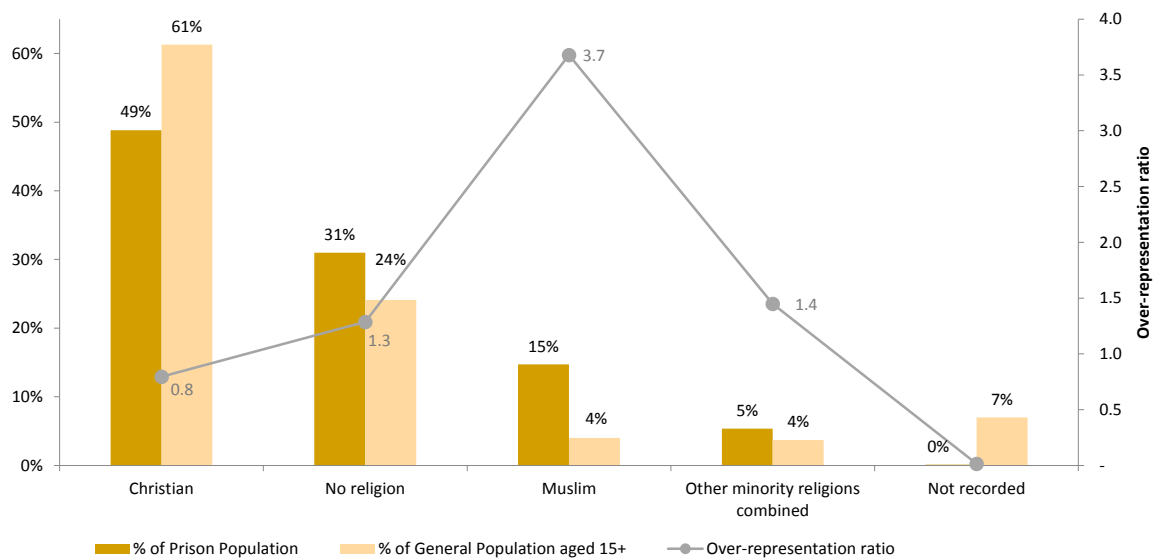


Offenders from Muslim backgrounds



Proportion of prisoners and general population by faith group. **Source:** House of Commons Briefing Paper, Number SN/SG/04334, 4 July 2016

What does this mean?

- Muslims account for about 4% of the population aged 15+ but about 15% of the prison population in England and Wales (12,506 of 84,991 prisoners) as of July 2016; this is an over-representation of 3.7 times.
- Several factors require consideration before exceptionalising any one faith population. Rates of offending can be associated with younger age bands and areas of poverty and deprivation, both factors affecting Muslims in the UK (see Briefings 1 and 7).
- The proportion of Muslims in prisons is an unwelcome social reality. Schools, local authorities and the probation service should work more closely with mosques and Muslim civil society to understand the causes and address recidivism. Among offender rehabilitation efforts are the Date Palm Project (DPP) and work by the National Zakat Foundation (NZF).
- The Lammy Review's interim finding (November 2016) is that Black and Minority Ethnic defendants are more likely to go to prison for certain types of crimes. Therefore institutional racism in the criminal justice system needs addressing.
- Prison Chaplains of Muslim faith are providing valuable pastoral care and no one benefits if they are labelled as 'extremist' without evidence.