Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment **2014**









Housing Executive

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Housing Executive's Research Unit would like to thank all those involved in the Travellers' Accommodation Needs Assessment, in particular the following:

members of the Traveller community who participated in the survey, whose goodwill, patience and co-operation made the survey possible;

Perceptive Insight who brought valuable expertise and professionalism to the data collection stage of the survey; and

the reference group for their input into the questionnaire and their support for the aims of the survey.

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FOREWORD

I am pleased to present this report, which is the third comprehensive Travellers' Accommodation Needs Assessment carried out across Northern Ireland. The report updates the 2002 and 2008 Travellers' Accommodation Needs Assessments and will be used to inform and facilitate decisions around planning of future accommodation schemes for the Traveller community, helping to alleviate the inadequate living conditions experienced by many Travellers.

Since the last report a group housing scheme, consisting of 21 units, has been completed by APEX Housing Association at Monagh Road, Belfast. In addition a scheme to provide a six unit group housing scheme is currently on site at Father Cullen Park, Bessbrook, and is due for completion later this year. Further, the emergency halting site at Legahory Close, Craigavon has undergone major improvements. The Housing Executive continues to provide individual electricity metering on all its sites throughout Northern Ireland. Site identification also continues in areas of identified need for Traveller-specific accommodation.

I would like to thank all those who took part in the reference group which oversaw the project, including Bryson House, the Local Government Partnership on Traveller Issues, the Human Rights Commission, South Area Action for Travellers (SAAT), South Tyrone Empowerment Programme (STEP), and the Department for Social Development. I also wish to thank Perceptive Insight for their dedication and professionalism throughout the data collection process.

The information from this latest Needs Assessment will be used to plan future accommodation schemes to help alleviate the inadequate living conditions of many Traveller families in Northern Ireland.

The Housing Executive remains committed to working in partnership with other statutory agencies, voluntary and support groups to bring about a better quality of life for Travellers.

Mags Lightbody
Acting Chief Executive

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BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

In 2002 and again in 2008 the Housing Executive completed comprehensive assessments of the accommodation needs of all Traveller households in Northern Ireland. The impetus for the needs assessments arose from recommendations made in the final report of the Promoting Social Inclusion Working Group on Travellers in December 2000. Recommendation 5 stated:

'The Northern Ireland Housing Executive should undertake a comprehensive strategic needs assessment of current and projected accommodation requirements of all Travellers in consultation with Traveller organisations, members of the Traveller communities and District Councils.'

This report updates the previous accommodation needs assessments; it will also be used to inform and facilitate decisions around the planning of future accommodation schemes for the Traveller community which should help to alleviate problems associated with the inadequate living conditions of many Travellers. The report contains comparisons, where appropriate, with findings from the Travellers' Accommodation Needs Assessment 2008.

1.2 Reference Group

As a first step in undertaking this research, the Housing Executive set up a reference group of interested parties to oversee the project. Representatives from the following organisations agreed to join the reference group:

- Bryson House
- Department for Social Development
- Local Government Partnership on Traveller Issues
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission
- South Area Action for Travellers (SAAT)
- South Tyrone Empowerment Programme (STEP).

The role of the group was varied and included the following:

- To provide guidance to the research team undertaking the study in terms of methodology, data sources and key issues.
- To facilitate access for the researchers in terms of the quantitative research being undertaken.

 To act as sounding board for conclusions and any recommendations that might emerge from the research.

A range of agencies with an involvement in Traveller issues were invited to bring expertise to the reference group, with the intention that the group's effectiveness would be enhanced through the diverse yet complementary experiences of its members.

1.3 Research Objectives

The main aims of the survey were to:

- 1. conduct an accommodation needs assessment of the Traveller community in Northern Ireland.
- 2. determine the housing needs of the Traveller community and examine any issues to be tackled.
- 3. provide a socio-economic profile of, and inform future planning of accommodation for, the Traveller population in Northern Ireland.

1.4 Methodology

In August 2013, following a procurement process, the Housing Executive appointed Perceptive Insight Market Research Limited to undertake the fieldwork for the Accommodation Needs of Travellers. Due to the complexities of the survey, the Research Unit decided that face-to-face interviews were required to maximise the response rate.

The questionnaire design, analysis and report writing were the responsibility of the Housing Executive's Research Unit. The content of the questionnaire was agreed in consultation with the reference group. Perceptive Insight carried out face-to-face structured interviews using CAPI at the respondent's home. Interviews took place over seven months, from September 2013 to March 2014.

It was agreed that a 'census' approach should be adopted, whereby all possible Traveller households would be interviewed. To ensure that direct comparisons could be made with previous research, the sample replicated the original sampling methodology used in the previous studies. Consistent with the 2002 and 2008 studies, the Housing Executive's Traveller Unit drew up a list of households from a number of sources, including district councils and Housing Executive local offices. In addition, a 'snowball' sampling technique was adopted to maximise the number of households interviewed.

Subsequent to the completion of the draft report in July 2014, a process of consultation with representatives of the Traveller community began. This

¹ Snowball sampling involves identifying respondents who are then asked to refer researchers to other respondents.

report is to be seen as a baseline report. Additional housing need for Travellers may be identified on an ongoing basis as required.

1.5 Questionnaire

The questionnaire used for the research followed the same format and content as the survey used in the 2002 and 2008 Accommodation Needs Assessments. Prior to the commencement of fieldwork, the content of the questionnaire was reviewed and agreed in consultation with the reference group. The main aims of the questionnaire were to:

- ascertain the tenure of the accommodation in which the Traveller households lived and measure their satisfaction levels with their existing accommodation;
- determine the number of Travellers who exercised a nomadic way of life or still had aspirations to travel occasionally;
- assess the preferred accommodation choice of Travellers; and
- · assess the incidence of disability in the Traveller community.

Prior to finalising the questionnaire a pilot was conducted with six Traveller households. The purpose of the pilot was to test the content of the questionnaire, assess the suitability of the questions and identify whether any refinements were required. A number of minor refinements to the content and routing were agreed in advance of the survey implementation.

1.6 Response Rate

In total, 480 Traveller households were identified through consultation with Traveller support groups and the Housing Executive. The interviewers subsequently carried out 384 face-to-face interviews across Northern Ireland.

As a general rule, if an interview had not been achieved on the first visit to an address, at least three further attempts were made to interview the household. These visits were made at varying times of the day and also in the evenings. If, at the end of the fieldwork period, interviewers had been unable to contact a household member, the address was recorded as a non-contact. The research team was unable to contact 81 households in total and a further 15 households refused to take part in the survey. A breakdown of responses is provided in Table 1a.

Table 1a

	Number	Percentage
Fully Completed Interviews	384	80
Non-Contact	81	17
Refusal	15	3
Total	480	100

As the exact number of Traveller households in Northern Ireland is prone to seasonal fluctuations, the completeness of the overall number identified cannot be guaranteed. However, the number for this survey was slightly lower than in 2008, when 531 Traveller households were identified. Based on the figures in Table 1a, the response rate for the 2013/14 survey was high at 80%.

