

**census**  
2021

**LGBT History Month**  
***Sexual orientation and  
gender identity***

**Census 2021 key findings**

Jamie Kavanagh -24/02/2023

Including everyone in Census 2021

**census**  
2021

**Including  
everyone in  
Census 2021**

[www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk)

 Office for National Statistics

1

A6P/CA1-A

# This isn't going to be data heavy!

## Ask questions

- Word vomit encouraged
- Lets generate ideas, engage and learn a little more about our data and customers.

## This is a safe space

- We're all learning – especially me.
- No such thing as silly questions
- No thought police, don't be afraid to ask or comment.

## Language

- Terminology is important for LGBTQ+ groups. So is opening conversations and engagement. If you don't know the right terms to use when asking questions don't worry.
- We're all here to learn and come together as allies of LGBTQ+ people

# Expansion of the Census 2021

## Why is the Census so important?

## What were the changes?

- Questions on sexual orientation or gender identity were new for Census 2021.
- Both were voluntary and asked of those aged 16+.

## Why were there changes?

- Added to better gain insight and support anti-discriminatory duties.
- Changes were made since 2011 to meet user needs and improve data quality.
- User feedback showed they were highly important for equalities monitoring and service provision.
- No suitable alternative data sources existed.
- Pause for reflection. Can anyone offer another hypothesis?

## Next steps...

- These analyses are part of broader census quality assurance investigations. ONS will publish further evaluations of the quality of data from individual census questions, including the sex question, later this year.
- Multivariate data is being released (age/sex and Gender identity).

“Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?”

---

**Straight or Heterosexual**

---

**Gay or Lesbian**

---

**Bisexual**

---

**Other sexual orientation (Write-in)**

To support anti-discrimination duties under the Equality Act 2010.

Annual population survey wasn't robust enough.

To allocate resources to services.

Enables a much more detailed understanding of sexual orientation in England and Wales.

## Notes

- ONS are quick to point out that the statistics should be interpreted purely as showing how people responded to the question, rather than being about whom they are attracted to or their actual relationships.
- I'm reminded of an article by the ONS (healthcare and ethnicity data recording). There are discrepancies in the way we record, and ask for data. Race isn't something that can be changed, could it be argued that orientation can be recorded differently across platforms for the same people (GP data etc).
- Pause for thought.

# Sexual orientation data

- **88.4%** of the county identify as straight or heterosexual (**526,306**), lower than the nation average of (**89.4%**).
- **3.4%** of the county did not identify as straight or heterosexual (**21,428**). Oxford was by far the district with the largest percentage of respondents who did not answer straight or heterosexual, the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest proportion of any district in England and Wales.
- The remaining **7.9%** (**47,299**) of the county did not answer the question. Oxford was by far the district with the largest percentage of respondents who did not answer, the largest proportion of any district in England and Wales.

## LGB+ Population of Oxfordshire

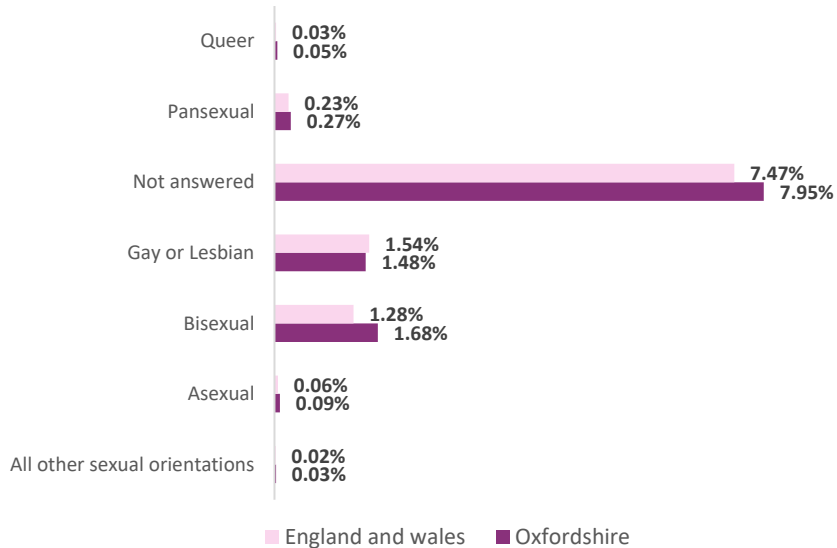
1. Bisexual - 10,009 (1.68%)
2. Gay or lesbian - 8,828 (1.48%)
3. Pansexual - 1,601 (0.27%)
4. Asexual - 547 (0.09%)
5. Queer - 287 (0.05%)
6. All other sexual orientations - 156 (0.03%)

