

# Registrar General Northern Ireland Annual Report 2013

November 2014



An Agency within the Department of

**Finance and  
Personnel**

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## The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

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- administer the marriage laws and to provide a system for the civil registration of births, marriages, civil partnerships, adoptions and deaths in Northern Ireland.

NISRA can be found on the internet at [www.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.nisra.gov.uk)

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Ninety-Second  
Annual Report  
of the  
Registrar General  
2013

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by the  
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27 November 2014

This report has been prepared by the  
Demography and Methodology Branch of the  
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.  
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## Foreword

I have pleasure in presenting my ninety-second Annual Report to the Northern Ireland Assembly. The report outlines the work of the General Register Office and provides a demographic overview of Northern Ireland during 2013. As a supplement to the report, detailed statistical tables can be found on the attached compact disc and on the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) website ([www.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.nisra.gov.uk)).

Chapter 1 presents comprehensive information on population, migration and civil registrations in Northern Ireland. Almost 49,000 key events such as births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships were registered in District Registration Offices during 2013. Registration is a vital service in establishing identity, providing information to support the delivery of public services and a host of other applications. Furthermore, civil registration is vital for genealogy, the study of family history, permitting identification of ancestors and familial relationships.

Chapter 2 of the report provides further information on the history of genealogy and discusses the main objectives and outputs of genealogical research. In November 2013, the General Register Office launched a website enabling customers to apply online for certified copies of civil registration records. In addition, due to the increasing popularity of genealogy, a new online service for searching family history was introduced in spring 2014.

I welcome comments on the format and content of this Annual Report, which I trust you will find both informative and useful.



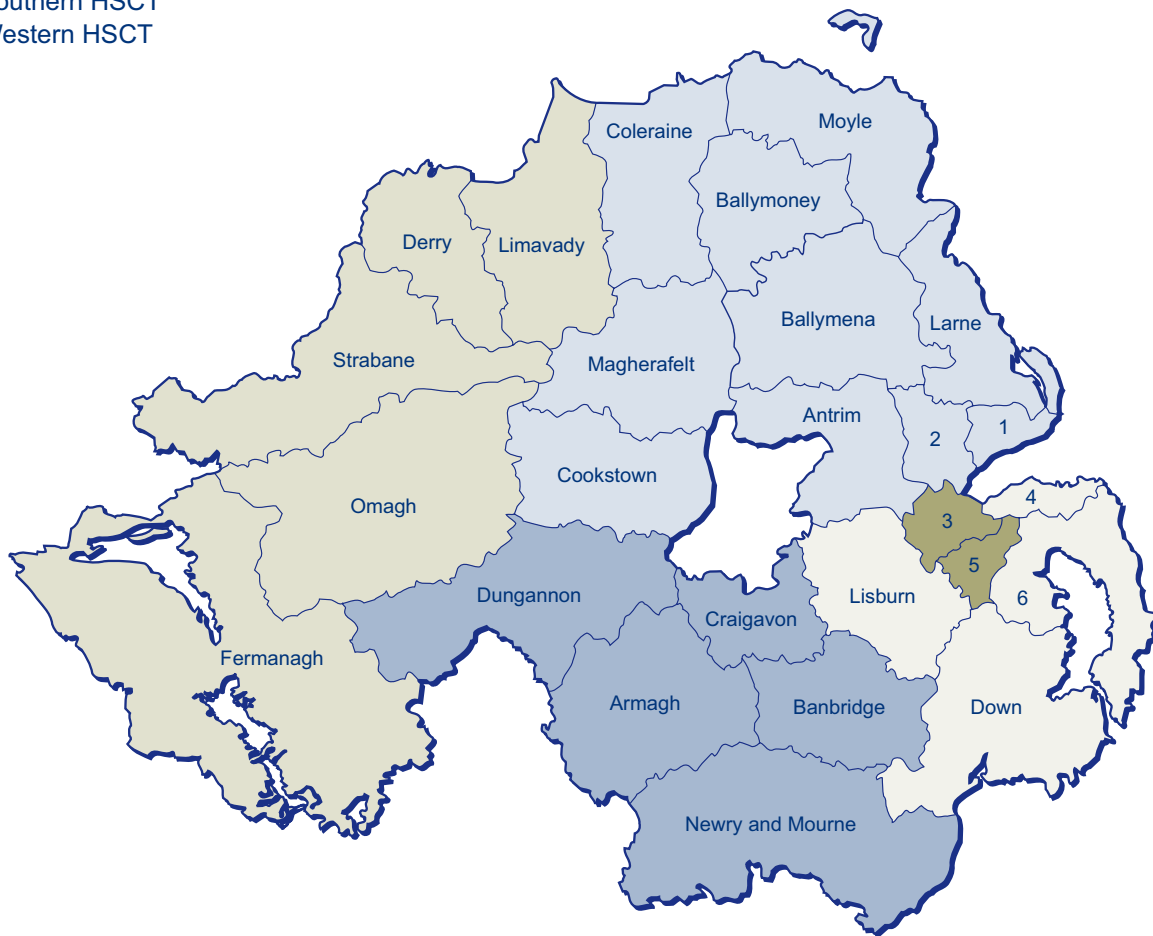
**Norman Caven**

Registrar General for Northern Ireland

November 2014

# Northern Ireland's Health & Social Care Trusts and Local Government Districts

- Belfast HSCT
- Northern HSCT
- South Eastern HSCT
- Southern HSCT
- Western HSCT



- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. Carrickfergus | 4. North Down  |
| 2. Newtownabbey  | 5. Castlereagh |
| 3. Belfast       | 6. Ards        |

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## Chapter 1

### Demographic Overview of Northern Ireland





## 1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 The number of people living in Northern Ireland continues to rise and at 30 June 2013 stood at 1,829,700, representing an increase of 6,100 people (0.33 per cent) since mid 2012. This increase in population was due to significantly more births (24,500) than deaths (15,000) in the period mid-2012 to mid-2013, giving rise to a natural increase in population of 9,600 people. Additionally, migration into Northern Ireland was lower than migration out of Northern Ireland, leading to a net loss of 2,300 people. There was also a net loss of 1,100 due to a reduction in Her Majesty's Forces stationed in Northern Ireland.

1.1.2 The annual rate of population increase has not been uniform over the last decade. In the period between mid-2004 and mid-2009, the average annual rate of population increase was 0.91 per cent, due in part to large flows of people coming to Northern Ireland to live, particularly from the A8<sup>1</sup> countries. This was nearly double the annual rate of increase in the period mid-2001 to mid-2004 (0.50 per cent). Population change between mid-2010 and mid-2013 has been dominated by natural change and a return to a position of net out migration, similar to that seen in the period between mid-1996 and mid-2001.

1.1.3 In terms of civilian migration it is estimated that in the year to mid-2013, some 23,100 people came to Northern Ireland to live whereas 25,400 people left Northern Ireland to live elsewhere, giving rise to net out migration of 2,300 people.

1.1.4 In 2013, there were 24,277 births registered to Northern Ireland mothers, a decrease of almost 1,000 on the 2012 figure of 25,269 births. Despite this decrease in 2013 (and previously in 2012), the general trend in births over the past decade has been one of increasing

birth registrations, from a record low of 21,385 births in 2002. The 2013 figure of 24,277 births is, however, still lower than the number of births registered thirty or forty years ago. For example, the number of births registered in Northern Ireland in 1983 (27,026 births) was 11 per cent higher than the number registered in 2013. Moreover, the peak of 34,345 births registered in 1964 was 29 per cent (10,068 births) higher than the number of births registered in 2013.

1.1.5 In 2013 there were 14,968 deaths registered in Northern Ireland, an increase of 212 deaths or 1.4 per cent on the 14,756 deaths registered in 2012. The lowest death rate in the history of Northern Ireland was in 2011 (7.8 deaths per 1,000 population). In 2013 this rate increased slightly to 8.2 deaths per 1,000 population.

1.1.6 Some 8,126 marriages were registered in Northern Ireland during 2013. While this represents a 4.2 per cent decrease on the 2012 figure of 8,480 marriages, it was notably lower (34 per cent) than the peak of 12,297 marriages recorded in 1970.

1.1.7 There were 2,403 divorces granted in 2013, representing a 1.7 per cent decrease from the 2012 figure of 2,444 divorces. The number of divorces recorded in 2007 (2,913) was the largest on record for Northern Ireland.

1.1.8 On 5 December 2005 the Civil Partnership Act came into force across the United Kingdom, enabling same-sex couples to obtain legal recognition of their relationship. Between December 2005 and the end of 2013, some 827 civil partnerships were registered in Northern Ireland. During 2013, a total of 100 civil partnerships were registered in Northern Ireland, 46 of which were of males and 54 of which were of females.

---

1 The A8 countries are the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. Malta and Cyprus also joined the EU on 1 May 2004 but are considered separately from the A8 countries as they have full free movement rights to work throughout the EU.

1.1.9 Whilst since late 2005 the Civil Partnership Act has made provision to dissolve a Civil Partnership, no such dissolutions were registered in Northern Ireland until 2010. During 2013 there were 10 civil partnership dissolutions registered in Northern Ireland, the same number as was recorded in 2012. Seven of the civil partnership dissolutions in 2013 were of female partners, whereas 3 were of male partners.

## Key Points

### Population and Migration

- In the year to 30 June 2013, the resident population of Northern Ireland rose by 6,100 people (0.33 per cent) to 1,829,700.
- Between 2001 and 2004 the population of Northern Ireland grew, on average, by 8,400 people (0.50 per cent) each year. This increase was due to natural change (i.e. more births than deaths) with little change in the size of the population due to migration.
- The European Union expansion in 2004 however resulted in increased migration to Northern Ireland, reaching a peak in 2007 when net migration to Northern Ireland was estimated to be 10,900 people. Since then, net migration to Northern Ireland has gradually reduced and indeed since mid-2011 Northern Ireland has been experiencing net out migration.
- The population increase in the year to mid-2013 (6,100 people) is driven by the excess of the number of births over the number of deaths (natural change of 9,600 people), which more than compensated for the net population loss due to migration (2,300 people) and the reduction in Her Majesty's Forces stationed in Northern Ireland (1,100 people).
- In terms of civilian migration it is estimated that in the year to mid-2013, the number of people coming to Northern Ireland (23,100 people) was lower than the number of people

leaving Northern Ireland (25,400 people), giving rise to net out migration of 2,300 people.

### Births

- In 2013, there were 24,277 births registered to Northern Ireland mothers, almost 1,000 fewer than in 2012 (25,269 births) and 2,749 fewer (10.2 per cent) than was the case 30 years ago in 1983.
- The number of births to teenage mothers has been generally declining from 1,791 births in 1999 to a record low of 937 in 2013.
- In 2013, 20 per cent of all live births were to mothers aged 35 and over. This contrasts with the position twenty years previously when 11 per cent of births were to mothers aged 35 and over.
- Fertility has not reached replacement level (i.e. 2.10 children on average per woman) since 1991. In 2013, fertility levels fell to 1.96 children per woman from 2.03 in 2012.
- In 2013, 378 sets of twins and 5 sets of triplets were born.
- In 2013, 10.1 per cent of births were to mothers born outside the UK and Ireland, the highest on record. By way of comparison, the corresponding figures for 2005 and 1997 were 5.0 per cent and 2.4 per cent respectively.

### Deaths/Stillbirths

- Some 14,968 deaths were registered in Northern Ireland during 2013, an increase of 212 deaths (1.4 per cent) on the 14,756 deaths that were registered in 2012.
- The expectation of life at birth for males and females based on mortality rates of recent years were 78.0 and 82.3 years respectively. The corresponding figures for men and women 30 years ago were lower at 69.8 and 76.0 years respectively.
- In 2013, the 2 most common causes of death were cancer and diseases of the

circulatory system. Indeed more than two-thirds of all deaths in 2013 can be attributed to three causes, namely cancer (4,230 deaths – 28 per cent of deaths), diseases of the circulatory system (3,917 deaths – 26 per cent of deaths) and diseases of the respiratory system (2,124 deaths – 14 per cent of deaths).

- There were 4.5 stillbirths per 1,000 births (live and still) in 2013, a substantial reduction from the 20.5 stillbirths per 1,000 births that occurred in the early 1960's.
- There has also been a noticeable fall in the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births since the early 1960's (down from 26.5 to 4.6 in 2013). The 2013 figure represents a slight increase on the 2012 figure of 3.6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, which was the lowest infant death rate on record in Northern Ireland.

### **Marriages/Divorces**

- There were 8,126 marriages celebrated in 2013, 4.2 per cent fewer than in 2012 (8,480 marriages) and notably lower than the peak of 12,297 marriages recorded in 1970.
- In January 2004, marriage legislation was reformed in Northern Ireland. The new law allowed civil marriage ceremonies to be conducted outside Registrar's Offices in a number of approved venues. In 2013, some 1,211 civil marriage ceremonies (48 per cent of all civil marriage ceremonies) were held in approved venues other than Registrar's Offices.
- Some 2,403 divorces were granted in 2013. This represents a 1.7 per cent decrease on the number of divorces in 2012 (2,444) and is notably lower than the peak of 2,913 divorces in 2007.

### **Civil Partnerships/Dissolutions**

- The Civil Partnership Act came into force in late 2005, enabling same-sex couples to obtain legal recognition of their relationship. A total of 827 civil partnerships have been registered in Northern Ireland between December 2005 and the end of 2013.
- 100 Civil Partnerships (46 of males; 54 of females) were registered during 2013, which was comparable to the overall annual average of 102 since Civil Partnerships were introduced. Ten Civil Partnerships were dissolved in 2013, which aligns with the corresponding number in 2012.

## 1.2 Population

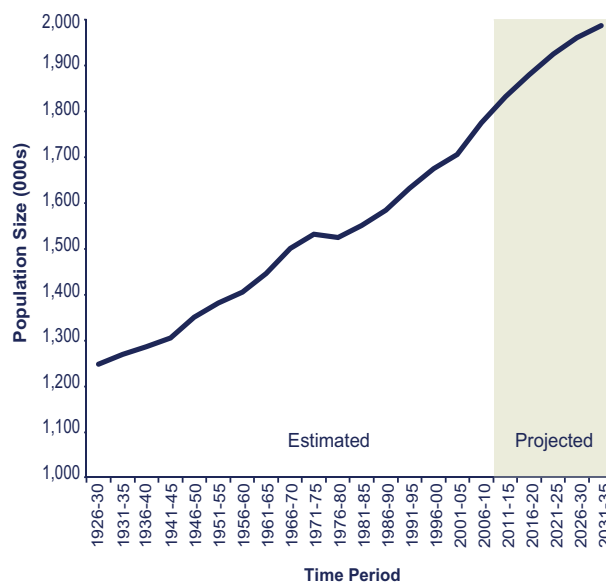
1.2.1 The latest estimate of the size of the Northern Ireland population<sup>2</sup> (30 June 2013) is 1,829,700 people. In terms of age, 21 per cent of the population were aged under 16 years, 64 per cent were aged 16 to 64, with the remaining 15 per cent of the population aged 65 and over.

1.2.2 In the 12 months to 30 June 2013, Northern Ireland's population is estimated to have risen by 6,100 people, the lowest annual population growth since the 12 months ending June 2001. Whilst natural growth (i.e. births minus deaths) added 9,600 people to the population, there were more people leaving Northern Ireland (25,400) than arriving (23,100), leading to a net loss of population of 2,300 through migration. Other changes, including Her Majesty's Forces stationed in Northern Ireland, accounted for a further population decrease of 1,100 persons.

1.2.3 Figure 1.1 shows the long term trend of increasing population, despite a slight decrease in population in the early 1970's as a result of high levels of net outward migration at that time. The latest population projections for Northern Ireland (2012-based) show that the population is projected to continue to increase, exceeding 1.9 million in 2020 and 2.0 million persons in 2036.

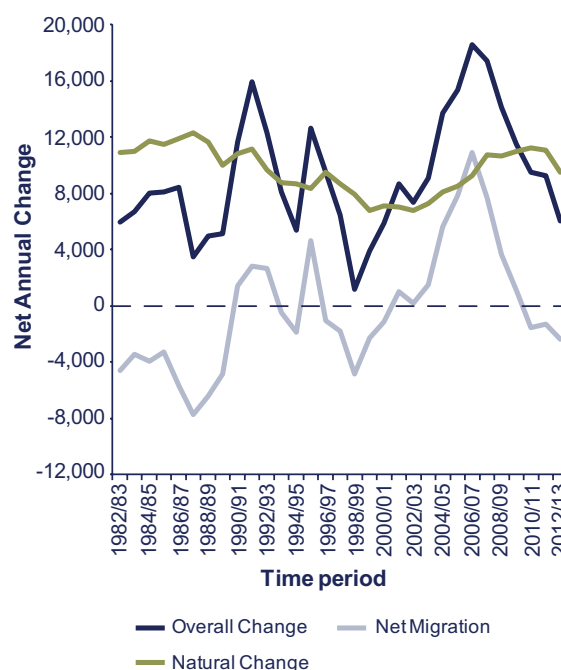
1.2.4 It can be seen from the trends in natural change and net migration presented in Figure 1.2 that, up to 2005, population increase was mostly due to natural change. In contrast, in 2006 the contributions to population increase from natural change and migration were of a similar magnitude. In 2007 the contribution from migration was larger than the contribution from natural change. Since then, net migration has gradually reduced and fallen below zero by mid 2011, indicating that more people left Northern Ireland than came here to live.

**Figure 1.1: Estimated (1926-2013) and projected (2014-2035) Population of Northern Ireland – non-zero y-axis**



[Download Chart](#) (XLS Format – 261Kb)

**Figure 1.2: Components of population change (1982-83 to 2012-13)**



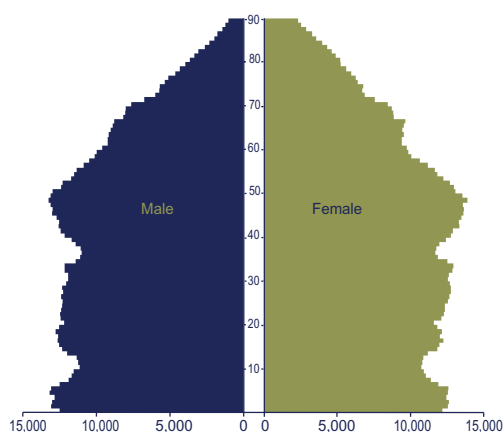
[Download Chart](#) (XLS Format – 209Kb)

<sup>2</sup> Reports and statistics are available at <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp17.htm>

## Age and Sex Structure

1.2.5 Figure 1.3 presents the age structure of the Northern Ireland population as at mid-2013. Females outnumber males in Northern Ireland, and make up 51 per cent of the population. The age structure of Northern Ireland's population continues to get older due to a 20 year period of below replacement level fertility<sup>3</sup> (from 1992 to 2013) and continued increasing life expectancy.

**Figure 1.3: Northern Ireland population pyramid by sex and age (2013)**



[Download Chart](#) (XLS Format – 157Kb)

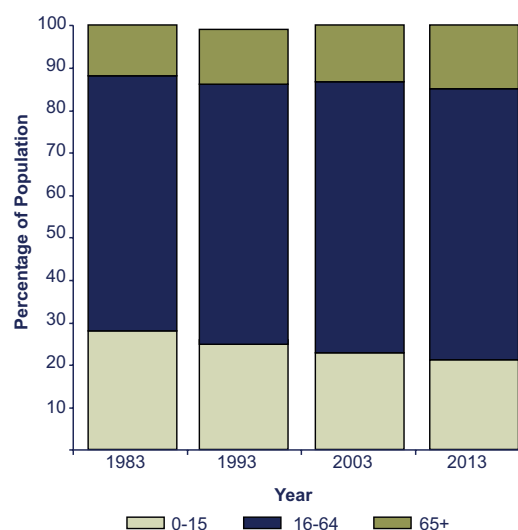
1.2.6 During the twelve months to June 2013, the number of children aged 0 to 15 years increased by 0.12 per cent, the number of people aged 16 to 64 decreased by 0.06 per cent while the older population (those aged 65 and over) increased by 2.31 per cent. This compares to an overall population increase of 0.33 per cent. In the decade to 2004, the overall annual rate of population increase was around 7,000 persons (equivalent to 0.42 per cent each year). Between mid-2004 and mid 2009, increases were significantly larger, averaging at 0.91 per cent each year.

1.2.7 Over the past thirty years, lower fertility levels have resulted in a decrease in the number of children aged 0 to 15 years (12 per cent decrease).

<sup>3</sup> In western countries a total period fertility rate of 2.1 live births per female over her lifetime is required to maintain long-term population levels.

In contrast, the number of people aged 16 to 64 has increased by 26 per cent; and the older population (those aged 65 and over) has increased by 48 per cent. The changing age structure of the population since 1983 is illustrated in Figure 1.4.

**Figure 1.4: Changing age structure of Northern Ireland population (1983 to 2013)**



[Download Chart](#) (XLS Format – 151Kb)

## Estimates of the Population aged 85 and over

1.2.8 1.2.7. In June 2013, 33,300 people (1.8 per cent of the population) were aged 85 years or over. This number has increased by 600 people (1.7 per cent) in the period between July 2012 and June 2013. Within the population aged 85 and over women significantly outnumber men, accounting for 68 per cent of this population group.

1.2.9 More detailed statistics of the population aged 85 and over in Northern Ireland are available for the period 2001 to 2013<sup>4</sup>, providing estimates by sex and single year of age. It is estimated that in June 2013 there were 233 centenarians (those aged 100 and over) living in Northern Ireland, with the number of centenarians living in Northern Ireland having increased by 82 per cent since June 2003.

<sup>4</sup> Estimates of the Population Aged 85 and Over, Northern Ireland 2013 (& Revised 2001-2012) is available at [http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/OldestOld/85\\_Report0113.pdf](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/OldestOld/85_Report0113.pdf)

### **Area Comparisons within Northern Ireland**

1.2.10 The pattern of continuing population growth is evident within the majority of Northern Ireland's 26 Local Government Districts. All Local Government Districts experienced a natural increase of population (more births than deaths) between mid-2012 and mid-2013. The largest natural increase of population was in Belfast Local Government District, adding 1,300 people, however, this was somewhat offset by a population loss of 500 persons through migration.

1.2.11 Between 2012 and 2013 Craigavon Local Government District had the greatest increase in population (0.93 per cent). Other Local Government Districts with population growth rates at least twice the Northern Ireland percentage increase (0.33 per cent) are Dungannon (0.83 per cent), Magherafelt (0.82 per cent) and Newry and Mourne (0.75 per cent).

1.2.12 In 2013, Newry & Mourne was the Local Government District with the highest proportion of children aged 0 to 15 among its population (24 per cent), while North Down had the smallest proportion (19 per cent). In 2013, North Down Local Government District had the highest proportion of older people aged 65 and over (19 per cent) and Derry Local Government District had the smallest proportion (13 per cent).



## 1.3 Migration

1.3.1 Measures of population movement or migration are based on the United Nations definition of a long-term international migrant<sup>5</sup>. This definition is in use in population statistics for countries across the European Union. Unlike some other European countries, there is no comprehensive system which registers population movement in the United Kingdom. Therefore, estimates of population movement into, and out of, Northern Ireland are derived from proxy indicators. In Northern Ireland the primary source for estimating this is family doctor registrations. At the Northern Ireland level, the overall effect of population movement is derived from the difference in two “population flows”: the number of people coming to live in Northern Ireland and the number of people leaving Northern Ireland to live elsewhere.

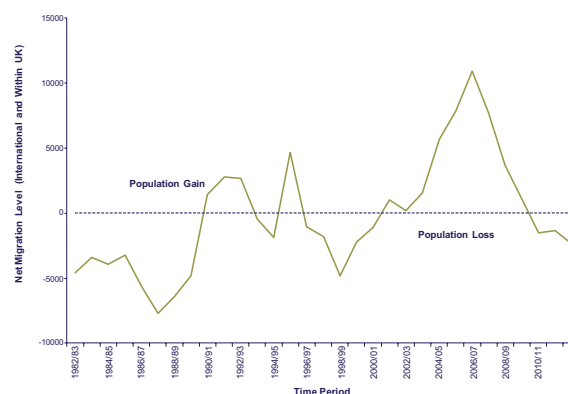
1.3.2 Estimates of net migration for Northern Ireland since the early 1980’s are shown in Figure 1.5. The graph can be viewed in terms of three distinct phases of migration. The first phase during the 1980’s was when Northern Ireland experienced consistently large net population loss due to population movement (or out-migration) approaching 10,000 people in some years. Clearly, the impact of “The Troubles” is significant here.

1.3.3 The second phase from the early 1990’s until 2004 shows population movement has been in balance, with broadly the same number of people coming to live in Northern Ireland as leaving. Over this period it is estimated that each year around 20,000 people have come to live in Northern Ireland and 20,000 left. However, in the third phase since 2004, the number of people estimated to have come here to live rose to, on average, 39,300 persons each year between mid-2004 and mid-2008. This indicates a marked increase in international inflows and is related to the enlargement of the European Union in May

2004, when people from countries in Eastern Europe were allowed to come to work in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

1.3.4 The population increase of 0.33 per cent in 2012 to 2013 is dominated by natural change and a return to a position of modest net out migration, similar to that seen in the late 1990’s and early 2000s, mainly due to increased migration out of Northern Ireland. Between July 2012 and June 2013, there were more people leaving Northern Ireland (25,400) than coming here to live (23,100) hence this was the third successive 12 month period with modest net out migration.

**Figure 1.5: Estimated level of net migration (1982-83 to 2012-13)**



[Download Chart](#) (XLS Format – 170Kb)

### Place of Origin/Destination of People Coming to/ Leaving Northern Ireland (2012-13)

1.3.5 Table 1.1 shows where people coming to Northern Ireland last lived. Of the 23,100 people who came to live here during 2012/13, around 55 per cent (12,700) came from outside the United Kingdom, 4,300 of whom came from recent EU Accession countries<sup>6</sup> that joined the European Union since May 2004.

