

JRF Programme Paper
Poverty and Ethnicity**DATA SOURCES ON
ETHNICITY AND
POVERTY IN NORTHERN
IRELAND****David Owen**

This paper:

- documents the availability of quantitative data which can provide an insight into poverty and disadvantage experienced by people from minority ethnic groups living in Northern Ireland;
- reviews the characteristics of both official statistics and survey data; and
- identifies those which include information on minority ethnic groups.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) commissioned this paper as part of its programme on Poverty and Ethnicity, which aims to understand the underlying reasons for variations in low income and deprivation among different ethnic groups in the UK, and the problems caused.

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Introduction

The purpose of this report is to document the availability of quantitative data which can provide an insight into poverty and disadvantage experienced by people from minority ethnic groups living in Northern Ireland. The report reviews the characteristics of both official statistics and survey data, and identifies those which include information on minority ethnic groups.

1.1 The measurement of poverty

The UK government defines a household as experiencing poverty if its income is less than 60 per cent of the median household income. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has adopted a broader definition of “poverty” for the Poverty and Ethnicity Programme. This encompasses not just low household income but also the impact of poverty and covers a number of life domains, specifically:

- Lack of opportunities for sustained and rewarding employment;
- Difficulty in accessing education and leisure opportunities;
- Physical and/or mental ill health and disability;
- Poor services, stigma and discrimination;
- Social isolation, insecurity and anxiety;
- Living in a deprived area with poor infrastructure and high levels of social problems such as crime and anti-social behaviour; and
- Distribution of resources within households (between men and women, generations living together and adults and children).

This report reviews data sources which provide information relevant to each of these dimensions. The starting point for the research was a list of surveys and other data sources available in Northern Ireland, compiled by the UK Data Archive, which has been enhanced by exploring the characteristics of these data sources in greater detail. Table 1 summarises survey-based data sets and Table 2 administrative data sets containing information related to poverty and/or data on ethnicity. This is a fairly comprehensive list of data sources, but not all are currently active.

The primary purpose of this review is to identify the properties of data sources which can be used for analysis of the current circumstances of minority ethnic groups, and which can also monitor change over time. It is therefore primarily focused on those sources which are currently active. The time period covered by the review is 2001 onwards, because the 2001 Northern Ireland Census of Population was the first to collect data on ethnicity and number of data sources which collect information on the ethnicity of the population has increased since then.

1.2 The Northern Ireland context

The ethnic composition of Northern Ireland is rather different to that of Great Britain. Minority ethnic groups form a smaller percentage of the total population and the balance of individual ethnic groups is different to that in Great Britain. The impact of international migration upon the ethnic composition of the province has increased greatly since the start of the 21st century. A further aim of the review is therefore to identify those data sources which can provide baseline information on the changing ethnic composition of Northern Ireland. In addition to minority groups with origins outside the UK and Ireland, there is also a small Irish Travellers population, which experiences high levels of poverty and social exclusion and which is recorded in many of the data sources specific to Northern Ireland.

Another important aspect of the Northern Ireland situation is religious background. Because the key dimension of policy interest related to ethnicity has been 'community background'/religion, many data sets collect information on religion rather than ethnic origin. Data analysis for Great Britain has identified important socio-economic differences between people from religious backgrounds associated with minority groups, in particular the disadvantage of Muslim people. Unfortunately, these differentials are often obscured where results are presented for all non-Christian religions taken together.

1.3 Structure of the report

This report is structured as follows. Chapter 2 is concerned with describing the surveys which are currently undertaken in Northern Ireland. Chapter 3 describes the administrative data sets available for Northern Ireland which contain information of relevance to minority ethnic and migrant groups. Chapter 4 provides an overall assessment of the availability of data for the measurement of poverty among people from minority ethnic and migrant groups in Northern Ireland. The Appendix details the main websites providing access to the data discussed in the report.

2. Survey data sets available in Northern Ireland

The surveys which have been identified which are conducted in Northern Ireland and which contain information of relevance to the measurement of poverty and which may contain information on ethnicity and migration can be grouped into three broad types:

- Statistical surveys (which may be part of UK-wide surveys);
- Surveys of services;
- Surveys of attitudes and opinions

Table 1: Summary list of surveys relevant to ethnicity and poverty in Northern Ireland

Data set	Type of survey	Contains ethnicity information	Contains migrant information	Community background information	Religion	Poverty-relevant	Current
Northern Ireland Census of Population	Household Survey (100%)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
The Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey	Household survey	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
The Northern Ireland Health and Social Wellbeing Survey	Household survey	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
The Family Resources	Household	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

Survey	survey						
Infant Feeding Survey	Survey of all new mothers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
British Cohort Study 1970	Repeat survey of birth cohort	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)	Survey of employers	No	No	No	N	Yes	Yes

Table 1: Summary list of surveys relevant to ethnicity and poverty in Northern Ireland (continued)

Data set	Type of survey	Contains ethnicity information	Contains migrant information	Community background information	Religion	Poverty-relevant	Current
Millennium Cohort Study	Repeat survey of birth cohort	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
British / Northern Ireland Household Panel Survey	Longitudinal household survey	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Northern Ireland Crime Survey	Survey	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey	Survey	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Community Attitudes Survey	Survey	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Crime and Justice Survey	Survey	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

International Crime and Victimization Survey	Survey	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Northern Ireland Social Attitudes Survey	Survey	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No

Table 1: Summary list of surveys relevant to ethnicity and poverty in Northern Ireland (continued)

Data set	Type of survey	Contains ethnicity information	Contains migrant information	Community background information	Religion	Poverty-relevant	Current
Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey	Survey	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
NI Young Life and Times Survey	Survey	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Northern Ireland Continuous Household Survey	Household Survey	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Northern Ireland Family Expenditure Survey	Household Survey	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Living Costs and	Household	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

Food Expenditure and Food Survey / Survey							
Annual Population Survey	Household Survey, 5 successive waves	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

Table 1: Summary list of surveys relevant to ethnicity and poverty in Northern Ireland (continued)

Data set	Type of survey	Contains ethnicity information	Contains migrant information	Community background information	Religion	Poverty-relevant	Current
Local Area Labour Force Survey	Household Survey, 5 successive waves	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Integrated Household Survey	Household Survey, 5 successive waves	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Understanding Society	Longitudinal household survey	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
House Condition Survey	Household survey and physical house	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

	survey						
Northern Ireland Assembly Election Survey 2003	Survey of individuals	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Table 1: Summary list of surveys relevant to ethnicity and poverty in Northern Ireland (continued)

Data set	Type of survey	Contains ethnicity information	Contains migrant information	Community background information	Religion	Poverty-relevant	Current
Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey 2003	Survey of individuals	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Young Persons Behaviour and Attitudes Survey	Survey of individuals	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes

2.1 Statistical surveys

These can be further classified into those which are concerned with measuring the population as a whole, with a focus on the labour market and those with a focus on a particular topic, such as household finances or health.

2.1.1. Surveys of the population and labour market

The Census of Population

The Census of Population is the most comprehensive source of data on people and households. It is managed by the statistical agency for each nation of the UK, in collaboration with the Office for National Statistics. The Census has been held every ten years (except 1941) since 1841, using a questionnaire completed by one person on behalf of the household. It asks a small number of questions about each individual living in the household (e.g. age, gender, highest educational qualification, employment status, type of work and travel to work) and questions about the dwelling (e.g. number of rooms, availability of amenities such as exclusive use of a bathroom and central heating). Derived variables (such as socio-economic group, overcrowding and industry of employment) are created from the answers to Census questions.

It aims for complete enumeration of the population, but non-response (particularly by certain sections of the population) has been an increasing problem. Since 1991, the national statistical agencies have attempted to correct for Census under-enumeration, based on the comparison between the Census results and the results of a sample follow-up survey (the Census Validation Survey) held 6 weeks after the Census. In 1991, adjustment factors were published for England and Wales and Scotland for certain variables (age, sex and ethnic group). In 2001, the Census Offices used a complex statistical modelling process to adjust the data for under-enumeration before it was published, and this approach will also be followed for the 2011 Census data. The first data from the 2011 Census was published in July 2012 (the long delay is because of the time taken to input the data and then create estimates and validate them by comparison with other data sources) and increasingly detailed data sets will be published over the subsequent 18 months. The publication schedule for Northern Ireland differs in important respects from those for England and Wales and Scotland, with some information available sooner than in other parts of the UK.

The results of the Census are published in the form of pre-designed cross-tabulations of each variable against one or two key dimensions (e.g. age of person or household type). Before 1991, the bulk of the Census output took the form of printed reports published for local authority districts and counties. From 1961 onwards, an increasing amount of Census output (including all the data for small geographical areas) has been produced in electronic format. From 2001 onwards, electronic media became the primary means for distributing Census data. In 2001, much data was distributed on CD, but NISRA also created a website for access to the data in the form of Excel spreadsheets and other electronic formats

(see <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/Census/2001%20Census%20Results/2001CensusResults.html>).

Even though it does not include questions on income, the Census is of great importance for the measurement of poverty and socio-economic differentials related to poverty. Derived variables on occupation and socio-economic group are created from the answers to the Census questionnaire which provide a proxy for income. The questions asked in the Census cover demography, health differentials, education, the labour market, migration and identity and education. The Northern Irish Census covers the same main topic areas as the Censuses in England, Wales and Scotland. However, some census questions are asked differently for Northern Ireland and the order of the questions asked is different.

As in the rest of the UK, the 2011 Census asks new questions about first language, citizenship and ethnic identity. The religion question continues to be primarily focused on identity of protestant and catholic communities, in contrast to Great Britain, in which the aim of the question is mainly to collect information on the religions associated with minority ethnic communities. There are also new questions about migration. These include when the individual arrived in the UK and their intended length of stay in the country. The intention is to generate new information on long-term and short-term migration. The population base for the 2011 Census will change to represent the population resident in the country for at least 12 months (to be consistent with international Census practice). This contrasts with previous Censuses, in which the entire population enumerated was presented. It will also be possible to identify student migration and short-term regular migration for work more accurately.

The ethnic group question is different from those used in England and Wales and Scotland. The 1991 Census was the first to include a question on ethnic group in the Censuses held in Great Britain, but this question was first introduced to the Northern Ireland Census in 2001. Not only was the position of the question different from that of the English Census form, there was also difference in the ethnic group category options offered. For Northern Ireland 9 different ethnic group categories were pre-coded which were not accompanied by a write-in box, but the other 2 boxes included write in options. Irish Traveller was also a category in the Northern Ireland Census (But not in Great Britain).

