



The Cognitive
Centre Foundation

for

**The Republic of Ireland
Probation & Welfare Service**

RISK AND NEED IN OFFENDER POPULATIONS IN IRELAND

**An Analysis of a Sample of 1022 Level of Service
Inventory – Revised (LSI-R) Tests and 89 Youth
Level of Service/Case Management Inventory
(YLS/CMI) Tests undertaken by Probation
Officers in Ireland in 2004-5**

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SUMMARY

- 1) In the sample studied errors were evident in relation to the 'rules' as outlined in the Quality Control Checklist (Appendix 1). The most frequent errors related to the scoring of items in the alcohol/drugs and education/employment subcomponents. It is recommended that:
 - i) Users should be encouraged to refer to the manuals and additional guidance notes supplied when using the tests
 - ii) The Quality Control Checklist (Appendix 1) should be completed on each test undertaken.
 - iii) Quality control sampling should be undertaken periodically.
 - iv) 'Refresher' training should be offered regularly linked to issues arising from iii)

The errors detected should not significantly affect the findings from the sample.

- 2) Risk levels in Dublin appear to be significantly higher than in the Non-Dublin areas. The higher scoring in the criminal history subcomponent and higher unemployment in the Dublin sample in part explains this.
- 3) There are variations in risk levels within Dublin with area D scoring significantly higher than the other three areas.
- 4) There are variations in risk levels within the Non-Dublin areas with risk levels in the Non Dublin areas A and B appearing to be unusually low.
- 5) Less than 52.6% of the sample is scored as being unemployed, which is low compared to samples studied in Scotland, England and Wales where 60% to 70+% was the norm.
- 6) Therefore 46.2% are assessed as having a current substance abuse problem although there may be a degree of underscoring in relation to this area.
- 7) The sample of tests completed by prison staff score significantly higher than a combined community sample in all subcomponents with the exception of emotional/personal. Very high scores were also recorded in the sample of those receiving a custodial sentence.
- 8) The comparative studies using the Irish LSI-R data show differences between the patterns of criminogenic need of different groups of offenders based on geographical location, gender, age and offence.
- 9) The results from the comparison between male and female clients show differences in the needs profiles and are consistent with other comparisons made in other studies based on the LSI-R.
- 10) The results of the comparison between under and over 21 year old offenders show differences in the risk and needs profiles and are very similar to a study of under and over 21-year-old offenders undertaken in Glasgow in 2004.
- 11) A high proportion of those being made subject to probation orders are scored as low or moderate risk (83.5%). 56% of them scored 19 or under. It follows that if an objective of the service is to reduce recidivism the high proportion of offenders being placed on probation with relatively low levels of criminogenic need would be an area of concern.
- 12) The scores from the Irish sample, given the low unemployment scores would seem to be consistent with findings from other LSI-R users.
- 13) Patterns of need in the Dublin and Non-Dublin areas broadly resemble the patterns in parts of the UK with the impact of higher unemployment rates in the UK areas being very apparent.

1) INTRODUCTION

This analysis of the first sample of Level of Service Inventory-Revised tests undertaken by Irish probation officers aims to make a preliminary assessment of risk and need levels in Ireland, to make some initial comparisons between different parts of the country, and undertake some comparisons between the results in Ireland and other comparable jurisdictions elsewhere.

The opportunity has also been taken to illustrate the potential of LSI-R data to inform decisions about service delivery by undertaking comparisons by gender, age and offence and by a preliminary assessment of the risk levels of clients by disposal, in particular those being made subject to probation orders. Insufficient data was available to evaluate the risk levels by proposal.

Attention has been paid to quality assurance, which is an important area of focus for the Superuser group, and recommendations are made concerning improvements that need to be made in the quality of the tests undertaken, how to achieve the improvements and maintain them thereafter.

The study also draws attention to problems in data collection which identified now can be addressed prior to the Service developing its own systems, either paper based or electronic.

STRUCTURE OF THE STUDY

To some extent the scope of the study has been determined by the numbers of tests collected and processed, the extent of the information contained on the forms and the quality of the photocopies received.

The study looks at risk and need levels in relation to the various areas submitted. The size of the sample from Dublin allows for separate analyses to be undertaken for the four areas and for comparison to be made between the four areas. Comparisons are also made between the whole Dublin sample and the other non-Dublin areas. A separate analysis has been made of the small sample from the prisons. No analysis is possible of the six tests from the pilot drug courts. Where sample sizes permit analyses have been made of female samples by area.

Additionally risk and need profiles have been undertaken.

- 1) by gender
- 2) by age – under 21 and over 21
- 3) by a specific offence - violence

A limited assessment of risk levels has been possible of those sentenced to probation supervision and prison.

Comparisons have been made between scores and profiles in Ireland are compared with similar samples in Scotland and England and Wales.

The preliminary findings from the small sample of Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) tests is also included

The raw scores for each of the areas are provided in appendices 2 – 10.

THE SAMPLE

The sample comprised 1022 tests as follows:

Dublin A	106
Dublin B	193
Dublin C	116
Dublin D	135
Non Dublin A	122
Non Dublin B	38
Non Dublin C	130
Non Dublin D	144
Prisons	32
Pilot Drug Court	6

Conclusions drawn need to be treated as provisional pending analysis of larger samples and after quality issues have been addressed. This is particularly true in respect of Non Dublin B and the Prisons.

Difficulty was experienced in reading a significant number of the tests due to photocopying problems, and in many details such as name, D.O.B. and gender were indecipherable. Only tests where the items scored could be clearly identified, and the gender was specified were included in the study.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

A major concern of any organisation using instruments such as the LSI-R or YLS/CMI is to ensure that staff administer the tests consistently and accurately. Properly used the instruments provide reliable information about risk and need for both individual clients and offender populations.

In the sample studied errors were evident in relation to the 'rules' as outlined in the Quality Control Checklist (Appendix 1). The most frequent error is in relation to the scoring of the alcohol/drugs subcomponent. A significant number of errors were also made in relation to the rule concerning the scoring of unemployment.

A Quality Control Checklist is available to which should help staff avoid the errors.

Where significant errors have been detected in studies elsewhere the most common causes are:

- Where there is a significant time lapse between the training and the commencement of routine use of the test. Skills that are not practiced quickly erode.
- Infrequent use of the test
- Frequent use of the test. Familiarity breeds contempt. James Bonta believes that over time errors become more evident in the use of the test. Experience in the UK confirms this.
- A lack of management 'drive 'of the test. Where the use of the test is not seen as being an integral part of service delivery the test can become 'just another form'.
- A lack of 'clinical' or professional support for users.

In relation to the sample, in the past where samples have been corrected the overall impact on the results has been extremely small, as the errors tend to cancel each other out. However for individual clients the implications could be significant.

Recommendations:

- v) Users should refer to the manuals and additional guidance notes supplied when using the tests
- vi) The Quality Control Checklist (Appendix 1) should be completed on each test undertaken.
- vii) Quality control sampling should be undertaken periodically.
- viii) 'Refresher' training should be offered regularly linked to issues arising from 3).

2) COMPARATIVE RISK LEVELS

Risk levels have been calculated for all the Dublin samples, all the non-Dublin samples and the Prison sample. The mean score is calculated and the distributions are expressed as quartiles (25% of the sample falling within each score range), and using Professor Peter Raynor's risk bands developed in 1997 and subsequently used in England, Wales, Scotland and the Channel Islands.

a) ALL DUBLIN

All (Sample 547)

Mean Score: 19.65

Quartiles

28+
19 – 27
11 – 18
10 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 7.1%
High 22.4%
Moderate 45.4%
Low 25.1%

Males (Sample 443)

Quartiles

29+
20 – 28
11 – 19
10 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 6.5%
High 24.2%
Moderate 44.0%
Low 25.3%

Females (Sample 77)

Quartiles

26+
18 – 25
12 – 17
11 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 9.6%
High 13.8%
Moderate 52.1%
Low 24.5%

b) DUBLIN A - Sample 106 (Males 77, Females 27 Gender could not be identified 2)

Mean Score: 20.2

All

Quartiles

27+
22 – 26
13 – 21
12 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 3.0%
High 26.5%
Moderate 54.9%
Low 15.7%

Males

Quartiles

29+
21 – 28
13 – 20
12 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 4%
High 32%
Moderate 48%
Low 16%

c) **DUBLIN B** - *Sample 193 (Males 158, Females 31, Gender could not be identified 4)*

Mean Score: **18.94**

All

Quartiles

28+
19 – 27
9 - 18
8 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 9.0%
High 19.1%
Moderate 39.7%
Low 32.3%

Males

Quartiles

27+
18 – 26
9 – 17
8 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 6.5%
High 19.4%
Moderate 42.6%
Low 31.6%

Females

Quartiles

33+
23 – 32
10 – 22
9 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 16.1%
High 25.8%
Moderate 32.3%
Low 25.8%

d) **DUBLIN C** - *Sample 116 (Males 91, Females 25)*

Mean Score: **17.44**

All

Quartiles

24+
18 – 23
11 – 17
10 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 1.7%
High 15.5%
Moderate 56.9%
Low 25.9%

Males

Quartiles

24+
16 – 23
11 – 15
10 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 2.2%
High 15.4%
Moderate 55.0%
Low 27.5%

e) **DUBLIN D** - *Sample 135 (Males 122, Females 12)*

Mean Score: **22.11**

All

Quartiles

32+
24 – 31
12 – 23
11 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 11.9%
High 29.9%
Moderate 35.1%
Low 23.1%

Males

Quartiles

33+
24 – 32
12 – 23
11 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 11.5%
High 32.0%
Moderate 35.3%
Low 21.3%

f) **NON-DUBLIN A** - *Sample 121 (Males 99, Females 22)*

Mean Score: **12.59**

All

Quartiles

17+
11 – 16
6 – 10
5 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 2.5%
High 7.4%
Moderate 40.2%
Low 50.0%

Males

Quartiles

20+
12 – 19
6 – 11
5 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 3.0%
High 9.1%
Moderate 42.4%
Low 45.5%

g) **NON-DUBLIN B** - *Sample 38 (Males 31, Females 7)*

Mean Score: **14.92**

All

Quartiles

20+
14 – 19
7 - 13
6 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 2.7%
High 13.5%
Moderate 51.4%
Low 32.4%

Males

Quartiles

20+
14 – 19
7 - 13
6 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 3.2%
High 12.9%
Moderate 51.6%
Low 32.6%

h) **NON-DUBLIN C** - *Sample 122 (Males 106, Females 15, Gender could not be identified 7)*

Mean Score: **18.83**

All

Quartiles

24+
18 – 23
11 – 17
10 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 1.7%
High 15.5%
Moderate 56.9%
Low 25.9%

Males

Quartiles

24+
16 – 23
11 – 15
10 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 2.2%
High 15.4%
Moderate 55.0%
Low 27.5%

i) **NON-DUBLIN D** - *Sample 144 (Males 99, Females 40)*

Mean Score: **17.23**

All

Quartiles

26+
17 – 25
7 – 16
6 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 5.6%
High 16.0%
Moderate 43.8%
Low 34.7%

Males

Quartiles

26+
17 – 25
7 – 16
6 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 4.0%
High 19.2%
Moderate 43.4%
Low 33.4%

Females

Quartiles

25+
16 – 24
7 – 15
6 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 10.0%
High 10.0%
Moderate 40.0%
Low 40.0%

j) **PRISONS** – *Sample 32 (Males 30, Gender could not be identified 2)*

All

Quartiles

34+
31 – 33
27 – 30
26 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 9.4%
High 68.8%
Moderate 21.9%
Low 0.0%

Males

Quartiles

34+
31 – 33
27 – 30
26 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 10.0%
High 70.0%
Moderate 20.0%
Low 0.0%

Comment

Risk levels in the Dublin sample are significantly higher than in the Non-Dublin areas sample.

Within Dublin area D scores on average nearly two points higher than the other Dublin areas and has a particularly high number of scores falling within Professor Raynor's 'very high' category. Areas A and C have very few 'very high' risk cases compared to areas B and D.

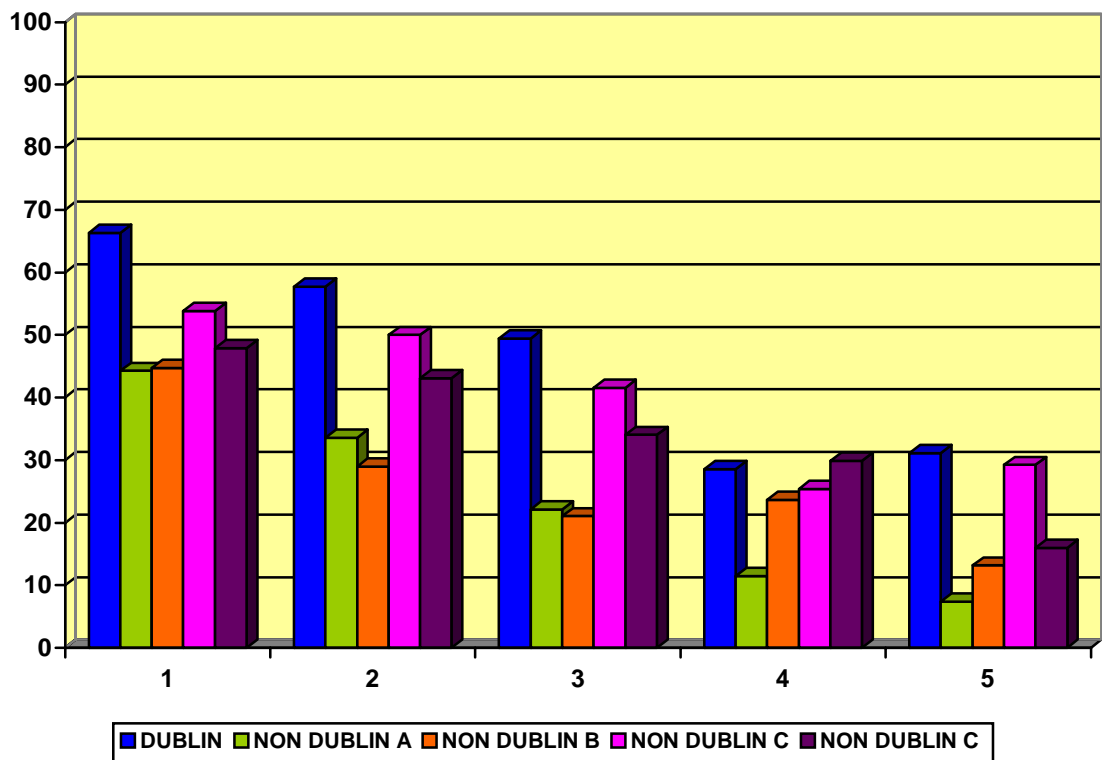
Dublin area A has a relatively low number of offenders in the 'low' risk category compared to the other three areas.

Overall the Non-Dublin clients tested scored an average of nearly three and a half points less than Dublin clients (*Dublin mean score – 19.65, Non Dublin mean score - 16.20*). Some reasons for this are discussed on page 15.

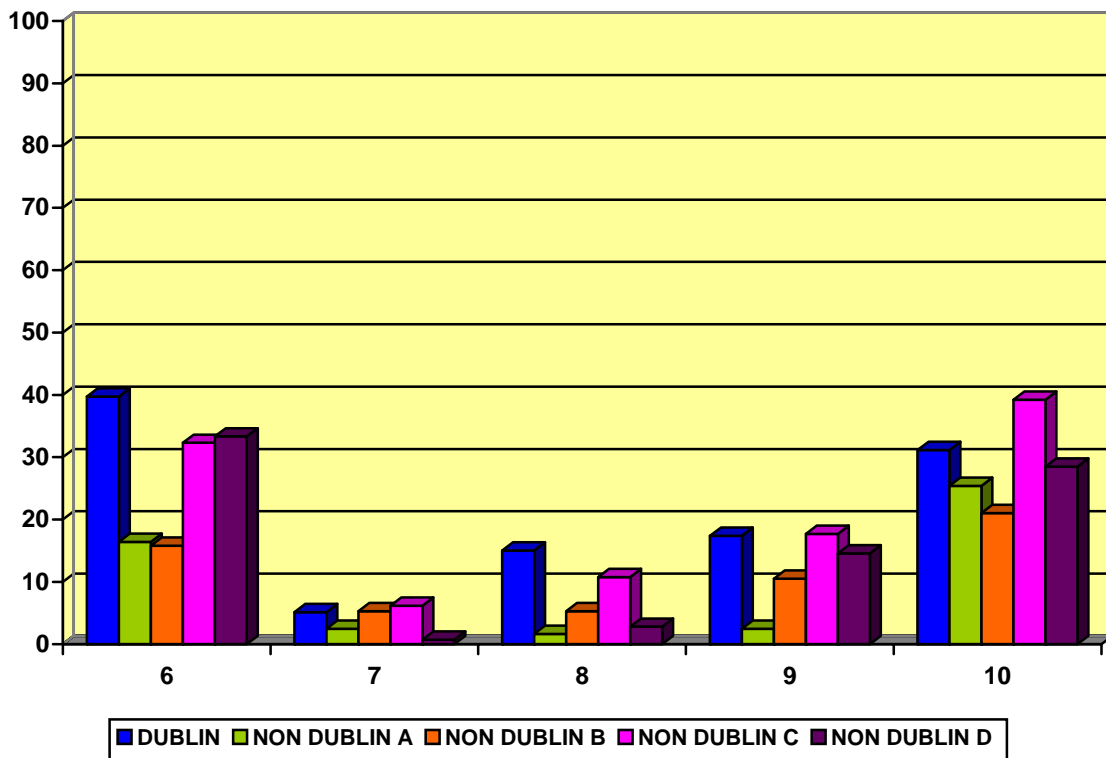
Non-Dublin areas A and B score particularly low in relation to the rest of Ireland and other areas studied in Scotland, England, Wales and the Channel Islands.

3) COMPARISON BETWEEN NEEDS PROFILES – by Area

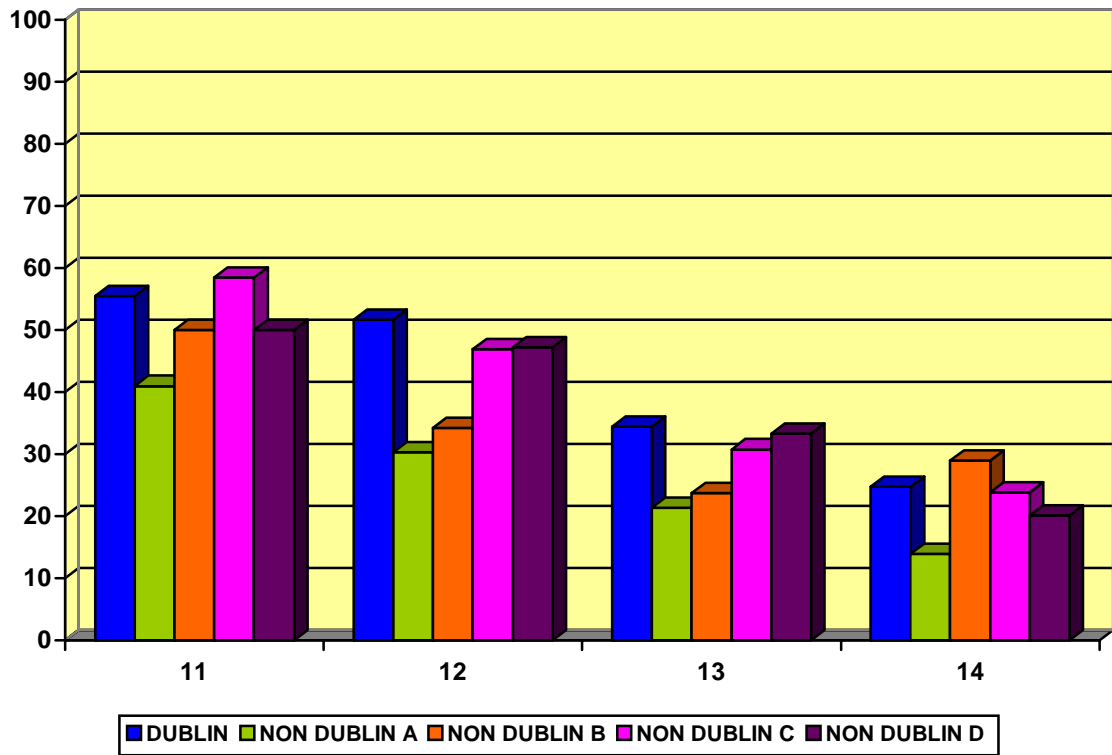
a) CRIMINAL HISTORY (% scored as risk)



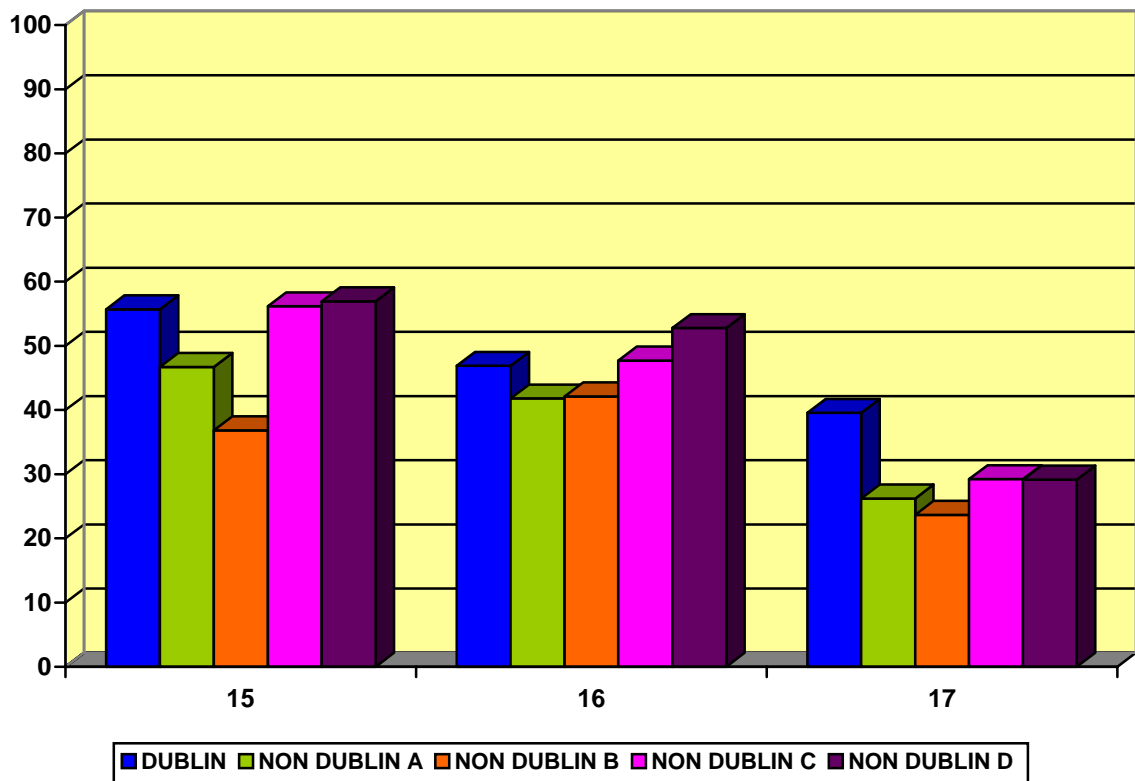
b) CRIMINAL HISTORY (% scored as risk)



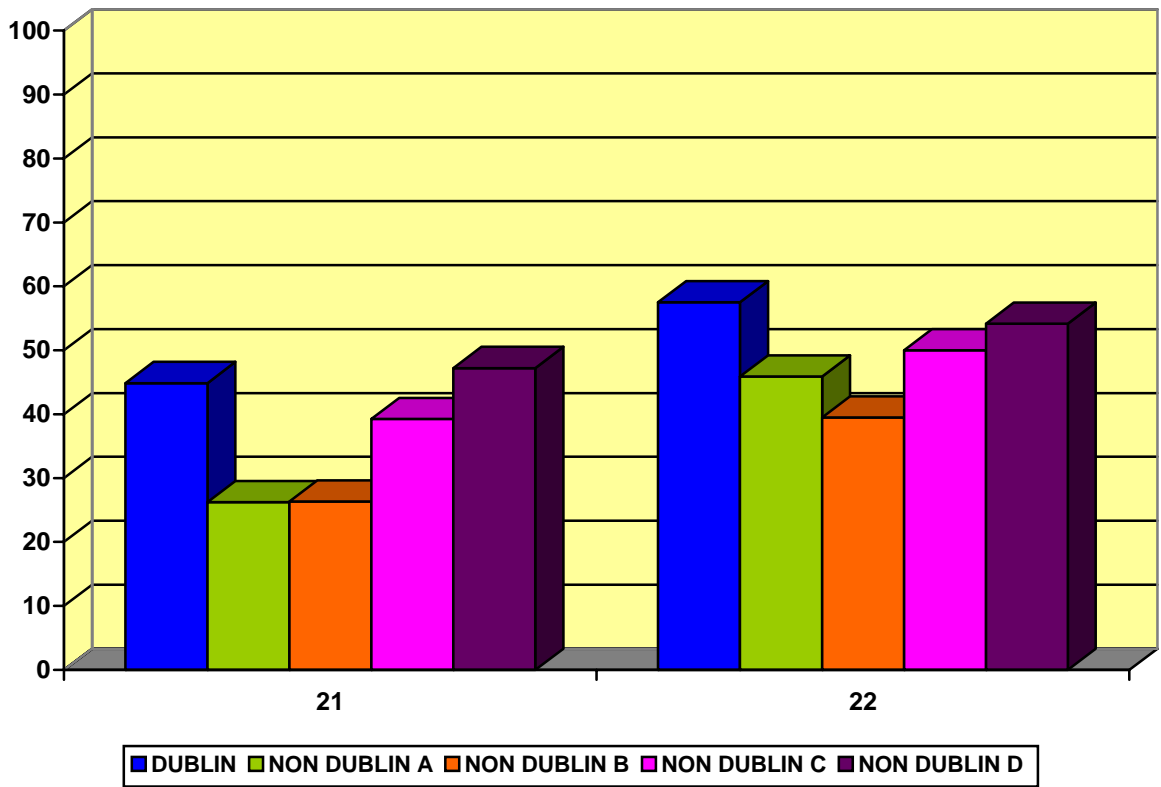
c) **EMPLOYMENT** (% scored as risk)



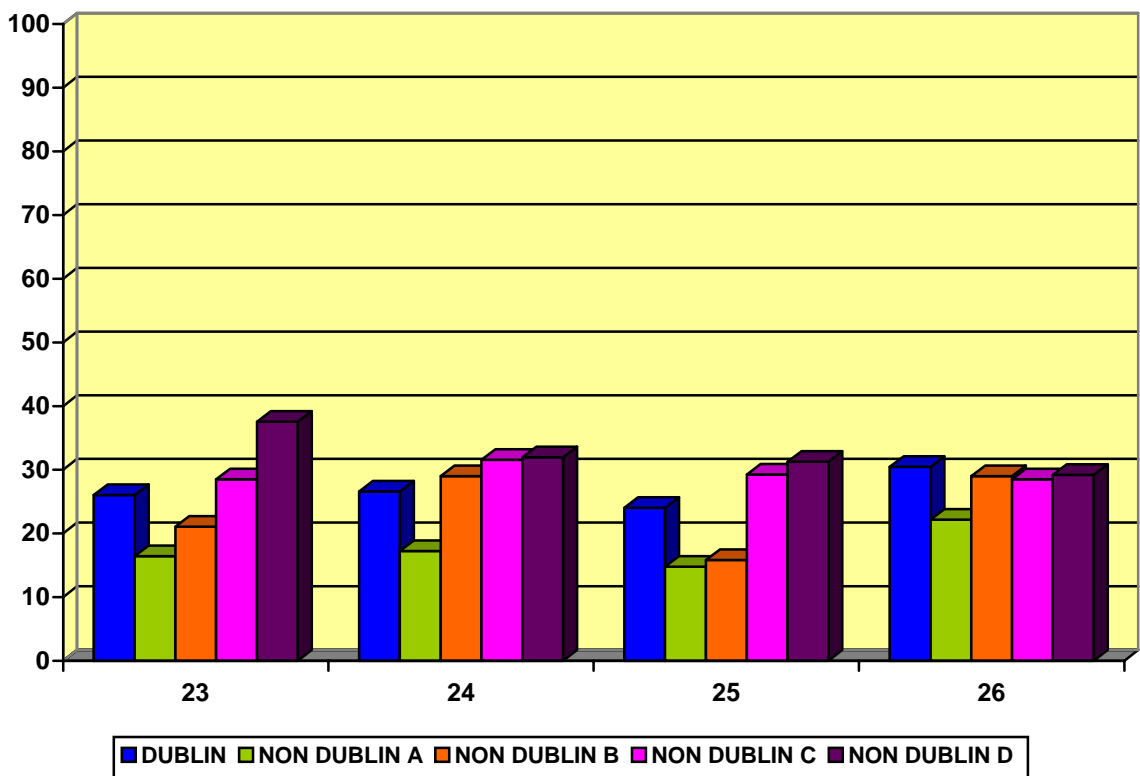
d) **EDUCATION** (% scored as risk)



