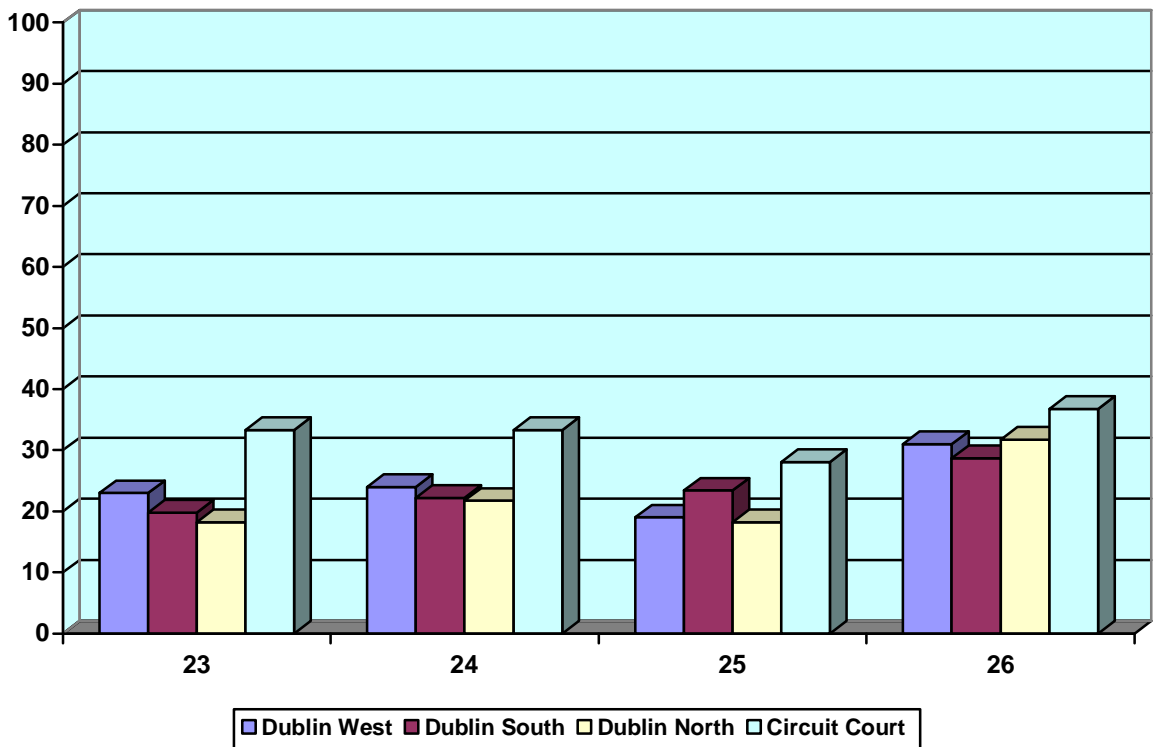
**3) EDUCATION** (% scored as risk)



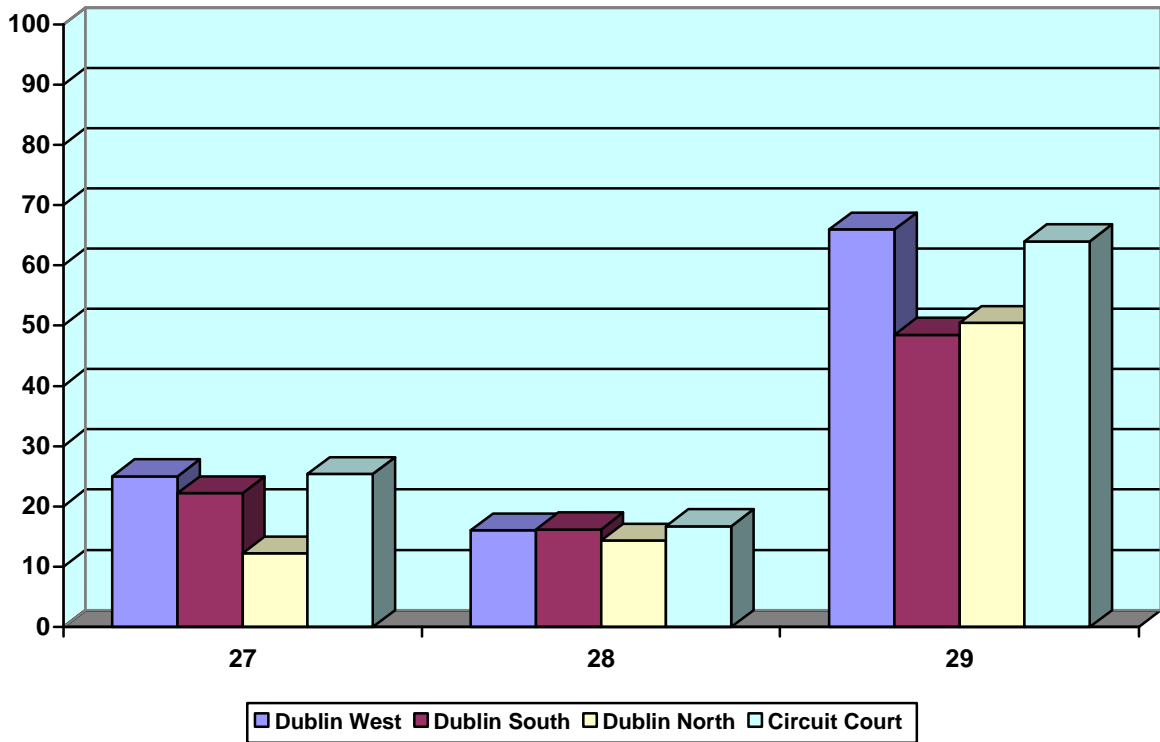
**4) FINANCE (% scored as risk)**



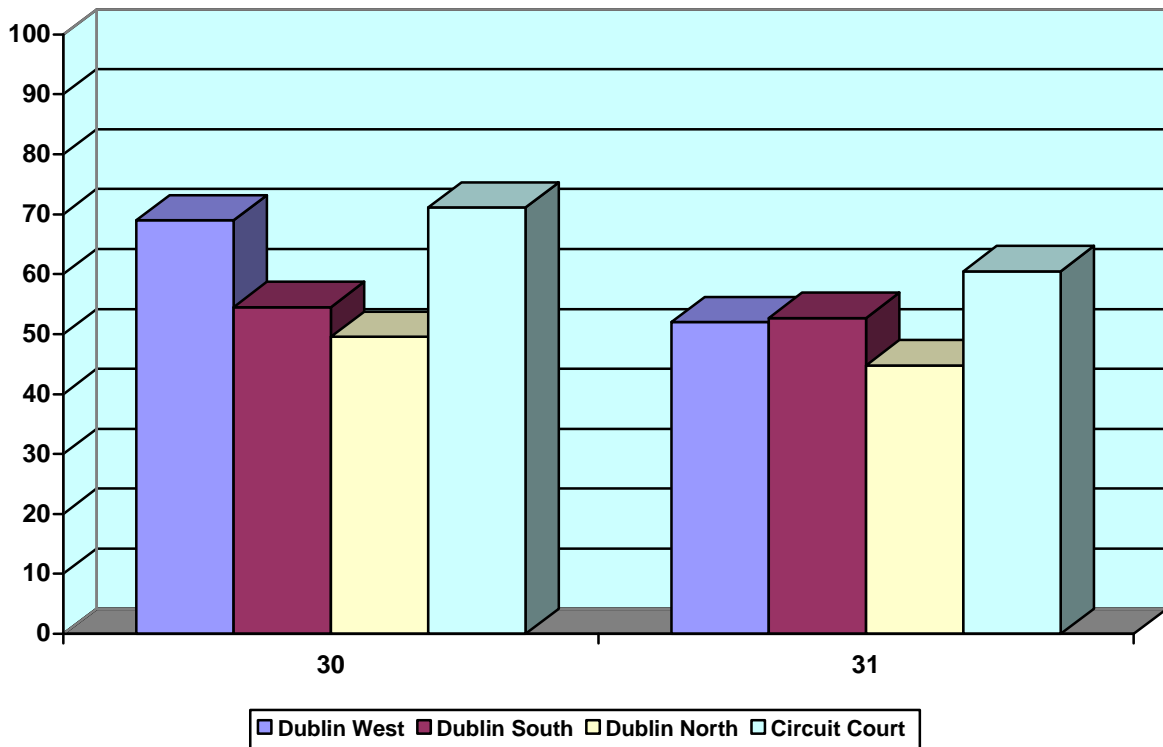
**5) FAMILY/MARITAL (% scored as risk)**



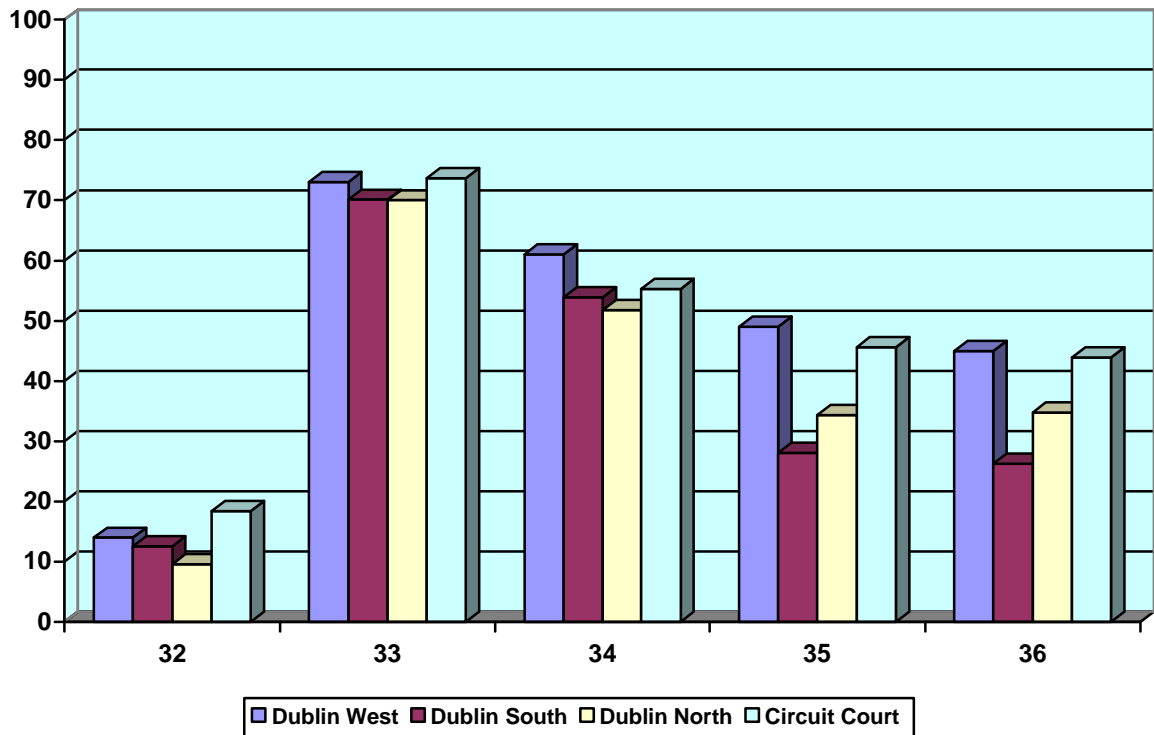
**6) ACCOMMODATION** (% scored as risk)



