

# Census 2021 results: *Gender identity and sexual orientation*

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Children and Adults Services

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# Southwark has high levels of trans and LGB+ residents, with distinct demographic, geographic and disability differences

## SUMMARY

**The 2021 census assessed adult respondents' gender identity and sexual orientation for the first time. Multivariate datasets give insight into the lives of local residents identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and other non-cis-gendered and non-heterosexual identities (LGBTQ+).**

- Southwark has one of the highest levels of trans and LGB+ identity in England:
  - About 1 in 80 (1.2%; about 3,200) 16+ yr residents reported a gender identity different from their birth sex registration, significantly higher than London (0.9%) and England (0.5%) levels.
  - More than 1 in 12 (8.1%; about 20,700) 16+ yr residents reported an LGB+ sexual identity, double the levels in London (4.3%) and England (3.2%).
- Of Southwark's trans residents, about half had no specific gender identity; the remainder mostly identified as trans men, trans women or non-binary.
- Southwark's LGB+ residents mainly identified as lesbian or gay (around 1 in 20 of all residents) or bisexual or pansexual (about 1 in 30).
- There was a younger age profile among local trans residents (driven by differing age patterns in 'other' gender identity residents) and LGB+ residents (driven by age patterns among LB+ women), compared with cis-gendered and heterosexual residents.
- Burgess Park neighbourhood was home to a large cluster of residents with a gender identity different to their birth sex registration but no specific gender identity term, and with a non-heterosexual identity other than lesbian, gay or bisexual.
- Higher disability levels were seen among local trans and LGB+ populations, despite their younger age profile. Trans resident's self-reported general health was worse than cis-gendered residents; LGB+ residents' health was better than heterosexual residents' health.

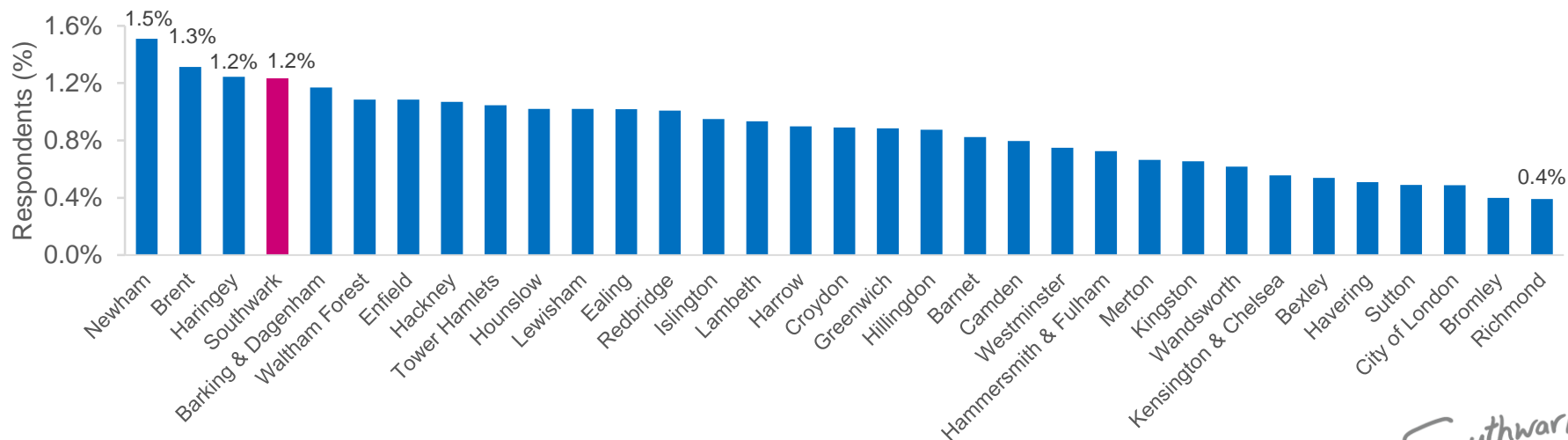
# At least 3,200 Southwark people have a gender identity different from their sex at birth: about 1 in 80 residents

## GENDER IDENTITY: PREVALENCE

Census respondents were asked whether their gender identity was the same as their sex registered at birth.

- In Southwark, about 1 in 80 (1.2%; 3,200) 16+ yr residents reported a gender identity different from their birth sex registration, significantly higher than London (0.9%) and England (0.5%) levels.
- Southwark ranked 5th highest in England and 4th highest in London for levels of trans identity.
- These are probably substantial under-estimates. 7.3% of Southwark residents did not answer.

Figure 1: Proportion of 16+ yr respondents with a gender identity different from their sex registered at birth, by London borough, March 2021



### Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Gender identity, England and Wales: Census 2021. Data for 16+ yr usual residents.

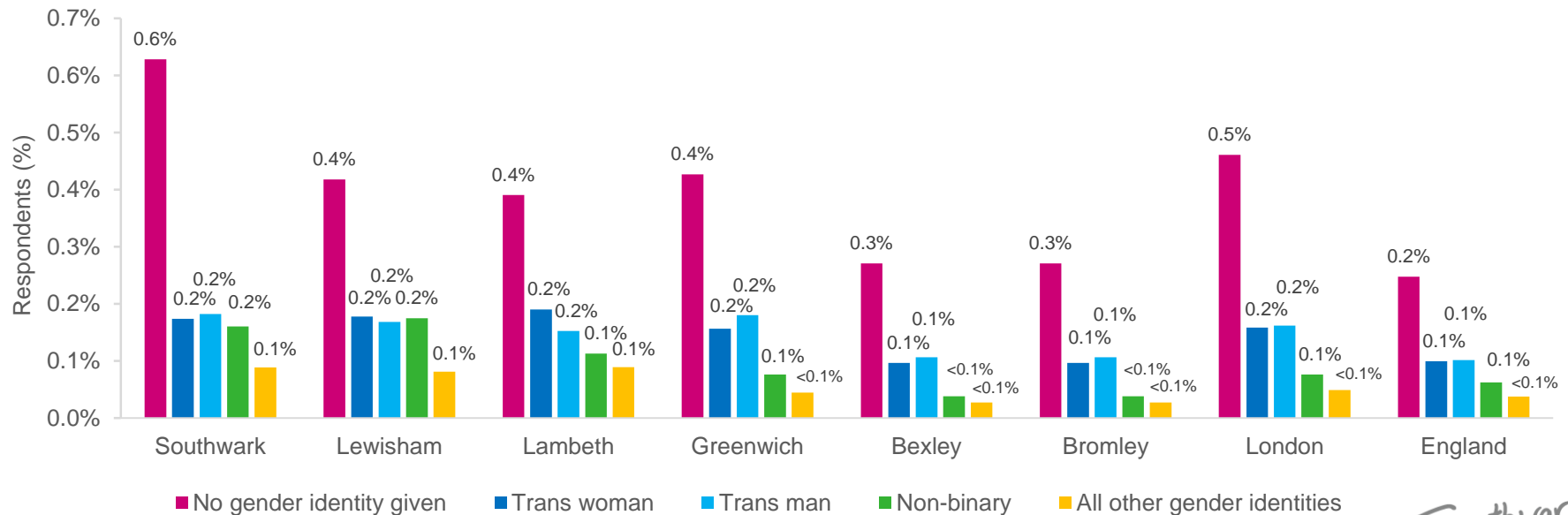
# Half of Southwark trans people use no specific identity term; most others use 'trans woman', 'trans man' or 'non-binary'

## GENDER IDENTITY: IDENTITY TYPES

Census respondents whose gender identity differed from their sex registration at birth were asked to write in their gender identity.

- Around half (51%; 1,600) of all Southwark trans people did not write in a specific gender identity; other South East London boroughs, London and England had a similar pattern.
- As at March 2021, Southwark had about 450 trans men, 450 trans women, 400 non-binary and 250 'other' gender identity residents.

Figure 2: Proportion of 16+ yr respondents with a gender identity different from their sex registered at birth, by specific gender identity, for Southwark, other south east London boroughs, London and England, March 2021



### Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Gender identity, England and Wales: Census 2021. Data for 16+ yr usual residents.

