

**ESTIMATES OF THE POPULATION  
AGED 85 AND OVER, NORTHERN  
IRELAND 2012 (& REVISED 2001-2011)  
– STATISTICAL REPORT**



*Northern Ireland*  
**Statistics &  
Research**  
Agency

**9.30am – Friday 27 September 2013**

**Key Points from this release are:**

- In June 2012, 32,700 people or just under two per cent of the population were aged 85 years and over;
- the population aged 85 and over has increased by 9,000 people (38 per cent) in the 10 year period between June 2002 and June 2012. This is five times faster than the overall population growth of just over seven per cent over this period;
- within the population aged 85 and over, women significantly outnumber men accounting for 69 per cent of this population group; and
- it is estimated that in June 2012 there were 241 centenarians (those aged 100 and over) in Northern Ireland, with the number of centenarians in Northern Ireland having increased by 91 per cent since June 2002.

More detailed figures and analysis are attached.

## **1. Introduction**

The population of Northern Ireland is becoming increasingly older. Improving survival coupled with falls in the number of births, has resulted in an ageing population. In 2012, 15.0 per cent of the population were aged 65 and over, whilst 1.8 per cent of the population were aged 85 and over<sup>1</sup>.

The ageing of the population has led to increased demand for more detailed population estimates of older people. Official mid-year population estimates are produced annually by NISRA. These annual estimates give aggregate statistics for those aged 90 and over. Historically such people represented a smaller proportion of the overall population, and single year of age estimates for those aged 90 and over could be unreliable. To help bridge this gap, NISRA introduced detailed population estimates of those aged 90 and over in 2009, using an international recognised methodology (see Annex A).

The remainder of this report details new population estimates. In addition, specific reference is made to the number of people aged 100 and over.

Note the survivorship rate methodology used in these estimates means that there are minor differences for the period 2001 to 2010 compared to previous years' estimates. This is inherent to the methodology (see Annex A). Furthermore, differences may in part be due to rebasing the population estimates from mid-2001 to mid-2011 to take into account the 2011 Census.

## **2. Mid-year Population Estimates**

### ***(i) Population aged 85 and over: 2001-2012***

At 30 June 2001 it is estimated that there were 23,500 people aged 85 and over living in Northern Ireland (17,100 females and 6,400 males). This figure had risen to 32,700 people by 30 June 2012 (22,400 females and 10,300 males).

The population increase of 9,000 persons in the 10-year period, 2002 to 2012, is the result of more people "ageing into" the age group of 85 and over than dying each year. On average 5,500 persons "age into" this age group each year. At the same time, on average there are 4,600 deaths of persons aged 85 and over each year. The impact of migration is negligible for this age group.