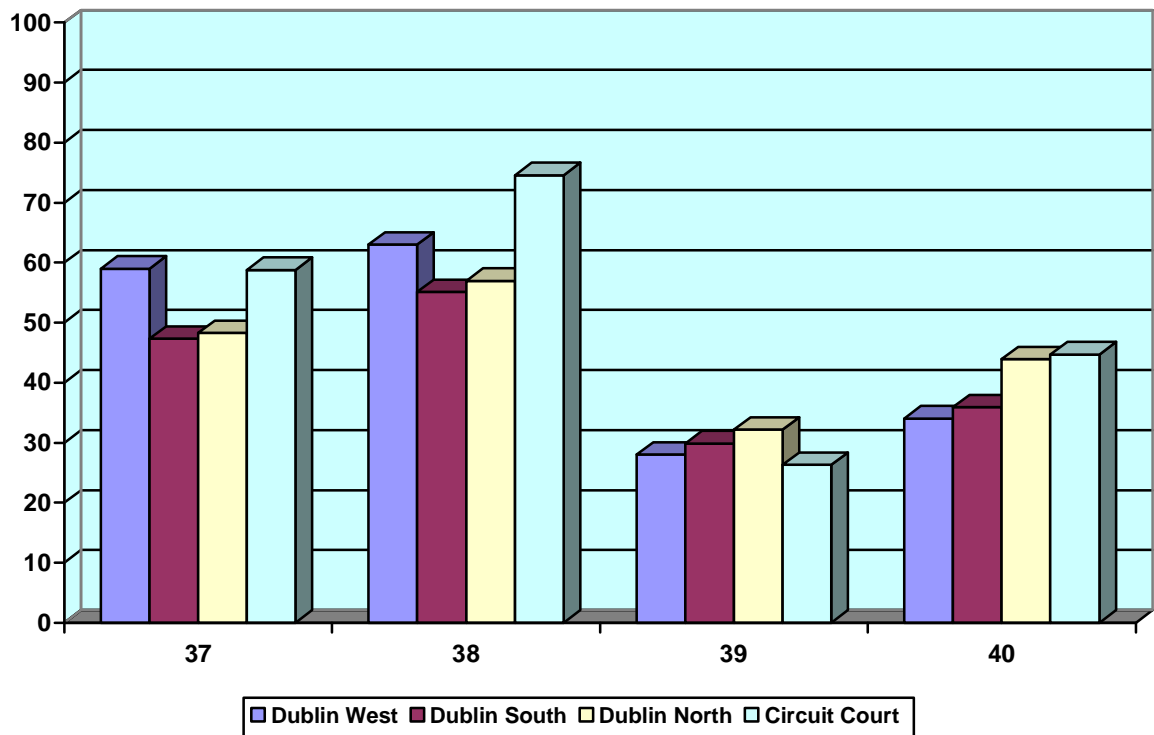
**7) LEISURE/RECREATION** (% scored as risk)



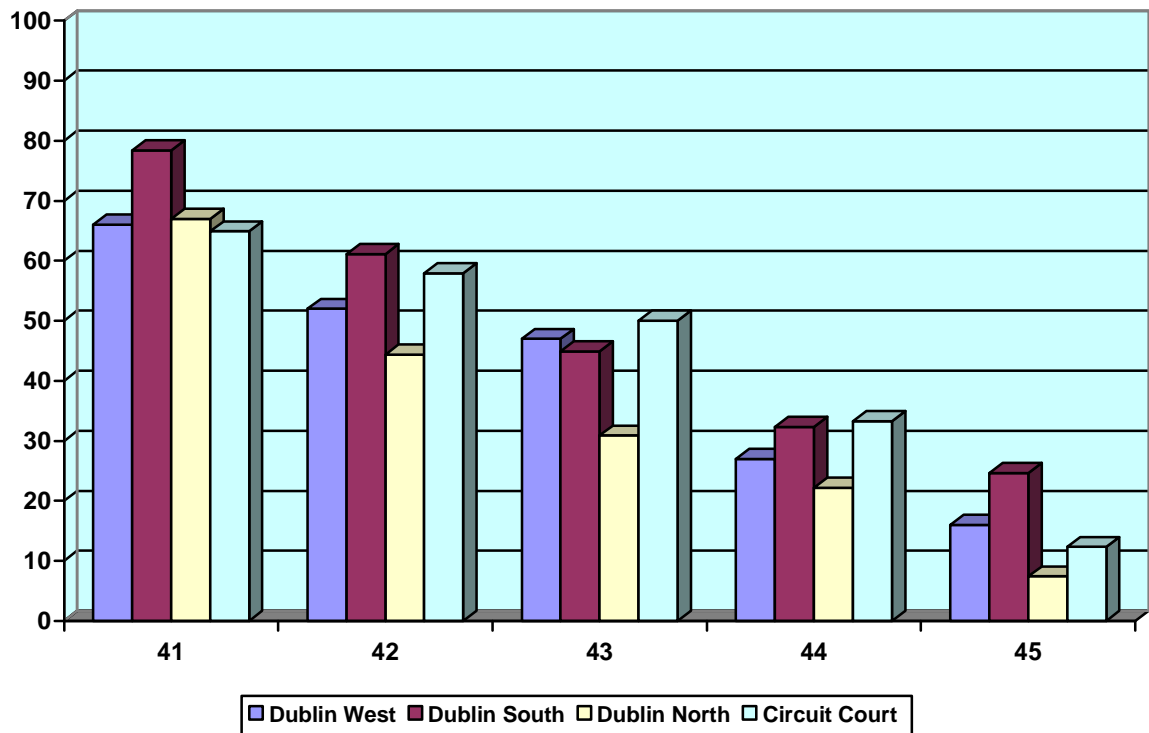
**8) COMPANIONS (% scored as risk)**



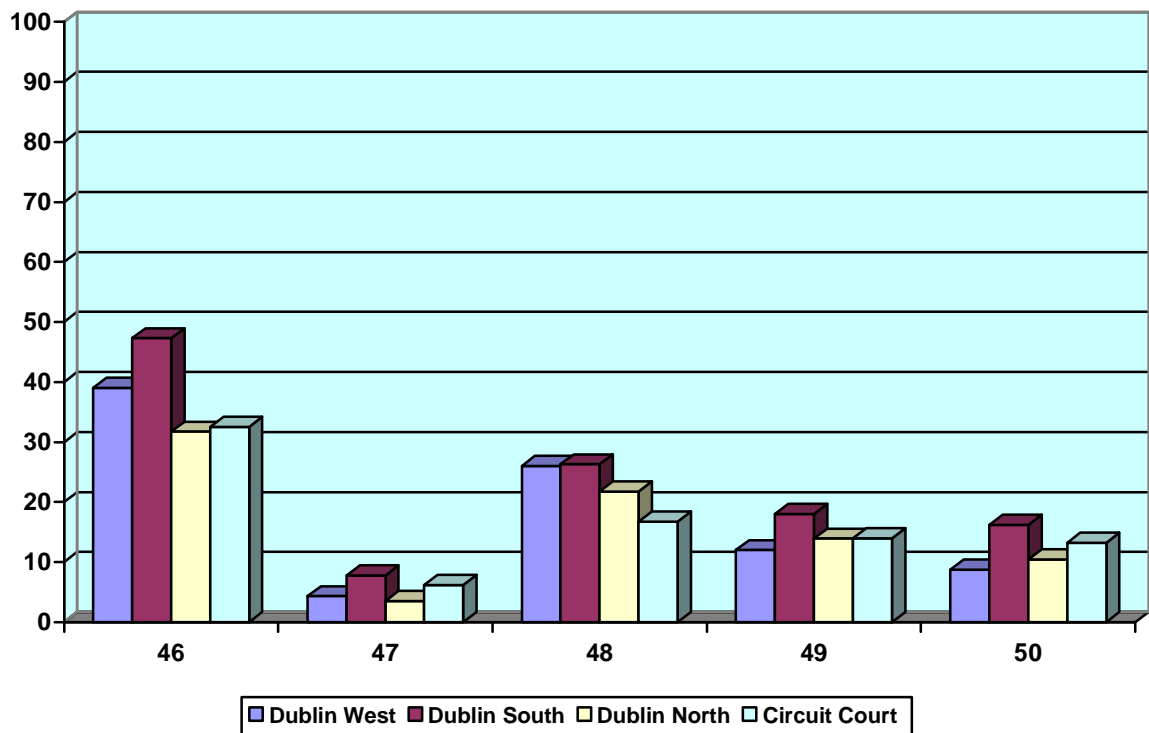
**9) ALCOHOL/DRUGS – Past and current problem (% scored as risk)**



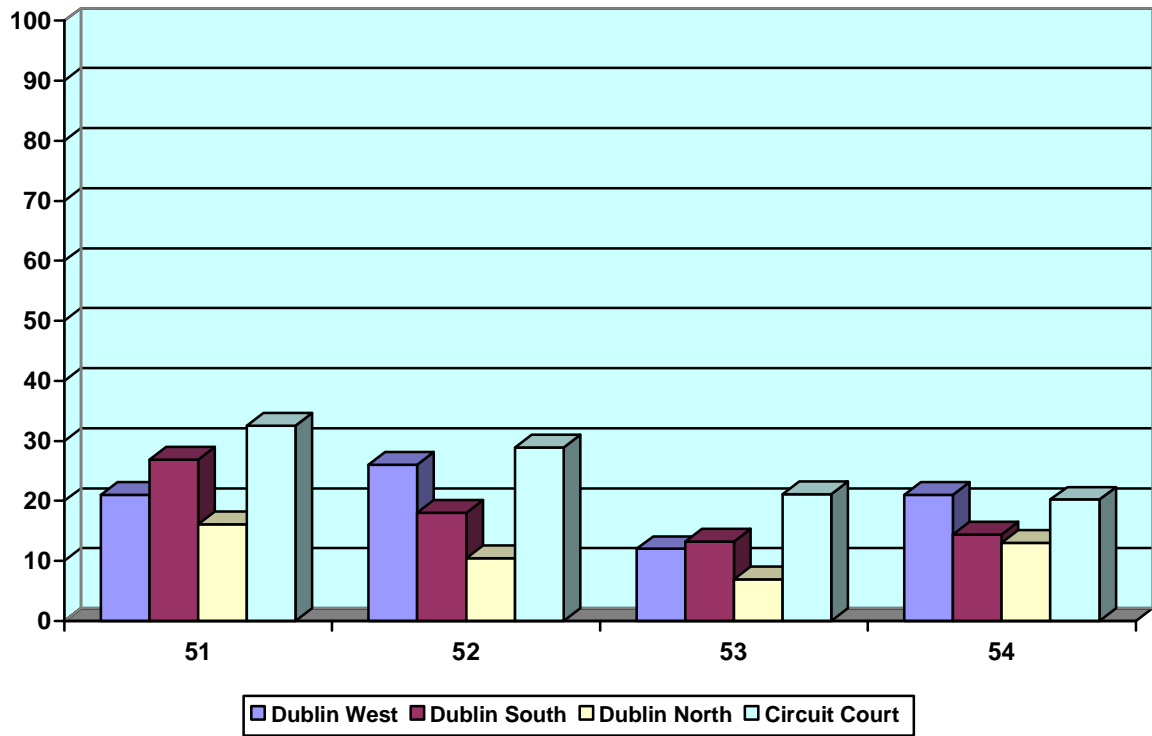
**10) ALCOHOL/DRUGS – Impact on functioning (% scored as risk)**



