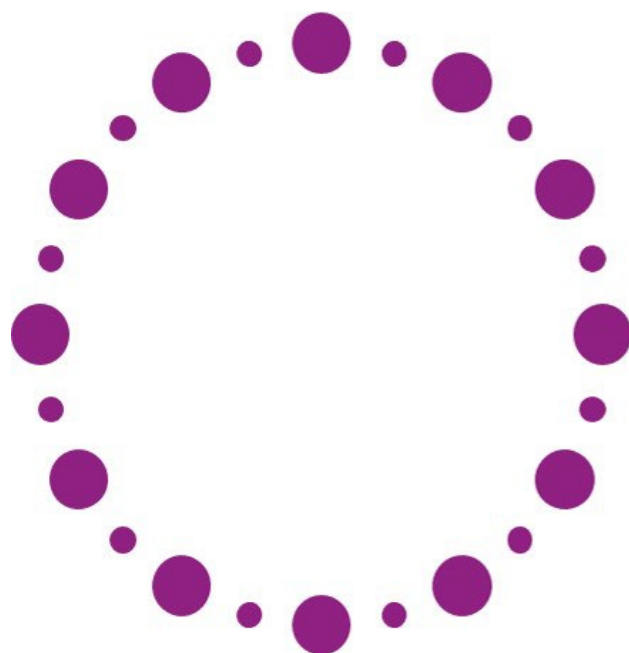


census
2021



Main statistics for Northern Ireland
Statistical bulletin
Communal establishments

21 March 2023



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1. Introduction

On 21 March 2023, the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) released further results from Census 2021, which was held on 21 March 2021. The statistics released provide a profile of the Northern Ireland population covering:

- **household relationships:** household composition, living arrangements, marital and civil partnership status and couple relationships within households
- **sexual orientation**
- **labour market:** economic status (e.g. in employment, unemployed, economically inactive), hours worked, industry and occupation
- **qualifications:** highest level of qualifications gained
- **place of work or study:** distance to place of work or study and method of travel
- **communal establishments:** establishments providing supervision of residential accommodation (e.g. student halls of residence, hospitals, care homes)
- **migration:** address one year before the census, and year of arrival for those born outside Northern Ireland

The information covers Northern Ireland and the 11 Local Government Districts (LGDs).

This report relates to **communal establishments**. A communal establishment is an establishment providing supervision of residential accommodation. Types of communal establishment include, student halls of residence, hospitals, care homes, and prisons.

For display purposes figures are appropriately rounded but full figures are available in the [Census 2021 tables](#) on the NISRA website.

2. Key points

The key points relating to the **communal establishment** topic are as follows:

- A communal establishment is an establishment providing supervision of residential accommodation (e.g. student halls of residence, hospitals, care homes).
- There were 26,300 people (1.4% of our population) living in 1,421 communal establishments at the time of the 2021 Census.
- Around half of the 26,300 people living in communal establishments lived in a care home (13,200 people), while a further 7,000 people lived in an educational communal establishment (e.g. student halls of residence).
- At 2.7%, Belfast Local Government District (LGD) had the highest percentage of its population living in a communal establishment, while Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon had the lowest (0.7%).

3. Communal establishment residents

3.1. Communal establishment residents – Census 2021

In Census 2021, there were 26,300 people in Northern Ireland living in 1,421 communal establishments (1.4% of all people). This compares to 1,876,800 people living in households (98.6%).

