**Section 75**

Religious Belief

43.8% of residents in the borough on Census Day 2021 belong to or were brought up in the Catholic religion and 46.7% belong to or were brought up in a Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related) religion. A further 1.2% belonged to or had been brought up in other religions while 8.2% neither belonged to, nor had been brought up in a religion.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Religion or Religion Brought Up In | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon | % |
| Catholic | 95,868 | 43.8% |
| Protestant and Other Christian | 102,063 | 46.7% |
| Other | 2,697 | 1.2% |
| None | 18,028 | 8.2% |
| Total | **218,656** | **100.0%** |

*Table 1: Religion or religion brought up in of residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Religion or Religion Brought Up In – Table MS-B23, Census 2021, NISRA.*

Political Opinion

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council has 41 elected members. A breakdown of results of the Local Government Election in May 2023 for the borough are as follows:

* Democratic Unionist Party – 13
* Ulster Unionist Party – 6
* Sinn Fein – 15
* Social Democratic and Labour Party – 1
* Alliance – 4
* Independent – 1
* TUV – 1

A total of 87,684 votes were polled in the borough from an eligible electorate of 155,625 giving an overall turnout of 56.34%. This breakdown is taken as an approximate representation of the political opinion of people within the borough.

Racial Group

Results from the 2021 Census showed that 96.7% of the usually resident population of the borough were white and 3.3% were from minority ethnic groups. The main ethnic minorities were Mixed (1,652 individuals), Black African (1,132 individuals) and Chinese (683 individuals).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|   | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon | % |
| White | 211,429 | 96.69% |
| Irish Traveller | 534 | 0.24% |
| Roma | 205 | 0.09% |
| Indian | 617 | 0.28% |
| Chinese | 683 | 0.31% |
| Filipino | 406 | 0.19% |
| Pakistani | 278 | 0.13% |
| Arab | 116 | 0.05% |
| Other Asian | 581 | 0.27% |
| Black African | 1,132 | 0.52% |
| Black Other | 519 | 0.24% |
| Mixed | 1,652 | 0.76% |
| Other ethnicities | 506 | 0.23% |

*Table 2: Ethnic group of residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Table: MS-B01 Ethnic Group, Census 2021, NISRA.*

Results from the 2021 Census show that 85.5% of residents in the borough were born in Northern Ireland. The borough had 8.6% of residents, or 18,836 individuals, who were born outside the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  Country of Birth | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon | % |
|  Northern Ireland | 186,924 | 85.49% |
|  England | 7,003 | 3.20% |
|  Scotland | 1,419 | 0.65% |
|  Wales | 332 | 0.15% |
| Republic of Ireland | 4,142 | 1.89% |
| Other EU countries | 13,490 | 6.17% |
| Other non-EU countries | 555 | 0.25% |
| Africa | 1,114 | 0.51% |
| Middle East and Asia | 2,520 | 1.15% |
| North America, Central America and Caribbean | 622 | 0.28% |
| South America | 246 | 0.11% |
| Antarctica, Oceania and Other | 289 | 0.13% |

*Table 3: Country of birth of residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Table MS-A16 Country of Birth, Census 2021, NISRA.*

Results from Census 2021 show that 6.8% of residents in the borough aged 3+ years (14,376 individuals) spoke a language other than English as their main language. In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough in 2021, the most prevalent main languages other than English were Polish (1.7%) and Lithuanian (1.2%).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  Main Language | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon | % |
| English | 196,026 | 93.17% |
| Polish | 3,551 | 1.69% |
| Lithuanian | 2,611 | 1.24% |
| Irish | 429 | 0.20% |
| Romanian | 768 | 0.37% |
| Portuguese | 1,777 | 0.84% |
| Arabic | 234 | 0.11% |
| Bulgarian | 1,469 | 0.70% |
| Chinese (not otherwise specified)  | 183 | 0.09% |
| Slovak | 375 | 0.18% |
| Hungarian | 357 | 0.17% |
| Spanish | 116 | 0.06% |
| Latvian | 468 | 0.22% |
| Russian | 322 | 0.15% |
| Tetun | 269 | 0.13% |
| Other languages | 1,447 | 0.69% |
| Total (Aged 3+) | 210,402 | 100% |

