

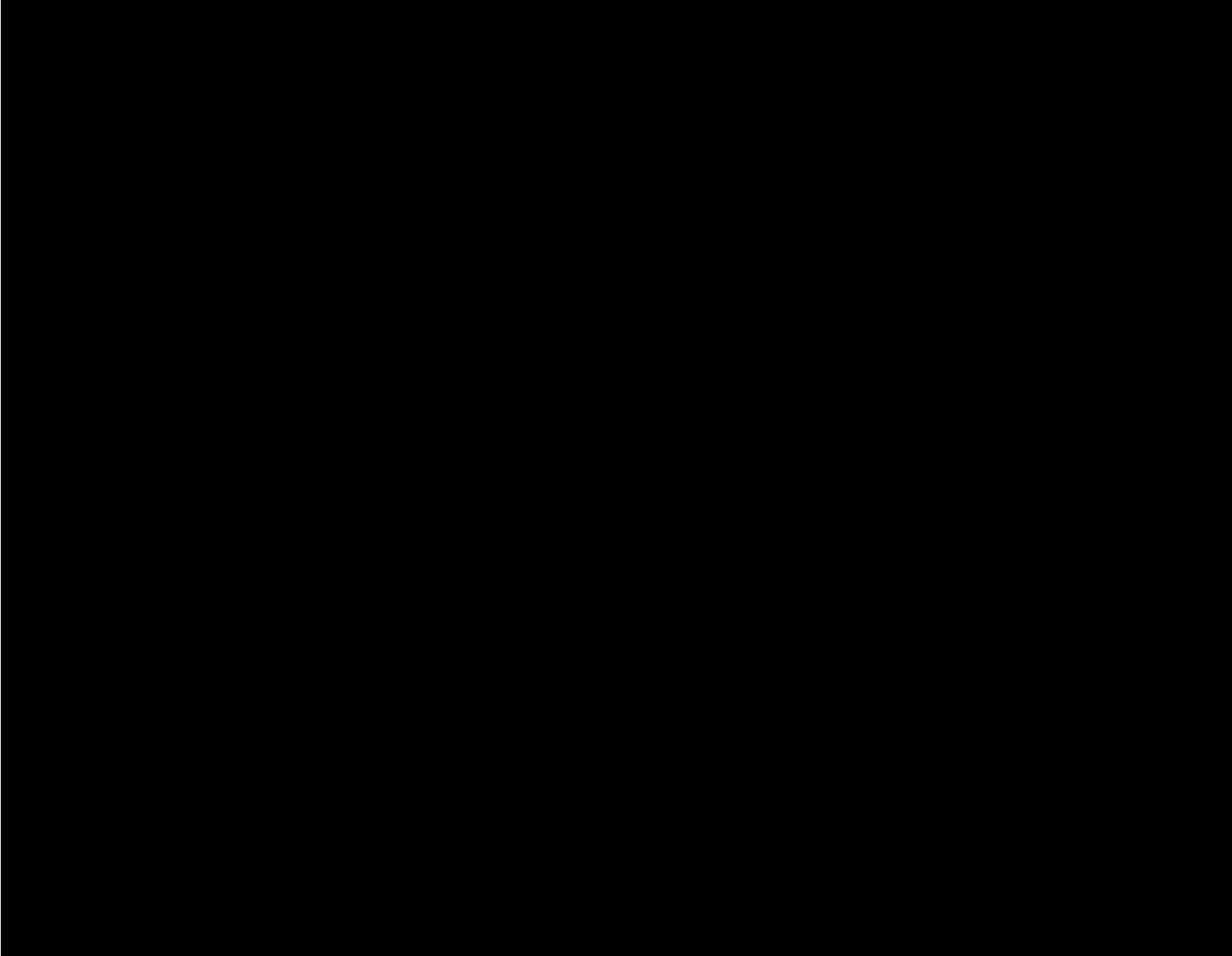


EQUALITY, POVERTY AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Sexual Orientation in Scotland 2017

A Summary of the Evidence Base

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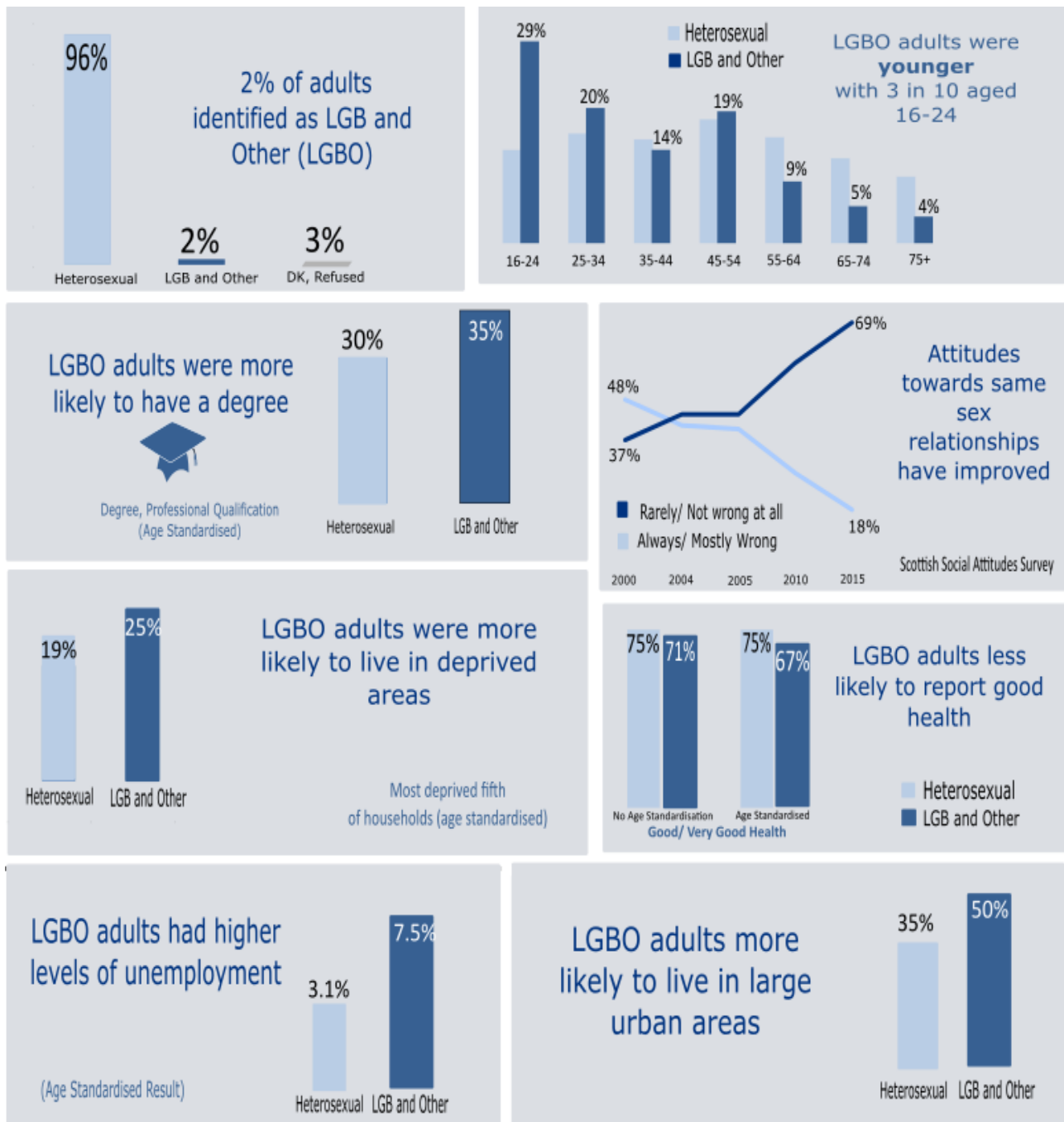


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Sexual Orientation in Scotland – Key Statistics

Figure 1: Sexual Orientation in Scotland – Key Statistics



LGBO – those who self-identified as ‘lesbian’, ‘gay’, ‘bisexual’ or ‘other’

Source: Scottish Surveys Core Questions 2015
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/About/Surveys/SSCQ>

1. Executive Summary

This report draws together statistics and research on sexual orientation from a range of sources and presents these in a single bulletin, providing user-friendly infographics and commentary. It examines the differences between heterosexual adults in Scotland and those who self-identify their sexual orientation as lesbian, gay, bisexual or other in major household surveys.

Some of the key findings were that lesbian, gay, bisexual or other (LGBO) adults, compared to heterosexual adults, were more likely to:

- be younger;
- be single;
- live in large urban areas;
- live in deprived areas;
- report bad general health;
- smoke;
- be unemployed;
- have a degree;

It also shows that attitudes towards lesbian, gay and bisexual people in Scotland have become more positive over the past decade. There has been a decline in the proportion saying that 'sexual relations between two adults of the same sex' are 'wrong', and an increase in the proportion saying they are 'not wrong at all'. However despite increased acceptance of LGB people, some research findings show that this group continues to face discrimination.

This report provides a summary of key information and links to more detailed statistics and reports.

2. About Sexual Orientation Data in the Scottish Government

i. What is Sexual Orientation?

Sexual Orientation is a combination of emotional, romantic, sexual or affectionate attraction or feelings towards another person. It is not just related to sex, but is also about a person's identity. How a person determines their sexual orientation can be based on any combination of the above attractions, feelings or behaviours. It can change over time and a person may not know what their sexual orientation is. However, the Scottish Government recommended survey question is not specifically about sexual behaviour or attraction, although these aspects might relate to the formation of identity. It is also important to note that a person can have a sexual identity without being sexually active.

Reports on sexual orientation will often also include information about transgender people. However, gender identity is outwith the scope of this report. The Scottish Government do not currently have a recommended survey question to collect information about gender identity. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) have carried out some developmental work in this area^{1 2} and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and National Records of Scotland (NRS) are working to test public acceptability around inclusion of this topic in major surveys.

ii. What is Asked in Surveys?

A harmonised question on sexual orientation³ was introduced in 2011 as one of the Scottish Government's core survey questions. All major Scottish Government household surveys, and UK surveys such as the Annual Population Survey (APS) and Labour Force Survey (LFS), use the same question to allow direct comparison of the findings. The question is asked by an interviewer and is:

¹ Technical note: measuring gender identity. Equality and Human Rights Commission (2016). <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/technical-note-measuring-gender-identity>

² Collecting information on gender identity. Equality and Human Rights Commission (2012). <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/collecting-information-gender-identity>

³ Guidance note on asking questions on: sexual orientation <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0039/00393545.pdf>

Which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself?