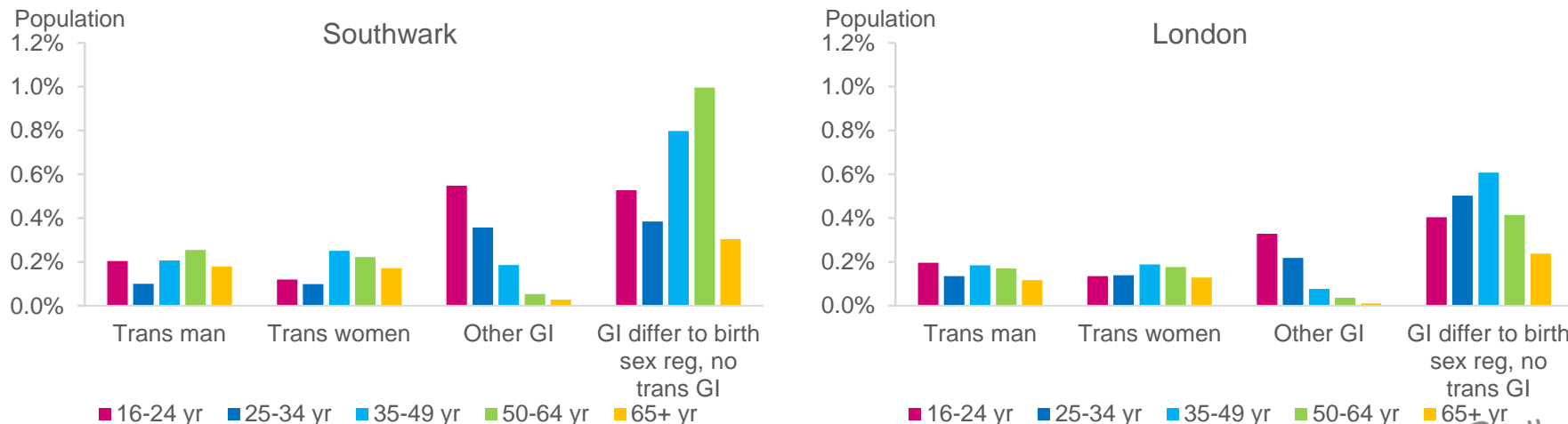
# 1 in 200 Southwark under-25 yr olds identifies with an 'other' (including non-binary) gender identity

## GENDER IDENTITY: AGE

### Census data breaks down gender identity numbers by age group.

- The age structure of Southwark trans men and trans women residents is spread fairly evenly across the age range.
- In contrast, three-quarters (74.6%) of Southwark's 'other' gender identity (including non-binary) residents are aged under 35 yrs, a pattern seen London-wide. This sub-group makes up nearly one-third (30.6%) of all Southwark residents with a non-cis-gendered identity.
- 1 in 200 (0.55%; about 200 people) Southwark 16-24 yr olds identifies with an 'other' gender identity (including non-binary); this is two-thirds higher than London levels (0.33%).
- The age profile of those with gender identity differing from their birth sex registration but no specific identity is very different to trans-identified residents, in both Southwark and London.

Figure 3: Proportion of 16+ yr respondents reporting trans identity, for specific gender identities, by age group, for Southwark and London, March 2021



#### Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Sexual orientation and gender identity data combining multiple variables, England and Wales: Census 2021. Data for 16+ yr usual residents. GI = gender identity; reg = registration.

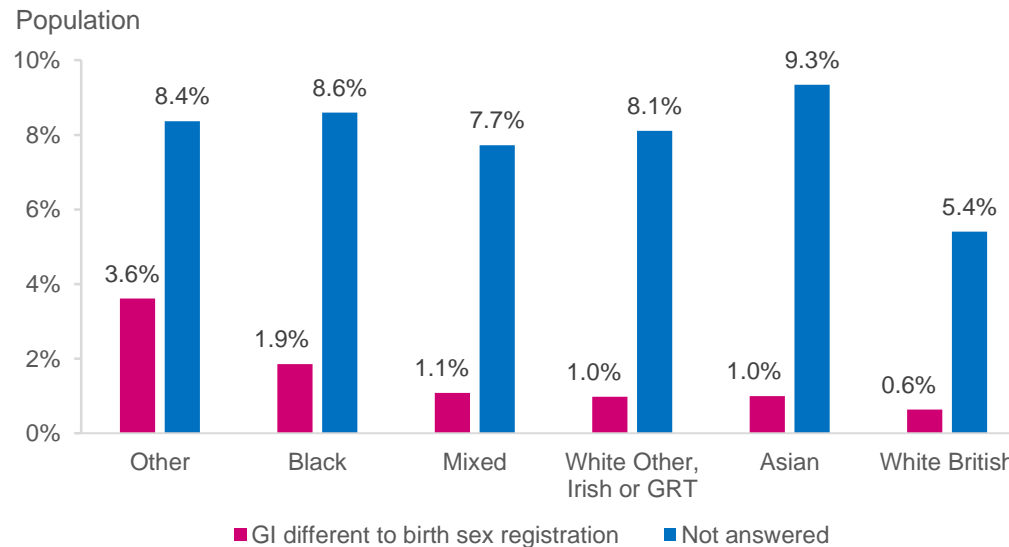
# In Southwark, trans identity is more likely among 'Other' and Black ethnic groups

## GENDER IDENTITY: ETHNICITY

### Gender identity data is available broken down by main ethnic group.

- Among Southwark adult residents, highest levels of trans identity (i.e. gender identity differing from birth sex registration) occurred in 'Other' (1 in 30; 3.6%; about 600 people) and Black (1 in 50; 1.9%; about 1,100 people) ethnic groups; levels in other ethnic groups were significantly lower.
- About 1 in 12 (7.3%) Southwark residents did not answer the census gender identity question; these non-respondents were much more likely to be from non-White-British ethnic groups. Thus, trans identity is likely to be more under-reported in those groups than among White British respondents.

Figure 4: Proportion of Southwark 16+ yr respondents reporting trans identity or no response, by main ethnic group, March 2021

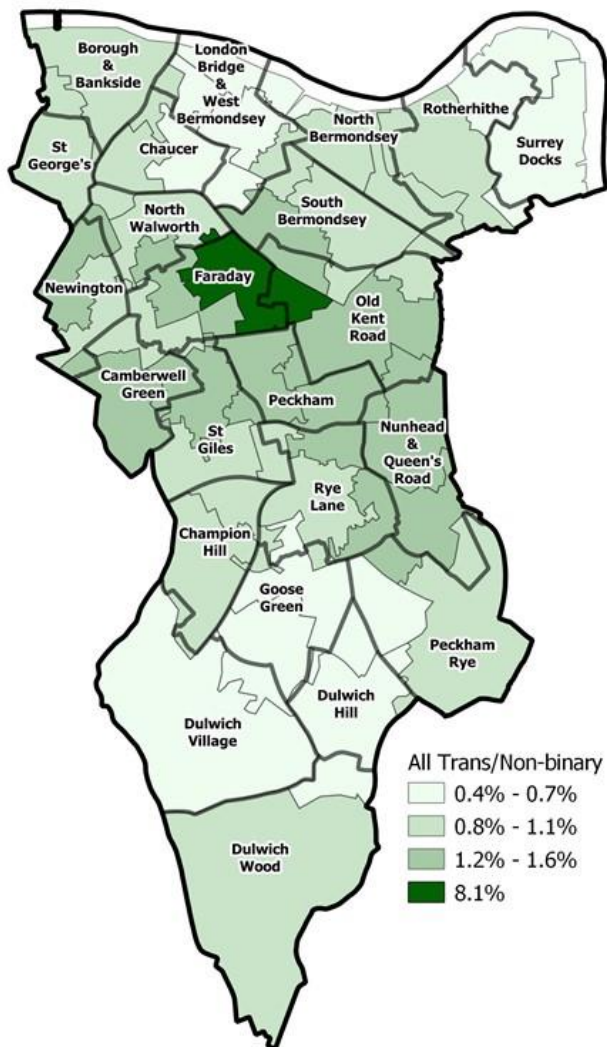


#### Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Sexual orientation and gender identity data combining multiple variables, England and Wales: Census 2021. Data for 16+ yr usual residents. GI = gender identity; GRT = Gypsy, Roma and Traveller.

# Southwark's Burgess Park neighbourhood has the highest prevalence of trans residents in England: 8% (1 in 12)

## GENDER IDENTITY: ALL TRANS



**Census 2021 data reported the prevalence of total trans residents at large neighbourhood (MSOA) level.**

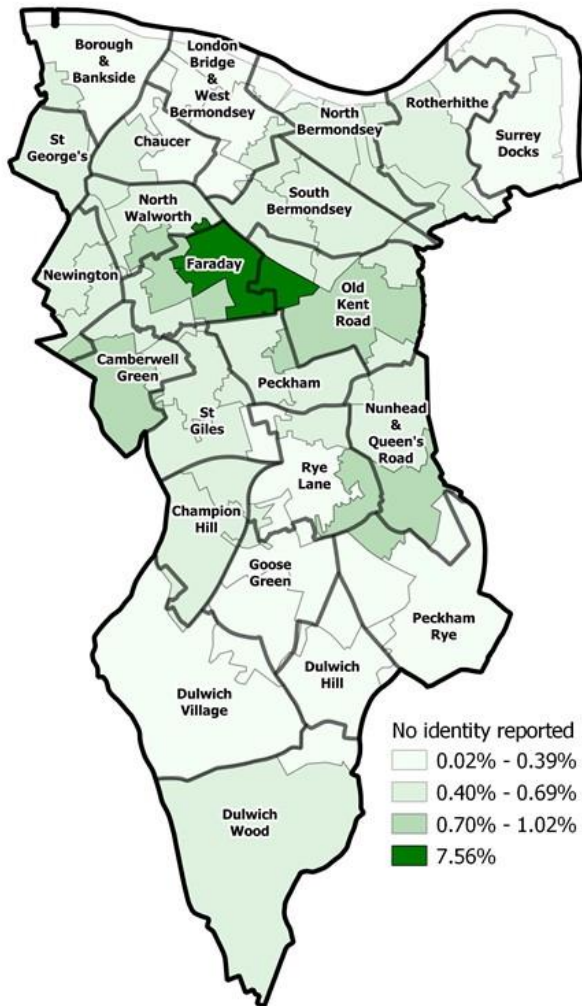
- Over 1 in 12 (8.1%; about 600) residents in Southwark's Burgess Park neighbourhood area (extending across Faraday and Old Kent Road wards) reported a gender identity differing from their birth sex registration; this was the highest trans prevalence in England (far ahead of 3.8% in East Central Oxford and 2.4% in Manor Park, Newham). The Burgess Park neighbourhood area was home to almost one-fifth (19.0%) of all Southwark trans residents.
- The next highest ranking Southwark neighbourhoods had far lower prevalences: around 1 in 70 (about 100 residents):
  - Nunhead North, 1.6%
  - Peckham Park Road, 1.6%
  - Walworth South, 1.6%
- Southwark's Herne Hill & Dulwich Park neighbourhood areas had the lowest proportions of trans residents, at 0.4% (fewer than 1 in 200; fewer than 30 residents).

### Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Census 2021: gender identity. MSOA = middle super output area.

# Southwark trans people without a specific gender identity are heavily clustered in Burgess Park

## GENDER IDENTITY: TRANS BUT NO SPECIFIC GENDER IDENTITY



**Census 2021 data included large neighbourhood (MSOA) level data for non-cis-gendered residents without a specific gender identity.**

- About 1,600 Southwark residents had a gender identity differing from their birth sex registration but no specific gender identity; proportions varied greatly across the borough.
- In the Burgess Park neighbourhood area, 1 in 13 residents (7.6%; about 550) reported a gender identity different from their birth sex registration but no specific gender identity term. (This group accounted for almost all (93%) of all trans residents in this neighbourhood area, and over 1 in 6 (18%) of all Southwark trans people.)
- Elsewhere, prevalence of trans people without a specific gender identity term was much lower, ranging from 1 in 100 (1.0%; about 100) in part of Nunhead & Queen's Road / Rye Lane, down to less than 1 in 1,000 (0.02%; fewer than 10) in Dulwich Village.

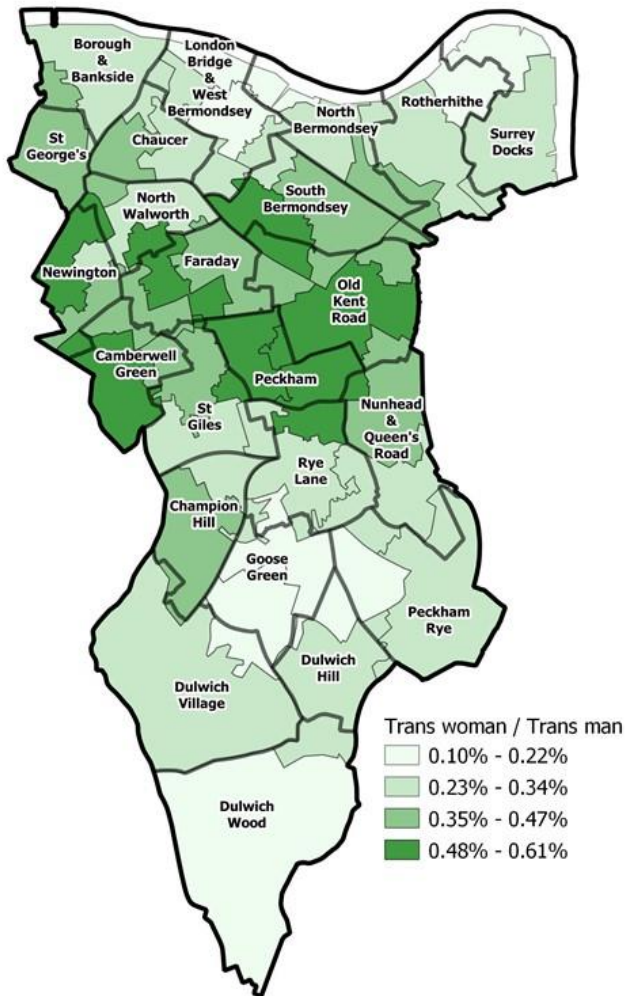
### Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Census 2021: gender identity.



# Residents identifying as trans men or trans women were most prevalent in north-central Southwark

## GENDER IDENTITY: TRANS MAN & TRANS WOMAN



### Census 2021 data showed:

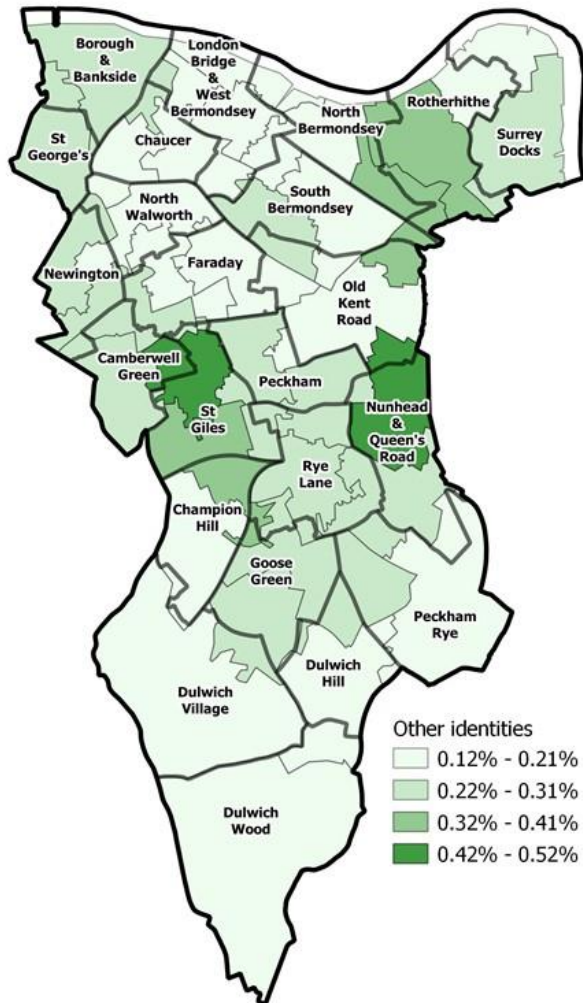
- The prevalence of residents identifying as trans men or trans women was spread more evenly across the borough.
- In parts of North Walworth, Faraday, Peckham and Rye Lane, about 1 in 170 people (about 0.6%) identified as trans men or trans women.
- In parts of Rotherhithe and Surrey Docks, fewer than 1 in 1,000 (0.1%) identified in this way.

#### Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Census 2021: gender identity.

# Residents with other trans identities (most commonly non-binary) were most prevalent in central Southwark

## GENDER IDENTITY: OTHER TRANS IDENTITIES



### Census 2021 data showed:

- Southwark residents reporting other trans identities (other than trans man or trans woman; most commonly non-binary) were unevenly distributed across the borough.
- In parts of Camberwell Green, St Giles and Nunhead & Queen's Road, around 1 in 200 residents (0.5%) identified in this way.

#### Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Census 2021: gender identity.

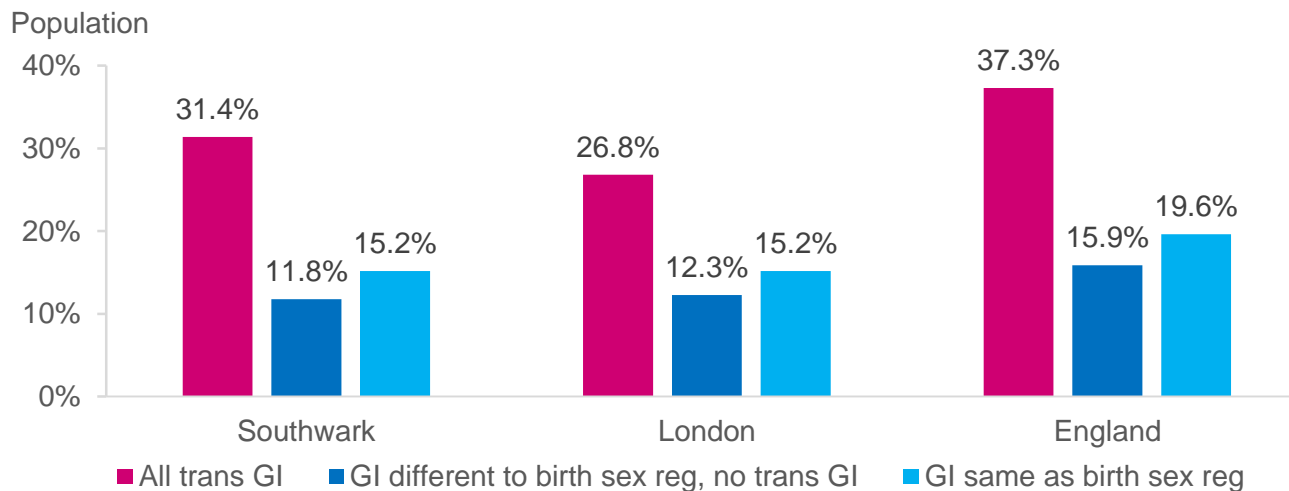
# Trans people have double the disability level of cis-gendered people, across Southwark, London and England

## GENDER IDENTITY: DISABILITY 1

### Census 2021 collected data on disability, broken down by gender identity type.

- Trans-identified people had about double the disability prevalence of cis-gendered people, across Southwark, London and England.
- Almost 1 in 3 (31%) Southwark trans-identified residents reported being disabled; levels were significantly higher than in London (about 1 in 4; 26.8%), but significantly lower than in England (about two-fifths; 37.3%).
- People reporting a different gender identity to their birth sex registration but no specific gender identity had significantly lower disability levels compared with cis-gendered people, across Southwark, London and England.

