

Series 31 - Young Life and Times Survey

Description: The Young Life and Times Survey (YLT) originally began as a companion survey to the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (NILT) series. It surveyed young people aged 12-17 living in the households of adults interviewed for NILT, and YLT ran alongside it from 1998-2000. However, YLT underwent evaluation in 2001, and the YLT series began again in 2003 (see SN 4826), using a completely different methodology, and independent of the adult NILT. This new YLT Survey uses Child Benefit records as a sampling frame, and contacts all 16-year-olds who celebrated their 16th birthday in February of the survey year. Although a few questions are asked that are also included in NILT, the rest of the survey now covers quite different topics.

The aims of the YLT series are to:

- * monitor public attitudes towards social policy and political issues in Northern Ireland
- * provide a time series on attitudes to key social policy areas
- * facilitate academic social policy analysis
- * provide a freely available resource on public attitudes for the wider community of users in Northern Ireland
- * give a voice to young people

Similar surveys of young people in Great Britain, the Young People's Social Attitudes surveys, were conducted alongside their parent British Social Attitudes Surveys in 1994 and 1998. Further information about the YLT, including publications, may be found on the YLT web site (<http://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/ylt/index.html>).

- **Available years:** 1999-2005 (not 2001-2002)
- **Principal investigator:** Devine, P. and Schubotz, D, Queen's University of Belfast. School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work

#31:282 – Young Life and Times Survey 2004

Universe: Young people in Northern Ireland whose 16th birthday was in February 2004.

Sample size: 824.

Methods: Telephone interview; Postal survey; Online self-completion.

Sample: No sampling (total universe).

Fieldwork: 25 August 2004-24 September 2004.

Geography: .

Access: SN 5175.

Alcohol consumption

Consumption: volumen/a.

Single occasion: n/a.

Other drinking

- Status (Lifetime)

Other alcohol variables

- School-level alcohol variables (Whether respondent has ever had any lessons, videos or discussions in school about drinking alcohol)
- Alcohol - misc (What respondent believes has been the biggest influence on their views on drinking; anything else respondent wishes to say about drinking)

Health status and behaviour:

- Mental health (High, mental health section including the 12 item General Health Questionnaire (GHQ 12), and stress)
- Smoking (Medium)
- Drugs (Medium)
- Sexual behaviour (Medium, smoking, drinking, drugs and sexual intercourse section)

Other variables

- Socialising (Medium)
- Leisure (Low)
- Personality (Medium)
- Political opinions (High, including

attitudes to voting and elections section)

- Attitude (fear) of crime (High, sectarian violence)
- Victim of crime (High, sectarian violence)

Demographics

- Material quality of life (High)
- Household type/composition (Low)
- Employment (Low, with regards to future)
- Education (High, education section includes questions on bullying)
- Ethnicity and religion (High, including questions on Protestant and Catholic relations)

#31:283 – Young Life and Times Survey 2005

Universe: Young people in Northern Ireland whose 16th birthday was in February 2005.

Sample size: 819.

Methods: Telephone interview; Postal survey; Online self-completion.

Sample: No sampling (total universe).

Fieldwork: 25 August 2005-24 September 2005.

Geography: .

Access: SN 5338.

Alcohol consumption

Consumption: n/a.

Single occasion: n/a.

Other drinking

None.

Other alcohol variables

- Peers (Whether has ever felt pressurised by peers or friends to drink alcohol even if they did not really want to)
- Alcohol - misc (Whether respondent has ever felt pressurised by media/some other source to drink alcohol even if they

did not really want to, and which source it was)

Health status and behaviour:

- Mental health (High, mental health section including the 12 item General Health Questionnaire (GHQ 12), and stress)
- Smoking (Low, social pressures section)
- Drugs (Low, social pressures section)
- Sexual behaviour (Medium, including social pressures section and question on sexual attraction)

Other variables

- Socialising (Medium)
- Leisure (Low)
- Personality (Medium)
- Political opinions (High, including attitudes to politics section)

Demographics

- Material quality of life (High)
- Income (Low, how well off respondent considers their family to be)
- Household type/composition (Low)
- Finances/taxes/benefits (Low, including knowledge of EMA and

attitude towards benefits)

- Employment (Low, with regards to future)
- Education (High, education section

includes questions on bullying)

- Ethnicity and religion (High, including questions on Protestant and Catholic relations)