Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency

Registrar General Northern Ireland Annual Report 2014

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NATIONAL STATISTICS

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) is an Executive Agency within the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) and has been in existence since April 1996. The Agency also incorporates the General Register Office (GRO) for Northern Ireland. NISRA's core purpose is to provide a high quality, cost effective, statistics, research and registration service that informs policy making and the democratic process and the wider public.

The overall corporate aims of NISRA are to:

- provide a statistical and research service to support decision making by Northern Ireland Ministers and Departments and to inform elected representatives and the wider community through the dissemination of reliable official statistics; and
- administer the marriage laws and to provide a system for the civil registration of births, marriages, civil partnerships, adoptions and deaths in Northern Ireland.

NISRA can be found on the internet at www.nisra.gov.uk

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Ninety-Third Annual Report of the Registrar General 2014

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Foreword by the Registrar General for Northern Ireland

I have pleasure in presenting the ninety-third Annual Report of the Registrar General to the Northern Ireland Assembly, which provides a comprehensive demographic overview of Northern Ireland during 2014.

The report outlines the main characteristics of the population of Northern Ireland, details the factors behind any changes, and includes information on key life events such as births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships that were registered during 2014. It also includes a dedicated chapter examining the various challenges facing Northern Ireland as our population continues to age. I am most grateful to Dave Rogers of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) for authoring this.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the dedicated personnel who have been involved in the production of the information contained within the Report. This includes staff within NISRA's General Register Office and colleagues in the District Registration Offices throughout Northern Ireland who, through considerable effort, registered over 50,000 life events during 2014. It also includes staff within NISRA's Demographic Statistics Branch who undertook the analysis and presented the Report in an illuminating manner some five months earlier than in previous years.

A variety of supporting information, including infographics, which seek to highlight the main points of interest, is also available on compact disc and through both the NISRA (www.nisra.gov.uk) and NINIS (www.nisra.gov.uk/ninis) websites.

I trust that you will find the report both informative and useful and I welcome any comments you may have regarding its format and content.

Dr Norman Caven
Registrar General for Northern Ireland
July 2015

Introduction

This report, which highlights the work of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency's (NISRA) General Register Office and Demographic Statistics Branch, provides a demographic overview of Northern Ireland during 2014.

Chapter 1 presents a variety of information on the population of Northern Ireland (including migration), and summarises over 50,000 key events such as births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships that were registered in District Registration Offices throughout Northern Ireland during 2014. For ease of readability and navigation, the chapter has been divided into a number of smaller sections, each of which contains a summary of key findings. Supporting statistical tables, charts and infographics have also been provided on compact disc and through both the NISRA (www.nisra.gov.uk) and NINIS (www.nisra.gov.uk/ninis) websites.

Chapter 2 describes how Northern Ireland is ageing and charts the growth of the older population over the coming years. It also touches on some of the challenges that this ageing population will bring – most obviously perhaps in terms of health and social care, but also financially as it will impact on pensions, the economy, labour market and housing policy.

Demographic statistics are vital in providing information to support the delivery of public services and are used by the European Union and United Nations for making international comparisons. In particular, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) use birth statistics to plan maternity services and monitor departmental indicators in relation to teenage births. The Department of Education also utilises birth statistics in the planning of future school provision. Mortality statistics are used to plan health services and monitor deaths from particular causes such as suicide or healthcare-associated infections. Marriage, divorce and civil partnership statistics may be of interest to those working in social policy, family law and the wedding industry.

Data Quality

Rigorous quality assurance checks are completed on the data prior to publication of the Report, and thus the information presented is considered to be of high quality. All births must legally be registered within 42 days, whilst deaths should be registered within 5 days (unless referred to a Coroner) and marriages within 3 days. It should be noted that all figures presented in this report are based on the year in which the event was registered and not necessarily the year it occurred. While the vast majority of events are registered shortly after occurrence, some can take time to be registered. For example, events such as an infant death or suicide must be referred to a Coroner and this legal process can take some time.

While at present there is no legal requirement to register a stillbirth in Northern Ireland, it is believed that the number of cases where a registration doesn't take place is relatively small.

Published birth and stillbirth statistics in this report relate only to Northern Ireland resident mothers. They do not include births and stillbirths to women usually resident in Northern Ireland who gave birth abroad. Nor do they include births and stillbirths to women whose usual residence is outside Northern Ireland even though the birth occurred in the country. Such numbers are relatively small and are not considered to adversely affect the inferences that can be drawn from the published results.

Published death statistics relate only to deaths which occurred in Northern Ireland. As such, this includes deaths of individuals whose usual residence is outside Northern Ireland and excludes deaths of usual residents who died while outside Northern Ireland.

Marriage registrations presented in this report relate to those which took place in Northern Ireland. They do not include the marriages of Northern Ireland residents who chose to get married in another country.

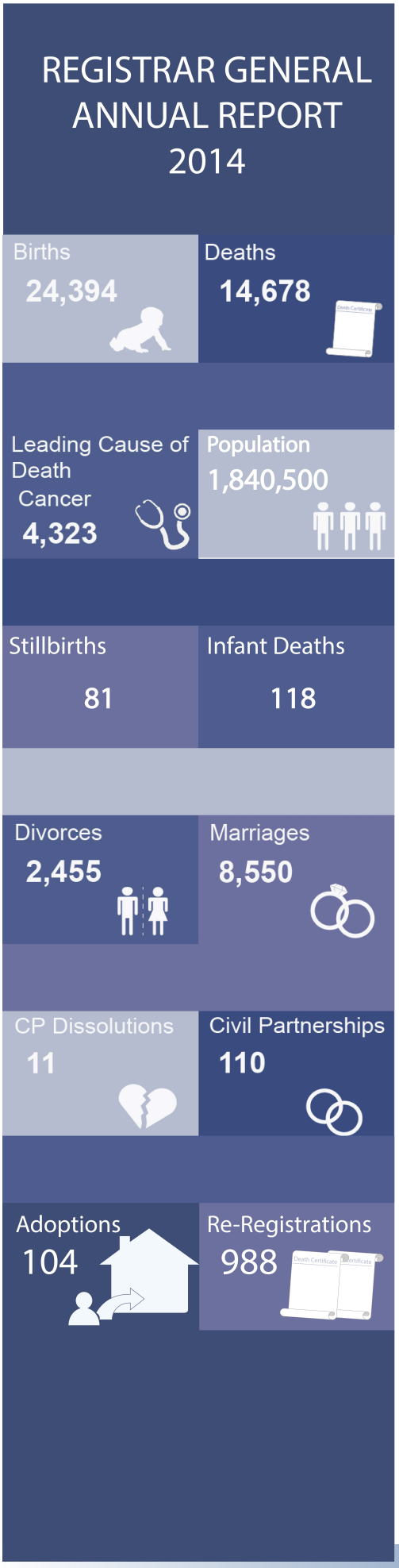
Further information relating to the quality of civil registration statistics can be found in the **Northern Ireland Birth Statistics Quality Assessment** and the **Northern Ireland Death Statistics Quality Assessment**.

Northern Ireland Statistics & Research agency

Chapter 1
Demographic Overview of Northern Ireland

List of Abbreviations

UK	United Kingdom
DHSSPS	Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
EU28	European Union 28 member states
TPFR	Total period fertility rate
EU15	European Union 15 member states as of 31st December 2003
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
A8	A group of 8 of the 10 countries that joined the European Union in 2004 (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia)
SANDS	Stillbirth and neonatal death society
ICD-10	International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems 10th revision
ASDR	Age-specific death rate
NHS	National Health Service
SMR	Standardised mortality ratio
MRSA	Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus
CDiff	Clostridium difficile



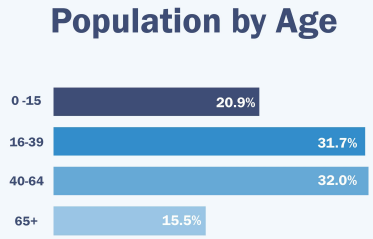
Key Points

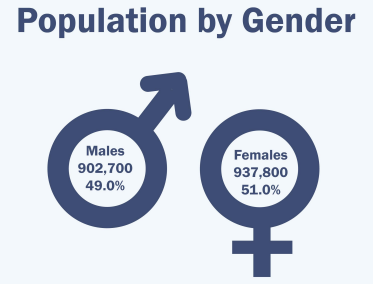
- In the year to 30 June 2014, the resident population of Northern Ireland rose by 10,800 people to 1,840,500.
- Of the 24,394 births (12,543 males and 11,851 females) registered during 2014, 43 per cent occurred outside of marriage.
- Births to teenage mothers in 2014 reached a new record low of 839, whilst births to mothers aged 35 years and over continued to rise.
- 81 stillbirths were registered in 2014, 26 per cent fewer than in 2013 and the lowest number ever recorded in Northern Ireland.
- Of the 14,678 deaths in 2014, the leading cause of death was cancer (29 per cent) followed by circulatory disease (25 per cent).
- Almost 2 out of every 3 deaths were of people aged 75 or over.
- 8,550 marriages and 110 civil partnerships were registered in 2014, equivalent to roughly 1 every hour of the year.
- In terms of first time marriages, the average age of brides reached 30 for the first time on record.
- 2,455 divorces and 11 civil partnership dissolutions were granted in 2014 with non-cohabitation remaining the most frequently recorded reason for separation.

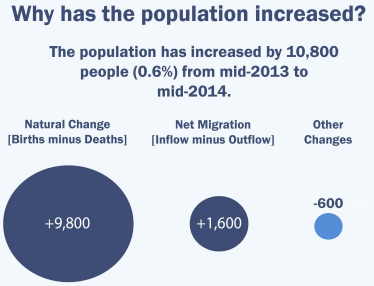
Population & Migration

In 2014:

- The population of Northern Ireland was estimated to be 1.840 million people at 30 June 2014.
- Over the year mid-2013 to mid-2014, the number of people living in Northern Ireland increased by 10,800 people (0.6 per cent).
- Natural growth was the main driver of population growth, adding 9,800 people (24,200 births minus 14,300 deaths) to the population.
- The year mid-2013 to mid-2014 was the first year since the year ending mid-2010 that the number of people coming to live in Northern Ireland (24,400) was greater than the number of people leaving (22,800), leading to a net population gain of 1,600 people due to migration.
- The number of people leaving Northern Ireland to live elsewhere was at its lowest level in five years, falling by 10 per cent between July 2013 and June 2014.
- The population aged under 65 increased at a rate of 0.3 per cent in the year ending mid-2014, reaching 1,554,600 people, whilst the population aged 65 and over increased by 2.4 per cent in the same period to reach 285,900 in mid-2014.
- The Northern Ireland population is projected to exceed 2 million people by 2036.
- Projections also indicate a continued aging population, with the number of people aged 65 and over growing by 26 per cent over the period 2012 to 2022.
- Each of the 11 Local Government Districts experienced an increase in population between the year mid-2013 to mid-2014.







Population Estimates

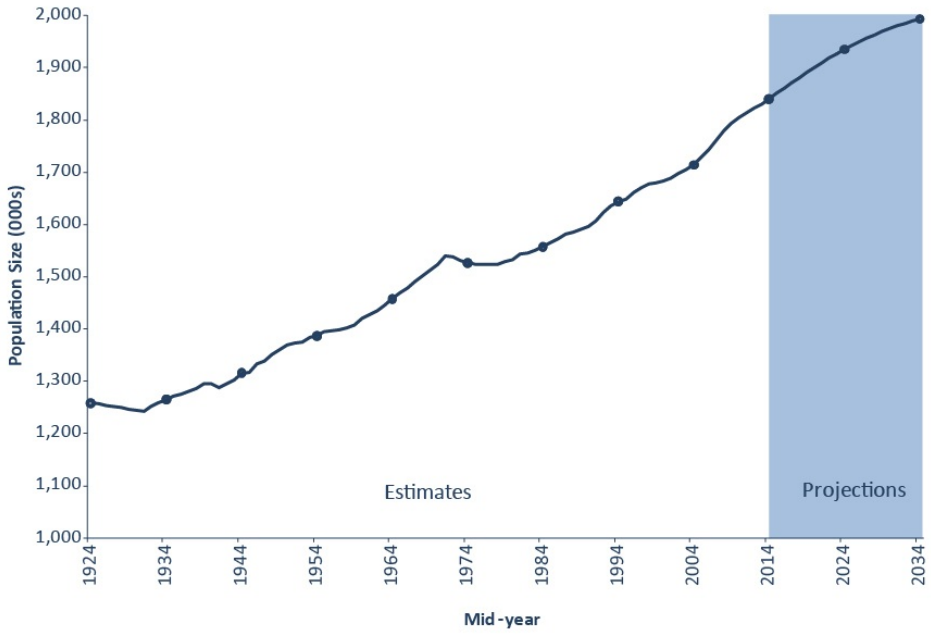
The latest estimate of the size of the Northern Ireland population[i] (30 June 2014) is 1,840,500 people[1].

In the 12 months to 30 June 2014, Northern Ireland's population is estimated to have risen by 10,800 people. Natural growth (i.e. births minus deaths) added 9,800 people to the population, but there was also a net population gain of 1,600 people resulting from more people arriving to live in Northern Ireland (24,400) than leaving (22,800). Changes in the number of Her Majesty's Forces stationed in Northern Ireland accounted for a further population decrease of 600 persons.

Population estimated to have risen by 10,800 people

Figure 1.1 shows the long term trend of increasing population, despite a slight decrease in population in the early 1970s as a result of high levels of net outward migration at that time. The latest population projections for Northern Ireland (2012-based) show that the population is projected to continue to increase, exceeding 1.9 million people in 2020 and 2.0 million people in 2036.

Figure 1.1: Estimated (1924 to 2014) and projected (2015 to 2034) Population of Northern Ireland – non-zero y-axis

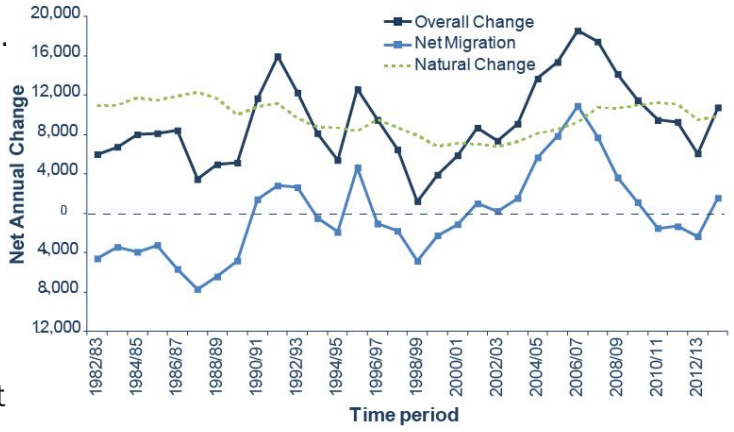


Download Chart (XLS Format – 57Kb)

i Reports and statistics are available at http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp17.htm. Population pyramids and interactive maps are available at http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp19.htm.

It can be seen from the trends in natural change and net migration presented in Figure 1.2 that, up to 2005, population increase was mostly due to natural change. In contrast, in 2006 the contributions to population increase from natural change and migration were of a similar magnitude. In the year 2007 the contribution from net inward migration was larger than the contribution from natural change. Since then, net migration has gradually reduced. By mid-2011, net migration had fallen below zero, indicating that more people left Northern Ireland than came here to live. The most recent year to mid-2014 saw a return to net in-migration.

Figure 1.2: Components of population change (1982/83 to 2013/14)



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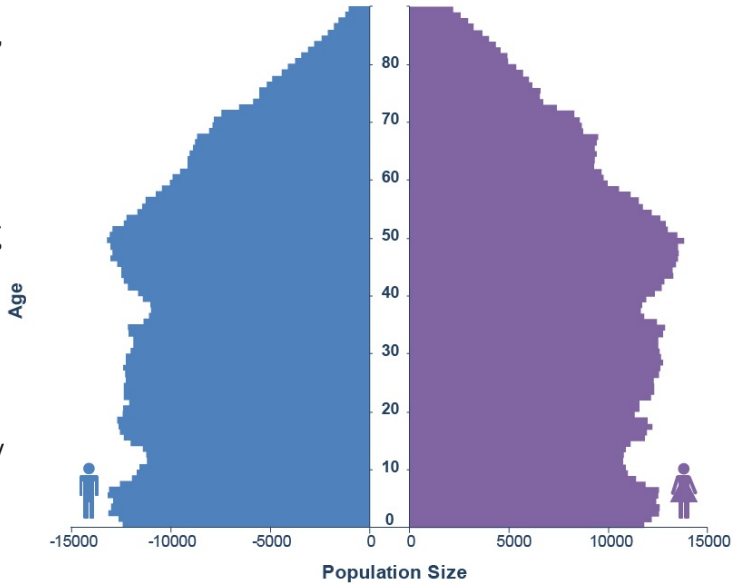
Age and Sex Structure

Figure 1.3 presents the age structure of the Northern Ireland population as at mid-2014. Females outnumber males in Northern Ireland, making up 51 per cent of the population. The age structure of Northern Ireland's population continues to get older due, in part, to a 22 year period of below replacement level fertility[i] (from 1992 to 2014) and continued increasing life expectancy.

Figure 1.3: Northern Ireland population pyramid by sex and age (2014)



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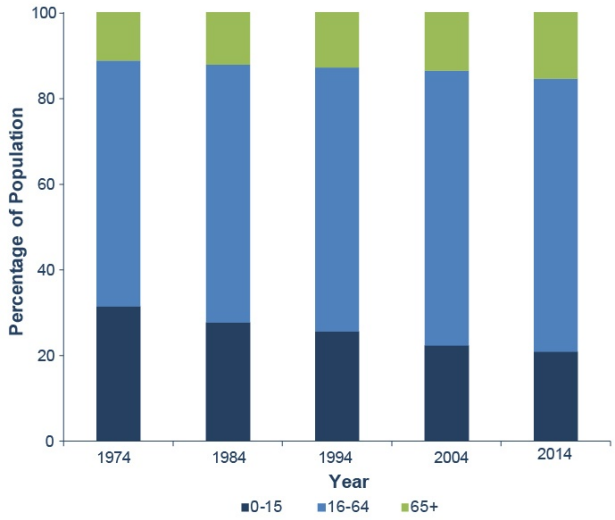
During the twelve months to June 2014, the number of children aged 0 to 15 years increased by 0.3 per cent to 383,800, the number of people aged 16 to 64 increased by 0.2 per cent to 1,170,800 people, while the older population (those aged 65 and over) increased by 2.4 per cent to 285,900. This compares to an overall population increase of 0.6 per cent. In the decade to 2004, the overall annual rate of population increase was around 7,000 people (equivalent to 0.4 per cent each year). Later between mid-2004 and mid-2009, increases were larger, averaging at 0.9 per cent each year. Since then, the annual rate of population increase fell gradually, reaching 0.3 per cent in the twelve months to June 2013, the lowest annual population increase of this millennium.

i In western countries a total period fertility rate of 2.1 live births per female over her lifetime is required to maintain long-term population levels.

Figure 1.4: Changing age structure of Northern Ireland population (1974 to 2014)



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Over the past thirty years, lower fertility levels have resulted in a 10 per cent decrease in the number of children aged 0 to 15 years. In contrast, the number of people aged 16 to 64 has increased by 25 per cent; and the older population (those aged 65 and over) has increased by 50 per cent.

Estimates of the Population aged 85 and over[i]

In June 2014, 34,400 people (1.9 per cent of the population) were aged 85 years or over. This number has increased by 1,200 people (3.5 per cent) in the period between July 2013 and June 2014. Within the population aged 85 and over women significantly outnumber men, accounting for 68 per cent of this population group.

Area Comparisons within Northern Ireland

All Local Government Districts experienced an increase in population

The pattern of continuing population growth is evident in each of Northern Ireland's 11 new Local Government Districts[ii]. All Local Government Districts experienced an increase in the population between mid-2013 and mid-2014, with the smallest growth in North Down & Ards (0.2 per cent). In the same period, Lisburn & Castlereagh Local Government District had the greatest increase in population (1.3 per cent). Other Local Government Districts with population growth rates greater than the Northern Ireland percentage increase (0.6 per cent) were Mid Ulster (1.1 per cent) and Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon (1.0 per cent).

All Local Government Districts experienced a natural increase of population (i.e. more births than deaths) between mid-2013 and mid-2014. The largest natural increase of population was in Belfast Local Government District, adding 1,800 people, however, this was somewhat offset by a population loss of 500 persons through migration.

i More detailed statistics on the population aged 85 and over for 2001 to 2013 are available at http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp134.htm. Equivalent estimates for 2014 will be published in September 2015.

ii Population 2014 factsheets for each of the 11 Local Government Districts are available at http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/AreaProfile.aspx Population estimates for other areas within Northern Ireland are also available at http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/home.aspx.

In 2014, 21 per cent of the Northern Ireland population were aged 0 to 15, whilst 16 per cent were aged 65 and over. Mid Ulster was the Local Government District with the highest proportion of children aged 0 to 15 among its opulation (23 per cent), while North Down & Ards and Mid East Antrim had the smallest proportion (19 per cent). Conversely, North Down & Ards Local Government District had the highest proportion of people aged 65 and over (20 per cent), whereas Mid Ulster Local Government District had the smallest proportion (13 per cent).

Largest natural increase in population was in Belfast Local Government District

Migration

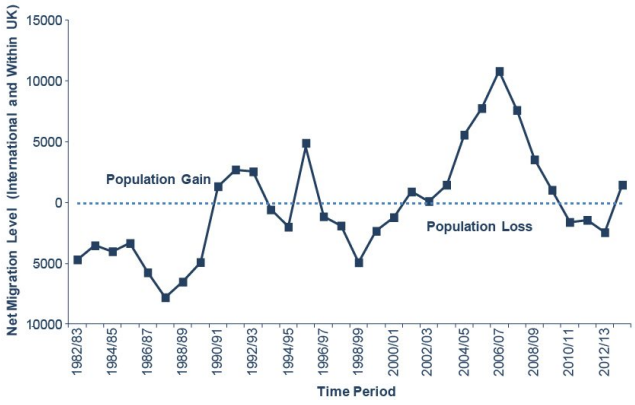
Measures of population movement or migration are based on the United Nations definition of a long-term international migrant[i]. This definition is in use in population statistics for countries across the European Union. Unlike some other European countries, there is no comprehensive system which registers population movement in the United Kingdom. Therefore, estimates of population movement both into and out of Northern Ireland are derived from proxy indicators. In Northern Ireland the primary source for estimating this is anonymised medical card registrations. At the Northern Ireland level, the overall effect of population movement is derived from the difference in two 'population flows': the number of people coming to live in Northern Ireland and the number of people leaving Northern Ireland to live elsewhere.

22,800 people left NI in year ending June 2014 - lowest level in 5 years

Estimates of net migration for Northern Ireland since the early 1980s are shown in Figure 1.5. The graph can be viewed in terms of distinct phases of migration. The first phase during the 1980s was when Northern Ireland experienced consistently large net population loss due to population movement (or out-migration) of, on average, 5,500 people each year. The 'Troubles' may have influenced this.

The second phase from the early 1990s until 2004 shows that population movement has been in balance, with broadly the same number of people coming to live

Figure 1.5: Estimated level of net migration (1980/81 to 2013/14)



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i "A person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least a year, so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence." - Taken from "Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration. UN 1998" available at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?ID=116 [2]

in Northern Ireland as leaving. Over this period it is estimated that each year around 20,000 people came to live in Northern Ireland and 20,000 left. However, in the third phase since 2004, the number of people estimated to have come here to live rose to, on average, 39,300 persons each year between mid-2004 and mid-2008. This indicates a marked increase in international inflows and is related to the enlargement of the European Union in May 2004, when people from countries in Eastern Europe were allowed to come to work in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Increase in the population due to net inward migration for first time in 4 years

After mid-2008, following the economic downturn, the net gain through migration fell as quickly as it rose. Between mid-2010 and mid-2013, there was a net population loss due to migration in each of the previous years.

In the year ending June 2014 however, the number of people leaving Northern Ireland (22,800) was at its lowest level in five years, falling by 10 percent between the year ending mid-2013 and the year ending mid-2014. Also, the number of people coming to live in Northern Ireland in that period (24,400) was at its highest in four years, increasing by 5.5 per cent between the year ending mid-2013 and the year ending mid-2014. As the number of people coming to Northern Ireland to live exceeded those who left, there was an overall increase in the population due to migration for the first time in four years.

55 per cent of new arrivals came from outside the UK

Place of Origin/Destination of People Coming to/Leaving Northern Ireland (2013-14)

Table 1 shows the previous country of residence of people who came to Northern Ireland to live. This does not necessarily reflect their nationality or country of birth. Of the 24,400 people who came to live here in the year ending June 2014, around 55 per cent (13,300) came from outside the United Kingdom, 3,900 of whom came from recent EU Accession countries[i] that joined the European Union since May 2004.

i These countries include Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, which joined on 1 May 2004, as well as Bulgaria and Romania (members since 1 January 2007) and Croatia (member since 1 July 2013).

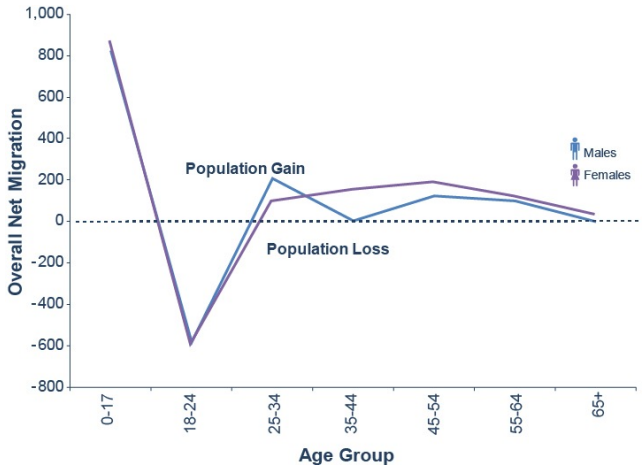
Table 1: Number of people coming to live in Northern Ireland by country of last residence (2011 to 2014)

Country of last residence	People coming to live in Northern Ireland					
	Mid-2011 to Mid- 2012		Mid-2012 to Mid-2013		Mid-2013 to Mid-2014	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
England	7,800	33	7,800	34	8,500	35
Scotland	2,000	9	2,100	9	2,100	9
Poland	2,000	9	2,200	9	2,100	8
Republic of Ireland	1,600	7	1,600	7	1,700	7
Romania	200	1	200	1	1,100	4
Lithuania	1,300	6	1,000	4	800	3
Portugal	400	2	500	2	600	2
China	500	2	500	2	500	2
Spain	200	1	500	2	400	2
Wales	500	2	400	2	400	2
India	600	3	500	2	400	2
United States of America	400	2	300	1	400	1
Slovakia	400	2	400	2	400	1
All other EU Accession Countries	900	4	800	4	700	3
All other countries	3,200	14	3,200	14	3,700	15
Unknown	1,300	6	1,200	5	700	3
Total	**23,300**	**100**	**23,100**	**100**	**24,400**	**100**

Source: HSC Business Services Organisation, May 2015, Medical Card Registrations

In contrast, looking at the 22,800 people who left Northern Ireland to live elsewhere between mid-2013 and mid-2014, 51 per cent went to the rest of the UK and the remainder (49 per cent) to countries outside the UK. Therefore, in total, it is estimated that 700 more people moved from Northern Ireland to live in the rest of the UK than moved in the opposite direction. In total, 2,200 more people came to live here from outside the UK than moved in the opposite direction.

Figure 1.6: Net total migration by age group and sex (2013-14)



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Age-Distribution of Migrants

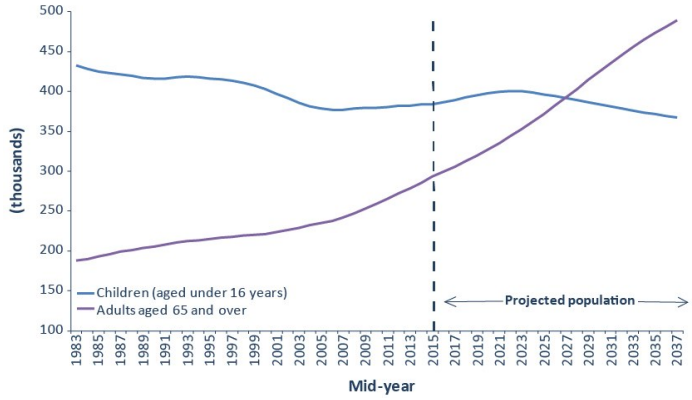
There was a large net outflow of 1,200 people aged 18 to 24, which includes students who moved to the rest of the UK for study. However, this is more than compensated by the net inflow of 1,700 young people (aged 0 to 17 years), with a further net inflow of 1,000 people aged 25 and over.

Projected Population – Northern Ireland

Population projections are produced every other year and the latest projections[i] use 2012 as the base year. The Northern Ireland population is projected to increase from 1.824 million in 2012 to 1.918 million by 2022. This is equivalent to an average annual rate of growth of 0.51 per cent. Over the longer term the population is projected to reach 2.0 million people by 2036.

The projected increase in population is primarily due to natural growth. In the period 2012 to 2022, it is projected that there will be 97,900 more births than deaths. Migration projections in this period show a moderate net outflow of 3,000 people per year, with migration projected to stabilize at equal flows of people moving to and leaving Northern Ireland from mid-2018 onwards.

Figure 1.7: Children aged under 16 and adults aged 65 and over, estimates (1971 to 2014) and projections (2015 to 2035) – non-zero y-axis



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Projections indicate a marked increase in the size of the population at older ages, as seen in Figure 1.7. The population aged 65 and over is projected to increase from 273,000 in 2012 to 344,000 by 2022, an increase of 26 per cent. By mid-2027, the number of people aged 65 and over is projected to exceed the number aged under 16 years. The largest projected population change will occur in the number of people aged 85 and over, doubling within the next 17 years from 32,700 people in 2012 to 65,700 people in 2029.

i Further information on the 2012-based population projections is available at http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp20.htm. The 2014-based projections for Northern Ireland are planned for October/November 2015.

Population Projections – Areas within Northern Ireland

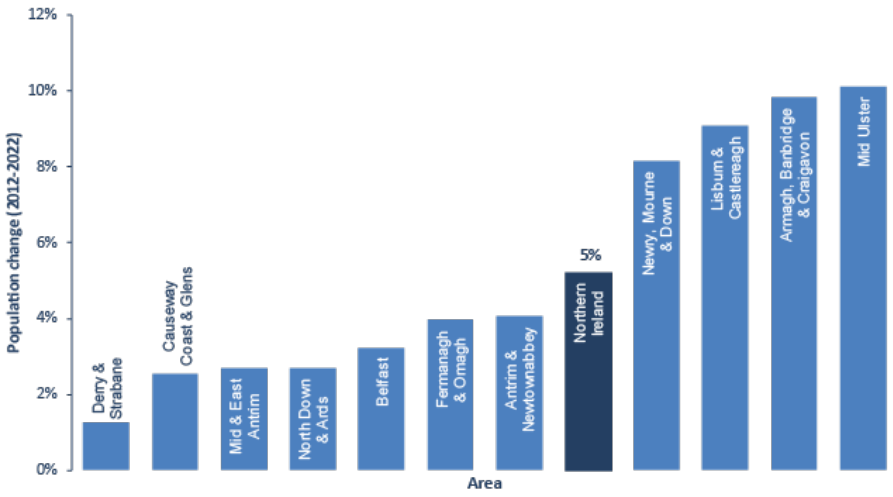
Population projections are also created for areas within Northern Ireland[i], with the latest local area projections, like the Northern Ireland projections, also using 2012 as the base year. Over the period 2012 to 2022, all of Northern Ireland's 11 new Local Government Districts are projected to experience population growth.

Mid Ulster is projected to have the highest percentage growth (10 per cent) with an increase from 140,400 to 154,500 between 2012 and 2022. Figure 1.8 shows the percentage change in all Local Government Districts.

The number of children (aged 0-15) is projected to increase in 6 of the 11 new Local Government Districts by 2022, with the largest percentage increases in Belfast and Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon (11 per cent). The biggest decrease is projected in Mid & East Antrim (1.6 per cent).

The population aged 16-64 years is projected to increase in 4 of the 11 new Local Government Districts by 2022, with the largest percentage increases in Mid Ulster (5.9 per cent). The biggest decreases are projected in Derry & Strabane (3.7 per cent) and North Down & Ards (3.6 per cent).

Figure 1.8: Overall projected percentage change in population size of Local Areas between 2012 and 2022



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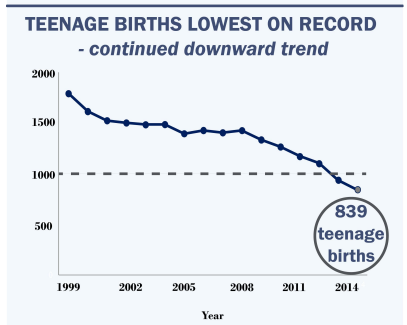
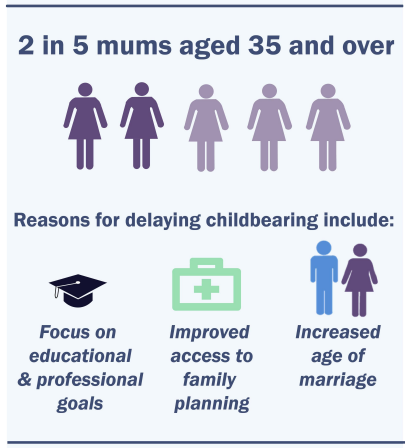
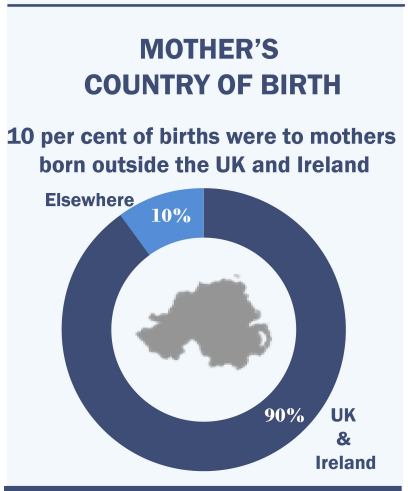
The population aged 65 years and over is projected to increase in all Local Government Districts by 2022, with the largest percentage increases in Fermanagh & Omagh (34 per cent) and Newry, Down & Mourne (33 per cent). The smallest increase projected was in Belfast (14 per cent).

i Further information on the 2012-based population projections for areas within Northern Ireland is available at http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp47.htm. The 2014-based projections for areas within Northern Ireland are expected to be released in 2016.







