



2001 Question

4 What is your marital status (on 29 April 2001)?

- Single (never married)
- Married (first marriage)
- Re-married
- Separated (but still legally married)
- Divorced
- Widowed

2011 Question

4 On 27 March 2011, what is your legal marital or same-sex civil partnership status?

- Never married and never registered a same-sex civil partnership
- Married
- Separated, but still legally married
- Divorced
- Widowed
- In a registered same-sex civil partnership
- Separated, but still legally in a same-sex civil partnership
- Formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved
- Surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership

NILS Representativeness in 2001	Census 2001 Published		NILS Members		Representativeness Ratio ¹
	Count	%	Count	%	
Persons aged 16+	1287211		345876		
Single (never married)	426214	33%	112301	32%	0.98
Married	623658	48%	171135	49%	1.02
Re-married	34425	3%	9432	3%	1.02
Separated (but still legally married)	49420	4%	12559	4%	0.95
Divorced	53003	4%	13552	4%	0.95
Widowed	100491	8%	26897	8%	1.00

Source: Census 2001 : <http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/>
NILS: bespoke table created 080514

NILS Representativeness in 2011	Census 2011 Published		NILS Members		Representativeness Ratio
	Count	%	Count	%	
All usual residents (Aged 16+ years)	1431540		378401		
Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership)	517393	36%	132068	35%	0.97
Married	680831	48%	184144	49%	1.02
In a registered same-sex civil partnership	1243	0%	296	0%	0.90
Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership)	56911	4%	14960	4%	0.99
Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	78074	5%	20655	5%	1.00
Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership	97088	7%	26278	7%	1.02

Source: Census 2011 : <http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/>
NILS: bespoke table created 080514

¹ Representativeness ratio = 1 if the proportion in the population is the same as the proportion in the NILS. If the ratio is greater than 1 then the proportion in the NILS is higher than the proportion in the population. If the ratio is lower than 1 then the proportion in the population is higher than the proportion in the NILS.

Marital Status Transition (2001 to 2011) for those alive at both 2001 and 2011

The following table shows the transitions of marital status of NILS members live at both censuses and aged 16 or over in 2001.

		2011 Census Information (All persons aged 26+)						
		All aged 26+	Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership)	Married	In a registered same-sex civil partnership	Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership)	Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership
2001 Census Information (All persons aged 16+)	Aged 16+ years	274269	56659	163747	194	12299	16633	24737
	Single (never married)	85432	55040	26526	124	2101	1165	476
	Married	146019	727	126249	30	5520	3671	9822
	Re-married	7734	34	6297	*10	448	390	555
	Separated (but still legally married)	10332	303	2195	*10	3766	3330	728
	Divorced	11018	353	1938	10	381	7860	476
	Widowed	13734	202	542	*10	83	217	12680

Source: NISRA: bespoke table created 080514

Note: *cell counts have been rounded and related totals adjusted

Marital Status in the 2011 Census Quality Survey

The Census Quality Survey was an independent voluntary survey targeted at a random sample of households that had responded to the Census to assess the level of quality of census responses. The marital and civil partnership status reported in the Census and reported in the CQS were in agreement in 98.3% of cases. More detail is available at http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/census/2011/census_quality_survey.pdf

Marital Status Imputation Rates

Variables/Questions are considered 'Imputed' if the comparison of the original scanned response (with the basic edit checks completed) to the final census database (used for published outputs and for the NISRA variables) show a difference.

2001 Imputed/Edited/Missing Rate – 2%

2011 Imputed/Edited/Missing Rate – 9%

Discussion

The 2001 and 2011 distribution of the marital status variables within the NISRA are representative of the overall population as published by Census Office.

Of those aged 16 years old or over in 2001 who were single over three quarters remained single a decade later. Over 10,000 people who were married or re-married in 2001 are now recorded as widowed in 2011 and over 4,000 who were married or re-married in 2001 are now recorded as divorced in 2011.

There are some transitions between 2001 and 2011 that appear to be inaccuracies in reporting of marital status in either 2001 or 2011 – these include 727 (<0.3%) people who were married in 2001 but reported that they were single (never-married) in 2011. (Note: higher imputation rates in 2011 may account for this inaccuracy).