5 A person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least a year, so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence.” - Taken from “Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration. UN 1998” available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?ID=116>

6 These countries include Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, which joined on 1 May 2004, as well as Bulgaria and Romania (members since 1 January 2007) and Croatia (member since 1 July 2013).

**Table 1.1: Number of people coming to live in Northern Ireland by country of last residence (2010 to 2013)**

Country of Last Residence	Number of people coming to live in Northern Ireland					
	(Mid-2010 to Mid-2011)		(Mid-2011 to Mid-2012)		(Mid-2012 to Mid-2013)	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
England and Wales	8,200	35	8,300	36	8,200	36
Scotland	2,100	9	2,000	9	2,100	9
Poland	2,200	9	2,100	9	2,200	9
Republic of Ireland	1,700	7	1,600	7	1,600	7
Lithuania	1,500	6	1,400	6	1,000	4
India	300	1	200	1	500	2
Latvia	500	2	400	2	500	2
China	700	3	600	3	500	2
Slovakia	500	2	400	2	500	2
USA	200	1	400	2	400	2
Portugal	300	1	400	2	400	2
All other EU Accession Countries	1,000	4	800	4	800	3
All other countries	3,800	16	3,400	15	3,500	15
Unknown	1,300	5	1,300	5	1,200	5
<b>Total Inflow</b>	<b>23,700</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>23,300</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>23,100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: HSC Business Services Organisation, August 2013, Health Card Registrations

1.3.6 Table 1.1 reflects where people coming to live here last lived, not their nationality. Thus some people coming from Great Britain or Ireland will be non-British/Irish nationals, and some people coming from outside the British Isles will be returning British/Irish nationals.

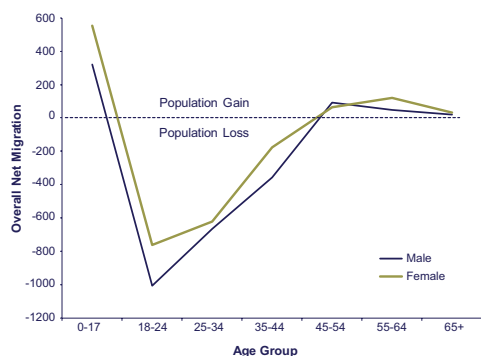
1.3.7 In contrast, looking at the 25,400 people who left Northern Ireland to live elsewhere between mid-2012 and mid 2013, 46 per cent went to the rest of the UK and the remainder (54 per cent) to countries outside the UK. Therefore, in total, it is estimated that 1,500 less people moved from Northern Ireland to live in the rest of the UK than

moved in the opposite direction. In total, 900 less people came to live here from outside the UK than moved in the opposite direction.

#### Age-Distribution of Migrants

1.3.8 Figure 1.6 shows the age and sex distribution of net migration in Northern Ireland for the period mid 2012 to mid 2013. There is still a net in migration gain for both males and females in the 0 to 17 age group and also in the 45 and over age group (although to a lesser extent). However, there is a large net outflow of those aged 18 to 44. This is generally speaking the most mobile population group.

**Figure 1.6: Net total migration by age group and gender (2012-13)**



[Download Chart](#) (XLS Format – 174Kb)

### Other Data Sources on Migration

1.3.9 1.3.9. As noted earlier, measuring migration is challenging. There are a number of sources available to count people coming to or leaving Northern Ireland. However the sources use different definitions of how, when and where migrants are recorded. That said, recent data from all administrative and statistical sources show that migration increased from mid-2004 onwards and then slowed down since mid-2007. The sources also give a consistent picture on which parts of Northern Ireland new migrants are working and living in.

1.3.10 From January to December 2013, some 10 per cent of all births (2,444) were to mothers born outside the UK and Ireland of which 1,257 births were to mothers from the 8 Central and Eastern European countries that joined the EU in 2004. The equivalent numbers of births in 2003 were 925 and 21 respectively.

1.3.11 The School Census (October 2013) shows that about 6,900 primary school children have a language other than English as their ‘first’ language. This accounts for around 4.2 per cent of the primary school population, and an increase of 15 per cent on the corresponding figure (6,000) for the previous year. For secondary school children, the number of pupils that have a language other

than English as their ‘first’ language remained constant (around 2,500 pupils or 1.7 per cent of the secondary school population) between 2010 and 2013.

1.3.12 There is also spatial variation in migration related statistics for children. In October 2013 4.3 per cent of primary school children did not have English as their ‘first’ language; however, at 15 per cent, this figure was highest for schools in Dungannon Local Government District. Similarly, while births to mothers born outside the United Kingdom and Ireland accounted for 10 per cent of all 2013 births, in Dungannon Local Government District the figure was 23 per cent.

## 1.4 Projected Population – Northern Ireland

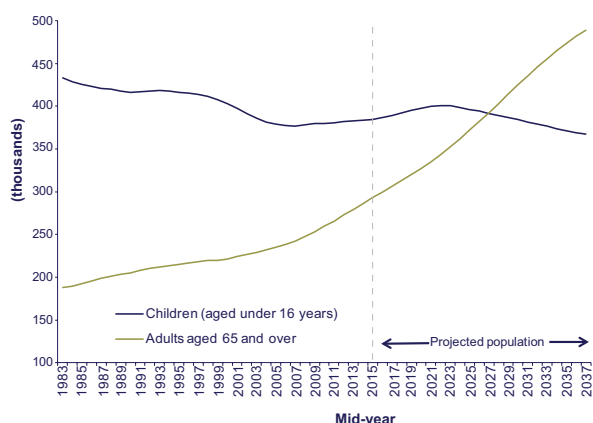
1.4.1 Population projections are produced every other year and the latest projections use 2012 as the base year.

1.4.2 The Northern Ireland population is projected to increase from 1.823 million in 2012 to 1.918 million by 2022. This is equivalent to an average annual rate of growth of 0.51 per cent. Over the longer term the population is projected to reach 2.0 million by 2036.

1.4.3 The projected increase in population is primarily due to natural growth. In the period 2012 to 2022, it is projected that there will be just under 98,000 more births than deaths. Migration projections in this period show a moderate net outflow of 3,000 people, with migration projected to stabilize at equal flows of people moving to and leaving Northern Ireland from mid 2018 onwards.

1.4.4 Projections indicate a marked increase in the size of the population at older ages, as seen in Figure 1.7. The population aged 65 and over is projected to increase from 273,000 in 2012 to 344,000 by 2022, an increase of 26 per cent. The largest projected population change will occur in the number of people aged 85 and over, doubling within the next 17 years.

**Figure 1.7: Children aged under 16 and adults aged 65 and over, actual and projected, 1983 to 2037 – non-zero y-axis**



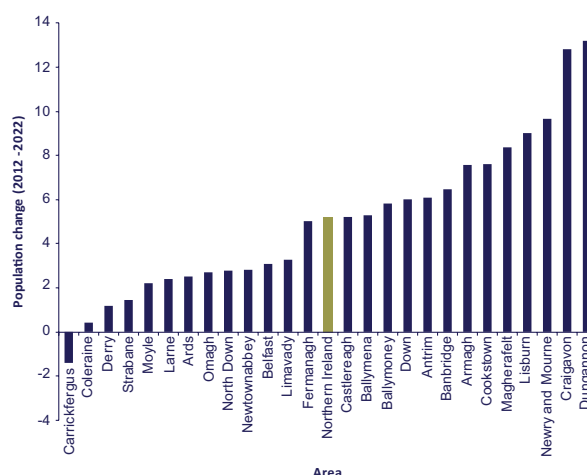
[Download Chart](#) (XLS Format – 249Kb)

## 1.5 Population Projections – Areas Within Northern Ireland

1.5.1 Population projections are also created for areas within Northern Ireland, with the latest local area projections, like the Northern Ireland projections, also using 2012 as the base year. Based on this over the period 2012 to 2022, each of Northern Ireland’s 26 Local Government Districts is projected to experience population growth, with the exception of Carrickfergus Local Government District (-1.4 per cent).

1.5.2 Of those Local Government Districts projected to grow Dungannon is projected to have the highest percentage growth of 13.2 per cent with an increase from 58,800 to 66,600 between 2012 and 2022. Craigavon (12.8 per cent) is also projected to experience population growth that is more than double than that for Northern Ireland (5.2 per cent). Figure 1.17a shows the percentage change in all Local Government Districts.

**Figure 1.7a: Overall projected percentage change in population size of Local Areas between 2012 and 2022.**



[Download Chart](#) (XLS Format – 196Kb)

1.5.3 The number of children aged 0 to 15 is projected to increase in 17 of the 26 Local Government Districts by 2022, with the largest percentage increases in Craigavon (15 per

cent) and Dungannon (14 per cent). The biggest decreases are projected in Carrickfergus (10 per cent) and Omagh (6.1 per cent).

1.5.4 The population aged 16 to 64 years is projected to increase in 12 of the 26 Local Government Districts by 2022, with the largest percentage increases in Dungannon (10 per cent) and Craigavon (8.8 per cent). The biggest decreases are projected in Coleraine (5.8 per cent) and Carrickfergus (5.8 per cent).

1.5.5 The population aged 65 years and over is projected to increase in all Local Government Districts by 2022, with the largest percentage increases in Omagh (39 per cent) and Limavady (37 per cent) and the smallest increase is projected in Belfast (12 per cent).

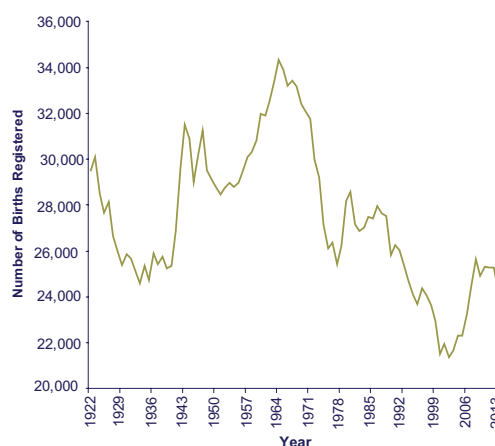
## 1.6 Births

### Numbers

1.6.1 In 2013, there were 24,277 births registered to Northern Ireland mothers, almost 1,000 fewer than the 2012 figure of 25,269 births. From an all-time low of 21,385 births registered in 2002 the number of births increased year on year until 2008. Since 2008, the numbers remained broadly stable at around 25,000 until 2013. The number of births in 2013 is much lower than corresponding levels 30 years ago when almost 27,026 births were registered.

1.6.2 The number of births registered each year since 1922 is shown in Figure 1.8. There is a noticeable peak after the Second World War, as like many western countries, Northern Ireland experienced a “baby boom” during the second half of the 1950’s and early 1960’s. Specifically in Northern Ireland, births peaked in 1964 at just over 34,000 live births and then fell dramatically in the early 1970’s. The drop in the number of births leveled off in the 1980’s at 27,000 births per annum, mainly as a result of the larger number of women, who were born in the baby boom, passing through their childbearing years. The decline in births resumed in the 1990’s as these women started to complete their families.

**Figure 1.8: Number of births registered (1922 to 2013) – non-zero y-axis**



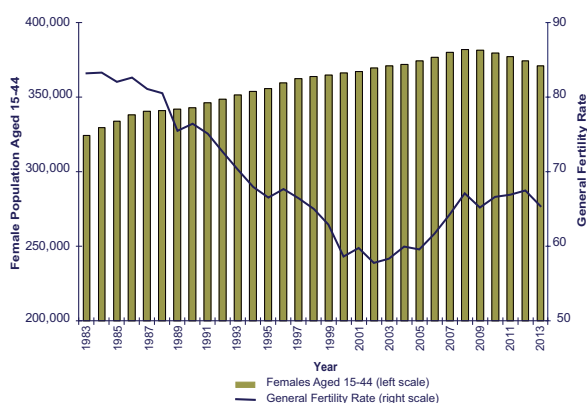
[Download Chart](#) (XLS Format – 180Kb)

### Fertility Rates

1.6.3 The crude birth rate (births per 1,000 population) fell from 13.9 births per 1,000 population in 2012 to 13.3 last year. Over the longer term the birth rate has fallen from its peak in the early 1960's when it was 22.7.

1.6.4 Figure 1.9 presents the general fertility rate (births per 1,000 females aged 15-44), along with the number of women aged 15-44. The population of females aged 15-44 increased between 1983 and 2009, before starting to decline thereafter. The general fertility rate followed a downward trend from 1983 through to 2002, when it reached a record low of 57.8. Thereafter the trend was generally upward with the general fertility rate equating to 65.4.

**Figure 1.9: Estimated female population aged 15-44 and general fertility rate (1983 to 2013) - non-zero y-axes**



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1.6.5 There has been a recent trend towards later childbearing by mothers. The average age of first time mothers in 2013 was 28.1 years, compared with 27.0 in 2003 and 24.6 in 1983. In 2013, 20 per cent of all live births were to mothers aged 35 and over. This contrasts with the position in 1983 when 11 per cent of births were to mothers aged 35 and over.

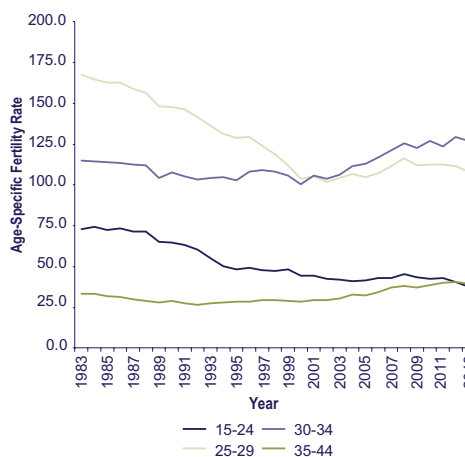
1.6.6 The number of births to teenage mothers (aged under 20) continues to fall, with a new record low of 937 births to teenage mothers in 2013. This is nearly 37 per cent lower than in 2003 when there were 1,484 births to mothers aged under 20. The DHSSPS monitor birth rates to younger teenage mothers (those aged under 17 years), which over the last decade has fallen from 154 births in 2003 to 90 in 2013.

1.6.7 In 2013, for all live births, the average age of the mother and the father were 30.3 and 32.8 years respectively. Just over 6 per cent of births in 2013, compared to nearly 10 per cent in 2003, were registered by the mother without the details of the father being recorded.

1.6.8 The trend to later childbearing is most apparent in the decline in fertility rates among 15 to 24 year old females. Over the past three decades fertility for this age group has more than halved from 80 babies per 1,000 women in 1983 to 37 babies per 1,000 women in 2013.

1.6.9 In 2013, women aged 30 to 34 years experienced the highest age-specific fertility rate with 127 babies per 1,000 women, while women aged 25 to 29 years experienced the second highest rate (108 babies per 1,000 women). Figure 1.10 shows the change in age-specific fertility rates over the last 30 years for the selected age categories

**Figure 1.10: Live births per 1,000 women by age group of mother (1983 to 2013)**

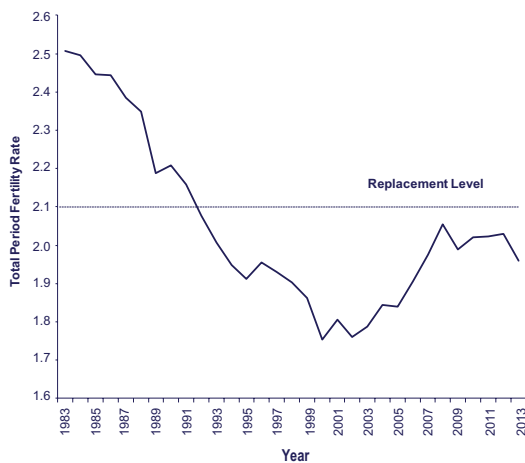


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1.6.10 The total period fertility rate is derived from the sum of age-specific fertility rates. It gives the theoretical average number of children who would be born alive to a woman during her lifetime if she were to pass through her childbearing years conforming to the age-specific fertility rates of a given year. A value of 2.1 is generally taken to be the level at which the population would replace itself in the long run, ignoring migration.

1.6.11 The total period fertility rate dropped below replacement level (2.1) in Northern Ireland for the first time in 1992. The total period fertility rate for 2013 was 1.96 which is a recovery from a record low of 1.75 in 2000, but still below the fertility rates in the 1980's. The total period fertility rate for Northern Ireland since 1983 is shown in Figure 1.11.

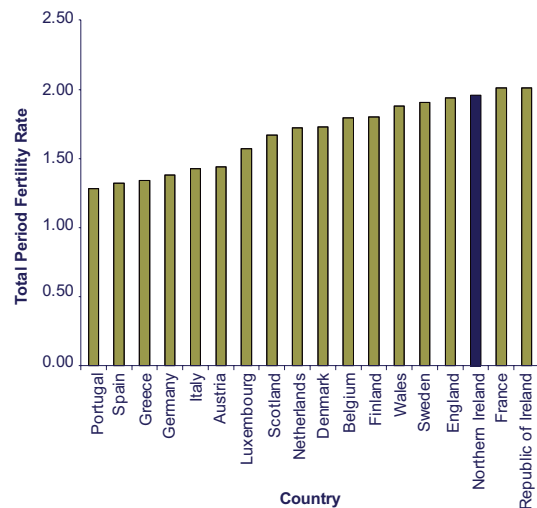
**Figure 1.11: Total period fertility rate (1983 to 2013) – non-zero y-axis**



[Download Chart](#) (XLS Format – 222Kb)

1.6.12 Figure 1.12 shows the total period fertility rate for Northern Ireland compared to the European Union 15 (EU15) and the other constituent countries of the United Kingdom (UK). Northern Ireland has the highest total period fertility rate of the constituent countries of the UK. The Republic of Ireland and France are the only EU15 countries with a higher total period fertility rate than that in Northern Ireland. The most recent data for all countries is 2012, as shown in Figure 1.12.

**Figure 1.12: Total period fertility rate, EU15 and Constituent Countries of the UK, 2012**

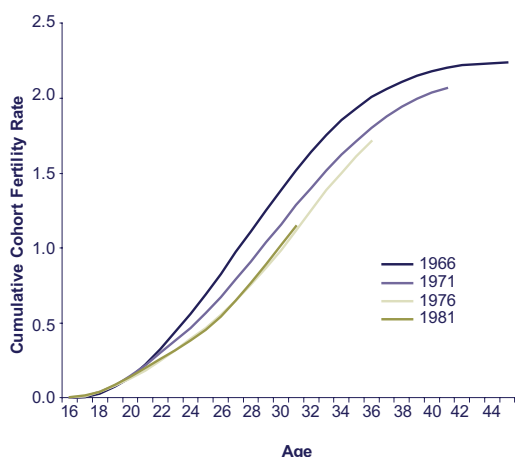


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1.6.13 A further measure of fertility is completed family size which is a more accurate picture of fertility for a cohort of women born in a specific year. Figure 1.13 shows the achieved family size, sometimes called cumulative cohort fertility, at specific ages for women born in particular years (or cohorts). Family size at age 45 is taken to represent completed family size. This enables easy comparison between selected cohorts as women pass through the child-bearing ages.

1.6.14 In Northern Ireland those women born in 1966 had attained an average completed family size of 2.2 children by the time they reached 45. Figure 1.13 also permits the comparison of family size at selected ages for the various cohorts as they pass through the childbearing years. For example, by age 30 the cumulative childbearing of the 1981 cohort is 0.37 children lower than that of the 1966 cohort. A key point in Figure 1.13 is how closely the 1981 cohort fertility rate tracks the 1976 cohort, with both being level at age 30.

**Figure 1.13: Cumulative cohort fertility rate for selected birth cohorts**



[Download Chart](#) (XLS Format – 184Kb)

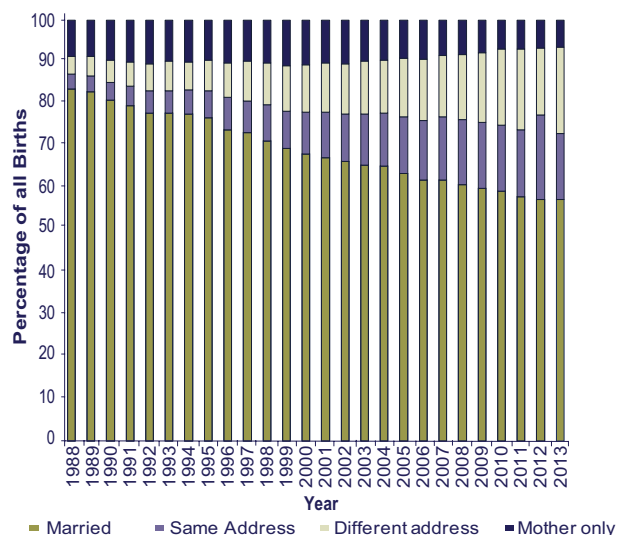
**Birth Order**

1.6.15 A total of 9,640 births (40 per cent) were to first-time mothers in 2013. Second-time mothers had 8,340 babies (34 per cent) and third-time mothers had 4,150 babies (17 per cent). Only 8.8 per cent of mothers in 2013 already had 3 or more live born children, compared with 18.2 per cent in 1983, reflecting the trend towards smaller family sizes.

**Births Outside Marriage**

1.6.16 In 2013, 42 per cent of all live births occurred outside marriage, slightly fewer than in 2012 when 43 per cent of all live births occurred outside marriage, the highest on record in Northern Ireland. This proportion has been increasing steadily since the early 1960’s when the proportion of children born outside marriage was about 2 per cent. Since 1988, information has been gathered that identifies births registered by married parents, unmarried parents (living at the same address or at different addresses) or by the mother only. In 2013, some 85 per cent of births outside marriage were jointly registered by both parents. Figure 1.14 shows the change in births by registration status since 1983.

**Figure 1.14: Live births by registration status (1988 to 2013)**



[Download Chart](#) (XLS Format – 180Kb)

1.6.17 In 2013, some 98 per cent of births to mothers under the age of 20 were outside marriage, 86 per cent of births to mothers aged between 20 and 24 were outside marriage, while for those aged 25 and over 32 per cent of births were outside marriage.

**Multiple Births**

1.6.18 In 2013, the percentage of maternities resulting in a multiple birth was 1.6 per cent, a slight decrease on the highest level ever recorded in Northern Ireland in 2011 of 1.7 per cent. There were 378 sets of twins and 5 sets of triplets registered in 2013.

1.6.19 The percentage of maternities resulting in multiple births has increased from 1.1 per cent in the 1970’s to 1.6 per cent in 2013. The percentage of maternities that result in a multiple birth increases with the age of the mother. In 2013, 1.0 per cent of maternities to mothers aged under 25 resulted in multiple births, while the comparative figure for mothers aged between 35 and 39 was 2.3 per cent. This figure increased to 3.3 per cent for mothers aged over 40. This difference can be attributed in part to higher levels of assisted fertility treatment in older mothers.



### Place of Birth

1.6.20 During 2013 the Royal Group of Hospitals in Belfast and the Ulster Hospital Dundonald delivered 41 per cent of all babies born in Northern Ireland. Erne Hospital ceased maternity services in June 2012 with the hospital moving to the South West Acute Hospital outside Enniskillen. The latter accounted for 1,213 (5.0 per cent) of the births in 2013.

1.6.21 While the number of births fell across most hospitals in 2013, the Mater Hospital changed to a new Midwifery Led Unit in April 2013 and so had the largest fall – from 1,194 in 2012 to 437 in 2013. This reduction seems to have been absorbed in part by the Royal Group of Hospitals in Belfast, which saw the only increase in births in the Belfast area (up by 343 births in 2013).

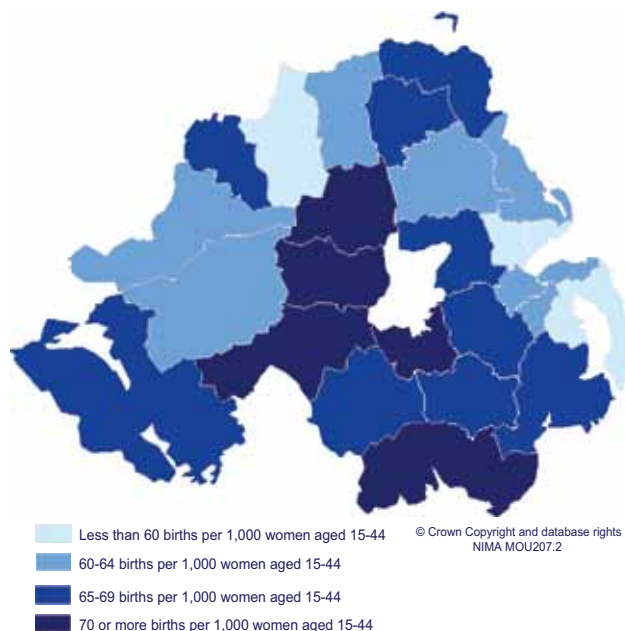
1.6.22 In 2013, 120 babies were born in places other than a hospital; this is higher than the 2012 figure of 90 babies.

### Births by Area

1.6.23 Figure 1.15 shows the 2011-2013 general fertility rates per 1,000 women of child-bearing age by Local Government District. Dungannon had the highest general fertility rate (76.9) of all the Local Government Districts between 2011-2013 closely followed by Armagh (74.9), while the lowest general fertility rates were in Carrickfergus (54.9) and Larne (59.1).

1.6.24 At Health and Social Care Trust level, general fertility rates ranged from 62.8 births per 1,000 females aged 15-44 in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust to 74.0 births per 1,000 females aged 15-44 in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust.

