

SB 15/2014

25 February 2014

2011 Census data – characteristics of households in Wales

This statistical bulletin presents information about the characteristics of households living in Wales particularly in relation to some of the 'protected characteristics' defined under the Equality Act 2010, such as age, gender, ethnic group and religion. The bulletin compares households living in different tenures including social housing, owner-occupied housing and private rented housing. It does not include residents of communal establishments. The information is taken from the 2011 Census produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Further details are provided in the Key Quality Information section of this bulletin (Page 17 onwards).

The information shown in this bulletin will be useful in providing background evidence for Welsh Government policy development and will be helpful in monitoring the Welsh Government's commitment to 'improving housing-related services and support, particularly for vulnerable people and people from minority groups' as outlined in the ['National Housing Strategy - Improving Lives and Communities - Homes in Wales'](#). The [Programme for Government 2011 -2016](#), which is the current government strategy, also outlines the Welsh Government's commitment to 'Improve services and opportunities for groups within the community who experience discrimination/require particular attention: lesbian, gay and bisexual people, people in black and ethnic minority groups, and the needs of gypsy-travellers.'

Key points:

- At 27 March 2011, the average household size in Wales was 2.3 persons with an average number of rooms of 5.7 per household and an average number of bedrooms of 2.9.
- Around 11 per cent of all households at 27 March 2011 were lone parent families and a third were married or in civil partnerships.
- There was a much higher percentage of younger Household Reference Persons (HRPs) i.e. those aged under 35, in the private rented sector than across all tenures. Conversely owner-occupier HRPs tended to be concentrated in the older age groups.
- For over half (59 per cent) of all households the HRP was male. However social housing had a substantially higher percentage of female HRPs than was seen for all households at 54 per cent compared to 41 per cent across all tenures.
- In around 3 per cent of all households the HRP was from a Black or Minority Ethnic (BME) background. The highest percentage of households with an HRP from a BME background was in the private rented sector at just under 8 per cent
- Christianity continued to be the most common religion across all tenures, however less than half of HRPs in the private rented sector reported their religion as Christian.

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1. Introduction

This statistical bulletin looks at the characteristics of households in Wales within the different tenures and is based on information from the 2011 population Census undertaken for England and Wales by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). In particular it focuses on some of the 'protected characteristics' defined under the Equality Act 2010 such as age, gender, ethnicity and religion. Household type, household size, the number of bedrooms available to households and the issues of overcrowding and under-occupation are also covered. Information from the 2011 Census covering disability by tenure had not been published at the time of compiling this report.

The 2011 Census information on household characteristics and tenure shown in this bulletin are based on the household reference persons (HRPs)¹ rather than all persons that are part of a household. The statistics for the whole household are therefore derived according to the characteristics of the chosen individual reference person and will differ from those 2011 Census statistics based on all persons within the household.

The information shown in this bulletin does not include residents of communal establishments. Communal establishments provide managed residential accommodation and examples include sheltered accommodation units, student halls, large hotels, hospitals and prisons.

The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 which came into force on 6 April 2011 were brought in to help protect minority groups and those who are discriminated against.

The 2011 Census has information available covering the following equality strands:

- Age
- Gender
- Ethnic Group
- Religion
- Disability

The 2011 Census did not collect any information on sexual identity or transgender. Research has been undertaken by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to assess the feasibility of gathering transgender data. The conclusion was that asking a question in a survey is not the most appropriate method of data collection due to difficulties such as sample sizes, privacy and acceptability of terminology.

Further information on is available in the Key Quality Information section.

¹ The concept of a Household Reference Person (HRP) was introduced in the 2001 Census (in common with other government surveys in 2001/2) to replace the traditional concept of the 'head of the household'. HRPs provide an individual person within a household to act as a reference point for producing further derived statistics and for characterising a whole household according to characteristics of the chosen reference person. Further details are provided in the Key Quality Information section.

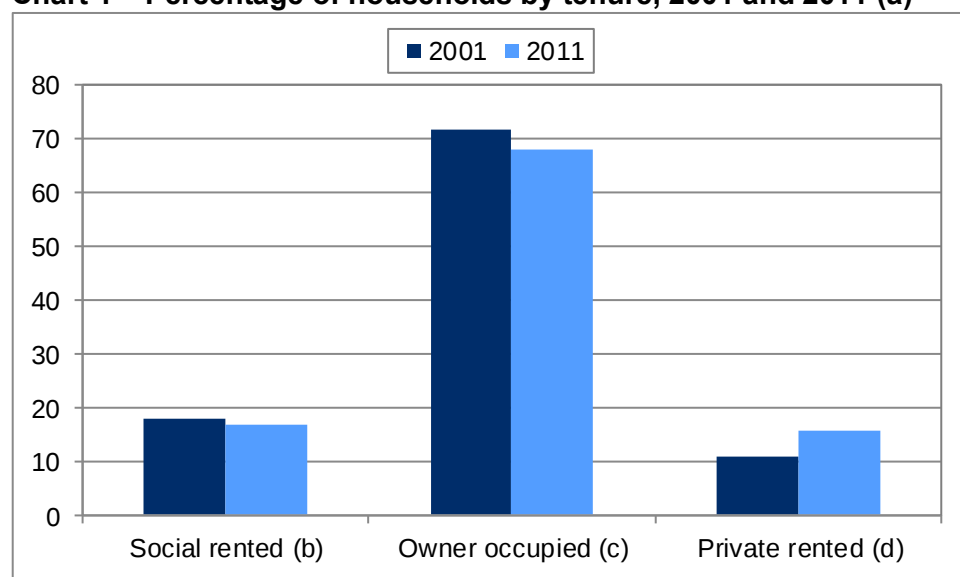
2. Wider Context

2.1 Household Tenure

According to the 2011 Census there were 1.38 million residential dwellings in Wales at 27 March 2011 which were occupied by more than 1.30 million households. The majority of these households (68 per cent) owned their homes (either outright or with a mortgage) whilst the remainder either rented their homes from a social landlord³ (16 per cent) or they rented from a private landlord or were living rent free (16 per cent).

Since the previous 2001 Census more people are now living in Wales which has resulted in an increase in the number of households. Over the last ten years the number of households living in Wales increased by 8 per cent and during this time the tenure distribution has seen a change. Whilst the majority of households continue to own their own homes, the percentage of households that own their own homes has fallen, as has the percentage of those living in social housing. In contrast there has been a large increase in the number of households living in the private sector between the last two censuses. This has resulted in the private rented sector currently accommodating a similar proportion of households to the social housing sector at 16 per cent (Chart 1).

Chart 1 – Percentage of households by tenure, 2001 and 2011 (a)



Source: 2001 Census and 2011 Census

(a) As at April 2001 and March 2011.

(b) Includes rented from local authorities and other social rented dwellings

(c) Includes shared ownership, owned outright and owned with a mortgage or loan

(d) Includes rented from a private landlord or letting agent and living rent free.

These changes in the tenure distribution of households over the last ten years reflect similar changes in the tenure distribution of dwellings which will have been influenced by the general economic downturn seen in recent years. The gap between house prices and earnings and the decreasing availability of mortgage lending in the years up to 2011 has made it increasingly difficult for first time buyers to enter the housing market and become owner-occupiers and has also led to a decrease in the number of new homes built. The percentage of social sector housing stock available has also been reduced over the period through the sale of dwellings via the Right to Buy (RTB) and Right to Acquire (RTA) schemes.

However the availability of privately rented dwellings has increased considerably over this period and by March 2011 accounted for around 13 per cent of all dwellings in Wales compared with just 7 per cent in March 2001. This may in part be due to the increasing trend in people buying properties to rent as a means of investment.

³ Rented from local authorities or registered social landlords

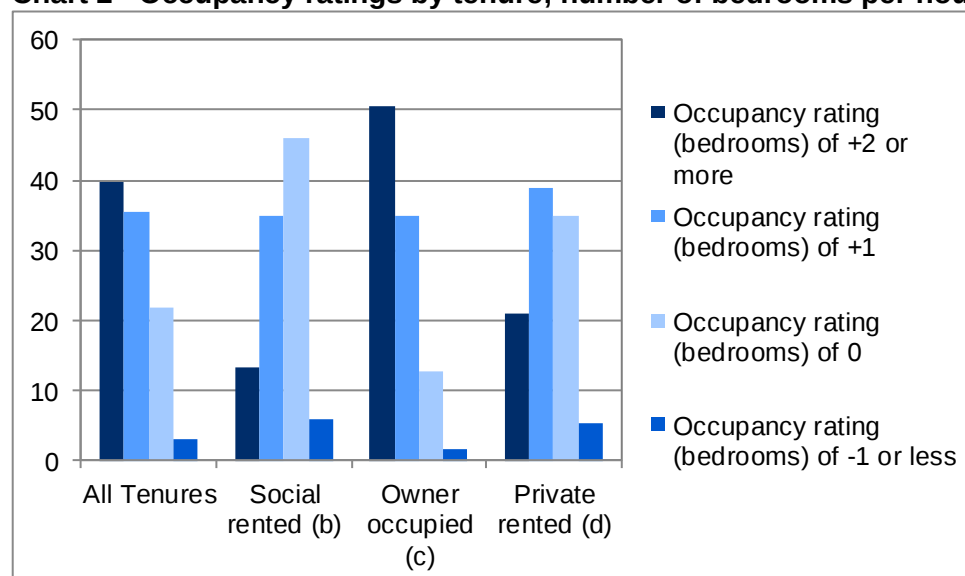
2.2 Occupancy levels, overcrowding and under-occupation

By looking at the size of a household i.e. how many people are part of the household, and comparing this with how many rooms their home has the census provides an indication of whether the household has enough living space or whether it has too little (overcrowded) or more than it needs (under occupancy).