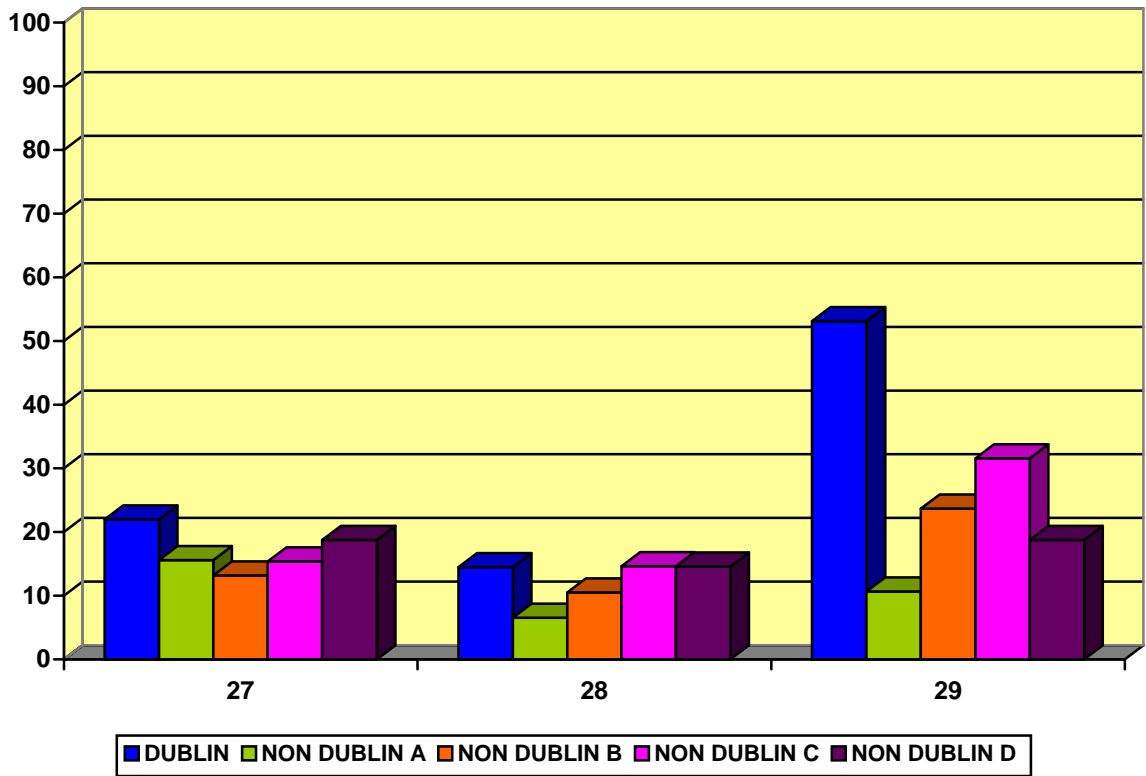
e) **FINANCE** (% scored as risk)



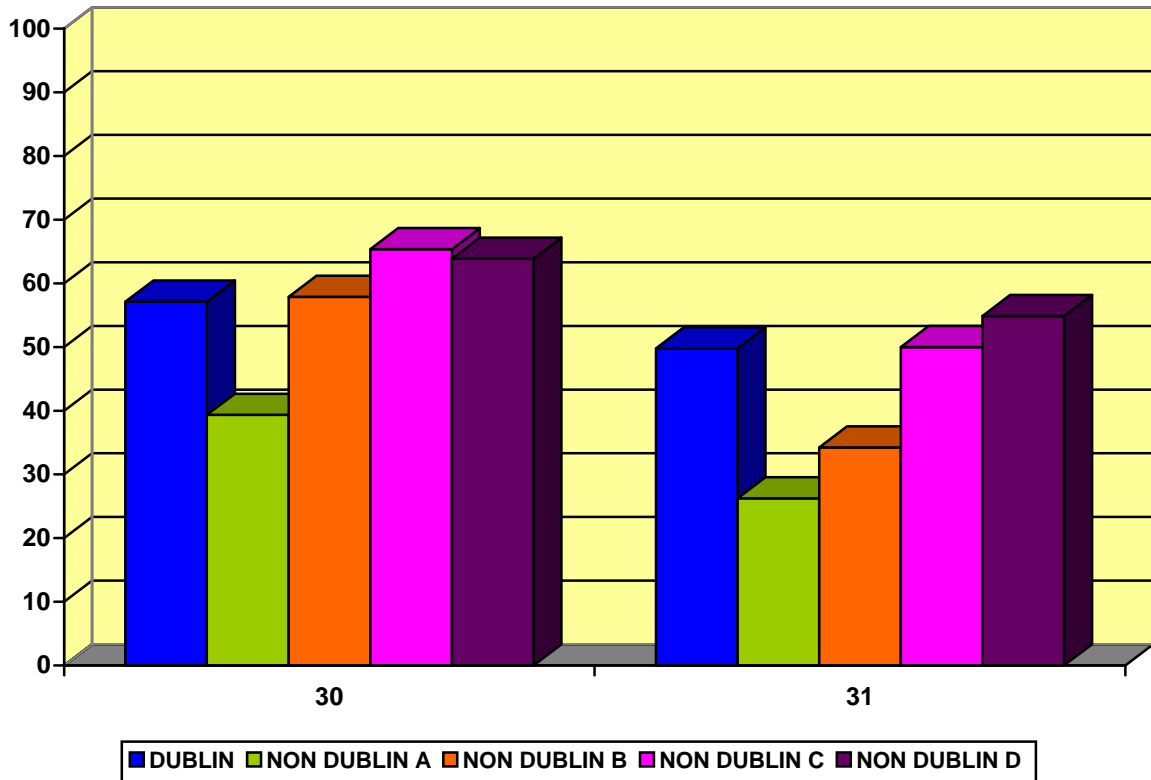
f) **FAMILY/MARITAL** (% scored as risk)



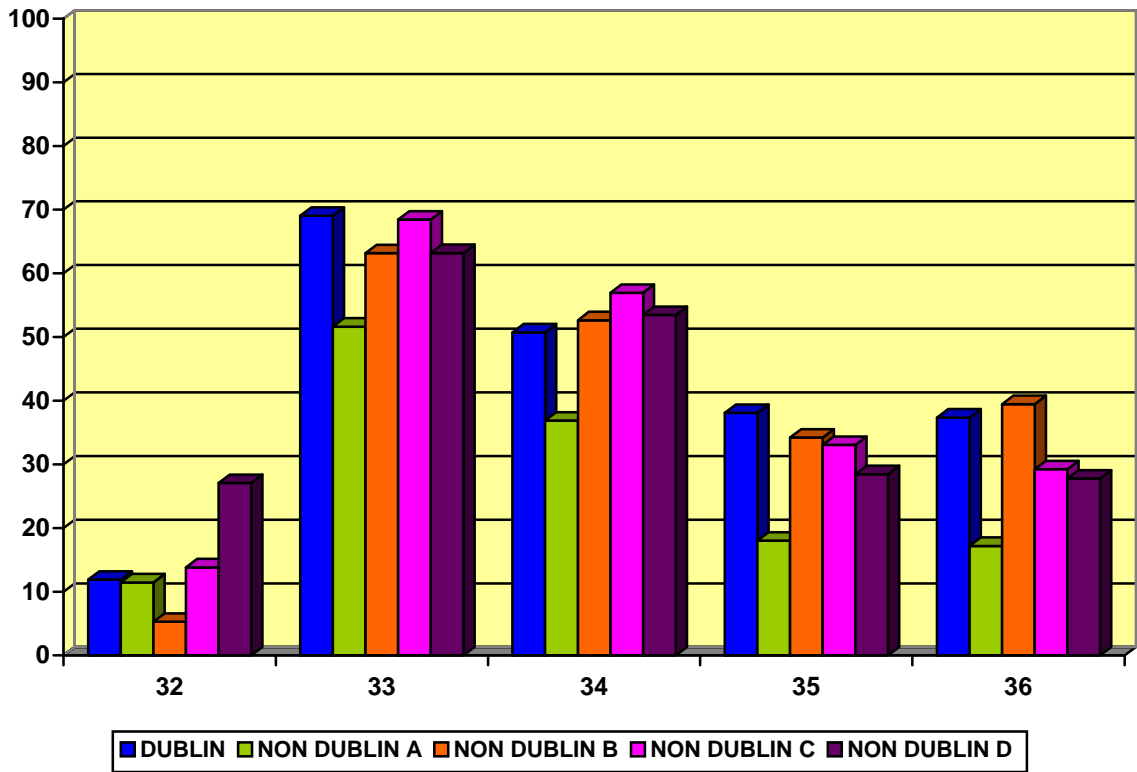
g) ACCOMMODATION (% scored as risk)



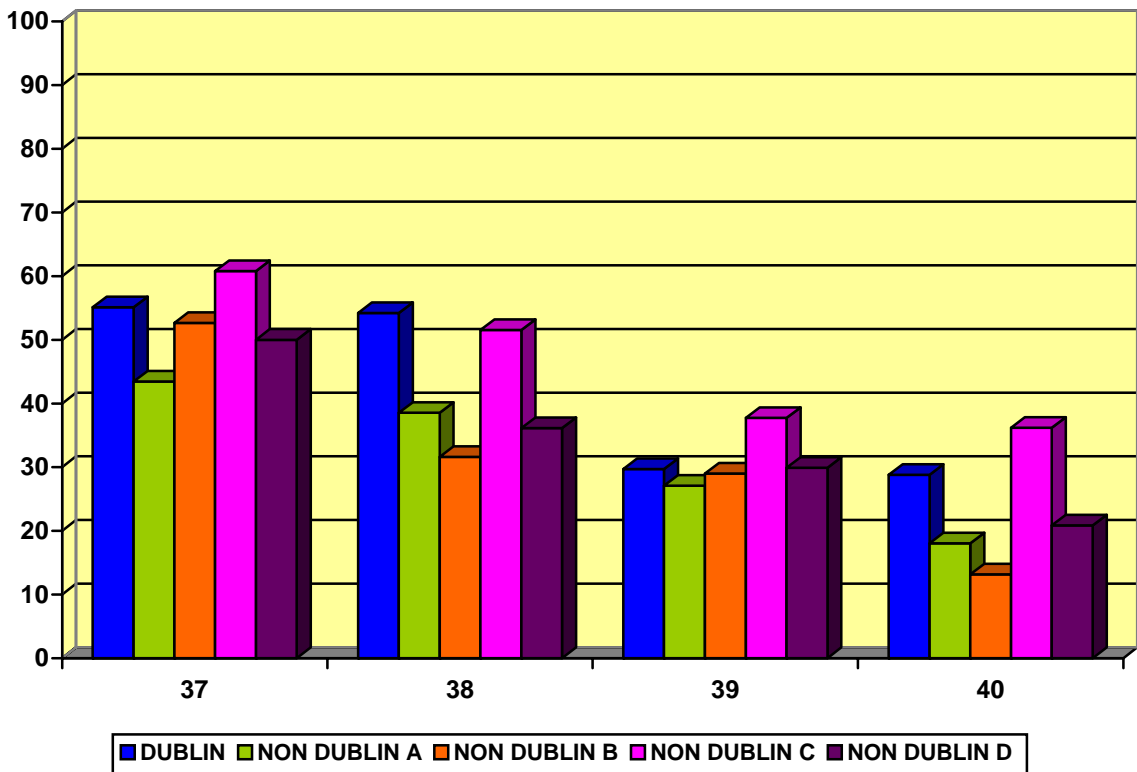
h) LEISURE/RECREATION (% scored as risk)



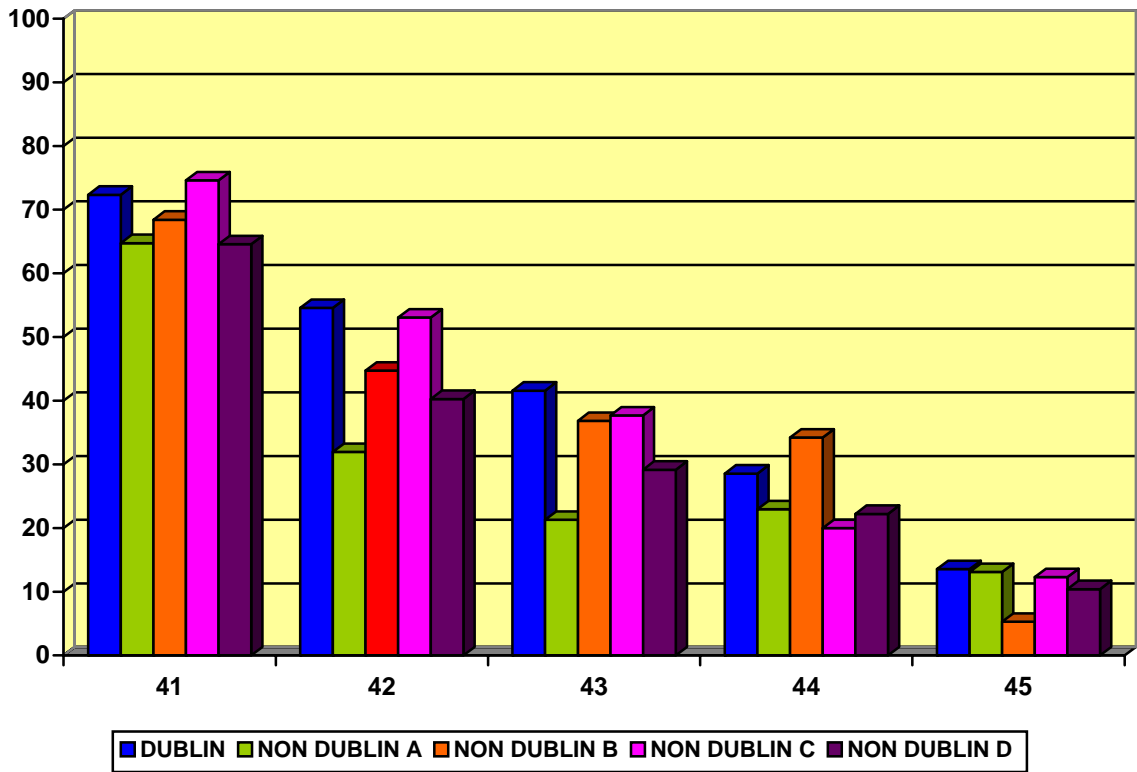
i) COMPANIONS (% scored as risk)



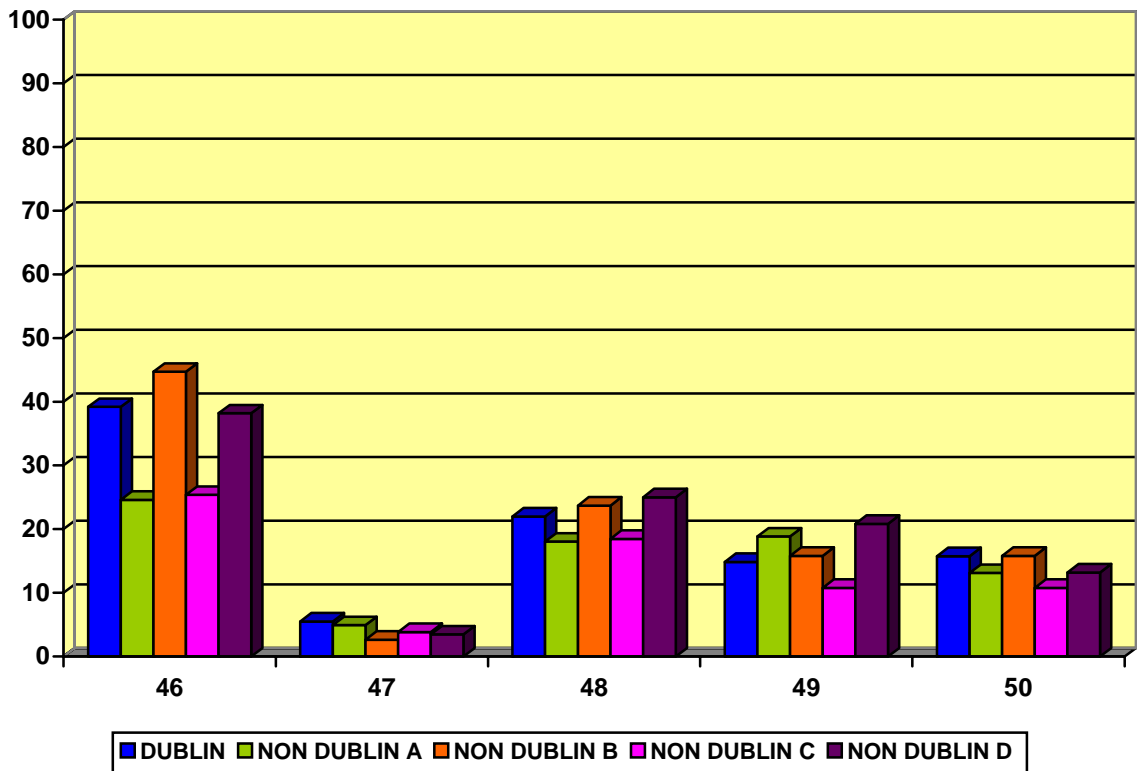
j) ALCOHOL/DRUGS – Past and current problem (% scored as risk)



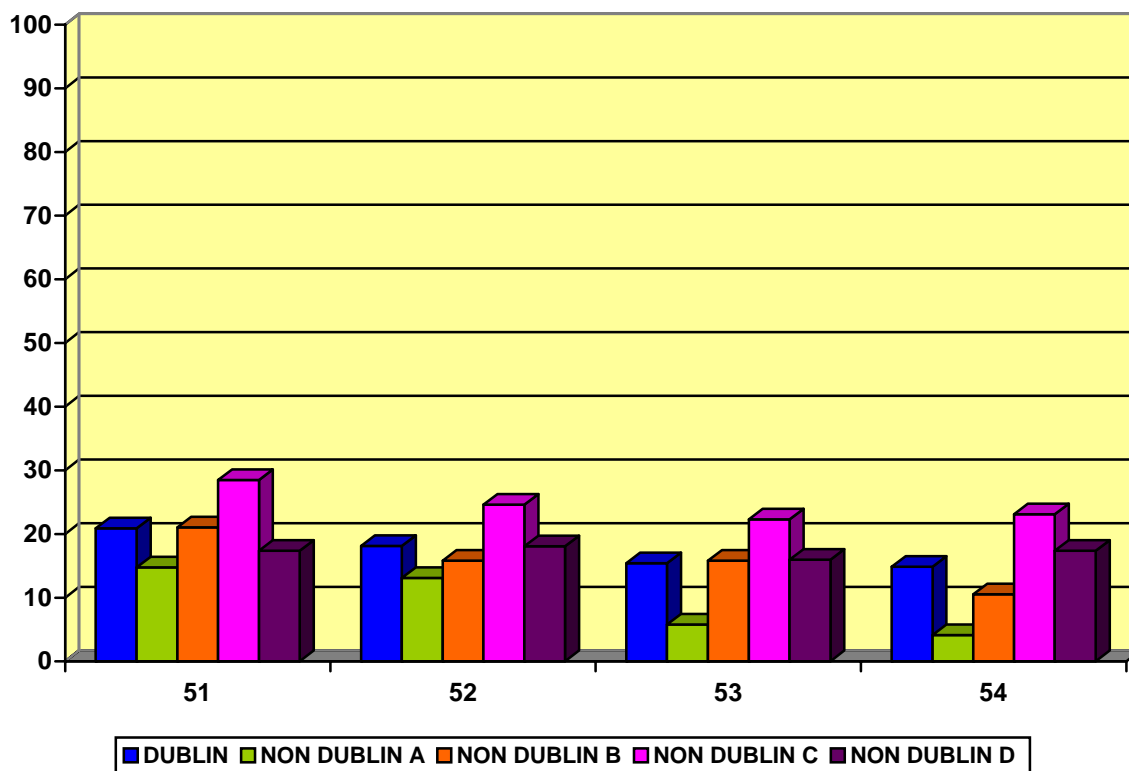
k) ALCOHOL/DRUGS – Impact on functioning (% scored as risk)



i) EMOTIONAL/PERSONAL (% scored as risk)



m) **ATTITUDE/ORIENTATION** (% scored as risk)



Comment

The Non-Dublin B results are based on a sample of only 38 and should be viewed with some caution.

The mean scores and risk distributions indicate that on average clients represented in the Non-Dublin area sample scored approximately 3.5 points less than those in the Dublin samples. A comparison between Dublin and Non-Dublin shows that the Dublin areas score higher in respect of all the subcomponents with the sole exception of family/marital where the scores are the same (*Table 1*)

<u>Average score by each subcomponent</u>		
<u>Subcomponent</u>	<u>Dublin</u>	<u>Non Dublin</u>
Criminal History (1 – 10)	3.42	2.39
Employment (11 – 14)	1.66	1.40
Education (15 – 17)	1.42	1.27
Finance (20 –21)	1.02	0.86
Family/Marital (23-26)	1.07	1.07
Accommodation (27 – 29)	0.90	0.49
Leisure/Recreation (30 – 31)	1.07	1.01
Companions (32 – 36)	2.07	1.80
Alcohol/Drugs Problems (37 - 40)	1.68	1.48
Alcohol Drugs Impact (41 – 45)	2.11	1.74
Emotional/Personal (46 – 05)	0.97	0.85
Attitude/Orientation (51 –54)	0.69	0.68

Table 1

The greatest discrepancy is in relation to the criminal history subcomponent which mainly comprises of static risk predictors. Further analysis focussing on all static risk predictors in LSI-R shows that 24.99% of the risk factors scored in the Dublin sample were static. This compares with 22.09 in the Non-Dublin sample. This would appear to indicate that the clients tested in the Dublin sample tended to be more established in their criminality perhaps with more entrenched antisocial attitudes and values. Of the Non-Dublin areas area C is the most similar to Dublin with regards to criminal history. This scored the highest of the Non-Dublin areas.

Unemployment

Unemployment increases an individual's risk level because it impacts on several other risk factors, most obviously in relation to finance and increased free time, but also in reduced opportunity for prosocial reinforcement in the workplace, and stresses imposed on family/marital relationships. The particularly low levels of risk evident in the Non-Dublin A sample may well reflect the relatively low level of unemployment in the client group tested.

Less than 52.6% (Dublin 55.5%, Non-Dublin 49.1%) of the sample is scored as being unemployed, which is low compared to samples studied in Scotland, England and Wales where 60% to 70+% was the norm.

Alcohol/Drug Misuse

The alcohol/drugs sub-component contains a significant number of errors and the data should be treated with some caution. Items 39 (Current Alcohol Problem) and 40 (Current Drug Problem) are scored in relation to existence of a problem during the past twelve months. A problem is defined as where the use of a substance has interfered with the clients functioning in the areas identified in items 41 – 45 during the past twelve months. It follows therefore that if 39 and 40 are scored as satisfactory (score 2 or 3) then items 41 – 45 should not be scored. However of the tests where neither 39 or 40 was scored as unsatisfactory, substance abuse was linked to the client's offending (#41) in 29% of the cases, to school or work problems in 16.5% of the cases, to relationship problems in 11% of the cases and to medical problems in 8.9% of the cases. In 2.3% of these cases item 45 was scored which indicates addition concerns about the client's substance use.

The errors are likely to be due to a number of factors including misunderstanding about the time frame to be used for 41-45. There might also be a reluctance to assess clients as having drug or alcohol problems. It is probably reasonable to assume therefore that items 39 and 40 have been underscored, and items 41 – 45 overscored.

Even with the caveat expressed above in the community based sample (*excluding Prison and Pilot Drug Court*):

- 205 of the total sample is scored as having a current alcohol problem (20.0%)
- 171 of the total sample is scored as having a current drug problem (16.7%)
- 113 of the total sample is scored as having a current alcohol and drug problem (11.0%)

Therefore 46.2% are assessed as having a current substance abuse problem.

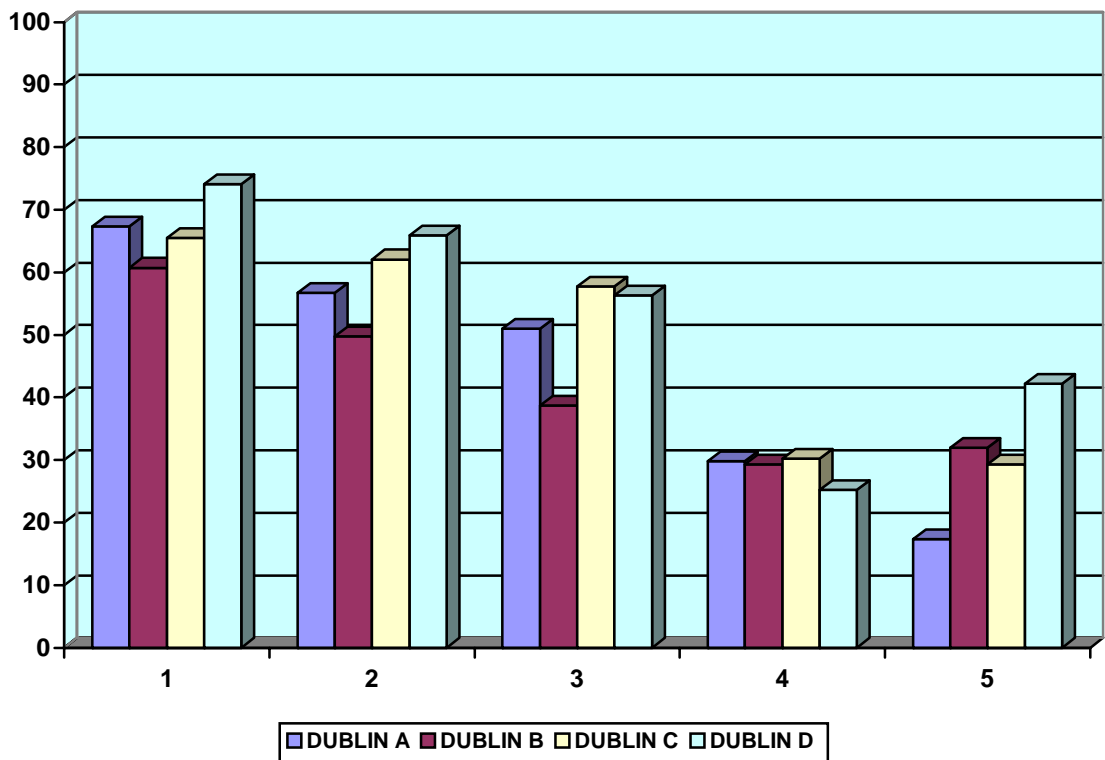
Of the 171 cases where 'current drug problem' was scored :

- 36.3% identified cannabis as the type of drug used
- 35.7% identified Heroin as the type of drug used
- 14.0% identified cocaine as the type of drug used

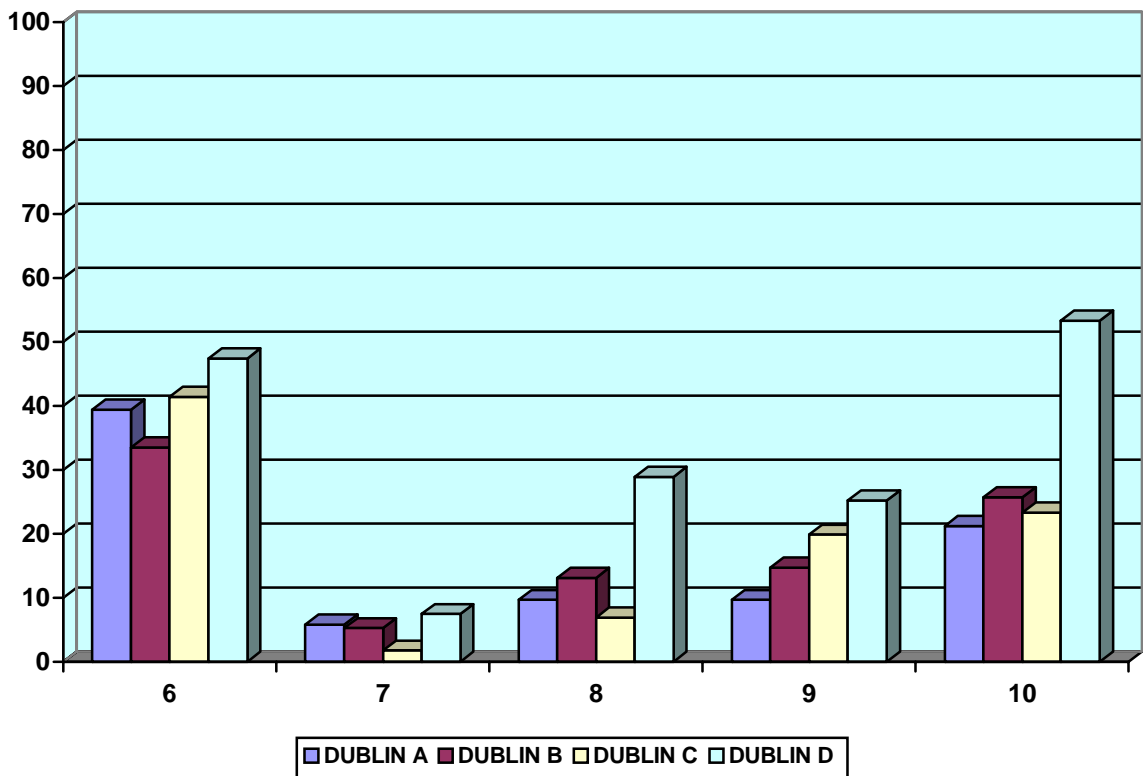
Even though item 41 (Law Violations) will in many cases have been scored incorrectly it should be noted that in 726 (71.0%) of the cases substance use was linked to the client's offending.

