



# BELFAST

Profiling Health,  
Wellbeing & Prosperity



THE DATA BEHIND THE PEOPLE & THE CITY

PEACE

# Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| List of Figures .....   | 6  |
| List of Tables.....   | 19 |
| <b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....   | 20 |
| <b>SECTION 1: Police-recorded Crime</b>   |    |
| 1.1 - Number of Crimes.....   | 24 |
| - Crime Rate.....   | 24 |
| 1.2 Rate of Specific Crimes: .....  | 32 |
| - Theft – Burglary Residential .....  | 32 |
| - Theft – Vehicle Offences .....  | 32 |
| - Criminal Damage.....  | 32 |
| - Violence with Injury.....   | 32 |
| - Violence without Injury.....  | 32 |
| <b>SECTION 2: Experience of Crime</b>   |    |
| 2.1 Experience of Any Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey<br>(NISCS)/Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS) Crime..... | 39 |
| 2.2 Rate of Experience of Specific NISCS/NICS Crimes:.....  | 43 |
| - Burglary .....  | 43 |
| - Vehicle-related Crime.....  | 43 |
| - Vandalism.....  | 43 |
| - Violent Crime (Adult Victims) .....   | 43 |

**SECTION 3: Crime and Deprivation**

3.1 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2017:  
Crime and Disorder Domain ..... 52

3.2 Northern Ireland Measure of Multiple Deprivation 2017  
(NIMDM2017): ..... 58

- Violence, Robbery & Public Order ..... 58
- Burglary ..... 58
- Theft ..... 58
- Vehicle Crime ..... 58
- Criminal Damage & Arson ..... 58
- Deliberate Primary & Secondary Fires ..... 58

**SECTION 4: Crime with a Domestic Abuse Motivation**

4.1 - Incident Rate ..... 66

- Recorded Crime Rate ..... 66
- Outcome Rate ..... 66

**SECTION 5: Hate Crime**

5.1 - Hate Crime Motivated by Racism ..... 76

- Incident Rate ..... 76
- Recorded Crime Rate ..... 76
- Outcome Rate ..... 76

5.2 - Hate Crime Motivated by Homophobia ..... 85

- Incident Rate ..... 85
- Recorded Crime Rate ..... 85
- Outcome Rate ..... 85

5.3 - Hate Crime Motivated by Sectarianism ..... 94

- Incident Rate ..... 94
- Recorded Crime Rate ..... 94
- Outcome Rate ..... 94

## SECTION 6: Perceptions of Crime and Anti-social Behaviour

|     |  |     |
|-----|--|-----|
| 6.1 | Worry about Crime and Personal Safety .....                        | 103 |
| 6.2 | Effect of 'Fear of Crime' on Quality of Life .....                 | 115 |
| 6.3 | Perceptions of Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) .....                   | 122 |
| 6.4 | Perceived Causes of Crime in Northern Ireland .....                | 138 |
| 6.5 | Perceived Change in Overall Crime Levels in Northern Ireland ..... | 148 |
| 6.6 | Perceived Change in Local Crime Levels in Northern Ireland .....   | 152 |

## SECTION 7: Confidence in Policing

|     |  |     |
|-----|--|-----|
| 7.1 | Confidence in the Police and Police Accountability<br>Arrangements in Northern Ireland ..... | 156 |
| 7.2 | Confidence in Local Police in Northern Ireland .....   | 176 |

## SECTION 8: Child Protection

|     |  |     |
|-----|--|-----|
| 8.1 | Referrals to Child Protection Services ..... | 196 |
| 8.2 | Child Protection Register .....              | 207 |

## SECTION 9: Interface Structures or Barriers

|     |  |     |
|-----|--|-----|
| 9.1 | - Number of Interface Structures ..... | 219 |
|     | - Types of Interface Structure .....   | 219 |
|     | - Age of Interface Structures .....    | 219 |
| 9.2 | Attitudes to 'Peace Walls' .....       | 229 |

## SECTION 10: Case-study:

|  |  |     |
|--|--|-----|
|  | The Belfast PEACE IV Local Action Plan ..... | 236 |
|--|--|-----|

## SECTION 11: Community Relations in Northern Ireland

|       |   |     |
|-------|---|-----|
| 11.1  | Northern Ireland is a Place where People Respect Each Other.....  | 247 |
| 11.2  | Societal Respect for Cultural Identity .....  | 254 |
| 11.3  | Sense of Belonging to Northern Ireland.....   | 261 |
| 11.4  | Sense of Belonging to the Immediate Neighbourhood.....  | 268 |
| 11.5  | Feelings of Favourability about People from a<br>Different Ethnic Group.....                                | 275 |
| 11.6  | Self-reported Level of Prejudice against People<br>of Minority Ethnic Communities.....                      | 282 |
| 11.7  | Racist Bullying in School .....   | 289 |
| 11.8  | Preference for an own religion only or<br>mixed-religion neighbourhood.....                                 | 293 |
| 11.9  | Preference for an own religion only or<br>mixed religion workplace .....                                    | 301 |
| 11.10 | Preference for an own religion only or mixed religion school.....   | 308 |
| 11.11 | Willingness to Accept People from Different Backgrounds/<br>Communities as Residents in the Local Area..... | 316 |
| 11.12 | Willingness to Accept People from Different Backgrounds/<br>Communities as Colleagues at Work .....         | 320 |
| 11.13 | Willingness to Accept People from Different Backgrounds/<br>Communities as a Relative by Marriage .....     | 324 |

## SECTION 12: Perceptions of 'Shared and Open' Spaces in Northern Ireland

|      |                        |     |
|------|------------------------|-----|
| 12.1 | Leisure Centres.....   | 328 |
| 12.2 | Parks.....             | 335 |
| 12.3 | Libraries.....         | 342 |
| 12.4 | Shopping Centres ..... | 349 |

# Figures

## SECTION 1: Police-recorded Crime

### PEACE FIGURE 1:

Number of police-recorded crimes by Belfast's local policing teams, 2002/03 and 2019/20 ..... 28

### PEACE FIGURE 2:

Rate of police-recorded crimes per 1,000 population by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2019/20..... 30

### PEACE FIGURE 3:

Rates of police-recorded theft – burglary residential, theft – vehicle offences, criminal damage, violence with injury, and violence without injury per 1,000 population by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20 ..... 37

## SECTION 2: Experience of Crime

### PEACE FIGURE 4:

Percentage (%) of adults with experience of any NISCS/NICS crime by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2018/19..... 42

### PEACE FIGURE 5:

Percentage (%) of households with experience of burglary, vehicle-related crime (vehicle-owning households), vandalism, and violent crime (adult victims) in Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland, 2009/10 and 2019/20..... 46

### PEACE FIGURE 6:

Percentage (%) of households with experience of burglary, vehicle-related crime (vehicle-owning households), vandalism, and violent crime (adult victims) by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20 ..... 48

### PEACE FIGURE 7:

Percentage (%) of Northern Ireland households with experience of burglary, vehicle-related crime (vehicle-owning households), vandalism, and violent crime (adult victims) by tenure, 2019/20 ..... 49

### PEACE FIGURE 8:

Percentage (%) of adult victims of violent crime in Northern Ireland by deprivation (Quintiles 1-5), 2019/20..... 50

## SECTION 3: Crime and Deprivation

### PEACE FIGURE 9:

Percentage (%) of SOAs across the quintiles of deprivation (Quintiles 1-5) for the Crime and Disorder Domain, by assembly area, Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland, NIMDM2017 ..... 54

### PEACE FIGURE 10:

Percentage (%) of SOAs across the quintiles of deprivation (Quintiles 1-5) for the Crime and Disorder Domain, by LGD and Northern Ireland, NIMDM2017 ..... 56

### PEACE FIGURE 11:

Rates of violence, robbery & public order crime, burglary, theft, vehicle crime, criminal damage & arson, deliberate primary & secondary fires, and anti-social behaviour incidents per 1,000 population by Belfast's assembly areas, NIMDM2017 ..... 60

### PEACE FIGURE 12:

Rates of violence, robbery & public order crime, burglary, theft, vehicle crime, criminal damage & arson, deliberate primary & secondary fires, and anti-social behaviour incidents per 1,000 population by DEA, NIMDM2017 ..... 62

## SECTION 4: Crime with a Domestic Abuse Motivation

### PEACE FIGURE 13:

Percentage share (%) of Belfast City Policing District's incidents and recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation by local policing team, 2019/20 ..... 69

### PEACE FIGURE 14:

Outcome rate (%) for recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation by Belfast's local policing teams, Belfast City Policing District, and Northern Ireland, 2019/20 ..... 70

### PEACE FIGURE 15:

Rates per 1,000 population of incidents and recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20 ..... 73

### PEACE FIGURE 16:

Outcome rate (%) for recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20 ..... 74

## SECTION 5: Hate Crime

### PEACE FIGURE 17:

Percentage share (%) of Belfast's incidents and recorded crimes with a racist motivation by local policing team, 2019/20..... 79

### PEACE FIGURE 18:

Outcome rate (%) for recorded crimes with a racist motivation by local policing team, Belfast City Policing District, and Northern Ireland, 2019/20 ..... 80

### PEACE FIGURE 19:

Rate of incidents and recorded crimes with a racist motivation per 10,000 population by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20..... 82

### PEACE FIGURE 20:

Outcome rate (%) for recorded crimes with a racist motivation by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20..... 83

### PEACE FIGURE 21:

Percentage share (%) of Belfast's incidents and recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation by local policing team, 2019/20..... 88

### PEACE FIGURE 22:

Outcome rate (%) for recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation by local policing team, Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland, 2019/20 ..... 89

### PEACE FIGURE 23:

Rate of incidents and of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation per 10,000 population by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20..... 91

### PEACE FIGURE 24:

Outcome rate (%) for recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20 ..... 92

### PEACE FIGURE 25:

Percentage share (%) of Belfast's incidents and recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation by local policing team, 2019/20 ..... 97

### PEACE FIGURE 26:

Outcome rate (%) for recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation by local policing team, Belfast City Policing District, and Northern Ireland, 2019/20..... 98

### PEACE FIGURE 27:

Rate of incidents and of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation per 10,000 population by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20..... 100



PEACE FIGURE 28:

Outcome rate (%) for recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20 ..... 101

## SECTION 6: Perceptions of Crime and Anti-social Behaviour

PEACE FIGURE 29:

Percentage (%) of people very worried about crime overall, with very high levels of worry about burglary, car crime and violent crime, and feeling very unsafe walking alone in area after dark and alone in home at night by Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland, 2019/20 ..... 108

PEACE FIGURE 30:

Percentage (%) of people very worried about crime overall, people with very high levels of worry about burglary, car crime and violent crime, and people feeling very unsafe walking alone in area after dark and alone in home at night by policing district, 2019/20..... 111

PEACE FIGURE 31:

Percentage (%) of people very worried about crime overall, people with very high levels of worry about burglary, car crime and violent crime, and people feeling very unsafe walking alone in area after dark and alone in home at night by deprivation quintile (Quintiles 1-5) in Northern Ireland and Northern Ireland, 2019/20 ..... 113

PEACE FIGURE 32:

Percentage (%) of people perceiving an effect of fear of crime on quality of life by size of effect and policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20..... 118

PEACE FIGURE 33:

Percentage (%) of people perceiving an effect of fear of crime on quality of life by size of effect and by Northern Ireland's areas of deprivation (Quintiles 1-5) and Northern Ireland, 2019/20..... 120

PEACE FIGURE 34:

Percentage (%) of people who perceived specific anti-social behaviours as a problem in Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland, 2009/10 and 2019/20 ..... 127

PEACE FIGURE 35:

Percentage (%) of people who perceived a high level of anti-social behaviours by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20..... 128

#### PEACE FIGURE 36

Percentage (%) of people who perceived abandoned or burnt-out cars, rubbish or litter lying around, and vandalism, graffiti, and other deliberate damage to property, noisy neighbours or loud parties, people being drunk or rowdy in public places, people using or dealing drugs, and teenagers/young people hanging around on streets as a “very” or “fairly” big problem by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20..... 131

#### PEACE FIGURE 37:

Percentage (%) of people who perceived a high level of anti-social behaviours by area of deprivation (Quintiles 1-5) and Northern Ireland, 2019/20 ..... 132

#### PEACE FIGURE 38:

Percentage (%) of people who perceived specific anti-social behaviours as a “very” or “fairly” big problem by area of deprivation in Northern Ireland (Quintiles 1-5), 2019/20..... 134

#### PEACE FIGURE 39:

Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland who perceived specific causes of crime in Northern Ireland as main and major, 2019/20..... 140

#### PEACE FIGURE 40:

Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland who perceived specific causes of crime in the local area as main and major, 2019/20..... 142

#### PEACE FIGURE 41:

Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to perceptions of change in overall crime levels in Northern Ireland, 2009/10 and 2019/20 ..... 150

#### PEACE FIGURE 42:

Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to perceptions of change in local crime levels, 2009/10 and 2019/20..... 154

## SECTION 7: Confidence in Policing

#### PEACE FIGURE 43:

Percentage (%) of people supporting specific statements about confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland, by Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland, 2009/10 and 2019/20..... 163

#### PEACE FIGURE 44:

Overall rating (%) for confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20..... 164

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 45:</b><br>Percentage (%) of people who agreed with specific statements about confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland by policing district, 2019/20 .....                                 | 168 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 46:</b><br>Overall confidence rating (%) in the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland by area of deprivation (Quintiles 1-5) in Northern Ireland, 2019/20.....  | 169 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 47:</b><br>Percentage (%) of people supporting specific statements about confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland by area of deprivation (Quintiles 1-5) in Northern Ireland, 2019/20..... | 171 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 48A:</b><br>Percentage (%) of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree with specific statements about local policing in Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland, 2012/13 and 2019/20.....                            | 182 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 48B:</b><br>Percentage (%) of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree with specific statements about local policing in Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland, 2018/19 and 2019/20.....                            | 183 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 49:</b><br>Percentage (%) of people who had overall confidence in local police by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20 .....   | 184 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 50:</b><br>Percentage (%) of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree with specific statements about local policing by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20 .....   | 187 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 51:</b><br>Percentage (%) of people with overall confidence in local police by area of deprivation in Northern Ireland (Quintiles 1-5) and Northern Ireland, 2019/20.....   | 188 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 52:</b><br>Percentage (%) of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree with specific statements about confidence in local police by area of deprivation (Quintiles 1-5) in Northern Ireland, 2019/20.....                         | 191 |

## SECTION 8: Child Protection

### PEACE FIGURE 53:

Percentage share (%) of main sources of referral to Child Protection Services in Belfast HSCT, 2019/20..... 198

### PEACE FIGURE 54:

Percentage share (%) of sources of referral to Child Protection Services in Belfast HSCT and Northern Ireland, 2019/20..... 201

### PEACE FIGURE 55:

Percentage share (%) of sources of referrals to Child Protection Services in Belfast HSCT and Northern Ireland, 2011/12 and 2019/20..... 202

### PEACE FIGURE 56:

Percentage share (%) of sources of referral to Child Protection Services by HSCT, 2019/20..... 204

### PEACE FIGURE 57:

Percentage (%) of children and young people aged under 18 years on the Child Protection Register in Belfast HSCT by category of abuse, at 31 March 2020..... 210

### PEACE FIGURE 58:

Percentage (%) of children and young people aged under 18 years of age on the Child Protection Register experiencing complex subcategories of abuse within the mixed categories of abuse in Belfast HSCT, 31 March 2020 ..... 211

### PEACE FIGURE 59:

Percentage (%) of children and young people aged under 18 years on the Child Protection Register in Belfast HSCT and Northern Ireland by category of abuse, at 31 March 2012 and at 31 March 2020..... 214

### PEACE FIGURE 60:

Rate of children and young people on the Child Protection Register per 10,000 population under the age of 18 years, by HSCT and Northern Ireland, at 31 March 2020..... 215

### PEACE FIGURE 61:

Percentage (%) of children and young people under the age of 18 years on the Child Protection Register by category of abuse and HSCT and Northern Ireland, 31 March 2020..... 216

## SECTION 9: Interface Structures or Barriers

### PEACE FIGURE 62:

Number of interface structures in Belfast and areas within Belfast, 2017..... 221

### PEACE FIGURE 63:

Percentage share (%) of different types of interface structure in Belfast, 2017 ..... 223

### PEACE FIGURE 64:

Percentage share (%) of Belfast's different types of interface structure by area within Belfast, 2017 ..... 225

### PEACE FIGURE 65:

Percentage share (%) of different types of interface structure within areas of Belfast and within Belfast, 2017 ..... 226

### PEACE FIGURE 66:

Percentage (%) of responses in relation to attitudes to peace walls for households living in the vicinity of peace walls in East Belfast, North Belfast, and West Belfast, 2019..... 232

### PEACE FIGURE 67:

Attitude to peace walls of respondents (%) living near peace walls in Belfast, Derry/Londonderry and Portadown in an Ipsos MORI poll, 2019 ..... 233

## SECTION 11: Community Relations in Northern Ireland

### PEACE FIGURE 68:

Percentage (%) of men and women in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether Northern Ireland is a place where people respect each other, 2016 and 2019 ..... 249

### PEACE FIGURE 69:

Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland who agreed ('strongly agree' and 'agree' combined) that Northern Ireland is a place where people respect each other by age group, and Northern Ireland, 2019 ..... 250

### PEACE FIGURE 70:

Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether Northern Ireland is a place where people respect each other by religion, 2016 and 2019..... 252

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 71:</b><br>Percentage (%) of men and women in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether their own cultural identity was respected by society, 2014 and 2019 .....                                     | 256 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 72:</b><br>Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland who agreed ('strongly agree' and 'agree' combined) that their own cultural identity was respected by society by age group and Northern Ireland, 2019.....           | 257 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 73:</b><br>Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether their own cultural identity was respected by society by religion, 2014 and 2019 .....                                | 259 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 74:</b><br>Percentage (%) of men and women in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether they felt a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland, 2014 and 2019.....  | 263 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 75:</b><br>Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland who agreed ('strongly agree' and 'agree' combined) that they felt a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland by age group, and Northern Ireland, 2019 .....           | 264 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 76:</b><br>Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether they felt a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland by religion, 2014 and 2019.....                                   | 266 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 77:</b><br>Percentage (%) of men and women in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether they felt a sense of belonging to the immediate neighbourhood, 2014 and 2019 .....                            | 270 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 78:</b><br>Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland who agreed ('strongly agree' and 'agree' combined) that they felt a sense of belonging to the immediate neighbourhood by age group, and Northern Ireland, 2019..... | 271 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 79:</b><br>Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether they felt a sense of belonging to the immediate neighbourhood by religion, 2014 and 2019 .....                       | 273 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 80:</b><br>Percentage (%) men and women in Northern Ireland according to levels of favourability towards people from a different ethnic group, 2014 and 2019.....   | 277 |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 81:</b><br>Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland who felt favourably ('very favourably' and 'favourably' combined) about people from a different ethnic group by age group, and Northern Ireland, 2019.....                                | 278 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 82:</b><br>Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to levels of favourability towards people from a different ethnic group by religion, 2014 and 2019.....   | 280 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 83:</b><br>Percentage (%) of men and women in Northern Ireland according to self-reported levels of prejudice against people of minority ethnic communities, 2014 and 2019.....   | 284 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 84:</b><br>Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland who self-reported they were prejudiced ('very prejudiced' and 'a little prejudiced' combined) against people of minority ethnic communities by age group, and Northern Ireland, 2019..... | 285 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 85:</b><br>Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to self-reported levels of prejudice against people of minority ethnic communities by religion, 2014 and 2019.....  | 287 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 86:</b><br>Percentage (%) of young people in Northern Ireland who had ever witnessed any kind of racist bullying or harassment in their school by sex and religion, and Northern Ireland, 2014 and 2019.....                                      | 291 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 87:</b><br>Percentage (%) of men and women who would prefer a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion or a mixed-religion neighbourhood, 2014 and 2019.....  | 296 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 88:</b><br>Percentage (%) of people who would prefer a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion or who would prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood by age group, and Northern Ireland, 2019.....                                      | 297 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 89:</b><br>Percentage (%) of people who would prefer a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion or a mixed-religion neighbourhood by religion, 2014 and 2019.....   | 299 |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 90:</b><br>Percentage (%) of men and women in Northern Ireland according to preference for a workplace with people of only their own religion or a mixed religion workplace, 2014 and 2019.....                     | 303 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 91:</b><br>Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to preference for a workplace with people of only their own religion or a mixed religion workplace by age group, and Northern Ireland, 2019 ..... | 304 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 92:</b><br>Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to preference for a workplace with people of only their own religion or a mixed religion workplace by religion, 2014 and 2019.....                | 306 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 93:</b><br>Percentage (%) of men and women in Northern Ireland according to preference for a school with children of only their own religion or a mixed religion school, 2014 and 2019.....                         | 310 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 94:</b><br>Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to preference for a school with children of only their own religion or a mixed religion school by age group, and Northern Ireland, 2019.....      | 311 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 95:</b><br>Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to preference for a school with children of only their own religion or a mixed religion school by religion, 2014 and 2019 .....                   | 314 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 96:</b><br>Percentage (%) of population, and various population groups, in Northern Ireland who would willingly accept people from different backgrounds/communities as residents in the local area, 2019 .....     | 318 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 97:</b><br>Percentage (%) of population, and various population groups, in Northern Ireland who would willingly accept people from different backgrounds/communities as colleagues at work, 2019.....               | 322 |
| <b>PEACE FIGURE 98:</b><br>Percentage (%) of population, and various population groups, in Northern Ireland who would willingly accept people from different backgrounds/communities as a relative by marriage, 2019 .....          | 326 |



## SECTION 12: Perceptions of ‘Shared and Open’ Spaces in Northern Ireland

### PEACE FIGURE 99:

Percentage (%) of men and women in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether leisure centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics, 2016 and 2019..... 330

### PEACE FIGURE 100:

Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland who agreed (‘strongly agree’ and ‘agree’ combined) that leisure centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics by age group, and Northern Ireland, 2019..... 331

### PEACE FIGURE 101:

Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether leisure centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics by religion, 2016 and 2019 ..... 333

### PEACE FIGURE 102:

Percentage (%) of men and women in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether parks in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics, 2016 and 2019 ..... 337

### PEACE FIGURE 103:

Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland who agreed (‘strongly agree’ and ‘agree’ combined) that parks in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics by age group, and Northern Ireland, 2019 ..... 338

### PEACE FIGURE 104:

Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether parks in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics by religion, 2016 and 2019..... 340

### PEACE FIGURE 105:

Percentage (%) of men and women in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether libraries in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics, 2016 and 2019..... 344

### PEACE FIGURE 106:

Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland who agreed (‘strongly agree’ and ‘agree’ combined) that libraries in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics by age group, and Northern Ireland, 2019 ..... 345

### PEACE FIGURE 107:

Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether libraries in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics by religion, 2016 and 2019 ..... 347

**PEACE FIGURE 108:**

Percentage (%) of men and women in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether shopping centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics, 2016 and 2019..... 351

**PEACE FIGURE 109:**

Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland who agreed ('strongly agree' and 'agree' combined) that shopping centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics by age group, and Northern Ireland, 2019..... 352

**PEACE FIGURE 110:**

Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether shopping centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics by religion, 2016 and 2019 ..... 354

# Tables

## SECTION 1: Police-recorded Crime

### PEACE TABLE 1:

Number, and percentage share, of Northern Ireland's total police-recorded crime by policing district, 2019/20 ..... 29

## SECTION 3: Crime and Deprivation

### PEACE TABLE 2:

Rates of violence, robbery & public order crime, burglary, theft, vehicle crime, criminal damage & arson, deliberate primary & secondary fires, and anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents per 1,000 population by LGD, NIMDM2017 ..... 64

## SECTION 6: Perceptions of Crime and Anti-social Behaviour

### PEACE TABLE 3:

Comparison between the perceived top 10 ranked major causes of crime in Northern Ireland and in the local area, 2019/20 ..... 143

### PEACE TABLE 4:

Comparison between the perceived top 10 ranked main causes of crime in Northern Ireland and in the local area, 2019/20 ..... 145

### PEACE TABLE 5:

Perceptions of the most highly ranked major and main causes of crime in Northern Ireland and in the local area, 2019/20 ..... 146

## SECTION 10: Case-study:

### PEACE CASE-STUDY TABLE 1:

Preliminary Findings for 'Children and Young People' ..... 244

### PEACE CASE-STUDY TABLE 2:

Preliminary Findings for 'Building Positive Relations' ..... 245

### PEACE CASE-STUDY TABLE 3:

Preliminary Findings for 'Shared Spaces and Services' ..... 246

# Introduction

The core themes in Phase VII (2019 – 2025) of the World Health Organization's European Healthy Cities Network are:

- **investing in the people who make up our cities;**
- **designing urban places that improve health and wellbeing;**
- **fostering greater participation and partnerships for health and wellbeing;**
- **improving community prosperity and access to common goods and services;**
- **promoting peace and security through inclusive societies; and**
- **protecting the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production.**

These six themes are interdependent and mutually supportive. WHO advocate cities will achieve more in these areas by linking up policies, investments and services, and by focusing on leaving no one behind. Combining governance approaches to make health and wellbeing possible for everyone will foster innovation and orient investments towards promoting health and preventing disease.

Belfast was successfully designated to the WHO Phase VII Network in 2021 and, whilst developing a city health profile is a requirement of being a designated member of the WHO Network, the profile is an invaluable resource for agencies and citizens in the city.

A summary of the City Health Profile, 'BELFAST Profiling Health, Wellbeing & Prosperity', for the city of Belfast, provides data and analysis from an expanded range of sources according to this '6P' framework and, although a large amount of the comprehensive range of data provided are publicly available, the added value of the City Profile is the presentation in an accessible, concise, and integrated format.

In addition to the summary document, a full chapter is available on each of the six P themes:

- **The People chapter focuses on Demography; Population health; Pregnancy and early years; Adult health and wellbeing; Mental health and wellbeing and Use of health care services.**
- **The Prosperity chapter focuses on the Labour Market; Income; Poverty & Deprivation and Education.**

- The Place chapter focuses on Transport; Housing stock; Housing conditions; Household characteristics, Housing demand; Housing supply; Private rented sector; Social rented sector; Housing-related benefits and Homelessness.
- The Planet chapter focuses on Carbon Emissions; Climate Change Impacts; Carbon Emission Projections for Belfast; Climate Change Projections; Energy consumption; Decarbonisation of electricity supply; Decarbonisation of private transport; Climate change adaptation and mitigation; Resource use; Surface water status; Public drinking water quality; Air quality and Noise

This Peace chapter focuses on:

- Police-recorded crime
- Experience of Crime
- Crime and Deprivation
- Crime with a Domestic Abuse Motivation
- Hate Crime
- Perceptions of Crime and Anti-social Behaviour
- Confidence in Policing
- Child protection
- Interface Structures or Barriers
- Community Relations in Northern Ireland
- Perceptions of 'Shared and Open' spaces in Northern Ireland

It also includes a Case-study: The Belfast PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

Where possible, trends over time are assessed, with an evaluation on whether those trends are favourable or unfavourable. The health inequalities potential for population groups is outlined, where feasible; this information provides the basis for targeted action to improve health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities across the many determinants affecting the lives of people in the city. Data on some issues referenced by WHO within the Peace theme are not routinely collected in Northern Ireland and are, therefore, not included in this chapter.

## PEACE: PROMOTING PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGH INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

A healthy city leads by example by promoting peace through inclusive societies that focus on places, participation, prosperity and the planet, while putting people at the centre of all policies and actions.

### Priority issues

This is a new theme for Phase VII whose priority areas were presented and adopted at the World Health Organization International Healthy Cities Conference in Belfast, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom, in October 2018. This theme recognizes that peace is not only the absence of war, and emphasises that the core dimensions of peace and peaceful societies – social justice, fairness, tolerance, dialogue, alliance building, consensus and city diplomacy – have been at the heart of the Network's activities throughout its 30-year history.

### Health as a Bridge for Peace

Health as a Bridge for Peace is a multidimensional policy and planning framework that supports health workers in delivering health programmes in conflict and post-conflict situations and also contributes to peace building. It uses health services to prevent the emergence of conflict and radicalisation, build peace, and promote security – including health security and social cohesion.

### Peace through healthy places

Urban planning, spatial planning and urban design are tools available to local governments for enhancing social cohesion, societal trust, community resilience, peaceful communities and population well-being. This includes strengthening community cohesion through place-based inclusion and universal health coverage and access.

### Violence and injury prevention.

Violence and unintentional injuries cause significant human death, suffering and disability in cities. Injury and violence remain the leading causes of death in young people in the Region. Work in this area includes preventing intentional and unintentional violence against children, intimate-partner violence, gender-based violence, hate speech, bullying and ostracisation, and hostility towards migrants and refugees, as well as promoting road safety, water safety, fire safety and safety in other areas.

## Human security

Human security is a multidimensional concept that refers to a state of integrated well-being. It embraces elements ranging from physical safety and employment to food security and access to basic services, such as health care and clean water. The human security approach to development takes account of the close interrelationships among the elements people need in order to live without fear, without deprivation and with dignity. It seeks solutions to build emergency preparedness and response; water, food and energy security; and individual and collective resilience against natural disasters and acts of terrorism.

## Health security

Global health security is defined as the activities required to minimize the danger and impact of acute public health events that threaten the collective health of populations living across geographical regions and international boundaries. All countries have a responsibility to keep their people safe, and cities have a key role to play in this area. Collective, international public health action can build a safer future for humanity.

## Mental health and well-being

Urban planning and design and the delivery of public services and targeted actions at the city level have significant impacts on mental health and well-being among urban populations. Action in this area ranges from addressing the psychosocial elements of post-conflict reconciliation in cities to strengthening inclusion, participation and social cohesion among those experiencing mental disorders or disabilities.

## SECTION 1

# Police-recorded Crime

## 1.1 - Number of Crimes - Crime Rate

### IMPORTANCE

Harm from crime includes negative impacts on individuals and society. Although crime is often seen as a harm in its own right, the negative impacts related to any one incident will differ by:

- The type of crime experienced
- The perspective of the victim

Harms include a range of outcomes for both individuals, such as financial loss and physical harm, and communities and wider society, such as fear of crime and increased use of health and victim services. Types of harm can be categorised as:

- Physical, including death, injury, or violence
- Emotional or psychological
- Financial or economic, including financial or material losses
- Community safety, including restrictions in autonomy, freedom of movement, access to information, or growth and development because of fear or other detrimental effects of crime
- Violation of privacy, including access to personal or confidential information or unauthorised entry to property<sup>1</sup>

Recorded crime figures are an important indicator of police workload and can be used for local crime pattern analysis and provide a good measure of trends in well-reported crimes. For some categories of crime, such as drug possession offences, where the volume of offences recorded is heavily influenced by police activities and

---

1. The impact of crime on victims and society - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) (Last accessed 14 July 2022)



priorities, recorded crime statistics may not provide an accurate picture of the extent of criminality. Recorded crime statistics are used within PSNI:

- To monitor performance on crime and detection rate targets against the Policing Plan
- To inform PSNI policy
- To provide information in support of operational research identifying appropriate allocation of police resource

Recorded crime statistics are also used by:

- The Northern Ireland Policing Board and at local level by Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) to monitor the performance of the police
- The Department of Justice for Northern Ireland in relation to policy development

Recorded crime statistics are also used in response to both Assembly and Parliamentary questions, informing public debate and concerns around criminal activity.<sup>2</sup>

## DEFINITION

The PSNI-recorded crime statistics cover two types of crime:

1. Victim-based crime including violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, theft offences (including burglary) and criminal damage offences
2. Other crimes against society including drug offences, possession of weapons, public order offences and miscellaneous crimes against society

PSNI-recorded crime statistics also cover a wider range of crimes not covered in the NISCS, including:

- Crimes against children
- Crimes against businesses
- Crimes referred to as 'victimless' crimes, such as drug possession offences

---

2. [crime-user-guide.pdf](#) (psni.police.uk) (Last accessed 21 August 2022)

PSNI-recorded crime statistics do not include fraud, which is collated centrally by the UK Action Fraud agency.<sup>3</sup>

Crimes are geographically recorded by the police based on the location in which the incident occurred.

Crime rates are calculated using the Northern Ireland mid-year population estimates.

Care should be taken when comparing crime rates at policing-district level as some of the differences between districts may reflect variations in their composition:

- **The degree of urbanisation**
- **The level of deprivation**
- **The balance between the resident population, day-time population, and night-time economy – where there is an increased day-time population or night-time economy relative to the resident population, the number of crimes relative to the real population of potential victims may be over-represented**

The PSNI-recorded crime statistics include data only on crimes that have been reported to the police. In the NISCS 2019/20, it was estimated that in Northern Ireland more than half of the crimes against households and their adult occupants were not reported to the police, which suggests that there is a high level of under-reporting in the PSNI-recorded crime statistics.<sup>4</sup>

In an inspection of PSNI crime data integrity by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) in 2015, of the 481 incident records examined, 474 crimes should have been recorded, whereas the PSNI recorded 459, representing a crime-recording accuracy rate of 97%. An incident is a report of events received by the police recorded on the electronic incident systems that requires police attention. Whether an incident report becomes a crime record is determined on the balance of probability that a notifiable offence has occurred as set out in the Home Office Counting Rules. If an incident does not turn out to be a crime, it must still be logged in an auditable form on the incident-recording system or some other accessible or auditable means.<sup>5</sup>

Information is from Police Recorded Crime Statistics, Police recorded crime Annual Trends 1998/99 to 2020/21, and Trends in Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland 1998/99 to 2019/20, Annual Bulletin.<sup>6</sup>

- 
3. PSNI 2018 User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland (Last accessed 14 July 2022)
  4. Experience of Crime 2019/20 findings ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 30 July 2022)
  5. [psni-crime-data-integrity.pdf](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/psni-crime-data-integrity.pdf) ([justiceinspectorates.gov.uk](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 21 August 2022)
  6. Police Recorded Crime Statistics ([psni.police.uk](https://psni.police.uk)) and Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland : 2002/2003 ([psni.police.uk](https://psni.police.uk)) (Last accessed 14 July 2022)

## PROFILE FINDINGS

### Number of crimes

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the number of police-recorded crimes was 33,972, representing 31.90% of Northern Ireland's total.

Between 2002/03 and 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the number of police-recorded crimes decreased by 13,125, from 47,097 to 33,972.

### Crime rate

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the rate of police-recorded crime was 99 per 1,000 population.

Between 2002/03 and 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the rate of police-recorded crime decreased by 44 per 1,000 population, from 143 to 99 per 1,000 population.

### Differences by local policing team

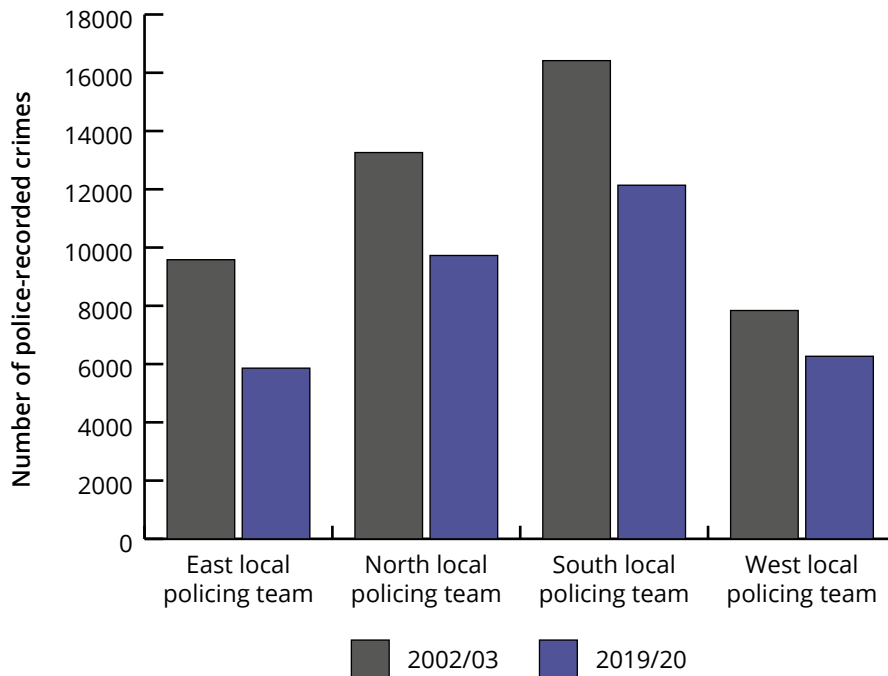
#### ***Number of crimes***

In 2019/20, there was variation in the number of police-recorded crimes across Belfast's four local policing teams:

- South local policing team had the highest number at 12,140
- East local policing team had the lowest number at 5,860 (see Peace Figure 1)

Between 2002/03 and 2019/20, the number of police-recorded crimes decreased across all Belfast's local policing teams:

- East local policing team had the largest percentage decrease, decreasing by 3,721 police-recorded crimes, from 9,581 to 5,860 (a percentage decrease of 38.84%)
- West local policing team had the lowest percentage decrease, decreasing by 1,571 police-recorded crimes, from 7,839 to 6,268 (a percentage decrease of 20.04%; see Peace Figure 1)

**PEACE FIGURE 1:****Number of police-recorded crimes by Belfast's local policing teams, 2002/03 and 2019/20**

Source: PSNI: Police recorded crime Annual Trends 1998/99 to 2020/21, Summary Tables, Table 9.1

**KEY COMPARISONS****Comparison with Northern Ireland****Number of crimes**

In 2019/20, the number of police-recorded crimes in Northern Ireland was 106,492.

Between 2002/03 and 2019/20, the number of police-recorded crimes decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 13,125, from 47,097 to 33,972 (a percentage decrease of 27.87%)
- In Northern Ireland by 31,640, from 138,132 to 106,492 (a percentage decrease of 22.91%)

**Crime rate**

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the rate of police-recorded crime was higher by 43 per 1,000 population in Belfast City Policing District, 99 compared with 56 per 1,000 population (see Peace Figure 2).

Between 2002/03 and 2019/20, the rate of police-recorded crime decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 44 per 1,000 population, from 143 to 99 per 1,000 population (a percentage decrease of 30.77%)
- In Northern Ireland by 25 per 1,000 population, from 81 to 56 per 1,000 population (a percentage decrease of 30.86%)

## Comparison with other policing districts

### **Number of crimes**

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the highest number and highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's police-recorded crimes
- Fermanagh & Omagh Policing District had the lowest number and percentage share
- Antrim & Newtownabbey Policing District had the median number and percentage share (see Peace Table 1)

### **PEACE TABLE 1:**

**Number, and percentage share, of Northern Ireland's total police-recorded crime by policing district, 2019/20**

| Policing district                  | Number | Percentage share of Northern Ireland's total |
|------------------------------------|--------|--|
| Antrim & Newtownabbey              | 6,940  | 6.52%  |
| Ards & North Down                  | 5,862  | 5.51%  |
| Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon | 10,570 | 9.93%  |
| Belfast City                       | 33,972 | 31.90%                                       |
| Causeway Coast & Glens             | 6,655  | 6.25%  |
| Derry City & Strabane              | 9,921  | 9.32%  |
| Fermanagh & Omagh                  | 4,699  | 4.41%  |
| Lisburn & Castlereagh City         | 6,750  | 6.34%  |
| Mid & East Antrim                  | 7,109  | 6.68%  |
| Mid Ulster                         | 5,398  | 5.07%  |
| Newry, Mourne & Down               | 8,616  | 8.09%  |

Source: PSNI: Police recorded crime Annual Trends 1998/99 to 2020/21, Summary Tables, Table 9.1

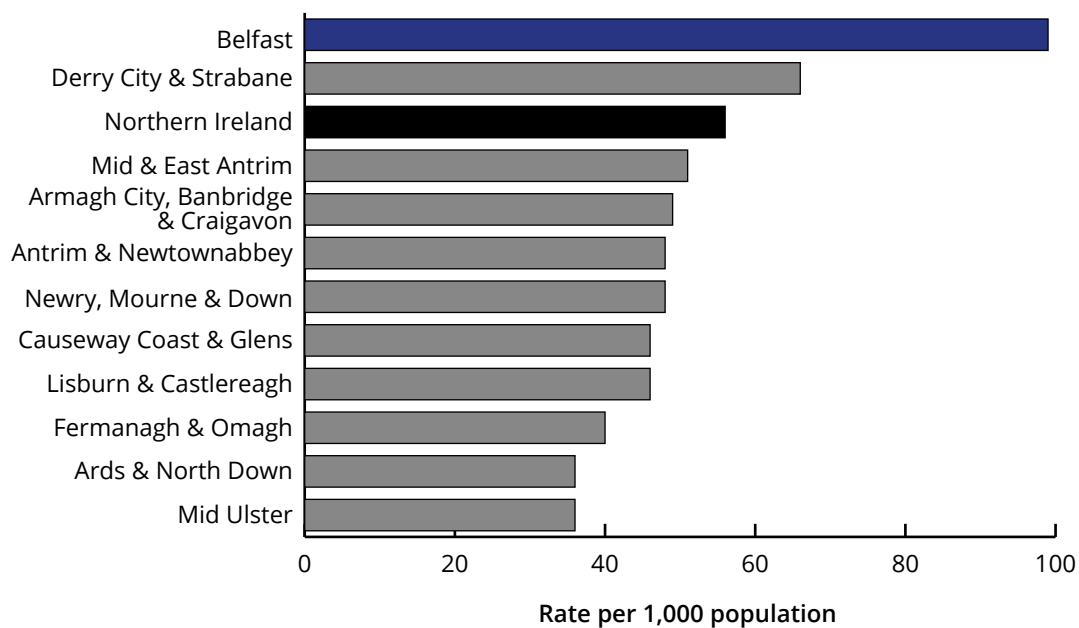
## Crime rate

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of police-recorded crime at 99 per 1,000 population
- Ards & North Down Policing District and Mid Ulster Policing District had the lowest rate at 36 police-recorded crimes per 1,000 population
- Antrim & Newtownabbey Policing District and Newry, Mourne & Down Policing District had the median rate at 48 police-recorded crimes per 1,000 population (see Peace Figure 2)

### PLACE FIGURE 2:

**Rate of police-recorded crimes per 1,000 population by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**



Source: PSNI: Police recorded crime Annual Trends 1998/99 to 2020/21, Summary Tables, Table 9.3

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019/20, over 3 out of every 10 police-recorded crimes in Northern Ireland occurred in Belfast City Policing District.

In 2019/20, Belfast City Policing District had a crime rate approaching double that of Northern Ireland. Between 2002/03 and 2019/20, the crime rate decreased in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland by a similar percentage decrease and using that calculation the gap between the two remained almost the same; however, based on the differences between the rates, the gap between the two narrowed considerably with improving outcomes for Belfast City Policing District.

Among policing districts, Belfast City Policing District had the highest number, highest percentage share and highest rate of police-recorded crimes.

### Inequalities with the potential for inequity

In 2019/20, within Belfast City Policing District, South local policing team had the highest number of police-recorded crimes, followed by North local policing team. Between 2002/03 and 2019/20, however, among the four local policing teams in Belfast City, West had the smallest percentage decrease.

- ## 1.2 Rate of Specific Crimes:
- Theft – Burglary Residential
  - Theft – Vehicle Offences
  - Criminal Damage
  - Violence with Injury
  - Violence without Injury

### IMPORTANCE

Harm from crime includes negative impacts on individuals and society. Although crime is often seen as a harm in its own right, the negative impacts related to any one incident will differ by:

- The type of crime experienced
- The perspective of the victim

Harms include a range of outcomes for both individuals, such as financial loss and physical harm, and communities and wider society, such as fear of crime and increased use of health and victim services. Types of harm can be categorised as:

- Physical, including death, injury, or violence
- Emotional or psychological
- Financial or economic, including financial or material losses
- Community safety, including restrictions in autonomy, freedom of movement, access to information, or growth and development because of fear or other detrimental effects of crime
- Violation of privacy, including access to personal or confidential information or unauthorised entry to property<sup>7</sup>

Police-recorded crime statistics help to inform public debate about crime, and support the development of policy and strategy, and the monitoring of its implementation.<sup>8</sup>

---

7. The impact of crime on victims and society - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) (Last accessed 14 July 2022)

8. Trends in Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland 1998/99 to 2020/21 (psni.police.uk) (Last accessed 21 August 2022)



## DEFINITION

The PSNI-recorded crime statistics cover two types of crime:

1. **Victim-based crime including violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, theft offences (including burglary) and criminal damage offences**
2. **Other crimes against society including drug offences, possession of weapons, public order offences and miscellaneous crimes against society**

PSNI-recorded crime statistics also cover a wider range of crimes not covered in the NISCS, including:

- **Crimes against children**
- **Crimes against businesses**
- **Crimes referred to as 'victimless' crimes, such as drug possession offences**

PSNI-recorded crime statistics do not include fraud, which is collated centrally by the UK Action Fraud agency.<sup>9</sup>

Crimes are geographically recorded by the police based on the location in which the incident occurred.

Crime rates are calculated using the Northern Ireland mid-year population estimates.

Care should be taken when comparing crime rates at policing-district level as some of the differences between districts may reflect variations in their composition:

- **The degree of urbanisation**
- **The level of deprivation**
- **The balance between the resident population, day-time population, and night-time economy – where there is an increased day-time population or night-time economy relative to the resident population, the number of crimes relative to the real population of potential victims may be over-represented**

The PSNI-recorded crime statistics include data only on crimes that have been reported to the police. In the NISCS 2019/20, it was estimated that in Northern Ireland more than half of the crimes against households and their adult occupants were not reported to the police, which suggests that there is a high level of under-reporting in the PSNI-recorded crime statistics.<sup>10</sup>

---

9. PSNI 2018 User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland (Last accessed 14 July 2022)

10. Experience of Crime 2019/20 findings (publishing.service.gov.uk) (Last accessed 30 July 2022)

Information is from Police Recorded Crime Statistics, Police recorded crime Annual Trends 1998/99 to 2020/21, Pivot Table 1, and Trends in Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland 1998/99 to 2019/20, Annual Bulletin.<sup>11</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the rate of:

- Theft – burglary residential was 5 per 1,000 population
- Theft – vehicle offences was 4 per 1,000 population
- Criminal damage was 16 per 1,000 population
- Violence with injury was 12 per 1,000 population
- Violence without injury was 16 per 1,000 population

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the rate of:

- Theft – vehicle offences decreased by 6 per 1,000 population, from 10 to 4 per 1,000 population
- Criminal damage decreased by 7 per 1,000 population, from 23 to 16 per 1,000 population
- Violence with injury decreased by 2 per 1,000 population, from 14 to 12 per 1,000 population
- Violence without injury increased by 5 per 1,000 population, from 11 to 16 per 1,000 population

Between 2017/18<sup>12</sup> and 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the rate of theft – burglary residential remained the same at 5 per 1,000 population.

- 
11. Police Recorded Crime Statistics (psni.police.uk) and Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland : 2002/2003 (psni.police.uk) (Last accessed 18 August 2022)
  12. From 1 April 2017, the classifications within burglary were changed from domestic burglary and non-domestic burglary to burglary–residential and burglary–business & community. This reflects a revised approach within the Home Office Counting Rules. What constitutes a burglary does not change; however, burglary-residential and burglary-business & community represent a new data series. The individual series for domestic burglary and burglary-residential cannot be added together to create an overall figure. The same applies to non-domestic burglary and burglary-business & community

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the rate of:

- Theft – burglary residential was 3 per 1,000 population higher in Belfast City Policing District, 5 compared with 2 per 1,000 population
- Theft – vehicle offences was 2 per 1,000 population higher in Belfast City Policing District, 4 compared with 2 per 1,000 population
- Criminal damage was 6 per 1,000 population higher in Belfast City Policing District, 16 compared with 10 per 1,000 population
- Violence with injury was 5 per 1,000 population higher in Belfast City Policing District, 12 compared with 7 per 1,000 population
- Violence without injury was 7 per 1,000 population higher in Belfast City Policing District, 16 compared with 9 per 1,000 population

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the rate of:

- Theft – vehicle offences decreased by 6 per 1,000 population in Belfast City Policing District, from 10 to 4 per 1,000 population (a percentage decrease of 60.00%), and decreased by 3 per 1,000 population in Northern Ireland, from 5 to 2 per 1,000 population (a percentage decrease of 60.00%)
- Criminal damage decreased by 7 per 1,000 population in Belfast City Policing District, from 23 to 16 per 1,000 population (a percentage decrease of 30.43%), and decreased by 4 per 1,000 population in Northern Ireland, from 14 to 10 per 1,000 population (a percentage decrease of 28.57%)
- Violence with injury decreased by 2 per 1,000 population in Belfast City Policing District, from 14 to 12 per 1,000 population (a percentage decrease of 14.29%), and decreased by 2 per 1,000 population in Northern Ireland, from 9 to 7 per 1,000 population (a percentage decrease of 22.22%)
- Violence without injury increased by 5 per 1,000 population in Belfast City Policing District, from 11 to 16 per 1,000 population (a percentage increase of 45.45%), and increased by 2 per 1,000 population in Northern Ireland, from 7 to 9 per 1,000 population (a percentage increase of 28.57%)

Between 2017/18 and 2019/20, the rate of theft – burglary residential remained the same in Belfast City Policing District, at 5 per 1,000 population, whereas it decreased by 1 per 1,000 population in Northern Ireland, from 3 to 2 per 1,000 population (a percentage decrease of 33.33%).

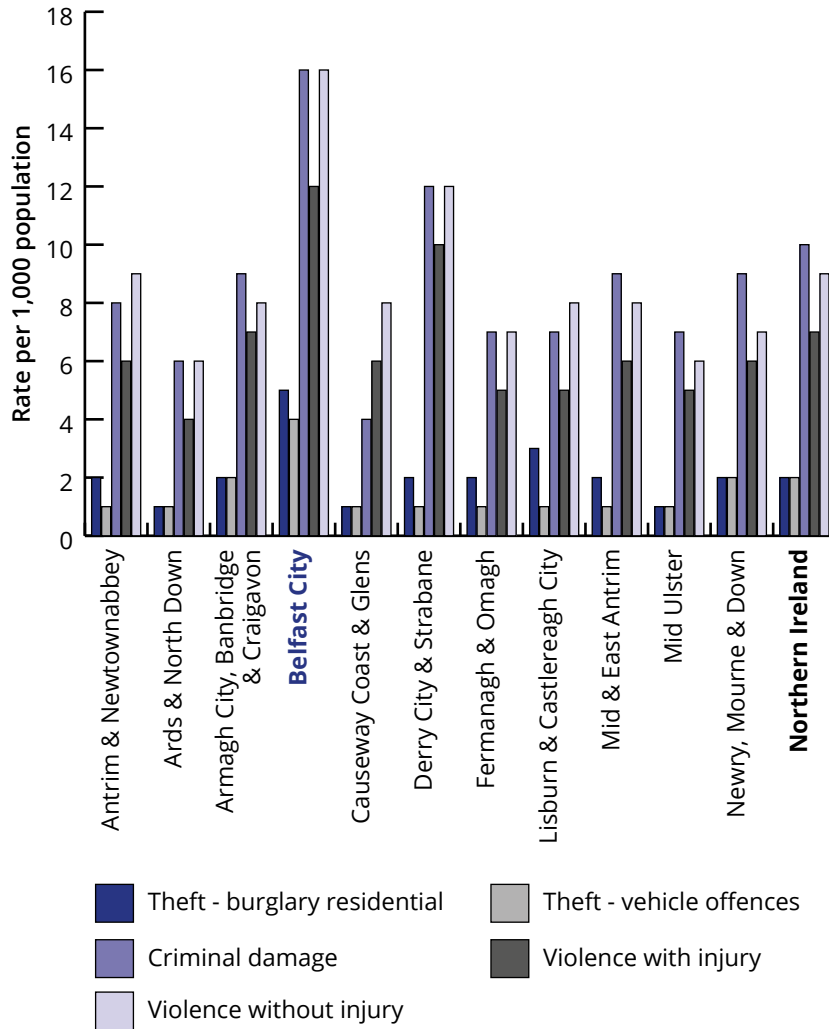
## Comparison with other policing districts

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of theft – burglary residential at 5 per 1,000 population, three policing districts had the lowest rate at 1 per 1,000 population, and six policing districts had the median rate at 2 per 1,000 population
- Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of theft – vehicle offences at 4 per 1,000 population, and eight policing districts had the lowest rate at 1 per 1,000 population, which was also the median rate
- Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of criminal damage at 16 per 1,000 population, Causeway Coast & Glens Policing District had the lowest rate at 4 per 1,000 population, and Antrim & Newtownabbey Policing District had the median rate at 8 per 1,000 population
- Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of violence with injury at 12 per 1,000 population, Ards & North Down Policing District had the lowest rate at 4 per 1,000 population, and four policing districts had the median rate at 6 per 1,000 population
- Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of violence without injury at 16 per 1,000 population, Ards & North Down Policing District and Mid Ulster Policing District had the lowest rate at 6 per 1,000 population, and four policing districts had the median rate at 8 per 1,000 population (see Peace Figure 3)

**PEACE FIGURE 3:**

**Rates of police-recorded theft – burglary residential, theft – vehicle offences, criminal damage, violence with injury, and violence without injury per 1,000 population by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**



Source: PSNI: Police recorded crime Annual Trends 1998/99 to 2020/21, Pivot Table 1

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the rates of theft – burglary residential, theft – vehicle offences, criminal damage, violence with injury, and violence without injury were higher than those in Northern Ireland, and highest among policing districts.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the rate of:

- Theft – vehicle offences decreased in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland and although the percentage decrease was the same the difference between the rates narrowed
- Criminal damage decreased in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland, but the percentage decrease was greater in Belfast and the gap between the two narrowed
- Violence with injury decreased in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland and although the percentage decrease was greater in Northern Ireland, the difference between the rates remained the same
- Violence with injury increased in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland, but the percentage increase was greater in Belfast and the gap between the two widened

Between 2017/18 and 2019/20, the rate of theft – burglary residential remained the same in Belfast City Policing District, whereas it decreased in Northern Ireland, and the gap between the two widened.

## SECTION 2

# Experience of Crime

## 2.1 Experience of Any Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey (NISCS)/Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS) Crime

### IMPORTANCE

Harm from crime includes negative impacts on individuals and society. Although crime is often seen as a harm in its own right, the negative impacts related to any one incident will differ by:

- The type of crime experienced
- The perspective of the victim

Harms include a range of outcomes for both individuals, such as financial loss and physical harm, and communities and wider society, such as fear of crime and increased use of health and victim services. Types of harm can be categorised as:

- Physical, including death, injury, or violence
- Emotional or psychological
- Financial or economic, including financial or material losses
- Community safety, including restrictions in autonomy, freedom of movement, access to information, or growth and development because of fear or other detrimental effects of crime
- Violation of privacy, including access to personal or confidential information or unauthorised entry to property<sup>13</sup>

---

13. The impact of crime on victims and society - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) (Last accessed 14 July 2022)

The Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey (NISCS),<sup>14</sup> previously known as the Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS), provides an alternative but complementary measure of crime against households and adults in Northern Ireland to offences recorded by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI).

In 2019/20, it was estimated that only 45% of all NISCS crime in Northern Ireland was reported to the PSNI. For the same time-period, under-reporting of crime in Northern Ireland was lower than that in the Crime Survey of England & Wales (CSEW), where only 39% of all CSEW crime was reported to the police. In 2019/20, the main reason why crimes were not reported to the police, cited by 57% of NISCS respondents, was that the crime was “too trivial/no loss/police would not/could not do anything”; in England & Wales, this reason was cited by 70% of respondents to the CSEW.<sup>15</sup>

The NISCS data, together with the recorded crime statistics, help to inform public debate about crime, and support the development of policy and strategy, and the monitoring of its implementation.

## DEFINITION

In the NISCS, crime victimisation rates (%) in Northern Ireland (based on interviews) are presented for the following broad crime types:

- **Crimes affecting the whole household (mainly property offences), including vandalism, domestic burglary, vehicle-related theft, bicycle theft and other household theft**
- **Personal crimes against respondents only (mainly violent offences), including common assault, wounding, mugging (robbery and snatch theft from the person), stealth theft from the person and other theft of personal property**

The experience of any NISCS/NICS crime is calculated treating a household crime as a personal crime, presented as the estimated percentage of adults who have been a victim of at least one personal crime or have been resident in a household that was a victim of at least one household crime.

Information is from the Department of Justice, Experience of Crime: Findings from the 2018/19 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey, 2018-19: Experience of crime tables, and R and S Bulletin 8/2016, Experience of Crime: Findings from the 2014/15 Northern Ireland Crime Survey, Experience of crime 2014-2015 findings: Tabular annex, Table A1,<sup>16</sup> and NINIS Experience of Crime (administrative geographies) Excel spreadsheet, 2018 and 2014.

14. The Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 15 August 2022)

15. Experience of Crime 2019/20 findings (justice-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 15 August 2022)

16. Experience of Crime: Findings from the 2018/19 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey | Department of Justice (justice-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 18 August 2022)



## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2018/19, in Belfast City Policing District, the percentage of adults with experience of any NISCS/NICS crime was 12.74%.

Between 2014/15 and 2018/19, the percentage of adults with experience of any NISCS/NICS crime decreased by 0.08 percentage points, from 12.82% to 12.74%.

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2018/19, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of adults with experience of any NISCS/NICS crime was 5.24 percentage points higher in Belfast City Policing District, 12.74% compared with 7.5%.

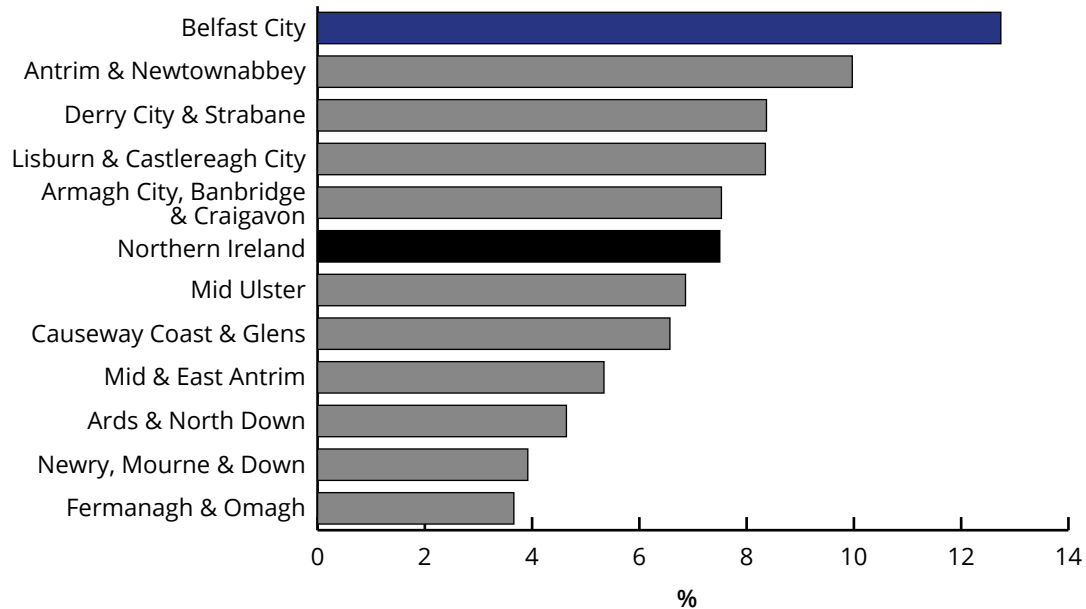
Between 2014/15 and 2018/19, the percentage of adults with experience of any NISCS/NICS crime decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 0.08 percentage points, from 12.82 to 12.74% (a percentage decrease of 0.62%)
- In Northern Ireland by 1.3 percentage points from 8.8% to 7.5% (a percentage decrease of 14.77%)

### Comparison with other policing districts

In 2018/19, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the highest percentage of adults with experience of any NISCS/NICS crime at 12.74%
- Fermanagh & Omagh Policing District had the lowest percentage at 3.66%
- Mid Ulster Policing District had the median percentage at 6.86% (see Peace Figure 4)

**PEACE FIGURE 4:****Percentage (%) of adults with experience of any NISCS/NICS crime by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2018/19**

Source: NINIS: Experience of Crime (administrative geographies) Excel Spreadsheet, and DoJ: 2018-19: Experience of crime tables, Table 1

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2018/19, in Belfast City Policing District, the percentage of adults with experience of any NISCS/NICS crime was higher than that in Northern Ireland and the highest among policing districts.

Between 2014/15 and 2018/19, the percentage of adults with experience of any NISCS/NICS crime decreased in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland, but the percentage decrease in Belfast was very small (<1%) and the gap between the two widened.

## 2.2 Rate of Experience of Specific NISCS/NICS Crimes:

- **Burglary**
- **Vehicle-related Crime**
- **Vandalism**
- **Violent Crime (Adult Victims)**

### IMPORTANCE

Harm from crime includes negative impacts on individuals and society. Although crime is often seen as a harm in its own right, the negative impacts related to any one incident will differ by:

- **The type of crime experienced**
- **The perspective of the victim**

Harms include a range of outcomes for both individuals, such as financial loss and physical harm, and communities and wider society, such as fear of crime and increased use of health and victim services. Types of harm can be categorised as:

- **Physical, including death, injury, or violence**
- **Emotional or psychological**
- **Financial or economic, including financial or material losses**
- **Community safety, including restrictions in autonomy, freedom of movement, access to information, or growth and development because of fear or other detrimental effects of crime**
- **Violation of privacy, including access to personal or confidential information or unauthorised entry to property<sup>17</sup>**

The Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey (NISCS),<sup>18</sup> previously known as the Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS), provides an alternative but complementary measure of crime against households and adults in Northern Ireland to offences recorded by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI).

17. The impact of crime on victims and society - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) (Last accessed 14 July 2022)

18. The Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 15 August 2022)

In 2019/20, it was estimated that only 45% of all NISCS crime in Northern Ireland was reported to the PSNI. For the same time-period, under-reporting of crime in Northern Ireland was lower than that in the Crime Survey of England & Wales (CSEW), where only 39% of all CSEW crime was reported to the police. In 2019/20, the main reason why crimes were not reported to the police, cited by 57% of NISCS respondents, was that the crime was “too trivial/no loss/police would not/could not do anything”; in England & Wales, this reason was cited by 70% of respondents to the CSEW.<sup>19</sup>

The NISCS data, together with the recorded crime statistics, help to inform public debate about crime, and support the development of policy and strategy, and the monitoring of its implementation.

## DEFINITION

In the NISCS, crime victimisation rates (%) in Northern Ireland (based on 2019/20 financial year interviews) are presented for the following broad crime types:

- **Crimes affecting the whole household (mainly property offences), including vandalism, domestic burglary, vehicle-related theft, bicycle theft and other household theft**
- **Personal crimes against respondents only (mainly violent offences), including common assault, wounding, mugging (robbery and snatch theft from the person), stealth theft from the person and other theft of personal property**

Information is from Department of Justice, Experience of Crime: Findings from the Northern Ireland Crime Survey 2019/20, Experience of crime findings 2019-20 data tables, and Experience of Crime: Findings from the 2009/10 Northern Ireland Crime Survey, Research and Statistical Bulletin 4/2010, December 2010.<sup>20</sup>

19. Experience of Crime 2019/20 findings ([justice-ni.gov.uk](http://justice-ni.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 15 August 2022)

20. Experience of Crime: Findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey | Department of Justice ([justice-ni.gov.uk](http://justice-ni.gov.uk)) and Microsoft Word - NICS 2009-10 Experience Bulletin FINAL.doc ([justice-ni.gov.uk](http://justice-ni.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 13 August 2022)

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the percentage of households with experience of:

- Burglary was 2.2%
- Vehicle-related crime was 2.8% (vehicle-owning households only)
- Vandalism was 2.8%
- Violent crime (adult victims) was 1.5%

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the percentage of households with experience of:

- Burglary decreased by 1.4 percentage points, from 3.6% to 2.2%
- Vehicle-related crime decreased by 3.3 percentage points, from 6.1% to 2.8% (vehicle-owning households only)
- Vandalism decreased by 3.9 percentage points, from 6.7% to 2.8%
- Violent crime (adult victims) decreased by 2.2 percentage points, from 3.7% to 1.5%

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

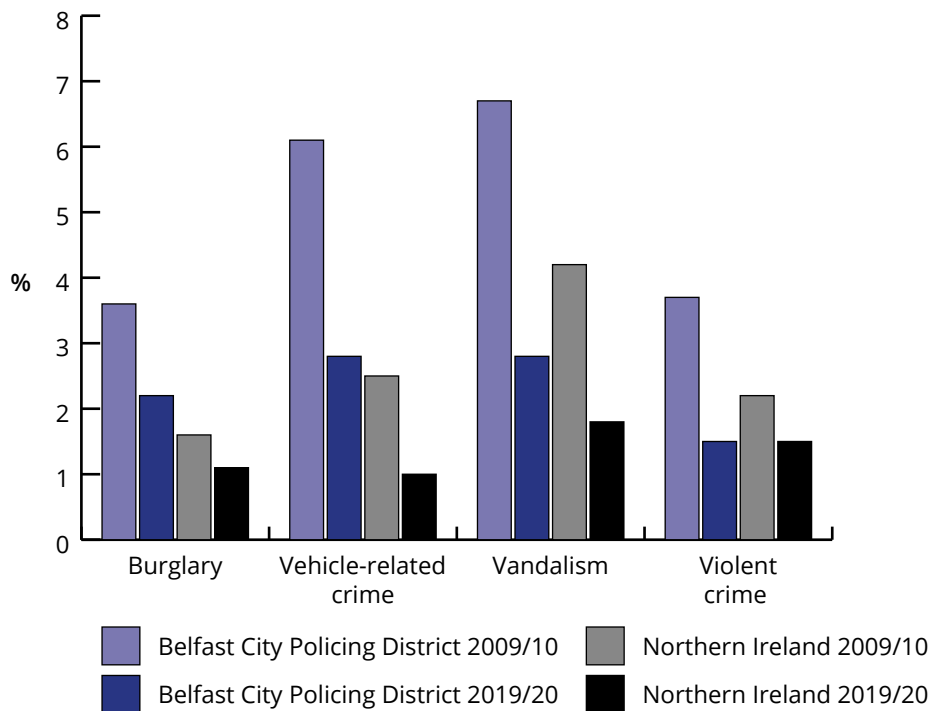
In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of households with experience of:

- Burglary was higher by 1.1 percentage points in Belfast City Policing District, 2.2% compared with 1.1%
- Vehicle-related crime was higher by 1.8 percentage points, 2.8% compared with 1.0% (vehicle-owning households only)
- Vandalism was higher by 1.0 percentage point, 2.8% compared with 1.8%
- Violent crime (adult victims) was the same at 1.5% (see Peace Figure 5)

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of households with experience of:

- Burglary decreased by 1.4 percentage points in Belfast City Policing District from 3.6% to 2.2% (a percentage decrease of 38.89%), and decreased by 0.5 percentage point in Northern Ireland from 1.6% to 1.1% (a percentage decrease of 31.25%)
- Vehicle-related crime decreased by 3.3 percentage points in Belfast City Policing District, from 6.1% to 2.8% (a percentage decrease of 54.10%), and decreased by 1.5 percentage points in Northern Ireland, from 2.5% to 1.0% (a percentage decrease of 60.00%; vehicle-owning households only)
- Vandalism decreased by 3.9 percentage points in Belfast City Policing District, from 6.7% to 2.8% (a percentage decrease of 58.21%), and decreased by 2.4 percentage points in Northern Ireland, from 4.2% to 1.8% (a percentage decrease of 57.14%)
- Violent crime (adult victims) decreased by 2.2 percentage points in Belfast City Policing District, from 3.7% to 1.5% (a percentage decrease of 59.46%), and decreased by 0.7 percentage points in Northern Ireland, from 2.2% to 1.5% (a percentage decrease of 31.82%; see Peace Figure 5)

**PEACE FIGURE 5:**  
**Percentage (%) of households with experience of burglary, vehicle-related crime (vehicle-owning households), vandalism, and violent crime (adult victims) in Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland, 2009/10 and 2019/20**



Source: Department of Justice, Experience of Crime: Findings from the Northern Ireland Crime Survey 2019/20, Experience of crime findings 2019-20 data tables, Tables 11-14, and Experience of Crime: Findings from the 2009/10 Northern Ireland Crime Survey, Research and Statistical Bulletin 4/2010, December 2010, Tables A11-A14, pages 33-37

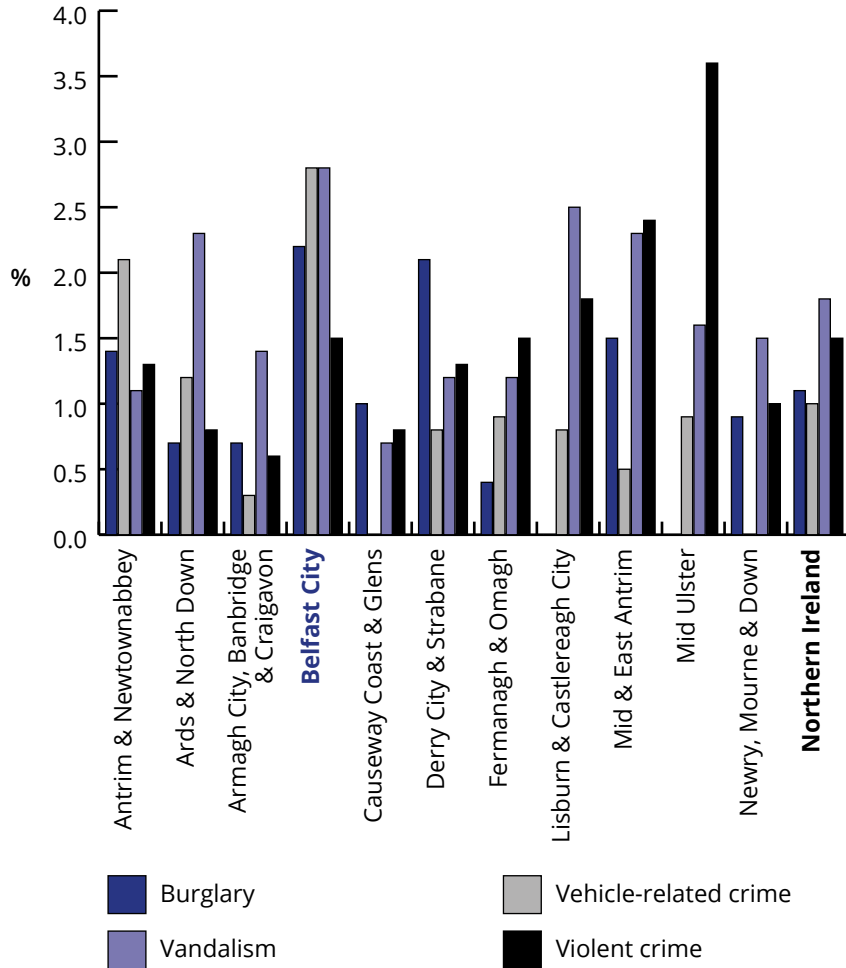
## Comparison with other policing districts

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the highest percentage of households with experience of burglary at 2.2%, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Policing District and Mid Ulster Policing District had the lowest percentage at 0.0%, and Newry, Mourne & Down had the median percentage at 0.9%
- Belfast City Policing District had the highest percentage of vehicle-owning households with experience of vehicle-related crime at 2.8%, Causeway Coast & Glens Policing District and Newry, Mourne & Down Policing District had the lowest percentage at 0.0%, and Derry City & Strabane Policing District and Lisburn & Castlereagh City Policing District had the median percentage at 0.8%
- Belfast City Policing District had the highest percentage of households with experience of vandalism at 2.8%, Causeway Coast & Glens Policing District had the lowest percentage at 0.7%, and Newry Mourne & Down Policing District had the median percentage at 1.5%
- Belfast City Policing District had the fourth equal highest percentage of violent crime (adult victims) at 1.5%, together with Fermanagh & Omagh Policing District, Mid Ulster Policing District had the highest percentage at 3.6%, Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Policing District had the lowest percentage at 0.6%, and Antrim & Newtownabbey Policing District and Derry City & Strabane Policing District had the median percentage at 1.3% (see Peace Figure 6)

**PEACE FIGURE 6:**

**Percentage (%) of households with experience of burglary, vehicle-related crime (vehicle-owning households), vandalism, and violent crime (adult victims) by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**



Source: Department of Justice, Experience of Crime: Findings from the Northern Ireland Crime Survey 2019/20, Experience of crime findings 2019-20 data tables, Tables 11-14

**Differences by tenure in Northern Ireland**

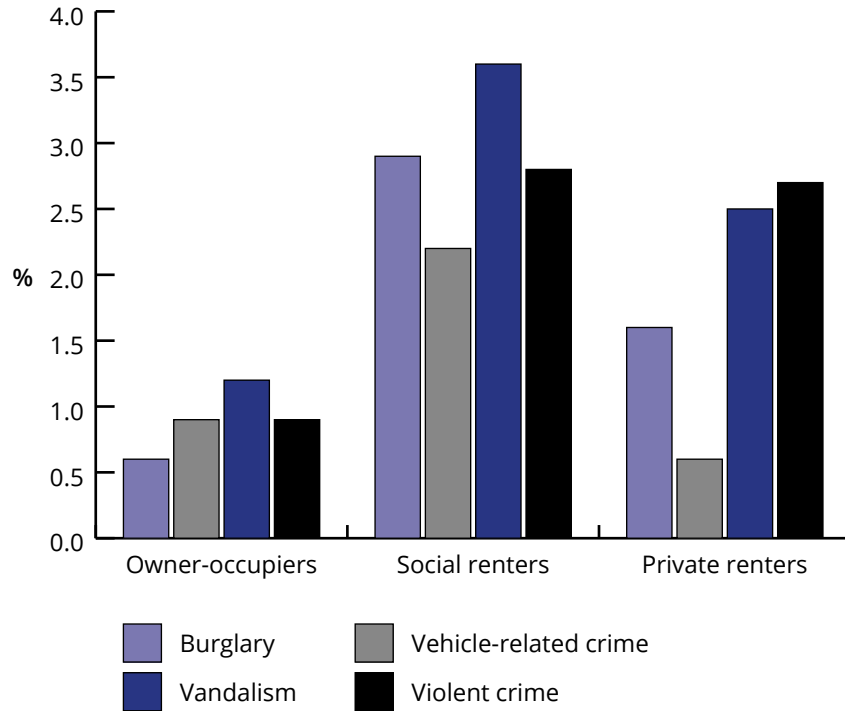
In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of households with experience of:

- Burglary was highest in social renters at 2.9%, and lowest in owner-occupiers at 0.6%
- Vehicle-related crime was highest in social renters at 2.2%, and lowest in owner-occupiers at 0.6% (vehicle-owning households only)
- Vandalism was highest in social renters at 3.6%, and lowest in owner-occupiers at 1.2%
- Violent crime (adult victims) was highest in social renters at 2.8%, and lowest in owner-occupiers at 0.9% (see Peace Figure 7)



**PEACE FIGURE 7:**

**Percentage (%) of Northern Ireland households with experience of burglary, vehicle-related crime (vehicle-owning households), vandalism, and violent crime (adult victims) by tenure, 2019/20**



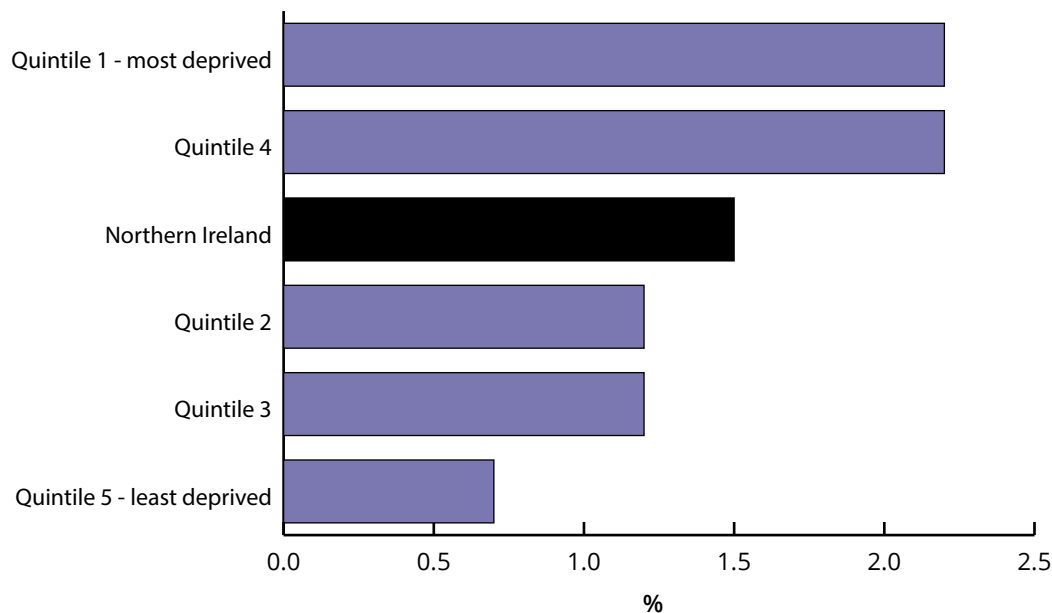
Source: Department of Justice, Experience of Crime: Findings from the Northern Ireland Crime Survey 2019/20, Experience of crime findings 2019-20 data tables, Tables 11-14

**Differences in violent crime (adult victims) by deprivation in Northern Ireland**

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of adult victims of violent crime was equal highest in the most-deprived areas (Quintile 1) and the second least-deprived areas (Quintile 4) at 2.2%, and lowest in the least-deprived areas (Quintile 5) at 0.7% (see Peace Figure 8).

