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Analytical Services Group

**Views on Alcohol and Drug Related
Issues:
Findings from the September 2015
Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey**

Research and Statistical Bulletin 9/2016

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Date of publication 24 March 2016

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Summary of Findings

- ◆ Results from the September 2015 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey (NIOS) found that 36.6% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement 'I am concerned about alcohol related issues in my local area'. This compares to 43.9% of respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement.
- ◆ Just over one third of respondents (35.5%) agreed or strongly agreed with the statement 'I am concerned about drug related issues in my local area' compared with 44.2% 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' (64.0%). The most cited secondary issue for respondents in relation to alcohol was 'drinking in public places' (32.0%). For drug related issues, 51.2% of respondents stated 'drug use/abuse' was the primary drug related issue in the local area. The most cited secondary issue for respondents in relation to drugs was 'drug dealing' (46.8%).
- ◆ Four fifths of respondents (82.0%) 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 (81.7%) 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 (61.4%) and a drug (42.3%) related issue in their local area.
- ◆ Just over 1 in 17 respondents (5.8%) had heard of the Northern Ireland Assembly's New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs Phase 2, 2011-16.
- ◆ Taking everything into account, 52.7% 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 69.5% 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 2015 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey and updates the findings of September 2014. 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.

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 (NISRA). The survey 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.

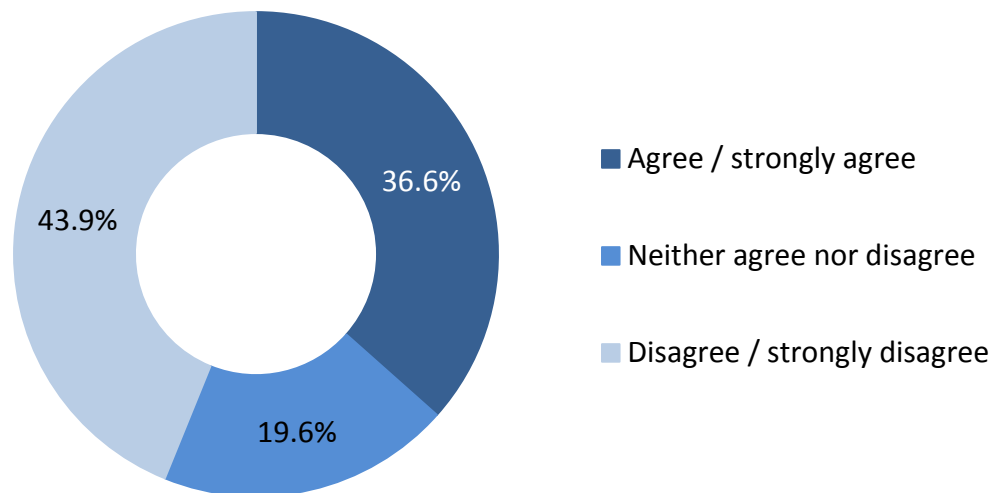
2. Alcohol related issues

2.1 Concern about alcohol related issues in the local area

[Table A1](#) shows the proportion of respondents who stated they agreed or disagreed with the statement ‘I am concerned about alcohol related issues in my local area’.

- ◆ 36.6% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with this statement. This is a statistically significant decrease from the rate of 44.0% reported in September 2014. 43.9% of respondents in 2015 stated they disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement. While this was higher than the rate of 40.0% reported in 2014, the difference was not found to be statistically significantly different ([Table A1](#); [Figure 2.1](#); [Table A16](#)).

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



Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2015.

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’.

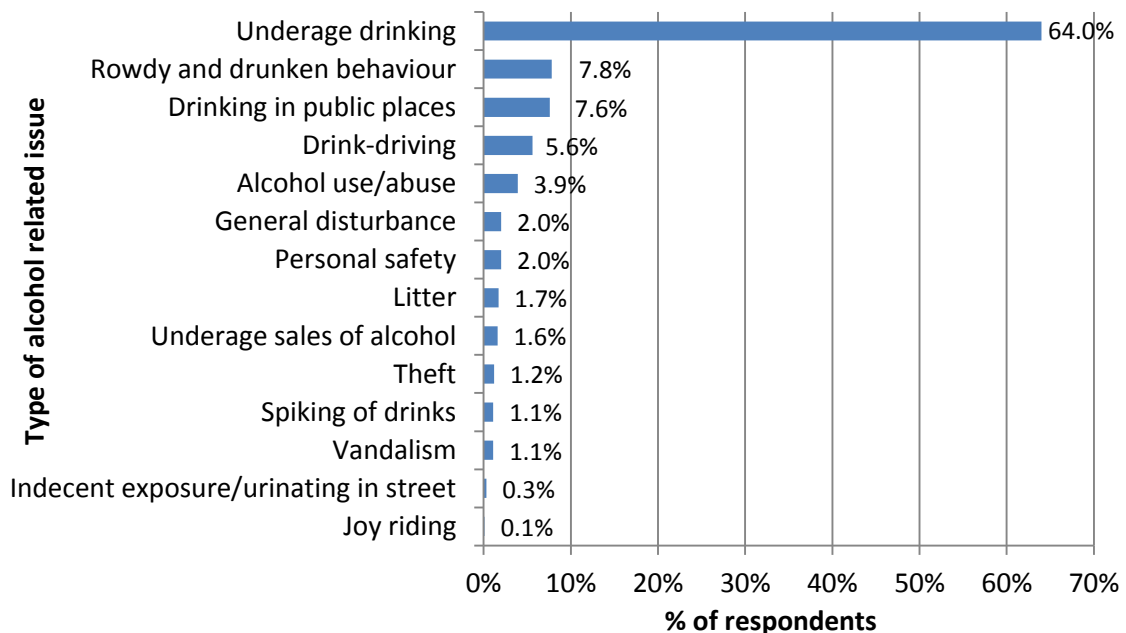
- ◆ The age group in which most respondents stated they agreed or strongly agreed they were concerned about alcohol issues in their local area were those in the 35 - 49 category (40.4%). Conversely, in the 25 – 34 year old age group, just over half (50.3%) respondents disagreed/strongly disagreed with the statement that they were concerned about alcohol issues in their local area.

