

## Key Findings

Between September 2014 and December 2015, school children aged 12 to 15 in Birmingham and Sheffield took part in the UPYC survey. The survey asked young people (YP) about their everyday lives and experiences of being a victim of crime and being involved in crime. This booklet presents some of the findings from the study.

367 pupils took part from 11 schools in Birmingham and 533 pupils took part from 8 schools in Sheffield.

## Personal and social wellbeing

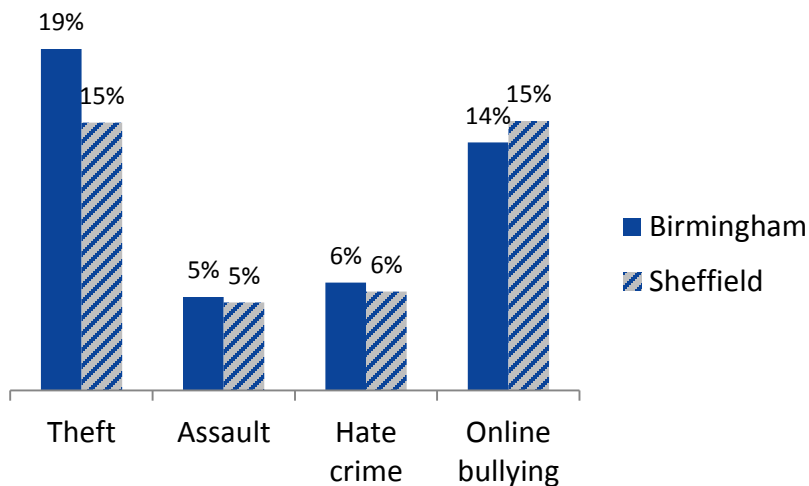
### Experience of being a victim of crime or misbehaviour

Figure 1 shows that:

- Around 4 in 20 YP in Birmingham and 3 in 20 YP in Sheffield had something stolen from them in the last year.
- 5% of YP in the cities had been assaulted in the last year and 6% of YP had been threatened with or experienced violence because of their religion, language, skin colour or background (hate crime).
- 14% of YP in Birmingham and 15% of YP in Sheffield had experienced online bullying in the past year.

Girls were more likely to have experienced online bullying than boys (18% of girls versus 10% of boys).

**Figure 1: YP's experience of crime**



## Wellbeing

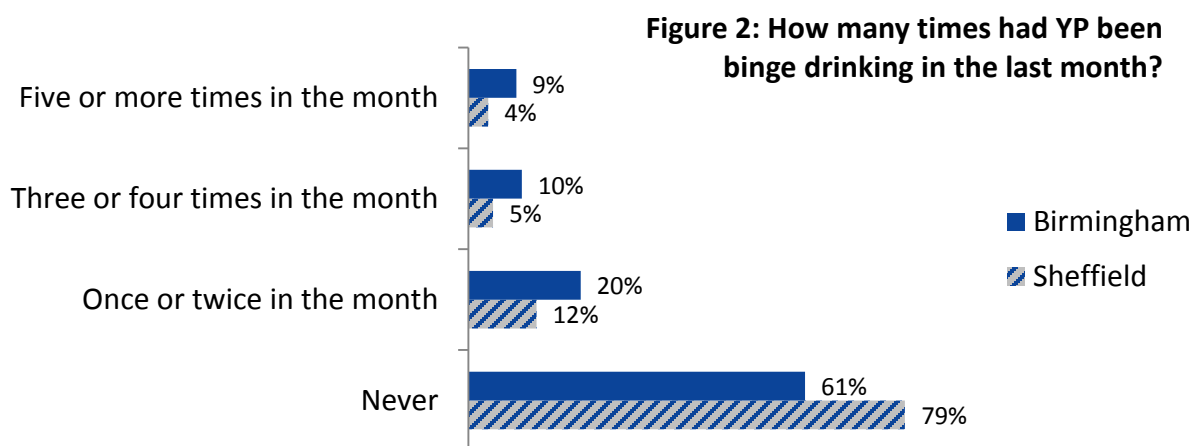
- Out of every 15 pupils, 10 said they had been either happy or very happy most of the time in the last six months, 4 had experienced ups and downs, and 1 said they had been either unhappy or very unhappy.