Births

In 2014:

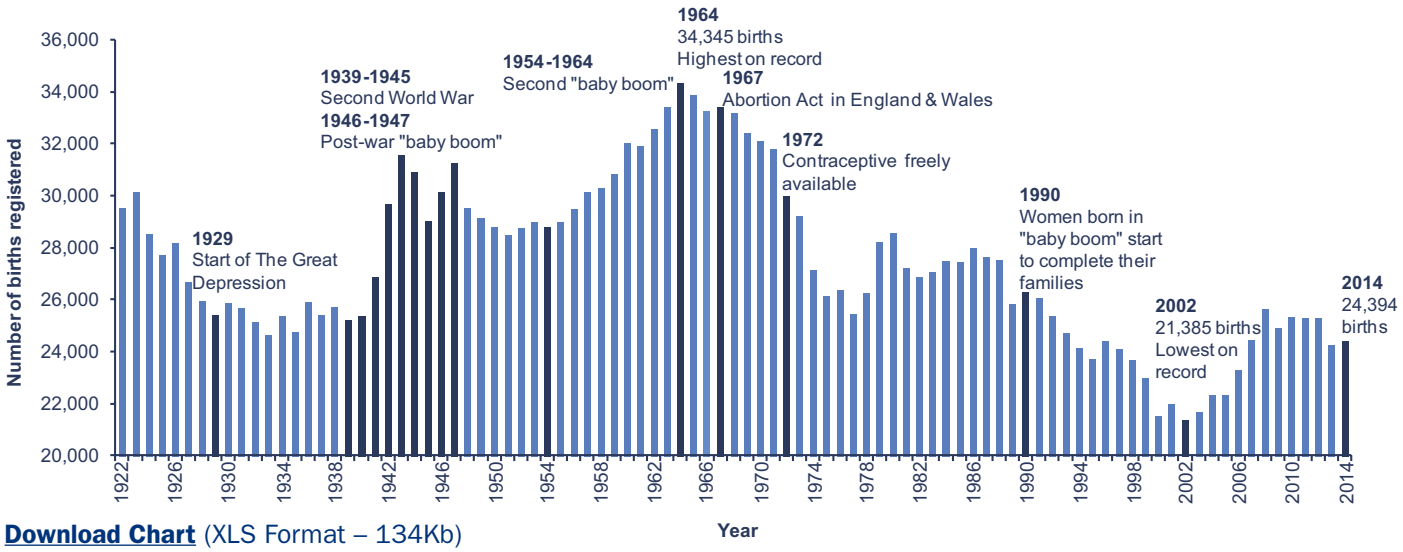
- There were 24,394 live births (12,543 males and 11,851 females) registered to Northern Ireland mothers, just over 100 more than in 2013 (24,277 births).
- The average age of mothers was 30.4 years, compared to 30.3 years in 2013.
- 21 per cent of all live births were to mothers aged 35 years and over, up from 11 per cent 30 years ago.
- Teenage live births reached a new record low of 839, down from 1,486 a decade ago.
- First time mothers accounted for 39 per cent of all births, a slight decrease from 40 per cent in 2013.
- 43 per cent of live births occurred outside of marriage, a trend that has been gradually increasing over the years.
- Of the 24,120 maternities, 1.5 per cent resulted in multiple births; 347 sets of twins and 4 sets of triplets were born.
- 10 per cent of live births were to mothers who were born outside the UK and Ireland. This compares with 5.2 per cent 10 years ago.

Numbers

In 2014, there were 24,394 live births (12,543 males and 11,851 females) registered to Northern Ireland mothers, over 100 more than the 2013 figure of 24,277 births. This equates to approximately 67 babies born every day in Northern Ireland. The number of births in 2014 continues to be much lower than the corresponding figure from 30 years ago when 27,477 births were registered.

24,394 live births registered in 2014

Figure 1.9: Number of live births registered (1922 to 2014) – non-zero y-axis



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The 1920s saw a gradual decrease in the number of births registered in Northern Ireland, to around 25,000 by the end of the decade. The number of births continued at an average of 25,000 per year during the time of The Great Depression in the late 1920s and 1930s. Interestingly, the number of births fluctuated somewhat during the Second World War (1939-1945) and increased in the years immediately following the end of the War. Around a decade after the end of the War, Northern Ireland experienced a 'baby boom', with the number of births peaking at 34,345 in 1964. This was followed by a sharp decline during the late 1960s and 1970s coinciding with the early years of the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland. The drop in the number of births levelled off in the 1980s at around 27,000 births per annum, mainly as a result of the greater number of women, who were born in the 'baby boom', passing through their childbearing years. A decline in births followed in the 1990s, as these women started to complete their families, before levelling off at 22,000 during the early 2000s. A gradual increase in the number of live births then started in 2006, stabilising at around 25,000 between 2008 and 2012, before declining to around 24,000 births per year in 2013.

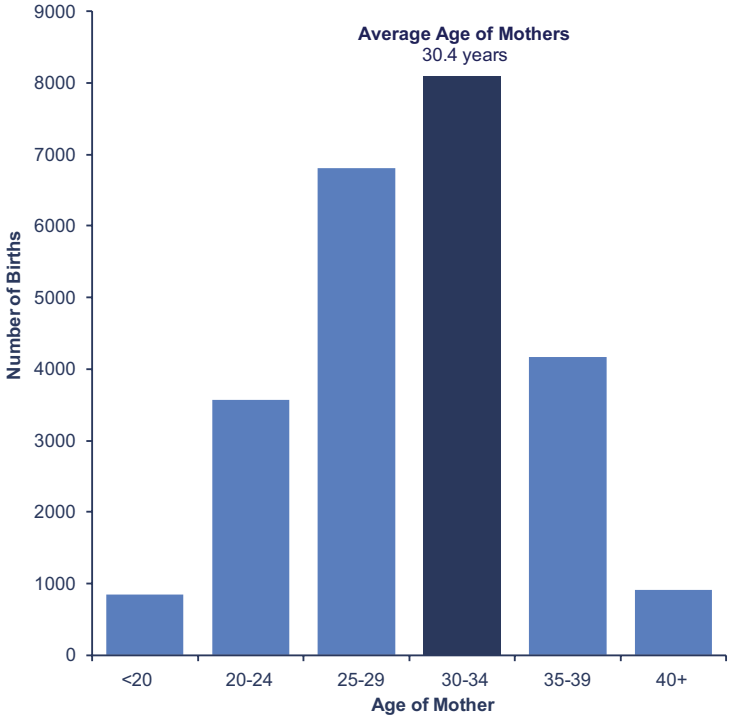
Highest births on record – 1964: 34,345

Lowest births on record – 2002: 21,385

Mother's Age

The average age of all mothers continues to increase, at 30.4 years compared with 29.7 in 2004 and 27.5 in 1984. For first time mothers, the average age was 28.2 years, compared with 27.2 in 2004 and 24.1 in 1984. Furthermore, 21 per cent of all births were to mothers aged 35 and over. This compares with a figure of 11 per cent 30 years ago. These findings indicate that women are delaying child-bearing until later in life, a trend which is apparent throughout the developed world. This is in spite of the well documented decline in female fertility that occurs with age[3]. Women may be waiting to have children later in life for several reasons, including attainment of educational and professional goals, improved access to contraception and increasing age of marriage[4]. In addition, it has been suggested that women may overestimate their 'fertility window' due to the success of assisted reproduction[3].

Figure 1.10: Live births by Age of Mother (2014)



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Following the rise in births to teenage mothers in the mid 1990s, which peaked at 1,791 in 1999, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) launched the regional teenage pregnancy and parenthood strategy and action plan[5]. This policy aimed to reduce the number of births to teenage parents. Since 2002, the number of teenage births has seen a notable decline which may, in part, be due to the DHSSPS actions. In 2014 the number of births to mothers aged under 20 years old continued to fall, reaching a new record low of 839. This is 10 per cent lower than in 2013 and nearly 44 per cent lower than in 2004 when there were 1,486 births to teenage mothers. In addition, the DHSSPS strategy aimed to reduce the number of births to younger teenage mothers (i.e. those aged under 17 years old). Over the last decade, births to younger teenage mothers has more than halved from 172 to 84 births.

Average age of all mothers — 30.4 years

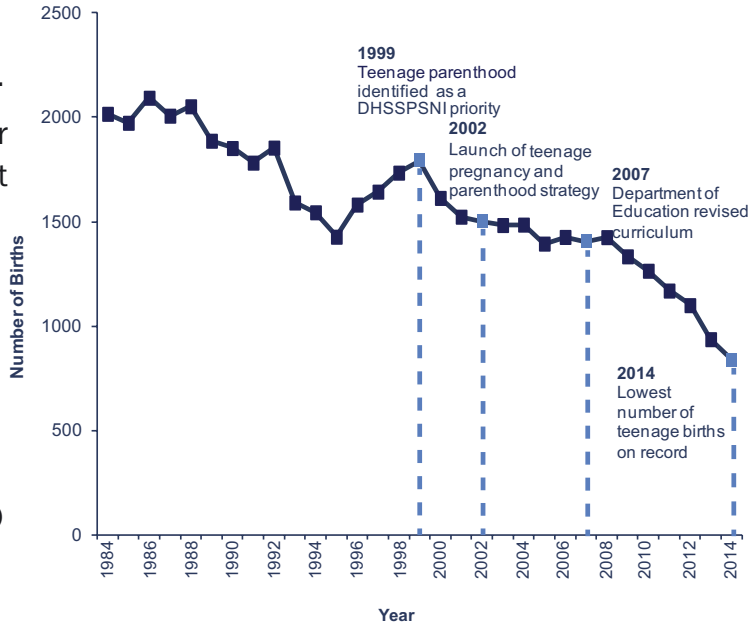
Average age of 1st time mothers — 28.2 years

Since 2003 much of the focus from a Government perspective has been on educating teenagers, making resources widely available and providing assurances on confidentiality when seeking advice. In 2007, the Department of Education embarked on a revised curriculum which included compulsory components focused on self-awareness, personal health and relationships[6]. Since 2007 the number of births to teenage mothers has fallen by around 40 per cent, which may in part be attributable to the changes in the curriculum.

The most recent Northern Ireland strategy for tackling teenage pregnancies recognises that whilst births to teenage mothers continues to decline, and remains the lowest rate in the United Kingdom (UK), Northern Ireland has a history of one of the highest teenage pregnancy rates in Europe[7]. International comparisons of teenage births, published by the Office for National Statistics[8], shows that the teenage birth rate of 19.7 per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19 years old was higher than the overall EU28 rate of 12.6 in 2012.

Record low of 839 births to teenage mothers

Figure 1.11: Live births to Teenage Mothers, 1984 to 2014



Download Chart (XLS Format – 65Kb)

Father's Age

More than two-thirds of fathers[i] were older than mothers with an average age difference of 4.2 years. The average age of all fathers at the time of birth was 32.9 years compared to 29.7 years 30 years ago.

Fertility Rates

Fertility rates can be measured in a variety of ways, and can be broadly broken into 'period' measures and 'cohort' measures. 'Period' refer to a cross-section of the population in one year. 'Cohort' data on the other hand, follows the same people over a period of decades. Both period and cohort measures are widely used.

i Excluding 1,494 or 6.1 per cent of births where no father's details were available.

Figure 1.12: Estimated female population aged 15 to 44 and general fertility rate (1984 to 2014) – non-zero y-axes

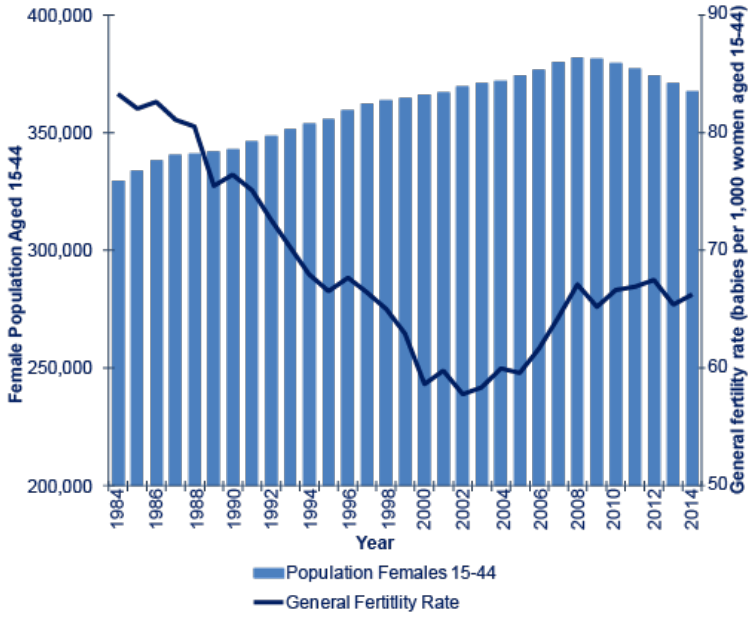


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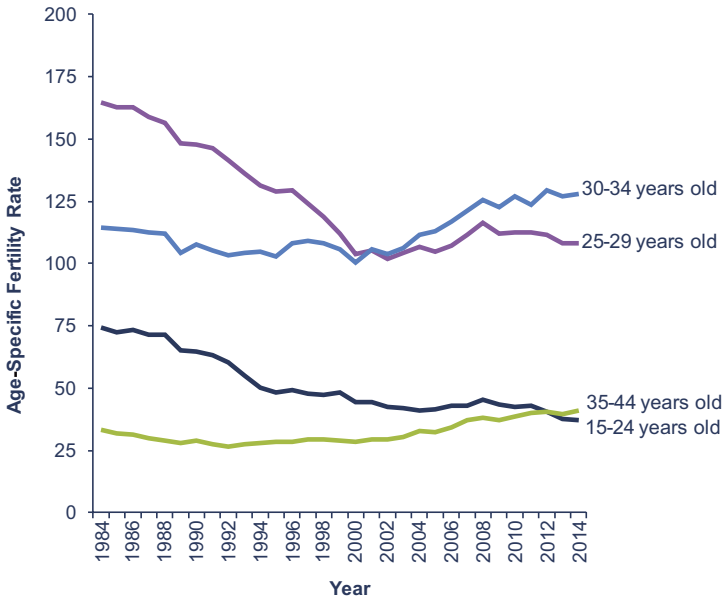
Figure 1.13: Live births per 1,000 women by age group of mother (1984 to 2014)



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Period Measures

The most commonly used period measures are the **Crude Birth Rate**[i] and the **General Fertility Rate**[ii]. Detailed definitions of both are available in Appendix 3, with the main difference being that the crude birth rate is based on the population as a whole whereas the general fertility rate focuses specifically on women of a child bearing age (aged 15 to 44).

The crude birth rate in Northern Ireland has been declining over time. After peaking in the early 1960s at 22.7 births per 1,000 population, it reached a record low of 12.9 in 2002. Since then fluctuations have been seen year on year, but in 2014 the rate remained stable at 13.3 for the second year running.

The general fertility rate is best understood when examined alongside the female population aged 15 to 44 for that year. The population of females aged 15 to 44 increased between 1984 and 2008, before starting to decline thereafter. The general fertility rate followed a downward trend from 1984 through to 2002, when it reached a record low of 57.8 births per 1,000 females aged 15 to 44. Thereafter the trend was generally upward with the general fertility rate in 2014 equating to 66.1 births per 1,000 females aged 15 to 44 years old.

The recent trend towards later childbearing is most apparent in the decline in fertility rates among 15 to 24 year old females. Over the past 3 decades fertility for this age group has halved from 74 babies per 1,000 women in 1984 to 37 babies per 1,000 women in 2014.

i A crude rate refers to the number of occurrences of the event per 1,000 population.

ii General fertility rate is the number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44 years old.

Women aged 30 to 34 years experienced the highest age-specific fertility rate, with 128 babies per 1,000 women, while women aged 25 to 29 years experienced the second highest rate (108 babies per 1,000 women).

Cohort measures

Other useful measures of fertility are the **Total Period Fertility Rate (TPFR)**[i] and **Completed Family Size**[ii]. Both are cohort measures meaning they track theoretical groups of women over time. The TPFR is simply the average number of live-born children a woman would have in her lifetime, assuming that she experiences the age specific fertility rates for a given year. A value of 2.1 is generally taken to be the level at which the population would replace itself in the long run, ignoring migration. The TPFR dropped below replacement level in Northern Ireland for the first time in 1992. In 2014 the TPFR was 1.97, which is a recovery from a record low of 1.75 in 2000, but is below the fertility rates in the 1980s and early 1990s.

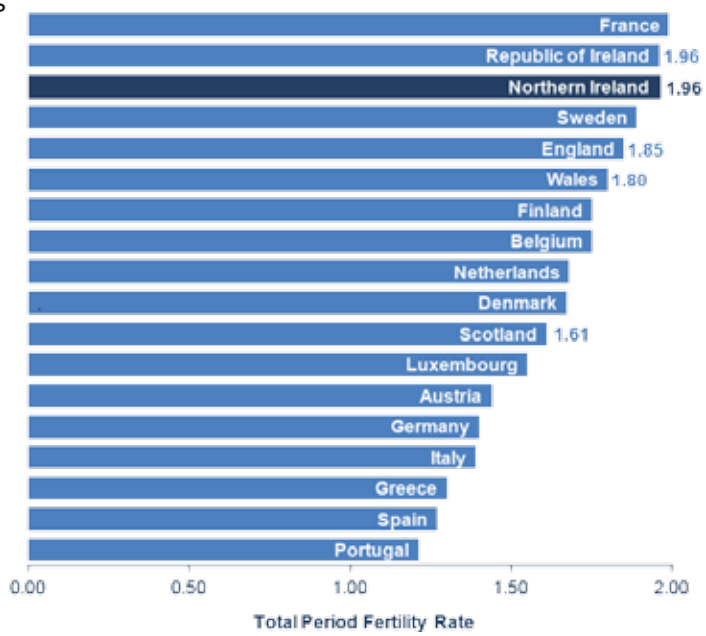
Northern Ireland has the highest TPFR of the constituent countries of the UK when comparing latest available figures for 2013. The Republic of Ireland and France are the only EU15 countries with a higher TPFR than that in Northern Ireland[9].

A further measure of fertility is completed family size, which is a more accurate picture of fertility for a specific group of women born in a certain year. Family size at age 45 is taken to represent completed family size. This enables easy comparison between selected groups of women as they pass through the child-bearing ages.

Figure 1.14: Total period fertility rate (1984 to 2014) – non-zero y-axis

Download Chart (XLS Format – 58Kb)

Figure 1.15: Total period fertility rate, EU15 and Constituent Countries of the UK (2013)



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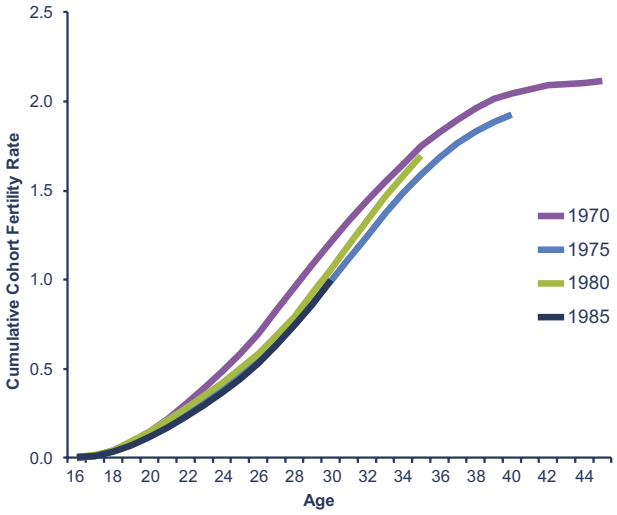
i The TPFR is the average number of children that would be born to a cohort of women who experienced, throughout their childbearing years, the fertility rates of the calendar year in question.

ii Completed family size is the average completed size of a family by the time the woman has reached 45 years old.

Figure 1.16: Cumulative fertility rate for cohorts born in selected years



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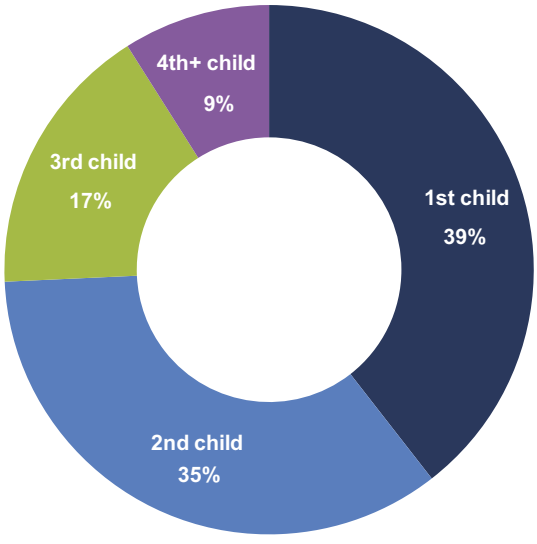
Looking at family size by the age of 30, which is available for each of the groups presented, Figure 1.16 shows how closely the fertility rate of the 1985 group tracks that of the 1975 group. The fertility rate for the 1970s group and the 1980s group were both higher than in the other groups.

Overall fertility rates have been falling in Northern Ireland over time. During the majority of the last century fertility has had the largest contribution to the population change, far exceeding the contributions of mortality and migration. Declining fertility rates can initially be beneficial in terms of economic growth; the proportion of children in the population falls and the proportion of working age increases. Over time however, this leads to a decline in the working age population and an ageing population develops.

Birth Order

Of the 24,394 births registered in Northern Ireland, 39 per cent were to first-time mothers, a slight decrease from 40 per cent in 2013. Second-time and third-time mothers accounted for 35 per cent and 17 per cent of births respectively. In 2014, 9.0 per cent of mothers already had 3 or more live born children, compared with 17 per cent in 1984, reflecting the trend towards smaller family sizes.

Figure 1.17: Percentage of live births by number of previous children born (2014)



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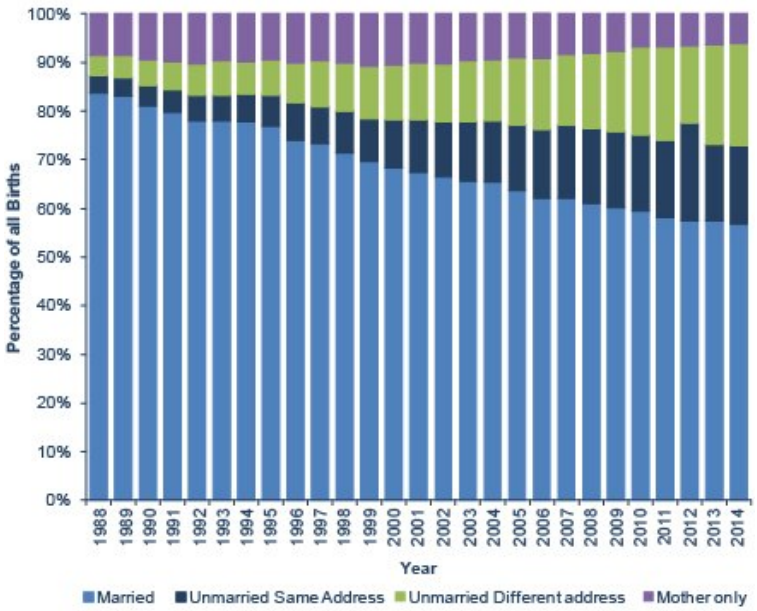
Partnership Status of Parents

The number of births within marriage continues to show a decreasing trend. For example, a decade ago almost two-thirds of births (65 per cent) were to married parents, compared to 57 per cent in 2014. Similarly, 43 per cent of all births occurred outside marriage, proportionately more than the 35 per cent of such births a decade ago. This proportion has been steadily increasing since the early 1960s when the proportion of children born outside marriage was around 2 per cent. Declines in marital childbearing in Northern Ireland are consistent with figures throughout the United States[10] and European Union[11] including England and Wales[12], Scotland[13] and Republic of Ireland[14].

Since 1988, information has been gathered that identifies births registered by married parents, unmarried parents[i] or by the mother only. Where the birth is jointly registered and the parents give the same address, it can be inferred that the parents are cohabiting. In recent years the percentage of births registered to cohabiting parents has increased from 5.7 per cent in 1994 to 16 per cent in 2014. This trend is consistent with an increase in the number of couples choosing to cohabit rather than enter into marriage. While the majority (86 per cent) of births that occurred outside of marriage were jointly registered by both parents, some 14 per cent of mothers chose to solely register their baby without providing the father's details.

Figure 1.18: Live births by registration status (1988 to 2014)



Download Chart (XLS Format – 53Kb)

Births outside of marriage tend to decrease with increasing age of the mother. A total of 98 per cent of births to mothers under the age of 20 were outside marriage. This compares to 87 per cent of births to mothers aged between 20 and 24, and 33 per cent of births for those aged 25 and over.

Multiple Births

Last year 347 sets of twins and 4 sets of triplets were registered in Northern Ireland. Such multiple births accounted for 1.5 per cent of all maternities, a decrease on the highest level ever recorded in Northern Ireland in 2011 of 1.7 per cent.

The percentage of maternities resulting in multiple births increases with the age of the mother. For example, 0.5 per cent of maternities to mothers aged under 20 years old resulted in multiple births. This compares to a figure of 2.9 per cent for mothers aged 45 and over, and can be attributed in part to higher levels of assisted fertility treatment in older mothers.

Multiple births increase with mother's age

347 sets of twins

4 sets of triplets

i Unmarried parents include those living at the same address or at a different address.

Table 2: Percentage of maternities resulting in a multiple birth by age of mother, 2014

	Age of Mother						
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45+
Percentage of maternities resulting in a multiple birth	0.5	0.8	1.2	1.6	2.1	2.0	2.9

25 per cent of all babies were born in the Royal Group of Hospitals

Place of Birth

The Royal Group of Hospitals in Belfast delivered one quarter of all babies born in Northern Ireland last year. Births at the Ulster Hospital Dundonald and Craigavon Area Hospital accounted for the delivery of a further 17 per cent and 16 per cent of all births respectively.

Whilst the number of births fell at a number of hospitals, births at the Mater Hospital Belfast continued to show a sharp decline, falling from around 1,100 per annum prior to 2013 to 437 and 191 in 2013 and 2014 respectively. A similar decrease in the number of babies delivered at Lagan Valley Hospital was also apparent, falling from around 1,100 prior to 2011 to approximately 200 in subsequent years. In contrast there was a sharp increase in the number of babies being delivered at the Ulster Hospital with 4,119 births last year compared to around 3,000 babies in the years prior to 2010.

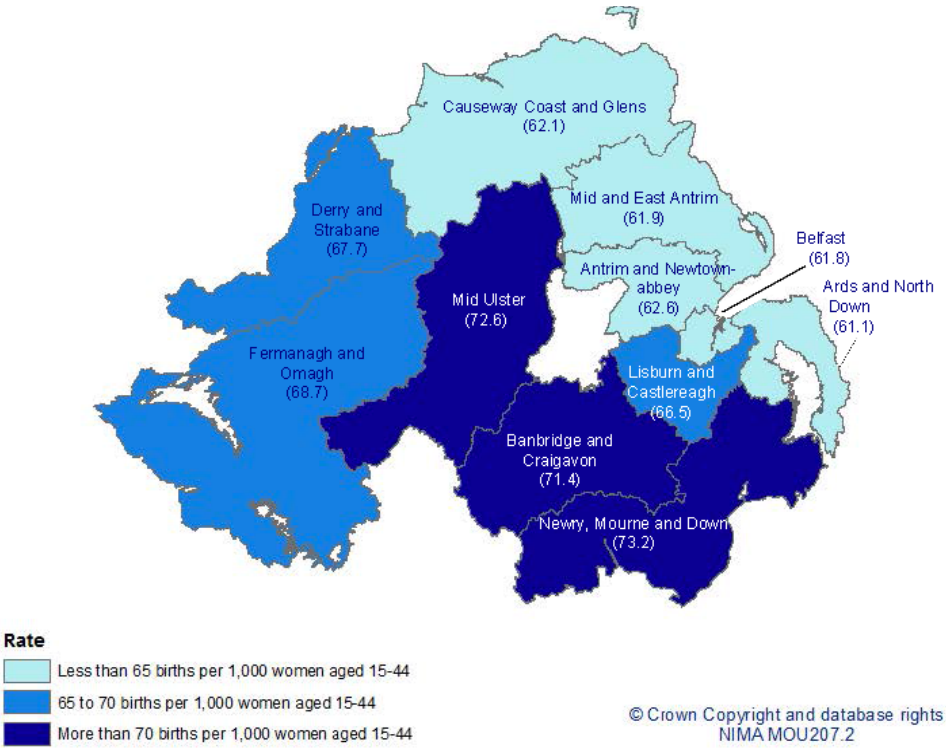
In 2014, 80 babies were born in places other than a hospital, representing a decrease of 33 per cent on the previous year. The majority of these babies (67) were born at home. While home births continue to represent a very small proportion of all births, guidelines from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)[15] advise that a birth in either the home or a Midwifery Led Unit are thought to be equally safe for mothers who have previously given birth and who are considered to have a low risk pregnancy.

Births by Area

Newry, Mourne & Down had the highest general fertility rate of all the 11 Local Government Districts in 2014 closely followed by Mid Ulster, while the lowest general fertility rates were in Ards & North Down and Belfast.

At Health and Social Care Trust level, general fertility rates ranged from 60.8 births per 1,000 females aged 15 to 44 in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust to 72.9 births per 1,000 females aged 15 to 44 in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust.

Figure 1.19: Live births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44, by Local Government District (2014)



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Country of Birth of Parents

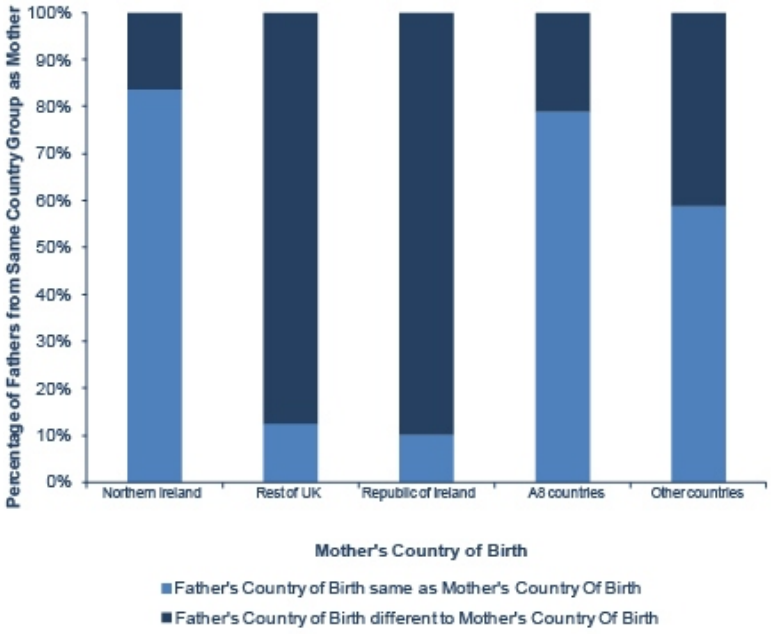
Last year 17 per cent of all births were to mothers who were born outside Northern Ireland. Of the 4,265 such births, 42 per cent were to mothers who were born either elsewhere in the UK or in the Republic of Ireland. In contrast, there has been a sharp rise in the number of births to mothers who were born in the A8 countries[i], increasing from 34 births in 2004 to 1,258 births in 2014. This change has been partly driven by women coming to live in Northern Ireland from the A8 countries which joined the European Union in 2004.

The percentage of births to mothers born outside the UK and Ireland reached 10 per cent for the first time in 2013. This figure remained the same in 2014 and is significantly higher than the 5.1 per cent of births registered to these mothers 10 years ago.

10 per cent of births to mothers born outside the UK and Ireland

i The A8 countries are a group of the 10 countries that joined the European Union (EU) on 1 May 2004 and include the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. Malta and Cyprus also joined the EU in 2004 but are considered separately from the A8 countries as they have full free movement rights to work throughout the EU.

Figure 1.20: Live births in Northern Ireland by mother's and father's country of birth (2014)



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For births where the mother was born in Northern Ireland, 84 per cent had a father who was also born in Northern Ireland. For births where the mother was born in the rest of the UK or the Republic of Ireland, the majority of fathers were born in a different country than the mother, with 76 per cent from Northern Ireland. The trend is different for children whose mother was born in an A8 country, where 79 per cent of these children had a father who was also born in an A8 country.

Births to Non-Residents

The statistics presented in this report relate to mothers living in Northern Ireland, although it should be noted that all births occurring in the country must be registered here. In 2014, 221 births were registered where the mother lived outside Northern Ireland, 40 fewer births than the previous year. The vast majority of these births (86 per cent) were to mothers living in the Republic of Ireland giving birth in hospitals near the border, primarily Altnagelvin Area Hospital and Daisy Hill Hospital.

Stillbirths and Infant Deaths

In 2014:

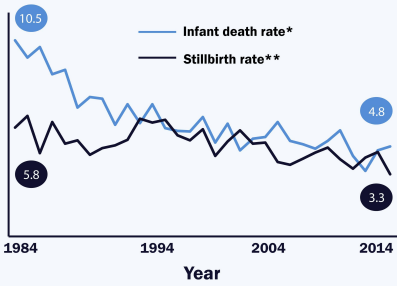
- 81 stillbirths were registered, 26 per cent fewer than in 2013 and the lowest number ever recorded in Northern Ireland.
- The 118 infant deaths (i.e. deaths in the first year of life) represent a slight increase on the previous year (112 infant deaths) and equate to 4.8 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- More than two-thirds of infant deaths occurred in the first week of life.

81 STILLBIRTHS
and
118 INFANT DEATHS

3.3 stillbirths
per 1,000 live and still births

This is the *lowest* stillbirth rate on record

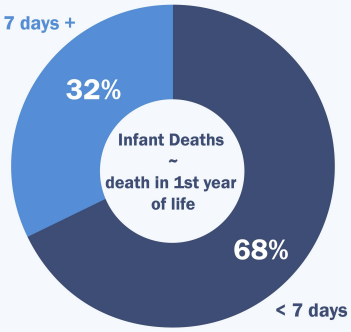
Continued *downward trend* in stillbirth and infant death rates over the past 30 years



* deaths of under 1s per 1,000 live births

** stillbirths per 1,000 live & still births

4.8 infant deaths
per 1,000 live births



68% of infant deaths occur in the first week of life

81 stillbirths registered – lowest number ever recorded in NI

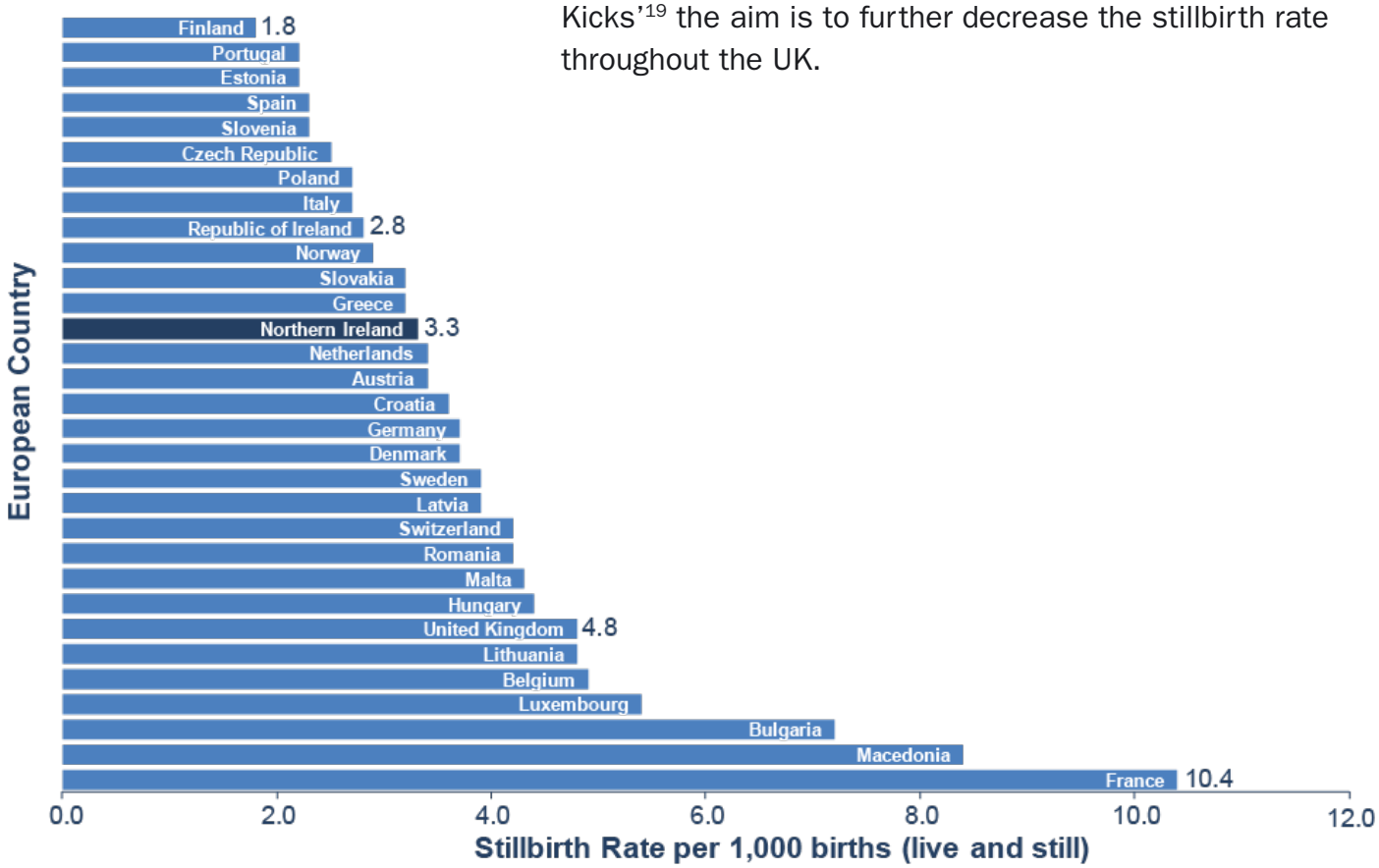
3.3 stillbirths per 1,000 births – lowest rate ever recorded in NI

Stillbirth Numbers and Rates

A stillbirth is a baby that is born deceased after 24 completed weeks of pregnancy[16]. In 2014, there were 81 stillbirths registered, a decrease of 26 per cent on the previous year and the lowest number ever recorded in Northern Ireland.

