



Economic and Social Data Service

# Guide to data sources for Northern Ireland

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## ESDS Government

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## List of terms and acronyms

ARK	<a href="#">Northern Ireland Social and Political Archive</a>
BSA	<a href="#">British Social Attitudes</a>
CAIN	<a href="#">Conflict Archive on the Internet</a>
CHS	<a href="#">Continuous Household Survey</a>
CCRU	<a href="#">Central Community Relations Unit</a>
CSU	<a href="#">Central Survey Unit</a>
DARD	<a href="#">Department of Agriculture and Rural Development</a>
DCAL	<a href="#">Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure</a>
DEFRA	<a href="#">Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs</a>
DETI	<a href="#">Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment</a>
DHSSPSNI	<a href="#">Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (Northern Ireland)</a>
DOJ	<a href="#">Department of Justice</a>
EFS	<a href="#">Expenditure and Food Survey</a>
ESDS	<a href="#">Economic and Social Data Service</a>
ESRC	<a href="#">Economic and Social Research Council</a>
FES	<a href="#">Family Expenditure Survey</a>
GHS	<a href="#">General Household Survey</a>
ILO	<a href="#">International Labour Organisation</a>
ISSP	<a href="#">International Social Survey Programme</a>
LFS	<a href="#">Labour Force Survey</a>
Nesstar	<a href="#">Computer package to view, analyse, visualise, subset and download data from the ESDS web site</a>
NFS	<a href="#">National Food Survey</a>
NICA	<a href="#">Northern Ireland Census Access</a>
NIEFS	<a href="#">Northern Ireland Expenditure and Food Survey</a>
NI FES	<a href="#">Northern Ireland Family Expenditure Survey</a>
NI LFS	<a href="#">Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey</a>
NIHPS	<a href="#">Northern Ireland Household Panel Survey</a>
NILT	<a href="#">Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey</a>
NIO	<a href="#">Northern Ireland Office</a>

NISAS	<a href="#"><u>Northern Ireland Social Attitudes Survey</u></a>
NISRA	<a href="#"><u>Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency</u></a>
NUTS	<a href="#"><u>Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics</u></a>
ONS	<a href="#"><u>Office for National Statistics</u></a>
SARs	<a href="#"><u>Samples of Anonymised Records</u></a>
SQB	<a href="#"><u>Survey Question Bank</u></a>
LPSA	<a href="#"><u>Land and Property Services Agency</u></a>
YLT	<a href="#"><u>Young Life and Times Survey</u></a>
YPBAS	<a href="#"><u>Young Persons Behaviour and Attitudes Survey</u></a>

# A Guide to data sources for Northern Ireland

## Introduction

The aim of this guide is to provide a resource to researchers who want to study Northern Ireland. The main large-scale government surveys, especially those supported by ESDS (see the list on the next page), will be covered in detail, i.e. methodology and sampling, main themes and some examples of recent work using the survey. Smaller scale surveys of Northern Ireland and/or other non-ESDS sources are also listed and links to the data or further resources are given. For a general exploration of the datasets that are specifically for Northern Ireland see the [ESDS web site](#)<sup>1</sup>. Another useful resource for information on datasets (although not Northern Ireland specific) is the [current dataset holdings](#)<sup>2</sup> arranged by theme at the Data Library at Edinburgh University. Useful publications, similar to this guide, can be found on the CAIN web page: [A Guide to Carrying out Research on Northern Ireland and the Conflict](#)<sup>3</sup>

As discussed above, this guide identifies a range of large-scale data resources; some have a particular focus on Northern Ireland (e.g. the Northern Ireland Health and Social Wellbeing Survey) whilst others cover GB or the UK but have a sufficient Northern Irish component to make analyses for Northern Ireland practicable (e.g. the UK Census and the Labour Force Survey). A potential drawback of the surveys that are carried out in Northern Ireland only is that they may not be comparable with related surveys for England or for the UK. Questions may be worded in a way that means a direct comparison is not possible or that variables are missing that are essential to create further derived variables. The question of whether to use a Northern Irish dataset or a dataset that has a suitable sample for Northern Ireland will depend upon the research requirement. This guide aims to help the analyst in choosing the right data source.

The guide draws on a wide range of sources, including the Central Survey Unit ([CSU](#))<sup>4</sup> of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency ([NISRA](#))<sup>5</sup>, [ARK](#)<sup>6</sup> (Northern Ireland Social and Political Archive) and its section on Conflict Archive on the Internet ([CAIN](#))<sup>7</sup>, the Office for National Statistics ([ONS](#))<sup>8</sup>, the Economic and Social Data Service ([ESDS](#))<sup>9</sup>, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development ([DARD](#))<sup>10</sup>.and Survey Question Bank ([SQB](#))<sup>11</sup>. Wherever possible, links are provided to further documentation.

Note that as of 12 April 2010, policing and justice was devolved to a new Department of Justice ([DOJ](#))<sup>12</sup>. Generic DOJ statistics and research publications website is <http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/statistics-research/stats-research->

[publications.htm](#). Publications issued before that date will continue to be accessed through the Northern Ireland Office (NIO<sup>13</sup>) website <http://www.nio.gov.uk/index/nio-publication/stats-and-research-publications.htm>.

## Large-scale government surveys

This guide provides users with information about the major government surveys and datasets available for Northern Ireland. The emphasis is on the large-scale government surveys supported by ESDS Government, but other surveys and data sources are also covered.

The large-scale government surveys supported by ESDS Government that cover Northern Ireland are:

- [Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey](#)
- [Continuous Household Survey \(Northern Ireland\)](#)
- [Living Costs and Food Survey \(formerly the Expenditure and Food Survey\)](#)
- [National Food Survey](#)
- [Northern Ireland Family Expenditure Survey/Family Expenditure Survey](#)
- [Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey \(and the former Northern Ireland Social Attitudes\)](#)
- [Family Resources Survey](#)
- [Time Use Survey](#)
- [Annual Population Survey](#)

Only the surveys with larger sample sizes for the Northern Irish population are covered in this guide. In addition to that, since the guide was written the following new surveys have been added to the ESDS government data (see appendix):

### [Integrated Household Survey\(IHS\)](#)

The guide is structured into themes. The themes are chosen in a way that will allow researchers to investigate a wide range of issues and facilitate the investigation of empirical research questions that are relevant to researching Northern Ireland. These include employment issues, health issues, identity, attitudes and social capital, crime and the demography of Northern Ireland.

## Access to the microdata

To access ESDS Government survey data, all users must [Login/register](#)<sup>14</sup> with the Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS). All users, including those outside the UK, can obtain a login - see [Login help](#)<sup>15</sup> for details, including what to do if you have forgotten your login.

Registered users can download/order the datasets direct from the ESDS website (usually in SPSS, STATA or tab-delimited formats) via its online catalogue record and via the download/order section of the [Major Studies](#)<sup>16</sup> web page.

An increasing number of datasets are also available in the [Nesstar](#)<sup>17</sup> system, which will allow you to explore the data online and do basic exploratory analysis before choosing without registering. If you are a registered user you are able to download all, or a subset of, the data. Nesstar can save data into formats suitable for SPSS, STATA, SAS, Statistica, DIF (suitable for use in Excel), Dbase and NSDStat formats.

All users requiring data for non-commercial purposes can download data free of charge. For all CD orders there is a flat media fee of £7.50, a per study number handling fee of £2.50 and a flat rate postage and packing fee (£3 in the UK, £4 rest of EU, £5 rest of world). All packages are sent first class via Royal Mail. Where data is required for commercial purposes there is a per usage/project fee of £500 and a per study number fee of £50. See [Charges](#)<sup>18</sup> on the ESDS web site for more details.

## Theme 1: Employment and the Labour Market

The ESDS Government web site contains a number of [pages dedicated to each of the surveys](#)<sup>19</sup> that collect data on employment and the labour market. The web site also contains a page on the theme of [employment and the labour market](#)<sup>20</sup>, links to useful documents, and a [user guide](#)<sup>21</sup> similar to this guide for starting research on employment and the labour market, although these are not specific to Northern Ireland.

### **Employment and labour market questions in the large-scale government surveys**

All the ESDS government surveys ask questions about employment. Choice of survey for your research will depend upon the questions you pose. The main source of data for many researchers is the GB Labour Force Survey ([LFS](#))<sup>22</sup>, which collects a wide range of data on economic activity and the labour market.

Since the mid 1990s the government surveys have applied the principle of [harmonisation](#)<sup>23</sup> in order to improve the comparability of statistics. The process of harmonisation attempts to develop and encourage the use of standard questions and outputs with common classifications and definitions for a number of key concepts. Economic status, industry, occupation, employment status and socio-economic classifications are all harmonised concepts. This means that all government surveys containing data on these topics obtained data through the use of harmonised or 'standard' questions. In addition, each of the government surveys collect 'harmonised' core demographic variables from respondents such as sex, age, ethnicity, marital status and cohabitation.

For example, the harmonised questions on employment and unemployment are in line with the internationally agreed International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition of employment and unemployment. According to the ILO definition unemployment implies that a person is not in paid employment in the last seven days but available to start within two weeks and have either looked for work in the last four weeks or been waiting to start a new job. ILO employment includes those who have been in paid work in the last seven days (either as an employee or self-employed) and those on a government-supported training scheme in the last seven days. ILO employed also includes people who are temporarily away from their

job/business (e.g. on maternity leave or on holiday) and people who do unpaid work for their own business or a family business<sup>1</sup>.

## ***The Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey***

The NI Labour Force Survey ([LFS](#))<sup>24</sup> is the main comprehensive source of information about all aspects of the labour market in Northern Ireland and it assists many government departments in the framing and monitoring of social and economic policy. It covers a range of related topics, such as income, qualifications, training and disability. The NI LFS is closely related to the GB [LFS](#)<sup>25</sup>. The UK is obliged under EC regulations to carry out a LFS, using internationally agreed definitions of unemployment, employment and economic activity. Results from the spring quarter of each year are supplied to Eurostat and can be compared to other EC member states.

The NI LFS is conducted by the Central Survey Unit ([CSU](#))<sup>26</sup> of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency ([NISRA](#))<sup>27</sup> on behalf of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment ([DETI](#))<sup>28</sup>. DETI are responsible for ensuring that the survey is conducted in Northern Ireland, it also carries out the analysis and interpretation of the data. CSU manage the fieldwork. This includes the sampling of addresses, the preparation of the questionnaire, day-to-day running of fieldwork and database production. The questionnaire is provided by the ONS on a quarterly basis and amended for Northern Ireland by CSU.

Results from the Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey feed into the UK figures but are also analysed at the Northern Ireland level. Moreover, since April 1998, the [DETI](#)<sup>29</sup> have published a Northern Ireland Labour Market Statistics Release to the same timetable as publication of the [ONS](#)<sup>30</sup> Labour Market Statistics First Release.

