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Analytical Services Group

**Views on Alcohol and Drug Related
Issues:
Findings from the September 2014
Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey (revised)**

Research and Statistical Bulletin 19/2015

J McCaughey

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Produced by Analytical Services Group,
Department of Justice.

For further information write to:

**Analytical Services Group,
Department of Justice,
1st Floor,
Laganside house,
23-27 Oxford Street
Belfast
BT1 3LA**

Telephone: 028 9072 4530

Email: statistics.research@dojni.x.gsi.gov.uk

This bulletin is available on the Internet at:

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Summary of Findings

- ◆ Results from the September 2014 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey found that 44.0% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement 'I am concerned about alcohol related issues in my local area'. This compares to 40.0% of respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement.
- ◆ Almost two fifths of respondents (36.7%) agreed or strongly agreed with the statement 'I am concerned about drug related issues in my local area' compared with 43.1% who disagreed or strongly disagreed.
- ◆ The most cited primary reason given for those reporting concern about alcohol related issues in the local area was 'underage drinking' (58.4%), followed by 'drink driving' (11.2%). For drug related issues, 47.8% of the respondents stated 'drug use/abuse' was the primary drug related issue in the local area, followed by 'drug dealing' at 30.6%.
- ◆ Four fifths of respondents (79.7%) stated there was no change in the level of alcohol related issues in their local area in the last 12 months. A similar proportion of respondents (79.9%) stated there was no change in the level of drug related issues in their local area in the last 12 months.
- ◆ Of those respondents who reported having approached a body or representative in the last year, the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) was the most likely organisation to be approached for both an alcohol (56.8%) and a drug (47.2%) related issue in their local area.
- ◆ Around one in ten respondents (10.3%) had heard of the Northern Ireland Assembly's New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs Phase 2, 2011-16.
- ◆ Taking everything into account, 55.7% of respondents expressed some, a lot, or total confidence that enough is being done to tackle alcohol and/or drug related issues in Northern Ireland.
- ◆ Respondents expressed higher levels of confidence in the PSNI's work to tackle alcohol and/or drug related issues across Northern Ireland than that of any other organisation, with 72.9% of respondents having either some, a lot or total confidence.

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1. Introduction

1.1 The focus of this publication

This bulletin draws on findings from the September 2014 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey and updates the findings of September 2013. Respondents were asked a number of questions on their views on alcohol and drug related issues. The findings provide information to assist in measuring progress with two Northern Ireland Executive strategies: (i) Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities – A Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012-2017 and (ii) the New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs Phase 2 2011-2016. The document was revised in March 2016, to correct some of the figures initially reported.

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

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

1.2 About the Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey

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

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

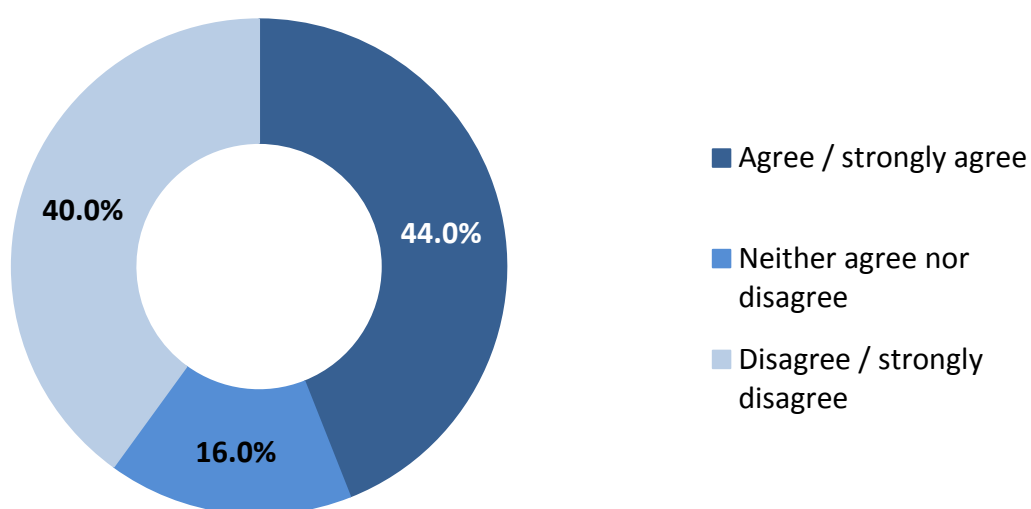
2. Alcohol related issues

2.1 Concern about alcohol related issues in the local area

Table A1 shows the proportions of respondents who stated that they agreed or disagreed with the statement ‘I am concerned about alcohol related issues in my local area’.

- ◆ The proportion of respondents that agreed or strongly agreed with this statement was 44.0%, compared with the 40.0% that disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement (Table A1; Figure 2.1).

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



Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2014.

1. Results exclude “don't know” and refusals.

Table A1 also shows the demographic breakdown by response to the statement ‘I am concerned about alcohol related issues in my local area’. Where difference to the average was found to be statistically significant attention is drawn to this demographic in the text below. Where they are not statistically different the data is reported in the tables without comment.

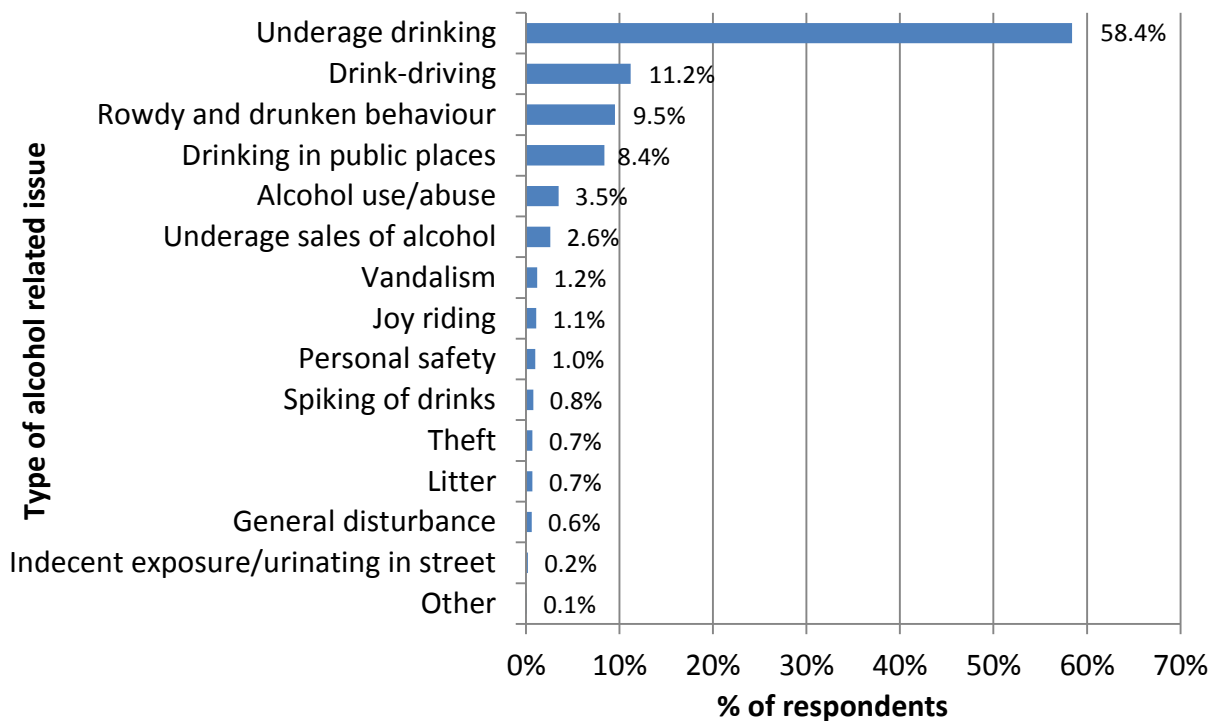
- ◆ Respondents who stated they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement were more likely to be in the 50-64 age group (54.9%), of Catholic religion (50.9%), living in the Belfast Education and Library Board Area (55.3%) or living in an Urban area, excluding Belfast (54.3%).