**11) EMOTIONAL/PERSONAL (% scored as risk)**

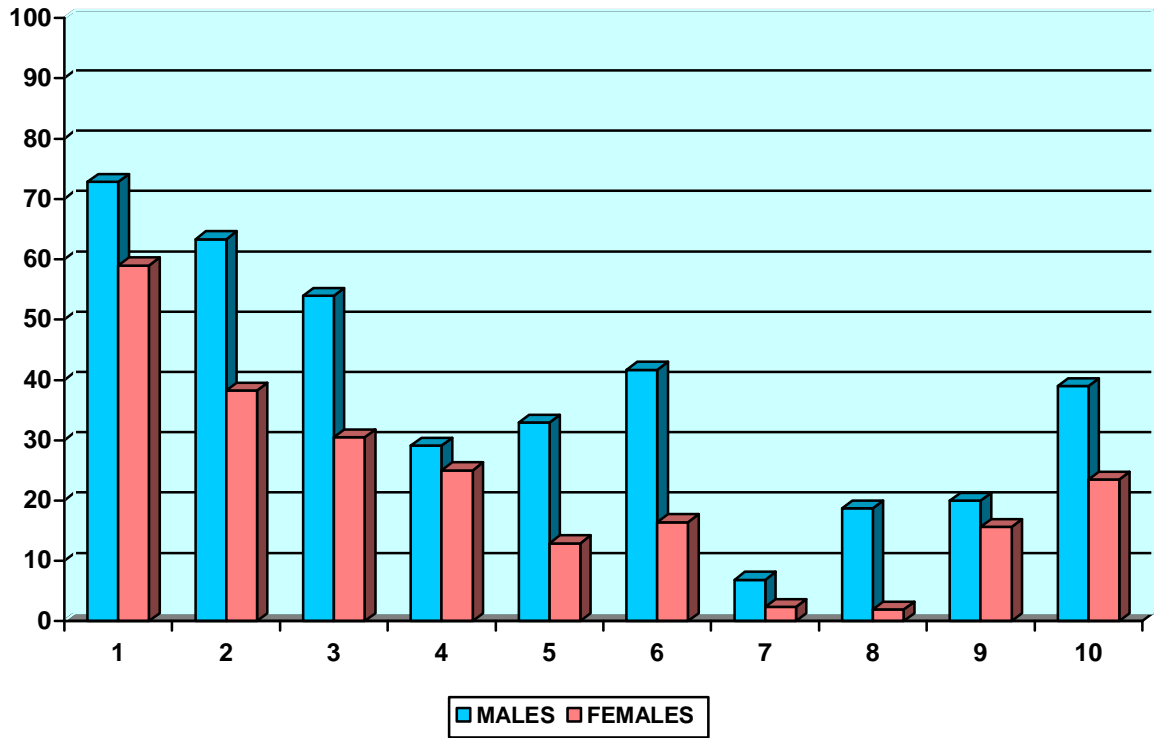


**12) ATTITUDE/ORIENTATION (% scored as risk)**

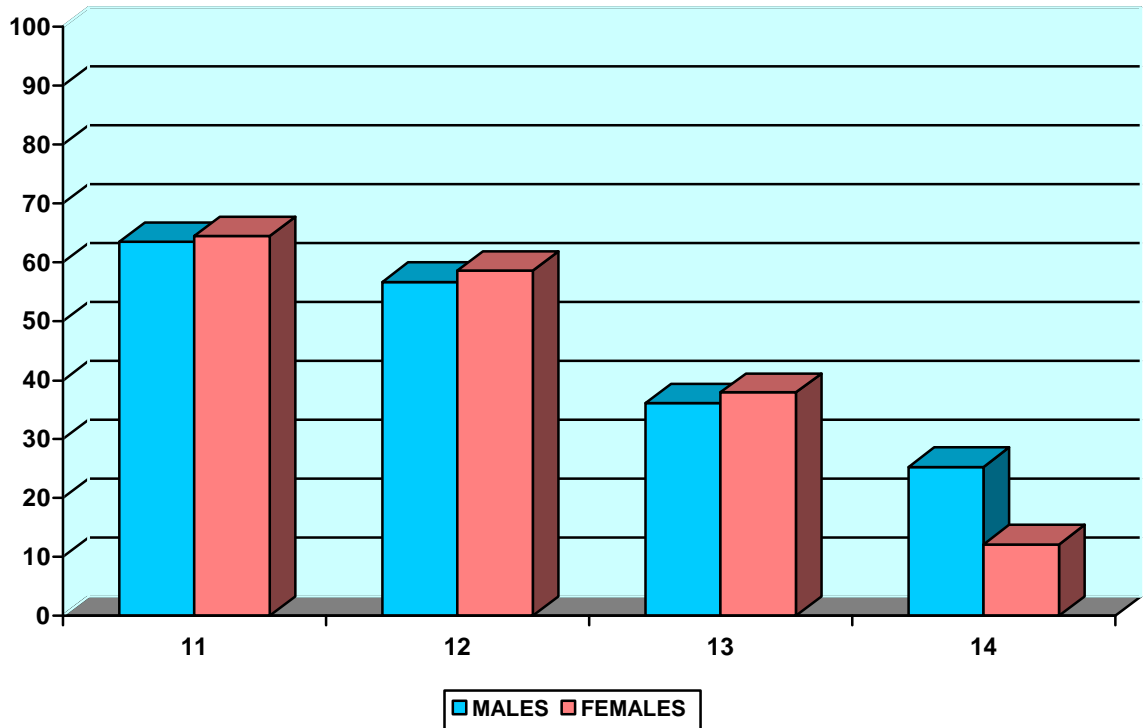


### iii) By Gender

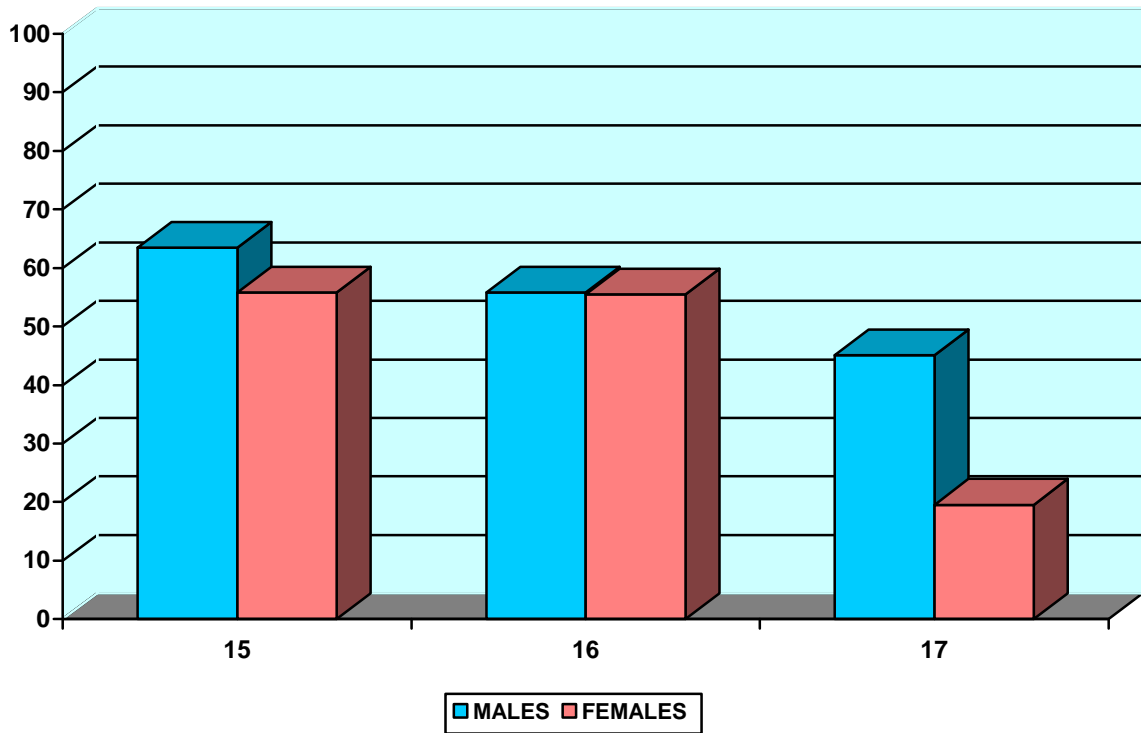
#### 1) CRIMINAL HISTORY (% scored as risk)



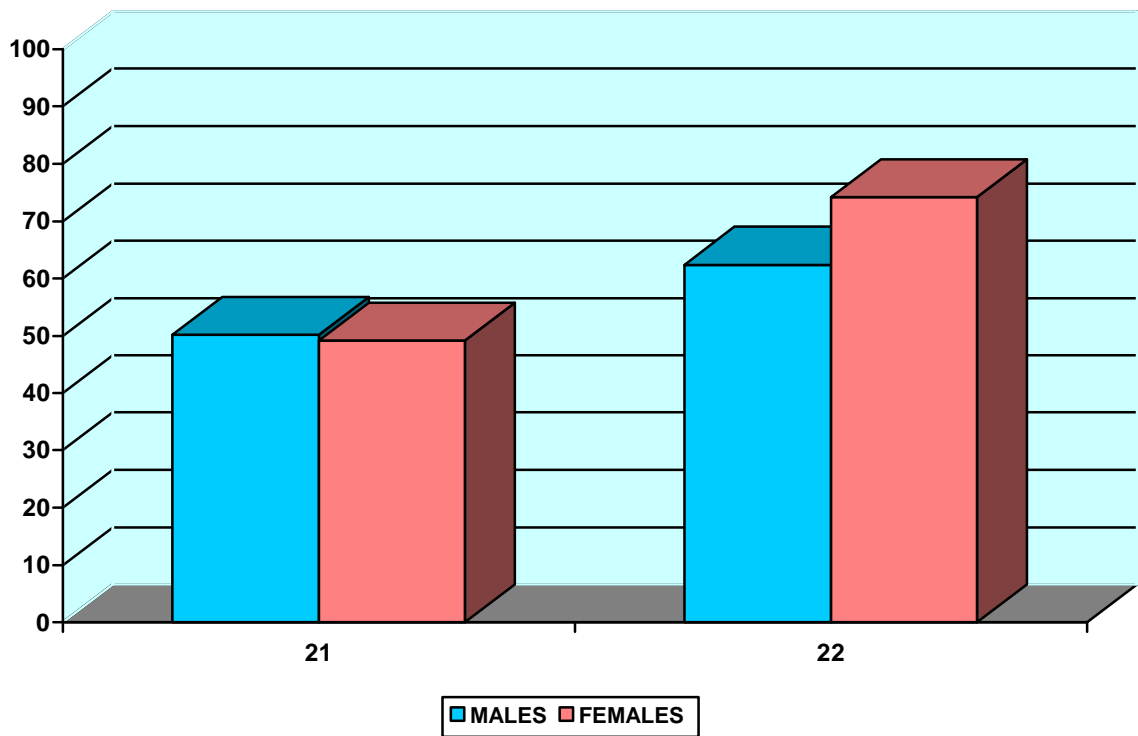
#### 2) EMPLOYMENT (% scored as risk)