The 2011 Census collected information on household sizes, the number of rooms in each home and, for the first time, the number of bedrooms. At 27 March 2011, on average households in Wales consisted of 2.3 persons and had access to 5.7 rooms and 2.9 bedrooms.

The occupancy ratings of rooms and bedrooms are indicators of deprivation and overcrowding in a household. Occupancy ratings measure whether a dwelling is over or under occupied and were calculated looking at both the number of rooms and, for the first time in the 2011 Census, the number of bedrooms. This bulletin focusses on the occupancy rating based on the number of bedrooms which is and known as the 'bedroom standard'⁴. This is essentially the difference between the number of bedrooms needed to avoid undesirable sharing (given the number, ages and relationships of the household members) and the number of bedrooms actually available to the household. An occupancy rating of -1 implies that there is one bedroom too few for the number of people living in the household.

Chart 2 - Occupancy ratings by tenure, number of bedrooms per household (a)



Source: 2011 Census

(a) As at March 2011.

(b) Includes rented from local authorities and other social rented dwellings

(c) Includes shared ownership, owned outright and owned with a mortgage or loan

(d) Includes rented from a private landlord or letting agent and living rent free.

Across Wales around 3 per cent of households had fewer bedrooms than they required at the time of the 2011 Census. However when looking at the different tenures it is apparent that overcrowding is more of an issue in the social rented sector (6 per cent of households) and the private rented sector (5 per cent). Overcrowding appears to be less of an issue for owner occupiers with less than 2 per cent of households having an insufficient number of bedrooms (Chart 2).

In contrast, households that had more bedrooms than they needed, and were thereby 'under occupied', were more evident amongst households that owned their own homes. Whilst there was little difference across the tenures when it came to having just 1 bedroom more than needed, greater variation occurred when it came to having 2 or more bedrooms in excess of what was required. Households in this situation accounted for around half of all owner occupied households compared to a fifth of households privately

⁴ The 'Bedroom Standard' is used as an indicator of occupation density. A standard number of bedrooms is calculated for each household in accordance with its age/sex/marital status composition and the relationship of the members to one another.

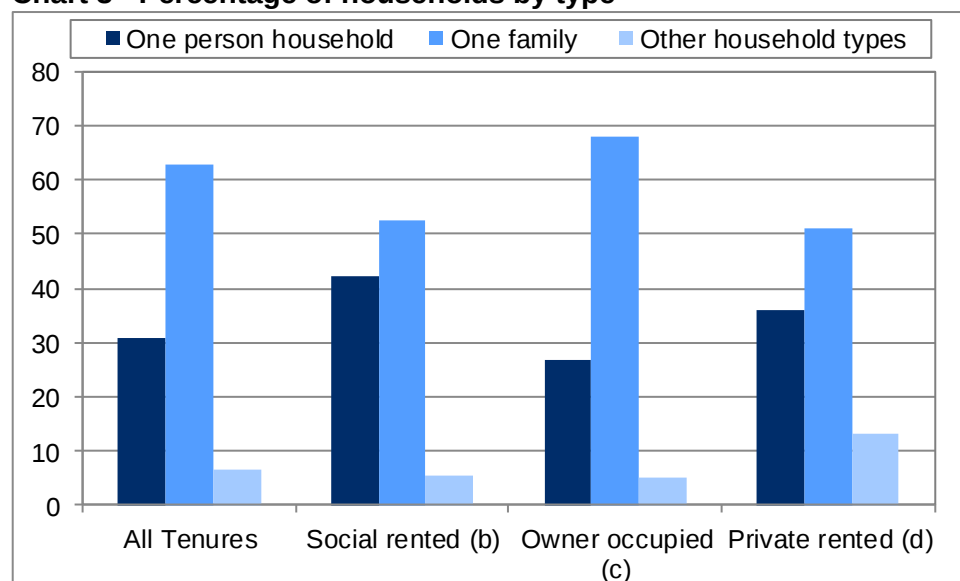
renting and just 13 per cent of those in social housing (Chart 2).

2.3 Types of Household

The types of households that exist in Wales vary according to size, the presence of children and the relationships held. Households may be a family or they may consist of one person living alone or unrelated adults sharing. A family is a couple (married, civil partners or cohabiting), with or without children, or a lone parent with at least one child. Children may be dependent or non-dependent offspring.

Of the 1.3 million households in Wales on 27 March 2011, the most reported household type was where there was one family (63 per cent) followed by those where there was one person living alone (31 per cent)(Chart 3).

Chart 3 - Percentage of households by type



Source: 2011 Census

(a) As at March 2011.

(b) Includes rented from local authorities and other social rented dwellings

(c) Includes shared ownership, owned outright and owned with a mortgage or loan

(d) Includes rented from a private landlord or letting agent and living rent free.

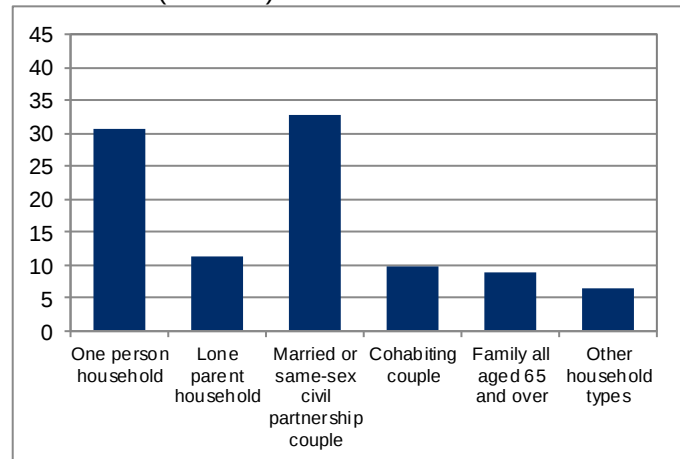
It is noticeable however that different types of households are more prevalent in certain tenures (Chart 4). One such example of this is lone parent households. Around 11 per cent of all households at the time of the 2011 Census were lone parent families. However there was a higher proportion of this type of household living in the social sector (23 per cent) and in the private rented sector (17 per cent).

There are also a higher proportion of single person households in the social sector (42 per cent) and the private rented sector (36 per cent) than there is that own their own homes (27 per cent). However single person households who own their own homes tend to be older than those that rent their homes.

On average around a third of all households are married couples or couples in civil partnerships. Generally married couples and couples in civil partnerships are less evident in the social and private rented sectors, where they only account for 16 per cent of households in each, and more evident in owner occupier households (41 per cent). In contrast the private rented sector has the highest percentage of co-habiting couples, accounting for 16 per cent of households, whilst owner occupiers housing have the lowest at 8 per cent (Chart 4).

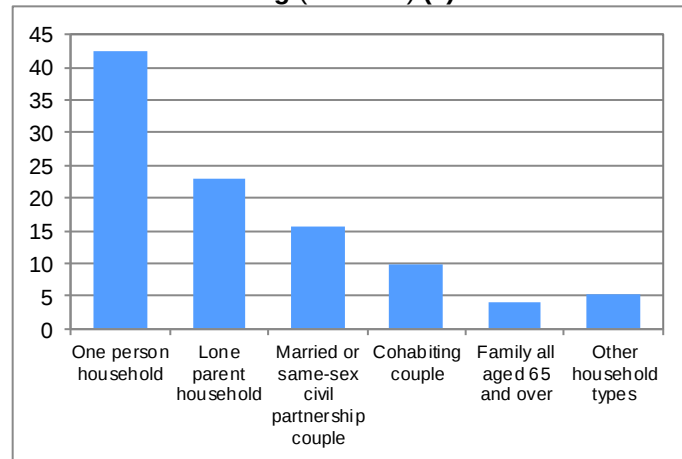
Chart 4 Tenure by household composition (a)

All tenures (Per cent)



Source: 2011 Census

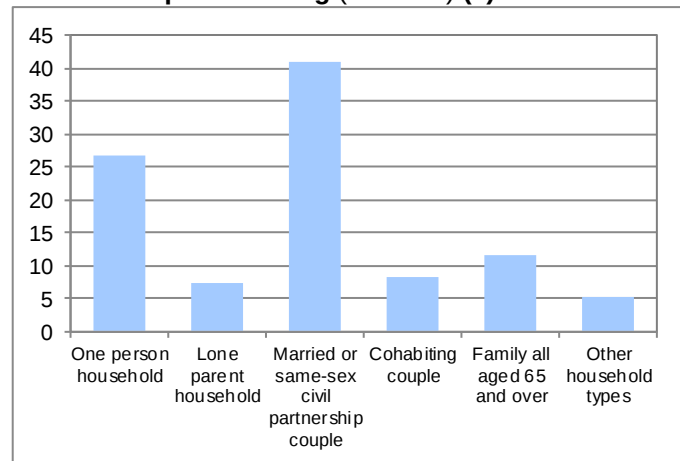
Social rented housing (Per cent) (a)



Source: 2011 Census

(a) Includes rented from local authorities and other social rented dwellings

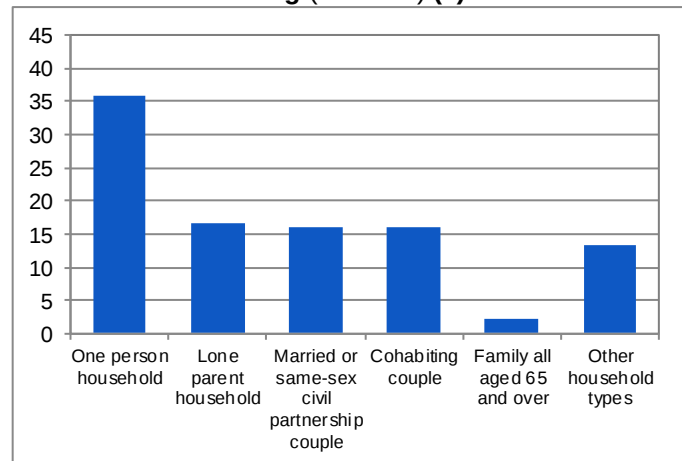
Owner occupied housing (Per cent) (a)



Source: 2011 Census

(a) Includes shared ownership, owned outright and owned with a mortgage or loan.