1.7 Interaction with Traveller Support Groups

Support from Traveller groups was invaluable in enabling access to Traveller households, particularly in the Belfast and Armagh areas. Representatives from the following organisations accompanied fieldworkers in 'hard to reach' households:

- An Munia Tober;
- Armagh Travellers Support Group;
- Toybox Belfast; and
- Toybox Craigavon.

The engagement of these Traveller Support Groups proved to be extremely beneficial in gaining the trust of those families who had expressed suspicion or reticence towards the research, as well as accessing 'hard-to-reach' families and those living in emergency accommodation/homeless shelters.

In order to boost the response in the Belfast area, An Munia Tober facilitated two breakfast mornings on the 16th and 17th of January 2014. Two interviewers from Perceptive Insight attended and used this opportunity to interview Travellers who had not previously completed a survey. All efforts were taken to encourage attendance from known Traveller families in the area; An Munia Tober facilitated a leaflet drop explaining the purpose of the survey and provided holistic therapies as a motivator for attendance. In total, 12 Travellers attended and completed a survey during the sessions.

1.8 Key Issues / Difficulties Encountered During the Fieldwork Period

Despite utilising all available contacts to gain access to Travellers, some obstacles were encountered which reduced the response rate in certain areas:

- Travellers in the Ballymena area expressed strong vocal opposition to the research, both to Perceptive Insight interviewers, and on a separate occasion, to representatives from the NIHE Research Unit and Traveller Unit. Furthermore, several households within the Dunclug area of the town were vacant during the survey period due to a recent fire outbreak.
- The Daisyfield site in Derry/Londonderry was vacant for the duration of the fieldwork period, despite repeated visits from interviewers in the area.

2.0 KEY FINDINGS

2.1 Profile of Household / Household Reference Person (HRP):

- A total of 1,262 individuals were identified in 384 households across Northern Ireland.
- HRPs² were predominantly female (76%).
- Two-fifths (40%) of HRPs were aged between 25 and 39 and only 12% were over 60.
- Most HRPs (95%) were economically inactive, with only 4% in employment. Almost half (47%) of HRPs were looking after family / home.
- More than two-fifths (42%) of HRPs were separated and the predominant household type was lone parent (33%).
- Most households (88%) contained one family unit.
- Almost one-quarter (23%) of households comprised five or more persons and one-fifth (20%) had two people.
- The younger age profile of the population is indicated by the fact that more than one-quarter (29%) of household members were aged between six and 15 and 17% were aged five or under. For the Northern Ireland population as a whole, 21% were aged under 16³.
- As would be expected almost all HRPs (95%) were Irish Travellers.
- The largest proportion of respondents (23%) resided in Dungannon.

2.2 Travelling

- The survey confirmed that less than one-fifth (18%) of Traveller households actually travel and 85% of respondents confirmed the last time they travelled was more than one year ago.
- More than half (58%) of those who travel said they do so during the summer months.
- 73% of respondents said they travel with family.

2.3 Prevalence of Disability

The survey results confirm a high proportion of households had a household member with a disability.

- Almost half (46%) of respondents reported that they or a member of their household had a disability which limits day-to-day activities and of these, twothirds (66%) said there was one disabled household member.
- More than half (52%) of households containing a disabled household member required specially adapted accommodation and of these, 39% said appropriate adaptations had been carried out.

² See Appendices for the definition of the Household Reference Person (HRP).

³ Census 2011: Key Statistics (www.northernireland.gov.uk).

2.4 Accommodation - Housing Needs

This section summarises the key findings from the core of the research project, providing the evidence base for the Housing Executive, in partnership with the Traveller community, to develop schemes which will address outstanding housing need in the Traveller community.

Current Accommodation

- Almost half (49%) of respondents were living in social housing, compared with 42% in 2008. Findings also show 7% of respondents were living on a serviced site and 5% were living on a transit or co-operated site.
- The largest proportion of respondents (23%) resided in Dungannon, followed by Craigavon (12%). Equal proportions (11%) resided in the Belfast area and in Armagh. One-tenth (10%) of respondents resided in Derry and equal proportions (8%) resided in Lisburn and Newry & Mourne.
- The majority of households had access to key services in their accommodation: 86% had access to refuse collection, 84% had access to mains water, 71% had access to electricity and 70% had access to toilet facilities.

Length of time at current accommodation

- The survey confirmed that the vast majority (85%) of respondents had lived in their current accommodation for more than one year.
- Of the remaining 15%, almost one-fifth (10; 17%) had lived in Belfast before moving to their current accommodation. Equal proportions (8; 14%) had lived in the South [Republic of Ireland], Great Britain or Craigavon before moving to their current accommodation.
- More than four-fifths (86%) of respondents expected to remain in their current accommodation for more than one year.

Overall satisfaction with current accommodation

- More than two-thirds (68%) of respondents were very satisfied/satisfied with their current accommodation / site.
- 65% of respondents thought their current accommodation / site was better than their previous accommodation / site.

Previous accommodation

 39% of respondents said their previous accommodation had been social housing.

2.5 Evidence of Housing Need

Preferred accommodation

- 19% of respondents said they required settled accommodation (NIHE / HA) and 8% of respondents required a serviced site.
- 62% of respondents stated that they were happy with their current accommodation.

Preferred location

• 27% of respondents said they would prefer to live in the Belfast area.

Housing Need: Preferred and Current Accommodation

Table 1b

Preferred Accommodation	Current Accommodation	Frequency
	Transit Site	2
	Co-operated Site	1
	Privately Owned	1
Grouped Accommodation	Privately Rented	4
·	Other	1
	Social Housing (NIHE/HA)	9
	Total	18
	Transit Site	6
	Co-operated Site	3
	Unauthorised Site	3
	Privately Rented	3 3 7
Serviced Site	Privately Owned	7
	Other	2
	Grouped Accommodation	1
	Social Housing (NIHE/HA)	3
	Total	28
	Social Housing (NIHE/HA)	1
Transit Site	Other	1
	Total	2
	Serviced Site	12
	Transit Site	2
	Emergency Halt Site	1
	Grouped Accommodation	4
Settled Accommodation	Unauthorised Site	5 3
	Privately Owned	3
	Privately Rented	19
	Other	5
	Total	51
	Emergency Halting Site	1
	Social Housing (NIHE/HA)	8
Othor	Unauthorised Site	1
Other	Privately Owned	1
	Privately Rented	2
	Total	13
	All households	112

Analysis of Table 1b shows there is a *gross* need for 18 units of grouped accommodation, 28 serviced site pitches, two transit site pitches and 51 units of social housing. Of these households, 21 were living in social housing and five were living in grouped accommodation at the time of the survey. The knock-on effect of developing, for example, a new grouped accommodation scheme might be the release of a number of units on a serviced site, which might in turn release a number of units on a transit site, and so on. The *net*

housing need is therefore a much more complex calculation which is outside the scope of this research project and will be undertaken by Strategic Partnerships in consultation with the Traveller community.

