

Sexual Experience and Knowledge

Two thirds (67%) of pupils have had a boyfriend or girlfriend. Eight percent of pupils have had sexual intercourse. Eighty percent of these pupils had sexual intercourse for the first time between the ages of 13 and 15.

Just under four fifths (79%) of those who have had sexual intercourse used something to prevent pregnancy. The majority (73%) of pupils used a condom and 21% used both a condom and the pill.

Over half (53%) of pupils said they would find it easy to get contraceptives, with 54% of pupils stating they would get them from shops/chemists.

The majority of Year 11 and 12 pupils knew HIV (91%) and AIDS (88%) are sexually transmitted diseases whilst

40% knew that syphilis, 39% knew that warts and 29% knew that Hepatitis B are sexually transmitted diseases.

Table 4: How much, if any, sexual experience have you had?

	% Respondents
None	41%
Small amount	34%
Some experience but no sexual intercourse	16%
Experience including sexual intercourse	8%
Number of valid cases	3421

Attitudes Towards Sexual and Domestic Violence

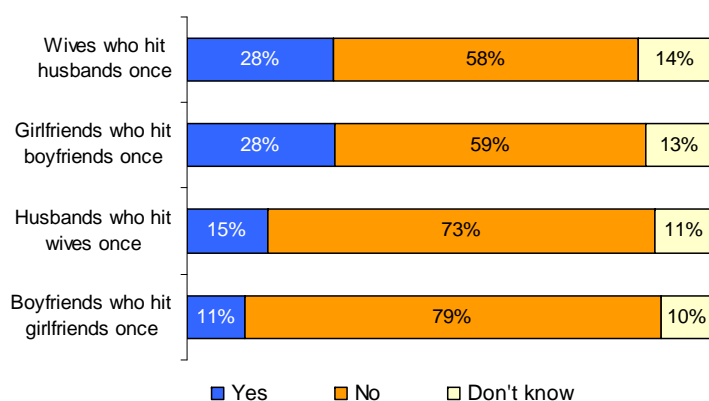
The majority of pupils (87%) in years 11 and 12 think that unless somebody freely agrees to it, nobody has the right to carry out any act which is in any way sexual and almost three quarters (73%) think that many victims experience sexual violence when they have been drinking alcohol. Nearly two thirds (63%) of pupils in years 11 and 12 think that girls are more likely to be victims of child sexual abuse.

Approximately a tenth (11%) of pupils in years 11 and 12 think boyfriends who hit girlfriends once deserve a second chance in the relationship and slightly more think that husbands who hit wives once deserve a second chance in the relationship (15%). Thirteen percent of pupils in years 11 and 12 think it is okay for a man to hit his girlfriend/wife if she has slept with someone else.

Over a quarter (28%) of pupils in years 11 and 12 think girlfriends who hit boyfriends once or wives who hit

husbands once deserve a second chance in the relationship. Almost a third (30%) of pupils in years 11 and 12 think it is okay for a woman to hit her boyfriend/husband if he has slept with someone else.

Figure 13: Who deserves a second chance in the relationship?



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Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitudes Survey Bulletin

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Contents

Behaviour and attitudes of post-primary school pupils in relation to:

- ➔ Demographics
- ➔ Social Support
- ➔ School
- ➔ Subject Choices and Next Steps
- ➔ Nutrition
- ➔ Sun Protection
- ➔ Sport and Physical Activity
- ➔ Play and Leisure
- ➔ Libraries, Museums and Arts
- ➔ Travelling to School
- ➔ Road Safety
- ➔ The Environment
- ➔ Alcohol
- ➔ Smoking
- ➔ Solvents and Drugs
- ➔ Personal Safety
- ➔ Sexual Experience and Knowledge
- ➔ Attitudes Towards Sexual and Domestic Violence

A survey of the behaviour and attitudes of young people on areas and issues affecting their lives

This bulletin presents key findings from the fourth round of the Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitudes Survey, carried out in October and November 2010. These results are based on data which has been weighted by year group, gender and religion in order to reflect the composition of the Northern Ireland post-primary population.