Private rented housing (Per cent) (a)



Source: 2011 Census

(a) Includes rented from a private landlord or letting agent and living rent free.

3. Age profile of households

On 27 March 2011, there were 3.1 million people living in Wales which was 5 per cent more than in 2001 and the largest the population had ever been. Around 18 per cent of the population were aged under 16 and of these 178,000 were children aged under 5. Just under a quarter of the population were aged between 16 and 34 whilst the largest percentage (40 per cent) were aged 35 to 64. . The percentage of the population in Wales aged 65 and over was the highest seen in any census at over 18 per cent and there were 25,000 residents in Wales aged 90 and over.

The age profiles of people living in households reported in the 2011 Census is based on the age of the household reference person (HRP). At 27 March 2011, around 0.2 million (16 per cent) household reference persons (HRPs) were aged between 16 and 34. However the majority (55 per cent) were aged 35 to 64, whilst a further 0.4 million (29 per cent) were aged 65 and over (Table 1).

Table 1 - Tenure by age, Wales (a)

	All tenures		Social rented (b)		Owner occupied (c)		Private rented (d)	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Age 24 and under	49,541	4	13,201	6	6,374	1	29,966	15
Age 25 to 34	164,803	13	31,532	15	72,407	8	60,864	30
Age 35 to 49	355,532	27	59,165	28	238,416	27	57,951	28
Age 50 to 64	356,936	27	51,119	24	274,289	31	31,528	15
Age 65 to 74	184,872	14	27,969	13	145,674	16	11,229	5
Age 75 to 84	136,548	10	21,415	10	106,543	12	8,590	4
Age 85 and over	54,444	4	10,510	5	39,427	4	4,507	2
All Ages	1,302,676	100	214,911	100	883,130	100	204,635	100

Source: 2011 Census

(a) As at March 2011. Based on the age of the Household reference person

(b) Includes rented from local authorities and other social rented dwellings

(c) Includes shared ownership, owned outright and owned with a mortgage or loan

(d) Includes rented from a private landlord or letting agent and living rent free.

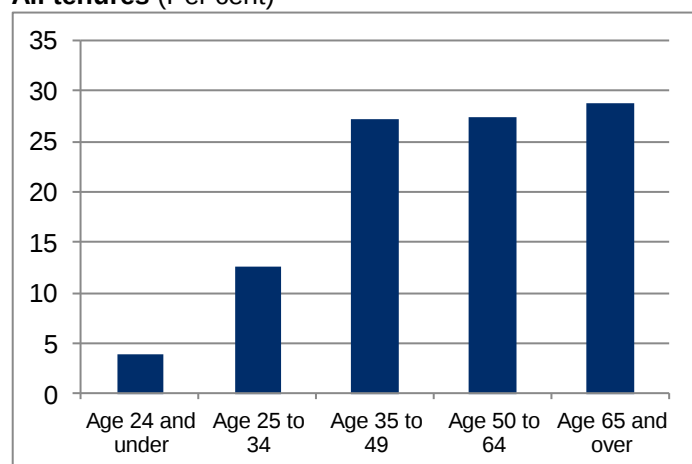
The highest concentration of younger HRPs i.e. those aged under 35, tended to live in privately rented accommodation (44 per cent) whilst the lowest concentration of younger HRPs were found amongst those that owned their home (9 per cent of owner occupiers) (Table 1 and Chart 5).

Generally owner-occupier HRPs tended to be concentrated in the older age groups with around 31 per cent aged between 50 and 64 and a third aged 65 and over. The age distribution of the HRPs living in the social rented sector was similar to owner occupiers though there was a higher percentage of younger HRPs (aged under 35).

Conversely the private rented sector had more younger HRPs than older HRPs. The private rented sector had the lowest percentage of those aged 50 to 64 (15 per cent) and the lowest aged 65 and over (12 per cent)(Chart 5).

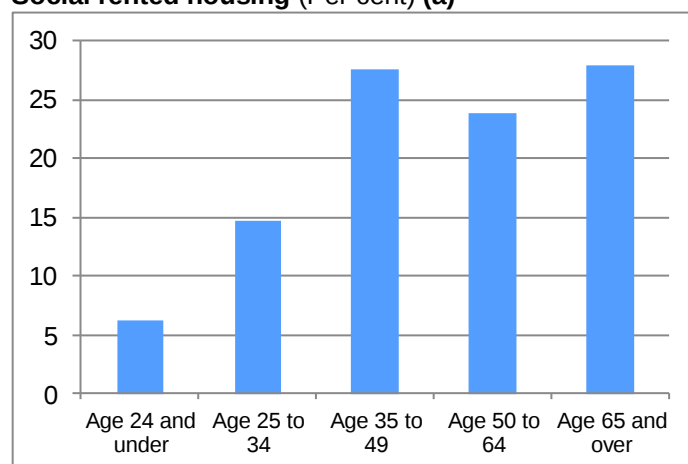
Chart 5 - Age and tenure of Household Reference Person (HRP) (a)

All tenures (Per cent)



Source: 2011 Census

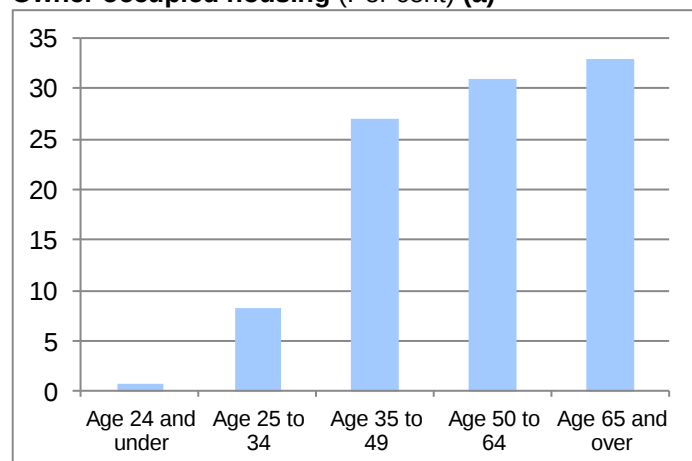
Social rented housing (Per cent) (a)



Source: 2011 Census

(a) Includes rented from local authorities and other social rented dwellings

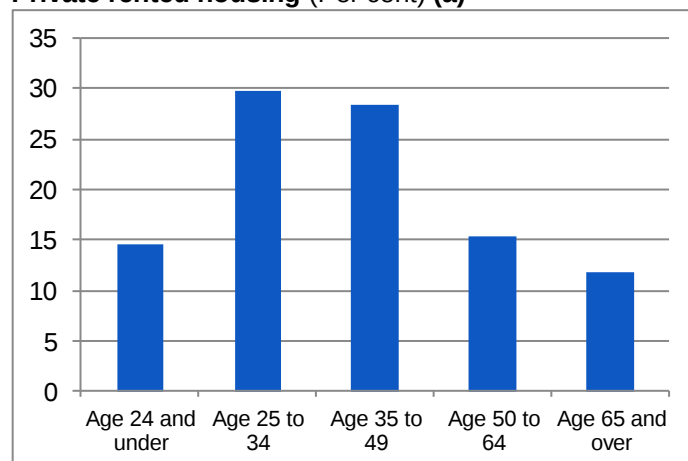
Owner occupied housing (Per cent) (a)



Source: 2011 Census

(a) Includes shared ownership, owned outright and owned with a mortgage or loan.

Private rented housing (Per cent) (a)



Source: 2011 Census

(a) Includes rented from a private landlord or letting agent and living rent free.

4. Gender

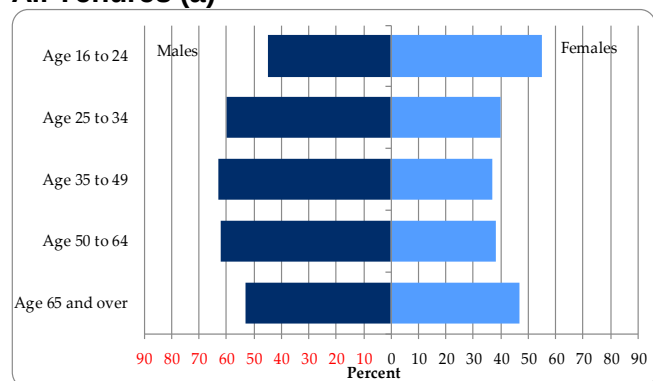
Whilst there were more women than men living in Wales at 27 March 2011, of the 1.3 million households in Wales around 59 per cent had a male household reference person (HRP) though this varied across the different tenures.

In social housing female HRPs were more prevalent, where 54 per cent of HRPs were female compared to 41 per cent across all tenures. This was not the case for the private rented sector, where females represented 44 per cent of all HRPs, nor for those in owner-occupied housing which had the lowest percentage of female HRPs at 38 per cent.

