

Census 2021 Population Profile

Trans population

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CENSUS 2021 POPULATION PROFILE

TRANS POPULATION IN BRISTOL

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TRANS POPULATION HEADLINES

Due to the uncertainty of the gender identity statistics, this profile presents the Census 2021 results by topic but only limited analysis has been undertaken.

CAVEAT

The Census 2021 estimates are considered broadly in line with other data on gender identity however there are some patterns in the data that suggest some respondents did not interpret the question as intended. Given other sources of uncertainty, not least the impact of question non-response, ONS cannot say with certainty whether the census estimates are more likely to be an overestimate or an underestimate of the total number of Trans people aged over 16 years in England and Wales. Note - The question on gender identity was new for Census 2021. The question was voluntary and only asked of those aged 16 years and over

NUMBERS

- 3,220 people in Bristol identify as Trans. Based on the overall size of the Trans population, Bristol local authority was ranked 7th nationally.
- 0.83% of the population aged 16 and over in Bristol identify as Trans, higher than the England & Wales average (0.54%).

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

- More than half (52%) of the Trans population identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual or other (LGB+), compared with 6% of people who don't identify as Trans.

AGE

- 60% of those who identified as Trans were aged between 16 and 34 years (for comparison, 39% of the total population are aged 16-34 years).

DISABILITY AND HEALTH

- Despite having a younger age profile, twice as many people who identified as Trans had a disability that limited day-to-day activities – 38% compared with 19% of people not identifying as Trans.

QUALIFICATIONS

- 19% of the Trans population in Bristol have no qualifications, five percentage points higher than people not identifying as Trans (14%).

HOUSING

Almost half (47%) of the Trans population privately rent, significantly higher than people not identifying as Trans (28%).

1.0 RELIABILITY OF CENSUS 2021 ESTIMATES OF GENDER IDENTITY

While there are no previous directly comparable estimates available, the estimates are considered broadly in line with other data on gender identity. However, there are some patterns in the data that are consistent with, but do not conclusively demonstrate, some respondents not interpreting the question as intended. Given other sources of uncertainty, not least the impact of question non-response, ONS cannot say with certainty whether the census estimates are more likely to be an overestimate or an underestimate of the total number of Trans people aged over 16 years in England and Wales.

There are good reasons to expect higher levels of uncertainty with the estimates relating to the gender identity question than for other census topics. All census estimates contain a degree of statistical uncertainty. This uncertainty will be proportionately higher for relatively small population groups such as those who report a gender identity different to their sex registered at birth. This relative uncertainty will increase if the population group is further broken down by geographic area or other characteristics. For more information, please see [Quality of Census 2021 gender identity data](#).

Potential respondent error

There are patterns in the data that are consistent with some respondents not interpreting the question as ONS had intended. These patterns reflect those respondents with lower proficiency in English and characteristics likely associated with English language proficiency such as ethnicity and country of birth. However, the overall impact on the data of any misinterpretation of the question cannot be determined.

Proportion of write-in responses for local authorities

Census 2021 Gender identity 16+ in Bristol	Number	%
Not answered	26,214	6.73%
Gender identity same as sex registered at birth	360,274	92.45%
Total estimated Trans population	3,220	0.83%
Gender identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given	1,145	
Trans woman	466	
Trans man	440	
Non-binary	794	
All other gender identities	375	

Proportion aged 16+ who wrote in a gender identity	Number	%
Estimated Trans population who provided a write-in response	2,075	64.5%
Estimated Trans population who did not provided a write-in response	1,145	35.5%

While ONS cannot quantify potential respondent error in the estimates of the Trans population, it is reasonable to suggest that someone is less likely to have mis-reported themselves as having a gender identity different to their sex at birth if they ticked the relevant box and also wrote in their gender identity. The table above shows the Trans population estimates for Bristol together with the number who wrote in their gender identity.

These do not provide alternative estimates of the Trans population since many Trans people will have accurately ticked the box and not provided a write-in response. However, they can be used as broad indicators of which local authorities are likely to have higher certainty in their estimates of the Trans population.

Caveats to use with Census 2021 gender identity data

1. Reliability of Census 2021 estimates (long version)

The Census 2021 estimates are considered broadly in line with other data on gender identity however there are some patterns in the data that suggest some respondents did not interpret the question as intended. Given other sources of uncertainty, not least the impact of question non-response, ONS cannot say with certainty whether the census estimates are more likely to be an overestimate or an underestimate of the total number of Trans people aged over 16 years in England and Wales.

2. Reliability of Census 2021 estimates (short version)

In line with updates from the Office for National Statistics (2023), there is some uncertainty about the robustness of the Census 2021 data related to gender identity.

2.0 OVERVIEW

People with a 'Gender identity different from sex registered at birth' are referred to collectively as 'Trans' throughout this profile. All the analysis is for the population aged 16 years and over.

Gender identity refers to a person's sense of their own gender, whether male, female or another category such as non-binary. This may or may not be the same as their sex registered at birth.

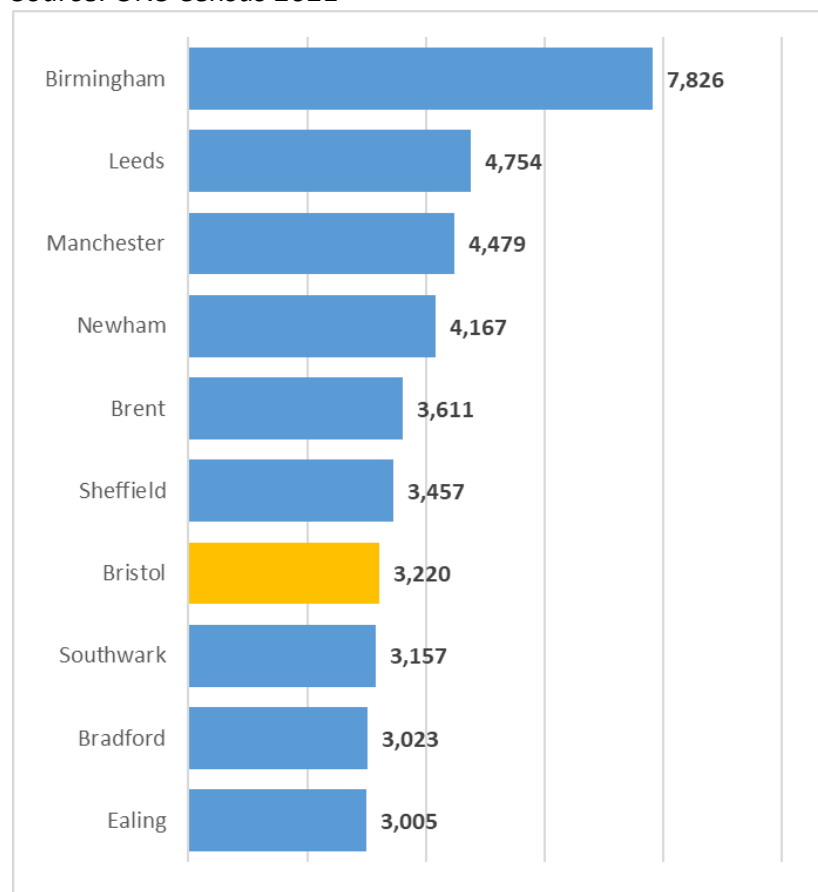
The question on gender identity was new for Census 2021. It was added to provide the first official data on the size of the Trans gender population in England and Wales. The question was voluntary and was only asked of people aged 16 years and over. People were asked "Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?" and had the option of selecting either "Yes", or selecting "No" and writing in their gender identity.

