



Constituency Profile Belfast West

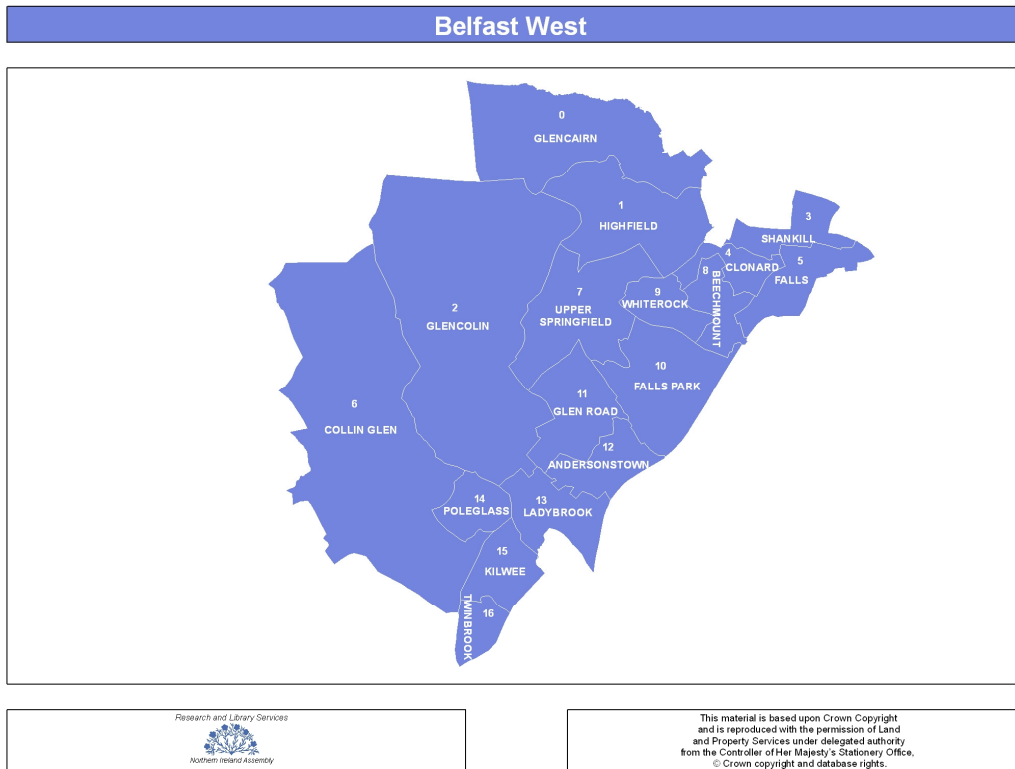


September 2010

Using the latest data available through the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk, this report provides an up-to-date statistical profile of the Constituency of Belfast West. It includes information on the demographics of people living in Belfast West as well as key indicators of Health, Education, the Economy, Employment, Housing, Crime and Poverty. For each indicator, this profile presents:

- The most up-to-date information available for Belfast West;
- How this compares with Northern Ireland as a whole;
- The ranking of the Constituency; and
- Information on the lowest and highest ranking wards where available.

This report presents a statistical profile of the Constituency of Belfast West which comprises of the 17 wards shown below.



0	Glencairn	9	Whiterock
1	Highfield	10	Falls Park
2	Glencolin	11	Glen Road
3	Shankill	12	Andersonstown
4	Clonard	13	Ladybrook
5	Falls	14	Poleglass
6	Collin Glen	15	Kilwee
7	Upper Springfield	16	Twinbrook
8	Beechmount		

BELFAST WEST: KEY FACTS

Demographics

- An estimated 84,243 people live in Belfast West, the Constituency with the 3rd lowest population in 2008.
- The majority (82.7%) of people living in Belfast West are of Catholic community background.
- Belfast West has a slightly younger age profile than that of Northern Ireland with 24.1% of the population aged 16 and under (21.5% of Northern Ireland).

Health

- Life expectancy in Belfast West is 70.6 years for males and 77.1 years for females, the lowest of all Constituencies in both cases.

Compared to Northern Ireland as a whole, Belfast West has a higher:

- Rate of death due to cancer, respiratory disease and circulatory disease, the Constituency with the highest rate in all cases.
- Death rate due to suicide and undetermined intent, the 2nd highest of all Constituencies.
- Rate of cancer diagnosis, the Constituency with the 4th highest rate.
- Hospital admission ratio due to self harm, the Constituency with the 2nd highest rate.
- Proportion of people estimated to be on prescribed mood and anxiety disorder drugs, the Constituency with the 2nd highest proportion.
- Proportion of people in receipt of at least one disability-related benefit, the Constituency with the highest rate.
- Teenage birth rate, the Constituency with the highest rate.
- Prevalence of asthma for those attending GPs in Belfast West.

Compared to Northern Ireland as a whole, Belfast West has a lower:

- Prevalence of hypertension, cancer, obesity and chronic kidney disease for those attending GPs in Belfast West.

Education

- A higher proportion of post-primary pupils have a Statement of Special Educational Need compared to all Northern Ireland pupils, the Constituency with the highest proportion of pupils with a SEN.
- A lower proportion of Belfast West school leavers achieved at least two A-levels compared to all Northern Ireland school leavers, the Constituency with the 2nd lowest proportion.
- A lower proportion of Belfast West school leavers achieve at least five GCSEs at grades A*-C compared to all Northern Ireland school leavers, the Constituency with the 2nd lowest proportion.

The Economy

- Belfast West was the Constituency that received 5th lowest amount of financial assistance from Invest NI in 2008/09 totalling just under £3.0 million.
- A higher proportion 'Invest NI Start a Business' participants from Belfast West were offered financial assistance compared to the Northern Ireland figure.

Employment

- 34,188 employee jobs are located in Belfast West.
- In 2009, Belfast West was the Constituency with the fifth highest number of redundancies with a total of 345 redundancies in the area.
- The proportion people claiming unemployment-related benefits is higher for Belfast West than the overall Northern Ireland figure, the Constituency with the highest proportion.

Housing

- There are 34,402 properties in Belfast West. Belfast West has a higher proportion of terraced, semi-detached and apartment properties and a lower proportion were detached compared to all Northern Ireland properties.
- In 2008, 415 new planning applications were made in Belfast West. A lower proportion of planning applications were approved in Belfast West when compared to the proportion of Northern Ireland approvals.

Crime

Compared to the Northern Ireland rates, Belfast West has:

- A much higher overall crime rate and higher rates of violent crime, burglary, theft, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour.

Poverty

- Belfast West has the highest proportion of people (76%) living in the most deprived Super Output Areas in Northern Ireland.
- Belfast West has the highest proportion of people claiming at least one benefit.

2010 Westminster Election Results

- 59,522 people eligible to vote, a turnout of 54.0%, slightly lower than the Northern Ireland turnout (56.7%). Sinn Féin candidate Gerry Adams won the Belfast West seat.

2007 Assembly Election Results

- 50,792 people were eligible to vote, the turnout at 66.5% turnout was higher than Northern Ireland average (62.3%). Sinn Féin won 5 seats while the SDLP won 1 seat.

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1. DEMOGRAPHICS

This section presents information on the population size, community background and age profile of those living in Belfast West.

Population Size

As at June 2008, an estimated 84,243 people live in Belfast West, representing 4.7% of the Northern Ireland population (*Source: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), Mid-Year Estimates*).

Belfast West is the Constituency with the 3rd lowest population.

Community Background

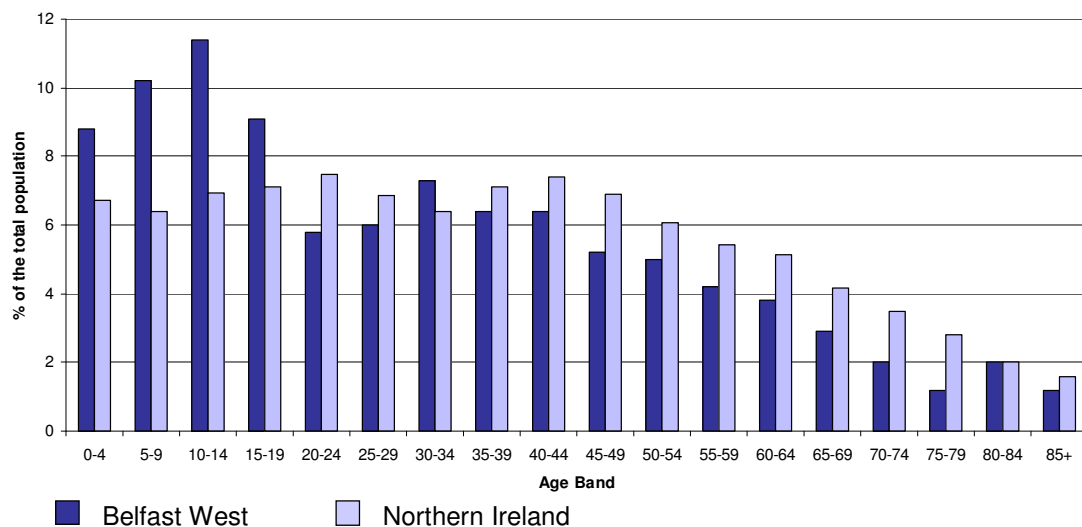
The majority (82.7%) of people living in Belfast West are of a Catholic community background. Around one in six (16.2%) people living in Belfast West are of Protestant community background. The remainder are of other or no community background (*Source: NISRA, Census 2001*).

Age profile of Belfast West

Belfast West has a slightly younger age profile than that of Northern Ireland. Belfast West has a slightly higher proportion of people aged under 16 (24.1% vs. 21.5%) and a slightly lower proportion aged 60 and over (16.9% vs. 19.2%) than all of Northern Ireland.

Belfast West is the Constituency with the highest proportion of people aged under 16 and the 3rd lowest proportion of people aged 60 and over.

Chart 1: Age Profile of the population in 5 year age bands, June 2008



Source: NISRA (Mid-Year Estimates)

2. HEALTH

This section presents information on a wide range of key indicators of health. These are:

- Life Expectancy of males and females (page 8);
- Standardised Death Rates due to Cancer, Respiratory Disease, Circulatory Disease (page 10);
- Deaths due to Suicide and Undetermined Intent (page 13);
- Cancer Diagnoses (page 14);
- Hospital Admissions due to Self Harm (page 15);
- Mood and Anxiety Disorder Prescriptions (page 16);
- Disability-related Benefit Recipients (page 17);
- Births to teenage mothers (page 18) and
- The prevalence of disease as reported through the Quality Outcomes Framework (page 20):
 - Coronary Heart Disease
 - Heart Failure
 - Stroke
 - Hypertension
 - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
 - Hypothyroid
 - Cancer
 - Mental Health
 - Asthma
 - Dementia
 - Atrial Fibrillation
 - Obesity
 - Diabetes Mellitus
 - Epilepsy
 - Chronic Kidney Disease
 - Learning Disabilities

Life Expectancy of males

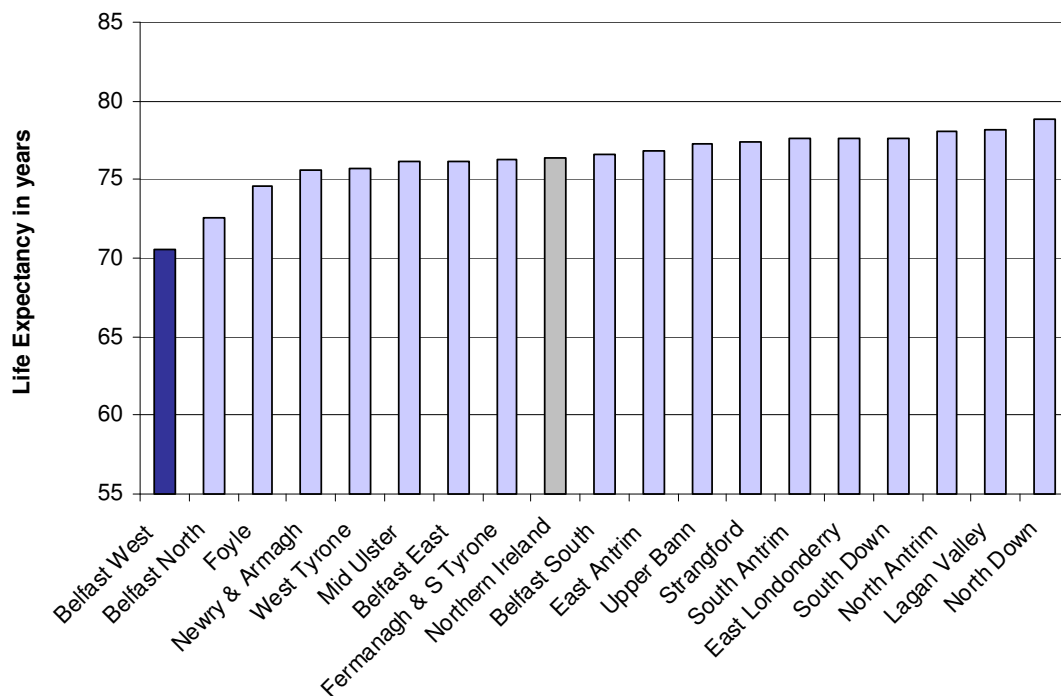
The life expectancy of males (2006-2008) living in Belfast West is estimated to be 70.6 years.

The life expectancy¹ of males living in Belfast West is lower than that of all Northern Ireland males which stands at 76.4 years.

Belfast West is the Constituency with the lowest male life expectancy.

The life expectancy of males living in Belfast West is less than 75 years in all wards except for Twinbrook and Highfield where the life expectancy of males is greater than 75 years but less than the Northern Ireland average.²

Chart 2: Life expectancy of males, 2006-2008



Source: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NISRA, NINIS), (Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS))

¹ Calculated using the no. of deaths (General Register Office) and mid-year estimates (NISRA).

² Ward level data is presented using ranges as the small number of deaths at various age groups does not support robust calculation of an exact life expectancy value at this geographic level.

Life Expectancy of Females

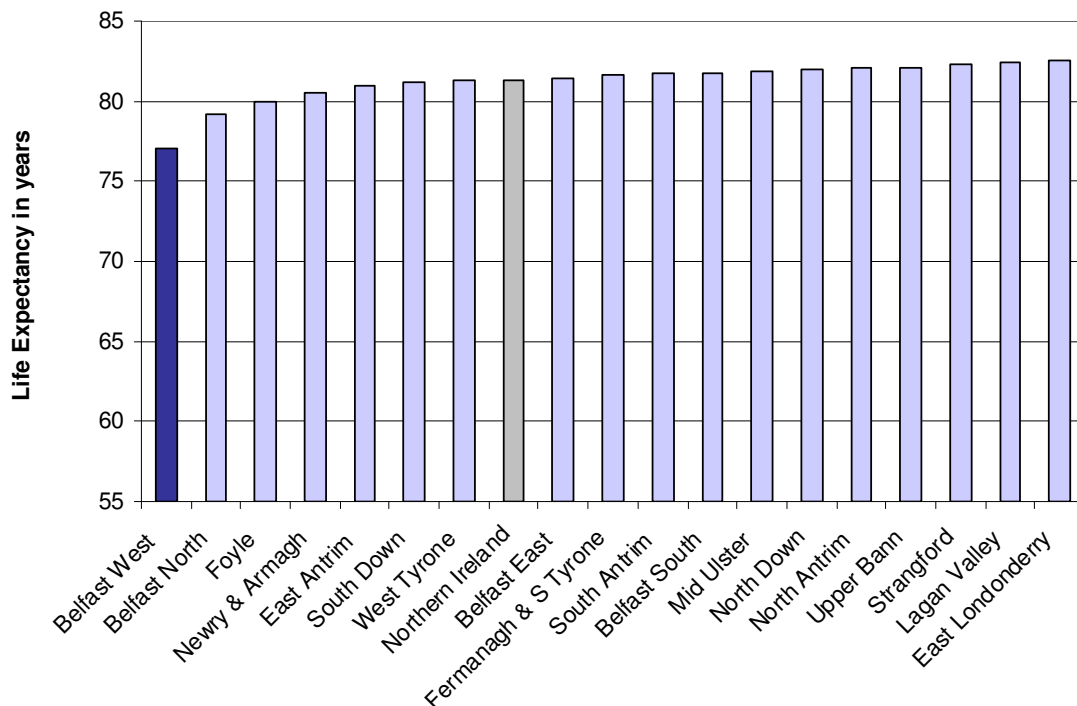
The life expectancy³ of females (2006-2008) living in Belfast West is estimated to be 77.1 years.

