



Module 2:

Young People and Crime

Schedule for the Unit



Learning Outcomes

Students should learn about:

- Crime and fear of crime and how crime affects young people in Northern Ireland,
- Crime statistics, experiences and perceptions of crime and how to make comparisons.

Introduction

Crime is a subject which is often very emotionally discussed. Because of the Northern Ireland conflict there is a tradition of assuming sectarianism as being the main motive of crime, in particular capital crime. The media frequently report on attacks on 'Catholic' or 'Protestant' homes or people. Alternatively news about crimes often conclude: 'The attack is/is not thought to be religiously motivated.'

Equally often, crime is linked to young people both as victims and as offenders. Recently, racially-motivated offences or attacks against homes of elderly people have been in the news headlines too.

In this unit students are encouraged to discuss their experiences and their fear of crime and compare these with real crime data from Northern Ireland.

Activity 1:

- Students brainstorm the types of crime they think occur most frequently in their neighbourhood. Pupils consider which crimes, in their opinion, are most likely to affect young people, either as offenders or victims. Is there a difference between crimes committed by males and those committed by females?
- Students compare their perceptions of crime with those of the public in Northern Ireland, using data from the NILT crime module (1998) and the 2001 Northern Ireland Crime Survey.

NB: A-level students (e.g. Sociology or Politics) undertaking projects could compile a questionnaire themselves and conduct their own survey either in



school or in their neighbourhood. They could present the results in the class and organise a debate (see Activity 3).

Activity 2

Students find out about actual crime statistics in Northern Ireland, using information made available by the PSNI.

www.psni.police.uk/main_report_2004-05.pdf

Activity 3

- Ask pupils to compare actual crime figures from the PSNI with statistics on fear of crime from NILT and The 2001 Northern Ireland Crime Survey. Discuss why there is a difference between the perceptions and the actual rates.
- Students should discuss how young people could be involved in addressing community safety.



Module 2:

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Factsheet 1



1. Sources of information and preparation for the Module:

- Information on **crime statistics** in Northern Ireland is published on the PSNI website. Information on **fear of crime** is available through a number of research-based websites, among them the ARK and Youth Council of Northern Ireland websites;
- Information on the criminal justice system can be found at www.criminal-justice-system.gov.uk.
- Information on Youth Action Groups (for secondary age pupils) and Primary Action (for primary age pupils) can be obtained from www.crimeconcern.org.uk.

Key results and findings

The most recent Northern Ireland Crime Survey was undertaken in 2001 and results were published by the Northern Ireland Office in 2002 in a statistical bulletin.

The results relating to young people were included in the Northern Ireland Youth Council's Barometer Update 2004, which is available online at:

www.ycni.org/downloads/barometer/Barometer_2004.pdf

The tables very accessible and give good background information which could easily be used for discussion in this unit.

Below are some findings from the Crime Survey:

- Teenagers hanging around on streets, vandalism, graffiti and damage to property were highlighted as most worrying 'anti-social behaviours' by young people and older people alike.
- People over the age of 30 years were more concerned about anti-social behaviour than younger people, but 16-29 year olds were more concerned than older people about sectarian and racial attacks, homes in bad condition and abandoned cars.
- Among 16-29 year olds, females were much more worried about crime and safety than males. In particular rape, being physically attacked and being insulted or harassed were bigger worries for females than males. However, both males and females worried most about a car being stolen.



- The number of juvenile (10-17 years old) offenders admitted into custody increased each year from 1997 to 2000, but decreased in 2001. 93% of those admitted into remand were males.
- Offences committed against young people also increased between 1998 and 2001.
- The most commonly committed offences for which juveniles were remanded in custody were theft and violence against the person.
- Proportionally, convicted offenders are most likely to be between 18 and 21 years of age. In 1999, just over one in ten 18-21 year old men and 1 out of 100 18-21 year old females were convicted of crimes.

The NILT crime survey (1998), taken from a representative sample of the Northern Ireland adult population (18+) yielded similar results in relation to fear of crime:

- 60% of adults said they worried about becoming a victim of a crime;
- Females were more worried to become victims of a crime than males;
- Young people (18-24 years) were least likely to worry about becoming a victim of a crime, however, 50% still worried.

The Crime statistics of the PSNI show that young people are not only most likely to be the offenders, but also the victims. 39% of all victims of violent crimes were 17-29 year olds.



Module 2:

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How to?



This sheet provides hands-on guidance on how the information for the **Young People and Crime** module can be found using relevant websites.

