

Census 2021 Briefing #6: Sexual orientation and gender identity

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Date: January 2023

Summary

- 93% of Havering residents aged 16 and over answered the question on sexual orientation;
- 91.1% identified as straight or heterosexual;
- 1.95% identified as LGB+ orientation (“Gay or Lesbian”, “Bisexual” or “Other sexual orientation”);
- 94.2% of Havering residents aged 16 and over answered the question “Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?”
- 93.7% of Havering residents aged 16 and over answered “Yes” to the question above;
- 0.5% of Havering residents aged 16 and over answered “No” to the question above;

1. Introduction

On 6th January 2023 the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published the seventh in their series of Census 2021 ‘Topic Summaries’. The topics covered by this release are sexual orientation and gender identity.

This is the first time that the Census captured information on sexual orientation and gender identity.

2. Sexual orientation

The Census question on sexual orientation was a voluntary question asked of those aged 16 years and over. The number of people responding was very high with 93% (195,099) Havering residents answering the question; similar to the national response rate of 92.5% and better than the London response rate of 90.5%.

In total, 91.07% (191,007) Havering residents identified as straight or heterosexual.

In total, 1.95% (4,092) Havering residents identified as one of the LGB+ orientations (“Gay or Lesbian”, “Bisexual” or “Other sexual orientation”).

In total, 6.98% (14,631) Havering residents did not answer the question.

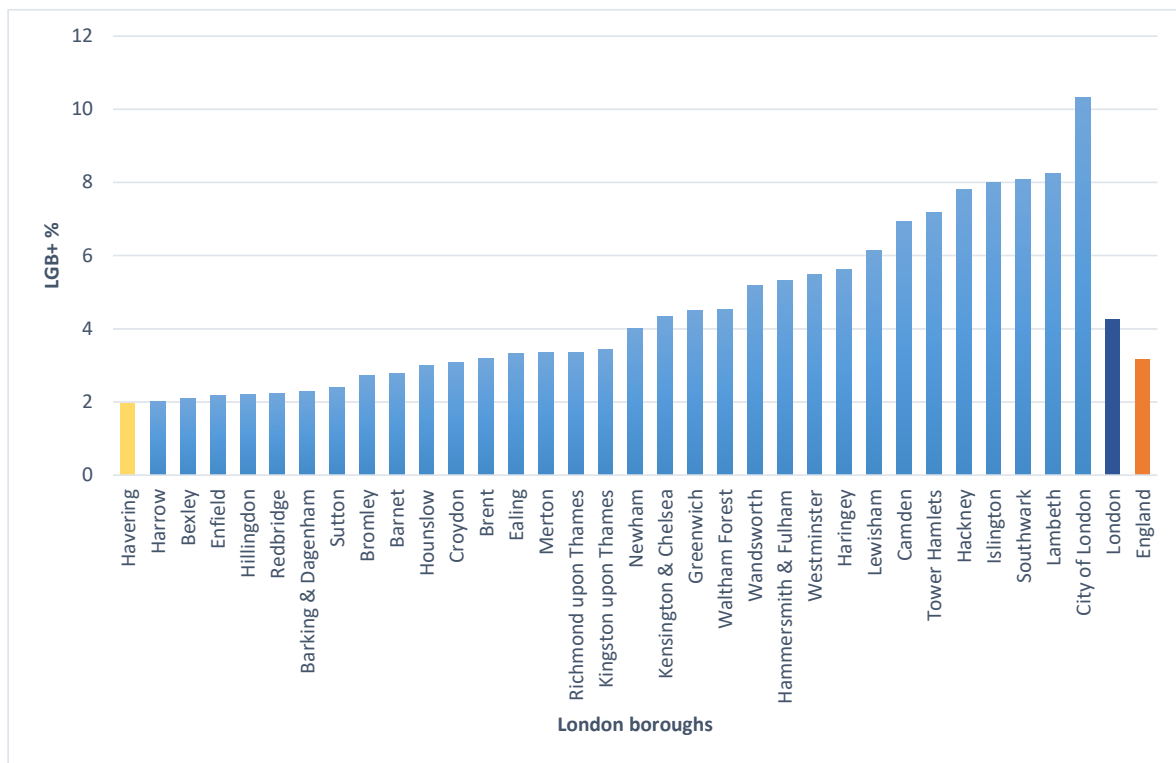
Figure 1: Detailed breakdown of sexual orientation in Havering for residents aged 16 and over

Sexual Orientation	Number	Percentage
Straight or Heterosexual	191,007	91.07%
Gay or Lesbian	1,993	0.95%
Bisexual	1,540	0.73%
Pansexual	436	0.21%
Asexual	56	0.03%
Queer	21	0.01%
All other sexual orientations	46	0.02%
Not answered	14,631	6.98%
Total	209,730	100.00%

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), Census 2021; Produced by: Havering PHI

Havering has the lowest proportion of residents aged 16 and over in London who identify as LGB+ orientation (“Gay or Lesbian”, “Bisexual” or “Other sexual orientation”).

Figure 2: Percentage of LGB+ residents, London boroughs and England



Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), Census 2021; Produced by: Havering PHI

3. Gender Identity

The Census question on gender identity was also a voluntary question, asked of those aged 16 years and over. It was added to provide the first official data on the size of the transgender population in England and Wales. The question asked was “Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?”

The number of people responding was very high with 94.2% (197,529) Havering residents answering the question; similar to the national response rate of 94.0% and better than the London response rate of 92.1%.