**Figure 1.15: Live births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44, by Local Government District (2011-2013)**



[Download Data](#) (XLS Format – 55Kb)

### Country of Birth of Parents

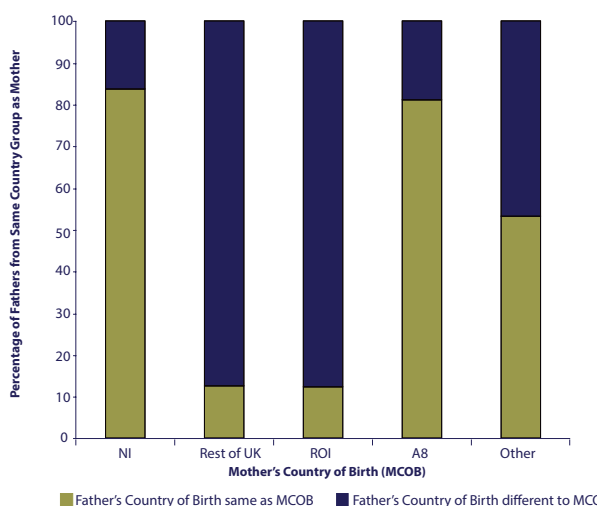
1.6.25 There were 4,341 births registered in Northern Ireland during 2013 where the mother was not born in Northern Ireland (18 per cent of all births). Some 44 per cent of mothers who were not born in Northern Ireland were born either elsewhere in the United Kingdom or in the Republic of Ireland and accounted for 1,897 births (7.8 per cent of all births). Ten per cent of all births (2,444 births) were to mothers who themselves were born outside the UK and Ireland. This is a marked rise on previous years, for example, there were fewer than 700 such births in 2001 or 3 per cent of all births.

1.6.26 Over recent years, the number of births to mothers born in the A8<sup>7</sup> countries has increased from 21 in 2003 to 1,257 in 2013.

<sup>7</sup> The A8 countries are the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. Malta and Cyprus also joined the EU on 1 May 2004 but are considered separately from the A8 countries as they have full free movement rights to work throughout the EU

1.6.27 Figure 1.16 shows the father's country of birth in relation to the mother's country of birth, where both parents were registered on the birth certificate. For births where the mother was born in Northern Ireland, 84 per cent had a father who was also born in Northern Ireland. For births where the mother was born in the rest of the UK or the Republic of Ireland, the majority of fathers were born in a different country to the mother, with 75 per cent from Northern Ireland. The trend is different for children whose mother was born in an A8 country, where 81 per cent of these children have an A8 father as well.

**Figure 1.16: Live births in Northern Ireland by mother's and father's country of birth (2013)**



[Download Chart](#) (XLS Format – 133Kb)

## 1.7 Stillbirths and Infant Deaths

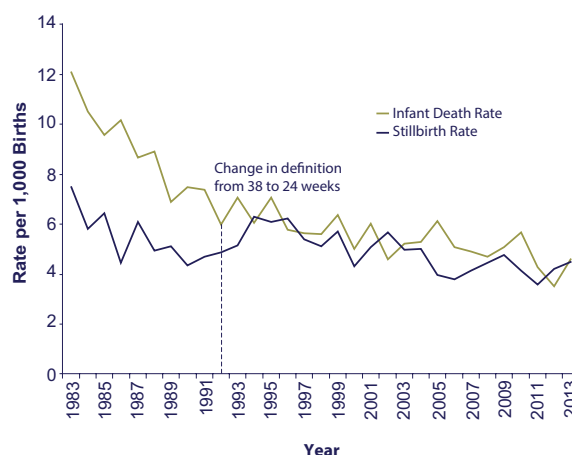
### Numbers

1.7.1 There were 110 stillbirths registered in 2013, an increase of 4 from the figure in 2012. The number of infant deaths in 2013 (112) represents an increase of 22 from the 2012 figure of 90 which was the lowest number on record. Deaths in the first week of life accounted for 66 per cent of all infant deaths. A total of 51 infants died on the first day of life in 2013, 19 more than the number registered in 2012 (32).

1.7.2 Looking further back, the recent infant death figures show a large decrease from the 1920's when over 2,000 infant deaths were registered each year. The number of infant deaths was highest in 1943 and lowest in 2012 (2,464 and 90 infant deaths respectively).

1.7.3 As can be seen in Figure 1.17, there have been significant reductions in stillbirth and infant death rates in the period since 1983. However, when compared with the lowest stillbirth and infant death rates in the European Union, the 2013 rates in Northern Ireland are more than twice as high at 4.5 and 4.6 respectively. In 2012, Finland had the lowest stillbirth rate at 1.9 per 1,000 births (live and still) where as Slovenia had the lowest infant death rate (1.6).

**Figure 1.17: Stillbirth and infant death rates (1983 to 2013)**



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1.7.4 As with stillbirths and infant deaths, the numbers of perinatal, neonatal and postneonatal deaths (see Appendix 3 for definitions) have reduced greatly to around one tenth of their values in the late 1940's and 1950's. However, in 2013 the number of perinatal, neonatal and postneonatal deaths were all higher than 2012. Males accounted for more perinatal, neonatal and infant deaths than females in 2013.

#### **Causes of Infant Deaths and Stillbirths**

1.7.5 Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities (ICD10 codes Q00 - Q99) were the cause of 37 per cent of all infant deaths. A further 17 per cent were caused by disorders relating to length of gestation and fetal growth (ICD10 codes P05 - P08).

1.7.6 Ten infants died as a result of ill-defined and unknown causes of mortality (ICD10 codes R95 - R99). This is an increase from the 2 deaths registered in 2012. The number of infant deaths attributed to these causes has fluctuated between 2 and 14 deaths since 2002.

1.7.7 Forty-two per cent of all stillbirths in 2013 were caused by 'other disorders originating in the perinatal period' (ICD10 codes P90 - P96) while congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities (ICD10 codes Q00 - Q99) accounted for a further 20 per cent. Placental and cord conditions (ICD10 code P02) were the cause of 23 per cent of all stillbirths.

#### **Pregnancy, Childbirth and Puerperium**

1.7.8 There were no maternal deaths (ICD10 codes O00 - O99) in either 2013 or 2012. This compares to 4 in 2011, 2 in 2010, 5 in 2009 and none in 2008. There were a total of 19 maternal deaths in the period 2003 to 2013.

## **1.8 Deaths**

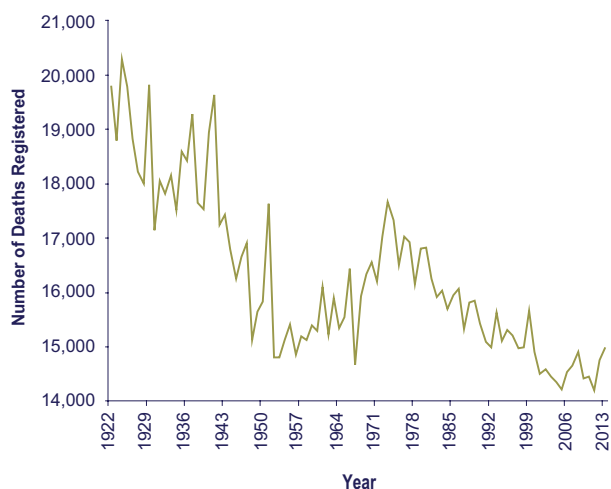
### **Numbers**

1.8.1 In 2013, there were 14,968 deaths registered in Northern Ireland, an increase of 1.4 per cent (212 deaths) on the 14,756 deaths registered in 2012. Figure 1.18 shows the number of deaths registered from 1922 to 2013.

1.8.2 The number of deaths in Northern Ireland has fallen by 20 per cent over the last 90 years, from 18,790 deaths in 1923, to 14,968 in 2013. However, last year saw the highest number of deaths registered in Northern Ireland since 1999 (15,663), and was an increase of 5.4 per cent on the record low in 2011 (14,204). This finding may be due to several factors, but is primarily due to the increasing and ageing population of Northern Ireland.

1.8.3 An overall reduction in the number of deaths has occurred during the past 30 years despite the population increasing in size and containing a higher proportion of elderly people. For example, the current population is 18 per cent larger than it was in 1983 and those aged 75 and over represent 6.8 per cent of the population now compared to only 4.8 per cent in 1983. Indeed, if the age-specific death rates of 1983 still applied today, the number of deaths registered in 2013 would have been more than 25,000; over 10,000 higher than the actual number registered. This reduction is reflected in the continuing reduction in mortality rates across all age groups and the corresponding increase in life expectancy.

**Figure 1.18: Number of deaths registered (1922 to 2013) – non-zero y-axis**



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### Mortality by Age

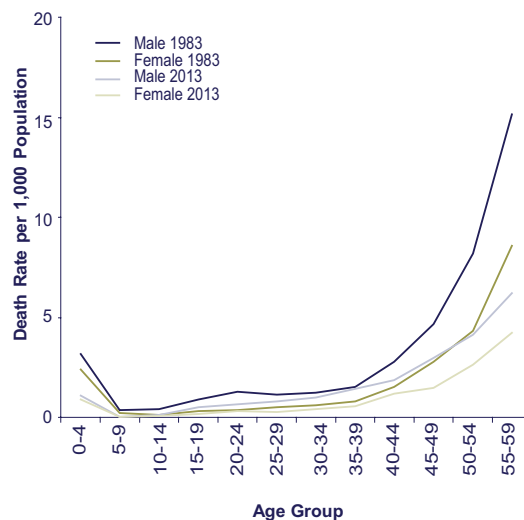
1.8.4 In 2013, 64 per cent of deaths were of people aged 75 and over, and a further 23 per cent were of people aged 60 to 74. Children aged less than 5 years old accounted for 0.86 per cent of all deaths.

1.8.5 The average age at death in 2013 was 73 years for males and 79 years for females, an increase of 6 years on the average age at death for males (67 years) and females (73 years) in 1983. This reflects the increased survival of males and females over the period and the consequential ageing of the population.

1.8.6 From the relatively high rates of death in infancy (5.1 and 4.0 per 1,000 population of males and females respectively) death rates sharply decline through childhood. The lowest age-specific death rates (ASDRs) were experienced by males and females aged 1 to 4 years, 5 to 9 years and 10 to 14 years old, with ASDRs of between 0.1 and 0.2 per 1,000 population of males and females. ASDRs gradually begin to increase after 15 years of age for both males and females. Throughout the life span, ASDRs are higher for males. However, the difference between males and females becomes more prominent after the age of 70

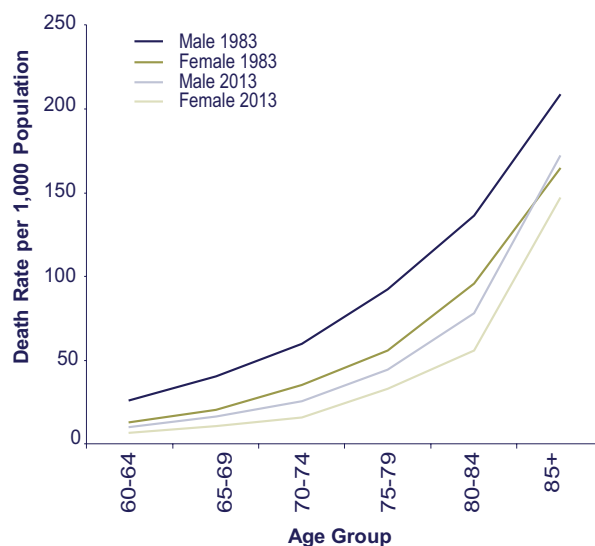
years. Figures 1.19a and 1.19b show age-specific deaths rates for males and females by age group for 1983 and 2013

**Figure 1.19a: Age-specific death rates by age group and sex (1983 and 2013)**



[Download Chart](#) (XLS Format – 211Kb)

**Figure 1.19b: Age-specific death rates by age group and sex (1983 and 2013)**



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1.8.7 In the past 30 years the annual risk of dying has declined for people of all ages. The largest declines in male age-specific death rates occurred in the 5 to 9 years age group (down 83 per cent), followed by those aged 0 to 4 years (down 65 per cent) and 10 to 14 years (down 63 per cent). Female age-specific death rates declined most substantially for those aged 5 to 9 years (down 73 per cent), 0 to 4 years (down 63 per cent) followed by those aged 70 to 74 years (down 55 per cent).

### Mortality by Sex

1.8.8 Female deaths that were registered in 2013 (7,707) outnumbered male deaths (7,261), giving a sex ratio of 106 female deaths for every 100 male deaths. The number of female deaths has outnumbered male deaths for each of the last 25 years.

1.8.9 In 1983, males had a death rate of 10.8 deaths per 1,000 population compared to females with a death rate of 9.9 deaths per 1,000 population. By 2013, the male death rate was 8.1 deaths per 1,000 population and the female rate was higher at 8.3 deaths per 1,000 population.

### Life Expectancy

1.8.10 Children born today can expect to have longer lives than children born in the past. Based on current death rates, males born between 2011 and 2013 could expect to live until they are 78.0 years and females could expect to live until they are 82.3 years, with corresponding figures for men and women born around 1983-85 of 70.3 and 76.7 years respectively. While women aged 65 today could expect to live another 20.5 years, their male counterparts could expect to live another 17.9 years. Figure 1.20 shows the change in the expectation of life at birth for males and females since 1983.

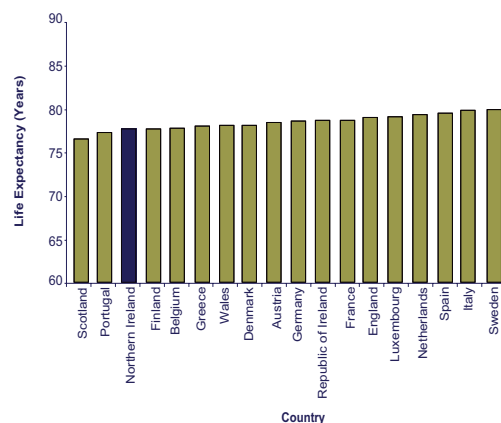
**Figure 1.20: Period expectation of life at birth, by sex (1983-85 to 2011-13) - non-zero y-axis**



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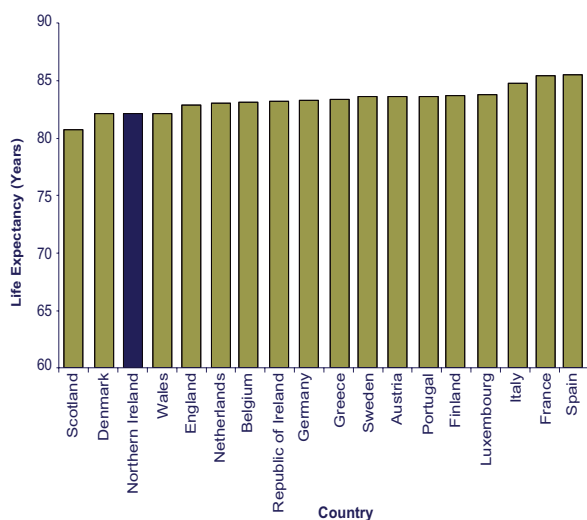
1.8.11 Figure 1.21 and Figure 1.22 show that Northern Ireland has generally lower expectation of life at birth for both males and females compared to other European (EU15) countries. The figures also show that only Scotland, amongst the other United Kingdom countries, has lower life expectancy than Northern Ireland for both males and females. The most recent data available for all countries is for 2012.

**Figure 1.21: Male life expectancy at birth, EU15 and constituent countries of the UK, 2012 - non-zero y-axis**



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**Figure 1.22: Female life expectancy at birth, EU15 and constituent countries of the UK, 2012 - non-zero y-axis**



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### Cohort Life Expectancy

1.8.12 Expectation of life statistics are a standard way of comparing mortality rates over time. Typically, these statistics are calculated using today's age-specific mortality rates - this is known as the 'period life expectancy' calculation. This enables the comparison of mortality rates over time, or for different areas, and allows the expectancy of life statistics of today to be compared with those of the past. Expectation of life statistics given in Figures 1.20, 1.21 and 1.22 are an example of this. However, in practice period life expectancy is unlikely to be a true reflection of what is likely to happen. Throughout the twentieth century, mortality has improved significantly with around a 1 per cent year on year improvement in mortality rates.

1.8.13 Expectation of life statistics can however be calculated another way. This alternative is known as a 'cohort life expectancy' calculation. Cohort expectation of life statistics are calculated using age-specific mortality rates over the lifetime of a group of people born in the same year (a cohort). The cohort method allows for projected improvements in mortality rates over time. As the cohort estimates incorporate population projections

they inherently have more uncertainty than period estimates. Table 1.2 shows period (2011-13) and projected cohort (2012) expectations of life.

**Table 1.2: Period (2011-13) and projected cohort (2012) expectations of life - males and females**

Expectation of Life (years)	Males	Females
At birth - Period	78.0	82.3
At birth - Projected Cohort	90.0	93.5
Percentage difference	15%	14%
Age 65 - Period	17.9	20.5
Age 65 - Projected Cohort	21.0	23.7
Percentage difference	17%	16%

### Mortality by Marital Status

1.8.14 Of all men whose deaths were registered during 2013, 51 per cent were married at the time of death, while 22 per cent were widowed and 21 per cent were single. In contrast, of all women whose deaths were registered during 2013, 55 per cent were widows at the time of death, with a further 25 per cent married and 15 per cent single. This difference is a consequence of the greater longevity of women.

### Centenarians

1.8.15 There were 108 deaths of centenarians in 2013. Only 16 of these deaths were males, comprising 8 men aged 100, 4 aged 101, 2 aged 102, 1 aged 103 and 1 aged 106. There were 92 female deaths of centenarians, 36 women aged 100, 24 aged 101, 14 aged 102, 9 aged 103, 4 aged 104 and 5 aged 105. In contrast, there were 25 deaths of centenarians in 1983 of which 3 were male and 22 were female.

### Place of Death and Type of Death Certificate Issued

1.8.16 Of the 14,968 deaths registered in 2013, 48 per cent (7,194 deaths) of these occurred in NHS hospitals. A further 20 per cent (3,014 deaths) of deaths occurred in other hospitals or nursing homes. The remaining deaths (4,760) occurred in all other places.

1.8.17 For 79 per cent of deaths registered in 2013 (11,799), a medical certificate was issued, while coroner's certificates were issued for the remaining 21 per cent of deaths (3,169). A death must be reported to a coroner if the person has not seen a doctor in the 28 days before they died or immediately afterwards, a doctor had not looked after, seen or treated the person during their last illness (in other words, death was sudden), the cause of death is unknown or uncertain, the death was violent or unnatural (for example, suicide, accident or drug or alcohol overdose), the death was in any way suspicious, the death took place during surgery or recovery from an anesthetic, the death took place in prison or police custody or the death was caused by an industrial disease or accident.

#### Deaths by Date of Registration and Date of Occurrence

1.8.18 All figures recorded in this report are based on the year that the death was registered and not the year in which the death occurred. While the vast majority of deaths are registered shortly after death, some can take time to be registered. In 2013, 94 per cent of deaths were registered in the year they occurred. Events such as an infant death or suicide must be referred to a coroner and this legal process can take some time.

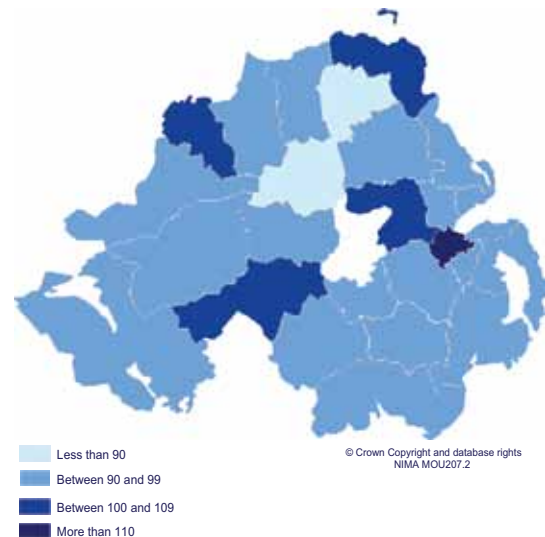
#### Deaths by Area

1.8.19 The standardised death rate, which allows for the age and sex structure of the population, was highest in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (9.4 deaths per 1,000 population) and lowest in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust (7.2 deaths per 1,000 population). The standardised death rates in the Northern, South Eastern and Western Health and Social Care Trusts were 8.2, 8.4 and 7.6 deaths per 1,000 population respectively.

1.8.20 Standardised mortality ratios (SMRs), based on 3 years data (2011-2013), compare local death rates with death rates in Northern Ireland as a whole, taking account of the different population structure of each area. SMRs by Local Government District are presented in Figure 1.23. Two Local

Government Districts, Belfast and Derry, have a standardised mortality ratio significantly above the Northern Ireland average of 100.

**Figure 1.23: Standardised mortality ratios by Local Government District (2011 to 2013)**



[Download Data](#) (Format XLS - 56Kb)

#### Deaths by Country of Birth

1.8.21 In 2013, 89 per cent of all deaths registered in Northern Ireland were of people who had been born in Northern Ireland. A further 9.5 per cent of deaths were of people who had been born in the rest of the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland. The remaining 1.6 per cent were people born in other countries of the world.

## 1.9 Cause of Death

### Numbers

1.9.1 All deaths registered in 2013 have been coded using the tenth revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death (ICD10).

1.9.2 In total, circulatory diseases, malignant neoplasms (cancer) and respiratory diseases accounted for 69 per cent of all deaths in 2013.

1.9.3 In 2013, 4,230 people died from cancer, the highest figure on record and an increase of 35 per cent on the corresponding figure in 1983 (3,138 deaths). Cancer deaths (ICD10 codes C00 - C97) accounted for 28 per cent of all deaths registered in 2013 compared to 20 per cent of all deaths in 1983. By way of contrast, 1,916 people died from ischaemic heart disease (ICD10 codes I20 - I25) in 2013, a decrease of 60 per cent on the 1983 figure of 4,786 deaths.

1.9.4 Some of the principal causes of death are considered in the following sections.

### Malignant Neoplasms (ICD10 Codes C00-C97)

1.9.5 As mentioned above, cancer accounted for 4,230 deaths in 2013, 28 per cent of all deaths and the largest number of cancer deaths ever registered in Northern Ireland. Prior to 2007 the number of deaths due to cancer had remained broadly stable at about 3,700 per year. Although there have been advances in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer in recent years, it remains the case that in Northern Ireland cancer accounts for the largest number of deaths attributable to a single group of causes. In part this is due to the ageing population as cancer mortality increases markedly with age.

1.9.6 In 2013, the most common cancer site for males and females was the bronchus or lung (ICD10 Code C34), which accounted for 25 per cent of male cancer deaths (569) and 20 per cent of female cancer deaths (400). Deaths due to prostate cancer (ICD10 Code C61) was the second most common cancer site in males, accounting

for 12 per cent of all male cancer deaths (272) in 2013. Similarly deaths due to breast cancer (ICD10 Code C50) were the second most common cancer site in females, accounting for 16 per cent of female cancer deaths (319) in 2013.

### Alzheimer's Disease (ICD10 Code G30) and Other Dementias (ICD10 Codes F01, F03)

1.9.7 Deaths due to Alzheimer's disease accounted for 403 deaths in 2013 (111 males and 292 females), while a further 1,000 deaths were due to other dementias (340 males and 660 females). While there has been a sharp increase in the number of deaths due to Alzheimer's disease and other dementias in recent years, the increase in such deaths can be attributed to (i) changes in the coding of deaths that came into effect in January 2011, and (ii) the ageing of the Northern Ireland population. In 2013, 63 per cent of deaths due to Alzheimer's disease and other dementias were of persons aged 85 years and older.

### Diseases of the Circulatory System (ICD10 Codes I00-I99)

1.9.8 In 2013, diseases of the circulatory system accounted for 26 per cent (3,917) of all deaths in Northern Ireland. Over the past 30 years the number of deaths (8,235 in 1983) from these diseases has fallen by more than half (52 per cent). This improvement is due in part to advances in medical care coupled with greater public awareness of the causes and symptoms of heart disease.

1.9.9 Deaths due to diseases of the circulatory system are mostly accounted for by ischaemic heart disease (ICD10 Codes I20 - I25) and cerebrovascular disease or stroke (ICD10 Codes I60 - I69), which accounted for 13 per cent and 7.2 per cent of all deaths in 2013. The number of male deaths from ischaemic heart disease exceeds the number of female deaths (1,105 males and 811 females), whereas female deaths from cerebrovascular disease are more numerous than male deaths (424 males and 648 females).



### **Respiratory Diseases (ICD10 Codes J00-J99)**

1.9.10 Deaths from respiratory diseases (2,124) accounted for 14 per cent of all deaths registered in Northern Ireland during 2013. These included 718 deaths from pneumonia (ICD10 Codes J12 - J18), 920 from chronic lower respiratory diseases (ICD10 Codes J40 - J47) and 486 due to all other respiratory diseases. The number of deaths due to diseases of the respiratory system was higher than the previous ten-year average (2003 to 2012 inclusive) of 1,987 deaths. However, over the past 30 years the number of deaths due to diseases of the respiratory system has fallen by 3.7 per cent, from 2,206 in 1983.

### **External Causes of Death (ICD10 Codes V01-Y98)**

1.9.11 The number of deaths from external causes registered in 2013 totaled 748 (5.0 per cent of all deaths) of which 476 were males and 272 were females, with the corresponding figures for 2012 being 737 deaths - 488 male and 249 female. In the previous ten-year period 2003 to 2012 inclusive, there were on average 760 deaths per year from external causes of death.

1.9.12 External causes of death are mostly accounted for by accidents (ICD10 Codes V01 - X59, Y85, and Y86) which accounted for 421 deaths in 2013. Of these accidental deaths, 178 were due to accidental falls (W00 - W19) and 62 were due to transport accidents (ICD10 Codes V01 - V99). Females account for more than half (53 per cent) of all deaths from accidental falls whilst almost three-quarters (74 per cent) of all transport accident deaths were male.

