

Gloucestershire County Council

# **Population Profile**

## 2023

An overview of the population of Gloucestershire  
by the nine protected characteristics set out in  
the Equality Act 2010

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## **Executive Summary**

Our population profile provides an overview of the population of Gloucestershire by nine protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010: age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race<sup>1</sup>, religion or belief, sexual orientation, and marriage and civil partnerships.

This profile summarises the main trends at county and district level. It is accompanied by an [online dynamic report](#), which provides more detailed information including; breakdowns by broad age groups and ward level information. This will help us to strengthen our evidence base across the protected characteristics.

The latest available data in this report comes mostly from the newly released 2021 census results. These now include data on gender identity and sexual orientation, which were not previously available.

Gloucestershire has a lower proportion of 0-19 year olds and 20-64 year olds when compared to the national figure, whilst the proportion of people aged 65+ exceeds the national figure. As is the case in many parts of the UK, the number of older people in the county has increased over the last 10 years. Projections suggest this trend will continue, with the number of people aged 65+ projected to increase by approximately 71,000 or 52.5% between 2018 and 2043.

Gloucestershire's ageing population has financial and resource implications, as people are more likely to require GCC adult care and other service support in older age. It will also have some benefits, as a result of the positive contribution older people make to society. Older people make up much of the formal volunteer workforce, delivering many services to other residents and they also provide most informal care to other older people.

Gloucestershire is characterised by a comparatively small population of ethnic minorities (excluding white minorities). The 2021 Census showed the population of ethnic minorities (excluding white minorities) accounted for 44,765 people or 6.9% of the population; this was much lower than the England percentage of 19.0%. The population of Gloucestershire is, however, becoming increasingly diverse. The population of ethnic minorities (excluding white minorities) increased by 63.8% between 2011 and 2021, from 4.6% to 6.9% of the population. The number of people classed as 'other white', which includes migrants from Europe, increased by 55.1%, from 3.1% of the population in 2011 to 4.5% of the population in 2021.

According to the 2021 Census 16.8% of Gloucestershire residents reported having a long-term limiting health problem; this was below the national figure. As age increases the proportion of respondents reporting a limiting long-term health problem increases. Given the ageing population, the number of people with a limiting long-term health problem is likely to increase in the future.

Police recorded hate crime has been increasing each year, both nationally and county-wide. In Gloucestershire, each of the five monitored hate crime strands showed an increase in 2021/22. Race-related hate crime is the most recorded strand of hate crime in Gloucestershire by a large margin, with 868 recorded motivating factors in 2021/22, representing a 66% increase on 2020/21.

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<sup>1</sup> The government refers to ethnicity and not race; this is because surveys usually ask people for their ethnicity and not their race, and using consistent terms helps people to understand the data.

## **Section One**

### **What is the population profile (2023)**

The population profile provides a breakdown of the population of Gloucestershire by the nine protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010<sup>2</sup>. The protected characteristics are age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, civil partnership and marriage.

This report provides an update to the 2022 equality profile, and includes population projections and a breakdown of protected characteristics by broad age groups. It is accompanied by an online dynamic report (<https://www.glos.gov.uk/inform/equality-and-diversity/interactive-report/>) which provides more detailed information including ward level information. This will help us to strengthen our evidence base across the protected characteristics.

### **Why we are publishing this report**

Publishing equality information about the population as a whole helps decision makers to make informed decisions based on the needs of our communities and meet the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty that require the Council to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share the characteristic.

The information contained in the report is also useful to local voluntary and community sector organisations, current and potential contractors and other partners.

### **How we use the population profile**

Our population profile helps us to understand our local population and their needs. This understanding helps us shape and make improvements to our services so that they best meet the needs of all of the different communities living within the county.

### **What other equality information do we use**

We use a range of equality information when we develop policies, set strategies, design and deliver our services. This includes information about our workforce and people affected by our policies and practices (service users).

You can [view the sources of equality information](#) that we use on our website, including the link to our dynamic report.

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<sup>2</sup> Equality Act 2010. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15>

## **Section Two**

### **Age**

In the UK, ageism is the most prevalent form of discrimination amongst all age groups, with one in three people experiencing age-based prejudice or discrimination.<sup>3</sup>

Age-based discrimination can be a form of social exclusion, affect an individual's mental health, and affect wider determinants of health such as employment.<sup>4</sup> According to the UK government, older people experience most age discrimination, although it also takes place against young people.<sup>5</sup>

The age of an individual, combined with additional factors including other 'protected characteristics' may affect their health and social care needs. World Health Organisation research shows that, in the health and social care sector, healthcare rationing on the basis of age is widespread, and older adults tend to be excluded from research and data collection efforts.<sup>6</sup>

A publication by the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) reported on the harmful effects of ageist stereotypes on older people. Studies have found that when people embody negative stereotypes (i.e. subsequently adopt these stereotypical traits), this can have a negative impact on their health and wellbeing. Comparing people with positive self-perceptions of ageing with those with negative self-perceptions showed adverse differences in life expectancy, risk of developing dementia, memory performance, rates of engagement in healthy behaviours, illness recovery rates, stress and depression, walking speed, and body image. People with a more negative view of ageing are also less likely to plan for later life or engage in activities to support their health and wellbeing.<sup>7</sup>

### **Current Population**

In 2021, the resident population of Gloucestershire was estimated at 646,627 people, of which:

- 21.8% were aged 0-19;
- 56.5% were aged 20-64;
- 21.8% were aged 65 and over.

Gloucestershire has a lower proportion of 0-19 year olds and 20-64 year olds and a higher proportion of people aged 65+ when compared to England. There is some variation at district level:

- at 23.8%, Gloucester has the highest proportion of children and young people (aged 0-19) and exceeds the county and national figures.

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<sup>3</sup> Centre for Ageing Better, "Challenging ageism: A guide to talking about ageing and older age" <https://ageing-better.org.uk/resources/challenging-ageism-guide-talking-about-ageing-and-older-age> Accessed 21/02/2023

<sup>4</sup> Royal Society for Public Health, "That Age Old Question" <https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/policy/older-people/that-age-old-question.html> Accessed 07/03/2023

<sup>5</sup> nidirect: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/age-discrimination>

<sup>6</sup> World Health Organisation, Global Report on Ageing (2021)

<https://www.who.int/publications/item/9789240016866> Accessed 07/03/2023

<sup>7</sup> Royal Society for Public Health, "That Age Old Question"

- Gloucester and Cheltenham have the highest proportions of people aged 20-64 (59.4% and 58.9% respectively), exceeding the county and national figures.
- Cotswold, Forest of Dean, Stroud and Tewkesbury all have a higher proportion of people aged 65+ when compared to the county and national figures. At 26.1% Cotswold has the largest proportion of people aged 65 and over.

**Table 1: Gloucestershire population by broad age group, 2021<sup>8</sup>**

	<b>Number of people</b>	<b>% of population</b>		
		<b>0-19</b>	<b>20-64</b>	<b>65+</b>
Cheltenham	118,866	21.7%	58.9%	19.4%
Cotswold	91,125	19.9%	54.0%	26.1%
Forest of Dean	87,140	20.8%	54.1%	25.2%
Gloucester	132,538	23.8%	59.4%	16.8%
Stroud	121,529	21.3%	55.3%	23.4%
Tewkesbury	95,429	22.2%	55.5%	22.3%
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>646,627</b>	<b>21.8%</b>	<b>56.5%</b>	<b>21.8%</b>
England	56,536,419	23.1%	58.4%	18.5%

### Future growth (2018-2043)

The latest population projections are the ONS 2018-based interim projections. New population projections are due to be released in late 2023. Current projections suggest that, between 2018 and 2043, Gloucestershire's population will increase by 104,924 people or 16.6% to around 738,482. This compares to a projected national increase of 10.3%.

Gloucestershire's 65+ population is projected to experience the greatest growth, increasing by almost 70,900 people or 52.5% between 2018 and 2043. Gloucestershire's 0-19 year old population is also projected to increase, but at a slower rate of 7.6% or 10,800 people by 2043. The working age population (20-64 year olds) is projected to experience an increase of 6.5% or around 23,200 people.

At district level:

- Tewkesbury is projected to see the greatest growth in 0-19 year olds (26.6%). Cheltenham and Gloucester are projected to see a decrease in this age group (-4.8% and -1.9% respectively).
- The working age population (20-64 year olds) is expected to increase in all districts except Cheltenham which is projected to see a decline of 2.8%. Tewkesbury is projected to experience the greatest increase at a rate of 21.1%.
- All districts are expected to experience an increase in the 65+ age group. The increase is projected to be highest in Cotswold (65.1%) and smallest in Cheltenham (45.5%).

<sup>8</sup> ONS Mid Year Estimates 2021, [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

**Table 2: Projected population change in Gloucestershire, 2018-2043<sup>9</sup>**

	0-19			20-64			65+		
	Number of people		% change	Number of people		% change	Number of people		% change
	2018	2043	2018 to 2043	2018	2043	2018 to 2043	2018	2043	2018 to 2043
Cheltenham	26,375	25,098	-4.8%	68,196	66,271	-2.8%	22,519	32,759	45.5%
Cotswold	18,146	21,424	18.1%	48,116	53,910	12.0%	22,760	37,571	65.1%
Forest of Dean	18,454	21,165	14.7%	47,055	49,382	4.9%	21,034	30,675	45.8%
Gloucester	32,034	31,430	-1.9%	75,681	78,369	3.6%	21,570	32,958	52.8%
Stroud	26,406	27,567	4.4%	65,995	69,497	5.3%	26,618	39,295	47.6%
Tewkesbury	20,829	26,365	26.6%	51,298	62,138	21.1%	20,472	32,607	59.3%
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>142,244</b>	<b>153,049</b>	<b>7.6%</b>	<b>356,341</b>	<b>379,567</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>134,973</b>	<b>205,865</b>	<b>52.5%</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>13,241,287</b>	<b>13,336,721</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>32,556,638</b>	<b>33,680,409</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>10,179,253</b>	<b>14,726,968</b>	<b>44.7%</b>

### What does this tell us?

- Gloucestershire has a lower proportion of 0-19 year olds and 20-64 year olds when compared to the national figure. In contrast the proportion of people aged 65+ exceeds the national figure.
- Projections suggest increasing population trends will continue, with the number of people aged 65+ projected to increase by around 71,000 or 52.5% between 2018 and 2043.
- Gloucestershire's ageing population will have financial and resource implications, as this is the age at which GCC adult care and other service support are most likely to be required. It will also have some benefits, as a result of the positive contribution older people make to society. Older people make up much of the formal volunteer workforce, delivering many services to other residents and they also provide most informal care to other older people.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>9</sup> ONS 2018-based Subnational Population Projections

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/localauthoritiesinenglandtable2> Accessed 24/02/2023.