- Heterosexual / Straight
- Gay / Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Other

The respondent can also provide a spontaneous 'don't know' or 'refusal'

Results are often presented in a way which compares the 'Heterosexual/ Straight' group to the 'Lesbian', 'Gay', 'Bisexual' and 'Other' groups combined. The number of respondents for each of these groups is normally too small to yield statistically reliable comparisons. So the analysis primarily helps to identify differences in outcomes between the heterosexual and the LGBO group as a whole.

iii. What Data are Available?

There are two main sources of sexual orientation statistics for Scotland:

1. The Scottish Government's most recent data from the Scottish Surveys Core Questions⁴ (SSCQ) is from 2015. This was published on 30th November 2016 and provides the data from the three main Scottish surveys which ask a question on sexual orientation - the Scottish Household Survey (SHS)⁵, Scottish Health Survey (SHeS)⁶ and Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS)⁷. An identical question is used in each survey to enable a combined output. The SSCQ is a reliable source of data for sexual orientation as the combined numbers of participants allows for a more detailed analysis.

Later in 2017, a multi-year SSCQ dataset will be released, combining the sample across years to provide a larger sample for even more powerful and detailed analysis.

2. The ONS reports on 'Sexual Identity', which is a part of the wider concept of 'Sexual Orientation' (the other parts of sexual orientation are sexual attraction and sexual behavior). Sexual Identity estimates are based on social survey data from

⁴ Scottish Surveys Core Questions <http://www.gov.scot/SSCQ>

⁵ Scottish Household Survey <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002>

⁶ Scottish Health Survey <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Health/scottish-health-survey>

⁷ Scottish Crime and Justice Survey <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/crime-and-justice-survey>

the Annual Population Survey (APS)⁸. The questions collect information on self-perceived sexual identity from the household population aged 16 and over in the UK and provide some comparison figures for Scotland. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published 2015 data on sexual identity in the UK⁹.

The SSCQ provides statistics on sexual orientation from around 21,000 adults each year and can be used to explore topics such as health, qualifications or economic activity. The ONS data can be used to compare Scotland with other parts of the UK and the UK as a whole. The APS dataset used by the ONS sampled around 22,000 adults in Scotland in 2015.

iv. What Research Literature is Available?

Some summary information from key research from recent reports on sexual orientation has also been included in this bulletin, providing more context around the Scotland data presented above. Comment boxes have been added which highlight the implications for the Scotland data. Some reports are Scotland specific, while others focus on a UK wide analysis. The geography which each statistic covers is highlighted to make this clear. Full details on the reports used (including links to the reports) can be found in Annex 1.

The literature presented is a summary and does not provide comprehensive coverage of all issues facing lesbian, gay and bisexual people. Its inclusion is aimed to provide some further context around the statistics - it is not a rigorous review of the available literature or the quality of the studies cited, but rather suggests reports and statistics which may be of interest to policy makers and those who have an interest in LGB needs. The reports cited provide greater detail and other topics which may be of interest.

! Please note that much of the literature cited in these sections have been carried out independently of the Scottish Government and the findings do not necessarily represent the views of the Scottish Government or Scottish Ministers.

⁸ Annual Population Survey

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/qmis/annualpopulationsurveyapsqmi>

⁹ Sexual Identity, UK: 2015. ONS (2016)

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/sexuality/bulletins/sexualidentityuk/2015#toc>

v. Issues to Consider When Looking at the Data

The figures are likely to under-report the percentage of LGB people within society due to a number of reasons, including the following:

- Asking about sexual orientation/identity can be seen as intrusive and personal;
- In a context where some LGB people will not have told friends and family about their sexual identity, there is a real question about whether LGB people generally would want to be open with an interviewer. There could also be significant distrust as to what the interviewer would use this information for;
- The default option for being uncertain about one's sexual orientation may be to respond 'straight / heterosexual' rather than to say 'don't know / not sure';
- Particular LGB people are still less likely to be open where they belong to groups or communities where an LGB identity is less acceptable.

Younger adults are more likely to self-identify as LGB in surveys and this can affect like-for-like comparisons with the heterosexual group. This is important particularly in areas such as health, where older people are more likely than younger people to report poorer outcomes. Therefore, where we can, we have included age-standardised comparisons. This accounts for the age differences between the different groups and provides a comparison which is not affected by different age profiles. Technical details on how the Scottish Survey Core Questions calculated age-standardisation can be found in section 11.10 of the 2014 report¹⁰.

In the sexual orientation literature, the differences in experience between LGB adults compared with other groups (such as heterosexual) are not always clear and comparison figures for heterosexual people are not always available. This is because the surveys do not always use a representative sample from the population and may have only been completed by LGB people. This means that although dissatisfaction may be high and experiences may be negative, it is not possible to say whether heterosexual groups experiences are similar or different and therefore whether the LGB experiences are good or bad in comparison. Even where heterosexual people have responded to the survey, if they have not been chosen using a systematic approach such as random sampling, they may not represent the views of this group as a whole. The Scottish Government and ONS data use robust population sampling and the experiences of the LGB group can be robustly or accurately compared with the heterosexual group.

¹⁰ Technical Notes, SSCQ 2014 <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/05/7615/16>

There is also often little consideration of the differences between the experiences of lesbian compared with gay compared with bisexual people (Hudson-Sharp and Metcalf, 2016). This is true of Scottish data where the LGB numbers are often not large enough to break down into robust smaller groups (forthcoming analysis on multiple years of SSCQ data is intended to fill this evidence gap).

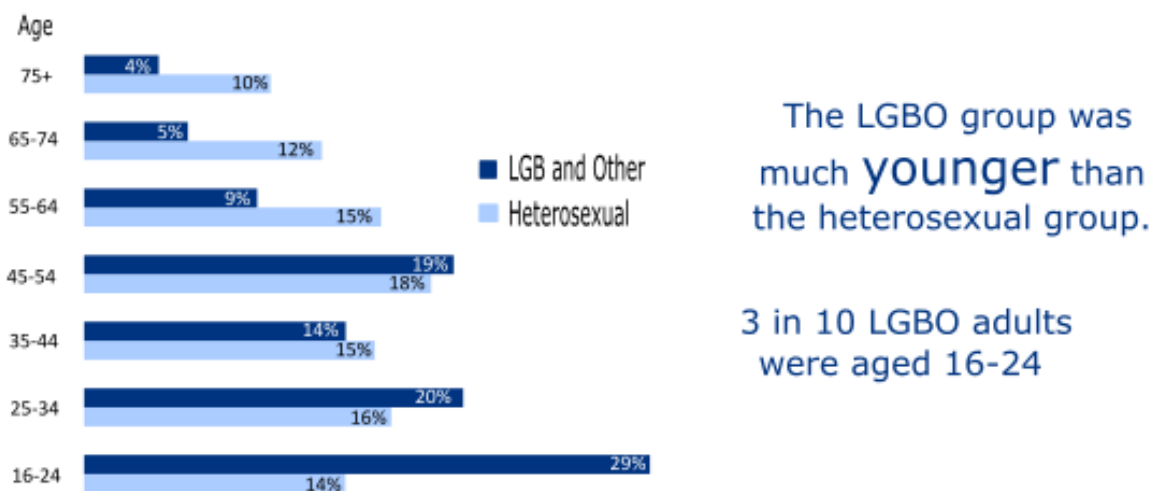
Finally, other studies often include transgender people as part of their study, whereas this report is focusing on sexual orientation only, rather than both sexual orientation (LGB) and transgender (T). Where the studies have included transgender experiences, the study results are clearly marked in this document as 'LGBT'. The experiences of transgender people tend to be worse than LGB people and therefore may affect the combined statistics. However, these combined statistics should still be adequate to demonstrate the experiences of LGB people.

3. Demographics

This section provides an overview of the demographic information available for lesbian, gay, bisexual and other (LGBO) adults. It provides some key statistics from the SSCQ 2015, as well as recent ONS data. There is then a brief overview of the literature on sexual orientation demographics.

i. Summary of Scottish Survey Core Questions 2015 Data

Figure 2: Sexual Orientation by Age – Scotland 2015



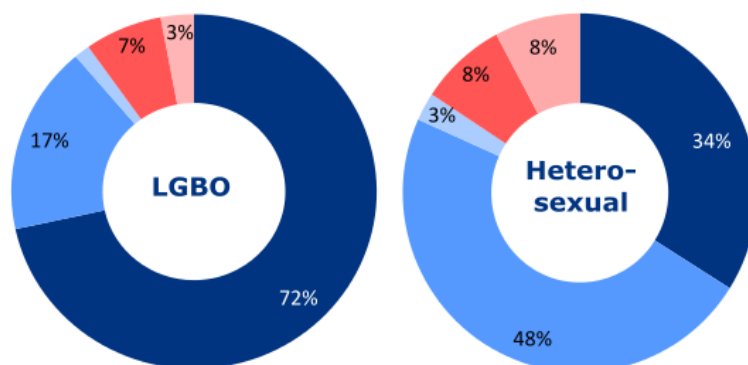
Source: Scottish Surveys Core Questions 2015

Figure 2 shows that the LGBO population in Scotland was much younger than the heterosexual population. Around three in ten (29 per cent) of LGBO adults were young adults (aged 16-24) – compared to around a sixth (14 per cent) of heterosexual adults. Only four percent of LGBO adults were aged 75+ compared to a tenth of heterosexual adults. It is important to bear the differing age profiles in mind when interpreting outcome results and where age-standardised results are available we have tried to present these to achieve like-for-like comparisons.

