

# **Ballymun socio-economic profile**

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Commissioned by  
Ballymun Partnership

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## 1. Executive summary

Some of the key findings are highlighted below. Percentages and the actual figures the percentages relate to are presented here in the executive summary. As we surveyed ten percent of the Ballymun population, the survey figures have been multiplied by ten to show the actual numbers, i.e. 114 of those in work described their occupation as part of a career, this equates to 1140 people in Ballymun.

- Using the Principal Economic Status criteria, Ballymun has an unemployment rate four times that of the State.
- Nearly half (48.9%, 1140) of those in work describe their occupation as part of a career, rather than merely a job.
- All respondents were also asked whether they would be interested in setting up their own business and over a quarter (26.7%, 1210) indicated that they would be.
- In total 42.4% (2060) of respondents indicated that they received benefit payments.
- Compared with the State, Ballymun has a higher percentage of people (aged 15 and over) describing themselves as students. This is due to the high levels in 'second chance' education.
- Ballymun people achieve an educational level far lower than the national average.
- Although the majority of respondents had not completed upper secondary level education, over two-thirds (68.4%, 3200) reported having work skills.
- Nearly a third of people (30.4%, 1450) had participated in an education or training programme in the past 12 months.
- Three in five people (60.5%, 2870) indicated that they would like to participate in an education or training course in the future.
- Over a third (36.1%, 880) of households, with children attending primary or secondary school, use schools outside Ballymun.
- Although some parents prefer schools outside Ballymun, nearly three-quarters (74.3%, 1710) rate schools in Ballymun as good or very good.
- Nearly all parents (99.6%, 2380) said they would like their children to go on to Third Level education.
- Although 78.2% (1860) of parents usually mind their own children at home, this is the preferred method by only 56.2% (1320). This suggests that parents are minding children at home because suitable alternatives are not available.

- Nearly half (49.5%, 540) of parents had been prevented from looking for a job due to lack of available childcare. Nearly two in five (38.9%, 420) had been prevented from participating in education or training.
- Compared with the State, Ballymun has proportionally twice as many people covered by a Medical Card, and a far smaller proportion covered by private health insurance.
- Compared with the State, Ballymun has proportionately twice as many people describing their health as poor.
- Ballymun has a reasonably settled population; two-thirds (66.9%, 3250) have lived in the same accommodation for more than 5 years, and 42.9% (2150) have lived there for more than 10 years.
- Accommodation satisfaction levels are strongly dependent on the type of accommodation in which the person lives. In terms of houses, the newer the house the more satisfied the occupant is; and in terms of flats the fewer stories the block has the more satisfied the occupant is.
- Well over three quarters of people (78.9%, 3770) like living in Ballymun and want to continue doing so for the foreseeable future.
- Ballymun households, in comparison to the national averages, experience far higher rates of crime.
- The vast majority (89.7%, 4380) of people feel safe in their homes at night, however, 40.4% (1840) feel unsafe walking in their neighbourhood after dark.
- Nearly nine out of ten (88.6%, 4210) people felt that the local community should be more involved in running Ballymun, and 55.3% (2620) would like to participate in a neighbourhood council.
- The survey suggests that people require shopping facilities to be located closer to the homes than Ballymun Town Centre.

## 2. Introduction

Ballymun Partnership embarked on its most recent plan of action in January 2001 and has been restructuring itself to become more systematic in its approach, including putting in place mechanisms for continuous targeting and evaluation of activities against strategic aims.

In order to evaluate how strategies and actions impact on the local community, it is important to work from reliable data and continuously update that data, particularly in light of the regeneration programme currently being undertaken in Ballymun.

The Partnership wanted to gather key data that would provide a comprehensive social and economic profile of the Ballymun area – a picture of its strengths and weaknesses.

To gather this key data, the Partnership commissioned Vision 21 to conduct a survey of Ballymun residents. The survey was conducted between November 2002 and January 2003. The project methodology is outlined in the next section.

This report presents the key findings from the survey in the following sections:

- Demographics.
- Employment.
- Education and training.
- Profile of people of out work.
- Schooling.
- Childcare.
- Health.
- Housing and environment.
- Crime and safety.
- Participation.
- Income and expenditure.

The report compares the survey data with national surveys (i.e. the 2002 Census, 1996 Census, the National Quarterly Household Survey, the 1999/2000 Household Budget Survey) and a survey that was conducted for the Partnership in 2000. The 2000 survey, conducted by WRC, utilised the same methodology as the present survey and concentrated on labour force indicators.

A final section of the report draws together the conclusions from the study.

### 3. Methods

To establish the socio-economic profile of Ballymun it was decided to conduct a survey with ten percent of Ballymun households. A sampling frame was constructed using information from Dublin City Council Regional Office and information from the local post office. The target sample size was 485 households.

Letters were sent to the randomly selected potential respondents outlining the nature of the survey and informing them that an interviewer would call within the next few weeks. The survey was conducted between November 2002 and early January 2003. Up to four call-backs were made at each sampled address. If after four attempts an interview could not be secured a replacement address was selected for interview.

In terms of response rates, 81.6% of interviews were secured within four call-backs, 15.9% interviews were undertaken at alternative addresses because there was no response at the original address, and 2.5% of interviews were conducted at new addresses because of refusals at the original address.

In total 485 households were interviewed, this equates to a confidence interval of plus or minus 4.22% at a confidence level of 95%. Demographic and Principal Economic Status (PES) information was collected for every individual in the households, in total information was collected on 1516 individuals. On an individual level, this equates to a confidence interval of plus or minus 2.39% at a confidence level of 95%.

In the report, where data has been cross-tabulated and the relationship between the two variables (e.g. satisfaction and type of accommodation) was shown to be statistically significant, a 'p value' is presented. The table below illustrates the significance of the p values.

**Table 3.1 p values**

p value	Confidence level
p<0.05	95%
p<0.01	99%
p<0.001	99.9%

Where a p value is presented this means the relationship is statistically significant. It can be said that the lower a p value is the more significant the relationship between the two variables is.

## 4. Demographics

The first topic covered by the questionnaire was demographics. Respondents were asked to indicate the gender, age, marital status, and employment status of every member of the household.

In terms of gender 47.4% of the sample were male and 52.6% were female. This replicates closely the 1996 Census figures, which indicated that 47.5% of the Ballymun population was male and 52.5% were female. Therefore it can be seen that the gender composition has not changed significantly since 1996. The survey results are supported by the 2002 Census, which reported that 47.6% of Ballymun residents are male and 52.4% are female.

Household size has also remained stable. The 1996 Census reported an average Ballymun household size of 3.28 persons and our survey indicated an average of 3.16 persons. Again the survey results are supported by the 2002 Census, which reported a preliminary figure of 3.14 persons per household.

A ten percent sample of 485 households was interviewed. In total these households had 1,516 members, therefore we can estimate that Ballymun has total population of 15,160 people. This is supported by the 2002 Census, which reported a Ballymun population of 15,229.

The average age of people living in Ballymun is 26.82 years old.

**Table 4.1 Age profile**

Age group	2002 Survey %	1996 Census* %	State* %
0 – 14	29.1	32.6	23.7
15 – 24	20.8	20.8	17.5
25 – 44	32.7	26.1	28.0
45 – 64	14.1	17.5	19.4
65 +	3.3	3.1	11.4

\*Source: CSO: 1996 Census

Table 4.1 presents the age profile breakdown and as can be seen half (49.9%) of all Ballymun residents are below the age of 25, this compares to 41.2% of the State.

When looking at a more detailed breakdown of age and gender, the figures suggest that there is a decline in the birth rate and a decline in the numbers of young women. There also seems to be lower than expected male population between the ages of 25 and 39. However the degree of accuracy of a survey of this kind does not lend itself to examining very small sub-groups. Therefore it is recommended that the issues of declining birth rate, declining numbers of young women, and hidden male population is investigated in more detail when the 2002 Census age profile information is available in June 2002. This demographic analysis will be of great importance to organisations such as the health board (birth rates), job centre (hidden male population), and Dublin City Council (household structures).



## 5. Employment

After discussing demographics, the respondents were asked about their employment situation.

