

## Summary Quality Report

Self-efficacy, Locus of Control & Life Satisfaction in Northern Ireland, 2019/20

PfG Analytics, October 2020

Dimension	Assessment by the author
<p><b>Introduction</b></p>	<p><b>Context for the quality report.</b></p> <p>As an official statistics publication ‘Self-efficacy, Locus of Control &amp; Life Satisfaction in Northern Ireland, 2019/20’ complies with all aspects of the <a href="#">UK Statistics Authority, Code of Practice for Statistics (opens in new window)</a>.</p> <p>The report provides figures for Northern Ireland for 2019/20 on three metrics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-efficacy – a person’s belief about their capabilities to exercise influence over events that affect their lives.</li> <li>• Locus of Control (LOC) – the degree to which a person feels in control of their life. Individuals with an internal LOC believe in their own influence and control while those with an external LOC believe control over their lives is determined by outside factors.</li> <li>• Life Satisfaction – relates to a person’s satisfaction with their life overall.</li> </ul> <p>The data in this report are derived from the Continuous Household Survey (CHS). The CHS is a continuous, representative survey which is designed, conducted and analysed by the Central Survey Unit, part of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).</p>
<p><b>Relevance</b></p>	<p><b>The degree to which the statistical product meets the user needs in both coverage and content.</b></p> <p>The report provides baseline data for Northern Ireland for three metrics: self-efficacy; locus of control; and life satisfaction. For each of these metrics, the report has included a population level average and also a breakdown by various sections of society, including those under Section 75 categories, where possible.</p> <p>In addition, the report provides proportions of low self-efficacy to inform two of the Executive’s draft Programme for Government Indicators; <i>Confidence (as measured by self-efficacy)</i> and <i>Confidence of the population aged 60 or older (as measured by self-efficacy)</i>. Again, breakdowns by various sections of society are provided alongside headline figures.</p>
<p><b>Accuracy and Reliability</b></p>	<p><b>The proximity between an estimate and the unknown true value.</b></p> <p><u>Sample and response rate</u></p> <p>The CHS is based on a systematic random sample of addresses drawn from the Pointer list of domestic addresses. The Pointer address database for Northern Ireland is maintained by Land &amp; Property Services (LPS), with input from Local Councils and Royal Mail. The addresses are sorted by district council and ward, so the sample is effectively stratified geographically.</p>

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	<p>In 2019/20, as in 2017/18 and 2018/19, the CHS was based on a systematic random sample of 9,000 addresses. From 2014/15 to 2016/17 the CHS was based on a systematic random sample of 4,500 addresses. In 2019/20 the overall response rate was 58%.</p> <p>The data are collected by personal interview primarily using computer assisted personal interviewing (CAPI), with the interviews being spread equally over the 12 months from April to March.</p> <p><u>Non-response bias and sampling error</u></p> <p>As the CHS is a sample survey, there is a degree of sampling error associated with each of the estimates made within the report, i.e. the actual proportion of the population with a particular characteristic may differ from the proportion within the CHS sample. To account for this sampling error, the data has been weighted in order to produce estimates that better represent the population. The adjustment made to any data may be less than or greater than 1, but will generally be reasonably close to 1. A range of different weights have been applied to account for how the various sample groups differ from the population they represent. Cases have been weighted to adjust for gender and age. This reduces (but does not completely eliminate) error. All reported means/proportions have been weighted.</p> <p>The 95% confidence intervals for each estimate have been included in the data tables which accompany the report. These confidence intervals represent the ranges either side of the CHS estimates which are 95% certain to include the true values for the population.</p> <p><i>For example, it was estimated that the mean self-efficacy score for the NI population in 2019/20 was 19.3; we can be 95% certain that the true NI population mean for 2019/20 falls between 19.2 and 19.4 on the self-efficacy scale.</i></p> <p>It is the nature of sampling variability that the smaller the group whose size is being estimated, the (proportionately) less precise that estimate is. Estimates for groups where the achieved sample is less than 100 have been omitted from the report, as they are unlikely to be reliable. These instances have been denoted by an asterisk (*) in the tables.</p>
<p><b>Timeliness and Punctuality</b></p>	<p><b>Timeliness refers to the time gap between publication and the reference period. Punctuality refers to the gap between planned and actual publication dates.</b></p> <p>PfG Analytics, who produce the report, received the validated dataset in May 2020. ‘Self-efficacy, Locus of Control &amp; Life Satisfaction in Northern Ireland, 2019/20’, was published in October 2020 – 6 months after the end of the reference period.</p> <p>The report was published on the planned date, as pre announced on the Executive Office’s ‘National Statistics Protocol and Compliance’ page and Gov.uk.</p>
<p><b>Accessibility and Clarity</b></p>	<p><b>Accessibility is the ease with which users are able to access the data, also reflecting the format in which the data are available and the availability of supporting information. Clarity refers to the quality and sufficiency of the metadata, illustrations and accompanying advice.</b></p> <p>The ‘Self-efficacy, Locus of Control &amp; Life Satisfaction in Northern Ireland, 2019/20’ report was published, in PDF format, on the Executive Office website on the pre-announced publication date. The report is also available in alternative formats upon request. Within the report, a number of charts have been provided with titles, axis names and footnotes added to help clarify certain information where applicable.</p>