Figure 5: Proportion of 16+ yr respondents of different gender identities reporting a disability, by gender identity type, for Southwark, London and England, March 2021



#### Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Sexual orientation and gender identity data combining multiple variables, England and Wales: Census 2021. Data for 16+ yr usual residents. GI = gender identity; reg = registration

# 'Other' trans identity people have much higher levels of moderate disability than trans men and trans women

## GENDER IDENTITY: DISABILITY 2

### Census data reports disability levels for people with different gender identities.

- London- and England-wide, trans men and trans women had significantly higher levels of substantial (i.e. much limitation) and moderate (i.e. a little limitation) disability than cis-gendered people.
- In Southwark, trans men had significantly higher levels of substantial disability (1 in 10; 11%), while trans women had significantly higher levels of moderate disability (1 in 8; 13%), compared with cis-gendered people (6% substantial disability and 9% moderate disability).
- People with 'other' trans identities generally had double the substantial disability level and triple the moderate disability level, compared with cis-gendered people, across Southwark, London and England.
- In Southwark, levels of total disability were and almost three times higher in 'other' trans identity people (despite their younger age) (over two-fifths; 45%), and over two-fifths higher in trans men and trans women (1 in 5; 22% and 21%, respectively), compared with cis-gendered people (1 in 6; 15%).

Figure 6: Proportion of 16+ yr respondents of different gender identity types, and non-respondents, reporting a disability, by disability level, for Southwark, London and England, March 2021



#### Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Sexual orientation and gender identity data combining multiple variables, England and Wales: Census 2021. Data for 16+ yr usual residents.

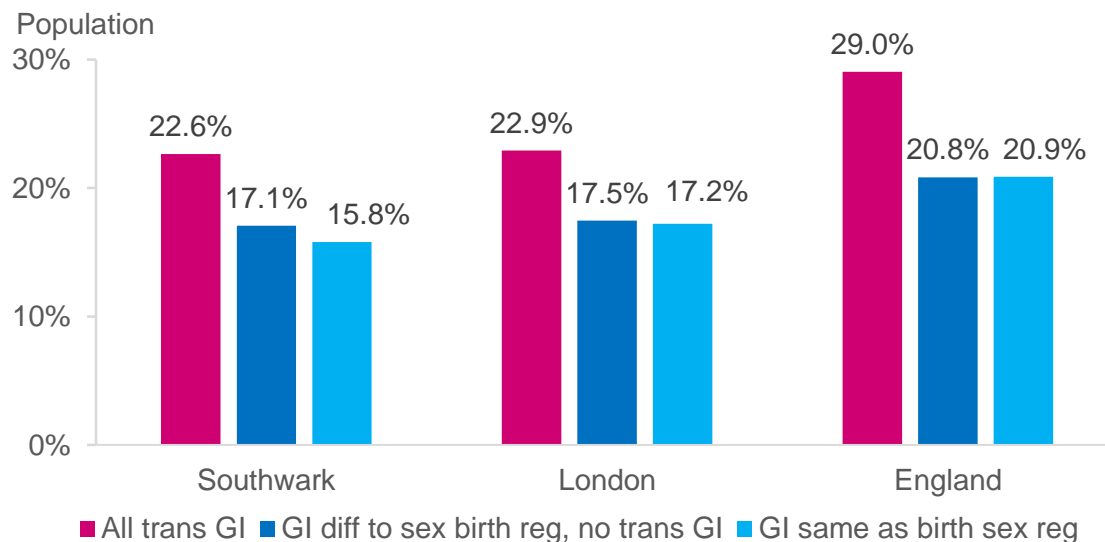
# Southwark trans-identified residents report worse general health than cis-gendered residents

## GENDER IDENTITY: GENERAL HEALTH 1

### Census data on gender identity is broken down by self-reported general health.

- In Southwark, very bad, bad or fair health was reported by over 1 in 5 (22.6%) trans-identified residents (i.e. trans man, trans woman or other trans identity); levels were one-third higher than in cis-gendered residents (about 1 in 6; 15.8%).
- A similar pattern was seen across London and England.
- Southwark residents with a gender identity different from their birth sex registration but no specific gender identity had similar levels of poor to health as cis-gendered residents (17.1% and 15.8%, respectively).

Figure 7: Proportion of 16+ yr respondents of different gender identities reporting very bad, bad or fair health, by gender identity type, for Southwark, London and England, March 2021



#### Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Sexual orientation and gender identity data combining multiple variables, England and Wales: Census 2021. Data for 16+ yr usual residents. GI = gender identity; reg = registration

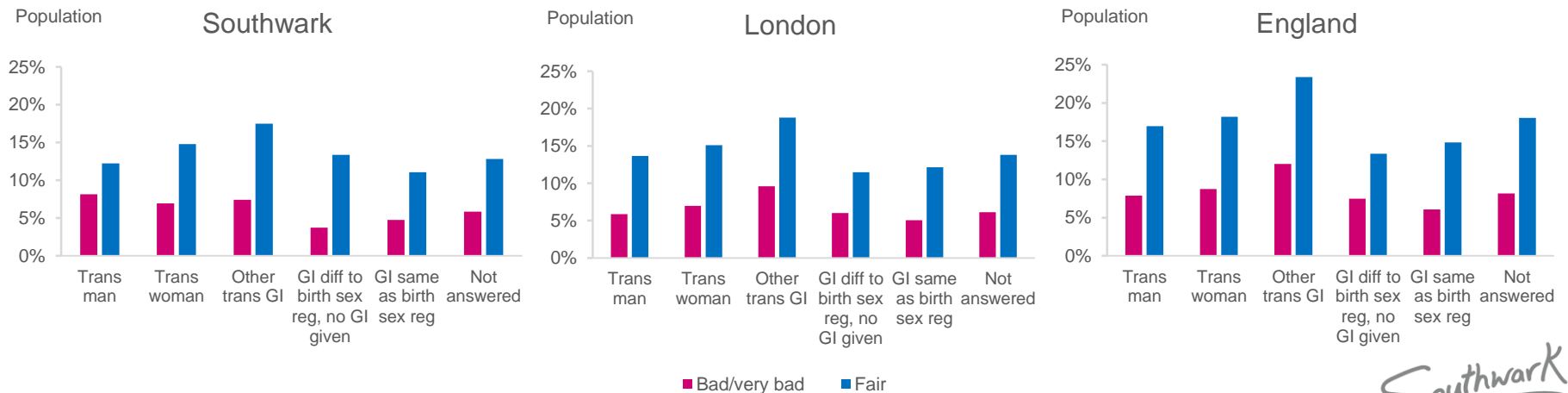
# Trans men, trans women and other gender identity residents all report worse general health

## GENDER IDENTITY: GENERAL HEALTH 2

### Census data is available by gender identity type and self-reported general health level.

- In Southwark, about 1 in 5 trans men (20.4%) and trans women (21.8%), and 1 in 4 (24.9%) residents with other trans identities, reported their health as very bad, bad or fair; about 350 people. Levels were significantly higher than among cis-gendered people (15.8%). London and England trends were similar.
- Bad or very bad health was reported by at least 1 in 14 Southwark trans men (8.2%), trans women (7.0%) and other gender identity residents (7.4%), significantly higher levels than for cis-gendered residents (4.8%).
- A similar pattern was seen for fair health: levels ranged from 1 in 8 for trans men (12.2%), to about 1 in 6 for trans women (14.8%) and other trans identity residents (17.5%); cis-gender levels were 1 in 10 (11.1%).
- The health disparities of 'other' trans identified residents are despite their younger age profile.

Figure 8: Proportion of 16+ yr respondents of different gender identities, and no response, reporting various health statuses, by bad/very bad or fair health, for Southwark, London and England, March 2021



#### Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Sexual orientation and gender identity data combining multiple variables, England and Wales: Census 2021. Data for 16+ yr usual residents. GI = gender identity; reg = registration.