### PEACE FIGURE 8:

#### Percentage (%) of adult victims of violent crime in Northern Ireland by deprivation (Quintiles 1-5), 2019/20



Source: Department of Justice, Experience of Crime: Findings from the Northern Ireland Crime Survey 2019/20, Experience of crime findings 2019-20 data tables, Table 14

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the percentage of households with experience of burglary, vehicle-related crime and vandalism were higher than those in Northern Ireland and highest among all policing districts. For adult victims of violent crime, however, the percentage was the same in Belfast City Policing District as that in Northern Ireland and in Belfast was only fourth equal highest among policing districts.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of households with experience of burglary, vehicle-related crime, vandalism, and violent crime (adult victims) decreased in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland. The percentage decrease for:

- **Burglary was greater in Belfast City Policing District and the gap between Belfast and Northern Ireland narrowed**
- **Vehicle-related crime was greater in Northern Ireland, although the difference in rates narrowed between Belfast and Northern Ireland**

- Vandalism was greater in Belfast City Policing District and the gap between Belfast and Northern Ireland narrowed
- Violent crime was greater in Belfast City Policing District and the gap between Belfast and Northern Ireland narrowed to the point of convergence, where both had the same value

### Inequalities with the potential for inequity in Northern Ireland

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, households in social rented accommodation had the highest percentages of experience of burglary, vehicle-related crime, vandalism, and violent crime (adult victims), although the value for violent crime was only slightly higher than that for households in private rented accommodation.

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, the highest percentages of adult victims with experience of violent crime were in the most-deprived areas (Quintile 1) and the second least-deprived areas (Quintile 4).

## SECTION 3

# Crime and Deprivation

### 3.1 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2017: Crime and Disorder Domain

#### IMPORTANCE

In London, recorded crime is more prevalent in the neighbourhoods with the highest levels of income deprivation, particularly for anti-social behaviour and public order offences, and violence, robbery, and sexual offences.<sup>21</sup>

#### DEFINITION

The measures, known as NIMDM2017, provide a mechanism for ranking the 890 Super Output areas (SOAs) in Northern Ireland from the most deprived (rank 1) to the least deprived (rank 890). They include ranks of the SOAs for each of the seven distinct types (or domains) of deprivation, including Crime and Disorder, which have been combined to produce an overall multiple deprivation measure (MDM) rank of the areas.<sup>22</sup>

The purpose of the Crime and Disorder Domain is to identify the rate of crime and disorder at the small area level.<sup>23</sup>

Information was extracted from the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2017 Analysis Package.<sup>24</sup>

- 
21. Crime and income deprivation | Trust for London (Last accessed 30 July 2022)
  22. Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 (NIMDM2017) | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 31 July 2022)
  23. NIMDM 2017 Indicators (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 18 August 2022)
  24. NIMDM 2017- Analysis Package | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 30 July 2022)

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In the NIMDM2017 Crime and Disorder Domain, in Belfast LGD:

- 43% of SOAs were in the most-deprived quintile (Quintile 1)
- 26% were in the second-most-deprived quintile (Quintile 2)
- 17% were in the mid-range of deprivation quintiles (Quintile 3)
- 7% were in the second-least-deprived quintile (Quintile 4)
- 6 % were in the least-deprived quintile (Quintile 5)

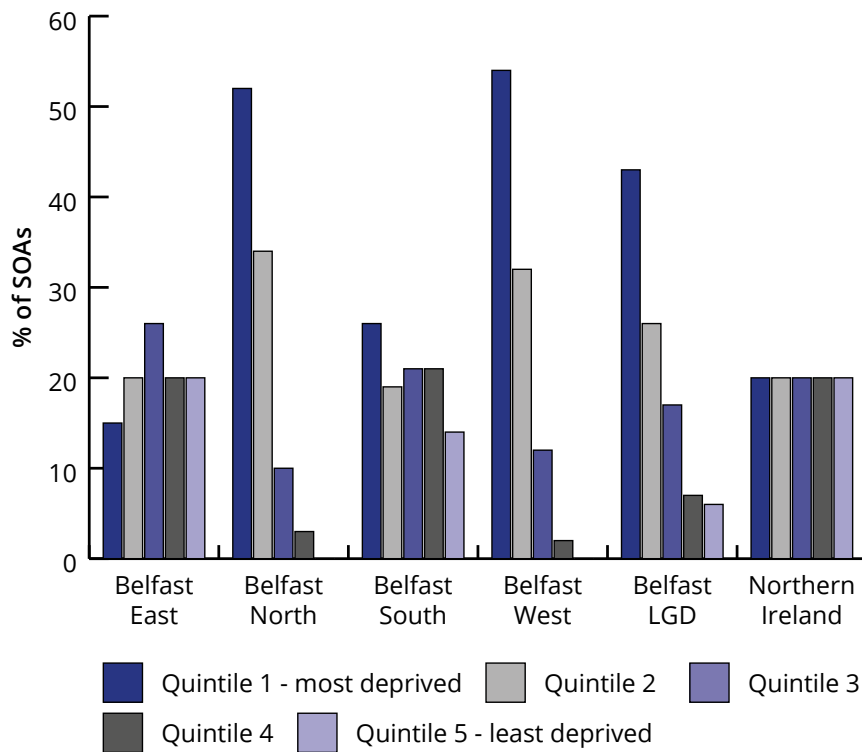
### Differences by assembly area

For the NIMDM2017, there was variation across Belfast's assembly areas in the percentage of SOAs in the quintiles of deprivation for the Crime and Disorder Domain:

- Belfast West had the highest percentage of SOAs in the most-deprived quintile at 54%, closely followed by Belfast North at 52%, whereas Belfast East had the lowest percentage at 15%
- Belfast North had the highest percentage of SOAs in the second most-deprived quintile at 34%, closely followed by Belfast West at 32%, whereas Belfast South had the lowest percentage at 19%
- Belfast East had the highest percentage of SOAs in the mid-range of areas of deprivation at 26%, whereas Belfast North had the lowest percentage at 10%
- Belfast South had the highest percentage of SOAs in the second least-deprived quintile at 21%, closely followed by Belfast South at 20%, whereas West Belfast had the lowest percentage at 2%, closely followed by Belfast North at 3%
- Belfast South had the highest percentage of SOAs in the least-deprived quintile at 20%, whereas Belfast North and Belfast West had the equal lowest percentage at 0% (see Peace Figure 9)

**PEACE FIGURE 9:**

**Percentage (%) of SOAs across the quintiles of deprivation (Quintiles 1-5) for the Crime and Disorder Domain, by assembly area, Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland, NIMDM2017**



Source: Data extracted from the NIMDM2017 Analysis Package

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

In the NIMDM2017, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of SOAs in:

- The most-deprived quintile (Quintile 1) for Crime and Disorder was 23 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 43% compared with 20%
- The second most-deprived quintile (Quintile 2) was 6 percentage points higher, 26% compared with 20%
- The mid-range quintile (Quintile 3) was 3 percentage points lower, 17% compared with 20%

- The second least-deprived quintile (Quintile 4) was 13 percentage points lower, 7% compared with 20%
- The least-deprived quintile (Quintile 5) was 14 percentage points lower, 6% compared with 20% (see Peace Figure 10)

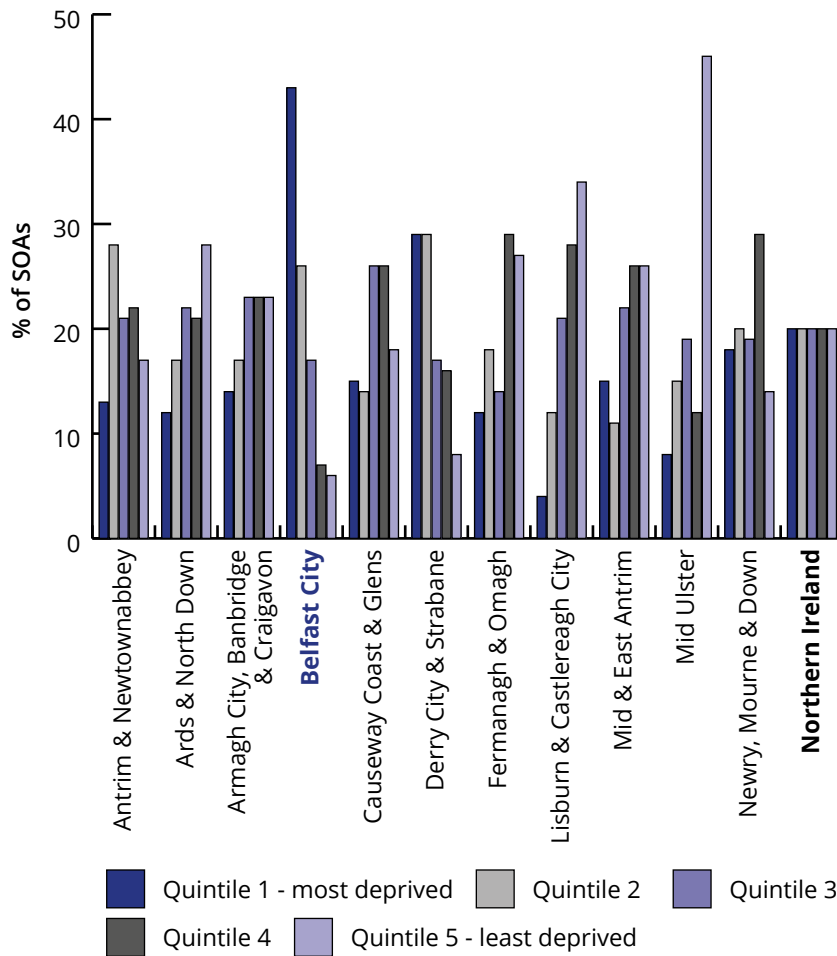
## Comparison with other LGDs

For the NIMDM2017, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the highest percentage of SOAs in the most-deprived quintile (Quintile 1) for the Crime and Disorder Domain at 43%, Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the lowest percentage at 4%, and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon had the median percentage at 14%
- Belfast LGD had the third highest percentage of SOAs in the second most-deprived quintile (Quintile 2) for the Crime and Disorder Domain at 26%, Derry City & Strabane LGD had the highest percentage at 29%, Mid & East Antrim LGD had the lowest percentage at 11%, and Ards & North Down LGD and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon had the median percentage at 17%
- Belfast LGD had the equal second lowest percentage of SOAs in the mid-range of quintiles of deprivation (Quintile 3) for the Crime and Disorder Domain at 17%, together with Derry City & Strabane LGD, Causeway Coast & Glens LGD had the highest percentage at 26%, Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the lowest percentage at 14%, and Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD and Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the median percentage at 21%
- Belfast LGD had the lowest percentage of SOAs in the second least-deprived quintile (Quintile 4) for the Crime and Disorder Domain at 7%, Fermanagh & Omagh LGD and Newry, Mourne & Down LGD had the equal highest percentage at 29%, and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon had the median percentage at 23%
- Belfast LGD had the lowest percentage of SOAs in the least-deprived quintile (Quintile 5) for the Crime and Disorder Domain at 6%, Mid Ulster LGD had the highest percentage at 46%, and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon had the median percentage at 23% (see Peace Figure 10)

**PEACE FIGURE 10:**

**Percentage (%) of SOAs across the quintiles of deprivation (Quintiles 1-5) for the Crime and Disorder Domain, by LGD and Northern Ireland, NIMDM2017**



Source: Data extracted from the NIMDM 2017 Analysis Package

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In the NIMDM 2017, in Belfast:

- Over 4 out of every SOAs were in the most-deprived quintile for the Crime and Disorder Domain
- Between 2 and 3 out of every 10 were in the second most-deprived quintile
- Almost 2 out of every 10 were in the mid-range quintile of deprivation
- Less than 1 out of every 10 was in the second least-deprived quintile
- Less than 1 out of every 10 was in the least-deprived quintile



In the NIMDM2017, Belfast had almost 7 out of every 10 SOAs in the most-deprived and second most-deprived quintiles for the Crime and Disorder domain, compared with:

- Almost 6 out of every 10 in Derry City & Strabane
- Around 4 out of every 10 in Antrim & Newtownabbey, and Newry, Mourne & Down
- Around 3 out of every 10 in Ards & North Down, Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon, Causeway Coast & Glens, and Fermanagh & Omagh
- Between 2 and 3 out of every 10 in Mid & East Antrim
- Over 2 out of every 10 in Mid Ulster
- Between 1 and 2 out of every 10 in Lisburn & Castlereagh

### Inequalities with the potential for inequity

In the NIMDM2017, Belfast West and Belfast North had the highest percentages of SOAs in the most-deprived and second most-deprived quintiles of deprivation for the Crime and Disorder Domain, equating to between 8 and 9 out of every 10 SOAs in these quintiles of deprivation for these assembly areas. Moreover, for both assembly areas, 0% of SOAs were in the least-deprived quintile for Crime and Disorder, and very low percentages were in the second least-deprived quintile (2% and 3%, respectively).

### 3.2 Northern Ireland Measure of Multiple Deprivation 2017 (NIMDM2017):

- Violence, Robbery & Public Order
- Burglary
- Theft
- Vehicle Crime
- Criminal Damage & Arson
- Deliberate Primary & Secondary Fires

#### IMPORTANCE

Harm from crime includes negative impacts on individuals and society. Although crime is often seen as a harm in its own right, the negative impacts related to any one incident will differ by:

- The type of crime experienced
- The perspective of the victim

Harms include a range of outcomes for both individuals, such as financial loss and physical harm, and communities and wider society, such as fear of crime and increased use of health and victim services. Types of harm can be categorised as:

- Physical, including death, injury, or violence
- Emotional or psychological
- Financial or economic, including financial or material losses
- Community safety, including restrictions in autonomy, freedom of movement, access to information, or growth and development because of fear or other detrimental effects of crime
- Violation of privacy, including access to personal or confidential information or unauthorised entry to property<sup>25</sup>

In London, recorded crime is more prevalent in the neighbourhoods with the highest levels of income deprivation, particularly for anti-social behaviour and public order offences, and violence, robbery, and sexual offences.<sup>26</sup>

---

25. The impact of crime on victims and society - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) (Last accessed 14 July 2022)

26. Crime and income deprivation | Trust for London (Last accessed 30 July 2022)

## DEFINITION

The measures, known as NIMDM2017, provide a mechanism for ranking the 890 Super Output areas (SOAs) in Northern Ireland from the most deprived (rank 1) to the least deprived (rank 890). They include ranks of the SOAs for each of the seven distinct types (or domains) of deprivation, including Crime and Disorder, which have been combined to produce an overall multiple deprivation measure (MDM) rank of the areas.

The purpose of the Crime and Disorder Domain is to identify the rate of crime and disorder at the small area level.<sup>27</sup>

Information is from NISRA, Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 (NIMDM2017), Other Geographies.<sup>28</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In the NIMDM2017, in Belfast LGD, the rate for:

- Violence, robbery & public order was 22.6 per 1,000 population
- Burglary was 6.0 per 1,000 population
- Theft was 12.5 per 1,000 population
- Vehicle crime was 4.3 per 1,000 population
- Criminal damage & arson was 13.2 per 1,000 population
- Deliberate primary & secondary fires was 4.7 per 1,000 population
- Anti-social behaviour incidents was 39.0 per 1,000 population

### Differences by assembly area

In the NIMDM2017, there were variations in the rates per 1,000 population of different types of crime across Belfast's assembly areas:

- **Belfast West had the highest rates of violence, robbery & public order, vehicle crime, criminal damage & arson, and deliberate primary & secondary fires, whereas Belfast East had the lowest rates for these types of crime**

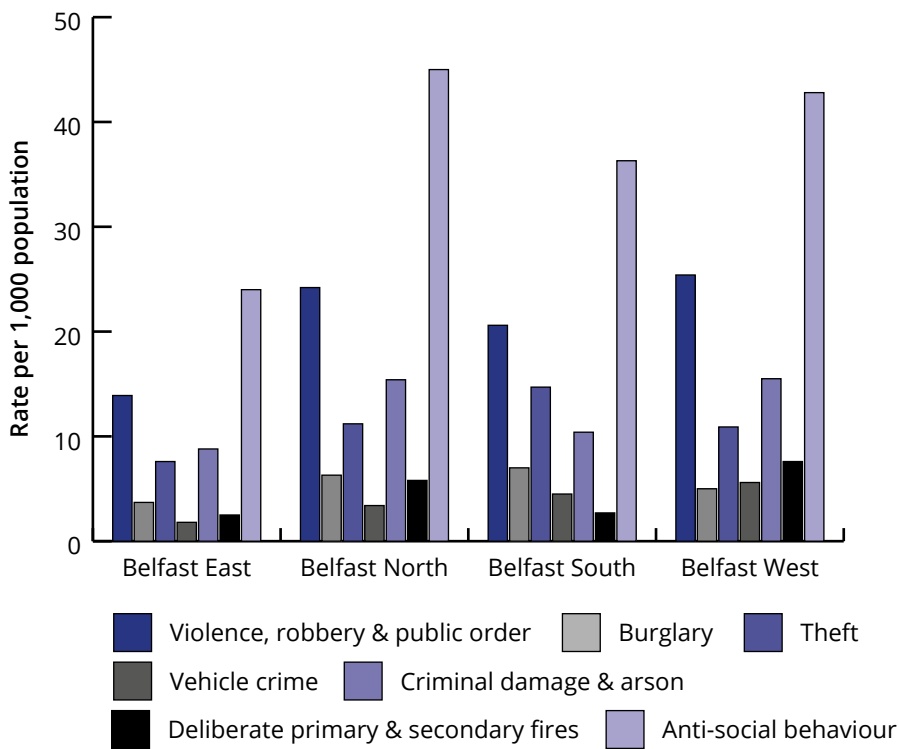
27. NIMDM 2017 Indicators (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 18 August 2022)

28. Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 (NIMDM2017) | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 18 August 2022)

- Belfast South had the highest rates for burglary, and theft, whereas Belfast East had the lowest rates for these types of crime
- Belfast North had the second highest rates for all these crimes, apart from vehicle crime
- Belfast North, however, had the highest rate of anti-social behaviour incidents, whereas Belfast East had the lowest (see Peace Figure 11)

**PEACE FIGURE 11:**

**Rates of violence, robbery & public order crime, burglary, theft, vehicle crime, criminal damage & arson, deliberate primary & secondary fires, and anti-social behaviour incidents per 1,000 population by Belfast’s assembly areas, NIMDM2017**



Source: NISRA: NIMDM2017, Other Geographies, Assembly Areas (AA2008), Crime and Disorder tab

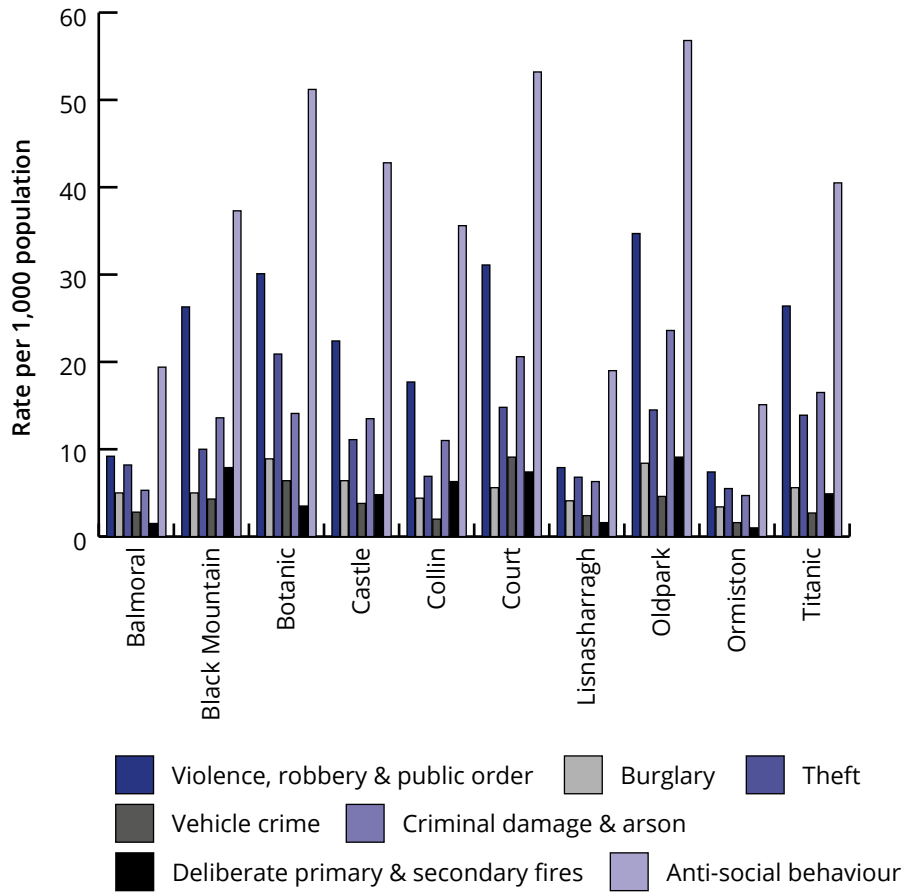
## Differences by district electoral area

In the NIMDM2017, there were variations in the rates per 1,000 population of different types of crime across Belfast's district electoral areas (DEAs):

- Oldpark DEA had the highest rate of violence, robbery, and public order at 34.7 per 1,000 population. Ormiston DEA had the lowest rate at 7.4 per 1,000 population, and the median rate was 24.35 per 1,000 population
- Botanic DEA had the highest rate of burglary at 8.9 per 1,000 population, Ormiston DEA had the lowest rate at 3.4 per 1,000 population, and the median rate was 5.3 per 1,000 population
- Botanic DEA had the highest rate of theft at 20.9 per 1,000 population, Ormiston had the lowest rate at 5.5 per 1,000 population, and the median rate was 10.55 per 1,000 population
- Court DEA had the highest rate of vehicle crime at 9.1 per 1,000 population, Ormiston had the lowest rate at 1.6 per 1,000 population, and the median rate was 3.3 per 1,000 population
- Oldpark DEA had the highest rate of criminal damage at 23.6 per 1,000 population. Ormiston DEA had the lowest rate at 4.7 per 1,000 population, and the median rate was 13.55 per 1,000 population
- Oldpark DEA had the highest rate of deliberate primary & secondary fires at 9.1 per 1,000 population. Ormiston DEA had the lowest rate at 1.0 per 1,000 population, and the median rate was 4.85 per 1,000 population
- Oldpark DEA had the highest rate of anti-social behaviour incidents at 56.8 per 1,000 population. Ormiston DEA had the lowest rate at 15.1 per 1,000 population, and the median rate was 38.9 per 1,000 population (see Peace Figure 12)

**PEACE FIGURE 12:**

**Rates of violence, robbery & public order crime, burglary, theft, vehicle crime, criminal damage & arson, deliberate primary & secondary fires, and anti-social behaviour incidents per 1,000 population by DEA, NIMDM2017**



Source: NIMDM 2017: Other Geographies, District Electoral Areas (DEAs), Crime and Disorder tab

**KEY COMPARISONS**

**Comparison with other LGDs**

In the NIMDM 2017, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast LGD had the highest rate of violence, robbery & public order crimes, Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the lowest rate, and Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the median rate
- Belfast LGD had the highest rate of burglary, Mid Ulster LGD had the lowest rate, and Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the median rate

- Belfast LGD had the highest rate of theft, Mid Ulster LGD had the lowest rate, and Newry, Mourne & Down LGD had the median rate
- Belfast LGD had the highest rate of vehicle crime, Mid & East Antrim LGD had the lowest rate, and Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD and Mid Ulster LGD had the median rate
- Belfast LGD had the highest rate of criminal damage & arson, Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the lowest rate, and Ards & North Down LGD had the median rate
- Belfast LGD had the second highest rate of deliberate primary & secondary fires, Derry City & Strabane LGD had the highest rate, Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the lowest rate, and Causeway Coast & Glens LGD and Mid & East Antrim LGD had the median rate
- Belfast LGD had the highest rate of anti-social behaviour incidents, Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the lowest rate, and Mid & East Antrim had the median rate (see Peace Table 2)

**PEACE TABLE 2:**

**Rates of violence, robbery & public order crime, burglary, theft, vehicle crime, criminal damage & arson, deliberate primary & secondary fires, and anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents per 1,000 population by LGD, NIMDM2017**

|                                    | Violence <sup>29</sup> , robbery & public order | Burglary | Theft | Vehicle crime | Criminal damage & arson | Deliberate primary & secondary fires | ASB  |
|------------------------------------|---|----------|-------|---------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|------|
| Antrim & Newtownabbey              | 11.2  | 3.4      | 5.9   | 1.5           | 7.4                     | 3.0                                  | 24.7 |
| Ards & North Down                  | 12.2  | 2.5      | 4.6   | 1.4           | 7.5                     | 2.2                                  | 29.3 |
| Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon | 14.4  | 4.0      | 4.8   | 1.7           | 7.6                     | 2.3                                  | 23.9 |
| Belfast                            | 22.6  | 6.0      | 12.5  | 4.3           | 13.2                    | 4.7                                  | 39.0 |
| Causeway Coast & Glens             | 14.6  | 3.1      | 5.7   | 1.3           | 8.4                     | 2.6                                  | 26.7 |
| Derry City & Strabane              | 21.7  | 3.9      | 6.7   | 2.9           | 11.8                    | 4.8                                  | 33.1 |
| Fermanagh & Omagh                  | 14.1  | 3.1      | 5.1   | 1.8           | 7.1                     | 2.4                                  | 23.0 |
| Lisburn & Castlereagh              | 10.6  | 3.3      | 4.5   | 1.4           | 5.2                     | 1.4                                  | 19.4 |
| Mid & East Antrim                  | 12.0  | 2.9      | 5.6   | 1.0           | 7.3                     | 2.6                                  | 24.5 |
| Mid Ulster                         | 11.6  | 2.2      | 4.0   | 1.5           | 6.5                     | 1.7                                  | 19.7 |
| Newry, Mourne & Down               | 14.9  | 2.4      | 5.4   | 2.4           | 8.2                     | 4.1                                  | 23.5 |

Source: NISRA: NIMDM2017, Other Geographies, Local Government Districts (LGD2014), Crime and Disorder tab

## HIGHLIGHTS

In the NIMDM2017, among LGDs, Belfast had:

- The highest rates of violence, robbery & public order, theft, burglary, vehicle crime, criminal damage & arson, and anti-social behaviour incidents
- The second highest rate of deliberate primary & secondary fires

29. Including sexual offences



## Inequalities with the potential for inequity

### ***In the NIMDM2017:***

- Belfast West had the highest rates of violence, robbery & public order, vehicle crime, criminal damage & arson, and deliberate primary & secondary fires, and the second highest rate of anti-social behaviour incidents
- Belfast South had the highest rates of burglary, and theft, and the second highest rate for vehicle crime
- Belfast North had the second highest rates for violence, robbery & public order, burglary, theft, criminal damage & arson, and deliberate primary & secondary fires, but the highest rate of anti-social behaviour incidents

### ***In the NIMDM2017:***

- Oldpark DEA had the highest rates of violence, robbery & public order, criminal damage & arson, deliberate primary & secondary fires, and antisocial behaviour incidents, the second highest rate of burglary, and the third highest rates of theft and vehicle crime
- Botanic DEA had the highest rates of theft, and burglary, the second highest rate of vehicle crime, and the third highest rates of violence, robbery & public order, and anti-social behaviour incidents
- Court DEA had the highest rate of vehicle crime, and the second highest rates of violence, robbery & public order, theft, criminal damage & arson, and anti-social behaviour incidents

## SECTION 4

# Crime with a Domestic Abuse Motivation

- 4.1 - Incident Rate**
- Recorded Crime Rate**
- Outcome Rate**

### IMPORTANCE

Domestic abuse is an incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence, inflicted by a current or former partner or close family member. Domestic abuse can include:

- Coercive control
- Psychological/emotional abuse
- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Economic and financial abuse
- Online and technological abuse

Domestic abuse denies victims a right to feel safe in their personal relationships. It can have a significant and enduring impact on victims and children who often face a continuing threat to their safety.<sup>30</sup>

---

30. Domestic Violence and Abuse | Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland (ppsni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 23 July 2022)

In the Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland: A Seven Year Strategy, the vision is:

“To have a society in Northern Ireland in which domestic and sexual violence is not tolerated in any form, effective tailored preventative and responsive services are provided, all victims are supported, and perpetrators are held to account.”<sup>31</sup>

## DEFINITION

In Northern Ireland, domestic abuse is defined as “threatening, controlling, coercive behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, virtual, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) inflicted on anyone (irrespective of age, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or any form of disability) by a current or former partner or family member”<sup>32</sup>.

If there is a domestic abuse motivation associated with any incident, PSNI will record this as a motivating factor on the individual incident in accordance with the National Standard for Incident Reporting.<sup>33</sup>

The outcome rate is the number of crimes that are cleared up divided by the total number of recorded crimes.

In Northern Ireland, it was estimated that less than 40% of serious domestic abuse incidents perpetrated by partners are reported to the police.<sup>34</sup>

Information is from PSNI Domestic Abuse Statistics, Domestic abuse Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2020/21.<sup>35</sup>

- 
31. Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland Strategy - 15 March 2016 (health-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 23 July 2022)
  32. PSNI Definition of domestic abuse. End of Year (psni.police.uk) (Last accessed 23 July 2022)
  33. crime-user-guide.pdf (psni.police.uk) (Last accessed 23 July 2022)
  34. Experience of Domestic Violence Findings from the 2011/12 to 2015/16 Northern Ireland Crime Surveys (justice-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 23 July 2022)
  35. Domestic Abuse Statistics (psni.police.uk) (Last accessed 14 July 2022)

## PROFILE FINDINGS

### Incident rate

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the rate of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation was 25 per 1,000 population.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the rate of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation increased by 6 per 1,000 population, from 19 to 25 per 1,000 population.

### Recorded crime rate

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the rate of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation was 14 per 1,000 population.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the rate of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation increased by 7 per 1,000 population, from 7 to 14 per 1,000 population.

### Outcome rate

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the outcome rate for recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation was 25.6%.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the outcome rate for recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation decreased by 20.3 percentage points from 45.9% to 25.6%.

### Differences by local policing team

Belfast City Policing District includes four local policing teams based in:

1. Strandtown (East)
2. Tennent Street (North)
3. Lisburn Road (South)
4. Woodbourne (West)

### **Number and percentage share of incidents**

In 2019/20, there was variation in the number and percentage share of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation across Belfast's local policing teams:

- North local policing team had the highest number and percentage share at 3,508 and 40.74%, respectively, followed by West local policing team with 2,121 and 24.63%, respectively
- South local policing team had the lowest number and percentage share at 1,302 and 15.12%, respectively, followed by East local policing team with 1,679 and 19.50%, respectively (see Peace Figure 13)

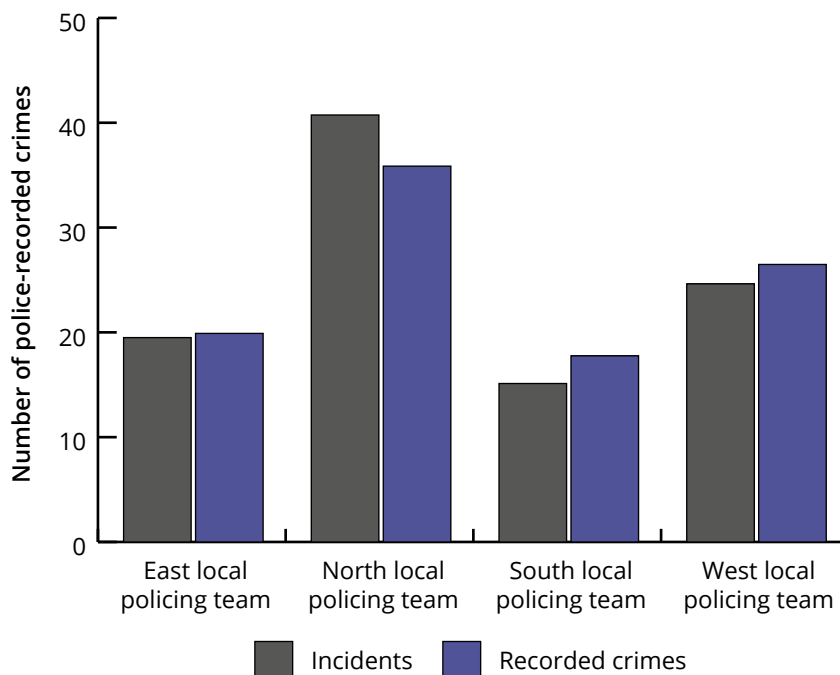
### **Number and percentage share of recorded crimes**

In 2019/20, there was variation in the number and percentage share of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation across Belfast's local policing teams:

- North local policing team had the highest number and percentage share at 1,724 and 35.86%, respectively, followed by West local policing team with 1,273 and 26.48%, respectively
- South local policing team had the lowest number and percentage share at 854 and 17.76%, respectively, followed by East local policing team with 957 and 19.90%, respectively (see Peace Figure 13)

#### **PEACE FIGURE 13:**

**Percentage share (%) of Belfast City Policing District's incidents and recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation by local policing team, 2019/20**



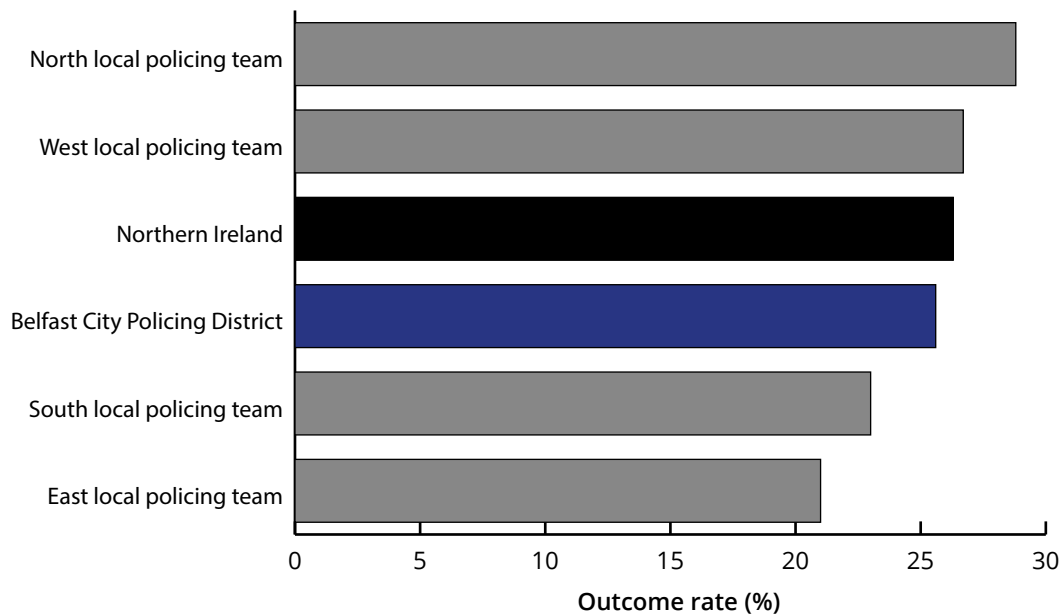
Source: Data extracted from PSNI: Domestic abuse Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2020/21, Summary Tables, Tables 6.1 and 6.2

**Outcome rate**

In 2019/20, there was variation in the outcome rate for recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation across Belfast’s local policing teams:

- North local policing team had the highest rate at 28.8%, closely followed by West local policing team at 26.7%
- East local policing team had the lowest rate at 21.0%, closely followed by South local policing team at 23.0% (see Peace Figure 14)

**PEACE FIGURE 14:**  
**Outcome rate (%) for recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation by Belfast’s local policing teams, Belfast City Policing District, and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**



Source: PSNI: Domestic abuse Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2020/21, Summary Tables, Table 6.3

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

#### **Incident rate**

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland the rate of Incidents with a domestic abuse motivation was higher by 8 per 1,000 population in Belfast City Policing District, 25 compared with 17 per 1,000 population.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the rate of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation increased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 6 per 1,000 population, from 19 to 25 per 1,000 population (a percentage increase of 31.58%)
- In Northern Ireland by 3 per 1,000 population, from 14 to 17 per 1,000 population (a percentage increase of 21.43%)

#### **Recorded crime rate**

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland the rate of recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation was higher by 4 per 1,000 population in Belfast City Policing District, 14 compared with 10 per 1,000 population.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the rate of recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation increased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 7 per 1,000 population, from 7 to 14 per 1,000 population (a percentage increase of 100.00%)
- In Northern Ireland by 4 per 1,000 population, from 6 to 10 per 1,000 population (a percentage increase of 66.67%)

#### **Outcome rate**

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland the outcome rate for recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation was lower by 0.7 percentage points in Belfast City Policing District, 25.6% compared with 26.3%.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the outcome rate for recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 20.3 percentage points, from 45.9% to 25.6% (a percentage decrease of 44.23%)
- In Northern Ireland by 17.0 percentage points, from 43.3% to 26.3% (a percentage decrease of 39.26%)

## Comparison with other policing districts

### ***Incident rate***

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation at 25 per 1,000 population
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Policing District had the lowest rate at 12 per 1,000 population
- Four policing districts had the median rate at 16 per 1,000 population (see Peace Figure 15)

### ***Recorded crime rate***

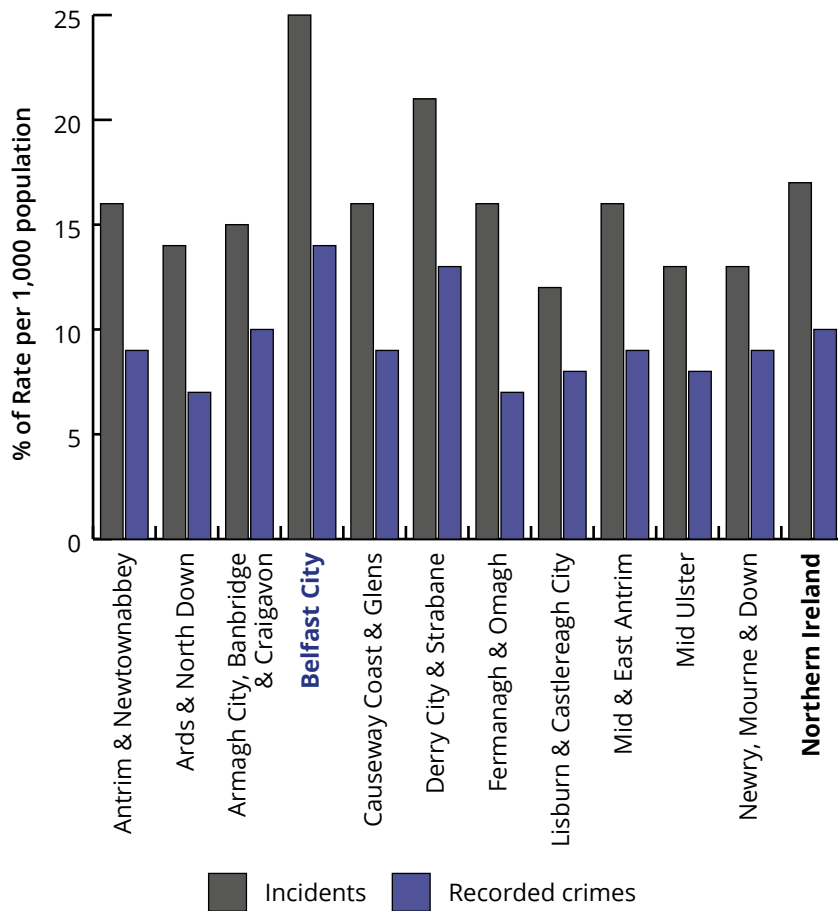
In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation at 14 per 1,000 population
- Ards & North Down Policing District and Fermanagh & Omagh Policing District had the lowest rate at 7 per 1,000 population
- Four policing districts had the median rate at 9 per 1,000 population (see Peace Figure 15?)



**PEACE FIGURE 15:**

**Rates per 1,000 population of incidents and recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**

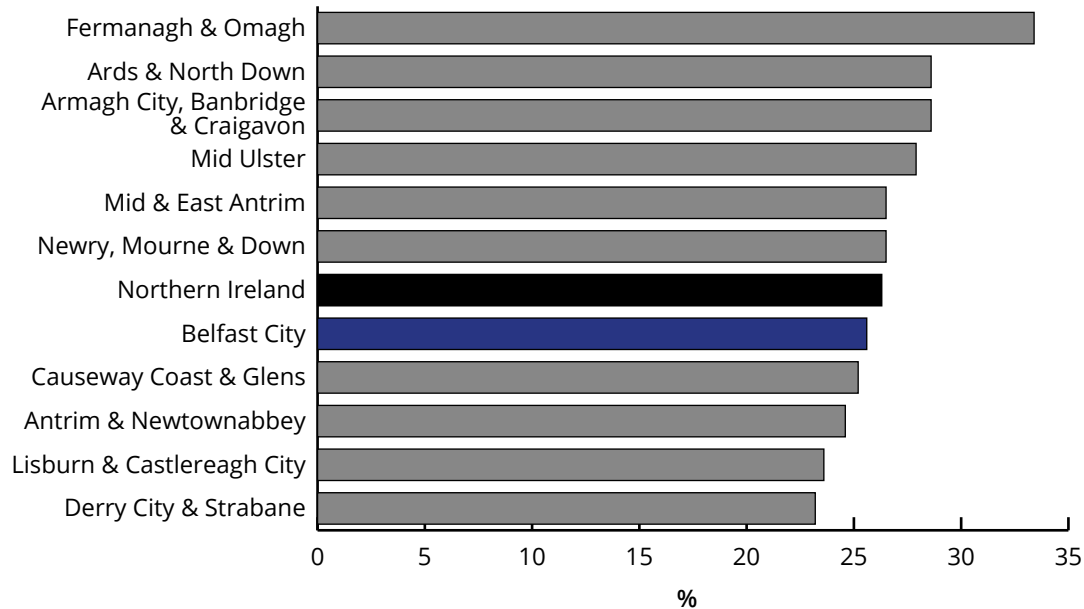


Source: PSNI: Domestic abuse Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2020/21, Summary Tables, Tables 6.4 and 6.5

**Outcome rate**

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the fifth lowest outcome rate for recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation at 25.6%
- Fermanagh & Omagh Policing District had the highest outcome rate at 33.4%
- Derry City & Strabane Policing District had the lowest rate at 23.2%
- Mid & East Antrim Policing District had the median rate at 26.5% (see Peace Figure 16)

**PEACE FIGURE 16:****Outcome rate (%) for recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**

Source: PSNI: Domestic abuse Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2020/21, Summary Tables, Pivot Table 2

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2019/20, Belfast City Policing District had higher rates of incidents and of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation than Northern Ireland, and the highest rates among policing districts.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the rates of incidents and of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation increased in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland, but for both rates the percentage increase was greater in Belfast and the gaps between the two widened, with poorer outcomes for Belfast.

In 2019/20, the outcome rate for recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation was lower in Belfast City Policing District than in Northern Ireland and Belfast had one of the lower rates among policing districts.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the outcome rate for recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation decreased in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland. The percentage decrease was greater in Belfast City Policing District to the extent that from the outcome rate being higher than that in Northern Ireland, it became lower in Belfast and the gap between the two widened.

Thus, in 2019/20, although Belfast City Policing District had the highest rates of incidents and recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation, the outcome rate was one of the lower rates among other policing districts and it was lower than that

in Northern Ireland. Furthermore, over the same time-period, 2009/10 to 2019/20, the rates of incidents and recorded crimes increased whereas the outcome rates decreased.

### Inequalities with the potential for inequity

North local policing team had the highest rate of incidents and recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation, followed by West local policing team.

East local policing team had the lowest outcome rate for recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation, followed by South local policing team.

## SECTION 5

# Hate Crime

- 5.1 - Hate Crime Motivated by Racism**
  - Incident Rate**
  - Recorded Crime Rate**
  - Outcome Rate**

### IMPORTANCE

In a systematic review of population-based studies of self-reported racism and health, there was an association between self-reported racism and ill health for oppressed racial groups after adjustment for a range of confounding factors. The strongest and most consistent findings were for negative mental health outcomes and health-related behaviours, with weaker associations for positive mental health outcomes, self-assessed health status, and physical health outcomes.<sup>36</sup>

Although the term ‘hate crime’ suggests that it is an individualised and emotion-led issue, research shows that levels of racial violence – or race or religious hate crime – are influenced by the political climate and especially by the words politicians use and coverage by the media.<sup>37</sup>

### DEFINITION

Hate crime is defined as any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic. Not all hate-motivated incidents will result in the recording of a crime, as what has occurred in the incident may not be of the level of severity that would result in a crime being recorded. Where crimes with a hate abuse motivation are recorded, they are classified according to the Home Office Counting Rules and form a subset of the overall police recorded crime statistics.

36. systematic review of empirical research on self-reported racism and health | International Journal of Epidemiology | Oxford Academic (oup.com) (Last accessed 25 July 2022)

37. Racial violence and hate crime - Institute of Race Relations (irr.org.uk) (Last accessed 23 July 2022)

A racial group can be defined as a group of persons defined by reference to race, colour, nationality or ethnic or national origins (this includes UK National origins, i.e., Scottish, English, Welsh and Irish) and references to a person's racial group refer to any racial group into which he/she falls. Racial group includes the Irish Traveller community.<sup>38</sup>

As these figures relate only to hate-motivated incidents reported to the police, they provide only an indication of the true extent of hate motivations.

Information is from PSNI Hate Motivation Statistics, Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2020/21, Racist motivations, Summary tables.<sup>39</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the number of:

- Incidents with a racist motivation was 404
- Recorded crimes with a racist motivation was 251

### Incident rate

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the rate of incidents with a racist motivation was 12 per 10,000 population.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the rate of incidents with a racist motivation decreased by 1 per 10,000, from 13 to 12 per 10,000 population.

### Recorded crime rate

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the rate of recorded crimes with a racist motivation was 7 per 10,000 population.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the rate of recorded crimes with a racist motivation decreased by 2 per 10,000 population, from 9 to 7 per 10,000 population.

---

38. [crime-user-guide.pdf](#) (psni.police.uk) (Last accessed 28 July 2022)

39. [Hate Motivation Statistics](#) (psni.police.uk) (Last accessed 23 July 2022)

## Outcome rate

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the rate for recorded crimes with a racist motivation was 11.2%.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the outcome rate for recorded crimes with a racist motivation decreased by 2.7 percentage points, from 13.9% to 11.2%.

## Differences by local policing team

Belfast City Policing District includes four local policing teams based in:

1. Strandtown (East)
2. Tennent Street (North)
3. Lisburn Road (South)
4. Woodbourne (West)

### ***Number and percentage share of incidents***

In 2019/20, there was variation in the number and percentage share of incidents with a racist motivation across Belfast's local policing teams:

- South local policing team had the highest number and percentage share at 146 and 36.14%, respectively, closely followed by North local policing team with 139 and 34.41%, respectively
- West local policing team had the lowest number and percentage share at 51 and 12.62%, respectively, followed by East local policing team with 68 and 16.83%, respectively (see Peace Figure 17)

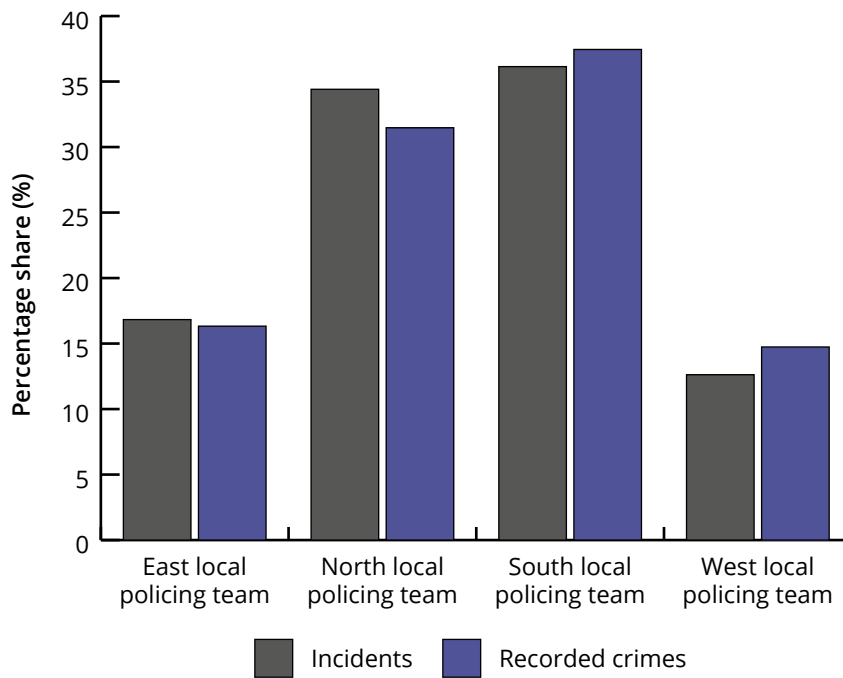
### ***Number and percentage share of recorded crimes***

In 2019/20, there was variation in the number and percentage share of recorded crimes with a racist motivation across Belfast's local policing teams:

- South local policing team had the highest number and percentage share at 94 and 37.45%, respectively, followed by North local policing team with 79 and 31.47%, respectively
- West local policing team had the lowest number and percentage share at 37 and 14.74%, respectively, closely followed by East local policing team with 41 and 16.33%, respectively (see Peace Figure 17)

**PEACE FIGURE 17:**

**Percentage share (%) of Belfast's incidents and recorded crimes with a racist motivation by local policing team, 2019/20**



Source: Data extracted from PSNI: Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2020/21, Racist motivations, Summary tables, Tables 2.13 and 2.14

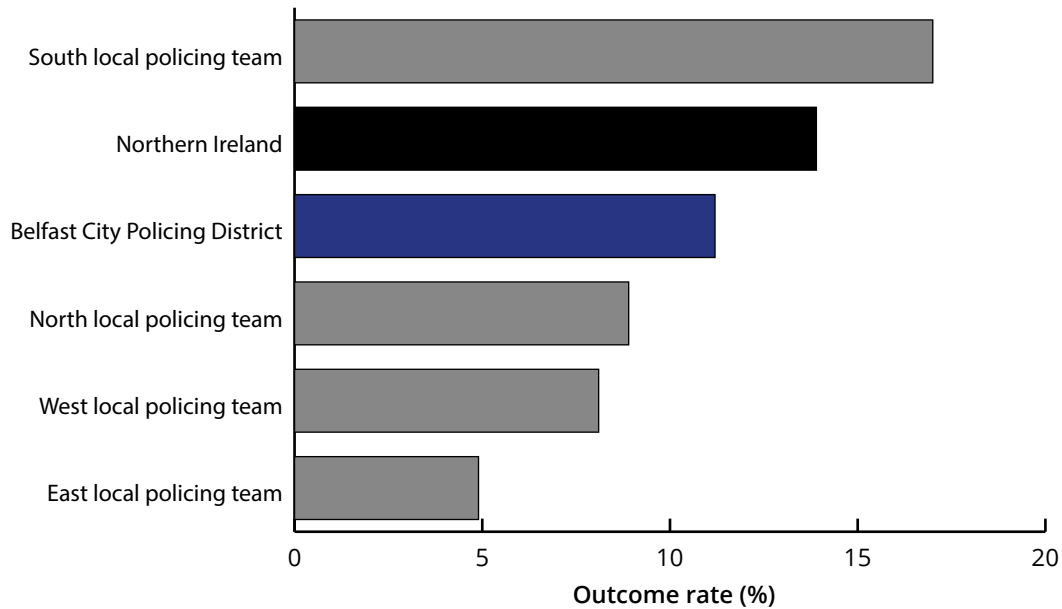
**Outcome rate**

In 2019/20, there was variation in the outcome rate for recorded crimes with a racist motivation across Belfast's local policing teams:

- South local policing team had the highest rate at 17.0%
- East local policing team had the lowest rate at 4.9% (see Peace Figure 18)

**PEACE FIGURE 18:**

**Outcome rate (%) for recorded crimes with a racist motivation by local policing team, Belfast City Policing District, and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**



Source: PSNI: Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2020/21, Racist motivations, Summary tables, Table 2.15

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

#### **Incident rate**

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the rate of incidents with a racist motivation was higher by 7 per 10,000 population, 12 compared with 5 per 10,000 population (see Peace Figure 19).

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the rate of incidents with a racist motivation decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 1 per 10,000 population, from 13 to 12 per 10,000 population (a percentage decrease of 7.69%)
- In Northern Ireland by 1 per 10,000 population, from 6 to 5 per 10,000 population (a percentage decrease of 16.67%)



### **Recorded crime rate**

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the rate of recorded crimes with a racist motivation was higher by 4 per 10,000 population, 7 compared with 3 per 10,000 population (see Peace Figure 19).

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the rate of recorded crimes with a racist motivation decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 2 per 10,000 population, from 9 to 7 per 10,000 population (a percentage decrease of 22.22%)
- In Northern Ireland by 1 per 10,000 population, from 4 to 3 per 10,000 population (a percentage decrease of 25.00%)

### **Outcome rate**

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the outcome rate for recorded crimes with a racist motivation was lower by 2.7 percentage points, 11.2% compared with 13.9%.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the outcome rate for recorded crimes with a racist motivation decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 2.7 percentage points, from 13.9% to 11.2% (a percentage decrease of 19.42%)
- In Northern Ireland by 2.3 percentage points, from 16.2% to 13.9% (a percentage decrease of 14.20%)

## Comparison with other policing districts

### **Incident rate**

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of incidents with a racist motivation at 12 per 10,000 population
- Causeway Coast & Glens Policing District and Newry, Mourne & Down Policing District had the lowest rate at 2 per 10,000 population
- Four Policing Districts had the median rate at 3 per 10,000 population (see Peace Figure 19)

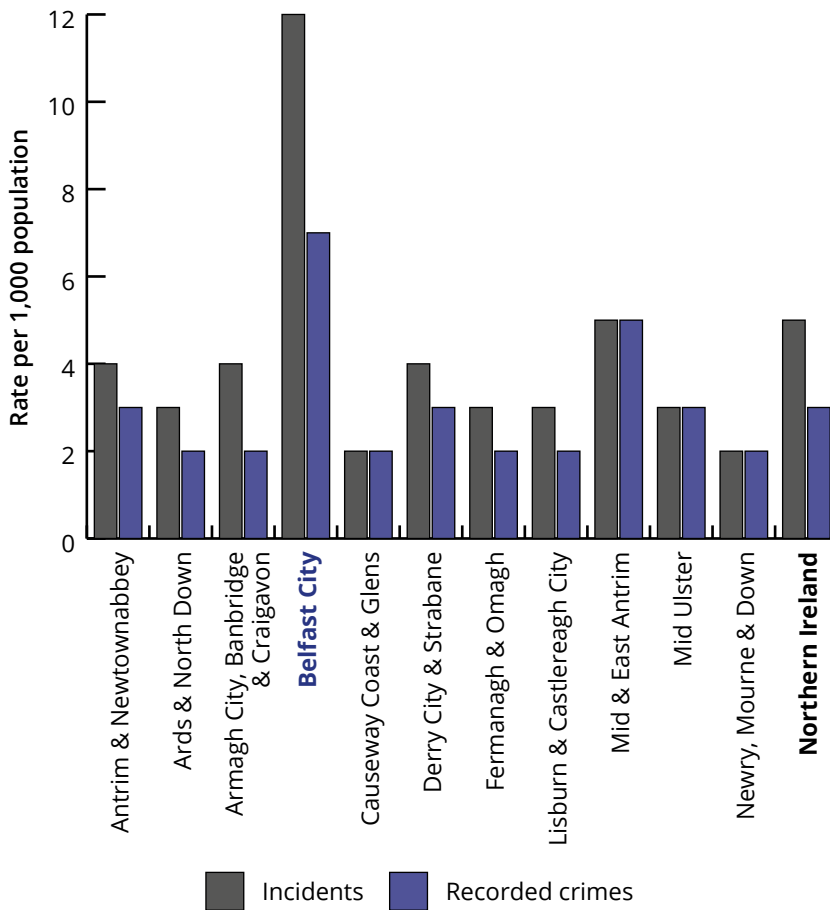
**Recorded crime rate**

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of recorded crimes with a racist motivation at 7 per 10,000 population
- Six Policing Districts had the lowest, and median, rate at 2 per 10,000 population (see Peace Figure 19)

**PEACE FIGURE 19:**

**Rate of incidents and recorded crimes with a racist motivation per 10,000 population by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**



Source: PSNI: Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2020/21, Racist motivations, Summary tables, Tables 2.16 and 2.17

It can be seen from Peace Figure 19 that in 2019/20 there are four policing districts where the rate of incidents and of reported crimes with a racist motivation are the same; however, Belfast Policing District is one among seven where the rate of incidents is higher than the rate of recorded crimes with a racist motivation. For Belfast City Policing District, the difference between the two rates is 5 per 10,000 population.

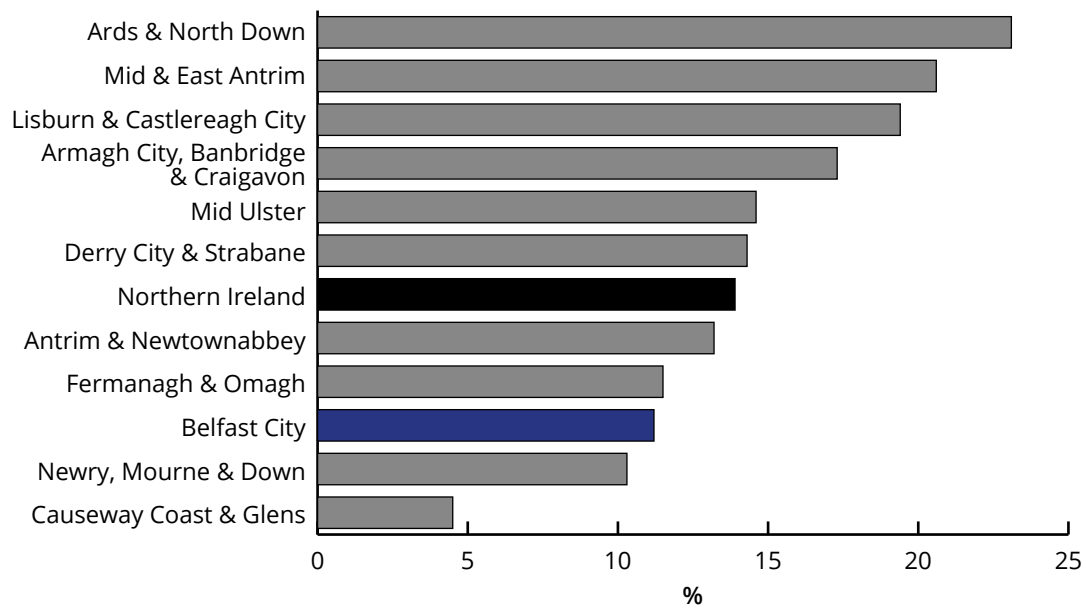
**Outcome rate**

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the third lowest outcome rate for recorded crimes with a racist motivation at 11.2%
- Ards & North Down Policing District had the highest rate at 23.1%
- Causeway Coast & Glens Policing District had the lowest rate at 4.5%
- Derry City & Strabane Policing District had the median rate at 14.3% (see Peace Figure 20)

**PEACE FIGURE 20:**

**Outcome rate (%) for recorded crimes with a racist motivation by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**



Source: Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2020/21, Racist motivations, Summary tables, Table 2.15

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019/20, Belfast City Policing District had higher rates of incidents and of recorded crimes with a racist motivation than Northern Ireland, and the highest rates among policing districts.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the rates of incidents and of recorded crimes with a racist motivation decreased in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland:

- **For the rate of incidents, the percentage decrease was greater in Northern Ireland and the gap between the two widened, although the difference in rates remained the same at 7 per 10,000 population**
- **For the rate of recorded crimes, the percentage decrease was greater in Northern Ireland, and the gap between the two widened, although the difference in rates narrowed with improved outcomes for Belfast**

In 2019/20, the outcome rate for recorded crimes with a racist motivation was lower in Belfast City Policing District than in Northern Ireland and Belfast had one of the lowest rates among policing districts.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the outcome rate for recorded crimes with a racist motivation decreased in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland, but the percentage decrease was greater in Belfast City Policing District and the gap between the two widened with a lower outcome rate for Belfast.

Thus, in 2019/20, although Belfast City Policing District had the highest rates of incidents and recorded crime with a racist motivation, the outcome rate was one of the lower rates among other policing districts and it was lower than that in Northern Ireland.

### Inequalities with the potential for inequity

South local policing team had the highest number and percentage share of Belfast's incidents and recorded crimes with a racist motivation, followed by North local policing team. The highest number and percentage share for the South local policing team may be related to a higher level of ethnic diversity in Belfast South than in other Belfast assembly areas (see People Chapter, page 40).

East local policing team had the lowest outcome rate for recorded crimes with a racist motivation, a rate that was half that for Belfast City Policing District

In addition, the outcome rates for the North and West local policing teams were lower than those for Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland.

## 5.2 - Hate Crime Motivated by Homophobia

- Incident Rate
- Recorded Crime Rate
- Outcome Rate

### IMPORTANCE

Seventeen per cent of victims of homophobic hate crimes experience a physical assault and the figures double for ethnic minority gay people. Twelve per cent of people experience unwanted sexual contact. Eighty-eight per cent of homophobic incidents involve some form of harassment. Homophobic crimes and incidents also include burglary, theft, and robbery.

Bullying motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's actual or perceived sexual orientation can be considered to constitute hate incidents. Young LGB people report high levels of homophobic bullying.

LGB people appear to worry about being the victim of crime to a greater degree than other minority groups. Around 40% of LGB people say they are worried about being the victim of a crime compared with 23% of ethnic minority people and 13% of people on average who are worried about being the victim of a crime. Eleven per cent of LGB people say being the victim of a crime is their biggest worry. LGB people take steps to avoid victimisation including hiding their identity and changing their behaviour. Seventy per cent of LGB people think they are at greater risk of being insulted, or harassed, than someone who is heterosexual, and 50% think they are at greater risk of being physically assaulted.<sup>40</sup>

### DEFINITION

Hate crime is defined as any criminal offence, which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic. Not all hate-motivated incidents will result in the recording of a crime, as what has occurred in the incident may not be of the level of severity that would result in a crime being recorded. Where crimes with a hate abuse motivation are recorded, they are classified according to the Home Office Counting Rules and form a subset of the overall police recorded crime statistics.

---

40. [research-summary-38-homophobic-hate-crime\\_0.pdf](#) (equalityhumanrights.com) (Last accessed 28 July 2022)

Homophobia can be defined as a fear or dislike directed towards lesbian, gay or bisexual people, or a fear or dislike directed towards their perceived lifestyle, culture or characteristics. Sexual orientation can be defined as an individual's preference for a particular sex (be it the opposite or the same), or an individual's view of their own sexuality.<sup>41</sup>

As these figures relate only to those hate motivated incidents reported to the police, they provide only an indication of the true extent of hate-motivated incidents.

Information is from PSNI Hate Motivation Statistics, Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2020/21, Homophobic motivations, Summary tables.<sup>42</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the number of:

- **Incidents with a homophobic motivation was 113**
- **Recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation was 69**

### Incident rate

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the rate of incidents with a homophobic motivation was 3 per 10,000 population.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the rate of incidents with a homophobic motivation increased by 1 per 10,000 population, from 2 to 3 per 10,000 population.

### Recorded crime rate

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the rate for recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation was 2 per 10,000 population.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the rate for recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation increased by 1 per 10,000 population, from 1 to 2 per 10,000 population.

---

41. [crime-user-guide.pdf](#) (psni.police.uk) (Last accessed 28 July 2022)

42. [Hate Motivation Statistics](#) (psni.police.uk) (Last accessed 23 July 2022)

## Outcome rate

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the outcome rate for recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation was 15.9%.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the outcome rate for recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation decreased by 1.6 percentage points, from 17.5% to 15.9%.

## Differences by local policing team

Belfast City Policing District includes four local policing teams based in:

1. Strandtown (East)
2. Tennent Street (North)
3. Lisburn Road (South)
4. Woodbourne (West)

### ***Number and percentage share of incidents***

In 2019/20, there was variation in the number and percentage share of incidents with a homophobic motivation across Belfast's local policing teams:

- West local policing team had the highest number and percentage share at 50 and 44.25%, respectively
- East local policing team had the lowest number and percentage share at 7 and 6.19%, respectively (see Peace Figure 21)

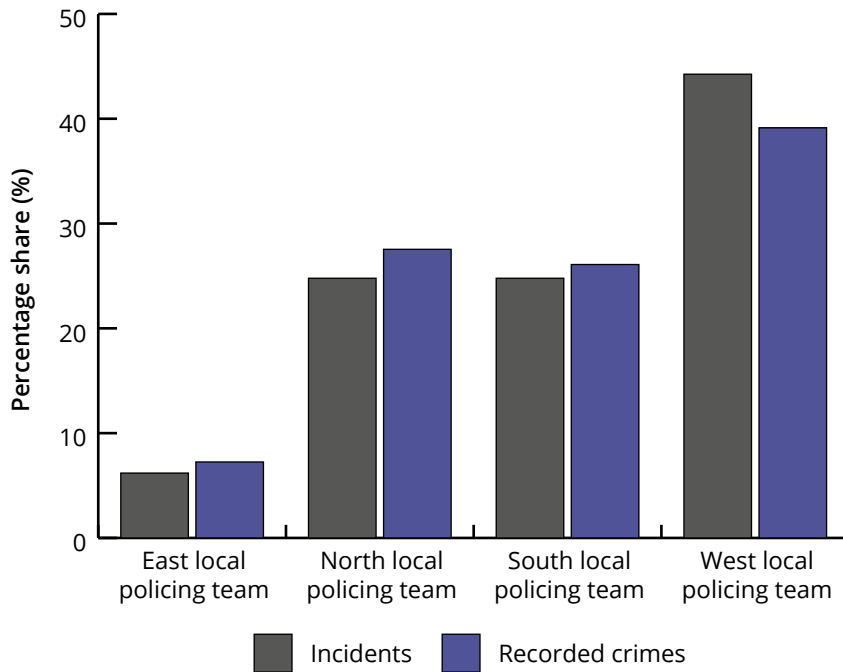
### ***Number and percentage share of recorded crimes***

In 2019/20, there was variation in the number and percentage share of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation across Belfast's local policing teams:

- West local policing team had the highest number and percentage share at 27 and 39.13%, respectively
- East local policing team had the lowest number and percentage share at 5 and 7.25%, respectively (see Peace Figure 21)

**PEACE FIGURE 21:**

**Percentage share (%) of Belfast's incidents and recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation by local policing team, 2019/20**



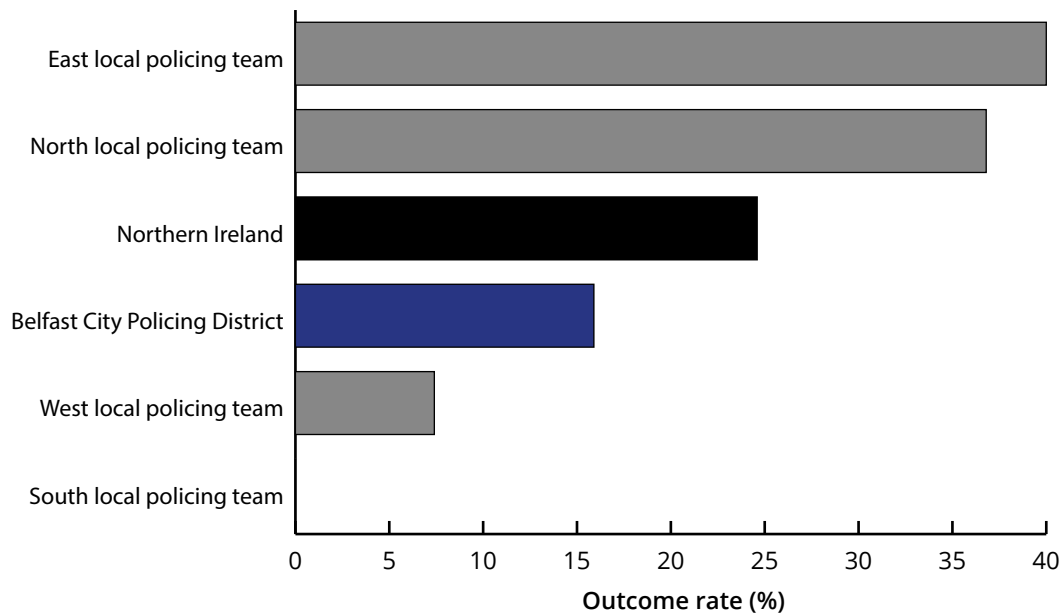
Source: Data extracted from PSNI: Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2020/21, Homophobic motivations, Summary tables, Tables 3.10 and 3.11

**Outcome rate**

In 2019/20, there was variation in the outcome rate for recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation across Belfast's local policing teams:

- East local policing team had the highest rate at 40.0%, closely followed by North local policing team at 36.8%
- South local policing team had the lowest rate at 0.0%, followed by West local policing team at 7.4% (see Peace Figure 22)



**PEACE FIGURE 22:****Outcome rate (%) for recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation by local policing team, Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**

Source: PSNI: Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2020/21, Homophobic motivations, Summary tables, Table 3.12

**KEY COMPARISONS****Comparison with Northern Ireland****Incident rate**

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the rate of incidents with a homophobic motivation was higher by 2 per 10,000 population in Belfast City Policing District, 3 compared with 1 per 10,000 population (see Peace Figure 23).

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the rate of incidents with a homophobic motivation:

- In Belfast City Policing District increased by 1 per 10,000 population from 2 to 3 per 10,000 population (a percentage increase of 33.33%)
- In Northern Ireland remained the same at 1 per 10,000 population

**Recorded crime rate**

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the rate of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation was higher by 1 per 10,000 population in Belfast City Policing District, 2 compared with 1 per 10,000 population (see Peace Figure 23).

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the rate of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation:

- In Belfast City Policing District increased by 1 per 10,000 population from 1 to 2 per 10,000 population (a percentage increase of 100.00%)
- In Northern Ireland remained the same at 1 per 10,000 population

#### **Outcome rate**

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the outcome rate for recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation was lower by 8.7 percentage points in Belfast City Policing District, 15.9% compared with 24.6%.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the outcome rate for recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation:

- In Belfast City Policing District decreased by 1.6 percentage points from 17.5% to 15.9% (a percentage decrease of 9.14%)
- In Northern Ireland increased by 5.8 percentage points, from 18.8% to 24.6% (a percentage increase of 30.85%)

## Comparison with other policing districts

#### **Incident rate**

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of incidents with a homophobic motivation at 3 per 10,000 population
- Fermanagh & Omagh Policing District had the lowest rate at 0 per 10,000 population
- Seven policing districts had the median rate at 1 per 10,000 population (see Peace Figure 23)

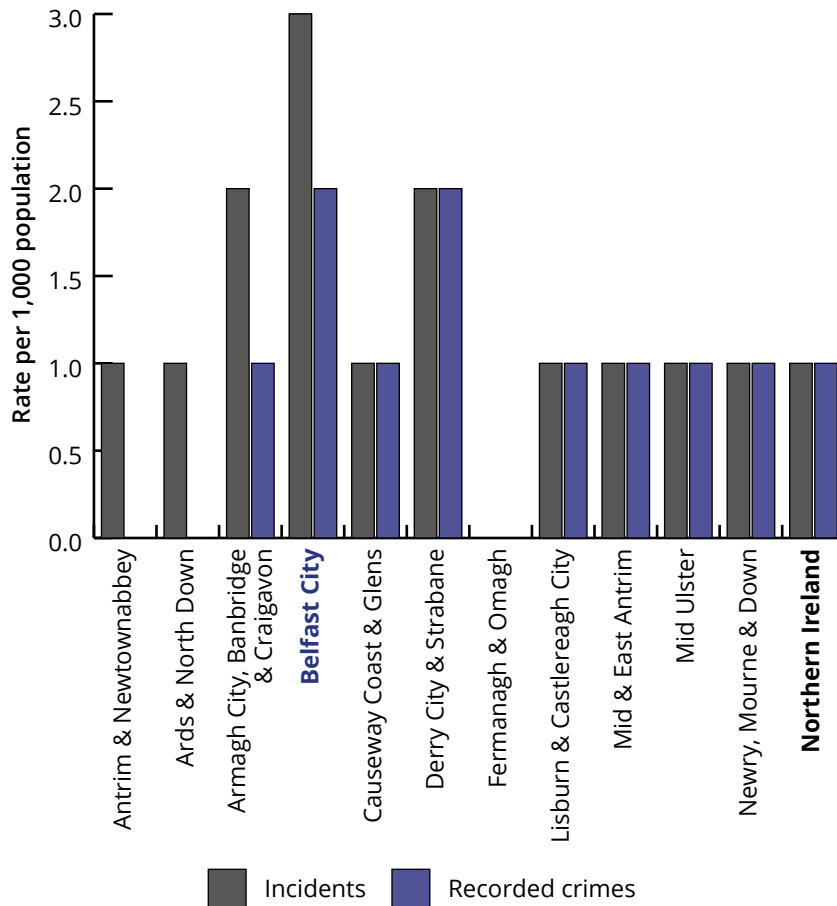
#### **Recorded crime rate**

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the equal highest rate of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation, together with Derry City & Strabane Policing District, at 2 per 10,000 population
- Three policing districts had the lowest rate at 0 per 10,000 population
- Six policing districts had the median rate at 1 per 10,000 population (see Peace Figure 23)

**PEACE FIGURE 23:**

**Rate of incidents and of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation per 10,000 population by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**

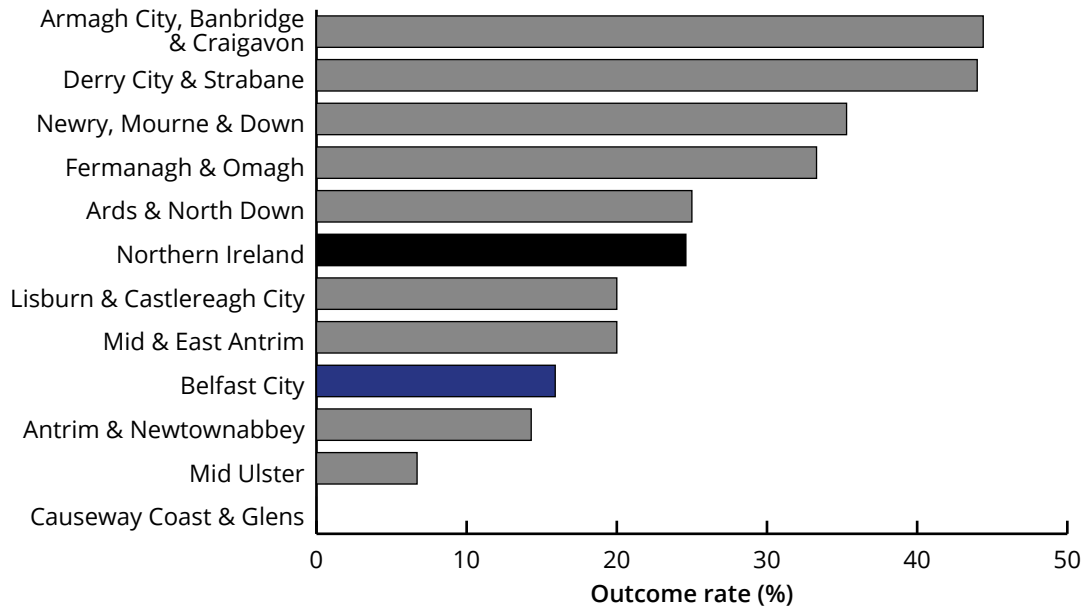


Source: PSNI: Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2020/21, Homophobic motivations, Summary tables, Tables 3.10 and 3.11

**Outcome rate**

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the fourth lowest outcome rate for recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation at 15.9%
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Policing District had the highest rate at 44.4%
- Causeway Coast & Glens had the lowest rate at 0.0%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Policing District and Mid & East Antrim Policing District had the median rate at 20.0% (see Peace Figure 24)

**PEACE FIGURE 24:****Outcome rate (%) for recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**

Source: PSNI: Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2020/21, Homophobic motivations, Summary tables, Table 3.12

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2019/20, Belfast City Policing District had higher rates of incidents and of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation than Northern Ireland, and the highest rate of incidents and equal highest rate of crimes with a homophobic motivation among policing districts.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the rates of incidents and of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation increased in Belfast City Policing District but remained the same in Northern Ireland, and the gaps between the two rates widened, with poorer outcomes for Belfast.