- ◆ 42.8% of respondents from urban areas were concerned about alcohol issues in their local area compared to 26.1% of those from rural ones, with a higher proportion of respondents from urban areas, excluding Belfast (47.0%) reporting concern than those from Belfast (38.8%).

Respondents who agreed or strongly agreed 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 two thirds of these respondents (64.0%) stated ‘underage drinking’ as the primary alcohol related issue ([Table A2](#), Figure 2.2).

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



Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2015.

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

- ◆ The secondary alcohol related issue most reported by respondents was ‘drinking in public places’ (32.0%), and ‘rowdy and drunken behaviour’ (23.4%) 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.

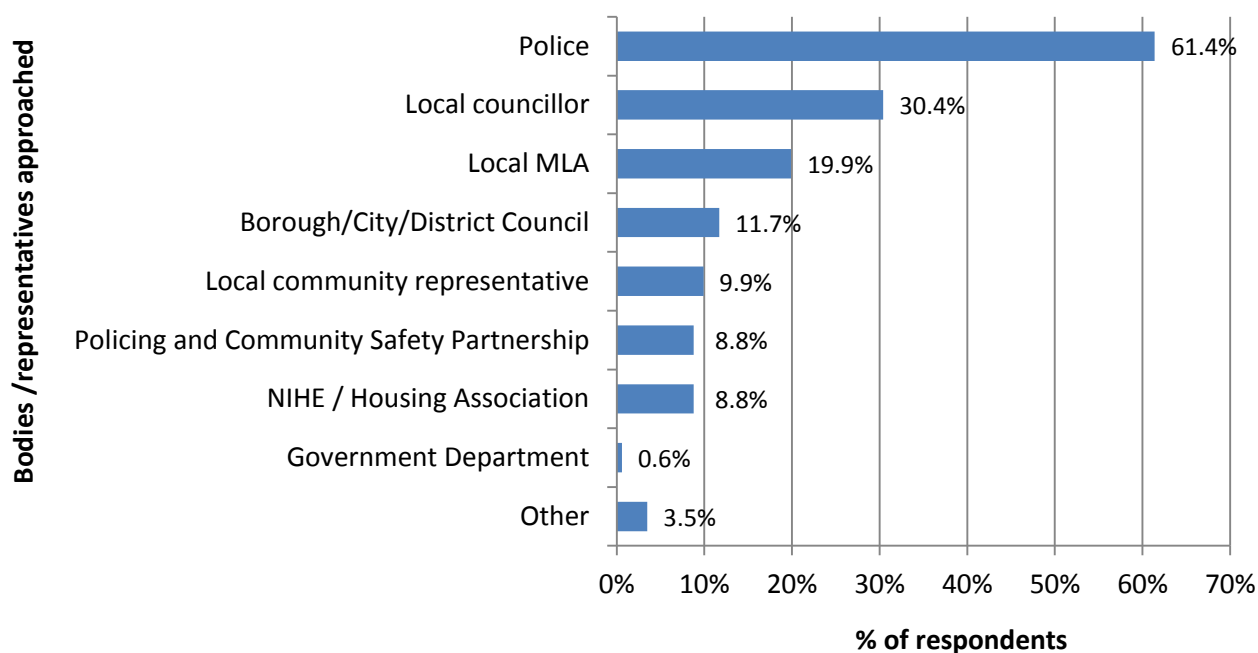
- ◆ The majority of respondents (82.0%) stated they felt the level of alcohol related issues had remained the same in the last 12 months. The proportion who felt it had improved (9.0%) was the same as the proportion who felt it had worsened (9.0%). These rates were not found to be statistically significantly different from those found in 2014 when 10.0% respondents felt things had improved and 10.2% felt things had gotten worse ([Table A3](#); [Table A16](#)).
- ◆ 13.5% of respondents living in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust perceived the level of alcohol related issues to have improved over the previous 12 months.
- ◆ 10.9% of respondents from urban areas stated they felt that the level of alcohol related issues in their local area had become worse in the last 12 months, compared to 5.7% from rural areas. Similarly, 12.0% of Catholic respondents perceived that the level of alcohol related issues in their local area had become worse in the last 12 months, compared to 6.9% of Protestant respondents ([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 (91.1%) 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, 61.4% 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 (%)