## **Background and Methodology**

The current quarterly LFS has been running in Northern Ireland since December 1994. The survey was first carried out in Northern Ireland in 1973 and from 1973 - 1983 (as in GB) the survey in Northern Ireland was conducted in alternate spring

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<sup>1</sup> NB: other than the Labour Force Survey and General Household Survey, many of the large-scale government surveys measure ILO unemployment and employment without including unpaid family work and/or being temporarily away from work because they do not ask this level of detail in the questionnaire. For more information about the definition of ILO unemployment and how to measure it see the [LFS documentation](#) on the ESDS web site and the [ONS harmonisation web site](#).

quarters. From 1984 to 1994 an annual survey was conducted and results referred to the spring months of each year. This annual survey consisted of 5,200 addresses drawn at random from the Rating and Valuation List - approximately 1% of private addresses in Northern Ireland. Over this period interviewing was conducted only in the spring, with no quarterly element. UK LFS estimates are available for Spring quarters from 1973-1994. For more information concerning the structure of the survey pre-1992, including the previous Northern Ireland boosts, see the ESDS [Employment and the labour market Introductory User Guide](#)<sup>31</sup> or the [LFS User Guide, Volume 7](#)<sup>32</sup>.

In the winter of 1994/95 a quarterly LFS was introduced to Northern Ireland. Each quarter's sample consists of approximately 3,000 household responses spread over five 'waves'. A rotational pattern was also adopted, identical to that being operated in the GB LFS. The sample for the LFS is drawn from the Land and Property Services Agency (LPSA)<sup>33</sup> list. This is the most up-to-date listing of private households and is available to the NISRA for research purposes. People living in institutions (although not in private households in such institutions) are excluded. The sample consists of 650 addresses per quarter, selected randomly from the LPSA list.

Every address selected for the LFS is interviewed on five successive occasions, so that in any one quarter, a fifth of the sample will be receiving their first interview, one fifth their second and so on, with one fifth receiving their fifth and final interview. This results in an 80% sample overlap between quarters. Respondents at 'wave' 1 are interviewed face-to-face with subsequent interviews at 'waves' 2-5 taking place, where possible, by telephone (interviewers can accept proxy information for household members who are unavailable when the interview takes place). Questions are asked of every adult member of the household (aged 16 and over), with a few questions relating to each child in the household. Quarterly UK LFS estimates are available from Winter 1994/95.

The questions that are specifically on employment and the labour market include ILO measures, training at work, work history, hours worked and earnings (1992 onwards). Aside from the employment and labour type questions the LFS questionnaire comprises a set of core questions which are included in every survey and cover household, family structure, basic housing information and demographic details of individuals in the households. Some questions in the core are only asked at the first interview e.g. sex, ethnic group. The survey also asks non-core questions which change from quarter to quarter. These non-core questions provide information which is only needed once or twice a year. Further details on the LFS questions can be found at [National Statistics](#)<sup>34</sup> or the [Survey Question Bank](#)<sup>35</sup> from the year 1994 onwards.

Income questions have been asked in the NI LFS since the survey became a quarterly survey in the Winter of 1994/5 but results were not weighted until early 1998. LFS income data on a UK basis is now available for each quarter from Winter

1994/5. From Spring 1997, the income questions in both the GB and NI LFS have been asked of respondents in waves 1 and 5, producing a larger sample size than when previously asked only of wave 1 respondents.

## ***The LFS datasets***

The structure of the LFS supports different types of secondary analysis as the LFS can be used cross-sectionally (e.g. for getting an unemployment rate); comparatively, for example comparing two time points through the repeated cross-sectional data (e.g. unemployment rate in Sept 2000 and Sept 2001); and for longitudinal analysis (e.g. using the panel element of the data). There are a number of different types of LFS datasets available from the ESDS. These are described briefly below. However the [ESDS website](#)<sup>36</sup> contains fuller explanations of each of the datasets.

[Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey datasets](#)<sup>37</sup> 1995-2000 annual datasets compiled from quarterly waves, where the lowest geography available is for Northern Ireland.

[Quarterly Labour Force Survey](#)<sup>38</sup> each of the quarterly datasets from Summer 1992 through to December 2006 are available, however, Northern Ireland has only been included since Winter 1994 (since it became quarterly later). These datasets are for usually used for individual/person level analyses. If you are carrying out household level analyses then you should use the Household Datasets (see below). The lowest geography available is Northern Ireland.

[Quarterly LFS Special Licence Access:](#)<sup>39</sup> From the Mar-May 2005 quarter, a Special Licence version of the QLFS data is available in addition to the QLFS. This contains extra variables, mostly covering geographical area, that are not included in the standard End User Licence version of the QLFS data and therefore is subject to more restrictive access conditions.

[Quarterly LFS Local Area Data](#)<sup>40</sup> the QLFS Local Area Datasets are available from Autumn 1992 to Spring 2006, again Northern Ireland has only been included since Winter 1994. These provide data aggregated by area, i.e. data are on an area-level rather than an individual/person level. The datasets contain a subset of the variables from the main QLFS (approximately 100), e.g. employment (by age groups); ILO unemployed (by age groups); economically active (by age groups).

The LFS Annual Local Area Data Series containing individual/person level data and the Unitary Authority/Local Authority (UA/LA series) was available from ESDS but in 2004 was removed from general release to lower the risk of identification<sup>2</sup>.

[Labour Force Survey Household Datasets](#)<sup>41</sup> the LFS Household Datasets should be used for household level or family-unit level analyses. They are available from 1990 to 1997 and for each spring and autumn thereafter, the most recent dataset available is December 2006. The lowest geography available is for Northern Ireland. The datasets include all the usual variables found in the individual level LFS datasets with the exception of those relating to income. The datasets contain new derived variables at household and family unit level, to facilitate the analysis of economic activity patterns of whole households<sup>3</sup>.

[LFS Two-Quarter Longitudinal Datasets](#)<sup>42</sup> and [LFS Five-Quarter Longitudinal datasets](#)<sup>43</sup> the LFS Longitudinal Datasets are available from Winter 1992 onwards (Winter 1994 for Northern Ireland). The two-quarter datasets link data for the same people from two consecutive waves, while the five-quarter datasets link across a whole year (for example summer 1999 to summer 2000 inclusive) and contain data from all five waves. The longitudinal datasets only contain a subset of the data from the quarterly datasets and they have different weights (although they are weighted for the same reasons). The lowest geography available is Northern Ireland.

[Labour Force Survey, 1975-1991](#)<sup>44</sup> these are data from the annual and biennial surveys and are available from 1975 to 1991.

[LFS Eurostat Datasets](#)<sup>45</sup> the Eurostat datasets are currently available from ESDS for the four quarters of 2005 only. These datasets form the UK component of the European Union Labour Force Survey (EULFS), and consist of a subset of core variables from the UK QLFS alongside primary and secondary derived variables computed by Eurostat from the core variables supplied.

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<sup>2</sup> ONS released the following information: ONS and its predecessors have always offered an assurance of confidentiality to potential respondents in its surveys. Databases released for analysis by outside bodies have always been anonymised to ensure that users could not identify any respondent with the information given. However advances in technology and software has made it easier to link survey records to either other survey files or other administrative or commercial databases. Although the risk for most respondents is very small, there remains a risk of identification for people with unusual combinations of personal circumstances. Thus the release outside the central government statistical services of social survey databases with small area identifiers, alongside a national database with detailed coding, has now been ceased."

<sup>3</sup> A specific set of household level weights are provided with these data files. For more information see Household and Family Data User Guide Vol. 8 2007 in the LFS Documentation

## Research potential of the LFS

The LFS has high research potential for secondary analysis of employment and the labour market due to its large sample size and detailed measures. Examples of publications/articles resulting from using the employment and labour market questions from the LFS relating to Northern Ireland are given.

- Human Resource Research and Evaluation Branch (HRRED) (2000) *Labour Force Survey - religion report*, NISRA.
- Bailey, MF. "The labour market participation of Northern Ireland University Students" *APPLIED ECONOMICS*. 35 (11) 1345 - 1350 JUL 20 2003

## Other resources for the NI LFS (and LFS) on the ESDS web site

- [NI LFS survey pages on ESDS web site](#)<sup>46</sup>
- [NI LFS frequently asked questions](#)<sup>47</sup>
- [Analysis of the LFS Using Stata \(user guide\)](#)<sup>48</sup>
- [LFS 2002 teaching dataset](#)<sup>49</sup>
- [LFS User Group Meetings](#)<sup>50</sup>
- [publications citing the LFS](#)<sup>51</sup> from a fully searchable database of publications which cite the ESDS Government surveys

## Other resources

- The LFS [User Guides Vol.1-9](#)<sup>52</sup>
- [NI LFS Home page on the CSU web site](#)<sup>53</sup>
- [Results from the NI LFS](#)<sup>54</sup> on the DETI web site
- [NI LFS Local Area Database](#)<sup>55</sup> – local area data at district council and NUTSIII level
- [DETI Women in Northern Ireland Statistics Bulletin56](#) from Labour Force Survey (September 2009)

## Theme 2: Health

This section provides details of data sources that can be used to research health and health related issues for the population of Northern Ireland. The ESDS Government web site contains a page on the [theme of health](#)<sup>57</sup> which contains links to useful documents and an [Introductory guide to using the large-scale government surveys for health research](#)<sup>58</sup>, similar to this guide for starting research on health issues. However, most of the health-related datasets covered by ESDS are not specific to Northern Ireland.

### ***Northern Ireland Health and Social Wellbeing Survey***

The [Northern Ireland Health and Social Wellbeing Survey](#)<sup>59</sup> is carried out by the CSU of NISRA on behalf of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (Northern Ireland) (DHSSPSNI). The main objective of the survey is to monitor trends in the population's health over time and the survey plays a key role in ensuring that health planning is based on reliable information, as well as monitoring the effectiveness of government policies and the extent to which targets are achieved. To date the surveys have been conducted in 1997, 2001 and 2005/6 (all data are available from the [ESDS](#)<sup>60</sup>) and have focused on a range of different health issues including cardiovascular disease, mental health and ill-health, physical activity, smoking and drinking.

### **Methodology**

The sample is drawn from the LPSA list of private addresses. The survey involves a household interview followed by individual interviews with all adults aged 16 and over. Core modules are included every year and non-core modules recur on a regular cycle. The 1997 survey also included a physical measures module, completed by one respondent selected at random from each household. Qualified nurses were employed to record details of all prescribed medication that the respondent was taking, measure height, waist, hip, weight and blood pressure. A blood sample was also taken to measure the level of cholesterol.

