

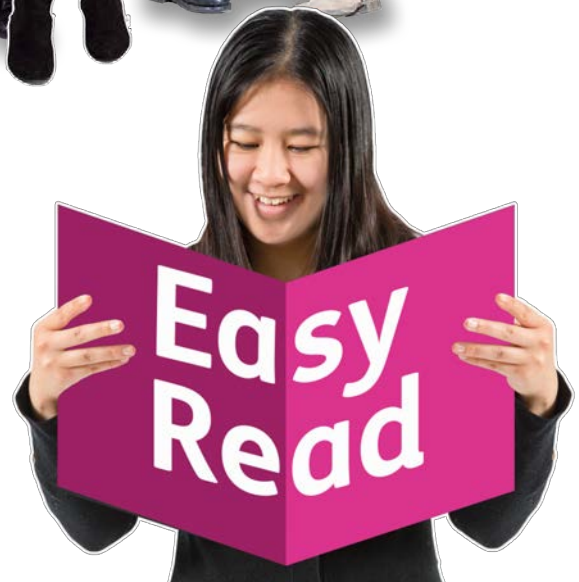


Government
Equalities Office

National LGBT Survey



Summary report



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The National LGBT survey



In July 2017 the Government asked LGBT people to complete a survey about different parts of their lives.



More than 108,000 people completed the survey.



LGBT is short for Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender people



Lesbian means women who are attracted to women



Gay means men who are attracted to men



Bisexual means people who are attracted to both men and women



Transgender refers to people who are now a different gender to the one that they were given when they were born.

Why we did the survey



The UK is one of the best countries in Europe for LGBT rights.



But many people face **discrimination**.



Discrimination is when you are treated differently just because you are LGBT



It is important to listen to the views of people who are affected by the laws we make.

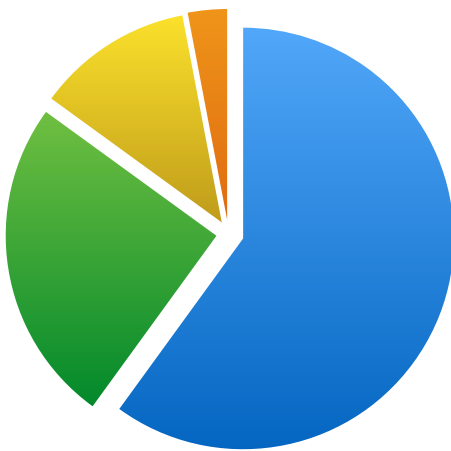


The Government launched the survey so that it could learn more about the experiences of LGBT people.

Who completed the survey?



Just over 108,000 people completed the survey.



- About 6 out of 10 **respondents** were Gay or Lesbian
- About a quarter of the **respondents** were bisexual
- About one in every 8 **respondents** were transgender
- About 1 in every 15 **respondents** were non-binary



A **respondent** is somebody who replies to something.

When we say **respondents** in this document, we mean the people who answered the survey.



Non-binary is where someone doesn't think of themselves as male or female.



Age

More of the respondents were younger.



1 in 3 respondents were from London and the South East.

What people said

Life in the UK



On average respondents were less happy with their lives than other people.



Trans respondents were much less happy with their lives than other respondents.



Just over half of the respondents said they were comfortable being LGBT in the UK.



Trans respondents were less comfortable being LGBT than other respondents.

Safety



Over 2 thirds of the respondents said they didn't hold hands with their partner in public because they were frightened about what people might say.



7 out of 10 respondents were not open about their sexual orientation because they were worried about how people might behave.



Over half of trans respondents tried not to be openly trans because of how people behave towards them.



4 out of 10 respondents said they'd had a bad experience outside their home in the last 12 months because they were LGBT.



Most of the time, the most serious incidents did not get reported to anyone.



Some respondents had been to groups who tried to convert them from being gay to being straight.

Education



Hardly anyone said that they had had the chance to talk about sexual orientation and changing gender at school.



Many respondents who had been at school last year said they'd had a bad experience in the last 12 months.



These might have been:

- Someone telling other people they were LGBT without their permission



- Insults or hurtful comments



- Bad language or behaviour



- Being shut out of events



- Sexual and physical harassment



Most of these were committed by other students, but some were committed by teachers.



Over 4 out of 10 trans women respondents said they had started changing from male to female while they were under age 24.



Over 8 out of 10 trans men respondents started changing from women to men under age 24.

Health



A lot of trans respondents said their needs were not taken into account when they accessed general healthcare services.



One in 6 trans respondents said they were asked questions that shouldn't have been asked.



Mental Health Services

Around 1 in 7 respondents had some difficulty when accessing or trying to access mental health services in the previous 12 months.



The main reason was the long waiting lists.

Many said that their GP did not help.



Sexual Health services

About a quarter of the respondents had accessed sexual health services in the last 12 months.

Most respondents found these easy to access, and most said their experience was positive.



Gender Identity Services

We asked trans people about their experiences accessing gender identity services.

About half of trans respondents had accessed a gender identity service in the last year.



Respondents said that it was hard to access these services.



There were long waiting times and often their GP wasn't helpful.

Employment



Many LGBT people face discrimination and harassment at work.



In the survey more than half of the respondents were open about their sexual orientation with work colleagues.



Around 1 in 5 respondents said they'd had a bad experience at work because they were LGBT.



This most often involved someone telling other people they were LGBT without their permission.



Around 1 in 10 said they had experienced verbal harassment or hurtful comments.



1 in 20 respondents said they had been excluded from something because they were LGBT.



Three quarters of the time the most serious incidents did not get reported to anyone.

Other things from the survey



Using the law to officially change your gender

Only one in 9 trans people who knew about the process had done it.



Most respondents said they hadn't done this because:

- They didn't think it was right for them



- There was too much paperwork



- It was too expensive



Intersex

Only a small number of respondents said they were **Intersex**.



Intersex is where someone has both male and female sexual parts in their body.

They may be living as male, female or non-binary.



About a quarter of Intersex respondents had tried to access mental health services in the last 12 months.

Most found this difficult to do.

Many respondents said that their GP was not helpful.



Marriage

In the survey many respondents said that being able to marry their partner was very important.



Homelessness

Many LGBT people face homelessness after being rejected by their parents.



Many respondents have suffered abuse in their families.



The World

Many respondents who had been born in a different country said that they came to the UK because we support LGBT rights better.

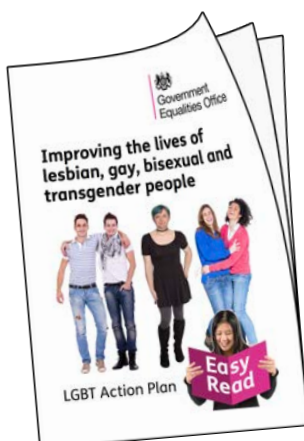
The Next Steps



The Government now has a lot of information about the views of LGBT people.



This shows that although the UK is one of the best countries for LGBT rights, there is still a long way to go.



The Government has published an action plan.

This Action Plan explains the things the Government wants to do following this survey.

For more information

If you want more information please contact:

Post:

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Great Smith Street
London SW1 P 3**



Website: **www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education**

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