



Commission Statement on
Equality in Northern Ireland

**Communities
are Welcoming
and Inclusive**

Summary Report

6 of 6
Areas of Life

May 2024

This is the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland's Statement on Equality in Northern Ireland. This document is a summary of data analysed for the area of life: **Communities are Welcoming and Inclusive**. It is one of six documents to highlight the findings from analyses of data, to identify differences in equality outcomes, for a range of population indicators in six areas of life in Northern Ireland.

All six documents, which constitutes parts of the Statement, are drawn from the Commission's Framework for Measuring Equality in Northern Ireland. The Framework was developed through extensive consultation with those interested and representing equality groups in Northern Ireland, and through ongoing engagement for the development of population indicators and sources of evidence. The Framework will enable the Commission to identify differences in equality outcomes and to track those differences over time.

The Statement covers six broad areas of life in Northern Ireland:



Education



Employment



**Participation
in Public life**



**Health and
Social Care**



**Standards of
Living and
Housing**



**Communities that
are Welcoming
and Inclusive**

The outcome areas identified for **Communities are Welcoming and Inclusive** are as follows, with the **associated priority areas**:

Everyone who lives in Northern Ireland can do so without fear of exclusion and disadvantage:

- **Housing & Public Spaces:** All people are able to freely choose where they live and freely enjoy public spaces.
- **Access to transport Goods, Facilities & Services:** Public transport is available to access financial, retail, and other services are available and accessible to all.
- **Participation in Cultural & Sporting Life:** People are able to participate in social life within their communities, including culture, leisure and sport.
- **Digital Inclusion:** All people have access to information and technology necessary to participate in society.

There is equality of opportunity within the criminal justice system and within communities when people experience and access justice matters:

- **Freedom from Discrimination and Hate:** Everyone is free from discrimination harassment and hate crime in their community.
- **Freedom from Violence:** All people are free from all forms of violence, including sexual and domestic violence.
- **Security:** We live in a safe community where we respect the law and each other. All people are able to move around freely and without fear.
- **Equality of Opportunity in Access to Justice:** Fairness of the criminal justice system.

Where possible, the findings presented in this Statement highlight the observable differences **across equality groups** from the overall values recorded for entire samples of population from surveys and administrated datasets. Furthermore, and where possible, the Statement also highlights the key differences between equality groups **within** their respective **equality grounds**.

The Indicator and Data Status for the Priority Areas

Housing & Public Spaces:

Data Status: All 9 Grounds Analysed; Public Opinion Survey of Equality in Northern Ireland - 2023; Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

This priority area contained a **single population indicator** on whether people agreed or disagreed with a statement “Public and shared spaces in Northern Ireland (e.g. leisure centres, parks, libraries and shopping centres) are open to all persons regardless of their personal characteristics.” Those most likely to agree with the statement were those aged 65+, those with a disability, those with no dependents, or widowed respondents compared with their respective comparators within their equality grounds.

Access to transport Goods, Facilities & Services:

Data Status: All 9 Grounds Analysed; Public Opinion Survey of Equality in Northern Ireland - 2023; Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

The **first two population indicators** for this priority area asked respondents if they agreed or disagreed with statements “In general, I have access to public transport” and “I am reliant on public transport”. The respondents most likely to disagree that they have access to public transport were those with a disability. The respondents more likely to agree that they were reliant on public transport were women, those aged 16-29, those with a disability, those with no dependents, non-carers (32%) and widowed respondents (51%) compared to their respective comparators within their equality grounds.

The **third population indicator** asked respondents “In the area where you live, please say how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the frequency of public transport to allow you to access the following services, settings and facilities”. Five measures were used to address five service areas: Financial services, retail services, health and social care services, education settings and community facilities. Generally, for all five service areas, those with a disability, carers, those with dependents, and those of Neither political opinion were more likely to be dissatisfied with the frequency of public transport. Furthermore, those aged 50-64 years were also more likely to be dissatisfied with the frequency of public transport to health and social care services and educational settings compared to other groups within their equality grounds.

Participation in Cultural & Sporting Life:

Data Status: 5 Grounds Analysed; Continuous Household Survey, Northern Ireland – 2021-2022; Northern Ireland Statistical Agency (NISRA)

There were **four population indicators**. For the **first** population indicator, the percentage of people engaging in arts/cultural activities, three measures were adopted: general engagement; whether they used public library service and whether they visited a museum or science centre. Across all three measures, males, those over 65 years and those with no dependents were less likely to engage in art/cultural activities. For the **second population indicator**, percentage of people who participated in sports or exercise in the last 12 months, two measures were used: a general measure and a specific measure on walking. The general measure highlighted that across the equality groups, where data was available, those less likely to have participated in sports were widowed respondents, respondents of the age groups of 55-64 and 65 and over, separate/divorced respondents, female respondents and respondents with no dependents. Regarding the specific measure, those less likely to have walked for recreation were widowed respondents, males, respondents of the age group of 16-24, single, and Catholic respondents.

Digital Inclusion:

Data Status: All 9 Grounds Analysed; Public Opinion Survey of Equality in Northern Ireland - 2023; Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

Three population indicators were used to assess this priority area, which related to the percentages of people: 1) who have access to reliable broadband, 2) access to the appropriate technology to access services, and 3) who feel confident in accessing services online. The latter population indicator utilised six measures regarding access to services online: shopping, online banking, to pay bills online, to look up for health symptoms online, to apply for benefits online and to apply for jobs online.

The findings from the **first population indicator** were that those less likely to have access to reliable broadband were those who were widowed, with a disability, those aged 65+ (65%), and non-white respondents (81%). Similarly, for the **second indicator**, those less likely to have access to the appropriate technology were widowed respondents, those aged 65+, and respondents with a disability (70%).

Regarding the six measures for the **third population indicator** on accessing services online, across the equality groups, those who were widowed, aged 65+, and those with a disability were less likely to feel confident accessing services online.

Within equality grounds, a similar pattern is apparent, with those who were widowed, aged 65+, those with a disability, and those with no dependents less likely to feel confident accessing all the six services online. However, and specifically, those who were heterosexual were less likely to feel confident accessing banking, paying bills, applying for benefits and applying for jobs online than were LGBTQI+ respondents. Also, men were less likely to feel confident accessing shopping, banking and looking up for health symptoms online than were women.

Freedom from Discrimination and Hate

Data Status: 6 Equality Grounds Analysed; Northern Ireland Safe Community Telephone Surveys - 2020/21 & 2021/22; Department of Justice, Northern Ireland; All 9 Equality Grounds Analysed; Public Opinion Survey of Equality in Northern Ireland - 2023; Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

Three population indicators were used to assess this priority area. The **first population indicator** examined the percentage of people who worry about crime and personal safety and becoming a victim of violent crime. Those most likely to worry about crime and personal safety were those who were widowed/surviving civil partner, respondents with long standing illness or disability, and female respondents. There were notifiable differences between these equality groups and their direct comparators with their equality grounds.

The **second population indicator** examined the percentage of people who have personal experience of not being treated with dignity and respect in the area they live. The equality groups more likely to state they had personally experienced a situation where they were not treated with dignity and respect based on their personal characteristics in the area they lived were non-white respondents, single respondents, respondents with a disability, respondents in the age group of 16-29, and respondents with other or no religion. Similarly, for the **third population indicator**, for the percentage of people who have witnessed a situation where they (or others) were not treated with dignity and respect, those most likely to state they had witnessed such a situation were non-white respondents, respondents with Neither Nationalists nor Unionists as their political opinion, respondents with Other or No religion, carer respondents, single respondents, and respondents in the age group of 16-29.

Freedom from Violence

Data Status: 6 Equality Grounds Analysed; Northern Ireland Safe Community Telephone Surveys - 2020/21 & 2021/22

There was only **one population indicator** for this priority area; that was the percentage of adults in Northern Ireland who were victim of any NICS crime. The survey found that those more likely to report that they have been victims of crime were respondents who were separated, those who were single, and respondents in the age group of 16-29.

Security

Data Status: All 9 Equality Grounds Analysed; Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB); Public Opinion Survey of Equality in Northern Ireland - 2023; Equality Commission for Northern Ireland; 5 Equality Grounds Analysed; Northern Ireland Policing Plan Survey 2023; Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB).

The priority area of Security had **five population indicators** associated to it. The **first population indicator** examines the percentage of adults who feel safe in their community during the day. Less than one percent of respondents said they feel unsafe. Across the equality groups, respondents more likely to state they feel unsafe when outside in the local area during the day were LGBTQI+ respondents, respondents with a disability, widowed, and separated/divorced respondents, and non-white respondents. The **second population indicator** examined the same community safety issue but for after dark. After dark, just under seven percent of respondents said they felt unsafe in their community. Respondents more likely to state they feel unsafe were those with a disability, those widowed, those separated/divorced, LGBTQI+ respondents, respondents in the age group of 65+, non-white respondents, female, and respondents who were carers. The **third population indicator** used a different survey but examined the percentages of respondents who felt safe or unsafe in their community, regardless of the time of day. The measure found that six percent of respondents indicated they felt unsafe, with those with a disability, those who preferred not to say their religion, those who with other religions, female respondents, and respondents in the age group of 45-64 more likely to do so. The **fourth population indicator** examined the level of concern about crime in the local area. Just over four in ten respondents stated that they were concerned about crime, with those with a disability, respondents in the age group of 45-64, those in the age group of 75+ years old, those who preferred not to say their religion, and Unionists more likely to do so. The **fifth population indicator** for this priority area looked at the percentage of respondents feeling safe in the local town centre. Fifteen percent of all respondents stated that they felt unsafe or very unsafe in the local town centre. Those more likely to state they feel unsafe in the local town centre were respondents with a disability, female respondents, respondents in the age group of 45-64, respondents who preferred not to say their age, Catholic respondents, and those who preferred not to say their religion.

Equality of Opportunity in Access to Justice

Data Status: 0 Equality Grounds Analysed; Perceptions of Policy and Justice Survey - No data beyond 2019/2020; Department of Justice, Northern Ireland



Priority Area:

Housing & Public Spaces

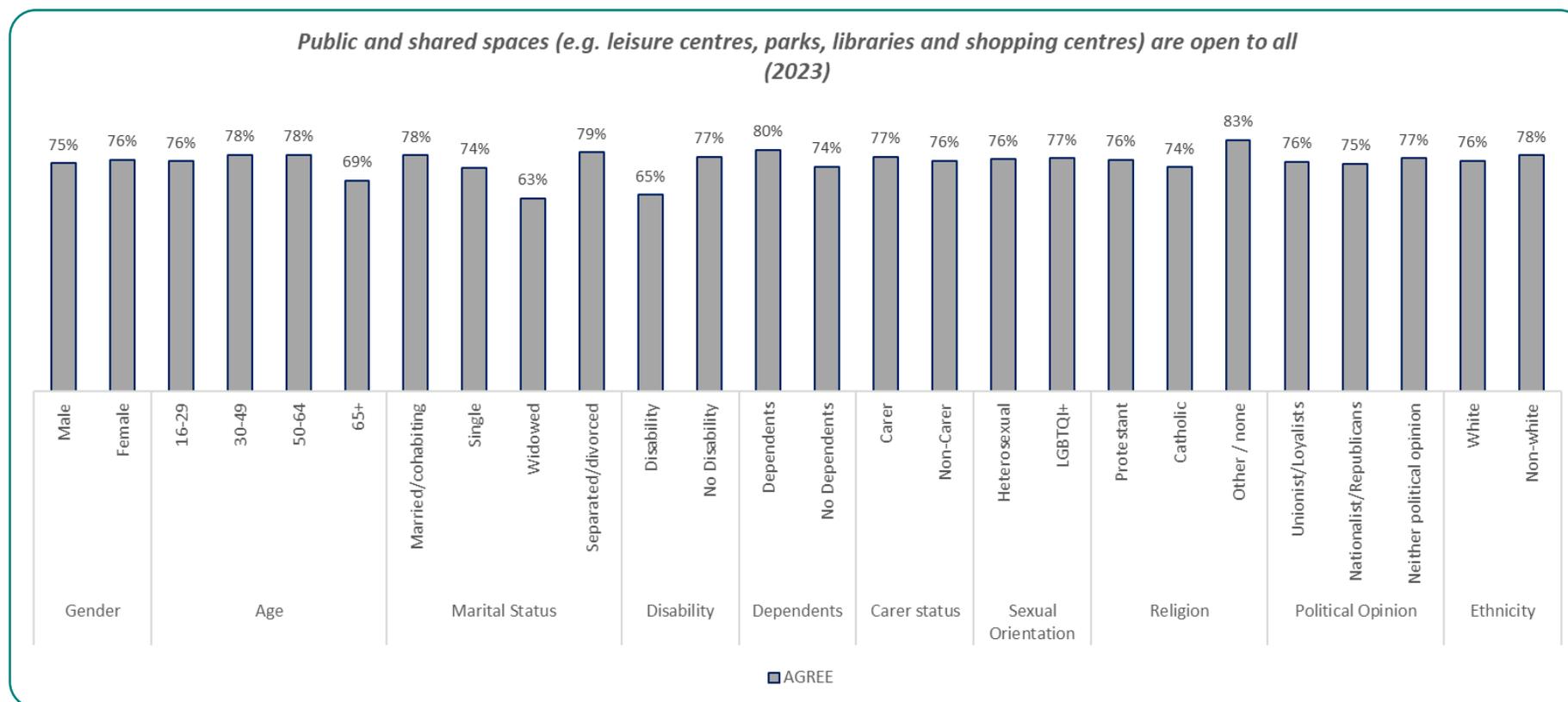
All people are able to freely choose where they live and freely enjoy public spaces.

Population Indicator: Percentage of people who agree/ disagree with the statement: **Public and shared spaces in Northern Ireland (e.g. leisure centres, parks, libraries and shopping centres) are open to all persons regardless of their personal characteristics.**

Data Source: Public Opinion Survey of Equality in Northern Ireland

Data Provider: Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

Those less likely to agree with the statement “Public and shared spaces are open to all” were respondents in the age group of 65+ (69%) compared to other age groups (16-29, 76%: 30-49, 78%: 50-64, 78%), respondents with a disability (65%) compared to those with no disability (77%), those with no dependents (74%) compared to those with dependents (80%), and widowed respondents (63%) compared with married/cohabiting (78%), single (74%), and separated/divorced (79%).





Priority Area:

Access to Transport

Public transport is available to access financial, retail, and other services.

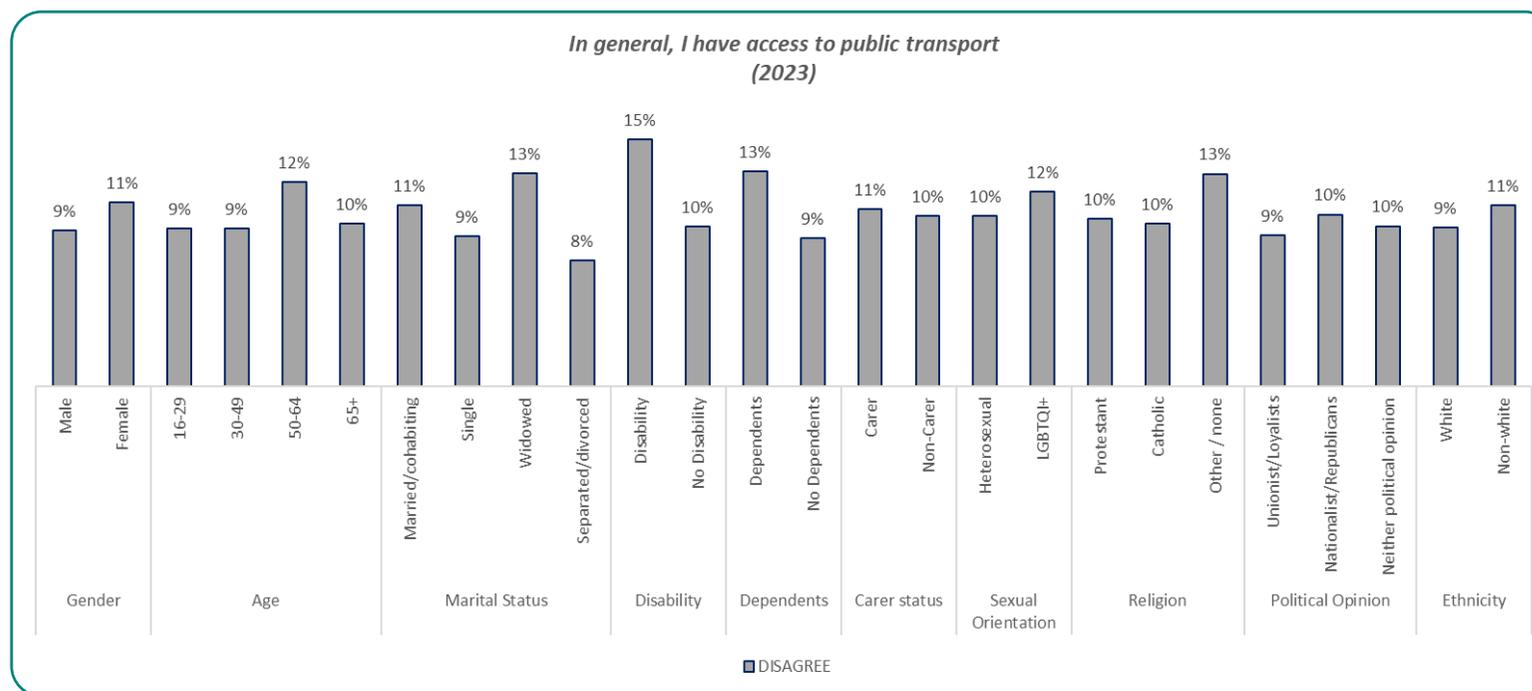
Population Indicator: Percentage of people who disagree that they have access to public transport to access services.