3.2. Communal establishment residents by Local Government District – Census 2021

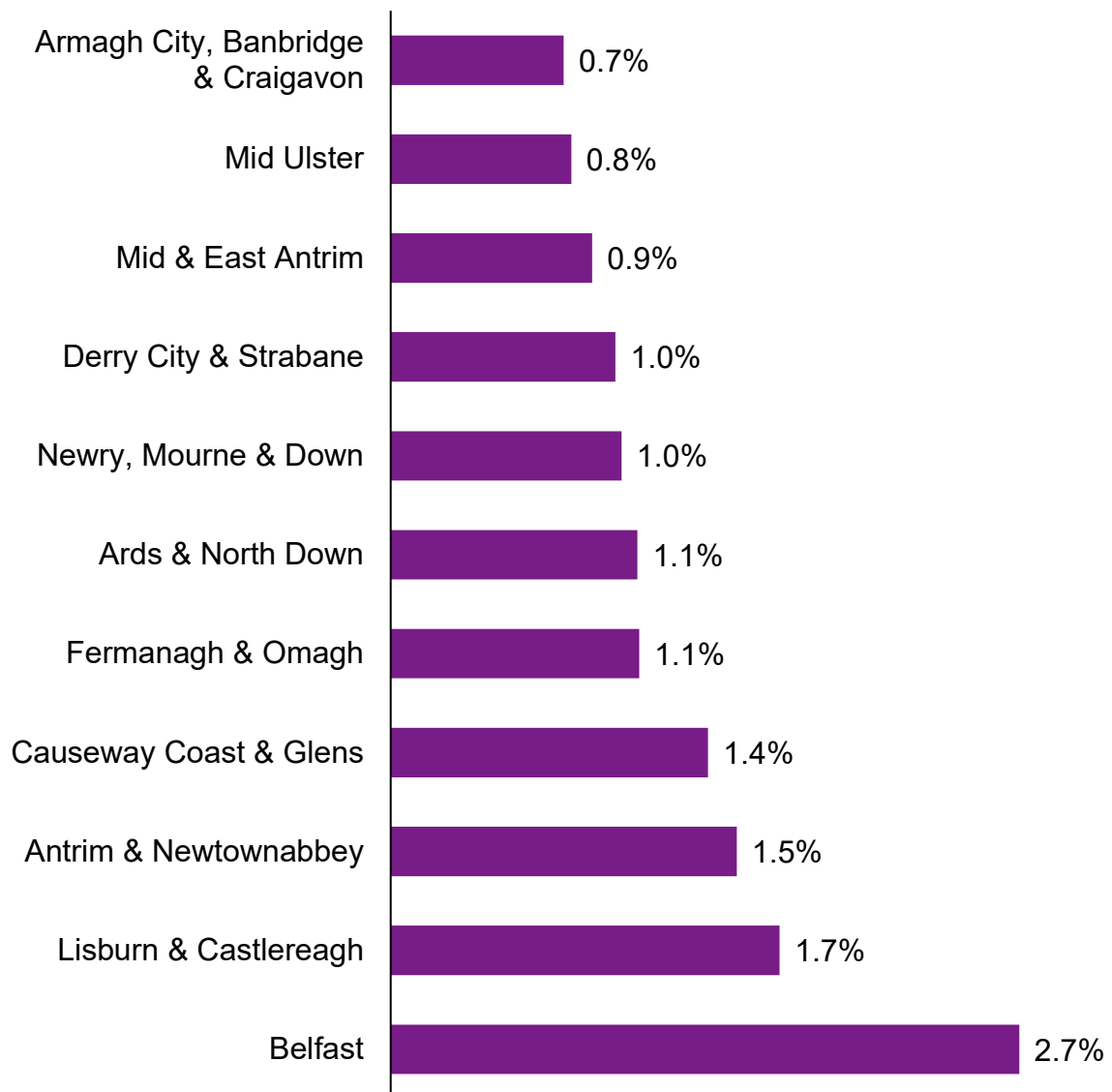
Table 1 and Figure 1 show how the population living in a communal establishment varies throughout the Local Government Districts (LGDs) in Northern Ireland.

Belfast had the highest percentage (2.7%) of its population living in a communal establishment, while Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon had the lowest (0.7%).

Table 1: Communal establishment residents by LGD (Census 2021)

Geography	Population	Living in a communal establishment	Percent
Antrim & Newtownabbey	145,700	2,200	1.5%
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	218,700	1,600	0.7%
Belfast	345,400	9,400	2.7%
Causeway Coast & Glens	141,700	1,900	1.4%
Derry City & Strabane	150,800	1,500	1.0%
Fermanagh & Omagh	116,800	1,300	1.1%
Lisburn & Castlereagh	149,100	2,500	1.7%
Mid & East Antrim	139,000	1,200	0.9%
Mid Ulster	150,300	1,200	0.8%
Newry, Mourne & Down	182,100	1,800	1.0%
Ards & North Down	163,700	1,700	1.1%
Northern Ireland	1,903,200	26,300	1.4%

Figure 1: Percentage of the population living in a communal establishment by LGD (Census 2021)



Percentage of population living in a communal establishment

4. Type of communal establishment

4.1. Type of communal establishment – Census 2021

Table 2 shows that 14,200 people lived in a medical and care establishment (53.8% of all communal establishment residents), of which the majority (13,200 people) lived in a care home either with or without nursing.