In order to start analysis with the Northern Ireland Health and Social Wellbeing Survey it is important to consider weighting the data. The 2001 survey does not include weights because a simple random sample of addresses was selected. However, a weight was required in 1997 because the survey was designed to select equal samples from each of the Four Health and

Social Services Board, which meant that overall the survey would not accurately reflect the Northern Ireland population. Weighting adjusts the results to those that would be achieved if the sample had been drawn as a random sample of addresses in Northern Ireland. A weight was also required for the physical appraisal element of the 1997 study. Only one adult was selected from each household for the physical measures, therefore individuals living in large households had a lower chance of being included in the sample than individuals in small households. This weighting process adjusts the results to those that would have been achieved if the sample had been drawn as a random sample of adults rather than addresses. Thus, the 1997 dataset contains two weights (Indvni and Physni). See the [1997 User Guide](#)<sup>61</sup> for more information.

The level of geography on the survey is the 4 Health Board areas.

**Table 1 The Northern Ireland Health and Social Wellbeing Survey**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Sample size</b>	<b>Main Topics/Modules of questions</b>
1997 <a href="#">Questionnaire</a> <sup>62</sup> and <a href="#">User Guide</a> <sup>63</sup>	sample: 3,520 addresses.  obtained: 2,435 addresses (response rate 75% (one or more persons interviewed) and 53% (selected respondent completed interview and physical measures)).  4,263 individual interviews.	Core modules include data on: Household composition and characteristics. Individual characteristics: age, gender, occupational history, employment status, income, benefits details, educational attainment. Health and Ill-Health: General health, long standing illness, high blood pressure, circulatory illness, asthma, diabetes, back pain and musculoskeletal conditions. Mental Health and wellbeing: stressful life events, possible mental health problems, stress, levels of social support (much of this section is covered by self-completion method). Cigarette smoking and drinking: yes/no/former. In relation to health / levels of/ type of alcoholic drink consumed. This section is self-completion for adults aged 16 to 17. Non-core items include: Carers section: covering informal care/the lifestyles of care providers- receivers Physical measures: In 1997 qualified nurses measured blood pressure, height and weight to determine body mass index (BMI).
2001 <a href="#">User Guide and</a>	Sample: 5,000 addresses.  Obtained: 3,006	Core modules, as 1997 above. Non-core items include: Physical Activity: walking, current physical activity levels, motivations, barriers

<a href="#">questionnaire</a> <sup>64</sup>	addresses (response rate 68% (one or more persons interviewed)).  5,205 individual interviews.	and intentions regarding physical activity. Sexual Health: questions focus on the respondent's knowledge of sexual matters, first experience of sexual intercourse, contraception use, change in sexual lifestyle, last occasion of sexual intercourse, pregnancy and infertility (this section is covered by self-completion method).
2005/6 <a href="#">User Guide and questionnaire</a> <sup>65</sup>	Sample: 5,000 addresses  Obtained: 2905 addresses (response rate 66% (one or more persons interviewed)).  4,245 individual interviews.	Topics covered include basic household demographic information; general health; specific medical conditions; adult allergies; physical activity; information on carers; dietary information; dental health questions; work- and non-work-related illness; child's weight perceptions; child health; breast feeding; social environment; stress; General Health Questionnaire (GHQ12) (self-completion); social support (self-completion); smoking and drinking; education; employment; income and benefits; religion. Physical measurements (such as height and weight) were also collected.

### Northern Ireland Health and Social Wellbeing Survey resources

- [Northern Ireland Health and Social Wellbeing Survey](#)<sup>66</sup> web pages
- Data with full user documentation is available from the [ESDS](#)<sup>67</sup>
- Results from 2001 are available on [CSU website](#)<sup>68</sup>

### Research potential of the Northern Ireland Health and Social Wellbeing survey

Examples of publications from the Northern Ireland Health and Social Wellbeing survey are given below.

- Miller, R., Devine, P. and Schubotz, D. [Secondary Analysis of the 1997 & 2001 Northern Ireland Health and Social Wellbeing Surveys](#)<sup>69</sup>, ARK, Institute of Governance, Public Policy and Social Research, Queen's University Belfast
- [Cigarette Smoking and Drinking bulletin 2001](#)<sup>70</sup> from DHSSPSNI
- [Health and ill-health bulletin 2001](#)<sup>71</sup> from DHSSPSNI

- [Health and Social Wellbeing Survey - Top-line Results 2005/6](#)<sup>72</sup> from DHSSPSNI
- [Mental Health and Wellbeing bulletin 2001](#)<sup>73</sup> from DHSSPSNI
- [Physical Activity bulletin 2001](#)<sup>74</sup> from DHSSPSNI
- [Sexual Health bulletin 2001](#)<sup>75</sup> from DHSSPSNI
- [Men in Northern Ireland: Report 3](#)<sup>76</sup> November 2004 by Dirk Schubotz, ARK

## ***Infant Feeding Survey***

From 1990 Northern Ireland has been included in the Infant Feeding survey. The 1990 survey was the fourth national survey and has been conducted every five years since 1985. The infant feeding study is conducted for the Department of Health by BMRB Social Research, with fieldwork in Northern Ireland being conducted by NISRA. In Northern Ireland it is sponsored by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (Northern Ireland) (DHSSPSNI).

The main aims of the survey are to provide national figures on the incidence, prevalence and duration of breastfeeding and other feeding practices adopted by mothers in the early weeks up to around nine months after the baby's birth. Since 1990 there has been a survey in 1995, 2000 and 2005.

### **Methodology**

For the 2000 survey samples of mothers for England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland were selected from all births registered in the period August 19th to October 19th 2000, from the respective registration offices of each country. Mothers in Scotland and Northern Ireland were however given a greater chance of selection. Births to mothers whose partner was classified from his birth registration details as social class V, where no father was recorded, or where the social class details were unclassified were included in the sample. For Northern Ireland, considering the selection of mothers whose partner was classified to social classes I-IV, the sampling fraction was increased to three-fifths (59%), rather than one in two (50%). In total, 2617 births were sampled in Northern Ireland in 2000.

The survey was conducted in three separate stages, as follows:

Stage 1: babies aged 4-10 weeks

Stage 2: babies aged 4-5 months

Stage 3: babies aged 8-9 months

At each stage, the survey was conducted by post.

The level of geography for the Northern Ireland Infant Feeding survey in 1990 and 1995 is at the country level; for 2000 and 2005 it is the Health and Social Services Boards.

**Table 1 The Infant Feeding Survey**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Sample size</b>	<b>Main Topics/Modules of questions</b>
1990 <a href="#">Questionnaire</a> <sup>77</sup> and <a href="#">User Guide</a> <sup>78</sup>	Target: 11,105. Obtained: 9,778 (stage 1).  For NI – target 2,041 Obtained stage 1: 1,828, stage 2: 1,659 , stage 3: 1,506	Incidence, prevalence and duration of breastfeeding; influences on the choice of method of feeding; influences on the duration of breastfeeding; bottle feeding; weaning - solid food, vitamins and non-milk drinks
1995 <a href="#">Questionnaire</a> <sup>79</sup> and <a href="#">User Guide</a> <sup>80</sup>	Target: 12,314. Obtained: 9,130 (stage 1).  For NI – target 2,434 Obtained stage 1: 1,753, stage 2: 1,663, stage 3: 1,532	breastfeeding; antenatal care - check-ups, classes and home visits, folic acid and dietary supplements; smoking and drinking during pregnancy; choice of feeding method and reasons; the birth and post-natal care, problems feeding the baby; the use of non-human milk, help with the cost of milk; feeding after the early weeks - problems and reasons for stopping breastfeeding; feeding in public places; additional drinks; supplementary vitamins; solid foods - age at introduction of solids, types of food given, influences on the choice of foods, preparing and feeding solid food and difficulties with weaning.
2000 <a href="#">Questionnaire</a> <sup>81</sup> and <a href="#">User Guide</a> <sup>82</sup>	Target: 13,112. Obtained: 9,492 (stage 1).  For NI – target 2,617 Obtained stage 1: 1,778, stage 2: 1,617, stage 3: 1,437	How infants are fed, including incidence, prevalence and duration of breastfeeding; Mothers' intentions and practices regarding breastfeeding; Age at which solid foods are introduced; Smoking and drinking during pregnancy.
2005 <a href="#">Questionnaire and User Guide</a> <sup>83</sup>	<a href="#">Infant Feeding Survey 2005: Early Results</a> <sup>84</sup>	How infants are fed, including incidence, prevalence and duration of breastfeeding; Mothers' intentions and practices regarding breastfeeding; Age at which solid foods are introduced;

		<p>Smoking and drinking during pregnancy. These early results are based on the first of three questionnaires completed by a sample of mothers from across the UK. Two key topics are covered in the early results report; the initial incidence of breastfeeding and smoking during pregnancy. The final stage of the survey is underway and a full report will be published in spring 2007.</p>
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### Research potential of the Infant Feeding survey

Examples of publications from the Infant Feeding survey that could be used for comparative research include:

- White, A., Freeth, S. and O'Brien, M. (1992) *Infant feeding 1990*, London: HMSO.
- Foster, K., Lader, D. and Cheesbrough, S. (1997) *Infant feeding 1995*, London: The Stationery Office
- Hamlyn, B. et al (2002) *Infant feeding 2000*<sup>85</sup>, London: The Stationery Office.
- [2000 summary](#)<sup>86</sup> report from Department of Health website
- [Infant Feeding Survey 2005](#)<sup>87</sup>

### Useful resources

Listed below are a number of links to general resources that you may find useful when carrying out health research.

- [Health Statistics User Group JISCMail list](#)<sup>88</sup>
- [Department of Health](#)<sup>89</sup>
- [The Information Centre statistics and data collection web pages](#)<sup>90</sup>
- [ESDS](#)<sup>91</sup> and search on health
- [Office for National Statistics](#)<sup>92</sup>
- [ESDS Government: Publications Database](#)<sup>93</sup>
- [Survey Question Bank](#)<sup>94</sup>
- [National Centre for Social Research](#)<sup>95</sup>

- [Institute of Public Health in Ireland](#)<sup>96</sup>
- a range of sources of official health statistics which are not covered in this guide are included in Leadbetter, D. (2000) *Harnessing Official Statistics*, Radcliffe Medical Press, Oxon

### **Northern Irish specific data sources and resources**

- [Fit Futures: Focus on Food, Activity and Young people](#)<sup>97</sup>
- [Adult Dental Health Survey \(1998\)](#)<sup>98</sup>
- [Northern Ireland Health and Activity Survey \(1994\)](#)<sup>99</sup>
- [Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety \(Northern Ireland\)](#)<sup>100</sup> (DHSSPSNI)
- [Public Health Agency](#)<sup>101</sup>
- [Drug and Alcohol Information and Research Unit](#)<sup>102</sup>
- [DHSSPSNI Drug and Alcohol statistics and research web pages](#)<sup>103</sup>
- [Northern Ireland Cancer Registry](#)<sup>104</sup>

### **Other surveys which ask health related questions include:**

- [Continuous Household Survey](#)<sup>105</sup> (in demography theme of this guide below)
- [Northern Ireland Life and Times](#)<sup>106</sup> Survey (in the identity and social capital theme of this guide below)
- [Northern Ireland Household Panel Survey](#)<sup>107</sup> (NIHPS) (in demography theme of this guide below)
- [Young Persons Behaviour and Attitudes Survey](#)<sup>108</sup> (YPBAS) is a school-based survey conducted among 11-16 year-olds, covering a range of topics, relevant to the lives of young people. Three rounds of the survey have taken place: in Autumn 2000, Autumn 2003 and Autumn 2007.