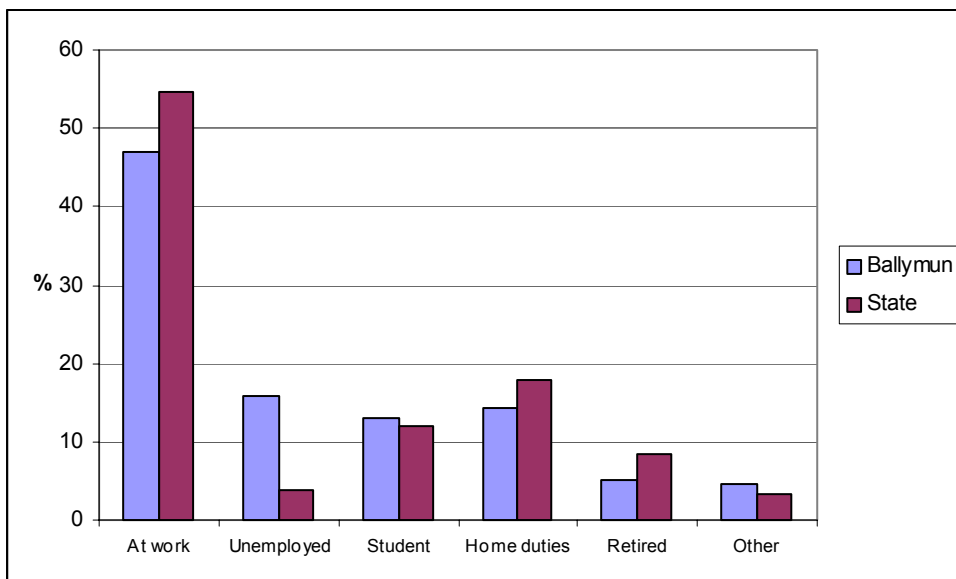
In the total sample (respondents plus other household members), 1062 individuals were aged fifteen or over. Table 5.1 compares the PES of Ballymun residents (aged fifteen and older) with those of the State.

**Table 5.1 Principal Economic Status, Ballymun and the State**

PES Criterion	2000 Survey %	2002 Survey %	State* %
At work	48.9	<b>47.1</b>	54.6
Unemployed	18.6	<b>15.9</b>	3.8
Student	9.0	<b>13.1</b>	12.1
Home duties	15.0	<b>14.2</b>	17.9
Retired	4.9	<b>5.1</b>	8.4
Other (inc. disabled or ill)	3.5	<b>4.5</b>	3.2

\*Source: CSO - QNHS (2002 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter)

**Chart 5.1 Principal Economic Status, Ballymun and the State**



When comparing the PES of Ballymun residents with the national picture, it can be seen in Chart 5.1 that four times as many Ballymun people describe themselves as unemployed, and there were 7.5% fewer people who indicated that they worked. The fact that Ballymun has a relatively young population explains why a lower proportion of people describe themselves as retired.

Ballymun has a slightly higher percentage of people (aged 15 and over) describing themselves as students. This is probably due to the high numbers of people participating in

training schemes such as Youthreach, LES, FÁS, as well as attending evening courses at the local comprehensive school.

Table 5.2 compares the ILO economic status of Ballymun residents with the national figures.

**Table 5.2 ILO Economic Status, Ballymun and the State**

<b>ILO Criterion</b>	<b>2000 Survey %</b>	<b>2002 Survey %</b>	<b>State* %</b>
Employed full time	31.7	<b>31.4</b>	47.6
Employed part time (not under employed)	13.5	<b>16.1</b>	9.3
Employed part time (under employed)	1.0	<b>2.0</b>	0.1
Unemployed	7.8	<b>9.1</b>	2.7
Not in labour force	46.0	<b>41.4</b>	40.3

\*Source: CSO - QNHS (2002 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter)

Using the ILO criteria, over three times as many people from Ballymun are classified as unemployed. Another area in which the labour force profile of Ballymun differs from the national profile is part time employment. Proportionally Ballymun has 6.8% more part-time workers than the State.

Table 5.2 also illustrates that proportionally more Ballymun people are in the labour force than was the case in 2000. Although some of this is accounted for by a slightly higher unemployment rate, the biggest difference is the increase in part time employment.

As can be seen in the next table six out of ten workers described the level of their job as general operative. However, when the respondents were asked whether they considered their occupation was part of a career path or just a job, nearly half (48.9%) stated it was part of a career. All respondents were also asked whether they would be interested in setting up their own business and over a quarter (26.7%) indicated that they would be. This obviously illustrates the great potential for enterprise in Ballymun.

**Table 5.3 Level of occupation**

<b>Level in current job</b>	<b>%</b>
General operative	60.9
Clerical operative	14.2
Supervisor	9.9
Management team	3.0
Director	0.9
Employer	1.3
Other	9.9

All Respondents were asked whether or not they received welfare payments, in total 42.4% indicated that they received benefit payments. Table 5.4 shows the breakdown between different welfare payments.

**Table 5.4 Receiving welfare payments**

Type	%
Unemployment Assistance	5.8
Unemployment Benefit	4.3
Lone Parent Allowance	18.6
Related to Disability	6.8
Carer's Allowance	0.4
Other	6.6

The proportion of Ballymun people claiming Lone Parent Allowance has increased since 2000. According to the survey conducted in 2000, 14.4% of adults claimed the benefit and as can be seen in the table above this percentage has increased by 4.2% to 18.6%. However, when we examine these percentages in terms of numbers of people we see that the actual number of people claiming Lone Parent Allowance has stayed constant since 2000.

## 6. Profile of people out of work

Using the ILO criteria over half (50.5%) of the Ballymun population (aged over fifteen) are either unemployed or not economically active. The table below illustrates how this figure is broken down.

**Table 6.1 ILO Criterion**

ILO Criterion	2002 Survey %
Unemployed seeking full time work	4.1
Unemployed seeking part time work	4.5
Unemployed seeking part time and full time work	0.5
Not economically active – available for and passively seeking full time work	3.2
Not economically active – available for and passively seeking part time work	5.2
Not economically active, other	33.0

The table suggests that 17.5% of the Ballymun population are out of work but are available to undertake some kind of employment. In terms of numbers of people, the survey suggests that 770 people are available for work. The rest of this section profiles these 'out of work' people.

Table 6.2 shows that nearly half (48.1%) of out work people live in 8 storey flats and more than one in five live in second generation housing.

**Table 6.2 Accommodation type of people out of work**

Type	2002 Survey %
New unit	5.2
2 <sup>nd</sup> generation house	20.8
1 <sup>st</sup> generation house	11.7
4 storey flat	2.6
8 storey flat	48.1
15 storey flat	11.7

Table 6.6 shows that 27.3% of out of work people live in Poppintree and only 14.3% live in Shangan.

**Table 6.2 Area in which of people out of work live**

Area	2002 Survey %
Poppintree	27.3
Balcurris/Balbutcher	20.8
Silloogue/Sandyhill	15.6
Coultry	22.1
Shangan	14.3

Over two thirds (68.5%) of people out of work stated that they were on the Live Register.

45.5% expressed an interest in setting up their own business. Suggestions included:

- Opening a shop.
- Carpentry.
- Painting and decorating.
- Computer/electronics related.

The table below shows that over three-quarters (77.9%) of people out of work have not attained upper secondary level education, and none have attained degree level.

**Table 6.3 Highest level of education of people out of work**

Level	2002 Survey %
No formal education	1.3
Primary education	22.1
Lower secondary education	54.5
Upper secondary education	15.6
Post Leaving Cert	5.2
Third level non-degree	1.3

However, nearly four in five (78.9%) stated having work skills. These included:

- Computer skills.
- Machinist skills.
- Trade skills.
- Administrative/secretarial skills.

In total, 40.0% of people out of work had undertaken an education or training course in the past 12 months, and over three quarters (77.6%) would like to participate in a course in the future. The table below describes the type of courses people out of work would like to undertake.

**Table 6.3 Type of course people out of work wish to undertake**

<b>Level</b>	<b>2002 Survey %</b>
Computer related	32.8
Trade/craft related	19.0
Childcare / social services	17.2
School subjects	6.9
Third level	5.2
Basic skills	3.4
Driving related	3.4
Other job specific	3.4
Other	8.6

Of those who would like to undertake a course, 37.8% reported that something was preventing them from participating. The most frequently cited barrier to training was lack of appropriate childcare. Other cited barriers included lack of time and money.

## 7. Education and training

All respondents were asked to indicate at what age they ceased education. Nearly one in ten (9.3%) of respondents were still in education. Of those who had finished their studies nearly half (48.2%) left education before the age of 16, and more than eight in ten (81.1%) had left before turning eighteen, and only 18.9% were still in education at the age of 18.