<sup>10</sup> Audit Commission (2009) Financial implications for local authorities of an ageing population, <https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/financial-implications-for-local-authorities-of-an-ageing-population-policy-and-literature-review-local-government#> Accessed 24/02/2023

## Disability

### Current population

Under the Equality Act (2010) a person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. This is consistent with the Census definition of a limiting long-term health problem.

The most common impairment type reported by disabled people in the UK was 'mobility' (46%), as published in the Family Resources Survey. Amongst children the most common was 'social/behavioural' impairment, working age adults reported both 'mobility' and 'mental health', and 'mobility' was the most common issue for people of state pension age.<sup>11</sup>

According to the 2021 Census 16.8% of Gloucestershire residents reported having a long-term limiting health problem or disability; 6.4% reported that their activities were limited 'a lot' and 10.4% reported their activities were limited 'a little'. The equivalent national figures for England were 17.3%, 7.3% and 10.0%. At a household level, 30.3% of households had at least one person with a long-term limiting health problem or disability; this was slightly lower than the figure for England of 32.0%.

Table 3 shows that the Forest of Dean and Gloucester had the highest proportion of residents reporting a long term limiting health problem at 19.2% and 17.4% of the population respectively; both districts exceeded the national figure. Cotswold had the lowest proportion of residents reporting a long-term limiting health problem at 15.4%. At ward level, Podsmead in Gloucester had the highest proportion (22.5%), followed by Cinderford West in the Forest of Dean (22.2%); The Rissingtons in Cotswold had the lowest proportion (11.5%) followed by Battledown in Cheltenham (11.6%).

**Table 3: Percentage of people with a long-term limiting health problem or disability, Gloucestershire, 2021<sup>12</sup>**

	<b>% of population</b>
Cheltenham	15.9
Cotswold	15.4
Forest of Dean	19.2
Gloucester	17.4
Stroud	16.9
Tewkesbury	16.0
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>16.8</b>
England	17.3

Dementia is one of the causes of disability in older people. Estimated projections suggest that in 2023 there will be approximately 10,600 people aged 65+ living with dementia in Gloucestershire. The proportion of people with dementia increases with age - people aged 65-

<sup>11</sup> Family Resources Survey 2020/21 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/family-resources-survey-financial-year-2020-to-2021/family-resources-survey-financial-year-2020-to-2021>

<sup>12</sup> Census 2021, [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

69 account for 6.0% of dementia sufferers over 65 in Gloucestershire; this increases to 21.9% for the 85-89 age group. Given the ageing population the number of dementia sufferers will increase in the future.

**Table 4: Predicted number of people aged 65 and over with dementia, Gloucestershire, 2023<sup>13</sup>**

	Number of people with dementia by age group						
	Total	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90+
Cheltenham	1,885	99	174	319	389	434	472
Cotswold	1,868	106	189	354	419	399	401
Forest of Dean	1,551	101	177	316	352	323	283
Gloucester	1,739	106	171	307	365	378	413
Stroud	1,962	127	219	389	455	454	318
Tewkesbury	1,599	96	171	305	365	343	318
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>10,619</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>1103</b>	<b>1,990</b>	<b>2,355</b>	<b>2,330</b>	<b>2,204</b>
England	789,486	48,538	80,602	145,792	168,194	173,386	172,974

Note: Figures may not equal the sum of the districts due to rounding

Estimated projections suggest that in 2023 there will be approximately 12,284 people aged 18+ living with a learning disability in Gloucestershire (see Table 5) equating to 2.3% of the adult population.<sup>14</sup> Of this group, about 2,503 are estimated to have moderate or severe learning disabilities, equating to 0.5% of the adult population<sup>15</sup>.

With regards to children, in 2020, 5,190 school pupils in Gloucestershire (5.9% of school pupils) were known to have a learning disability. Of these children, 4,442 had a moderate learning disability and 612 had a severe learning disability.<sup>16</sup>

In 2021/22 Gloucestershire GPs recorded that 0.7% of their registered patients were known to have a learning disability;<sup>17</sup> this was higher than the England figure of 0.5%. In 2022, 1.3% of people aged 16+ who completed the GP patient survey in Gloucestershire, reported that they had a learning disability;<sup>18</sup> this was lower than the England figure of 1.9%. The discrepancy between the percentage of people reporting a learning disability and the percentage recorded by GPs may be due to under-reporting amongst GPs of people who have mild learning disabilities.

Evidence shows that people with learning disabilities have poorer health than the general population, much of which is avoidable, and that the impact of these health inequalities is

<sup>13</sup> Poppi, <http://www.poppi.org.uk/> Crown copyright 2020. Accessed 21/02/2023

<sup>14</sup> Pansi, <http://www.pansi.org.uk/index.php?pageNo=388&areaID=8260&loc=8260> Crown copyright 2020. Accessed 22/02/2023

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>16</sup> Learning Disability Profile, OHID <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/learning-disabilities> Accessed 22/02/2023

<sup>17</sup> National General Practice Profiles, OHID [National General Practice Profiles - Data - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/learning-disabilities) Accessed 22/02/2023

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

serious; in 2020, 49% of deaths were rated as 'avoidable' for people with a learning disability - this compares to 22% for the general population.<sup>19</sup> Research from the 2021 Learning Disabilities Mortality Review (LeDeR) found that, on average, men with learning disabilities die 22 years younger than men in the general population, and women with learning disabilities die on average 26 years younger than women in the general population. In addition the 2018 LeDeR Review found that the proportion of people with learning disabilities dying in hospital (59%) was higher than in the general population (42%).<sup>20</sup> These inequalities result to an extent from the barriers which people with learning disabilities face in accessing healthcare.<sup>21</sup>

**Table 5: Predicted number of people with learning disabilities aged 18+, Gloucestershire, 2023<sup>22</sup>**

	Number of people aged 18+ with a learning disability by age group, 2023								
	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
Cheltenham	2,224	299	369	370	337	341	254	178	76
Cotswold	1,804	159	204	269	295	339	276	195	68
Forest of Dean	1,685	159	219	232	264	327	261	172	50
Gloucester	2,432	288	436	434	387	389	260	174	64
Stroud	2,286	189	296	358	406	430	323	215	70
Tewkesbury	1,851	145	286	328	297	318	248	170	58
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>12,284</b>	<b>1,239</b>	<b>1,810</b>	<b>1,992</b>	<b>1,986</b>	<b>2,143</b>	<b>1,621</b>	<b>1104</b>	<b>388</b>
England	1,065,608	124,330	188,271	185,771	169,440	167,529	120,890	80,092	29,285

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding

Vision and hearing impairments affect people from all sections of society and across all age groups. In 2022 approximately 1.2% of the 16+ population in Gloucestershire reported blindness or partial sight. During the same period 6.3% of the population aged 16+ reported deafness or hearing loss.<sup>23</sup> People can become more likely to suffer from hearing and vision impairments as they get older; given the ageing population this means the number of people affected by these conditions is likely to increase in the future.

<sup>19</sup> LeDer Report 2021 [leder-main-report-hyperlinked.pdf \(kcl.ac.uk\)](https://kcl.ac.uk/leder-main-report-hyperlinked.pdf) Accessed 07/03/2023

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.* (59% of people with a learning disability in 2018-2021 vs 42% of the general population in 2020)

<sup>21</sup> *the Lancet* <https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S0140-6736%2813%2962026-7> Accessed 07/03/2023

<sup>22</sup> PANSI, <http://www.pansi.org.uk/index.php?pageNo=388&areaID=8260&loc=8260> Crown copyright 2020. Accessed 22/02/2023

<sup>23</sup> National General Practice Profiles (data from GP Patient Survey), OHID, [National General Practice Profiles - Data - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](https://www.phe.org.uk/national-general-practice-profiles-data-ohid) Accessed 06/12/2022

**Table 6: Visual and hearing impairments<sup>24</sup>**

	Gloucestershire			England		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
% reporting blindness or partial sight	1.4	1.2	1.2*	1.5	1.4	1.4
% reporting deafness or hearing loss	6.9	5.9	6.3*	6.2	5.5	5.9

### What does this tell us?

- According to the 2021 Census, 16.8% of Gloucestershire residents reported having a long term limiting health problem, this was below the national figure.
- As age increases the proportion of respondents reporting a limiting long term health problem increases.
- Given the ageing population the number of people with a limiting long term health problem is likely to increase in the future.

### Sex

The sex of an individual, combined with additional factors such as living alone, may affect their health and social care needs. Individuals may also experience discrimination and inequalities because of their sex.

A report by the European Social Survey found 24% of respondents had experienced prejudice based on their sex. Discrimination on the grounds of sex was reported by more respondents than discrimination based on ethnicity.<sup>25</sup>

A recent report in 2020 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) states that gender disparities are still persistent. The report states and that 91% of men and 86% of women worldwide show at least one clear bias against gender equality in areas such as politics, economic, education, intimate partner violence and women's reproductive rights.<sup>26</sup>

### Current population

The overall population split by sex in Gloucestershire is slightly skewed towards females, with males making up 48.9% of the population and females accounting for 51.1%. This situation is also reflected at district, regional and national level.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.* \* Gloucestershire data for 2022 aggregated from all known lower geography values.