Data Source: Public Opinion Survey of Equality in Northern Ireland

Data Provider: Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

Across the equality groups, respondents **more likely to disagree** with the statement “In general, I have access to public transport” were respondents with disability (15%), respondents with dependents (13%), widowed respondents (13%), respondents with Other or No religion (13%), respondents in the age group 50-64 (12%) and LGBTQI+ respondents (12%) compared with an overall level of disagreement of 10%.

Looking within equality grounds, those respondents more likely to disagree with the statement were those with a disability (15%) compared to those with no disability (10%).



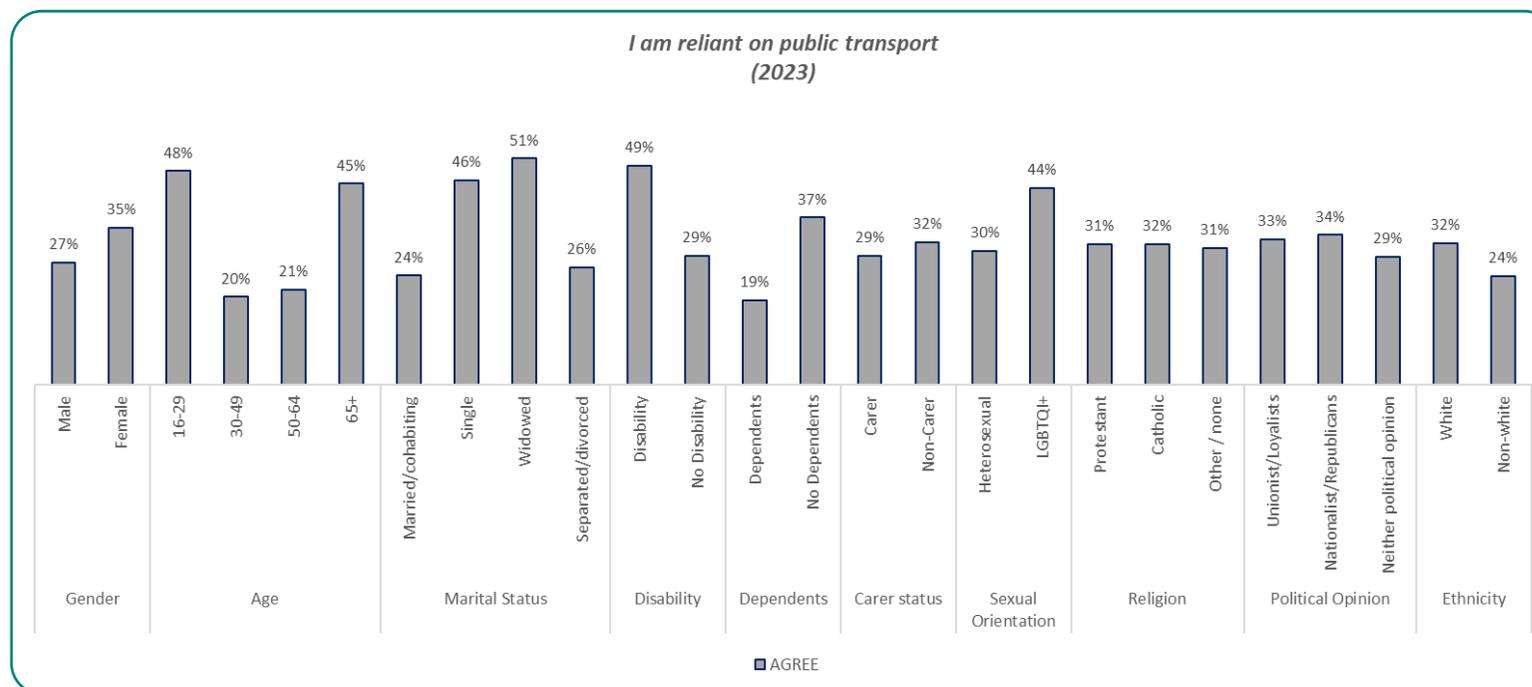
Population Indicator: Percentage of people who agree that they rely on public transport to access services.

Data Source: Public Opinion Survey of Equality in Northern Ireland

Data Provider: Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

Across the equality groups, respondents **more likely to agree** with the statement “I am reliant on public transport” were widowed respondents (51%), those with a disability (49%), respondents of the age group of 16-29 (48%) and the 65+ (45%), single respondents (46%) and LGBTQI+ respondents (44%) compared with an overall level of agreement of 31%.

Within equality grounds, respondents more likely to agree with the statement were women (35%) compared with men (27%), those aged 16-29 (48%) compared with those aged 30-49 (20%), 50-64 (21%) and 65+ (45%), those with a disability (49%) compared to those without (29%), those with no dependents (38%) compared to those with dependents (19%), non-carers (32%) compared with carers (29%) and widowed respondents (51%) compared to married/cohabiting (25%), single (46%), or separated/divorced (26%) respondents.



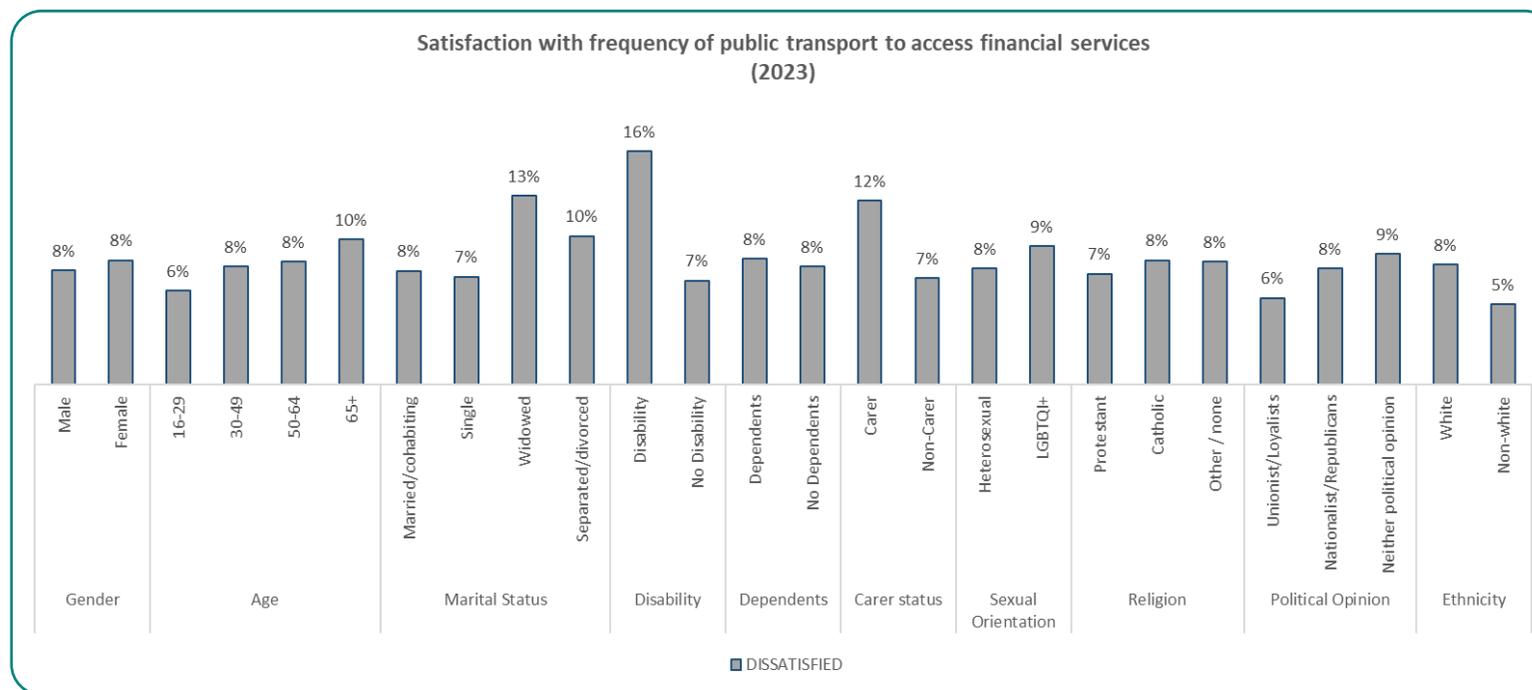
Population Indicator: In the areas where people live, their satisfaction with the frequency of public transport to access services – *Financial services (banks, credit unions)*

Data Source: Public Opinion Survey of Equality in Northern Ireland

Data Provider: Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

Across the equality groups, respondents more likely to declare dissatisfaction with the frequency of public transport to access financial services were respondents with a disability (16%), widowed respondents (13%), those with caring responsibilities (12%), separated/divorced respondents (10%) and respondents in the age group of 65+ (10%) compared with an overall level of dissatisfaction of 8%.

Within equality grounds, those more likely to be dissatisfied with the frequency of public transport to access financial services were disabled respondents (16%) compared with those with no disability (7%), carers (12%) compared with non-carers (7%), those who were of Neither political opinion (9%) compared with Unionist/Loyalist (6%) or Nationalist/Republican (8%).



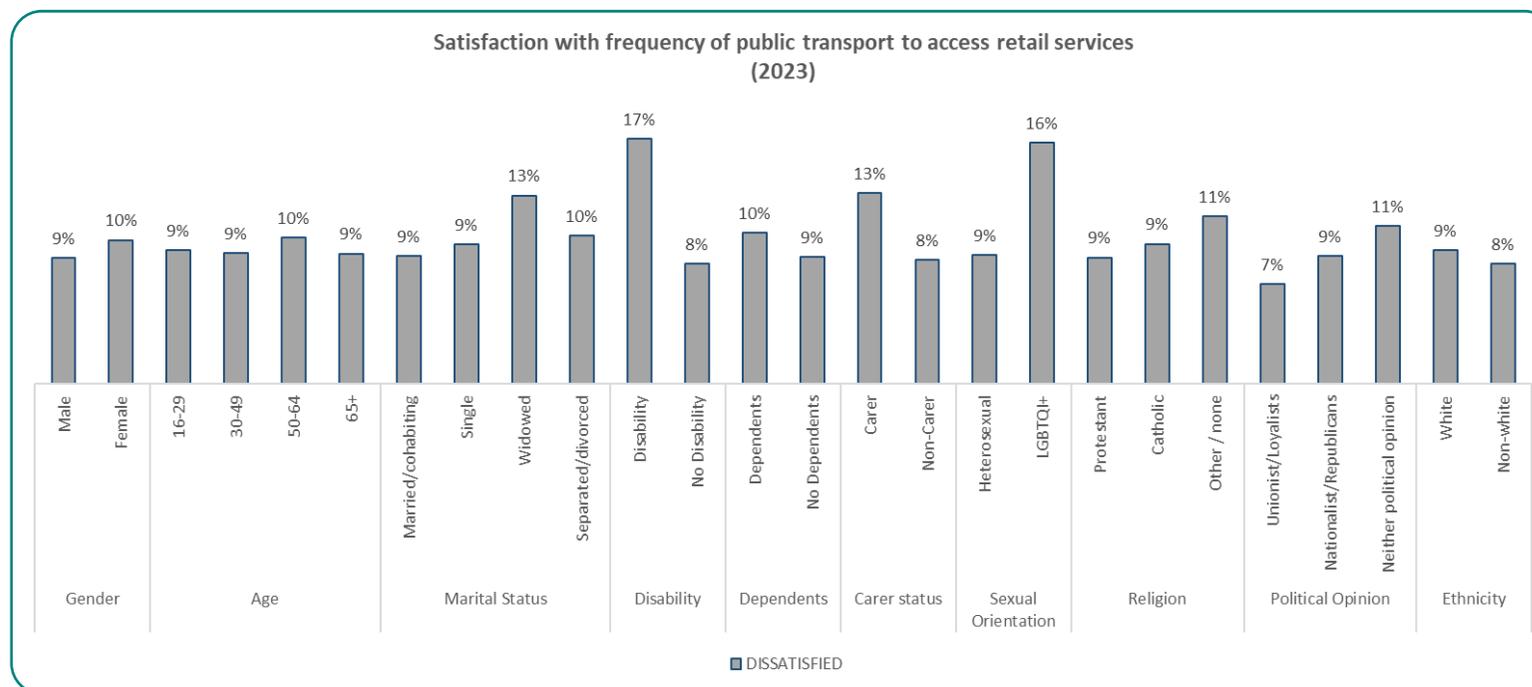
Population Indicator: In the areas where people live, their satisfaction with the frequency of public transport to access services – Retail services (shops, supermarkets)

Data Source: Public Opinion Survey of Equality in Northern Ireland

Data Provider: Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

Across all equality groups, respondents more likely to declare that they were dissatisfied with the frequency of public transport to access retail services were those with a disability (17%), LGBTQI+ respondents (16%), carers (13%), and widowed respondents (13%) compared with an overall level of dissatisfaction of 9%.

Within equality grounds, those more likely to be dissatisfied were those with a disability (17%) compared to those with no disability (8%), those with dependents (10%) compared to those without (9%), carers (13%) compared with non-carers (8%), those describing their ethnicity as white (9%) compared to non-white (8%) respondents, those who were of Neither political opinion (11%) compared to Unionist/Loyalist (7%) and Nationalist/Republicans respondents (9%).



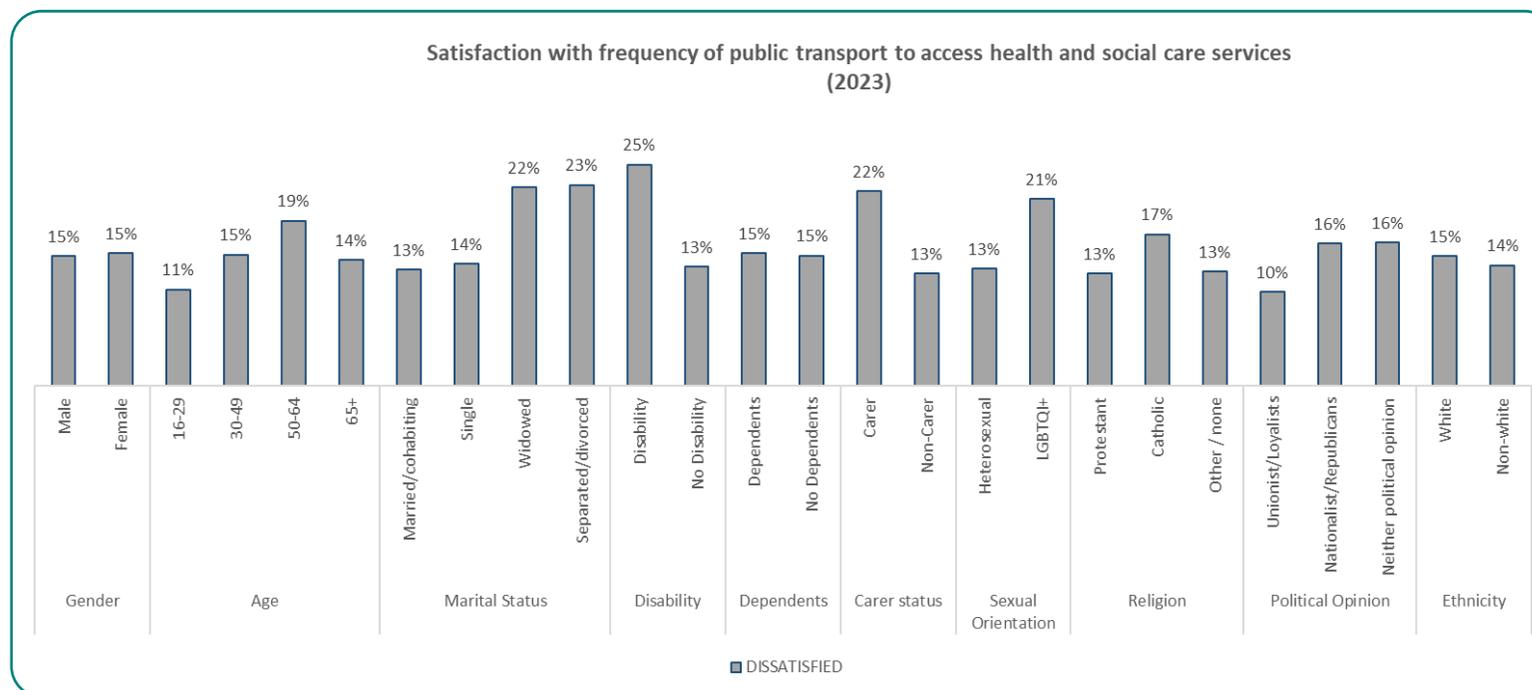
Population Indicator: In the areas where people live, their satisfaction with the frequency of public transport to access services – Health and Social Care services (GP, hospitals)

Data Source: Public Opinion Survey of Equality in Northern Ireland

Data Provider: Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

Across all equality groups, respondents more likely to declare they were dissatisfied with the frequency of public transport to access health services were those with a disability (25%), separate/divorced (23%), and widowed (22%) respondents, carers (22%), LGBTQI+ respondents (21%) and respondents in the age group of 50-64 (19%) compared with an overall level of dissatisfaction of 15%.