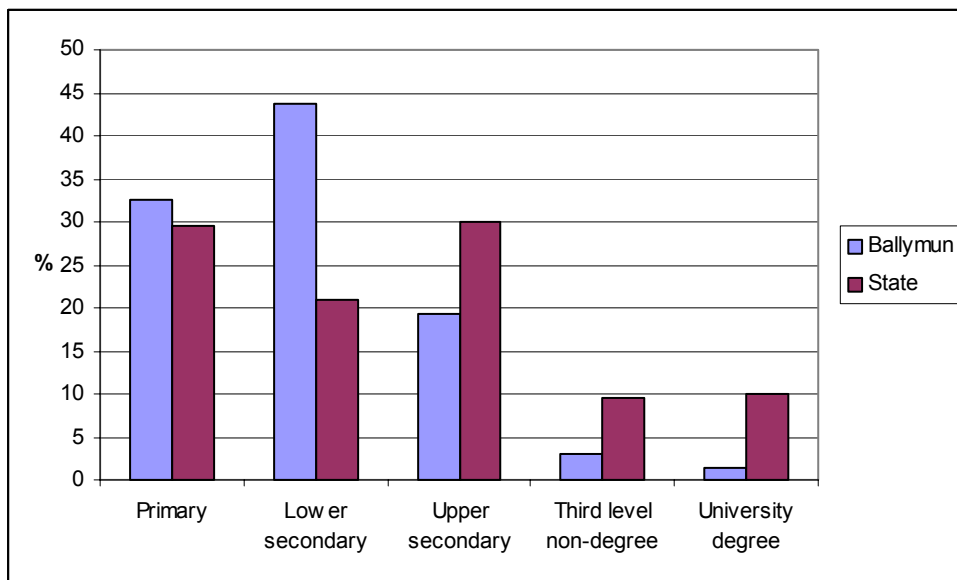
Table 7.1 illustrates the highest level of education completed to date by the respondents no longer in full-time education. As the table shows, proportionally the State has over twice as many people than Ballymun who have completed upper secondary level education (46.9% compared to 23.8%).

**Table 7.1 Highest level of education**

Level of education	2002 Survey %	State* %
Primary education (incl. No formal education)	32.5	29.5
Lower secondary	43.7	20.9
Upper secondary	19.4	29.9
Third level non-degree	3.0	9.6
University degree	1.4	10.1

\*Source: CSO – 1996 Census of Population

**Chart 7.1 Highest level of education**



As can be seen in Chart 7.1, on average Ballymun people achieve an educational level far lower than the national average. However, as was pointed out in the last section, Ballymun has a slightly greater proportion of people, aged fifteen and over, who describe themselves as students. This is due to the high numbers who are undertaking training courses and participating in 'second chance' education.

Although the majority of respondents had not completed upper secondary level education, over two-thirds (68.4%) had work skills. In terms of skills of those in work, 66.7% of those who described their current occupation as general operative reported having work skills. These skills, along with the high numbers in second chance education, would obviously be attractive to potential employers or firms considering locating in Ballymun. Various skills were described, but those that were cited most often were as follows:

- Computer related.
- Management/ team leadership.
- Clerical/secretarial.
- Trade skills (e.g. plumbing, electrical, welding, plastering, painting and decorating).
- Catering.
- Childminding.

Nearly a third of people (30.4%) had participated in an education or training programme in the past 12 months. Table 7.2 shows the breakdown of the type of organisation that ran the courses that were undertaken. As the table shows, of those who had participated in a training course a third had been provided by the employer, and nearly two in ten (19.9%) were provided by FÁS. A large proportion of the people undertaking training would have accessed the course through the LES.

**Table 7.2 Education and training providers**

Provider	%
Employer	27.0
FÁS	19.9
Still in 2 <sup>nd</sup> level ed	12.1
VEC – PLC	7.8
Third level	7.1
Private training company	5.7
Ballymun Job Centre	4.9
Comm/vol organisation	3.5
Ballymun Comp – night courses	3.5
Other VEC	2.8
Other	13.5

The high numbers of people undertaking these courses illustrates the importance of 'second chance' education in Ballymun.



Three in five people (60.5%) indicated that they would like to participate in an education or training course. Nearly three quarters (72.4%) of unemployed people indicated wanting to participate in an education or training course, and nearly two thirds (62.6%) of those currently working would like to undertake a course of some kind. Table 7.3 shows that over a third (33.8%) of those who would like to do a course would like to undertake computer related training.

**Table 7.3 Type of course in which people would like to participate**

Course type	%	Number of people
Computer related	33.8	970
Childcare/social services	11.5	330
Trade/craft related	11.5	330
Third level	9.4	270
Other job specific	8.4	240
School subjects	7.0	200
Driving related	4.9	140
Basic education	3.8	110
Other	9.8	200

People were asked if there was anything preventing them from participating in training and nearly half (46.1%) said there was. Various reasons for not undertaking course were given but the most frequently cited were:

- Childcare responsibilities.
- Cost.
- Time constraints.
- Health problems.

Respondents were asked to suggest ways of overcoming these barriers to training. The following suggestions were made:

- Cheaper/better childcare facilities.
- Financial assistance.
- Courses run at a more convenient time.

As Tables 7.4 and 7.5 show over 80% of people rate their communication skills as good or very good, however this drops to below 60% when rating numeracy skills.

**Table 7.4 Self rated ability – communication skills**

Communication skills	Very good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Spoken	56.3	34.4	8.7	0.4	0.2
Reading	54.5	32.2	9.3	2.7	1.2
Writing	50.8	32.4	11.0	3.9	1.9

**Table 7.5 Self rated ability – numeracy**

Skills	Very good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Numeracy	24.2	32.9	28.1	11.2	3.7

Respondents were asked to indicate whether or not the household has a home computer/PC. In total 34.9% indicated having a computer, this is higher than the State average at 32.4% (Source: CSO – NQHS, 4thQ 2000). Table 7.6 shows that a lower proportion of people from Ballymun use their computers for education or work.

**Table 7.6 Use of home computer (as % of homes with a computer)**

PC use	2002 Survey %	State* %
Work	31.2	47.4
Education	57.4	80.9
Leisure	79.2	89.3

Source: CSO – NQHS, 4thQ 2000

## 8. Schooling

Respondents with children attending primary or secondary schools were asked questions about schooling.

Over a third (36.1%) of households, with children attending primary or secondary school, use schools outside Ballymun for at least one of their children. Various reasons were given for this, but they can be summarised as follows:

- Originally lived elsewhere – use the same school.
- Better schools elsewhere.
- Bad behaviour by children in Ballymun schools.
- Attend a special needs school.

As Table 8.1 shows, although some parents prefer schools outside Ballymun, nearly three-quarters (74.3%) rate schools in Ballymun as good or very good.

**Table 8.1 Rate Ballymun schools**

Rate	%
Very good	47.8
Good	26.5
Average	16.1
Poor	6.5
Very poor	3.0

Nearly all parents (99.6%) said they would like their children to go on to Third Level education. The reasons given for wanting their children to go onto further and higher education are as follows:

- Better career potential.
- More opportunities with an education.
- Improves future prospects.
- To fulfil potential.
- Because the parents didn't themselves have the opportunity of a Third Level education.

### **Young people not in education, training or employment**

All respondents were asked if there was anyone in the household aged between 14 and 18 who was not in education, training or employment. Only nine respondents, which equates to 90 households in Ballymun, reported having at least one early school leaver who was not in employment or training. The interviewer asked what these people were currently doing. The responses included: looking after children, looking for work, and nothing.

It should be noted that these figures on early school leaving should be used as a bare minimum as it is thought the self report questionnaire encountered some under-reporting on this question. Further research is needed to examine the nature and extent of young people leaving school without going into employment or training.

## 9. Childcare

Parents with children attending primary school or younger non-school going children were asked about childcare arrangements. Many of the questions are comparable to questions asked in the QNHS in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2002, however the results from the national survey are yet to be released but should be available in the summer of 2003.

Half of households (50.0%) included children attending primary school or younger non-school going children.

Parents were asked to indicate which type of childcare they usually used during weekdays. As can be seen in the table below the vast majority of children were cared for either by the parents themselves or unpaid relatives. Crèche/nursery and after school activity-based facilities were the next most frequently used arrangements.

**Table 9.1 Type of childcare usually used**

Types of childcare	%
Childcare minded at home by me/partner	78.2
Unpaid relative (or family friend) in your own home	29.5
Unpaid relative (or family friend) in his/her own home	25.3
Crèche/Nursery	11.0
After school activity-based facility	8.9
Homework club	5.9
Paid relative (or family friend)/childminder in his/her own home	5.5
Playgroup/pre-school/sessional childcare	4.6
Paid relative (or family friend)/childminder in your own home	3.4
Au Pair/Nanny	0.4
Naionra	0.4
Work-based crèche	0.4
Montessori school	0.0
Special needs facility	0.0
Other	1.3

As Table 9.2 illustrates, although 78.2% of parents usually mind the own children at home, this is the preferred method by only 56.2%. This suggests that parents are minding children at home because suitable alternatives are not available. To put this in terms of numbers, the survey shows that 1860 parents mind their children at home, and this method is the preferred method of only 1320 parents, suggesting that 540 parents are minding their children at home because suitable alternatives are not available. Other preferred methods included unpaid relatives and crèche/nurseries.