Figure 3: Sexual Orientation by Marital Status – Scotland 2015

Almost three quarters of LGBO adults hadn't been married or been in a civil partnership

- Never married - single
- Married/ Civil partnership
- Separated
- Divorced/ Dissolved civil partnership
- Widowed/ Bereaved civil partner



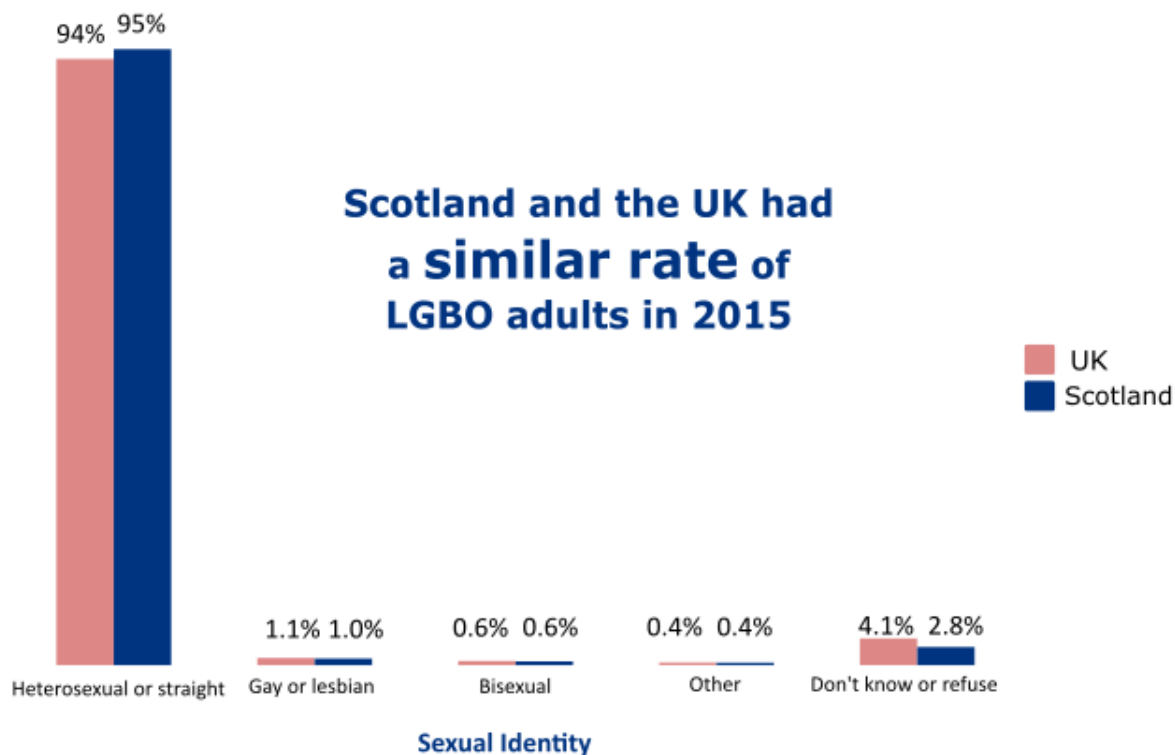
Source: SSCQ 2015

Figure 3 shows that LGBO adults were twice as likely to be single and never married, compared with heterosexual adults (72 per cent compared to 34 per cent). LGBO adults were around three times less likely to be married (or in a civil partnership) than heterosexual adults. It should be noted that the LGBO group has a younger age profile.

ii. Summary of ONS Demographic Data

The ONS reports on 'sexual identity', which is a part of the wider concept of 'sexual orientation'. The concept of Sexual Identity excludes sexual attraction and sexual behaviour.

Figure 4: Sexual Identity in the UK Compared with Scotland - 2015



Source: ONS

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) sexual identity estimates come from the Annual Population Survey (APS) which includes respondents who are aged 16 and over. Figure 4 shows that Scotland had a similar proportion of LGB adults in comparison to the UK (1.7 per cent in the UK compared with 1.6 per cent in Scotland) in 2015. 2.8 per cent of the Scottish population did not know or refused to disclose their sexual identity, compared with 4.1 per cent of the UK population.

Figure 5: Sexual Identity Statistics - UK 2015

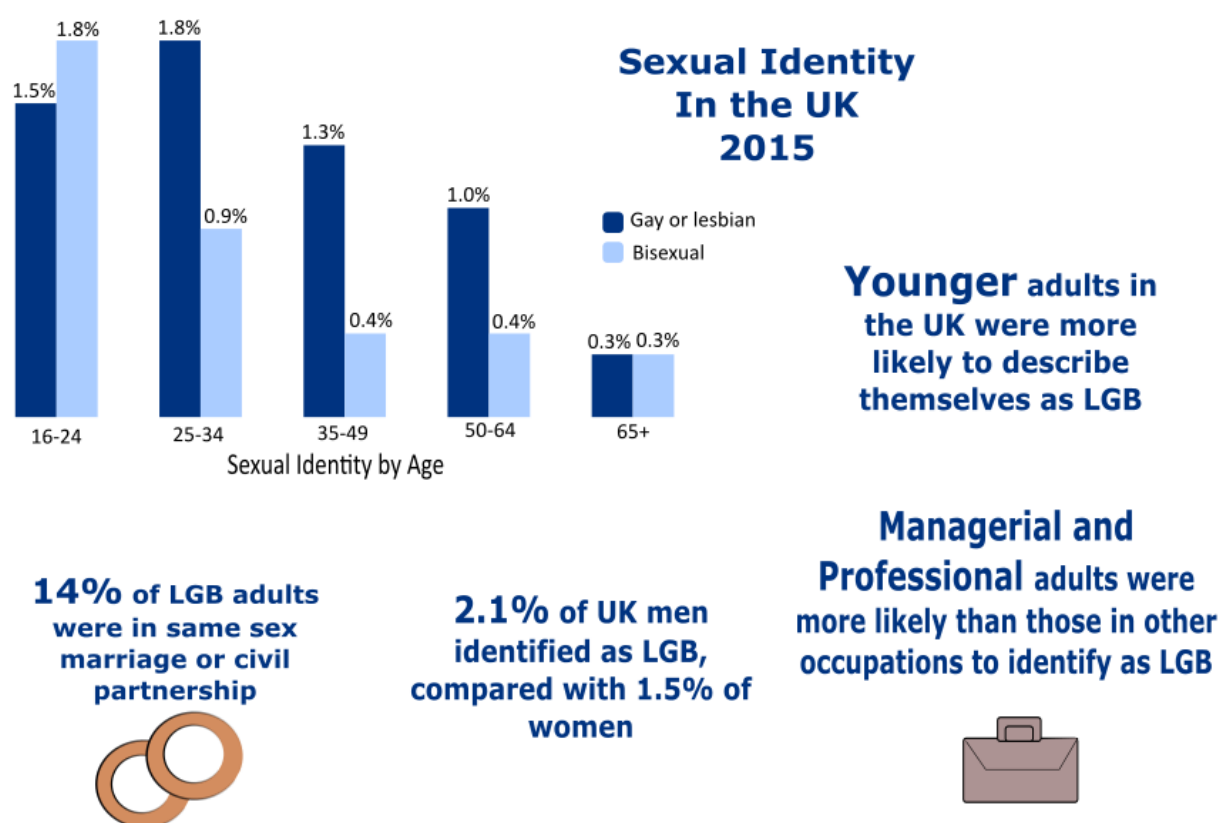


Figure 5 provides a summary of some UK-wide 2015 sexual identity statistics.

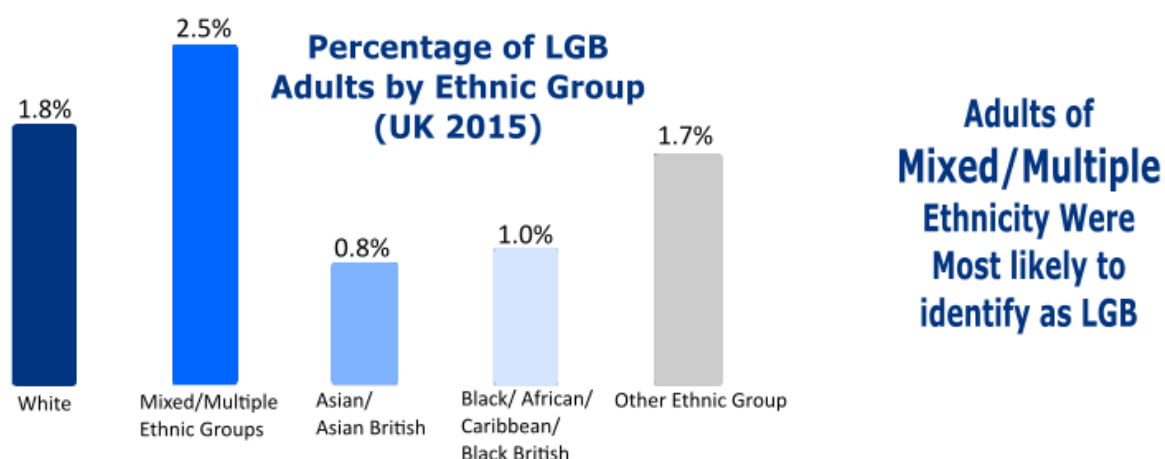
- 1.7 per cent of the UK population described themselves as lesbian, gay or bisexual.
- Men were more likely to identify (2.1 per cent) than women (1.5 per cent).
- Younger adults were more likely to self-identify – within the youngest category (16-24) 3.3 per cent of adults identified as LGB compared with only 0.6 per cent of those aged 65 or over.
- 14 per cent of LGB adults were either in a same sex marriage or civil partnership.
- 2.2 per cent of those in ‘managerial and professional’ occupations identified as LGB, compared to 1.6 per cent of those in ‘intermediate’ and 1.6 per cent of those in ‘routine and manual’ professions.

Full information on this data can be found in the Sexual identity, UK: 2015 Bulletin¹¹

¹¹ Sexual Identity, UK: 2015 Bulletin. ONS (2016).