3.0 NATIONAL CONTEXT

Of the 10 local authorities with the largest proportion of the population aged 16 years and over whose gender identity was different from their sex at birth, 8 were in London. The two non-London local authorities in the top 10 were Oxford (1.25%), which was 3rd, and Norwich (1.07%), which was 9th. Based on the overall size of the Trans population, Bristol was ranked 7th nationally (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Top 10 Local Authorities all with a Trans population greater than 3,000 (England and Wales only)

Source: ONS Census 2021



In terms of specific gender identities by population size, Bristol had the second largest non-binary population out of 331 local authorities in England and Wales with 794 people; Brighton had the largest with 835 people identifying as non-binary. Bristol also had the second largest number of people identifying as any other gender identity with 375 people; Leeds had the largest with 395 people identifying as any other gender identity.

4.0 GENDER IDENTITY IN BRISTOL

The census question on gender identity was a voluntary question asked of those aged 16 years and over. The question asked “Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?”

In Bristol, 363,494 (93.3%) people aged 16 years and over answered the question. In total, 360,274 (92.4%) answered “Yes” and 3,220 (0.83%) answered “No”. The remaining 26,214 (6.7%) did not answer the question.

The proportion of the population aged 16 and over with a gender identity different from their sex registered at births in Bristol is higher than the England and Wales average - 0.83% and 0.54% respectively (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Gender identity as a % of population aged 16+
Source: ONS Census 2021

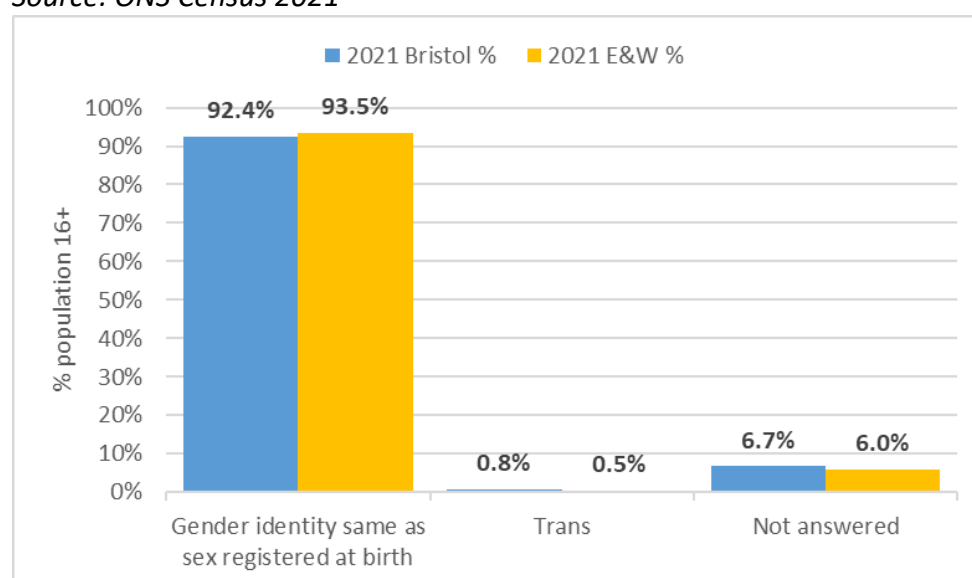
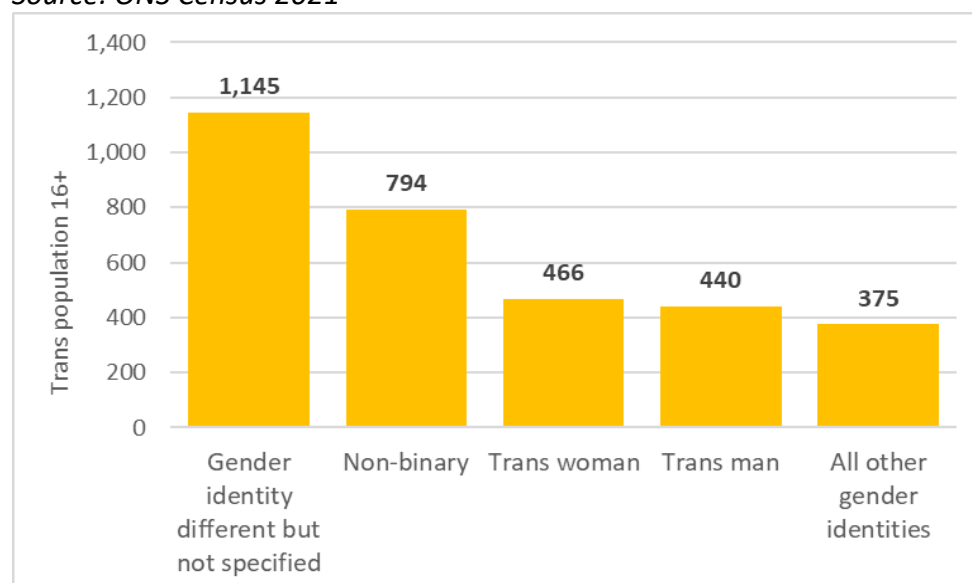


Figure 3: Detailed breakdown of the Trans population in Bristol
Source: ONS Census 2021



Based on the tick boxes and write-in responses people gave to the census question it is possible to see how Trans people identify in more detail (figure 3).

In Bristol:

- 1,145 (0.29%) said that their gender identity was different from sex registered at birth but did not provide a write-in response (E&W 0.24%)
- 794 (0.20%) identified as non-binary (E&W 0.06%)
- 466 (0.12%) identified as a Trans woman (E&W 0.10%)
- 440 (0.11%) identified as a Trans man (E&W 0.10%)
- 375 (0.10%) wrote in a different gender identity (E&W 0.04%)

The remaining 6.7% did not answer the question on gender identity (E&W 6.0%).

5.0 GENDER IDENTITY DIFFERENCES IN AGE, SEX, CHARACTERISTICS, HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION & HOUSING

5.1 AGE AND SEX PROFILE

Figure 4: Gender identity by sex in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021