### **Other data sources**

Aside from surveys covered by ESDS government, there are a number of other data sources that cover health related issues:

- [British Cohort Study 1970 \(BCS70\)](#)<sup>109</sup>: a continuing, multi-disciplinary longitudinal study which began in 1970. The BCS70 subjects are all those living in Great Britain who were born between 5 and 11 April 1970. The study initially had a medical focus but has widened to encompass physical, educational, social and economic development in later years.
- [Millennium Cohort Study \(MCS\)](#)<sup>110</sup>: The ESRC-funded MCS offers large-scale information about the new century's babies, and the families who are bringing them up, for the four countries of the UK. Its first sweep, carried out during 2001-2002 has laid the foundations for a major new longitudinal research resource. The study's broad objective was to

create a new multi-purpose longitudinal dataset, describing the diversity of backgrounds from which children born in the new century are setting out on life.

- [British Household Panel Survey \(BHPS\)](#)<sup>111</sup>: a longitudinal survey which follows the same representative sample of individuals - the panel - over a period of years. It has been conducted since 1991 and involves a number of topics including health and caring. In 1999 there was a Northern Irish boost sample (for more information see theme 5 of this guide on demography).
- For other Longitudinal Studies go to the [ESDS Longitudinal](#)<sup>112</sup> web pages.
- [Expenditure and Food Survey](#)<sup>113</sup> asks some questions on health (covered in the demography theme of this guide).
- [The Sample of Anonymised Records \(SARs\)](#)<sup>114</sup>: samples of individual Census records which have been adapted to preserve respondents' confidentiality. The SARs contain data on limiting longstanding illness, and general health in 1991 and 2001 (covered in the demography theme of this guide).

## Theme 3: Crime

Crime and victimisation surveys try to understand the attitudes of the Northern Irish population towards crime, rather than simply recording the crime statistics.

### ***Northern Ireland Crime Survey***

Closely mirroring the core elements of the British Crime Survey ([BCS](#))<sup>115</sup>, the Northern Ireland Crime Survey ([NICS](#))<sup>116</sup> is a cross-sectional, personal interview survey of the experiences and perceptions of crime of approximately 4,000 adults living in private households throughout Northern Ireland. Conducted on a continuous basis since January 2005, the NICS was previously carried out in 1994/95, 1998, 2001 and 2003/04. The NICS is carried out by the Central Survey Unit ([CSU](#))<sup>117</sup> on behalf of the Department of Justice ([DOJ](#))<sup>118</sup>.

The main purpose of the survey is to collect information about levels of crime and public attitudes to crime. Information is collected by interviewing people to find out about crimes they may have experienced, including those that were not reported to the police. Respondents are also asked their views about the level of crime and how much they worry about crime.

## Methodology

The NICS survey sampling, fieldwork and initial database production are conducted by NISRA'S Central Survey Unit ([CSU](#))<sup>119</sup>. A sample of 6,420 addresses is selected each year to take part in the Northern Ireland Crime Survey. This is from a systematic random sample of addresses drawn from the [Land and Property Services Agency \(LPSA\)](#)<sup>120</sup> list of domestic addresses. The LPSA addresses are sorted by district council and ward, so the sample is effectively stratified geographically. Interviewers visit each address to identify eligible, occupied addresses and attempt to interview one randomly selected respondent (aged 16 or over) at each address. People living in institutions (though not in private households in such institutions) are excluded.

The core questionnaire is presented by the interviewer (all respondents), although the sensitive modules concerning personal experience of drugs and domestic violence are self-completed (respondents aged 16-59 only). In addition to household and demographic questions, the core questionnaire includes the following modules:

- Perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Crime victimisation screener questions
- Victim forms: completed for each (in-scope) crime up to a maximum of six (single or series) incidents
- Confidence in the criminal justice system
- Confidence in the police
- Confidence in police monitoring arrangements
- Perceptions of the risk of becoming a victim of crime

In addition to being used to track progress towards Public Service Agreement targets on confidence in the police, police monitoring arrangements and the criminal justice system, the NICS data are used to produce four key NIO statistical outputs, two of which are national statistics:

### a. Experience of crime victimisation in Northern Ireland

The focus of this national statistics bulletin is on victimisation rates in Northern Ireland for crimes affecting the whole household (mainly property offences) and personal crimes against NICS respondents only (mainly violent offences), whether or not these were reported to or recorded by the police. As well as enabling crime trends to be monitored independently of changes in reporting levels or police recording practices, the NICS is used to identify the characteristics and circumstances of people most at risk from different types of crime.

#### b. Perceptions of crime in Northern Ireland

In addition to describing NICS respondents' perceptions of crime levels and anti-social behaviour, this national statistics bulletin uses three commonly used measures to illustrate the characteristics and circumstances of people most likely to be affected by concern about crime, namely:

- worry about crime
- perceptions of the risk of becoming a victim of crime
- the effect of fear of crime on quality of life

#### c. Experience of drug misuse

This bulletin contains data on drug seizures and arrests and examines the prevalence and trends of illicit drug use among NICS respondents aged 16-59 years. Largely drawn from a self-interviewing module, the main focus is on experience of specific drugs during lifetime, in the past year and in the past month and on age of first use. The bulletin is not a national statistics output.

#### d. Experience of domestic violence

This bulletin contains data on the experience of NICS respondents aged 16-59 of violence from current or former partners, including physical, sexual, emotional, financial or social abuse. Largely drawn from a self-interviewing module, the main focus is on the 'worst' incident ever experienced. The bulletin is not a national statistics output.

**Recent examples of publications from the Northern Ireland crime survey are given below:**

- [Experience of drug misuse: findings from the 2008/09 Northern Ireland Crime Survey](#)<sup>121</sup>
- [Experience of drug misuse: findings from the 2007/08 Northern Ireland Crime Survey](#)<sup>122</sup>
- [Perceptions of policing, justice and organised crime: quarterly update to December 2009](#)<sup>123</sup>
- [Perceptions of crime: findings from the 2008/09 Northern Ireland Crime Survey](#)<sup>124</sup>
- [Experience of sexual violence and abuse: findings from the 2008/09 Northern Ireland Crime Survey](#)<sup>125</sup>
- [Experience of crime: findings from the 2008/09 Northern Ireland Crime Survey](#)<sup>126</sup>
- [Experience of crime: findings from the 2007/08 Northern Ireland Crime Survey](#)<sup>127</sup>
- [Experience of domestic violence: findings from the 2007/08 Northern Ireland Crime Survey](#)<sup>128</sup>
- [Confidence in policing and the criminal justice system: findings from the 2007/08 Northern Ireland Crime Survey](#)<sup>129</sup>

## **Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey**

The [Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey](#)<sup>130</sup> is carried out on a regular basis and is designed to provide a snapshot of the lifestyle and views of the people of Northern Ireland.<sup>4</sup> By providing instant information about all the sections of the population, the Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey will enable government and others to identify community views and quickly make the decisions which are necessary for the needs and wishes of the community to be met. This survey of topical issues allows Government to monitor the views of a representative sample of the people of Northern Ireland. By seeing what people want, Government can then shape policy to accommodate the needs and wishes of the population.

### **Methodology**

A sample of 2,200 addresses is drawn from the [LPSA](#)<sup>131</sup> list of domestic addresses. People living in institutions (though not in private households in such institutions) are excluded. This is a systematic random sample of addresses; the LPSA addresses are sorted by district council and ward, so the sample is effectively stratified geographically. Further selection stages are required to convert the listing of addresses to a listing of individuals aged 16 or over, from which one is randomly selected to complete the questionnaire.

The content of the survey varies. Some sections will appear in every survey, for example: Household composition, age of dwelling, tenure of dwelling, education details, employment details, personal income, household income and religion. For further details on the Omnibus survey go to the [CSU website](#)<sup>132</sup> (note: the survey is not held by ESDS).

**Examples of publications from the Northern Ireland omnibus survey in relation to crime are given below:**

- [Views on organised crime in Northern Ireland: findings from the January 2009 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey](#)<sup>133</sup>
- [Public attitudes towards crime and recovery of assets by the Assets Recovery Agency: findings from the January 2008 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey](#)<sup>134</sup>
- [Views on organised crime in Northern Ireland: findings from the January 2008 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey](#)<sup>135</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Note the Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey is not the same as the (GB) ONS [Omnibus survey](#) (now called the ONS Opinions Survey)

## **Community Attitudes Survey**

The Community Attitudes Survey ([CAS](#))<sup>136</sup> was a survey that provided an objective assessment of public perceptions and views on crime, law and order and policing issues over time. The survey was first commissioned in 1992 by the Criminal Justice Departments and Agencies and the Central Community Relations Unit, following an independent review of crime survey needs undertaken by the Northern Ireland Office. The CAS ran continuously from 1992/93 to 2003.

### **Methodology**

CAS was a household survey that was designed to yield a representative sample of all adults aged 16 or over living in Northern Ireland. The sample of 2,400 addresses was drawn at random from the LPSA property database. People living in institutions (though not in private households in such institutions) were excluded from the sample. CAS was designed to yield a representative sample of all adults aged 16 or over living in Northern Ireland.

One person in each household was selected at random to participate in the survey. Where there is more than one household at the address, one was selected. The sample did account for the possibility of non eligible properties on the sample list and assumed a response rate of 65% to achieve a minimum of 1,400 achieved interviews during the field period. For further information see the [CSU website](#)<sup>137</sup>.