Number of people accommodated with HRP

- 66% of respondents said that three or more people were accommodated with them.
- 17% of respondents said they expected household members to seek their own accommodation in the next three years.

The Housing Executive, in giving consideration to the findings of the research, will draw up a programme of Traveller-specific schemes to address the identified need over the next five years.

In drawing up a programme of schemes, the Housing Executive will give consideration to greatest need, land availability, compatibility and consultation with individuals, families and the wider community.

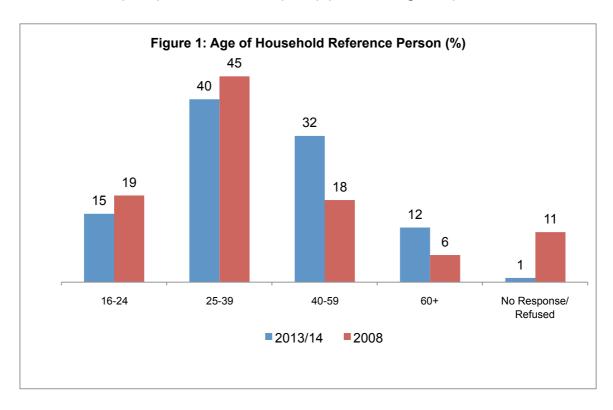
COMMENTARY

3.0 HOUSEHOLD PROFILE

3.1 Gender and age of Household Reference Person (HRP)

More than three-quarters (76%) of HRPs were female and 24% were male (Table 4). In the 2008 survey, 60% were female and 38% were male.

Two-fifths (40%) of HRPs were aged between 25 and 39 and almost one-third (32%) were aged between 40 and 59. Similar proportions were aged between 16 and 24 (15%) and 60 or older (12%) (Table 5; Figure 1).



3.2 Employment status of HRP

Almost half (48%; 47% in 2008) of HRPs were looking after family/home, 22% were not working long-term (>1 year) and 18% were permanently sick/disabled. Fewer respondents were retired (5%), working part-time (2%), self-employed (2%), not working short-term (<1 year) (1%) and working full-time (1%). The remainder classified themselves as other (1%) or refused to state the HRP's employment status (1%) (Table 6).

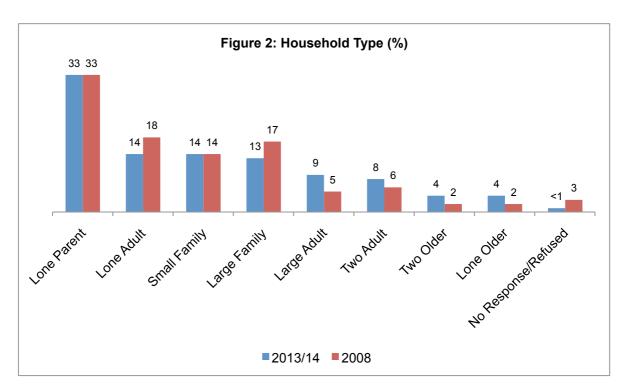
3.3 Marital Status of HRP

More than two-fifths (42%) of HRPs were separated, more than one-quarter (26%) were married (first marriage) and 22% were single (never married). Fewer respondents were widowed (7%), divorced (2%) or remarried (1%). The remaining 1% refused to state the HRP's marital status (Table 7).

3.4 Household Types

From information collected through the household grid, each household was classified into a specific household type, based on the total number of household members in each dwelling and their age. Definitions of each household type are found in the appendices.

Lone parent was the predominant household type (33%). Equal proportions of households (14%) were classified as lone adults and small family. Thirteen percent of households were large family, followed by large adult (9%) and two adult (8%). Equal proportions of households (4%) were two older and lone older. The remainder of respondents did not provide the information required to define household type (<1%) (Table 8; Figure 2).



3.5 Family unit

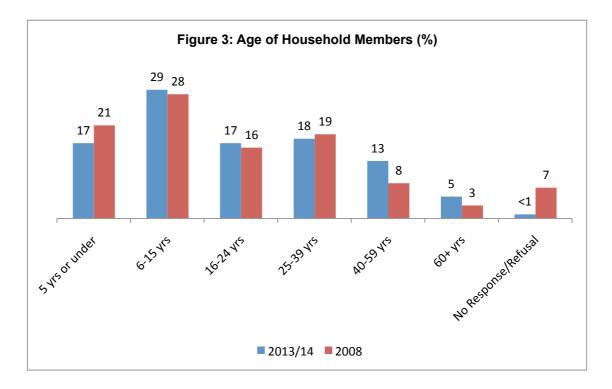
A family unit cannot span more than two consecutive generations (e.g. a young mother with child [family unit 2], living with her parents [family unit 1]). A total of 384 households took part in the survey and findings show that almost nine-tenths (88%) of households contained one family unit and 12% contained more than one family unit (Table 9).

3.6 Number of people per household

Almost one-quarter (23%) of households comprised five or more persons and one-fifth (20%) had two people. Equal proportions (19%) of households had one person, three persons and four persons (Table 10).

3.7 Age of household members

All respondents were asked how many people lived in their household and the age of each household member. In total, information on age was provided for 1,262 household members. The younger age profile of the population is indicated by the fact that more than one-quarter (29%) of household members were aged between six and 15 and 17% were aged five or under. For the Northern Ireland population as a whole, 21% were aged under 16⁴. Almost one-fifth (18%) of household members were aged between 25 and 39, 17% were aged between 16 and 24 and 13% were aged between 40 and 59. Fewer household members were aged 60 or older (5%) (Table 11; Figure 3).



3.8 Ethic origin of HRP

Almost all HRPs (95%) were Irish Travellers. Small proportions reported the HRPs ethnic origin to be Roma (2%) or Scottish Traveller (1%). The remainder (2%) reported the HRPs ethnic origin to be English Gypsy, Welsh Traveller or refused to state the ethnic origin of the HRP (Table 12).

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⁴ Census 2011: Key Statistics (www.northernireland.gov.uk).

3.9 Location of Traveller Households

The largest proportion of respondents (23%) resided in Dungannon, followed by Craigavon (12%). Equal proportions (11%) resided in the Belfast area and in Armagh. One-tenth (10%) of respondents resided in Derry and equal proportions (8%) resided in Lisburn and Newry & Mourne. The locations of the Traveller households surveyed are detailed in the appendix tables (Table 13). In 2008, the largest proportion (22%) of respondents resided in the Belfast area, followed by 17% in Dungannon, 12% in Craigavon and 11% in Derry/Londonderry.

4.0 TRAVELLING

The survey included questions on 'travelling', to measure the extent of nomadism within the Traveller community.

