How are Children & Young People in NI doing?

CYPSP
Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership

Northern Ireland Outcome Monitoring Report with Trends 2012 – 18/19

Multi-agency Information to Support Integrated Planning for Children and Young People in Northern Ireland

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Introduction

NOTE: DUE to COVID19 access to data has been delayed this year and we have highlighted in the index above where we are still awaiting data. This report will be kept as a live report under the publications page on our website with information being updated as it becomes available.

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership's main aim is improving the lives of all our children and young people. A **Northern Ireland Children's Services Plan 2019-2021** has drawn up our approach to improving outcomes for children and young people along with agreeing key themes –which are the most important issues that will be taken forward in the Children and Young People's Plan. Detailed Action Plans have been drawn up by each Outcomes Group across Northern Ireland which will provide more detail on how we are improving outcomes for children and young people. (more details available at www.cypsp.org)

Physical and Mental Health; Enjoyment of play and leisure; Learning and achieving; Living in safety and with stability; Experiencing economic and environmental well-being; Contributing positively to community and society; Living in a society which respects their rights and promotion of equality and good relations.

This **Tenth** Outcome Monitoring Report shows how children and young people in Northern Ireland are doing in relation to the Government's eight outcomes and covers the period 2012 up to **2019** (where available). The report presents the information collected against agreed indicators for each outcome, providing trend analysis over time and comparison across geographical sectors.

The information is also available in greater detail (Trust, District Council, New LGDs and Electoral Ward areas) on request to the CSP Information Manager, Social Care and Children (contact details on page **106**), who can also provide information on sources and how the information was collated. Visit www.cypsp.org to view the indicators visually mapped. (Training on the mapping system is available from the CSP Information Manager).

Introduction

In reviewing progress towards achieving the eight outcomes it is essential to be able to measure the progress for our most vulnerable children. In order to do this, the data collected needs to be disaggregated by specific groups of children identified as priority by the Children's Services Planning process as well as the Section 75 (NI Act 1998) categories. The Children's Services Plan describes how the core indicators included in this report will be analysed for specific groups of children and complemented by additional indicators. Work is also continuing to ensure the indicators allow us to measure children's rights and how they are being realised.

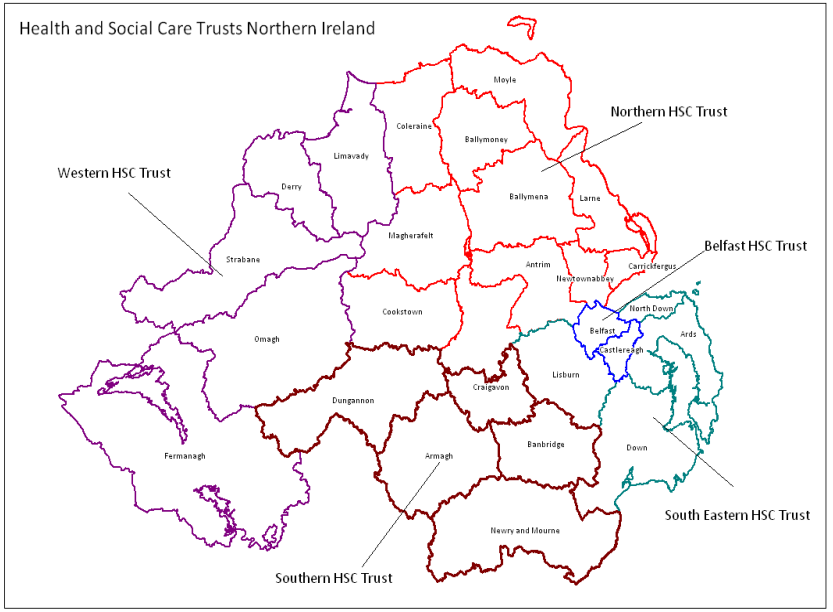
The Information collated in this report is already being used by Children's Services Planning Working Groups, together with needs assessment material collected from agencies, children and young people and communities, in the planning of services. It is also useful for locality partnerships, who can use it to help them plan better for children in a particular locality.

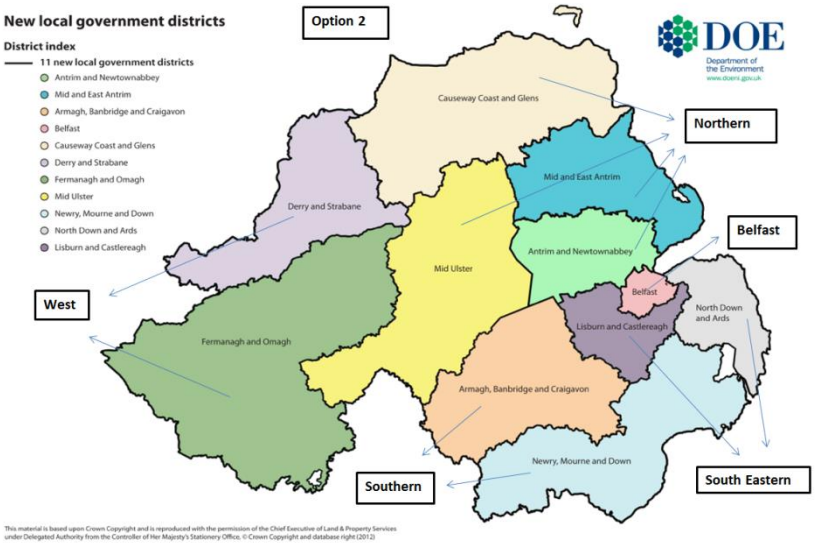
We are publishing this information as we hope it will be useful for any agency or partnership, at local or Northern Ireland level, in the analysis of how well our Children and Young people are doing, against our agreed outcomes. This information is also available on our CYPSP Interactive mapping system which can be found at http://maps.cypsp.hscni.net/

Demography

The following indicators are included in this chapter to provide information on Population:-

- ❑ Demographic Profile of Northern Ireland
- ❑ Demographic Profiles of Trusts within Northern Ireland (MYE 2019)
- ❑ 25 Year Population Projections by Age Band
- ❑% BME Population by Country of Birth
- ❑% Northern Ireland BME Population by Ethnicity
- ❑Migration Statistics – Net international migration by LGD
- ❑Non UK Nationals allocated National Insurance Numbers
- ❑ Birthing Trends
- ❑ Key Messages





DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF NORTHERN IRELAND

DEMOGRAPHIC HEADLINES

Current population of under 18 year olds in Northern Ireland: **440,705** (MYE, 2019)

This is 23.3% of the total population in Northern Ireland in 2019.

The Southern and Western Areas have the highest percentage of the population aged under 18 years of age (25.6% and 24.2% respectively)

25 year percentage population change for 2016-2041 illustrate a slight drop (-5.3%) in the 0-17 year old population. The biggest drop in population is the 5-9 age group at -11.4% by 2041.

Demographic Profiles of Trusts within Northern Ireland

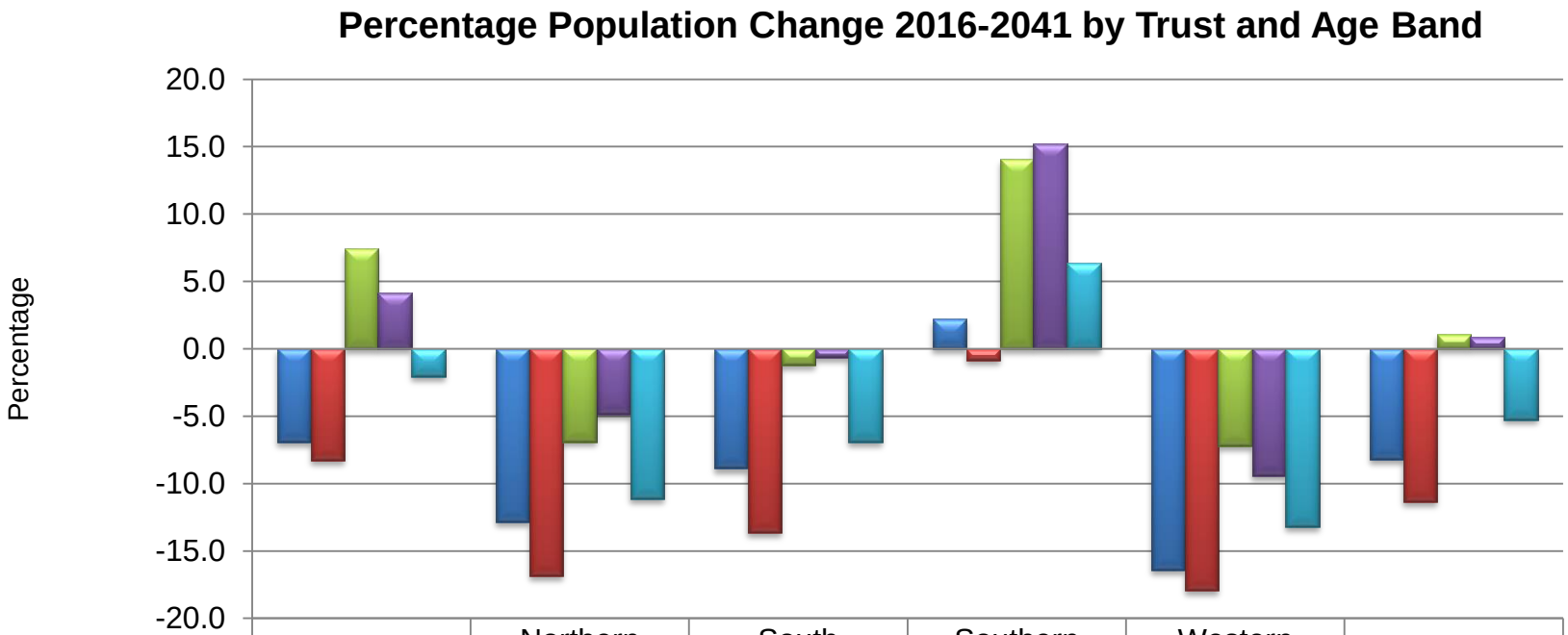
Data Source: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) (MYE, 2019)

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES OF TRUSTS WITHIN NORTHERN IRELAND

	Belfast	Northern	S Eastern	Southern	Western	NI
0-4 years	22,263	28,749	21,541	27,722	20,094	120,369
5-9 years	22,854	31,471	23,860	29,154	21,207	128,546
10-14 years	20,913	31,504	23,704	27,572	20,434	124,127
15-17 years	11,387	17,283	12,763	14,622	11,608	67,663
0-17 Year Population	**77,417**	**109,007**	**81,868**	**99,070**	**73,343**	**440,705**
Whole Population	359,845	479,360	363,800	387,162	303,500	1,893,667
Child Population as a percentage of whole population	21.5%	22.7%	22.5%	25.6%	24.2%	23.3%

25 Year Population Projections by Trust and Age Band

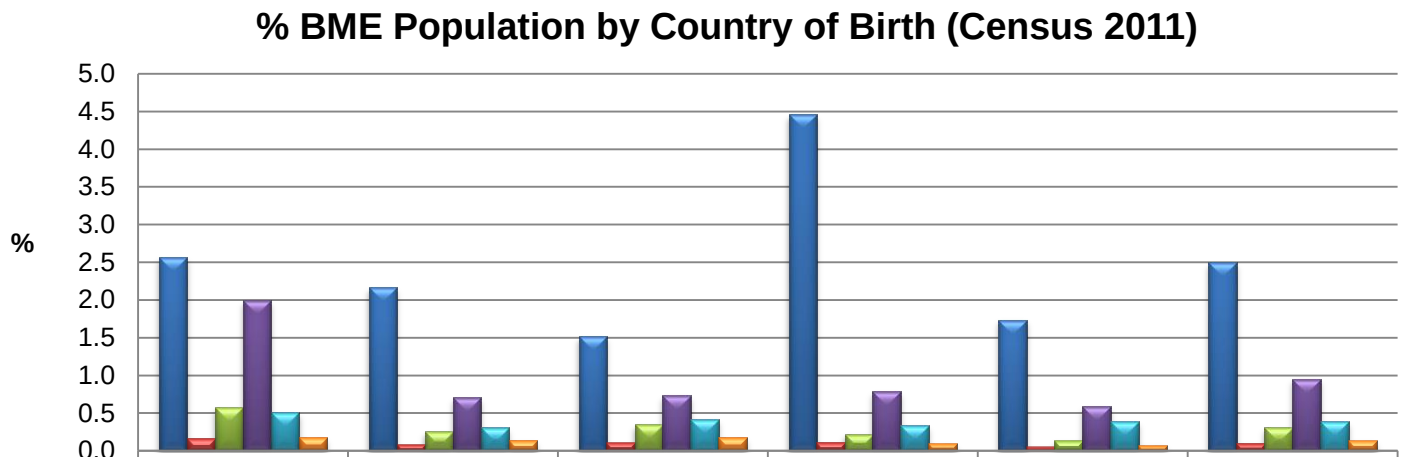
Data Source: NISRA Population Projections



	Belfast Trust	Northern Trust	South Eastern Trust	Southern Trust	Western Trust	NI
0 to 4 Years	-7.0	-12.9	-8.9	2.2	-16.4	-8.2
5 to 9 Years	-8.3	-16.9	-13.7	-0.9	-17.9	-11.4
10 to 14 Years	7.4	-6.9	-1.3	14.0	-7.2	1.1
15 to 17 Years	4.1	-4.9	-0.7	15.2	-9.5	0.9
0 to 17 Years	-2.1	-11.1	-7.0	6.3	-13.3	-5.3

% BME Population by Country of Birth

Data Source: Census 2011

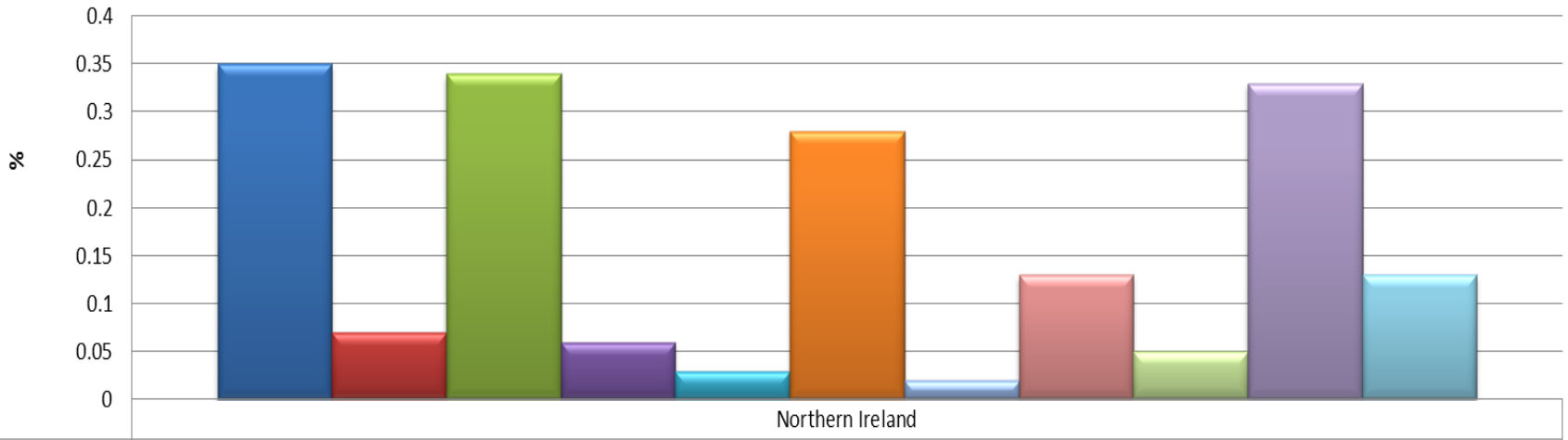


	Belfast	Northern	South Eastern	Southern	Western	Northern Ireland
EU countries: Total	2.6	2.2	1.5	4.5	1.7	2.5
Non EU countries: Total	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Africa: Total	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.3
Middle East & Asia: Total	2.0	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.6	1.0
North America & Caribbean: Total	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4
Antarctica & Oceania: Total	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1

(Eu Countries:- Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Portugal, Slovakia, Other)
(Non EU Countries:- Russia, Turkey, Other)
(Africa:- North Africa, Nigeria, Central & Western Africa, Kenya, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South & Eastern Africa)
(Middle East & Asia:- Iran, Saudi Arabia, Middle East, China, Hong Kong, Eastern Asia, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Southern Asia, South East Asia, Philippines, Timor, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Central Asia)
(North America & Caribbean:- Canada, USA, Caribbean, Other)
(Antarctica & Oceania:- Australia, New Zealand, Other)

% Northern Ireland BME Population by Ethnicity

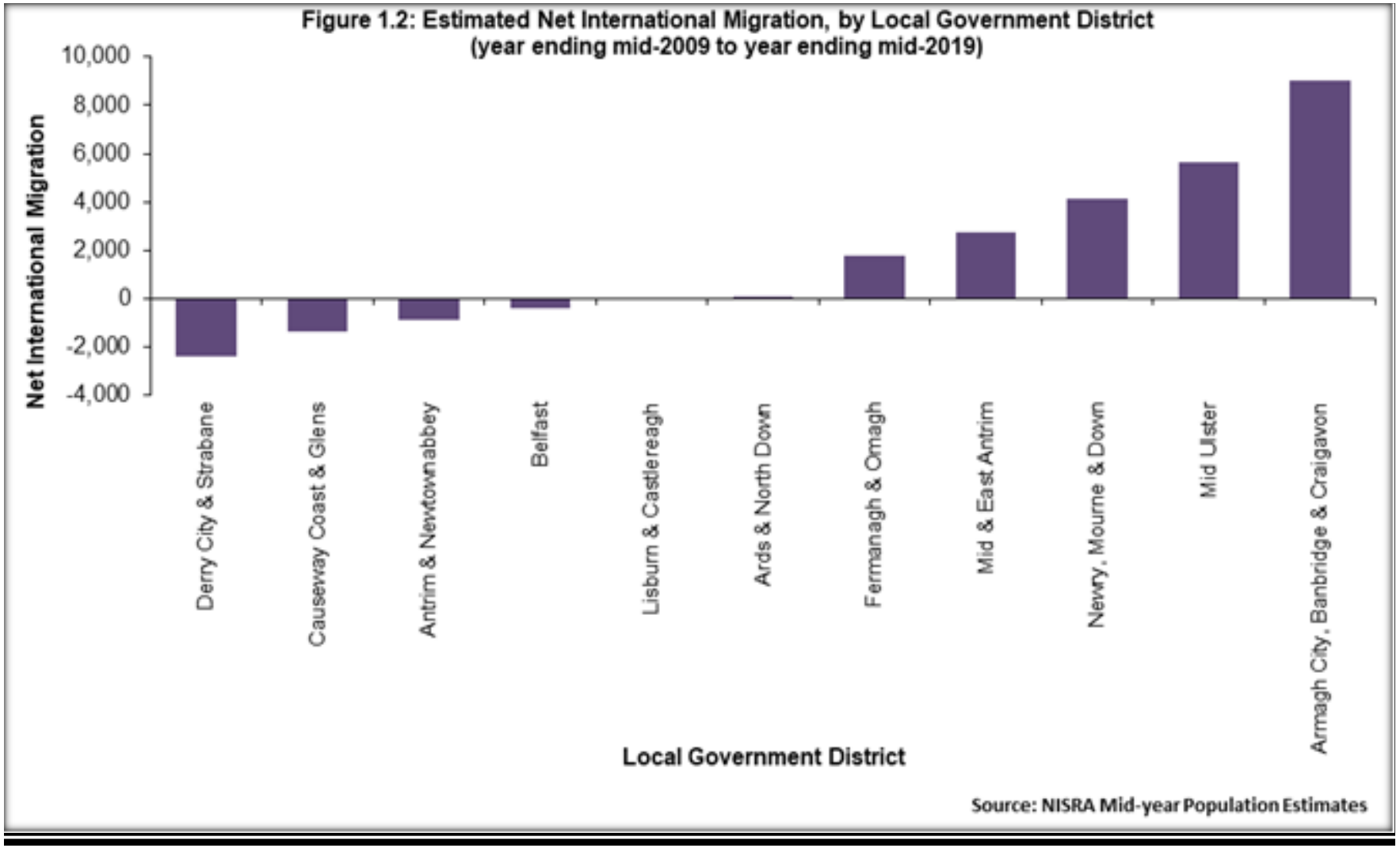
Data Source: Census 2011



	Northern Ireland
Chinese (%)	0.35
Irish Traveller (%)	0.07
Indian (%)	0.34
Pakistani (%)	0.06
Bangladeshi (%)	0.03
Other Asian (%)	0.28
Black Caribbean (%)	0.02
Black African (%)	0.13
Black other (%)	0.05
Mixed (%)	0.33
Other (%)	0.13

Migration Statistics

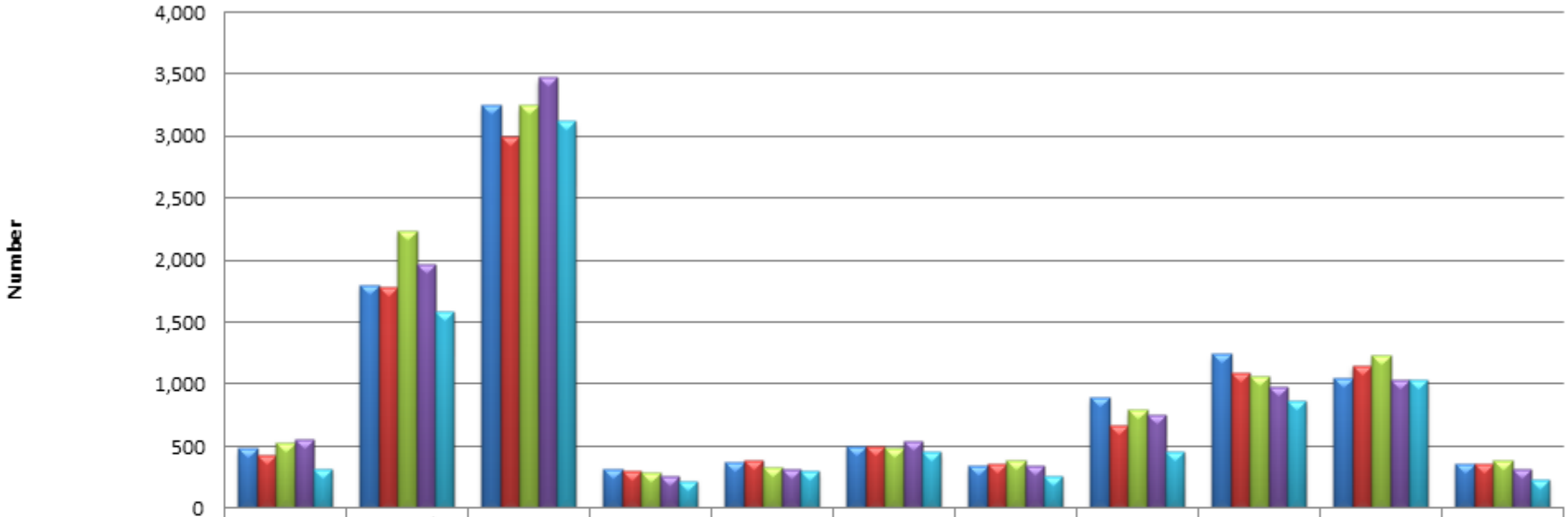
Data Source: NISRA



Non UK Nationals- National Insurance Number Allocations

Source: NISRA

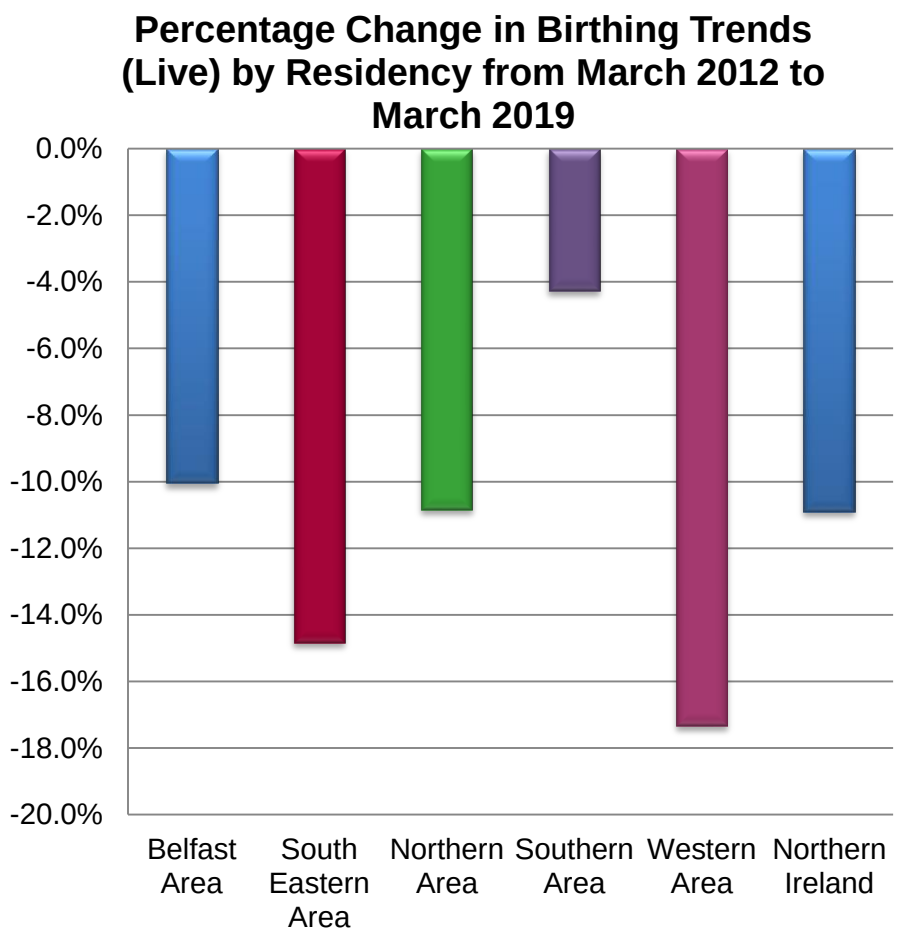
NI National Insurance Numbers (NINo) Registrations to Non-UK Nationals by Local Government District



	Antrim and Newtownabbey	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	Belfast	Causeway Coast and Glens	Derry City and Strabane	Fermanagh and Omagh	Lisburn and Castlereagh	Mid and East Antrim	Mid Ulster	Newry, Mourne and Down	Ards and North Down
Apr 2015 - Mar 2016	480	1,800	3,250	320	370	500	340	890	1,240	1,050	360
Apr 2016 - Mar 2017	430	1,780	2,990	300	390	500	360	670	1,090	1,150	360
Apr 2017 - Mar 2018	530	2,240	3,250	290	330	490	390	790	1,070	1,230	380
Apr 2018 - Mar 2019	560	1,970	3,470	260	310	540	340	760	980	1,030	320
Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	320	1,590	3,120	220	300	450	260	460	870	1,030	230

Birthing Trends

Data Source: CHS Registered Births



	Number of Live Births Mar 2012	Number of Live Births Mar 2019	Percentage Change in Live Births Between 2012 and 2019
Belfast Area	4,873	4,428	-10.05%
South Eastern Area	4,643	4,043	-14.84%
Northern Area	5,987	5,401	-10.85%
Southern Area	5,506	5,280	-4.28%
Western Area	4,266	3,636	-17.33%
Northern Ireland	25,275	22,788	-10.91%

The graph and table shows there has been a downward trend in the numbers of live births in all areas. The Western Area has the largest percentage drop in births between 2012 and 2019.

Key Messages

Source: NISRA: Registrar General Annual Report 2018 *(2019 Annual Report due Nov. 2020)*

Demography

- The size of the Northern Ireland resident population rose in the year to 30 June 2018 by 10,800 to exceed 1.88 million (1,881,600).
- There were 22,829 births registered in 2018, a decrease of 246 on the 2017 figure (23, 075).
- In 2018 the percentage of maternities resulting in a multiple birth was 1.7 per cent. There were 384 sets of twins and 4 sets of triplets and 1 set of quadruplets being born in 2018.
- In 2018, 44.5 per cent of births were to unmarried parents. A trend that has been gradually increasing with 16.2 per cent three decades ago.
- Teenage births decreased in 2018 to 659 (692 in 2017). This is the lowest number of teenage mothers on record and is noticeably lower than a decade ago at 1,426.
- Over recent years, the number of births to mothers born outside the UK and Ireland has increased significantly. In 2018 10.7% of births were to mothers who were born outside the UK and Ireland, compared to 2.3% 20 years ago.
- There were 2,073 divorces granted in 2018, this is a decrease than in the previous year (2,089) and 28.8% lower than the peak number of 2,913 in 2007.
- In 2018, 3,699 children/stepchildren were affected by divorces that were granted, of which almost 1,553 were under the age of 16 at the time of divorce.
- The number of children adopted during 2018 was 105, an increase of 15.4% from the 2017 figure of 91. 71.4% of adopted children were aged between 0 and 5 years.

Healthy

What we want to achieve for all children and young people:-

- Reduced inequalities in health and access to health services;
- Improved mental and emotional well-being by strengthening services and promoting positive attitudes;
- Improved physical and sexual health;
- Young people supported to make healthy lifestyle choices;
- Parents provided with assistance from an early stage to ensure children have a good start in life and are supported into adulthood.

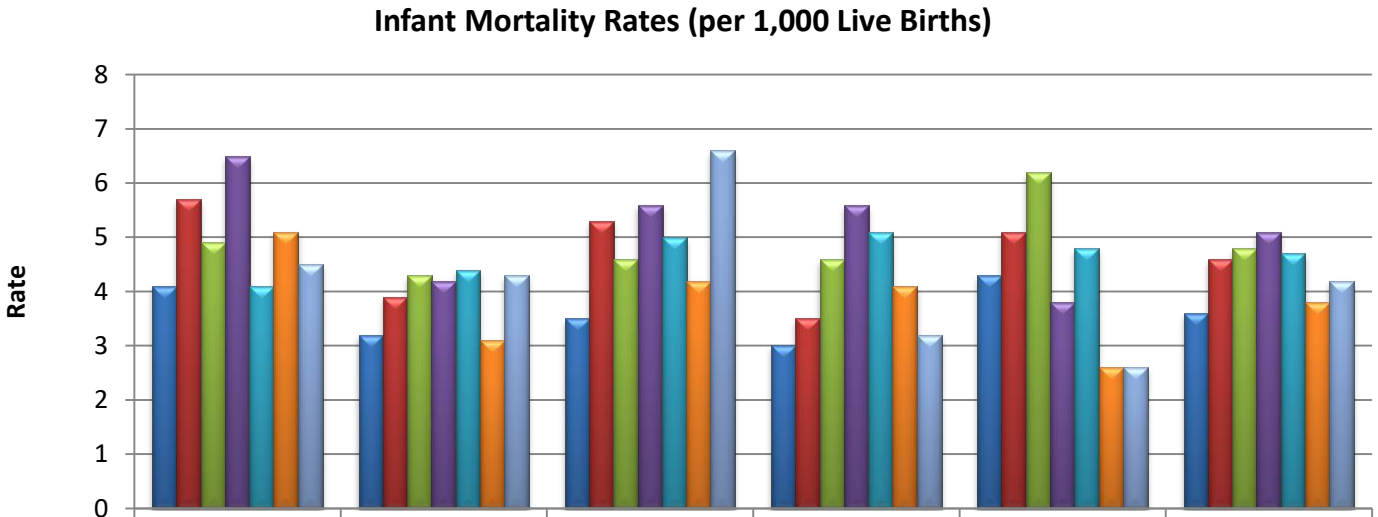
The following indicators are included in this chapter to measure the health of all our children and young people:-

- Infant Mortality Rates
- Low Birth Weight Rates
- % Mums Smoking During Pregnancy
- Immunisation Rates for MMR at 24 months
- Mothers Breastfeeding at Discharge
- % Births to Mothers Under 20 Years of Age
- Rate of Births to Mothers Under 20 Years of Age
- Births to Mothers aged 13 to 17 Years
- Life Expectancy from Birth
- % Dental Registrations Children Aged 0-2 yrs and 3-5 yrs.
- Children with a Disability in receipt of DLA
- Sexually Transmitted Infections Under 16 in NI
- Sexually Transmitted Infections 16-19 in NI
- Sexual Experience and Knowledge
- Children who are Overweight or Obese
- 0-17 year olds Admitted to HSC Hospitals with Self Harm Related Diagnoses
- 0-17 year olds Admitted to HSC Hospitals with Alcohol Related Diagnoses
- Child Deaths by Suicide by HSC Trust
- Child Deaths by Suicide in NI by Gender
- Suicide in the 15-34 Age Group by HSC Trust
- Suicide in the 15-34 Age Group in NI by Gender
- Child Deaths by Accidents
- Cigarette Usage Amongst Young People
- Alcohol and Drug Usage Amongst Young People

Infant Mortality Rates

Data Source: NISRA

Why is it Important?
Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is defined as the number of deaths of infants, one year of age and younger, per 1000 live births. The infant mortality rate is an important measure of the well-being of infants, children, and pregnant women because it is associated with a variety of factors, such as maternal health, quality and access to medical care, socio-economic conditions, and public health practices. (Reidpath,Allotey)**(1)**



	Belfast Trust	Northern Trust	South Eastern Trust	Southern Trust	Western Trust	Northern Ireland
Dec-12	4.1	3.2	3.5	3.0	4.3	3.6
Dec-13	5.7	3.9	5.3	3.5	5.1	4.6
Dec-14	4.9	4.3	4.6	4.6	6.2	4.8
Dec-15	6.5	4.2	5.6	5.6	3.8	5.1
Dec-16	4.1	4.4	5.0	5.1	4.8	4.7
Dec-17	5.1	3.1	4.2	4.1	2.6	3.8
Dec-18	4.5	4.3	6.6	3.2	2.6	4.2

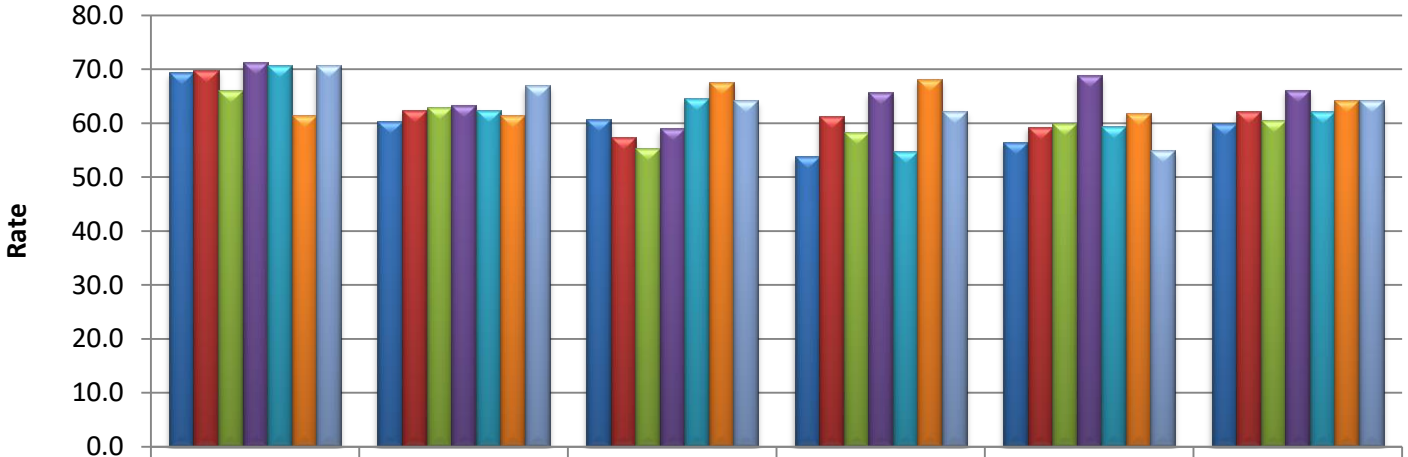
The Story behind the Trends – Overall NI has seen an increase in the rates of infant mortality in the last year, with a rise of 10.2% in Dec 17 from 88 to 97, this was similar in the Northern and South Eastern Trust with the Western Trust staying the same. In 2018 the District Council areas with the highest Infant Mortality Rates were: North Down and Ards with 7.8 and Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon with 5.9.

Low Birth Weight Rates

Data Source: Child Health System (CHS)

Why is it Important?
Low birth weight has been defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as weight at birth of less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds). Low birth weight is a major determinant of mortality, morbidity and disability in infancy and childhood and also has a long-term impact on health outcomes in adult life. Low birth weight also results in substantial costs to the health sector and imposes a significant burden on society as a whole. (WHO, 2010)**(2).**

Low Birth Weight Rates (Less than 2500gms Per 1,000 Live Births)



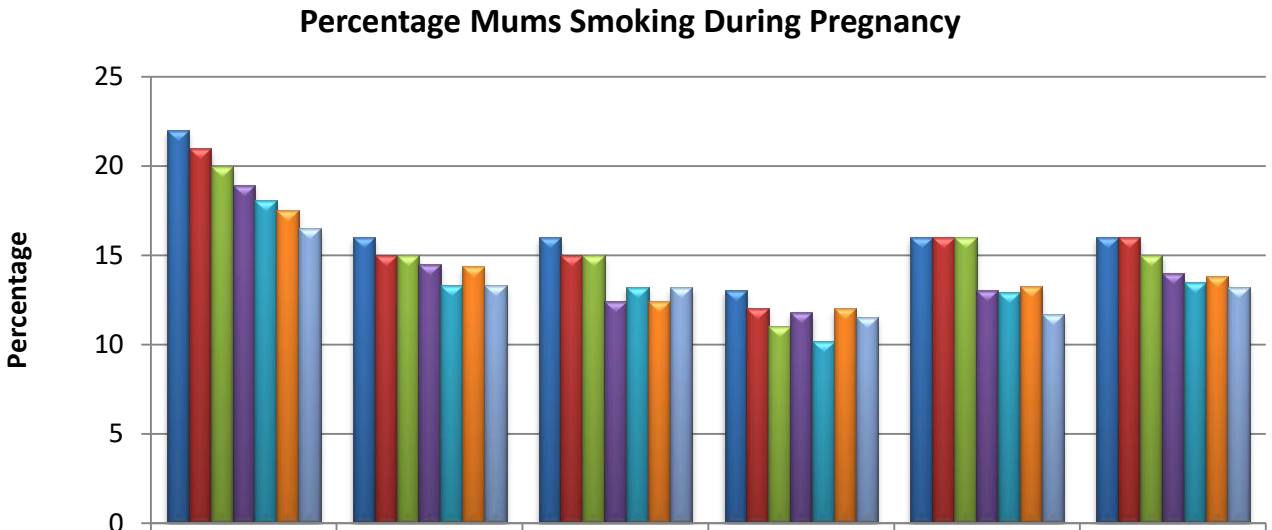
	Belfast Trust	Northern Trust	South Eastern Trust	Southern Trust	Western Trust	Northern Ireland
2012/13	69.4	60.4	60.7	53.9	56.4	60.1
2013/14	69.8	62.4	57.4	61.3	59.4	62.2
2014/15	66.2	63.0	55.4	58.4	60.0	60.6
2015/16	71.3	63.4	59.1	65.7	68.9	66.2
2016/17	70.7	62.4	64.6	54.8	59.4	62.2
2017/18	61.5	61.4	67.7	68.1	61.9	64.2
2018/19	70.7	67.0	64.3	62.3	55.0	64.2

The Story Behind the Trends - Possible causes of low birth weight in babies are multiple births who are at increased risk of low birth weight due to prematurity, teen mums (especially those younger than 15 yrs old) also, babies of mums who are exposed to illicit drugs, alcohol and cigarettes are more likely to have low birth weight babies. Since 2012/13 all areas have fluctuated in the rate per 1000 low birth weights with all Trusts higher than the NI average of 64.2 in 2018/19, except the Southern and Western Trust.