### **Deaths from Suicide and Events of Undetermined Intent (X60-X84, Y87.0, Y10-Y34, Y87.2)**

1.9.13 In the United Kingdom, deaths classified as 'events of undetermined intent' along with 'intentional self-harm' are classified as suicide. In 2013, there were 303 such deaths registered in Northern Ireland, of which 229 (76 per cent) were of males and 74 (24 per cent) were of females. This represents an increase of 9.0 per cent on the 278 registrations in 2012 (215 males and

63 females) and is the second highest number of deaths from suicide on record in Northern Ireland (the highest number was 313 in 2010).

1.9.14 All suicides are referred to the coroner. These deaths can take time to be fully investigated and there is often a period of time between when the suicide occurs and when it is registered. A significant number of suicides registered in 2013 occurred in earlier years. Of the 303 such deaths registered in 2013, 158 actually occurred in 2013, 114 in 2012, 22 in 2011 with the remaining 9 occurring in 2010 or earlier.

1.9.15 Prior to 2004, there were 7 coroner's districts in Northern Ireland. Following a review of the coroner's service, the separate districts were amalgamated into one centralised coroner's service. This change may have affected the timing of the registration of deaths, with statistics from 2004 onwards being more timely.

1.9.16 Table 1.3 compares the number of suicide and undetermined deaths being registered each year with the number occurring in those years. Occurrence figures for 2011, 2012 and 2013 should be used with caution, as a significant number of deaths occurring in these years will, as yet, not have been registered. All occurrence figures in the Table are subject to revision as additional late registrations of suicide and undetermined deaths are made. A paper discussing the registration process for suicide deaths and the impact of the time taken to investigate the death on official suicide death statistics has recently been published<sup>8</sup>.

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8 Suicide Statistics in Northern Ireland: Impact of Time Taken to Investigate the Death is available at [http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/publications/suicides/Impact\\_of\\_registration\\_delays\\_on\\_suicide\\_statistics\\_in\\_Northern\\_Ireland.pdf](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/publications/suicides/Impact_of_registration_delays_on_suicide_statistics_in_Northern_Ireland.pdf)

**Table 1.3: Number of suicide and undetermined deaths registered and actual number occurring (2003 to 2013)**

Year	Suicide and Undetermined Deaths (Year Registered)	Suicide and Undetermined Deaths (Year Occurred)
2003	144	165
2004	146	237
2005	213	229
2006	291	221
2007	242	257
2008	282	254
2009	260	228
2010	313	290
2011	289	229 <sup>1</sup>
2012	278	138 <sup>1</sup>
2013	303	158 <sup>1</sup>

1 Figures should be treated with caution as a significant number of deaths occurring in these years will, as yet, not have been registered.

### Smoking Related Deaths

1.9.17 Information is not recorded on the death certificate on whether the deceased was a smoker. Estimates can however be made of the number of deaths attributable to smoking by using information on the contribution of smoking to specific conditions which are recorded at death, for example lung cancer.

1.9.18 Research has been undertaken by the Health Development Agency to calculate the proportion of smoking related deaths in the population based on published relative risk factors for mortality of current and ex-smokers from various diseases, counts of death by cause and estimates of current and ex-smoking behaviour.

1.9.19 These proportions were then applied to Northern Ireland counts of cause, sex and age specific mortality. Table 1.4 shows the estimated number of smoking related deaths between 2003 and 2013 using this method. On average, around 2,300 deaths per year can be attributed to

smoking. Further information on the method used is given in Appendix 3.

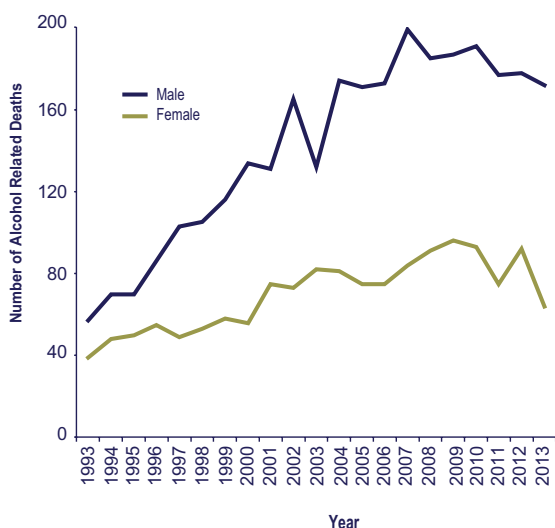
**Table 1.4 Estimated number of smoking related deaths registered (2003 to 2013)**

Year	Smoking Related Deaths
2003	2,390
2004	2,350
2005	2,290
2006	2,320
2007	2,310
2008	2,400
2009	2,360
2010	2,310
2011	2,270
2012	2,270
2013	2,404

### Alcohol Related Deaths

1.9.20 In 2005, the definition of alcohol related deaths was widened to include additional causes of death with a clear causal relationship to alcohol consumption. The main addition is 'mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol' (see Appendix 3 for further details). In 2013, a total of 236 people died from alcohol related deaths using the new definition; 73 per cent were males and 27 per cent were females. The equivalent figure for 2012 was 270 deaths (66 per cent males and 34 per cent females). The number of alcohol related deaths in 2013 was 10 per cent higher than the 214 deaths registered in 2003. Figure 1.24 shows the trend in the number of alcohol related deaths since 1993 using the new definition.

**Figure 1.24: Deaths from alcohol related diseases by sex (1993 to 2013)**



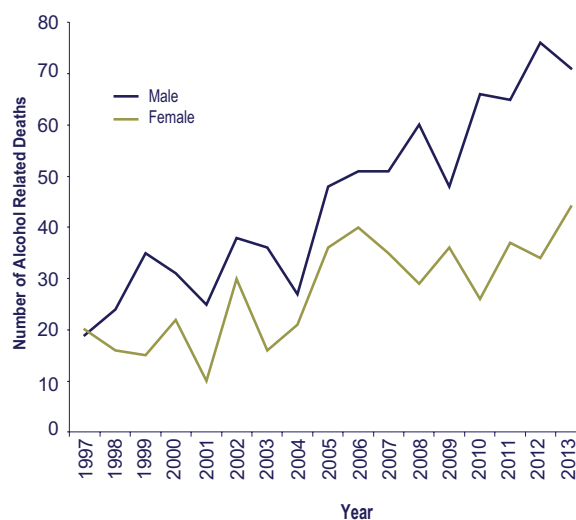
[Download Chart](#) (XLS Format – 186Kb)

### Drug Related Deaths

1.9.21 Drug related deaths relate to cases where the underlying cause of death recorded on the death certificate is drug poisoning, drug abuse or drug dependence. Deaths from substances of abuse which are not traditionally regarded as drugs, such as alcohol and tobacco, are excluded from the definition. Further information on the definition can be found in Appendix 3.

1.9.22 In 2013, there were 115 drug related deaths; 71 males and 44 females. This represents a 4.5 per cent increase from the equivalent 2012 figure of 110 deaths (76 males and 34 females). The number of drug related deaths in 2013 is more than double the number registered in 2003, when there were 52 drug related deaths. Figure 1.25 shows the trend in the number of drug related deaths since 1997.

**Figure 1.25: Drug related deaths by sex (1997 to 2013)**



[Download Chart](#) (XLS Format – 165Kb)

### Asbestos Related Deaths

1.9.23 In 2013, 61 asbestos related deaths were registered in Northern Ireland, 1 fewer than in 2012. The 2004 figure of 92 deaths was the highest number recorded in the period from 2003 to 2013. See Appendix 3 for further information on asbestos related deaths.

### Healthcare Associated Infections

1.9.24 In 2013, 10 deaths were registered where Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) was mentioned on the death certificate. Of these, 2 deaths had MRSA recorded as the underlying cause of death. The corresponding figures for 2012 were 18 deaths and 4 deaths respectively.

1.9.25 The number of deaths where *Clostridium difficile* was mentioned on the death certificate in 2013 was 80. Of these, 41 deaths (51 per cent) had *Clostridium difficile* as the underlying cause of death. This compares with the equivalent figures for 2012 of 74 deaths with *Clostridium difficile* mentioned on the death certificate of which 23 deaths (31 per cent) had *Clostridium difficile* recorded as the underlying cause of death.

### Main Causes of Death by Age and Sex

1.9.26 Mortality rates by cause of death vary with age and sex. A total of 112 deaths of children aged less than one year were registered in 2013, 73 per cent (82 deaths) of whom died within the first four weeks of life. The majority of infant deaths were attributed to certain conditions originating in the perinatal period (ICD10 Codes P00 - P96, 48 deaths) and congenital anomalies (ICD10 Codes Q00 - Q99, 41 deaths).

1.9.27 A total of 38 children aged 1 to 14 died in 2013. External causes of death (ICD10 Codes V01 - Y98) accounted for 12 of these deaths, cancer (ICD10 Codes C00 - C97) accounted for 5 deaths, diseases of the nervous system and sense organs (ICD10 Codes G00 - H95) accounted for 7 deaths and certain infectious and parasitic diseases (ICD10 Codes A00 - B99) accounted for 3 deaths.

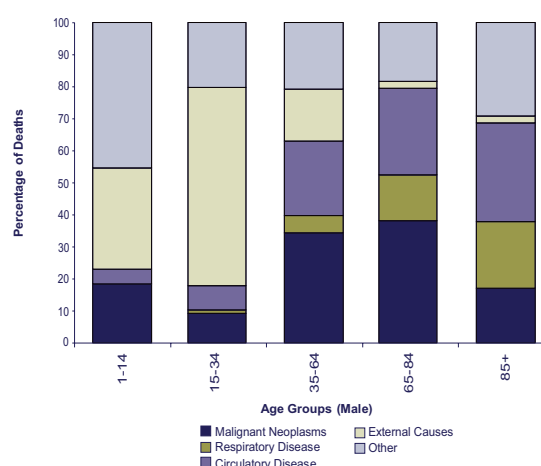
1.9.28 A total of 263 people aged 15 to 34 died in 2013. External causes of death accounted for more deaths than any other cause (147 deaths, 56 per cent of deaths of persons aged 15 to 34). Some 34 per cent of all suicide and self inflicted injury and events of undetermined intent (90 out of 303 suicides) and 40 per cent of deaths due to transport accidents (25 out of 62 transport accident deaths) involved people aged 15 to 34.

1.9.29 Of the 2,397 people who died between the ages of 35 to 64 (of whom 61 per cent were male), cancer accounted for 39 per cent of deaths (939) in 2013, while diseases of the circulatory system accounted for a further 19 per cent of deaths (462) in this age group. The majority of deaths attributed to suicide and self-inflicted injury were among those aged 35 to 64 (62 per cent).

1.9.30 Deaths of people aged 65 and over accounted for 81 per cent of all deaths (12,158) in 2013. Although the death rate from cancer continues to increase with age and accounted for 27 per cent of deaths in this age group, the death rates from diseases of the circulatory system increase more quickly with age, accounting for 28 per cent of deaths among those aged 65 and over.

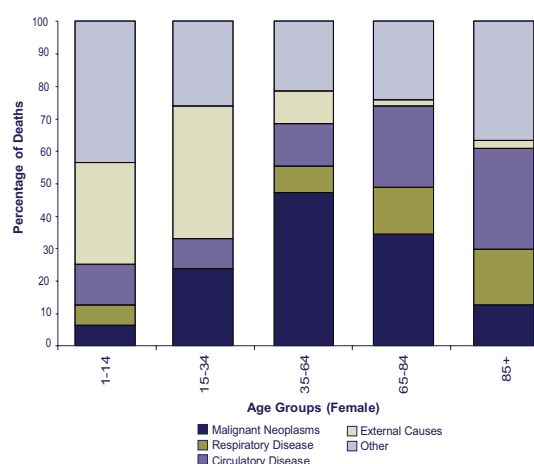
1.9.31 The number of deaths in the older population continues to rise. In 2013, 34 per cent of deaths (5,147) were of people aged 85 years and over, compared to only 16 per cent of deaths (2,607) in 1983. More people are surviving into old age as a consequence of the improvements in mortality that we have seen over the past 50 years. Among those aged 85 and over, diseases of the circulatory system accounted for 31 per cent of deaths, diseases of the respiratory system 19 per cent and cancer 14 per cent. Figures 1.26 and 1.27 show the main causes of death by age group for male and female deaths respectively.

**Figure 1.26: Percentage of male deaths by cause and age group (2013)**



[Download Chart](#) (XLS Format – 197Kb)

**Figure 1.27: Percentage of female deaths by cause and age group (2013)**



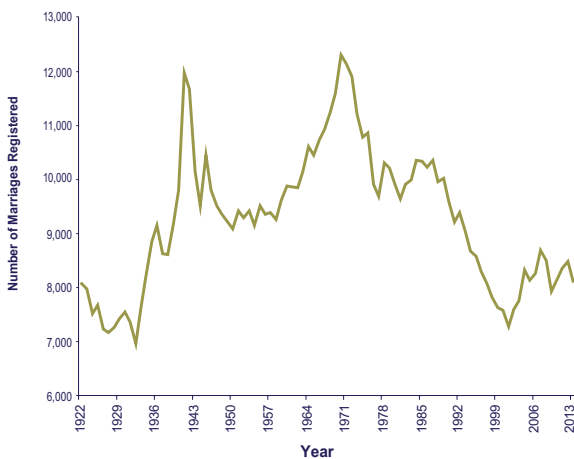
[Download Chart](#) (XL Format – 197Kb)

## 1.10 Marriages

### Numbers

1.10.1 There were 8,126 marriages registered in 2013, a decrease of 4.2 per cent on the 2012 figure of 8,480 marriages. The 2013 figure represents a 12 per cent increase on the record low of 7,281 marriages registered in 2001, but is still notably below the peak of 12,297 marriages in 1970. Figure 1.28 shows the number of marriages from 1922.

**Figure 1.28: Number of marriages registered (1923 to 2013) – non-zero y-axis**



[Download Chart](#) (XLSX Format – 175Kb)

### Age at Marriage

1.10.2 In the last 30 years there has been a notable increase in the age at which both men and women are marrying. For example, men and women were on average 7 years older when they married in 2013 than was the case in 1983.

1.10.3 The average age at marriage for all brides in 2013 was 31.8 years of age. This compares with 27.3 years in 1993 and 24.6 years in 1983. The average age of the groom in 2013 was 34.0 years, compared with 29.4 years in 1993 and 26.9 years in 1983.

1.10.4 The average age for first marriages has also increased and is now 29.3 years for single females and 31.1 years for single males, both around 6 years older than their counterparts 30 years ago.

1.10.5 The age difference between brides and grooms at first marriage is around 2 years. This has remained fairly constant over the last 30 years.

1.10.6 Some 14 per cent of brides and 6.8 per cent of grooms were aged less than 25 years old in 2013. The comparable proportions a decade ago were 24 per cent and 12 per cent respectively.

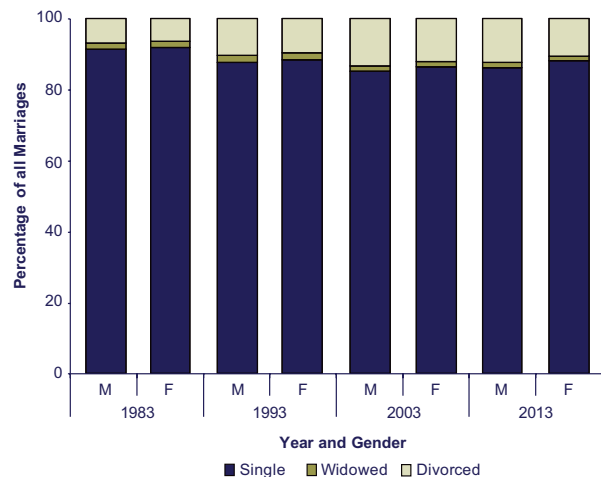
### Marital Status at Marriage

1.10.7 Over four fifths (81 per cent) of all marriages were the first for both partners in 2013. Remarriages for both parties accounted for a further 7.1 per cent of all marriages, with the remaining 12 per cent involving couples where only one partner had been married previously.

1.10.8 Figure 1.29 presents the percentage of marriages by marital status at the time of marriage between 1983 and 2013. The percentage of people marrying who were divorcees rose from 6.7 per cent in 1983 to 13 per cent in 2003 and has remained at about this level over the last decade. This coincides with a decrease in the proportion of marriages where one of the partners was single before marriage. The proportion of those marrying who were widowed has decreased over the past 30 years from around 2 to 1 per cent for both brides and grooms.

1.10.9 Just over half of couples who married in 2013 lived at the same address prior to getting married.

**Figure 1.29: Percentage of marriages by sex and marital status (1983 to 2013)**



[Download Chart](#) (XLS Format – 162Kb)

### Bride and Groom Usual Residence

1.10.10 Of the 8,126 marriages in 2013, some 89 per cent (7,252) were of couples where one or both partners lived in Northern Ireland. In the remaining 875 marriages (11 per cent), while neither partner lived in Northern Ireland, in 68 per cent of these marriages one or both partners were born in Northern Ireland; indicating a tendency to return home to Northern Ireland to get married.

### Bride and Groom Country of Birth

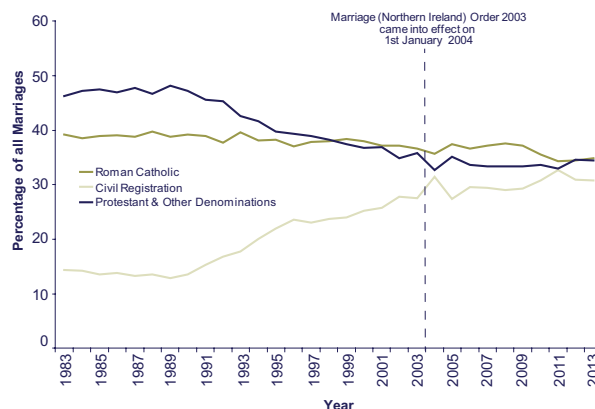
1.10.11 Overall, in 70 per cent (5,725 marriages) of marriages registered during 2013 both partners were born in Northern Ireland. In 23 per cent (1,848 marriages) one partner was born in Northern Ireland and in the remaining 6.8 per cent (553 marriages) neither partner was born in Northern Ireland.

### Religious and Civil Marriages

1.10.12 Of the 5,627 religious marriages registered in 2013, 50 per cent were Roman Catholic ceremonies, 18 per cent Presbyterian, 14 per cent Church of Ireland, 5 per cent Methodist and 13 per cent other denominations.

1.10.13 Figure 1.30 shows the change in popularity of religious and civil ceremonies over time. The increase in popularity of civil ceremonies may in part be due to the introduction of the Marriage (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 which enabled civil ceremonies to be conducted in approved venues as an alternative to Registrar's Offices. In 2013, 31 per cent of all marriages (2,499) were celebrated by a civil ceremony, compared with only 14 per cent in 1983. This is a slight decrease on the all-time high of 33 per cent in 2011.

**Figure 1.30: Percentage of marriages by method of celebration (1983 to 2013)**



[Download Chart](#) (XLS Format – 185Kb)

### Place of Ceremony

1.10.14 Since 2004 the percentage of marriages taking place in approved premises has increased steadily from 6.4 per cent in 2004 to 24 per cent of all marriages in 2013. In 2013, a total of 1,211 civil marriage ceremonies (48 per cent of all civil marriage ceremonies) were held in approved venues other than a Registrar's Office. The most popular locations were Galgorm Manor Hotel, Ballymena (79 civil weddings) followed by Belfast Castle (44 civil marriages), The Old Inn, Crawfordsburn (33 civil marriages) and Tullylagan Country House Hotel, Cookstown (25 civil marriages).

1.10.15 The prevalence of conducting religious marriage ceremonies in venues other than religious buildings varies by religion and denomination. In 2013, 725 religious marriage ceremonies (13 per cent of all religious marriage ceremonies) were held outside of religious buildings.

1.10.16 While the Belfast Registrar's Office had the most weddings of all Registrar's Offices in 2013, St. Patrick's Church, Pennyburn, Derry, hosted the most weddings of all religious buildings.

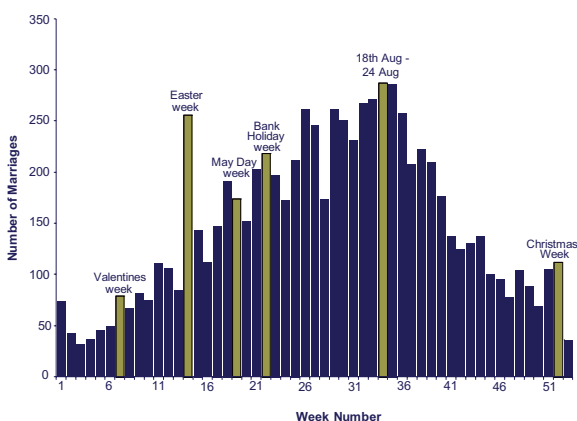
## Marriage Day

1.10.17 The most common day of the week for all marriages was a Saturday (36 per cent) while Friday was the most common day for civil marriages (32 per cent). The most common month to get married was August (1,305 couples) followed by July (967 couples). Saturday 17th August and Saturday 28th September were jointly the most popular days in 2013 to get married, with 93 couples marrying on each of these days. Saturday 25th May 2013 and Saturday 10th August followed a joint close second, with 92 weddings conducted on each of these days.

1.10.18 Sunday is becoming a more popular day to get married. By way of illustration, 148 marriages took place on a Sunday in 2013, which is almost 6 times the number recorded in 2003.

1.10.19 Figure 1.31 shows the number of marriages by week, with dates of selected weeks highlighted. The most popular week to get married was from Sunday 18th August to Saturday 24th August when 287 couples got married.

**Figure 1.31: Number of marriages per week (2013)**



[Download Chart](#) (XLS Format – 255Kb)

## Marriages by Area

1.10.20 Of all marriages registered in 2013, some 15 per cent occurred in Belfast, followed by 6.8 per cent in both North Down, 6.2 per cent in Newry and Mourne, 5.8 per cent in Fermanagh and 6.0 per cent in Derry Local Government District.

1.10.21 The average age of males and females at the time of marriage varied across Local Government Districts. For example, Ards had the highest average ages (33.8 for females and 36.5 for males) whereas Ballymoney had the lowest average ages (30.0 for females and 32.0 for males).

1.10.22 More than 80 per cent of religious ceremonies in Newry and Mourne and Derry Local Government Districts were Roman Catholic compared with less than 10 per cent of religious ceremonies in Carrickfergus and North Down Local Government Districts, reflecting the religious make-up of the populations in these Local Government Districts.

## 1.11 Divorces

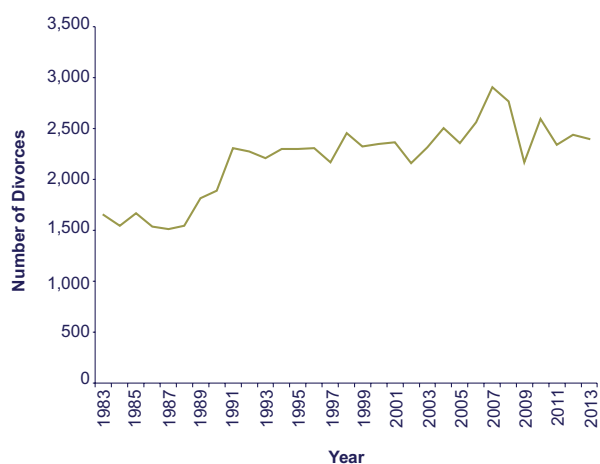
### Numbers

1.11.1 The divorce figures reported here are based on Decree Absolutes. Decree Nisi information can be obtained from the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service. A Decree Nisi does not terminate the marriage; a couple remain married until the Decree Absolute has been granted.

1.11.2 The number of marriages dissolved in Northern Ireland in 2013 was 2,403, which is comparable to the average number of divorces annually (2,399) over the last two decades and notably lower than the peak of divorces recorded in 2007 (2,913). The number of divorces recorded in 2013 represents a decrease of 1.7 per cent on the previous year's figure of 2,444.

1.11.3 During the 1970's the number of divorces was around 500 per year and by the 1980's this figure had tripled to around 1,500 per year. Since the 1990's there has been another increase in the number of divorces, peaking at the onset of the recession in 2007 and 2008 when 2,913 and 2,773 were recorded respectively. In more recent years this number has declined, fluctuating around 2,400 per year. Figure 1.32 shows the number of divorces from 1983 to 2013.

**Figure 1.32: Number of divorces granted (1983 to 2013)**



[Download Chart](#) (XLS Format – 155Kb)

### Grounds for Divorce

1.11.4 Non-cohabitation remains the most frequently recorded reason for divorce (69 per cent, 1,668 divorces), followed by behaviour (16 per cent, 396 divorces) and combined grounds (11 per cent, 265 divorces).

1.11.5 As in previous years, more women (64 per cent, 1,542 divorces) than men (35 per cent, 843 divorces) lodged applications for divorce in 2013. Only 18 of the divorces granted in 2013 were the result of joint applications.

### Duration of Marriage

1.11.6 The average duration of marriages ending in divorce is increasing over time. For example, the average duration of marriage ending in divorce was 17 years in 2013; the comparable duration for marriages that ended in 1993 was 14 years.

1.11.7 Of the divorcing couples in 2013, 6.7 per cent were married less than 5 years, 22 per cent between 5 and 9 years and 72 per cent were married for 10 years or more. Around 23 per cent of divorces involved couples who had been married for 25 years or more.

### Marital Status at Time of Marriage

1.11.8 While the majority of people getting divorced in 2013 had been single at the time of marriage (89 per cent for both males and females), the proportion of people getting divorced who had been divorced previously has been rising since the early 1980's; this group accounted for 10 per cent of all divorcees in 2013. Less than 1 per cent of all divorcees in 2013 were widows or widowers when they married.

### Age at Marriage of Divorcees

1.11.9 The average ages at marriage of men and women who got divorced in 2013 were 28.2 years and 25.9 years respectively. In 2013, 34 per cent of men and 51 per cent of women who divorced were under 25 years old when they married.

