

How to contact us:



North Mall
Ballymun Town Centre
Dublin 11

t: 353 1 842 3612

f: 353 1 842 7004

info@ballymun.org

www.ballymun.org

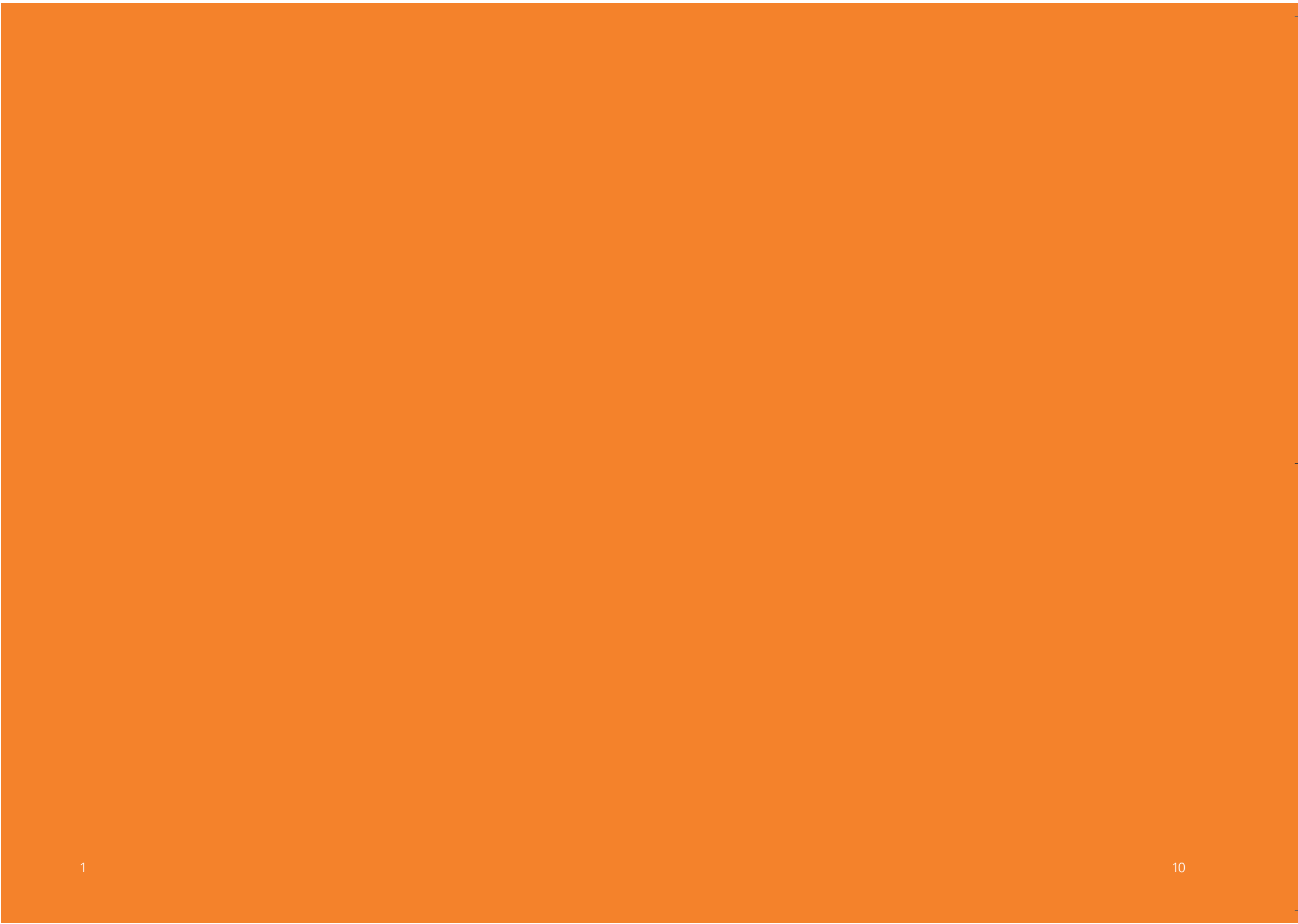


NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Ballymun Partnership was established in 1991. It is an independent company, limited by guarantee. Company Registration Number is 197878. It has Charitable Status, Number CHY 11441.

Crime and Safety Levels and Perceptions in Ballymun

Part 7



Comment

Producing figures on crime on a national basis has always provoked some discussion and debate at least and at most is fraught with political risk. The victims of crime can draw little comfort from statistics, which do not go into the highly disturbing circumstances suffered by the victim.

If the data concludes that crime is down on a previous year, it might make the authorities feel that a positive spin can be put on things, but for the victim even if crime in their category is down it holds little comfort for them.

When the figures are produced on a more localised basis, such as these figures, the same concerns also apply.

The most striking outcome of this survey is that there seems to be an acceptance of fairly high levels of localised crime. There is also a reluctance to take steps to protect oneself from crime and make situations safer.

It is also interesting that Ballymun People do feel as safe as other people in the state. This study also points the way forward for the community. In common with other problems, Ballymun has an excellent record in responding as a community to a wide range of issues like unemployment, childcare, drug abuse and so on.