Percentage Mums Smoking During Pregnancy

Data Source: Child Health System/NIMATS

Why is it Important? In addition to increasing the mother's risk of potentially serious complications, smoking during pregnancy is the largest preventable cause of ill health and death in young babies and infants. Smoking cuts down the amount of oxygen and nutrients that get to the baby through the placenta. A baby needs these to grow and develop, so babies of women who smoke tend to be smaller than they ought to be. It Is linked to pregnancy complications, premature delivery, low birth weight babies – a leading cause of infant death, stillbirth, miscarriage, sudden infant death syndrome (SID), also known as cot death (PHA Want 2 Stop, 2010) (22).



	Belfast Trust	Northern Trust	South Eastern Trust	Southern Trust	Western Trust	Northern Ireland
Dec-12	22	16	16	13	16	16
Dec-13	21	15	15	12	16	16
Dec-14	20	15	15	11	16	15
2015/16	18.9	14.5	12.4	11.8	13.0	14.0
2016/17	18.1	13.3	13.2	10.2	12.9	13.5
2017/18	17.5	14.4	12.4	12.0	13.3	13.8
2018/19	16.5	13.3	13.2	11.5	11.7	13.2

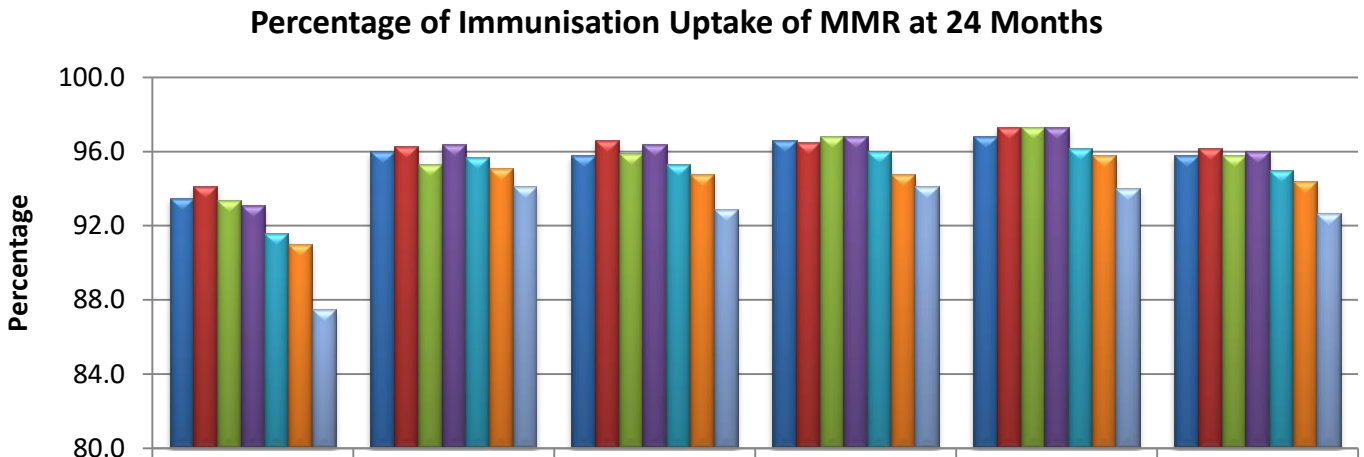
The Story Behind the Trends – The majority of areas have decreased in the percentage of mums smoking during pregnancy in 2018/19, except the South Eastern Trust. The Belfast Trust continues to see the highest percentage of mums smoking during pregnancy, with the other areas similar or lower than the NI percentage of 13.2%.

Note: (Figures for Mums smoking during pregnancy are no longer available from CHS, but sourced from NI Maternity System (NIMATS)

Immunisation Rates for MMR at 24 Months

Data Source: Child Health System

Why is it Important? It is important for children to have this immunisation - when 'herd immunity', or the overall number of children immunised, drops there is a real risk of these diseases circulating again as has already been seen in some areas of the UK with potentially serious consequences. (Children First NHS 2010) **(3).** MMR vaccine protects children against measles, mumps and rubella (German measles). Since MMR was introduced in Northern Ireland in 1998 the number of children catching these diseases has fallen to an all time low. MMR uptake rates in Northern Ireland are the highest in the British Isles.



	Belfast Trust	Northern Trust	South Eastern Trust	Southern Trust	Western Area	Northern Ireland
2012/13	93.5	96.0	95.8	96.6	96.8	95.8
2013/14	94.1	96.3	96.6	96.5	97.3	96.2
2014/15	93.4	95.3	95.9	96.8	97.3	95.8
2015/16	93.1	96.4	96.4	96.8	97.3	96.0
2016/17	91.6	95.7	95.3	96.0	96.2	95.0
2017/18	91.0	95.1	94.8	94.8	95.8	94.4
2018/19	87.5	94.1	92.9	94.1	94.0	92.7

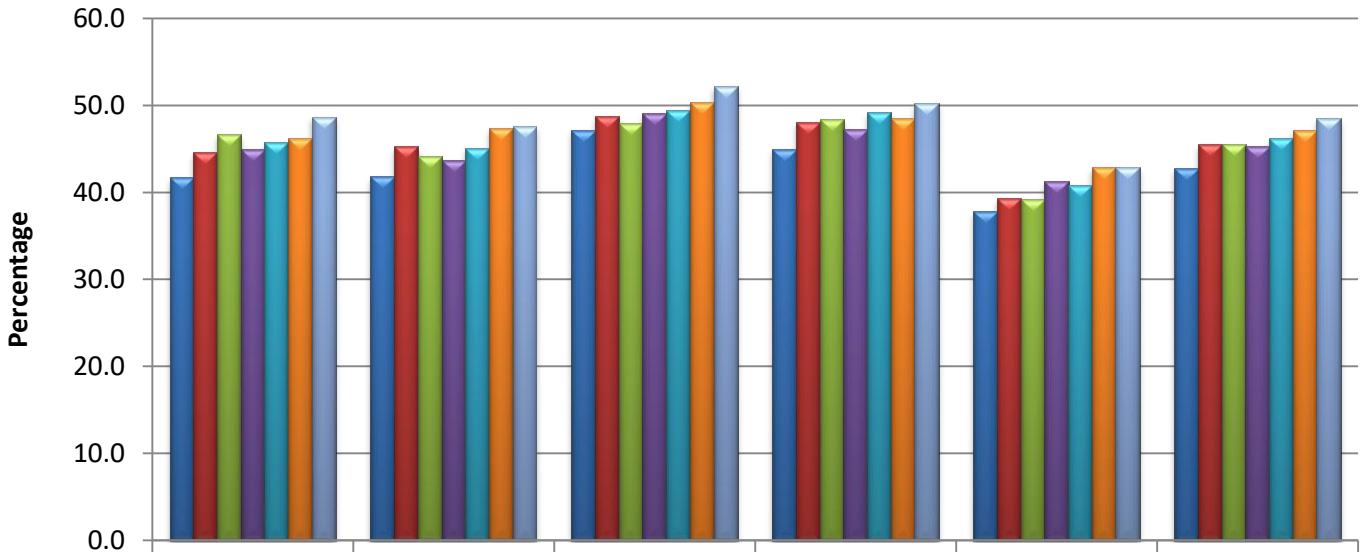
The Story Behind the Trends – Over the period the Belfast Area has consistently had the lowest percentage uptake of the MMR at 24 months. All other areas are slightly higher than the NI uptake of 92.7 in 2018/19, with the Northern and Southern Area the highest. (World Health Organisation (WHO) target = 95%)

Mothers Breastfeeding at Discharge

Data Source: Child Health System

Why is it Important?

There has been significant reliable evidence produced over recent years to show that breastfeeding has important advantages for both infant and mother (UNICEF, Baby Friendly Initiative, 2010). **(4)** Breastfeeding has been widely acknowledged as the best means of giving infants a healthy start to life. Breast milk is age specific and is produced at the correct temperature and without any need for preparation, It not only provides the correct amount and balance of nutrients for optimal growth and development; it also protects against illness. (Breastfeeding Strategy for Northern Ireland, 1999, reviewed in 2010.) **(5)**



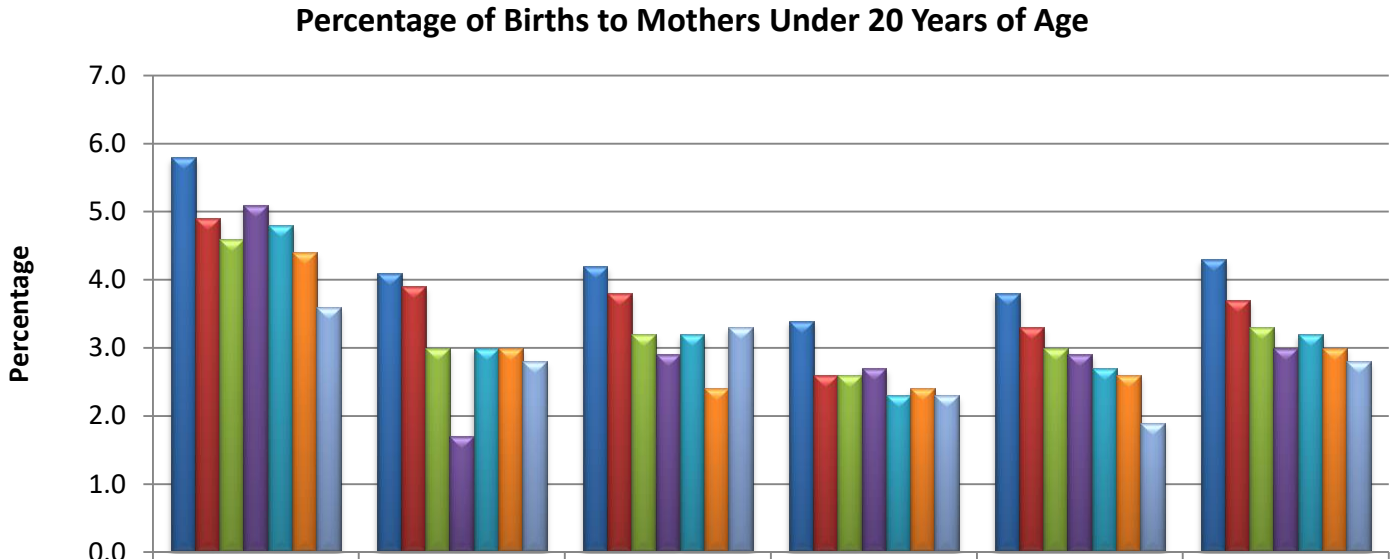
	Belfast Trust	Northern Trust	South Eastern Trust	Southern Trust	Western Trust	Northern Ireland
2012/13	41.7	41.8	47.2	45.0	37.8	42.8
2013/14	44.6	45.3	48.8	48.1	39.3	45.5
2014/15	46.7	44.2	48.0	48.4	39.2	45.5
2015/16	45.0	43.7	49.1	47.3	41.3	45.3
2016/17	45.7	45.1	49.4	49.2	40.8	46.2
2017/18	46.2	47.4	50.3	48.5	42.9	47.2
2018/19	48.7	47.6	52.2	50.2	42.9	48.5

The Story Behind the Trends – In 2018/19 all areas have seen a slight increase or stayed the same in the percentage of mothers breastfeeding at discharge, along with the NI percentage of 48.5%. Since 2012/13 the Western area has had the lowest percentage of mothers breastfeeding at discharge.

Percentage Births to Mothers under 20 Years of Age

Data Source: Child Health System

Why is it Important?
Northern Ireland rates of teenage pregnancy are among the highest in Europe. Rates are highest in areas of greatest social and economic deprivation. While some older teenagers may choose to become pregnant, the majority do not. Unplanned pregnancy represents a traumatic interruption to the lifestyles of young parents – they are suddenly forced into the realities and decisions of adulthood, with which they are ill-equipped to cope. (Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Strategy and Action Plan 2002-2007)**(6).**



	Belfast Trust	Northern Trust	South Eastern Trust	Southern Trust	Western Trust	Northern Ireland
2012/13	5.8	4.1	4.2	3.4	3.8	4.3
2013/14	4.9	3.9	3.8	2.6	3.3	3.7
2014/15	4.6	3.0	3.2	2.6	3.0	3.3
2015/16	5.1	1.7	2.9	2.7	2.9	3.0
2016/17	4.8	3.0	3.2	2.3	2.7	3.2
2017/18	4.4	3.0	2.4	2.4	2.6	3.0
2018/19	3.6	2.8	3.3	2.3	1.9	2.8

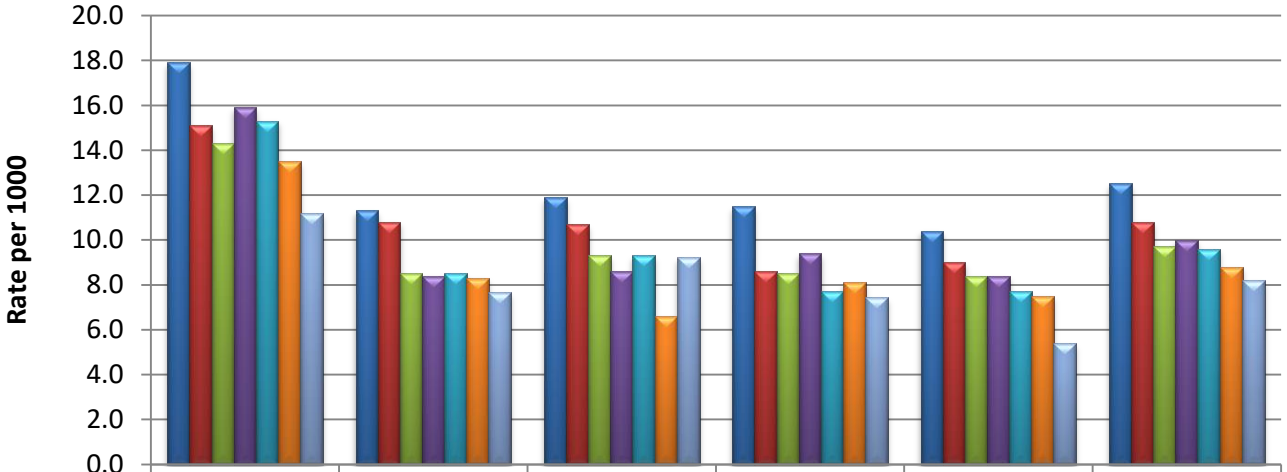
The Story Behind the Trends – Overall in Northern Ireland the percentage of births to mothers Under 20 years of age has decreased from 4.3% in 2012/13 to 2.8% in 2018/19. Notably the percentage of births to mothers under 20 years of age in the Belfast Trust has been consistently higher than that for all of Northern Ireland. The South Eastern Trust is above the NI percentage of 2.8% in 2018/19 and the Southern and Western Trust below.

Rate of Births to Mothers Under 20 Years of Age

Data Source: Child Health System and NISRA

Why is it Important? Many young people are successful in adapting to the role of parenthood and have happy healthy children. For too many, however, unplanned teenage pregnancy and early parenthood is associated with poor educational achievement, poor physical and mental health, social isolate and poverty. Efforts to reduce rates of teenage pregnancy must focus on raising the expectations among young people and on equipping them with the confidence and skills to manage relationships. The teenage pregnancy and parenthood strategy and action plan highlights a target of a reduction of 20% in the rate of births to teenage mothers by 2007 (Rate per 1000 women aged 19 years and under.) (The Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Strategy and Action Plan 2002-2007) (6).

Births to Mothers Under 20 as a Rate per 1000 of the 13-19 year old Female Population



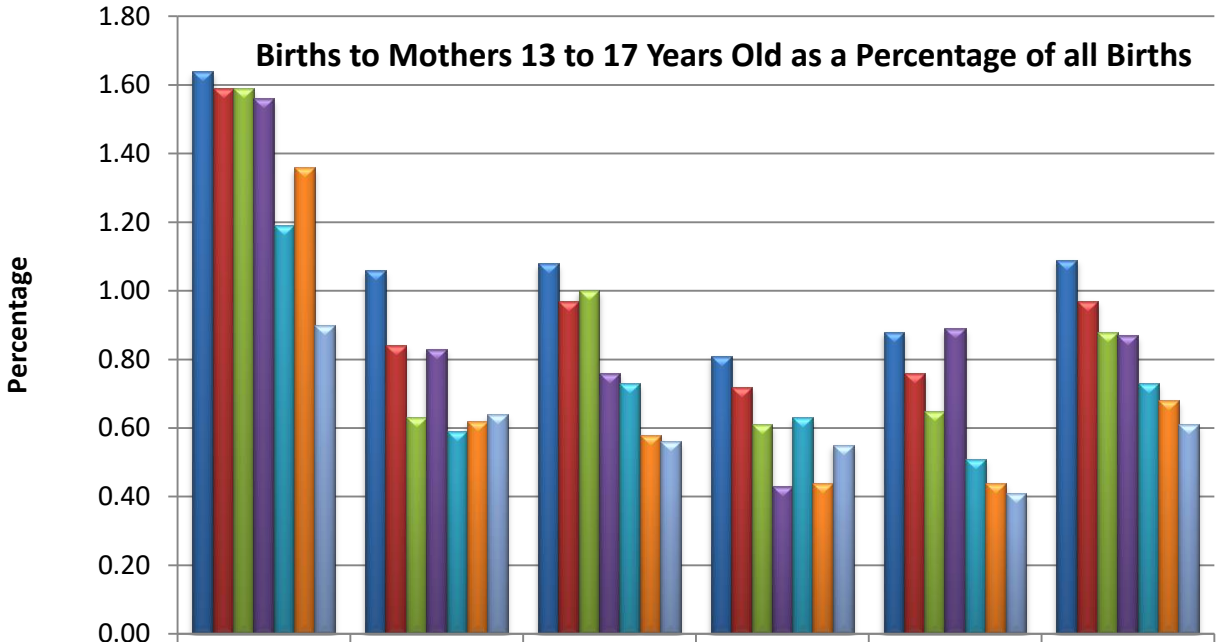
	Belfast Trust	Northern Trust	South Eastern Trust	Southern Trust	Western Trust	Northern Ireland
2012/13	17.9	11.3	11.9	11.5	10.4	12.5
2013/14	15.1	10.8	10.7	8.6	9.0	10.8
2014/15	14.3	8.5	9.3	8.5	8.4	9.7
2015/16	15.9	8.4	8.6	9.4	8.4	10.0
2016/17	15.3	8.5	9.3	7.7	7.7	9.6
2017/18	13.5	8.3	6.6	8.1	7.5	8.8
2018/19	11.2	7.7	9.2	7.4	5.4	8.2

The Story Behind the Trends – The above graph shows that the Belfast Area has had the highest rate of births to mothers under 20 over the six year period and above the NI rate. The majority of areas have seen a decrease in births measured against the female population aged 13-19 in 2018/19, in line with the NI rate, except the South Eastern Trust.

Births to Mothers 13 to 17 Years of Age

Data Source: Child Health System

Why is it Important? There is growing concern among Statutory, Voluntary and Community organisations about the impact of teenage parenthood on the life chances of the young mother and her baby and agreement that concerted action is needed to address the issues around the problem. It is increasingly clear that socio-economic disadvantage can be both a cause and a consequence of teenage parenthood. Socio-economic disadvantaged young people are those most likely to become teenage parents. They then face limited prospects in the areas of education, training and eventually employment. (Myths and Reality: Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood, DHSSPS, 2000.)(7). The Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Strategy, by DHSSPS(6). stated a target of a reduction of 40% in the rate of births to teenage mothers under 17. (March 2010)



	Belfast Trust	Northern Trust	South Eastern Trust	Southern Trust	Western Trust	Northern Ireland
2012/13	1.64	1.06	1.08	0.81	0.88	1.09
2013/14	1.59	0.84	0.97	0.72	0.76	0.97
2014/15	1.59	0.63	1.00	0.61	0.65	0.88
2015/16	1.56	0.83	0.76	0.43	0.89	0.87
2016/17	1.19	0.59	0.73	0.63	0.51	0.73
2017/18	1.36	0.62	0.58	0.44	0.44	0.68
2018/19	0.90	0.64	0.56	0.55	0.41	0.61

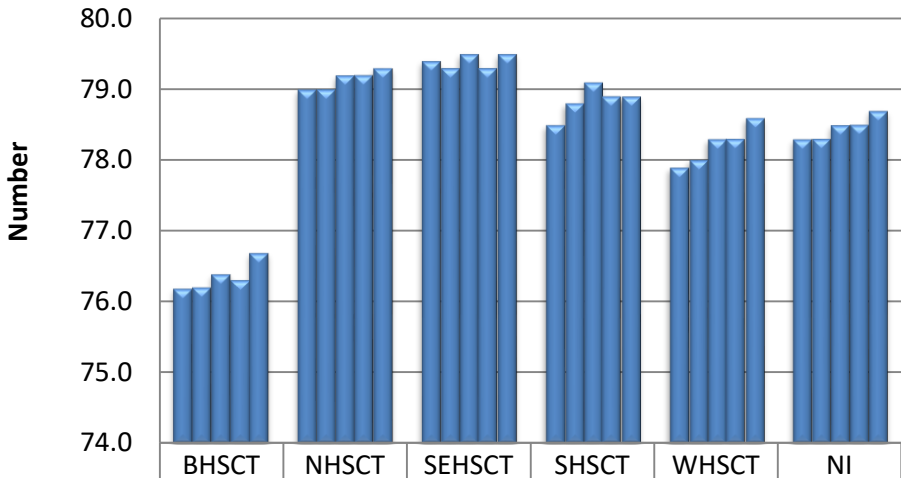
The Story Behind the Trends – The majority of areas with births to mothers 13 to 17 years old has decreased over the five year period in line with the NI percentage, with the Belfast and Northern Area above the NI percentage of 0.61 in 2018/19.

Life Expectancy from Birth

Data Source: Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS)

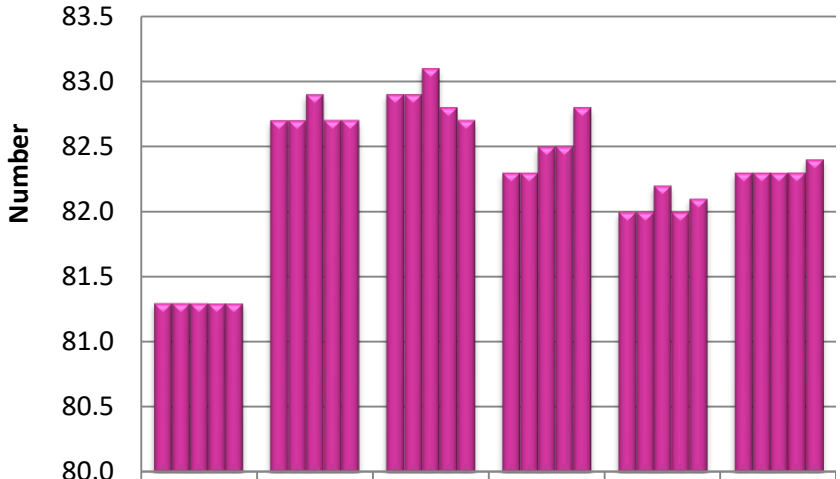
Why is it Important? - Life expectancy from birth is a frequently utilized and analyzed component of demographic data for the countries of the world. It represents the average life span of a newborn and is an indicator of the overall health of a country. Life expectancy can fall due to problems like famine, war, disease and poor health. Improvements in health and welfare increase life expectancy. The higher the life expectancy, the better shape a country is in.

Life Expectancy from Birth in Males



	BHSCT	NHSCT	SEHSCT	SHSCT	WHSCT	NI
2012-14	76.2	79.0	79.4	78.5	77.9	78.3
2013-15	76.2	79.0	79.3	78.8	78.0	78.3
2014-16	76.4	79.2	79.5	79.1	78.3	78.5
2015-17	76.3	79.2	79.3	78.9	78.3	78.5
2016-18	76.7	79.3	79.5	78.9	78.6	78.7

Life Expectancy from Birth in Females



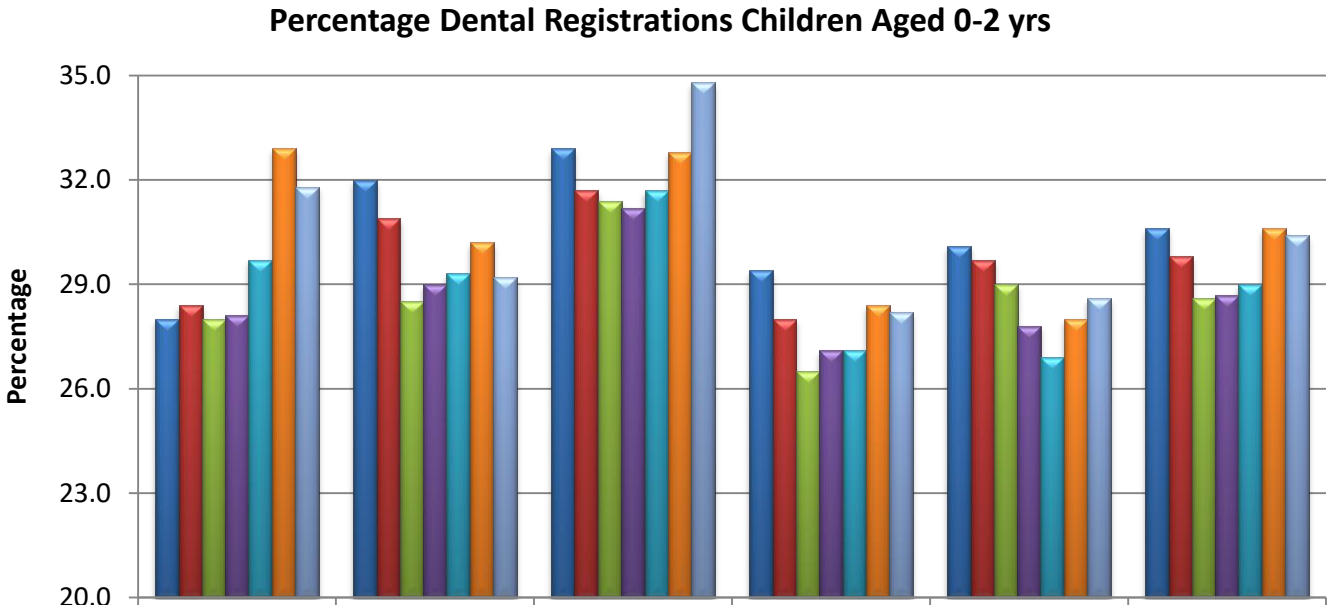
	BHSCT	NHSCT	SEHSCT	SHSCT	WHSCT	NI
2012-14	81.3	82.7	82.9	82.3	82.0	82.3
2013-15	81.3	82.7	82.9	82.3	82.0	82.3
2014-16	81.3	82.9	83.1	82.5	82.2	82.3
2015-17	81.3	82.7	82.8	82.5	82.0	82.3
2016-18	81.3	82.7	82.7	82.8	82.1	82.4

The Story Behind the Trends – Overall life expectancy has mainly stayed the same for both males and females across all areas in 2016/18 with females living an average of 3 – 5 years longer than males. Belfast area has the lowest life expectancy for both males and females, with the South Eastern areas having the highest in Males and the Southern Area in Females.

Percentage Dental Registrations Children Aged 0-2 years

Data Source: NINIS (awaiting updated data)

Why is it Important? Dental decay (caries) in children is a significant public health problem in Northern Ireland. It is also completely preventable. Compared to the UK average, our 12-year old children have more than double the level of decay for this age group. A 2002 survey showed that by the time they begin primary school most children in Northern Ireland will have experienced dental decay. Many of these children will suffer pain, will miss days at school and will require costly dental treatment. Parents will have to take time off work so that their children can be treated and some children will require a general anaesthetic so that their decayed teeth can be removed. (Oral Health Strategy NI 2007) **(21)**



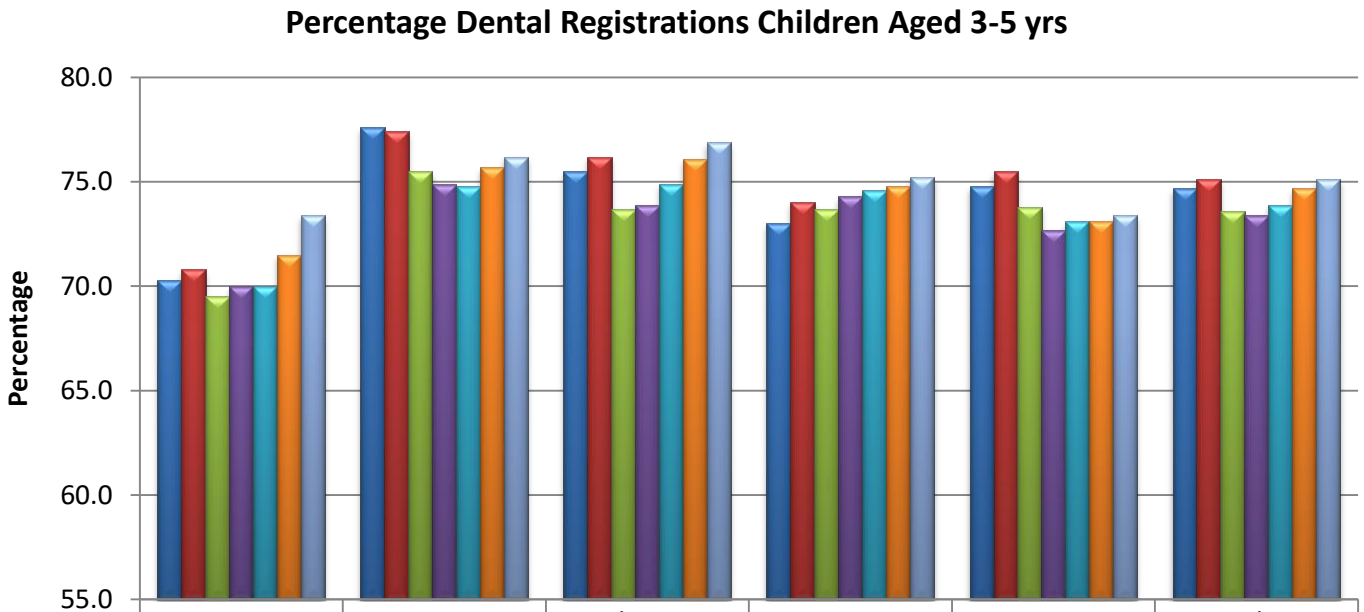
	Belfast HSCT	Northern HSCT	South Eastern HSCT	Southern HSCT	Western HSCT	Northern Ireland
Mar-12	28.0	32.0	32.9	29.4	30.1	30.6
Mar-13	28.4	30.9	31.7	28.0	29.7	29.8
Mar-14	28.0	28.5	31.4	26.5	29.0	28.6
Mar-15	28.1	29.0	31.2	27.1	27.8	28.7
Mar-16	29.7	29.3	31.7	27.1	26.9	29.0
Mar-17	32.9	30.2	32.8	28.4	28.0	30.6
Mar-18	31.8	29.2	34.8	28.2	28.6	30.4

The Story Behind the Trends – Dental registrations for 0 – 2 year olds across all areas in the last year have decreased slightly along with the NI average to **30.4** in 2018, South Eastern HSCT has the highest dental registrations.

Percentage Dental Registrations Children Aged 3-5 years

Data Source: NINIS (awaiting updated data)

Why is it Important? Dental decay (caries) in children is a significant public health problem in Northern Ireland. It is also completely preventable. Compared to the UK average, our 12-year old children have more than double the level of decay for this age group. A 2002 survey showed that by the time they begin primary school most children in Northern Ireland will have experienced dental decay. Many of these children will suffer pain, will miss days at school and will require costly dental treatment. Parents will have to take time off work so that their children can be treated and some children will require a general anaesthetic so that their decayed teeth can be removed. (Oral Health Strategy NI 2007) **(21)**



	Belfast HSCT	Northern HSCT	South Eastern HSCT	Southern HSCT	Western HSCT	Northern Ireland
Mar-12	70.3	77.6	75.5	73.0	74.8	74.7
Mar-13	70.8	77.4	76.2	74.0	75.5	75.1
Mar-14	69.5	75.5	73.7	73.7	73.8	73.6
Mar-15	70.0	74.9	73.9	74.3	72.7	73.4
Mar-16	70.0	74.8	74.9	74.6	73.1	73.9
Mar-17	71.5	75.7	76.1	74.8	73.1	74.7
Mar-18	73.4	76.2	76.9	75.2	73.4	75.1

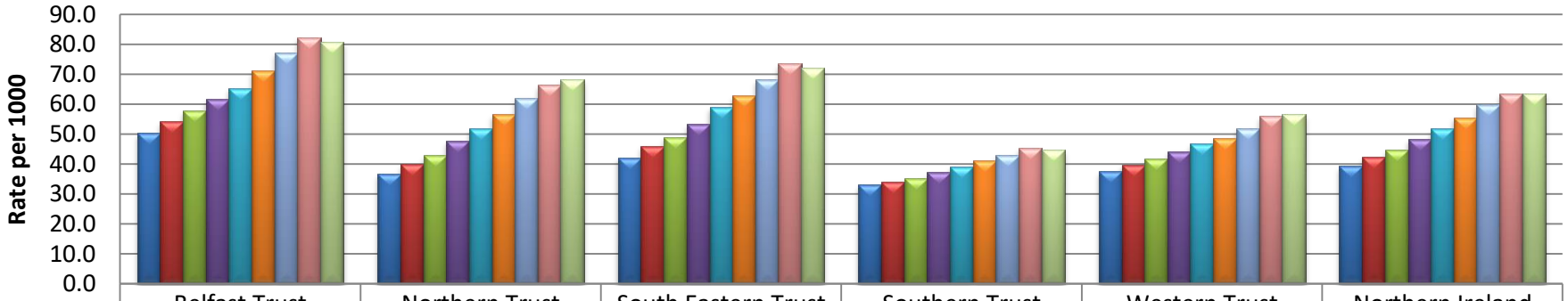
The Story Behind the Trends – Dental Registrations for 3-5 year olds has increased across all areas in 2018. Belfast and the Western HSCT are below the NI average of **75.1%,** with the Northern, South Eastern and the Southern HSCT above the NI average .

Children with a Disability (in receipt of DLA aged 0- 15 years)

Data Source: NINIS

Why is it Important? Children's Disability Services work to provide services for children with disability and additional needs. They actively communicate and work with parents, involving and empowering them to cope with the demands of raising a disabled child, and provide a means for families to access a range of information, assessments and services.