Within equality grounds, those more likely to be dissatisfied were respondents in the age group 50-64 (19%) compared to respondents in the other age groups (16-29: 11%; 30-49: 15%; and 65+ 14%), those with a disability (25%) compared with those with no disability (13%), those who were Neither political opinion (16%) and Nationalist/Republican respondents (16%) compared to Unionist/Loyalist (10%) respondents.



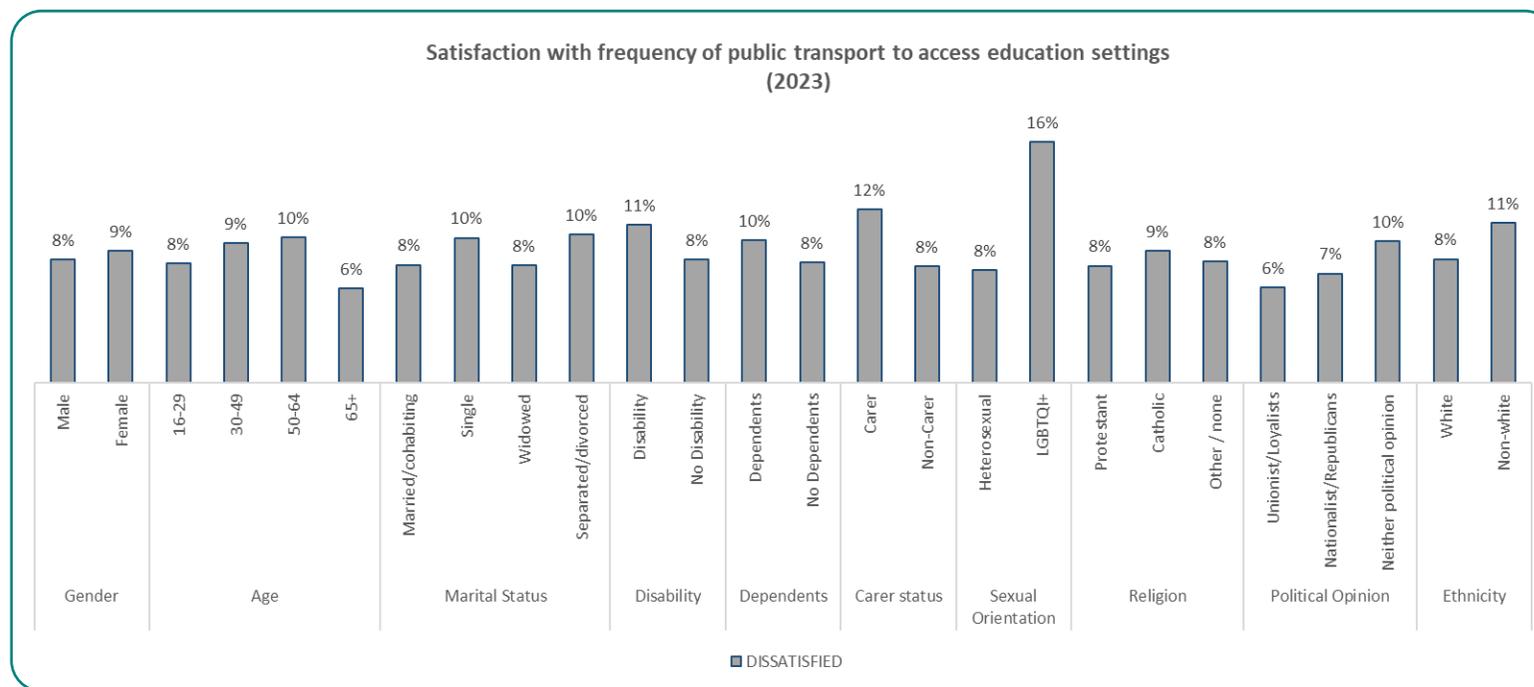
Population Indicator: In the areas where people live, their satisfaction with the frequency of public transport to access services – Education settings (school, university, college)

Data Source: Public Opinion Survey of Equality in Northern Ireland

Data Provider: Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

Across equality groups, the respondents more likely to declare they were dissatisfied with the frequency of public transport to access education settings were LGBTQI+ respondents (16%), carers (12%), non-white respondents (11%), and respondents with a disability (11%) compared with an overall level of dissatisfaction of 9%.

Within equality grounds, those more likely to be dissatisfied were respondents in the age group of 50-64 (10%) in comparison with the other age groups (16-29, 8%: 30-49, 9%:65+, 6%), those with a disability (11%) compared with those with no disability (8%), those who were Neither political opinion (10%) in comparison with Unionist/Loyalists, (6%) and Nationalist/Republicans respondents (7%).



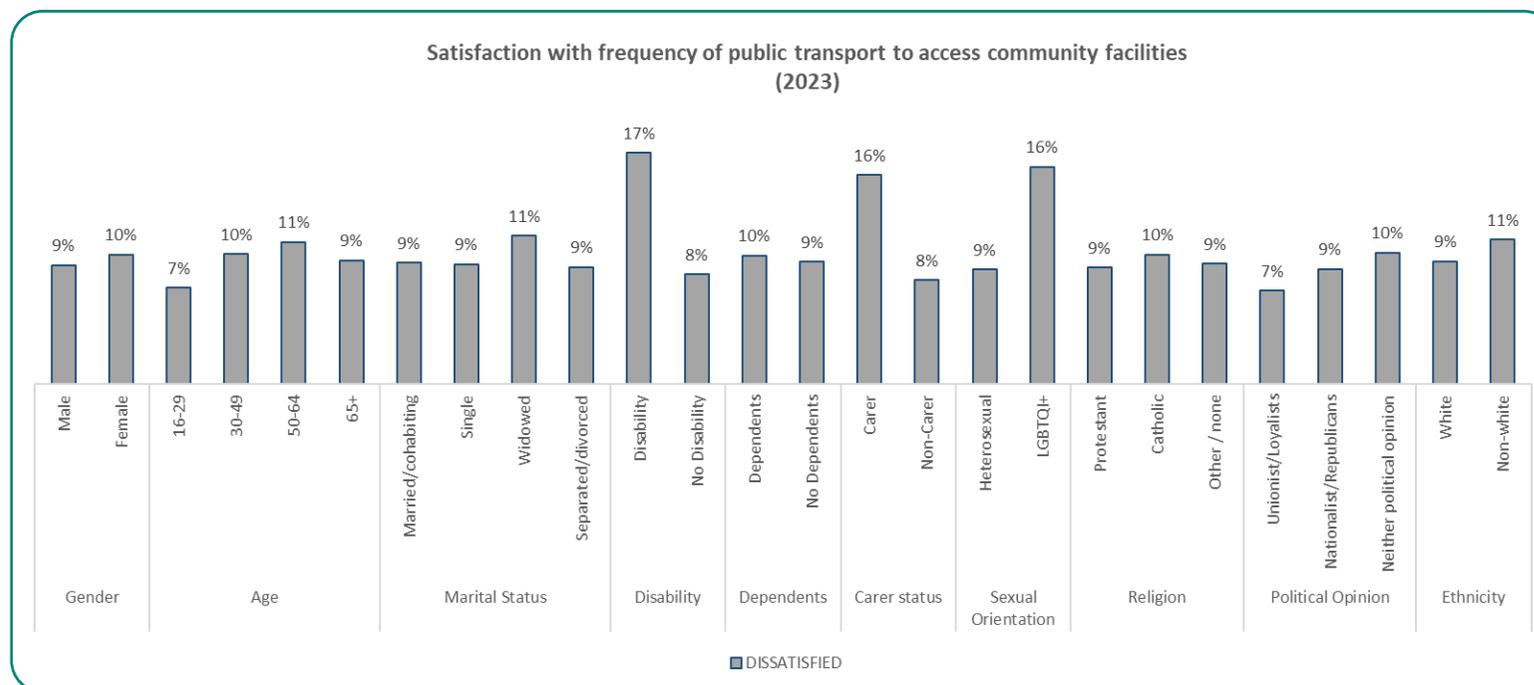
Population Indicator: In the areas where people live, their satisfaction with the frequency of public transport to access services – Community facilities (churches, community and leisure centres, parks)

Data Source: Public Opinion Survey of Equality in Northern Ireland

Data Provider: Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

Across equality groups, the respondents more likely to declare they were dissatisfied with the frequency of public transport to access community facilities were respondents with a disability (17%), carers (16%), LBGQTQI+ respondents (16%), non-white respondents (11%), widowed respondents (11%), and respondents in the age group of 50-64 (11%) compared with an overall level of dissatisfaction of 9%.

Within equality grounds, those more likely to be dissatisfied were those with a disability (17%) compared with those with no disability (8%), carers (16%) compared with non-carers (8%), those who were of Neither political opinion (10%) compared to Unionist/Loyalist (7%) or Nationalist/Republican respondents (9%).





Priority Area:

Participation in Cultural & Sporting Life

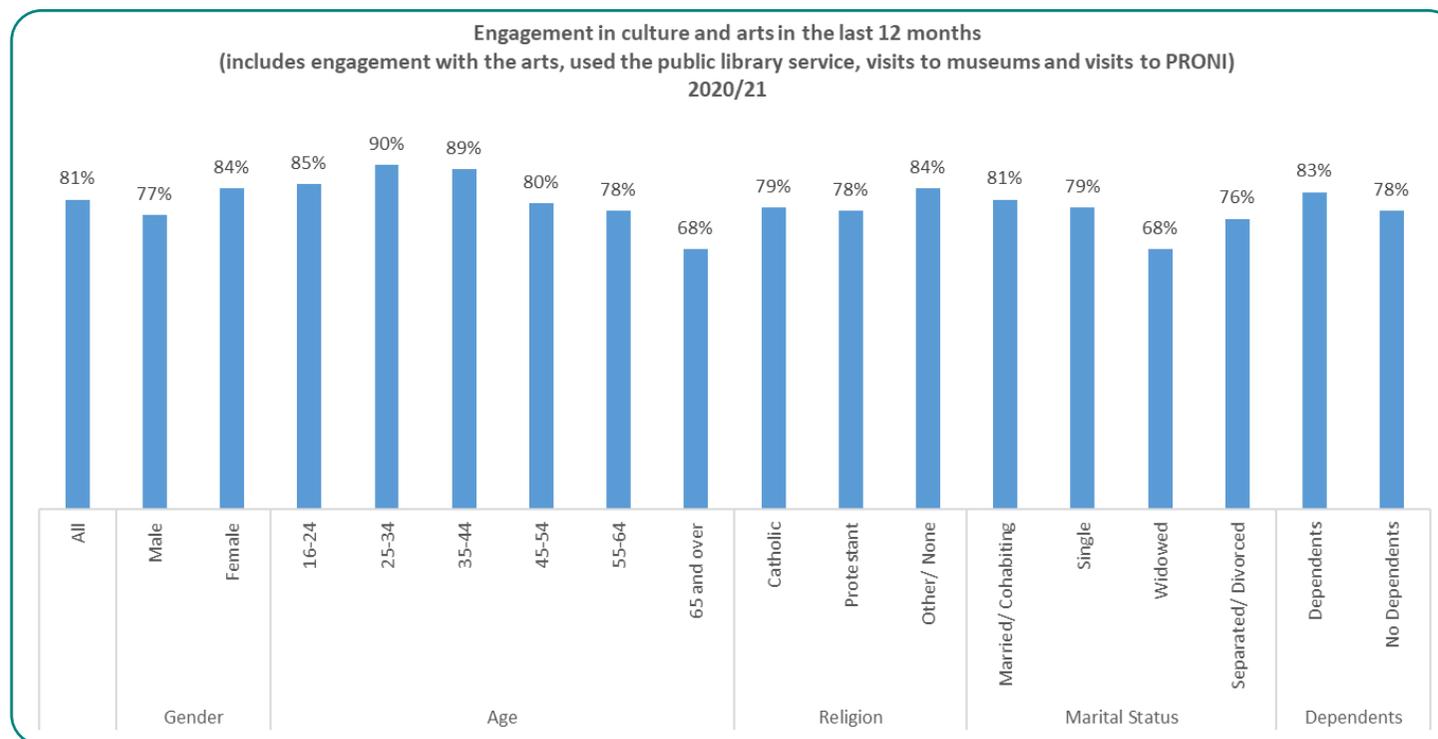
People are able to participate in social life within their communities, including culture, leisure and sport.

Population Indicator: Percentage of people engaging in arts/cultural activities – general engagement (this include includes engagement with the arts, used the public library service, visits to museums and visits to PRONI as recorded in the survey questions)

Data Source: Continuous Household Survey 2021-22

Data Provider: Northern Ireland Statistical Agency (NISRA)

Among all respondents of the survey, 81% had engaged in culture and arts activities in the last 12 months in 2020/21. Across the equality groups where data was available, those less likely to engage in culture and arts were male (77%), respondents of the age group of 65 and over (68%), Protestant respondents (78%), widowed respondents (68%) and those with no dependents (78%).

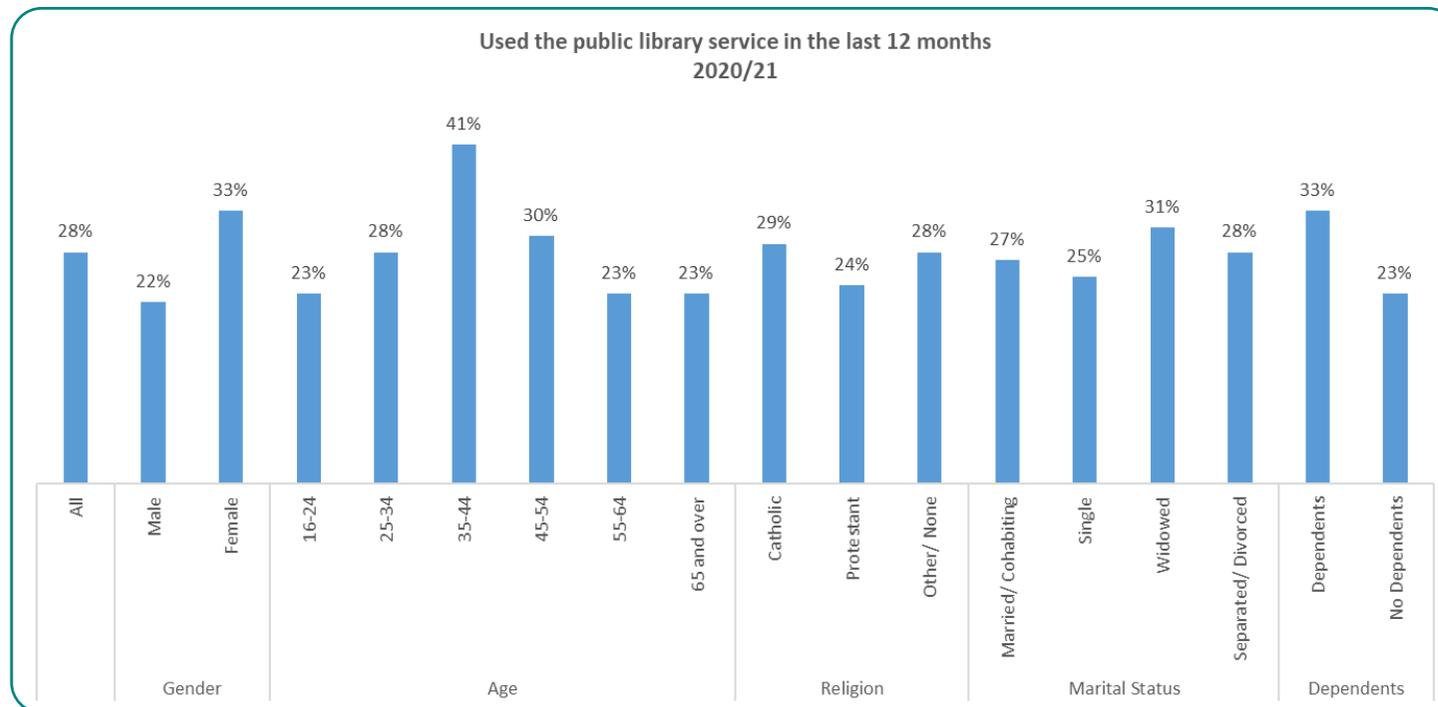


Population Indicator: Percentage of people engaging in arts/cultural activities – Used the public library service

Data Source: Continuous Household Survey

Data Provider: Northern Ireland Statistical Agency (NISRA)

Among all respondents of the survey, 28% had used the public library service in the last 12 months in 2020/21. Across the equality groups, where data was available, those less likely to have used the public library service were male respondents (22%), respondents of the age groups 16-24 (23%), 55-64 (23%), 65 and over (23%), respondents with no dependents (23%), Protestants (24%) and single respondents (25%).