The ethnic group classifications for the Census of Population used in Northern Ireland in 2001 and 2011 are presented below:

2001	2011
White	White
Irish Traveller	Chinese
Mixed	Irish Traveller

Indian	Indian
Pakistani	Pakistani
Bangladeshi	Bangladeshi
Other Asian	Other Asian
Black Caribbean	Black Caribbean
Black African	Black African
Other Black	Black other
Chinese	Mixed parentage
Other ethnic group	Other ethnic group

Access: Census data access is provided by the ESRC on behalf of the UK academic community (for 1971 to 2001 via the Casweb service: www.census.ac.uk/casweb) and via subscription to the SASPAC software package managed by the Greater London Authority (www.saspac.org). For 2011, new web-based avenues to Census data will be provided by both SASPAC and the ESRC. Both the national statistical offices and the providers of access to Census data (primarily SASPAC and NOMIS) will provide API interfaces to the data, enabling users to customise the data they extract to some extent. The Office for National Statistics will also make more detailed data available than previously on sub-sets of the population, such as minority ethnic groups, and may publish some data in the form of 'hypercubes' enabling users to tabulate data in more flexible ways than before. Northern Ireland Census data can also be accessed via the NIRSA website: <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/Census/2011Census.html>.

Microdata is also available from the Census. This enables all variables and recoded variables from the Census to be cross-tabulated in a completely flexible fashion and enables regression analyses to be undertaken. In 1991 and 2001, 'Samples of Anonymised Records' were created for 1 per cent of households, and 3 per cent of individuals. Because of the extreme confidentiality risk involved, much geographical and variable detail is removed and the most detailed data sets can only be accessed via the Secure Data Service. It is anticipated that microdata will be produced from the 2011 Census. However, the small sample size for Northern Ireland will inevitably limit the analysis possible because geographical and variable detail will be reduced in order to preserve confidentiality.

Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) represents the most comprehensive source of information on economic participation and earnings in the UK. It is a quarterly sample survey of households living at private addresses. Its purpose is to provide information on the labour market that can then be used to develop, manage, evaluate and report on labour market policies.

The survey has been carried out since the UK joined the European Community in 1973. It was conducted biennially from 1973 to 1983 and annually from 1984 to 1994 (results referred to the spring months of each year). The survey has been conducted quarterly in Northern Ireland since December 1994. The survey has recently been converted from four seasonal quarters to four calendar quarters. The Northern Ireland LFS (NILFS) is closely related to the Great Britain LFS, with the questionnaire being designed by the Office for National Statistics and amended for Northern Ireland by the Central Survey Unit (CSU) of NISRA. The latter conduct the survey on behalf of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI). DETI carry out the analysis and interpretation of the data. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is the largest regular household survey carried out in Northern Ireland, with responses obtained from approximately 2,000 households and 5,700 individuals each quarter.

The sample of addresses for the LFS is obtained from the Valuation & Lands Agency list of domestic properties in Northern Ireland. The aim is to achieve reliable estimates for both counts in each quarter and change over consecutive quarters. The survey uses an unclustered sample of around 3,250 addresses with an 80% overlap between quarters. The sample for each quarter is made up of five 'waves', each containing approximately 650 private households. Every sampled address is interviewed in five successive quarters, such that in any one quarter one wave will be receiving their first interview, one wave their second and so on, with one wave receiving their fifth and final interview. Due to the effects of refusals and ineligible addresses, the actual sample size is around 2700 per quarter. At each address, information is collected on the economic status and activity of all residents aged 16 and over during a specified week in the quarter (termed the reference week).

The Northern Ireland LFS includes an ethnic group question, but only data for 6 broad ethnic groups (and not the 15-fold classification used in Great Britain) is made available. The religion question used in Great Britain is not asked, being substituted by a question specific to Northern Ireland (primarily concerned with community background).

Results from the LFS are available from the DETNI website at:

<http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index.htm>

This webpage provides a series of standard tables (in downloadable Excel format) focussed upon labour market participation, employment and unemployment. The standard breakdowns provided include age and gender, but no information is provided by ethnic group or migrant origin.

Access: Microdata from the NILFS is available from the UK Data Archive (ESDS Government). There are three variants of the LFS corresponding to increasing level of detail on a number of sensitive

variables; age, occupation, geography and ethnicity. The data set can be browsed using the NESSTAR catalogue (<http://nesstar.esds.ac.uk/webview/index.jsp>).

Local Area Labour Force Survey / Annual Population Survey

In Great Britain, the Local Area Labour Force Survey ran from 1999 to 2004 and comprised a boosted version of the Labour Force Survey, intended to yield data which was statistically robust at the local scale. Data for local authorities can be accessed via the NOMIS website for a set of pre-designed tables and selected variables, which include the percentage of the population aged 16 and above and of working age who are from ethnic minorities. Data is provided as rolling averages of four quarters. Data for Northern Ireland is available for the year March 2003 to February 2004 at NOMIS (<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/Default.asp>). This service provides a set of standard variables calculated from the survey for local authority districts and the province as a whole.

In order that the LFS data can be presented for areas within Northern Ireland, a Local Area Database was developed which contains 60 per cent more records than are found in each quarterly database. This is created by taking waves one and five from each of the Labour Force Survey's four consecutive quarters to give an annually representative sample.

Access: Data from the Labour Force Survey Local Area Database for Northern Ireland is available via the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information System (NINIS). The variables available are the total population aged 16 and over or 16 to 64, the economically active and inactive population, employment, part-time employment and people with highest qualifications of NVQ4 and above, below NVQ4 and no qualifications. No information by ethnic group or for minority populations is presented. Reports from the LALFS are presented on the Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETNI) website: <http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index.htm>

Annual Population Survey (APS)

This is a boosted version of the LFS, intended to yield a sample of at least 1000 in each local authority district. It was introduced in 2004.

Access: The data can be accessed for local authority districts via NOMIS in the form of a series of pre-specified tables. Those relevant to ethnicity and country of birth are:

Table T04 Economic activity by ethnic group and country of birth

Table T05 Economic activity by ethnic group and nationality

Table T14a Employment by industry (SIC 2007) and ethnic group

Table T15a Employment by occupation (SOC2010) and ethnic group

Table T18 Ethnicity by age

Table T21 Adult Learning by age/ethnicity/disability

Table T24 National Identity

NOMIS suppresses data items for which the relative standard error is greater than 20 per cent. Because of the small sample size and the small percentage of the population from minority ethnic groups, many items of data for minority ethnic groups will be suppressed, even at the Northern Ireland scale. Aggregating data for several years may minimise this problem. In most NOMIS APS tables, the minority population is not broken down to individual ethnic groups.

Microdata from the APS can be ordered from ESDS Government, but the user is required to apply for access to the Special Licence version of the data set. This involves becoming an 'approved researcher' and adhering to conditions, mainly concerned with preserving the confidentiality of the data. Sensitive variables are suppressed and access to the most detailed version of the data for small geographical areas can only be obtained via the Secure Data Service, which places greater confidentiality demands upon researchers.

Integrated Household Survey

The rationale behind the Integrated Household Survey (IHS) was to use a common framework for collecting a number of social surveys in order to effectively increase the sample size for a number of key measures of the population and thereby improve the accuracy with which they are measured. Another aim was to provide greater geographical detail than existing surveys could achieve. The IHS is therefore a composite survey which combines questions asked on a number of ONS social surveys to produce a dataset of around 100 'Core' variables. From the data set for April 2009 to March 2010, the IHS has encompassed approximately 450,000 individuals from interviews undertaken in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The IHS includes the following ONS Social Surveys:

- General Lifestyle Survey (GLF),
- Living Cost and Food Survey (LCF)
- English Housing Survey (EHS)
- Labour Force / Annual Population Survey (LFS/APS)
- Life Opportunities Survey (LOS)

The IHS includes two sections: a suite of 'core' IHS questions and individual survey modules 'bolted' onto the core. The core questions have been developed to provide estimates for a number of themes, including:

- Economic Activity
- Education

- Health & Disability
- Identity
- Income

Details of the survey and the methodology used are provided in the User Guides (<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/social-and-welfare-methodology/integrated-household-survey/index.html>).

The ethnic group question asked in the IHS in Northern Ireland has 16 categories, including “Irish Traveller”. The religion question used in Great Britain is not asked. The survey asks questions about country of origin, and date of migration. A series of questions about individual and household income are asked. The survey is the first to include a question on sexual identity.

Sample Size: The IHS for January to December 2010 contains data on 425 thousand individuals in the UK, but only 6771 people in Northern Ireland. Of these, 88 are from minority ethnic groups, the largest category being 30 “Asian and Asian British” people.

Reports based on the survey are published by the Office for National statistics. Experimental statistics from the survey for 2010-11 can be found at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/integrated-household-survey/integrated-household-survey/april-2010-to-march-2011/stb---integrated-household-survey-april-2010-to-march-2011.html#tab-Summary-about-the-IHS>.

Access: Data sets for rolling four-quarter periods containing anonymised individual records are available from the UK Data Archive (ESDS Government). The IHS does not include all the variables collected in the constituent surveys. There are also two versions of the IHS study made available: one is available under the standard End User Licence (EUL) agreement, and the other is a Special Licence (SL) version. The SL version contains more detailed variables on a range of topics including country of birth, ethnicity and country of residence history. It is not clear whether income data is available in the Special Licence version of the data set.

Continuous Household Survey

The Continuous Household Survey (CHS) is a major continuous survey designed, conducted and analysed by the Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) since 1983. The survey yields information on housing characteristics, population trends, the health of the population and usage of health services and smoking and drinking trends. It represents the equivalent of the General Household Survey (Now General Lifestyle Survey) in Great Britain.

The CHS is based on a systematic random sample of the general population resident in private households consisting of 4,500 addresses (one per cent) drawn each year from the Land and Property Services Agency’s (LPSA) list of domestic addresses (the Agency Valuation List). The sample is stratified geographically across the province. Data is collected by personal interview with all

residents aged 16 and over using CAPI, and the interviews are spread equally over the 12 months from April to March.

The topics covered by the survey in each year are listed at <http://www.csu.nisra.gov.uk/CHSSchedule.pdf>. Questions on drinking and smoking have appeared throughout the survey's existence, but the number of questions asked has increased since 2000. Reports containing the results of analysis of the data are available at: <http://www.csu.nisra.gov.uk/survey.asp29.htm>.

The survey collects basic demographic details of each household member and their relationships to each other. As well as health and lifestyle questions, it asks about individual and household income and benefits, and housing costs. The survey asks about religion and religiosity, and about sexual identity. However, it does not include questions about ethnic origin.