4) COMPARISON BETWEEN NEEDS PROFILES – by Dublin Area

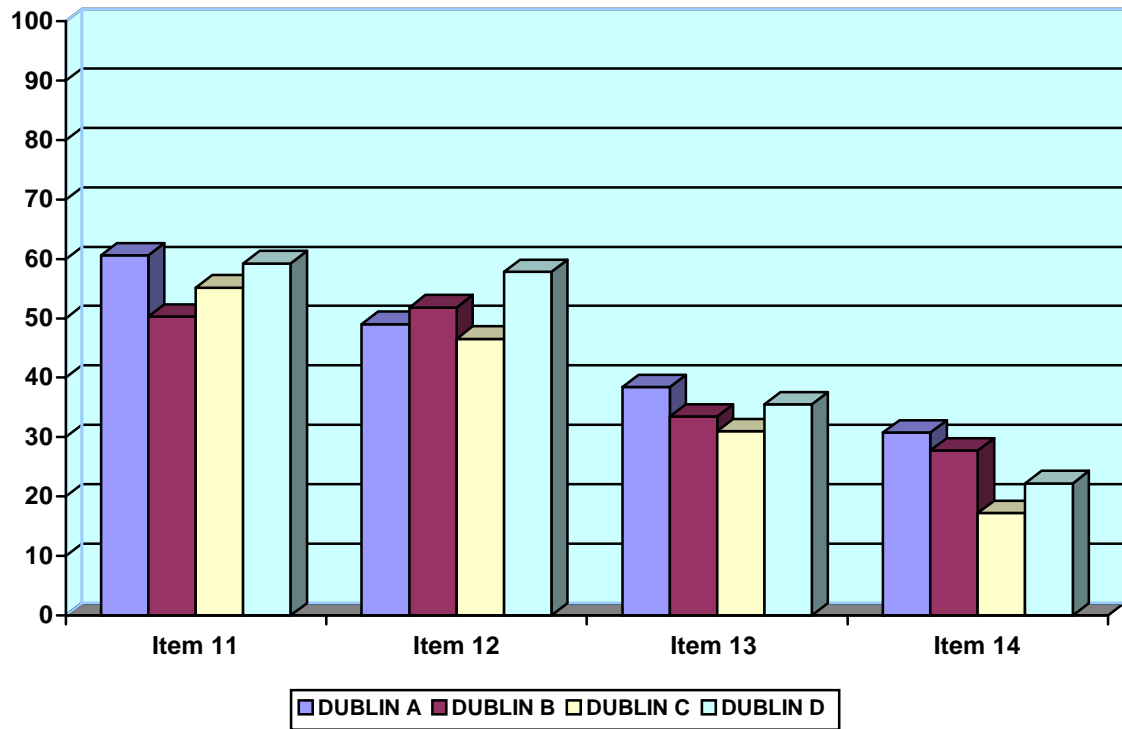
1a) CRIMINAL HISTORY (% scored as risk)



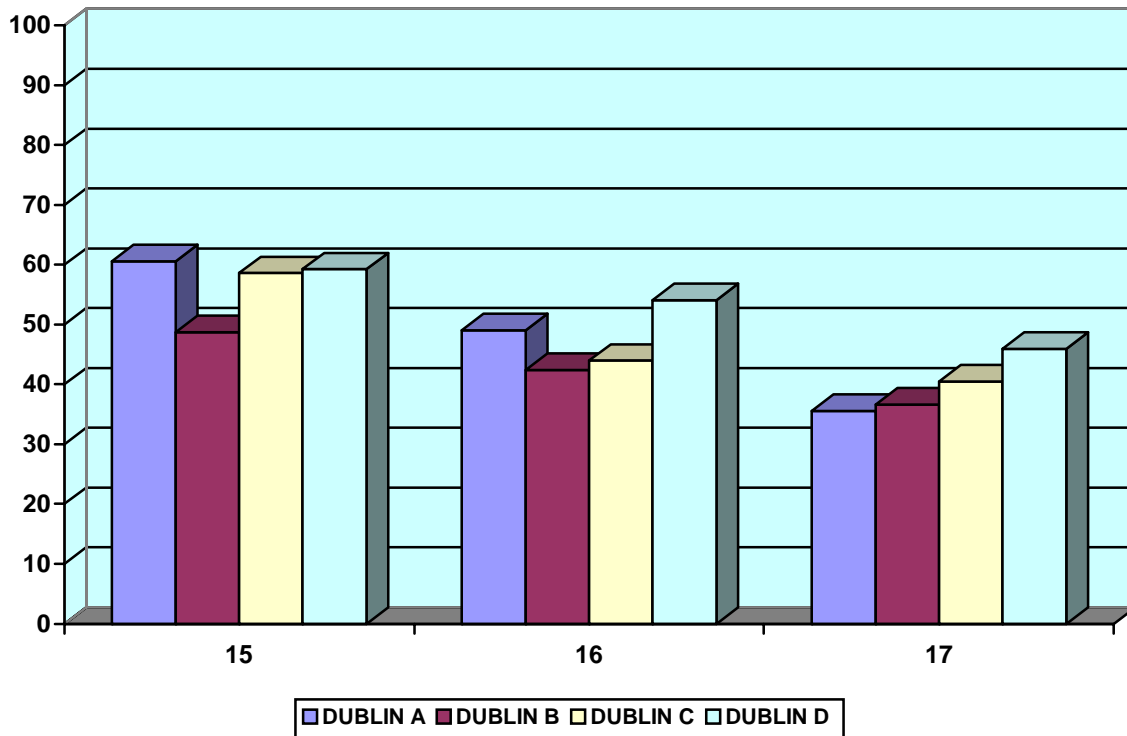
1b) CRIMINAL HISTORY (% scored as risk)



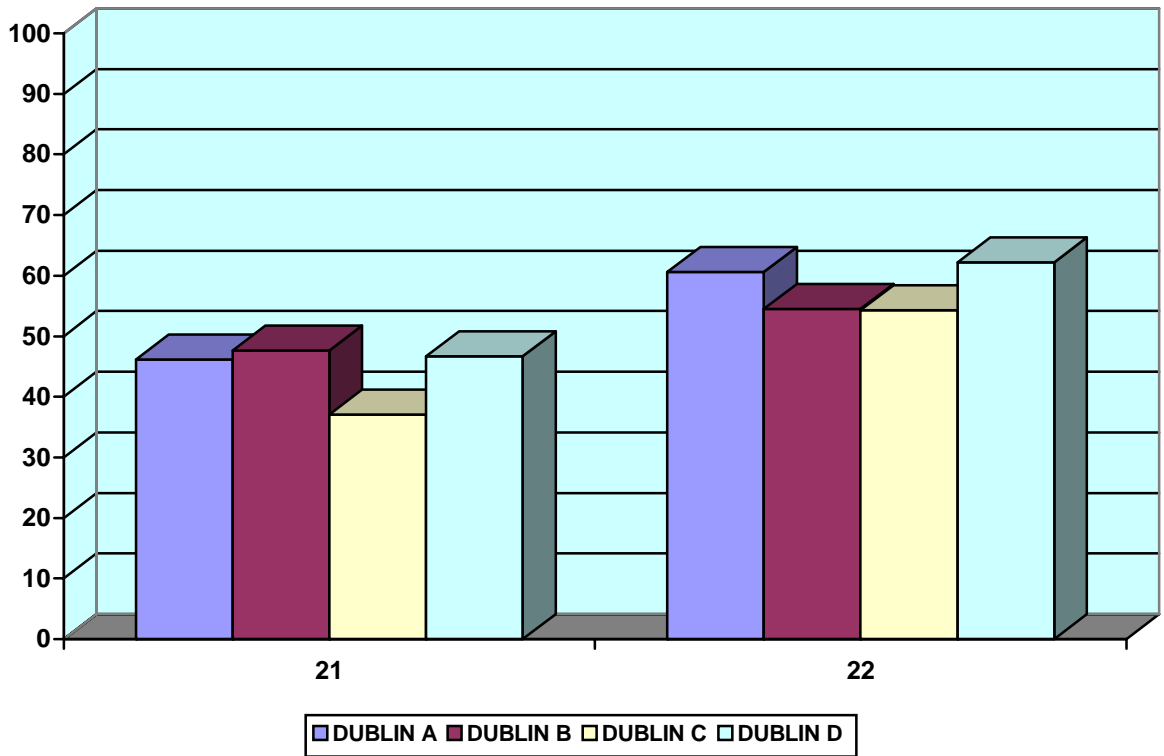
2) **EMPLOYMENT** (% scored as risk)



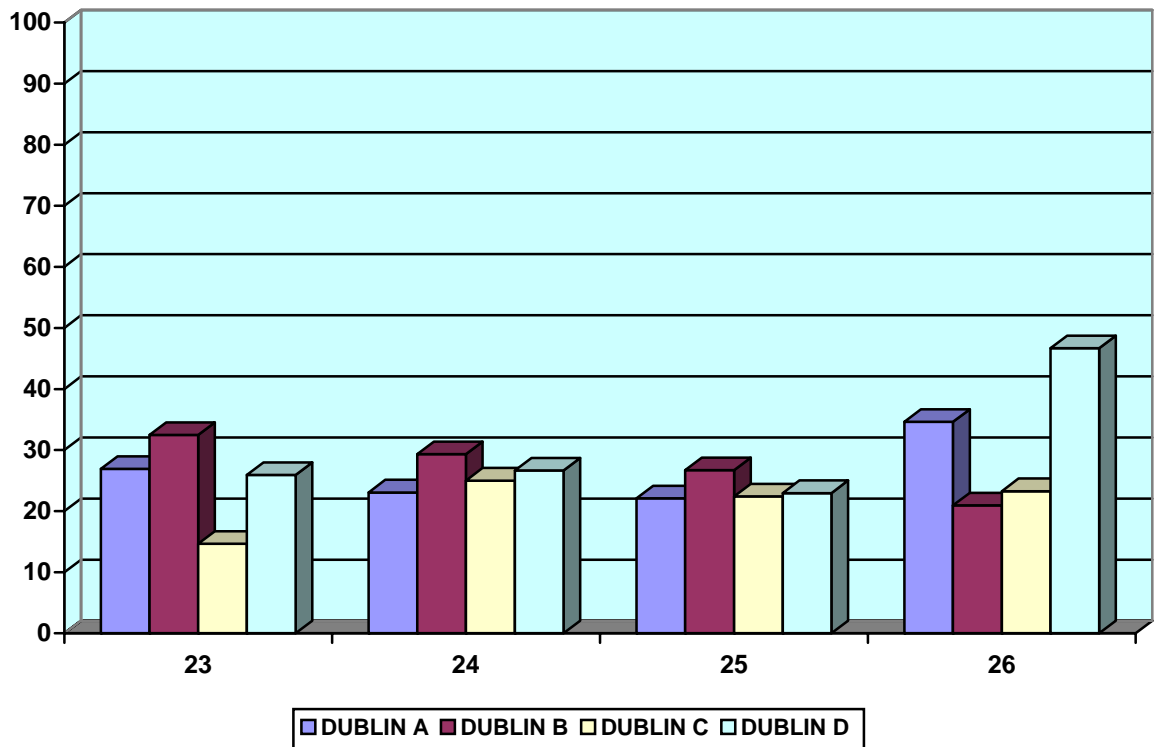
3) **EDUCATION** (% scored as risk)



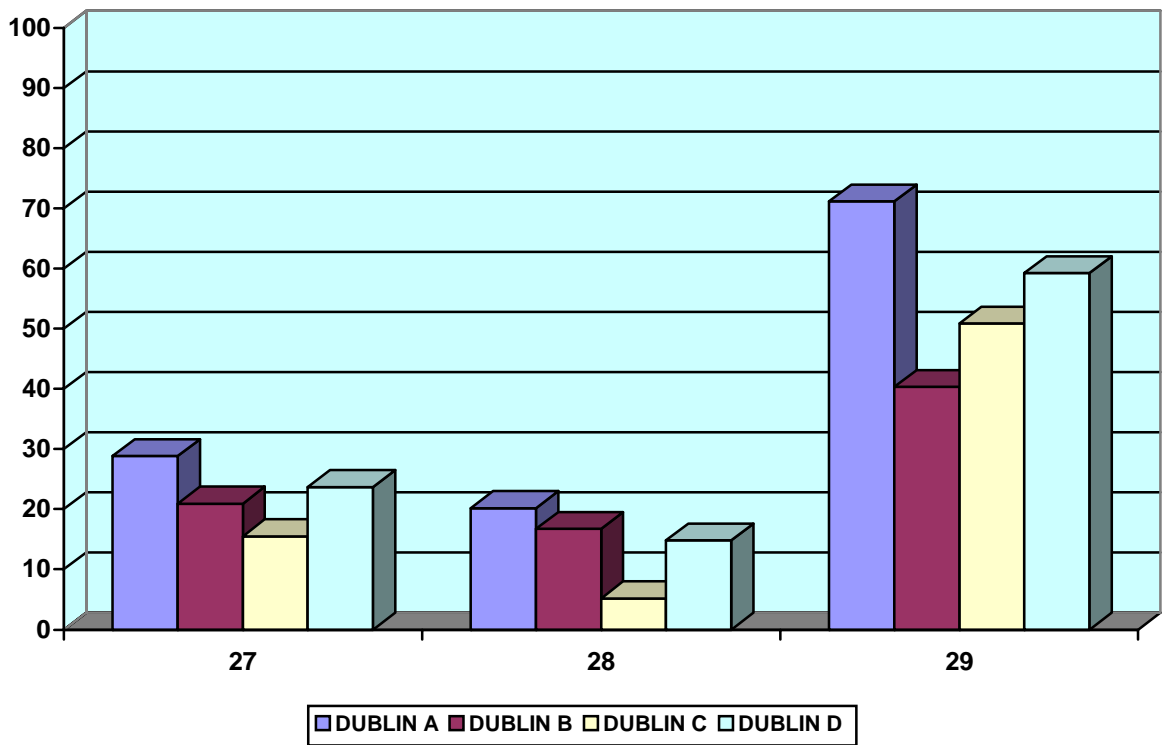
4) **FINANCE** (% scored as risk)



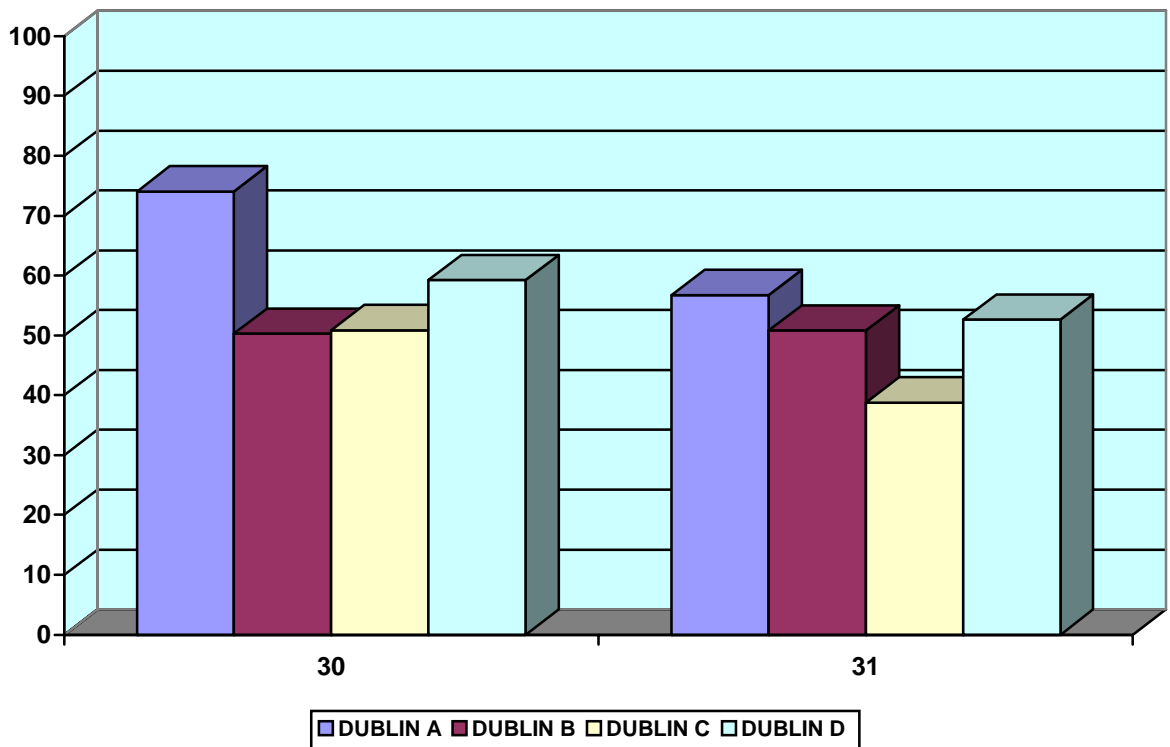
5) **FAMILY/MARITAL** (% scored as risk)



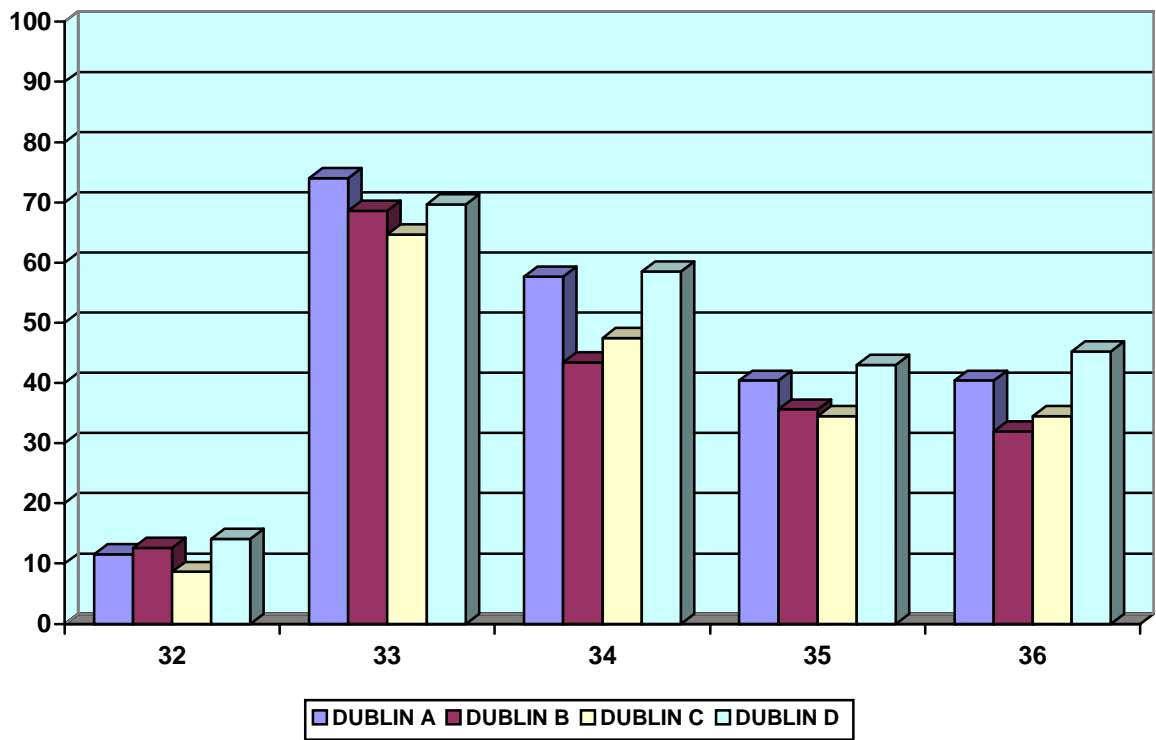
6) ACCOMMODATION (% scored as risk)



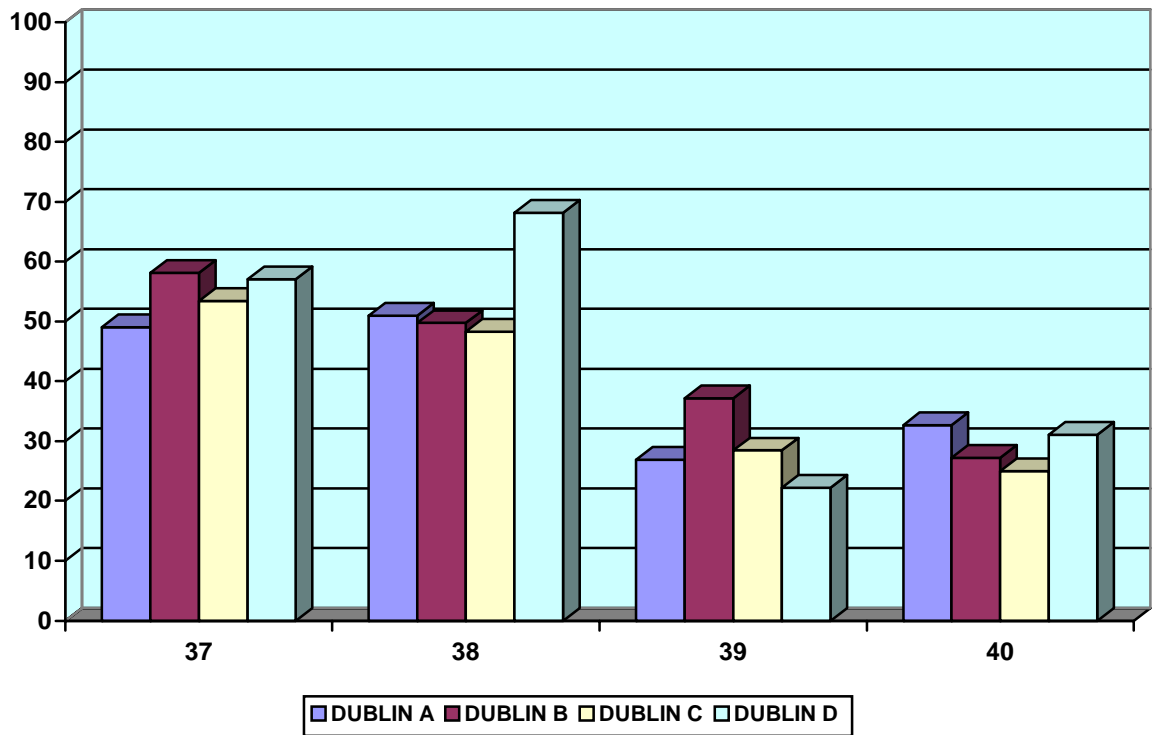
7) LEISURE/RECREATION (% scored as risk)



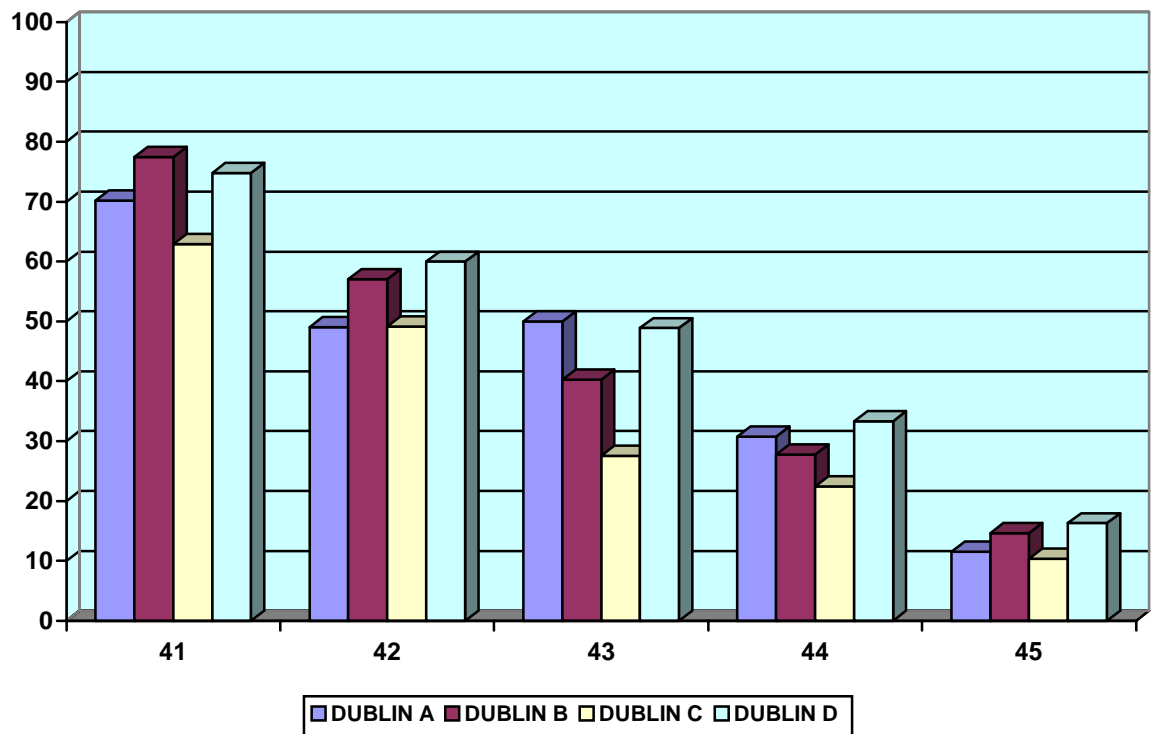
8) COMPANIONS (% scored as risk)