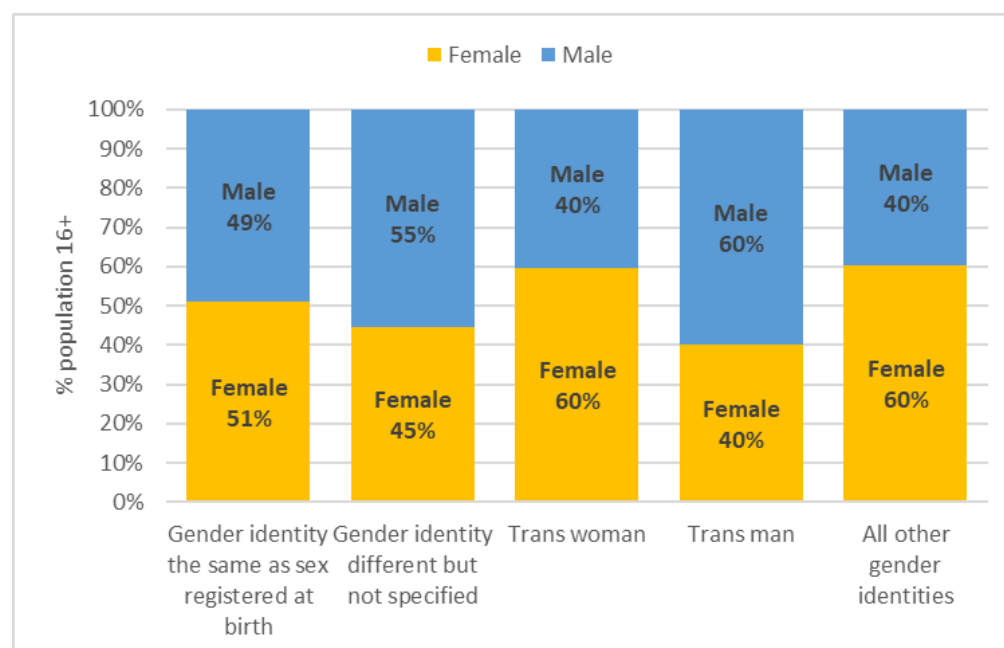
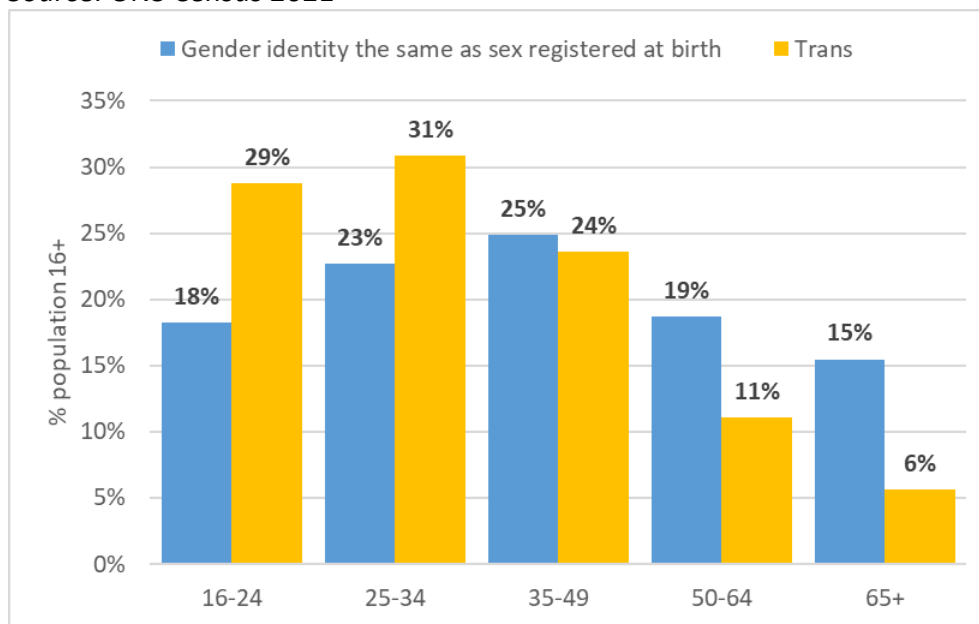


Figure 5: Gender identity and age profile in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021

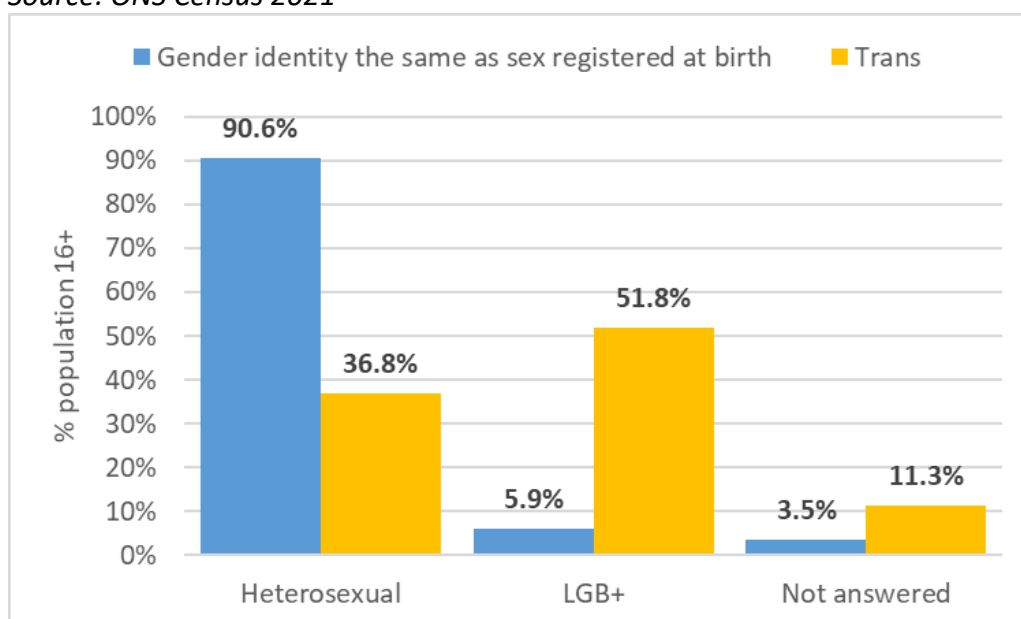


5.2 SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Sexual orientation is an umbrella term covering sexual identity, attraction, and behaviour. For an individual respondent, these may not be the same. For example, someone in an opposite-sex relationship may also experience same-sex attraction, and vice versa. This means the statistics should be interpreted purely as showing how people responded to the question, rather than being about whom they are attracted to or their actual relationships.

Figure 6: Gender identity and sexual orientation in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



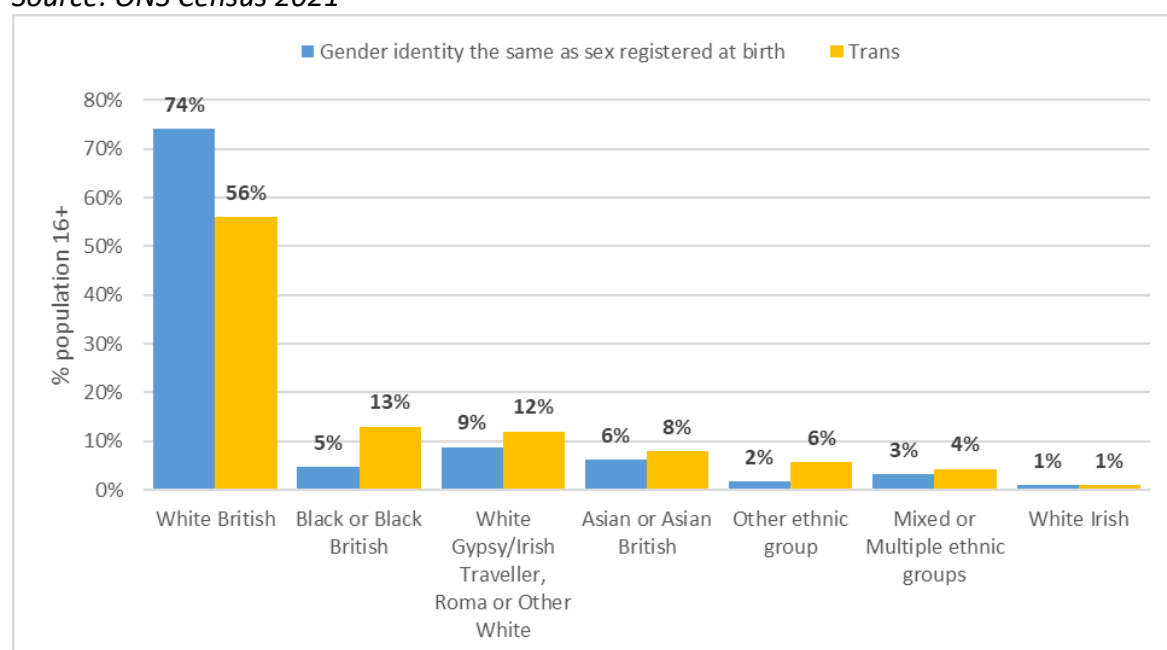
The question on sexual orientation was new for Census 2021. The question was voluntary and only asked of those aged 16 years and over. People were asked “Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?” The different sexual orientations that people could choose from included: ‘Straight or Heterosexual’; ‘Gay or Lesbian’ ; ‘Bisexual’; or ‘Other sexual orientation’. If they selected ‘other sexual orientation’, they were asked to write in the sexual orientation with which they identified.

