

Men in Northern Ireland: Report 1a December 2007

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The Men in Northern Ireland (MINI) series is produced by ARK, a joint project between Queen's University Belfast and the University of Ulster. Its aim is to make material on the social and political life of Northern Ireland available to the widest audience.

www.ark.ac.uk

The Men's Project within Parents Advice Centre aims to increase awareness of the issues facing local men and boys and to promote their social inclusion.

www.mensproject.org

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Men's vital statistics

Key facts

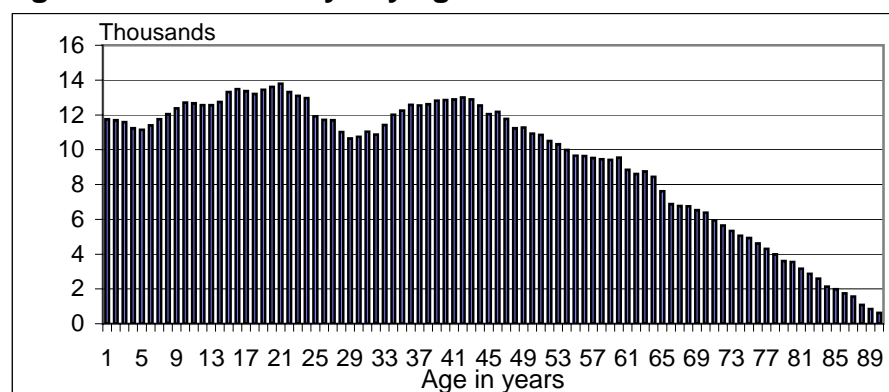
- Men constitute 49% of the population, but only 24% of people aged 90 years and over.
- Boys account for 53.9% of live births.
- At birth, the life expectancy for boys is 76.1 years.
- The major causes of death for men are cancer and ischaemic heart disease.

Data from the 2006 Mid Year Population Estimates indicate that there were 853,404 men and boys in Northern Ireland, out of a total population of 1,741,619. Thus, men constituted 49% of the population.

However, there was some spatial variation. Within the Western Education and Library Board, 49.94% of the population was male, compared with only 47.16% within the Belfast Education and Library Board. A similar pattern is found when population figures within Health and Social Services Boards are examined: the Western Board contained the highest proportion of males (49.94%), while the Eastern Board contained the lowest proportion (48.15%).

Figure 1 shows the wide distribution of men and boys by age. The number of boys rises from birth (11,754 males) to age 15 (13,472 males). The numbers rise and fall for a few years, then start to increase at age then drop until age 28 years, and then start to increase. However, there is a sharp decrease in the number of men in the population over the age of 41 years – for example, there are only 631 men aged 89.

Figure 1: Men and boys by age



Source: 2006 Mid Year Population Estimates, NISRA

Males outnumber females in the population from birth until age 26, and then from age 50-52 years. However, after retirement age, there is a sharp fall in the proportion of men. In particular, only 24% of the population aged 90 years and over are men (see Table 1).

Table 1: Number and proportion of males by age group

Age group	Number of males	Total population	% male
0-4	57,407	112,135	51.2
5-9	60,283	117,158	51.5
10-14	63,851	124,553	51.3
15-19	67,106	130,620	51.4
20-24	65,071	127,077	51.2
25-29	55,830	111,896	49.9
30-34	57,597	116,742	49.3
35-39	63,412	129,075	49.1
40-44	63,406	129,602	48.9
45-49	57,388	117,434	48.9
50-54	51,322	102,070	50.3
55-59	47,595	96,946	49.1
60-64	42,249	86,964	48.6
65-69	33,280	70,123	47.5
70-74	26,920	59,449	45.3
75-79	20,051	48,702	41.2
80-84	12,756	34,763	36.7
85-89	5,861	17,898	32.7
90+	2,019	8,412	24.0
All	853,404	1,741,619	49.0

Source: 2006 Mid Year Population Estimates, NISRA

Migration

Inward migration to Northern Ireland has increased significantly in recent years. However, migration is not officially measured. Thus, several data sources are often combined to give an approximate measure. For example:

- The Worker Registration Scheme (WRS) is used to formally register migrant workers from the eight Eastern European countries that joined the European Union in May 2004. From April 2004 to March 2007, 23,640 people were registered under that scheme, of which approximately two thirds were male.
- From April 2004 to March 2006, 6734 Work Permits were issued, of which 56% were to men.
- From April 2005 to March 2006, 9,621 men were allocated National Insurance numbers, of which 45% were aged 18-34 years.
- In 2006, 18,118 people from outside the United Kingdom (UK) formally registered for a health card and a family doctor. Half of these people were male, of whom 30% were aged 18-24 years.
- Using a variety of sources, the Estimated Net International Migration figures indicate that 5320 males came into Northern Ireland from outside the UK during the period of July 2005 to June 2006. Of these, two thirds were aged 18-34 years.
- The Estimated Net Total Migration (that is, including migration from countries outside the UK, as well as from Britain) for males for the same period (July 2005 to June 2006) was 5,427, of which 55% were aged 18-34 years.

Live births

Registrar General data for live births show that in 2005, 12,010 boys were born, representing 53.9% of births. There has been a 20.5% drop in the number of boys born since 1922, when 15,098 boys were born (see Table 3). During the same time period, there has been a larger fall (22.0%) in the number of girls being born. Thus, in 1922, there were 1,046 male per 1,000 female live births, and this has decreased to 1,066 male per 1,000 female live births in 2005.