In 2019/20, the outcome rate for recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation was lower in Belfast City Policing District than in Northern Ireland and Belfast had one of the lowest rates among policing districts.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the outcome rate for recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation decreased in Belfast City Policing District but increased in Northern Ireland, and the gap between the two widened with a lower outcome rate for Belfast.

Thus, in 2019/20, although Belfast City Policing District had the highest rates of incidents and recorded crime with a homophobic motivation, the outcome rate was one of the lower rates among other policing districts and it was lower than that in Northern Ireland. In this respect, it is noticeable that although Derry City Policing District had the second highest rate of incidents and the equal highest rate of recorded crime with a homophobic motivation it also had the second highest outcome rate, which was more than double that in Belfast.

### Inequalities with the potential for inequity

West local policing team had the highest numbers and percentage shares of Belfast's incidents and recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation.

South local policing team had the lowest outcome rate for recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation, followed by West local policing team; in comparison, the outcome rate for Belfast City Policing District was double that for the West local policing team, and the rate for Northern Ireland was more than three times higher.

### 5.3 - Hate Crime Motivated by Sectarianism

- Incident Rate
- Recorded Crime Rate
- Outcome Rate

#### IMPORTANCE

Sectarianism remains a serious issue in Northern Ireland.<sup>43</sup> Sectarian incidents can take many forms, such as:

- Assaults
- Damage to a person's home or other property
- Verbal abuse or hate mail<sup>44</sup>

In a four-year longitudinal study of children in socially deprived areas in Belfast, sectarian anti-social behaviour significantly predicted more adjustment problems when compared with non-sectarian anti-social behaviours. Experiencing sectarian anti-social behaviour was related to increased adolescent adjustment problems, and this relationship was accentuated in neighbourhoods characterised by higher crime rates.<sup>45</sup>

The continuing existence of sectarian antagonism in Northern Ireland is damaging and disruptive, for both relationships in society and for the development of the economy.<sup>46</sup>

#### DEFINITION

Hate crime is defined as any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic. Not all hate-motivated incidents will result in the recording of a crime, as what has occurred in the incident may not be of the level of severity that would result in a crime being recorded. Where crimes with a hate abuse motivation are recorded, they are classified according to the Home Office Counting Rules and form a subset of the overall police recorded crime statistics.

---

43. A-Review-Addressing-Sectarianism-in-Northern-Ireland\_FINAL.pdf (ulster.ac.uk) (Last accessed 21 August 2022)

44. sce1084-21-hate-crime-leaflet-tri-foldsectarian.pdf (psni.police.uk) (Last accessed 29 July 2022)

45. Longitudinal relations between sectarian and nonsectarian community violence and child adjustment in Northern Ireland | Development and Psychopathology | Cambridge Core (Last accessed 28 July 2022)

46. Sectarianism in Northern Ireland: A Review (ulster.ac.uk) (Last accessed 28 July 2022)

A sectarian incident is defined as any incident which is perceived to be sectarian by the victim or any other person. The term 'sectarian', whilst not clearly defined, is a term almost exclusively used in Northern Ireland to describe incidents of bigoted dislike or hatred of members of a different religious or political group. It is broadly accepted that within the Northern Ireland context an individual or group must be perceived to be Catholic or Protestant, Nationalist or Unionist, or Loyalist or Republican. Sectarianism can also relate to other religious denominations, for example, Sunni and Shi'ite in Islam.<sup>47</sup>

As these figures relate only to those hate-motivated incidents reported to the police, they provide only an indication of the extent of hate-motivated incidents.

Information is from PSNI Hate Motivation Statistics, Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2020/21, Sectarian motivations, Summary tables.<sup>48</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the number of:

- **Incidents with a sectarian motivation was 274**
- **Recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation was 178**

### Incident rate

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the rate of incidents with a sectarian motivation was 8 per 10,000 population.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the rate of incidents with a sectarian motivation decreased by 17 per 10,000 population, from 25 to 8 per 10,000 population.

### Recorded crime rate

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the rate of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation was 5 per 10,000 population.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the rate of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation decreased by 8 per 10,000 population, from 13 to 5 per 10,000 population.

---

47. [crime-user-guide.pdf](#) (psni.police.uk) (Last accessed 28 July 2022)

48. [Hate Motivation Statistics](#) (psni.police.uk) (Last accessed 23 July 2022)

## Outcome rate

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the outcome rate for recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation was 8.4%.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the outcome rate for recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation decreased by 8.1 percentage points, from 16.5% to 8.4%.

## Differences by local policing team

Belfast City Policing District includes four local policing teams based in:

1. Strandtown (East)
2. Tennent Street (North)
3. Lisburn Road (South)
4. Woodbourne (West)

### ***Number and percentage share of incidents***

In 2019/20, there was variation in the number and percentage share of incidents with a sectarian motivation across Belfast's local policing teams:

- North local policing team had the highest number and percentage share at 127 and 46.35%, respectively
- West local policing team had the lowest number and percentage share at 41 and 14.96%, respectively (see Peace Figure 25)

### ***Number and percentage share of recorded crimes***

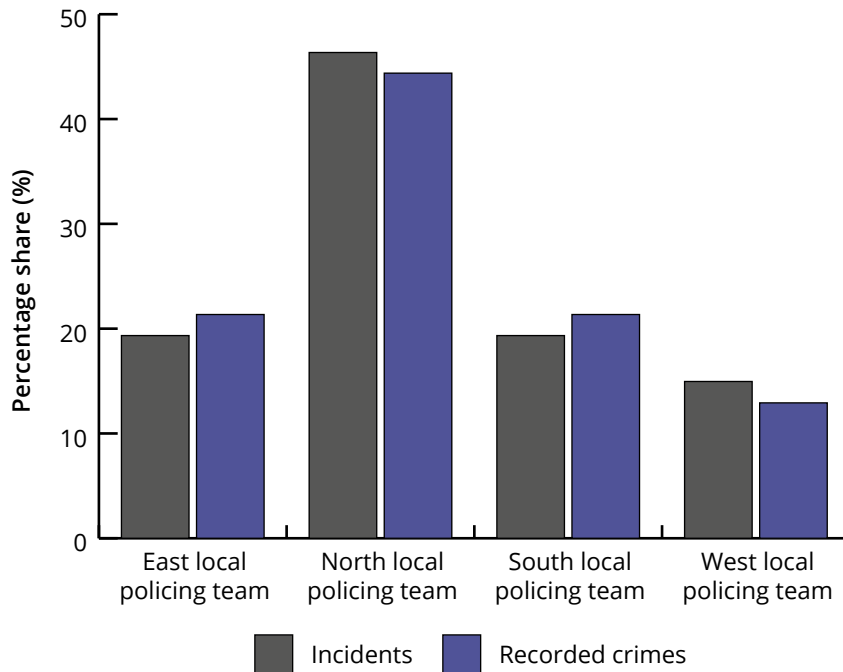
In 2019/20, there was variation in the number and percentage share of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation across Belfast's local policing teams:

- North local policing team had the highest number and percentage share at 79 and 44.38%, respectively
- West local policing team had the lowest number and percentage share at 23 and 12.92%, respectively (see Peace Figure 25)



**PEACE FIGURE 25:**

**Percentage share (%) of Belfast's incidents and recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation by local policing team, 2019/20**



Source: Data extracted from PSNI: Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2020/21, Sectarian motivations, Summary tables, Tables 4.10 and 4.11

**Outcome rate**

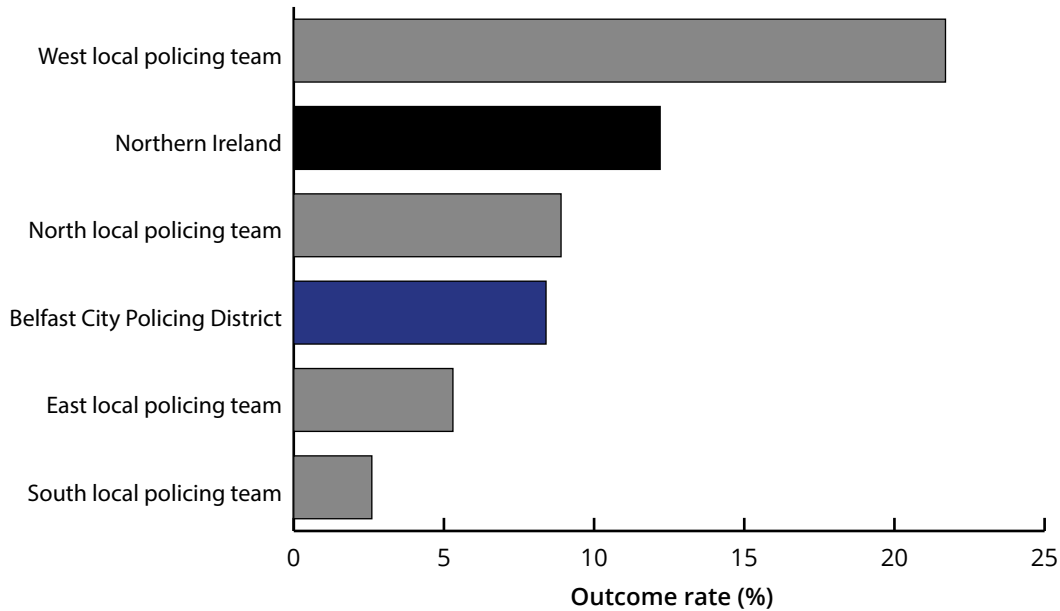
In 2019/20, there was variation in the outcome rate for recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation across Belfast's local policing teams:

- West local policing team had the highest rate at 21.7%
- South local policing team had the lowest rate at 2.6% (see Peace Figure 26)

Although the West local policing team had the lowest number and percentage share of Belfast's incidents and recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation, it had the highest outcome rate by at least 12.9 percentage points; moreover, the outcome rate for the West local policing team was more than eight times higher than that for the South local policing team.

**PEACE FIGURE 26:**

**Outcome rate (%) for recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation by local policing team, Belfast City Policing District, and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**



Source: PSNI: Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2020/21, Sectarian motivations, Summary tables, Table 4.12

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

#### **Incident rate**

In 2019/20, the rate of incidents with a sectarian motivation was higher by 3 per 10,000 population in Belfast City Policing District, 8 compared with 5 per 10,000 population (see Peace Figure 27).

Between 2009/10 and 2019, the rate of incidents with a sectarian motivation decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 17 per 10,000 population, from 25 to 8 per 10,000 population (a percentage decrease of 68.00%)
- In Northern Ireland by 5 per 10,000 population, from 10 to 5 per 10,000 population (a percentage decrease of 50.00%)

### **Recorded crime rate**

In 2019/20, the rate of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation was higher by 2 per 10,000 population in Belfast City Policing District, 5 compared with 3 per 10,000 population (see Peace Figure 27).

Between 2009/10 and 2019, the rate of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 8 per 10,000 population, from 13 to 5 per 10,000 population (a percentage decrease of 61.54%)
- In Northern Ireland by 4 per 10,000 population, from 7 to 3 per 10,000 population (a percentage decrease of 57.14%)

### **Outcome rate**

In 2019/20, the outcome rate for recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation was lower by 3.8 percentage points in Belfast City Policing District, 8.4% compared with 12.2% (see Peace Figure 28).

Between 2009/10 and 2019, the outcome rate for recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 8.1 percentage points, from 16.5% to 8.4% (a percentage decrease of 49.09%)
- In Northern Ireland by 4.7 percentage points, from 16.9% to 12.2% (a percentage decrease of 27.81%)

## Comparison with other policing districts

### **Incident rate**

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

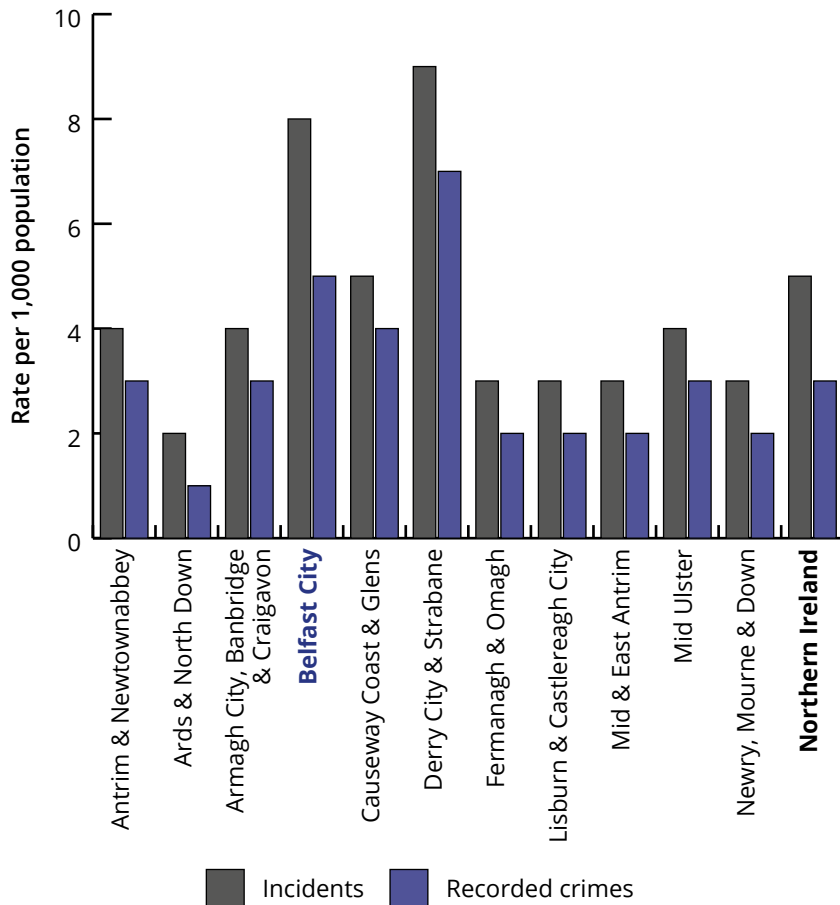
- Belfast City Policing District had the second highest rate of incidents with a sectarian motivation at 8 per 10,000 population
- Derry City & Strabane Policing District had the highest rate at 9 per 10,000 population
- Ards & North Down Policing District had the lowest rate at 2 per 10,000 population
- Three policing districts had the median rate at 4 per 10,000 population (see Peace Figure 27)

**Recorded crime rate**

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the second highest rate for recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation at 5 per 10,000 population
- Derry City & Strabane Policing District had the highest rate at 7 per 10,000 population
- Ards & North Down Policing District had the lowest rate at 1 per 10,000 population
- Three policing districts had the median rate at 3 per 10,000 population (see Peace Figure 27)

**PEACE FIGURE 27:**  
**Rate of incidents and of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation per 10,000 population by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**



Source: PSNI: Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2020/21, Sectarian motivations, Summary tables, Tables 4.10 and 4.11

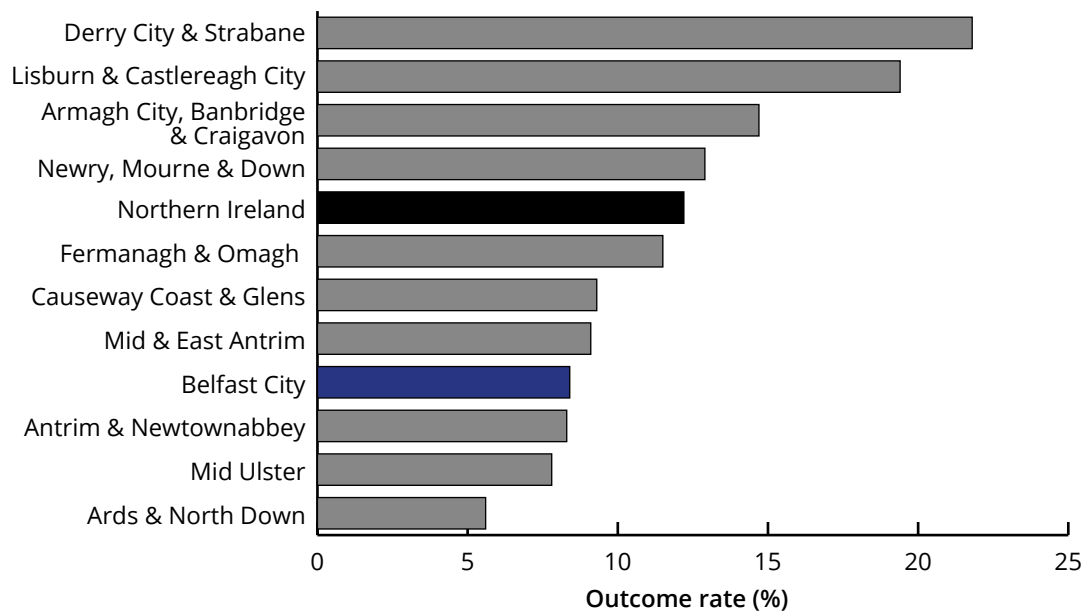
**Outcome rate**

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the fourth lowest outcome rate for recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation at 8.4%
- Derry City & Strabane Policing District had the highest rate at 21.8%
- Ards & North Down Policing District had the lowest rate at 5.6%
- Causeway Coast & Glens Policing District had the median rate at 9.3% (see Peace Figure 28)

**PEACE FIGURE 28:**

**Outcome rate (%) for recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**



Source: PSNI: Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2020/21, Sectarian motivations, Summary tables, Table 4.12

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019/20, Belfast City Policing District had higher rates of incidents and of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation than Northern Ireland, and the second highest rates among policing districts.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the rates of incidents and of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation decreased in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland, although the percentage decreases were greater in Belfast and the gaps between the two narrowed with improved outcomes for Belfast.

In 2019/20, the outcome rate for recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation was lower in Belfast City Policing District than in Northern Ireland and Belfast had one of the lowest rates among policing districts.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the outcome rate for recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation decreased in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland, but the percentage decrease was greater in Belfast City Policing District and the gap between the two widened with a lower outcome rate for Belfast.

Thus, in 2019/20, although Belfast City Policing District had the second highest rates of incidents and recorded crime with a sectarian motivation, the outcome rate was one of the lower rates among other policing districts and it was lower than that in Northern Ireland. In this respect, it is noticeable that although Derry City Policing District had the highest rate of incidents and recorded crime with a sectarian motivation it also had the highest outcome rate, which was more than double that in Belfast.

### Inequalities with the potential for inequity

North local policing team had the highest number and percentage share of Belfast's incidents and recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation.

South local policing team had the lowest outcome rate for recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation; in comparison, the outcome rate for Belfast City Policing District was more than three times higher, and the rate for Northern Ireland was more than four times higher.

In addition, the outcome rates for the North and East local policing teams were lower than those for Northern Ireland.

## SECTION 6

# Perceptions of Crime and Anti-social Behaviour

## 6.1 Worry about Crime and Personal Safety

### IMPORTANCE

In a longitudinal study of the effect of local crime rates on residents' mental health, it was found that crime causes considerable mental distress for residents, primarily driven by property crime. Effects are stronger for women, and mainly related to depression and anxiety.<sup>49</sup>

In a London-based survey, however, one-quarter of those individuals who said they were worried about crime also viewed their worry as something akin to a problem-solving activity: they took precautions, the precautions made them feel safer, and neither the precautions nor the worries reduced the quality of their lives. Fear of crime can be helpful as well as harmful: some people are able and willing to convert their concerns into constructive action.<sup>50</sup>

### DEFINITION

Worry about becoming a victim of crime is measured by the NISCS in two ways:

1. About specific crime
2. With regard to personal safety when alone after dark, either at home or walking in the local area.

49. The Effect of Local Area Crime on Mental Health - Dustmann - 2016 - The Economic Journal - Wiley Online Library (Last accessed 25 July 2022)

50. Functional Fear and Public Insecurities about Crime (LSERO).pdf (Last accessed 28 July 2022)

Respondents to NISCS 2019/20 were asked how worried they are about becoming a victim of the following crimes using a four-point scale, ranging from 'very worried' to 'not at all worried':

- Home being burgled
- Being mugged and robbed
- Physical attack by a stranger
- Physical attack because of hate motivations
- Rape
- Theft of a car
- Theft from a car

Two composite indicators for worry about car crime and violent crime are constructed from the responses to the individual car crime and violent crime questions. For the worry about car crime indicator, responses to each car crime question of 'very worried' are awarded 2 points and 'fairly worried' 1 point. Those respondents scoring a combined 3 or 4 points are considered to have a high level of worry about car crime. This measure refers only to respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle. For the worry about violent crime indicator, responses to each violent crime question of 'very worried' are awarded 2 points and 'fairly worried' 1 point. In this instance, the scale ranges from 0 to 8 points and those scoring 4 or more points are deemed to have a high level of worry about violent crime. Since 2007/08, respondents have also been asked how worried they are about becoming a victim of (all types of) crime in general, using the same four-point scale ('very worried' to 'not at all worried').<sup>51</sup>

Information is from the Department for Justice Perceptions of Crime: Findings from the Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2019/20, Perceptions of crime findings 2019-20: Data tables, and Perceptions of Crime: Findings from the 2009/10 Northern Ireland Crime Survey, Second Edition, Research and Statistical Bulletin 2/2011, Revised July 2012.<sup>52</sup>

---

51. NISCS Perceptions of Crime: findings from 2019/20 ([justice-ni.gov.uk](http://justice-ni.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 28 July 2022)

52. Perceptions of Crime: Findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey | Department of Justice ([justice-ni.gov.uk](http://justice-ni.gov.uk)) and Microsoft Word - NICS 2009-10 Perceptions of Crime Bulletin \_2nd Edition\_.doc ([justice-ni.gov.uk](http://justice-ni.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 24 July 2022)



## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the percentage of people:

- Very worried about crime overall was 8%
- With very high levels of worry about burglary was 15%
- With very high levels of worry about car crime was 11%
- With very high levels of worry about violent crime was 14%
- Feeling very unsafe walking alone in area after dark was 8%
- Feeling very unsafe alone in home at night was 2%

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, there was a decrease in the percentage of people:

- Very worried about crime overall by 3 percentage points from 11% to 8%
- With high levels of worry about burglary by 2 percentage points, from 17% to 15%
- With very high levels of worry about car crime by 11 percentage points, from 22% to 11%
- With very high levels of worry about violent crime by 8 percentage points, from 22% to 14%
- Feeling very unsafe walking alone in area after dark by 3 percentage points, from 11% to 8%
- Feeling unsafe alone in home at night by 1 percentage point, from 3% to 2%

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people very worried about crime overall was higher by 2 percentage points in Belfast City Policing District, 8% compared with 6% (see Peace Figure 29).

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people very worried about crime overall decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 3 percentage points, from 11% to 8% (a percentage decrease of 27.27%)
- In Northern Ireland by 2 percentage points, from 8% to 6% (a percentage decrease of 25.00%)

### ***Burglary***

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people with very high levels of worry about burglary was 3 percentage points higher in Belfast City Policing District, 15% compared with 12% (see Peace Figure 29).

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people with very high levels of worry about burglary decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 2 percentage points, from 17% to 15% (a percentage decrease of 11.76%)
- In Northern Ireland by 4 percentage points, from 16% to 12% (a percentage decrease of 25.00%)

### ***Car crime***

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people with very high levels of worry about car crime was 1 percentage point higher in Belfast City Policing District, 11% compared with 10% (see Peace Figure 29).

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people with very high levels of worry about car crime decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 11 percentage points, from 22% to 11% (a percentage decrease of 50.00%)
- In Northern Ireland by 3 percentage points, from 13% to 10% (a percentage decrease of 23.08%)

### ***Violent crime***

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people with very high levels of worry about violent crime was 2 percentage points higher in Belfast City Policing District, 14% compared with 12% (see Peace Figure 29).

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people with very high levels of worry about violent crime decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 8 percentage points, from 22% to 14% (a percentage decrease of 36.36%)
- In Northern Ireland by 8 percentage points, from 20% to 12% (a percentage decrease of 40.00%)

### ***Walking alone in area after dark***

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people feeling very unsafe walking alone in area after dark was 1 percentage point higher in Belfast City Policing District, 8% compared with 7% (see Peace Figure 29).

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people feeling very unsafe about walking alone in area after dark decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 3 percentage points, from 11% to 8% (a percentage decrease of 27.27%)
- In Northern Ireland by 3 percentage points, from 10% to 7% (a percentage decrease of 30.00%)

### ***Alone in home at night***

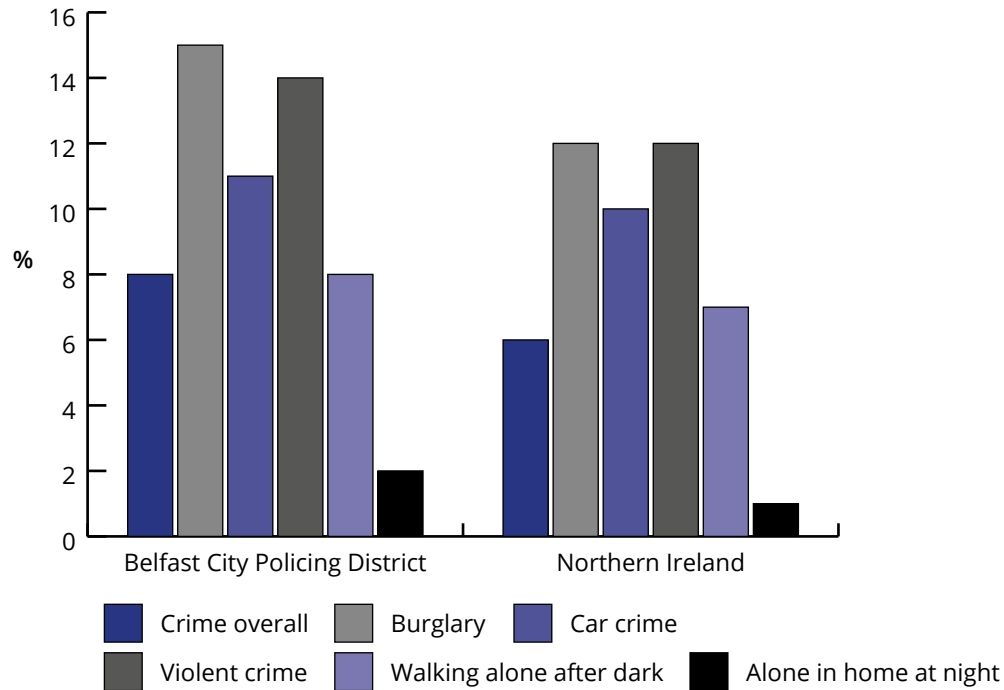
In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people feeling very unsafe alone in home at night was 1 percentage point higher in Belfast City Policing District, 2% compared with 1% (see Peace Figure 29)

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people feeling very unsafe alone in at night decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 1 percentage point, from 3% to 2% (a percentage decrease of 33.33%)
- In Northern Ireland by 1 percentage point, from 2% to 1% (a percentage decrease of 50.00%)

**PEACE FIGURE 29:**

Percentage (%) of people very worried about crime overall, with very high levels of worry about burglary, car crime and violent crime, and feeling very unsafe walking alone in area after dark and alone in home at night by Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland, 2019/20



Source: Department of Justice: Perceptions of crime findings 2019-20: Data tables, Table 5.2

## Comparison with other policing districts

### **Crime overall**

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the equal highest percentage of people very worried about crime overall at 8%, together with three other policing districts
- Causeway Coast & Glens had the lowest percentage at 4%
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Policing District and Lisburn & Castlereagh City Policing District had the median percentage at 6% (see Peace Figure 30)

### **Burglary**

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the second equal highest percentage of people with very high levels of worry about burglary at 15%, together with Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Policing District
- Antrim & Newtownabbey Policing District had the highest percentage at 17%
- Ards & North Down Policing District and Mid & East Antrim Policing District had the lowest percentage at 9%
- Four policing districts had the median percentage at 11% (see Peace Figure 30)

### **Car crime**

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the second equal highest percentage of people with very high levels of worry about car crime at 11%, together with Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Policing District
- Antrim & Newtownabbey Policing District had the highest percentage at 12%
- Fermanagh & Omagh Policing District had the lowest percentage at 6%
- Three policing districts had the median percentage at 10% (see Peace Figure 30)

### **Violent crime**

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the second equal highest percentage of people with very high levels of worry about violent crime at 14%, together with Antrim & Newtownabbey Policing District
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Policing District had the highest percentage at 16%
- Causeway Coast & Glens Policing District had the lowest percentage at 8%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Policing District and Newry, Mourne & Down Policing District had the median percentage at 11% (see Peace Figure 30)

### ***Walking alone in area after dark***

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the third highest percentage of people feeling very unsafe walking alone in area after dark at 8%
- Fermanagh & Omagh Policing District had the highest percentage at 12%
- Antrim & Newtownabbey Policing District had the lowest percentage at 3%
- Four policing districts had the median percentage at 5% (see Peace Figure 30)

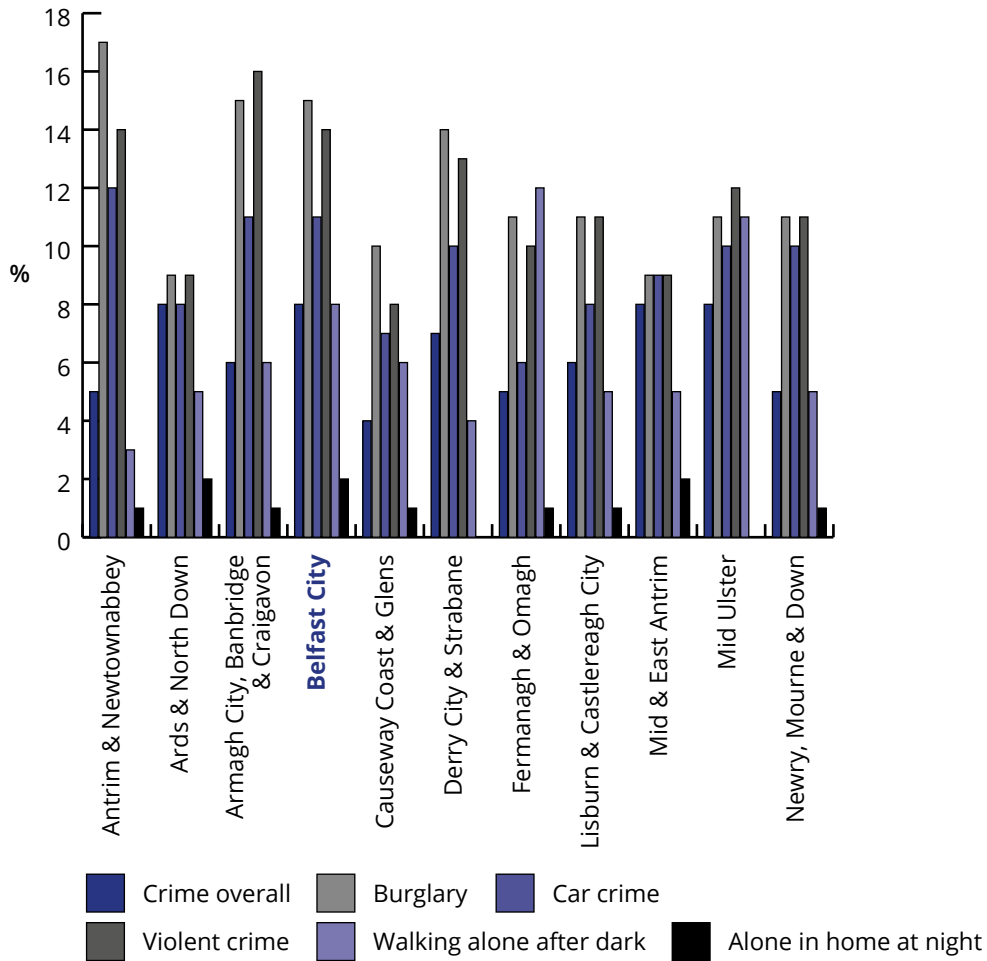
### ***Alone in home at night***

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the equal highest percentage of people feeling very unsafe alone in home at night at 2%, together with two other policing districts
- Derry City & Strabane Policing District and Mid Ulster Policing District had the lowest percentage at 0%
- Six policing districts had the median percentage at 1% (see Peace Figure 30)

**PEACE FIGURE 30:**

**Percentage (%) of people very worried about crime overall, people with very high levels of worry about burglary, car crime and violent crime, and people feeling very unsafe walking alone in area after dark and alone in home at night by policing district, 2019/20**



Source: Department of Justice: Perceptions of crime findings 2019-20: Data tables, Table 5.2

## Differences by area of deprivation

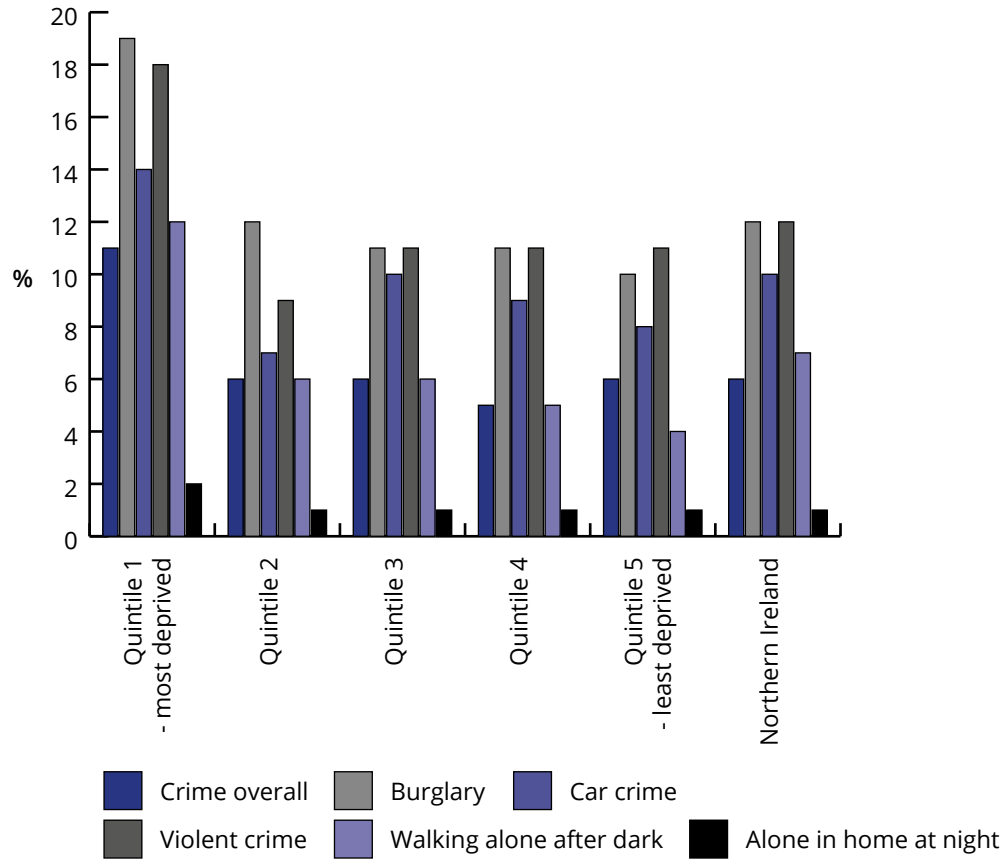
In 2019/20, although there was variation across Northern Ireland's deprivation quintiles in relation to worry about crime and personal safety, the most-deprived areas in Northern Ireland- Quintile 1 - had the highest percentages of people:

- **Very worried about crime overall at 11%, almost double the percentage for any other quintile**
- **With high levels of worry about burglary at 19%, at least 7 percentage points higher than that for any other quintile**
- **With high levels of worry about car crime at 14%, at least 4 percentage points higher than that for any other quintile**
- **With high levels of worry about violent crime at 18%, at least 7 percentage points higher than that for any other quintile**
- **Feeling very unsafe walking alone in area after dark at 12%, twice as high as that for any other quintile**
- **Feeling very unsafe alone in home at night at 2%, twice as high as that for any other quintile (see Peace Figure 31)**



**PEACE FIGURE 31:**

**Percentage (%) of people very worried about crime overall, people with very high levels of worry about burglary, car crime and violent crime, and people feeling very unsafe walking alone in area after dark and alone in home at night by deprivation quintile (Quintiles 1-5) in Northern Ireland and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**



Source: Department of Justice: Perceptions of crime findings 2019-20: Data tables, Table 5.2

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2019/20, the percentage of people in Belfast City Policing District very worried about crime overall was higher than that in Northern Ireland, as were the percentages of people with high levels of worry about burglary, car crime and violent crime, and the percentages of people feeling very unsafe walking in area after dark and alone in home at night.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people very worried about crime overall decreased in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland, as did the percentages of people with high levels of worry about burglary, car crime and violent crime, and the percentages of people feeling very unsafe walking alone in area after dark and alone in home at night; however, there was a greater percentage decrease in:

- Belfast City Policing District for the percentage of people very worried about crime overall and the gap between Belfast and Northern Ireland narrowed
- Northern Ireland for high levels of worry about burglary and the gap between the two widened
- Belfast City Policing District for high levels of worry about car crime and the gap between the two narrowed
- Northern Ireland for high levels of worry about violent crime and although the gap between the two widened the difference between the rates remained the same
- Northern Ireland for feeling very unsafe about walking alone after dark and although the gap between the two widened the difference between the rates remained the same
- Northern Ireland for feeling very unsafe about being alone in home at night and although the gap between the two widened the difference between the rates remained the same

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts, Belfast had:

- The equal highest percentage of people very worried about crime overall
- The second equal highest percentages of people with high levels of worry about burglary, car crime, and violent crime
- The third highest percentage of people feeling very unsafe walking alone in area after dark
- The equal highest percentage of people feeling very unsafe in home at night

### Inequalities with the potential for inequity in Northern Ireland

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, the most-deprived areas – Quintile 1 – were characterised by the highest percentage of people very worried about crime overall when compared with the other four quintiles. The most-deprived areas also had the highest percentages of people with high levels of worry about burglary, car crime and violent crime, and of people feeling very unsafe walking in area after dark and being alone in home at night.

## 6.2 Effect of 'Fear of Crime' on Quality of Life

### IMPORTANCE

On a personal level, fear of crime in extreme cases impinges on quality of life, causes paranoia, anxiety, and other psychological issues; at a social level, fear of crime causes prejudice and segregation. Fear of crime leads people who are more prosperous to protect themselves and their property, possibly displacing crime onto people who are less privileged. Fear can also transform some public places into no-go areas, with a severe impact on local prosperity.<sup>53</sup>

Whole communities can be affected by crime regardless of whether individuals are direct victims of crime or not. For example, fear of crime can limit social functioning and impact community cohesion.<sup>54</sup>

### DEFINITION

Respondents to NISCS were asked how much their own quality of life is affected by their 'fear of crime' on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is no effect and 10 is a total effect. To standardise the results, the following conventions were used to gauge the effect of 'fear of crime' on quality of life:

- Minimally affected (responded in the range 1 to 3)
- Moderately affected (responded in the range 4 to 7)
- Greatly affected (responded in the range 8 to 10)<sup>55</sup>

Information is from the Department for Justice Perceptions of Crime: Findings from the Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2019/20, Perceptions of crime findings 2019-20: Data tables, and Perceptions of Crime: Findings from the 2009/10 Northern Ireland Crime Survey, Second Edition, Research and Statistical Bulletin 2/2011, Revised July 2012.<sup>56</sup>

53.. Fear of crime: the impact of different distributions of victimisation | Humanities and Social Sciences Communications (nature.com) (Last accessed 27 July 2022)

54. The impact of crime on victims and society - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) (Last accessed 25 July 2022)

55. NISCS Perceptions of Crime: findings from 2019/20 (justice-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 28 July 2022)

56. Perceptions of Crime: Findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey | Department of Justice (justice-ni.gov.uk) and Microsoft Word - NICS 2009-10 Perceptions of Crime Bulletin \_2nd Edition\_.doc (justice-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 24 July 2022)

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the percentage of people who perceived that fear of crime had:

- A minimal effect on quality of life was 66%
- A moderate effect on quality of life was 27%
- A great effect on quality of life was 7% (see Peace Figure 32)

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who perceived that fear of crime had:

- A minimal effect on quality of life increased by 6 percentage points from 60% to 66%
- A moderate effect on quality of life decreased by 6 percentage points from 33% to 27%
- A great effect on quality of life remained the same at 7%

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who perceived that fear of crime had:

- A minimal effect on quality of life was lower by 5 percentage points in Belfast City Policing District, 66% compared with 71%
- A moderate effect on quality of life was 3 percentage points higher, 27% compared with 24%
- A great effect on quality of life was 2 percentage points higher, 7% compared with 5% (see Peace Figure 32)

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who perceived that fear of crime had a minimal effect on quality of life increased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 6 percentage points from 60% to 66% (a percentage increase of 10.00%)
- In Northern Ireland by 5 percentage points, from 66% to 71% (a percentage increase of 7.58%)

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who perceived that fear of crime had a moderate effect on quality of life decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 6 percentage points from 33% to 27% (a percentage decrease of 18.18%)
- In Northern Ireland by 2 percentage points, from 26% to 24% (a percentage decrease of 7.69%)

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who perceived that fear of crime had a great effect on quality of life remained the same:

- In Belfast City Policing District at 7%
- In Northern Ireland at 5%

### Comparison with other policing districts

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the second lowest percentage of people who perceived fear of crime had a minimal effect on quality of life at 66%
- Causeway Coast & Glens Policing District had the highest percentage at 80%
- Mid Ulster Policing District had the lowest percentage at 61%
- Derry City & Strabane Policing District and Lisburn & Castlereagh City Policing District had the median percentage at 72% (see Peace Figure 32)

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

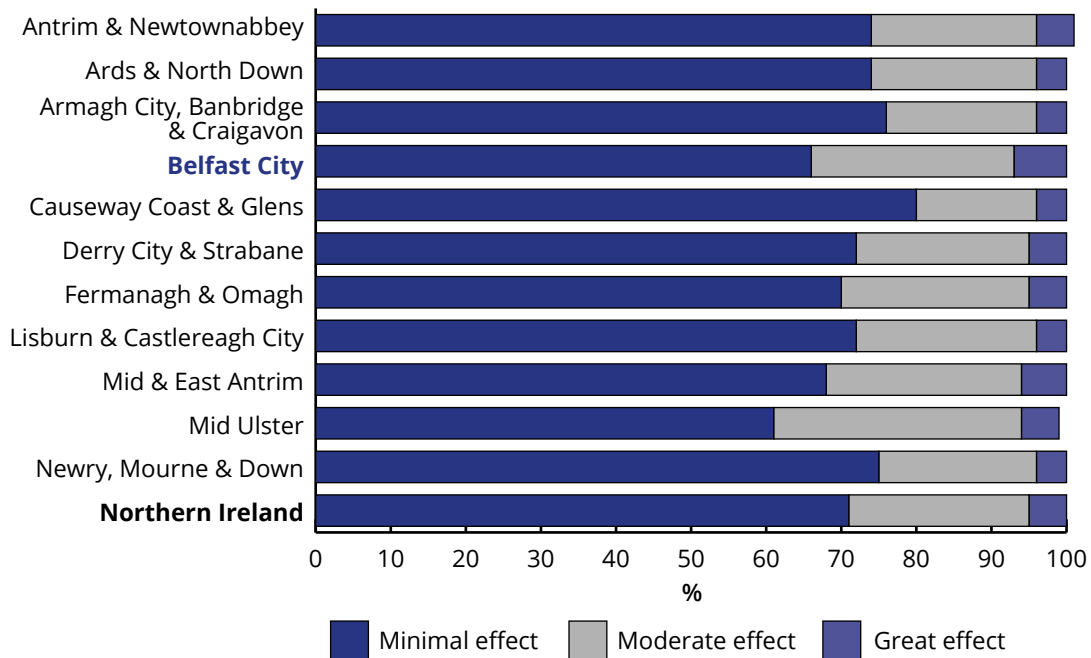
- Belfast City Policing District had the second highest percentage of people who perceived fear of crime had a moderate effect on quality of life at 27%
- Mid Ulster Policing District had the highest percentage at 33%
- Causeway Coast & Glens Policing District had the lowest percentage at 16%
- Derry City & Strabane Policing District had the median percentage at 23% (see Peace Figure 32)

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the highest percentage of people who perceived fear of crime had a great effect on quality of life at 7%
- Five policing districts had the lowest percentage at 4%
- Four policing districts had the median percentage at 5% (see Peace Figure 32)

**PEACE FIGURE 32:**

**Percentage (%) of people perceiving an effect of fear of crime on quality of life by size of effect and policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**



Source: Perceptions of crime findings 2019-20: Data tables, Table 6.2

## Differences by area of deprivation

In 2019/20, although there was variation across Northern Ireland's areas of deprivation in relation to the perception of fear of crime on the quality of life, the most-deprived areas in Northern Ireland – Quintile 1 – had:

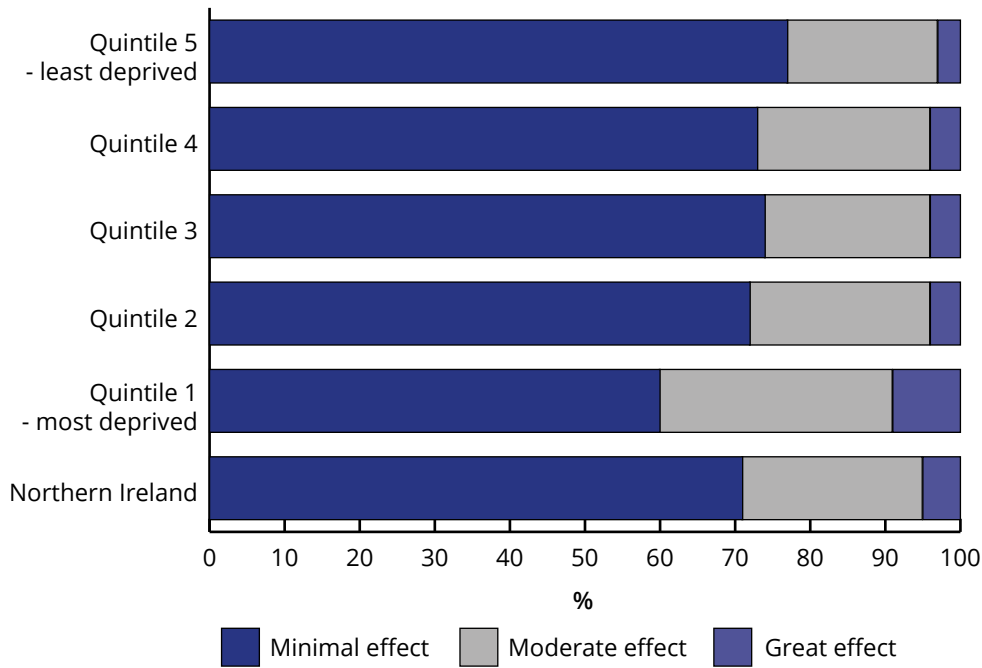
- The lowest percentage of people who perceived fear of crime had a minimal effect on quality of life at 60%
- The highest percentage of people who perceived fear of crime had a moderate effect on quality of life at 31%
- The highest percentage of people who perceived fear of crime had a great effect on quality of life at 9% (see Peace Figure 33)

In 2019/20, when compared with the least-deprived areas (Quintile 5), the percentage of people who perceived fear of crime had:

- A minimal effect on quality of life was 17 percentage points lower in the most-deprived areas (Quintile 1), 60% compared with 77%
- A moderate effect on quality of life was 11 percentage points higher in the most-deprived areas (Quintile 1), 31% compared with 20%
- A great effect on quality of life was 6 percentage points higher in the most-deprived areas (Quintile 1), 9% compared with 3% (see Peace Figure 33)

**PEACE FIGURE 33:**

**Percentage (%) of people perceiving an effect of fear of crime on quality of life by size of effect and by Northern Ireland’s areas of deprivation (Quintiles 1-5) and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**



Source: Perceptions of crime findings 2019-20: Data tables, Table 6.2

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District:

- Between 6 and 7 out of every 10 people perceived fear of crime had a minimal effect on quality of life, compared with 7 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland
- Almost 3 out of every 10 people perceived fear of crime had a moderate effect on quality of life, compared with between 2 and 3 out of every 10 people in Northern Ireland
- Almost 1 out of every 10 people perceived fear of crime had a great effect on quality of life, compared with one in every 20 people in Northern Ireland



Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who perceived the fear of crime had:

- A minimal effect on quality of life increased in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland, although the percentage increase was greater in Belfast and the gap between the two narrowed with improved outcomes for Belfast
- A moderate effect on quality of life decreased in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland, although the percentage decrease was greater in Belfast and the gap between the two narrowed with improved outcomes for Belfast
- A great effect on quality of life remained the same in Belfast and in Northern Ireland, and, therefore, the gap between the two remained the same

### Inequalities with the potential for inequity in Northern Ireland

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland's most-deprived areas:

- 6 out of every 10 people perceived crime had a minimal effect on quality of life compared with almost 8 out of every 10 people in the least-deprived areas
- 3 out of every 10 people perceived crime had a moderate effect on quality of life compared with 2 out of every 10 people in the least-deprived areas
- 1 out of every 10 people perceived crime had a great effect on quality of life compared with almost 1 out of every 30 people in the least-deprived areas
- Thus, 4 out of every 10 people in Northern Ireland's most-deprived areas perceived fear of crime to have a moderate or great effect on quality of life, compared with over 2 out of every 10 people in Northern Ireland's least-deprived areas.

## 6.3 Perceptions of Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)

### IMPORTANCE

Whole communities can be affected by crime regardless of whether individuals are direct victims of crime or not. For example, anti-social behaviour can impact on perceptions of safety and have negative impacts on the local environment.<sup>57</sup>

The impacts of anti-social behaviours are numerous and varied. Public and open spaces play a vital role in communities, however, where the actions of a few people ruin these spaces, through public drunkenness, aggressive begging, irresponsible dog ownership or general anti-social behaviour, these places can be lost to the communities who use them:

- Persistent and intrusive noise can have a negative impact on neighbourhoods and an adverse effect on the health of people living and working nearby
- In most cases of people consuming alcohol and behaving anti-socially, it is not the drinking that is anti-social, but the behaviour that follows, which can involve littering, swearing, fighting, and public urination
- Illicit drug use can cause nuisance or annoyance to other people in the community, in addition to playing a role in perpetuating other types of anti-social behaviour (e.g., as a contributing factor in troubled families)
- Groups of any age hanging around may be associated with damaging property, vandalism and graffiti, excessive noise, threatening or aggressive behaviour, littering, and consuming alcohol and drunken behaviour in public places. There can be several reasons why people and particularly young people, hang around in groups and the behaviour is not necessarily anti-social, however, some people may feel intimidated, irrespective of whether anti-social behaviour is taking place. In many cases, young people gather in public places to socialise and do not intend to intimidate or harass others; gathering in groups can also make young people feel safer, particularly in public areas that are well-lit and busy
- Persistent littering can be an eyesore or at its worst can be considered a health hazard<sup>58</sup>

57. The impact of crime on victims and society - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) (Last accessed 25 July 2022)

58. Scroll down to 'Archived documents' for Information note: public and open spaces, Information note: noisy neighbours, Information note: drugs and anti-social behaviour, Information note: groups hanging around, Information note: litter and rubbish, Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act: anti-social behaviour - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (Last accessed 27 July 2022)

## DEFINITION

Respondents to the NISCS were asked to rate how much of a problem different types of anti-social behaviour are in their area using a four-point scale ranging from 'very big problem' to 'not a problem at all'. Since 2003/04, responses to the following seven strands have been used to form a composite measure to gauge the overall perceived level of ASB in the local area:

1. Abandoned or burnt-out cars
2. Noisy neighbours or loud parties
3. People being drunk or rowdy in public places
4. People using or dealing drugs
5. Teenagers/young people hanging around on the streets
6. Rubbish or litter lying around
7. Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property<sup>59</sup>

Information is from the Department for Justice Perceptions of Crime: Findings from the Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2019/20, Perceptions of crime findings 2019-20: Data tables, and Perceptions of Crime: Findings from the 2009/10 Northern Ireland Crime Survey, Second Edition, Research and Statistical Bulletin 2/2011, Revised July 2012.<sup>60</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the percentage of people who perceived a high level of anti-social behaviours was 13%.

For specific antisocial behaviours, in 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the percentage of people who perceived them as a "very" or "fairly" big problem was:

- 4% for abandoned or burnt-out cars
- 9% for noisy neighbours or loud parties
- 19% for people being drunk or rowdy in public places

59. NISCS Perceptions of Crime: findings from 2019/20 ([justice-ni.gov.uk](http://justice-ni.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 28 July 2022)

60. Perceptions of Crime: Findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey | Department of Justice ([justice-ni.gov.uk](http://justice-ni.gov.uk)) and Microsoft Word - NICS 2009-10 Perceptions of Crime Bulletin \_2nd Edition\_.doc ([justice-ni.gov.uk](http://justice-ni.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 24 July 2022)

- 38% for people using or dealing drugs
- 20% for teenagers/young people hanging around on streets
- 35% for rubbish or litter lying around
- 19% for vandalism, graffiti, and other deliberate damage to property

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the percentage of people who perceived a high level of anti-social behaviours decreased by 11 percentage points, from 24% to 13%.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the percentage of people who perceived a specific anti-social behaviour as a “very” or “fairly” big problem decreased for:

- Abandoned or burnt-out cars by 3 percentage points, from 7% to 4%
- Noisy neighbours or loud parties by 5 percentage points, from 14% to 9%
- People being drunk or rowdy in public places by 10 percentage points, from 29% to 19%
- Teenagers/young people hanging around on streets by 17 percentage points, from 37% to 20%
- Rubbish or litter lying around by 2 percentage points, from 37% to 35%
- Vandalism, graffiti, and other deliberate damage to property by 16 percentage points, from 35% to 19%

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, however, the percentage of people who perceived people using or dealing drugs as a “very” or “fairly” big problem increased by 8 percentage points, from 30% to 38%.

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

#### ***Perceived high level of anti-social behaviours***

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who perceived a high level of anti-social behaviours was 4 percentage points higher in Belfast City Policing District, 13% compared with 9%.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who perceived a high level of anti-social behaviours decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 11 percentage points, from 24% to 13% (a percentage decrease of 45.83%)
- In Northern Ireland by 5 percentage points, from 14% to 9% (a percentage decrease of 35.71%)

## Specific anti-social behaviours

### ***Abandoned or burnt-out cars***

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who perceived abandoned or burnt-out cars as a “very” or “fairly” big problem decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 3 percentage points, from 7% to 4% (a percentage decrease of 42.86%)
- In Northern Ireland by 2 percentage points, from 5% to 3% (a percentage decrease of 40.00%; see Peace Figure 34)

### ***Noisy neighbours or loud parties***

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who perceived noisy neighbours or loud parties as a “very” or “fairly” big problem decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 5 percentage points, from 14% to 9% (a percentage decrease of 35.71%)
- In Northern Ireland by 2 percentage points, from 8% to 6% (a percentage decrease of 25.00%; see Peace Figure 34)

### ***People being drunk or rowdy in public places***

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who perceived people being drunk or rowdy in public places as a “very” or “fairly” big problem decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 10 percentage points, from 29% to 19% (a percentage decrease of 34.48%)
- In Northern Ireland by 7 percentage points, from 22% to 15% (a percentage decrease of 31.82%; see Peace Figure 34)

### ***People using or dealing drugs***

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who perceived people using or dealing drugs as a “very” or “fairly” big problem increased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 8 percentage points, from 30% to 38% (a percentage increase of 26.67%)
- In Northern Ireland by 8 percentage points, from 23% to 31% (a percentage increase of 34.78%; see Peace Figure 34)

### ***Teenagers/young people hanging around on streets***

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who perceived teenagers/young people hanging around on streets as a “very” or “fairly” big problem decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 17 percentage points, from 37% to 20% (a percentage decrease of 45.95%)
- In Northern Ireland by 12 percentage points, from 26% to 14% (a percentage decrease of 46.15%; see Peace Figure 34)

### ***Rubbish or litter lying around***

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who perceived rubbish or litter lying around on streets as a “very” or “fairly” big problem decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 2 percentage points, from 37% to 35% (a percentage decrease of 5.41%; see Peace Figure 34)
- In Northern Ireland by 1 percentage points, from 28% to 27% (a percentage decrease of 3.57%)

### ***Vandalism, graffiti, and other deliberate damage to property***

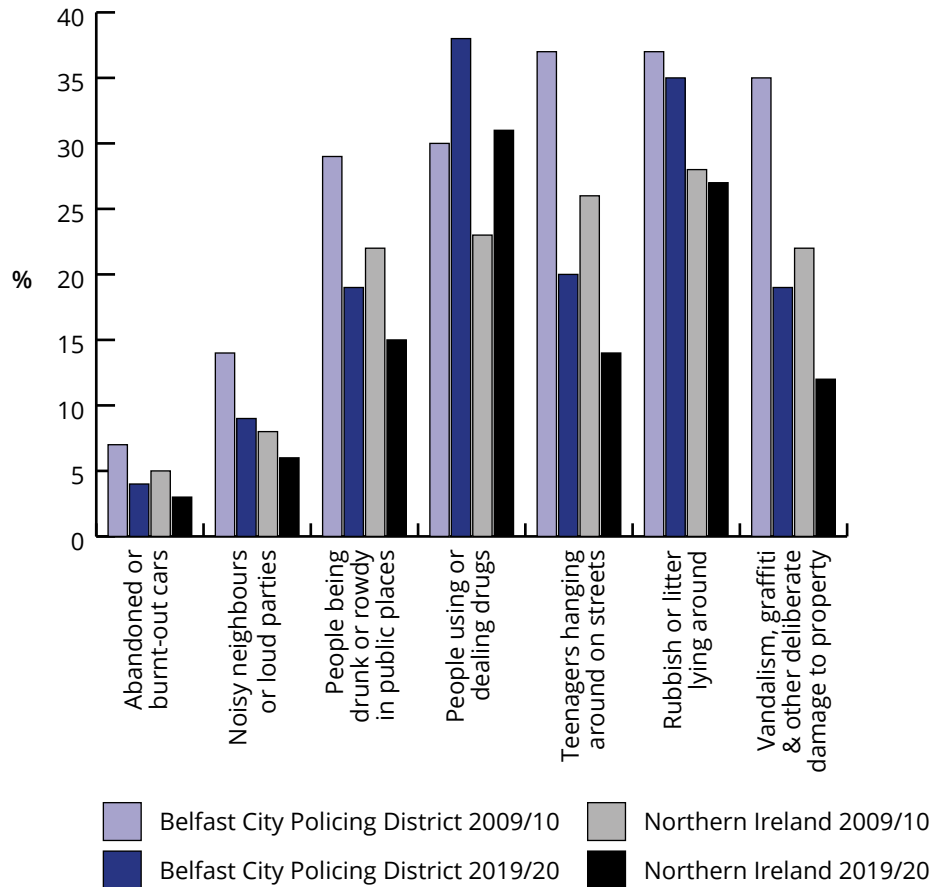
Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who perceived vandalism, graffiti, and other deliberate damage to property as a “very” or “fairly” big problem decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 16 percentage points, from 35% to 19% (a percentage decrease of 45.71%)
- In Northern Ireland by 10 percentage points, from 22% to 12% (a percentage decrease of 45.45%; see Peace Figure 34)

In Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland, of all the anti-social behaviours for which there was a decrease, the percentage decreases were of 25% or more apart from that for rubbish or litter lying around where the percentage decrease was relatively small at around 5% or less. The only anti-social behaviour about which an increase was perceived was for people using or dealing drugs.

**PEACE FIGURE 34:**

**Percentage (%) of people who perceived specific anti-social behaviours as a problem in Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland, 2009/10 and 2019/20**



Source: Department for Justice: Perceptions of crime findings 2019-20: Data tables, Table 4.2, and Findings from the 2009/10 Northern Ireland Crime Survey, Second Edition, Research and Statistical Bulletin 2/2011, Revised July 2012, Table A6, page 24

### Comparison with other policing districts

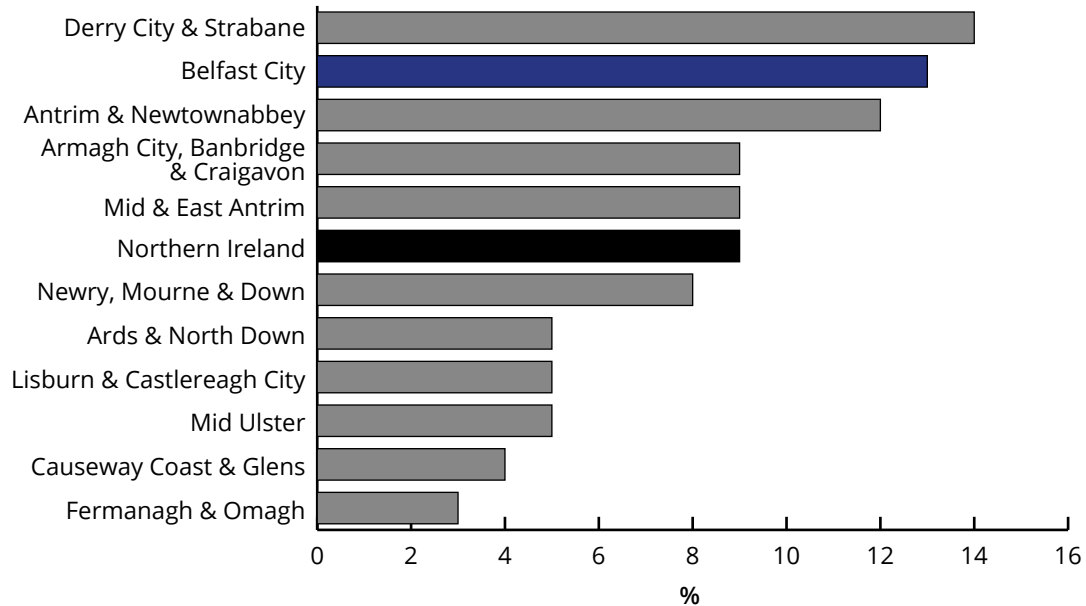
#### **Perceived high level of anti-social behaviours**

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the second highest percentage of people who perceived a high level of anti-social behaviours at 13%
- Derry City & Strabane Policing District had the highest level at 14%
- Fermanagh & Omagh Policing District had the lowest level at 3%
- Newry, Mourne & Down Policing District had the median level at 8% (see Peace Figure 35)

**PEACE FIGURE 35:**

**Percentage (%) of people who perceived a high level of anti-social behaviours by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**



Source: Department for Justice: Perceptions of crime findings 2019-20: Data tables, Table 4.2

### Specific anti-social behaviours

#### ***Abandoned or burnt-out cars***

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the third equal highest percentage of people who perceived abandoned or burnt-out cars as a “very” or “fairly” big problem at 4%
- Derry City & Strabane Policing District had the highest percentage at 8%
- Causeway Coast & Glens Policing District had the lowest percentage at 0%
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Policing District and Mid Ulster Policing District had the median percentage at 3% (see Peace Figure 36)



### ***Noisy neighbours or loud parties***

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the highest percentage of people who perceived noisy neighbours or loud parties as a “very” or “fairly” big problem at 9%
- Fermanagh & Omagh Policing District had the lowest percentage at 3%
- Four policing districts had the median percentage at 5% (see Peace Figure 36)

### ***People being drunk or rowdy in public places***

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the second highest percentage of people who perceived people being drunk or rowdy in public places as a “very” or “fairly” big problem at 19%
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Policing District had the highest percentage at 20%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Policing District had the lowest percentage at 7%
- Mid & East Antrim Policing District and Mid Ulster Policing District had the median percentage at 14% (see Peace Figure 36)

### ***People using or dealing drugs***

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the second highest percentage of people who perceived people using or dealing drugs as a “very” or “fairly” big problem at 38%
- Newry, Mourne & Down Policing District had the highest percentage at 40%
- Ards & North Down Policing District had the lowest percentage at 17%
- Causeway Coast & Glens Policing District had the median percentage at 30% (see Peace Figure 36)

### ***Teenagers/young people hanging around on streets***

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the second highest percentage of people who perceived teenagers/young people hanging around on streets as a “very” or “fairly” big problem at 20%
- Antrim & Newtownabbey Policing District had the highest percentage at 23%
- Fermanagh & Omagh Policing District had the lowest percentage at 6%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Policing District had the median percentage at 14% (see Peace Figure 36)

### ***Rubbish or litter lying around***

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the highest percentage of people who perceived rubbish or litter lying around as a “very” or “fairly” big problem at 35%
- Ards & North Down Policing District had the lowest percentage at 15%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Policing District and Newry, Mourne & Down Policing District had the median percentage at 27% (see Peace Figure 36)

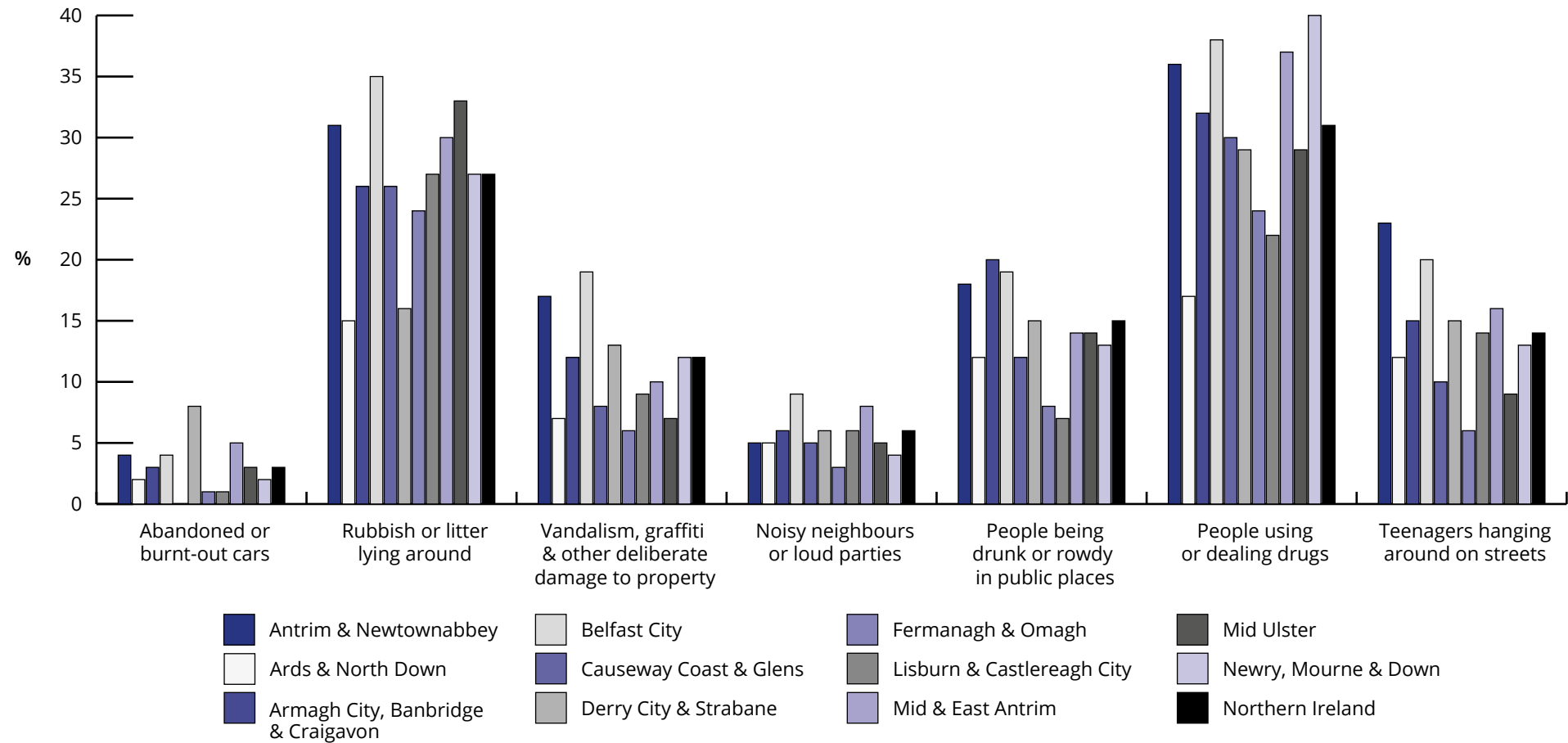
### ***Vandalism, graffiti, and other deliberate damage to property***

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the highest percentage of people who perceived vandalism, graffiti, and other deliberate damage to property as a “very” or “fairly” big problem at 19%
- Fermanagh & Omagh Policing District had the lowest percentage at 6%
- Mid & East Antrim Policing District had the median percentage at 10% (see Peace Figure 36)

**PEACE FIGURE 36**

**Percentage (%) of people who perceived abandoned or burnt-out cars, rubbish or litter lying around, and vandalism, graffiti, and other deliberate damage to property, noisy neighbours or loud parties, people being drunk or rowdy in public places, people using or dealing drugs, and teenagers/young people hanging around on streets as a “very” or “fairly” big problem by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**



Source: Department for Justice: Perceptions of crime findings 2019-20: Data tables, Table 4.2

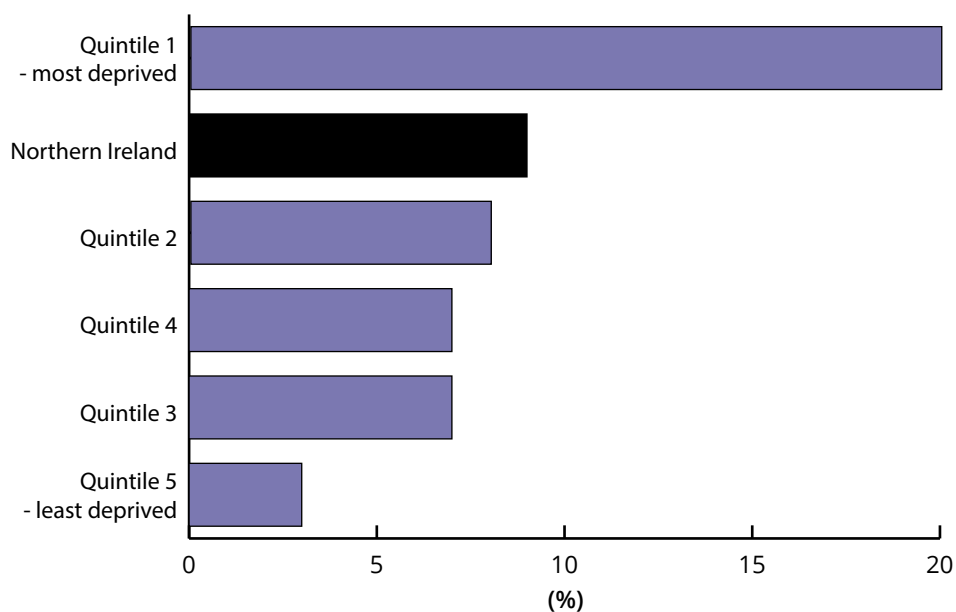
## Differences by area of deprivation in Northern Ireland

### **Perceived high level of anti-social behaviours**

In 2019/20, although there was variation across areas of deprivation in relation to the perception of anti-social behaviours, the most-deprived areas in Northern Ireland – Quintile 1 – had the highest percentage of people who perceived a high level of anti-social behaviours (see Peace Figure 37).

#### **PEACE FIGURE 37:**

#### **Percentage (%) of people who perceived a high level of anti-social behaviours by area of deprivation (Quintiles 1-5) and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**



Source: Department for Justice: Perceptions of crime findings 2019-20: Data tables, Table 4.2

### **Specific anti-social behaviours**

In 2019/20, although there was variation across Northern Ireland's areas of deprivation in relation to the perception of specific anti-social behaviours, the most-deprived areas in Northern Ireland – Quintile 1 – had the highest percentages of people who perceived the following anti-social behaviours as a "very" or "fairly" big problem:

- Abandoned or burnt-out cars
- Noisy neighbours or loud parties
- People being drunk or rowdy in public places
- People using or dealing drugs

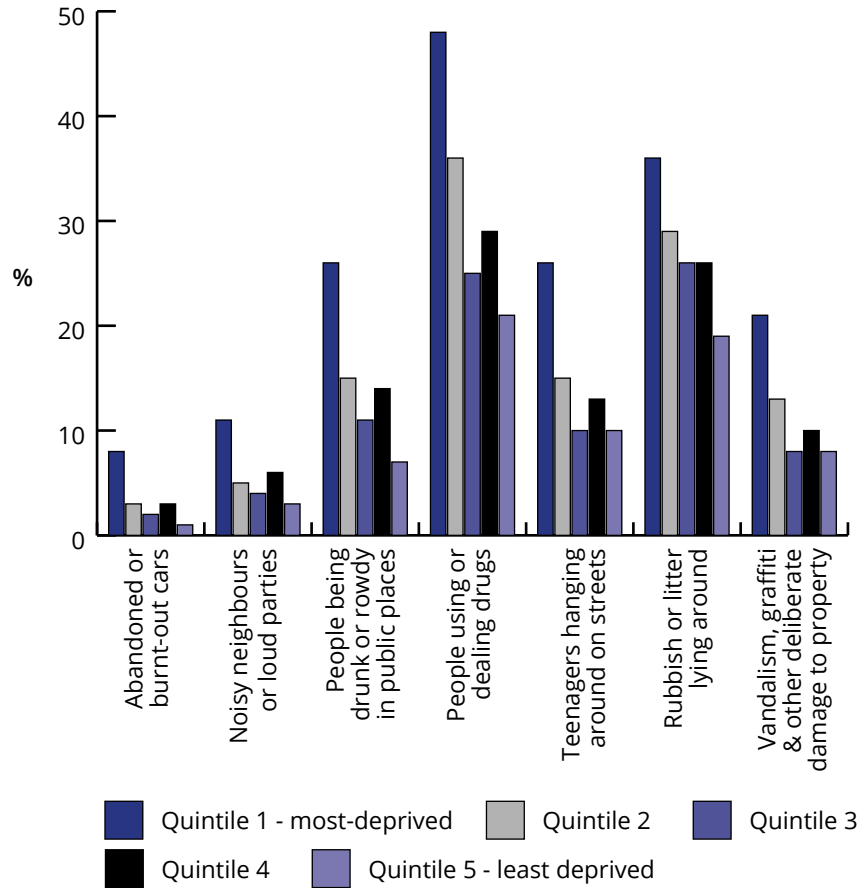
- Teenagers/young people hanging around on streets
- Rubbish or litter lying around
- Vandalism, graffiti, and other deliberate damage to property (see Peace Figure 38)

In 2019/20, when compared with the least-deprived areas (Quintile 5), the percentage of people who perceived a “very” or “fairly” big problem with:

- Abandoned or burnt-out cars was 7 percentage points higher in the most-deprived areas (Quintile 1), 8% compared with 1%
- Noisy neighbours or loud parties was 8 percentage points higher in the most-deprived areas (Quintile 1), 11% compared with 3%
- People being drunk or rowdy in public places was 19 percentage points higher in the most-deprived areas (Quintile 1), 26% compared with 7%
- People using or dealing drugs was 27 percentage points higher in the most-deprived areas (Quintile 1), 48% compared with 21%
- Teenagers/young people hanging around on streets was 16 percentage points higher in the most-deprived areas (Quintile 1), 26% compared with 10%
- Rubbish or litter lying around was 17 percentage points higher in the most-deprived areas (Quintile 1), 36% compared with 19%
- Vandalism, graffiti, and other deliberate damage to property was 13 percentage points higher in the most-deprived areas (Quintile 1), 21% compared with 8% (see Peace Figure 38)

**PEACE FIGURE 38:**

**Percentage (%) of people who perceived specific anti-social behaviours as a “very” or “fairly” big problem by area of deprivation in Northern Ireland (Quintiles 1-5), 2019/20**



Source: Department for Justice: Perceptions of crime findings 2019-20: Data tables, Table 4.2

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, over 1 out of every 10 people perceived a high level of anti-social behaviours, compared with 1 out of every 10 people in Northern Ireland.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who perceived a high level of anti-social behaviours decreased in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland, although the percentage decrease was greater in Belfast and the gap between the two narrowed with improved outcomes for Belfast.