5.3 ETHNIC GROUP

At local authority level, gender identity data is only available by broad ethnic group

Figure 7: Gender identity by ethnic group in Bristol

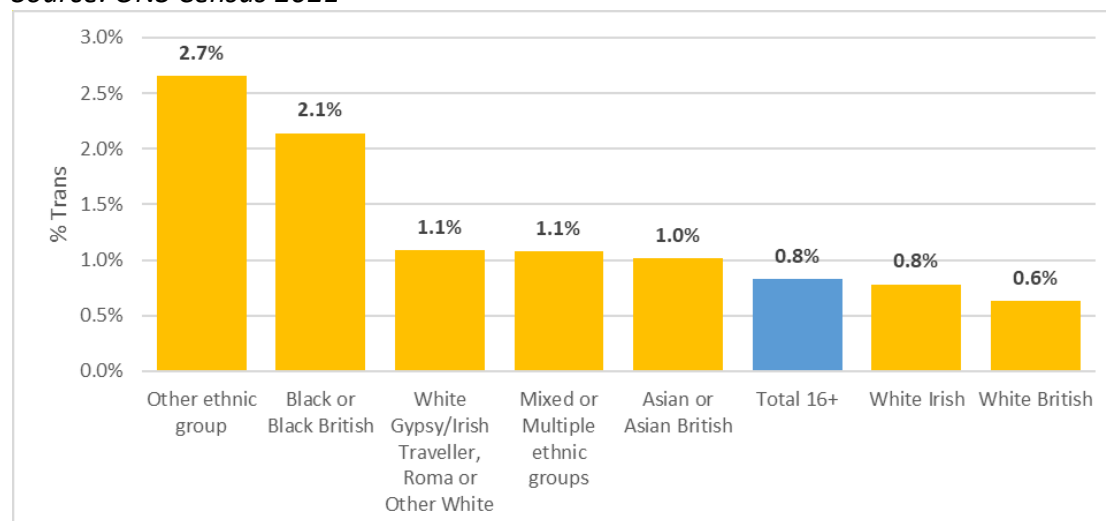
Source: ONS Census 2021



Gender identity proportions by ethnic group

Figure 8: % Trans population within each broad ethnic group in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021

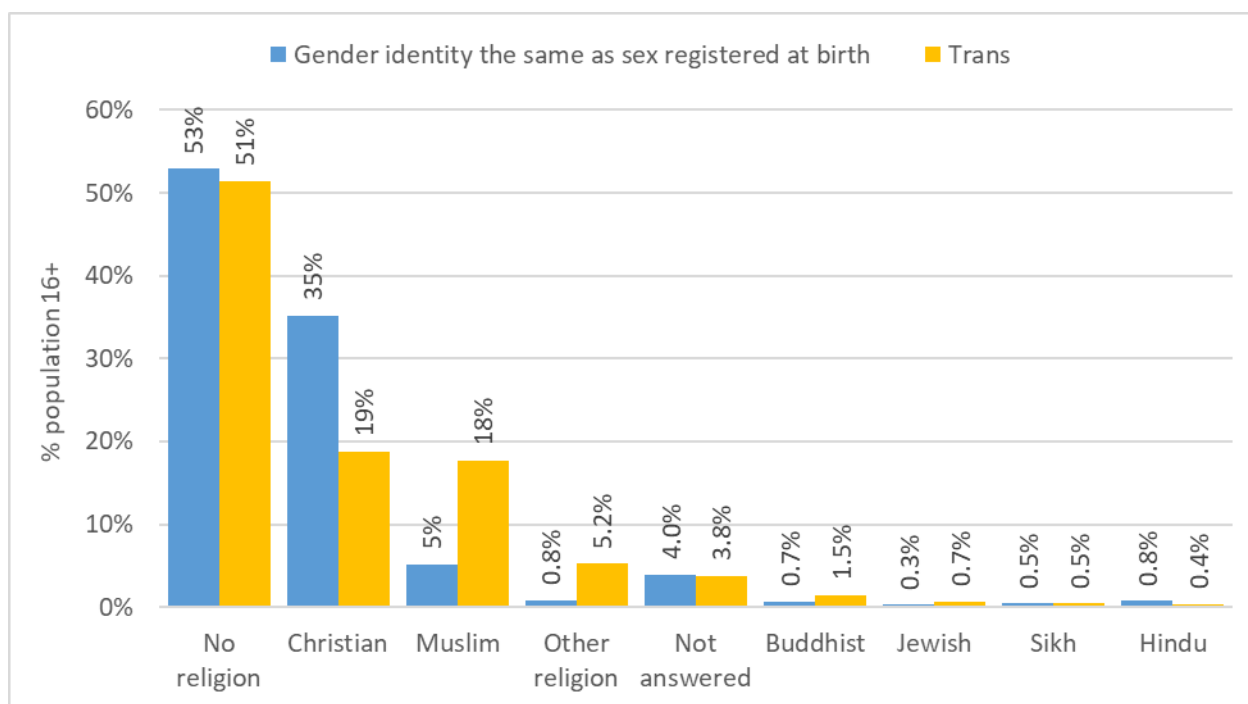


5.4 RELIGION

In the census data, religion refers to a person's religious affiliation. This is the religion with which they connect or identify, rather than their beliefs or active religious practice. The religion question is voluntary and in 2021 93% of the overall population in Bristol chose to answer the question (E&W 94%).

