

**Northern Ireland  
ISSP 2008 – Religion III  
Study Description**

2009-08-26

## ISSP Study Description Form

***Please use this form for reporting on Module 2006 and later!***

*Study title:* 2008 Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey

*Fieldwork dates:* 2008-10-1 to 2009-02-27

*Principal investigators:* Paula Devine  
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*Sample type:* The survey was designed to yield a representative sample of men and women aged 18 and over living in Northern Ireland. The sample for the 2008 survey consisted of a systematic random sample of addresses selected from the Land and Property Services Agency list of private addresses. This is the most up-to-date listing of private households and is made available to the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency for research purposes. Thus, a simple random sample of addresses was obtained after stratification into three geographic regions (Belfast, East of the Bann and West of the Bann). This was done to ensure the adequate representation of areas of lower population density and is standard practice in Northern Ireland social surveys. At selected addresses, the interviewers listed all members of the household eligible for inclusion in the sample: that is, all persons aged 18 or over living at the address. From this listing of eligible adults, the interviewer's computer randomly selected one adult. This person, the selected respondent, was then asked to complete the interview.

The sample selected was slightly larger than necessary in order to provide reserve addresses. Interviewers were instructed to make a total of five calls, or to have received a refusal or other information confirming that an interview would not be obtained, before being issued with reserve addresses. This was to ensure optimal response from the main sample.

Respondents completed a main interview using CAPI, as well as a self-completion questionnaire. The ISSP module was included in the self completion questionnaire.

*Fieldwork institute:* Interviewing was carried out by social survey interviewers employed by the Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

*Fieldwork methods:* All interviews were conducted in the respondents' homes. Interviewers made up to a maximum of five calls before the person identified in the sample was deemed to be 'non-obtainable'.

The main interview was carried out using computer assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) and the respondent was then asked to complete a self-completion form. The self-completion questionnaire was

completed using the following three methods:

- CASI method – the respondent completed the self completion on the computer.
- CAPI method – the interviewer completed the self completion on the computer.
- Traditional pen and paper method – the respondent completed the self completion on paper booklet.

*N. of respondents:* 1089

*Details about issued sample:*

Please follow the standards laid down in AAPOR/WAPOR, Standard Definitions: [http://www.aapor.org/uploads/standarddefs\\_4.pdf](http://www.aapor.org/uploads/standarddefs_4.pdf). The numbers in the parentheses are those used in Tables 2 and 3 of Standard Definitions.

1. Total number of starting or issued names/addresses (gross sample size) *	2350
2. Interviews (1.0)	...1216.....
3. Eligible, Non-Interview	
A. Refusal/Break-off (2.10)	648.....
B. Non-Contact (2.20)	150.....
C. Other	.....
i. Language Problems (2.33)	.....
ii. Miscellaneous Other (2.31, 2.32, 2.35)	.....
3. Unknown Eligibility, Non-Interview (3.0)	.....307.....
4. Not Eligible	
A. Not a Residence (4.50)	.....
B. Vacant Residence (4.60)	.....
C. No Eligible Respondent (4.70)	.....
D. Other (4.10,4.90)	.....29.....

\* When new sample units are added during the field period via a new dwelling units list or other standard updating procedure, these additional issued units are added to the starting number of units to make up the total gross sample size. Also, when substitution is used, the total must include the originally drawn cases plus all substitute cases. See AAPOR/WAPOR Standard Definitions, pp. 9-10 for further clarification.

*Language(s):* English

*Weight present:* Yes

*Weighting procedure:* It is not possible, using an address-based sampling frame, to select addresses with probability proportionate to the size of the household. To compensate for this potential source of bias, the data should be weighted before analysis. The weighting adjusts for the fact that individuals living in larger households had a lower chance of being included in the sample than individuals living in smaller households. The data are weighted in relation to the number of eligible adults at that address, derived from the details of the household structure recorded by the interviewers. In order to retain the actual number of interviews, the weighted sample was scaled back to the originally obtained sample size.

*Known systematic* None

*properties of sample:*

*Deviations from ISSP* None

*questionnaire:*

*Publications:* None