**3) EDUCATION** (% scored as risk)

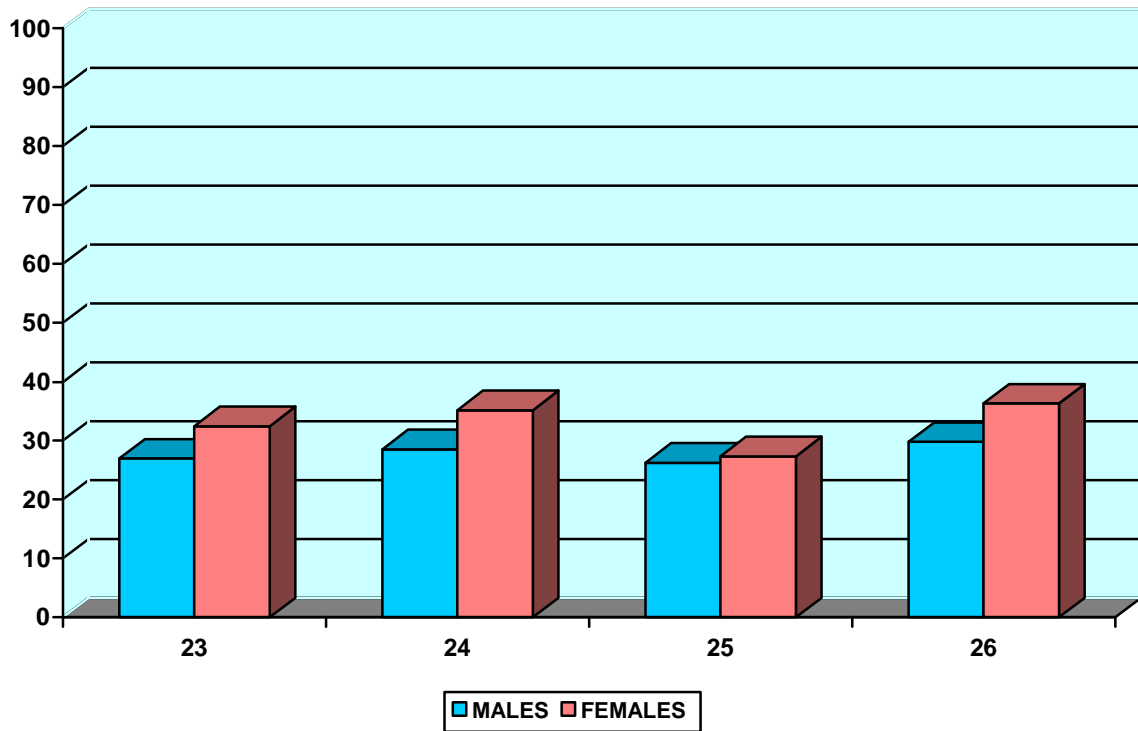


**4) FINANCE** (% scored as risk)

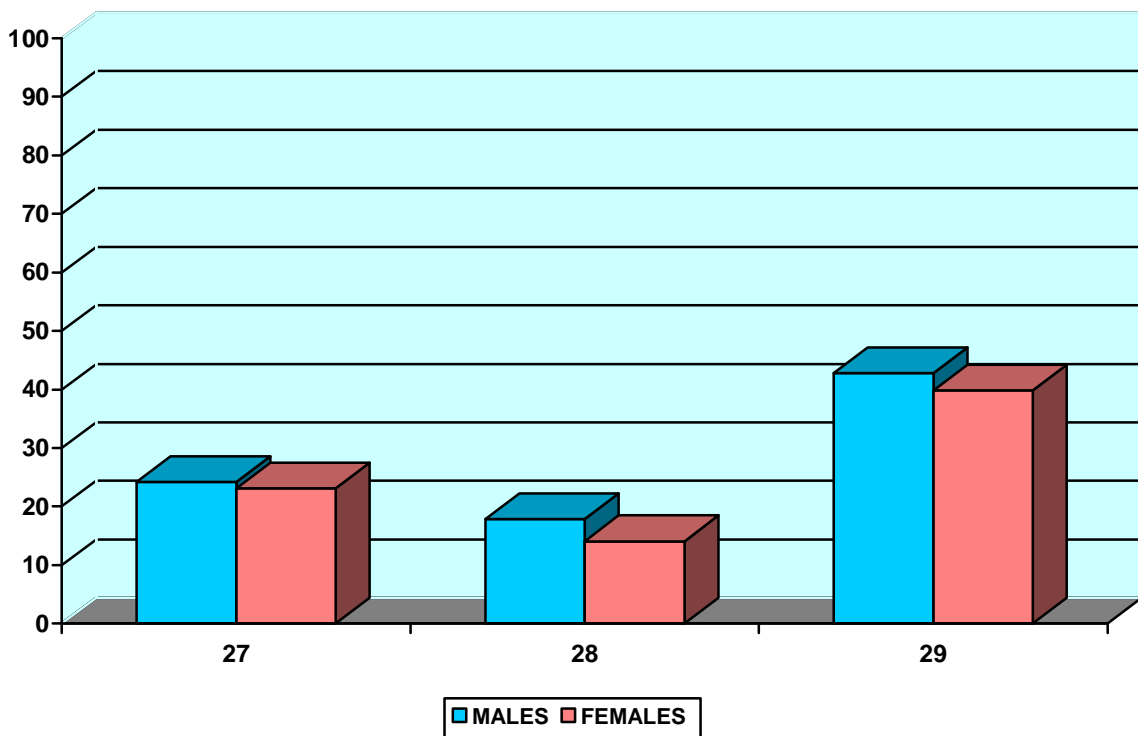




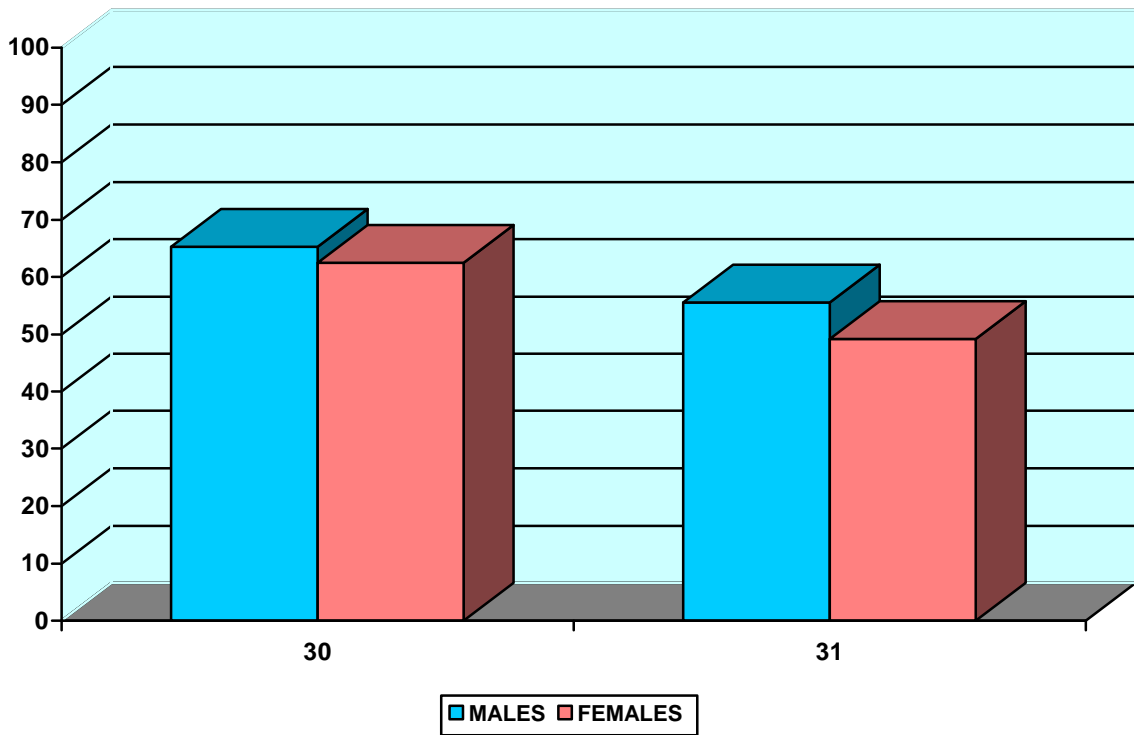
5) **FAMILY/MARITAL** (% scored as risk)



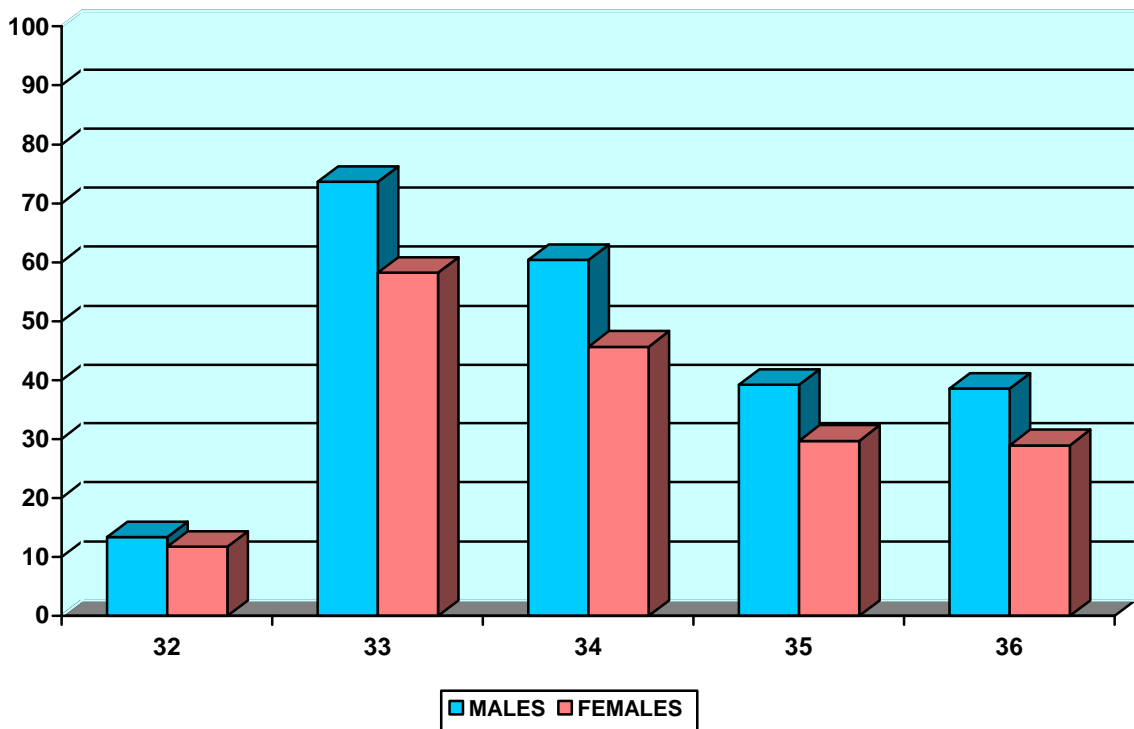
6) **ACCOMMODATION** (% scored as risk)



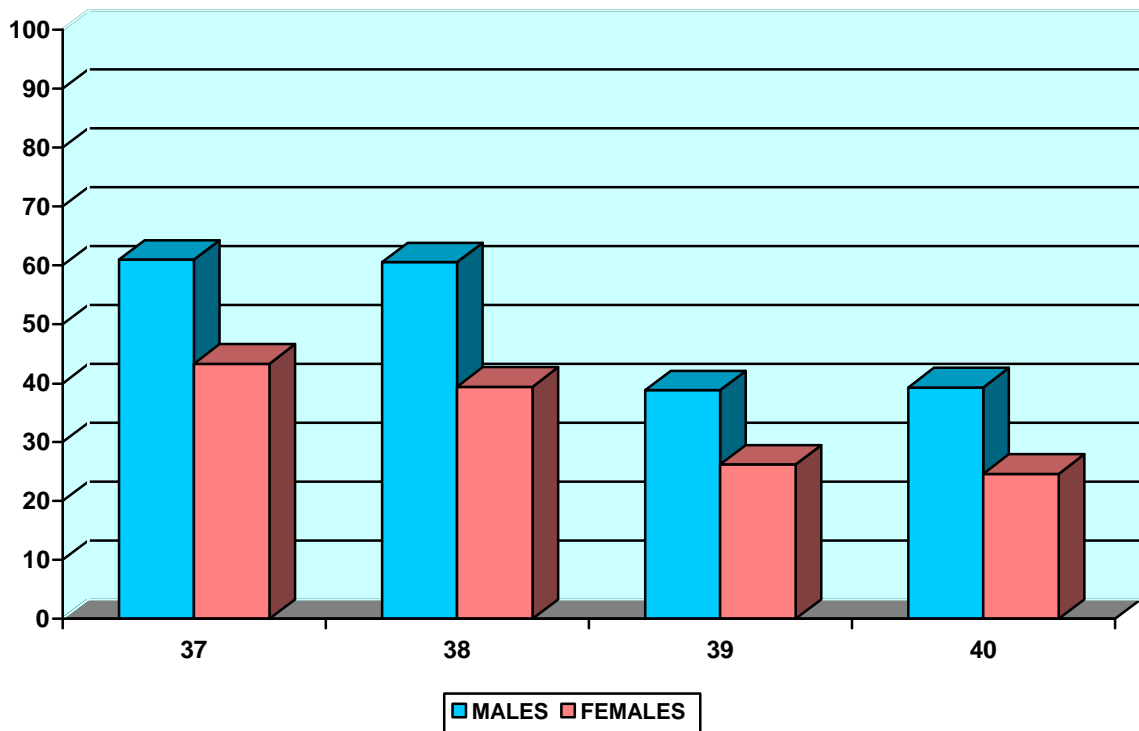
**7) LEISURE/RECREATION** (% scored as risk)