Central Survey Unit was commissioned by a consortium of government departments to design and conduct a survey, covering a range of topics relevant to the lives of young people today (see 'Contents' section). Interest amongst policy makers on the views and behaviours of young people was such that in order to meet the demand for additional questions on the survey, it was decided to split the topics across two versions of the questionnaire, A and B.

From a representative sample of post-primary schools in Northern Ireland, 77 schools agreed to participate in the survey. Schools were selected at random to complete one version of the questionnaire. One class from each year group (Form 1/Year 8 – Form 5/Year 12) was then randomly selected. A total of 7616 pupils aged 11 - 16 years took part in the survey.

In addition to this bulletin, tables of top-line results and a technical report are available. Details on how to access these are provided at the end of this bulletin. The accompanying dataset will be released 6 months after this publication and will be available on the UK Data Archive.

For the purpose of this bulletin, all percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Demographics

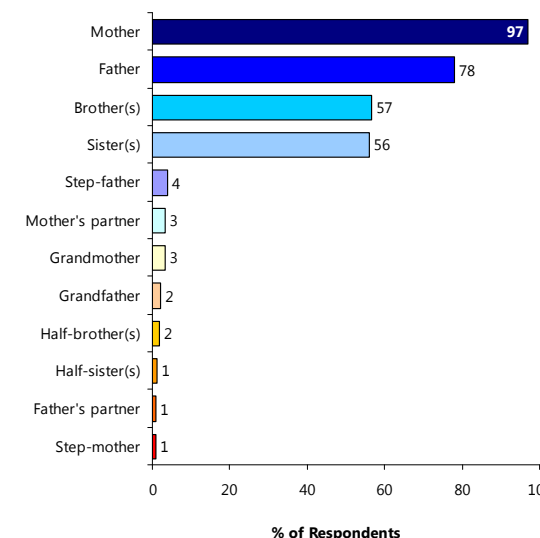
The majority of pupils' households are comprised of a mother (97%), a father (78%) and over half include brother(s) (57%) and sister(s) (56%).

Ten percent of pupils reported that their household included persons from more than one community background.

Eighty one percent of pupils' fathers and 69% of pupils' mothers currently are in employment. The majority (91%) of pupils were born in Northern Ireland while 84% of their fathers and 86% of their mothers were born in Northern Ireland.

Just under two fifths (39%) of pupils have ... (continued overleaf)

Figure 1: Who of the following, if any, do you live with?



Demographics (continued)

reported that they live in a small city or town, 21% of pupils live on a farm or home in the country and 16% of pupils live in a country village.

Eleven percent of pupils have reported a long-standing illness or disability that has troubled them over a period of time or is likely to affect them in the future.

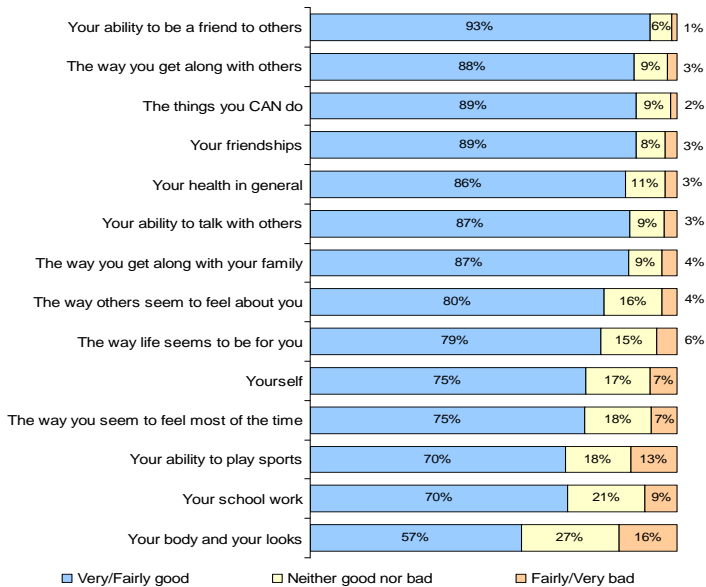
Social Support

Almost all pupils feel that they have family/friends who do things to make them happy (97%), who make them feel loved (97%), who give them support and encouragement (95%), who would see that they are taken care of if they needed to be (95%), who accept them just as they are (94%), who make them feel an important part of their lives (93%) and, finally, who can be relied on no matter what happens (91%).