## Oxford as a centre for LGB+ orientations

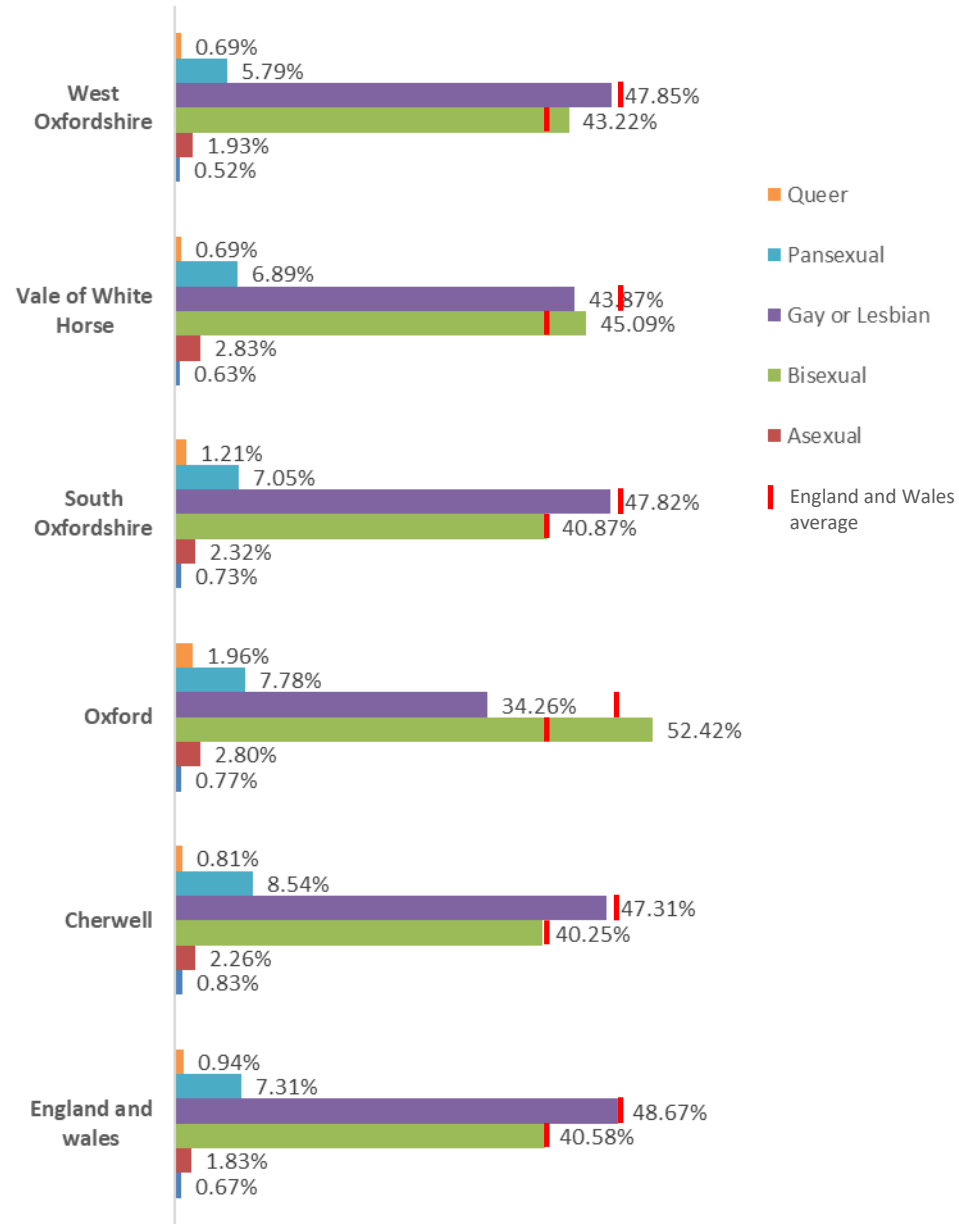
Across all districts in England and Wales, we see the following statistics in Oxford City Centre:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest population **straight/heterosexual people**
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Highest population of **gay and lesbian people**
- 6<sup>th</sup> highest population of **pansexual people**
- 4<sup>th</sup> highest population of **asexual people**
- 7<sup>th</sup> highest population of **asexual queer people**
- 15<sup>th</sup> highest population of **all other sexualities**
- Highest population of respondents who didn't answer the question