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/sexuality/bulletins/sexualidentityuk/2015#toc>

Figure 6: Sexual Identity by Ethnic Group – UK 2015



Source: ONS

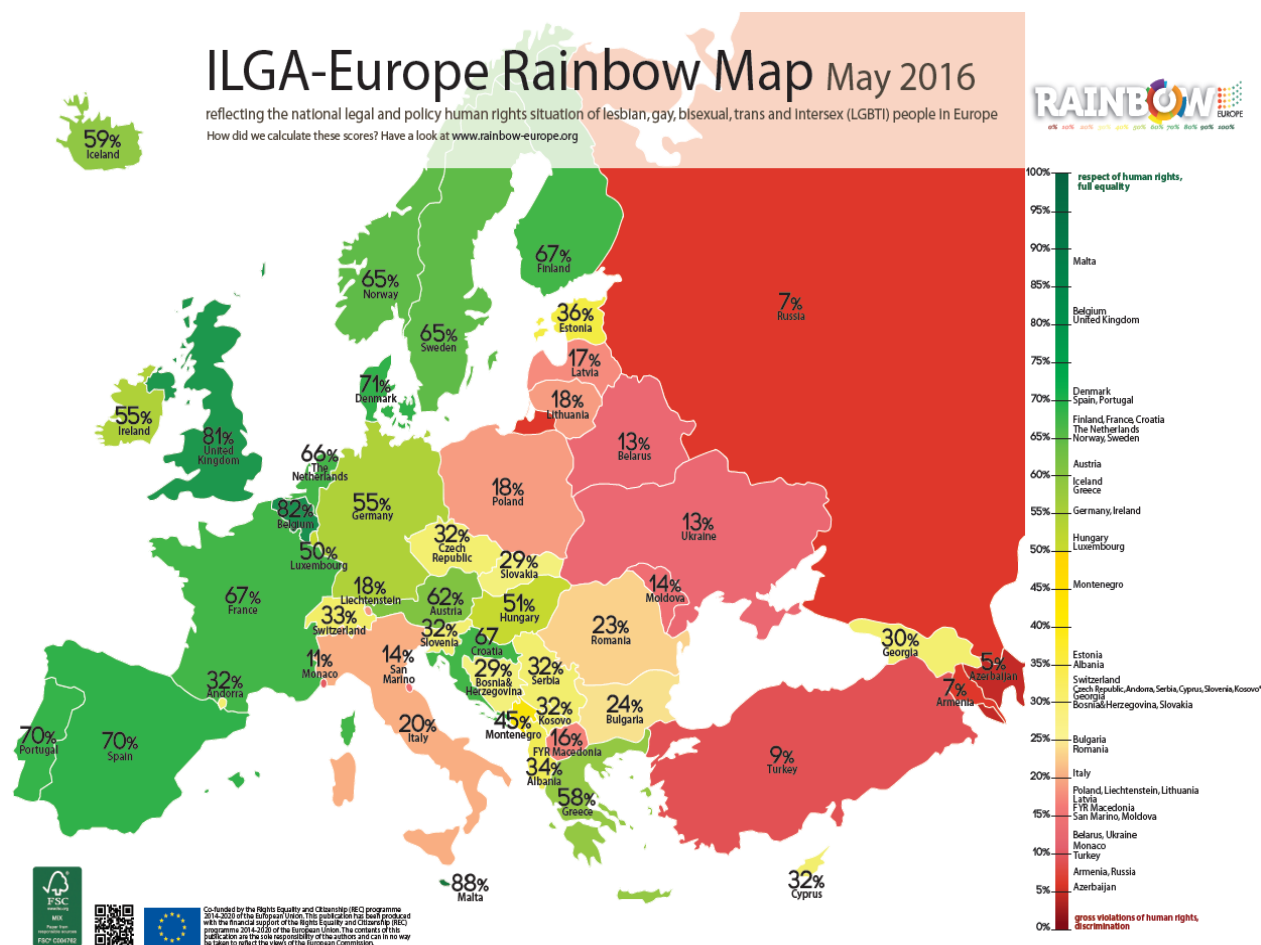
Figure 6 shows that adults in the UK who identified their ethnicity as ‘mixed or multiple’ were most likely to self-identify as LGB (2.5 per cent). Adults of Asian ethnicity were least likely to identify as LGB (0.8 per cent).

iii. Summary of Literature on Sexual Orientation Demographics

The Annual Review of Human Rights Situation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex People in Europe, published by ILGA Europe (2016), ranks the UK as third in Europe for LGBT rights with a score of 81 per cent following Malta (88 per cent) and Belgium (82 per cent) - see the Rainbow Map (Figure 7)¹² for country comparisons. It compares European countries on topics such as same sex marriage, parenting, asylum seekers, civil society and hate speech and homophobic violence.

¹² ILGA Europe Rainbow Map, Europe 2016 http://www.ilga-europe.org/sites/default/files/Attachments/side_a_rainbow_europe_map_2016_a3_small.pdf

Figure 7: Rainbow Map (ILGA Europe, 2016)



Source: ILGA

ILGA Europe (2016) cites that in 2015, 71 per cent of respondents to the EU's Eurobarometer agreed that LGB people and heterosexual people should have the same rights. For the UK, the report highlights various legal and institutional positions which have been taken in relation to LGBT people and groups. It cites Eurobarometer 2015 which shows that 58 per cent of UK respondents felt that sexual orientation discrimination was widespread (the same as the EU average) and 93 per cent would be comfortable with an LGB work colleague (compared with 72 per cent for the EU).

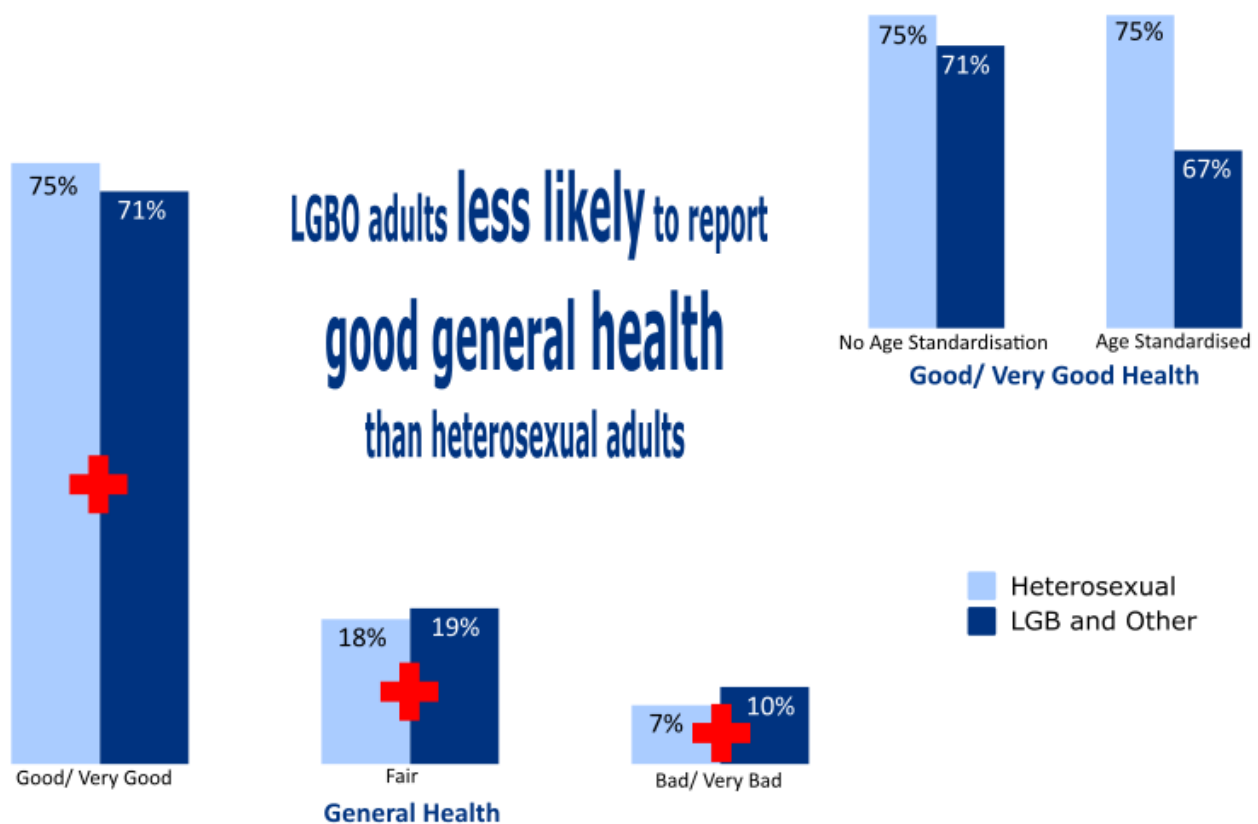
The Rainbow Map does not officially rank UK countries individually, however, Scotland met 90 per cent of ILGA's 48-point criteria which made it the most inclusive country for LGBTI equality and human rights legislation in 2016.

4. Health and Wellbeing

This section provides an overview of Health and Wellbeing evidence for lesbian, gay, bisexual and other adults. It provides some key statistics from the SSCQ 2015 data and then a brief overview of the literature on sexual orientation health and wellbeing.

i. Summary of Scottish Survey Core Questions 2015 Data

Figure 8: General Health by Sexual Orientation – Scotland 2015



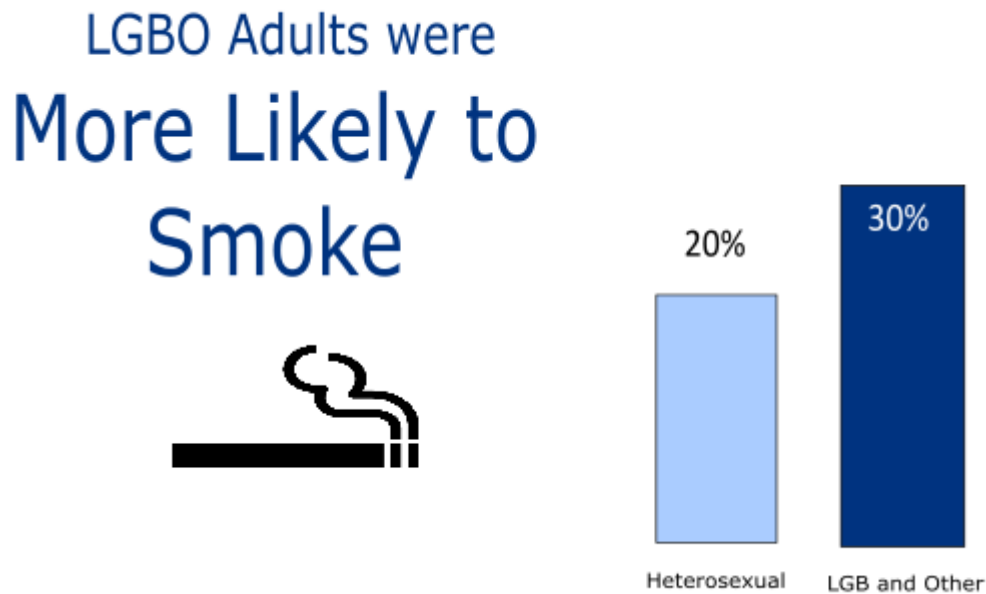
Source Scottish Core Survey Questions 2015

In the SSCQ, respondents were asked to self-assess their general health. This is used as a measure of the overall health of the population, as well as for identifying health inequalities. Figure 8 shows that LGB and Other adults were less likely than heterosexual adults to report good general health. Only 71 per cent of LGB and Other adults recorded good or very good health compared to 75 per cent of heterosexual adults. And 10 per cent of LGB and Other adults recorded bad or very bad health compared to seven per cent of heterosexual adults. Since health is associated with age, and LGB and Other adults tend to be younger, it is helpful to analyse age-standardised results. When the results for good/ very good health are age-standardised the difference

between the LGBO adults and heterosexual adults is even greater – the difference increases from four percentage points to eight percentage points.