- ◆ Respondents most likely to disagree or strongly disagree were in the 65 and over age group (47.8%) and those from rural areas (50.0%).

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

- ◆ Almost three out of five of these respondents (58.4%) stated ‘Underage drinking’ as the primary alcohol related issue and 11.2% cited ‘Rowdy and drunken behaviour’ (Table A2, Figure 2.2).

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



Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2014.

1. Results exclude “don't know” and refusals.

- ◆ The secondary alcohol related issue most reported by respondents was ‘drinking in public places’ (26.9%) and ‘Rowdy and drunken behaviour’ (21.7%) was the most reported tertiary issue (Table A2).

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

Table A3 shows the perceptions of change in the level of alcohol related issues in the local area in the last 12 months by demographics. Where difference to the average was found to be statistically significant attention is drawn to this demographic in the text below. Where they are not statistically different the data is reported in the tables without comment.

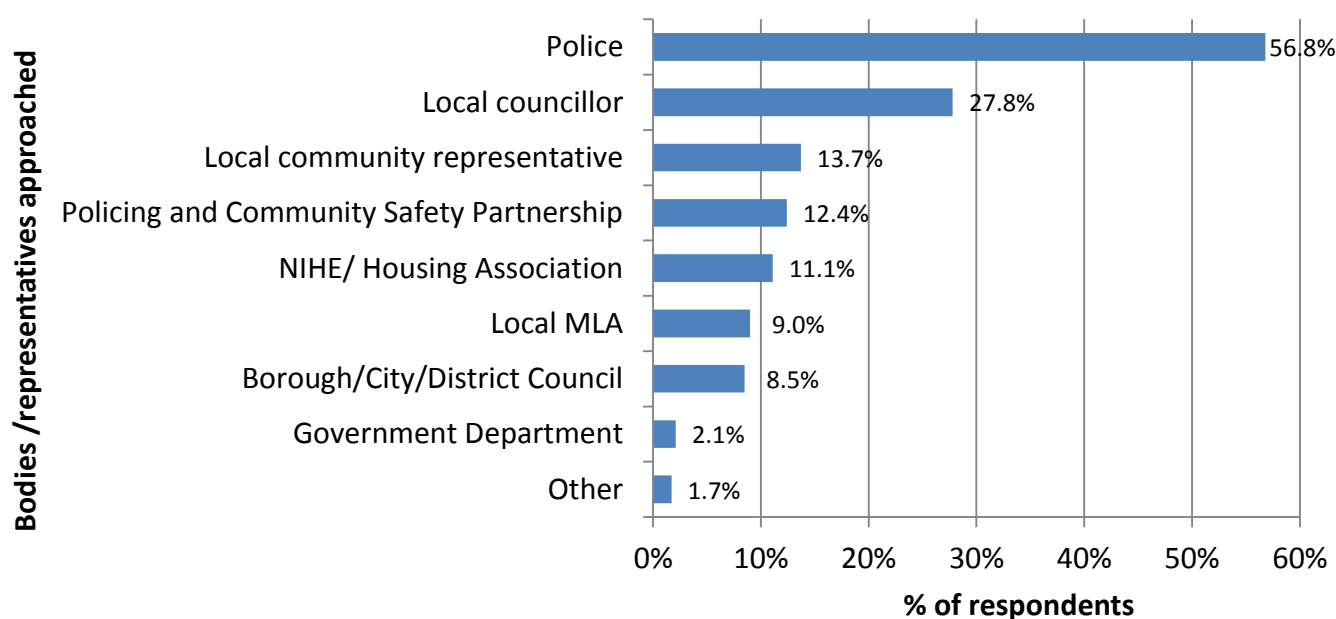
- ◆ The majority of respondents (79.7%) stated they felt the level of alcohol related issues had remained the same in the last 12 months. Similar proportions felt it had either improved (10.0%) or worsened (10.2%) (Table A3).
- ◆ Respondents most likely to perceive the level of alcohol related issues to have improved were those living in urban areas, excluding Belfast (15.0%).
- ◆ Respondents from the Catholic background (14.6%) were more likely than Protestants (8.1%) to state that the level of alcohol related issues in their local area had become worse in the last 12 months (Table A3).

2.3 The effect of alcohol related issues in the local area

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

- Most of the respondents (88.2%) had not approached anyone in the last year about an alcohol related issue in their local area.
- Of those respondents who had approached a body/representative in the last year about an alcohol related issue, 56.8% approached the PSNI (Table A4; Figure 2.3).