Over the past 30 years the stillbirth rate has fallen significantly, from 5.8 stillbirths per 1,000 births (live and still) in 1984 to 3.3 in 2014. Indeed, the 2014 stillbirth rate represents the lowest ever recorded in Northern Ireland and is lower than the overall UK rate of 4.8. This fall has happened despite a change in the definition of stillbirths in 1992, which reduced the minimum period of gestation from 28 to 24 weeks. Having said that, the 2014 stillbirth rate in Northern Ireland was higher than in other European countries including the Republic of Ireland. In Finland, the most recent stillbirth rate was documented as 1.8 per 1,000 births (live and still) in 2013[17]. Against this background, through the work of charities such as SANDS (Stillbirth and neonatal death charity)[18] and 'Count the Kicks'[19] the aim is to further decrease the stillbirth rate throughout the UK.

Figure 1.21: Latest available stillbirth rates for European countries



Download Chart (XLS Format – 57Kb)

Latest available figures range from 2010 to 2014. Source: Eurostat[17]

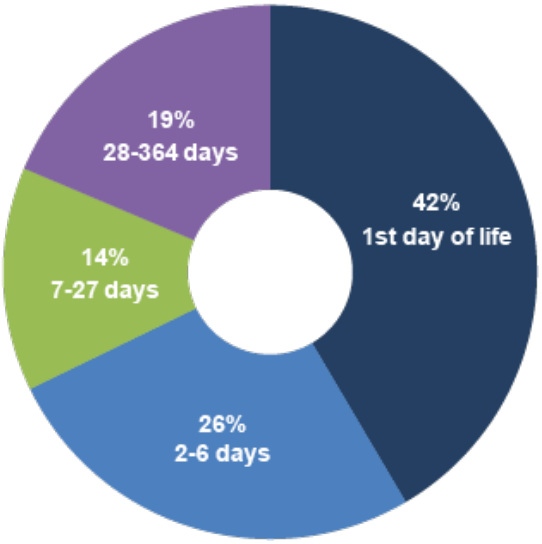
Infant Death Numbers and Rates

The number of infant deaths in 2014 (i.e. deaths in the first year of life) totalled 118, representing a small increase from the 2013 figure of 112. Deaths among infants aged under 1 week old accounted for 68 per cent of all infant deaths. Two out of every 5 infant deaths (42 per cent) occurred in the first day of life.

Over the past 30 years, the infant death rate has more than halved, falling from 10.5 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 1984 to 4.8 in 2014. However as illustrated in Figure 1.23, the rate in 2014 remains one of the higher rates in Europe, which (based on the latest available data) ranges from 1.6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in Cyprus to 10.8 in Turkey[17].

As with stillbirths and infant deaths, the numbers of perinatal, neonatal and postneonatal deaths (see Appendix 3 for definitions) have reduced greatly to around one tenth of the magnitude in the late 1940s and 1950s. However, the number of neonatal deaths was higher than in 2013. Similar to previous years, males accounted for more perinatal, neonatal and postneonatal deaths than females.

Figure 1.22: Infant deaths by age at death (2014)

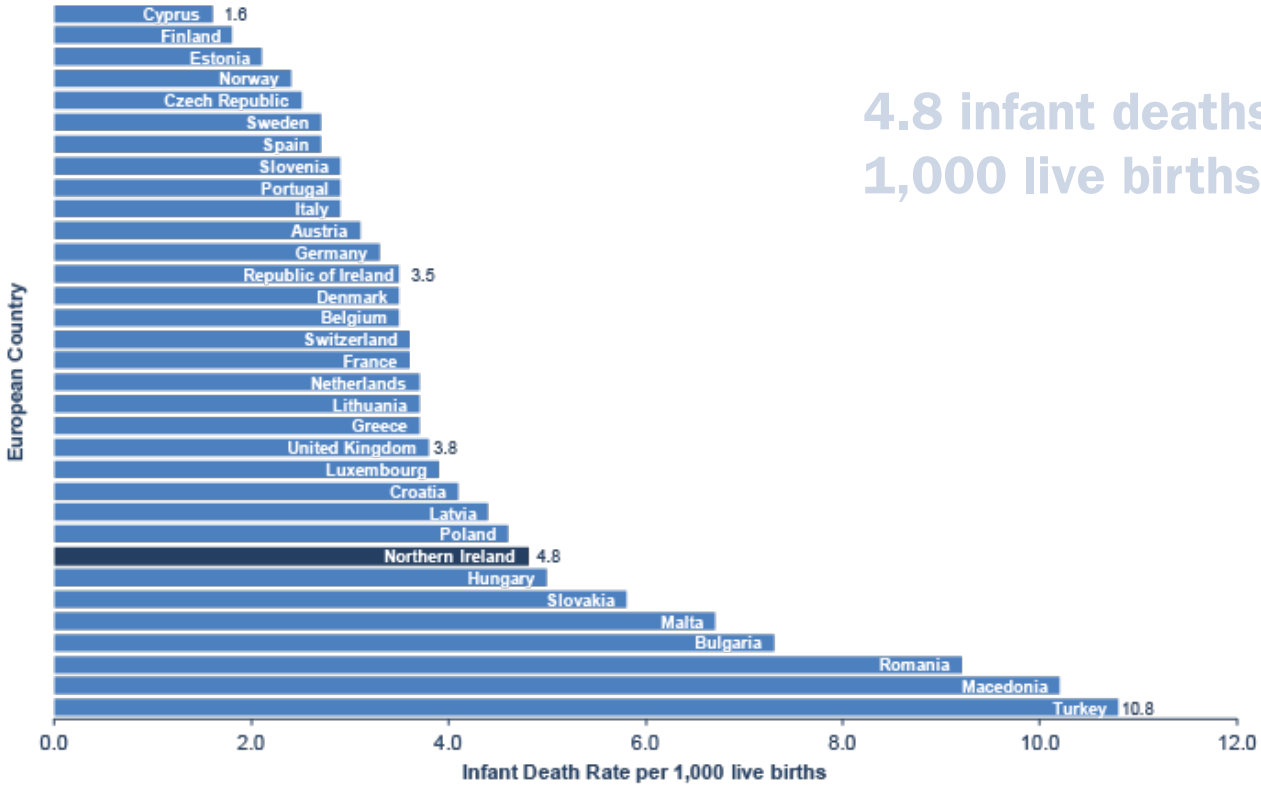


Download Chart (XLS Format – 44Kb)

118 infant deaths registered

4.8 infant deaths per 1,000 live births

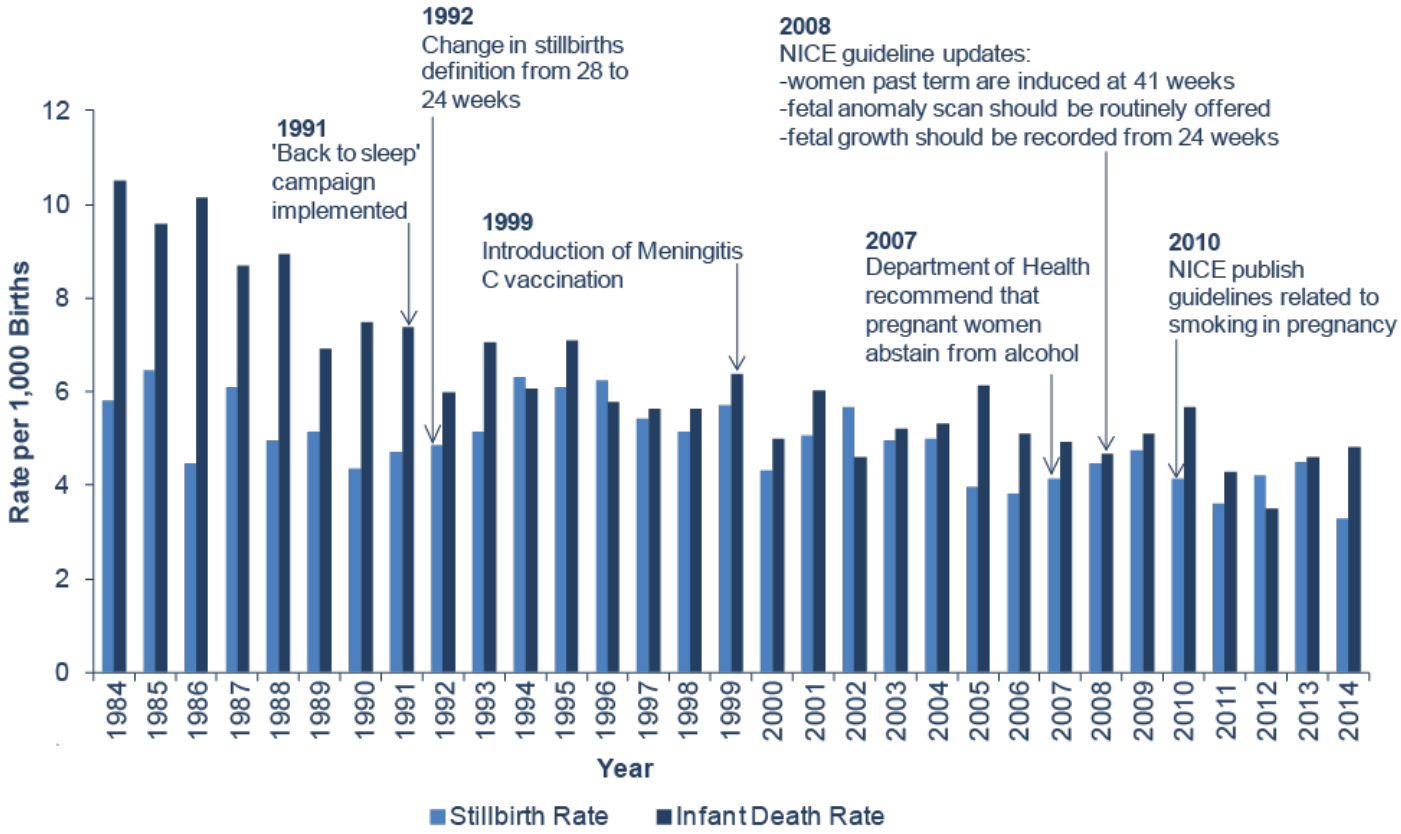
Figure 1.23: Latest available infant mortality rates for European countries



Download Chart (XLS Format – XXXKb)

Latest available figures range from 2012 to 2014. Source: Eurostat[17]

Figure 1.24: Stillbirth and infant death rates (1984 to 2014)



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Causes of Infant Deaths and Stillbirths

Record low number and rate of stillbirths in 2014

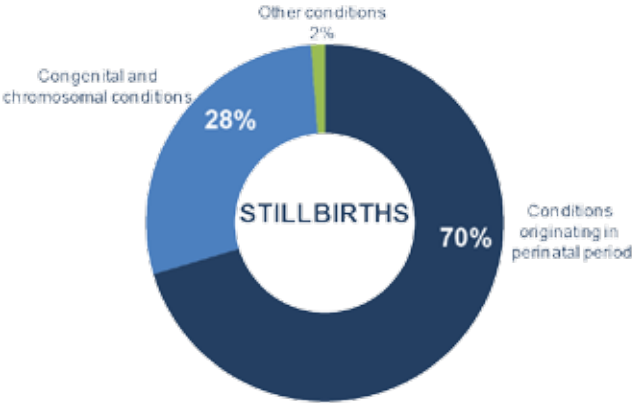
All deaths and stillbirths are coded using the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems 10th revision (ICD-10)[20]. Classification of the underlying cause of death is done by reference to the death certificate and additional information from the certifying doctor. Further information relating to ICD-10 codes used to classify causes of death, including those discussed below, can be found here.

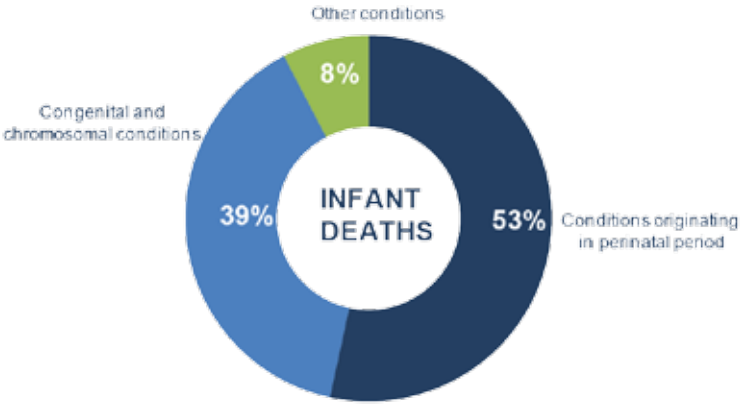
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities refer to conditions present at birth that are caused by an abnormally formed part of the body, having an abnormal number of chromosomes[i], or having chromosomes with missing or extra pieces. These conditions were the cause of 28 per cent of stillbirths and 39 per cent of infant deaths.

i Chromosomes are the thread-like bodies that contain genetic/hereditary information.

A further 70 per cent of stillbirths and 53 per cent of infant deaths were caused by conditions originating in the period after the 28th week of pregnancy (i.e. in the perinatal period).

Figure 1.25: Stillbirths and Infant Deaths by Cause of Death (2014)





Download Chart (XLS Format – 72Kb)

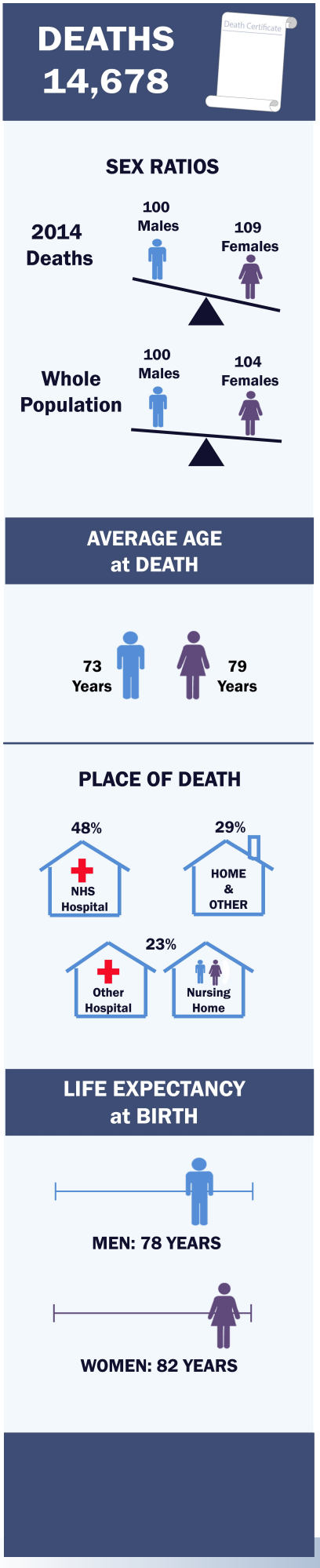
Download Chart (XLS Format – 72Kb)

Other conditions include sudden infant death syndrome, also known as 'cot death', which is the sudden unexplained death of a child aged under 1 year old. Last year, 4 infants died as a result of sudden infant death syndrome, representing a decrease from the 9 such deaths registered in 2013. The number of infant deaths attributed to this cause has fluctuated between 0 and 16 deaths over the past 30 years, with lower numbers during the 2000s compared to during the 1980s and 1990s. There were also 1 stillbirth and 5 infant deaths caused by abnormal growths, diseases of the respiratory system or external causes of injury.

4 deaths due to sudden infant death syndrome ('cot death')

Pregnancy, Childbirth and Puerperium

Occasionally deaths are caused by pregnancy, childbirth and the period immediately following childbirth. In 2014, 1 maternal death was registered due to a disease classifiable elsewhere but causing complications in the antenatal and postpartum periods. This compares to no maternal deaths in 2013 and 2012. Over the past 30 years, 34 maternal deaths have been registered with the highest number (5 deaths) reported in 2009.

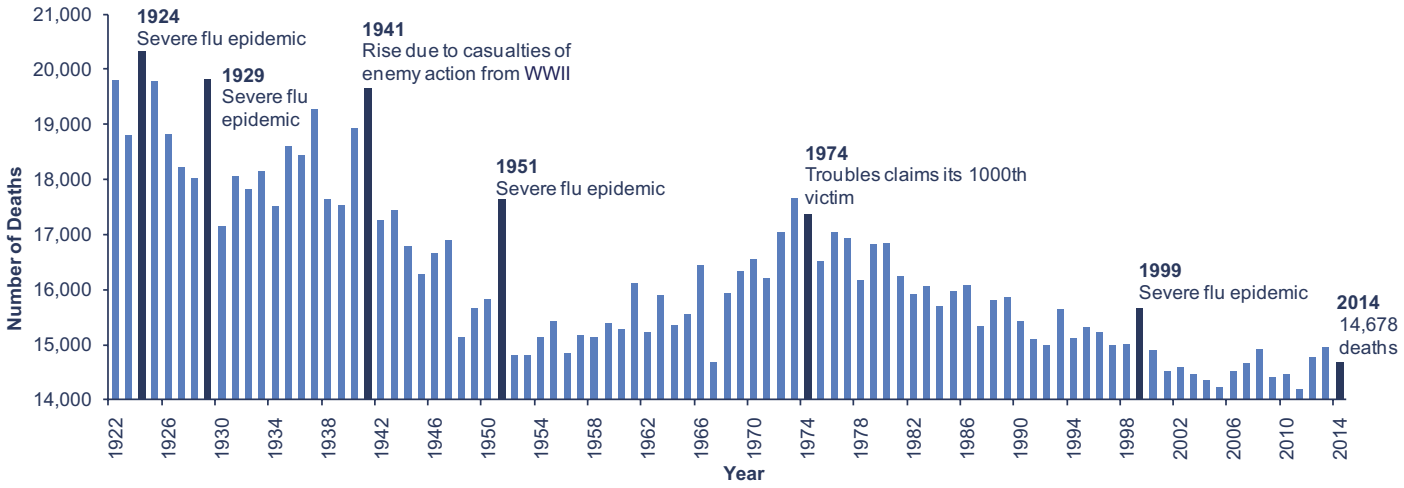


Deaths

In 2014:

- 14,678 deaths were registered – a decrease on the 14 year high of 14,968 deaths in 2013 which was the highest since the severe flu epidemic of 1999 (15,663).
- There were 109 female deaths for every 100 male deaths, exceeding the female to male ratio in the population as a whole (104 females: 100 males).
- Average age at death for men was 73.0 years compared with 79.2 for women.
- Almost 2 out of every 3 deaths were of people aged 75 or over.
- Women born today in Northern Ireland are expected to live until just after their 82nd birthday, just over 4 years more than men (78.0).
- Almost half of all deaths occurred in NHS hospitals, with a further 23 per cent occurring in other hospitals or nursing homes.
- There were 122 deaths of people aged 100 or more.

Figure 1.26: Number of deaths registered (1922 to 2014) – non-zero y-axis



Download Chart (XLS Format – 75Kb)

There were 14,678 deaths registered in 2014, a decrease on the 14 year high of 14,968 deaths in 2013 which was the highest since the severe flu epidemic of 1999 (15,663). This is an average of 40 deaths registered per day in 2014.

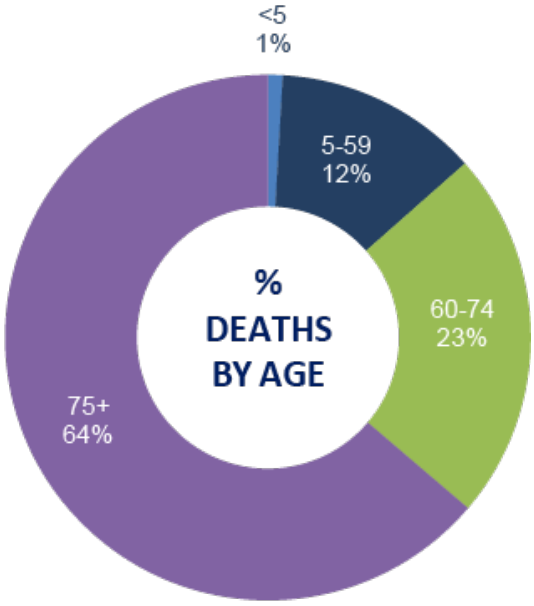
An overall reduction in the number of deaths has occurred during the past 30 years despite the population increasing in size and including a higher proportion of elderly people. For example, the current population is 15 per cent larger than it was in 1984 and those aged 75 and over represent 6.9 per cent of the population now compared with only 4.9 per cent in 1984. Indeed, if the age-specific death rates of 1984 still applied today, the number of deaths registered in 2014 would have been more than 25,000; over 10,000 higher than the actual number registered. This decrease is reflected in the continuing reduction in mortality rates across all age groups and the corresponding increase in life expectancy.

40 deaths on average per day

Deaths by Date of Registration and Date of Occurrence

All figures recorded in this report are based on the year that the death was registered and not the year in which the death occurred. While the vast majority of deaths are registered shortly after death, some can take time to be registered, for example events such as an infant death or suicide which must be referred to a Coroner for investigation[21]. The vast majority of deaths (95 per cent) that occurred in 2014 were also registered in 2014.

Figure 1.27: Percentage of Deaths by Age (2014)



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Mortality by Age

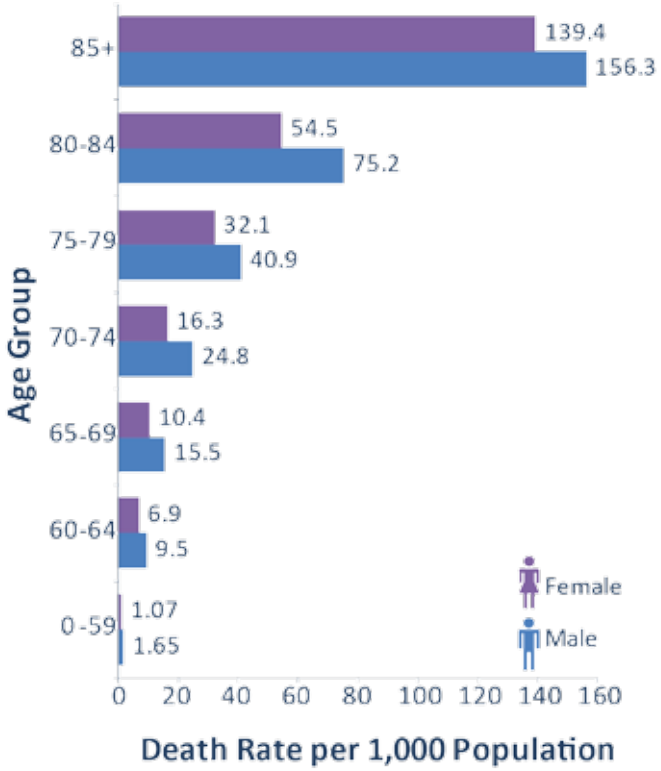
The majority of deaths (64 per cent) were of people aged 75 or over, with a further 23 per cent aged 60 to 74. Children under the age of 5 accounted for less than 1 per cent of all deaths.

The average age at death was 73.0 years for males and 79.2 years for females, an increase of 5 years for both males (67.9 years) and females (74.2 years) since 1984. This reflects the increased survival of males and females over the period and the consequential ageing of the population.

From the relatively high rates of death in children aged under 1 year (6.1 and 3.6 per 1,000 population of males and females respectively), death rates sharply decline through childhood. The lowest age-specific death rates (ASDRs) were experienced by males and females aged between 1 and 14 years old (between 0.1 and 0.2 per 1,000 population). ASDRs gradually begin to increase after 15 years of age for both males and females. Throughout the life span ASDRs are higher for males, with the difference becoming more prominent after the age of 70.

Throughout life, age specific death rates are higher for males than females

Figure 1.28: Age-specific death rates by age group and sex (2014)



Download Chart (XLS Format – 73Kb)

Over the past 3 decades the annual risk of dying has declined for people of all age groups. The largest percentage decline in the age-specific death rates among males occurred in the 5 to 9 years age group (down 72 per cent), whereas for females it was among those aged 0 to 4 years (down 66 per cent).

Mortality by Sex

The number of female deaths continues to exceed that of males, as it has done for the last 25 years. Some 7,654 females and 7,024 males died, giving a sex ratio of 109 female deaths for every 100 male deaths. This contrasts with the population ratio which is currently lower, with 104 females for every 100 males.

In 1984, the death rate among males was higher than that of females (10.5 and 9.7 deaths per 1,000 population respectively). While 30 years on the death rate has lowered for both sexes, the trend has reversed and

Table 3: Age-specific death rates by age group and sex (2014)

2014	Age Specific Mortality Rates	
Age	Male	Female
<1	6.1	3.6
1-4	0.2	0.1
5-9	0.1	0.1
10-14	0.1	0.1
15-24	0.6	0.3
25-34	1.0	0.4
35-44	1.6	0.9
45-54	3.2	2.2
55-64	7.5	5.5
65-69	15.5	10.4
70-74	24.8	16.3
75-79	40.9	32.1
80-84	75.2	54.5
85+	156.3	139.4

109 female deaths for every 100 male deaths

females now have a higher death rate (8.2) then males (7.8).

Life Expectancy

Life expectancy is the most commonly used measure to describe the health of the population and reflects its overall mortality level. Improvements in public health, nutrition and vaccinations have been the main factors influencing increased life expectancies across the world over the last century[22].

Table 4: Period (2011 to 2013) and projected cohort (2012) expectations of life - males and females

Expectation of Life (years)	Males	Females
At birth - Period	78.0	82.3
At birth - Projected Cohort	90.0	93.5
Difference in years	12	11.2
Age 65 - Period	17.9	20.5
Age 65 - Projected Cohort	21.0	23.7
Difference in years	3.1	3.2

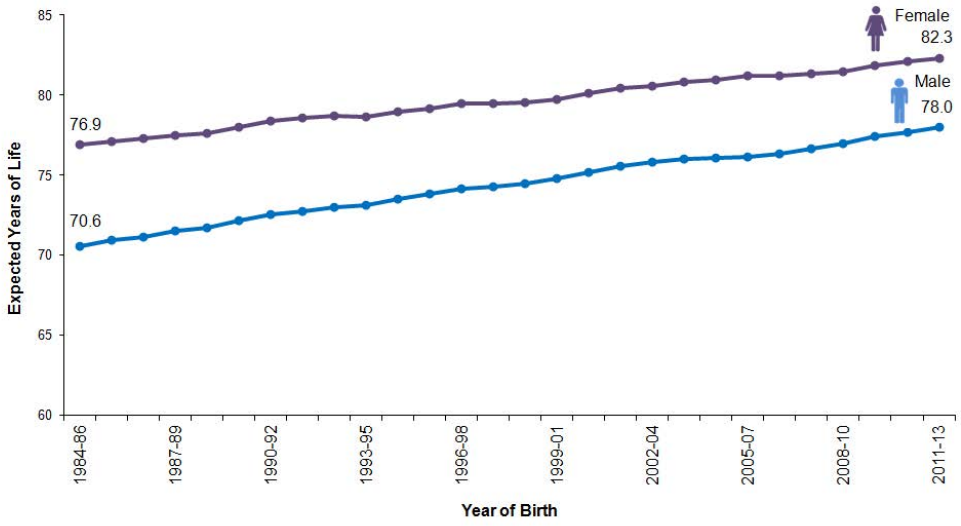
Similar to fertility rates, life expectancy estimates can be measured using both 'period' and 'cohort' measures and have a degree of uncertainty irrespective of how they are calculated. *Period* life expectancy statistics are calculated using today's age-specific mortality rates enabling the comparison of mortality rates over time and for different areas.

Cohort life expectancies are calculated using age-specific mortality rates that allow for projected changes in mortality in later years. As a result, estimates of cohort life expectancy are generally higher than period life expectancy.

For example, a man aged 65 today by his period life expectancy could expect to live another 17.9 years whereas the same man by cohort life expectancy, could expect to live another 21.0 years.

Using the period measure, boys and girls born in Northern Ireland between 2011 and 2013 can expect to live until they are 78.0 years and 82.3 years respectively. This is a noticeable increase when compared with boys and girls born between 1984 and 1986 who would have expected to live until they were 70.6 and 76.9 years respectively. A woman aged 65 today can expect to live another 20.5 years, whereas their male counterpart can expect to live another 17.9 years.

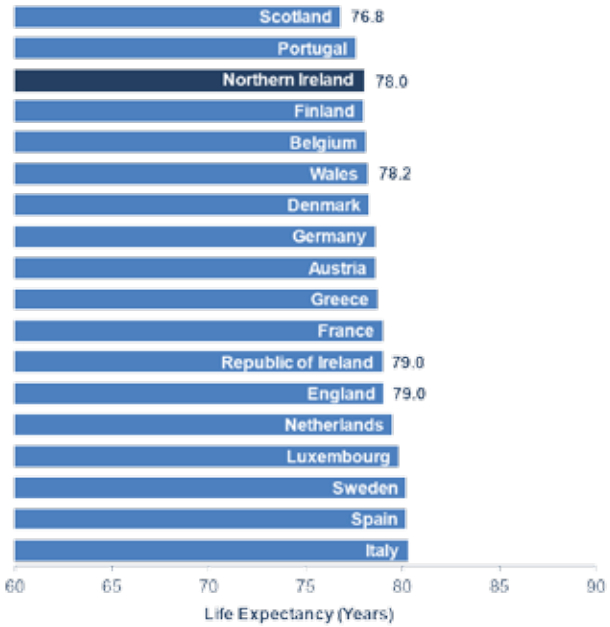
Figure 1.29: Period expectation of life at birth, by sex (1984-86 to 2011-13) - non-zero y-axis



Download Chart (XLS Format – 83Kb)

Compared to the vast majority of other European (EU15) countries, Northern Ireland has generally a lower life expectancy at birth for both males and females. Within the UK, males and females born in Scotland have the lowest life expectancy at birth. The most recent data available for all countries are for 2013[23].

Figure 1.30: Male life expectancy at birth, EU15 and constituent countries of the UK (2013)



Download Chart (XLS Format – 86Kb)

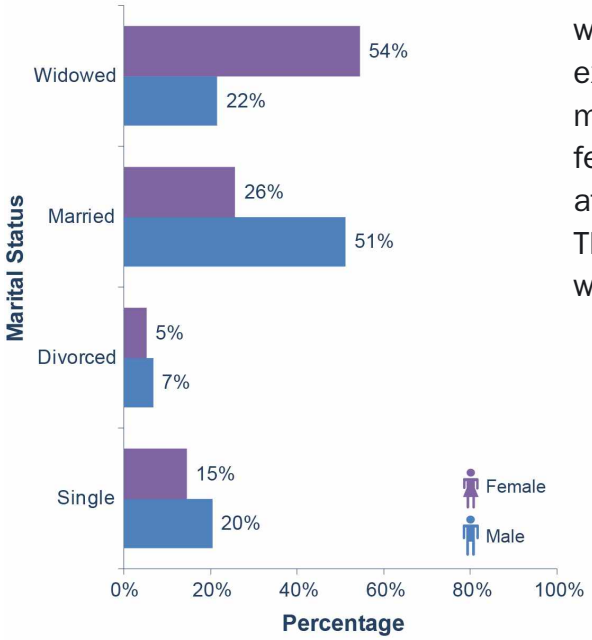
Source: Eurostat[23]

Figure 1.31: Female life expectancy at birth, EU15 and constituent countries of the UK (2013)

Download Chart (XLS Format – 86Kb)

Source: Eurostat[23]

Figure 1.32: Percentage of deaths by Marital Status, 2014



Download Chart (XLS Format – 81Kb)

Mortality by Marital Status

At the time of death, males were more likely to be married whereas females were more likely to be widowed. For example, just over half (51 per cent) of males were married at the time of death compared to 26 per cent of females. In contrast, 54 per cent of females were widowed at the time of death compared to 22 per cent of males. This difference is a consequence of the greater longevity of women.

122 deaths of people aged 100 or more, the majority of whom were women

Centenarians

There were 122 deaths of persons aged 100 or more in 2014 compared to 28 in 1984. The vast majority (108) of deaths of centenarians were women in 2014, similar to previous years. Of those who died, the oldest age reached was 108 for women and 104 for men. As of the date of this publication, the oldest age any human has been known to live to is 122 years, the age reached by Jeanne Calment from France[24]. If improvements in life expectancy continue, we can expect to see the number of people reaching 100 increasing.

7 out of every 10 deaths occurred in hospitals/nursing homes

Place of Death and Type of Death Certificate Issued

Just under half (48 per cent) of all deaths occurred in NHS hospitals with a further 23 per cent occurring in other hospitals or nursing homes. The remaining 29 per cent occurred in all other places such as their home.

When a death occurs in Northern Ireland, either a medical certificate is issued by a doctor or the death is referred

to the Coroner and a Coroner's certificate is issued upon completion of the Coroner's investigation. A death must be reported to a Coroner where a person has died from any cause other than natural illness for which they have been seen or treated by a registered medical practitioner within 28 days prior to the death. The number of deaths referred to the coroner has remained relatively stable over time, with approximately one fifth of all deaths (21 per cent) being treated in this way. For the remaining deaths registered in 2014 a medical certificate was issued.

