

get your facts right

MARCH 1998



"Get Your Facts Right"

Commissioned by

The National Youth Council of Ireland

Supported by

The Minister for Youth Affairs and The Youth Affairs Section of the Department of Education

Carried out in association with

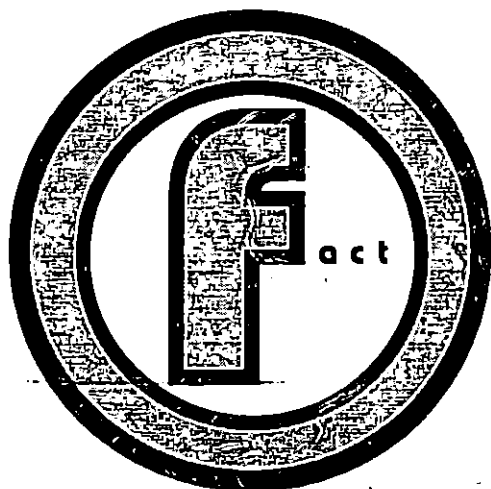
Youthnet (NI), the Northern Ireland Youth Forum, the Prince's Trust

GET YOUR FACTS RIGHT

"Get Your Facts Right" is the most comprehensive and detailed survey of young people ever undertaken on the island of Ireland. It was commissioned by the National Youth Council of Ireland and carried out by the market research company Covanberg Consultants. Included is the most detailed and insightful research on young Irish people and drugs ever published.

About the Survey

- 1,400 people between 15 and 24 years of age were surveyed
 - 48 questions were asked
 - Interviews were conducted at 64 separate geographic locations
 - 1,000 of the sample were drawn from the Republic of Ireland
 - 400 were drawn from Northern Ireland
- Those involved are from all backgrounds: in school, at college, unemployed, working, self-employed, on training courses, etc.



**get your
facts right**

Why a Survey?

Institutions, business, politicians, media, churches and society in general continually assume and anticipate young people's views. "Get Your Facts Right" asks young people what they really think. It was specifically commissioned to consult with young people and seek their views on a whole range of issues. A survey of this scope has never been carried out before. It will establish a reliable bank of statistical data that will give a coherent picture of where young people stand as we approach the year 2000.

The survey will help organisations and institutions that deal with young people to know and hence, respond better to their interests and needs. It also aims to give a voice to the section of our population more normally considered as part of the future, rather than as part of present day Irish society.

Young People in Ireland

According to the most recently published Census, there are 1,492,314 or 41.15% of people in Ireland under 25 years of age. This gives Ireland the distinction of having the youngest population in Europe. 632,890 Irish people are aged between 15 and 24. 48.29% of all Irish people are under 30 years of age.

Acknowledgements

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Get Your Facts Right' materials and 'fact' logo Designed by Laura Neumann



Participant Profile

Male: 47%
Female: 53%
Urban: 65%
Rural: 35%
6% of the respondents have children
4% are married

Occupations

The occupations of the respondents are as follows:

School Student:	23%
3rd Level Student:	50%
FÁS / YTS Trainee:	1%
Apprentice:	2%
Working in the Home:	1%
Self Employed:	1%
Full-Time Employed:	16%
Part-Time Employed:	24%
Unemployed (with Assistance):	5%
Unemployed (no Assistance):	1%

Qualifications

Qualifications of Respondents:

Junior Cert / O Levels:	90%
Leaving Cert / A Levels:	68%
National Certificate:	8%
CERT Qualification:	2%
Degree:	9%
Masters Degree:	1%
Diploma:	6%
Apprenticeship:	2%
Computer Qualification:	11%
Other:	6%

SOME OF THE RESULTS AT A GLANCE



Issues, Activities and Outlooks

Over one third of young people (39%) are dissatisfied with the education system although 61% of young people think that "their education / training is suited to the present demands of the labour market".

49% of young people believe that their views are valued by older people, 39% believe that they are not.

In spite of the booming economy, Unemployment is the number 1 concern of young people, prioritised by 46%. It was placed well ahead of Drugs (23%), Northern Ireland (11%), Crime (12%) and the Environment (4%).

89% of young people are or have been a member of a youth organisation, sports club or voluntary association, challenging the view that young people in the late 1990's aren't taking part in such activities. Community activity is a high priority for this current generation.

55% of young people are now or have been a member of a youth group or youth organisation.

Over half of all young people (53%) have at some time taken illegal drugs.

24% of 15-24 years olds are in part-time employment.

73% of urban young people have been involved in a sports club, compared to 64% in rural Ireland, indicating that contrary to the views of some health experts, young people are taking exercise.

The majority of those surveyed (32%) have an income of £51-£100 per week. Over one-fifth live on less than £50 per week (22%).

The Arts

The top four art forms enjoyed by young people are:

1. Music, 2. Video, 3. Cinema, 4. Reading Novels.

55% of young people have read a novel in the past 2 months.
During the same period 74% went to the cinema.

49% of young people are actively involved in the arts.

Equality and Discrimination

68% of young women believe that equality of opportunity between men and women does not exist.

52% of young men on the other hand believe that there is equality of opportunity.

58% of young people believe that refugees / asylum seekers should be allowed to stay in Ireland. 20% say that they shouldn't, 22% have no opinion.

Young people believe that Travellers are the most discriminated against group in Irish Society. When asked to specify two groups, the top answers were: 1. Travellers, 2. Gay / Lesbian, 3. People of Different Skin Colour, 4. People of Different Religion.



