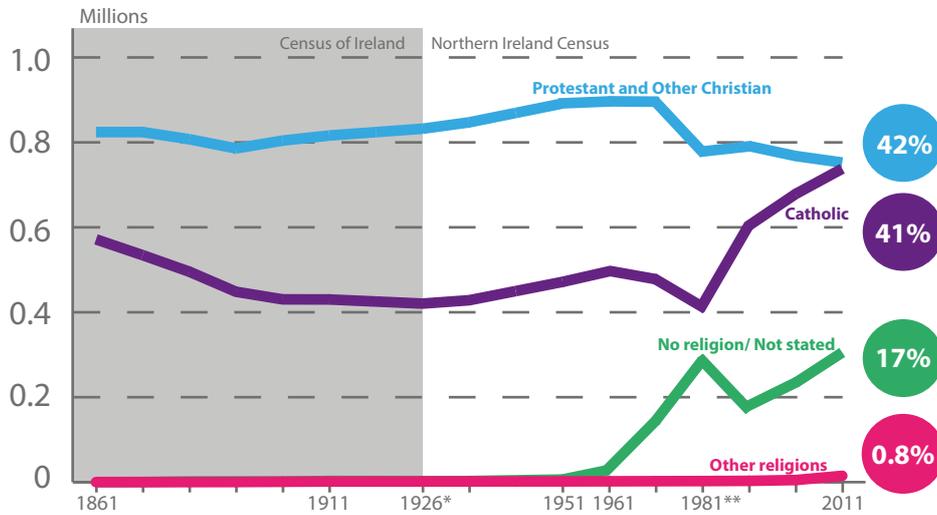


# Religion in Northern Ireland

## Religion 1861 - 2011

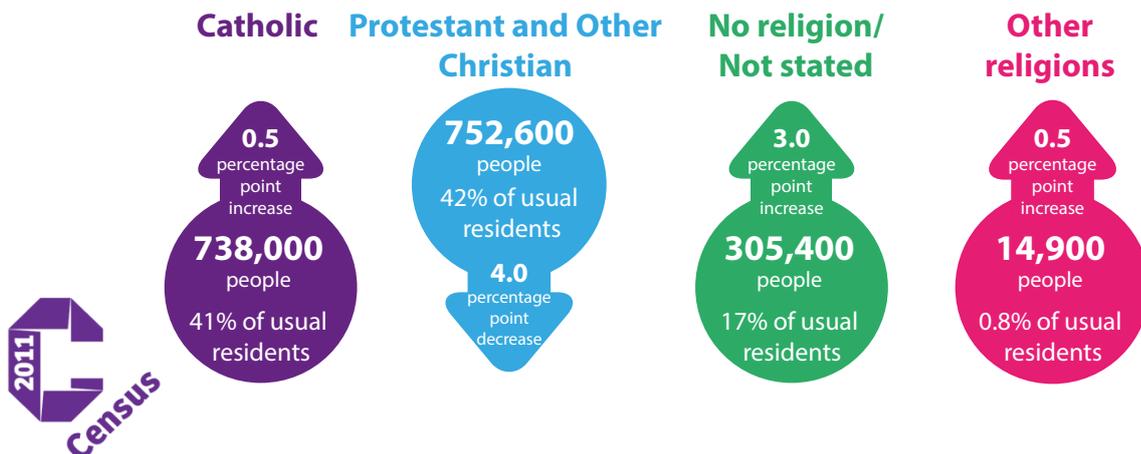
Between 1861 and 1926, while numerically stable at around 0.8m, the share of the population accounted for by Protestants and Other Christians increased from 59 per cent to 66 per cent. Over the same period, the number of Catholics fell by over a quarter, from 0.57m to 0.42m, while the Catholic share of the population declined from 41 per cent to 33 per cent. Since the 1960s, against a backdrop of overall population increases, the proportions belonging to these religions have tended towards convergence, with that of Protestants and Other Christians steadily declining and that of Catholics generally increasing, reaching 42 per cent (0.75m) and 41 per cent (0.74m) respectively in 2011. Their combined share has, however, fallen from almost 100 per cent to 82 per cent, with the remainder in 2011 consisting of 0.8 per cent (0.01m) following Other religions, 10 per cent (0.18m) with no religion and a further 6.8 per cent (0.12m) not stating their religion.



