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Religion and Belief



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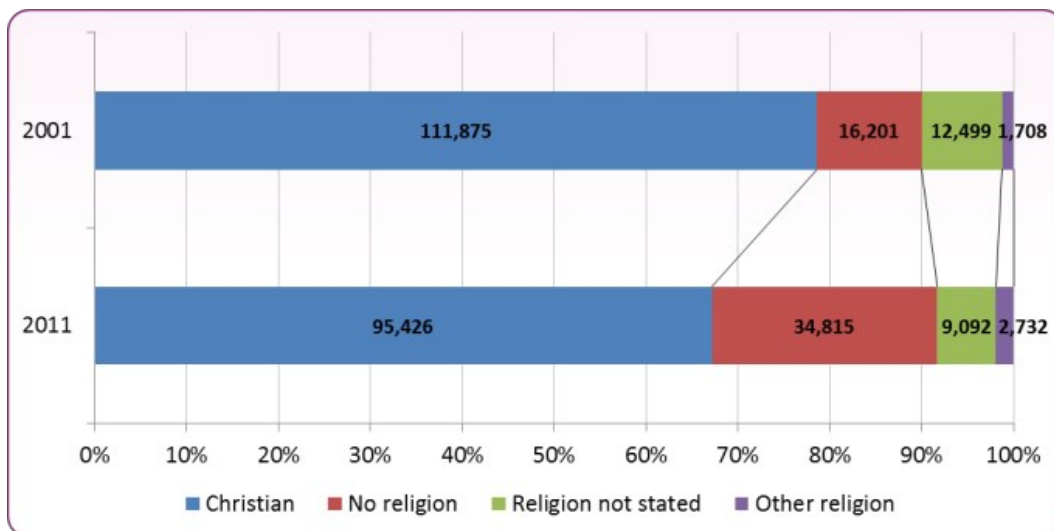
The most reliable indicator of religion and belief of the population at a local and national level is taken from the national Census, last conducted in 2011 and previously in 2001. The information regarding religion collected within the Census does not give any indication of an individual's level of religious observance or religious practice; it only asks which group an individual identifies themselves as belonging to.

67% of the residents of Blackpool identified themselves as Christian in 2011. This is a decrease from 79% of the population in 2001. This is by far the most commonly stated religious affiliation, but also the only one that has seen a significant decrease in size since 2001.

The second largest group are those who identify themselves as having no religion. In 2011, 25% of Blackpool residents identified themselves as having no religion, a substantial increase from 16,201 individuals in 2001 to 34,815 in 2012. 6% of the population of Blackpool chose not to state their religious belief.

Figure 1 summarises the proportional change in stated religion between 2001 and 2011.

Figure 1 - Change in Stated Religion in Blackpool 2001 to 2011

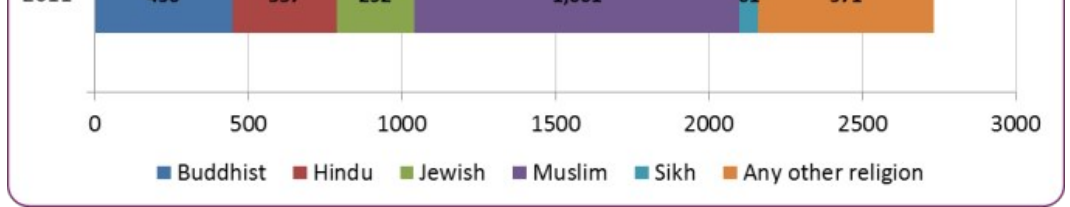


Source: Neighbourhood Statistics - ONS

1.9% of Blackpool residents identify themselves as having a religious belief other than Christian. This is an increase from 1.2% of the population in 2001, but is still a very small proportion of the Blackpool population when compared to the religious makeup of the national population. Figure 2 summarises the change in numbers of people stating they have a religious belief other than Christian.

Figure 2 - Change in Stated Religion in Blackpool - Other Religions - 2001 to 2011