<sup>25</sup> European Social Survey, Experiences and Expressions of Ageism: Topline Results UK from Round 4 of the European Social Survey

[https://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/docs/findings/ESS4\\_gb\\_toplines\\_experiences\\_and\\_expressions\\_of\\_ageism.pdf](https://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/docs/findings/ESS4_gb_toplines_experiences_and_expressions_of_ageism.pdf) Accessed 21/12/2021.

<sup>26</sup> United Nations Development Programme, 2020 Human Development Perspectives – Tackling Social Norms [hdperspectivesgsnippdf\\_1.pdf \(undp.org\)](https://hdperspectivesgsnippdf_1.pdf (undp.org))

**Table 7: Population by sex, Gloucestershire 2021<sup>27</sup>**

	% of population	
	male	female
Cheltenham	48.9	51.1
Cotswold	48.2	51.8
Forest of Dean	49.0	51.0
Gloucester	49.5	50.5
Stroud	48.9	51.1
Tewkesbury	48.5	51.5
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>48.9</b>	<b>51.1</b>
England	49.0	51.0

Although there are slightly more males than females in the 0-19 year old age band, as age increases, females outnumber males by an increasing margin. In Gloucestershire in 2021, 52.6% of people aged 65-84 were female, whilst for people aged 85+ the difference was more marked with females accounting for 62.4% of the total population; this difference is observed at district, regional and national level.

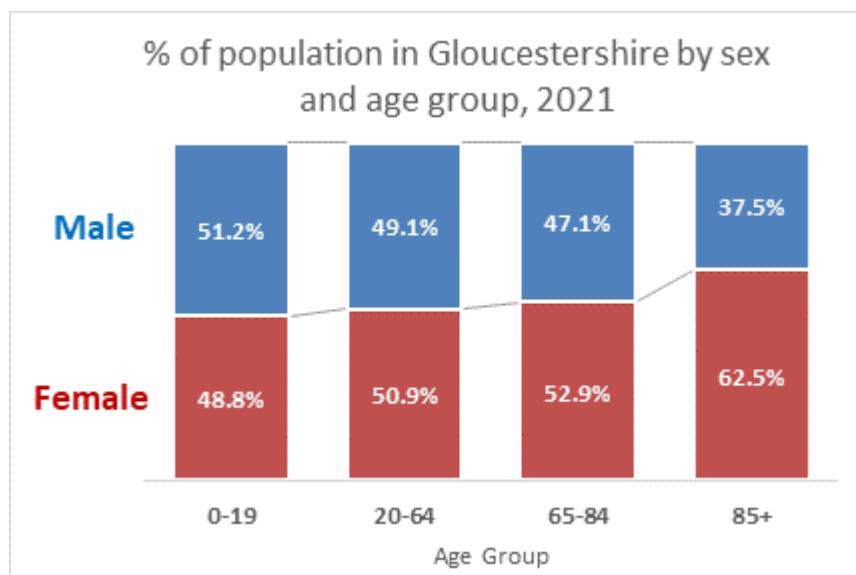


Figure 1 - Proportion of Gloucestershire residents by sex and age group, 2021<sup>28</sup>

<sup>27</sup> ONS Mid Year Estimates 2021, [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*

**Table 8: Population by sex and broad age group, Gloucestershire 2021<sup>29</sup>**

	0-19 years		20-64 years		65-84 years		85+ years	
	Male (%)	Female (%)						
Cheltenham	49.8	50.2	49.9	50.1	46.5	53.5	35.2	64.8
Cotswold	50.6	49.4	48.3	51.7	47.3	52.7	39.9	60.1
Forest of Dean	50.3	49.7	49.3	50.7	48.6	51.4	37.3	62.7
Gloucester	51.1	48.9	49.8	50.2	47.2	52.8	37.5	62.5
Stroud	51.5	48.5	48.9	51.1	47.7	52.3	38.0	62.0
Tewkesbury	51.6	48.4	48.3	51.7	47.3	52.7	37.8	62.2
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>62.4</b>
England	51.2	48.8	49.1	50.9	47.1	52.9	37.5	62.5

**What does this tell us?**

- The overall population split by sex in Gloucestershire is slightly skewed towards females, with males making up 48.9% of the population and females accounting for 51.1%.
- As age increases differences become more noticeable, with females outnumbering males by an increasing margin.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*

## Gender Reassignment

Gender reassignment is defined by the Equality Act 2010 as a person who is proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone a process (or part of a process) for the purpose of reassigning their sex by changing physiological or other attributes of sex. This means an individual does not need to have undergone any treatment or surgery to be protected by law.

In September 2020, a significant Employment Tribunal ruling took place, where the rights of non-binary and gender fluid people were recognised and protected under the Equality Act 2010.<sup>30</sup> Until then, it hadn't been clear whether non-binary people were protected by anti-discrimination legislation. Stonewall states that the Employment Tribunal ruling was a milestone in recognising the rights of non-binary and gender fluid people to be protected from discrimination under the Equality Act 2010. Therefore, the Employment Tribunal judgement will be key in supporting future judicial decisions. The Tribunal held up the important principle that 'gender is a spectrum', broadening the scope of who could be covered by the Equality Act to those whose gender identities are 'complex', non-binary, or not the same as they were assigned at birth.<sup>31</sup>

Evidence shows that when transgender people reveal their gender variance, they are exposed to a risk of discrimination, bullying and hate crime.<sup>32</sup> Transgender people are more likely to report mental health conditions and to attempt suicide than the general population;<sup>33</sup> one study found that about half of young trans people and a third of trans adults attempt suicide.<sup>34</sup> Research has also found that transgender people encounter significant difficulties in accessing and using health and social care services due to staffs' lack of knowledge and understanding and sometimes prejudice. Stonewall's LGBT in Britain Trans Report found that two in five trans people (41 per cent) said healthcare staff lacked understanding of trans health needs in general healthcare settings.<sup>35</sup>

Stonewall's LGBT in Britain Trans Report also states that hate crime and discrimination against trans people is widespread throughout all aspects of life. Nationally, two in five trans people had experienced a hate crime or incident in the past 12 months. In addition, the report states that trans people often lack support from their families; more than a quarter have been subjected to domestic violence, and one in four have experienced homelessness at some point.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>30</sup>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5fc8d559d3bf7f7f5c134ad3/Ms\\_R\\_Taylor\\_v\\_Jaguar\\_Land\\_Rover\\_Limited\\_-\\_1304471.2018\\_-\\_Reasons.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5fc8d559d3bf7f7f5c134ad3/Ms_R_Taylor_v_Jaguar_Land_Rover_Limited_-_1304471.2018_-_Reasons.pdf)

<sup>31</sup> Stonewall <https://www.stonewall.org.uk/about-us/news/statement-employment-tribunal-ruling-against-jaguar-land-rover>

<sup>32</sup> Stonewall, LGBT in Britain Trans Report [lgbt\\_in\\_britain\\_trans\\_report\\_final.pdf \(stonewall.org.uk\)](https://www.stonewall.org.uk/assets/reports/lgbt_in_britain_trans_report_final.pdf) Accessed 07/03/2023

<sup>33</sup> House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee, 2016, Transgender Equality .

[www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmwomeq/390/390.pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmwomeq/390/390.pdf) Accessed 27/01/2023

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>35</sup> Stonewall, LGBT in Britain Trans Report [lgbt\\_in\\_britain\\_trans\\_report\\_final.pdf \(stonewall.org.uk\)](https://www.stonewall.org.uk/assets/reports/lgbt_in_britain_trans_report_final.pdf) Accessed 07/03/2023

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*

## Current population

The Census 2021 has provided the first set of official data on gender identity in England and Wales. In the 2021 Census there was a new question around gender identity, asking 'is your gender the same as the sex you were registered at birth?'. The question referred to a person's sense of their own gender. It was directed only at people aged 16 and over, and answers were voluntary.

Overall, 94.8% of residents in Gloucestershire aged 16 and over answered the question. Of these, almost 2,200 people (0.4%) regarded their gender identity to be different from the sex registered at birth. This is slightly lower than the national average of 0.5%.

A total of approximately 28,000 people in Gloucestershire (5.2%) chose not to answer this voluntary question. Due to the sensitive nature of the question, it might be reasonable to assume that some transgender people felt reticent to provide an answer. The LGBT Foundation states that figures provided in the Census represent only a small proportion of all LGBTQ+ people, and that they hope that an increasing number of our communities feel confident to self-disclose in future Censuses. They also state that "unfortunately, there are a range of reasons why people won't feel able to disclose their sexual orientation or gender identity. The historic and ongoing attitudes towards LGBTQ+ communities, particularly trans and non-binary people, will stop many from feeling safe to provide this information. Meanwhile, many LGBTQ+ people are living within households and environments where they are unable to be open about their gender identity, sexual orientation and trans identity. As such it will be years before we get an accurate picture, informed by figures from, and comparison with, future surveys."<sup>37</sup>

The approximate figure of 2,200 transgender people in the county should therefore be regarded as the minimum number, but this could potentially be considerably higher.