When looking at the age and gender of the HRPs across all households, the majority in each age group were male apart from those aged 16 to 24, where 55 per cent were female. This was also true in the private rented sector which also had more female HRPs than male HRPs aged 65 or over. In contrast, in the social housing sector there were more females HRPs in all age groups with the exception of those aged 50 to 64. It was only amongst those that owned their own homes that there were consistently more male HRPs than female HRPs across all age groups (Chart 6).

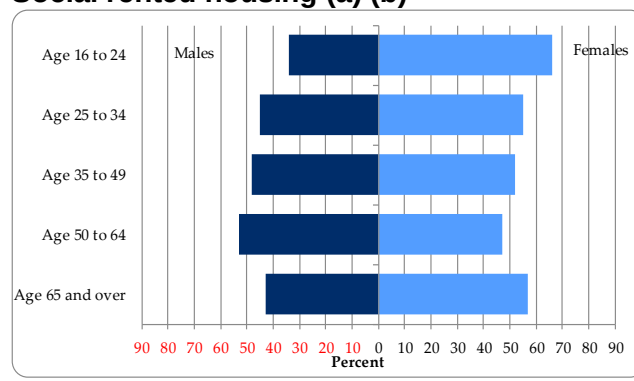
Chart 6 - Tenure by age and sex

All Tenures (a)



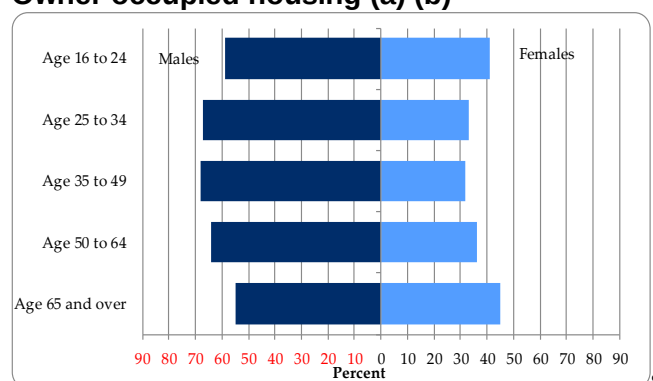
Source: 2011 Census
(a) As at 27 March 2011

Social rented housing (a) (b)



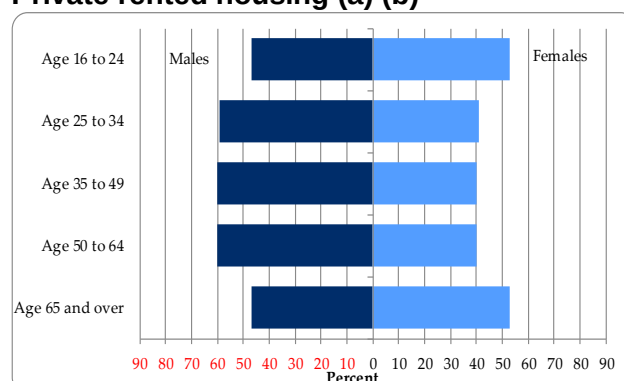
Source: 2011 Census
(a) As at 27 March 2011
(b) Includes rented from local authorities and other social rented dwellings

Owner occupied housing (a) (b)



Source: 2011 Census
(a) As at 27 March 2011
(b) Includes shared ownership, owned outright and owned with a mortgage or loan

Private rented housing (a) (b)



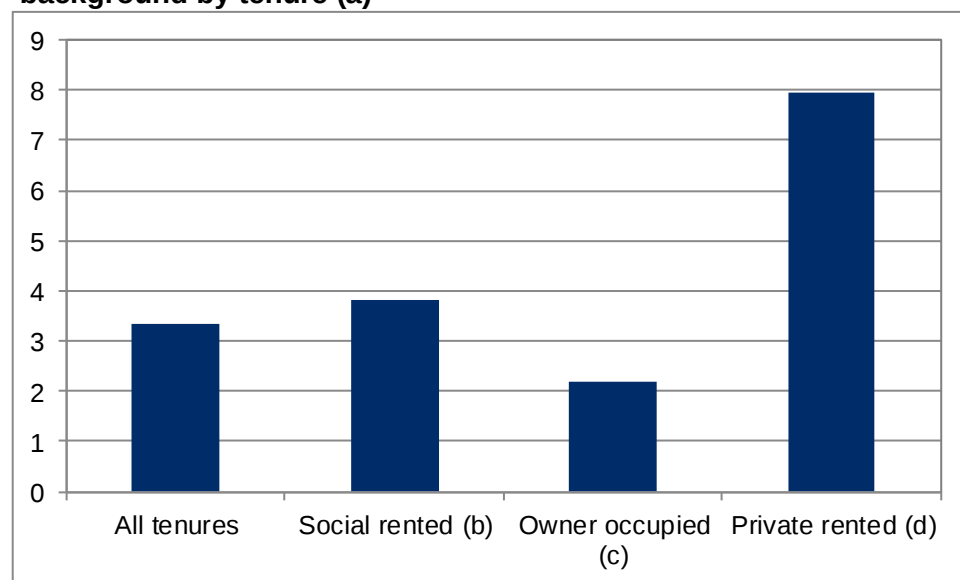
Source: 2011 Census
(a) As at 27 March 2011
(b) Includes rented from a private landlord or letting agent and living rent free.

5. Ethnicity

In 2011, 96 per cent (2.9 million) of the people living in Wales were White, compared with 98 per cent (2.8 million) in 2001. Whilst Wales has become more ethnically diverse with rising numbers of people from a Black or Minority Ethnic (BME) background in recent years, they still only represent a very small percentage of the overall population in Wales. In March 2011, non-white (including mixed) ethnic groups represented 4 per cent of the population up from 2.1 per cent in 2001. The majority of those from a BME background in Wales are Asian. The percentage of the population of Wales describing their ethnic as Asian doubled between 2001 and from 1.1 per cent (32,000) to 2.3 per cent (70,000).

In comparison, at a household level, around 3 per cent of HRPs across all tenures stated they were from a Black or Minority Ethnic (BME) background. HRPs from a BME background were more prevalent in the private rented sector where they accounted for 8 per cent of all HRPs but less so in owner-occupied housing accounting for just 2 per cent of all HRPs. In the social rented sector the proportion of HRPs from a BME background was also higher than across all tenures at 4 per cent (Chart 7).

Chart 7 - Percentage of households with HRP from a black and minority ethnic (BME) background by tenure (a)



Source: 2011 Census

(a) As at March 2011. Based on the age of the Household reference person

(b) Includes rented from local authorities and other social rented dwellings

(c) Includes shared ownership, owned outright and owned with a mortgage or loan

(d) Includes rented from a private landlord or letting agent and living rent free.

In March 2011, as was the case across the population as a whole, the highest percentage of HRPs from a BME background were Asian or Asian British and were most prevalent in the private rented sector where they accounted for 4 per cent of all HRPs, double that across all tenures. The percentage of households with HRPs of an Asian or Asian British background was lower in social housing than in any other tenure, at just under 1 per cent.

Generally the greatest ethnic diversity amongst HRPs was seen in the private rented sector which had the highest mix of HRPs from different BME backgrounds (Table 2).

Table 2 - Ethnic background of HRPs by tenure (a)

	All tenures		Social rented (b)		Owner occupied (c)		Private rented (d)	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
White	1,258,984	96.6	206,667	96.2	863,925	97.8	188,392	92.1
Mixed/multiple ethnic group	8,957	0.7	2,681	1.2	3,791	0.4	2,485	1.2
Asian/Asian British	21,245	1.6	1,764	0.8	11,404	1.3	8,077	3.9
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	7,627	0.6	2,611	1.2	2,145	0.2	2,871	1.4
Other ethnic group	5,863	0.5	1,188	0.6	1,865	0.2	2,810	1.4
All BME ethnic groups	43,692	3.4	8,244	3.8	19,205	2.2	16,243	7.9
All ethnic groups	1,302,676	100.0	214,911	100.0	883,130	100.0	204,635	100.0

Source: 2011 Census

(a) As at March 2011. Based on the age of the Household reference person

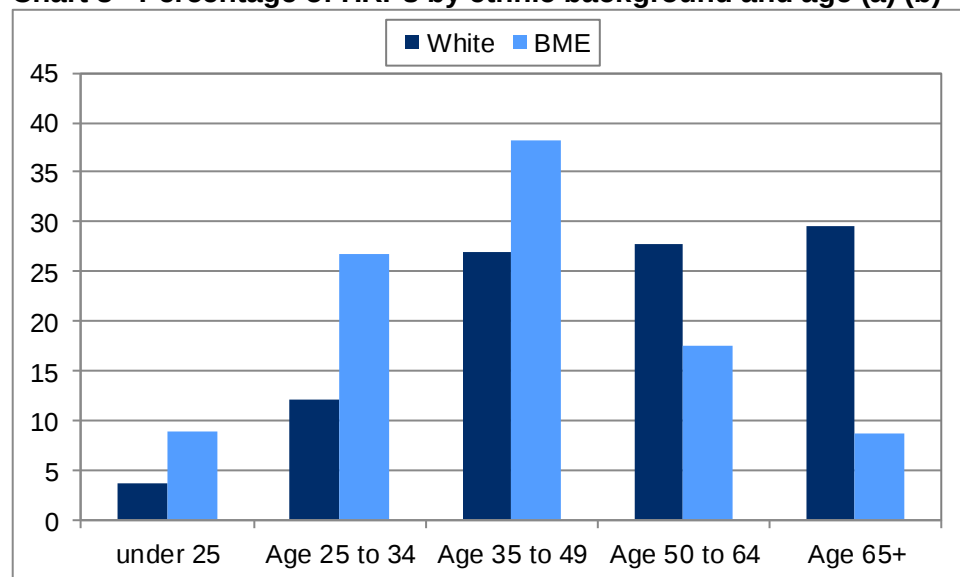
(b) Includes rented from local authorities and other social rented dwellings

(c) Includes shared ownership, owned outright and owned with a mortgage or loan

(d) Includes rented from a private landlord or letting agent and living rent free.

