

THE CENSUS CAMPAIGN



“NO RELIGION”

The Census Campaign wants as many non-religious people as possible to tick "No religion" in the 2011 Census. *If you're not religious, for God's sake say so.*

A FLAWED QUESTION

We want people to know why the question on religion is flawed and why so many non-religious people didn't tick "None" in the 2001 Census.

REAL DECISIONS

We want people to know that real decisions on resource allocation and policy are based on Census data and if it's wrong we all stand to lose out.

WHAT DO OTHER SURVEYS SAY?

THE BRITISH SOCIAL ATTITUDES SURVEY

The British Social Attitudes Survey (BSA) is published annually by the National Centre for Social research since 1983, and conducts around three thousand interviews each year with a representative sample of the UK population.

The 26th report, published in 2010, includes a number of issues of interest to humanists in two of its chapters, 'Religion in Britain and the United States' and 'Religious faith and contemporary attitudes'.

KEY POINTS IN “BRITISH SOCIAL ATTITUDES” SURVEY

- In the UK, those who profess no-religion as their religious identity have risen from 31% to 43% between 1983 and 2008.
- Conversely, in 1983 66% identified as Christian, in 2008 the number was 50% 59% said they are not religious when asked about how they describe their religiosity
- 37% of the UK population are sceptical, 35% have definite or doubtful
- Only 25% of the UK population believe in God (however tentatively) and attend services (even less than once a year)
- Those self-described as members of the Church of England consist of 23% of the population (40% in 1983). 49% of this group never attend services; only 8% of people who identify with the CofE attend church weekly.
- 62% of people in the UK never attend a religious service
- 42% of all those questioned are against any form of faith school
- 52 % agree that “Britain is deeply divided along religious lines”
- Religion in the UK is estimated to have a ‘half-life’ of one generation

IPSOS MORI POLL 2007

36% of people – equivalent to around 17 million adults – are in fact humanist in their basic outlook.

Another question found that 41% endorsed the strong statement: ‘This life is the only life we have and death is the end of our personal existence’. 62% chose ‘Human nature by itself gives us an understanding of what is right and wrong’, against 27% who said ‘People need religious teachings in order to understand what is right and wrong’.

GUARDIAN/ICM POLL 2006

63% of people say they are not religious (compared to 33% that do).

82% of those questioned see religion as a cause of division and tension between people. Only 17% of those polled believe the UK is best described as a Christian country.

CITIZENSHIP SURVEY- 2007/8

Participants were requested to select factors that they regarded as important to their identity from thirteen options. Whilst family was top with 97%, followed by interests (87%), religion ranked bottom at 48%. Religion ranked bottom consistently with all age groups up to 65+, where it only moves up to eleventh. Christians ranked religion as thirteenth as a factor important to their identity.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND’S ATTENDANCE FIGURES

Between 2002 and 2008, average Sunday attendance figures have diminished from 1,005,000 to 960,000.

CENSUS 2001

Jedi Knights had 390,127 followers, and formed a larger group than several of the “major religions”: Jews (259, 927); Sikhs (329, 358); Buddhists (144,453); or minor religions such as Jainism (15,132), Zoroastrianism (3,738) or the Baha’i faith (4,645).

For full information, please see:

<http://www.humanism.org.uk/campaigns/religion-and-belief-surveys-statistics>



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