Lifestyles and Image

83% of young people are either very satisfied or fairly satisfied with their body image.

Overall the top three influences on young people's body image are:
1. Friends (39%), 2. Media (23%), 3. Fashion (22%).

83% believe that there is full access to information about sexual health (contraception, pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases). 17% said there wasn't.

The top four answers given when asked where they would go for this information were
1. Friends (23%), 2. School / University (23%), 3. GP (22%), 4. Family Planning Clinic (17%).

The first place a young person would seek support if they had a serious problem (stress, anxiety, depression) would be their Friends (50%) followed by Family (43%). Proof that Peer Education must be given greater support and a stronger role in dealing with young people and their problems.

Religion and Spirituality

60% expressed the view that spirituality was important in their lives, 40% said it wasn't important.

30% participate regularly in organised religion, 43% participate sometimes, 26% never participate.

Illegal Drugs



Most young people (41%) get information about drugs from the media. 27% said that their friends were the main source of information, 24% said their school / college.

80% of young people say that they are well informed about drugs, 20% say they are not.

82% in urban areas say that they are well informed on Drugs, compared with 76% of rural young people.

The main reason cited by young people for taking drugs was Peer Pressure / the Influence of their Friends. 46% surveyed gave this response. 40% gave Curiosity as the main reason, 12% cited Boredom. The whole area of Peer Education must be considered as a key response to the drugs issue. Young people are more likely to listen to each other than a figure in authority.

Opinion is divided among young people on the legalisation of certain drugs. 45% believe that some drugs should be legalised, 43% disagree, 12% don't know.

There is an urban / rural divide on the issue of legalisation. Urban young people marginally favour drug legalisation (47% yes, 41% no). Rural young people are marginally against (46% no, 41% yes).

Among the group in favour of legalising some drugs, 97% said Cannabis should be legalised, 12% said Ecstasy, 11% Speed, 7% Cocaine and 6% Heroin.

53% of young people have taken illegal drugs. More young men (59%) than young women (47%) have taken drugs.

More urban young people have taken drugs (57%) than rural young people (44%).

Of those who have taken drugs 32% say they never use them anymore, 12% currently use them once or more a week. 22% take drugs once or twice a month. 34% say they use drugs 3 or 4 times a year.

9% say drugs lead to crime, 48% say it does not. 43% say it depends on the drugs you take.

69% of young people believe that government is not adequately tackling the drugs problem, 7% say it is.

Given a choice to prioritise the best approach to deal with the drugs problem, young people, both male and female placed the following options in order of preference:

1. Education and Prevention
2. Treatment / Rehabilitation
3. Harsher Penalties
4. More Police and Prisons
5. Decriminalisation of Drugs

The NYCI believes that the low level of satisfaction with the Government's response to the drugs issue is linked to how young people prioritise options to deal with the problem. Treatment and Prevention need to be a greater priority.

Drinking and Smoking

Young women and young men drink and smoke at almost exactly the same rate. 41% of 15-24 year olds smoke cigarettes. 81% drink alcohol. 14% neither drink nor smoke.



Media

The three favourite television programmes of all 15 - 24 year olds are:

1. Friends, 2. ER, 3. The Simpsons.

The three favourite TV programmes for young males are:

1. The Simpsons, 2. Friends, 3. Match of the Day

The three favourite TV programmes for young females are:

1. Friends, 2. ER, 3. Eastenders

No Irish-made programme features in the top three in either the male or female breakdown, a point that should be considered by RTÉ.

96% of young people listen to radio regularly, 4% never listen to radio.

21% listen for 1-2 hours per week.

27% for 2-4 hours per week.

27% listen for 1-2 hours per day.

17% for 2-4 hours per day.

4% listen to radio for more than 8 hours per day.

Young people in rural Ireland listen to more radio. 18% listen to more than 16 hours of radio per week, compared to 13% in urban areas.

49% of young people have a personal computer at home. Urban young people are more likely to have a computer at home (51%) than rural young people (44%).

The three favourite newspapers of 15 - 24 year olds, north and south of the border are:

1. Irish Times, 2. Irish Independent, 3. The Sun.

The three favourite newspapers for young males are:

1. Irish Times, 2. Irish Independent, 3. The Sun.

The three favourite newspapers for young females are:

1. Irish Times, 2. Irish Independent, 3. The Star.

Overall the three favourite magazines of young people are:

1. FHM, 2. Cosmopolitan, 3. More.

Female favourite magazines:

1. Cosmopolitan, 2. More, 3. Sugar.

Male favourite magazine:

1. FHM, 2. Loaded, 3. Shoot.

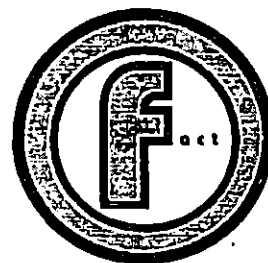
The number 1 source of news for young people male and female is television.

Among women the number 2 source is radio, among men it is newspapers.

Politics

13% of eligible young voters are not registered to vote.

79% of young voters would cast their ballot if an election were held in the morning. This is in contrast to the numbers who actually vote, making a case to have elections held during weekends when young people can actually vote.



Fianna Fáil is the most popular political party among young men and women followed by Fine Gael, Labour and the Greens.

Fine Gael and the Green Party are more popular with young men than women.