### **CAS resources**

- [Questionnaires](#)<sup>138</sup> and [Results](#)<sup>139</sup> from 1992/93 onwards are available from the CSU website
- The CAS data can be obtained by the [ESDS](#)<sup>140</sup>

**Recent examples of publications from the CAS are given below:**

- [Community Attitude Survey Bulletin 2000](#)<sup>141</sup>
- [Community Attitude Survey Bulletin 2001](#)<sup>142</sup>
- [Community Attitude Survey Bulletin 2002](#)<sup>143</sup>
- [Community Attitudes Survey Bulletin 2003](#)<sup>144</sup>
- [Community Attitudes Survey Rapid Results Tables 2003](#)<sup>145</sup>
- [Community Attitudes Survey Technical Report 2003](#)<sup>146</sup>

## Other data sources and resources

- [Crime and Justice Survey](#)<sup>147</sup> (CJS) was a large-scale survey commissioned by the NIO and Queen's University Belfast. It aimed to provide measures on experiences of crime, safety from crime and self-reported offending among the general population. The CJS sample was 3,200 addresses, selected at random from the LPSA and at each address one adult aged 16 to 65 will be randomly selected for interview as well as any individual aged between 10 and 21. Fieldwork was carried out in 2003. For further CJS details see the [CSU website](#)<sup>148</sup> (note: CJS is not held by the ESDS).
- [International Crime and Victimization Survey](#) (ICVS)<sup>149</sup> has three main aims: to provide an alternative to police information on levels of crime, to harness crime survey methodology for comparative purposes and to extend information on who is most affected by crime, for more information see the report [ICVS 2000 key findings from Northern Ireland](#)<sup>150</sup>
- [World Criminal Justice Library Network's](#)<sup>151</sup> page on Criminal Justice Statistical Sources for [Northern Ireland](#)<sup>152</sup> has many useful links including official statistics on administration of justice, corrections, drugs and alcohol, firearms, homicide, law and the courts, victims of crime and youth and crime
- [Northern Ireland Court Services](#)
- [A commentary on Northern Ireland Crime Statistics 2004](#)<sup>153</sup>
- [Digest of information on the Northern Ireland Criminal Justice System - 10](#)<sup>154</sup>
- [Digest of information on the Northern Ireland Criminal Justice System - 9](#)<sup>155</sup>
- [Digest of information on the Northern Ireland Criminal Justice System - 8](#)<sup>156</sup>
- [Northern Ireland Statistics on the Operation of the Terrorism Act 2000 \(2006\)](#)<sup>157</sup>
- [The Northern Ireland Prison Population in 2007](#)<sup>158</sup>
- [The Northern Ireland prison population in 2008](#)<sup>159</sup>
- [Northern Ireland prison population projections 2005 – 2009](#)<sup>160</sup>
- [Northern Ireland statistics on the operation of the Terrorism Act 2000: annual statistics 2008](#)<sup>161</sup>
- [Northern Ireland statistics on the operation of the Terrorism Act 2000: annual statistics 2007](#)<sup>162</sup>
- [Northern Ireland youth re-offending: results from the 2006 cohort](#)<sup>163</sup>

## **Theme 4: Identity and Social Capital**

This theme introduces data sources that can be used to start research on aspects of identity, attitudes and social capital. The ESDS Government web site contains a page on the theme of [social capital](#)<sup>164</sup> and social exclusion which contains links to useful documents (these are not Northern Irish specific).

### ***Northern Ireland Social Attitudes Survey***

The Northern Ireland Social Attitudes ([NISAS](#))<sup>165</sup> series began in 1989, and was conducted every year in which the British Social Attitudes ([BSA](#))<sup>166</sup> survey was fielded until 1996. Supported initially by the Nuffield Foundation, the Central Community Relations Unit ([CCRU](#))<sup>167</sup> and the Policy Planning Research Unit (PPRU - now the [NISRA](#))<sup>168</sup>, the NISAS series is currently funded by all of the main Northern Ireland Departments. The NISAS has not been conducted since 1996, but was replaced by the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey series ([NILT](#))<sup>169</sup> survey, see the next section for more details.

Like its companion survey, the BSA, the main purpose was to allow the monitoring of patterns of continuity and change, and the examination of the relative rates at which attitudes, in respect of a range of social issues, change over time. NISAS thus allows direct comparison of the attitudes, values and beliefs held by UK citizens on either side of the Irish Sea. Data users should, however, note that the two sets of data cannot be combined to produce UK data.

### **Methodology**

The NISAS was a repeated cross-sectional study of adults (18 and over) living in private households in Northern Ireland. The study was undertaken every year from 1989 to 1996, except in 1992 when BSA core funding was devoted to the British Election Study series. It is a multi-stage stratified random sample, where the sampling frame is the rating list. Geographical stratification (into three areas) followed by simple (i.e. unclustered) random sample of address, and random selection of one adult at each address. The method of data collection for the NISA was face-to-face interview and a self-completion booklet.

Alongside a 'core' number of questions on (for example) public spending, welfare benefits, the labour market and community relations - and all the demographic and other classificatory variables - the NISAS also contained many of the questionnaire

modules asked in that year's BSA survey, including questions (modules) on a range of social, economic, political and moral issues. The sample sizes obtained are as follows:

1989: 866, 1990: 896, 1991: 906, 1993: 842, 1994: 1,519, 1995: 1,150, 1996: 786.

### **NISA resources**

- A short background to the NISAS is given by [Gillian Robinson](#)<sup>170</sup>
- Publications from 1992 onwards are listed on the [CAIN web site](#)<sup>171</sup>
- Data can be obtained by the [ESDS](#)<sup>172</sup>, or for 1996 it can be explored in [Nesstar](#)<sup>173</sup>

### ***Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey***

The Northern Ireland Life and Times ([NILT](#))<sup>174</sup> Survey, launched in the autumn of 1998, monitors the attitudes and behaviour of people in Northern Ireland annually to provide a time-series and a public record of how attitudes and behaviour develop on a wide range of social policy issues.

The survey is funded by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, Economic and Social Research Council ([ESRC](#))<sup>175</sup>, Northern Ireland Social and Political Archive ([ARK](#))<sup>176</sup> and the University of Ulster. ARK has overall responsibility for the survey. The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey is a direct descendent of the Northern Ireland Social Attitudes Survey ([NISAS](#))<sup>177</sup> which ran from 1989 to 1996. NISAS was a sister survey to the British Social Attitudes Survey ([BSA](#))<sup>178</sup>, see the section above for more details. The NILT survey also participates in the International Social Survey Programme ([ISSP](#))<sup>179</sup>, although it did not do so for the 2003 or 2004 surveys.

### **Methodology**

The NILT survey is a repeated cross-sectional study designed to yield a representative sample of men and women aged 18 and over living in Northern Ireland. The sampling methodology is a one-stage stratified, or systematic random sample. The Postal Address File (PAF) was used as the sampling frame for the survey and a simple random sample of addresses was obtained after stratification into three geographic regions (Belfast, East of the Bann and West of the Bann). This was done to ensure the adequate representation of areas of lower population density (and is standard practice in Northern Ireland social surveys). The method of data collection is face-to-face interview and self-completion.

The NILT survey includes questions on background, rights of the child, public understanding of science, political attitudes, crime and fear of crime, gender and family roles, community relations and religious observance. The survey is run on a modular format and while two modules are repeated every year (Political Attitudes and Community Relations) the rest of the survey varies annually with all the modules designed to be repeated in years to come.

**Table 2 The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Sample size</b>	<b>Main Topics/Modules of questions</b>
1998 <a href="#">Questionnaire</a> <sup>180</sup> and <a href="#">User Guide</a> <sup>181</sup>	target: 2,648 obtained: 1,800	Background information on the respondents, Rights of the Child, Public Understanding of Science, Political Attitudes, Crime and Fear of Crime, Community Relations, Housing and Gender and Family Roles Self-completion A: Religious Observance, Political Attitudes, Community Relations and Housing Self-completion B: Gender and Family Roles, Public Understanding of Science Political Attitudes, Community Relations and Housing (Religious Observance asked as part of the ISSP and is also archived at the German data archive, Zentralarchiv fuer Empirische Sozialforschung - 'ZA')
1999 <a href="#">Questionnaire</a> <sup>182</sup> and <a href="#">User Guide</a> <sup>183</sup>	target: 3,337 obtained: 2,200	Background information on the respondents, Attitudes to Genetics Research, Transport, Political Attitudes, Education, Community Relations and Pensions and Pensioners Self-completion A: Attitudes to Genetics Research, Political Attitudes, Education, Community Relations and Social Inequality Self-completion B: Transport, Political Attitudes, Education and Community Relations. (Social Inequalities asked as part of ISSP and is also archived in the German Archive (ZA)) Note: although the survey included a module on pensions, it is not in the dataset
2000 <a href="#">Questionnaire</a> <sup>184</sup> and <a href="#">User Guide</a> <sup>185</sup>	target: 2,808 obtained: 1,800	Background information on the respondents, Men's Life and Times, Political Attitudes, Community Relations and Welfare Reform Self-completion A: Environment, Men's Life and Times, Political Attitudes and Community Relations Self-completion B: Work Orientations, Men's Life and Times, Political Attitudes and Community Relations. Questions on social capital and welfare reform were also asked, but are not included in

		the data file, for more information see the <a href="#">ARK</a> <sup>186</sup> .
2001 <a href="#">Questionnaire and User Guide</a> <sup>187</sup>	target: 2,675 obtained: 1,800	Background information on the respondents, Education, Political Attitudes, Health Issues, Culture, Arts and Leisure and Community Relations Self-completion: Social Networks and Political Attitudes (Social Networks asked as part of the ISSP)
2002 <a href="#">Questionnaire and User Guide</a> <sup>188</sup>	target: 2,893 obtained: 1,800	Background information on the respondents, Women in Politics, Political Attitudes, Rights of the Child, Europe and Community Relations. Self-completion: Family and Gender, Women in Politics and Political Attitudes. (Family and gender roles asked as part of the ISSP)
2003 <a href="#">Questionnaire and User Guide</a> <sup>189</sup>	target: 2,942 obtained: 1,800	Background information on the respondents, Education, Attitudes to Older People Political Attitudes, Disability and Community Relations. Self-completion: Education, Disability and Political Attitudes. (The 2003 NI LTS did not include a module for the ISSP)
2004 <a href="#">Questionnaire</a> <sup>190</sup> and <a href="#">User Guide</a> <sup>191</sup>	target: 2,875 obtained: 1,800	Background information on the respondents, Men's Life and Times, Grand-parenting and family life, Community Relations, Countryside and farming and Political Attitudes. Self-completion: Men's Life and Times, Countryside and farming Political Attitudes and Religious Observance. (The 2003 NI LTS did not include a module for the ISSP)
2005 <a href="#">Questionnaire and User Guide</a> <sup>192</sup>	Target 1,978 obtained: 1,200	Background information on the respondents, Health issues and complementary medicine, Political attitudes and democratic participation, Community relations, Attitudes to minority ethnic people, Gender and family roles.
2006 <a href="#">Questionnaire and User Guide</a> <sup>193</sup>	Target 1,987 Obtained 1,230	Background information on the respondents, Informal carers, Community relations, Healthcare, attitudes to minority ethnic people and migrant workers, Political attitudes
2007 <a href="#">Questionnaire and User Guide</a> <sup>194</sup>	Target 1,977 Obtained 1,179	Background information on the respondents, Community relations, Attitudes to minority ethnic people and migrant workers, Identity, Political attitudes, Public services, Role of Government
2008 <a href="#">Questionnaire</a>	Target: 2,350 Obtained: 1,215	Main topics covered: community relations, attitudes to ageism and ageing, experiences of ageism, attitudes to minority ethnic groups, attitudes to migrant workers, religion and

<a href="#">and User Guide</a> <sup>195</sup>		religious observance, political attitudes, attitudes to devolution, background information on the respondents
2009 <a href="#">Questionnaire and User Guide</a> <sup>196</sup>	Target: 2,350 Obtained: 1,228	Main topics covered: community relations, attitudes to disability, attitudes to minority ethnic groups, attitudes to migrant workers, political attitudes, leisure time and sport (2007 ISSP module), background information on the respondents

### NILT Survey resources

- [NILT](#)<sup>197</sup> survey web pages
- Questionnaires from 1998-2007 from [Survey Question Bank](#)<sup>198</sup>,
- Questionnaires from the Northern Ireland Social and Political Archive ([ARK](#))<sup>199</sup>
- The data for years 1998-2004 can be obtained from the [ARK](#)<sup>200</sup> (without registration)
- Data with full user documentation from the [ESDS](#)<sup>201</sup>, for years 1998-2003 these are available for exploration using [Nesstar](#)<sup>202</sup>
- Brief results from each year (such as percentages answered for the questions) go to the [ARK results](#)<sup>203</sup>
- Information on [starting analysis](#)<sup>204</sup> and [frequently asked questions](#)<sup>205</sup> on the NILT survey

### Research potential of the NILT survey

Examples of publications from the NILT survey are given below.

