

Census 2021 Bulletin

Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation in Shropshire

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The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has released Census 2021 figures on sexual orientation and gender identity. The 2021 Census took place across England and Wales in March 2021. This is the first Census that has asked people about their sexual orientation and gender identity. The questions were voluntary for those aged 16 and over. In Shropshire a total of 252,900 (93% of the population 16 years and over) answered the question. This bulletin will provide a summary at Shropshire level by comparing with national and regional data.

Key facts

- In Shropshire there were 19,378 people who did not answer the question when asked about their sexual orientation, 7.1% of the population (aged 16 or over). This was fewer than in England and the West Midlands (7.5%).
- The majority of people in Shropshire selected straight or heterosexual (90.6%) slightly more than in England (89.4%) and the West Midlands (89.9%).
- A total of 6,318 people (2.3%) described themselves as gay or lesbian, bisexual or all other sexual orientation. This is slightly less than in England (3.2%) and the region (2.6%).
- Of those selecting an option other than straight or heterosexual the largest group was gay or lesbian (1.2%) followed by bisexual (1.0%) and all other sexual orientations (0.2%). This is slightly less than in England where those selecting the option gay or lesbian was (1.5%), bisexual (1.3%) and all other sexual orientations (0.3%).
- In more detail of those selecting a group other than straight or heterosexual, Pansexual was the largest group (0.1%) followed by Asexual and Queer. This was similar to England and the region.
- In terms of Gender Identity fewer people in Shropshire did not answer the question, 15,626 (5.7%) compared to England (6.0%) and the West Midlands (6.3%).
- The majority of respondents (aged 16 years and over) selected gender identity the same sex as registered at birth, 255,843 (94.0%). This was slightly more than in England (93.5%) and in the West Midlands (93.1%).
- Of those who selected a gender identity different from birth the largest group was gender identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity (0.1%). Trans man (0.1%) trans woman (0.1%) and all other gender identities (0.1%).
- In total approximately 800 people (0.3%) in Shropshire selected a gender identity different from birth compared to England and the West Midlands (0.5%).



Table 1: Sexual Orientation in Shropshire (Percentage of the Population aged 16 and Over)

Sexual Orientation	Shropshire	West Midlands	England
Straight or Heterosexual	90.6	89.4	89.9
Gay or Lesbian	1.2	1.5	1.2
Bisexual	1	1.3	1.1
All other sexual orientations	0.2	0.3	0.3
Not answered	7.1	7.5	7.5

Table 2: Gender Identity Shropshire in (Percentage of the Population aged 16 and Over)

Gender Identity	Shropshire	West Midlands	England
Gender identity the same as sex registered at birth	94.0	93.5	93.1
Gender identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given	0.1	0.2	0.3
Trans woman	0.1	0.1	0.1
Trans man	0.1	0.1	0.1
All other gender identities	0.1	0.1	0.1

Notes

People were asked “Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?”.

The different sexual orientations that people could choose from included:

- straight or heterosexual
- gay or lesbian
- bisexual
- other sexual orientation

If they selected “other sexual orientation”, they were asked to write in the sexual orientation with which they identified.



The census question on gender identity was a voluntary question asked of those aged 16 years and over. The question asked, “Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?”.

Sources

[Sexual orientation and gender identity, England and Wales, Census 2021, Office for National Statistics \(ONS\)](#)

Census 2021 Topic Summaries and Nomis: Tables TS077, TS079 and TS078

Further Information

[Census Maps - Census 2021 data interactive, ONS](#)

[Shropshire Facts and Figures](#)

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