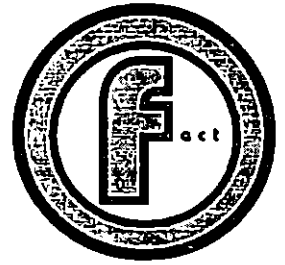
Labour and the PDs are far more popular with young women than young men.

The most popular political parties among young people are:

	Total	Male	Female
Fianna Fáil	23%	23%	24%
Fine Gael	13%	15%	12%
Labour	12%	10%	15%
Greens	10%	11%	8%
PDs	5%	3%	7%
Democratic Left	3%	4%	2%
Sinn Féin	3%	4%	2%
Others	2%	2%	1%
Don't Know	29%	28%	31%

In a similar survey of political attitudes conducted by the National Youth Council of Ireland in March 1997 before the General Election, Fianna Fáil also came out on top with 26.4%. Fine Gael had 10%, Labour 14%, Greens 7.6%, PDs 4.3%, Dem. Left 2.1%. Fine Gael, the Greens, the PDs and Dem. Left have managed to increase their support among young voters.

ISSUES & ANALYSIS ARISING FROM THE SURVEY



The Education System is Not Serving Young People

Over one third of young people (39%) believe that the Education System is not serving them although 61% of 15 to 24 year olds do believe that "their education / training is suited to the present demands of the labour market, i.e.: information technology/computers, the service industry etc". In addition, only 11% of respondents had some form of qualification in ICT training / education.

Such a decisive vote of no confidence in the ability of the education system by 39% of young people should give the Department of Education cause for concern. If the Education System were a business, it would have difficulty keeping its customers.

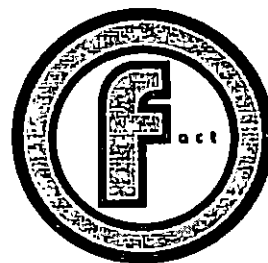
NYCI believe that good educational qualifications remain the key progression element to further education and employment success. Over a third of those surveyed said that qualifications were necessary to secure their present job. For a significant minority of educationally disadvantaged young people their prospects of entering the labour market have worsened. According to latest Live Register figures 52,700 people under 25 are signing on.

Greater analysis of this problem is needed to discover the root cause of dissatisfaction with the education system. The National Youth Council of Ireland would urge the Department of Education to ensure greater consultation with young people. As a long-term step, the Minister for Education should use the opportunity of the current debate around the Education Bill to facilitate the introduction of Student Councils and meaningful student involvement in decision making in schools / training centres / third level colleges.

At the moment, 13,000 young people leave school without sitting the Leaving Cert. In spite of this fact there are just over 6,000 places on training courses for this group. The National Youth Council of Ireland believes in a 'Youth Guarantee' for all young people where every young person should have the right to a place on a training course, third-level course or further education course. Among those who remain in school, the Points System is causing immense pressure. The NYCI has welcomed the establishment of a Commission to Review the Points System and has made a detailed submission.

Youth Organisations

89% OF YOUNG PEOPLE EITHER ARE NOW OR HAVE BEEN A MEMBER-/ PARTICIPANT OF A YOUTH ORGANISATION, SPORTS CLUB OR VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION OF SOME SORT. 55% OF YOUNG PEOPLE ARE NOW OR HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF A YOUTH ORGANISATION.



"Which if any, of these are you currently a member of or have been involved with, as a member, or a participant:"

Youth Club / Group	44%
Sports Club	70%
Hobby / Craft Association	29%
Environmental Organisation	8%
3rd World Organisation	9%
Poverty Related Irish Organisation	9%
Scouts / Guides	25%
Church Organisation	15%
Other	2%
None	11%

The large number of young people who have participated in youth and voluntary organisations shows the valuable role of the Youth Service in the development of young people. However, the Youth Service only attracts less than 1% of the total budget for Education. The Youth Service is made up of over 45 youth organisations and it caters for approximately 750,000 young people. It provides a diverse range of services throughout the country. The core funding for the Youth Service comes from the National Lottery and indeed the National Lottery was established with the youth sector as one of its key target beneficiaries. This, however, has disappointingly diminished since the inception of the Lottery and the allocation to Youth has dropped from 27% of the surplus for distribution to a mere 13%. This is not acceptable while more and more mainline services are being funded from the proceeds of the Lottery and the original targeted groups have simply been ignored. These survey findings show that there is a real need to fund the youth services as more and more young people find that they cater for their needs in an appropriate way. The Youth Service may often be the only positive thing in a young person's life when they have fallen through the net and are no longer catered for through the formal channels or traditional supports.

The Youth Service has played a significant part in the negotiations in Partnership 2000 and has worked constructively within the structures established for this consultation. The National Youth Council, however, feels that the Youth Service should be taken seriously by the Government and recommends that if it is to continue to cater for the needs of young people and to deal with ever increasing and complex issues which face young people's lives the Government needs to invest substantially in the work of youth organisations. We recommend an increase to £30 million.

Drugs

Drug use is not just an urban issue - it is widespread throughout the country. A majority of young people in Ireland (53%) take or have taken drugs. Although drug use in rural areas is less widespread, it is still significantly high at 44%. Tackling drug misuse just in urban areas, or treating it just as a social inclusion problem, will never be adequate. We need to have an understanding of the issue on a national basis and have strategies in place which tackle it throughout the country. The use of the recently announced "Young People's Facilities & Services Fund" must reflect this.