5.1 Ethnicity and Age

The age profile of different ethnic groups in Wales varies considerably. Of the 135,000 people from a BME background living in Wales on 27 March 2011, around 46 per cent were under 25 compared with 30 per cent of the population as a whole. Conversely only around 5 per cent of those from a BME background were aged 65 or over compared with 18 per cent in the population as a whole and 19 per cent of those describing themselves as White. Therefore the BME population as a whole tends to be younger than the overall population of Wales.

Chart 8 - Percentage of HRPs by ethnic background and age (a) (b)

Source: 2011 Census

(a) As at March 2011. Based on the age of the Household reference person

(b) BME includes mixed/multiple ethnic group, Asian and Asian British, Black, African, Caribbean, Black British and all other ethnic groups.

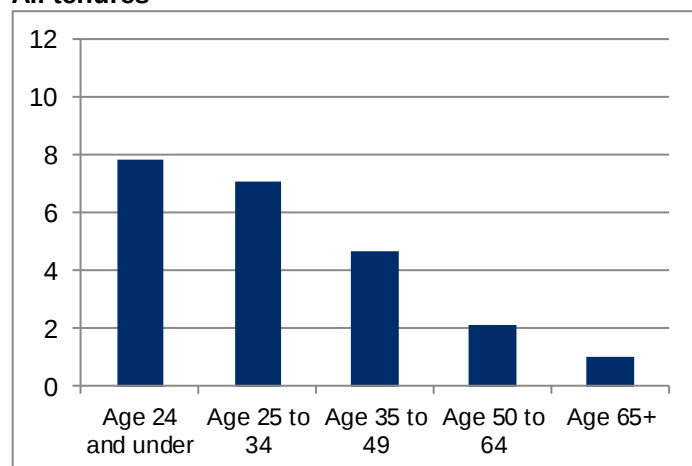
This was also the case for HRP as the age profile of the HRP also varied between the different ethnic groups with a higher concentration of HRP from a BME background within the younger and middle age groups. Of the 43,700 HRP from a Black or Minority Ethnic (BME) background over a third (36 per cent) were aged under 35 compared with 16 per cent of White HRP aged under 35. Conversely only around 9 per cent of HRP from a BME background were aged 65 or over compared with 30 per cent of those HRP describing themselves as White (Chart 8).

5.2 Ethnicity by age and tenure

As can be seen from the charts below, the private rented sector had the highest percentage of HRP from a BME background for each of the age groups but this was particularly true for those in the younger and middle age bands. This is not surprising as 44 per cent of HRP in the private rented sector were aged under 35 and over a third (36 per cent) of all HRP from a BME background were in this age group.

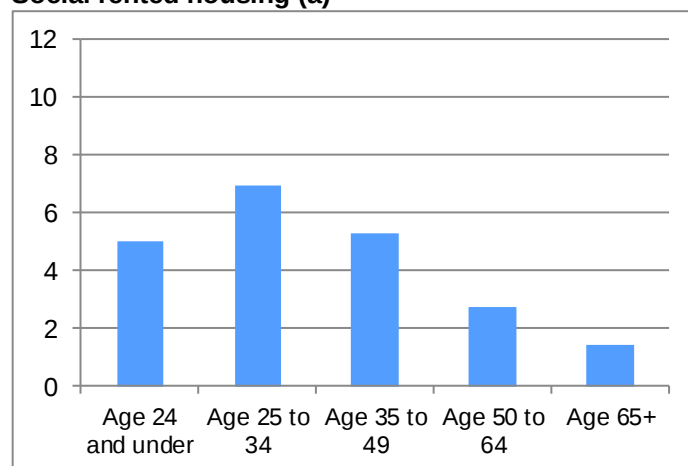
Chart 9 - Percentage of households with HRP from a black and minority ethnic (BME) group within each age group by tenure

All tenures



Source: 2011 Census

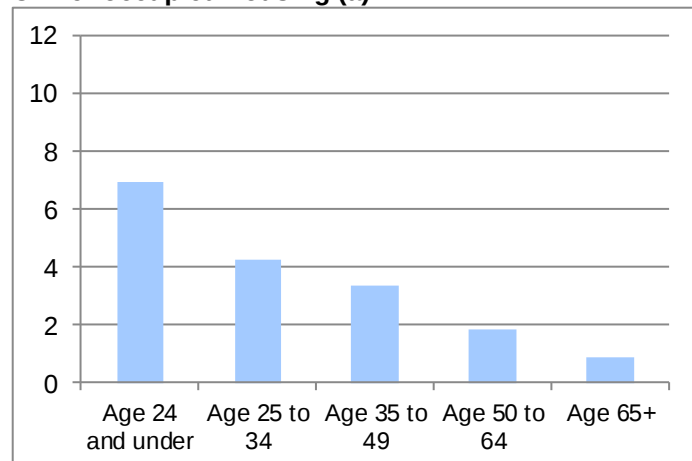
Social rented housing (a)



Source: 2011 Census

(a) Includes rented from local authorities and other social rented dwellings

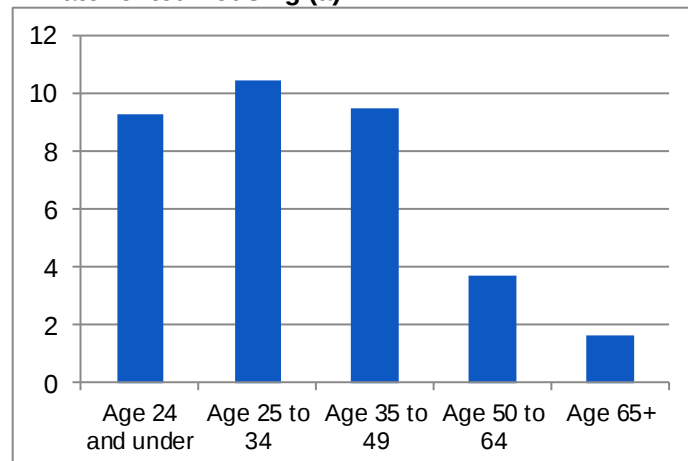
Owner occupied housing (a)



Source: 2011 Census

(a) Includes shared ownership, owned outright and owned with a mortgage or loan.

Private rented housing (a)



Source: 2011 Census

(a) Includes rented from a private landlord or letting agent and living rent free.

6. Religion

Although the percentage of the population of Wales giving their religion as Christian fell from 72 per cent in 2001 to 58 per cent in 2011, Christianity remains the largest religion in Wales. Muslim was the second largest religious group accounting for 1.5 per cent of the population. The percentage of the population reporting no religion, however, increased by nearly half a million to 32 per cent, in 2011, whilst around 8 per cent did not state a religion.

Around 60 per cent of all HRPs reported their religion as Christian which was slightly higher than across the population as a whole. At an individual tenure level, two thirds of HRPs in owner occupied housing stated they were Christian as did just over a half of HRPs living in social housing (52 per cent). Whilst less than half of HRPs (46 per cent) living in the private rented sector stated they were Christian it was still the most common religion reported (Table 3).

Table 3 - Religion of HRPs by tenure (a)

	All tenures		Social rented (b)		Owner occupied (c)		Private rented (d)	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Christian	786,413	60	112,456	52	579,860	66	94,097	46
Other religion (e)	30,449	2	5,100	2	14,858	2	10,491	5
No religion	385,901	30	78,494	37	222,044	25	85,363	42
Religion not stated	99,913	8	18,861	9	66,368	8	14,684	7
Total	1,302,676	100	214,911	100	883,130	100	204,635	100

Source: 2011 Census

(a) As at March 2011. Based on the age of the Household reference person

(b) Includes rented from local authorities and other social rented dwellings

(c) Includes shared ownership, owned outright and owned with a mortgage or loan

(d) Includes rented from a private landlord or letting agent and living rent free.

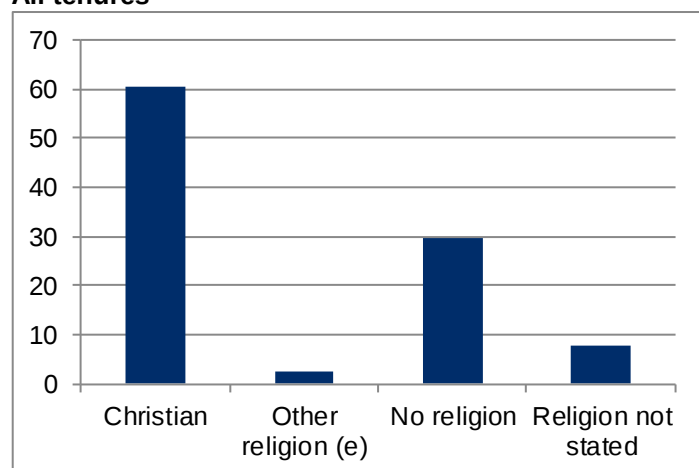
(e) Includes Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and other religions

Of all the tenures the private rented sector had the highest percentage of HRPs recording a religion other than Christian (i.e. Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh or other), with Muslim being the most common of these accounting for 3 per cent of HRPs. This compares with 1 per cent of HRPs across all tenures and 1.5 per cent of the population who recorded themselves as Muslim.