### Age at Divorce

1.11.10 The average ages at divorce for men and women who got divorced in 2013 were 45.7



and 43.4 years respectively. More women than men get divorced at younger ages reflecting the difference in their ages at marriage, with husbands generally being older than their wives.

#### **Method of Celebration of Marriage for Divorces**

1.11.11 In 2013, 29 per cent of divorces were of marriages that had been celebrated in a Roman Catholic Church. Corresponding figures for marriages in venues such as a Registrar's Office, Presbyterian Church (including Free Presbyterian), Church of Ireland and Methodist Church were 28 per cent, 14 per cent, 12 per cent and 2.9 per cent respectively. The remaining 14 per cent were either unknown or other denominations.

1.11.12 Some 19 per cent of divorces in Northern Ireland during 2013 were associated with a marriage which took place outside Northern Ireland. Of these divorces which took place outside Northern Ireland, a significant proportion (27 per cent) involved at least one partner living outside Northern Ireland at the time of their divorce, as opposed to 7.2 per cent for those who were married in Northern Ireland.

#### **Divorcees by Area of Residence**

1.11.13 Area of residence of divorcees varies throughout Northern Ireland. In 2013, Belfast Local Government District had the highest percentage (14 per cent) of divorcees followed by Lisburn (6.6 per cent) and Craigavon (5.6 per cent) Local Government Districts. Some 6.4 per cent of divorcees were residing outside Northern Ireland at the time of divorce, but this figure differed according to sex – 3.8 per cent of female divorcees were living outside Northern Ireland compared to 8.9 per cent of male divorcees.

#### **Children Affected by Divorce**

1.11.14 Just over 4,100 children/stepchildren were affected by the 2,403 divorces that were finalised in Northern Ireland during 2013. Of these children affected, over 2,400 children were under 18 years of age at the time the divorce petition was lodged and almost 1,700 children were aged 18 and over at the time of divorce.

## **1.12 Civil Partnerships**

1.12.1 The Civil Partnership Act 2004 came into force in late 2005, enabling same-sex couples to obtain legal recognition of their relationship. Between December 2005 and the end of 2013, 827 civil partnerships have been registered in Northern Ireland.

1.12.2 During 2013, 100 civil partnerships were registered in Northern Ireland. Of these 46 partnerships were male partnerships and 54 were female partnerships. This is similar to 2012 where 101 civil partnerships were registered (51 male partnerships and 50 female partnerships).

#### **Marital Status and Age of Civil Partners**

1.12.3 The majority (88 per cent) of all persons forming civil partnerships in 2013 were single. The remaining 12 per cent had been previously married or in a civil partnership. This proportion in 2013 differs slightly for male and female partnerships. For example, in 91 per cent of male civil partnerships both partners were single, with only 8.7 per cent of partners being previously married or in a civil partnership. For female civil partnerships, 65 per cent of both partners were single and 35 per cent were previously married or in a civil partnership.

1.12.4 The average age of males entering civil partnership in 2013 was 35.6 years, while for females it was 35.0 years.

#### **Place of Ceremony and Seasonality of Civil Partnerships**

1.12.5 In 2013, 68 civil partnership ceremonies were held in Registrar's Offices. The remaining 32 ceremonies were held in an approved venue.

1.12.6 June and August were the most popular months for civil partnerships, with 13 and 16 civil partnerships formed in each of these months respectively.

## 1.13 Civil Partnership Dissolutions

1.13.1 Whilst legislation has been in place in Northern Ireland since late 2005 to dissolve a civil partnership through the Civil Partnership Act, there were no dissolutions registered in Northern Ireland until 2010.

1.13.2 During 2013 there were 10 civil partnership dissolutions registered in Northern Ireland, 3 of male couples and 7 of female couples.

1.12.3. The average age of all partners dissolving a civil partnership in 2013 was 42.3 years.

## 1.14 Adoptions

1.14.1 Registers of children adopted under the provisions of the Adoption (NI) Order 1987 and Adoption (Hague Convention) Act (NI) 1969 and of previous adoption Acts of 1929, 1950 and 1967 are kept in the General Register Office, to which adoption orders made to the courts are transmitted.

1.14.2 A certified copy of an entry in the Adopted Children Register is evidence of adoption, and is also evidence of the date of birth of the adopted child.

1.14.3 The number of children recorded in the Adopted Children Register during 2013 was 130, an increase of 3 from the 2012 figure of 127. Despite this increase, the number of adoptions has generally been falling since 1970 when over 500 children were adopted. The 2008 figure of 97 adoptions was the lowest recorded figure since the early 1930's.

## 1.15 Re-Registrations of Births

1.15.1. In 2013, 887 births were re-registered, 51 less than in 2012. The most common reasons for a re-registration are because (i) the parents have subsequently got married or (ii) to add the father's name to the birth entry.

## 1.16 Gender Recognition Registration

1.16.1 The Gender Recognition Act 2004 was passed on 1 July 2004 and established a Gender Recognition Panel that issues Gender Recognition Certificates to those who have satisfactorily proved that they have been living in their new gender identity.

1.16.2 The Gender Recognition Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 that came into operation from 1 April 2005 allows the Registrar General, on receipt of a Gender Recognition Certificate, to re-register a birth, showing the new gender, in the Gender Recognition Register. In 2013 there was 1 birth re-registered in this way.

## Chapter 2

### Genealogy: How to Start Your Family Tree

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Mr Michael Woods, NISRA



## List of Abbreviations

US	United States
GRONI	General Register Office of Northern Ireland
LDS Church	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints
PBS	Public Broadcasting Service
BCG	Board for the Certification of Genealogists
GPS	Genealogical Proof Standard
GRO	General Register Office
PRONI	Public Record Office of Northern Ireland
UK	United Kingdom
RoI	Republic of Ireland
NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
PSR	Public Search Room
ONS	Office for National Statistics
OPR	Old Parish / Parochial Record
PROI	Public Records Office of Ireland
RIC	Royal Irish Constabulary
RCMS	Registration and Certificate Modernisation System

## 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This short paper aims to introduce the reader to the study of family history known as genealogy. This is a popular area of study as illustrated by the fact that an internet search resulted in approximately 40 million references. Whether undertaking the study yourself or engaging one of a growing number of professional genealogists this paper should be of interest, introducing the reader to a range of information sources and guiding the enthusiastic genealogist in undertaking their own study.

2.1.2 Sections 2.2 to 2.4 of this chapter provide a brief history of genealogy along with an overview of the basics of undertaking a genealogical study; for example definitions, objectives, likely outputs, a research methodology and a quality standard. Sections 2.5 and 2.6 outline the types of information the genealogist can use along with the information sources, both public and private. Section 2.7 addresses the issue of migration in family history with a focus on migration to the United States (US) and Canada.

2.1.3 The civil registration collection process (recording births, marriages and deaths) has passed through many technological advances. Section 2.8 describes a modernisation project, to increase the accessibility of such records, by the General Register Office of Northern Ireland (GRONI). Finally section 2.9 summarises the contents of this chapter.

## 2.2 Background: A Brief History of Genealogy

2.2.1 Genealogy, from the Greek for *generation and knowledge*, also known as family history, is the study of families and the tracing of their lineage and history. The Society of Genealogists, describe genealogy as an:

*“Establishment of a pedigree by extracting evidence, from valid sources, of how one generation is connected to the next”*

and family history as:

*“A biographical study of a genealogically proven family and of the community and country in which they lived”<sup>1</sup>.*

2.2.2 For most people genealogy is commonly bound up with an individual’s curiosity about their history. It is natural for one to want to know who their ancestors were, the type of life they led and whether there were any famous or infamous ancestors in the family. For others, views regarding genealogy are, in part, derived from their beliefs or faith. For example the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS Church), also known as the Mormons, believe their ancestry can be traced back to Adam. Indeed the Mormons hold the largest depository of family history information in the world. The reason for allocating such a vast resource to family history is related to the requirements of their faith.

2.2.3 The main Mormon genealogical library (the Family History Library, located in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA) houses their archives and was built approximately 40 years ago. The vault was constructed in the Granite Mountains of Utah (Figure 2.1) and remains an impressive construction to this day.

**Figure 2.1 The Vault in the Granite Mountains of Utah**



Source: LDS Church

2.2.4 Family history has been important throughout history. The ancient Hebrews used genealogy, in part because Hebrew males had to prove descent from Aaron, the brother of Moses, in order to hold a position in the Levitical priesthood.

2.2.5 The Inca people had a genealogical record despite having no written language. The Incas lived across the western coast of South America in the 5th century AD and the nine million Inca population believed that their emperor was a descendant of the Sun God. The emperor chose his administrators from among his sons and other close relatives and only pure-blooded Incas held the most important governmental, religious and military offices. As such proving one's lineage was extremely important in Inca society as it defined the position that an individual held in society.

2.2.6 As Chinese religions promoted active ancestor worship, descendants had a need to know the identity of their ancestors from a religious perspective. The ancient Greeks employed genealogy also, but their goal was to prove descent from a god or goddess in order to achieve social status.

2.2.7 The examples outlined demonstrate a common theme, namely that an individual's lineage is a key factor in their standing in contemporary society.

**Figure 2.2 Who Do You Think You Are?**



Source: BBC

2.2.8 There are a multitude of books, internet sites and television programmes regarding genealogy. The BBC show "Who Do You Think You Are" is in its eleventh series, regularly attracting audiences in excess of six million and has been syndicated in 10 countries. The RTE show, "The Genealogical Roadshow" has criss-crossed Ireland in search of ordinary people with extraordinary stories. The show is now an international hit series and the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) in America has already broadcast a US version of the show shot in Detroit, San Francisco, Nashville and Austin, Texas.

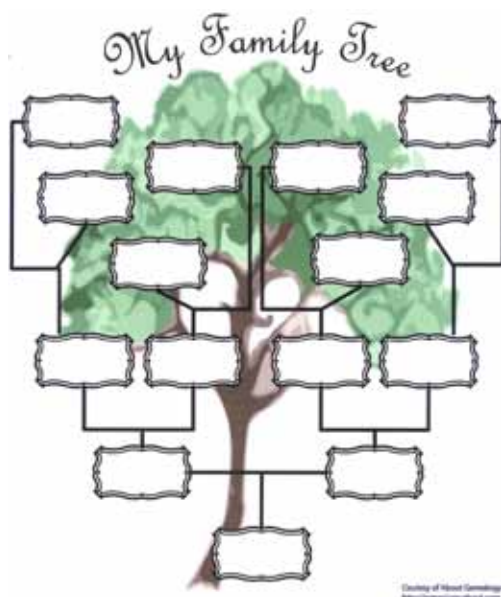
## 2.3 Definitions, Main Objectives and Outputs of a Genealogical Study

2.3.1 The main objectives of genealogical research are to identify ancestors and family relationships. The basic information that should be captured about your ancestors includes:

- date and place of birth;
- names of parents;
- date and place of marriage;
- names of children; and
- date and place of death.

2.3.2 Figure 2.3 shows an example of an output of genealogical study, namely a family tree which is in the shape of an upside-down pyramid: you would be the point at the bottom. An individual will usually have two parents, four grandparents, eight great-grandparents, sixteen great-great-grandparents and so on. In a genealogical sense, an ancestor is defined as a relative prior to your grandparents.

Figure 2.3 A Family Tree



2.3.3 If you take this pyramid and turn it upside down, you are now the point at the top. Stretching down from you are your descendants, your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and so on. If you trace your family down from a single ancestor, then it is called a descendant tree. If you trace your family back through the generations from a single individual, then it is known as an ancestor tree. The relationship between you and your ancestors and descendants are known as lineal relationships. Collateral relationships are relationships between individuals who descend from common ancestors but are not related to each other in a direct (or lineal) line. These relations include brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins. While it is not necessary to trace these collateral lines when researching your family history, they can often provide clues about your ancestors when you have reached an impasse.

2.3.4 A family tree or descendant tree is basically a list of names and how they are related to you. This basic output has limited information. To add a qualitative richness you can incorporate other genres of historical study. The genealogist Kimberley Powell put it well saying:

*“My preference, however, is to put the “history” in my family history”<sup>2</sup>.*

2.3.5 Incorporating additional historical information will contextualise the life of your ancestors leaving a picture of living history for future generations.

## 2.4 A Research Methodology and a Genealogical Proof Standard

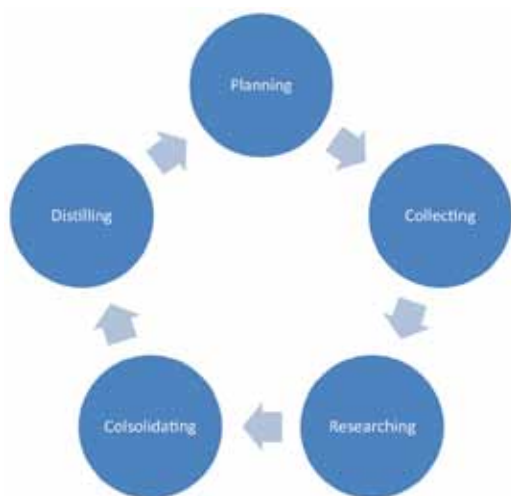
2.4.1 In terms of scale, with thousands of websites and books on the topic of genealogy it would, at first impression, seem a difficult task even knowing where to start. However, before searching for information the genealogist would be advised to have a method to follow in order to add structure to their study. What follows is an example of a basic research methodology applied to genealogical research. While it is not a prerequisite to use the methodology outlined below it will help the genealogist to plan and execute their study.

2.4.2 The main benefit of adhering to a methodology is structure. You will be dealing with a significant amount of information and without a structure there is a distinct possibility that information may be overlooked or indeed included erroneously. To this end Figure 2.4 shows the five phases of the family history research cycle: planning, collecting, researching, consolidating and distilling. Each of these phases is discussed in more detail below.

2.4.3 Carefully crafting a research plan entails knowing what you’re looking for and what your priorities are for finding information. Forward **planning** is crucial to the success of any project. The **collecting** phase gathers information, such as dates and locations of births, marriages and deaths. During the **researching** phase you will be searching for clues to your family lineage, finding information that supports your family tree structure and obtaining relevant documentation to prove, or otherwise, your assumptions about family members compiled during the collecting phase. The **consolidating** phase is simply storing this information. This appears straightforward, however you are likely to have a substantial body of work and whether you choose electronic storage or hard

copy it, is essential that your method enables you to easily retrieve the information you require. The **distilling** phase of the cycle is where you generate reports, for example a family tree. Bespoke genealogical software is available to assist you to produce such reports as a family tree from the information you have collected and consolidated.

**Figure 2.4 Family History Research Cycle**



Source: Researching Your Family History Online

2.4.4 The Board for the Certification of Genealogists (BCG) has set out a range of standards that professional genealogists follow to gain accreditation. The BCG has developed what is known as the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS). Applications for certification by the BCG are judged on whether the standards set have been met. Genealogists who are certified have demonstrated their ability to do work that meets the GPS. Successful accreditation from the BCG implies that the genealogist can:

*“Demonstrate broad and deep knowledge of the whereabouts, customary content, and evidentiary value of records within that specialty. They also demonstrate their ability to collect the data from each source accurately, thoroughly, efficiently, and with full citation to its source”<sup>3</sup>.*

2.4.5 Whilst the primary aim of the BCG is to ensure a quality standard for professional genealogists, the work of the amateur can also benefit from achieving the BCG standard. Each element in Table 2.1 contributes to a conclusion’s

credibility in a different way, and all the elements are necessary to establish proof.

2.4.6 In summary, this section outlined a research methodology, the family research cycle, (the steps of which should add structure to your study) and a set of elements (the GPS) that if met add credibility. Although not a prerequisite for a successful study, following the research cycle and assessing quality in accordance with the GPS is recommended.

**Table 2.1 The Genealogical Proof Standard**

Element of the Genealogical Proof	Contribution to Credibility Standard
Reasonably exhaustive search	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assumes examination of a wide range of high quality sources</li> <li>Minimizes the probability that undiscovered evidence will overturn a too-hasty conclusion</li> </ul>
Complete and accurate citation of sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrates the extent of the search and the quality of the sources</li> <li>Allows others to replicate the steps taken to reach the conclusion (Inability to replicate the research casts doubt on the conclusion)</li> </ul>
Analysis and correlation of the collected information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitates sound interpretation of the data contributed by each source</li> <li>Ensures that the conclusion reflects all the evidence</li> </ul>
Resolution of conflicting evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Substantiates the conclusion’s credibility (If conflicting evidence is not resolved, a credible conclusion is not possible)</li> </ul>



Element of the Genealogical Proof	Contribution to Credibility Standard
Soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eliminates the possibility that the conclusion is based on bias, preconception, or inadequate appreciation of the evidence</li> <li>Explains how the evidence led to the conclusion</li> </ul>

Source: Board for Certification of Genealogists

## 2.5 Information Types: Definitions

2.5.1 There are two specific types of sources used by genealogists and historians, primary sources and secondary sources.

2.5.2 Primary sources, the foundation of historical and genealogical research, are documents, oral accounts, photographs etc created by witness(es) at the time the event occurred. For example, a primary source for your marriage is your marriage certificate. If possible, try to find other primary records that verify the information found in any single source.

2.5.3 Secondary sources are documents, oral accounts etc created some time after the event or for which information is supplied by someone who was not an eyewitness, or if he / she was an eyewitness, did not recall the information until a significant amount of time had passed.

2.5.4 To use records fully and successfully, three pieces of information are of importance; names, dates and places. The most useful piece of information is the precise locality or origin of the family in question.

## 2.6 Sources of Genealogical Information

2.6.1 The following section introduces the main sources of information the genealogist will require to complete their study.

### Family information

2.6.2 As we are interested in our ancestors an obvious place to start is oneself and the genealogical information you hold. This is possibly the only absolute rule in genealogy. One should document as much information as you can recall relating to your immediate family. This information should also provide a signpost for the next step in your information gathering which is to interview living relatives. Our parents can provide information on their parents and our grandparents, their parents and so on.

2.6.3 A semi-structured interview format is recommended. Such a format has the benefits of ensuring essential information is gathered, for example date of birth, and also allows the interviewer to probe the interviewee for more detail. A semi-structured format also allows the interviewer to prompt for information that he / she has predetermined as essential.

2.6.4 There will be a point in your family history where the recollections of living relatives are not sufficient. When we reach this point we are ready to begin a search of public and private records, possibly using the internet or visiting the relevant General Register Office (GRO) and / or the relevant public sector records organisation. In Northern Ireland this is the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) <sup>4</sup>.

### Government records of vital events

2.6.5 Possibly the most important source of genealogical information relates to vital or life events namely births, marriages and deaths. This section begins by outlining Government provision across the United Kingdom (UK) and the Republic of Ireland (RoI) for accessing life event records.

2.6.6 Civil registration is defined by the United Nations<sup>5</sup> as the “Universal, continuous, permanent and compulsory recording of vital events provided through decree or regulation in accordance with the legal requirements of each country.” The civil registry provides individuals with documentary evidence required to secure recognition of their legal identity. It can help facilitate access to essential services, such as health and education. Civil registration assists governments in quantifying and analysing migration patterns, studying population dynamics and epidemiology analysis.

2.6.7 It was not until 1836 that registration was made compulsory in England and Wales, empowering the established church to register marriages.

2.6.8 Prior to this period of civil registration, records of baptisms, weddings and funerals were collated by churches. However this recording system was incomplete with records remaining for some but by no means all parishes. Non Government records of life events are also covered in this chapter (see 2.6.33 to 2.6.43).

2.6.9 While Ireland was not covered in this legislation, the Government of the day intended to expand registration to include Ireland and in 1861, two Private Members Bills were put before the House of Commons both of which proposed a registration system for Ireland. Finally in 1863, a Bill providing for the registration of births and deaths in Ireland was introduced and passed<sup>6</sup>. The Act however did not cover Roman Catholic marriages. It was not until the enactment of another Private Members Bill in 1864 that marriages celebrated within the Roman Catholic Church were included in the civil registration system<sup>7</sup>. The enactment of this bill also had provision for appointment of registrars who were also given the power to solemnise marriages by civil contract.

2.6.10 In Scotland, civil registration began on the 1st January 1855<sup>8</sup>. Although starting after England and Wales, civil registration in Scotland collected more information. For example, birth

records show the place and date of marriage of the parents and death records supply parents’ names, which was not the case in England and Wales.

2.6.11 Across the British Isles civil registration (i.e. by the state) is delivered through a series of General Register Offices (GROs). There are four Registrar Generals; one for England and Wales, one for Scotland, one for Northern Ireland and one for Ireland. In Northern Ireland, the General Register Office (GRONI) is part of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) and the Registrar General is also the Chief Executive of NISRA.

2.6.12 GRONI has a Public Search Room (PSR) where you can search computerised indexes of life events. The index provides:

- name;
- date; and
- place of event.

2.6.13 Figure 2.5 below shows an example of a marriage record of the type between 1845 and 2003. If in the GRONI PSR, you select to view the image, the information transcribed from the record will also be shown however not all fields have been transcribed. We will return to GRONI records later in this chapter (see 2.8).

**Figure 2.5 Marriage Certificate – Registered Between 1845 and 2003**

No.	When married	Name and surname	Age in years	Condition	Rank or profession	Residence at the time of marriage	Father's name and residence	Rank or profession of father
	20-10-00	John Powers	24	Bachelor	Civil Servant	15 Sandhurst Drive, Newcastle	John James Powers	Electrician
	2-12-00	Annie Doe	21	Spinster	Teacher	2, Newburn Street, Belfast	James Doe	Public Manager

Married in the Registrar's Office according to the provisions of Part 16 of the Civil Registration Act 1963. Solemnized by me, B. Rogers, Registrar.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, John Powers and Annie Doe, in the presence of Frank Smith and Caroline Cole.

Source: GRONI

## The Census

2.6.14 The first Census in the British Isles was established by the Population Act of 1800<sup>9</sup>. The Census took place in 1801 and covered England, Scotland, Wales and the Channel Islands. The enumeration, or count, of the population was the main output of early Censuses. The enumerations of early Censuses were used by government to administer the “Poor Law”, a pre-cursor to the establishment of the Welfare State in the UK.

2.6.15 The first Census simply counted the number of people resident in each dwelling across the geography in question. Importantly for the genealogist, names were generally not recorded unless the enumerator exceeded their instructions. Today Census records for England and Wales from 1841 to 1911 are available online as the result of a project led by the National Archives Office in Kew, London ([www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk))<sup>10</sup>. The Scottish Censuses of 1841 – 1911 can be accessed via the ScotlandsPeople website, shown in Figure 2.6. (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>)<sup>11</sup>.

Figure 2.6 ScotlandsPeople Website



Source: [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk)

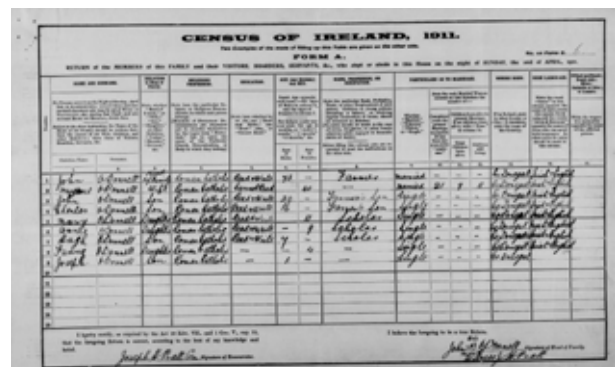
2.6.16 It was not until 1821 that Ireland successfully followed suit with a comprehensive Census. In Ireland, unlike in Great Britain, more

detailed information was collected from the outset. Although more information was collected in the early Irish Censuses, tragically the 1821, 1831, 1841 and 1851 Censuses of Ireland were mostly destroyed in a fire at the Public Records Office of Ireland (PRONI) at the Four Courts in Dublin in 1922.

2.6.17 In addition, the 1861 and 1871 Irish Census records were destroyed soon after the Censuses were completed, while those of 1881 and 1891 were pulped during the First World War. The surviving Irish Censuses of 1901 and 1911 were digitised by the National Archives of Ireland and are available to search freely at National Archives website ([www.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.nationalarchives.ie))<sup>12</sup>.

2.6.18 A return from the Irish 1911 Census is reproduced in Figure 2.7a and a blank front page from the most recent Census questionnaire in Northern Ireland (2011) is reproduced in Figure 2.7b. PRONI hold microfilm copies of the original census returns for 1901 and the Belfast Family and Community History ([www.belfastfamilyhistory.com](http://www.belfastfamilyhistory.com))<sup>13</sup> allow free searches of both the 1901 and 1911 Irish Censuses.

Figure 2.7a A 1911 Irish Census Form



Source: PRONI

**Figure 2.7b A 2011 Northern Ireland Census Questionnaire**

Source: NISRA

2.6.19 Even though there are 100 years between the two Censuses, the information collected was to all intents and purposes the same and is an invaluable source for the genealogist. The Irish Census of 1911 and the Northern Ireland Census of 2011 gathered the following information:

- first (Christian) name;
- surname;
- relationship to the head of the household;
- religious denomination;
- age;
- gender;
- occupation;
- marital status (1911 included length of time married);
- place of birth;

- ability to speak or write Irish; and
- disability and if disabled nature of disability.

2.6.20 A detailed history of the Census is outwith the scope of this paper. For such detail the reader may refer to the book “Census and Sensitivity” (2012) by Ian White<sup>14</sup> of the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Ian White has extensive knowledge of the Census having worked on the England and Wales Censuses from the 1970s onwards. Chapter two of the Registrar General’s Report 2011, also written by Ian White, provides a short history of the Census in Ireland and Northern Ireland<sup>15</sup>.

**Figure 2.8 Royal Avenue Belfast at the Turn of the Twentieth Century**



Source: <http://www.oldukphotos.com/ireland-county-antrim-belfast.htm>

2.6.21 Census records contain personal identifiable information and in order to maintain the confidentiality of the respondent, individual level information is not made public in Great Britain and Ireland until 100 years after the Census was carried out. In Northern Ireland the Census records are currently permanently closed.