- Lloyd, K., Devine, P., Gray, A.M., and Heenan, D. (eds.) (2004) [Social Attitudes in Northern Ireland: The Ninth Report](#)<sup>206</sup>. London: Pluto Press.
- Gray, A.M., Lloyd, K., Devine, P., Robinson, G., and Heenan, D. (eds.) (2002) [Social Attitudes in Northern Ireland: The Eighth Report](#)<sup>207</sup>. London: Pluto Press.
- MacGinty, R. (2003) 'What our politicians should know' [Research Update 18](#)<sup>208</sup>, Belfast: Life and Times Survey

## **NI Young Life and Times Survey**

The Young Life and Times ([YLT](#))<sup>209</sup> Survey is the sister survey to NI LTS, it is designed to monitor attitudes among young people in Northern Ireland to social and political issues. From 1998 to 2000, Young Life and Times sought the views of all 12 to 17 year olds living in the same household as respondent to the Northern Ireland Life and Times survey. However, in 2003, the aims and methodology of the survey were changed. From 2003 onwards, Young Life and Times will record the attitudes of 16 year olds only. Further details can be found in the [technical notes](#)<sup>210</sup> of the survey.

### **NI LTS resources**

- Information from the Ark includes [questionnaires](#)<sup>211</sup>, [data](#)<sup>212</sup>, [results](#)<sup>213</sup> and [publications](#)<sup>214</sup>.
- Data is also available along with user guides from the [ESDS](#)<sup>215</sup>, and can be explored for all years using [Nesstar](#)<sup>216</sup>

### **Other Northern Irish studies**

- [European Parliament Elections in Northern Ireland \(2004\)](#)<sup>217</sup>
- [Devolution and Identity in Northern Ireland: a Longitudinal Discursive Study \(2003-2004\)](#)<sup>218</sup>
- [General Election in Northern Ireland \(2001\)](#)<sup>219</sup>
- [Membership Survey of the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland \(2000-2001\)](#)<sup>220</sup>
- [Political Communication and Devolution in Northern Ireland \(2000-2001\)](#)<sup>221</sup>
- [Orange Order Lodge Membership, Northern Ireland \(1893-2000\)](#)<sup>222</sup>
- [Northern Ireland European Values Survey \(1999\)](#)<sup>223</sup>
- [Social Democratic and Labour Party \(SDLP\) Membership Survey \(1999\)](#)<sup>224</sup>
- [Northern Ireland Social Mobility Survey \(1996\)](#)<sup>225</sup>
- [Northern Ireland General Election and Political Attitudes Survey \(1992\)](#)<sup>226</sup>
- [Political Participation, Interests and Attitudes of Women in Northern Ireland \(1991\)](#)<sup>227</sup>
- [In Two Minds: Arts and Science Differences at Sixth Form Level \(1980\)](#)<sup>228</sup>
- [Northern Ireland Attitude Survey \(1978\)](#)<sup>229</sup>
- [Role of Full-Time Trade Union Officers in Northern Ireland \(1973\)](#)<sup>230</sup>
- [Northern Ireland Loyalty Study \(1968\)](#)<sup>231</sup>
- [Survey of Councillors in Belfast \(1966\)](#)<sup>232</sup>
- [Survey of Electors in Belfast \(1966\)](#)<sup>233</sup>

### Other data sources and resources

- [National Identity and Constitutional Change in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland \(2001 and 2003\)](#)<sup>234</sup>.
- [Orange Order Membership Data, with a Focus on Ireland, Canada and Scotland \(1852-2002\)](#)<sup>235</sup>
- European Values Survey [EVS](#)<sup>236</sup> and [1999-2000](#)<sup>237</sup>
- Determinants of Occupational Status and Mobility in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic, [1971-1972; Pilot 1, Data](#)<sup>238</sup>, [1973; Phase 1, Data Census File](#)<sup>239</sup>, [1973; Phase 1, Questionnaire Data](#)<sup>240</sup>, [1973-1974; Phase II, Limited Contact Data](#)<sup>241</sup> and [1973-1974; Phase II Data](#)<sup>242</sup>
- ONS [Social Capital Matrix of surveys](#)<sup>243</sup> is useful as it lists all the large-scale surveys that ask questions that are associated with social capital

## Theme 5: Demography

### ***Northern Ireland Continuous Household Survey***

The Continuous Household Survey ([CHS](#))<sup>244</sup> began in 1983 and samples approximately 1% of households in Northern Ireland each year. It is one of the largest continuous surveys carried out in Northern Ireland. The CHS is carried out by [CSU](#)<sup>245</sup> and is designed primarily to meet the information needs of government departments in Northern Ireland. The survey aims to provide accurate information, on an ongoing basis, about the social and economic conditions of the population of Northern Ireland and thus provide a means of examining relationships between the main variables with which social policy is concerned and in particular of monitoring changes in these associations over time.

The nature, aims and content of CHS are similar to those of the General Household Survey ([GHS](#))<sup>246</sup>, which is carried out by the ONS. The CHS is an important source of information in Northern Ireland and is used by many Government departments and Agencies. Regular clients include the Departments of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Social Development, Health, Social services and Public Safety, Education, Regional Development, and Agencies like the Northern Ireland Sports Council and the Health Promotion Agency. Regularly produced data includes information such as housing characteristics, changing population trends, health and use of the Health services and smoking and drinking trends.

## Methodology

The CHS is a repeated cross-sectional annual survey of private houses in Northern Ireland. It is based on a systematic random sample of 4,500 addresses selected each year from the [LPSA](#)<sup>247</sup> list. As the list is sorted by District Council and Ward, the sample is effectively stratified geographically. No weighting used.

Data is collected by personal interview; the questionnaire consists of both a household interview and an individual interview with each person aged 16 and over. An overview of the topics by the CHS over the years includes: burglaries and thefts, car ownership, consumer durables, crime prevention, household composition, housing, central heating and fuel use, housing satisfaction, mobile phones, mobility/migration, carers, child care, cross-community contact, drinking, language, education, elderly, employment, family Information/fertility, co-habiting, health, immunisations, income and benefits, sport and leisure, police, smoking and voluntary work.

## CHS resources

- Questionnaires for the years 2000/01 onwards can be downloaded from the [CSU web site](#)<sup>248</sup>
- Data and user guides for all years can be obtained from the [ESDS](#)<sup>249</sup>
- Information on [starting analysis](#)<sup>250</sup> and [FAQ](#)<sup>251</sup> on the CHS is available from the ESDS web site

## Research potential of the NI CHS

Recent examples of publications from the NI CHS are given in the table below.

- |  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Continuous Household Survey Bulletins (annual)</a><sup>252</sup></li><li>• Series of monitors (preliminary results 1983-1990/91) by Policy Planning and Research Unit (PPRU) (info from <a href="#">CAIN</a>)<sup>253</sup></li><li>• Religion monitor 1988-1990/91 by PPRU (info from <a href="#">CAIN</a>)<sup>254</sup></li><li>• monitor : heating and fuel 1983-1985, (1988) No. 2/88, by PPRU</li><li>• The Irish language in Northern Ireland 1987: preliminary report of a survey of knowledge, interest and ability, (1988), by PPRU, Occasional Paper 17</li></ul> |
|--|

- Sports Council for Northern Ireland, *The assessment of adult participation in sport and physical recreation in Northern Ireland 1983-1993 using physical activity questionnaires* (Sports Council for Northern Ireland Discussion Paper No. 1) 1994.
- Murtagh, E. 'Socio-economic and demographic trends in NI and in Belfast DC from 1983 to 1991/92', *Belfast residents survey report*. DOE (NI), 1994.
- Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure ([DCAL](#))<sup>255</sup> Research & Statistical Bulletin 1/2006 - Libraries Bulletin. Findings from the 2003/2004 Continuous Household Survey.

### ***Northern Ireland Family Expenditure Survey***

The NI Family Expenditure Survey ([FES](#))<sup>256</sup> is a continuous survey of household expenditure and income which has been in existence since 1967. From 1968 the Great Britain FES incorporated a sample drawn from the Northern Ireland FES to become the UK [FES](#)<sup>257</sup>. The NI FES was carried out by the CSU of NISRA.

From 2001, the FES and the National Food Survey ([NFS](#))<sup>258</sup> have been combined and replaced by a new survey, the Expenditure and Food Survey ([EFS](#))<sup>259</sup>. There has previously been considerable overlap between the FES and NFS, with both surveys asking respondents to keep a diary of expenditure. The NFS covers only food expenditure, but in more detail than the FES. The decision to go ahead with the new survey followed successful piloting. Thus, the 2000-2001 survey was the final FES in its current format. The design of the new EFS is based on the FES and the information currently provided by the FES will continue to be provided by the new survey, see the next section below for more information on the EFS.

### **Methodology**

The NI FES is a repeated cross-sectional annual survey. It is a multi-stage stratified random sample, where the sample of addresses used for the Family Expenditure Survey is taken from the [LPSA](#)<sup>260</sup> list. The sample is stratified by region to ensure proportional sampling across NI and a simple random sample is drawn from each area. The regional strata are: Belfast (Belfast District Council only), East of the Province and West of the Province.

The data are collected through face-to-face interview and diaries.

## NI FES resources

- Questionnaires, data and user guides for all years can be obtained from the [ESDS](#)<sup>261</sup>
- Information on [starting analysis](#)<sup>262</sup> and [FAQ](#)<sup>263</sup> on the NI FES is available from the ESDS web site

## Research potential of the NI FES

Examples of publications from the NI FES are given in the table below.