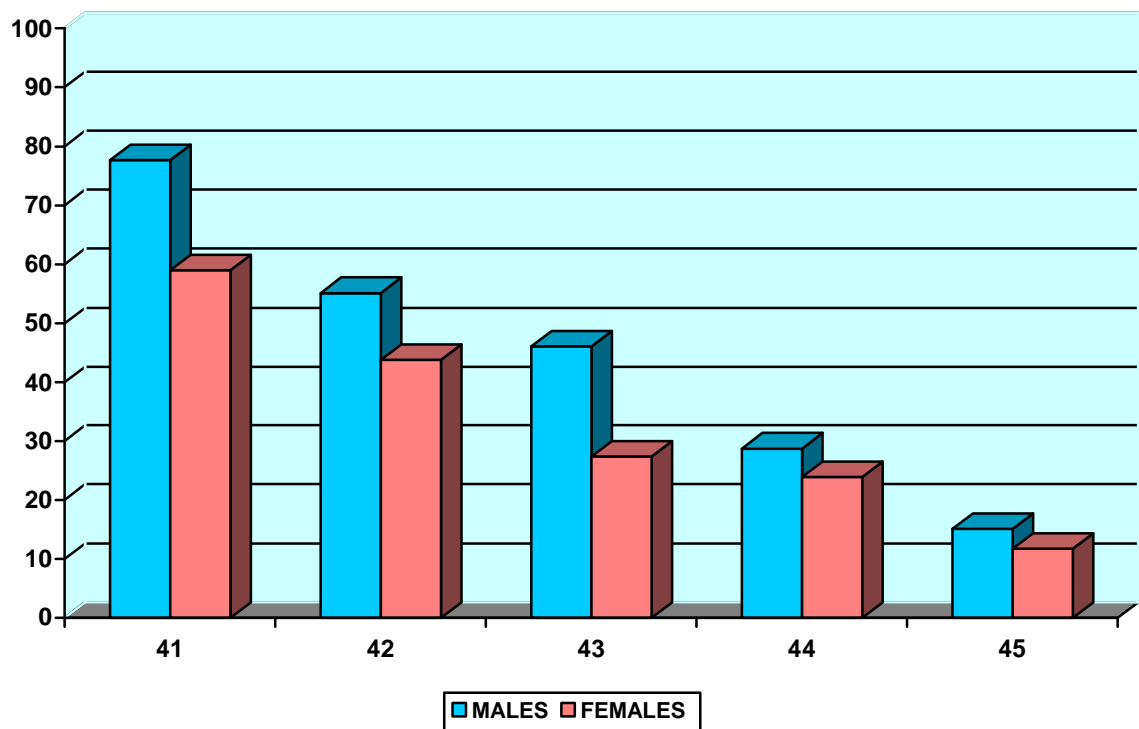
**8) COMPANIONS** (% scored as risk)



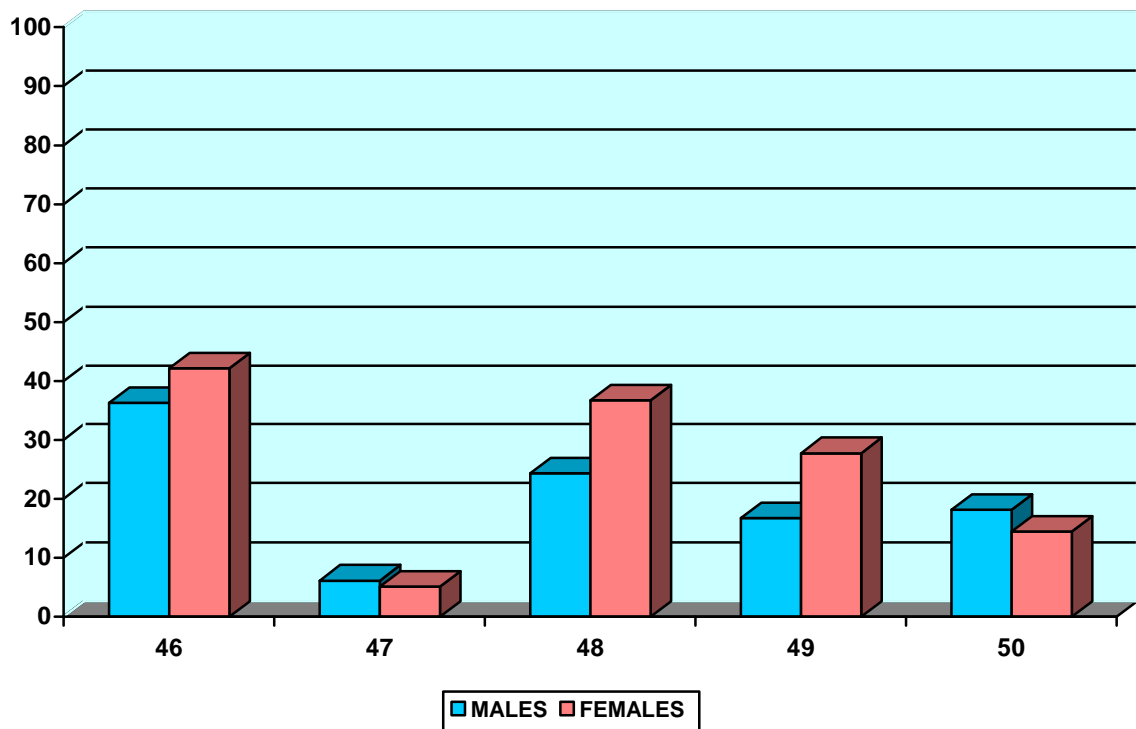
**9) ALCOHOL/DRUGS – Past and current problem (% scored as risk)**



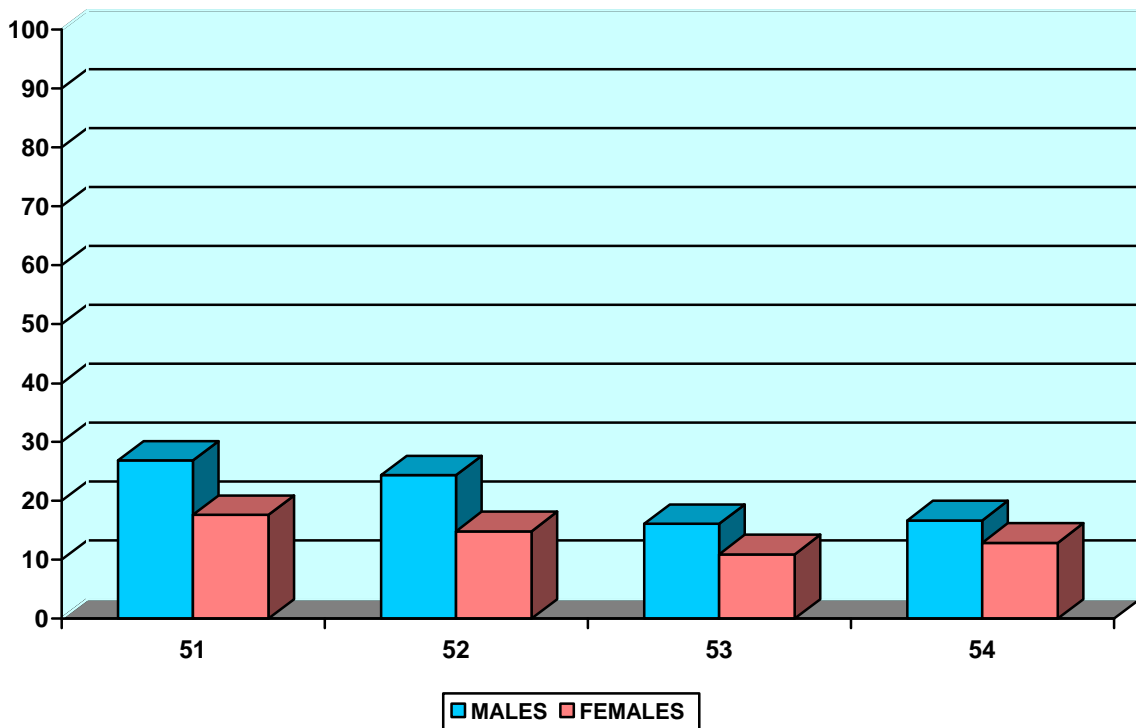
**10) ALCOHOL/DRUGS – Impact on functioning (% scored as risk)**