**Table 9.2 Preferred type of childcare**

Types of childcare	%
Childcare minded at home by me/partner	56.2
Unpaid relative (or family friend) in your own home	9.8
Crèche/Nursery	9.4
Unpaid relative (or family friend) in his/her own home	7.2
After school activity-based facility	5.5
Paid relative (or family friend)/childminder in his/her own home	4.3
Playgroup/pre-school/sessional childcare	3.4
Paid relative (or family friend)/childminder in your own home	1.7
Homework club	0.9
Other	0.9
Au Pair/Nanny	0.4
Montessori school	0.4
Naionra	0.0
Work-based crèche	0.0
Special needs facility	0.0

Parents were asked to indicate the main reason why they used childcare on a weekly basis. Nearly six in ten (59.6%) reported that it enabled them to work, 17.4% used childcare to provide a social or educational outlet for the child, and 9.0% said it enabled the parent to participate in education or training. Fourteen percent of parents indicated 'other' reasons for using childcare, these included allowing time to go shopping and provide free time for the parents.

Parents with children attending primary school or younger non-school going children were asked whether lack of childcare had prevented them from doing anything in the last 12 months. As Table 9.3 shows nearly half (49.5%) had been prevented from looking for a job due to lack of available childcare. Nearly two in five (38.9%) had been prevented from participating in education or training, and nearly three in ten (28.6%) had been prevented from changing their work hours. Nearly one in four (24.1%) had to turn down a job offer and more than one in five (21.3%) had to quit a job due to lack of suitable childcare arrangements.

**Table 9.3 Lack of childcare in the last 12 months**

	%
Prevented you from looking for a job?	49.5
Stopped you from taking a study or training course?	38.9
Stopped you from changing the hours you regularly work?	28.7
Made you turn down a job?	24.1
Made you quit a job?	21.3
Made you quit a study or training course?	13.0
Other	10.3

Table 9.4 shows the percentage of parents who use childcare facilities provided in Ballymun.

**Table 9.4 Use of Ballymun childcare facilities**

Facilities	%
Tir na nOg Day Nursery	15.0
Ballymun East Community Centre	13.3
BITE	10.0
Women's Resource Centre	8.3
Axis	8.3
Aisling Project (Virgin Mary)	8.3
Our Lady's Nursery	6.7
Aisling Project (Holy Spirit)	6.7
Scoil an tSearchtar Laoch	5.0
Early Start	3.3
Aisling Project (St Josephs)	3.3
St Margaret's Travellers	1.7
CAFTA	1.7
Glor na Geal	1.7
Geraldstown House	1.7
Ballymun Playground Association	1.7
Bernadette Hopkins	1.7
BEST	1.7

Those who do not use Ballymun childcare facilities were asked why this was so. The responses can be summarised as follows:

- Don't need facilities because use family and friends.
- Didn't know about Ballymun facilities.
- Too expensive.
- No places available/on waiting list.
- Don't like the idea of using childcare facilities.

## 10. Health

To establish a profile of Ballymun people's health, respondents were asked a number of questions about health conditions, illnesses and disabilities. Much of the information is comparable to data collected by the QNHS (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2001). The first two questions about long-last conditions and difficulty performing activities will be comparable to 2002 Census information when it is published later in 2003.

Table 10.1 illustrates that more than one in twenty people (5.8%) suffer from blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment. One in eight people (12.6%) has a condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying.

**Table 10.1 Percentage suffering long-lasting conditions**

Conditions	%
Blindness, deafness	5.8
Limits physical activities	12.6

All respondents were asked if, because of a physical, mental or emotional condition lasting six months or more, they have any difficulty in doing any of the following activities. The results can be seen in Table 10.2.

**Table 10.2 Because of condition lasting at least 6 mth do you have any difficulty in ...**

Activity	%
Working at a job or business	6.6
Learning, remembering or concentrating	5.6
Going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's surgery	4.3
Dressing, bathing or getting around inside the home	1.7

Respondents were asked to indicate what type of medical cover they had. As can be seen in Table 10.3, the proportion of people in Ballymun covered by a Medical card is over twice as high as the figure for the State. Ballymun has far smaller proportion of people covered by private health insurance.

**Table 10.3 Percent of people with medical cover**

Type of cover	2002 Survey %	State* %
Medical card only	58.6	25.9
Private health insurance only	9.8	46.1
Both	1.9	2.1
Neither	29.6	25.9

Source: CSO – NQHS, 3rdQ 2001

Respondents were also asked whether or not they suffered from specific health conditions. The results can be seen in Table 10.4. Ballymun has a slightly higher proportion of people with one or more conditions (35.7% compared to 30.4% for the State). Ballymun has a far higher rate of asthma (9.3% compared to 5.0%) and a far lower rate of hypertension (3.1% compared to 6.8%).

**Table 10.4 Percent of people from specific conditions**

<b>Condition</b>	<b>2002 Survey %</b>	<b>State* %</b>
Asthma	9.3	5.0
Angina	3.7	2.3
Rheumatoid arthritis	3.7	3.8
Gastric/peptic/duodenal ulcer	3.7	1.7
Diabetes	3.1	1.5
Hypertension	3.1	6.8
Heart attack	2.9	1.5
Chronic bronchitis	2.5	1.4
Other cancer	2.1	1.0
Gallstones	2.1	1.3
Osteo arthritis (of the hip)	1.7	3.0
Kidney stones	1.0	0.6
Stroke	0.8	0.6
Leg ulcer requiring dressing	0.8	0.5
Osteoporosis	0.6	0.9
Under active thyroid	0.6	0.9
Skin cancer	0.2	0.3
Other	13.0	9.2
One or more	35.7	30.4

Source: CSO – NQHS, 3rdQ 2001

People were also asked to rate their health in general. Table 10.5 presents the results.

**Table 10.5 How people perceive their own health**

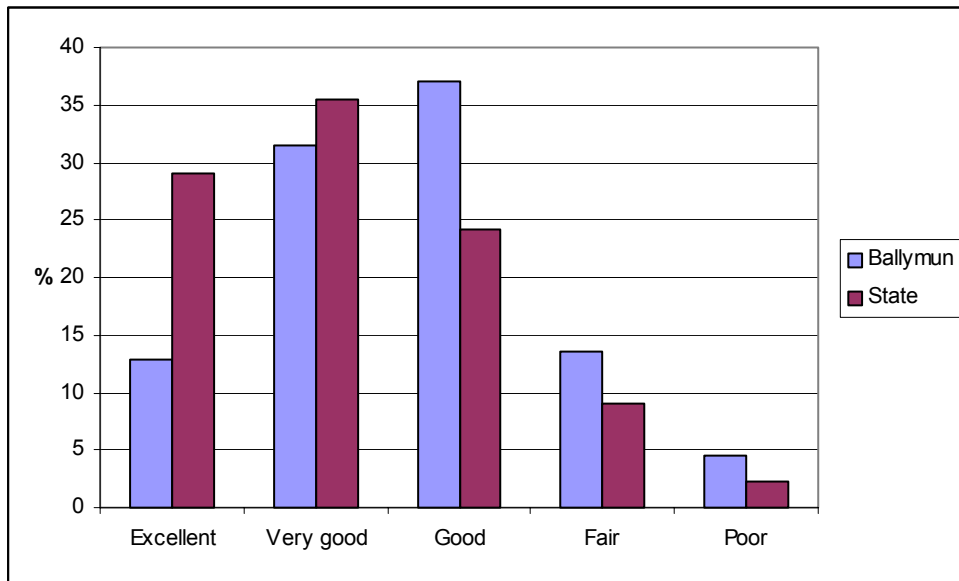
<b>Rate</b>	<b>2002 Survey %</b>	<b>State* %</b>
Excellent	12.8	29.1
Very good	31.5	35.4
Good	37.1	24.2
Fair	13.5	9.0
Poor	4.6	2.2
Don't know/not stated	0.6	0.1

Source: CSO – NQHS, 3rdQ 2001



Chart 10.1 illustrates that the State has proportionally more than twice as many people who describe their health as excellent. Ballymun has a proportion twice as large as the State of people describing their health as poor. Many studies suggest the health of a community is inextricably linked to social exclusion. As Ballymun is to be used by the Department of Health and Children as one of the pilot areas for a new model of primary care, we should expect some improvement in the coming years.