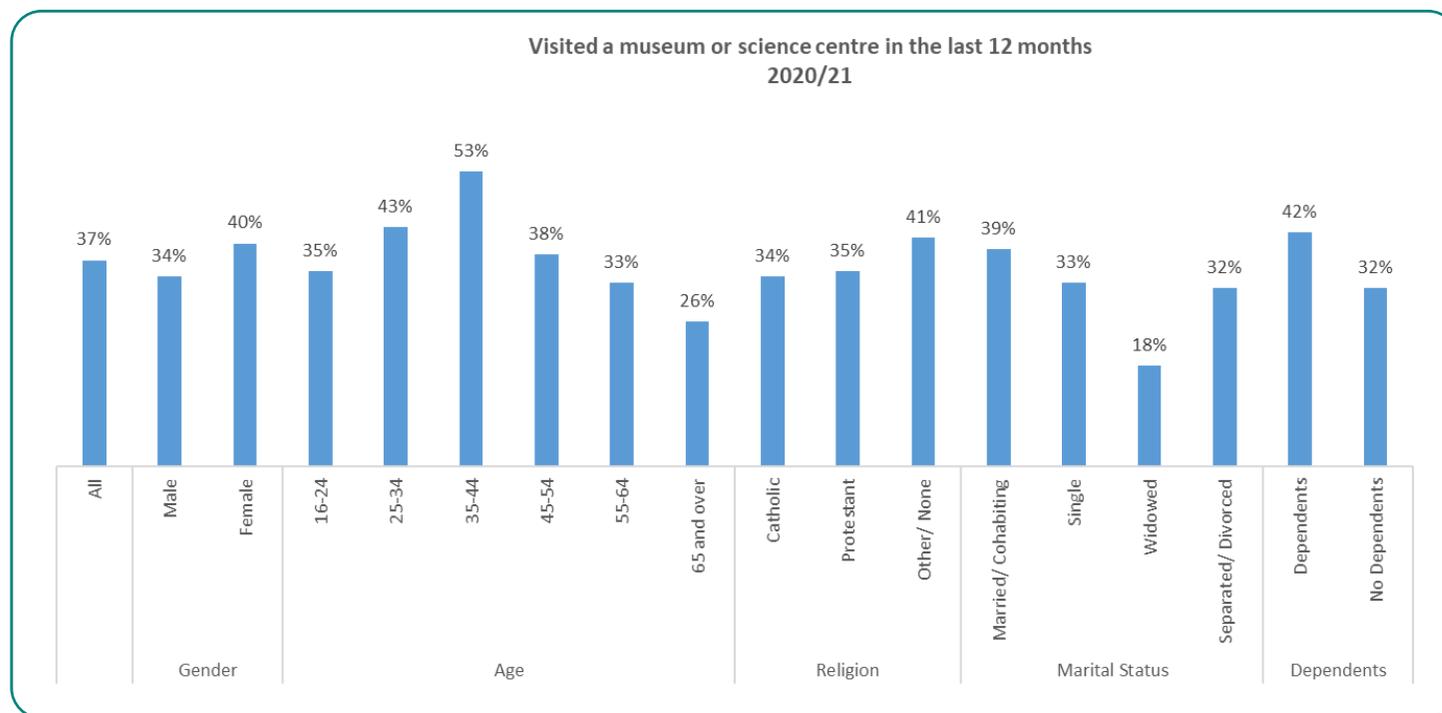


Population Indicator: Percentage of people engaging in arts/cultural activities – Visited a museum or science centre

Data Source: Continuous Household Survey

Data Provider: Northern Ireland Statistical Agency (NISRA)

Among all respondents of the survey, 37% had visited a museum or science centre in the last 12 months. Across the equality groups, where data was available, those less likely to have visited a museum or science centre were widowed respondents (18%), respondents of 65 and over (26%), respondents with no dependents (32%), male respondents (34%) and Catholic respondents (34%).

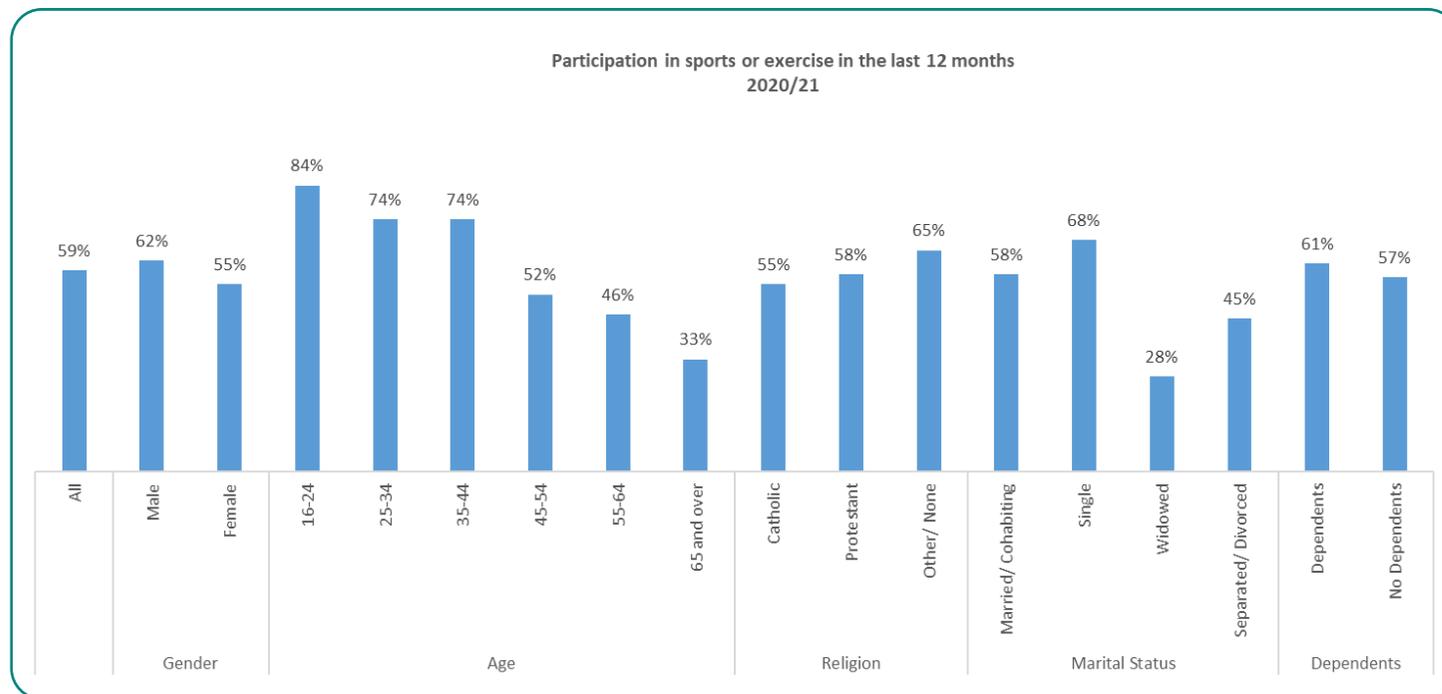


Population Indicator: Percentage of people who participated in sports or exercise in the last 12 months (this include includes participation in at least one of the following activities: Football, Gaelic games, Racket sports, Basketball or netball, Jogging, Cycling, Walking, Bowls or tenpin bowling, Swimming or diving, Angling or fishing, Keep fit/aerobics/ yoga/dance exercise/weight training, Snooker or pool, Golf or pitch and putt, Other)

Data Source: Continuous Household Survey

Data Provider: Northern Ireland Statistical Agency (NISRA)

Among all respondents of the survey, 59% had participated in sports or exercise in the last 12 months (includes participation in at least one of the following activities: Football, Gaelic games, Racket sports, Basketball or netball, Jogging, Cycling, Walking, Bowls or tenpin bowling, Swimming or diving, Angling or fishing, Keep fit/aerobics/yoga/dance exercise/weight training, Snooker or pool, Golf or pitch and putt, Other). Across the equality groups, where data was available, those less likely to have participated in sports were widowed respondents (28%), respondents of the age groups of 65 and over (33%) and 55-64 (46%), separate/divorced respondents (45%), female respondents (55%) and respondents with no dependents (57%).

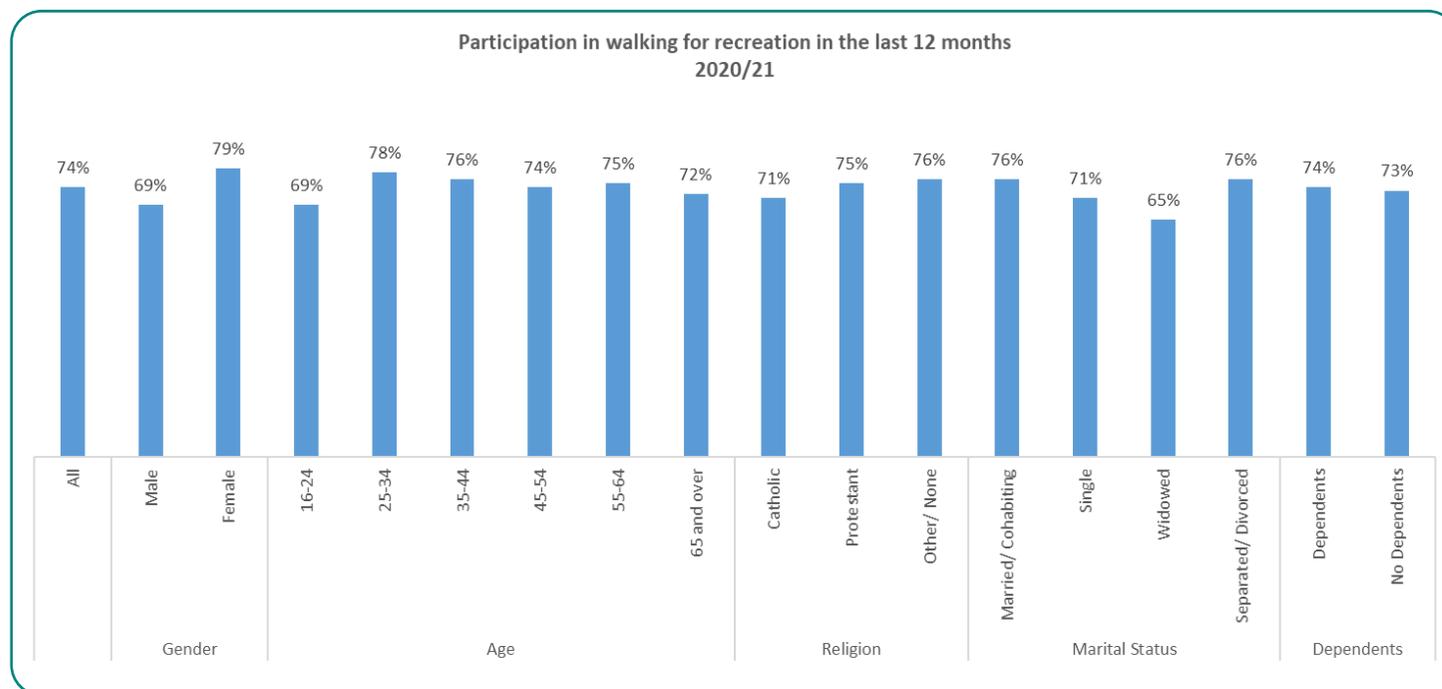


Population Indicator: Percentage of people who participated in walking in the last 12 months- *Walking for recreation.*

Data Source: Continuous Household Survey

Data Provider: Northern Ireland Statistical Agency (NISRA)

Among all respondents of the survey, 74% had participated in walking for recreation in the last 12 months. Across the equality groups, where data was available, those less likely to have walked for recreation were widowed respondents (65%), male respondents (69%), respondents of the age group of 16-24 (69%), single respondents (71%) and Catholic respondents (71%).





Priority Area:

Digital Inclusion

All people have access to information and technology necessary to participate in society

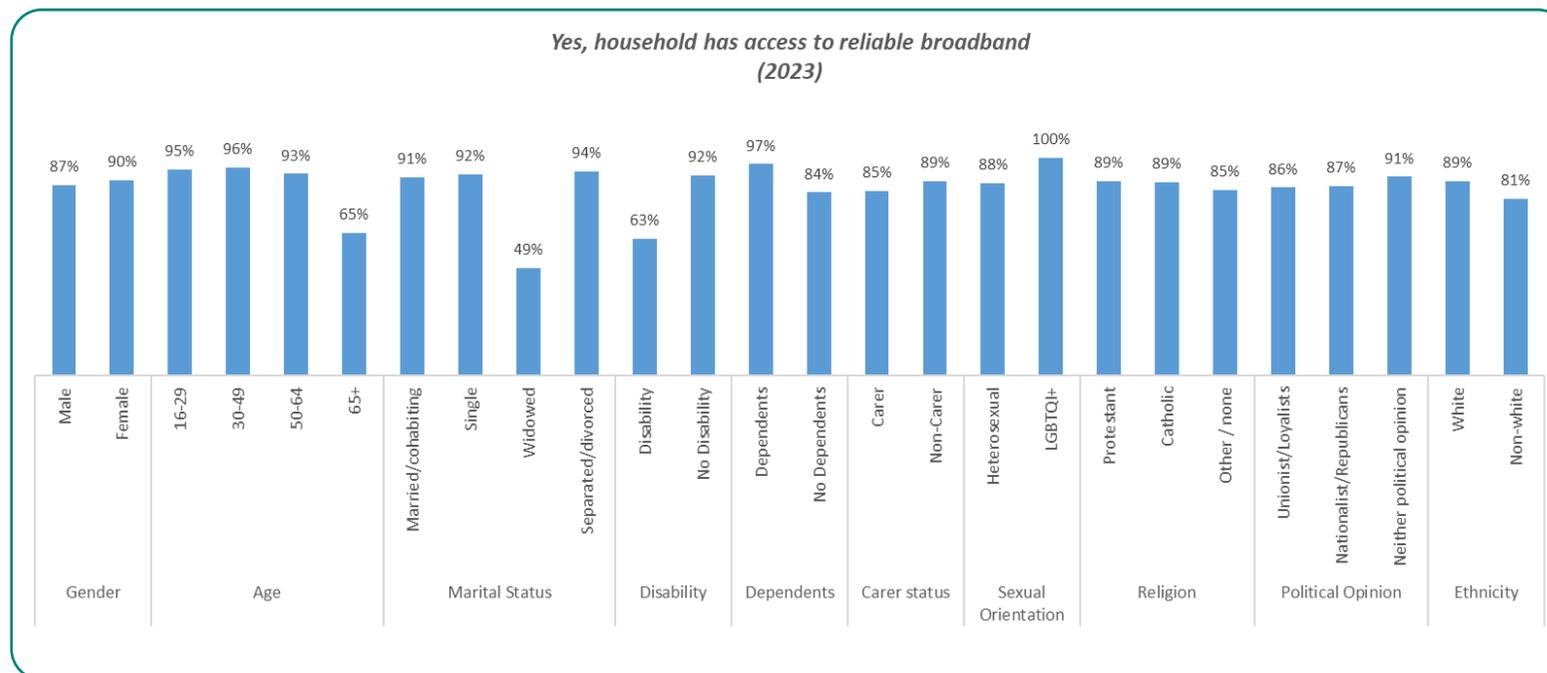
Population Indicator: Percentage of people who have access to reliable broadband.