**11) EMOTIONAL/PERSONAL (% scored as risk)**

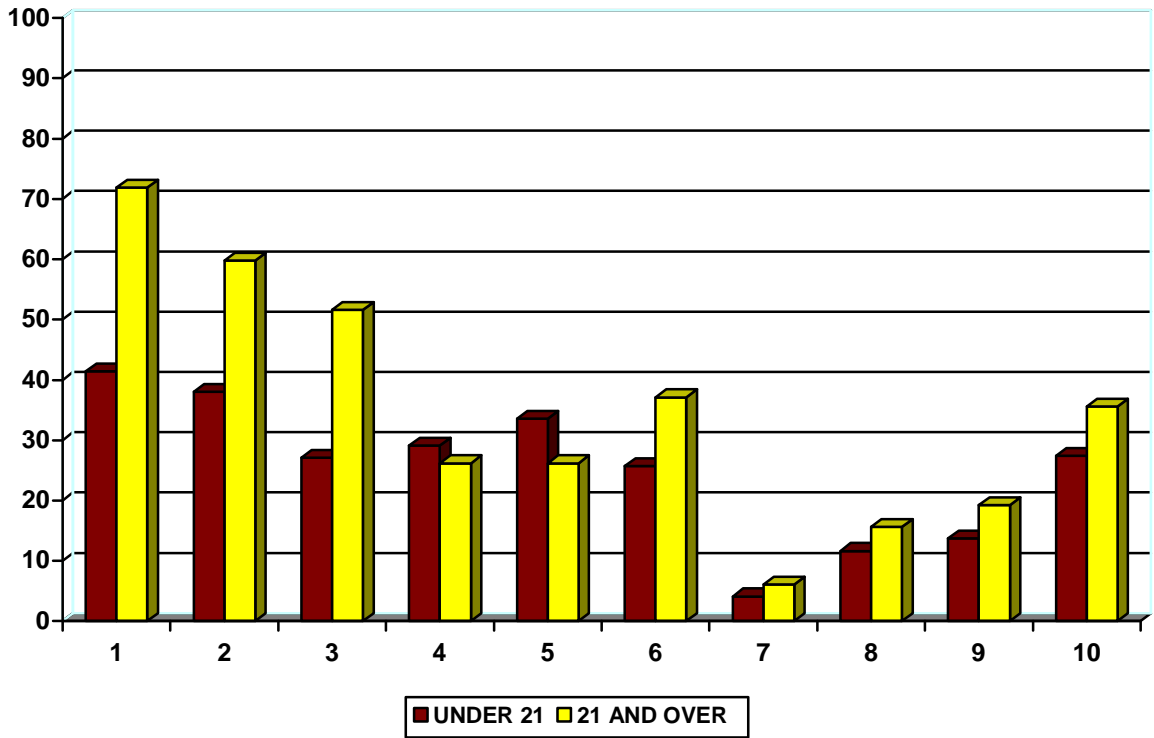


**12) ATTITUDES/ORIENTATION (% scored as risk)**

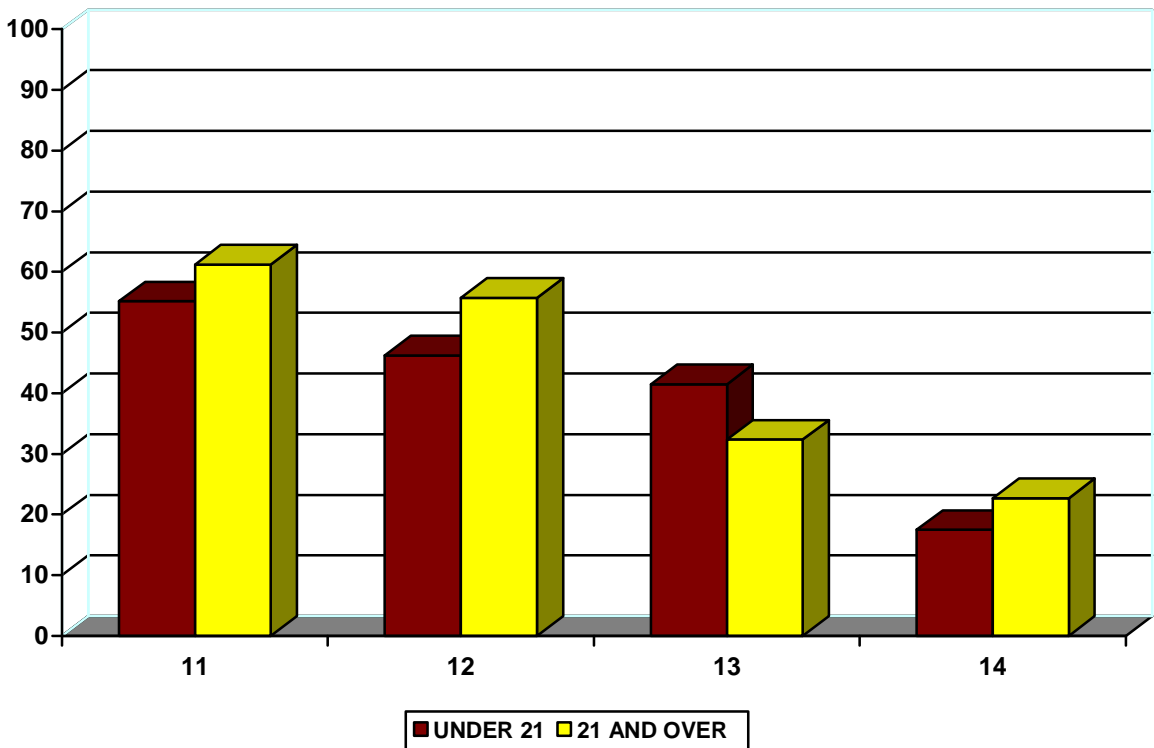


**iv) By Age (Under and over 21)**

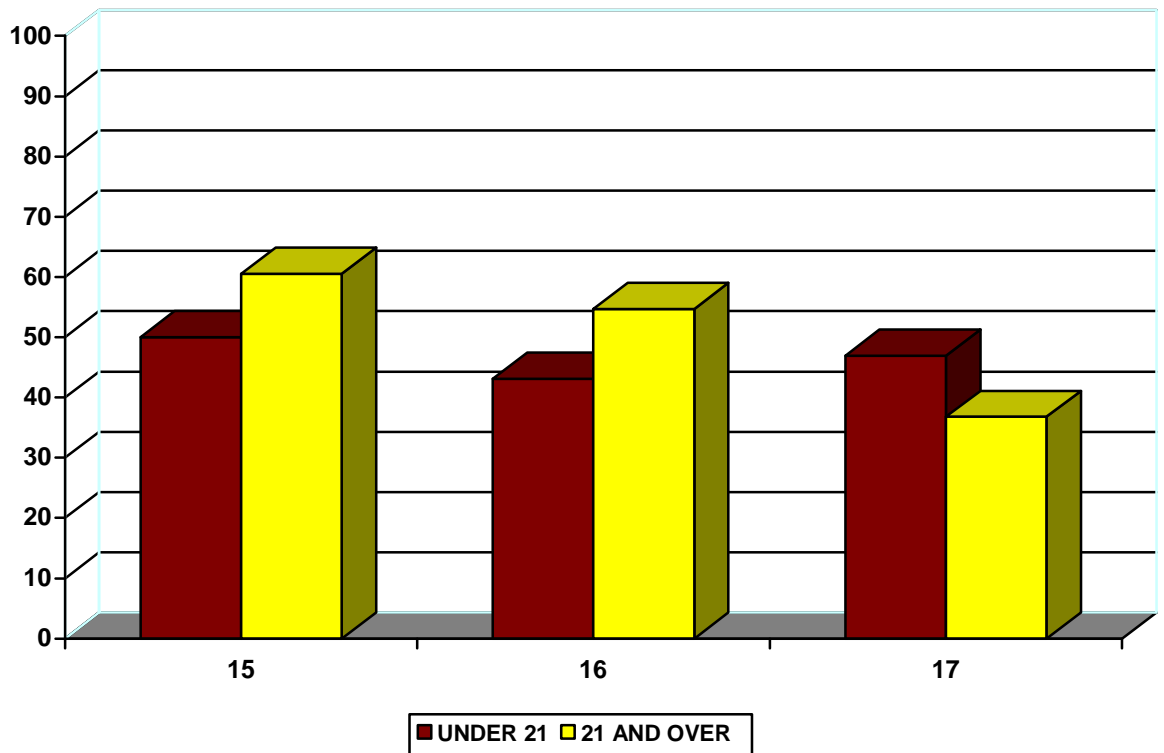
**1) CRIMINAL HISTORY (% scored as risk)**



