Everyone Counts 2014

Introducing the findings

Research and Statistics department,
Archbishops’ Council
Everyone Counts

- Long-term programme of monitoring diversity in congregations and church structures
- 2014: Self reported survey in congregations
- For the first time includes children within the congregation, and introduces a question on disability
- 35000 surveys returned, mix of postal and electronic submissions

Photographs shared with permission from St Boniface, Quinton. These were taken during data collection – completing surveys through the app on their phones.
• Questions on age, gender, church attendance and roles, ethnicity and country of origin, and long term health problems or impairments

• Invited sample was planned to be representative, but some adjustments were needed to estimate nationally representative figures

• Comparisons between congregations
  • over time, since 2007
  • across different localities
  • with the national population as a whole
6% of congregations are minority ethnic Anglicans

35% of minority ethnic Anglicans identify with Black ethnicities

32% of minority ethnic Anglicans identify with Asian ethnicities

27% of minority ethnic Anglicans identify with other White ethnicities

Average ALL age: 54 years

Average ADULT age: 61 years

41% male, 59% female
White British and minority ethnic Anglicans have very similar proportions of male and female responses, but different age structures...

... minority ethnic Anglicans are younger on average, with a greater average age difference between men and women.
How much has changed in 7 years?

• Nationally no substantial change in age, gender or ethnicity
  • Rural slightly older
  • Urban slightly younger

• Black or Black British remains largest minority ethnicity
  • Minority ethnic Anglicans still are younger than average, more likely to live in urban areas and less likely to be on the Electoral Roll or hold a parish role

• Gender more equal in youngest age groups, but in adult groups similar to previous reports
  • Shift towards notably more women occurs in 18-24 age group
Urban or rural?

- Population density of Output Area (min. 10,000 for urban), then
- Dwelling density
- Density of surrounding areas

% churches by geography of ecclesiastical parish

Map and classification from: www.gov.uk/government/collections/rural-urban-definition
35% of churches are in rural hamlets and isolated areas

1% of the population lives here
- A typical congregation includes 32 people
- The average congregation age is 56 years
- 12% of the congregation are under 18 years old
- 21% of the congregation are older than 75 years
- 4% of the congregation identified as minority ethnic
- 4% were born overseas

Identifying as minority ethnic and being born overseas are two separate questions and are not inter-changeable.
28% of churches are in rural town, fringe and village areas

17% of the population lives here

A typical congregation includes 29 people

The average congregation age is 58 years

12% of the congregation are under 18 years old

22% of the congregation are older than 75 years

4% of the congregation identified as minority ethnic

7% were born overseas
City churches

- 20% of churches are in rural town, fringe and village areas
- 43% of the population lives here
- A typical congregation includes 111 people
- The average congregation age is 53 years
- 15% of the congregation are under 18 years old
- 19% of the congregation are older than 75 years
- 8% of the congregation identified as minority ethnic
- 7% were born overseas
Conurbation churches

16% of churches are in conurbation areas

- 39% of the population lives here
- A typical congregation includes 105 people

The average congregation age is 48 years

- 20% of the congregation are under 18 years old
- 15% of the congregation are older than 75 years

17% of the congregation identified as minority ethnic

12% were born overseas

Not all dioceses have parishes in areas classified as ‘conurbation’. Half of all conurbation churches fall within four dioceses: London, Manchester, Southwark, and West Yorkshire and the Dales.
Disability, impairment and long term illnesses

- Age was the clearest difference in patterns of reporting, not rurality
- Self-report has limitations, highest rates of ‘prefer not to say’
There are no substantial differences between congregation and national prevalence figures.

Although prevalence increases with age, one fifth of people reporting at least one disability or long-term illness were aged 25 or younger.

The relatively high proportion of ‘other’ as the selected response raises questions about what is missing from our understanding of the data.
More about Everyone Counts

• Please visit our website for further information and download a copy of the first report: https://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/facts-stats/research-statistics/everyone-counts-2014.aspx

• Follow us on twitter @CofEStats

• Email the department: statistics.unit@churchofengland.org