Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough

Census 2021

Summary Report 5: Household Relationships & Sexual Orientation

 **Third Phase of main statistics (March 2023)**

The third phase of main statistics from Census 2021 was published 21 March 2023 and provides key statistics for a number of census topics such as marital and civil partnership status, household composition and living arrangements, sexual orientation, qualifications, labour market, travel to work or study, communal establishments, and migration, at Northern Ireland and Local Government District levels (LGD).

**Household Relationships & Sexual Orientation**

This summary report will provide census information on the number of dependent children, household composition, living arrangements, marital and civil partnership status and sexual orientation. The report will provide information for **Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough** for 2021. Where information is available, comparisons will be made with the 2011 census results to see how things have changed in the 10 year period since the last census. Some comparatives with other LGD’s will also be included.

***Dependent Children***

On Census Day 2021, in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough approximately 52% of households had no children with a further 16% having no dependent children (all children in household are non-dependent). In Northern Ireland overall, 55% of households had no children and almost 16% had no dependent children. Approximately 32% of households in the borough had 1 or more dependent children with 63% of those having 2 or more dependent children.

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|   | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon | Northern Ireland |
| All households | 84,642 | 768,809 |
| No children  | 51.97% | 55.14% |
| No dependent children | 15.91% | 15.65% |
| 1 dependent child | Age 0-4 | 3.85% | 3.54% |
| Age 5-11 | 2.80% | 2.75% |
| Age 12-18 | 5.28% | 5.10% |
| 2 dependent children | Age 0-4 | 4.75% | 4.24% |
| Age 5-11 | 5.26% | 4.75% |
| Age 12-18 | 2.73% | 2.41% |
| 3 dependent children | Age 0-4 | 3.65% | 3.14% |
| Age 5-11 | 3.30% | 2.82% |
| Age 12-18 | 0.51% | 0.46% |

*Table 1: Number of dependent children – households, 2021, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon and Northern Ireland. Source: Table MS-A24, Census 2021.*

***Household Composition***

On Census Day 2021 there were an estimated 84,643 households in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough. Table 2 below shows the composition of these households. Single family households, either married or in a civil partnership with children accounted for the largest proportion of households at 28.7% while those with no children accounted for a further 9.7% of the total households in the borough. One person households were the next biggest grouping accounting for a total of 23,407 households or 27.7% of the total. Lone parent families both with dependent and non-dependent children accounted for 13.2% (11,152) of the total households. Of these, a total of 9,582 (86%) were female lone parent households compared to 1,570 (14%) male lone parent households.

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|   | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon |
|   | **Number** | **%** |
| One person households  | 23,407 | 27.65% |
| Single Family Household: All aged 66+ | 6,703 | 7.92% |
| *Single Family Household: Married or civil partnership* |
| No children | 8,171 | 9.65% |
| With children  | 24,315 | 28.73% |
| *Single Family Household: Cohabiting couple* |
| No children | 3,125 | 3.69% |
| With children  | 3,451 | 4.08% |
| *Single Family Household: Lone Parent Family* |
| Dependent children | 6,556 | 7.75% |
| Non-dependent children  | 4,596 | 5.43% |
| *Single Family Household: Other Family Composition* | 899 | 1.06% |
| *Other Household Types:* |
| With dependent children  | 592 | 0.70% |
| All in full-time education | 6 | 0.01% |
| All aged 66+ | 57 | 0.07% |
| Other family composition | 2,765 | 3.27% |
|   | **84,643** | **100.00%** |

*Table 2: Household Composition– households, 2021, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon. Source: Table MS-A26, Census 2021.*

***Living Arrangements***

The 2021 Census included questions on the relationships between people in the household and the figures below show the relationship status of household members for all residents aged 16 and over. In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough, 57% of the adult population were living in households as a couple, either married, civil-partnered or co-habiting. Of those just 0.5% were living in a same-sex couple household.