Data Source: Public Opinion Survey of Equality in Northern Ireland

Data Provider: Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

Those less likely to have access to reliable broadband were those who were widowed (49%), with a disability (63%), those aged 65+ (65%), and non-white respondents (81%) compared with an overall level of respondents say in ‘yes’ of 89%.

When looking within equality grounds, those less likely to say their household has reliable access to broadband included those aged 65+ (65%) compared to other age groups (16-29, 95%: 30-49, 96%: 50-64, 93%), respondents with a disability (63%) compared to those with no disability (92%), those with no dependents (84%) compared to those with dependents (97%), widowed respondents (49%) compared to married/cohabiting (91%), single (92%) and separated/divorced (94%) respondents.



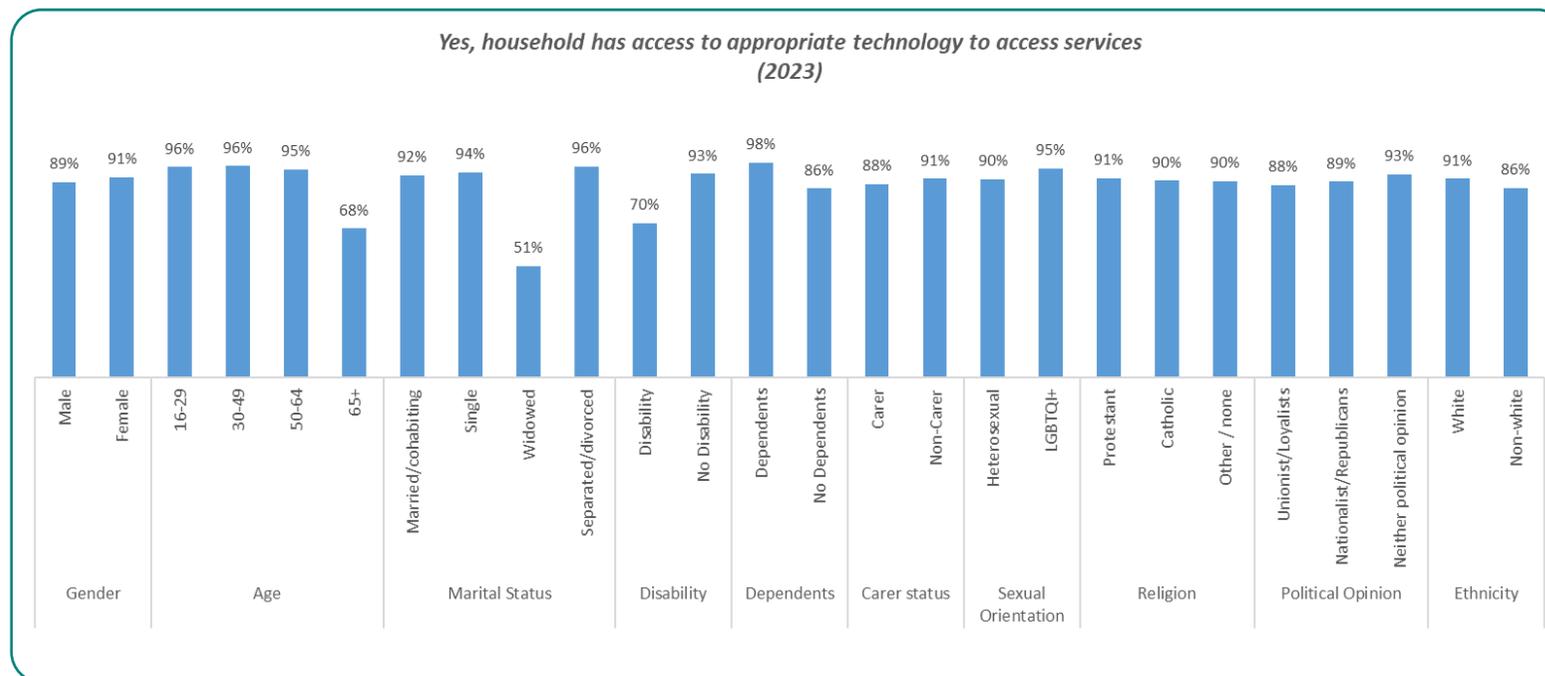
Population Indicator: Percentage of people who have access to the appropriate technology to access services

Data Source: Public Opinion Survey of Equality in Northern Ireland

Data Provider: Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

Across the equality groups, those less likely to have access to the appropriate technology were widowed respondents (51%), those aged 65+ (68%), and respondents with a disability (70%) compared with an overall level of respondents say in ‘yes’ of 90%.

Within equality grounds, those less likely to say their household has access to the appropriate technology included those aged 65+ (68%) compared to other age groups (16-29, 96%: 30-49, 97%: 50-64, 95%), respondents with a disability (70%) compared to those without (93%), those with no dependents (86%) compared to those with (98%), and widowed (51%) respondents compared to other marital statuses (married/cohab. 92%: single, 94%: separated/divorced, 96%).



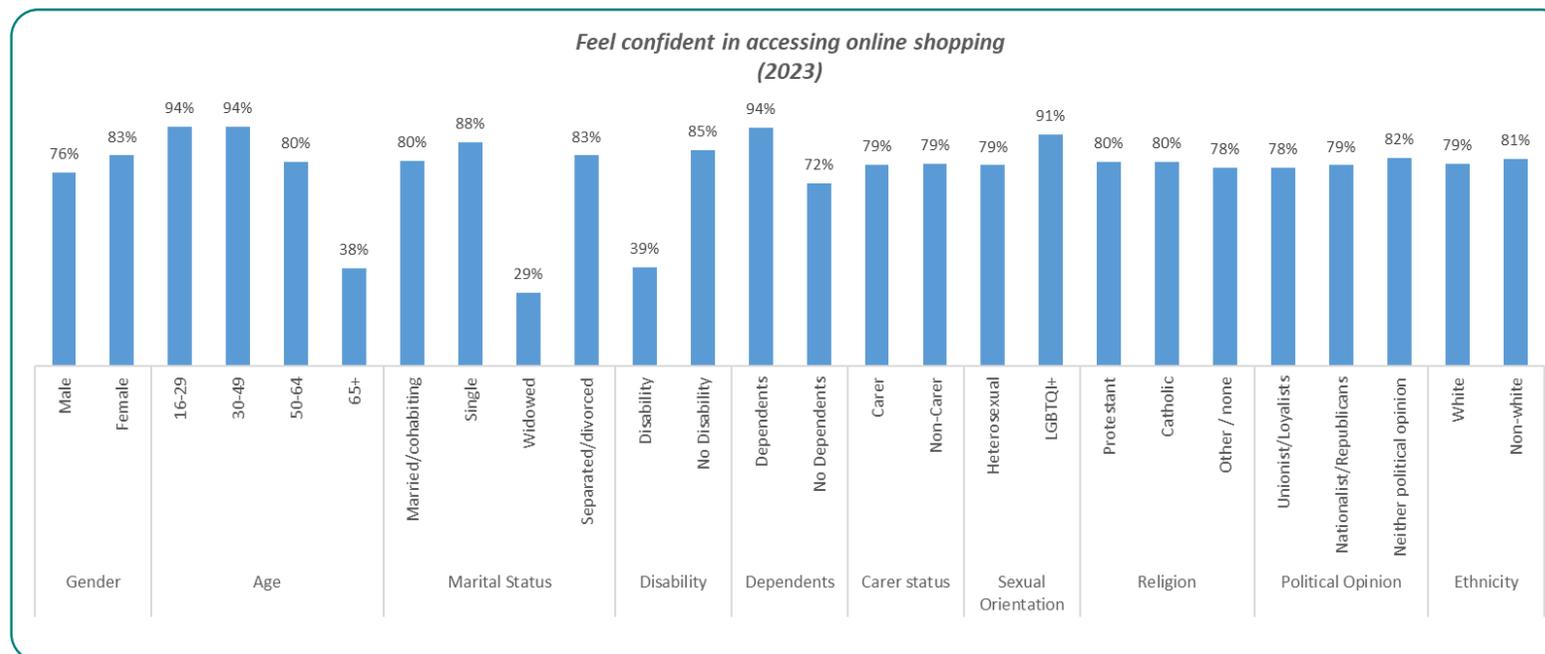
Population Indicator: Percentage of people who feel confident in accessing services online - Shopping

Data Source: Public Opinion Survey of Equality in Northern Ireland

Data Provider: Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

Across the equality groups, those less likely to feel confident accessing online shopping were widowed respondents (29%), respondents in the age group 65+ (38%), and respondents with a disability (39%) compared with an overall level of confidence of 79%.

Within equality grounds, those less likely to be confident accessing online shopping were men (76%) compared with women (83%), those aged 65+ (38%) compared to other age groups (16-29, 94%: 30-49, 94%: 50-64, 80%), respondents with a disability (39%) compared to those with no disability (85%), those with no dependents (72%) compared to those with dependents (94%), and widowed respondents (29%) compared to those of other marital statuses (married/cohab. 80%: single, 88%: separated/divorced, 83%).



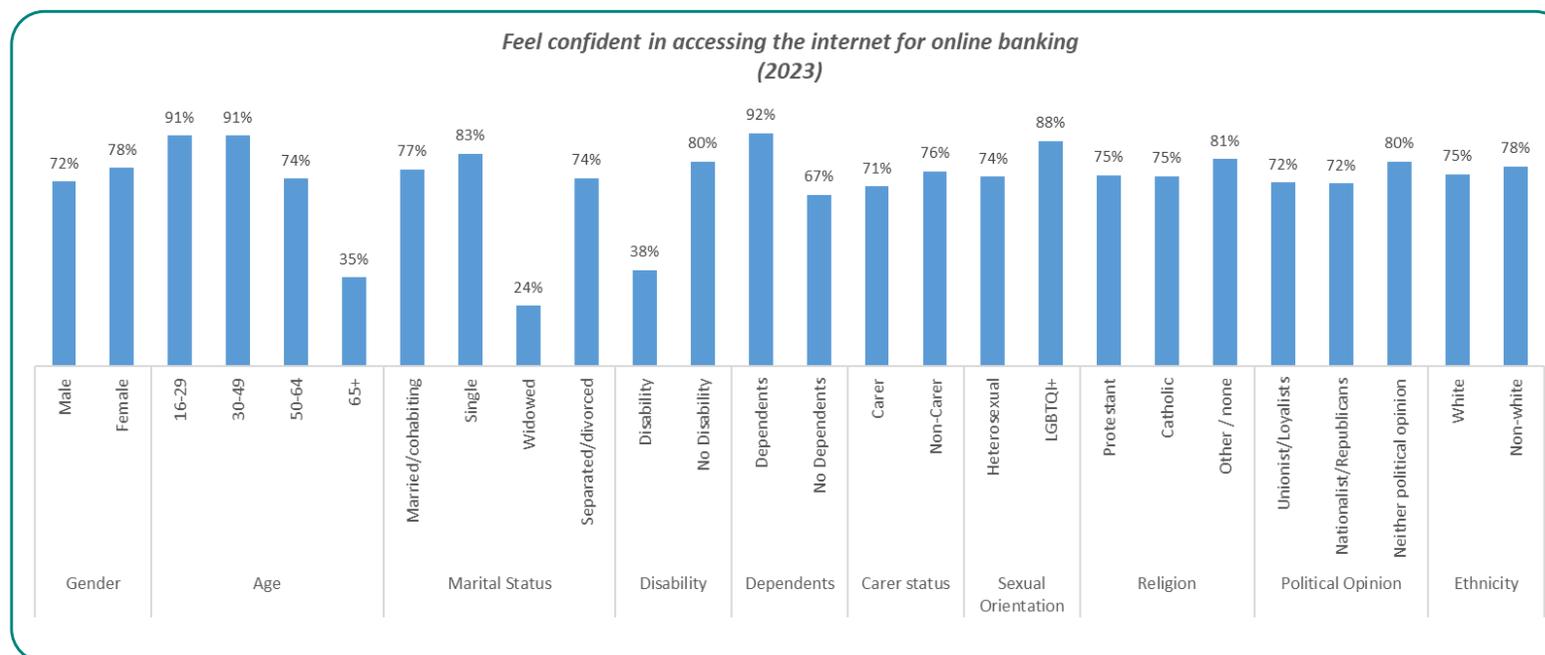
Population Indicator: Percentage of people who feel confident in accessing services online – Online Banking

Data Source: Public Opinion Survey of Equality in Northern Ireland

Data Provider: Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

Across the equality groups, those less likely to feel confident accessing the internet for online banking were widowed respondents (24%), respondents in the age group of 65+ (35%), respondents with a disability (38%), and respondents with no dependents (67%) compared with an overall level of confidence of 75%.

Within equality grounds, those less likely to be confident were men (72%) compared with women (78%), those aged 65+ (35%) compared to other age groups (16-29, 91%: 30-49, 91%: 50-64, 74%), respondents with a disability (38%) compared to those without (80%), heterosexuals (75%) compared to LGBTQI+ respondents (88%), Unionist/Loyalists (72%) and Nationalist/Republicans (72%) respondents compared with those of Neither political opinion (80%), those with no dependents (67%) compared to those with dependents (92%), and widowed (24%) respondents compared to married/cohab. (77%), single (83%), separated/divorced (74%) respondents.



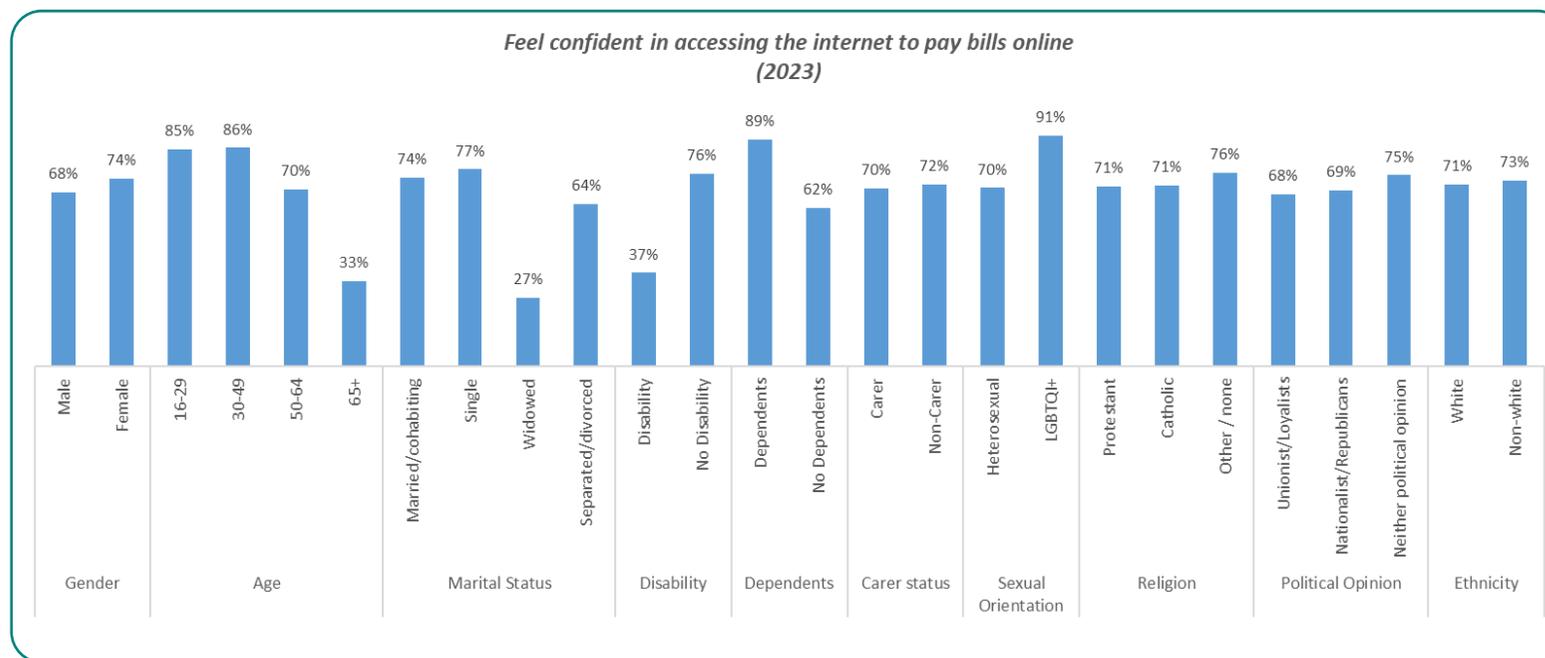
Population Indicator: Percentage of people who feel confident in accessing services online – To pay bills online

Data Source: Public Opinion Survey of Equality in Northern Ireland

Data Provider: Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

Across the equality groups, those less likely to feel confident accessing the internet to pay bills online were widowed respondents (27%), respondents in the age group of 65+ (33%), and respondents with a disability (37%) compared with an overall level of confidence of 71%.