Deaths by Area

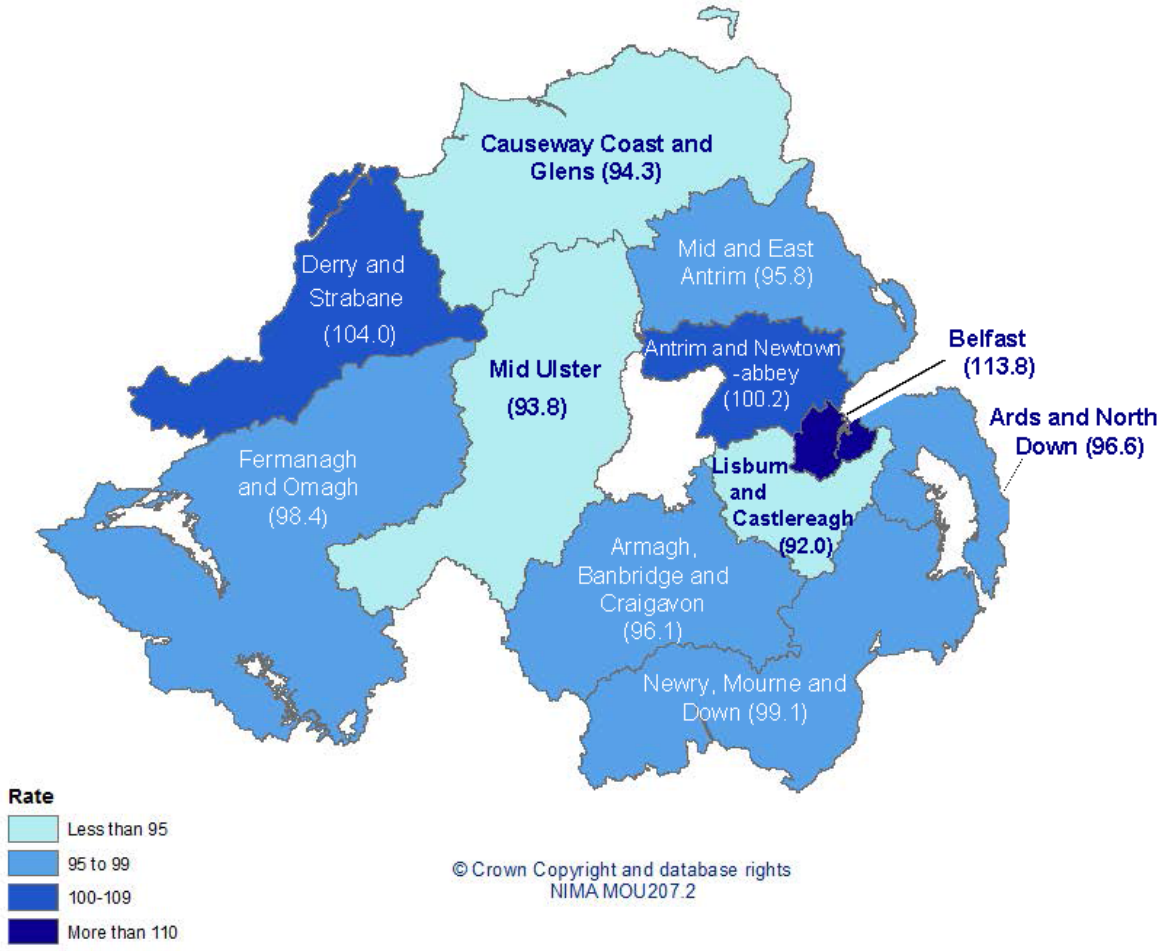
Populations across areas of Northern Ireland differ in terms of their age and sex structure which has an impact on the death rate for each area. The standardised mortality ratio (SMR) takes account of the age and sex structure of the local population and compares mortality in that local area with the Northern Ireland average (100). SMRs are often used as an indicator of the level of illness among a population and tend to relate to deprivation[25].

Even when controlling for age and sex differences in the local population, 13 per cent more deaths occurred in the Belfast Local Government District than the Northern Ireland average whereas in contrast, 8 per cent fewer deaths occurred in the Lisburn and Castlereagh Local Government District than the Northern Ireland average.

13% more deaths in Belfast LGD than the NI average

8% fewer deaths in Lisburn and Castlereagh LGD than the NI average

Figure 1.33: Standardised mortality ratios by Local Government District (2012 to 2014)



Download Chart (XLS Format – 38Kb)

1 in every 9 deaths were of people born outside Northern Ireland

Deaths by Country of Birth

The majority of deaths registered in Northern Ireland (89 per cent) were of people who were born in Northern Ireland. A further 9.2 per cent of deaths were of people who were born in the rest of the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland. The remaining 1.6 per cent were of people born in other countries of the world.

Cause of Death

In 2014:

- Of the 14,678 deaths, the leading cause of death was cancer (29 per cent), followed by circulatory disease (25 per cent).

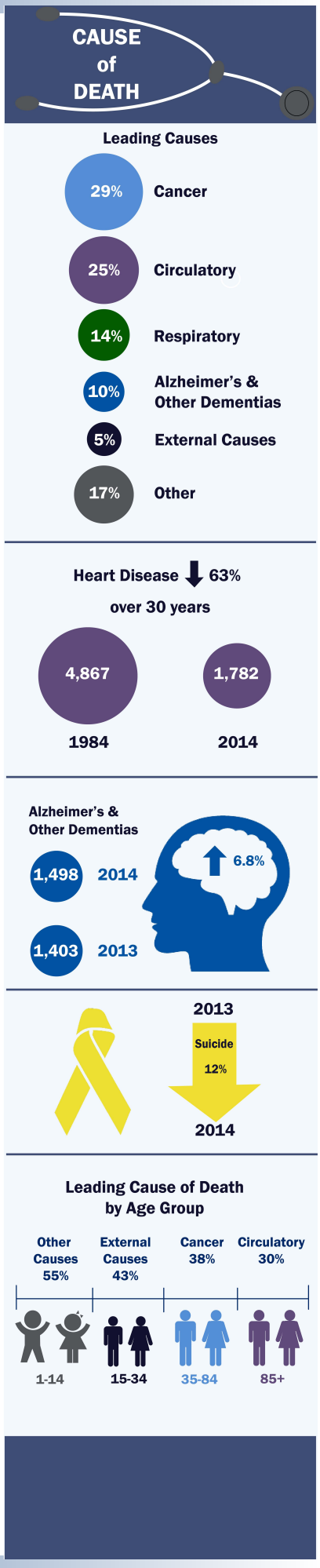
- For both males and females, the most common cancer site was the bronchus or lung; the prostate was the second most common cancer site in male deaths whereas the breast was the second most common cancer site in females.

- 63 per cent fewer people died of heart disease than 3 decades ago - 1,782 compared to the 1984 figure of 4,867 deaths.

- There were 268 deaths registered due to suicide, a 12 per cent decrease on the previous year. Just over three quarters of all suicides were males.

- The number of deaths due to Alzheimer's and other dementias increased by 6.8 per cent on the previous year, from 1,403 in 2013 to 1,498.

- External causes of death (for example accidents, suicide) were the leading cause of death in people aged 15-34. Circulatory disease (for example heart attack, stroke) was the leading cause for those aged 85 and over. Cancer was the leading cause for all other age groups.



All deaths have been coded using the tenth revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death (ICD10).

In total, cancer, circulatory diseases and respiratory diseases accounted for 68 per cent of the 14,678 deaths registered in 2014.

Cancer was the leading cause of death

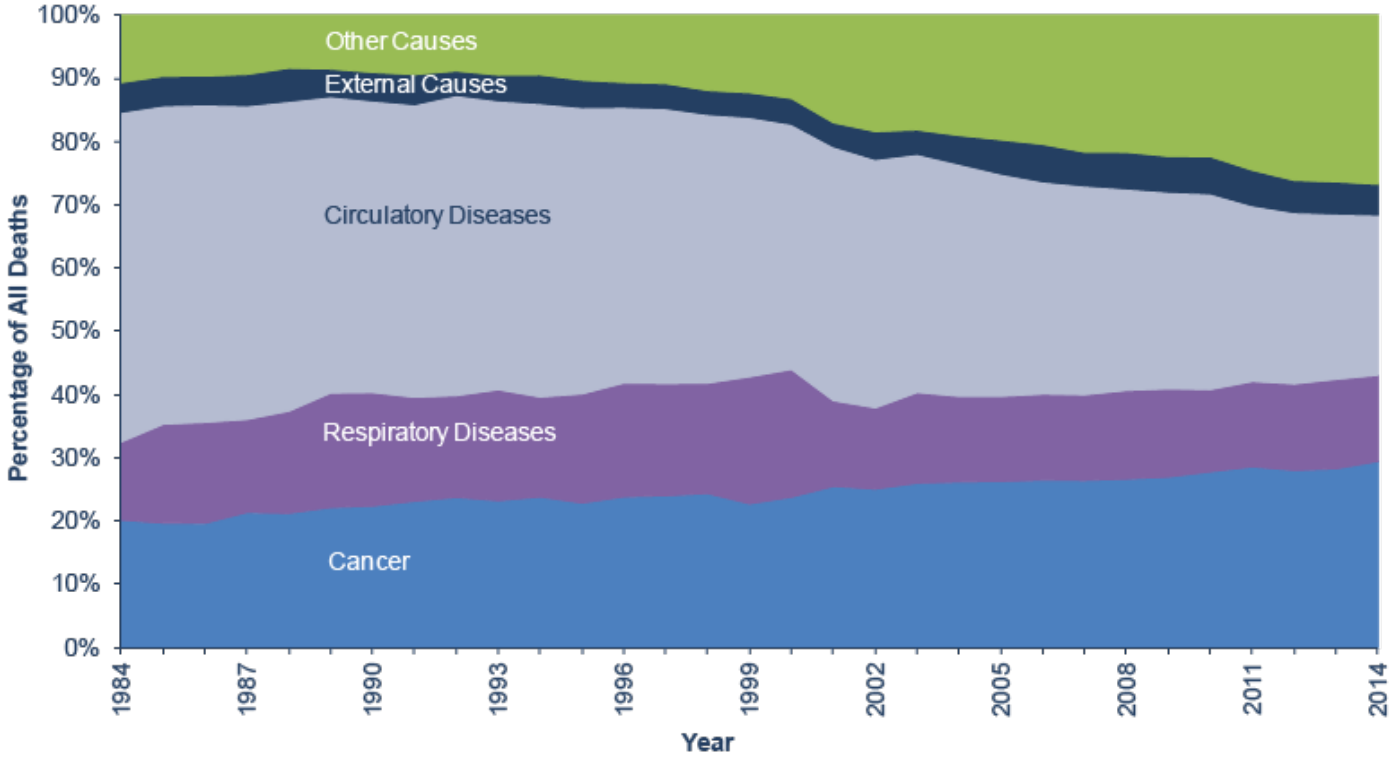
Cancer continues to rise and remains the leading cause of death in Northern Ireland, accounting for 29 per cent of all deaths (4,323), the highest on record and an increase of 31 per cent on the corresponding figure in 1984 (3,290 deaths).

In terms of circulatory diseases, deaths due to heart disease (ischaemic heart disease) continue to decline with 1,782 deaths in 2014, a decrease of 63 per cent on the 1984 figure of 4,867 deaths.

In 2014, every day there was an average of 12 deaths registered due to cancer, 5 due to respiratory diseases, 10 due to circulatory diseases, 2 due to external causes and 11 due to all other causes.

Some of the principal causes of death are considered in the following sections.

Figure 1.34: Percentage of deaths by cause of death (1984 to 2014)



Download Chart (XLS Format – 61Kb)

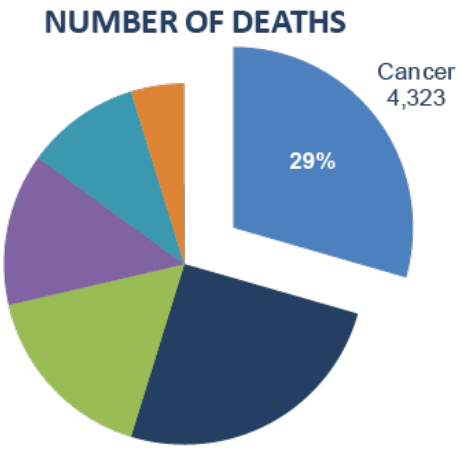
Malignant Neoplasms (ICD10 Codes C00-C97)

Cancer deaths now account for 29 per cent of all deaths compared to 21 per cent in 1984. Prior to 2009 the number of deaths due to cancer had remained broadly stable at about 3,800 per year. Although there have been advances in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer in recent years, it remains the case that in Northern Ireland cancer accounts for the largest number of deaths attributable to a single group of causes. In part this is due to unavoidable factors such as the ageing population and inherited genetic risks[26].

However, experts agree that smoking is the single biggest avoidable cause of cancer, causing over a quarter (28 per cent) of cancer deaths in the UK[27]. The most common cancer site was the bronchus or lung, which accounted for 24 per cent of male cancer deaths (524) and 21 per cent of female cancer deaths (454).

Prostate cancer was the second most common cancer site in males (242) whereas breast cancer was the second most common cancer site in females (321), accounting for 11 per cent of all male deaths and 15 per cent of all female deaths due to cancer.

Figure 1.35 Deaths by Cause (2014)



Download Chart (XLS Format – 58Kb)

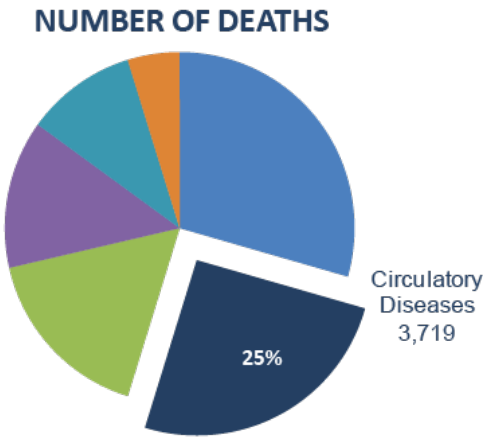
Diseases of the Circulatory System (ICD10 Codes I00-I99)

One quarter of all deaths were due to diseases of the circulatory system. Over the past 3 decades this has fallen by 55 per cent, from 8,178 deaths in 1984. This improvement is due in part to advances in medical care coupled with greater public awareness of the causes and symptoms of heart disease.

Three quarters of deaths due to diseases of the circulatory system were the result of heart disease or stroke (cerebrovascular disease).

Deaths due to heart disease are more common in males than females with 1,056 males and 726 females dying as a result of these causes last year. Some research suggests that there are a number of possible reasons for

Figure 1.35 Deaths by Cause (2014)

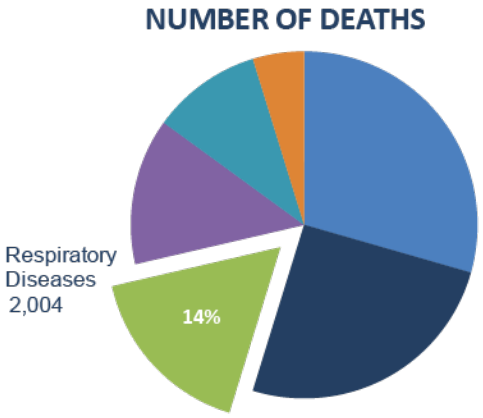


Download Chart (XLS Format – 58Kb)

this including the protective effect of female hormones up to menopause and gender differences in lifestyle and attitudes to health[28,29].

In contrast, deaths due to stroke are more common in females than males. Last year, 579 females and 423 males died as a result of a stroke. Some research suggests that there are a number of risk factors that contribute to the gender difference, including the increased life expectancy of females and the use of hormone replacement therapy/contraception which can increase the risk of stroke in females[28,29].

Figure 1.35 Deaths by Cause (2014)

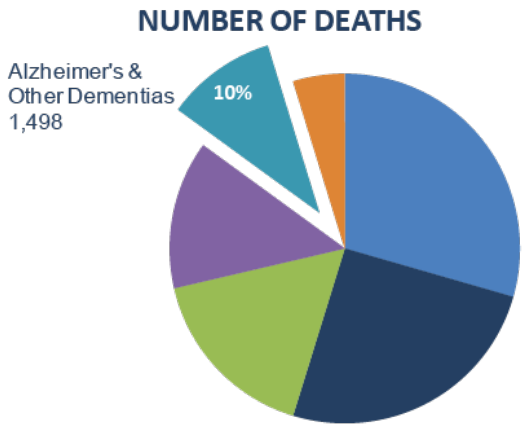


Download Chart (XLS Format – 58Kb)

Respiratory Diseases (ICD10 Codes J00-J99)

Deaths from respiratory diseases accounted for 14 per cent of all deaths registered in 2014. Of the 2,004 respiratory deaths, 739 deaths were from pneumonia, 846 from chronic lower respiratory diseases and 419 due to all other respiratory diseases. The number of deaths due to diseases of the respiratory system is slightly higher than the previous ten-year average (2004 to 2013 inclusive) of 1,991 deaths and 2.7 per cent higher than 30 years ago - 1,952 in 1984.

Figure 1.35 Deaths by Cause (2014)



Download Chart (XLS Format – 58Kb)

Alzheimer's Disease (ICD10 Code G30) and Other Dementias (ICD10 Codes F01, F03)

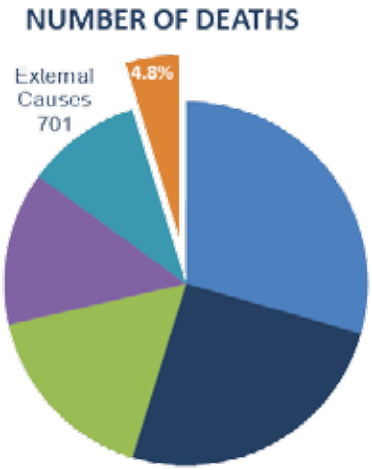
Last year, 409 deaths were due to Alzheimer's disease (102 males, 307 females) and a further 1,089 deaths due to other dementias (333 males, 756 females). While there has been a sharp increase in the number of deaths due to Alzheimer's disease and other dementias in recent years, the increase in such deaths can be attributed to (i) changes in the coding of deaths that came into effect in January 2011 and (ii) the ageing of the Northern Ireland population. Between 2013 and 2014 the number of deaths due to Alzheimer's and other dementias increased by 6.7 per cent. Just over two thirds (67 per cent) of these deaths were of persons aged 85 years and older.

External Causes of Death (ICD10 Codes V01-Y98)

Deaths registered due to external causes accounted for 4.8 per cent of all deaths, of which almost twice as many were male (459) than female (242). In the previous ten-year period 2004-2013 inclusive, there were on average 780 deaths per year from external causes of death.

Of the 701 deaths due to external causes, 406 were due to accidents. Of these accidental deaths, 37 per cent were due to accidental falls and 18 per cent were due to transport accidents. More than half (57 per cent) of deaths due to accidental falls were of females whilst three-quarters (76 per cent) of deaths due to transport accidents were of males.

Figure 1.35 Deaths by Cause (2014)



Download Chart (XLS Format – 58Kb)

Deaths from Suicide and Events of Undetermined Intent (X60-X84, Y87.0, Y10-Y34, Y87.2)

In the UK, deaths classified as 'events of undetermined intent' along with 'intentional self-harm' are classified as suicide. Last year there were 268 such deaths registered in Northern Ireland, representing a decrease of 12 per cent on the 303 registrations in 2013. Males were 3 times more likely to die from suicide than females, with males accounting for 77 per cent of such deaths.

More than half (57 per cent) of all suicides were due to hanging, strangulation or suffocation, 82 per cent (126) of which were of males.

All suicides are referred to the Coroner. These deaths can take time to be fully investigated and there is often a period of time between when the suicide occurs and when it is registered. For example, of the 268 such deaths registered in 2014, 133 actually occurred in 2014 and 123 occurred in 2013 with the remaining 12 occurring in 2012 or earlier.

Prior to 2004, there were 7 Coroner's districts in Northern Ireland. Following a review of the Coroner's service, the separate districts were amalgamated into one centralised Coroner's service. This change may have affected the

Table 5: Number of suicide and undetermined deaths registered and actual number occurring (2004 to 2014)

Year	Suicide and Undetermined Deaths	
	Registered	Occurred
2004	146	237
2005	213	230
2006	291	222
2007	242	257
2008	282	254
2009	260	231
2010	313	298
2011	289	254
2012	278	256[1]
2013	303	281[1]
2014	268	133[1]

[1] Figures should be treated with caution as a significant number of deaths occurring in these years will not yet have been registered.

timing of the registration of deaths, with statistics from 2004 onwards being more timely[21].

Occurrence figures for 2012, 2013 and 2014 should be used with caution, as a significant number of deaths occurring in these years will not yet have been registered. All occurrence figures below are subject to revision as additional late registrations of suicide and undetermined deaths are made[21].

Smoking Related Deaths

Information is not recorded on the death certificate on whether the deceased was a smoker. Estimates can however be made of the number of deaths attributable to smoking, by using information on the contribution of smoking to specific conditions which are recorded at death, for example lung cancer.

Research has been undertaken by the Health Development Agency to calculate the proportion of smoking related deaths in the population based on published relative risk factors for mortality of current and ex-smokers from various diseases, counts of death by cause, and estimates of current and ex-smoking behaviour.

These proportions were then applied to Northern Ireland counts of cause, sex and age specific mortality. Using this method, on average just over 2,300 deaths per year can be attributed to smoking. Further information on the method used is given in Appendix 3.

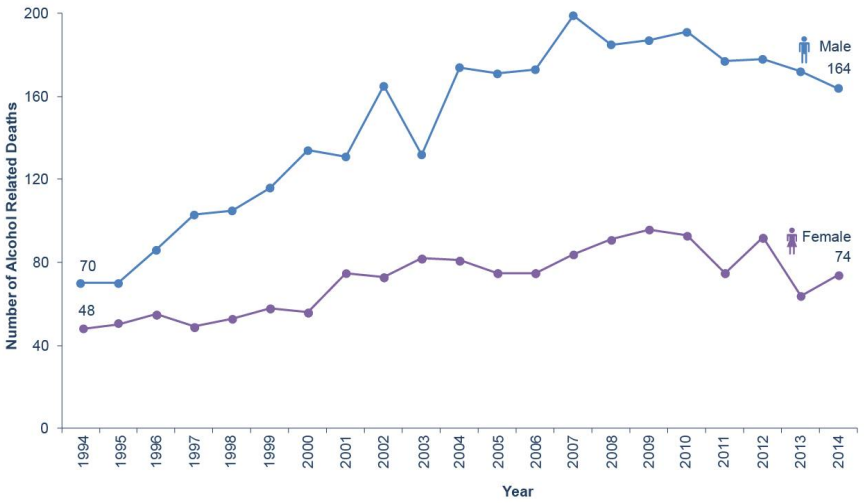
Table 6: Estimated number of smoking related deaths (2004 to 2014)

Year	Estimated Smoking Related Deaths
2004	2,350
2005	2,290
2006	2,320
2007	2,310
2008	2,400
2009	2,360
2010	2,310
2011	2,270
2012	2,270
2013	2,404
2014	2,317

Alcohol Related Deaths

A total of 238 people died from alcohol related deaths; 69 per cent were males and 31 per cent were females. While this figure is comparable with the 2013 figure of 236 alcohol related deaths, it is 6.7 per cent lower than the corresponding figure a decade ago (255 deaths in 2004). While the number of male alcohol related deaths decreased between 2013 and 2014, the number of female deaths rose.

Figure 1.36: Deaths from alcohol related diseases by sex (1994 to 2014)

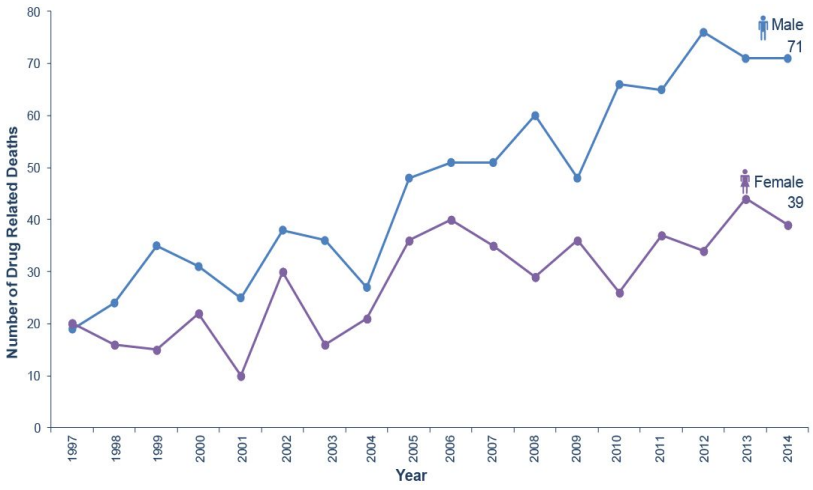


Download Chart (XLS Format – 85Kb)

Drug Related Deaths

Drug related deaths relate to cases where the underlying cause of death recorded on the death certificate is drug poisoning, drug abuse or drug dependence. Deaths from substances of abuse which are not traditionally regarded as drugs, such as alcohol and tobacco, are excluded from the definition. Further information on the definition can be found in Appendix 3.

Figure 1.37: Drug related deaths by sex (1997-2014)



Download Chart (XLS Format – 74Kb)

While drug related deaths account for less than 1 per cent of all deaths, there has been a general upward trend in the number of such deaths, rising from 39 in 1997 to 110 in 2014. The gender gap has widened, particularly in recent years with 32 more male than female deaths last year.

Asbestos Related Deaths

Last year 63 asbestos related deaths were registered, 2 more than in 2013. The 2004 figure of 92 deaths was the highest number recorded in the period from 2003 to 2014. See Appendix 3 for further information on asbestos related deaths.

63 asbestos related deaths

12 deaths due to MRSA

Healthcare Associated Infections

Healthcare associated infections (HCAIs) are infections that are acquired as a result of health care. A sharp increase in HCAIs in 2007 and 2008 led to a public inquiry, focussing on prevention control and deaths from Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and *Clostridium difficile* (CDiff) which are now monitored on an ongoing basis. The number of such infections has declined over recent years.

In 2014, 12 deaths were registered where MRSA was mentioned on the death certificate. Of these, 5 deaths had MRSA recorded as the underlying cause of death. The corresponding figures for 2013 were 10 deaths and 2 deaths respectively.

64 deaths due to CDiff

CDiff was mentioned on 64 death certificates in 2014 and was stated as the underlying cause on 28 of these. In 2013, CDiff was mentioned on 80 death certificates and recorded as the underlying cause of death on 41 of these.

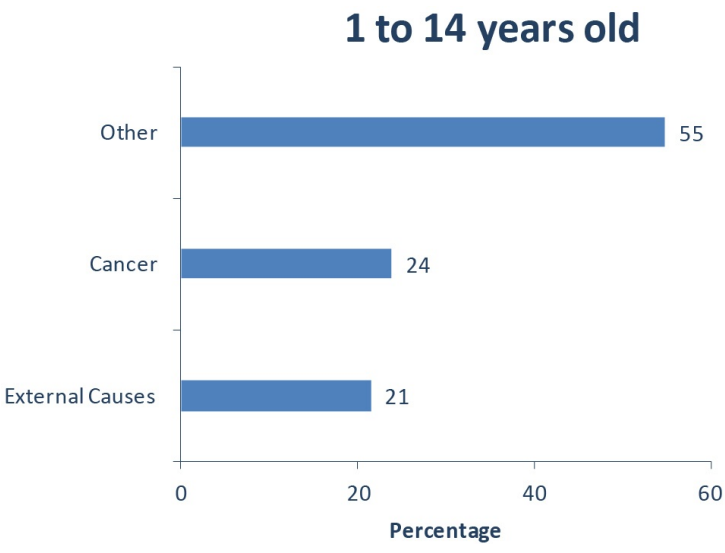
Main Causes of Death by Age and Sex

Mortality rates by cause of death vary with age and sex. For example, while deaths due to external causes accounted for the highest percentage of deaths among males aged 15 to 34 (70 per cent), deaths due to cancer (malignant neoplasms) accounted for the highest percentage of deaths among females aged 35 to 64 (50%).

A total of 118 deaths of children aged less than 1 year were registered, 96 within the first 4 weeks of life. The majority of infant deaths were attributed to certain conditions originating in the perinatal period (63 deaths) and congenital anomalies (46 deaths).

A total of 42 children aged 1 to 14 died last year, 25 males and 17 females, the majority from other causes of death. The next leading cause of death at this age was cancer followed by external causes. Differences between males and females should be treated with caution for this age group due to the relatively small numbers involved.

Figure 1.38a: Deaths by cause for 1 to 14 year olds (2014)



Download Chart (XLS Format – 48Kb)

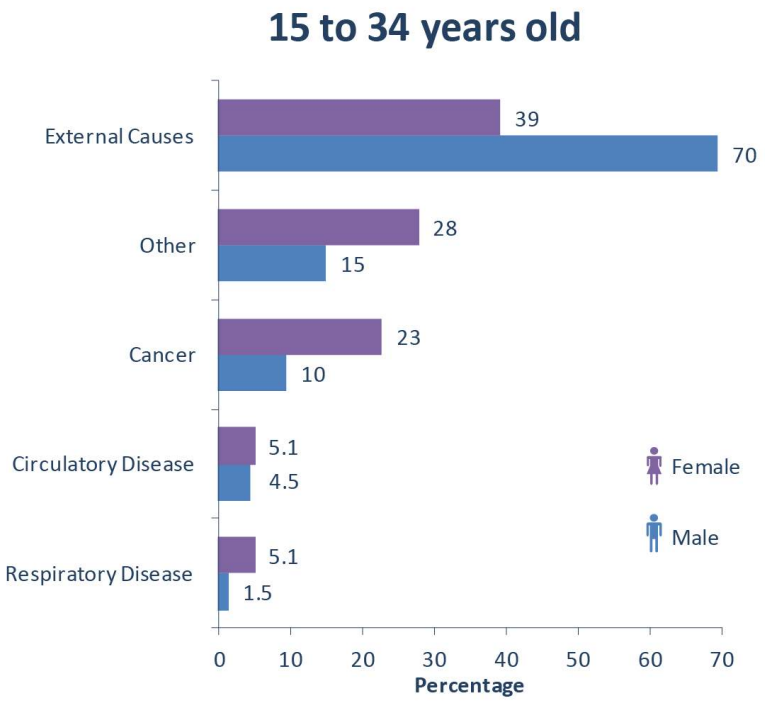
A total of 279 people aged 15 to 34 died last year, 200 males and 79 females. External causes of death accounted for the largest proportion of these deaths (61 per cent), made up primarily of suicide and transport accidents. In fact, 40 per cent of all suicide deaths (107 out of 268 suicides) and 43 per cent of deaths due to transport accidents (32 out of 74 transport accident deaths) involved people in this age group.

Differences between males and females can also be seen in this age group. While external causes remained the leading cause of death for both males and females, it was more pronounced for males, mainly due to more males than females dying from suicide; of the 200 males aged 15 to 34 that died last year, 45 per cent died due to suicide. Cancer accounted for 23 per cent of deaths among females in this age group compared with 10 per cent of males.

Cancer accounted for 41 per cent of the 2,313 deaths among people between the ages of 35 to 64, with diseases of the circulatory system accounting for a further 21 per cent. Just over half (51 per cent) of all deaths due to suicide and self-inflicted injury were of those aged 35 to 64.

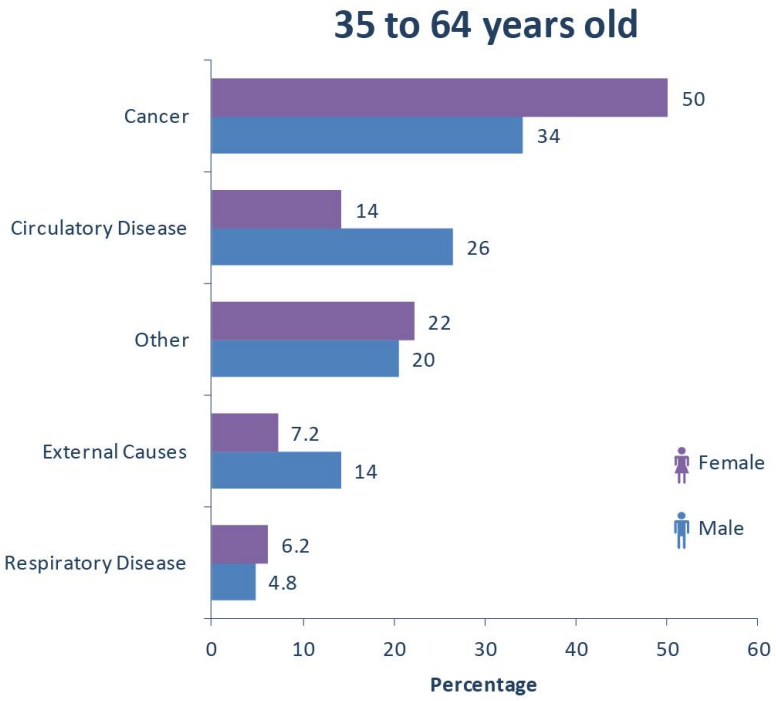
Cancer was the leading cause of death among males (34 per cent) and females (50 per cent) in this age group. Deaths due to circulatory disease and external causes were however more common among males than females.

Figure 1.38b: Deaths by sex and cause 15 to 34 year olds (2014)



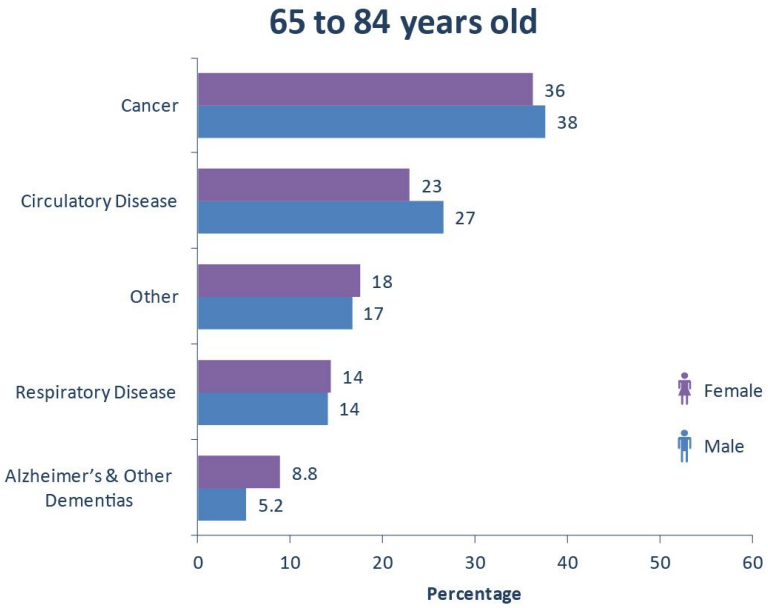
Download Chart (XLS Format – 58Kb)

Figure 1.38c: Deaths by cause 35 to 64 year olds (2014)



Download Chart (XLS Format – 74Kb)

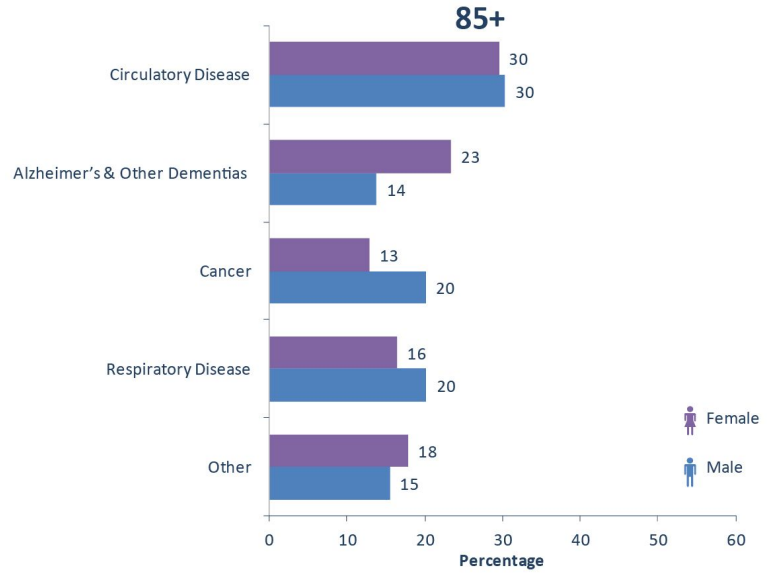
Figure 1.38d: Deaths by cause 65 to 84 year olds (2014)



Download Chart (XLS Format – 74Kb)

A total of 11,926 people aged 65 to 84 years old died last year, 3,290 females and 3,648 males. Cancer again was the leading cause of death in this age group (37 per cent), followed by circulatory disease (25 per cent). Cancer and circulatory diseases accounted for a slightly higher proportion of deaths among males in this age group than females. In contrast, Alzheimer's and other dementias accounted for proportionally more deaths among females than males.

