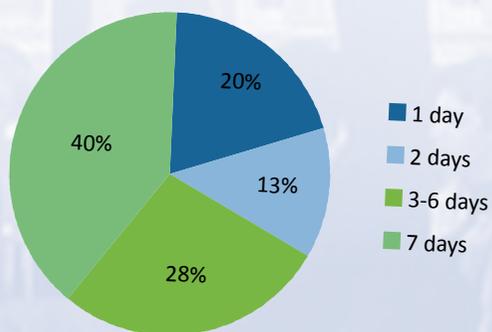


Young carers

10% of YLT respondents said they had caring responsibilities in the past, whilst 9% were currently caring for someone. The greatest proportion (29%) of those with caring responsibilities spent between 5 and 9 hours a week looking after someone, followed by 21% who spent between 3 and 4 hours a week. 40% of young carers looked after the person every day of the week, as Figure 4 shows.

Figure 4: How many days a week do you usually provide care?



Grooming and other sexual risks

4% of males and 15% of females said that someone had tried to groom them. The average age when this first happened to respondents was 14 years and the most likely way an adult made contact was a social networking site or chat room. Nearly half of these adults were at least 7 years older than their target young person.

3% of all respondents had been offered alcohol or drugs by someone in return for sex. The average age when this happened to a respondent was 15 years. 6% of respondents said they had been taken advantage of sexually under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Most comments received on this subject area related to the risks involved with drinking and drugs and the need to be cautious about social networking sites.

Background of the YLT Survey

All too often the opinions of young people are ignored when decisions are made about many of the issues involving them.

Every year the Young Life and Times (YLT) survey invites 16-year olds from all parts of Northern Ireland to tell us about their experiences of school, and their views on politics, sectarianism and other social issues. In 2010, 786 young people responded.

This leaflet provides a summary of key findings of the 2010 YLT survey.

More detailed results on specific issues, as well as Research Updates, are freely available on the YLT website at www.ark.ac.uk/ylt.

Many participants of the survey suggested a range of subjects that could be asked in future. Some of these questions will be included in the 2011 YLT survey.

Comments on the YLT survey are welcome any time and can be submitted via the YLT website.

ARK is a joint resource between Queen's University Belfast and the University of Ulster.

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2010 Young Life
 and Times Survey



Summary of Results

Figure 1: How satisfied are you with the way the Northern Ireland government is doing its job?

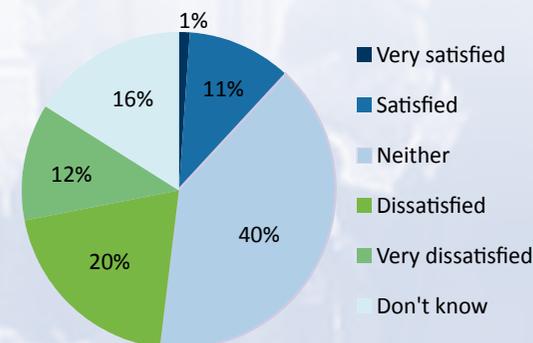
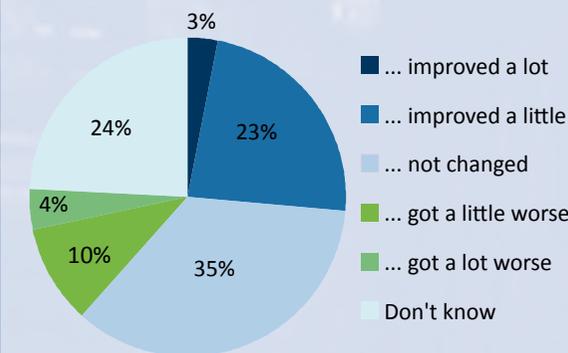


Figure 2: What has been the effect of the Stormont government on children and young people? Things have...



Who took part in the 2010 YLT survey?

All young people living in Northern Ireland who celebrated their 16th birthday in February and March 2010 were invited to take part in the survey. Of the 786 16-year olds that responded:

- 36% were male and 64% were female.
- 22% said they lived in a big city or its outskirts, 38% lived in a small town and 38% lived in a village or in the countryside.
- 52% attended a grammar school, 35% attended a secondary school, 6% attended a planned integrated school and 6% attended some other type of school.
- 77% lived with both their parents, 17% lived only with their mother and 1% lived only with their father. 3% lived with their mother some time and their father some time.
- 8% of respondents said they had a long-standing illness or a disability.
- 81% regarded themselves as belonging to a particular religion, 19% said they did not.
- 43% said they were part of the Catholic community, 37% part of the Protestant community and 21% part of neither.
- 8% of both males and females had been sexually attracted to a person of the same sex at least once.
- One quarter (24%) of respondents said their families were financially either very well-off or well-off. 18% said their families were not at all well-off or not well-off. The majority (56%) of respondents described their family's financial situation as average.
- Only 5% of respondents said the recent financial crisis had not affected them. 46% of respondents and their families had been affected 'a little', one third (33%) had been affected 'quite a bit' and 6% had been affected 'a lot'.

Play and leisure

Listening to music, watching TV and spending time on the PC/internet were the three activities that 16-year olds mostly engaged in, with 88% saying they listened to music daily and 65% each watching TV and spending time on the computer daily. Doing sports and getting together with friends were the next most common activities, undertaken by most at least several times a week.

Just over one quarter (26%) felt that the leisure facilities in their area were good or very good. 53% of respondents in rural areas felt their leisure facilities were poor or very poor compared to 40% of those who lived in big cities or in their suburbs.

Table 1 shows that those from the poorest family backgrounds rated their leisure time facilities worst.

Table 1: Range of leisure time facilities by family financial background

	%		
	Not well off	Average	Well off
Very good	5	5	8
Good	12	21	24
Average	23	31	31
Poor	30	24	21
Very poor	28	18	16
Don't know	2	1	0

38% of respondents said the lack of free time restricted them a lot from taking part in leisure activities. Transport to and from a leisure time facility and the cost of using the facility were also seen as restrictive (a lot or a little) by over 6 in 10 respondents. Less than one quarter were concerned a lot or a little about their personal safety in leisure facilities.

Parents (54%) and teachers (46%) were most likely to have ever asked respondents their opinion about leisure spaces or facilities with nearly one quarter of respondents (24%) saying they did not know whether they had ever been asked.

Attitudes to young people

85% of respondents felt that young people are negatively judged because they are young, with those from poorer family backgrounds being more likely to say this (89%) than respondents from better-off backgrounds (76%).

79% of respondents felt that the media portrayed young people mostly negatively.

30% of respondents said they were 'regularly' or 'all the time' treated with disrespect because they were young; again, those from poorer backgrounds were more likely to say this (39%). Males were more likely to be told to leave their schoolbag outside shops (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Percentage of respondents who experienced the following in shops:



56% of respondents had experienced being told to move on when they were standing with friends on the street. Residents were most likely to have told respondents to move on (65%) followed by the police (40%) and community representatives (18%)

Common feelings expressed by respondents who had been told to move on were: 'angry', 'disrespected', 'misjudged' and 'unwanted' – or even shocked. One 16-year old commented:

'It made me feel like I couldn't be myself in the place I live.'