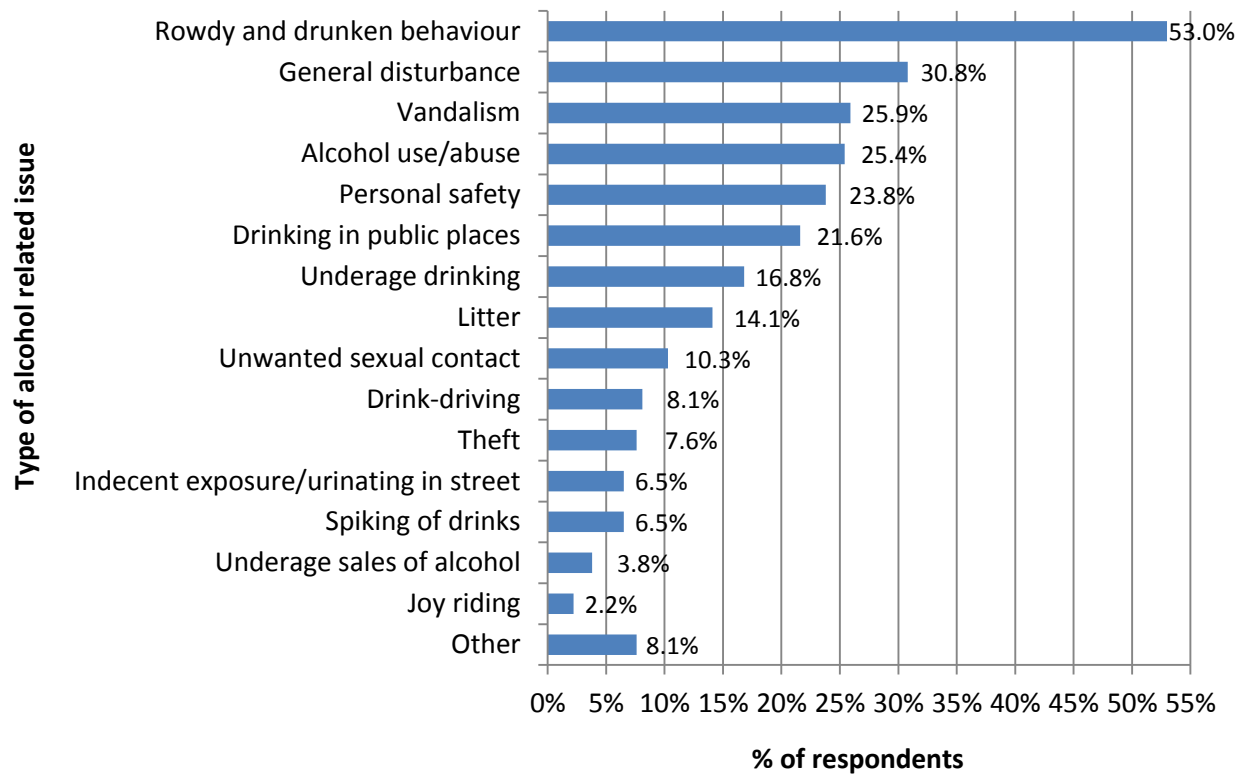


Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2015.

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 ten respondents (9.0%) 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’ (53.0%) and ‘general disturbance’ (30.8%) ([Table A6](#); [Figure 2.4](#)).

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



Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2015.

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.

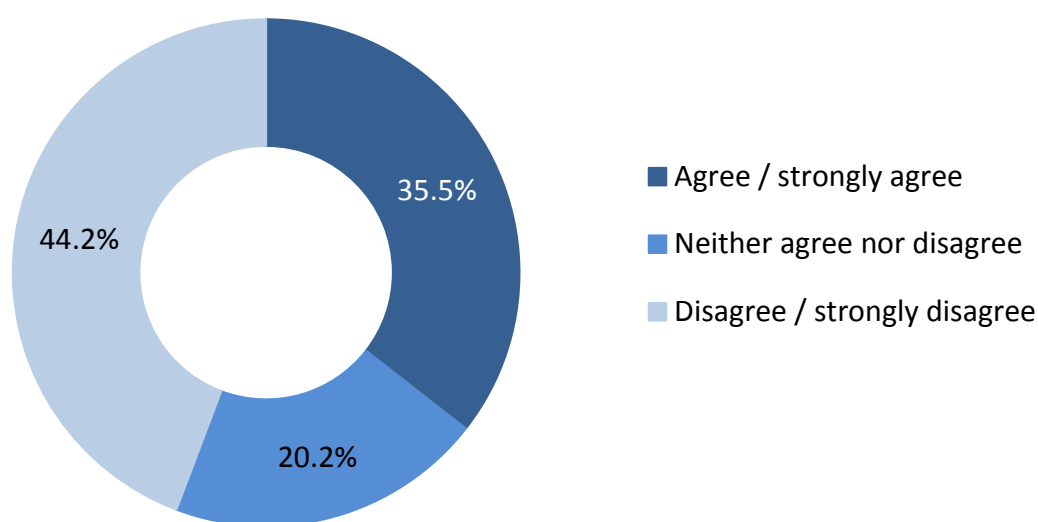
3. Drug related issues

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’.

- ◆ 44.2% of respondents stated they disagreed or strongly disagreed and 35.5% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that they were ‘concerned about drug related issues in my local area’. These rates were not found to be statistically significantly different from those found in 2014, when 43.1% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed and 36.7% agreed or strongly agreed with the statement ([Table A7](#); Figure 3.1; [Table A16](#)).

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 2015.

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

Results of this question broken down by various demographic characteristics are presented in [Table A7](#).

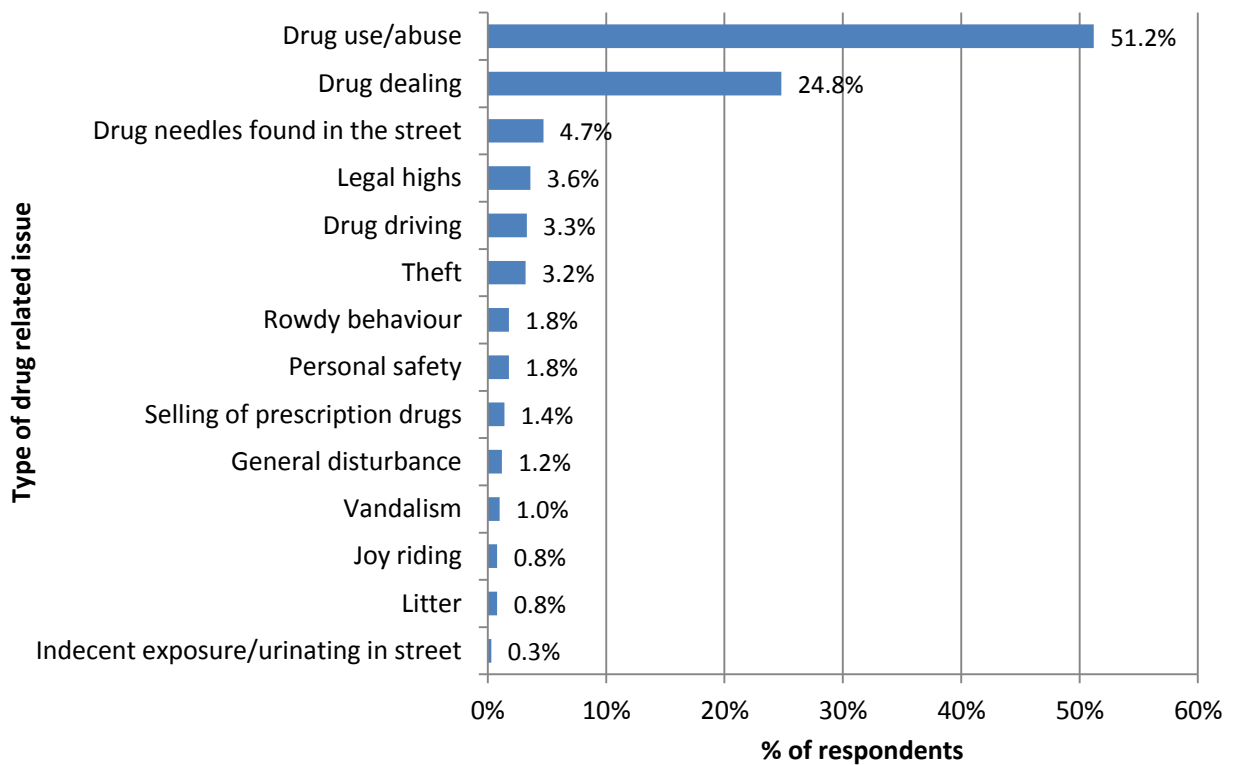
- ◆ 39.7% of those respondents in the 35 – 39 year old age group stated they agreed or strongly agreed they were ‘concerned about drug related issues in my local area’. Similarly, 42.2% of respondents from urban areas stated they were concerned about drug issues in their local area, compared with 24.3% of respondents from rural ones ([Table A7](#)).