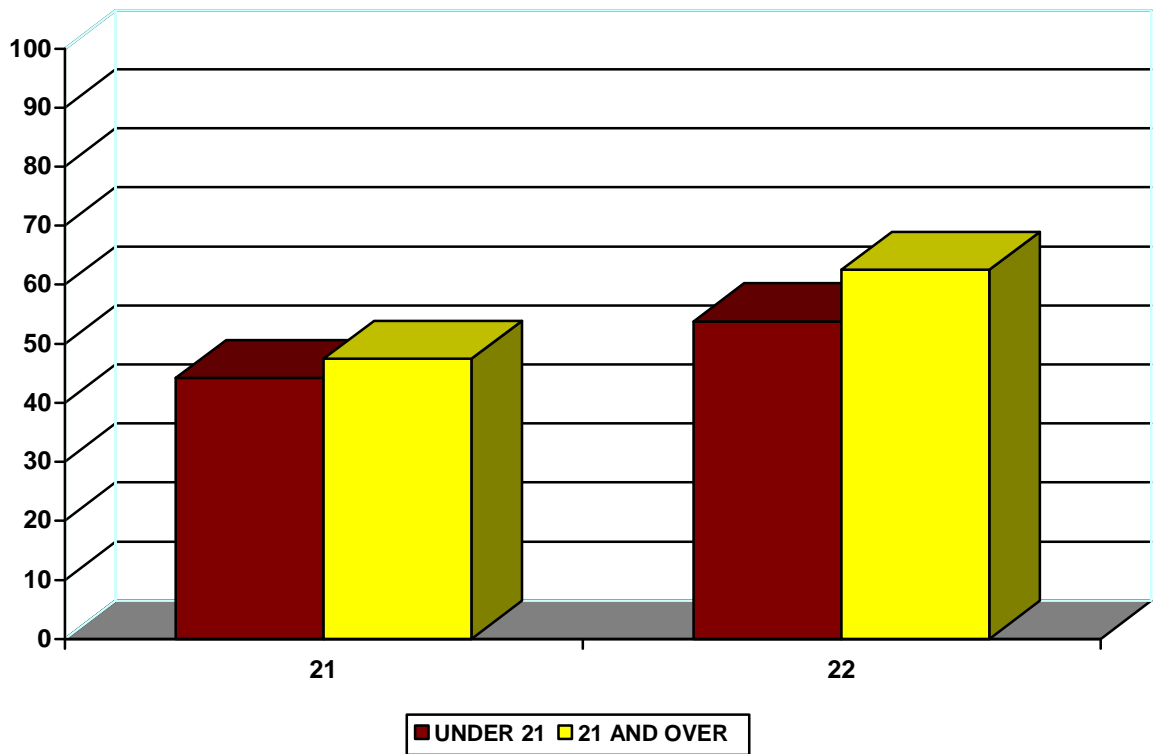
**2) EMPLOYMENT (% scored as risk)**



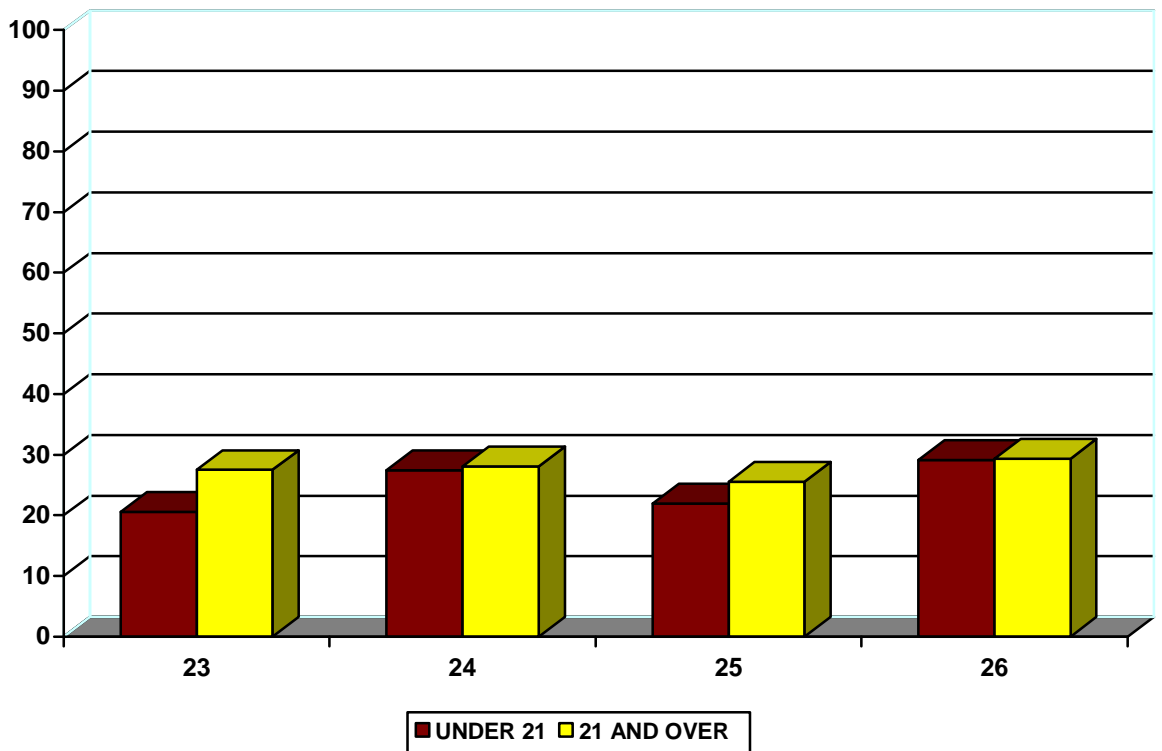
**3) EDUCATION (% scored as risk)**



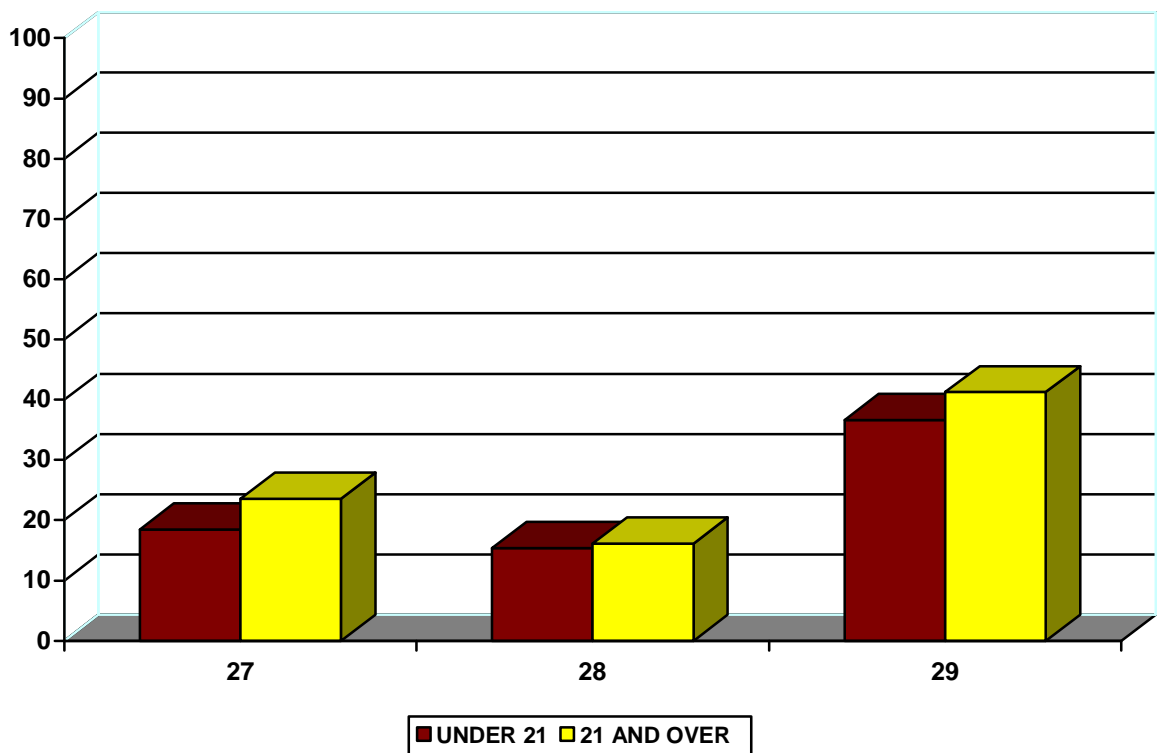
**4) FINANCE (% scored as risk)**



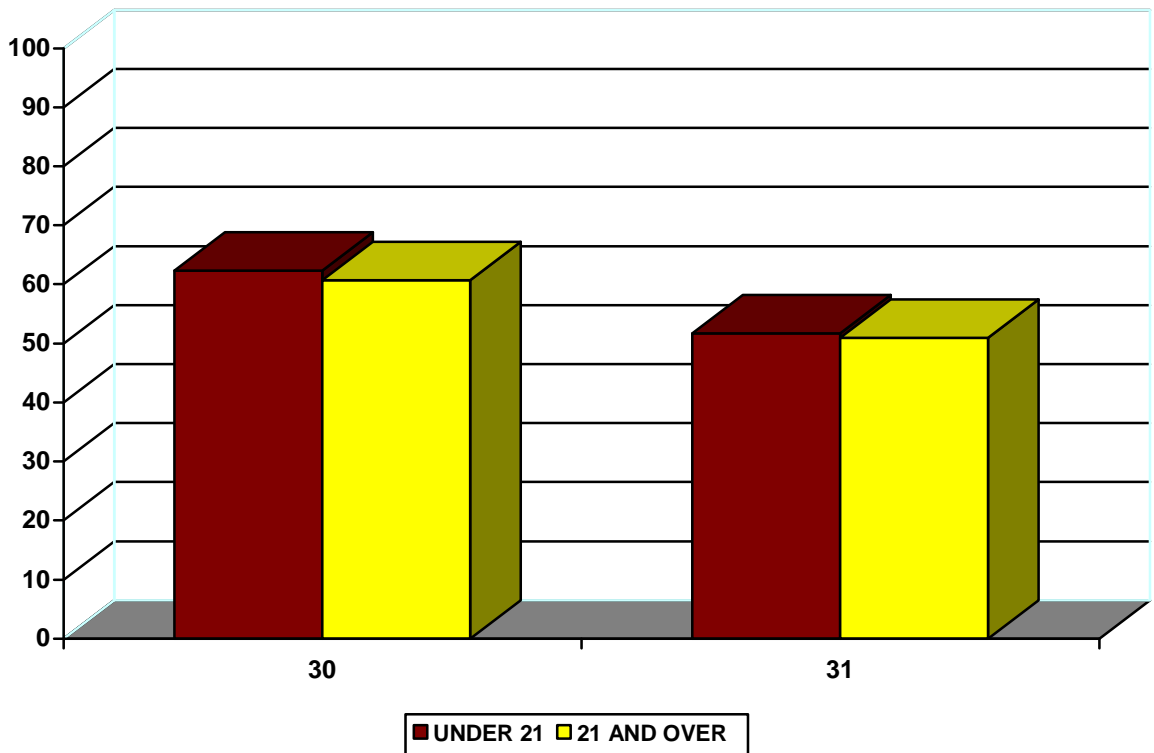
**5) FAMILY/MARITAL (% scored as risk)**



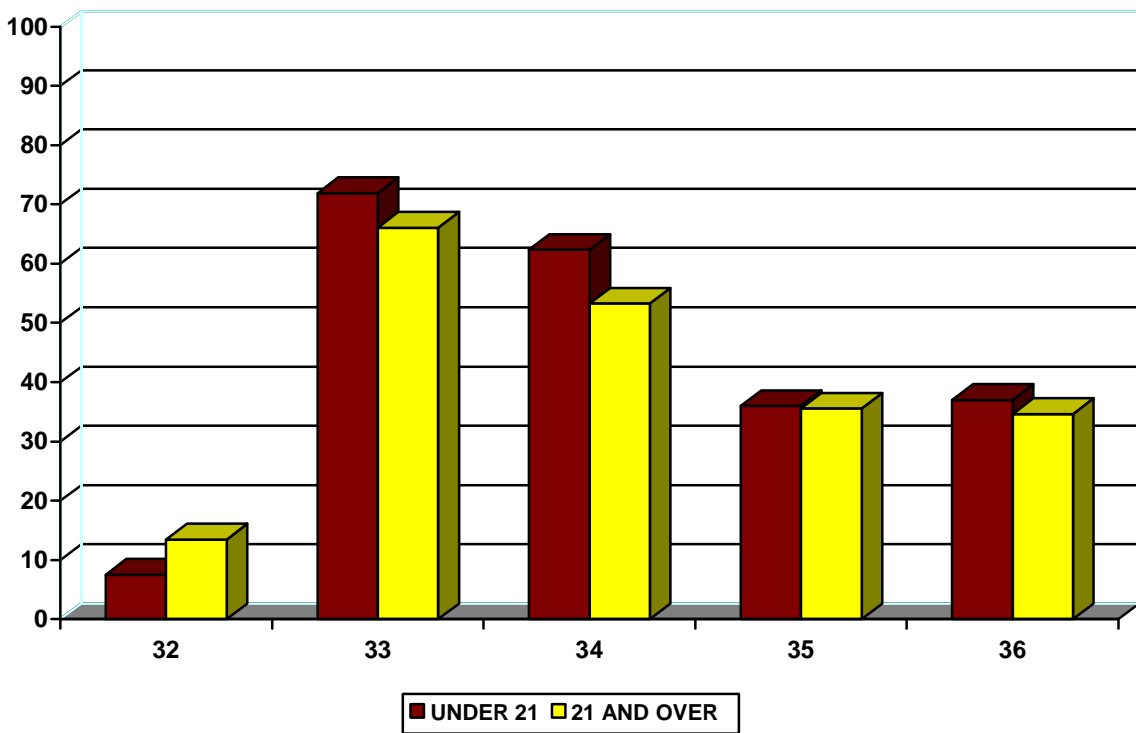
**6) ACCOMMODATION (% scored as risk)**



**7) LEISURE/RECREATION (% scored as risk)**

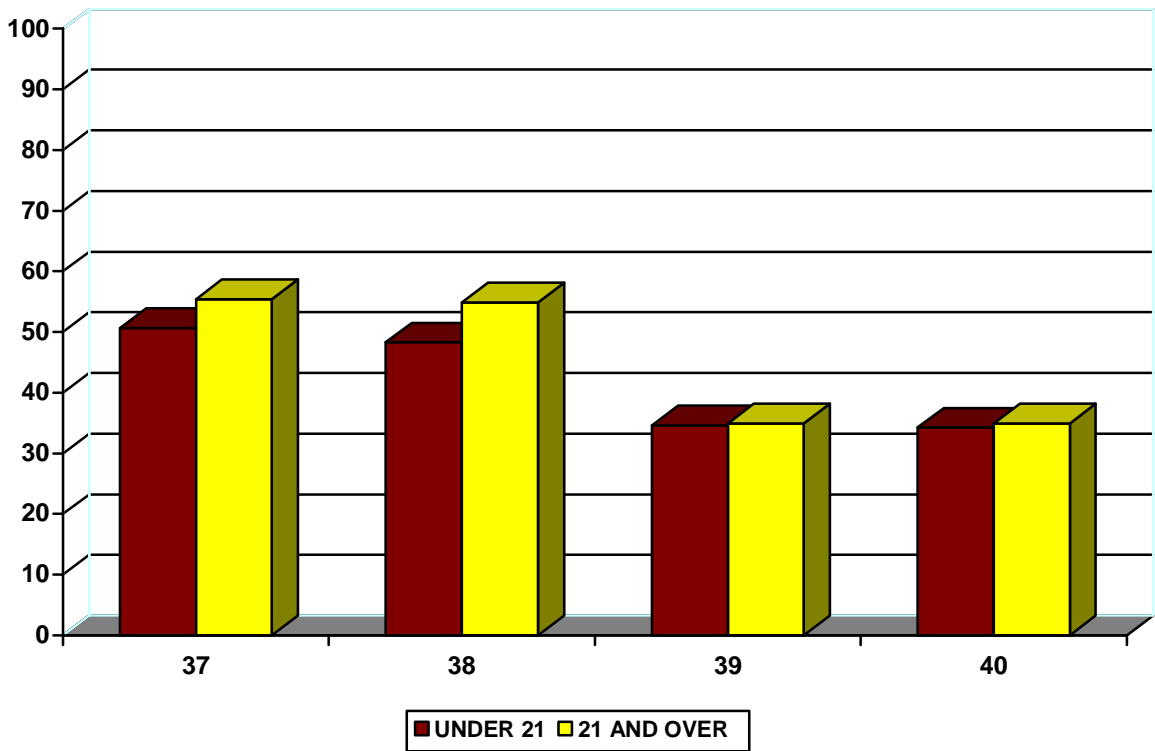


**8) COMPANIONS (% scored as risk)**

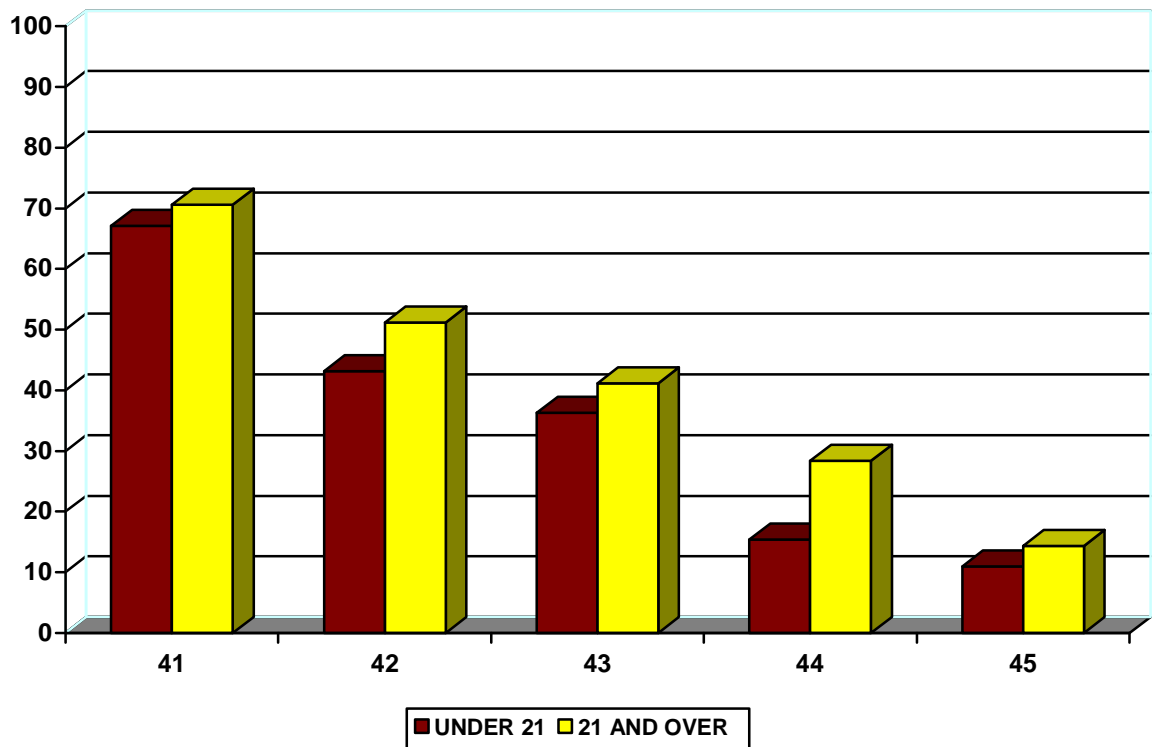




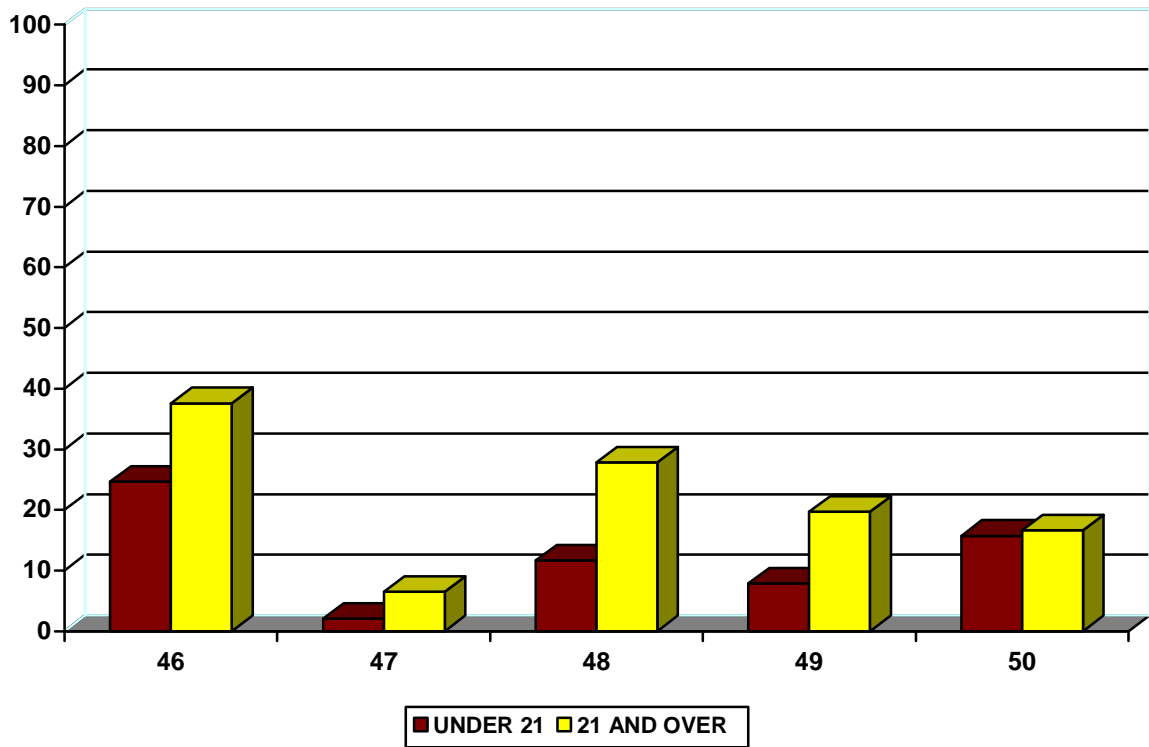
**9) ALCOHOL/DRUGS – Past and current problem (% scored as risk)**