- Many pupils had experienced difficult events in their lifetime. Just under half of YP (51%) surveyed had experienced the serious illness of a someone close to them, 13% of YP had seen serious conflicts between their parents, 8% had witnessed violence between their parents and 6% had a parent with alcohol or drug problems.
- YP in Birmingham, particularly boys, were more likely to report being happy than YP in Sheffield. 79% of boys in Birmingham reported being happy in comparison to 69% of girls; 70% of boys in Sheffield reported being happy in comparison to 54% of girls.

## Alcohol use

- Just over a fifth of YP (22%) had drunk alcohol in the last month: 26% of girls and 19% of boys. Not surprisingly, alcohol use increased with age: 13% of YP in Year 8 had drunk alcohol in the last month compared with 23% of Year 9 pupils and 31% of Year 10 pupils.
- YP were then asked how many times they had had five or more drinks on *one* occasion in the last month, that is, how many times had they been binge drinking. Figure 2 shows that 9% of YP in Birmingham and 4% of YP in Sheffield had been binge drinking five or more times in the last month (more than once a week).



- Older pupils were more likely to have been binge drinking: 13% of Year 8 pupils, 22% of Year 9 pupils, and 36% of Year 10 pupils.

# Citizenship

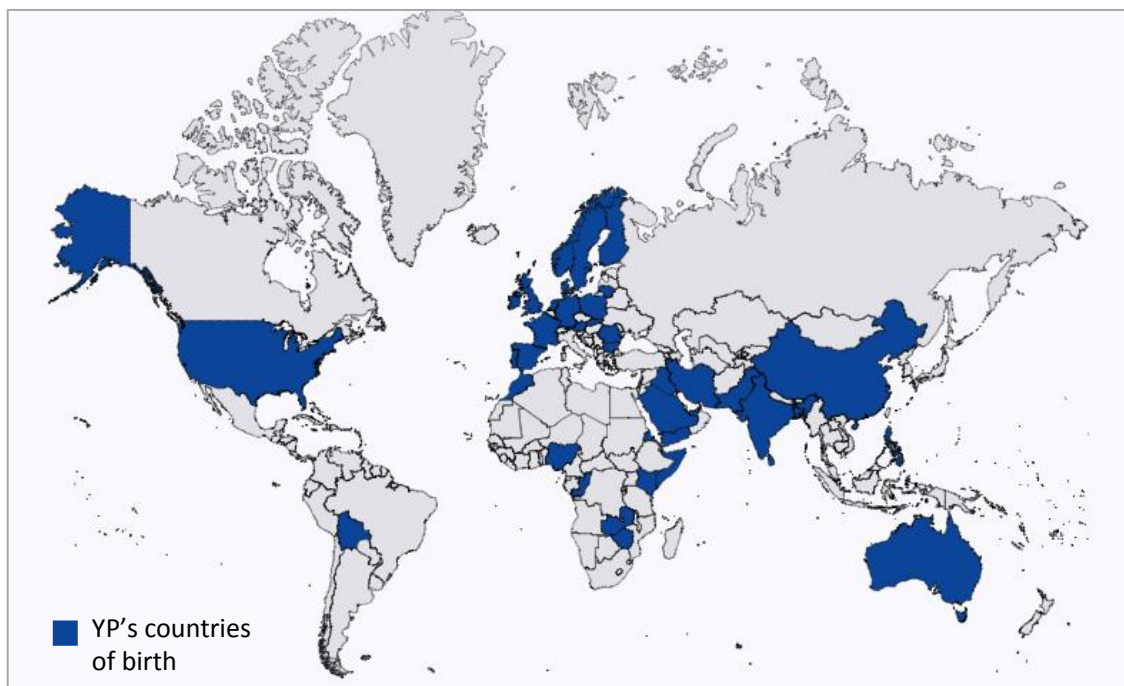
## Safety in neighbourhood

- Around three quarters of YP thought that many of their neighbours knew them (78%) and that people were willing to help their neighbours (75%).
- About a quarter of YP thought there was a lot of crime in their neighbourhood (27%).