Within equality grounds, those less likely to be confident were those aged 65+ (33%) compared to other age groups (16-29, 85%: 30-49, 86%: 50-64, 70%), respondents with a disability (37%) compared to those with no disability (76%), heterosexuals (70%) compared to LGBTQI+ respondents (91%), those with no dependents (62%) compared to those with dependents (89%), and widowed (27%) respondents compared with other marital statuses (married/cohab. 74%: single, 77%: separated/divorced, 64%).



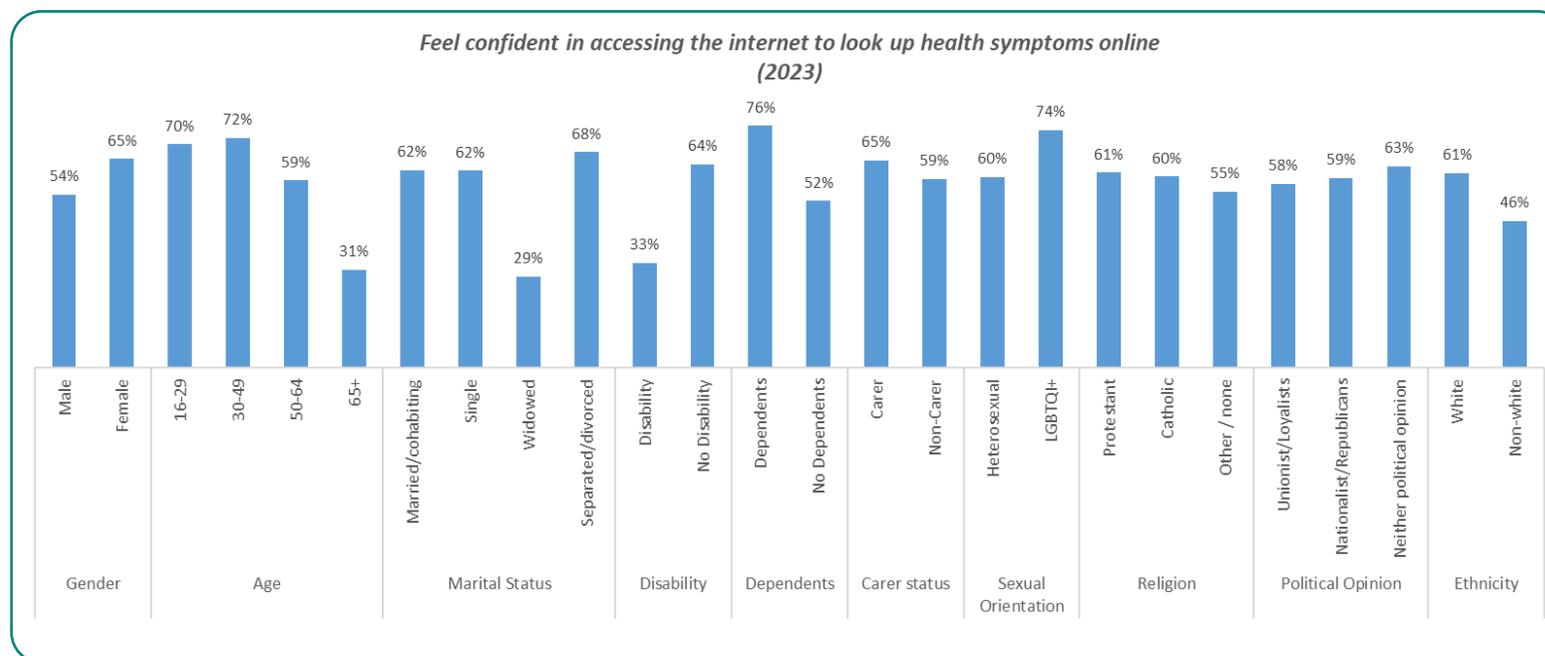
Population Indicator: Percentage of people who feel confident in accessing services online – To look up for health symptoms online

Data Source: Public Opinion Survey of Equality in Northern Ireland

Data Provider: Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

Across the equality groups, those less likely to feel confident accessing the internet to look up health symptoms were widowed respondents (29%), those aged of 65+ (31%), respondents with a disability (33%), non-white respondents (46%), respondents with no dependents (52%), males (54%), and respondents with Other or No religion (55%) compared with an overall level of confidence of 60%.

Within equality grounds, those less likely to be confident were men (54%) compared with women (65%), those aged 65+ (31%) compared to other age groups (16-29, 70%: 30-49, 72%: 50-64, 59%), respondents with a disability (33%) compared to those with no disability (64%), those with no dependents (52%) compared to those with dependents (76%), and those widowed (29%) compared to married/cohabiting (62%), single (62%), separated/divorced (68%) respondents.



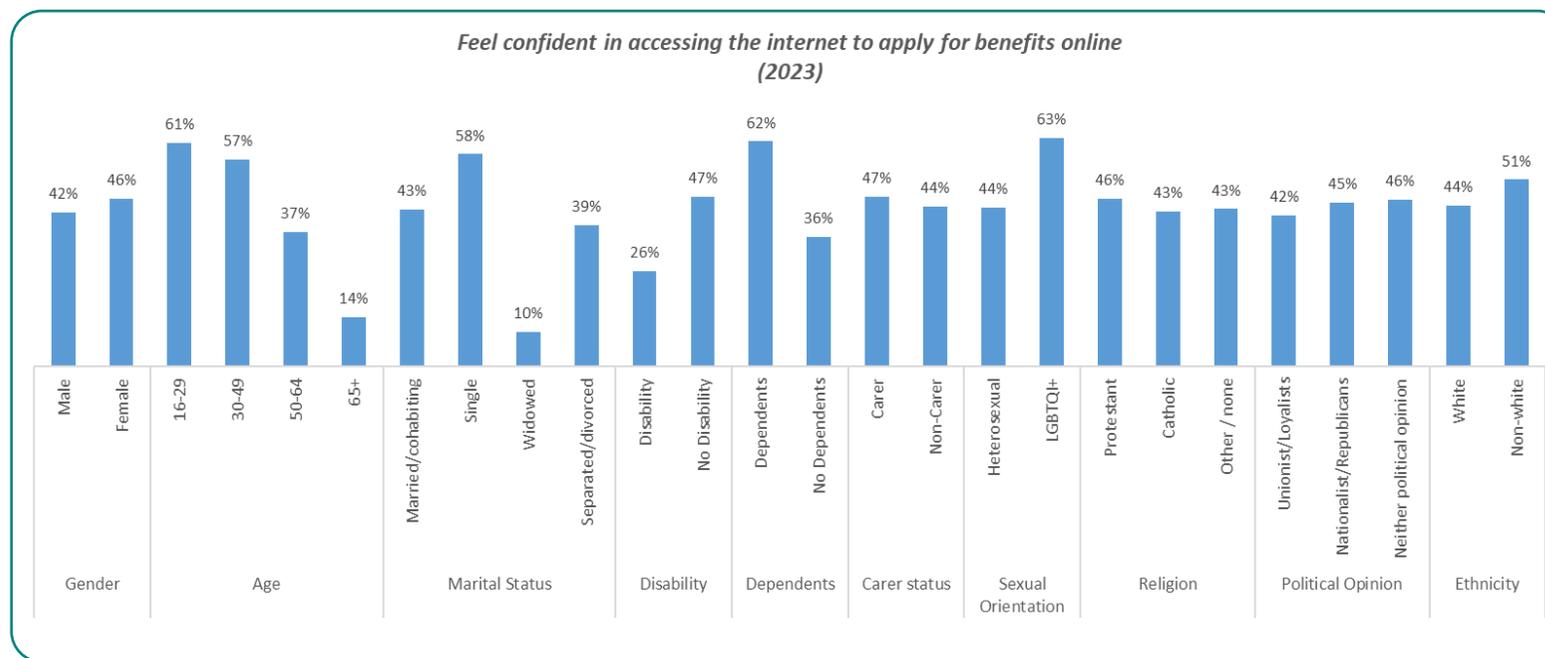
Population Indicator: Percentage of people who feel confident in accessing services online – To apply for benefits online.

Data Source: Public Opinion Survey of Equality in Northern Ireland

Data Provider: Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

Across the equality groups, those less likely to feel confident accessing the internet to apply for benefits online were widowed respondents (10%), respondents aged 65+ (14%), those with a disability (26%), and respondents with no dependents (36%) compared with an overall level of confidence of 44%.

Within equality grounds, those less likely to be confident were those aged 65+ (14%) compared to other age groups (16-29, 61%: 30-49, 57%: 50-64, 37%), respondents with a disability (26%) compared to those with no disability (47%), heterosexual respondents (44%) compared to LGBTQI+ respondents (63%), those with no dependents (36%) compared to those with dependents (62%), and widowed (10%) respondents compared to married/cohab. (43%), single (58%), separated/divorced (39%) respondents.



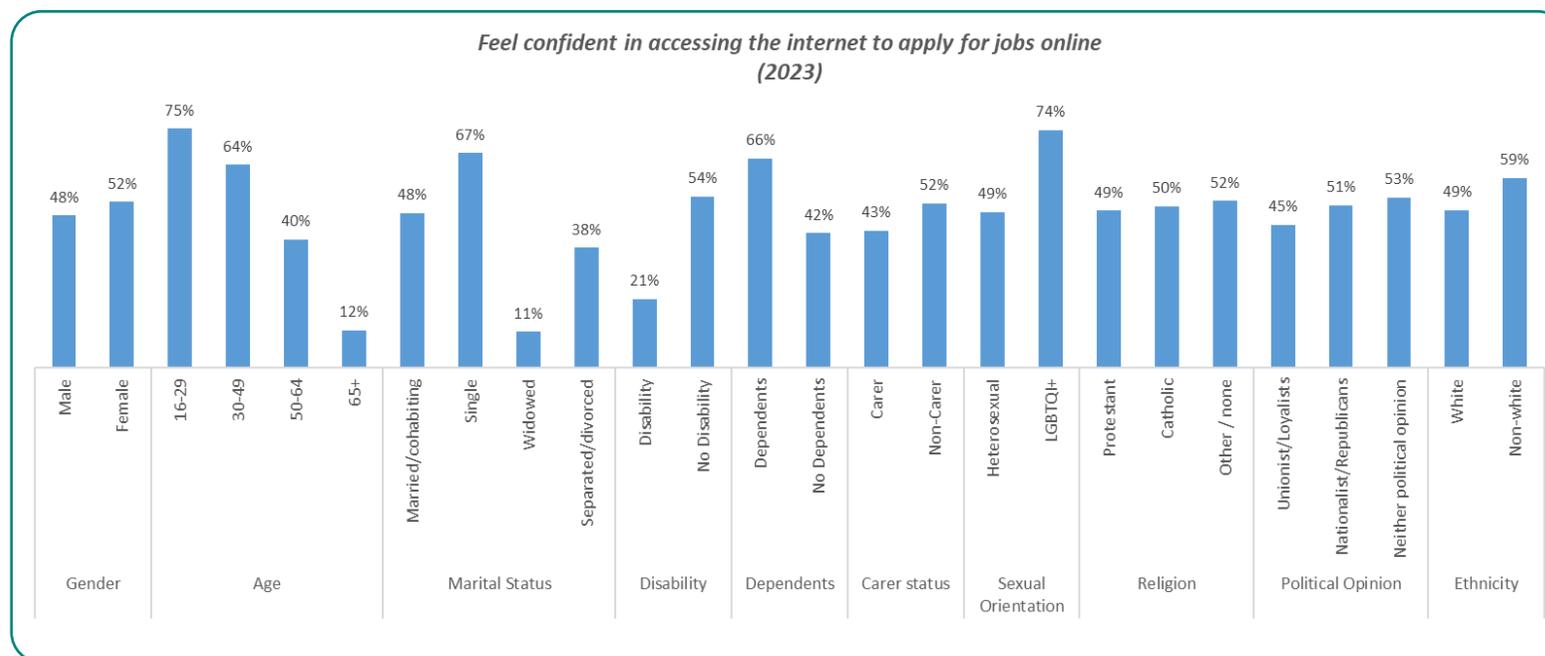
Population Indicator: Percentage of people who feel confident in accessing services online – To apply for jobs online

Data Source: Public Opinion Survey of Equality in Northern Ireland

Data Provider: Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

Across the equality groups, those less likely to feel confident accessing the internet to apply for jobs online were widowed respondents (11%), respondents aged 65+ (12%) and respondents with a disability (21%) compared with an overall level of confidence of 50%. Respondents with no dependents (42%), carers (43%), those aged 50-64 (40%) and those separate/divorced (38%) were marginally less likely to feel confident accessing the internet to apply for jobs online.

Within equality grounds, those less likely to be confident were those aged 65+ (12%) compared to other age groups (16-29, 75%: 30-49, 64%: 50-64, 40%), respondents with a disability (21%) compared to those with no disability (54%), heterosexuals (49%) compared with LGBTQI+ respondents (74%), those with no dependents (42%) compared to those with dependents (66%), carers (43%) compared with non-carers (52%), and widowed respondents (11%) compared to married/cohab. (48%), single (67%), separated/divorced (38%).





Priority Area:

Freedom from Discrimination and Hate

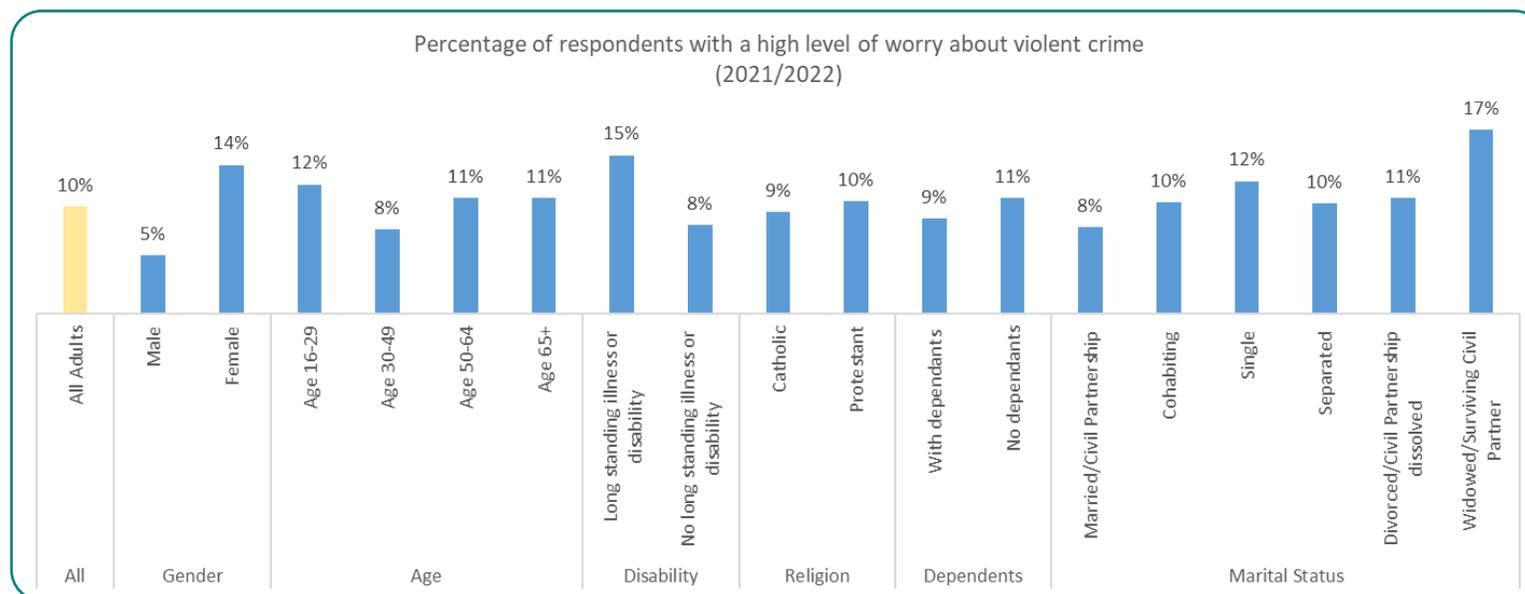
Everyone is free from discrimination harassment and hate crime in their community

Population Indicator: Percentage of people who worry about crime and personal safety and becoming a victim of violent crime.