Young people are dissatisfied with the Government's response to the issue. Over two thirds (69%) do not think the Government are adequately tackling the drugs problem, only 7% believe that they are. This is a damning indictment of Government policy on the drugs issue from the group which is most affected by it. It is an indication that young people's priorities for action are not reflected by the government's approach. The survey says young people believe that Education / Prevention strategies should be the priority for Government attention on the issue. It should be the number one area for more spending, followed by Treatment / Rehabilitation. The Government must listen carefully to what young people have to say. It should ensure that its strategies in the area of education/prevention, particularly the "Young People's Facilities and Services Fund", meets this identified priority.



The Media is a powerful influence on young people's understanding of the drugs issue. 41% of young people say they get most of their information on drugs through this source. The media must be aware of their responsibility to provide accurate information and fair analysis of the issue of Drugs. Most young people believe that they are adequately informed about drugs. 80% said that they are, but fewer in rural areas (76%). Information is not everything. Providing information to young people on drugs will not necessarily stop them from taking drugs. Indeed in urban areas where more young people believe they are informed on the issue (82%), more young people take drugs (57% compared with 44% in rural areas). National Drugs strategies must be based on a fuller understanding of what contributes to drug misuse.

Friends are the most influential influence on young people starting to take drugs. 46% of young people gave friends as the number one influence, followed by curiosity at 40%. At the same time, 27% of young people get most of their information on the issue from their friends. We must acknowledge the strong influence that their peers have on young people's knowledge and behaviour. Drug prevention and education strategies must take account of this influence.

The Influence of Friends

One of the most important influences on young people in Ireland today is their own Friends. When asked where they would go for information about sexual health, the top answer given by young people was "Friends". The first place a young person would seek support if they had a serious problem (stress, anxiety, depression) is their Friends. The main influence on young people and their body image is their Friends. It comes ahead of the Fashion and the Media. The main reason given by young people for using drugs is "Friends".

Peer Education is an approach common in youth organisations. It is based on the premise that young people are more likely to listen to other young people, their own peers, than a figure in authority. The findings of 'Get Your Facts Right' offer a ringing endorsement of this approach in dealing with a wide range of issues and problems ranging from drugs to mental health. The training of young people as peer educators should be a necessary part of the approach in addressing problems facing young people. Youth organisations should be facilitated, encouraged and supported in developing peer education programmes.

Unemployment is the Number One Issue of Concern



"What do young people believe to be the most serious issue / problem facing young people today?"

	Overall	Male	Female
Unemployment	46%	45%	47%
Drugs	23%	22%	23%
Crime	12%	12%	12%
Environment	4%	5%	3%
Racism	2%	1%	2%
Other	2%	3%	2%

In spite of the economic boom and the Celtic Tiger Economy, 'Unemployment' is the number 1 concern of young people. Young people are still concerned about finding jobs. This is not surprising given the fact that 24% are in part-time employment and 6% are unemployed. As previously stated the views of young people about the education system are also relevant to this outlook 61% say that "their education / training is suited to the present demands of the labour market, i.e.: information technology / computers, the service industry etc".

In light of the clear link between education qualifications and labour market success NYC continue to emphasise the need to establish a co-ordinated and comprehensive response to the education and training needs of Irish young people. This would involve a system which provides pathways and re-entry points to all education / training courses, recognises education / training attained outside the formal education system, and offers counselling, tracking and support measures through mechanisms such as the Local Employment Service.

Discrimination

Many commentators today would suggest that young women in the 1990s are more confident, have more opportunities in their life choices and do not consider themselves to be discriminated against on the basis of their gender. This apparently, is not so. 68% of young women feel that equality of opportunity between men and women does not exist. This is despite the many positive measures which have been put in place in different sectors such as education, employment and training.

The report on the Second Commission on the Status of Women is currently being monitored and arising out of this, it appears that there are still many challenges ahead to the issue of promoting equality of opportunity. The National Youth Council welcomes the inclusion of measures within the recent Youth Work Act to ensure equality of access to young men and young women within the Youth Service. However, changes will not happen without specific funding commitments which will help to address issues at a structural level. The importance of anti sexist work within youth organisations needs to be highlighted as a way in which real inequalities can be effectively addressed.

The current media attention to the issue of refugees and asylum seekers has raised awareness of the high level of intolerance in Ireland in relation to minority groups. In response to a survey question, however, the majority (58%) of young Irish people feel that refugees / asylum seekers should be allowed to stay in Ireland. The three groups which young Irish people feel are most discriminated against in Ireland are, in order of priority, Travellers, gay and lesbian people and people of different skin colour.



Again, in this context, the National Youth Council feel that more attention needs to be given to anti racist and prejudice reduction education as the indications seem to show increasing intolerance among Irish people for minority groups and non nationals.

Young People and the Arts

In audience terms, music, video and film proved to be the most popular recreational media for young people. Literature featured quite high with over half the young people surveyed having read a novel in the past 3 months. The more traditional art forms e.g. literature, theatre, art exhibitions tended to have a greater level of female than male engagement.

Some 49% of young people are actively involved in one or more art form. For 52% of these, activities take place in an extracurricular setting. It can therefore be deduced that some 25% of young people engage actively in the arts in an informal / out of school setting.

Music once again rates highest in popularity with 28% of young people actively involved in it as an art form. The next most popular art form is computer / graphic art at a 12% participation level. Interestingly, where there is a significantly greater likelihood of young urban people being involved in all other art forms, young rural people are more likely to get involved in computer / graphic art. The issue of accessibility of the arts could certainly be raised in this respect.