Figure 1.38e: Deaths by cause 85 years + (2014)



Download Chart (XLS Format – 74Kb)

The number of deaths in the older population continues to rise. Last year, 34 per cent of deaths (4,988) were of people aged 85 years or over, compared to only 17 per cent of deaths (2,614) in 1984. More people are surviving into old age as a consequence of the improvements in mortality that we have seen over the past 50 years.

The proportion of deaths due to cancer among those aged 85 and over (15 per cent) is over half that among those aged 65 to 84 (37 per cent). In contrast, the proportion of deaths due to Alzheimer's and other dementias among those aged 85 and over was more than double (20 per cent) that among those aged 65 to 84 (6.9 per cent).

Circulatory disease was the leading cause of death among both males and females aged 85 and over. Cancer and respiratory diseases accounted for proportionally more deaths among males than females in this group, while Alzheimer's and other dementias accounted for proportionally more female deaths than male.

Marriages

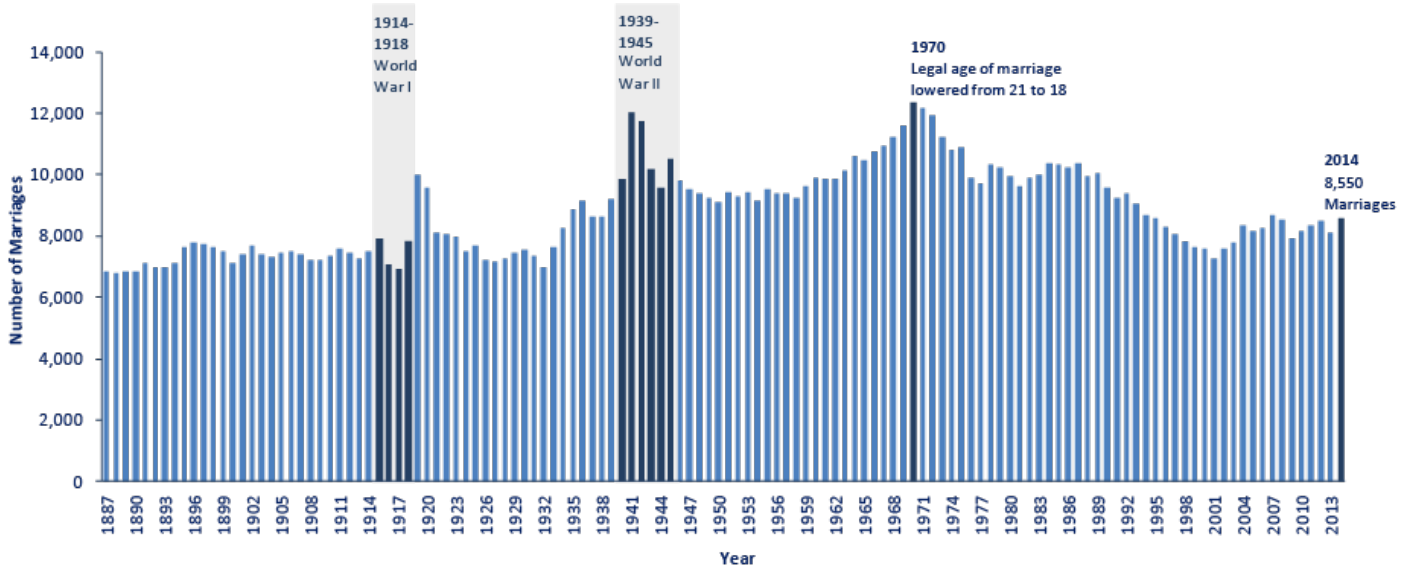
In 2014:

- 8,550 marriages were registered, equivalent to roughly 1 every hour of the year.
- While August was the most popular month to get married, Saturday 21st June was the most popular day.
- The average age for grooms was 34.1 years, with brides slightly younger with an average age of 32.0. In terms of first time marriages, the average age of brides reached 30 for the first time on record.
- St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry and Strabane Local Government District was the most popular venue for religious marriages. Belfast Registrars' Office was the most popular venue for civil marriage ceremonies.
- 15 per cent of all religious marriage ceremonies were held outside of religious buildings.

An average of one marriage was conducted every hour

There were 8,550 marriages celebrated in 2014, an average of 1 marriage per hour. This is an increase of 5.2 per cent on the 2013 figure of 8,126, and reflects a 17 per cent increase on the 30 year low of 7,281 marriages registered in 2001. The number of marriages in Northern Ireland peaked in 1970, coinciding with the lowering of the minimum age of marriage from 21 to 18. Other peaks are noticeable after the First World War and during the Second World War.

Figure 1.39: Marriages in Northern Ireland, 1887 - 2014



Download Chart (XLS Format – 91Kb)

Marriage Rate

Indicative marriage rates can be calculated by expressing the number of people who married per 1,000 population aged 16 and over. In 2014, 17,100 people were married, equivalent to an indicative marriage rate of 11.7 persons per 1,000 population aged 16 and over. This represents a slight increase on the corresponding figure of 11.2 in 2013.

The marriage rate for males was slightly higher than that of females (i.e. 12.1 per 1,000 men aged 16 and over and 11.4 per 1,000 women aged 16 and over). Each of these rates represents an increase on the corresponding rates for males and females in 2013, namely 11.6 and 10.9 respectively.

The marriage rates for both males and females remain lower than those of 30 years ago (19.1 for men and 17.7 for women), indicating an increased tendency to cohabit rather than marry. Over half (53 per cent) of couples who married in 2014 reported living at the same address prior to getting married.

Age at Marriage

Over the course of the last 30 years the average age at which both men and women have been getting married has been increasing. Since 1984, the average age of grooms has increased by 7.2 years (from 26.9 years to 34.1 years in 2014) and the average age of brides has increased by 7.3 years (from 24.7 years to 32.0 years).

Approximately 1 in 8 brides (12 per cent) and 1 in 15 grooms (6.8 per cent) were under 25 years old when they married in 2014. By way of contrast, the comparable proportions a decade ago were 22 per cent and 11 per cent respectively.

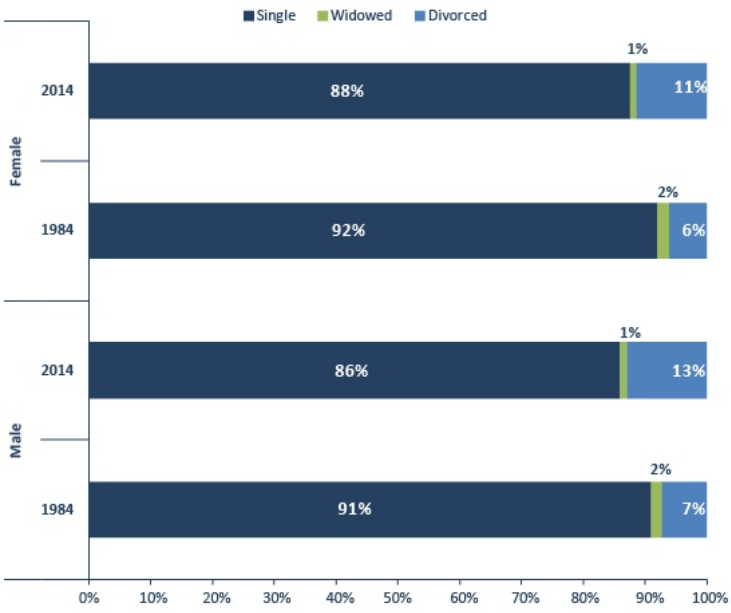
Approximately 12 per cent of brides and 7 per cent of grooms were <25 years old when they were married

Marital Status at Marriage

Over four fifths (81 per cent) of all marriages were the first for both partners. Remarriages for both parties accounted for a further 7.2 per cent of all marriages, with the remaining 12 per cent involving couples where only one partner had been married previously.

The percentage of people marrying who were divorcees rose from 6.7 per cent in 1984 to 13 per cent in 2004 and has remained at around this level over the last decade. This coincides with a decrease in the proportion of people marrying who were single before marriage. The proportion of those marrying who were widowed has decreased over the past 30 years from around 2 per cent to 1 per cent for both brides and grooms.

Figure 1.40: Marital Status of those who got Married by Sex (1984 and 2014)



Download Chart (XLS Format – 69Kb)

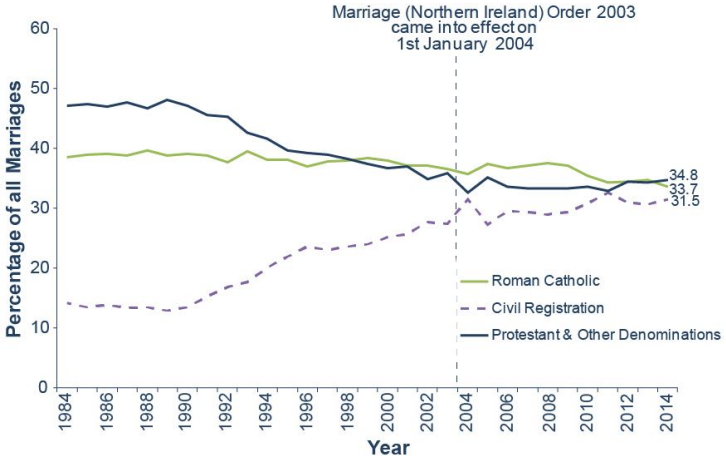
Country of Birth and Residency

The majority of marriages continue to be of couples where at least one partner lives in Northern Ireland (89 per cent). For those marriages involving couples who didn't reside in Northern Ireland but were married here, 66 per cent were of couples where one or both partners were born here.

In 71 per cent of all marriages registered during 2014, both partners were born in Northern Ireland, whereas in 22 per cent of cases, only one partner was born in Northern Ireland. In the remaining 7.0 per cent of marriages neither partner was born in Northern Ireland.

Religious and Civil Marriages

Figure 1.41: Percentage of marriages by method of celebration (1984 to 2014)



Download Chart (XLS Format – 69Kb)

Of the 5,856 religious marriages registered in 2014, almost half (49 per cent) were Roman Catholic ceremonies, 18 per cent Presbyterian, 13 per cent Church of Ireland, 5 per cent Methodist and 15 per cent Other Denominations.

While the proportion of all marriages that were Roman Catholic ceremonies has remained relatively stable over time, the proportion of Protestant and Other Denominations has generally been decreasing since the early nineties. This coincides with an increase in popularity of civil ceremonies following the introduction of the Marriage (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 which enabled civil ceremonies to be conducted in approved venues as well as Registrars' Offices. In 2014, 32 per cent of all marriages (2,694) were celebrated by a civil ceremony, compared to around 15 per cent in the early nineties. This is a slight decrease on the all-time high of 33 per cent in 2011.

Place of Ceremony

Registrars' Offices and religious buildings continue to be the most popular venues for weddings. In 2014, the Belfast Registrar's Office had the most civil marriage ceremonies (480) of all venues. In terms of religious buildings, St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry and Strabane LGD hosted the most religious weddings (57).

Marriage legislation underwent major change in 2004, allowing civil marriage ceremonies to be conducted outside Registrars' Offices in approved venues. Since then the percentage of all marriages taking place in approved venues has increased steadily from 6.4 per cent to 25 per cent in 2014. The number of approved venues has also expanded with 213 unique locations chosen by couples to have their ceremony in 2014.

Of all civil marriage ceremonies in 2014, some 48 per cent were held in approved venues other than a Registrars' Office. The most popular locations were Galgorm Manor Hotel, Ballymena (59) followed by Clandeboye Lodge Hotel, Bangor (29), Clarion Hotel, Carrickfergus (22) and The Old Inn, Crawfordsburn (19).

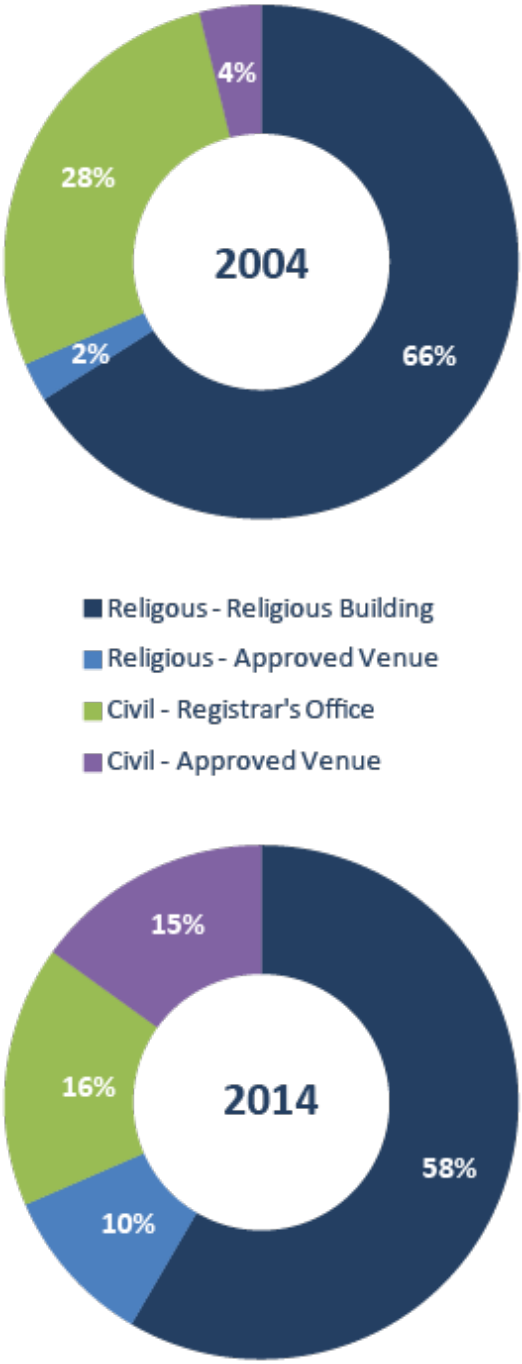
Seasonality & Day of Marriage

The summer months (June to September) were the most popular choice of couples for their big day, with August being the most common month to get married (1,393 couples) followed by July (1,084 couples). The least popular month to 'tie the knot' was January with 188 marriages. The most popular week to get married was from Sunday 24th August to Saturday 30th August when 321 couples got married.

The time of year isn't the only decision to be made by couples planning a wedding; the day of the week is also important. The most common day of the week for all marriages in 2014 was a Saturday (36 per cent) while Friday was the most common day for civil marriages (32 per cent). Saturday 21st June was the most popular day in 2014 to get married, with 112 couples marrying on this day. Saturday 23rd August followed a close second, with 109 weddings on this day.

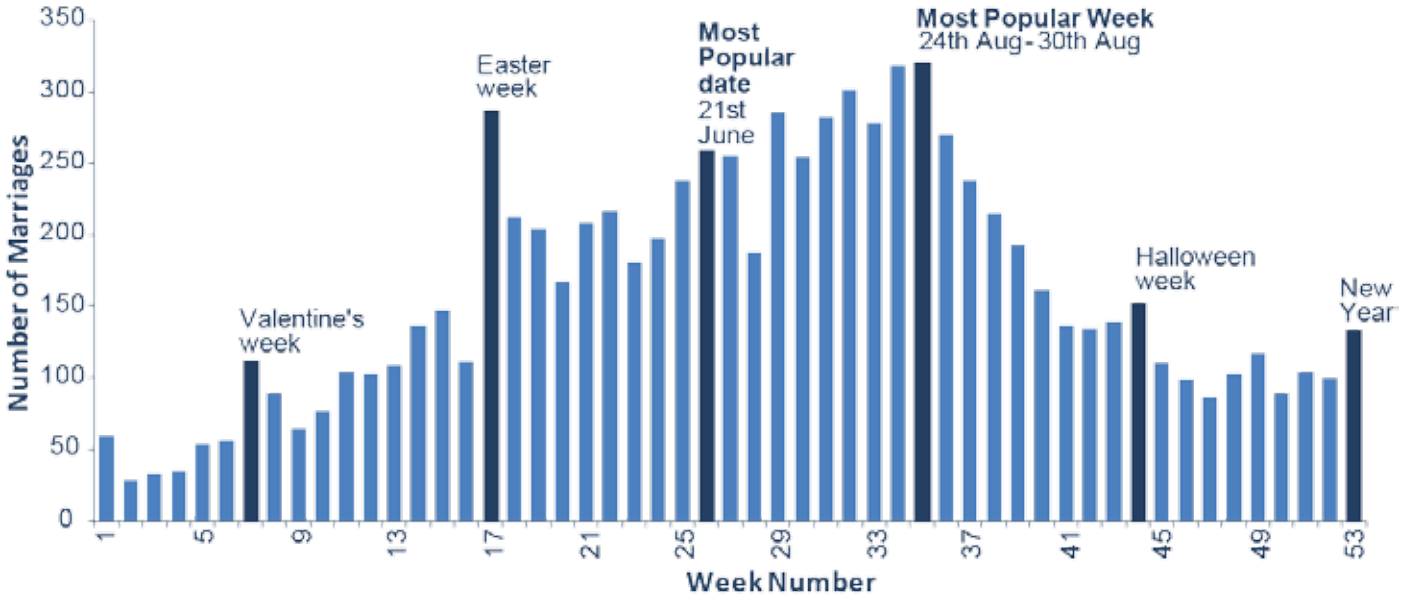
With high demand for Friday and Saturday weddings, Sunday is becoming a more popular day to get married. For example, 188 marriages took place on a Sunday in 2014, which is almost 9 times the number recorded a decade ago (22).

Figure 1.42: Percentage of marriages by place of ceremony (2004 and 2014)



Download Chart (XLS Format – 73Kb)

Figure 1.43: Number of marriages per week (2014)



Download Chart (XLS Format – 66Kb)

Marriages by Area

Belfast LGD hosted the most marriages – 1,419

Belfast Local Government District hosted the most marriages in 2014 (1,419), followed by Newry, Mourne & Down (998) and Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon (865). Antrim and Newtownabbey had the fewest marriages (387) in 2014.

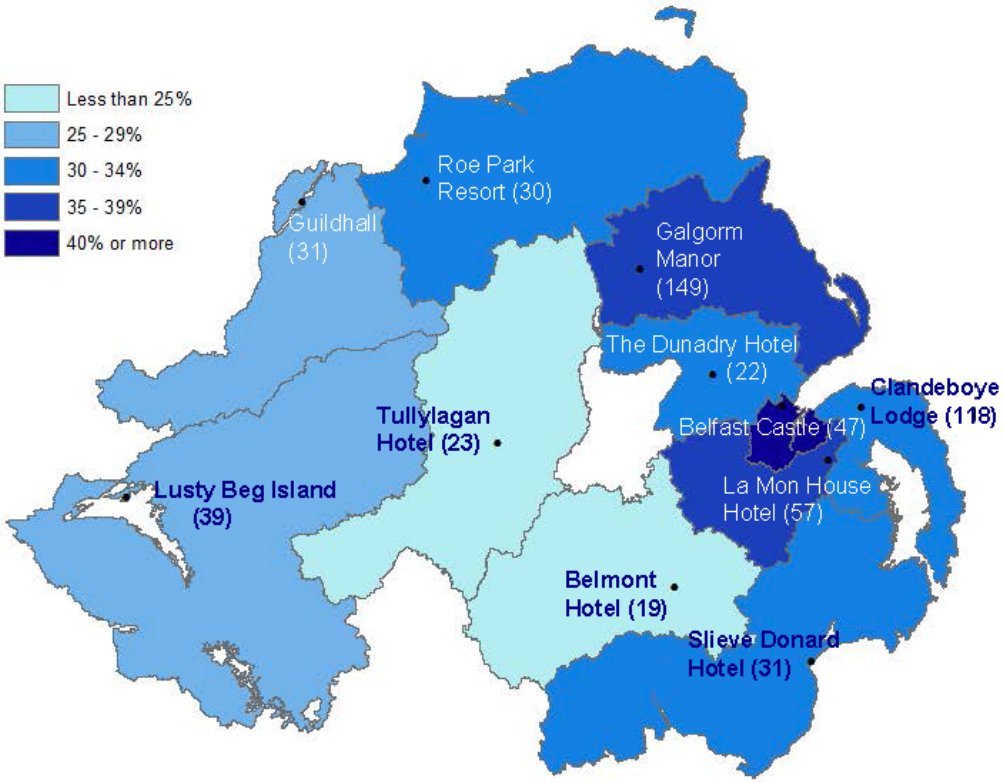
The characteristics of marriages varied across Local Government Districts. For example, the proportion of couples who were living together before getting married ranged from a low of 35 per cent in Mid Ulster to a high of 68 per cent in Ards & North Down. In addition, the proportion of marriages that took the form of a civil ceremony and were conducted by a District Registrar ranged from 17 per cent in Mid Ulster to 45 per cent in Belfast.

45 per cent of marriages in Belfast LGD took the form of a civil ceremony

The average age of males and females at the time of marriage varied across Local Government Districts. For example, couples in Mid Ulster tended to get married at an earlier age than their counterparts in Belfast, who (on average) were approximately 3 years older when they 'tied the knot'.

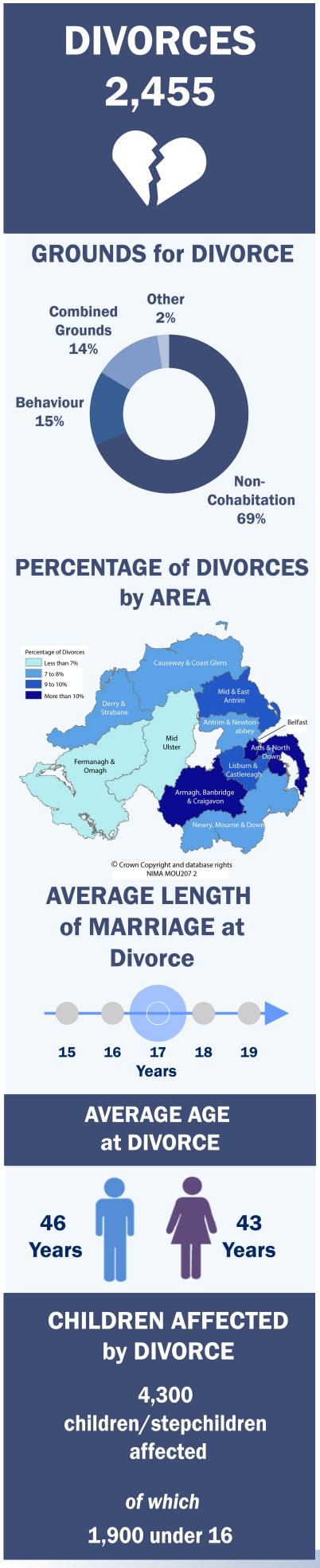
More than 70 per cent of religious ceremonies in Newry, Mourne & Down and in Derry & Strabane Local Government Districts were Roman Catholic compared with less than 10 per cent of religious ceremonies in Ards & North Down, reflecting the religious make-up of the populations in these Local Government Districts.[i]

Figure 1.44: Percentage of Civil Ceremonies by Local Government District



Download Chart (XLS Format – 38Kb)

i Religion or Religion Brought Up In: KS212NI (administrative geographies), NISRA Census Office



Divorces

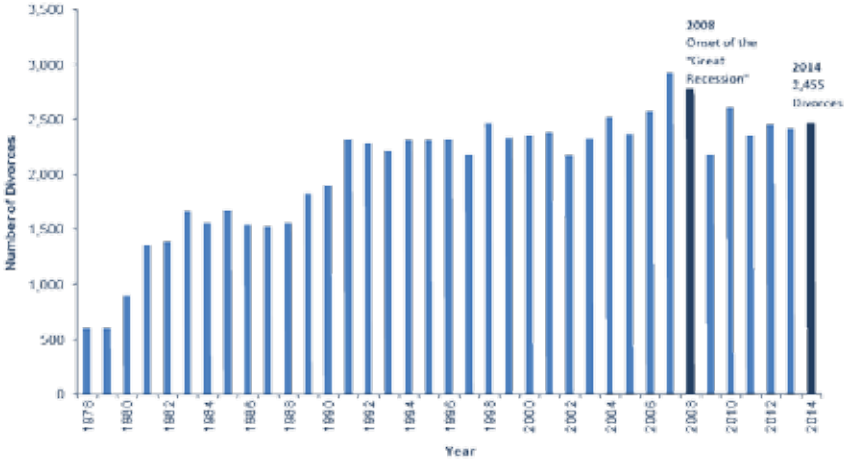
In 2014:

- 2,455 divorces were granted, slightly more than in the previous year (2,403), but lower than the peak number of 2,913 in 2007.
- Non-cohabitation remains the most frequently recorded reason for divorce accounting for 69 per cent of all divorces.
- Those marriages which ended in divorce had lasted an average of 17 years. The average ages of the men and women concerned were 46.1 and 43.8 years respectively.
- Just over 4,300 children/stepchildren were affected by the divorces that were granted, of whom approximately 1,900 were under the age of 16.

The number of divorces granted was slightly higher than in the previous year (2,455 compared with 2,403), but lower than the peak number of 2,913 divorces in 2007.

During the 1970s the number of divorces was around 500 per year and by the 1980s this figure had tripled to around 1,500 per year. Since the 1990s there has been another increase in the number of divorces, peaking at the onset of the recession in 2007 and 2008 when 2,913 and 2,773 were recorded respectively. In more recent years this number has has fluctuated around 2,400 per year.

Figure 1.45: Number of divorces granted (1978 to 2014)

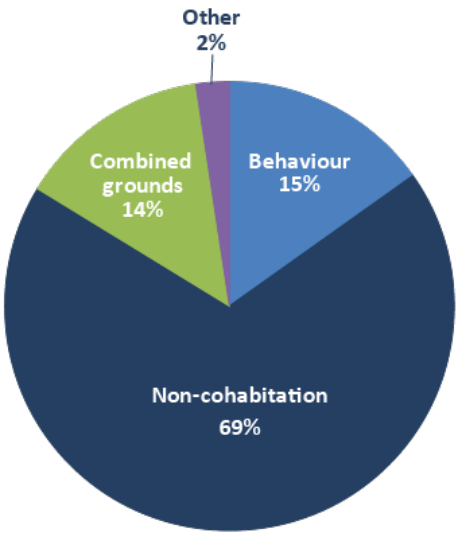


Download Chart (XLS Format – 61Kb)

The divorce figures reported here are based on Decree Absolutes. Decree Nisi information can be obtained from the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service. A Decree Nisi does not terminate the marriage; a couple remain married until the Decree Absolute has been granted. In some cases, following the receipt of a Decree Nisi, the parties may not apply for the Decree Absolute for a number of years. An example of this would be when one or more parties attempt to remarry and realise that the Decree Absolute is needed. For this reason among others, the period between the divorce being filed for or 'petitioned' and the year it becomes final can be lengthy.

Of the 2,455 divorces granted in 2014, approximately 81 per cent were granted within 3 years of the petition being lodged. Within 5 years, over 96 per cent were granted. In 1 per cent of cases, the Decree Absolute was granted more than 10 years after the petition was lodged.

Figure 1.46: Reasons for Divorce (2014)



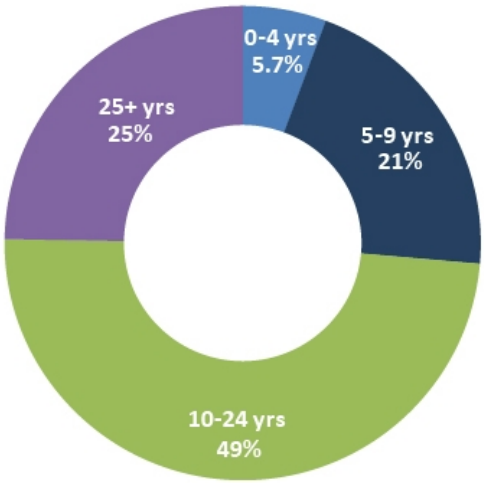
Download Chart (XLS Format – 46Kb)

Grounds for Divorce

Non-cohabitation remains the most frequently recorded reason for divorce with 1,684 cases last year, followed by behaviour (372) and combined grounds (340).

As in previous years, women were more likely than men to lodge an application for divorce. In 2014, 1,537 divorces were lodged by women and 902 were lodged by men, with a further 16 resulting from joint applications.

Figure 1.47: Duration of Marriage at Time of Divorce (2014)



Download Chart (XLS Format – 38Kb)

Duration of Marriage

The average duration of marriage ending in divorce was 17 years; that is, the number of years between the couple's marriage and their Decree Absolute being granted. If we compare that to the year in which the divorce was filed for, as opposed to finalised, the average duration of marriage before divorce proceedings commenced was 16 years.

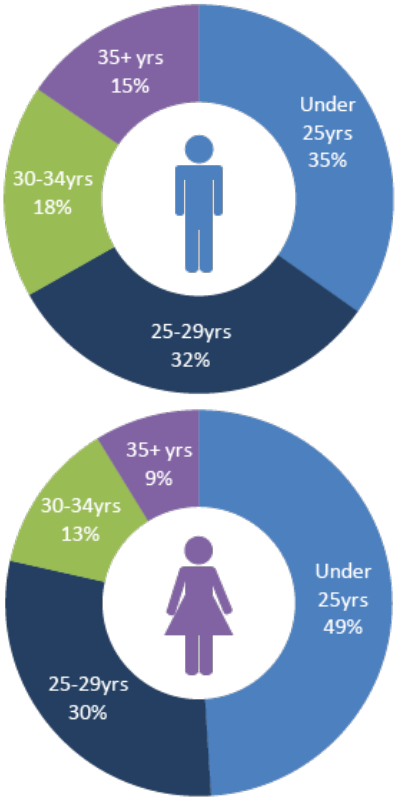
Compared to 30 years ago, while more divorces are now being granted (2,455 in 2014 compared with 1,552 in 1984), the marriages now ending in divorce tend to be lasting longer (17 years in 2014 compared to 13 in 1984).

Of the divorcing couples, 5.7 per cent were married less than 5 years and 21 per cent between 5 and 9 years. Those married 10 years or more accounted for almost three quarters of all divorces (74 per cent).

Marital Status of Divorcees at the Time of their Marriage

While the majority of divorcees had been single at the time of marriage (89.2 per cent of males and 90.0 per cent of females), the proportion of people getting divorced who had been previously divorced continues to account for approximately 10 per cent of both male and female divorcees. Less than 1 per cent of all divorcees in 2014 were widows or widowers when they re-married.

Figure 1.48: Age at Marriage of Divorcees (2014)



Download Chart (XLS Format – 90Kb)

Age of Divorcees at the Time of Marriage

The average ages of the men and women who got divorced were 28.2 years and 25.9 years respectively at the time of their wedding. Some 35 per cent of the males and 49 per cent of the females were aged under 25 years at the time of getting married. In contrast, 15 per cent of male divorcees and 9 per cent of female divorcees were aged 35 or over when they got married.

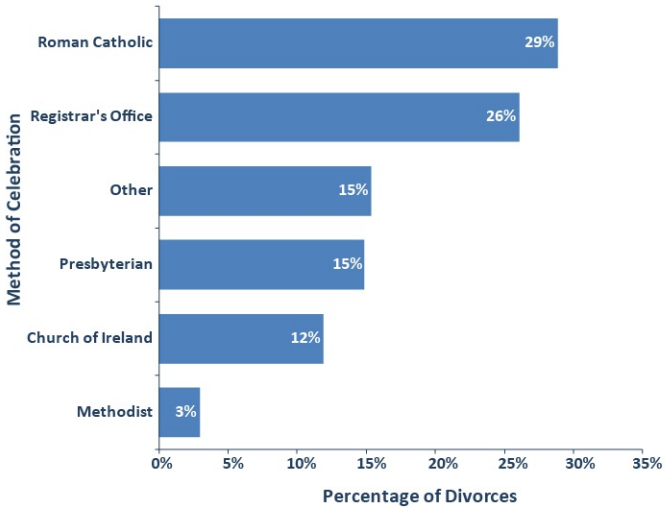
Age at Divorce

Nearly two fifths of those who were granted a divorce in 2014 were in their forties. On average, men were typically just over 2 years older than women (46.1 years compared with 43.8 years).

Method of Celebration of Marriage for Divorces

Last year, 29 per cent of divorces were of marriages that had been celebrated in a Roman Catholic Church. A further 30 per cent were of marriages celebrated in a Presbyterian Church (including Free Presbyterian), Church of Ireland or Methodist Church. Those that had been celebrated in a Registrars' Office represented 26 per cent.

Figure 1.49: Divorces by Method of Celebration of Marriage (2014)



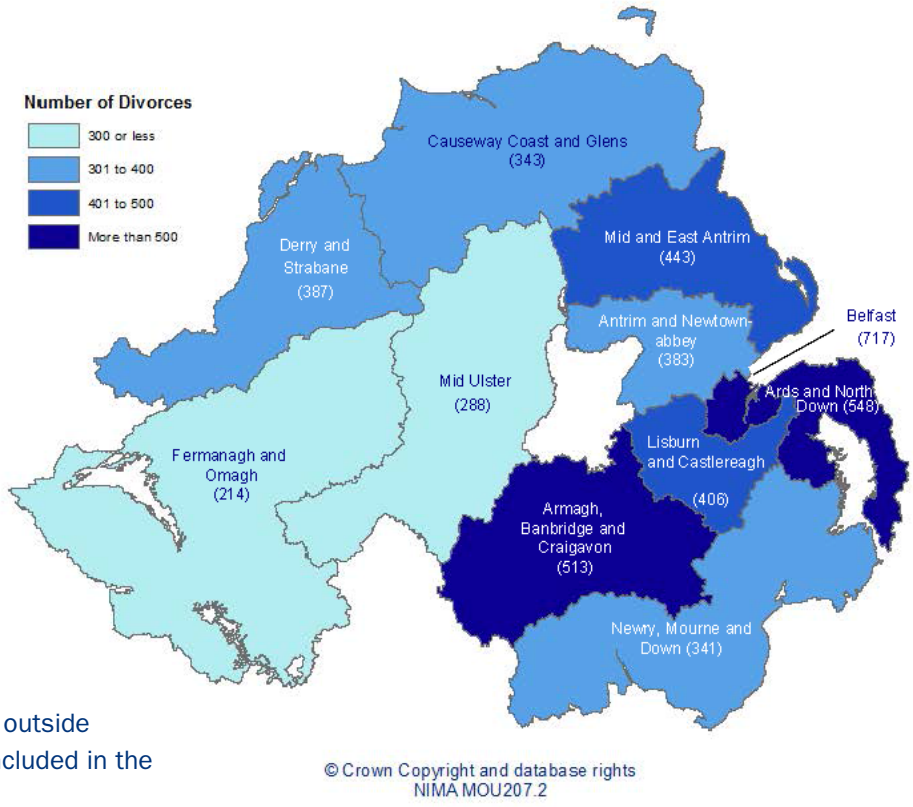
Download Chart (XLS Format – 99Kb)

Some 19 per cent of divorces in Northern Ireland were associated with a marriage which took place outside Northern Ireland. Of these divorces, a significant proportion (30 per cent) involved at least one partner living outside Northern Ireland at the time of their divorce.