From 2008/9, the survey asked a series of questions about the migration of former household members, including whether a person was a foreign migrant worker or a student. It also asked where people who had left the household during the previous year had migrated to. This question provides partial information on the status of individuals as migrants, but the failure to ask this question of people who have not left the household is a major omission for analysis of the income of migrant groups.

This survey yields a large amount of information on the socio-economic circumstances and health of the population. In terms of poverty measurement, it provides a time-series of data on household income, types of income sources and housing costs. Unfortunately, it does not include a question on the ethnicity of the individuals surveyed.

Health and Social Wellbeing Survey

The Northern Ireland Health and Social Wellbeing Survey was commissioned by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to periodically monitor the health and wellbeing of the Northern Ireland population. The survey is conducted by NISRA, in Health and Social Wellbeing Survey

The Northern Ireland Health and Social Wellbeing Survey was commissioned by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to periodically monitor the health and wellbeing of the Northern Ireland population. The survey is conducted by NISRA in 1997, 2001, 2005/6 and most recently in 2010/11 (<http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/index/media-centre/news-departments/news-dhssps/news-dhssps-151111-health-survey-northern.htm>). The surveys focus on a range of different health issues including cardiovascular disease, mental health and ill-health, physical activity, smoking and drinking.

The survey is designed to yield a representative sample of all adults aged 16 and over living in Northern Ireland. The sample for the survey was a systematic random sample of addresses drawn from the Land and Property Services Agency's (LPSA) list of domestic addresses. The LPSA addresses were sorted by district council and ward, so the sample was effectively stratified geographically. People living in institutions (though not in private households in such institutions) are excluded.

The survey includes a question on religion (community background), but not ethnic group.

Access: The datasets for the 1997, 2001 and 2p005/6Health and Social Wellbeing Surveys are archived in the UK Data Archive.

2.1.2 Surveys of income and expenditure

This section describes the major data sources which provide information on the income and expenditure of the population. The detail they provide is limited by relatively small sample size. The detail collected on ethnic minorities and migrants is very limited.

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

This has been the prime source of data on earnings patterns by industry and occupation in the UK since it replaced the New Earnings Survey in 2004. It is based on a 1 per cent sample of employee jobs taken from HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) PAYE records. Information on earnings and hours is obtained from employers and treated confidentially. It does not cover the self-employed or employees not paid during the reference period.

The survey collects details of the earnings, hours worked, job details, home and workplace location of all workers in the sampled workplace. The survey collects information on basic pay, overtime and pensions. The only demographic information collected was age and gender.

Access: Data from the survey is available from the Office for National statistics website, and the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information System (NINIS). The data on NINIS comprises the number of jobs and mean and median wage rates for full- and part-time male and female workers for each local authority district.

Microdata is available via the Secure Data Service run by the UK Data Archive. Since the data is extremely sensitive, users have to become Approved Researchers. A research proposal describing why and how the data will be analysed must be submitted for approval by the Office for National Statistics. All tables generated are checked by ONS to ensure that confidentiality is preserved. Tables based on small numbers are likely to be suppressed, and hence the scope for generating more detailed information for Northern Ireland is limited. The main use of the SDS is to undertake multiple regression analysis.

Northern Ireland Family Expenditure Survey (FES)

The Northern Ireland FES was collected annually from 1968 to 1981 and from 1992 to 1997/1998. From 1968 to 1993, it was collected for calendar years, but from 1993, the survey switched to financial years (i.e. from April to March). The survey used the same questionnaires and documentation as the FES undertaken in Great Britain. The basic unit of the survey was the household, with detailed questions asked about the income of each adult member of the household. In addition, personal information such as age, sex and marital status was recorded for each household member.

The main part of the questionnaire related to expenditure by the household and individuals, with questions mainly confined to expenses of a recurring nature. For the household, these were housing costs, payment to Gas and Electricity Boards and companies, telephone charges, licences and television rental. For individuals, the topics covered included: expenditure on motor vehicles, season tickets for transport, life and accident insurances, payments through a bank, instalments, refund of expenses by employer, expenditure claimed by self-employed persons as business expenses for tax purposes, welfare foods, education grants and fees. There was also a diary element, with each household member aged 15 or over (or 16 or over from 1973 onwards) asked to record all expenditure made over a period of 14 days.

The survey included a question on the ethnic group (using the 1991 Census of Population question) of each household member during the 1990s.

The history of the survey is described on the CAIN website (<http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/othelem/research/esrc2.htm>).

The results of the survey for the UK were published in printed form in Office for National Statistics reports on *Family Spending* and results for Northern Ireland appeared in the *Northern Ireland Family Expenditure Survey Report* (all these may be available via libraries). These reports focus on expenditure patterns and the UK report presents very limited information on Northern Ireland.

Access: Microdata from the survey is available via ESDS Government.

Family Resources Survey

The Family Resources Survey is the most comprehensive survey of the income, benefits and expenditure of households in the UK. It was introduced in Great Britain in October 1992 to provide the data required by (what is now) the Department for Work and Pensions, because the sample size of the Family Expenditure Survey and General Household Survey was too small to yield the detailed information required. The survey collects information on housing type and tenure and household finances, employment status and details of income, savings and benefits from all sources. It also asks about difficulty in paying utility bills and eligibility for free school meals.

The survey was introduced in Northern Ireland in April 2002, where it is conducted by the Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. It is a continuous household survey with an achieved UK sample size of around 24 thousand households.

The FRS sample for Northern Ireland is based on a systematic random sample drawn from the 739,000 domestic properties on the Valuation and Lands Agency (VLA) list of domestic properties, sorted by district council and ward. These addresses cannot be sampled again for two years. Communal establishments were excluded. In both 2007-8 and 2008-09 the sample size was 3,600 addresses. Data were collected face-to-face using computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI). The survey interviews all adults aged 16 and over in each eligible household (with the exception of those aged 16 to 19 who were classed as dependent children). In 2008-9, 1,930 households co-operated fully with the survey, giving a response rate of 61 per cent.

Country of birth, ethnic group and nationality: The FRS questionnaire contains a group of questions on national identity and ethnicity. These include questions on country of birth, the year and month in which a person born outside the UK first arrived, whether they have lived in the UK continuously since then, the year of most recent arrival, nationality, national identity and ethnic group. The survey also includes a religion question, with 'non-Christian' one of the categories.

The questionnaire asks for the ethnic group to which respondents consider that they belong (or for proxy responses, the view of the person answering the questionnaire about the person for whom responses are being provided). The FRS questionnaire uses the standard 2001 Census of Population ethnic group categories, asking for the ethnic group which each person interviewed feels they belong to. The Northern Ireland FRS follows Office for National Statistics harmonisation guidance on ethnic classifications, presenting results for five main output categories, two of which are further disaggregated:

1. White
2. Mixed
3. Asian or Asian British
 - a. Indian
 - b. Pakistani or Bangladeshi
 - c. Other Asian
4. Black or Black British
 - a. Black Caribbean
 - b. Black Non-Caribbean (includes Black African and Black Other)
5. Chinese or Other ethnic group

The report for 2009/10 presented results aggregated over three surveys: 2007/8, 2008/9 and 2009/10. The total sample size was 5831 households in Northern Ireland, 99 per cent of which were white. The household composition table (9.5) reported that 1 per cent of household heads were Asian or Asian British, with no further disaggregation. The only other table which presented data by ethnic group was Table 9.10 which reported that 90 per cent of the 6809 benefit units were headed by a white person, 1 per cent by an Asian or Asian British person and 1 per cent by a person who was Chinese or from another ethnic group.

The FRS has the potential to yield extremely detailed information on the factors underlying poverty and financial exclusion by ethnic group and country of birth. However, the number of interviews in Northern Ireland for households with an ethnic minority head is likely to be far too small (around 20 for each survey) for detailed breakdowns of income and the components of income to be feasible.

Standard reports based on the FRS are available from the DSD website:

http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/stats_and_research/stats-publications/stats-family-resource/family_resources/frs-2009-10.htm. However, the tables presented contain no breakdowns by ethnic group or country of birth.

Access: Microdata and documentation for each FRS is deposited with the UK Data Archive (ESDS Government) – see: <http://www.esds.ac.uk/government/frs/>. However, access is only granted to ONS Approved Researchers. There are Special Licence and Secure Data Service versions of the data set, with more restrictive conditions for accessing the latter.

Living Costs and Food Survey

This is the current household expenditure survey conducted annually in the United Kingdom. It replaced the Expenditure and Food Survey (EFS) in January 2008 and is collected as a module of the Integrated Household Survey. The EFS had itself replaced the Family Expenditure Survey (FES) and National Food Survey (NFS) in April 2001. The primary use of the LCF is to provide information for the Retail Prices Index, National Accounts estimates of household expenditure, analysis of the effect of taxes and benefits, and trends in nutrition. However, the EFS questionnaire includes a core set of questions common to all of the separate modules of the IHS and hence the LCF survey also provides a wider range of economic and social indicators. Fieldwork is conducted by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in Great Britain and by NISRA in Northern Ireland using almost identical questionnaires.

The first part of the LCF/EFS questionnaire collects information about households. Most questions are asked at a household-level, with the household reference person typically responding on behalf of the household as a whole. The household questionnaire includes questions on a range of subjects including family relationships, ethnicity, employment details and the ownership of household durables. It is also the source of all expenditure information not recorded in the LCF/EFS diary; principally that which concerns regular payments typically made by all households and large, infrequently purchased items such as vehicles, package holidays and home improvements.

The income questionnaire follows on immediately from the household questionnaire and collects the key person-level variables used on the survey. The principal components of the LCF income questionnaire are the sections covering income from employment, benefits and assets. These together form an overview of the total income received by each household, as well as each household member individually. In addition to the two questionnaires, each individual aged 16 years and over in the household is asked to keep diary records of daily expenditure for two weeks.

The LCF includes a question on ethnicity, which is recoded using a five-fold classification: white, 'mixed race', Asian, black and other. 10783 of the 11823 respondents to this question in 2010 were from the white ethnic group.

Some variables in the data are suppressed for reasons of confidentiality. These include geographical variables with detail below government office region and urban/rural area indicators.

The sample size for the survey was 12178 for the UK in 2010 and the average number of households surveyed was 5640 during 2008 to 2010. The average number of households in the survey in Northern Ireland over this period was 440. From 1997/89 Northern Ireland was over sampled in the FES and EFS in order to provide enough households to conduct separate regional analysis. From January 2010 the Northern Ireland (NI) sample used for the LCF was reduced to a sample proportionate to the NI population relative to the UK, because of funding constraints.