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

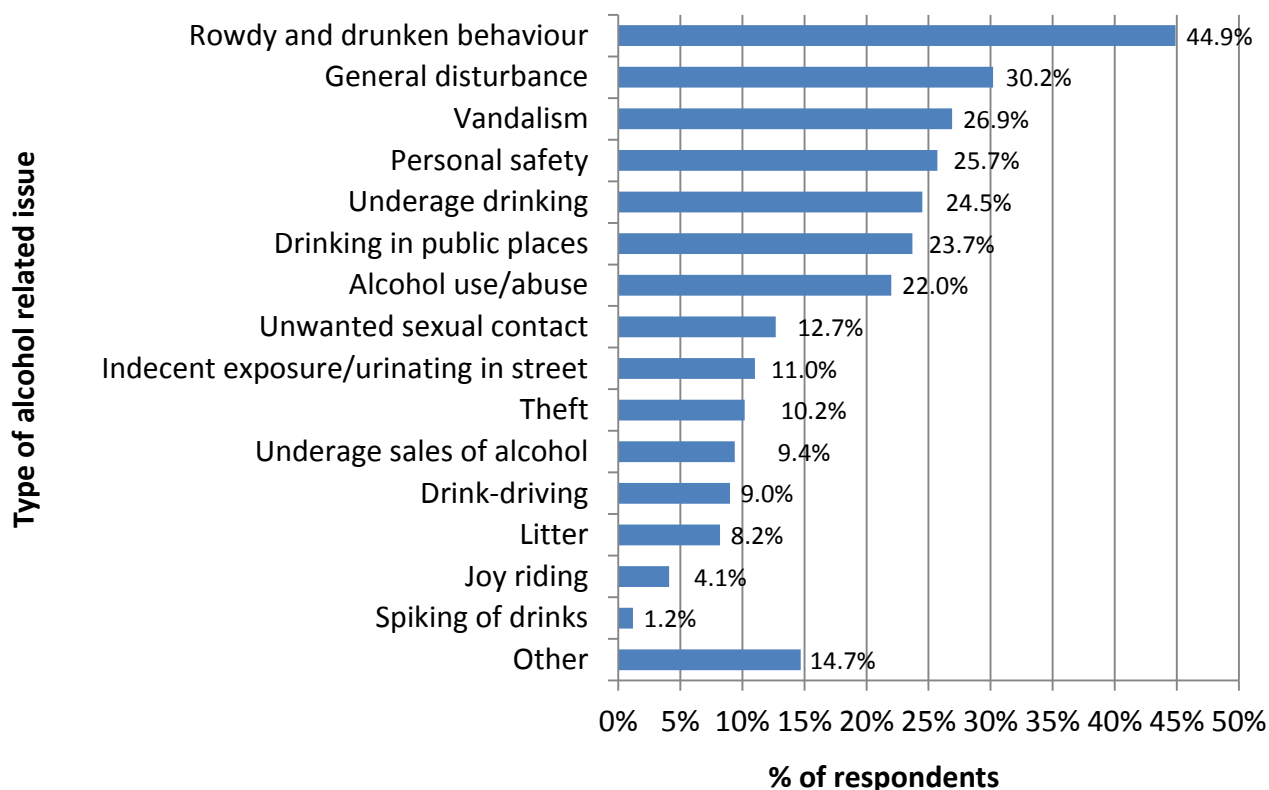


Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2014.

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

- ◆ Almost one in eight respondents (12.1%) stated they had been affected as a result of alcohol related issues in their local area (Table A5).
- ◆ Of those respondents who said they had been affected, the most cited issues were ‘rowdy and drunken behaviour’ (44.9%) and ‘general disturbance’ (30.2%) (Table A6; Figure 2.4).

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



Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2014.

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

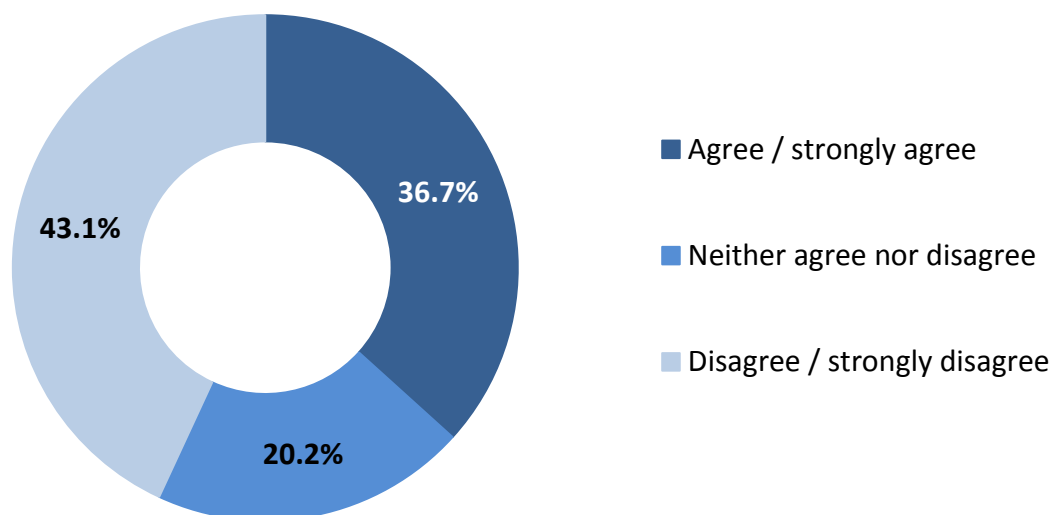
3. Drug related issues

3.1 Concern about drug related issues in the local area

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

- ◆ 43.1% of respondents stated that they disagreed or strongly disagreed and 36.7% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that they were 'concerned about drug related issues in my local area' (Table A7; Figure 3.1).

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



Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2014.

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

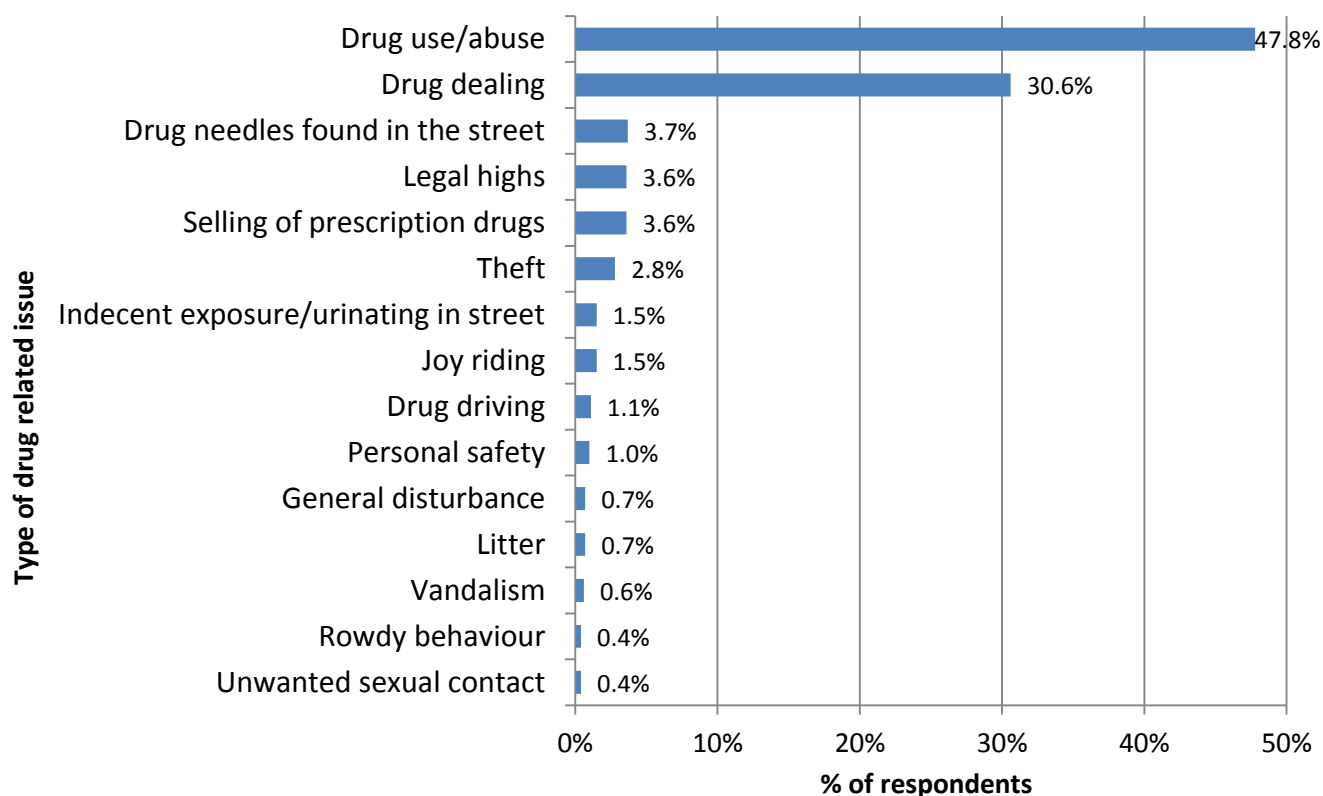
Results of this question broken down by various demographic characteristics are presented in Table A7. Where difference to the average was found to be statistically significant, attention is drawn to this demographic in the text below. Where they are not statistically different the data is reported in the tables without comment.