Divorcees by Area of Residence

Area of residence of divorcees varies throughout Northern Ireland. In 2014, Belfast had the highest percentage (16 per cent) of divorcees followed by Ards & North Down (12 per cent) and Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon (11 per cent). Some 6.7 per cent of divorcees were residing outside Northern Ireland at the time of divorce, with almost twice as many being men than women.

Figure 1.50: Number of Divorces by Local Government District (2014)



Note: 327 divorcees living outside Northern Ireland are not included in the map.

Download Chart (XLS Format – 38Kb)

Children Affected by Divorce

Just over 4,300 children/stepchildren were affected by the 2,455 divorces that were finalised in Northern Ireland during 2014, approximately 1,900 of whom were under the age of 16 at the time the divorce petition was lodged. A further 700 were between 16 and 18 years old and the remaining 1,700 children were aged 18 and over at the time the divorce petition was lodged.

Civil Partnerships & Civil Partnership Dissolutions

In 2014:

- There were 110 civil partnerships registered (47 male partnerships and 63 female partnerships), 10 more than in 2013.
- The average age of males entering a civil partnership was 37.0 years, while for females it was 35.4 years.
- 66 civil partnership ceremonies were held in Registrars' Offices. The remaining 44 ceremonies were held in an approved venue.
- June was the most popular month for civil partnership ceremonies.
- 11 civil partnership dissolutions were registered; 2 of male couples and 9 of female couples.
- The average age of all partners dissolving a civil partnership was 40.8 years.

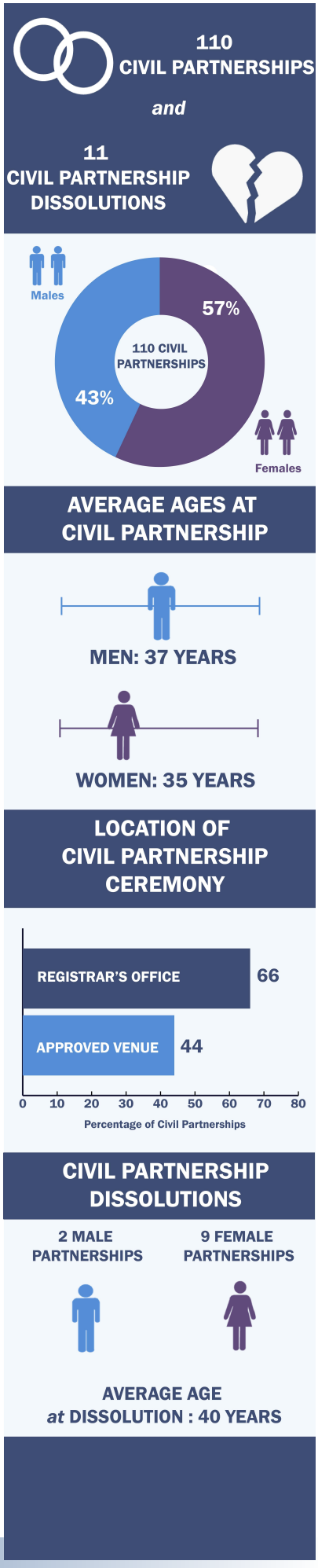
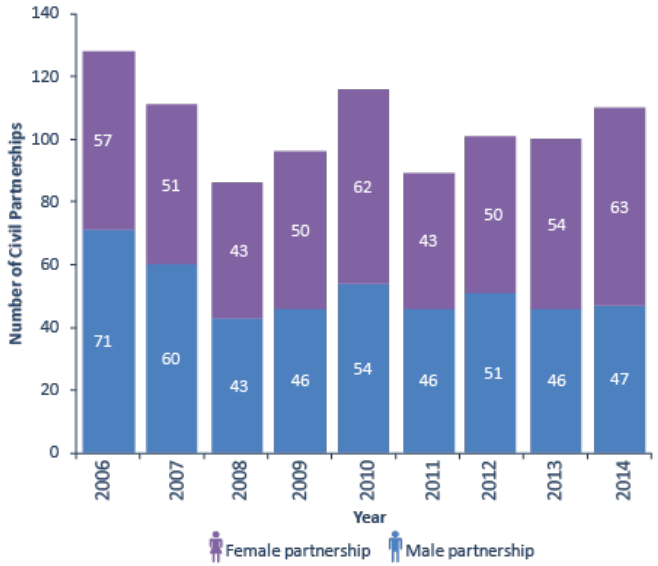


Figure 1.51: Number of civil partnerships (2005 to 2014)



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The Civil Partnership Act 2004 came into force in late 2005, enabling same-sex couples to obtain legal recognition of their relationship. Between December 2005 and the end of 2014, 937 civil partnerships have been registered in Northern Ireland.

Last year, 110 civil partnerships were registered in Northern Ireland. Of these, 47 partnerships were of males and 63 were of female. During the 10 years since Civil Partnerships began, the balance of male and female partnerships has been fairly equal, with 464 male and 473 female partnerships registered.

Marital Status and Age of Civil Partners

Three quarters of all people forming civil partnerships in 2014 were single. The remaining people had been previously married or in a civil partnership.

The average age of males entering a civil partnership in 2014 was 37.0 years, while for females it was 35.4 years.

Place of Ceremony and Seasonality of Civil Partnerships

In 2014, 66 civil partnership ceremonies were held in Registrars' Offices. The remaining 44 ceremonies were held in an approved venue.

June was the most popular month for civil partnerships, with 15 partnerships formed that month. A further 13 were formed in each of August and December.

Civil Partnership Dissolutions

Whilst legislation has been in place in Northern Ireland since late 2005 to dissolve a civil partnership through the Civil Partnership Act, there were no dissolutions registered in Northern Ireland until 2010.

During 2014 there were 11 civil partnership dissolutions registered in Northern Ireland, 2 of male couples and 9 of female couples.

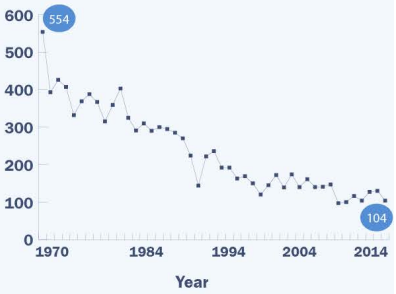
The average age of all partners dissolving a civil partnership was 40.8 years.

104
ADOPTIONS

988
BIRTH RE-REGISTRATIONS

104 ADOPTIONS

Adoptions have been falling since 1970 when 554 children were adopted.



BIRTH RE-REGISTRATIONS

988 births were re-registered.

Reasons for re-registering a birth include:

Parents getting married

Adding father's details

Adoptions, Re-Registrations & Gender Recognition

In 2014:

- 104 children were adopted, a decrease of 26 from the 2013 figure of 130.
- 988 births were re-registered, 101 more than in 2013.

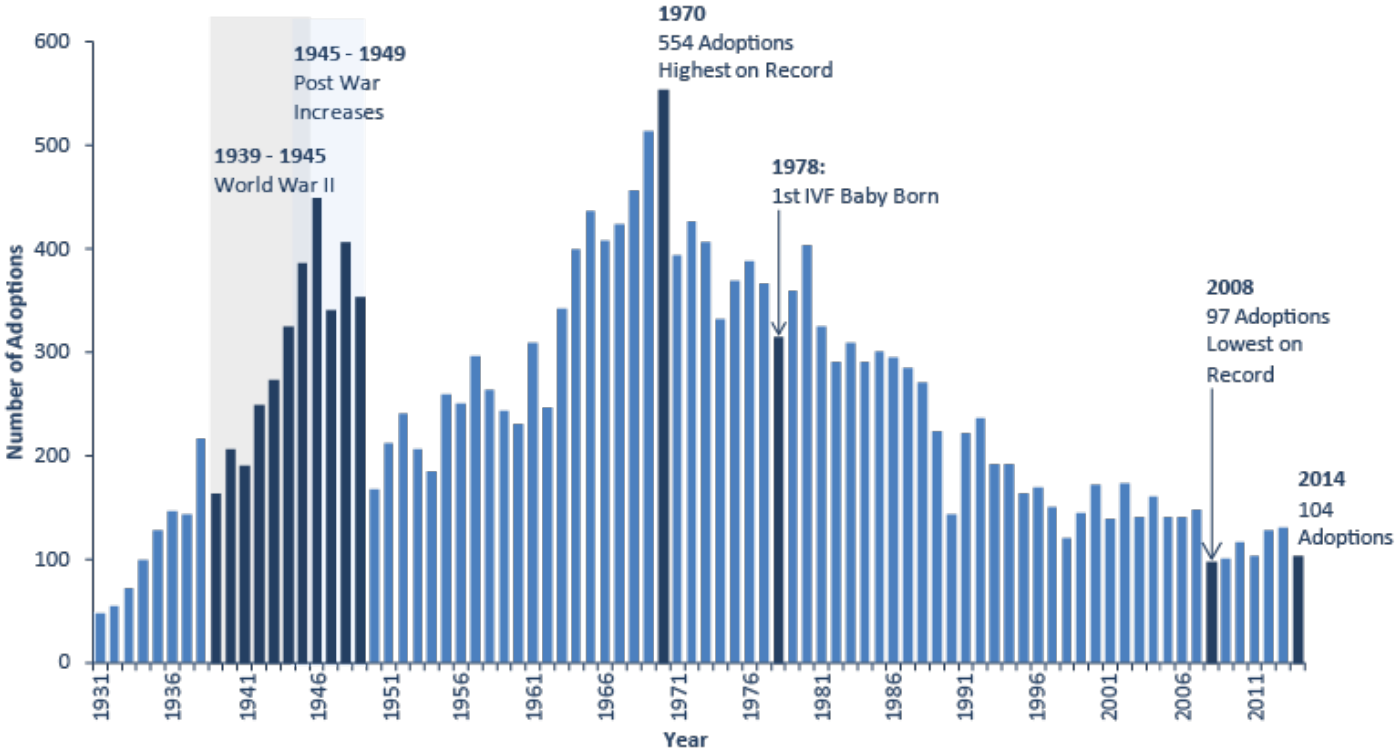
Adoptions

Registers of children adopted under the provisions of the Adoption (NI) Order 1987 and Adoption (Hague Convention) Act (NI) 1969 and of previous adoption Acts of 1929, 1950 and 1967 are kept in the General Register Office, to which adoption orders made to the courts are transmitted.

A certified copy of an entry in the Adopted Children Register is evidence of adoption, and is also evidence of the date of birth of the adopted child.

The number of children recorded in the Adopted Children Register during 2014 was 104, a decrease of 26 from the 2013 figure of 130. The number of adoptions has generally been falling since 1970 when 554 children were adopted. The 2008 figure of 97 adoptions was the lowest recorded figure since the early 1930s.

Figure 1.52: Number of Adoptions (1931 to 2014)



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Re-Registrations of Births

There were 988 births re-registered in 2014, 101 more than in 2013. The most common reasons for a re-registration are because (i) the parents have subsequently got married or (ii) to add the father's name to the birth entry.

Gender Recognition Registration

The Gender Recognition Act 2004 was passed on 1 July 2004 and established a Gender Recognition Panel that issues Gender Recognition Certificates to those who have satisfactorily proved that they have been living in their new gender identity.

The Gender Recognition Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 that came into operation from 1 April 2005 allows the Registrar General, on receipt of a Gender Recognition Certificate, to re-register a birth, showing the new gender, in the Gender Recognition Register. In 2014 there were 6 births re-registered in this way.

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Northern Ireland Statistics & Research agency

Chapter 2
The Challenges for Northern Ireland of an Ageing Population

Dave Rogers, NISRA

"Population ageing can no longer be ignored" Ban Ki-moon, 2012[1]

Introduction

The importance of population ageing was noted by David Cameron, then Leader of the Opposition, in a speech given in 2006, addressing issues such as pensions, health care, and the employment of older people[2]. Over the past decade, acknowledging – if not necessarily addressing[3] – the issues caused by demographic change, especially population ageing, has become axiomatic. In Northern Ireland, the Executive is developing an Active Ageing strategy, which will seek to address issues such as independence, participation, care, self-fulfilment and dignity amongst older people[4]. These issues go way beyond the demographics – but an understanding of the demographics is needed to appreciate the challenges we all face as the nature of our society changes slowly – but inexorably – and population structures become more heavily weighted towards an older demographic.

Ban Ki-moon's quote at the head of this article is taken from a United Nations report which is subtitled "A Celebration and A Challenge". This report rightly points out that the key driver towards ageing populations – increased longevity – is a huge cause for celebration. It draws attention to the significant opportunities created by ageing society, with greater contributions both socially and economically from older people. But it also highlights that population ageing presents social, economic, and cultural challenges for individuals, families, and society. These are challenges to us all – not just to government. It is how we choose to address these challenges and maximise the opportunities of a growing older population that will define how we, as a society, develop over the coming decades.

The purpose of this article is to lay out some of the key demographic facts as they pertain to Northern Ireland; and to suggest some areas where this changing demography may have an impact.

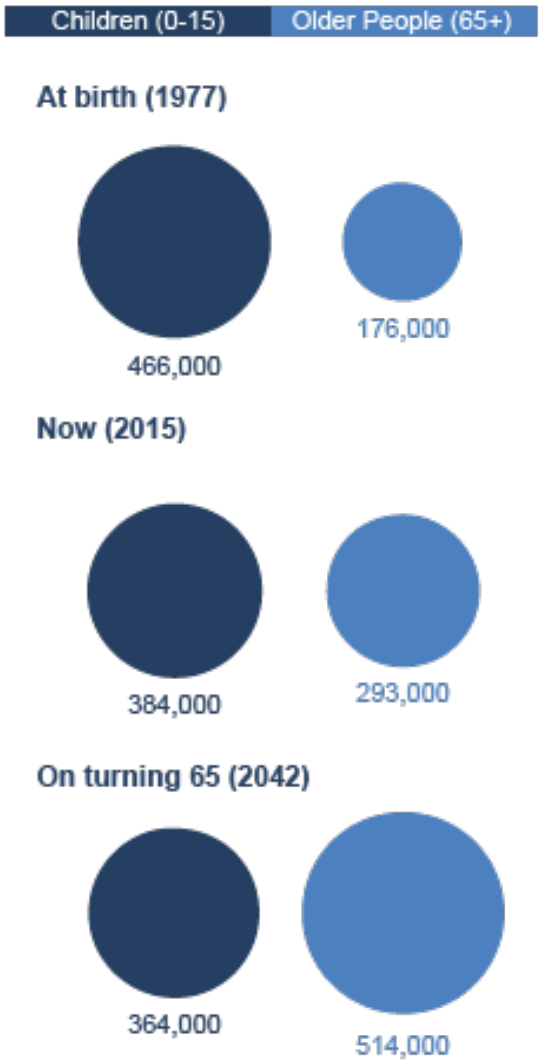
Demographic Change and the "Average" Northern Ireland Person

The extent of demographic change in Northern Ireland can be exemplified by looking at someone of average age. In mid 2015 as this article is being completed, the average (median) age of people in Northern Ireland is just over 38 years[i]. This means that half of the population is below the median age (38 and a few weeks), whilst the other half is older. When the "average person" was born (i.e. in 1977) there were 176,000 people aged 65 and over in Northern Ireland[5]. On the other hand the newly-born girl or boy was one of 466,000 children aged under the age of 16. Now, in 2015, these figures are 293,000 and 384,000 respectively. That's a huge change already. Whereas in 1977 the gap was around 300,000, with many more children than older people, in just 38 years that gap has closed considerably, with nearly 80,000 fewer children and nearly 120,000 more older people.

What will happen as our 38 year old ages? Well, according to NISRA's most recent population projections, by around 2027 (when our man or woman themselves turns 50), older people will outnumber children for the first time in Northern Ireland's history. By the time that they themselves turn 65, they will be one amongst an estimated 514,000 older people (i.e. people aged 65 and over) – nearly three times as many than when they were born in 1977. On the other hand, the expected number of children will have fallen to around 364,000.

i Sourced from projections as latest Mid-Year Estimates relate to Mid-2014

Figure 2.1: Numbers of Children and Older People in Northern Ireland for a person born in 1977; now (2015); and when they turn 65 (2042)



Source: NISRA – Mid-Year Population Estimates and Population Projections

Notes: Children are defined as those aged 0-15 years, and older people as those aged 65 and over

Figures to nearest 1,000.

Download Chart (XLS Format – 178Kb)

L.P. Hartley once wrote that "The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there". The future is also a foreign country – and we will have to do things differently, again. In the Northern Ireland of 1977, there were around two-and-a-half times more children than older people. By 2042 in contrast, there will be nearly one-and-a-half times more older people than children. All this change is taking place over considerably less than the course of an average human lifespan. These changes are shown diagrammatically in Figure 2.1.

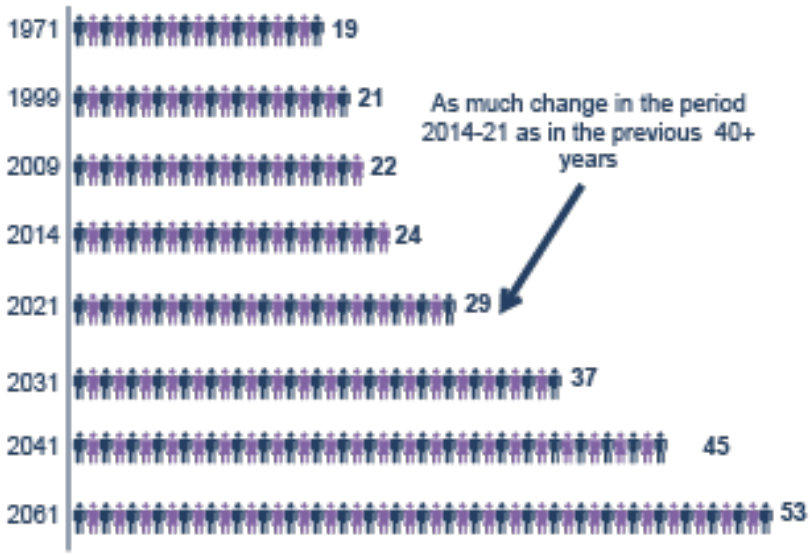
One thing missing from Figure 2.1 and the earlier discussion is the working age population (that is, those aged between 16 and 64) and how this group fits into the analysis. This issue is explored in more detail in the next section.

Demographic Change: The Balance between Older People and those of Working Age

Crucial to the consideration of the impact of an ageing society is to look at the numbers of older people in relation to those of working age. This is generally because many of those of working age are – as the description suggests – in work and contributing economically and fiscally. Those over working age are less likely to be contributing in this way. Of course this rather crude definition does not take account of other forms of contributions to society such as caring and voluntary work etc; nor does it acknowledge that virtually all people, including pensioners, contribute fiscally through taxes such as VAT. Nevertheless, it is a useful shorthand way in which to look at the makeup of any society[6]. Figure 2.2 overleaf shows how the position has changed over the past 40 or so years: and how it will change over the next 40 or so. One small – but important – feature in the figures used in the graph is that they are derived using the current (2015) NISRA/ Office for National Statistics definition of the working age population , namely people aged between 16 and 64. This, by default, defines those aged 65 and over as "older". I will return to this later in the article.

The pattern that this picture shows deserves close scrutiny. Looking at what has happened over the period since 1971, a picture is of a slow rise in the ratio of older people to the numbers in the working age population – but a rise that has gathered momentum in recent years. In the period spanning nearly 30 years from 1971 to the establishment of the first Northern Ireland Executive in 1999, the ratio went up from 19 older people per 100 people of working age to 21. In the 15 years since devolution, it rose to 24. However, longer life expectancy (leading to more older people) coupled with the impact of fertility rates that dropped in the 1960s through the 1980s have led to a tipping point, and the older proportion of the population has started to grow – and to grow quickly.

Figure 2.2: We are going to get much older as a society: Number of older people (65+) per 100 people aged 16-64



Source: NISRA Mid-Year Population Estimates (1971-2014); Population projections (2014-2021)

Note: Female/Male icons for illustration only and do not reflect sex balance

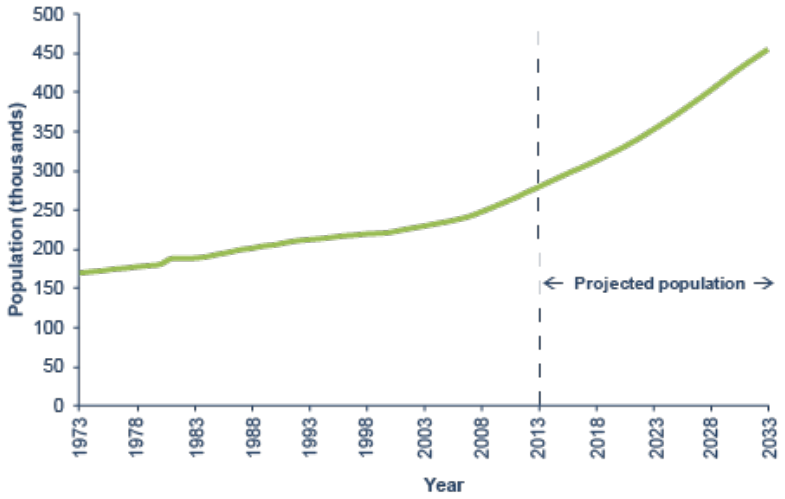
Download Chart (XLS Format – 214Kb)

By 2021, according to NISRA's most recent population projections, the ratio is set to grow from 24 per 100 in 2014 to 29 per 100. As Figure 2.2 suggests, this is as much change over a seven year period as in the previous 43 years[7]. But it doesn't stop at 2021. A decade later the ratio will stand at 37 per 100, reaching 53 per 100 by 2061. Put another way, if population change progresses along the lines suggested by NISRA's population projections we will move from having five people of working age for every one older person in 1971, to a position of having fewer than two people of working age for every one older person by 2061. A foreign country indeed.

Number of Older People

The previous section examined the growth of the older population in relative terms, that is compared to the working age population. But what does this mean in terms of actual numbers? These have been covered a little earlier on, which showed the projected growth of the older population to 2061. Population projections to dates so far in the future of necessity involve making a number of assumptions, and uncertainty obviously grows the further ahead one looks. Over the shorter period, these uncertainties decrease and projections are more likely to be accurate. Figure 2.3 overleaf shows the recent growth in the older population, taken from NISRA's Mid-Year Estimates; and the future growth, derived from their Population Projections. The graph is derived from OFMDFM's recent publication "A profile of older people in Northern Ireland" which was updated in 2014 and which contains much useful data about older people[8]. This graph

Figure 2.3: Population of older people (i.e. aged 65 and over) in Northern Ireland, 1973-2033



Source: NISRA – Mid-Year Population Estimates and Population Projections

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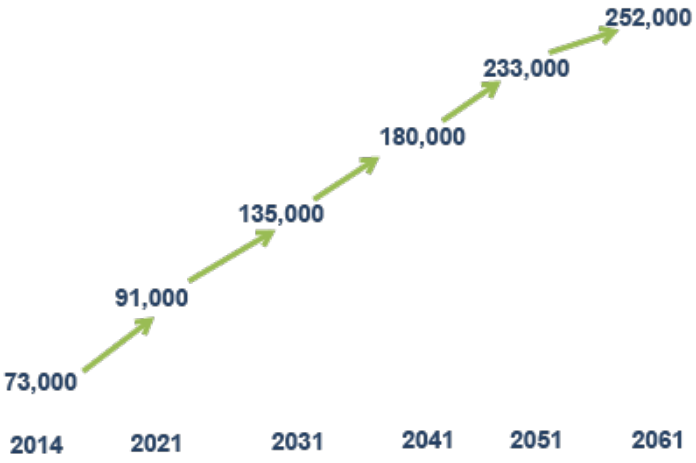
shows both the relatively slow rise in the older population from the 1970s through to the early part of the present century and the acceleration in growth from towards the end of the last decade which is set to continue. By 2033 the projections suggest that there will be 456,000 people aged 65 and over living here, up from 293,000 today (an increase of approximately 55 per cent).

As illustrated in Figure 2.4, the projected growth in the very old population (age 80 and over) is even starker. Between 2014 and 2061, the number of people aged 80 and over is projected to more than triple, from 73,000 in 2014 to more than a quarter of a million (252,000) in 2061. At the same time the median age of people in Northern Ireland will rise from the current 38 years to 45 years. So it is not just the fact that the number of older people is growing – but their makeup is changing too. The old are getting older. Life expectancy at 65 is expected to grow by a further two years over the next decade.

Figure 2.4: Projected Growth of the population aged 80 and over in Northern Ireland, 2014-2061



Source: NISRA – Population Projections

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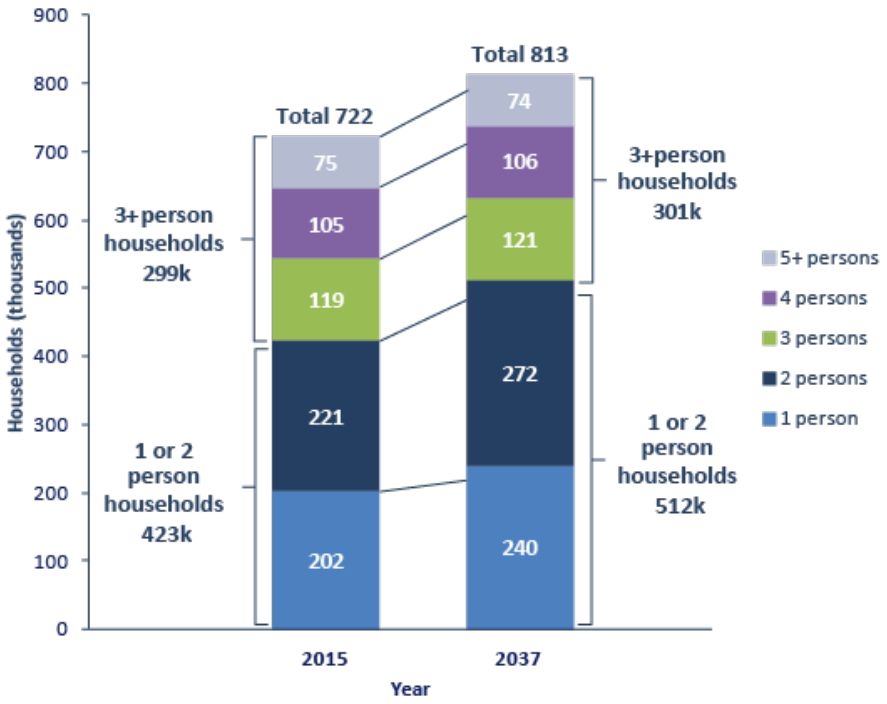
Household Numbers

Like population numbers, household numbers are also on the rise. In fact, recent household projections published by NISRA[9] suggest that over the 25-year period from 2012 to 2037 there will be an additional 104,000 households in Northern Ireland, and that household growth over the period (projected to be 14.7%) will be greater than the expected rise in the population (9.9%). This in turn is indicative of the fact that average household size will be falling, with a particular growth in small (one and two person) households (see Figure 2. 5). In fact it is expected that one and two person adult households (i.e. those without children) will account for three-fifths (60.1%) of all households in Northern Ireland by 2037.

Figure 2.5: Household projections, Northern Ireland 2015-2037



Source: NISRA – Household Projections

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As Figure 2.5 shows, the expected growth in household numbers of over 90,000 between 2015 and 2037 is almost entirely driven by the rise in the number of one person (nearly 40,000 more households) and two person households (around 50,000 more households). Moreover, most of these additional households will comprise older people: between 2012 and 2037 the household population of people aged 65 and over is expected to grow by over 200,000, a rise of almost 80%. More of these older people will live alone – by 2037 the figures will be 72,000 women and 45,000 men, with the overall figure up by 46.3% from 2012.

Challenges

This changing demography poses many challenges for government – and for society. These challenges are not only numerous but also interconnected, and the following areas are but some examples. This article concentrates on the related issues of Finance, including Pensions; and on the Economy and Labour Market. It will also make (very) brief reference to issues such as Health and Social Care and Housing.

Finance and Pensions

Of course the big difference between older people and younger adults is contained in the label that is often used to describe the latter group – the working age population. By default, this suggests that older people are "beyond" working age. Never mind that many working age people don't work and that some older people do, the labels are broadly accurate. Most working age people are in work; and the vast majority of older people aren't (at least in the context of paid work). This has many financial implications linked to the economy and labour market status (which is covered below). The most obvious of these is that people in work are more likely to be net contributors to the "public purse"; and people not working are more likely to be net recipients. If the balance of the population is swinging towards there being more older people – as it is – then *ceteris paribus* this will have, of itself, a negative impact on public finances.

An analysis of the many impacts of ageing on the public finances is beyond the scope of this short paper. However it is worth looking at some policy responses in terms of pensions. The one factor that unites older people and divides them from younger people is that those over the state pension age receive the state pension: and those under it don't. This may seem to be stating the blindingly obvious[10], but it does mean that we can calculate what the expected demand for the state pension is with a fair degree of certainty for some time into the future – using the population projections that we discussed earlier[11].

The current state pension age is 65. Strictly speaking, in mid 2015 (the time of writing), it is 65 for men and 62 years and 6 months for women, as the state pension age for women is rising in stages to 65 by December 2018. However in 2010 when this change started, both NISRA and the Office for National Statistics redefined the state pension age to be 65 for both sexes for statistical purposes.

We have already seen above that the number of people in Northern Ireland aged 65 and over is set to grow by an estimated 160,000 people between 2015 and 2033. In crude terms, that's over 160,000 more pensions to pay[12]. It is not surprising that one mechanism that government has looked at to control pension expenditure is to change the age at which people are entitled to draw their state pension. This avenue is being taken by governments across the world and, as the previous paragraph suggests, it is an approach that has already been adopted by the UK Government. Before April 2010, the state pension age for women was 60. By 2018 it will be 65 and the legislation is currently in place to raise the age for both men and women to 66 by 2020; and further to 67 by 2028. Beyond that there are no certainties – but government has announced that it will review the mechanism to set state pension age, and it is likely that there will be further rises in subsequent decades.

What does this mean for the numbers? In absolute terms, it decreases the numbers in the eligibility category for the state pension. For example, by 2033, we saw above that there will be an estimated 456,000 people aged 65 and over in Northern Ireland. Under the current state pension arrangements, this would translate into 456,000 people entitled to a state pension (assuming they meet the appropriate contributions criteria). However by 2033 the state pension age will be 67, not 65. This change means that the number potentially eligible for a state pension falls to 406,000 – that is, around 50,000 fewer pensioners than there would have been without the change. And that is not all – this 50,000 gets added to the working age population.

Figure 2.6: Raising the State Pension Age (SPA) helps – a little, for a while.....
Number of people over SPA per 100 of working age

Source: NISRA (Mid-Year Population Estimates (1971-2014); Population projections (2014-2021)

Notes: Working age defined as 16-59(F)/64 (M)1971-2009; to 64 for both sexes for 2014; to 65 for 2021; to 66 for 2031; to 67 for 2041; and to 69 for 2061.
State pension ages for this example set at 60(F)/65 (M) for 1971-2007; 65 for 2014; 66 for 2021; 67 for 2031; 68 for 2041; and 70 for 2061.
Male/Female icons for illustration only and do not reflect sex balance

Download Chart (XLS Format – 233Kb)

So, on a *prima facie* basis, rising the state pension age "helps" – in other words it reduces the government's liability in respect of state pensions[13]. But how much of a difference will this actually make? Figure 2.6 reproduces the "dependency" graph shown in Figure 2.2, but this time instead of using the age of 65 as a cut off it uses the actual (or likely[14]) state pension age. For example the state pension age in 1971 was not 65 – it was 65 for men, and 60 for women. The working age population thus comprised males ages 16-64 and females aged 16-59. This meant that the dependency ratio for 1971 was not 19, but actually 24 (i.e. 24 people of pension age for every 100 of working age).

It is clear, as the title of the graph suggests, that raising the state pension age does help. But that help only dampens and delays the full impact of demographic change – it does not obviate it. Of course, it is possible that government might choose to raise pension ages in a faster way than illustrated here – however it is difficult to see how this would prevent the old age dependency ratio in Northern Ireland from rising to a figure somewhere in the low 30s at best, considerably higher than today's and historical levels.

Three other brief observations about this analysis of the challenge of pensions and the knock-on impact on government finances. First, the discussion has focused on the impact on government. However there will be an equal impact on the citizenry, on you and me. Most obvious, for those in the population not yet of pension age it will change their relationship with the state in relation to their pension. But it will also have other impacts on their lives as the population as a whole adjusts to a demographically different world. Second, I have concentrated on the state pension in this analysis – but there are also far-reaching and profound changes to occupational and private pensions. Although most of the recent debate in the media has been about pension freedoms, there are (arguably) more important factors such as the viability of many pension funds; the shift from defined benefit to defined contribution schemes and in particular the shifting of risk from employer to employee, along with currently historically low annuity rates; and the realignment of occupational scheme retirement dates with the state pension age. Finally, moving the state pension age is inextricably linked with changing people's behaviours, in particular around employment choices in their late 50s and 60s. In short, they are predicated on people working longer. The next section looks at the current evidence in relation to this.

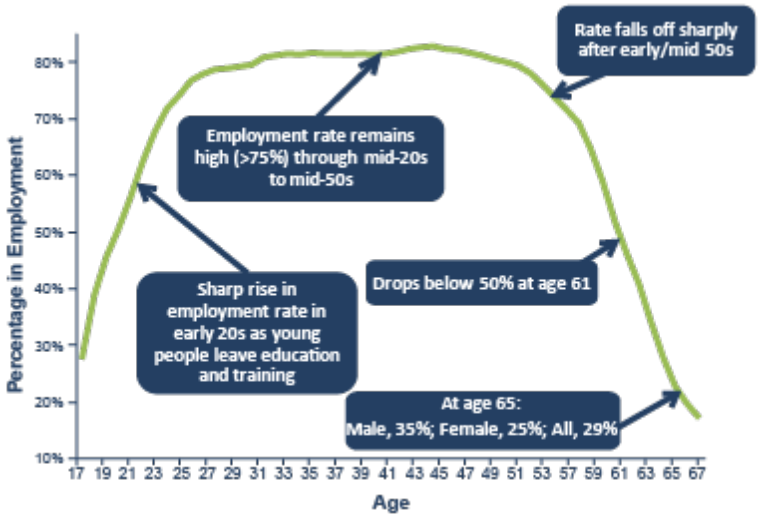
Economy and Labour Market

There are a number of potential impacts of changing demography on the economy and labour market. I am going to concentrate here on the labour market. Just as more people working longer can help government revenues (increasing the tax take whilst decreasing expenditure), more older working people will also benefit the economy, boosting output directly (through their own labour) and increasing demand through their additional spending power.

Many people beyond state pension age are still in work. Recent figures from NISRA show that over the last year or so an estimated 25,000 people aged 65 and over in Northern Ireland were typically in employment[15] (the figures rose to 33,000 for the most recent quarter, but it is not clear yet if this figure will be sustained). Moreover the long-term trend is for increasing participation of older people in the labour market. Still, 25,000 represents a relatively small minority of people aged between 65 and 74, around 15%[16]. The vast majority of people beyond state pension age don't work.

To consider what happens after people get to state pension age we also need to examine what happens in the lead-up to it. Figure 2.7 shows the position for the whole of the United Kingdom. It shows the employment rate for every single year of age[17]. The employment rate is simply the percentage of people of a particular age who are in work. For example, the graph shows that 28% of 18 year olds were in employment in 2013.