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District:

- Abandoned or burnt-out cars were perceived as a problem by 1 out of every 20 people, compared with almost 1 out of every 20 in Northern Ireland
- Noisy neighbours or loud parties were perceived as a problem by almost 1 out of every 10 people, compared with over 1 out of every 20 people in Northern Ireland
- People being drunk or rowdy in public places was perceived as a problem by almost 2 out of every 10 people, compared with between 1 and 2 out of every 10 people in Northern Ireland
- People using or dealing drugs was perceived as a problem by almost 4 out of every 10 people, compared with 3 out of every 10 people in Northern Ireland
- Teenagers/young people hanging around on streets was perceived as a problem by 2 out of every 10 people, compared with between 1 and 2 people in Northern Ireland
- Rubbish or litter lying around was perceived as a problem by between 3 and 4 out of every 10 people, compared with almost 3 out of every 10 people in Northern Ireland
- Vandalism, graffiti, and other deliberate damage to property was perceived as a problem by almost 2 out of every 10 people, compared with over 1 out of every 10 people in Northern Ireland
- Thus, people using or dealing drugs, and rubbish and litter lying around were the anti-social behaviours most frequently mentioned as a problem by people in Belfast City Policing District.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentages of people who perceived the following specific anti-social behaviours as a “very” or “fairly” big problem decreased in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland, although the

percentage decrease was greater in Belfast and the gap between the two narrowed with improved outcomes for Belfast:

- **Abandoned or burnt-out cars**
- **Noisy neighbours or loud parties**
- **People being drunk or rowdy in public places**
- **Rubbish or litter lying around**
- **Vandalism, graffiti, and other deliberate damage to property**

For the anti-social behaviour of teenagers/young people hanging around on streets, the percentage of people who perceived it as a “very” or “fairly” big problem decreased in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland. The percentage decrease was very slightly greater for Northern Ireland on which basis there was a slight widening of the gap between the two, however, the difference between the percentages decreased and on that basis the gap between the two narrowed with improved outcomes for Belfast.

For the anti-social behaviour of people using or dealing drugs, the percentage of people who perceived it as a “very” or “fairly” big problem increased in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland, with a greater percentage increase for Northern Ireland, on which basis the gap between the two narrowed, however, the difference between the percentages remained the same. Nonetheless, people using or dealing drugs is the only anti-social behaviour for which there has been an increase in THE perception of it being a “very” or “fairly” big problem in both Belfast and Northern Ireland, with poorer outcomes for both populations.

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts, Belfast City Policing District had:

- **The second highest percentage of people who perceived a high level of anti-social behaviours overall**
- **The highest percentages of people who perceived noisy neighbours or loud parties, rubbish or litter lying around, and vandalism, graffiti, and other deliberate damage to property as problems**
- **The second highest percentages of people who perceived people being drunk or rowdy in public places, people using or dealing drugs, and teenagers/young people hanging around on streets as problems**
- **The equal third highest percentage of people who perceived abandoned or burnt-out cars as a problem**



Thus, in Belfast City Policing District, although the percentage of people who perceive a high level of anti-social behaviours overall decreased, the percentages of people who perceived people using or dealing drugs as a problem increased; moreover, among anti-social behaviours, people using or dealing drugs is the one mentioned as a “very” or “fairly” big problem by most people in Belfast City Policing District, followed by rubbish or litter lying around.

## Inequalities with the potential for inequity in Northern Ireland

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of people in the most-deprived areas (Quintile 1) who perceived high levels of anti-social behaviours was more than double that of any other quintile and more than six times that in the least-deprived areas (Quintile 5).

In 2019/20, for each of the specific anti-social behaviours, the percentages of people who perceived them as a problem were highest in the most-deprived areas (Quintile 1):

- Almost 5 out of every 10 people in the most-deprived areas perceived using or dealing drugs as a problem, compared with 2 out of every people in the least-deprived areas
- Between 3 and 4 out of every 10 people in the least-deprived areas perceived rubbish or litter lying around as a problem, compared with 2 out of every 10 people in the least-deprived areas
- Between 2 and 3 out of every 10 people in the most-deprived areas perceived people being drunk or rowdy in public places as a problem, compared with less than 1 out of every 10 people in the least-deprived areas
- Between 2 and 3 out of every 10 people in the most-deprived areas perceived teenagers/young people hanging around on streets as a problem compared with 1 out of every 10 in the least-deprived areas
- 2 out of every 10 people in the most-deprived areas perceived vandalism, graffiti, and other deliberate damage to property as a problem, compared with less than 1 out of every 10 people in the least-deprived areas
- 1 out of every 10 people in the most-deprived areas perceived noisy neighbours or loud parties as a problem, compared with less than 1 in 20 people in the least-deprived areas
- Almost 1 out of every 10 people in the most-deprived areas perceived abandoned or burnt-out cars as a problem, compared with 1 out of every 100 people in the least-deprived areas

## 6.4 Perceived Causes of Crime in Northern Ireland

### IMPORTANCE

Community wellbeing can be affected by local crime rates, and crime tends to be concentrated in areas of economic and social disadvantage. Many factors "push" and "pull" individuals into crime. By matching detailed police real-time crime incidence data with local economic and social indicator data, and individual education and employment data, researchers at the LSE have found that push factors responsible for trends in local property crime include the role of economic shocks such as:

- Changes in benefit
- Restrictions on the availability of finance (payday loans)
- Unemployment or unstable jobs
- Poor labour market conditions

Generic factors also explain why individuals initially engage in criminal careers, including appraisal of potential returns from criminal as opposed to mainstream employment opportunities. Staying on longer in school has a mitigating effect, while recessions increase the likelihood of young people entering long-term criminal careers. The perception that joining neighbourhood gangs could reduce the risk of being caught and increase tangible gains as well as providing a sense of belonging and status, can also increase rates of criminal career entry. Rational calculations of economic returns to crime also help explain trends in crime, the types of property stolen varying with shifts in commodity market prices. Market considerations also feature in drugs crimes moving from the streets to auctions on the Dark Web where trading risks are minimised, and customer satisfaction guaranteed.<sup>61</sup>

In a US study of the factors that drive people to violent crime (e.g., murder, manslaughter, rape, assault) and the factors that encourage crimes against property (e.g., burglary, robbery, larceny, car theft), it was found that the probability of arrest is a major inhibitor for both types of crime, but the severity of punishment does not significantly influence crime rates.<sup>62</sup>

61. CEP | Causes of crime (lse.ac.uk) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

62. What Causes Crime? | HEC Paris and What determines crime rates? An empirical test of integrated economic and sociological theories of criminal behavior: The Social Science Journal: Vol 53, No 2 (tandfonline.com) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

## DEFINITION

Respondents to the Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey were asked to select from a list the factors they considered to be the major causes of crime in Northern Ireland today. If respondents selected more than one factor, they were asked which of the factors they believed to be the main cause of crime. If respondents gave only one factor, this was taken as the main cause.

Respondents were also asked about the major and main causes of crime in their local area.

Information is from the Department of Justice, Perceptions of Crime from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey, Perceptions of crime findings 2019-20: Data tables.<sup>63</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

### Northern Ireland

In 2019/20, the top five major causes of crime in Northern Ireland were perceived to be:

- **Drugs, mentioned by 80%**
- **Alcohol, mentioned by 56%**
- **Lack of discipline by parents, mentioned by 40%**
- **Sectarianism, mentioned by 34%**
- **Paramilitary activity, mentioned by 34% (see Peace Figure 39 for all causes of crime mentioned for Northern Ireland)**

---

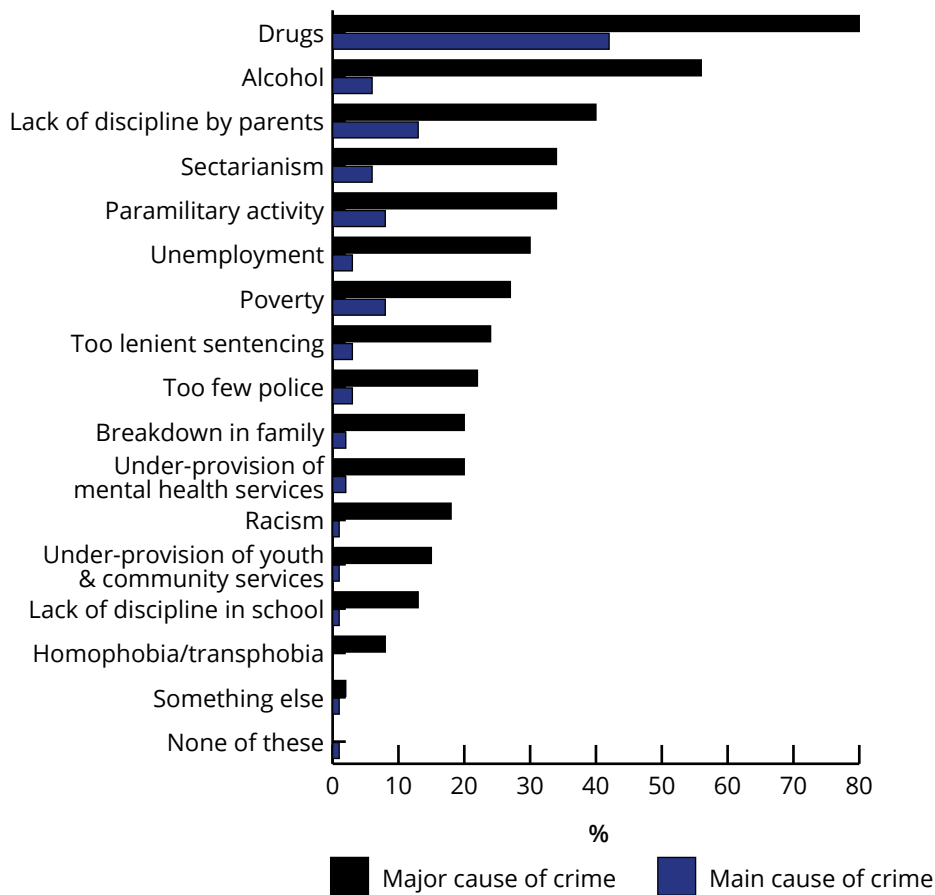
63. Perceptions of Crime: Findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey | Department of Justice ([justice-ni.gov.uk](http://justice-ni.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 3 August 2022)

In 2019/20, the top five single main causes of crime in Northern Ireland were perceived to be:

- Drugs, mentioned by 42%
- Lack of discipline by parents, mentioned by 13%
- Paramilitary activity, mentioned by 8%
- Poverty, mentioned by 8%
- Alcohol mentioned by 6%
- Sectarianism, mentioned by 6% (see Peace Figure 39 for all causes of crime mentioned for Northern Ireland)

**PEACE FIGURE 39:**

**Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland who perceived specific causes of crime in Northern Ireland as main and major, 2019/20**



Source: Department of Justice: Perceptions of crime findings 2019-20: Data tables, Table 1

## Local area

In 2019/20, the top five major causes of crime in the local area were perceived to be:

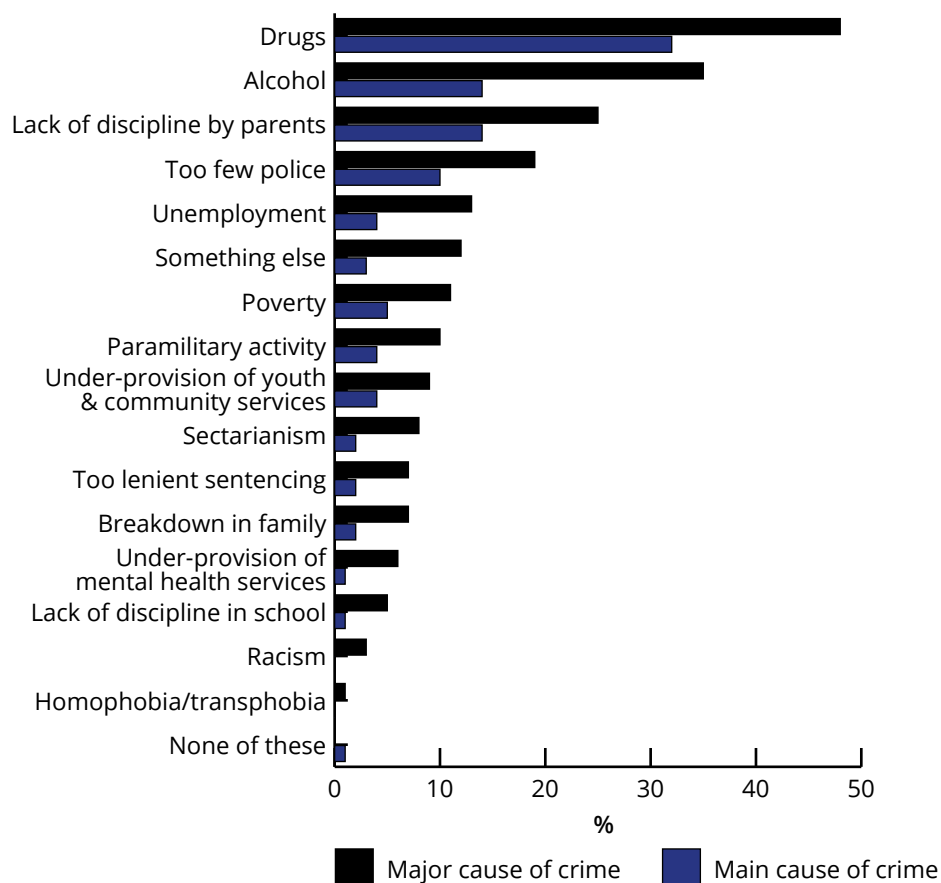
- Drugs, mentioned by 48%
- Alcohol, mentioned by 35%
- Lack of discipline by parents, mentioned by 25%
- Too few police, mentioned by 19%
- Unemployment, mentioned by 13% (see Peace Figure 40 for all causes of crime mentioned for the local area)

In 2019/20, the top five single main causes of crime in the local area were perceived to be:

- Drugs, mentioned by 32%
- Alcohol mentioned by 14%
- Lack of discipline by parents, mentioned by 14%
- Too few police, mentioned by 10%
- Poverty, mentioned by 5% (see Peace Figure 40 for all causes of crime mentioned for the local area)

**PEACE FIGURE 40:**

**Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland who perceived specific causes of crime in the local area as main and major, 2019/20**



Source: Department of Justice: Perceptions of crime findings 2019-20: Data tables, Table 1

**KEY COMPARISONS**

**Major causes of crime**

In a comparison of people's perceptions of the top ten major causes of crime in Northern Ireland and in the local area:

- The top three major causes of crime – drugs, alcohol, and lack of discipline by parents – were ranked the same for Northern Ireland and in the local area
- Sectarianism and paramilitary activity were ranked higher as a major cause of crime for Northern Ireland than they were for the local area
- Too few police was ranked higher as a major cause of crime in the local area than it was for Northern Ireland

- Unemployment had a similar ranking as a major cause of crime in Northern Ireland and in the local area
- Poverty had the same ranking as a major cause of crime for Northern Ireland and for the local area
- Too lenient sentencing and breakdown in the family were ranked in the top ten major causes of crime for Northern Ireland but not for the local area
- The under-provision of mental health services was ranked in the top ten major causes of crime for Northern Ireland, whereas the under-provision of youth and community services was ranked in the top ten major causes of crime in the local area
- “Something else” was ranked in the top ten major causes of crime for the local area but not for Northern Ireland (see Peace Table 3)

### PEACE TABLE 3:

Comparison between the perceived top 10 ranked major causes of crime in Northern Ireland and in the local area, 2019/20

| Rank | Major cause of crime in Northern Ireland                         | Major cause of crime in the local area        |
|------|--|---|
| 1    | Drugs  | Drugs   |
| 2    | Alcohol  | Alcohol                                       |
| 3    | Lack of discipline by parents                                    | Lack of discipline by parents                 |
| 4    | Sectarianism<br>Paramilitary activity                            | Too few police                                |
| 5    |  | Unemployment                                  |
| 6    | Unemployment   | Something else                                |
| 7    | Poverty  | Poverty                                       |
| 8    | Too lenient sentencing   | Paramilitary activity                         |
| 9    | Too few police   | Under-provision of youth & community services |
| 10   | Breakdown in family<br>Under-provision of mental health services | Sectarianism                                  |

Source: Data extracted from Department of Justice: Perceptions of crime findings 2019-20: Data tables, Table 1

## Main causes of crime

In a comparison of people's perceptions of the top ten main causes of crime in Northern Ireland and in the local area, it can be seen that:

- **Drugs, and lack of discipline by parents were the top two ranked main causes of crime in Northern Ireland and in the local area**
- **Alcohol was ranked higher as a main cause of crime in the local area than in Northern Ireland**
- **Paramilitary activity and sectarianism were ranked relatively highly as a top ten main cause of crime in Northern Ireland, whereas these causes were at the lower end of the top ten ranking for the local area**
- **Poverty was ranked higher as a main cause of crime in Northern Ireland than it was for the local area, whereas unemployment had a similar ranking as a main cause of crime in Northern Ireland and in the local area**
- **Too few police was ranked higher as a top ten main cause of crime in the local area than it was for Northern Ireland, whereas too lenient sentencing had a higher ranking in the top ten main causes of crime for Northern Ireland than in the local area**
- **Breakdown in the family had the same ranking as a main cause of crime in Northern Ireland as it did as a main cause for the local area**
- **The under-provision of mental health services was ranked in the top ten main causes of crime for Northern Ireland, whereas the under-provision of youth and community services was ranked in the top ten main causes of crime in the local area**
- **"Something else" was ranked in the top ten of main causes of crime for the local area but not for Northern Ireland (see Peace Table 4)**



**PEACE TABLE 4:**

**Comparison between the perceived top 10 ranked main causes of crime in Northern Ireland and in the local area, 2019/20**

| Rank | Main cause of crime in Northern Ireland                          | Main cause of crime in the local area  |
|------|--|--|
| 1    | Drugs  | Drugs  |
| 2    | Lack of discipline by parents                                    | Alcohol<br>Lack of discipline by parents   |
| 3    | Paramilitary activity<br>Poverty                                 |  |
| 4    |  | Too few police   |
| 5    | Alcohol<br>Sectarianism  | Poverty  |
| 6    |  | Unemployment<br>Paramilitary activity<br>Under-provision of youth & community services |
| 7    | Unemployment<br>Too lenient sentencing<br>Too few police         |  |
| 8    |  |  |
| 9    |  | Something else   |
| 10   | Breakdown in family<br>Under-provision of mental health services | Sectarianism<br>Too lenient sentencing<br>Breakdown in family                          |

Source: Data extracted from Department of Justice: Perceptions of crime findings 2019-20:  
Data tables, Table 1

As can be seen from Peace Table 5, within the top ten ranked causes of crime, the causes perceived as both major and main in Northern Ireland and in the local area were:

- Drugs
- Alcohol
- Lack of discipline by parents
- Sectarianism
- Paramilitary activity
- Unemployment
- Poverty
- Too few police

Within the top ten ranked causes:

- Too lenient sentencing and breakdown in the family were perceived as major and main causes of crime for Northern Ireland, whereas in the local area they were perceived as a main cause
- Under-provision of mental health services was perceived as a major and main cause of crime in Northern Ireland, whereas the under-provision of youth and community services was perceived as a major and main cause of crime in the local area
- “Something else” was perceived as a major and main cause of crime in the local area, possibly reflecting more local factors, whereas it was not represented at all as a cause in Northern Ireland (see Peace Table 5)

#### PEACE TABLE 5:

Perceptions of the most highly ranked major and main causes of crime in Northern Ireland and in the local area, 2019/20

| Cause of crime                                  | Northern Ireland |      | Local area |      |
|---|------------------|------|------------|------|
|   | Major            | Main | Major      | Main |
| Drugs   |                  |      |            |      |
| Alcohol   |                  |      |            |      |
| Lack of discipline by parents                   |                  |      |            |      |
| Sectarianism                                    |                  |      |            |      |
| Paramilitary activity                           |                  |      |            |      |
| Unemployment                                    |                  |      |            |      |
| Poverty   |                  |      |            |      |
| Too lenient sentencing                          |                  |      |            |      |
| Too few police                                  |                  |      |            |      |
| Breakdown in family                             |                  |      |            |      |
| Under-provision of mental health services       |                  |      |            |      |
| Under provision of youth and community services |                  |      |            |      |
| Something else                                  |                  |      |            |      |

Source: Data extracted from Department of Justice: Perceptions of crime findings 2019-20: Data tables, Table 1

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, among the perceived top ten ranked causes of crime:

- **Drugs were ranked highest as a major and main cause of crime in both Northern Ireland and the local area**
- **A lack of discipline by parents was ranked second highest and equal second highest as a main cause of crime, and third highest as a major cause of crime, in Northern Ireland and the local area**
- **Alcohol was ranked second highest as a major cause of crime in both Northern Ireland and the local area, and equal second highest as a main cause of crime in the local area, but it was ranked only fifth highest as a main cause of crime in Northern Ireland**

Other causes of crime mentioned within the top ten ranking as both major and main causes not only in Northern Ireland but also in the local area were:

- **Sectarianism**
- **Paramilitary activity**
- **Unemployment**
- **Poverty**
- **Too few police**

Under-provision of services was also perceived as a common factor within the top ten ranked causes of crime, but it was under-provision of mental health services seen as a major and main cause of crime for Northern Ireland, whereas it was under-provision of youth and community services seen as a major and main cause of crime in the local area.

Within the top ten ranking, too lenient sentencing and breakdown in the family were perceived as both major and main causes of crime for Northern Ireland, but only as a main cause for the local area.

The most frequently cited major and single main cause of crime in both Northern Ireland and in the local area was drugs.

## 6.5 Perceived Change in Overall Crime Levels in Northern Ireland

### IMPORTANCE

Typically, people can believe crime is on the increase, even if it is not, and that the situation is worse at the regional level than in their own local area.<sup>64</sup>

In several countries, including the UK, a gap between perceptions of crime levels locally and in the country overall has been identified. Possible explanations for the gap between perceptions of local and national crime levels include:

- The potentially greater influence the media may have on views of national as compared to local crime
- People may show a natural 'hometown favouritism' to their local area<sup>65</sup>

In a US study involving the cross-referencing over a decade of crime records with geolocated polling data and original survey experiments, it was found that individuals readily update beliefs when presented with accurate crime statistics, but this effect is attenuated when statistics are embedded in a typical crime news article, and confidence in perceptions is diminished when a co-partisan elite undermines official statistics.<sup>66</sup>

### DEFINITION

Participants in the Northern Ireland Safe Communities Survey were asked how they perceived the level of crime to have changed, if at all, in Northern Ireland during the two years prior to interview, based on a five-point scale ranging from 'a lot more crime' to 'a lot less crime'. The proportions perceiving there to be either 'a little' or 'a lot' more crime in Northern Ireland comprise the overall 'more crime' figure. The two response options, 'a little less' and 'a lot less', have been combined into the 'less crime' figure.

64. NISCS Perceptions of Crime: findings from 2019/20 (justice-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 3 August 2022)

65. Chapter 2: Public Perceptions of Crime - Office for National Statistics (Last accessed 3 August 2022)

66. Esberg J & Mummolo J (2018) Explaining Misperceptions of Crime. MergedFile (princeton.edu) (Last accessed 3 August 2022)

Information is from the Department of Justice, Perceptions of Crime from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey, Perceptions of crime findings 2019-20: Data tables.<sup>67</sup>

Information for England & Wales is from Crime in England and Wales: Annual Supplementary Tables, Table S28.<sup>68</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage of people who believed that there was a lot more and a little more crime overall in Northern Ireland was 68%.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, in Northern Ireland:

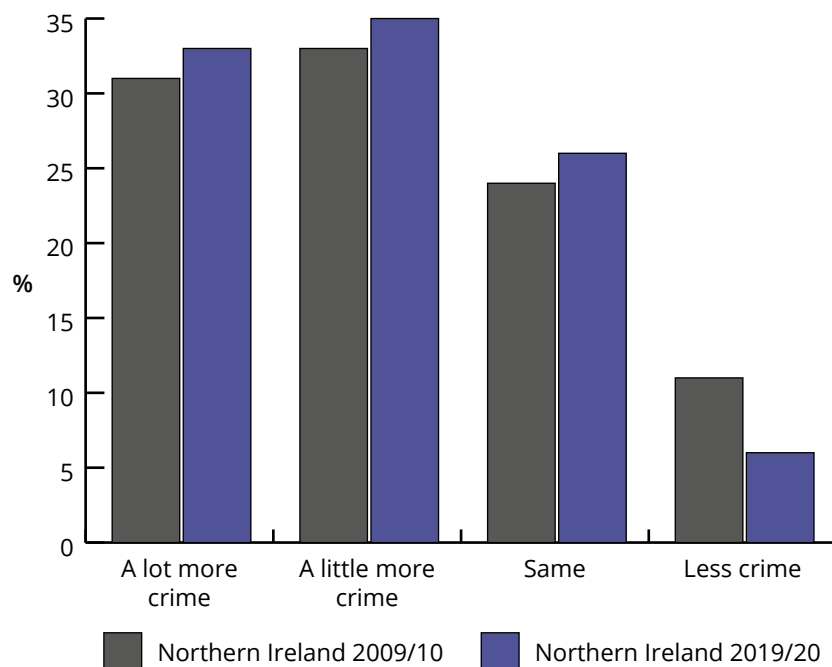
- The combined percentage of people who believed that there was a lot more and a little more crime overall in Northern Ireland increased by 4 percentage points from 64% to 68% (a percentage increase of 6.25%)
- The percentage who believed that there was the same level of crime increased by 2 percentage points, from 24% to 26% (a percentage increase of 8.33%)
- The percentage who believed that there was less crime decreased by 5 percentage points, from 11% to 6% (a percentage decrease of 45.45%; see Peace Figure 41).

67. Perceptions of Crime: Findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey | Department of Justice ([justice-ni.gov.uk](http://justice-ni.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 3 August 2022)

68. Crime in England and Wales: Annual supplementary tables - Office for National Statistics ([ons.gov.uk](http://ons.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 3 August 2022)

### PEACE FIGURE 41:

Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to perceptions of change in overall crime levels in Northern Ireland, 2009/10 and 2019/20



Source: Department of Justice, Perceptions of Crime from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey, Perceptions of crime findings 2019-20: Data tables, Table 2

## KEY COMPARISONS

In 2019/20, when compared with England & Wales, the combined percentage of people who believed that there was a lot more and a little more crime in the country overall was 14 percentage points lower in Northern Ireland, 68% compared with 82%.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the combined percentage of people who believed that there was a lot more and a little more crime in the country overall increased:

- In Northern Ireland by 4 percentage points from 64% to 68% (a percentage increase of 6.25%)
- In England & Wales by 2 percentage points from 80% to 82% (a percentage increase of 2.50%)

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, almost 7 out of every 10 people believed there was more crime overall in Northern Ireland than two years ago, compared with over 8 out of every 10 people in England & Wales.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who believed that there was more crime in the country overall increased in both Northern Ireland and in England & Wales, but the percentage increase was greater in Northern Ireland and the gap between the two narrowed.

## 6.6 Perceived Change in Local Crime Levels in Northern Ireland

### IMPORTANCE

Typically, people can believe crime is on the increase, even if it is not, and that the situation is worse at the regional level than in their own local area.<sup>69</sup>

In a US study involving the cross-referencing over a decade of crime records with geolocated polling data and original survey experiments, it was found that individuals readily update beliefs when presented with accurate crime statistics, but this effect is attenuated when statistics are embedded in a typical crime news article, and confidence in perceptions is diminished when a co-partisan elite undermines official statistics.<sup>70</sup>

In several countries, including the UK, a gap has been noted between perceptions of crime levels locally and in the country as a whole. Possible explanations for the gap between perceptions of local and national crime levels include:

- The potentially greater influence the media may have on views of national as compared to local crime
- People may show a natural 'hometown favouritism' to their local area<sup>71</sup>

### DEFINITION

Participants in the Northern Ireland Safe Communities Survey were asked how they perceived the level of crime to have changed, if at all, in their local area during the two years prior to interview, based on a five-point scale ranging from 'a lot more crime' to 'a lot less crime'. The proportions perceiving there to be either 'a little' or 'a lot' more crime in Northern Ireland comprise the overall 'more crime' figure. The two response options, 'a little less' and 'a lot less', have been combined into the 'less crime' figure.

69. NISCS Perceptions of Crime: findings from 2019/20 (justice-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 3 August 2022)

70. Esberg J & Mummolo J (2018) Explaining Misperceptions of Crime. MergedFile (princeton.edu) (Last accessed 3 August 2022)

71. Chapter 2: Public Perceptions of Crime - Office for National Statistics (Last accessed 3 August 2022)



Information is from the Department of Justice, Perceptions of Crime from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey, Perceptions of crime findings 2019-20: Data tables.<sup>72</sup>

Information for England & Wales is from Crime in England and Wales: Annual Supplementary Tables, Table S28.<sup>73</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage of people who believed that there was a lot more and a little more crime locally was 31%.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, in Northern Ireland:

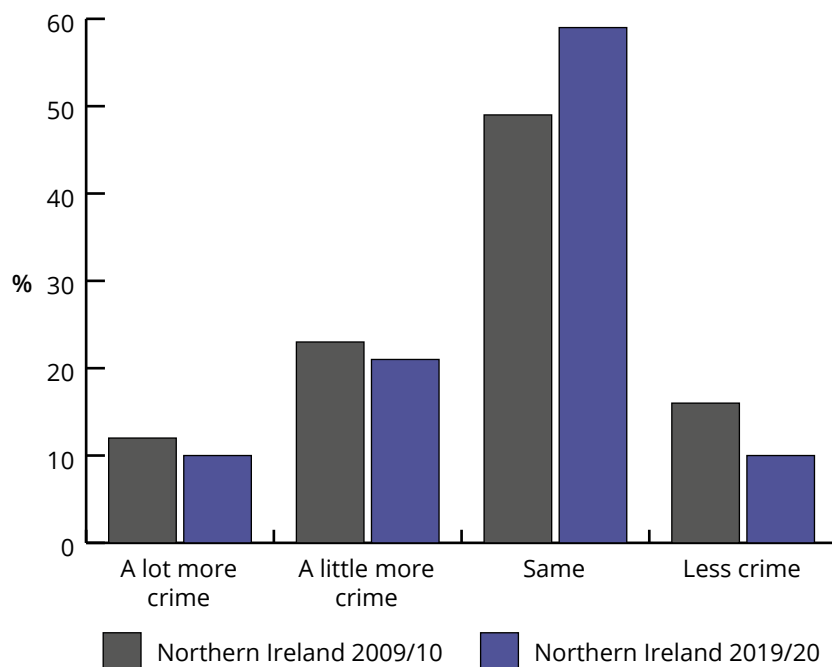
- The combined percentage of people who believed that there was a lot more and a little more crime locally decreased by 4 percentage points from 35% to 31% (a percentage decrease of 11.43%)
- The percentage who believed that there was the same level of crime locally increased by 10 percentage points, from 49% to 59% (a percentage increase of 20.41%)
- The percentage who believed that there was less crime locally decreased by 6 percentage points, from 16% to 10% (a percentage decrease of 37.5%; see Peace Figure 42).

72. Perceptions of Crime: Findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey | Department of Justice ([justice-ni.gov.uk](http://justice-ni.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 3 August 2022)

73. Crime in England and Wales: Annual supplementary tables - Office for National Statistics ([ons.gov.uk](http://ons.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 3 August 2022)

**PEACE FIGURE 42:**

**Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to perceptions of change in local crime levels, 2009/10 and 2019/20**



Source: Department of Justice, Perceptions of Crime from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey, Perceptions of crime findings 2019-20: Data tables, Table 3

**KEY COMPARISONS**

In 2019/20, when compared with England & Wales, the combined percentage of people who believed that there was a lot more and a little more crime in the local area was 21 percentage points lower in Northern Ireland, 31% compared with 52%.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the combined percentage of people who believed that there was a lot more and a little more crime in the local area:

- In Northern Ireland decreased by 4 percentage points from 35% to 31% (a percentage decrease of 11.43%)
- In England & Wales increased by 9 percentage points from 43% to 52% (a percentage increase of 20.93%)

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, over 3 out of every 10 people believed there was more crime in the local area than two years ago, compared with over 5 out of every 10 people in England & Wales.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who believed that there was more crime in the local area decreased in Northern Ireland whereas it increased in England & Wales, and the gap between the two widened with a better outcome for Northern Ireland.

## SECTION 7

# Confidence in Policing

## 7.1 Confidence in the Police and Police Accountability Arrangements in Northern Ireland

### IMPORTANCE

It is important that the public feel confident in the police and other crime-fighting agencies.<sup>74</sup>

Procedural justice – fair and respectful treatment of citizens – is associated with trust in the police and viewing the police as legitimate. Legitimacy is associated with greater willingness to cooperate with the police and assist in preventing and responding to crime, and greater compliance with the law. In addition, general attitudes to the police – trust and confidence – may impact on people’s satisfaction with specific encounters.<sup>75</sup>

Police accountability is possible only with oversight, which serves to ensure that the quality of everyday encounters between police and citizens is positive and preventative rather than a cause or driver of conflict. Oversight is as much about culture as it is about formal mechanisms, which correlates with the deduction that ‘the primary determinant of police officer behaviour is the culture in which they find themselves.’ Accountability may be the most effective way to wed routine policing operations to fostering a culture of public service that contributes to longer-term peace and justice. In Northern Ireland, the police reform programme resulted in it becoming one of the most scrutinised policing organisations in the world. Significant changes in behaviour, especially around the use of force, were manifest, but more revealingly, a transformation in the culture of the organisation and of individual officers is what has mattered most for peace and justice.<sup>76</sup>

74. Home Office Research Report 28 Improving public confidence in the police: a review of the evidence ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 18 August 2022)

75. Microsoft Word - Public Confidence in the Police.doc ([college.police.uk](https://college.police.uk)) (Last accessed 27 July 2022)

76. Police accountability: a mechanism for peace and justice - News and resources - Saferworld (Last accessed 28 July 2022)

The main statutory duties and responsibilities of the Northern Ireland Policing Board are to:

- **Secure an effective and efficient local police service**
- **Appoint (and dismiss, if necessary) the Chief Constable, Deputy Chief Constable, Assistant Chief Constables and senior civilian staff**
- **Consult widely with local people on how their area is policed**
- **Set priorities and targets for police performance**
- **Monitor the work of the police and how well they perform against the targets set by the Policing Board**
- **Publish a rolling three-year policing plan each year which informs people what they can expect from their police service and reports on police performance every year**
- **Ensure local people get best value from the police**
- **Oversee complaints against senior officers**
- **Discipline senior officers<sup>77</sup>**

The Office of the Police Ombudsman in Northern Ireland provides an independent, impartial investigation of complaints about the police, including complaints that officers:

- **Failed to conduct proper enquiries**
- **Used excessive force**
- **Were rude or aggressive**
- **Acted inappropriately in other ways**

Decisions are made independently of the police, government, and complainants.<sup>78</sup>

Although not mentioned in the NISCS, Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) is an independent statutory inspectorate with responsibility for inspecting all aspects of the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland apart from the judiciary.<sup>79</sup>

---

77. Our Work | Northern Ireland Policing Board ([nipolicingboard.org.uk](http://nipolicingboard.org.uk)) (Last accessed 28 July 2022)

78. Police Ombudsman, Police Complaints, Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland - Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (Last accessed 28 July 2022)

79. CJINI - Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland - Home (Last accessed 12 August 2022)

## DEFINITION

A set of seven questions is asked of respondents to the NISCS which elicit views on the fairness and effectiveness of the police and police accountability arrangements. The data presented are based on the proportions of respondents who state that they:

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

This set of seven questions is used to construct an overall confidence rating (composite measure), for which greater weight is given to the three police indicators (a to c, above), so that the arithmetic mean of their individual confidence ratings is worth two-thirds of the overall confidence rating. The respective means of those relating to the Policing Board (d and e), and the Police Ombudsman (f and g), each account for a sixth of the overall composite measure. This composite measure should not be misinterpreted purely as personal 'confidence in the police' as its focus is much broader including not only the performance of the police but also accountability measures put in place following recommendations set out in the Patten Report to reform policing in Northern Ireland.

Information is from GOV.UK Perceptions of Policing and Justice: Findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey, and Department of Justice, R&S Bulletin 3/2010 'Perceptions of Policing: Justice and Organised Crime: Findings from the 2009/10 Northern Ireland Crime Survey'<sup>80</sup>

---

80. Perceptions of Policing and Justice Findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)) and R&S Bulletin 3/2010 'Perceptions of Policing: Justice and Organised Crime: Findings from the 2009/10 Northern Ireland Crime Survey' | Department of Justice ([justice-ni.gov.uk](https://justice-ni.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 25 July 2022)

### Overall confidence rating

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the overall confidence rating for confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland was 76%.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the overall confidence rating for confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland decreased by 1 percentage point from 77% to 76%.

### Specific statements about the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the percentage of people who:

- Have some, a lot or total confidence in the police to provide an ordinary day-to-day service for all the people in Northern Ireland was 81%
- Think the police do a very or fairly good job in Northern Ireland as a whole was 65%
- Believe the police treat Catholics and Protestants equally in Northern Ireland as a whole was 73%
- Think the Policing Board is independent of the police was 76%
- Think the Policing Board helps ensure that the police do a good job was 79%
- Think the Office of the Police Ombudsman of Northern Ireland (OPONI) is independent of the police was 85%
- Think the Police Ombudsman helps ensure that the police do a good job was 85%

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the percentage of people who:

- Have some, a lot or total confidence in the police to provide an ordinary day-to-day service for all the people in Northern Ireland remained the same at 81%
- Think the police do a very or fairly good job in Northern Ireland as a whole decreased by 4 percentage points from 69% to 65%

- Believe the police treat Catholics and Protestants equally in Northern Ireland as a whole decreased by 2 percentage points, from 75% to 73%
- Think the Policing Board is independent of the police increased by 2 percentage points, from 74% to 76%
- Think the Policing Board helps ensure that the police do a good job decreased by 2 percentage points, from 81% to 79%
- Think the Police Ombudsman is independent of the police decreased by 1 percentage point, from 86% to 85%
- Think the Police Ombudsman helps ensure that the police do a good job decreased by 5 percentage points, from 90% to 85%

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

#### **Overall confidence rating**

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the overall confidence rating for confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland was 4 percentage points lower in Belfast City Policing District, 76% compared with 80%.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the overall confidence rating for confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland:

- In Belfast City Policing District decreased by 1 percentage point, from 77% to 76% (a percentage decrease of 1.30%)
- In Northern Ireland increased by 1 percentage point, from 79% to 80% (a percentage increase of 1.27%)

### Specific statements about the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland

#### **Confidence in the ability of the police to provide an ordinary day-to-day service for all the people in Northern Ireland**

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who had confidence that the police have the ability to provide an ordinary day-to-day service for all the people in Northern Ireland was lower by 3 percentage points in Belfast City Policing District, 81% compared with 84%.



Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who had confidence that the police have the ability to provide an ordinary day-to-day service for all the people in Northern Ireland:

- In Belfast City Policing District remained the same at 81%
- In Northern Ireland it increased by 2 percentage points, from 82% to 84% (a percentage increase of 2.44%; see Peace Figure 43)

The police do a very or fairly good job in Northern Ireland as a whole  
In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who thought that the police do a very or fairly good job in Northern Ireland as a whole was lower in Belfast City Policing District by 5 percentage points lower, 65% compared with 70%.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who thought that the police do a very or fairly good job in Northern Ireland as a whole:

- In Belfast City Policing District decreased by 4 percentage points, from 69% to 65% (a percentage decrease of 5.80%)
- In Northern Ireland it increased by 3 percentage points, from 67% to 70% (a percentage increase of 4.48%; see Peace Figure 43)

The police treat Catholics and Protestants equally in Northern Ireland as a whole  
In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who believed that the police treat Catholics and Protestants equally in Northern Ireland as a whole was lower by 8 percentage points, 73% compared with 81%.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who believed that the police treat Catholics and Protestants equally in Northern Ireland as a whole decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 2 percentage points, from 75% to 73% (a percentage decrease of 2.67%)
- In Northern Ireland by 1 percentage point, from 82% to 81% (a percentage decrease of 1.22%; see Peace Figure 43)

### ***The Policing Board is independent of the police***

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who thought that the Policing Board is independent of the police was higher by 4 percentage points in Belfast City Policing District, 76% compared with 72%.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who thought that the Policing Board is independent of the police:

- In Belfast City Policing District increased by 2 percentage points, from 74% to 76% (a percentage increase of 2.70%)
- In Northern Ireland, it decreased by 4 percentage points, from 76% to 72% (a percentage decrease of 5.26%; see Peace Figure 43)

***The Policing Board helps ensure that the police do a good job***

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who thought that the Policing Board helps ensure that the police do a good job was lower by 3 percentage points, 79% compared with 82%.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who thought that the Policing Board helps ensure that the police do a good job decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District decreased by 2 percentage points, from 81% to 79% (a percentage decrease of 2.47%)
- In Northern Ireland it remained the same at 82% (see Peace Figure 43)

***The Police Ombudsman is independent of the police***

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who thought that the Police Ombudsman is independent of the police was 2 percentage points lower, 85% compared with 87%

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who thought that the Police Ombudsman is independent of the police decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 1 percentage point, from 86% to 85% (a percentage decrease of 1.16%)
- In Northern Ireland by 1 percentage point, from 88% to 87% (a percentage decrease of 1.14%; see Peace Figure 43)

***The Police Ombudsman helps ensure that the police do a good job***

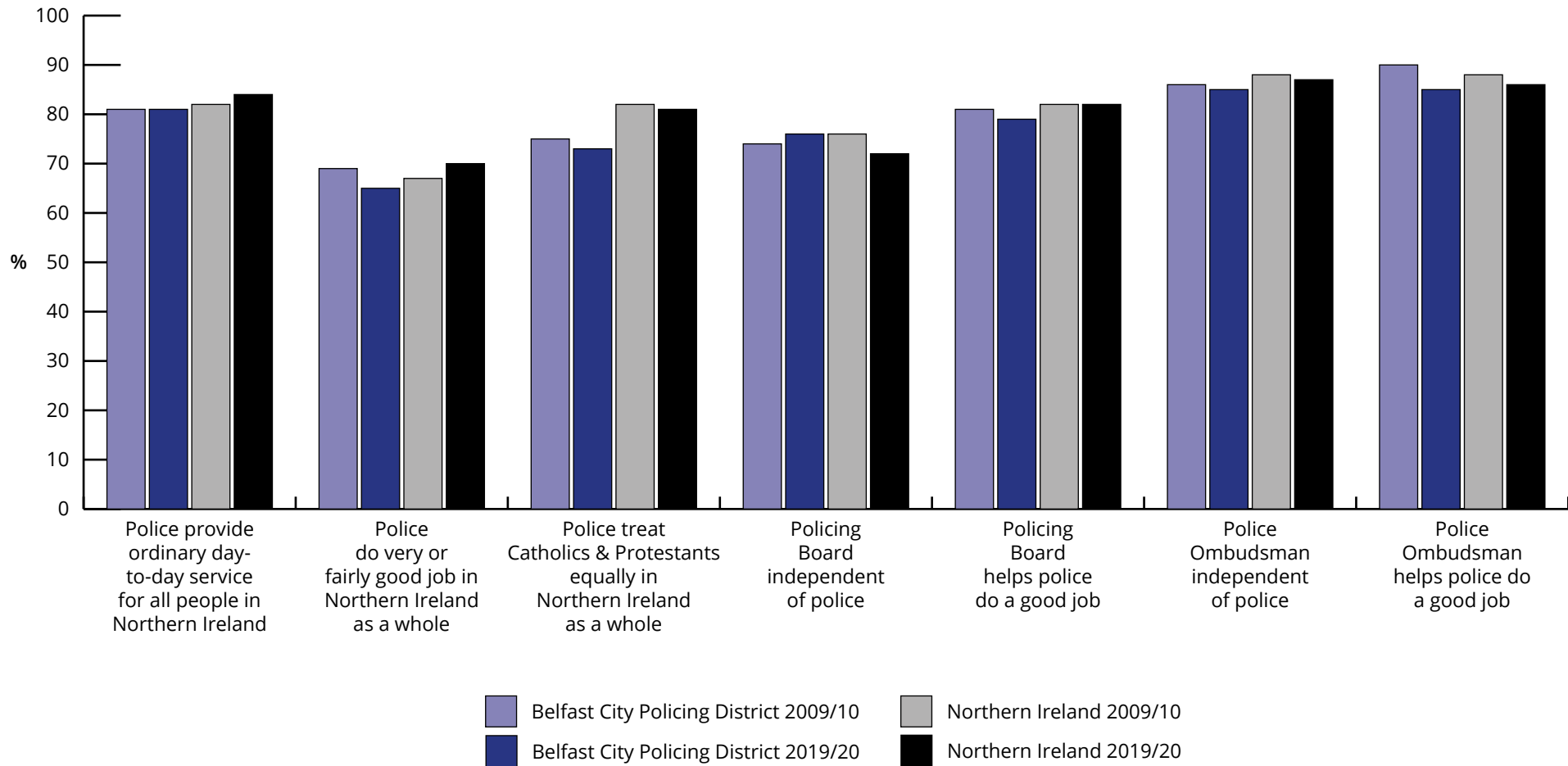
In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who thought that the Police Ombudsman helps ensure that the police do a good job was lower by 1 percentage point, 85% compared with 86%.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who thought that the Police Ombudsman helps ensure that the police do a good job decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 5 percentage points, from 90% to 85% (a percentage decrease of 5.56%)
- In Northern Ireland by 2 percentage points, from 88% to 86% (a percentage decrease of 2.27%; see Peace Figure 43)

**PEACE FIGURE 43:**

**Percentage (%) of people supporting specific statements about confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland, by Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland, 2009/10 and 2019/20**



Source: GOV.UK: Perceptions of policing and justice: findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland safe community survey – Excel tables, Table 1.2, and Department of Justice, R&S Bulletin 3/2010 ‘Perceptions of Policing: Justice and Organised Crime: Findings from the 2009/10 Northern Ireland Crime Survey’, Table A3, page 24

## Comparison with other policing districts

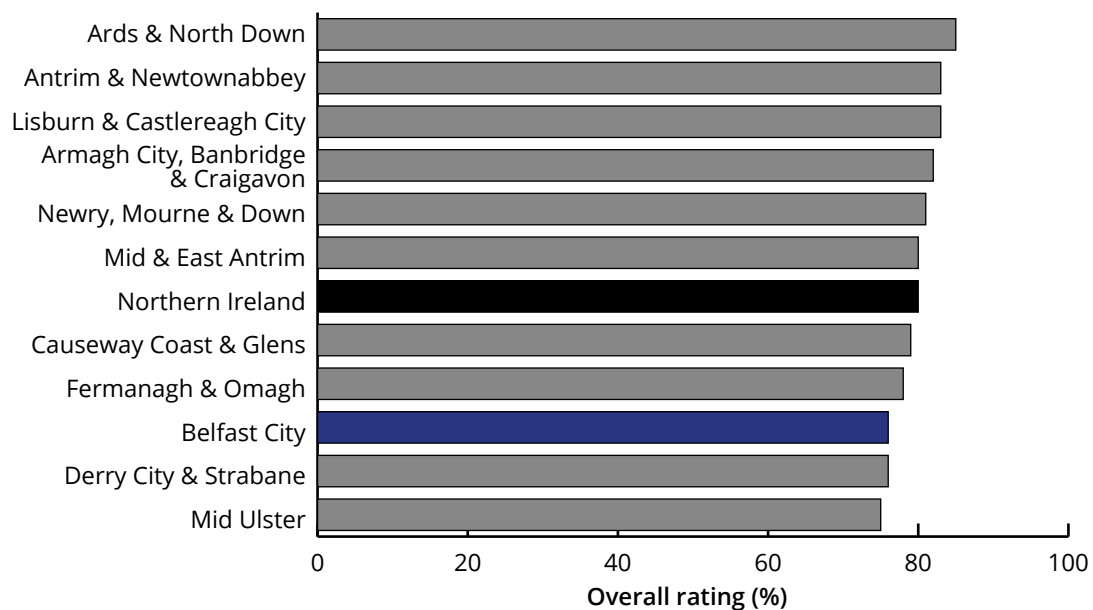
### **Overall confidence rating**

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the equal second lowest overall confidence rating for confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland at 76%
- Ards & North Down Policing District had the highest overall rating at 85%
- Mid Ulster Policing District had the lowest overall rating at 75%
- Mid & East Antrim Policing District had the median overall rating at 80% (see Police Figure 44)

### **PEACE FIGURE 44:**

**Overall rating (%) for confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**



Source: GOV.UK Perceptions of policing and justice: findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland safe community survey – Excel tables, Table 1.2

## Specific statements about confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland

### ***Confidence in the ability of the police to provide an ordinary day-to-day service for all the people in Northern Ireland***

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the second lowest percentage of people who had confidence in the ability of the police to provide an ordinary day-to-day service for all the people in Northern Ireland at 81%
- Derry City & Strabane Policing District and Newry, Mourne & Down Policing District had the highest percentage at 87%
- Mid Ulster Policing District had the lowest percentage at 78%
- Five policing districts had the median percentage at 85% (see Peace Figure 45)

### ***The police do a very or fairly good job in Northern Ireland as a whole***

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the equal second lowest percentage of people who thought that the police do a very or fairly good job in Northern Ireland as a whole at 65%, together with two other policing districts
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Policing District had the highest percentage at 79%
- Fermanagh & Omagh Policing District had the lowest percentage at 63%
- Causeway Coast & Glens Policing District had the median percentage at 71% (see Peace Figure 45)

The police treat Catholics and Protestants equally in Northern Ireland as a whole In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the second lowest percentage of people who believed that the police treat Catholics and Protestants equally in Northern Ireland as a whole at 73%
- Antrim & Newtownabbey Policing District had the highest percentage at 89%
- Derry City & Strabane Policing District had the lowest percentage at 67%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Policing District and Mid Ulster Policing District had the median percentage at 84% (see Peace Figure 45)

***The Policing Board is independent of the police***

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the median percentage of people who thought that the Policing Board is independent of the police at 76%
- Ards & North Down Policing District had the highest percentage at 83%
- Causeway Coast & Glens Policing District had the lowest percentage at 58% (see Peace Figure 45)

***The Policing Board helps ensure that the police do a good job***

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the equal second lowest percentage of people who thought that the Policing Board helps ensure that the police do a good job at 79%, with two other policing districts
- Ards & North Down Policing District had the highest percentage at 91%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Policing District had the lowest percentage at 78%
- Antrim & Newtownabbey Policing District and Derry City & Strabane Policing District had the median percentage at 81% (see Peace Figure 45)

***The Police Ombudsman is independent of the police***

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the fourth lowest percentage of people who thought that the Police Ombudsman is independent of the police at 85%
- Ards & North Down Policing District had the highest percentage at 94%
- Mid Ulster Policing District had the lowest percentage at 76%
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Policing District had the median percentage at 88% (see Peace Figure 45)

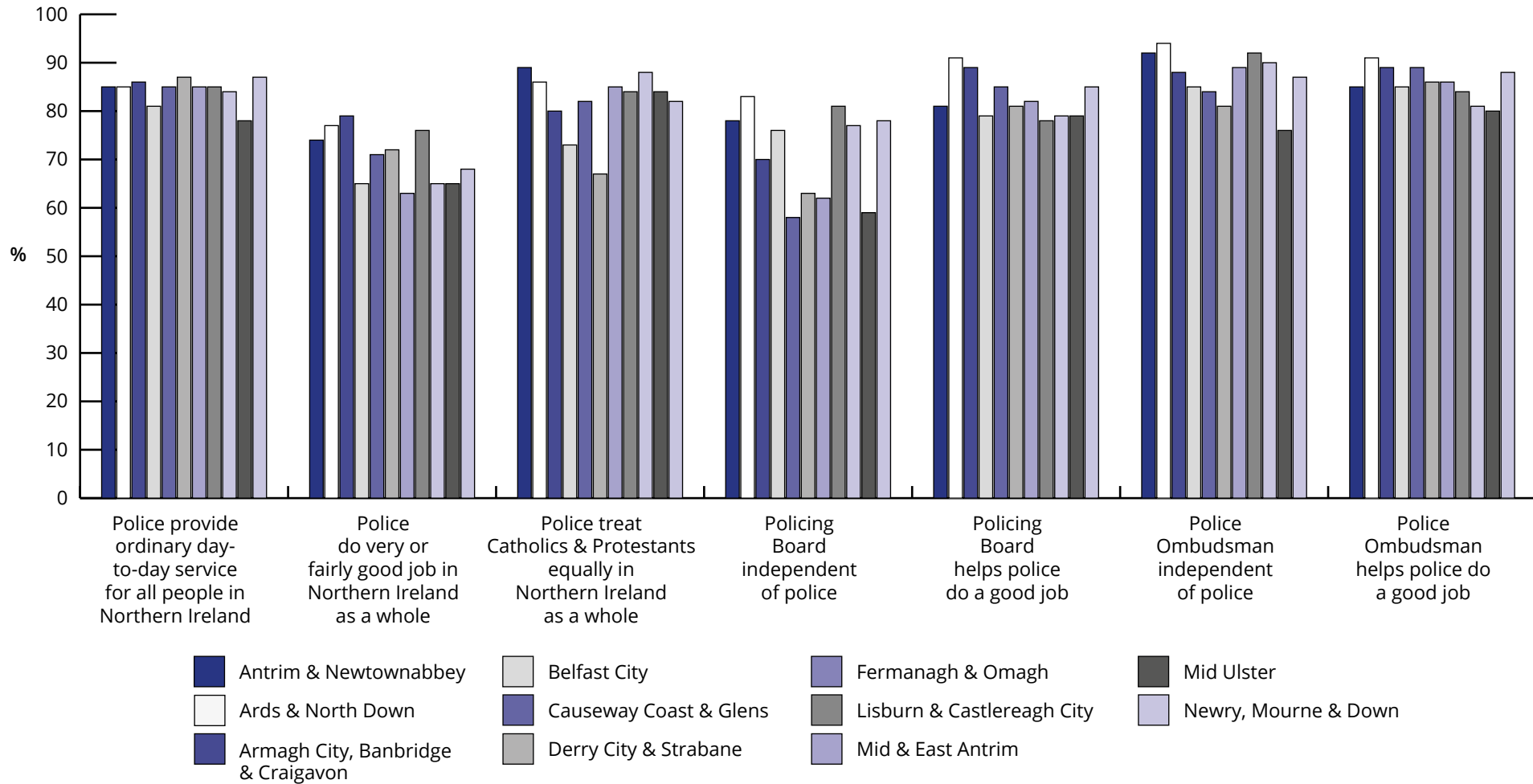
***The Police Ombudsman helps ensure that the police do a good job***

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the fourth lowest percentage of people who thought that the Police Ombudsman helps ensure that the police do a good job at 85%
- Ards & North Down Policing District had the highest percentage at 91%
- Mid Ulster Policing District had the lowest percentage at 80%
- Derry City & Strabane Policing District and Fermanagh & Omagh Policing District had the median percentage at 86% (see Peace Figure 45)

**PEACE FIGURE 45:**

**Percentage (%) of people who agreed with specific statements about confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland by policing district, 2019/20**



Source: GOV.UK Perceptions of policing and justice: findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland safe community survey - Excel tables, Table 1.2



## Differences by area of deprivation in Northern Ireland

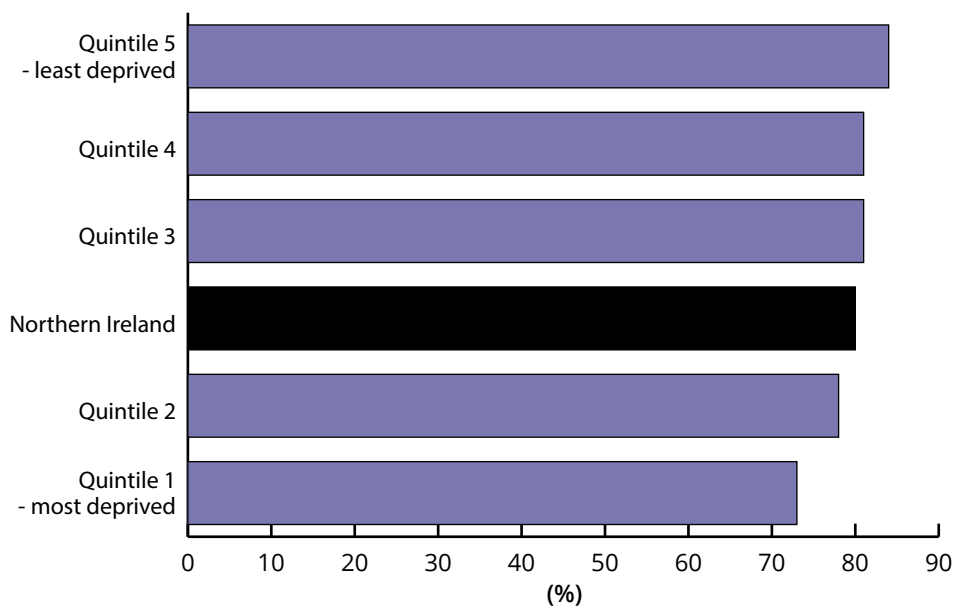
### **Overall confidence rating**

In 2019/20, there was variation across areas of deprivation in Northern Ireland in relation to overall confidence rating in the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland:

- The least-deprived areas (Quintile 5) had the highest percentage at 84%
- The most-deprived areas (Quintile 1) had the lowest percentage at 73%
- The second least-deprived areas (Quintile 4) and the areas in the mid-range of deprivation (Quintile 3) had the median percentage at 81% (see Peace Figure 46).

### **PEACE FIGURE 46:**

**Overall confidence rating (%) in the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland by area of deprivation (Quintiles 1-5) in Northern Ireland, 2019/20**



Source: GOV.UK Perceptions of policing and justice: findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland safe community survey – Excel tables, Table 1.2

### ***Specific statements about confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland***

In 2019/20, there was variation across areas of deprivation in Northern Ireland in relation to specific statements about the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland. For the following statements, the percentages were lowest in the most-deprived areas (Quintile 1) and highest in the least-deprived areas (Quintile 5):

- **Have confidence that the police provide an ordinary day-to-day service for all the people in Northern Ireland**
- **Think the police do a very or fairly good job in Northern Ireland as a whole**
- **Believe that the police treat Catholics and Protestants equally in Northern Ireland as a whole**
- **Think the Policing Board is independent of the police (see Peace Figure 47)**

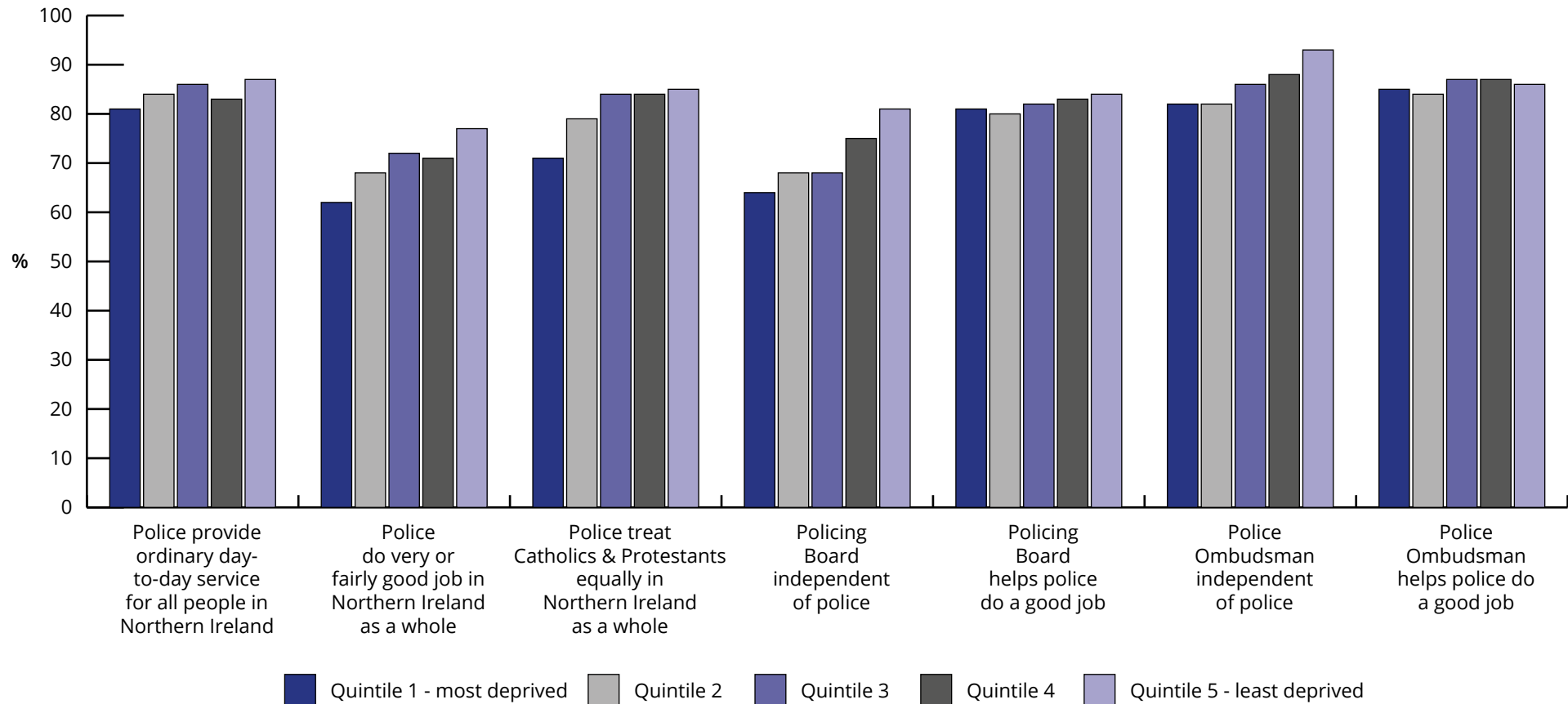
For the statement Think the Policing Board helps ensure that the police do a good job, the lowest percentage was in the second-most-deprived areas (Quintile 2) at 80%, followed by the most-deprived areas, and the highest percentage was in the least-deprived areas at 84% (see Peace Figure 47).

For the statement Think the Police Ombudsman is independent of the police, the equal lowest percentage was in the most-deprived and second most-deprived areas at 82%, and the highest percentage was in the least-deprived areas at 93% (see Peace Figure 47).

For the statement Think the Police Ombudsman helps ensure that the police do a good job, the lowest percentage was in the second-most-deprived areas at 84%, followed by the most-deprived areas, and the equal highest percentage was in the second least-deprived areas and the mid-range of areas of deprivation at 87% (see Peace Figure 47).

**PEACE FIGURE 47:**

**Percentage (%) of people supporting specific statements about confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland by area of deprivation (Quintiles 1-5) in Northern Ireland, 2019/20**



Source: GOV.UK Perceptions of policing and justice: findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland safe community survey – Excel tables, Table 1.2

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, between 7 and 8 out of every 10 people had overall confidence in the police and policing arrangements in Northern Ireland, compared with 8 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland. When compared with other policing districts, the overall confidence rating in Belfast was second lowest.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the overall confidence rating decreased in Belfast City Policing District but increased in Northern Ireland, with a widening of the gap between the two.

In 2019/20, in relation to specific statements about confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland, the highest percentages were for thinking that:

- **The Police Ombudsman is independent of the police**
- **The Police Ombudsman helps to ensure the police do a good job**

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District:

- **Over 8 out of every 10 people had confidence in the ability of the police to provide an ordinary day-to-day service for all the people in Northern Ireland, compared with between 8 and 9 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland**
- **Between 6 and 7 out of every 10 people thought that the police do a very or fairly good job as a whole, compared with 7 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland**
- **Over 7 out of every 10 people believed the police treat Catholics and Protestants equally in Northern Ireland as a whole, compared with over 8 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland**
- **Between 7 and 8 out of every 10 people thought that the Policing Board is independent of the police, compared with over 7 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland**
- **Almost 8 out of every 10 people thought that the Policing Board helps ensure that the police do a good job, compared with over 8 out of every 10 people in Northern Ireland**
- **Between 8 and 9 out of every 10 people thought the Police Ombudsman is independent of the police, compared with almost 9 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland**
- **Between 8 and 9 out of every 10 people thought the Police Ombudsman helps ensure that the police do a good job, similar to Northern Ireland**

In 2019/20, in relation to specific statements about confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland, among policing districts the percentages were relatively lower in Belfast City Policing District, except for thinking that the Police Board is independent of the police, which was the median percentage.

Thus, Belfast City Policing District had relatively low levels of confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland, both in terms of overall confidence and specific aspects of this issue.

Between 2009/10 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who:

- Had confidence in the ability of the police to provide an ordinary day-to-day service for all the people in Northern Ireland remained the same in Belfast City Policing District, whereas it increased in Northern Ireland, and the gap between the two widened
- Thought that the police do a very or fairly good job as a whole decreased in Belfast City Policing District, whereas it increased in Northern Ireland, with a widening of the gap between the two and a reversal of positions such that Belfast had a lower level of confidence
- Believed that the police treat Catholics and Protestants equally in Northern Ireland decreased in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland, although the percentage decrease was greater in Belfast and the gap between the two widened
- Thought that the Policing Board is independent of the police increased in Belfast City Policing District, whereas it decreased in Northern Ireland, with a widening of the gap between the two and a reversal of positions such that Belfast had a higher level of confidence
- Thought that the Policing Board helps ensure that the police do a good job decreased in Belfast City Policing District, whereas it remained the same in Northern Ireland and the gap between the two widened
- Thought that the Policing Ombudsman is independent of the police decreased in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland, with a very slightly greater percentage decrease in Belfast although the difference in percentages between the two remained the same
- Thought that the Policing Ombudsman helps ensure that the police do a good job decreased in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland, and the gap between the two narrowed with a reversal of positions such that Belfast had a lower level of confidence

Thus, the only aspect for which confidence levels in Belfast City Policing District increased was thinking that the Policing Board is independent of the police, and confidence levels remained the same with respect to the police having the ability to provide an ordinary day-to-day service for all the people in Northern Ireland. For all other aspects, levels of confidence decreased.

## Inequalities with the potential for inequity in Northern Ireland

In 2019/20, the most-deprived areas of Northern Ireland (Quintile 1) had the lowest overall confidence rating in the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland, followed by the second most-deprived areas (Quintile 2).

In 2019/20, the most-deprived areas of Northern Ireland had the lowest percentages of people who:

- **Had confidence in the ability of the police to provide an ordinary day-to-day service for all the people in Northern Ireland**
- **Thought the police do a very or fairly good job as a whole**
- **Believed the police treat Catholics and Protestants equally in Northern Ireland**
- **Thought the Policing Board is independent of the police**

The second most-deprived areas had the second lowest percentages for these four aspects, which was shared with the mid-range areas of deprivation (Quintile 3) for the aspect concerning thinking that the Policing Board is independent of the police.

In 2019/20, the second most-deprived areas in Northern Ireland had the lowest percentages of people who thought that:

- **The Policing Board helps ensure that the police do a good job**
- **The Police Ombudsman helps ensure that the police do a good job**

The most-deprived areas had the second lowest percentages for these two aspects.

In 2019/20, the most-deprived and second most-deprived areas in Northern Ireland had the equal lowest percentage of people who thought that the Police Ombudsman is independent of the police.

Thus, people in the most-deprived and second most-deprived areas of Northern Ireland had the lowest levels of overall confidence in the police and policing arrangements in Northern Ireland, and in specific aspects of this issue, although the lowest levels of confidence within these groups were for:

- **Thinking the police do a very or fairly good job as a whole**
- **Believing that the police treat Catholics and Protestants equally in Northern Ireland**
- **Thinking the Policing Board is independent of the police**

These aspects were also those for which the gaps between the lowest percentages of people in the most-deprived areas and the highest percentages of people in the least-deprived areas (Quintile 5) were greatest at 14-17 percentage points.

## 7.2 Confidence in Local Police in Northern Ireland

### IMPORTANCE

It is important that the public feel confident in the police and other crime-fighting agencies.<sup>81</sup>

Procedural justice – fair and respectful treatment of citizens – is associated with trust in the police and viewing the police as legitimate. Legitimacy, in turn, is associated with greater willingness to cooperate with the police and assist in preventing and responding to crime, and greater compliance with the law. There is also evidence to suggest that general attitudes to the police – trust and confidence – may impact on people’s satisfaction with specific encounters.<sup>82</sup>

In a time-series analysis of the British Crime Survey, it was found that confidence in the police is related to perceptions of crime and the property crime rate.<sup>83</sup>

In addition, police numbers and perceptions of police visibility are both independently associated with public confidence in the police. There is also causal evidence to suggest targeted patrol – particularly targeted foot patrol – can have a positive impact on public perceptions. Visible police patrol can reduce crime, but only if it is targeted in small geographic locations – or hot spots – where crime is concentrated. Visible patrol in hot spots may be effective only where a particular threshold of crime already exists, and the effect might be short-lived. Crime-reduction benefits may spread to the areas immediately surrounding the targeted locations, however, problem-solving in hot spots has tended to have a larger impact on crime than increased patrol or law enforcement.<sup>84</sup>

- 
81. Improving public confidence in the police: a review of the evidence - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 28 July 2022)
  82. Microsoft Word - Public Confidence in the Police.doc ([college.police.uk](http://college.police.uk)) (Last accessed 28 July 2022)
  83. Public Confidence in the Police | The British Journal of Criminology | Oxford Academic ([oup.com](http://oup.com)) (Last accessed 27 July 2022)
  84. The effectiveness of visible police patrol | College of Policing (Last accessed 14 August 2022)



## DEFINITION

The data show the proportions of NISCS respondents who claimed they 'strongly agree' or 'tend to agree' with seven statements concerning the local police. The first six of these (a to f, below) are 'funnel-type' questions, designed to help generate a more considered response to the seventh, overall confidence measure (g). The statements are, the local police:

- a. Can be relied on to be there when you need them
- b. Would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason
- c. Treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are
- d. Are dealing with the things that matter to this community
- e. Help keep this area safe
- f. Have a visible presence in this area
- g. Taking everything into account, I have confidence in the police in this area<sup>85</sup>

Information is from:

- GOV.UK, Perceptions of Policing and Justice: Findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey
- Department of Justice, R & S Bulletin 7/2014 Perceptions of Policing, Justice and Organised Crime: Findings from the 2011/12 and 2012/13 Northern Ireland Crime Surveys
- GOV.UK, Perceptions of Policing and Justice: Findings from the 2018/19 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey<sup>86</sup>

---

85. Perceptions of Policing and Justice Findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey (publishing.service.gov.uk) (Last accessed 29 July 2022)

86. Perceptions of Policing and Justice: Findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) and R & S Bulletin 7/2014 Perceptions of Policing, Justice and Organised Crime: Findings from the 2011/12 and 2012/13 Northern Ireland Crime Surveys | Department of Justice (justice-ni.gov.uk) and Perceptions of Policing and Justice: Findings from the 2018/19 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (Last accessed 29 July 2022)

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the percentage of people with overall confidence in local police was 62%.

Between 2012/13 and 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the percentage of people with overall confidence in local police decreased by 1 percentage point from 63% to 62%.

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the percentage of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree with the following statements that local police:

- Can be relied on to be there when you need them was 57%
- Would treat you with respect if you had contact with them was 82%
- Treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are was 58%
- Are dealing with the things that matter to this community was 50%
- Help keep this area safe was 61%
- Have a visible presence in this area 26%

Between 2012/13 and 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the percentage of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree that local police:

- Can be relied on to be there when you need them increased by 4 percentage points, from 53% to 57%
- Would treat you with respect if you had contact with them decreased by 1 percentage point, from 83% to 82%
- Treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are decreased by 2 percentage points, from 60% to 58%
- Are dealing with the things that matter to this community increased by 4 percentage points, from 46% to 50%

Between 2018/19 and 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, the percentage of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree that local police:

- Help keep this area safe decreased by 3 percentage points, from 64% to 61%
- Have a visible presence in this area increased by 3 percentage points, from 23% to 26%<sup>87</sup>

---

87. These two statements were not introduced into the Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey until 2018/19

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

#### **Overall confidence in local police**

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people with overall confidence in local police in Belfast City Policing District was the same at 62%.

Between 2012/13 and 2019/20, the percentage of people with overall confidence in the local police decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 1 percentage point, from 63% to 62% (a percentage decrease of 1.59%)
- In Northern Ireland increased by 3 percentage points, from 65% to 62% (a percentage increase of 4.62%)

### Specific statements about confidence in local police

#### **Can be relied on to be there when you need them**

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree that local police can be relied on to be there when you need them was 1 percentage point higher in Belfast City Policing District, 57% compared with 56%.

Between 2012/13 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree that local police can be relied on to be there when you need them increased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 4 percentage points, from 53% to 57% (a percentage increase of 7.55%)
- In Northern Ireland by 4 percentage points, from 52% to 56% (a percentage increase of 7.69%; see Peace Figure 48A)

#### **Would treat you with respect if you had contact with them**

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree that local police would treat you with respect if you had contact with them was lower by 4 percentage points in Belfast City Policing District, 82% compared with 86%.

Between 2012/13 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree that local police would treat you with respect if you had contact with them:

- In Belfast City Policing District decreased by 1 percentage point from 83% to 82% (a percentage decrease of 1.20%)
- In Northern Ireland increased by 2 percentage points, from 84% to 86% (a percentage increase of 2.38%; see Peace Figure 48A)

***Treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are***

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree that local police treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are was lower by 8 percentage points, 58% compared with 66%.

Between 2012/13 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree that local police would treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are:

- In Belfast City Policing District decreased by 2 percentage points from 60% to 58% (a percentage decrease of 3.33%)
- In Northern Ireland remained the same at 66% (see Peace Figure 48A)

***Are dealing with the things that matter to this community***

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree that local police are dealing with the things that matter to this community was lower by 4 percentage points in Belfast City Policing District, 50% compared with 54%.

Between 2012/13 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree that local police are dealing with the things that matter to this community increased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 4 percentage points, from 46% to 50% (a percentage increase of 8.70%)
- In Northern Ireland by 3 percentage points, from 51% to 54% (a percentage increase of 5.88%; see Peace Figure 48A)

### ***Help keep this area safe***

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree that local police help to keep this area safe was lower by 3 percentage points in Belfast City Policing District, 61% compared with 64%.