### Oxfordshire sexuality compared to England and Wales



### Sexuality by district



### LGB+ orientation by area

Area	All other sexual orientations (%)	Asexual (%)	Bisexual (%)	Gay or Lesbian (%)	Pansexual (%)	Queer (%)
England and Wales	0.7%	1.8%	40.6%	48.7%	7.3%	0.9%
Oxfordshire	0.69%	2.43%	44.37%	44.22%	7.21%	1.07%
Cherwell	0.8%	2.3%	40.3%	47.3%	8.5%	0.8%
Oxford	0.8%	2.8%	52.4%	34.3%	7.8%	2.0%
South Oxfordshire	0.7%	2.3%	40.9%	47.8%	7.1%	1.2%
Vale of White Horse	0.6%	2.8%	45.1%	43.9%	6.9%	0.7%
West Oxfordshire	0.5%	1.9%	43.2%	47.9%	5.8%	0.7%

## “Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?”

### Yes

- Gender is the same as sex registered at birth

### No

- Trans man
- Trans woman
- Non-binary
- Write-in option

### Not answered

- Respondent did not answer the question

Better quality  
information for  
monitoring  
purposes

To support anti-  
discrimination  
duties under the  
Equality Act 2010

To aid allocation for  
resources

## Notes

- A high court order was imposed on ONS to change the guidance on the sex question from 9 March because the original guidance didn't distinguish between gender and sex well enough (allowed discrepancy in the data being collected).
- The guidance originally read: "If you are considering how to answer, use the sex recorded on one of your legal documents such as a birth certificate, Gender Recognition Certificate, or passport." It was changed to: "If you are considering how to answer, use the sex recorded on your birth certificate or Gender Recognition Certificate."
- According to ONS this new guidance had a statistically insignificant impact on the data collected.
- Pause for thoughts and reflection.

# Gender identity data

- **3,477 Oxfordshire residents aged 16+ identify with a gender which differs from their sex registered at birth.**
- Overall, 558,864 (93%) Oxfordshire answered the question, the remaining 36,171 (7%) didn't.
- In Oxfordshire, 555,387 (93%) have a gender identity that was the same as their sex registered at birth, lower than the England and Wales average of 93.5%.
- 3,477 (0.6%) answered “No”, this is higher than the England and Wales average of 0.5%.

## Trans and Non-binary population in Oxfordshire

1. 1,420 (0.24%) did not provide a write-in response but did not identify as Cis-gendered.
2. 598 (0.10%) identified as a Trans man.
3. 548 (0.90%) identified as a Trans woman.
4. 616 (0.10%) identified as Non-binary
5. 295 (0.05%) wrote in a different gender identity.

