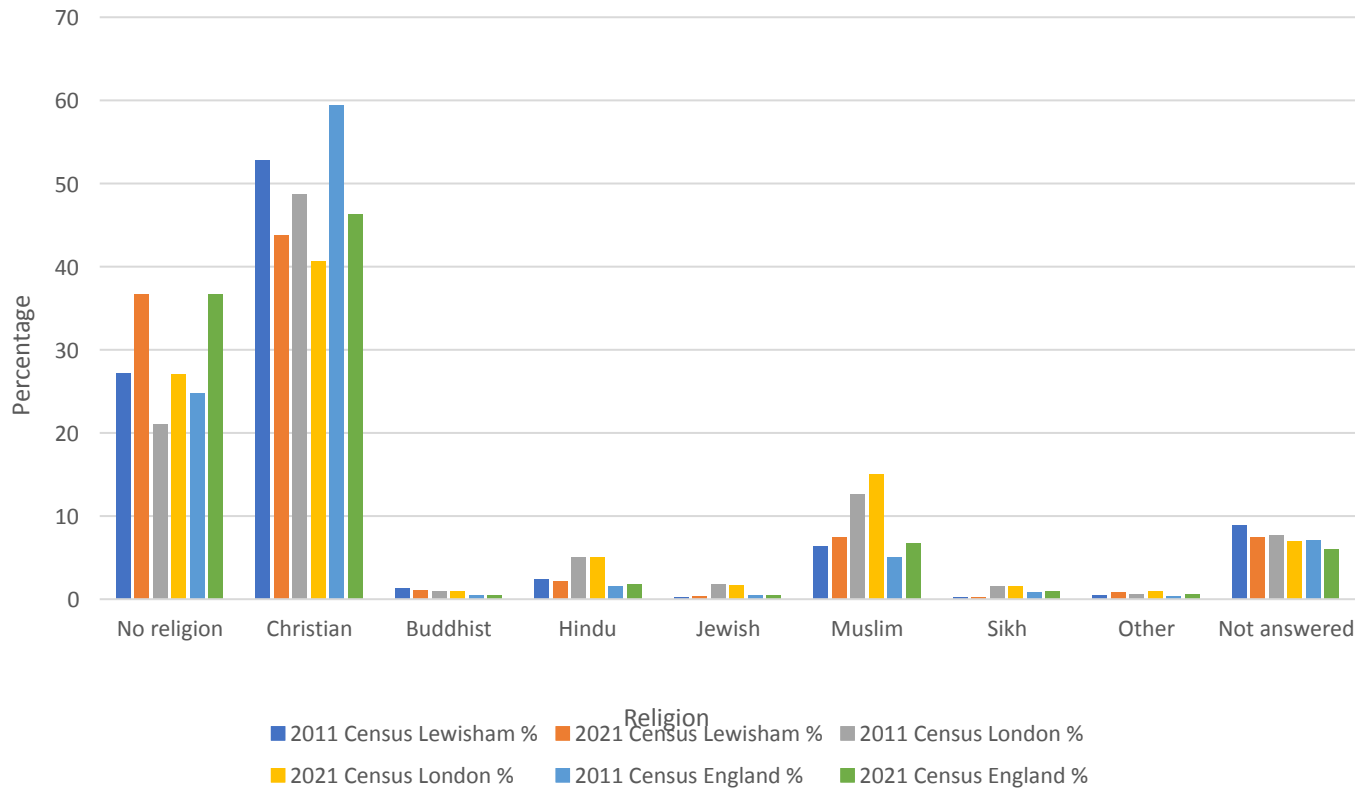


RELIGIOUS BELIEFS IN LEWISHAM – CENSUS 2011 to 2021



In 2021, 36.7% of Lewisham residents reported having "No religion", up from 27.2% in 2011. The rise of 9.5 percentage points was the largest increase of all broad religious groups in Lewisham. Because the census question about religious affiliation is voluntary and has varying response rates, caution is needed when comparing figures between different areas or between censuses.

Across London, the percentage of residents who described themselves as having "No religion" increased from 21.0% to 27.1%, while across England the percentage increased from 24.8% to 36.7%.

In 2021, 43.8% of people in Lewisham described themselves as Christian (down from 52.8%), while 7.5% did not state their religion (down from 8.9% the decade before).

There are many factors that can cause changes to the religious profile of an area, such as a changing age structure or residents relocating for work or education. Changes may also be caused by differences in the way individuals chose to self-identify between censuses. Religious affiliation is the religion with which someone connects or identifies, rather than their beliefs or religious practice.

| Classification | 2011 Lewisham % | 2021 Lewisham % | 2011 London % | 2021 London % | 2011 England % | 2021 England % |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| No religion | 27.2 | 36.7 | 21 | 27.1 | 24.8 | 36.7 |
| Christian | 52.8 | 43.8 | 48.7 | 40.7 | 59.4 | 46.3 |
| Buddhist | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1 | 0.9 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Hindu | 2.4 | 2.1 | 5 | 5.1 | 1.5 | 1.8 |
| Jewish | 0.2 | 0.3 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Muslim | 6.4 | 7.4 | 12.6 | 15 | 5 | 6.7 |
| Sikh | 0.2 | 0.2 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 0.8 | 0.9 |
| Other | 0.5 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 1 | 0.4 | 0.6 |
| Not answered | 8.9 | 7.5 | 7.7 | 7 | 7.1 | 6 |