2020 *Northern Ireland Life & Times* Survey Criminal Justice module

Teaching Resources

November 2021

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Introduction

ARK, a joint resource between the two Northern Ireland universities, is dedicated to making social and political information on Northern Ireland available to the widest possible audience. ARK runs a suite of annual attitudinal surveys that aim to provide time-series attitudinal data across age groups.

This document is in two parts: a codebook, and a summary of the 2020 Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) survey technical report. Please note that this document refers to the NILT teaching datasets only. For the full dataset, please consult the [ARK website](#).

2020 *Northern Ireland Life and Times* teaching datasets

- Two teaching datasets have been created from the 2020 NILT in SPSS format and both are available directly from the [ARK website](#):

    1) **Coercive control**: This dataset contains most of the questions included in the Coercive Control module.
    2) **Criminal justice**: This dataset contains most of the questions from the Criminal Justice System module.

- Both teaching datasets contain background information concerning the respondent, spouse and household.
- The two teaching datasets can be merged by the variable SERIAL.
- Some variables have been constructed and/or simplified for this teaching dataset – notes are provided in the codebook.
- While the teaching datasets contains the total number of respondents, they are intended for teaching purposes only; it is advisable to use the [original 2020 dataset](#) for research.

Queries

For queries, please contact Dr Paula Devine, Co-Director, ARK (p.devine@qub.ac.uk).

Codebook overview

The codebook aims to provide information on the variables in the teaching dataset. However, it is recommended to consult the questionnaires in conjunction with this documentation. All NILT questionnaires are available on the [ARK website](#).

Levels of measurement

The codebook and the teaching datasets have indicated the levels of measurement of all variables, for teaching purposes. SPSS recognises Scale, Ordinal and Nominal measures. Please be aware that in most datasets, the variables are set up as nominal by default and it is up to the researcher to decide the appropriate measure and appropriate analysis.

Section 1: Background/core variables[1]

Variable Name	Variable Label	Values	Measure
SERIAL	Serial number of respondent.	Numeric	Scale
HOUSEHLD	How many people are there in your household?	Numeric (number of people)	Scale
RAGE	Age of respondent.	Numeric (years) -999 Missing/Not answered	Scale
PAGE	Age of spouse/partner.	Numeric (years) -9 Non Applicable -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Scale
RSEX	Gender of respondent.	1 Male 2 Female -999 Not answered/Other	Nominal
NADULT (compute)	Number of adults aged 18 years or over living in the household.	Numeric (number of people) -99 Don't know	Scale
NKIDS (compute)	Number of children aged under 18 years living in the household.	Numeric (number of people) -99 Don't know	Scale
N65PLUS (compute)	Number of adults aged 65 years or over living in the household.	Numeric (number of people) -99 Don't know	Scale
RMARSTAT (recode)	Marital/civil partnership status.	1 Single (never married) 2 Married/civil partnership 3 Living as married 4 Separated 5 Divorced/dissolved civil partnership 6 Widowed -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Nominal
LIVEAREA	How long have you lived in the town (city, village) where you live now?	Numeric (years) 0 Less than 1 year	Scale
PLACELIV	Would you describe the place where you live as…?	1 A big city 2 The suburbs or outskirts of a big city 3 A small city or town 4 A country village 5 A farm or home in the country -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Ordinal
HINCCOV	Since Coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdown in March 2020, would you say that your household income has…	1 Fallen behind the prices 2 Kept up with prices 3 Gone up by more than prices -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Ordinal
INTWWW	Does anyone have access to the internet or World Wide Web from this address?	1 Yes 2 No -99 Don't know	Nominal
UMINETH	Do you consider yourself to be a member of a minority ethnic community?	1 Yes 2 No -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Nominal

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[1] The Background/core variables are included in **both** 2020 NILT teaching datasets.