**Chart 10.1 How people perceive their own health**



The survey also examined issues of alcohol and drug use, however it should be noted that these issues were only covered in terms of health problems. One in twelve (8.3%) households include a person who has had health problems associated with drug or alcohol use.

Over two thirds (69.0%) of these sought help from health/drug services. 48.3% of these rated the service as very good, 17.2% rated the service as good, 13.8% rated it as average, 3.4% rated it as poor, and 17.2% rated the service as very poor.

The Drugs Task Force Report (2000) reported figures gathered from three sources: drug treatment services, hospitals, and Garda. The report stated that in 1998 there were 683 opiate users in Ballymun, most of whom were in the age range 15 – 49 years old. This meant that one in thirteen local people in that age range were found to be opiate users. The ratio was as high as one in five men, between the ages of 24 and 29, were found to be using opiates.

The level and nature of alcohol and drug use warrants further investigation by Ballymun Local Drugs Task Force.

## 11. Housing and environment

Respondents were asked about their perceptions of their housing and environment. This information, although subjective, is of great value as it is an indicator of how people feel about their area.

Nearly one in five (17.8%) Ballymun households, which rent from the local authority, intend to buy their present homes, 32.3% intend to buy new homes, and 49.9% do not intend to buy.

As can be seen in Table 11.1, Ballymun has reasonably settled population; two-thirds (66.9%) have lived in the same accommodation for more than 5 years, and 42.9% have lived there for more than 10 years.

**Table 11.1 Length of time in present accommodation**

Length of time	%
Less than 1 yr	11.3
1 – 5 yrs	21.8
5 – 10 yrs	24.0
More than 10 yrs	42.9

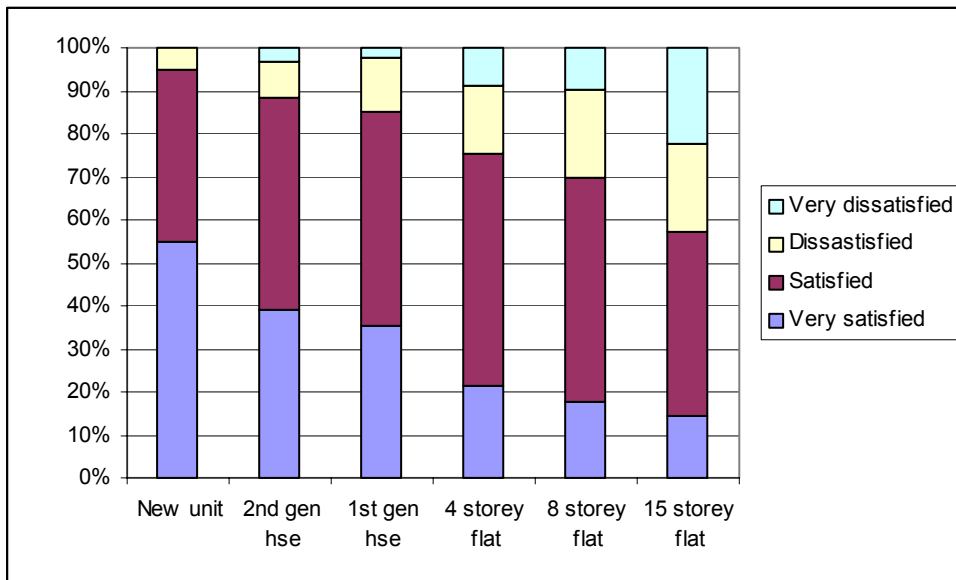
Table 11.2 shows that over three quarters (76.6%) of the population are either satisfied or very satisfied with their accommodation. However, when compared to the State (4.8%) (Source: CSO – QNHS 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 1998), a far greater proportion of Ballymun households are not satisfied with their accommodation (23.5%). However, as is shown in Chart 11.1, only 5.0% of occupants of the new post regeneration units are dissatisfied with their accommodation.

**Table 11.2 Satisfaction with accommodation**

Satisfaction	%
Very satisfied	26.8
Satisfied	49.8
Dissatisfied	16.0
Very dissatisfied	7.5

As illustrated in Chart 11.1, satisfaction levels are strongly dependent on the type of accommodation in which the person lives. In terms of houses, the newer the house the more satisfied the occupant is; and in terms of flats the fewer stories the block has the more satisfied the occupant is. This relationship is statistically significant ( $p < 0.001$ ).

**Chart 11.1 Satisfaction with accommodation by type of accommodation**



Respondents were also asked to indicate how satisfied they were with the areas immediately outside their accommodation, e.g. stairwells, lift shafts, green spaces, paths. Table 11.3 shows that six out of ten people (60.7%) were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

**Table 11.3 Satisfaction with area outside**

Satisfaction	%
Very satisfied	7.2
Satisfied	32.0
Dissatisfied	31.4
Very dissatisfied	29.3

Perhaps unsurprisingly, households in the 15 storey blocks were most dissatisfied (81.6%), and occupants of the new units were most satisfied (60.0%).

Chart 11.2 illustrates the relationship between satisfaction with areas outside and forum area. As can be seen people living in Poppintree are the most likely to be satisfied; and the people of Balcurris/Balbutcher and Sillogue/Sandyhill are the most likely to be dissatisfied. This relationship is statistically significant ( $p < 0.001$ ).

**Chart 11.2 Satisfaction with areas outside by neighbourhood forum area**

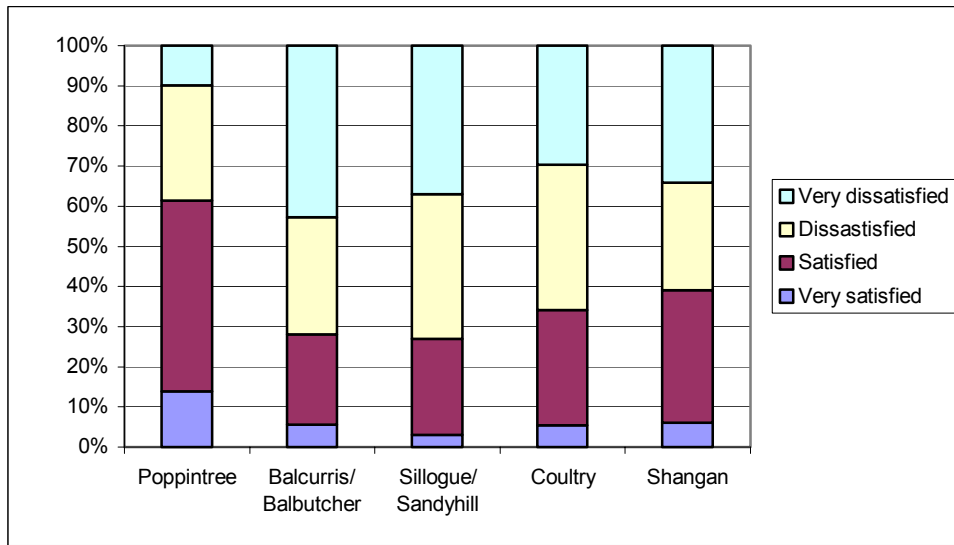


Table 11.4 shows that two in five people (41.9%) are satisfied with the regeneration plan to date. Not surprisingly occupants of the new units were most likely to be satisfied (65.0%).

**Table 11.4 Satisfaction with progress of regeneration plan to date**

Satisfaction	%
Very satisfied	6.1
Satisfied	35.8
Dissatisfied	37.7
Very dissatisfied	20.4

Of those who live in post regeneration accommodation, 61.1% said their bills had increased since moving to their new homes.

We were also interested in homelessness and in particular the level of ‘hidden homeless’ in Ballymun. Anecdotal evidence suggests that there is large number of people who temporarily stay with friends and extended family because they have nowhere else to go. Respondents were asked: at present or at any time over the past 12 months have you had anyone living with you, who does not usually live in your home, and who has no permanent or steady address?

Nearly one in eleven (8.7%) households, over the past 12 months, have had someone living with them who does not usually live there. In terms of numbers, the survey suggests that 410 households have given temporary accommodation to someone without a permanent address over the past 12 months. However, this figure will contain ‘multiple counting’ – person who has stayed with more than one household in the past year will be counted more than once. Even after taking this point into consideration, the survey supports the anecdotal evidence that there is a large population of ‘hidden homeless’ in Ballymun.

**Table 11.5 Length of stay**

Length of time	%
Less than 1 week	23.1
Less than 1 month	20.5
1 month to 6 months	25.6
More than 6 months	30.8

Table 11.6 shows that nearly a third of households, who have temporarily accommodated someone, did so for more than six months.