LGBO adults were more likely to report a long term limiting condition (26 per cent) than heterosexual adults (23 per cent) despite having a younger age profile.

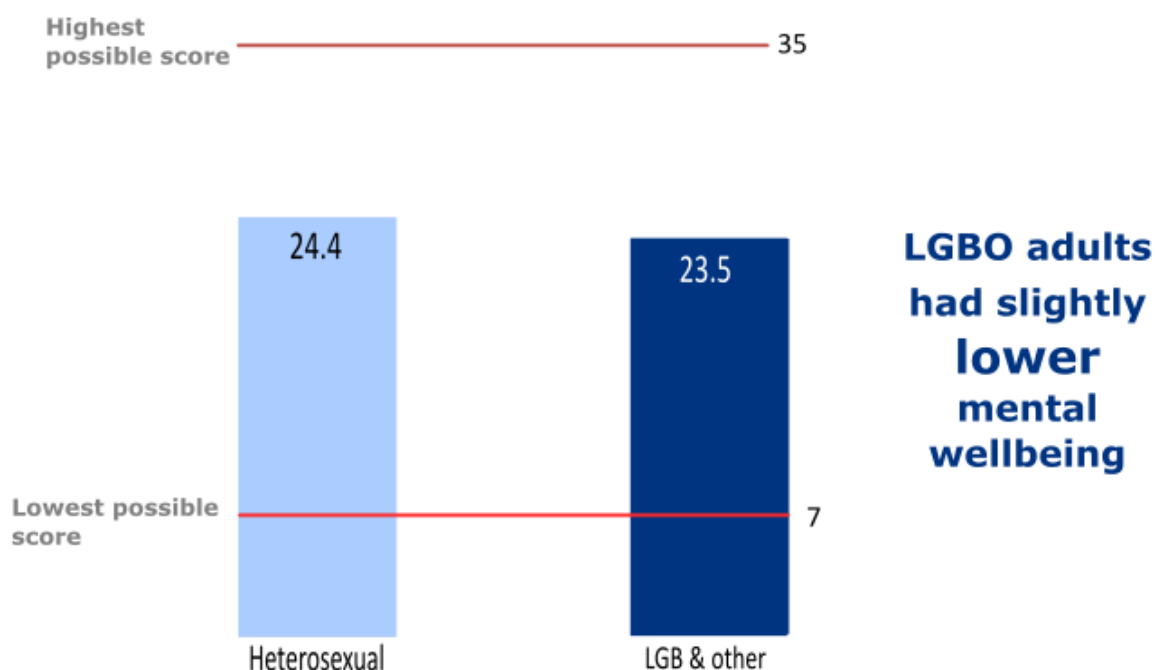
Figure 9: General Health by Sexual Orientation – Scotland 2015



Source: Scottish Surveys Core Questions 2015

Reducing smoking is a major priority for improving health. In Scotland, tobacco use is associated with over 10,000 deaths (around a quarter of all deaths) and around 128,000 hospital admissions every year. Figure 9 shows that LGBO adults (30 per cent) were more likely to smoke than heterosexual adults (20 per cent).

Figure 10: Mental Wellbeing by Sexual Orientation – Scotland 2015



Source: Scottish Surveys Core Questions 2015

Wellbeing is measured using the Short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS) questionnaire and measures how adults function. For example, the scale measures whether a person has been thinking clearly or whether they are dealing with problems well. Scores for mental wellbeing range from seven for the lowest levels to 35 for the highest. Figure 10 shows that in 2015, LGBQ adults had lower mental wellbeing than the heterosexual group - a score of 23.5 compared with 24.4 (statistically significant at the 95 per cent level). Age-standardisation adjusted the score for the LGBQ group upwards slightly to 24.0, meaning this difference is not significant.

The provision of unpaid care is a key indicator of care needs and has important implications for the planning and delivery of health and social care services. In 2015 a similar proportion of LGBQ and heterosexual adults provided unpaid care (18.9 and 18.2 percent respectively).

For more information on General Health and Sexual Orientation, see the Scottish Survey Core Questions¹³ web page.

¹³ SSCQ <http://www.gov.scot/SSCQ>

ii. Summary of Literature on General Health, Mental Wellbeing and Sexual Orientation

Research suggests that LGB people in Scotland can experience discrimination when using services, and healthcare is a key service where this has been reported. For example, 25 per cent of LGBT respondents reported experiencing discrimination when accessing services (Scottish LGBT Equality Report - Equality Network, 2015: 6), with 21 per cent experiencing this when accessing healthcare (Equality Network, 2015: 26). 22 per cent were uncomfortable about disclosing their sexual orientation (or gender identity) to healthcare staff (Stonewall, 2014a: 10) and 55 per cent of LGBT people experienced wrong assumptions being made about their sexual orientation (or gender identity) by healthcare staff in Scotland (Stonewall, 2014a: 7). Hudson-Sharp and Metcalf (2016) suggest that discrimination can result from lack of knowledge or inappropriate responses from health care professionals.

Studies have also considered the poorer general health of LGB people. A UK-wide literature review shows that the causes of poor general health in LGB groups is unclear and could be either due to mental or physical ill health (Hudson-Sharp and Metcalf, 2016).

The SSCQ 2015 supports other findings that LGB adults have lower levels of good health than the heterosexual population. This is particularly marked when the younger age population of the LGB and Other group is taken into account using age-standardisation (67 per cent have good or very good health compared with 75 per cent for heterosexual adults).

LGB people are more likely to smoke or take drugs or alcohol (Hudson-Sharp and Metcalf, 2016). Hudson-Sharp and Metcalf (2016: 43) cite a Public Health England study which shows that young gay and bisexual men were 2.4 times more likely to smoke in comparison with heterosexual men.

Significant differences between smoking rates in the heterosexual group compared with the LGB and Other Group can also be seen in the SSCQ 2015 data. Given that the LGB and Other Group is younger, their increased likelihood to smoke reflects the Public Health England study.

While there is no conclusive evidence to show that the mental wellbeing of LGB people is worse than that of heterosexual people, some UK studies showed comparable levels of mental health problems between LGB and heterosexual groups, while other studies showed a difference, with bisexual people in particular

showing poorer mental health and suicide attempts (Hudson-Sharp and Metcalf, 2016). There is also evidence to suggest that younger LGB people are more prone to poor mental wellbeing (Hudson-Sharp and Metcalf, 2016).

While mental wellbeing was lower for adults who are LGB and Other, the SSCQ 2015 data does not suggest that age is a factor in this. This may be due to different methods used to measure wellbeing, e.g. measuring depression rather than wellbeing.

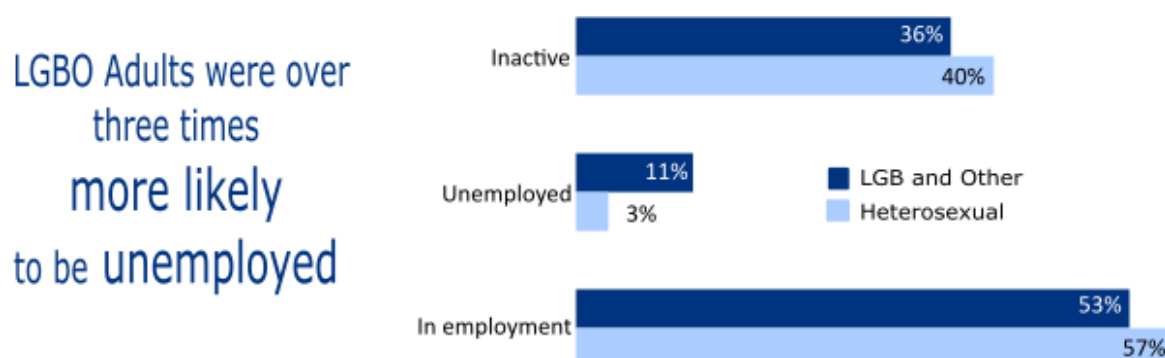
LGBT people report that mental health services do not always meet their needs (Hudson-Sharp and Metcalf, 2016). Scottish respondents described how healthcare providers are not aware of the needs of LGBT people or provide appropriate services which ensure equal treatment (Equality Network, 2015). Stonewall (2014a: 6) highlighted that 25 per cent of LGBT people found mental health services to be 'poor' or 'extremely poor'. The same study found that 18 per cent of LGBT people expected discrimination from these services Stonewall (2014a: 10).

5. Labour Market and Qualifications

i. Summary of Scottish Survey Core Questions 2015 Data

This section provides an overview of labour market outcomes and qualifications for lesbian, gay, bisexual and other adults. It provides some key statistics from the SSCQ 2015 data and then a brief overview of the literature on sexual orientation and labour market and qualifications.