## Recognising and valuing diversity

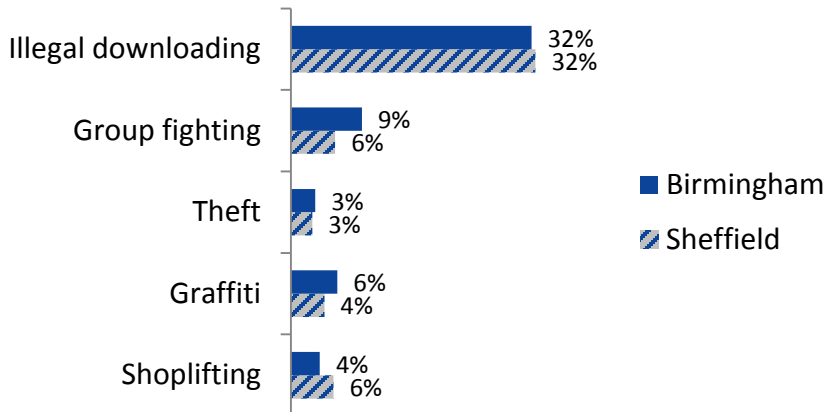
- YP who took part in the study represented a broad range of nationalities – although most children were born in England (87%), the remainder were born in 47 different countries from around the globe (see map).
- 64% of YP's mothers and 57% of YP's fathers were born in England.



## Involvement in crime

- Over half of the YP (54%) surveyed had never taken part in a crime. When we excluded illegally downloading music or films from the internet, this figure rose to 80%.
- 7% of YP had committed two or more offences in the last year (not including illegal downloads). Figure 3 presents the percentage of YP in Birmingham and Sheffield who reported carrying out different types of offending in the last year.

**Figure 3: Offending in the last year**



## Relationships with the police

- YP in Years 9 and 10 were asked about their views on the police. 5 out of 10 YP (49%) in Birmingham and 6 out of 10 YP (60%) in Sheffield thought the police treated people equally when victims reported crimes, regardless of their race, ethnicity or birthplace.
- 31% of YP in Birmingham and 29% of YP in Sheffield thought the police often or always treated YP with respect. Around 55% of YP in both cities thought the police sometimes treated YP with respect and about 15% of YP thought the police never treated YP with respect.
- All YP surveyed were asked if they had ever been stopped and searched by the police.



Around 1 in 20 YP (5%) in Birmingham had been stopped and searched.



Around 2 in 20 YP (10%) in Sheffield had been stopped and searched.

- Stop and search increased with age: 6% of YP in Year 8 had been stopped in comparison with 11% of YP in Year 10.