The life expectancy of females living in Belfast West is lower than that of all Northern Ireland females which stands at 81.3 years.

Belfast West is the Constituency with the lowest female life expectancy.

The life expectancy of females is lowest in the wards of Falls, Glencolin, Shankill and Upper Springfield where it is less than 75 years. The life expectancy of females is highest in the ward of Twinbrook where it is greater than 85 years.⁴

Chart 3: Life expectancy of females, 2006-2008



Source: NISRA, NINIS (DHSSPS)

³ Calculated using the no. of deaths (General Register Office) and mid-year estimates (NISRA).

⁴ Ward level data is presented using ranges as the small number of deaths at various age groups does not support robust calculation of an exact life expectancy value at this geographic level.

Standardised Death Rates

The standardised death rates⁵ due to cancer, respiratory disease and circulatory disease are presented here. Standardisation allows for comparison between Constituencies having taken characteristics of the populations into account i.e. age and sex profiles.

Standardised Death Rates due to Cancer

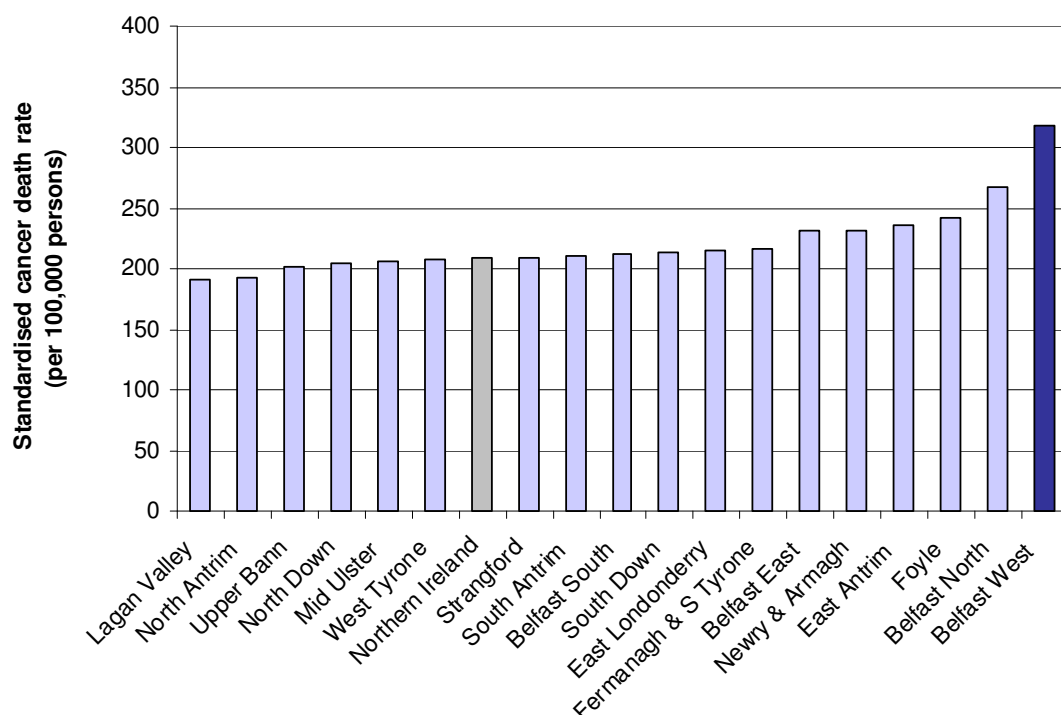
The standardised death rate due to cancer in Belfast West is 318 per 100,000 persons.

The death rate due to cancer in Belfast West is much higher than the Northern Ireland rate of 208 per 100,000 persons.

Belfast West is the Constituency with the highest death rate due to cancer.

Information on death rates due to cancer is not available at ward level.

Chart 4: Standardised death rates due to Cancer per 100,000 persons by Constituency, 2004-2008



Source: NISRA, NINIS (General Register Office (GRO))

⁵ Rates are based on the number of deaths provided by the General Register Office and 2004 - 2008 Mid-Year Estimates provided by NISRA.

Standardised Death Rates due to Respiratory Disease

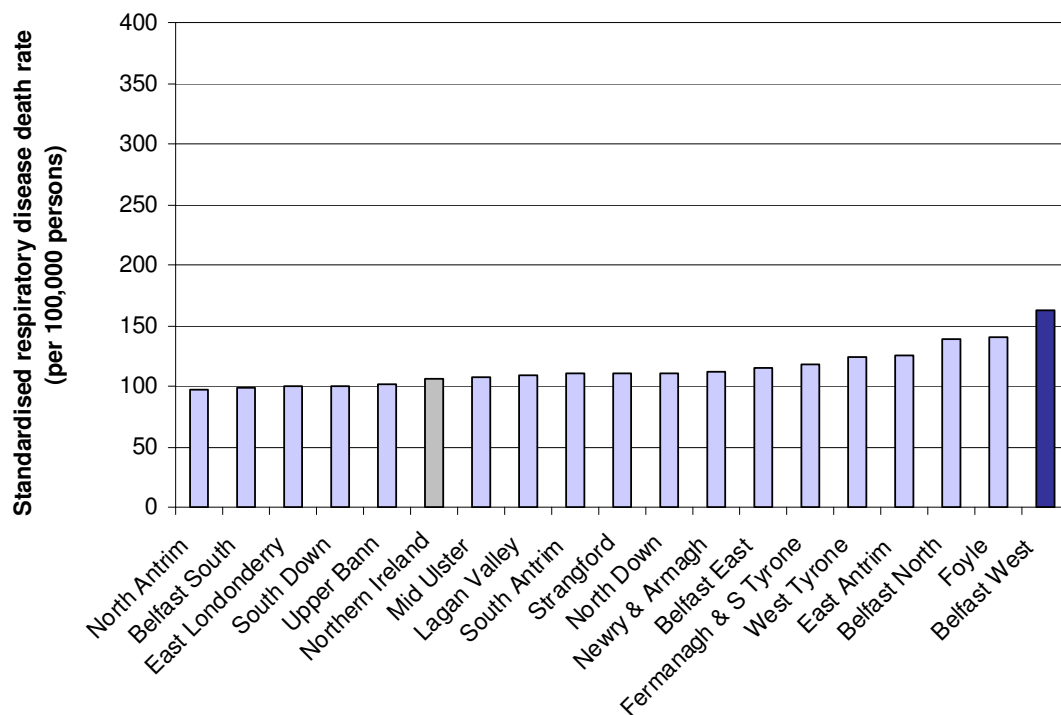
The standardised death rate due to respiratory disease in Belfast West is 163 per 100,000 persons.

The death rate due to respiratory disease in Belfast West is much higher than the overall Northern Ireland rate of 106 per 100,000 persons.

Belfast West is the Constituency with the highest overall death rate due to respiratory disease.

Information on death rates due to respiratory disease is not available at ward level.

Chart 5: Standardised Death rates due to Respiratory Disease per 100,000 persons by Constituency, 2004-2008



Source: NISRA, NINIS (GRO)

Standardised Death Rates due to Circulatory Disease

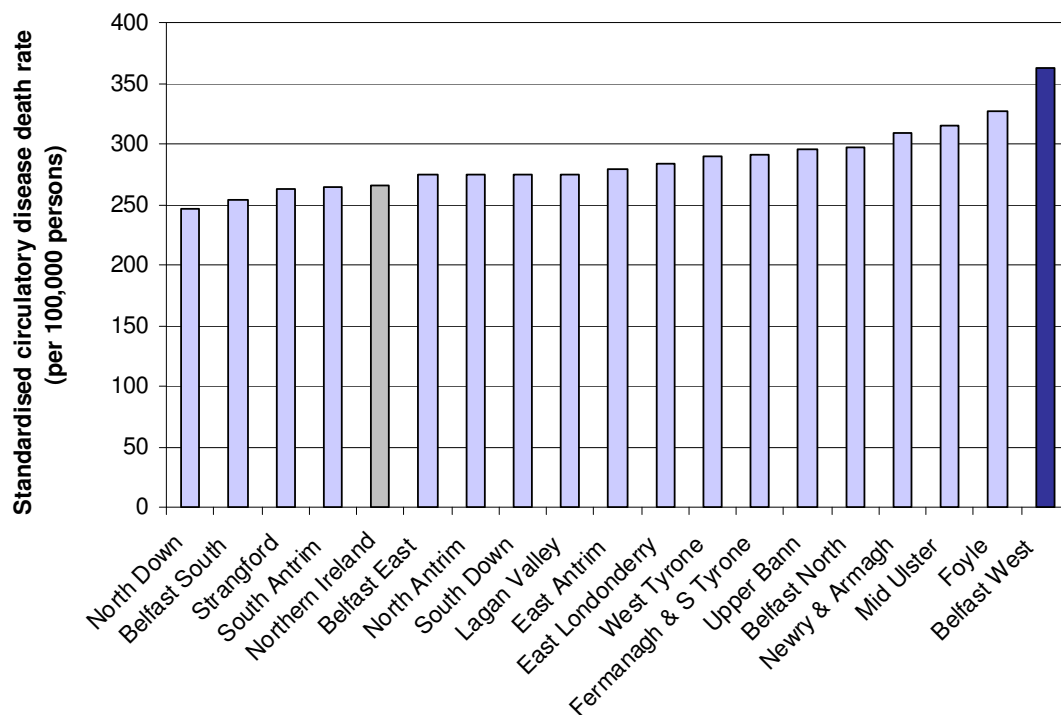
The standardised death rate due to circulatory disease in Belfast West is 363 per 100,000 persons.

The death rate due to circulatory disease is much higher in Belfast West than the Northern Ireland rate of 266 per 100,000 persons.

Belfast West is the Constituency with the highest death rate due to circulatory disease.

Information on death rates due to circulatory disease is not available at ward level.

Chart 6: Standardised death rates due to Circulatory Disease per 100,000 persons by Constituency, 2004-2008



Source: NISRA, NINIS (GRO)

Deaths due to Suicide and Undetermined Intent

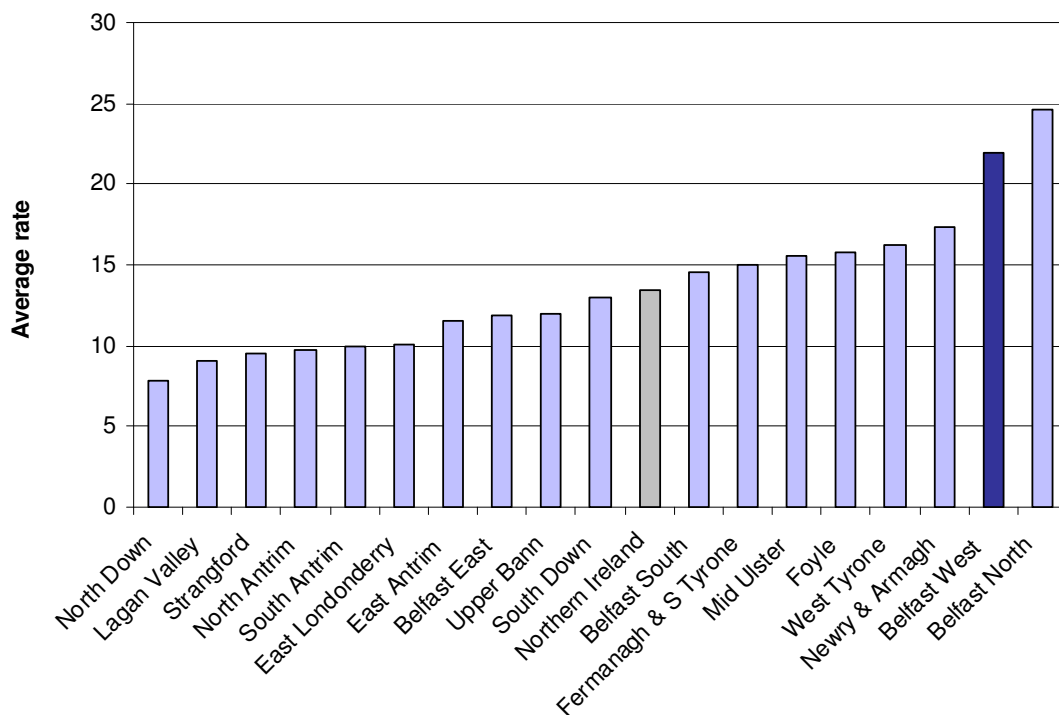
During the period 2004-2008, there were 93 deaths as a result of suicide and undetermined intent⁶⁷ in Belfast West. This equates to an average rate⁸ of 22 per 100,000 persons per annum.

The average death rate due to suicide and undetermined intent is higher for Belfast West than the Northern Ireland rate of 13 per 100,000 persons.

Belfast West is the Constituency with the 2nd highest death rate due to suicide and undetermined intent.

This information is not available at ward level.

Chart 7: Average death rate due to suicide and undetermined intent per 100,000 persons by Constituency, 2004-2008



Source: NISRA, NINIS (GRO)

⁶ The information is aggregated data from the GRO death files, which are gathered when deaths are registered at the Registrar's Office.

⁷ Death where the intention of the victim is not clear.

⁸ Rate calculated using 2006 mid-year estimates provided by NISRA.

Cancer Diagnoses

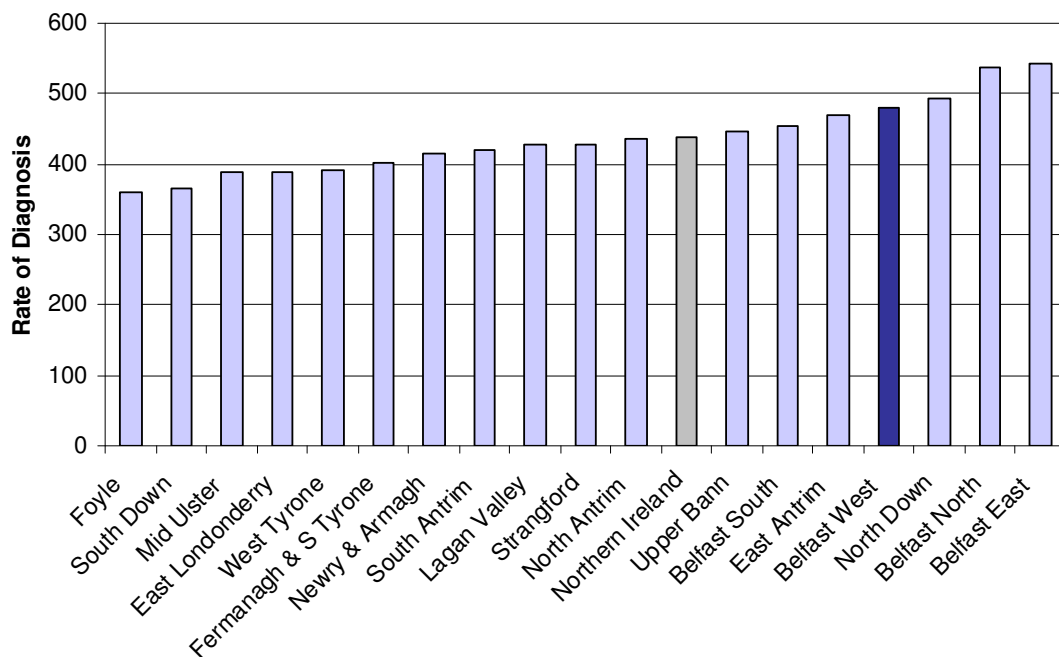
In 2007, there were 406 new incidences of cancer⁹¹⁰ diagnosed for Belfast West. This equates to a rate of 481 per 100,000 persons.