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<sup>37</sup> LGBT Foundation [LGBT Foundation - LGBT Foundation cautiously welcomes the first snapshot of LGBTQ+ identities in the Census.](https://lgbtfoundation.org.uk/lgbt-foundation-cautiously-welcomes-the-first-snapshot-of-lgbtq-identities-in-the-census/)

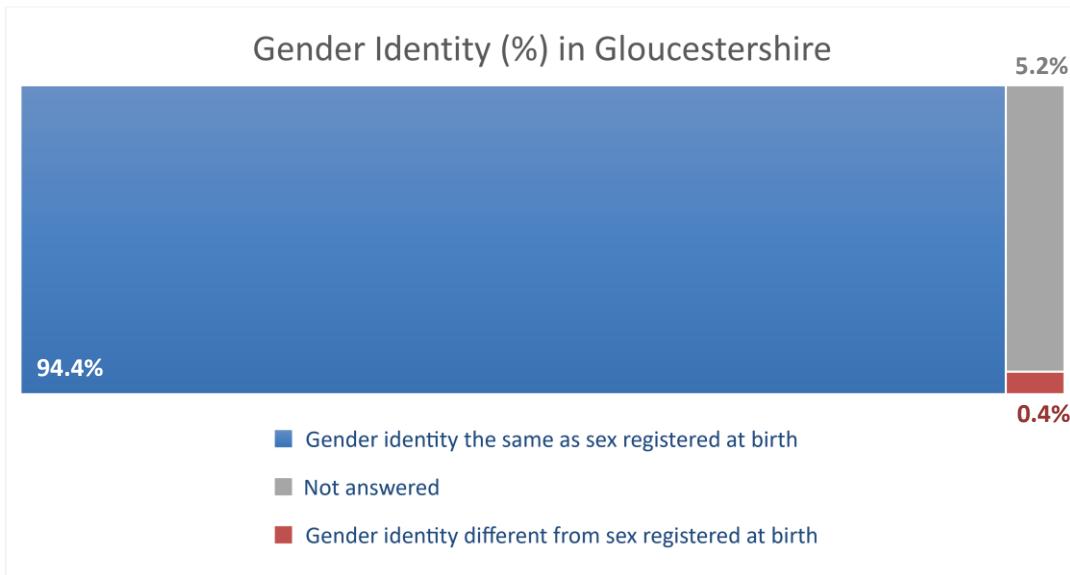


Figure 2 - Proportion of Gloucestershire residents aged 16 and over by broad gender identity, 2021<sup>38</sup>

The 2021 Census found that within Gloucestershire the most common gender identity other than 'gender identity different from sex registered at birth' was 'no specific identity given'. Around 780 people (0.1%) fall within this category. The next most common identity was 'trans woman' (423 people, 0.1%), followed by 'trans man' (380 people, 0.1%), non-binary (355 people, 0.1%), and 'all other gender identities' (229 people, 0.0%).

<sup>38</sup> Census 2021

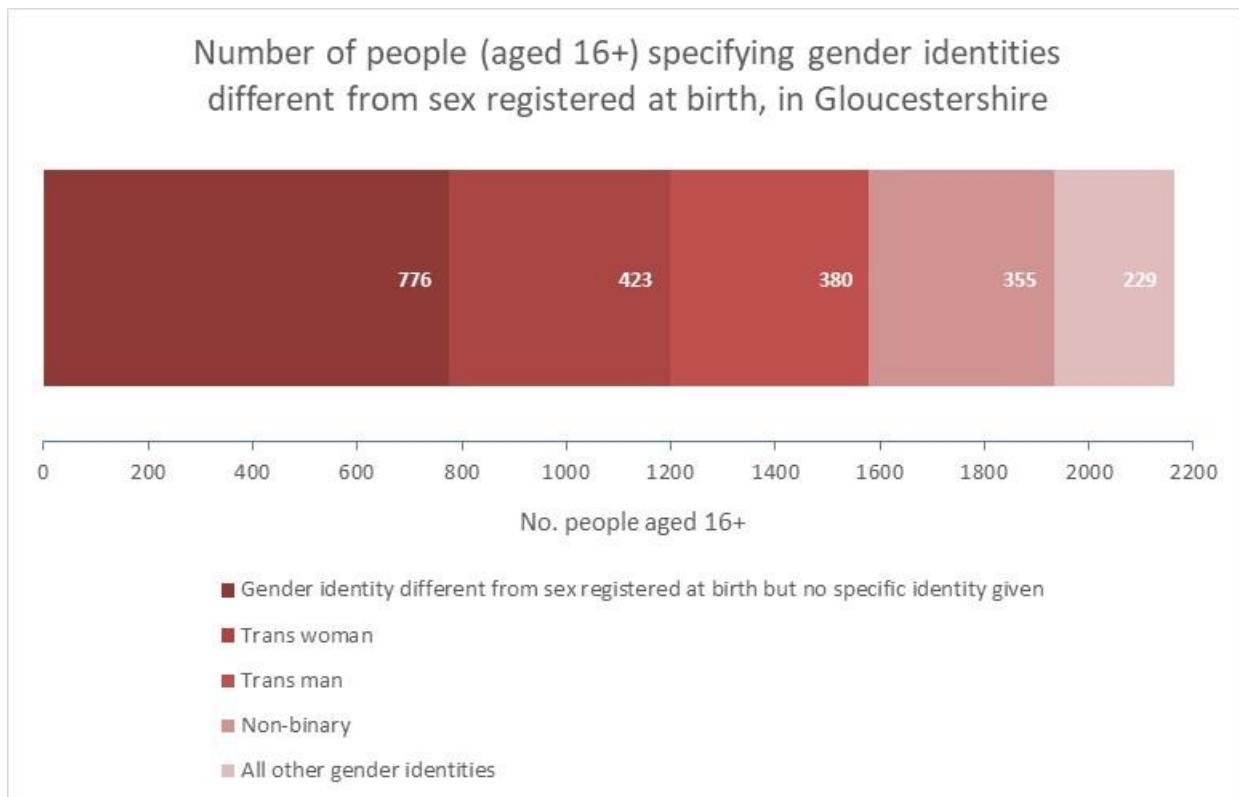


Figure 3 - Number of Gloucestershire residents aged 16 and over by gender identity, where different from sex registered at birth, 2021<sup>39</sup>

At district level:

- Gloucester has the highest number of people stating their gender identity is different from their sex registered at birth (600 people).
- Gloucester has the highest numbers of trans women and trans men in the county (114 and 107 people respectively).
- Cheltenham has the highest number of people identifying themselves within 'non-binary' and 'all other gender identities' (123 and 80 people respectively).
- Gloucester has the highest number of people with a 'gender identity different from sex registered at birth, but with no specific identity given'. Over 280 people (0.3%) identified with this gender identity. This exceeded both the county and national average of 0.1% and 0.2% respectively.

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*

**Table 9: Population aged 16 and over by gender identity, 2021<sup>40</sup>**

	Gender identity the same as sex registered at birth		Gender identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given		Trans woman	Trans man	Non-binary	All other gender identities	Not answered	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Cheltenham	92,792	94.3	134	0.1	92	0.1	91	0.1	123	0.1
Cotswold	72,549	95.1	57	0.1	51	0.1	51	0.1	33	0.0
Forest of Dean	68,764	94.1	119	0.2	38	0.1	30	0.0	30	0.0
Gloucester	100,259	93.8	282	0.3	114	0.1	107	0.1	51	0.0
Stroud	94,647	94.5	115	0.1	71	0.1	60	0.1	89	0.1
Tewkesbury	73,431	94.9	69	0.1	60	0.1	42	0.1	29	0.0
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>502,440</b>	<b>94.4</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>0.1</b>
England	43,002,331	93.5	113,760	0.2	45,684	0.1	46,513	0.1	28,710	0.1
									17,177	0.0
									2,752,783	6.0

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding

## What does this tell us?

- The proportion of transgender people aged 16+ in Gloucestershire is slightly lower than the national average.
- Gloucester has a higher number of transgender people than the other districts in the county, most of whom identifying themselves as trans men or trans women.
- There are at least 2,200 transgender people in the county, but this could potentially be considerably higher.

<sup>40</sup> Census 2021

## Marriage and Civil Partnership

The Equality Act 2010 protects individuals who are in a civil partnership, or marriage, against discrimination.

Evidence suggests being married is associated with better mental health. There is less evidence on the benefits of being in a civil partnership; however, it is likely the benefits will also be experienced by people in similarly committed relationships such as civil partnerships.<sup>41</sup>

### Current population

Among residents of Gloucestershire aged 16 and over:

- 33.6% are single and have never married or registered a civil partnership
- 47.8% are married
- 0.2% are in a registered civil partnership
- 2.0% are separated but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership
- 9.9% are divorced or formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved
- 6.5% are widowed or a surviving partner from a civil partnership<sup>42</sup>

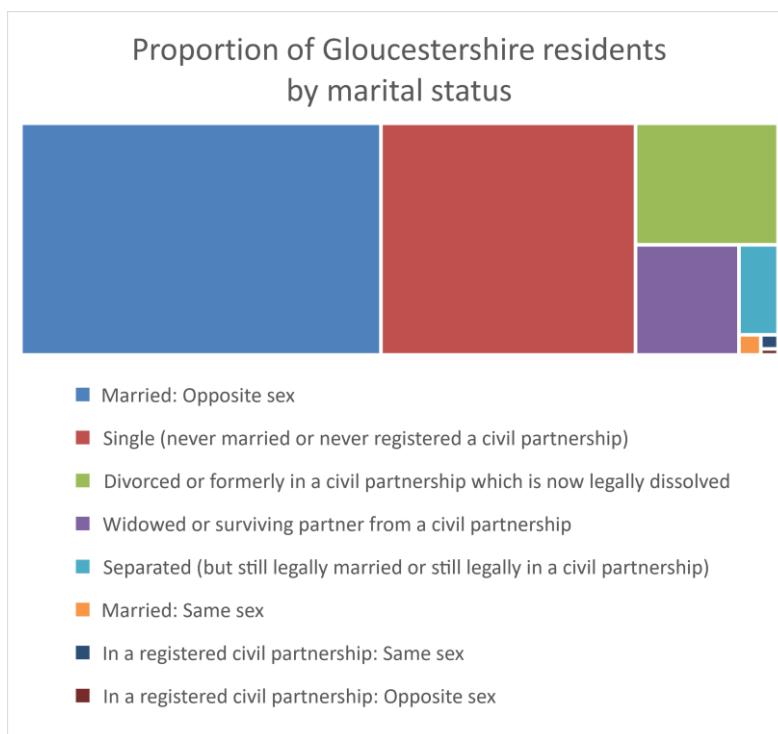


Figure 4 - Proportion of eligible Gloucestershire residents by marital status, 2021<sup>43</sup>

<sup>41</sup> Department of Health (2011), No Health Without Mental Health: A cross-Government mental health outcomes strategy for people of all ages - Analysis of the Impact on Equality (AIE)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/213763/dh\\_123989.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/213763/dh_123989.pdf) Accessed 27/02/2023

<sup>42</sup> Census 2021 [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*

Gloucestershire has a lower proportion of people who are single, in a same sex marriage, or are separated when compared to the national figure. In contrast the proportion of people who are married to a person of the opposite sex, are divorced, or are widowed exceeds the national figures.