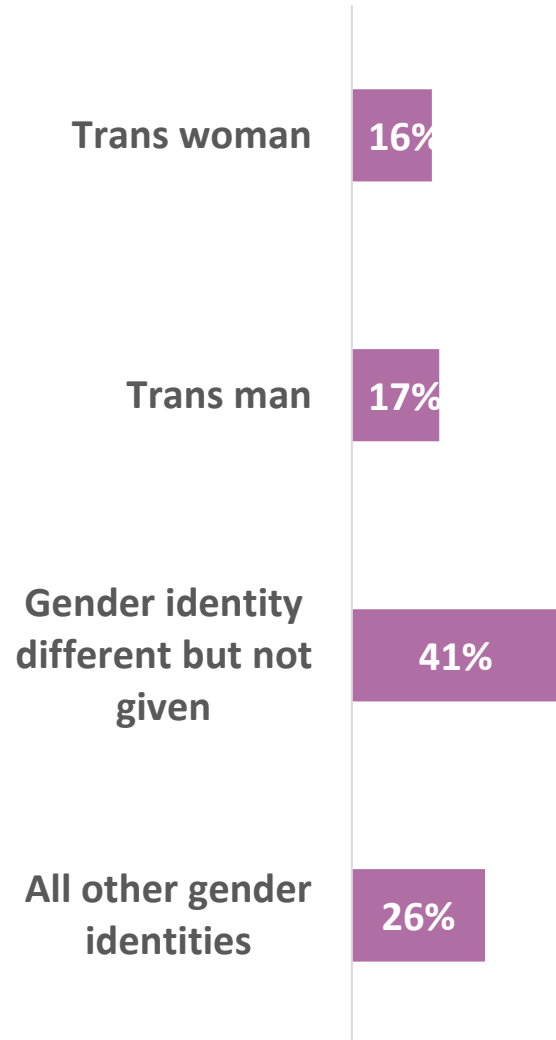
## Oxford as a centre for Trans and Non-binary people

Across all districts in England and Wales, we see the following statistics in Oxford City Centre:

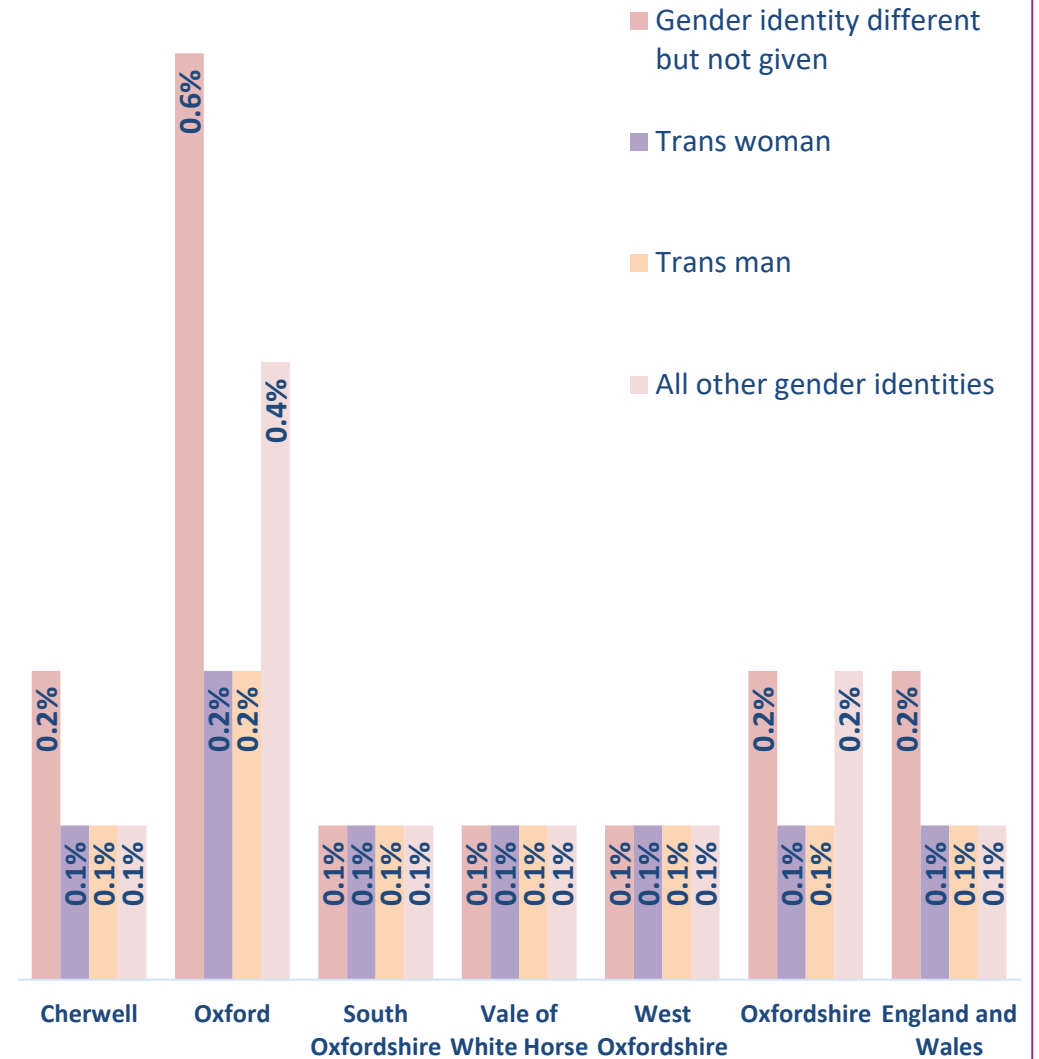
- 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest population cis-gendered people.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Highest population of Trans and Non-binary people who haven't given a specific identity.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> highest population of Trans women people.
- 7<sup>th</sup> highest population of Trans men.
- 4<sup>th</sup> highest population of Non-binary people.
- 4<sup>th</sup> highest population of all other gender identities.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Highest population of respondents who didn't answer the question.