In terms of 'visible homelessness', 41.0% of respondents have seen someone sleeping rough in Ballymun. As Table 11.6 illustrates, less than two in five people (39.9%) felt homelessness was not a serious problem in Ballymun.

**Table 11.6 Description of homelessness in Ballymun**

	%
Very serious problem	15.2
Serious problem	20.4
Fairly serious problem	24.5
Not serious problem	26.6
Not a problem	13.3

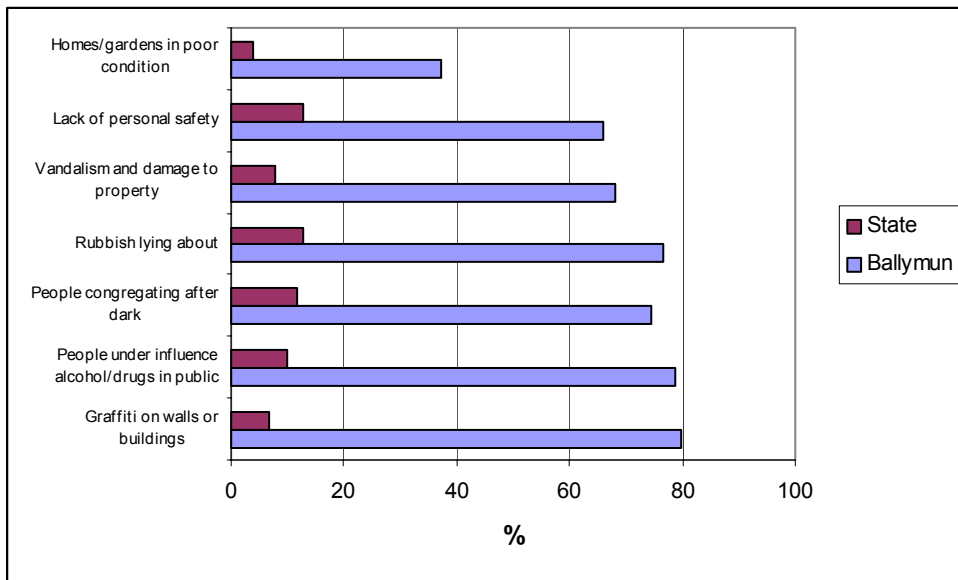
Table 11.7 illustrates that over half of households live in neighbourhoods where graffiti, people under the influence of alcohol or drugs, people congregating after dark, and rubbish lying about are very common occurrences.

**Table 11.7 Percentage of households living in neighbourhood affect by various problems**

	Very common	Fairly common	Not very common	Not all common
Graffiti on walls or buildings	65.1	14.6	12.9	7.5
People under influence alcohol/drugs in public	59.5	19.1	13.3	8.1
People congregating after dark	57.6	16.9	15.0	10.5
Rubbish lying about	55.5	21.2	16.4	6.9
Vandalism and damage to property	49.2	18.9	16.0	16.0
Lack of personal safety on roads and streets	43.6	22.5	19.2	14.6
Homes/gardens in poor condition	16.1	21.3	43.0	19.6

Chart 11.3 compares this situation with the national picture. As can be seen when compared with the State, Ballymun has a far greater proportion of households affected by the various problems (very common or fairly common).

**Chart 11.3 Percentage of households living in neighbourhood affect by various problems**



This type of low-level crime is often known as anti social behaviour. Several studies suggest that if anti-social behaviour is not addressed, it can act as a catalyst for more serious crimes (Armitage, NACRO, 2002). Ballymun seems to prove this theory as will be outlined in the Crime and Safety Section.

Respondents were asked how satisfied they were with the maintenance of Ballymun (e.g. street cleaning, repairing broken lights). As Table 9.7 shows, over half (55.4%) are satisfied, however over a fifth (21.2%) are very dissatisfied.

**Table 11.8 Satisfaction with maintenance of Ballymun**

Satisfaction	%
Very satisfied	4.0
Satisfied	51.4
Dissatisfied	23.4
Very dissatisfied	21.2

We were also interested in transport usage and satisfaction with public transport. Table 11.9 shows that buses are the usual mode of transport for two out of five people (42.5%). Of these people nearly half (49.2%) were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with public transport in Ballymun.

**Table 11.9 Usual mode of transport**

Mode of transport	%
Bus	42.5
Car	34.0
Walk	17.8
Bicycle	4.4
Taxi	1.2

Respondents were also asked whether or not the construction work in Ballymun, due to the regeneration project, had negatively affected their lives. Perhaps unsurprisingly, given the scale of the regeneration project, 26.2% said very much so and 37.2% indicated it had affected them to a degree. Just under half (46.5%) were satisfied with the safety measures around the construction sites.

Recycling was also an issue raised in the interviews. Over a third of households (36.0%) reported recycling household waste, and another 41.0% indicated that they would start recycling if facilities were available locally.

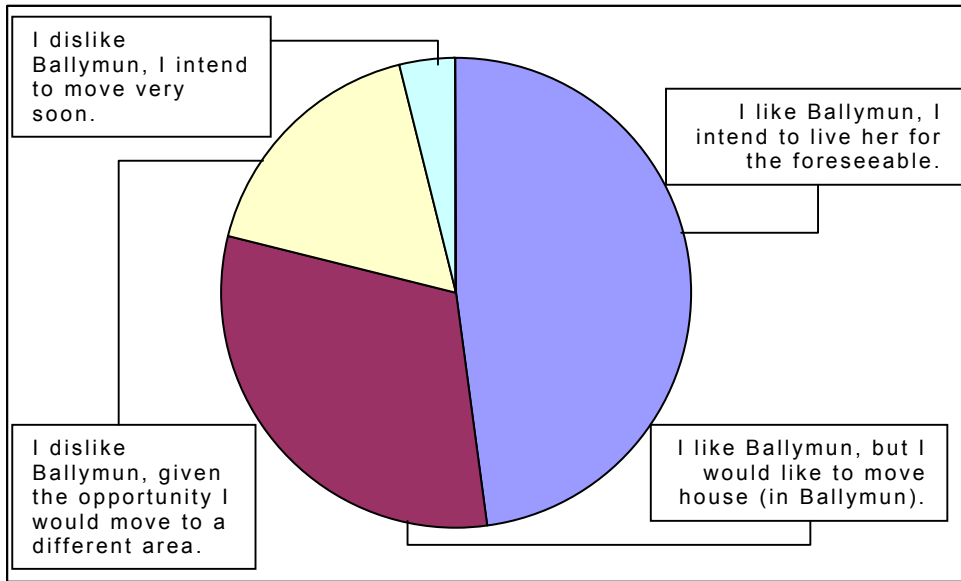
Respondents were read four statements and were asked to indicate which most closely match their feelings for Ballymun. Table 11.10 presents the results.

**Table 11.10 Statement best describes Ballymun**

Statement	%
I like Ballymun, I intend to live here for the foreseeable future	47.7
I like Ballymun, but I would like to move to a new house in Ballymun	31.2
I dislike Ballymun, given the opportunity I would move to another area	17.3
I dislike Ballymun, I intend to move very soon	3.8

As Chart 11.4 illustrates well over three quarters of people (78.9%) like living in Ballymun and want to continue doing so for the foreseeable future.

**Chart 11.4 Statement best describing Ballymun**





## 12. Crime and safety

Another topic covered by the interviews was crime and safety.

In terms of security measures, Table 12.1 shows that Ballymun has a far lower proportion of households protected by either burglar alarms or an active neighbourhood watch scheme.