Children with a Disability (in receipt of DLA 0 – 15 years) Rate per 1000



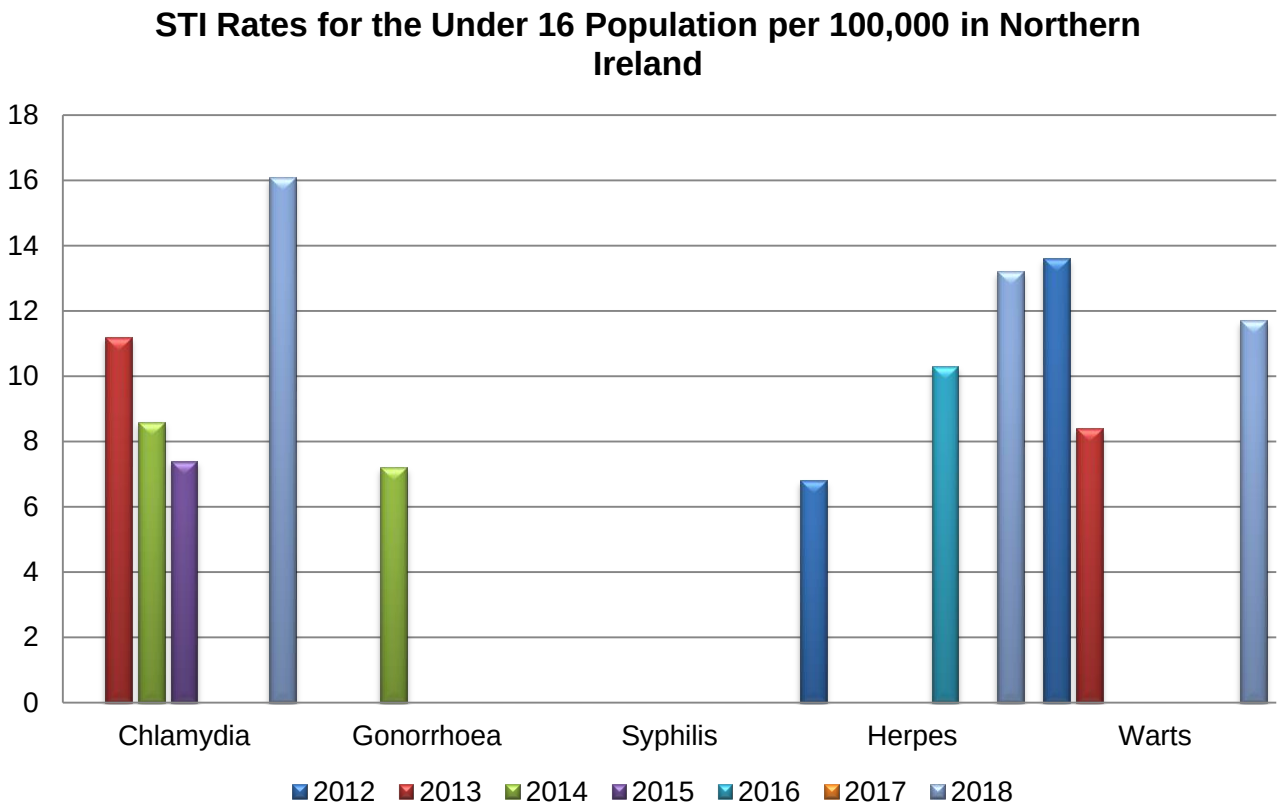
	Belfast Trust	Northern Trust	South Eastern Trust	Southern Trust	Western Trust	Northern Ireland
Feb-12	50.4	36.8	42.1	33.0	37.5	39.3
Feb-13	54.2	39.9	46.0	34.1	39.8	42.2
Feb-14	57.8	42.9	49.0	35.1	41.7	44.8
Feb-15	61.7	47.6	53.4	37.2	44.3	48.3
Feb-16	65.3	51.9	59.0	39.2	46.7	51.9
Feb-17	71.2	56.6	62.9	41.1	48.6	55.5
Feb-18	77.2	62.1	68.1	43.0	52.0	59.9
Feb-19	82.3	66.4	73.6	45.5	56.0	63.4
Feb-20	80.7	68.2	72.1	44.7	56.6	63.5

The Story Behind the Trends – The majority of areas have seen an increase in the Rate per 1000 of Children with a Disability in receipt of DLA. Belfast, Northern and the South Eastern Area are all higher than the NI average at **63.5%.** Overall at February 2020 there were **25,160** Children aged 0-15 claiming DLA.

Sexually Transmitted Infections Under 16

Data Source: Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre NI

Why is it Important? Sexual health is an important part of physical and mental health, and contributes to emotional and social well-being. Many factors can adversely affect people's sexual health including poverty, unemployment, poor education, substance misuse and social exclusion. Young people are the group most at risk of being diagnosed with a Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI). Interventions to promote sexual health among young people and the delivery of high quality, relationship and sexual health education is recommended by the Public Health Agency, Don't Gamble with Your Sexual Health (2010) **(8)** and the Health Protection Agency (2008) **(9).**

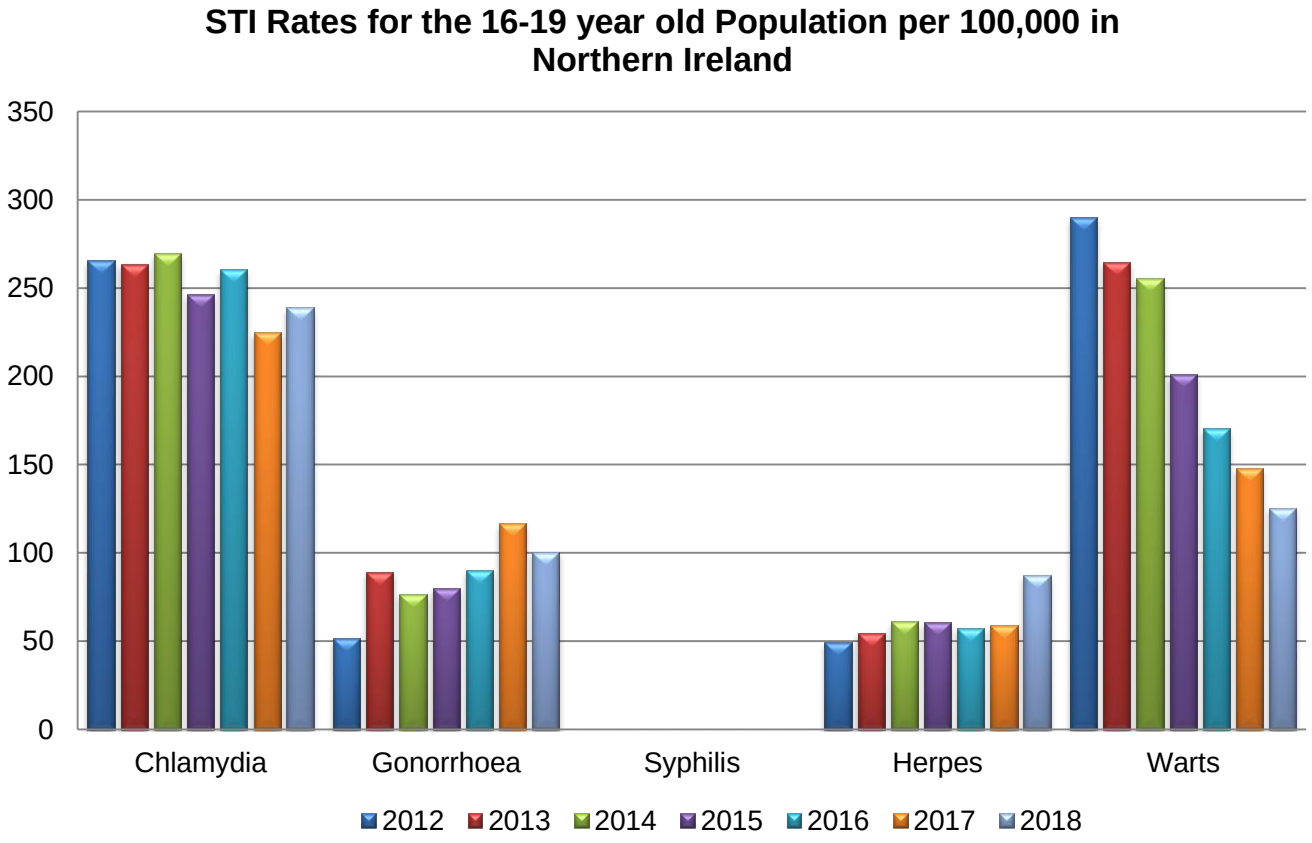


The Story Behind the Trends - The graph for the under 16 population from 2012 to 2018 shows that the rate of under 16s with Chlamydia has increased from 11.2 per 100,000 in 2013 to 16.1 per 100,000 in 2018. The figure for Gonorrhoea was 7.2 in 2014 and less than 4 in recent years and Syphilis has been zero over the past 7 years. Herpes in 2012 was 6.8 per 100,000 and increased to13.2 in 2018. Over the same time the rates of warts has decreased since 2012 from 13.6 per 100,000 to 11.7 in 2018. *It is important to note firstly that these are rates of new episodes treated at the Trusts Genito-urinary Medicine (GUM) clinics in Northern Ireland, and secondly while it is usual practise for GPs to refer patients to the GUM clinics, some may treat the patient directly and are therefore not accounted for here.*

Sexually Transmitted Infections 16-19 years

Data Source: Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre NI

Why is it Important? Sexual health is an important part of physical and mental health, and contributes to emotional and social well-being. Many factors can adversely affect people's sexual health including poverty, unemployment, poor education, substance misuse and social exclusion. Young people are the group most at risk of being diagnosed with a Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI). Interventions to promote sexual health among young people and the delivery of high quality, relationship and sexual health education is recommended by the Public Health Agency, Don't Gamble with Your Sexual Health (2010)(8) and the Health Protection Agency (2008) (9).



The Story Behind the Trends - The graph shows that the rate of 16-19 year olds with Chlamydia has had a slight increase in 2018 to 239.2 per 100,000. The rates for Gonorrhoea and Herpes while much lower than the rates of Chlamydia and Warts has fluctuated over the period. Rates of Warts in 16-19 year old population had peaked in 2012 and have decreased year by year since. *It is important to note firstly that these are rates of new episodes treated at the Trust GUM clinics in Northern Ireland, and secondly while it is usual practise for GPs to refer patients to the GUM clinics, some may treat the patient directly and are therefore not accounted for here.*

Sexual Experience and Knowledge

Data Source: Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitude Survey, 2019(YPBAS) (10)

HEALTHY

Why is it Important? Young people's sexual experience and knowledge is important as it relates to teenage pregnancy and STI rates. With proper information and knowledge people are more likely to avoid risky behaviour, use contraception, know what local services are available and be more likely to use them. (DHSSPS, 2008).(9)

Key Findings From the Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitude Survey 2019

Sample: 8118 pupils aged 11-16 (Year 8 to Year 12) were selected at random across Northern Ireland and collected in the period September 2019 – February 2020

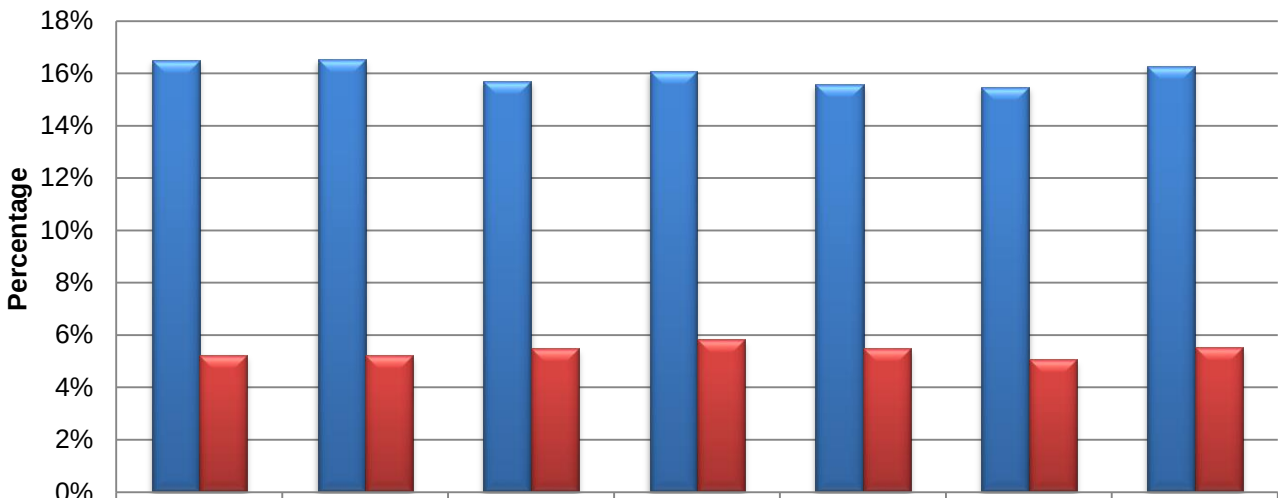
- In 2019, **46%** of the young people surveyed had a boyfriend or girlfriend, compared to 49% in 2016 and 67% in 2013.
- In 2019, **3%** of pupils have had sexual intercourse, compared to 4% in 2016 and 10% in 2013.
- In 2019, **64%** of the sample had no sexual experience at all, compared to 56% in 2016 and 35% in 2013.
- The most common sources stated by the young people in 2019 where they learnt about sexual matters and relationships were lessons at school (73%), followed by friends (50%), their mother (44%) and the internet (40%).

Children who are Overweight or Obese

Data Source: CHS

Why is it Important? The prevalence of overweight and obesity is assessed by using Body Mass Index (BMI). Many young children are not as physically active as they should be, nor do they have a healthy, balanced diet, both these issues contribute to levels of obesity. The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy stated "Physiotherapists are very concerned that as a society we are unknowingly putting children at risk of obesity and the development of life-threatening illnesses because people are unaware of the role and importance of physical activity in preserving good health. The growth of sedentary leisure activities, the 'car culture', time and financial constraints on busy working parents and our increasing fears about letting young children run around outdoors without adult supervision, have all contributed to the problem." **(11, 12)**

P1 Children in NI who are Overweight or Obese



	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Overweight	16.51%	16.52%	15.71%	16.09%	15.59%	15.48%	16.29%
Obese	5.24%	5.23%	5.50%	5.81%	5.49%	5.06%	5.53%

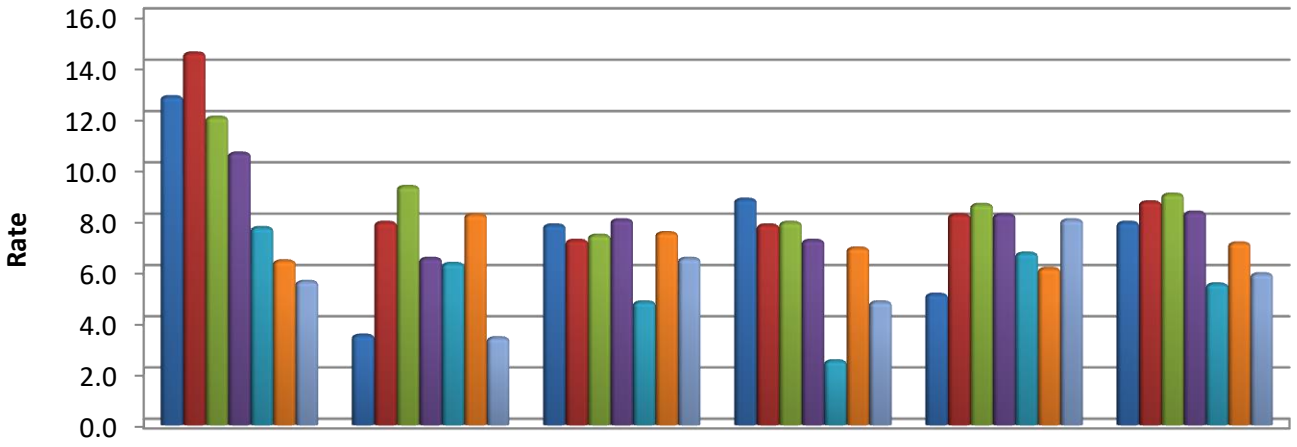
The Story Behind the Trends – In NI at March 2019 16.29% of P1 children were overweight, the highest since 2013/14. In NI 5.53% of P1 children were obese, the highest rate since 2015/16.
Please note: *"The above PHA data has been categorised using International Obesity Task Force (IOTF) measures. Data is also available using British 1990 Growth Reference (UK90) classification on request."*

0 – 17 year olds Admitted to HSC Hospitals with Self Harm Related Diagnoses

Data Source: DHSSPS (awaiting updated data)

Why is it Important? It is important to recognise that self-harm is not usually triggered by one isolated event but rather a set of circumstances that leave young people overwhelmed and unable to manage their feelings: it is not the core problem but a sign and symptom of underlying emotional difficulties, used as a way of coping. Deliberate self-harm has emerged as a major public health issue, affecting at least one in 15 young people in the UK. It was the subject of a national inquiry carried out by the Mental Health Foundation and Camelot Foundation (MHF/CF) in 2006, which reviewed evidence from research, personal testimonies and expert opinions. "Truth Hurts, Report of the National Inquiry into Self-harm among Young People, 2006"

Rate /10,000 0 -17 year olds admitted to hospital with Self Harm diagnoses



	Belfast HSCT	Northern HSCT	South Eastern HSCT	Southern HSCT	Western HSCT	Northern Ireland
2012	12.8	3.5	7.8	8.8	5.1	7.9
2013	14.5	7.9	7.2	7.8	8.2	8.7
2014	12.0	9.3	7.4	7.9	8.6	9.0
2015	10.6	6.5	8.0	7.2	8.2	8.3
2016	7.7	6.3	4.8	2.5	6.7	5.5
2017	6.4	8.2	7.5	6.9	6.1	7.1
2018	5.6	3.4	6.5	4.8	8.0	5.9

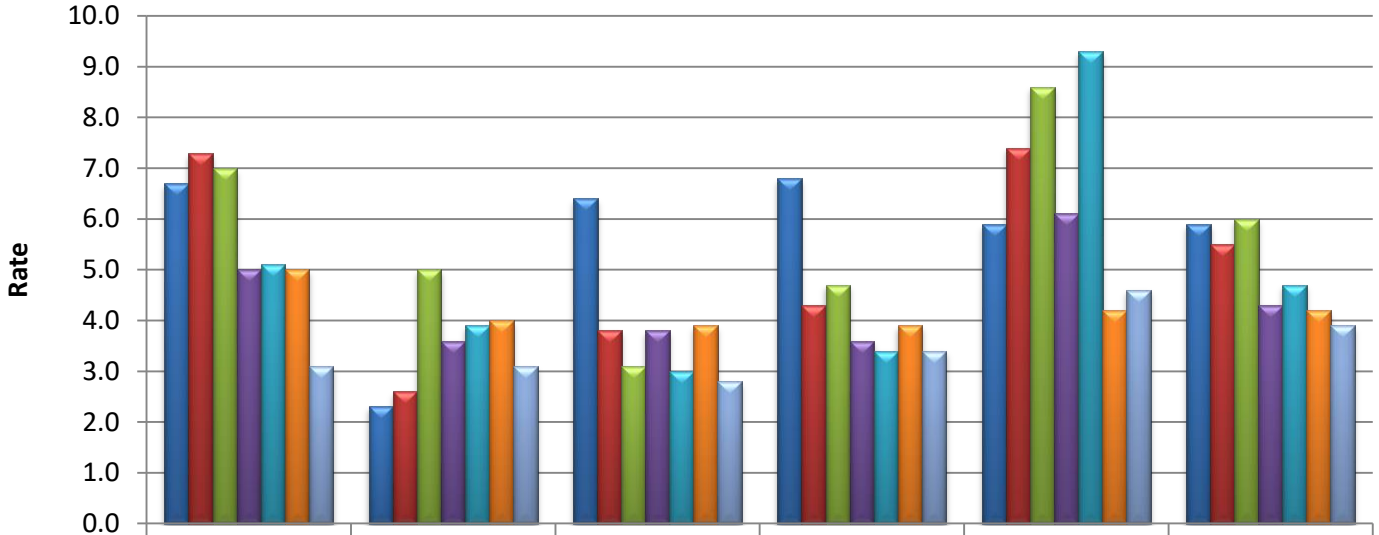
The Story Behind the Trends – Overall in the last year a total of **260** children and young people under 18 in Northern Ireland were admitted to HSC hospitals with self harm diagnoses. All areas have decreased in 2018, except the Western Trust which has a rate of 8.0 compared to NI rate of 5.9.

0 – 17 year olds Admitted to HSC Hospitals with Alcohol Related Diagnoses

Data Source: DHSSPS (awaiting updated data)

Why is it Important? Alcohol consumption during any stage of childhood can have a harmful effect on a child's development. Alcohol use during the teenage years is related to a wide range of health and social problems, and young people who begin drinking before the age of 15 are more likely to experience problems related to their alcohol use, including alcohol-related injuries, involvement in violence, suicidal thoughts and attempts, having more sexual partners, pregnancy, using drugs, employment problems, adverse effects on brain function, on liver, bone, growth and endocrine development. "Guidance on consumption of alcohol by children & young people. (Department of Health, UK).

Rate /10,000 0 -17 year olds admitted to hospital with Alcohol related diagnoses



	Belfast HSCT	Northern HSCT	South Eastern HSCT	Southern HSCT	Western HSCT	Northern Ireland
2012	6.7	2.3	6.4	6.8	5.9	5.9
2013	7.3	2.6	3.8	4.3	7.4	5.5
2014	7.0	5.0	3.1	4.7	8.6	6.0
2015	5.0	3.6	3.8	3.6	6.1	4.3
2016	5.1	3.9	3.0	3.4	9.3	4.7
2017	5.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	4.2	4.2
2018	3.1	3.1	2.8	3.4	4.6	3.9

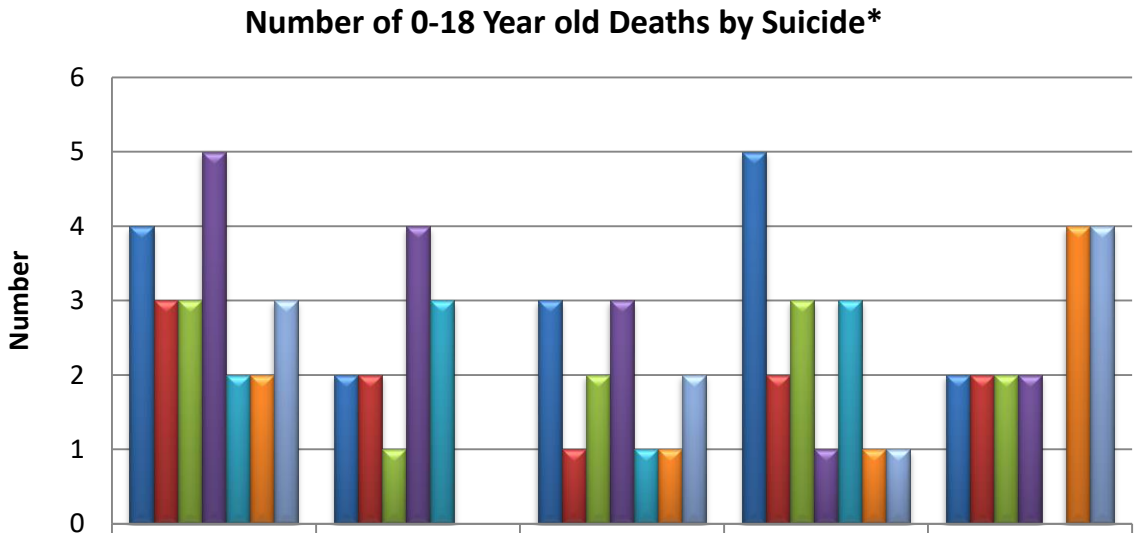
The Story Behind the Trends – Over the last year there was a total of **171** children and young people under 18 from Northern Ireland admitted to hospital with an alcohol related diagnoses. All areas have decreased in 2018, with the exception of the Western Area which is above the NI rate of 3.9.

Child Deaths By Suicide by HSC Trust

Data Source: NISRA

Why is it Important? In all developed countries (except the USA), suicide is the second highest leading cause of death among young people (Maughan, B et al, 2004) **(13)**.There is little evidence as to why people take their own lives. Risk factors for suicide include depression, personality disorder, hopelessness, low self-esteem, bereavement, break-up of a relationship, social isolation, alcohol and drug misuse (DHSSPS, 2012). **(14)** Due to concerns about the increase in the number of suicides, among young people, this was included in the DHSSPS Priorities for Action, that by March 2011 there should be a reduction by 15% in the number of suicides in NI (DHSSPS, 2010). **(15)**

***Please Note:** All deaths data supplied by Demography and Methodology Branch is based on the year of registration rather than the year of occurrence unless otherwise stated. Events such as suicide are likely to be referred to the coroner. This can take some time therefore deaths recorded each year may have occurred prior to the registration year.



	Belfast Trust	Northern Trust	South Eastern Trust	Southern Trust	Western Trust
2012	4	2	3	5	2
2013	3	2	1	2	2
2014	3	1	2	3	2
2015	5	4	3	1	2
2016	2	3	1	3	0
2017	2	0	1	1	4
2018	3	0	2	1	4

The Story Behind the Trends – There were a total of **10** registered deaths by suicide for young people across Northern Ireland in 2018. The graph shows that over the last 7 years the highest number of suicides in the 0-18 year old age group were registered in 2012. **It is important to note that the coroners office indicates that the number of suicides recorded is likely to be inaccurate, as in some cases coroners are unwilling to register "death by suicide," primarily due to respect for the wishes of the family.**

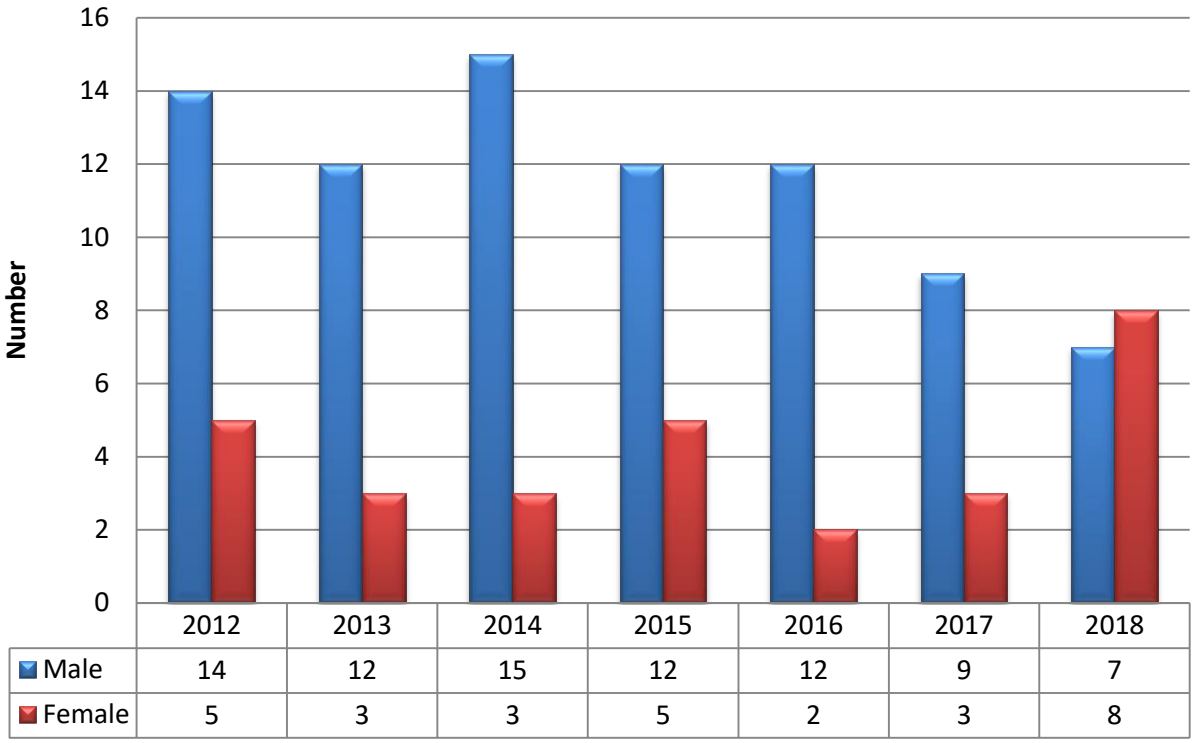
Child Deaths By Suicide in NI by Gender

Data Source: NISRA

Why is it Important? In all developed countries (except the USA), suicide is the second highest leading cause of death among young people (Maughan, B et al, 2004) **(13)**.There is little evidence as to why people take their own lives. Risk factors for suicide include depression, personality disorder, hopelessness, low self-esteem, bereavement, break-up of a relationship, social isolation, alcohol and drug misuse (DHSSPS, 2012). **(14)** Due to concerns about the increase in the number of suicides, among young people, this was included in the DHSSPS Priorities for Action, that by March 2011 there should be a reduction by 15% in the number of suicides in NI (DHSSPS, 2010). **(15)**

***Please Note:** All deaths data supplied by Demography and Methodology Branch is based on the year of registration rather than the year of occurrence unless otherwise stated. Events such as suicide are likely to be referred to the coroner. This can take some time therefore deaths recorded each year may have occurred prior to the registration year.

Number of 0-19 Year Old Deaths by Suicide* in Northern Ireland



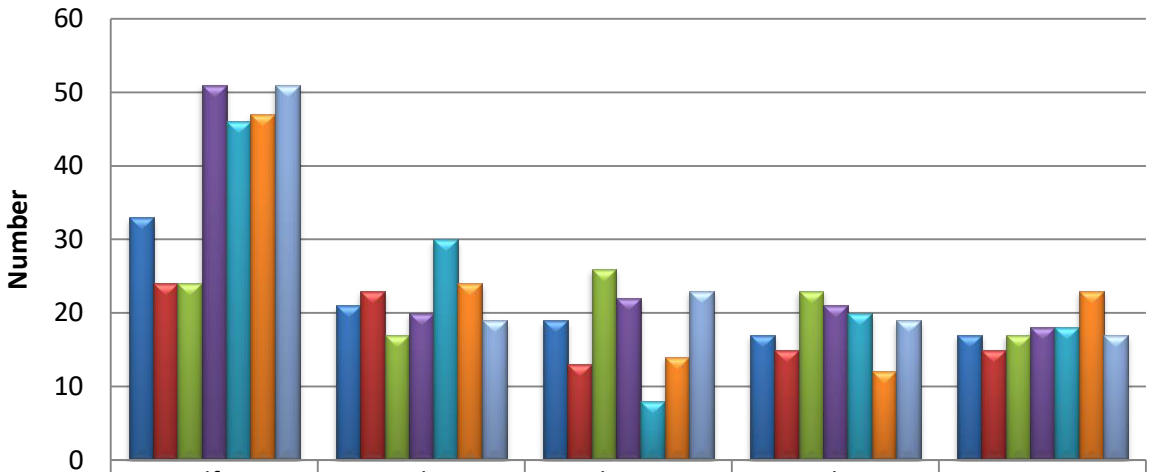
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Male	14	12	15	12	12	9	7
Female	5	3	3	5	2	3	8

The Story Behind the Trends – The graph demonstrates that suicides have been consistently more common among males of this age group, until 2018 when there was more Females. Overall in NI there was a total of 228 males compared to 79 females deaths from suicide. ***It is important to note that the coroners office indicates that the number of suicides recorded is likely to be inaccurate, as in some cases coroners are unwilling to register "death by suicide," primarily due to respect for the wishes of the family.**

Suicide in the 15-34 Age Group by HSC Trust

Data Source: NISRA

Why is it Important? As previously mentioned "risk factors include depression, alcohol and drug misuse, personality disorder, hopelessness, low self-esteem, bereavement, break-up of a relationship and social isolation. While no specific intervention has been found to be universally effective, it is important that interventions address these risk factors as part of a broader approach to promote mental health and well-being". (DHSSPS, 2012) **(14)**



	Belfast	Northern	South Eastern	Southern	Western
2012	33	21	19	17	17
2013	24	23	13	15	15
2014	24	17	26	23	17
2015	51	20	22	21	18
2016	46	30	8	20	18
2017	47	24	14	12	23
2018	51	19	23	19	17

***Please Note:** All deaths data supplied by Demography and Methodology Branch is based on the year of registration rather than the year of occurrence unless otherwise stated. Events such as suicide are likely to be referred to the coroner. This can take some time therefore deaths recorded each year may have occurred prior to the registration year.

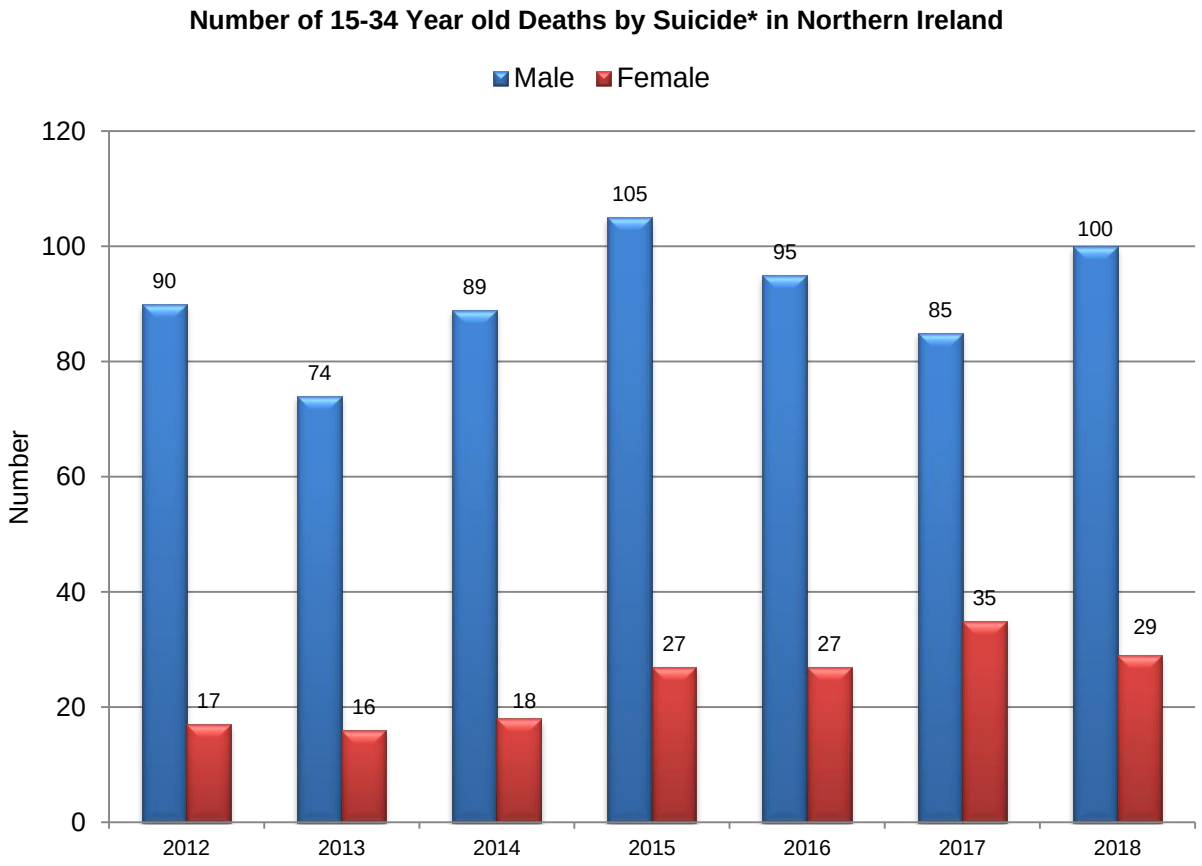
The Story Behind the Trends – The graph shows the number of suicides within the 15 to 34 year old age group in NI is **129**, the highest age group for suicides. The Belfast Area experienced the highest number of suicides in this age group in 2018 at **51**. **It is important to note that the coroners office indicates that the number of suicides recorded is likely to be inaccurate, as in some cases coroners are unwilling to register "death by suicide," primarily due to respect for the wishes of the family.**

Suicide in the 15-34 Age Group in NI by Gender

Data Source: NISRA

Why is it Important? As previously mentioned "risk factors include depression, alcohol and drug misuse, personality disorder, hopelessness, low self-esteem, bereavement, break-up of a relationship and social isolation. While no specific intervention has been found to be universally effective, it is important that interventions address these risk factors as part of a broader approach to promote mental health and well-being". (DHSSPS, 2012) **(14)**

***Please Note:** All deaths data supplied by Demography and Methodology Branch is based on the year of registration rather than the year of occurrence unless otherwise stated. Events such as suicide are likely to be referred to the coroner. This can take some time therefore deaths recorded each year may have occurred prior to the registration year.



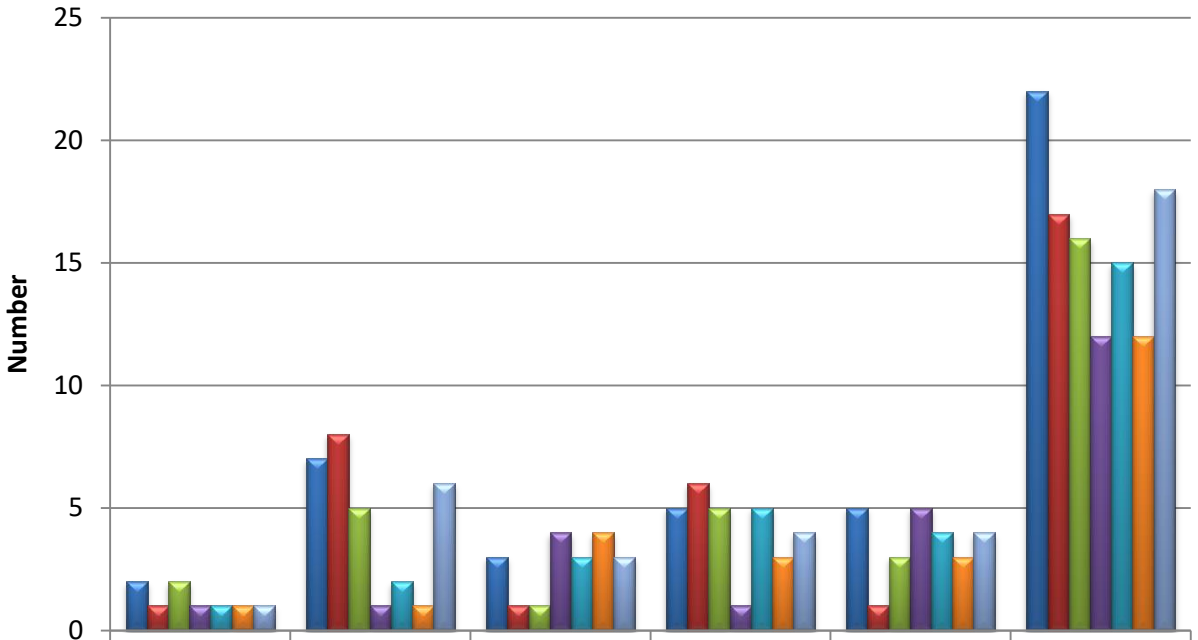
The Story Behind the Trends - The above graph shows the number of suicides within the 15 to 34 year old age group across Northern Ireland broken down by gender. The figures show there has been a slight increase in the number of suicides in males and a slight decrease in females in 2018. **It is important to note that the coroners office indicates that the number of suicides recorded is likely to be inaccurate, as in some cases coroners are unwilling to register "death by suicide," primarily due to respect for the wishes of the family.**

Child Deaths By Accidents

Data Source: NISRA

Why is it Important? The Northern Ireland Executive, in the Programme for Government under the theme *"Working for a Healthier People"*, gave a commitment to promoting public safety by reducing the number of injuries and deaths caused by accidents at home, at work and on the roads (Investing for Health, 2004) **(16)**. Research carried out by the Department of Trade and Industry (2001) **(17)** highlighted that residential areas with higher proportions of lower social class and lower income households have higher accident rates.