The rate of cancer diagnosis was much higher for Belfast West than the Northern Ireland rate of 439 per 100,000 persons.

Belfast West was the Constituency with the 4th highest rate of cancer diagnosis in Northern Ireland.

During the period 2003-2007, rates of cancer diagnosis per 100,000 persons were lowest in the wards of Colin Glen (245), Poleglass (277) and Glencolin (343) and highest in the wards of Shankill (652), Glencairn (610) and Falls (574).¹¹

Chart 8: Rate of diagnosis of all cancers per 100,000 persons by Constituency (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer), 2007



Source: NISRA, NINIS, Northern Ireland Cancer Registry (calculated by DHSSPS)

⁹ Excluding non-melanoma skin cancer.

¹⁰ Data on cancer incidence are available from multiple sources, primarily pathological records, hospital discharges and death registrations from the General Registrar Office (GRO). This data is captured electronically, collated and quality assured on a regular basis to provide a population-based registry of cancer incidence for Northern Ireland. Tumour details are collected on cancer diagnoses according to the International Classification of Diseases, tenth revision (ICD10).

¹¹ Ward Rates calculated using 2005 mid-year estimates provided by NISRA.

Hospital Admissions due to Self Harm

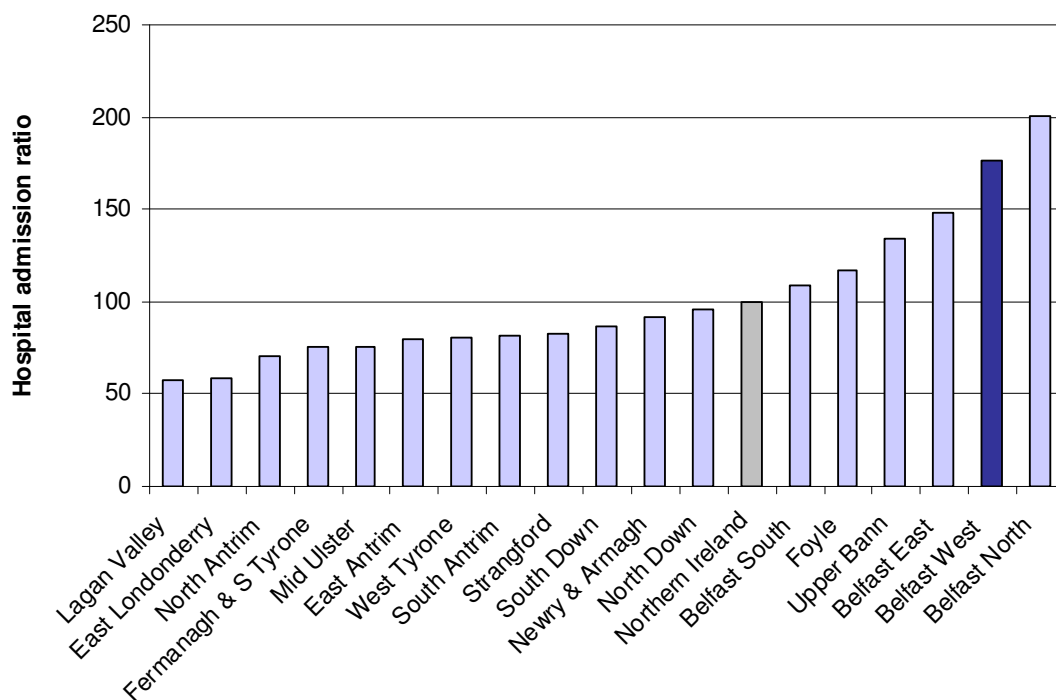
For the period 2005-2009, the standardised hospital admission ratio for self harm¹² in Belfast West stood at 176. Ratios are calculated to allow comparison of areas or groups to the NI average which is set to 100.

The standardised hospital admission ratio for self harm is much higher in Belfast West than the Northern Ireland ratio of 100. This is true for both males (194 compared to 100) and females (164 compared to 100).

Belfast West is the Constituency with the 2nd highest overall standardised hospital admission ratio for self harm.

This information is not available at ward level.

Chart 9: Standardised hospital admission ratio for self harm by Constituency, 2005-2009



Source: NISRA, NINIS (Northern Ireland Hospitals Patients Administration System, DHSSPS)

¹² The data is based upon the number of admissions due to self-harm provided by the Hospital Information Branch.

Mood and Anxiety Disorder Prescriptions

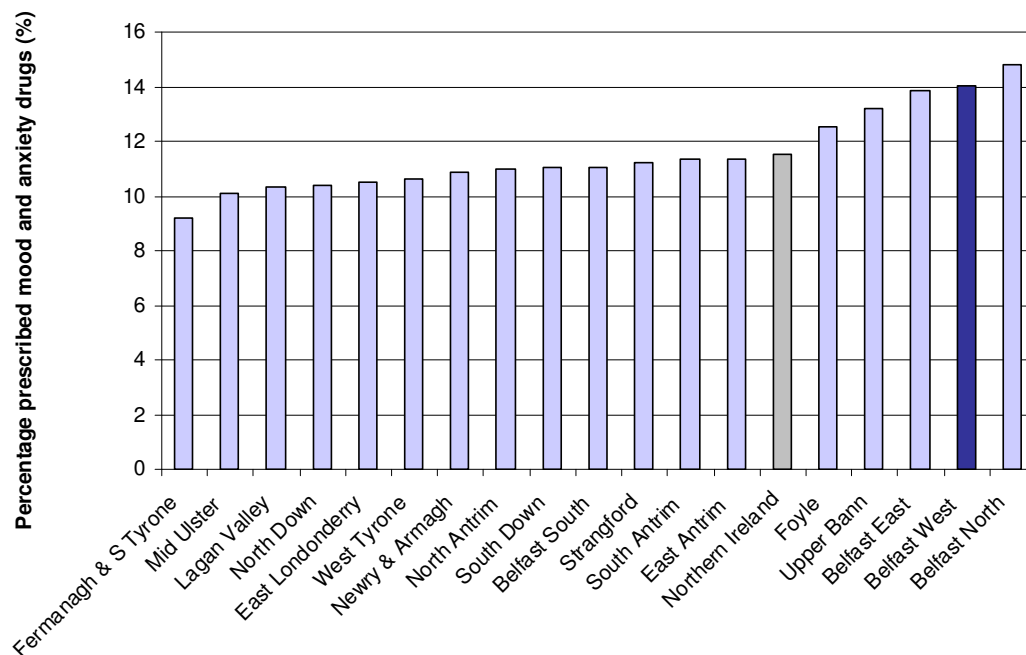
As at April 2008, an estimated 14.0% of people in Belfast West were on prescribed drugs for mood and anxiety disorders.¹³

A higher proportion of people in Belfast West were estimated to be on prescribed drugs for mood and anxiety disorders compared to the Northern Ireland estimate of 11.5%.

Belfast West was the Constituency with the 2nd highest proportion of people estimated to be on prescribed drugs for mood and anxiety disorders.

This information is not available at ward level.

Chart 10: Estimated Proportion of people on prescribed drugs for Mood and Anxiety Disorders by Constituency, April 2008



Source: NISRA, NINIS (GP practice prescription data for anxiolytic and anti-depressant drugs, DHSSPS)

¹³ The number of individuals suffering from mood or anxiety disorders is estimated using prescription data by GP practice for anxiolytic and anti-depressant drugs. This data is then attributed to geographical area using the GP practice list.

Disability-related Benefit Recipients

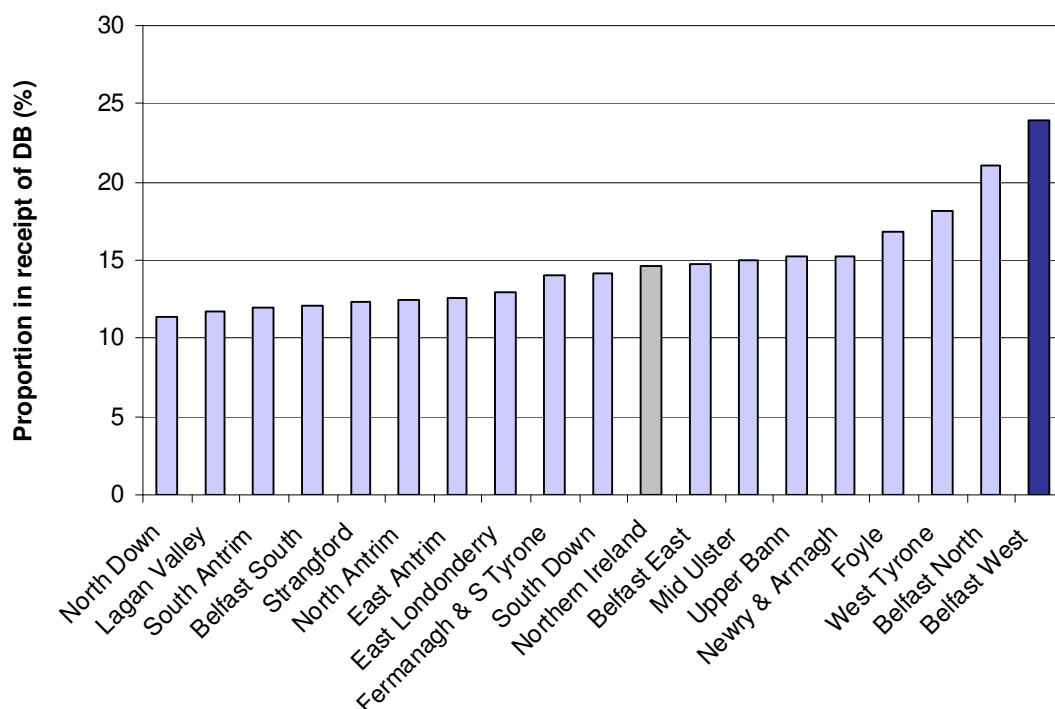
In February 2010, there were 20,235 people in receipt of at least one disability-related benefit in Belfast West.¹⁴ This equates to 24.0% of constituents receiving such benefits.

A higher proportion of people living in Belfast West were in receipt of disability-related benefits compared to the Northern Ireland figure of 4.6%.

Belfast West was the Constituency with the highest proportion of people in receipt of disability-related benefits.

The lowest proportions of people in receipt of disability-related benefits were in the wards of Poleglass (16.5%), Highfield (18.7%) and Collin Glen (19.2%) and highest proportions were in the wards of Whiterock (31.4%), Falls (30.4%) and Clonard (28.3%).¹⁵

Chart 11: Proportion of people in receipt of Disability-related Benefits by Constituency, February 2010



Source: NISRA, NINIS, (Analytical Services Unit, Department for Social Development (DSD))

¹⁴ The information is aggregated data from IAD 100% scans of Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance data at 1992 ward level.

¹⁵ Ward rates are calculated from total population using 2008 mid-year estimates.

Births to Teenage Mothers

Proportion of all births which are to teenage mothers

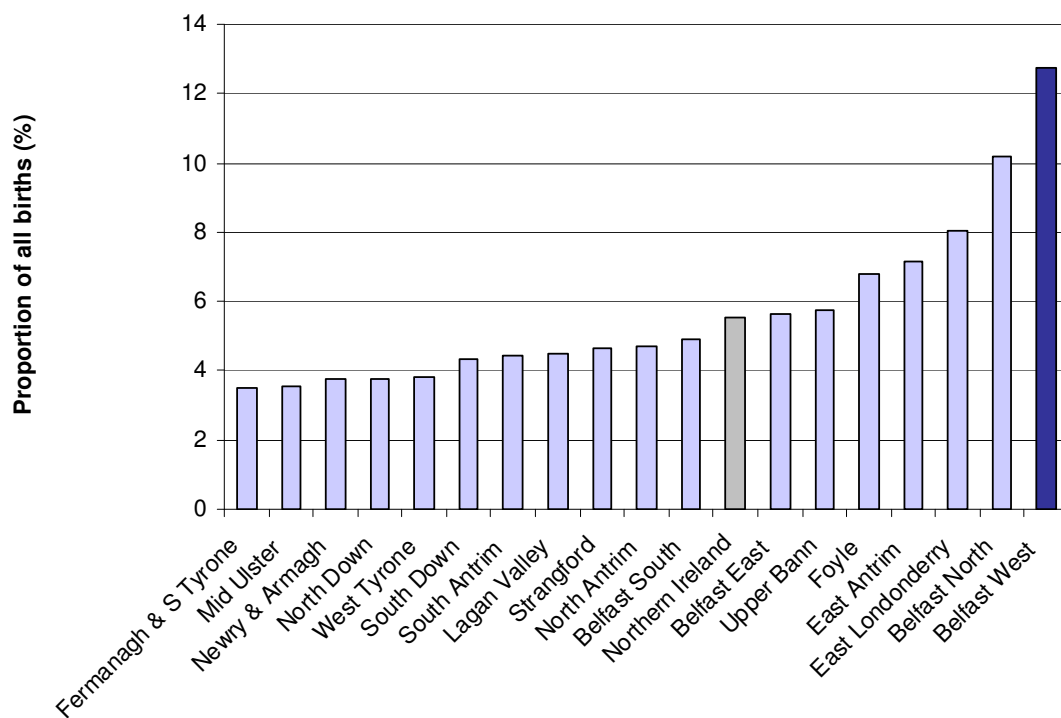
In 2008, there were 172 births to teenage mothers. Births to teenage mothers accounted for 12.8% of all births in Belfast West.

A higher proportion of births in Belfast West were to teenage mothers compared to the Northern Ireland average (5.6%), although it is worth noting that this figure is influenced by the number of teenagers in the area and so the teenage birth rate (see over) is more accurate for the purposes of comparison between areas.

Belfast West was the Constituency with the highest proportion of all births which are to teenage mothers.

This information is not available at ward level.

Chart 12: Proportion of births which are to teenage mothers by Constituency, 2008



Source: NISRA, NINIS (GRO)

Teenage Birth rate

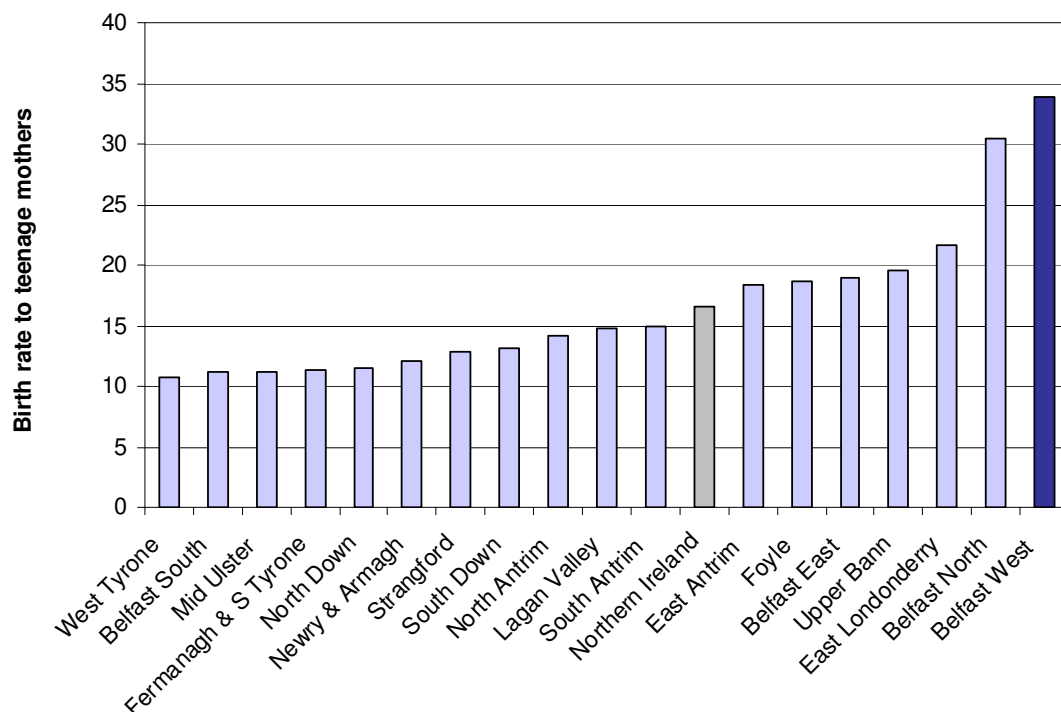
In 2008, the teenage birth rate of Belfast West stood at 34 per 1,000 female persons aged 13-19 years.

