

Religion in England and Wales, the ONS Longitudinal Study

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What religions are represented in England and Wales?

Poll: What was the most frequently reported religion among the England and Wales population in 2011 after “Christian” (includes Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)?

- a. Hindu
 - b. Muslim
 - c. Jewish
 - d. No religion
- This question is not necessarily simple:
 - Have you changed your religion?
 - Do you practice your religion?
 - What about minority or “unofficial” religions?

Religion in the Office for National Statistics Longitudinal Study

- What is the ONS Longitudinal Study?
- Religion in the ONS Longitudinal Study
 - What questions asked?
 - When have questions about religion been asked in the ONS LS
 - How can it be answered?
- Examples of previous studies using Religion and the ONS LS

ONS Longitudinal Study

- 1.1% sample of individuals in England and Wales (plus co-residents).
- Members selected if birthday falls on one of four days in each year.
- Census data from 1971 to 2011.
- An individual's census forms from 1971 – 2011 are linked, giving up to 40 years of data on study members.
- Includes data on people in the same household as the LS member (e.g. parents and siblings)
 - only for the census that they are living with the LS member.
- Data is also linked to some vital events data (e.g. births and deaths).

Sister studies

Scottish Longitudinal Study (SLS):

- 5% sample, 1991 onwards

Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study (NILS):

- 28% sample, 1981 onwards.

Both have more admin data than the ONS LS does

Information about all three studies: calls.ac.uk

Using the ONS LS

- Two access routes
 - In person at a secure setting
 - Submission of Stata etc scripts to be run remotely
- No data will be transferred out of the secure setting until it has had disclosure clearance
- All researchers using the ONS LS must:
 - apply for ONS Researcher Accreditation or be an accredited researcher (see [CeLSIUS](#) website for more information on this)
 - Undergo LS secure data training

Religion question in the ONS LS (1)

- Religion question introduced in the 2001 census.
- Question 10 in the census asks “*What is your religion?*”
- 8 tick boxes starting with “*None*” and ending with a write-in box for “*Any other religion*”.
- The question was voluntary, so there is a “*Not stated*” category in the 2001 religion variable (RELP0).

10 What is your religion?

◆ This question is voluntary.

◆ ✓ *one box only.*

None

Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)