Table 3: Live births

	Number of live births			Male per 1,000 female live births
	All	Male	Female	
1922	29,531	15,098	14,433	1,046
2006	22,272	12,010	11,262	1,066

Source: NISRA

Stillbirths and infant deaths

In 2006, there were 43 male stillbirths (defined as 24+ weeks gestation), representing 48.3% of the total. This proportion is slightly less (44.4%) based on 28+ weeks gestation. In 1922, there were 1,277 deaths of infant boys (that is, in the first year of life), which represented 56% of the 2,280 total number of infant deaths (see Table 4). By 2006, there had been an extremely large fall in the number of infant deaths to 70, of which boys made up 57.8%. This proportion is higher than the proportion of live births of boys (53.9%).

Table 4: Infant deaths

	Number of infant deaths		
	All	Male	Female
1922	2,280	1,277	1,003
2006	121	70	51

Source: Registrar General Annual Report, 2006

Life expectancy

Life expectancy at birth has increased significantly since the late 1800s (McWhirter, 2004). A boy born in 1890-92 could expect to live for 47 years (46 years for a girl). By 1980-2, these figures had risen to 69.17 years for a boy and 75.54 years for a girl. The most recent figures for 2006 indicate that life expectancy at birth for a boy is 76.1 years, and 81.0 years for a girl. By 2044, these figures are expected to rise to 82.4 years for boys and 86.2 years for girls. By 2054, the figures are expected to be 83.5 and 87.1 respectively. The differential between the life expectancy of men and women has fallen, from over 6 years in 1980-2 to 4.9 years in 2004-6. However, by 2054, the projected differential is 3.6 years.

Deaths

In 2006, there were 7,062 male deaths in Northern Ireland, representing 48.6% of all deaths. The average age at death was 71 years for men and 78 years for women, compared with 65 years and 71 years respectively in 1976. Nine men who died in 2006 were aged 100 years or over, compared with 80 women. There are significant variations in the age-specific death rates of men and women. Table 5 is based on data from 2006, and shows that below one year and from the age of 15 years, the rates for men are much higher than for women.

Table 5: Age-specific death rates (per 1,000 population)

	Age group											
	0	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
Male	6.0	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.9	1.0	1.8	4.2	10.0	24.5	69.1	177.5
Female	4.5	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.5	1.0	2.6	5.9	15.4	46.7	157.1

Source: Registrar General Annual Report, 2006

The cause of death varies greatly between males and females. For example, where the cause of death is ischaemic heart disease, the age standardised death rate per 100,000 men is 163, compared with 131 for women. Data since 1997 relating to cause of death indicate that the number of deaths from ischaemic heart disease has fallen (see Table 6). Nearly one third of

deaths in 1997 (32.8%) were from ischaemic heart disease, compared with 19.7% in 2006. The number of male deaths through respiratory diseases has also fallen. In contrast, the number of deaths due to intentional self harm has increased. The number of deaths by cancer has fluctuated, and now represents 28.45 of all male deaths. The form of cancers causing most deaths among males in 2006 were cancer of trachea, bronchus and lung (521 males) followed by prostate cancer (212 males).

Table 6: Number of deaths among males by cause

Cause of death	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Ischaemic heart disease	2,064	1,996	1,936	1,771	1,693	1,569	1,533	1,524	1,503	1,389
Cerebrovascular disease	635	593	619	527	581	579	579	541	499	511
Other circulatory diseases	467	481	475	465	489	528	452	451	428	406
All circulatory diseases	3,166	3,070	3,030	2,763	2,763	2,676	2,564	2,516	2,430	2,306
Chronic lower respiratory diseases	366	380	440	372	345	301	375	364	338	335
Other respiratory diseases	756	767	899	956	546	505	553	529	528	549
All respiratory diseases	1,122	1,147	1,339	1,328	891	806	928	893	866	884
Cancer (malignant neoplasms)	1,881	1,978	1,841	1,801	1,989	1,957	1,982	1,976	1,946	2,070
Transport accidents	114	99	100	110	116	112	97	115	131	136
Assault	20	28	20	31	13	21	23	30	26	23
Intentional self harm*	95	95	103	130	119	132	104	96	150	197
Undetermined*	13	18	24	10	13	10	8	9	17	30
Other external causes of death	162	148	163	116	110	155	140	155	187	188
All external causes of death	404	388	410	397	371	430	372	405	511	574
All other causes of death	671	738	844	839	993	1,079	1,074	1,145	1,204	1,228
All causes	7,244	7,321	7,464	7,128	7,007	6,948	6,920	6,935	6,957	7,062

Source: NISRA

*In the UK, when reporting deaths from suicide, it is conventional to include cases where the cause of death is classified as either 'Intentional self-harm' or 'Event of undetermined intent'

Glossary

Age-specific death rates are the number of deaths in a specific age group per 1,000 (or 100,000) of the estimated population in that age group. Using these rates allows comparison of death rates between groups with different age structures.

Cerebrovascular disease affects an artery within the brain, or supplying blood to the brain.

Ischaemic heart disease is an inadequate flow of blood through the coronary arteries to the heart.

Useful sources of information

McWhirter, Liz (ed.), 2004, 'Equality and Inequalities in Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland', Belfast: Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

www.equality.nisra.gov.uk The NISRA Equality Research and Information website collates and disseminates statistics and research relevant to equality of opportunity and its promotion within the public sector. Data are disaggregated by gender.

www.nisra.gov.uk The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) is Northern Ireland's official statistics organisation. The NISRA website contains a comprehensive range of official Northern Ireland statistics and survey information.

www.nisra.gov.uk/census/start.html Background information, as well as data, are available online for the 2001 Census of Population.

www.ofmdfmni.gov.uk/gender.pdf 'Gender Equality Indicators for Northern Ireland: A Discussion Document', by Esther Breitenbach and Yvonne Galligan, provides an overview of information on and patterns of gender inequality across a range of topics.