The teenage birth rate was much higher for Belfast West than the overall Northern Ireland rate of 17 per 1,000 female persons aged 13-19.

Belfast West was the Constituency with the highest teenage birth rate.

This information is not available at ward level.

Chart 13: Teenage Birth Rate per 1,000 females aged 13-19 by Constituency, 2008



Source: NISRA, NINIS (GRO)

Quality Outcomes Framework – Disease Prevalence

The Quality Outcome Framework (QOF) is a system used to remunerate general practices; disease prevalence data per 1,000 patients is collected and then used within the QOF to deliver a more equitable distribution of payments in the light of different workloads that practices face.¹⁶

As at 31 March 2009, there was a lower prevalence of hypertension, hypothyroid, obesity and chronic kidney disease and a higher prevalence of asthma amongst patients whose GP practice is located in the Belfast West area compared to GP practices across all of Northern Ireland.

Table 1: Disease Prevalence per 1,000 patients as reported through QOF, 2009

	Belfast West Patients		All Northern Ireland Patients	
	No.	Prevalence	No.	Prevalence
Coronary Heart Disease	3,757	39	75,278	41
All Heart Failure Patients	632	7	13,903	8
Stroke	1,486	16	31,063	17
Hypertension	9,668	102	225,093	122
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	1,823	19	29,099	16
Hypothyroid	2,085	22	57,599	31
Cancer	836	9	20,741	11
Mental Health	806	8	14,407	8
Asthma	5,846	61	104,527	56
Dementia	389	4	9,971	5
Atrial Fibrillation	970	10	23,827	13
Obesity (Patients aged 16+)	7,322	98	165,956	113
Diabetes Mellitus (Patients aged 17+)	2,896	40	65,066	45
Epilepsy (Patients aged 18+)	887	12	13,983	10
Chronic Kidney Disease (patients aged 18+)	1,651	23	55,150	39
Learning Disabilities (Patients aged 18+)	290	4	6,912	5

■ Higher than NI*

■ Lower than NI*

* by more than 3

Source: NISRA, NINIS (Payment Calculation and Analysis System, DHSSPS)

¹⁶ A full set of QOF data tables and explanation of the QOF can be found at http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/hss/gp_contracts/gp_contract_qof.htm.

3. EDUCATION

This section presents information on:

- Post-primary pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need
- The highest qualifications of school leavers and
- Participation in Further and Higher Education.

Statement of Special Educational Needs

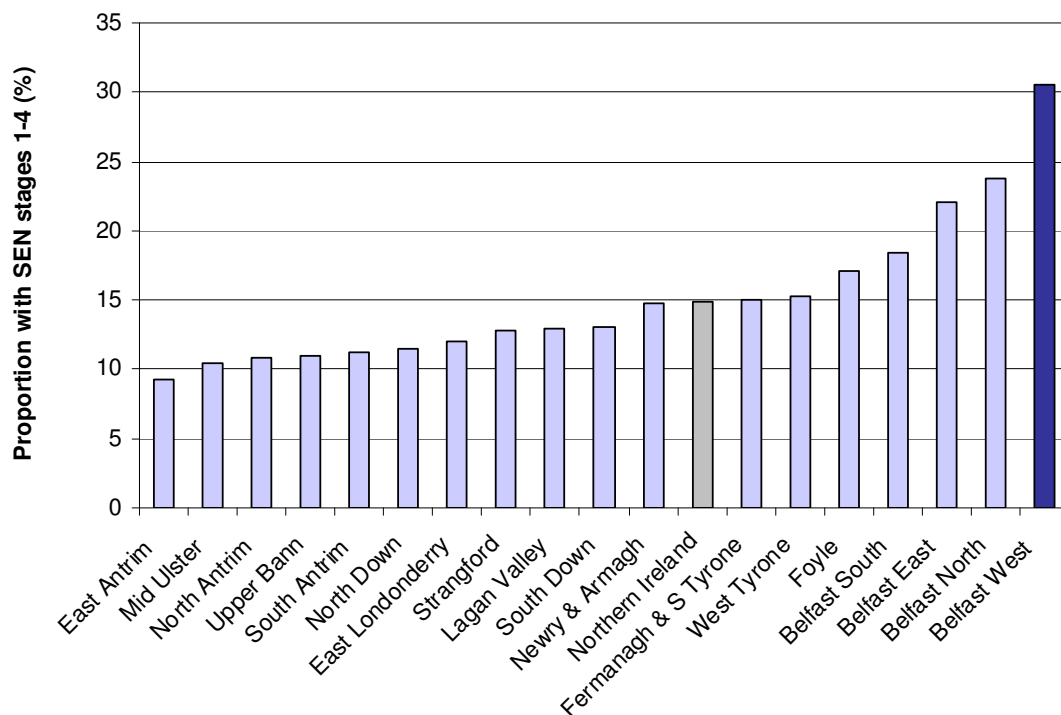
In 2008/09, 30.5% of Belfast West post-primary pupils had a Statement of Special Educational Need (SEN) at stages 1-4.

The proportion of post-primary pupils with a SEN at stages 1-4 was much higher for Belfast West than the Northern Ireland proportion which stood at 14.9%.

Belfast West was the Constituency with the 3rd highest proportion of pupils with a SEN at stages 1-4.

The lowest proportions of pupils with a SEN at stages 1-4 were concentrated in the wards of Falls Park (21.0%), Highfield (22.5%) and Clonard (25.5%) and the highest proportions were concentrated in the wards of Twinbrook (38.0%), Collin Glen (36.0%) and Glencolin (35.8%).

Chart 14: Proportion of post-primary pupils with a SEN by Constituency, 2008/09



Source: NISRA, NINIS (School Census, Department of Education (DE))

Highest Qualifications of School Leavers

School leavers achieving at least two A-levels

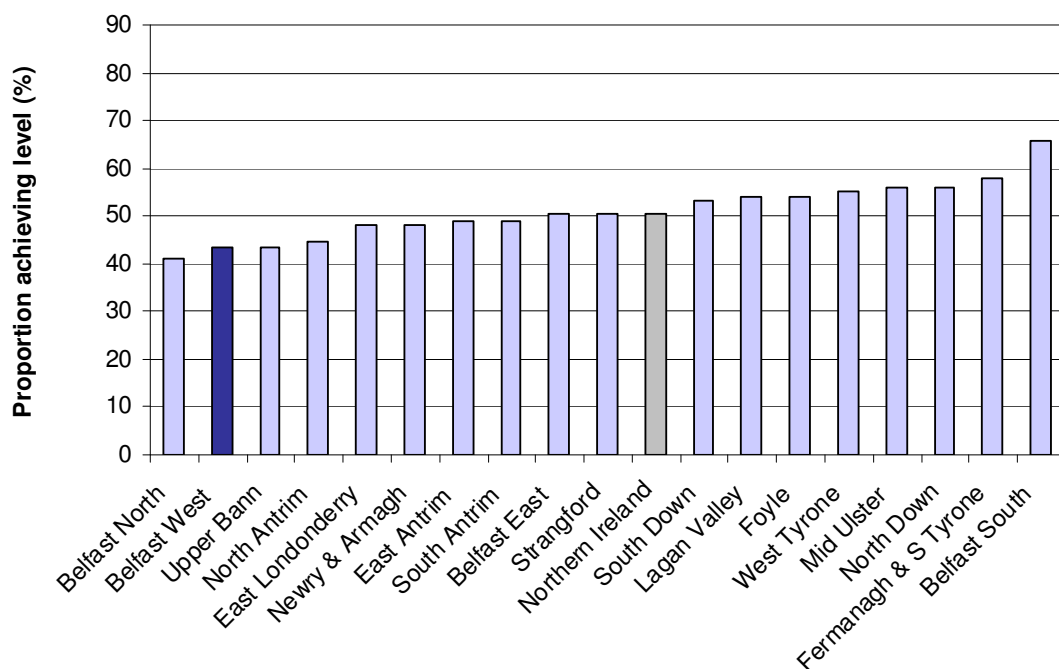
In 2008/09, 43.3% of Belfast West school leavers achieved at least two A-levels.

The proportion of pupils from Belfast West who left school with at least two A-levels was lower than the overall Northern Ireland figure of 50.6%.

Belfast West was the Constituency with the 2nd lowest proportion of school leavers achieving at least two A-levels.

The lowest proportions of school leavers achieving at least two A-levels were concentrated the wards of Twinbrook (10.7%, 3 pupils), Glencairn (22.2%) and Falls (24.7%) and highest in the wards of Ladybrook (66.7%), Falls Park (60.8%) and Kilwee (55.6%).

Chart 15: Proportion of school leavers achieving at least two A-levels by Constituency, 2008/09



Source: NISRA, NINIS (School Leavers Survey, DE)

At least five GCSEs at grades A-C*

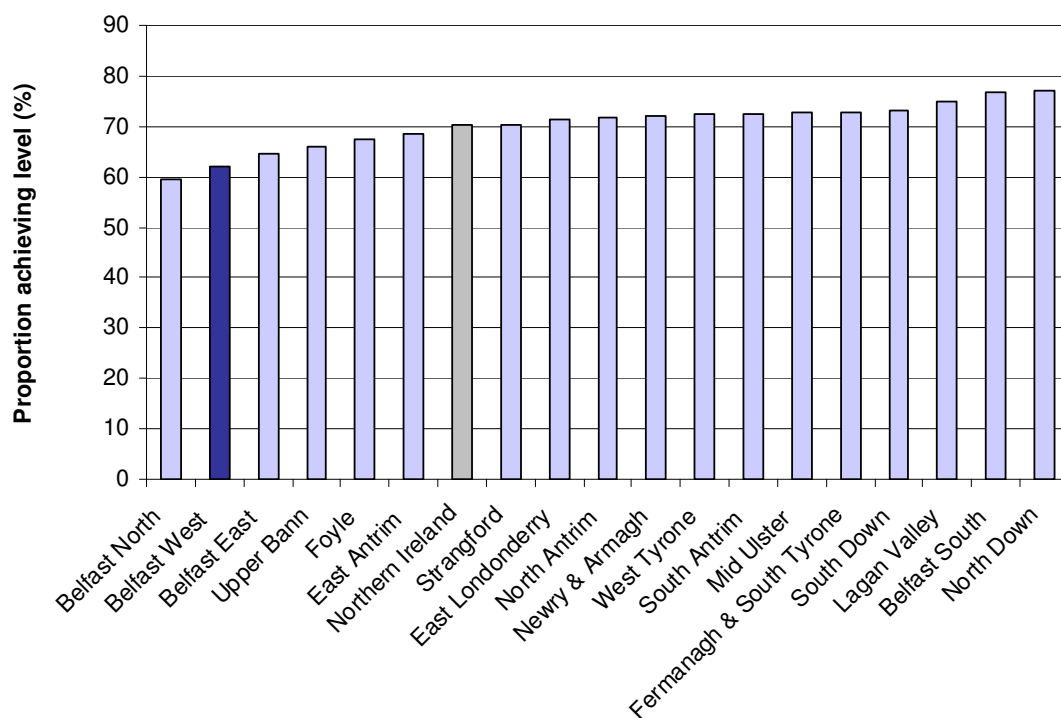
In 2008/09, 62.1% of Belfast West school leavers achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A*-C.¹⁷

A lower proportion of Belfast West school leavers achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A*-C as their highest level of attainment compared to the Northern Ireland figure of 70.1%.

Belfast West was the Constituency with the 2nd lowest proportion of school leavers achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A*-C.

The lowest proportions of school leavers achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A*-C were concentrated in the wards of Falls (33.8%), Glencairn (42.2%) and Shankill (47.4%) and the highest proportions were concentrated in the wards of Ladybrook (80.2%), Andersonstown (77.6%) and Falls Park (74.7%).

Chart 16: Proportion of school leavers achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A*-C by Constituency, 2008/09



Source: NISRA, NINIS (School Leavers Survey, DE)

¹⁷ Note that this figure includes those who left school with at least two A-levels.

Participation in Further Education

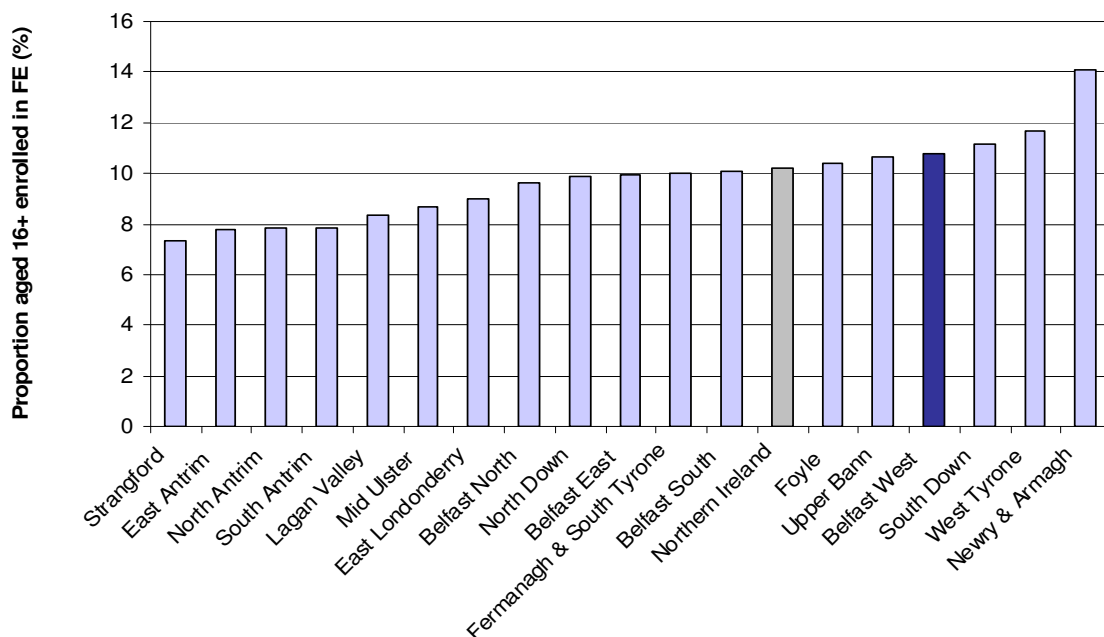
In 2007/08, there were 6,885 students from Belfast West enrolled in further education.¹⁸ This equates to 10.8% of constituents aged 16 and over being enrolled in further education.

There was little difference in the proportion of people aged 16 and over living in Belfast West who are enrolled in further education and the Northern Ireland figure of 10.2%.

Belfast West was the Constituency with the 4th highest proportion of people aged 16 and over enrolled in further education.