Figure 9: Gender identity by religion in Bristol

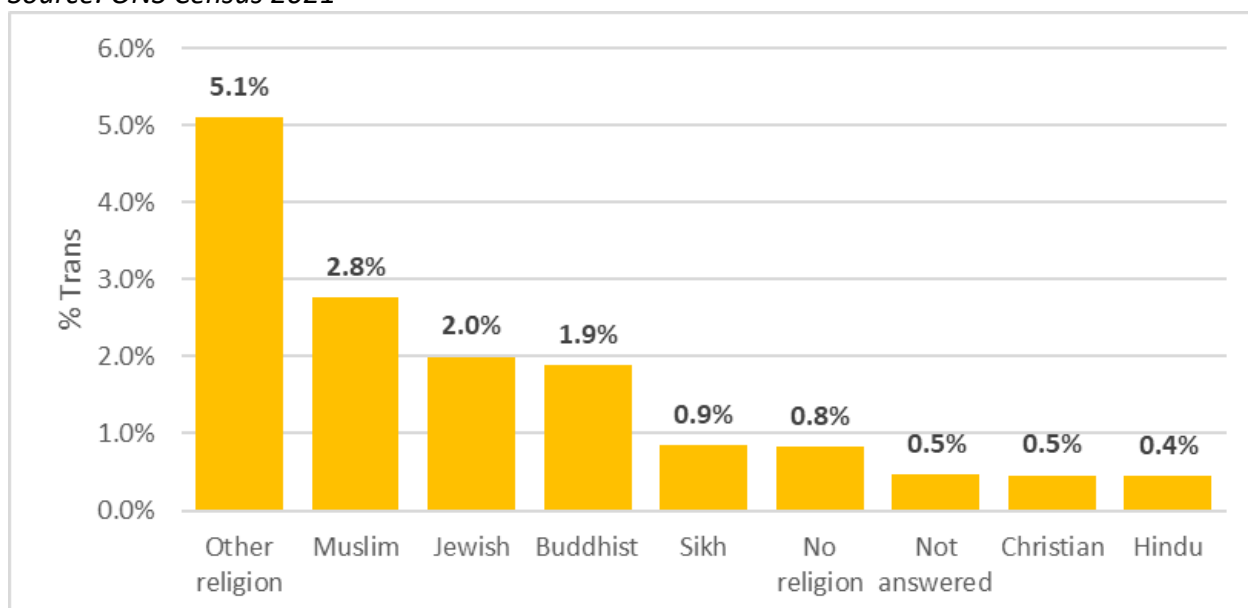
Source: ONS Census 2021



Gender identity proportions by religion

Figure 10: % Trans population within religious groups in Bristol

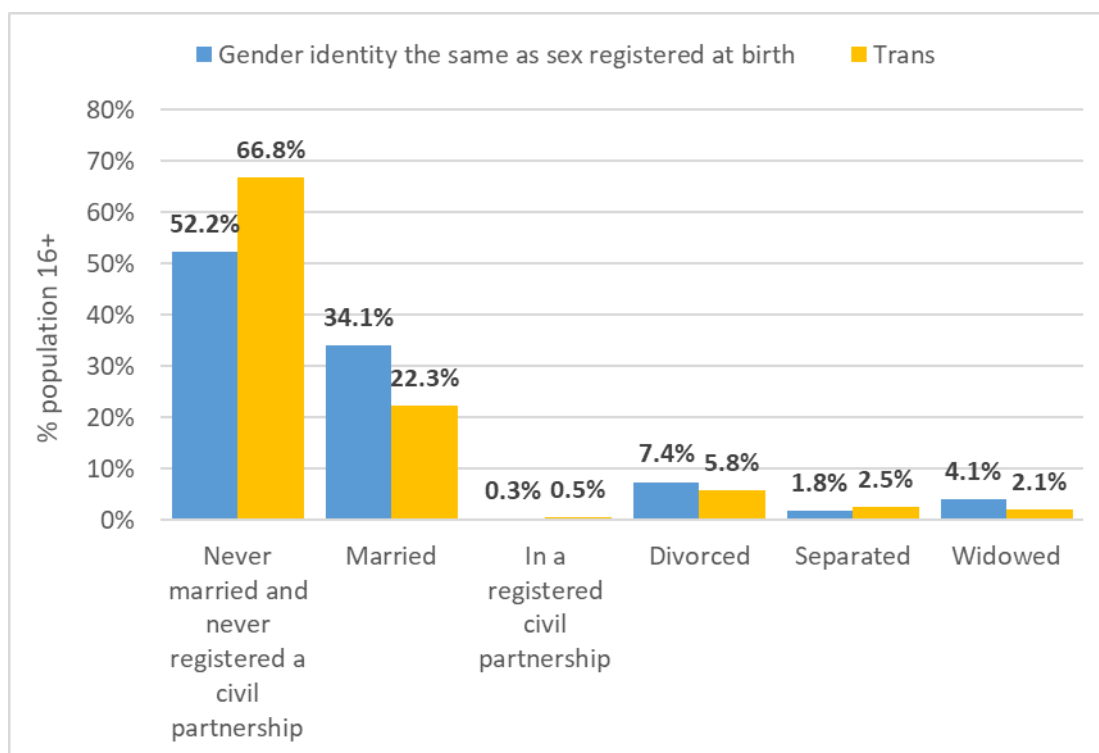
Source: ONS Census 2021



5.5 LEGAL PARTNERSHIP STATUS

Figure 11: Gender identity and legal partnership status in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021

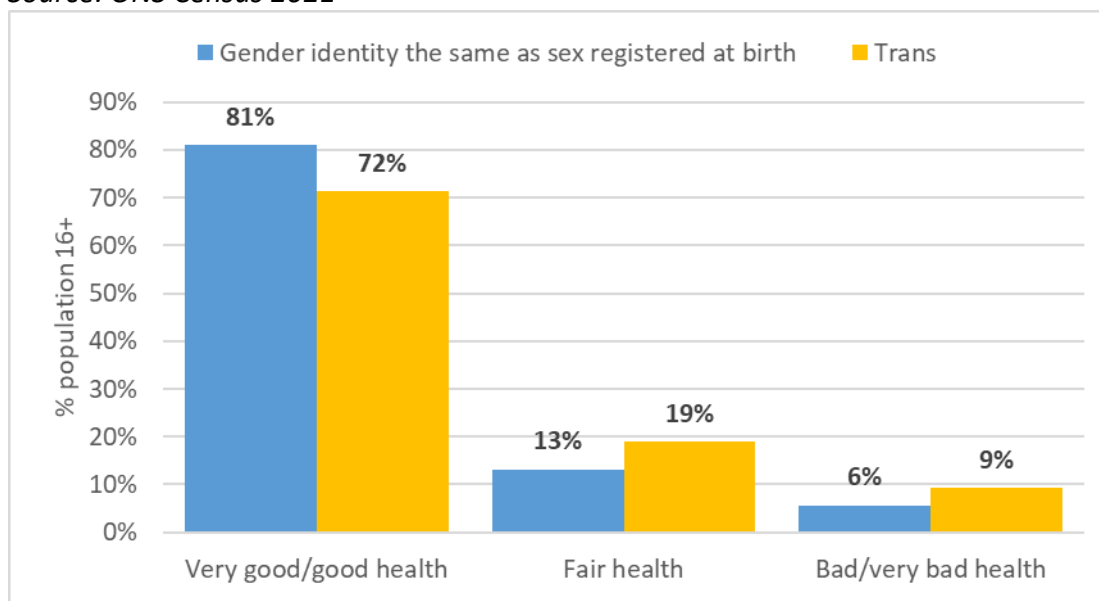


5.6 HEALTH

GENERAL HEALTH

Figure 12: Gender identity and general health in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021

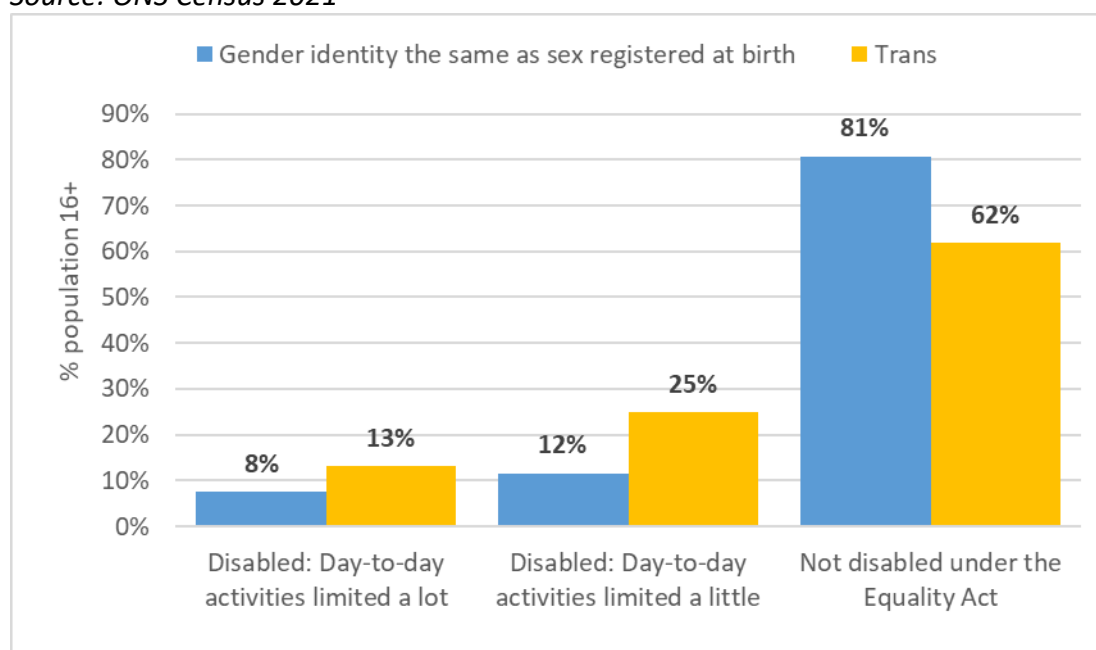


This data uses the Census 2021 Equalities Act definition of disability, that is including people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life either a lot or a little. See [Equalities Statistics Guide](#).