The Story Behind the Trends – It is important to note that not all child deaths caused by accidents are recorded as such, and also that if there is an investigation into the cause of death that this is recorded at the end of the enquiry resulting in limitations to this data. Overall in NI the number of child deaths by accident has decreased since 2012 until 2018 were there was a large increase, with the Northern Trust having the highest number of child deaths in 2018.



	Belfast Area	Northern Area	South Eastern Area	Southern Area	Western Area	Northern Ireland
2012	2	7	3	5	5	22
2013	1	8	1	6	1	17
2014	2	5	1	5	3	16
2015	1	1	4	1	5	12
2016	1	2	3	5	4	15
2017	1	1	4	3	3	12
2018	1	6	3	4	4	18

Cigarette Usage Amongst Young People

Data Source: Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitude Survey, 2019 (10)

Why is it Important? One of the most common risk taking behaviours among young people is smoking. Every young person who takes up smoking is a potential cancer patient, (Action Cancer 2009).(18) Reducing smoking in young people is a priority in the whole of the UK. The DHSSPS Minister has stated, "My goal is to protect children from smoking...smoking is a life threatening habit and we should do everything we can to reduce its prevalence" (Michael McGimpsey, 2009). (19)

Key Findings from the Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitude Survey 2019

Sample: 8118 pupils aged 11-16 (Year 8 to Year 12) were selected at random across Northern Ireland and collected in the period September 2019 –. February 2020

- In 2019, approximately **10%** of the surveyed pupils have smoked tobacco, compared to 12% in 2016, 13% in 2013 and 19% in 2010.
- In 2019, **16%** of those surveyed pupils who smoke do so everyday, compared to 19% in 2016, 20% in 2013 and 25% in 2010.
- In 2019, **32%** of pupils live in a household with adults who smoke, compared to 36% in 2016, 38% in 2013 and 42% in 2010.
- In 2019, **20%** of pupils surveyed had used e-cigarettes, compared to 18% in 2016 and 7% using them every day.
- In 2019, almost one fifth (**19%**) said that an adult in their household uses e-cigarettes.

Alcohol and Drug Usage Amongst Young People

Data Source: Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitude Survey, 2019 (10)

HEALTHY

Why is it Important? Young people are more vulnerable to suffering physical, emotional and social harm from their own and other people's consumption of alcohol. There are strong connections between high risk drinking and unsafe sexual behaviour, traffic and other accidents, unintended pregnancy, failure at school and mental health problems (Health Promotion Agency, 2004). (20) The World Health Organisation also highlighted that many young people today have greater opportunities and more disposable income than in the past, and are more vulnerable to increasingly aggressive sales and marketing techniques.

Key Findings from the Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitude Survey 2016

Sample: 8118 pupils aged 11-16 (Year 8 to Year 12) were selected at random across Northern Ireland and collected in the period September 2019 – February 2020.

Comparisons between the 2010, 2013, 2016 and 2019 YPBAS show that the proportion of pupils who reported that they have consumed alcohol at some point in their lives has decreased from 46% (2010), 38% (2013), 31% (2016) to **29%** in **2019**.

- In 2019, of the pupils who have ever drank alcohol, 24% drink a few times a month, with 4% drinking a few times a week and 0.4% daily.
- In 2016, of the pupils who have ever drank alcohol, 19% drink a few times a month, with 5% drinking a few times a week and 1% daily.
- In 2013, of the pupils who have ever drank alcohol, 18% drink a few times a month, with 3% drinking a few times a week and less than 1% daily.
- More than three quarters of young people (**76%)** stated that an adult in their house drinks alcohol.

- Of all the respondents when asked if they had ever used or taken any of the drugs listed before (even if only once) 95.4% said No, **with 4.6%** said **Yes**.

Enjoying, Learning and Achieving

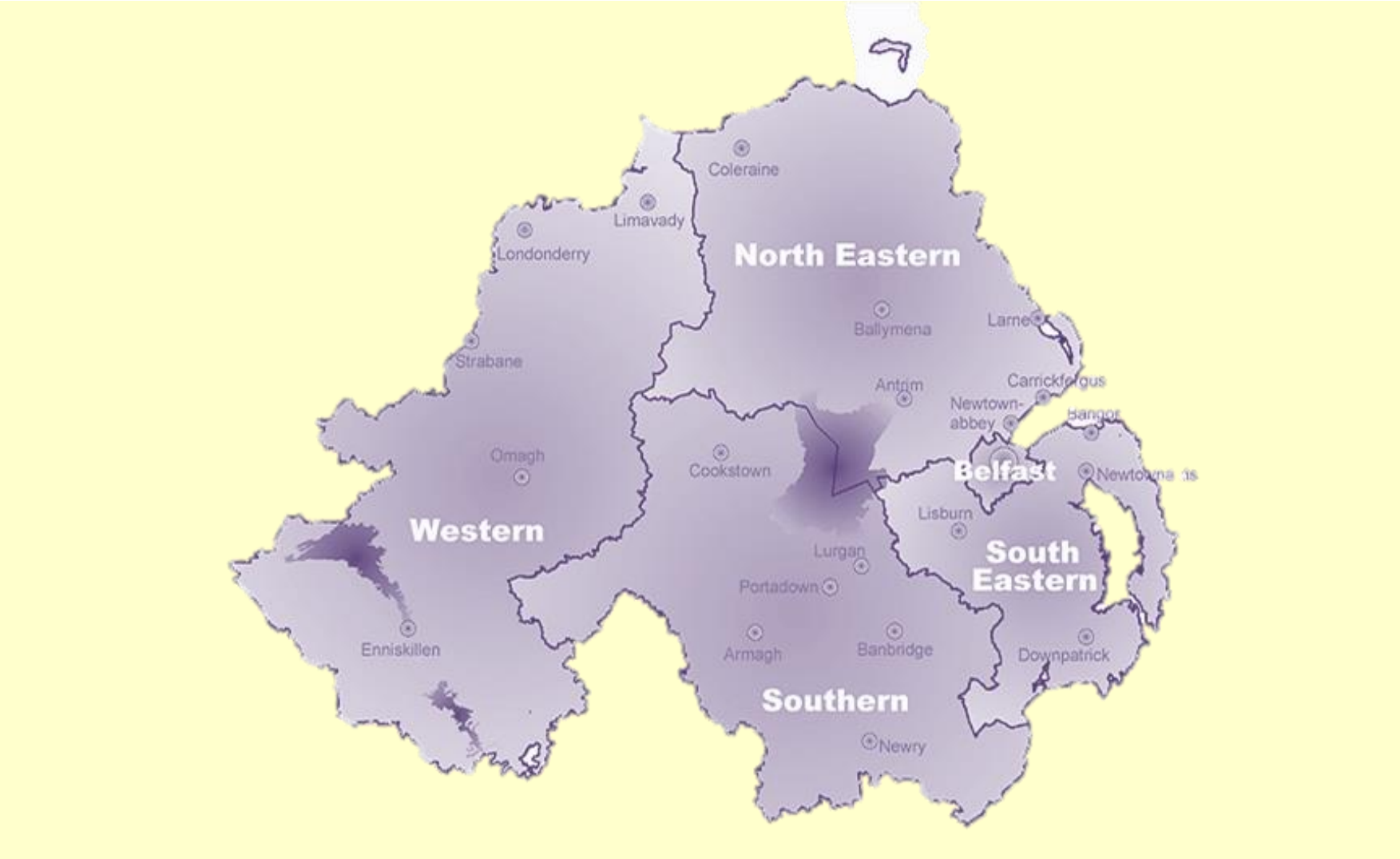
What we want to achieve for all children and young people:-

- Increased access to quality early years services particularly in rural areas;
- Improved outcomes for children who are not at school or are not reaching target attendance rates;
- Strengthened services at transition stages from home/preschool/primary/ post primary/employment;
- Access to quality play and leisure facilities;
- Parents and carers supported to encourage children to enjoy, learn and achieve.

The following indicators are included in this chapter to measure enjoying, learning and achieving of all our children and young people:-

- Geographical view of Northern Ireland Education Authority Regions
- Primary and Post-Primary School Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need
- Children Aged 4-16 years Suspended from School
- Children Aged 4-16 years Expelled from School
- Primary and Post - Primary School Children with Less than 85% Attendance
- Primary and Post - Primary School Children with English as Additional Language (Newcomers)
- Key Stage One Communication (English) - Percentage of Children Achieving Level 2 or above
- Key Stage One Maths - Percentage of Children Achieving Level 2 or above
- Key Stage Two Communication (English) – Percentage of Children Achieving Level 4 or above
- Key Stage Two Maths – Percentage of Children Achieving Level 4 or above
- Key Stage Three Communication (English) – Percentage of Children Achieving Level 5 or above
- Key Stage Three Maths – Percentage of Children Achieving Level 5 or above
- Percentage of Young People gaining 5 GCSEs (A*-C) or above
- Percentage of Young People gaining 5 GCSEs (A*-C) or above including English & Maths
- Percentage of Young People Leaving School with No GCSEs
- Percentage of Young People Aged 16-24 years on NEETS
- Percentage Uptake of Children in Nursery and Reception Classes in Primary Schools, Nursery Schools and PEAGs

Geographical view of Northern Ireland Education Authority Regions

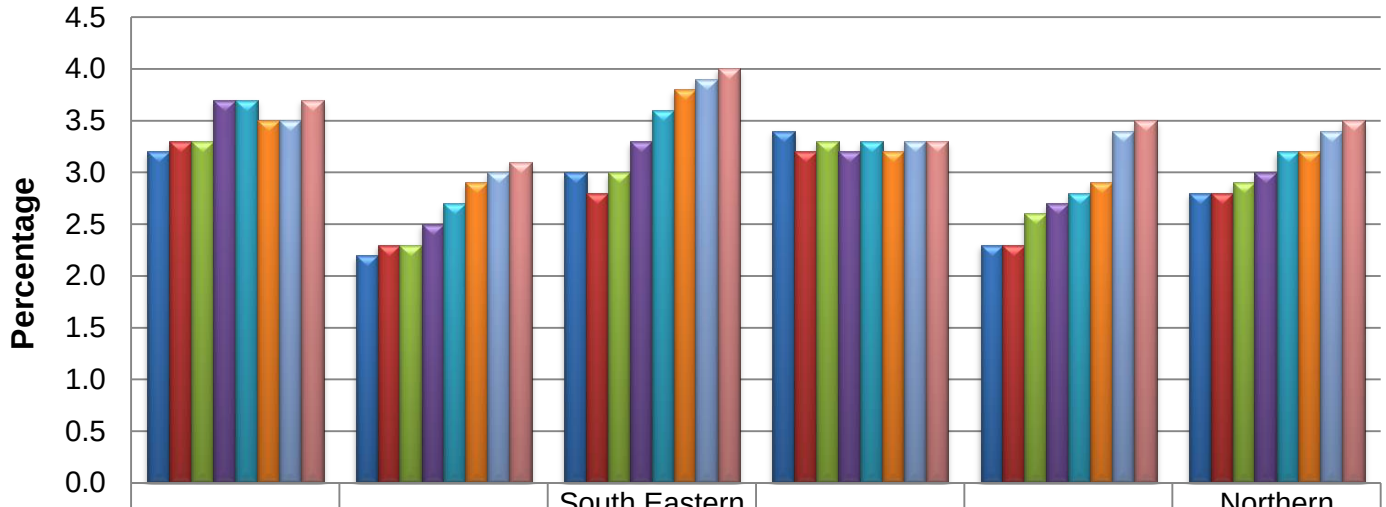


Primary School Pupils (P1–P7) with a Statement of Special Educational Need

Data Source: NINIS

Why is it Important? A Statement of Special Educational Need is a legal term. It describes the needs of a child who has a difficulty or disability which makes learning harder for them than for other children their age. (DE)

% of Primary School Pupils with a Statement by HSCT Area



	Belfast Area	Northern Area	South Eastern Area	Southern Area	Western Area	Northern Ireland
Jun-12	3.2	2.2	3.0	3.4	2.3	2.8
Jun-13	3.3	2.3	2.8	3.2	2.3	2.8
Jun-14	3.3	2.3	3.0	3.3	2.6	2.9
Jun-15	3.7	2.5	3.3	3.2	2.7	3.0
Jun-16	3.7	2.7	3.6	3.3	2.8	3.2
Jun-17	3.5	2.9	3.8	3.2	2.9	3.2
Jun-18	3.5	3.0	3.9	3.3	3.4	3.4
Jun-19	3.7	3.1	4.0	3.3	3.5	3.5

The Story Behind the Trends

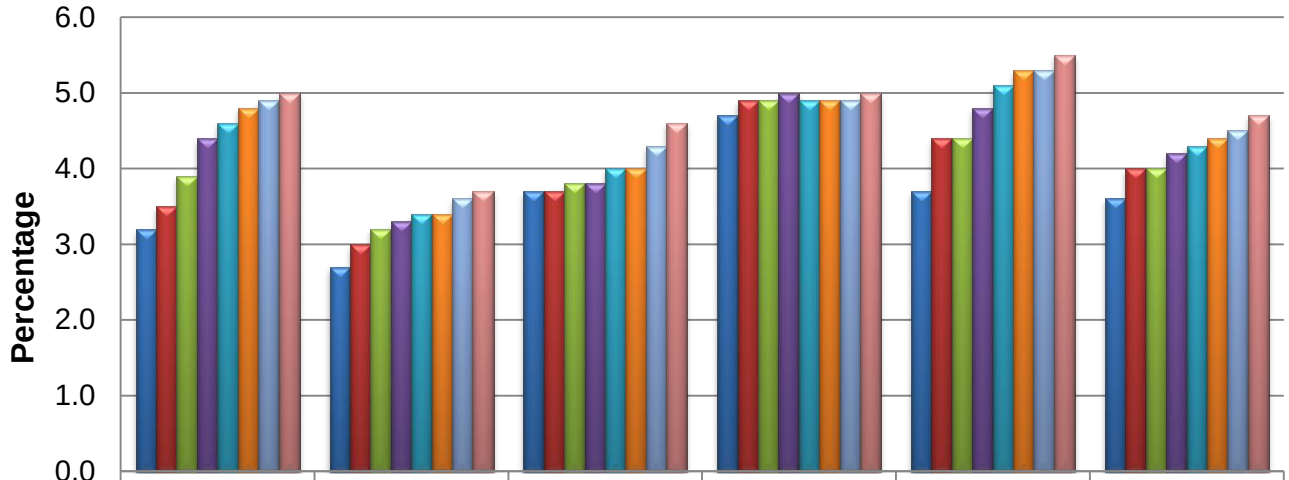
The percentage of primary school children in P1 to P7 with a full Statement of Special Educational Need has increased slightly in NI in the academic year of 2018/19. At June 2019, the Northern and the Southern Area are below the Northern Ireland percentage and all other areas are the same or above.

Post - Primary School Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need

Data Source: NINIS

Why is it Important? A Statement of Special Educational Need is a legal term. It describes the needs of a child who has a difficulty or disability which makes learning harder for them than for other children their age. (DE)

% of Post Primary School Pupils with a Statement by HSCT Area



	Belfast Area	Northern Area	South Eastern Area	Southern Area	Western Area	Northern Ireland
Jun-12	3.2	2.7	3.7	4.7	3.7	3.6
Jun-13	3.5	3.0	3.7	4.9	4.4	4.0
Jun-14	3.9	3.2	3.8	4.9	4.4	4.0
Jun-15	4.4	3.3	3.8	5.0	4.8	4.2
Jun-16	4.6	3.4	4.0	4.9	5.1	4.3
Jun-17	4.8	3.4	4.0	4.9	5.3	4.4
Jun-18	4.9	3.6	4.3	4.9	5.3	4.5
Jun-19	5.0	3.7	4.6	5.0	5.5	4.7

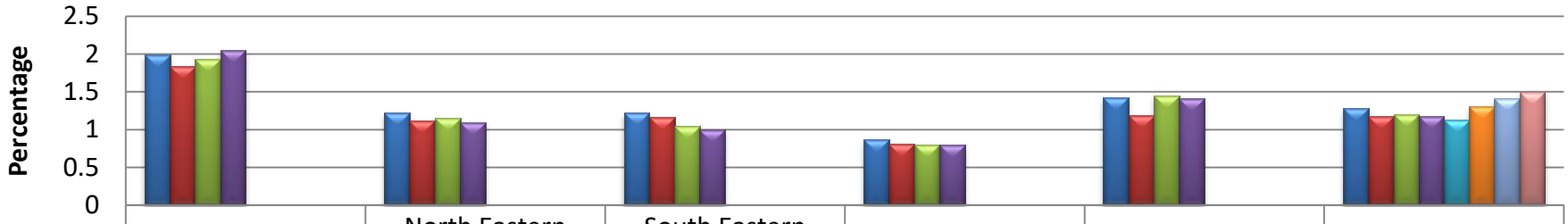
The Story Behind the Trends The percentage of post primary school children with a full Statement of Special Educational Need has been rising slightly over the past years. Belfast, Southern & Western Trust are higher than the Northern Ireland percentage of 4.7% in June 2019.

Children Aged 4-16 years *Suspended* from School

Data Source: Department of Education

Why is it Important? Reducing truancy and exclusions levels are an important part of Government social inclusion policy. Young people who attend school regularly are more likely to get the most they can out of their time at school, and therefore more likely to achieve their potential, and less likely to take part in anti-social or criminal behaviour (www.literacytrust.org.uk, 2009). **(1)**

% of Children aged 4-16 years suspended from School



	Belfast Region	North Eastern Region	South Eastern Region	Southern Region	Western Region	NI
Jun-12	1.99	1.22	1.22	0.87	1.42	1.28
Jun-13	1.84	1.12	1.16	0.81	1.19	1.17
Jun-14	1.93	1.15	1.04	0.80	1.45	1.20
Jun-15	2.05	1.09	1.00	0.79	1.41	1.18
Jun-16						1.13
Jun-17						1.30
Jun-18						1.41
Jun-19						1.50

The Story Behind the Trends - The percentage of pupils suspended in Northern Ireland has risen in the last 2 years from 1.30% in June 2017 to 1.50 in June 2019. The total number of pupils suspended in Northern Ireland in the year ending June 2019 was 4,549, with breakdown by gender showing that Males have a higher percentage of suspensions (2.40%) than Females (0.70%).

Please note: *Figures by Trusts are not available, due to the changes which came into operation in April 2015.*

Children Aged 4-16 years *Expelled* from School

Data Source: Department of Education

Why is it Important? Reducing truancy and exclusions levels are an important part of Government social inclusion policy. Young people who attend school regularly are more likely to get the most they can out of their time at school, and therefore more likely to achieve their potential, and less likely to take part in anti-social or criminal behaviour (www.literacytrust.org.uk ,2009). **(1)**

The Story Behind the Trends - Numbers of pupils expelled from schools are very low across each education region. The overall Northern Ireland totals have increased from 15 pupils in 2017/18 school year to **30 pupils in 2018/19.**

The majority of expelled pupils in **2018/19** were from Key Stage 3 (Years 8 to 10); 19 pupils representing approximately two-thirds of expelled pupils.

The most common reason for expulsion was 'Persistent Infringements of Relatively Minor School Rules' (11 expulsions).

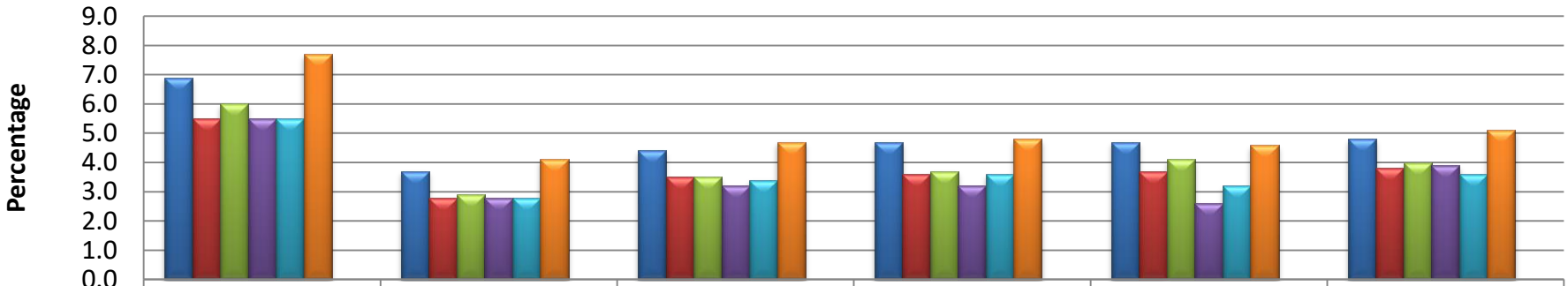
(Source: Department of Education)

Primary School Pupils with less than 85% Attendance

Data Source: Department of Education

Why is it Important? Attendance rate is important because students are more likely to succeed in learning and achieving when they attend school consistently. It's difficult for the teacher and the class to build their skills and progress if a large number of students are frequently absent. In addition to falling behind in academics, students who are not in school on a regular basis are more likely to get into trouble with the law and cause problems in their communities.

Primary School Pupils with less than 85% attendance by Area



	Belfast Area	Northern Area	South Eastern Area	Southern Area	Western Area	NI
2012/13	6.9	3.7	4.4	4.7	4.7	4.8
2013/14	5.5	2.8	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8
2014/15	6.0	2.9	3.5	3.7	4.1	4.0
2015/16	5.5	2.8	3.2	3.2	2.6	3.9
2016/17	5.5	2.8	3.4	3.6	3.2	3.6
2017/18	7.7	4.1	4.7	4.8	4.6	5.1
2018/19	*Due to resource issues within Analytical Services Unit there will not be a statistical bulletin for attendance figures this academic year.*					

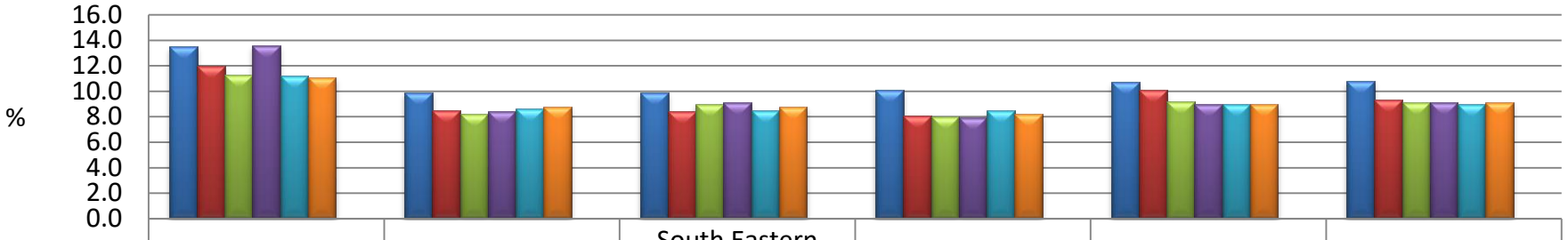
The Story Behind the Trends – All areas has seen a significant increase over the last year in the percentage of primary school children with less than 85% attendance. Belfast Area consistently has the highest pupils absent from school, higher than the NI percentage of 5.1. (*Please Note: Pupils residence has been used for this analysis; therefore the Area refers to where the pupil lives rather than to where the school is located.)*

Post Primary School Pupils with less than 85% Attendance

Data Source: Department of Education

Why is it Important? Attendance rate is important because students are more likely to succeed in learning and achieving when they attend school consistently. It's difficult for the teacher and the class to build their skills and progress if a large number of students are frequently absent. In addition to falling behind in academics, students who are not in school on a regular basis are more likely to get into trouble with the law and cause problems in their communities.

Post Primary School Pupils with less than 85% attendance by Area



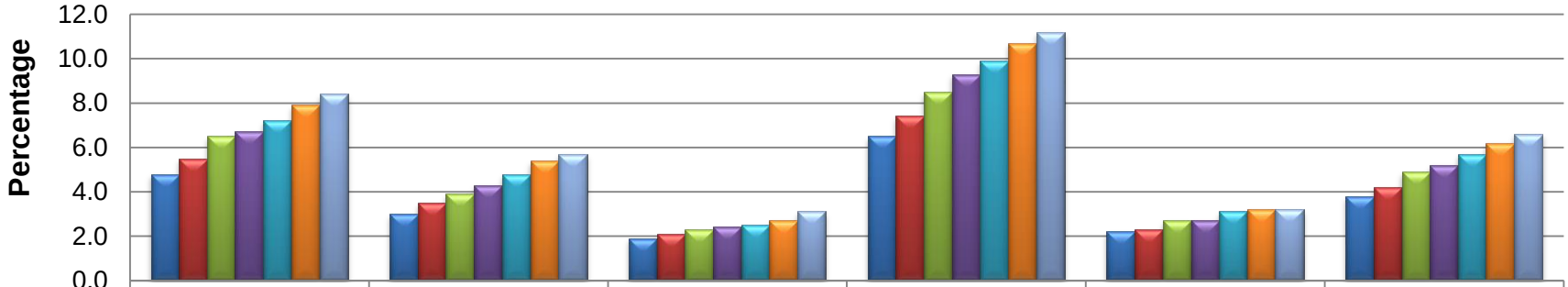
	Belfast Area	Northern Area	South Eastern Area	Southern Area	Western Area	NI
2012/13	13.5	9.9	9.9	10.1	10.7	10.8
2013/14	12.0	8.5	8.4	8.1	10.1	9.3
2014/15	11.3	8.2	9.0	8.0	9.2	9.1
2015/16	13.6	8.4	9.1	7.9	9.0	9.1
2016/17	11.2	8.6	8.5	8.5	9.0	9.0
2017/18	11.1	8.8	8.8	8.2	9.0	9.1
2018/19	*Due to resource issues within Analytical Services Unit there will not be a statistical bulletin for attendance figures this academic year.*					

The Story Behind the Trends - All areas have relatively stayed the same over the last year in the percentage of post- primary school children with less than 85% attendance. Belfast Area consistently has the highest pupils absent from school since 2012/13 and always higher than the Ni percentage of 9.1. *(Please Note: Pupils residence has been used for this analysis; therefore the Area refers to where the pupil lives rather than to where the school is located.)*

Primary School Pupils with English as Additional Language (Newcomers) Data Source: Department of Education

Why is it Important? All children and young people, whatever their ethnic or cultural background, are entitled to succeed. Providing an effective education for children and young people who have English as an additional language not only contributes to the educational achievement of pupils, it also contributes to their personal development and that of the economy and society. (DENI – Policy on supporting ethnic minority children and young people who have English as an additional language 2007).

Primary School Pupils (Year 1-7) with English as Additional Language (Newcomers) by Area



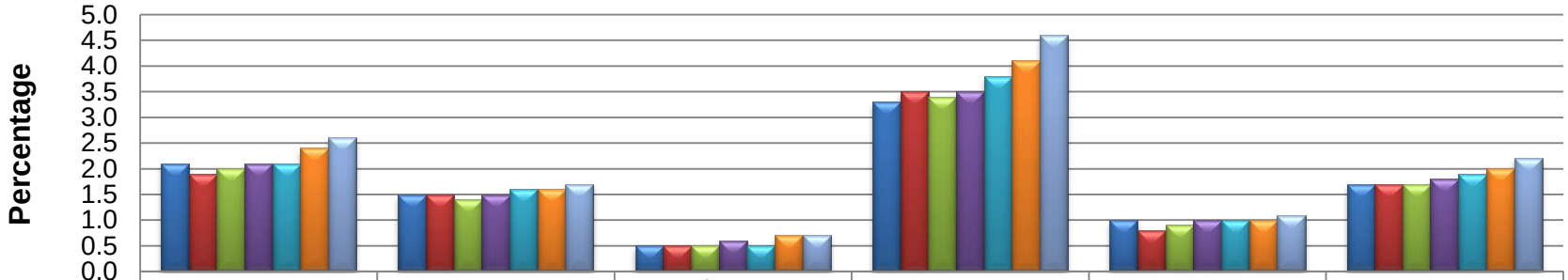
	Belfast Area	Northern Area	South Eastern Area	Southern Area	Western Area	NI
2012/13	4.8	3.0	1.9	6.5	2.2	3.8
2013/14	5.5	3.5	2.1	7.4	2.3	4.2
2014/15	6.5	3.9	2.3	8.5	2.7	4.9
2015/16	6.7	4.3	2.4	9.3	2.7	5.2
2016/17	7.2	4.8	2.5	9.9	3.1	5.7
2017/18	7.9	5.4	2.7	10.7	3.2	6.2
2018/19	8.4	5.7	3.1	11.2	3.2	6.6

The Story Behind the Trends – All areas have seen an increase on the percentage of primary school children with English as an additional language, with Belfast and the Southern HSCT above the NI average. Overall in Northern Ireland for 2018/19 there were **11,435** primary pupils with English as an additional language (Newcomers).

Post - Primary School Pupils with English as Additional Language (Newcomers) Data Source: Department of Education

Why is it Important? All children and young people, whatever their ethnic or cultural background, are entitled to succeed. Providing an effective education for children and young people who have English as an additional language not only contributes to the educational achievement of pupils, it also contributes to their personal development and that of the economy and society. (DENI – Policy on supporting ethnic minority children and young people who have English as an additional language 2007).

Post-Primary School Pupils with English as Additional Language (Newcomers) by Area



	Belfast Area	Northern Area	South Eastern Area	Southern Area	Western Area	NI
2012/13	2.1	1.5	0.5	3.3	1.0	1.7
2013/14	1.9	1.5	0.5	3.5	0.8	1.7
2014/15	2.0	1.4	0.5	3.4	0.9	1.7
2015/16	2.1	1.5	0.6	3.5	1.0	1.8
2016/17	2.1	1.6	0.5	3.8	1.0	1.9
2017/18	2.4	1.6	0.7	4.1	1.0	2.0
2018/19	2.6	1.7	0.7	4.6	1.1	2.2

The Story Behind the Trends – All areas have stayed the same or a slight increase in the percentage of post-primary pupils with English as an additional language, with Southern HSCT well above the NI average. Overall in Northern Ireland for 2018/19 there were **3120** post primary pupils with English as an additional language (Newcomers).

Key Stage One – COMMUNICATION (English)

*Percentage of Children Achieving **Level 2** or above*

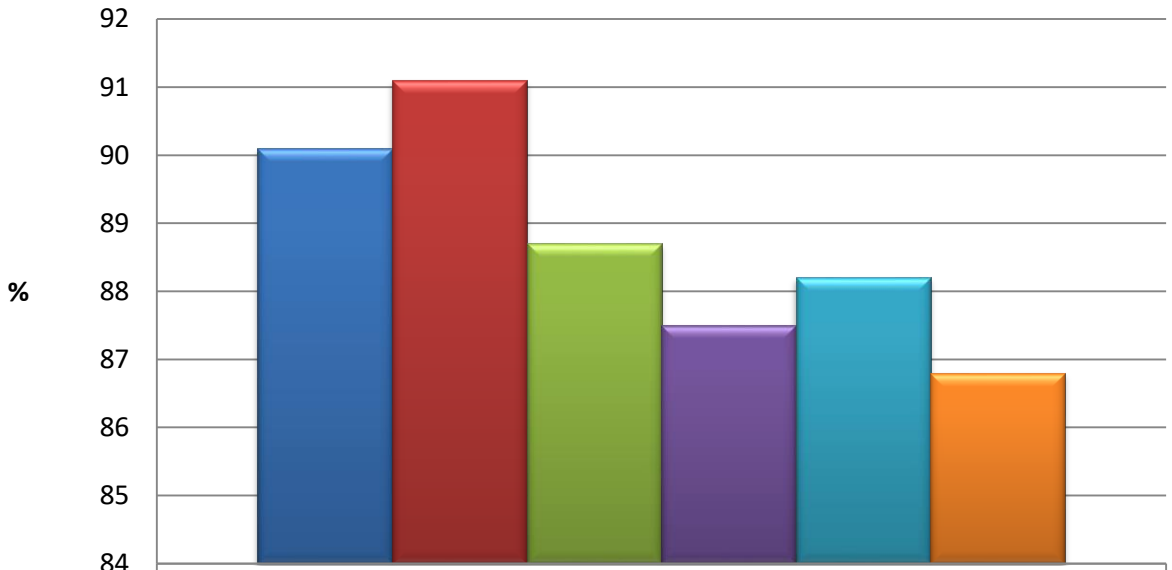
Data Source: Department of Education

Why is it Important? Key Stage Levels of Progression (LoP) are used to measure Literacy and Numeracy targets set out in the Department of Education Strategy 'Count, Read: Succeed' which contains long-term targets by 2019/20. Further details are available in the KEY Stage Assessments: Levels of Progression 2016/17 Methodology Paper – Department of Education **(2)**

The Story Behind the Trends - The NI average for Key Stage 1 Communication (English) has fluctuated since it came into operation in 2012/13 at 90.1% to 86.8% in 2017/18. The Level of Progression in Girls is higher than Boys at 90.7% and 83.0% respectively in 2017/18.

Please Note: *Primary school pupils are assessed at the end of Key Stage 1 (Year 4). This excludes Special and Independent schools. The average (best estimate) is presented in the table based on returns for a proportion of pupils. As they are based on a sample the actual value may be higher or lower.*

KEY STAGE ONE COMMUNICATION (English) – % Achieving Level 2 or above



	NI
2012/13	90.1
2013/14	91.1
2014/15	88.7
2015/16	87.5
2016/17	88.2
2017/18	86.8

Please Note: Revised Key Stage assessments came into operation in 2013 and schools are required to provide information to parents on their child's assessment outcomes in Communication (English), Using Mathematics and Using ICT. (2016/17 first year ICT was compulsory). All assessments only available at NI level.

Key Stage One - MATHS

*Percentage of Children Achieving **Level 2** or above*

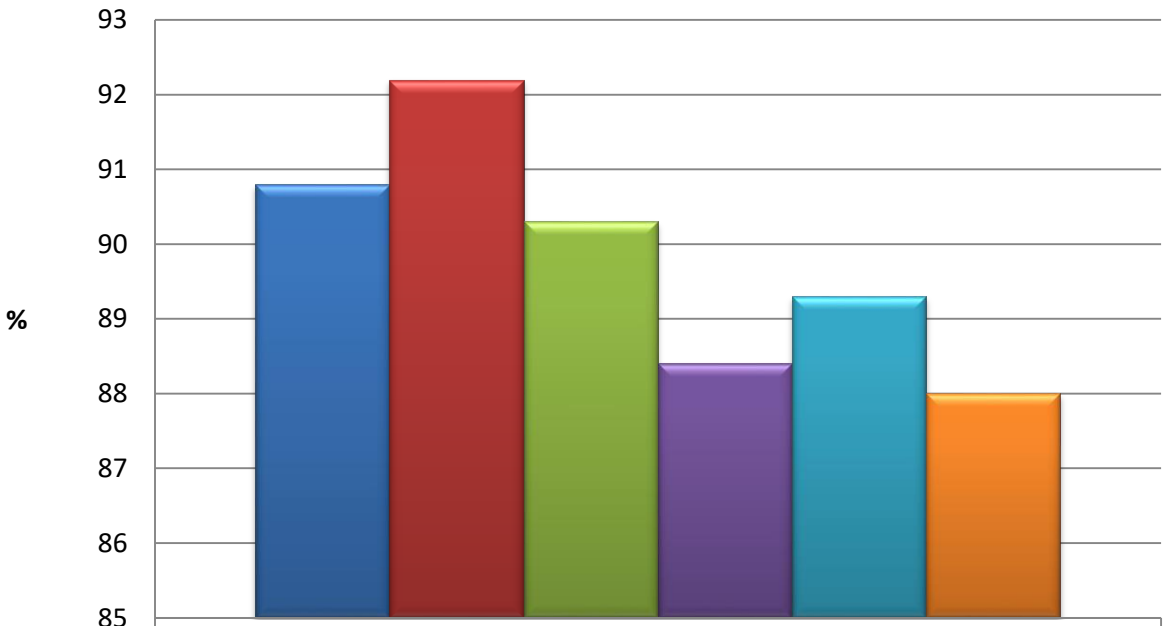
Data Source: Department of Education

Why is it Important? Key Stage Levels of Progression (LoP) are used to measure Literacy and Numeracy targets set out in the Department of Education Strategy 'Count, Read: Succeed' which contains long-term targets by 2019/20. Further details are available in the KEY Stage Assessments: Levels of Progression 2016/17 Methodology Paper – Department of Education **(2)**

The Story Behind the Trends - The NI average for Key Stage One Maths has fluctuated since it came into operation in 2012/13 from 90.8 to 88.0 in 2017/18.

Please Note: *Primary school pupils are assessed at the end of Key Stage 1 (Year 4). This excludes Special and Independent schools. The average (best estimate) is presented in the table based on returns for a proportion of pupils. As they are based on a sample the actual value may be higher or lower.*

KEY STAGE ONE Maths – Percentage Achieving Level 2 or above



	NI
2012/13	90.8
2013/14	92.2
2014/15	90.3
2015/16	88.4
2016/17	89.3
2017/18	88.0

Please Note: Revised Key Stage assessments came into operation in 2013 and schools are required to provide information to parents on their child's assessment outcomes in Communication (English), Using Mathematics and Using ICT. (2016/17 first year ICT was compulsory). All assessments only available at NI level.