Involvement in drama rates as high as involvement in visual arts (9%). Considering that the visual arts form part of the school curriculum and drama does not, this indicates quite a high level of involvement (almost 1 in 10) for young people in drama in an out of school context. Dance also rates quite high at 7%.

Young men are twice as likely to be involved in an arts specific group (14%) as young women (7%). Given that music features as the most popular art form it is likely that this involvement primarily takes the shape of being part of a band.

A large proportion of young people who are involved in the arts (43%) believe that that involvement has motivated them to have a further interest in the arts. This would support the argument that investment in creating opportunities for young people to engage actively in the arts could impact positively on future audience and participation levels in the arts.

1 in 4 young people thinks that their active involvement in an art form had impacted on how they view themselves. 28% believed it has changed how they view others. Both of these factors and the latter more significantly, rated higher for young men than it did for young women. They also rated marginally higher for young people from a rural background. 61% of young participants in the arts have gained new skills through their involvement in an art form. Only 11% believe it has made no difference to their lives.

Politics

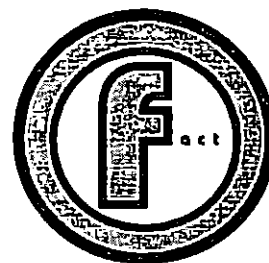
If an election was held tomorrow, 79% of young registered voters say they would vote. 21% say they would not. The fact that over one-fifth of young voters are so apathetic about the electoral system at such an early age is worrying.



Although 79% of registered young voters want to vote, difficulty arises when they want to actually exercise their franchise. Recent elections and referenda indicate that the turnover at the actual polls is much lower. In the case of the presidential election 46.8% of the total voting population turned out. The National Youth Council of Ireland believes that present practice of holding elections mid-week must change. The Limerick and Dublin by-elections are taking place on a Wednesday. The presidential election was on a Thursday. The 1997 General Election was on a Friday. Mid-week elections restrict the ability of young people to vote. The constant change in election-day from poll to poll is also confusing. All future elections should be held at a weekend.

13% of young eligible voters are not registered. This figure is too high. Recent changes in postal vote registration and registration procedures need to be better advertised by the Department of the Environment. Advertising material from the Department of the Environment also needs to be more youth-friendly. The NYCI believes that a targeted multi-media campaign to encourage young people to register for elections and to vote should be undertaken. The Department of the Environment should also support the work of youth organisations in their efforts to encourage young people to register to vote.

NYCI / COVANBERG POLL - QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



1,400 people between the ages of 15 and 24 were polled in January 1998 at 64 different locations South and North of Ireland.

Q.1 Which of the following headings would best describe your present occupation?

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Secondary level student at school	90%	88%	92%	91%	89%
Third level student	50%	47%	54%	55%	42%
Government employment / training initiative e.g. FÁS, YTS, etc.	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Apprenticeship	2%	3%	1%	2%	2%
Home (i.e. domestic) duties	1%	0%	2%	1%	1%
Self-employed	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Full-time employment	16%	17%	15%	13%	21%
Part-time employment	24%	24%	24%	25%	22%
Unemployed receiving assistance	5%	7%	3%	4%	5%
Unemployed receiving no assistance	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Other	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Q1a Which, if any, of the following qualifications / training do you have?

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Junior Cert / O levels	23%	23%	22%	21%	25%
Leaving Cert / A levels	68%	65%	70%	70%	64%
Certificate	8%	7%	9%	9%	6%
Cert	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%
Degree	9%	10%	8%	10%	8%
Masters	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Diploma	6%	5%	6%	6%	5%
Apprenticeship	2%	3%	1%	1%	2%
Computers / Information Technology	11%	8%	13%	11%	10%
Other	6%	6%	5%	6%	5%

Q1b Do you believe that your education / training is suited to the present demands of the labour market i.e. Information Technology / computers, the service industry, etc?



	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Yes	61%	60%	61%	61%	61%
No	39%	40%	39%	39%	39%

Q1c Do you believe that your qualifications were necessary to secure your present job?

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Yes	37%	38%	36%	35%	41%
No	56%	57%	55%	59%	52%
Don't have any qualifications	3%	3%	4%	4%	3%
No Answer	3%	2%	5%	2%	4%

Q1d What is your present weekly income?

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Less than £50	22%	21%	23%	25%	19%
£51 - £100	32%	33%	32%	38%	28%
£101 - 150	15%	14%	16%	10%	22%
£151 - £200	16%	14%	17%	15%	16%
£201 - £250	9%	12%	5%	9%	8%
More than £251	5%	6%	3%	5%	5%

Section 2 - Lifestyles and Entertainment

Q2 Within the last two months which of the following have you done?

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Read a novel	55%	48%	62%	57%	52%
Gone to a concert	32%	34%	30%	34%	28%
Listened to music in general e.g. CD, tape (excluding radio), etc.	93%	92%	94%	94%	90%
Gone to the theatre	19%	16%	22%	21%	15%
Gone to the cinema	74%	72%	76%	76%	70%
Watched a video	86%	85%	86%	85%	86%
Gone to an art exhibition	14%	12%	16%	17%	10%
Other	7%	7%	7%	7%	6%

Q2a Which of the following Arts, if any, are you actively involved in?