Further education participation rates were lowest in the wards of Shankill (5.7%), Glencairn (5.9%) and Poleglass (6.9%) and highest in the wards of Falls Park (10.3%), Falls (9.5%) and Twinbrook (9.4%).

Chart 17: Proportion of those aged 16+ enrolled in FE by Constituency, 2007/08



Source: NISRA, NINIS (FE Enrolment data, Department for Employment and Learning)

Of all Belfast West students enrolled, 17.2% were full time and 82.8% were part time students, while 56.8% were female and 43.2% were male. In total, 37.4% of those enrolled in further education were mature students.¹⁹

¹⁸ Further education can be defined as post-secondary education that is distinct from the education offered in universities.

¹⁹ Mature Student in further education defined as those aged 26 and over.

Participation in Higher Education

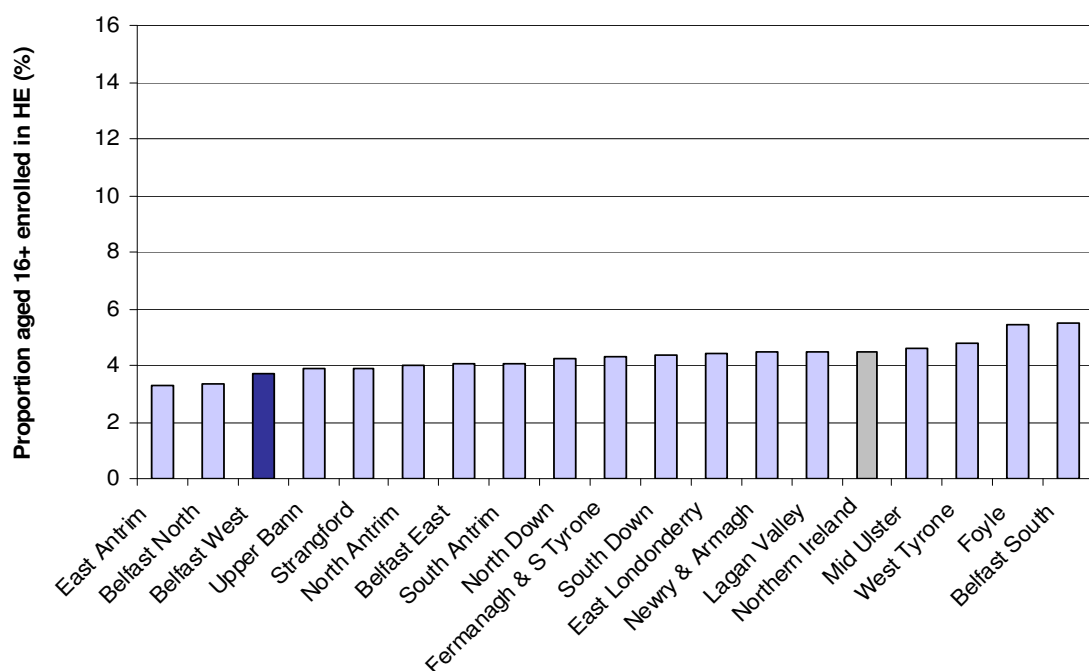
In 2007/08, there were 2,365 students from Belfast West enrolled in higher education.²⁰ This equates to 3.7% of constituents aged 16 and over being enrolled in higher education.

There was little difference in the proportion of Belfast West people aged 16 and over who are enrolled in higher education and the Northern Ireland figure (4.5%).

Belfast West was the Constituency with the 3rd lowest proportion of people aged 16 and over enrolled in higher education.

Higher education participation rates were lowest in the wards of Shankill (0.7%), Glencairn (1.5%) and Whiterock (1.7%) and highest in the wards of Kilwee (5.2%), Falls Park (4.7%) and Ladybrook (4.4%).

Chart 18: Proportion of those aged 16+ enrolled in HE by Constituency, 2007/08



Source: NISRA, NINIS (HE Enrolment data, DEL)

Of all students enrolled, 68.1% were full time and 32.1% were part time students, while 60.9% were female and 39.3% were male. In total, 34.9% of those enrolled in higher education were mature students.²¹

²⁰ Higher education can be defined as education at a higher level than secondary school, usually provided in universities.

²¹ Mature Student in higher education defined as those aged 25 and over.

4. THE ECONOMY

This section presents information on financial assistance provided by Invest NI as well as information on those completing and subsequently being offered financial assistance through its Start a Business Programme.

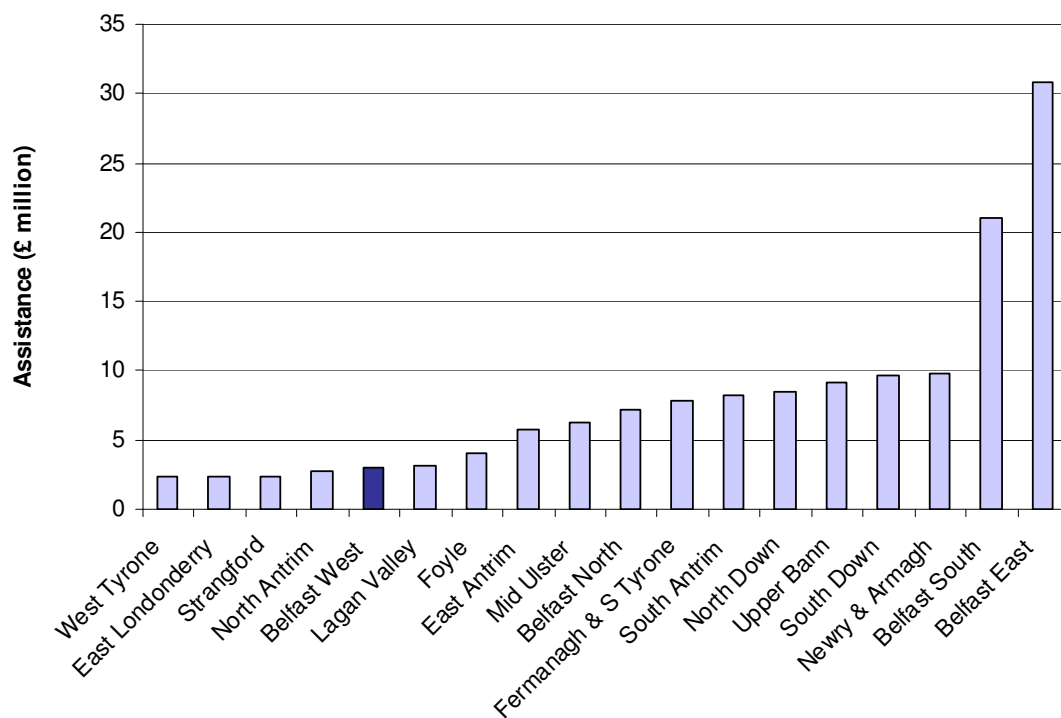
Invest NI Assistance

In 2008/09, Invest NI provided just under £3.0 million in financial assistance to companies in Belfast West, accounting for 2.1% of all financial assistance provided in Northern Ireland during that period.

Companies in Belfast West received 5th lowest amount of financial assistance in 2008/09.

This information is not available at ward level.

Chart 19: Invest NI assistance provided to companies in £m by Constituency, 2008/09



Source: NISRA, NINIS (Invest NI)

Start a Business Programme

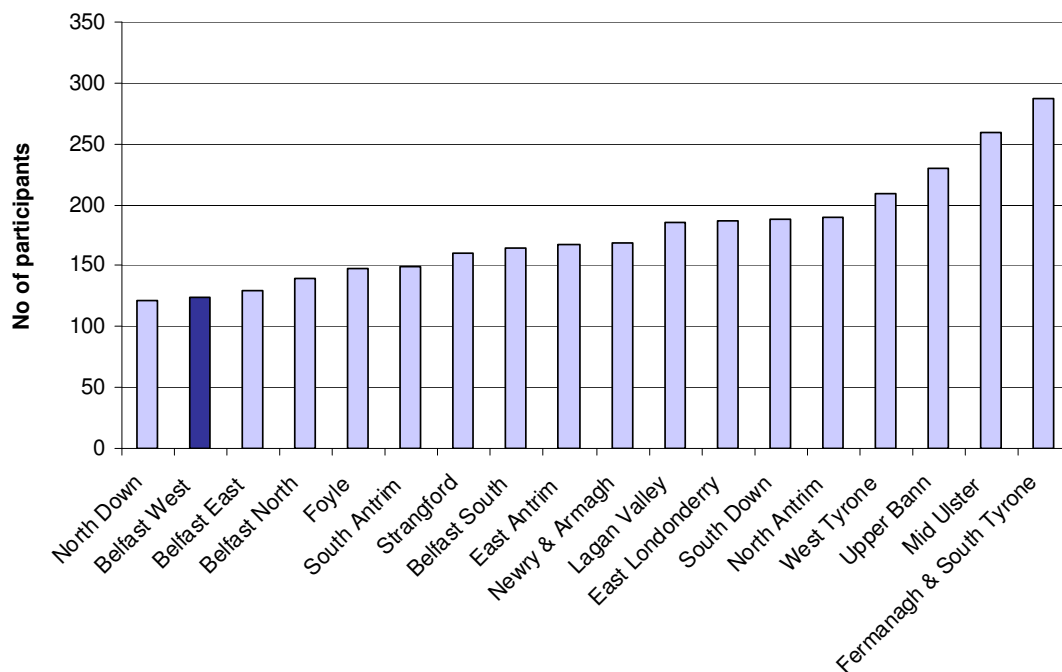
Participation in the Start a Business Programme

In 2008/09, 124 people from Belfast West completed the Invest NI Start a Business Programme.

Belfast West was the Constituency ranked 2nd lowest in terms of the number of people completing this programme.

The lowest numbers of participants who completed the training were from Twinbrook (1), Kilwee (2) and Glencairn (3). The highest numbers were from Glencolin (15), Highfield (11), Andersonstown (9), Beechmount (9) and Poleglass (9).

Chart 20: Number of Invest NI Start a Business Programme participants by Constituency, 2008/09



Source: NISRA, NINIS (Invest NI)

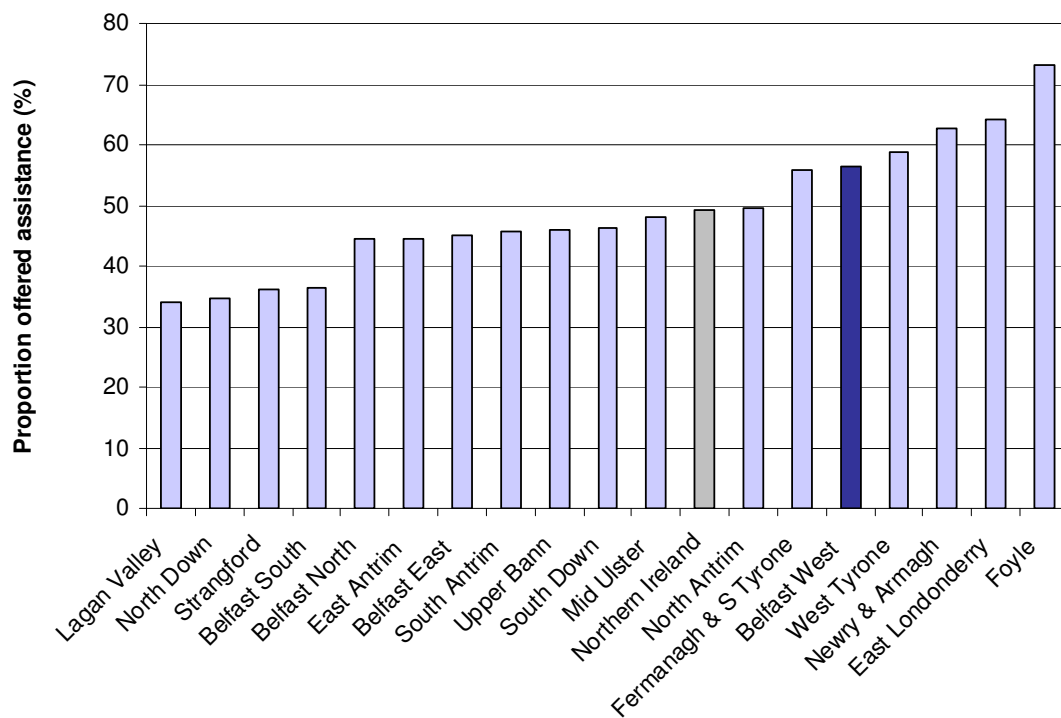
Financial Assistance offered to those who completed the Start a Business programme

Of those who did complete the training, 70 people (56.5% of participants) from Belfast West were subsequently offered financial assistance.

A higher proportion of Belfast West participants were subsequently offered financial assistance compared to the Northern Ireland figure of 49.3%.

Belfast West was ranked 5th highest in terms of the proportion of participants who were offered financial assistance.

Chart 21: Proportion of Invest NI Start a Business Programme participants who were offered assistance by Constituency, 2008/09



Source: NISRA, NINIS (Invest NI)

5. EMPLOYMENT

This section presents information on the number of employee jobs and employee jobs by sector; the number of redundancies in Belfast West and the unemployment claimant count.

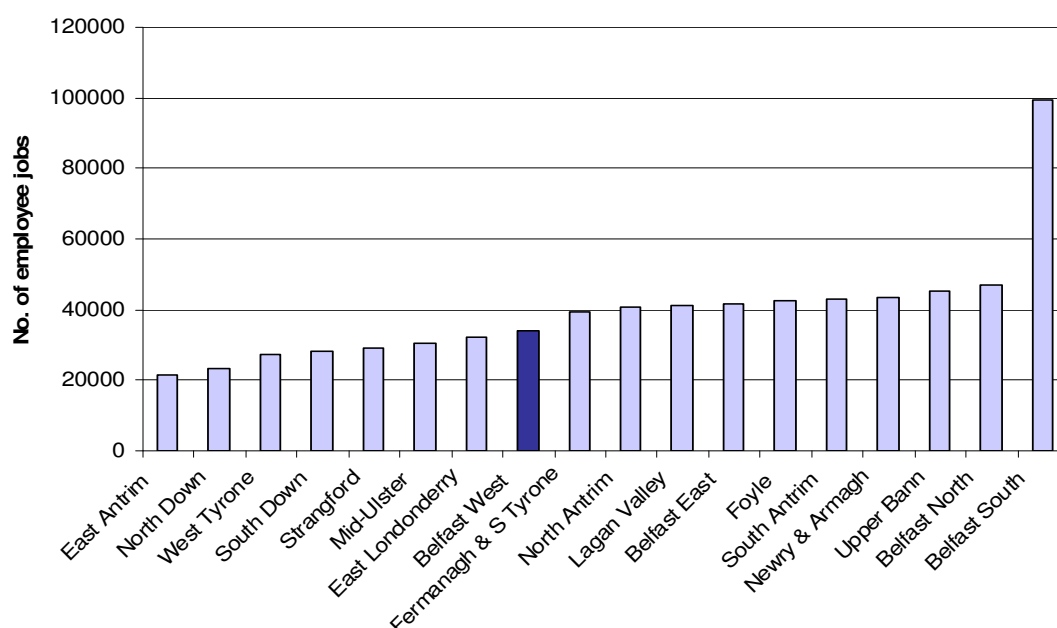
Employee jobs

As at 3 September 2007, there were 34,188 employee jobs²² located in Belfast West, representing 4.8% of all employee jobs in Northern Ireland.

Belfast West was the Constituency with the 8th lowest in terms of the number of employee jobs.

The lowest concentrations of employee jobs were in the wards of Glencairn (205), Poleglass (240) and Twinbrook (297) and the highest in the wards of Falls (17,644), Beechmount (2,958) and Falls Park (2,951), although these figures are based on job location not home address and so variations between wards will depend on the nature of the ward - rural, residential or industrial.