Figure 11: Sexual Orientation by Economic Activity – Scotland 2015

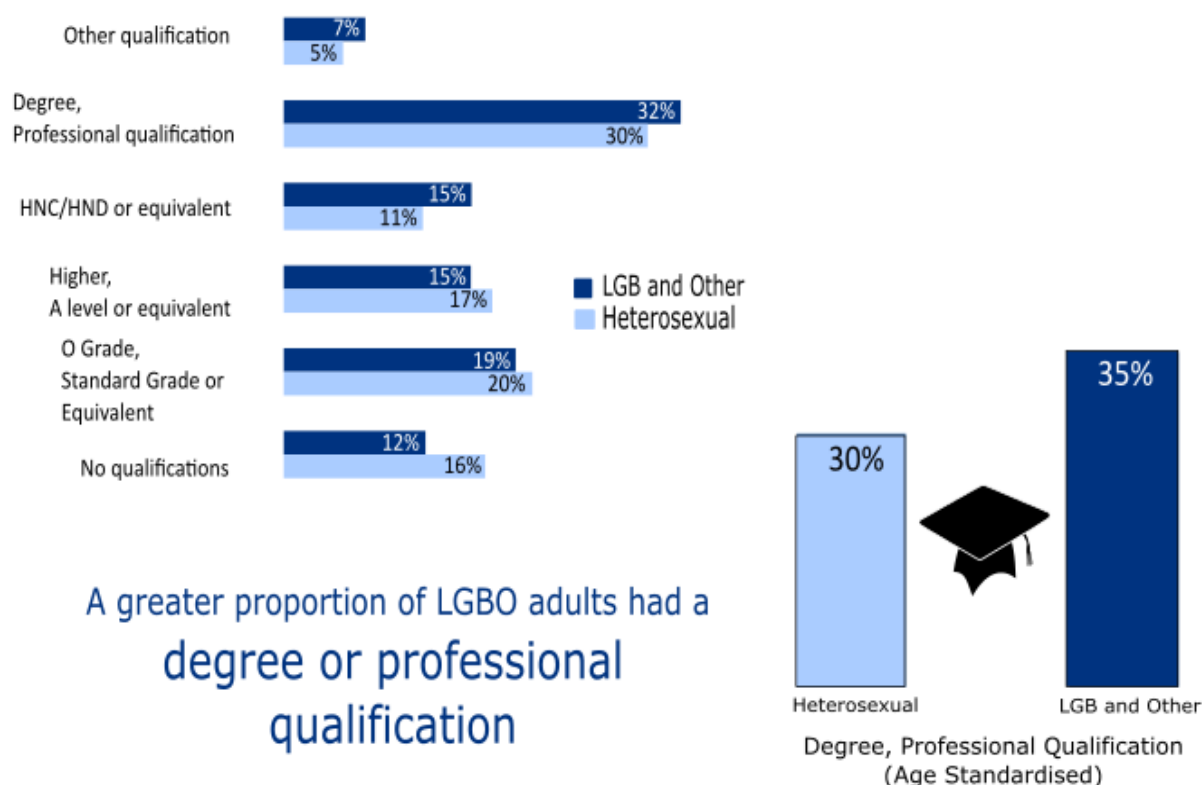


Source: Scottish Surveys Core Questions 2015

Figure 11 shows that LGBQ adults were more likely to be unemployed in 2015 than heterosexual adults. The unemployment rate for LGB and Other adults was more than three times higher than the rate for heterosexual adults (11 per cent and three per cent respectively). When the data was age-standardised the difference was reduced (eight and three per cent respectively).

LGBQ adults were also less likely to be employed – only 53 per cent were in employment compared to 57 per cent of heterosexual adults. This gap increased with age-standardisation (to 49 and 57 per cent respectively).

Figure 12: Sexual Orientation by Qualifications – Scotland 2015



Source: Scottish Survey Core Questions 2015

Figure 12 shows that LGBO adults were also more likely to have further or higher education qualifications. 32 per cent had a Level 4 (degree level) qualification compared to 30 per cent of heterosexual adults. When the data was age-standardised this gap widened (35 and 30 per cent respectively).

ii. Summary of Literature on Sexual Orientation and Labour Market and Qualifications

Some research contrasts with the latest SSCQ results and indicates that LGB men and women do not differ from heterosexual people in relation to employment, or show better outcomes. For example, some research indicates that LGB people may have similar rates of employment to heterosexual people, with older LGB age groups having higher rates of employment (Hudson-Sharp and Metcalf, 2016). People in same sex couple households were shown to be more likely to hold professional, administration or managerial jobs (59 per cent) than heterosexual men (40 per cent) or heterosexual women (37 per cent) in 2004/05 (Li et al, 2008 in Hudson-Sharp and Metcalf, 2016: 73). However it should be noted that the latest data from the SSCQ does not fit with some of these findings as the 2015 data showed that unemployment was higher for LGBO adults.

Li et al (2008, in Hudson-Sharp and Metcalf, 2016: 74) found that the earnings for people in same sex marriages were equivalent to those in opposite sex marriages, particularly when factors such as education were controlled for. Hudson-Sharp and Metcalf (2016: 75) cite other studies which found that LGB people earn more than heterosexual people. However, they also highlighted that heterosexual men benefit more in terms of earnings from being married, so the relationship between sexual orientation and earnings appears inconclusive.

Despite studies showing equal or better pay for LGB people, there are a number of studies which indicate that they still experience discrimination in the workplace. For example, 19 per cent of people reported being discriminated against at work in the UK because they were LGB&T (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), 2014 in Hudson-Sharp and Metcalf, 2016: 77).

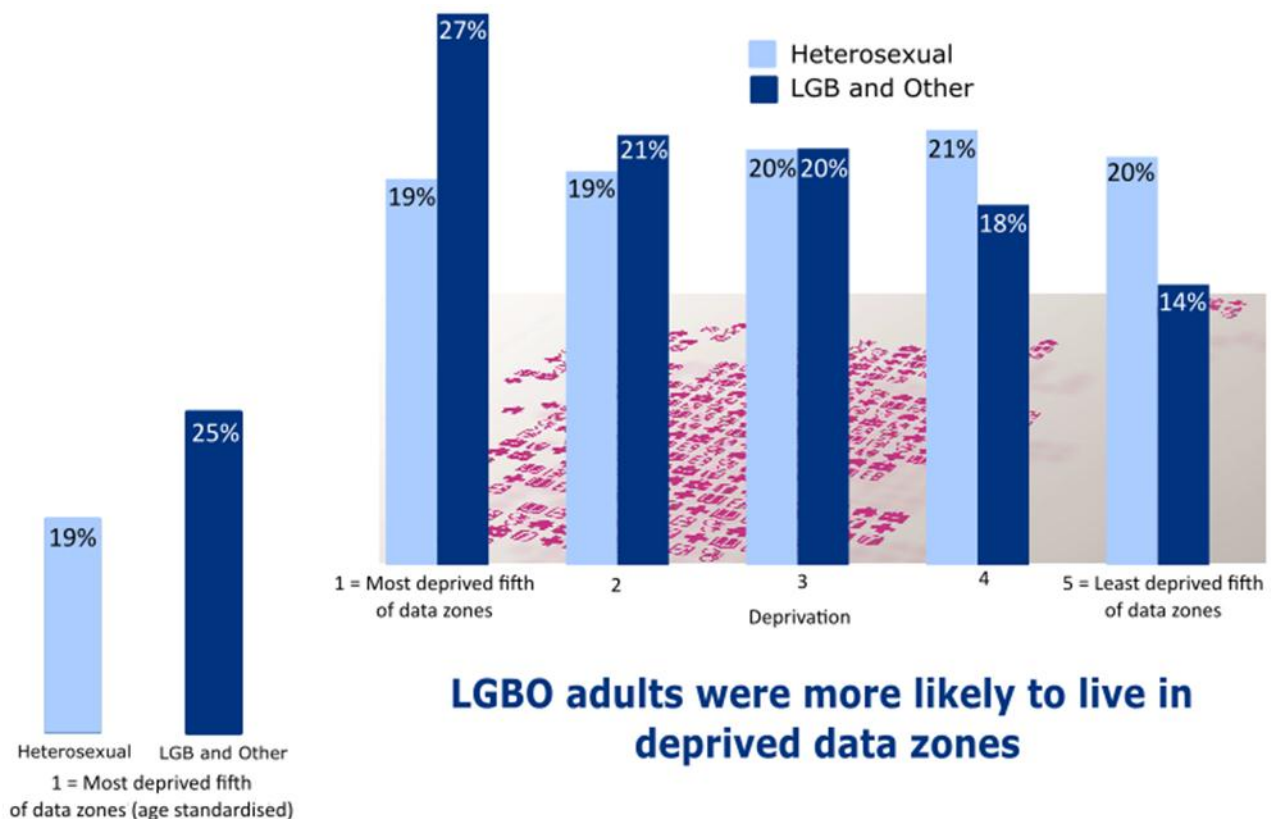
There is also evidence that discrimination can be experienced by LGB groups in education. In the UK, 86 per cent of secondary school teachers surveyed reported that their pupils were subject to homophobic bullying (Stonewall, 2014b:1). There has also been some lack of clarity as to the expectations on teachers in relation to teaching about LGB and same sex families, with 39 per cent of primary teachers in the UK saying they are not allowed to teach about LGB people and 37 per cent not clear if they are allowed (Stonewall, 2014b: 8).

6. Area-Based Deprivation and Geography

i. Summary of Scottish Survey Core Questions 2015 Data

This section provides an overview of area-based deprivation and geography for lesbian, gay, bisexual and other adults. It provides some key statistics from the SSCQ 2015 data and then a brief overview of the literature on sexual orientation, area based deprivation and geography.