Disability is self-reported on the census and broadly follows the same trends as overall health. People are considered disabled if they reported being limited ‘a little’ or ‘a lot’ in their day-to-day activities by a long-term physical or mental health condition or illness. This aligns with the Equality Act (2010) definition.

Figure 13: Gender identity and long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact daily life in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



5.7 ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

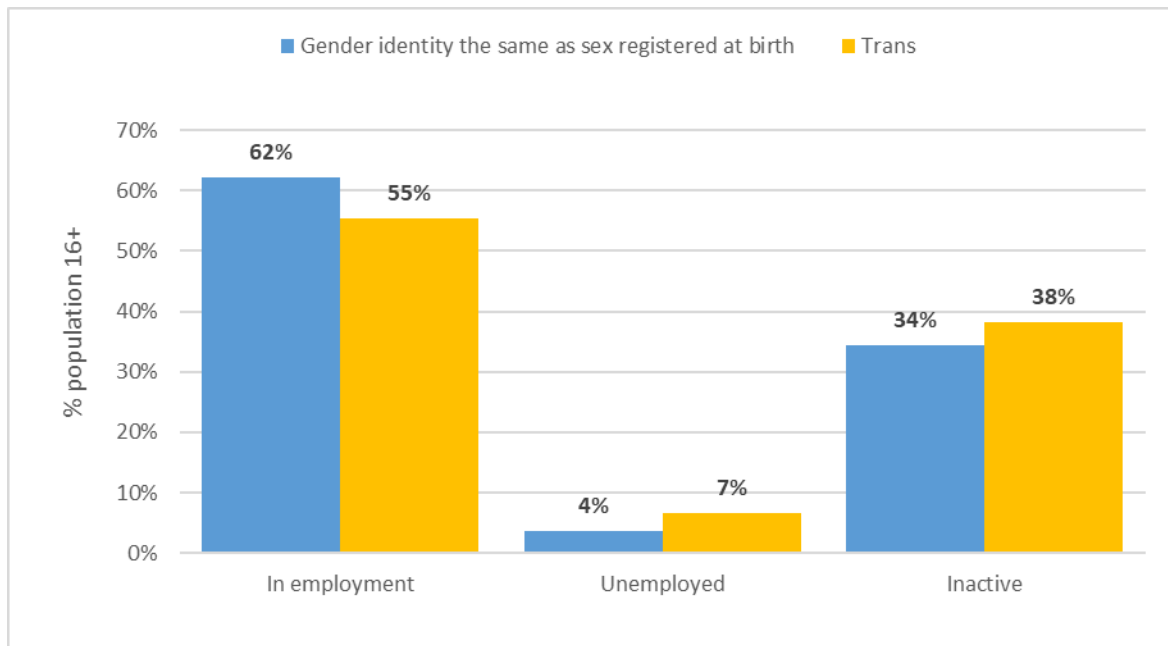
Disability and long-term illness, caring for others, where someone lives, and their age can affect whether more or fewer people are employed within a population group. This section looks at census data for whether people were in employment, unemployed, or not looking for work (termed ‘economically inactive’) mainly because they were a student, retired, long-term sick or looking after the home or family.

Data in this section refers to the population aged 16 and over not just the working age population. This will affect the analysis of economic activity status as Trans people have a younger age profile than the population as a whole.

Note: Census 2021 was taken during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. ONS asked people on furlough to record themselves as employed, but some people may have said they were out of work instead.

Figure 14: Gender identity and economic activity status in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



5.8 QUALIFICATIONS

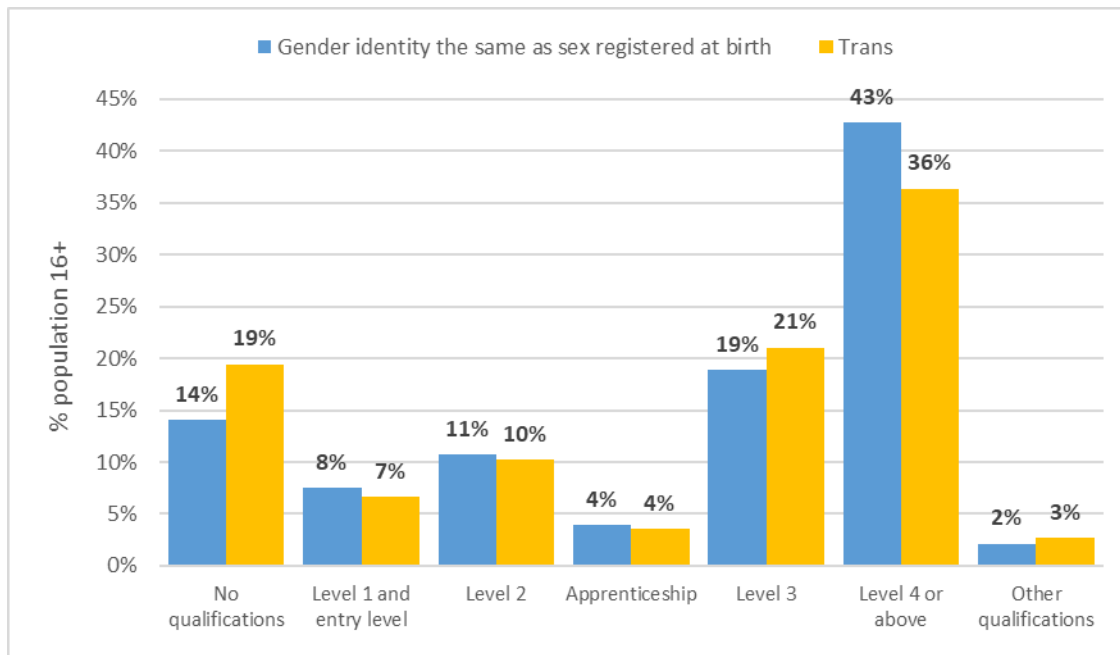
Qualification levels in the Census 2021 include the following categories:

- **No qualifications:** No formal qualifications
- **Level 1:** One to four GCSE passes (grade A* to C or grade 4 and above) and any other GCSEs at other grades, or equivalent qualifications
- **Level 2:** Five or more GCSE passes (grade A* to C or grade 4 and above) or equivalent qualifications
- **Apprenticeships**
- **Level 3:** Two or more A Levels or equivalent qualifications
- **Level 4 or above:** Higher National Certificate, Higher National Diploma, Bachelor's degree, or postgraduate qualifications
- **Other:** Other qualifications, of unknown level

Many factors contribute to differences in highest level of qualification with age likely to be a contributing factor to differences in educational outcomes.