Activity 1

In this activity students are required to access information on perception of crime and fear of crime. Young people specific data of the 2001 Northern Crime Survey can be found on the Northern Ireland Youth Council web site.

1. Go to www.ycni.org.uk/
 - a. Enter the site by clicking on the button on the bottom right hand corner.
 - b. In the main menu mouse-click on 'Archive' Then click on Download pdf YCNI Barometer Update 2003. [**You will need the Acrobat Reader to view the files. If Acrobat Reader is not already installed on your computer, you can do this through the link at the bottom of this page.**]
 - c. In the Barometer Update go to pages 52-68, where the relevant information about young people and crime can be found.

→ Tables and results can also be found in **Handout 1** for this Module

2. Information on fear about crime can also be found on the ARK website. To access these information, go to www.ark.ac.uk/

From the ARK homepage there are two options to find the information:

- a. Either search for '**crime**' in the word search box on the top right corner of the page. You'll receive a results page similar to this:

[NI Life and Times Survey - Crime and Fear of Crime Resources](#)★★★★★

Crime and Fear of **Crime** Resources Questions on **Crime** and Fear of **Crime** were asked in 1998. ARK Resources *...

<http://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/results/crimeres.html> 01/29/04, 10673 bytes

[NI Life and Times Survey - Crime and Fear of Crime](#)★★★★

Module: **Crime** and Fear of **Crime** This page lists the questions asked within the **Crime** and Fear of **Crime** module, and for which years. Clicking on the year printed after every question will bring you to the results for that year.

<http://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/results/crimefear.html> 08/20/03, 11834 bytes

[NI Life and Times Survey 1998: Crime and Fear of Crime](#)★★

Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 1998 Module: **Crime** and Fear of **Crime** This page lists the questions asked within the **Crime** and Fear of **Crime** module in 1998. Clicking on the short variable name printed before every question will bring you to the tables of results for that question...



http://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/1998/Crime_and_Fear_of_Crime/ 06/02/03, 12123 bytes

Choose the **third option** [http://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/1998/Crime_and_Fear_of_Crime/] which takes you straight to the Crime and Fear of Crime Module of the 1998 Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey.

From the list of questions choose the following:

VICTIM: Do you worry that you or anyone living with you might be the victim of crime?

SAFEDARK: How safe do you feel walking alone in this area after dark?

AREACRIM: How much crime is there in your area?

BURGLARY: How common is burglary in this area?

VANDAL: How common is deliberate damage by vandals in this area?

MUGGING: How common is mugging in this area?

GRAFFITI: How common is graffiti in your area?

VANDALS: How common is vandalism in your area?

b) **Or:** You can also navigate your way to this page through the menu bars.

From the ARK homepage choose:

→ Specialist Sections → Surveys → NILT N Ireland Life and Times Survey

Then, from the menu bar on the NILT home page, choose:

→ Results → List of Modules → Crime and Fear of Crime, and continue as above.

→ Tables and results can also be found in **Handouts 2 and 3** for this Module

Activity 2

Comprehensive information about crime statistics in Northern Ireland can be found on the PSNI website.

- a. Go to: www.psnipolice.uk/.
- b. From the menu bar on the left hand side choose **'Statistics'**
- c. Scroll down the page and click on **'Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland'**

This will open a text document with recent data, figures and tables. A double click on the figures in the text document will open the Excel database and will allow you to view, copy, download or print more figures on crime statistics.

→ Relevant figures for this module can also be found in **Handout 4** for this Module.

Activity 3

Use tables and figures from the above websites or/and handouts to discuss crime and fear of crime in class.

**Module 2:****Young People and Crime****Worksheet 1**Activity 1

1. In the following table, rank in order (1-8) the types of offences listed:
 - a. according to how frequently you think they occur in your neighbourhood;
 - b. according to the degree of fear you have yourself of being victim of such a crime.

You can add other crimes that may occur or that you are afraid of in the empty rows.

Type of crime	Frequency of occurrence	Degree of fear
Burglary		
Mugging		
Physical attack		
Sectarian/racial attack		
Rape		
Insult/harassment		
Theft of car		
Theft from car		
<i>Other crimes</i>		

2. Compare your results with those of your classmates and discuss.



3. Now compare your results with those from the 2001 Northern Ireland Crime Survey and the 1998 Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey.

a) In order to find the relevant figures, first visit the websites of the **Youth Council for Northern Ireland** at www.ycni.org.

Look for the results on crime in the **2003 Barometer Update**. You can find the Barometer in the 'Archive' section of the Youth Council's website.

- What crimes did 16-29 year olds fear most?
- How do men and women differ in their fear of becoming a victim of crime?
- What percentage of respondents worry that they might become a victim of crime?