Data Source: The 2020/21 and 2021/22 Northern Ireland Safe Community Telephone Surveys

Data Provider: Department of Justice, Northern Ireland

In 2021/2022, the percentage of all participants of the survey with a high level of worry about violent crime was 10%. Across the equality groups, where data was available, those more likely to have a high level of worry were widowed/surviving civil partner respondents (17%), respondents with a long standing illness or disability (15%), and female respondents (14%). Within equality groups, differences were more evident between female (14%) and male (5%), between respondents with a long-standing illness or disability (15%) and those without (8%), and between married/civil partnership respondents (8%) and those who were widowed/surviving civil partner (17%).

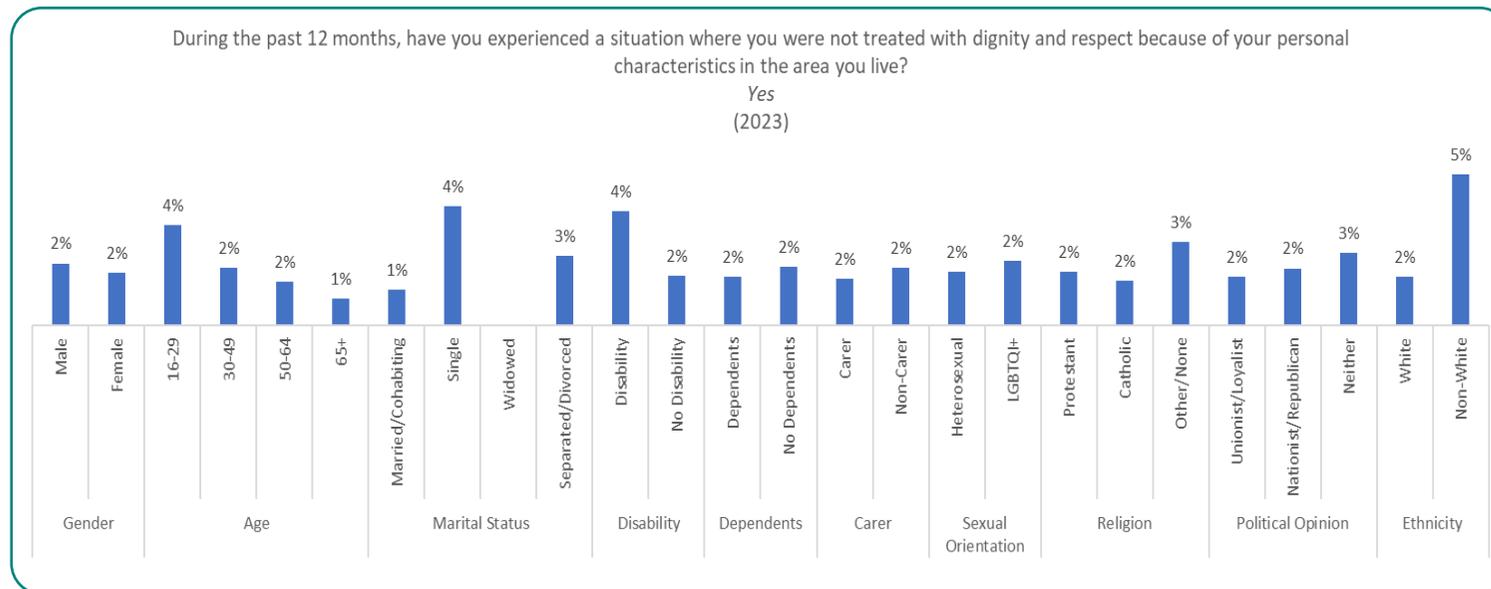


Population Indicator: Percentage of people, during the past 12 months that have personally experienced or witnessed a situation where they (or others) were not treated with dignity and respect in the area they live based on their personal characteristics – *Personal experience of not being treated with dignity and respect.*

Data Source: Public Opinion Survey of Equality in Northern Ireland

Data Provider: Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

Overall, two percent of respondents declared that they have personally experienced a situation where there were not treated with dignity and respect in the area where they live (2%). Across the equality groups, respondents more likely to state they had personally experienced a situation where they were not treated with dignity and respect based on their personal characteristics in the area they live were non-white respondents (5%), single respondents (4%), respondents with a disability (4%), respondents in the age group of 16-29 (4%) and respondents with other or no religion (3%).

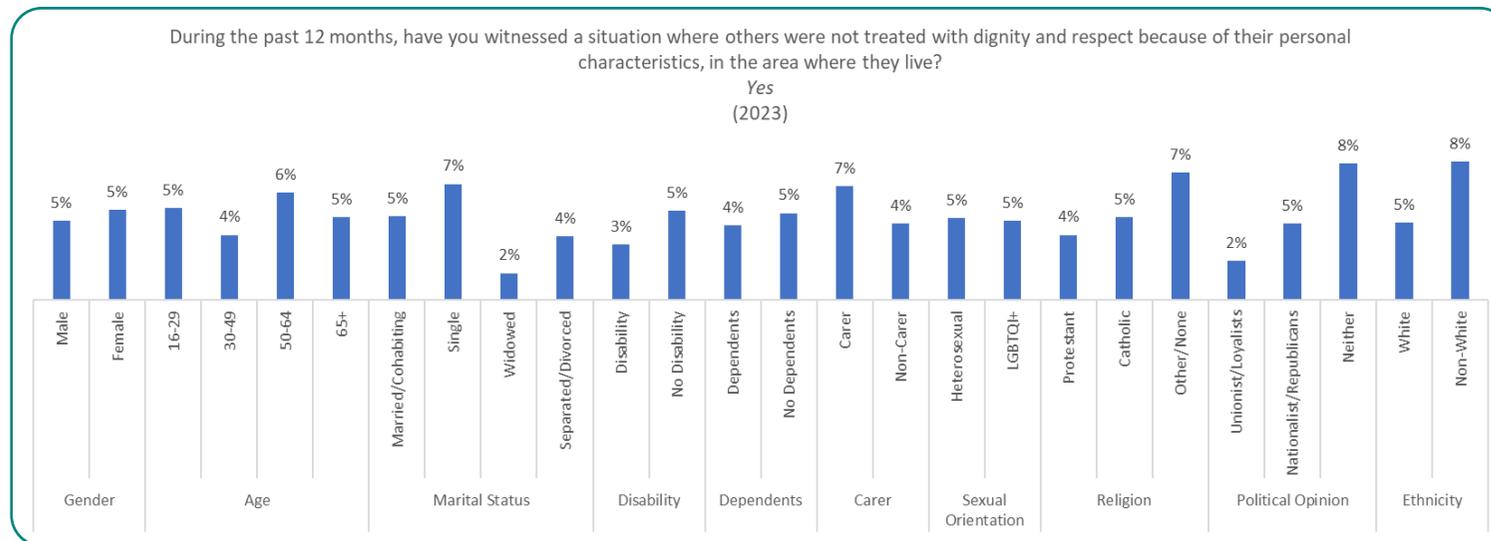


Population Indicator: Percentage of people, during the past 12 months that have personally experienced or witnessed a situation where they (or others) were not treated with dignity and respect in the area they live based on their personal characteristics – *Witnessed a situation where they (or others) were not treated with dignity and respect.*

Data Source: Public Opinion Survey of Equality in Northern Ireland

Data Provider: Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

Overall, five percent of respondents declared that they had witnessed a situation where others were not treated with dignity and respect based upon their personal characteristics in the area they lived (5%). Across the equality groups, respondents more likely to state they had witnessed a situation where others were not treated with dignity and respect based on their personal characteristics in the area they lived were non-white respondents (8%), respondents with Neither Nationalists nor Unionists as their political opinion (8%), respondents with Other or No religion (7%), carers respondents (7%), single respondents (7%), and respondents in the age group of 50-64 (6%).





Priority Area:

Freedom from Violence

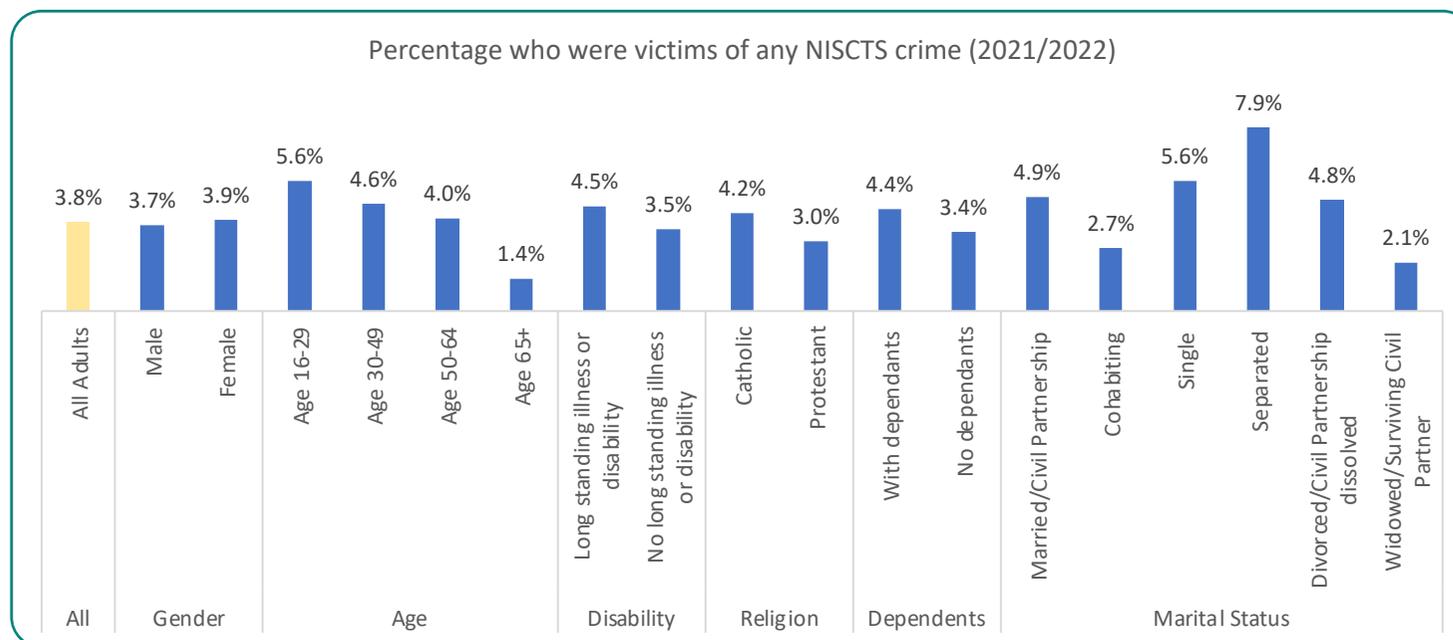
All people are free from all forms of violence, including sexual and domestic violence

Population Indicator: Percentage of adults in Northern Ireland who were a victim of any NICS crime

Data Source: The 2020/21 and 2021/22 Northern Ireland Safe Community Telephone Surveys

Data Provider: Department of Justice, Northern Ireland

In 2021/2022, the percentage of all participants in the survey who were victims of crime was 3.8%. Across the equality groups, where data was available, those more likely to report that they have been victims of crime were respondents who were separated (7.9%), those who were single (5.6%), and respondents in the age group of 16-29 (5.6%).





Priority Area:

Security

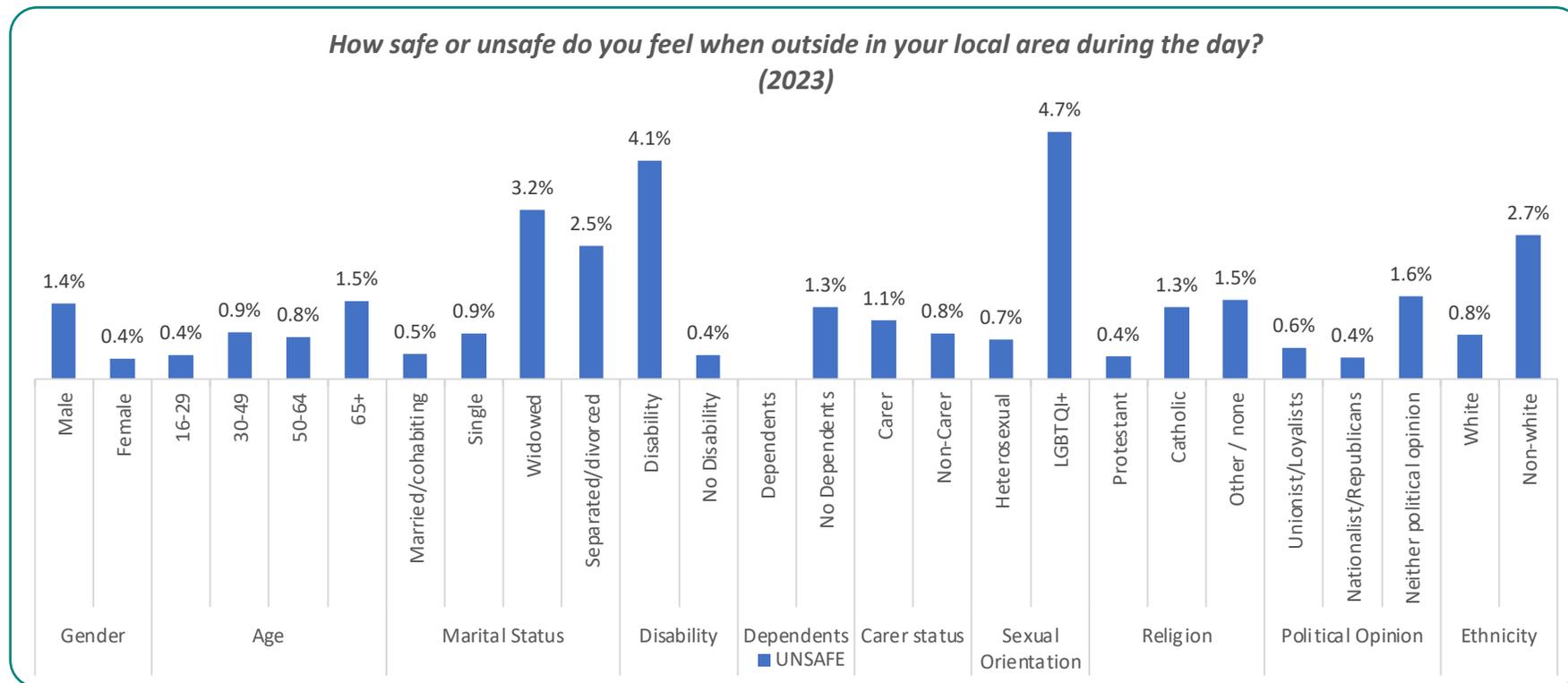
We live in a safe community where we respect the law and each other. All people are able to move around freely and without fear

Population Indicator: Percentage of adults who feel safe in their community during the day and in the dark – *During the day*

Data Source: Public Opinion Survey of Equality in Northern Ireland

Data Provider: Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

In 2023, more than nine out of ten respondents (90.8%) indicated that they feel safe during the day, while 7.9% said they neither feel safe or unsafe, 0.9% of respondents said they feel unsafe. Across the equality groups, respondents more likely to state they feel unsafe when outside in the local area during the day were LGBTQI+ respondents (4.7%), respondents with a disability (4.1%), widowed (3.2%) and separated/divorced (2.5%) respondents, and non-white respondents (2.7%).