- ◆ Respondents most likely to state they disagreed or strongly disagreed that they were 'concerned about drug related issues in my local area' were those living in rural areas, (51.5%) (Table A7).
- ◆ Those respondents who were most likely to agree that they were 'concerned about drug related issues in my local area' were those in the 50 – 64 years age group (45.7%), those from a Catholic background (45.0%) and those living in urban areas, excluding Belfast (46.5%).

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

- ◆ Nearly half of these respondents cited 'drug use/abuse' (47.8%) as their primary drug related issue whilst three out of ten cited 'drug-dealing' (30.6%) (Table A8; Figure 3.2).

Figure 3.2: Primary reason given for concern about drug related issues in the local area (%)



Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2014.

1. Results exclude “don't know” and refusals.

- ◆ ‘Drug-dealing’ (41.3%) was the most reported secondary drug related issue causing concern to respondents (Table A8).

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

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

- ◆ 79.9% of respondents stated they felt the level of drug related issues had remained the same in the last 12 months.
- ◆ 14.1% of respondents perceived that the level of drug related issues had worsened in the last 12 months compared with 6.0% who thought it had improved (Table A9).

Results of this question broken down by various demographic characteristics are presented in Table A9. Where difference to the average was found to be statistically significant attention is drawn to this demographic in the text below. Where they are not statistically different the data is reported in the tables without comment.

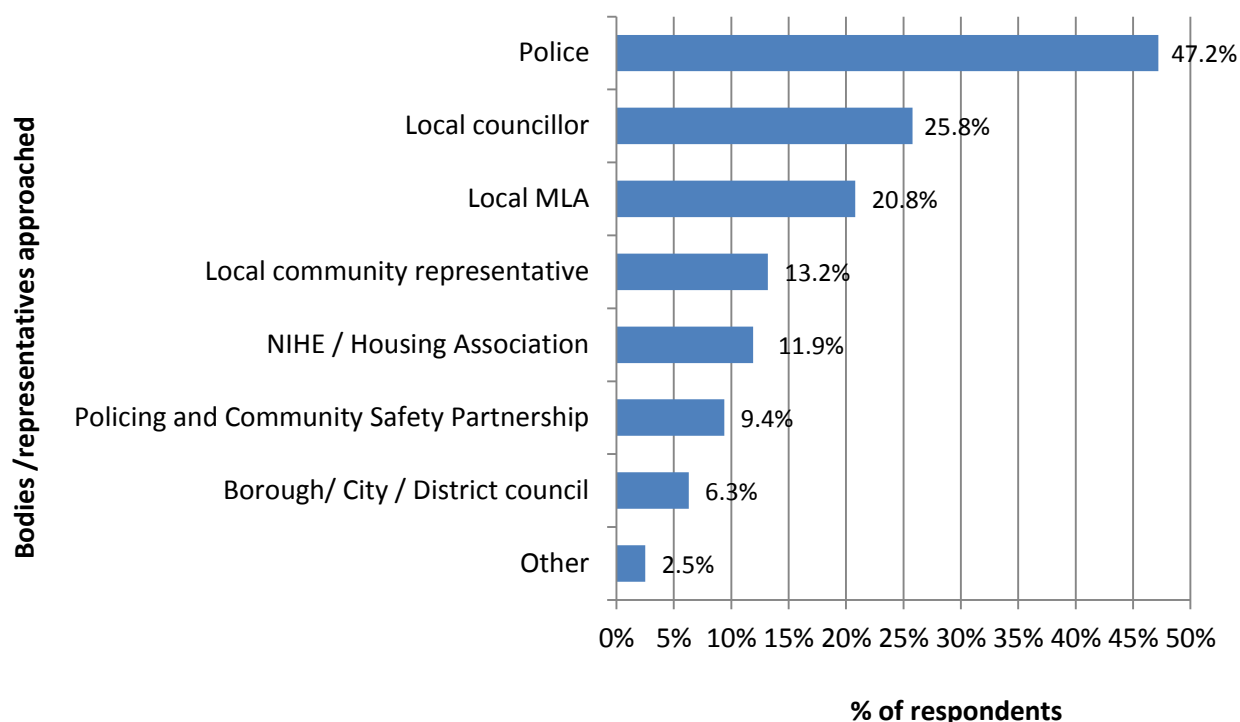
- ◆ Respondents most likely to respond that the level of drug related issues in the local area had worsened in the last 12 months from a Catholic background (19.1%). (Table A9).

3.3 The effect of drug related issues in the local area

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

- Most of the respondents (91.6%) had not approached anyone in the last year about a drug related issue in their local area.
- Of those respondents who approached a body or representative about a drug related issue, the most likely were the PSNI (47.2%). Other bodies/representatives approached included local councillors (25.8%), MLAs (20.8%), local community representatives (13.2%), Northern Ireland Housing Executive or Housing Association (11.9%), Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (9.4%) and Borough/City/District council (6.3%) (Table A10; Figure 3.3).

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



Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2014.

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

One in twenty respondents stated they had been affected as a result of drug related issues in their local area (5.4%) (Table A11). However due to the small number of respondents, it is not possible to disaggregate information further about these issues.