Variable Name	Variable Label	Values	Measure
TENSHORT (compute)	Housing tenure status.	1 Own it outright 2 Buying with help of a mortgage or loan 3 Pay part rent and part mortgage (Co ownership) 4 Rent – Housing Executive 5 Rent – Housing Association 6 Rent – Private landlord 7 Other -99 -999 Missing/Not answered	Nominal
RELIGCAT (recode)	Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion?	1 Catholic 2 Protestant 3 No religion -999 Not answered/Other	Nominal
FAMRCODE (recode)	Religion brought up in.	1 Catholic 2 Protestant 3 No religion -999 Not answered/Other	Nominal
PRTRCODE (recode)	Partner religion brought up in.	1 Catholic 2 Protestant 3 No religion -999 Not answered/Other	Nominal
PROTCATH	Do you see yourself as...	1 Part of the Protestant community 2 Part of the Catholic community 3 Neither -999 Missing/Not answered	Nominal
CHATTND3	Before the start of COVID-19 lockdown, how often did you attend services or meetings connected with your religion?	1 Several times a week 2 Once a week 3 2 or 3 times a month 4 Once a month 5 Several times a year 6 Once a year 7 Less frequently 8 Never -9 Non applicable/Skip from RELIGION -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Ordinal

Variable Name	Variable Label	Values	Measure
POLPART2	Political party support	1 Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) 2 Sinn Fein 3 Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) 4 Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) 5 Alliance Party 6 Green Party 7 Other answer/party 8 None of these -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Nominal
CAREHOME	May I check, is there anyone living with you who is sick, disabled or elderly whom you look after or give special help to?	1 Yes 2 No -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Nominal
CARESEP	What about people not living with you, do you provide some regular service or help for any sick, disabled or elderly relative, friend or neighbour not living with you?	1 Yes 2 No -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Nominal
ANYHCOND	Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last for 12 months or more?	1 Yes 2 No -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Nominal
HCONDACT	Does your condition or illness/do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry-out day-to-day activities? (Only asked if response to ANYHCOND is 'Yes')	1 Yes, a lot 2 Yes, a little 3 Not at all -9 Non applicable/Skip from ANYHCOND -999 Missing/Not answered	Ordinal
HIGHQUAL (recode)	Recoded qualification.	1 Degree level or higher 2 Higher education – diploma or equivalent 3 GCE A level or equivalent 4 GCSE grades A to C or equivalent 5 GCSE grades D to G or equivalent 6 No qualifications 7 Other qualifications: level unknown -999 Missing/not answered	Nominal

Variable Name	Variable Label	Values	Measure
TEA	How old were you when you completed your continuous full-time education?	1 15 or under 2 16 3 17 4 18 5 19 or over 6 Still at school 7 Still at college or university 8 Other -99 Don't know -999 Missing/not answered	Nominal
WORK (compute)	Work/supervisory status.	1 Employee 2 Foreperson or supervisor 3 Self-employed 4 Manager -999 Non applicable/Not answered	Nominal
ECONACT	Economically active?	1.00 Economically active 2.00 Economically inactive Total -999 Missing/not answered	Nominal
EMPSTAT	Current in paid employment?	1.00 In paid employment 2.00 Not in paid employment Total -999 Missing/not answered	Nominal
RNSSEC	5-item National Statistics Socio-Economic Status (NS-SEC)	1.0 1 Managerial, administrative and professional occupations 2.0 2 Intermediate occupations 3.0 3 Small employers and own account workers 4.0 4 Lower supervisory and technical occupations 5.0 5 Semi-routine and routine occupations -999 Missing/Not answered	Nominal
PERSINC3	Personal income (weekly)	1 Less than £100 pw 2 £100-£180 pw 3 £181-£240 pw 4 £241-£300 pw 5 £301-£360 pw 6 £361-£420 pw 7 £421-£510 pw 8 £511-£630 pw 9 £631-£831 pw 10 £831 or more pw -99 Don't know -999 Missing/not answered	Ordinal

