

## RESOURCE 1.4

## Background numbers on Resource 1.1 Nones in England and Wales and beyond

### 'What is your religion?' Self-identification

People who answer 'No religion' in a census or survey are sometimes called Nones by scholars. Notice the increase of Nones in the Census in England and Wales from 2001 to 2021. The Census asks: **What is your religion?** and gives a list of options, starting with 'No religion'.

2001 Census (57 million people):	2011 Census (56 million people):	2021 Census (59.6 million people):
<b>71.8%</b> <b>Christian</b> 41 million	<b>59.3%</b> <b>Christian</b> 33.2 million	<b>46.2%</b> <b>Christian</b> 27.5 million
<b>15%</b> <b>No religion</b> 8.6m	<b>25%</b> <b>No religion</b> 14.1m	<b>37.2%</b> <b>No religion</b> 22.2m
<b>2.8%</b> <b>Muslim</b> 1.6m	<b>4.8%</b> <b>Muslim</b> 2.7m	<b>6.5%</b> <b>Muslim</b> 3.9m
<b>1.0%</b> <b>Hindu</b> 0.56m	<b>1.5%</b> <b>Hindu</b> 0.8m	<b>1.7%</b> <b>Hindu</b> 1.0m
<b>0.6%</b> <b>Sikh</b> 0.37m	<b>0.8%</b> <b>Sikh</b> 0.4m	<b>0.9%</b> <b>Sikh</b> 0.35m
<b>0.5%</b> <b>Jewish</b> 0.27m	<b>0.5%</b> <b>Jewish</b> 0.26m	<b>0.5%</b> <b>Jewish</b> 0.27m
<b>0.26%</b> <b>Buddhist</b> 0.15m	<b>0.4%</b> <b>Buddhist</b> 0.25m	<b>0.5%</b> <b>Buddhist</b> 0.27m
<b>7.8%</b> <b>did not answer</b> 4.4m	<b>7.1%</b> <b>did not answer</b> 3.98m	<b>6.0%</b> <b>did not answer</b> 3.56m
	<b>0.4%</b> <b>other religion</b> 0.24m	<b>0.6%</b> <b>other religion</b> 0.35m

Sources: Census 2001: Religion in the UK, 2004 Edition [bit.ly/2001CensusReligion](https://bit.ly/2001CensusReligion)

Census 2011 'Full story: What does the Census tell us about religion in 2011?' [bit.ly/Censusandreligion2011](https://bit.ly/Censusandreligion2011)

Census 2021: Religion in England and Wales (Nov 2022 release) [bit.ly/2021CensusReligion](https://bit.ly/2021CensusReligion)

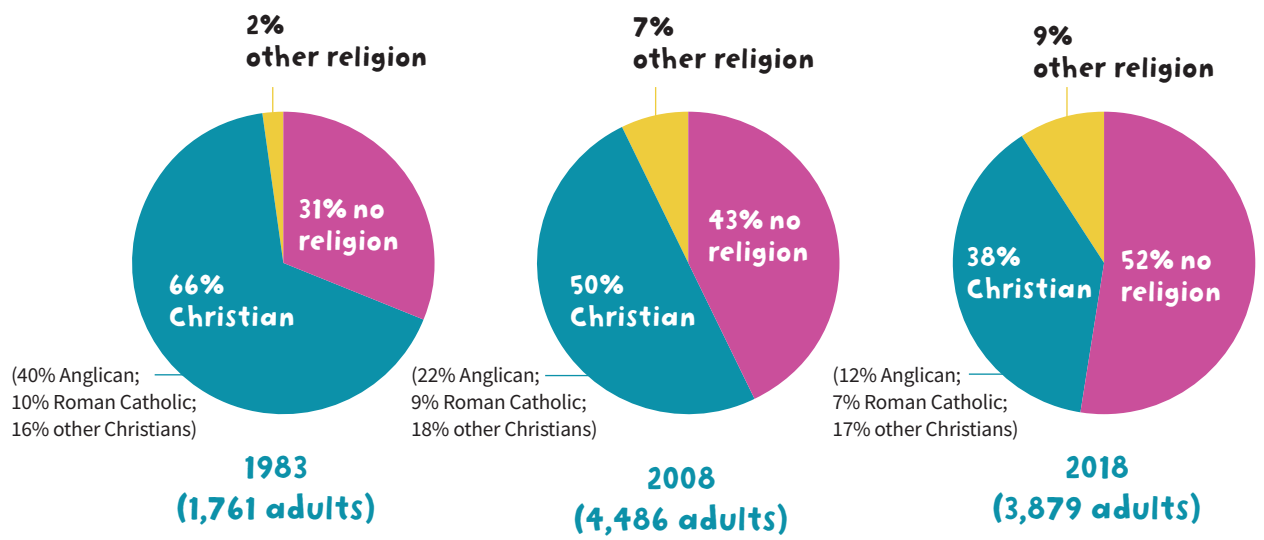
All three are from Office of National Statistics (Open Government Licence v.3.0). The 2001 census includes Scotland; 2011 and 2021 are for England and Wales only.

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## 'Do you belong to a particular religion?'

The British Social Attitudes Survey asks: 'Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion? If YES: Which?' Interviews are done in people's homes.



Source: British Social Attitudes – Religion (2019) [bit.ly/BSAreigion](http://bit.ly/BSAreigion) © Copyright National Centre for Social Research 2023

## Census 2001 to 2021

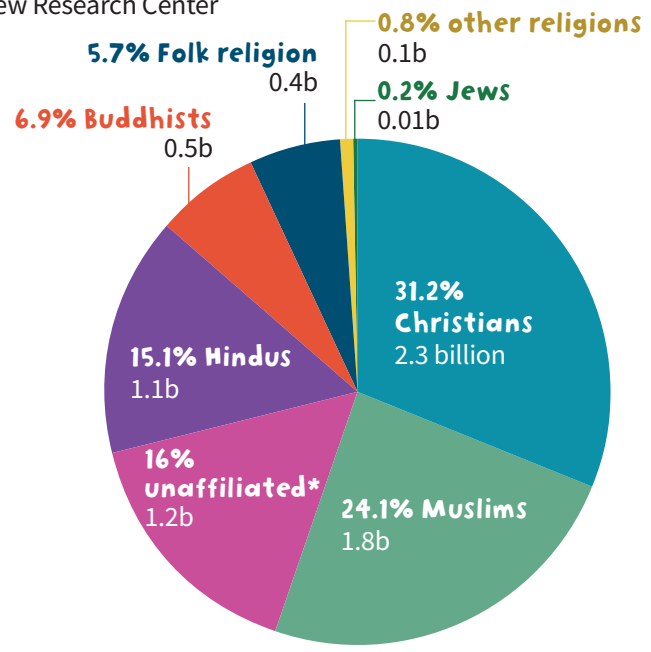
Some people who put 'no religion' also gave additional specific answers:

	2001	2011	2021
<b>Jedi Knight</b>	390,127	176,632	
<b>Agnostic</b>	14,909	32,382	32,105
<b>Atheist</b>	10,357	29,267	13,835
<b>Humanist</b>	8,297	15,067	10,225
<b>Free thinker</b>	568	513	306

Sources: ONS (see previous sheet in Resource 1.4)

## Global comparison

Pew Research Center



\*'unaffiliated' means people who identify as atheists or agnostics, or who describe their religion as 'nothing in particular'

Source: 'The Changing Global Religious Landscape' Pew Research Center, Washington, D.C. (2017) [pewrsr.ch/3aPOz8p](http://pewrsr.ch/3aPOz8p)