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

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

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

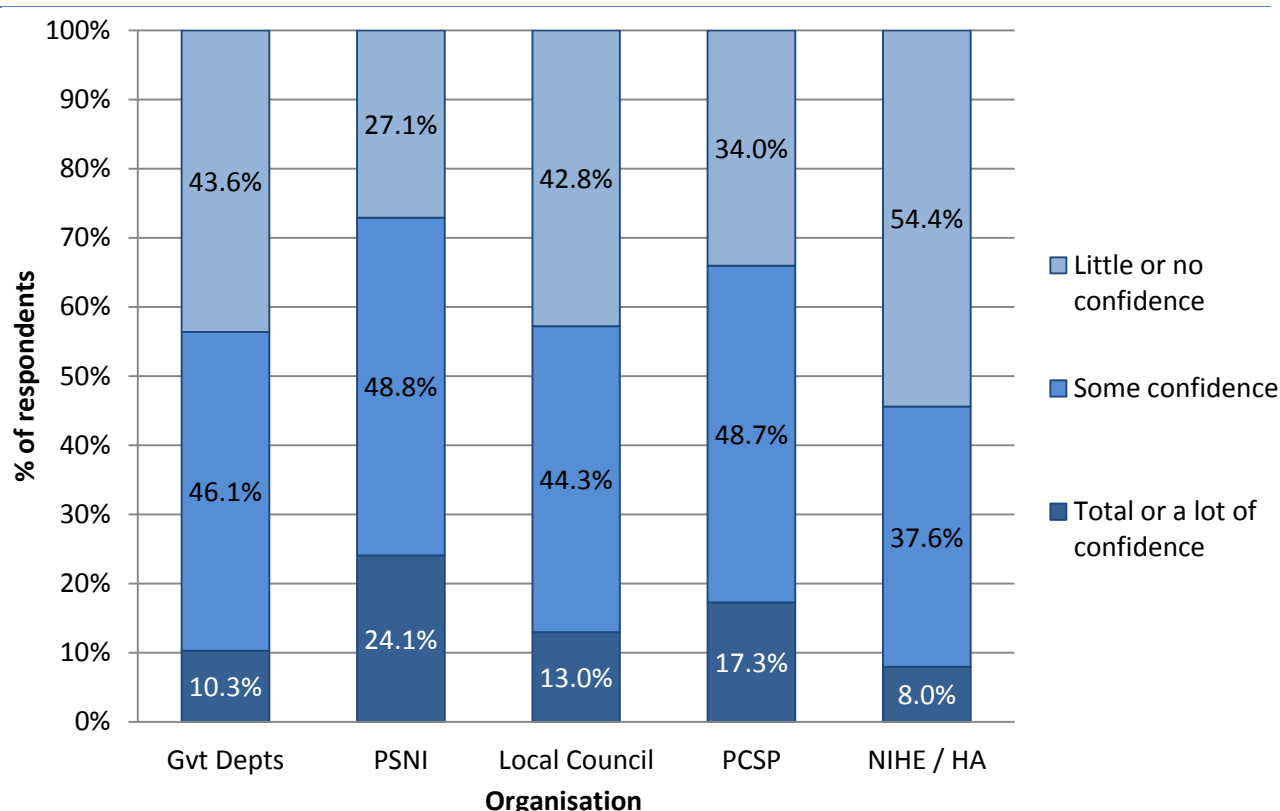
- ◆ One in ten respondents (10.3%) stated they had heard of the Northern Ireland Assembly's New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs Phase 2 2011-16 (Table A12).

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

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

- ◆ Taking everything into account, 55.7% of respondents expressed some, a lot or total confidence that enough is being done to tackle alcohol and/or drug related issues across Northern Ireland and 44.4% had little or no confidence (Table A13; Figure 4.1).

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



Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2014.

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

- ◆ Results show that respondents expressed higher levels of confidence in the PSNI’s work to tackle alcohol and/or drug related issues across Northern Ireland than that of the other organisations, with 72.9% having either some, a lot or total confidence (Table A13; Figure 4.1).
- ◆ In contrast, respondents appeared least confident in the efforts of NI Housing Executive/Housing Associations in tackling alcohol and/or drug related issues, with 54.4% having little or no confidence (Table A13; Figure 4.1).

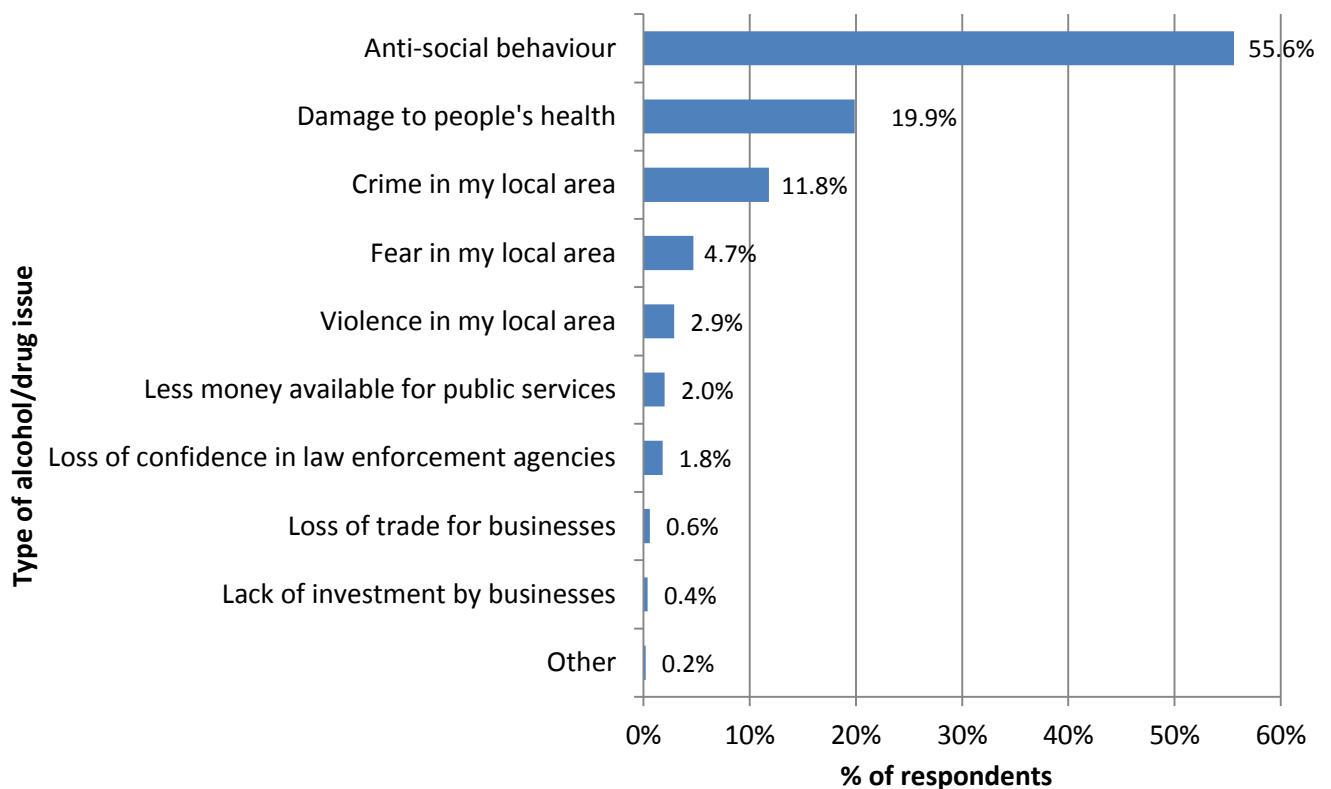
Table A14 looks at respondents’ overall level of confidence that enough is being done to tackle alcohol and/or drug related issues in Northern Ireland by demographics.