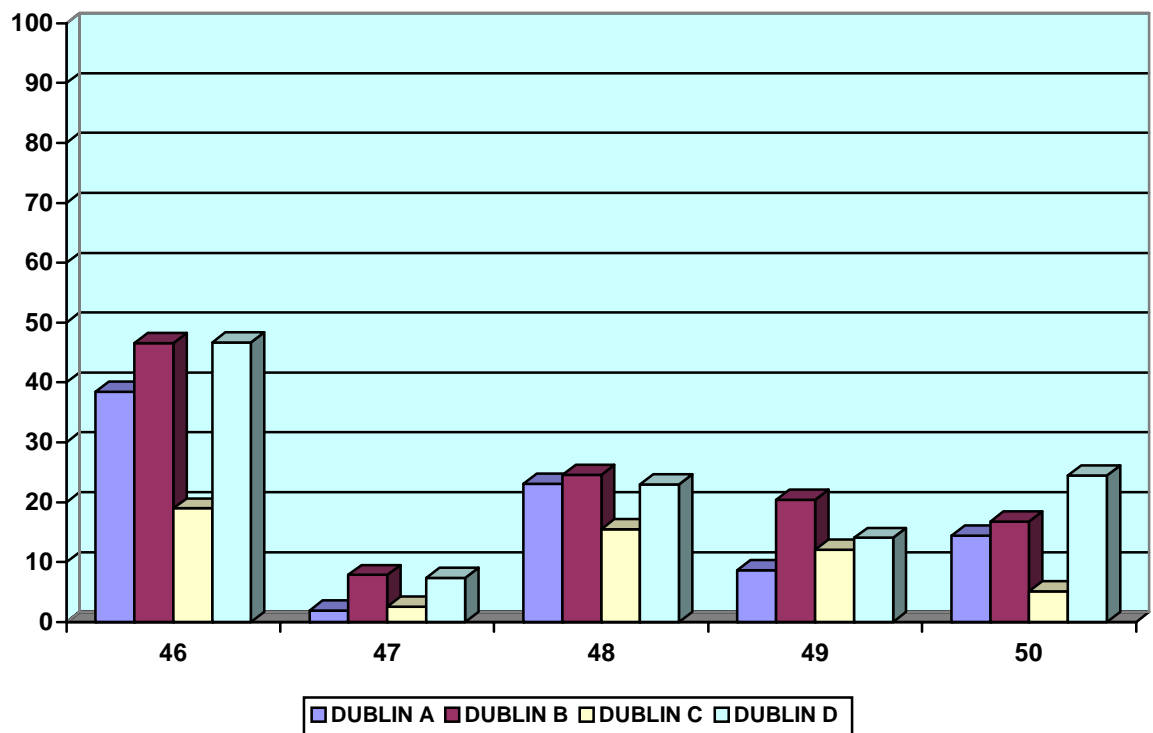
9) ALCOHOL/DRUGS – Past and current problem (% scored as risk)



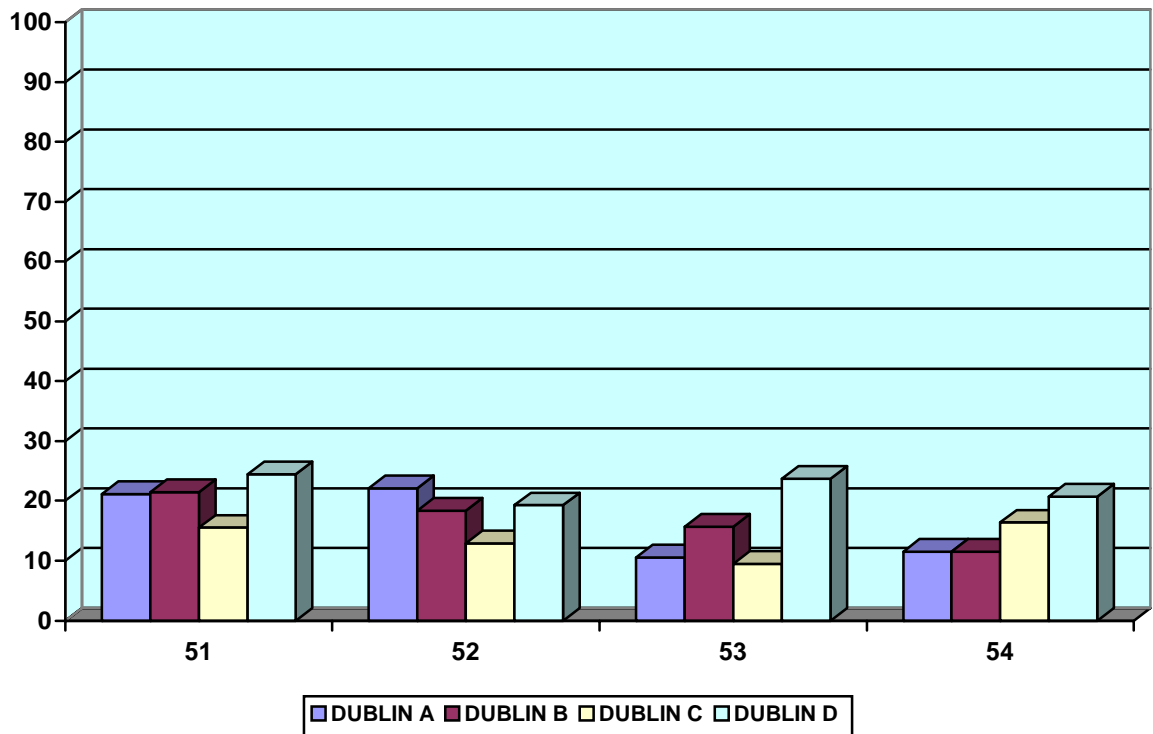
10) ALCOHOL/DRUGS – Impact on functioning (% scored as risk)



11) EMOTIONAL/PERSONAL (% scored as risk)



12) ATTITUDE/ORIENTATION (% scored as risk)



Dublin D scores significantly higher in criminal history than the other Dublin areas which partly explains the higher risk levels in that area. However Dublin D scores consistently high compared to the other areas in respect of most of the dynamic risk factors with the exception of item 39 'current alcohol problem'.

Dublin A has the highest level of unemployment amongst the client's tested and reports the highest number living in a high crime neighbourhood. Clients living in the area would also appear to have particular problems with regards to leisure/recreation.

5) NEEDS PROFILE – Prisons

The prison sample appears to comprise tests undertaken for a variety of reasons, presumably from a number of different prisons and is relatively small. However on average the tests in the sample score significantly higher than a combined community sample in all subcomponents with the exception of emotional/personal (*Table 2*).

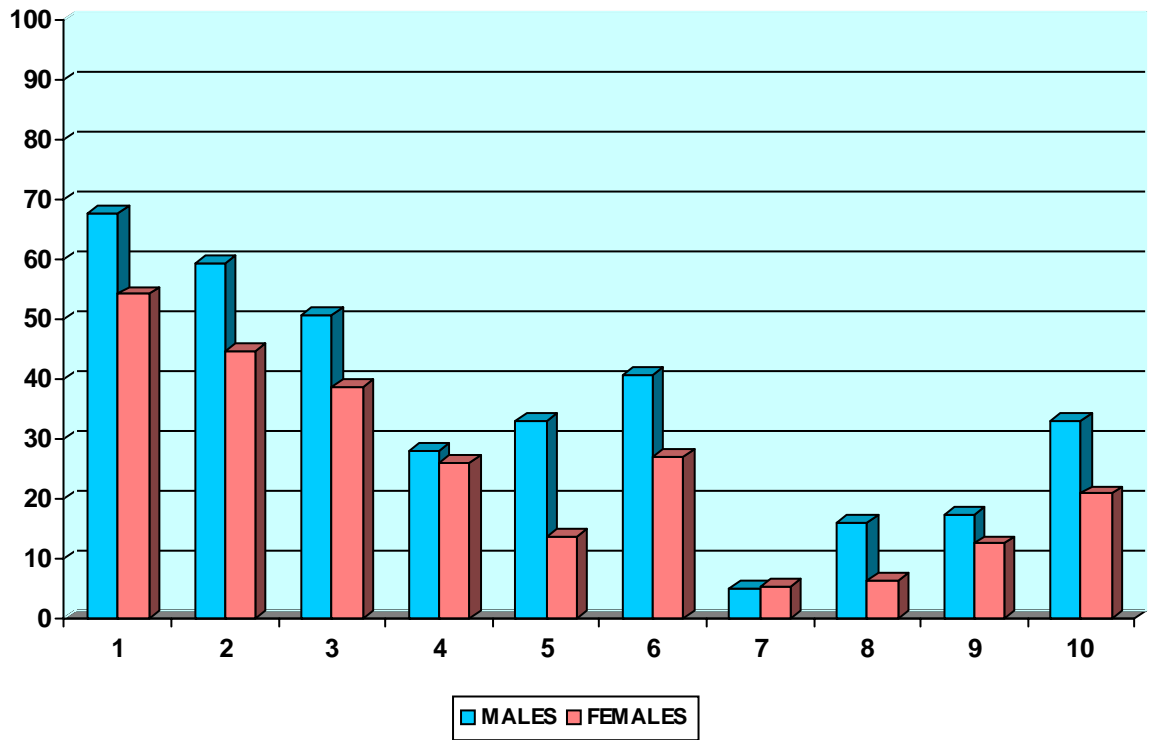
Average score by each subcomponent

<u>Subcomponent</u>	<u>Community</u>	<u>Prison</u>
Criminal History (1 – 10)	2.96	6.75
Employment (11 – 14)	1.52	2.63
Education (15 – 17)	1.35	1.75
Finance (20 –21)	0.95	1.31
Family/Marital (23-26)	1.07	1.50
Accommodation (27 – 29)	0.72	1.25
Leisure/Recreation (30 – 31)	1.04	1.47
Companions (32 – 36)	1.95	2.84
Alcohol/Drugs Problems (37 - 40)	1.59	2.63
Alcohol Drugs Impact (41 – 45)	1.95	3.31
Emotional/Personal (46 – 05)	0.92	0.97
Attitude/Orientation (51 –54)	0.69	1.06

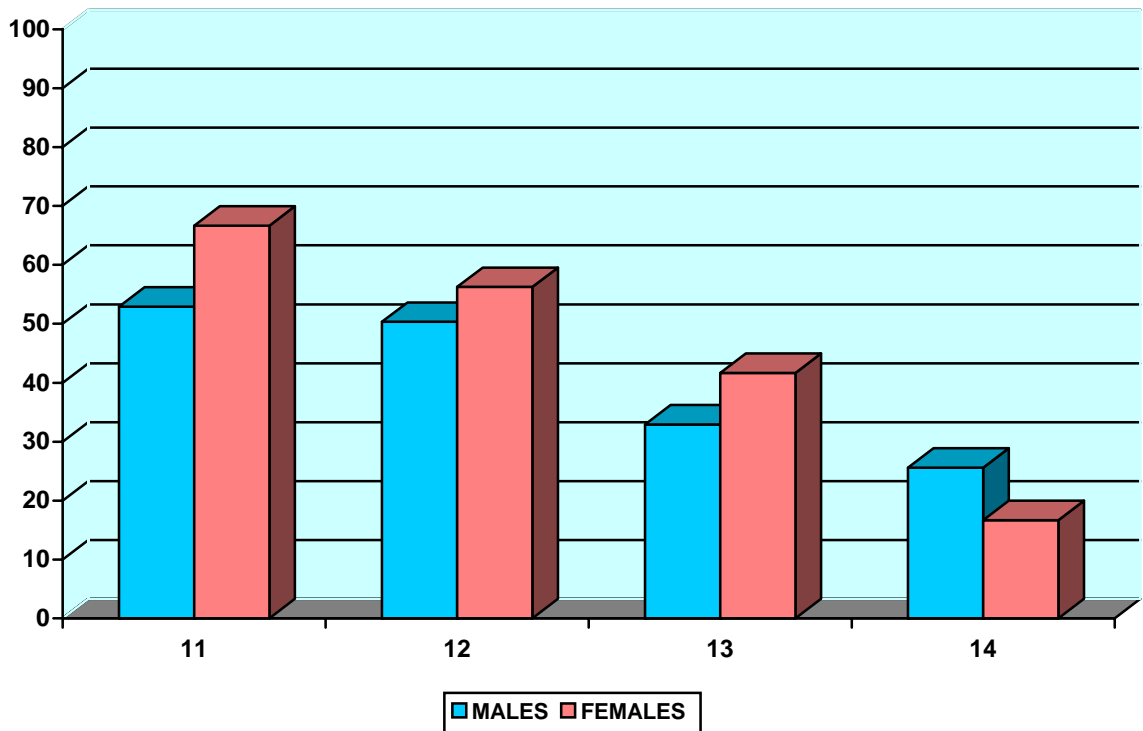
Table 2

6) COMPARISON BETWEEN NEEDS PROFILES by Gender

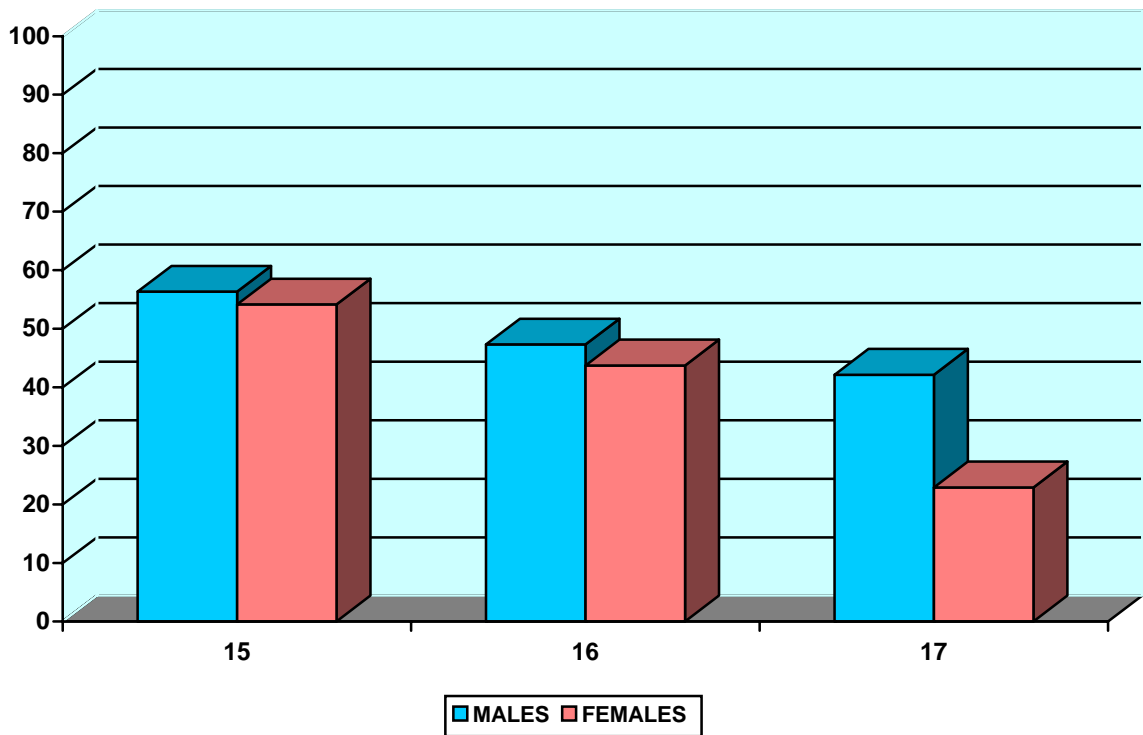
1) CRIMINAL HISTORY (% scored as risk)



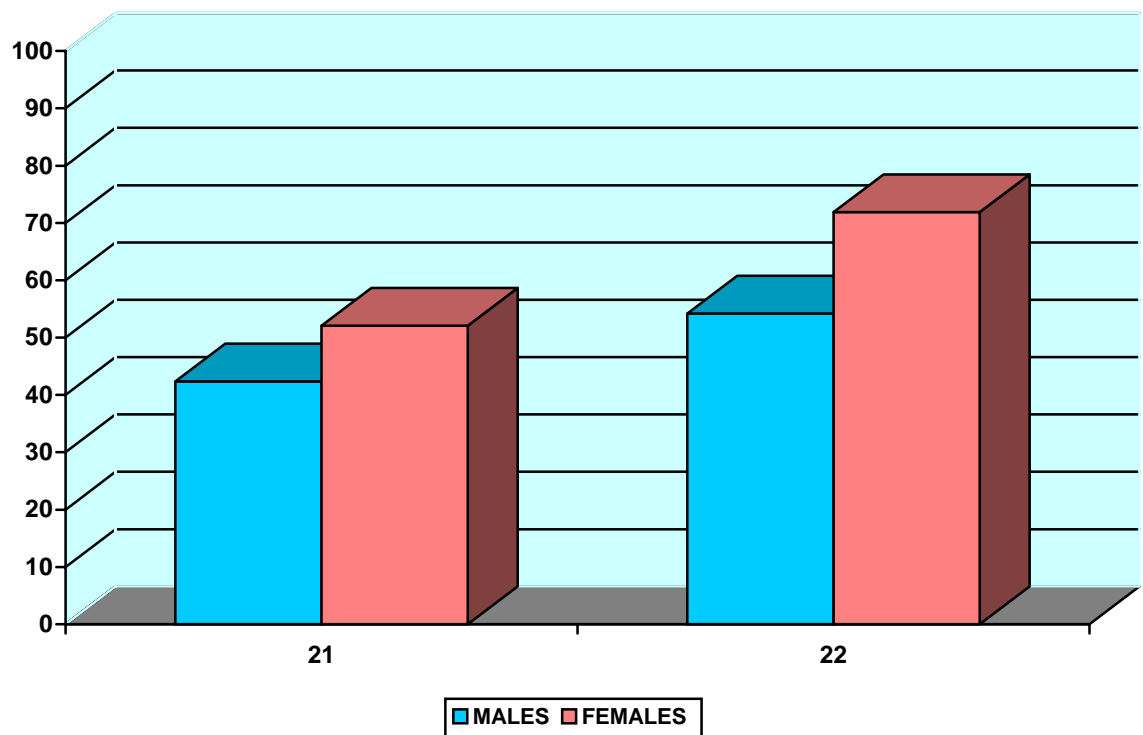
2) EMPLOYMENT (% scored as risk)



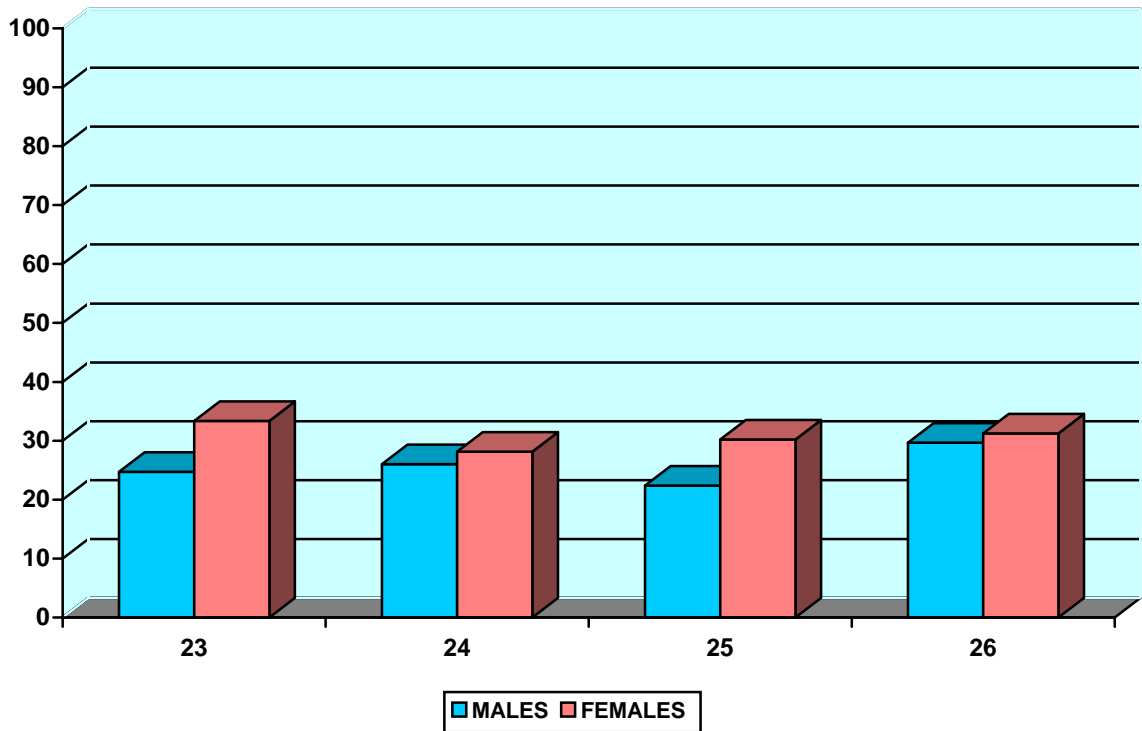
3) **EDUCATION** (% scored as risk)



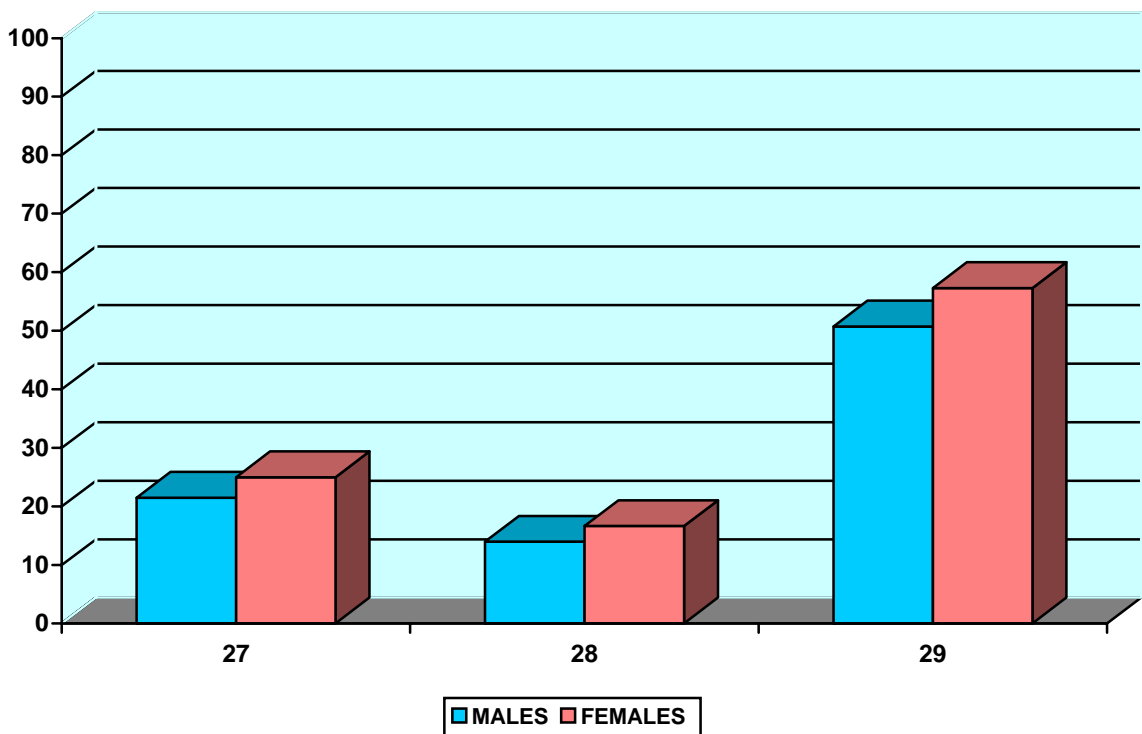
4) **FINANCE** (% scored as risk)



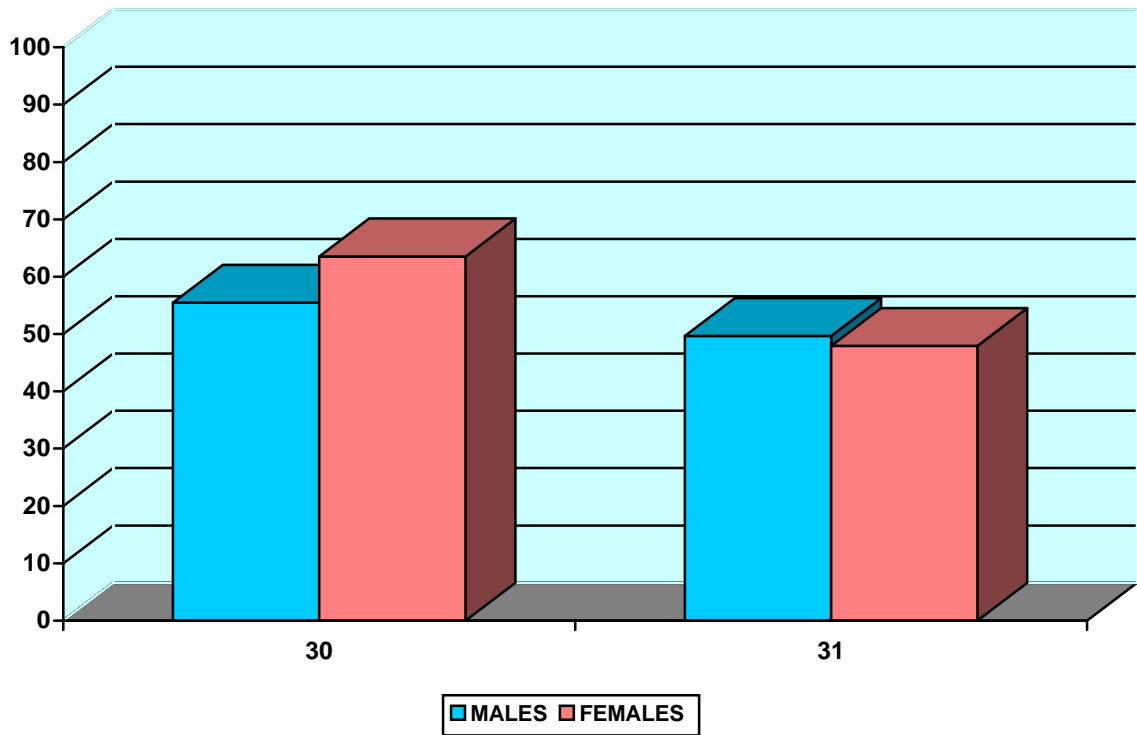
5) **FAMILY/MARITAL** (% scored as risk)



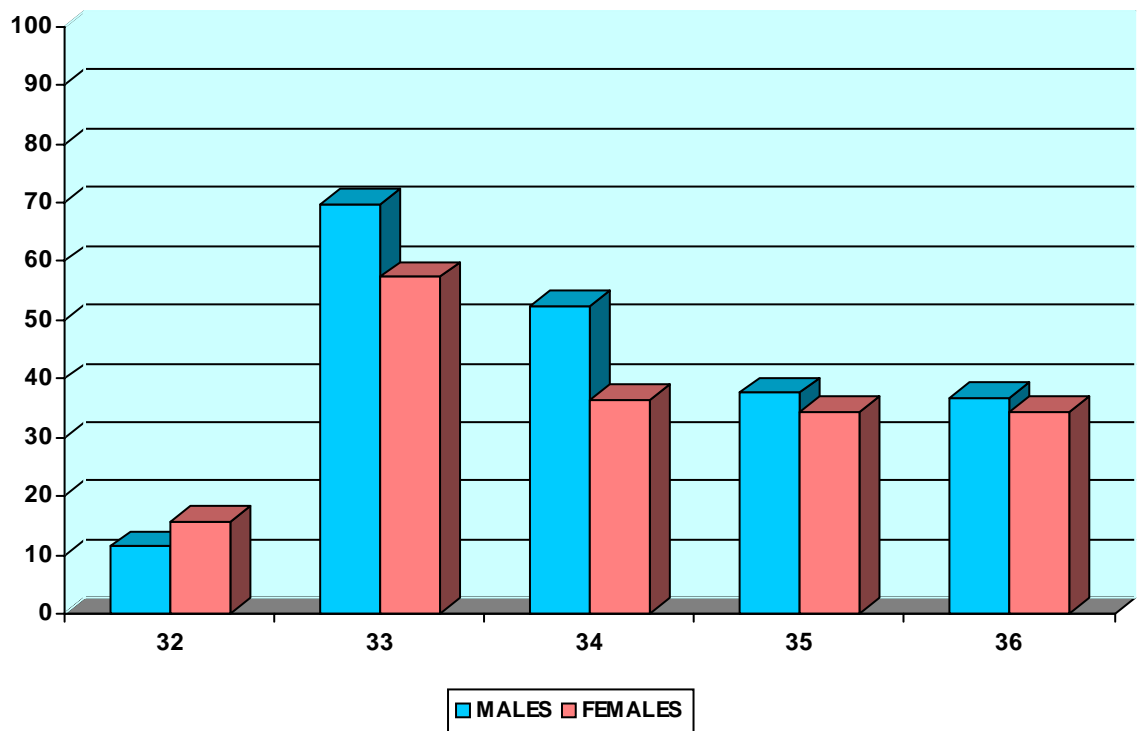
6) **ACCOMMODATION** (% scored as risk)