How do these data compare with those from the 1998 Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey where similar question were asked?

b) Then, visit the NILT website at www.ark.ac.uk/nilt.

You find the results of the **Crime and Fear of Crime Survey** in the results section of this site.

View the results of the following questions:

[VICTIM](#): Do you worry that you or anyone living with you might be the victim of crime?

[SAFEDARK](#): How safe do you feel walking alone in this area after dark?

[AREACRIM](#): How much crime is there in your area?

[BURGLARY](#): How common is burglary in this area?

[VANDAL](#): How common is deliberate damage by vandals in this area?

[MUGGING](#): How common is mugging in this area?

[GRAFFITI](#): How common is graffiti in your area?

[VANDALS](#): How common is vandalism in your area?

Answer the following questions:

- What percentage of respondents were afraid of becoming a victim of a crime? How comfortable did they feel walking home in the dark?
- How frequently did respondents think burglary, vandalism, mugging and theft occurred in their neighbourhood?



For each question compare responses from females with those from males and those of different age groups.

- Would you say that writing graffiti on public places should be considered a crime?

Activity 2

Find out about actual crime figures in Northern Ireland. The best way to do this is to visit the PSNI website at www.psnipolice.uk. Analyse the tables and figures and find out:

- What crimes have occurred most frequently;
- Who are most likely to be the victims;
- Who are most likely to be the offenders.

Pay particular attention to the gender and the age of victims and offenders.

Statistically, men are more likely than women to offend. However, they are also more likely to be a victim of crime.

- Discuss why women may feel a greater fear than men to become a victim of crime, despite the fact that they are less likely to be victims.
- Discuss why children, women and older people are more featured in media reports about crime even though young men are most likely to be crime victims.

Activity 3

Finally, compare recent crime statistics with people's fear of crime and discuss this in your class. Are the crimes that most people in Northern Ireland are afraid of also the crimes most likely to occur?

Think about strategies how community safety could be addressed. Pay particular attention to how the role of young men could be considered in this strategy.



ARK School Resource**Young People and Crime****Handout 1**

Results of 2001 Northern Ireland Crime Survey:

(Source: Northern Ireland Youth Council: 2003 Barometer Update)

Table 1: Fear of crime among 16-29 year olds:

Type of crime	%	
	Males	Females
Burglary	13	20
Mugging	10	16
Physical attack	9	21
Sectarian/racial attack	9	13
Rape	6	22
Insult/harassment	4	10
Theft of car	24	23
Theft from car	17	14

Table 2: Juveniles (10-17 years) proceeded against the Magistrates' courts in 1999

Crime Category	%	
	Males	Females
Violence against the person	74	9
Sexual offences	11	0
Burglary	130	5
Robbery	4	0
Theft	236	32
Fraud and Forgery	7	3
Criminal Damage	110	20
Offences against the state	15	0
Drug offences	14	0
Other offences	6	0
Total	607	69





ARK School Resource

Young People and Crime



Handout 2

Questions asked in 1998 NILT survey:

1. Do you ever worry about the possibility that you or anyone else who lives with you might be the victim of crime?

	%		
	Male	Female	All
Yes	56	64	60
No	42	35	38
Don't know	2	2	2

Results for people of different ages

	%					
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Yes	50	64	64	61	59	58
No	50	36	36	36	36	40
Don't know	0	1	0	3	6	2

**2. How safe do you feel walking alone in this area after dark?**

	%		
	Female	Male	All
Very safe	23	38	30
Fairly safe	47	48	47
A bit unsafe	18	10	14
Very unsafe	10	3	6
Don't know	3	2	2

Results for people of different ages

	%					
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Very safe	34	31	29	36	29	22
Fairly safe	48	50	53	44	48	40
A bit unsafe	12	15	13	11	12	23
Very unsafe	6	4	5	8	6	10
Don't know	1	1	1	1	4	6

**3. Compared with the rest of Northern Ireland, how much crime would you say there is in your area?**

	%		
	Male	Female	All
A lot more in your area	1	1	1
A bit more	6	8	7
About the same amount	19	18	18
A bit less	35	35	35
A lot less in your area	35	34	35
Don't know	3	4	4

Results for people of different ages

	%					
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
A lot more in your area	3	0	1	2	1	2
A bit more	8	8	8	6	6	7
About the same amount	14	18	21	16	22	19
A bit less	28	42	38	35	29	37
A lot less in your area	42	30	34	39	35	28
Don't know	6	2	0	2	7	7