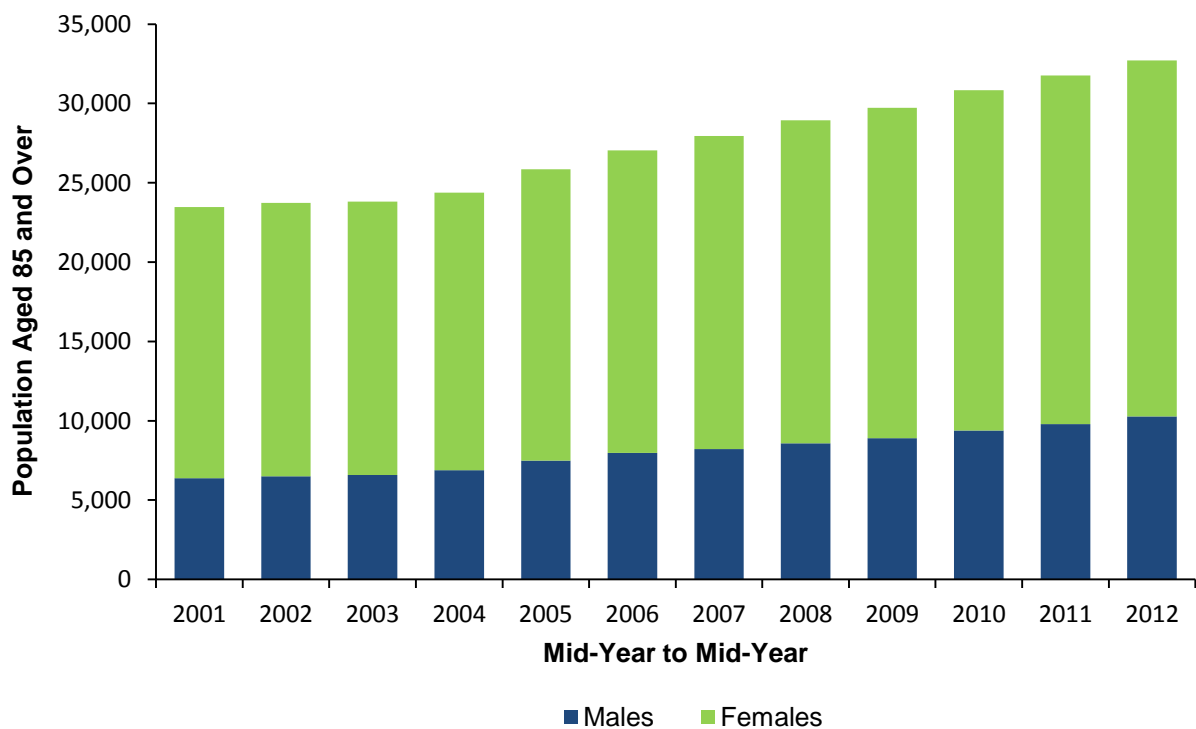
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<sup>1</sup> Mid-2012 Population Estimates available from <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp17.htm>

**Table 1: Northern Ireland Population Estimates for those aged 85 and over, 2001-2012**

<b>Population at 30 June</b>	<b>Estimate of number of person aged 85 and over</b>
2001	23,500
2002	23,700
2003	23,800
2004	24,400
2005	25,900
2006	27,000
2007	27,900
2008	28,900
2009	29,700
2010	30,800
2011	31,800
2012	32,700

**Figure 1: Population Estimates for Persons Aged 85 and Over, 2001-2012**



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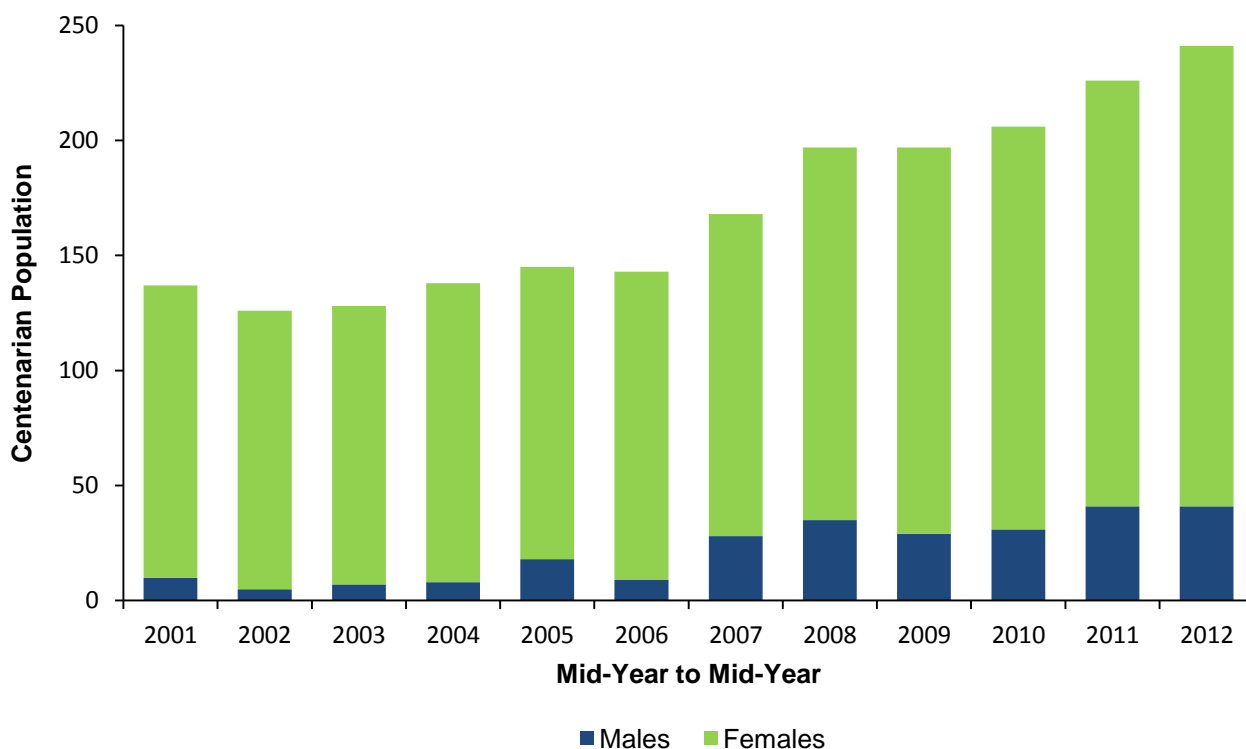
### ***(ii) Persons aged 90-99: 2001-2012***