\*The first Census of Northern Ireland took place in 1926; earlier figures are drawn from the Census of Ireland.  
 \*\*The 1981 Census was subject to a campaign of non-cooperation in some areas, which resulted in a lower than expected figure for those stating 'Catholic' and a higher than expected figure for 'Not stated'.

## Religion 2001 - 2011

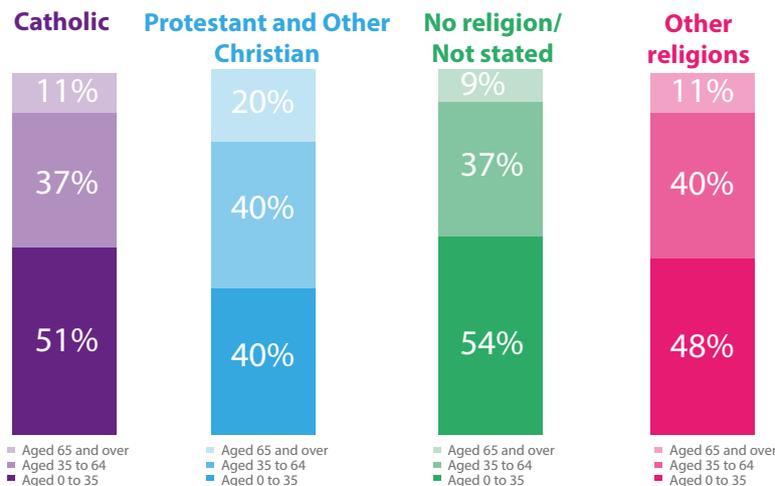
Between 2001 and 2011, the decrease in the proportion of people who belonged to Protestant and Other Christian denominations (from 46 to 42 per cent) was larger than the rise in the share of Catholics (from 40 to 41 per cent). This can be partly explained by an increase in the proportion of people who either had no religion or no stated religion (from 14 per cent to 17 per cent) and the more than doubling of the prevalence rate for Other religions (from 0.3 per cent to 0.8 per cent).



# Religion in Northern Ireland

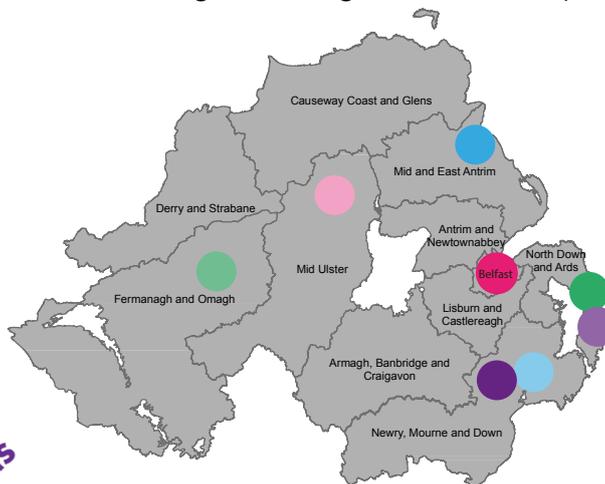
## Age

An important element in the change over time in the religious make-up of the population of Northern Ireland has been the fact that Catholics, those belonging to Other religions, those with no religion and those who have not stated a religion have younger age distributions than those who are Protestants and other Christians. In 2011, 54 per cent of usual residents with No religion/Religion not stated, 51 per cent of Catholics and 48 per cent of those belonging to Other religions were aged under 35, compared with 40 per cent of those who belonged to Protestant and Other Christian denominations. In contrast, one in five (20 per cent) of Protestants and Other Christians were aged 65 and over, compared with 11 per cent of Catholics, 11 per cent belonging to Other religions and 8.7 per cent with No religion/Religion not stated.