- ◆ The proportion of respondents from rural areas (58.3%) who disagreed or strongly disagreed they were ‘concerned about drug related issues in my local area’ compared with 35.9% of those from urban ones.

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

- ◆ Just over half (51.2%) of these respondents cited ‘drug use/abuse’ as their main drug related issue whilst almost a quarter (24.8%) cited ‘drug dealing’ ([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 2015.

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

- ◆ ‘Drug dealing’ (24.8%) was cited as the second most important 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.

- ◆ 81.7% of respondents stated they felt the level of drug related issues had remained the same in the last 12 months.
- ◆ 13.1% of respondents perceived that the level of drug related issues had worsened in the last 12 months, compared with 5.2% who thought it had improved. These rates were not found to be statistically significantly different from those found in 2014 when 14.1% respondents felt things had gotten worse and 6.0% felt things had improved ([Table A9](#); [Table A16](#)).

Results of this question broken down by various demographic characteristics are presented in [Table A9](#).

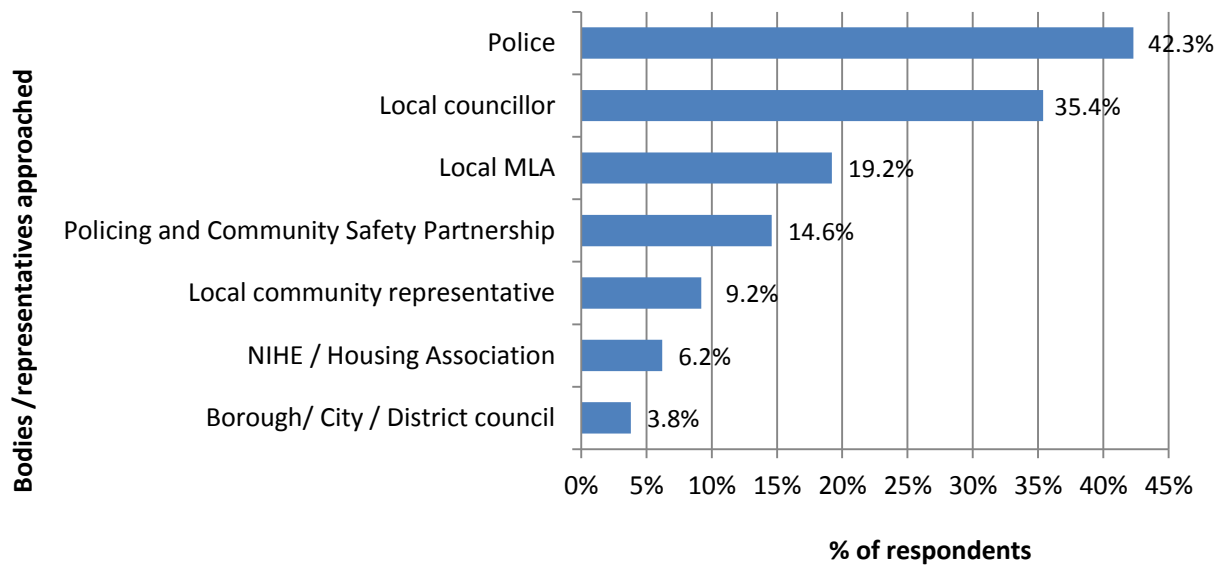
- ◆ 23.2% of respondents living in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust perceived the level of drug related issues to have become worse over the preceding 12 months, compared to 8.2% of respondents living in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust area ([Table A9](#)).
- ◆ In relation to age, 15.8% of respondents from the 35 – 49 year old age group, compared to 9.1% of respondents in the 65 and over age band, responded that the level of drug related issues in their local area had gotten worse in the last 12 months ([Table A9](#)).
- ◆ 16.5% of respondents in urban areas reported that they perceived drug related issues had become worse in the previous 12 months, compared to 7.6% of respondents from rural areas ([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 (93.5%) 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 (42.3%). Other bodies/representatives approached included local councillors (35.4%), MLAs (19.2%), Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (14.6%), local community representatives (9.2%), Northern Ireland Housing Executive or Housing Association (6.2%) and Borough/City/District council (3.8%) ([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 2015.

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.

Almost one in twenty respondents stated they had been affected as a result of drug related issues in their local area (4.5%) ([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).