At district level:

- Cheltenham has the highest proportion of single people (39.5%) and exceeds the county and national figures. In contrast 25.9% of people in Cotswold are single, which is below the county and national level.
- Cotswold has the highest proportion of residents who are married at 53.0%, which is higher than the county and national figures. The lowest proportion was recorded in Cheltenham. The proportion of same-sex marriages and civil partnerships is fairly consistent across all districts.
- Stroud has the highest proportion of people who are separated and divorced.
- Cotswold and Forest of Dean have the highest proportion of people who are widowed or a surviving partner of a civil partnership while Gloucester has the lowest. This reflects the age structure of these districts.

Table 10: Marital status of eligible Gloucestershire residents, 2021<sup>44</sup>

	% of population									
	Single (never married or never registered a civil partnership)	Married: Opposite sex	Married: Same sex	Married: Total	In a registered civil partnership: Opposite sex	In a registered civil partnership: Same sex	In a registered civil partnership: Total	Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership)	Divorced or formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	Widowed or surviving partner from a civil partnership
Cheltenham	39.5%	42.4%	0.2%	42.6%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	1.9%	9.6%	6.2%
Cotswold	27.9%	52.7%	0.3%	53.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	2.0%	9.8%	7.1%
Forest of Dean	31.4%	49.2%	0.3%	49.4%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	2.0%	9.9%	7.1%
Gloucester	38.9%	43.0%	0.2%	43.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	2.2%	9.9%	5.5%
Stroud	30.9%	49.8%	0.3%	50.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	2.1%	10.1%	6.7%
Tewkesbury	30.2%	50.9%	0.2%	51.2%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	1.9%	10.0%	6.7%
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>33.6%</b>	<b>47.6%</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>47.8%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>6.5%</b>
England	37.9%	44.2%	0.3%	44.5%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	2.2%	9.1%	6.1%

### What does this tell us?

- Around 48% of Gloucestershire's residents aged 16+ are married, this is higher than the national figure.
- The proportions of the population who are divorced, or widowed also exceed the national figures while the proportions of people who are single, or separated are below the national figures.

<sup>44</sup> Census 2021, [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

## Pregnancy and Maternity

The Equality Act protects women who are pregnant, have given birth in the last 26 weeks (non-work context) or are on maternity leave (work context) against discrimination in relation to their pregnancy.

### Current situation

There were 6,138 live births in Gloucestershire in 2021. The highest proportion of deliveries were to women aged 30 to 34, continuing the trend of later motherhood. Births to mothers in all age bands above the age of 30 account for a slightly higher proportion of total births in Gloucestershire than they do nationally, whilst those to mothers aged under 30 account for a lower proportion.

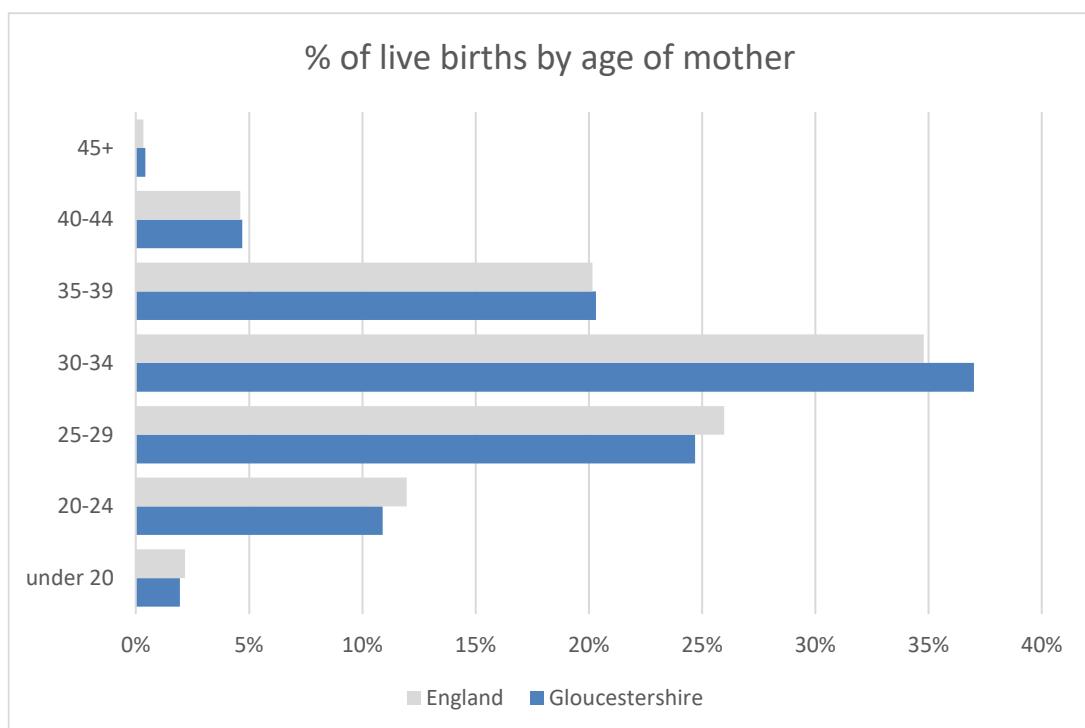


Figure 5 - Percentage of live births in Gloucestershire compared with England by age of mother, 2021<sup>45</sup>

At district level:

- Forest of Dean and Gloucester have a higher proportion of births to mothers aged under 20 (2.6%) than Gloucestershire and England.
- Cheltenham and Cotswold have a higher proportion of births to mothers aged 35+ than Gloucestershire and England.

<sup>45</sup> ONS, [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

**Table 11: Live births by age of mother, Gloucestershire, 2021<sup>46</sup>**

	Total number of live births	% of total births by age of mother						
		under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45+
Cheltenham	1,153	2.0	9.3	18.5	38.2	26.1	5.2	0.7
Cotswold	753	1.6	7.7	19.7	40.2	23.4	6.9	0.5
Forest of Dean	775	2.6	13.9	29.0	34.6	15.1	4.4	0.3
Gloucester	1,452	2.6	15.1	28.5	32.0	18.5	3.0	0.3
Stroud	1,022	1.3	8.7	23.5	41.5	19.3	5.3	0.5
Tewkesbury	983	1.3	9.0	28.1	37.6	19.1	4.5	0.3
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>6,138</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>0.4</b>
England	595,948	2.2	11.9	26.0	34.8	20.2	4.6	0.3

### What does this tell us?

- The largest proportion of deliveries in Gloucestershire was among the 30-34 year old age group, continuing the trend of later motherhood.

## Race and Ethnicity<sup>47</sup>

### Current population

The Equality Act states that race includes colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins. The government refers to ethnicity, and not race; this is because surveys usually ask people for their ethnicity and not their race, and using consistent terms helps people to understand the data.<sup>48</sup>

The BLM movement (Black Lives Matter) protests in 2020, following the death of George Floyd, have publicly highlighted the ongoing struggles against racial discrimination and institutional racism. Locally, services should reflect on the need to better understand racism and to be proactively anti-racist.<sup>49</sup>

A report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission found that people from Black and Minority Ethnic groups continue to experience discrimination and inequality in education, employment, housing, pay and living standards, health, and the criminal justice system.<sup>50</sup>

<sup>46</sup> ONS, Live births in England and Wales down to local authority local area

<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk> Accessed 26/10/2022

<sup>47</sup> ONS [Writing about ethnicity - GOV.UK \(ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/writing-about-ethnicity)

<sup>48</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>49</sup> Further reading: Race Equality Guide, British Council <https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/guide-race-equality.pdf>

<sup>50</sup> Equality and Human Rights Commission (2016), Healing a divided Britain: the need for a comprehensive race equality strategy <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/healing-divided-britain-need-comprehensive-race-equality-strategy> Accessed 07/03/2023

The 2021 Census found that 10% of Gloucestershire residents (around 64,500 people) were born outside the UK compared with a national figure of 17.4%; of this group, 50.5% were born in another European country and 22.8% were born in the Middle East or Asia.

With regards to ethnicity, the 2021 Census found that:

- 87.7% of Gloucestershire residents were white people from an English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British background
- 2.9% were people from an Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh background
- 2.2% were people with a mixed or multiple ethnic background
- 1.2% were black people from a British, Welsh, Caribbean or African background
- 0.6% were white people from an Irish background
- 0.1% were white Gypsy and Irish Traveller people, 0.1% were white Roma people
- 4.5% were in the 'other white' group
- 0.7% were in another ethnic group.

The 2021 Census found that overall, 6.9% of the population in Gloucestershire were from an ethnic minority background (excluding white minorities). This was considerably lower than the national figure of 19.0%.

When including white minorities, the proportion of people in Gloucestershire from an ethnic minority rose to 12.3%. This was less than half of the national average of 26.5%.

At district level:

- Gloucester had the highest proportion of people from ethnic minority backgrounds (excluding white minorities), at 15.1% of its population. However, this is still considerably lower than the national figure.
- Cheltenham had a higher proportion than the county-wide figure of people from ethnic minority backgrounds (excluding white minorities), at 8.6%.
- Forest of Dean had the lowest proportion of people from ethnic minority backgrounds (excluding white minorities), at 2.5% of its total population.
- The proportion of people within the 'other white' ethnic group was higher in Cheltenham than Gloucestershire and England as a whole (7.0% compared with 4.5% for Gloucestershire and 6.3% for England).
- 41.5% of white Roma people lived in Gloucester City, and 37.3% of white Gypsy and Irish Traveller people lived in Tewkesbury borough.