Figure 2.7: Employment falls considerably in older age groups- Employment Rate, UK by single year of age, 2013 – non-zero-axis



Source: Annual Population Survey, ONS

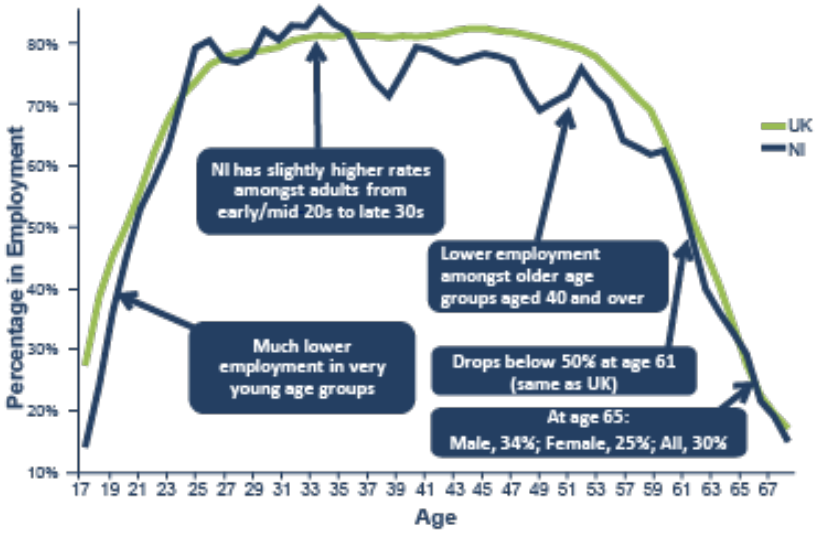
Note: Figures based on 3-year rolling averages

Download Chart (XLS Format – 305Kb)

The narrative boxes on the graph describe the main points succinctly. For young people, employment rates are low as many are engaged in education or training (although students with part-time jobs, for example, will show up as "employed"). Those in their early to mid 20s will have begun to leave education and training, so the employment rate rises sharply and rates for those up to their mid to late 40s reach – or even exceed – 80%. However once we begin to look at people beyond their mid 50s, the position starts to change, and change rapidly. For 61 year olds the rate has dropped below half, and by the time we get to the state pension age fewer than three in ten people are in work.

The position here in Northern Ireland is similar – but with some important variations (see Figure 2.8). First, young people in Northern Ireland have much lower employment rates than their counterparts in the UK as a whole. Second, employment rates for those in their 20s and early 30s here are – if anything – higher than those in the rest of the UK. However for adults from their

Figure 2.8: Lower employment here in 35-60 age group - Employment Rates, UK and NI by single year of age, 2013 – non-zero-axis



Source: Labour Force Survey, NISRA & Annual Population Survey, ONS

Note: Figures based on 3-year rolling averages

Download Chart (XLS Format – 302Kb)

mid-30s onwards, rates here drop to lower levels than the UK as a whole. Disengagement from the labour market is setting in at an earlier age here. These issues have been explored in more detail elsewhere[18], but the factor to bear in mind as we move forward is that if we wish to increase employment for those beyond the current state pension age (an objective that is implicit in the decision to raise the age), then it will first be necessary to increase labour market participation in the ages groups leading up to state pension age. The data suggests that this will be a challenge in the UK as a whole – but, perhaps, a bigger challenge here in Northern Ireland.

Health and Social Care

The pressures caused by demographic factors and, in particular, a growing and ageing population are well documented and already well incorporated into thinking about the provision of health and social care. In Northern Ireland, they have recently been addressed in the Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer[19] which, in the context of acknowledging the contribution of older people to society, nevertheless states that "ageing brings an increased likelihood of some degree of disability and dependency and older people are the main users of our health and social care". Estimates from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety show that those aged 65 and over account for around 42% of health and social care expenditure here compared to their population share of 14%. The challenges posed by demographic ageing – along with other challenges – are well embedded into thinking on the development of the health service here[20]. A rapidly growing elderly population will place inevitable pressures on health and social care budgets, but also on the way that services have to be organised to meet the needs of older people.

These issues need to be put into context. To go back to the title of the UN Report that was quoted at the head of this article, longer lives are a cause for celebration. Not just because they are longer - and we are living longer: life expectancy over the past 30 years has risen by about nine years for men and seven years for women[21]. It is a celebration because figures from the UK and from Europe suggest that healthy life expectancy (that is, the period of life spend in good health) is growing, both in absolute terms and in the proportions of our lives spent in good health, although there is some country-to-country variation[22]. And, not only are we living longer, healthier lives – but we are feeling it too. At a UK level, official surveys show that older people (60+) tend to say that

they are happier than their younger counterparts. They are also more satisfied with their lives; feel they do more worthwhile things; and are less anxious. The single contraindication is that feelings of "worthwhileness" drops for those aged 80 and over[23].

There is, however, a small fly in the ointment. The most recent figures from ONS[24] suggest that healthy life expectancy (HLE) has risen at a faster rate than life expectancy as a whole for the UK: at birth, HLE is up by 3.5 years for males and 3.7 years for females over the period 2000-02 to 2009-11, with actual decreases in the number of years in "not good health". The figures for England, Scotland, and Wales show a similar pattern. However, the figures are not so good for Northern Ireland, especially for males. Between 2000-02 and 2009-11, HLE at birth for males in Northern Ireland actually fell by 0.5 years. Both males and females saw rises in the number of years "not in good health", with the result that the proportions of life spent in good health fell for both sexes. For those aged 65, again bucking the UK trend, both men's and women's "unhealthy" life expectancy increased proportionally faster than HLE.

It may be that we face particular issues in Northern Ireland that sharpen the challenges of demographic ageing for the health and social care sector here. If so, it makes it all the more important that these issues are acknowledged and addressed.

Housing

We saw above that there is to be a continued expansion of the number of households in Northern Ireland over coming decades, with an estimated additional 104,000+ extra households between 2012 and 2037. Many of these will comprise older people, and the number of older people living alone, or with their partner, will rise substantially. This will put additional pressure on the housing stock. Not only is there the issue of volume (we simply need more dwellings); but also of suitability. The rise will be driven by the growth of smaller households – and much of the existing housing stock will have been designed for larger household units. And, of course, older people are more likely to have disabilities than their younger counterparts, and this suggests that many homes will have to be adapted so that they are liveable in by those who have particular requirements. This increased demand is emerging as new housing supply is falling sharply – data from the Department for Social Development shows that new dwelling completions have fallen from nearly 18,000 in 2006-7 to fewer than 8,000 in 2013-14[25].

There is another aspect about the housing stock. Larger dwellings are more likely to be difficult to heat, and heating their homes is already a major issue for some pensioners. Households headed by older people were much more likely to be living in fuel poverty than other households in 2011[26]. Of those households headed by someone aged 75 and over, nearly two thirds (66%) were in fuel poverty. This compares to about half (52%) for the 60 to 74 age group – and approximately a quarter (26%) for households headed by someone aged 25-39.

Conclusions

The preceding discussion merely scratches the surface of the challenges for Northern Ireland of an ageing population. For example, there are inevitably going to be issues around the caring responsibilities of older people (for grandchildren; for partners; for adult children, especially those with a disability; and even for parents); about issues such as loneliness and dignity; and about intergenerational solidarity. The issues also throw up some difficult conundrums. How, for example, are we to increase older peoples' participation in the labour market whilst at the same time recognising the important role that many of them play as carers?

However, even this short and necessarily selective résumé will, I hope, have left readers better informed about the nature of demographic change as it will affect Northern Ireland, especially around the ageing of the population, and some of the issues that will flow from that change. When confronted with issues, the first step we need to take is to inform ourselves of the situation. Then we – individually and as a society – need to act. As the first caliph, Abu Bakr, put it fifteen hundred years ago "without knowledge action is useless; but knowledge without action is futile".

Reference List

1 "Ageing in the Twenty-First Century: A Celebration and a Challenge" United Nations Population Fund, 2012.

2 "Our Ageing Population" Speech given by David Cameron to Age Concern, 26 October 2006 http://conservativehome.blogs.com/torydiary/files/david_cameron_ageing_speech.pdf

3 The UK Coalition Government's Programme for Government in 2010 contained no reference to dealing with the pressures caused by an ageing society, with the single exception of pension reform https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/78977/coalition_programme_for_government.pdf

4 See http://www.ofmdfmni.gov.uk/index/equality-and-strategy/equality-human-rights-social-change/age.htm

5 All figures in this section are taken from Northern Ireland Mid-Year Population Estimates (2014); or 2012-based Population Projections and are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Data can be found at www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp3.htm

6 The technical description for this indicator is the age dependency ratio (sometimes termed the old age dependency ratio or the aged dependency ratio). It is expressed as the number of people aged 65 and over in the population per 100 or 1,000 aged between 16 and 64 (age bands differ in some countries).

7 Strictly speaking it is not quite as much change. The diagram uses rounded figures, which are 19 (1971); 24 (2014; and 29 (2021). If data were quoted to 1 decimal place, the figures would read 18.6 (1971); 24.4 (2014); and 28.5 (2021).

8 "A profile of older people in Northern Ireland – 2014 update". Available from www.ofmdfmni.gov.uk/a-profile-of-older-people-2014-update.pdf

9 All references to household figures are taken from NISRA's recent Household Projections publication. This was published in March 2015 and is based on the 2012 Population Projections. See www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp21.htm

10 Although like many "blindingly obvious" statements, it's not altogether true. For example, some people aged over state pension age do not get a pension as they are not entitled to one as they have paid insufficient national insurance contributions. But as a first approximation, I think we can let it stand.

11 In reality, the job is not quite as straightforward as that, as not all older people are entitled to a full state pension, or indeed to any pension at all.

12 It should be noted that at the same time that some people begin to get their state pension, their entitlement to some other working age benefits will cease, so not all of the pension expenditure will be truly "additional"

13 In reality, the situation will perforce be more complicated. For example, although state pension will no longer be paid, it is likely that some working age befits will be extended to cover 65 and 66 year olds, which will offset some of the savings. On the other hand changing the state pension age may, for example, drive changes in labour market behaviour, keeping more people in work for longer which will have a positive impact on government revenues.

14 Changes to State pension age beyond 2028 are conjectural. For the purposes of illustration I have selected a state pension age of 68 by 2041; and 70 by 2061.

15 Source: NISRA Labour Market Statistics, May 2015 www.detini.gov.uk/index/what-we-do/deti-stats-index/labour_market_statistics/stats-labour-market-employment.htm

16 Author's calculation.

17 For UK and Northern Ireland the single year figures have been calculated by the author as a three year rolling arithmetic average. This is to smooth the data, particularly in relation to Northern Ireland.

18 "Older people and employment in Northern Ireland" Labour Market Bulletin #24 (2013) , Chapter 22. Available at www.delni.gov.uk/labour-market-bulletin-24.pdf. The editorial to this edition of the Bulletin also contains relevant discussion.

19 Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer 2014, DHSSPS www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/chief-medical-officer-annual-report-13-14.pdf

20 See, for example, "Transforming Your Care" www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/transforming-your-care-review-of-hsc-ni-final-report.pdf

21 Source: NISRA Life Tables www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp130.htm

22 Source: Eurostat http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/web/products-datasets/-/TSDPH100

23 Source: Personal Well-being in the UK, 2013/14 www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/wellbeing/measuring-national-well-being/personal-well-being-in-the-uk–2013-14/sb-personal-well-being-in-the-uk–2013-14.html

24 ONS: Health Expectancies at Birth and at Age 65 in the United Kingdom, 2009–11 www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_385338.pdf

25 Source: DSD www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/stats_and_research/housing_publications/stats-housing-publications/housing_stats/northern_ireland_housing_statistics_2013-14.htm

26 OFMDFM Profile of Older People, op. cit.

Northern Ireland Statistics & Research agency

Appendices

Appendix 1: Population and vital events, 1926-2014

	Estimated population			Resident live births							Multiple births		
									Outside marriage				
Year	Persons	Males	Females	All resident births[1]	Rate[2]	Males	Females	Males per 1,000 females	Number	%[3]	Twins	Triplets etc	% of maternities
1926-30	**1,249,000**	604,000	645,000	**26,418**	***21.2***	13,587	12,831	*1,059*	1,249	*4.7*	308	4	*1.2*
1931-35	**1,270,000**	617,000	653,000	**25,098**	***19.8***	12,926	12,172	*1,062*	1,259	*5.0*	286	2	*1.2*
1936-40	**1,286,800**	626,100	660,700	**25,533**	***19.8***	13,110	12,423	*1,055*	1,178	*4.6*	300	4	*1.2*
1941-45	**1,304,400**	674,000	630,400	**29,592**	***22.7***	15,287	14,305	*1,069*	1,560	*5.3*	332	4	*1.2*
1946-50	**1,350,400**	695,800	654,600	**29,764**	***22.0***	15,336	14,428	*1,063*	1,124	*3.8*	367	5	*1.3*
1951-55	**1,382,500**	673,700	708,800	**28,798**	***20.8***	14,885	13,913	*1,070*	838	*2.9*	391	4	*1.4*
1956-60	**1,405,000**	684,700	720,300	**30,539**	***21.7***	15,755	14,784	*1,066*	758	*2.5*	414	3	*1.4*
1961-65	**1,447,200**	705,500	741,700	**33,226**	***23.0***	17,171	16,055	*1,069*	890	*2.7*	407	3	*1.3*
1966-70	**1,501,500**	732,500	769,000	**32,866**	***21.9***	16,958	15,908	*1,066*	1,180	*3.6*	355	3	*1.1*
1971-75	**1,532,000**	755,200	776,700	**28,850**	***18.8***	14,935	13,914	*1,073*	1,260	*4.4*	308	2	*1.1*
1976-80	**1,526,200**	754,300	771,900	**26,959**	***17.7***	13,807	13,152	*1,050*	1,531	*5.7*	271	4	*1.0*
1981-85	**1,552,100**	759,700	792,400	**27,194**	***17.5***	13,965	13,229	*1,056*	2,469	*9.1*	289	3	*1.1*
1986-90	**1,585,400**	773,800	811,600	**27,045**	***17.1***	13,914	13,130	*1,060*	4,266	*15.8*	286	4	*1.1*
1991-95	**1,631,800**	795,900	835,900	**24,779**	***15.2***	12,704	12,075	*1,052*	5,427	*21.9*	292	8	*1.2*
1996-2000	**1,674,500**	816,700	857,800	**23,321**	***13.9***	11,966	11,356	*1,054*	6,661	*28.6*	319	8	*1.4*
2001-2005	**1,704,700**	833,400	871,300	**21,928**	***12.9***	11,245	10,683	*1,053*	7,511	*34.3*	314	8	*1.5*
2006-2010	**1,772,800**	869,900	903,000	**24,716**	***13.9***	12,689	12,027	*1,055*	9,638	*39.0*	356	4	*1.5*
1971	**1,540,400**	754,600	785,800	**31,765**	***20.6***	16,504	15,261	*1,081*	1,207	*3.8*	342	4	*1.1*
1972	**1,539,000**	757,500	781,500	**29,994**	***19.5***	15,559	14,435	*1,078*	1,263	*4.2*	325	3	*1.1*
1973	**1,530,000**	755,700	774,200	**29,200**	***19.1***	15,152	14,048	*1,079*	1,195	*4.1*	290	1	*1.0*
1974	**1,526,900**	755,000	771,900	**27,160**	***17.8***	13,987	13,173	*1,062*	1,296	*4.8*	291	3	*1.1*
1975	**1,523,500**	753,300	770,200	**26,130**	***17.2***	13,475	12,655	*1,065*	1,338	*5.1*	294	-	-
1976	**1,523,500**	754,000	769,500	**26,361**	***17.3***	13,542	12,819	*1,056*	1,330	*5.0*	264	5	*1.0*
1977	**1,523,300**	753,900	769,400	**25,437**	***16.7***	13,154	12,283	*1,071*	1,383	*5.4*	266	3	*1.1*
1978	**1,523,200**	753,600	769,700	**26,239**	***17.2***	13,168	13,071	*1,007*	1,523	*5.8*	249	2	*1.0*
1979	**1,528,300**	755,200	773,100	**28,178**	***18.4***	14,485	13,693	*1,058*	1,668	*5.9*	276	5	*1.0*
1980	**1,532,800**	754,800	778,000	**28,582**	***18.6***	14,686	13,896	*1,057*	1,751	*6.1*	298	4	*1.1*
1981	**1,543,000**	756,600	786,300	**27,166**	***17.6***	13,847	13,319	*1,040*	1,894	*7.0*	304	4	*1.1*
1982	**1,544,500**	756,700	787,800	**26,872**	***17.4***	13,732	13,140	*1,045*	2,106	*7.8*	305	2	*1.2*
1983	**1,550,600**	759,000	791,500	**27,026**	***17.4***	13,972	13,054	*1,070*	2,370	*8.8*	263	4	*1.0*
1984	**1,557,300**	761,300	796,000	**27,477**	***17.6***	14,196	13,281	*1,069*	2,790	*10.2*	303	3	*1.1*
1985	**1,565,400**	764,900	800,400	**27,427**	***17.5***	14,076	13,351	*1,054*	3,185	*11.6*	269	3	*1.0*
1986	**1,573,500**	768,400	805,100	**27,975**	***17.8***	14,501	13,474	*1,076*	3,575	*12.8*	280	3	*1.0*
1987	**1,582,000**	772,900	809,100	**27,653**	***17.5***	14,196	13,457	*1,055*	3,967	*14.3*	320	7	*1.2*
1988	**1,585,400**	773,800	811,700	**27,514**	***17.4***	14,131	13,383	*1,056*	4,446	*16.2*	283	2	*1.0*
1989	**1,590,400**	775,900	814,500	**25,831**	***16.2***	13,307	12,524	*1,063*	4,394	*17.0*	281	2	*1.1*
1990	**1,595,600**	777,900	817,700	**26,251**	***16.5***	13,437	12,814	*1,049*	4,946	*18.8*	267	5	*1.0*
1991	**1,607,300**	783,200	824,100	**26,028**	***16.2***	13,427	12,601	*1,066*	5,288	*20.3*	311	7	*1.2*
1992	**1,623,300**	792,100	831,100	**25,354**	***15.6***	12,924	12,430	*1,040*	5,579	*22.0*	256	8	*1.1*
1993	**1,635,600**	798,200	837,300	**24,722**	***15.1***	12,515	12,207	*1,025*	5,445	*22.0*	283	9	*1.2*
1994	**1,643,700**	801,900	841,800	**24,098**	***14.7***	12,361	11,737	*1,053*	5,337	*22.1*	288	6	*1.2*
1995	**1,649,100**	804,000	845,100	**23,693**	***14.4***	12,293	11,400	*1,078*	5,487	*23.2*	324	9	*1.4*
1996	**1,661,800**	810,300	851,400	**24,382**	***14.7***	12,382	12,000	*1,032*	6,346	*26.0*	310	13	*1.3*
1997	**1,671,300**	815,500	855,700	**24,087**	***14.4***	12,325	11,762	*1,048*	6,427	*26.7*	330	7	*1.4*
1998	**1,677,800**	818,700	859,100	**23,668**	***14.1***	12,058	11,610	*1,039*	6,743	*28.5*	305	7	*1.3*
1999	**1,679,000**	818,500	860,500	**22,957**	***13.7***	11,943	11,014	*1,084*	6,957	*30.3*	334	6	*1.5*
2000	**1,682,900**	820,500	862,500	**21,512**	***12.8***	11,120	10,392	*1,070*	6,833	*31.8*	314	5	*1.5*
2001	**1,688,800**	824,300	864,600	**21,962**	***13.0***	11,288	10,674	*1,058*	7,144	*32.5*	330	10	*1.6*
2002	**1,697,500**	829,000	868,500	**21,385**	***12.6***	10,874	10,511	*1,035*	7,161	*33.5*	313	13	*1.5*
2003	**1,704,900**	833,100	871,800	**21,648**	***12.7***	11,244	10,404	*1,081*	7,439	*34.4*	304	5	*1.4*
2004	**1,714,000**	838,300	875,800	**22,318**	***13.0***	11,477	10,841	*1,059*	7,703	*34.5*	330	7	*1.5*
2005	**1,727,700**	845,300	882,400	**22,328**	***12.9***	11,341	10,987	*1,032*	8,108	*36.3*	294	6	*1.4*
2006	**1,743,100**	853,100	890,000	**23,272**	***13.4***	12,010	11,262	*1,066*	8,832	*38.0*	315	1	*1.4*
2007	**1,761,700**	862,300	899,400	**24,451**	***13.9***	12,516	11,935	*1,049*	9,261	*37.9*	357	5	*1.5*
2008	**1,779,200**	871,000	908,200	**25,631**	***14.4***	13,204	12,427	*1,063*	9,966	*38.9*	356	6	*1.4*
2009	**1,793,300**	878,500	914,800	**24,910**	***13.9***	12,799	12,111	*1,057*	9,902	*39.8*	372	5	*1.5*
2010	**1,804,800**	884,500	920,300	**25,315**	***14.0***	12,917	12,398	*1,042*	10,231	*40.4*	382	5	*1.6*
2011	**1,814,300**	889,300	925,000	**25,273**	***13.9***	12,825	12,448	*1,030*	10,591	*41.9*	410	4	*1.7*
2012	**1,823,600**	894,600	929,000	**25,269**	***13.9***	12,999	12,270	*1,059*	10,757	*42.6*	371	6	*1.5*
2013	**1,829,700**	897,100	932,600	**24,277**	***13.3***	12,388	11,889	*1,042*	10,308	*42.5*	378	5	*1.6*
2014	**1,840,500**	902,700	937,800	**24,394**	***13.3***	12,543	11,851	*1,058*	10,540	*42.2*	347	4	*1.5*

Note: See Appendix 3 - for notes on change in definition of stillbirths that took place in 1992

[1] All births prior to 1981

[2] Rate per 1,000 population

[3] Percentage of all live births

[4] Rate per 1,000 resident live and still births

[5] Rate per 1,000 live births (resident and non-resident)

Appendix 1: Population and vital events, 1926-2014

Stillbirths		Infant deaths		Deaths						Marriages		Divorces	Civil Partnerships	
				Persons		Males		Females						
Number	Rate[4]	Number	Rate[5]	Number	Rate[2]	Number	Rate[2]	Number	Rate[2]	Number	Rate[2]	Number	Number	Year
..	..	2,083	78.8	**18,403**	***14.7***	8,888	14.7	9,515	14.8	7,328	5.9	..	..	1926-30
..	..	1,966	78.4	**18,026**	***14.2***	8,869	14.4	9,157	14.0	7,806	6.1	..	..	1931-35
..	..	1,970	77.2	**18,369**	***14.3***	9,097	14.5	9,271	14.0	9,073	7.1	..	..	1936-40
..	..	2,169	73.3	**17,478**	***13.4***	8,778	13.0	8,700	13.8	10,751	8.2	..	..	1941-45
..	..	1,423	47.8	**16,039**	***11.9***	8,134	11.7	7,905	12.1	9,396	7.0	..	..	1946-50
..	..	1,054	36.6	**15,557**	***11.3***	7,966	11.8	7,590	10.7	9,359	6.8	..	..	1951-55
..	..	863	28.3	**15,175**	***10.8***	7,872	11.5	7,303	10.1	9,500	6.8	..	..	1956-60
695	20.5	879	26.5	**15,628**	***10.8***	8,185	11.6	7,443	10.0	10,185	7.0	124	..	1961-65
530	15.9	791	24.1	**15,987**	***10.6***	8,399	11.5	7,588	9.9	11,357	7.6	225	..	1966-70
407	13.9	610	21.1	**16,948**	***11.1***	8,954	11.9	7,994	10.3	11,384	7.4	381	..	1971-75
269	9.9	427	15.9	**16,750**	***11.0***	8,770	11.6	7,980	10.3	10,010	6.6	648	..	1976-80
194	7.1	323	11.8	**15,972**	***10.3***	8,146	10.7	7,826	9.9	10,049	6.5	1,523	..	1981-85
136	5.0	231	8.5	**15,696**	***9.9***	7,879	10.2	7,818	9.6	10,031	6.3	1,664	..	1986-90
135	5.4	168	6.7	**15,228**	***9.3***	7,515	9.4	7,713	9.2	8,983	5.5	2,282	..	1991-95
126	5.4	134	5.7	**15,150**	***9.0***	7,315	9.0	7,835	9.1	7,881	4.7	2,325	..	1996-2000
109	4.9	122	5.5	**14,428**	***8.5***	6,953	8.3	7,474	8.6	7,821	4.6	2,345	..	2001-2005
106	4.3	129	5.1	**14,592**	***8.2***	7,095	8.2	7,496	8.3	8,309	4.7	2,605	105	2006-2010
462	14.3	722	22.7	**16,202**	***10.5***	8,593	11.4	7,609	9.7	12,152	7.9	339	..	1971
434	14.3	616	20.5	**17,032**	***11.1***	9,001	11.9	8,031	10.3	11,905	7.7	355	..	1972
389	13.1	610	20.9	**17,669**	***11.5***	9,288	12.3	8,381	10.8	11,212	7.3	393	..	1973
374	13.6	567	20.9	**17,327**	***11.3***	9,226	12.2	8,101	10.5	10,783	7.1	382	..	1974
375	14.1	534	20.4	**16,511**	***10.8***	8,664	11.5	7,847	10.2	10,867	7.1	437	..	1975
278	10.4	483	18.3	**17,030**	***11.2***	8,869	11.8	8,161	10.6	9,914	6.5	574	..	1976
310	12.0	438	17.2	**16,921**	***11.1***	8,871	11.8	8,050	10.5	9,696	6.4	569	..	1977
243	9.2	417	15.9	**16,153**	***10.6***	8,458	11.2	7,695	10.0	10,304	6.8	599	..	1978
246	8.7	417	14.8	**16,811**	***11.0***	8,822	11.7	7,989	10.3	10,214	6.7	601	..	1979
266	9.2	382	13.4	**16,835**	***11.0***	8,832	11.7	8,003	10.3	9,923	6.5	896	..	1980
240	8.8	360	13.2	**16,256**	***10.5***	8,423	11.1	7,833	10.0	9,636	6.2	1,355	..	1981
187	6.9	369	13.7	**15,918**	***10.3***	8,004	10.6	7,914	10.0	9,913	6.4	1,383	..	1982
204	7.5	329	12.1	**16,039**	***10.3***	8,209	10.8	7,830	9.9	9,990	6.4	1,657	..	1983
161	5.8	291	10.5	**15,692**	***10.1***	8,007	10.5	7,685	9.7	10,361	6.7	1,552	..	1984
178	6.4	265	9.6	**15,955**	***10.2***	8,088	10.6	7,867	9.8	10,343	6.6	1,669	..	1985
125	4.4	286	10.2	**16,065**	***10.2***	8,154	10.6	7,911	9.8	10,225	6.5	1,539	..	1986
170	6.1	242	8.7	**15,334**	***9.7***	7,721	10.0	7,613	9.4	10,363	6.6	1,514	..	1987
137	5.0	248	8.9	**15,813**	***10.0***	7,993	10.3	7,820	9.6	9,960	6.3	1,550	..	1988
133	5.1	180	6.9	**15,844**	***10.0***	7,878	10.2	7,966	9.8	10,019	6.3	1,818	..	1989
115	4.4	198	7.5	**15,426**	***9.7***	7,648	9.8	7,778	9.5	9,588	6.0	1,897	..	1990
123	4.7	194	7.4	**15,096**	***9.4***	7,533	9.6	7,563	9.2	9,221	5.7	2,310	..	1991
124	4.9	153	6.0	**14,988**	***9.2***	7,469	9.4	7,519	9.0	9,392	5.8	2,280	..	1992
128	5.2	176	7.1	**15,633**	***9.6***	7,731	9.7	7,902	9.4	9,045	5.5	2,213	..	1993
153	6.3	147	6.1	**15,114**	***9.2***	7,362	9.2	7,752	9.2	8,683	5.3	2,303	..	1994
145	6.1	169	7.1	**15,310**	***9.3***	7,482	9.3	7,828	9.3	8,576	5.2	2,302	..	1995
153	6.2	142	5.8	**15,218**	***9.2***	7,418	9.2	7,800	9.2	8,297	5.0	2,314	..	1996
131	5.4	137	5.6	**14,971**	***9.0***	7,244	8.9	7,727	9.0	8,071	4.8	2,176	..	1997
122	5.1	134	5.6	**14,993**	***8.9***	7,321	8.9	7,672	8.9	7,826	4.7	2,459	..	1998
132	5.7	148	6.4	**15,663**	***9.3***	7,464	9.1	8,199	9.5	7,628	4.5	2,326	..	1999
93	4.3	109	5.0	**14,903**	***8.9***	7,128	8.7	7,775	9.0	7,584	4.5	2,350	..	2000
112	5.1	134	6.0	**14,513**	***8.6***	7,007	8.5	7,506	8.7	7,281	4.3	2,365	..	2001
122	5.7	100	4.6	**14,586**	***8.6***	6,948	8.4	7,638	8.8	7,599	4.5	2,165	..	2002
108	5.0	115	5.2	**14,462**	***8.5***	6,920	8.3	7,542	8.7	7,757	4.5	2,319	..	2003
113	5.0	122	5.3	**14,354**	***8.4***	6,935	8.3	7,419	8.5	8,328	4.9	2,512	..	2004
89	4.0	140	6.1	**14,224**	***8.2***	6,957	8.2	7,267	8.2	8,140	4.7	2,362	12	2005
89	3.8	121	5.1	**14,532**	***8.3***	7,062	8.3	7,470	8.4	8,259	4.7	2,565	116	2006
102	4.2	123	4.9	**14,649**	***8.3***	7,208	8.4	7,441	8.3	8,687	4.9	2,913	111	2007
115	4.5	123	4.7	**14,907**	***8.4***	7,227	8.3	7,680	8.5	8,510	4.8	2,773	86	2008
119	4.8	130	5.1	**14,413**	***8.0***	6,914	7.9	7,499	8.2	7,931	4.4	2,176	96	2009
105	4.1	146	5.7	**14,457**	***8.0***	7,066	8.0	7,391	8.0	8,156	4.5	2,600	116	2010
91	3.6	110	4.6	**14,204**	***7.8***	6,918	7.8	7,286	7.9	8,366	4.6	2,343	89	2011
106	4.2	90	3.5	**14,756**	***8.1***	7,094	7.9	7,662	8.2	8,480	4.7	2,444	101	2012
110	4.5	112	4.6	**14,968**	***8.2***	7,261	8.1	7,707	8.3	8,126	4.4	2,403	100	2013
81	3.3	118	4.8	**14,678**	***8.0***	7,024	7.8	7,654	8.2	8,550	4.6	2,455	110	2014

Note: See Appendix 3 - for notes on change in definition of stillbirths that took place in 1992

[1] All births prior to 1981

[2] Rate per 1,000 population

[3] Percentage of all live births

[4] Rate per 1,000 resident live and still births

[5] Rate per 1,000 live births (resident and non-resident)

Appendix 2a: Population and vital events by Administrative Area, 2014

AREA	Estimated population at 30 June 2013	Resident live births		Stillbirths		Infant deaths		Deaths		Marriages	
		Number	Rate[1]	Number	Rate[2]	Number	Rate[3]	Number	Rate[1]	Number	Rate[1]
NORTHERN IRELAND	**1,840,498**	**24,394**	***13.3***	**81**	***3.3***	**118**	***4.8***	**14,678**	***8.0***	**8,550**	***4.6***
Belfast HSC Trust	**351,554**	**4,697**	***13.4***	**21**	***4.5***	**23**	***4.9***	**3,214**	***9.1***	**1,442**	***4.1***
Belfast	**283,166**	3,877	*13.7*	18	*4.6*	17	*4.4*	2,627	*9.3*	1,282	*4.5*
Castlereagh	**68,388**	820	*12.0*	3	*3.6*	6	*7.3*	587	*8.6*	160	*2.3*
Northern HSC Trust	**469,051**	**5,879**	***12.5***	**16**	***2.7***	**25**	***4.3***	**3,693**	***7.9***	**2,087**	***4.4***
Antrim	**54,111**	699	*12.9*	3	*4.3*	0	*0.0*	411	*7.6*	226	*4.2*
Ballymena	**65,221**	796	*12.2*	3	*3.8*	4	*5.0*	566	*8.7*	446	*6.8*
Ballymoney	**31,922**	390	*12.2*	3	*7.6*	0	*0.0*	232	*7.3*	117	*3.7*
Carrickfergus	**39,114**	433	*11.1*	1	*2.3*	3	*6.9*	316	*8.1*	185	*4.7*
Coleraine	**59,217**	693	*11.7*	1	*1.4*	1	*1.4*	493	*8.3*	290	*4.9*
Cookstown	**37,871**	573	*15.1*	1	*1.7*	6	*10.5*	234	*6.2*	210	*5.5*
Larne	**32,307**	365	*11.3*	1	*2.7*	1	*2.7*	285	*8.8*	130	*4.0*
Magherafelt	**46,280**	662	*14.3*	1	*1.5*	2	*3.0*	287	*6.2*	215	*4.6*
Moyle	**17,153**	195	*11.4*	0	*0.0*	1	*5.1*	150	*8.7*	107	*6.2*
Newtownabbey	**85,855**	1,073	*12.5*	2	*1.9*	7	*6.5*	719	*8.4*	161	*1.9*

AREA	Estimated population at 30 June 2013	Resident live births		Stillbirths		Infant deaths		Deaths		Marriages	
		Number	Rate[1]	Number	Rate[2]	Number	Rate[3]	Number	Rate[1]	Number	Rate[1]
South Eastern HSC Trust	**352,301**	**4,326**	***12.3***	**12**	***2.8***	**20**	***4.6***	**2,894**	***8.2***	**1,633**	***4.6***
Ards	**78,924**	865	*11.0*	3	*3.5*	3	*3.5*	692	*8.8*	207	*2.6*
Down	**70,467**	911	*12.9*	1	*1.1*	6	*6.6*	597	*8.5*	423	*6.0*
Lisburn	**123,579**	1,666	*13.5*	6	*3.6*	7	*4.2*	848	*6.9*	467	*3.8*
North Down	**79,331**	884	*11.1*	2	*2.3*	4	*4.5*	757	*9.5*	536	*6.8*
Southern HSC Trust	**369,391**	**5,457**	***14.8***	**20**	***3.7***	**25**	***4.6***	**2,635**	***7.1***	**1,741**	***4.7***
Armagh	**60,820**	861	*14.2*	1	*1.2*	5	*5.8*	441	*7.3*	319	*5.2*
Banbridge	**49,160**	657	*13.4*	1	-	4	*6.1*	336	*6.8*	196	*4.0*
Craigavon	**96,808**	1,436	*14.8*	9	*6.2*	10	*7.0*	720	*7.4*	362	*3.7*
Dungannon	**60,084**	912	*15.2*	5	*5.5*	2	*2.2*	430	*7.2*	302	*5.0*
Newry & Mourne	**102,519**	1,591	*15.5*	4	*2.5*	4	*2.5*	708	*6.9*	562	*5.5*
Western HSC Trust	**298,201**	**4,035**	***13.5***	**12**	***3.0***	**25**	***6.2***	**2,242**	***7.5***	**1,647**	***5.5***
Fermanagh	**62,985**	799	*12.7*	1	*1.3*	4	*5.0*	533	*8.5*	482	*7.7*
Limavady	**34,011**	428	*12.6*	2	*4.7*	4	*9.3*	239	*7.0*	201	*5.9*
Derry	**109,150**	1,572	*14.4*	6	*3.8*	11	*7.0*	796	*7.3*	552	*5.1*
Omagh	**52,007**	712	*13.7*	1	*1.4*	5	*7.0*	397	*7.6*	271	*5.2*
Strabane	**40,048**	524	*13.1*	2	*3.8*	1	*1.9*	277	*6.9*	141	*3.5*

Note: See Appendix 3 - for notes on change in definition of stillbirths that took place in 1992

[1] Rate per 1,000 population

[2] Rate per 1,000 resident live and still births

[3] Rate per 1,000 live births (resident and non-resident)

Appendix 2b: Population and vital events by Administrative Area, 2014

AREA	Estimated population at 30 June 2013	Resident live births		Stillbirths		Infant deaths		Deaths		Marriages	
		Number	Rate[1]	Number	Rate[2]	Number	Rate[3]	Number	Rate[1]	Number	Rate[1]
NORTHERN IRELAND	**1,840,498**	**24,394**	***13.3***	**81**	***3.3***	**118**	***4.8***	**14,678**	***8.0***	**8,550**	***4.6***
Antrim & Newtonabbey	**139,966**	1,774	12.7	5	2.8	7	3.9	1,129	8.1	387	2.8
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	**205,711**	2,920	*14.2*	11	*3.8*	19	*6.5*	1,487	*7.2*	865	*4.2*
Belfast	**336,830**	4,619	*13.7*	22	*4.7*	20	*4.3*	2,997	*8.9*	1,419	*4.2*
Causeway Coast & Glens	**142,303**	1,706	*12.0*	6	*3.5*	6	*3.5*	1,114	*7.8*	715	*5.0*
Derry & Strabane	**149,198**	2,096	14.0	8	3.8	12	5.7	1,073	7.2	693	4.6
Fermanagh & Omagh	**114,992**	1,511	*13.1*	2	*1.3*	9	*6.0*	930	*8.1*	753	*6.5*
Lisburn & Castlereagh	**138,627**	1,752	*12.6*	5	*2.8*	10	*5.7*	1,068	*7.7*	492	*3.5*
Mid & East Antrim	**136,642**	1,591	*11.6*	5	*3.1*	8	*5.0*	1,167	*8.5*	761	*5.6*
Mid Ulster	**142,895**	2,135	*14.9*	7	*3.3*	10	*4.7*	947	*6.6*	724	*5.1*
Newry, Mourne & Down	**175,403**	2,547	*14.5*	5	*2.0*	10	*3.9*	1,318	*7.5*	998	*5.7*
Ards & North Down	**157,931**	1,743	*11.0*	5	*2.9*	7	*4.0*	1,448	*9.2*	743	*4.7*

Note: See Appendix 3 - for notes on change in definition of stillbirths that took place in 1992

[1] Rate per 1,000 population

[2] Rate per 1,000 resident live and still births

[3] Rate per 1,000 live births (resident and non-resident)

Appendix 3: Notes and Definitions

Population Data

All population figures refer to estimates or projections as at the 30 of June of the year in question. Ages relate to age at last birthday at the date shown.