Access: Data from the survey is published in ONS reports and microdata is available from the UK Data Archive. See: <http://www.esds.ac.uk/findingData/efsTitles.asp>

2.1.3 Longitudinal and cohort surveys

This section reviews the surveys available for Northern Ireland which incorporate a longitudinal design or which follow a birth cohort over time.

1970 British Cohort Survey

The 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70) has traced the lives of children born in a particular week in 1970. There have been seven full data collection exercises in order to monitor the cohort members' health, education, social and economic circumstances. These took place when respondents were aged 5, in 1975, aged 10, in 1980, aged 16, in 1986, aged 26, in 1996, aged 30, 1999-2000, and aged 34, in 2004-2005. The initial aims of the study were to examine the social and biological characteristics of the mother in relation to neonatal morbidity, and to compare the results with those of the National Child Development Study (NCDS), which commenced in 1958. The scope of the BCS has broadened over time, to encompass physical and educational development at the age of 5, physical, educational and social development at the ages of 10 and 16, and physical, educational, social and economic development at 26 years and beyond.

The "Thirty-Eight-Year Follow-up" in 2008-2009 was conducted via telephone interviews (CATI). The survey explored the following areas:

- housing
- relationship history
- births and other pregnancies
- periods of lone parenthood
- children and the wider family (social relationships and support)

- family income
- employment status/employment history
- academic education
- general health
- smoking

BCS70 potentially yields extraordinarily rich lifetime data on relationships, family history and labour market history. It includes detailed family income data and a record of housing and housing mobility.

Unfortunately, the BCS is of little use for identifying the poverty experience of people from minority ethnic groups in Northern Ireland. It does not record the ethnicity of the sample members and only 2 of the 8874 people in the 38 year follow-up were living in Northern Ireland during 2008/9.

Access: Data from the survey is available via the UK Data Archive (in both End User and Special Licence versions) and the Centre for Longitudinal Studies at the Institute of Education, University of London, provides support for the BCS. See:

<http://cls.ioe.ac.uk/MicrositeHome.aspx?sitesectionid=46&sitesectiontitle=British%20Cohort%20Study>

. ESDS Longitudinal also provides a range of resources for using the data sets

(<http://www.esds.ac.uk/longitudinal/access/bcs70/datasets.asp>).

Infant Feeding Survey

The Infant Feeding Survey has been conducted every five years since 1975. It provides estimates of the incidence, prevalence and duration of breastfeeding and other feeding practices adopted by mothers in the UK, over the first 9 months or so of their baby's life. It asks about the sources of advice used by mothers and the practices followed by their friends. The survey also collects information on the smoking and drinking behaviour of mothers before, during and after pregnancy.

Methodology: The survey uses a longitudinal panel design, with three stages of data collection being carried out over a 9-12 month period in order to capture feeding practices at different ages. Stage 1 is carried out when the babies are approximately 6-10 weeks old; Stage 2, when they are approximately 4-6 months old; and Stage 3 when they are approximately 8-10 months old. The 2010 survey was based on an initial representative sample of 30,188 mothers of babies born in the UK between mid-August and late November 2010. In Wales and Northern Ireland, all births during the sample period (Wales: 9 August – 17 October 2010 and Northern Ireland: 9 August – 24 October 2010) were included in the sample. In England and Scotland, births in the most deprived neighbourhoods (the most quintile of each country's Index of Multiple Deprivation) were over-sampled.

At Stage 1 a total of 15,724 mothers returned the questionnaire, representing a response rate of 52%. Headline results from the 2010 survey were published in June 2011 (<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles-related-surveys/infant-feeding-survey/infant-feeding-survey-2010-early-results>). These focus on early results from Stage 1 of the survey only and cover two key

topics, the initial incidence of breastfeeding and smoking during pregnancy. The report for the completed survey is expected to be published in the summer of 2012.

The survey does not collect data on income, but it does include questions on the demographic and socio-economic background of the mother. This includes age and family status, employment status and plans to return to work. The survey yields UK estimates, and the 2005 and 2010 surveys have also provided estimates for the individual countries of the UK. In 2005, 1886 mothers were surveyed in Northern Ireland out of a total of 12290 in the UK (2135 in Wales and 2194 in Scotland).

In Great Britain, the survey includes a question on ethnic group, using the 2001 Census ethnic group classification. However, this was replaced by a question on religion for Northern Ireland in the 2005 survey, and the published tables for Great Britain only presented data for the five broad aggregates of the ethnicity classification (white, mixed parentage, Black, Asian and Chinese or Other).

Access: Microdata from the surveys is available from the UK Data Archive (ESDS government). The 2005 survey documentation and data can be accessed at:

<http://www.esds.ac.uk/findingData/snDescription.asp?sn=5727>

Millennium Cohort Study (MCS)

Also known as the “Child of the New Century” study, this is a longitudinal survey of children born in the year 2000, managed by the Centre for Longitudinal Studies at the Institute of Education, University of London. It provides an extremely complete picture of the early lives of children, set within the context of their changing family circumstances and the characteristics of the area in which they live.

The sample comprises nearly 19,000 babies born between 1 September 2000 and 31 August 2001 in England and Wales, and between 22 November 2000 and 11 January 2002 in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Families living in areas of child poverty, in the smaller countries of the UK and in areas with high ethnic minority populations in England were oversampled.

The first sweep (MCS1: 2001-3) interviewed both mothers and (where resident) fathers (or father-figures) of infants included in the sample when the babies were nine months old, and the second sweep (MCS2: 2003-5) was carried out with the same respondents when the children were three years of age. The third sweep (MCS3) was conducted in 2006, when the children were aged five years, and the fourth sweep (MCS4) in 2008, when they were seven years old.

The mother or main carer interviews covered ethnicity and language, the baby's father, lone parenthood, pregnancy, labour and delivery, baby's health and development, childcare, grandparents, friends and social support, parental health, education and training, employment and earnings, housing, community and local services, time with and without the baby and other interests. The father's or main carer's partner interviews covered similar issues, as well as father's involvement with the baby. The mother and father interviews also included a self-completion element covering baby's

temperament and behaviour, relationship with partner, previous relationships, domestic tasks, previous pregnancies, mental health, attitudes to relationships, parenting, work, etc.

Either parent or carer could answer the household module questions, which covered household composition and relationships, children, employment status, caring responsibilities for the baby born in 2000 and language spoken at home.

The survey collects detailed information on sources of household/family income (including gross, net usual pay and benefits) and child support/maintenance. The ethnic group question uses the 2001 Northern Ireland Census of Population question. Of the 1921 responses to this question for the main respondent, 1907 gave the response 'white', hence the MCS provides data on only 14 people from minority ethnic groups (far too few for analysis).

The structure of the data sets is explained in a guide to the MCS, available from:

http://www.esds.ac.uk/doc/4683%5Cmrdoc%5Cpdf%5Cmcs_guide_to_the_datasets_v5.pdf

Access: The data is made available by the UK Data Archive. Datasets can be browsed via the ESDS Nesstar software tool (nesstar.esds.ac.uk/webview/index.jsp). The MCS data currently available via ESDS (End User Licence) are surveys 1 to 4; a sub-study of mothers who received assisted fertility treatment; birth registration/maternity hospital episode data; a 3rd wave Teacher Survey and Foundation Stage Profile as well as a 4th wave Teacher Survey dataset. More detailed data available on a Special Licence basis includes details of the hospital of birth data and detailed geographical identifiers data. In November 2011, a 'First to Fourth Surveys, Linked Education Administrative Dataset' was made available via the Secure Data Service. These data sets are subject to strict conditions of access, concerning confidentiality and the request for access must be made by an Approved Researcher.

British Household Panel Study (BHPS) / Northern Ireland Household Panel Study (NIHPS) / Understanding Society (US)

These two sources are treated together because the Northern Ireland Household Panel Study was part of the BHPS and Understanding Society has now superseded the British Household Panel Study. Households included in the BHPS have been incorporated into the US sample. Both have been funded by the ESRC and are managed by the Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of Essex.

The BHPS was an annual survey which ran from 1991 to 2010. It was based on a nationally representative sample of about 5,500 households initially recruited in 1991, containing a total of approximately 10,000 interviewed individuals. The sample is a stratified clustered design drawn from the Postcode Address File and all residents present at those addresses at the first wave of the survey were designated as panel members. These same individuals were re-interviewed each successive year and, if they split-off from original households to form new households, they are followed and all adult members of these households are also interviewed. Similarly, new members joining sample

households become eligible for interview and children are interviewed as they reach the age of 16. From 1994, children aged 11-15 also completed a short interview.

Initially conducted only in England, the study was extended to Scotland and Wales in 1999 with samples of 1,500 households in each country. In 2001 a sample of 2,000 households was added in Northern Ireland. Fieldwork in Northern Ireland was carried out by NISRA, under the direction of the Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of Essex, who ran the BHPS. By the end of the BHPS in 2010, the total sample size was around 10,000 households across the UK. 18 waves of data from the BHPS are available via the UK Data Archive.

The BHPS asked detailed questions about household structure, labour market participation, income and expenditure and geographical mobility (including motivation behind residential moves). It included questions about national identity, ethnicity and country of birth in Great Britain.

The Northern Ireland Household Panel Survey largely used the same questionnaires as the BHPS and data from the study are directly comparable with it. The first wave of the NIHPS (undertaken in 2001) included 3,458 individuals in 1,978 households drawn from across Northern Ireland. By Wave 6, it covered 2,151 individuals. By There are now 8 waves of data available from the UK Data Archive.

The NIHPS comprises a 'Core' component asked every year (covering health, housing, finances), a 'rotating core component' asked every 3 years (covering wealth, assets and debt and parenting) and a 'variable' component (which included race, place of birth, and age of leaving school in Wave 1).

Data from the NIHPS is available from the UK Data Archive, as part of its holdings of BHPS data. More confidential information has to be accessed via Special Licence arrangements or via the Secure Data Service (the latter applies to geographically detailed information in particular).

Understanding Society (US) is a much larger longitudinal study drawing upon the experience of the BHPS, but conducted on a larger scale and with much greater ambition. The sample size is 40 thousand households, incorporating the existing BHPS and NIHPS samples. The study has four sample components: the General Population component, the Innovation Panel, a boost sample of ethnic minority group members, and participants in the former British Household Panel Survey (BHPS). Continuous fieldwork for the survey commenced in Great Britain in 2009 (Wave 1).

The ethnic minority module aims to provide a sample of around 1000 adult respondents in from the Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Caribbean and African ethnic groups. Others are also included, and the large sample size across the Study, enables coverage of more dispersed and new migrant groups.

The BHPS/NIHPS sample was integrated into US at Wave 2. There will be continuous fieldwork over a 12 month period for each wave in Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland sample is an unclustered sample of the residential population, comprising 2,400 addresses drawn systematically from Land and Property Services Agency list of domestic properties.