## Geography: Highest and Lowest rates (LGD2014)

Newry, Mourne and Down had the highest prevalence rate for those who were Catholic (66 per cent), while North Down and Ards had the lowest (11 per cent). For those with a Protestant and Other Christian denomination, Mid and East Antrim had the highest prevalence rate (64 per cent), while Newry, Mourne and Down had the lowest (20 per cent). Belfast had the highest prevalence rate for those with Other religions (1.4 per cent), while Mid Ulster had the lowest (0.4 per cent). For those with No religion/Religion not stated, North Down and Ards had the highest prevalence rate (25 per cent), while Fermanagh and Omagh had the lowest (10 per cent).



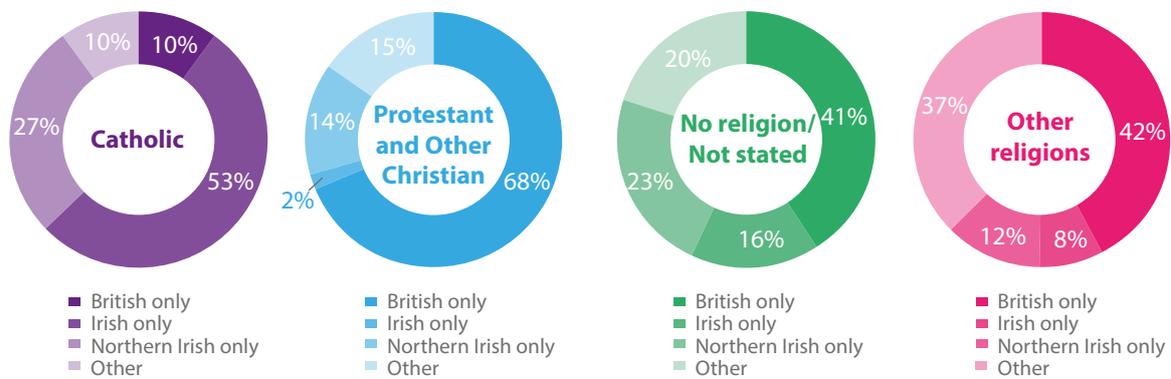
Catholic		
Highest	<b>Newry, Mourne and Down</b>	<b>66%</b>
Lowest	<b>North Down and Ards</b>	<b>11%</b>
No religion/Not stated		
Highest	<b>North Down and Ards</b>	<b>25%</b>
Lowest	<b>Fermanagh and Omagh</b>	<b>10%</b>
Protestant and other Christian		
Highest	<b>Mid and East Antrim</b>	<b>64%</b>
Lowest	<b>Newry, Mourne and Down</b>	<b>20%</b>
Other religions		
Highest	<b>Belfast</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
Lowest	<b>Mid Ulster</b>	<b>0.4%</b>