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Music	28%	29%	28%	29%	28%
Drama	9%	8%	10%	10%	7%
Dance	7%	3%	11%	8%	5%
Photography	4%	5%	3%	6%	2%
Video / Film	5%	6%	4%	5%	4%
Painting / Drawing / Sculpture	9%	9%	9%	10%	7%
Computer / Graphic Art	12%	15%	10%	12%	14%
Other	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Not involved actively in any Arts	51%	52%	50%	49%	55%

Q2b Where are you mainly involved in the Arts?



	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
In a Youth Group	8%	8%	7%	9%	6%
In school / college / university / other education / training	46%	43%	48%	46%	44%
In an arts specific group e.g. Rock band, Youth theatre club, etc.	10%	14%	7%	11%	9%
As a hobby	32%	32%	33%	31%	35%
Other	2%	3%	2%	2%	3%
No Answer	2%	0%	3%	1%	3%

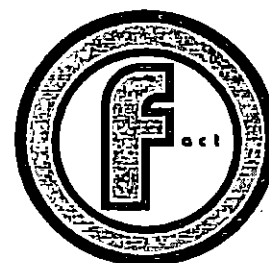
Q2c In which of the following ways have your experiences of the arts made a difference, if any?

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Changed your opinion of yourself	25%	26%	24%	24%	26%
Changed how you view others / society	26%	32%	22%	26%	27%
Given you new skills	61%	62%	60%	63%	57%
Motivation / further interest in the arts	43%	41%	44%	43%	42%
Other	3%	3%	3%	4%	1%
Made no difference	11%	10%	12%	10%	13%

Q2d Here is a list of different organisations. Which, if any, of these are you currently or have you ever been involved with, as a member, or participant?

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Sports club or association	70%	75%	65%	73%	64%
Pastime related / hobby / craft clubs or associations	29%	26%	32%	32%	24%
Youth club or group	44%	43%	45%	45%	43%
Voluntary organisation concerned with the environment	8%	7%	9%	9%	6%
Voluntary organisation concerned with poverty or disadvantaged in the third world	9%	5%	12%	10%	6%
Voluntary organisation concerned with poverty or disadvantaged here in Ireland / North	8%	6%	11%	11%	4%
Voluntary organisation concerned with human rights, prejudice reduction, combating racism	9%	8%	10%	9%	8%
Scouts / guides	25%	28%	22%	28%	19%
Church organisation or group	15%	14%	15%	16%	13%
Other	2%	1%	3%	2%	2%
None	11%	11%	11%	8%	15%

Q2e If you were a member of a youth organisation and left, why did you leave?



	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Still a member	28%	30%	26%	29%	27%
Boredom	18%	21%	16%	17%	21%
Moved house	6%	6%	6%	5%	6%
No time	27%	21%	32%	27%	26%
Too old	7%	7%	7%	7%	6%
Other	4%	4%	3%	3%	4%
No answer	10%	11%	10%	12%	10%

Q2f Do you think the opinions and views of young people like yourself are thought to be important and of value by the older generation or not?

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Yes	49%	46%	51%	48%	49%
No	39%	41%	37%	38%	40%
Don't know / No opinion	12%	12%	11%	13%	10%

Q2g Do you think that young women and young men have equal opportunities in every way?

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Yes	41%	52%	32%	41%	41%
No	59%	48%	68%	59%	59%

Q2h Has being a young woman / young man created any obstacles for you in your life?
If No - Go to Q2j

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Yes	35%	31%	39%	37%	32%
No	65%	69%	61%	67%	68%

Q2i In which of the following areas of you encountered obstacles? Tick all appropriate

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Family	34%	27%	38%	35%	30%
Education	30%	28%	31%	34%	22%
Training e.g. FÁS/YTS courses, apprenticeships, etc.	5%	4%	5%	5%	4%
Employment	42%	43%	41%	38%	49%
Participation in clubs / societies	19%	15%	21%	18%	19%
Social life	51%	45%	55%	50%	52%
Other	5%	10%	1%	4%	7%

Q2j How satisfied are you with your body image?

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Very satisfied	19%	27%	13%	19%	20%
Fairly satisfied	64%	62%	65%	65%	62%
Fairly unsatisfied	14%	10%	18%	13%	14%
Very unsatisfied	2%	1%	3%	2%	3%



Q2k Which of the following influences your views most on your body image? One answer

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Parents	5%	7%	3%	4%	5%
Friends	39%	41%	37%	38%	40%
Media	23%	22%	23%	22%	24%
Fashion	22%	14%	30%	23%	22%
Myself	8%	12%	5%	10%	5%
Other	3%	4%	2%	3%	4%

Q2l Do you think that you have full access to information regarding sexual health e.g. contraception, pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, etc?

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Yes	83%	82%	83%	83%	82%
No	17%	18%	17%	17%	18%

Q2m Where would you/do you normally go to get this information? One answer only

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
GP	22%	18%	26%	22%	24%
Family Planning / health clinic	17%	11%	23%	19%	15%
Family	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%
Friends	23%	28%	18%	21%	25%
School / university / college, etc.	23%	26%	21%	24%	22%
Books / magazines	3%	4%	2%	2%	3%
Other	3%	5%	2%	4%	3%

Q2n If you had a serious problem e.g. stress, anxiety, depression, where would be the first place you would go for support?

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Family	43%	42%	44%	42%	46%
Friends	50%	49%	50%	51%	48%
Teacher / lecturer	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Youth leader	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Support organisation (Samaritans, childline, etc.)	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Other	3%	4%	2%	3%	3%

Q2o Do you think asylum seekers / refugees should be allowed to stay in Ireland / Northern Ireland?



