



Analysis of the Commission for Victims and Survivors Module of the September 2010 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey

Prepared for the Commission for Victims and Survivors By the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency

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Introduction

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency's September 2010 Omnibus Survey incorporated a module relating to victims and survivors of the Northern Ireland Troubles.

The Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey is carried out on a regular basis and is designed to provide a snapshot of the lifestyle and views of the people of Northern Ireland. The survey contains questions about a wide range of topical issues that help shape public sector policies to accommodate the needs and wishes of the population. The content of the survey varies from run to run, with some sections such as those on household structure, appearing in each run. Other sections are incorporated on issues that are topical at the time.

In this regard, the September 2010 survey-run included questions inserted on behalf of the Commission for Victims and Survivors. The Commission for Victims and Survivors (CVS) was established in 2008 to promote the interests of victims and survivors of the conflict. Northern Ireland government recently adopted a ten-year strategy for Victims and Survivors, and a Victims and Survivors Service is set to be implemented.

Against this background the Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey questions sought to obtain population based estimates of the proportion of people in Northern Ireland who were affected in some direct way by the Northern Ireland Troubles. Further, the survey proposed details of a range of services that could be delivered in the future and sought to obtain estimates of the proportions of people who may be interested in taking up such services

The results of the CVS module are presented in this report in three summary sets of analyses. Firstly, looking at the overall proportions affected by the conflict, secondly the use of services for victims and survivors in the past, and finally the potential use of proposed services in the future.

Those affected by the conflict

A series of three questions were asked to obtain estimates of the proportion of the Northern Ireland population that has been, in some way, directly affected by the Troubles in Northern Ireland. The questions were informed by a range of influences including the legal definition of Victims and Survivors; the usage of similar questions in other surveys such as the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (NILT); and the particular expertise of colleagues and Commissioners in the CVS. The Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey September 2010 questions were, thus, as follows.

Have you been bereaved as a result of the Troubles?

Have you suffered physical injury as a result of the Troubles?

Have you been affected by, or do you care for someone who was affected by, a traumatic experience related to the Troubles?

The September 2010 Omnibus Survey found that **30 per cent** of the Northern Ireland population **had been directly affected by the conflict**, either through bereavement, physical injury or experience of trauma (directly or as a carer). The experience of trauma or caring for someone affected by a traumatic experience was reported the most, with 24 per cent of respondents indicating that they had been affected by such experiences. 11 per cent have been bereaved as a result of the Troubles and six per cent have suffered physical injury themselves. As illustrated by these proportions, a number of people have been affected by the Troubles in more than one way.

The overall rates were similar for men and women, with **32 per cent of males** and **29 per cent of females** answering 'yes' to one or more of these three questions. However, a higher proportion of males indicated that they suffered physical injury, at nine per cent compared with three per cent of females. Similar proportions of males and females answered 'yes' to question 3 *Have you been affected by, or do you care for someone who was affected by, a traumatic experience related to the Troubles* at 24 per cent for males and 23 per cent for females.

Use of services in the past

The Omnibus Survey went on to ask those respondents who indicated that they *had* been affected by the Troubles if they had used any services for victims and survivors in the past. The following analyses, therefore, relate to the 30 per cent of respondents who answered 'yes' to questions one, two or three.

Of those who stated that they have been affected by the Troubles, **19 per cent** said that they *had* previously used services provided for victims and survivors. The most common source of these services-used were government departments or other public sector organisations such as those within the Health Service; followed by groups providing services specifically for victims and; finally, general community or voluntary groups.

Of the respondents who were affected by the Troubles, **81 per cent** indicated that they had not used any services for victims and survivors in the past. Most of these, 61 per cent, indicated that this was because they felt '*they did not need such a service*'; whilst 21 per cent said that '*they were not aware of such a service*'; and a further 14 per cent said that '*they did not want such a service*'.

Potential use of services in the future

Survey respondents were shown a card containing a list of 19 services that a proposed Victims and Survivors Service could directly or indirectly provide. Those respondents who stated that they had been affected by the Troubles were asked to indicate *which, if any, of those services you would need to use*. **46 per cent** of those affected by the Troubles said they would need to use at least one of the proposed services; (19 per cent stated that they would need to use one service and a further 27 per cent stated that they would need to use two or more of the services).