Variable Name	Variable Label	Values	Measure
HHLDINC3	Household income (weekly)	1 Less than £100 pw 2 £100-£180 pw 3 £181-£240 pw 4 £241-£300 pw 5 £301-£360 pw 6 £361-£420 pw 7 £421-£510 pw 8 £511-£630 pw 9 £631-£831 pw 10 £831 or more pw -99 Don't know -999 Missing/not answered	Ordinal
SRINC	Self-assessed income group	1 High income 2 Middle income 3 Low income -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Ordinal
NIRESPECT	Agree/ disagree - Northern Ireland is a place where people respect each other?	1 Strongly agree 2 Agree 3 Neither agree nor disagree 4 Disagree 5 Strongly disagree -99 Don't know	Ordinal
KNOWCJS	How much do you know about the work of the Northern Ireland criminal justice system in general?	1 A lot 2 A fair amount 3 Not very much 4 Nothing at all -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Ordinal

Section 2: Criminal Justice variables[2]

Variable Name	Label	Values	Measure
KNOWCJS	How much do you know about the work of the Northern Ireland criminal justice system in general?	1 A lot 2 A fair amount 3 Not very much 4 Nothing at all -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Ordinal
HEARDPPS	Had you heard of the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland, 'the PPS'?	1 Yes 2 No -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Nominal
PPSEFF	How confident are you that the Public Prosecution Service is effective at prosecuting people accused of committing a crime?	1 Very confident 2 Fairly confident 3 Not very confident 4 Not at all confident -99 Don't know -9 Not applicable, skip from HEARDPPS	Ordinal
PPSFAIR	How confident are you that the Public Prosecution Service provides a fair and impartial prosecution service?	1 Very confident 2 Fairly confident 3 Not very confident 4 Not at all confident -99 Don't know -9 Not applicable, skip from HEARDPPS	Ordinal
PPSINDP	How confident are you that the Public Prosecution Service takes its prosecution decisions independently?	1 Very confident 2 Fairly confident 3 Not very confident 4 Not at all confident -99 Don't know -9 Not applicable, skip from HEARDPPS	Ordinal
HEARDPO	Have you heard of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland?	1 Yes 2 No -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Nominal
POPOLICE	Do you think the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland is part of the police or independent of the police?	1 Part of the police 2 Independent of the police -9 Not applicable, skip from HEARDPO -99 Don't know	Nominal
POIMPART	How confident are you that the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland deals with complaints against the police in an impartial way?	1 Very confident 2 Fairly confident 3 Not very confident 4 Not at all confident -9 Not applicable, skip from HEARDPO -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Ordinal

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[2] These variables are included in the CRIMINAL JUSTICE teaching dataset only.

Variable Name	Label	Values	Measure
POFAIR	If you were to make a complaint against a police officer to the Police Ombudsman, do you think that you would be treated fairly?	1 Yes 2 No 9 Not applicable, skip from HEARDPO -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Nominal
POGOODJB	Do you think that the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland will help ensure that the police do a good job?	1 Yes 2 No 9 Not applicable, skip from HEARDPO -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Nominal
SAFEAREA	How safe do you feel living in this area?	1 Very safe 2 Fairly safe 3 Neither safe nor unsafe 4 Fairly unsafe 5 Very unsafe -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Ordinal
RELAREA	Would you describe your area as...	1 Mainly Catholic 2 Mainly Protestant 3 Mixed -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Nominal
COMMAREA	And would you describe your area as...	1 Mainly Loyalist 2 Mainly Republican 3 Neither of these -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Nominal
AREAREPC	Agree/disagree - People in this area don't feel confident reporting crime and anti-social behaviour to the PSNI?	1 Strongly agree 2 Agree 3 Neither agree nor disagree 4 Disagree 5 Strongly disagree -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Ordinal
PSNISAFE	Agree/disagree - The PSNI keeps this area safe?	1 Strongly agree 2 Agree 3 Neither agree nor disagree 4 Disagree 5 Strongly disagree -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Ordinal
AREALAW	Agree/disagree - People in this area generally abide by the law?	1 Strongly agree 2 Agree 3 Neither agree nor disagree 4 Disagree 5 Strongly disagree -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Ordinal