Key Stage Two – COMMUNICATION (English)

*Percentage of Children Achieving **Level 4** or above*

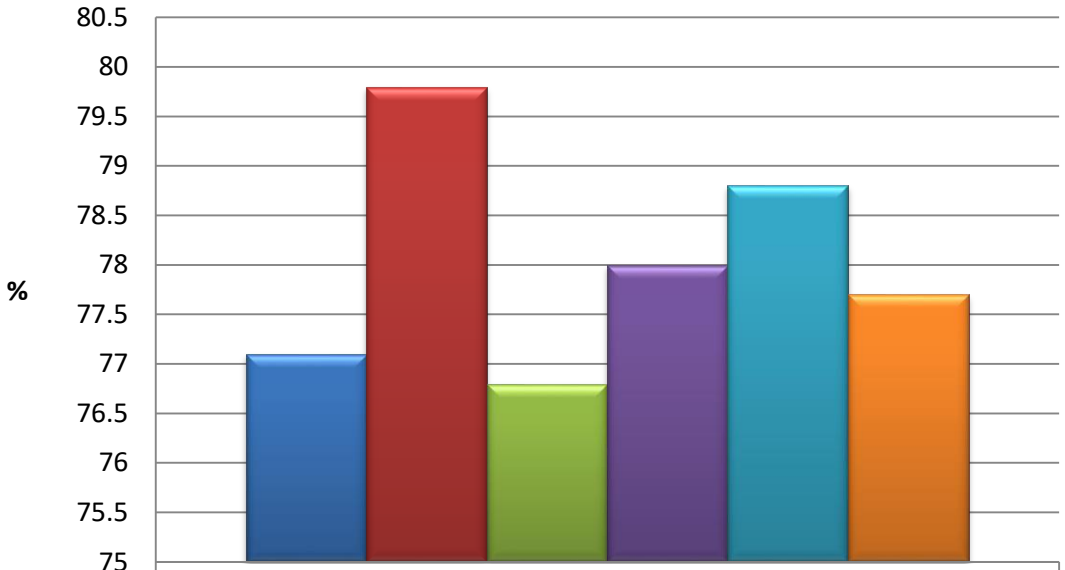
Data Source: Department of Education

Why is it Important? Key Stage Levels of Progression (LoP) are used to measure Literacy and Numeracy targets set out in the Department of Education Strategy 'Count, Read: Succeed' which contains long-term targets by 2019/20. Further details are available in the KEY Stage Assessments: Levels of Progression 2016/17 Methodology Paper – Department of Education **(2)**

The Story Behind the Trends - The NI average for Key Stage Two Communication (English) has been similar since it came into operation in 2012/13 at 77.1 in 2012/13 and 77.7 in 2017/18. There is no significant difference in the percentage of boys and girls attaining the expected level in Communication.

Please Note: *Primary school pupils are assessed at the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 7). This excludes Special and Independent schools. The average (best estimate) is presented in the table based on returns for a proportion of pupils. As they are based on a sample the actual value may be higher or lower.*

KEY STAGE TWO COMMUNICATION (English) – Percentage Achieving Level 4 or above



	NI
2012/13	77.1
2013/14	79.8
2014/15	76.8
2015/16	78.0
2016/17	78.8
2017/18	77.7

Please Note: Revised Key Stage assessments came into operation in 2013 and schools are required to provide information to parents on their child's assessment outcomes in Communication (English), Using Mathematics and Using ICT. (2016/17 first year ICT was compulsory). All assessments only available at NI level.

Key Stage Two – MATHS

*Percentage of Children Achieving **Level 4** or above*

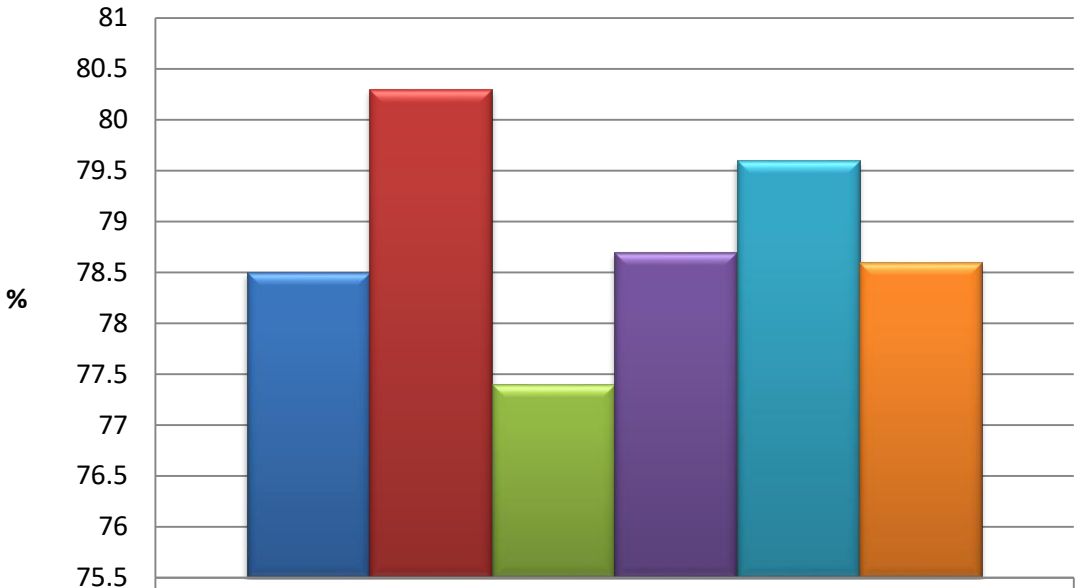
Data Source: Department of Education

Why is it Important? Key Stage Levels of Progression (LoP) are used to measure Literacy and Numeracy targets set out in the Department of Education Strategy 'Count, Read: Succeed' which contains long-term targets by 2019/20. Further details are available in the KEY Stage Assessments: Levels of Progression 2016/17 Methodology Paper – Department of Education. **(2)**

The Story Behind the Trends - The NI average of Key Stage Two Maths has been similar since it came into operation in 2012/13 at 78.5% and 79 78.6% in 2017/18. There is no significant difference in the percentage of boys and girls attaining the expected level in Maths.

Please Note: *Primary school pupils are assessed at the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 7). This excludes Special and Independent schools. The average (best estimate) is presented in the table based on returns for a proportion of pupils. As they are based on a sample the actual value may be higher or lower.*

KEY STAGE TWO Maths – Percentage Achieving Level 4 or above



	NI
2012/13	78.5
2013/14	80.3
2014/15	77.4
2015/16	78.7
2016/17	79.6
2017/18	78.6

Please Note: Revised Key Stage assessments came into operation in 2013 and schools are required to provide information to parents on their child's assessment outcomes in Communication (English), Using Mathematics and Using ICT. (2016/17 first year ICT was compulsory). All assessments only available at NI level.

Key Stage Three – COMMUNICATION (English)

*Percentage of Children Achieving **Level 5** or above*

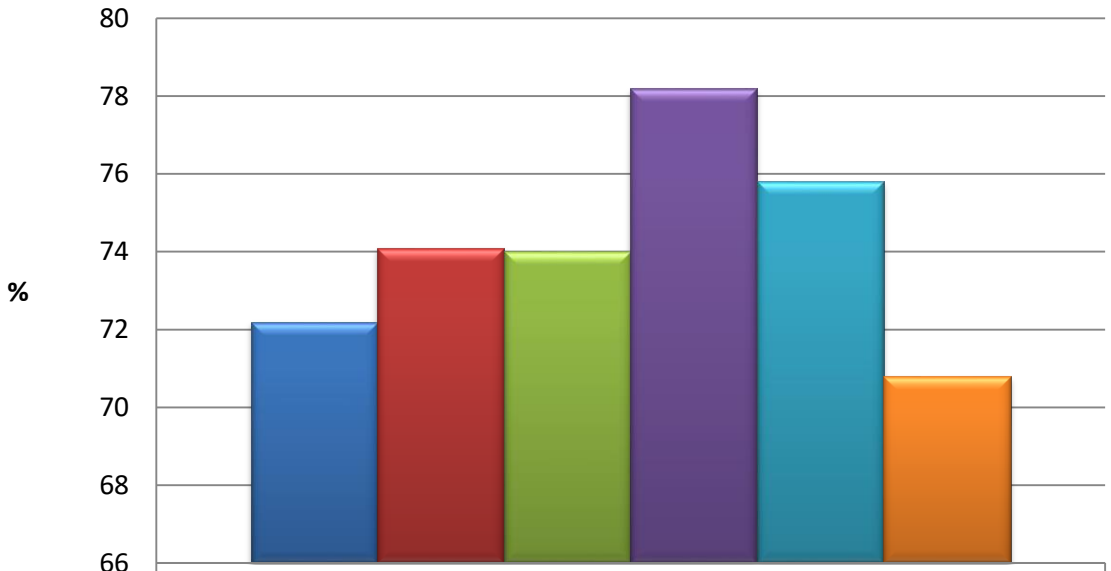
Data Source: Department of Education

Why is it Important? ? Key Stage Levels of Progression (LoP) are used to measure Literacy and Numeracy targets set out in the Department of Education Strategy 'Count, Read: Succeed' which contains long-term targets by 2019/20. Further details are available in the KEY Stage Assessments: Levels of Progression 2016/17 Methodology Paper – Department of Education **(2)**

The Story Behind the Trends –
The NI average for Key Stage Three Communication (English) has fluctuated since it came into operation in 2012/13 at 72.2 and there has been a significant decrease in 2017/18 to 70.8.

Please Note: *Post-Primary school pupils are assessed at the end of Key Stage 3 (Year 10) and excludes Special and Independent schools. Data has been weighed to account for non-response bias.*

KEY STAGE THREE COMMUNICATION (English) – Percentage Achieving Level 5 or above



	NI
2012/13	72.2
2013/14	74.1
2014/15	74.0
2015/16	78.2
2016/17	75.8
2017/18	70.8

Please Note: Revised Key Stage assessments came into operation in 2013 and schools are required to provide information to parents on their child's assessment outcomes in Communication (English), Using Mathematics and Using ICT. (2016/17 first year ICT was compulsory). All assessments only available at NI level.

Key Stage Three – MATHS

*Percentage of Children Achieving **Level 5** or above*

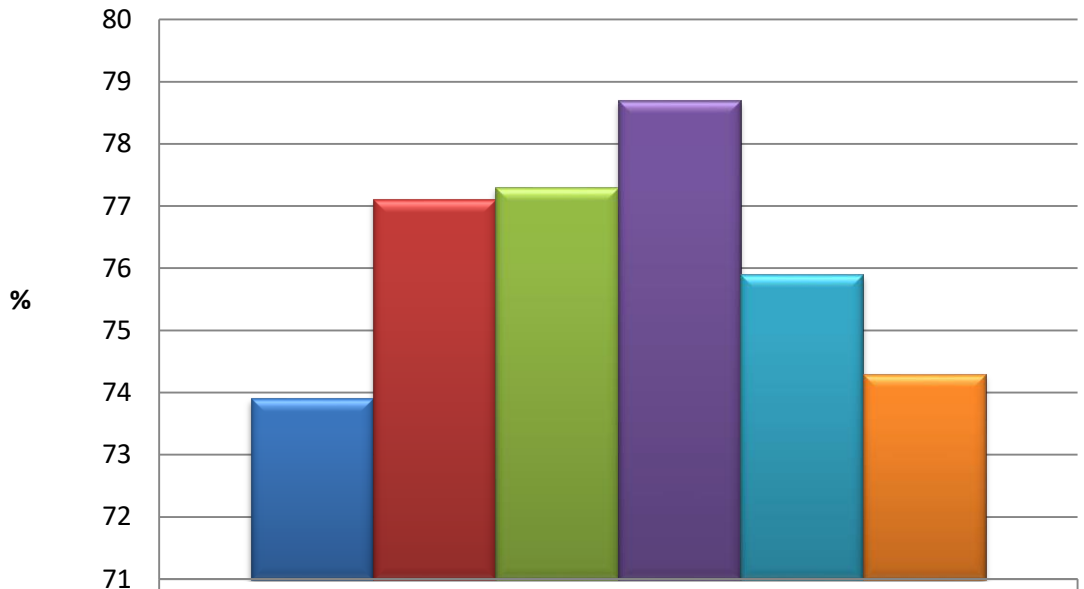
Data Source: Department of Education

Why is it Important? Key Stage Levels of Progression (LoP) are used to measure Literacy and Numeracy targets set out in the Department of Education Strategy 'Count, Read: Succeed' which contains long-term targets by 2019/20. Further details are available in the KEY Stage Assessments: Levels of Progression 2016/17 Methodology Paper – Department of Education **(2).**

The Story Behind the Trends – The NI average for Key Stage Three Maths has increased since it came into operation in 2012/13 at 73.9 to 78.7 in 2015/16, with a slight drop in 2016/17 and 2017/18 to 74.3.

Please Note: *Post-Primary school pupils are assessed at the end of Key Stage 3 (Year 10) and excludes Special and Independent schools. Data has been weighed to account for non-response bias.*

KEY STAGE TWO Maths – Percentage Achieving Level 5 or above

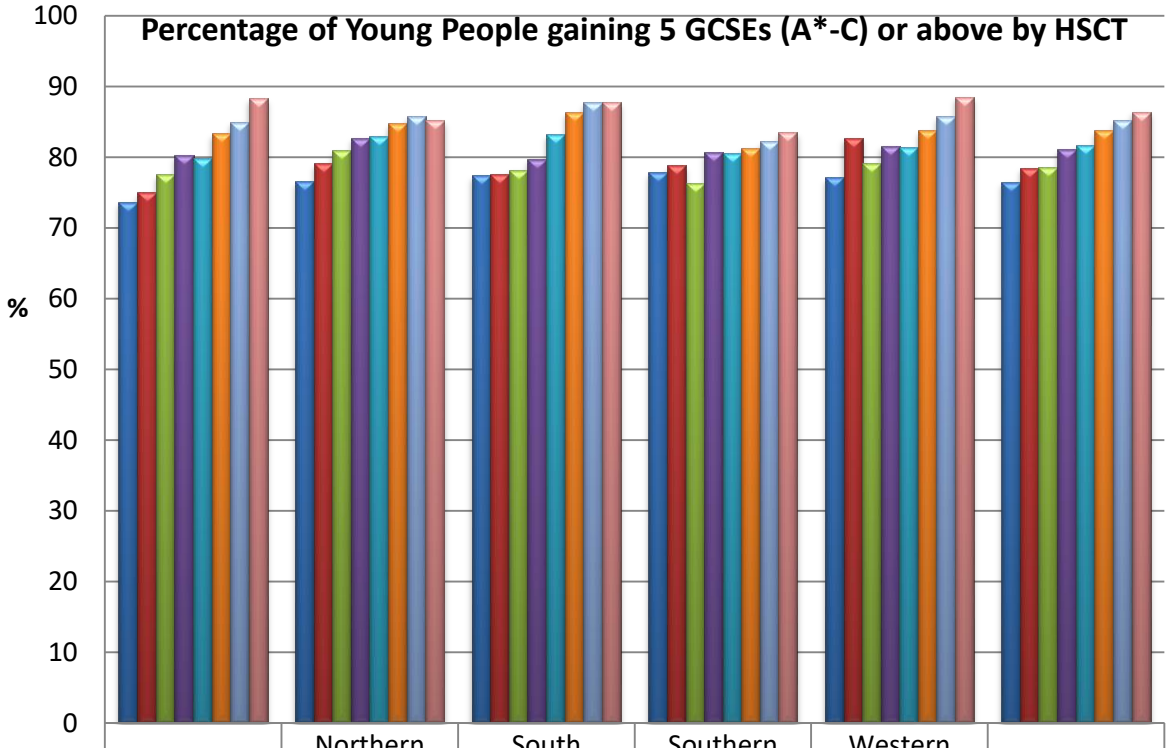


	NI
2012/13	73.9
2013/14	77.1
2014/15	77.3
2015/16	78.7
2016/17	75.9
2017/18	74.3

Please Note: Revised Key Stage assessments came into operation in 2013 and schools are required to provide information to parents on their child's assessment outcomes in Communication (English), Using Mathematics and Using ICT. (2016/17 first year ICT was compulsory). All assessments only available at NI level.

Percentage of Young People gaining 5 GCSEs (A*-C) or Above

Data Source: Department of Education



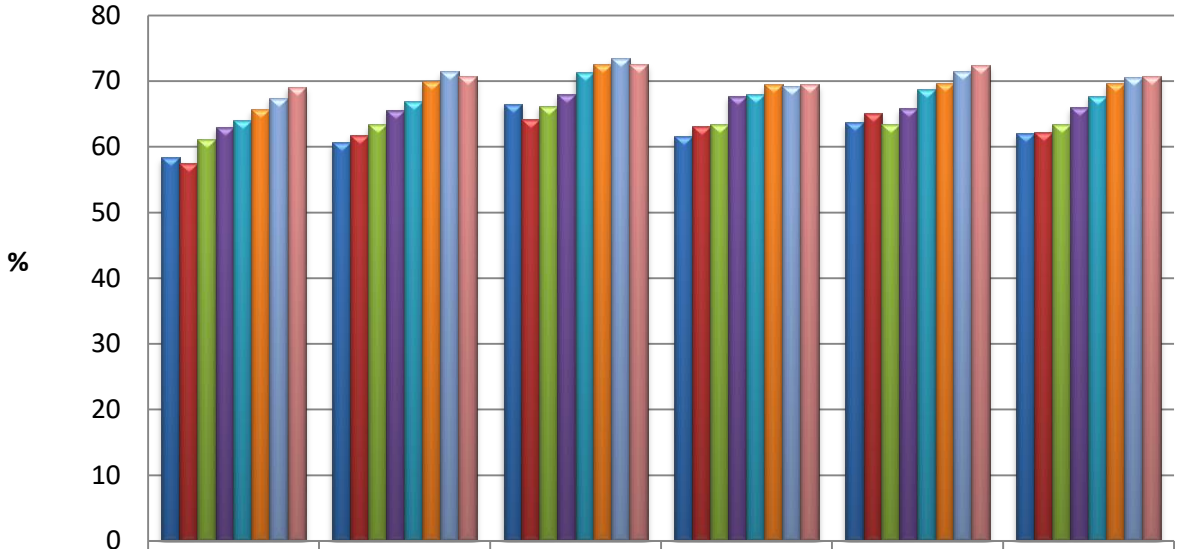
	Belfast Trust	Northern Trust	South Eastern Trust	Southern Trust	Western Trust	NI
Jun-12	73.7	76.6	77.4	77.8	77.1	76.5
Jun-13	75.0	79.1	77.6	78.8	82.7	78.5
Jun-14	77.6	81.0	78.2	76.3	79.1	78.6
Jun-15	80.2	82.7	79.7	80.7	81.6	81.1
Jun-16	79.9	83.0	83.2	80.6	81.4	81.7
Jun-17	83.3	84.7	86.3	81.3	83.8	83.8
Jun-18	85.0	85.8	87.7	82.2	85.8	85.2
Jun-19	88.3	85.2	87.8	83.5	88.5	86.4

Why is it Important? GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education. GCSEs are the main qualification taken by 14-16 year olds. You can take GCSEs in a wide variety of academic and 'applied' (work related) subjects. GCSEs are highly valued by schools, colleges and employers. Obtaining GCSEs lead to a number of routes, mainly work, further study or an Apprenticeship. Most Universities will ask for 5 GCSEs grades A*-C, including English and Maths (as well as A Levels or equivalent qualifications) (www.deni.gov.uk, 2009). **(3)**

The Story Behind the Trends - The percentage of young people gaining 5 GCSEs (A*-C) has risen from 76.5% in June 12 to **86.4%** in June 19 in Northern Ireland. The majority of Trusts have followed this trend, with the Belfast, South Eastern, Southern and Western Trusts above the NI average of 86.4% at June 19.

Percentage of Young People gaining 5 GCSEs (A*-C) or Above (including English and Maths) Data Source: Department of Education

Percentage of Young People gaining 5 GCSEs (A*-C) or above including English and Maths by HSCT



	Belfast Trust	Northern Trust	South Eastern Trust	Southern Trust	Western Trust	NI
Jun-12	58.4	60.6	66.5	61.6	63.7	62.0
Jun-13	57.5	61.8	64.1	63.1	65.1	62.2
Jun-14	61.1	63.4	66.2	63.4	63.4	63.5
Jun-15	62.9	65.6	67.9	67.7	65.8	66.0
Jun-16	64.0	66.9	71.4	67.9	68.7	67.7
Jun-17	65.7	70.0	72.6	69.5	69.7	69.6
Jun-18	67.5	71.5	73.4	69.2	71.5	70.6
Jun-19	69.1	70.7	72.5	69.5	72.4	70.8

Why is it Important? GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education. GCSEs are the main qualification taken by 14-16 year olds. You can take GCSEs in a wide variety of academic and 'applied' (work related) subjects. GCSEs are highly valued by schools, colleges and employers. Obtaining GCSEs lead to a number of routes, mainly work, further study or an Apprenticeship. Most Universities will ask for 5 GCSEs grades A*-C, including English and Maths (as well as A Levels or equivalent qualifications) (www.deni.gov.uk, 2009). **(3)**

The Story Behind the Trends - The percentage of young people gaining 5 GCSEs (A*-C) including English and Maths has risen from 62.0% in June 2012 to **70.8%** in June 19 in Northern Ireland. All Trusts have followed this trend, except Northern and South Eastern Trust with a slight decrease in 2019.

Percentage of Young People Leaving School with No GCSEs

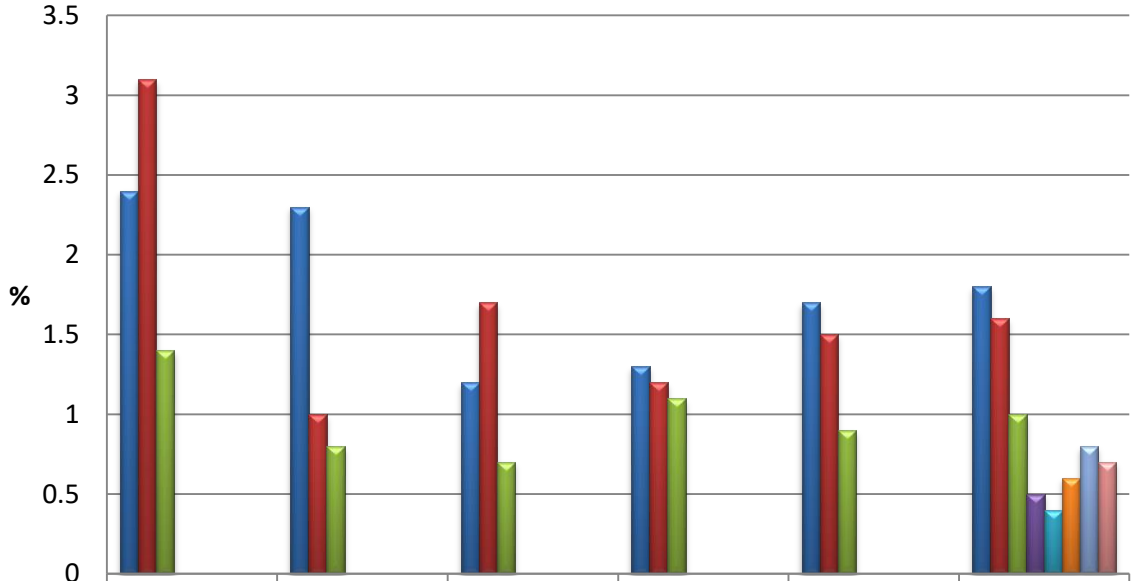
Data Source: Department of Education

Why is it Important? GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education. GCSEs are the main qualification taken by 14-16 year olds. You can take GCSEs in a wide variety of academic and 'applied' (work related) subjects. GCSEs are highly valued by schools, colleges and employers. Obtaining GCSEs lead to a number of routes, mainly work, further study or an Apprenticeship. Most Universities will ask for 5 GCSEs grades A-C, including English and Maths (as well as A Levels or equivalent qualifications) (www.deni.gov.uk, 2009). **(3)**

The Story Behind the Trends - The percentage of young people leaving school with no GCSEs in NI has fallen from 1.8% in June 12 to 0.7% in June 19.

There were a total of **158** young people leaving school with no GCSEs in 2018/19 – **96** boys and **62** girls.

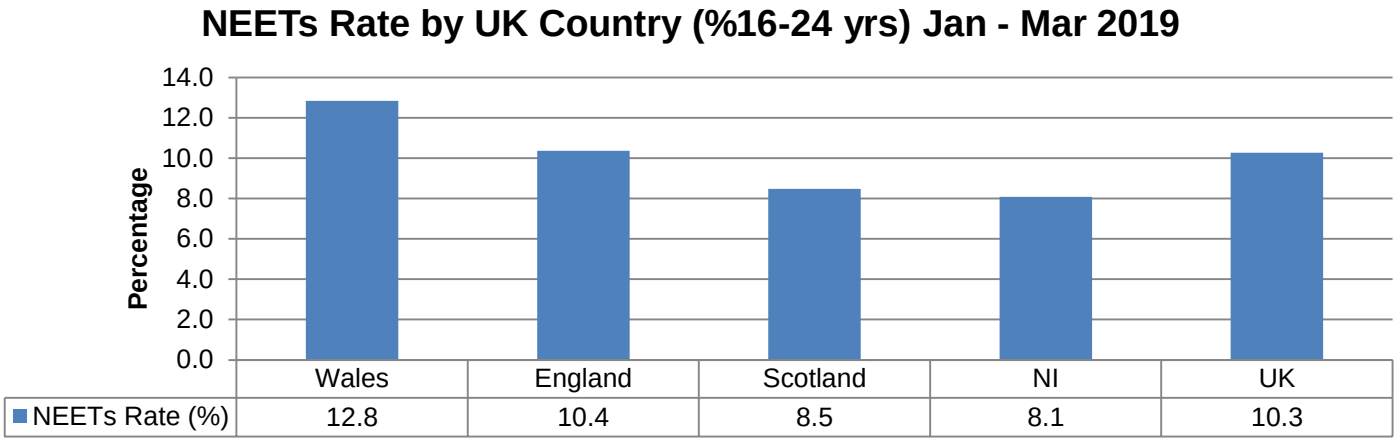
Percentage of Young People Leaving School with no GCSEs in NI

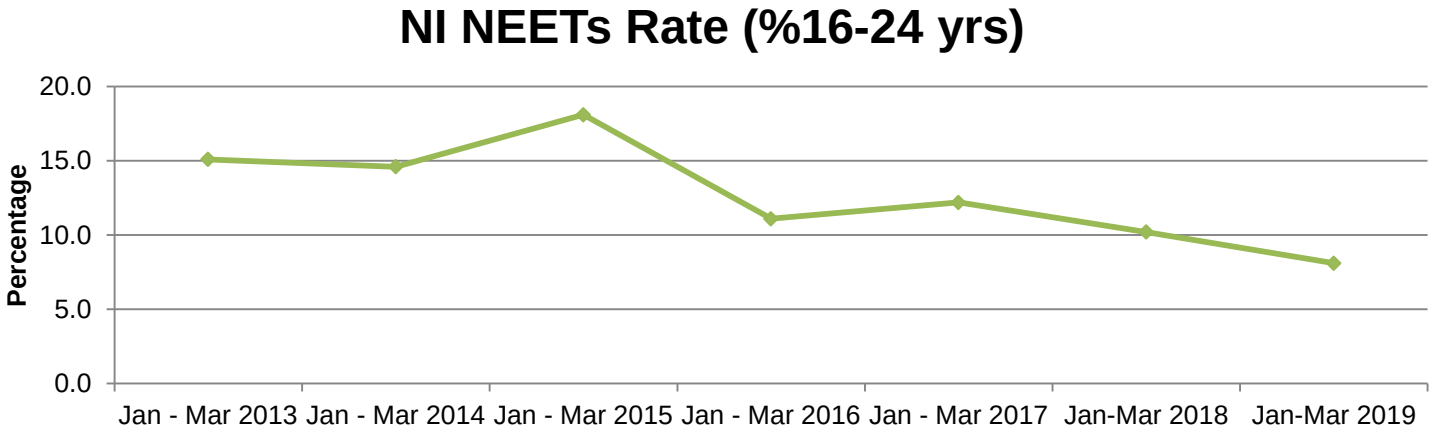


	Belfast Area	North Eastern Area	South Eastern Area	Southern Area	Western Area	NI
Jun-12	2.4	2.3	1.2	1.3	1.7	1.8
Jun-13	3.1	1.0	1.7	1.2	1.5	1.6
Jun-14	1.4	0.8	0.7	1.1	0.9	1.0
Jun-15						0.5
Jun-16						0.4
Jun-17	# Figures not provided under rules of statistical disclosure					0.6
Jun-18						0.8
Jun-19						0.7

Percentage of Young People Aged 16-24 years on NEETS

Data Source: Labour Force Survey 2018





NEETs United Kingdom Comparison

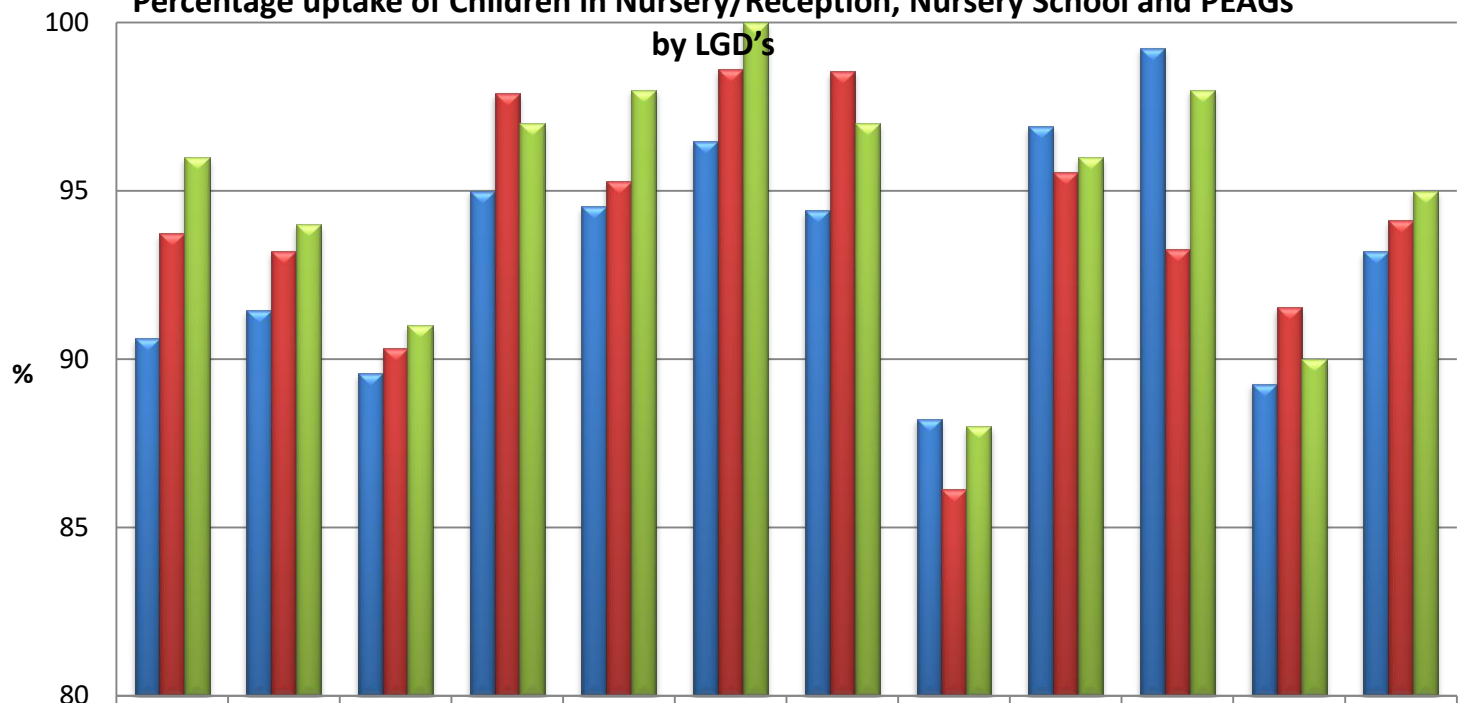
For the period Jan-Mar 2019, the NI NEETs rate for those aged 16-24 stood at 8.1%.
Of the countries within the UK, Northern Ireland had the lowest 16-24 NEETs rate.
Since March 2013 this has been the lowest rate recorded with the highest recorded of 18.1% at March 2015.

The Story Behind the Trends - The percentage of young people in Northern Ireland aged 16 – 24 years who are not in employment, full time education, or government supported training has fallen lower than the UK percentage of 10.3% in March 2019. This could be due to the overall positive impact of the 'Pathways to Success' programme. The recommendations (March 2015) suggested that the NEET Advisory Group continues to exist to act as a forum for monitoring progress and sharing learning for young people in Northern Ireland.

Percentage uptake of Children in Nursery and Reception Classes in Primary Schools, Nursery Schools and PEAGs by LGD's

Data Source: Department of Education

Why is it Important? The Pre-School Education Expansion Programme (PEAG), which is an important element both of the Department of Education's strategy for tackling low and under-achievement and of the Government's Childcare Strategy, is designed as a partnership between the statutory and voluntary /private sectors. In order to utilise and build upon the learning that has taken place in the home and its immediate environment, pre-school education should provide children with a rich variety of play activities and other experiences in a stimulating & challenging environment. (www.deni.gov.uk,2009). 4



	Antrim & N'abbey	Ards & N Down	ABC	Belfast	C'way C & Glens	Derry & Strabane	Fermanagh & Omagh	Lisburn & C'reagh	Mid & E Antrim	Mid Ulster	Newry Mourne Down	NI
2016/17	91	91	90	95	95	96	94	88	97	99	89	93
2017/18	94	93	90	98	95	99	99	86	96	93	92	94
2018/19	96	94	91	97	98	100	97	88	96	98	90	95

The Story Behind the Trends – All areas have fluctuated slightly in the uptake of pre-school places, with the Antrim & Newtownabbey, Belfast, Causeway Coast & Glens, Derry & Strabane, Fermanagh & Omagh, Mid & East Antrim and Mid Ulster higher uptake of pre-school places than the NI percentage of 95%. *(**Please Note**: The above percentages are based on mid year estimates of the averages of 3 and 4 year olds. Due to the reform of the LGDs in 2015 with the 26 Districts moving to 11 new Districts figures are not available by Trust Level.)*

Living in Safety and with Stability

What we want to achieve for all children and young people:-

- Children and young people to feel and be safe and secure in their homes and in their communities;
- Improved outcomes for children at risk of abuse;
- Access to family support services appropriate to age and location;
- Support for families at risk of being homeless;
- To be free from bullying.

The following indicators are included in this chapter to measure all our children and young people living in safety and with stability:-

- Children in Need Key Findings
- Children on the Child Protection Register
- Children Re-registered to the Child Protection Register
- Looked After Children
- Children who are Victims of Domestic Violence
- Domestic Abuse Motivation
- Young People's Attitude to Domestic Violence
- Crimes Recorded with a Racist Motivation
- Crimes Recorded with a Homophobic Motivation
- Road Traffic Casualties on the Roads
- Children Killed, Seriously or Slightly Injured on the Roads
- Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents
- Anti-Social Behaviour, Social Media Safety and Travelling to School

Children In Need

Source: DoH Children's Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland 2018/19 (3)

- *A Child is in Need if: (a) he or she is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or to have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision of services by an authority; (b) his or her health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired without the provision of such services: or (c) he or she is disabled. Source: Children (NI) Order 1995.*

- At 31 March 2019, **24,289** children in Northern Ireland were known to Social Services as a Child in Need, of which **18%** were recorded as having a disability. Almost half (45%) of these had a learning disability.

- The number of children in need in 2018/19 has increased by **3.3%** since 2017/18, with the Western HSCT having the highest proportion of children and also the largest rate of Children in Need.

- *A referral is defined as a request for services to be provided by children's social care and is in respect of a child who is currently not assessed to be in need, which may result in an episode of care which may be an initial assessment of the child's needs, the provision of information or advice, referral to another agency or alternatively no further action.*

- During 2017/18 – **34,578** children were referred to HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland, the largest proportion of these children were referred by the police (33%), followed by Social Services (12%).

- The number of children referred has decreased **4%** from 36,022 in 2017/18 to 34,578.

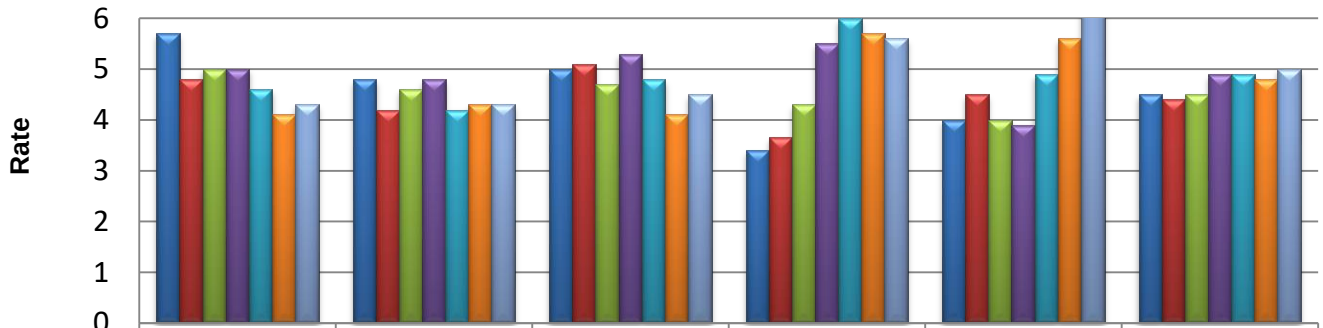
- The South Eastern HSC Trust received the smallest proportion of referrals (14%), the other Trusts shared between 20% and 23% of all referrals. There was an increase of **18%** in the number of referrals received by the Southern HSC Trust between 2018 and 2019, in comparison there was a 15% drop in the number of referrals received by the Belfast HSC Trust.

Children On the Child Protection Register

Data Source: DoH Children's Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland 2018/19

Why is it Important? Child abuse occurs when a child is neglected, harmed or not provided with proper care. Children may be abused in many settings; in a family, an institutional or community setting, by those known to them, or more rarely by a stranger. There are different types of abuse and a child may suffer more than one of them (DHSSPS, Co-operating to Safeguard Children, 2003). (1) Not all children who are subjected to abuse are known to Social Services.