# School life

## Bond with school

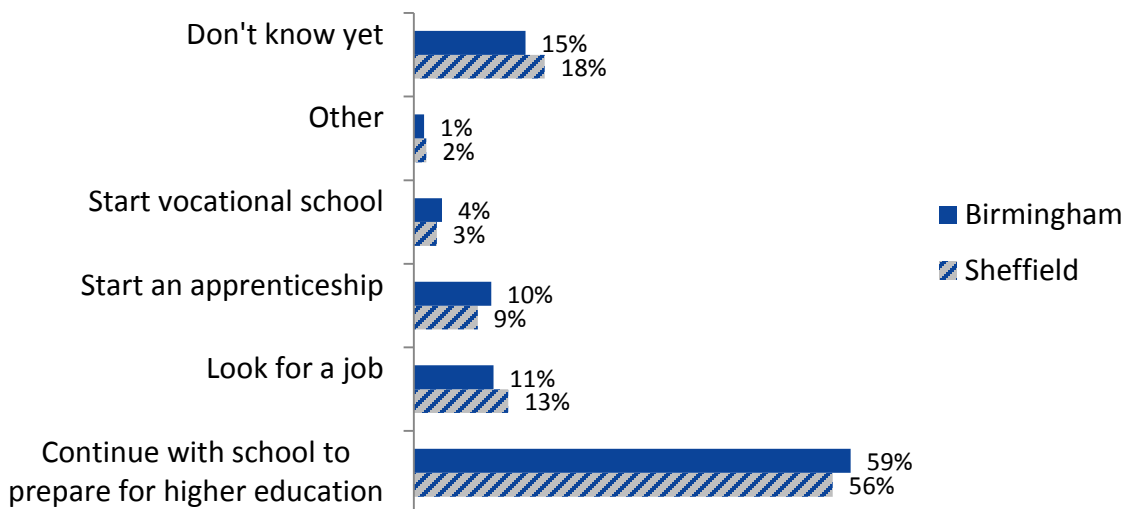
- Most YP said that they liked their school (75% in Birmingham and 73% in Sheffield) and found their classes interesting (64% in Birmingham and 61% in Sheffield).
- Younger pupils were more likely to say they liked their school: 80% of YP in Year 8 responded positively compared to 75% of Year 9 pupils and 66% of Year 10 pupils.



## Intentions on leaving school

- Figure 4 shows that around 6 out of 10 YP surveyed said they intended to stay on at school after the age of compulsory education.
- Girls were more likely to say they planned to stay on at school than boys (61% of girls versus 54% of boys).

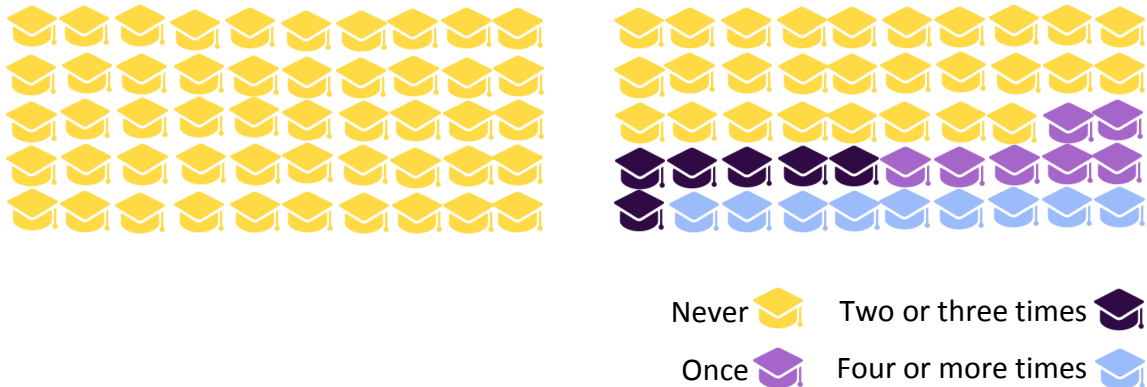
**Figure 4: Intentions after leaving compulsory schooling**



## Truancy

- YP were asked if they had ever stayed away from school for at least a whole day without a proper reason. 78% of YP said they had never been truant from school in the last year.
- Truancy rates were similar for boys and girls. Pupils in S3 and S4 were more likely to be truant than those in S2.

### Truancy per 100 students in the last year across all age groups and both cities



## More about the study



An electronic version of this booklet, and a similar one for Scotland, can be found at [www.icpr.org.uk](http://www.icpr.org.uk). The final report comparing results for Scotland, England, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the US will be published on the ICPR website in February 2017.

UPYC is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

UPYC is part of a much larger international study – the International Self-Report Delinquency (ISR3) survey – in which 35 countries are taking part. You can find further details about the ISR3 at [www.northeastern.edu/isrd/isrd3/](http://www.northeastern.edu/isrd/isrd3/).

More information on the survey's method can be found in the ISR3 technical report for England and Scotland on the ICPR website.



This booklet was produced by L. Herlitz, S. McVie, M. Hough, and K. Murray, 18.7.16.  
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