In 37 per cent of all households, the HRP either reported having no religion or did not state a religion. This percentage varied across the different tenures mainly due to the variation in those stating they had no religion. Whilst a quarter of owner occupiers stated they had no religion this rose to 37 per cent for HRPs in social housing and 42 per cent for those in the private rented sector.

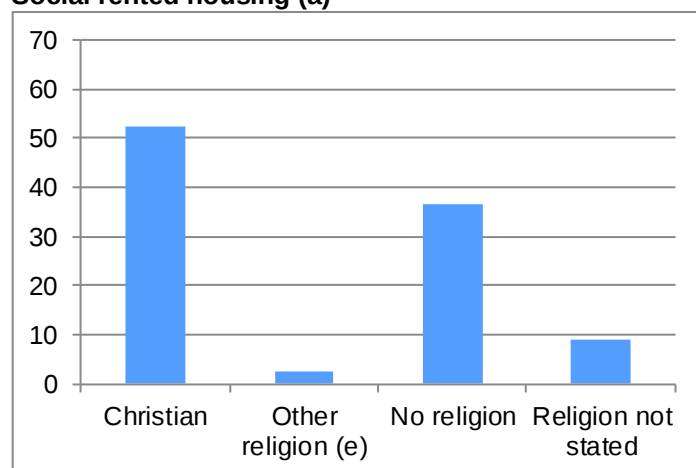
Chart 8 - Percentage of HRP by religion and tenure

All tenures



Source: 2011 Census

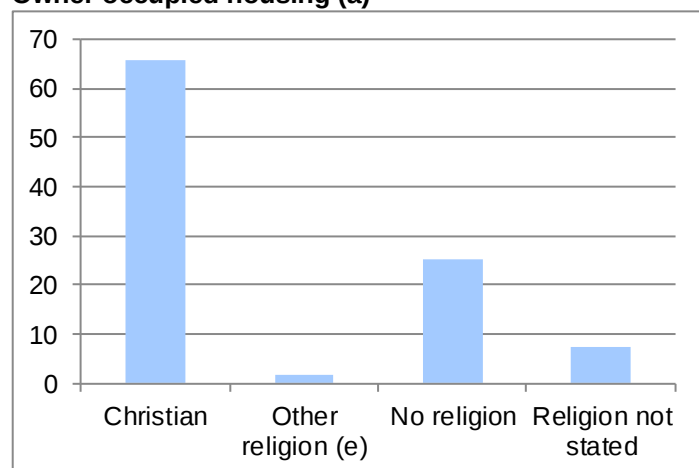
Social rented housing (a)



Source: 2011 Census

(a) Includes rented from local authorities and other social rented dwellings

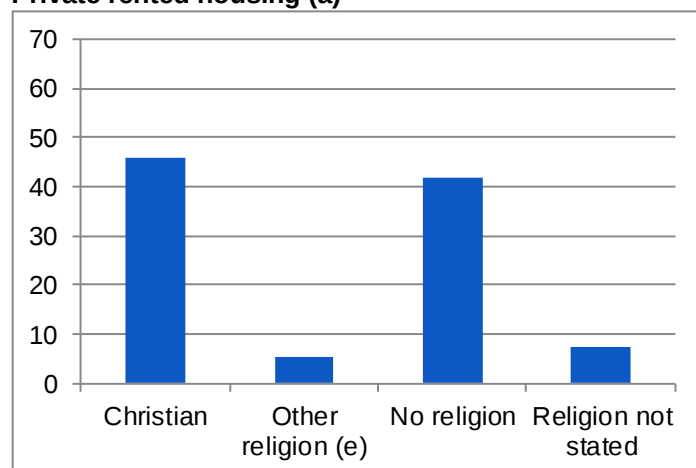
Owner occupied housing (a)



Source: 2011 Census

(a) Includes shared ownership, owned outright and owned with a mortgage or loan.

Private rented housing (a)



Source: 2011 Census

(a) Includes rented from a private landlord or letting agent and living rent free.

7. Welsh Language

According to the 2011 Census, 19 per cent of people living in Wales aged three and over reported that they could speak Welsh. This was down from 20.8 per cent in 2001 and, despite an increase in the size of the population, the number of Welsh speakers decreased by 20,000 to 562,000 in 2011. The ability to speak Welsh varied by age group with the highest percentage (40 per cent) of those reporting they could speak Welsh aged between 5 and 15 years old. However, nearly three quarters of the population (73.3 per cent) had no Welsh language skills in 2011 up from 71.6 per cent in 2001.

At 27 March 2011, across all households around 14 per cent of all HRPs were able to speak Welsh, which is lower than the population as a whole. The proportion of HRPs across all tenures reporting no Welsh language skills was higher than that across the population as a whole at 78 per cent. The ability to speak Welsh and Welsh language skills was generally highest amongst HRPs living in owner-occupied housing and lowest amongst those HRPs in social rented housing. This could however be in part affected to the geographical distribution of social housing.

8. Key Quality Information

1. In addition to the information below, further information can be found in the [Housing Statistics Quality Report](#) which is available on our website.

Policy Context

2. The Welsh Government's Programme for Government (2011-2016) states the Government's commitment to advance the equality of opportunity and to tackle discrimination. The Welsh Government Strategic Equality Plan details how the Government is fulfilling the general duty in the Equality Act 2010 and the Wales-specific equality duties. The Strategic Equality Plan sets out outcome-focused equality objectives which put the spotlight on the practical differences needed to make to people's lives. The objectives are based on the robust evidence that Welsh public bodies (including the Welsh Government itself) have gathered, and on engagement with organisations and individuals.
3. The information shown in this bulletin will be useful in providing background evidence for Welsh Government policy development and will be helpful in monitoring the Welsh Governments commitment to 'improving housing-related services and support, particularly for vulnerable people and people from minority groups' as outlined in the '[National Housing Strategy – 'Improving Lives and Communities – Homes in Wales'](#)'. The [Programme for Government 2011 -2016](#), which is the current government strategy, also outlines the Welsh Governments commitment to 'Improve services and opportunities for groups within the community who experience discrimination/require particular attention: lesbian, gay and bisexual people, people in black and ethnic minority groups, and the needs of gypsy-travellers.'

Data Source and Coverage

Census of Population

4. The data used in this release is taken from the Census of population for 2011 and 2001. ONS is responsible for the Census in England and Wales. The census has collected information about the population every ten years since 1801 (except in 1941). The latest census in England and Wales took place on 27 March 2011.
5. The 2011 Census estimates describe the characteristics of areas down to small geographies, and are used to understand similarities and differences in the population's characteristics locally, regionally and nationally. This information is used for planning and delivering services.

Methodology

6. Further information about the census estimates, including details about the methodology used can be found on the 2011 Census Quality and Methods pages of the ONS website at the following link: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/census-data/2011-census-user-guide/quality-and-methods/index.html>
7. The Census of population is a self-completion form, issued every ten years, and questions are asked of all people. The main results from the Census are in the form of standard pre-defined sets of data. The Census provides a comprehensive profile of Wales. In Wales, many of the minority groups are so small that the Census provides the only mechanism for estimating these population sizes. However the Census is only held every ten years. This means that it cannot be used to monitor change on a regular basis but can provide a comparison of 10 yearly snapshots.
8. Data from the 2011 Census is available from the Office for National Statistics at the following link: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/census-data/index.html>

and from the 2001 Census at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/census-data/2001-census-data/index.html>

Tenure

9. Tenure provides information about whether a household rents or owns the accommodation that it occupies and, if rented, combines this with information about the type of landlord who owns or manages the accommodation. The types of tenure included in the 2011 Census are as follows:
- Owned or shared ownership including 'Owned outright', 'Owned with a mortgage or loan' or 'shared ownership'
 - Social rented including 'Rented from council (Local Authority)' and 'Other social rented'
 - Private rented or living rent free including 'Private landlord or letting agency' and 'Other private rented or living rent free'.

Households

10. A household is defined as one person living alone, or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address who share cooking facilities and share a living room or sitting room or dining area. This includes sheltered accommodation units in an establishment where 50 per cent or more have their own kitchens (irrespective of whether there are other communal facilities), and all people living in caravans on any type of site that is their usual residence. This will include anyone who has no other usual residence. A household must contain at least one person whose place of usual residence is at the address. A group of short-term residents living together is not classified as a household, and neither is a group of people at an address where only visitors are staying.

Household Reference Person (HRP)

11. The 2011 Census information on household and tenure shown in this bulletin are based on the household reference persons (HRPs) rather than persons. The concept of a Household Reference Person (HRP) was introduced in the 2001 Census (in common with other government surveys in 2001/02) to replace the traditional concept of the 'head of household'. HRPs provide an individual person within a household to act as a reference point for producing further derived statistics and for characterising a whole household according to the characteristics of the chosen reference person. A complete definition is available in the glossary section on page 21 of this bulletin.

Users and Uses

12. The information shown in this bulletin will be used to assess the level of social housing tenants across Wales with specific 'protected characteristics'. It will provide background evidence for Welsh Government policy development, for monitoring the Welsh Government commitment to 'improving housing-related services and support, particularly for vulnerable people and people from minority groups' outlined in the ['National Housing Strategy - 'Improving Lives and Communities - Homes in Wales''](#) and the equality commitments outlined in the ['Programme for Government 2011 -2016'](#).
13. Key potential users of the data include policy makers in central government departments, local government, voluntary sector organisations, public service providers e.g. police, health authorities, other service providers, disability groups, academics and universities, other research organisations, individual citizens and private companies.