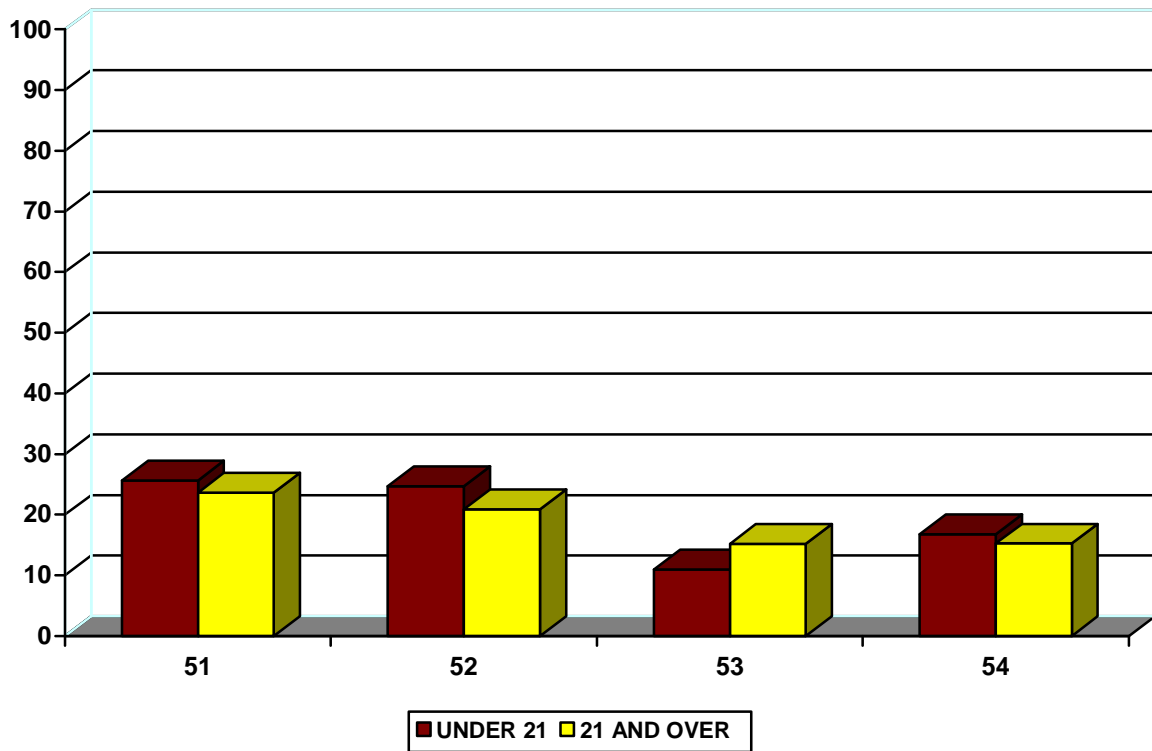
**10) ALCOHOL/DRUGS – Impact on functioning (% scored as risk)**



**11) EMOTIONAL/PERSONAL (% scored as risk)**



**12) ATTITUDES/ORIENTATION (% scored as risk)**



**7) Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI)  
NORMATIVE DATA - COMPARISON**

<b>MEAN RISK AND NEED LEVEL</b>	<b>IRELAND 2006 (N = 97)</b>	<b>IRELAND 2005 (N = 87)</b>
<b>Prior and Current Offending</b>	1.61	1.66
<b>Family</b>	2.63	2.20
<b>Education</b>	2.91	2.61
<b>Peers</b>	2.52	2.23
<b>Substance Use</b>	1.60	1.59
<b>Leisure</b>	1.81	1.77
<b>Personality</b>	2.24	1.53
<b>Attitudes</b>	1.59	1.24
<b>Total Risk Score</b>	<b>16.91</b>	<b>14.61</b>

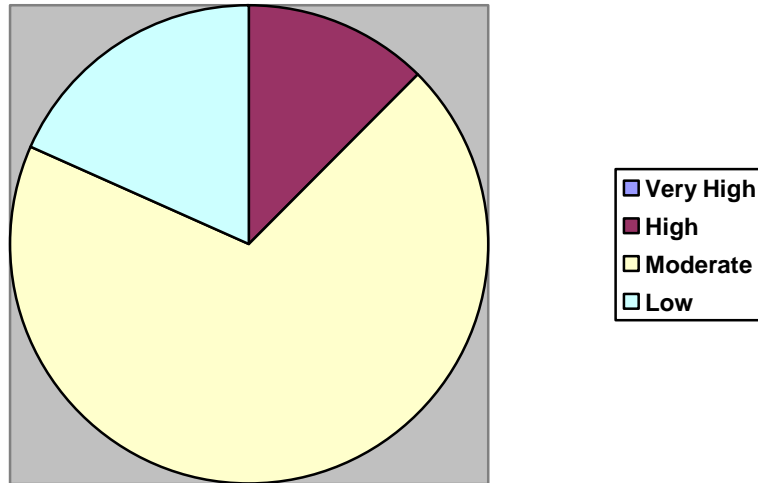
The origins of the tests used in the 2006 sample were not clear but if it can be assumed that the 2005 and 2006 sample are comparable then it can be seen that the more recent tests score an average of 2.3 points more than those in the 2005 sample. The only two sections remaining reasonably constant are *Prior and Current Offending* and *Substance Use*. This would seem to indicate that whilst the young people tested had very similar criminal histories they scored higher in terms of dynamic risk factors, in particular *Personality*. The conclusion that the increases in scores in the LSI-R sample are due to a 'bedding in' process as users become more confident may also apply to the YLS/CMI sample.

**Percentiles for Total Scotland and Ireland samples**

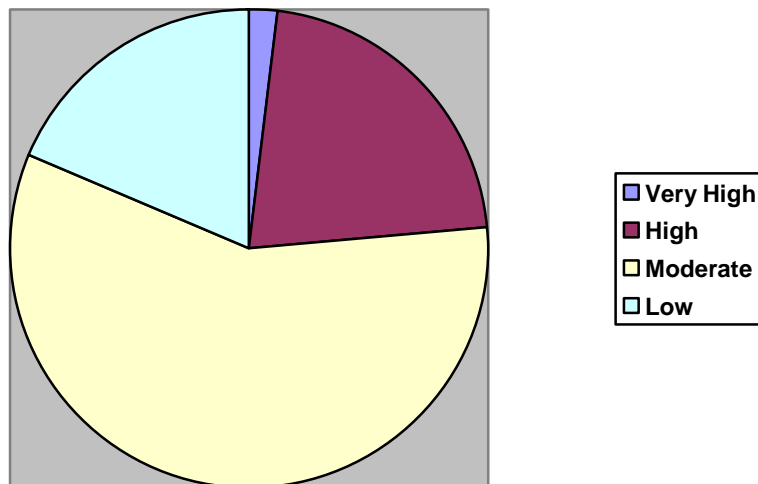
<b>Percentiles</b>	<b>Ireland 2006</b>	<b>Ireland 2005</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	6	5
<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	10	10
<b>50<sup>th</sup></b>	16	14
<b>75<sup>th</sup></b>	23	19
<b>95<sup>th</sup></b>	33	29

## Distribution in Risk Bands

### 2005 Sample



### 2006 Sample



The proportion of low risk cases remains almost the same and whilst it is still evident that the large majority of cases fall in the moderate band this has fallen from 69% in 2005 to under 58% in 2006. The percentage of very high or high cases has increased from 12.6% in 2005 to 23.75 in 2006. In 2005 no cases fell in the very high category. In terms of service planning this means that:

- **6.2%** score less than 5 – and could be assumed to require no further involvement **(2005 - 10%)**
- A further **14.4%** score less than 10, therefore more or less low risk. **(2005 - 15%)**
- **17.5%** score between 10 and 13. **(2005 - 15%)**
- **22.7%** score between 14 and 18. **(2005 - 15%)**
- **25.8%** score between 19 and 28. **(2005 - 25%)**
- **13.7%** score 29 and above. **(2005 - 0%)**

# LSI-R QUALITY CONTROL CHECKLIST

## All Ireland Sample

The purpose of this checklist is to ensure that testers adhere to basic 'rules' for the completion of the LSI-R. It does not attempt to test the validity of assessments, or the basis on which assessments have been made. Items not scored or circled constitute a 'broken rule'.

Where a rule has been broken refer to the 'professional discretion override' for an explanation

### LSI-R Sub-Components

		<b>% 2006</b>	<b>% 2005</b>
<b>CRIMINAL HISTORY</b>	<b>Items 1, 2 and 3</b> - if item 3 is answered 'YES' then items 1 and 2 must also be answered 'Yes'. If item 2 is answered 'YES' then item 1 must also be answered 'YES'. <i>(Items 1 - 3 all refer to adult convictions)</i>	1.8	4.8
	<b>Item 10</b> - if current offence is a serious offence of violence item 10 must be scored 'Yes'.	1*	3.8
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>Item 11</b> - If <u>item 11</u> is answered 'YES' then items 18-20 must all be scored '0'	17.9	13.4
<b>COMPANIONS</b>	<b>Item 32</b> - If <u>item 32</u> - if answered 'YES' then item 34 should be scored 'NO' <i>(The definition of a social isolate for the LSI-R is in effect someone who is unable to make friends)</i>	4.84	6.7
	<b>Item 34</b> - If <u>item 34</u> is scored 'YES', then item 33 should be scored 'YES' <i>(For the LSI-R a 'friend' is also an 'acquaintance')</i>	9.19	1.37
	<b>Item 35</b> - If <u>item 35</u> is answered 'Yes' then item 36 should also be answered 'YES'	2.61	4.31
<b>ALCOHOL/ DRUGS</b>	<b>Item 39</b> - If <u>item 39</u> is scored as a current problem (0 or 1) then item 37 must be scored 'YES' <i>(The existence of a <u>current</u> alcohol problem (last 12 months) also means that the offender has 'ever' had an alcohol problem)</i>	3.15	3.42
	<b>Item 40</b> - If <u>item 40</u> is scored as a current problem (0 or 1) then item 38 must be scored 'YES' <i>(The existence of a <u>current</u> drug problem (last 12 months) also means that the offender has 'ever' had a drug problem)</i>	2.88	2.74
	<b>Items 39 and 40</b> - If <u>items 39 and 40</u> are not scored as a risk factor, i.e. both scored as 3 or 2, then items 41 to 45 should be omitted. <i>(Items 41 - 45 only refer to problems <b>caused</b> by alcohol or drug abuse within the past twelve months)</i>	22.4	32.0
<b>EMOTIONAL/ PERSONAL</b>	<b>Item 47</b> - if <u>item 47</u> is scored 'YES' then item 46 must also be scored 'YES'	1.25	0.8
	<b>Item 49</b> - if <u>item 49</u> is scored 'YES' then item 48 must also be scored 'YES'.	2.61	2.45

