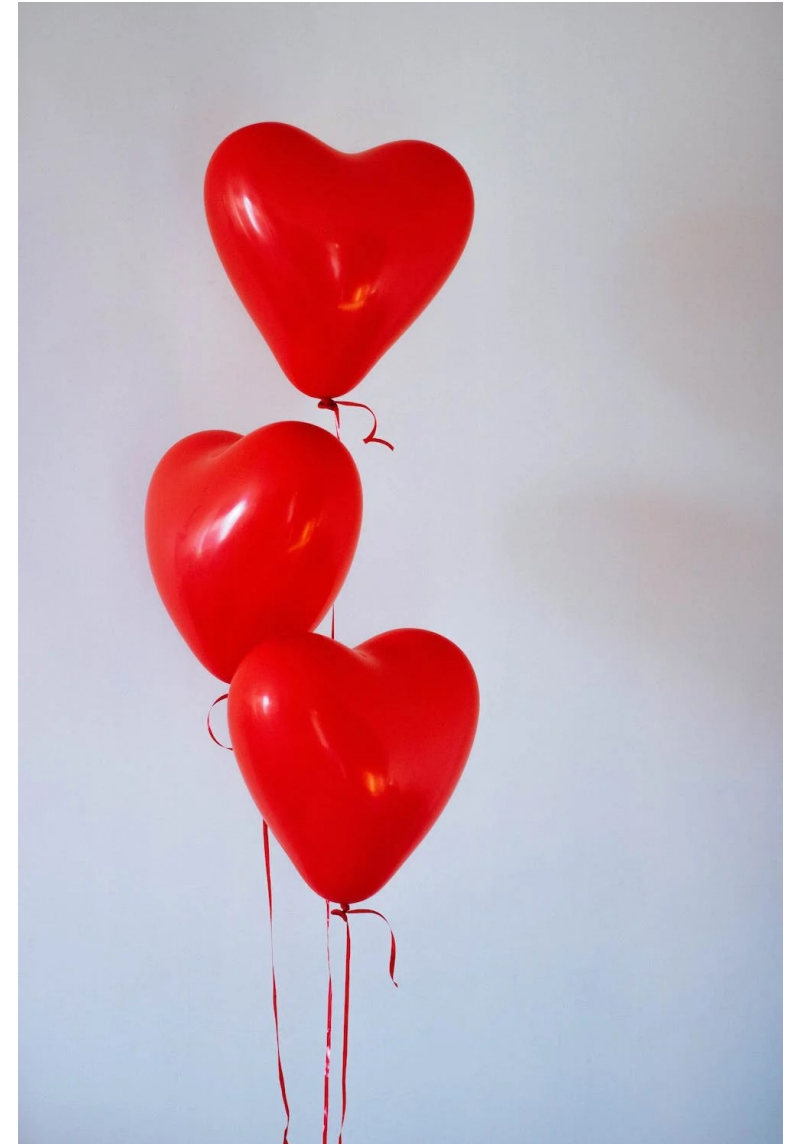


Sexual Orientation Toolkit



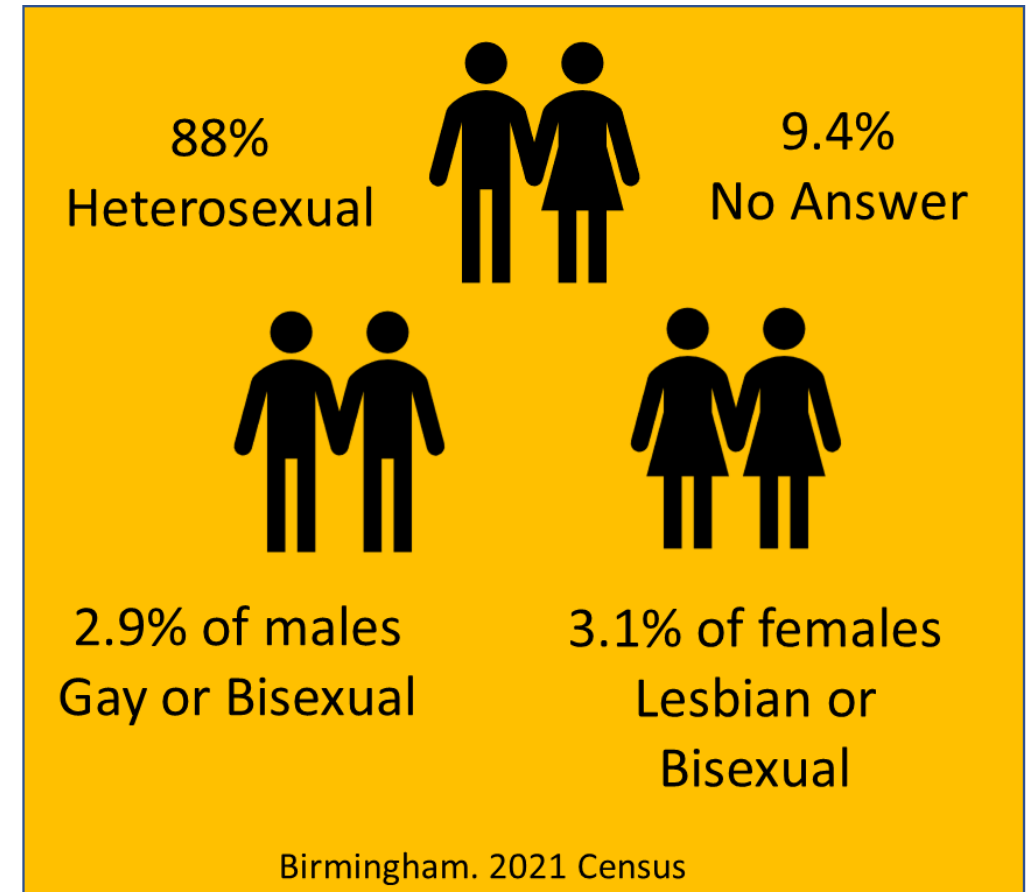
What is sexual orientation about?

- Sexuality and sexual orientation is about who someone feels physically and emotionally attracted to. This can be romantic or emotional attraction, or both (NSPCC definition).
- Sexual orientation is a legally protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010.
- Whilst younger people may want to express their sexual orientation, we are only routinely asking this question to young people over the age of 16 years.



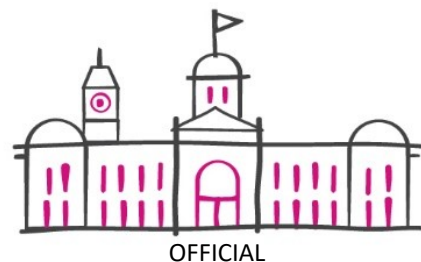
National and Local Context

- In the 2021 Census, 6% of the Birmingham population identified as non-heterosexual sexual orientation.
- This was lower than other Core Cities, but similar to the national average.



Why do we want to capture sexual orientation data?

- *Individual Care:*
 - Provision of respectful and inclusive care and support to people of different sexual identities and expressions.
 - Tailored interventions and services to meet the specific needs and preferences of users.
 - Avoid making assumptions based on gender or appearance.
- *Service Improvement:*
 - To help identify and address health issues and challenges among different sexual minority groups.
 - Monitoring and evaluation of the quality and effectiveness of our services for different groups and identify gaps and areas for improvement.
 - Design and implementation of policies and programmes that promote health diversity and human rights.



Measurement tool: Sexual Orientation

Tool	Sexual Orientation
Question	Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?
Options	Straight or Heterosexual Gay or Lesbian Bisexual Other sexual orientation (free text box) Do not wish to answer
Source	ONS



Specific issues to consider

- Avoid confusion with gender identity.
- Responses may be biased towards perceived socially acceptable answers.
- Non- disclosure – cultural/ perceived confidentiality/stigma.
- Not feeling comfortable as face-to-face question.
- Questioning relevance.
- Generational differences.
- Terminology is developing. If free text is required, then please use what the individual states. Its self-identity