Figure 13: Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation Quintiles by Sexual Orientation – Scotland 2015



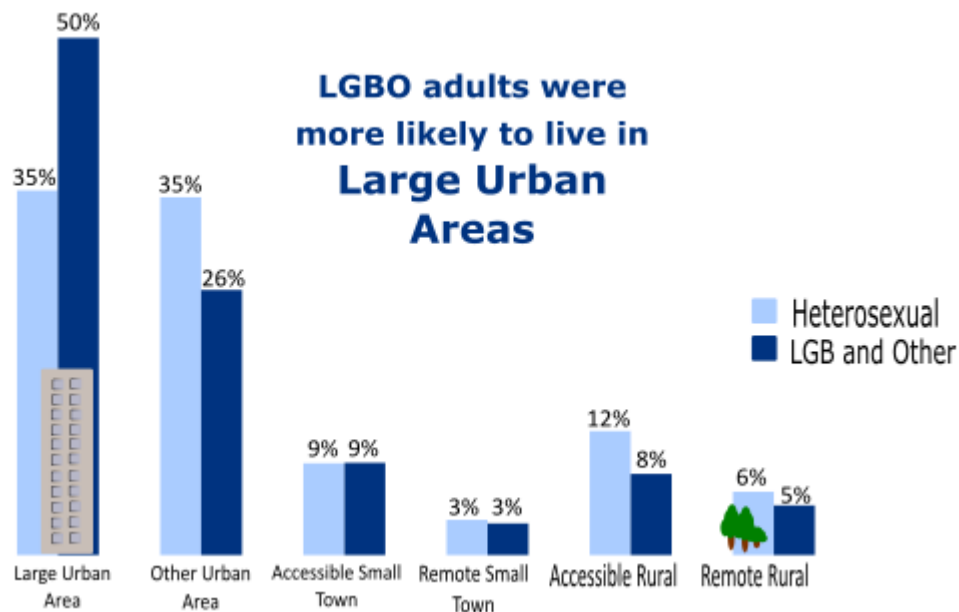
Source: Scottish Surveys Core Questions 2015 and SIMD

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation¹⁴ (SIMD) allows Scotland's data zones to be split into five quintiles, ordered by deprivation and each containing 20 per cent of the data zones. A data zone is a small area statistical geography, containing on average around 760 people. Figure 13 shows the proportion of LGB and Other people who lived in each of these quintiles, and shows that a greater proportion of the LGB and Other group lived in the most deprived quintile (27 per cent compared with 19 per cent of

¹⁴ Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/SIMD>

heterosexual adults). This difference was not explained by the differing ages of the groups, with 25 per cent of LGBO adults living in the most deprived quintile (compared with 19 per cent of heterosexual adults) when age is taken into account. Conversely, a smaller percentage of LGBO adults lived in the least deprived quintile (14 per cent compared with 20 per cent of heterosexual adults).

Figure 14: Urban /Rural Areas by Sexual Orientation – Scotland 2015



Source: Scottish Surveys Core Questions

Geographic areas in Scotland can also be classified into urban and rural categories, ranging from 'Large Urban Area' to 'Remote Rural'. Figure 14 shows that a higher proportion of LGBO adults lived in Large Urban areas (50 per cent compared with 35 per cent of Heterosexual adults). Heterosexual adults were more likely than the LGBO group to live in 'other urban areas' and 'accessible rural areas'.

ii. Summary of Literature on Sexual Orientation and Geography

A greater proportion of LGB people live in the most deprived areas in Scotland. Appropriate access to social housing services may be a factor as to why this is the case. For example, there is a perception of discrimination by LGB people in relation to social housing provision whereby 27 per cent of LGB people in Scotland expected to be discriminated against by housing officers (Stonewall Scotland, 2014 in Hudson-Sharp and Metcalf, 2016: 92). The subsequent reluctance of LGB people to disclose their sexual orientation may also mean that they are placed into

communities which are not able to provide the services they require (Hudson-Sharp and Metcalf, 2016: 92).

However, the Scottish Social Attitudes (SSA) Survey showed that those living in deprived areas in Scotland were no more likely to think that equal opportunities had gone too far for lesbian and gay people than those in the least deprived areas (Scottish Government, 2016: 62). This suggests that there are similar levels of acceptance of lesbian and gay people in both deprived and non-deprived areas.

A review of the UK Household Longitudinal Study found no statistically significant differences between LGB people and heterosexual people in the UK in 2011/12 in relation to being in poverty (Uhrig, 2015). However, the review did find that in 2011/12 bisexual people were more likely to be behind in paying bills (12.3 per cent of bisexual people were behind with some or all household bills, compared with 5.3 per cent of heterosexual people) and to claim income support (6.2 per cent of bisexual people claimed income support compared with 3.5 per cent of heterosexual people). Gay men were more likely to claim benefits than heterosexual men (4.7 per cent claimed income support compared to 2.2 per cent of heterosexual men) (Uhrig, 2015: 28-29).

Life in rural areas has been highlighted in some research as being particularly isolating for LGB people. For example, in Scotland, more LGBT respondents found living in rural areas to be bad or very bad (24 per cent) than living in urban areas (12 per cent) (Equality Network, 2015: 62). This was due to factors such as others' attitudes towards them (including verbal and physical attacks), poor service provision for LGBT people and a lack of LGBT communities with which to socialise. For LGBT young people in Scotland, 27.1 per cent living in rural areas described their location as a good place to live, compared with 67.7 per cent of those living in urban areas (LGBT Youth, 2015a: 7). LGBT Youth (2015b: 9) also cited that 56.3 per cent of those living in rural areas in Scotland felt accepted in their own families, compared with 74.8 per cent of those in urban areas.

Respondents describe having to leave rural areas in Scotland either temporarily or permanently so 'I can be myself' (Equality Network, 2015). For example, LGBT Health and Wellbeing (2016: 28) highlight the lack of LGBT community in Fife and the resulting isolation that some LGBT people living in the area feel. 28 per cent of LGBT people in Fife have rare or no contact with other LGBT people in their area, with 61 per cent stating that this is due to the limited opportunities to meet up with people socially.

Community is important to the mental health of LGB people in the UK, with Hudson-Sharp and Metcalf (2016) citing a study where 74 per cent of LGB respondents

reported that being part of an LGB community was good for their mental health (Formby, 2012, in Hudson-Sharp and Metcalf, 2016: 47). Better access to the community also helps to reduce social isolation. LGBT Youth (2015b: 8) also showed links between young LGBT people in Scotland feeling accepted in their community and levels of mental health (67 per cent with mental health problems for those who did not feel accepted by their community compared with 31 per cent with mental health problems for those that did). In 2011/12, gay men were more likely to live alone (37 per cent) than heterosexual men (14 per cent) (although lesbians were just as likely as heterosexual women to live by themselves) (Uhrig, 2015: 36), suggesting that access to social groups is important.

Accessing services from rural areas can also be challenging, with 59 per cent of LGBT respondents having to travel to other areas to access LGBT services. Addressing and challenging prejudice experienced by LGBT people in rural areas is argued to be necessary (Equality Network, 2015: 68).

Access to the community may be one reason why a higher proportion of LGBO people lived in urban areas. The latest figures showed that half of all LGBO people lived in large urban areas.

7. Discrimination and Attitudes

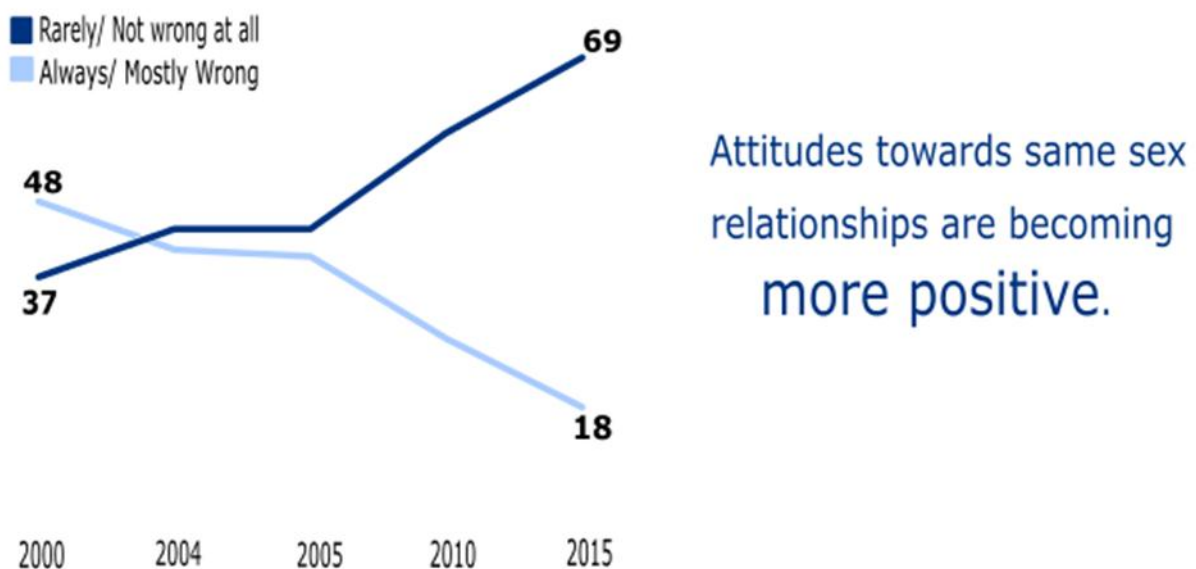
i. Summary of Scottish Social Attitudes Data

The Scottish Social Attitudes (SSA) Survey is run annually and involves face-to-face interviews with a sample of adults. The discrimination module is run every four or five years and in 2015 questions included an exploration of attitudes to lesbian and gay adults.

SSA included a question on people's views on whether sexual relations between two adults of the same sex are wrong. In 2015, just under a fifth (18 per cent) believed that such a relationship was 'always' or 'mostly wrong' with a large majority (69 per cent) saying that same sex relationships were 'rarely wrong' or 'not wrong at all'.

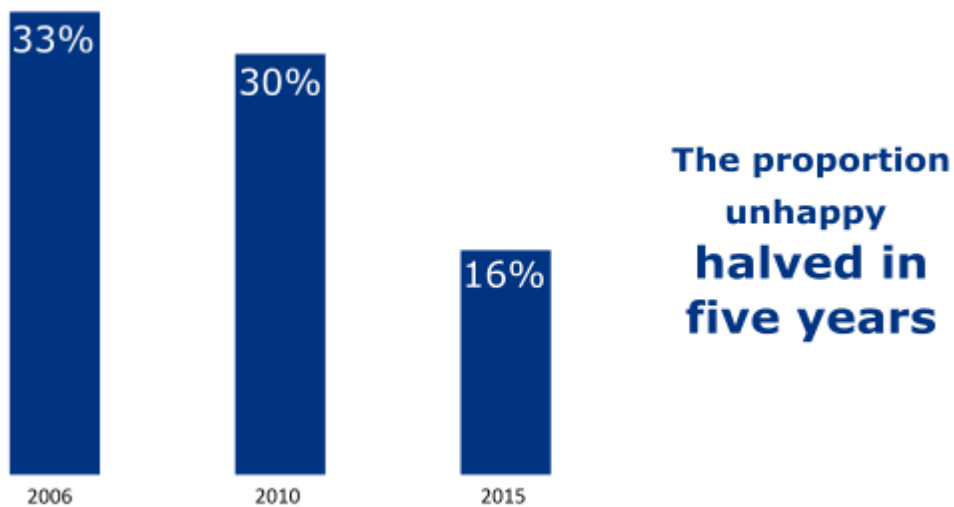
Figure 15 shows that since 2000 there has been a decline in the proportion saying that 'sexual relations between two adults of the same sex' are 'wrong' and an increase in the proportion saying they are 'not wrong at all' and findings in 2015 continued this pattern.