Rate per 1000 of Children Aged 0-17 on the Child Protection Register



	Belfast Trust	Northern Trust	South Eastern Trust	Southern Trust	Western Trust	N.I.
2012/13	5.7	4.8	5.0	3.4	4.0	4.5
2013/14	4.8	4.2	5.1	3.7	4.5	4.4
2014/15	5.0	4.6	4.7	4.3	4.0	4.5
2015/16	5.0	4.8	5.3	5.5	3.9	4.9
2016/17	4.6	4.2	4.8	6.0	4.9	4.9
2017/18	4.1	4.3	4.1	5.7	5.6	4.8
2018/19	4.3	4.3	4.5	5.6	6.7	5.0

The Story Behind the Trends -

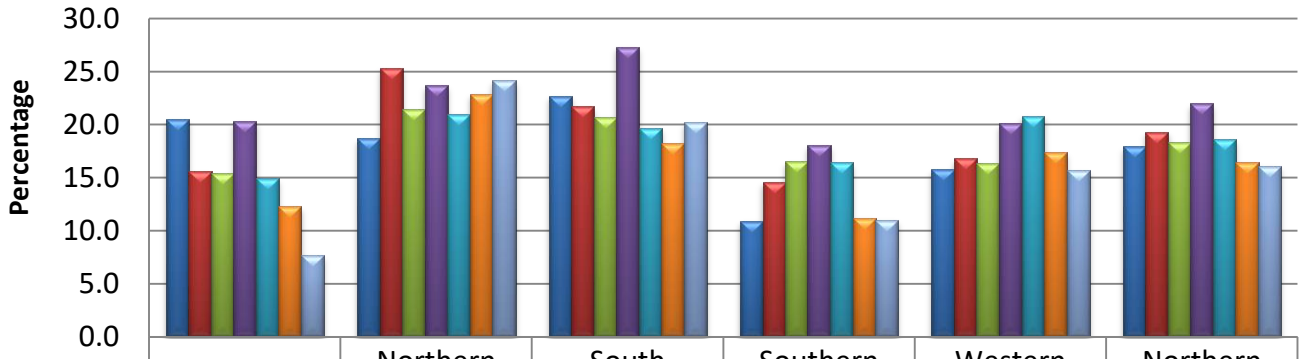
There were a total of **2,211** children on the child protection register in Northern Ireland at 31 March 2019, representing an increase of 129 since March 2018. The Western has seen a significant increase in the rate of children registered in 2018/19, with the Southern and Western Trusts above the NI rate of 5.0. **Please note:** *Figures on child protection registers record the child protection process not the number of children who are abused and are, therefore, likely to underestimate the extent of abuse.*

Children Re-registered to the Child Protection Register

Data Source: DoH Children's Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland 2018/19

Why is it Important? Child abuse occurs when a child is neglected, harmed or not provided with proper care. Children may be abused in many settings; in a family, an institutional or community setting, by those known to them, or more rarely by a stranger. There are different types of abuse and a child may suffer more than one of them (DHSSPS, Co-operating to Safeguard Children, 2003). (1) Not all children who are subjected to abuse are known to Social Services.

Percentage of Children Re-registered to the Child Protection Register



	Belfast Trust	Northern Trust	South Eastern Trust	Southern Trust	Western Trust	Northern Ireland
2012/13	20.5	18.7	22.7	10.9	15.8	17.9
2013/14	15.6	25.3	21.7	14.6	16.8	19.3
2014/15	15.4	21.4	20.7	16.5	16.3	18.3
2015/16	20.3	23.7	27.3	18.0	20.1	22.0
2016/17	14.9	21.0	19.7	16.4	20.8	18.6
2017/18	12.3	22.9	18.2	11.2	17.4	16.4
2018/19	7.7	24.1	20.2	11.0	15.7	16.1

The Story Behind the Trends-

Overall during 2018/19 there were **321** children re-registered on the Child Protection Register.

*Figures based on percentage of **Total Registrations**.*

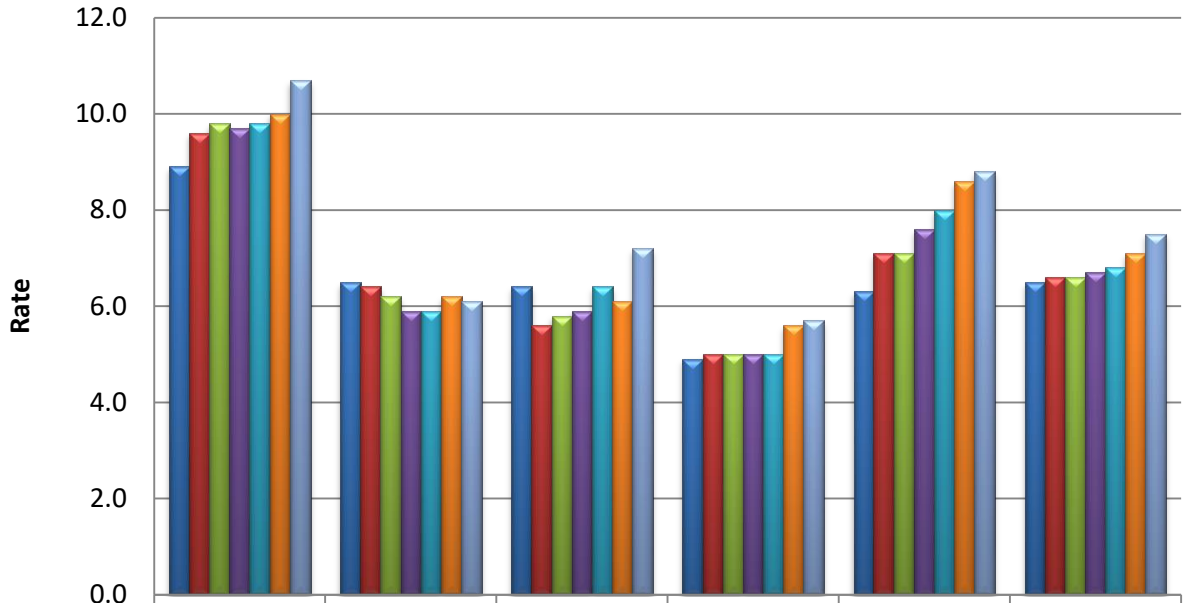
Looked After Children

Data Source: DoH Children's Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland 2018/19

Why is it Important? The DHSSPS (Care Matters, March 2007) (2) states that Looked After Children (LAC) is one of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in society. In comparison to non Looked After Children their outcomes are poorer, including poorer educational attainment and much higher rates of unemployment. LAC are also more likely to have a statement of Special Education Needs and to experience school suspensions and/or expulsions. Girls are more likely than their peers to have a teenage pregnancy; boys are more likely to receive a caution or a conviction than their peers. Detailed work on recording indicators above has been carried out.

The Story Behind the Trends - At 31 March 2019, there were **3,281** LAC in Northern Ireland, up by 5.5% (172) from 2018, a steady increase since 2012/13. Of the 3,281 looked after children, 79% were in foster care, 11% were placed with family, 6% were in residential care and 4% were in other placement types. More than half of LAC in NI (54%) have been in care for less than three years.

Looked After Children per 1000 population aged 0-17 years



	Belfast HSC Trust	Northern HSC Trust	South Eastern HSC Trust	Southern HSC Trust	Western HSC Trust	Northern Ireland
2012/13	8.9	6.5	6.4	4.9	6.3	6.5
2013/14	9.6	6.4	5.6	5.0	7.1	6.6
2014/15	9.8	6.2	5.8	5.0	7.1	6.6
2015/16	9.7	5.9	5.9	5.0	7.6	6.7
2016/17	9.8	5.9	6.4	5.0	8.0	6.8
2017/18	10.0	6.2	6.1	5.6	8.6	7.1
2018/19	10.7	6.1	7.2	5.7	8.8	7.5

Children who are Victims of Domestic Violence

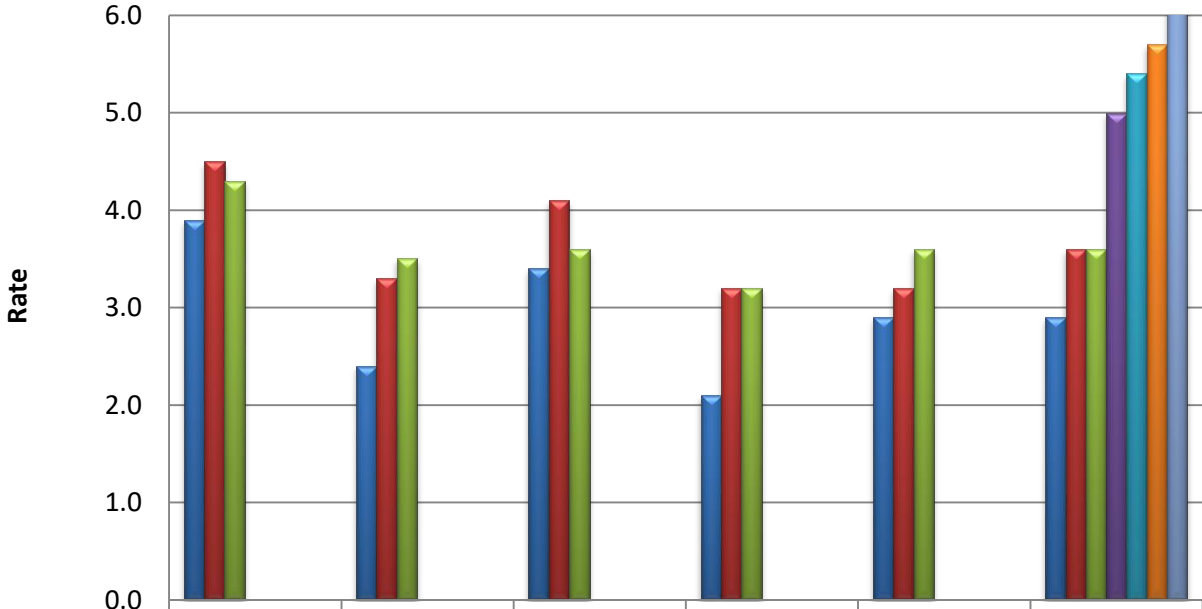
Data Source: Police Service in Northern Ireland (PSNI)

Why is it Important? Domestic Violence affects people of every class, age, race, disability and sexuality (NSPCC, 2009). **(4)** Domestic violence is not restricted to physical violence but sometimes it is more subtle and also involves psychological, verbal, sexual, financial and emotional abuse. Children are very much the silent victims of domestic violence. They may witness it or be subject to it but often their voices are not heard (Tackling Violence at Home, 2005). **(5)**

The Story Behind the Trends - There was a significant increase in the NI rate of children & young people Aged 0-17 who are victims of domestic violence from 2014/15 to 2018/19. Due to Review of Public Administration which came into effect on 1st April 2015, PSNI moved from eight to eleven policing districts and figures are not available by Trust level.

Please note: *Crimes are geographically recorded on the location in which the crime occurred.*

Rate/1000 Children & YP Aged 0-17 who are Victims of Domestic Violence



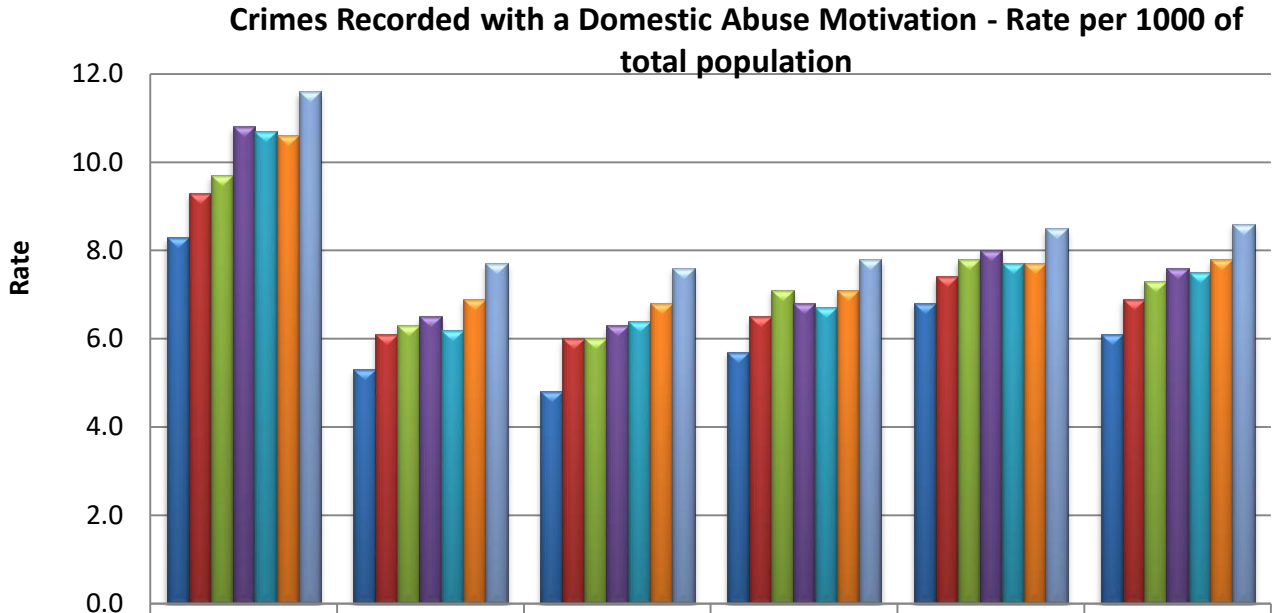
	Belfast Area	Northern Area	South Eastern Area	Southern Area	Western Area	Northern Ireland
2012/13	3.9	2.4	3.4	2.1	2.9	2.9
2013/14	4.5	3.3	4.1	3.2	3.2	3.6
2014/15	4.3	3.5	3.6	3.2	3.6	3.6
2015/16						5.0
2016/17						5.4
2017/18						5.7
2018/19						6.2

Figures not available by Trust level.

Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation

Data Source: Police Service in Northern Ireland (PSNI)

Why is it Important? Although most incidents of Domestic Violence (DV) are reported by an adult, it is important to note that violence in the family cannot be kept hidden from the children. Children will often witness the violence, be aware of the tense atmosphere, suffer as a victim themselves or suffer in the aftermath of the violence (Women's Aid, 2009). **(6)** Exposure to DV can have very damaging long-term effects on a child's mental health, sense of identity and ability to form relationships. Research highlights that the effects of DV are amplified for pre-schoolers, who are completely dependent on parents for all aspects of their care and may therefore witness greater amounts of violence than older children (Holt, Buckley & Whelan, 2008). **(7)**



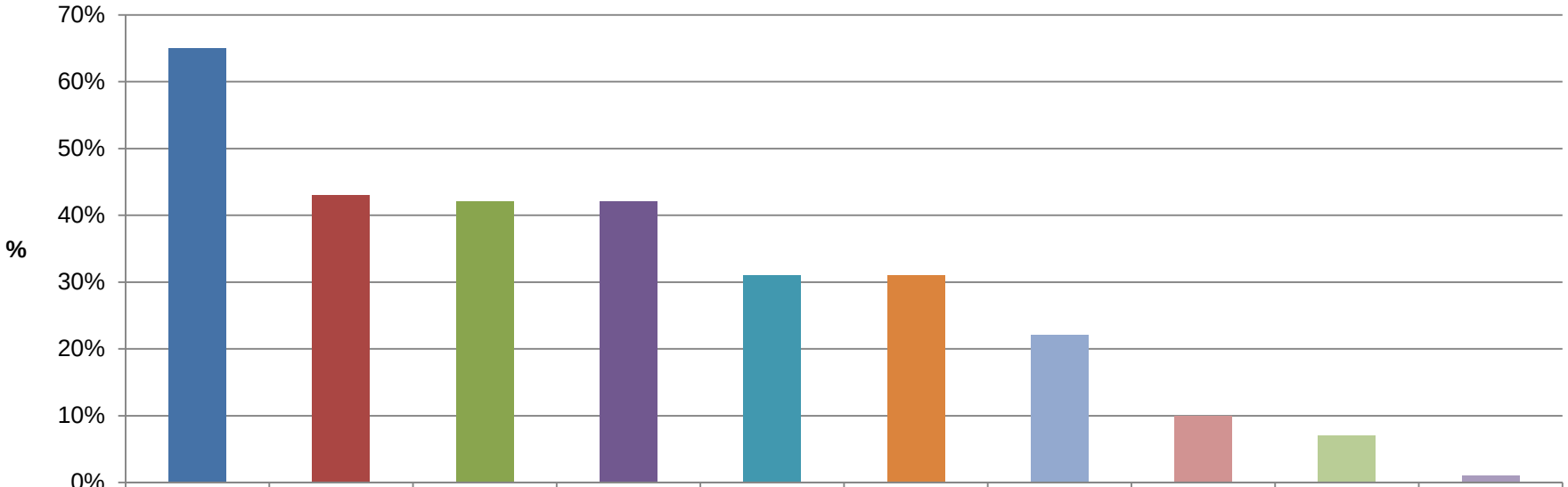
	Belfast Area	Northern Area	South Eastern Area	Southern Area	Western Area	Northern Ireland
2012/13	8.3	5.3	4.8	5.7	6.8	6.1
2013/14	9.3	6.1	6.0	6.5	7.4	6.9
2014/15	9.7	6.3	6.0	7.1	7.8	7.3
2015/16	10.8	6.5	6.3	6.8	8.0	7.6
2016/17	10.7	6.2	6.4	6.7	7.7	7.5
2017/18	10.6	6.9	6.8	7.1	7.7	7.8
2018/19	11.6	7.7	7.6	7.8	8.5	8.6

The Story Behind the Trends - The number of crimes recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation has increased in all areas, with an overall increase at NI level to 8.6 in 2018/19. ***Please note:*** *Crimes are geographically recorded by the police based on the location in which the incident occurred.*

Young People's Attitude to Domestic Violence

Data Source: YPBAS 2016, DHSSPS Sample: 8118 pupils aged 11-16 (Year 8 to Year 12) were selected at random across Northern Ireland and collected in the period September 2019 – February 2020 (8)

If you wanted to discuss concerns regarding Domestic Violence/abuse, who would you contact?



	Family member	Friend	Police	Childline	24hr Domestic & Sexual Abuse Helpline	School teacher/ other member of school staff	Health professional e.g. GP, Social Worker	Youth leader	Faith/ religious leader	Other
Contact	65%	43%	42%	42%	31%	31%	22%	10%	7%	1%

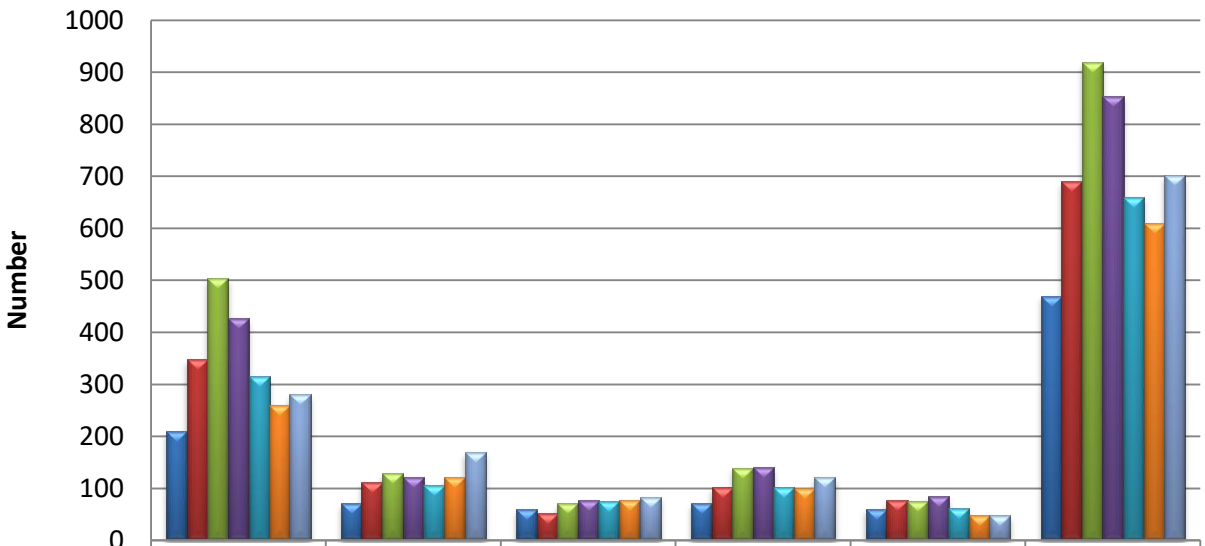
The Story Behind the Trends: - A Family member (65%) was the first contact when Year 8 to Year 12 were asked if they wanted to discuss concerns regarding Domestic Violence/Abuse, followed by Friend 43%, Police 42% and Childline 42%.

Crimes Recorded with a Racist Motivation

Data Source: NINIS

Why is it Important? Both individual and systemic forms of racism and discrimination have far reaching social, economic and personal consequences. Long standing racism can result in profound trauma that can impact generations of a group or community:- Racism can prevent members of certain groups from feeling like equal and valued members of society. It can isolate and exclude people, creating resentment and mistrust of others. Racism can result in on-going psychological stress and anxiety, which can have an impact on work, family life and overall health and well-being. Racism can prevent people from having equal opportunities to better their lives and is the primary reason for higher levels of unemployment and under employment among different racial groups. It can prevent groups and communities from interacting with each other and can increase discomfort, fear and resentment. Racism can also have negative effects on an individual's physical and mental health.

Number of Crimes Recorded with a Racist Motivation



	Belfast Area	Northern Area	South Eastern Area	Southern Area	Western Area	NI
2012/13	209	71	59	71	60	470
2013/14	348	111	52	101	78	690
2014/15	503	129	71	139	76	918
2015/16	427	122	77	140	84	853
2016/17	315	106	75	101	61	660
2017/18	260	121	78	100	48	609
2018/19	280	169	83	122	48	702

The Story Behind the Trends - Since 2014/15, there has been a decrease in the number of offences recorded with a racist motivation from **918** to **609** in 2017/18, but in 2018/19 there has been an increase in all areas to **702**.

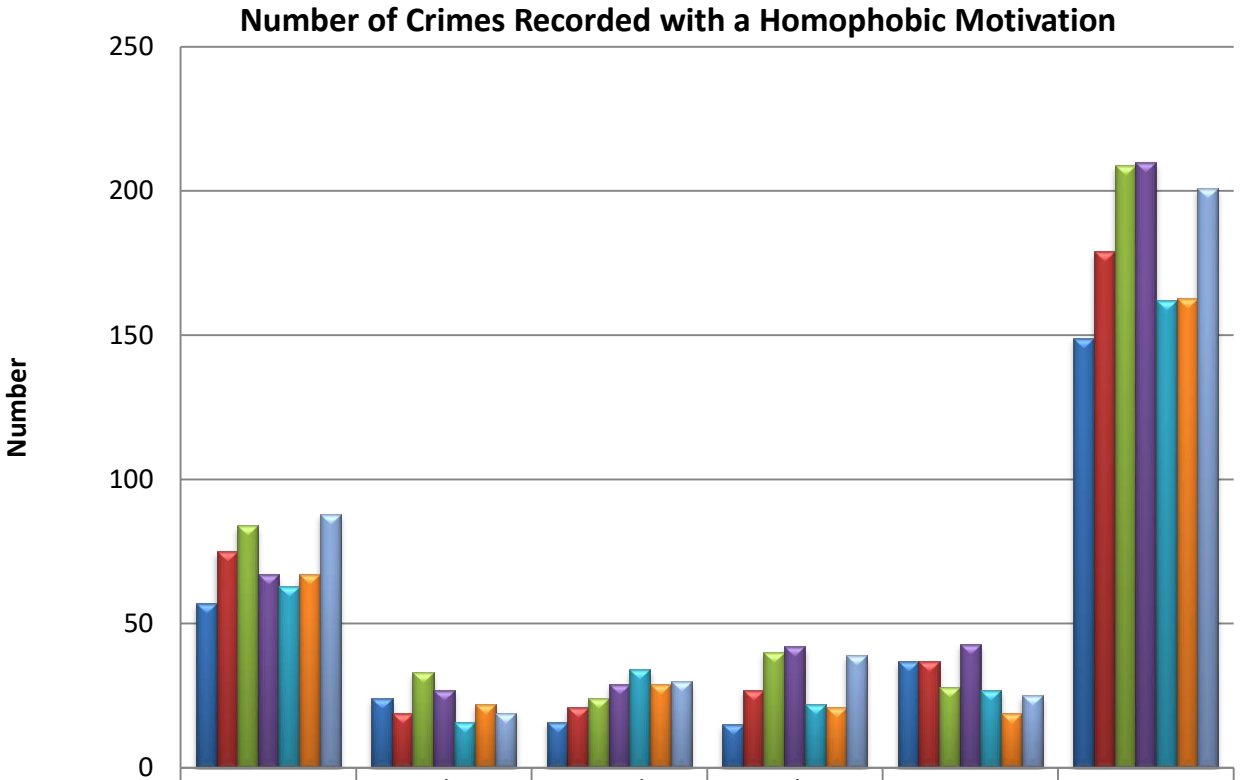
Crimes Recorded with a Homophobic Motivation

Data Source: NINIS

Why is it Important?

A homophobic incident is defined as any incident which is perceived to be homophobic by the victim or any other person. Homophobia can be defined as a fear or dislike directed towards lesbian, gay or bisexual people, or a fear or dislike directed towards their perceived lifestyle, culture or characteristics. Sexual orientation can be defined as an individual's preference for a particular sex (be it the opposite or the same), or an individual's view of their own sexuality. The long-term emotional effects of homophobia and negativity have been proved to impact on mental and often physical well-being. This can develop into drug and/or alcohol problems, feelings of low self-esteem, engagement in self-harm and, most worryingly, may lead to suicide contemplation.

The Story Behind the Trends - Figures show a significant decrease in the total number of offences recorded with a homophobic motivation from 2015/16 to 2017/18, with an increase in 2018/19 to **201**.



	Belfast Area	Northern Area	South Eastern Area	Southern Area	Western Area	NI
2012/13	57	24	16	15	37	149
2013/14	75	19	21	27	37	179
2014/15	84	33	24	40	28	209
2015/16	67	27	29	42	43	210
2016/17	63	16	34	22	27	162
2017/18	67	22	29	21	19	163
2018/19	88	19	30	39	25	201

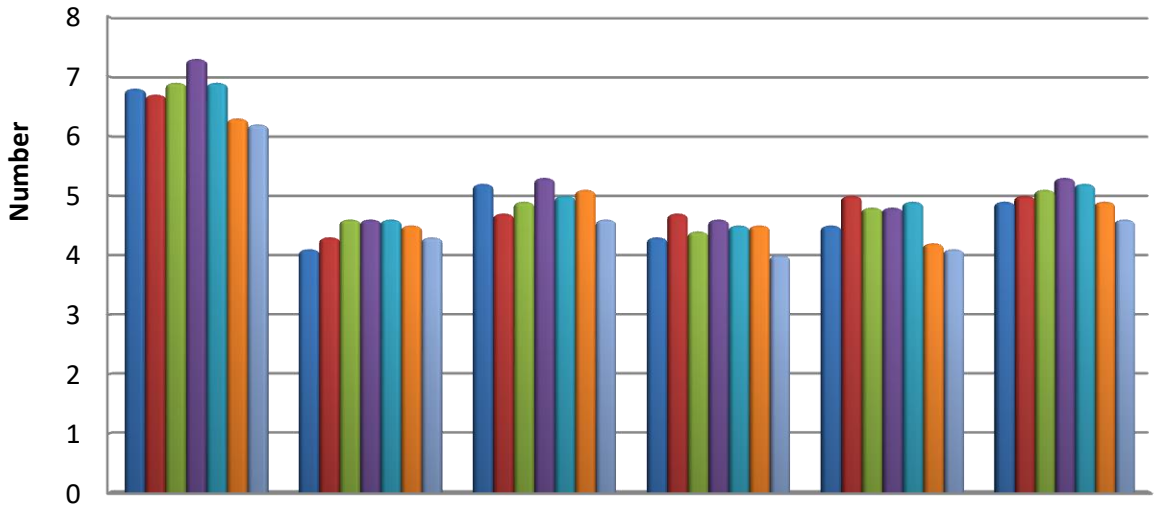
Road Traffic Casualties on the Roads

Data Source: NINIS

Why is it Important? The NI Road Safety Partnership aims to reduce the number of road traffic casualties through education and by detecting speed at locations with a history of collisions and where there is evidence of speeding. Exceed was a contributory factor in one fifth of all fatal collisions in NI in 2016. Compared to other areas in the UK and based on 2015 collision data, NI has the highest number of injury road traffic collisions per 100,000 population – approximately 44% more than England and over twice the rate of Scotland. (NI Road Safety Partnership,2016) **(9).**

The Story Behind the Trends - Figures show a slight decrease in road traffic casualties across all areas in 2018. Belfast area has consistently been the highest over the 7 year period. In 2018 **55** people were killed on Northern Ireland's road which is a decrease of 8 from 2017.

Rate/1000 of All Population Killed, Seriously Injured or Slightly Injured on the Roads



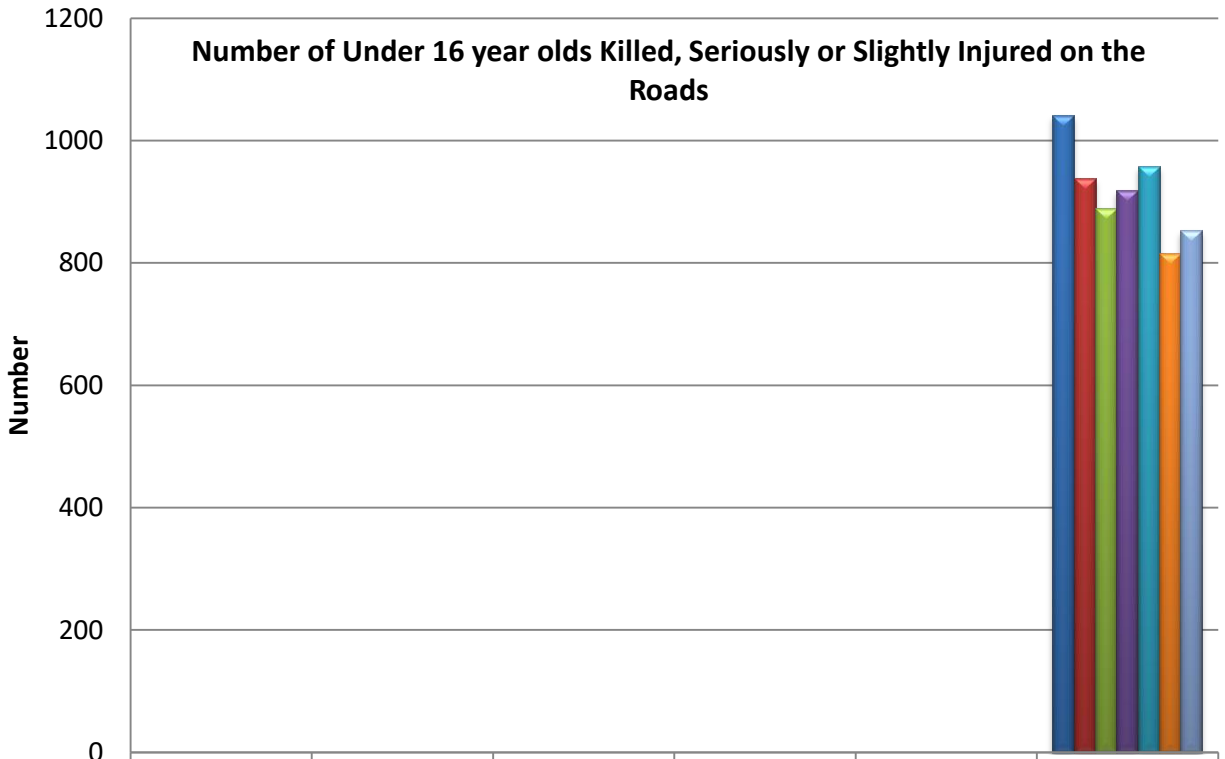
	Belfast Area	Northern Area	South Eastern Area	Southern Area	Western Area	NI
2012	6.8	4.1	5.2	4.3	4.5	4.9
2013	6.7	4.3	4.7	4.7	5.0	5.0
2014	6.9	4.6	4.9	4.4	4.8	5.1
2015	7.3	4.6	5.3	4.6	4.8	5.3
2016	6.9	4.6	5.0	4.5	4.9	5.2
2017	6.3	4.5	5.1	4.5	4.2	4.9
2018	6.2	4.3	4.6	4	4.1	4.6

Children Killed, Seriously or Slightly Injured on the Roads

Data Source: PSNI

Why is it Important? Road traffic deaths make up 41% of all child deaths, the majority of these children are pedestrians and cyclists and not car occupants. By changing children's exposure to risk as pedestrians these death rates decline, but may lower exercise and fitness levels and restrict the child's independence (Unicef, 2001). **(10).** The NI Road Safety Strategy (NIRSS) to 2020 Annual Statistical Report 2017 target for 2020 is to reduce the number of children killed or seriously injured on our roads to 58 or less. (NI Road Safety Strategy, 2017) **(11.)**

The Story Behind the Trends - Figures have shown a slight increase in the number of child casualties on the roads in the past year. Overall in Northern Ireland in 2018/19 there were **785** children slightly injured, **64** seriously injured and **4** killed on the roads within Northern Ireland. This was a 22% decrease since 2012/13 of Under 16 casualties. **Please Note:** *Due to Review of Public Administration which came into effect on 1st April 2015, PSNI moved from eight to eleven policing district in line with the new LGDs and figures are not available by Trust level.*



	Belfast Area	Northern Area	South Eastern Area	Southern Area	Western Area	NI
2012/13						1041
2013/14						938
2014/15						890
2015/16						919
2016/17						958
2017/18						816
2018/19						853

Figures for the Trust Areas are not available due to the new Policing Districts.

Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents

Data Source: NINIS

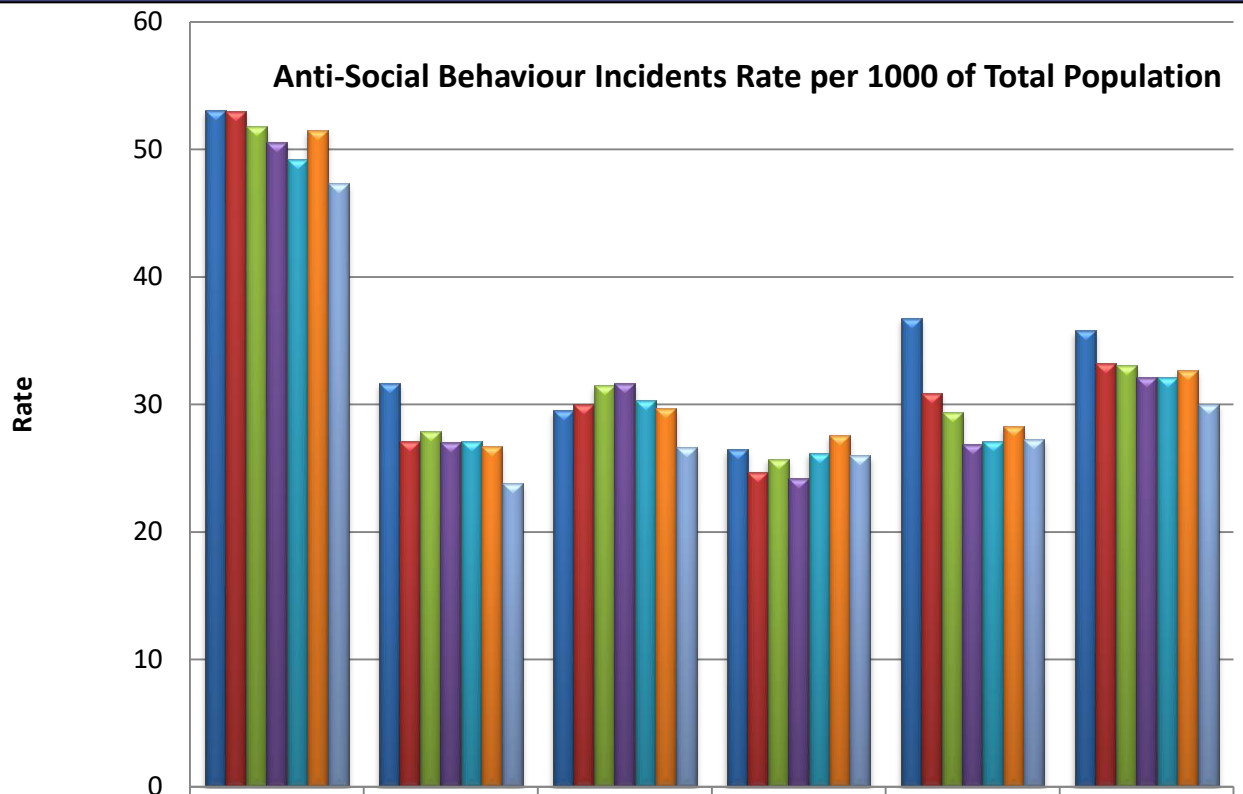
Why is it Important?

Anti-social behaviour can have a negative effect on the quality of life of individuals and communities. It is therefore important to report concerns about anti-social behaviour you are experiencing at an early stage.

The term anti-social behaviour (ASB) is used to describe a wide range of inconsiderate and nuisance behaviour, such as: excessive noise, graffiti, littering and disputes with neighbours.

The PSNI gather information on anti-social behaviour for both adults and young people who come to the attention of the police and decide on the course of action required. This can range from a warning letter, home visit, Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) right up to an Anti Social Behaviour Order (ASBO). Each course of action is looked on in an individual basis. (**12**)

The Story Behind the Trends – NI rates have decreased in anti-social behaviour since 2012/13 from 35.8 to **30.0** in 2018/19. Belfast has the highest rate of ASBI, above all the other areas and also NI.



	Belfast Area	Northern Area	South Eastern Area	Southern Area	Western Area	NI
2012/13	53.1	31.7	29.5	26.5	36.8	35.8
2013/14	53.0	27.1	30	24.7	30.9	33.2
2014/15	51.8	27.9	31.5	25.7	29.4	33.1
2015/16	50.6	27	31.7	24.2	26.9	32.1
2016/17	49.2	27.1	30.3	26.2	27.1	32.1
2017/18	51.5	26.7	29.7	27.6	28.3	32.7
2018/19	47.3	23.8	26.7	26.0	27.2	30.0

Anti-Social Behaviour, Social Media Safety and Travelling to School

Data Source: YPBAS 2016, DHSSPS Sample: 8118 pupils aged 11-16 (Year 8 to Year 12) were selected at random across Northern Ireland and collected in the period September 2019 –. February 2020 (8)

Why is it Important? Qualitative surveys give us more in-depth information on the views children and young people hold.

