

CONTINUOUS HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

FIRST RELEASE OF 2009/10 FIGURES

The Continuous Household Survey (CHS) is one of the largest continuous surveys carried out in Northern Ireland. It is designed to provide a regular source of information on a wide range of social and economic issues relevant to Northern Ireland. The survey is based on a random probability sample of the general population resident in private households throughout Northern Ireland. The survey has been running since 1983 and in addition to providing up to date annual figures it now reflects changing trends in Northern Ireland over a period of more than 25 years.

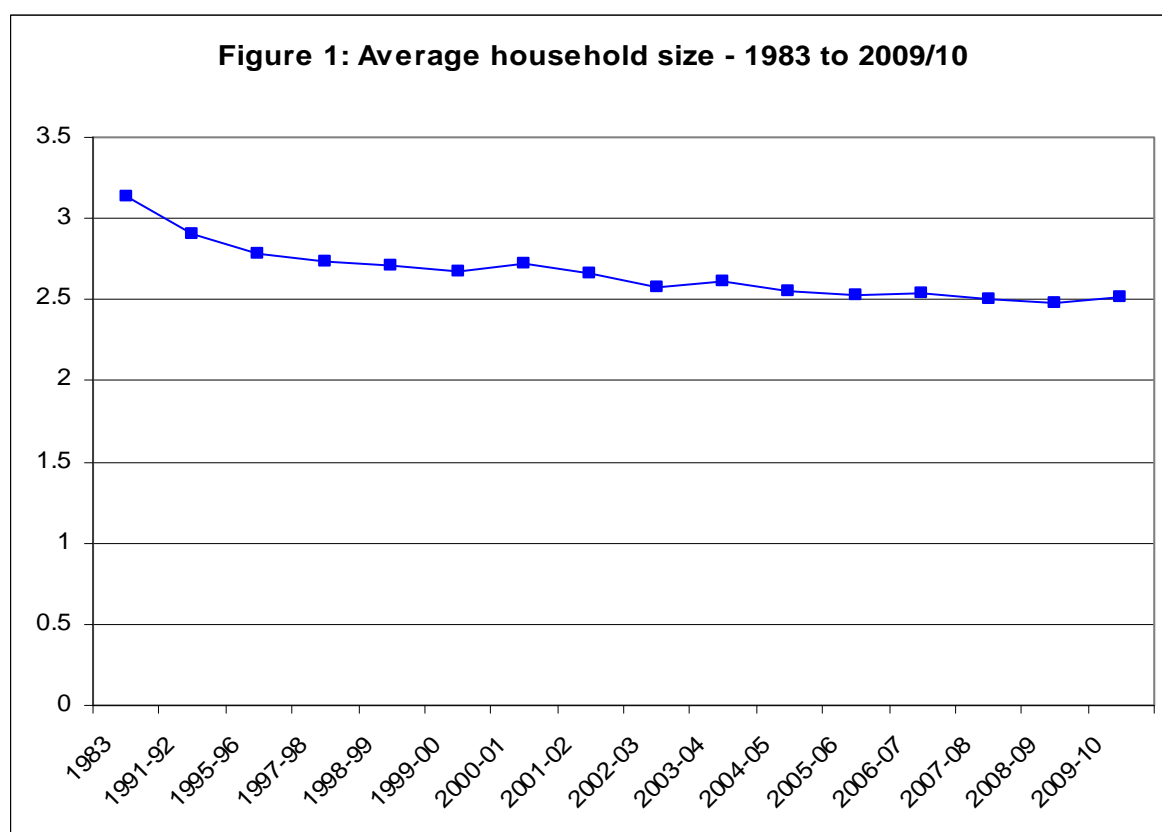
This First Release Statement details just a few of the latest findings from the 2009/10 survey.

The CHS web tables, which contain extensive information on a wide range of topics, have been updated to incorporate the 2009/10 results and are available on the Central Survey Unit website at <http://www.csu.nisra.gov.uk/survey.asp29.htm>. These are the latest additions to the CHS tables which contain survey data and trends going back to 1983.

Households and Families

In 2009/10, average household size in Northern Ireland was 2.51 persons.

Average household size in Northern Ireland has remained broadly at the same level for the last five years.