Figure 15: Attitudes Towards Same Sex Relationships – Scotland



Source: Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2015

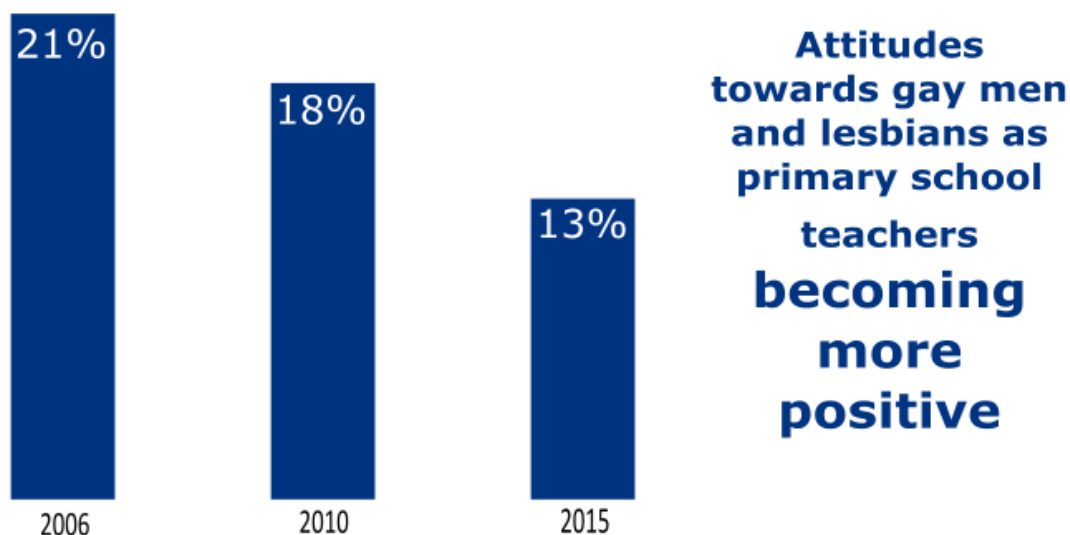
Figure 16: Proportion Unhappy With Close Relative Marrying/ Forming A Long-Term Same Sex Relationship – Scotland



Source: Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2015

Discriminatory views about someone marrying a close relative have declined with regards to lesbian and gay people. In 2010, almost a third (30 per cent) of people said they would be 'unhappy' or 'very unhappy' about this; by 2015 this had halved to around a sixth (16 per cent).

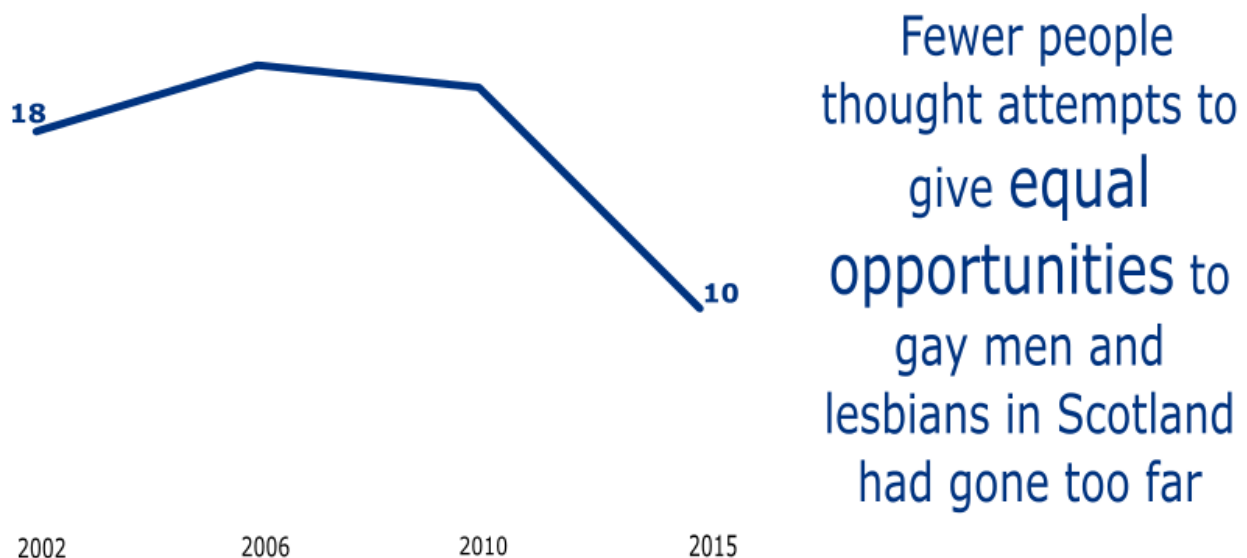
Figure 17: Proportion Who Thought That Gay Men And Lesbians Were Unsuitable As Primary School Teachers – Scotland



Source: Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2015

SSA includes a set of questions about how suitable people in different groups are to being a primary school teacher. Figure 17 shows that views on lesbian and gay people for the role have become more positive over the decade, with only 13 per cent feeling lesbian and gay people would be unsuitable as primary school teachers, down from 21 per cent in 2006.

Figure 18: Attitudes towards giving equal opportunities to gay men and lesbians in Scotland



Source: Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2015

Figure 18 shows that attitudes towards equal opportunities for gay men and lesbians 'going too far' have reduced by eight percentage points between 2002 and 2015. In the latest year one in ten respondents thought that equal opportunities had gone too far, compared to nearly two in ten in 2002.

ii. Summary of Literature on Sexual Orientation and Discrimination

Despite increased acceptance of LGB people, some research findings show that this group continues to face discrimination and inequality. For example, the Scottish LGBT Equality Report (Equality Network, 2015:6) found that 89 per cent of its survey respondents believe that LGBT people face inequality, with 79 per cent of the LGBT respondents experiencing an incident of prejudice or discrimination in the last year.

LGB men and women describe the prejudices which still exist, despite LGBT rights having a strong focus in Scotland (Equality Network, 2015). Discrimination can take place in a range of settings such as home, work, leisure, healthcare, places of

worship and places of education. For example, a study conducted in Fife by LGBT Health and Wellbeing (2016:17-18) reported that 9 per cent of respondents stated that their work colleagues did not respect their LGBT identity. Stonewall (2014a:5) found that 12 per cent of the LGBT people surveyed had a negative experience at sport and leisure facilities.

Annex 1 – List of Research Reports on Sexual Orientation

There are a number of research reports which cover a range of topics on sexual orientation in both Scotland and the UK:

Inequality among lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender groups in the UK: A review of evidence (Hudson-Sharp and Metcalf, 2016)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/539682/160719_REPORT_LGBT_evidence_review_NIESR_FINALPDF.pdf

Evidence commissioned by the UK government to look at inequality and disadvantage which LGBT people experience in the UK.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/539682/160719_REPORT_LGBT_evidence_review_NIESR_FINALPDF.pdf

The Scottish LGBT Equality Report: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People's Experiences of Inequality in Scotland (Equality Network, 2015)

<http://www.equality-network.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/The-Scottish-LGBT-Equality-Report.pdf>

Research which considers the inequality experiences of LGBT people in Scotland, carried out by the Equality Network.

<http://www.equality-network.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/The-Scottish-LGBT-Equality-Report.pdf>

Scottish Government Equality Outcomes: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Evidence Review (Scottish Government, 2013)

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2013/04/7520>

This evidence review was prepared to support the production of the Scottish Government's Equality Outcomes, with regard to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2013/04/7520>

Scottish Social Attitudes 2015: Attitudes to discrimination and positive action (Scottish Government, 2016)

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/09/3916/0>

This report explores attitudes to discrimination and positive action in Scotland in relation to: age, disability, gender, race, religion, gender reassignment and sexual orientation.

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/09/3916/0>

Your Services Your Say: LGBT people's experiences of public services in Scotland (Stonewall, 2014a)

http://www.stonewallscotland.org.uk/sites/default/files/ysys_report_lgbt_2014.pdf

Research commissioned by Stonewall which considers the experiences and expectations of LGBT people in Scotland, in relation to public services.

http://www.stonewallscotland.org.uk/sites/default/files/ysys_report_lgbt_2014.pdf

The Teachers Report 2014: Homophobic Bullying in Britain's Schools (Stonewall, 2014b)

https://www.stonewall.org.uk/sites/default/files/teachers_report_2014.pdf

Research commissioned by Stonewall which asked school staff about LGBT policy and experience in schools.

https://www.stonewall.org.uk/sites/default/files/teachers_report_2014.pdf

Annual Review of the Human Rights Situation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex People in Europe (ILGA Europe, 2016).

http://www.ilga-europe.org/sites/default/files/2016/full_annual_review.pdf

A report which documents progress and trends regarding the human rights situation of LGBTI people from January – December 2015.

http://www.ilga-europe.org/sites/default/files/2016/full_annual_review.pdf

Fife LGBT Community Needs Assessment Report (LGBT Health and Wellbeing, 2016).

<http://www.lgbthealth.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Fife-LGBT-Community-Needs-Assessment-SUMMARY-REPORT-FINAL.pdf>

Life in Scotland for LGBT Young People: Safety

https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/files/documents/LGBTYS_Life_-_Safety2c_final.pdf

Life in Scotland for LGBT Young People: Community and Identity (LGBT Youth, 2015a,b)

https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/files/documents/Research_/LGBTYS_Life_-_Community_and_Identity_-_new_version.pdf

Uhrig, S.C.N., 2015. Sexual orientation and poverty in the UK: A review and top-line findings from the UK Household Longitudinal Survey. *Journal of Research in Gender Studies* Volume 5(1), pp. 23-72.

<http://repository.essex.ac.uk/14216/1/5JResGenderStud23.pdf>

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- ☐ are available via an alternative route
- ☒ may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact jon.hunter@gov.scot for further information.
- ☐ cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.

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