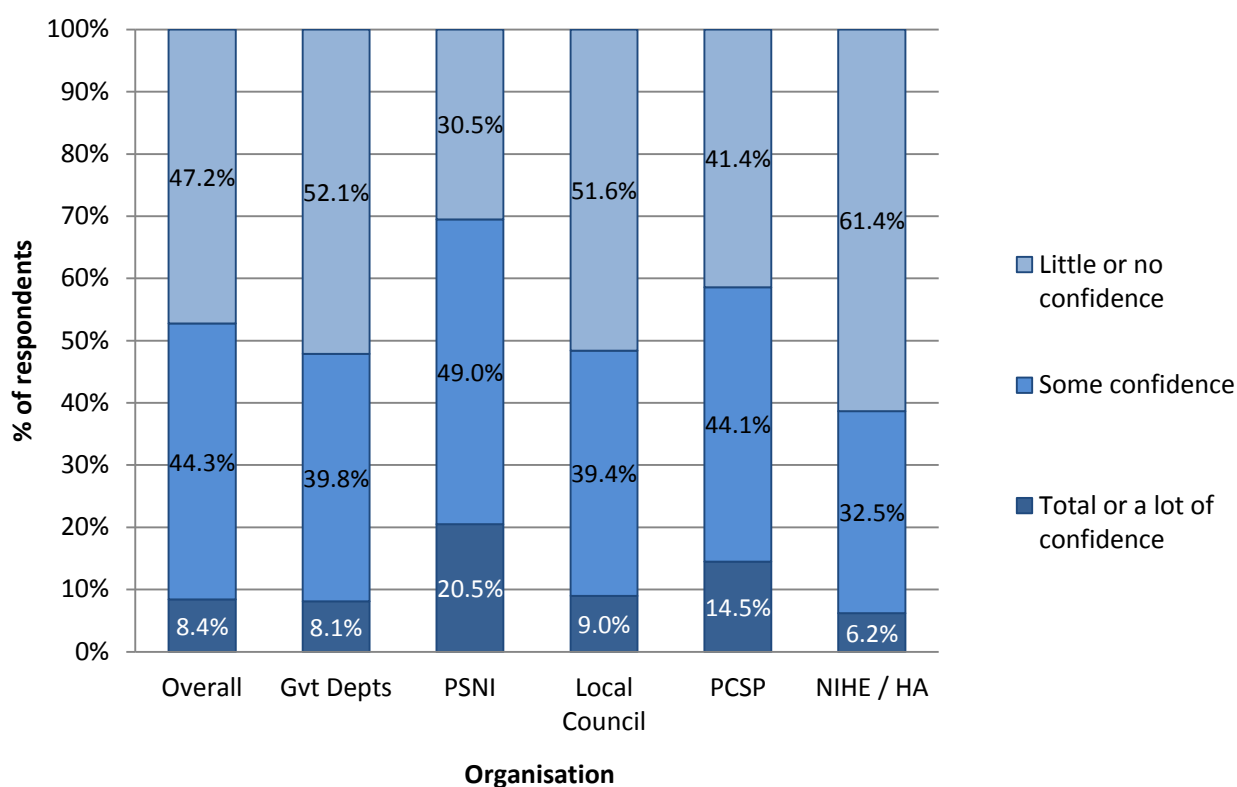
- ◆ Just over one in seventeen respondents (5.8%) stated they had heard of the Northern Ireland Assembly's New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs Phase 2 2011-16 ([Table A12](#)).

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, 52.7% 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 47.2% 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 2015.

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 69.5% 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 61.4% 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.

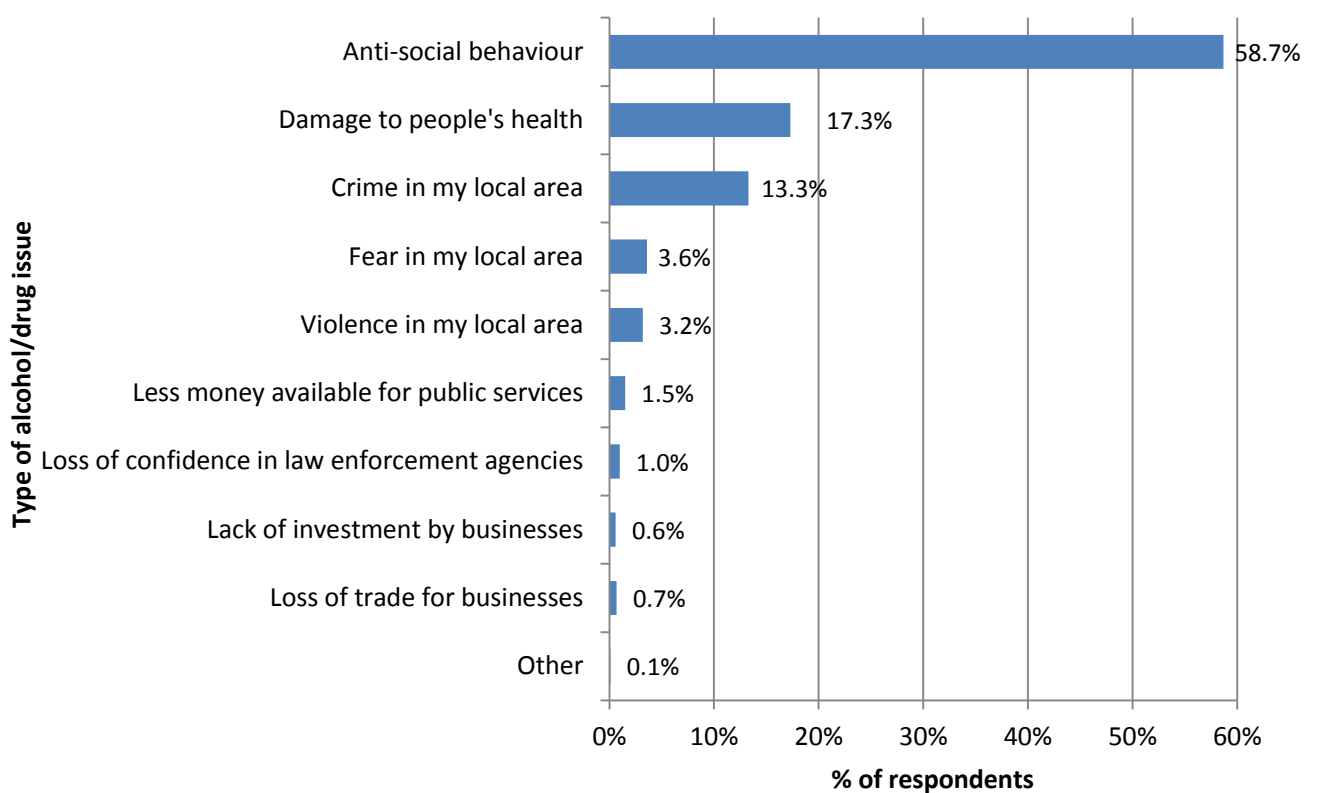
- ◆ Results show that, in 2015, 52.7% of respondents had total, a lot or some confidence that enough is being done to tackle alcohol and/or drug related issues in Northern Ireland’. While this is a decrease on the rate of 55.7% for 2014, the difference is not statistically significant ([Table A14](#); [Table A16](#)).
- ◆ Results show that 63.4% of respondents who had a disability/illness had little or no confidence that ‘enough is being done to tackle alcohol and/or drug related issues in Northern Ireland’ ([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](#)).