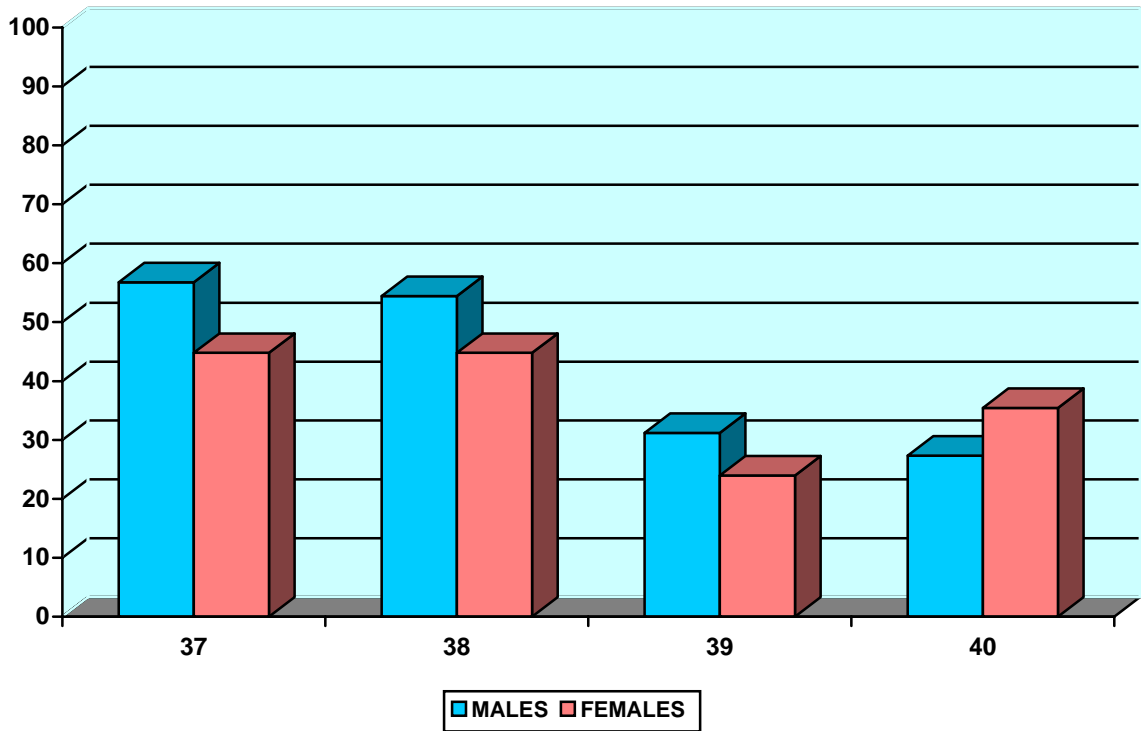
7) LEISURE/RECREATION (% scored as risk)



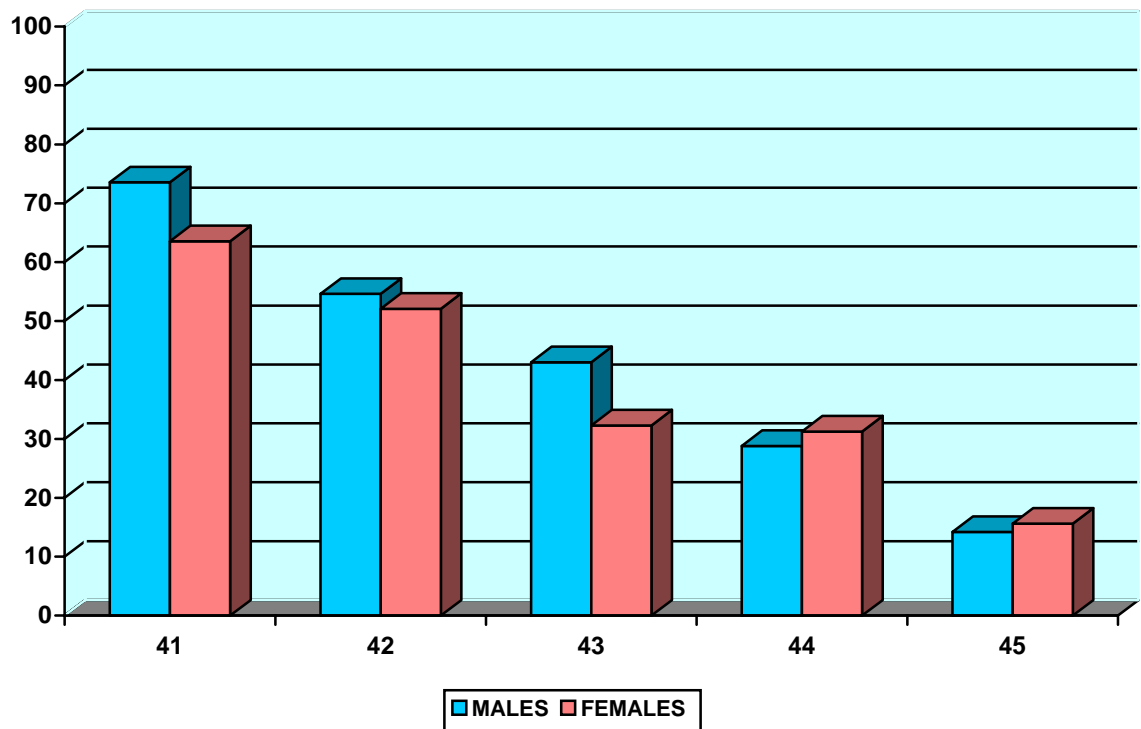
8) COMPANIONS (% scored as risk)



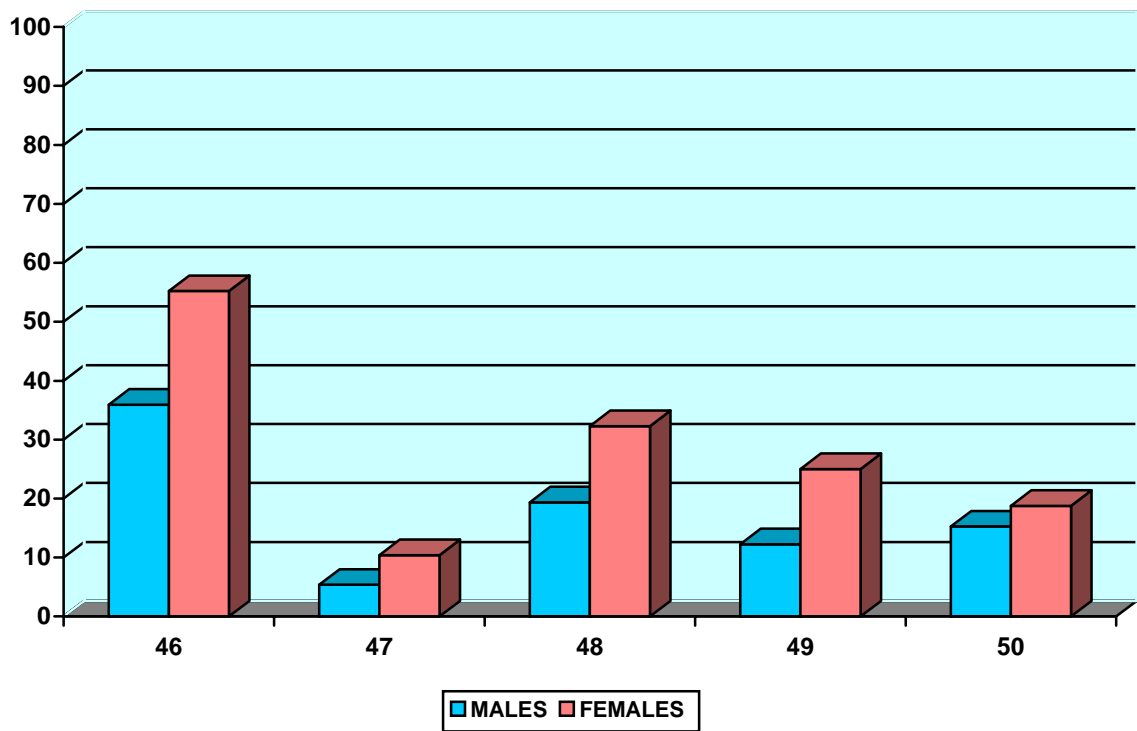
9) ALCOHOL/DRUGS – Past and current problem (% scored as risk)



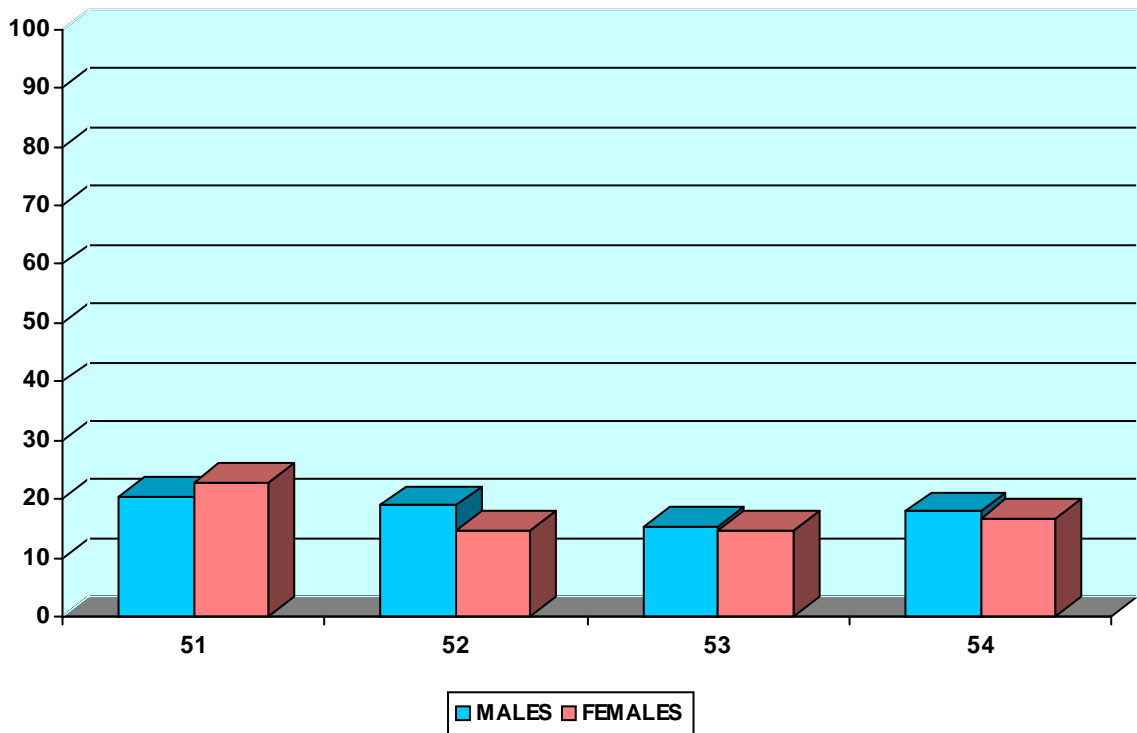
10) ALCOHOL/DRUGS – Impact on functioning (% scored as risk)



11) EMOTIONAL/PERSONAL (% scored as risk)



12) ATTITUDES/ORIENTATION (% scored as risk)



Comment

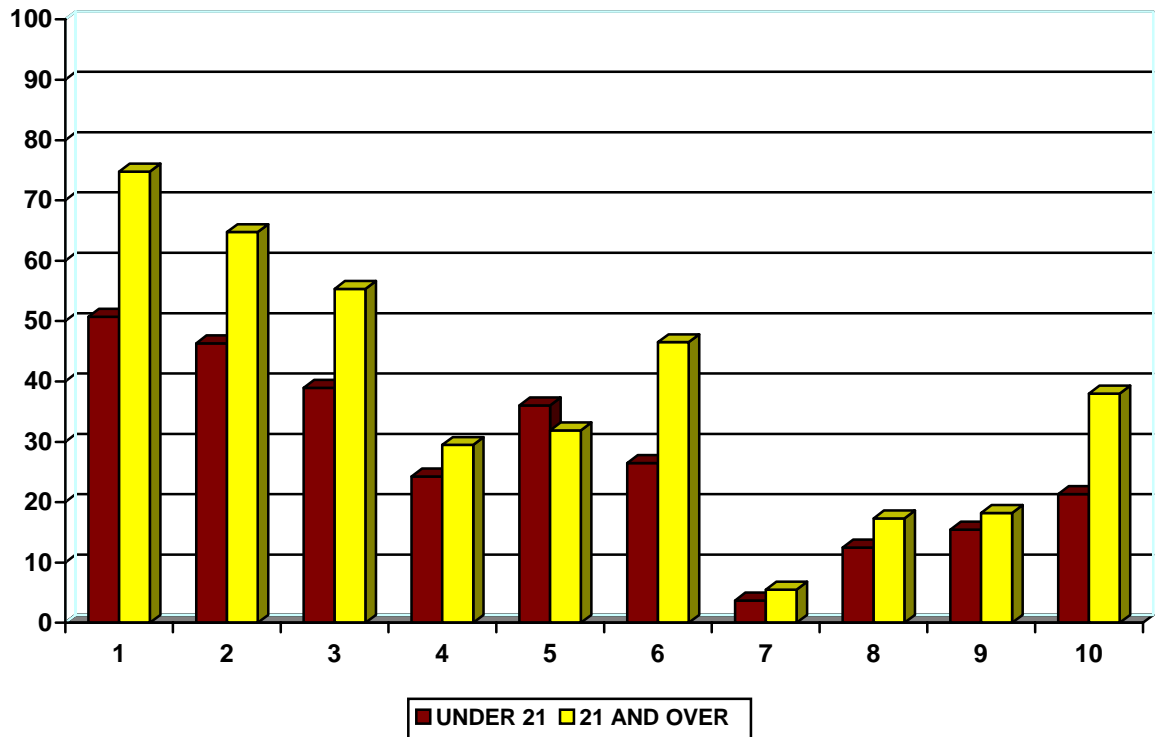
The results from this comparison are consistent with other comparisons made in other studies between male and female offenders as scored on the LSI-R. To summarise female offenders in Ireland tend to:

- be less criminally experienced than men
- have higher rates of unemployment and experience more associated problems of employability
- be less likely to have been fired from work or suspended or expelled from school
- experience lower levels of income and have problems in managing money
- have more problems in interpersonal relationships
- have more accommodation problems
- be less likely to be involved in clubs or organisations
- have less antisocial friends and acquaintances and be more likely to be a social isolate
- be more likely to have a current drug problem and less likely to have a current alcohol problem
- Score higher in relation to problems of mental health and functioning

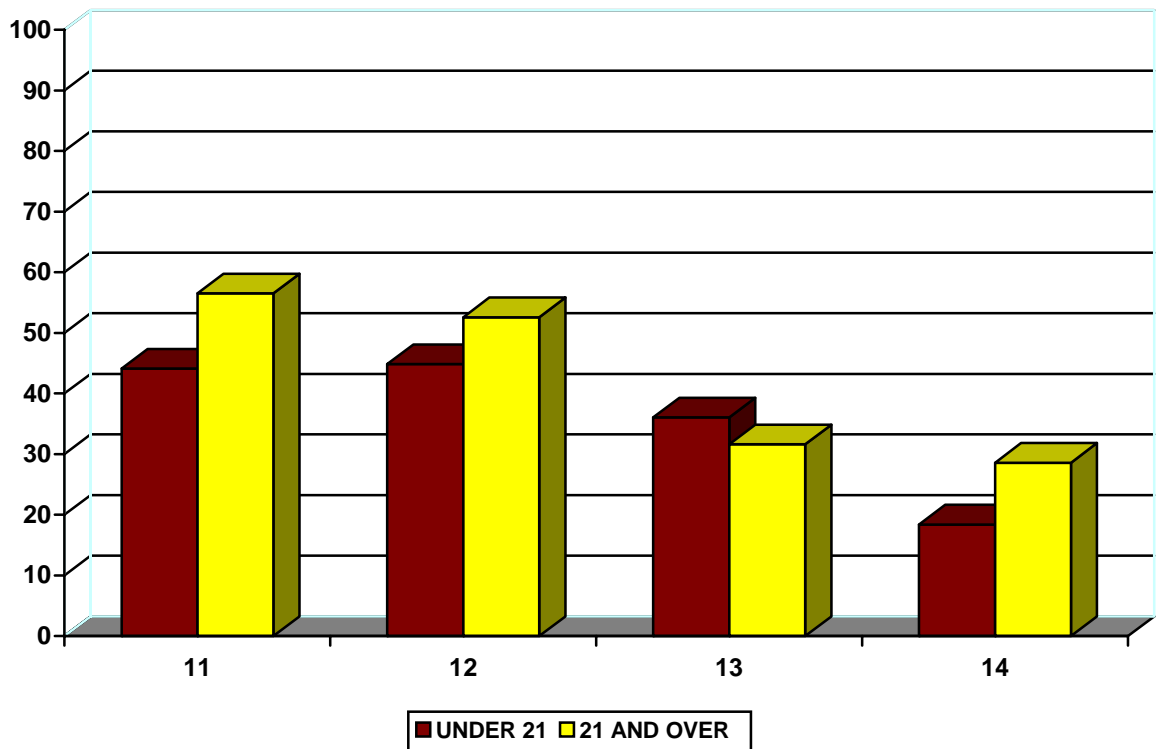
There is however a debate to be had as to whether all of these differences are real or whether interviewers may be responding to gender stereotypes – i.e possibly women are expected to have more relationship problems and emotional difficulties than men.

7) COMPARISON BETWEEN NEED PROFILES by Age (Under and over 21)

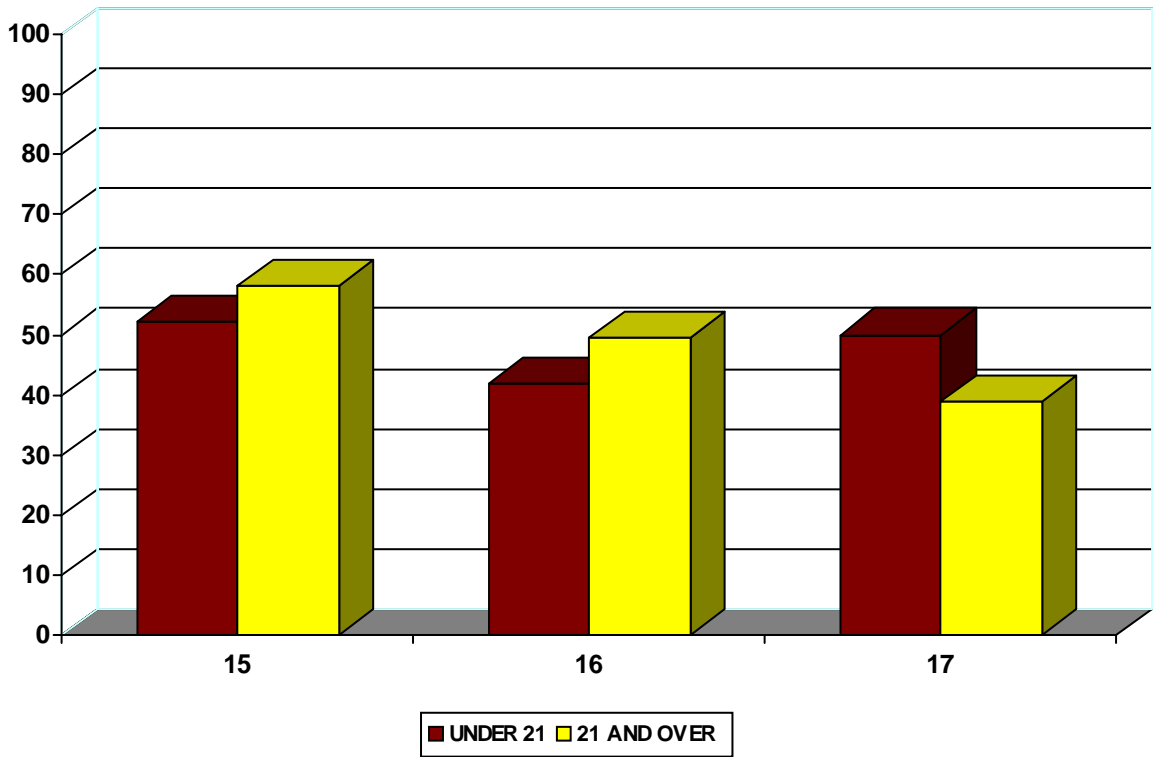
1) CRIMINAL HISTORY (% scored as risk)



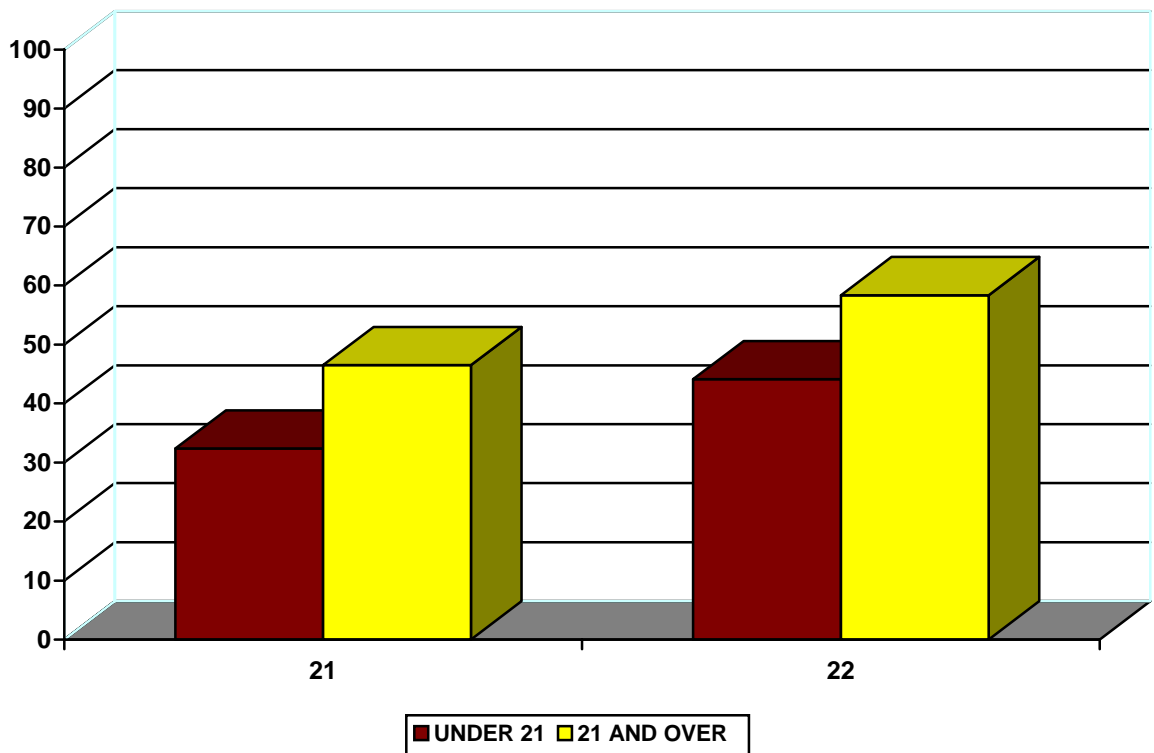
2) EMPLOYMENT (% scored as risk)



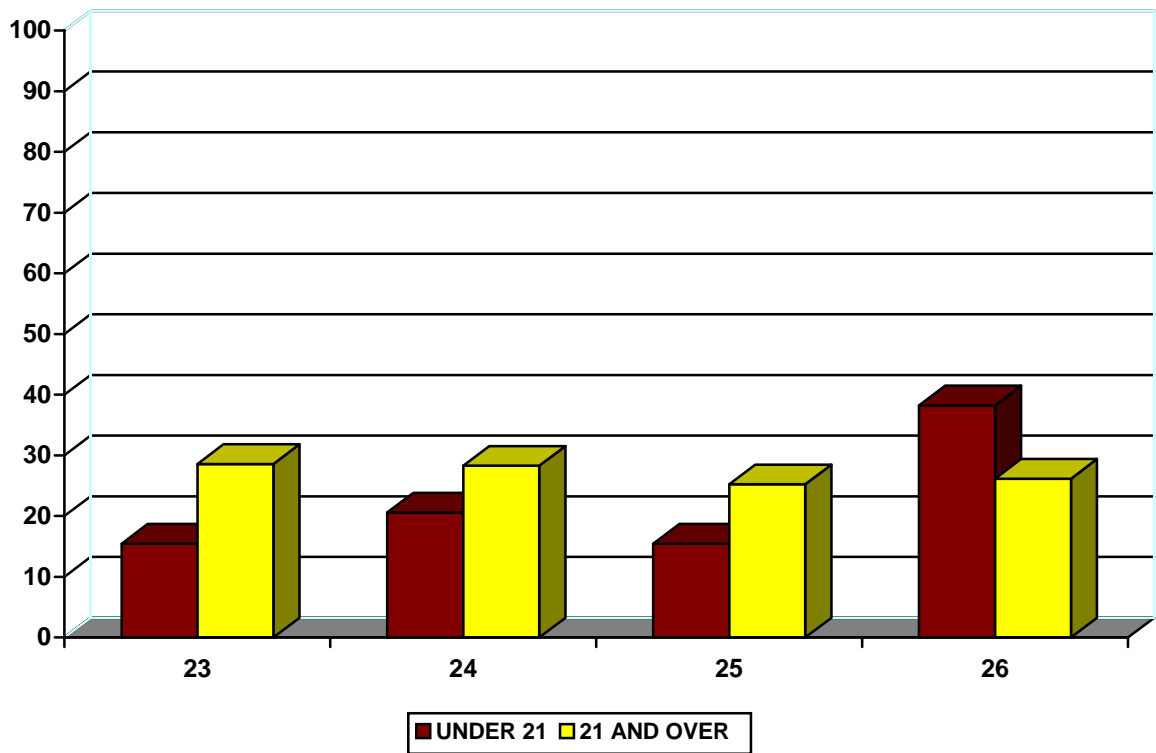
3) **EDUCATION** (% scored as risk)



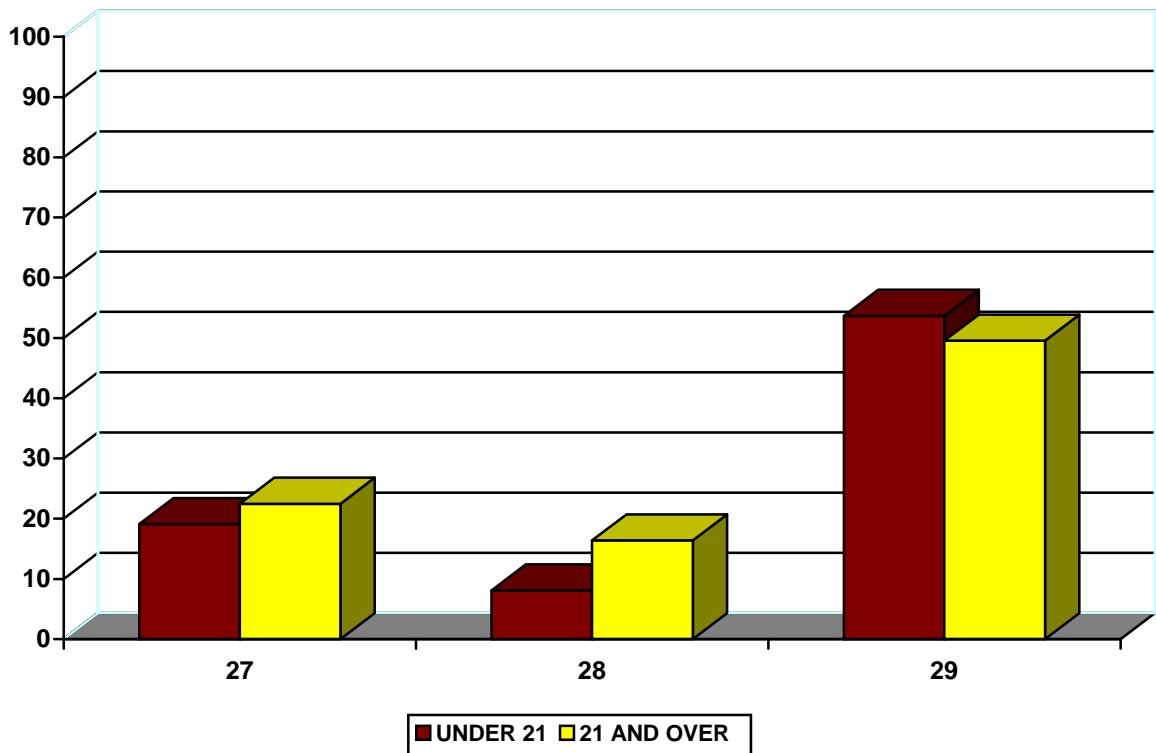
4) **FINANCE** (% scored as risk)