- FES report for 1974 (1975), Department of Finance, Statistics and Economics Unit, Belfast: HMSO
- FES report for 1980, Morris, C. and Wilson-Davis, K., PPRU
- FES report for 1982-1985, (1988), PPRU Monitor no.3/88
- FES report for 1983-1986, (1989), PPRU Monitor no.2/89
- FES report for 1986-1991, (1991), PPRU Monitor no.1/91
- FES report for 1989-1992, (1993), PPRU Monitor no.2/93
- FES report for 1992-1994/95, (1995), PPRU Monitor no.1/95
- FES report for 1997/98, (1999), PPRU Monitor no.2/99
- FES report for 1998/99, available from the [NISRA web site](#)<sup>264</sup>
- Owen, D. (1994) *Estimating the magnitude of linguistic minorities in England and Wales*, National Ethnic Minority Data Archive Information Paper 94/2, May.
- McGregor, P. and McKee, P. (1995) 'A widening gap?' *Democratic Dialogue*, 2, November, pp.39-44.

## ***Expenditure and Food Survey***

The Expenditure and Food Survey ([EFS](#))<sup>265</sup> took over from the Family Expenditure Survey ([FES](#))<sup>266</sup> and the National Food Survey ([NFS](#))<sup>267</sup> on 1 April 2001. In Northern Ireland, the [FES](#)<sup>268</sup> was carried out annually since 1967 and gathered information about the household itself, household and personal incomes, and certain expenditure (e.g. rent, gas and

electricity bills, telephone bills, hire purchase payments etc), see above section for more information. The NFS was first introduced in NI in 1996 and collected information on weight, cost and nutritional value of food consumed in the home. There had been considerable overlap between the two surveys, with both asking respondents to keep a diary of expenditure. The amalgamation of the two surveys to form the EFS provides improvements in data scope and quality and is more cost effective than having two separate studies.

The EFS is commissioned by the ONS and by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs ([DEFRA](#))<sup>269</sup>. In Northern Ireland the fieldwork and sample selection for the EFS is carried out by the [CSU](#)<sup>270</sup>.

The EFS collects information on household expenditure, income and food consumption. By obtaining information on the quantities and cost of food purchased by a random selection of households, the EFS enables comparisons to be made over time and by region of dietary and food expenditure patterns and of the average prices paid for food. The primary uses of the survey are to provide information about spending patterns for the Retail Price Index, and about food consumption and nutrition. The data will also feed into estimates of consumers' expenditure in the National Accounts, will be used for tax benefit modelling and will be an important source of economic and social data for the government and other research agencies.

## **Methodology**

The EFS is a continuous survey based on a sample of 12,000 addresses in Great Britain each year. The sample in Northern Ireland consists of 1,200 addresses per year, drawn on a quarterly basis, 300 per quarter, from the list of private households held by the NI [LPSA](#)<sup>271</sup> list of domestic addresses. The LPSA addresses are sorted by district council and ward, so the sample is effectively stratified geographically.

Households at the selected addresses are visited and asked to co-operate by providing interviewers with information about the household, incomes and regular payments. In addition, each person aged 16 and over, and a sample of those aged 7-15, is asked to maintain a detailed diary for 14 consecutive days following the interview, recording full details of all expenditure in that period. One person in each household is selected as being the main diary keeper; this is normally the person who is responsible for most of the domestic duties, and in particular, food shopping.

The EFS is conducted throughout the UK. At UK level the results are published in "Family Spending" (ONS) and "Family Food" ([DEFRA](#))<sup>272</sup> which include some inter-regional comparisons. To provide more detailed information specifically for Northern

Ireland, the NI sample was enhanced and separate results for NI published by NISRA and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development ([DARD](#))<sup>2735</sup>.

### **EFS resources**

- Questionnaire can be downloaded from the [SOB web site](#)<sup>274</sup> or the [ESDS web site](#)<sup>275</sup>
- Data and user guides are available from the [ESDS](#)<sup>276</sup>, and all years can be explored in [Nesstar](#)<sup>277</sup>
- Information on [starting analysis](#)<sup>278</sup> and [FAQ](#)<sup>279</sup> on the FES is available from the ESDS web site
- Family Food – Datasets, which are excel files reporting statistics, are available on the [DEFRA web site](#)<sup>280</sup>
- Food Consumption and Expenditure, which are excel files reporting statistics (specific for NI), available from [DARD](#)<sup>281</sup>
- Reports on the ONS web site, such as [Family Spending](#)<sup>282</sup>

### ***Northern Ireland Household Panel Survey***

The Northern Ireland Household Panel Survey ([NIHPS](#))<sup>283</sup> is an extension of the long-running British Household Panel Survey ([BHPS](#))<sup>284</sup> and is carried out in Northern Ireland by the CSU of the NISRA. The [ARK](#)<sup>285</sup> houses the analysis unit dedicated to facilitating users in their analysis of the data.

The NIHPS seeks to interview all adult members of each household (persons 16 and over). The questionnaire is designed so that most information is collected at the individual level rather than the household level. The central purpose of the NIHPS is to understand the dynamics of change experienced by the population of Northern Ireland and its evolution over the lifetime of the study.

Whilst NIHPS aims to provide cross-sectional population estimates, its central aim is to facilitate longitudinal research. Thus, the primary objective of NIHPS is to provide high quality, timely data on the short-term processes of change at the individual and household level across a number of domains. These domains are: labour markets, income, savings and wealth, household and family organisation, housing, consumption, health, social and political values, education and training.

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<sup>5</sup> Because there are significant changes in methodology in the EFS compared with the previous NFS, the results for 2001/02 are not directly comparable with those for previous years which were published as "The National Food Survey: Results for Northern Ireland". However the headline figures from the NFS at UK level, published in the DEFRA report "Family Food", were adjusted to be comparable with those from the NFS.

The advantage of the NIHPS over other surveys carried out in Northern Ireland is that:

- it will follow the same representative sample of individuals - the panel - over a period of years;
- it is household-based, interviewing every adult member in the sampled households;
- the data are directly comparable with the BHPS.

## Methodology

### *Sample selection at wave 1*

The initial sample for wave 1 of NIHPS consisted of an equal-probability sample of 3,170 addresses drawn from the Valuation and Lands Agency list of addresses. People living in institutions (though not in private households in such institutions) were excluded. This was using a systematic random sample of addresses drawn from the LPSA list, where the LPSA addresses are sorted by district council and ward, so the sample is effectively stratified geographically. All individuals enumerated in these households (irrespective of age) became part of the longitudinal sample. All these sample members are known as Original Sample Members (OSMs).

### *Sample additions and losses at subsequent waves*

All OSMs (regardless of whether they were interviewed at wave 1) remain sample members at all subsequent waves for the lifetime of the survey. OSMs are also followed as they move between different households. People with whom they form new households are temporary sample members (TSMs) while they live with OSMs, and will be eligible for interview if aged 16 and over. OSMs who move out of the UK remain in the sample, but no attempts are made to interview them until or unless they return to the UK (this information comes from the [CSU web site](#)<sup>286</sup>).

The response rates are given in the table below:

#### **Wave 1 response rates:**

#### **Wave 2 response rates:**

<b>Household level response</b>		<b>Household level response</b>	
Interviewed	68.6%	Interviewed	86.8%
Refusal	21.6%	Refusal	8.8%
Non-contact	7.3%	Non-contact	1.2%

No interview (age, health etc)	2.5%	Untraced move	3.2%
<b>Number households</b>	<b>2885</b>	<b>Number households</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Individual level response</b>		<b>Individual level response (cross-sectional)</b>	
Individual interview	83.6%	Individual interview	72.0%
Proxy interview	5.1%	Proxy interview	3.1%
Within household refusal	6.5%	Within household refusal	7.6%
Other non-interview	4.7%	Within household non-con	3.9%
		In whole household non-response	13.4%
<b>Number eligible adults</b>	<b>3897</b>	<b>Number eligible adults</b>	<b>3971</b>

Longitudinal wave-on-wave individual re-interview rate: of those who gave a full interview at Wave 1 and were still eligible for interview at wave 2 (i.e. not out of scope or deceased), 83% did an interview at Wave 2.

### NIHPS resources

- Questionnaire for all waves can be downloaded from the [CSU](#)<sup>287</sup>
- Data and documentation are available from the [ESDS](#)<sup>288</sup> (the NIHPS joined the BHPS at wave 11)
- Information on the [BHPS](#)<sup>289</sup> is available on the ESDS website
- Information on the [BHPS](#)<sup>290</sup> on the ISER website
- Information on the [NIHPS User Group](#)<sup>291</sup> on ARK website

### *The Census of population*

The key data source for obtaining information on the demographics of the Northern Irish population is the decennial Census of Population. The most recent Census of Population took place on Sunday 29 April 2001. The Census is a valuable data source firstly because, unlike a sample survey, it records information on the entire population. Secondly there is lots of information; it covers a wide range of topics including information on the family, housing, health, employment, transport, ethnic group and religion.

The Northern Irish Census covers the same main topic areas as the Censuses in England, Wales and Scotland. The difference is that some census questions are asked differently for Northern Ireland (resulting in some variables being coded differently for use in the Samples of Anonymised Records (SARs)) and also the order of the questions asked is different.

The differences include:

- The religion question is asked differently from that of the English Census. In Northern Ireland 3 questions on religion were asked. The first was on 'Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion', with the second being 'What religion, religious denomination or body do you belong to?', and the third 'What religion, religious denomination or body were you brought up in?' The Northern Irish Census also distinguishes between the main Christian denominations.
- The question on ethnic group. Not only was the position of the question different from that of the [English Census form](#)<sup>292</sup>, there was also difference in the ethnic group category options offered. For Northern Ireland 9 different ethnic group categories were pre-coded which were not accompanied by a write-in box, the other 2 boxes included write in options. The Northern Irish Census also included an option of Irish Traveller.
- There are additional questions on reading, writing, speaking and understanding Irish
- A question on whether rooms used by the household are located on more than one floor
- There is no question about professional qualifications.

Statistics from the 2001 Northern Ireland Census are available online from [NISRA](#)<sup>293</sup>. The NISRA web site holds the Northern Ireland Census Area Statistics (CAS), which consists of some 86 pre-planned cross-tabular outputs covering a variety of Census variables. While the information is slightly less detailed than that contained in the Standard Tables, it is available for each of the 5,022 Census Output Areas and all associated higher level geographies in Northern Ireland (i.e. Northern Ireland as a whole, Health and Social Services Boards, Education and Library Boards, Parliamentary Constituencies, NUTS Level III regions, Local Government Districts, Electoral Wards, and Census Output Areas). For more information see the complete [list of the Census Area Statistics Tables by number and name](#)<sup>294</sup> and an [alphabetical Index listing all the tables relating to a particular topic or census variable](#)<sup>295</sup>.