Chart 22: No. of employee jobs by Constituency, September 2007



Source: NISRA, NINIS (Census of Employment, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI))

²² The Census of Employment is conducted every two years by means of a postal enquiry of all NI employers and a full response is sought in order to obtain an accurate count of the number of employee jobs at the Census date. It collects information on employees only (the self-employed are excluded) and counts the number of jobs rather than the number of people in these jobs.

Employee jobs by Sector

In 2007, the majority of employee jobs in Belfast West were in the services sector (92.9%), followed by manufacturing (5.2%) while 1.8% were in construction.

A much higher proportion of employee jobs in Belfast West were in services compared to the proportion of all Northern Ireland jobs which stood at 80.6%.

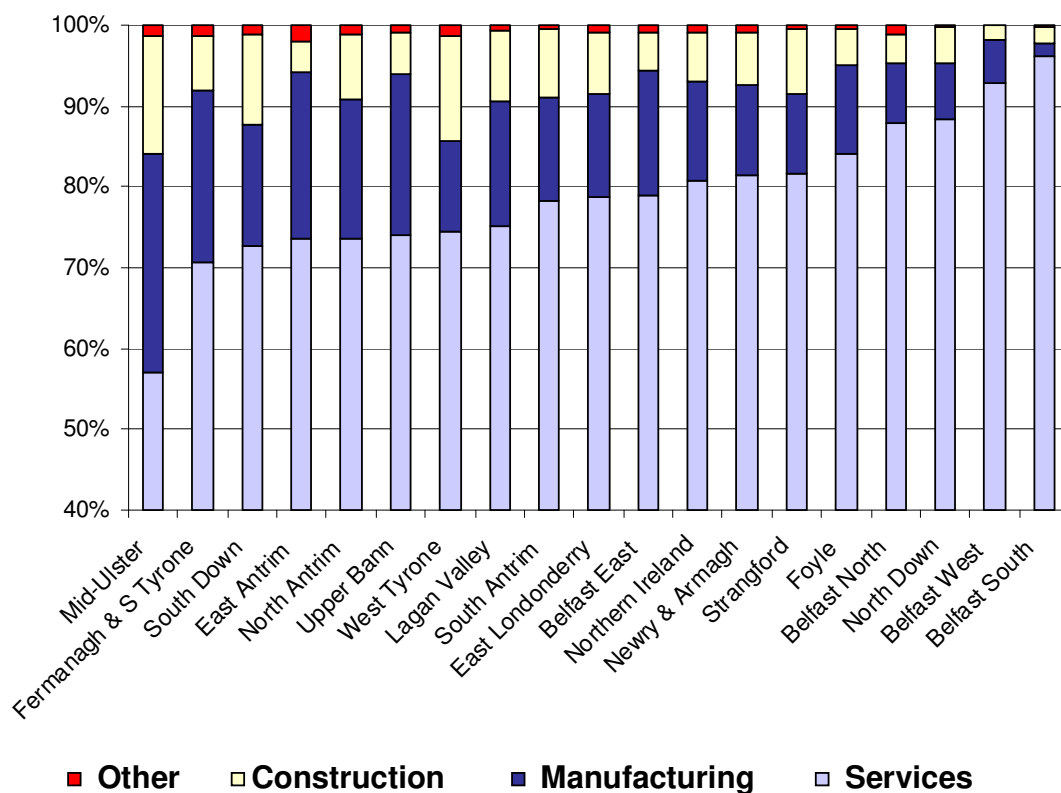
A lower proportion of employee jobs in Belfast West were in manufacturing compared to the proportion of all Northern Ireland jobs which stood at 12.3%.

A lower proportion of employee jobs in Belfast West were in construction compared to the proportion of all Northern Ireland jobs which stood at 6.2%.

Belfast West is the Constituency with the 2nd highest proportion of services jobs, the 2nd lowest proportion of manufacturing jobs and the lowest proportion of construction jobs.

This information is not available at ward level.

Chart 23: Employee jobs by sector and Constituency, 2007



Source: NISRA, NINIS (Census of Employment, DETI)

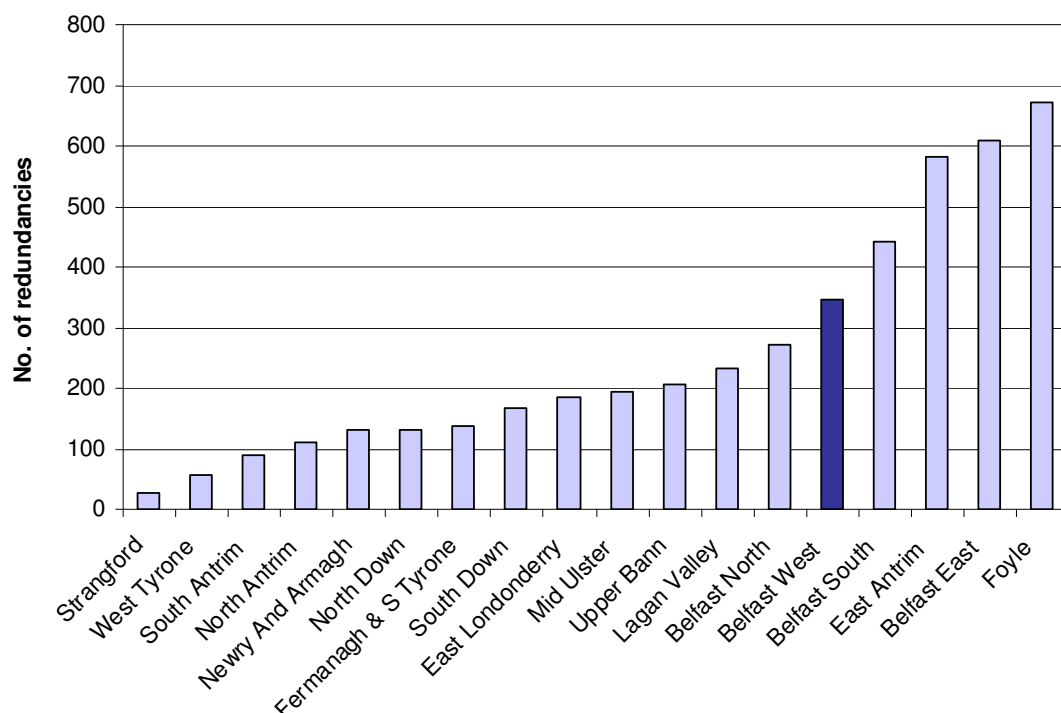
Redundancies

In 2009, there were 345 redundancies²³ in Belfast West, representing 7.5% of all redundancies made in Northern Ireland (please note that this refers to location of business rather than employee home).

The Constituency of Belfast West had the 5th highest number of redundancies in 2009.

This information is not available at ward level.

Chart 24: No. of redundancies by Constituency, 2009



Source: NISRA, NINIS (Claimant Count Section, DETI)

²³ While the figures provided are likely to be an underestimate of total job losses, it is not possible to quantify the extent of the shortfall. Subject to the criteria mentioned above, employers must notify the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment of (a) redundancies proposed and (b) redundancies confirmed. Since all proposed redundancies do not actually take place, the confirmed total provides a better indication of real job losses. Proposed redundancies are notified to the Department using the Advance Notification - HR1 Form. Redundancies do not necessarily equate to job losses, for example, employees who do not qualify for a redundancy package, those on temporary contracts, will not be incorporated into the redundancy figures.

Unemployment Claimant Count

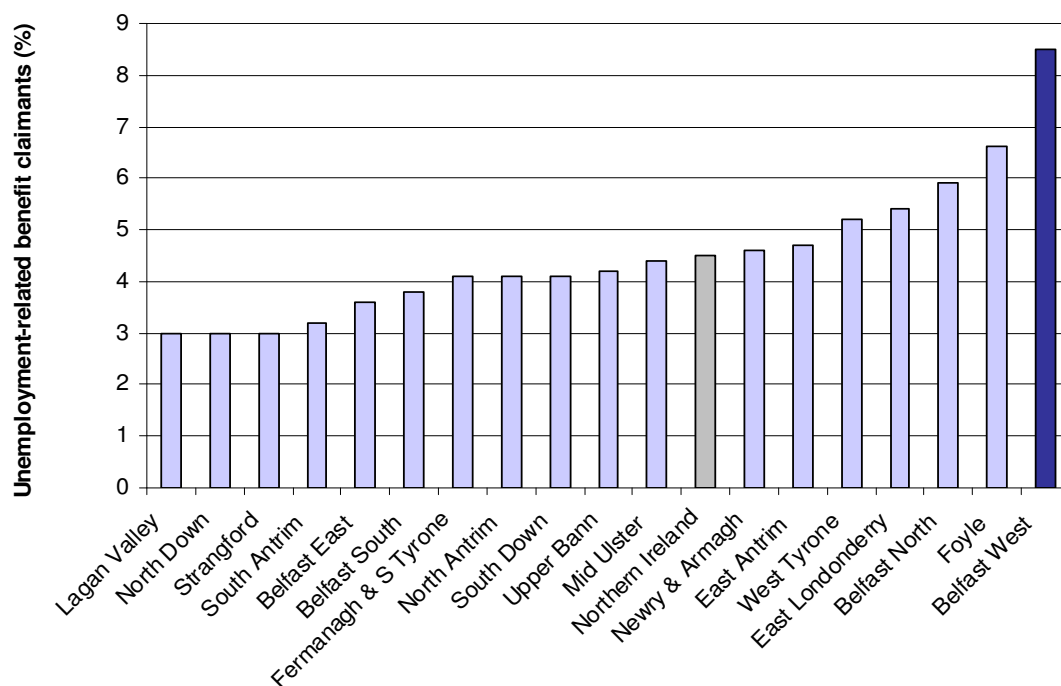
During the period January – December 2009, there were 4,381 people claiming unemployment-related benefits²⁴ in Belfast West. This equates to 8.5% of all working age constituents claiming such benefits.

The proportion of working age people claiming unemployment-related benefits was higher in Belfast West than compared to the Northern Ireland figure of 4.5%.

Belfast West was the Constituency with the highest proportion of working age people claiming such benefits.

The proportions of people claiming unemployment-related benefits were lowest in the wards of Andersonstown (5.5%), Falls Park (6.0%) and Kilwee (6.3%) and highest in the wards of Clonard (12.7%), Falls (11.9%) and Upper Springfield (11.1%).

Chart 25: Proportion of working age people claiming unemployment-related benefits by Constituency, 2009



Source: NISRA, NINIS (Claimant Count, DETI)

²⁴ The Claimant Count records the number of people claiming unemployment-related benefits. 'Claimants' include the severely disabled claimants, but exclude students seeking vacation work and the temporarily stopped. The claimant count consists of all people claiming JSA at Jobcentre Plus local offices. They must declare that they are out of work, capable of, available for and actively seeking work during the week in which their claim is made.

6. HOUSING

This section presents information on housing type within Belfast West as well as information on planning applications and decisions in the area.

Housing type

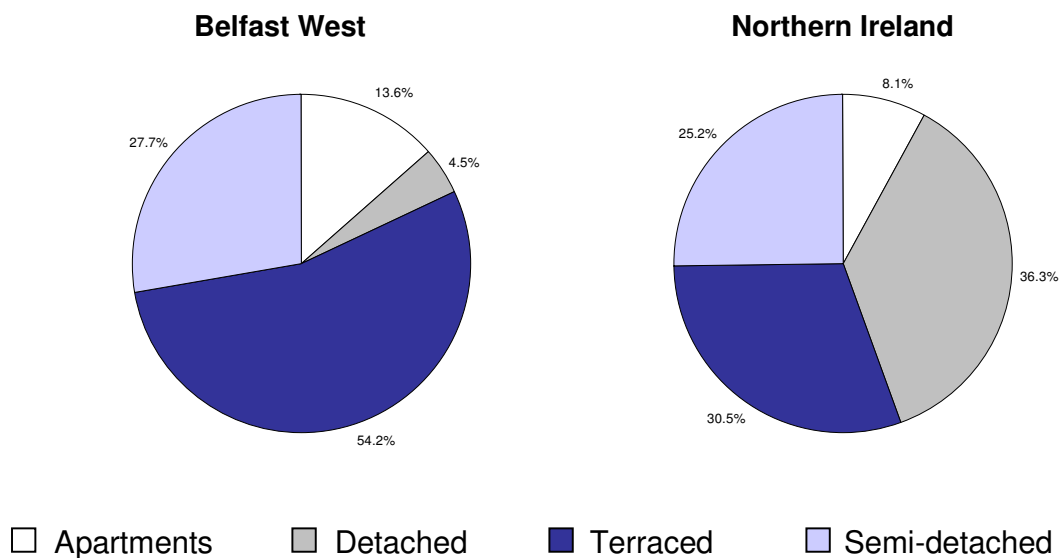
In 2008, there were 34,402 properties in Belfast West, representing 4.8% of all properties in Northern Ireland.

A much higher proportion of properties in Belfast West were terraced compared to the Northern Ireland figure (54.2% vs. 30.5%), accounting for the highest proportion of properties in the area.

A higher proportion of properties in Belfast West were apartments (13.6% vs. 8.1%) and a slightly higher proportion were semi-detached (27.7% vs. 25.2%) compared to Northern Ireland as a whole.

A much lower proportion of properties in Belfast West were detached compared to the Northern Ireland figure (4.5% vs. 36.3%), accounting for the lowest proportion of properties in the area.

Charts 26 and 27: Housing type, 2008



Source: NISRA, NINIS (Valuation List, Land and Property Services)

Planning applications and decisions

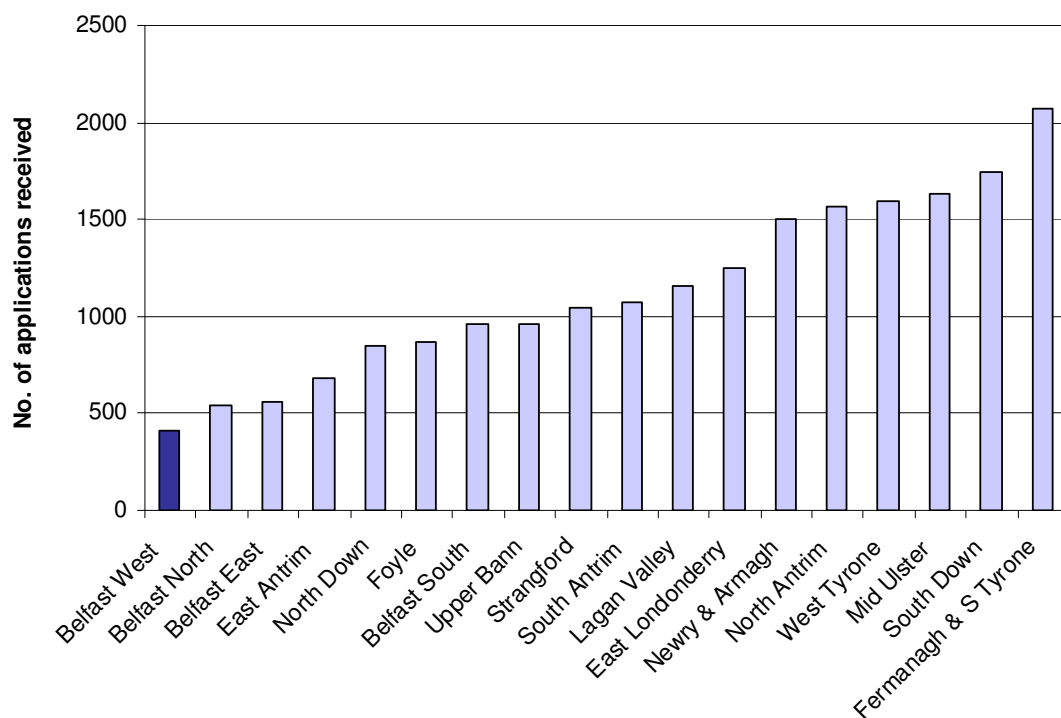
Planning applications

In 2008/09, there were 415 new planning applications received for the Belfast West area, representing 2.0% of all new planning applications in Northern Ireland.²⁵

Belfast West was the Constituency with the lowest number of planning applications in 2008/09.