At ward level:

- Barton and Tredworth ward in Gloucester was the most ethnically diverse ward with 47.4% of its population from ethnic minority backgrounds (excluding white minorities), and 14.5% from another white background other than the white English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British ethnic group.

Table 12: Population by ethnic group, Gloucestershire 2021 (number of people)<sup>51</sup>

	Aggregated Ethnic Groups		Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	Black, black British, black Welsh, Caribbean or African	Mixed or multiple ethnic group	White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British	White Minorities				Other ethnic group
	Ethnic minorities (excluding white minorities)	White					White: Irish	White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	White: Roma	White: Other white	
Cheltenham	10,277	108,559	4,922	1181	2,949	98,932	1,031	80	158	8,358	1,225
Cotswold	3,320	87,510	1195	402	1393	83,545	635	71	57	3,202	330
Forest of Dean	2,135	84,869	625	242	925	82,401	314	103	63	1,988	343
Gloucester	19,953	112,461	8,543	4,826	5,014	103,317	800	224	296	7,824	1,570
Stroud	4,403	116,701	1256	528	2,171	111,896	711	126	59	3,909	448
Tewkesbury	4,676	90,206	1924	595	1699	85,720	537	360	81	3,508	458
Gloucestershire	44,765	600,314	18,464	7,777	14,149	565,811	4,034	965	714	28,790	4,375

<sup>51</sup> Census 2021

Table 13: Population by ethnic group, Gloucestershire 2021 (% of population)

	Aggregated Ethnic Groups		Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	Black, black British, black Welsh, Caribbean or African	Mixed or multiple ethnic group	White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British	White Minorities				Other ethnic group
	Ethnic minorities (excluding white minorities)	White					White: Irish	White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	White: Roma	White: Other white	
Cheltenham	8.6%	91.4%	4.1%	1.0%	2.5%	83.3%	0.9%	0.1%	0.1%	7.0%	1.0%
Cotswold	3.7%	96.3%	1.3%	0.4%	1.5%	92.0%	0.7%	0.1%	0.1%	3.5%	0.4%
Forest of Dean	2.5%	97.5%	0.7%	0.3%	1.1%	94.7%	0.4%	0.1%	0.1%	2.3%	0.4%
Gloucester	15.1%	84.9%	6.5%	3.6%	3.8%	78.0%	0.6%	0.2%	0.2%	5.9%	1.2%
Stroud	3.6%	96.4%	1.0%	0.4%	1.8%	92.4%	0.6%	0.1%	0.0%	3.2%	0.4%
Tewkesbury	4.9%	95.1%	2.0%	0.6%	1.8%	90.3%	0.6%	0.4%	0.1%	3.7%	0.5%
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	<b>93.1%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>87.7%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>

### Population change (2011 – 2021)

The population of Gloucestershire has become increasingly diverse. The number of people from an ethnic minority background (excluding white minorities) increased by 63.8% between 2011 and 2021, from 4.6% to 6.9% of the population. The number of people from the 'other white' ethnic group has increased by over 50% during the same period, from 3.1% of the population in 2011 to 4.5% of the population in 2021. This trend is reflected at a regional, national and district level (please see dynamic report for more information).

**Table 14: Population change 2011-2021, Gloucestershire<sup>52</sup>**

	2011	2021	% change 2011-2021
<b>Ethnic minorities (excluding white minorities)</b>	<b>27,337</b>	<b>44,765</b>	<b>63.8</b>
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	12,433	18,464	48.5
Black, black British, black Welsh, Caribbean or African	5,150	7,777	51.0
Mixed or multiple ethnic group	8,661	14,149	63.4
Other ethnic group	1,093	4,375	300.3
<b>White</b>	<b>569,647</b>	<b>600,314</b>	<b>5.4</b>
White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British	546,599	565,811	3.5
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	3,759	4,034	7.3
White: Irish	N/A	965	N/A
White: Roma	N/A	714	N/A
Other white	18,558	28,790	55.1

## Language

According to the 2021 Census, 27,000 people in Gloucestershire (4.3% of the population) did not speak English as their main language. Amongst this group, Polish was the most common language (6,703 people), followed by Romanian (2,796 people) and then Portuguese (1,144 people). An EU language other than Polish was the main language of 10,683 people. At district level, Gloucester had the highest proportion of people who did not speak English as their main language (8%) followed by Cheltenham (6.9%). Some 84% of people, whose main language was not English, could speak English well or very well.

**Table 15: Main language and proficiency in English, Gloucestershire 2021<sup>53</sup>**

	Do not speak English as a main language		Not able to speak English or not able to speak English well	
	Number of people	% of population aged 3 or over	Number of people	% of population aged 3 or over
Cheltenham	7,966	6.9	1,095	0.9
Cotswold	1,972	2.2	175	0.2
Forest of Dean	1,566	1.8	376	0.5
Gloucester	10,259	8.0	1,989	1.5
Stroud	2,162	1.8	264	0.2
Tewkesbury	3,075	3.4	395	0.5
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4,294</b>	<b>0.7</b>

<sup>52</sup> Census 2011 and Census 2021<sup>53</sup> Census 2021, Table TS029 – Proficiency in English

## What does the data tell us?

- Gloucestershire is characterised by a comparatively small population of people from ethnic minority backgrounds (excluding white minorities). The 2021 census showed people from ethnic minority backgrounds (excluding white minorities) account for 6.9% of the population; this was much lower than the England figure of 19.0%.
- The population of Gloucestershire is however, becoming increasingly diverse. The population of people from ethnic minority backgrounds (excluding white minorities) increased by 63.8% between 2011 and 2021, from 4.6% to 6.9% of the population. The number of people from the other white ethnic group increased by 55.1% during the same period, from 3.1% of the population in 2011 to 4.5% of the population in 2021.

## Religion

### Current population

According to the 2021 Census, 49.2% of residents in Gloucestershire were Christian, making it the most common religion. This was followed by No religion which accounts for 41.4% of the total population.

Gloucestershire has a higher proportion of people who are Christian, have no religion, or didn't specify any religion compared with national figures. In contrast it has a lower proportion of people who follow a religion other than Christianity, which reflects the ethnic composition of the county.

At district level:

- Cheltenham had the lowest proportion of people who are Christian at 45.5% of the total population. This was lower than the county and marginally lower than the national figure.
- Cotswold had the highest proportion of people who follow Christianity.
- Cheltenham had the highest proportion of Buddhists and people who have no religion.
- Gloucester had the highest proportion of Muslims, at 4.7% of its population.
- Stroud had the highest proportion of people who follow an 'Other Religion' and of people who did not state their religion.

Table 16: Religion in Gloucestershire 2021<sup>54</sup>

	% of population								
	Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Jewish	Muslim	Sikh	Other Religion	No Religion	Religion not stated
Cheltenham	45.5	0.5	1.0	0.2	1.5	0.2	0.5	44.4	6.3
Cotswold	55.7	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.5	36.7	6.0
Forest of Dean	50.5	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.6	41.6	6.4
Gloucester	47.7	0.3	1.0	0.0	4.7	0.2	0.5	39.7	6.0
Stroud	47.5	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.7	44.1	6.5
Tewkesbury	51.0	0.4	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.4	40.8	6.0
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>41.4</b>	<b>6.2</b>
England	46.3	0.5	1.8	0.5	6.7	0.9	0.6	36.7	6.0

### Population change (2011 – 2021)

Between 2011 and 2021 the number of Christians in the county declined by 16.2%. This was accompanied by an increase in all religions, with the greatest percentage increases being seen in the number of Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, and people following no religion. This trend was also reflected at a regional, national and district level (please see dynamic report for more information). There are many factors that may be contributing to the changing religious composition shown in the census, including differing patterns of ageing, fertility, mortality, and migration. Changes may also be caused by differences in the way individuals chose to answer the religion question between censuses.<sup>55</sup>

<sup>54</sup> Census 2021

<sup>55</sup> *Ibid.*

**Table 17: Change in religion 2011-2021, Gloucestershire<sup>56</sup>**

	Number of people		% change
	2011	2021	2011- 2021
Christian	379,144	317,610	-16.2
Buddhist	1,772	2,383	34.5
Hindu	2,222	3,777	70.0
Jewish	539	688	27.6
Muslim	5,741	9,347	62.8
Sikh	449	761	69.5
Other religion	2,940	3,511	19.4
No religion	159,496	266,959	67.4
Religion not stated	44,681	40,042	-10.4

### What does the data tell us?

- The most reported religion in Gloucestershire is Christianity, accounting for 49.2% of the total population, which is higher than the national figure.
- The number of Christians in the county has declined since 2001, reflecting the national trend.

### Sexual Orientation

The ‘protected characteristic’ of sexual orientation refers to those individuals who are attracted to those of the opposite sex, the same sex, or either sex. There is a substantial body of evidence demonstrating that lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people experience discrimination and marginalisation in their daily lives including in health care, social care, housing, education, at work, and in public. As a result, they may experience specific health inequalities.<sup>57</sup>

Although attitudes towards gay people are improving, most lesbian, gay and bisexual people have experienced difficulties in their lives. Being LGB does not cause mental health problems, however experiences of discrimination and harassment in day-to-day life, rejection from one’s family and friends and being subjected to hate crimes and incidents can have a negative impact on mental well-being.<sup>58</sup> As a consequence, people who are lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) are more likely to have experienced depression or anxiety, attempted suicide or had suicidal thoughts and self-harmed than men and women in general.<sup>59</sup>

<sup>56</sup> Census 2011 and Census 2021

<sup>57</sup> OHID (2013) The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Public Health Outcomes Framework Companion Document; <https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/LGBT%20Public%20Health%20Outcomes%20Framework%20Companion%20Doc.pdf> Accessed 06/03/2023

National Institute of Economic and Social Research (2016), Inequality among lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender groups in the UK: a review of evidence

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/539682/160719\\_REPORT\\_LGBT\\_evidence\\_review\\_NIESR\\_FINALPDF.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/539682/160719_REPORT_LGBT_evidence_review_NIESR_FINALPDF.pdf) Accessed 06/03/2023

<sup>58</sup> [lgbt\\_in\\_britain\\_health.pdf \(stonewall.org.uk\)](https://www.stonewall.org.uk/lgbt_in_britain_health.pdf)

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*

Research shows that older LGB(T) people are especially vulnerable to loneliness as they are more likely to be single, live alone, and have lower levels of contact with relatives. They are also less likely to engage with local services, with recent findings showing that over four fifths of older LGB(T) people do not trust professionals to understand their culture or lifestyle.<sup>60</sup> The Office for National Statistics report that LGB people report a lower quality of life than the UK average across all their measures of quality of life.<sup>61</sup>

In 2017 the government launched a National LGBT Survey about the experiences of LGBT people in the UK – the largest national LGBT survey to date.<sup>62</sup> Although many responses were positive, there were more than 2 in 5 who said they had been victim of verbal abuse or physical violence during the preceding year. In addition, more than 9 out of 10 serious incidents were not reported as respondents felt ‘it happens all the time’. Fear of crime and of negative reactions from other people was also a reported issue, with more than two thirds of respondents stating they have avoided holding hands with their (same sex) partners for this reason.