- In 2019, 61% feel very safe in the area in which they live, with 33% quite safe, which was slightly lower than the figures in 2016 at 63% and 31%.
- In 2019 60% did not think that there were any problems relating to personal safety in their area. The most common issues that were cited by young people as problems in their area were people being rowdy or drunk in public places and people using or dealing in drugs (both 21%), vandalism, graffiti or deliberate damage to property (19%) and people being insulted, pestered or intimidated in the street (10%).
- In 2019, in relation to their own personal safety, almost 29% were worried about being bullied and 18% reported being bullied in a way that frightened or upset them in the last 12 months.
- In 2016, in the past 12 months, 17% of pupils have been bullied, 4% have been physically abused, 8% of pupils have been harassed/bullied/abused via the internet and 6% have been bullied/harassed via texts/videos/images or calls to your mobile.
- In 2013, in the past 12 months, 17% of pupils have been bullied, 7% have been called names or been harassed because of their religion and 8% of pupils have been harassed/bullied/abused via the internet.

Anti-Social Behaviour, Social Media Safety and Travelling to School

Data Source: YPBAS 2016, DHSSPS Sample: 8118 pupils aged 11-16 (Year 8 to Year 12) were selected at random across Northern Ireland and collected in the period September 2019 –. February 2020 (8)

Why is it Important? Qualitative surveys give us more in-depth information on the views children and young people hold.

- In 2019, almost all young people (97%) reported that they use the internet at home every or almost every day. In the last 12 months (89%) have been taught about staying safe online citing teachers (82%) and parents (71%) as the main providers of this teaching.

- In 2019 the vast majority of young people (96%) use social media sites or apps, such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter or Whatsapp. Most said they use social media daily or most days (85%), with (10%) estimating that they spend over 20 hours a week on social media sites or apps. Just under two thirds of young people (63%) feel that their social media accounts are a true reflection of themselves.

- In 2019, half of young people (50%) travel to school by bus, almost (32%) get there by car and (16%) usually walk to school. In contrast, more that half (56%) travel home by bus, (22%) walk home and just one fifth (20%) travel home from school by car.

Economic and Environmental Well-Being

What we want to achieve for our children and young people:-

- Improved outcomes for children who live in poverty.
- Access to safe, quality play areas.
- To live in homes that do not fail decent standards.
- To achieve economic stability and independence.

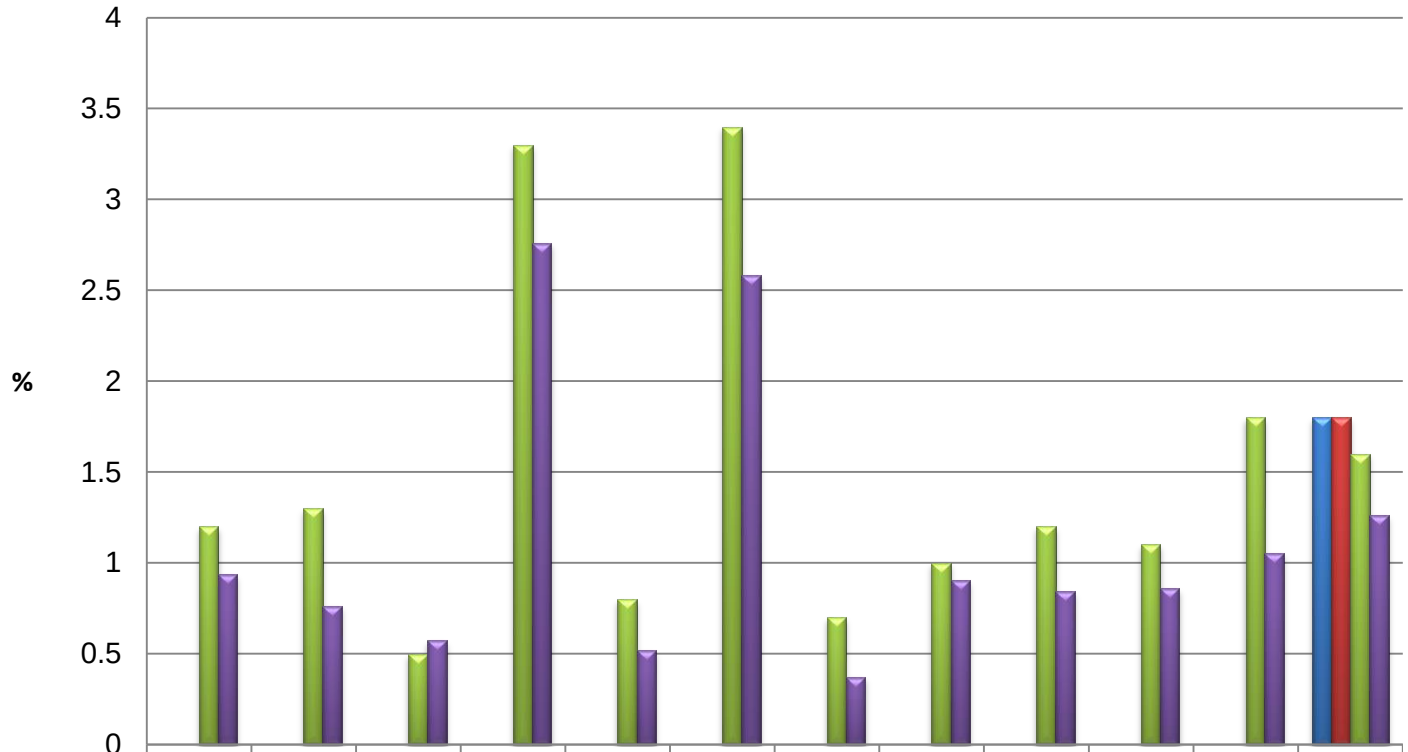
The following indicators are included in this chapter to measure the economic and environmental wellbeing of all our children and young people:-

- Children and Young People living in overcrowded accommodation
- Number of Families with Children Awarded as Full Duty Applicants
- Dependent Children in Families Awarded as Full Duty Applicants
- Number of Young People aged 16-18 awarded as Full Duty Applicants
- Families with Dependent Children living in temporary accommodation
- Number of Children living in temporary accommodation
- Percentage of Children living in Relative low Income Poverty (BHC)
- Percentage of Children living in Absolute low Income Poverty (BHC)
- Percentage of Children who are dependents of Claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance
- Percentage of Children who are dependents of Claimants of Income Support
- Percentage of Lone Parent Families claiming Jobseekers Allowance
- Percentage of Lone Parent Families claiming Income Support
- Percentage of Free School Meals at Primary School
- Percentage of Free School Meals at Post Primary School
- Key Points (Family Resources Survey)

Children and Young People Living in Overcrowded Accommodation

Data Source: Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) (awaiting updated data)

Percentage Children & Young People Living in Overcrowded Accommodation



	Antrim & N'abbey	Ards & North Down	ABC	Belfast	Causeway Coast & Glens	Derry City & Strabane	Fermanagh & Omagh	Lisburn & Castlereagh	Mid & East Antrim	Mid Ulster	Newry, Mourne & Down	NI
2014/15												1.8
2015/16												1.8
2016/17	1.2	1.3	0.5	3.3	0.8	3.4	0.7	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.8	1.6
2017/18	0.9	0.8	0.6	2.8	0.5	2.6	0.4	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.3

Why is it Important? Living in overcrowded accommodation can have a devastating effect on families. If a home is overcrowded it can affect health and educational attainment and can impact negatively on life chances (Full House, Shelter 2005). ***(1)***

The Story Behind the Trends - The percentage of young people living in overcrowded accommodation has decreased in NI in the past two years, to 1.3% in 2017/18. The higher percentage of children and young people affected by overcrowding continues to be within the Belfast and Derry & Strabane area. **Please Note:** *Due to Review of Public Administration which came into effect on 1st April 2015, NIHE moved to the new eleven LGDs and figures are not available by Trust level.*

Number of Families with Children Awarded as Full Duty Applicants

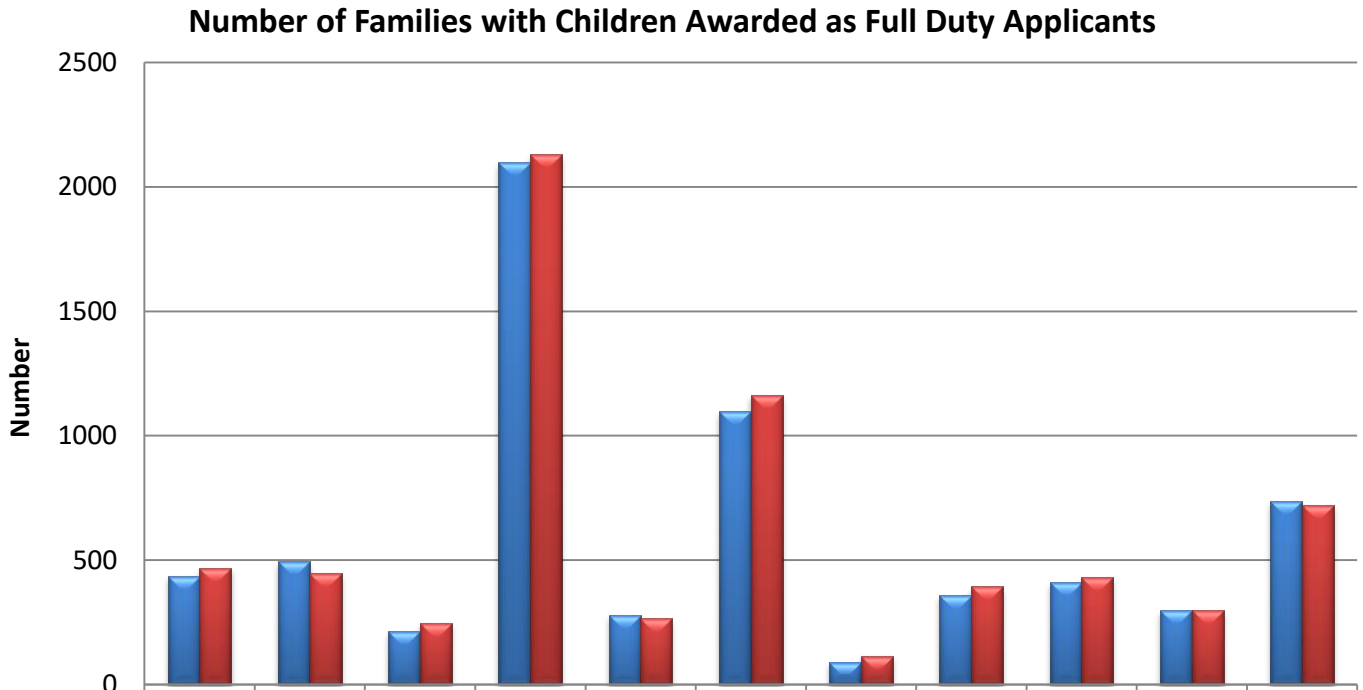
(passed all homelessness tests)

Data Source: NIHE (awaiting updated data)

Why is it Important?
Homeless people suffer high levels of stress from their lack of control over their housing situation, combined with high levels of poverty and often poor living conditions. They often also feel very isolated, especially when temporary accommodation is provided at a distance from the household's local community and friends (Shelter 2009*).* ***(2)***

A **Full Duty Applicant** is a housing **applicant** that the Housing Executive has a legal responsibility towards. The responsibilities the Housing Executive has are to:

- provide temporary accommodation that is suitable if needed.
- provide 3 reasonable offers of permanent accommodation.
- Store belongings, advice and assistance with housing options.



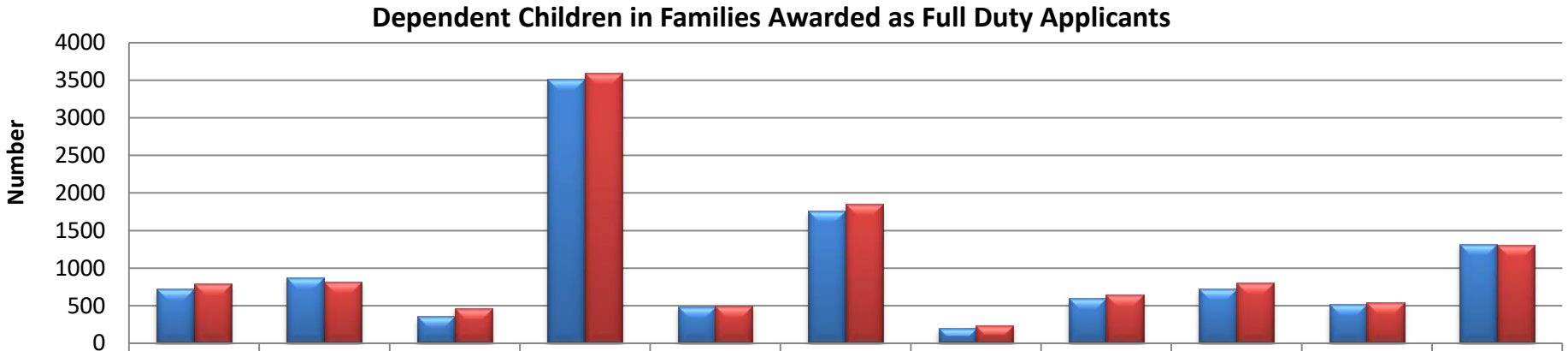
	Antrim & N'abbey	Ards & North Down	ABC	Belfast	Causeway C & Glens	Derry & Strabane	Fermanagh & Omagh	Lisburn & Castlereagh	Mid & East Antrim	Mid Ulster	Newry, Mourne & Down
2016/17	437	494	214	2099	279	1096	90	358	409	298	736
2017/18	468	447	247	2130	265	1162	115	395	431	297	719

The Story Behind the Trends - The number of families with children awarded as full duty applicants has increased in 2017/18, with Belfast the highest. Overall there were **6,676** Families with Children awarded as Full Duty Applicants across NI. **Please Note:** *Due to Review of Public Administration which came into effect on 1st April 2015, NIHE moved to the new eleven LGDs and figures are not available by Trust level.*

Dependent Children in Families Awarded as Full Duty Applicants

(passed all homelessness tests) Data Source: NIHE (awaiting updated data)

Why is it Important? Children are frightened, insecure, or worried about the future as a result of their homelessness. There is evidence among homeless children of mood swings, nervousness and bad tempers, bed-wetting and disturbed sleep patterns (Where's home? Children and homelessness in Bristol, Shelter, London, 2002). **(3)**



	Antrim & N'abbey	Ards & North Down	Armagh/Banbridge/Craigavon	Belfast	Causeway Coast & Glens	Derry & Strabane	Fermanagh & Omagh	Lisburn & Castlereagh	Mid & East Antrim	Mid Ulster	Newry,Mourne & Down
2016/17	721	870	355	3517	492	1763	198	597	724	521	1318
2017/18	789	819	466	3600	493	1849	238	651	799	539	1302

The Story Behind the Trends – Overall Belfast continues to have the most children in families awarded with full duty applicants. A total of **11,545** children were living in Families awarded Full Duty Applicants in Northern Ireland.

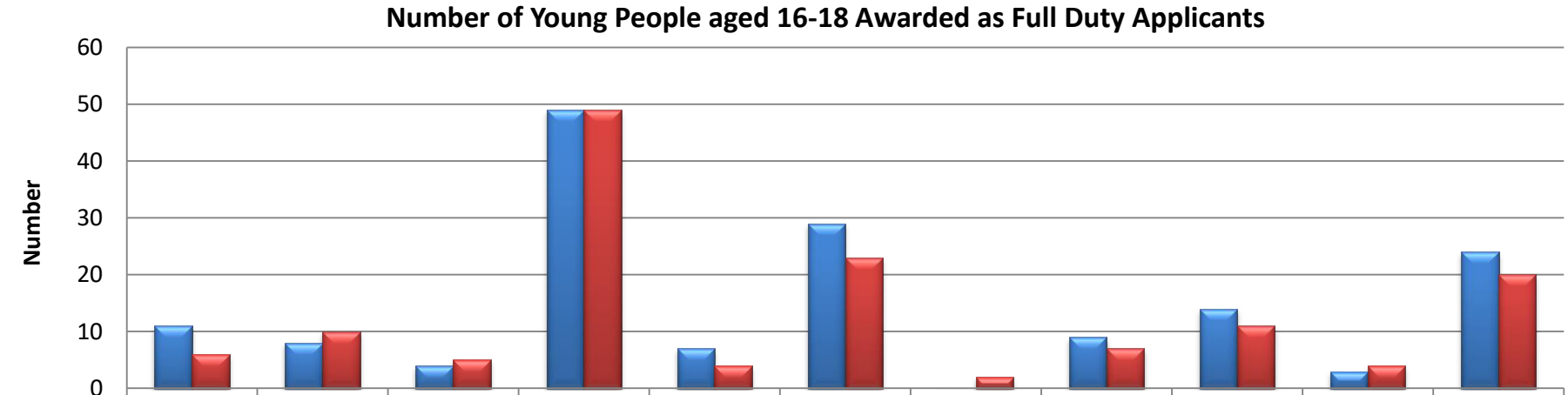
Please Note: *Due to Review of Public Administration which came into effect on 1st April 2015, NIHE moved to the new eleven LGDs and figures are not available by Trust level.*

Number of Young People Aged 16-18 Awarded as Full Duty Applicants

(passed all homelessness tests)

Data Source: NIHE (awaiting updated data)

Why is it important? Many people only associate homelessness with sleeping on the streets. The reality is that the vast majority of homeless people are families or single people who are not 'sleeping rough'. Some may be staying with relatives and friends on a temporary basis. Others live in temporary accommodation, such as bed and breakfast, hotels, hostels, night shelters and refuges. For many, this means living in poor quality accommodation that is detrimental to their health and well-being (Shelter 2009). **(2)**



	Antrim & N'abbey	Ards & North Down	Armagh/Banbridge/Craigavon	Belfast	Causeway C & Glens	Derry & Strabane	Fermanagh & Omagh	Lisburn & Castlereagh	Mid & East Antrim	Mid Ulster	Newry,Mourne & Down
2016/17	11	8	4	49	7	29	0	9	14	3	24
2017/18	6	10	5	49	4	23	2	7	11	4	20

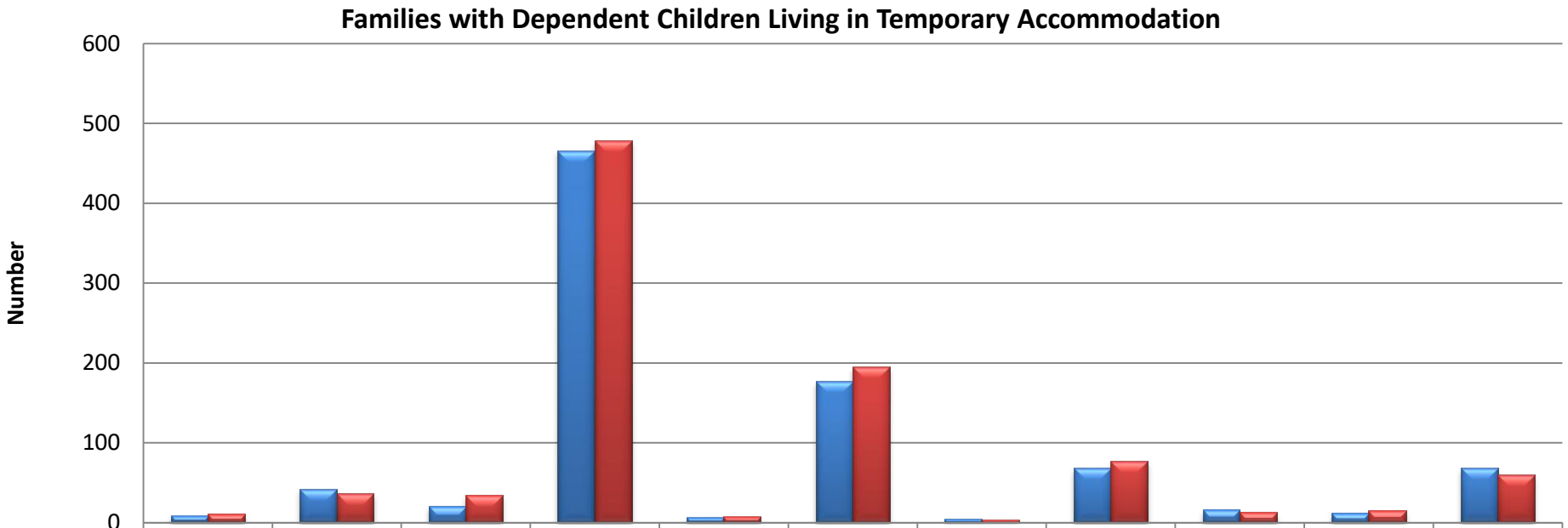
The Story Behind the Trends - Overall Belfast District continues to have the most young people awarded with full duty applicants. A total of **141** young people were awarded Full Duty Applicants in 2017/18.

Please Note: *Due to Review of Public Administration which came into effect on 1st April 2015, NIHE moved to the new eleven LGDs and figures are not available by Trust level.*

Families with Dependent Children Living in Temporary Accommodation

Data Source: NIHE (awaiting updated data)

Why is it Important? When people are forced to move into temporary accommodation, their health suffers. The uncertainty of their situation, often combined with poor living conditions, impacts both physically and mentally on homeless individuals and families. (Sick and Tired; The impact of temporary accommodation on the health of homeless families, Shelter, 2004) **(4)**



	Antrim & N'abbey	Ards & North Down	Armagh/Banbridge/Craigavon	Belfast	Causeway C & Glens	Derry & Strabane	Fermanagh & Omagh	Lisburn & Castlereagh	Mid & East Antrim	Mid Ulster	Newry,Mourne & Down
2016/17	9	42	20	466	7	177	5	68	16	12	68
2017/18	11	36	34	478	8	195	4	77	13	15	60

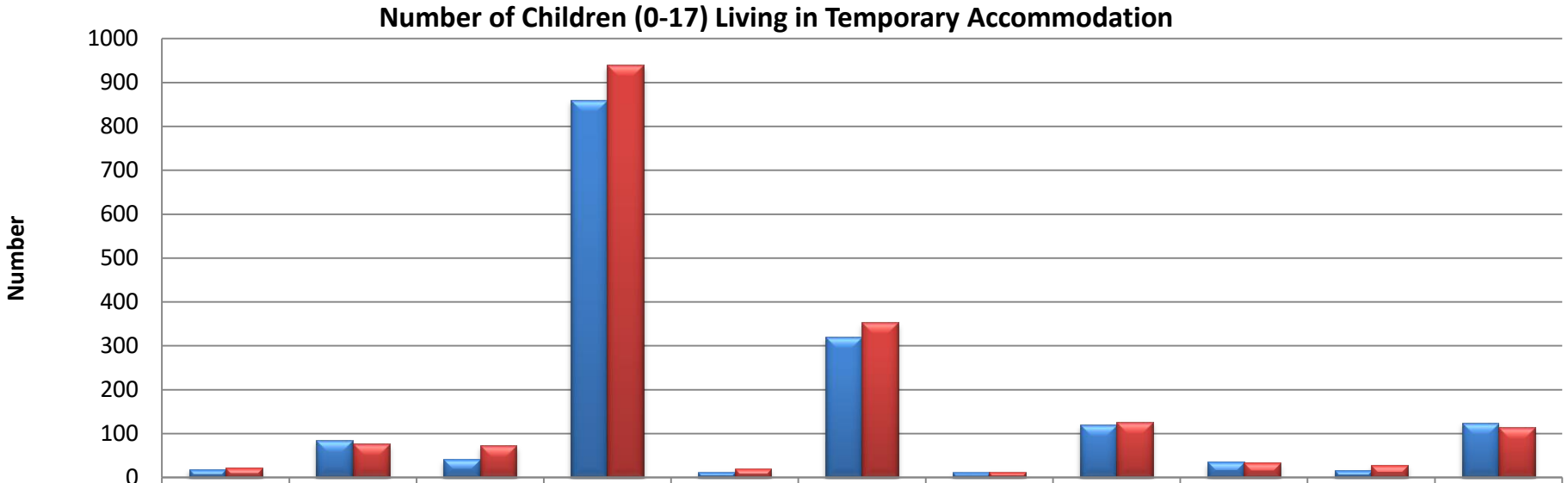
The Story Behind the Trends - There are significantly higher numbers of families with children living in temporary accommodation in the Belfast District. Overall in NI in 2017/18 there has been an increase of 41 families with children living in temporary accommodation.

Please Note: *Due to Review of Public Administration which came into effect on 1st April 2015, NIHE moved to the new eleven LGDs and figures are not available by Trust level.*

Number of Children Living in Temporary Accommodation

Data Source: NIHE (awaiting updated data)

Why is it Important? Children living in poor, temporary or overcrowded conditions are more likely to have respiratory problems, to be at risk of infections, and have mental health problems. Housing that is in poor condition, temporary or overcrowded also threatens children's safety. The impact on children's development is both immediate and long term; growing up in poor housing has been found to have a lasting impact on a child's health and well-being throughout their life. (Chance of a Lifetime: the impact of bad housing on children's lives, Shelter, 2006) **(5)**



	Antrim & N'abbey	Ards & North Down	Armagh/Banbridge/Craigavon	Belfast	Causeway C & Glens	Derry & Strabane	Fermanagh & Omagh	Lisburn & Castlereagh	Mid & East Antrim	Mid Ulster	Newry,Mourne & Down
2016/17	19	84	42	861	13	320	12	120	36	17	125
2017/18	22	77	73	940	20	354	13	127	34	29	115

The Story Behind the Trends - Overall there was an increase of 155 children living in temporary accommodation across NI in 2017/18, with significantly higher numbers of children living in temporary accommodation in the Belfast District.

Please Note: *Due to Review of Public Administration which came into effect on 1st April 2015, NIHE moved to the new eleven LGDs and figures are not available by Trust level.*

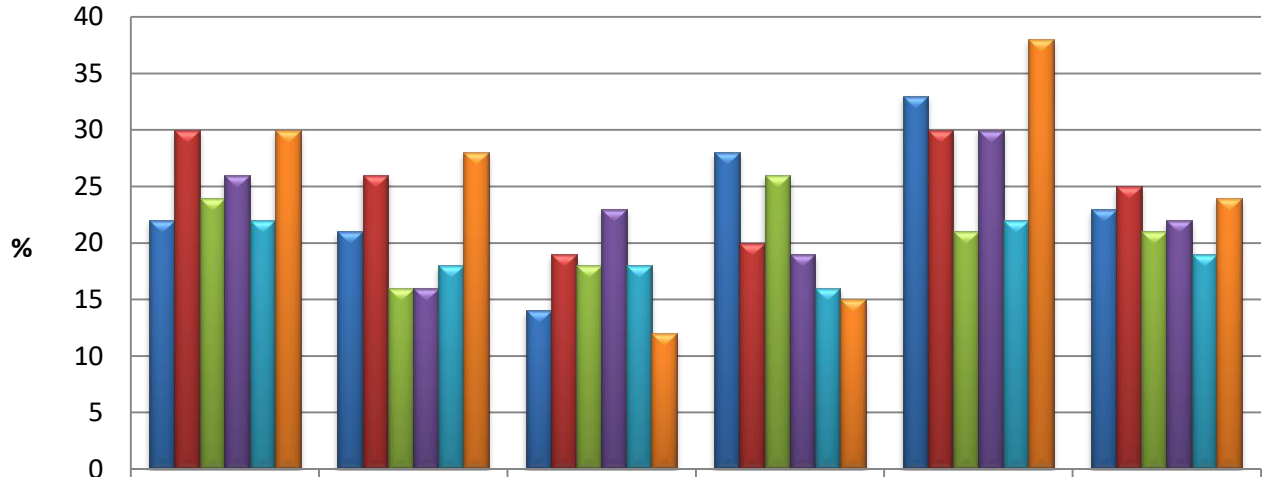
Percentage of Children Living in Relative Low Income Poverty BHC

Data Source: Dept. for Communities

Why is it Important? An individual is considered to be in relative poverty if they are living in a household with an equivalised income below 60% of UK median income in the year in question. This is a measure of whether those in the lowest income households are keeping pace with the growth of incomes in the population as a whole. (N.I. Poverty Bulletin, 2016/17) **(6)**

The Story Behind the Trends – Belfast, Northern and the Western HSCT are above the Northern Ireland average in children living in relative low income poverty before housing costs in 2018/19. The % of children in relative poverty before housing costs was **24%** in 2018/19, which is approximately **107,000** children. This figure has increased from 19% in 2017/18 which equates to **85,000** children. (Households Below Average Income NI, 2018/19). ***(7)***

Percentage of Children Living in Relative Low Income Poverty Before Housing Costs



	Belfast HSCT	Northern HSCT	South Eastern HSCT	Southern HSCT	Western HSCT	Northern Ireland
2013/14	22	21	14	28	33	23
2014/15	30	26	19	20	30	25
2015/16	24	16	18	26	21	21
2016/17	26	16	23	19	30	22
2017/18	22	18	18	16	22	19
2018/19	30	28	12	15	38	24

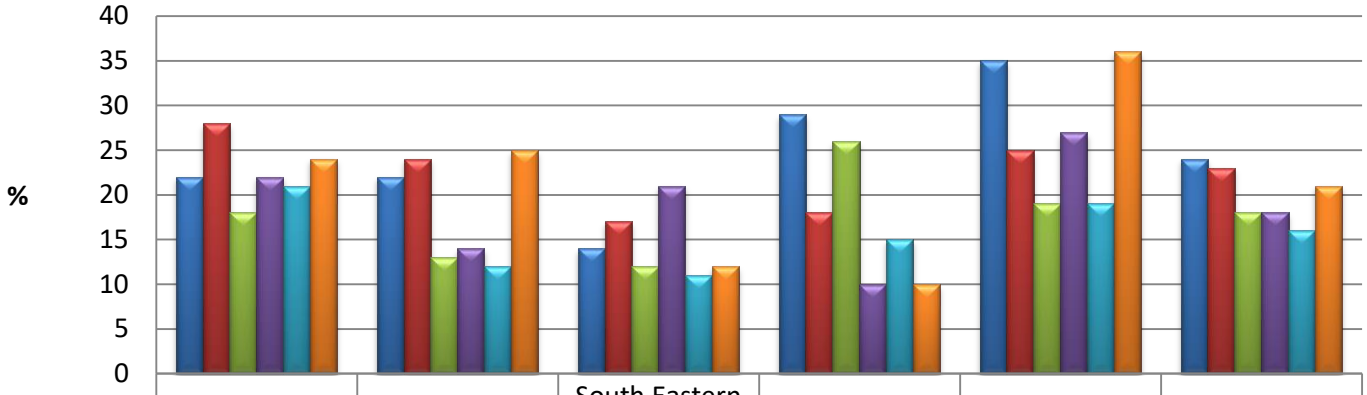
Percentage of Children Living in Absolute Low Income Poverty BHC

Data Source: Dept. for Communities

Why is it Important? Absolute poverty is defined as a condition characterised by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information. An individual is considered to be in absolute poverty if they are living in a household with an equivalised income below 60% of the (inflation adjusted)UK median income in 2010/11. In 2016/17 the absolute poverty threshold for a couple with no children was an income of £280 per week (BHC). (N.I. Poverty Bulletin, 2016/17) **(6)**

The Story Behind the Trends – The Western Area has been constantly above the NI average in children living in absolute low income poverty over the years, with the Belfast and Northern HSCT also above the NI average. In 2018/19 21% of children were in absolute poverty , before housing costs which is approximately 92,000 children. This figure has increased from 16% in 2017/18, which equates to **69,000** children. (Households Below Average Income NI, 2018/19) **(7)**

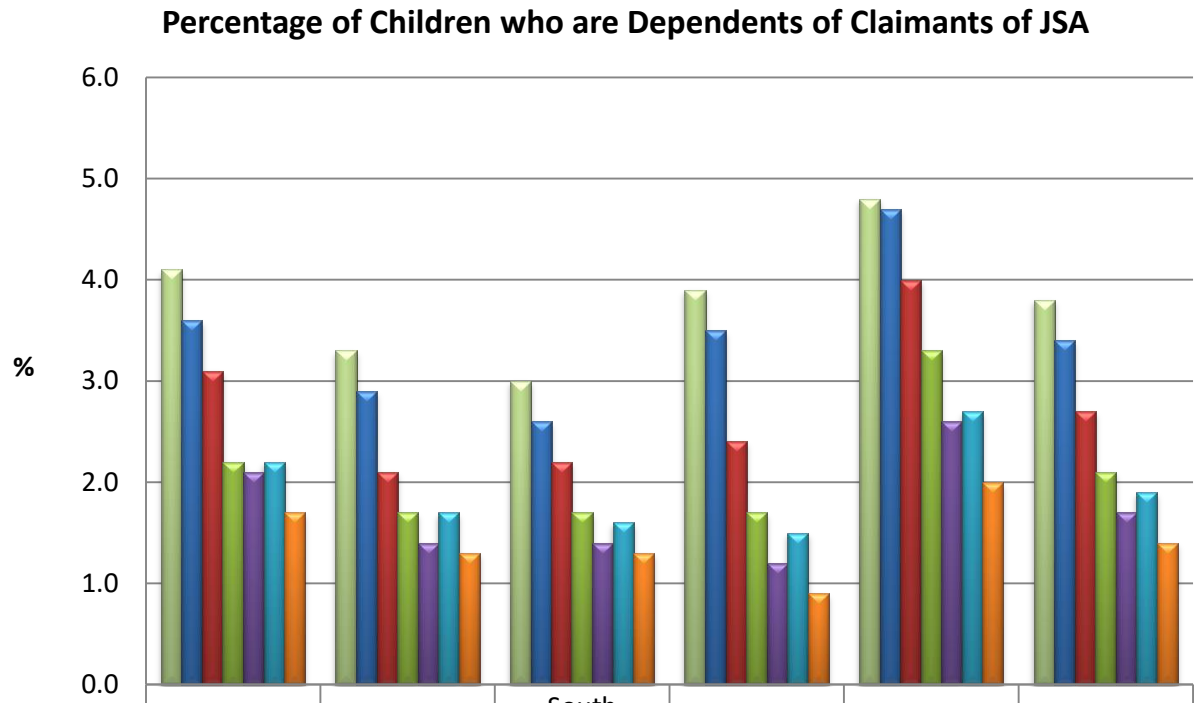
Percentage of Children Living in Absolute Low Income Poverty Before Housing Costs



	Belfast HSCT	Northern HSCT	South Eastern HSCT	Southern HSCT	Western HSCT	NI
2013/14	22	22	14	29	35	24
2014/15	28	24	17	18	25	23
2015/16	18	13	12	26	19	18
2016/17	22	14	21	10	27	18
2017/18	21	12	11	15	19	16
2018/19	24	25	12	10	36	21

Percentage of Children who are Dependents of Claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance

Data Source: Dept. for Communities



	Belfast Trust	Northern Trust	South Eastern Trust	Southern Trust	Western Trust	Northern Ireland
2012/13	4.1	3.3	3.0	3.9	4.8	3.8
2013/14	3.6	2.9	2.6	3.5	4.7	3.4
2014/15	3.1	2.1	2.2	2.4	4.0	2.7
2015/16	2.2	1.7	1.7	1.7	3.3	2.1
2016/17	2.1	1.4	1.4	1.2	2.6	1.7
2017/18	2.2	1.7	1.6	1.5	2.7	1.9
2018/19	1.7	1.3	1.3	0.9	2.0	1.4

Why is it Important? Jobseeker's Allowance replaced Unemployment Benefit and Income Support for unemployed people. It is payable to people under pensionable age who are available for, and actively seeking, work of at least 40 hours a week. Children who experience poverty, especially persistently, are at higher risk of encountering difficulties for example, health problems, developmental delays and behaviour disorders and they are also more likely to fall into low income themselves in adulthood (Kornberger et al. 2001, Finnie and Bernard 2004) **(8)**

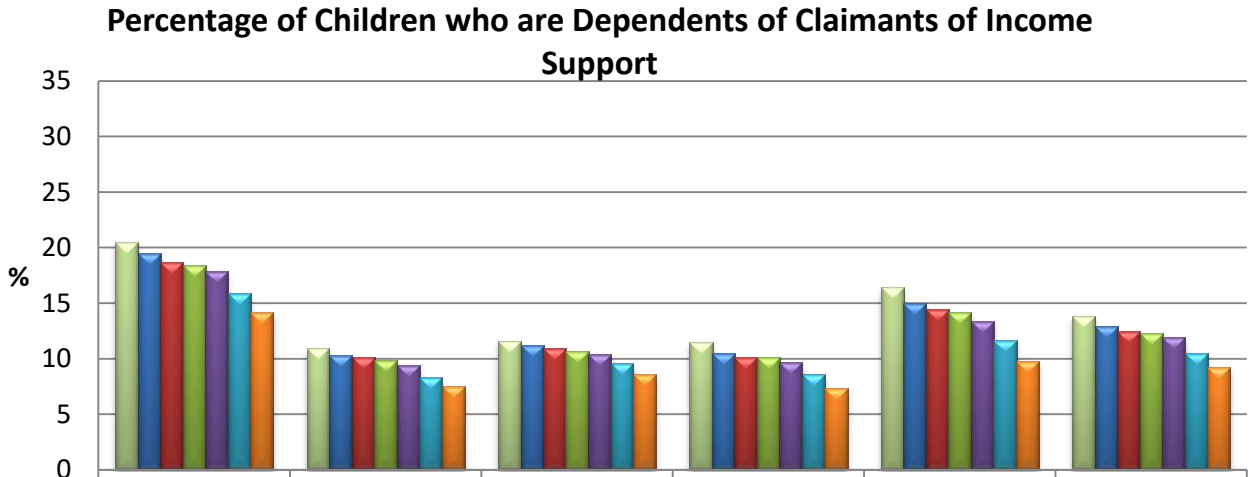
The Story Behind the Trends - All areas have seen a decrease in the last year in the percentage of children who are dependents of Claimants of JSA. The higher percentage of children are in the Belfast and Western Trust Areas, above the NI % of 1.4.

