



NHS Lothian

**2022 Scottish Census Data:
Sexual orientation and trans
status or history**

Public Health and Health Policy

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On 11th of September 2024, Scotland's Census released [Scotland's Census 2022 - Sexual orientation and trans status or history | Scotland's Census](#). This report presented data from the 2022 census, mainly at a national level. This is the first census that included questions about sexual orientation and trans status or history, so there was no comparison with data from the 2011 census. NHS Lothian's Public Health Intelligence Team (PHIT) have used [census data released at a smaller geography level](#) to compare the findings for Scotland with Lothian and its four local authorities. PHIT have created a series of graphs illustrating the census data summarised below for Lothian and its local authority areas. These are available upon request by contacting the team at loth.phintelligence@nhs.scot

Trans status or history

The report indicated that there were 19,990 trans people across Scotland at the time of the census. This represents around 0.44% of Scotland's population aged 16 or over. In Lothian 4,414 people reported that they were trans or had a trans history. Lothian had a greater proportion of trans people compared with Scotland, with 0.58% of the population aged 16 or over responding that they were trans or had a trans history compared to 0.44% of the Scottish population. This difference is due to a larger number of trans people living in Edinburgh.

In both Scotland and across all Lothian local authorities, around half of trans people were aged between 16 and 24 and a further quarter were between 25 and 34. Although not reported at sub-national levels, just under half of trans people identified as non-binary. One in six trans people identified as trans men and similar numbers of trans people identified as trans women. A similar number identified as trans but didn't provide any further detail.

Sexual orientation

The Scottish census reported that there were 183,860 LGB+ people in Scotland, around 4% of the population aged 16 and over. Lothian's population had a higher proportion of LGB+ people compared to Scotland, again due to the relatively large number of LGB+ people living in Edinburgh. There were 43,654 LGB+ people living in Lothian, around 5.8% of the population aged 16 and over.

In Scotland around 44% of the LGB+ population identified as bisexual, and a similar percentage identified as gay or lesbian. Lothian and Edinburgh had a higher proportion of LGB+ people who identified as bisexual than gay or lesbian. Conversely, in East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian, a higher proportion of LGB+ people identified as gay or lesbian than bisexual. These differences could be due to Edinburgh having a younger population, as younger LGB+ people were more likely to identify as bisexual whereas LGB+ people in older age groups were more likely to identify as gay or lesbian.

A higher proportion of young people identified as LGB+ compared to older age groups across Scotland and Lothian. In Scotland, 12.1% of the population aged 16-24 identified as LGB+. This proportion was even higher in Lothian and Edinburgh

where 15.4% and 18.3% of the 16-24 year old population identified as LGB+ respectively. East Lothian (10.4%), Midlothian (8%) and West Lothian (9.6%) had lower LGB+ proportions of the 16-24 year old population compared to Scotland.

Female LGB+ respondents were more likely to identify as bisexual compared to male LGB+ respondents. This pattern was consistent across Scotland and all Lothian local authorities. When the LGB+ population was broken down by age and sex, it was clear that amongst the 16-34 year old population, female respondents were more likely to identify as LGB+ compared to male respondents. In Lothian, 18,949 female respondents between 16 and 34 identified as LGB+ compared to 10,235 male respondents. In older age groups, the difference in the LGB+ population between sexes was not as drastically different.