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|   |  | Northern Ireland | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon |
| All usual residents aged 16 and over in households | 1,488,994 | 168,815 |
| Living in an opposite-sex couple | Married or in a civil partnership | 44.9% | 48.2% |
| Cohabiting | 7.8% | 8.3% |
| Living in a same-sex couple | Married or in a civil partnership | 0.3% | 0.2% |
| Cohabiting | 0.4% | 0.3% |
| Not living in a couple | Single (never married or never registered a civil partnership) | 31.4% | 28.5% |
| Married or in a civil partnership | 0.9% | 0.9% |
| Separated (including those who are married and those who are in civil partnerships) | 3.4% | 3.0% |
| Divorced or formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved | 5.1% | 5.0% |
| Widowed or surviving partner from a civil partnership | 5.9% | 5.7% |

*Table 3: Living Arrangements, 2021, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon. Source: Table MS-A29, Census 2021.*

Table 4 below shows the population aged 16 and over living in households by relationship status and local government district. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon has one of the highest proportions of residents living in a couple household. Belfast and Derry City & Strabane differ from the other nine LGD’s as they had more persons not living in a couple than living in a couple. Belfast has the highest proportion of residents aged 16+ living in a same-sex couple household at 1.1% which is more than double the percentage in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon at just 0.5%.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | All usual residents aged 16+ | Living in an opposite-sex couple | Living in a same-sex couple | Not living in a couple |
| Northern Ireland | 1,488,994 | 52.7% | 0.6% | 46.6% |
| Antrim and Newtownabbey | 114,223 | 56.1% | 0.7% | 43.2% |
| Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon | 168,815 | 56.5% | 0.5% | 43.1% |
| Belfast | 270,235 | 41.1% | 1.1% | 57.7% |
| Causeway Coast and Glens | 112,234 | 54.6% | 0.4% | 45.0% |
| Derry City and Strabane | 117,371 | 46.2% | 0.6% | 53.2% |
| Fermanagh and Omagh | 90,780 | 54.4% | 0.4% | 45.2% |
| Lisburn and Castlereagh | 116,426 | 59.7% | 0.8% | 39.5% |
| Mid and East Antrim | 111,888 | 56.3% | 0.5% | 43.2% |
| Mid Ulster | 114,518 | 55.2% | 0.4% | 44.4% |
| Newry, Mourne and Down | 140,216 | 53.9% | 0.5% | 45.6% |
| Ards and North Down | 132,288 | 58.9% | 0.6% | 40.4% |

*Table 4: Population aged 16 and over living in households by relationship status and Local Government District, 2021. Source: Table MS-A29, Census 2021.*

***Marital and Civil Partnership Status***

The headline results from Census 2021 for marital status or civil partnership status for all usual residents aged 16 and over living in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough and Northern Ireland overall, are presented in Table 5. The results show that almost 50% of residents aged 16 and over in the borough are married or in a civil partnership (49.2%). This is 3.4 pps above the Northern Ireland average. Single people were the next biggest grouping accounting for 35.3% of residents aged 16 and over in the borough and 38.1% of the Northern Ireland population aged 16 and over.

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|   | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon | Northern Ireland |
|   | **Number** | **%** | **Number** | **%** |
| All usual residents aged 16 and over | 170,411 | 100.0% | 1,514,743 | 100.0% |
| Single (never married or never registered civil partnership) | 60,075 | 35.3% | 576,708 | 38.1% |
| Married | 83,523 | 49.0% | 690,509 | 45.6% |
| In a civil partnership | 307 | 0.2% | 2,742 | 0.2% |
| Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership) | 5,833 | 3.4% | 57,272 | 3.8% |
| Divorced or formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved | 10,253 | 6.0% | 91,128 | 6.0% |
| Widowed or surviving partner from a civil partnership | 10,420 | 6.1% | 96,384 | 6.4% |

*Table 5: Marital or civil partnership status, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland, 2021. Source: Table MS-A30, Census 2021.*

In the ten year period between the 2011 and 2021 Census there was a change in the law in relation to marriage and civil partnership. A summary of the changes in Northern Ireland is given below:

* Civil partnership for opposite-sex couples became legal in late 2019;
* Marriage for same-sex couple became legal in 2020; and
* In late 2020 a couple in a civil partnership could convert their status from civil partnership to marriage[[1]](#footnote-1).

