

Sexual orientation

Related Documents

- [The Civil Partnership Act 2004](#)
- [The Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Equalities & diversity in Kent](#)
- [The Office for National Statistics Civil partnership statistics](#)
- [The Office for National Statistics Sexual identity estimates](#)
- [The Office for National Statistics: Marriages in England & Wales](#)

NOTE: Within this bulletin 'Kent' refers to the Kent County Council (KCC) area which excludes Medway.

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One of the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 is Sexual orientation. This bulletin presents information on civil partnerships and sexual identity estimates which help the council to provide support for residents from this group within Kent.

Summary of findings

- The 2011 Census tells us that there were 2,388 Kent residents in a registered same-sex civil partnership. This figure accounts for 0.2% of the total population aged 16 and over. This proportion is equal to that seen both regionally and nationally.
- Tentative estimates from the Annual Population Surveys of 2013 to 2015, suggest that 1.9% of Kent's population are LGB (lesbian, gay or bisexual). This is slightly higher than the South East (1.6%) and England (1.7%)
- There were 343 civil partnerships formed in Kent in 2006. Of these, 207 (60.3%) were male partnerships and 136 (39.7%) were female.
- There were 22 civil partnerships formed in Kent in 2015. Of these, 17 (77.3%) were male partnerships and 5 (22.7%) were female.
- From 29 March 2014 same sex marriage became legal so it is likely that couple who would have formed a same sex civil partnership may have opted to get married instead.

Introduction

The Equality Act 2010 gives consistent rights and protection to people from different groups. The protected characteristics under the Act are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnerships
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

Currently there is no single source of data that provides a measure of sexual orientation for the whole population for all levels of geography.

The 2011 Census included a 'civil partnership' category within the marital status question for the first time. However, this does not count all people who identify themselves as lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB). Only those who have entered into a same-sex civil partnership are counted so these figures are likely to under represent the LGB community.

However, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) publish the following information which helps to provide an understanding of the population included within the protected characteristics of sexual orientation.

- [Civil partnerships in England & Wales:2015](#), released 8 September 2016
- [Sexual identity estimates for the UK](#), released 5 October 2016. *Estimates from the Annual Population Survey for the UK as a whole for individual years from 2012 to 2015. These are the latest experimental official statistics*
- [Marriages in England & Wales: 2014](#), released 14 March 2017. *National data only from the Labour Force Survey*
- [Subnational sexual identity estimates, UK: 2013 to 2015](#), released 19 April 2017. *Estimates from the Annual Population Survey are published as experimental research statistics and are therefore not considered to be official statistics.*

Civil partnership formations in Kent

The Civil Partnership Act 2004 came into force on 5 December 2005 in the UK. This was the first day that couples could give notice of their intention to form a civil partnership. The first day that couples could form a partnership was 19 December 2005 in Northern Ireland, 20 December 2005 in Scotland and 21 December 2005 in England & Wales.

2006 was therefore the first full year in which couples could form a civil partnership. It is for this reason that the number of formations was considerably higher in this year than in subsequent years.

29th March 2014 was the first date that same sex couples could marry within the UK. This may account for the sudden drop of civil partnership formations in 2014 as many couples opted to marry. In addition from 10 December 2014 civil partners were able to convert their civil partnership in to a marriage.

Initially there were a larger number of male civil partnership formations in Kent. However, between 2012 and 2014 the pattern changed as more female partnerships were formed. 2015 saw the proportion of males making up the majority of same-sex civil partnerships.

This data set only relates to civil partnerships that are formed within Kent. It does not necessarily provide a true reflection of the number of people living within Kent in civil partnerships.

Table 1: Civil partnership formations within Kent: 2006 to 2015

Formations in the Kent					
	Total	Male		Female	
		Number	%	Number	%
2006	343	207	60.3%	136	39.7%
2007	194	93	47.9%	101	52.1%
2008	167	86	51.5%	81	48.5%
2009	129	53	41.1%	76	58.9%
2010	137	58	42.3%	79	57.7%
2011	134	68	50.7%	66	49.3%
2012	157	60	38.2%	97	61.8%
2013	135	52	38.5%	83	61.5%
2014	38	14	36.8%	24	63.2%
2015	22	17	77.3%	5	22.7%
2006-2015 total	1,434	708	49.4%	748	52.2%

