



Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK

Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey 2012

Necessities of life module

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Background and aims of the survey

This current survey is an update of the 2002/3 survey carried out by NISRA on behalf of Queen's University Belfast. It is being undertaken by NISRA as part of a UK-wide collaboration on behalf of a consortium of experts in this field from the University of Bristol, Heriot-Watt University, The Open University, Queen's University Belfast, University of Glasgow and the University of York. The survey is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

Respondents to the Omnibus will be given sets of cards and asked to say which items and activities they feel are necessities and which are desirable but not necessary. In this way, it is possible to measure what people think is necessary for an acceptable standard of living in Northern Ireland in 2012.

It is important to know the views of a representative sample of the population about what constitute the necessities of life in present-day Northern Ireland as NISRA will be undertaking a major survey of people's standard of living in the autumn.

Benefits of the Survey

This survey is concerned with the views of people living in Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK but the questionnaire will, in time, also be used in Europe and worldwide. Every UN country is committed to reducing poverty by half by 2015. In the UK, the Government and all political parties are committed to eradicating child poverty by 2020. This survey will provide information that will be used to help form policies to reduce poverty and improve living standards in the UK.

Notes on the percentages in this annotated Questionnaire

- the figures are only means; there are no standard errors

- the analyses are at NI level

- the weights are by POPWEIGHT

Party identification / voting intention

[SupParty]

Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a supporter of any one political party?

| | | |
|---|--------------|-----|
| 1 | Yes | 19% |
| 2 | No | 76% |
| 8 | (Don't know) | 4% |
| 9 | (Refusal) | - |

IF 'no' OR DON'T KNOW AT [SupParty] [ClosePty]

Do you think of yourself as a little closer to one political party than to the others?

| | | |
|---|--------------|-----|
| 1 | Yes | 29% |
| 2 | No | 71% |
| 8 | (Don't know) | - |
| 9 | (Refusal) | - |

IF 'yes' AT [SupParty] OR 'yes', 'no' OR DON'T KNOW AT [ClosePty]
[PartyFW]

IF 'yes' AT [SupParty] OR AT [ClosePty]: *Which one?*

IF 'no' OR DON'T KNOW AT [ClosePty]: *If there were a General Election tomorrow, which political party do you think you would be most likely to support?*

DO NOT PROMPT

| | | |
|-------|------------------------------|-------|
| 1 | DUP | 20% |
| 2 | Sinn Féin | 11% |
| 3 | UUP | 13% |
| 4 | SDLP | 12% |
| 5 | Alliance | 6% |
| 6 | Other Party (please specify) | 2% |
| 7 | Other answer | 2% |
| 8 | None | 26% |
| 20 | Refused to say | 7% |
| 99 | Don't Know | 1% |
| Total | | 100.0 |

98 (Don't know)

99 (Refusal)

IF 'other party' AT [PartyFW]

[OthSpec] \$

WRITE IN OTHER ANSWER GIVEN

Open Question (Maximum of 120 characters)

IF 'other answer' AT [PartyFW]

[OthSpec] \$

WRITE IN OTHER ANSWER GIVEN

Open Question (Maximum of 120 characters)

[Intro]

SHUFFLE SET A (PINK) CARDS AND SORT BOX

[N1] *On these cards are a number of different items which relate to our standard of living. I would like you to indicate the living standards you feel all adults should have in Britain today by placing the cards in the appropriate box. BOX A is for items which you think are necessary – which all adults should be able to afford and which they should not have to do without. BOX B is for items which may be desirable but are not necessary.*