The tables are available at the geographical levels outlined below:

- [Northern Ireland Level](#)<sup>296</sup>
- [Health and Social Services Board Level](#)<sup>297</sup>

- [Education and Library Board Level](#)<sup>298</sup>
- [Parliamentary Constituency Level](#)<sup>299</sup>
- [NUTS Level III Regions](#)<sup>300</sup> (European Union Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics)
- [Local Government District](#)<sup>301</sup>
- [Electoral Ward Level](#)<sup>302</sup>
- [Output Area Level](#)<sup>303</sup>

These are also available on [CD-ROM](#)<sup>304</sup>, outlined below:

- CD Volume 1: Census Area Statistics for Higher Level Geographies (i.e. Northern Ireland as a whole down to Electoral Wards)
- CD Volume 2: Census Area Statistics for Output Areas - Demography Tables and Health & Care Tables
- CD Volume 3: Census Area Statistics for Output Areas - Education, Employment & Economic Activity Tables
- CD Volume 4: Census Area Statistics for Output Areas - Housing & Transport Tables and Irish Language Tables

For more information on the availability of Census CD products and how they can be obtained, contact NISRA, email: [census.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk](mailto:census.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk)

### **Other Census resources**

- for an introduction to the Census in Northern Ireland go to the [NISRA web site](#)<sup>305</sup>
- for an introduction to the Census of population go to Collection of Historical and Contemporary Census Data and Related Materials (CHCC) module on [introduction to the Census](#)<sup>306</sup>
- [1991 Census : Small Area Statistics \(Northern Ireland\)](#)<sup>307</sup> are available from the ESDS
- the book [The Census Data System](#)<sup>308</sup> by Rees, P., Martin D. and Williamson, P (eds) 2002 Chichester, Wiley

### ***The Samples of Anonymised Records (SARs)***

Another source of data from the Census that goes beyond the cross-tabulations of the Standard Tables is the Samples of Anonymised Records (SARs). The SARs are samples of individual records from the Census of population. Information on the sample size and geography for the different types of SARs, the individual and household SAR for 1991 and 2001, and also the new Small Area Microdata (SAM) in 2001 for Northern Ireland is detailed in the table below:

**Table 2 SAR type and geography**

Year	Individual	Household	Small Area Microdata (SAM)
1991	2% sample, in the Northern Ireland there are 10 areas (go to <a href="#">pg.3</a> <sup>309</sup> of the codebook for more details of these areas). Web link to the <a href="#">codebook</a> <sup>310</sup>	The Household SAR is a 1% sample of households and all individuals in those households. Web link to the <a href="#">codebook</a> <sup>311</sup>	N/A
2001	3% percent sample. The geography is region of usual residence, Northern Ireland is not subdivided. Web link to <a href="#">codebook</a> <sup>312</sup>	N/A (the one percent sample is for England and Wales only). Web link to <a href="#">codebook</a> <sup>313</sup>	5% sample, the geography for Northern Ireland is by Parliamentary Constituencies. Web link to <a href="#">codebook</a> <sup>314</sup>

**The 2001 Individual licensed SAR**

From the 2001 SARs there are 52,894 people with Northern Ireland as their usual country of residence; this constitutes 2.87% of the whole SAR. In the Individual SAR for Northern Ireland there is no further regional breakdown. Some Census measures that are particularly relevant to demographic analysis for Northern Ireland are listed in the table below.

**Table 3 Key Variables in the 2001 SAR**

Type of question/Variable	Information and categories
Country of birth	16 categories
Ethnic group	2 categories
Community background-religion or religion brought up in (Northern Ireland only)	4 categories: Catholic, Protestant and other Christian (Including Christian related), Other religions and philosophies, and None
Religion	7 categories
Distance of move migrants-banded	13 categories, 12 of these in kms within the UK and from outside UK category
NS-SEC	National Statistics Socio-economic classifications
Standard Occupational Classification 2000-minor	Full 81 categories of occupation classifications
SOC (SubMajor)	The standard 2000 SOC classifications (reduced version of 81 categories)

Family type	9 categories
Dependent Children in Family	4 categories: no children, dependent children only, dependent and non-dependent children and non-dependent children
Economic position of Family Reference person	In employment, unemployed and Economically inactive
NS-SEC of Family Reference person	The Socio-economic classifications for the reference person
Sex of Family Reference person	Male/Female
No. of carers in the Household	0, 1, 2+
No. of persons in Household aged 65 and over	0, 1, 2+
No. of families in Household	6 categories starting from all ungrouped individuals
No. in Household with limiting long term illness	None, 1, 2+
No. of Household members with Poor health	0, 1, 2+
Social grade of Household reference person	5 category classification
Multiple ethnicity Household indicator	4 categories: One person household, All household members have same ethnic group, Different identities between generation only, Different identities within partnerships and Any other combination of multiple identities
Lowest Floor Level of Household Living Accommodation	6 categories: from basement to 5 <sup>th</sup> floor or higher
Number of Floor Levels (Northern Ireland only)	2 categories: More than one floor and One floor

### Other SAR resources

- the [SARs](#)<sup>315</sup> web pages
- user guides in [1991](#)<sup>316</sup> and [2001](#)<sup>317</sup> for the SAR and [previous research](#)<sup>318</sup> using the SAR is detailed online
- for more information on starting to analyse the SARs go to the [Learning and Teaching Resources](#)<sup>319</sup> web page
- the book *Analysing Census Microdata* (2000) by Dale, A., Fieldhouse, E. and Holdsworth, C., London: Arnold

### Other Northern Irish studies

- [Poverty and Social Exclusion in Northern Ireland \(2002-2003\)](#)<sup>320</sup>
- [Women's Working Lives Survey, Northern Ireland \(1990\)](#)<sup>321</sup>
- [PPRU Surveys of Disability \(1989-1990\)](#)<sup>322</sup>
- [Low Pay and Family Poverty in Northern Ireland \(1982\)](#)<sup>323</sup>
- [New Earnings Survey: Northern Ireland \(1972-1984\)](#)<sup>324</sup>

- [Trends in Higher Education in Northern Ireland and in the Social and Spatial Mobility of Northern Ireland Undergraduates \(1980 and 1985\)](#)<sup>325</sup>
- [Higher Education in Northern Ireland : Participation and the Graduate Labour Market \(1991-1992\)](#)<sup>326</sup>
- [Survey of Household Movement in Northern Ireland \(1974\)](#)<sup>327</sup>
- [Early Leaving in Northern Ireland \(1971-1972\)](#)<sup>328</sup>
- [Social Survey of Households in Six Redevelopment Areas in Belfast \(1966\)](#)<sup>329</sup>
- [Segregation and Social Structure in Early 20th Century Belfast](#)<sup>330</sup>

**Other studies detailed on the CSU website**

- [Adult Literacy Survey](#)<sup>331</sup>
- [Child of the New Century Survey](#)<sup>332</sup>
- [Family Resources Survey](#)<sup>333</sup>
- [Travel Survey for Northern Ireland \(TSNI\)](#)<sup>334</sup>
- [Social Survey of Farmers](#)<sup>335</sup>
- [Northern Ireland Survey of Activity Limitation and Disability](#)<sup>336</sup>
- [Programme for International Student Assessment](#)<sup>337</sup>

**Other data from the Database of Irish Historical Statistics:**

[Agricultural Statistics \(1911-1973\)](#)<sup>338</sup>

[Census of Industrial Production and Trade Statistics \(1924-1972\)](#)<sup>340</sup>

[Census Material \(1901-1971\)](#)<sup>342</sup>

[Registrar General's Materials \(1922-1971\)](#)<sup>344</sup>

[Emigration \(1851-1911\)](#)<sup>346</sup>

[Vital Statistics \(1864-1911\)](#)<sup>348</sup>

[Religion, 1861-1911](#)<sup>350</sup>

[Language, 1851-1911](#)<sup>352</sup>

[Agricultural Statistics Crops and Stocks, 1847-1911](#)<sup>339</sup>

[Conjugal Statistics, 1841-1911](#)<sup>341</sup>

[Literacy, 1841-1911](#)<sup>343</sup>

[Occupations, 1831-1911](#)<sup>345</sup>

[Age, 1821-1911](#)<sup>347</sup>

[Housing, 1821-1911](#)<sup>349</sup>

[Population, 1821-1911](#)<sup>351</sup>

[Miscellaneous \(Famine Relief\), 1846-1847](#)<sup>353</sup>

## Appendix 2: New ESDS Surveys

### *The Integrated Household Survey*

(formerly Continuous Population Survey)

Fieldwork for the Integrated Household Survey ([IHS](#))<sup>354</sup> (formerly the Continuous Population Survey (CPS)) is proposed to begin in January 2008. The design involves the integration of the household surveys on which ONS leads into one IHS (CPS). The surveys included for integration are:

- Labour Force Survey ([LFS](#))<sup>355</sup> and associated boosts (APS)
- General Lifestyle Survey ([GLF](#)) (formerly the General Household Survey ([GHS](#))<sup>356</sup>)
- Living Costs and Food Survey ([LCF](#)) (formerly the Expenditure and Food Survey ([EFS](#))<sup>357</sup>)
- [ONS Opinions Survey](#) (formerly Omnibus Survey ([OMN](#))<sup>358</sup>)
- English Housing Survey ([EHS](#))<sup>359</sup>

The IHS will collect information on employment and the labour market along with a variety of other topics such as health, expenditure, income etc so it has great potential as a secondary source for employment and labour market research.

The Individual Income Series does not provide a means of comparing the living standards of women and men, nor of different groups of women: the analyses take no account of the extent to which members of a household share their incomes or resources with other household members.

#### **Main Topics:**

- total income
- net income
- disposable income
- demographics (gender, ethnicity, age, disability status, occupational social class, housing tenure)

For more information about the data see [ESDS web page](#)<sup>360</sup>.

## Endnotes

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- <sup>1</sup> [http://www.esds.ac.uk/search/geogSearch.asp?ct=xmlGeog&q1=Northern%20Ireland&zoom\\_and=1&zoo\\_m\\_cat=-1](http://www.esds.ac.uk/search/geogSearch.asp?ct=xmlGeog&q1=Northern%20Ireland&zoom_and=1&zoo_m_cat=-1)
- <sup>2</sup> <http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/information-services/services/research-support/data-library>
- <sup>3</sup> <http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/othelem/research.htm>
- <sup>4</sup> <http://www.csu.nisra.gov.uk/>
- <sup>5</sup> <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/>
- <sup>6</sup> <http://www.ark.ac.uk/about/guide.html>
- <sup>7</sup> <http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/othelem/research.htm>
- <sup>8</sup> <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/>
- <sup>9</sup> <http://www.esds.ac.uk/>
- <sup>10</sup> <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/>
- <sup>11</sup> <http://survey.net.ac.uk/sqb/>
- <sup>12</sup> <http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/statistics-research/stats-research-publications.htm>
- <sup>13</sup> <http://www.nio.gov.uk/>
- <sup>14</sup> <http://www.esds.ac.uk/aandp/access/login.asp>
- <sup>15</sup> <http://www.esds.ac.uk/aandp/access/accesssh.asp>
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