Oxfordshire gender identity distribution, where answered and different from sex registered at birth



## Gender identity by area



# Highlights/key findings/stories

- More Bisexual people than any other LGB+ orientation. We often see Bi-erasure, why is this different in Oxfordshire?
- larger LGB+ population average than England and Wales average.
- Larger than average number of respondents that Didn't answer the questions than in England and Wales.
- Oxford home of the UK's largest non-London based population of Trans and Non-binary.
- Oxford is a capital for LGBTQI+ populations in England and Wales.
- ONS court order on sex question guidance.
- Why does Oxfordshire have a lower than national average population of Gay or Lesbian people?
- Thoughts or reflections?

# How we are using this data so far...

- Census and equalities pages on Oxfordshire Insight. Customer facing pages for colleagues and residents alike.
- EDI integration projects example: Trading standards.
- Population forecasting.
- Demand modelling.
- Localities/ Councillors debriefing.

Next steps...

- EDI steering group /Round table. How can we use EDI data for service strategy improvements.
- Equalities Impact Assessments (EIA's) - how can we use this data to meet our target KPI's?
- Carry on the good work!
  - How can my team help you improve your service to marginalised or under-represented groups?
  - Do you already make use of EDI data in your service area? Can this data be analysed, improved or updated?
- Funding for services - show your impact to carry on the improvements to service

Thoughts or reflections?

# Stonewall questions A benchmark of how we use this data across the organisation..

## Monitoring –

Understanding who our workforce is comprised of to improve confidence in LGBTQ+ monitoring and boost declaration rates.

## Our employees

Communications that are available to all employees, not just your LGBTQ+ employee network group.

Definitions that are included within the questions themselves, with a link to a glossary, or within communications promoting the monitoring exercise

## External engagement

The outreach activity of the organisation and how it supports wider LGBTQ+ communities. Especially within intersectional groups

## Our customers

How the organisation promotes LGBTQ+ equality to other organisations in its sector.

How does the organisation meet the needs of it's customers to ensure there are no barriers to LGBTQ+ people accessing services.

Mapping processes

Customer journeys

Collecting user data

Monitoring complaints

Do we enable non-binary service users or customers to have their identities recognised on all systems?

Consultation with LGBTQ+ service users to understand needs

Promoting services as being explicitly LGTBQ+ friendly, and phobia intolerant with training of staff to be able to handle these needs.

# More resources

- **JSNA Page for full report and interactive tools:**
  - [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment | Oxfordshire Insight](#)
- **ONS interactive mapping and publications:**
  - [Gender identity, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)
  - [Sexual orientation, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)
- **Equalities pages on Oxfordshire Insight:**
  - [Equalities | Oxfordshire Insight](#)
- **Stonewall:**
  - [Best practice, toolkits and resources | Stonewall](#)
- **Gendered Intelligence:**
  - [Home | Gendered Intelligence](#)
- **LGBT Foundation Manchester:**
  - [LGBT Foundation - Home](#)
- **AKT (Albert Kennedy Foundation):**
  - [akt - LGBTQ+ youth homelessness charity](#)