Interest was shown in all 19 of the potential services listed on the showcard, although a number of services were identified, most often, as being needed. These services were: *Meeting others with shared experiences; Counselling; Help with understanding the legal system; Physical health assistance; Benefits advice; and Having someone to act on your behalf with service agencies (Advocacy)*.

Table 1 below suggests that there could be some variation around Northern Ireland in relation to the relative importance of each of these potential services. Each column lists the services identified most often by respondents in: Northern Ireland overall and in the broad geographical areas of: Belfast; East of Northern Ireland; and West of Northern Ireland. The text size corresponds with the percentage of respondents from each geographical area highlighting each particular service.

Table 1			
Most needed services by geographical location			
Northern Ireland	Belfast	East of Northern Ireland	West of Northern Ireland
Meet others	Meet others	Meet others	Counselling
Counselling	Counselling	Counselling	Help with legal
Help with legal	Physical health	Help with legal	Physical health
Physical health	Benefits advice	Physical health	Advocacy
Advocacy	Befriending	Direct financial support	Meet others
Benefits advice		Benefits advice	Benefits advice

Table 2 details the proportion of survey respondents (who have been affected by the conflict) who indicated that they would be interested in using each of the potential services, as listed. It should be noted that these figures are based on a proportion of respondents from a sample survey. Therefore, while differences in table 2 of around one or two percentage points may be actual differences in potential demand levels they may, alternatively, be due to the sample size and the actual percentages should not therefore be emphasised. However, when examined in groups, the figures in table 2 provide a snapshot of which services there is likely to be most demand for. For example, it is clear that services focused on Counselling and Meeting others with shared experiences, would be likely to receive more demand than, for instance, those focused on Story-telling or Debt advice.

Table 2
Relationship between respondents' interest in each of the potential services and CVS's proposed prioritisation of need

Service	Proportion of respondents indicating interest	Area of need	CVS's prioritisation of need
Counselling	13	Health and Wellbeing	Health and Wellbeing
Meeting others with shared experiences	13	Social Support	
Physical health assistance	10	Health and Wellbeing	Social Support
Help with understanding the legal system	10	Truth, Justice and Acknowledgement	
Having someone act on your behalf	8	Truth, Justice and Acknowledgement	Individual Financial Support
Benefits advice	8	Welfare Support	
Befriending	6	Social Support	
Direct financial support	6	Individual Financial Support	Truth, Justice and Acknowledgement
Respite care	5	Social Support	
Confidence building	5	Personal and Professional Development	
Remembrance	5	Truth, Justice and Acknowledgement	Welfare Support
Employment advice	5	Personal and Professional Development	
Complementary therapies	4	Health and Wellbeing	
Information on grants	4	Welfare Support	Trans-generational
Training	4	Personal and Professional Development	
Education	4	Personal and Professional Development	
Story telling	3	Truth, Justice and Acknowledgement	Personal and Professional Development
Psychotherapies	3	Health and Wellbeing	
Debt advice	2	Welfare Support	

It should be noted that an option was provided for respondents to identify an additional service or services that may be needed. No respondents identified any 'other' such services, suggesting that the list provided was relatively comprehensive.

As noted previously, 19 per cent of those who were affected by the Troubles had used services for victims and survivors in the past. However, most (79 per cent) of these people indicated that they would also need to use one or more of the proposed services in the future.

Of all those who indicated that they would need to use the proposed services, most indicated that they would access the services either through community / voluntary groups or by going to a government department such as the Health Service.

Technical notes

The following is a brief summary of the detailed technical notes. Fuller information can be provided on request.

The sample for the September Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey consisted of a systematic random sample of addresses selected from the Land and Property Services Agency list of private addresses. This is the most up-to-date listing of private households and is made available to the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency for research purposes. People living in institutions (though not in private households in such institutions) are excluded. A total of 2,200 addresses were selected for interview of which 1,955 were eligible. A total of 1,179 of these eligible households co-operated with the survey.

The Land and Property Services Agency 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 questionnaire.

In any survey there is a possibility of non-response bias. Non-response bias arises if the characteristics of non-respondents differ from those of respondents in such a way that they are reflected in the responses given in the survey. Accurate estimates of non-response bias can be obtained by comparing characteristics of the achieved sample with the distribution of the same characteristics in the population at the time of sampling. Such comparisons are usually made to the current Census of Population data.