Figure 15: Gender identity and highest qualification level in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



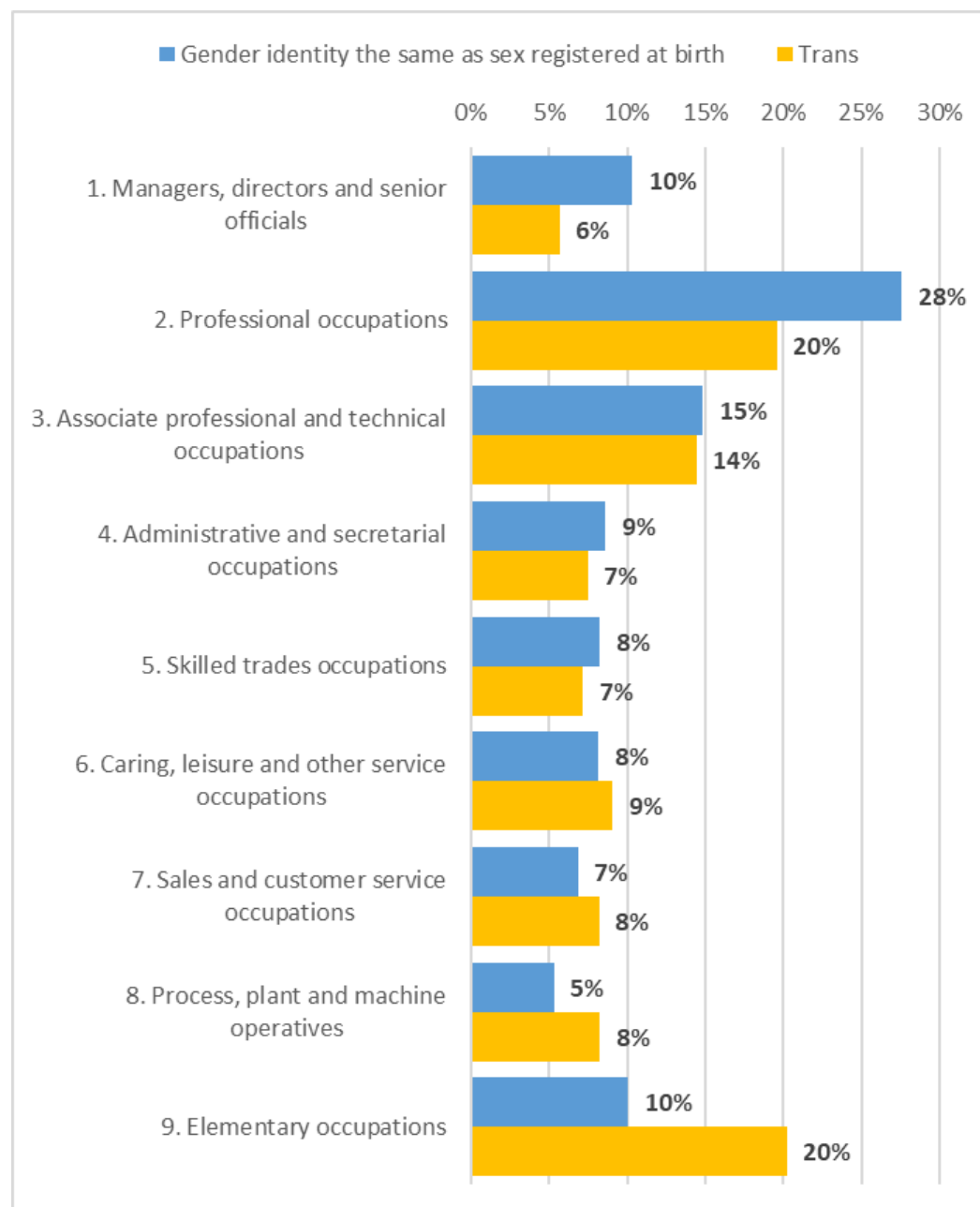
5.9 OCCUPATION

There are nine categories for the types of work people do in the census. These are:

1. Managers, directors or senior officials
2. Professional occupations
3. Associate professional and technical occupations
4. Administrative and secretarial occupations
5. Skilled trades occupations
6. Caring, leisure and other services
7. Sales and customer service
8. Process, plant and machine operation
9. Elementary occupations

Figure 16: Gender identity and occupation in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



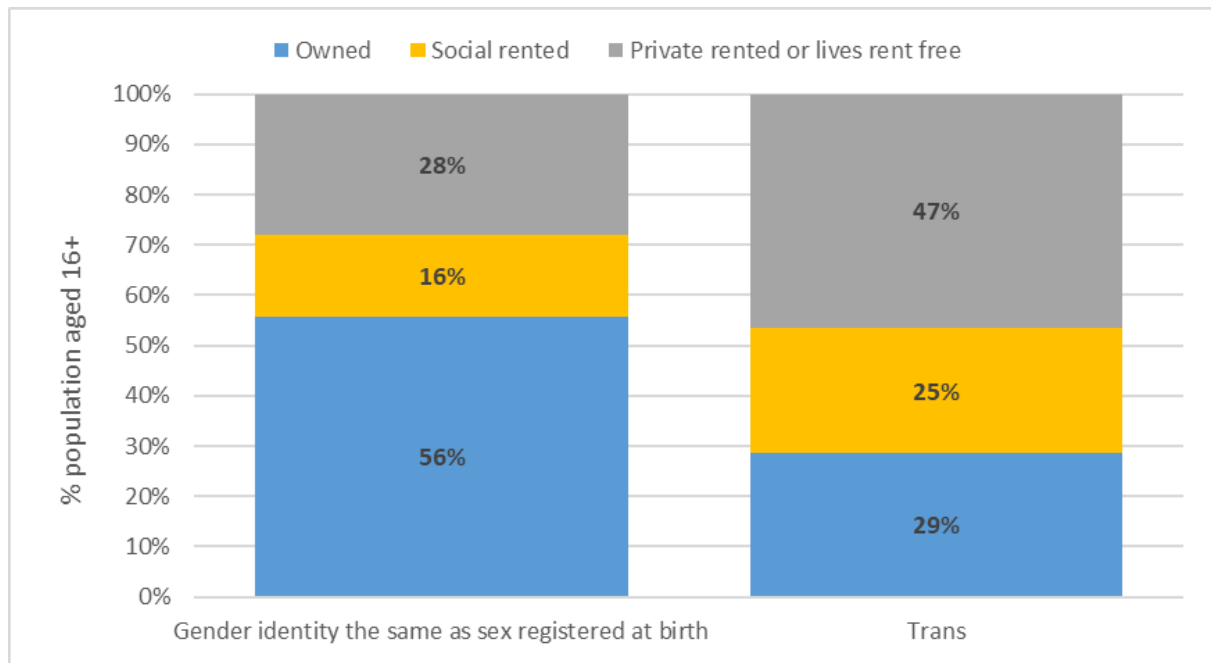
5.10 HOUSING

HOUSING TENURE

The census tells us if people lived in a home that is owned outright, owned with a mortgage or loan, or if they lived in a rented home. If rented, the census tells us if that was social rented housing (such as from a council or housing association), private rent, or if they were living rent free (for example, in a home owned by a family member or friend). Gender identity is individual, so we are looking here at percentages of people, rather than the percentage of rented or owned properties.