Variable Name	Label	Values	Measure
AREALAWJ	Agree/disagree - People in this area feel that they are protected by the law and justice system?	1 Strongly agree 2 Agree 3 Neither agree nor disagree 4 Disagree 5 Strongly disagree -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Ordinal
LOWCRIME	Agree/disagree - There are low levels of crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour in this area?	1 Strongly agree 2 Agree 3 Neither agree nor disagree 4 Disagree 5 Strongly disagree -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Ordinal
SENSECOM	Agree/disagree - There is a strong sense of community in this area?	1 Strongly agree 2 Agree 3 Neither agree nor disagree 4 Disagree 5 Strongly disagree -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Ordinal
PGCONTRL	Agree/disagree - Paramilitary groups have a controlling influence in this area?	1 Strongly agree 2 Agree 3 Neither agree nor disagree 4 Disagree 5 Strongly disagree -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Ordinal
PGSAFE	Agree/disagree - Paramilitary groups help keep this area safe?	1 Strongly agree 2 Agree 3 Neither agree nor disagree 4 Disagree 5 Strongly disagree -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Ordinal
PGFEAR	Agree/disagree - Paramilitary groups create fear and intimidation in this area?	1 Strongly agree 2 Agree 3 Neither agree nor disagree 4 Disagree 5 Strongly disagree -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Ordinal
PGCRIME	Agree/disagree - Paramilitary groups contribute to crime, drug-dealing and anti-social behaviour in this area?	1 Strongly agree 2 Agree 3 Neither agree nor disagree 4 Disagree 5 Strongly disagree -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Ordinal

Variable Name	Label	Values	Measure
YPCRIME	Agree/disagree - There is a lot of crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour among young people in this area?	1 Strongly agree 2 Agree 3 Neither agree nor disagree 4 Disagree 5 Strongly disagree -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Ordinal
YPINFLPG	Agree/disagree - Young people are being influenced too much by paramilitary groups in this area?	1 Strongly agree 2 Agree 3 Neither agree nor disagree 4 Disagree 5 Strongly disagree -99 Don't know -999 Missing/Not answered	Ordinal

Technical report summary

Please note that this is a summary technical report designed to accompany the teaching resources. For the full documentation, please see the [ARK website](#).

Aims and objectives

The Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) Survey was launched in 1998. Its mission is to monitor the attitudes and behaviour of people in Northern Ireland and provide a time-series of how attitudes and behaviour develop on a wide range of social policy issues. The survey is run on a modular format and while 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.

Links with other surveys

NILT is a direct descendent of the Northern Ireland Social Attitudes Survey (NISA) which ran from 1989 to 1996. NISA was a sister survey to the British Social Attitudes Survey (BSA) and therefore provided a time-series of social attitudes allowing comparisons with Britain. NILT carries on the tradition of a time-series of attitudes but has shifted the focus away from comparisons with Britain. However, every year NILT includes a substantial component which either continues an old NISA time-series, or replicates a BSA module.

Ethical approval

The 2020 Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey received ethical approval from the Ethics Committee of the School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work, Queen's University Belfast, where the survey coordinator is based.

Survey content

The full 2020 NILT survey consists of a number of different modules, each based on a specific topic. The complete modules included in the 2020 survey are:

- Introductory questions
- Respect
- Minority ethnic people
- Good relations
- Coercive control
- Criminal justice system
- Political attitudes
- COVID-19
- Community safety and perceptions of paramilitary influence
- Background

Technical details

Sampling design

The sample for the 2020 survey consisted of a systematic random sample of addresses selected from the Postcode Address File (PAF) database of addresses. This is the most up-to-date and complete listing of addresses. The PAF is the most widely used sample frame for high quality social surveys in the United Kingdom (UK) and is a list of UK addresses that is maintained by the Royal Mail. Private business addresses were removed from the database prior to sample selection.

A total of 15,000 address were selected for invitation. To provide a random sample of Northern Ireland households, the sample was stratified proportionately by District Council area. The Postcode Address File (PAF) provides a good sampling frame of addresses but contains no information about the number of people living at an address. Further selection stages were therefore required to convert the listing of addresses to a listing of individuals from which one person (the 'selected respondent') is chosen to complete the survey.