- ◆ In terms of age, 50.7% of respondents in the 50-64 years age group stated they had little or no confidence that ‘enough is being done to tackle alcohol and/or drug related issues in Northern Ireland’.
- ◆ In terms of religion, 50.2% of Catholic respondents stated they had little or no confidence that ‘enough is being done to tackle alcohol and/or drug related issues in Northern Ireland’. This compares to 40.7% of Protestant respondents (Table A14).

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

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

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



Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2014.

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

- ◆ Results show that 55.6% of respondents stated the primary harm caused by alcohol and/or drug related issues was 'anti-social behaviour'. 'Damage to people's health' was the second most cited primary harm stated by respondents (19.9%) and 'Crime in my local area' was the third (11.8%) (Table A15; Figure 4.2).

References

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Tabular Annex

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

Demographic	Agree / strongly agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree / strongly disagree	Unweighted base
All adults	44.0%	16.0%	40.0%	1,078
Age of household reference person (HRP) ¹				
16-24	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	82
25-34	41.7%	13.9%	44.4%	144
35-49	38.5%	19.7%	41.7%	296
50-64	54.9%	13.7%	31.3%	285
65 and over	39.0%	13.2%	47.8%	271
Gender				
Male	43.9%	16.3%	39.7%	468
Female	44.1%	15.8%	40.1%	610
Religion				
Catholic	50.9%	14.0%	35.0%	422
Protestant	40.9%	15.8%	43.2%	525
Education and Library Board				
Belfast	55.3%	14.0%	30.7%	168
North-Eastern	41.6%	13.7%	44.7%	237
South-Eastern	36.1%	20.5%	43.4%	253
Southern	49.8%	14.3%	35.9%	250
Western	38.7%	17.9%	43.4%	170
Employment status				
In paid employment	43.8%	16.8%	39.4%	541
Not in paid employment	44.3%	14.8%	40.9%	524
Marital status				
Single, that is never married	43.9%	18.9%	37.2%	316
Married and living with husband / wife	44.7%	14.4%	40.9%	513
Married and separated from husband / wife	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	63
Divorced	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	82
Widowed	34.4%	20.3%	45.3%	104
Level of qualifications				
Primary	44.0%	13.9%	42.1%	303
Secondary	47.3%	16.7%	36.0%	438
Tertiary	39.7%	16.8%	43.5%	335
Dependants				
Has dependants	43.7%	16.0%	40.4%	394
No dependants	44.3%	16.1%	39.7%	684
Disability / illness				
Has disability / illness	46.3%	12.1%	41.6%	272
No disability / illness	43.4%	17.0%	39.6%	806
Area type				
Belfast	46.4%	17.1%	36.4%	356
Urban, excluding Belfast	54.3%	16.1%	29.7%	321
All urban	50.3%	16.6%	33.1%	677
Rural	35.0%	15.0%	50.0%	401

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2014.

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

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

Alcohol related issue	Primary issue	Secondary issue	Tertiary issue	Quaternary issue	Quinary issue
Underage drinking	58.4%	8.6%	7.2%	3.3%	3.9%
Drink-driving	11.2%	13.2%	13.5%	12.6%	3.6%
Rowdy and drunken behaviour	9.5%	19.4%	21.7%	5.5%	3.9%
Drinking in public places	8.4%	26.9%	6.6%	4.2%	4.0%
Alcohol use/abuse	3.5%	8.3%	10.0%	10.2%	9.7%
Underage sales of alcohol	2.6%	6.5%	7.3%	12.6%	9.6%
Vandalism	1.2%	3.1%	7.6%	12.8%	12.1%
Joy riding	1.1%	2.2%	2.3%	6.0%	5.1%
Personal safety	1.0%	1.5%	2.6%	4.7%	12.8%
Spiking of drinks	0.8%	2.5%	6.2%	6.3%	6.8%
Theft	0.7%	2.9%	5.2%	6.0%	6.4%
Litter	0.7%	1.5%	3.3%	4.9%	5.4%
General disturbance	0.6%	1.4%	4.3%	5.1%	8.3%
Indecent exposure/urinating in street	0.2%	0.9%	1.5%	5.1%	5.0%
Unwanted sexual contact	0.0%	1.0%	0.7%	0.9%	3.3%
Other	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Unweighted base	473	461	436	411	386

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2014.

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

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

Demographic	Better	About the same	Worse	Unweighted base
All adults	10.0%	79.7%	10.2%	1,013
Age of household reference person (HRP) ¹				
16-24	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	69
25-34	8.3%	83.5%	8.3%	133
35-49	9.6%	81.9%	8.5%	279
50-64	12.4%	77.0%	10.6%	272
65 and over	8.3%	79.4%	12.4%	260
Gender				
Male	8.3%	81.5%	10.3%	439
Female	11.4%	78.5%	10.2%	574
Religion				
Catholic	10.1%	75.3%	14.6%	399
Protestant	10.9%	81.0%	8.1%	494
Education and Library Board				
Belfast	14.1%	69.0%	16.9%	157
North-Eastern	10.4%	81.5%	8.1%	222
South-Eastern	8.4%	82.4%	9.3%	235
Southern	11.0%	79.8%	9.2%	235
Western	6.5%	83.3%	10.1%	164
Employment status				
In paid employment	9.8%	81.6%	8.6%	509
Not in paid employment	10.0%	77.1%	12.9%	494
Marital status				
Single, that is never married	12.1%	76.6%	11.4%	289
Married and living with husband / wife	9.4%	80.1%	10.4%	491
Married and separated from husband / wife	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	58
Divorced	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	75
Widowed	8.1%	87.1%	4.8%	100
Level of qualifications				
Primary	10.2%	76.0%	13.8%	291
Secondary	11.3%	78.0%	10.7%	408
Tertiary	8.3%	84.9%	6.8%	312
Dependants				
Has dependants	10.0%	80.0%	10.0%	368
No dependants	10.0%	79.5%	10.5%	645
Disability / illness				
Has disability / illness	11.5%	75.7%	12.8%	257
No disability / illness	9.6%	80.9%	9.5%	756
Area type				
Belfast	11.4%	76.8%	11.8%	336
Urban, excluding Belfast	15.0%	71.8%	13.3%	296
All urban	13.3%	74.3%	12.3%	632
Rural	5.3%	87.6%	7.2%	381

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2014.

¹ Results exclude “don’t know” and refusals.

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

Bodies/representatives	% of respondents who approached someone ²
Police	56.8%
Local councillor	27.8%
Local community representative	13.7%
Policing and Community Safety Partnership	12.4%
NIHE/ Housing Association	11.1%
Local MLA	9.0%
Borough/City/District Council	8.5%
Government Department	2.1%
Other	1.7%
Unweighted base	128

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2014.

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

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

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

Were respondents affected	% respondents affected
Yes	12.1%
No	87.9%
Unweighted base	1,081

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2014.

¹ Results exclude “don't know” and refusals.

