Religion

Purpose:
To provide 2001 Census based information about resident populations' religions.

Definition of indicator and its variants:
Resident populations by type of religion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Organisation (see glossary)</th>
<th>Current data</th>
<th>Trend data</th>
<th>File-worksheet name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number and percent of all residents</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>All ages</td>
<td>E&amp;W, E, GOR, ONS area, SHA, LA, PCO, CTY</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td></td>
<td>01W_503VS_01_V2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Data for PCOs have been produced from "best fit" of Output Areas.

Numerator:

*Source of numerator data* - Office for National Statistics (ONS): Standard Table 149 (S149). Data processed by the Department of Health (DH).

*Comments on numerator data* - The ONS Area Classification values for Census indicators are computed from Local Authority (LA) data. Strategic Health Authority (SHA) values are computed from Primary Care Organisation (PCO) data rather than LA.

This was the only voluntary question in the Census. Numbers of persons by religion is based on replies to the question "What is your religion" where the following boxed replies were allowed: "None", "Christian", "Buddhist", "Hindu", "Jewish", "Muslim", "Sikh", and "Any other religion".

Denominator:

*Source of denominator data* - The total number of residents in the area excluding those where religion was not stated.

*Comments on denominator data* - ONS: Standard Table 149 (S149). Data processed by DH.

Statistical methods:

census data for PCOs were produced by ONS on the basis of best fit using two different methods. The 2001 Census Key Statistics tables were produced on the basis of best fit of Output Areas to PCOs, and Standard tables (which are generally the more detailed tables, showing cross-tabulations between different variables) for health areas were produced on the basis of best fit of wards. The “two-method approach” used by ONS is a problem, in that the same variables for health areas appear as different totals in the Key Statistics and Standard tables. Some of these differences are also “significant”. For a more detailed explanation see: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/cn_96.asp

Disclosure protection measures applied by the ONS to 2001 Census output for England and Wales are in place in order to prevent the inadvertent release of information about identifiable individuals. As a result, totals may sometimes not add up. For more details about disclosure control methods see: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/op5.asp

Percentages were obtained by dividing number of residents of each religion by the corresponding total number of residents in the area.
Interpretation of indicators:

*Quality of indicator* - Annex 12 describes the criteria that should be used to judge the quality of this indicator. The application of the criteria is dependent on the context (e.g. describing a single organisation, comparing several organisations) and the level (e.g. national / regional with large numbers of events, local with small numbers of events) at which the data are to be used.

Further reading:


Updated: December 2009