The person to be interviewed was randomly selected using the 'next birthday' rule. Each letter sent to the selected addresses clearly stated that only the person with the next birthday was eligible to complete the survey online. At the beginning of the interview, the participant also had to confirm that they were the person within the household with the next birthday. The questionnaire was also set up to validate that the participant was the member of the household with the next birthday.

Fieldwork

In order to achieve the objectives of the research while considering the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a multi-modal approach was used. The survey was designed to be as inclusive as possible, presenting participants with a range of ways in which they could complete the survey. A large-scale Computer Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI) survey was developed. In order to facilitate potential respondents who did not have internet access, this was supplemented with Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI) and Computer Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI) via Microsoft Teams video calls.

Face-to-face interviewers also called directly to selected households to encourage participation. It is important to note that face-to-face visits were conducted within Government COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines, and all interviewers wore full personal protective equipment (PPE).

The fieldwork was split into two phases: a pilot phase followed mainstage fieldwork. The purpose of the pilot was to assess the reliability and accuracy of the questionnaire and script, and to allow for any changes to be made ahead of the mainstage fieldwork. Question wording and understanding was tested, alongside any routing and filtering. Interviewers were then invited to attend an online debriefing session, where they were able to provide feedback on the CATI and CAPI script. Following a successful pilot, the mainstage fieldwork was launched

with some changes to the questionnaire, including removing some questions and adjusting the ordering of the questionnaire sections.

Respondents were offered a £15 Love 2 Shop voucher as a thank you for taking part.

Weighting

Please note that all analyses of the adult data should be weighted in order to allow for disproportionate household size. The weighting variable is named WTFACTOR. The only exceptions are the few household variables (for example, tenure and household income), which do not need to be weighted.

Social class construction

Occupational information was derived using the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) 2010. The SOC2010 information was also used to derive the 5-item National Statistics Socio-Economic (NS SEC) variable**.**

Categorisation of Religion

The original RELIGION variable has been removed from the dataset in order to protect anonymity of respondents. The Protestant category within the RELIGCAT variable was created by grouping together the following denominations:

- Church of Ireland/Anglican/Episcopal
- Baptist
- Methodist
- Presbyterian
- Free Presbyterian
- Brethren
- United Reform Church (URC)/Congregational
- Pentecostal
- Church of Scotland
- Elim Pentecostal
- Reformed Presbyterian
- Non-subscribing Presbyterian
- Salvation Army
- Church of Nazarene
- Jehovah's Witness
- Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (Mormon)
- Other Protestant
- Other Christian
- Protestant – no denomination
- Christian – no denomination

Sampling errors and confidence intervals

The table below sets out sampling errors and confidence intervals at the 95% confidence level relating to a Systematic Random Sample design as used in the survey. Note that the margin of error for all sample estimates is within the parameters of + 2.69%.

Table 1.4 Sampling errors and confidence intervals for key variables (unweighted data)		%	Margin of Error	95% Confidence Limits
Age	18 – 24	8.0	1.48	6.5-9.5
	25 – 34	18.0	2.10	15.9-20.1
	35 – 44	18.0	2.10	15.9-20.1
	45 – 54	19.9	2.18	17.7-22.1
	55 – 64	18.8	2.13	16.7-20.9
	65 and over	17.4	2.07	15.3-19.5
Sex	Male	40.5	2.67	37.8-43.2
	Female	59.3	2.68	56.6-62.1
Marital status	Single	27.8	2.44	25.4-30.2
	Married/Civil Partnership	59.5	2.68	56.8-62.2
	Separated	3.5	1.0	2.5.-4.5
	Divorced	5.6	1.25	4.3-6.8
	Widowed	3.5	1.0	2.5-4.5
Religion	Catholic	28.1	2.45	25.4-30.6
	Protestant	41.8	2.69	39.1-44.5
	None	27.2	2.43	24.8-29.6
	Other	1.2	0.59	0.6-1.8
	Refused/Don't know	1.4	0.64	0.7-2.0