Between 2018/19 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree that local police help keep this area safe decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 3 percentage points, from 64% to 61% (a percentage decrease of 4.69%)
- In Northern Ireland by 3 percentage points, from 67% to 64% (a percentage decrease of 4.48%; see Peace Figure 48B)

### ***Have a visible presence in this area***

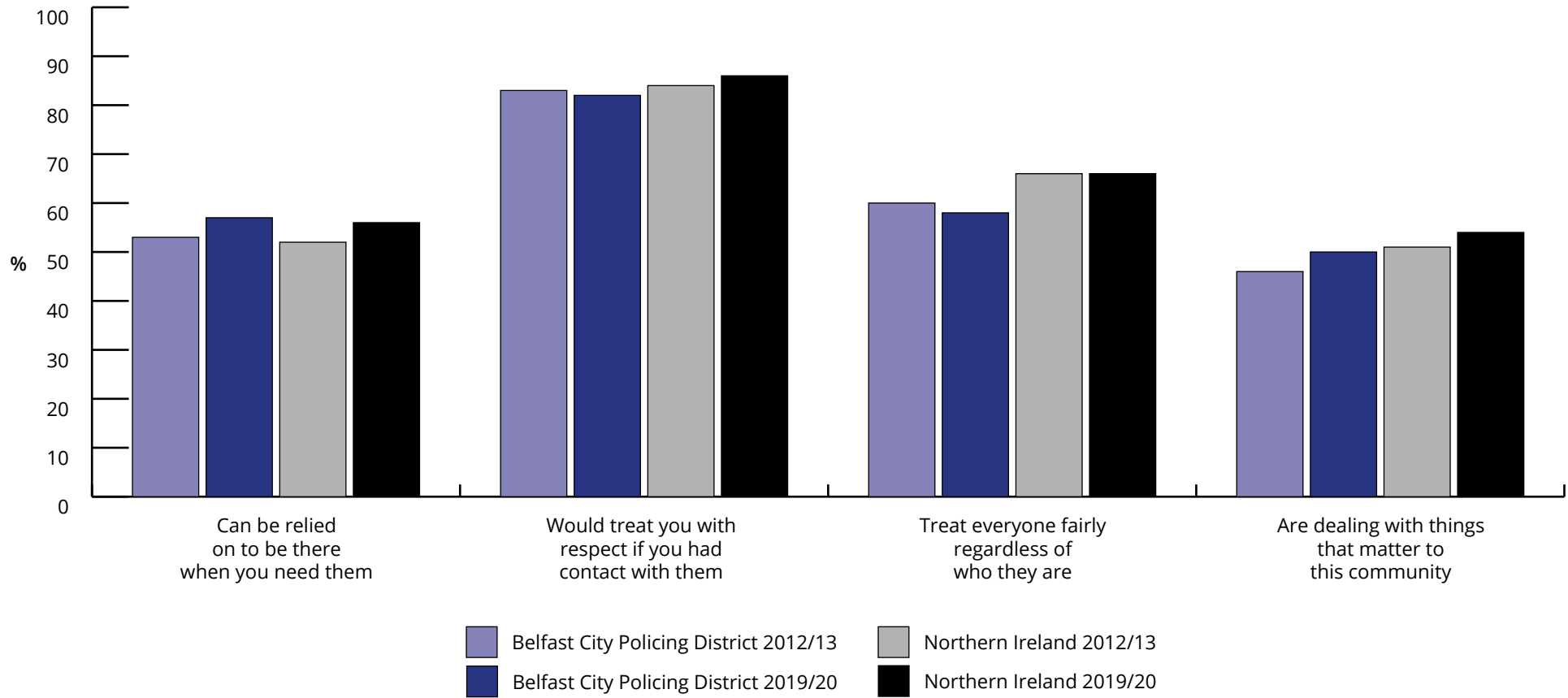
In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree that local police have a visible presence in this area was lower by 1 percentage point in Belfast City Policing District, 26% compared with 27%.

Between 2018/19 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree that local police have a visible presence in this area:

- In Belfast City Policing District increased by 3 percentage points, from 23% to 26% (a percentage increase of 13.04%)
- In Northern Ireland decreased by 1 percentage point, from 28% to 27% (a percentage decrease of 3.57%; see Peace Figure 48B)

**PEACE FIGURE 48A:**

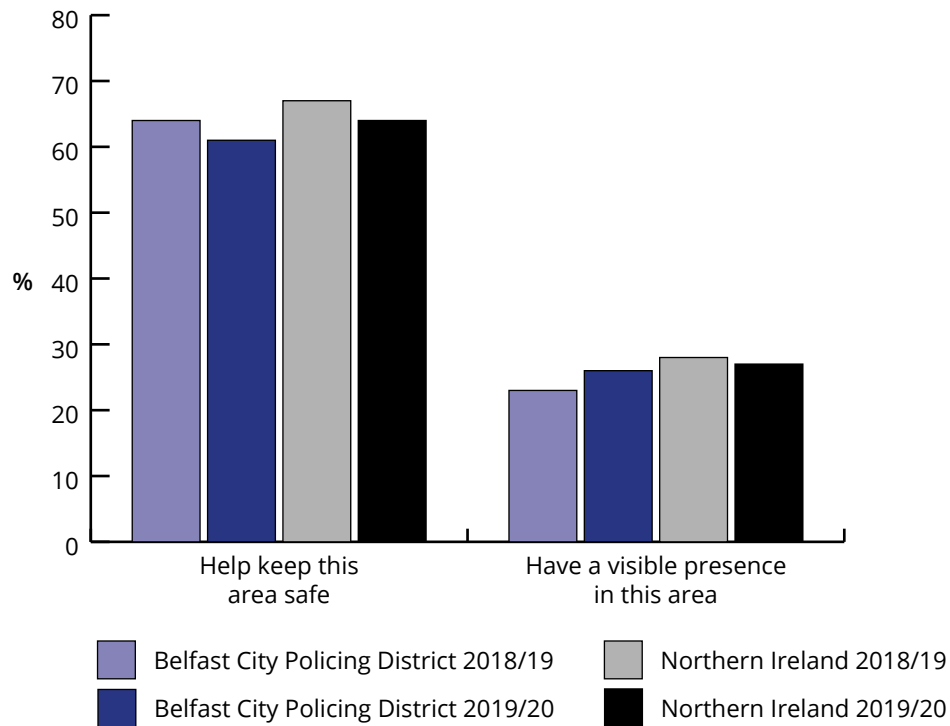
**Percentage (%) of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree with specific statements about local policing in Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland, 2012/13 and 2019/20**



Source: GOV.UK: Perceptions of policing and justice: findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland safe community survey – Excel tables, Table 3.2, and Department of Justice, R & S Bulletin 7/2014 Perceptions of Policing, Justice and Organised Crime: Findings from the 2011/12 and 2012/13 Northern Ireland Crime Surveys, NICS 2012 to 2013 confidence tabular data, Table A7

**PEACE FIGURE 48B:**

Percentage (%) of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree with specific statements about local policing in Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland, 2018/19 and 2019/20



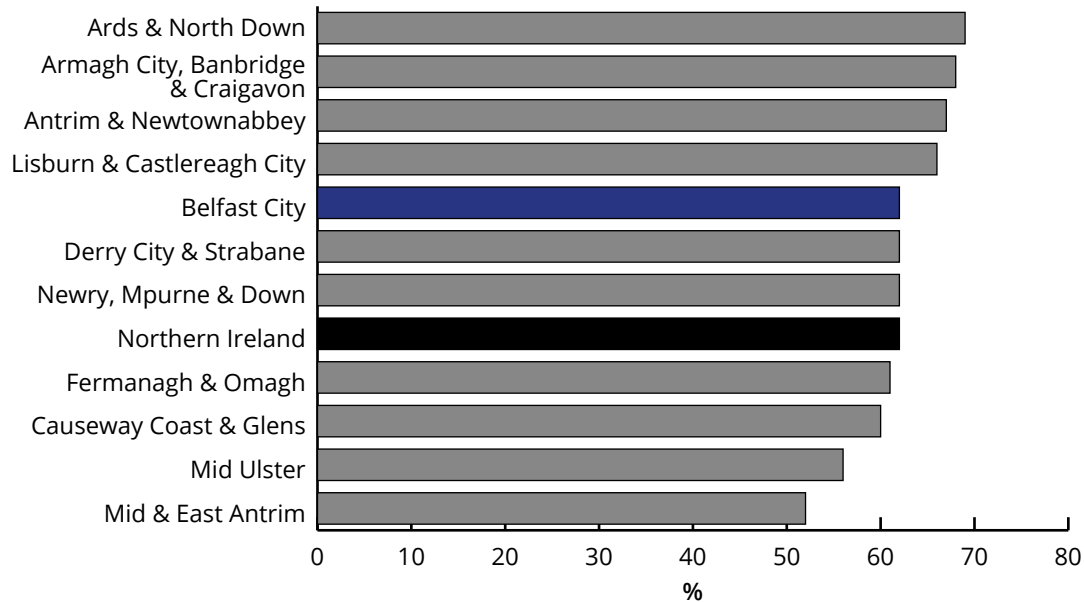
Source: GOV.UK: Perceptions of policing and justice: findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland safe community survey – Excel tables, Table 3.2, and Perceptions of policing and justice: Findings from the 2018/19 Northern Ireland Safe community survey – excel, Table 3.2

### Comparison with other policing districts

#### **Overall confidence in local police**

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the median percentage of people with overall confidence in local police at 62%, together with two other policing districts
- Ards & North Down Policing District had the highest percentage at 69%
- Mid & East Antrim had the lowest percentage at 52% (see Peace Figure 49)

**PEACE FIGURE 49:****Percentage (%) of people who had overall confidence in local police by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**

Source: GOV.UK: Perceptions of policing and justice: findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland safe community survey – Excel tables, Table 3.2

### Specific statements about confidence in the local police

#### ***Can be relied on to be there when you need them***

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the fifth highest percentage of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree that local police can be relied on to be there when you need them at 57%
- Fermanagh & Omagh Policing District had the highest percentage at 62%
- Mid & East Antrim Policing District had the lowest percentage at 43%
- Ards & North Down Policing District and Lisburn & Castlereagh City Policing District had the median percentage at 56% (see Peace Figure 50)



***Would treat you with respect if you had contact with them***

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the second lowest percentage of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree that local police would treat you with respect if you had contact with them at 82%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Policing District had the highest percentage at 90%
- Mid Ulster Policing District had the lowest percentage at 80%
- Three policing districts had the median percentage at 87% (see Peace Figure 50)

***Treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are***

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the lowest percentage of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree that local police would treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are at 58%
- Fermanagh & Omagh Policing District had the highest percentage at 74%
- Three policing districts had the median percentage at 68% (see Peace Figure 50)

***Are dealing with the things that matter to this community***

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the equal third lowest percentage of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree that local police are dealing with the things that matter to this community at 50%
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Policing District had the highest percentage at 65%
- Causeway Coast & Glens Policing District had the lowest percentage at 46%
- Mid Ulster Policing District had the median percentage at 52% (see Peace Figure 50)

### ***Help keep this area safe***

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the equal second lowest percentage of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree that local police are dealing with the things that matter to this community at 61%
- Ards & North Down Policing District had the highest percentage at 72%
- Mid & East Antrim Policing District and Mid Ulster Policing District had the lowest percentage at 59%
- Two policing districts had the median percentage at 64% (see Peace Figure 50)

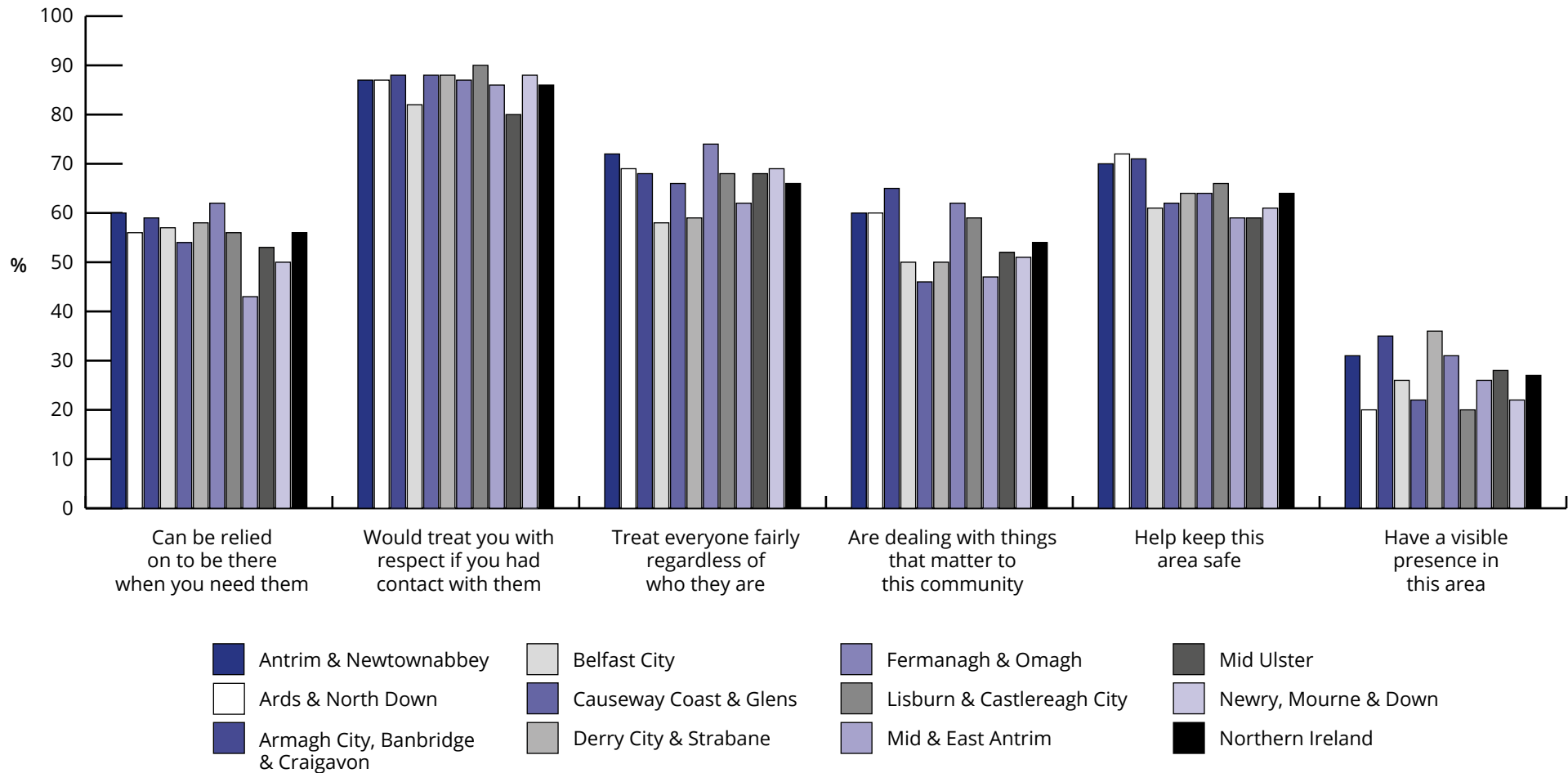
### ***Have a visible presence in this area***

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the median percentage of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree that local police have a visible presence in this area at 26%
- Derry City & Strabane Policing District had the highest percentage at 36%
- Ards & North Down Policing District and Lisburn & Castlereagh City Policing District had the lowest percentage at 20% (see Peace Figure 50)

**PEACE FIGURE 50:**

**Percentage (%) of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree with specific statements about local policing by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**



Source: GOV.UK: Perceptions of policing and justice: findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland safe community survey – Excel tables, Table 3.2, Department of Justice, R & S Bulletin 7/2014  
 Perceptions of Policing, Justice and Organised Crime: Findings from the 2011/12 and 2012/13 Northern Ireland Crime Surveys, NICS 2012 to 2013 confidence tabular data, Table A7, and Perceptions of policing and justice: Findings from the 2018/19 Northern Ireland Safe community survey – excel, Table 3.2

## Differences by area of deprivation in Northern Ireland

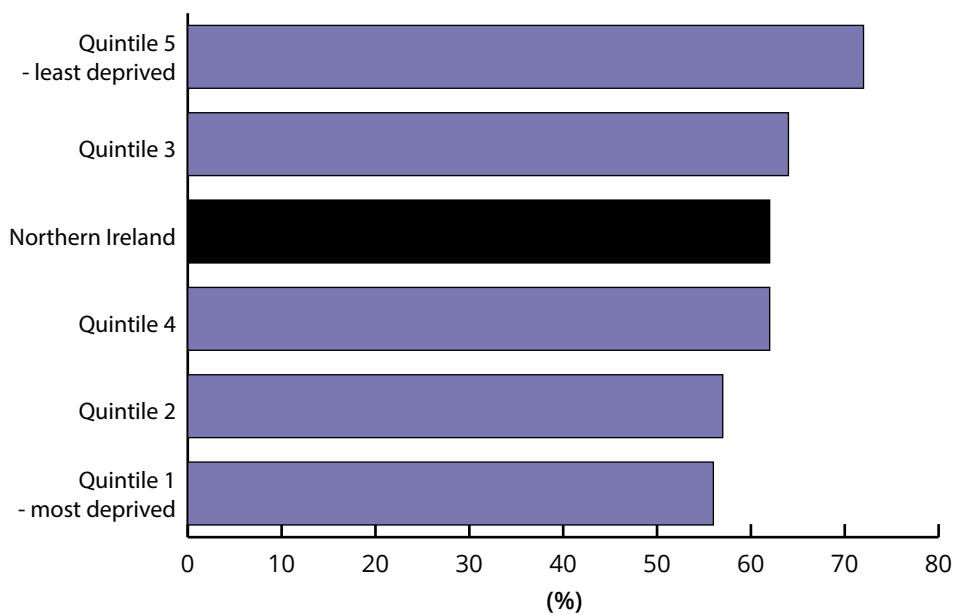
### **Overall confidence in local police**

In 2019/20, there was variation across areas of deprivation in Northern Ireland in relation to overall confidence in local police:

- The least-deprived areas (Quintile 5) had the highest percentage at 72%
- The most-deprived areas (Quintile 1) had the lowest percentage at 56%
- The second least-deprived areas (Quintile 4) had the median percentage at 62% (see Peace Figure 51).

### **PEACE FIGURE 51:**

**Percentage (%) of people with overall confidence in local police by area of deprivation in Northern Ireland (Quintiles 1-5) and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**



Source: GOV.UK: Perceptions of policing and justice: findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland safe community survey – Excel tables, Table 3.2

## Specific statements about confidence in the local police

### ***Can be relied on to be there when you need them***

In 2019/20, there was variation across areas of deprivation in the percentage of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree that local police can be relied on to be there when you need them:

- People in the least-deprived areas (Quintile 5) had the highest percentage at 59%
- People in the most-deprived areas (Quintile 1) and second-most-deprived areas (Quintile 2) had the lowest percentage at 53% (see Peace Figure 52)

### ***Would treat you with respect if you had contact with them***

In 2019/20, there was variation across areas of deprivation in the percentage of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree that local police would treat you with respect if you had contact with them:

- People in the least-deprived areas had the highest percentage at 89%
- People in the second-most-deprived areas had the lowest percentage at 82%, followed by people in the most-deprived areas at 84% (see Peace Figure 52)

### ***Treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are***

In 2019/20, there was variation across areas of deprivation in the percentage of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree that local police treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are:

- People in the middle of the range for areas of deprivation (Quintile 3) had the highest percentage at 70%, closely followed by people in the least-deprived areas at 69%
- People in the most-deprived areas had the lowest percentage at 57% (see Peace Figure 52)

***Are dealing with the things that matter to this community***

In 2019/20, there was variation across areas of deprivation in the percentage of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree that local police are dealing with the things that matter to this community:

- People in the least-deprived areas had the highest percentage at 62%
- People in the most-deprived and second-most-deprived areas had the lowest percentage at 50% (see Peace Figure 52)

***Help keep this area safe***

In 2019/20, there was variation across areas of deprivation in the percentage of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree that local police help keep this area safe:

- People in the least-deprived areas had the highest percentage at 72%
- People in the most-deprived and second-most-deprived areas had the lowest percentage at 59% (see Peace Figure 52)

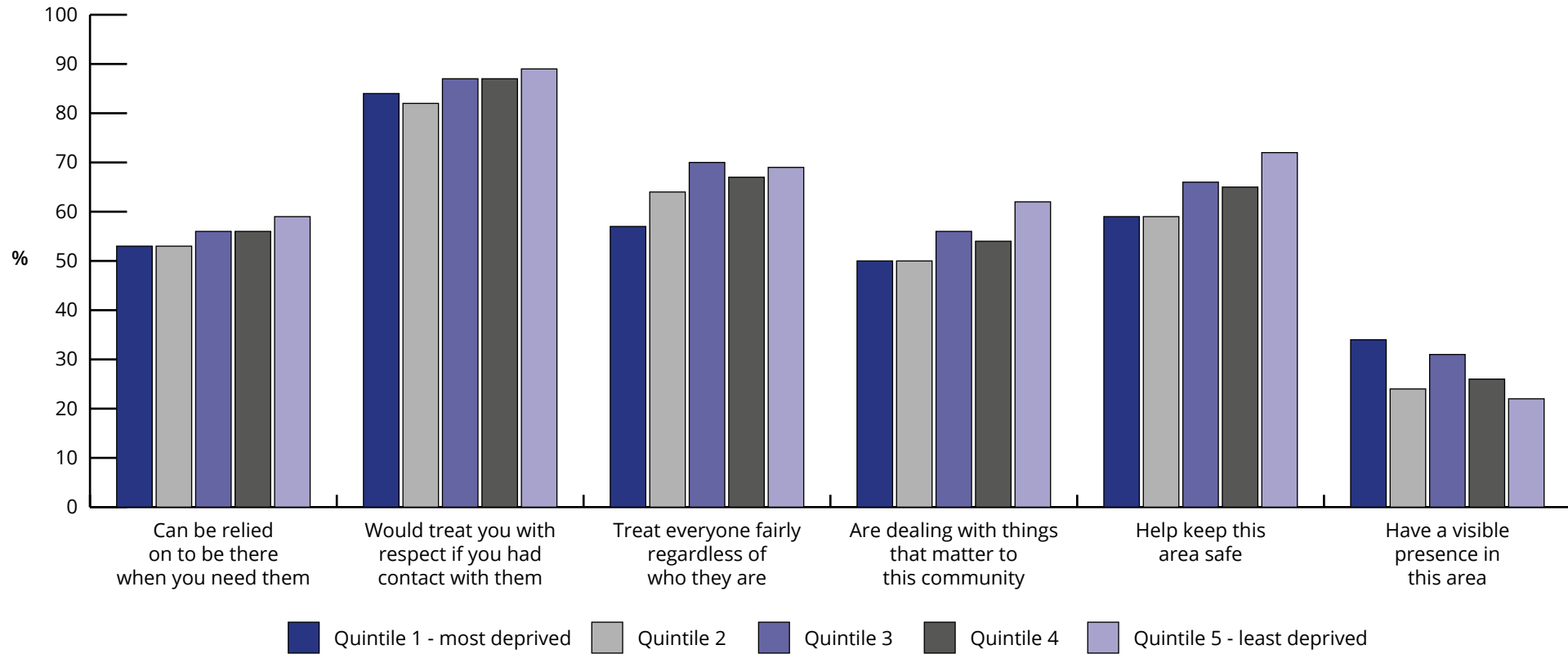
***Have a visible presence in this area***

In 2019/20, there was variation across areas of deprivation in the percentage of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree that local police have a visible presence in this area:

- People in the most-deprived areas had the highest percentage at 34%
- People in the least-deprived areas had the lowest percentage at 22% (see Peace Figure 52)

**PEACE FIGURE 52:**

**Percentage (%) of people who strongly agreed or tended to agree with specific statements about confidence in local police by area of deprivation (Quintiles 1-5) in Northern Ireland, 2019/20**



Source: GOV.UK: Perceptions of policing and justice: findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland safe community survey – Excel tables, Table 3.2

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District, over 6 out of every 10 people had overall confidence in local police, the same as for Northern Ireland, which also represented the median among policing districts. The converse, however, is that in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland 4 out of every 10 people did not have overall confidence in local police,

In 2019/20, in Belfast City Policing District:

- **Almost 6 out of every 10 people agreed that local police can be relied on to be there when you need them, compared with between 5 and 6 out of every 10 people in Northern Ireland**
- **Over 8 out of every 10 people agreed that local police would treat you with respect if you had contact with them, compared with between 8 and 9 out of every 10 people in Northern Ireland**
- **Almost 6 out of every 10 people agreed that local police treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are, compared with between 6 and 7 out of every 10 people in Northern Ireland**
- **5 out of every 10 people agreed that local police are dealing with the things that matter to this community, compared with between 5 and 6 out of every 10 people in Northern Ireland**
- **6 out of every 10 people agreed that local police help keep this community safe, compared with between 6 and 7 out of every 10 people in Northern Ireland**
- **Between 2 and 3 out of every 10 people agreed that local police have a visible presence in this area, compared with almost 3 out of every 10 people in Northern Ireland**

Thus, in relation to specific statements about confidence in local police, the only one for which the percentage of people agreeing with the statement was higher in Belfast City Policing District than that in Northern Ireland was that local police can be relied on to be there when you need them.

Between 2012/13 and 2019/20, overall confidence in local police decreased in Belfast and in Northern Ireland, but the percentage decrease was greater in Northern Ireland and the gap between the two closed, with both Belfast and Northern Ireland having poorer outcomes.



Between 2012/13 and 2019/20, with respect to the percentage of people agreeing with specific statements about confidence in local police:

- It increased for 'can be relied upon to be there when you need them' in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland, but the percentage increase was very slightly greater for Northern Ireland and on that basis the gap between the two narrowed very slightly, but in terms of the difference between the percentages the gap remained the same with Belfast being higher and having improved outcomes
- It decreased for 'would treat you with respect if you had contact with them' in Belfast but increased in Northern Ireland, and the gap between the two widened with poorer outcomes for Belfast
- It decreased for 'treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are' in Belfast but remained the same in Northern Ireland, and the gap between the two widened with poorer outcomes for Belfast
- It increased for 'dealing with the things that matter to this community' in Belfast and in Northern Ireland, with a greater percentage increase in Belfast and the gap between the two narrowed with improved outcomes for Belfast
- It decreased for 'help to keep this area safe' in Belfast and in Northern Ireland, with a very slightly greater percentage decrease in Belfast and on that basis the gap between the two widened very slightly, but in terms of the difference between the percentages the gap remained the same with Belfast being lower, and poorer outcomes for both Belfast and Northern Ireland
- It increased for 'have a visible presence in the area' in Belfast but decreased in Northern Ireland, and the gap between the two narrowed

Thus, in relation to specific statements about confidence in local police, there are two for which the percentage of people agreeing with the statement increased in Belfast City Policing District and for which agreement signifies positive associations or outcomes:

- **Local police 'can be relied on to be there when you need them'**
- **Local police 'are dealing with the things that matter to this community'**

The percentage of people in Belfast who agreed with a third statement, that local police 'have a visible presence in the area' increased; however, this finding is equivocal to interpret because agreement may have positive and/or negative associations.

In 2019/20, when compared with other policing districts, Belfast City Policing District had lower percentages of people agreeing with the following statements in relation to confidence in local police:

- **Would treat you with respect if you had contact with them (second lowest)**
- **Treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are (lowest)**
- **Are dealing with the things that matter to this community (equal third lowest)**
- **Help keep this community safe (equal second lowest)**

The only statement for which Belfast had one of the higher percentages was local police 'can be relied on to be there when you need them' at fifth highest, and for the statement local police 'have a visible presence in the area' Belfast had the median percentage.

Although in Belfast City Policing District the percentage of people agreeing with statement that local police 'would treat you with respect if you had contact with them' was lower than that in Northern Ireland and lower than those in nine other policing districts, of all the statements this one had by far the highest positive response in Belfast, there being a difference of 21-56 percentage points between this and responses to the other statements.

## Inequalities with the potential for inequity in Northern Ireland

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, out of every 10 people in the most-deprived areas:

- **Between 5 and 6 people had overall confidence in local police, compared with over 7 out of every 10 people in the least-deprived areas**
- **Over 5 people agreed that the police can be relied on to be there when you needed them, compared with almost 6 out of every 10 people in the least-deprived areas**
- **Between 8 and 9 people agreed that local police would treat you with respect if you had contact with them, compared with almost 9 out of every 10 people in the least-deprived areas**
- **Almost 6 people agreed that local police treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are, compared with almost 7 out of every 10 people in the least-deprived areas**
- **5 people agreed that local police are dealing with the things that matter most to this community, compared with over 6 out of every in the least-deprived areas**

- Almost 6 people agreed that local police help to keep this area safe, compared with over 7 out of every 10 people in the least-deprived areas
- Between 3 and 4 people agreed that local police have a visible presence in the area, compared with over 2 people out of every 10 in the least-deprived areas

Although the information above illustrates the gap between the most-deprived and least-deprived areas, it is important to bear in mind that the percentage of people in the second-most-deprived areas agreeing with the following statements was the same as that for people in the most-deprived areas, that local police:

- **Can be relied on to be there when you need them**
- **Are dealing with the things that matter to this community**
- **Help to keep this area safe**

In addition, when compared with people in the most-deprived areas, a lower percentage of people in the second-most-deprived areas agreed with the statement that local police would treat you with respect if you had contact with them.

Interpretation of the situation is more complex across the areas of deprivation in Northern Ireland when considering the statement that local police have a visible presence in the area, because agreement with this statement could have positive and/or negative perceptions associated with it, compared with the other statements where it is clear that agreement with those statements signifies positive associations.

## SECTION 8

# Child Protection

## 8.1 Referrals to Child Protection Services

### IMPORTANCE

The World Health Organization defines child maltreatment as “the abuse and neglect that occurs to children under 18 years of age ... which results in actual or potential harm to the child”.<sup>88</sup>

Child abuse is a global problem, with potentially serious life-long consequences. Measuring the extent and nature of child abuse is difficult because it is usually hidden from view and comes in many forms, and there is no single data source that measures the current prevalence of child abuse in the UK.<sup>89</sup>

Child abuse often happens over a period of time, rather than as a one-off event, and can have a devastating effect on a child's development. Some of the effects include:

- **Negative effects on a child's health, relationships, and education**
- **Adults abused as children may find it harder to cope with life's stresses, get a good job, or be a good parent**
- **Mental health problems, drug or alcohol issues, criminal behaviour – or showing signs of harmful behaviour themselves<sup>90</sup>**

Findings from research studies usually reveal much higher numbers of children who have been abused than are shown by statistics from services that work with children, which indicate how much child abuse is not brought to the attention of the authorities. Many children do not tell anyone about the abuse at the time because they are unsure who or how to tell someone. More people will disclose abuse during research because they can do so anonymously and confidentially without worrying about an investigation from the authorities or the effect on their

88. (PDF) Childhood Abuse and Neglect, Exposure to Domestic Violence and Sibling Violence: Profiles and Associations With Sociodemographic Variables and Mental Health Indicators (researchgate.net) (Last accessed 19 August 2022)

89. Exploring the feasibility of a survey measuring child abuse in the UK - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) (Last accessed 14 August 2022)

90. Effects of child abuse | NSPCC (Last accessed 27 July 2022)

family. Some people will never disclose what has happened to them.<sup>91</sup> For instance, in a study commissioned by the NSPCC, it was found that 2.5% of children aged under 11 years and 6% of children and young people aged 11–17 years had one or more experiences of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse or neglect by a parent or guardian in the past year.<sup>92</sup>

The Northern Ireland Executive, through the Department of Health, is responsible for child protection in Northern Ireland. They set out policy, legislation, and statutory guidance on how the child protection system would work.

The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) coordinates and ensures the effectiveness of work to protect and promote the welfare of children. The board includes representatives from health, social care, the police, the probation board, youth justice, education, district councils, and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC). The SBNI is responsible for developing policies and procedures to improve how different agencies work together.<sup>93</sup>

A Child Protection Referral is one for which the initial assessment indicates that there may be Child Protection issues. The threshold for action should be the allegation or suspicion of child abuse. However, the balance needs to be struck between taking action designed to protect the child from abuse while at the same time avoiding unnecessary intervention. Except in emergency situations or urgent cases when immediate protective action is required, referrals will require preliminary discussion with other professionals from the child protection agencies and with the referrer. In some cases, it will be necessary to seek specialist opinion.<sup>94</sup>

## DEFINITION

Information is from the Department of Health, Children's social care statistics for Northern Ireland 2019/20, and Children's social care statistics for Northern Ireland 2011/12 to 2016/17, Children's Social Care Statistics Tables 2011/12.<sup>95</sup>

91. Statistics on child abuse | NSPCC Learning (Last accessed 14 August 2022)

92. (PDF) Child Abuse and Neglect in the UK Today (researchgate.net) (Last accessed 19 August 2022)

93. Child protection system for Northern Ireland | NSPCC Learning (Last accessed 27 July 2022)

94. Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland | Department of Health (health-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 26 July 2022)

95. Children's social care statistics for Northern Ireland 2019/20 | Department of Health (health-ni.gov.uk) and Children's social care statistics for Northern Ireland 2011/12 to 2016/17 | Department of Health (health-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 26 July 2022)

## PROFILE FINDINGS

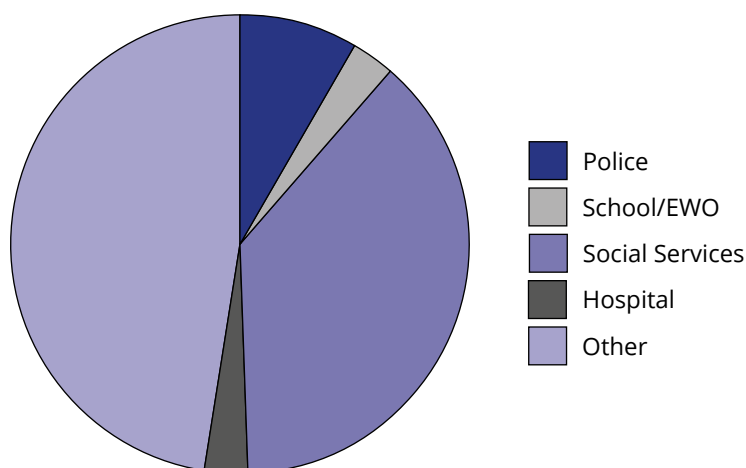
In 2019/20, in Belfast HSCT, the number of referrals to Child Protection Services was 421, representing 13.77% of referrals in Northern Ireland.

In 2019/20, In Belfast HSCT, referrals to child protection services were from a variety of sources<sup>96</sup>:

- 8.31% from the police
- 2.85% from schools/Education Welfare Officers (EWOs)
- 0% from voluntary organisations
- 37.05% from Social Services
- 0% from Community Nursing
- 3.09% from hospitals
- 46.08% from 'Other'<sup>97</sup> (see Peace Figure 53)

### PEACE FIGURE 53:

Percentage share (%) of main sources of referral to Child Protection Services in Belfast HSCT, 2019/20



Source: Data extracted from Department of Health, Children's social care statistics tables, Child Protection Table 2.8

96. Numbers of referrals from 'Relative/neighbour/friend', 'Self', and 'Anonymous' were suppressed to prevent disclosure

97. Some referrals from voluntary organisations have been re classified to "Other" in cases where the organisation is passing on information rather than being the origin of the referral

Between 2011/12 and 2019/20, in Belfast HSCT, there was:

- A decrease in the number of referrals to the Child Protection Service by 229, from 650 to 421
- A decrease in the percentage share of Northern Ireland's total referrals by 0.62 percentage points from 14.39% to 13.77%
- A decrease in the number of referrals from the police, schools/EWOs, voluntary organisations, and Social Services
- An increase in the number of referrals from hospital and Other

Between 2011/12 and 2019/20, in Belfast HSCT, in relation to sources of referral to Child Protection Services, the percentage share for referrals from:

- The police decreased by 0.46 percentage points, from 8.77% to 8.31%
- Schools/EWOs decreased by 5.15 percentage points, from 8.00% to 2.85%
- Voluntary organisations decreased by 3.23 percentage points, from 3.23% to 0%
- Social Services decreased by 24.64 percentage points, from 61.69% to 37.05%
- Hospital increased by 1.24 percentage points, from 1.85% to 3.09%
- Other increased by 35.77 percentage points, from 10.31% to 46.08%<sup>98</sup>

---

98. It has not been possible to undertake a comparison over time in Belfast HSCT for referrals from the GP, Community Nursing, Relative/Neighbour/Friend, Self, and Anonymous because data in 2011/12, 2019/20, or both (Self) have been suppressed to prevent disclosure

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparisons with Northern Ireland

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, the number of referrals to Child Protection Services was 3,058, which equates to 69.4 referrals per 10,000 population aged under 18 years<sup>99</sup>.

Between 2011/12 and 2019/20, the number of referrals to Child Protection Services decreased:

- In Belfast HSCT by 229, from 650 to 421 (a percentage decrease of 35.23%)
- In Northern Ireland by 1,460, from 4,518 to 3,058 (a percentage decrease of 32.32%)

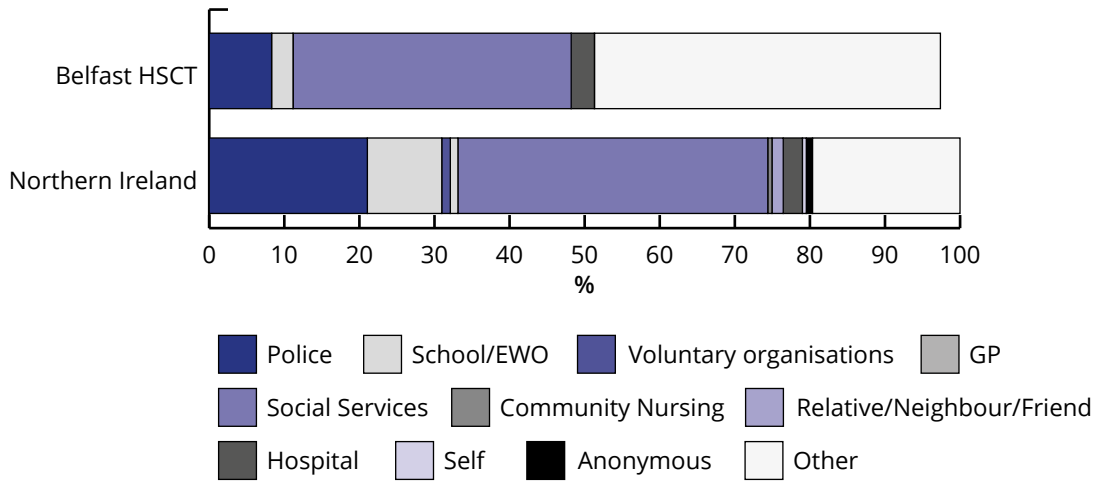
In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage share of referrals from:

- The police was lower by 12.75 percentage points in Belfast HSCT, 8.31% compared with 21.06%
- The school/EWO was lower by 7.06 percentage points in Belfast HSCT, 2.85% compared with 9.91%
- Voluntary organisations was lower by 1.14 percentage points in Belfast HSCT, 0% compared with 1.14%
- Social Services was lower by 4.22 percentage points in Belfast HSCT, 37.05% compared with 41.27%
- Community Nursing was lower by 0.56 percentage points in Belfast HSCT, 0% compared with 0.56%
- Hospital was higher by 0.54 percentage points in Belfast HSCT, 3.09% compared with 2.55%
- Other was higher by 26.43 percentage points in Belfast HSCT, 46.08% compared with 19.65% (see Peace Figure 54)<sup>100</sup>

99. Childrens Social Care Statistics Northern Ireland (health-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 26 July 2022)

100. It has not been possible to compare referrals from 'Relative/Neighbour/Friend', 'Self', and 'Anonymous' because these data were suppressed for Belfast HSCT to prevent disclosure



**PEACE FIGURE 54:****Percentage share (%) of sources of referral to Child Protection Services in Belfast HSCT and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**

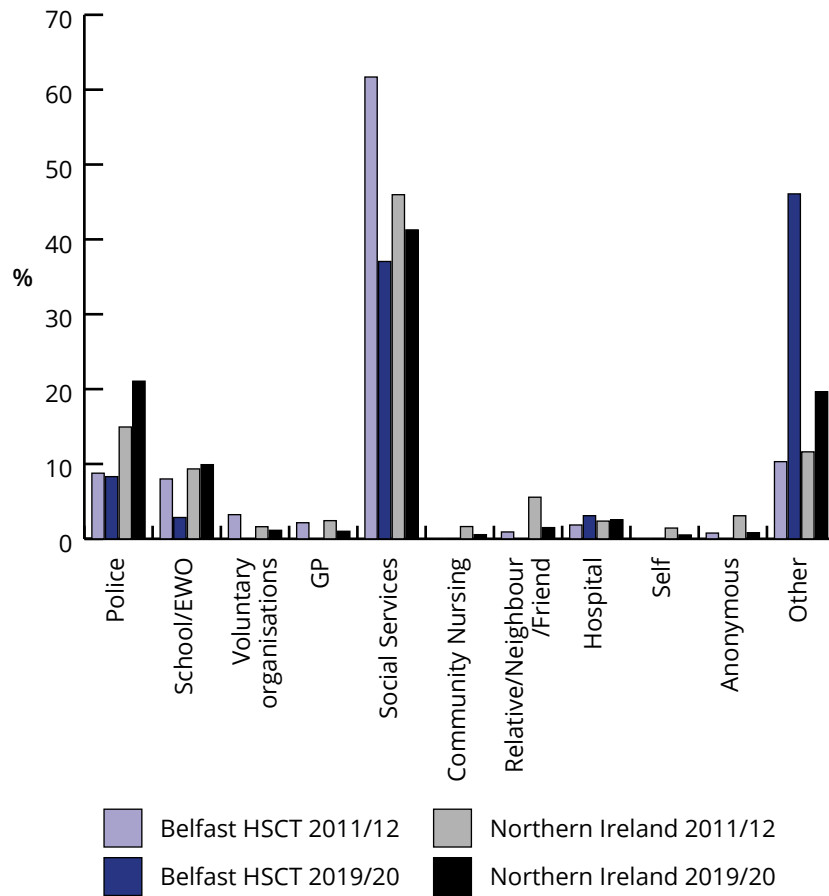
Source: Data extracted from Department of Health, Children's social care statistics tables, Child Protection Table 2.8

Between 2011/12 and 2019/20, the percentage share of referrals from:

- The police decreased in Belfast HSCT but increased in Northern Ireland
- Schools/EWOs decreased in Belfast HSCT but increased in Northern Ireland
- Voluntary organisations decreased in Belfast HSCT and Northern Ireland
- Social Services decreased in Belfast HSCT and Northern Ireland
- Hospital increased in Belfast HSCT and Northern Ireland
- Other increased in Belfast HSCT and Northern Ireland (see Peace Figure 55)

**PEACE FIGURE 55:**

**Percentage share (%) of sources of referrals to Child Protection Services in Belfast HSCT and Northern Ireland, 2011/12 and 2019/20<sup>101</sup>**



Source: Data extracted from Department of Health, Children's social care statistics tables, Child Protection Table 2.8, and Children's Social Care Statistics Tables 2011/12, Table 2.6

### Comparisons with other HSCTs

In 2019/20, when compared with other HSCTs:

- Belfast HSCT had the lowest percentage share of referrals from the police at 8.31%, Northern HSCT had the highest percentage share at 35.29%, and South Eastern HSCT had the median percentage share at 21.35%
- Belfast HSCT had the lowest percentage share of referrals from the school/EWO at 2.85%, Northern HSCT had the highest percentage share at 21.39%, and Western HSCT had the median percentage share at 8.87%

101. To prevent disclosure, data were suppressed in 2011/12 for referrals in Belfast HSCT from Community Nursing, and Self, and in 2019/20 for referrals in Belfast HSCT for GP, Relative/Neighbour/Friend, Self, and Anonymous

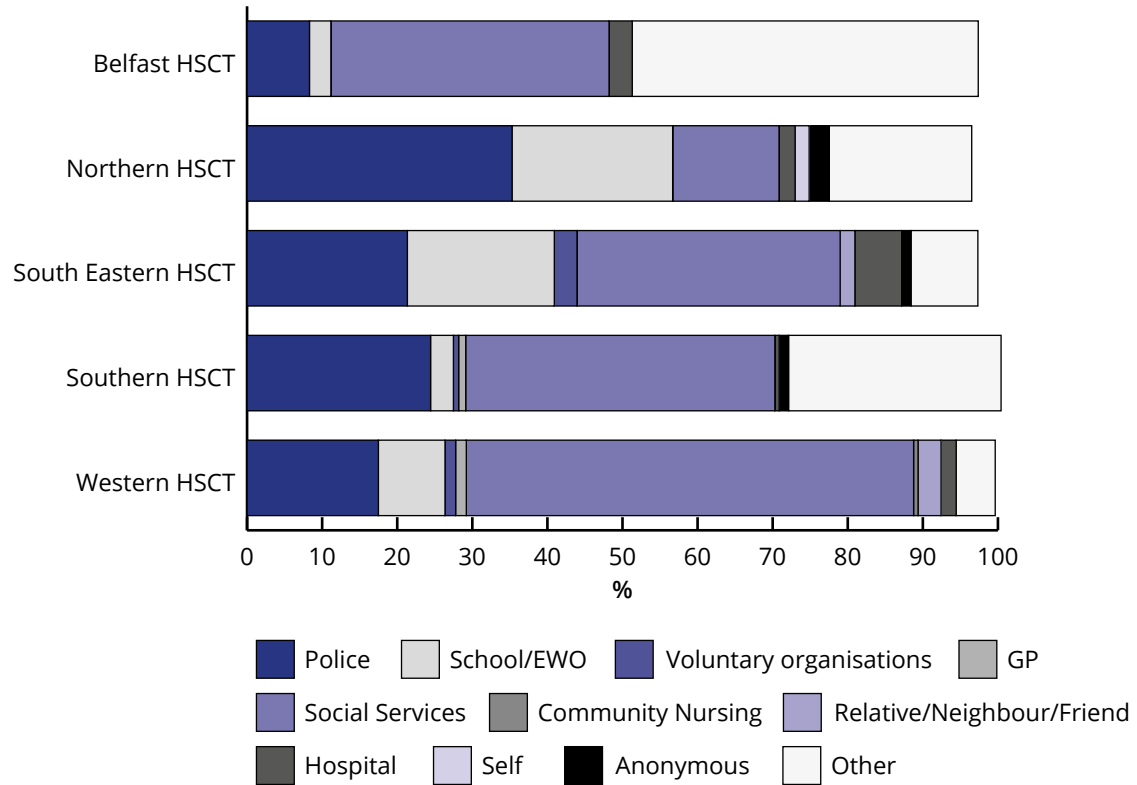
- Belfast HSCT had the equal lowest percentage share of referrals from voluntary organisations at 0% together with Northern HSCT, South Eastern HSCT had the highest percentage share at 3.02%, and Southern HSCT had the median percentage share at 0.70%
- Belfast HSCT had the median percentage share of referrals from Social Services at 37.05%, Western HSCT had the highest percentage share at 59.57%, and Northern HSCT had the lowest percentage share at 14.17%
- Belfast HSCT had the equal lowest percentage share of referrals from Community Nursing at 0% together with Southern HSCT, and Western HSCT had the highest percentage share at 0.59%<sup>102</sup>
- Belfast HSCT had the second highest percentage share of referrals from hospital at 3.09%, South Eastern had the highest percentage share at 6.23%, Southern HSCT had the lowest percentage share at 0.58%, and Northern HSCT had the median percentage share at 2.14%
- Belfast HSCT had the highest percentage share of referrals from Other at 46.08%, Western HSCT had the lowest percentage share at 5.20%, and Northern HSCT had the median at 18.98% (see Peace Figure 56)

---

102. To prevent disclosure, numbers were suppressed for referrals from Community Nursing in Northern, and South Eastern HSCTs

**PEACE FIGURE 56:**

**Percentage share (%) of sources of referral to Child Protection Services by HSCT, 2019/20<sup>103</sup>**



Source: Data extracted from Department of Health, Children’s social care statistics tables, Child Protection Table 2.8

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2019/20, over 1 in every 10 referrals to Child Protection Services in Northern Ireland were made in Belfast HSCT, similar to that in Northern HSCT, but fewer than those in South Eastern HSCT (almost 2 out of every 10), Southern HSCT and Western HSCT (almost 3 out of every 10 for both HSCTs).

103. To prevent disclosure, numbers were suppressed for referrals from the GP in Belfast, Northern and South Eastern HCSTs, from Community Nursing in Northern and South Eastern HCSTs, from Relative/Neighbour/Friend in Belfast and Northern HSCTs, from Self in Belfast, South Eastern, Southern, and Western HSCTs, and Anonymous in Belfast, Southern, and Western HSCTs

In 2019/20, of the referrals made in Belfast HSCT:

- Almost 1 out of every 10 were made by police, compared with over 2 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland
- Less than 1 out of every 20 were made by schools/EWOs, compared with 1 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland
- None were made by voluntary organisations, compared with 1 out of every 100 in Northern Ireland
- Almost 4 out of every 10 were made by Social Services, compared with over 4 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland
- None were made by Community Nursing compared with 1 out of every 200 in Northern Ireland
- Less than 1 out of every 20 were made by hospitals, similar to Northern Ireland
- Between 4 and 5 out of every 10 were made by Other sources, compared with 2 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland

For all other sources of referrals in Belfast HSCT, numbers were suppressed to prevent disclosure.

Between 2011/12 and 2019/20, in relation to the percentages of sources of referrals:

- Those from the police decreased very slightly in Belfast HSCT, whereas they increased in Northern Ireland with an increased percentage-point difference between the two
- Those from schools/EWOs decreased in Belfast HSCT, whereas they increased in Northern Ireland, with an increased percentage-point difference between the two
- Those from voluntary organisations decreased in Belfast HSCT and in Northern Ireland, with a greater percentage decrease in Belfast to '0%' and a reversal of positions with Northern Ireland and a decreased percentage-point difference between the two
- Those from Social Services decreased in Belfast HSCT and in Northern Ireland, although the percentage decrease was greater in Belfast and there was a reversal of positions with Northern Ireland and a decreased percentage-point difference between the two

- Those from hospitals increased in Belfast HSCT and in Northern Ireland, although the percentage increase was greater in Belfast and there was a reversal of positions with Northern Ireland and a similar percentage-point difference between the two
- Those from Other increased in Belfast HSCT and in Northern Ireland, although the percentage increase was greater in Belfast and there was a reversal of positions with Northern Ireland and an increased percentage-point difference between the two

For all other sources of referrals in Belfast HSCT, numbers were suppressed to prevent disclosure.

Between 2011/12 and 2019/20, the most noticeable changes in Belfast HSCT with respect to Child Protection Services were the decrease in referrals from Social Services and the increase in referrals from Other sources.

In 2019/20, among HSCTs, Belfast HSCT had:

- **The highest percentage of referrals from Other sources**
- **The second highest percentage of referrals from hospitals**
- **The median percentage of referrals from Social Services**
- **The lowest percentage of referrals from the police, and schools/EWOs**
- **The equal lowest percentages of referrals from voluntary organisations and Community Nursing**

For all other sources of referrals in Belfast HSCT, numbers were suppressed to prevent disclosure.

## 8.2 Child Protection Register

### IMPORTANCE

The World Health Organization defines child maltreatment as “the abuse and neglect that occurs to children under 18 years of age... which results in actual or potential harm to the child”.<sup>104</sup>

Child abuse and neglect causes suffering to children and families and can have long-term consequences. Abuse and neglect cause stress associated with disruption in early brain development. Extreme stress can impair the development of the nervous and immune systems. Consequently, as adults, abused and neglected children are at increased risk for behavioural, physical, and mental health problems, including:

- Perpetrating or being a victim of violence
- Depression
- Smoking
- Obesity
- High-risk sexual behaviours
- Unintended pregnancy
- Alcohol and drug misuse

These behavioural and mental health consequences can contribute to heart disease, cancer, suicide, and sexually transmitted diseases. Violence against children contributes to inequalities in education: children who experience any form of violence in childhood have a 13% greater likelihood of not graduating from school. In addition to the health, social, and educational consequences, there are also economic impacts including the costs of hospitalisation, mental health treatment, child welfare, and longer-term health costs.<sup>105</sup>

The Northern Ireland Executive, through the Department of Health, is responsible for child protection in Northern Ireland. They set out policy, legislation, and statutory guidance on how the child protection system would work. The Safeguarding Board

104. (PDF) Childhood Abuse and Neglect, Exposure to Domestic Violence and Sibling Violence: Profiles and Associations With Sociodemographic Variables and Mental Health Indicators (researchgate.net) (Last accessed 19 August 2022)

105. Child maltreatment (who.int) (Last accessed 27 July 2022)

for Northern Ireland (SBNI) coordinates and ensures the effectiveness of work to protect and promote the welfare of children. The board includes representatives from health, social care, the police, the probation board, youth justice, education, district councils, and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC). The SBNI is responsible for developing policies and procedures to improve how different agencies work together.<sup>106</sup>

The Child Protection Register is a confidential list of all children in the area who have been identified at a child protection conference as being at significant risk of harm.<sup>107</sup> It allows authorised individuals to check if a child they are working with is known to be at risk. If a child is added to the Child Protection Register, they must also have a child protection plan, which sets out what action needs to be taken by whom and when to safeguard the child and promote their welfare.<sup>108</sup>

Measuring the extent and nature of child abuse is difficult because it is usually hidden from view and comes in many forms, and there is no single data source that measures the current prevalence of child abuse in the UK.<sup>109</sup> Findings from research studies usually reveal much higher numbers of children who have been abused than are shown by statistics from services that work with children, which indicate how much child abuse is not brought to the attention of the authorities. Many children do not tell anyone about the abuse at the time because they are unsure who or how to tell someone. More people will disclose abuse during research because they can do so anonymously and confidentially without worrying about an investigation from the authorities or the effect on their family. Some people will never disclose what has happened to them.<sup>110</sup> For instance, in a study commissioned by the NSPCC, it was found that 2.5% of children aged under 11 years and 6% of children and young people aged 11–17 years had one or more experiences of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse or neglect by a parent or guardian in the past year.<sup>111</sup>

Child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse often co-occur within families, and children who are subjected to direct abuse in addition to witnessing violence between their parents have been described as 'doubly victimised'. Despite sibling abuse occurring more frequently than abuse by a parent, it is rarely incorporated into definitions of maltreatment and remains under-researched.<sup>112</sup>

---

106. Child protection system for Northern Ireland | NSPCC Learning (Last accessed 27 July 2022)

107. Child protection register | Department of Health (health-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed on 26 July 2022)

108. Child protection system for Northern Ireland | NSPCC Learning (Last accessed 27 July 2022)

109. Exploring the feasibility of a survey measuring child abuse in the UK - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) (Last accessed 14 August 2022)

110. Statistics on child abuse | NSPCC Learning (Last accessed 14 August 2022)

111. (PDF) Child Abuse and Neglect in the UK Today (researchgate.net) (Last accessed 19 August 2022)

112. (PDF) Childhood Abuse and Neglect, Exposure to Domestic Violence and Sibling Violence: Profiles and Associations With Sociodemographic Variables and Mental Health Indicators (researchgate.net) (Last accessed 19 August 2022)



## DEFINITION

The category of abuse under which each child is considered to be at risk is decided at the Child Protection Case Conference. When agreement is reached that the child is at risk and protection is necessary, each child is recorded under the category that best reflects the nature of the risk. The four main categories are:

1. Neglect
2. Physical abuse
3. Sexual abuse
4. Emotional abuse

For more complex cases, mixed categories are used. Within the mixed categories of abuse, four subcategories are recorded:

- Neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse
- Neglect and physical abuse
- Neglect and sexual abuse
- Physical abuse and sexual abuse

Information is from the Department of Health, Children's social care statistics for Northern Ireland 2019/20 (report and tables), and Children's social care statistics for Northern Ireland 2001/12 to 2016/17, Children's Social Care Statistics Report and Tables 2011/12<sup>113</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

At 31 March 2020, in Belfast HSCT:

- The number of children and young people under the age of 18 years on the Child Protection Register was 251, representing 10.92% of children and young people on Child Protection Registers in Northern Ireland
- The rate of children and young people on the Child Protection Register was 32.4 per 10,000 population under the age of 18 years

---

113. Children's social care statistics for Northern Ireland 2019/20 | Department of Health (health-ni.gov.uk)

Between 31 March 2012 and 31 March 2020, in Belfast HSCT, the rate of children and young people on the Child Protection Register decreased by 31.7 per 10,000 population under the age of 18 years, from 64.1 to 32.4 per 10,000 population under the age of 18 years.

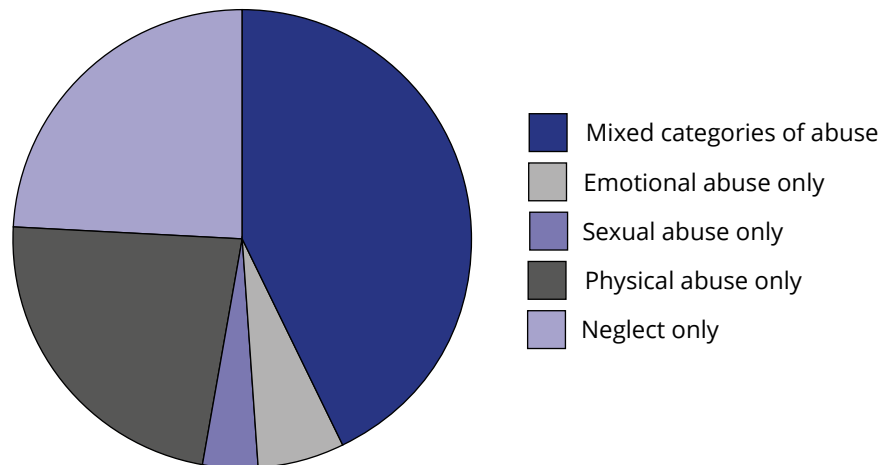
## Categories of abuse

At 31 March 2020, in Belfast HSCT, the percentage of children and young people on the Child Protection Register varied by category of abuse:

- 43% were on the register for Mixed categories of abuse
- 6% for Emotional abuse only
- 4% for Sexual abuse only
- 23% for Physical abuse only
- 24% for Neglect only (see Peace Figure 57)

### PEACE FIGURE 57:

**Percentage (%) of children and young people aged under 18 years on the Child Protection Register in Belfast HSCT by category of abuse, at 31 March 2020**



Source: Department of Health, Children's social care statistics Northern Ireland, 2019/20 report, Figure 2.5, page 18

### **Mixed categories of abuse**

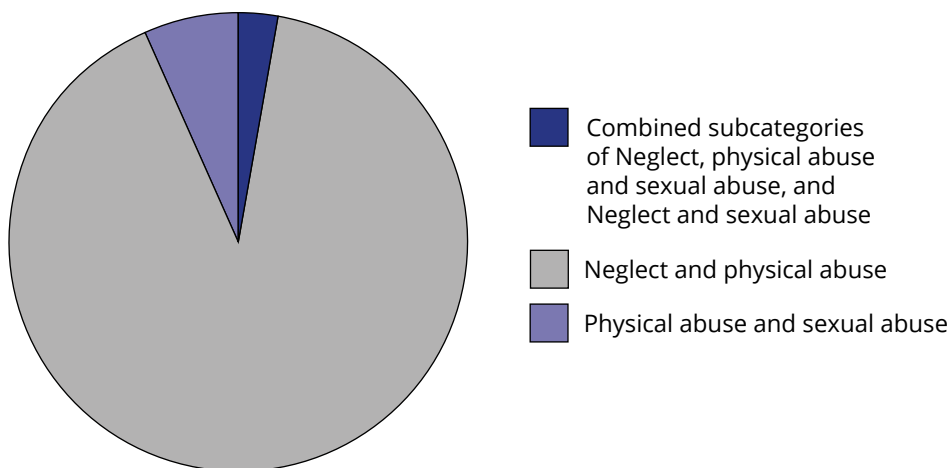
At 31 March 2020, in Belfast HSCT, within the Mixed categories of abuse, the percentage of children and young people aged under 18 years experiencing:

- Neglect and physical abuse was 90.74%
- Physical abuse and sexual abuse was 6.48%

There were also cases of Neglect, physical abuse and sexual abuse, and of Neglect and sexual abuse, but the numbers were suppressed to prevent disclosure. Combined these cases represent 2.78% of the mixed categories of abuse (see Peace Figure 58).

### **PEACE FIGURE 58:**

**Percentage (%) of children and young people aged under 18 years of age on the Child Protection Register experiencing complex subcategories of abuse within the mixed categories of abuse in Belfast HSCT, 31 March 2020**



Source: Data extracted from Department of Health: Children's social care statistics tables 2019/20, Child Protection Table 2.4

Between 31 March 2012 and 31 March 2020, in Belfast HSCT, within the Mixed categories of abuse, the percentage of children and young people aged under 18 years experiencing:

- Neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse decreased by at least 7.81 percentage points from 10.59% to less than 2.78% (a percentage decrease of at least 73.75%)
- Neglect and physical abuse increased by 18.98 percentage points, from 71.76% to 90.74% (a percentage increase of 26.45%)
- Neglect and sexual abuse decreased by at least 8.40 percentage points from 11.18% to less than 2.78% (a percentage decrease of at least 75.13%)
- Physical abuse and sexual abuse increased very slightly by 0.01 percentage point, from 6.47% to 6.48% (a percentage increase of 0.15%)

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

At 31 March 2020, in Northern Ireland, the number of children and young people on the Child Protection Register was 2,298.

At 31 March 2020, when compared with Northern Ireland, the rate of children and young people on the Child Protection Register was lower by 19.7 per 10,000 population under the age of 18 years in Belfast HSCT, 32.4 compared with 52.1 per 10,000 population under the age of 18 years.

Between 31 March 2012 and 31 March 2020, the rate of children and young people on the Child Protection Register:

- In Belfast HSCT decreased by 31.7 per 10,000 population under the age of 18 years, from 64.1 to 32.4 per 10,000 population under the age of 18 years (a percentage decrease of 49.45%)
- In Northern Ireland increased by 2.8 per 10,000 population under the age of 18 years, from 49.3 to 52.1 per 10,000 population under the age of 18 years (a percentage increase of 5.68%)

### ***Categories of abuse***

At 31 March 2020, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of children and young people aged under 18 years on the Child Protection register for:

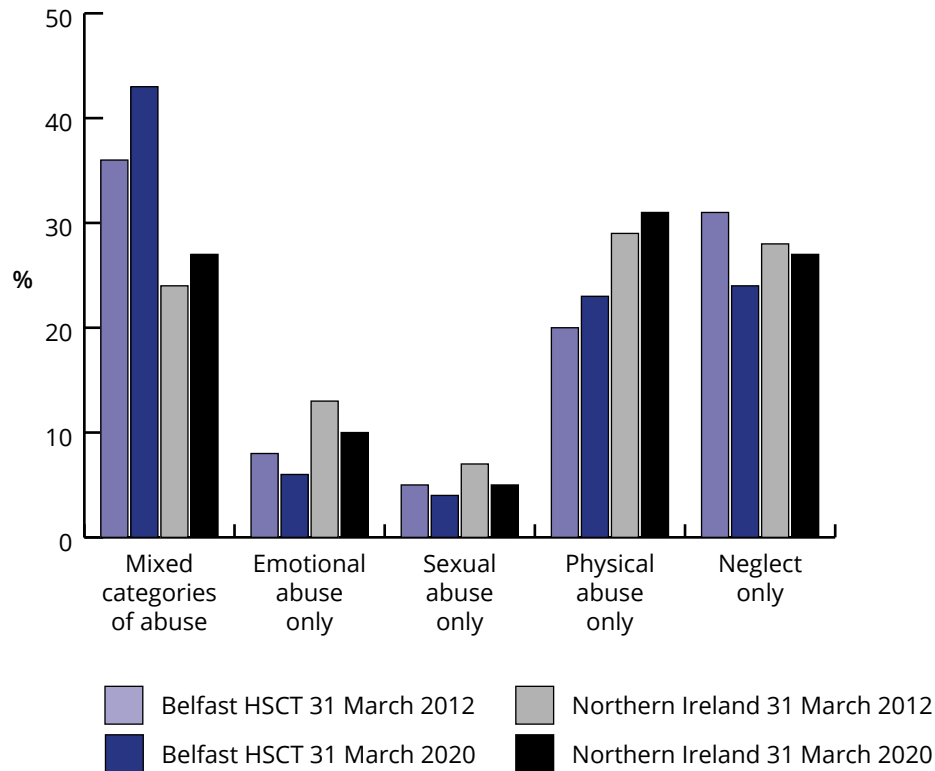
- Mixed categories of abuse was higher by 16 percentage points in Belfast HSCT, 43% compared with 27%
- Emotional abuse only was lower by 4 percentage points in Belfast HSCT, 6% compared with 10%
- Sexual abuse only was lower by 1 percentage point in Belfast HSCT, 4% compared with 5%
- Physical abuse only was lower by 8 percentage points, 23% compared with 31%
- Neglect only was 3 percentage points lower, 24% compared with 27% (see Peace Figure 59)

Between 31 March 2012 and 31 March 2022, the percentage of children and young people aged under 18 years on the Child Protection register for:

- Mixed categories of abuse increased by 7 percentage points in Belfast HSCT, from 36% to 43% (a percentage increase of 19.44%) and increased by 3 percentage points in Northern Ireland, from 24% to 27% (a percentage increase of 12.50%)
- Emotional abuse only decreased by 2 percentage points in Belfast HSCT, from 8% to 6% (a percentage decrease of 25.00%) and by 3 percentage points in Northern Ireland, from 13% to 10% (a percentage decrease of 23.08%)
- Sexual abuse only decreased by 1 percentage point in Belfast HSCT, from 5% to 4% (a percentage decrease of 20.00%), and by 2 percentage points in Northern Ireland, from 7% to 5% (a percentage decrease of 28.57%)
- Physical abuse only increased by 3 percentage points in Belfast HSCT, from 20% to 23% (a percentage increase of 15%) and by 2 percentage points in Northern Ireland, from 29% to 31% (a percentage increase of 6.70%)
- Neglect only decreased by 7 percentage points in Belfast HSCT, from 31% to 24% (a percentage decrease of 22.58%) and by 1 percentage point in Northern Ireland, from 28% to 27% (a percentage decrease of 3.57%; see Peace Figure 59)

**PEACE FIGURE 59:**

**Percentage (%) of children and young people aged under 18 years on the Child Protection Register in Belfast HSCT and Northern Ireland by category of abuse, at 31 March 2012 and at 31 March 2020**



Source: Department of Health, Children's social care statistics Northern Ireland, 2019/20 report, Figure 2.5, page 18, and Children's Social Care Statistics Northern Ireland, 2011/12 report, Figure 2.4, page 42

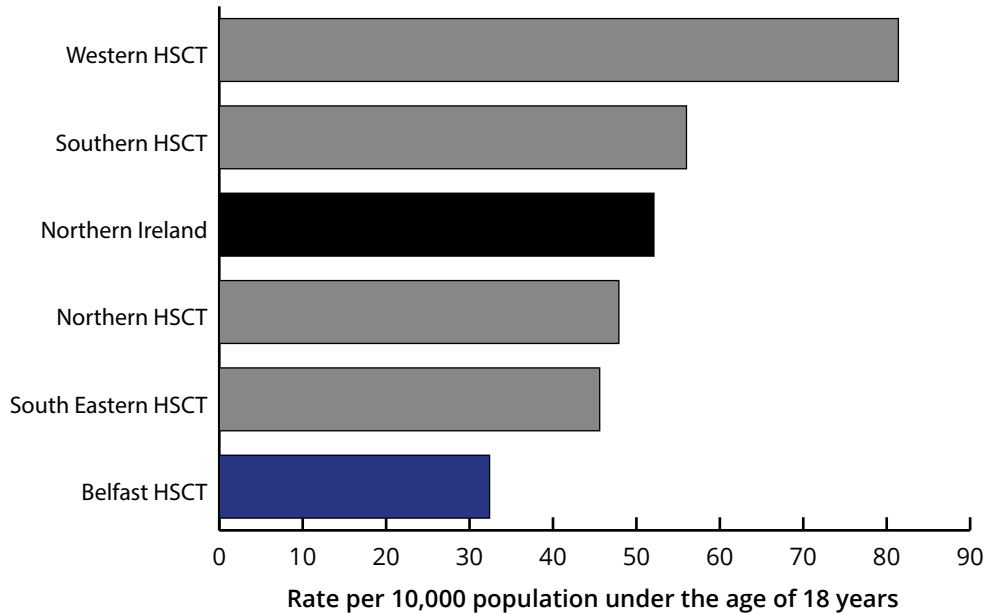
## Comparison with other HSCTs

At 31 March 2020, when compared with other HSCTs:

- Belfast HSCT had the lowest rate of children and young people on the Child Protection Register at 32.4 per 10,000 population under the age of 18 years
- Western HSCT had the highest rate at 81.4 per 10,000 under the age of 18 years
- Northern HSCT had the median rate at 47.9 per 10,000 under the age of 18 years (see Peace Figure 60)

**PEACE FIGURE 60:**

**Rate of children and young people on the Child Protection Register per 10,000 population under the age of 18 years, by HSCT and Northern Ireland, at 31 March 2020**



Source: Department of Health, Children's social care statistics tables, Child Protection Table 2.2

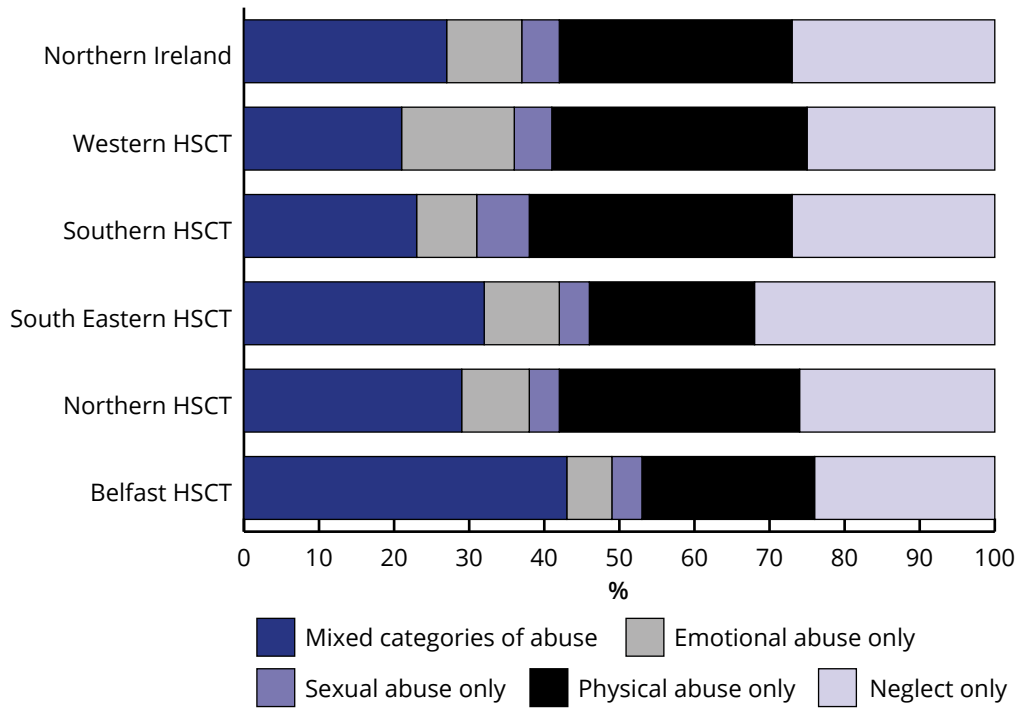
**Categories of abuse**

At 31 March 2020, when compared with other HSCTs:

- Belfast HSCT had the highest percentage of children and young people on the Child Protection Register for Mixed categories of abuse at 43%, Western HSCT had the lowest percentage at 21%, and Northern HSCT had the median percentage at 29%
- Belfast HSCT had the lowest percentage of children and young people on the Child Protection Register for Emotional abuse only at 6%, Western HSCT had the highest percentage at 15%, and Northern HSCT had the median percentage at 9%
- Belfast HSCT had the equal lowest percentage of children and young people on the Child Protection Register for Sexual abuse at 4%, together with two other HSCTs, and Southern had the highest percentage at 7%
- Belfast HSCT had the second lowest percentage of children and young people on the Child Protection Register for Physical abuse only at 23%, Southern HSCT had the highest percentage at 35%, and Northern HSCT had the median percentage at 32%
- Belfast HSCT had the lowest percentage of children and young people on the Child Protection Register for Neglect only at 24%, South Eastern HSCT had the highest percentage at 32%, and Northern HSCT had the median percentage at 26% (see Peace Figure 61)

**PEACE FIGURE 61:**

**Percentage (%) of children and young people under the age of 18 years on the Child Protection Register by category of abuse and HSCT and Northern Ireland, 31 March 2020**



Source: Data extracted from: Department of Health, Children's social care statistics tables, Child Protection Table 2.4

**HIGHLIGHTS**

At 31 March 2020, in Belfast HSCT, the rate of children and young people on the Child Protection Register was lower than that in Northern Ireland and it was the lowest rate among HSCTs.

At 31 March 2020, in Belfast HSCT, with respect to categories of abuse:

- Over 4 out of every 10 children and young people aged under 18 years on the Child Protection Register were experiencing Mixed categories of abuse, compared with almost 3 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland
- 1 in every 20 children and young people on the register were experiencing Emotional abuse only, compared with 1 in every 10 in Northern Ireland
- 1 in every 20 children and young people on the register were experiencing Sexual abuse only, similar to Northern Ireland



- Over 2 out of every 10 children and young people on the register were experiencing Physical abuse only, compared with over 3 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland
- Between 2 and 3 out of every 10 children and young people on the register were experiencing Neglect only, compared with almost 3 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland

At 31 March 2020, in Belfast HSCT, the main type of Mixed category of abuse was Neglect and physical abuse, with 9 out of every 10 children and young people on the register experiencing this combination of abuses.

Between 31 March 2012 and 31 March 2020, the rate of children and young people on the Child Protection Register decreased in Belfast HSCT, whereas it increased in Northern Ireland and the percentage-point difference between the two increased, but with a reversal of positions between Belfast and Northern Ireland, with Belfast having a lower rate.

Between 31 March 2012 and 31 March 2020, in relation to categories of abuse:

- For Mixed categories of abuse, there was an increase in Belfast HSCT and in Northern Ireland, but the percentage increase was greater in Belfast and the percentage-point difference between the two increased
- For Emotional abuse only, there was a decrease in Belfast HSCT and in Northern Ireland, but the percentage decrease was greater in Belfast and the percentage-point difference between the two decreased
- For Sexual abuse only, there was a decrease in Belfast HSCT and in Northern Ireland, but the percentage decrease was greater in Northern Ireland and the percentage-point difference between the two decreased
- For Physical abuse only, there was an increase in Belfast HSCT and in Northern Ireland, but the percentage increase was greater in Belfast and the percentage-point difference between the two decreased
- For Neglect only, there was a decrease in Belfast HSCT and in Northern Ireland, but the percentage decrease was greater in Belfast with a reversal of positions although the percentage-point difference between the two remained the same

Between 31 March 2012 and 31 March 2020, in Belfast HSCT, the main type of Mixed category of abuse, Neglect and physical abuse, increased, from over 7 out of every 10 children and young people on the register experiencing this combination of abuses to 9 out of every 10, with decreases of 1 out of every 10 children and young people on the register experiencing Neglect, physical and sexual abuse, and 1 out of

every 10 experiencing Neglect and sexual abuse to numbers that were suppressed to prevent disclosure. The percentage of children and young people on the register experiencing Physical abuse and sexual abuse remained similar at less than 1 out of every 10 experiencing this mixed category of abuse.

At 31 March 2020, when compared with other HSCTs, Belfast HSCT had the lowest percentages of children and young people on the register experiencing Emotional abuse only, and Neglect only, the equal lowest percentage for Sexual abuse only, and the second lowest percentage for Physical abuse only. Belfast HSCT, however, had the highest percentage of children and young people on the register experiencing Mixed categories of abuse, by 11-22 percentage points.

Thus, although the rate of children and young people in Belfast HSCT on the Child Protection Register was the lowest among HSCTs, comparatively more children and young people in Belfast HSCT who were on the Child Protection Register experienced complex categories of abuse, particularly Neglect and physical abuse.

## SECTION 9

# Interface Structures or Barriers

- 9.1 – Number of Interface Structures**
- Types of Interface Structure**
- Age of Interface Structures**

### IMPORTANCE

Interface structures or barriers<sup>114</sup> in Northern Ireland began as make-shift temporary barricades between communities. At some locations, these barriers were fortified by the army. Over time, the nature of the structures changed from temporary fencing to more permanent installations. In 2019, the interface structures owned by the Department of Justice varied considerably in size and nature.