4.1 Propensity to travel

More than four-fifths (82%; 70% in 2008) of respondents said they did not travel. Respondents who did not travel were asked their reasons for not travelling. Three-quarters (75%) stated that they did not wish to be nomadic, 10% stated they did not travel due to health reasons and 7% wanted to be settled for their children's education (Tables 14 and 15).

Of those who travelled (69; 18% of all respondents), more than half (40; 58%) of HRPs had travelled during the summer in the last three years, 30% (21) in the spring, 20% (14) in the autumn and 16% (11) in the winter. Almost two-thirds (43; 62%) of household members had travelled during the summer in the last three years, 28% (19) in the spring, 17% (12) in the autumn and 12% (8) in the winter (Table 16).

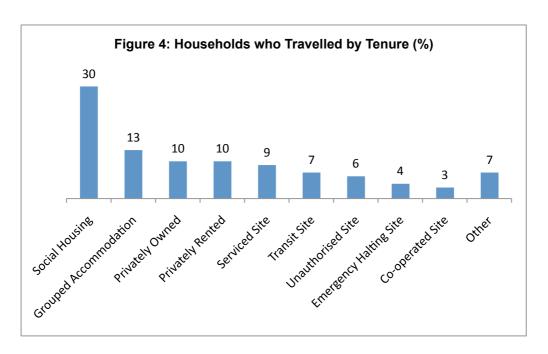
The findings show that the majority (50; 73%) of respondents who travelled (69; 18% of all respondents) said they do so with family, while 15% (10) said they travel with their partner and 9% (6) travel alone. Reasons for travelling included: to visit family (40; 44%), to attend family events such as weddings or christenings (22; 32%), part of my culture (19; 28%) or for festival/fairs (16; 23%) (Tables 17 and 18).

The last time respondents had travelled

More than four-fifths (85%) of all respondents had not travelled in the previous year and 8% of respondents had not travelled in a period of more than one month up to six months before the survey. Equal proportions (3%) had not travelled in more than six months, up to one year or in the previous month (Table 19).

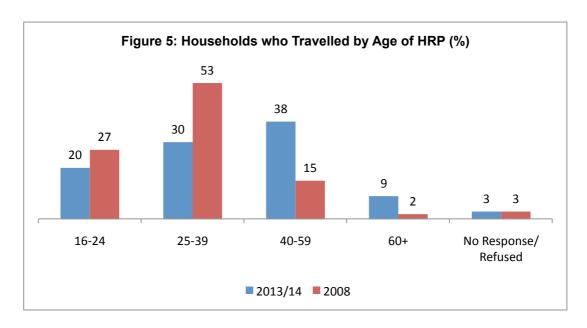
4.2 Households who travelled by tenure

Almost one-third (21; 30%) of respondents living in social housing said they travelled as did 13% (9) of those living in grouped accommodation. Equal proportions (7; 10%) of those living in privately owned or privately rented accommodation also said they travelled. However, less than one-tenth (6; 9%) of respondents living on a serviced site said they travelled and only 7% (5) of those living on a transit site (Figure 4; Table 20).



4.3 Households who travelled by age of HRP

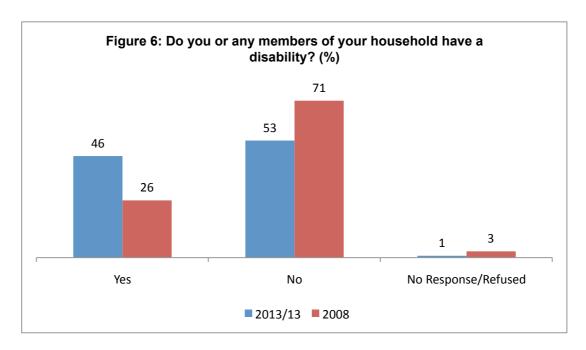
Almost two-fifths (26; 38%) of those respondents who said they travel were in the 40-59 age group. Almost one-third (21; 30%) were in the 25-39 age group, one fifth (14; 20%) were in the 16-24 age group and 9% (6) were in the 60+ age group (Figure 6; Table 21).



5.0 PREVALENCE OF DISABILITY

5.1 Disability in the household

Almost half (46%) of respondents reported that they or a member of their household had a disability which limited their day-to-day activities. Of these, two-thirds (66%) said there was one disabled household member. More than one-quarter (26%) had two disabled household members and 7% had three or more disabled household members. More than half (52%) of households containing one or more disabled members required specially adapted accommodation and of these, 39% said appropriate adaptations had been carried out. Almost all (95%) of those who had adaptations to their accommodation said it met the needs of their household (Figure 6; Tables 22-25).



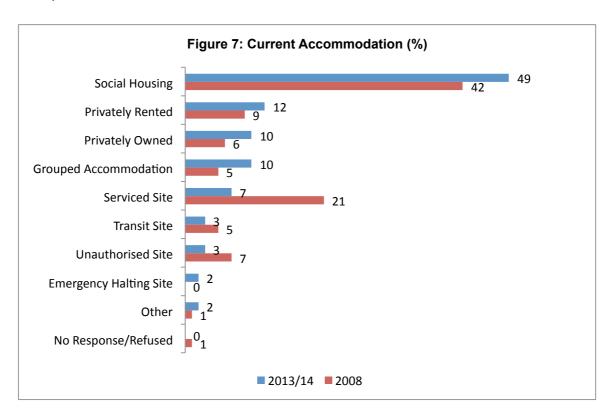
6.0 ACCOMMODATION - HOUSING NEEDS

This section summarises the key findings from the core of this research project, providing the evidence base for the Housing Executive, in partnership with the Traveller community, to develop schemes which will address outstanding housing need in the Traveller community.

This section identifies the accommodation which Travellers currently live in as well as their satisfaction levels with their current accommodation and their previous accommodation type, and therefore constitutes an important element of the housing needs assessment.

6.1 Current Accommodation

Almost half (49%) of respondents said they already lived in social housing (i.e. Housing Executive or housing association) and 12% lived in privately rented accommodation. Equal proportions (10%) of respondents reported that they lived in privately owned accommodation or in grouped accommodation and 7% lived on a serviced site. Similarly, equal proportions (3%) of respondents lived on a transit site or an unauthorised site. The remainder of respondents lived on an emergency halting site (2%) or in other types of accommodation (2%), details of which are provided in the appendix tables (Figure 7; Tables 26 & 27).



Most respondents had access to key services in their accommodation: 86% had access to refuse collection, 84% had access to mains water, 71% had access to electricity and 70% had access to toilet facilities (Tables 28-31). Fifteen respondents reported that they had a license agreement for their pitch, 11 respondents did not and 21 respondents did not know if they had a license agreement (Table 33).

6.2 Length of time at current accommodation

More than four-fifths (85%; 82% in 2008) of respondents reported that they had lived at their current accommodation for more than one year and 7% had lived there for more than six months, up to one year. Six percent had lived there for more than one month, up to six months and 3% had lived in their current accommodation for up to one month (Table 34).