Source: Office for National Statistics (Crown Copyright)

Presented by Strategic Business Development & Intelligence, Kent County Council

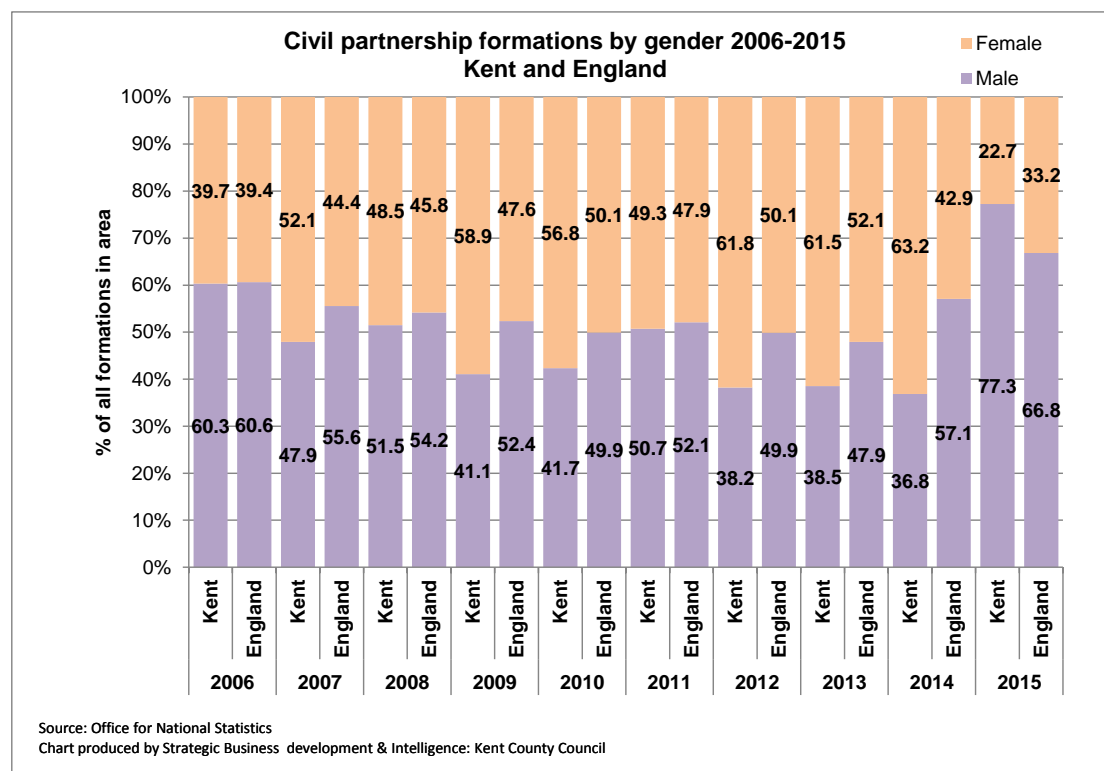
Table 2: Civil partnership formations within England: 2006 to 2015.

Formations in England					
	Total	Male		Female	
		Number	%	Number	%
2006	14,383	8,718	60.6%	5,665	39.4%
2007	7,635	4,242	55.6%	3,393	44.4%
2008	6,276	3,399	54.2%	2,877	45.8%
2009	5,443	2,850	52.4%	2,593	47.6%
2010	5,536	2,763	49.9%	2,773	50.1%
2011	5,900	3,074	52.1%	2,826	47.9%
2012	6,103	3,043	49.9%	3,060	50.1%
2013	5,381	2,579	47.9%	2,802	52.1%
2014	1,616	922	57.1%	694	42.9%
2015	832	556	66.8%	276	33.2%
2006-2015 total	58,273	32,146	55.2%	26,959	46.3%

Source: Office for National Statistics (Crown Copyright)

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Chart 1: Proportion of same-sex civil partnerships by sex in Kent and England: 2006 to 2015



2011 Census marital and civil partnership status

The 2011 Census is the only source of a “count” of people within same-sex civil partnerships. However, this does not count all people who identify themselves as lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB), as the question was about marital status and not sexual identity.

In 2011 there were 2,388 people in a registered same-sex civil partnership in Kent. This equates 0.2% of the total population aged 16 and over. This proportion is equal to that seen both regionally and nationally.