In the first year of Understanding Society, 1292 households in Northern Ireland responded, presenting a response rate of 61.7 per cent. Full interviews were achieved with 2189 individuals. In Year 2 of US, the number of households responding in the US sample was 1031 and in the BSPS/NIHPS sample 1086. All residents in a household aged 16 or more were asked questions around: Initial conditions: e.g., place of birth, citizenship, qualifications, family background; Ethnicity and national identity, language, religion, harassment; History of marriage and cohabitation, fertility; Health and disability, caring; Employment and non-employment, discrimination; Childcare, parents and children, family networks; Unearned income and state benefits; Household finances; and political affiliation and values; and environmental behaviour.

The BHPS and US are documented at the Institute for Social and Economic Research website at Essex University: <http://www.understandingsociety.org.uk/media/>. This also presents the results of these surveys and research reports.

Access: Data from Understanding Society is available from the UK Data Archive via: <http://www.esds.ac.uk/findingData/snDescription.asp?sn=6614>

2.2 Surveys of services

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive conducts two major regular surveys which collect information on housing conditions and housing conditions. These provide income data and data of relevance to the housing domain of poverty.

Continuous Tenant Omnibus Survey

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive has conducted the Continuous Tenant Omnibus Survey (CTOS) since 1994. The CTOS monitors the level of customer satisfaction with Housing Executive services and identifies areas for improvement. It also provides a time-series of data on the changing views of tenants. The survey is carried out throughout the year using a questionnaire which comprises a main section which was used in each of the four data collection periods and an omnibus section which changed for each period. Reports of the survey are published on the website of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (www.nihe.gov.uk). The most recent data currently available is for 2010, in which year the Housing Executive managed 88 thousand dwellings, with 180,500 residents. The average household size was 2.05.

The main section of the questionnaire covers the following topics:

- economic and demographic household information;
- tenure history;
- type of contact with the Housing Executive in the last 12 months;

- tenant generated repairs;
- tenant appraisal of service provision; and
- attitude to area or estate.

The aim is to yield data for the 37 housing management districts. Thus the sample size of the survey in 2006 was 3700, involving 25 interviews per quarter per district (100 interviews in total). In 2008, the 3500 interviews represented 7411 individuals living in the households sampled. In 2010, the sample size had fallen to 3400. Respondents were selected from the from the Housing Executive's PRAWL database. If a selected tenant did not respond (after three attempts to contact), were ill or refused to participate, they were replaced by another drawn from a sample of reserve addresses, ensuring that the target number of interviews was completed. Around a third of selected interviewees (38% in 2006 and 37% in 2010) have to be replaced. The fieldwork company (Ipsos MORI) verify the survey by re-interviewing about a tenth of respondents by telephone.

Information on income and ethnicity: Household income data was provided by 73% of respondents. This is a deprived population, with 51% having an annual gross household income of £10,400 or less and only 6% having a household income of £15,601 or above. Most are on benefits - 78% were in receipt of Housing Benefit and 39% receiving Income Support or Job Seeker's Allowance. Data is provided for the Household Reference Person and their partner.

The survey is grossed up to the total number of tenants (180494 in 2010). The ethnic minority component of the tenant population is less than 1 per cent. In 2008, 183783 tenants were white, 210 Chinese, 159 Irish Travellers, 21 Pakistani, 68 Black African, 250 Mixed ethnicity, 37 Black Other and 311 'any other ethnic group'.

While the CTOS collects data on ethnicity and religion, only the analysis of findings by religion are presented in the main report. The detail on this question is restricted to the two main religious groups (i.e. Protestant and Catholic).

Access: Reports from the survey are presented at:

http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/corporate/housing_research/completed/continuous_tenants_omnibus_survey.htm.

Very limited information is available by ethnic group. In 2010, the report only presented data for the white (179409) and 'other ethnic group' (1085) sections of the total population of 180494. Custom tables from the survey can be requested from the Research Unit of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (e-mail contact: liz.mccambridge@nihe.gov.uk).

Housing Conditions Survey

This survey covers all tenures and focuses on the physical condition of dwellings. However, it also collects information on the socio-economic circumstances of residents. The published report contains a number of tables in which one dimension is community background (religion).

The Northern Ireland House Condition Survey aims to provide a comprehensive picture of the dwelling stock and its condition for council areas in a manner which is compatible with other UK House Condition Surveys and which enables trends in housing conditions to be examined. It is also concerned with the association between dwelling conditions and the social and economic circumstances of the households within them.

The survey uses electronic data collection, covering:

- The physical attributes of each dwelling (internal and external);
- The physical aspects of flats and common areas;
- Demographic, social economic and attitudinal information on households;
- The front and back plot of the dwelling, the local neighbourhood and area;
- The Housing Health and Safety Rating System
-

The information gathered on the physical condition of houses allows measurement of repair costs, the Fitness Standard, The Decent Homes Standard, Fuel Poverty, Standard Assessment Procedure (energy efficiency) and the Housing Health and Safety Rating Standard.

In 2009 the total number of dwellings selected for participation in the HCS was 3,000. This included 220 properties in each of Northern Ireland's ten proposed new district council areas and 800 selected for the Belfast District Council Area. The sample was drawn from the Land and Property Services database. The 2009 survey drew a sample of 1500 new addresses and resurveyed 1500 addresses surveyed in the 2006 HCS. The latter included all properties classified as unfit or defective in 2006. The survey is weighted to reflect the total housing stock. The response rate to the survey was 74% in 2006 and 74% in 2009.

The survey includes questions on ethnicity and nationality. The classifications used are as follows:

Ethnic group	Nationality
White	British
Chinese	Irish
Irish Traveller	Northern Irish
Indian	British / Irish

Pakistani	Scottish
Bangladeshi	Portugese
Black Caribbean	Latvian
Black African	Lithuanian
Black Other	Polish
Mixed ethnic group (please specify)	Nigerian
Any other ethnic group (please specify)	Other (please specify)

The survey collects information on the income of the Household Reference Person and their partner. This includes benefits and housing benefit. It also collects information on the characteristics of the local area and problems in the local environment.

The 2009 survey found that 25% of all households had an annual income of less than £10,000 and 9% had an annual income of less than £7,000 (59% of whom were single person households, half being aged 60 or over). 16 per cent of households had incomes between £20,000 and £29,999 and 23 per cent had household incomes of £30,000 or more. Protestant households (70%) were slightly more likely than Catholic (64%) households to own their homes.

The report of the survey (available from http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/sp_home/research-2/house_condition_survey.htm) does not analyse the survey by ethnic group or citizenship.

Access: Tables from the survey can be found at: http://www.nihe.gov.uk/2006_housing_conditions_survey_statistical_annex.pdf.

While this includes data on community background, no data by ethnic group is presented.

Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey

This survey was conducted on behalf of the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister and the Department of Finance and Personnel between October 2002 and January 2003. A random sample of 3,500 households drawn from the Valuation and Lands Agency List of addresses were asked a range of questions about their incomes, household possessions and lifestyles. People living in institutions (although not in private households in such institutions) were excluded. The survey consisted of both a household interview and an individual interview with each person aged 16 and over in the household.

The questions asked in the survey covered the demographic details of each person in the household, economic activity, health and disability, the type and age of accommodation, housing costs, amenities

(e.g. central heating), views about the neighbourhood and local amenities and activism and views about the political situation. Questions relevant to poverty included income, views on standard of living, living costs, finance and debt, and views about the necessities for life.

The survey includes the 2001 Census ethnic group and religion questions. It also asks a question about nationality.

Access: The findings of the survey are presented in the “Bare Necessities” report (<http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/bare-necessities.pdf>) on the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister website. There is no indication of how data from the survey may be accessed.

Northern Ireland Crime Survey

The Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS) was commissioned by the Department of Justice to monitor the crime rate in Northern Ireland and to provide other important information such as concern about crime, the effect of crime on quality of life and the views of victims. The survey was undertaken in 1994/5, 1998, 2001 and 2003/4, and became a continuous survey in January 2005.

The latest published results refer to the survey conducted from April 2010 to March 2011. The survey is based upon a systematic random sample of addresses drawn from a list of private addresses managed by the Land and Property Services Agency. A total of 6750 addresses were visited by interviewers and households at the address selected for interview using a selection table. Of the 6750 addresses issued, 5984 were eligible to participate in the survey and 4081 co-operated fully (a response rate of 68 per cent).

The survey includes a question on community background (Catholic, Protestant and Other) and questions on household income.

The key issues addressed by the survey are:

- Perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Crime victimisation screener questions
- Crime incidents experienced by the victim
- Confidence in the criminal justice system
- Confidence in the police
- Confidence in police monitoring arrangements
- Perceptions of the risk of becoming a victim of crime

The user guide to the survey can be found at:

http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/statistics-research/stats-research-publications/northern-ireland-crime-survey-s-r/nics-user-guide-_april-2012_.pdf

Access: Unfortunately data from the survey is not currently available for secondary analysis.

Northern Ireland Community Attitudes Survey (CAS)

The Community Attitudes Survey (CAS) is a survey exploring public perceptions and views on crime, law and order and policing issues. The survey was first commissioned in 1992 by the Criminal Justice Departments and Agencies and the Central Community Relations Unit, following an independent review of crime survey needs undertaken by the Northern Ireland Office. The survey asks respondents for their views of the local neighbourhood, knowledge of crime, personal fear of crime, precautions taken against crime, views on policing priorities, experience of contact with the police and complaints, perceptions of the police, treatment of the population by the police and security forces, terrorism, the courts and the criminal justice process.

It is a household survey intended to yield a representative sample of all adults aged 16 or over living in Northern Ireland, surveying addresses drawn at random from the Valuation and Lands Agency (VLA) property database. People living in institutions (though not in private households in such institutions) are excluded from the sample. One adult is selected to complete the questionnaire on behalf of the household. The sample was originally (in 1992/3) stratified, with an achieved sample size of 2175. In 2002, the survey was a simple random sample, with an achieved sample size of 1430.

Access: Tables of results from each survey analysed by community background (Catholic/Protestant) are available on the CSU website: <http://www.csu.nisra.gov.uk/survey.asp18.htm>.