Of those respondents who had lived at their current accommodation for less than one year (15% of all respondents), almost one-fifth (10; 17%) had lived in Belfast before moving to their current accommodation. Equal proportions (8; 14%) had lived in the South [Republic of Ireland], Great Britain or Craigavon before moving to their current accommodation (Table 35).

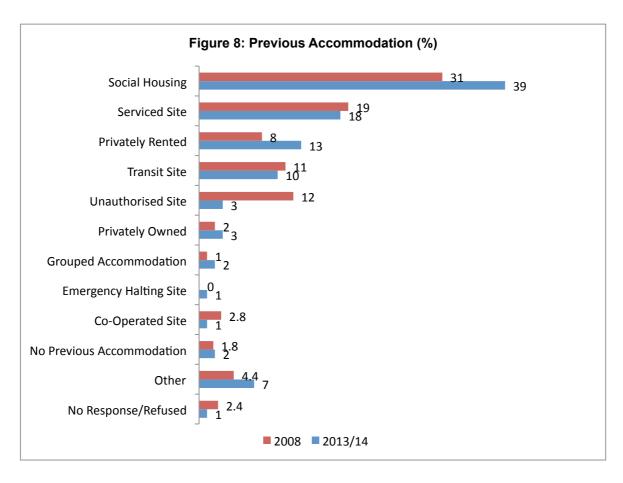
More than four-fifths (86%) of all respondents expected to remain in their current accommodation for more than one year, 7% for up to six months and 6% for more than six months, up to one year (Table 36).

6.3 Overall satisfaction with current accommodation

More than two-thirds (68%) of respondents were very satisfied/satisfied with the standard of their current accommodation, 23% were dissatisfied/very dissatisfied and one-tenth (10%) were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (Table 37). The main reasons for dissatisfaction were poor living conditions and preference for alternative accommodation (Table 38).

6.4 Previous accommodation

Almost two-fifths (39%) of respondents said their previous accommodation had been social housing; 18% had been living on a serviced site, 13% had been living in privately rented accommodation and 10% had been living on a transit site. Fewer respondents said they had been living on an unauthorised site (3%), in privately owned accommodation (3%), in grouped accommodation (2%), at an emergency halting site (1%) or at a co-operated site (<1%). A small proportion (2%) had no previous accommodation and 7% had lived in other types of accommodation, details of which are in the appendix tables (Figure 8; Tables 39 and 40).



Of those respondents who had lived previously in other accommodation (98% of all respondents), 65% (43% in 2008) said they thought their current accommodation was in better condition than their previous accommodation. Less than one-quarter (24%; 30% in 2008) thought it was about the same and 11% (18% in 2008) thought it was worse. Less than one percent of respondents did not know how the condition of their current accommodation compared with their previous accommodation (Table 41).

The most common reason for moving given by respondents who had lived previously in other accommodation was better living conditions (27%). One-quarter (25%) moved to be closer to family and 11% moved because they prefer settled accommodation. A full break down of responses is provided in the appendix tables (Table 42).

6.5 Evidence of housing need

Preferred accommodation

All respondents, regardless of their housing requirements, were asked to state their preferred accommodation. Almost two-thirds (62%) said they did not need accommodation. Almost one-fifth (19%) said their preferred accommodation was social housing, 8% preferred a serviced site and 5% preferred grouped accommodation. A very small proportion (1%) said they would prefer a transit site. The remaining respondents (5%) preferred other

types of accommodation, details of which are provided in the appendix tables (Table 43).

In 2008, almost one-third (30%) said their preferred accommodation was social housing. Equal proportions (19%) preferred grouped accommodation and a serviced site. A very small proportion (1%) said they would prefer a transit site. More than one-quarter (120; 27%) of respondents said they did not need accommodation.

Preferred location

More than one-quarter (27%; 26% in 2008) of all respondents said they would prefer to live in the Belfast area, 14% in the Dungannon/Coalisland area (12% in 2008), 13% in the Craigavon area (16% in 2008), 11% in the Derry area (11% in 2008) and 9% in the Newry area (11% in 2008). A full breakdown of the preferred location of respondents is available in the appendix tables (Table 44).

Housing need: preferred and current accommodation

The core of the housing need analysis is the comparison of respondents' preferred accommodation with their current accommodation. Table 1c provides a breakdown of respondents' preferred accommodation type by their current accommodation. Those respondents who did not need accommodation have been excluded from the analysis⁵.

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⁵ i.e. those whose current accommodation was the same as their preferred accommodation.

Table 1c

Preferred Accommodation	Current Accommodation	Frequency
	Transit Site	2
	Co-operated Site	1
	Privately Owned	1
Grouped Accommodation	Privately Rented	4
	Other	1
	Social Housing (NIHE/HA)	9
	Total	18
	Transit Site	6
	Co-operated Site	3
	Unauthorised Site	3
	Privately Rented	
Serviced Site	Privately Owned	7
	Other	2
	Grouped Accommodation	1
	Social Housing (NIHE/HA)	3
	Total	28
	Social Housing (NIHE/HA)	1
Transit Site	Other	1
	Total	2
	Serviced Site	12
	Transit Site	2
	Emergency Halt Site	1
	Grouped Accommodation	4
Settled Accommodation	Unauthorised Site	5
	Privately Owned	3
	Privately Rented	19
	Other	5
	Total	51
	Emergency Halting Site	1
	Social Housing (NIHE/HA)	8
Other	Unauthorised Site	1
Other	Privately Owned	1
	Privately Rented	2
	Total	13
	All households	112

Analysis of Table 1c shows a *gross* need for 18 units of grouped accommodation, 28 serviced site pitches, two transit site pitches, 51 units of social housing and 13 units of other accommodation forms: accommodation for 112 households in total. However, of these households, 21 were living in social housing and five were living in grouped accommodation. The knock-on effect of developing, for example, a new grouped accommodation scheme might be the release of a number of units on a serviced site, which might in turn release a number of units on a transit site, and so on. The *net* housing need is therefore a

much more complex calculation which is outside the scope of this research project and will be undertaken by Strategic Partnerships in consultation with the Traveller community.

Table 1d provides a breakdown of respondents' preferred accommodation type by preferred location, where this is different from their current accommodation. Once again, respondents who did not need accommodation have been excluded from the analysis. More than one-quarter (29 respondents) stated that they would prefer to live in Belfast. Outside Belfast, the most popular locations were Dungannon/Coalisland (19 respondents), Craigavon (13 respondents) and Derry (12 respondents).

Table 1d

Preferred Accommodation								
Preferred accommodation	Belfast	D'gannon/ Coalisland	C'avon	Derry	Armagh	Newry/ Mourne	Other	Total
type								
Serviced Site	8	-	2	5	-	3	10	28
Transit Site	1	-	ı	-	-	ı	1	2
Grouped	8	-	2	2	-	-	6	18
Accommodation								
Social Housing	12	14	7	4	5	-	9	51
Other	-	5	2	1	1	2	2	13
Total	29	19	13	12	6	5	28	112

It should be noted, that in terms of assessing housing need this analysis excludes those whose current and preferred accommodation types are the same, but who would like to move to another area, or would require larger accommodation.