## Land records

2.6.22 Life events and the Census are probably the most useful information sources for the genealogist. However other sources exist and this chapter now introduces the reader to the first of these sources to be covered, namely land records.

2.6.23 Land records can be separated into two types; those created by government (primarily valuation rolls); and those created to document a sale or transfer of land between two or more private parties (title deeds).

2.6.24 Land records provide two types of evidence. Firstly they often document family relationships and secondly, they place individuals in a specific time and place, allowing you to sort people and families into small geographical areas. One of the most important qualities of land records is that they are sometimes the only records that distinguish one person of a common name from another.

2.6.25 A voluntary system of property, deed and land registration began in 1862 with the establishment of the Land Registry in London. Compulsory registration started in 1897 covering England and Wales and became UK wide after 1925.

2.6.26 Deeds of sale typically document the names of the individuals or groups participating in the sale or purchase of land, possibly the spouse's name, a description of the property and location at the time of purchase. Deeds of sale that remain are held in County Record Offices, the British Library, the National Archives and Land Registry Offices. Land registry websites allow you to search current and previous land ownership deeds for the UK and Ireland, however this service is normally chargeable.

2.6.27 Another source of property deeds are solicitors, some of whom may have left their files to a public registry office such as PRONI. PRONI holds records of more than one hundred and forty solicitor's practices in Northern Ireland.

2.6.28 In Ireland, the Primary Valuation of Ireland, known as Griffith's Valuation<sup>16</sup> (carried out in the middle of the 19th century) and the Tithe Allotment Books<sup>17</sup> from the early 19th century are the two most important sources of genealogical information in this area of record collecting. Richard Griffith published his land survey between 1847 and 1864. The information contained in Griffith's Valuation is listed by parish and consists of:

- ordnance survey map reference number;
- location of property;
- name of occupier;
- name of person from whom the property was leased;
- description of the property;
- area (in acres, roods and perches); and
- annual valuation of the land and of the buildings.

2.6.29 For the genealogist, Griffith's Valuation is primarily a list of heads of household. In relation to the key genealogical information Griffith's does not provide much. For example, the age of the head of household and ages / gender of any offspring are not recorded.

### Figure 2.9 The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland Website



Source: PRONI

2.6.30 Post 1864 properties were valued annually until the early 1930s. The annual Valuation Revision Books are held by PRONI and complement the Griffith's Valuation database which is available online on the PRONI website<sup>4</sup> (see Figure 2.9).

2.6.31 In England and Wales a register of all landowners who owned more than one acre of land was compiled from rate books and published in Parliamentary papers. The primary use of these returns was to assess rates for the Poor Law. The original assessment is best known as the 'Doomsday Book'<sup>18</sup>. The returns can be particularly useful for surname distribution analysis.

2.6.32 A further land survey, carried out by John Bateman, a landowner, was first published in 1876 as *The Acre-Ocracy of England*.<sup>19</sup> The final edition of the revised survey was published in 1883 as *The Great Landowners of Great Britain and Ireland*.<sup>20</sup> A revised edition covering Scotland was published in 1879 as *The Great Landowners*.<sup>21</sup>

2.6.33 Similar systems were also taken forward in Scotland under the Lands Valuation (Scotland) Act, 1854<sup>22</sup>. As with the majority of genealogical information in Scotland the ScotlandsPeople website<sup>8</sup> holds valuation rolls for 1895, 1905, 1915 and 1920. The new records comprise over 2.5 million indexed names and over 75,000 digital images covering every kind of property that was assessed in 1920 as having a rateable value.

### Church and parish registers

2.6.34 Another source of genealogical information outside Government comprise church and parish records. Such records are probably the most comprehensive genealogical information outside Government.

2.6.35 Historically most families will have stayed in one church location or parish for a significant period of time. For dates before civil registration the genealogist can gain valuable information from parish registers as records of baptisms, weddings and deaths were routinely collated in some parishes.

2.6.36 Registration by the clergy in England and Wales began in 1538 when Thomas Cromwell, Henry VIII's Chancellor, instructed the established churches to keep registers of all baptisms, weddings and funerals within a particular parish. Compared to civil registration, parish registers typically contain less information. For example, in the sixteenth century baptisms gave the name of the child and usually the father's name only. Marriage entries typically gave the names of the bride and groom only. Early burial records normally only stated the name of the deceased. As time progressed the information recorded increased. For example after 1784 baptism certificates recorded the mother's maiden name.

2.6.37 Ancient English parish registers are deposited with local county record offices. In Wales the National Library holds early parish registers for 400 ancient Welsh parishes from a total of approximately 900. Some records are also held at the Welsh county records office.

2.6.38 In Scotland the first register of church baptisms began in 1553 in the parish of Errol in Southern Perthshire. However, extended coverage across Scotland was slow and it was approximately 250 years later (1800) that the earliest entry for the parish of Portree on the Isle of Skye was recorded. These records became known as Old Parish / Parochial Records (OPRs) and are available online at the ScotlandsPeople website<sup>8</sup>.

2.6.39 In Ireland, Church of Ireland ministers received direction to record life events from 1634. Most registers however, did not begin until the end of the eighteenth century. The earliest Roman Catholic register was the register for Wexford of 1671. However this was not the norm and many Roman Catholic registers did not begin until as late as the mid-nineteenth century.

2.6.40 The Methodist Church in Ireland between 1747, when John Wesley came to Ireland, and 1816 was part of the established church, the Church of Ireland. Therefore Methodist records of vital events occurring during this time may be found in Church of Ireland registers. The split in

1816 resulted in the Primitive Methodists and their records remaining within the Church of Ireland and the Wesleyan Methodists authorising their ministers to perform baptisms and communions. In 1878 the two branches of Methodism re-united outside the Church of Ireland.

2.6.41 Irish Presbyterian registers, in general, begin later than those of the Church of Ireland and often cannot be found in their registers. In areas of Ireland that had a strong Presbyterian representation, geographically speaking the north east, registers date from the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. The only published listing that remains is included in Margaret Falley's *Irish and Scotch-Irish Ancestral Research*<sup>23</sup>, however the coverage of the listing is not complete. For what is now Northern Ireland the PRONI *Guide to Church Records*<sup>24</sup> includes the dates and locations of surviving registers. In general Presbyterian registers are in three main locations; local custody, PRONI and the Presbyterian Historical Society in Belfast ([www.presbyterianhistoryireland.com](http://www.presbyterianhistoryireland.com))<sup>25</sup>.

2.6.42 The likelihood of finding a church record for your ancestor that lived in Ireland before civil registration depends on their religion. If your ancestor was a member of the established church of the day namely the Church of Ireland, the more likely you are to find a church record.

2.6.43 The National Archives of Ireland, previously Public Records Office of Ireland, holds copies of the majority of pre 1870 Church of Ireland registers that still exist. The same records are also held by the Representative Church Body Library in Dublin. The National Library of Ireland contains copies of almost all the Roman Catholic registers up to 1880. PRONI also holds copies of the pre-1870 registers of which there are approximately 200.

2.6.44 Historically it is likely that the church in which an individual was baptised was also the church in which they were buried. If you have made the decision to visit the church your relative was

baptised in, you could spend time in the church graveyard looking for your relative's grave.

2.6.45 The earliest attempts to record and publish Irish gravestone inscriptions are in the 'Memorials of the Dead'.<sup>26</sup> These were published annually under the aegis of the Association for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead, Ireland, and span the years 1888 to 1934. The contents were made up of submissions by voluntary contributors, who transcribed whatever took their interest and often included illustrations.

**Figure 2.10 Journal of the Association for the Memorials of the Dead Ireland 1892**



Source: <http://www.irishfamilyresearch.co.uk/Mems.htm>

2.6.46 In more recent years the Ulster Historical Foundation has been active in publishing a series of books entitled 'Gravestone Inscriptions'<sup>27</sup>. While the burial grounds sited in County Down have been substantially covered, only some of the Belfast and County Antrim graveyards have been published.

#### **Wills and administrations**

2.6.47 The legal process of proving wills and administrations (in the event that the deceased did not leave a will) is known as probate. Wills and

administrations can provide valuable information for the genealogist.

2.6.48 Solicitors hold two broad types of papers; those relating to the administration of a solicitor’s office and clients’ papers. Clients’ papers are of particular interest to genealogists and local historians as they include records of prominent families, landowners and estates, including title deeds, testamentary papers, leases, rentals, maps and correspondence which bring together a body of information on a particular family or area.

2.6.49 A probate document will usually contain the following information:

- name, address and occupation of the testator;
- date the will was made and signed;
- indication of the health of the testator when the will was made;
- details of the family;
- property leased or owned;
- date the will was proved; and
- sometimes the date of death.

2.6.50 Wills of Irish and British people were proved in church courts until 1858, when responsibility transferred to new civil probate registers. Unfortunately the fire of 1922 in Dublin destroyed many Irish probate records. However, a majority of the indexes of wills survived, and PROI began to collate copies, extracts, transcripts, and abstracts of the destroyed wills. The indexes provide the names of the deceased, their address and the date of the grant of probate or administration and occasionally their occupation.

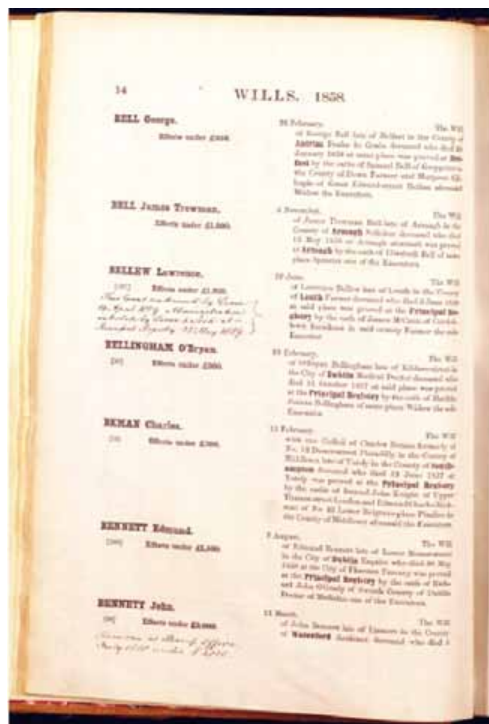
2.6.51 All probated wills since 1900, for what is now Northern Ireland, are held at PRONI, which also holds a Card Index to Wills 1536-1920, indexed by surname. The wills calendar application provides a fully searchable index to entries for the three District Probate Registries of Northern Ireland, namely Armagh, Belfast and Londonderry. This application provides a fully searchable index to the wills calendar entries for the three District

Probate Registries, with the facility to view the entire will calendar entry for each successful search. The database was enhanced as of March 2014 and now covers the period 1858 to 1965. Beginning earlier than PRONI’s Card Index to Wills, an index, known as Eneclann’s Index of Irish Wills, covers the period from 1484 to 1858. Eneclann’s Index of Irish Wills is held at the National Archives of Ireland.

2.6.52 England and Wales [www.origins.net](http://www.origins.net)<sup>28</sup> hold a searchable database of probate indexes. The indexes relate to lower church courts and higher church courts. The highest church court was the Prerogative Court of Canterbury and a searchable database of probate indexes of this court is available online through the National Archives website ([www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline))<sup>29</sup>.

2.6.53 Scottish wills and testaments proved in the Commissariat and Sheriffs Courts up to 1925 can be found on the ScotlandsPeople website<sup>8</sup>.

Figure 2.11 A List of Wills From 1858



Source: PRONI [http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search\\_the\\_archives/will\\_calendars/history\\_of\\_probate.htm](http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives/will_calendars/history_of_probate.htm)



### Value added information

2.6.54 This paper has briefly described the core information for studying family history. Outputs such as a family tree consist of branches without detail, in other words simple lineal family relationships without much qualitative information. To give insight into your family history, it may be valuable using wider sources of information such as newspapers and occupational information. For example, you may be able to find out the occupation of your relative from the Census, gravestone or parish records. Establishing for example, that a relative was a member of the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) opens up a further avenue of investigation as the National Archives of Ireland hold records of all RIC members.

2.6.55 Information contextualising the period in which your ancestor lived is recommended to add value to your study. PRONI have extensive archives of major events in Ireland, North and South, including those of:

- The 1798 Rebellion;
- Irish Elections;
- Catholic Emancipation;
- United Irishmen;
- Penal Laws; and
- Steps to Partition (founding of the Irish Free State and Northern Ireland).

2.6.56 If you have discovered an ancestor that was born in 1798 then you can incorporate in your study, information from the PRONI 1798 rebellion archive that provides the reader with an insight into what factors led to the rebellion and subsequently the Act of Union in 1801<sup>30</sup>.

2.6.57 If you have discovered an ancestor that lived in Derry / Londonderry during the 17th century you may well want to incorporate in your study what it was like to live there in that period. Again PRONI holds the source of such information in partnership with the Derry City Council Archive and Genealogical Service<sup>31</sup>.

2.6.58 In person, at the PRONI offices, or on their website, you can view minutes of the Londonderry Corporation, the forerunner of Derry City Council meetings. The minutes of the 16th April 1696 meeting also form an early census of the residents of the City. The minutes include a resolution expressing support for King William III after a plot to kill him was put down, signed by 226 residents of Derry.

2.6.59 Contemporary newspapers are also a good source to contextualise your ancestors' lives. For example, the Irish Times and the Belfast Newsletter (1822-1900) have digitised archives available to search on a commercial basis.

2.6.60 Not only does PRONI enable access to historical information but actively undertake a programme of educational events. The themes include family history and local history.

2.6.61 An example of the combination of local and family history that took an unexpected path is in the book "*The Real History of the Islandmagee Witches & Ireland's Only Witchcraft Mass Trial*" (History Press Ireland, 2013)<sup>32</sup>. One of the authors of this chapter, Dr Sneddon, predominantly an Irish historian with a significant interest in genealogy, while researching for this publication began to study the family history of the main characters. To his surprise he found out that the famous author Mark Twain was a descendant of one of the main witch-finders, the Mayor of Carrickfergus, Edward Clements.

## 2.7 The Genealogists Curse: Migration

2.7.1 Clearly one possible issue with a genealogical study is that some relatives that you are researching may have left Ireland or Britain and moved overseas. This movement of people known as migration, tends to be the genealogists curse and can sometimes lead to a dead-end. However for some of the new world countries, detailed records do exist. In this section we will restrict discussions to the common destinations of the US and Canada.

2.7.2 While each of the countries mentioned have comparable genealogical sources to those of the UK and Ireland, it is beyond the scope of this paper to describe all these sources for each country. Rather this chapter takes the perspective of individuals migrating to one of these countries and how we may find out if our hypothesis of migration is correct. An ancestor that has emigrated from Britain or Ireland may have his/her details recorded at the point of departure and/or on arrival in their new country.

2.7.3 The main source of records of emigration from Northern Ireland is PRONI. Emigrant letters form the most substantial part of PRONI's emigration records and are mainly from its collection of private archives. PRONI also holds the Irish Emigration Database which provides access to copies of most of the emigration letters, passenger lists and journals held in PRONI. The database is also available at the Centre for Migration Studies at the Ulster American Folk Park and also in Local Studies libraries throughout Northern Ireland. Examples of some of the passenger lists that are held by PRONI include:

- Passenger Lists from Ireland to America, 1804-06;
- Passenger Lists – New York, 1826-7, 1840-2 and 1850-2; and
- List of passengers from Warrenpoint and Newry to Philadelphia and New York, 1791-2.

2.7.4 Passenger lists vary in size and in length, may have changed over time and different shipping lines had their own pre-printed forms. Some records contain only minimal details about the passengers whereas others include information down to exact address and ultimate overseas destination. There is similar information available from the point of destination that the genealogist may examine.

2.7.5 Emigration from Ireland was often by necessity rather than choice. The most well known reason for this type of “forced” migration was famine. The population of Ireland decreased by

one fifth due to famine and migration in the mid nineteenth century. Records of who left Ireland due to the famine are contained in “The Famine Immigrants; Lists of Irish Immigrants Arriving at the Port of New York 1846-1851”<sup>33</sup>. This list is held by PRONI and also the National Immigration Archives in the Balch Institute in Philadelphia.

### United States

2.7.6 Extensive American customs and immigration passenger lists from 1820 to 1950 are held in The National Archives in Washington and by the Mormon Church, both online, and in the Family History Library in Utah.

2.7.7 Ellis Island is well known as the “gateway” to the US. In 1892 Ellis Island opened as the federal immigration station in New York. A database of approximately 12 million immigrants to the US is searchable online at [www.libertyellisfoundation.org](http://www.libertyellisfoundation.org)<sup>34</sup>. The US was a favoured destination for immigration from the UK and Ireland and you may well find your ancestor's information especially if they migrated before 1924 when immigration laws in the US were tightened.

2.7.8 Federal US immigration records earlier than the Ellis Island database are in the searchable database of Castle Gardens, New York ([www.castlegarden.org](http://www.castlegarden.org))<sup>35</sup>. The Castle Garden organisation holds records of approximately 11 million immigrants to America between 1820 and 1892. Castle Garden is a not-for-profit educational organisation supported by The US National Archives and Records and Administration.

2.7.9 There are numerous websites that those investigating US records may make use of. A suggested site to begin your investigations is Cyndi's List ([www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com))<sup>36</sup>. This website is a directory of approximately 300,000 genealogical websites in the US. Another online source is Ancestry.com<sup>37</sup> which is the largest for-profit genealogy company in the world. It operates a network of genealogical and historical record websites with a focus on the US and holds extensive passenger lists, citizenship and

naturalization records, border crossings and passports.

2.7.10 If your ancestor emigrated to the US it was more than likely that they remained. This being the case, examination of the US versions of genealogical sources covered for the UK and Ireland is an obvious next step. Your ancestor is likely to have applied for US citizenship and been granted a certificate of citizenship such as the one in Figure 2.12.

**Figure 2.12 United States Certificate of Citizenship**



Source: [kowalski-bellan.weebly.com](http://kowalski-bellan.weebly.com)

### Canada

2.7.11 Library and Archives Canada hold passenger lists for the period 1865-1935, ([www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/index-e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/index-e.html))<sup>38</sup>.

The lists contain information such as name, age, country of origin, occupation and intended destination. They are generally arranged by port and date of arrival, and the passenger lists have been digitised and are now available online. Figure 2.13 shows a passenger list from 9th June 1912.

**Figure 2.13 Passenger List: SS LETITIA, Québec, 9th June 1912**

Source: Library and Archives Canada.

2.7.12 Helpfully for the British or Irish genealogist, Libraries and Archives Canada holds a database of passenger lists for those whose point of departure was the British Isles and covers the earlier period 1801-1849. The site, in addition to the aforementioned passenger lists holds birth, marriage and death records, Census and church records for Canada, all of which are the main sources needed for a genealogical study.

2.7.13 Citizenship and Immigration Canada, holds records of naturalisation and citizenship from 1854. While the originals of records dated between 1854 and 1917 have been destroyed, a nominal card index has survived. Records created after 1917 are more detailed indicating surname, given name, date and place of birth, date of entry into Canada and in some cases the names of spouses and children. Many people were naturalised under acts prior to 1914 and therefore the original naturalisation records no longer exist. Library and Archives Canada host the naturalisation records for the period 1915-1951.

## 2.8 Modernisation of the Northern Ireland Civil Registration Records

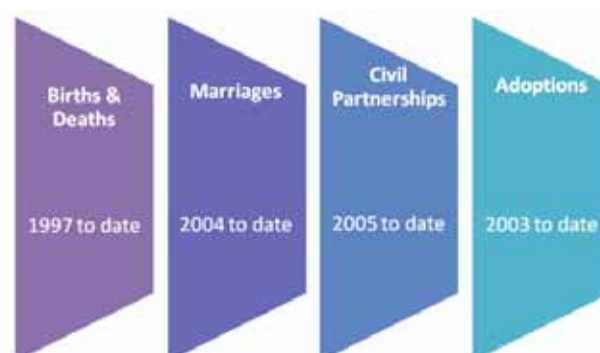
2.8.1 Projects for the modernisation of civil registration systems including digitisation, have been undertaken throughout the UK and Ireland. While there are undoubtedly an abundance of projects undertaken by individuals, groups and/or private genealogical organisations, the following section focuses on recent public sector developments in Northern Ireland.

2.8.2 The main focus of this section is a digitisation project which involved making an electronic copy of an image or record (in this case civil registration documents) and when placed online enables access by a wider audience. While electronic copies of records are an improvement over paper records in relation to preservation they are not without issues to be considered by the archivist. Electronic records generally have a longer lifespan than paper records which raises questions for the archivist such as is the electronic format chosen future proof and compatible with past electronic formats. These issues will impact on the study of genealogy.

2.8.3 In 2005, GRONI implemented the Registration and Certificate Modernisation System (RCMS). This system encompasses a fully integrated registration and certificate production system, with direct electronic communication to local registration offices in all district council areas of Northern Ireland. Figure 2.14 shows the type of registration and the date electronic registration commenced.

2.8.4 The next stage in modernisation was a major project to digitise all the eight million GRONI records. The project, which finished in March 2011, has removed the need for the manual certificate production processes and increased satisfaction levels of the users of the service. To get a copy of a certificate the public no longer have to obtain an application form, fill it in, enclose the fee and post it. It can now be done by phone or online.

**Figure 2.14 Registration and Certificate Modernisation System Electronic Registration**



Source: GRONI

2.8.5 Digitisation also resulted in the improvement of the genealogical service offered in GRONI's PSR, where up to 18 people at a time can search the electronic indexes and view the digital images. The success of the PSR was recognised by the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations by awarding GRONI their 2012 Award for Excellence in Genealogy.

2.8.6 The next logical project was to make this wealth of historic information available to the public without the need to travel to the PSR in Belfast. A website launched in April 2014 allows the user to search indexes and images of historical records from their internet enabled device. The website is accessed through the Northern Ireland administrations portal at [www.nidirect.gov.uk/family-history](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/family-history)<sup>39</sup>.

2.8.7 The main functionality of the website is to enable users to search and retrieve index information and images of civil registration records of births that were registered over 100 years ago, deaths from 50 years ago and marriages 75 years ago. More modern records can also be accessed through the PSR. Figure 2.15 shows the search screen that allows the genealogist to search birth records.

Figure 2.15 Birth Records Search Screen

Source GRONI

### Other developments relevant to Northern Ireland

2.8.8 In the RoI a significant number of church records have been transcribed and indexed by county based family history centres as part of the Irish Government's Genealogical Project. The aim of the Irish Government was to create a database of all Irish family history records. The project which is the responsibility of the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism can be accessed at the project website (<http://www.irishgenealogy.ie>)<sup>40</sup>.

2.8.9 In the RoI, the Social Welfare and Pensions (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2013 are amendments to section 61 of the Civil Registration Act 2004<sup>41</sup>. The aim of these amendments was to allow the Irish Minister for Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht to make provision and legal framework for birth, marriage and death indexes to be placed online.

## 2.9 Summary and conclusions

2.9.1 Hopefully after reading the current chapter you are enthused to begin your own genealogical project and have an understanding of how to accomplish the task successfully.

2.9.2 As described in the brief introduction to genealogy in this chapter the subject has had a varied history. The beginnings of genealogy would have been divisive for societies of the time as proving your lineage determined your future standing in society. Over time genealogy has become a massively popular pastime for millions and a burgeoning profession for many. It is unlikely that this new found appreciation of the study by the public will abate; it is more likely to increase.

2.9.3 Technology has made records more accessible and developments such as the digitisation of records have played a part in the growing interest in genealogy. Through the advent of microfilm/microfiche to today's modern system for electronic dissemination through website's such as GRONIs, searching for your ancestors has become considerably less labour intensive. It is no longer the case of spending long hours searching indexes and examining hard copy records.

2.9.4 Northern Ireland is at the forefront of technological developments evident through the digitisation project by GRONI and the wealth of genealogical and local history information available to search on PRONI's website. The archives held by PRONI are now housed in a modern, fit-for-purpose building that has excellent public search facilities.

2.9.5 The work of PRONI does not stop at archiving. Programmes of lectures, talks and other public engagement activities have proved popular. Local history and family history seminars are often fully booked and the numbers passing through the new buildings in the Titanic Quarter Belfast reflect the growing popularity of family and local history. Looking to the future, technology will undoubtedly continue to advance the study of one's ancestors.

2.9.6 This chapter has covered both public and private sources of genealogical information. It has also shown that a significant amount of this information has been placed online and the internet is probably the best place to start a genealogical project. However, as already outlined, the importance of establishing a robust methodology before attempting any information gathering cannot be over emphasised.

2.9.7 Migration of a recent relative or one from centuries ago raises problems for the genealogist. While this chapter was restricted to the destinations of the US and Canada which have civil registration systems similar to that in Northern Ireland, it would be a more difficult proposition if your relative had left for a non English speaking country, for example in the far east.

2.9.8 If you are a relative that has migrated from these shores and are researching your Irish ancestors it may be that you would wish to visit your ancestral homeland. There are Family History centres across the UK and Ireland in addition to public offices such as the GROs. The pure genealogical aspect of a trip to the ancestral homeland can also benefit from local history. Tourist offices across Ireland North ([www.discovernorthernireland.com](http://www.discovernorthernireland.com))<sup>42</sup> and South (Failte Ireland [www.failteire.ie](http://www.failteire.ie))<sup>43</sup> are excellent places to start local history research.

2.9.9 If you wish to engage a professional genealogist to trace your ancestors, Northern Ireland has a range of professionals to choose from. For example the Northern Ireland Genealogists ([www.northern-ireland.genealogists.com](http://www.northern-ireland.genealogists.com))<sup>44</sup> or The Society of Genealogists Northern Ireland ([www.sgni.net](http://www.sgni.net))<sup>45</sup> have independent commercial researchers who can, for a fee, carry out the work on your behalf. These two are examples of many such organisations operating in Northern Ireland and the reader is advised to conduct a wider search before securing the services of a professional.