There is also not a tradition in the area of producing reports or statistics simply to gather dust. The information in this section offers a basis to put together a strategy which can go some way to address the major issues raised by the data, such as the work of the Gardai at a local level.

But we must also remember that this community developed the blueprint for the Drugs Task Forces and The Local Employment Services.

The idea of genuine Partnership between the community Gardai and State Agencies will need further development and discussion in this community if we are to seriously address the issues highlighted by the data from this section.

John Dunne, Crime & Safety Working Group, Ballymun.

Introduction to the facts and figures.

To gather the key data for this Fact File, Ballymun Partnership commissioned a company called Vision 21 to conduct a survey with ten percent of Ballymun residents, over the Christmas period 2002.

Addresses were randomly selected from a database which we constructed using information from Dublin City Council Regional Office, from Ballymun Post Office and Ballymun Regeneration Limited. The target sample size was 485 households, which was 10% of the total number of households, 4,850, in Ballymun at the time of the survey. The survey results tell us that out of these 485 households, there were 1,516 members. If we multiply this figure by 10 we can estimate that the total population for Ballymun is 15,160 people. On average there are 3.14 persons per household.

When reading the facts that follow you can refer to the total household number 4,850, and the total population number, 15,160, where relevant, in order to get a real understanding of the actual numbers of people from the percentages given.

The facts and figures.

Security Measures

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

Table 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

Satisfaction with Work of Gardai in Ballymun

As can be seen in table 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 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

“Ballymun People have become desensitised to high levels of crime”

Table 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 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 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

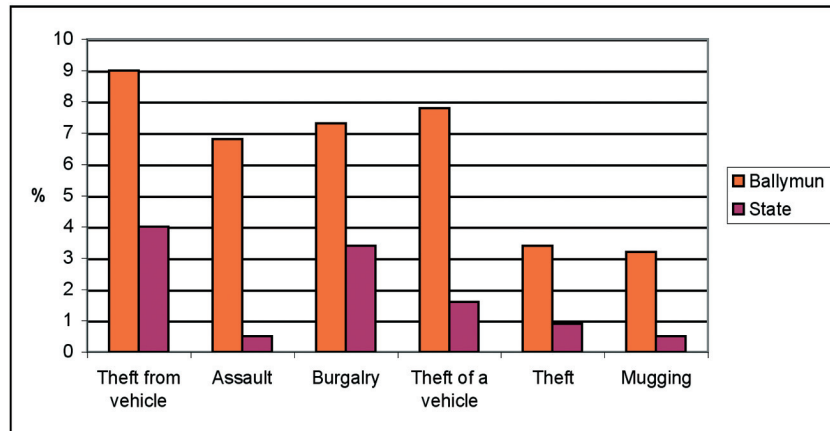
Experience of Crime

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 2, 9% had suffered theft from a vehicle and 6.8% had been assaulted.

Table 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

Chart 1 Victims of crime over the past 12 months



As is illustrated by chart 1 above, Ballymun households, in comparison to the national averages, experience far higher rates of crime.

Perceptions of Safety

Perception of crime is often as important as experience of crime. Table 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 3 Perception of safety

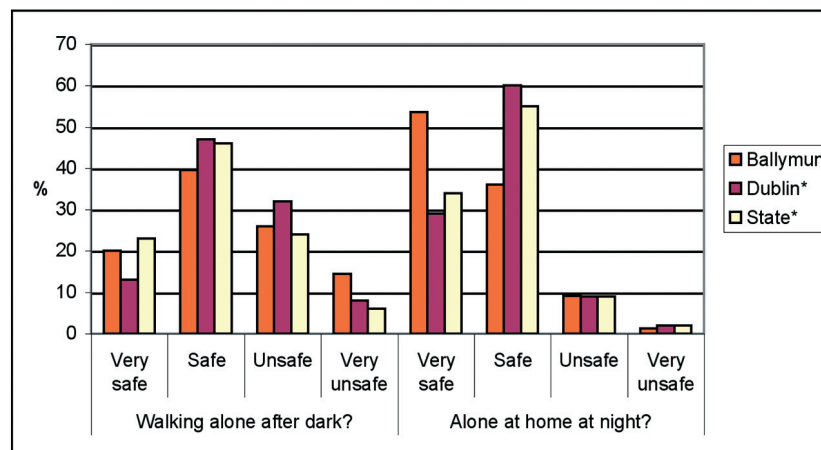
Do you feel safe		Very safe	Safe	Unsafe	Very unsafe
Walking alone after dark?	Ballymun	20.1	39.5	25.9	14.5
	Dublin*	13	47	32	8
	State*	23	46	24	6
Alone at home at night?	Ballymun	53.6	36.1	9.1	1.2
	Dublin*	29	60	9	2
	State*	34	55	9	2

Source: Garda Public Attitude Survey 2002

Chart 2 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 2 Perception of safety



Source: Garda Public Attitude Survey 2002

Seriousness of Crime in Ballymun

Respondents were asked to describe the seriousness of the crime problem in Ballymun. Table 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.