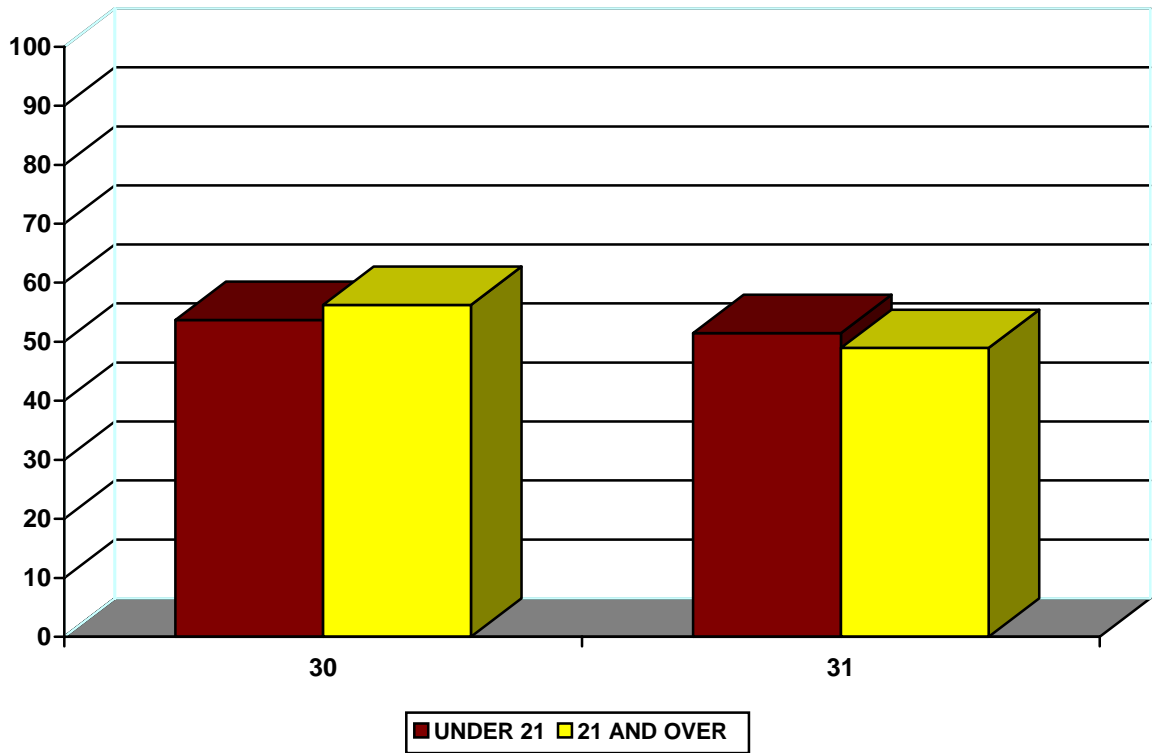
5) **FAMILY/MARITAL** (% scored as risk)



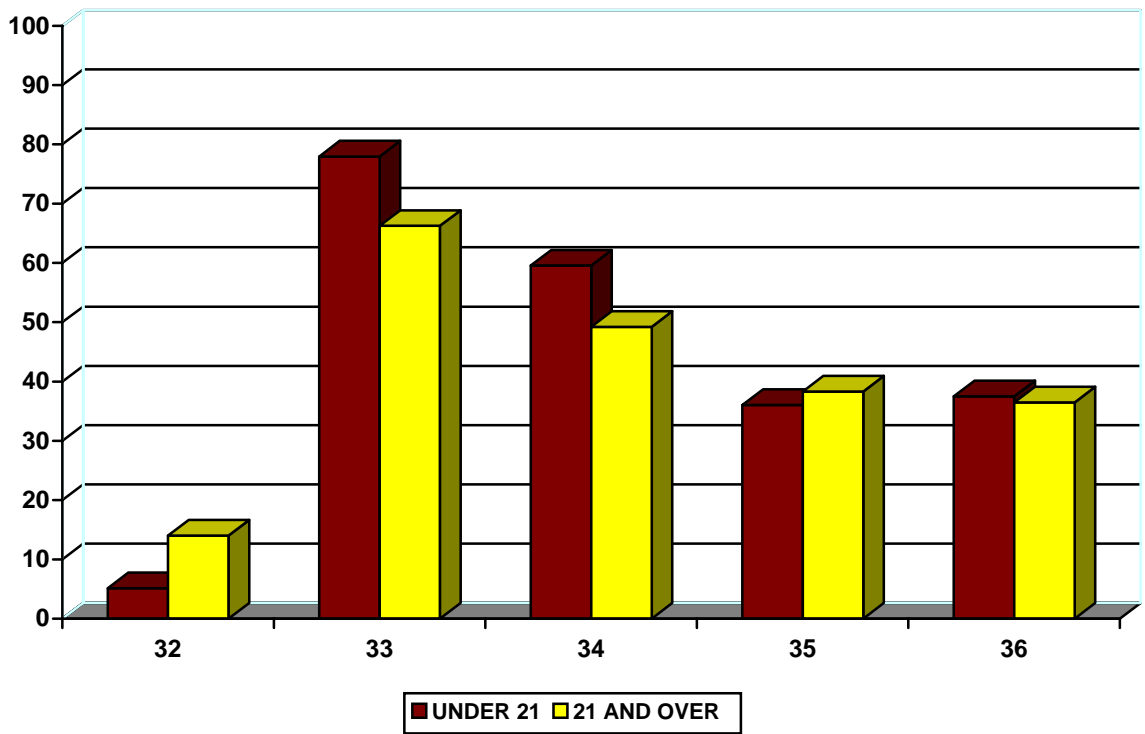
6) **ACCOMMODATION** (% scored as risk)



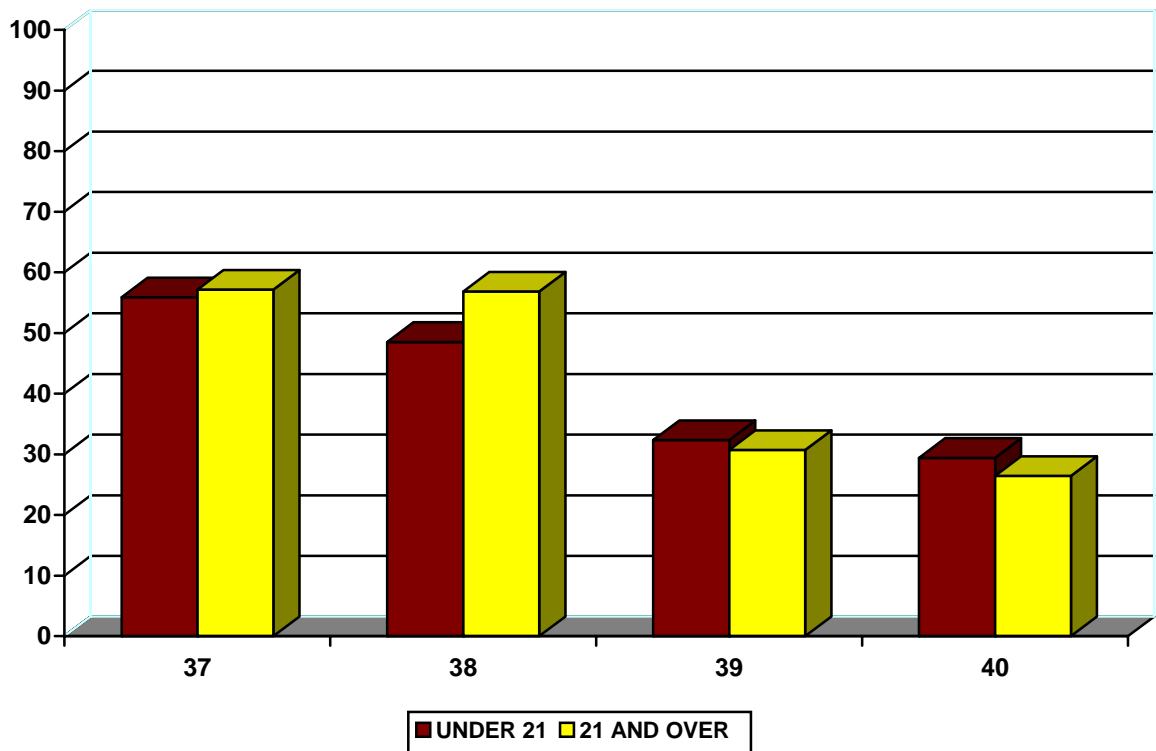
7) **LEISURE/RECREATION** (% scored as risk)



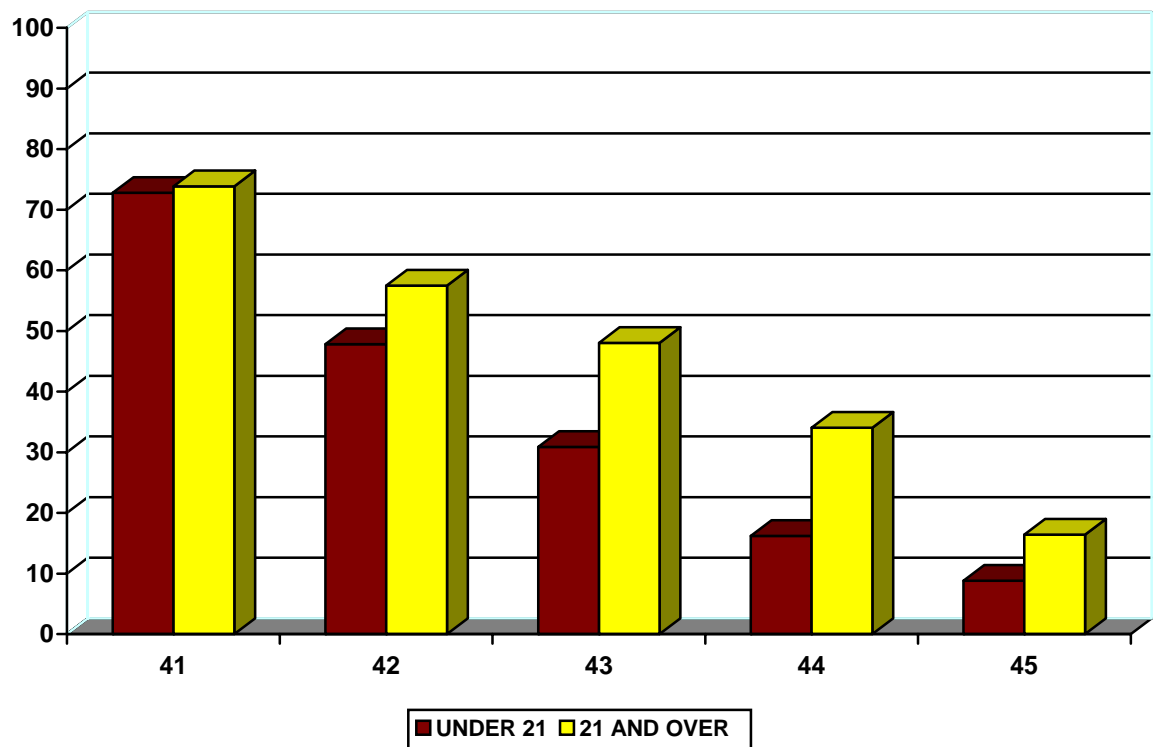
8) **COMPANIONS** (% scored as risk)



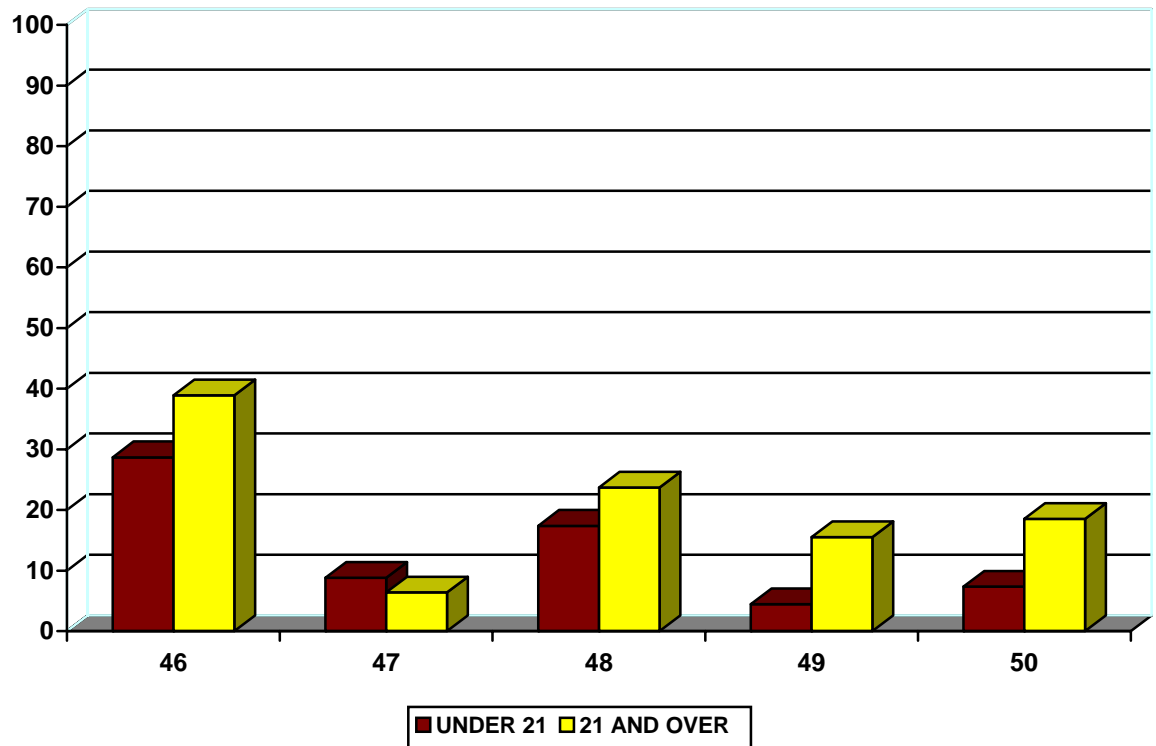
9) ALCOHOL/DRUGS – Past and current problem (% scored as risk)



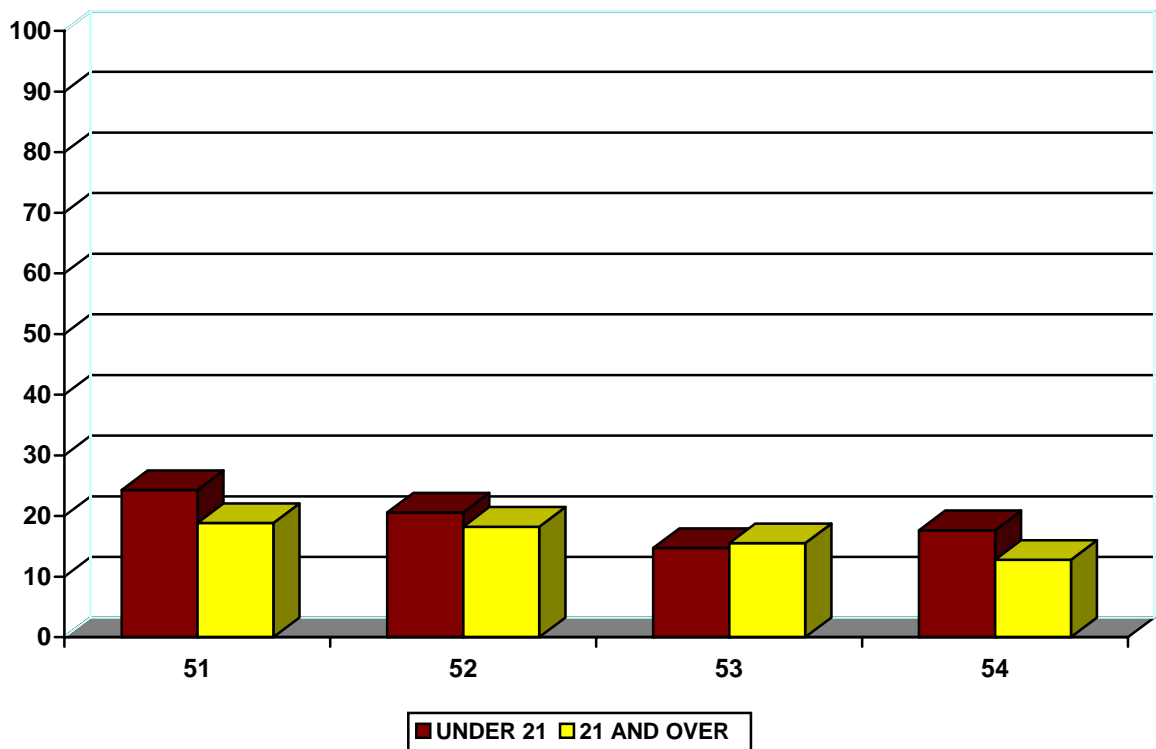
10) ALCOHOL/DRUGS – Impact on functioning (% scored as risk)



11) EMOTIONAL/PERSONAL (% scored as risk)



12) ATTITUDES/ORIENTATION (% scored as risk)



Comment

The results of this study are strikingly similar to a study of under and over 21-year-old offenders undertaken in Glasgow in 2004. Many of the differences observed between the two age groups can be attributed directly to age, particularly static risk factors such as criminal history, a history of alcohol or drug problems or mental health treatment. What is also apparent is that the older offender is more likely to have relationship problems and be depressed or anxious, but less likely to have antisocial friends and acquaintances. The older offender is slightly less likely to have a drug or alcohol problem, but the impact of the existence of a current problem on their functioning is more severe.

Studies using LSI-R data of offender populations by age showed that these trends are accentuated as offenders grow older.

10) COMPARISON BETWEEN VIOLENT (n = 167) AND NON VIOLENT OFFENDERS (n = 676).

This sample includes all offenders where the offences recorded on the LSI-R form include offences such as assault and robbery.

Violent Offenders

Mean Score: 20.7

Quartiles

31+
22 – 30
11 – 20
10 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 8.9%
High 31.0%
Moderate 31.5%
Low 28.6%

Non Violent Offenders

Mean Score: 17.9

Quartiles

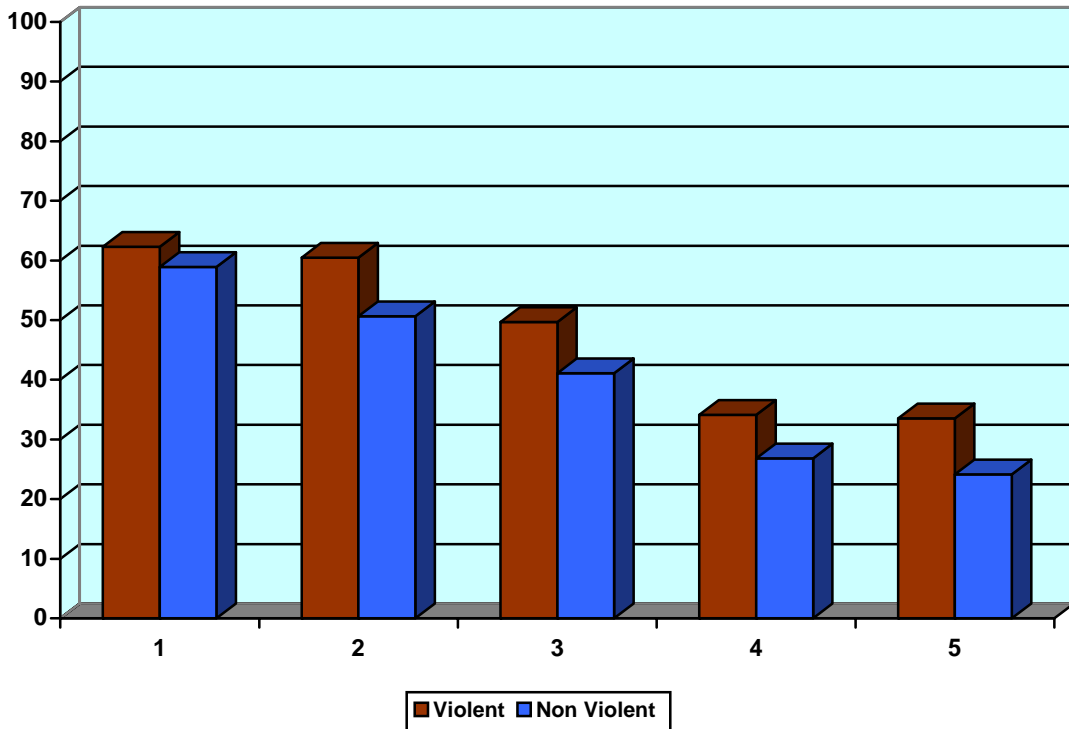
26+
17 – 25
9 – 16
8 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

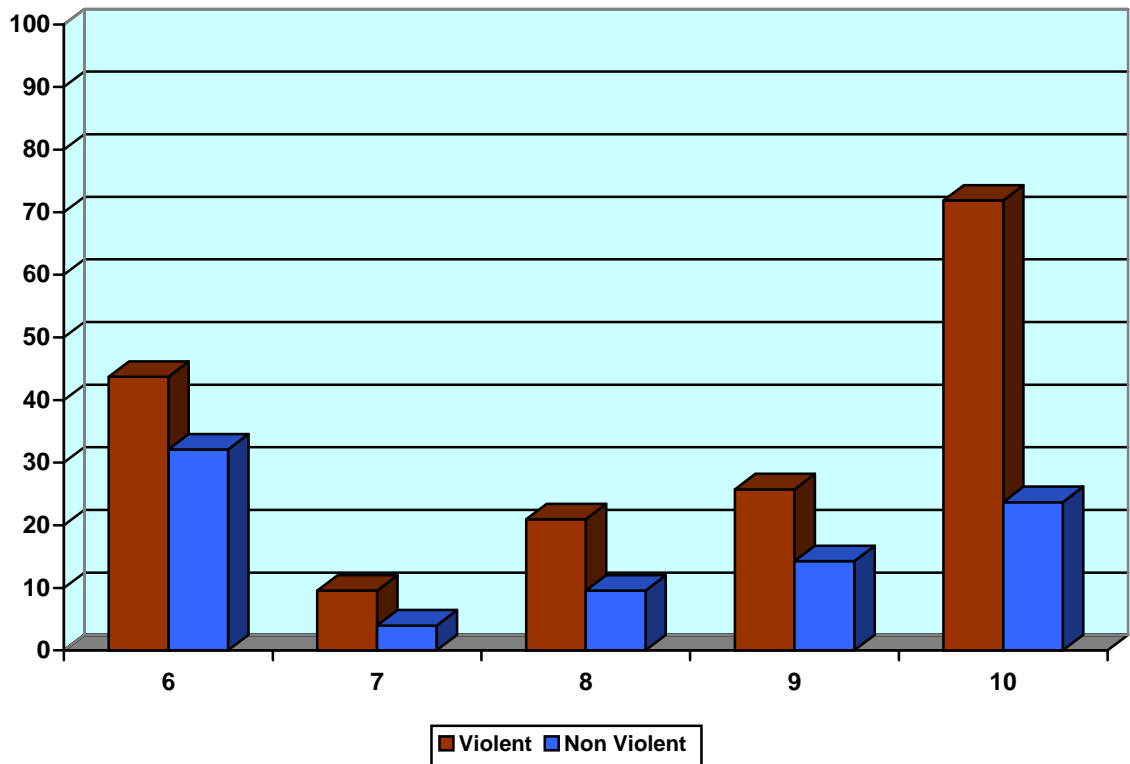
Very High 4.7%
High 18.3%
Moderate 47.6%
Low 29.3%

The overall scores are significantly higher than the average with nearly 40% of the violent offenders scoring in the high or very high category.

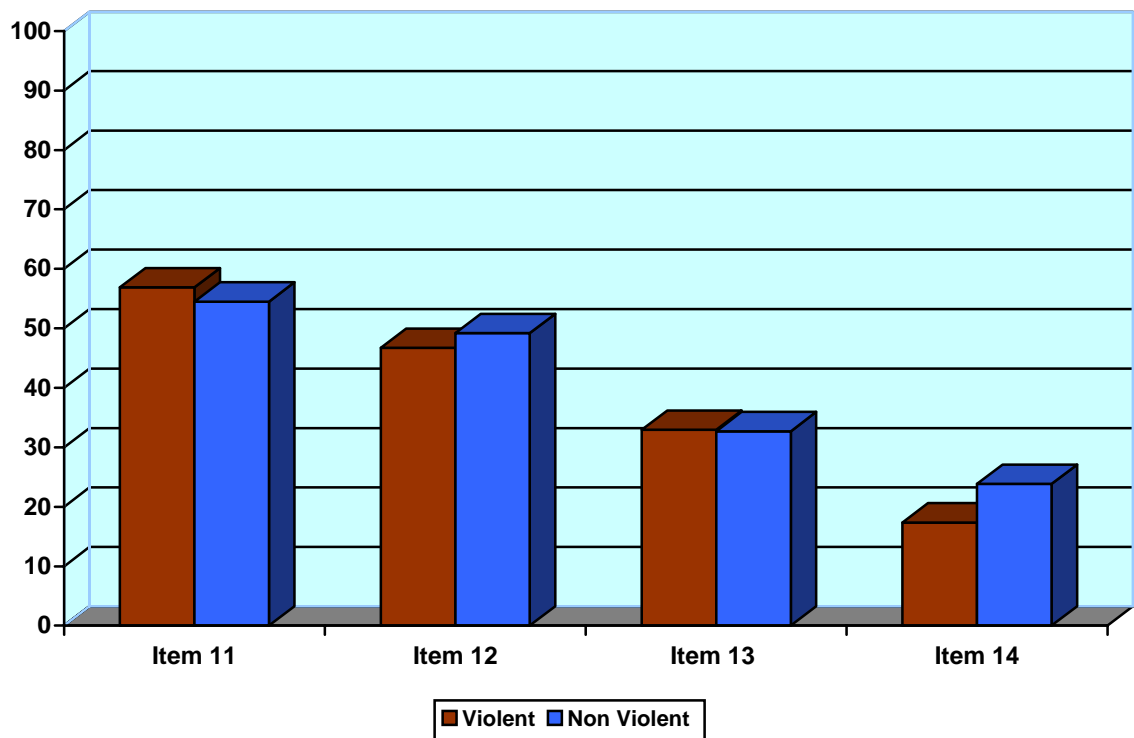
1a) CRIMINAL HISTORY (% scored as risk)



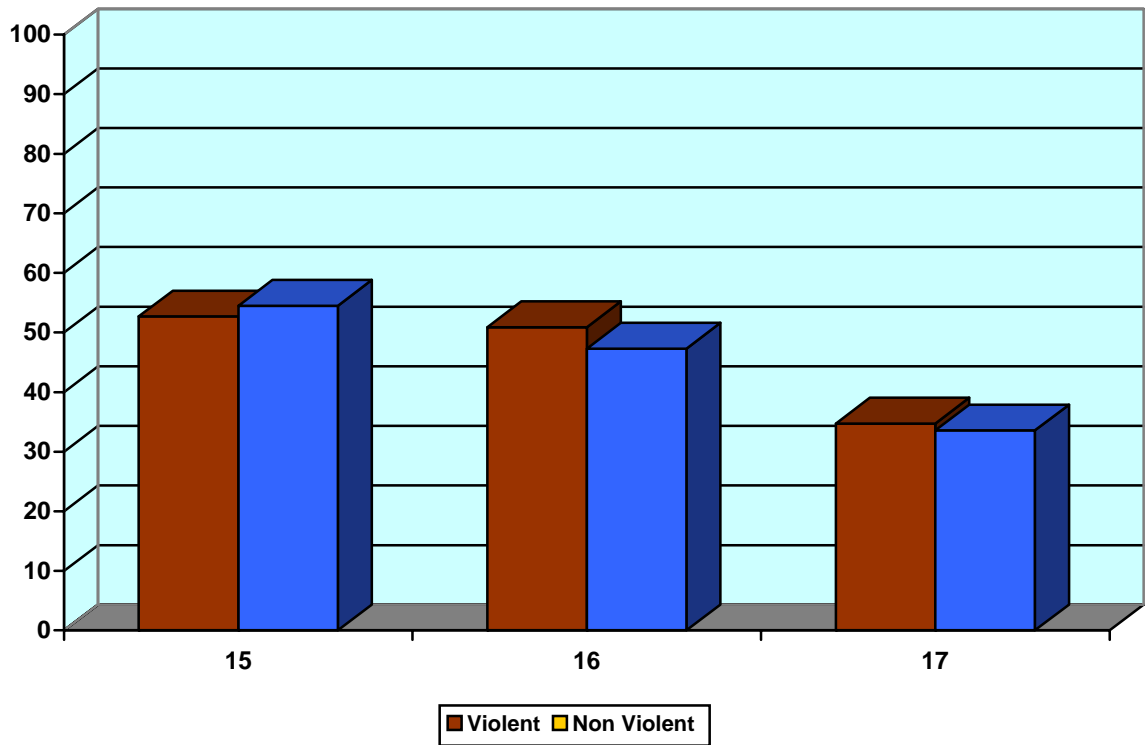
1b) **CRIMINAL HISTORY** (% scored as risk)