In terms of hate crime relating to sexual orientation, Gloucestershire’s figures have risen markedly since 2013/14, when 16 were reported. The number for 2021/22 was more than 12 times higher; there were 193 crimes recorded where ‘sexual orientation’ was the motivating factor.<sup>63</sup> This will reflect better reporting to the police. However, responses from the National LGBT Survey would suggest that a large proportion of hate crimes are still not being reported, with the full extent of hate crime incidence still unknown.

## Current population

As with gender identity, the Census 2021 has provided the first set of official data on sexual orientation in England and Wales. In the 2021 Census there was a new question around sexual orientation, asking ‘which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?’, and providing a list of options. It was directed only at people aged 16 and over, and answers were voluntary.

Overall, 93.2% of residents in Gloucestershire aged 16 and over answered the question. The majority of people who answered described their sexual orientation as ‘straight or heterosexual’, at 90.4% of the population. This is slightly higher than the national average of 89.4%.

There were almost 15,000 people (2.8%) who described their sexual orientation as being in one of the LGB+ categories. This is lower than the national average of 3.2%.

A total of almost 36,200 people chose not to answer this voluntary question, which is more than double the total number of LGB+ people who did choose to respond. Due to the sensitive nature

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<sup>60</sup> Age UK: Findings from the Sage programme in Leeds [Combating loneliness amongst older LGBT people | Age UK](#)

<sup>61</sup> ONS [Lesbian, gay, and bisexual people say they experience a lower quality of life - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>62</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-lgbt-survey-summary-report/national-lgbt-survey-summary-report#the-results>

<sup>63</sup> Source: Gloucestershire Constabulary

of the question, it might be reasonable to assume that some LGB+ people felt reticent to provide an answer.<sup>64</sup> The approximate figure of 15,000 LGB+ people should be regarded as the minimum number in the county, but this could potentially be considerably higher.

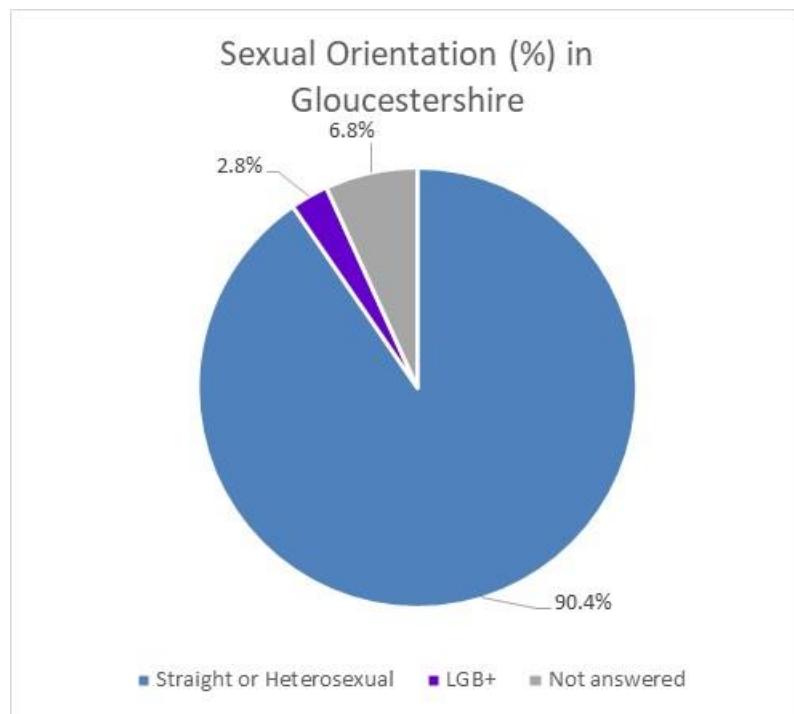


Figure 6 - Proportion of Gloucestershire residents aged 16 and over by broad sexual orientation category, 2021<sup>65</sup>

The 2021 Census found that within Gloucestershire the most common LGB+ sexual orientation was 'gay or lesbian'. More than 6,800 people (1.3%) described their sexual orientation as this. The next most common LGB+ sexual orientation was 'bisexual', with more than 6,400 people (1.2%). All other LGB+ sexual orientations accounted for almost 1,700 residents in Gloucestershire (0.3%). This figure included 'pansexual', 'asexual', 'queer', and 'all other sexual orientations'.

<sup>64</sup> LGBT Foundation [LGBT Foundation - LGBT Foundation cautiously welcomes the first snapshot of LGBTQ+ identities in the Census.](#)

<sup>65</sup> Census 2021

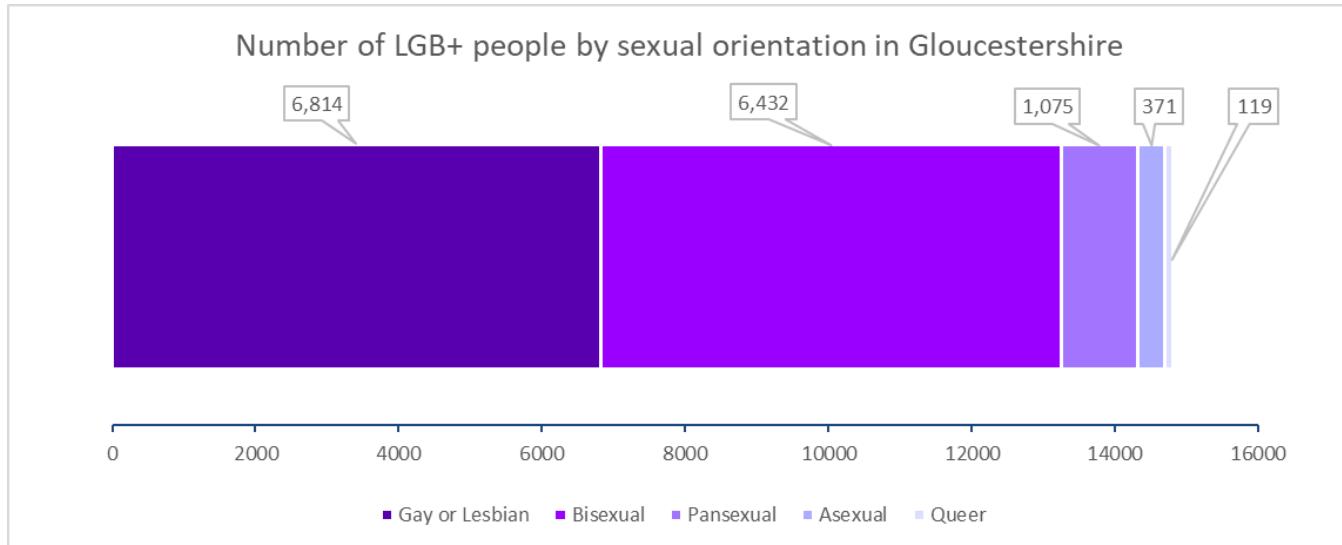


Figure 7 - Number of Gloucestershire LGB+ residents aged 16 and over by sexual orientation, 2021<sup>66</sup>

At district level:

- Cheltenham has the largest proportion of residents describing their sexual orientation as being LGB+ at 3.9%. This exceeds both the county and national average of 2.8% and 3.2% respectively.
- Cheltenham also has the largest proportion of people in the county who describe their sexual orientation as 'gay or lesbian', at 1.6%. This exceeds the county and national average of 1.3% and 1.5% respectively. By contrast, Forest of Dean has the smallest proportion, at 1.0%.
- Cheltenham and Gloucester have the highest proportion of people describing their sexual orientation as 'bisexual', at 1.8% and 1.4% respectively. Both exceed the county and national average of 1.2% and 1.3% respectively.

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*

**Table 18: Gloucestershire Residents aged 16+ by Sexual Orientation, 2021<sup>67</sup>**

	Straight or Heterosexual		Gay or Lesbian		Bisexual		All other sexual orientations		Not answered	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Cheltenham	87,790	89.2	1,581	1.6	1,812	1.8	443	0.5	6,810	6.9
Cotswold	69,820	91.5	876	1.1	649	0.9	143	0.2	4,826	6.3
Forest of Dean	66,188	90.6	747	1.0	705	1.0	210	0.3	5,197	7.1
Gloucester	96,058	89.8	1,487	1.4	1,450	1.4	378	0.4	7,564	7.1
Stroud	90,493	90.3	1,246	1.2	1,153	1.2	315	0.3	6,989	7.0
Tewkesbury	70,842	91.6	875	1.1	663	0.9	170	0.2	4,802	6.2
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>481,191</b>	<b>90.4</b>	<b>6,814</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>6,432</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1,660</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>36,188</b>	<b>6.8</b>
England	41,114,478	89.4	709,704	1.5	591,690	1.3	158,357	0.4	3,432,728	7.5

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding

### What does this tell us?

- The proportion of LGB+ residents aged 16 and over in Gloucestershire (2.8%) is lower than the national average (3.2%).
- The most common LGB+ sexual orientation in Gloucestershire in 2021 was 'gay or lesbian', accounting for more than 6,800 people (1.3%).
- Cheltenham has the largest proportion of residents describing their sexual orientation as being LGB+ at 3.9%. This exceeds both the county and national average of 2.8% and 3.2% respectively.
- There are at least 15,000 LGB+ people in the county, but this could potentially be considerably higher.
- In Gloucestershire, recorded hate crime relating to sexual orientation 2020/21 has increased from 16 in 2013/14 to 193 in 2021/22.