**Table 12.1 Percentage of households with the following security**

Home security	2002 Survey %	State* %
Burglar alarm	8.9	24.5
Neighbourhood watch	9.9	38.3

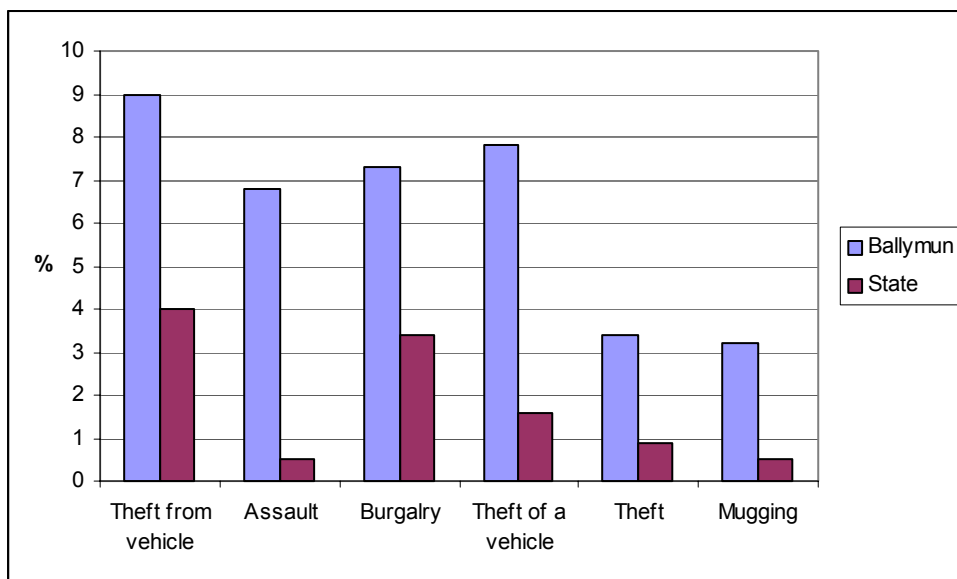
Source: CSO – NQHS, 3rdQ 1998

Respondents were asked whether or not they had experienced various crimes in the past 12 months, and if so had they reported the crime to the Gardai. As is illustrated in Table 12.2, 9% had suffered theft from a vehicle and 6.8% had been assaulted.

**Table 12.2 Percentage of households that were victims of the following crimes**

Experienced in the past 12 mths	No	Yes, but didn't report	Yes, and did report
Theft from vehicle	91.0	4.1	4.9
Assault	93.2	3.4	3.4
Burglary	92.7	1.9	4.9
Theft of a vehicle	92.2	2.4	5.4
Theft	96.6	2.2	1.2
Domestic violence	95.2	1.9	2.9
Mugging	96.8	1.5	1.7

**Table 12.1 Victims of crime over the past 12 months**



As is illustrated by Chart 12.1, Ballymun households, in comparison to the national averages, experience far higher rates of crime.

Perception of crime is often as important as experience of crime. Table 12.3 shows that the vast majority (89.7%) of people feel safe in their homes at night. However, 40.4% feel unsafe walking in their neighbourhood after dark. Although, in comparison to Dublin and the State, Ballymun has a greater proportion of people who feel very unsafe walking alone after dark, when the unsafe and very unsafe figures are taken together the Ballymun picture is similar to that of Dublin.

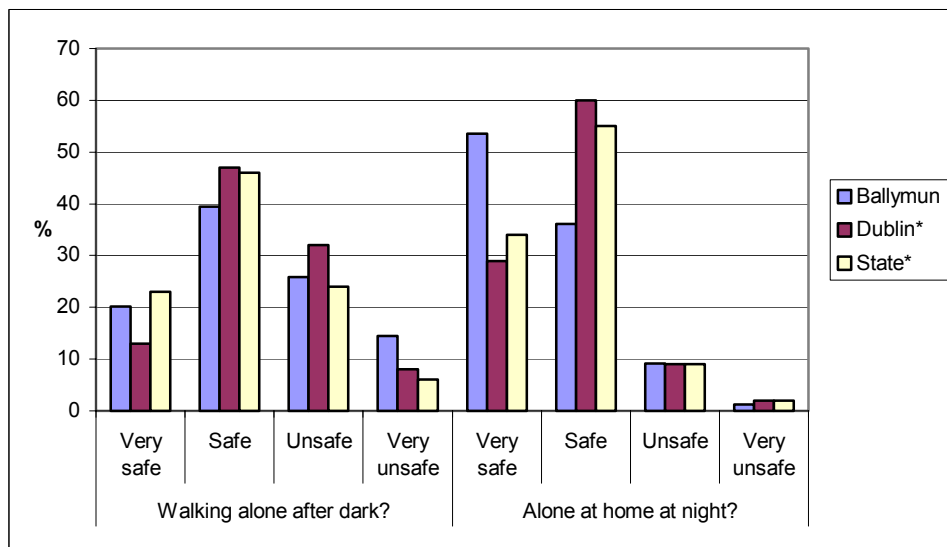
**Table 12.3 Perception of safety**

Do you feel safe...		Very safe	Safe	Unsafe	Very unsafe
Walking alone after dark?	<b>Ballymun</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>39.5</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>14.5</b>
	Dublin*	13	47	32	8
	State*	23	46	24	6
Alone at home at night?	<b>Ballymun</b>	<b>53.6</b>	<b>36.1</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>
	Dublin*	29	60	9	2
	State*	34	55	9	2

Source: Garda Public Attitude Survey 2002

The chart also shows that when comparing the figures, Ballymun has proportionally more people who feel very safe alone at home at night. However, when we take the percentages of people who report feeling safe and very safe together, it can be seen that they average out and Ballymun, Dublin, and the State have similar figures (89.7%, 89%, 89% respectively).

**Chart 12.2 Perception of safety**



Source: Garda Public Attitude Survey 2002

Respondents were asked to describe the seriousness of the crime problem in Ballymun. Table 12.4 compares the results with those of the State. Interestingly, although Ballymun residents suffer more crime, proportionally fewer Ballymun residents describe crime as a serious or very serious problem. This suggests that Ballymun people may have become desensitised to high levels of crime.

**Table 12.4 Seriousness of crime problem**

Description	2002 Survey %	State* %
Very serious problem	21.9	40.3
Serious problem	25.5	37.8
Fairly serious problem	29.3	19.4
Not serious problem	20.4	2.2
Not a problem	3.0	0.3

Source: CSO – NQHS, 3rdQ 1998

Respondents were asked if they worried about the possibility that they themselves, or anyone else in their household, might become a victim of crime. Surprisingly, given the levels of experienced crimes, Table 12.5 shows that Ballymun and the State have similar proportions of people who worry about becoming a victim of crime. Again, this suggests that Ballymun people may have grown accustomed to crime and become desensitised.

**Table 12.5 Worry about becoming victim of crime**

	2002 Survey %	State* %
No	44.5	42.6
Yes – personal injury	18.1	18.1
Yes – property – theft, damage	7.3	4.6
Yes – both personal and property	30.1	34.5

Source: CSO – NQHS, 3rdQ 1998

As can be seen in Table 12.6, over a third of Ballymun residents (36.0%) rate the work of the Gardai in their neighbourhood as poor or very poor, this compares to just 9.1% nationally.

**Table 12.6 Rate the work of the Gardai in neighbourhood**

	2002 Survey %	State* %
Very good	7.2	19.6
Good	26.3	45.4
Average	30.5	25.9
Poor	17.5	6.5
Very poor	18.5	2.6

Source: CSO – NQHS, 3rdQ 1998

## 13. Participation

When asked, did you vote in the most recent general election (2002), 56.1% of respondents aged 18 and over indicated that they had voted, this compares to the official turn-out recorded at the six Ballymun polling stations of 45.4% (Source: Dublin City returning Officer). This discrepancy may be due to over-reporting on the self-report questionnaire. Of those who didn't vote the reasons are outlined below. The questions about reasons for not voting, not being on the electoral register, and participation in voluntary groups are comparable to questions asked in the NQHS Participation Module, the results of which are yet to be published.

Table 13.1 present the reasons given for not voting.

**Table 13.1 Reason for not voting**

Reasons	%
Not interested in politics	26.8
Disillusioned with politics	16.0
No time	14.9
Away from home	8.8
Not registered to vote	8.2
No polling card	5.7
My vote would not make a difference	5.7
Do not understand issues/ could not make choice/ too little information	5.2
Illness/disability	3.6
Lack of transport	1.0

Three quarters of respondents (75.3%) old enough to vote reported that they were recorded on the electoral register.

Those who were not on the electoral register were asked why not, the responses can be seen below.

**Table 13.2 Reason for not being registered to vote**

Reason	%
Never got round to registering	25.5
Recently moved – not registered at new address	8.5
Thought registration was automatic	8.5
Don't know how to register	6.4
Name disappeared off register	2.1
Other reasons	31.9
Don't know	17.0

All respondents were asked whether or not, over the past few years, they had been active in any way in a voluntary group or organisation (e.g. charity, sports club, local community group, political or religious group/organisation). Table 13.3 shows that three in ten people

(31.1%) are either somewhat active or very active, and a further 4.1% are members but are not active.

Table 13.3 Active in voluntary group/organisation

Extent	%
Very active	17.0
Somewhat active	14.1
Member but not active	4.1
Do not belong to group/organisation	64.5
Don't know	0.2

Of those who are active, 13.2% are paid for their participation.

Over half of all respondents (52.1%) had attended a public meeting in Ballymun at sometime.

Nearly nine out of ten (88.6%) felt the local community should be more involved in running Ballymun, and 55.3% would like to participate in a neighbourhood council.