Buddhist

Hindu

Jewish

Muslim

Sikh

Any other religion, *please write in*

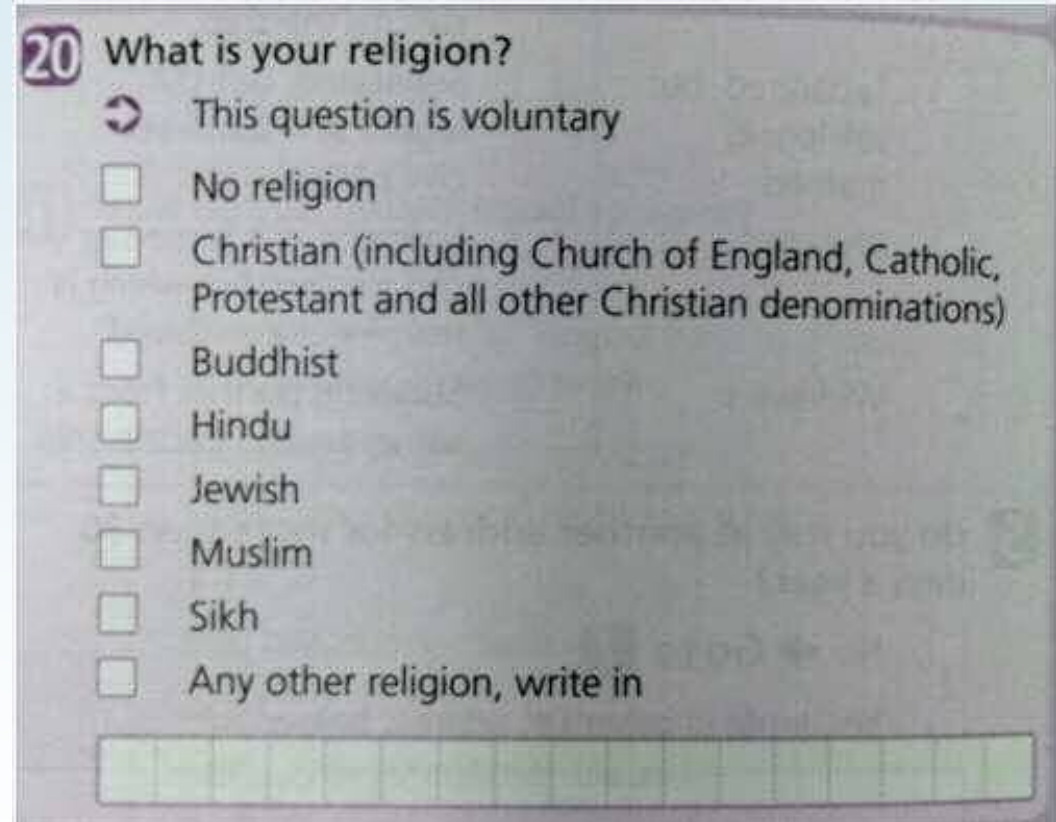
Religion in 2001

	N	%
-9 "No code required"	1,293	0.31%
-8 "Non-response"	28,692	6.79%
Christian	303,090	71.76%
Buddhist	1,042	0.25%
Hindu	5,203	1.23%
Muslim	13,675	3.24%
Sikh	3,839	0.91%
Jewish	1,960	0.46%
Other	4,474	1.06%
None	59,085	13.99%
Total	422,353	

Source: ONS LS

Religion question in the ONS LS (2)

- Question 20 in the 2011 census asks “*What is your religion?*”
- 8 tick boxes starting with “None” and ending with a write-in box for “*Any other religion*”.
- The question was voluntary, and therefore there is also a “*Not stated*” category in the 2011 religion variables (RELP11 and RELPGP11).



20 What is your religion?

➔ This question is voluntary

No religion

Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)