The first interface structure appeared in 1969 at Bombay Street near what is now Cupar Way in the Falls/Shankill area of West Belfast. The last structure was erected in 2008 in the grounds of Hazelwood School, an integrated primary school in North Belfast. Interface structures are found mainly in Belfast and Derry/Londonderry. Some further interface barriers were erected in the late 1990s, early 2000s in the Portadown and Lurgan area because of parade-related inter-community tension and violence.<sup>115</sup>

The communities that have developed in proximity to interface structures are among the most deprived in Northern Ireland: 86% of people living within 400 metres of a 'peace-wall' are in the most-deprived 20% of the population (Quintile 1). Across Belfast, 65% of the population living within 100 metres of a 'peace-wall' were Catholic and 27% were Protestant (based on 2016 and 2017 electoral data), however, there were distinct differences in the profiles of Protestant and Catholic districts in proximity to 'peace-walls':

---

114. Interface structures or barriers can be known variously as 'peace walls' or 'peace lines'; different authors use different terms with variations in how each term is presented – when reporting specific results, the terms used by the original authors have been retained and in the manner in which they presented them

115. interfaces-programme-march-21.pdf (justice-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 31 August 2022)

- Within 100 metres of a 'peace-wall', there were three times as many Catholic children aged between 0 and 4 years as Protestant children
- Between 100 and 400 metres of a 'peace-wall', the ratio of Catholic children to Protestant children aged between 0 and 4 years decreased to 2:1
- Between 300 and 400 metres of a 'peace-wall', there were more people aged 60 years and over who are Protestant than Catholic

Catholic communities that are younger and poorer may experience restrictions on space and/or availability of resources including housing and open space, whereas older Protestant communities, which are losing residents, may experience a sense of community decline, dereliction, and abandonment. Sectarian divisions complicate efforts to apply equality-based criteria to social policy but connecting anti-sectarian work with action to prevent and address poverty and deprivation is critical, especially in education, health, security, and planning.<sup>116</sup>

The Northern Ireland Executive made a commitment to remove all Interface structures by 2023 as part of the strategy "Together: Building a United Community" (T:BUC).<sup>117</sup> An Interface Programme was established by the Department of Justice to deliver on this commitment.<sup>118</sup>

There is ongoing work at government and community level to address issues surrounding the existence and re-imagining, re-classification, or removal of peace lines, walls and barriers in Northern Ireland; in the T:BUC Annual Report for 2018/19, it was reported that over recent years, 13 have been removed.<sup>119</sup>

## DEFINITION

An interface structure is any physical barrier in an interface area that is designed to provide protection or security to residents and property, which includes not only the well-known 'peace lines', but also smaller structures providing protection to houses and buildings, road closure barriers, as well as gates that may be used to close off roads or pathways on a permanent or temporary basis.

Information is from the Belfast Interface Project, an audit of interfaces in Belfast, Derry, Lurgan, and Portadown in 2017.<sup>120</sup>

116. A-Review-Addressing-Sectarianism-in-Northern-Ireland\_FINAL.pdf (ulster.ac.uk) (Last accessed 21 August 2022)

117. Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) | The Executive Office (executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 29 July 2022)

118. Department of Justice Interface Programme | Department of Justice (justice-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 29 July 2022)

119. tbuc-annual-report-2018-19\_1.pdf (executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 29 July 2022)

120. Belfast Interface Project 2017 'Interface Barriers, Peace lines and Defensive Architecture' (Last accessed 29 July 2022)

## PROFILE FINDINGS

### Number of interface structures

In 2017, in Belfast, the number of interface structures was 97, representing 83.62% of interface structures in Northern Ireland (see Peace Figure 62)

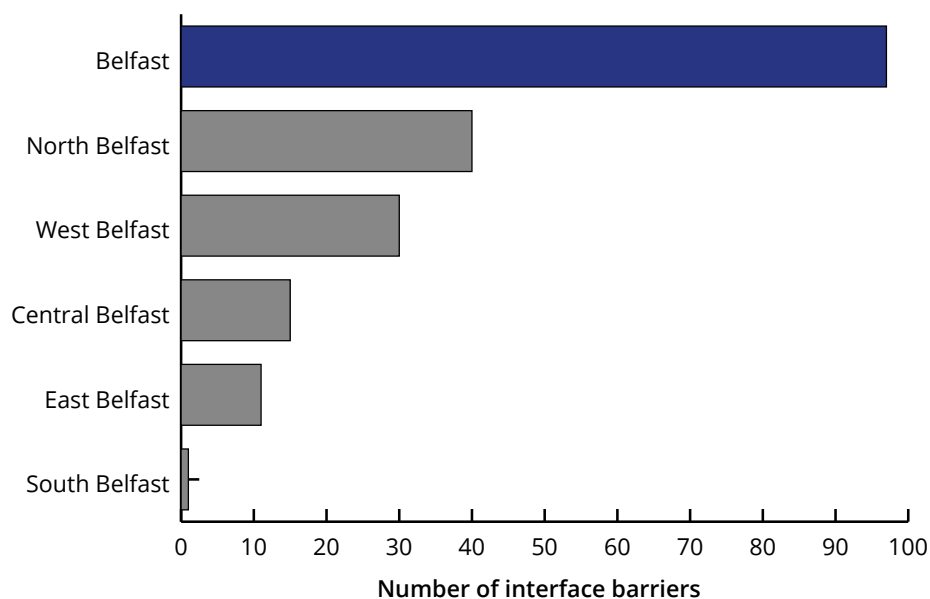
#### **Areas within Belfast**

In 2017, there was variation across Belfast in terms of the number of interface structures:

- East Belfast (east of the River Lagan and Belfast Lough) had 11
- North Belfast (north of Crumlin Road and west of Belfast Lough) had 40
- West Belfast (south of Crumlin Road and west of the Westlink and M1 motorway) had 30
- South Belfast (east of the Dublin railway line, south of the city centre and west of the River Lagan) had 1
- Central Belfast (immediately adjacent to the Westlink and Inner Ring Roads) had 15 (see Peace Figure 62)

#### **PEACE FIGURE 62:**

#### **Number of interface structures in Belfast and areas within Belfast, 2017**



Source: Belfast Interface Project: Interface Barriers, Peacelines and Defensive Architecture, 2017, Appendix 4, page 84

## Age of interface structures

In 2017, in Belfast, of the interface structures where the date of construction is known:

- 48 structures were built between 1969 and 1994, when the ceasefires were declared<sup>121</sup> (49.48%)
- At least 23 new structures had been built since 1994 (33.00%)
- At least 31 existing structures had been rebuilt or modified in some way

## Types of interface structure

In 2017, in Belfast, there were eight different types of interface structure:

- 20 mesh fences
- 16 steel fences
- 4 palisade fences
- 13 walls
- 14 walls with fences above
- 5 walls with gates
- 12 gates
- 13 buffers with a fence or wall

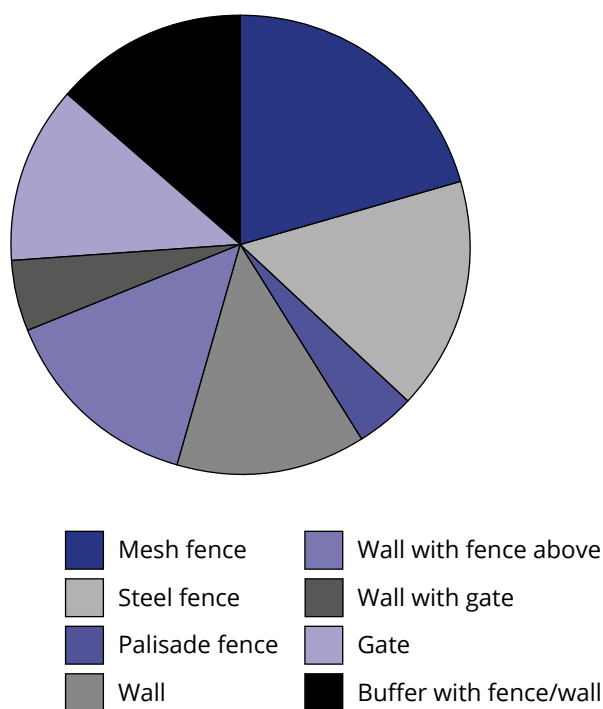
The percentage shares of the eight different types of interface structure within Belfast in 2017 are shown in Peace Figure 63.

---

121. In December 1993, the British and Irish Governments issued the Downing Street Declaration, which described their approach to restoring peace in Northern Ireland. In August 1994, a “complete cessation of military operations” was announced by the Provisional IRA, and in October 1994, Loyalist paramilitaries announced a ceasefire

### PEACE FIGURE 63:

#### Percentage share (%) of different types of interface structure in Belfast, 2017



Source: Belfast Interface Project: Interface Barriers, Peacelines and Defensive Architecture, 2017, Table 1, page 7

### Areas within Belfast

#### **Percentage share of types of interface structure in Belfast**

In 2017, there was variation across areas in Belfast in terms of the percentage share of Belfast's different types of interface structures:

- North Belfast had the highest percentage share of Belfast's mesh fences at 55%, whereas East Belfast had the lowest at 10%
- North Belfast had the highest percentage share of Belfast's steel fences at 50%, whereas East Belfast had the lowest at 6.25%
- South Belfast/Central Belfast and West Belfast had an equal percentage share of palisade fences, whereas East Belfast and North Belfast had none of this type of interface barrier
- North Belfast had the highest percentage share of Belfast's walls at 61.54%, whereas West Belfast had the lowest at 7.69%
- West Belfast had the highest percentage share of Belfast's walls with a fence above at 42.86%, whereas North Belfast and South Belfast/Central Belfast had the equal lowest percentage at 14.29%

- North Belfast had the highest percentage share of Belfast's walls with gates at 60%, whereas East Belfast and South Belfast/Central Belfast had none of this type of interface barrier
- North Belfast and West Belfast had an equal percentage share of Belfast's gates at 50%, whereas East Belfast and South Belfast/Central Belfast had none of this type of interface barrier
- South Belfast/Central Belfast had the highest percentage share of Belfast's buffers with fences/walls at 38.46%, whereas East Belfast and North Belfast had the lowest percentage share at 15.38% (see Peace Figure 64)

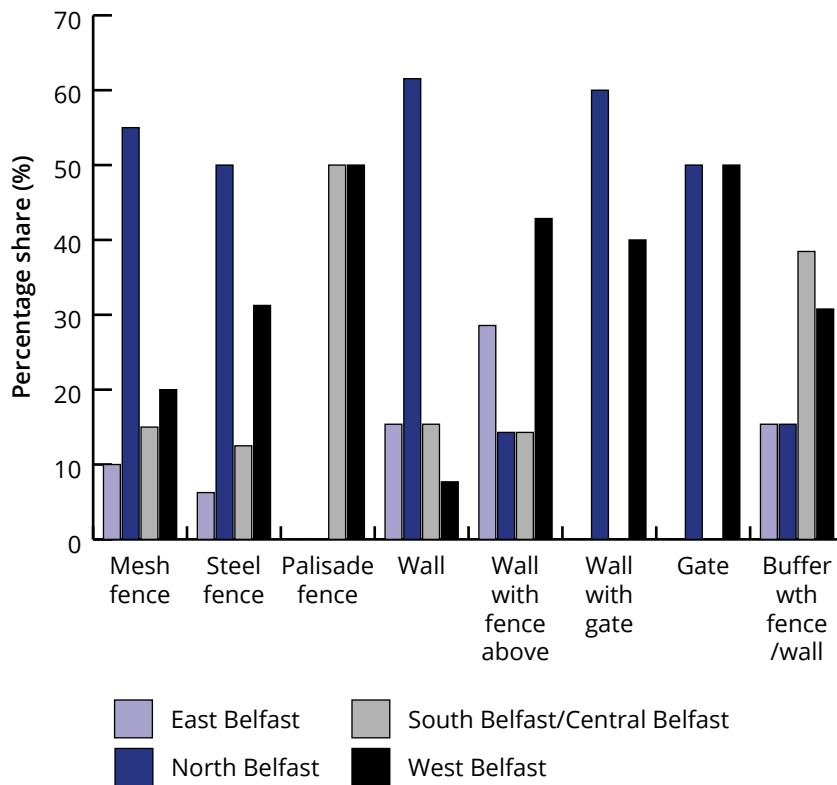
Of the different types of Belfast's interface structures:

- East Belfast had five types
- North Belfast had seven types
- South Belfast/Central Belfast had six types
- West Belfast was the only area that had all eight types (see Peace Figure 64)



**PEACE FIGURE 64:**

**Percentage share (%) of Belfast’s different types of interface structure by area within Belfast, 2017**



Source: Belfast Interface Project: Interface Barriers, Peacelines and Defensive Architecture, 2017, Table 1, page 7

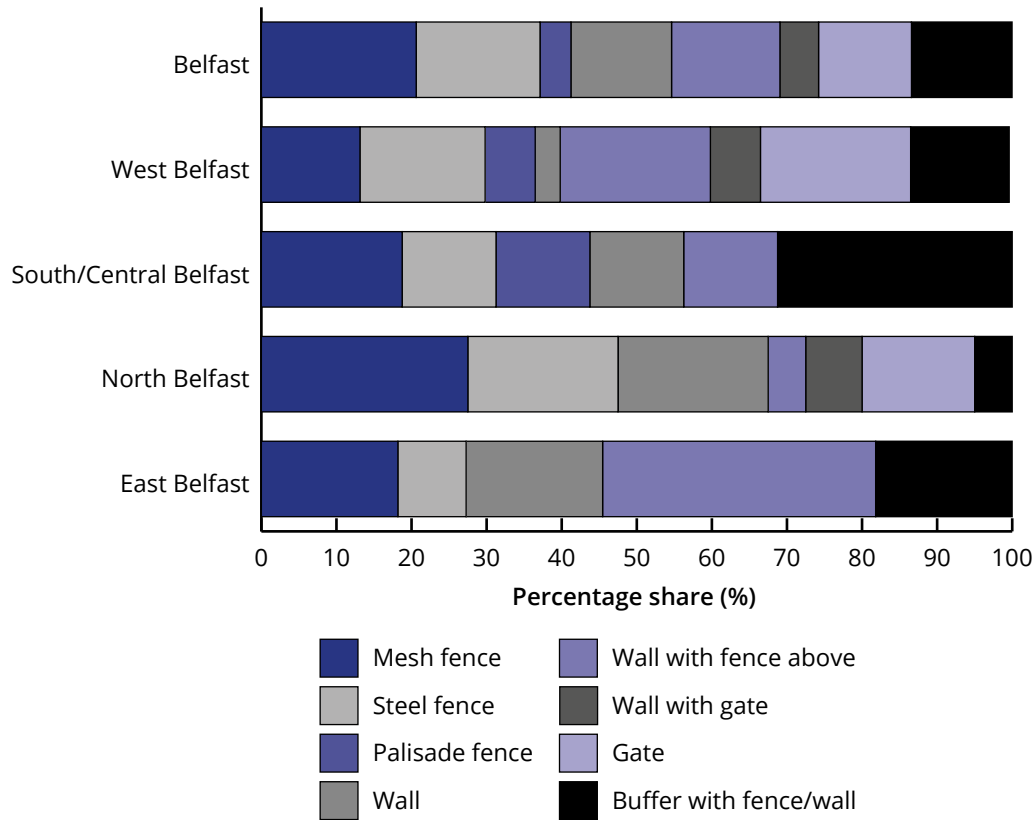
**Percentage share of types of interface structure within an area of Belfast**

In 2017, there was variation across Belfast in terms of the percentage share of different types of interface structures within an area:

- East Belfast had the highest percentage share of walls with a fence above at 36.36%
- North had the highest percentage shares of mesh fences at 27.5%, steel fences at 20.00%, walls at 20.00%, and walls with gates at 7.5%,
- South/Central Belfast had the highest percentage share of palisade fences at 12.5%, and buffers with fences/walls at 31.25%
- West Belfast had the highest percentage share of gates at 20% (see Peace Figure 65)

**PEACE FIGURE 65:**

**Percentage share (%) of different types of interface structure within areas of Belfast and within Belfast, 2017**



Source: Belfast Interface Project: Interface Barriers, Peacelines and Defensive Architecture, 2017, Table 1, page 7

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2017, in Northern Ireland, the number of interface structures was 116.

### Comparison with other cities and towns in Northern Ireland

In 2017, when compared with other cities and towns in Northern Ireland:

- **Belfast had the highest number and percentage share of interface structures, at 97 and 83.62%, respectively**
- **Derry-Londonderry had the second highest number and percentage share at 11 and 9.48%, respectively**
- **Portadown had the third highest number and percentage share at 7 and 6.03%, respectively**
- **Lurgan had the lowest number and percentage share at 1 and 0.86%, respectively**

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2017, Belfast had the highest number and percentage share of interface structures in Northern Ireland with over 8 out of every 10 interface structures, compared with 1 out of every 10 in Derry-Londonderry, less than 1 out of every 10 in Portadown, and almost 1 out of every 100 in Lurgan.

In 2017, in Belfast:

- **5 out of every 10 interface structures were built from the beginning of the Troubles up until the ceasefires in 1994**
- **Over 3 out of every 10 interface structures (at least) were built since the ceasefires**

In 2017, within Belfast, there were eight different types of interface structure, the three most common being a mesh fence, a steel fence, and a wall with a fence above it.

## Inequalities with the potential for inequity

North Belfast, followed by West Belfast, had the highest numbers and percentage shares of Belfast's interface structures:

- North Belfast had the highest percentage share of Belfast's mesh fences, steel fences, walls, and walls with gates
- West Belfast had the highest percentage share of Belfast's walls with a fence above
- North Belfast and West Belfast had equal shares of Belfast's gates
- West Belfast had an equal highest percentage share of palisade fences with South Belfast/Central Belfast

The only type of interface structure for which neither North Belfast nor West Belfast had the highest percentage share within Belfast was buffers with fences/walls above, for which South Belfast/Central Belfast had Belfast's highest percentage share.

## 9.2 Attitudes to 'Peace Walls'

### IMPORTANCE

Sectarian divisions continue to have adverse effects on political and social relationships throughout Northern Ireland's communities.<sup>122</sup>

Interface structures or barriers<sup>123</sup> in Northern Ireland began as make-shift temporary barricades between communities. At some locations, these barriers were fortified by the army. Over time, the nature of the structures changed from temporary fencing to more permanent installations.

Interface structures are found mainly in Belfast and Derry/Londonderry. Some further interface barriers were erected in the late 1990s, early 2000s in the Portadown and Lurgan area because of parade-related inter-community tension and violence.<sup>124</sup>

Residential segregation is acknowledged to be a determinant of physical ill health associated with risk of cancer, heart disease, obesity, low birth weight and increased infant mortality. The mechanisms underlying these associations are not well understood, but segregation is likely to play a role in determining access to resources such as education, employment, transport, and healthcare which are all associated with health outcomes. Segregated areas are also associated with high rates of anti-social behaviour and crime prompted by intergroup contact, especially in the form of hate crime, sectarianism, and crimes for financial gain. After adjustment for gender, age, conurbation, deprivation, and crime, it was found that residence in an area segregated by a 'peaceline' increased the likelihood (odds ratio) of antidepressant medication by 19% and anxiolytic<sup>125</sup> medication by 39%. Living in an area segregated by a 'peaceline' is detrimental to mental health, suggesting that segregated areas characterised by a heightened sense of 'other' pose a greater risk to mental health.<sup>126</sup>

---

122. A-Review-Addressing-Sectarianism-in-Northern-Ireland\_FINAL.pdf (ulster.ac.uk) (Last accessed 21 August 2022)

123. Interface structures or barriers can be known variously as 'peace walls' or 'peace lines'; different authors use different terms with variations in how each term is presented – when reporting results, terms used by the authors have been retained

124. interfaces-programme-march-21.pdf (justice-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 31 August 2022)

125. Medication that reduces anxiety

126. Residential segregation, dividing walls and mental health: a population-based record linkage study | Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health (bmj.com) (Last accessed 29 July 2022)

In 2012, in a landmark study on the peace walls, it was found that 76% of the general public and 58% of people living in the vicinity of a peace wall would like to see the walls removed now or in the future.<sup>127</sup> Between 2016 and 2019, however, information from the Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey showed that the percentage of respondents who would like to see the walls come down now or in the future decreased from 61% to 54% for all respondents.<sup>128</sup>

This type of survey information helps to identify where more work is needed to create the conditions and gain the confidence of the community that will allow interface structures or barriers to come down.<sup>129</sup>

## DEFINITION

In 2019, in an Ipsos MORI Northern Ireland survey of 8,400 households in Northern Ireland, for which there were 1,022 completed returns,<sup>130</sup> in Question 20 respondents were asked “Which of these statements, if any, comes closest to your own view of the peace wall in your area?”

- I'd like to see the peace wall come down some time in the future
- I'd like things left the way they are now
- I'd like the peace wall to come down now
- I'd like to keep the peace wall but change how it looks (appeal)
- I'd like to keep the peace wall, but have it opened (accessibility)
- Other
- Don't know

The survey covered households in East Belfast, North Belfast, West Belfast, Derry/Londonderry, and Portadown.

---

127. Peace walls Report.indd (ark.ac.uk) (Last accessed 29 July 2022)

128. NI Life and Times Survey - 2016 : PLINEREM (ark.ac.uk) and NI Life and Times Survey - 2019 : PLINEREM (ark.ac.uk) (Last accessed 21 August 2022)

129. Good Relations Indicators annual update 2019 | The Executive Office (executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 29 July 2022)

130. Ipsos MORI 2020 Public Attitudes to Peace Walls 2019 Findings (Last accessed 29 July 2022)

## PROFILE FINDINGS

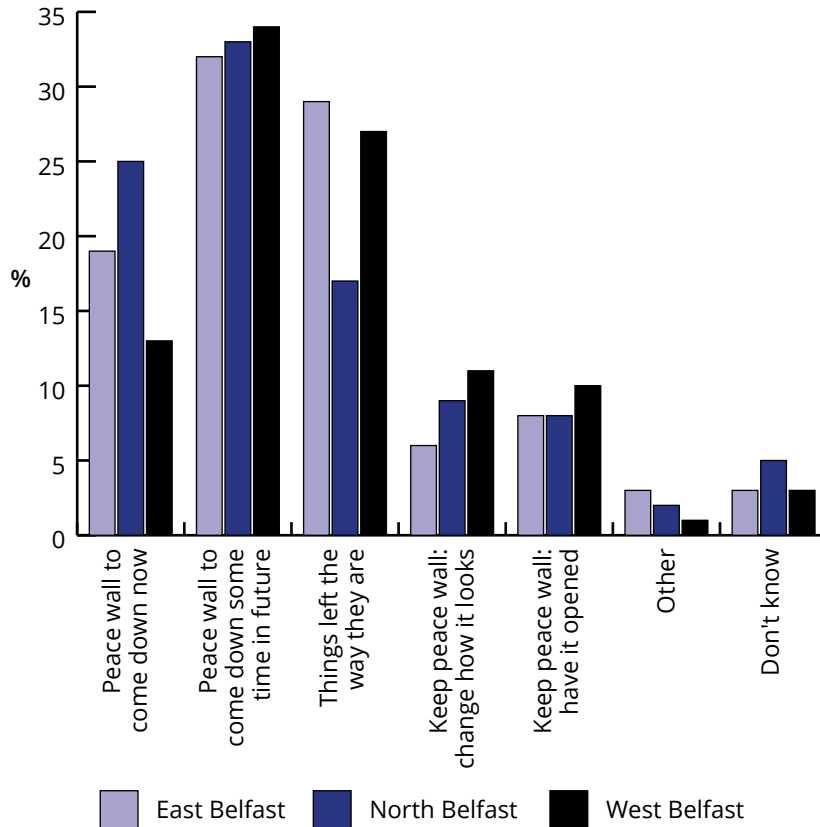
In 2019, for households in Belfast living in the vicinity of a peace wall, the percentage who would like:

- The peace wall in their area to come down now was highest in North Belfast at 25% and lowest in West Belfast at 13%
- The peace wall to come down some time in the future was highest in West Belfast at 34% and lowest in East Belfast at 32%
- Things left the way they are was highest in East Belfast at 29% and lowest in North Belfast at 17%
- To keep the peace wall but change how it looks was highest in West Belfast at 11% and lowest in East Belfast at 6%
- To keep the peace wall but have it opened was highest in West Belfast at 10% and lowest in East Belfast and North Belfast at 8%
- Other was highest in East Belfast at 3% and lowest in West Belfast at 1% (see Peace Figure 66)

The option Don't know was highest in North Belfast at 5% and equal lowest in East Belfast and West Belfast at 3%.

**PEACE FIGURE 66:**

**Percentage (%) of responses in relation to attitudes to peace walls for households living in the vicinity of peace walls in East Belfast, North Belfast, and West Belfast, 2019**



Source: Ipsos MORI Survey: Northern Ireland: Public attitudes to peace walls 2019 findings, Figure 1.24, page 47

## KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison across areas of Belfast and Derry/Londonderry and Portadown  
In 2019, in a comparison of households living in the vicinity of peace walls in areas of Belfast, and Derry-Londonderry and Portadown:

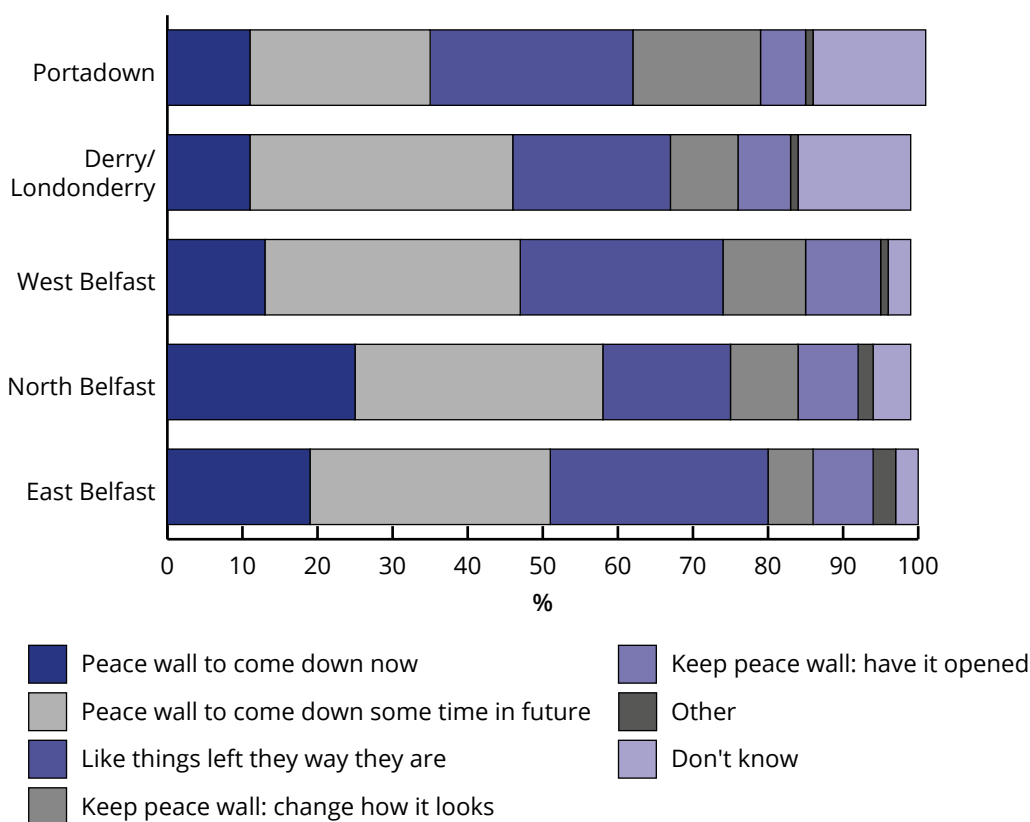
- North Belfast had the highest percentage of respondents who would like the peace wall to come down now at 25%, whereas Derry/Londonderry and Portadown had the equal lowest percentage at 11%
- Derry/Londonderry had the highest percentage of respondents who would like the peace wall to come down some time in the future at 35%, whereas Portadown had the lowest percentage at 24%



- East Belfast had the highest percentage of respondents who would like things left the way they are now at 29%, whereas North Belfast had the lowest percentage at 17%
- Portadown had the highest percentage of respondents who would like to keep the peace wall but change how it looks at 17%, whereas East Belfast had the lowest percentage at 6%
- West Belfast had the highest percentage of respondents who would like to keep the peace wall, but have it opened at 10%, whereas Portadown had the lowest percentage at 6%
- East Belfast had the highest percentage of Other, whereas Derry/Londonderry, and Portadown had the equal lowest percentage at 1%
- Derry/Londonderry, and Portadown had the equal highest percentage of Don't know at 15%, whereas East Belfast and West Belfast had the lowest percentage at 3% (see Peace Figure 67)

**PEACE FIGURE 67:**

**Attitude to peace walls of respondents (%) living near peace walls in Belfast, Derry/Londonderry and Portadown in an Ipsos MORI poll, 2019**



Source: Ipsos MORI Northern Ireland: Public attitudes to peace walls 2019 findings, Figure 1.24, page 47

## Survey respondents' views on the impact of peace walls

Among survey respondents in Belfast, Derry/Londonderry and Portadown, there was variation in views about the perceived impact of peace walls.

The focus was on community solidarity and cultural protection for:

- Protestants
- People living closest to the peace wall
- Older residents
- People who want the wall to stay

The focus was on the economic implications of the peace walls for Northern Ireland's image abroad and investment in the area for:

- Catholics
- People living furthest away from the peace wall
- Younger residents

### HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, in East Belfast, almost 2 out of every 10 residents living in the vicinity of peace walls would like the peace wall in their area to come down now, and over 3 out of every 10 would like the peace wall to come down some time in the future, whereas almost 3 out of every 10 would like to keep things as they are, 1 out of every 20 would like to keep the peace wall but change how it looks, and less than 1 out of every 10 would like to keep the peace wall but have it opened.

In 2019, in North Belfast, between 2 and 3 out of every 10 residents living in the vicinity of peace walls would like the peace wall in their area to come down now, and over 3 out of every 10 would like the peace wall to come down some time in the future, whereas almost 2 out of every 10 would like to keep things as they are, almost 1 out of every would like to keep the peace wall but change its appearance, and almost 1 out of every 10 would like to keep the peace wall but have it opened.

In 2019, In West Belfast, over 1 out of every 10 residents living in the vicinity of peace walls would like the peace wall in their area to come down now, and between 3 and 4 out of every 10 would like the peace wall to come down some time in the future, whereas almost 3 out of every 10 would like to keep things as they are, over 1 out of every 10 would like to keep the peace wall but change its appearance, and 1 out of every 10 would like to keep the peace wall but have it opened.

Thus, North Belfast, which had the highest number of interface structures of any area in Belfast and of any other place in Northern Ireland (see Peace Figure 62), had the highest percentage of respondents who would like to see the peace walls in their area come down now or in the future when compared with not only East Belfast and West Belfast, but also Derry/Londonderry and Portadown.

## SECTION 10

# Case-study: The Belfast PEACE IV Local Action Plan

### CONTEXT

The PEACE IV Programme is an EU initiative designed to support peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. The Programme is financed through the European Union and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

The PEACE Programme was initially established in 1995 as a positive response to the 1994 ceasefires and the Northern Ireland peace process. The Programme is designed to support and fund cross-community and cross-border endeavours which promote respectful relationships, celebrate cultural diversity, and enable a more tolerant society.<sup>131</sup>

The PEACE Programme is acknowledged as having an important role in the development of a more peaceful society in Northern Ireland; however, it is also recognised that more needs to be done to address underlying tensions and divisions, such as ongoing segregation, sectarianism, and racism.<sup>132</sup> The current phase of the Programme, known as PEACE IV (2014-2020), is designed to promote economic and social stability, as well as peace and reconciliation.

PEACE IV is valued at €270 million:

- **€229 million (85%) provided by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**
- **€41 million (15%) provided jointly by the Northern Ireland Executive and the Irish Government**

---

131. PEACE IV Programme Overview (Last accessed 1 August 2022)

132. Citizens' Summary: Peace IV Programme (2014-2020) (Last accessed 1 August 2022)

PEACE IV focuses on four specific areas:

- **Shared Education initiatives**<sup>133</sup>
- **Support for marginalised 'Children and Young People'**
- **The provision of new 'Shared Spaces and Services'**
- **'Building Positive Relations' with people from different communities and backgrounds**<sup>134</sup>

## PEACE IV IN BELFAST

Belfast City Council (BCC) secured £14.5 million of PEACE IV funding to deliver the Belfast PEACE IV Local Action Plan (LAP). The implementation of the LAP is overseen by the Shared City Partnership. The focus of the Belfast PEACE IV LAP is to support peace and reconciliation across Belfast and to make meaningful change through initiatives focusing on three key themes of 'Children and Young People', 'Shared Spaces and Services', and 'Building Positive Relations'. The aim of the Belfast PEACE IV LAP is to engage with almost 8,500 people and measure changes because of participation and being able to access the services delivered.<sup>135</sup> The full results of the Belfast PEACE IV LAP initiatives will not be available until after December 2022. Delivery of the programme has been impacted by COVID-19; however, BCC has provided this preliminary analysis as a case-study for this publication, Belfast: Profiling Health, Wellbeing & Prosperity: the data behind the people & the city.<sup>136</sup>

## ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF THE BELFAST PEACE IV LOCAL ACTION PLAN

To assess the impact of the Belfast PEACE IV LAP, people taking part are asked to complete a survey before and after participating. Respondents rate a series of survey statements relevant to each initiative using a five-point Likert scale with options for: 'Much better/A lot better', 'Somewhat better', 'About the same', 'Somewhat worse', and 'Much worse/A lot worse'. Changes in attitude, knowledge and behaviour are assessed by comparing the responses in the pre- and post-programme surveys. At the time of writing, more than 1,100 participants have completed the Belfast PEACE IV LAP initiatives, with 800 participants currently engaged in them.

133. Local authorities are not eligible for the Shared Education initiatives; for more information on the PEACE IV Shared Education Programme, see <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/what-shared-education> (Last accessed 2 September 2022)

134. Citizens' Summary: Peace IV Programme (2014-2020) (Last accessed 1 August 2022)

135. Progressing Peace: an overview of implementation on the Belfast PEACE IV Local Action Plan (Last accessed 1 August 2022)

136. Belfast City Council September 2020 Correspondence and documentation outlining Peace IV Preliminary Findings

## Children and Young People

The aims of the 'Children and Young People' programme are to enhance the capacity of children and young people:

- **To form positive and effective relationships with others from different backgrounds**
- **To make a positive contribution to building a cohesive society**

By the end of the PEACE IV Programme in December 2022 it is anticipated that 4,612 children and young people will have taken part in projects that develop important social skills as well as respect for diversity. The goal is to positively change attitudes among 80% of participants.

Belfast City Council monitors progress for 'Children and Young People' projects, across 17 key elements that align to the Programme indicators that measure the number of 16-year-olds who:

- **Socialise or play sport with people from different religious community very often or sometimes**
- **Think relations between Protestants and Catholics are better than they were five years ago**
- **Think relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better in five years' time**

## Building Positive Relations

The focus of the 'Building Positive Relations' programme is the promotion of respect, cultural diversity, and an environment where people can live, learn, and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance. Projects have been designed to improve relations among different communities, build mutual understanding, and promote inclusion and integration.

By the end of the PEACE IV Programme in December 2022, it is anticipated that 3,260 people will have taken part by end December 2022 on a cross-community basis and by people from other communities including minority ethnic communities and those of different racial backgrounds. The goal is to positively change attitudes among 80% of participants.

'Building Positive Relations' projects are monitored across 15 elements, that link to the Programme indicators measure the number of people who:

- **Think relations between Protestants and Catholics are better than they were five years ago**
- **Think relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better in five years' time**
- **Know quite a bit about the culture of some minority ethnic communities**

## Shared Spaces and Services

The main aim of the 'Shared Spaces and Services' programme is to provide a leadership role in reconnecting open spaces in the west of Belfast. Through engaging with citizens and partners, land will be transformed into a shared civic space to improve connectivity between the city centre and outlying communities and neighbourhoods.<sup>137</sup>

By the end of the PEACE IV Programme in December 2022, it is anticipated that 600 citizens will have participated in creating a shared space on a cross-community basis and by people from other communities including minority ethnic communities and those of different racial backgrounds. The goal is to positively change attitudes among 80% of participants.

'Shared Spaces and Services' projects are monitored across three key statements which link to the Programme indicators that measure the number of people who:

- **Would define their neighbourhood as being neutral all or most of the time or sometimes**
- **Would prefer to live in a neighbourhood with a mixed religion environment**
- **Prefer to live in a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion**

---

137. Three case-studies from Belfast – Newforge Shared Space, Black Mountain Shared Space, and Shankill Shared Woman's Centre – are available at the SEUPB webpage of case-studies within the 'Shared Spaces and Services' programme; see Shared Space and Services | SEUPB (Last accessed 2 September 2022)

## PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

These preliminary findings for the Belfast PEACE IV LAP are based on the responses of 1,100 people who participated in early initiatives. It should be noted that the projects are at various stages of implementation. The preliminary findings are summarised below, with detailed results given in Peace Case-study Tables CS1-3 (a key is also provided to help interpret the tabulated results).

### Children and Young People

For children and young people who have attended initiatives, the headline indicators show there was:

- A small positive change in response to people from different religions such as Protestants and Catholics getting along today compared with the past
- A small positive change in response to how often children and young people said they socialised (hung out) with or played sport with people from a different religious background
- No notable change in response to the question “How well do you think people from different religions like Protestants and Catholics will get along in the future compared to today?”<sup>138</sup>

In terms of the detailed results, out of 17 statements, there was:

- A moderate positive change in pre- and post-project responses for one of the statements
- A small positive change in pre- and post-project responses for ten of the statements
- relatively little difference in pre- and post-project responses – recorded as ‘About the same’ – for four of the statements
- A small negative change in pre- and post-project responses for two of the statements (see Peace Case-study Table 1)

---

138. The headline indicators refer to “in five years’ time”; however, the question refers to “in the future” rather than five years’ time



## Building Positive Relations

For people who have attended 'Building Positive Relations' initiatives, the headline indicators show there was:

- A slightly more positive response to the questions about relations between Protestants and Catholics being better now than they were five years ago
- A slightly more positive response to knowing about the culture of some minority ethnic communities
- A moderate positive change in response to relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better in five years' time <sup>139</sup>

In terms of the detailed results, out of 15 statements, there was:

- A moderate positive change in pre- and post-project responses for six of the statements
- A small positive change in pre- and post-project responses for seven of the statements
- Relatively little difference in pre- and post-project responses – recorded as 'About the same' – for two of the statements (see Peace Case-study Table 2)

## Shared Spaces and Services

For people who have attended 'Shared Spaces and Services' initiatives, the headline indicators show there was:

- A moderate positive change in response to the description of their neighbourhood as a neutral space where people from different religions and political and ethnic backgrounds get on well together
- A moderate negative change in response to the question "If you had a choice, would you prefer to live in a neighbourhood with people of only your own religion or in a mixed religion neighbourhood?" <sup>140</sup>

---

139. The headline indicators refer to "in five years' time"; however, the question refers to "in the future" rather than five years' time

140. This indicator was presented as two separate questions in the outlined headline indicators

In terms of the detailed results, out of five statements, there was:

- A moderate positive change in pre- and post-project responses for two of the statements
- A small positive change in pre- and post-project responses for one of the statements
- A moderate negative change in pre- and post-project responses for one of the statements
- A small negative change in pre- and post-project responses for one of the statements (see Peace Case-study Table 3)

## DETAILED RESULTS

### Key to interpreting the Preliminary Findings

| Likert Scale       | Much worse/<br>A lot worse                    | Somewhat Worse                         |  | About the Same | Somewhat Better                          |  | Much Better/<br>A lot better                  |
|--------------------|---|--|--|----------------|--|--|---|
| Numerical Change   | <-1   | >=-1<br><=-0.4                         | >0.4<br><=-0.1                           | >-0.1 <-0.1    | >=0.1<br><=0.4                           | >=0.4<br>=<1                           | >=1   |
| Key                | Significant negative change                   | Moderate negative change               | Small negative change                    | About the Same | Small positive change                    | Moderate positive change               | Significant positive change                   |
| Change description | Participants feel significantly more negative | Participants feel fairly more negative | Participants feel slightly more negative | About the Same | Participants feel slightly more positive | Participants feel fairly more positive | Participants feel significantly more positive |

Note 1: Significant/significantly as referred to in relation to change does not mean statistical significance. This is a broad measure of change rather than detailed statistical analysis/significance

**PEACE CASE-STUDY TABLE 1:**  
**Preliminary Findings for 'Children and Young People'**

| QUESTION   | MEAN DIFFERENCE | CHANGE   |
|--|-----------------|--|
| * How well do you think people from different religions like Protestants and Catholics get along today compared to the past?           | 0.26            | Small Positive Change: Participants feel slightly more positive  |
| * How well do you think people from different religions like Protestants and Catholics will get along in the future compared to today? | 0.08            | About the Same   |
| * How often have you socialised (hung out) with or played sport with people from a different religious background to yourself?         | 0.26            | Small Positive Change: Participants feel slightly more positive  |
| How much do you currently know about the culture (like celebrations, music and sport) of the Protestant Community?                     | 0.38            | Small Positive Change: Participants feel slightly more positive  |
| How much do you currently know about the culture (like celebrations, music and sport) of the Catholic Community?                       | 0.25            | Small Positive Change: Participants feel slightly more positive  |
| How much do you currently know about the culture (like celebrations, music and sport and food) of Minority Ethnic Communities?         | 0.23            | Small Positive Change: Participants feel slightly more positive  |
| Do you feel you belong to the neighbourhood where you live?  | 0.17            | Small Positive Change: Participants feel slightly more positive  |
| How many of your friends are from a different religious or ethnic background from you?   | 0.6             | Moderate Positive Change: Participants feel fairly more positive |
| How do you feel about playing an active role in your local community?  | 0.27            | Small Positive Change: Participants feel slightly more positive  |
| How do you feel about working with people from other religious or ethnic backgrounds to improve things in your local area?             | 0.03            | About the Same   |
| How many of your friends are from the same religious background as you?  | -0.21           | Small Negative Change: Participants feel slightly more negative  |
| Would you like to become friends with more people from different religions?  | 0.3             | Small Positive Change: Participants feel slightly more positive  |
| Do you have any friends who have a different religion to you?  | 0.09            | About the Same   |
| Do you have any friends who are from a different country or have a parent from a different country?                                    | 0.14            | Small Positive Change: Participants feel slightly more positive  |
| Do you know anything about celebrations, music and food of people originally from different countries or different religions?          | 0.28            | Small Positive Change: Participants feel slightly more positive  |
| Would you like to meet and be friends with more people from different places and religions?  | -0.14           | Small Negative Change: Participants feel slightly more negative  |
| Do you like learning new things?   | -0.04           | About the Same   |

Note 1: \* This is a headline indicator

**PEACE CASE-STUDY TABLE 2:**  
**Preliminary Findings for 'Building Positive Relations'**

| QUESTION   | MEAN DIFFERENCE | CHANGE   |
|--|-----------------|--|
| * How well do you think people from different religions like Protestants and Catholics get along today compared to the past?                               | 0.33            | Small Positive Change: Participants feel slightly more positive  |
| * How well do you think people from different religions like Protestants and Catholics will get along in the future compared to today?                     | 0.45            | Moderate Positive Change: Participants feel fairly more positive |
| How much do you currently know about the culture (like celebrations, music and sport) of the Protestant Community?   | 0.47            | Moderate Positive Change: Participants feel fairly more positive |
| How much do you currently know about the culture (like celebrations, music and sport) of the Catholic Community?   | 0.57            | Moderate Positive Change: Participants feel fairly more positive |
| * How much do you currently know about the culture (like celebrations, music and sport and food) of Minority Ethnic Communities?                           | 0.4             | Small Positive Change: Participants feel slightly more positive  |
| How do you feel about playing an active role in your local community?  | 0.2             | Small Positive Change: Participants feel slightly more positive  |
| How you feel about people from the Protestant Community?   | 0.36            | Small Positive Change: Participants feel slightly more positive  |
| How do you feel about people from the Catholic Community?  | 0.29            | Small Positive Change: Participants feel slightly more positive  |
| How do you feel about people from the Minority Ethnic Communities?   | 0.27            | Small Positive Change: Participants feel slightly more positive  |
| Tell us about your leadership skills to influence change in areas affected by the legacy of the conflict   | 0.58            | Moderate Positive Change: Participants feel fairly more positive |
| Tell us about your confidence to work with people from other communities to make life better in interface areas  | 0.53            | Moderate Positive Change: Participants feel fairly more positive |
| Tell us about your motivation to influence change in areas affected by the legacy of the conflict?   | 0.06            | About the Same   |
| Tell us how you feel about the current level of partnership working and collaboration in your area to tackle issues affected by the legacy of the conflict | 0.6             | Moderate Positive Change: Participants feel fairly more positive |
| Tell us how you feel about having a say about decisions in your local area   | 0.21            | Small Positive Change: Participants feel slightly more positive  |
| Do you agree with this statement? - I have been willing to respect cultures different to my own  | -0.07           | About the Same   |

Note 1: \* This is a headline indicator

**PEACE CASE-STUDY TABLE 3:  
Preliminary Findings for 'Shared Spaces and Services'**

| QUESTION   | MEAN DIFFERENCE | CHANGE   |
|--|-----------------|--|
| How many of your friends are from the same religious background as you?  | 2.05            | Significant Positive Change: Participants feel significantly more positive |
| Would you like to become friends with more people from different religions?  | 0.4             | Small Positive Change: Participants feel slightly more positive            |
| * Is the neighbourhood where you live a neutral space where people from different religions and political and ethnic backgrounds get on well together? | 0.45            | Moderate Positive Change: Participants feel fairly more positive           |
| Is the neighbourhood where you live a place where parks and open spaces are safe and welcoming to people from all communities?                         | 0.95            | Moderate Positive Change: Participants feel fairly more positive           |
| * If you had a choice, would you prefer to live in a neighbourhood with people of only your own religion or in a mixed religion neighbourhood?         | -0.6            | Moderate Negative Change: Participants feel fairly more negative           |

Note 1: \* This is a headline indicator

## Acknowledgements

*Belfast Healthy Cities is grateful to the PEACE IV Programme Team at Belfast City Council for their work on this case-study, which was written specially for Belfast: Profiling Health, Wellbeing & Prosperity: the data behind the people*

## SECTION 11

# Community Relations in Northern Ireland

## 11.1 Northern Ireland is a Place where People Respect Each Other

### IMPORTANCE

The Northern Ireland Strategy “Together: Building a United Community” (T:BUC) reflects the Executive’s commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society.<sup>141</sup>

The psychological experience of respect has implications for the nature and quality of group life and for the individual’s psychological and physical wellbeing. The giving and receiving of respect are important both in regulating group dynamics and in influencing personal well-being. In group life, the feeling of respect is operationalised as an individual’s assessment of how they are evaluated by those with whom they share common group membership, akin to the notion of social reputation – a reflection of the opinions other group members hold of the person. Groups capable of providing meaningful social feedback can be as defined and as small as individuals charged with solving a specific problem at work, or they can be as diffuse and as large as a residential community such as the city one resides in. What matters is that these groups are important to how the individual sees him-/her-/them-self.<sup>142</sup>

### DEFINITION

Participants in the ARK Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey were asked:

*“In general, how much would you agree or disagree that Northern Ireland is a place where people respect each other?”*

141. Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) | The Executive Office ([executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](http://executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

142. Why the Psychological Experience of Respect Matters in Group Life: An Integrative Account ([ucla.edu](http://ucla.edu)) (Last accessed 3 August 2022)

The response options were:

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

This indicator is used as performance metric in the Northern Ireland Office Outcome Delivery Plan to monitor Priority Outcome 2: Society: Support greater inclusion, tolerance, and openness in Northern Ireland, Sub-outcome 2.3.<sup>143</sup>

Information is from the ARK NILT survey, Module: Respect, Variable: NIRESPPECT, Year: 2019, and Year: 2016.<sup>144</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Northern Ireland the combined percentage of people who strongly agreed and who agreed that Northern Ireland is a place where people respect each other was 53% (5% and 48%, respectively).

Between 2016 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage of people who strongly agreed and who agreed that Northern Ireland is a place where people respect each other increased by 6 percentage points, from 47% to 53% (a percentage increase of 12.77%).

---

143. Northern Ireland Office Outcome Delivery Plan: 2021 to 2022 - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 3 August 2022)

144. NI Life and Times Survey - 2019 : NIRESPPECT ([ark.ac.uk](http://ark.ac.uk)) and NI Life and Times Survey - 2016 : NIRESPPECT ([ark.ac.uk](http://ark.ac.uk)) (Last accessed 3 August 2022)



## DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

### Men and women

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who strongly agreed and who agreed that Northern Ireland is a place where people respect each other:

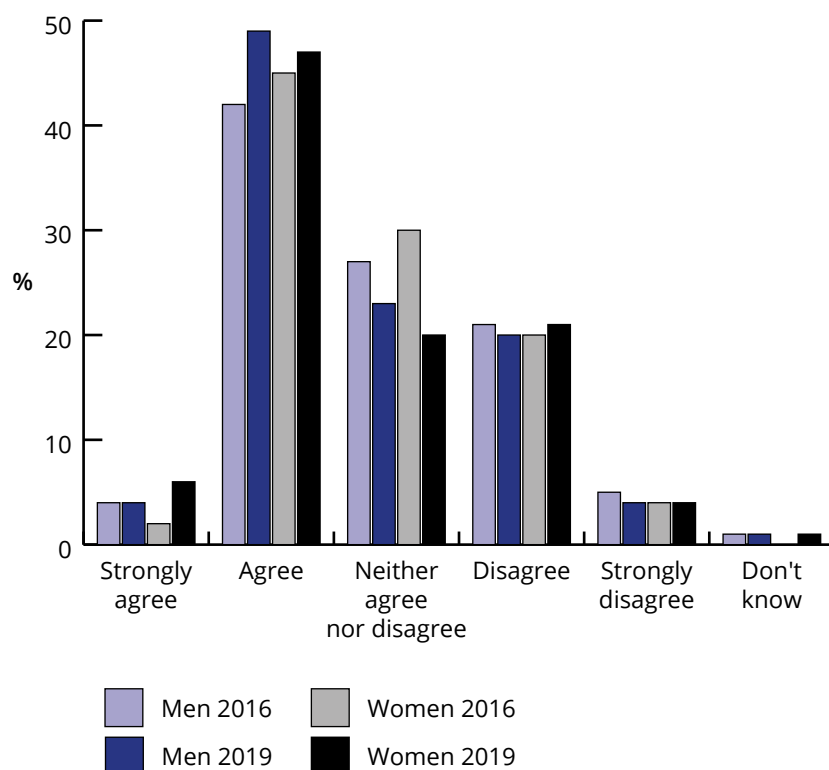
- For men was 53% (4% and 49%, respectively)
- For women was 53% (6% and 47%, respectively)

Between 2016 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who strongly agreed and who agreed that that Northern Ireland is a place where people respect each other increased:

- In men by 7 percentage points from 46% to 53% (a percentage increase of 15.22%)
- In women by 6 percentage points, from 47% to 53% (a percentage increase of 12.77%; see Peace Figure 68)

#### PEACE FIGURE 68:

**Percentage (%) of men and women in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether Northern Ireland is a place where people respect each other, 2016 and 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Respect, Variable: NIRESPPECT, Year: 2019, and Year: 2016

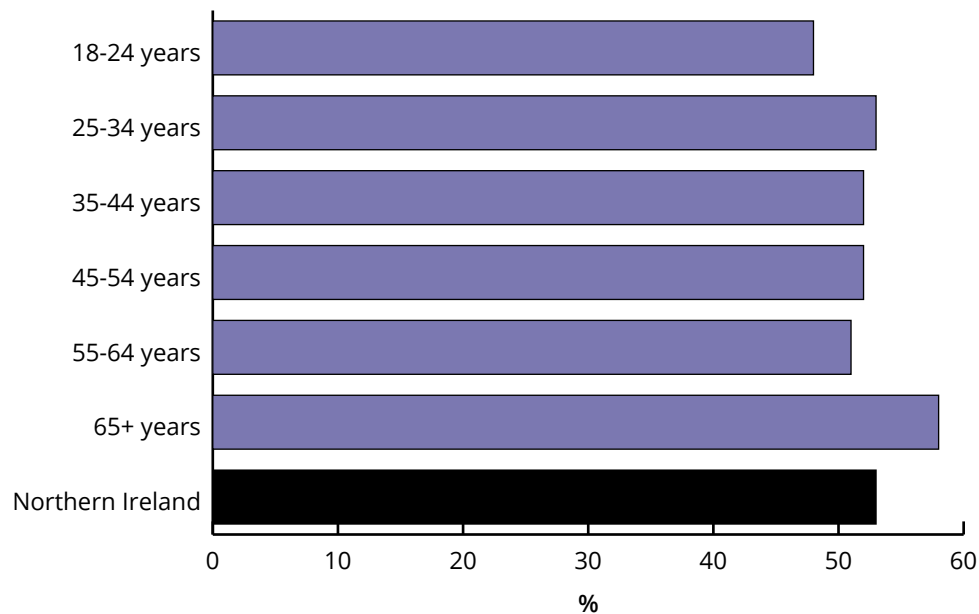
## Age group

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who strongly agreed and who agreed that Northern Ireland is a place where people respect each other in people aged:

- 18-24 years was 48% (4% and 44%, respectively)
- 25-34 years was 51% (6% and 45%, respectively)
- 35-44 years was 52% (6% and 46%, respectively)
- 45-54 years was 52% (5% and 47%, respectively)
- 55-64 years was 51% (2% and 49%, respectively)
- 65 years and over was 58% (6% and 52%, respectively; see Peace Figure 69)

### PEACE FIGURE 69:

**Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland who agreed ('strongly agree' and 'agree' combined) that Northern Ireland is a place where people respect each other by age group, and Northern Ireland, 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Respect, Variable: NIRESPPECT, Year: 2019

Between 2016 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who strongly agreed and who agreed that that Northern Ireland is a place where people respect each other in people aged:

- 18-24 years decreased by 1 percentage point, from 49% to 48% (a percentage decrease of 2.04%)
- 25-34 years increased by 18 percentage points, from 33% to 51% (a percentage increase of 54.55%)
- 35-44 years decreased by 3 percentage points, from 55% to 52% (a percentage decrease of 5.45%)
- 45-54 years increased by 8 percentage points, from 44% to 52% (a percentage increase of 18.18%)
- 55-64 years increased by 5 percentage points, from 46% to 51% (a percentage increase of 10.87%)
- 65 years and over increased by 7 percentage points, from 51% to 58% (a percentage increase of 13.73%)

## Religion

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who strongly agreed and who agreed that Northern Ireland is a place where people respect each other in people who were:

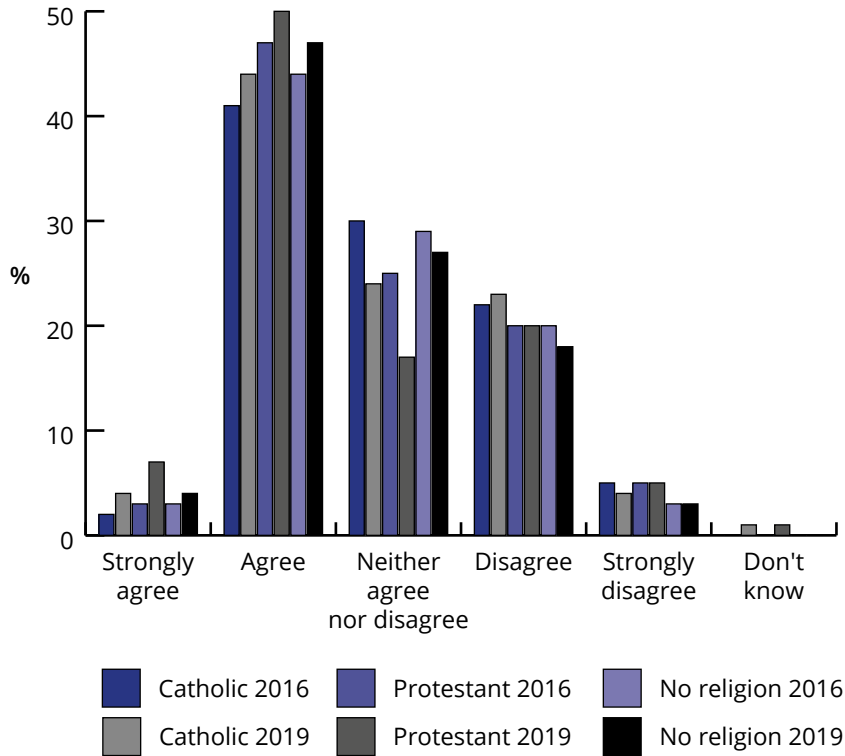
- Catholics was 48% (4% and 44%, respectively)
- Protestants was 57% (7% and 50%, respectively)
- Of no religion was 51% (4% and 47%, respectively)

Between 2016 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who strongly agreed and who agreed that that Northern Ireland is a place where people respect each other increased in people who were:

- Catholic by 5 percentage points, from 43% to 48% (a percentage increase of 11.63%)
- Protestant by 7 percentage points, from 50% to 57% (a percentage increase of 14.00%)
- Of no religion by 4 percentage points, from 47% to 51% (a percentage increase of 8.51%; see Peace Figure 70)

**PEACE FIGURE 70:**

**Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether Northern Ireland is a place where people respect each other by religion, 2016 and 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Respect, Variable: NIRESPPECT, Year: 2019, and Year: 2016

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, over 5 out of every 10 people agreed that Northern Ireland is a place where people respect each other.

Between 2016 and 2019, the percentage of people who agreed that Northern Ireland is a place where people respect each other increased in all population groups apart from people aged 18-24 years and 35-44 years in whom the percentage decreased. The largest percentage increases (10% or greater) in the percentage of people who agreed that Northern Ireland is a place where people respect each other occurred in:

- Men
- Women
- People aged 25-34 years
- People aged 45 years and older
- People of Catholic religion
- People of Protestant religion

### Differences in level of agreement

In 2019, when compared Northern Ireland, the following population groups were less likely to agree that Northern Ireland is a place where people respect each other:

- People aged 18-64 years
- People of Catholic religion
- People who described themselves as having no religion

The difference in percentage points between Northern Ireland and a specific population group was greatest for people aged 18-24 years and people of Catholic religion at 5 percentage points.

Differences in levels of agreement may reflect differing experiences of various population groups.

## 11.2 Societal Respect for Cultural Identity

### IMPORTANCE

The Northern Ireland Strategy “Together: Building a United Community” (T:BUC) reflects the Executive’s commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society.<sup>145</sup>

Cultural identity is a broader concept than national identity, based on the distinctiveness or specificity of a given community, encompassing certain characteristics common to its people.<sup>146</sup>

In Northern Ireland, this indicator is used to monitor community relations<sup>147</sup> and to inform the Outcome Delivery Plan<sup>148</sup> and the Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021.<sup>149</sup>

### DEFINITION

In the Community Relations Section of the Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey (NILT), participants were asked:

*“How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? I feel that my own cultural identity is respected by society.”*

The response options were:

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don’t know

145. Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) | The Executive Office (executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

146. Cultural identity and its impact on today’s multicultural organizations - Helena Karjalainen, 2020 (sagepub.com) (Last accessed 1 August 2022)

147. The Executive Office Good Relations Indicators annual update 2019 (Last accessed 1 August 2022)

148. Outcomes Delivery Plan Indicators 2019/20 (Last accessed 1 August 2022)

149. Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-2021 (northernireland.gov.uk) (Last accessed 3 September 2022)

Information is from the ARK NILT survey, Module: Community Relations, Variable: CULTRESP, Year: 2019, and Year: 2014.<sup>150</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage of people who strongly agreed and who agreed that their own cultural identity was respected by society was 62% (12% and 50%, respectively).

Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage of people who strongly agreed and who agreed that their own cultural identity was respected by society decreased by 2 percentage points, from 64% to 62% (a percentage decrease of 3.13%).

## DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

### Men and women

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who strongly agreed or who agreed that their own cultural identity was respected by society:

- In men was 59% (12% and 47%, respectively)
- In women was 64% (12% and 52%, respectively)

Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who strongly agreed and who agreed that their own cultural identity was respected by society:

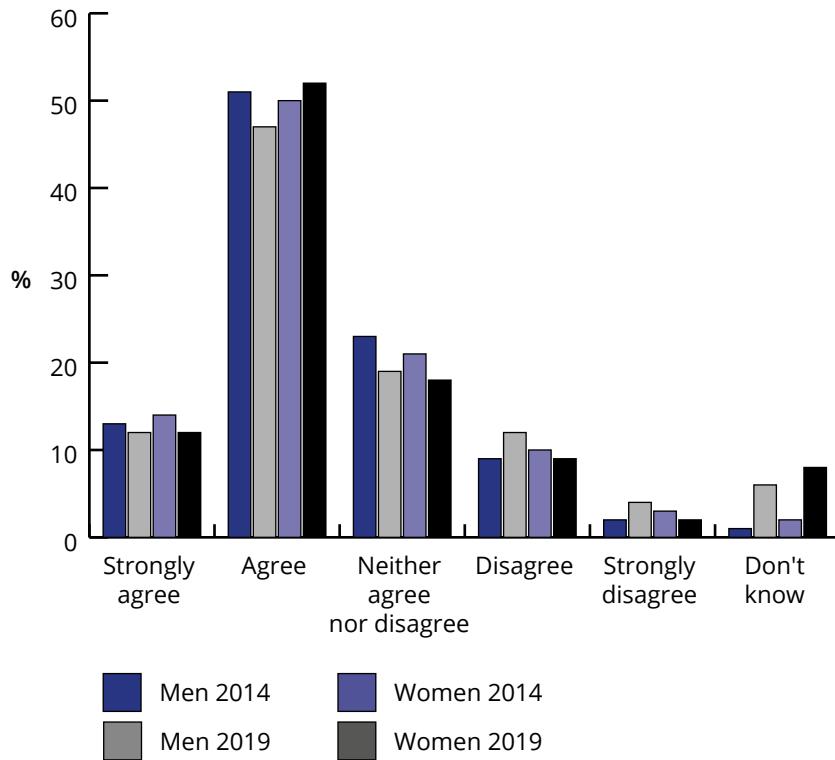
- In men decreased by 5 percentage points from 64% to 59% (a percentage decrease of 7.81%)
- In women remained the same at 64% (see Peace Figure 71)

---

150. NI Life and Times Survey - 2019 : CULTRESP (ark.ac.uk) and NI Life and Times Survey - 2014 : CULTRESP (ark.ac.uk) (Last accessed 1 August 2022)

**PEACE FIGURE 71:**

**Percentage (%) of men and women in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether their own cultural identity was respected by society, 2014 and 2019**



Source: NILT Survey: Module: Community Relations, Variable: CULTRESP, Year: 2019, and Year: 2014

### Age group

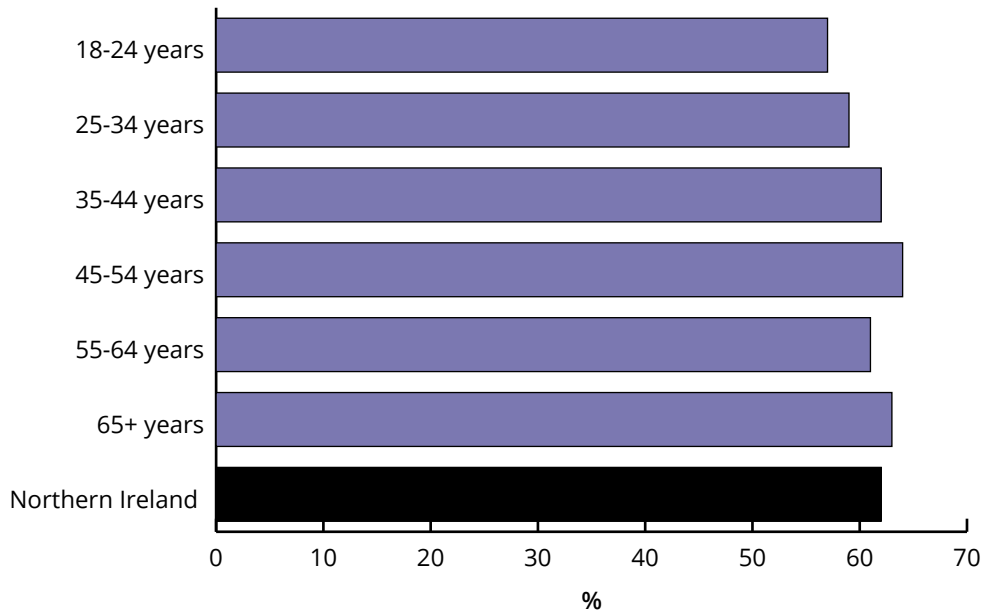
In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who strongly agreed and who agreed that their own cultural identity was respected by society in people aged:

- 18-24 years was 57% (10% and 47%, respectively)
- 25-34 years 59% (9% and 50%, respectively)
- 35-44 years was 62% (14% and 48%, respectively)
- 45-54 years was 64% (14% and 50%, respectively)
- 55-64 years was 61% (11% and 50%, respectively)
- 65 years and over was 63% (11% and 52%, respectively; see Peace Figure 72)



**PEACE FIGURE 72:**

**Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland who agreed ('strongly agree' and 'agree' combined) that their own cultural identity was respected by society by age group and Northern Ireland, 2019**



Source: NILT Survey: Module: Community Relations, Variable: CULTRESP, Year: 2019

Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who strongly agreed and who agreed that their own cultural identity was respected by society in people aged:

- 18-24 years decreased by 6 percentage points from 65% to 59% (a percentage decrease of 9.23%)
- 25-34 years decreased by 3 percentage points, from 62% to 59% (a percentage decrease of 4.84%)
- 35-44 years decreased by 1 percentage point from 63% to 62% (a percentage decrease of 1.59%)
- 45-54 years remained the same at 64%
- 55-64 years decreased by 1 percentage point from 62% to 61% (a percentage decrease of 1.61%)
- 65 years and over decreased by 4 percentage points, from 67% to 63% (a percentage decrease of 5.97%)

## Religion

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who strongly agreed and who agreed that their own cultural identity was respected by society in people who were:

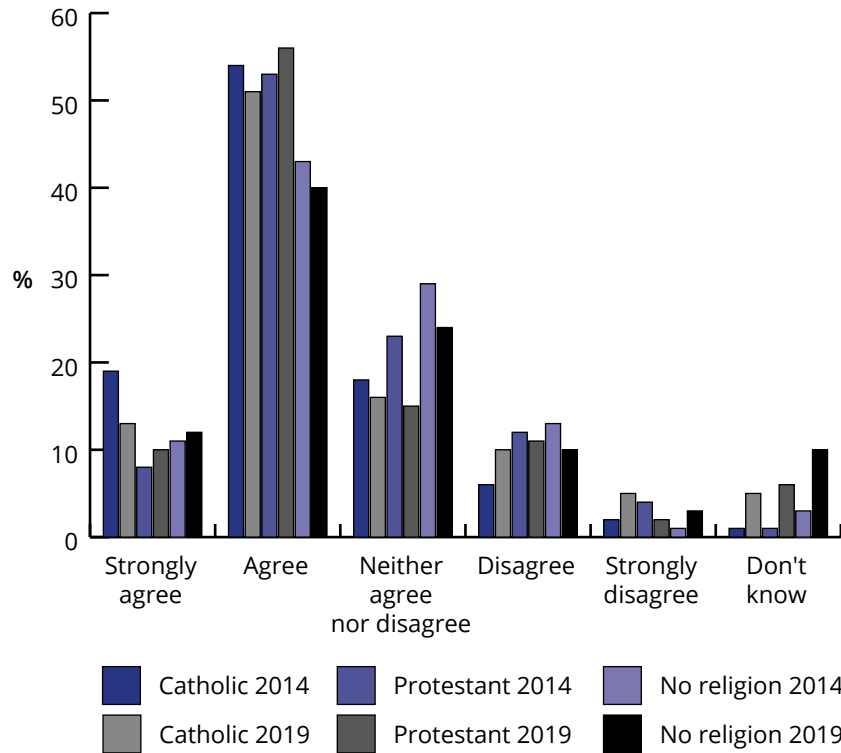
- Catholics was 64% (13% and 51%, respectively)
- Protestants was 66% (10% and 56%, respectively)
- Of no religion was 52% (12% and 40%, respectively)

Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who strongly agreed and who agreed that their own cultural identity was respected by society in people who were:

- Catholics decreased by 9 percentage points, from 73% to 64% (a percentage decrease of 12.33%)
- Protestants increased by 5 percentage points, from 61% to 66% (a percentage increase of 8.20%)
- Of no religion decreased by 2 percentage points, from 54% to 52% (a percentage decrease of 3.70%; see Peace Figure 73)

**PEACE FIGURE 73:**

**Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether their own cultural identity was respected by society by religion, 2014 and 2019**



Source: NILT Survey: Module: Community Relations, Variable: CULTRESP, Year: 2019, and Year: 2014

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, over 6 in every 10 people agreed that their own cultural identity was respected by society.

Between 2014 and 2019, the percentage of people who agreed that their own cultural identity was respected by society decreased in all population groups apart from:

- Women and people aged 45-54 years in whom the percentage remained at the same level
- Protestants in whom the percentage increased
- The largest percentage decrease in the percentage of people who agreed that their own cultural identity was respected by society occurred in Catholics.

## Differences in levels of agreement

In 2019, when compared Northern Ireland, the following population groups were less likely to agree their own cultural identity was respected by society:

- **Men**
- **People aged 18-34 years and aged 55-64 years**
- **People who described themselves as having no religion**

The difference in percentage points between Northern Ireland and a specific population group was greatest for people of no religion at 10 percentage points.

Differences in levels of agreement may reflect differing experiences of various population group.

## 11.3 Sense of Belonging to Northern Ireland

### IMPORTANCE

A sense of belonging is the psychological feeling of belonging or connectedness to a social, spatial, cultural, professional, or other type of group or a community. Shared beliefs or ideals, a supportive environment, self-esteem, and opportunities for interaction can influence the development of sense of belonging in an individual.<sup>151</sup>

A sense of belonging is important for physical and mental health. The social ties that accompany a sense of belonging are a protective factor helping manage stress and other behavioural issues. Depression, anxiety, and suicide are common mental health conditions associated with lacking a sense of belonging. These conditions can lead to social behaviours that interfere with a person's ability to connect to others, creating a cycle of events that further weakens a sense of belonging.<sup>152</sup>

In a spatial mapping study of pupils in six post primary schools in Northern Ireland (two of which were in Belfast), which was supported by a survey, one of the statements was whether "Denying opportunities to display community identity can erode a sense of belonging", to which 82% of children and young people agreed (9% disagreed, and 9% were unsure).<sup>153</sup>

In Northern Ireland, this indicator is part of a suite of indicators used to monitor progress on the Racial Equality Strategy (2015-2025).<sup>154</sup>

### DEFINITION

In the Community Relations Section of the Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey (NILT), participants were asked:

*"Thinking about Northern Ireland as a whole, the kind of place it is and the kind of people who live here, would you say that you feel a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland?"*

151. Sense of Belonging | SpringerLink (Last accessed 1 August 2022)

152. Is a sense of belonging important? - Mayo Clinic Health System (Last accessed 1 August 2022)

153. Young O & Roulston D. Divided We Stand: Mapping patterns of shared and separated space. Shared Space 14. Layout 1 (community-relations.org.uk) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

154. The Executive Office Racial Equality Indicators Report 2014-2019 (Last accessed 2 August 2022)

The response options were:

- Yes, definitely
- Yes, probably
- Probably not
- Definitely not
- Don't know

Information is from the ARK NILT survey, Module: Community Relations, Variable: UBELNI, Year: 2019, and Year: 2014.<sup>155</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage of people who definitely and who probably agreed that they felt a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland was 85% (62% and 23%, respectively).

Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage of people who definitely and who probably agreed that they felt a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland increased by 6 percentage points, from 79% to 85% (a percentage increase of 7.59%).

## DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

### Men and women

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely and who probably agreed that they felt a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland:

- In men was 84% (62% and 22%, respectively)
- In women was 87% (62% and 25%, respectively)

---

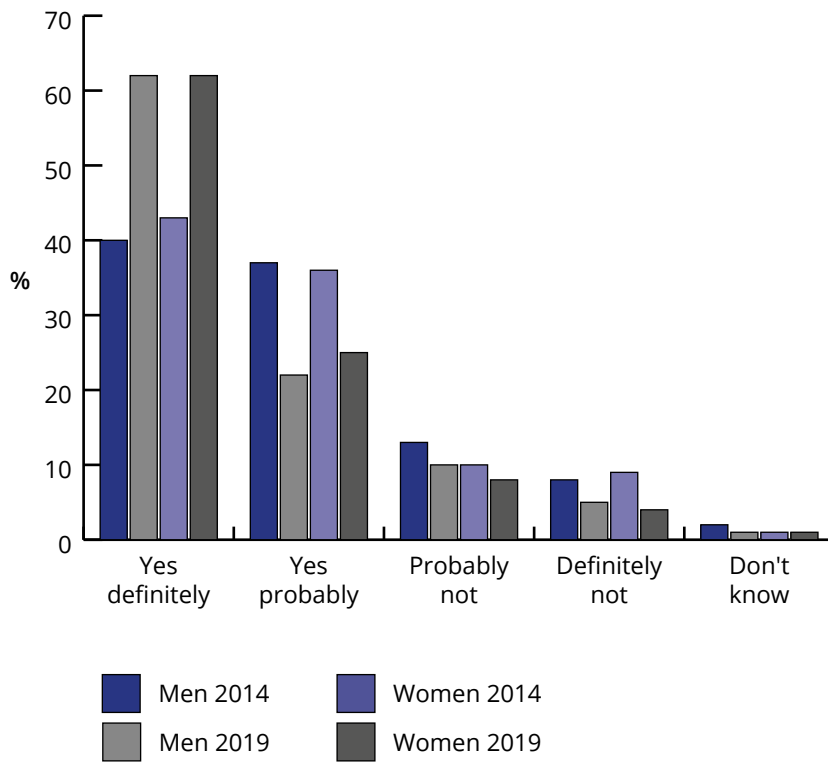
155. NI Life and Times Survey - 2019 : UBELNI (ark.ac.uk) and NI Life and Times Survey - 2014 : UBELNI (ark.ac.uk) (Last accessed 2 August 2022)

Between 2014 and 2019, the combined percentage who definitely and who probably agreed that they felt a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland increased:

- In men by 7 percentage points from 77% to 84% (a percentage increase of 9.09%)
- In women by 8 percentage points, from 79% to 87% (a percentage increase of 10.13%; see Peace Figure 74)

**PEACE FIGURE 74:**

**Percentage (%) of men and women in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether they felt a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland, 2014 and 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: UBELNI, Year: 2019, and Year: 2014

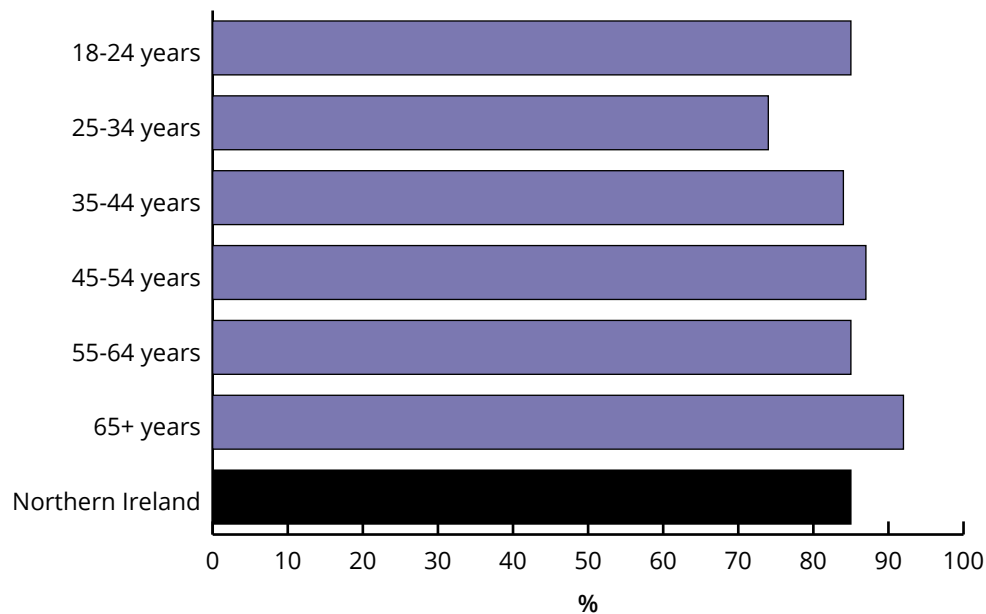
## Age group

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely and who probably agreed that they felt a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland in people aged:

- 18-24 years was 85% (67% and 18%, respectively)
- 25-34 years 74% (50% and 24%, respectively)
- 35-44 years was 84% (53% and 31%, respectively)
- 45-54 years was 87% (57% and 30%, respectively)
- 55-64 years was 85% (65% and 20%, respectively)
- 65 years and over was 92% (73% and 19%, respectively; see Peace Figure 75)

### PEACE FIGURE 75:

**Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland who agreed ('strongly agree' and 'agree' combined) that they felt a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland by age group, and Northern Ireland, 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: UBELNI, Year: 2019



Between 2014 and 2019, the combined percentage who definitely and who probably agreed that they felt a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland increased in people aged:

- 18-24 years by 11 percentage points, from 74% to 85% (a percentage increase of 14.86%)
- 25-34 years by 6 percentage points from 68% to 74% (a percentage increase of 8.82%)
- 35-44 years by 4 percentage points from 80% to 84% (a percentage increase of 5.00%)
- 45-54 years by 4 percentage points, from 83% to 87% (a percentage increase of 4.82%)
- 55-64 years by 7 percentage points, from 78% to 85% (a percentage increase of 8.97%)
- 65 years and over by 10 percentage points, from 82% to 92% (a percentage increase of 12.20%)

## Religion

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely and who probably agreed that they felt a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland in people who were:

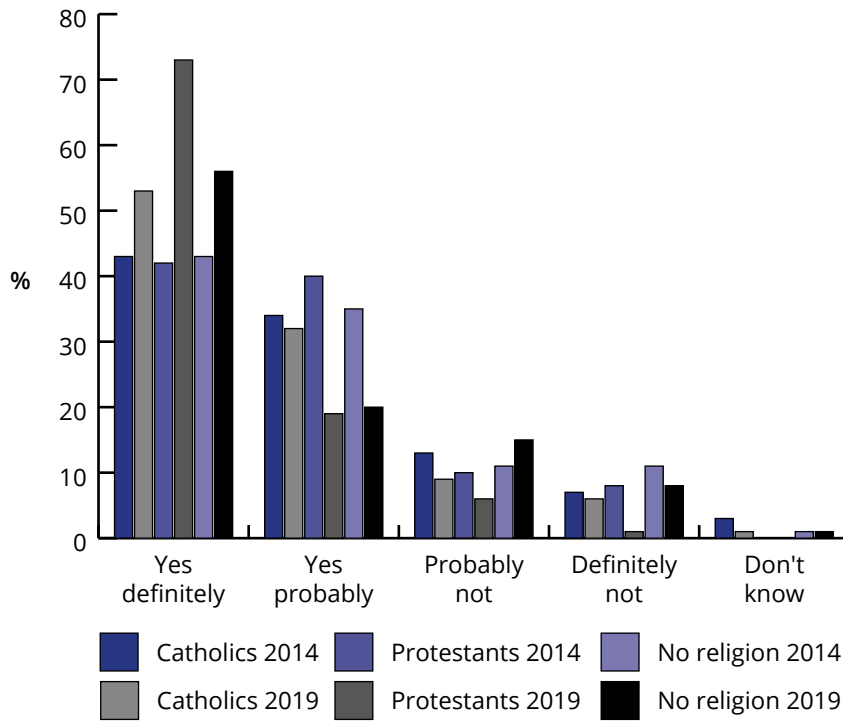
- Catholics was 85% (53% and 32%, respectively)
- Protestants was 92% (73% and 19%, respectively)
- Of no religion was 76% (56% and 20%, respectively)

Between 2014 and 2019, the combined percentage who definitely and who probably agreed that they felt a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland in people who were:

- Catholics increased by 8 percentage points, from 77% to 85% (a percentage increase of 10.39%)
- Protestants increased by 10 percentage points, from 82% to 92% (a percentage increase of 12.20%)
- Of no religion decreased by 2 percentage points, from 78% to 76% (a percentage decrease of 2.56%; see Peace Figure 76)

**PEACE FIGURE 76:**

**Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether they felt a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland by religion, 2014 and 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: UBELNI, Year: 2019, and Year: 2014

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, between 8 and 9 out of every 10 people agreed that they had a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland; the converse is that between 1 and 2 out of every 10 people did not agree or did not know.