Outside of medical and care establishments, education establishments (e.g. student halls of residence) had the highest number of people at 7,000.

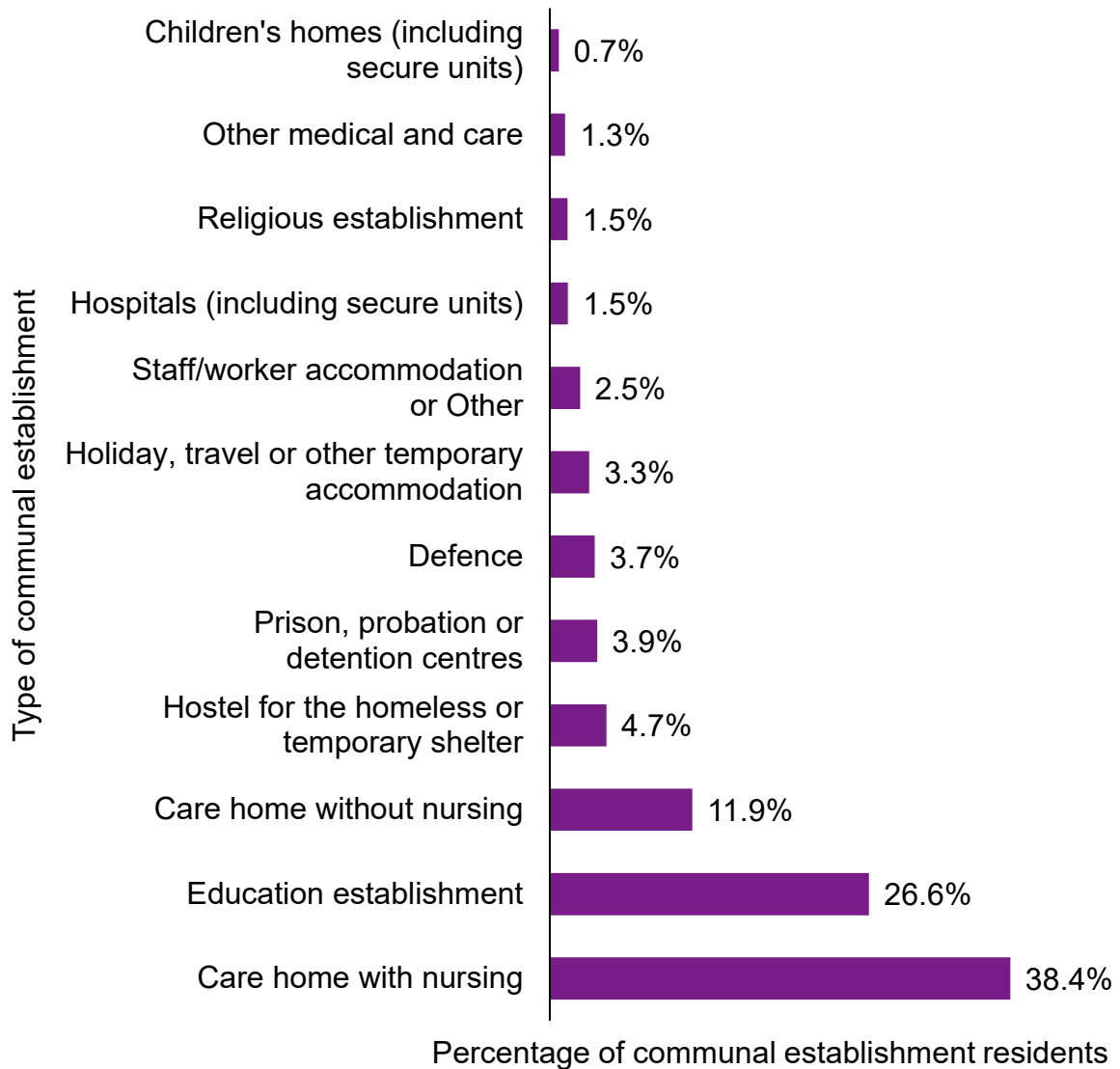
Table 2: Communal establishment residents by establishment type (Census 2021)