This information is not available at ward level.

Chart 28: Number of planning applications by Constituency, 2008/09



Source: NISRA, NINIS (Planning Service, Department of Environment (DoE))

²⁵ Applications received also include withdrawn applications.

Planning Decisions

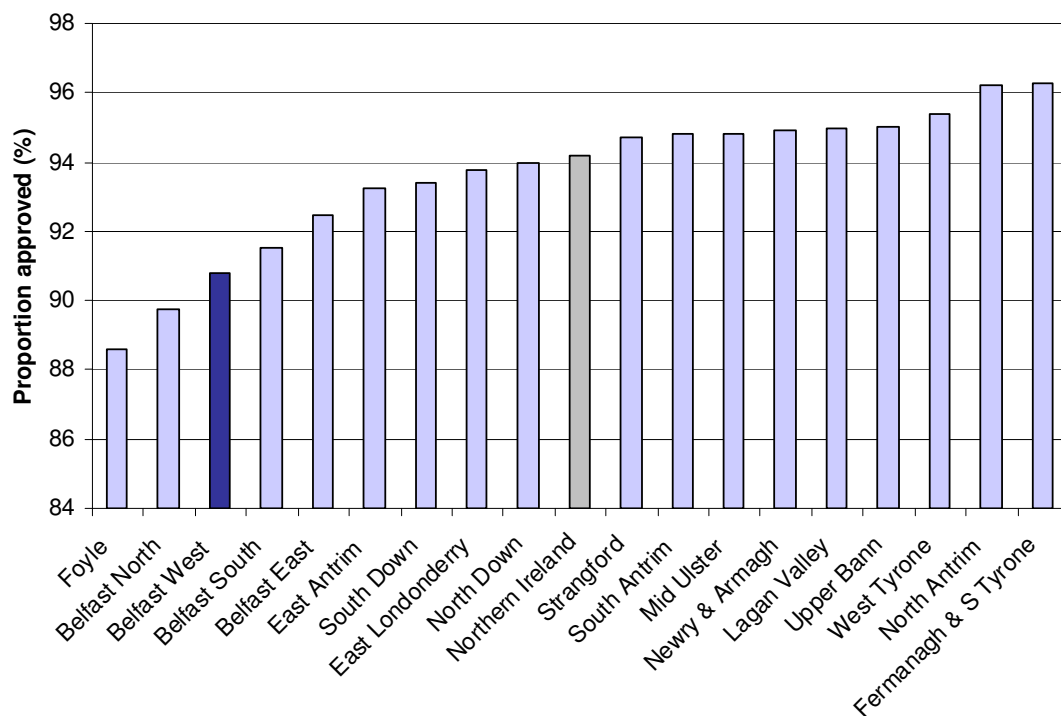
Decisions were made on a total of 435²⁶ applications during 2008/09, 90.8% of which were approved.²⁷

A slightly lower proportion of applications were approved for the Belfast West area compared to the Northern Ireland average of 94.2%.

Belfast West was the Constituency with the 3rd lowest proportion of approvals in 2008.

This information is not available at ward level.

Chart 29: Proportion of planning applications approved by Constituency, 2008/09



Source: NISRA, NINIS (Planning Service, DoE)

²⁶ Note that the number of decisions is higher than the number of planning applications received as this includes applications from previous years.

²⁷ Excludes withdrawn applications. The number and per cent of applications approved is based on the number of decisions issued in the same year.

7. CRIME

This section presents information on the overall recorded crime rate in Belfast West and breaks this down further into violent crime, burglary, theft and criminal damage. Information on anti-social behaviour rates is also presented in this section. These figures relate to where the offence occurred rather than where the offender was from.

Overall Crime rate

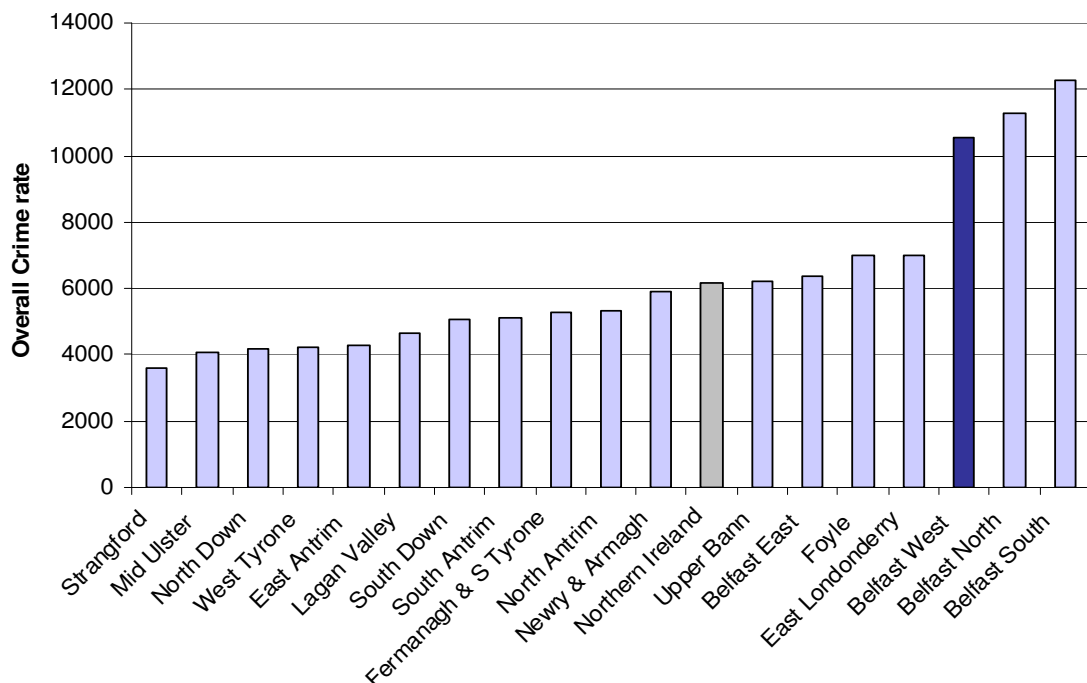
In 2009/10, a total of 8,881 offences were recorded in Belfast West, representing 8.1% of all offences recorded in Northern Ireland. This equates to an overall crime rate of 10,542 per 100,000 persons.

The crime rate for Belfast West was much higher than the overall Northern Ireland rate of 6,149 per 100,000 persons.

Belfast West was the Constituency with the 3rd highest crime rate.

Overall crime rates were lowest in the wards of Glencairn (3,845), Poleglass (4,643) and Glen Road (5,198) and highest in the wards of Falls (49,330), Shankill (14,612) and Clonard (14,247).

Chart 30: Overall crime rate per 100,000 persons by Constituency, 2009/10



Source: NISRA, NINIS (Notifiable Offences Recorded, Police Service for Northern Ireland (PSNI))

Crime Rates by type - violent crime, burglary, theft and criminal damage

Rates of violent crime, burglary, theft and criminal damage were higher in Belfast West than the Northern Ireland rates.

Table 2: Crime Rates by type of crime, 2009/10

	Belfast West		Northern Ireland
	Rate	Rank*	Rate
Violent Crime	2,931	3	1,865
Burglary	928	4	709
Theft	3,234	2	1,499
Criminal Damage	2,531	2	1,490

*1=highest crime rate, 18=lowest crime rate

Source: NISRA, NINIS (Notifiable Offences Recorded, PSNI)

Violent Crime

In 2009/10, the violent crime rate for Belfast West was 2,931 per 100,000 persons and was higher than the Northern Ireland rate. Violent crime rates were lowest in the wards of Poleglass (1,262), Highfield (1,326) and Glencairn (1,381) and highest in the wards of Falls (9,058), Kilwee (4,244) and Shankill (3,830).

Burglary

In 2009/10, the burglary rate for Belfast West was 928 per 100,000 persons and was higher than the Northern Ireland rate. Burglary rates were lowest in the wards of Glencairn (406), Andersonstown (439) and Highfield (466) and highest in the wards of Falls (2,173), Shankill (1,941) and Kilwee (1,435).

Theft

In 2009/10, the theft rate for Belfast West was 3,243 per 100,000 persons and was higher than the Northern Ireland rate. Theft rates were lowest in the wards of Glencairn (596), Glen Road (777) and Poleglass (833) and highest in the wards of Falls (25,690), Shankill (4,433) and Falls Park (4,299).

Criminal Damage

In 2009/10, the criminal damage rate for Belfast West was 2,531 per 100,000 persons and was higher than the Northern Ireland rate. Criminal damage rates were lowest in the wards of Andersonstown (916), Glencairn (1,191) and Glen Road (1,295) and highest in the wards of Falls (9,626), Clonard (4,132) and Kilwee (3,847).

Anti-social Behaviour

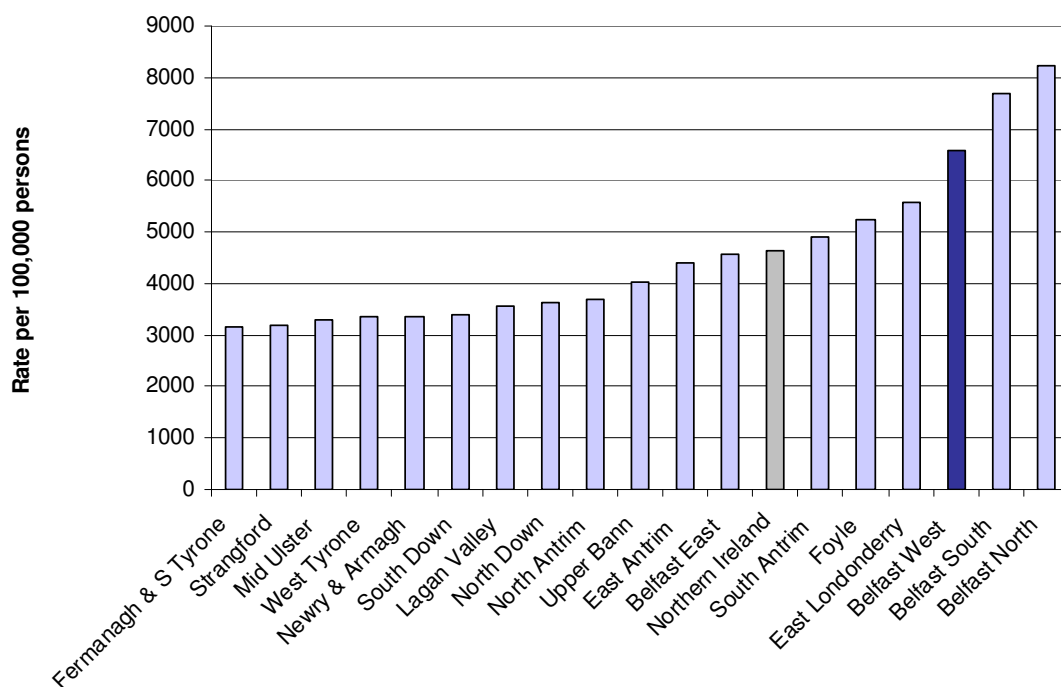
In 2009/10, there were 5,550 incidents of anti-social behaviour in Belfast West. This equates to a rate of 6,588 per 100,000 persons.

The rate of anti-social behaviour incidents in Belfast West was much higher than the overall Northern Ireland rate of 4,625 per 100,000 persons.

Belfast West was the Constituency with the 3rd highest rate of anti-social behaviour incidents.

Anti-social behaviour incident rates were lowest in the wards of Poleglass (2,833), Glencairn (3,222) and Whiterock (4,097) and highest in the wards of Falls (18,603), Clonard (9,247) and Shankill (8,447).

Chart 31: Rates of Anti-Social Behaviour per 100,000 persons by Constituency, 2009/10



Source: NISRA, NINIS (Anti-social behaviour incidents, PSNI)

8. DEPRIVATION & POVERTY

This section presents information from the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010 and on the number of people claiming benefits.

Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure

The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2010 identifies small concentrations of multiple deprivation across Northern Ireland. Summaries at Constituency level consisting of five measures are also produced. The following contains the summary information for Belfast West.

Extent

Belfast West has an Extent of 76%. This means that 76% of people living in Belfast West live in the most²⁸ deprived Super Output Areas²⁹ in Northern Ireland. Belfast West is the Constituency ranked 1 out of 18 in terms of Extent.

Income Deprivation Scale

The Income Deprivation Scale shows that there are 42,664 people in Belfast West experiencing Income Deprivation (*defined as being in receipt of income-related benefits/tax credits*). Belfast West is the Constituency ranked 1 out of 18 on this measure of deprivation.

Percentage of the total population Income Deprived

51% of those living in Belfast West are income deprived. Belfast West is ranked 1 out of 18 on this measure of deprivation.

Employment Deprivation Scale

The Employment Deprivation Scale shows that 11,625 people in Belfast West are experiencing employment deprivation (*defined as being in receipt of employment-related benefits or on a government training programme*). Belfast West is ranked 2 out of 18 on this measure of deprivation.

Percentage of working age population Employment Deprived

24% of working age people in Belfast West are employment deprived. Belfast West is ranked 1 out of 18 on this measure of deprivation.

²⁸ *Most deprived* is defined as within the first 30% most deprived areas, including all of the population in the 10% most deprived SOAs, and a proportion of the population from the next two deciles (i.e. the next 20%) on a sliding scale.

²⁹ A geography designed for the collection of small area statistics with similar population sizes.

Table 3: NIMDM 2010 for the Constituency of Belfast West

Measure	Score	Rank*
Extent (%)	76	1
Income Deprived Scale	42,664	1
% of total population Income Deprived	51	1
Employment Deprived Scale	11,625	2
% of working age population Employment Deprived	24	1

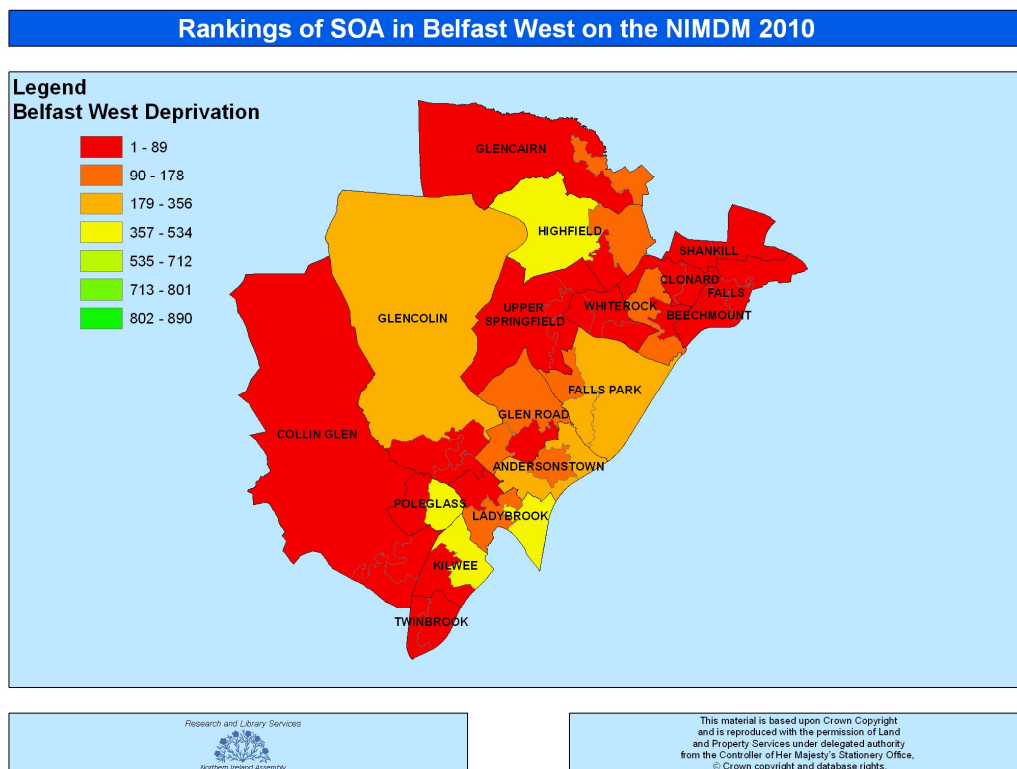
*1=most deprived, 18=least deprived

Source: NISRA, NINIS (NIMDM 2010)

Deprivation within Belfast West

The most deprived areas in Belfast West covered the wards of Clonard, Collin Glen, Falls, Shankill, Twinbrook, Upper Springfield, Whiterock and parts of Beechmount, Glen Road, Glencairn, Glen Colin, Highfield, Kilwee, Ladybrook, and Poleglass which were ranked in the 10% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland.