Between 2014 and 2019, the percentage of people who agreed that they had a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland increased in all population groups apart from people who described themselves as having no religion in whom it decreased slightly. The largest percentage increases (10% or greater) in the percentage of people who agreed that they had a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland occurred in:

- People aged 18-24 years
- People aged 65 years and over
- Protestants
- Catholics
- Women

### Differences in levels of agreement

In 2019, when compared Northern Ireland, the following population groups were less likely to agree that they had a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland:

- Men
- People aged 25-44 years
- People who described themselves as having no religion

The difference in percentage points between Northern Ireland and a specific population group was greatest for people aged 25-34 years at 11 percentage points.

Differences in levels of agreement may reflect differing levels of connectedness to Northern Ireland.

## 11.4 Sense of Belonging to the Immediate Neighbourhood

### IMPORTANCE

A sense of belonging is the psychological feeling of belonging or connectedness to a social, spatial, cultural, professional, or other type of group or a community. Shared beliefs or ideals, a supportive environment, self-esteem, and opportunities for interaction can influence the development of sense of belonging in an individual.<sup>156</sup>

A sense of belonging is important for physical and mental health. The social ties that accompany a sense of belonging are a protective factor helping manage stress and other behavioural issues. Depression, anxiety, and suicide are common mental health conditions associated with lacking a sense of belonging. These conditions can lead to social behaviours that interfere with a person's ability to connect to others, creating a cycle of events that further weakens a sense of belonging.<sup>157</sup>

In a spatial mapping study of pupils in 6 post primary schools in Northern Ireland (two of which were in Belfast), which was supported by a survey, one of the statements was whether "Denying opportunities to display community identity can erode a sense of belonging", to which 82% of children and young people agreed (9% disagreed, and 9% were unsure).<sup>158</sup>

156. Sense of Belonging | SpringerLink (Last accessed 1 August 2022)

157. Is a sense of belonging important? - Mayo Clinic Health System (Last accessed 1 August 2022)

158. Young O & Roulston D. Divided We Stand: Mapping patterns of shared and separated space. Shared Space 14. Layout 1 (community-relations.org.uk) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

## DEFINITION

In the Community Relations Section of the Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey (NILT), participants were asked:

*“Thinking about this immediate neighbourhood, the kind of place it is and the kind of people who live around here, would you say that you feel a sense of belonging to this neighbourhood?”*

The response options were:

- Yes, definitely
- Yes, probably
- Probably not
- Definitely not
- Don't know

Information is from the ARK NILT survey, Module: Community Relations, Variable: UBELNGH, Year: 2019, and Year: 2014.<sup>159</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage of people who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that they had a sense of belonging to the immediate neighbourhood was 90% (67% and 23%, respectively).

Between 2014 and 2019, the combined percentage of people who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that they had a sense of belonging to the immediate neighbourhood increased by 3 percentage points, from 87% to 90% (a percentage increase of 3.45%).

---

159. NI Life and Times Survey - 2019 : UBELNGH (ark.ac.uk) and NI Life and Times Survey - 2014 : UBELNGH (ark.ac.uk) (Last accessed 2 August 2022)

## DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

### Men and women

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that they had a sense of belonging to the immediate neighbourhood:

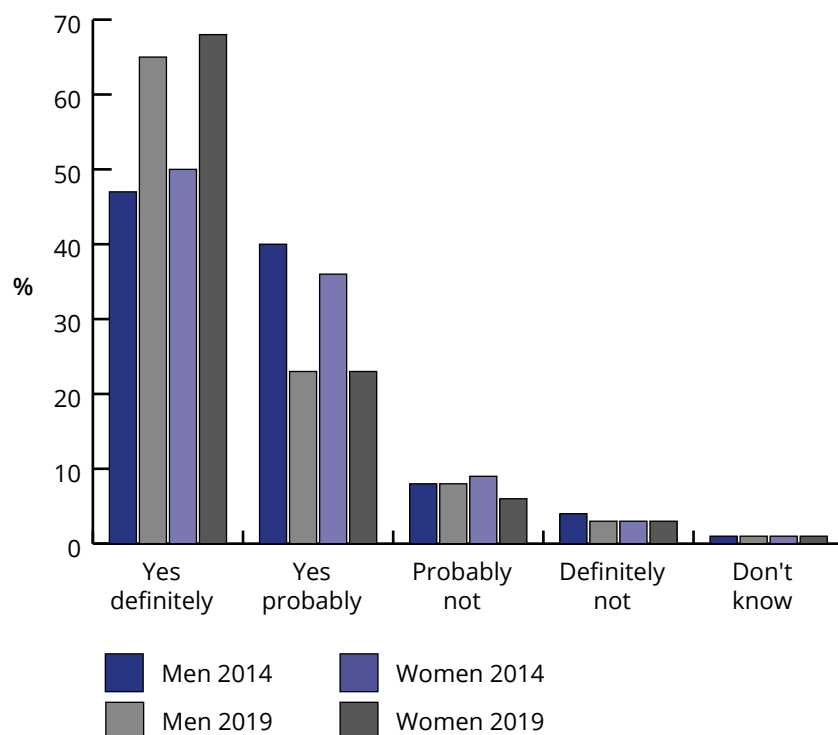
- In men was 88% (65% and 23%, respectively)
- In women was 91% (68% and 23%, respectively)

Between 2014 and 2019, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that they had a sense of belonging to the immediate neighbourhood increased:

- In men by 1 percentage point, from 87% to 88% (a percentage increase of 1.15%)
- In women by 4 percentage points, from 86% to 91% (a percentage increase of 5.81%; see Peace Figure 77)

#### PEACE FIGURE 77:

**Percentage (%) of men and women in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether they felt a sense of belonging to the immediate neighbourhood, 2014 and 2019**



Source: Module: Community Relations, Variable: UBELNGH, Year: 2019, and Year: 2014

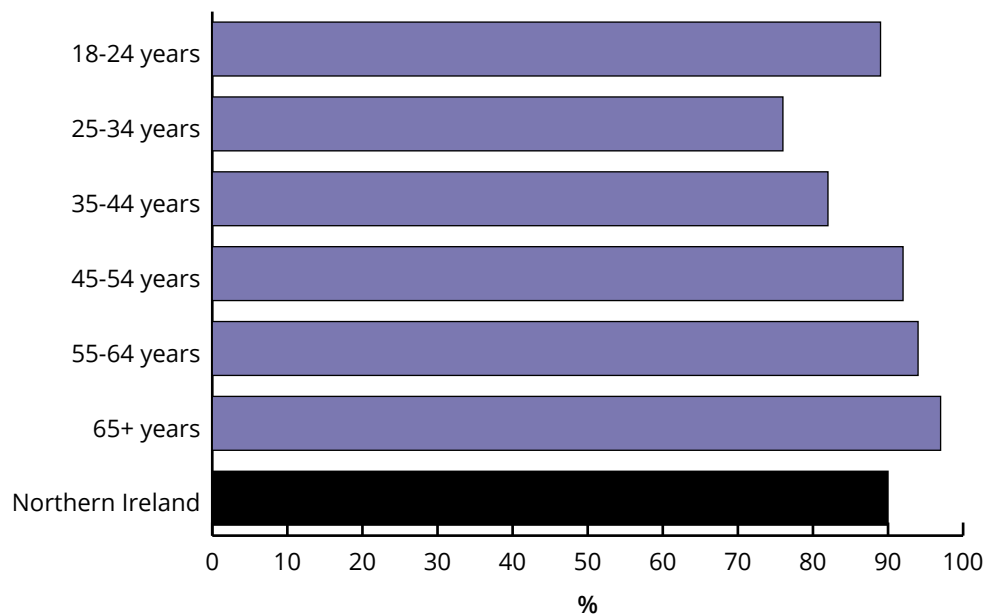
## Age group

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that they had a sense of belonging to the immediate neighbourhood in people aged:

- 18-24 years was 89% (43% and 38%, respectively)
- 25-34 years 76% (38% and 34%, respectively)
- 35-44 years was 82% (41% and 43%, respectively)
- 45-54 years was 92% (49% and 44%, respectively)
- 55-64 years was 94% (57% and 35%, respectively)
- 65 years and over was 97% (58% and 35%, respectively; see Peace Figure 78)

### PEACE FIGURE 78:

**Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland who agreed ('strongly agree' and 'agree' combined) that they felt a sense of belonging to the immediate neighbourhood by age group, and Northern Ireland, 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: UBELNGH, Year: 2019

Between 2014 and 2019, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that they had a sense of belonging to the immediate neighbourhood in people aged:

- 18-24 years increased by 8 percentage points, from 81% to 89% (a percentage increase of 9.88%)
- 25-34 years increased by 4 percentage points from 72% to 76% (a percentage increase of 5.56%)
- 35-44 years decreased by 2 percentage points from 84% to 82% (a percentage decrease of 2.38%)
- 45-54 years decreased by 1 percentage point, from 93% to 92% (a percentage decrease of 1.08%)
- 55-64 years increased by 2 percentage points, from 92% to 94% (a percentage increase of 2.17%)
- 65 years and over increased by 4 percentage points, from 93% to 97% (a percentage increase of 4.30%)

## Religion

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that they had a sense of belonging to the immediate neighbourhood in people who were:

- Catholics was 91% (65% and 26%, respectively)
- Protestants was 96% (77% and 19%, respectively)
- Of no religion was 76% (49% and 27%, respectively)

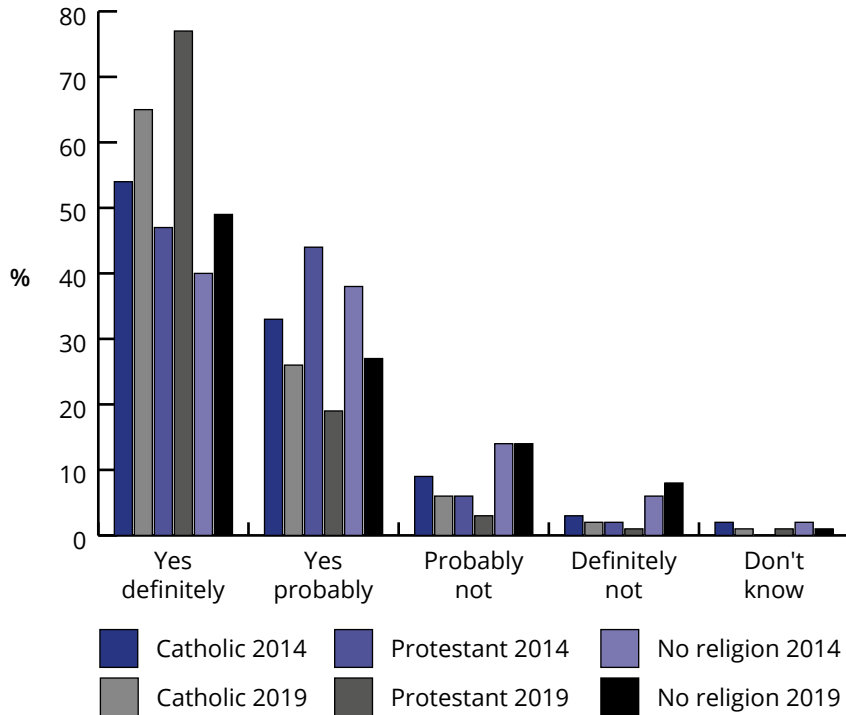
Between 2014 and 2019, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that they had a sense of belonging to the immediate neighbourhood in people who were:

- Catholic increased by 4 percentage points from 87% to 91% (a percentage increase of 4.60%)
- Protestant increased by 5 percentage points, from 91% to 96% (a percentage increase of 5.49%)
- Of no religion decreased by 2 percentage points from 78% to 76% (a percentage decrease of 2.56%; see Peace Figure 79)



**PEACE FIGURE 79:**

**Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether they felt a sense of belonging to the immediate neighbourhood by religion, 2014 and 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: UBELNGH, Year: 2019, and Year: 2014

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, 9 out of every 10 people agreed that they had a sense of belonging to their immediate neighbourhood; the converse is that 1 out of every 10 people did not agree or did not know.

Between 2014 and 2019, the percentage of people who agreed that they had a sense of belonging to their immediate neighbourhood increased in most population groups. It decreased in people:

- Aged 35-54 years
- Of no religion

The largest percentage increase in the percentage of people who agreed that they had a sense of belonging to their immediate neighbourhood occurred in people aged 18-24 years.

## Differences in levels of agreement

In 2019, when compared Northern Ireland, the following population groups were less likely to agree that they had a sense of belonging to their immediate neighbourhood:

- **Men**
- **People aged 18-44 years**
- **People who described themselves as having no religion**

The difference in percentage points between Northern Ireland and a specific population group was greatest for people aged 25-34 years and people of no religion at 14 percentage points.

Differences in levels of agreement may reflect differing levels of connectedness to the immediate neighbourhood.

## 11.5 Feelings of Favourability about People from a Different Ethnic Group

### IMPORTANCE

The Northern Ireland Strategy “Together: Building a United Community” (T:BUC) reflects the Executive’s commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society.<sup>160</sup>

In two studies of how ethnic discrimination targeting ethnic minority group members would affect majority group members’ attitudes and multiculturalism towards ethnic minority groups in the context of Turkish–Kurdish interethnic conflict, it was found that:

- **The extent to which majorities (Turkish) believed there was ethnic discrimination towards minorities (Kurdish) in the Turkish society was associated with positive outgroup attitudes and support for multiculturalism through decreased levels of perceived threat from the outgroup**
- **Turkish participants who read bogus news reports about the prevalence of ethnic discrimination towards the Kurdish were more positive towards this ethnic group (higher levels of support for multiculturalism, culture maintenance, and intergroup contact) compared with participants in the neutral condition. Furthermore, participants who were presented with lower levels of discrimination (few companies have been discriminatory against the Kurdish) were more positive towards Kurdish people than participants who were presented with higher levels of discrimination (most companies have been discriminatory against the Kurdish). Regardless of the intensity of discrimination, information about the prevalence of ethnic discrimination improved majority members’ attitudes towards ethnic minority groups.**<sup>161</sup>

Using data from the Netherlands Longitudinal Life-course Study, perceived ethnic discrimination of Turkish and Moroccan minorities in the Netherlands was positively associated with local co-ethnic social ties, which consequently predicted higher life satisfaction for first and second generations. Among the second generation, perceived discrimination was associated with stronger transnational co-ethnic social ties, but not for the first generation. These transnational ties, however, were beneficial for the life satisfaction of both generations. It is important to recognise

160. Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) | The Executive Office ([executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](http://executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

161. Discrimination Towards Ethnic Minorities: How Does it Relate to Majority Group Members’ Outgroup Attitudes and Support for Multiculturalism | SpringerLink (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

transnational embeddedness of minorities and the effects of transnational co-ethnic social ties on subjective wellbeing outcomes, especially for second generation minorities.<sup>162</sup>

## DEFINITION

In the Community Relations Section of the Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey (NILT), participants were asked:

*“How favourable or unfavourable do you feel about people from a different ethnic group to yourself?”*

The response options were:

- Very favourable
- Favourable
- Neither favourable nor unfavourable
- Unfavourable
- Very unfavourable
- Don't know

Information is from the ARK NILT survey, Module: Community Relations, Variable: FEELMEG, Year: 2019, and Year: 2014.<sup>163</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage of people who said they felt very favourably or favourably about people from a different ethnic group was 69%.

Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who said they felt very favourably or favourably about people from a different ethnic group increased by 7 percentage points, from 62% to 69% (a percentage increase of 11.29%).

---

162. Transnational and Local Co-ethnic Social Ties as Coping Mechanisms Against Perceived Discrimination - A Study on the Life Satisfaction of Turkish and Moroccan Minorities in the Netherlands - PMC (nih.gov) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

163. NI Life and Times Survey - 2019 : FEELMEG (ark.ac.uk) and NI Life and Times Survey - 2014 : FEELMEG (ark.ac.uk) (Last accessed 2 August 2022)

## DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

### Men and women

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who said they felt very favourably or favourably about people from a different ethnic group:

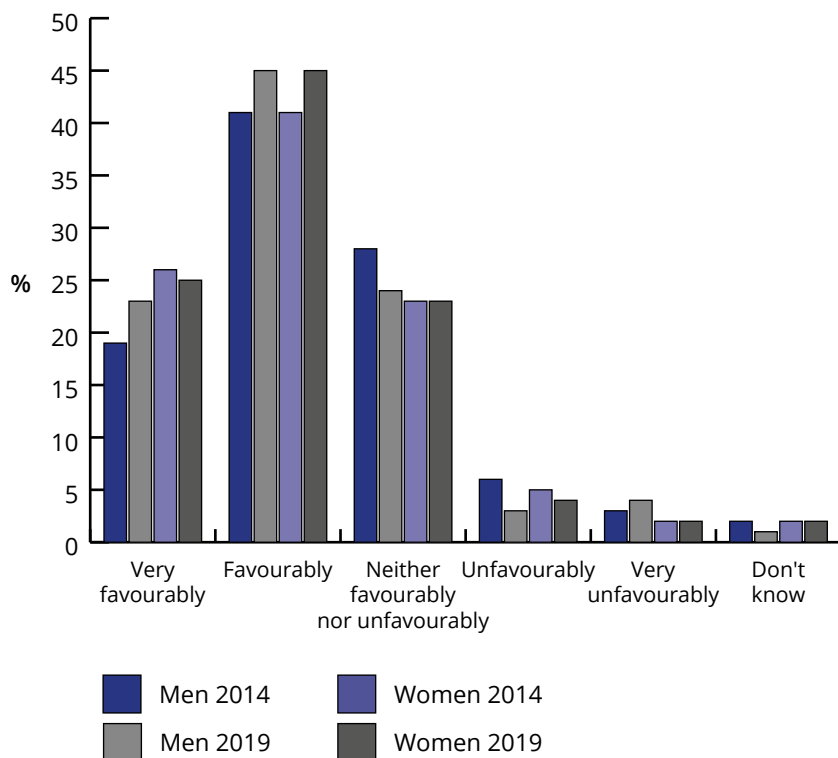
- In men was 68% (23% and 45%, respectively)
- In women was 70% (25% and 45%, respectively)

Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who said they felt very favourably or favourably about people from a different ethnic group increased:

- In men by 8 percentage points, from 60% to 68% (a percentage increase of 13.33%)
- In women by 3 percentage points, from 67% to 70% (a percentage increase of 4.48%; see Peace Figure 80)

#### PEACE FIGURE 80:

**Percentage (%) men and women in Northern Ireland according to levels of favourability towards people from a different ethnic group, 2014 and 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: FEELMEG, Year: 2019, and Year: 2014

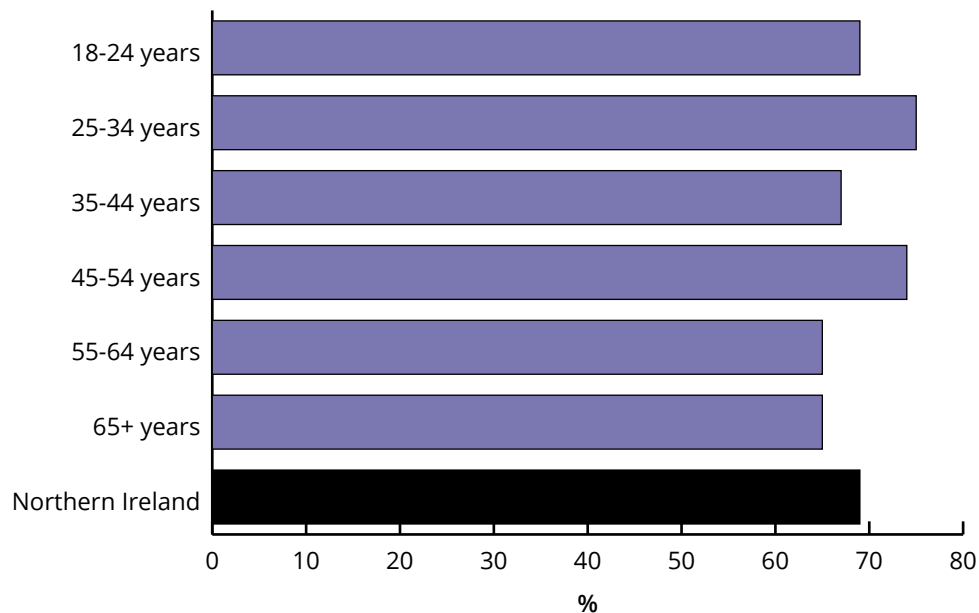
## Age group

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who said they felt very favourably or favourably about people from a different ethnic group in people aged:

- 18-24 years was 69% (22% and 47%, respectively)
- 25-34 years 75% (29% and 46%, respectively)
- 35-44 years was 67% (26% and 41%, respectively)
- 45-54 years was 74% (29% and 45%, respectively)
- 55-64 years was 65% (20% and 45%, respectively)
- 65 years and over was 65% (19% and 46%, respectively; see Peace Figure 81)

### PEACE FIGURE 81:

**Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland who felt favourably ('very favourably' and 'favourably' combined) about people from a different ethnic group by age group, and Northern Ireland, 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: FEELMEG, Year: 2019

Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who said they felt very favourably or favourably about people from a different ethnic group in people aged:

- 18-24 years increased by 15 percentage points, from 54% to 69% (a percentage increase of 27.78%)
- 25-34 years increased by 3 percentage points, from 72% to 75% (a percentage increase of 4.17%)
- 35-44 years increased by 3 percentage points, from 64% to 67% (a percentage increase of 4.69%)
- 45-54 years increased by 7 percentage points, from 67% to 74% (a percentage increase of 10.45%)
- 55-64 years decreased by 5 percentage points, from 70% to 65% (a percentage decrease of 7.14%)
- 65 years and over increased by 6 percentage points, from 59% to 65% (a percentage increase of 10.17%)

## Religion

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who said they felt very favourably or favourably about people from a different ethnic group in people who were:

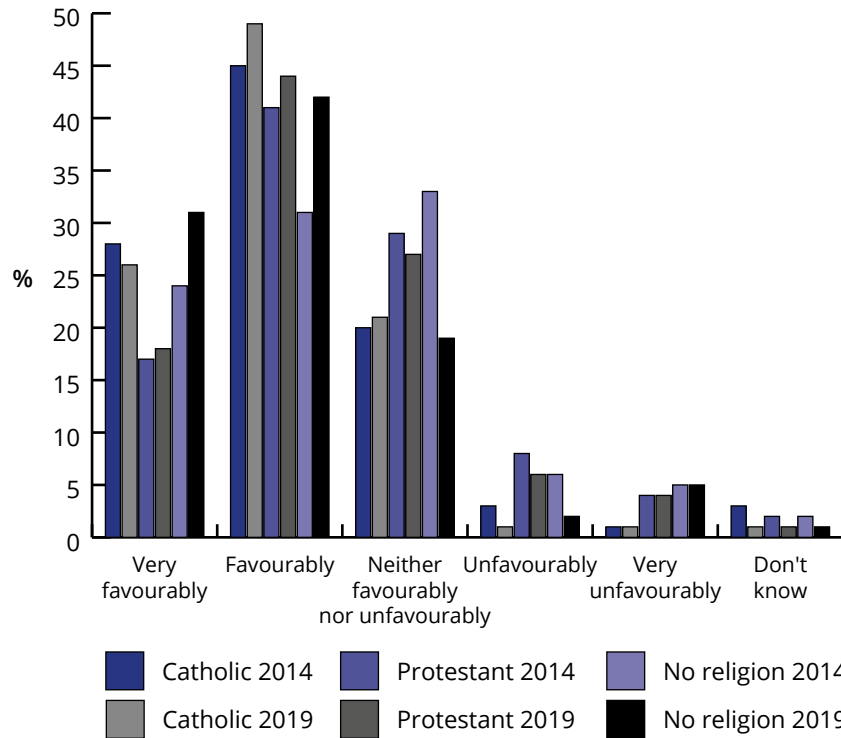
- Catholics was 75% (26% and 49%, respectively)
- Protestants was 62% (18% and 44%, respectively)
- Of no religion 73% (31% and 42%, respectively)

Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who said they felt very favourably or favourably about people from a different ethnic group increased in people who were:

- Catholics by 2 percentage points, from 73% to 75% (a percentage increase of 2.74%)
- Protestants by 4 percentage points, from 58% to 62% (a percentage increase of 6.90%)
- Of no religion by 18 percentage points, from 55% to 73% (a percentage increase of 32.73%; see Peace Figure 82)

**PEACE FIGURE 82:**

**Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to levels of favourability towards people from a different ethnic group by religion, 2014 and 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: FEELMEG, Year: 2019, and Year: 2014

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, almost 7 out of every 10 people felt favourably about people from a different ethnic group.

Between 2014 and 2019, the percentage of people who felt favourably about people from a different ethnic group increased in all population groups except for people aged 55-64 years, in whom it decreased. The largest percentage increases (10% or greater) in the percentage who felt favourably about people from a different ethnic group occurred in:

- Men
- People aged 18-24 years
- People aged 45-54 years
- People aged 65 years and over
- People who described themselves as of no religion



## Differences in levels of favourability

In 2019, when compared Northern Ireland, the following population groups were less likely to feel favourably about people from a different ethnic group:

- **Men**
- **People aged 35-44 years**
- **People aged 55 years and older**
- **Protestants**

The difference in percentage points between Northern Ireland and a specific population group was greatest for people of Protestant religion at 7 percentage points.

Differences in levels of favourability about people from a different ethnic group may reflect differing levels of contact with other groups.

## 11.6 Self-reported Level of Prejudice against People of Minority Ethnic Communities

### IMPORTANCE

Previous research has highlighted that prejudice is formed in early childhood, reaches a peak in middle childhood, and slightly decreases in late childhood. In a systematic meta-analysis of 26 papers investigating prejudice in adolescents (a total of 30 samples, and 23,513 participants), it was found that:

- Prejudice does not change in adolescence
- Interindividual differences in prejudice are well established, they become increasingly strong with age, and they are inversely related to the time-lag between assessments
- Several individual, identity, and contextual factors are related to prejudice in different ways<sup>164</sup>

The Northern Ireland Strategy “Together: Building a United Community” (T:BUC) reflects the Executive’s commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society.<sup>165</sup>

### DEFINITION

In the NILT Survey, participants were asked:

*“How would you describe yourself: as very prejudiced against people of minority ethnic communities, a little prejudiced, or not prejudiced at all?”*

The response options were:

- Very prejudiced
- A little prejudiced
- Not prejudiced at all

164. Development of prejudice against immigrants and ethnic minorities in adolescence: A systematic review with meta-analysis of longitudinal studies - ScienceDirect (Last accessed 2 August 2022)

165. Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) | The Executive Office (executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

- Other
- Don't know

Information is from the ARK NILT survey, Module: Minority Ethnic Groups, Variable: UPREJMEG, Year: 2019, and Year: 2014.<sup>166</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage of people who reported they were very prejudiced or a little prejudiced against people of minority ethnic communities was 29%.

Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage of people who reported they were very prejudiced or a little prejudiced against people of minority ethnic communities increased by 5 percentage points, from 24% to 29% (a percentage increase of 20.83%).

## DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

Men and women

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who reported they were very prejudiced or a little prejudiced against people of minority ethnic communities:

In men was 29% (5% and 24%, respectively)

In women was 29% (4% and 25%, respectively)

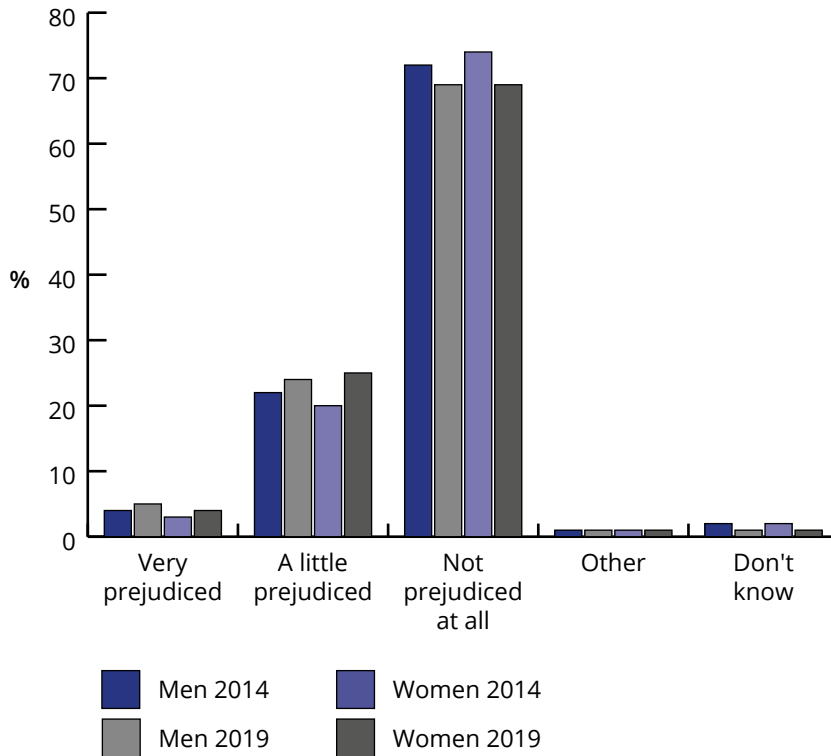
Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who reported they were very prejudiced or a little prejudiced against people of minority ethnic communities increased:

- **In men by 3 percentage points, from 26% to 29%**  
(a percentage increase of 11.54%)
- **In women by 6 percentage points, from 23% to 29%**  
(a percentage increase of 26.09%; see Peace Figure 83)

166. NI Life and Times Survey - 2019 : UPREJMEG (ark.ac.uk) and NI Life and Times Survey - 2014 : UPREJMEG (ark.ac.uk) (Last accessed 2 August 2022)

**PEACE FIGURE 83:**

**Percentage (%) of men and women in Northern Ireland according to self-reported levels of prejudice against people of minority ethnic communities, 2014 and 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Minority Ethnic Groups, Variable: UPREJMEG, Year: 2019, and Year: 2014

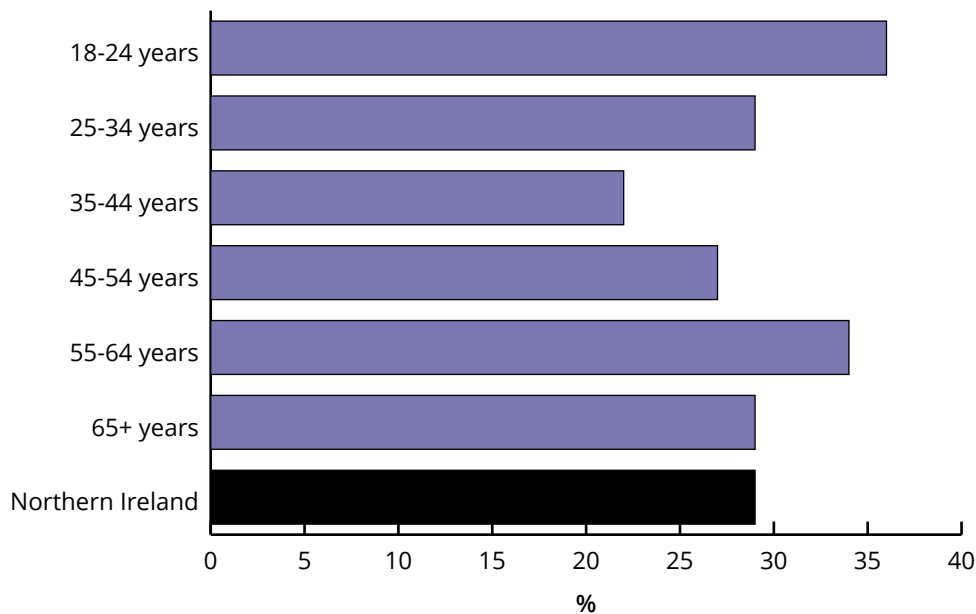
### Age group

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who reported they were very prejudiced or a little prejudiced against people of minority ethnic communities in people aged:

- 18-24 years was 36% (5% and 31%, respectively)
- 25-34 years was 29% (5% and 24%, respectively)
- 35-44 years was 22% (5% and 17%, respectively)
- 45-54 years was 27% (5% and 22%, respectively)
- 55-64 years was 34% (4% and 30%, respectively)
- 65 years and over was 29% (4% and 25%, respectively; see Peace Figure 84)

**PEACE FIGURE 84:**

**Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland who self-reported they were prejudiced ('very prejudiced' and 'a little prejudiced' combined) against people of minority ethnic communities by age group, and Northern Ireland, 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Minority Ethnic Groups, Variable: UPREJMEG, Year: 2019

Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who reported they were very prejudiced or a little prejudiced against people of minority ethnic communities in people aged:

- 18-24 years increased by 10 percentage points, from 26% to 36% (a percentage increase of 38.46%)
- 25-34 years increased by 13 percentage points, from 16% to 29% (a percentage increase of 81.25%)
- 35-44 years decreased by 6 percentage points, from 28% to 22% (a percentage decrease of 21.43%)
- 45-54 years decreased by 3 percentage points, from 30% to 27% (a percentage decrease of 10.00%)
- 55-64 years increased by 13 percentage points, from 21% to 34% (a percentage increase of 61.90%)
- 65 years and over increased by 4 percentage points, from 25% to 29% (a percentage increase of 16.00%)

## Religion

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who reported they were very prejudiced or a little prejudiced against people of minority ethnic communities in people who were:

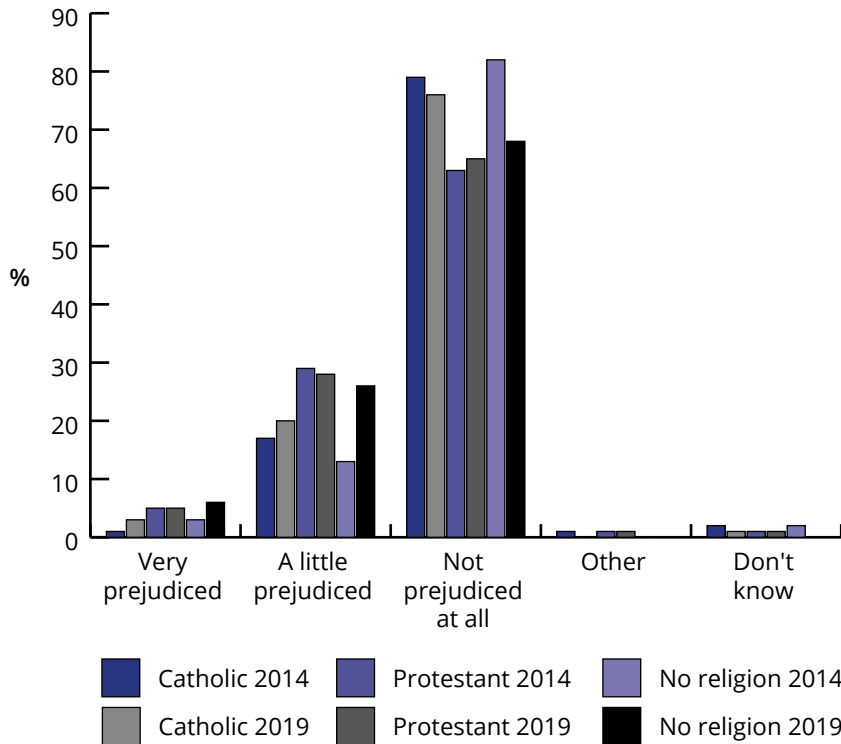
- Catholics was 23% (3% and 20%, respectively)
- Protestants was 33% (5% and 28%, respectively)
- Of no religion was 32% (6% and 26%, respectively)

Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who reported they were very prejudiced or a little prejudiced against people of minority ethnic communities in people who were:

- Catholics increased by 5 percentage points, from 18% to 23% (a percentage increase of 27.78%)
- Protestants decreased by 1 percentage points, from 34% to 33% (a percentage decrease of 2.94%)
- Of no religion increased by 16 percentage points, from 16% to 32% (a percentage increase of 100%; see Peace Figure 85)

**PEACE FIGURE 85:**

**Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to self-reported levels of prejudice against people of minority ethnic communities by religion, 2014 and 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Minority Ethnic Groups, Variable: UPREJMEG, Year: 2019, and Year: 2014

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, almost 3 out of every 10 people reported that they felt prejudiced against people from minority ethnic communities.

Between 2014 and 2019, the combined percentage of people who reported that they felt prejudiced against people from minority ethnic communities increased in most of the population groups. Percentage increases of 10% or greater in the percentage who reported that they felt prejudiced against people from minority ethnic communities occurred in:

- Men
- Women
- People aged 18-34 years
- People aged 55 years and over

- Catholics
- People who described themselves as of no religion

The greatest percentage increases were in people of no religion, and in people aged 25-34 years and aged 55-64 years.

The population groups in which there was a percentage decrease were:

- People aged 35-54 years
- Protestants

### Differences in levels of prejudice

In 2019, when compared Northern Ireland, the following population groups were more likely to be prejudiced against people from minority ethnic communities:

- People aged 18-24 years
- People aged 55-64 years
- Protestants
- People of no religion

The difference in percentage points between Northern Ireland and a specific population group was greatest for people aged 18-24 years at 7 percentage points.

Differences in levels of prejudice may reflect differing levels of contact with other population groups.



## 11.7 Racist Bullying in School

### IMPORTANCE

Bullying has deeply negative and long-lasting consequences for those who experience it, including mental and physical health difficulties, lower attainment, and lower income in adulthood. Different social groups experience bullying differently, with ethnic minority pupils, girls, pupils with special educational needs and disabilities, and LGBTQ pupils more likely to face discriminatory bullying. Further research is needed to identify the role played by this type of bullying in perpetuating inequities in outcomes for these groups, including lower adult earnings and poorer health.

In the UK, ethnic minority pupils have been found to face significantly more bullying than their majority group peers.

Pupils who bully others are more likely to come from abusive homes than their peers, and have higher levels of anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation.<sup>167</sup>

The Northern Ireland Strategy “Together: Building a United Community” (T:BUC) reflects the Executive’s commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society.<sup>168</sup>

### DEFINITION

In the Minority Ethnic Groups Module of the Northern Ireland Young Life and Times Survey, participants, who were 16 years old, were asked:

*“Thinking about your time in school, have you yourself ever witnessed any kind of racist bullying or harassment in your school?”*

Response options were “Yes” and “No”.

Information is from the ARK Young Life and Times Survey, Module: Minority Ethnic Groups, Variable: RACEBULL, Year: 2019, and Year: 2014.<sup>169</sup>

167. Bullying: A review of the evidence - Education Policy Institute (epi.org.uk) (Last accessed 2 August 2022)

168. Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) | The Executive Office (executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

169. NI Young Life and Times Survey - 2019: RACEBULL (ark.ac.uk) and NI Young Life and Times Survey - 2014: RACEBULL (ark.ac.uk) (Last accessed 2 August 2022)

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of young people who had ever witnessed any kind of racist bullying or harassment in their school was 45%.

Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of young people who had ever witnessed any kind of racist bullying or harassment in their school increased by 6 percentage points, from 39% to 45% (a percentage increase of 15.38%).

## DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

### Boys and girls

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage who had ever witnessed any kind of racist bullying or harassment in their school:

- In boys was 51%
- In girls was 42%

Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage who had ever witnessed any kind of racist bullying or harassment in their school increased:

- In boys by 11 percentage points, from 40% to 51% (a percentage increase of 27.50%)
- In girls by 4 percentage points, from 38% to 42% (a percentage increase of 10.53%)

### Religion

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage who had ever witnessed any kind of racist bullying or harassment in their school in young people who were:

- Catholic was 41%
- Protestant was 40%
- Of no religion was 55%

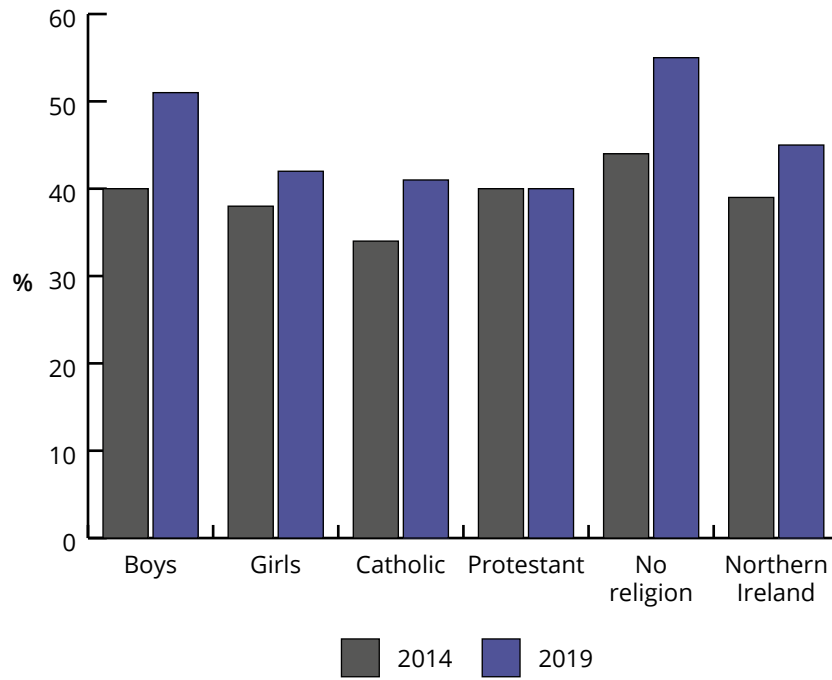
Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage who had ever witnessed any kind of racist bullying or harassment in their school in young people who were:

- Catholic increased by 7 percentage points from 34% to 41% (a percentage increase of 20.59%)
- Protestant remained the same at 40%

Of no religion increased by 11 percentage points from 44% to 55% (a percentage increase of 25.00%; see Peace Figure 86)

**PEACE FIGURE 86:**

**Percentage (%) of young people in Northern Ireland who had ever witnessed any kind of racist bullying or harassment in their school by sex and religion, and Northern Ireland, 2014 and 2019**



Source: Young Life and Times Survey, Module: Minority Ethnic Groups, Variable: RACEBULL, Year: 2019, and Year: 2014

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, between 4 and 5 out of every 10 young people had ever witnessed any kind of racist bullying or harassment in their school, although this varied by population groups, as follows:

- Over 5 out of every 10 boys
- Over 4 out of every 10 girls
- Over 4 out of every 10 young people who were Catholic
- 4 out of every 10 young people who were Protestant
- Between 5 and 6 out of every 10 young people of no religion

Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, there was a percentage increase of 10% or more in the percentage who had ever witnessed any kind of racist bullying or harassment in their school for all population groups except one. For young people who were Protestant, the percentage remained the same.

### Differences in levels of ever having witnessed bullying

The greatest percentage increases in the percentage of young people who had ever witnessed any kind of racist bullying or harassment in their school occurred for:

- Boys
- Young people of Catholic religion
- Young people of no religion

Differences in levels of ever having witnessed bullying may reflect differing experiences of bullying across school population groups.

## 11.8 Preference for an own religion only or mixed-religion neighbourhood

### IMPORTANCE

Northern Ireland is a fundamentally divided society and there is evidence the two main communities, Protestant and Catholic, lead essentially separate lives. These divisions are reflected in the largely segregated residential patterns for the communities and in the separate schooling that most of them experience.<sup>170</sup>

In a spatial mapping study of pupils in six post-primary schools in Northern Ireland (two of which were in Belfast), which was supported by a survey, one of the statements was whether “Asserting community (i.e., religious) identity can undermine social cohesion”, to which 88% of children and young people agreed (4% disagreed, and 8% were unsure).<sup>171</sup>

The Northern Ireland Strategy “Together: Building a United Community” (T:BUC) reflects the Executive’s commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society.<sup>172</sup>

The T:BUC Strategy outlines a vision of a united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation – one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced. The aims of the District Councils Good Relations Programme are:

- To improve relations between and within Council areas
- To support local solutions to local good relations issues<sup>173</sup>

### DEFINITION

In the Community Relations Module of the Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey, participants were asked:

*“If you had a choice, would you prefer to live in a neighbourhood with people of only your own religion, or in a mixed-religion neighbourhood?”*

170. Community-relations-GPS-2.pdf (ulster.ac.uk) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

171. Young O & Roulston D. Divided We Stand: Mapping patterns of shared and separated space. Shared Space 14. Layout 1 (community-relations.org.uk) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

172. Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) | The Executive Office (executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

173. tbuc-annual-report-2019-20-condensed-summary-report.pdf (executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 3 September 2022)

The response options were:

- Own religion only
- Mixed-religion neighbourhood
- Other
- Don't know

Information is from the ARK NILT survey, Module: Community Relations, Variable: MXRLGNGH, Year: 2019, and Year: 2014.<sup>174</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who would prefer:

- A neighbourhood with people of only their own religion was 18%
- A mixed-religion neighbourhood was 77%

Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who would prefer:

- A neighbourhood with people of only their own religion decreased by 7 percentage points, from 25% to 18% (a percentage decrease of 28.00%)
- A mixed-religion neighbourhood increased 7 percentage points, from 70% to 77% (a percentage increase of 10.00%)
- Demographic Comparisons

---

174. NI Life and Times Survey - 2019 : MXRLGNGH (ark.ac.uk) and NI Life and Times Survey - 2014 : MXRLGNGH (ark.ac.uk) (Last accessed 5 August 2022)

## Men and women

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of:

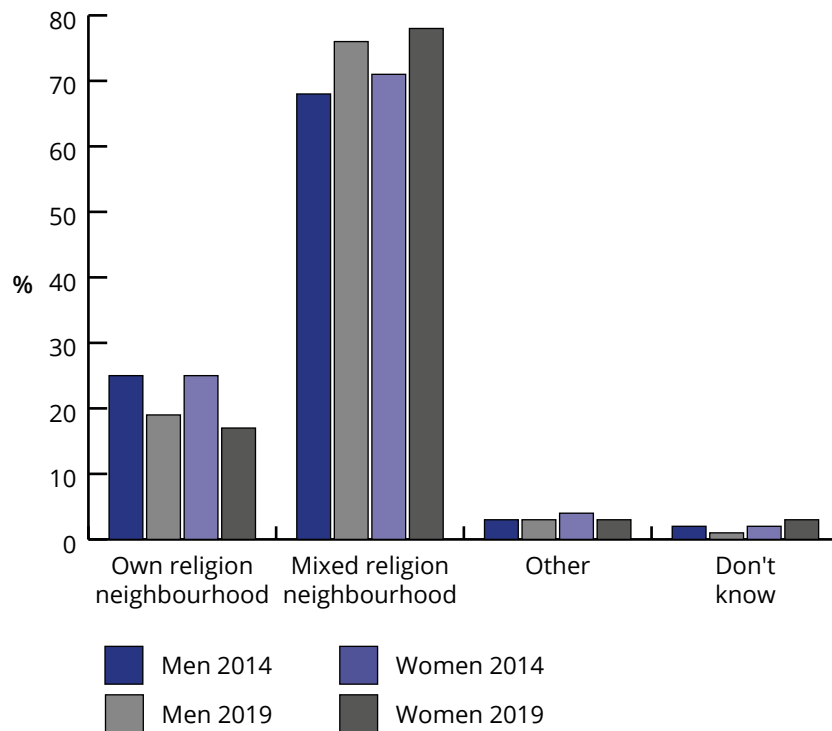
- Men who would prefer a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion was 19%
- Men who would prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood was 76%
- Women who would prefer a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion was 17%
- Women who would prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood was 78%

Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of:

- Men who would prefer a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion decreased by 6 percentage points, from 25% to 19% (a percentage decrease of 24.00%), whereas the percentage of men who would prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood increased by 8 percentage points, from 68% to 76% (a percentage increase of 11.76%)
- Women who would prefer a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion decreased by 8 percentage points, from 25% to 17% (a percentage decrease of 32.00%), whereas the percentage of women who would prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood increased by 7 percentage points, from 71% to 78% (a percentage increase of 9.86%; see Peace Figure 87)

**PEACE FIGURE 87:**

**Percentage (%) of men and women who would prefer a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion or a mixed-religion neighbourhood, 2014 and 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: MXRLGNGH, Year: 2019, and Year: 2014

### Age group

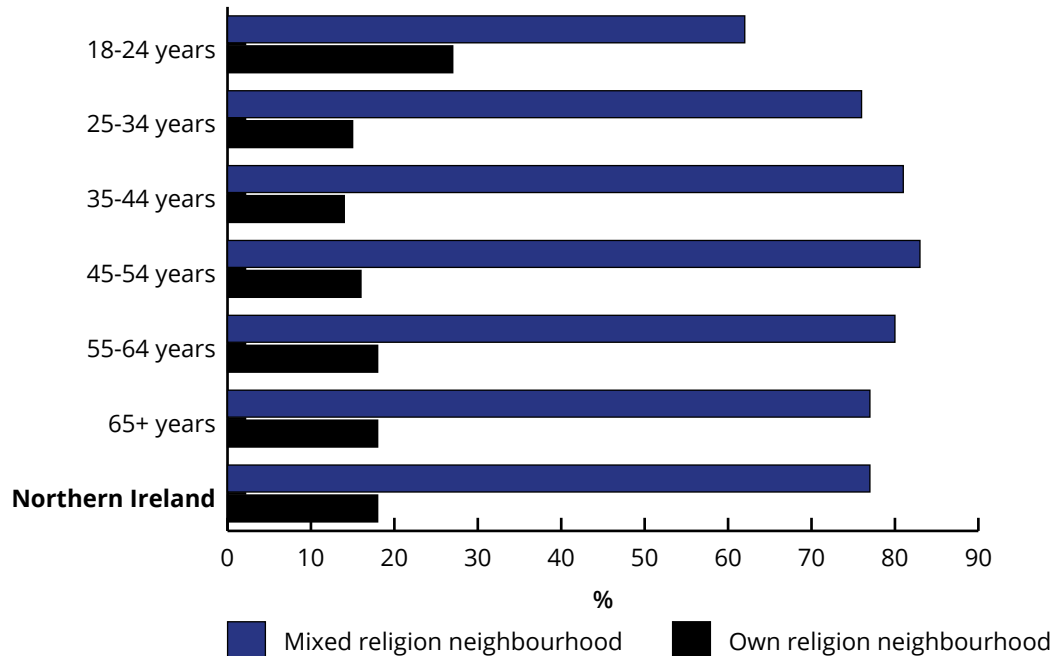
In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage who would prefer a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion in people aged:

- 18-24 years was 27%, whereas the percentage of 18–24-year-olds who would prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood was 62%
- 25-34 years was 15%, whereas the percentage of 25–34-year-olds who would prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood was 76%
- 35-44 years was 14%, whereas the percentage of 35–44-year-olds who would prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood was 81%
- 45-54 years was 16%, whereas the percentage of 45–54-year-olds who would prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood was 83%
- 55-64 years was 18%, whereas the percentage of 55–64-year-olds who would prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood was 80%
- 65 years and over was 18%, whereas the percentage of those 65 years and over who would prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood was 77% (see Peace Figure 88)



**PEACE FIGURE 88:**

**Percentage (%) of people who would prefer a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion or who would prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood by age group, and Northern Ireland, 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: MXRLGNH, Year: 2019

Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage who would prefer a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion decreased in people aged:

- 18-24 years by 13 percentage points, from 40% to 27% (a percentage decrease of 32.50%), whereas the percentage of 18–24-year-olds who would prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood increased by 9 percentage points, from 53% to 62% (a percentage increase of 16.98%)
- 25-34 years by 9 percentage points, from 24% to 15% (a percentage decrease of 37.50%), whereas the percentage of 25–34-year-olds who would prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood increased by 8 percentage points, from 68% to 76% (a percentage increase of 11.76%)
- 35-44 years by 11 percentage points, from 25% to 14% (a percentage decrease of 44.00%), whereas the percentage of 35–44-year-olds who would prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood increased by 10 percentage points, from 71% to 81% (a percentage increase of 14.08%)
- 45-54 years by 5 percentage points from 21% to 16% (a percentage decrease of 23.81%), whereas the percentage of 45–54-year-olds who would prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood increased by 8 percentage points, from 75% to 83% (a percentage increase of 10.67%)

- 55-64 years by 1 percentage point, from 19% to 18% (a percentage decrease of 5.26%), whereas the percentage of 55-64-year-olds who would prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood increased by 4 percentage points, from 76% to 80% (a percentage increase of 5.26%)
- 65 years and over by 6 percentage points, from 24% to 18% (a percentage decrease of 25.00%), whereas the percentage of those 65 years and over who would prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood increased by 6 percentage points, from 71% to 77% (a percentage increase of 8.45%)

## Religion

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who were:

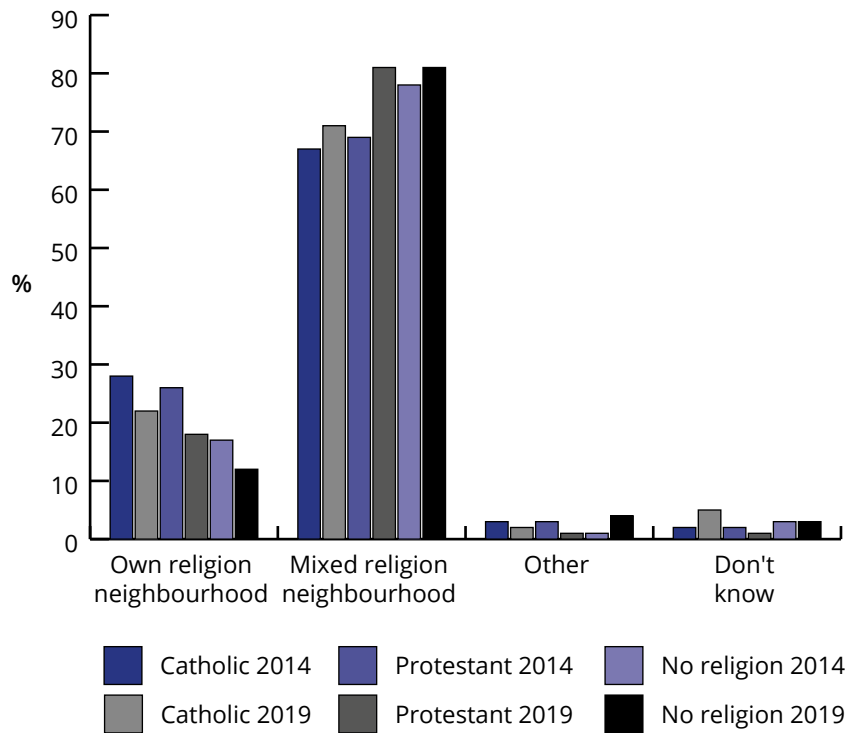
- Catholic who would prefer a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion was 22%
- Catholic who would prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood was 71%
- Protestant who would prefer a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion was 18%
- Protestant who would prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood was 81%
- Of no religion who would prefer a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion was 12%
- Of no religion who would prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood was 81%

Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage who would prefer a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion decreased in people who were:

- Catholic by 6 percentage points, from 28% to 22% (a percentage decrease of 21.43%), whereas the percentage of Catholics who would prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood increased by 4 percentage points, from 67% to 71% (a percentage increase of 5.97%)
- Protestant by 8 percentage points, from 26% to 18% (a percentage decrease of 30.77%), whereas the percentage of Protestants who would prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood increased by 12 percentage points, from 69% to 81% (a percentage increase of 17.39%)
- Of no religion by 5 percentage points, from 17% to 12% (a percentage decrease of 29.41%), whereas the percentage of people of no religion who would prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood increased by 3 percentage points, from 78% to 81% (a percentage increase of 3.85%; see Peace Figure 89)

**PEACE FIGURE 89:**

**Percentage (%) of people who would prefer a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion or a mixed-religion neighbourhood by religion, 2014 and 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: MXRLGNHG, Year: 2019, and Year: 2014

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, almost 8 out of every 10 people would prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood whereas almost 2 out of every 10 people would prefer a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion.

Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, for all population groups, the percentage of people who would prefer:

- A neighbourhood with people of only their own religion decreased, with the percentage decreases ranging from 5.26% to 44.00%
- A mixed-religion neighbourhood increased, with percentage increases ranging from 3.85% to 17.39%

## Differences in preference

In 2019, when compared Northern Ireland, the following population groups were less likely to prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood:

- **Men**
- **People aged 18-34 years**
- **People of Catholic religion**

The difference in percentage points between Northern Ireland and a specific population group was greatest for people aged 18-24 years at 15 percentage points, followed by people of Catholic religion at 6 percentage points.

Differences in preference may reflect differing experiences of various population groups.

## 11.9 Preference for an own religion only or mixed religion workplace

### IMPORTANCE

The Northern Ireland Strategy “Together: Building a United Community” (T:BUC) reflects the Executive’s commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society.<sup>175</sup>

Cultural diversity in a workplace means including various factors such as language, religion, sexual orientation, and political views. An environment of representation and inclusion at the workplace promotes teamwork; employees are known to work better together when people from various backgrounds and cultures can agree. A culturally diverse organisation can bring people with different experiences and points of view together towards common goals.<sup>176</sup>

### DEFINITION

In the Community Relations Module of the Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey, participants were asked:

*“And if you were working and had to change your job, would you prefer a workplace with people of only your own religion, or a mixed religion workplace?”*

The response options were:

- Own religion only
- Mixed religion workplace
- Other
- Don’t know

Information is from the ARK NILT survey, Module: Community Relations, Variable: MXRLGWRK, Year: 2019, and Year: 2014.<sup>177</sup>

175. Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) | The Executive Office (executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

176. Cultural Diversity - The Ultimate Guide to Cultural Competence [2021] (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

177. NI Life and Times Survey - 2019 : MXRLGWRK (ark.ac.uk) and NI Life and Times Survey - 2014 : MXRLGWRK (ark.ac.uk) (Last accessed 5 August 2022)

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who would prefer:

- A workplace with people of only their own religion was 9%
- A mixed religion workplace was 88%

Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who would prefer:

- A workplace with people of only their own religion decreased by 7 percentage points, from 16% to 9% (a percentage decrease of 43.75%)
- A mixed religion workplace increased 8 percentage points, from 80% to 88% (a percentage increase of 10.00%)

## DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

### Men and women

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of:

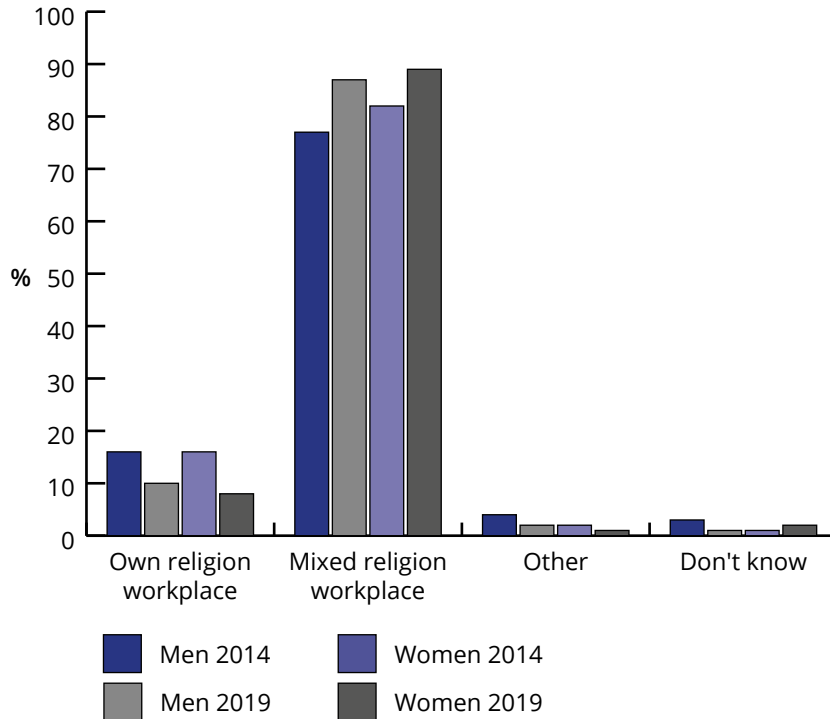
- Men who would prefer a workplace with people of only their own religion was 10%
- Men who would prefer a mixed religion workplace was 87%
- Women who would prefer a workplace with people of only their own religion was 8%
- Women who would prefer a mixed religion workplace was 89%

Between 2014 and 2016, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of:

- Men who would prefer a workplace with people of only their own religion decreased by 6 percentage points, from 16% to 10% (a percentage decrease of 37.5%), whereas the percentage of men who would prefer a mixed religion workplace increased by 10 percentage points, from 77% to 87% (a percentage increase of 12.99%)
- Women who would prefer a workplace with people of only their own religion decreased by 8 percentage points, from 16% to 8% (a percentage decrease of 50%), whereas the percentage of women who would prefer a mixed religion workplace increased by 7 percentage points, from 82% to 89% (a percentage increase of 8.54%; see Peace Figure 90)

**PEACE FIGURE 90:**

**Percentage (%) of men and women in Northern Ireland according to preference for a workplace with people of only their own religion or a mixed religion workplace, 2014 and 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: MXRLGWRK, Year: 2019, and Year: 2014

### Age group

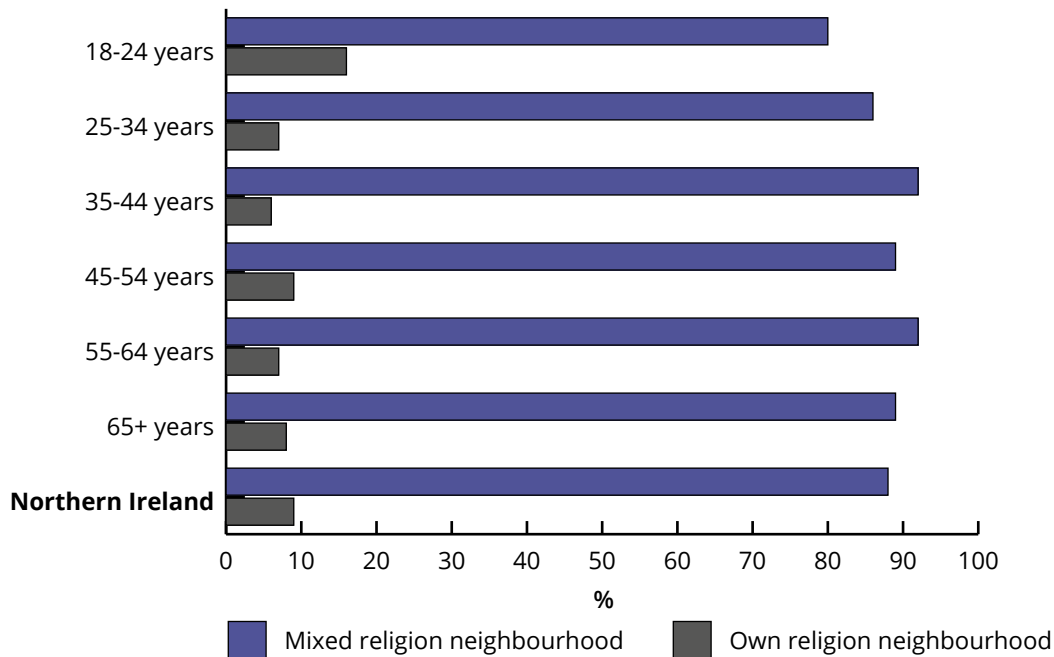
In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage who would prefer a workplace with people of only their own religion in people aged:

- 18-24 years was 16%, whereas the percentage of 18-24-year-olds who would prefer a mixed religion workplace was 80%
- 25-34 years was 7%, whereas the percentage of 25-34-year-olds who would prefer a mixed religion workplace was 86%
- 35-44 years was 6%, whereas the percentage of 35-44-year-olds who would prefer a mixed religion workplace was 92%
- 45-54 years was 9%, whereas the percentage of 45-54-year-olds who would prefer a mixed religion workplace was 89%
- 55-64 years was 7%, whereas the percentage of 55-64-year-olds who would prefer a mixed religion workplace was 92%

- 65 years and over was 8%, whereas the percentage of people 65 years and over who would prefer a mixed religion workplace was 89% (see Peace Figure 91)

**PEACE FIGURE 91:**

**Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to preference for a workplace with people of only their own religion or a mixed religion workplace by age group, and Northern Ireland, 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: MXRLGWRK, Year: 2019

Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage who would prefer a workplace with people of only their own religion decreased in people aged:

- 18-24 years by 10 percentage points, from 26% to 16% (a percentage decrease of 38.46%), whereas the percentage of 18–24-year-olds who would prefer a mixed religion workplace increased by 13 percentage points, from 67% to 80% (a percentage increase of 19.40%)
- 25-34 years by 7 percentage points, from 14% to 7% (a percentage decrease of 50.00%), whereas the percentage of 25–34-year-olds who would prefer a mixed religion workplace increased by 5 percentage points, 81% to 86% (a percentage increase of 6.17%)
- 35-44 years by 8 percentage points, from 14% to 6% (a percentage decrease of 57.14%), whereas the percentage of 35–44-year-olds who would prefer a mixed religion workplace increased by 11 percentage points, from 81% to 92% (a percentage increase of 13.58%)



- 45-54 years by 4 percentage points from 13% to 9% (a percentage decrease of 30.77%), whereas the percentage of 45–54-year-olds who would prefer a mixed religion workplace increased by 3 percentage points, from 86% to 89% (a percentage increase of 3.49%)
- 55-64 years by 7 percentage points, from 14% to 7% (a percentage decrease of 50.00%), whereas the percentage of 55–64-year-olds who would prefer a mixed religion workplace increased by 8 percentage points, from 84% to 92% (a percentage increase of 9.52%)
- 65 years and over by 7 percentage points, from 15% to 8% (a percentage decrease of 46.67%), whereas the percentage of people 65 years and over who would prefer a mixed religion workplace increased by 12 percentage points, from 77% to 89% (a percentage increase of 15.58%)

## Religion

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who were:

- Catholic who would prefer a workplace with people of only their own religion was 10%
- Catholic who would prefer a mixed religion workplace was 85%
- Protestant who would prefer a workplace with people of only their own religion was 8%
- Protestant who would prefer a mixed religion workplace was 91%
- Of no religion who would prefer a workplace with people of only their own religion was 7%
- Of no religion who would prefer a mixed religion workplace was 90%

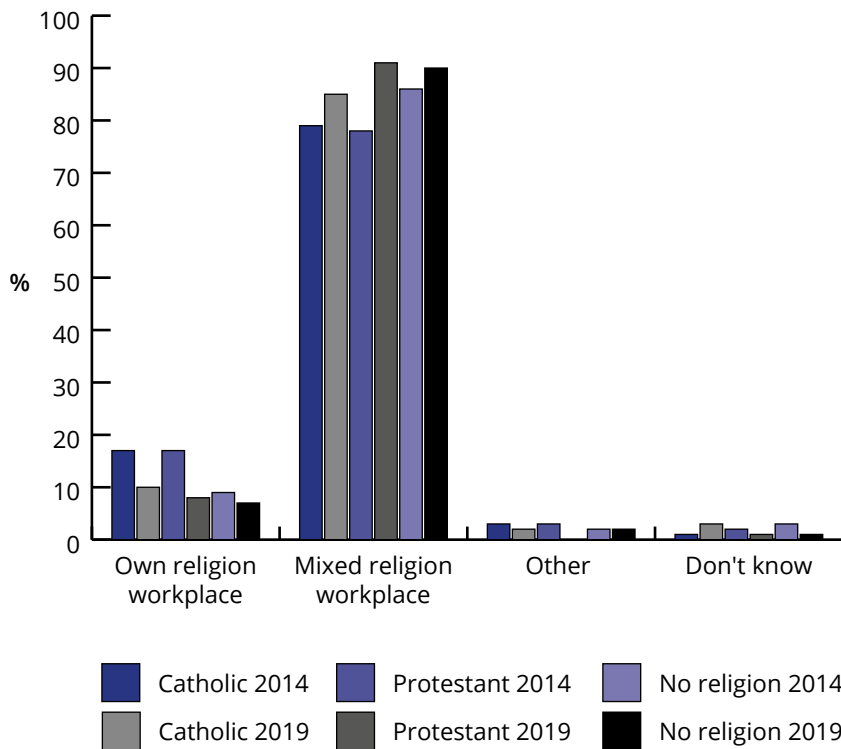
Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage who would prefer a workplace with people of only their own religion decreased in people who were:

- Catholic by 7 percentage points, from 17% to 10% (a percentage decrease of 41.18%), whereas the percentage of Catholics who would prefer a mixed religion workplace increased by 6 percentage points, from 79% to 85% (a percentage increase of 7.59%)
- Protestant by 9 percentage points, from 17% to 8% (a percentage decrease of 52.94%), whereas the percentage of Protestants who would prefer a mixed religion workplace increased by 13 percentage points, from 78% to 91% (a percentage increase of 16.67%)

- Of no religion by 2 percentage points, from 9% to 7% (a percentage decrease of 22.22%), whereas the percentage of people of no religion who would prefer a mixed religion workplace increased by 4 percentage points, from 86% to 90% (a percentage increase of 4.65%; see Peace Figure 92)

**PEACE FIGURE 92:**

**Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to preference for a workplace with people of only their own religion or a mixed religion workplace by religion, 2014 and 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: MXRLGWRK, Year: 2019, and Year: 2014

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, almost 9 out of every 10 people would prefer a mixed religion workplace, whereas less than 1 out of every 10 people would prefer a workplace with people of only their own religion.

Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, for all population groups, the percentage of people who would prefer:

- A workplace with people of only their own religion decreased, with the percentage decreases ranging from 22.22% to 57.14%
- A mixed religion workplace increased, with percentage increases ranging from 3.49% to 19.40%

## Differences in preference

In 2019, when compared Northern Ireland, the following population groups were less likely to prefer a mixed religion workplace:

- **Men**
- **People aged 18-34 years**
- **People of Catholic religion**

The difference in percentage points between Northern Ireland and a specific population group was greatest for people aged 18-24 years at 8 percentage points.

Differences in preference may reflect differing experiences of various population groups.