Type of communal establishment	Population	Percent
Medical and care establishments	14,200	53.8%
Hospitals (including secure units)	400	1.5%
Children's homes (including secure units)	200	0.7%
Care home with nursing	10,100	38.4%
Care home without nursing	3,100	11.9%
Other	300	1.3%
Other establishments	12,200	46.2%
Defence	1,000	3.7%
Prison, probation or detention centres	1,000	3.9%
Education establishment	7,000	26.6%
Holiday, travel or other temporary accommodation	900	3.3%
Hostel for the homeless or temporary shelter	1,200	4.7%
Religious establishment	400	1.5%
Staff/worker accommodation or Other	700	2.5%
All communal establishment residents [note 1]	26,400	100.0%

[Note 1: The total number of communal establishment residents in this table does not match the total in Table 1 due to the effects of cell key perturbation. More details are available in [Section 6.2](#)]

Figure 2 shows the percentage of communal establishment residents by establishment type. It shows that proportionally 'children's homes (including secure units)' had the lowest share (0.7% of communal establishment residents), with 'care homes with nursing' having the highest share (38.4%).

Figure 2: Percentage of communal establishment residents by establishment type (Census 2021)



5. Associated outputs

[Census 2021 outputs on communal establishments](#) are available to download from the NISRA website, they include:

- MS-F01 Communal establishment management and type - communal establishments;
- MS-F02 Communal establishment management and type - usual residents in a communal establishment; and
- MS-F03 Communal establishment residents and long-term health problem or disability.

6. Further information

Census statistics are produced by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency free from political influence. In May 2022, following a full assessment, the United Kingdom Statistics Authority designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the [Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007](#) and the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#). National Statistics status means that the statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

The census plays a fundamental role in the provision of official statistics – census data are used to inform key policies, plan key services and allocate public funds.

6.1. Quality of the results

The census data collection operation was supported by an independent [coverage survey](#). The coverage survey along with administrative data and information from the field operation were combined to allow statistical estimates to be made of the small percentage of people who did not make a return. The statistical estimates discussed here, as with all Census 2021 outputs, reflect the full population of Northern Ireland.

Further information on accuracy, coverage and imputation is provided on the NISRA website in the [Census 2021 quality assurance report \(PDF 275 KB\)](#).

6.2. Confidentiality

Census Office has taken steps to ensure that the confidentiality of respondents is fully protected. All published results from the census have been subject to statistical processes to ensure that individuals cannot be identified. For more information, please refer to the [statistical disclosure control methodology](#). These processes may result in very marginally different results between tables for the same statistic.

6.3. Comparability with previous censuses

The definition of a communal establishment has changed since Census 2011. The main changes include:

- sheltered accommodation is treated as a household rather than a communal establishment in Census 2021; and
- the threshold for treating holiday accommodation as a communal establishment was changed from 10 spaces to 7 spaces.

As such, no comparisons can be made between Census 2021 and Census 2011.

6.4. Supporting material

A number of [supporting documents](#) are available on the census pages of the NISRA website. These documents describe the census methodology in more detail, the quality assurance processes applied, the paper questionnaire used in the census, and a full list of definitions and output classifications.

6.5. More details

Further information on the statistics provided in this publication can be obtained from Census Customer Services at:

Telephone:	028 9025 5156
Email:	census@nisra.gov.uk
Responsible Statistician:	Dr David Marshall

This report was made possible by the co-operation of the public in responding to the census, the commitment of the census field and headquarters staff, and the

assistance of many other people and organisations throughout all aspects of the census. The Registrar General for Northern Ireland, who is responsible for the planning, conduct and reporting of the census, would like to thank all of those who contributed to the census.

6.6. Copyright

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