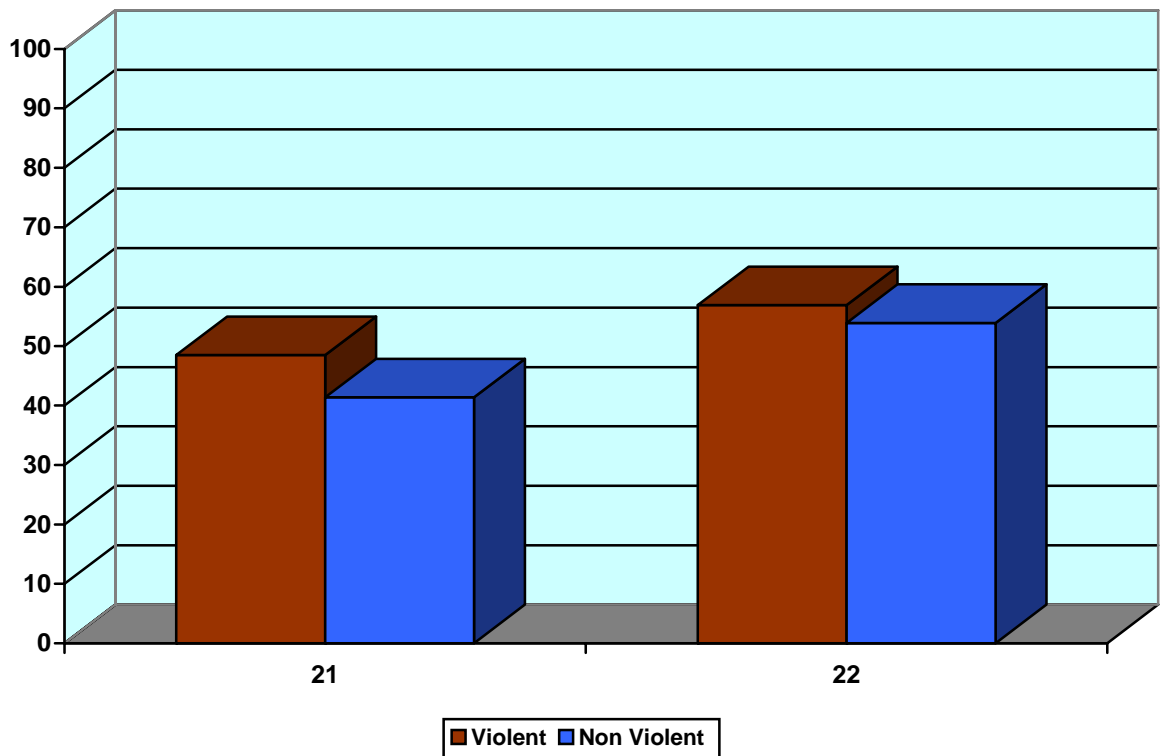
2) **EMPLOYMENT** (% scored as risk)



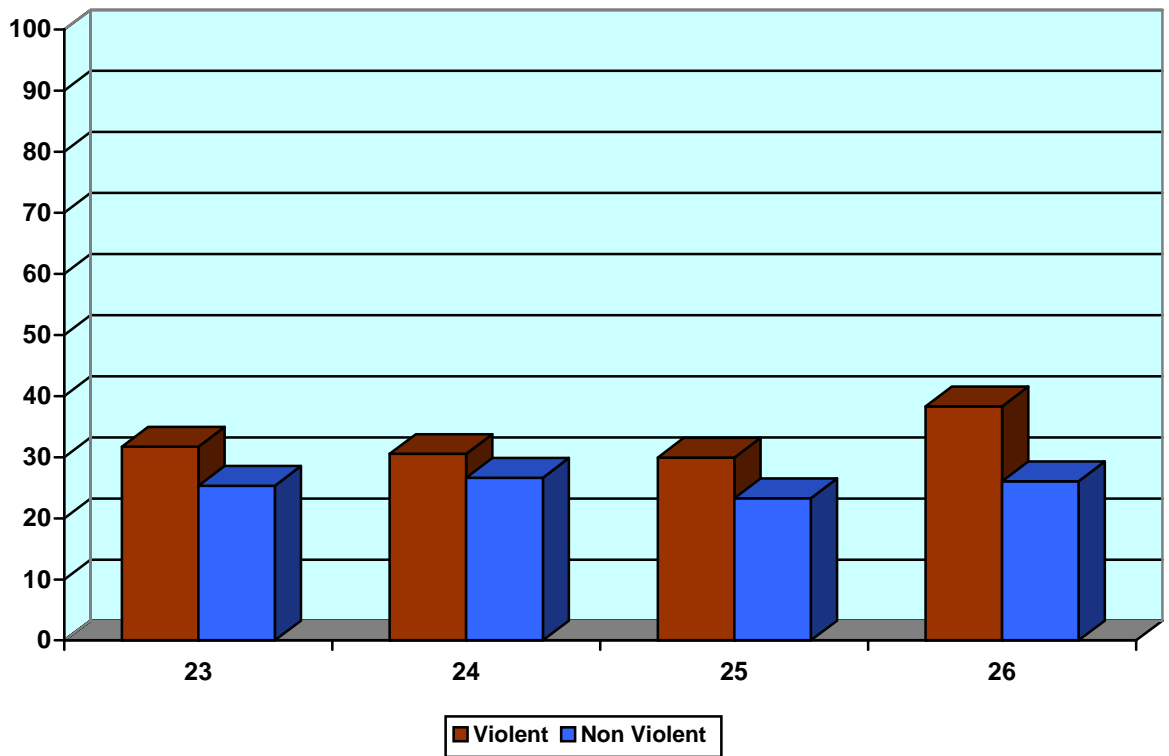
3) **EDUCATION** (% scored as risk)



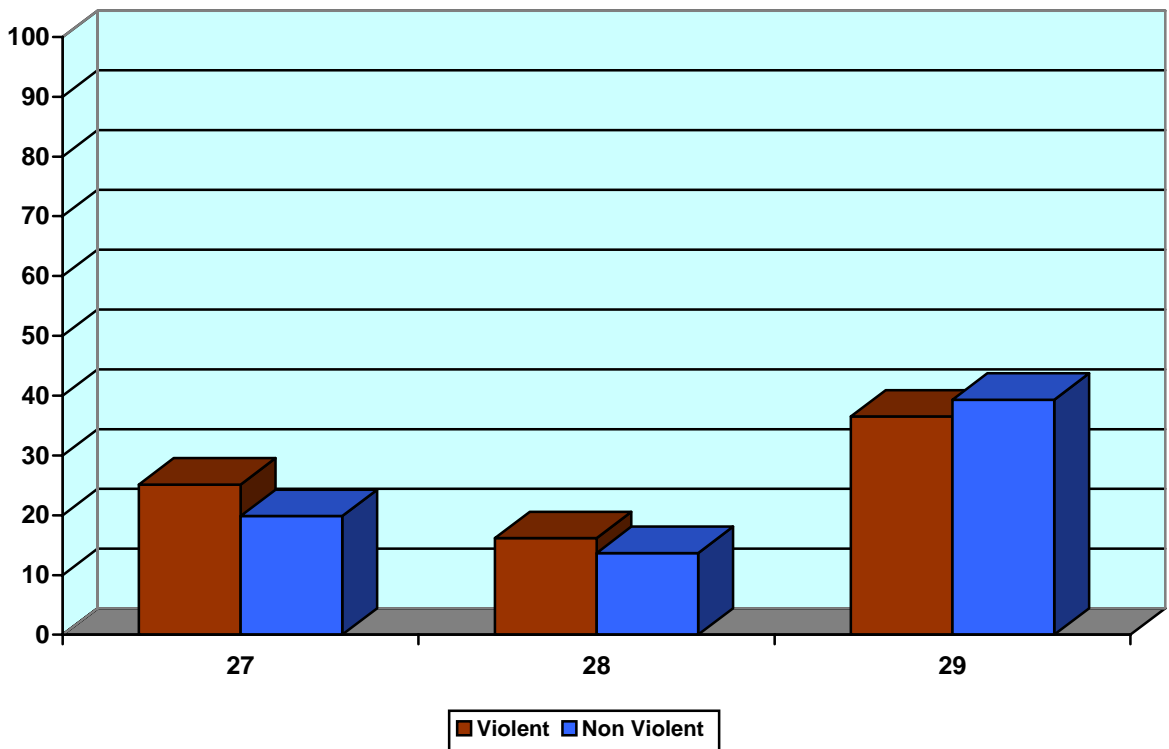
4) **FINANCE** (% scored as risk)



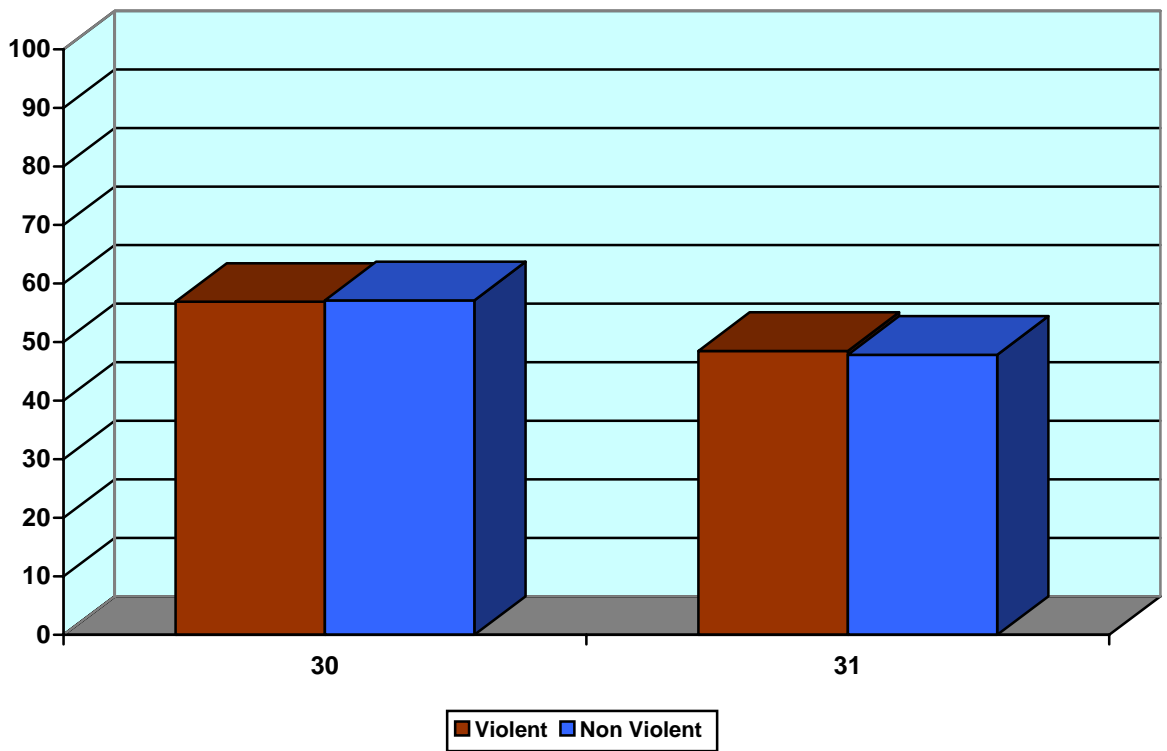
5) **FAMILY/MARITAL** (% scored as risk)



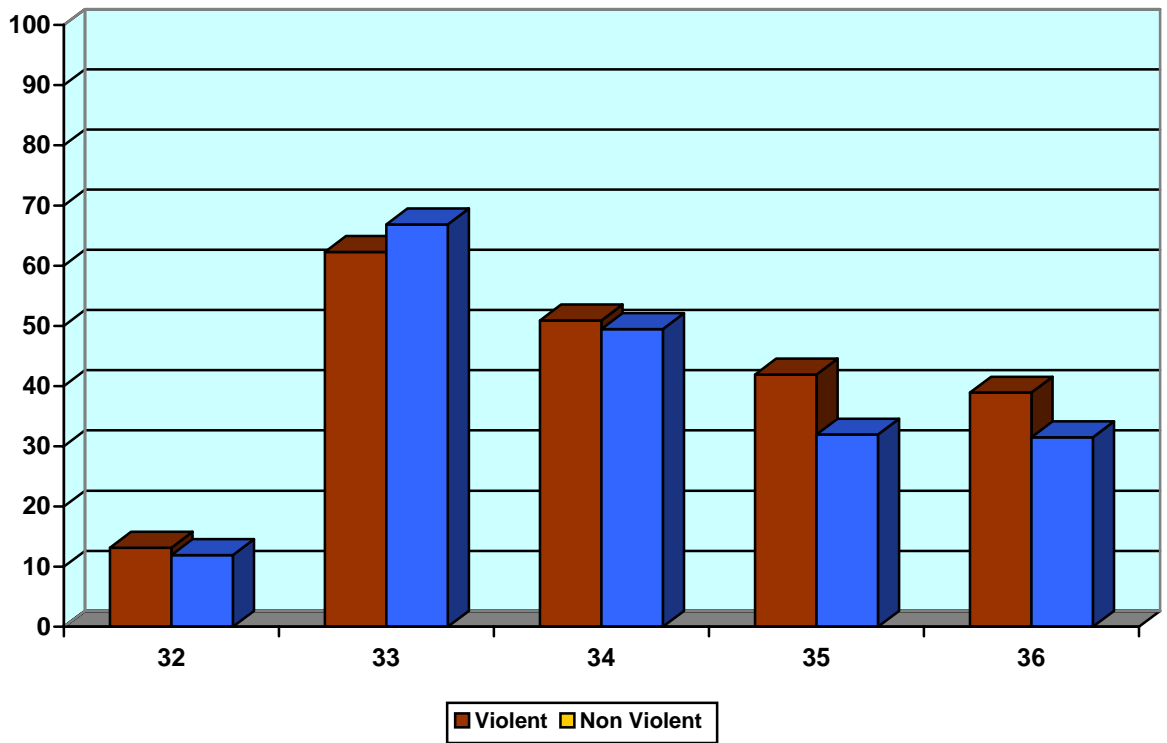
6) **ACCOMMODATION** (% scored as risk)



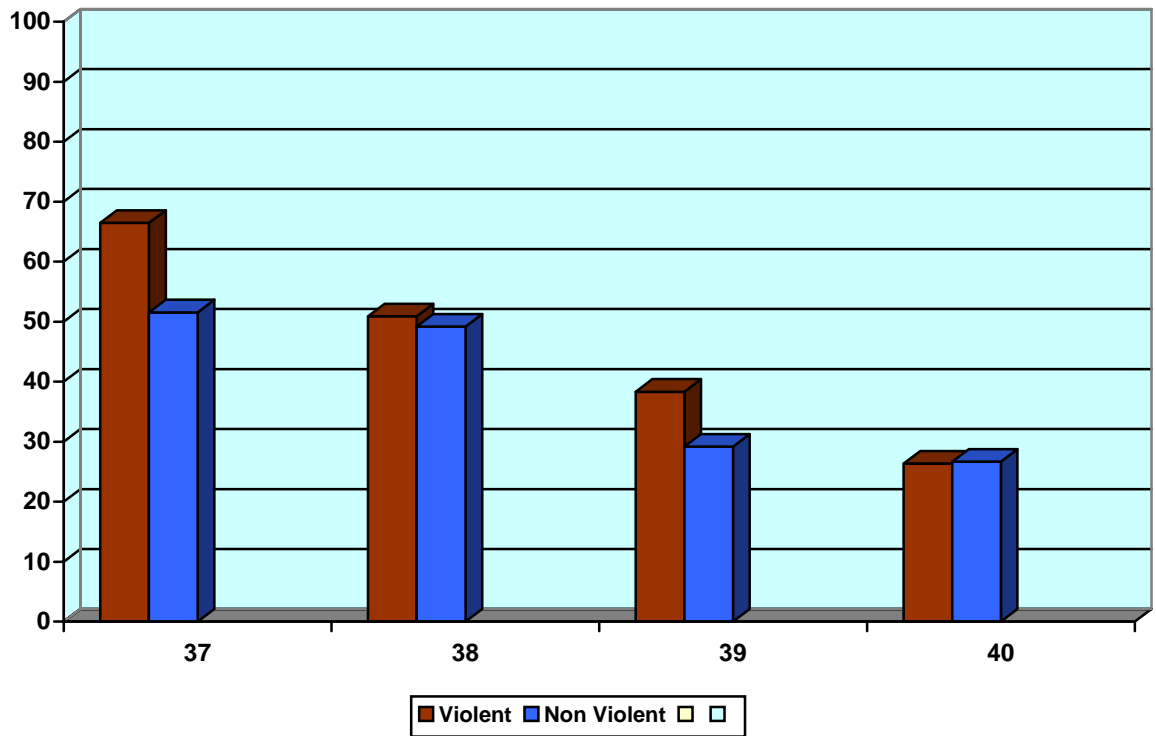
7) LEISURE/RECREATION (% scored as risk)



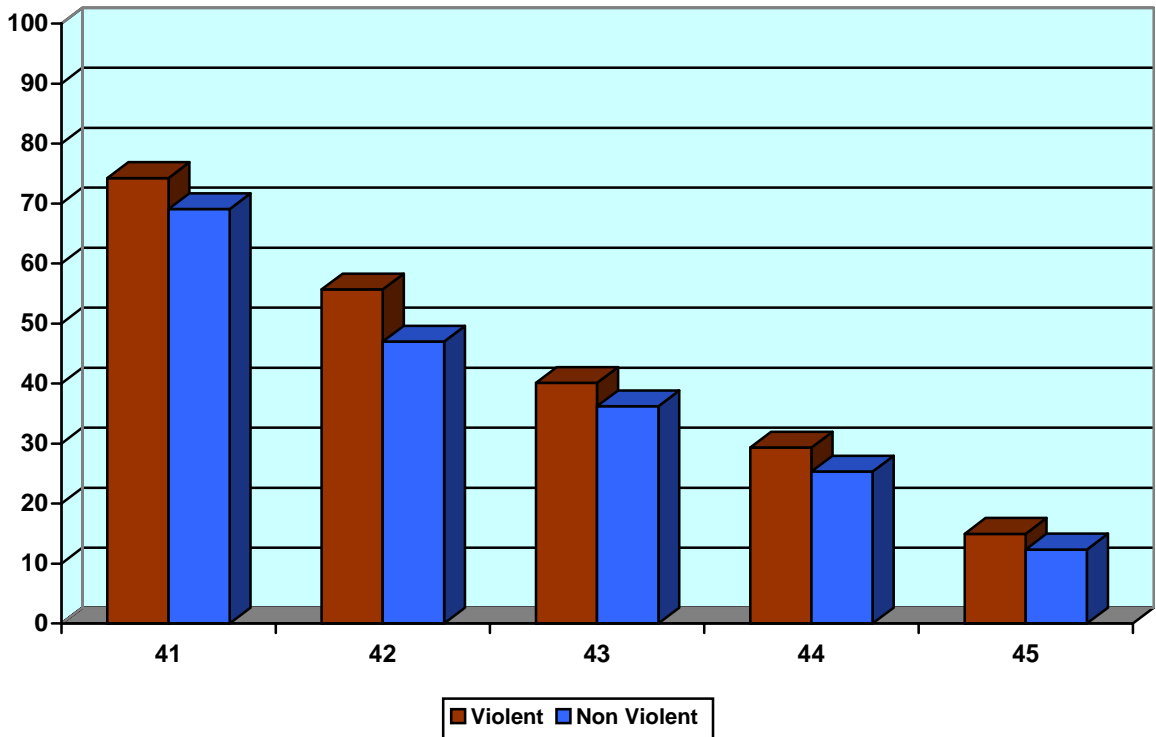
8) COMPANIONS (% scored as risk)



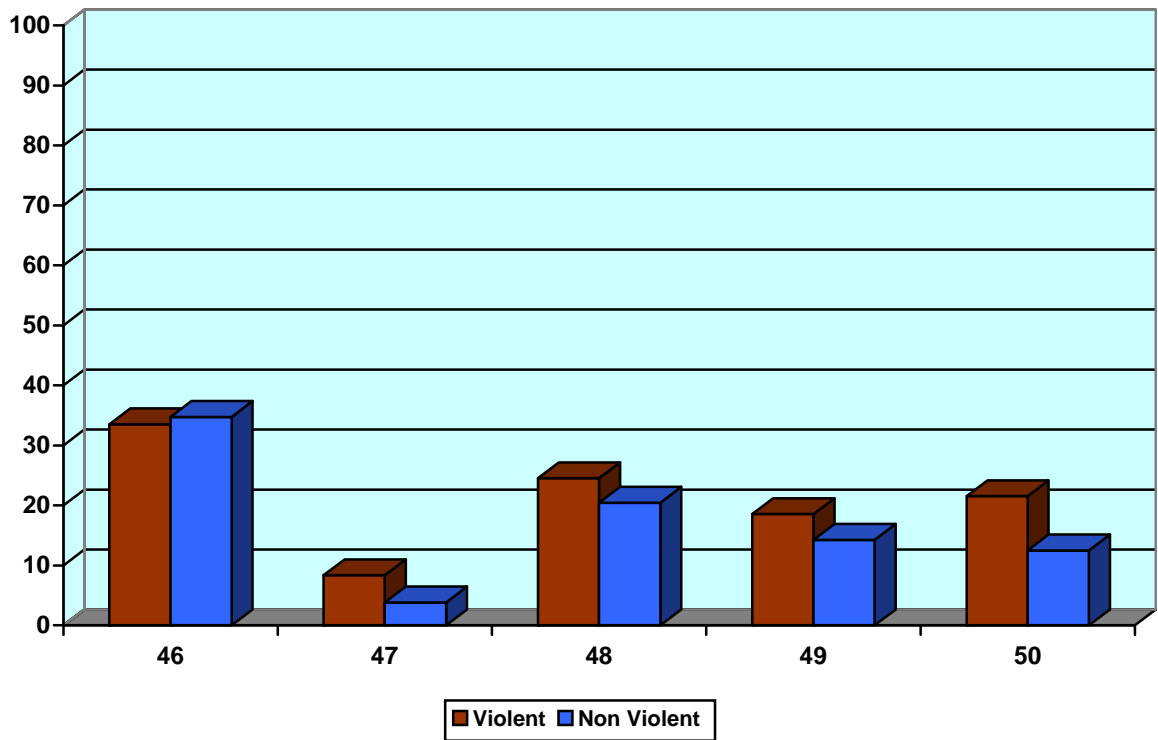
9) ALCOHOL/DRUGS – Past and current problem (% scored as risk)



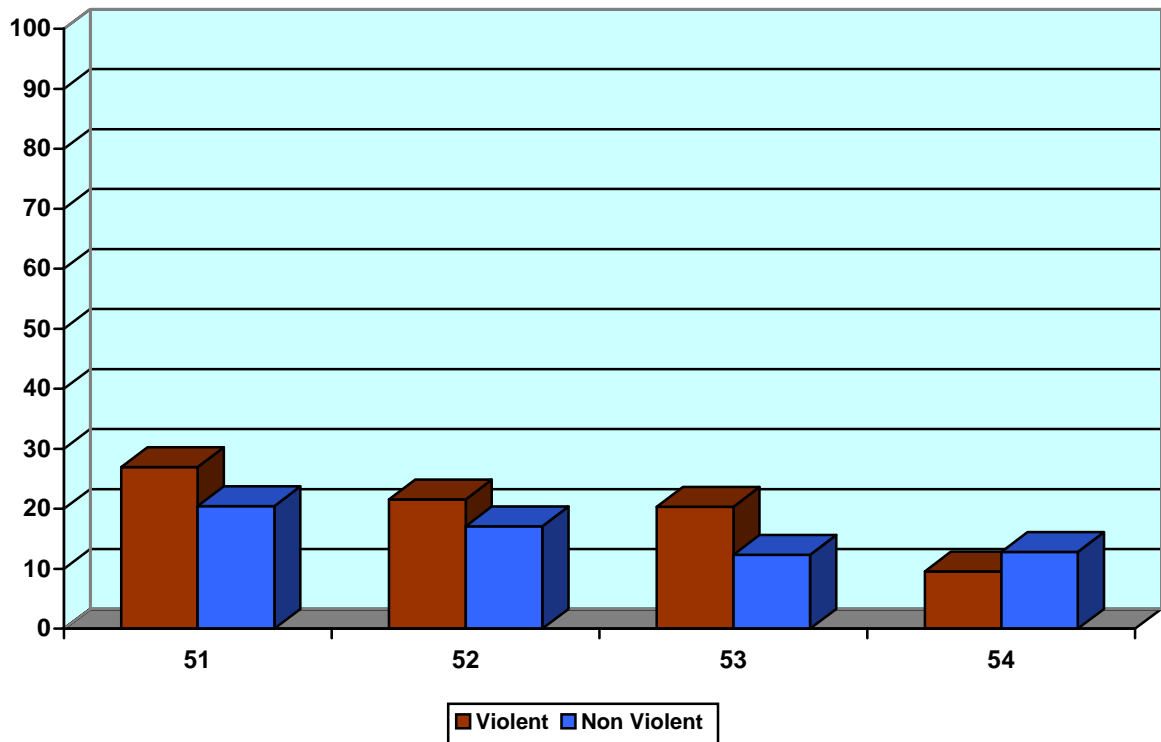
10) ALCOHOL/DRUGS – Impact on functioning (% scored as risk)



11) EMOTIONAL/PERSONAL (% scored as risk)



12) ATTITUDE/ORIENTATION (% scored as risk)



In comparison with non violent offenders, violent offenders:

- score higher in criminal history
- are more likely to have problems in managing money
- experience more relationship problems
- are more likely to be living in unsatisfactory accommodation
- are less likely to have non criminal friends and acquaintances
- are more likely to have a current alcohol problem, but this is not true of a current drug problem
- are more likely to be receiving treatment for mental health problems

There is a clear error in the scoring of a substantial number of the tests on violent offenders in that item 10 'Official Record of Assault/Violence is automatically scored when the offence is violence.

11) Disposals

The disposal was only identified in 36% of the tests. This does however allow for a limited analysis of risk levels by disposal. The results are for all Ireland. Only 28 (2.7%) of the tests contained details of proposals and as such cannot be analysed.

All Probation (84)

<u>Quartiles</u>	<u>Peter Raynor Classification</u>	
23+	Very High	2.4%
19 – 22	High	14.1%
12 – 18	Moderate	63.5%
11 and under	Low	20%

The risk principle states that the best outcomes in terms of reducing recidivism are achieved when interventions are targeted at high to moderate risk offenders. The moderate risk band as defined by Professor Raynor is broad and generally one would expect that intervention would be targeted at high and the higher end of moderate. If this is applied to those recorded as being made subject to probation orders it shows that 56% of them scored 19 or under. It follows that if an objective of the service is to reduce recidivism the high proportion of offenders being placed on probation with relatively low levels of criminogenic need would be an area of concern.

Community Service Orders (24)

Nearly 92% score in low or moderate category.

Prison (41)

<u>Quartiles</u>	<u>Peter Raynor Classification</u>	
37+	Very High	29.3%
31 – 36	High	34.2%
2 – 30	Moderate	29.3%
21 and under	Low	7.3%

The very high scores recorded in the sample of those receiving a custodial sentence would seem to confirm the high scores recorded by serving prisoners (page).