Natural Change

Natural change is equal to total births minus total deaths.

Migration

Following international guidelines migration statistics relate only to long-term migrants (i.e. someone who changes their place of residence for a year or more (Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, United Nations, 1998)). Migration estimates are characterised by the previous and current place of residence, with internal migration relating to moves within Northern Ireland, and international migration relating to moves to or from countries outside the United Kingdom.

Marriages

Marriage rates relate to the number of marriages solemnised and not to the number of persons married. The number of marriages relates to those registered in Northern Ireland, thus it does not include Northern Ireland residents who get married outside Northern Ireland, but does include non Northern Ireland residents getting married in Northern Ireland.

Divorces

Divorce statistics have been compiled from returns of 'Decrees made Absolute' supplied by the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service and include nullities of marriage.

Information on the number of 'Decree Nisis' is published by the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service. A Decree Nisi does not terminate the marriage; a couple are still married until the Decree Absolute has been granted.

Date of Registration and Date of Occurrence

All the data presented on births, stillbirths, marriages, civil partnerships and deaths relate to the date of registration of the event and not to the date of occurrence. For events such as infant death or suicide, which are likely to be referred to the coroner, it can take some time for the event to be registered.

Place of Occurrence

Births, stillbirths and deaths have been allocated to the area of usual residence if it is in Northern Ireland, otherwise they have been allocated to the area of occurrence. Marriage and civil partnership figures relate to the area of occurrence.

Marital Status of Parents

The following terms are used throughout the report:

Married parents: refers to parents who are married to each other at time of registration of birth.

Unmarried parents: refers to parents who are unmarried or married but not to each other at time of registration of birth.

Births

The births presented in this report (since 1981) do not include births to non Northern Ireland resident mothers unless otherwise stated.

Stillbirths

The **Stillbirth (Definition) Act 1992** redefined a stillbirth, from 1 October 1992, as a child which had issued forth from its mother after the 24th week of pregnancy and which did not breath or show any other sign of life. Prior to 1 October 1992 the statistics related to events occurring after the 28th week of pregnancy.

A stillbirth rate refers to the number of stillbirths per 1,000 live and still births.

The stillbirths presented in this report (since 1981) do not include stillbirths to non Northern Ireland resident mothers.

Perinatal Deaths

Perinatal deaths refer to stillbirths and deaths in the first week of life.

A **perinatal death rate** refers to the number of perinatal deaths per 1,000 live and still births (including non Northern Ireland residents).

Perinatal deaths presented in this report include stillbirths and infant deaths to non Northern Ireland residents.

Neonatal Deaths

Neonatal deaths refer to deaths in the first four weeks of life.

A **neonatal death rate** refers to the number of neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births (including non Northern Ireland residents).

Postneonatal Deaths

Postneonatal deaths refer to deaths after the first four weeks but before the end of the first year.

A **postneonatal death rate** refers to the number of postneonatal deaths per 1,000 live births (including non Northern Ireland residents).

Infant Deaths

Infant deaths refer to all deaths in the first year of life.

An **infant death rate** refers to the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births (including non Northern Ireland residents).

Deaths

The deaths represented in this report refer to all deaths which occurred in Northern Ireland. They include those which occurred in Northern Ireland to non Northern Ireland residents, but exclude those occurring to Northern Ireland residents outside Northern Ireland.

Suicide, Self-Inflicted Injury and Events of Undetermined Intent

In the UK, in considering suicide events it is conventional to include cases where the cause of death is classified as either 'Suicide and self-inflicted injury' or 'Undetermined injury'. The ICD10 codes used for 'Suicide and self-inflicted injury' are X60-X84 and Y87.0, and the ICD10 codes used for 'Undetermined injury' are Y10-Y34 and Y87.2. (Also see note on registration and occurrence).

Prior to 2004 there were seven coroner's districts in Northern Ireland; following a review of the coroner's service the separate districts were amalgamated into one centralised coroner's service. This change may affect the timing of registration of deaths with statistics from 2004 onwards being more timely and consistent. For more information on the impact of time taken to investigate a death on official suicide death statistics see:

http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/publications/suicides/Impact_of_registration_delays_on_suicide_statistics_in_Northern_Ireland.pdf

Smoking Related Deaths

Information is not recorded on the death certificate on whether the deceased was a smoker. Estimates can however be made of the number of deaths attributable to smoking, by using information on the contribution of smoking to specific conditions such as lung cancer which are recorded at death.

Research has been undertaken by the Health Development Agency to derive attributable proportions of smoking related deaths based on published relative risk factors for mortality of current and ex-smokers from various diseases, counts of death by cause, and estimates of current and ex-smoking behaviour.

For further information on the causes of death and attributable proportions used to define smoking related deaths see:

http://www.nice.org.uk/niceMedia/documents/smoking_epidemic.pdf

Alcohol Related Deaths

The figures in this report are based on the UK-wide harmonised definition of alcohol related deaths. The definition of alcohol related deaths includes those causes of death regarded as most directly due to alcohol consumption. It does not include other diseases where alcohol has been shown to have some causal relationship, such as cancers of the mouth, oesophagus and liver. The definition includes all deaths from chronic liver disease and cirrhosis (excluding biliary cirrhosis), even when alcohol is not specifically mentioned on the death certificate.

Apart from deaths due to poisoning with alcohol (accidental, intentional or undetermined), this definition excludes any other external causes of death, such as road traffic deaths and other accidents.

Further details on the UK definition and a list of the ICD9 and ICD10 codes used to code alcohol related deaths can be found at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/all-releases.html?definition=tcm%3A77-29395

Drug Related Deaths

A death is considered to be a drug related death if the underlying cause of death recorded on the death certificate is drug poisoning, drug abuse or drug dependence. These deaths can be identified solely through the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). The ICD9 and ICD10 codes used to define these deaths are listed in the table:

ICD10 Underlying Cause Code	ICD9 Underlying Cause Code	Description
F11–F16, F18–F19	292, 304, 305.2–305.9	Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)
X40–X44	E850–E858	Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X60–X64	E950.0–E950.5	Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X85	E962.0	Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
Y10–Y14	E980.0–E980.5	Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent

Asbestos Related Deaths

Asbestos exposure can result in a number of life threatening illnesses including asbestosis, a lung disease which restricts breathing, and also mesothelioma which is a cancer of the lung.

In this report, asbestos related deaths have been defined as those deaths where asbestosis and/or mesothelioma have been mentioned on the death certificate either as a primary or secondary cause.

Further details on the definition used for asbestos related deaths can be found on the Health and Safety Executive website at:

http://www.hseni.gov.uk/index/information_and_guidance/general_hseniinfo/statistics.htm

Healthcare Associated Infections

In this report deaths related to healthcare associated infection solely relate to Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and *Clostridium difficile*. It is not possible to identify directly from the ICD codes all deaths where MRSA or *Clostridium difficile* contributed to a death. Data within this report has been collated by looking for all mentions of either MRSA or *Clostridium difficile* on the death certificate.

Crude Birth and Death Rates

A **crude rate** refers to the number of occurrences of the event per 1,000 population.

Age Standardisation

A straight comparison of crude death rates between areas may present a misleading picture because of differences in the sex and age structure of the respective populations. The technique of standardisation is used to remedy this. In general, standardisation involves a comparison of the actual number of events occurring in an area with the aggregate number expected if the age/sex specific rates in the standard population were applied to the age/sex groups of the observed population. The results are expressed either as standardised rates or as standardised mortality ratios (SMRs) where the standard ratio (for Northern Ireland) equals 100.

In some areas the presentation of standardised rates for only one year's deaths may not provide a full picture of the underlying standardised death rates. It is therefore advisable to use the 3 years rates provided.

Significance of SMRs

The estimation of SMRs by LGD and Health and Social Care Trust invites the question of whether such SMRs are different from the Northern Ireland average (100). The statistical significance of the SMRs has been examined by estimating the probability that the difference between an observed SMR and 100 might have resulted from chance variation; where this probability is less than 0.05 (one in 20) the particular SMR has been classified as statistically significantly ($p<0.05$) different from 100.

Total Period Fertility Rate (TPFR)

The TPFR is the average number of children that would be born to a cohort of women who experienced, throughout their childbearing years, the fertility rates of the calendar year in question.

TPFR Replacement Level

In western countries a TPFR of about 2.1 is required to maintain long-term population levels, assuming no migration.

General Fertility Rate

The general fertility rate is the number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15-44.

The Gross Reproduction Rate

The gross reproduction rate is the average number of live daughters that would be born to a cohort of women who experienced, throughout their childbearing years, the fertility rates of the calendar year in question.

The Net Reproduction Rate

With reference to the gross reproduction rate, the net reproduction rate is the average number of these live daughters that, subject to the mortality rates of the calendar year in question, would survive to their mother's age at the time of birth.

Completed Family Size

Average completed family size is calculated by summing over time the succeeding age specific fertility rates of women born in a particular year. (Such an approximation assumes that the effects of mortality and migration are negligible). However this measure can only calculate a value for women who have reached the end of the main childbearing ages conventional 45 years of age, but there is some value in considering the historical data for cohorts that have reached this age and the partial series for those not yet 45.

Maternities

Maternities refer to the number of pregnancies ending in stillbirths or live births with multiple births counting only once. The number of maternities presented in this report (since 1981) does not include births or stillbirths to non Northern Ireland residents.

National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SeC)

This new social classification has replaced the previously published Registrar General's Social Class. It is principally based on the individual's occupation and employment status and has been introduced in order to reflect a modern view of social classification. It was introduced from 2001 onwards. Further information can be obtained from the Office for National Statistics at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/classifications/archived-standard-classifications/soc-and-sec-archive/the-national-statistics-socio-economic-classification--origins--development-and-use.pdf

NS-SeC is determined according to a person's occupation; for children of parents who are married to each other, according to the occupation of the father as stated at birth registration; for children of parents who are not married to each other but who jointly registered the birth, according to the occupation of the father; and for sole registrations, according to the occupation of the mother. The occupations are grouped into the following classes:

NS-SeC I	Higher managerial & professional occupations
NS-SeC II	Lower managerial & professional occupations
NS-SeC III	Intermediate occupations
NS-SeC IV	Small employers & own account workers
NS-SeC V	Lower supervisory & technical occupations
NS-SeC VI	Semi-routine occupations
NS-SeC VII	Routine occupations
NS-SeC VIII	Never worked & long-term unemployed

Cause of Death Coding – ICD10

All deaths and stillbirths registered from the 1 January 2001 have been coded in accordance with the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, (ICD) (Tenth Revision), which has been in operation by international agreement from 1 January 1999.

Classification of the underlying cause of death is done by reference to the death certificate and additional information from the certifying doctor.

In January 2011, the General Register Office (GRO) upgraded its software for coding the causes of death to take account of a number of updates that the World Health Organisation (WHO) had made to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The main changes are amendments to the modification tables and selection rules, which are used to ascertain a causal sequence and consistently assign underlying cause of death from the conditions recorded on the death certificate. Overall, the impact of these changes is small although some cause groups are affected more than others, notably 'F' codes and 'G' codes relating to Alzheimer's disease and Dementia.

Expectation of Life

Expectation of life statistics are produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Expectations of life can be calculated in two ways: period life expectancy or cohort life expectancy.

Period life expectancies are worked out using the age-specific mortality rates for a given period (either a single year, or a run of years), with no allowance for any later actual or projected changes in mortality.

Cohort life expectancies are worked out using age-specific mortality rates which allow for known or projected changes in mortality in later years.

All statistics for expectation of life in Chapter 1 are based on the period methodology and are produced for single year of age based on three year's deaths and population data with the exception of the cohort figures given in Table 1.2.

Northern Ireland Population Projections

Northern Ireland population projections based on the 2012 mid-year estimates were published on 6 November 2013.

Base population: The projection was based on the Northern Ireland mid 2012 population estimate.

Fertility: The numbers of births for the projections are obtained by applying the appropriate fertility rate to the average number of women at each age during each year of the projection period. For Northern Ireland, long-term average completed family size is assumed to be 2.00 children per woman.

Mortality: The mortality rates for the first year of the projection, 2012 13, are based on the best estimates that could be made in September 2013 of the numbers of deaths at each age. Future improvements in mortality rates are based on the trend in mortality rates in the years up to 2012. In the long term rates of improvement in mortality rates are projected to be 1.2 per cent per annum.

Migration: It has been assumed that over the period mid 2012 to mid 2018 3,000 less people will come to Northern Ireland to live than leave. Beyond this migration will be in balance with the same number of people coming here to live as leaving each year. These assumptions are based on recent trends in migration and do not attempt to predict the impact of government policies on, for example, migration and student fees.

The Northern Ireland population projections are produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) at the request of the Registrar General for Northern Ireland. Further information on population projections can be obtained from:

National Population Projections and Life Tables Branch
ONS Centre for Demography
Office for National Statistics
Room D3/05
1 Drummond Gate
LONDON
SW1V 2QQ

Tel: 020 7533 5222

Email: **natpopproj@ons.gov.uk**
lifetables@ons.gov.uk

Website: **http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/index.html**

Geography Used for Data

Since the 2007 Registrar General Annual Report vital statistics by geography are defined using the Pointer address database. In Annual Reports prior to 2007 the geography for vital statistics was defined using the postcode from the address in conjunction with the Central Postcode Directory (CPD).

Pointer is an address database that has been developed by the Land and Property Services, Royal Mail and Local Councils. Pointer gives each address a unique property reference number and geo-spatial coordinates.

From 2009, the address for each registration is linked using the grid-reference of the Pointer unique property reference number to higher geographies. Under the previous CPD method only the postcode of the address was used to define the higher geography. Thus the new method is a more accurate method for allocating births and deaths by geography.

Where it has not been possible to assign a unique property reference number to an address using the Pointer database, the previous CPD method has been used to assign the geography.

Change to Local Government Districts

In 2008, the Northern Ireland Assembly approved the reform of Local Government. The change moved Local Government from the 26 current Districts to 11 new Districts, as well as making changes to the powers of Local Government. The geographical changes were initiated through the Local Government (Boundaries) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. The 11 new Districts became operational in April 2015 however the new Districts were operational in shadow mode after the elections in 2014 (see **http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/local-government-structure**). For further information a paper is available – **http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/geography/11DC_Guidance.pdf**

UK Data

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for producing a wide range of economic and social statistics. It also, for England and Wales, registers life events and holds the Census of Population. Contact details are as follows:

Customer Contact Centre
Room 1.015
Office for National Statistics
Cardiff Road,
NEWPORT
NP10 8XG

Tel: 0845 601 3034

Fax: 0163 365 2747

Email: **info@statistics.gov.uk**

Website: **http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/index.html**

The National Records of Scotland (NRS) is responsible for the registration of births, marriages, deaths, divorces and adoptions in Scotland. They are also responsible for the Census of Population in Scotland which, with other sources of information, is used to produce population statistics. Contact details are as follows:

Customer Services
Dissemination and Census Analysis Branch
General Register Office for Scotland
Ladywell House
Ladywell Road
EDINBURGH
EH12 7TF

Tel: 0131 314 4243

Fax: 0131 314 4696

Email: **customer@gro-scotland.gov.uk**

Website: **www.gro-scotland.gov.uk**

Appendix 4: Further Information

Vital Statistics

A wide range of additional information at differing levels of geography and for years not included in this edition of the Registrar General's Annual Report is available on request from Customer Services.

Population Statistics

Estimates of the resident population are available by sex and single year of age for each of the Local Government Districts, Health and Social Care Trusts, Education and Library Boards and NUTS III areas of Northern Ireland. This information can be obtained from:

Customer Services
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
McAuley House
2-14 Castle Street
BELFAST
BT1 1SA

Tel: 028 9034 8160

Fax: 028 9034 8161

Email: **census.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk**

Website: **http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp3.htm**

Migration Statistics

Since 2006 NISRA has published additional information on long-term international migration. Information from a number of administrative/statistical sources including the Worker Registration Scheme, the Work Permit Scheme and National Insurance Number registrations are cited to support the long-term international migration estimates and provide further information on country of origin and reasons for migrating.

These publications can be found on the NISRA website at the following link:

http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp18.htm

Historical Registrar General Annual Reports

Electronic copies of all Registrar General Annual Reports from 1887 to the present day are now available from the NISRA website. They can be accessed at the following link:

http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp57.htm

Census Office for Northern Ireland

2011 Census

The 2011 Census was held on Sunday 27 March 2011. Census Office has completed the publication of the pre-planned outputs including:

- Census 2011 Population and Household Estimates
- Census 2011 Key and Quick Statistics
- Census 2011 Detailed Characteristics
- Census 2011 Local Characteristics
- Census 2011 Alternative Populations

The information from the 2011 Census is available through the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) website: **www.nisra.gov.uk/ninis**

NINIS provides facilities to access the data and to view the data on charts and maps.

The Census 2011 Northern Ireland General Report was published in March 2015. It summarises the entire census operation spanning ten years, from the early consultation, legislation and planning stages, through the field activities and data processing to the production and dissemination of outputs, and the key lessons learned, which will be taken forward for the 2021 Census. The report is available from: **http://www.nisra.gov.uk/census/2011/evaluation.html**

More information on the Census, and the statistics available from it, can be obtained from:

Census Customer Services
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
McAuley House
2-14 Castle Street
BELFAST
BT1 1SA

Tel: 028 9034 8160

Fax: 028 9034 8161

Email: **census.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk**

Website: **http://www.nisra.gov.uk/census.html**

2021 Census

Preparations are underway for the next Census which is planned for 2021. The 2021 Census will be primarily online, while offering alternative modes of completion where necessary.

It will also aim to make best use of technology and administrative data in its design, building on the online approach used successfully in the 2011 Census.

Further information can be found in 'The Future Provision of Census of Population Information for Northern Ireland' which is available from: **http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/census/2021/planning/the-future-provision-of-census-of-population-information-for-northern-ireland.pdf**

Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS)

Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) provides free online access to statistical and locational information relating to small areas across Northern Ireland. Information is available across a range of themes including Population, Health & Social Care, Education & Skills and Crime & Justice. The NINIS website (**www.nisra.gov.uk/ninis**) contains datasets for statistical and administrative (e.g. Local Government District and Health and Social Care Trusts) geographies; area profiles providing statistical snapshots of your area; and mapping facilities that enable statistics to be interpreted readily in a spatial context as well as other data visualisation tools.

Further information can be obtained from:

Neighbourhood Statistics
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
McAuley House
2-14 Castle Street
BELFAST BT1 1SA

Tel: 028 9034 8111

Email: **ninis.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk**

Website: **http://www.nisra.gov.uk/ninis**

Twitter: **@NISRANINIS**

Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study (NILS)

The Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study (NILS) is a large-scale data linkage study which has been created by linking administrative and statistical data. The Study is designed for statistical and research uses only and is managed under various legislative acts including The Census Act. Information is linked over time on people from Census, vital events and health registration datasets. Data sources include 1991, 2001 and 2011 Census data, birth and death registrations and demographic data derived from health registrations. 1981 Census data will be available later in 2015. In addition to this rich resource there is also the potential to link further Heath and Social care data in distinct linkage projects (DLPs). This dataset is held in a secure environment by the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency (NISRA).

Northern Ireland Mortality Study (NIMS)

The Northern Ireland Mortality Study (NIMS) is a large-scale data linkage study developed in 2006 that links mortality data from the General Register Office (GRO) to 2001 and 2011 Census returns. The NIMS has been developed as a companion dataset to the full NILS, in which 100 per cent of the populations as enumerated in the 2001 and 2011 Censuses are included. As with the NILS dataset, these anonymised data are held in a secure environment by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). Like the NILS dataset, the NIMS is designed and

maintained for statistical and research uses only and is managed under various legislative acts including The Census Act.

Further information on the NILS and the NIMS can be obtained from:

NILS Research Support Unit
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
McAuley House
2-14 Castle Street
BELFAST
BT1 1SA

Email: **nils-rsu@qub.ac.uk**

Website: **http://www.nils-rsu.census.ac.uk**

Twitter: **@NILSRSU**

Administrative Data Research Centre – Northern Ireland

The Administrative Data Research Centre for Northern Ireland (ADRC-NI) is part of the UK-wide Administrative Data Research Network (ADRN), and is a partnership between Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University and NISRA. The purpose of the ADRN is to facilitate economic and social research using administrative data (data which are collected by Government and other organisations for administrative purposes). Researchers may access de-identified administrative data in a secure environment housed within the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). Researchers are welcome to contact the ADRC-NI team to discuss project ideas.

Further information on ADRC can be obtained from:

Email: **adrcni@qub.ac.uk**

Website: **www.adrn.ac.uk**

Twitter: **@ADRC_NI**

Divorces and Civil Partnership Dissolutions – Decree Nisi Information

The information on divorces and civil partnership dissolutions in this report refers to Decree Absolutes. Information on Decree Nisi's can be obtained from:

Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service
Laganside House
23-27 Oxford Street
Belfast BT1 3LA

Tel: 028 9032 8594

Fax: 028 9072 8942

Website: **http://www.courtsni.gov.uk**

Appendix 5: Report on the work of the General Register Office for Northern Ireland (2014)

Introduction

The General Register Office for Northern Ireland (GRO) is the part of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) that administers civil registration. The Registrar General for Northern Ireland, who is also Chief Executive of NISRA, heads GRO. The registration functions of GRO stem mainly from the statutory responsibilities placed on the Registrar General and include:

- administration of the registration of births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships through District Registration Offices;
- registration of adoptions
- formalities relating to marriage and conduct of civil marriages;
- formalities relating to civil partnership registration;
- maintenance of records of births, deaths, marriages, civil partnerships and adoptions and production of certified copies to applicants on request; and
- the provision of online access to historic records of births, deaths and marriages.

The Registrar General has additional statutory duties relating to the production and publication of vital statistics. Demography and Methodology Branch within NISRA manage these duties in partnership with GRONI.

Aims

The work of GRO is wide ranging including policy development, oversight and regulation of registration work undertaken by the District Registration Offices, advice on marriage procedures, casework relating to change of name, procedures relating to legal adoptions, production of certified copies of vital events and maintenance and storage of archive records. This is reflected in the fundamental aims of GRO, which are:

- to register all births, deaths, marriages, civil partnerships and adoptions;
- to ensure that all information collected is relevant, accurate, complete and updated in such a way as to maintain public confidence in the records;
- to support the production of accurate vital statistics to assist policy development and research;
- to preserve birth, death, marriage, civil partnership and adoption records permanently and to store them securely;
- to produce certified copies of records efficiently and promptly on demand and manage the Family History website.

The aims of GRO staff are to carry out these statutory obligations, to give accurate and unbiased advice to the public, to act with integrity at all times and to respect the confidentiality of all information contained in registration records or given by the public in confidence.

Main Activities / Performance Against Key Targets during 2014

Over 50,000 vital events (births, re-registered births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships) were registered in District Registration Offices and a corresponding number of certificates were issued. In addition, during 2014, GRONI:

- produced 65,000 certificates and of those, over 7,000 priority certificates;
- had 1,500 visitors to the Public Search Room facility in Oxford House;
- verified 80 births, deaths and marriages for government departments:
- provided all death notifications to the Business Services Organisation, Electoral Office for Northern Ireland and Department for Work and Pensions; and
- dealt with 4,500 registration related cases.

Each year the Registrar General sets a number of key targets for GRONI. During 2014 these included:

- Process 98 per cent of postal, online and telephone certificate applications within 5 working days.

  Achieved: over 98 per cent were processed within target.

- Process 98 per cent of personal certificate applications within 3 working days.

  Achieved: over 98 per cent were processed within target.

- Process 97 per cent of birth, death, marriage, civil partnership and adoption registration casework within 15 working days.

  Achieved: over 97 per cent were processed within 15 days.

(i) Annual review of civil registration fees

Each year GRONI review the statutory fees charged for registration services against costs. The review indicated that an increase in fees in relation to birth, death, marriage and civil partnership certificates was not necessary.

(ii) GRO Genealogical (GeNI) Project

GRONI unveiled its eagerly awaited family history website (**https://geni.nidirect.gov.uk/**) on 31st March 2014. Approximately 5 million Northern Irish civil registration records from 1845 to date have been fully digitised and the website provides the opportunity to search online for birth registration records over 100 years old, marriages over 75 years and deaths over 50 years. Appointments for the upgraded Belfast search room can also be booked online, which provides extended access to the full archive of approximately 9 million records. Feedback on the new service has been extremely positive and over 2 million searches have been performed on the site in the first 12 months of operation

The website provides a new online transactional service that has revolutionized genealogical research in Northern Ireland and has been welcomed by family history researchers across the world. Previously researchers would have had to attend the public search room in person or use a third party on their behalf. Customers can now search online in a flexible and user friendly manner using a "buy credits" based system to view, basic, partial and full records. If required customers can proceed to a new secure and improved online ordering service for certified copy certificates of these records. Additionally, customers can order certificates for all civil registration records without performing a genealogical search providing they can provide the relevant particulars.

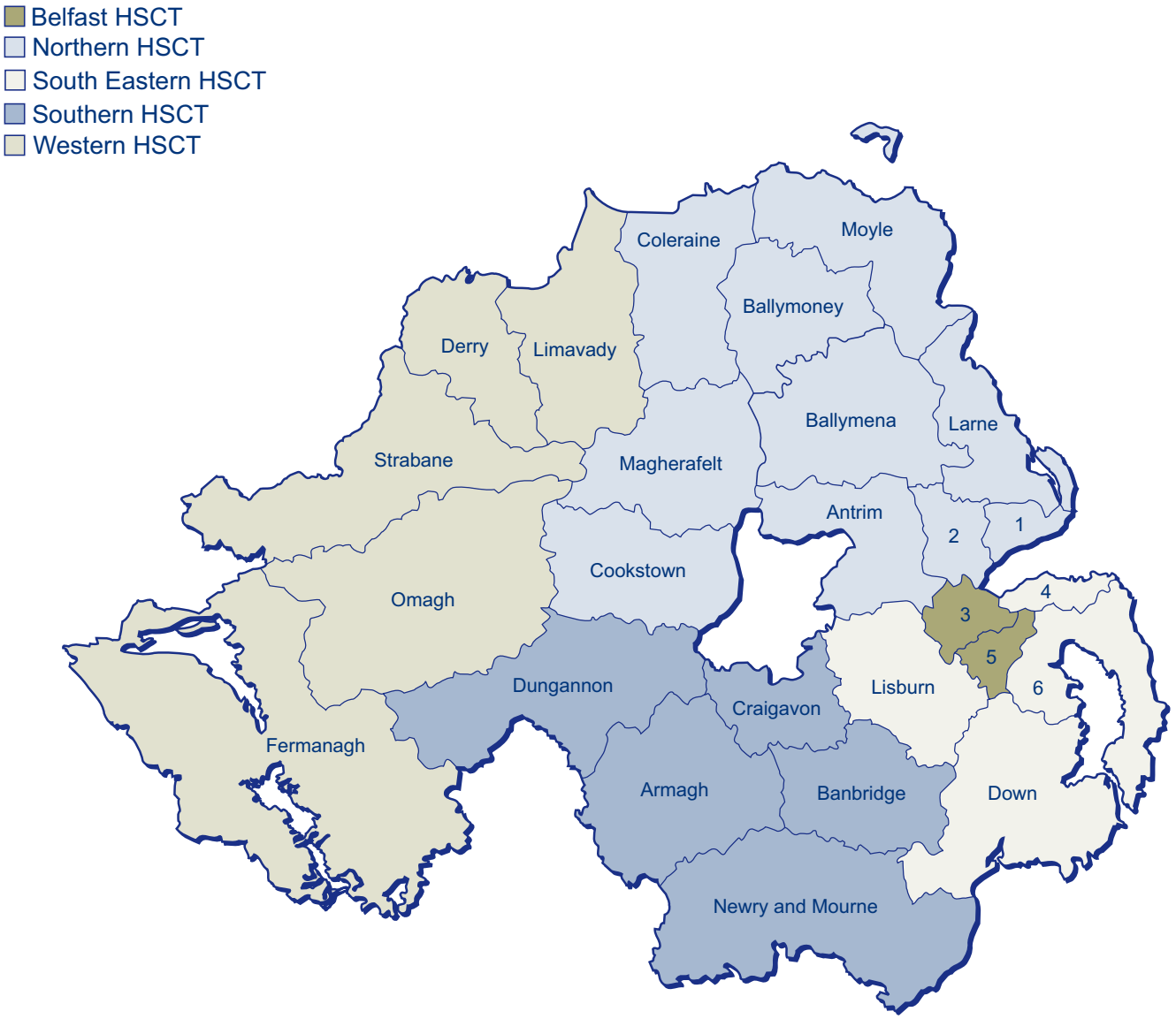
Staff from GRO have actively promoted the new family History website through attendance at the Who Do You Think You Are? Live exhibition at the London Olympia Exhibition Centre and at the Back To Our Past exhibition in the RDS, Dublin.

(iii) GRO Northern Ireland Registration Office System (NIROS) Project

GRONI has commenced planning for the next stage in the modernisation programme, which is the replacement of the current electronic registration system. A Supplier for the NIROS project was selected in 2014, with the delivery of the replacement system due in early 2016.

Appendix 6

Northern Ireland's Health & Social Care Trusts and Local Government Districts



1. Carrickfergus
2. Newtownabbey
3. Belfast
4. North Down
5. Castlereagh
6. Ards

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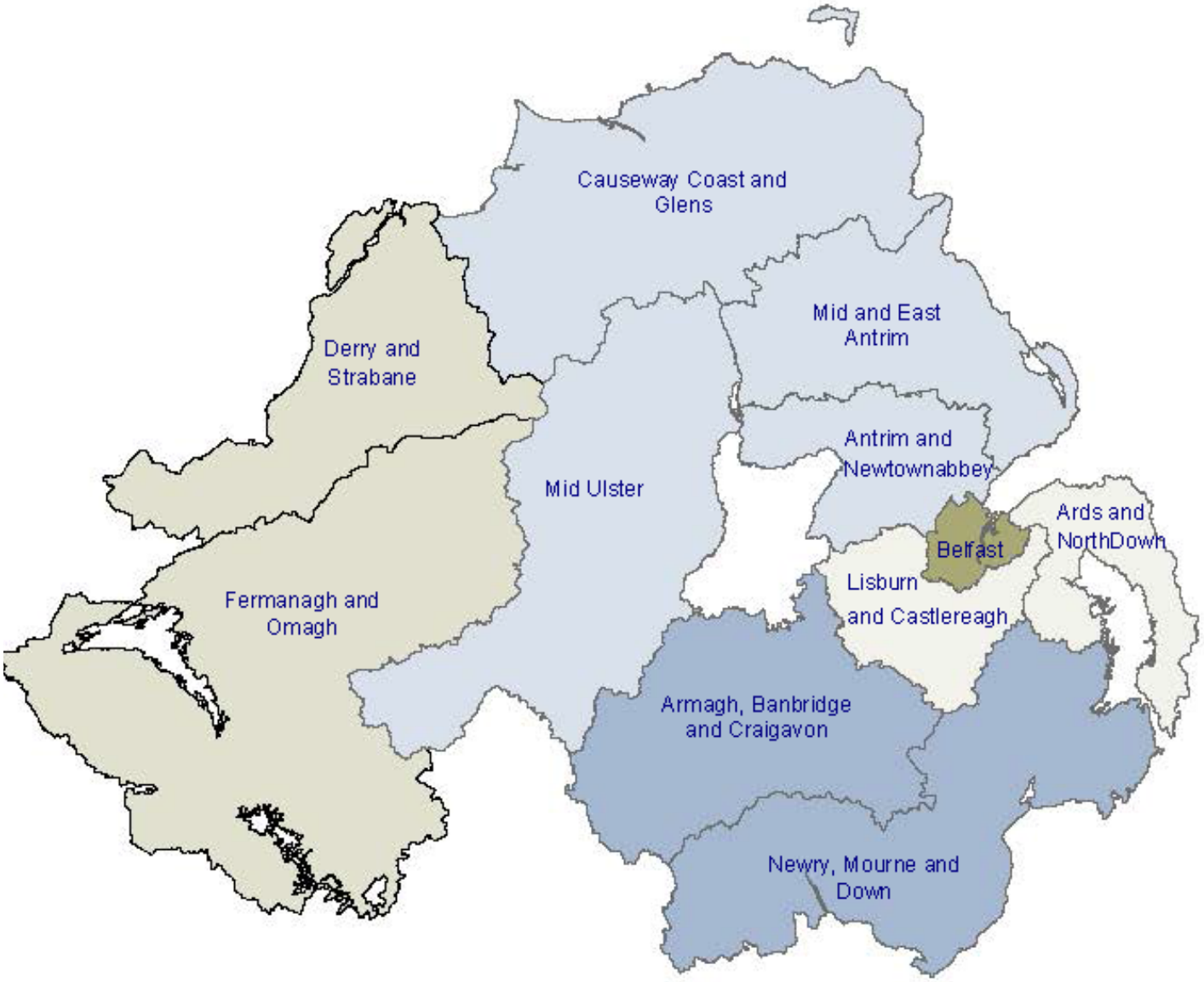
Appendix 7

Northern Ireland's 11 Local Government Districts



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