ARK School Resource
Young People and Crime
Handout 3



Questions asked in 1998 NILT survey:

1. How common is it for people's homes to be burgled in the area you live in?

	%		
	Male	Female	All
Very common	3	5	4
Fairly common	24	24	24
Not very common	48	50	49
Not at all common	21	18	20
Don't know	4	3	3

Results for people of different ages

	%					
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Very common	2	1	7	3	4	5
Fairly common	19	20	29	26	25	27
Not very common	48	58	44	54	46	41
Not at all common	28	16	19	16	17	24
Don't know	3	5	1	1	8	3

**2. How common is deliberate damage done by vandals in the area you live in?**

	%		
	Male	Female	All
Very common	5	8	6
Fairly common	22	19	21
Not very common	45	48	47
Not at all common	26	23	24
Don't know	2	2	2

Results for people of different ages

	%					
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Very common	8	8	9	3	6	5
Fairly common	26	21	19	16	21	24
Not very common	38	46	46	54	49	43
Not at all common	25	23	25	26	19	27
Don't know	3	3	1	1	4	2

**3. How common in this area is it for people to be attacked and to have things stolen from them in the street?**

	%		
	Male	Female	All
Very common	2	1	1
Fairly common	4	7	6
Not very common	41	44	42
Not at all common	50	46	48
Don't know	3	2	3

Results for people of different ages

	%					
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Very common	0	1	3	0	1	3
Fairly common	11	4	3	5	5	10
Not very common	36	47	40	42	46	42
Not at all common	51	46	52	50	45	43
Don't know	2	3	1	2	3	3

**4. How common is graffiti on walls or buildings in your area?**

	%		
	Male	Female	All
Very common	4	5	4
Fairly common	13	13	13
Not very common	29	30	30
Not at all common	53	52	52
Don't know	1	1	1

Results for people of different ages

	%					
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Very common	6	4	7	1	5	4
Fairly common	18	16	12	11	14	9
Not very common	36	35	28	25	31	23
Not at all common	39	45	54	64	46	64
Don't know	1	0	0	0	4	0

**5. How common are vandalism and deliberate damage to property in bad condition in your area?**

	%		
	Male	Female	All
Very common	3	4	4
Fairly common	15	13	14
Not very common	33	34	33
Not at all common	48	48	48
Don't know	1	1	1

Results for people of different ages

	%					
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Very common	6	2	5	1	5	5
Fairly common	15	15	18	13	13	10
Not very common	35	40	26	30	43	29
Not at all common	43	43	51	55	35	57
Don't know	1	1	0	1	4	1



ARK School Resource
Young People and Crime
Handout 4



Crime Statistics for Northern Ireland (Source: PSNI.police.uk)

Figure 1:

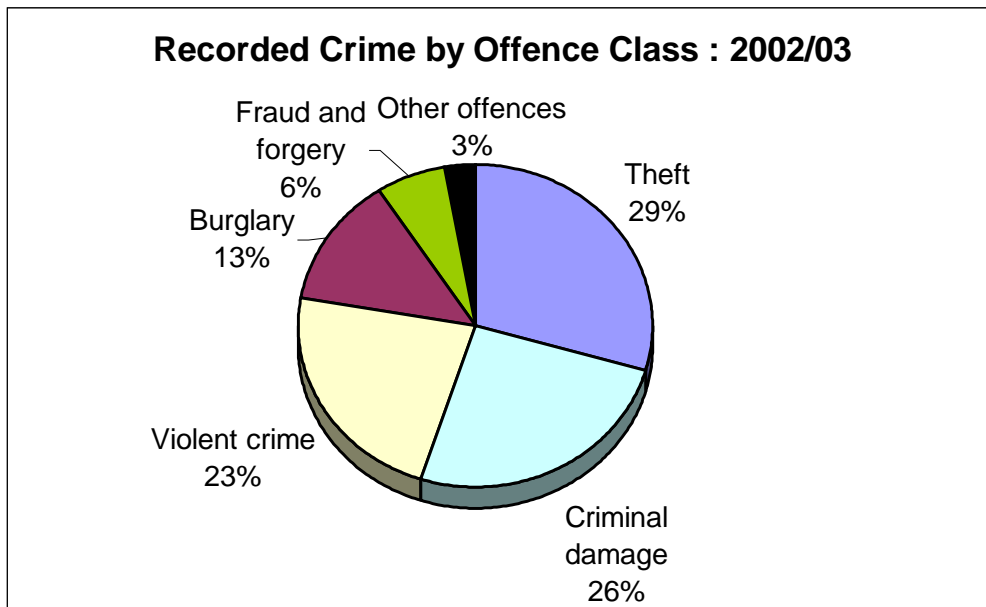


Figure 2:

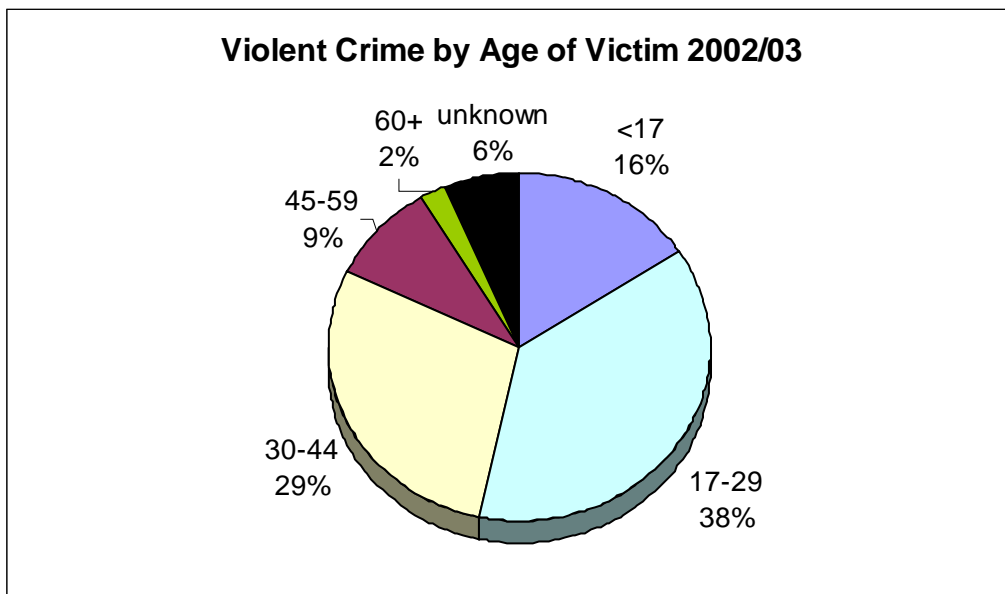
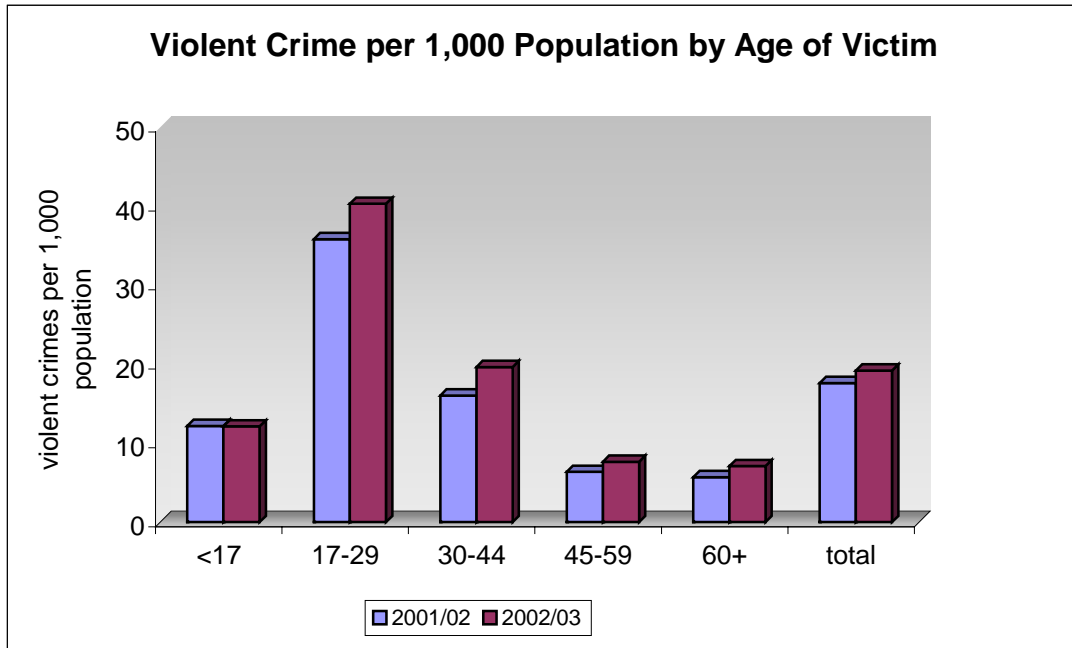


Figure 3:**Figure 4**