



CYDWEITHREDFA GWELLA GWASANAETHAU  
GOFAL A LLESIANT **GOGLEDD CYMRU**  
**NORTH WALES** SOCIAL CARE AND WELL-BEING  
SERVICES IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE

# 2021 Census

## Topic summary: sexual orientation and gender identity

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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Betsi Cadwaladr  
University Health Board



Iechyd Cyhoeddus  
Cymru  
Public Health  
Wales



CYNGOR SIR  
YNYS MÔN  
ISLE OF ANGLESEY  
COUNTY COUNCIL



CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL  
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL



Cyngor  
denbighshire  
County Council



CYNGOR  
Sir y Fflint  
Flintshire  
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# Introduction

This bulletin looks at the topic summary data from the 2021 Census for England and Wales about sexual orientation and gender identity that was published on 6 January 2023 by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). It provides unrounded population estimates at North Wales and unitary authority level.

Voluntary questions on sexual orientation and gender identity were asked for the first time in the 2021 Census.

Respondents aged 16 and over were asked their sexual orientation, and the different options that they could choose from included “Straight/Heterosexual”, “Gay or Lesbian”, “Bisexual”, and “Other sexual orientation”. If the respondent selected “Other sexual orientation”, they were asked to write in the sexual orientation they identified with.

Respondents aged 16 and over were also asked “Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?” and had the option of selecting either “Yes” or selecting “No” and writing in their gender identity.

The non-response rate for these two questions varied between about 6% and 9%. We do not know the sexual orientation or gender identity of these people, so we should keep that in mind when considering the percentages represented in this report.

The ONS has also published [Sexual orientation and gender identity: Census 2021 in England and Wales](#).

More data will be released in phases until the end of 2023 and will include detailed data at small area level about people, households and living arrangements, work and housing/amenities.

# The key results for North Wales

## Sexual orientation

- On Census Day, 21 March 2021, responses to the voluntary sexual orientation question were provided for 522,025 usual residents in North Wales (91.9% of the population aged 16 years and over).
- 507,769 people (89.4% of the population aged 16 years and over) described themselves as “Straight/Heterosexual”. (Wales, and England and Wales = 89.4%)
- 7,282 (1.3%) described themselves as “Gay or Lesbian”.
- 5,725 (1.0%) described themselves as “Bisexual”.
- A further 1,249 (0.2%) wrote in a different sexual orientation, among whom the most common responses included “Pansexual” (0.1%), “Asexual” (0.05%) and “Queer” (0.02%).
- In total, 14,256 usual residents (2.5% of the population aged 16 or over) selected an LGB+ sexual orientation (“Gay or Lesbian”, “Bisexual” or another minority sexual orientation). Wales = 3.0% and England and Wales = 3.2%.
- The remaining 46,215 people aged 16 years and over (8.1%) did not answer the question on sexual orientation.
- In North Wales, Gwynedd had the highest proportion of usual residents aged 16 and over identifying with LGB+ orientations in 2021 (3.3%).

## Gender identity

- There were responses from 528,983 people (93.1% of the population aged 16 years and over) to the voluntary gender identity question in North Wales. 6.9% did not answer the question.
- 92.8% of usual residents aged 16 years and over answered “Yes”, indicating that their gender identity was the same as their sex registered at birth.
- 1,826 people (0.3%) answered “No”, indicating that their gender identity was different to their sex registered at birth. (Wales = 0.4% and England and Wales = 0.5%.)

- 343 people identified as a trans man, 358 people identified as a trans woman, and 254 people identified as non-binary. 705 people answered “No” but did not provide a write-in response.
- In North Wales the local authorities with the largest proportions of the usual resident population aged 16 and over identifying with a gender different to their sex registered at birth were Gwynedd and Wrexham (0.4% each).

# The key results for the Isle of Anglesey

## Sexual orientation

- On Census Day, 21 March 2021, responses to the voluntary sexual orientation question were provided for 52,597 usual residents on the Isle of Anglesey (92.0% of the population aged 16 years and over).
- 51,430 people (90.0% of the population aged 16 years and over) described themselves as “Straight/Heterosexual”. (Wales, and England and Wales = 89.4%)
- 620 (1.1%) described themselves as “Gay or Lesbian”.
- 470 (0.8%) described themselves as “Bisexual”.
- A further 77 (0.1%) wrote in a different sexual orientation, among whom the most common responses included “Pansexual”, “Asexual” and “Queer”.
- In total, 1,167 usual residents (2.0% of the population aged 16 or over) selected an LGB+ sexual orientation (“Gay or Lesbian”, “Bisexual” or another minority sexual orientation). This was the lowest proportion in North Wales. Wales = 3.0% and England and Wales = 3.2%.
- The remaining 4,552 people aged 16 years and over (8.0%) did not answer the question on sexual orientation.