| | SET E (PINK) CARDS | A | B | Unallocated |
|------|---|-----------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| | | Necessary | Desirable but not necessary | Does not apply |
| | | [SETGNEC] | | [SETGDK] |
| (1) | Enough money to keep your home in a decent state of decoration | 69% | 31% | |
| (2) | Replace any worn out furniture | 40% | 60% | |
| (3) | Replace or repair broken electrical goods such as refrigerator or washing machine | 82% | 18% | |
| (4) | A small amount of money to spend each week on yourself, not on your family | 37% | 63% | |
| (5) | Two pairs of all-weather shoes | 47% | 53% | |
| (6) | Regular savings (of at least £20 a month) for rainy days | 52% | 48% | |
| (7) | Car | 45% | 55% | |
| (8) | Washing machine | 85% | 15% | |
| (9) | A warm waterproof coat | 80% | 20% | |
| (10) | Replace worn out clothes with new (not second hand) ones | 45% | 55% | |
| (11) | A roast joint (or vegetarian equivalent) once a week | 38% | 62% | |
| (12) | Presents for friends or family once a year | 40% | 60% | |
| (13) | Damp-free home | 94% | 6% | |
| (14) | Mobile phone | 35% | 65% | |
| (15) | Television | 48% | 52% | |
| (16) | Telephone at home (landline or mobile) | 70% | 30% | |
| (17) | Home computer | 28% | 72% | |
| (18) | Internet connection at home | 28% | 72% | |
| (19) | Meat, fish or vegetarian equivalent every other day | 76% | 24% | |
| (20) | Household contents insurance | 73% | 27% | |
| (21) | Heating to keep home adequately warm | 97% | 3% | |
| (22) | Two meals a day | 94% | 6% | |
| (23) | To be able to pay an unexpected expense of £500 | 53% | 47% | |
| (24) | Hair done or cut regularly | 29% | 71% | |
| (25) | Dishwasher | 12% | 88% | |

| | | | | |
|------|---|-----|-----|--|
| (26) | Fresh fruit and vegetables every day | 85% | 15% | |
| (27) | An outfit to wear for social or family occasions such as parties and weddings | 38% | 62% | |
| (28) | Appropriate clothes to wear for job interviews | 62% | 38% | |
| (29) | All recommended dental work/treatment | 83% | 17% | |
| (30) | Curtains or window blinds | 65% | 35% | |
| (31) | A table, with chairs, at which all the family can eat | 75% | 25% | |
| (32) | Regular payments into an occupational or private pension | 40% | 60% | |
| (33) | No cards selected | | | |

NOW, SHUFFLE SET B (GREEN) CARDS AND SORT BOX

[N2] *Now, I would like you to do the same thing for the adult's activities on this set of cards – set H.*

| | SET H (GREEN) CARDS | A | B | Unallocated |
|------|--|-----------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| | | Necessary | Desirable but not necessary | Does not apply |
| | | [SETHNEC] | | [SETHDK] |
| (1) | A hobby or leisure activity | 67% | 33% | |
| (2) | A holiday away from home for one week a year, not staying with relatives | 33% | 67% | |
| (3) | Friends or family round for a meal or drink at least once a month | 44% | 56% | |
| (4) | Going out socially once a fortnight | 25% | 75% | |
| (5) | Celebrations on special occasions such as Christmas | 86% | 14% | |
| (6) | A meal out once a month | 20% | 80% | |
| (7) | Holidays abroad once a year | 19% | 81% | |
| (8) | Visits to friends or family in other parts of the country 4 times a year | 31% | 69% | |
| (9) | Going out for a drink once a fortnight | 18% | 82% | |
| (10) | Attending weddings, funerals and other such occasions | 75% | 25% | |
| (11) | Visiting friends or family in hospital or other institutions | 83% | 17% | |
| (12) | Attending church, mosque, synagogue or other places of worship | 56% | 44% | |
| (13) | Going to the cinema, theatre or music event once a month | 18% | 82% | |
| (14) | Taking part in sport/exercise activities or classes | 55% | 45% | |
| (15) | No cards selected | | | |