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

Alcohol related issue	Respondents affected (%)
Rowdy and drunken behaviour	44.9%
General disturbance	30.2%
Vandalism	26.9%
Personal safety	25.7%
Underage drinking	24.5%
Drinking in public places	23.7%
Alcohol use/abuse	22.0%
Unwanted sexual contact	12.7%
Indecent exposure/urinating in street	11.0%
Theft	10.2%
Underage sales of alcohol	9.4%
Drink-driving	9.0%
Litter	8.2%
Joy riding	4.1%
Spiking of drinks	1.2%
Other	9.8%
Unweighted base	124

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2014.

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

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

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

Demographic	Agree / strongly agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree / strongly disagree	Unweighted base
All adults	36.7%	20.2%	43.1%	1,067
Age of household reference person (HRP) ¹				
16-24	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	81
25-34	38.0%	16.9%	45.1%	142
35-49	33.8%	22.7%	43.5%	296
50-64	45.7%	19.3%	35.0%	280
65 and over	31.7%	22.0%	46.3%	268
Gender				
Male	35.9%	21.1%	43.0%	465
Female	37.3%	19.5%	43.2%	602
Religion				
Catholic	45.0%	16.7%	38.2%	416
Protestant	33.3%	20.7%	46.0%	522
Education and Library Board				
Belfast	42.9%	18.4%	38.8%	163
North-Eastern	36.3%	20.2%	43.5%	235
South-Eastern	27.2%	25.9%	46.9%	251
Southern	43.9%	15.3%	40.8%	250
Western	32.7%	21.6%	45.6%	168
Employment status				
In paid employment	36.0%	21.6%	42.5%	537
Not in paid employment	37.7%	19.5%	42.9%	517
Marital status				
Single, that is never married	36.9%	17.4%	45.7%	312
Married and living with husband / wife	37.1%	19.9%	43.0%	512
Married and separated from husband / wife	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	61
Divorced	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	79
Widowed	27.7%	32.3%	40.0%	103
Level of qualifications				
Primary	36.4%	22.4%	41.4%	298
Secondary	38.7%	18.0%	43.3%	434
Tertiary	34.0%	21.5%	44.5%	333
Dependants				
Has dependants	38.1%	19.1%	42.8%	391
No dependants	35.8%	20.8%	43.4%	676
Disability / illness				
Has disability / illness	40.6%	18.3%	41.0%	268
No disability / illness	35.6%	20.7%	43.7%	799
Area type				
Belfast	36.3%	21.3%	42.4%	348
Urban, excluding Belfast	46.5%	21.2%	32.3%	319
All urban	41.4%	21.3%	37.3%	667
Rural	29.9%	18.6%	51.5%	400

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2014.

¹ Results exclude “don’t know” and refusals.

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

Drug related issue	Primary issue	Secondary issue	Tertiary issue	Quaternary issue	Quinary issue
Drug use/abuse	47.8%	17.3%	5.7%	4.7%	4.0%
Drug dealing	30.6%	41.3%	5.0%	3.3%	3.1%
Drug needles found in the street	3.7%	3.2%	9.5%	2.7%	0.8%
Drug driving	3.6%	10.0%	17.3%	7.2%	7.3%
Rowdy behaviour	3.6%	8.1%	16.6%	10.3%	9.4%
Vandalism	2.8%	4.3%	6.3%	10.9%	10.7%
Theft	1.5%	3.8%	8.6%	14.7%	10.0%
Personal safety	1.5%	2.6%	9.2%	13.6%	12.1%
Selling of prescription drugs	1.1%	4.5%	8.1%	9.8%	6.7%
General disturbance	1.0%	1.9%	6.3%	8.9%	20.1%
Joy riding	0.7%	0.7%	2.7%	5.1%	7.5%
Unwanted sexual contact	0.7%	1.3%	1.0%	2.9%	4.0%
Litter	0.6%	0.3%	1.9%	3.8%	2.3%
Indecent exposure/urinating in street	0.4%	0.6%	1.8%	1.1%	1.7%
Other	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	0.2%
Unweighted base	400	376	344	308	266

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2014.

¹ Results exclude “don't know” and refusals.

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

Demographic	Better	About the same	Worse	Unweighted base
All adults	6.0%	79.9%	14.1%	975
Age of household reference person (HRP) ¹				
16-24	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	66
25-34	4.7%	78.7%	16.5%	127
35-49	4.6%	81.8%	13.7%	269
50-64	6.7%	78.9%	14.4%	266
65 and over	5.3%	82.2%	12.5%	247
Gender				
Male	5.6%	83.7%	10.7%	418
Female	6.3%	77.0%	16.7%	557
Religion				
Catholic	7.5%	73.4%	19.1%	382
Protestant	4.7%	83.5%	11.8%	482
Education and Library Board				
Belfast	7.0%	73.6%	19.4%	143
North-Eastern	4.3%	84.1%	11.6%	217
South-Eastern	5.9%	84.5%	9.5%	224
Southern	7.6%	74.1%	18.3%	229
Western	4.9%	82.3%	12.8%	162
Employment status				
In paid employment	5.8%	81.8%	12.4%	485
Not in paid employment	6.5%	77.9%	15.6%	481
Marital status				
Single, that is never married	7.5%	73.8%	18.7%	270
Married and living with husband / wife	5.8%	81.3%	12.8%	482
Married and separated from husband / wife	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	53
Divorced	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	72
Widowed	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	98
Level of qualifications				
Primary	6.1%	76.2%	17.6%	278
Secondary	5.9%	80.5%	13.6%	393
Tertiary	6.1%	82.1%	11.8%	302
Dependants				
Has dependants	6.2%	81.0%	12.8%	358
No dependants	5.9%	79.3%	14.8%	617
Disability / illness				
Has disability / illness	7.9%	75.0%	17.1%	253
No disability / illness	5.5%	81.4%	13.2%	722
Area type				
Belfast	5.2%	81.8%	12.9%	312
Urban, excluding Belfast	10.0%	70.4%	19.6%	295
All urban	7.6%	76.0%	16.4%	607
Rural	3.5%	85.7%	10.9%	368

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2014.

¹ Results exclude “don't know” and refusals.

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

Bodies/representatives	% of respondents who approached someone ²
Police	47.2%
Local councillor	25.8%
Local MLA	20.8%
Local community representative	13.2%
Northern Ireland Housing Executive / Housing Association	11.9%
Policing and Community Safety Partnership	9.4%
Borough/ City / District council	6.3%
Other	2.5%
Unweighted base	91

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2014.

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

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

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

Were respondents affected	% respondents affected
Yes	5.4%
No	94.6%
Unweighted base	1,081

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2014.

¹ Results exclude “don't know” and refusals.

Table A12: Awareness of the new Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs Phase 2 2011-16 ¹

Were respondents aware of the strategy	% respondents aware
Yes	10.3%
No	89.7%
Unweighted base	1,080

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2014.

¹ Results exclude “don't know” and refusals.

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

Public Body	Total or a lot of confidence	Some confidence	Little or no confidence	Unweighted base
Overall	10.3%	45.4%	44.4%	1,046
NI Government Departments	10.3%	46.1%	43.6%	1,051
PSNI	24.1%	48.8%	27.1%	1,057
Local Council	13.0%	44.3%	42.8%	1,014
Local Policing and Community Safety Partnerships	17.3%	48.7%	34.0%	962
NI Housing Executive / Housing Associations	8.0%	37.6%	54.4%	905

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2014.