<sup>67</sup> Census 2021

## **Section Three**

### **Cross Cutting Themes**

#### **Hate Crime in Gloucestershire<sup>68</sup>**

A common theme relating to many of the nine protected characteristics is the increased likelihood of being a victim of crime. Although the Equality Act (2010) relates to nine protected characteristics (age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, civil partnership and marriage), Home Office reported hate crime has five monitored strands. These are race, religion/faith, sexual orientation, disability, and gender identity. Crimes based on hostility to age, gender, or appearance, for example, can also be hate crimes, although they are not part of the five centrally monitored strands.<sup>69</sup> Hate crime is defined as 'Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice, based on a person's disability or perceived disability; race or perceived race; or religion or perceived religion; or sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation or transgender identity or perceived transgender identity.'<sup>70</sup>

According to the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 2021/22, police recorded hate crime in England and Wales rose to 155,841 offences reported in 2021/22, an increase of 26% from the previous year ending March 2021 (124,104 offences). The bulletin states that the upward trend in hate crime seen in recent years is likely to have been mainly driven by improvements in crime recording by the police; there have been spikes in hate crime following certain events such as the EU Referendum and the terrorist attacks in 2017.<sup>71</sup>

In Gloucestershire in 2021/22 there were 1303 monitored hate crimes reported to the Home Office - an increase of 61.7% on the previous year. Race-related hate crime was the most reported strand of hate crime, amounting to 66.6% (868 cases) of all Home Office reported hate crime in the county. This strand of hate crime has seen an increase of 344 on the previous year (up by 65.6%).

Since 2013/14 the number of recorded offences has been increasing each year across most of the five monitored hate crime strands; disability related hate crime has seen the largest proportional increase in Gloucestershire since 2013/14, rising from 6 to 153 reported cases, an increase of 147.

The general increase in reporting over recent years may also be linked to greater confidence in the police and other responsible authorities, as hate crime is frequently underreported. The more hate crime is reported, the more agencies will understand the scale of the problem and how to support the victim.

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<sup>68</sup> Gloucestershire Community Safety Strategic Needs Assessment, April 2018

<https://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/media/1520660/overview.pdf>

<sup>69</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/an-overview-of-hate-crime-in-england-and-wales>

<sup>70</sup> Crown Prosecution Service, Hate Crime and Crimes Against Older People,

[http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/equality/hate\\_crime/index.html](http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/equality/hate_crime/index.html)

<sup>71</sup> [Hate crime, England and Wales, 2021 to 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-England-and-Wales-2021-to-2022)

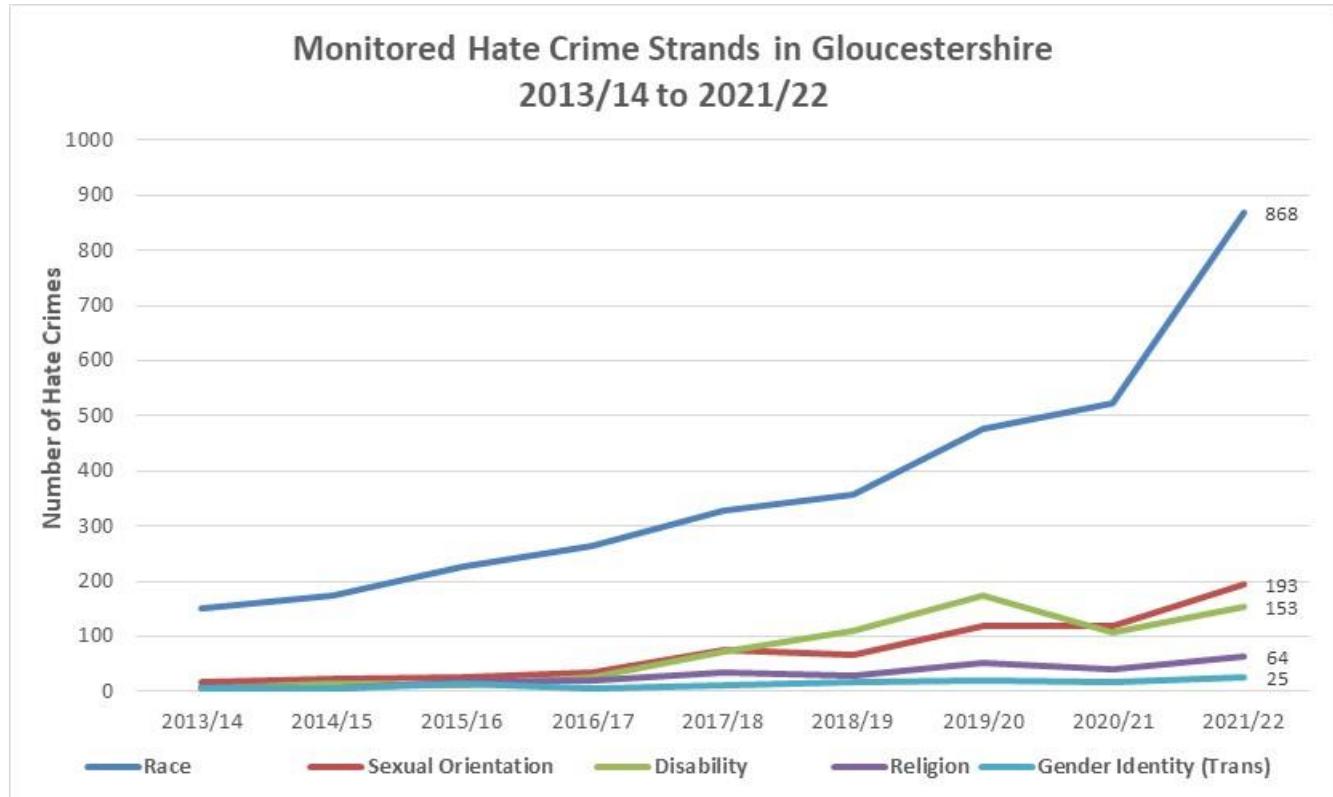


Figure 8 - Monitored Hate Crime Strands in Gloucestershire, 2013/14 to 2021/22<sup>72</sup>

### **Additional Hate Crime Strands Monitored by Gloucestershire Constabulary**

In addition to monitoring and reporting on the five hate crime strands, Gloucestershire Constabulary also flags and monitors additional hate crimes such as Age, Sex, Alternative Subcultures and Homelessness.

Figure 9 provides a breakdown of all hate crimes monitored by Gloucestershire Constabulary.

Of the additional hate crimes monitored, hate crimes based on the sex of the victim accounted for the greatest number, totalling 64. There has been an increase of 94% from the previous year when 33 were reported.

Age-related hate crimes totalled 32 in 2021/22, and reported offences have decreased by almost 80% since 2019/20 when there were 158. Data suggests that all victims of reported age-related hate crimes in 2021/22 were aged 60 and over, and over half (56%) were aged 80 and over.<sup>73</sup>

<sup>72</sup> Gloucestershire Constabulary data

<sup>73</sup> *Ibid.*

### Breakdown of All Recorded Hate Crime Strands Monitored by Gloucestershire Constabulary, 2021/22

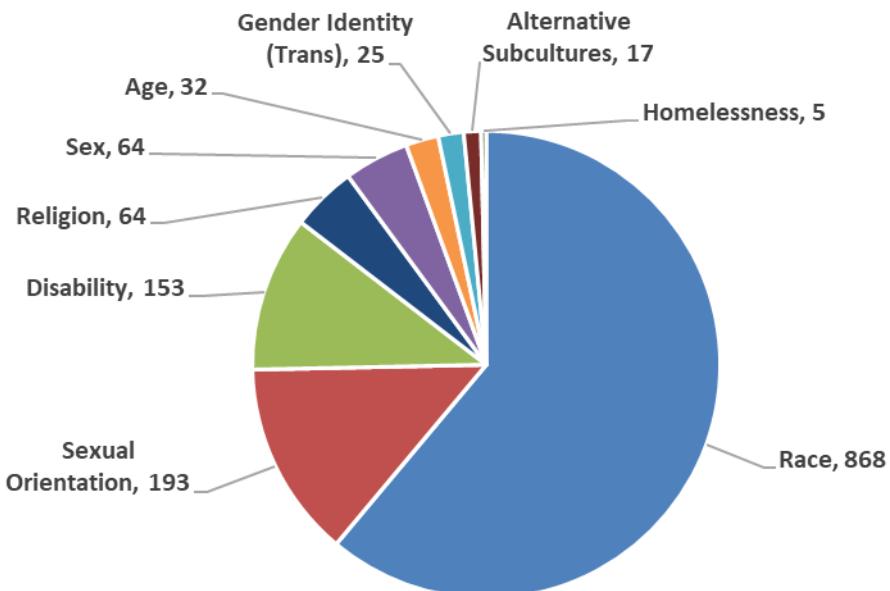


Figure 9 - Breakdown of All Recorded Hate Crimes Monitored by Gloucestershire Constabulary in Gloucestershire, 2021/22<sup>74</sup>

#### What does this tell us?

- Total recorded hate crime has been increasing year on year, both nationally and county-wide.
- Race related hate crime is the most reported strand of hate crime in Gloucestershire, by a large margin.

<sup>74</sup> *Ibid.*