- ◆ Results show that 58.7% 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 (17.3%) and ‘Crime in my local area’ was the third (13.3%) ([Table A15](#); Figure 4.2).

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



Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2015.

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

References

McCaughey, J (2015) *Views on Alcohol and Drug related issues: findings from the September 2014 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey (revised)*. DOJ Research and Statistical Bulletin 19/2015. Belfast: DOJ.

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Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (December 2011) New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs Phase 2 2011-16.

<https://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/publications/alcohol-and-drug-misuse-strategy-and-reports>

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<https://www.dojni.gov.uk/publications/community-safety-strategy-2012-2017>

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	36.6%	19.6%	43.9%	1,105
Age of household reference person (HRP) ¹				
16-24	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	83
25-34	24.5%	25.2%	50.3%	150
35-49	40.4%	19.2%	40.4%	286
50-64	39.4%	19.4%	41.2%	285
65 and over	37.7%	18.7%	43.7%	301
Gender				
Male	35.8%	20.1%	44.1%	479
Female	37.2%	19.1%	43.7%	626
Religion				
Catholic	39.6%	16.0%	44.4%	450
Protestant	35.1%	22.1%	42.8%	526
Other	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	17
Health and Social Care Trust				
Belfast	38.4%	19.6%	42.0%	231
Northern	32.6%	23.8%	43.6%	283
South Eastern	44.4%	17.5%	38.1%	224
Southern	32.6%	17.2%	50.2%	200
Western	35.5%	18.1%	46.4%	167
Employment status				
In paid employment	35.3%	19.3%	45.4%	559
Not in paid employment	38.5%	20.0%	41.6%	528
Marital status				
Single, that is never married	35.8%	22.3%	41.9%	326
Married and living with husband / wife	34.6%	18.7%	46.7%	509
Married and separated from husband / wife	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	58
Divorced	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	81
Widowed	36.2%	19.1%	44.7%	131
Level of qualifications				
Primary	39.4%	18.2%	42.4%	320
Secondary	36.1%	22.6%	41.3%	429
Tertiary	34.6%	17.3%	48.1%	356
Dependants				
Has dependants	35.2%	19.4%	45.4%	364
No dependants	37.2%	19.6%	43.1%	741
Disability / illness				
Has disability / illness	47.8%	16.7%	35.5%	280
No disability / illness	33.3%	20.4%	46.4%	825
Area type				
Belfast	38.8%	24.6%	36.6%	380
Urban, excluding Belfast	47.0%	18.4%	34.6%	337
All urban	42.8%	21.6%	35.6%	717
Rural	26.1%	16.3%	57.6%	388

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2015.

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	64.0%	7.5%	3.6%	2.2%	1.3%
Rowdy and drunken behaviour	7.8%	20.1%	23.4%	3.3%	3.8%
Drinking in public places	7.6%	32.0%	4.5%	2.7%	1.9%
Drink-driving	5.6%	13.7%	16.3%	12.5%	2.9%
Alcohol use/abuse	3.9%	6.6%	9.4%	11.3%	11.1%
General disturbance	2.0%	1.5%	3.5%	6.3%	13.4%
Personal safety	2.0%	1.7%	5.2%	9.8%	7.8%
Litter	1.7%	0.7%	4.5%	6.5%	6.9%
Underage sales of alcohol	1.6%	4.4%	7.5%	13.1%	9.4%
Theft	1.2%	3.2%	3.8%	4.7%	6.1%
Spiking of drinks	1.1%	1.5%	7.4%	8.6%	5.3%
Vandalism	1.1%	3.6%	6.6%	9.3%	17.2%
Indecent exposure/urinating in street	0.3%	1.2%	1.4%	3.2%	3.1%
Joy riding	0.1%	1.9%	1.7%	5.0%	4.8%
Unwanted sexual contact	0.0%	0.3%	1.3%	1.7%	5.2%
Other	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Unweighted base	416	403	385	334	293

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2015.

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	9.0%	82.0%	9.0%	1,028
Age of household reference person (HRP) ¹				
16-24	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	72
25-34	10.8%	83.1%	6.2%	133
35-49	10.8%	78.8%	10.4%	271
50-64	8.5%	81.2%	10.3%	268
65 and over	6.8%	85.2%	8.0%	284
Gender				
Male	8.1%	83.9%	8.1%	448
Female	9.7%	80.6%	9.7%	580
Religion				
Catholic	8.7%	79.3%	12.0%	425
Protestant	8.2%	85.0%	6.9%	484
Other	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	15
Health and Social Care Trust				
Belfast	13.5%	71.5%	15.0%	218
Northern	9.1%	85.3%	5.6%	252
South Eastern	9.0%	82.5%	8.5%	213
Southern	6.3%	83.6%	10.1%	191
Western	5.9%	88.2%	5.9%	154
Employment status				
In paid employment	8.1%	85.0%	7.0%	522
Not in paid employment	10.4%	78.1%	11.5%	490
Marital status				
Single, that is never married	11.7%	77.3%	11.0%	287
Married and living with husband / wife	6.6%	87.1%	6.3%	479
Married and separated from husband / wife	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	57
Divorced	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	<i>n<100</i>	79
Widowed	11.0%	76.9%	12.1%	126
Level of qualifications				
Primary	12.7%	74.2%	13.1%	293
Secondary	8.0%	84.0%	8.0%	401
Tertiary	7.1%	86.1%	6.8%	334
Dependants				
Has dependants	8.9%	81.7%	9.5%	341
No dependants	9.1%	82.2%	8.7%	687
Disability / illness				
Has disability / illness	11.7%	71.3%	17.1%	269
No disability / illness	8.1%	85.3%	6.6%	759
Area type				
Belfast	13.3%	74.3%	12.4%	353
Urban, excluding Belfast	11.3%	79.4%	9.3%	316
All urban	12.3%	76.8%	10.9%	669
Rural	3.4%	90.9%	5.7%	359

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2015.