Respondents were shown a list of possible sources of information about Ballymun, and were asked to indicate where they got most of their information about Ballymun. As is shown in Table 13.4, friends/family/neighbours and local newspapers were the most cited sources of information.

Table 13.4 Percentage of people who access information from various sources

Sources	%
Friends/family/neighbours	77.3
Local newspaper	70.7
Ballymun Regeneration Ltd	21.2
Ballymun Partnership	19.8
Local Area Forum	8.5
Library	7.7
Housing Task Force	6.4
Local residents group	6.3
Drugs Task Force	5.8
CAP	4.4
Parish Team	3.7
Women's Resource Centre	3.3
Welfare Rights	2.9
Local Authority Officer	2.5
Welfare Officer	2.1
Linx Centre	1.9
Citizens Advice	1.9
Police Station	1.5
Men's Network/ Resource Centre	1.2

Respondents were asked to identify their preferred method of receiving information about Ballymun. The results are shown in the table below.

**Table 13.5 Preferred method of receiving information**

<b>Methods</b>	<b>%</b>
Newsletters	53.5
Local newspaper	34.4
Personal visits	15.5
By telephone	4.6
Websites	1.4
Email	1.2
Other	8.1

## 14. Income and expenditure

The final section of the interview covered income and expenditure.

Table 14.1 shows that over half of Ballymun households (51.6%) either own or have access to at least one car or van.

**Table 14.1 Percentage of households that have access to cars**

Number of cars	%
None	48.4
One	39.3
Two	9.8
Three	0.8
Four	0.6
Five or more	1.0

Respondents were also asked to indicate their gross household weekly income. As Table 14.2, nearly one in seven (13.9%) have a gross household income of less than €150. However, nearly two in five (39.8%) have an income of more than €350. The average gross weekly household income for the State in 1999/2000 at €666.72 (CSO: Household Budget Survey). As the table shows more than eight out of ten households have a weekly income less than the State average.

**Table 14.2 Gross household weekly income**

Income groups	%
Less than €150	13.9
150 – 349	46.4
350 – 549	22.3
550 – 749	11.1
750 – 949	4.1
More than €950	2.3

After bills the mean weekly disposable household income is €135.99. This is only a quarter of the average State disposable income which was €551.60 in 1999/2000 (CSO: Household Budget Survey). Although the State figure represents disposable income before bills (but after income tax and social insurance), this still illustrates that there is a considerable difference between the spending power of Ballymun residents and the State average.

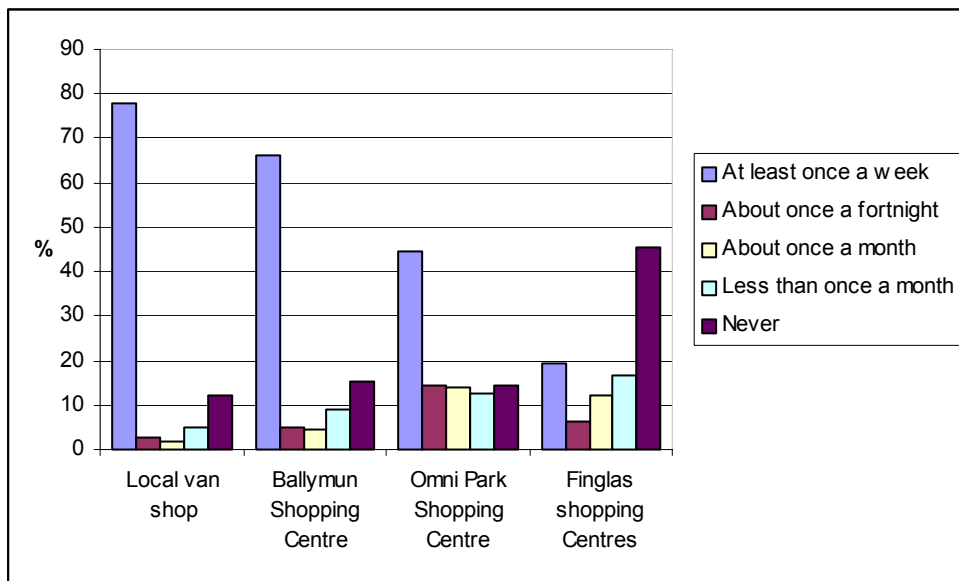
As well as being interested in disposable income we were also interested in where people spent it. The respondents were asked to indicate how often they used various shopping facilities. The results are outlined in Table 14.3.

**Table 14.3 Usage of shopping centres/facilities**

Use	At least once a week	About once a fortnight	About once a month	Less than once a month	Never
Local van shop	77.9	2.8	1.9	5.1	12.3
Ballymun Shop. Centre	66.1	4.8	4.6	9.2	15.3
Omni Park Shop. Centre	44.4	14.3	14.1	12.6	14.5
Finglas shop. Centres	19.3	6.4	12.3	16.7	45.3

As Chart 14.1 illustrates, the local shop vans are the shopping facilities most frequently used. This shows that people require local shops closer to their homes than Ballymun Town Centre. This suggests that Ballymun needs shopping facilities in each of the neighbourhood areas, as is planned in the regeneration project.

**Chart 14.1 Usage of shopping centres/facilities**



Respondents who reported using Ballymun shopping centre less than once a month or never using the centre were asked why this was so. Various responses were given and are summarised below:

- Too expensive.
- Run down/dirty.
- Poor range of shops.
- Shops poorly stocked.
- Intimidated by drug dealers/drug users/drunks.



## 15. Conclusions

As the survey has shown Ballymun as a community has many strengths, however it has also been shown that there are weaknesses which need to be addressed.

Ballymun has an unemployment rate four times higher than that of the State.

Since the survey conducted in 2000, there has been an increase in the labour force participation rate, although some of this is accounted for higher unemployment rate, the biggest change since 2000 is in the increase in part time employment.

Nearly half (45.5%) of those 'out of work' (ILO: unemployed or not economically active but available for work) expressed an interest in setting up their own business. This obviously shows potential for enterprise in Ballymun.

Another strength is that nearly four in five (78.8%) out of work people reported having work skills which included: computer skills, administrative skills, and trade/craft skills. In terms of skills of those in work, 66.7% of those who described their current occupation as general operative reported having work skills.

Four in ten (40.0%) people out of work had undertaken a training/education course in the past 12 months, and 77.6% said they would like to undertake a course in the future. This illustrates the importance of 'second chance' education in Ballymun. However, of those who would like to undertake a course 37.8% said something was preventing them from participating. The most frequently cited barrier was childcare.

The survey shows that 1860 households in Ballymun mind their children at home. However this is the preferred method of only 1320. This suggests that 540 households mind their children at home because appropriate alternative are not available. The survey also showed that nearly half of parents (49.5%) had been prevented from looking for a job due to lack of available childcare.

Health is also of concern in Ballymun. When compared to the State, Ballymun has proportionally half as many people who describe their health as excellent and twice as many describing their health as poor. Many studies suggest the health of a community is inextricably linked to social exclusion. As Ballymun is to be used by the Department of Health and Children as one of the pilot areas for a new model of primary care, we should expect some improvement in the coming years.

Ballymun residents report a high level of anti social behaviour. Several studies suggest that if it not addressed, anti social behaviour can act as a catalyst for more serious crimes. Ballymun Regeneration Ltd is currently conducting consultation to assess how best to tackle the problem.

Ballymun also experiences extremely high rates of crime and low satisfaction levels with the Gardai.

Although 60.7% are dissatisfied with the areas outside their homes, the regeneration project offers the opportunity to correct this.

Another strength of Ballymun is the close community networks. Nearly a third (31.1%) are actively involved in voluntary group or local organisation (e.g. charity, sports club, local community group). Ballymun has also a reasonable settled community, more than two in five (42.9%) have lived in their present accommodation for more than ten years. Well over three quarters (78.9%) like living in Ballymun and want to continue doing so for the foreseeable future.

This study has identified several issues that need further examination. When the 2002 Census age profiles are available in June 2003 the demographic structure of Ballymun needs detailed analysis. Issues to be explored include the possibility of a declining birth rate, declining numbers of young women, and a hidden male population between the ages of 25 and 39.

Further research is also need to examine the nature and extent of young people leaving school without going into employment or training.

The high level of reported health problems related to alcohol and drug use suggests that substance use warrants further investigation.

Some of the figures reported in this study will be comparable to national survey results that are due to be published in 2003. These include the 2002 Census, the QNHS 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2002 – Childcare Module, and the QNHS – Participation Module.

The results of this survey can be used as a baseline, in that they can be compared with the results of future Ballymun surveys, so that trends and progress can be measured.