Buddhist

Hindu

Jewish

Muslim

Sikh

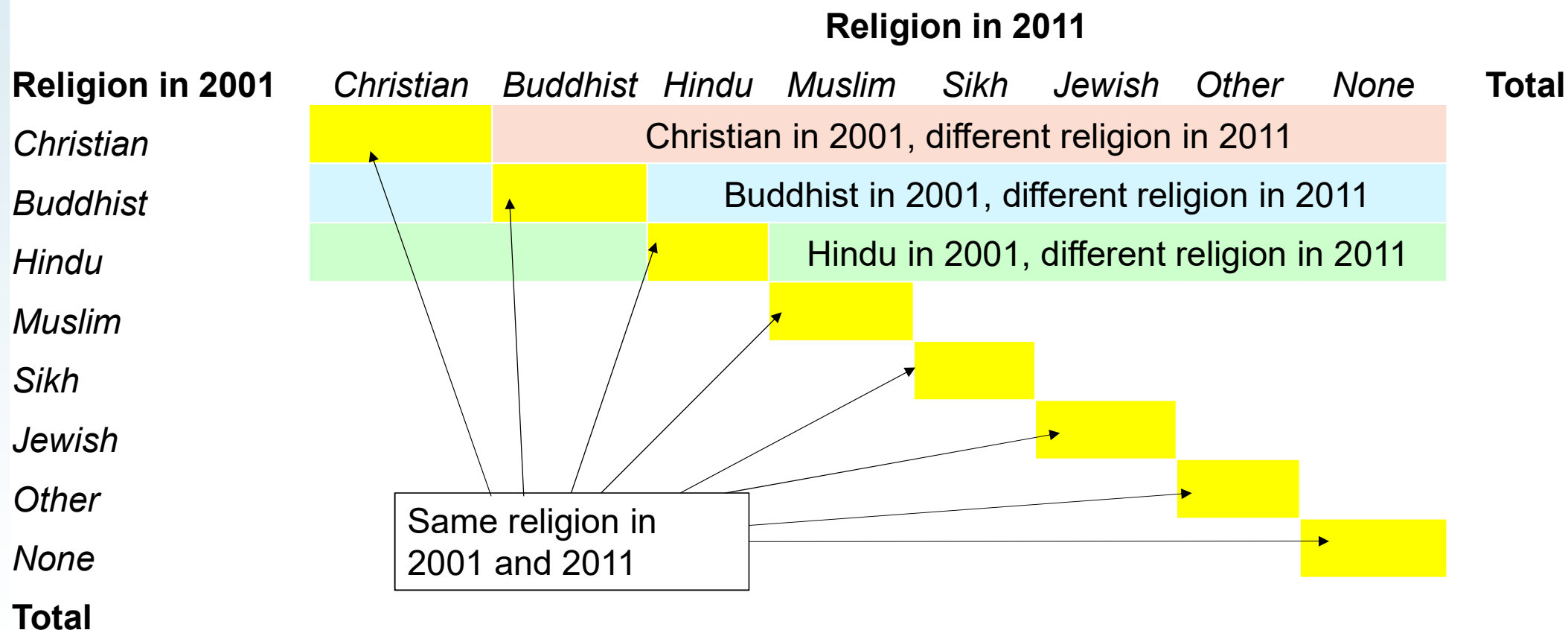
Any other religion, write in

Religion in 2011

	N	%
-9 "No code required"	790	0.19%
-8 "Unacceptable text response"	874	0.21%
-6 "Missing"	26,834	6.35%
Christian	265,110	62.77%
Buddhist	1,222	0.29%
Hindu	4,971	1.18%
Muslim	13,557	3.21%
Sikh	3,877	0.92%
Jewish	1,883	0.45%
Other	4,186	0.99%
None	99,049	23.45%
Total	422,353	

Source: ONS LS

Example: do people report the same religion in 2001 and 2011? (1)



Example: do people report the same religion in 2001 and 2011? (2)

Religion in 2001	Religion in 2011								Total
	Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Muslim	Sikh	Jewish	Other	None	
Christian	239,454	212	24	102	18	34	1,581	44,009	285,434
Buddhist	97	574	*	*	*	0	21	222	944
Hindu	34	10	4,633	12	50	0	152	119	5,010
Muslim	104	*	*	12,383	*	*	19	333	12,879
Sikh	22	*	17	*	3,607	0	40	60	3,766
Jewish	20	0	*	11	0	1,592	15	132	1,780
Other	1,001	55	37	19	10	12	972	1,886	3,992
None	10,838	242	32	90	16	48	932	42,572	54,770
Total	251,570	1,113	4,773	12,637	3,721	1,696	3,732	89,333	368,575

Notes: Cell counts <10 suppressed (*). Totals are calculated using a standard value of 10 for suppressed cells.

Source: ONS Longitudinal Study

Example: do people report the same religion in 2001 and 2011? (3)

For each religion in 2001: Most common 2011 religion
2nd most common 2011 religion

Religion 2001	Religion in 2011								Total
	Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Muslim	Sikh	Jewish	Other	None	
Christian	83.89%	0.07%	0.01%	0.04%	0.01%	0.01%	0.55%	15.42%	285,434
Buddhist	10.28%	60.81%	1.06%	1.06%	1.06%	0.00%	2.22%	23.52%	944
Hindu	0.68%	0.20%	92.48%	0.24%	1.00%	0.00%	3.03%	2.38%	5,010
Muslim	0.81%	0.08%	0.08%	96.15%	0.08%	0.08%	0.15%	2.59%	12,879
Sikh	0.58%	0.27%	0.45%	0.27%	95.78%	0.00%	1.06%	1.59%	3,766
Jewish	1.12%	0.00%	0.56%	0.62%	0.00%	89.44%	0.84%	7.42%	1,780
Other	25.08%	1.38%	0.93%	0.48%	0.25%	0.30%	24.35%	47.24%	3,992
None	19.79%	0.44%	0.06%	0.16%	0.03%	0.09%	1.70%	77.73%	54,770
Total	251,570	1,113	4,773	12,637	3,721	1,696	3,732	89,333	368,575

Notes: Totals and % calculated using a standard value of 10 for suppressed cells.

Source: ONS Longitudinal Study

Current and previous research

- [Continuity of non-traditional religious affiliation](#) - Oliver Duke-Williams, Adam Dennett and Nicola Shelton
- [Fertility of ethnic and religious groups in the UK](#) - Sylvie Dubuc
- [Regional patterns of teenage births in relation to social factors and educational social outcomes for young women following a teenage birth](#) - Gillian Raab, Marion Henderson and Lin Hattersley
- [Mortality and religion: a longer life by the grace of God?](#) - Emily Grundy and Tricia Larose

Access to data

Census longitudinal (ONS LS and SLS)	Available via support units (CeLSIUS and SLS), see https://calls.ac.uk/ls-units/ Secure access: accredited researchers & approved projects
Understanding Society	Available via UK Data Service for registered users https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/

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