Methodological details of each survey undertaken are available at:

<http://www.ias.org.uk/resources/data-dictionary/dd-series4.pdf>

Data from the survey for 1992/3 to 2002 is available from the UK Data Archive:

<http://www.esds.ac.uk/findingData/snDescription.asp?sn=4799>

2.3 Surveys of attitudes and opinions

Northern Ireland Assembly Elections Study

This was conducted immediately following the Northern Ireland Assembly elections in November 2003. The survey involved 1,000 face-to-face interviews with adults aged 18 years or over, and also included a self-completion element. The survey was mainly concerned with attitudes towards the election and candidates, but collected a broad range of demographic and socio-economic variables. It included questions on religion and religiosity, but no ethnic group question.

Access: Data from the survey is available from the UK Data Archive (<http://www.esds.ac.uk/findingData/snDescription.asp?sn=5394>) and the ARK website (http://www.ark.ac.uk/sol/surveys/electoral_studies/NIAES/2003/website/).

The Northern Ireland Social Attitudes Survey (NISAS)

This series began in 1989, and was conducted every year in which the British Social Attitudes Survey (BSAS) was fielded until 1996, when it was replaced by the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey series (NILT), which began in 1998, and its corresponding Young Life and Times Survey (YLT) series which surveys young people aged 12-17 living in the households of adults interviewed for NILT.

Access: Data from the NISAS is available from the UK Data Archive at: <http://www.esds.ac.uk/findingData/nisasTitles.asp>

Young Persons Behaviour and Attitudes Survey (YPBAS)

The Young Persons Behaviour and Attitudes Survey is focussed on 11-16 year olds and is school-based. The survey collects information on demographics, social support, money, school, subject choices and further education, starting a business, nutrition, sport and physical activity, libraries, museums and arts, modern technology, the environment, travelling to school, road safety, policing, attitudes towards domestic violence, anti-social behaviour and personal safety, knife culture, smoking, alcohol, solvents and drugs and sexual experience and knowledge. The survey has been conducted in the autumn of 2000, 2003, 2007 and 2010.

The survey is conducted via a random sample of post-primary schools in Northern Ireland. The sample is representative of school size, selection type (i.e. Secondary, Grammar), management group (i.e. Controlled, Voluntary, Roman Catholic Maintained, Grant Maintained Integrated etc) and Education and Library Board area. A class in each of the five year groups is randomly selected to take part, and only pupils from the selected classes are included in the survey. Pupils are administered a self-completion questionnaire in a supervised setting. In 2010, 77 schools participated and questionnaires were obtained from 4070 pupils (90 per cent of the eligible pupils).

The survey includes questions on ethnicity, community background and country of birth.

Access: Reports and tables can be accessed from the CSU website: <http://www.csu.nisra.gov.uk/survey.asp96.htm>

Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (NILTS) was launched in the autumn of 1998, with the aim of monitoring the attitudes and behaviour of people in Northern Ireland annually to provide a time-series and a public record of how our attitudes and behaviour develop on a wide range of social policy issues. two modules are repeated every year (*Political Attitudes* and *Community Relations*) the rest of

the survey varies annually, with all the modules designed to be repeated in years to come. The modules included in the 2010 survey were:

- Background information on the respondents
- Dementia
- Community relations
- Informal Carers
- Social Care for Older People
- Attitudes to minority ethnic people and migrant workers
- Political attitudes

The NILTS was collected in each year up to 2010, but was not undertaken in 2011 (because of lack of funding). It will resume in 2012. It monitors the attitudes and behaviour of people in Northern Ireland annually to provide a time-series and a public record of how attitudes and behaviour develop on a wide range of social policy issues.

The sample size for the survey in 2010 was 1201. The survey asks about the ethnic origin of each individual, whether they regard themselves as a member of an ethnic minority, whether they lived abroad, their religion (community background) and whether they were a Muslim. However, in order to maintain confidentiality, the ethnicity variable (RACE2) variable is excluded from the SPSS dataset. Variables measuring the demographic characteristics of other members of the household and those related to religion are replaced by recoded versions. The detailed ethnic breakdown of respondents in 2010 was:

- White 1176
- Asian 7
- Chinese 1
- Mixed (please specify) 5
- Other (please specify) 11
- None of these 1
- Not answered 4

Access: The survey data for each year from 1998 to 2010 in SPSS format, documentation and frequency counts for every question and a breakdown by age, gender and religion are available via the ARK website:

<http://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt>

The SPSS data set is also held by the UK Data Archive (ESDS Government).

A 'query' service (p.devine@qub.ac.uk) is available for those who require more detailed information or breakdowns not available in the published materials or from analysis of the survey data set. As noted

above, the ethnicity variable is not in the SPSS data set and hence breakdowns by ethnicity have to be requested. However, the number of observations for minority ethnic groups is extremely small.

Young Life and Times Survey

The Young Life and Times Survey is designed to record the views of 16 year olds in Northern Ireland on a wide range of issues, including community relations, health, politics, sectarianism and education. Respondents are invited to suggest topics for the subsequent year's survey.

From 1998 to 2000, the survey was part of the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey, with all 12-17 year olds living in the household of an adult NILTS respondent being asked to complete a paper questionnaire. The survey was reviewed in 2001, because that the questions were not appropriate to the whole age range and difficulties had been encountered when interviewing children in the company of their parents or at school.

The first survey using a revised methodology was undertaken in 2003. The sampling frame for the survey was all young people resident in Northern Ireland who celebrated their 16th birthday during February and March, with address details taken from the Child Benefit Register. Each sampled individual was sent a paper copy of the questionnaire, but had the option (in the 2011 survey) to complete the survey by one of three methods: by telephone, on-line or by posting the completed paper questionnaire back. Each respondent was allocated a unique identification code which was also used in a prize draw. Out of the sample of 3835 eligible individuals, 1434 responded to the survey by the end of the fieldwork period (November and December 2011), representing a response rate of 37 per cent.

The 2011 survey included questions on attitudes to minority ethnic groups; community relations; sexual attitudes and experience; loneliness and wellbeing; and family circumstances. Some of the questions (e.g. the question on whether or not young people planned to leave Northern Ireland and whether or not they intended to come back) were suggested by respondents to the 2010 survey.

The survey asks about the ethnicity and religion of the respondent, but these variables have been recoded in the outputs of the survey in order to maintain anonymity. The ethnic group question is open and the respondent is asked whether they consider themselves to be a member of a minority ethnic group. The religion question gives the respondent a set of Christian options to choose between and the option to write in another religion. Respondents are asked about the community background of their school, their attitudes towards minority communities and the ethnic background of their friends. The only question related to income is one about how well off the respondent perceives their family to be.

Access: Tables of results from the 2011 survey were made available on the YLT website. Users can also download the data in SPSS portable file format from the website. The YLT website is held within the ARK website and can be found at: www.ark.ac.uk/ylt

Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey (NOS)

The Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey is carried out on a regular basis and is designed to provide a snapshot of the lifestyle and views of the people of Northern Ireland. The content of the survey varies from quarter to quarter. Questions in the core section of the survey are asked in every quarter. These cover:

- Household composition
- Age of dwelling
- Tenure of dwelling
- Education details
- Employment details
- Personal income
- Household income
- Religion

The survey also includes special sections which appear in the survey only occasionally, depending on those issues which are topical at the time of the survey. These have been concerned with a range of issues, for example perceptions of the police and policing (regularly repeated), essential skills and attitudes towards migrant workers (published in January 2007).

A systematic random sample of 2,200 addresses is drawn from the Land and Property Services Agency list of private addresses. Eligible households are identified and one person aged 16 or over living at the address is selected to complete the interview. Addresses are issued to a panel of interviewers on a quarterly basis, and fieldwork takes place during one calendar month. The survey aims to achieve 1000 interviews, and the sample is representative of the Northern Ireland population in terms of age, gender, social class and geographical location. In the absence of a 'boost', the number of cases available for analysis of the situation of minority ethnic groups is likely to be extremely small.

A description of the survey (which does not include detailed documentation such as survey questionnaires) is available on the NISRA Central Survey Unit website:

<http://www.csu.nisra.gov.uk/survey.asp10.htm>.

Access: The raw data from the survey is not available for further analysis. Reports containing the results of the survey are available from:

<http://www.csu.nisra.gov.uk/survey.asp79.htm>

3. Administrative and related data sets available in Northern Ireland

This chapter provides an overview of the data related to minority ethnic and migrant groups which is available from a number of administrative data sources and official statistics. Statistics derived from administrative data collection exercises in Northern Ireland are published both on departmental websites and on the NISRA website.

In addition to statistics collected in Northern Ireland, this section also refers to data sets which contain information for Northern Ireland but which are presented as part of UK-wide statistical collections.

Table 2 lists the administrative and statistical data sources available in Northern Ireland and summarises their characteristics. A number of these sources are then described in greater detail.

Table 2: Summary list of administrative data sources relevant to ethnicity and poverty in Northern Ireland

Data set	Type	Contains ethnicity information	Contains migrant information	Community background information	Religion	Poverty-relevant	Current
The Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study	28% sample of Census linked to administrative data	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Northern Ireland Schools Census	Administrative	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Annual Civil Service employment survey	Administrative	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Health card registration	Administrative	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Annual population	Statistical estimates	No	No	No	No	No	Yes

estimates	based on administrative data						
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Table 2: Summary list of administrative data sources relevant to ethnicity and poverty in Northern Ireland (continued)

Data set	Type	Contains ethnicity information	Contains migrant information	Community background information	Religion	Poverty-relevant	Current
Estimates of international migration	Statistical estimates based on administrative data	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Housing Executive survey of district offices	Questionnaire survey	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes

3.1 The Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study (NILS)

Longitudinal studies provide powerful resources for monitoring socio-economic change through time by linking the details of sample members taken from successive Censuses of Population to demographic events affecting these individuals in the years between Censuses. The first Longitudinal Study in the UK was established for England and Wales following the 1971 Census.

The Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study (NILS) is similar in design to both the Office for National Statistics Longitudinal Study (ONS-LS) for England and Wales, and the Scottish Longitudinal Study (SLS). It is based on a very large, representative, sample of around 28 per cent (approximately 500,000 people) of the Northern Ireland population. It also covers about half the households in Northern Ireland.

The sample was drawn (using 104 birthdates, many more than in the other UK longitudinal studies) from live records in the Northern Ireland Health Card Registration System (NIHCRS) on the 2001 Census Day (29 April). The Health Card Registration System data for 2001 to 2010 includes the age, status and location of each individual and migration events. Sample members were then traced in the 2001 Census returns. The NIHCRS is a database of all people registered for health services in Northern Ireland, including those who migrate into and out of Northern Ireland. There were 83,206 more patients (1,768,473) registered on the health card system in May 2001 than the population of Northern Ireland as measured by the 2001 Census (1,685,267), as a result of Census under-enumeration and inflation of the numbers registered for healthy services. Census under-enumeration will have an impact on linkage rate. The England and Wales and Scottish longitudinal study samples were drawn from Census returns (initially 1971 for England and Wales and 2001 for Scotland) and linked to health registers. Like the other two longitudinal studies, the 2001 Census information recorded for other members of the household in which the sample member lived is added to the NILS database. Individuals joining the sample member's household (through birth or marriage) are added to the NILS database.