Please note: *Due to the phased roll-out of Universal Credit there will be no new claimants to Income-based JSA. Rollout of UC was completed in December 2018.*

Percentage of Children who are Dependents of Claimants of Income Support

Data Source: Dept. for Communities

Why is it Important? An individual whose income, from all sources, is below the minimum level set by Government is entitled to Income Support. Income Support is normally claimed by people who are aged 16 or over, not working 16 hours or more (and/or with a partner working less than 24 hours) and not required to be available for full-time employment. Children growing up in low income families may be 'learning to be poor' from an early age as diminished expectations of what their parents can afford lead them to scale down their hopes and aspirations for the future. (Kornberger et al. 2001, Finnie and Bernard 2004). **(8)**



	Belfast Trust	Northern Trust	South Eastern Trust	Southern Trust	Western Trust	Northern Ireland
2012/13	20.5	10.9	11.6	11.5	16.4	13.8
2013/14	19.5	10.3	11.2	10.5	15.0	12.9
2014/15	18.7	10.1	10.9	10.1	14.4	12.5
2015/16	18.4	9.9	10.7	10.1	14.2	12.3
2016/17	17.9	9.4	10.4	9.7	13.4	11.9
2017/18	15.9	8.3	9.6	8.6	11.7	10.5
2018/19	14.2	7.5	8.6	7.3	9.8	9.2

The Story Behind the Trends - Trends overall have been decreasing steadily year on year across all areas. The Belfast area has the highest percentage of children who are dependents of claimants of income support.

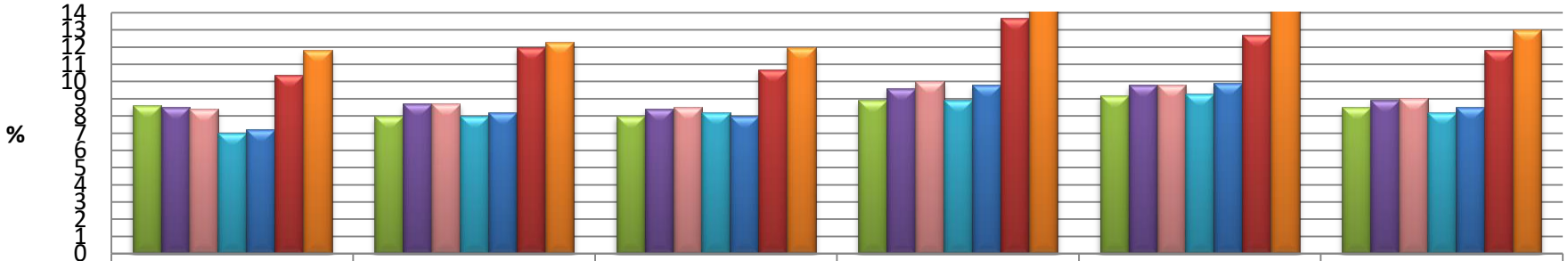
Please note: *Due to the phased roll-out of Universal Credit there will be no new claimants to Income Support. Rollout of UC was completed in December 2018.*

Percentage of Lone Parent Families Claiming Job Seeker's Allowance

Data Source: Dept. for Communities

Why is it Important? According to the most recent figures for Northern Ireland, over one quarter (28%) of families with dependent children are now headed by lone parents (NISRA, 08/09, Annual Abstract of Statistics), **(9)** compared to just under one quarter (24.5%) in Great Britain. Most lone parents are women. While Northern Ireland's overall unemployment rate (4.6%) compares favourably with Great Britain (5.5%), long-term unemployment is much worse in Northern Ireland where a quarter of claimants have been unemployed for at least 2 years (Department for Social Development, 2007). **(10)**

Percentage of Lone Parent Families Claiming JSA



	Belfast Trust	Northern Trust	South Eastern Trust	Southern Trust	Western Trust	Northern Ireland
2012/13	8.6	8.0	8.0	8.9	9.2	8.5
2013/14	8.5	8.7	8.4	9.6	9.8	8.9
2014/15	8.4	8.7	8.5	10.0	9.8	9.0
2015/16	7.0	8.0	8.2	8.9	9.3	8.2
2016/17	7.2	8.2	8.0	9.8	9.9	8.5
2017/18	10.4	12.0	10.7	13.7	12.7	11.8
2018/19	11.8	12.3	12.0	14.7	15.1	13.0

The Story Behind the Trends – All areas have seen an increase in the percentage of Lone Parents claiming JSA in the past year. The Southern and Western Trust areas have a higher % of Lone Parent Families claiming JSA than NI % of 13.0%.

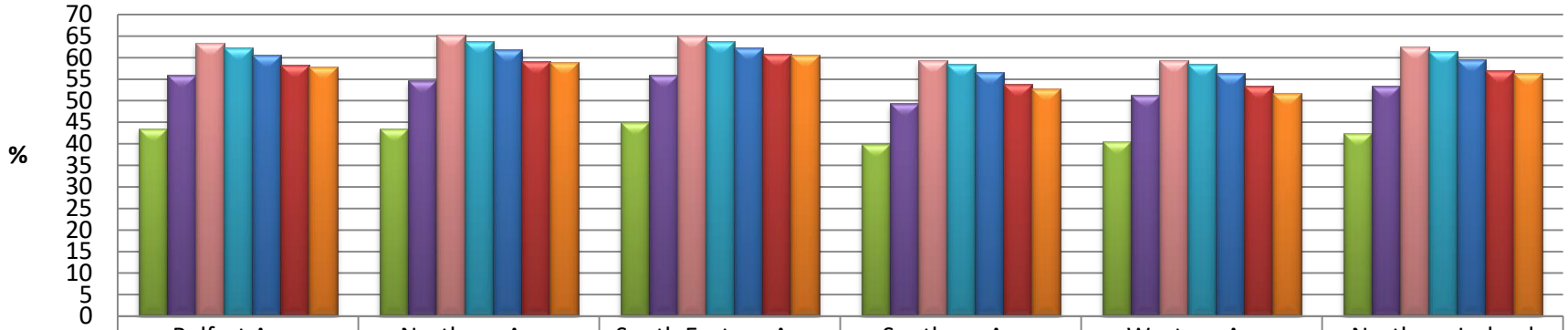
Please note: *This is a snapshot taken in February and Lone Parents are defined as anyone listed as having no partner and 1 or more children. Due to the phased roll-out of Universal Credit there will be no new claimants to Income-based JSA. Rollout of UC was completed in December 2018.*

Percentage of Lone Parent Families Claiming Income Support

Data Source: Dept. for Communities

Why is it Important? Children living in lone parent families and families claiming Income Support have less experience of handling their own money than other children: they are less likely to receive regular pocket money and are less likely to get part-time jobs. Children in lone-parent or Income Support families have much lower expectations about their future careers than their peers. They are more likely than other youngsters to want jobs that require few qualifications and little training, and they are less likely to aspire to attaining professional qualifications or occupations. (Small expectations: Learning to be poor? Jules Shropshire and Sue Middleton, 1999) (11)

Percentage of Lone Parent Families Claiming Income Support



	Belfast Area	Northern Area	South Eastern Area	Southern Area	Western Area	Northern Ireland
2012/13	43.5	43.5	44.9	39.9	40.4	42.4
2013/14	56.0	54.6	56.0	49.4	51.3	53.4
2014/15	63.3	65.3	65.0	59.4	59.4	62.5
2015/16	62.3	63.8	63.7	58.4	58.5	61.5
2016/17	60.5	61.8	62.3	56.7	56.3	59.5
2017/18	58.2	59.1	60.8	53.8	53.4	57.0
2018/19	57.8	58.8	60.5	52.7	51.8	56.4

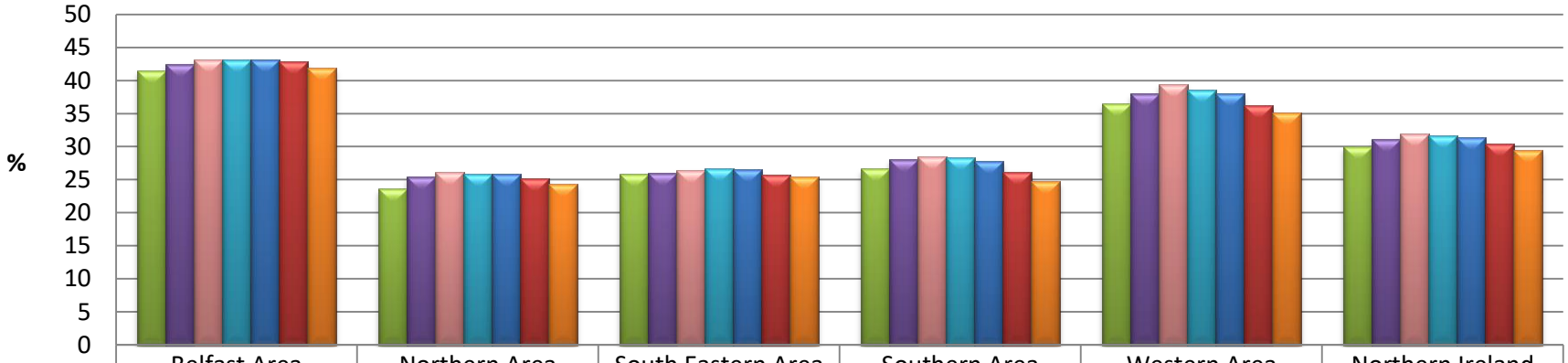
The Story Behind the Trends - All areas have seen a decrease in the last year of the % of lone parent families claiming Income Support, with Belfast, Northern and South Eastern area above the NI percentage of 56.4. **Please note:** *This is a snapshot taken in February and Lone Parents are defined as anyone listed as having no partner and 1 or more children. Due to the phased roll-out of Universal Credit there will be no new claimants to Income Support. Rollout of UC was completed in December 2018.*

Percentage of Free School Meals at Primary School (P1 to P7)

Data Source: NINIS

Why is it Important? – Free school meals provide vital support for low-income families and for almost a third of children, school lunch is their main meal of the day. Evidence shows that eating a nutritious meal at lunchtime: has important health and educational benefits for children, can improve their diet and increase their concentration during afternoon lessons.

Percentage of Free School Meals at Primary School (P1 – P7)



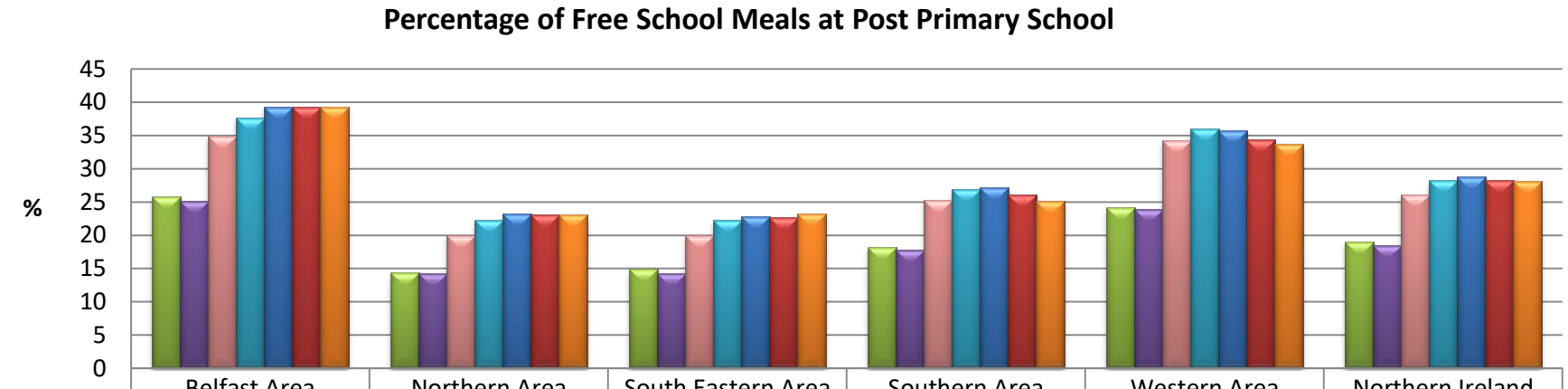
	Belfast Area	Northern Area	South Eastern Area	Southern Area	Western Area	Northern Ireland
2012/13	41.5	23.6	25.8	26.7	36.5	30.0
2013/14	42.5	25.4	26.0	28.0	38.0	31.1
2014/15	43.1	26.1	26.4	28.5	39.5	31.9
2015/16	43.1	25.8	26.7	28.4	38.6	31.7
2016/17	43.1	25.9	26.5	27.8	38.0	31.4
2017/18	42.9	25.2	25.7	26.2	36.2	30.4
2018/19	41.9	24.4	25.4	24.7	35.2	29.5

The Story Behind the Trends - All areas have seen a decrease in the last year of the % of Free School Meals at Primary School in P1 to P7, with the Belfast and Western areas above the NI percentage of 29.5.

Percentage of Free School Meals at Post Primary School

Data Source: NINIS

Why is it Important? – Free school meals provide vital support for low-income families and for almost a third of children, school lunch is their main meal of the day. Evidence shows that eating a nutritious meal at lunchtime: has important health and educational benefits for children, can improve their diet and increase their concentration during afternoon lessons.



	Belfast Area	Northern Area	South Eastern Area	Southern Area	Western Area	Northern Ireland
2012/13	25.8	14.4	14.9	18.2	24.2	19.0
2013/14	25.1	14.3	14.3	17.7	23.9	18.5
2014/15	34.9	20.0	20.0	25.2	34.3	26.1
2015/16	37.7	22.2	22.2	26.9	36.0	28.2
2016/17	39.2	23.2	22.8	27.2	35.7	28.8
2017/18	39.3	23.1	22.7	26.1	34.4	28.3
2018/19	39.2	23.1	23.2	25.1	33.7	28.1

The Story Behind the Trends – The majority of areas have seen a slight decrease in the last year of the % of Free School Meals at Post Primary School, with the Belfast and Western areas above the NI percentage of 28.1.

Key Points

Data *Source: Family Resources Survey 2017/18* **(12)**

- **69%** of household income in NI in 2017/18 is sourced from wages, salaries and self employment, compared to **73%** in the UK overall.
- **18%** of NI households had a weekly household income of less than £300 in 2017/18. This was similar to UK households at **17%** in the same period.
- **72%** of households, where there are two adults, with children in the household, were owner occupiers. For those households with children and only one adult present, **81%** resided in either privately rented accommodation or the social rented sector.
- The proportion of disabled people differed by age group: in 2017/18, **6%** of children were disabled compared to **20%** of working age adults and **49%** of adults state pension age. The estimated % of the population who were disabled remained broadly stable over the 10 years period with **21%** in 2017/18 compared to **17%** in 2007/08.
- The average number of persons per household is **2.5** in NI compared to **2.4** in the UK. This has remained at a similar level in the past 10 years.
- NI has a higher percentage of households with children (**34%)** compared to the UK (**29%**).
- In 2017/18 approximately **three quarters** of families in Northern Ireland received either none or less than £10,000 a year in benefits and tax credits.

Making a Positive Contribution

What we want to achieve for all children and young people:-

- That children and young people are valued by society and their communities;
- Increased opportunities for volunteering in community and voluntary work;
- Access to leisure activities involving young people in their design and delivery;
- A preventative and early intervention approach to youth offending.

The following indicators are included in this chapter to measure if all our children and young people are making a positive Contribution:-

- Participation in Youth Activities
- Contributing Positively to Society (Young Life and Times Survey 2015)

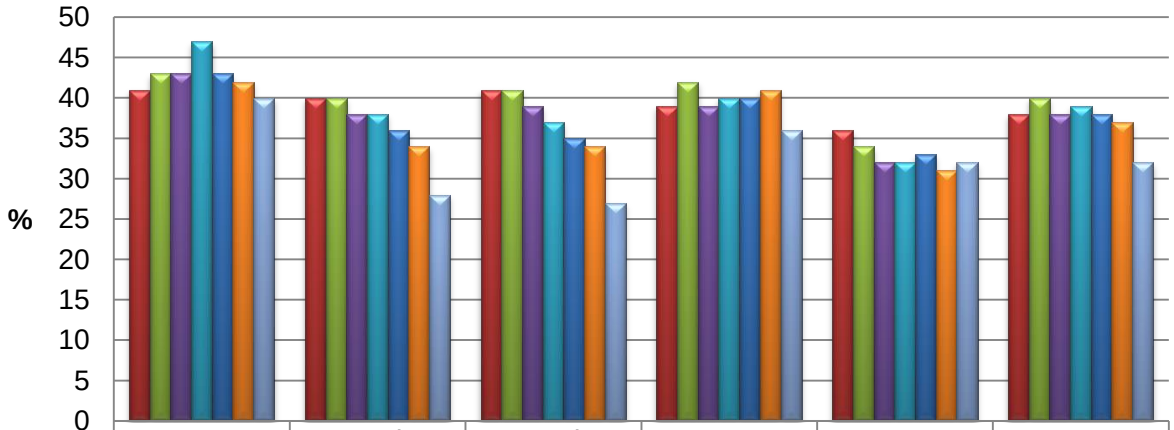
Participation in Youth Activities

Data Source: Youth Council NI

Making a Positive Contribution

Why is it important? Youth work is a vital non-formal educational process of personal and social development, through which young people can develop their knowledge, understanding, attitudes, confidence and personal and inter-personal skills. Young people have the right to expect that it will be accessible, affordable, high quality and flexible to meet changing needs and a changing environment (Youth Council NI). **(1)**

% of Young People aged 4 – 18 who participate in Youth Activities



	Belfast Area	North Eastern Area	South Eastern Area	Southern Area	Western Area	NI
2012	41	40	41	39	36	38
2013	43	40	41	42	34	40
2014	43	38	39	39	32	38
2015	47	38	37	40	32	39
2016	43	36	35	40	33	38
2017	42	34	34	41	31	37
2018	40	28	27	36	32	32

The Story Behind the Trends - The proportion of young people who participate in Youth Activities, across each of the areas, has had a slight drop over the last year, with Belfast and the Southern Area above the NI percentage of **32**.

Note: There may be double counting as a young person can be a member of more than one Group.

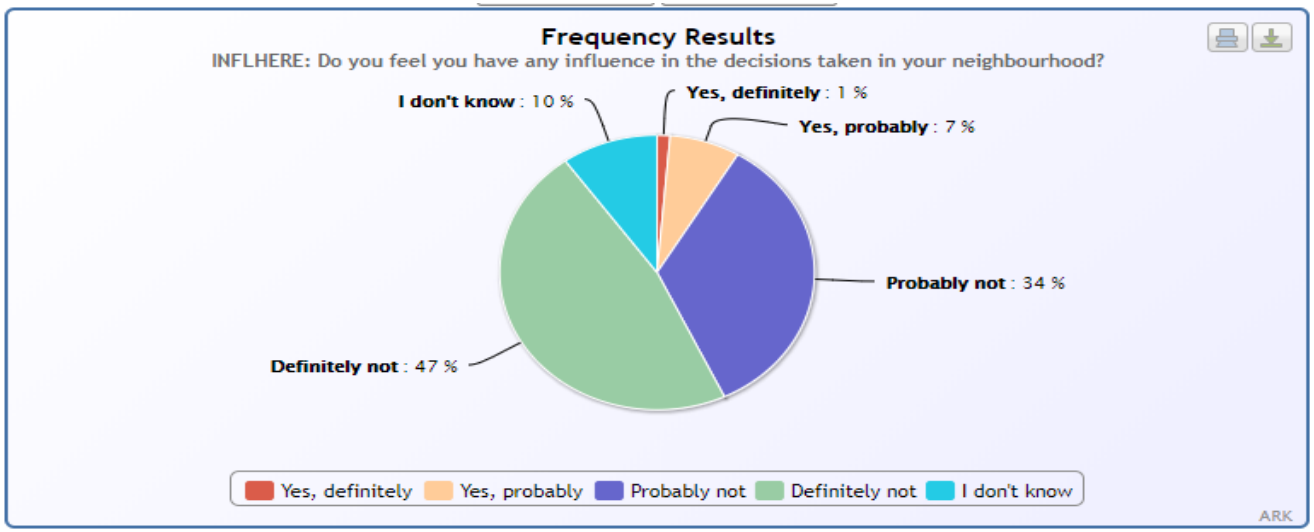
Contributing Positively to Society

Data Source: Young Life and Times Survey (2) 2019

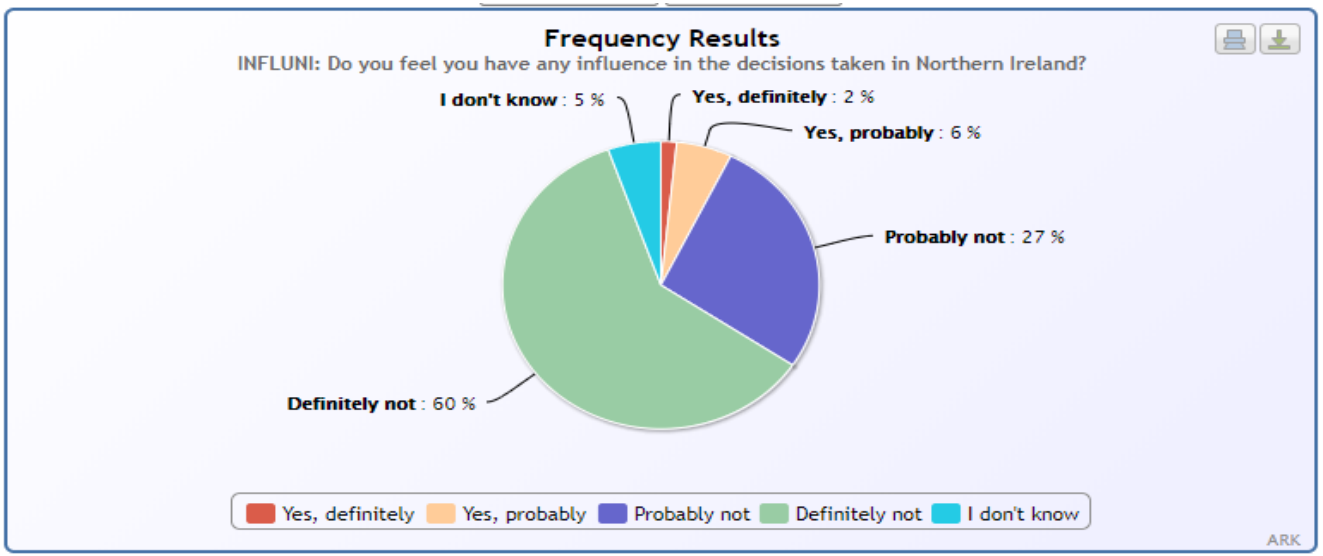
Making a Positive Contribution

The YLT survey is undertaken annually and uses the Child Benefit Register as a random sample frame. In 2019 all young people living in Northern Ireland who celebrated their 16th birthday from January - March 2019 were invited to take part in the survey. The survey was completed by 1,171 respondents.

Do you feel you have any influence in the decisions taken in your neighbourhood?



Do you feel you have any influence in the decisions taken in Northern Ireland?



Contributing Positively to Society

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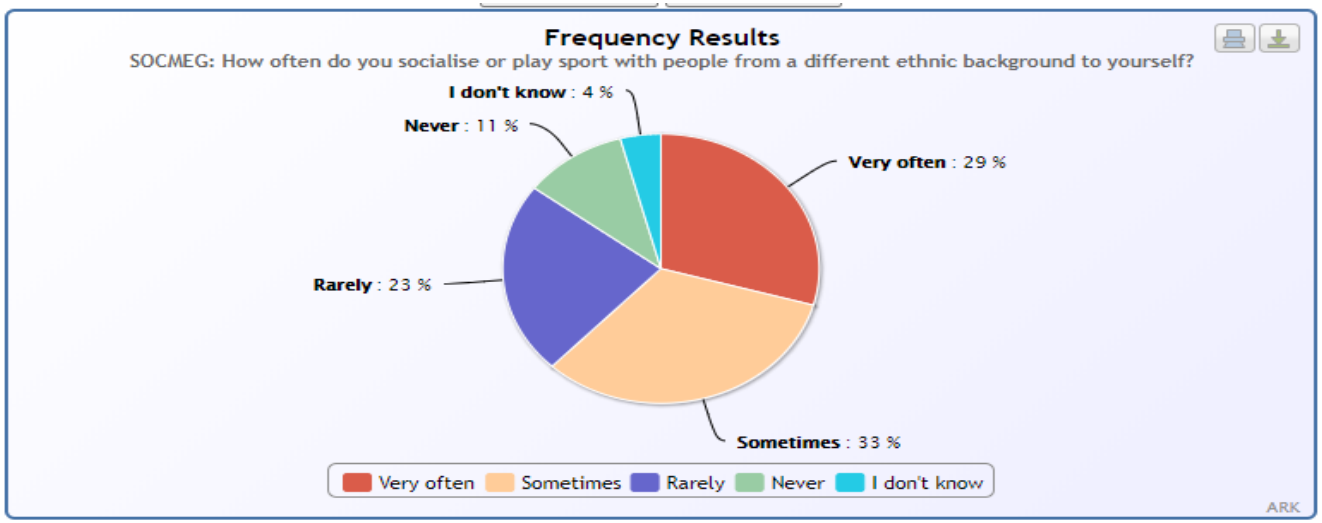
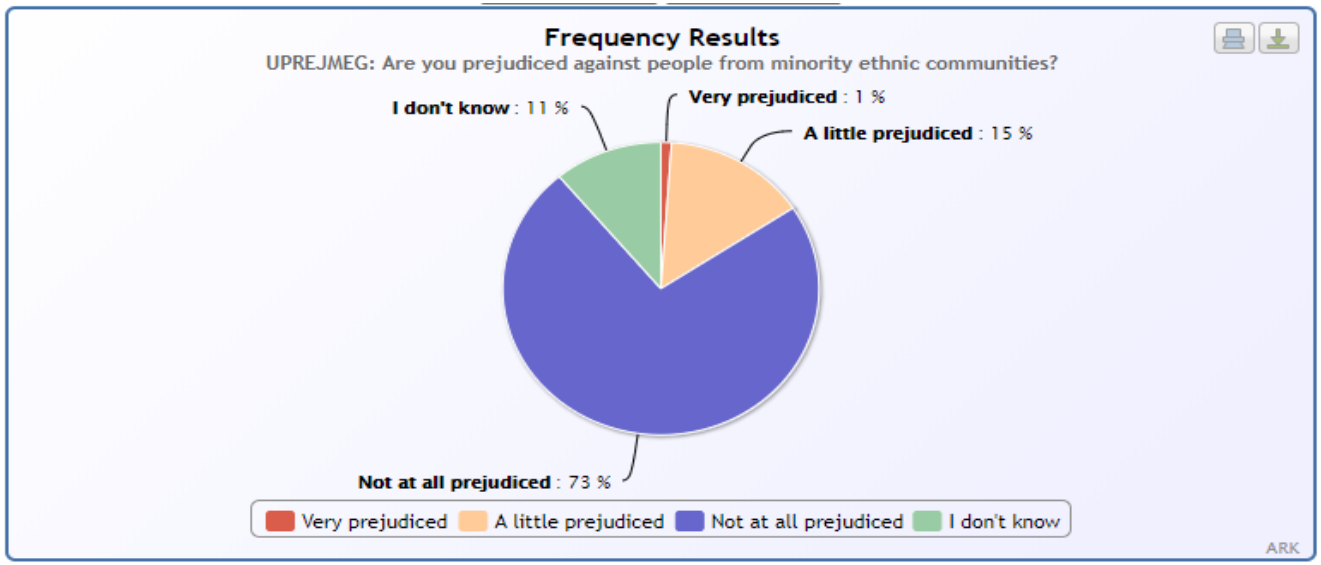
The YLT survey is undertaken annually and uses the Child Benefit Register as a random sample frame. In 2019 all young people living in Northern Ireland who celebrated their 16th birthday from January - March 2019 were invited to take part in the survey. The survey was completed by 1,171 respondents.

How often do you socialise or play sport with people from a different ethnic background to yourself?



Are you prejudiced against people from minority ethnic communities?



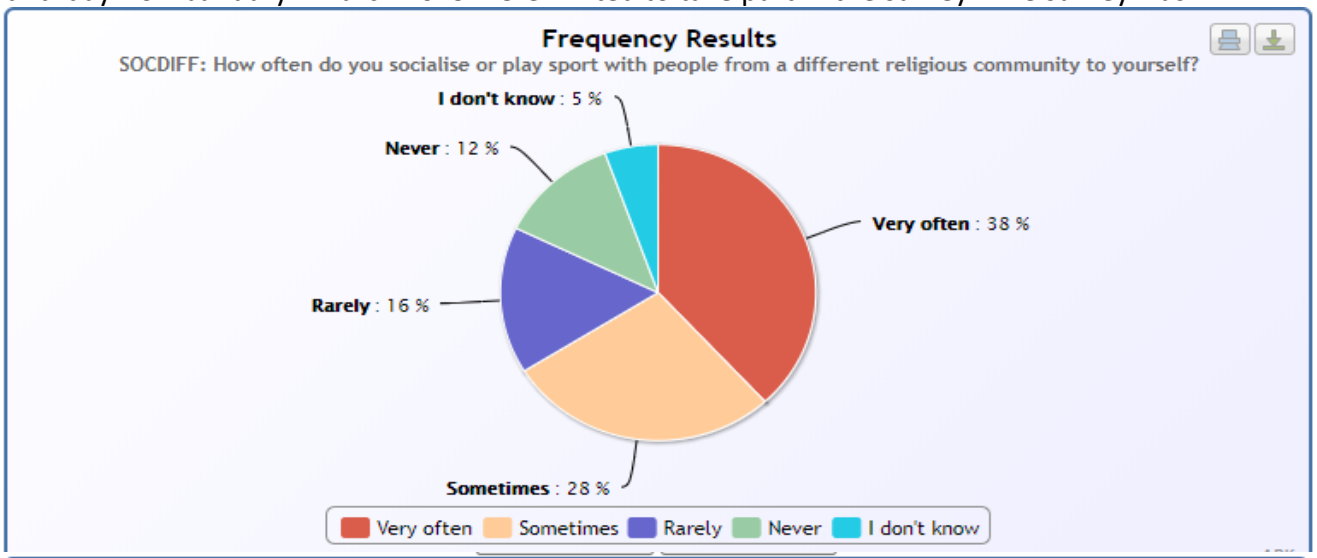
Contributing Positively to Society

Data Source: Young Life and Times Survey (2) 2019

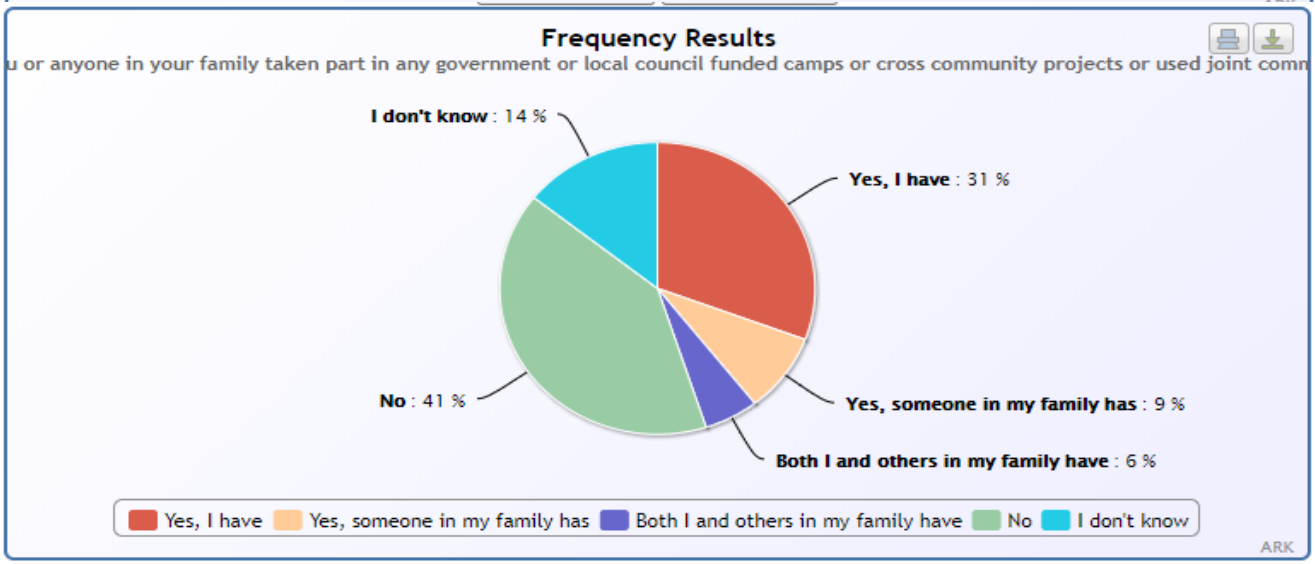
Making a Positive Contribution

The YLT survey is undertaken annually and uses the Child Benefit Register as a random sample frame. In 2019 all young people living in Northern Ireland who celebrated their 16th birthday from January - March 2019 were invited to take part in the survey. The survey was completed by 1,171 respondents.

How often do you socialise or play sport with people from a different religion community to yourself?



Have you or anyone in your family taken part in any government or local council funded camps or cross community projects or used joint community facilities?



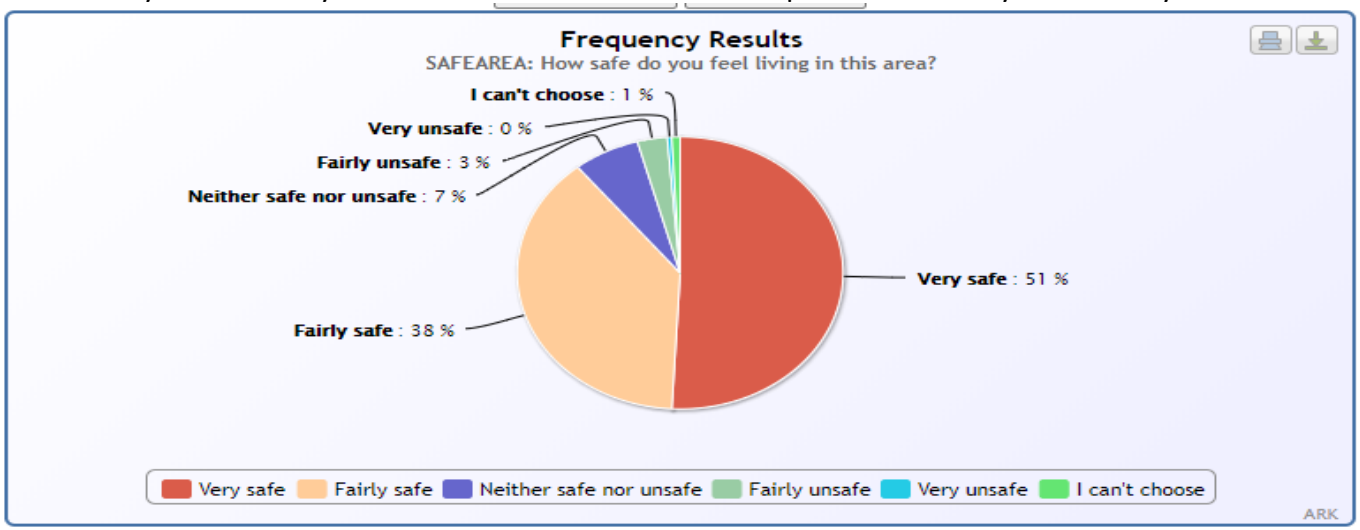
Contributing Positively to Society

Data Source: Young Life and Times Survey (2) 2019

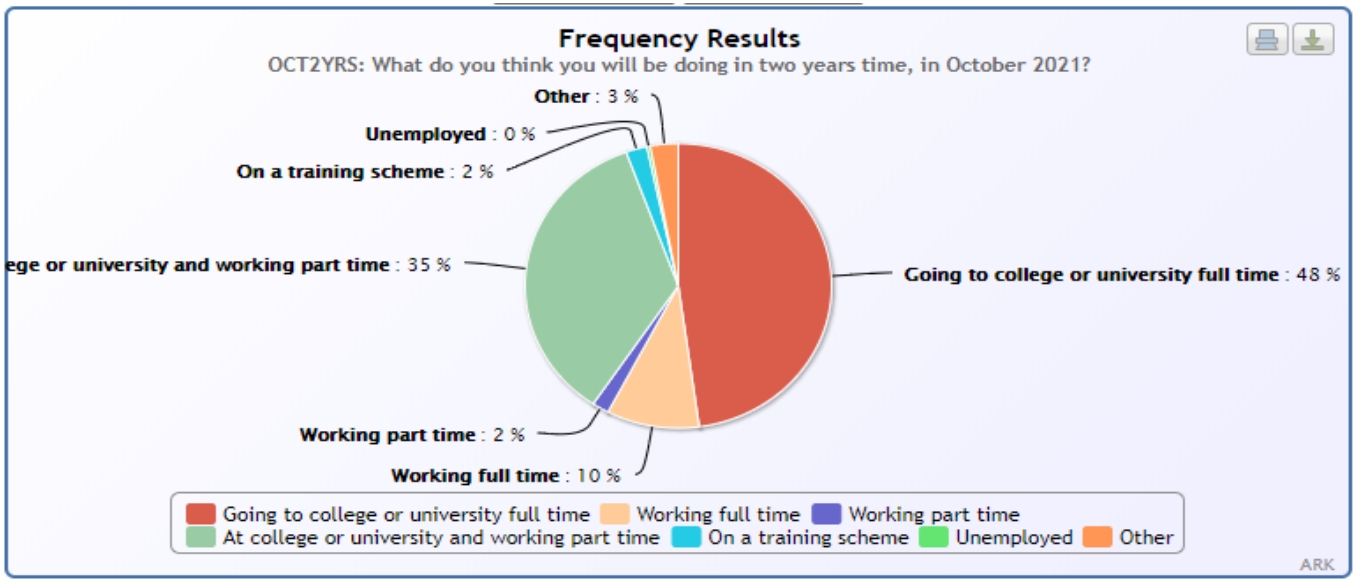
Making a Positive Contribution

The YLT survey is undertaken annually and uses the Child Benefit Register as a random sample frame. In 2019 all young people living in Northern Ireland who celebrated their 16th birthday from January - March 2019 were invited to take part in the survey. The survey was completed by 1,171 respondents.

How safe do you feel living in this area?



What do you think you will be doing in two years time, in October 2021?



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