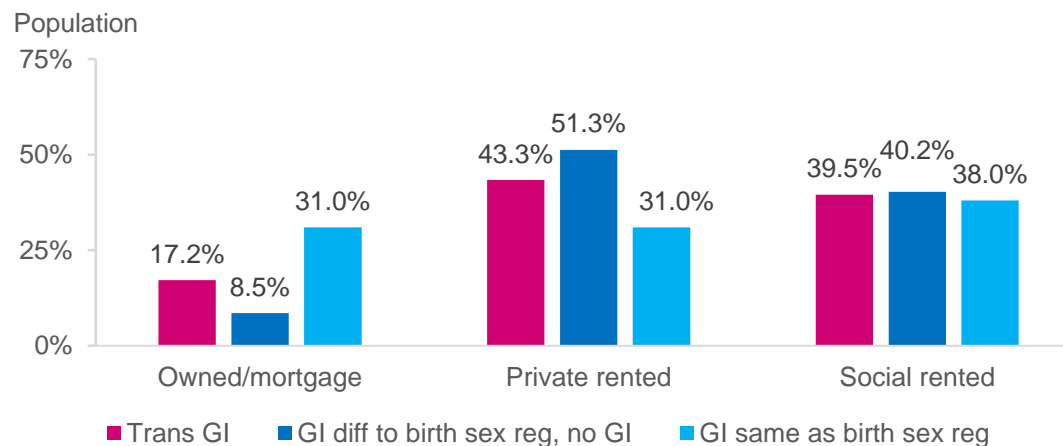
# Trans-identified residents are half as likely to own their own homes or have a mortgage

## GENDER IDENTITY: HOUSING

### Gender identity data is available for different types of housing tenure.

- Southwark adult residents with a specific trans identity (i.e. trans man, trans women or 'other' gender identity) were half as likely to own their own home or have a mortgage, compared with cis-gendered residents (proportions were 1 in 6 (17.2%) vs 1 in 3 (31.0%), respectively).
- Trans-identified residents were more likely to be in private rented housing than cis-gendered residents.
- Among residents with gender identity different to birth sex registration but no specific gender identity, housing tenure patterns differed significantly from both trans-identified and cis-gendered residents.
- Residents with 'other' gender identities were twice as likely to live in private rental housing, and four-fifths less likely to live in social rental housing, compared with trans men and trans women combined (private rental: two-thirds (66.0%) vs one-quarter (28.3%), respectively; social rental: 1 in 6 (13.5%) vs one-half (56.7%), respectively). Between-group age profile differences probably account for some of the disparity.

Figure 9: Proportion of Southwark 16+ yr respondents with different housing tenure types, by gender identity category, March 2021



#### Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Sexual orientation and gender identity data combining multiple variables, England and Wales: Census 2021. Data for 16+ yr usual residents. Trans GI = trans man, trans women or other non-cis-gendered identity; GI = gender identity; reg = registration.

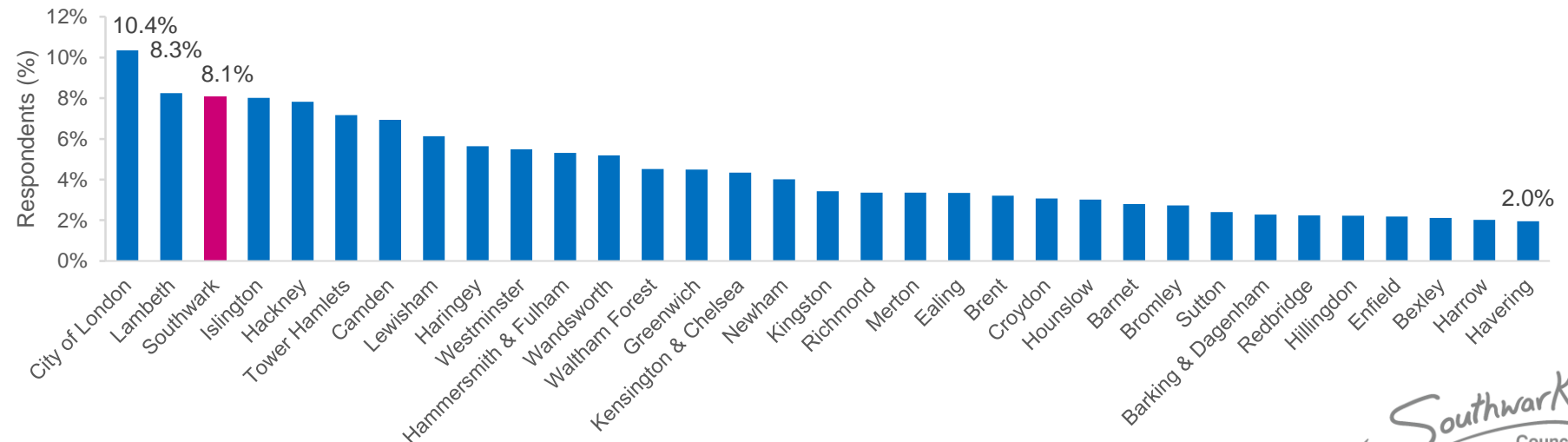
# More than 1 in 12 Southwark residents have an LGB+ sexual identity: about 20,700 residents

## SEXUAL ORIENTATION: PREVALENCE

**Census respondents were asked which term best described their sexual orientation: straight or heterosexual; gay or lesbian; bisexual; or another orientation.**

- In Southwark, more than 1 in 12 (8.1%; 20,700) residents reported an LGB+ sexual identity, around double the levels for London (4.3%) and England (3.2%).
- Southwark ranked 4th highest in England and 3rd highest in London. Seven of the top 10 local authorities were in London.
- Due to social stigma around non-heterosexual identities, these figures are likely to be substantial under-estimates. Almost 1 in 10 (9.2%) Southwark residents did not answer the census sexual orientation question.

Figure 10: Proportion of London 16+ yr respondents with an LGB+ identity, by borough of residence, March 2021



### Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Sexual orientation, England and Wales: Census 2021. Data for 16+ yr usual residents.



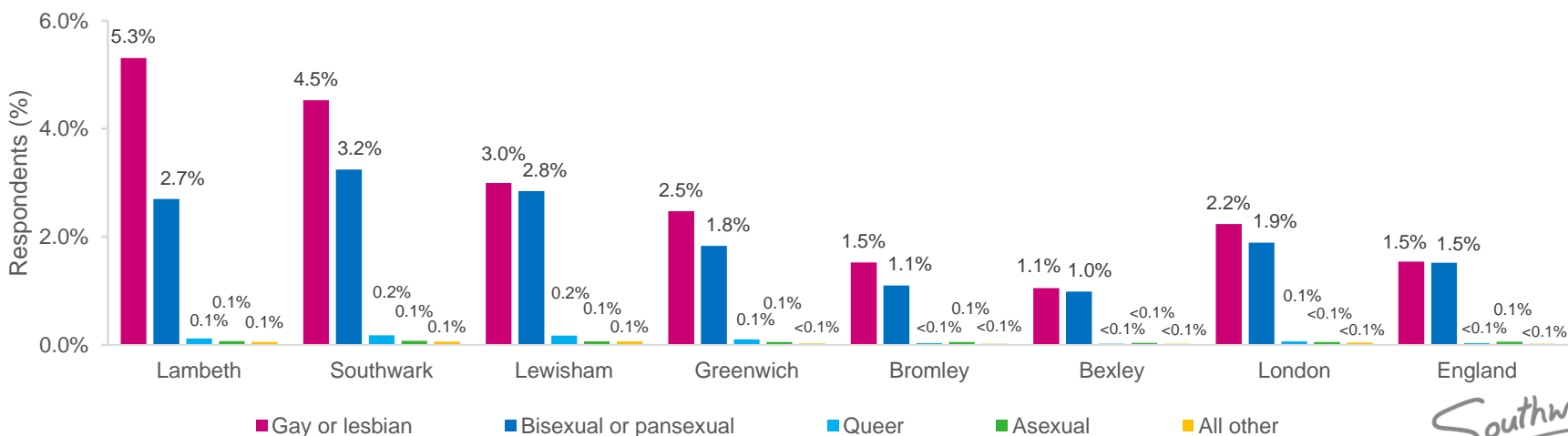
# 1 in 20 Southwark residents identify as lesbian or gay, and 1 in 30 identify as bisexual or pansexual

## SEXUAL ORIENTATION: IDENTITY TYPES

Census respondents who chose 'other sexual orientation' were asked to write in the orientation with which they identified.

- Southwark's LGB+ population predominantly identified as lesbian/gay (over one-half of LGB+ residents; 56%) or bisexual/pansexual (two-fifths; 40%).
- Around 1 in 20 of all Southwark adult residents (4.5%; 11,600 people) identified as lesbian or gay; about 1 in 30 (3.2%; 8,300) identified as bisexual or pansexual; and 0.2% identified as queer (450), 0.1% as asexual (200) and 0.1% with another LGB+ identity (150).
- Southwark had over double the lesbian/gay prevalence and over one-half higher bisexual/pansexual prevalence, compared with London and England levels.

Figure 11: Proportion of 16+ yr respondents with an LGB+ identity, by specific sexual identity term, for south-east London boroughs, London and England, March 2021



### Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Sexual orientation, England and Wales: Census 2021. Data represent 16+ yr usual residents.