Number of people accommodated with HRP

Further insight into housing need is gained from the following analysis. Almost two-thirds (61%) of respondents said that three or more people were accommodated with the HRP, 19% were accommodated alone and one-fifth (20%) were accommodated with one other person. Very few households reported that family members accommodated with them were travelling (4%) or were living with other relatives or carers (3%).

Almost one-fifth (17%) of respondents said they expected household members to seek their own accommodation in the next three years. Of these, more than half (56%) expected one household member to seek their own accommodation, 33% expected two household members and 11% expected three or more household members to seek their own accommodation in the next three years (Tables 45-48).

Developing Traveller Schemes

This analysis provides clear evidence of unmet housing need among the Traveller community. However, development of specific proposals for new

schemes was not within the remit of the research project and will require further detailed analysis by the Housing Executive's Strategic Partnerships Team, in consultation with the Traveller community and its representative groups.

7.0 FURTHER COMMENTS

Respondents were asked what they felt were the most important issues facing the Traveller community at the time of the survey. They were able to highlight more than one issue, and the majority of respondents (82%) made a total of 605 comments on a range of issues.

Almost one-third (30%) of respondents thought discrimination/racism and 21% thought accommodation were the most important issues facing the Traveller community today. Other responses included access to education (11%) and access to healthcare (7%) (Table 1e).

Table 1e

	Number	Percentage
Discrimination/Racism	182	30
Accommodation issues	130	21
Access to education	69	11
Access to healthcare	43	7
Integration into the settled community	31	5
Lack of appropriate sites	31	5
Poor living conditions	31	5
Lack of employment opportunities	31	5
Lack of facilities for children	12	2
Maintenance/Repairs to existing property	11	2
Cost of living/ Poverty	5	1
Other comments	29	6
Total	605	100

Base: 315 respondents who gave 605 comments

Respondents were also asked if they had any comments regarding their accommodation. More than two-fifths (44%) made comments on their accommodation. Comments included poor living conditions (17%), maintenance/repairs required to existing accommodation (17%), accommodation is too small (13%) and 'I am happy with my existing accommodation' (9%) (Table 1f).

Table 1f

	Number	Percentage
Poor living conditions	29	17
Maintenance/Repairs required to existing	29	17
accommodation		
Accommodation is too small	22	13
Happy with existing accommodation	15	9
Accommodation is not suitable for my family's	11	7
health needs		
Problems with insulation	10	6
Prefer to live in settled accommodation	9	5
Discrimination/Racism	7	4
NIHE/Housing Associations are slow carrying out	7	4
repairs		
Accommodation is located on a busy road	7	4
Other comments	22	13
Total	168	100

Base: 168 respondents

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

The survey attempted to reach all Traveller households in Northern Ireland, and while this was not achievable a very high proportion were contacted.

On this basis the survey achieved a high response with 384 of the 480 Traveller households identified completing questionnaires. These households were spread across Northern Ireland, with the greatest concentrations in Dungannon (23%), followed by Craigavon (12%), the Belfast area (11%) and Armagh (11%).

The survey confirms the youthful profile of the Traveller community and the over-representation of lone parent families.

For the survey to measure the extent of nomadism within the Traveller community, respondents were asked questions on 'travelling'. Eighty two percent of respondents said they no longer travelled; of those who did, the majority travel during the summer months.

Almost half (46%) of respondents reported that they or a member of their household had a disability which limited their day-to-day activities.

Almost half (49%) of respondents were living in social housing at the time of the survey (42% in 2008).

More than two-thirds (68%) of respondents were very satisfied/satisfied with the standard of their current accommodation but the survey also indicates that there is unmet housing need.

The following district council areas (listed alphabetically) have been identified as areas where the need is greatest:

- Belfast
- Craigavon
- Dungannon

Almost half (46%) of those in housing need said they would prefer settled accommodation (i.e. NIHE/HA), 25% would prefer a serviced site and 16% preferred grouped accommodation.

Analysis of Table 1c shows a *gross* need for 18 units of grouped accommodation, 28 serviced site pitches, two transit site pitches, 51 units of social housing and 13 units of other accommodation forms: accommodation for 112 households in total. However, of these households, 21 were living in social housing and five were living in grouped accommodation. The knock-on effect of developing, for example, a new grouped accommodation scheme might be the release of a number of units on a serviced site, which might in turn release a number of units on a transit site, and so on. The *net* housing

need is therefore a much more complex calculation which is outside the scope of this research project and will be undertaken by Strategic Partnerships in consultation with the Traveller community.

The Housing Executive, in giving consideration to the findings of the research, will draw up a programme of Traveller-specific schemes to address the identified need over the next five years.

In drawing up a programme of schemes, the Housing Executive will give consideration to greatest need, land availability, compatibility and consultation with individuals, families and the wider community. The programme will be reviewed on an annual basis.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX ONE: PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

For data protection purposes it is the policy of the Research Unit that if fewer than five people respond in a particular way to any given question, the exact number is not reported, as it may be possible to identify individuals. Therefore, regardless of the size of the sample or sub-sample, if the number of responses is fewer than five, this is indicated throughout the report, in both the textual and tabular analyses, by the sign '<5'.

Conditions regarding the inclusion of numbers and/or percentages in findings, depending on the size of the sample or sub-sample, are set out below:

- 1) Where the sample, or sub-sample, is 100 or more, the textual analysis (i.e. the main body of the report) includes percentages only. The tabular analysis (i.e. the appendix tables) includes both numbers and percentages.
- 2) Where the sample, or sub-sample, is 50 or more but less than 100, both the textual and tabular analyses include numbers and percentages.
- 3) Where the sample, or sub-sample, is less than 50, both the textual and tabular analyses include numbers, but not percentage figures.

The total achieved response in this survey was 384. Furthermore, the analysis includes data relating to 1,262 household members. Questions were directed at sub-samples of less than 100 and also less than 50 respondents. Therefore, all three conditions apply to sections of both the textual and tabular analyses.

The HRP is the household member who:

- 1) owns the dwelling/accommodation, or
- 2) is legally responsible for the rent of the dwelling/accommodation, or
- 3) is living in the dwelling/accommodation as an emolument or perquisite, or
- 4) is living in the dwelling/accommodation by virtue of some relationship to the owner or lessee, who is not a member of the household.

In the case of a joint tenancy or joint ownership of a dwelling, the person with

the higher annual income is the HRP. If both people have the same income, the older of the two is the HRP.

APPENDIX TWO: TABULAR REPORT

(Note: Due to rounding some tables may not add to 100%. Also, in some cases where the number of responses has been less than five, the actual figures have been omitted and these are shown as <5).