	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Yes	58%	54%	61%	58%	57%
No	20%	26%	14%	19%	21%
No opinion	22%	20%	23%	22%	21%
No answer	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

Q2p In Ireland / Northern Ireland today, which 2 of the following groups, if any, do you think are most discriminated against? 2 answers only

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Travellers / itinerants	48%	48%	48%	46%	51%
People of a different nationality	16%	19%	14%	18%	14%
People of a different skin colour	32%	33%	31%	34%	30%
People of a different religion	32%	32%	31%	33%	28%
People with a mental / physical disability	13%	14%	13%	13%	14%
Women	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%
Gays / lesbians	39%	33%	44%	37%	43%
Social classes	10%	11%	9%	9%	11%
Other	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
None	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

Q2q How important do you consider spirituality to be in your life?

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Very important	16%	16%	16%	17%	14%
Fairly important	44%	37%	50%	44%	43%
Fairly unimportant	27%	30%	25%	26%	29%
Not at all important	13%	17%	9%	12%	14%

Q2r Do you participate in organised religion?

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Regularly	30%	28%	32%	29%	32%
Sometimes	43%	40%	46%	43%	43%
Never	26%	31%	21%	27%	24%

Section 3 - Drugs

Q3 Where do you get most of your information on drugs? One answer only

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Media	41%	43%	40%	39%	46%
School / university, etc.	24%	21%	27%	25%	23%
Family	3%	4%	3%	4%	1%
Friends	27%	28%	25%	26%	27%
Youth organisation	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%
Other	3%	2%	3%	4%	2%

Q3a Do you believe that you are adequately informed about drugs in general?



	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Yes	80%	82%	77%	82%	76%
No	20%	18%	23%	18%	24%

Q3b Which of the following reasons do you think is most influential in young people starting to take drugs? One answer only

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Friends	46%	44%	48%	46%	46%
Curiosity	40%	39%	41%	40%	40%
Boredom	12%	15%	10%	12%	12%
Other	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%

Q3c Do you believe that some drugs should be legalised?

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Yes	45%	49%	41%	47%	41%
No	43%	39%	46%	41%	46%
Don't know	12%	12%	13%	12%	12%

Q3d Which of the following drugs do you think should be legalised? Tick all appropriate

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Cannabis	97%	98%	97%	98%	97%
Ecstasy	12%	15%	9%	14%	7%
Speed	11%	13%	8%	12%	7%
Heroin	6%	8%	3%	6%	5%
Cocaine	7%	9%	5%	8%	5%
Other	8%	9%	8%	7%	10%

Q3e Do you think harm reduction is a valid way of dealing with the drugs problem e.g. advocating the safe use of drugs for those already using?

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Yes	57%	59%	55%	58%	54%
No	43%	41%	45%	42%	46%

Q3f Have you ever taken any illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, etc? This information is provided in confidence and will be used for research purposes only. If no go to Q3h

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Yes	53%	59%	47%	57%	44%
No	47%	41%	53%	43%	56%

Q3g How regularly do you currently use these drugs?



	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Never	32%	28%	38%	33%	
3 or 4 times a year	34%	32%	36%	34%	
Once or twice a month	22%	25%	19%	22%	22%
1 or more times a week	12%	15%	7%	11%	12%

Q3h Do you

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Smoke cigarettes	41%	42%	40%	43%	38%
Drink alcohol	81%	81%	81%	80%	83%
Neither	14%	15%	13%	15%	13%

Q3i Do you think that taking drugs automatically leads to crime?

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Yes	9%	7%	10%	7%	11%
No	48%	50%	45%	46%	50%
Depends on the drugs you take	43%	42%	44%	46%	38%

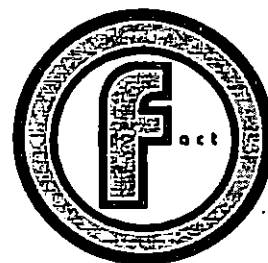
Q3j Do you believe that the Government are adequately tackling the drugs problem?

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Yes	7%	8%	6%	7%	7%
No	69%	68%	71%	68%	71%
Don't know	23%	24%	22%	24%	21%

Q3k In your opinion, in which of the following areas is it important that the Government spends money to deal with the drugs problem? Please rank 1-5 in order of importance - 1 being the most important

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Education / prevention	No. 1	No. 1	No. 1	No. 1	No. 1
Treatment / rehabilitation	No. 5	No. 5	No. 4	No. 4	No. 5
Decriminalisation of drugs	No. 4	No. 4	No. 5	No. 5	No. 4
More police more prisons	No. 2	No. 2	No. 2	No. 2	No. 2
Harsher penalties for drugs offences	No. 3	No. 3	No. 3	No. 3	No. 3

Section 4 - Advertising and the Media



Q4 On average how many hours of TV do watch in a week?

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
None	3%	3%	3%	4%	1%
Less than 5 hours	24%	23%	25%	25%	23%
6 - 10 hours	35%	34%	35%	35%	35%
11 - 15 hours	23%	24%	21%	22%	23%
16 - 20 hours	10%	9%	10%	8%	12%
More than 21 hours	6%	7%	5%	5%	6%

Q4a What is your current favourite TV programme?

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
No. 1	Friends	Simpsons	Friends	Friends	Friends
No. 2	ER	Friends	ER	ER	ER
No. 3	Simpsons	MoTD	Eastenders	Simpsons	Eastenders, Simpsons, MoTD

(MoTD = Match of the Day)

Q4b On average, how often do you listen to the radio?