Table 3: 2011 Census: Marital and civil partnership status

Numbers	All usual residents aged 16 and over	Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership)	Married	In a registered same-sex civil partnership	Separated, Divorced or widowed*
England	42,989,620	14,889,928	20,029,369	100,288	7,970,035
South East	6,992,666	2,230,242	3,448,947	16,398	1,297,079
Kent	1,180,186	369,334	576,067	2,388	232,397
Ashford	93,411	27,080	48,288	199	17,844
Canterbury	125,971	48,662	54,131	310	22,868
Dartford	77,342	26,741	36,439	140	14,022
Dover	91,382	26,924	44,096	242	20,120
Gravesham	80,964	26,202	39,473	111	15,178
Maidstone	125,476	37,567	64,344	206	23,359
Sevenoaks	92,481	25,276	50,388	175	16,642
Shepway	88,760	27,300	41,591	240	19,629
Swale	108,539	33,978	52,439	197	21,925
Thanet	108,556	34,051	47,911	270	26,324
Tonbridge and Malling	95,821	26,932	51,132	166	17,591
Tunbridge Wells	91,483	28,621	45,835	132	16,895
Medway UA	210,511	72,899	97,095	359	40,158

percentages	All usual residents aged 16 and over	Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership)	Married	In a registered same-sex civil partnership	Separated, Divorced or widowed*
England	42,989,620	34.64%	46.59%	0.23%	18.54%
South East	6,992,666	31.89%	49.32%	0.23%	18.55%
Kent	1,180,186	31.29%	48.81%	0.20%	19.69%
Ashford	93,411	28.99%	51.69%	0.21%	19.10%
Canterbury	125,971	38.63%	42.97%	0.25%	18.15%
Dartford	77,342	34.58%	47.11%	0.18%	18.13%
Dover	91,382	29.46%	48.25%	0.26%	22.02%
Gravesham	80,964	32.36%	48.75%	0.14%	18.75%
Maidstone	125,476	29.94%	51.28%	0.16%	18.62%
Sevenoaks	92,481	27.33%	54.48%	0.19%	18.00%
Shepway	88,760	30.76%	46.86%	0.27%	22.11%
Swale	108,539	31.30%	48.31%	0.18%	20.20%
Thanet	108,556	31.37%	44.13%	0.25%	24.25%
Tonbridge and Malling	95,821	28.11%	53.36%	0.17%	18.36%
Tunbridge Wells	91,483	31.29%	50.10%	0.14%	18.47%
Medway UA	210,511	34.63%	46.12%	0.17%	19.08%

*Separated, divorced or widowed includes people from opposite and same sex couples

Source: 2011 Census, Table KS103EW Marital and Civil partnership status, Office for National Statistics © Crown Copyright
Data presented by Business Intelligence, Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council (E-mail: research@kent.gov.uk)

Within the Kent local authority districts, Canterbury has the highest number of people in a registered same-sex civil partnership with 310 people (0.25% of the population aged 16 and over). Dover has the highest proportion with 0.3% (242 people age 16 and over).

Gravesham has the both lowest number and proportion of people in a registered same-sex civil partnership, 11 people (0.1%).