Figure 17: Gender identity and housing tenure in Bristol

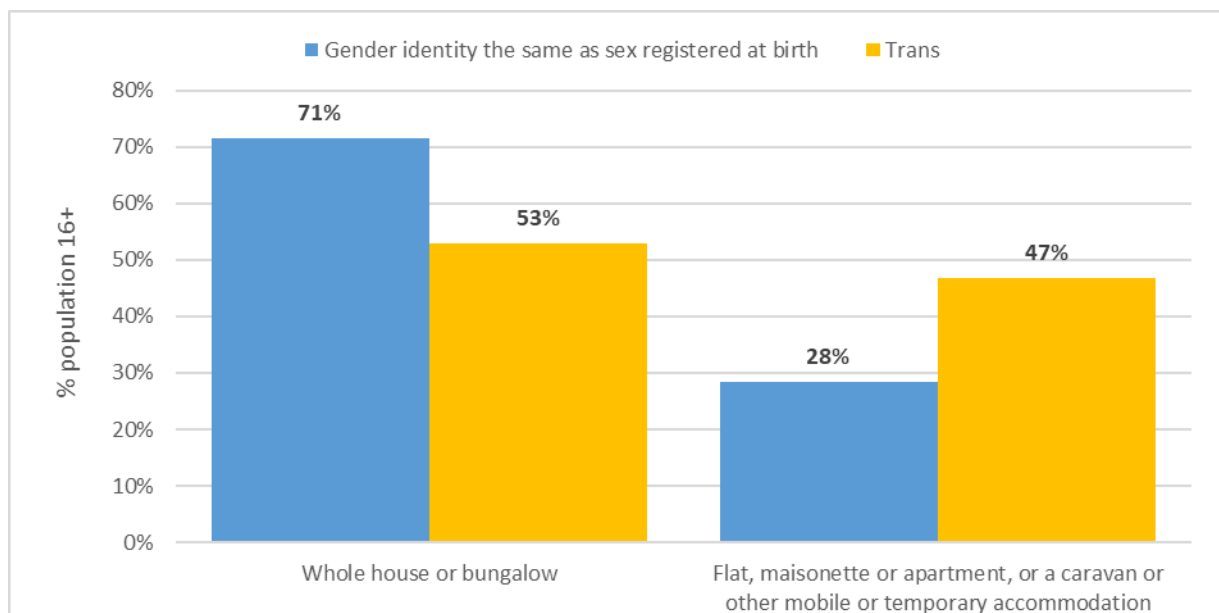
Source: ONS Census 2021



HOUSING TYPE

Figure 18: Gender identity and accommodation type in Bristol

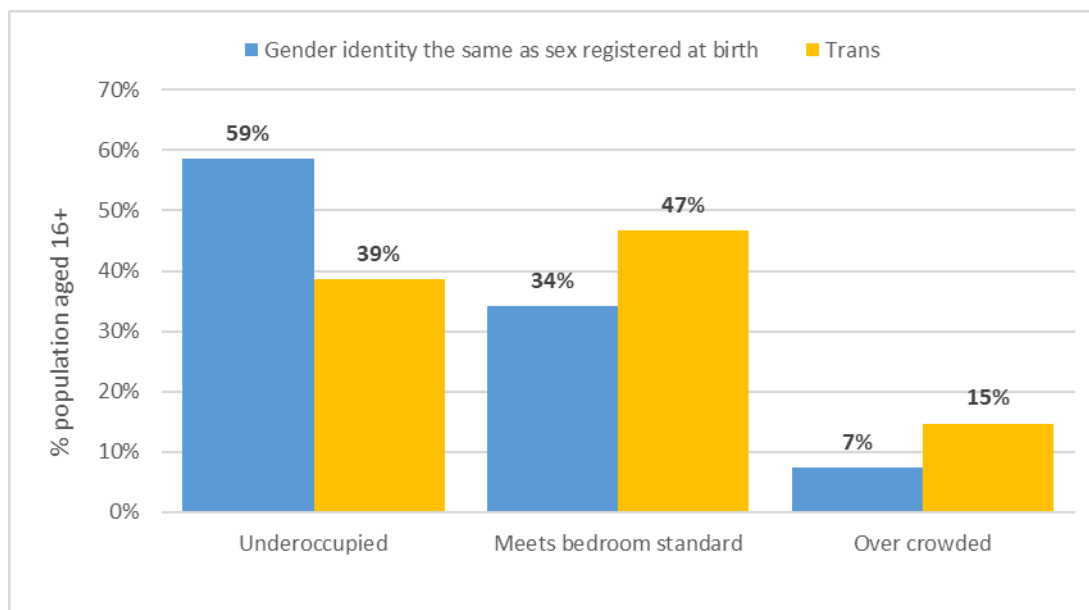
Source: ONS Census 2021



OVERCROWDING

Figure 19: Gender identity and occupancy rating in Bristol

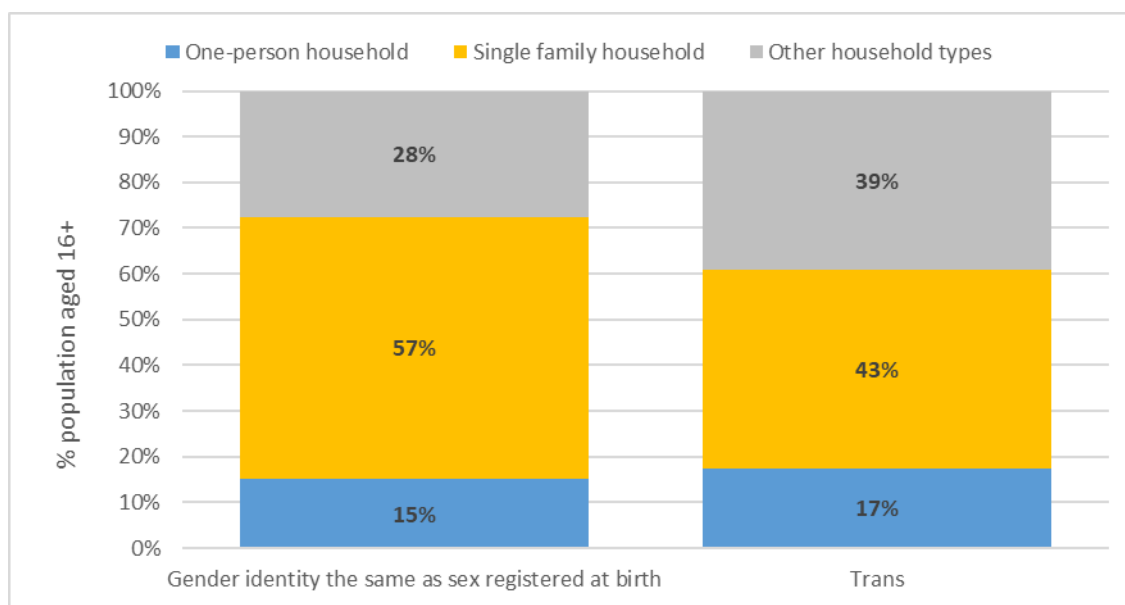
Source: ONS Census 2021



5.11 HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

Figure 20: Gender identity and household composition in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



Note: 'Other household types' include households that aren't just one person or one family and include all student households and houses in multiple occupation (HMOs).

6.0 FURTHER INFORMATION

ONS Census 2021 articles on gender identity:

[Quality of Census 2021 gender identity data - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/people-and-population/census2021/articles/quality-of-census-2021-gender-identity-data)

[Gender identity, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/people-and-population/census2021/articles/gender-identity-england-and-wales)

[Gender identity: age and sex, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/people-and-population/census2021/articles/gender-identity-age-and-sex-england-and-wales)

More information about census results for Bristol, including links to our Census 2021 Dashboards, can be found on the [Bristol City Council Census web page](#). Links to a selection of useful ONS Census tools can also be found here.

A guide to equalities statistics and profiles for other population groups, together with wider information about the Bristol population can be found on our [population web page](#). The equalities statistics guide outlines the main sources of equalities statistics for Bristol, including information on age, sex, ethnic group, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and legal partnership status.

If you have any questions about this report please contact:

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