During the 4 weeks prior to the survey, 16% felt fairly or very bad about their body and looks, 13% of pupils felt fairly or very bad about their ability to play sport and 9% of pupils felt fairly or very bad about their school work.

The majority of pupils (93%) felt very or fairly good about their ability to be a friend to others, 89% felt very or fairly good about the things that they can do and 89% felt very or fairly good about their friendships in the 4 weeks prior to the survey.

Figure 2: During the last 4 weeks, how good or bad have you felt about the following?



School

Over four fifths (83%) of pupils like school at present. The majority are in agreement that it is important to have maths and English qualifications by the time they leave school (93%), that staying on at school is important if they want to get a good job (88%) and that they could do well at school (88%).

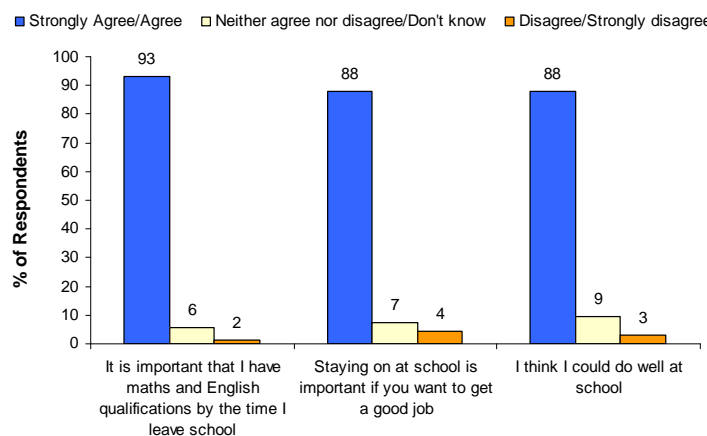
Eighty five percent of pupils feel a certain amount of stress due to the school work they have to do and 22% agree that they have difficulty falling asleep because they are thinking about school. Over a quarter (28%) feel that their family expects too much of them at school.

Just over three quarters (76%) find school boring at least some days, 17% have skipped classes or school this term and 6% have been expelled or suspended from school.

Three quarters (75%) of pupils have received education in school on the culture and traditions of people of a different race or colour and 89% of these pupils say that they know more about this as a result. Eighty five percent of pupils would feel comfortable being friends with someone of a different race or colour.

Almost three quarters (73%) have the chance to give their views about issues that affect them and of those, the majority (92%) think that their views are listened to at least sometimes. Seventy one percent of pupils have a school council at their school and 59% of these pupils think that it is an effective way for pupils to get their views across.

Figure 3: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



Smoking

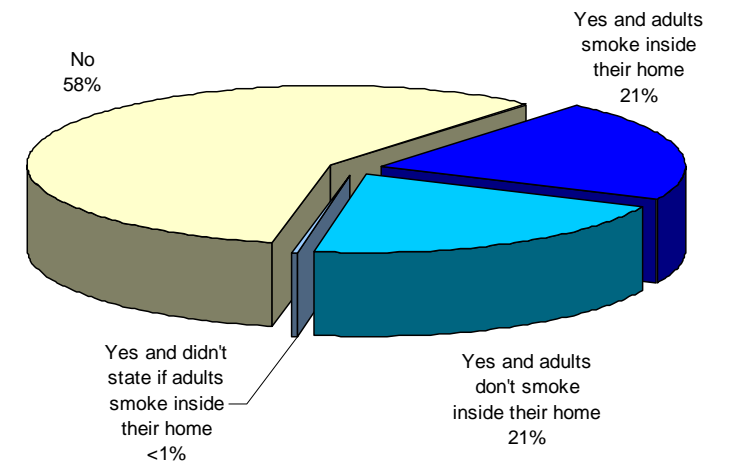
Just under a fifth of pupils (19%) have smoked tobacco, with just over three fifths (62%) of those having smoked at 13 or under. Only 11% of pupils in Key stage 3 (Years 8, 9 and 10) have ever smoked compared to 32% in Key stage 4 (Years 11 and 12). Fifty-six percent of those who have smoked no longer do, whilst a quarter smoke everyday.