On 30 June 2012, around 10,800 persons were aged between 90 and 99 in Northern Ireland. This age group contains those babies born during World War I. In 2007 and 2008, there was a decrease in the number of people at the lower end of this age group. This can be traced back to the low number of births during the war years. By 2012, the number of persons aged between 90 and 99 started to increase, which reflects the increase in the number of births in Northern Ireland in 1920.

### ***(iii) Number of centenarians (persons aged 100 and over): 2001-2012***

On 30 June 2012, NISRA estimates that there were 241 centenarians living in Northern Ireland (200 females and 41 males). Figure 2 shows the increasing number of centenarians since 2001.

**Figure 2: Population Estimates for Persons Aged 100 and Over, 2001-2012**

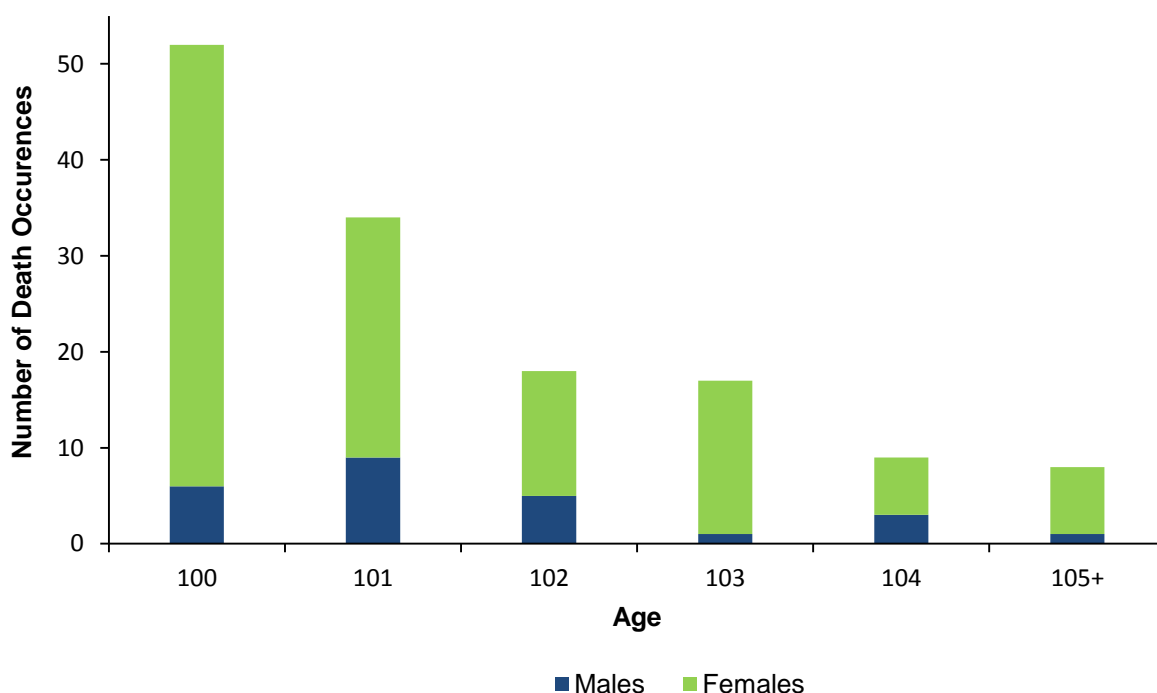


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The 2011 Census recorded 228 centenarians living in Northern Ireland. However, it can be difficult for the oldest old to report their own age accurately making it necessary to rely on the knowledge of others to fill in their census form. In contrast, the methodology used for these estimates relies on death registrations of centenarians, each verified by the General Register Office.

Another useful administrative data source is the health card registration system. For July 2012, it records 247 people registered aged 100 and over. In addition, in the year to June 2012, 138 deaths occurred of persons who would have otherwise been aged 100 or over, compared to 77 deaths of centenarians in 2001<sup>2</sup>. Figure 4 shows the age distribution of the deaths of centenarians registered in Northern Ireland in the year to June 2012.

**Figure 3: Death Occurrences of Centenarians, Year Ending Mid-2012**



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## NISRA

September 2013

<sup>2</sup> As part of the revision of the methodology ([June 2013](#)), population estimates now use counts of occurrences of deaths from mid-year to mid-year, rather than registrations, as was previously used.

## NOTES

1. The Northern Ireland mid-year population estimate relates to the usually resident population of Northern Ireland including Her Majesty's Forces stationed here. Births and deaths are reported on an occurrence basis, as registered by the General Register Office up to December 2012.
2. Figures are controlled to mid year population estimates for the 90+ age group.
3. The method used to estimate the size of the 90 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. Whilst this report concentrates on the significant increase in the population aged 85 and over, it is still important to recognise that the number of persons aged 85 and over represents a small proportion of the whole population of Northern Ireland.