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Never	4%	6%	1%	3%	4%
1 - 2 hours per week	21%	24%	18%	22%	18%
2 - 4 hours per week	27%	26%	28%	28%	25%
1 - 2 hours per day	27%	26%	28%	27%	27%
2 - 4 hours per day	17%	15%	20%	15%	21%
More than 8 hours per day	4%	4%	5%	3%	6%

Q4c Do you have a personal computer in you home / place of residence?

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Yes	49%	50%	48%	51%	44%
No	51%	50%	52%	49%	56%

Q4d What is your favourite newspaper (Daily or Sunday)?

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
No. 1	Irish Times	Irish Times	Irish Times	Irish Times	Irish Indo.
No. 2	Irish Indo.	Irish Indo.	Irish Indo.	Irish Indo.	Irish Times
No. 3	The Sun	The Sun	The Star	The Sun	The Sun

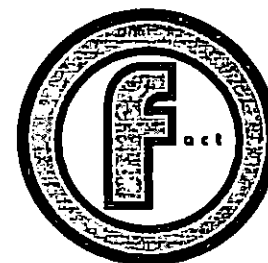
(Irish indo. = Irish Independent)

Q4e Which magazine do you read most often?

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
No. 1	FHM	FHM	Cosmo.	Cosmo.	FHM
No. 2	Cosmo.	Loaded	More	FHM	More
No. 3	More	Shoot	Sugar	Loaded, More, Sugar	Cosmo., Sugar

(Cosmo. = Cosmopolitan)

Q4f From which of the following sources do you get most of your information and news about national / international events?
Please rank in order of usage, - 1 being the most usage



	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Television	No. 1	No. 1	No. 1	No. 1	No. 1
Radio	No. 2	No. 3	No. 2	No. 3	No. 2
Newspapers	No. 3	No. 2	No. 3	No. 2	No. 3
Magazines	No. 5	No. 4	No. 4	No. 4	No. 4
Internet	No. 4	No. 5	No. 5	No. 5	No. 5
Other	No. 6	No. 6	No. 6	No. 6	No. 6

Section Five - General

Q5 Are you registered to vote?

	Overall
Yes	87%
No	13%

Q5a If the election were on tomorrow would you vote?
If no go to Q5c

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Yes	79%	77%	81%	77%	82%
No	21%	23%	19%	23%	18%

Q5b Which political party would you vote for?

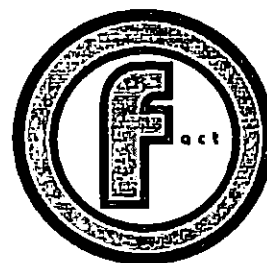
	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND					
FF	23%	23%	24%	21%	28%
FG	13%	15%	12%	14%	11%
Labour	12%	10%	15%	11%	15%
PDs	5%	3%	7%	5%	3%
Dem.Left	3%	4%	2%	4%	1%
Green Party	10%	11%	8%	11%	7%
Sinn Fein	3%	4%	2%	4%	3%
Other	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%
Don't know	29%	28%	31%	27%	31%

NORTHERN IRELAND	
SDLP	22%
UUP	29%
S.Fein	9%
Alliance	1%
DUP	4%
Conservative	3%
Labour	8%
Other	2%
Don't know	21%

Go to 5d

Q5c Why not?

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
No point - won't make a difference	24%	31%	17%	26%	20%
No interest	50%	58%	41%	49%	51%
Too difficult to get to a polling station	26%	11%	42%	25%	29%



Q5d What do you believe to be THE most serious issue / problem facing young people today?

	Overall	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Unemployment	46%	45%	47%	45%	47%
Drugs	23%	22%	23%	23%	22%
Northern Ireland issue	11%	12%	11%	12%	10%
Crime	12%	12%	12%	11%	14%
Environment	4%	5%	3%	4%	5%
Racism	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%
Other	2%	3%	2%	3%	1%

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS USED IN 'GET YOUR FACTS RIGHT'



1,400 people between the ages of 15 and 24 were surveyed at 64 locations. Locations were chosen on the basis of basic units used in the most recent Census conducted in the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland.

- Cork County Borough
- Cork Rural
- Middleton
- Killarney Rural
- Tralee Rural
- Tralee Town
- Listowel Rural
- Limerick County Borough
- Limerick Rural
- Ennis Rural
- Newcastle Rural
- Galway County Borough
- Galway Rural
- Tuam Rural
- Mullingar Rural
- Athlone Rural
- Tullamore Rural
- Sligo Rural
- Bundoran Rural
- Ballina
- Sligo
- Waterford County Borough
- Wexford Rural
- Enniscorthy Rural
- Carlow
- Kilkenny Rural
- Cavan
- Dundalk
- Drogheda
- Navan Rural
- Dundalk Rural
- Dublin County Borough
- South Dublin
- Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown
- Fingal
- Naas Rural
- Celbridge
- Dunshaughlin Rural
- Wicklow Rural
- Bray
- Trim Rural
- Derry
- Coleraine
- Inishowen Rural
- Fermanagh
- Omagh
- Strabane
- Stranorlar
- Newtownabbey
- Ballymena
- Antrim
- Magherafelt
- Newry
- Craigavon
- Armagh
- Dungannon
- Banbridge
- Lisburn
- North Down
- Newtownards
- Castlereagh
- Mallow
- Belfast
- Fermoy