No area in Belfast West ranked in the 10% least deprived areas in Northern Ireland.



Source: NISRA, NINIS (NIMDM 2010)

Benefit Claimants

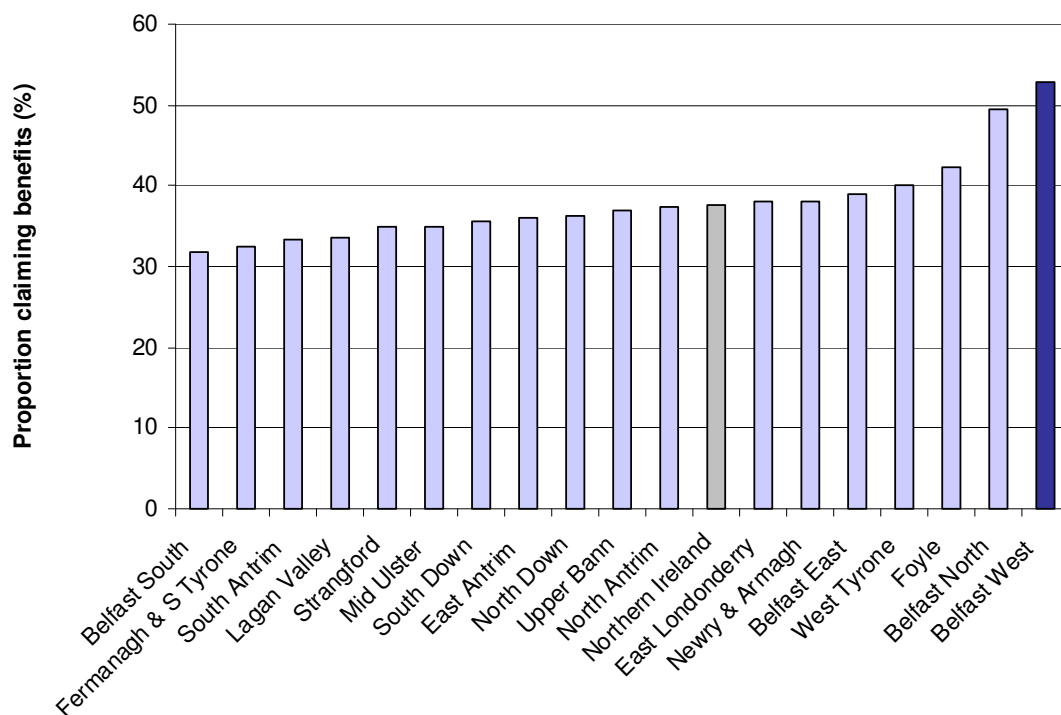
As at April 2010, there were 33,740 people in Belfast West were claiming at least one benefit. This equates to 52.7% of all constituents aged 16 and over claiming at least one benefit.

A much higher proportion of people aged 16 and over living in Belfast West were claiming at least one benefit compared to the Northern Ireland figure of 37.6%.

Belfast West was the Constituency with the highest proportion of people aged 16 and over claiming at least one benefit.

The lowest proportions of benefit claimants were concentrated in the wards of Poleglass (29.3%), Collin Glen (33.3%) and Highfield (34.0%) and the highest proportions were concentrated in the wards of Falls (50.8%), Whiterock (49.7%) and Clonard (49.5%).³⁰

Chart 32: Proportion of people aged 16 and over claiming at least one benefit by Constituency, April 2010



Source: NISRA, NINIS (Social Security Benefits data, Department for Social Development (DSD))

³⁰ Ward figures calculated as a proportion of total population using 2008 mid-year estimates.

Income Support

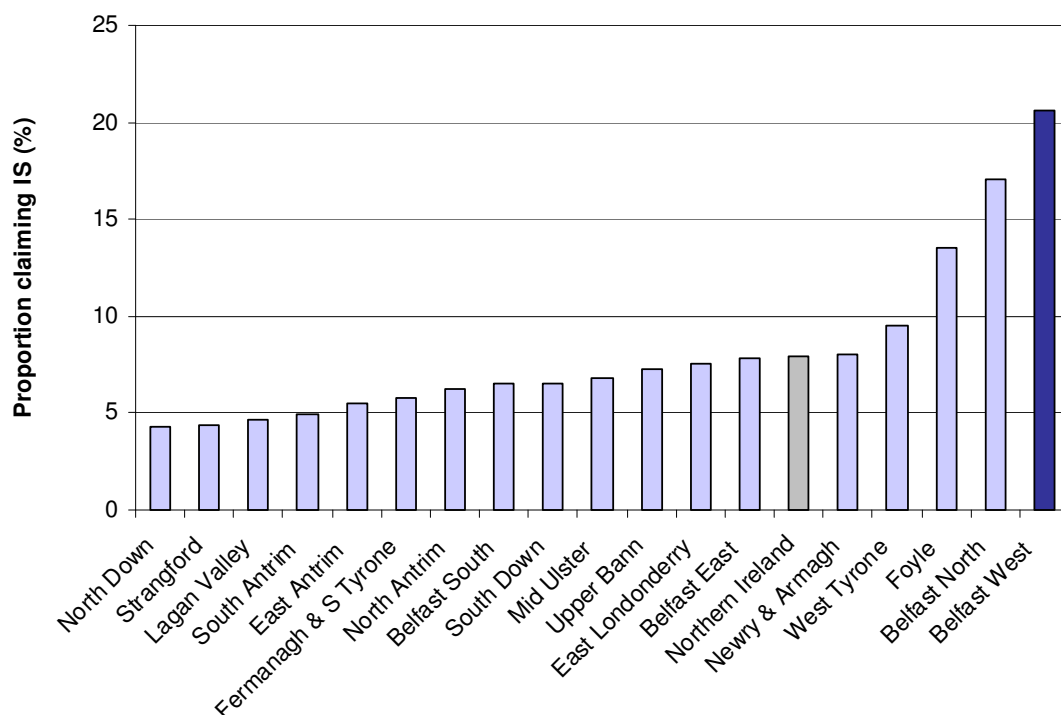
As at February 2010, there were 10,616 people claiming Income Support in Belfast West. This equates to 20.6% of all working age constituents claiming this benefit.

A much higher proportion of working age people living in Belfast West were claiming Income Support compared to the Northern Ireland figure 8.0%.

Belfast West was the Constituency with the highest proportion of Income Support claimants.

The lowest proportions of Income Support claimants were concentrated in the wards³¹ of Highfield (6.5%), Falls Park (7.0%) and Andersonstown (7.1%) and the highest proportions were concentrated in the wards of Whiterock (21.8%), Falls (20.3%) and Clonard (19.0%).³²

Chart 33: Proportion of working age people claiming Income Support, February 2010



Source: NISRA, NINIS (Social Security Benefits data, DSD)

³¹ Ward figures calculated as a proportion of total population.

³² Ward figures calculated as a proportion of total population using 2008 mid-year estimates.

Housing Benefit

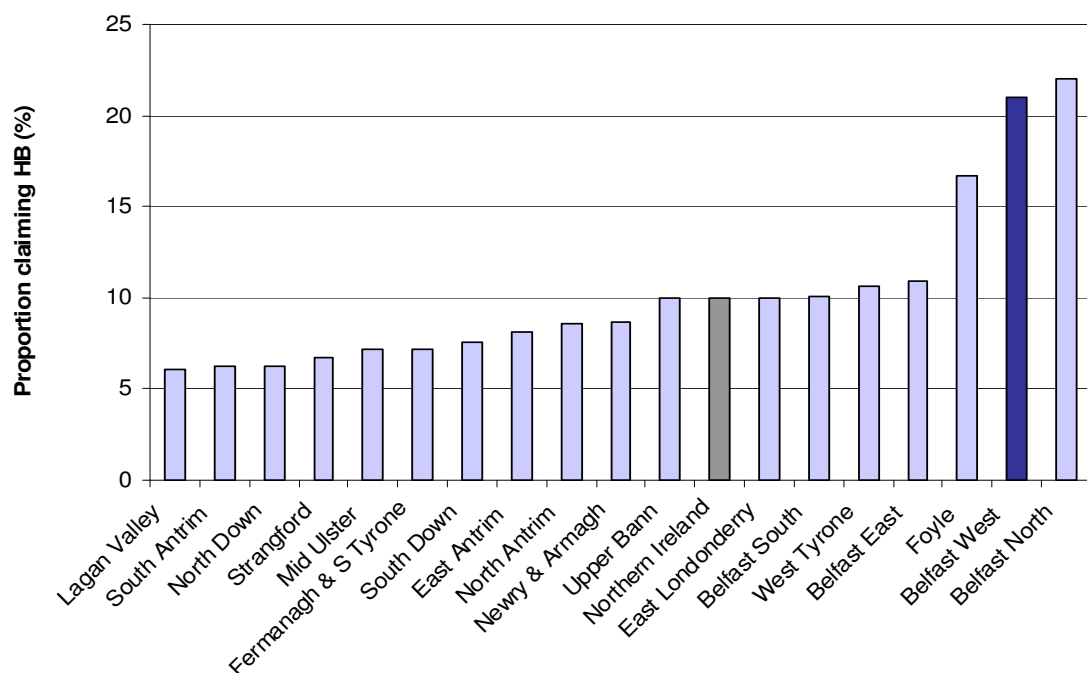
As at May 2009, there were 13,417 people claiming Housing Benefit in Belfast West. This equates to 20.6% of all working age constituents claiming this benefit.

A much higher proportion of working age people aged 16 and over living in Belfast West were claiming Housing Benefit compared to the Northern Ireland figure 10.0%.

Belfast West was the Constituency with the 2nd highest proportion of Housing Benefit claimants.

The lowest proportions of Housing Benefit claimants were concentrated in the wards of Falls Park (8.8%), Andersonstown (9.3%) and Ladybrook (9.9%) and the highest proportions were concentrated in the wards of Shankill (33.3%), Falls (27.8%) and Clonard (25.5%).³³

Chart 34: Proportion of those aged 16+ claiming Housing Benefit by Constituency, May 2009



Source: NISRA, NINIS (Housing Benefit data, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, aggregated by DSD)

³³ Ward figures calculated as a proportion of total population using 2008 mid-year estimates.

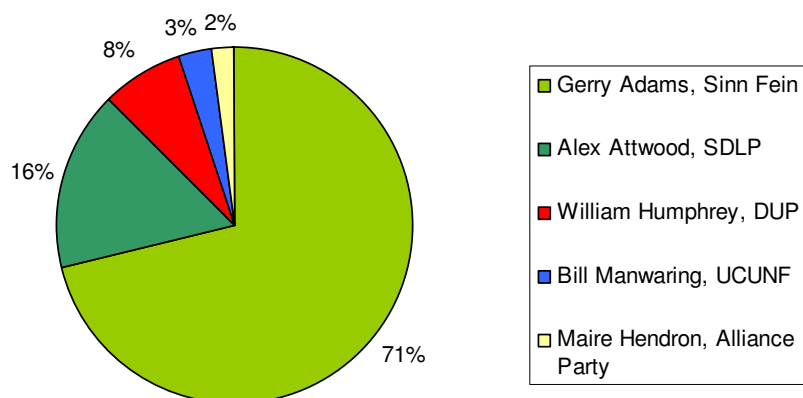
9. ELECTION RESULTS

This section presents information on the 2010 Westminster Election Results and the 2007 Assembly Election Results.

2010 Westminster Election Results

In Belfast West, 59,522 people were eligible to vote in the 2010 Westminster Elections. 32,133 valid votes were cast, a turnout of 54.0%.³⁴ Turnout for Belfast West was slightly lower than the Northern Ireland turnout of 56.7%. Sinn Féin received the majority of votes in the Constituency with 22,840 votes. As a result, Gerry Adams was elected to represent Belfast West.

Chart 35: 2010 Westminster Election Results



Candidate (*elected)	Votes	Party
Gerry Adams*	22,840	Sinn Féin
Alex Attwood	5,261	Social Democratic & Labour Party (SDLP)
William Humphrey	2,436	Democratic Unionist Party (DUP)
Bill Manwaring	1,000	Ulster Conservatives and Unionists - New Force
Maire Hendron	596	Alliance

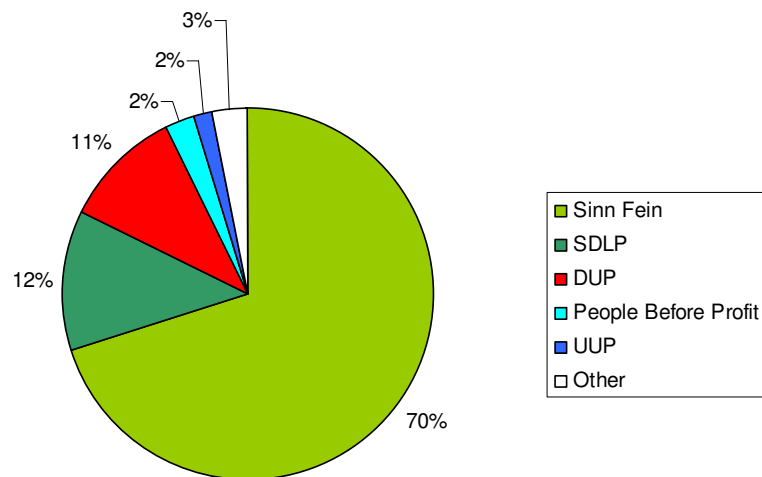
Source: The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland

³⁴ Excludes invalid votes, n = 549.

2007 Assembly Election Results

In Belfast West, 50,792 people were eligible to vote in the 2007 Assembly Elections. 33,790 valid votes were cast, a turnout of 66.5%.³⁵ Turnout for Belfast West was higher than the Northern Ireland turnout of 62.3%. Sinn Féin won 5 seats while the SDLP won 1 seat.

Chart 36: 2007 Assembly Election Results



Candidate (*elected)	1 st pref votes	Party
Gerry Adams*	6,029	Sinn Féin
Sue Ramsey*	4,715	Sinn Féin
Paul Maskey*	4,368	Sinn Féin
Jennifer McCann*	4,265	Sinn Féin
Fra McCann*	4,254	Sinn Féin
Diane Dodds	3,661	DUP
Alex Attwood*	3,036	SDLP
Margaret Walsh	1,074	SDLP
Seán Mitchell	774	People Before Profit Alliance
Louis West	558	Ulster Unionist Party
John Lowry	434	Workers Party
Geraldine Taylor	427	Republican Sinn Féin
Daniel McGuinness	127	Alliance
Rainbow George	68	Make Politicians History

Source: *The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland*

³⁵ Excludes invalid votes, n = 448.



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

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