2.9.10 In closing, the aim of this chapter has been to provide the interested person with the basics he/she will require to trace their relatives. It should be read in conjunction with some of the many comprehensive study guides that are available which cover the area in greater depth and detail. Alternatively, a number of local organisations such as PRONI run seminar series' which can be extremely helpful, particularly for the less experienced. Genealogy has also been recognised in formal education, with some history degrees offering a module in the subject.

2.9.11 Importantly, those keen to study their family history can now deploy an approach that seeks to optimise their results in the time available which is of significant appeal to a great number of people. Perhaps this short paper might be a useful starting point for some.

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## Appendices



## Appendix 1: Population and vital events, 1926-2013

Year	Estimated population			Resident live births							Multiple births		
	Persons	Males	Females	All resident births <sup>1</sup>	Rate <sup>2</sup>	Males	Females	Males per 1,000 females	Outside marriage		Twins	Triplets etc	% of maternities
									Number	% <sup>3</sup>			
1926-30	<b>1,249,000</b>	604,000	645,000	<b>26,418</b>	<b>21.2</b>	13,587	12,831	1,059	1,249	4.7	308	4	1.2
1931-35	<b>1,270,000</b>	617,000	653,000	<b>25,098</b>	<b>19.8</b>	12,926	12,172	1,062	1,259	5.0	286	2	1.2
1936-40	<b>1,286,800</b>	626,100	660,700	<b>25,533</b>	<b>19.8</b>	13,110	12,423	1,055	1,178	4.6	300	4	1.2
1941-45	<b>1,304,400</b>	674,000	630,400	<b>29,592</b>	<b>22.7</b>	15,287	14,305	1,069	1,560	5.3	332	4	1.2
1946-50	<b>1,350,400</b>	695,800	654,600	<b>29,764</b>	<b>22.0</b>	15,336	14,428	1,063	1,124	3.8	367	5	1.3
1951-55	<b>1,382,500</b>	673,700	708,800	<b>28,798</b>	<b>20.8</b>	14,885	13,913	1,070	838	2.9	391	4	1.4
1956-60	<b>1,405,000</b>	684,700	720,300	<b>30,539</b>	<b>21.7</b>	15,755	14,784	1,066	758	2.5	414	3	1.4
1961-65	<b>1,447,200</b>	705,500	741,700	<b>33,226</b>	<b>23.0</b>	17,171	16,055	1,069	890	2.7	407	3	1.3
1966-70	<b>1,501,500</b>	732,500	769,000	<b>32,866</b>	<b>21.9</b>	16,958	15,908	1,066	1,180	3.6	355	3	1.1
1971-75	<b>1,532,000</b>	755,200	776,700	<b>28,850</b>	<b>18.8</b>	14,935	13,914	1,073	1,260	4.4	308	2	1.1
1976-80	<b>1,526,200</b>	754,300	771,900	<b>26,959</b>	<b>17.7</b>	13,807	13,152	1,050	1,531	5.7	271	4	1.0
1981-85	<b>1,552,100</b>	759,700	792,400	<b>27,194</b>	<b>17.5</b>	13,965	13,229	1,056	2,469	9.1	289	3	1.1
1986-90	<b>1,585,400</b>	773,800	811,600	<b>27,045</b>	<b>17.1</b>	13,914	13,130	1,060	4,266	15.8	286	4	1.1
1991-95	<b>1,631,800</b>	795,900	835,900	<b>24,779</b>	<b>15.2</b>	12,704	12,075	1,052	5,427	21.9	292	8	1.2
1996-2000	<b>1,674,500</b>	816,700	857,800	<b>23,321</b>	<b>13.9</b>	11,966	11,356	1,054	6,661	28.6	319	8	1.4
2001-2005	<b>1,704,700</b>	833,400	871,300	<b>21,928</b>	<b>12.9</b>	11,245	10,683	1,053	7,511	34.3	314	8	1.5
2006-2010	<b>1,772,800</b>	869,900	903,000	<b>24,716</b>	<b>13.9</b>	12,689	12,027	1,055	9,638	39.0	356	4	1.5
1971	<b>1,540,400</b>	754,600	785,800	<b>31,765</b>	<b>20.6</b>	16,504	15,261	1,081	1,207	3.8	342	4	1.1
1972	<b>1,539,000</b>	757,500	781,500	<b>29,994</b>	<b>19.5</b>	15,559	14,435	1,078	1,263	4.2	325	3	1.1
1973	<b>1,530,000</b>	755,700	774,200	<b>29,200</b>	<b>19.1</b>	15,152	14,048	1,079	1,195	4.1	290	1	1.0
1974	<b>1,526,900</b>	755,000	771,900	<b>27,160</b>	<b>17.8</b>	13,987	13,173	1,062	1,296	4.8	291	3	1.1
1975	<b>1,523,500</b>	753,300	770,200	<b>26,130</b>	<b>17.2</b>	13,475	12,655	1,065	1,338	5.1	294	-	-
1976	<b>1,523,500</b>	754,000	769,500	<b>26,361</b>	<b>17.3</b>	13,542	12,819	1,056	1,330	5.0	264	5	1.0
1977	<b>1,523,300</b>	753,900	769,400	<b>25,437</b>	<b>16.7</b>	13,154	12,283	1,071	1,383	5.4	266	3	1.1
1978	<b>1,523,200</b>	753,600	769,700	<b>26,239</b>	<b>17.2</b>	13,168	13,071	1,007	1,523	5.8	249	2	1.0
1979	<b>1,528,300</b>	755,200	773,100	<b>28,178</b>	<b>18.4</b>	14,485	13,693	1,058	1,668	5.9	276	5	1.0
1980	<b>1,532,800</b>	754,800	778,000	<b>28,582</b>	<b>18.6</b>	14,686	13,896	1,057	1,751	6.1	298	4	1.1
1981	<b>1,543,000</b>	756,600	786,300	<b>27,166</b>	<b>17.6</b>	13,847	13,319	1,040	1,894	7.0	304	4	1.1
1982	<b>1,544,500</b>	756,700	787,800	<b>26,872</b>	<b>17.4</b>	13,732	13,140	1,045	2,106	7.8	305	2	1.2
1983	<b>1,550,600</b>	759,000	791,500	<b>27,026</b>	<b>17.4</b>	13,972	13,054	1,070	2,370	8.8	263	4	1.0
1984	<b>1,557,300</b>	761,300	796,000	<b>27,477</b>	<b>17.6</b>	14,196	13,281	1,069	2,790	10.2	303	3	1.1
1985	<b>1,565,400</b>	764,900	800,400	<b>27,427</b>	<b>17.5</b>	14,076	13,351	1,054	3,185	11.6	269	3	1.0
1986	<b>1,573,500</b>	768,400	805,100	<b>27,975</b>	<b>17.8</b>	14,501	13,474	1,076	3,575	12.8	280	3	1.0
1987	<b>1,582,000</b>	772,900	809,100	<b>27,653</b>	<b>17.5</b>	14,196	13,457	1,055	3,967	14.3	320	7	1.2
1988	<b>1,585,400</b>	773,800	811,700	<b>27,514</b>	<b>17.4</b>	14,131	13,383	1,056	4,446	16.2	283	2	1.0
1989	<b>1,590,400</b>	775,900	814,500	<b>25,831</b>	<b>16.2</b>	13,307	12,524	1,063	4,394	17.0	281	2	1.1
1990	<b>1,595,600</b>	777,900	817,700	<b>26,251</b>	<b>16.5</b>	13,437	12,814	1,049	4,946	18.8	267	5	1.0
1991	<b>1,607,300</b>	783,200	824,100	<b>26,028</b>	<b>16.2</b>	13,427	12,601	1,066	5,288	20.3	311	7	1.2
1992	<b>1,623,300</b>	792,100	831,100	<b>25,354</b>	<b>15.6</b>	12,924	12,430	1,040	5,579	22.0	256	8	1.1
1993	<b>1,635,600</b>	798,200	837,300	<b>24,722</b>	<b>15.1</b>	12,515	12,207	1,025	5,445	22.0	283	9	1.2
1994	<b>1,643,700</b>	801,900	841,800	<b>24,098</b>	<b>14.7</b>	12,361	11,737	1,053	5,337	22.1	288	6	1.2
1995	<b>1,649,100</b>	804,000	845,100	<b>23,693</b>	<b>14.4</b>	12,293	11,400	1,078	5,487	23.2	324	9	1.4
1996	<b>1,661,800</b>	810,300	851,400	<b>24,382</b>	<b>14.7</b>	12,382	12,000	1,032	6,346	26.0	310	13	1.3
1997	<b>1,671,300</b>	815,500	855,700	<b>24,087</b>	<b>14.4</b>	12,325	11,762	1,048	6,427	26.7	330	7	1.4
1998	<b>1,677,800</b>	818,700	859,100	<b>23,668</b>	<b>14.1</b>	12,058	11,610	1,039	6,743	28.5	305	7	1.3
1999	<b>1,679,000</b>	818,500	860,500	<b>22,957</b>	<b>13.7</b>	11,943	11,014	1,084	6,957	30.3	334	6	1.5
2000	<b>1,682,900</b>	820,500	862,500	<b>21,512</b>	<b>12.8</b>	11,120	10,392	1,070	6,833	31.8	314	5	1.5
2001	<b>1,688,800</b>	824,300	864,600	<b>21,962</b>	<b>13.0</b>	11,288	10,674	1,058	7,144	32.5	330	10	1.6
2002	<b>1,697,500</b>	829,000	868,500	<b>21,385</b>	<b>12.6</b>	10,874	10,511	1,035	7,161	33.5	313	13	1.5
2003	<b>1,704,900</b>	833,100	871,800	<b>21,648</b>	<b>12.7</b>	11,244	10,404	1,081	7,439	34.4	304	5	1.4
2004	<b>1,714,000</b>	838,300	875,800	<b>22,318</b>	<b>13.0</b>	11,477	10,841	1,059	7,703	34.5	330	7	1.5
2005	<b>1,727,700</b>	845,300	882,400	<b>22,328</b>	<b>12.9</b>	11,341	10,987	1,032	8,108	36.3	294	6	1.4
2006	<b>1,743,100</b>	853,100	890,000	<b>23,272</b>	<b>13.4</b>	12,010	11,262	1,066	8,832	38.0	315	1	1.4
2007	<b>1,761,700</b>	862,300	899,400	<b>24,451</b>	<b>13.9</b>	12,516	11,935	1,049	9,261	37.9	357	5	1.5
2008	<b>1,779,200</b>	871,000	908,200	<b>25,631</b>	<b>14.4</b>	13,204	12,427	1,063	9,966	38.9	356	6	1.4
2009	<b>1,793,300</b>	878,500	914,800	<b>24,910</b>	<b>13.9</b>	12,799	12,111	1,057	9,902	39.8	372	5	1.5
2010	<b>1,804,800</b>	884,500	920,300	<b>25,315</b>	<b>14.0</b>	12,917	12,398	1,042	10,231	40.4	382	5	1.6
2011	<b>1,814,300</b>	889,300	925,000	<b>25,273</b>	<b>13.9</b>	12,825	12,448	1,030	10,591	41.9	410	4	1.7
2012	<b>1,823,600</b>	894,600	929,000	<b>25,269</b>	<b>13.9</b>	12,999	12,270	1,059	10,757	42.6	371	6	1.5
2013	<b>1,829,700</b>	897,100	932,600	<b>24,277</b>	<b>13.3</b>	12,388	11,889	1,042	10,308	42.5	378	5	1.6

Note: See Appendix 3 - for notes on change in definition of stillbirths that took place in 1992

<sup>1</sup> All births prior to 1981

<sup>2</sup> Rate per 1,000 population

<sup>3</sup> Percentage of all live births

<sup>4</sup> Rate per 1,000 resident live and still births

<sup>5</sup> Rate per 1,000 live births (resident and non-resident)

## Appendix 1: Population and vital events, 1926-2013

Stillbirths		Infant deaths		Deaths						Marriages		Divorces	Civil Partnerships	Year
Number	Rate <sup>4</sup>	Number	Rate <sup>5</sup>	Persons		Males		Females		Number	Rate <sup>2</sup>	Number	Number	
				Number	Rate <sup>2</sup>	Number	Rate <sup>2</sup>	Number	Rate <sup>2</sup>					
..	..	2,083	78.8	<b>18,403</b>	<b>14.7</b>	8,888	14.7	9,515	14.8	7,328	5.9	..	..	1926-30
..	..	1,966	78.4	<b>18,026</b>	<b>14.2</b>	8,869	14.4	9,157	14.0	7,806	6.1	..	..	1931-35
..	..	1,970	77.2	<b>18,369</b>	<b>14.3</b>	9,097	14.5	9,271	14.0	9,073	7.1	..	..	1936-40
..	..	2,169	73.3	<b>17,478</b>	<b>13.4</b>	8,778	13.0	8,700	13.8	10,751	8.2	..	..	1941-45
..	..	1,423	47.8	<b>16,039</b>	<b>11.9</b>	8,134	11.7	7,905	12.1	9,396	7.0	..	..	1946-50
..	..	1,054	36.6	<b>15,557</b>	<b>11.3</b>	7,966	11.8	7,590	10.7	9,359	6.8	..	..	1951-55
..	..	863	28.3	<b>15,175</b>	<b>10.8</b>	7,872	11.5	7,303	10.1	9,500	6.8	..	..	1956-60
695	20.5	879	26.5	<b>15,628</b>	<b>10.8</b>	8,185	11.6	7,443	10.0	10,185	7.0	124	..	1961-65
530	15.9	791	24.1	<b>15,987</b>	<b>10.6</b>	8,399	11.5	7,588	9.9	11,357	7.6	225	..	1966-70
407	13.9	610	21.1	<b>16,948</b>	<b>11.1</b>	8,954	11.9	7,994	10.3	11,384	7.4	381	..	1971-75
269	9.9	427	15.9	<b>16,750</b>	<b>11.0</b>	8,770	11.6	7,980	10.3	10,010	6.6	648	..	1976-80
194	7.1	323	11.8	<b>15,972</b>	<b>10.3</b>	8,146	10.7	7,826	9.9	10,049	6.5	1,523	..	1981-85
136	5.0	231	8.5	<b>15,696</b>	<b>9.9</b>	7,879	10.2	7,818	9.6	10,031	6.3	1,664	..	1986-90
135	5.4	168	6.7	<b>15,228</b>	<b>9.3</b>	7,515	9.4	7,713	9.2	8,983	5.5	2,282	..	1991-95
126	5.4	134	5.7	<b>15,150</b>	<b>9.0</b>	7,315	9.0	7,835	9.1	7,881	4.7	2,325	..	1996-2000
109	4.9	122	5.5	<b>14,428</b>	<b>8.5</b>	6,953	8.3	7,474	8.6	7,821	4.6	2,345	..	2001-2005
106	4.3	129	5.1	<b>14,592</b>	<b>8.2</b>	7,095	8.2	7,496	8.3	8,309	4.7	2,605	105	2006-2010
462	14.3	722	22.7	<b>16,202</b>	<b>10.5</b>	8,593	11.4	7,609	9.7	12,152	7.9	339	..	1971
434	14.3	616	20.5	<b>17,032</b>	<b>11.1</b>	9,001	11.9	8,031	10.3	11,905	7.7	355	..	1972
389	13.1	610	20.9	<b>17,669</b>	<b>11.5</b>	9,288	12.3	8,381	10.8	11,212	7.3	393	..	1973
374	13.6	567	20.9	<b>17,327</b>	<b>11.3</b>	9,226	12.2	8,101	10.5	10,783	7.1	382	..	1974
375	14.1	534	20.4	<b>16,511</b>	<b>10.8</b>	8,664	11.5	7,847	10.2	10,867	7.1	437	..	1975
278	10.4	483	18.3	<b>17,030</b>	<b>11.2</b>	8,869	11.8	8,161	10.6	9,914	6.5	574	..	1976
310	12.0	438	17.2	<b>16,921</b>	<b>11.1</b>	8,871	11.8	8,050	10.5	9,696	6.4	569	..	1977
243	9.2	417	15.9	<b>16,153</b>	<b>10.6</b>	8,458	11.2	7,695	10.0	10,304	6.8	599	..	1978
246	8.7	417	14.8	<b>16,811</b>	<b>11.0</b>	8,822	11.7	7,989	10.3	10,214	6.7	601	..	1979
266	9.2	382	13.4	<b>16,835</b>	<b>11.0</b>	8,832	11.7	8,003	10.3	9,923	6.5	896	..	1980
240	8.8	360	13.2	<b>16,256</b>	<b>10.5</b>	8,423	11.1	7,833	10.0	9,636	6.2	1,355	..	1981
187	6.9	369	13.7	<b>15,918</b>	<b>10.3</b>	8,004	10.6	7,914	10.0	9,913	6.4	1,383	..	1982
204	7.5	329	12.1	<b>16,039</b>	<b>10.3</b>	8,209	10.8	7,830	9.9	9,990	6.4	1,657	..	1983
161	5.8	291	10.5	<b>15,692</b>	<b>10.1</b>	8,007	10.5	7,685	9.7	10,361	6.7	1,552	..	1984
178	6.4	265	9.6	<b>15,955</b>	<b>10.2</b>	8,088	10.6	7,867	9.8	10,343	6.6	1,669	..	1985
125	4.4	286	10.2	<b>16,065</b>	<b>10.2</b>	8,154	10.6	7,911	9.8	10,225	6.5	1,539	..	1986
170	6.1	242	8.7	<b>15,334</b>	<b>9.7</b>	7,721	10.0	7,613	9.4	10,363	6.6	1,514	..	1987
137	5.0	248	8.9	<b>15,813</b>	<b>10.0</b>	7,993	10.3	7,820	9.6	9,960	6.3	1,550	..	1988
133	5.1	180	6.9	<b>15,844</b>	<b>10.0</b>	7,878	10.2	7,966	9.8	10,019	6.3	1,818	..	1989
115	4.4	198	7.5	<b>15,426</b>	<b>9.7</b>	7,648	9.8	7,778	9.5	9,588	6.0	1,897	..	1990
123	4.7	194	7.4	<b>15,096</b>	<b>9.4</b>	7,533	9.6	7,563	9.2	9,221	5.7	2,310	..	1991
124	4.9	153	6.0	<b>14,988</b>	<b>9.2</b>	7,469	9.4	7,519	9.0	9,392	5.8	2,280	..	1992
128	5.2	176	7.1	<b>15,633</b>	<b>9.6</b>	7,731	9.7	7,902	9.4	9,045	5.5	2,213	..	1993
153	6.3	147	6.1	<b>15,114</b>	<b>9.2</b>	7,362	9.2	7,752	9.2	8,683	5.3	2,303	..	1994
145	6.1	169	7.1	<b>15,310</b>	<b>9.3</b>	7,482	9.3	7,828	9.3	8,576	5.2	2,302	..	1995
153	6.2	142	5.8	<b>15,218</b>	<b>9.2</b>	7,418	9.2	7,800	9.2	8,297	5.0	2,314	..	1996
131	5.4	137	5.6	<b>14,971</b>	<b>9.0</b>	7,244	8.9	7,727	9.0	8,071	4.8	2,176	..	1997
122	5.1	134	5.6	<b>14,993</b>	<b>8.9</b>	7,321	8.9	7,672	8.9	7,826	4.7	2,459	..	1998
132	5.7	148	6.4	<b>15,663</b>	<b>9.3</b>	7,464	9.1	8,199	9.5	7,628	4.5	2,326	..	1999
93	4.3	109	5.0	<b>14,903</b>	<b>8.9</b>	7,128	8.7	7,775	9.0	7,584	4.5	2,350	..	2000
112	5.1	134	6.0	<b>14,513</b>	<b>8.6</b>	7,007	8.5	7,506	8.7	7,281	4.3	2,365	..	2001
122	5.7	100	4.6	<b>14,586</b>	<b>8.6</b>	6,948	8.4	7,638	8.8	7,599	4.5	2,165	..	2002
108	5.0	115	5.2	<b>14,462</b>	<b>8.5</b>	6,920	8.3	7,542	8.7	7,757	4.5	2,319	..	2003
113	5.0	122	5.3	<b>14,354</b>	<b>8.4</b>	6,935	8.3	7,419	8.5	8,328	4.9	2,512	..	2004
89	4.0	140	6.1	<b>14,224</b>	<b>8.2</b>	6,957	8.2	7,267	8.2	8,140	4.7	2,362	12	2005
89	3.8	121	5.1	<b>14,532</b>	<b>8.3</b>	7,062	8.3	7,470	8.4	8,259	4.7	2,565	116	2006
102	4.2	123	4.9	<b>14,649</b>	<b>8.3</b>	7,208	8.4	7,441	8.3	8,687	4.9	2,913	111	2007
115	4.5	123	4.7	<b>14,907</b>	<b>8.4</b>	7,227	8.3	7,680	8.5	8,510	4.8	2,773	86	2008
119	4.8	130	5.1	<b>14,413</b>	<b>8.0</b>	6,914	7.9	7,499	8.2	7,931	4.4	2,176	96	2009
105	4.1	146	5.7	<b>14,457</b>	<b>8.0</b>	7,066	8.0	7,391	8.0	8,156	4.5	2,600	116	2010
91	3.6	110	4.6	<b>14,204</b>	<b>7.8</b>	6,918	7.8	7,286	7.9	8,366	4.6	2,343	89	2011
106	4.2	90	3.5	<b>14,756</b>	<b>8.1</b>	7,094	7.9	7,662	8.2	8,480	4.7	2,444	101	2012
110	4.5	112	4.6	<b>14,968</b>	<b>8.2</b>	7,261	8.1	7,707	8.3	8,126	4.4	2,403	100	2013

## Appendix 2: Population and vital events by Administrative Area, 2013

AREA	Estimated population at 30 June 2013	Resident live births		Stillbirths		Infant deaths		Deaths		Marriages	
		Number	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Number	Rate <sup>2</sup>	Number	Rate <sup>3</sup>	Number	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Number	Rate <sup>1</sup>
<b>NORTHERN IRELAND</b>	<b>1,829,725</b>	<b>24,277</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>14,968</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>8,126</b>	<b>4.4</b>
<b>Belfast HSC Trust</b>	<b>349,618</b>	<b>4,765</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>3,282</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>1,388</b>	<b>4.0</b>
Belfast	<b>281,735</b>	3,947	14.0	18	4.5	27	6.8	2,631	9.3	1,227	4.4
Castlereagh	<b>67,883</b>	818	12.1	3	3.7	–	–	651	9.6	161	2.4
<b>Northern HSC Trust</b>	<b>466,724</b>	<b>5,869</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3,847</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>2,042</b>	<b>4.4</b>
Antrim	<b>53,978</b>	713	13.2	4	5.6	7	9.8	416	7.7	241	4.5
Ballymena	<b>64,762</b>	770	11.9	6	7.7	4	5.2	629	9.7	429	6.6
Ballymoney	<b>31,659</b>	429	13.6	1	2.3	2	4.7	243	7.7	108	3.4
Carrickfergus	<b>39,015</b>	391	10.0	2	5.1	–	–	335	8.6	195	5.0
Coleraine	<b>59,043</b>	717	12.1	2	2.8	2	2.8	525	8.9	298	5.0
Cookstown	<b>37,552</b>	572	15.2	4	6.9	3	5.2	266	7.1	206	5.5
Larne	<b>32,220</b>	369	11.5	4	10.7	1	2.7	270	8.4	118	3.7
Magherafelt	<b>45,826</b>	685	14.9	6	8.7	1	1.5	281	6.1	189	4.1
Moyle	<b>17,111</b>	204	11.9	1	4.9	–	–	163	9.5	102	6.0
Newtownabbey	<b>85,558</b>	1,019	11.9	2	2.0	3	2.9	719	8.4	156	1.8
<b>South Eastern HSC Trust</b>	<b>350,788</b>	<b>4,355</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>2,951</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>1,573</b>	<b>4.5</b>
Ards	<b>78,549</b>	845	10.8	3	3.5	8	9.5	698	8.9	230	2.9
Down	<b>70,825</b>	936	13.2	2	2.1	5	5.3	573	8.1	356	5.0
Lisburn	<b>121,990</b>	1,681	13.8	11	6.5	6	3.6	899	7.4	433	3.5
North Down	<b>79,424</b>	893	11.2	3	3.3	4	4.5	781	9.8	554	7.0
<b>Southern HSC Trust</b>	<b>365,712</b>	<b>5,367</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>2,642</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>1,591</b>	<b>4.4</b>
Armagh	<b>60,423</b>	831	13.8	3	3.6	2	2.4	478	7.9	299	4.9
Banbridge	<b>48,905</b>	660	13.5	–	–	6	9.1	373	7.6	175	3.6
Craigavon	<b>95,474</b>	1,403	14.7	4	2.8	7	4.9	675	7.1	324	3.4
Dungannon	<b>59,298</b>	966	16.3	3	3.1	2	2.1	403	6.8	285	4.8
Newry & Mourne	<b>101,612</b>	1,507	14.8	7	4.6	2	1.3	713	7.0	508	5.0
<b>Western HSC Trust</b>	<b>296,883</b>	<b>3,921</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>2,246</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>1,532</b>	<b>5.2</b>
Fermanagh	<b>62,527</b>	828	13.2	2	2.4	–	–	521	8.3	475	7.6
Limavady	<b>33,886</b>	411	12.1	5	12.0	2	4.9	242	7.1	178	5.3
Derry	<b>108,610</b>	1,563	14.4	6	3.8	11	6.6	801	7.4	489	4.5
Omagh	<b>51,838</b>	630	12.2	2	3.2	3	4.8	397	7.7	243	4.7
Strabane	<b>40,022</b>	489	12.2	6	12.1	4	8.2	285	7.1	147	3.7

**Note:** See Appendix 3 - for notes on change in definition of stillbirths that took place in 1992

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 1,000 population

<sup>2</sup> Rate per 1,000 resident live and still births

<sup>3</sup> Rate per 1,000 live births (resident and non-resident)

## Appendix 3: Notes and Definitions

### Population Data

All population figures refer to estimates or projections as at the 30 of June of the year in question. Ages relate to age last birthday at the date shown.