*Table 4: Main language of residents aged 3+ in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Table MS-B12 Main Language, Census 2021, NISRA.*

Age

The population of the borough was estimated to be 218,656 on Census Day 2021, the profile of which is shown below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Age Group | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon | % |
| 0 – 15 years | 48,243 | 22.06% |
| 16 – 24 years | 21,774 | 9.96% |
| 25 – 49 years | 72,023 | 32.94% |
| 50 – 64 years | 41,626 | 19.04% |
| 65 and over | 34,990 | 16.0% |
| Total  | 218,656 | 100.0% |

*Table 5: Age profile of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at Census Day 2021. Source: Table MS-A06 Age Structure, Census 2021*

Gender

The 2021 Census showed that in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 49.5% (108,268) of usual residents were male and 50.5% (110,388) were female.

Marital Status

The 2021 Census provides information on the marital and civil partnership status of those aged 16 and over. Almost half of residents aged 16+ in the borough were married (49.0%).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|   | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon |
|   | **Number** | **%** |
| All usual residents aged 16 and over | **170,411** | **100.0%** |
| Single (never married or never registered civil partnership) | 60,075 | 35.3% |
| Married | 83,523 | 49.0% |
| In a civil partnership | 307 | 0.2% |
| Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership) | 5,833 | 3.4% |
| Divorced or formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved | 10,253 | 6.0% |
| Widowed or surviving partner from a civil partnership | 10,420 | 6.1% |

*Table 6: Marital and civil partnership status of residents aged 16+ in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Marital and Civil Partnership Status – Table MS-A30, Census 2021, NISRA.*

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.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|   | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon |
|   | **Number** | **%** |
| All usual residents aged 16 and over | 170,413 | 100.0% |
| Straight or heterosexual | **154,259** | **90.5%** |
| Lesbian, gay, bisexual or other (LGB+) | **2,497** | **1.5%** |
| Gay or lesbian | 1,378 | 0.8% |
| Bisexual | 901 | 0.5% |
| Other sexual orientation | 218 | 0.1% |
| No sexual orientation stated | **13,657** | **8.0%** |
| Prefer not to say | 8,290 | 4.9% |
| Not stated | 5,367 | 3.1% |

*Table 7: 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 7. 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.

Disability

According to the 2021 Census, more than one in five people in the borough (22% or 48,726 individuals) had a limiting long-term health problem or disability.

Census 2021 results are disaggregated by broad age bands and the results show the prevalence of a limiting long-term health problem or disability is related to age[[1]](#footnote-1).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | Population | With a limiting long term health problem or disability | Percentage |
|  0-14  | 45,420 | 2,759 | 6.1% |
| 15-39  | 67,700 | 7,367 | 10.9% |
| 40-64 | 70,547 | 18,715 | 26.5% |
| 65+ | 34,990 | 19,885 | 56.8% |
| All ages | **218,657** | **48,726** | **22.3%** |

*Table 8: Limiting long-term health problem or disability by age band, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Table MS-D02, Census 2021.*

As presented in Table 8, almost 57% of the population aged 65+ in the borough had a limiting long-term health problem or disability compared to 6% of those aged between 0-14.

Benefit statistics from the Department for Communities showed that as of May 2024 there were:

* 3,030 or 6.2% of under 16 eligible population and 4,490 or 13.3% of pension age eligible population claiming Disability Living Allowance.
* 6,480 or 19.1% of 66+ population claiming Attendance Allowance.
* 21,340 Personal Independent Payment claims in payment (experimental statistics).

Dependants

The 2021 Census showed that 32% or 27,192 households in the borough contained dependent children.

Results from the 2021 Census also show that 12% of the borough’s population aged 5 years old and over (or 24,741 individuals) provided unpaid care. Of those who provided unpaid support:

* 46% provided 1 – 19 hours per week
* 24% provided 20 – 49 hours per week
* 30% provided 50+ hours per week.

Benefit statistics from the Department for Communities show that at November 2022 there were 8,120 claimants, or 4.8% of 16 and over population, claiming Carer’s Allowance in the borough.

1. [Census 2021 Main statistics for Northern Ireland - Statistical bulletin - Health (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/system/files/statistics/census-2021-main-statistics-for-northern-ireland-phase-2-statistical-bulletin-health-disability-and-unpaid-care.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)