## Gender identity

- There were responses from 53,380 people (93.4% of the population aged 16 years and over) to the voluntary gender identity question on the Isle of Anglesey. 6.6% did not answer the question.
- 93.1% of usual residents aged 16 years and over answered “Yes”, indicating that their gender identity was the same as their sex registered at birth.
- 163 people (0.3%) answered “No”, indicating that their gender identity was different to their sex registered at birth. (Wales = 0.4% and England and Wales = 0.5%.)
- 31 people identified as a trans man, 34 people identified as a trans woman, and 16 people identified as non-binary. 66 people answered “No” but did not provide a write-in response.

# The key results for Gwynedd

## Sexual orientation

- On Census Day, 21 March 2021, responses to the voluntary sexual orientation question were provided for 88,805 usual residents in Gwynedd (90.6% of the population aged 16 years and over).
- 85,574 people (87.3% of the population aged 16 years and over) described themselves as “Straight/Heterosexual”. (Wales, and England and Wales = 89.4%)
- 1,303 (1.3%) described themselves as “Gay or Lesbian”.
- 1,594 (1.6%) described themselves as “Bisexual”.
- A further 334 (0.3%) wrote in a different sexual orientation, among whom the most common responses included “Pansexual”, “Asexual” and “Queer”.
- In total, 3,231 usual residents (3.3% of the population aged 16 or over) selected an LGB+ sexual orientation (“Gay or Lesbian”, “Bisexual” or another minority sexual orientation). This was the highest proportion in North Wales. Wales = 3.0% and England and Wales = 3.2%.
- The remaining 9,163 people aged 16 years and over (9.4%) did not answer the question on sexual orientation.

## Gender identity

- There were responses from 90,176 people (92.0% of the population aged 16 years and over) to the voluntary gender identity question in Gwynedd. 8.0% did not answer the question.
- 91.7% of usual residents aged 16 years and over answered “Yes”, indicating that their gender identity was the same as their sex registered at birth.
- 378 people (0.4%) answered “No”, indicating that their gender identity was different to their sex registered at birth. (Wales = 0.4% and England and Wales = 0.5%.)
- 69 people identified as a trans man, 67 people identified as a trans woman, and 90 people identified as non-binary. 99 people answered “No” but did not provide a write-in response.

# The key results for Conwy County Borough

## Sexual orientation

- On Census Day, 21 March 2021, responses to the voluntary sexual orientation question were provided for 88,376 usual residents in Conwy County Borough (91.7% of the population aged 16 years and over).
- 85,973 people (89.2% of the population aged 16 years and over) described themselves as “Straight/Heterosexual”. (Wales, and England and Wales = 89.4%)
- 1,330 (1.4%) described themselves as “Gay or Lesbian”.
- 872 (0.9%) described themselves as “Bisexual”.
- A further 201 (0.2%) wrote in a different sexual orientation, among whom the most common responses included “Pansexual”, “Asexual” and “Queer”.
- In total, 2,403 usual residents (2.5% of the population aged 16 or over) selected an LGB+ sexual orientation (“Gay or Lesbian”, “Bisexual” or another minority sexual orientation). Wales = 3.0% and England and Wales = 3.2%.
- The remaining 7,986 people aged 16 years and over (8.3%) did not answer the question on sexual orientation.

## Gender identity

- There were responses from 89,798 people (93.2% of the population aged 16 years and over) to the voluntary gender identity question in Conwy County Borough. 6.8% did not answer the question.
- 92.9% of usual residents aged 16 years and over answered “Yes”, indicating that their gender identity was the same as their sex registered at birth.
- 253 people (0.3%) answered “No”, indicating that their gender identity was different to their sex registered at birth. (Wales = 0.4% and England and Wales = 0.5%.)
- 58 people identified as a trans man, 40 people identified as a trans woman, and 34 people identified as non-binary. 94 people answered “No” but did not provide a write-in response.

# The key results for Denbighshire

## Sexual orientation

- On Census Day, 21 March 2021, responses to the voluntary sexual orientation question were provided for 72,372 usual residents in Denbighshire (91.7% of the population aged 16 years and over).
- 70,523 people (89.4% of the population aged 16 years and over) described themselves as “Straight/Heterosexual”. (Wales, and England and Wales = 89.4%)
- 1,002 (1.3%) described themselves as “Gay or Lesbian”.
- 699 (0.9%) described themselves as “Bisexual”.
- A further 148 (0.2%) wrote in a different sexual orientation, among whom the most common responses included “Pansexual”, “Asexual” and “Queer”.
- In total, 1,849 usual residents (2.3% of the population aged 16 or over) selected an LGB+ sexual orientation (“Gay or Lesbian”, “Bisexual” or another minority sexual orientation). Wales = 3.0% and England and Wales = 3.2%.
- The remaining 6,537 people aged 16 years and over (8.3%) did not answer the question on sexual orientation.

