

# Marriage and Civil Partnerships Toolkit



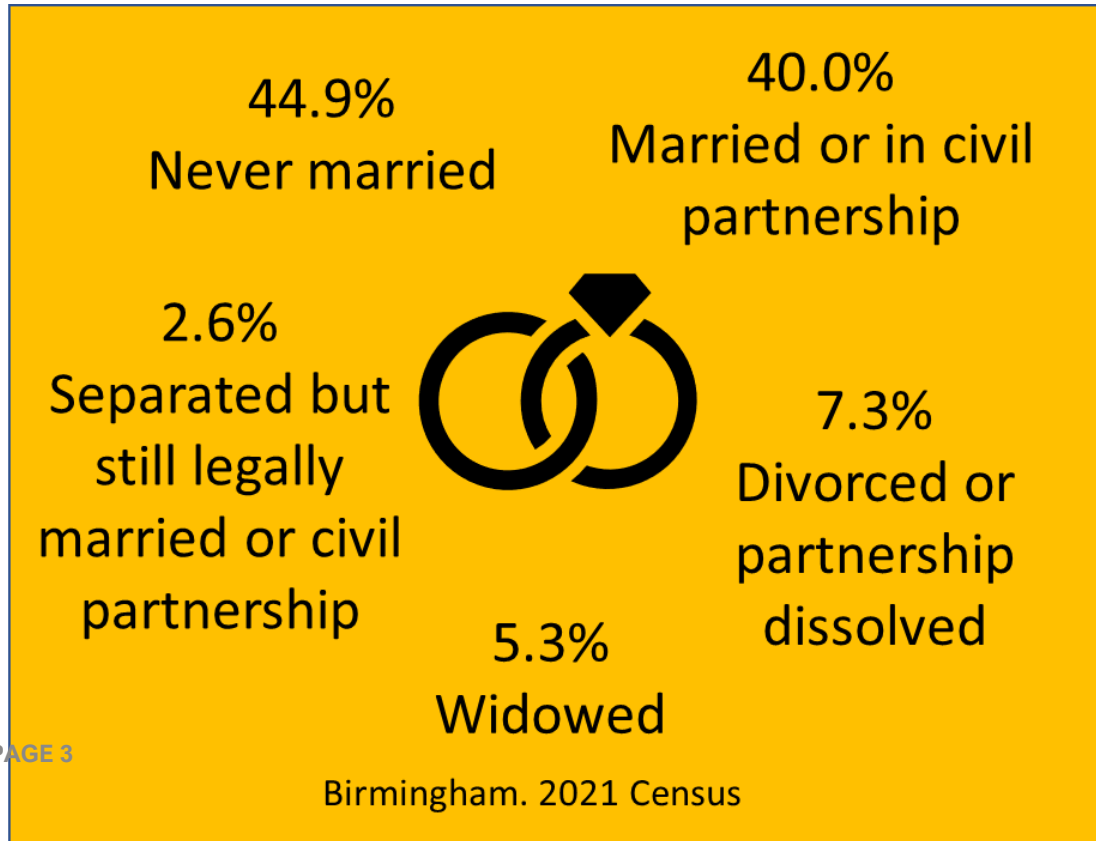
# What are marriage and civil partnerships about?

**Understanding marriage status helps us consider how we are meeting the needs of our citizens and our responsibilities under Equality legislation.**

**Marriage and civil partnership are legally protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.**



# National and Local Context



- Nationally the proportion of adults who have never married or been in a civil partnership has been increasing each decade with the value rising from 26.3% in 2011 to 37.9% in 2021.
- Birmingham is above the national average with 44.9% of people never being married.

PAGE 3



# Why do we want to capture data on marriage and civil partnerships?

## *Individual Care:*

- Understand the social and cultural factors influencing choices and preferences around marriage and civil partnerships.
- Identify needs.

## *Service Improvement:*

- Identify needs and preferences of different groups.
- Aid design and delivery of inclusive services.
- Understanding barriers and facilitators that influence uptake and engagement of services.

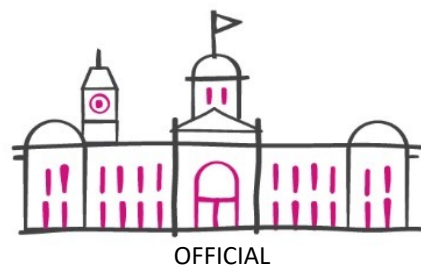


# Measurement tool: Marriage & Civil Partnerships

Tool	Relationships & Marriage
Question	<b>What is your legal marital or registered civil partnership status?</b>
Options	Single Never married and never registered a civil partnership Married In a registered civil partnership Separated, but still legally married Separated, but still legally in a civil partnership Divorced Formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved Widowed Surviving partner from a registered civil partnership Do not wish to answer
Question	<b>Who is (was) your legal marriage or registered civil partnership to?</b>
PAGE 5 Options	Someone of the opposite sex Someone of the same sex Do not wish to answer
Benchmark	<a href="#">Birmingham City Observatory 2021 Census Dashboard</a> <a href="#">Birmingham City Observatory Ward Profiles</a>
Source	ONS Census

# Specific issues to consider

- Marriage / civil partnership - only considers legal status, and not cohabitation. (as per Census, cohabitation only identified in living arrangements question).
- Question part 2 (sex of spouse) – potential non-disclosure if same sex and sexual orientation not disclosed.
- Additional question use – standard questions can be used to capture living arrangements if needed. (next slide)





# Suggestion Additional Question for Living Arrangements

Do you currently live (tick all that apply)?

- Alone
- With a partner
- With children
- With family members
- In shared accommodation unsupported
- In shared accommodation support e.g. care home/shared lives
- Do not wish to answer

Source: BCC