Quality

14. Official Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political reference.
15. Welsh housing statistics adhere to the Welsh Government's [Statistical Quality Management Strategy](#) and this is in line with the European Statistical System's six dimensions of quality, as listed in Principle 4 of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Further detail on how these are adhered to can be found in the [Housing Statistics Quality Report](#), which covers the general principles and

processes leading up to the production of our housing statistics. The report covers various topics including definitions, coverage, timeliness, relevance and comparability.

Symbols

16. The following symbols may have been used in this release:

- negligible (less than half the final digit shown)
- . not applicable
- .. not available
- ~ not yet available
- * disclosive or not sufficiently robust for publication
- p provisional
- r revised

Comparability

Integrated Household Survey (IHS)

17. The IHS is a composite survey combining questions asked in a number of Office for National Statistics (ONS) social surveys to gather basic information for a very large number of households. Data on sexual identity, religion, ethnicity and general health for England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales is available from the IHS. However, it has not been possible to analyse this data at a tenure level due to extremely small numbers and some outstanding technical issues.
18. Data from the IHS covering sexual identity in Wales can be downloaded from our StatsWales website at the following link:
<http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=28541>

Accuracy

19. Rounding of percentages may result in columns of some tables summing to 99% or 101%.
20. Ethnicity definitions tend to be based on a combination of categories including 'race', skin colour, national and regional origins and language. There is no general consensus on what constitutes an ethnic group and thus membership of any ethnic group is subjective, i.e., two individuals with very similar backgrounds may choose to describe themselves as from different ethnic backgrounds, depending on what ethnicity means to them. The terminology used to describe ethnic groups has changed markedly over time and is often dependent on prevailing social or political developments. Therefore ethnicity data can be difficult to collect and to compare over time. Ethnicity questions in UK Surveys tend to be a combination of categories of colour (e.g. black, white), nationality (e.g. British) and mixtures of the two (White British).

Accessibility

21. Data from the 2011 Census is available to download from the ONS website at the following link:
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/index.html>
22. A number of statistical outputs and further information on the availability and sources of Equalities data for Wales and Welsh local authorities can be accessed on the Welsh Assembly Government Equality Theme Page at the following link:
<http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/?topic=Housing+and+community&lang=en#/statistics-and-research/?topic=Equality+and+diversity&lang=en>

Coherence with Other Statistics:

Ethnicity

23. The England and Wales census first asked the ethnic group question in 1991. Ethnic group classifies people according to their own perceived ethnic group and cultural background. The UK Census is a

self-completion form, issued every ten years, and questions are asked of all people. No guidance is given regarding ethnic group, as self determination is viewed as highly important. The ethnic group question provides information on the population's ethnic characteristics which can be used by private and public organisations to monitor equal opportunities and anti-discrimination policies, and to plan for the future through resource allocation and informing provision of services. The 2011 Census comprised both tick boxes and write-in options for ethnicity and religion questions. The ethnicity question was structured so that under each broad grouping was a series of more specific ethnic categories and the option to write in an answer if the required grouping was not present. Since 1991 the number of tick boxes has grown from nine to 18 in 2011, with some changes to tick box labels, placement and question instructions. Changes to the questionnaire were made to improve data collection and accuracy of the results, some improvements will affect direct comparability of 2011 and 2001 statistics. The Gypsy/Irish Traveller category was introduced for the first time in 2011.

24. **The Annual Population Survey** - is an ONS sample survey which also asks a question on ethnic group and follows similar trends to the census ethnic group question. Comparisons with the 2011 Census should be treated with caution for methodological reasons.

Religion

25. This is a person's current religion, or if the person does not have a religion, 'no religion'. No determination is made about whether a person was a practicing member of a religion. Unlike other census questions where missing answers are imputed, this question was voluntary, and where no answer was provided the response is categorised as 'not stated'. The religion question was first asked in 2001 and unlike all other Census questions, it was voluntary.
26. More detail on sources of data on ethnicity and religion is published in the statistical bulletin 'Sources of Ethnicity, National Identity and Religion Statistics in Wales' available at the following link:
<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/statistics/2009/090310sb1420091en.pdf>

27. Related Statistics for Other UK Countries

England

28. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) publish regular statistics on the household characteristics of those living in social housing based on information from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Survey of English Housing (SEH). Further information is available at:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/householdcharacteristics/>

Scotland

29. Information on equality trends for Housing in Scotland is available in Chapter 11 of the Scottish Government publication 'High Level Summary of Equality Statistics'. A full set of data extracts for each equality strand are available for age, disability, ethnic group, gender and religion. This can be accessed via the following link:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/11/20102424/13>

Northern Ireland

30. Information on equality and housing in Northern Ireland is published by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and can be accessed via the following link
http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/corporate/strategies/equality/publications_links.htm

9. Glossary

Age

There are no standard age bands used for analysis. Children are often defined as people aged 15 and under, whilst working age refers to all people aged 16-64. Age is derived from the date of birth question and is a person's age at their last birthday, at 27 March 2011. Dates of birth that imply an age over 115 are treated as invalid and the person's age is imputed. Infants less than one year old are classified as 0 years of age

Average number of bedrooms per household

The average number of bedrooms per household for any area is equal to the total number of bedrooms in households in the area divided by the number of households in the area.

Average number of rooms per household

The average number of rooms per household for any area is equal to the total number of rooms in households in the area divided by the number of households in the area.

Bedroom

A bedroom is defined as any room that was intended to be used as a bedroom when the property was built, or any room that has been permanently converted for use as a bedroom. It also includes all rooms intended for use as a bedroom even if not being used as a bedroom at the time of the Census.

Census day

Census day was Sunday 27 March 2011

Cohabiting

Two people are described as cohabiting if they are living together as a couple but are not married to each other or in a registered same-sex civil partnership together. This includes people living with a partner of the same sex.

A cohabiting person might be married or in a civil partnership (with someone not resident in the household) but will not be shown as married, in a civil partnership or separated in results relating to living arrangements because cohabiting in this classification takes priority over legal marital or partnership status.

Cohabiting couple household

A cohabiting couple household is a household that comprises a cohabiting couple family and no other person. This definition is used in most results from the 2011 Census.

In a small number of results a cohabiting couple household is defined as a household that contains at least one cohabiting couple, but does not contain any married or same-sex civil partnership couples. When this definition is used it is clearly indicated.

Dependent child

A dependent child is any person aged 0 to 15 in a household (whether or not in a family) or a person aged 16 to 18 in full-time education and living in a family with his or her parent(s) or grandparent(s). It does not include any people aged 16 to 18 who have a spouse, partner or child living in the household.

Dwelling

A dwelling is a unit of accommodation which may comprise one or more household spaces (a household space is the accommodation used or available for use by an individual household).

A dwelling may be classified as shared or unshared. A dwelling is shared if:

- the household spaces it contains have the accommodation type 'part of a converted or shared house', or
- not all of the rooms (including kitchen, bathroom and toilet, if any) are behind a door that only that household can use, and
- there is at least one other such household space at the same address with which it can be combined to form the shared dwelling.

Dwellings that do not meet these conditions are unshared dwellings.

Estimates

The 2011 Census statistics are estimates of the whole population. The census counts of people who were included on a questionnaire are adjusted to include estimates of people not included on a questionnaire.

Ethnic Groups

Ethnic group classifies people according to their own perceived ethnic group and cultural background. Ethnicity definitions tend to be based on a combination of categories including 'race', skin colour, national and regional origins and language. There is no general consensus on what constitutes an ethnic group and thus membership of any ethnic group is subjective, i.e., two individuals with very similar backgrounds may choose to describe themselves as from different ethnic backgrounds, depending on what ethnicity means to them.

The data by ethnicity used in this bulletin uses the 2011 Census ethnicity classifications which are as follows:

A White

- English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British
- Irish
- Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- Any other White background

B Mixed/multiple ethnic groups

- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Any other Mixed/multiple ethnic background,

C Asian/Asian British

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Any other Asian background,

D Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British

- African
- Caribbean
- Any other Black/ African/ Caribbean background,

E Other ethnic group

- Arab
- Any other ethnic group

People from black or minority ethnic backgrounds are defined within this bulletin as those with an ethnic background other than White including White English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British ,Irish, Gypsy or Irish Traveller and any other White background white.

Family

A family is defined as a group of people who are either:

- a married, same-sex civil partnership, or cohabiting couple, with or without child(ren),
- a lone parent with child(ren),
- a married, same-sex civil partnership, or cohabiting couple with grandchild(ren) but with no children present from the intervening generation, or
- a single grandparent with grandchild(ren) but no children present from the intervening generation.

Children in couple families need not belong to both members of the couple

For single or couple grandparents with grandchildren present, the children of the grandparent(s) may also be present if they are not parents or grandparents of the youngest generation present.

Family type

Family type is the classification of families into different types distinguished by the presence, absence and type of couple relationship, whether

- a married couple family,
- a same-sex civil partnership family,
- a cohabiting couple family, or a
- a lone parent family

Household

A household is defined as:

- one person living alone, or
- a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address who share cooking facilities and share a living room or sitting room or dining area.

This includes:

- sheltered accommodation units in an establishment where 50 per cent or more have their own kitchens (irrespective of whether there are other communal facilities), and
- all people living in caravans on any type of site that is their usual residence. This will include anyone who has no other usual residence elsewhere in the UK.

A household must contain at least one person whose place of usual residence is at the address. A group of short-term residents living together is not classified as a household, and neither is a group of people at an address where only visitors are staying. Households do not include communal establishments which provide managed residential accommodation such as sheltered accommodation units, student halls, large hotels, hospitals and prisons.