5. We welcome feedback from users on the content, format and relevance of this release. Please send feedback to [census.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk](mailto:census.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk).
6. Follow NISRA on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).
7. Estimates for persons 85 and over for the constituent countries in the UK will also be made available. Estimates for [England and Wales](#) will be released on 27 September 2013, while estimates for [Scotland](#) are to follow on 1 October 2013.
8. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance review to ensure they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

9. United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

10. All media inquiries should be directed to the DFP Communications Office:

Telephone: 028 9016 3389

11. Further statistical information can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services:

Telephone: 028 9034 8160

Fax: 028 9034 8161

E-mail: [census.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk](mailto:census.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk)

Responsible Statistician: Dr David Marshall

## Annex A: Methodology

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency have produced annual mid-year population estimates by single year of age from 0 to 89 using the 'cohort component' method. Using the most recent census as the baseline, each year the population is aged on by one year, births are added, deaths subtracted and estimates of migration are used for those moving in or out of Northern Ireland. For the official 30 June population estimate, people aged 90 and over are aggregated into one age-group.

To produce single year of age estimates of the population aged 90 and over, NISRA have adopted the Kannisto-Thatcher<sup>3</sup> method, an internationally recognised method used to produce estimates of older persons.

Using death registration data, an estimate is produced of the number of people at a given age alive in a particular year. For the most recent year, the Kannisto-Thatcher method uses an average of the last five years death data to produce an estimate of the number of survivors.

For earlier years, if someone dies aged 100 in 2012, this means that they were alive in 2011 aged 99 and in 2010 aged 98 and so on. This is used to produce age distribution profiles. The number of people aged 99 alive in 2011 is estimated from the number of people alive aged 100 in 2012, plus the number of deaths of people aged 100 in 2012. One consequence of this method is that each year the estimates for earlier years become more accurate as more death data become available to inform age profiles.