12) COMPARISONS WITH OTHER SERVICES USING THE LSIR

a) Comparative Risk Levels – Devon, Glasgow, North Wales and Ireland

It is useful to compare the results from Ireland with those from other areas using the LSI-R. Risk levels tend to reflect factors such as unemployment, substance misuse, social deprivation and rurality. The results below show three contrasting areas.

<u>Devon (2000)</u>	<u>North Wales (2001)</u>	<u>Glasgow City (2004)</u>
32+	26+	30+
23 – 31	19 – 25	24 – 29
15 – 22	10 – 18	15 – 23
14 and under	9 and under	14 and under

Devon's results on the face of it seem surprising for what is a predominantly rural English county. However the scores were heavily influenced by results from Plymouth and Torbay that at that time had a major problem of drugs and drug trafficking.

Glasgow is the major industrial and commercial city in Scotland and has major problems of urban decay. However it also has areas of some affluence and the patterns of LSI-R scores reflect the different parts of the city.

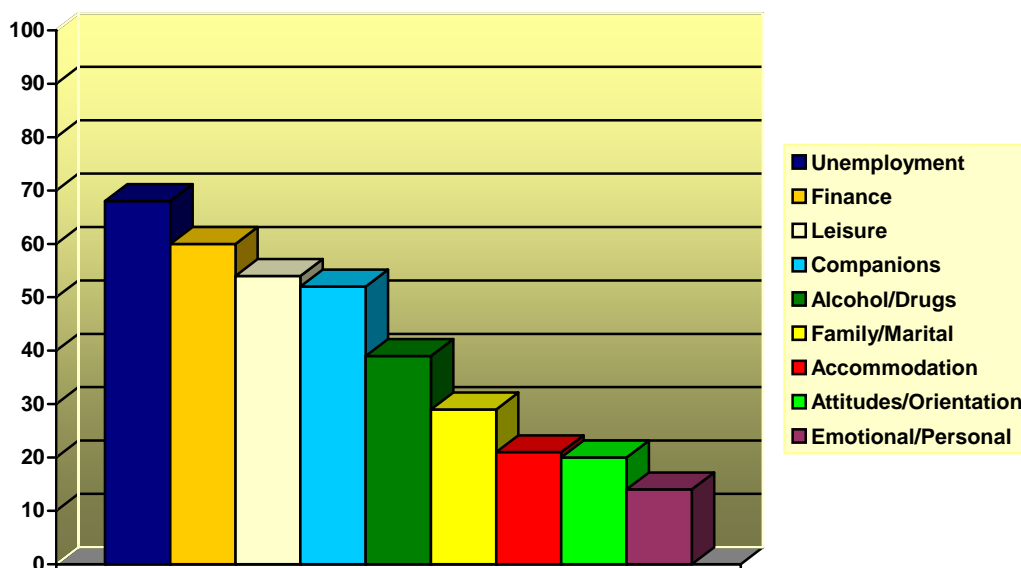
North Wales is a predominantly rural county with a number of centres of population. When the sample was taken the major town in the area, Wrexham, had particularly low levels of unemployment which impacted on the scores.

The scores from the Irish sample, given the low unemployment scores would seem to be consistent with findings from other LSI-R users.

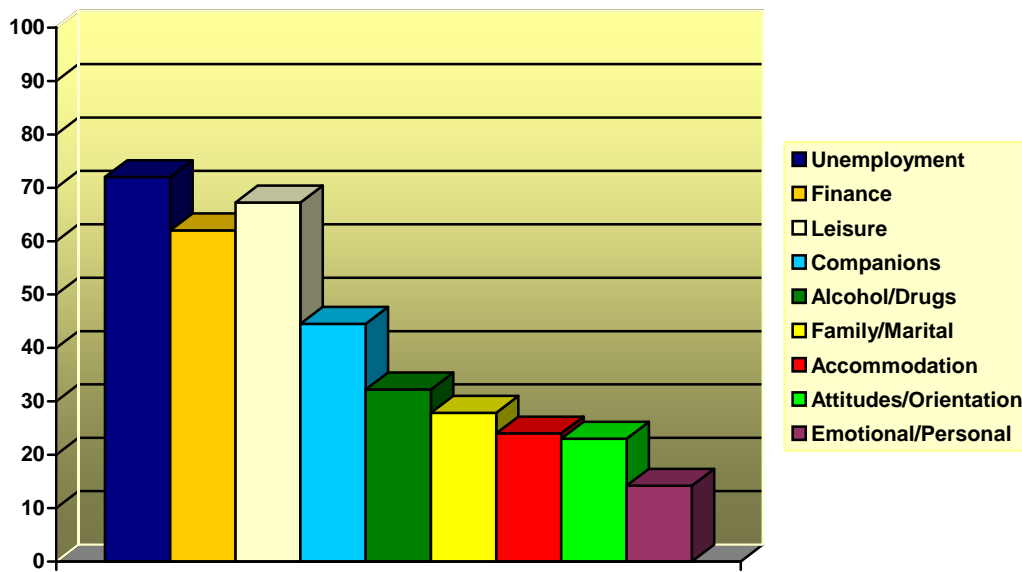
b) Comparative Patterns of Criminogenic Need – Glasgow, Dyfed and Ireland

Previously studies of risk factors have focused on looking at dynamic risk factors in the LSI-R. The results from numerous studies have consistently shown profiles very similar to the Dyfed Profile below with unemployment, finance, leisure/recreation and companions scoring highest.

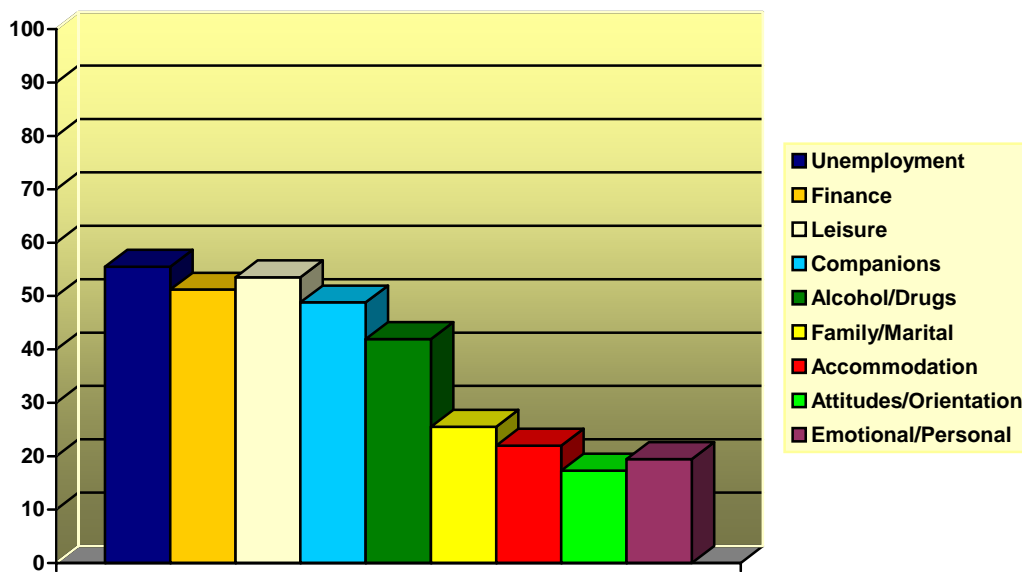
i) Dyfed



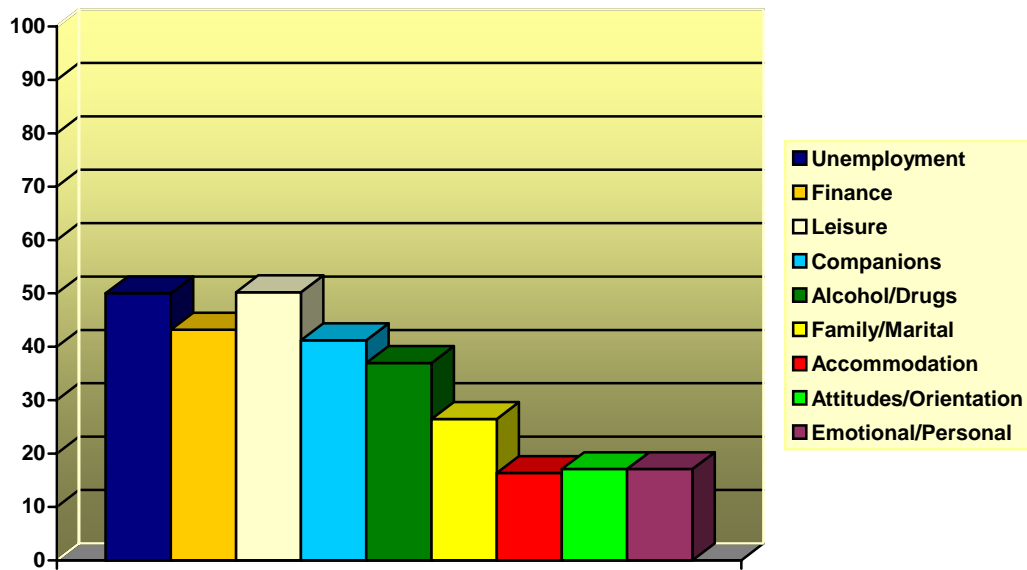
b) Glasgow



c) All Dublin



d) All Non Dublin



Patterns of need in the Dublin and Non-Dublin areas broadly resemble the patterns in Glasgow and Dyfed with the impact of higher unemployment rates in those areas being very apparent.

**13) Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI)
NORMATIVE DATA - COMPARISON**

LOCATION / MEAN RISK AND NEED LEVEL	COMMUNITY (N 256)	RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL (N106)	SECURE UNIT (N 40)	TOTAL SAMPLE - SCOTLAND (N 402)	TOTAL SAMPLE - IRELAND (N 87)
Prior and Current Offending	.98	2.12	1.80	1.36	1.66
Family	1.67	3.91	3.93	2.61	2.20
Education	2.64	2.58	4.03	2.76	2.61
Peers	1.77	2.70	3.35	2.17	2.23
Substance Use	1.23	1.41	2.77	1.43	1.59
Leisure	1.46	1.46	2.42	1.56	1.77
Personality	1.75	3.66	4	2.48	1.53
Attitudes	1.12	1.97	3.03	1.53	1.24
Total Risk Score	12.91	19.66	25.45	15.94	14.61

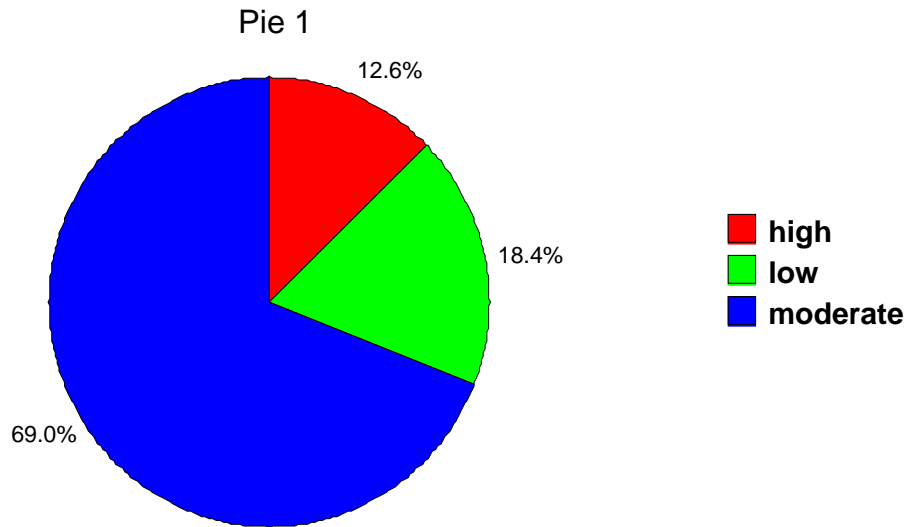
The sample of 87 YLS/CMI assessments shows the Dublin scoring slightly higher than the Scottish community sample. This is understandable given the likelihood that accommodated and incarcerated young people are included in the initial sample. Gathering of further data would allow normative data for Ireland to be worked out, comparing samples from the community, residential and incarcerated settings.

Percentiles for Total Scotland and Ireland samples

Percentiles	Scotland	Ireland
10th	3	5
25th	8	10
50th	16	14
75th	23	19
95th	31	29

As demonstrated below greater percentage in Ireland fall into moderate risk category

Distribution in Risk Bands



The large majority of cases fall in the moderate band. This is interesting but not too helpful in terms of service planning. Need to look more closely. So returning to the percentiles for the sample from Ireland.

Percentiles	Scotland	Ireland
10 th	3	5
25 th	8	10
50 th	16	14
75 th	23	19
95 th	31	29

10% score less than 5 – and could be assumed to require no further involvement 17-

A further 15% score less than 10, therefore more or less low risk. 13 fall in this category. 16+

25% score between 10 and 13 17-

25% score between 14 and 18 16+

25% score between 19 and 28 mean age 16+

29 and above mean age 16 -

Looking more closely at the needs profiles of each group allows an initial analysis for informing service planning.

Comparison of Needs Profiles of each Group

Risk Level/ Risk and Need Item	Very Low (7)	Low + (n 13)	Low Moderate (n21)	Higher Moderate (22)	High (20)	High + (4)
Prior and Current Offending Family	Low (0)	Low (0)	Moderate (1)	Moderate (2)	High (3)	High (4)
Education	Low (1)	Low (1)	Low (1)	Low (2)	Moderate (4)	Moderate (4)
Peers	Low (0)	Low (2)	Low (2)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (3)	High (5)
Substance Use	Low (1)	Low (1)	Moderate (2)	Moderate (2)	Moderate (3)	High (4)
Leisure	Moderate (1)	Moderate (1)	Moderate (1)	Moderate (2)	Moderate (2)	High (4)
Personality	Moderate (1)	Moderate (1)	Moderate (1)	High (2)	High (2)	High (3)
Attitudes	Low (0)	Low (0)	Moderate (1)	Moderate (2)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (4)
	Low (0)	Low (0)	Moderate (1)	Moderate (1)	Moderate (2)	Moderate (2)

The increasing level of need as risk increases gives an indication of the differing level and focus of intervention in each group and suggests 4 tiers of intervention.

1. Very Low and Low. The profiles here suggest little or few intervention targets, and may indicate an approach that exploits existing resources within the family, school or community.
2. The lower/moderate group show increasing levels of need in main areas of risk for young people in the community, but without as yet entrenched antisocial peers, behaviours and attitudes. This might suggest an approach of focussed, time-limited early intervention geared at increasing prosocial skills and competences, aiming to prevent escalation to higher risk.
3. The higher / moderate and high groups might usefully be considered together as young people requiring a high level of service aimed at the increasing criminogenic need. This group is likely to require a more intensive package of intervention, geared at reducing antisocial behaviours and attitudes, while addressing the increasing difficulties in the family and school, and increased influence of antisocial peers.
4. The High + group are a small proportion of the overall sample, but probably require a disproportionate amount of time and resources due to the likely chaos and generally high levels of need.

The above findings are only intended to give an idea of the possible use that can be made of YLS data once the database increases. Therefore the suggestions made above are more for the purpose of generating discussion than for proposing action.

LSI-R QUALITY CONTROL CHECKLIST

All Ireland Sample

The purpose of this checklist is to ensure that testers adhere to basic 'rules' for the completion of the LSI-R. It does not attempt to test the validity of assessments, or the basis on which assessments have been made. Items not scored or circled constitute a 'broken rule'.

Where a rule has been broken refer to the 'professional discretion override' for an explanation.

<u>LSI-R Sub-Components</u>		<u>Checked</u>
CRIMINAL HISTORY	Items 1, 2 and 3 - if item 3 is answered 'YES' then items 1 and 2 must also be answered 'Yes'. If item 2 is answered 'YES' then item 1 must also be answered 'YES'. <i>(Items 1 - 3 all refer to adult convictions)</i>	49
	Item 10 - if current offence is a serious offence of violence item 10 must be scored 'Yes'.	39
EMPLOYMENT	Item 11 - If <u>item 11</u> is answered 'YES' then items 18-20 must all be scored '0'	137
COMPANIONS	Item 32 - If <u>item 32</u> - if answered 'YES' then item 34 should be scored 'NO' <i>(The definition of a social isolate for the LSI-R is in effect someone who is unable to make friends)</i>	68
	Item 34 - If <u>item 34</u> is scored 'YES', then item 33 should be scored 'YES' <i>(For the LSI-R a 'friend' is also an 'acquaintance')</i>	14
	Item 35 - If <u>item 35</u> is answered 'Yes' then item 36 should also be answered 'YES'	44
ALCOHOL/ DRUGS	Item 39 - If <u>item 39</u> is scored as a current problem (0 or 1) then item 37 must be scored 'YES' <i>(The existence of a <u>current</u> alcohol problem (last 12 months) also means that the offender has 'ever' had an alcohol problem)</i>	35
	Item 40 - If <u>item 40</u> is scored as a current problem (0 or 1) then item 38 must be scored 'YES' <i>(The existence of a <u>current</u> drug problem (last 12 months) also means that the offender has 'ever' had a drug problem)</i>	28
	Items 39 and 40 - If <u>items 39 and 40</u> are not scored as a risk factor, i.e. both scored as 3 or 2, then items 41 to 45 should be omitted. <i>(Items 41 - 45 only refer to problems caused by alcohol or drug abuse within the past twelve months)</i>	327
EMOTIONAL/ PERSONAL	Item 47 - if <u>item 47</u> is scored 'YES' then item 46 must also be scored 'YES'	9
	Item 49 - if <u>item 49</u> is scored 'YES' then item 48 must also be scored 'YES'.	25

DUBLIN A – Client Risk and Need Profile

Sample 102 (Males 75, Females 27)

1) Risk - All

Quartiles

27+
22 – 26
13 – 21
12 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 3.0%
High 26.5%
Moderate 54.9%
Low 15.7%

2) Risk -Males

Quartiles

29+
21 – 28
13 – 20
12 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 4%
High 32%
Moderate 48%
Low 16%

3) Criminogenic Need

Criminal History %

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
67.3	56.7	51	29.8	17.3	39.4	5.77	9.62	9.62	21.2

Employment %

11	12	13	14
60.6	49	38.5	30.8

Education %

15	16	17
60.6	49	35.6

Finance %

21	22
46.2	60.6

Family/Marital %

23	24	25	26
26.9	23.1	22.1	34.6

Accommodation %

27	28	29
28.8	20.2	71.2

Leisure/Recreation %

30 31
74 56.7

Companions %

32 33 34 35 36
11.5 74 57.7 40.4 40.4

Alcohol Drugs

37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45
49 51 26.9 32.7 70.2 49 50 30.8 11.5

Emotional/Personal %

46 47 48 49 50
38.5 1.92 23.1 8.65 14.4

Attitude/Orientation %

51 52 53 54
21.2 22.1 10.6 11.5

DUBLIN B – Client Risk and Need Profile

Sample 189 (Males 155, Females 30, Gender could not be identified 4)

1) Risk - All

<u>Quartiles</u>	<u>Peter Raynor Classification</u>	
28+	Very High	9.0%
19 – 27	High	19.1%
9 – 18	Moderate	39.7%
8 and under	Low	32.3%

2) Risk - Males

<u>Quartiles</u>	<u>Peter Raynor Classification</u>	
27+	Very High	6.5%
18 – 26	High	19.4%
9 – 17	Moderate	42.6%
8 and under	Low	31.6%

3) Criminogenic Need

Criminal History %

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
60.7	49.7	38.7	29.3	31.9	33.5	5.24	13.1	14.7	25.7

Employment %

11	12	13	14
50.3	51.8	33.5	27.7

Education %

15	16	17
48.7	42.4	36.6

Finance %

21	22
47.6	54.5

Family/Marital %

23	24	25	26
32.5	29.3	26.7	20.9

Accommodation %

27	28	29
20.9	16.8	40.3

Leisure/Recreation %

30 31
50.3 50.8

Companions %

32 33 34 35 36
12.6 68.6 43.5 35.6 31.9

Alcohol Drugs

37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45
58.1 49.7 37.2 27.2 77.5 57.1 40.3 27.7 14.7

Emotional/Personal %

46 47 48 49 50
46.6 7.85 24.6 20.4 16.8

Attitude/Orientation %

51 52 53 54
21.5 18.3 15.7 11.5

DUBLIN C – Client Risk and Need Profile

Sample 116 (Males 91, Females 25)

1) Risk - All

Quartiles

24+
18 – 23
11 – 17
10 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 1.7%
High 15.5%
Moderate 56.9%
Low 25.9%

2) Risk -Males

Quartiles

24+
16 – 23
11 – 15
10 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 2.2%
High 15.4%
Moderate 55.0%
Low 27.5%

3) Criminogenic Need

Criminal History %

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
65.5	62.1	57.8	30.2	29.3	41.4	1.72	6.9	19.8	23.3

Employment %

11	12	13	14
55.2	46.6	31	17.2

Education %

15	16	17
58.6	44	40.5

Finance %

21	22
37.1	54.3

Family/Marital %

23	24	25	26
14.7	25	22.4	23.3

Accommodation %

27	28	29
15.5	5.17	50.9

Leisure/Recreation %

30 31
50.9 38.8

Companions %

32 33 34 35 36
8.62 64.7 47.4 34.5 34.5

Alcohol Drugs

37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45
53.4 48.3 28.4 25 62.9 49.1 27.6 22.4 10.3

Emotional/Personal %

46 47 48 49 50
19 2.59 15.5 12.1 5.17

Attitude/Orientation %

51 52 53 54
15.5 12.9 9.48 16.4

DUBLIN D – Client Risk and Need Profile

Sample 134 (Males 121, Females 12)

1) Risk - All

Quartiles

32+
24 – 31
12 – 23
11 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 11.9%
High 29.9%
Moderate 35.1%
Low 23.1%

2) Males

Quartiles

33+
24 – 32
12 – 23
11 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 11.5%
High 32.0%
Moderate 35.3%
Low 21.3%

3) Criminogenic Need

Criminal History %

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
74.1	65.9	56.3	25.2	42.2	47.4	7.41	28.9	25.2	53.3

Employment %

11	12	13	14
59.3	57.8	35.6	22.2

Education %

15	16	17
59.3	54.1	45.9

Finance %

21	22
46.7	62.2

Family/Marital %

23	24	25	26
25.9	26.7	23	46.7

Accommodation %

27	28	29
23.7	14.8	59.3

Leisure/Recreation %

30 31
59.3 52.6

Companions %

32 33 34 35 36
14.1 69.6 58.5 43 45.2

Alcohol Drugs

37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45
57 68.1 22.2 31.1 74.8 60 48.9 33.3 16.3

Emotional/Personal %

46 47 48 49 50
46.7 7.41 23 14.1 24.4

Attitude/Orientation %

51 52 53 54
24.4 19.3 23.7 20.7

NON-DUBLIN A – Client Risk and Need Profile

Sample 121 (Males 99, Females 22)

All

Quartiles

17+
11 – 16
6 – 10
5 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 2.5%
High 7.4%
Moderate 40.2%
Low 50.0%

Males

Quartiles

20+
12 – 19
6 – 11
5 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 3.0%
High 9.1%
Moderate 42.4%
Low 45.5%

3) Criminogenic Need

Criminal History %

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
44.26	33.61	22.13	11.48	7.377	16.39	2.459	1.639	2.459	25.41

Employment %

11	12	13	14
40.98	30.33	21.31	13.93

Education %

15	16	17
46.72	41.8	26.23

Finance %

21	22
26.23	45.9

Family/Marital %

23	24	25	26
16.39	17.21	14.75	22.13

Accommodation %

27	28	29
15.57	6.557	10.66

Leisure/Recreation %

30	31
39.34	26.23

Companions %

32 33 34 35 36
11.48 51.64 36.89 18.03 17.21

Alcohol Drugs

37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45
43.44 38.52 27.05 18.03 64.75 31.97 21.31 22.95 13.11

Emotional/Personal %

46 47 48 49 50
24.59 4.918 18.03 18.85 13.11

Attitude/Orientation %

51 52 53 54
14.75 13.11 5.738 4.098

NON-DUBLIN B – Client Risk and Need Profile

Sample 38 (Males 31, Females 7)

All

Quartiles

20+
14 – 19
7 - 13
6 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 2.7%
High 13.5%
Moderate 51.4%
Low 32.4%

Males

Quartiles

20+
14 – 19
7 - 13
6 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 3.2%
High 12.9%
Moderate 51.6%
Low 32.6%

3) Criminogenic Need

Criminal History %

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
44.74	28.95	21.05	23.68	13.16	15.79	5.263	5.263	10.53	21.05

Employment %

11	12	13	14
50	34.21	23.68	28.95

Education %

15	16	17
36.84	42.11	23.68

Finance %

21	22
26.32	39.47

Family/Marital %

23	24	25	26
21.05	28.95	15.79	28.95

Accommodation %

27	28	29
13.16	10.53	23.68

Leisure/Recreation %

30	31
57.89	34.21

Companions %

32 33 34 35 36
5.263 63.16 52.63 34.21 39.47

Alcohol Drugs

37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45
52.63 31.58 28.95 13.16 68.42 44.74 36.84 34.21 5.263

Emotional/Personal %

46 47 48 49 50
44.74 2.632 23.68 15.79 15.79

Attitude/Orientation %

51 52 53 54
21.05 15.79 15.79 10.53

NON-DUBLIN C – Client Risk and Need Profile

Sample 122 (Males 106, Females 15, Gender could not be identified 7)

All

Quartiles

24+
18 – 23
11 – 17
10 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 1.7%
High 15.5%
Moderate 56.9%
Low 25.9%

Males

Quartiles

24+
16 – 23
11 – 15
10 and under

Peter Raynor Classification

Very High 2.2%
High 15.4%
Moderate 55.0%
Low 27.5%

3) Criminogenic Need

Criminal History %

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
53.85	50	41.54	25.38	29.23	32.31	6.154	10.77	17.69	39.23

Employment %

11	12	13	14
58.46	46.92	30.77	23.85

Education %

15	16	17
56.15	47.69	29.23

Finance %

21	22
39.23	50

Family/Marital %

23	24	25	26
28.46	31.54	29.23	28.46

Accommodation %

27	28	29
15.38	14.62	31.54

Leisure/Recreation %

30	31
65.38	50

Companions %

32 33 34 35 36
13.85 68.46 56.92 33.08 29.23

Alcohol Drugs

37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45
60.77 51.54 37.69 36.15 74.62 53.08 37.69 20 12.31

Emotional/Personal %

46 47 48 49 50
25.38 3.846 18.46 10.77 10.77

Attitude/Orientation %

51 52 53 54
28.46 24.62 22.31 23.08

NON-DUBLIN D – Client Risk and Need Profile

Sample 144 (Males 99, Females 40)

All

<u>Quartiles</u>	<u>Peter Raynor Classification</u>	
26+	Very High	5.6%
17 – 25	High	16.0%
7 – 16	Moderate	43.8%
6 and under	Low	34.7%

Males

<u>Quartiles</u>	<u>Peter Raynor Classification</u>	
26+	Very High	4.0%
17 – 25	High	19.2%
7 – 16	Moderate	43.4%
6 and under	Low	33.4%

Females

<u>Quartiles</u>	<u>Peter Raynor Classification</u>	
25+	Very High	10.0%
16 – 24	High	10.0%
7 – 15	Moderate	40.0%
6 and under	Low	40.0%

3) Criminogenic Need

Criminal History %

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
47.92	43.06	34.03	29.86	15.97	33.33	0.694	2.778	14.58	28.47

Employment %

11	12	13	14
50	47.22	33.33	20.14

Education %

15	16	17
56.94	52.78	29.17

Finance %

21	22
47.22	54.17

Family/Marital %

23	24	25	26
37.5	31.94	31.25	29.17

Accommodation %

27 28 29
18.75 14.58 18.75

Leisure/Recreation %

30 31
63.89 54.86

Companions %

32 33 34 35 36
27.08 63.19 53.47 28.47 27.78

Alcohol Drugs

37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45
50 36.11 29.86 20.83 64.58 40.28 29.17 22.22 10.42

Emotional/Personal %

46 47 48 49 50
38.19 3.472 25 20.83 13.19

Attitude/Orientation %

51 52 53 54
17.36 18.06 15.97 17.36