## Gender identity

- There were responses from 73,392 people (93.0% of the population aged 16 years and over) to the voluntary gender identity question in Denbighshire. 7.0% did not answer the question.
- 92.7% of usual residents aged 16 years and over answered “Yes”, indicating that their gender identity was the same as their sex registered at birth.
- 230 people (0.3%) answered “No”, indicating that their gender identity was different to their sex registered at birth. (Wales = 0.4% and England and Wales = 0.5%.)
- 31 people identified as a trans man, 49 people identified as a trans woman, and 37 people identified as non-binary. 93 people answered “No” but did not provide a write-in response.

# The key results for Flintshire

## Sexual orientation

- On Census Day, 21 March 2021, responses to the voluntary sexual orientation question were provided for 118,291 usual residents in Flintshire (92.7% of the population aged 16 years and over).
- 115,441 people (90.5% of the population aged 16 years and over) described themselves as “Straight/Heterosexual”. (Wales, and England and Wales = 89.4%)
- 1,582 (1.2%) described themselves as “Gay or Lesbian”.
- 1,042 (0.8%) described themselves as “Bisexual”.
- A further 226 (0.2%) wrote in a different sexual orientation, among whom the most common responses included “Pansexual”, “Asexual” and “Queer”.
- In total, 2,850 usual residents (2.2% of the population aged 16 or over) selected an LGBT+ sexual orientation (“Gay or Lesbian”, “Bisexual” or another minority sexual orientation). Wales = 3.0% and England and Wales = 3.2%.
- The remaining 9,287 people aged 16 years and over (7.3%) did not answer the question on sexual orientation.

## Gender identity

- There were responses from 119,672 people (93.8% of the population aged 16 years and over) to the voluntary gender identity question in Flintshire. 6.2% did not answer the question.
- 93.5% of usual residents aged 16 years and over answered “Yes”, indicating that their gender identity was the same as their sex registered at birth.
- 383 people (0.3%) answered “No”, indicating that their gender identity was different to their sex registered at birth. (Wales = 0.4% and England and Wales = 0.5%.)
- 73 people identified as a trans man, 83 people identified as a trans woman, and 36 people identified as non-binary. 174 people answered “No” but did not provide a write-in response.

# The key results for Wrexham

## Sexual orientation

- On Census Day, 21 March 2021, responses to the voluntary sexual orientation question were provided for 101,584 usual residents in Wrexham (92.1% of the population aged 16 years and over).
- 98,828 people (89.6% of the population aged 16 years and over) described themselves as “Straight/Heterosexual”. (Wales, and England and Wales = 89.4%)
- 1,445 (1.3%) described themselves as “Gay or Lesbian”.
- 1,048 (1.0%) described themselves as “Bisexual”.
- A further 263 (0.2%) wrote in a different sexual orientation, among whom the most common responses included “Pansexual”, “Asexual” and “Queer”.
- In total, 2,756 usual residents (2.5% of the population aged 16 or over) selected an LGB+ sexual orientation (“Gay or Lesbian”, “Bisexual” or another minority sexual orientation). Wales = 3.0% and England and Wales = 3.2%.
- The remaining 8,690 people aged 16 years and over (7.9%) did not answer the question on sexual orientation.

## Gender identity

- There were responses from 102,565 people (93.0% of the population aged 16 years and over) to the voluntary gender identity question in Wrexham. 7.0% did not answer the question.
- 92.6% of usual residents aged 16 years and over answered “Yes”, indicating that their gender identity was the same as their sex registered at birth.
- 419 people (0.4%) answered “No”, indicating that their gender identity was different to their sex registered at birth. (Wales = 0.4% and England and Wales = 0.5%.)
- 83 people identified as a trans man, 83 people identified as a trans woman, and 41 people identified as non-binary. 179 people answered “No” but did not provide a write-in response.

# About the Census

The census happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales.

Your answers to census questions help organisations make decisions on planning and funding public services in your area, including transport, education and healthcare.

Census Day was on Sunday 21 March 2021.

[As data from the 2021 Census becomes available, the Regional Innovation Coordination Hub website will be publishing key results and providing analysis for North Wales and our unitary authority areas.](#)

(<https://www.northwalescollaborative.wales/census/>)

[A statistical bulletin summarising the key results for Wales is available.](#)

(<https://www.gov.wales/sexual-orientation-and-gender-identity-wales-census-2021>)

[The main census website](#) is:

[https://census.gov.uk/](https://census.gov.uk)

[Welsh Government's main Census website](#) is:

<https://gov.wales/census-population>

The full [release schedule for the 2021 Census](#) is available.

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/census2021outputs/releaseplans>)