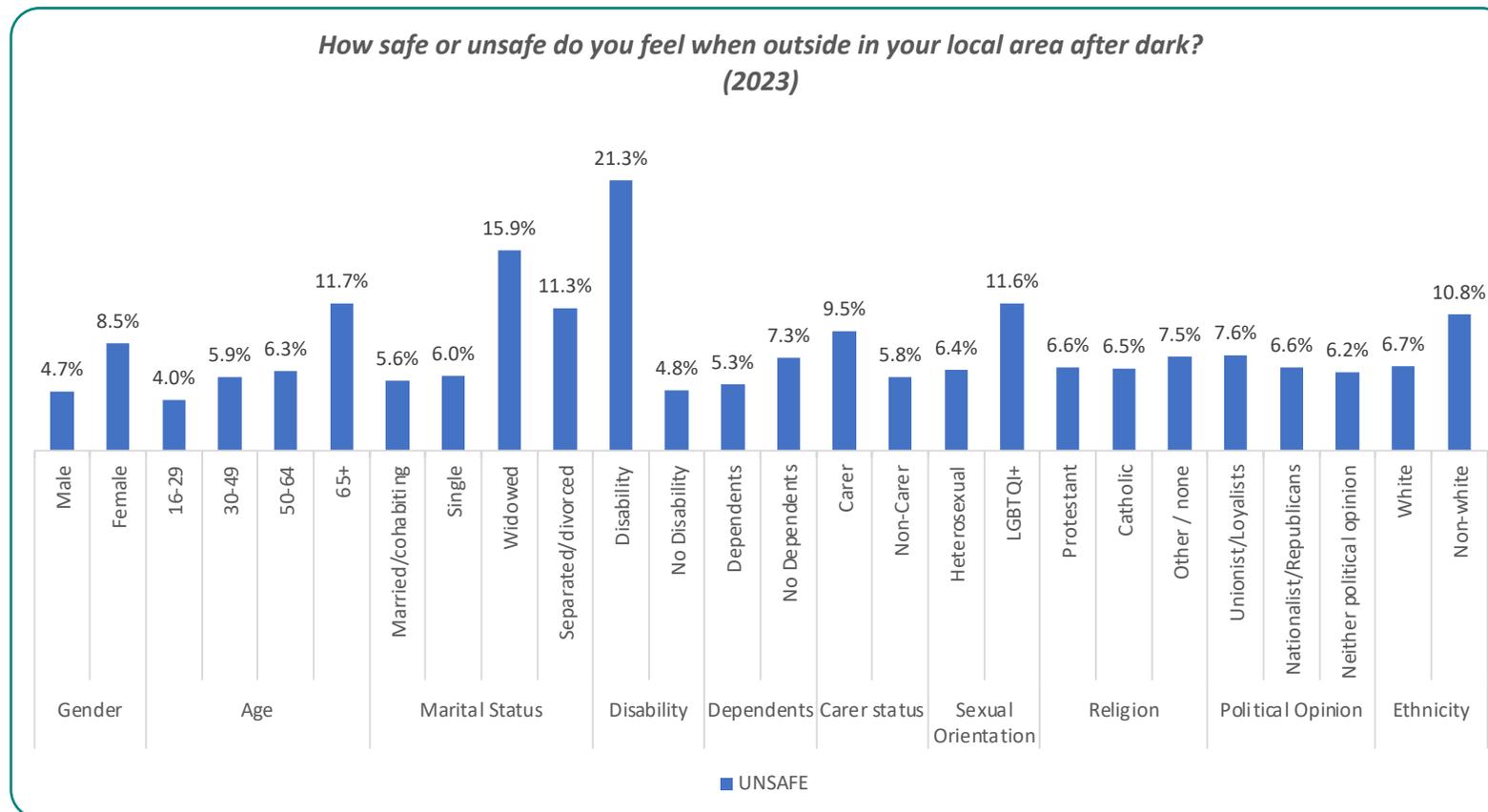


Population Indicator: Percentage of adults who feel safe in their community during the day and in the dark – After dark

Data Source: Public Opinion Survey of Equality in Northern Ireland

Data Provider: Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

In 2023, more than seven out of ten respondents (70.6%) indicated that they feel safe after dark, while a fifth (20.1%) said they neither feel safe or unsafe, and 6.8% of respondents said they feel unsafe with 2.5% saying they don't know. Across the equality groups, respondents more likely to state they feel unsafe when outside in the local area after dark were respondents with a disability (21.3%), widowed (15.9%), separated/divorced respondents (11.3%), LGBTQI+ respondents (11.6%), respondents in the age group of 65+ (11.7%), non-white respondents (10.8%), female respondents (8.5%) and carers (9.5%).

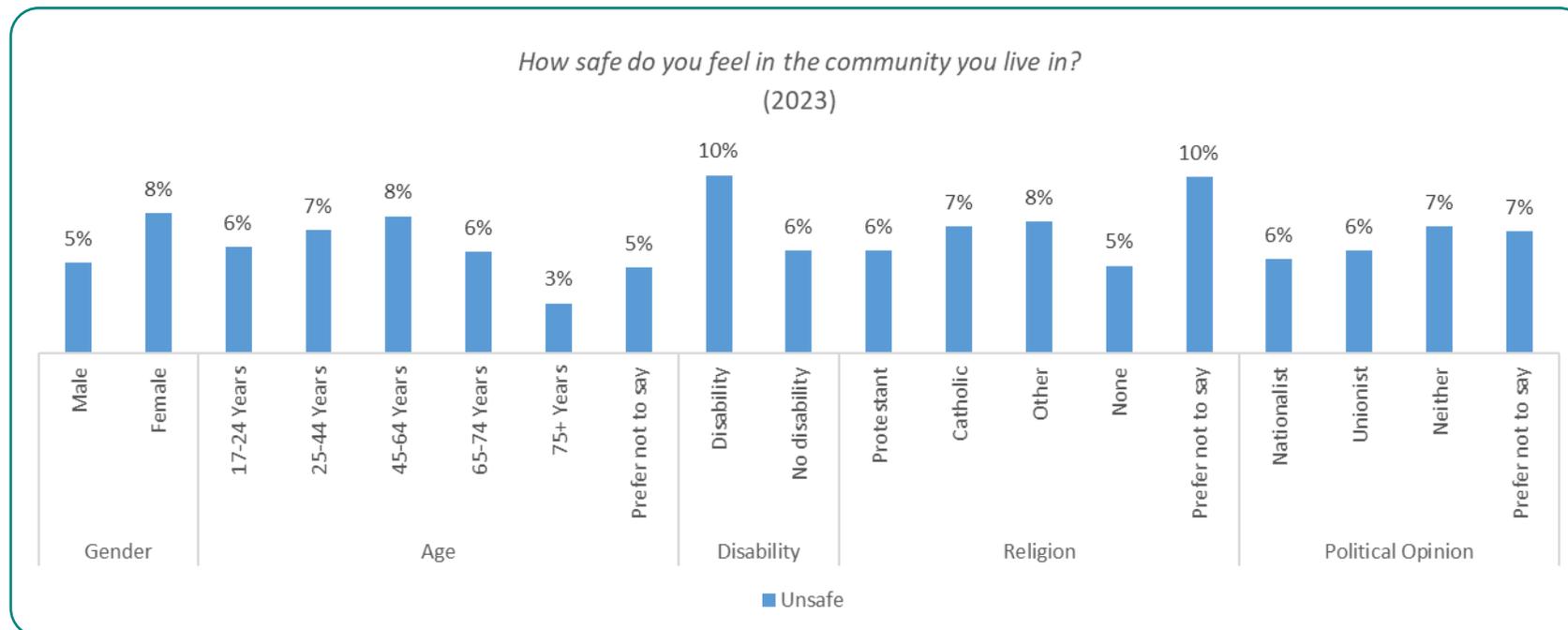


Population Indicator: Percentage of respondents who felt safe or unsafe in their community

Data Source: Northern Ireland Policing Plan Survey 2023

Data Provider: Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB)

In general, just over a third (36%) of all respondents stated that they felt very safe in their community, plus, a further half of all respondents (57%) declared that they felt safe. Only 6% of respondents indicated they felt unsafe and 1% stated they felt very unsafe¹. Across the equality groups, respondents more likely to state they feel unsafe in the community they live in were respondents with a disability (10%), those who preferred not to say their religion (10%) and those who with an other religion (8%), female respondents (8%) and respondents in the age group of 45-64 (8%).



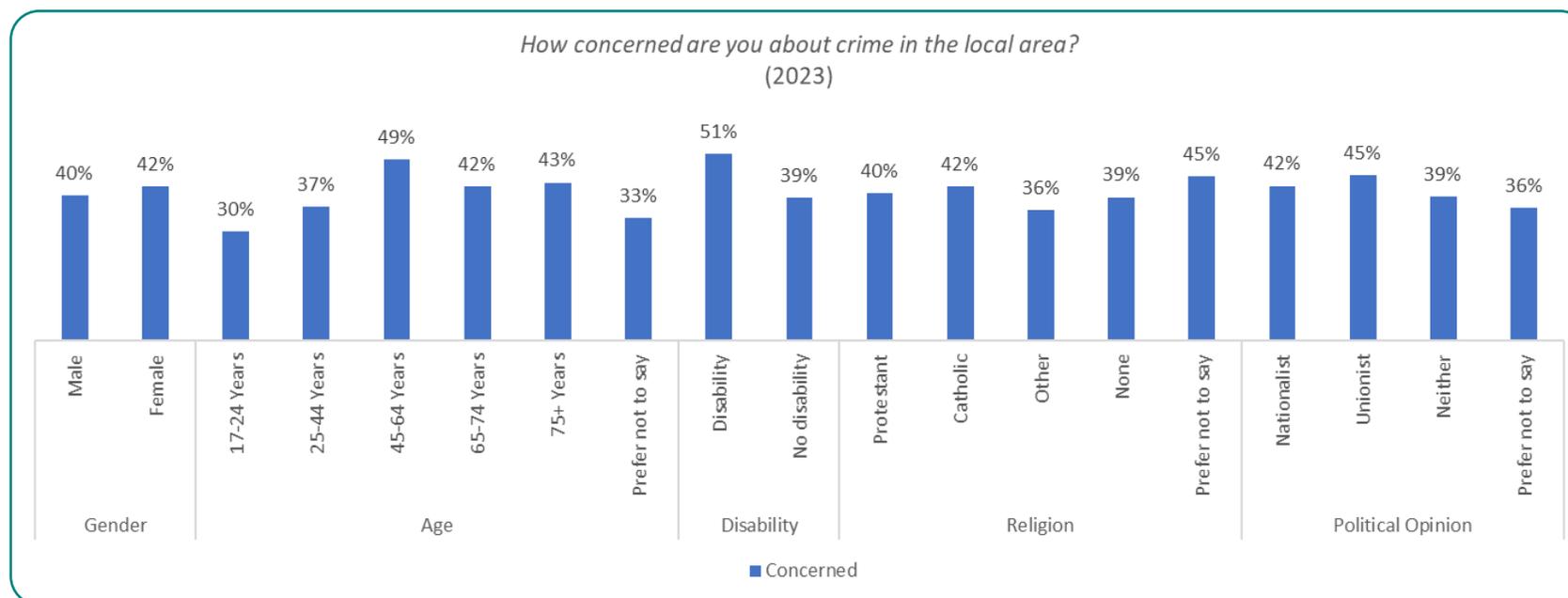
¹ In the analysis by equality groups these categories are aggregated into “safe” which includes “very safe and safe” and “unsafe” which includes “unsafe and very unsafe”.

Population Indicator: Level of concern about crime in the local area

Data Source: Northern Ireland Policing Plan Survey, 2023

Data Provider: Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB)

In general, slightly less than half respondents (49%) declared that they were unconcerned about crime in the local area followed by around a third of respondents who said they were concerned (32%). Around one out of ten respondents indicated they were very unconcerned (10%), while around the same proportion said they were very concerned (9%)². Across the equality groups, respondents more likely to state they are concerned about crime in the local areas were respondents with a disability (51%), respondents in the age group of 45-64 (49%) and those in the age group of 75+ years old (43%), those who preferred not to say their religion (45%), and Unionists (45%).



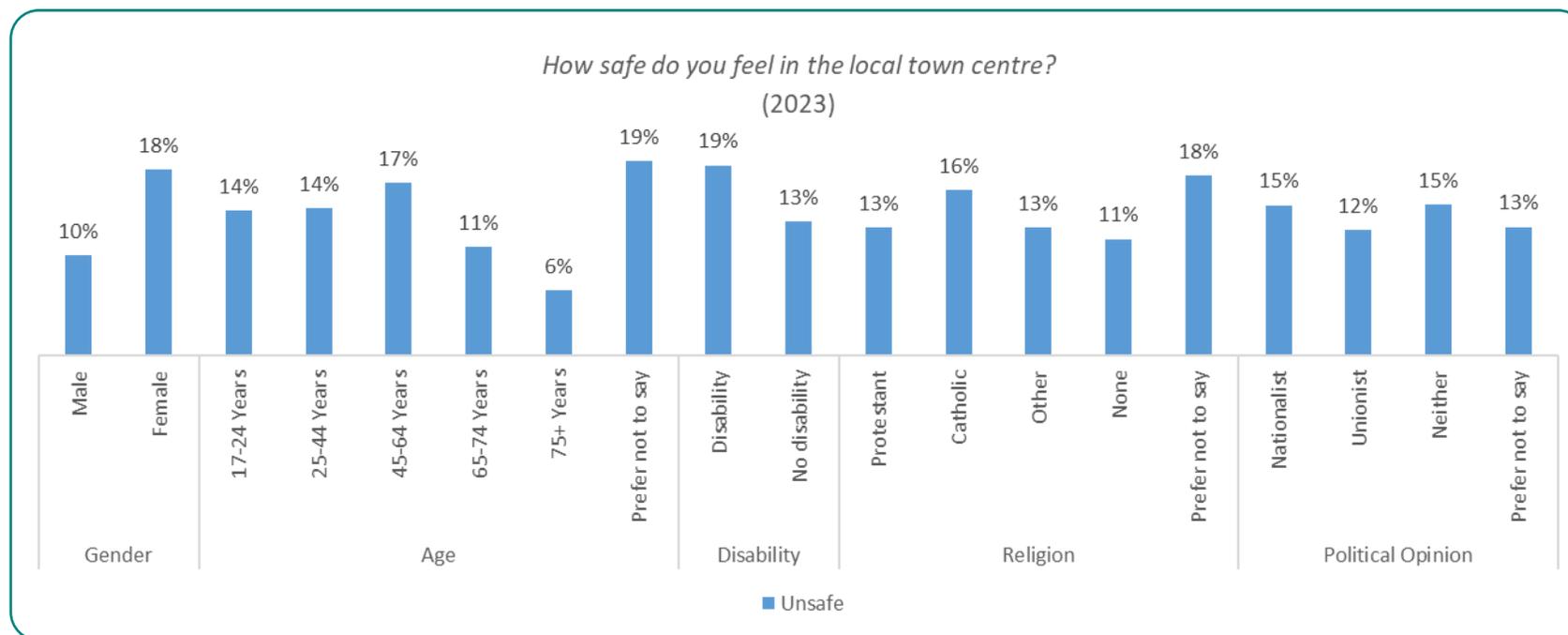
² In the analysis by equality groups these categories are aggregated into “concerned” which includes “very concerned and concerned” and “unconcerned” which includes “unconcerned and very unconcerned”.

Population Indicator: Percentage of respondents feeling safe in the local town centre

Data Source: Northern Ireland Policing Plan Survey 2023

Data Provider: Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB)

Over eighty percent of respondents stated that they feel safe or very safe in the local town centre, of which 64% declaring that they to feel safe in the local town centre, and 21% who stating that they feel very safe (21%). Fifteen percent of all respondents stated that they felt unsafe or very unsafe in the local town centre, of which 12% of respondents indicating that they feel unsafe and 3% stating they feel very unsafe³. One percent of respondents stated that they don't know. Across the equality groups respondents more likely to state they feel unsafe in the local town centre were respondents with a disability (19%), female respondents (18%), respondents in the age group of 45-64 (17%), respondents who preferred not to say their age (19%), and Catholic respondents (16%) and those who preferred not to say their religion (18%).



³ In the analysis by equality groups these categories are aggregated into "safe" which includes "very safe and safe" and "unsafe" which includes "unsafe and very unsafe".



Priority Area:

Equality of Opportunity in Access to Justice

Fairness of the criminal justice system

Population Indicator: Percentage of those who agree that the criminal justice system - Gives witnesses and victims the support they need.

Data Source: Perceptions of Policy and Justice Survey

Data Provider: Department of Justice, Northern Ireland

Data Status: No data beyond 2019/2020

Population Indicator: Percentage of those who agree that the criminal justice system - Treats those accused of crime as innocent until proven guilty.

Data Source: Perceptions of Policy and Justice Survey

Data Provider: Department of Justice, Northern Ireland

Data Status: No data beyond 2019/2020



**Equality Commission
for Northern Ireland**
Equality House
7-9 Shaftesbury Square
Belfast BT2 7DP

Telephone: + 44 (0)28 9050 0600

Email: information@equalityni.org

Web: www.equalityni.org