Almost three quarters (71%) of pupils that smoke at least once a week would like to give up smoking cigarettes altogether.

Just over a fifth of pupils (21%) agree that smoking can help you stay slim, 26% agree that smoking can put you in a better mood, 34% agree that smokers are more boring than people who don't smoke, 36% agree that smoking can help you calm down and 36% agree that smokers tend to be more 'hard' than people who don't

smoke. Forty two percent of pupils live in a household with adults who smoke and of these adults 50% smoke inside the home.

Figure 11: Do any adults in your household smoke?



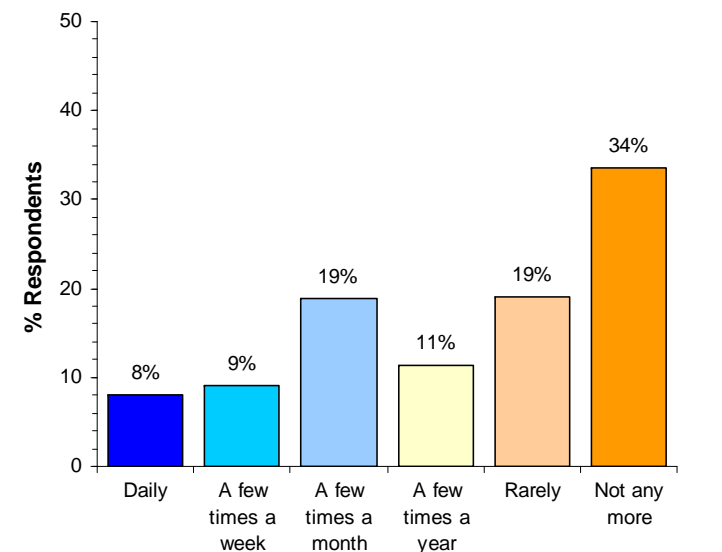
Solvents and Drugs

On at least one occasion, 13% of pupils have been offered solvents and 7% of pupils have inhaled solvents. Under half (47%) of those who have inhaled solvents no longer use them.

A fifth (20%) of pupils have been offered drugs (not counting solvents) on at least one occasion and 11% of pupils have used or tried drugs (not counting solvents) at some time. The three most common drugs for pupils to have ever used or tried are Cannabis (7%), Legal Highs (4%) and Cocaine (3%). Two percent of pupils have used Poppers, Ecstasy, Speed and Magic Mushrooms.

Of the pupils that have used or tried Cannabis over a third (36%) use Cannabis at least a few times a month, nearly one in five (19%) rarely use Cannabis (less than a few times a year) and a third (34%) no longer use Cannabis.

Figure 12: How often do you use Cannabis?



Personal Safety

In relation to their own personal safety, almost a quarter of pupils (23%) are worried about being bullied, 22% are worried about being physically abused and 20% are worried about being sexually abused.

In the 12 months prior to the survey, 15% of pupils have been bullied, 7% of pupils have been called names or

been harassed because of their religion and 6% of pupils have been harassed/bullied/abused via the internet.

During this time over a quarter of pupils (28%) have seen someone else being a victim of physical abuse, while 8% of pupils have become aware of someone else being a victim of sexual abuse.