To assess how accurately the Omnibus Survey sample reflects the population of Northern Ireland the sample was compared with characteristics of the Northern Ireland population from Mid Year Population Estimates and to the achieved sample of the Continuous Household Survey (CHS). The Omnibus Survey sample compares favourably with both of these other sources.

Selecting only one individual for interview at each sampled address means that the probability of selection for the survey is inversely related to the size of the household. In other words, individuals living in large households have a lower chance of being included in the sample than individuals in small households.

Before analysis, all households which provided a selected respondent are examined and the data are weighted in relation to the number of eligible adults at the address derived from the details of household structure recorded by interviewers on the questionnaire. This weighting process adjusts the results to those that would have been achieved if the sample had been drawn as a random sample of adults rather than of addresses. The analysis contained in this report has been produced on the weighted data.

Survey questions (CVS module)

(All persons aged 16 and over)

CVSNIQ1 Have you been bereaved as a result of the Troubles?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

(All persons aged 16 and over)

CVSNIQ2 Have you suffered physical injury as a result of the Troubles?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

(All persons aged 16 and over)

CVSNIQ3 Have you been affected by, or do you care for someone who was affected by, a traumatic experience related to the Troubles?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

(All persons answering yes to CVSNIQ1 or CVSNIQ2 or CVSNIQ3)

CVSNIQ4 SHOWCARD

Please look at Showcard xx. These are examples of the types of services that some government organisations, and community and voluntary groups provide for victims and survivors of the Troubles.

Have you used any of these?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

(All persons answering yes at CVSNIQ4)

CVSNIQ51 - Did you use a service provided by ...

CVSNIQ53 INTERVIEWER TO READ OUT.

CODE ALL THAT APPLY.

- 1 A government department or organisation e.g. the Health Service
- 2 A group which provides services specifically for victims
- 3 A general community or voluntary group which also provides services for the wider public?

(All persons answering no to CVSNIQ4)

CVSNIQ6 Can I just check, is this because ...

INTERVIEWER TO READ OUT.

CODE ONE ONLY. IF MORE THAN ONE REASON GIVEN CODE MAIN REASON.

- 1 You did not need such a service
- 2 You did not want such a service
- 3 You were not aware of such a service
- 4 You could not avail of such a service?

CVSNIQ6b Why could the respondent not avail of such a service?

(spontaneous)

String of length 250, empty

(All persons answering yes to CVSNIQ1 or CVSNIQ2 or CVSNIQ3)

CVSNIQ01 - SHOWCARD

CVSNIQ20

The Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister recently announced plans for the establishment of a dedicated Victims and Survivors Service. This would, directly or indirectly, provide the types of services listed on Showcard xx.

Which, if any, of these services would you need to use?

1 Befriending

2 Respite care for carers

3 Meeting others with shared experiences

4 Having someone to act on your behalf with service agencies

5 Help with understanding the legal system

6 Confidence building

7 Remembrance

8 Story-telling

9 Counselling

10 Psychotherapies

11 Complementary therapies

12 Direct financial support

13 Information on sources of grants

14 Benefits advice

15 Debt advice

16 Training

17 Education

18 Employment advice

19 Physical health assistance

20 Other (please specify)

21 None, I have no need for the service (spontaneous)

22 None, I have needs but would not want to use a government based service

(spontaneous)

(All persons answering other to CVSNIQ7: CVSNIQ7 = 20)

CVSNIQ7b Please specify other

String of length 250

(All persons answering options 1 to 20 in CVSNIQ7)

CSVNIQ81 - Would you access these types of services ...

CVSNIQ82 INTERVIEWER TO READ OUT

CODE ALL THAT APPLY

1 By going directly to the Victims and Survivors Service

2 Or by going to a community or voluntary group that was

funded by the Service

3 Or by going to a government department for example, the Health Service

4 Or any of these ways?

(All persons answering none, I have needs but would not want to use a government based service to CVSNIQ7: CVSNIQ7=22)

CVSNIQ9 Would you access these types of services by going to a community or voluntary group that was funded by the Service?

1 Yes

2 No

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