Household Reference Person

The concept of a Household Reference Person (HRP) was introduced in the 2001 Census (in common with other government surveys in 2001/2) to replace the traditional concept of the 'head of the household'. HRPs provide an individual person within a household to act as a reference point for producing further derived statistics and for characterising a whole household according to characteristics of the chosen reference person.

For a person living alone, it follows that this person is the HRP.

If a household contains only one family (with or without ungrouped individuals) then the HRP is the same as the Family Reference Person (FRP).

For families in which there is generational divide between family members that cannot be determined (Other related family), there is no FRP. Members of these families are treated the same as ungrouped individuals.

If there is more than one family in a household the HRP is chosen from among the FRPs using the same criteria used to choose the FRP. This means the HRP will be selected from the FRPs on the basis of their economic activity, in the priority order:

- Economically active, employed, full-time, non-student
- Economically active, employed, full-time, student
- Economically active, employed, part-time, non-student
- Economically active, employed, part-time, student
- Economically active, unemployed, non-student
- Economically active, unemployed, student
- Economically inactive, retired
- Economically inactive, other

If some or all FRPs have the same economic activity, the HRP is the eldest of the FRPs. If some or all are the same age, the HRP is the first of the FRPs from the order in which they were listed on the questionnaire.

If a household is made up entirely of any combination of ungrouped individuals and other related families, the HRP is chosen from among all people in the household, using the same criteria used to choose between FRPs. Students at their non term-time address and short-term migrants cannot be the HRP.

Household size

The size of a household is equal to the number of usual residents in the household. Visitors staying at an address do not contribute to that household's size because they are counted in the household of their place of usual residence.

Household size is only applicable to household spaces with at least one usual resident.

Household type

Household type classifies households in an alternative way to the household composition classification that is used in most standard census results.

A household is classified by the type of family present, but households with more than one family are categorised in the priority order:

- married couple family,
- same-sex civil partnership couple family,
- cohabiting couple family,
- lone parent family.

Within a family type a family with dependent children takes priority.

This means that in tables that use this classification the alternative definitions of married couple household, same-sex civil partnership couple household, cohabiting couple household and lone parent household are applicable.

Knowledge of Welsh

A person has knowledge of Welsh if they can do one or more of the following: Understand spoken Welsh, Speak Welsh, Read Welsh, and/or Write Welsh.

Lone-parent family

A lone-parent family consists of a father or mother with his or her child(ren) where the parent does not have a spouse, same-sex civil partner or partner in the household, and the child(ren) do not have a spouse, same-sex civil partner or child in the household. A lone grandparent with his or her grandchild(ren) are also considered a lone-parent family if there are no children in the intervening generation present in the household (note that children of the grandparent may also be present if they are not parents or grandparents of the youngest generation).

Lone-parent household

A lone-parent household is a household that comprises a lone-parent family and no other person. This definition is used in most results from the 2011 Census.

In a small number of results a lone-parent household is defined as a household that contains at least one lone-parent family, but does not contain any married, same-sex civil partnership or cohabiting couples. When this definition is used it is clearly indicated.

Main language

This is a person's first or preferred language.

Marital and civil partnership status

Marital and civil partnership status classifies an individual according to their legal marital or registered same-sex civil partnership status as at census day, 27 March 2011.

Marital and civil partnership states include:

- married/in a registered same-sex civil partnership,
- separated (but still legally married/in a registered same-sex civil partnership),
- divorced/formerly in a registered same-sex civil partnership, or
- widowed/surviving same-sex civil partner.

Number of bedrooms

This is the number of bedrooms in a household's accommodation.

A bedroom is defined as any room that was intended to be used as a bedroom when the property was built, or any room that has been permanently converted for use as a bedroom. It also includes all rooms intended for use as a bedroom even if not being used as a bedroom at the time of the Census.

Bedsits and studio flats are counted as having one bedroom.

The number of bedrooms is not available for household spaces with no usual residents.

Number of persons per bedroom in household

The number of persons per bedroom is equal to the number of usual residents in a household divided by the number of bedrooms in that household's accommodation.

A bedroom is defined as any room that was intended to be used as a bedroom when the property was built, or any room that has been permanently converted for use as a bedroom. It also includes all rooms intended for use as a bedroom even if not being used as a bedroom at the time of the Census.

Bedsits and studio flats are counted as having one bedroom.

Number of rooms

This is the number of rooms in a household's accommodation.

The definition of a room does not include bathrooms, toilets, halls or landings, or rooms that can only be used for storage. All other rooms, for example, kitchens, living rooms, bedrooms, utility rooms, studies and conservatories are counted.

If two rooms have been converted into one they are counted as one room. Rooms shared between a number of households, for example a shared kitchen, are not counted.

The number of rooms is not available for household spaces with no usual resident

Occupancy rating

Occupancy rating provides a measure of whether a household's accommodation is overcrowded or under occupied. There are two measures of occupancy rating, one based on the total number of rooms in a household's accommodation, and one based only on the number of bedrooms. The ages of the household members and their relationships to each other are used to derive the number of rooms/bedrooms they require, based on a standard formula. The number of rooms/bedrooms required is subtracted from the number of rooms/bedrooms in the household's accommodation to obtain the occupancy rating. An occupancy rating of -1 implies that a household has one fewer room/bedroom than required, whereas +1 implies that they have one more room/bedroom than the standard requirement.

For more information about the formula used to derive occupancy rating please see

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/census-data/2011-census-user-guide/quality-and-methods/quality/quality-notes-and-clarifications/index.html>

Persons per bedroom

The number of persons per bedroom is equal to the number of usual residents in a household divided by the number of bedrooms in that household's accommodation.

A bedroom is defined as any room that was intended to be used as a bedroom when the property was built, or any room that has been permanently converted for use as a bedroom. It also includes all rooms intended for use as a bedroom even if not being used as a bedroom at the time of the census.

Persons per room

The number of persons per room is equal to the number of usual residents in a household divided by the number of rooms in that household's accommodation.

The definition of a room does not include bathrooms, toilets, halls or landings, or rooms that can only be used for storage. All other rooms, for example, kitchens, living rooms, bedrooms, utility rooms, studies and conservatories are counted.

If two rooms have been converted into one they are counted as one room. Rooms shared between a number of households, for example a shared kitchen, are not counted.

Religion

This is a person's current religion, or if the person does not have a religion, 'no religion'. No determination is made about whether a person was a practicing member of a religion. Unlike other census questions where missing answers are imputed, this question was voluntary, and where no answer was provided the response is categorised as 'not stated'. Questions about religion in major government surveys and administrative data are asked on the basis of religious affiliation or identity, irrespective of actual religious practice or belief.

The categories used in the 2011 Census and shown in this bulletin are as follows:

- Christian (including Church of England/Church in Wales, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)
- Other religions (including Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh)
- Any other religion
- No religion

Self-contained units

A self-contained unit is accommodation occupied by a household with exclusive use of bath/shower and inside WC and some cooking facilities.

Sex

Sex is the classification of a person as either male or female.

Shared dwelling

A dwelling is shared if:

- the household spaces it contains have the accommodation type 'part of a converted or shared house', or
- not all of the rooms (including kitchen, bathroom and toilet, if any) are behind a door that only that household can use, and
- there is at least one other such household space at the same address with which it can be combined to form the shared dwelling.

Short-term resident

A census short-term UK resident is anyone born outside of the UK who, on 27 March 2011, had stayed or intended to stay in the UK for a period of three months or more but less than 12 months.

Tenure

Tenure provides information about whether a household rents or owns the accommodation that it occupies and, if rented, combines this with information about the type of landlord who owns or manages the accommodation.

Tenure, Other social rented

Accommodation that is 'other social rented' includes accommodation that is rented from a registered social landlord, housing association, housing co-operative or charitable trust.

Tenure, Owned

Accommodation that is 'owned' includes accommodation that is either 'owned outright' or 'owned with a mortgage or loan'.

Tenure, Private rented

Accommodation that is 'private rented' includes accommodation that is rented from a private landlord or letting agency, employer of a household member, relative or friend of a household member, or other non-social rented accommodation.

Tenure, Private rented, Other

Accommodation that is 'private rented, other' includes accommodation that is rented from an employer of a household member, relative or friend of a household member, or other non-social rented accommodation

Tenure, Social rented

Accommodation that is 'social rented' includes accommodation that is rented from a council or local authority, or from a registered social landlord, housing association, housing co-operative or charitable trust.

Welsh language skills

A person aged three and over is classified with skills in Welsh if they can do one or more of the following:

- understand spoken Welsh,
- speak Welsh,
- read Welsh, or
- write Welsh.

In results that classify people by Welsh language skills a person may appear in more than one category depending on which combination of skills they have.

10. Useful links

Office for National Statistics (ONS) website

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

2011 Census website

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/index.html>

2001 Census website

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/census-2001/index.html>

Quality and Methodology Information Reports

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/quality/quality-information/index.html>

Neighbourhood Statistics (NESS)

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadHome.do?m=0&s=1388753421920&enc=1&nsjs=true&nsck=false&nssvg=false&nswid=1276>

Nomis website

<http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

11. Further information

Further information is available from the Statistics web site:

<http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/?lang=en>

2011 Census data for the overall population of Wales is available to download from our StatsWales interactive website at the following link:

<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Census/2011>

We actively encourage feedback from our users. If you have any comments please e-mail us at:

stats.housing@wales.gsi.gov.uk

If you require any further information regarding this Welsh Government publication, contact details are as follows:

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