The NILS is a dynamic database which is continually updated and is also increasing, by approximately 12,000 persons (2.3%) per year. This includes the initial cohort of NILS members from the Health Card Registration system and, in addition, all new sample members who have since joined the study (if they have since either been born in, or immigrated into, Northern Ireland and have one of the 104 NILS birthdates). Data on vital events (births, stillbirths, deaths, marriages, widowhood and migration) for sample members is linked in from the NIHCRS. Each individual record contains the person's age, sex and home postcode. Unfortunately, it does not record the ethnicity of individuals and hence NILS provides no information on the ethnicity of new sample members. When the 2011 Census data is linked in, it will be possible to identify the ethnicity and country of origin of those who were added to the sample after 2001.

The matching process takes place twice a year, drawing upon the General Register of Northern Ireland (GRONI) birth register, and while predominantly based on automatic matching of records also involves some manual verification of matches.

Additions/deletions to the database result from:

- New births into the sample
- Births to sample mothers and fathers
- Stillbirths to sample mothers and fathers
- Infant mortality of children of sample mothers and fathers
- Deaths of sample members
- Migration Events (Health Card Data)
- Immigrants into the sample
- Emigration out of Northern Ireland of sample members
- Re-entries into Northern Ireland after previous emigrations of sample members
- Migration within Northern Ireland of sample members

Ethnicity: The only data on ethnicity in the NILS are taken from the 2001 Census. The ethnicity of new members of NILS will only be identified by matching them with returns to the 2011 Census of Population. Those new sample members who left Northern Ireland before the 2011 Census will not have ethnicity information. For each individual there is a self-ascribed ethnic group and cultural background variables. The ethnic groups in NILS are those used in the 2001 NI ethnic group classification:

- White
- Irish Traveller
- Mixed
- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- BlackCaribbean
- BlackAfrican
- OtherBlack
- Chinese
- OtherEthnicGroup
- OtherAsian
- Not required – non resident student

The written answers to the ethnic group question for each individual are also recorded. There is also a household ethnicity variable:

- AllWhite
- All Mixed
- All Asian or Asian British
- All Black or Black British
- All Chinese
- All Other
- Some white members and some of another ethnic group
- Other combination of ethnic groups

Poverty-relevance: There is no income variable in NILS, but for each household there are 2001 Census deprivation indicators for education, employment, health and housing. NILS also incorporates data on housing conditions and housing valuation taken from the Properties data of the Valuations and Land Agency.

Access: is managed by the NILS research support unit based at Queens University Belfast (<http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/NILSResearchSupportUnit/>). Users are required to produce a research proposal which is approved by the support team. Access is via a “safe setting”.

3.2 Northern Ireland Schools Census

The Statistics and Research Branch of the Department for Education in Northern Ireland (http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/32-statisticsandresearch_pg.htm) produces a number of reports and statistical data sets on education in Northern Ireland. See:

The themes covered are:

- school enrolments
- pupil attendance
- participation of 16 and 17 year olds in full-time education and training
- teacher numbers
- pupil: teacher ratios
- school leavers' qualifications and destinations
- school performance

These statistics are derived from four sources: the annual School Census, the Summary of Annual Examination Results, the School Leavers Survey and an annual return on teacher numbers. Tabulations are available on a range of dimensions, summarised for Northern Ireland as a whole and Education and Library Boards on the Department for education web site (www.deni.gov.uk).

The *Annual Schools Census* takes place in early October when each school is required to submit a return detailing information about school enrolments and attendance. The information collected varies according to the type and level of schools, but includes details on: year group, gender, age, religion, ethnicity (including Irish Travellers), Special Educational Needs and on newcomer pupils. Data on the number of pupils entitled to free school meals (including the proxy measure of children with a parent in receipt of Income Support or Job Seekers' Allowance) is also available.

The Schools Census uses the following ethnic categories:

- White
- Other white
- Roma
- Irish Traveller
- Mixed
- Black-African
- Black-Caribbean
- Black-Other
- Bangladeshi
- Indian
- Pakistani
- Chinese/Hong Kong
- Korean
- Malaysian
- Vietnamese

Downloadable data is available on the ethnic composition of schools by Education and Library Board. However, the ethnic group classification of children presented is a crude White/Other ethnic group classification (based upon the parent's self-perception of ethnicity), with the "Other" category including Irish traveller, mixed ethnic groups and those from an ethnic group other than white. Of a total of 307,470 school pupils in 2011/12, 10397 were classified as being from "Other" ethnic groups, only 3236 of whom were post-primary pupils.

DENI defines a “newcomer” pupil as “one who has enrolled in a school but who does not have the satisfactory language skills to participate fully in the school curriculum, and the wider environment, and does not have a language in common with the teacher, whether that is English or Irish”. (see the DENI (2009) document Supporting Newcomer Pupils : http://www.deni.gov.uk/main_doc_english-2.pdf). This document notes a steady increase in the number of newcomer children (from about 2 thousand in 2004 to 7 thousand in 2008) and in the number of languages they speak. The October 2008 Schools Census found there were 40 minority languages spoken, the most common being Polish, Lithuanian and Portugese. NICEM (2011) have pointed out that the difficulty of learning in a second language and the time taken to function well academically in English may be one reason why newcomer children tend to have relatively poor examination results.¹

Such pupils were previously referred to (and are referred to in data for other parts of the UK) as having “English as an Additional Language”. This is an indicator of the number of children from migrant groups. Time-series data reveals a quadrupling in the number of such children from 2056 in 2004/5 to 8418 in 2011/12. Data on religion also records the number of children of “non-Christian religion”. This is another possible indicator of the number of children from minority ethnic groups. The number of children in this category increased from 1184 in 2000/2001 to 2661 in 2011/12.

Statistical releases on enrolments by type of school and school year (accessed from: http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/32-statisticsandresearch_pg/32_statistical_publications-indexofstatisticalpublications_pg/32_statistical_publications_pressreleases_pg/32_statisticalpublications_enrolmentspressreleases_pg.htm) provide information on the individual ethnic groups of pupils). The largest single minority group was the “mixed” category (2341 pupils during 2011/12). These datasets provide an indication of the size and geographical location of children from minority ethnic groups and the growth in their numbers over time. However, standard data sets do not cross-classify ethnicity by entitlement to free school meals and do not provide details of the ethnic breakdown of the school population. Moreover, the “newcomer” indicator does not provide an indication of the geographical region of the world in which a child's origins lie and the religion indicator does not identify children of European origin.

Disadvantage related to poverty can also be indicated by examination performance. This data derives from the *School Leavers Survey* (SLS). This is an annual exercise which collects and

¹ Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities (2011) Promoting Racial Equality in Northern Ireland's Post-Primary Schools. http://www.nicem.org.uk/uploads/publications/Education_report_-_Final_PDF.pdf

validates the qualifications and destinations of Northern Ireland school leavers. Data for individual pupils includes their ethnicity, religion, date of arrival, English as a First Language, English as an Additional Language, eligibility for free school meals and home postcode.

Tables of qualifications are published at

(http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/32-statisticsandresearch_pg/32_statistical_publications-indexofstatisticalpublications_pg/32_statistical_publications_pressreleases_pg/32_national_statistics_school_leavers_pg.htm)

and breakdowns of highest qualifications and destinations of leavers by ethnic group and by free school meal entitlement are presented. However the breakdown of ethnicity is only white/minority. This reveals that leavers from minority ethnic groups are more likely than white leavers to have higher level qualifications and are also more likely to go on to higher education. On the other hand, they are also more likely to leave school without educational qualifications.

The experience of Great Britain suggests that it is likely that these experiences will affect individual ethnic groups in different ways. It is therefore important that data from this source is available in greater detail and that free school meal entitlement is cross-tabulated against the indicators of minority and migrant origin. The possible disadvantage of children of continental European origin would not be revealed without more detailed breakdowns.

More detailed bespoke tabulations of education statistics can be requested by e-mailing statistics@deni.gov.uk. The DENI statisticians respond very quickly to requests and are very helpful. However, the small numbers of minority ethnic group pupils limit the detail which can be provided for geographical areas within Northern Ireland.

3.3 Northern Ireland Housing Executive Migrant Housing Statistics

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive conducts survey of their NIHE Senior Housing Officers in each of the 35 NIHE District Offices regarding the number of migrant worker households accessing their services. An annual report detailing the national origins of social housing applicants who are migrant workers and their geographical distribution within Northern Ireland: http://www.nihe.gov.uk/bme_and_migrant_worker_mapping_update_2012.pdf

Data is presented via the NINIS system for local authority districts (within which the NIHE districts nest). For each district, four variables are presented: social housing applications and allocations for migrant workers, current numbers of migrant worker tenant households and migrant worker homeless applications. The data covers a 12 month period from 1st August to 31st July.

3.4 NISRA Population and migration estimates

NISRA produces annual estimates of the population of Northern Ireland as a whole and the constituent local government and health areas. These are based on a range of data sources, which are together used to estimate the population using 'cohort component' and 'ratio change' methods. The demographic forces creating population change are births, deaths and net migration. The first two of these are recorded through administrative systems and net migration between two dates is calculated as the difference between the population estimates in successive years and the change in the population due to births and deaths over that period. The migration estimate is further broken down into migration within Northern Ireland and migration from beyond.

One section of the NISRA website provides access to statistics and reports on (internal and international) migration (<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp18.htm>). The latest data is for 2010, but estimates have been made of the annual and cumulative volume of in- and out-migration over the period July 2000 to June 2010. NISRA estimates total net international migration over this period to be nearly 25 thousand. Northern Ireland was losing one to two thousand people per year due to international migration before 2003/4, after which net international migration has been positive in each year. The largest net inflows were in 2005/6 and 2006/7, after which annual net migration declined dramatically.

The NINIS (Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information System) website also presents a number of data sets derived from analysis of health service registration records (the 'health card data'). Each person who wants to register with the National Health Service or with a GP in Northern Ireland has to complete a "HS22x" form (http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/pdf/HS22x_English_2010%281%29.pdf) which collects details of name and address, age and gender, country of birth, national insurance number, whether contributions are being paid, previous address and previous GP. It also asks for details of children and dependants, how long a person has been in Northern Ireland and for migrants asks for reason for migration to the province and intentions to stay (requiring the applicant to state how long they intend to stay). The form also collects information on members of the Armed Forces and asylum seekers. Individuals are required to de-register when they leave Northern Ireland.