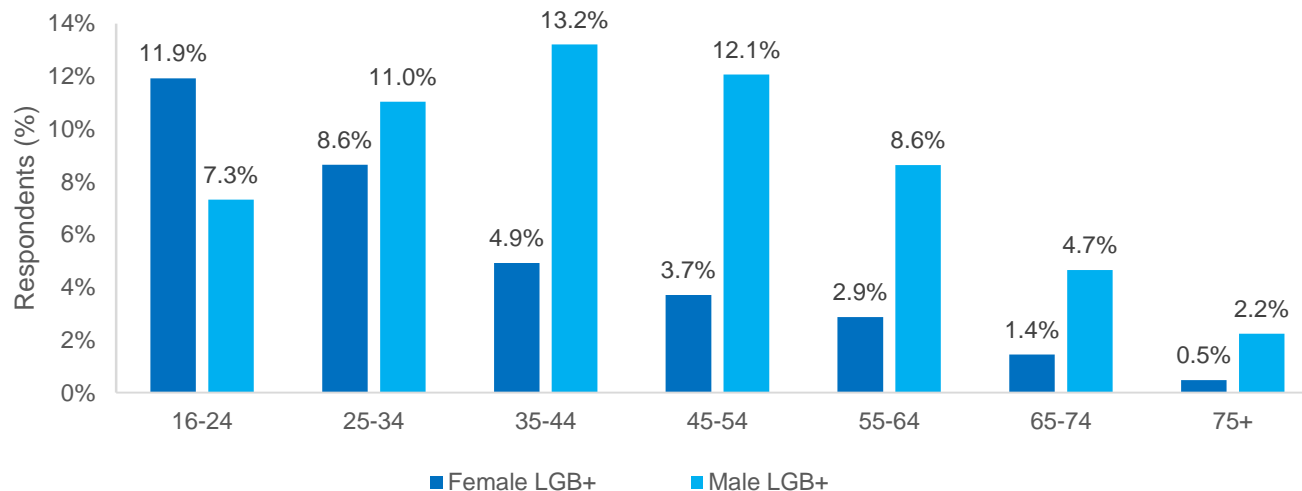
# 1 in 16 Southwark women and 1 in 10 men are LGB+; levels are highest in young women and middle-aged men

## SEXUAL ORIENTATION: AGE AND SEX

### Age and sex data are available for LGB+ residents.

- Over 1 in 16 Southwark women (6.2%; 8,300 people) identify as LB+. Levels peaked in young adults: at least 1 in 8 LB+ women were aged 16–24 yr (11.9%; 2,500). The majority of Southwark LB+ women (over two-thirds; 69%) were aged under 35 yr.
- More than 1 in 10 Southwark men (10.1%; 12,400) identify as GB+. Levels peak in middle-age: more than 1 in 8 GB+ men were aged 35–44 (13.2%; 3,100). The majority of Southwark GB+ men (over three-quarters; 76%) were aged between 25 and 54 yr.
- Two-thirds (69.1%) of all Southwark LB+ women were under 35 yrs of age, compared with two-fifths (41.7%) of heterosexual peers; figures for Southwark u35 yr males were more comparable (GB+, 42.2%; straight, 43.7%).

Figure 12: Proportion of Southwark 16+ yr respondents identifying as LGB+, by age group (yrs) and sex, March 2021



#### Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Sexual orientation (4 categories) by age and sex, England and Wales: Census 2021. Data represent 16+ yr usual residents.

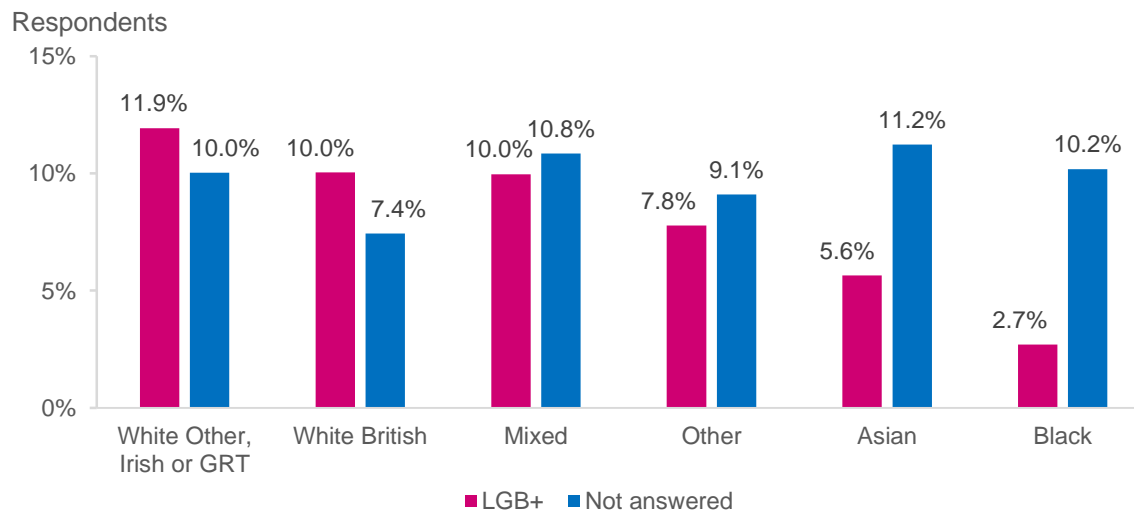
# Highest levels of LGB+ identity are seen in White Other/Irish/GRT, White British and Mixed ethnic groups

## SEXUAL ORIENTATION: ETHNICITY

### Sexual orientation data was available broken down by main ethnic group.

- An LGB+ sexual identity was significantly more likely in Southwark adult residents from White Other/Irish/Gypsy/Roma/Traveller (1 in 8; 11.9%; about 5,400 people), White British (1 in 10; 10.0%; about 9,500) and Mixed (1 in 10; 10.0%; about 1,400) ethnic groups, compared with those from 'Other' (1 in 12; 7.8%; about 1,300), Asian (1 in 20; 5.7%; about 1,500) and Black (1 in 40; 2.7%; about 1,600) groups.
- Southwark residents from non-White-British ethnic groups were significantly less likely to answer the sexual orientation census question. Thus, sexual orientation is likely to be more under-reported in those groups than among White British respondents.

Figure 13: Proportion of Southwark 16+ yr respondents from different ethnic groups reporting an LGB+ sexual identity, or not responding, March 2021

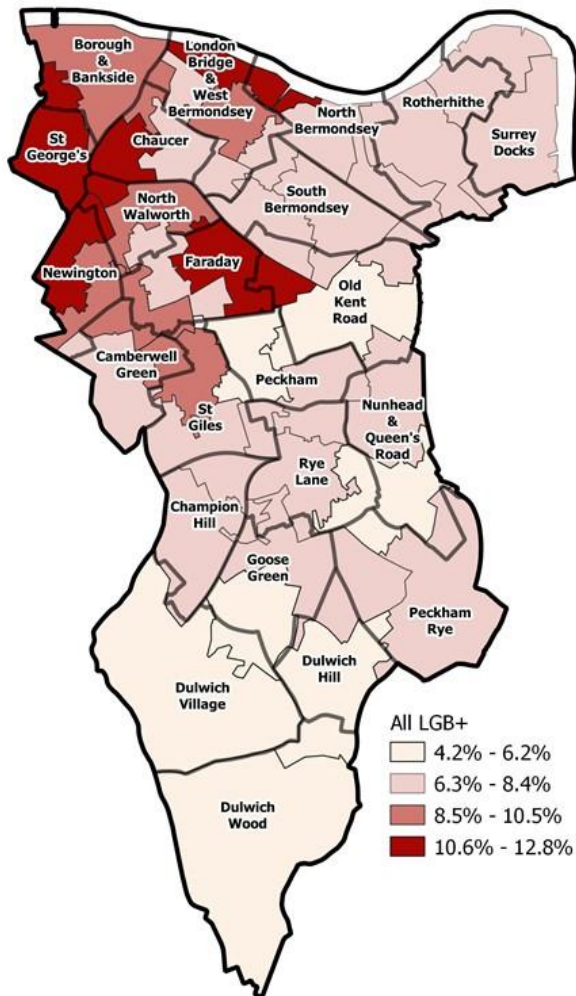


#### Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Sexual orientation and gender identity data combining multiple variables, England and Wales: Census 2021. Data for 16+ yr usual residents. GRT = Gypsy, Roma and Traveller.

# Southwark's Burgess Park neighbourhood has the highest LGB+ prevalence: over 1 in 8 residents

## SEXUAL ORIENTATION: ALL LGB+



## ONS census data gives prevalence of LGB+ identity by large neighbourhood (MSOA) area.

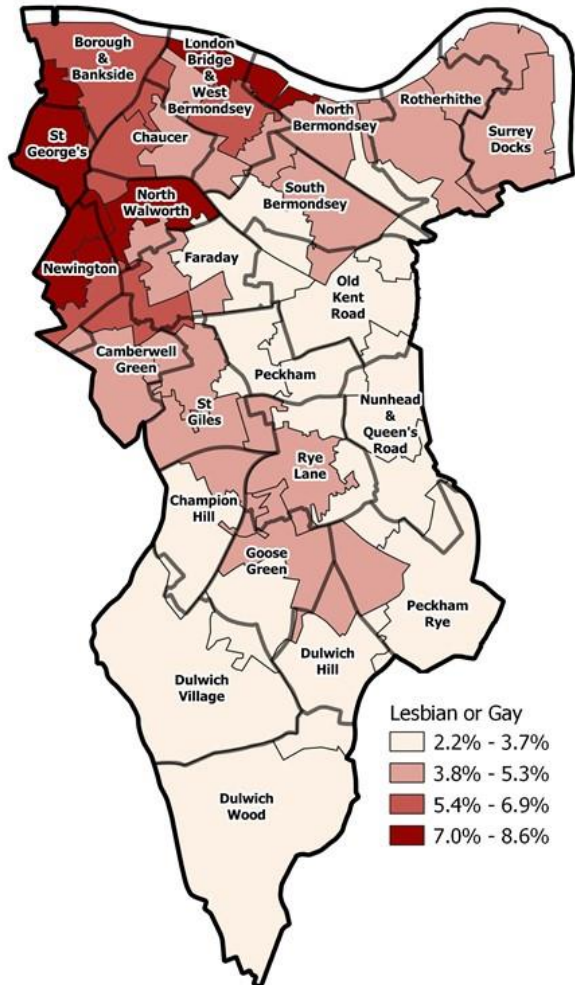
- The highest ranking Southwark neighbourhood was Burgess Park (extending across Faraday and Old Kent Road wards), where over 1 in 8 (12.8%; about 950) residents reported an LGB+ identity.
- The next highest ranking Southwark neighbourhoods all had prevalences of more than 1 in 10:
  - Newington, Kennington East & Walworth West MSOA: 12.7%
  - Elephant & Castle MSOA: 11.7%
  - Southwark St George's MSOA: 11.1%
- Southwark's Herne Hill & Dulwich Park neighbourhoods had the lowest proportion of LGB+ residents, at 4.2% (fewer than 1 in 20).

### Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Census 2021: Sexual orientation. Data represent 16+ yr usual residents. MSOA = middle super output area.

# Residents identifying as lesbian or gay are most prevalent in north, north-west and west-central areas

## SEXUAL ORIENTATION: LESBIAN OR GAY



### Census 2021 data showed:

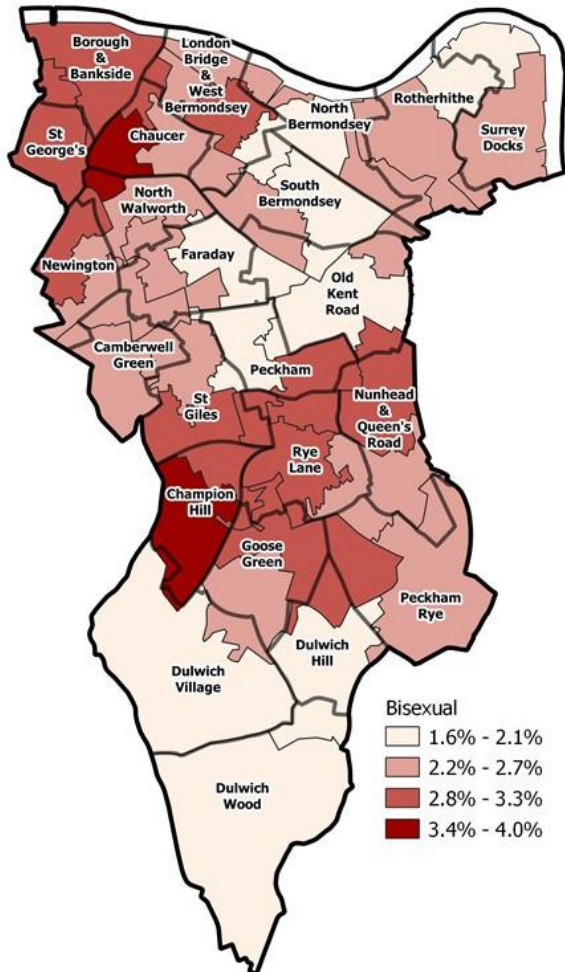
- Residents identifying as lesbian or gay were most prevalent in north, north-west and west-central parts of the borough.
- The highest prevalence was in part of Newington ward, where more than 1 in 12 (8.6%) of residents identified as lesbian or gay.
- The lowest prevalence was in areas of Old Kent Road and Dulwich Village wards, where about 1 in 50 (2.2%) identified as lesbian or gay.

#### Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Census 2021: Sexual orientation. Data represent 16+ yr usual residents.

# Bisexual residents were most prevalent in parts of Chaucer and Champion Hill

## SEXUAL ORIENTATION: BISEXUAL



### Census 2021 data showed:

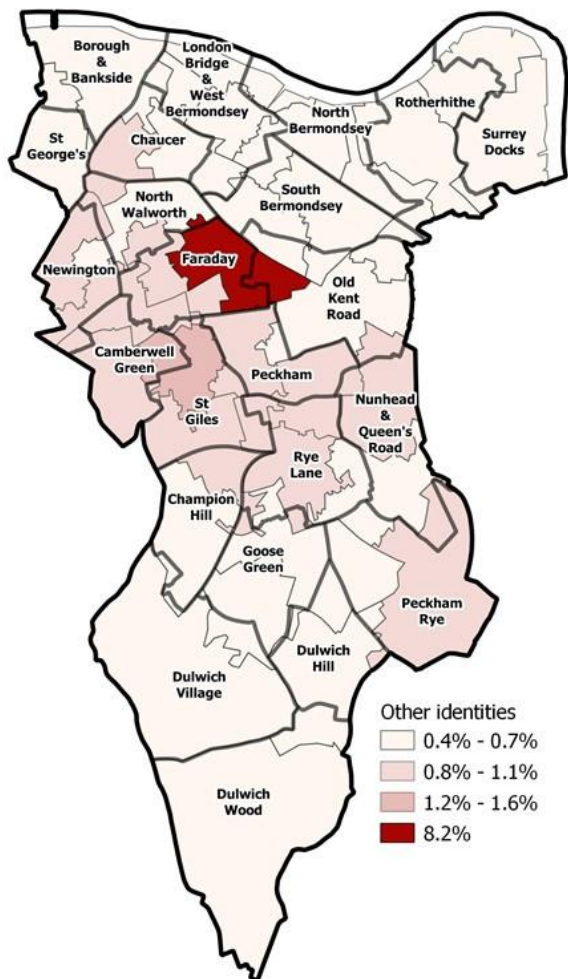
- Neighbourhood areas with high levels of bisexual residents differed from patterns for lesbian and gay residents.
- The highest prevalence of bisexual residents was in areas of Chaucer and Champion Hill wards, where about 1 in 25 (4.0%) residents identified as bisexual.
- Lowest prevalence was in the Burgess Park neighbourhood area, where fewer than 1 in 60 (1.6%) identified as bisexual.

#### Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Census 2021: Sexual orientation. Data represent 16+ yr usual residents.

# Burgess Park area is home to one-quarter of Southwark residents with other non-heterosexual identities

## SEXUAL ORIENTATION: OTHER SEXUAL IDENTITIES



### Census 2021 data showed:

- Residents with sexual identities other than lesbian, gay or bisexual were not distributed evenly across the borough.
- The Burgess Park neighbourhood area had far higher levels of residents with other non-heterosexual identities: about 1 in 12 (8.2%; about 600) residents. This area was home to almost one-quarter of all Southwark residents with other non-heterosexual identities.
- Elsewhere, prevalence of other non-heterosexual identities ranged from about 1 in 60 (1.6%) in one Camberwell Green/St Giles neighbourhood, down to fewer than 1 in 250 (0.4%) in one Dulwich Village neighbourhood.

#### Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Census 2021: Sexual orientation. Data represent 16+ yr usual residents.

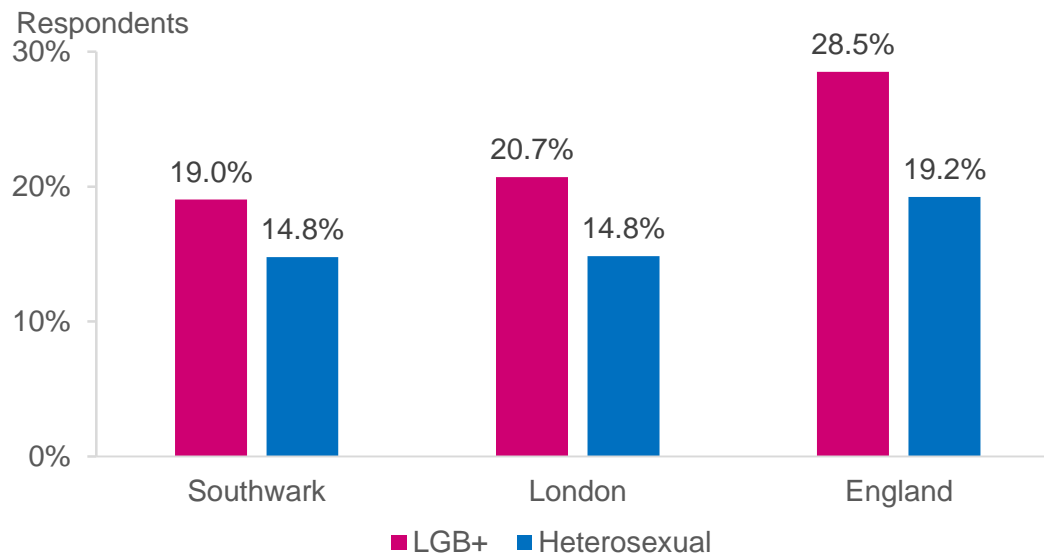
# Disability levels are one-quarter higher in LGB+ residents than heterosexual residents, despite their younger age

## SEXUAL ORIENTATION: DISABILITY 1

### Census 2021 sexual orientation data was broken down by self-reported disability status.

- LGB+ people's disability levels were at least one-quarter higher than heterosexual levels, across Southwark, London and England.
- In Southwark, almost 1 in 5 (19.0%) LGB+ residents reported a disability (over 3,900 people), compared with 1 in 6 (14.8%) heterosexual residents, despite LGB+ residents' younger age profile.
- Southwark LGB+ residents' disability level was lower than London (1 in 5; 20.7%) and England (more than 1 in 4; 28.5%) levels.