Subnational Sexual identity estimates, UK: 2013 to 2015

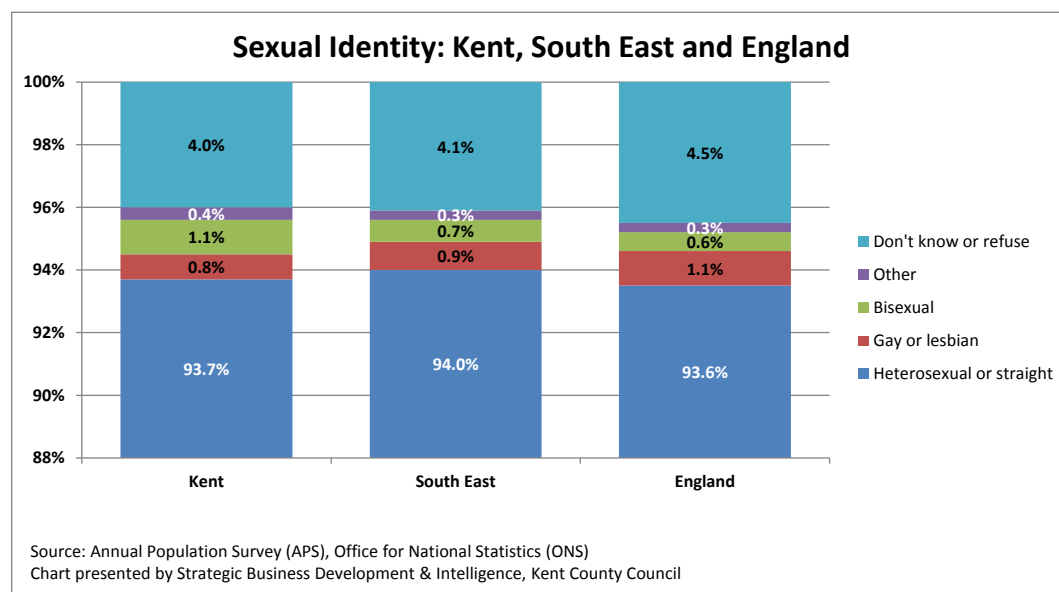
The ONS are conducting research towards making a recommendation regarding the inclusion of a sexual identity question on the 2021 Census. As part of this ongoing research ONS released Subnational sexual identity estimates, UK: 2013 to 2015 on 19 April 2017. This data has been published as experimental research statistics and are therefore not official statistics.

The subnational estimates are not comparable to the official estimates – this is because these estimates were produced using a 3-year Annual Population Survey (APS) pooled dataset and the official UK estimates were produced using a single-year APS dataset.

Sexual identity estimates are only available for 98 out of the total 380 local authorities in England, Wales and Scotland (Great Britain). This is because some local authorities did not have estimates that were based on sample sizes considered robust enough for publication.

Figures and percentages for Kent have been published. The chart below presents the percentage of population by sexual identity for Kent compared with the South East and England from the subnational data.

Chart 2: Proportion of population aged 16 and over by sexual identity: Kent, the South East and England: 2013 - 2015



Please Note

The ONS consider the figures for Gay or lesbian and Bisexual for Kent as “unreliable for practical purposes” as presented in the table below.

Sexual Identity estimates: Kent, South East England & UK United Kingdom, 2013-2015

Thousands

	Kent		South East		England		UK	
	Estimate	CI+/-	Estimate	CI+/-	Estimate	CI+/-	Estimate	CI+/-
Heterosexual or straight	1,114	11	6,619	24	40,534	59	48,436	63
Gay or lesbian	10	5	64	10	473	27	552	29
Bisexual	13	5	47	9	242	19	284	20
Other	4	3	22	5	146	13	178	15
Don't know or refuse	47	9	292	20	1,929	49	2,184	51

	Kent		South East		England		UK	
	%	CI+/-	%	CI+/-	%	CI+/-	%	CI+/-
Heterosexual or straight	93.7	0.9	94.0	0.3	93.6	0.1	93.8	0.1
Gay or lesbian	0.8	0.4	0.9	0.1	1.1	0.1	1.1	0.1
Bisexual	1.1	0.4	0.7	0.1	0.6	0-	0.6	0-
Other	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.3	0-	0.3	0-
Don't know or refuse	4	0.7	4.1	0.3	4.5	0.1	4.2	0.1

Source: Annual Population Survey (APS), Office for National Statistics
Produced by Demographic Analysis Unit, Office for National Statistics
pop.info@ons.gov.uk

- Totals may not sum due to rounding.
- 'Other' means that the respondent did not consider themselves to fit into the heterosexual or straight, bisexual, gay or lesbian categories.
- Estimates are based on the household population

Statistical Robustness

CV ≤ 5	Estimates are considered precise
CV > 5 and ≤ 10	Estimates are considered reasonably precise
CV > 10 and ≤ 20	Estimates are considered acceptable
CV > 20	Estimates are considered unreliable for practical purposes

Conclusion

Although the sexual identity estimates for Kent are considered by the ONS to be unsuitable for further analysis they have been presented here as an indication of the possible LGB population within Kent.

The ONS recommend that the [Sexual identity estimates for the UK](#) should be used for any analysis of sexual identity in the UK rather than the subnational figures. This data set provides sexual identity estimate by age, ethnicity and NS-Sec but this information is not available below regional level so we have no figures for Kent.