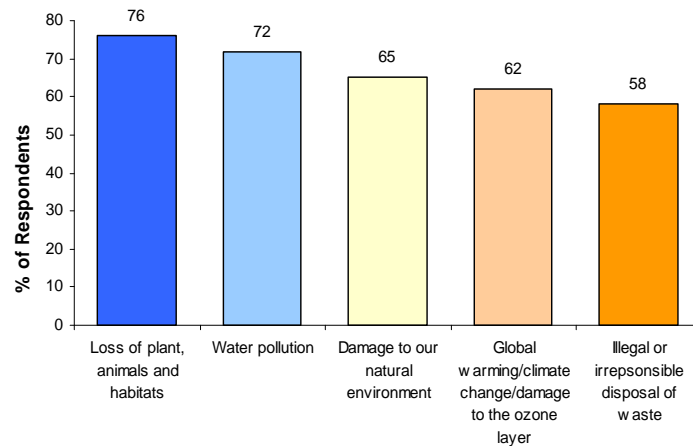
The Environment

The most important environmental issues for pupils are the loss of plants, animals and habitats (76%), followed by water pollution (72%). Almost half (49%) think that through their own actions they can make a difference to the loss of plants, animals and habitats and 49% think they can make a difference to water pollution. Two thirds (67%) of pupils at least sometimes make/encourage others to make a special effort to use less water and 61% at least sometimes buy/encourage others to buy environmentally friendly products.

Fifty two percent of pupils learn most about environmental issues at school and 31% have participated in school trips which were related to the environment during the 12 months prior to the survey. Over a third of pupils (35%) have heard of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and over three quarters of these know that it is responsible for country parks (79%), water quality of seas, rivers, loughs (76%), nature reserves (79%), wildlife protection (78%) and environmental research (76%).

Seventy four percent of pupils would find castles interesting or fun to visit, while only 28% would find monastic sites interesting or fun to visit. The majority of pupils (87%) agree that outdoor activities would make a visit to these sites more appealing.

Figure 9: Which of the following is an important environment issue for you?

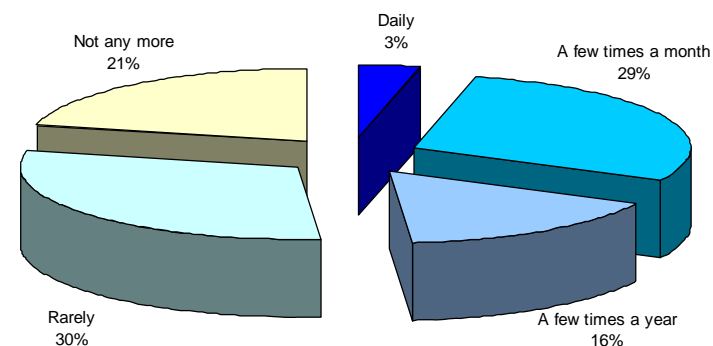


Alcohol

Just under half of pupils (46%) have taken an alcoholic drink (31% of Key stage 3 pupils and 68% of Key stage 4). Of those who have ever had an alcoholic drink, under half (49%) were aged 13 or under when they had their first drink.

Just over a fifth (21%) of pupils who have drunk alcohol got their last alcoholic drink from friends whilst 18% got it from their mother/father. Over a fifth (23%) of these pupils were at home the last time they drank alcohol, 19% of pupils were at someone else's house, while 15% were somewhere outside such as the park, street, in an entry, under a bridge, etc. Over half of pupils (56%) were with a friend (16%) or group of friends (40%) the last time they had an alcoholic drink.

Figure 10: At present, how often do you drink anything alcoholic?



A fifth of pupils (21%) that have taken an alcoholic drink do not drink anything alcoholic anymore. Of the pupils that still have an alcoholic drink, almost three in ten (29%) drink alcohol a few times a month.

Of those pupils who have had an alcoholic drink, the majority have never been in trouble with their parents or family members (71%), local people (91%), school (99%), police (89%) or friends (86%) due to alcohol. Over three quarters (76%) of pupils who have drunk alcohol have never bought alcohol for themselves.

Table 3: Where were you the last time you drank alcohol?