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	61.4%
Local councillor	30.4%
Local MLA	19.9%
Borough/City/District Council	11.7%
Local community representative	9.9%
Policing and Community Safety Partnership	8.8%
NIHE / Housing Association	8.8%
Government Department	0.6%
Other	3.5%
Unweighted base	98

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2015.

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	9.0%
No	91.0%
Unweighted base	1,107

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2015.

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	53.0%
General disturbance	30.8%
Vandalism	25.9%
Alcohol use/abuse	25.4%
Personal safety	23.8%
Drinking in public places	21.6%
Underage drinking	16.8%
Litter	14.1%
Unwanted sexual contact	10.3%
Drink-driving	8.1%
Theft	7.6%
Indecent exposure/urinating in street	6.5%
Spiking of drinks	6.5%
Underage sales of alcohol	3.8%
Joy riding	2.2%
Other	8.1%
Unweighted base	105

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2015.

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	35.5%	20.2%	44.2%	1,096
Age of household reference person (HRP) ¹				
16-24	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	83
25-34	31.5%	19.2%	49.3%	150
35-49	39.7%	18.7%	41.7%	285
50-64	35.7%	25.5%	38.8%	281
65 and over	33.9%	21.4%	44.8%	297
Gender				
Male	34.5%	18.9%	46.6%	473
Female	36.2%	21.5%	42.3%	623
Religion				
Catholic	39.8%	16.9%	43.2%	447
Protestant	33.9%	24.0%	42.1%	521
Other	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	17
Health and Social Care Trust				
Belfast	40.6%	16.4%	42.9%	231
Northern	33.5%	22.3%	44.2%	279
South Eastern	40.5%	20.3%	39.2%	222
Southern	32.1%	19.1%	48.8%	199
Western	30.1%	23.3%	46.6%	165
Employment status				
In paid employment	36.6%	18.3%	45.0%	556
Not in paid employment	34.3%	22.5%	43.2%	522
Marital status				
Single, that is never married	38.4%	17.4%	44.2%	326
Married and living with husband / wife	32.7%	21.3%	46.1%	504
Married and separated from husband / wife	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	58
Divorced	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	79
Widowed	30.1%	22.6%	47.3%	129
Level of qualifications				
Primary	33.0%	21.2%	45.8%	315
Secondary	39.8%	19.1%	41.2%	425
Tertiary	32.7%	20.7%	46.5%	356
Dependants				
Has dependants	37.6%	19.1%	43.3%	363
No dependants	34.5%	20.8%	44.7%	733
Disability / illness				
Has disability / illness	45.6%	16.8%	37.6%	279
No disability / illness	32.5%	21.2%	46.2%	817
Area type				
Belfast	39.8%	21.8%	38.4%	379
Urban, excluding Belfast	44.7%	22.1%	33.2%	336
All urban	42.2%	21.9%	35.9%	715
Rural	24.3%	17.4%	58.3%	381

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2015.

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	51.2%	10.4%	5.4%	2.0%	2.3%
Drug dealing	24.8%	46.8%	3.7%	3.2%	0.9%
Drug needles found in the street	4.7%	5.1%	9.3%	4.5%	3.2%
Legal highs	3.6%	6.5%	16.3%	5.2%	4.5%
Drug driving	3.3%	6.3%	16.0%	9.9%	5.0%
Theft	3.2%	1.6%	11.5%	10.6%	10.0%
Rowdy behaviour	1.8%	9.4%	9.3%	11.5%	7.7%
Personal safety	1.8%	2.6%	5.1%	13.8%	15.6%
Selling of prescription drugs	1.4%	3.7%	8.1%	7.4%	6.3%
General disturbance	1.2%	1.9%	3.7%	7.6%	20.8%
Vandalism	1.0%	1.8%	5.3%	11.7%	10.4%
Joy riding	0.8%	1.2%	2.1%	5.0%	4.3%
Litter	0.8%	1.5%	1.8%	2.2%	1.1%
Indecent exposure/urinating in street	0.3%	1.0%	1.6%	3.0%	4.1%
Unwanted sexual contact	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.8%
Other	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%
Unweighted base	401	377	347	298	244

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2015.

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	5.2%	81.7%	13.1%	1,002
Age of household reference person (HRP) ¹				
16-24	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	71
25-34	5.5%	83.5%	11.0%	129
35-49	6.1%	78.1%	15.8%	264
50-64	4.5%	80.7%	14.8%	262
65 and over	3.9%	87.0%	9.1%	276
Gender				
Male	5.6%	84.0%	10.4%	437
Female	4.6%	79.9%	15.5%	565
Religion				
Catholic	5.9%	75.3%	18.7%	414
Protestant	4.9%	85.4%	9.7%	470
Other	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	17
Health and Social Care Trust				
Belfast	6.9%	70.0%	23.2%	214
Northern	5.7%	86.1%	8.2%	244
South Eastern	8.8%	79.5%	11.7%	207
Southern	1.0%	86.8%	12.2%	183
Western	2.6%	86.8%	10.5%	154
Employment status				
In paid employment	4.2%	83.8%	12.0%	507
Not in paid employment	6.2%	79.3%	14.5%	479
Marital status				
Single, that is never married	7.0%	77.5%	15.5%	282
Married and living with husband / wife	3.5%	86.2%	10.3%	464
Married and separated from husband / wife	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	54
Divorced	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	78
Widowed	2.2%	82.0%	15.7%	124
Level of qualifications				
Primary	5.2%	78.1%	16.7%	285
Secondary	6.5%	79.7%	13.8%	386
Tertiary	4.0%	86.3%	9.7%	331
Dependants				
Has dependants	4.7%	81.3%	14.0%	333
No dependants	5.4%	81.9%	12.7%	669
Disability / illness				
Has disability / illness	5.1%	74.8%	20.1%	261
No disability / illness	5.1%	83.9%	11.0%	741
Area type				
Belfast	8.7%	73.1%	18.3%	344
Urban, excluding Belfast	4.0%	81.7%	14.3%	308
All urban	6.6%	77.0%	16.5%	652
Rural	2.9%	89.5%	7.6%	350

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2015.

