

STATISTICS PRESS NOTICE – ESTIMATES OF THE POPULATION AGED 85 AND OVER 2002-2009



29,000 people aged 85 years or more living in Northern Ireland

9:30am – Thursday 30th September 2010

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) today released detailed single year of age population estimates of the number of persons aged 85 years and over in Northern Ireland (see editor's note 1).

The figures show that:

- in June 2009, 28,700 people or around 1.6 per cent of the population were aged 85 years and over;
- the population aged 85 and over has increased by 5,100 people (+22 per cent) in the seven year period between June 2002 and June 2009;
- in this period, the population aged 85 and over has grown four times faster than the overall population (22 per cent growth for those aged 85 and over, against 5 per cent growth for the whole population);
- within the population aged 85 and over, women significantly outnumber men at 70 per cent of this population group;
- it is estimated that in June 2009 there were just under 200 centenarians (those aged 100 and over) living in Northern Ireland, with the number of centenarians living in Northern Ireland having increased by around 50 per cent since June 2002; and
- by 2021, the number of persons aged 85 and over in Northern Ireland is projected to increase by 67 per cent to 47,900 persons. Going further into the future, by 2033 the population aged 85 and over is projected to account for 4 per cent of the total population (or 1 person in every 25).

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. A detailed statistical report has been published by NISRA entitled “Estimates of The Population Aged 85 and Over, Northern Ireland 2002-2009” providing detailed statistics on the numbers of persons aged 85 years and over. The detailed report can be accessed on the NISRA website at: <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp134.htm>.
2. The Northern Ireland mid-year population estimate relates to the usually resident population of Northern Ireland at 30 June each year.
3. Population estimates of those aged 85 and over are provisional. The method used to estimate the size of the 85 and over population is an internationally recognised standard approach known as the Kannisto-Thatcher method. This method requires previous years’ estimates to be revised when a new year of death registration data is added. A detailed description of the Kannisto-Thatcher method is available at: <http://www.demographic-research.org/Volumes/Vol6/1/>
4. The Office for National Statistics and the General Register Office for Scotland have produced population estimates for those aged 90 and over in the UK, England & Wales and Scotland using the same methodology. UK wide statistics releases have been planned to coincide with the United Nations International Day of Older Persons – 1 October.
5. All media inquiries should directed to DFP Press Office:
Telephone: 028 9052 7374
Fax: 028 9052 7149
6. Further statistical information can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services:
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Responsible statistician: Dr Jos IJpelaar