	% Respondents
At home	23%
At someone elses house	19%
Somewhere outside	15%
At school	1%
At a pub	3%
At a party	11%
At a rave, disco, club or concert	8%
On holiday	6%
At a special occasion (e.g. wedding)	10%
Somewhere else	6%

Subject Choices and Next Steps

Over two thirds (69%) of pupils in years 11 and 12 chose their subjects with a career area in mind and just over half are content with the advice they got about their subject choices from their career teachers (54%) and their other teachers (64%). Twelve percent of pupils in years 11 and 12 have attended lessons for their subjects at places other than their own school.

Immediately after they finish year 12, 65% of pupils in years 11 and 12 plan to do A Levels, 10% want to do Vocational Qualifications and 6% are not planning to stay on in education. Over a quarter (29%) of pupils said that they would only stay on at school or Further Education college if they received an Education Maintenance Allowance.

Just over a tenth (11%) of pupils in year 12 received a copy of a booklet called the Young Citizens Passport and

of these 34% said their teachers used the booklet during Citizenship lessons.

Table 1: Which of the following do you want to do immediately after you finish year 12?*

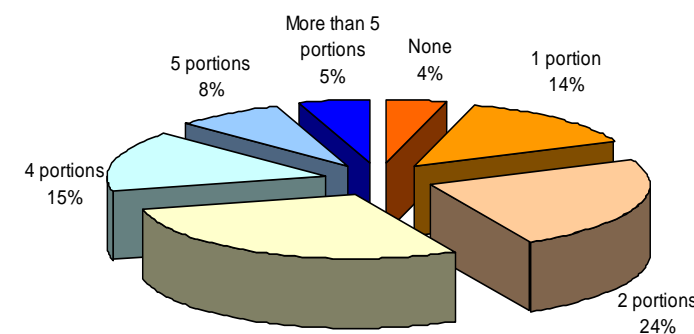
	% Respondents
NVQs	10%
AS Levels	36%
A-Levels	65%
Not planning to stay on in education	6%
Other	9%
Number of valid cases	2976

*Multiple response question, percentages may not add to 100%

Nutrition

Just over half (54%) of pupils eat fruit and 44% eat vegetables and salads, at least once a day. Only 13% of pupils usually eat 5 or more portions of fruit or vegetables each day. Almost a quarter (24%) eat meat products every day and over half (52%) eat fish less than once a week or never.

Figure 4: How many portions of fruit/vegetables do you usually eat each day?



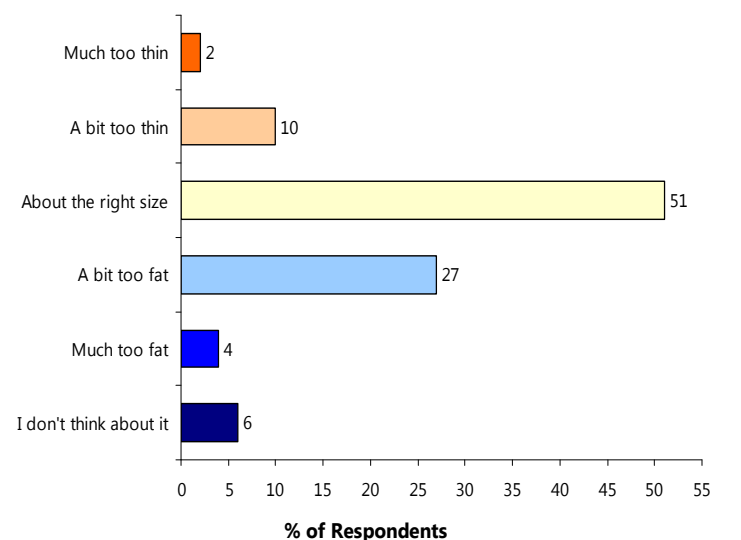
Almost a fifth (18%) of pupils never eat breakfast on school days and 19% don't usually eat it at weekends. When asked what they usually do for lunch, two fifths (40%) of pupils eat a school dinner and 43% take a packed lunch. The majority (88%) of pupils think that there is usually a good choice of food available in school and 68% reported that there is usually a food option available in school which they consider to be healthy.

However, 39% of all pupils would like to see more healthy food available in school.