In total, 93.67% (196,462) Havering residents answered “Yes” and 0.51% (1,067) answered “No”.

5.82% (12,201) Havering residents did not answer the question.

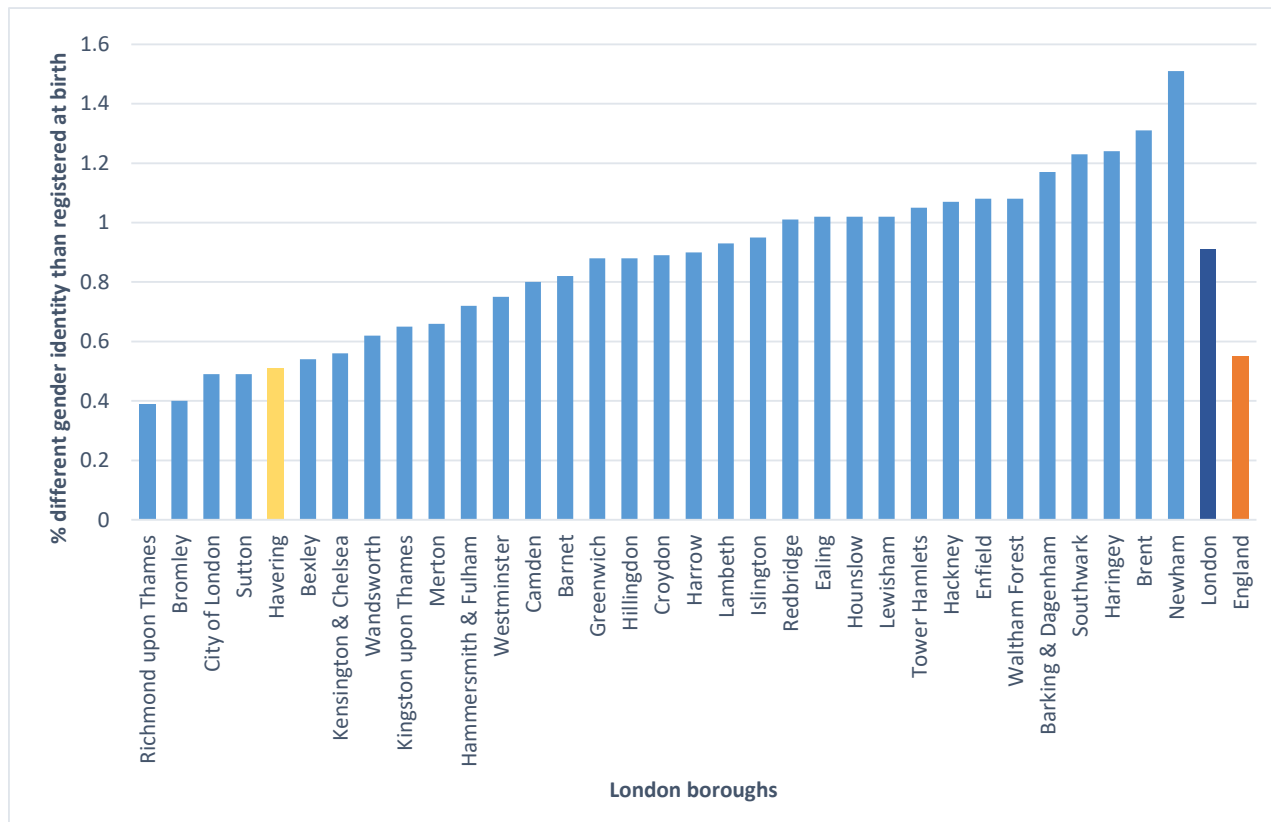
Figure 3: Detailed breakdown of gender identity in Havering for residents aged 16 and over

Gender Identity	Number	Percentage
Gender identity the same as sex registered at birth	196,462	93.67%
Gender identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given	528	0.25%
Trans woman	228	0.11%
Trans man	212	0.10%
Non-binary	60	0.03%
All other gender identities	39	0.02%
Not answered	12,201	5.82%
Total	209,730	100.00%

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), Census 2021; Produced by: Havering PHI

Within London, Havering has the 5th lowest proportion of residents aged 16 and over reporting that the gender that they identify with now is different to their sex registered at birth.

Figure 4: Percentage of people that identify as a different sex to that registered at birth, London boroughs and England



Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), Census 2021; Produced by: Havering PHI

4. Conclusion

2021 was the first time that data on sexual orientation and gender identity has been captured in a UK Census. This data, together with the previous topic summaries, provides a much needed and up to date picture of our local community which can be used to better plan and deliver Council services to meet the needs of all of our residents.

As well as aiding policy development, the data will be useful to the Council and partners in supporting our anti-discrimination duties under the Equality Act 2010 and identifying any barriers experienced by individuals, linked to their sexual orientation or gender identity.

5. Further reading

ONS will continue to release further Census data in phases called Topic Summaries. The next Topic Summary, 'Education' was released on 10 January 2023 and will be followed closely by "Health, disability and unpaid care" on 19th January 2023. More information on the Census can be found [here](#) and the planned release calendar can be found [here](#). The ONS has produced an interactive summary for all Local Authorities which can be found [here](#). The ONS have also produced Census maps which can be found [here](#).

Havering local insight also shows Census 2021 data and can be found [here](#). (Select Data box on left hand side and then choose which Census indicator to view. Results displayed on map).