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	<p>Additionally, the report includes a ‘Technical Notes’ annex which provides summary background information, definitions and methodological explanations.</p> <p>Accompanying data tables, in Microsoft Excel and OpenDocument Spreadsheet format, are also available on the Executive Office’s website.</p> <p>Within the reports, key findings have been summarised using infographics.</p>
Coherence and Comparability	<p><b>Coherence is the degree to which data that are derived from different sources or methods, but refer to the same topic, are similar. Comparability is the degree to which data can be compared over time and domain.</b></p> <p>The statistics contained within the report on are derived solely from the CHS. The relevant questions have been included since 2014/15 and six years of data are currently available for analysis. Standard questions are included each year, allowing for comparability over time.</p> <p>Comparable data for self-efficacy and locus of control are not available for the UK or the Republic of Ireland. While self-efficacy data are collected as part of the UK longitudinal study, Understanding Society, these are not comparable with the data in this report due to differences in question design.</p> <p>Life satisfaction data for Northern Ireland has also been collected by the Office of National Statistics (ONS), as part of the Annual Population Survey (APS), which covers the whole of the UK.<sup>1</sup> The APS uses the same life satisfaction question as the CHS, with the same eleven point Likert scale for measurement. The headline results for life satisfaction scores between the two are broadly similar; the ONS reported a life satisfaction score for NI in 2019/20 of 7.86, while ‘Self efficacy, Locus of Control &amp; Life Satisfaction in Northern Ireland, 2019/20 reported a life satisfaction score of 7.8 for the same period.</p>
Trade-offs between output quality components	<p><b>Trade-offs are the extent to which different aspects of quality are balanced against each other.</b></p> <p>It is the nature of sampling variability that sample size affects the precision of estimates; the smaller the sample size, the (proportionately) less precise the estimate. Where the achieved sample for a group is less than 100, estimates are omitted as they are unlikely to be reliable. These instances have been denoted with an asterisk (*). At times (e.g. in breakdowns for Ethnicity, Sexual orientation) it is possible to combine groups which would otherwise be omitted, thus producing large enough sample sizes to allow for analysis to be carried out.</p>
Assessment of user needs and perceptions	<p><b>The process for finding out about users and uses, and their views on the statistical products.</b></p> <p>Contact details for the responsible statisticians have been provided within the main report. Feedback can also be provided via this <a href="#">online user survey (opens in new window)</a>.</p>
Performance, cost and respondent burden	<p><b>The effectiveness, efficiency and economy of the statistical output.</b></p> <p>The total cost to PfG Analytics for the inclusion of the eleven common metrics questions and the 12 Outcomes questions within the 2019/20 CHS was £7,883. The overall cost of running the CHS cannot be provided as this is commercial-in-confidence.</p>

<sup>1</sup> [Personal well-being in the UK: April 2019 to March 2020 \(opens in new window\)](#)

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Confidentiality, transparency and security	<p data-bbox="386 165 1422 237"><b>The procedures and policy used to ensure sound confidentiality, security and transparent practices.</b></p> <p data-bbox="386 253 1445 365">NISRA follows the <a href="#">‘Privacy and data confidentiality methods: a Data and Analysis Method Review (DAMR) (opens in a new window)’</a> in the collection and dissemination of these statistics.</p> <p data-bbox="386 380 1485 492">Standard disclosure control methodology is applied to the data. This ensures that information attributable to an individual is not identifiable in any published outputs and that the outputs are only seen by authorised staff prior to their publication.</p>