The majority (85%) of pupils have been taught about healthy eating at school (not including Primary School) and over half (57%) of these pupils said that this helped them to make sensible choices while almost a quarter (22%) said that they would have made sensible choices anyway.

Fifteen percent of girls, compared to 8% of boys are on a diet to lose weight, while 38% of girls, compared to 24% of boys, think that they are too fat.

Figure 5: Do you think your body size is...



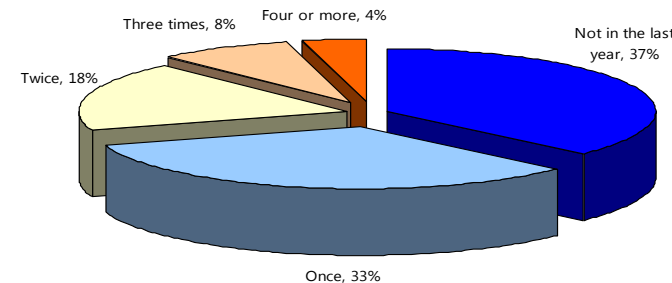
Sun Protection

The majority of pupils (65%) use sunscreen as a method of sun protection but just over a fifth (21%) use no special measures.

Almost a third (30%) of pupils had sunburn at least twice during the 12 months prior to the survey.

Over a third (34%) of pupils agree that having a suntan makes them feel healthier and half (51%) agree that it makes them feel more attractive. Most pupils (95%) have never used a sunbed.

Figure 6: How many times during the last year have you had sunburn?



Sport and Physical Activity

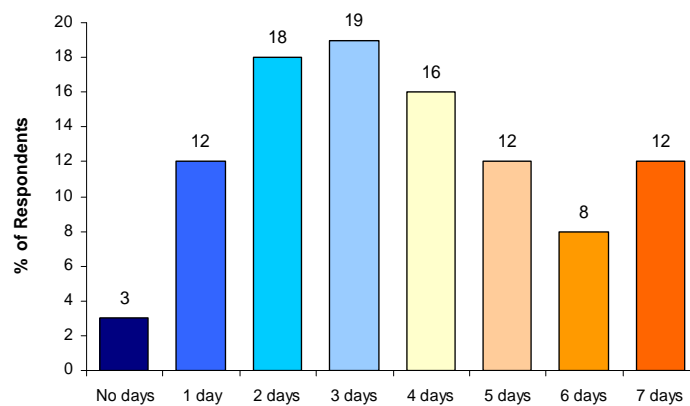
The majority (89%) of pupils generally enjoy doing sport or physical activity. The most popular sports or physical activities that the pupils had done during the week prior to the survey were playing football (48%) and active games (e.g. chase, skipping, rounders) (42%).

During the week prior to the survey, 90% of pupils played sport, exercised or played actively that made them out of breath or hot and sweaty. Almost half (48%) of these pupils did so for a total of at least 60 minutes each day for 4 or more days that week.

Just under half (49%) of pupils normally spend at least 2 hours a week doing organised PE or games or playing for a school team. Almost half (46%) are a member of a school sports club or team while 59% are a member of other sports clubs or teams not connected with their school. In the last twelve months over half (54%) of pupils have received instruction/tuition from an instructor or coach other than their PE/games teacher at least once a week.

In the week prior to the survey, 27% of pupils spent more than 10 hours watching TV, videos or DVDs and the same proportion (27%) spent more than 10 hours playing computer or console games.

Figure 7: Over the last 7 days, on how many days have you exercised so much that you got out of breath or hot and sweaty for at least 60 minutes each day?



Play and Leisure

Just over half (53%) of pupils think that the play and leisure facilities in their area are good while 61% would like more opportunities to take part in challenging and stimulating activities.

The main reasons stopping pupils from accessing play and leisure facilities in their local area are; not enough time (42%), not enough facilities close to where they live (23%) and the cost of activities (19%). Two thirds of pupils agree that public spaces (e.g. shopping centres and sports centres) create a welcoming environment for young people.

The majority of pupils (91%) use social media networks with Facebook being the most popular, used by 84% of

these pupils.