NOW, SHUFFLE SET C (BUFF) CARDS AND SORT BOX

[N3] *Now, I would like you to do the same thing for the items on this set of cards, set I, but this time thinking of children.*

| | SET I (BUFF) CARDS | A | B | Unallocated |
|------|--|-----------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| | | Necessary | Desirable but not necessary | Does not apply |
| | | [SETINEC] | | [SETIDK] |
| (1) | Three meals a day | 92% | 8% | |
| (2) | New, properly fitting, shoes | 90% | 10% | |
| (3) | Some new, not second-hand clothes | 65% | 35% | |
| (4) | Fresh fruit or vegetables at least once a day | 94% | 6% | |
| (5) | Outdoor leisure equipment such as roller skates, skateboards, footballs, etc. | 59% | 41% | |
| (6) | Enough bedrooms for every child of 10 or over of a different sex to have their own bedroom | 64% | 36% | |
| (7) | A warm winter coat | 96% | 4% | |
| (8) | Books at home suitable for their ages | 88% | 12% | |
| (9) | A garden or outdoor space nearby where they can play safely | 90% | 10% | |
| (10) | Meat, fish or vegetarian equivalent at least once a day | 88% | 12% | |
| (11) | A suitable place at home to study or do homework | 87% | 13% | |
| (12) | Indoor games suitable for their ages (building blocks, board games, computer games, etc.) | 74% | 26% | |
| (13) | At least 4 pairs of trousers, leggings, jeans or jogging bottoms | 49% | 51% | |
| (14) | Construction toys such as Duplo or Lego | 52% | 48% | |
| (15) | Bicycle | 50% | 50% | |
| (16) | Pocket money | 53% | 47% | |
| (17) | Money to save | 52% | 48% | |
| (18) | Designer/brand name trainers | 9% | 91% | |
| (19) | MP3 player such as an iPod | 10% | 90% | |
| (20) | Clothes to fit in with friends | 30% | 70% | |
| (21) | Computer and internet for homework | 66% | 34% | |
| (22) | Mobile phone for children aged 11 or older | 28% | 72% | |
| (23) | No cards selected | | | |

NOW, SHUFFLE SET D (BLUE) CARDS AND SORT BOX

[N4] *Now, I would like you to do the same thing for the children's activities on this set of cards – set J.*

| | SET J (BLUE) CARDS | A | B | Unallocated |
|-----|--|-----------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| | | Necessary | Desirable but not necessary | Does not apply |
| | | [SETJNEC] | | [SETJDK] |
| (1) | A hobby or leisure activity | 84% | 16% | |
| (2) | Celebrations on special occasions such as birthdays Christmas or other religious festivals | 88% | 12% | |
| (3) | Friends round for tea or a snack once a fortnight | 43% | 57% | |
| (4) | A holiday away from home for at least one week a year | 43% | 57% | |
| (5) | Toddler group or nursery or play group at least once a week for pre-school aged children | 82% | 18% | |
| (6) | Going on a school trip at least once a term | 50% | 50% | |
| (7) | Day trips with family once a month | 57% | 43% | |
| (8) | Children's clubs or activities such as drama or football training | 78% | 22% | |
| | | | | |
| (9) | No cards selected | | | |

Public Services

Access to local services is also believed to affect people's standard of living. Good local services can improve people's standard of living (also known as the 'social wage'). The importance of good local services increases according to people's lack of income. Someone lacking in social networks may be able to call on local services for support. Local services may also provide a means of participating in the community (e.g. attending an evening class or going to activities in a community hall).

[LcSvPr] *The next question is about services which may exist in your local area and which affect our standard of living.*

[PubSrv] *On this card are a number of services which are usually provided or subsidised by local councils or other public bodies. Please could you tell me if you think that these services are essential and should be available?*

READ OUT SHOWCARD AND CODE ALL ANSWERS

| | | (1) Essential | (2) Not essential |
|----------|--|---------------|-------------------|
| [Libris] | Libraries | 74% | 26% |
| [SprtFc] | Public sports facilities (e.g. swimming pools) | 73% | 27% |
| [MusGal] | Museums and galleries | 28% | 72% |
| [EveCls] | Evening classes | 35% | 65% |
| [VilgHl] | Public/Community/Village Hall | 46% | 54% |
| [Hosptl] | Hospital with an Accident and Emergency Department | 92% | 8% |
| [Doctor] | Doctor | 93% | 7% |
| [Dentst] | Dentist | 85% | 15% |
| [Opticn] | Optician | 71% | 29% |
| [PostOf] | Post Office | 75% | 25% |

(SHOWCARD A)