# Religion in Northern Ireland

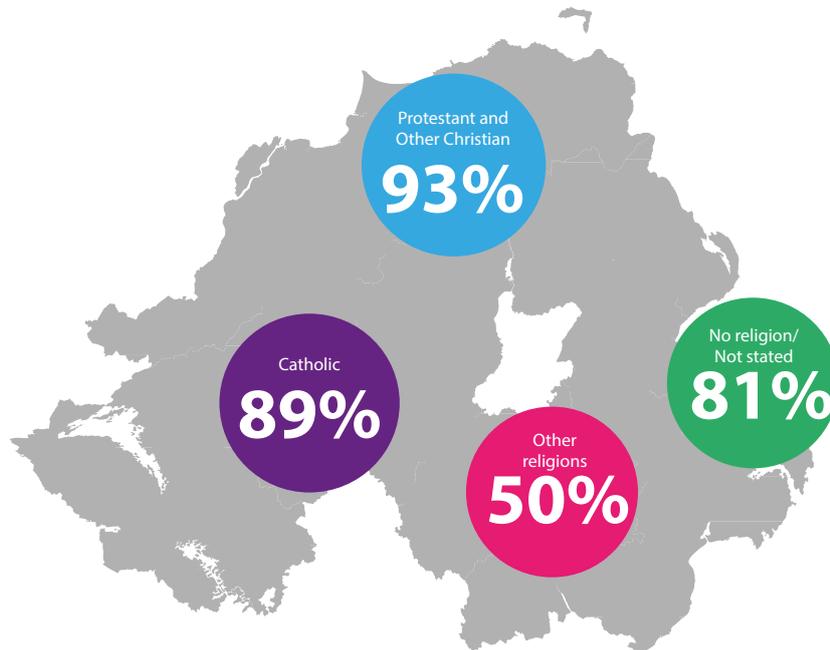
## National Identity

Over two-thirds (68 per cent) of Protestants and Other Christians had a British only national identity, compared with 10 per cent of those who were Catholic, 41 per cent of those with No religion/Religion not stated and 42 per cent of those with Other religions. More than half (53 per cent) of Catholics had an Irish only identity, compared with 2.1 per cent of those with a Protestant and Other Christian denomination, 16 per cent of those with No religion/Religion not stated and 8.1 per cent of those belonging to Other religions. Over a quarter (27 per cent) of Catholics had a Northern Irish only identity, compared with 14 per cent of those from Protestant and Other Christian denomination, 23 per cent of those with No religion/Religion not stated and 12 per cent of those belonging to Other religions.



## Country of Birth

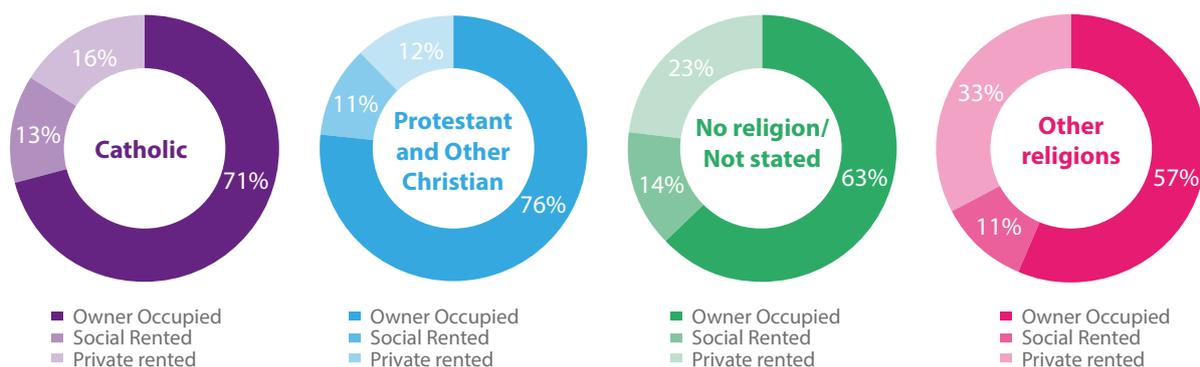
Usual residents who were Protestants and Other Christians were most likely to have been born in Northern Ireland (93 per cent), compared with 89 per cent of Catholics, 81 per cent of those with No religion/Religion not stated and 50 per cent of those belonging to Other religions.



# Religion in Northern Ireland

## Tenure

People who belonged to Protestant and Other Christian denominations and Catholics were more likely to live in Owner-occupied households (76 per cent and 71 per cent respectively) than those with No religion/Religion not stated and those belonging to Other religions (63 per cent and 57 per cent respectively). Conversely, people who belonged to Other religions and those with No religion/Religion not stated were more likely to live in Private rented accommodation (33 per cent and 23 per cent respectively) than those who were Catholics or Protestants and Other Christians (16 per cent and 12 per cent respectively).



\* Figures for tenure exclude usual residents living in communal establishments.