### Natural Increase

Natural increase is equal to total births minus total deaths.

### Marriages

Marriage rates relate to the number of marriages solemnised and not to the number of persons married. The number of marriages relates to those registered in Northern Ireland, thus it does not include Northern Ireland residents who get married outside Northern Ireland, but does include non Northern Ireland residents getting married in Northern Ireland.

### Divorces

Divorce statistics have been compiled from returns of 'Decrees made Absolute' supplied by the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service and include nullities of marriage.

Information on the number of 'Decree Nisis' is published by the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service. A Decree Nisi does not terminate the marriage; a couple are still married until the Decree Absolute has been granted.

### Date of Registration and Date of Occurrence

All the data presented on births, stillbirths, marriages, civil partnerships and deaths relate to the date of registration of the event and not to the date of occurrence. For events such as infant death or suicide, which are likely to be referred to the coroner, it can take some time for the event to be registered.

### Place of Occurrence

Births, stillbirths and deaths have been allocated to the area of usual residence if it is in Northern

Ireland, otherwise they have been allocated to the area of occurrence. Marriage and civil partnership figures relate to the area of occurrence.

### Marital Status of Parents

The following terms are used throughout the report:

**Married parents:** refers to parents who are married to each other at time of registration of birth.

**Unmarried parents:** refers to parents who are unmarried or married but not to each other at time of registration of birth.

### Births

The births presented in this report (since 1981) do not include births to non Northern Ireland resident mothers unless otherwise stated.

### Stillbirths

The **Stillbirth (Definition) Act 1992** redefined a stillbirth, from 1 October 1992, as a child which had issued forth from its mother after the 24th week of pregnancy and which did not breath or show any other sign of life. Prior to 1 October 1992 the statistics related to events occurring after the 28th week of pregnancy.

A **stillbirth rate** refers to the number of stillbirths per 1,000 live and still births.

The stillbirths presented in this report (since 1981) do not include stillbirths to non Northern Ireland resident mothers.

### Perinatal Deaths

Perinatal deaths refer to stillbirths and deaths in the first week of life.

A **perinatal death rate** refers to the number of perinatal deaths per 1,000 live and still births (including non Northern Ireland residents).

Perinatal deaths presented in this report include stillbirths and infant deaths to non Northern Ireland residents.

### Neonatal Deaths

Neonatal deaths refer to deaths in the first four weeks of life.

A **neonatal death rate** refers to the number of neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births (including non Northern Ireland residents).

#### Postneonatal Deaths

Postneonatal deaths refer to deaths after the first four weeks but before the end of the first year.

A **postneonatal death rate** refers to the number of postneonatal deaths per 1,000 live births (including non Northern Ireland residents).

#### Infant Deaths

Infant deaths refer to all deaths in the first year of life.

An **infant death rate** refers to the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births (including non Northern Ireland residents).

#### Deaths

The deaths represented in this report refer to all deaths which occurred in Northern Ireland. They include those which occurred in Northern Ireland to non Northern Ireland residents, but exclude those occurring to Northern Ireland residents outside Northern Ireland.

#### Suicide, Self-Inflicted Injury and Events of Undetermined Intent

In the UK, in considering suicide events it is conventional to include cases where the cause of death is classified as either 'Suicide and self-inflicted injury' or 'Undetermined injury'. The ICD10 codes used for 'Suicide and self-inflicted injury' are X60-X84 and Y87.0, and the ICD10 codes used for 'Undetermined injury' are Y10-Y34 and Y87.2. (Also see note on registration and occurrence).

Prior to 2004 there were seven coroner's districts in Northern Ireland; following a review of the coroner's service the separate districts were amalgamated into one centralised coroner's service. This change may affect the timing of registration of deaths with statistics from 2004 onwards being more timely and consistent. For more information on the impact of time taken to

investigate a death on official suicide death on official suicide death statistics see:

[http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/publications/suicides/Impact\\_of\\_registration\\_delays\\_on\\_suicide\\_statistics\\_in\\_Northern\\_Ireland.pdf](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/publications/suicides/Impact_of_registration_delays_on_suicide_statistics_in_Northern_Ireland.pdf)

#### Smoking Related Deaths

Information is not recorded on the death certificate on whether the deceased was a smoker. Estimates can however be made of the number of deaths attributable to smoking, by using information on the contribution of smoking to specific conditions such as lung cancer which are recorded at death.

Research has been undertaken by the Health Development Agency to derive attributable proportions of smoking related deaths based on published relative risk factors for mortality of current and ex-smokers from various diseases, counts of death by cause, and estimates of current and ex-smoking behaviour.

For further information on the causes of death and attributable proportions used to define smoking related deaths see:

[http://www.nice.org.uk/niceMedia/documents/smoking\\_epidemic.pdf](http://www.nice.org.uk/niceMedia/documents/smoking_epidemic.pdf)

#### Alcohol Related Deaths

The figures in this report are based on the UK-wide harmonised definition of alcohol related deaths. The definition of alcohol related deaths includes those causes of death regarded as most directly due to alcohol consumption. It does not include other diseases where alcohol has been shown to have some causal relationship, such as cancers of the mouth, oesophagus and liver. The definition includes all deaths from chronic liver disease and cirrhosis (excluding biliary cirrhosis), even when alcohol is not specifically mentioned on the death certificate.

Apart from deaths due to poisoning with alcohol (accidental, intentional or undetermined), this definition excludes any other external causes of death, such as road traffic deaths and other accidents.



Further details on the UK definition and a list of the ICD9 and ICD10 codes used to code alcohol related deaths can be found at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/all-releases.html?definition=tcm%3A77-29395>

### Drug Related Deaths

A death is considered to be a drug related death if the underlying cause of death recorded on the death certificate is drug poisoning, drug abuse or drug dependence. These deaths can be identified solely through the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). The ICD9 and ICD10 codes used to define these deaths are listed in the table below.

ICD10 Underlying Cause Code	ICD9 Underlying Cause Code	Description
F11–F16, F18–F19	292, 304, 305.2–305.9	Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)
X40–X44	E850–E858	Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X60–X64	E950.0–E950.5	Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X85	E962.0	Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
Y10–Y14	E980.0–E980.5	Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent

### Asbestos Related Deaths

Asbestos exposure can result in a number of life threatening illnesses including asbestosis, a lung disease which restricts breathing, and also mesothelioma which is a cancer of the lung.

In this report, asbestos related deaths have been defined as those deaths where asbestosis and/or mesothelioma have been mentioned on the death certificate either as a primary or secondary cause.

Further details on the definition used for asbestos related deaths can be found on the Health and Safety Executive website at:

[http://www.hseni.gov.uk/index/information\\_and\\_guidance/general\\_hseniinfo/statistics.htm](http://www.hseni.gov.uk/index/information_and_guidance/general_hseniinfo/statistics.htm)

### Healthcare Associated Infections

In this report deaths related to healthcare associated infection solely relate to Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and *Clostridium difficile*. It is not possible to identify directly from the ICD codes all deaths where MRSA or *Clostridium difficile* contributed to a death. Data within this report has been collated by looking for all mentions of either MRSA or *Clostridium difficile* on the death certificate.

### Crude Birth and Death Rates

A **crude rate** refers to the number of occurrences of the event per 1,000 population.

### Age Standardisation

A straight comparison of crude death rates between areas may present a misleading picture because of differences in the sex and age structure of the respective populations. The technique of standardisation is used to remedy this. In general, standardisation involves a comparison of the actual number of events occurring in an area with the aggregate number expected if the age/sex specific rates in the standard population were applied to the age/sex groups of the observed population. The results are expressed either as standardised rates or as standardised mortality ratios (SMRs) where the standard ratio (for Northern Ireland) equals 100.

In some areas the presentation of standardised rates for only one year's deaths may not provide a full picture of the underlying standardised death rates. It is therefore advisable to use the 3 years rates provided (**Figure 1.23**).

### Significance of SMRs

The estimation of SMRs by LGD and Health and Social Care Trust invites the question of whether such SMRs are different from the Northern Ireland average (100). The statistical significance of the SMRs has been examined by estimating the probability that the difference between an observed SMR and 100 might have resulted from chance variation; where this probability is less than 0.05 (one in 20) the particular SMR has been classified as statistically significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) different from 100.

### Total Period Fertility Rate (TPFR)

The TPFR is the average number of children that would be born to a cohort of women who experienced, throughout their childbearing years, the fertility rates of the calendar year in question.

### TPFR Replacement Level

In western countries a TPFR of about 2.1 is required to maintain long-term population levels, assuming no migration.

### General Fertility Rate

The general fertility rate is the number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44.

### The Gross Reproduction Rate

The gross reproduction rate is the average number of live daughters that would be born to a cohort of women who experienced, throughout their childbearing years, the fertility rates of the calendar year in question.

### The Net Reproduction Rate

With reference to the gross reproduction rate, the net reproduction rate is the average number of these live daughters that, subject to the mortality rates of the calendar year in question, would survive to their mother's age at the time of birth.

### Completed Family Size

Average completed family size is calculated by summing over time the succeeding age specific fertility rates of women born in a particular year. (Such an approximation assumes that the effects

of mortality and migration are negligible). However this measure can only calculate a value for women who have reached the end of the main childbearing ages conventional 45 years of age, but there is some value in considering the historical data for cohorts that have reached this age and the partial series for those not yet 45.

### Maternities

Maternities refer to the number of pregnancies ending in stillbirths or live births with multiple births counting only once. The number of maternities presented in this report (since 1981) does not include births or stillbirths to non Northern Ireland residents.

### National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SeC)

This new social classification has replaced the previously published Registrar General's Social Class. It is principally based on the individual's occupation and employment status and has been introduced in order to reflect a modern view of social classification. It was introduced from 2001 onwards. Further information can be obtained from the Office for National Statistics at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/classifications/archived-standard-classifications/soc-and-sec-archive/the-national-statistics-socio-economic-classification-origins-development-and-use.pdf>

NS-SeC is determined according to a person's occupation; for children of parents who are married to each other, according to the occupation of the father as stated at birth registration; for children of parents who are not married to each other but who jointly registered the birth, according to the occupation of the father; and for sole registrations, according to the occupation of the mother. The occupations are grouped into the following classes:

NS-SeC I	Higher managerial & professional occupations
NS-SeC II	Lower managerial & professional occupations
NS-SeC III	Intermediate occupations

NS-SeC IV	Small employers & own account workers
NS-SeC V	Lower supervisory & technical occupations
NS-SeC VI	Semi-routine occupations
NS-SeC VII	Routine occupations
NS-SeC VIII	Never worked & long-term unemployed

### Cause of Death Coding – ICD10

All deaths and stillbirths registered from the 1 January 2001 have been coded in accordance with the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, (ICD) (Tenth Revision), which has been in operation by international agreement from 1 January 1999.

Classification of the underlying cause of death is done by reference to the death certificate and additional information from the certifying doctor.

In January 2011, the General Register Office (GRO) upgraded its software for coding the causes of death to take account of a number of updates that the World Health Organisation (WHO) had made to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The main changes are amendments to the modification tables and selection rules, which are used to ascertain a causal sequence and consistently assign underlying cause of death from the conditions recorded on the death certificate. Overall, the impact of these changes is small although some cause groups are affected more than others, notably 'F' codes and 'G' codes relating to Alzheimer's disease and Dementia.

### Expectation of Life

Expectation of life statistics are produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Expectations of life can be calculated in two ways: period life expectancy or cohort life expectancy.

**Period life expectancies** are worked out using the age-specific mortality rates for a given period

(either a single year, or a run of years), with no allowance for any later actual or projected changes in mortality.

**Cohort life expectancies** are worked out using age-specific mortality rates which allow for known or projected changes in mortality in later years.

All statistics for expectation of life in Chapter 1 are based on the period methodology and are produced for single year of age based on three year's deaths and population data with the exception of the cohort figures given in Table 1.2.

### Northern Ireland Population Projections

Northern Ireland population projections based on the 2012 mid-year estimates were published on 6 November 2013.

**Base population:** The projection was based on the Northern Ireland mid-2012 population estimate.

**Fertility:** The numbers of births for the projections are obtained by applying the appropriate fertility rate to the average number of women at each age during each year of the projection period. For Northern Ireland, long-term average completed family size is assumed to be 2.00 children per woman.

**Mortality:** The mortality rates for the first year of the projection, 2012-13, are based on the best estimates that could be made in September 2013 of the numbers of deaths at each age. Future improvements in mortality rates are based on the trend in mortality rates in the years up to 2012. In the long term rates of improvement in mortality rates are projected to be 1.2 per cent per annum.

**Migration:** It has been assumed that over the period mid 2012 to mid 2018 3,000 less people will come to Northern Ireland to live than leave. Beyond this migration will be in balance with the same number of people coming here to live as leaving each year. These assumptions are based on recent trends in migration and do not attempt to predict the impact of government policies on, for example, migration and student fees.

The Northern Ireland population projections are produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) at the request of the Registrar General for Northern Ireland. Further information on population projections can be obtained from:

National Population Projections and Life Tables  
Branch  
ONS Centre for Demography  
Office for National Statistics  
Room D3/05  
1 Drummond Gate  
LONDON  
SW1V 2QQ

Tel: 020 7533 5222

Email: [natpopproj@ons.gov.uk](mailto:natpopproj@ons.gov.uk)  
[lifetables@ons.gov.uk](mailto:lifetables@ons.gov.uk)

Website: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/index.html>

### Geography Used for Data

Since the 2007 Registrar General Annual Report vital statistics by geography are defined using the Pointer address database. In Annual Reports prior to 2007 the geography for vital statistics was defined using the postcode from the address in conjunction with the Central Postcode Directory (CPD).

Pointer is an address database that has been developed by the Land and Property Services, Royal Mail and Local Councils. Pointer gives each address a unique property reference number and geo-spatial coordinates.

From 2009, the address for each registration is linked using the grid-reference of the Pointer unique property reference number to higher geographies. Under the previous CPD method only the postcode of the address was used to define the higher geography. Thus the new method is a more accurate method for allocating births and deaths by geography.

Where it has not been possible to assign a unique property reference number to an address using the Pointer database, the previous CPD method has been used to assign the geography.

### Change to Health Geographies

As a result of changes to the Health Service in Northern Ireland which were introduced from the 1 April 2009, the four Health and Social Service Boards have been replaced by five new Health and Social Care Trusts. The Northern, Southern and Western Trusts mirror the equivalent Boards in the old system while the former Eastern Board has been split into the Belfast Trust (Belfast and Castlereagh Local Government Districts) and the South Eastern Trust (Ards, Down, Lisburn and North Down Local Government Districts).

## UK Data

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for producing a wide range of economic and social statistics. It also, for England and Wales, registers life events and holds the Census of Population. Contact details are as follows:

Customer Contact Centre  
Room 1.015  
Office for National Statistics  
Cardiff Road,  
NEWPORT  
NP10 8XG

Tel: 0845 601 3034  
Fax: 0163 365 2747  
Email: [info@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:info@statistics.gov.uk)  
Website: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/index.html>

The National Records of Scotland (NRS) is responsible for the registration of births, marriages, deaths, divorces and adoptions in Scotland. They are also responsible for the Census of Population in Scotland which, with other sources of information, is used to produce population statistics. Contact details are as follows:

Customer Services  
Dissemination and Census Analysis Branch  
General Register Office for Scotland  
Ladywell House  
Ladywell Road  
EDINBURGH  
EH12 7TF

Tel: 0131 314 4243  
Fax: 0131 314 4696  
Email: [customer@gro-scotland.gov.uk](mailto:customer@gro-scotland.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.gro-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk)

## Appendix 4: Further Information

### Vital Statistics

A wide range of additional information at differing levels of geography and for years not included in this edition of the Registrar General's Annual Report is available on request from Customer Services.

### Population Statistics

Estimates of the resident population are available by sex and single year of age for each of the Local Government Districts, Health and Social Care Trusts, Education and Library Boards and NUTS III areas of Northern Ireland. This information can be obtained from:

Customer Services  
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency  
McAuley House  
2-14 Castle Street  
BELFAST  
BT1 1SA

Tel: 028 9034 8160

Fax: 028 9034 8161

Email: [census.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk](mailto:census.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk)

Website: <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp3.htm>

### Migration Statistics

Since 2006 NISRA has published an annual paper outlining analysis undertaken to develop measures of long-term international migration. The paper looks at a number of administrative/statistical sources including the Worker Registration Scheme, the Work Permit Scheme and National Insurance Number registrations, to help estimate long-term international migration.

These publications can be found on the NISRA website at the following link:

<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp18.htm>

### Historical Registrar General Annual Reports

Electronic copies of all Registrar General Annual Reports from 1887 to the present day are now available from the NISRA website. They can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp57.htm>

### Census Office for Northern Ireland

#### 2001 Census Data

Detailed results from the 2001 Census include a wide range of demographic information available for different levels of geography. The headline outputs include:

- Census 2001 Population Report and Mid-Year Estimates
- Census 2001 Key Statistics
- Census 2001 Standard Tables
- Census 2001 Census Area Statistics
- Census 2001 Theme Tables
- Census 2001 Migration, Travel to Work and Workplace Population
- Census 2001 Univariate Tables

#### 2011 Census

The 2011 Census was held on Sunday 27 March 2011. Census Office has completed the publication of the major pre-planned outputs including:

- Census 2011 Population and Household Estimates
- Census 2011 Key and Quick Statistics
- Census 2011 Detailed Characteristics
- Census 2011 Local Characteristics

Census Office and the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in Dublin published a special census report in June 2014 titled – Census 2011 Ireland and Northern Ireland: <http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/releasespublications/documents/population/2011/Cen2011IrelandNorthernIreland.pdf>

The report presents analysis across a range of topics in areas such as demographics, households, place of birth, religion, health, housing and travel.

At the time of writing (autumn 2014), Census Office is progressing well through the publication of the Alternative Population Statistics, and plans to complete the publication of the other specialist products, including Microdata, by the end of the 2014/15 financial year.

The information from the 2011 Census is available through the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) website: [www.nisra.gov.uk/ninis](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/ninis) NINIS provides facilities to access the data and to view the data on charts and maps.

Further information about all the planned outputs is set out in the Northern Ireland Census 2011 Output Prospectus –

<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/Census/2011CensusProposedOutputs.html>

The prospectus will be regularly updated as the release programme unfolds.

More information on the Census, and the statistics available from it, can be obtained from:

Census Customer Services  
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency  
McAuley House  
2-14 Castle Street  
BELFAST  
BT1 1SA

Tel: 028 9034 8160

Fax: 028 9034 8161

Email: [census.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk](mailto:census.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk)

Website: <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/Census.html>

**Northern Ireland  
Neighbourhood Information  
Service (NINIS)**



Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) provides free online access to statistical and locational information relating to small areas across Northern Ireland. Information is available across a range of themes including Population, Health & Social Care, Education & Skills and Crime & Justice. The NINIS website ([www.nisra.gov.uk/ninis](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/ninis)) contains datasets for statistical and administrative (e.g. Local Government District and Health and Social Care Trusts) geographies; area profiles providing statistical snapshots of your area; and mapping facilities that enable statistics to be interpreted readily in a spatial context as well as other data visualisation tools.

Further information can be obtained from:

Neighbourhood Statistics  
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency  
McAuley House  
2-14 Castle Street  
BELFAST  
BT1 1SA

Tel: 028 9034 8111

Email: [ninis.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk](mailto:ninis.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk)

Website: <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/ninis>

Twitter: @NISRANINIS

### **Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study (NILS)**

The Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study (NILS) is a large-scale data linkage study which has been created by linking administrative and statistical data. The Study is designed for statistical and research uses only and is managed under various legislative acts including The Census Act. Information is linked over time on people from Census, vital events and health registration datasets. Data sources include 1991, 2001 and 2011 Census data, birth and death registrations and demographic data derived from health registrations. This dataset is held in a safe setting by the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency (NISRA).

### **Northern Ireland Mortality Study (NIMS)**

The Northern Ireland Mortality Study (NIMS) is a large-scale data linkage study developed in 2006 that links mortality data from the General Register Office (GRO) to 2001 Census returns. The NIMS has been developed as a companion dataset to the full NILS, in which 100 per cent of the population as recorded in the 2001 Census is included. As with the NILS dataset, these anonymised data are held in a safe setting by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). Like the NILS dataset, the NIMS is designed and maintained for statistical and research uses only and is managed under various legislative acts including The Census Act.

Further information can be obtained from:

NILS Research Support Unit  
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency  
McAuley House  
2-14 Castle Street  
BELFAST  
BT1 1SA

Tel: 028 9034 8186  
Email: [nils-rsu@qub.ac.uk](mailto:nils-rsu@qub.ac.uk)  
Website: <http://www.nils-rsu.census.ac.uk>

### **Divorces and Civil Partnership Dissolutions – Decree Nisi Information**

The information on divorces and civil partnership dissolutions in this report refers to Decree Absolutives. Information on Decree Nisi's can be obtained from:

Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service  
Laganside House  
23-27 Oxford Street  
Belfast  
BT1 3LA

Tel: 028 9032 8594  
Fax: 028 9072 8942  
Website : <http://www.courtsni.gov.uk>



## Appendix 5: Report on the work of the General Register Office for Northern Ireland (2013)

### Introduction

The General Register Office for Northern Ireland (GRO) is the part of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) that administers civil registration. The Registrar General for Northern Ireland, who is also Chief Executive of NISRA, heads GRO. The registration functions of GRO stem mainly from the statutory responsibilities placed on the Registrar General and include:

- administration of the registration of births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships through District Registration Offices;
- formalities relating to marriage and conduct of civil marriages;
- formalities relating to civil partnership registration;
- maintenance of historic records of births, deaths, marriages, civil partnerships and adoptions and production of certified copies to applicants on request; and
- registration of adoptions.

The Registrar General has additional statutory duties relating to the production and publication of vital statistics. Demography and Methodology Branch within NISRA manage these duties in partnership with GRONI.

### Aims

The work of GRO is wide ranging including policy development, oversight and regulation of registration work undertaken by the District Registration Offices, advice on marriage procedures, casework relating to change of name, procedures relating to legal adoptions, production of certified copies of vital events and maintenance and storage of archive records. This is reflected in the fundamental aims of GRO, which are:

- to register all births, deaths, marriages, civil partnerships and adoptions;
- to ensure that all information collected is relevant, accurate, complete and updated in such a way as to maintain public confidence in the records;
- to support the production of accurate vital statistics to assist policy development and research;
- to preserve birth, death, marriage, civil partnership and adoption records permanently and to store them securely; and
- to produce certified copies of records efficiently and promptly on demand.

The aims of GRO staff are to carry out these statutory obligations, to give accurate and unbiased advice to the public, to act with integrity at all times and to respect the confidentiality of all information contained in registration records or given by the public in confidence.

### Main Activities / Performance Against Key Targets during 2013

Close to 49,000 vital events (births, re-registered births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships) were registered in District Registration Offices and a corresponding number of certificates were issued. In addition, during 2013, GRONI:

- produced 60,000 certificates and of those, 6,000 priority certificates;
- had 2,300 visitors to the Public Search Room facility in Oxford House;
- verified 60 births, deaths and marriages for government departments;
- provided all death notifications to the Business Services Organisation, Electoral Office for Northern Ireland and Department for Work and Pensions; and
- dealt with 5,000 registration related cases.

Each year the Registrar General sets a number of key targets for GRONI. During 2013 these included:

- Process 98 per cent of postal, online and telephone certificate applications within 5 working days.  
Achieved: over 98 per cent were processed within target.
- Process 98 per cent of personal certificate applications within 3 working days.  
Achieved: over 98 per cent were processed within target.
- Process 97 per cent of birth, death, marriage, civil partnership and adoption registration casework within 15 working days.  
Achieved: over 97 per cent were processed within 15 days.

**(i) Civil Registration Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012**

Following on from the introduction of The Civil Registration Regulations (NI) 2012 the following services were introduced:

- Commemorative Certificates – Certificates are available to mark significant life events that occurred in Northern Ireland and are available for births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships. The certificates are produced on speciality certificate paper, mounted in a frame and are contained in a custom made presentation box.
- Record of Northern Ireland Connections - The Record of Northern Ireland Connections (RNIC) enables events that have occurred outside of Northern Ireland to be included in the records of the General Register Office if it is proven that a connection can be made to NI. The register is for genealogy / family history purposes only and any copies issued from it are of no legal or evidential value.

**(ii) Annual review of civil registration fees**

Each year GRONI review the statutory fees charged for registration services against costs. The review indicated that an increase in fees in relation to birth, death, marriage and civil partnership certificates was not necessary.

**(iii) GRONI Genealogical (GeNI) Project**

Phase one of the GRO Genealogical (GeNI) Project was completed in November 2013. This phase provided a website which is compliant with all Payment Card Industry data security standards and which allows customers to apply online for certified copies of Northern Ireland civil registration records. Phases two and three of the project are scheduled for completion in spring 2014 and will provide a new online service for searching family history. The website will give customers the opportunity to search for birth registrations over 100 years old, death registrations over 50 years old and marriage registrations over 75 years old. Additionally, an enhanced service will be available at the public search room on GRO premises for visitors to access all civil registrations from 1845 to date.

**(iv) GRO Northern Ireland Registration Office System (NIROS) Project**

GRONI has commenced planning for the next stage in the modernisation programme, which is the replacement of the current electronic registration system. A Supplier for the NIROS project is expected to be selected in 2014, with the delivery of the replacement system due in early 2016





**Copies available from:**

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McAuley House, 2-14 Castle Street, Belfast BT1 1SA  
<http://www.nisra.gov.uk>

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