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	42.3%
Local councillor	35.4%
Local MLA	19.2%
Policing and Community Safety Partnership	14.6%
Local community representative	9.2%
NIHE / Housing Association	6.2%
Borough/ City / District council	3.8%
Other	0.0%
Unweighted base	72

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2015.

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	4.5%
No	95.5%
Unweighted base	1,107

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2015.

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	5.8%
No	94.2%
Unweighted base	1,108

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2015.

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	8.4%	44.3%	47.2%	1,078
NI Government Departments	8.1%	39.8%	52.1%	1,073
PSNI	20.5%	49.0%	30.5%	1,087
Local Council	9.0%	39.4%	51.6%	1,046
Local Policing and Community Safety Partnerships	14.5%	44.1%	41.4%	1,000
NI Housing Executive / Housing Associations	6.2%	32.5%	61.4%	966

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2015.

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	8.4%	44.3%	47.2%	1,078
Age of household reference person (HRP) ¹				
16-24	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	80
25-34	16.0%	45.1%	38.9%	147
35-49	9.0%	42.3%	48.7%	283
50-64	6.0%	43.8%	50.2%	281
65 and over	7.9%	43.3%	48.8%	287
Gender				
Male	9.3%	40.8%	49.9%	470
Female	8.6%	44.8%	46.7%	608
Religion				
Catholic	9.6%	40.8%	49.6%	439
Protestant	9.1%	46.9%	44.1%	512
Other	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	16
Health and Social Care Trust				
Belfast	8.4%	40.5%	51.2%	226
Northern	7.5%	41.9%	50.5%	279
South Eastern	10.5%	46.1%	43.4%	220
Southern	9.7%	43.7%	46.6%	191
Western	8.9%	43.0%	48.1%	162
Employment status				
In paid employment	8.3%	44.7%	47.0%	553
Not in paid employment	9.3%	40.5%	50.2%	508
Marital status				
Single, that is never married	10.4%	41.5%	48.2%	316
Married and living with husband / wife	8.6%	45.3%	46.1%	499
Married and separated from husband / wife	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	59
Divorced	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	<i>n</i> <100	79
Widowed	6.7%	40.4%	52.8%	125
Level of qualifications				
Primary	8.0%	41.5%	50.5%	306
Secondary	8.1%	45.0%	46.9%	422
Tertiary	10.2%	41.8%	48.0%	350
Dependants				
Has dependants	9.8%	41.7%	48.5%	358
No dependants	8.3%	43.6%	48.0%	720
Disability / illness				
Has disability / illness	8.1%	28.5%	63.4%	274
No disability / illness	9.1%	47.3%	43.6%	804
Area type				
Belfast	8.3%	42.6%	49.1%	372
Urban, excluding Belfast	10.5%	42.7%	46.7%	328
All urban	9.4%	42.6%	48.0%	700
Rural	7.9%	43.7%	48.4%	378

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2015.

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	58.7%	19.5%	8.0%
Damage to people's health	17.3%	20.8%	15.3%
Crime in my local area	13.3%	33.0%	10.2%
Fear in my local area	3.6%	8.8%	19.5%
Violence in my local area	3.2%	6.6%	20.2%
Less money available for public services	1.5%	3.8%	9.2%
Loss of confidence in law enforcement agencies	1.0%	3.4%	7.7%
Lack of investment by businesses	0.6%	2.0%	3.3%
Loss of trade for businesses	0.7%	1.7%	5.1%
Other	0.1%	0.5%	1.5%
Unweighted base	908	828	737

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2015.

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

Table A16: Comparison of main results from 2013 to 2015

% 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 (%)	2015	36.6%**	19.6%	43.9%	1,105
	2014	44.0%	16.0%	40.0%	1,078
	2013	41.8%	17.2%	41.0%	1,159
I am concerned about drug related issues in my local area (%)	2015	35.5%	20.2%	44.2%	1,096
	2014	36.7%	20.2%	43.1%	1,067
	2013	34.1%	22.3%	43.5%	1,151
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 (%)	2015	9.0%	82.0%	9.0%	1,028
	2014	10.0%	79.7%	10.2%	1,013
	2013	10.4%	79.1%	10.5%	1,077
Drug related issues in the local area (%)	2015	5.6%	80.6%	13.8%	1,002
	2014	6.0%	79.9%	14.1%	975
	2013	5.4%	83.5%	11.1%	1,048
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
	2015	8.4%	44.3%	47.2%	1,078
	2014	10.3%	45.4%	44.4%	1,046
	2013	8.2%	46.6%	45.2%	1,125

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2013, 2014 and 2015.

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 2015 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, 1,939 were eligible and 1,109 interviews were achieved giving an eligible response rate of 57%.

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.

Notes to readers

On 1 April 2015 the Education Authority was created and assumed the responsibility of the former Education and Library Boards (ELBs). Therefore, it is not appropriate to report NIOS findings by ELBs, as in previous years.

Table B1: Sample profile for Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey, September 2015

Demographic	Unweighted number	Unweighted %	Weighted %
All respondents	1,109	100.0%	100.0%
Gender			
Male	480	43.3%	45.4%
Female	629	56.7%	54.6%
Age group			
16-24	83	7.5%	10.4%
25-34	151	13.6%	13.3%
35-49	286	25.8%	27.3%
50-64	288	26.0%	26.3%
65 and over	301	27.1%	22.7%
Religion			
Catholic	451	45.2%	47.0%
Protestant	528	53.0%	50.9%
Other	18	1.8%	1.8%
Health and Social Care Trust			
Belfast	232	20.9%	19.7%
Northern	285	25.7%	25.6%
South Eastern	224	20.2%	20.2%
Southern	200	18.0%	19.5%
Western	168	15.1%	15.0%
Area type			
Belfast	382	34.4%	32.4%
Urban, excluding Belfast	337	30.4%	29.9%
All urban	719	64.8%	62.4%
Rural	390	35.2%	37.6%

Source: NI Omnibus Survey, September 2015.

¹ Results exclude “none” and refusals.

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