## 11.10 Preference for an own religion only or mixed religion school

### IMPORTANCE

Northern Ireland is a fundamentally divided society and there is evidence of the two main communities, Protestant and Catholic, lead essentially separate lives. These divisions are reflected in the largely segregated residential patterns for the communities and in the separate schooling that most of them experience.<sup>178</sup>

Cultural diversity in education means more educational opportunities for racial and ethnic minorities. Cultural diversity in education or school also allows the students to understand and respect people of other cultures. When diversity is taught early in their lives, students are less likely to be discriminating; they can communicate and interact with people of any background or culture, which is a foundation to enable them to carry respect and understanding throughout their lives.<sup>179</sup>

The Northern Ireland Strategy “Together: Building a United Community” (T:BUC) reflects the Executive’s commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society.<sup>180</sup>

### DEFINITION

In the Community Relations Module of the Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey, participants were asked:

*“And if you were deciding where to send your children to school, would you prefer a school with children of only your own religion, or a mixed-religion school?”*

The response options were:

- Own religion only
- Mixed religion school
- Other
- Don’t know

178. Community-relations-GPS-2.pdf (ulster.ac.uk) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

179. Cultural Diversity - The Ultimate Guide to Cultural Competence [2021] (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

180. Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) | The Executive Office (executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

Information is from the ARK NILT survey, Module: Community Relations, Variable: OWNMXSCH, Year: 2019, and Year: 2014.<sup>181</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who would prefer:

- A school with children of only their own religion was 32%
- A mixed religion school was 61%

Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who would prefer:

- A school with children of only their own religion decreased by 2 percentage points, from 34% to 32% (a percentage decrease of 5.88%)
- A mixed religion school increased 2 percentage points, from 59% to 61% (a percentage increase of 3.39%)

## DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

### Men and women

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of:

- Men who would prefer a school with children of only their own religion was 31%
- Men who would prefer a mixed religion school was 63%
- Women who would prefer a school with people of only their own religion was 32%
- Women who would prefer a mixed religion school was 60%

---

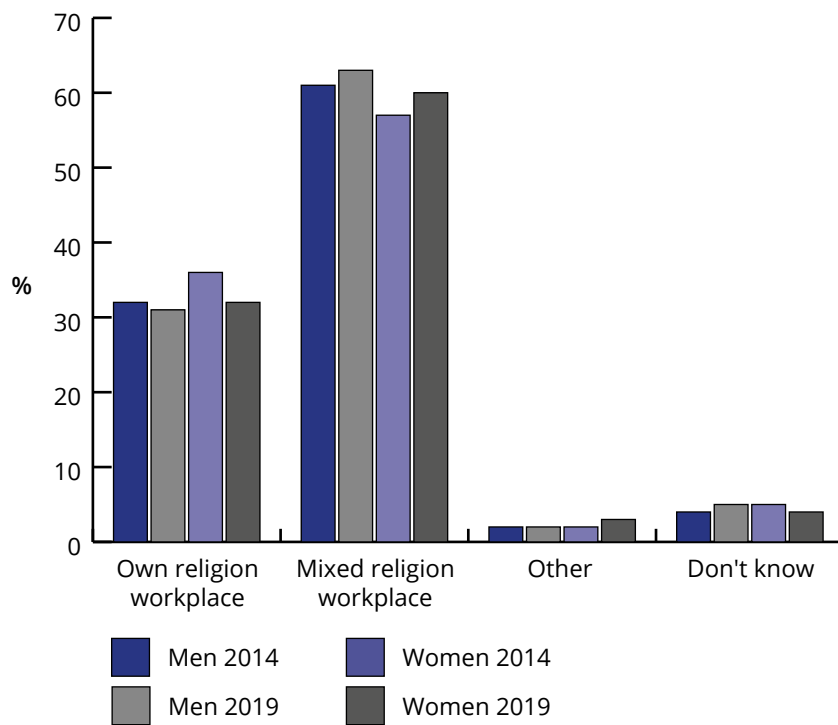
181. NI Life and Times Survey - 2019 : OWNMXSCH (ark.ac.uk) and NI Life and Times Survey - 2014 : OWNMXSCH (ark.ac.uk) (Last accessed 5 August 2022)

Between 2014 and 2016, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of:

- Men who would prefer a school with children of only their own religion decreased by 1 percentage point, from 32% to 31% (a percentage decrease of 3.13%), whereas the percentage of men who would prefer a mixed religion school increased by 2 percentage points, from 61% to 63% (a percentage increase of 3.28%)
- Women who would prefer a school with children of only their own religion decreased by 4 percentage points, from 36% to 32% (a percentage decrease of 11.11%), whereas the percentage of women who would prefer a mixed religion school increased by 3 percentage points, from 57% to 60% (a percentage increase of 5.26%; see Peace Figure 93)

**PEACE FIGURE 93:**

**Percentage (%) of men and women in Northern Ireland according to preference for a school with children of only their own religion or a mixed religion school, 2014 and 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: OWNMXSCH, Year: 2019, and Year: 2014

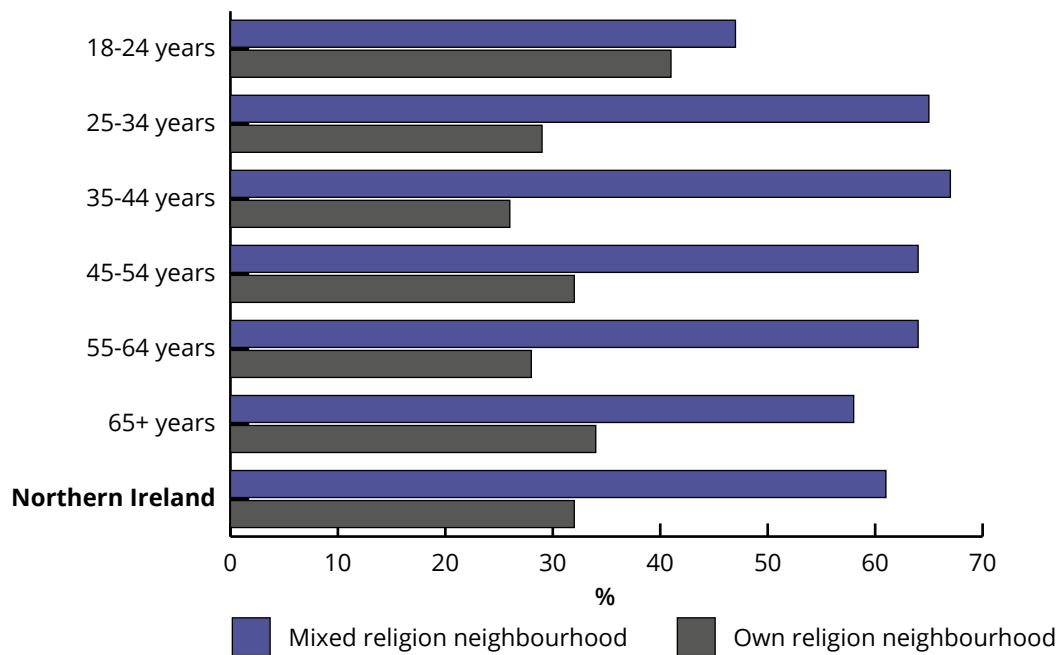
## Age group

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage who would prefer a school with children of only their own religion in people aged:

- 18-24 years was 41%, whereas the percentage of 18–24-year-olds who would prefer a mixed religion school was 47%
- 25-34 years was 29%, whereas the percentage of 25–34-year-olds who would prefer a mixed religion school was 65%
- 35-44 years was 26%, whereas the percentage of 35–44-year-olds who would prefer a mixed religion school was 67%
- 45-54 years was 32%, whereas the percentage of 45–54-year-olds who would prefer a mixed religion school was 64%
- 55-64 years was 28%, whereas the percentage of 55–64-year-olds who would prefer a mixed religion school was 64%
- 65 years and over was 34%, whereas the percentage of people 65 years and over who would prefer a mixed religion school was 58% (see Peace Figure 94)

### PEACE FIGURE 94:

**Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to preference for a school with children of only their own religion or a mixed religion school by age group, and Northern Ireland, 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: OWNMXSCH, Year: 2019

Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage who would prefer a school with children of only their own religion in people aged:

- 18-24 years increased by 3 percentage points, from 38% to 41% (a percentage increase of 7.89%), whereas the percentage of 18–24-year-olds who would prefer a mixed religion school decreased by 6 percentage points, from 53% to 47% (a percentage decrease of 11.32%)
- 25-34 years decreased by 11 percentage points, from 40% to 29% (a percentage decrease of 27.50%), whereas the percentage of 25–34-year-olds who would prefer a mixed religion school increased by 10 percentage points, 55% to 65% (a percentage increase of 18.18%)
- 35-44 years decreased by 4 percentage points, from 30% to 26% (a percentage decrease of 13.33%), whereas the percentage of 35–44-year-olds who would prefer a mixed religion school increased by 6 percentage points, from 61% to 67% (a percentage increase of 9.84%)
- 45-54 years remained the same at 32%, whereas the percentage of 35–44-year-olds who would prefer a mixed religion school increased by 2 percentage points, from 62% to 64% (a percentage increase of 3.23%)
- 55-64 years decreased by 1 percentage point, from 29% to 28% (a percentage decrease of 3.45%), whereas the percentage of 55–64-year-olds who would prefer a mixed religion school decreased by 2 percentage points, from 66% to 64% (a percentage decrease of 3.03%)
- 65 years and over decreased by 4 percentage points, from 38% to 34% (a percentage decrease of 10.53%), whereas the percentage of people 65 years and over who would prefer a mixed religion school increased by 3 percentage points, from 55% to 58% (a percentage increase of 5.45%)



## Religion

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who were:

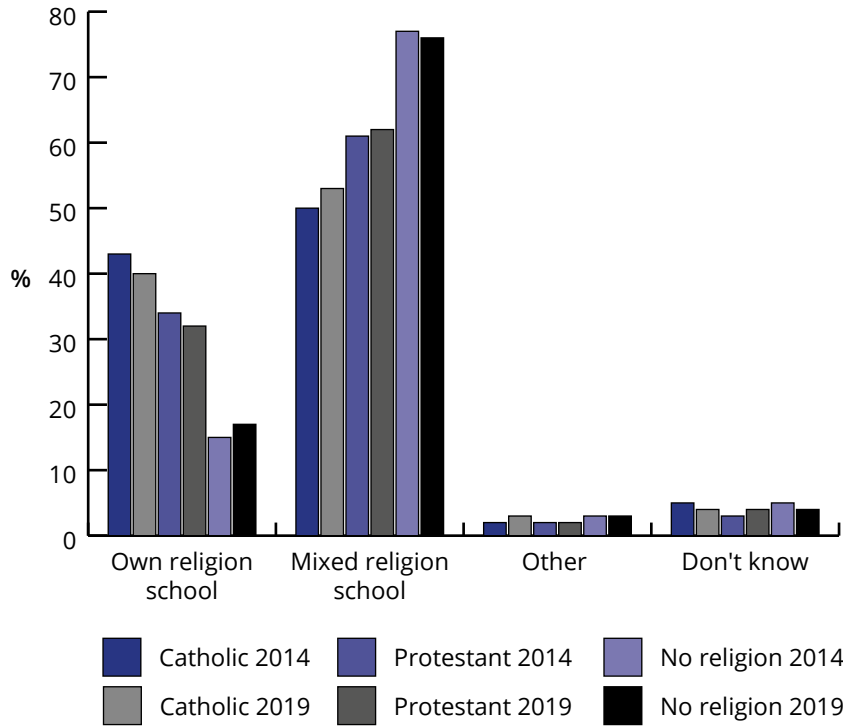
- Catholic who would prefer a school with children of only their own religion was 40%
- Catholic who would prefer a mixed religion school was 53%
- Protestant who would prefer a school with children of only their own religion was 32%
- Protestant who would prefer a mixed religion school was 62%
- Of no religion who would prefer a school with children of only their own religion was 17%
- Of no religion who would prefer a mixed religion school was 76%

Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage who would prefer a school with children of only their own religion in people who were:

- Catholic decreased by 3 percentage points, from 43% to 40% (a percentage decrease of 6.98%), whereas the percentage of Catholics who would prefer a mixed religion school increased by 3 percentage points, from 50% to 53% (a percentage increase of 6.00%)
- Protestant decreased by 2 percentage points, from 34% to 32% (a percentage decrease of 5.88%), whereas the percentage of Protestants who would prefer a mixed religion school increased by 1 percentage point, from 61% to 62% (a percentage increase of 1.64%)
- Of no religion increased by 2 percentage points, from 15% to 17% (a percentage increase of 13.33%), whereas the percentage of people of no religion who would prefer a mixed religion school decreased by 1 percentage point, from 77% to 76% (a percentage decrease of 1.30%; see Peace Figure 95)

**PEACE FIGURE 95:**

**Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to preference for a school with children of only their own religion or a mixed religion school by religion, 2014 and 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: OWNMXSCH, Year: 2019, and Year: 2014

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, over 6 out of every 10 people would prefer a mixed religion school, whereas over 3 out of every 10 people would prefer a school with children of only their own religion.

Between 2014 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who would prefer:

- A school with children of only their own religion decreased in most population groups, with the percentage decreases ranging from 3.13% to 27.50%, whereas it increased in people aged 18-24 years and people who described themselves as having no religion, and it remained the same in people aged 45-54 years
- A mixed religion workplace increased in most population groups, with percentage increases ranging from 1.64% to 18.18%, whereas it decreased in people aged 18-24 years and 55-64 years and in people who described themselves as having no religion

### Differences in preference

In 2019, when compared Northern Ireland, the following population groups were less likely to prefer a mixed religion school:

- Women
- People aged 18-24 years
- People aged 65 years and over
- People of Catholic religion

The difference in percentage points between Northern Ireland and a specific population group was greatest for people aged 18-24 years at 14 percentage points, followed by people of Catholic religion at 8 percentage points.

Differences in preference may reflect differing experiences of various population groups.

## 11.11 Willingness to Accept People from Different Backgrounds/Communities as Residents in the Local Area

### IMPORTANCE

Northern Ireland is a fundamentally divided society and there is evidence the two main communities, Protestant and Catholic, lead essentially separate lives. These divisions are reflected in the largely segregated residential patterns for the communities and in the separate schooling that most of them experience.<sup>182</sup>

In the results of a multilevel study in Leeds, UK, and Warsaw, Poland, an increase in perceived ethnic diversity in the neighbourhood was related to an increase in ethnic prejudice of White-British and Polish people. The negative association of subjective perceptions of diversity with attitudes depended on the actual level of diversity in the neighbourhood:

- In Leeds, perceived diversity was more strongly negatively related with attitudes of residents living in more ethnically diverse neighbourhoods
- In Warsaw, perceived diversity was more strongly negatively related with attitudes of residents living in more homogenous neighbourhoods
- In Leeds, however, the relationship between acceptance of minority ethnic groups and perceptions of diversity was moderated by recent changes in actual neighbourhood diversity, especially an inflow of minorities of 'other White' and 'Mixed' ethnicity and change in neighbourhood deprivation (increase in council housing).<sup>183</sup>

The Northern Ireland Strategy "Together: Building a United Community" (T:BUC) reflects the Executive's commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society.<sup>184</sup>

182. Community-relations-GPS-2.pdf (ulster.ac.uk) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

183. Perceived Diversity and Acceptance of Minority Ethnic Groups in Two Urban Contexts | European Sociological Review | Oxford Academic (Last accessed 7 August 2022)

184. Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) | The Executive Office (executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

## DEFINITION

In the Minority Ethnic People Module of the ARK NILT survey, participants were asked:

*"If respondent is not an Irish Traveller | from a Minority Ethnic Group | Eastern European | a Muslim ...  
And do you agree or disagree with the following statement?*

*In relation to people from/who are Irish Traveller | Minority Ethnic Group | Eastern Europe | Muslim, I would willingly accept them as a resident in my local area."*

Response options were: "Yes" or "No"

Information is from the ARK NILT survey, Minority Ethnic People Module, Variables TRAVRES2, MEGRES, EERES, and MUSRES2, Year: 2019.<sup>185</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who would willingly accept:

- Irish Travellers as residents in the local area was 64%
- People from minority ethnic groups as residents in the local area was 94%
- People from Eastern Europe as residents in the local area was 93%
- People who are Muslim as residents in the local area was 83%

## DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage who would willingly accept:

- Irish Travellers as residents in the local area was highest in people of Catholic religion at 78%, and lowest in people of Protestant religion at 50%, with a median at 65% in women
- People from minority ethnic groups as residents in the local area was highest in people aged 18-24 years at 98%, and lowest in people aged 65 years and over at 91%, with a median of 95% in three population groups

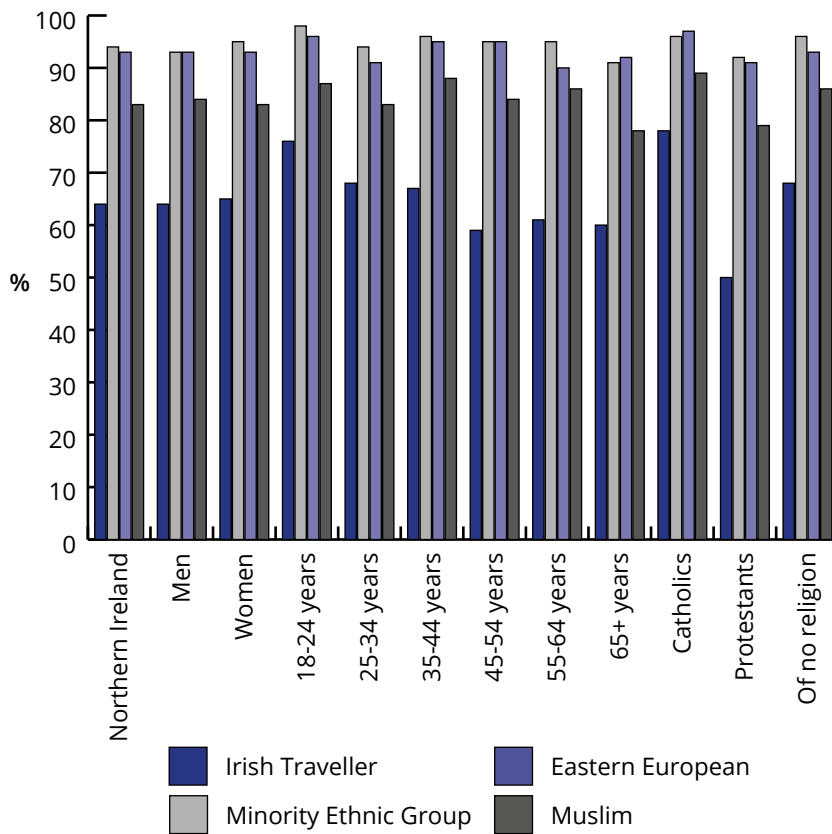
---

185. NI Life and Times Survey - 2019 : TRAVRES2 (ark.ac.uk) and NI Life and Times Survey - 2019 : MEGRES (ark.ac.uk) and NI Life and Times Survey - 2019 : EERES (ark.ac.uk) and NI Life and Times Survey - 2019 : MUSRES2 (ark.ac.uk) (Last accessed 6 August 2022)

- People from Eastern Europe as residents in the local area was highest in people of Catholic religion at 97%, and lowest in people aged 55-64 years at 90%, with a median of 93% in three population groups
- People who are Muslim as residents in the local area was highest in people of Catholic religion at 89%, and lowest in people aged 65 years and over at 78%, with a median of 84% in men and people aged 45-54 years (see Peace Figure 96)

**PEACE FIGURE 96:**

**Percentage (%) of population, and various population groups, in Northern Ireland who would willingly accept people from different backgrounds/communities as residents in the local area, 2019**



Source: Data extracted from NILT: Module: Minority Ethnic People, Variables: TRAVRES2, MEGRES, EERES, & MUSRES2, Year: 2019

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, in Northern Ireland:

- **Between 6 and 7 out of every 10 people would willingly accept Irish Travellers as residents in the local area**
- **Between 9 and 10 out of every 10 people would willingly accept people from a minority ethnic group as residents in the local area**
- **Over 9 out of every 10 people would willingly accept people from Eastern Europe as residents in the local area**
- **Over 8 out of every 10 people would willingly accept people who are Muslim as residents in the local area**

### Differences in willingness

In 2019, when compared with Northern Ireland, the population groups less likely to willingly accept people from different backgrounds/communities as residents in the local area, with respect to:

- **Irish Travellers were people aged 45 years and over, and people of Protestant religion**
- **Minority ethnic groups were men, people aged 65 years and over, and people of Protestant religion**
- **People from Eastern Europe were people aged 25-34 years and aged over 55 years, and people of Protestant religion**
- **Muslims were people aged 65 years and over, and people of Protestant religion**

The greatest difference in percentage points between Northern Ireland and a specific population group regarding willingness to accept people from a different background/community was for people of Protestant religion willing to accept Irish Travellers as residents in the local area at 14 percentage points.

Differences in willingness may reflect differing experiences of various population groups.

## 11.12 Willingness to Accept People from Different Backgrounds/Communities as Colleagues at Work

### IMPORTANCE

Cultural diversity in a workplace means including various factors such as language, religion, sexual orientation, and political views. An environment of representation and inclusion at the workplace promotes teamwork; employees are known to work better together when people from various backgrounds and cultures can agree. A culturally diverse organisation can bring people with different experiences and points of view together towards common goals.<sup>186</sup>

Having an ethnically diverse workforce instils diversity of thinking, where the workforce has a broader perspective and is open to different opinions. It also leads to diversity of behaviour, where employees with different personalities and cultural backgrounds work in different ways, which can improve decision making. Diversity of thinking and of behaviour gives organisations and its leadership access to fresh insights and perspectives to operational activities; product and service design and can help to improve competitiveness and delivery to customers and clients. An ethnically diverse workforce:

- **In the private sector means an organisation can better connect with a larger customer base, spot new market opportunities, and develop more tailored goods and services**
- **In the public sector means that new policies and programmes and reviews of existing ones undergo more intensive scrutiny and can consider the impact on different parts of the population**

Building a diverse workforce can also boost productivity.<sup>187</sup>

The Northern Ireland Strategy “Together: Building a United Community” (T:BUC) reflects the Executive’s commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society.<sup>188</sup>

186. Cultural Diversity - The Ultimate Guide to Cultural Competence [2021] (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

187. Developing black and minority ethnic talent | CIPD (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

188. Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) | The Executive Office (executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)



## DEFINITION

In the Minority Ethnic People Module of the ARK NILT survey, participants were asked:

*"If respondent is not an Irish Traveller | from a Minority Ethnic Group | Eastern European | a Muslim ...  
And do you agree or disagree with the following statement?*

*In relation to people from/who are Irish Traveller | Minority Ethnic Group | Eastern Europe | Muslim, I would willingly accept them as a colleague at my work."*

Response options were: "Yes" or "No"

Information is from the ARK NILT survey, Minority Ethnic People Module, Variables TRAVCOLL, MEGCOLL, EECOLL, AND MUSCOLL2, Year: 2019.<sup>189</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who would willingly accept as colleagues at work:

- Irish Travellers was 70%
- People from minority ethnic groups was 90%
- People from Eastern Europe was 90%
- People who are Muslim was 80%

## DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage who would willingly accept as colleagues at work:

- Irish Travellers was highest in people of Catholic religion at 83%, and lowest in people of Protestant religion at 58%, with a median at 72% in people aged 25-34 years and women

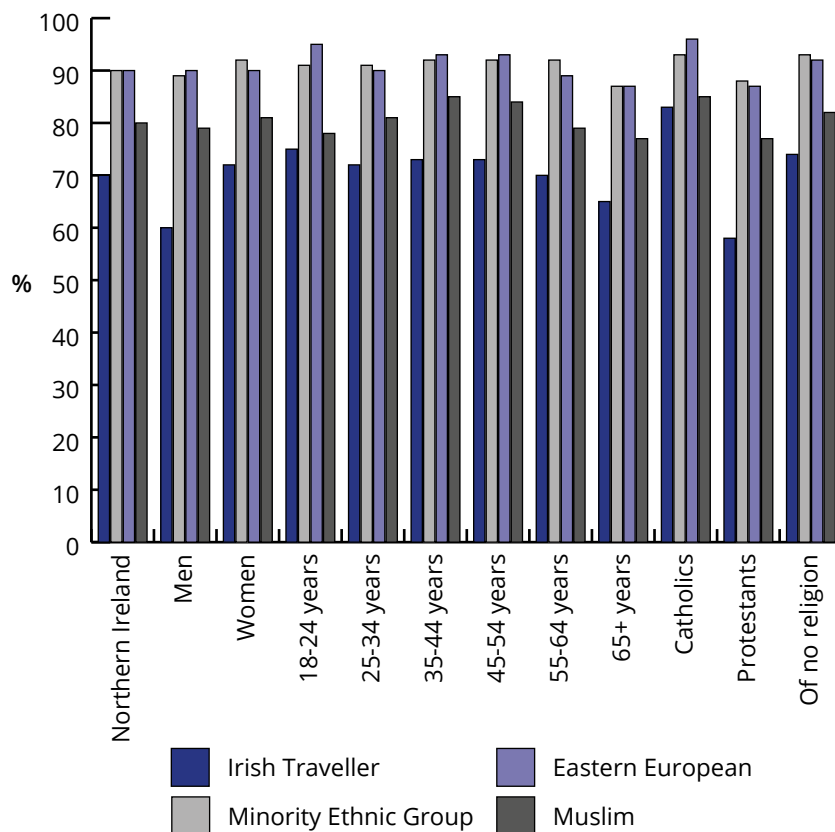
---

189. NI Life and Times Survey - 2019 : TRAVCOLL (ark.ac.uk) and NI Life and Times Survey - 2019 : MEGCOLL (ark.ac.uk) and NI Life and Times Survey - 2019 : EECOLL (ark.ac.uk) and NI Life and Times Survey - 2019 : MUSCOLL2 (ark.ac.uk) (Last accessed 6 August 2022)

- People from minority ethnic groups was highest in people of Catholic religion and people who described themselves as having no religion at 93%, and lowest in people aged 65 years and over at 87%, with a median of 92% in four population groups
- People from Eastern Europe was highest in people of Catholic religion at 96%, and lowest in people aged 65 years and over and people of Protestant religion at 87%, with a median of 90% in three population groups
- People who are Muslim was highest in people aged 35-44 years and people of Catholic religion at 85%, and lowest in people aged 65 years and over and people of Protestant religion at 77%, with a median of 81% in women and people aged 25-34 years (see Peace Figure 97)

**PEACE FIGURE 97:**

**Percentage (%) of population, and various population groups, in Northern Ireland who would willingly accept people from different backgrounds/ communities as colleagues at work, 2019**



Source: Data extracted from NILT: Module: Minority Ethnic People, Variables: TRAVCOLL, MEGCOLL, EECOLL, & MUSCOLL2, Year: 2019

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, in Northern Ireland:

- 7 out of every 10 people would willingly accept Irish Travellers as colleagues at work
- 9 out of every 10 people would willingly accept people from a minority ethnic group as colleagues at work
- 9 out of every 10 people would willingly accept people from Eastern Europe as colleagues at work
- 8 out of every 10 people would willingly accept people who are Muslim as colleagues at work

### Differences in willingness

In 2019, when compared with Northern Ireland, the population groups less likely to willingly accept people from different backgrounds/communities as colleagues at work, with respect to:

- Irish Travellers were men, people aged 65 years and over, and people of Protestant religion
- Minority ethnic groups were men, people aged 65 years and over, and people of Protestant religion
- People from Eastern Europe were people aged 55 years and over, and people of Protestant religion
- Muslims were men, people aged 18-24 years and aged 55 years and over, and people of Protestant religion

The greatest difference in percentage points between Northern Ireland and a specific population group regarding willingness to accept people from a different background/community as colleagues at work was for people of Protestant religion willing to accept Irish Travellers at 12 percentage points.

Differences in willingness may reflect differing experiences of various population groups.

## 11.13 Willingness to Accept People from Different Backgrounds/Communities as a Relative by Marriage

### IMPORTANCE

In a study in the Netherlands of the relationship between current native Dutch family characteristics and the attitude towards having ethnic minority members as close kin by marriage, it was found that opposition to intermarriage was relatively high but differs towards different ethnic minority groups. Family cohesion – strength of family ties, the adherence to family norms and contact frequency – was related to lower acceptance of inter-ethnic marriage, supporting the idea that when the ties are tightly knit, family members have an incentive to keep ‘cultural strangers’ out of the family. In contrast, family warmth – feelings of affection and emotional support – was related to higher acceptance of inter-ethnic marriage, indicating that warm and emotionally supportive family relationships can lead to the development of generalised trust, empathy, and open-mindedness.<sup>190</sup>

The Northern Ireland Strategy “Together: Building a United Community” (T:BUC) reflects the Executive’s commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society.<sup>191</sup>

### DEFINITION

In the Minority Ethnic People Module of the ARK NILT survey, participants were asked:

*“If respondent is not an Irish Traveller | from a Minority Ethnic Group | Eastern European | a Muslim ...  
And do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
In relation to people from/who are Irish Traveller | Minority Ethnic Group | Eastern Europe | Muslim, I would willingly accept them as a relative by way of marrying a close member of my family.”*

Response options were: “Yes” or “No”

Information is from the ARK NILT survey, Minority Ethnic People Module, Variables TRAVREL, MEGREL, EEREL, AND MUSREL2, Year: 2019.<sup>192</sup>

190. Family relations and the attitude towards ethnic minorities as close kin by marriage: Ethnic and Racial Studies: Vol 36, No 11 (tandfonline.com) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

191. Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) | The Executive Office (executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

192. NI Life and Times Survey - 2019 : TRAVREL (ark.ac.uk) and NI Life and Times Survey - 2019 : MEGREL (ark.ac.uk) and NI Life and Times Survey - 2019 : EEREL (ark.ac.uk) and NI Life and Times Survey - 2019 : MUSREL2 (ark.ac.uk) (Last accessed 6 August 2022)

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who would willingly accept as a relative by marriage:

- Irish Travellers was 58%
- People from minority ethnic groups was 76%
- People from Eastern Europe was 80%
- People who are Muslim was 64%

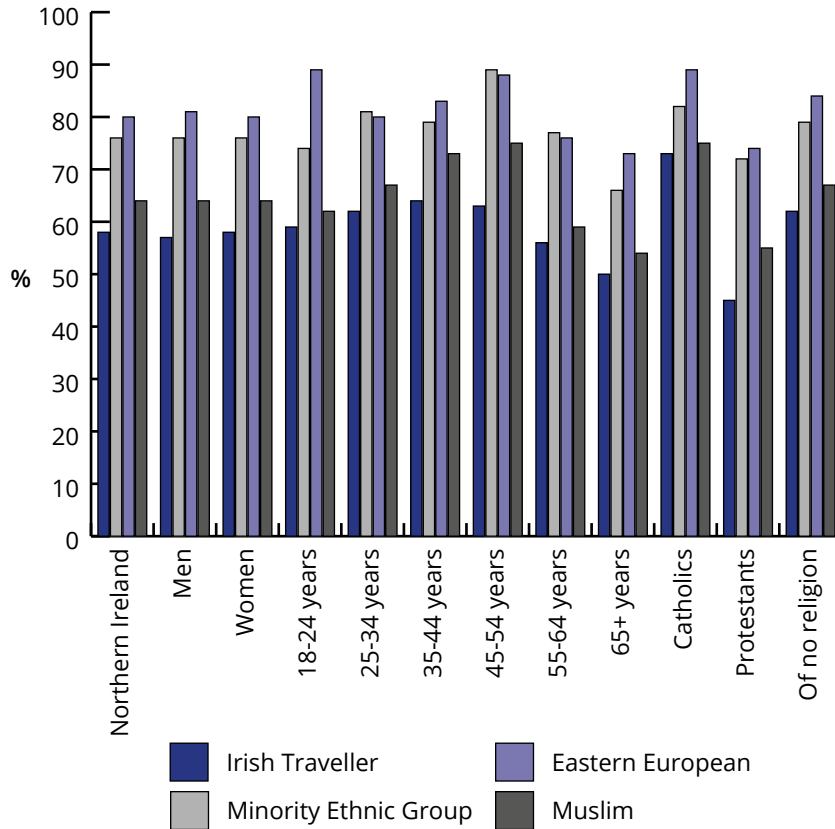
## DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage who would willingly accept as a relative by marriage:

- Irish Travellers was highest in people of Catholic religion at 73%, and lowest in people of Protestant religion at 45%, with a median at 59% in people aged 18-24 years
- People from minority ethnic groups was highest in people aged 45-54 years at 89%, and lowest in people aged 65 years and over at 66%, with a median of 77% in people aged 55-64 years
- People from Eastern Europe was highest in people aged 18-24 years and people of Catholic religion at 89%, and lowest in people aged 65 years and over at 73%, with a median of 81% in men
- People who are Muslim as highest in people aged 45-54 years and people of Catholic religion at 75%, and lowest in people aged 65 years and over at 54%, with a median of 64% in men and women (see Peace Figure 98)

**PEACE FIGURE 98:**

**Percentage (%) of population, and various population groups, in Northern Ireland who would willingly accept people from different backgrounds/communities as a relative by marriage, 2019**



Source: Data extracted from NILT: Module: Minority Ethnic People, Variables TRAVREL, MEGREL, EEREL, MUSREL2, Year: 2019

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2019, in Northern Ireland:

- Almost 6 out of every 10 people would willingly accept Irish Travellers as a relative by marriage
- Between 7 and 8 out of every 10 people would willingly accept people from a minority ethnic group as a relative by marriage
- 8 out of every 10 people would willingly accept people from Eastern Europe as a relative by marriage
- Between 6 and 7 out of every 10 people would willingly accept people who are Muslim as a relative by marriage

## Differences in willingness

In 2019, when compared with Northern Ireland, the population groups less likely to willingly accept people from different backgrounds/communities as a relative by marriage, with respect to:

- **Irish Travellers were men, people aged 55 years and over, and people of Protestant religion**
- **Minority ethnic groups were people aged 18-24 years and aged 65 years and over, and people of Protestant religion**
- **People from Eastern Europe were people aged 55 years and over, and people of Protestant religion**
- **Muslims were people aged 18-24 years and aged 55 years and over, and people of Protestant religion**

The greatest difference in percentage points between Northern Ireland and a specific population group regarding willingness to accept people from a different background/community as a relative by marriage was for people of Protestant religion willing to accept Irish Travellers at 13 percentage points.

Differences in willingness may reflect differing experiences of various population groups.

## SECTION 12

# Perceptions of 'Shared and Open' Spaces in Northern Ireland

## 12.1 Leisure Centres

### IMPORTANCE

Northern Ireland is a fundamentally divided society and there is evidence the two main communities, Protestant and Catholic, lead essentially separate lives. These divisions are reflected in the largely segregated residential patterns for the communities and in the separate schooling that most of them experience.<sup>193</sup>

The Northern Ireland Strategy "Together: Building a United Community" (T:BUC) reflects the Executive's commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society. Although the main focus of T:BUC is on improving community relations, the issue is not considered in isolation. To tackle issues of inequality, it is recognised that equality of opportunity must be improved, and by improving equality of opportunity for all, positive strides can be made to address better community relations. Likewise, tackling sectarianism, prejudice and hate contributes positively to removing and reducing the motivation for discrimination.<sup>194</sup>

At the time of writing, Belfast City Council has three major shared spaces capital projects in north and west Belfast underway.<sup>195</sup>

193. Community-relations-GPS-2.pdf (ulster.ac.uk) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

194. Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) | The Executive Office (executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

195. PEACE IV Shared Spaces (belfastcity.gov.uk) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)



## DEFINITION

In the Community Relations Module of the Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey, participants were asked:

*“Do you think that leisure centres in this area are 'shared and open' to both Protestants and Catholics?”*

The response options were:

- Yes, definitely
- Yes, probably
- No, probably not
- No, definitely not
- None in this area
- Don't know

Information is from the ARK NILT survey, Module: Community Relations, Variable: LCOPEN, Year: 2019, and Year: 2016.<sup>196</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage of people who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that leisure centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics was 78% (63% and 15%, respectively).

Between 2016 and 2019, the combined percentage of people who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that leisure centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics decreased by 5 percentage points, from 83% to 78% (a percentage decrease of 6.02%).

---

196. NI Life and Times Survey - 2019 : LCOPEN (ark.ac.uk) and NI Life and Times Survey - 2016 : LCOPEN (ark.ac.uk) (Last accessed 4 August 2022)

## DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

### Men and women

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that leisure centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics:

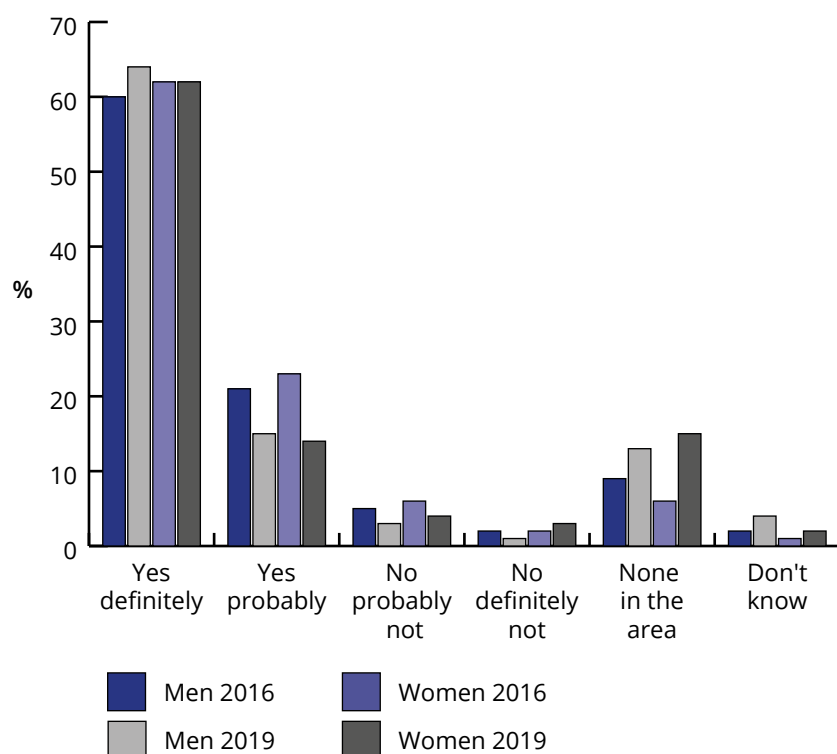
- In men was 79% (64% and 15%, respectively)
- In women was 76% (62% and 14%, respectively)

Between 2016 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that leisure centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics decreased:

- In men by 2 percentage points, from 81% to 79% (a percentage decrease of 2.47%)
- In women by 9 percentage points, from 85% to 76% (a percentage decrease of 10.59%; see Peace Figure 99)

#### PEACE FIGURE 99:

**Percentage (%) of men and women in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether leisure centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics, 2016 and 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: LCOPEN, Year: 2019, and Year: 2016

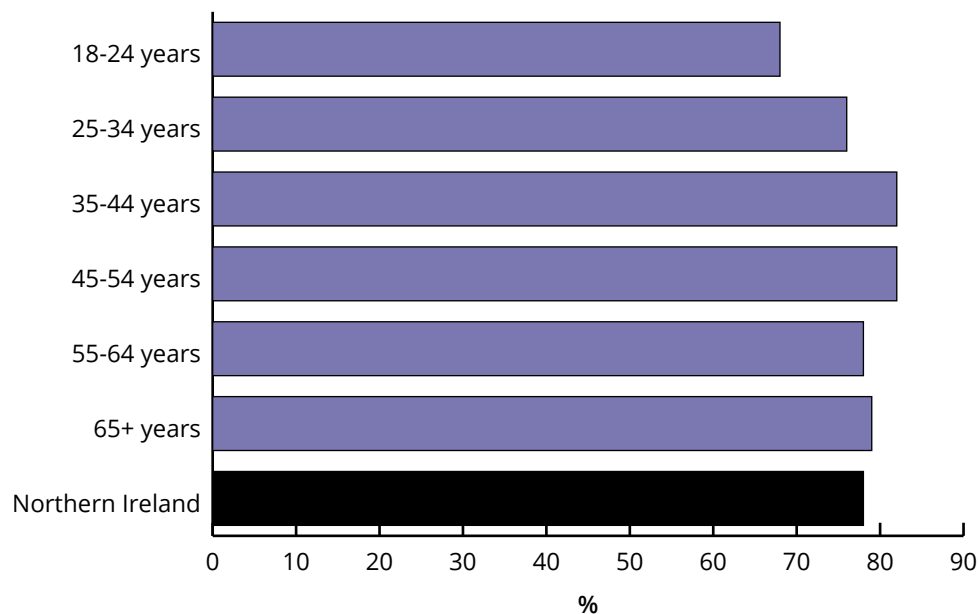
## Age group

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that leisure centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics in people aged:

- 18-24 years was 68% (52% and 16%, respectively)
- 25-34 years was 76% (62% and 14%, respectively)
- 35-44 years was 82% (68% and 14%, respectively)
- 45-54 years was 82% (69% and 13%, respectively)
- 55-64 years was 78% (66% and 12%, respectively)
- 65 years and over was 79% (61% and 18%, respectively; see Peace Figure 100)

### PEACE FIGURE 100:

Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland who agreed ('strongly agree' and 'agree' combined) that leisure centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics by age group, and Northern Ireland, 2019



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: LCOPEN, Year: 2019

Between 2016 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that leisure centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics in people aged:

- 18-24 years decreased by 14 percentage points, from 82% to 68% (a percentage decrease of 17.07%)
- 25-34 years decreased by 7 percentage points, from 83% to 76% (a percentage decrease of 8.43%)
- 35-44 years increased by 1 percentage point, from 81% to 82% (a percentage increase of 1.23%)
- 45-54 years decreased by 7 percentage points, from 89% to 82% (a percentage decrease of 7.87%)
- 55-64 years decreased by 7 percentage points, from 85% to 78% (a percentage decrease of 8.24%)
- 65 years and over decreased by 8 percentage points, from 87% to 79% (a percentage decrease of 9.20%)

## Religion

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that leisure centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics in people who were:

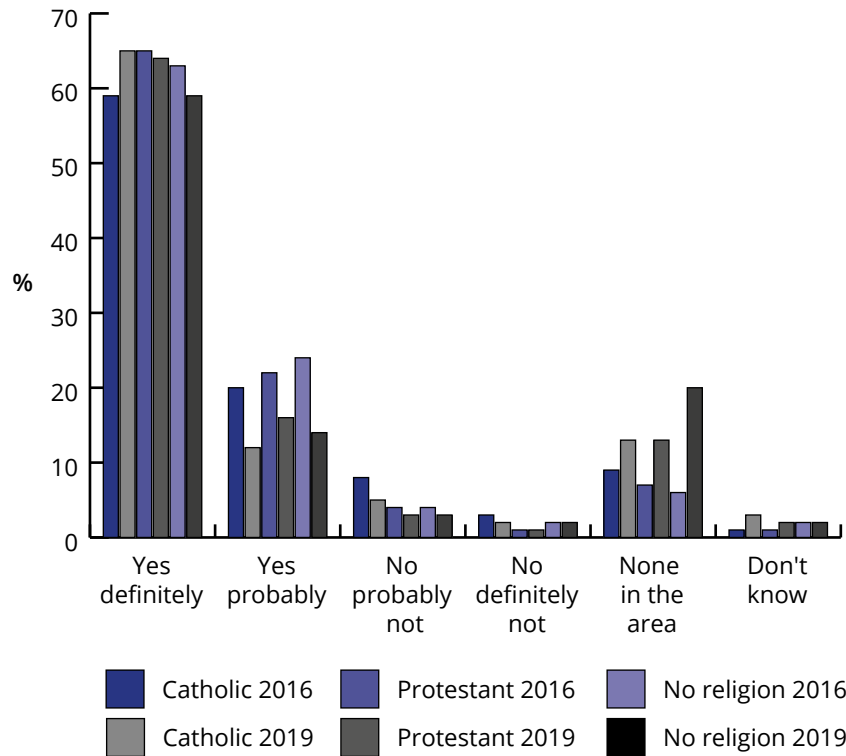
- Catholic was 77% (65% and 12%, respectively)
- Protestant was 80% (64% and 16%, respectively)
- Of no religion was 73% (59% and 14%, respectively)

Between 2016 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that leisure centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics decreased in people who were:

- Catholic by 2 percentage points, from 79% to 77% (a percentage decrease of 2.53%)
- Protestant by 7 percentage points, from 87% to 80% (a percentage decrease of 8.05%)
- Of no religion by 14 percentage points, from 87% to 73% (a percentage decrease of 16.09%; see Peace Figure 101)

**PEACE FIGURE 101:**

**Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether leisure centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics by religion, 2016 and 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: LCOPEN, Year: 2019, and Year: 2016

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, almost 8 out of every 10 people agreed that leisure centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics.

Between 2016 and 2019, the percentage of people who agreed that leisure centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics decreased in all population groups apart from people aged 35-44 years in whom the percentage increased slightly. The largest percentage decreases (10% or greater) in the percentage of people who agreed that leisure centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics occurred in:

- **Women**
- **People aged 18-24 years**
- **People who described themselves as having no religion**

## Differences in levels of agreement

In 2019, when compared Northern Ireland, the following population groups were less likely to agree that leisure centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics:

- **Women**
- **People aged 18-34 years**
- **People of Catholic religion**
- **People who described themselves as having no religion**

The difference in percentage points between Northern Ireland and a specific population group was greatest for people aged 18-24 years at 10 percentage points, followed by people who described themselves as having no religion at 5 percentage points.

Differences in levels of agreement may reflect the differing experiences of various population groups.

## 12.2 Parks

### IMPORTANCE

Northern Ireland is a fundamentally divided society and there is evidence the two main communities, Protestant and Catholic, lead essentially separate lives. These divisions are reflected in the largely segregated residential patterns for the communities and in the separate schooling that most of them experience.<sup>197</sup>

The Northern Ireland Strategy “Together: Building a United Community” (T:BUC) reflects the Executive’s commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society. Although the main focus of T:BUC is on improving community relations, the issue is not considered in isolation. To tackle issues of inequality, it is recognised that equality of opportunity must be improved, and by improving equality of opportunity for all, positive strides can be made to address better community relations. Likewise, tackling sectarianism, prejudice and hate contributes positively to removing and reducing the motivation for discrimination<sup>198</sup>

At the time of writing, Belfast City Council has three major shared spaces capital projects in north and west Belfast underway.<sup>199</sup>

### DEFINITION

In the Community Relations Module of the Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey, participants were asked:

*“Do you think that parks in this area are 'shared and open' to both Protestants and Catholics?”*

The response options were:

- Yes, definitely
- Yes, probably
- No, probably not
- No, definitely not

197. Community-relations-GPS-2.pdf (ulster.ac.uk) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

198. Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) | The Executive Office (executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

199. PEACE IV Shared Spaces (belfastcity.gov.uk) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

- None in this area
- Don't know

Information is from the ARK NILT survey, Module: Community Relations, Variable: PARKOPEN, Year: 2019, and Year: 2016.<sup>200</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage of people who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that parks in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics was 81% (66% and 15%, respectively).

Between 2016 and 2019, the combined percentage of people who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that parks in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics decreased by 5 percentage points, from 86% to 81% (a percentage decrease of 5.81%).

## DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

### Men and women

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that parks in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics:

- In men was 81% (67% and 14%, respectively)
- In women was 82% (66% and 16%, respectively)

Between 2016 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that parks in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics decreased:

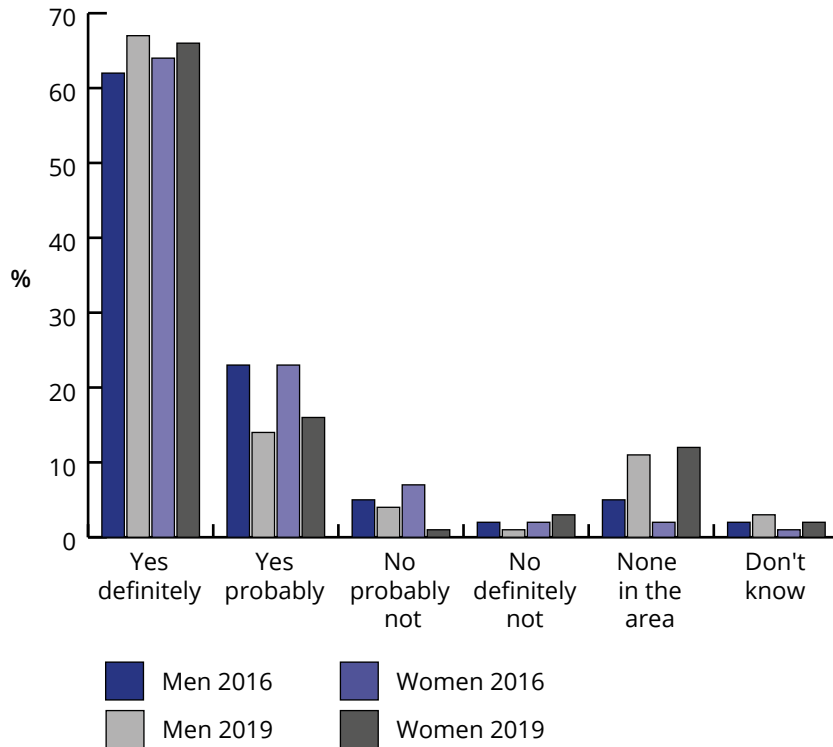
- In men by 4 percentage points, from 85% to 81% (a percentage decrease of 4.71%)
- In women by 5 percentage points, from 87% to 82% (a percentage decrease of 5.75%; see Peace Figure 102)

200. NI Life and Times Survey - 2019 : PARKOPEN and NI Life and Times Survey - 2016 : PARKOPEN (Last accessed 4 August 2022)



**PEACE FIGURE 102:**

**Percentage (%) of men and women in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether parks in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics, 2016 and 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: PARKOPEN, Year: 2019, and Year: 2016

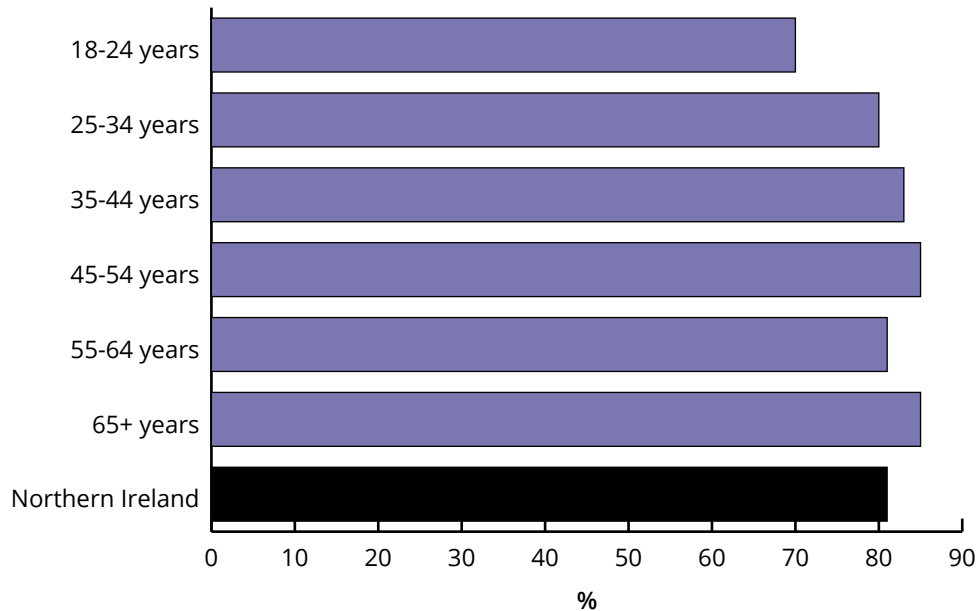
### Age group

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that leisure centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics in people aged:

- 18-24 years was 70% (55% and 15%, respectively)
- 25-34 years was 80% (66% and 14%, respectively)
- 35-44 years was 83% (70% and 13%, respectively)
- 45-54 years was 85% (73% and 12%, respectively)
- 55-64 years was 81% (68% and 13%, respectively)
- 65 years and over was 85% (65% and 20%, respectively; see Peace Figure 103)

**PEACE FIGURE 103:**

**Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland who agreed ('strongly agree' and 'agree' combined) that parks in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics by age group, and Northern Ireland, 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: PARKOPEN, Year: 2019

Between 2016 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that parks in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics in people aged:

- 18-24 years decreased by 15 percentage points, from 85% to 70% (a percentage decrease of 17.65%)
- 25-34 years decreased by 5 percentage points, from 85% to 80% (a percentage decrease of 5.88%)
- 35-44 years increased by 1 percentage point, from 82% to 83% (a percentage increase of 1.22%)
- 45-54 years decreased by 4 percentage points, from 89% to 85% (a percentage decrease of 4.49%)
- 55-64 years decreased by 10 percentage points, from 91% to 81% (a percentage decrease of 10.99%)
- 65 years and over decreased by 1 percentage points, from 86% to 85% (a percentage decrease of 1.16%)

## Religion

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that parks in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics in people who were:

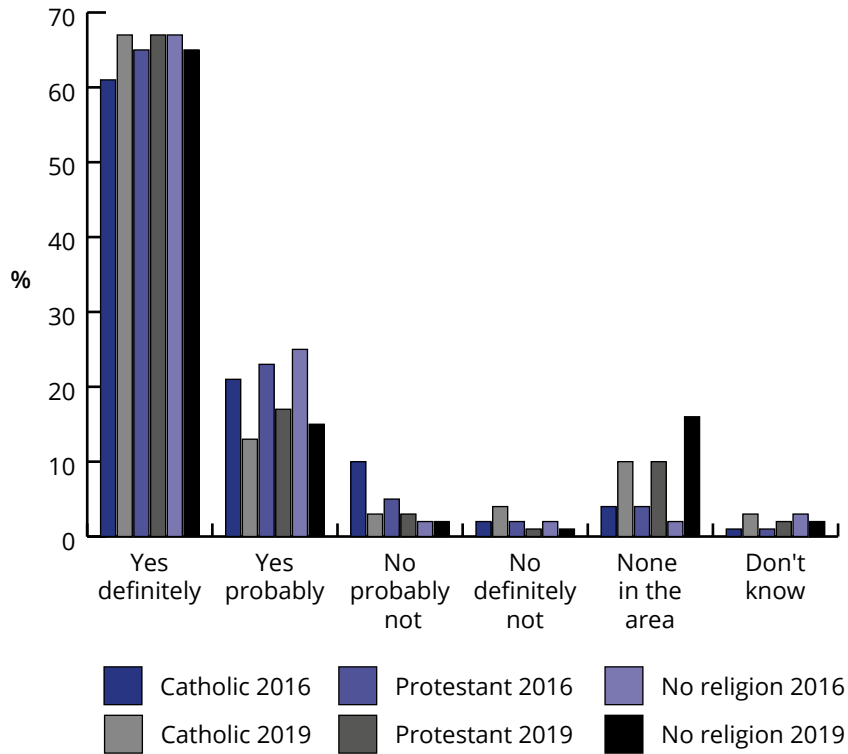
- Catholic was 80% (67% and 13%, respectively)
- Protestant was 84% (67% and 17%, respectively)
- Of no religion was 80% (65% and 15%, respectively)

Between 2016 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that parks in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics decreased in people who were:

- Catholic by 2 percentage points, from 82% to 80%  
(a percentage decrease of 2.44%)
- Protestant by 4 percentage points, from 88% to 84%  
(a percentage decrease of 4.55%)
- Of no religion by 12 percentage points, from 92% to 80%  
(a percentage decrease of 13.04%; see Peace Figure 104)

**PEACE FIGURE 104:**

**Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether parks in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics by religion, 2016 and 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: PARKOPEN, Year: 2019, and Year: 2016

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, over 8 out of every 10 people agreed that parks in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics.

Between 2016 and 2019, the percentage of people who agreed that parks in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics decreased in all population groups apart from people aged 35-44 years in whom the percentage increased slightly. The largest percentage decreases (10% or greater) in the percentage of people who agreed that parks in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics occurred in:

- People aged 18-24 years
- People aged 55-64 years
- People who described themselves as having no religion

## Differences in levels of agreement

In 2019, when compared Northern Ireland, the following population groups were less likely to agree that parks in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics:

- **People aged 18-34 years**
- **People of Catholic religion**
- **People who described themselves as having no religion**

The difference in percentage points between Northern Ireland and a specific population group was greatest for people aged 18-24 years at 11 percentage points.

Differences in levels of agreement may reflect the differing experiences of various population groups.

## 12.3 Libraries

### IMPORTANCE

Northern Ireland is a fundamentally divided society and there is evidence the two main communities, Protestant and Catholic, lead essentially separate lives. These divisions are reflected in the largely segregated residential patterns for the communities and in the separate schooling that most of them experience.<sup>201</sup>

The Northern Ireland Strategy “Together: Building a United Community” (T:BUC) reflects the Executive’s commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society. Although the main focus of T:BUC is on improving community relations, the issue is not considered in isolation. To tackle issues of inequality, it is recognised that equality of opportunity must be improved, and by improving equality of opportunity for all, positive strides can be made to address better community relations. Likewise, tackling sectarianism, prejudice and hate contributes positively to removing and reducing the motivation for discrimination<sup>202</sup>

### DEFINITION

In the Community Relations Module of the Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey, participants were asked:

*“Do you think that libraries in this area are 'shared and open' to both Protestants and Catholics?”*

The response options were:

- Yes, definitely
- Yes, probably
- No, probably not
- No, definitely not
- None in this area
- Don’t know

---

201. Community-relations-GPS-2.pdf (ulster.ac.uk) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

202. Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) | The Executive Office (executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

Information is from the ARK NILT survey, Module: Community Relations, Variable: LIBOPEN, Year: 2019, and Year: 2016.<sup>203</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage of people who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that libraries in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics was 83% (67% and 16%, respectively).

Between 2016 and 2019, the combined percentage of people who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that libraries in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics decreased by 6 percentage points, from 89% to 83% (a percentage decrease of 6.74%).

## DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

### Men and women

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that libraries in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics:

- In men was 84% (67% and 17%, respectively)
- In women was 82% (67% and 15%, respectively)

Between 2016 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that libraries in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics decreased:

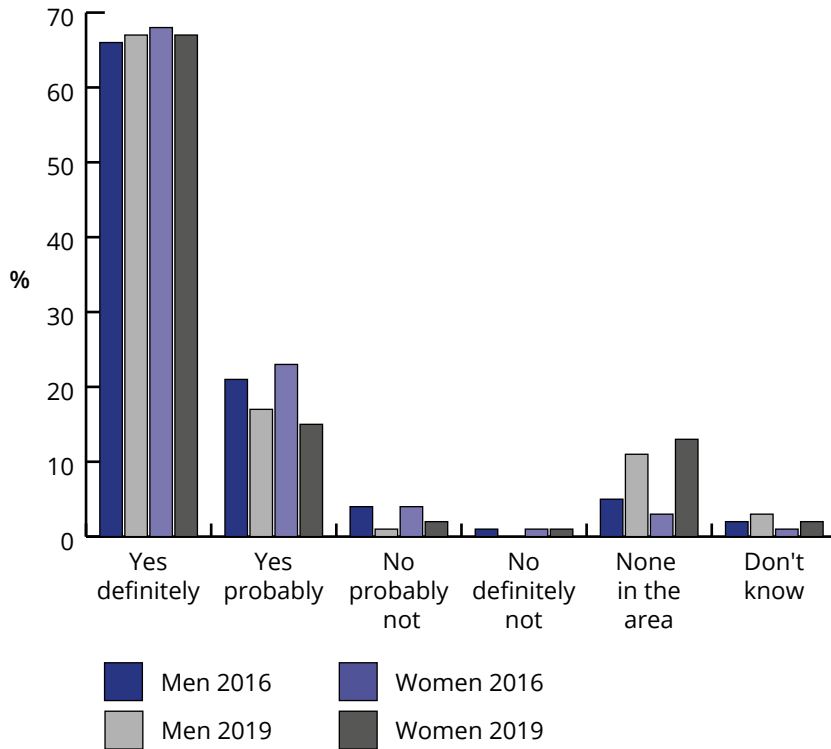
- In men by 3 percentage points, from 87% to 84% (a percentage decrease of 3.45%)
- In women by 9 percentage points, from 91% to 82% (a percentage decrease of 9.89%; see Peace Figure 105)

---

203. NI Life and Times Survey - 2019 : LIBOPEN (ark.ac.uk) and NI Life and Times Survey - 2016 : LIBOPEN (ark.ac.uk) (Last accessed 4 August 2022)

**PEACE FIGURE 105:**

**Percentage (%) of men and women in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether libraries in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics, 2016 and 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: LIBOPEN, Year: 2019, and Year: 2016

### Age group

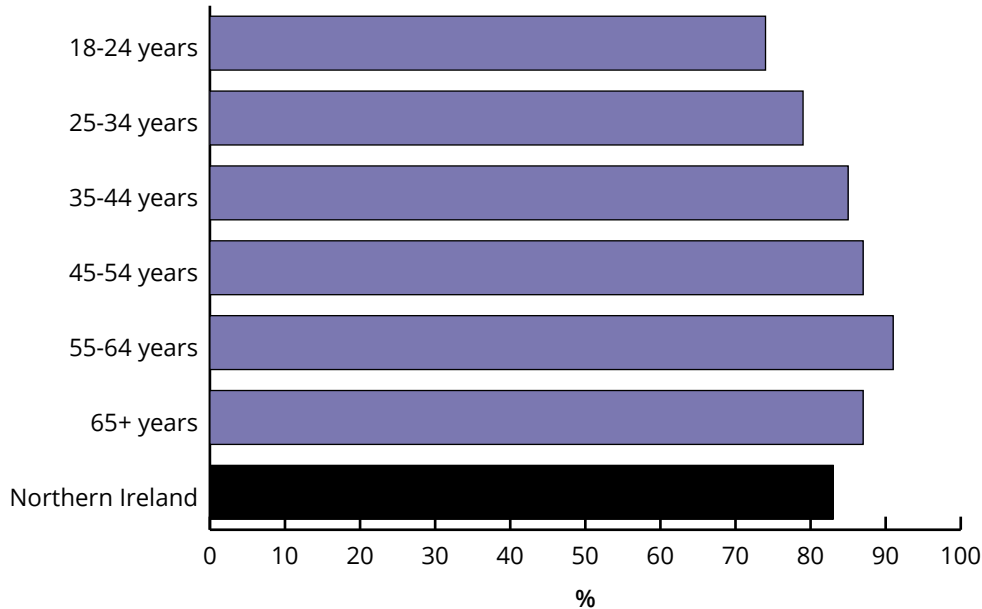
In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that libraries in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics in people aged:

- 18-24 years was 74% (55% and 19%, respectively)
- 25-34 years was 79% (66% and 13%, respectively)
- 35-44 years was 85% (69% and 16%, respectively)
- 45-54 years was 87% (75% and 12%, respectively)
- 55-64 years was 91% (79% and 12%, respectively)
- 65 years and over was 87% (67% and 20%, respectively; see Peace Figure 106)



**PEACE FIGURE 106:**

**Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland who agreed ('strongly agree' and 'agree' combined) that libraries in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics by age group, and Northern Ireland, 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: LIBOPEN, Year: 2019

Between 2016 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that libraries in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics in people aged:

- 18-24 years decreased by 18 percentage points, from 92% to 74% (a percentage decrease of 19.57%)
- 25-34 years decreased by 9 percentage points, from 88% to 79% (a percentage decrease of 10.23%)
- 35-44 years decreased by 2 percentage points, from 88% to 85% (a percentage decrease of 3.41%)
- 45-54 years decreased by 4 percentage points, from 91% to 87% (a percentage decrease of 4.40%)
- 55-64 years increased by 1 percentage point, from 90% to 91% (a percentage increase of 1.11%)
- 65 years and over remained the same at 87%

## Religion

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that libraries in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics in people who were:

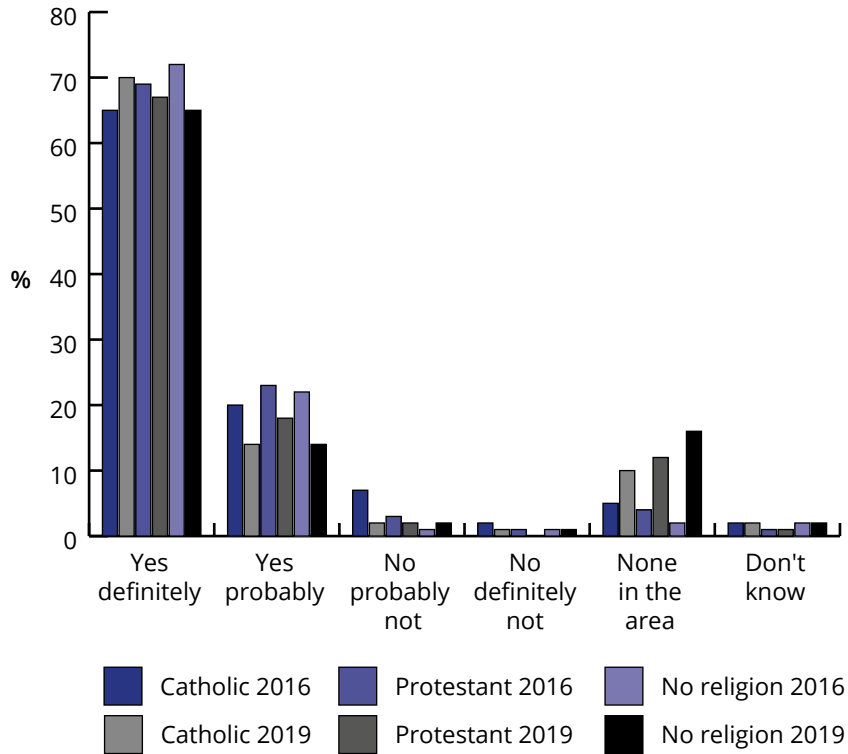
- Catholic was 84% (70% and 14%, respectively)
- Protestant was 85% (67% and 18%, respectively)
- Of no religion was 79% (65% and 14%, respectively)

Between 2016 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that libraries in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics decreased in people who were:

- Catholic by 1 percentage point, from 85% to 84%  
(a percentage decrease of 1.18%)
- Protestant by 7 percentage points, from 92% to 85%  
(a percentage decrease of 7.61%)
- Of no religion by 15 percentage points, from 94% to 79%  
(a percentage decrease of 15.96%; see Peace Figure 107)

**PEACE FIGURE 107:**

**Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether libraries in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics by religion, 2016 and 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: LIBOPEN, Year: 2019, and Year: 2016

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, over 8 out of every 10 people agreed that libraries in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics.

Between 2016 and 2019, the percentage of people who agreed that libraries in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics decreased in all population groups apart from people aged 55-64 years in whom the percentage increased slightly, and people aged 65 years and over in whom it remained the same. The largest percentage decreases (10% or greater) in the percentage of people who agreed that libraries in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics occurred in:

- People aged 18-34 years
- People who described themselves as having no religion
- Although the percentage decrease in women was almost 210%.

## Differences in levels of agreement

In 2019, when compared Northern Ireland, the following population groups were less likely to agree that libraries in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics:

- **Women**
- **People aged 18-34 years**
- **People who described themselves as having no religion**

The difference in percentage points between Northern Ireland and a specific population group was greatest for people aged 18-24 years at 9 percentage points, followed by people aged 25-34 years and people who described themselves as having no religion at 4 percentage points.

Differences in levels of agreement may reflect differing experiences of various population groups.

## 12.4 Shopping Centres

### IMPORTANCE

Northern Ireland is a fundamentally divided society and there is evidence the two main communities, Protestant and Catholic, lead essentially separate lives. These divisions are reflected in the largely segregated residential patterns for the communities and in the separate schooling that most of them experience.<sup>204</sup>

In a spatial mapping study of pupils in 6 post primary schools in Northern Ireland (two of which were in Belfast), which was supported by a survey, one of the statements was whether “Shopping environments are increasingly neutral”, to which 98% of children and young people agreed (2% disagreed). Although it was found that divisions still exist in Northern Irish society which impact upon the views and subsequent mobility of young people, there was some evidence that issues related to sectarianism and segregation were less important for them than for previous generations, and shared space did exist, largely around shopping and entertainment venues.<sup>205</sup>

The Northern Ireland Strategy “Together: Building a United Community” (T:BUC) reflects the Executive’s commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society. Although the main focus of T:BUC is on improving community relations, the issue is not considered in isolation. To tackle issues of inequality, it is recognised that equality of opportunity must be improved, and by improving equality of opportunity for all, positive strides can be made to address better community relations. Likewise, tackling sectarianism, prejudice and hate contributes positively to removing and reducing the motivation for discrimination<sup>206</sup>

### DEFINITION

In the Community Relations Module of the Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey, participants were asked:

***“Do you think that shopping centres in this area are 'shared and open' to both Protestants and Catholics?”***

204. Community-relations-GPS-2.pdf (ulster.ac.uk) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

205. Young O & Roulston D. Divided We Stand: Mapping patterns of shared and separated space. Shared Space 14. Layout 1 (community-relations.org.uk) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

206. Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) | The Executive Office (executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 8 August 2022)

The response options were:

- Yes, definitely
- Yes, probably
- No, probably not
- No, definitely not
- None in this area
- Don't know

Information is from the ARK NILT survey, Module: Community Relations, Variable: SHCNOPEN, Year: 2019, and Year: 2016.<sup>207</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage of people who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that shopping centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics was 81% (67% and 14%, respectively).

Between 2016 and 2019, the combined percentage of people who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that shopping centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics decreased by 7 percentage points, from 88% to 81% (a percentage decrease of 7.95%).

## DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

### Men and women

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that shopping centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics:

- In men was 81% (68% and 13%, respectively)
- In women was 80% (66% and 14%, respectively)

---

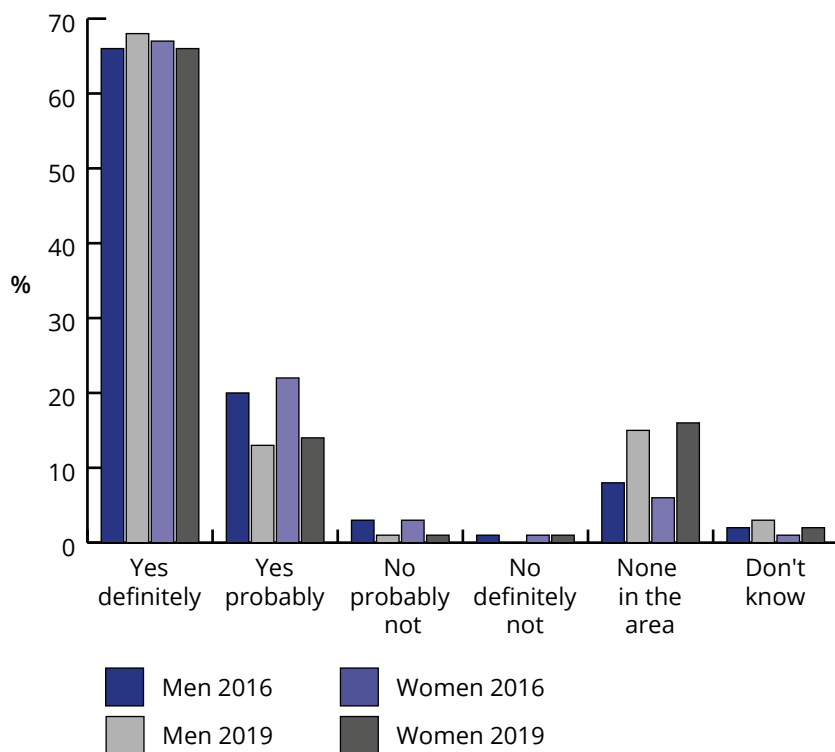
207. NI Life and Times Survey - 2019 : SHCNOPEN (ark.ac.uk) and NI Life and Times Survey - 2016 : SHCNOPEN (ark.ac.uk) (Last accessed 4 August 2022)

Between 2016 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that shopping centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics decreased:

- In men by 5 percentage points, from 86% to 81% (a percentage decrease of 5.81%)
- In women by 9 percentage points, from 89% to 80% (a percentage decrease of 10.11%; see Peace Figure 108)

**PEACE FIGURE 108:**

**Percentage (%) of men and women in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether shopping centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics, 2016 and 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: SHCNOPEN, Year: 2019, and Year: 2016

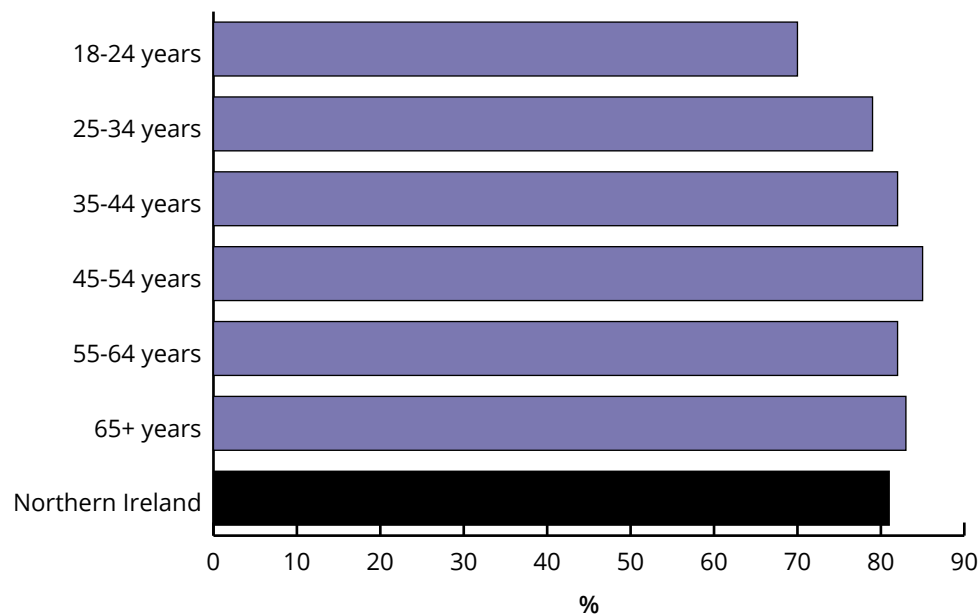
## Age group

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that shopping centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics in people aged:

- 18-24 years was 70% (57% and 13%, respectively)
- 25-34 years was 79% (65% and 14%, respectively)
- 35-44 years was 82% (72% and 10%, respectively)
- 45-54 years was 85% (72% and 13%, respectively)
- 55-64 years was 82% (70% and 12%, respectively)
- 65 years and over was 83% (66% and 17%, respectively; see Peace Figure 109)

### PEACE FIGURE 109:

**Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland who agreed ('strongly agree' and 'agree' combined) that shopping centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics by age group, and Northern Ireland, 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: SHCNOPEN, Year: 2019



Between 2016 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that shopping centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics decreased in people aged:

- 18-24 years by 14 percentage points, from 84% to 70% (a percentage decrease of 16.67%)
- 25-34 years by 9 percentage points, from 88% to 79% (a percentage decrease of 10.23%)
- 35-44 years by 4 percentage points, from 86% to 82% (a percentage decrease of 4.65%)
- 45-54 years by 7 percentage points, from 92% to 85% (a percentage decrease of 7.61%)
- 55-64 years by 7 percentage points, from 89% to 82% (a percentage decrease of 7.87%)
- 65 years and over by 4 percentage points, from 87% to 83% (a percentage decrease of 4.60%)

## Religion

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that shopping centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics in people who were:

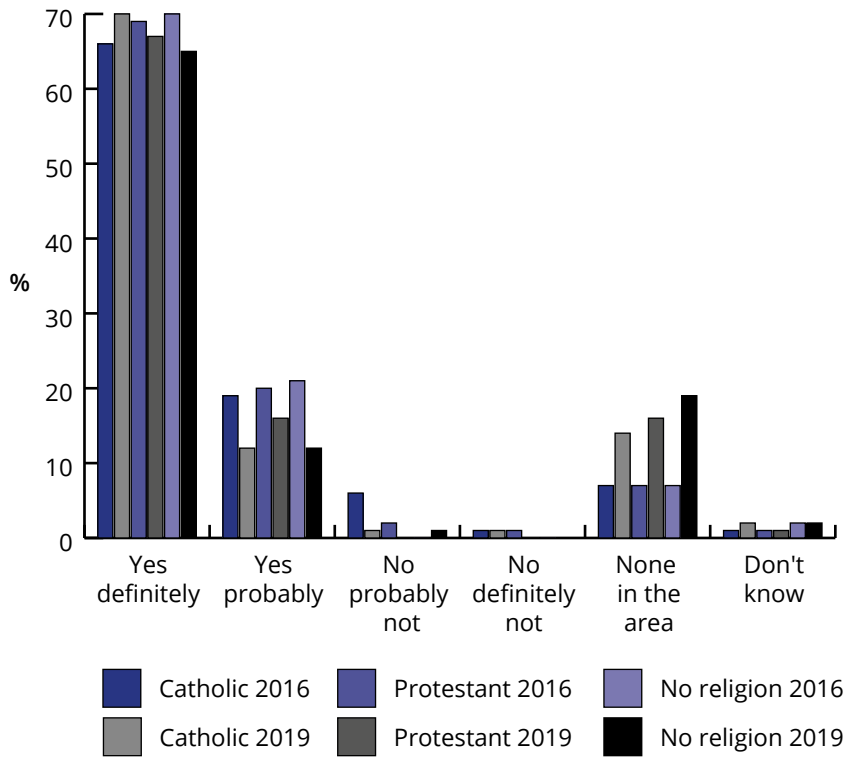
- Catholic was 82% (70% and 12%, respectively)
- Protestant was 83% (67% and 16%, respectively)
- Of no religion was 77% (65% and 12%, respectively)

Between 2016 and 2019, in Northern Ireland, the combined percentage who definitely agreed and who probably agreed that shopping centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics decreased in people who were:

- Catholic by 3 percentage points, from 85% to 82% (a percentage decrease of 3.53%)
- Protestant by 6 percentage points, from 89% to 83% (a percentage decrease of 6.74%)
- Of no religion by 14 percentage points, from 91% to 77% (a percentage decrease of 15.38%; see Peace Figure 110)

**PEACE FIGURE 110:**

**Percentage (%) of people in Northern Ireland according to levels of agreement about whether shopping centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics by religion, 2016 and 2019**



Source: NILT: Module: Community Relations, Variable: SHCNOPEN, Year: 2019, and Year: 2016

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, over 8 out of every 10 people agreed that shopping centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics.

Between 2016 and 2019, the percentage of people who agreed that shopping centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics decreased in all population groups. The largest percentage decreases (10% or greater) in the percentage of people who agreed that shopping centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics occurred in:

- Women
- People aged 18-34 years
- People who described themselves as of no religion

## Differences in levels of agreement

In 2019, when compared Northern Ireland, the following population groups were less likely to agree that shopping centres in the area are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics:

- **Women**
- **People aged 18-34 years**
- **People who described themselves as of no religion**

The difference in percentage points between Northern Ireland and a specific population group was greatest for people aged 18-24 years at 11 percentage points, followed by people who described themselves as having no religion at 4 percentage points.

Differences in levels of agreement may reflect differing experiences of various population groups.



Belfast Healthy Cities  
Gordon House  
22/24 Lombard Street  
Belfast BT1 1RD

Telephone: +44 (0)28 9032 8811

[www.belfasthealthycities.com](http://www.belfasthealthycities.com)  
@belfasthealthy

Company Reg No. NI31042  
Registered with The Charity Commission  
for Northern Ireland NIC100587