Table 1: Response Rate

	Number	Percentage
Fully Completed Interviews	384	80
Non-Contact	81	17
Refusals	15	3
Total	480	100

Table 2: Accommodation Type of all Traveller Households Identified

	Number	Percentage
Living in settled accommodation	342	71
Living in a mobile caravan	68	14
Living in a chalet (park home)	43	9
Living in a trailer	22	5
Other	5	1
Total	480	100

Base: 480 sample

Table 3: Population Count

	Number
Households Interviewed	384
Total Population	1,262

Table 4: Gender (Household Reference Person)

	Number	Percentage
Male	91	24
Female	293	76
Total	384	100

Base: 384 respondents

Age (Household Reference Person)

Table 5:

	Male		Female		All	
Age Groups	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
16-24	12	13	46	16	58	15
25-39	29	32	126	43	155	40
40-59	31	34	91	31	122	32
60-64	7	8	12	4	19	5
65+	10	11	17	6	27	7
No Response/Refusal	<5	2	<5	<1	<5	1
Total	91	100	293	100	384	100

Base: 384 Respondents

Table 6: Employment Status (Household Reference Person)

	Number	Percentage
Looking after family or home	183	48
Not working long term (more than 1 year)	86	22
Permanent sick / disabled	68	18
Retired (excludes looking after home)	19	5
Working part-time	7	2
Self employed	6	2
Other, including schoolchild	5	1
Not working short term (less than 1 year)	4	1
Working full-time	3	1
Refused	3	1
Total	384	100

Base: 384 Respondents

Table 7: Marital Status (Household Reference Person)

	Number	Percentage
Separated (but still legally married)	161	42
Married (first marriage)	99	26
Single (never married)	83	22
Widowed (but not legally remarried)	27	7
Divorced (but not legally remarried)	7	2
Refused	5	1
Re-married	2	1
Total	384	100

Base: 384 Respondents

Definition of Household Types:		Number	%
Lone Parent	Sole adult living with dependent (children) under 16 years of age	127	33
Lone Adult	Lone person below pensionable age (65 years for men, 60 years for women)	54	14
Small Family	Any two adults, related or unrelated living with 1 or 2 dependent children under 16 years of age.	54	14
Large Family	Any two adults, related or unrelated, living with 3 or more dependent children under 16 years of age OR three or more adults, related or unrelated, living with two or more dependent children under 16 years of age.	50	13
Large Adult	Three or more adults, related or unrelated, with or without 1 dependent child under 16 years of age.	35	9
Two Adults	Two people, related or unrelated, below pensionable age.	31	8
Lone Older	One person of pensionable age, 65 years for men, 60 years for women.	15	4
Two Older	Two people, related or unrelated, at least one of whom is of pensionable age.	15	4
No Response/Refusal		<5	<1
Total		384	100

Base: 384 Respondents

Table 9:

Family Units⁶ per Household

	Number	Percentage
One Family Unit	338	88
Concealed Family Unit	46	12
Total	384	100

⁶ A family unit cannot span more than two consecutive generations (e.g. mother with child [family unit 2] living with parents [family unit1]).

Base: 384 Respondents

	Number	Percentage
One person	73	19
Two people	77	20
Three people	73	19
Four people	73	19
Five or more people	88	23
Total	384	100

Table 11:

Age of household members

	Number	Percentage
5 and under	213	17
6-15	367	29
16-24	219	17
25-39	222	18
40-59	169	13
60 or older	68	5
No Response/Refused	<5	<1
Total	1,262	100

Base: 1,262 household members resident in 384 households

Table 12:

Ethnic Origin (Household Reference Person)

	Number	Percentage
Irish Traveller	366	95
Roma	8	2
Scottish Traveller	4	1
Welsh Traveller/English Gypsy	4	1
Refused	2	1
Total	384	100

	Number	Percentage
Dungannon	88	23
Craigavon	45	12
Belfast	44	11
Armagh	43	11
Derry	40	10
Lisburn	31	8
Newry & Mourne	31	8
Omagh	23	6
Strabane	11	3
Magherafelt	9	2
Fermanagh	7	2
Antrim	5	1
Newtownabbey	<5	1
Cookstown	<5	1
Ballymena	<5	<1
North Down	<5	<1
Total	384	100

Table 14: Do you travel?

	Number	Percentage
Yes	69	18
No	315	82
Total	384	100

	Number	Percentage
I do not wish to be nomadic	235	75
Health reasons	30	10
I want to be settled for my children's education	23	7
Lack of transit sites	21	7
To remain closer to family members	8	3
Financial Reasons	4	1
Other	31	10
Refused	< 5	<1

Table 16: In the last three years have you, or any household member, travelled during......?

	HRP		HRP Household Members	
	No.	%	No.	%
Spring (20 March – 20 June)	21	30	19	28
Summer (21 June – 22 September)	40	58	43	62
Autumn (23 September – 21 December)	14	20	12	17
Winter (22 December – 19 March)	11	16	8	12

Base: 69 Respondents

Table 17: When you travel, do you generally.....?

	Number	Percentage
travel with family?	50	73
travel with partner?	10	15
travel alone?	6	9
Refused	3	4
Total	69	100

Base: 69 Respondents

Table 18:

Why do you travel?

	Number	Percentage
For work	8	12
To visit family	30	44
Family events (e.g. weddings, christenings etc.)	22	32
Health reasons (visit GP)	<5	1
Festivals Fairs	16	23
Part of my culture	19	28

Base: 69 Respondents

Table 19:

When was the last time you travelled?

	Number	Percentage
One week or less ago	<5	1
More than a week, up to one month ago	10	3
More than one month, up to six months ago	31	8
More than six months, up to a year ago	11	3
More than one year ago	325	85
Refused	5	1
Total	384	100

Base: 384 Respondents

Table 20:

Households who travelled by tenure

	Yes		N	0
	No.	%	No.	%
Social Housing	21	30	167	53
Grouped Accommodation	9	13	29	9
Privately Owned	7	10	32	10
Privately Rented	7	10	37	12
Serviced Site	6	9	21	7
Transit Site	5	7	8	3
Unauthorised Site	<5	6	9	3
Emergency Halting Site	<5	4	<5	1
Co-operated Site	<5	3	<5	1
Other	5	7	5	2
Total	69	100	315	100

Table 21:

Age of respondents who travel

	Number	Percentage
16-24	14	20
25-39	21	30
40-59	26	38
60+	6	9
No Response/Refusal	<5	3
Total	69	100

Base: 69 Respondents

Table 22:

Do any members of your household have a disability?

	Number	Percentage
Yes	178	46
No	204	53
Refused	<5	1
Total	384	100

Base: 384 Respondents

Table 23:

Number of household members with a disability

	Number	Percentage
One	119	66
Two	46	26
Three or more	13	7
Refused	2	1
Total	180	100

Table 24: Do any of your family members with a disability require specially adapted accommodation?

	Number	Percentage
Yes	93	52
No	85	47
Refused	<5	1
Total	180	100

Table 25: Has your accommodation been adapted appropriately?