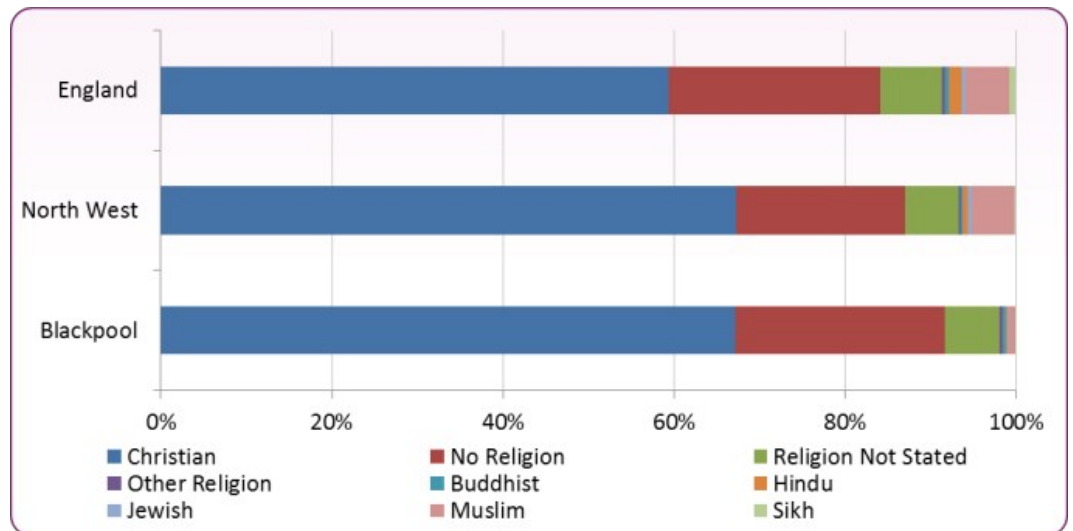




Source: Neighbourhood Statistics - ONS

Figure 3 compares the stated religion and belief of the population of Blackpool against the North West and England as a whole. Blackpool has a higher proportion of the population who identifies themselves as Christian compared to England as a whole. Blackpool has a comparatively very small Muslim population compared to England and the North West.

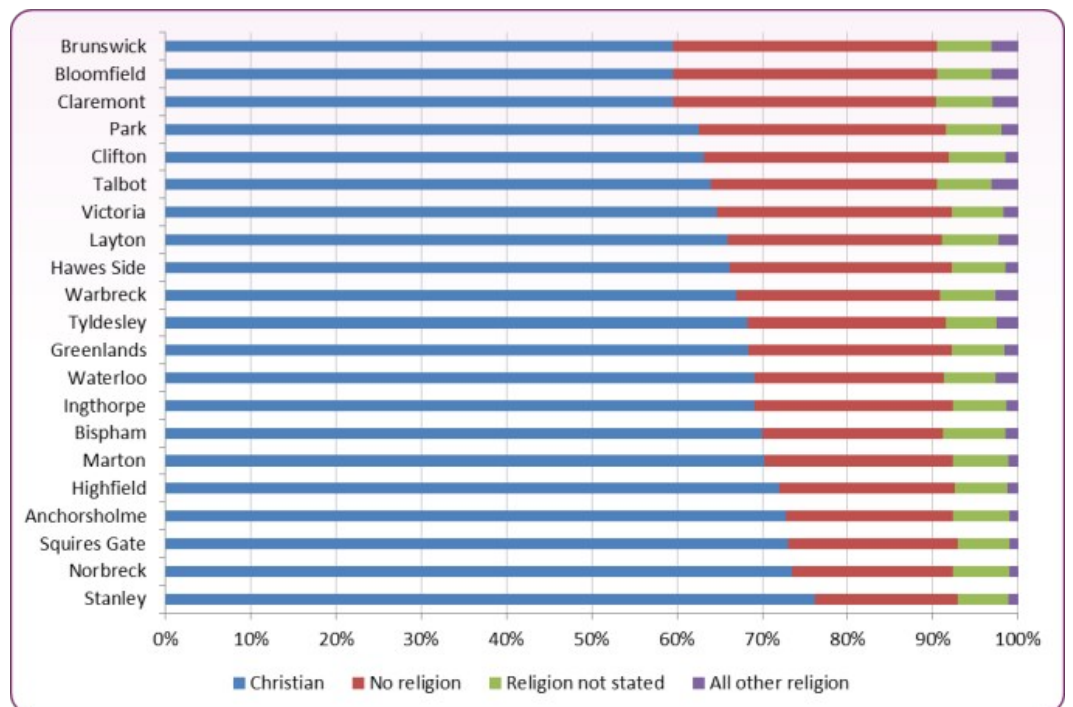
Figure 3 - Religion in Blackpool, North West, England - 2011



Source: Neighbourhood Statistics - ONS

Figure 4 demonstrates the variation in religious belief within Blackpool. Broadly, the population living within those electoral wards with older and less deprived communities are more likely to identify themselves as Christian and the populations living within wards with younger and more deprived wards are more likely to identify themselves as having no religion.

Figure 4 - Religion in Blackpool by Electoral Ward - 2011



Source: Neighbourhood Statistics - ONS

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