¹ Results exclude “don't know” and refusals.

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

Demographic	Total or a lot of confidence	Some confidence	Little or no confidence	Unweighted base
All adults	10.3%	45.4%	44.4%	1,046
Age of household reference person (HRP) ¹				
16-24	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	80
25-34	8.6%	45.3%	46.0%	140
35-49	9.0%	50.5%	40.5%	286
50-64	12.5%	36.8%	50.7%	281
65 and over	8.2%	45.9%	45.9%	259
Gender				
Male	11.9%	42.9%	45.3%	457
Female	8.9%	47.3%	43.7%	589
Religion				
Catholic	8.9%	40.9%	50.2%	410
Protestant	10.8%	48.5%	40.7%	509
Education and Library Board				
Belfast	10.2%	40.1%	49.7%	163
North-Eastern	10.5%	47.0%	42.5%	233
South-Eastern	8.1%	52.5%	39.4%	242
Southern	12.9%	42.7%	44.4%	242
Western	8.3%	42.3%	49.4%	166
Employment status				
In paid employment	11.2%	45.5%	43.3%	527
Not in paid employment	8.8%	44.9%	46.2%	506
Marital status				
Single, that is never married	9.8%	48.1%	42.2%	308
Married and living with husband / wife	10.9%	43.4%	45.7%	500
Married and separated from husband / wife	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	63
Divorced	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	79
Widowed	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	96
Level of qualifications				
Primary	10.5%	45.5%	44.0%	292
Secondary	11.5%	44.2%	44.2%	425
Tertiary	8.0%	47.0%	44.9%	327
Dependants				
Has dependants	9.7%	45.0%	45.3%	380
No dependants	10.5%	45.6%	43.9%	666
Disability / illness				
Has disability / illness	11.1%	40.9%	48.0%	263
No disability / illness	10.0%	46.6%	43.4%	783
Area type				
Belfast	8.7%	47.4%	43.9%	344
Urban, excluding Belfast	11.5%	46.2%	42.3%	315
All urban	10.3%	46.7%	43.0%	659
Rural	10.4%	43.3%	46.4%	387

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2014.

¹ Results exclude “don’t know” and refusals.

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

Type of harm	Primary harm	Secondary harm	Tertiary harm
Anti-social behaviour	55.6%	15.9%	9.5%
Damage to people's health	19.9%	20.0%	15.3%
Crime in my local area	11.8%	29.8%	12.0%
Fear in my local area	4.7%	13.8%	19.5%
Violence in my local area	2.9%	7.8%	17.5%
Less money available for public services	2.0%	4.5%	10.2%
Loss of confidence in law enforcement agencies	1.8%	2.3%	8.1%
Loss of trade for businesses	0.6%	2.7%	3.7%
Lack of investment by businesses	0.4%	2.9%	3.8%
Other	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%
Unweighted base	910	858	796

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2014.

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

Table A16: Comparison of main results from 2012 to 2014

% Agreeing with the statement:					
	Year	% agree	% neither agree nor disagree	% disagree / strongly disagree	Unweighted base
I am concerned about alcohol related issues in my local area (%)	2014	44.0%	16.0%	40.0%	1,078
	2013	41.8%	17.2%	41.0%	1,159
	2012	46.1%	16.0%	37.9%	1,126
I am concerned about drug related issues in my local area (%)	2014	36.7%	20.2%	43.1%	1,067
	2013	34.1%	22.3%	43.5%	1,151
	2012	38.2%	20.4%	41.4%	1,112
Perceptions of change over the last 12 months in the level of					
	Year	Better	About the same	Worse	Unweighted base
Alcohol related issues in the local area (%)	2014	10.0%	79.7%	10.2%	1,013
	2013	10.4%	79.1%	10.5%	1,077
	2012	10.9%	78.6%	10.4%	1,043
Drug related issues in the local area (%)	2014	6.0%	79.9%	14.1%	975
	2013	5.4%	83.5%	11.1%	1,048
	2012	5.0%	83.0%	12.0%	981
Overall level of confidence that enough is being done to tackle alcohol and/or drug related issues in Northern Ireland (%)					
	Year	Total or a lot of confidence	Some confidence	Little or no confidence	Unweighted base
	2014	10.3%	45.4%	44.4%	1,046
	2013	8.2%	46.6%	45.2%	1,125
	2012	10.0%	47.0%	43.0%	1,096

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

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

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

Technical Annex

Sampling and fieldwork

The sample of those surveyed in the September 2014 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey was drawn from the Land and Property Services Agency list of private addresses, the most up-to-date listing of private households in Northern Ireland.

At each address the interviewer lists all members of the households eligible for inclusion in the sample, that is, all persons aged 16 or over. The interviewer's computer then randomly selects one person from each household to complete the interview. From a set sample of 2,200 addresses, 1,856 were eligible and 1,081 interviews were achieved giving an eligible response rate of 58%.

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

To assess how accurately a survey sample reflects the population of Northern Ireland, the characteristics of the sample are compared with the characteristics of the Northern Ireland population from Mid-Year Population Estimates. The Omnibus Sample has also been compared to the achieved sample of the Continuous Household Survey. Table B1 shows a profile of the survey sample.

Rounding and error

Percentages may not always sum to 100 due to the effect of rounding or because respondents could give more than one response.

Due to a combination of both sampling and non-sampling error, any sample is unlikely to reflect precisely the characteristics of the population. The number of cases upon which analysis is based is important as it influences the precision (standard error) of the estimates. The Department of Justice does not routinely publish estimates where the unweighted base is less than 100 cases.

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

Table B1: Sample profile for NI Omnibus Survey, September 2014

Demographic	Unweighted number	Unweighted %	Weighted %
All respondents	1,081	100.0%	100.0%
Gender			
Male	468	43.3%	44.2%
Female	613	56.7%	55.8%
Age group			
16-24	82	7.6%	10.5%
25-34	144	13.3%	13.3%
35-49	297	27.5%	28.6%
50-64	285	26.4%	26.3%
65 and over	273	25.3%	21.2%
Religion			
Catholic	422	44.4%	45.1%
Protestant	528	55.6%	54.9%
Education and Library Board			
Belfast	168	15.5%	13.9%
North-Eastern	238	22.0%	20.8%
South-Eastern	253	23.4%	22.6%
Southern	252	23.3%	26.6%
Western	170	15.7%	16.0%
Area type			
Belfast	356	32.9%	29.7%
Urban, excluding Belfast	321	29.7%	29.3%
All urban	677	62.6%	59.0%
Rural	404	37.4%	41.0%

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2014.

¹ Results exclude "none" and refusals.

Analytical Services Group

Department of Justice

1st Floor

Laganside House

23-27 Oxford Street

Belfast

BT1 3LA

Email: statistics.research@dojni.x.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: 028 9072 4530

www.dojni.gov.uk