	Number	Percentage
Yes	37	39
No	56	59
Refused	< 5	1
Total	95	100

Base: 95 Respondents

Table 26: Current Accommodation/Site

	Number	Percentage	
Social Housing (NIHE/H.A.)	188	49	
Privately Rented	44	12	
Privately Owned	39	10	
Grouped Accommodation (Permanent	38	10	
Dwellings for families)	30	10	
Serviced Site (by NIHE)	27	7	
Transit Site (Basic Amenities)	13	3	
Unauthorised Site	13	3	
Emergency Halting Site	7	2	
Other, please specify	6	2	
Co-operated Site	5	1	
Hostel	<5	1	
Homeless	<5	<1	
Total	384	100	

Table 27:

	Number	Percentage
a privately rented house?	39	47
a privately owned site with a caravan?	19	23
a privately owned house?	13	16
privately owned land with a caravan?	6	7
a privately rented site with a caravan?	<5	4
Other	<5	2
privately rented land with a caravan?	<5	1
Total	83	100

Table 28:

In your accommodation do you have access to.....?

	Ye	S	N	lo	To	otal
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Mains Water	47	84	9	16	56	100
Electricity	40	71	16	29	56	100
Toilet Facilities	39	70	17	30	56	100
Refuse Collection	48	86	8	14	56	100

Base: 56 Respondents

Table 29:

If no, please indicate how you access water

	Number
Outside tap	5
Neighbour's house	<5
Family member's	<5
house	\ 5
Water storage in	<5
caravan	\ 5
Total	9

Base: 9 Respondents

	Number
No access	8
Generator	<5
Neighbour's House	<5
Family member's caravan	<5
Total	16

Base: 16 Respondents

Table 31:

If no, please indicate how you access toilet facilities

	Number
Outside toilet/port-a-loo	5
Local restaurant / shop /	1 E
community centre	< 5
Neighbour's house	< 5
Family member's house	<5
No access	< 5
Chemical toilet	<5
Refused	<5
Total	17

Base: 17 Respondents

Table 32:

If no, please indicate how you access refuse collection

	Number
No access	< 5
Declined to comment	<5
Neighbour's house	< 5
Burn rubbish on site	<5
Total	8

Tabl	е	33:
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	Number
Yes	15
No	11
Don't know	21
Total	47

Table 34:

Length of time at current accommodation

	Number	Percentage
One week or less	<5	1
More than a week, up to one month	8	2
More than one month, up to six months	23	6
More than six months, up to a year	26	7
More than one year	325	85
Total	384	100

Base: 384 Respondents

Table 35:

If one year or less, where did you live before?

	Number	Percentage
Belfast	10	17
Craigavon	8	14
Republic of Ireland	8	14
Great Britain	8	14
Dungannon	<5	7
Derry	<5	7
Dunmurry	<5	5
Strabane	<5	5
Other	11	19
Total	59	100.0

Base: 59 Respondents

Table 36: How long do you expect to remain in your current accommodation?

	Number	Percentage
One week or less	<5	1
More than a week, up to one month	6	2
More than one month, up to six months	19	5
More than six months, up to a year	23	6
More than one year	331	86
Refused	< 5	1
Total	384	100

Table 37:

Satisfaction with Current Accommodation/Site

	Number	Percentage
Very satisfied	183	48
Satisfied	77	20
Neutral	37	10
Dissatisfied	42	11
Very	45	12
dissatisfied	7	12
Total	384	100

Base: 384 Respondents

Table 38:

Reasons for Dissatisfaction

	Number	Percentage
Poor living conditions	29	33
Prefer to live in alternative accommodation	20	23
Accommodation too small	14	16
Lack of facilities for children	10	12
Repairs required on existing accommodation	10	12
Problems with insulation/damp	5	6
Accommodation requires adaptions	5	6
Other	5	6

	Number	Percentage
Social Housing (NIHE/H.A.)	148	39
Serviced Site (by NIHE)	70	18
Privately Rented	51	13
Transit Site (Basic Amenities)	40	10
Unauthorised Site	14	4
Privately Owned	13	3
N/A	9	2
Hostel	9	2
Grouped Accommodation (Permanent Dwellings for families)	8	2
Emergency Halting Site	<5	1
Other	18	5
Total	384	100.0

Table 40: Was your previous accommodation/site.....?

	Number	Percentage
a privately rented house?	48	75
a privately owned house?	6	10
a privately owned site with a caravan?	5	8
privately rented land with a caravan?	<5	3
privately owned land with a caravan?	<5	2
Other (please specify)	<5	2
Refused	<5	2
Total	64	100

Table 41: How does the condition of your current accommodation/site compare with the condition of your previous accommodation/site?

	Number	Percentage
Better	245	65
About the same	89	24
Worse	40	11
Don't know	< 5	<1
Total	375	100

Table 42: Why did you move to your current accommodation/site?

	Number	Percentage
Better accommodation	103	27
To be close to family	97	25
Prefer settled accommodation	40	10
Discrimination/Racism/Intimidation	17	4
Relationship breakdown	15	4
Health issues	14	4
Allocated social housing	13	3
Anti-social behaviour	12	3
Bought site/home	11	3
Wanted to travel	10	3
Previous accommodation was temporary	7	2
For my children's education	<5	1
Other	42	11
Total	384	100

	Number	Percentage
I am happy with my current accommodation	239	62
Settled Accommodation (NIHE/H.A)	73	19
Serviced Site	30	8
Grouped Accommodation	19	5
Other accommodation (bungalow,	8	2
caravans, chalet, house etc.)	0	2
I would be happy in my current		
accommodation if I had better facilities /	6	2
extension		
Would like a site for my family to live on	5	1
Transit Site	<5	1
Refused	< 5	<1
Total	384	100

Table 44:

Where do you need accommodation?

	Number	Percentage
Belfast	39	27
Dungannon /Coalisland	21	14
Craigavon	19	13
Derry	16	11
Newry	13	9
Armagh	7	5
Enniskillen	5	3
Lisburn	<5	2
Other	22	15
Total	145	100

	Number	Percentage
One	71	19
Two	78	20
Three or more	235	61
Total	384	100

Table 46: Are any family members to be accommodated with you currently.....

	Yes		No		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
travelling?	16	4	368	96	384	100
living with other relatives or carers?	10	3	374	97	384	100
in long-term care?	<5	<1	383	100	384	100
in a hostel?	<5	<1	383	100	384	100
in hospital?	< 5	1	382	99	384	100
in a penal institution?	<5	1	382	99	384	100
other	<5	<1	383	100	384	100

Base: 384 Respondents

Table 47: Do you expect any members of your household to seek their own accommodation in the next three years?

	Number	Percentage
Yes	66	17
No	302	79
Not sure	16	4
Total	384	100

Table 48: Number of family members expected to seek their own accommodation in next three years

	Number	Percentage
One	37	56
Two	22	33
Three or more	7	11
Total	66	100

Base: 66 Respondents