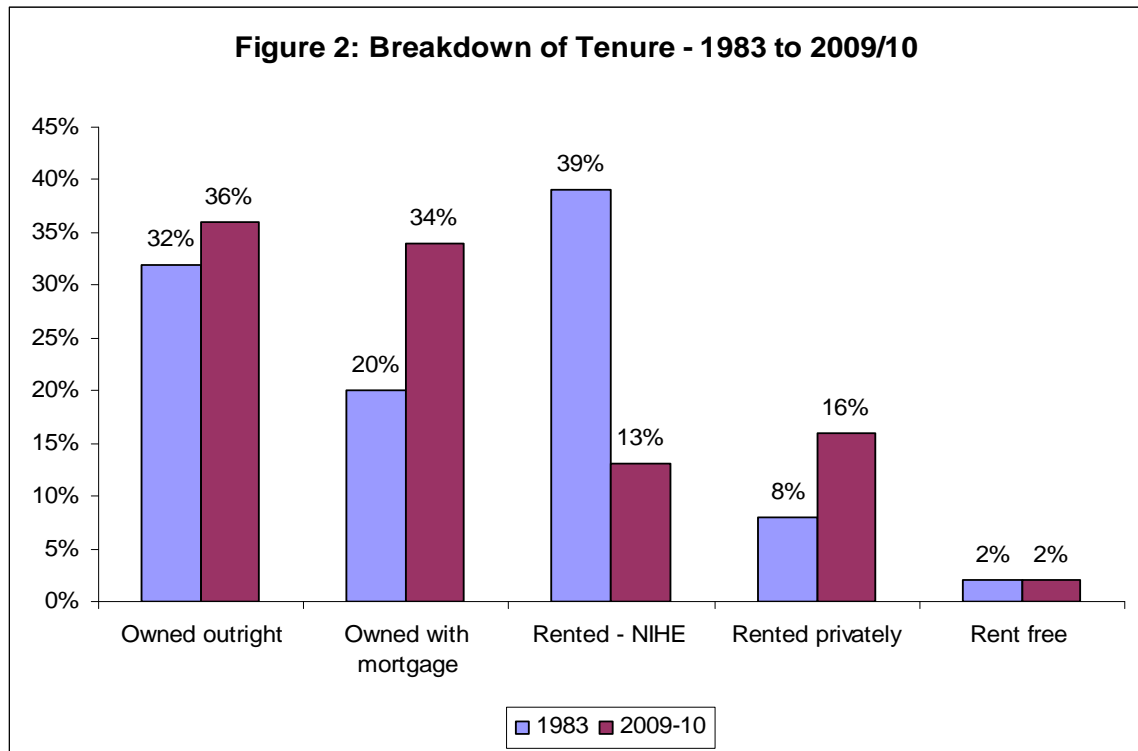
The majority of households (70%) contained families. A further 27% of households contained only one person.

In 2009/10, 72% of families with dependent children in Northern Ireland were headed by a married or cohabiting couple and 15% were headed by an unmarried lone mother.

Approximately one in two households (48%) had a weekly gross household income of up to £300. One quarter of households (26%) had a weekly gross household income exceeding £600.