It is assumed that migration for persons aged 85 and over is negligible.

Estimates are then controlled to agree with the NISRA mid-year population estimates for those aged 90 and over.

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<sup>3</sup> The Survivor Ratio Method for Estimating Numbers at High Ages, Thatcher R, Kannisto V, Andreev K, 2002  
<http://www.demographic-research.org/Volumes/Vol6/1/>  
The Demography of Centenarians in England and Wales, *Population Trends* 96 pp5-12, Thatcher R 1999



**Annex B: Mid-2001 to mid-2012 population estimates of those aged 85 years and over,  
by sex and 5 year age bands**

<b>Mid-year Population</b>	<b>Persons 85-89</b>	<b>Persons 90-94</b>	<b>Persons 95-99</b>	<b>Persons 100-104</b>	<b>Persons 105+</b>	<b>Persons 85+</b>	<b>Persons All Ages</b>
2001	16,216	5,933	1,174	128	9	23,460	1,688,838
2002	16,160	6,184	1,257	120	6	23,727	1,697,534
2003	15,925	6,420	1,343	123	5	23,816	1,704,924
2004	16,300	6,561	1,377	131	7	24,376	1,714,042
2005	17,392	6,864	1,454	135	10	25,855	1,727,733
2006	18,343	7,023	1,531	134	9	27,040	1,743,113
2007	19,208	6,965	1,605	157	11	27,946	1,761,683
2008	20,028	7,041	1,664	192	5	28,930	1,779,152
2009	20,562	7,225	1,748	190	7	29,732	1,793,333
2010	20,977	7,767	1,880	198	8	30,830	1,804,833
2011	21,335	8,244	1,960	219	7	31,765	1,814,318
2012	21,673	8,860	1,939	232	9	32,713	1,823,634

<b>Mid-year Population</b>	<b>Males 85-89</b>	<b>Males 90-94</b>	<b>Males 95-99</b>	<b>Males 100-104</b>	<b>Males 105+</b>	<b>Males 85+</b>	<b>Males All Ages</b>
2001	4,771	1,397	197	10	0	6,375	824,273
2002	4,805	1,465	225	5	0	6,500	828,986
2003	4,817	1,521	236	7	0	6,581	833,104
2004	5,012	1,596	263	8	0	6,879	838,251
2005	5,520	1,685	271	18	0	7,494	845,301
2006	5,934	1,739	293	9	0	7,975	853,110
2007	6,187	1,718	290	28	0	8,223	862,256
2008	6,476	1,756	318	35	0	8,585	870,998
2009	6,679	1,863	323	28	1	8,894	878,562
2010	6,879	2,111	361	30	1	9,382	884,535
2011	7,116	2,251	384	41	0	9,792	889,322
2012	7,389	2,463	386	40	1	10,279	894,548

<b>Mid-year Population</b>	<b>Females 85-89</b>	<b>Females 90-94</b>	<b>Females 95-99</b>	<b>Females 100-104</b>	<b>Females 105+</b>	<b>Females 85+</b>	<b>Females All Ages</b>
2001	11,445	4,536	977	118	9	17,085	864,565
2002	11,355	4,719	1,032	115	6	17,227	868,548
2003	11,108	4,899	1,107	116	5	17,235	871,820
2004	11,288	4,965	1,114	123	7	17,497	875,791
2005	11,872	5,179	1,183	117	10	18,361	882,432
2006	12,409	5,284	1,238	125	9	19,065	890,003
2007	13,021	5,247	1,315	129	11	19,723	899,427
2008	13,552	5,285	1,346	157	5	20,345	908,154
2009	13,883	5,362	1,425	162	6	20,838	914,771
2010	14,098	5,656	1,519	168	7	21,448	920,298
2011	14,219	5,993	1,576	178	7	21,973	924,996
2012	14,284	6,397	1,553	192	8	22,434	929,086