However, questions asked in the 2011 and 2021 Census with regards partnership status are very similar thus allowing for comparisons over time. Figure 1 shows the marital or civil partnership status of residents of the borough aged 16 and over in 2011 and 2021. The figures show a fall in the percentage of people who were married from 51% in 2011 to 49% in 2021. The percentage of people who were single (never married or in a civil-partnership) has increased by 1.7pps from 33.6% in 2011 to 35.3% in 2021. The percentage of residents aged 16 and over who have been divorced has increased from 5.2% in 2011 to 6% in 2021.

 *Figure 1: Marital or civil partnership status, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 2011 & 2021. Source: Table MS-A30, Census 2021 and Table KS103NI, Census 2011.*

***Sexual Orientation***

The question on sexual orientation was new for the 2021 Census and was asked of all people aged 16 and over. However, while completing the census is a legal obligation, there was no statutory penalty for those people who failed to provide an answer to the question on sexual orientation.

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|   | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon | Northern Ireland |
|   | **Number** | **%** | **Number** | **%** |
| All usual residents aged 16 and over | 170,413 | 100.0% | 1,514,743 | 100.0% |
| Straight or heterosexual | **154,259** | **90.5%** | **1,363,859** | **90.0%** |
| Lesbian, gay, bisexual or other (LGB+) | **2,497** | **1.5%** | **31,616** | **2.1%** |
| Gay or lesbian | 1,378 | 0.8% | 17,713 | 1.2% |
| Bisexual | 901 | 0.5% | 11,306 | 0.7% |
| Other sexual orientation | 218 | 0.1% | 2,597 | 0.2% |
| No sexual orientation stated | **13,657** | **8.0%** | **119,268** | **7.9%** |
| Prefer not to say | 8,290 | 4.9% | 69,307 | 4.6% |
| Not stated | 5,367 | 3.1% | 49,961 | 3.3% |

*Table 6: Sexual Orientation of residents aged 16 and over in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland, 2021. Source: Table MS-C01, Census 2021.*

The results from the question on sexual orientation are presented in Table 6. Just 1.5% of the population aged 16 and over in the borough identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or other (LGB+) while 90.5% identified as straight or heterosexual and 8% did not provide an answer to the question. The proportions are broadly similar to the Northern Ireland average although there is a higher proportion of LGB+ in Northern Ireland overall at 2.1% compared to 1.5% in the borough.

The figures presented in Figure 2 show there is some variation across areas in Northern Ireland. Belfast has the highest proportion of LGB+ at 4.1% while Mid Ulster has the lowest at just 1.1%.

*Figure 2: Percentage of the population aged 16 and over who identified as LGB+ by Local Government District, 2021. Source: Table MS-C01, Census 2021.*

Statistics on sexual orientation by age band have also been released in order to present a more detailed understanding of sexual orientation in Northern Ireland.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Age Band | Population | Straight or heterosexual | Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Other (LGB+) | No sexual orientation stated |
| Age 16-24 | 21,773 | 89.1% | 3.3% | 7.5% |
| Age 25-39 | 43,101 | 90.4% | 2.4% | 7.2% |
| Age 40-64 | 70,547 | 92.9% | 0.9% | 6.2% |
| Age 65+ | 34,990 | 86.8% | 0.2% | 13.0% |
| Total age 16+ | **170,411** | **90.5%** | **1.5%** | **8.0%** |

*Table 7: Percentage of the population by age band and sexual orientation, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 2021. Source: Table MS-C02, Census 2021.*

As presented in Table 7, we can see the differences across the four age bands. Almost 93% of residents aged between 40 and 64 identified as straight or heterosexual compared to almost 87% of residents aged 65+. However, 13% of residents aged 65+ did not state an answer to this question compared to just 6.2% of residents aged 40-64. Residents aged between 16 and 24 had the highest percentage of LGB+ at 3.3%. The percentage fell as the age group increased with just 0.2% of residents aged 65+ identifying as LGB+.

1. [Census 2021 Main statistics for Northern Ireland - Statistical bulletin - Marital or civil partnership status & Household relationships (couples) (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/system/files/statistics/census-2021-main-statistics-for-northern-ireland-phase-3-statistical-bulletin-household-relationships.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)