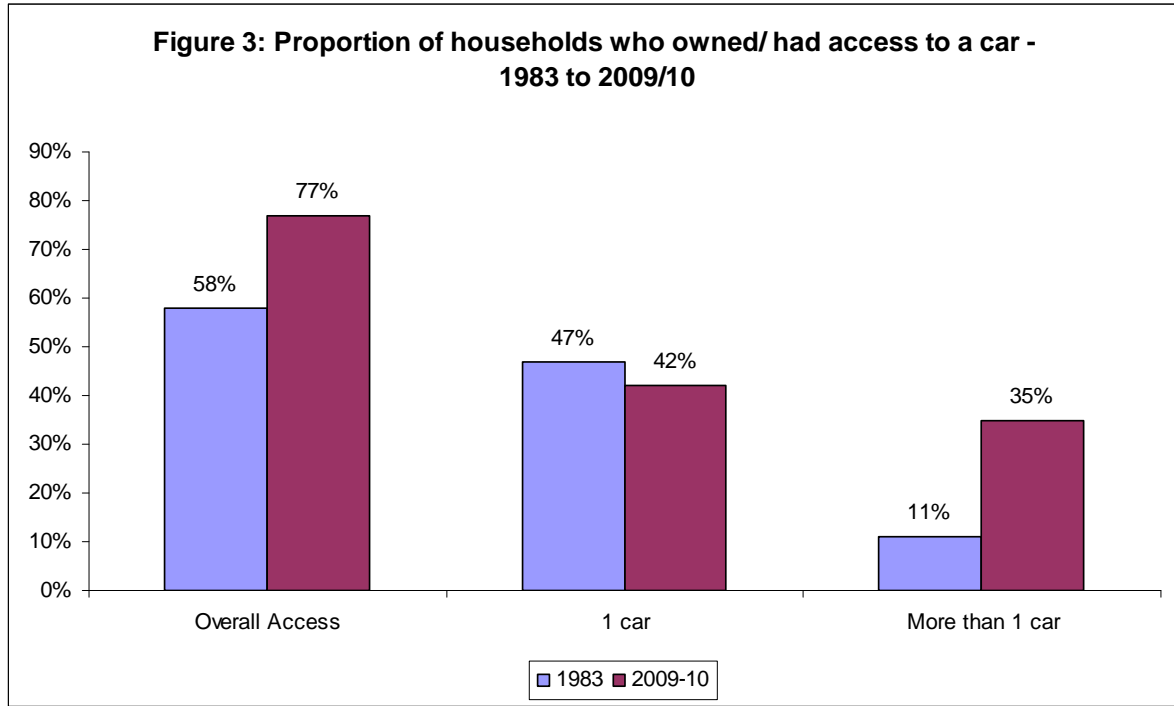
Housing and Accommodation

In 2009/10, 36% of households owned their homes outright and 34% owned their homes with a mortgage. A further 16% of households were privately renting their accommodation and 13% of households rented their homes from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.



Consumer Durables

Three quarters of households (77%) owned or had access to a car. One third of households (35%) owned or had access to more than one car.



Two thirds of households (67%) owned a home computer.

Three fifths of Northern Ireland households (59%) accessed the internet via their home computer.

In 2009/10, the vast majority of adults in Northern Ireland (89%) owned a mobile phone.

General Health

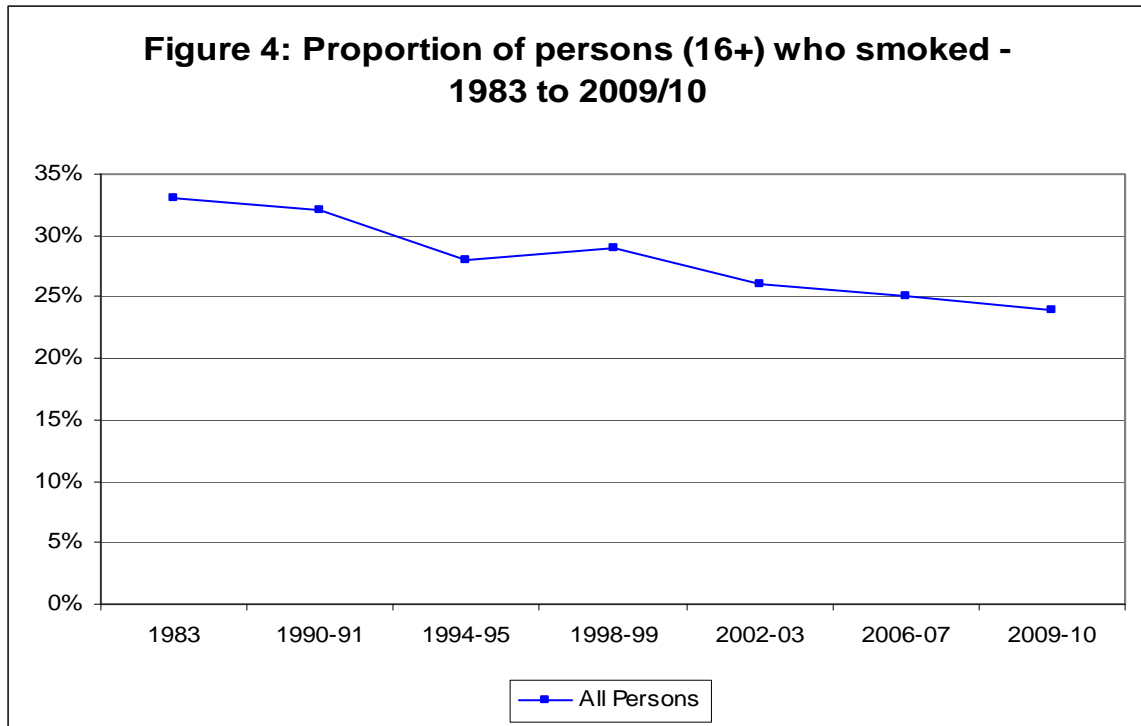
In 2009/10, 84% of adults reported that their health had been good or fairly good in the previous 12 months.

One third (33%) of adults in 2009/10 said that they had a long standing illness.

One quarter of adults (25%) stated that they had a long standing illness which limits their activities.

Smoking

One quarter of adults (24%), aged sixteen and over, were smokers in 2009/10.



Environmental Issues

Northern Ireland households said that they had taken a range of actions for environmental reasons in the previous 12 months. Two thirds of households (64%) used energy saving light bulbs and almost half of households (44%) said that they had cut down the amount of energy used in the home.

Further information about the CHS is available from:

Central Survey Unit
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
McAuley House
2-14 Castle Street
BELFAST
BT1 1SY

Contact name: Mr Jonathan Harvey
Telephone: (028) 9034 8202
Fax: (028) 9034 8276
E-mail: Jonathan.Harvey@dfpni.gov.uk
Web: <http://www.csu.nisra.gov.uk>