Table 2: Which media networks do you use? *

Media Network	% Respondents
Facebook	84%
YouTube	77%
Bebo	45%
Twitter	20%
MySpace	12%

*Multiple response question, percentages may not add to 100%

Libraries, Museums and Arts

Twenty percent of pupils go to a Public Library at least once a month, mainly to borrow books (64%) and to study/do homework (34%). Almost half (49%) never go to a Public Library. Over four in ten (41%) pupils said that a better selection of books would encourage them to visit a Public Library more often and 34% said they would be encouraged to go if they had more free time.

Almost two thirds (65%) of pupils had been to a museum in Northern Ireland in the 12 months prior to the survey and 89% of these pupils generally enjoyed their last visit.

During the 12 months prior to the survey, 43% of pupils had read for pleasure and 40% had taken part in painting, drawing, sculpture or printmaking in their free time.

Seventeen percent had not done or taken part in an Arts activity during that time.

The majority of pupils (85%) had been to see a film at a cinema or other venue during the 12 months prior to the survey while 9% had not been to any Arts event.

In the last 12 months 27% of pupils received tuition at least once a week from an instructor (other than their teacher) to help improve their performance in any art activity. Almost half (43%) of pupils stated they would be interested in a career in music, while 38% would be interested in a career in a design and 37% in a career in film and photography.

Travelling to School

Approximately half of pupils usually travel most of the way to (48%) and from (54%) school by bus, compared to 18% who walk or cycle to school and 24% who walk or cycle from school. Nearly one third (32%) usually travel to school by car and 20% travel home by car.

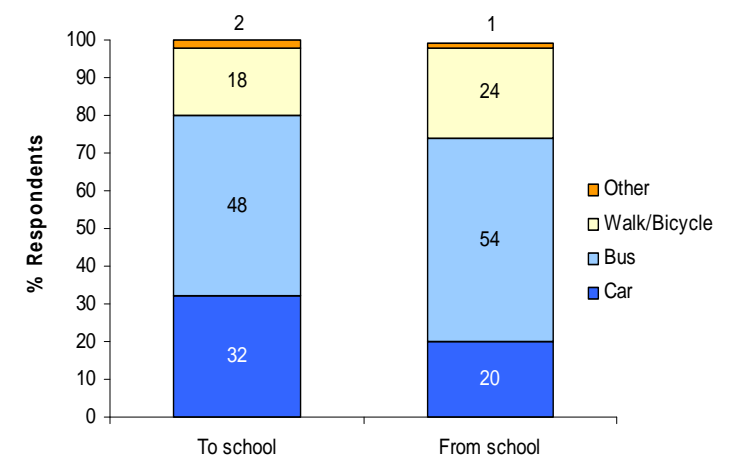
Twenty eight percent of all pupils travel to or from school by car with their siblings and 17% do so with friends/other pupils.

Just under half (44%) of pupils qualify for free school transport and of these, 82% use this to or from school everyday. Of those pupils who travel to or from school by bus, 75% find it to be a pleasant experience while 12% feel unsafe mainly because of overcrowding (69%) and passenger behaviour (63%).

Almost a fifth (18%) feel that their safety is at risk just before getting on or off the bus mainly because they could get run over by a car/lorry coming after the bus

(47%) or get pushed onto the road by other children (47%). A tenth of pupils are dissatisfied with the public transport they use to get to or from school.

Figure 8: How do you usually travel most of the way to and from school?



Road Safety

On at least some occasions, 61% of pupils use a mobile phone or mp3 player while crossing the road, 30% run across the road without checking for traffic and 56% carry on with friends while crossing the road.

Approximately four fifths of pupils always wear a seatbelt in the front seat (81%) and three quarters in the back seat (74%) of a car. More than four in ten (42%) pupils never

wear bright coloured clothes while cycling or walking at night, and 51% never wear a cycle helmet.

In the 12 months prior to the survey, half (51%) of pupils had some type of education on road safety in school, mostly provided by teachers (56%), and 77% of these pupils found it useful.