The information available on NINIS (<http://www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk/mapxtreme/DataCatalogue.asp?button=Health>) includes the number of registrations and de-registrations for non-nationals and by country of origin. This information is available for Health Boards and local authority districts. These sources can therefore provide information on trends in international migration to Northern Ireland and the spatial distribution of international migrants. They are used by NISRA in making estimates of the migrant population. However, no information is collected on the ethnic group of the individual.

3.5 Department for Social Development in Northern Ireland (DSDNI) data

DSD publishes data within the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information System (NINIS) on the geographical pattern of poverty within the province. This is derived from the Family Resources Survey and the Households Below Average Income (<60% of the UK Median) survey. Household disposable incomes are adjusted for household size and composition, as a proxy for material living standards or, more precisely, for the level of consumption of goods and services that people could attain given the disposable income of the household in which they live. Information is usually presented on two bases: Before Housing Costs (BHC) and After Housing Costs (AHC).

4. Assessment

This report has reviewed the large number of surveys which have been conducted in Northern Ireland over the last 10 to 20 years which contain data of relevance to poverty measurement. Many of these also collect information on the experience of people from minority ethnic or migrant groups.

Minority ethnic groups (i.e. people from non-white ethnic backgrounds) formed a very small percentage of the Northern Ireland population until very recently and it is only since the passing of the 1998 Northern Ireland Act (section 75), which seeks to promote equality of opportunity:

- between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- between men and women generally;
- between persons with a disability and persons without; and
- between persons with dependants and persons without.

That questions on ethnic group have regularly appeared in surveys in Northern Ireland. The problem for analysis of the circumstances of minority ethnic groups is that when the total sample size of the survey may be only around 1000, there may be only 10 to 20 cases available for analysis if minority groups are surveyed according to their proportionate representation in the population. With such small sample numbers, surveys have to be aggregated in order that cross-tabulations with poverty-related variables can be statistically robust, and it becomes very difficult to produce data for individual ethnic groups.

The population of Northern Ireland has been changing rapidly due to recent international migration. People from ethnic groups not recognised in standard classifications and white European minorities have increased in number. Most surveys do not include the questions on migration which would enable these populations to be identified. The problems of small sample numbers outlined above also apply to these groups.

These new population groups might be identifiable through their religion. Due to the focus on relations between the Catholic (broadly Nationalist) and Protestant (broadly Unionist) communities, many surveys include a religion question. However, the religion question is different to that used in surveys in Great Britain. The latter is mainly concerned with identifying the religious background of minority ethnic groups. In Northern Ireland, the focus is on differences within the Christian population and non-Christians and non-believers are often lumped together in an 'Other' category. People from some religious minorities (e.g. Muslim people) face a relatively

high risk of poverty, but it is generally not possible to identify their circumstances in Northern Ireland survey data.

Thus, the most reliable indicators of the changing population come from administrative sources and very large scale surveys such as the Census of Population. Publication of the results of the 2011 Census offers the potential for much more detailed analysis of the living conditions of minority groups and new minorities in Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study will yield a great deal of information on new migrants when the link to 2011 Census data is completed.

Appendix: Websites providing access to data

Northern Ireland websites

ARK Northern Ireland

The “Access, Research, Knowledge Northern Ireland” (ARK) website is a portal providing access to resources for socio-economic research on Northern Ireland.

ARK Surveys provides access to downloadable data, reports and documentation from the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey, The Young Life and Times Survey, Kids Life and Times Survey and Northern Ireland Household Panel Study. ARK SOL (Surveys On Line) provides access to data and documentation on a wider set of ad hoc surveys,

Web address: <http://www.ark.ac.uk/>

The Central Survey Unit (CSU) of NISRA

The CSU provides access to a number of surveys conducted by Northern Ireland government departments. It includes reports, documentation, questionnaire and data sets.

Web address: <http://www.csu.nisra.gov.uk/>

The Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information System (NINIS)

NINIS contains an extensive collection of datasets across a range of economic, social and health domains. Data is accessed via a menu system or by searching for a topic. The datasets are presented in the form of downloadable Excel spreadsheets. Data is presented for the smallest geographical area for which it is available. The spreadsheet also contains metadata explaining how the data was created.

Web address: <http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Home.aspx>

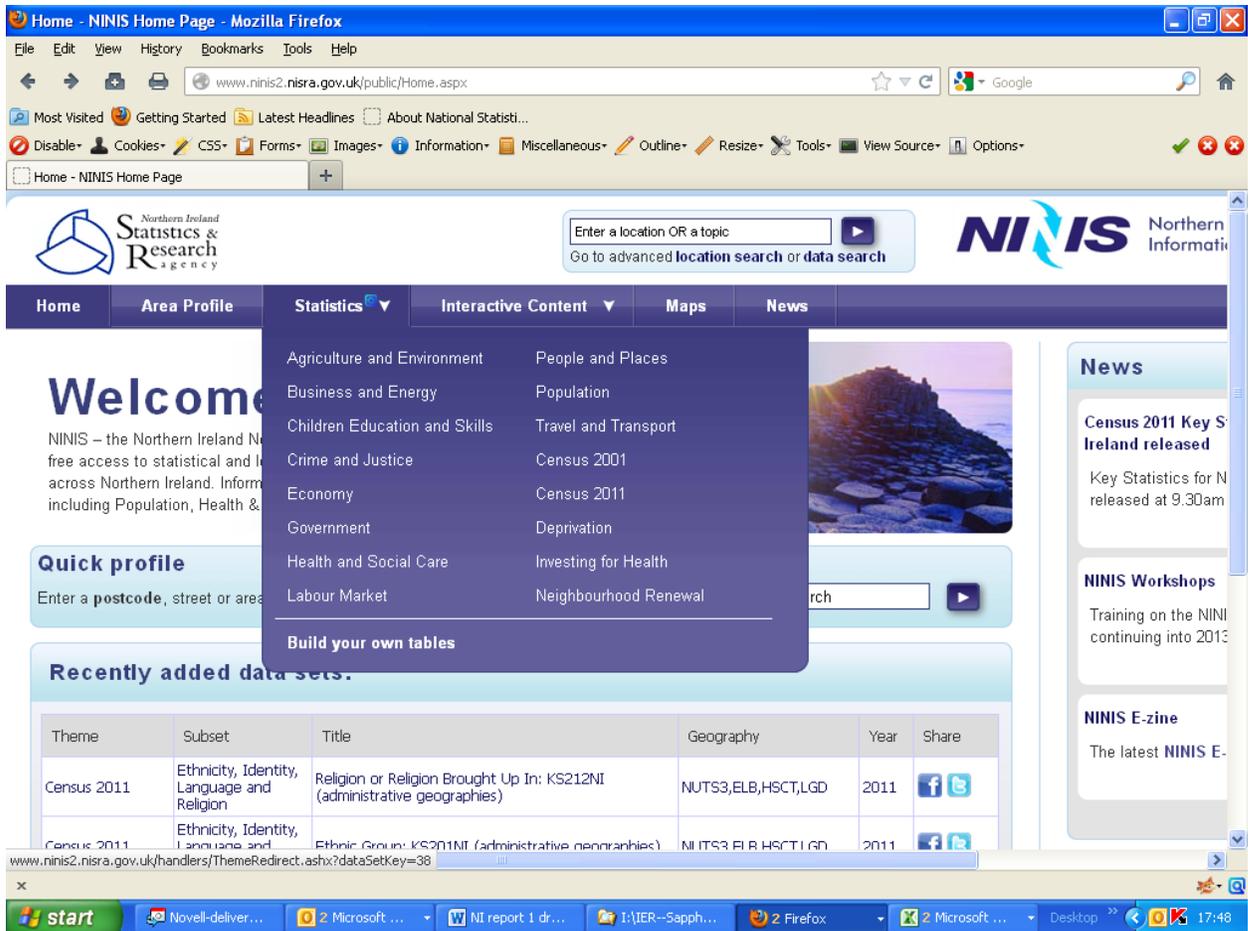


Figure 1: Opening page for NINIS website

UK websites

Office for National Statistics (ONS) website

This provides access to information about official statistics products in the UK. Methodological reports, reports on data and datasets derived from analysis of surveys and administrative data are available. Northern Ireland-specific data sources are not available via this website. Data for Northern Ireland is available in aggregate where the province is covered by the survey if sample sizes are large enough for statistically robust data to be released at the geographical level of the nations of the UK and regions of England (and sub-national data may also be available).

Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS) Government website

This is the prime repository of official survey data deposited with the UK Data Archive. It holds time series for all the major government surveys, and contains metadata, questionnaires and codebooks for each individual survey. There is a Nesstar viewer which allows users to identify

which datasets are available and the variables which they contain (<http://nesstar.esds.ac.uk/webview/index.jsp>)

In order to order data from ESDS Government, users have to register with the UK Data Archive (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>). People from the academic and public/voluntary sectors can use the service for free, but commercial users have to pay. Users have to register a research project in order to order data and must conform with the conditions of access. There are three routes to accessing data – via the Nesstar website (for basic crosstabulations and frequency counts), downloading “End-User-Licence” data sets (these have minimal constraints on usage but many variables are suppressed) and “Special Licence” data sets. The latter are the most detailed, but users have to become an ONS “Approved Researcher” in order to access them. The more detailed and disclosive the data involved, the more onerous the conditions which apply to accessing the data and publishing results.

All the NISRA surveys available from this service are listed at: <http://www.esds.ac.uk/findingData/depnisralist.asp>

NOMIS

The NOMIS (National On-line Manpower Information System) website is run by Durham University on behalf of the ONS. It provides access to labour market data sets (e.g. claimant unemployment and employment data), and related information on the population. This includes the Annual Population Survey and Census of Population data. The datasets held by the website mainly cover Great Britain, but Northern Ireland data is available in UK-wide data sets (e.g. the claimant count datasets and Annual Population Survey). Access is freely available to most of the data sets. The website provides extremely flexible access to data and customised queries can be created. Data is downloadable in Excel, .CSV or database formats. There is also an API interface to the NOMIS databases.

Website: <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

Data.Gov.uk (www.data.gov.uk)

This website promotes the UK government’s Open Data initiative, where data sets created by government departments are made freely available for download and re-use (under the terms of the “UK Open Government Licence”).

Though predominantly focused on the data provided by government departments serving England, some of the data sets cover Great Britain or the UK and a number of Northern Ireland-specific data sets are available. This is usually via links to pages on the websites of Northern Ireland government departments. The list of data sets can be out-of-date and the links are not always updated when a website is revised.

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