Figure 14: Proportion of 16+ yr respondents reporting a disability, by sexual identity, for Southwark, London and England, March 2021



#### Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Sexual orientation and gender identity data combining multiple variables, England and Wales: Census 2021. Data for 16+ yr usual residents.



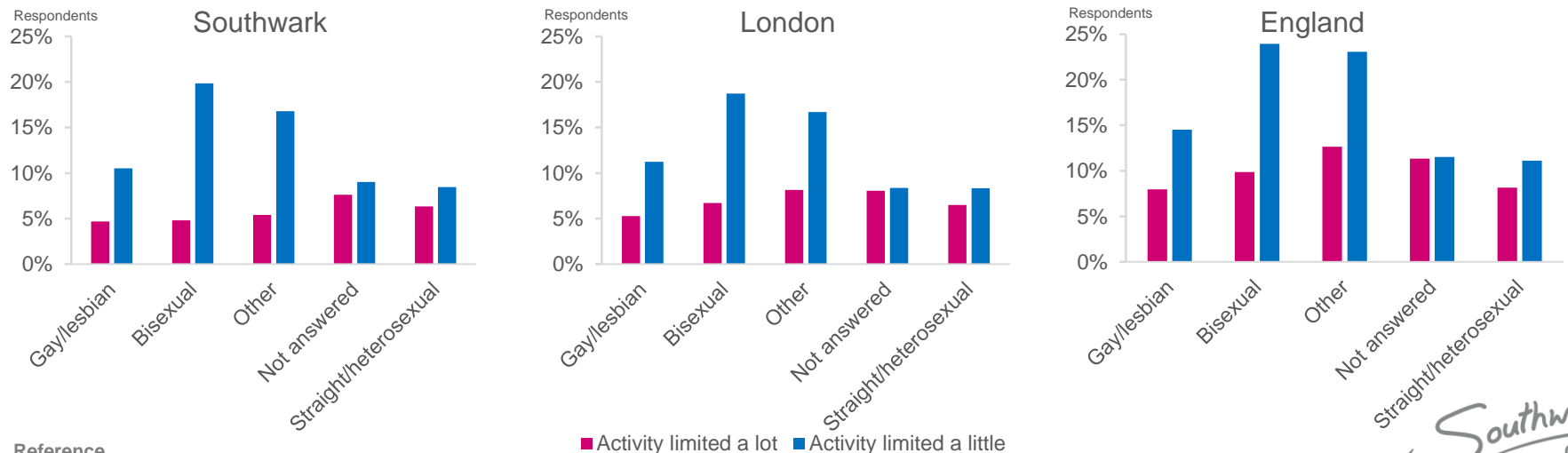
# Disability levels are higher among bisexual and 'other' identified Southwark residents than gay/lesbian residents

## SEXUAL ORIENTATION: DISABILITY 2

### Census data reports disability levels for people with different sexual identities.

- Overall disability levels were substantially higher in Southwark bisexual (1 in 8; 12.3%) and 'other' identified (1 in 10; 11.1%) residents, compared with gay/lesbian (1 in 12; 7.6%) and heterosexual (1 in 12; 7.4%) residents, a pattern repeated London- and England-wide.
- In Southwark, substantial disability was reported by about 1 in 20 lesbian/gay (5.3%) and bisexual (6.7%) people and about 1 in 12 (8.1%) 'other' identified people.
- Across Southwark, London and England, bisexual and 'other' identified people reported substantially higher levels of moderate disability than gay/lesbian people; Southwark levels were 1 in 10 (11.2%) for gay/lesbian residents, 1 in 5 (18.7%) for bisexual residents and 1 in 6 (16.7%) for 'other' identity residents.

Figure 15: Proportion of 16+ yr respondents reporting a disability, by sexual identity and disability level, for Southwark, London and England, March 2021



#### Reference

- ONS, 2023. Sexual orientation and gender identity data combining multiple variables, England and Wales: Census 2021. Data for 16+ yr usual residents.

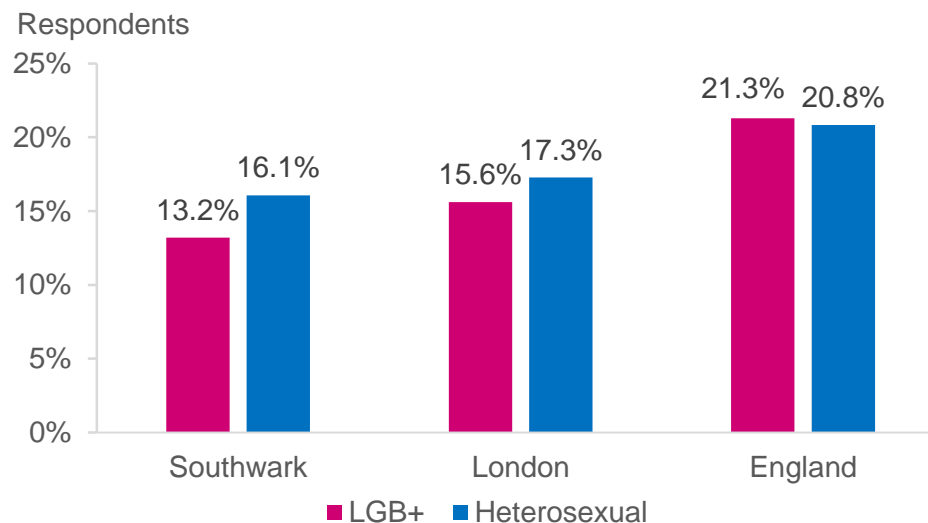
# Poor/fair health is less common among Southwark LGB+ residents, probably partly due to younger age

## SEXUAL ORIENTATION: GENERAL HEALTH 1

### Census 2021 sexual orientation data was broken down by self-reported level of health.

- In March 2021, about 1 in 8 (13.2%) Southwark LGB+ identified residents reported very bad, bad or fair health, a significantly lower level than in heterosexuals (about 1 in 6; 16.1%). This disparity was probably affected by the younger age profile of LGB+ residents.
- The same pattern was found across London, but in England LGB+ people had significantly higher levels of poor to fair health compared with heterosexuals.
- Southwark had significantly lower levels of poor to fair health among LGB+ residents compared with London LGB+ levels.

Figure 16: Proportion of 16+ yr respondents reporting very bad to fair health status, by sexual identity category, for Southwark, London and England, March 2021



#### Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Sexual orientation and gender identity data combining multiple variables, England and Wales: Census 2021. Data for 16+ yr usual residents.

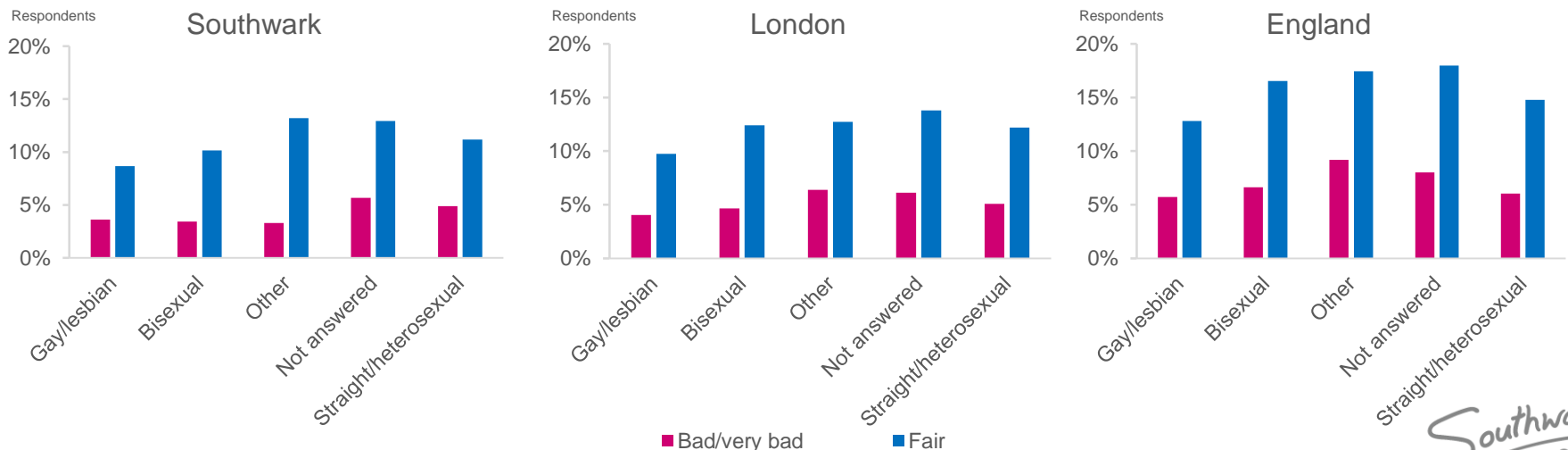
# Levels of bad/very bad health were lower in Southwark LGB+ residents, probably related to their younger age profile

## SEXUAL ORIENTATION: GENERAL HEALTH 2

### Census data reported general health status for people with different sexual identities.

- In Southwark, very bad, bad or fair health was reported by about 1 in 8 lesbian/gay (12.3%) residents, and about 1 in 6 bisexual (13.6%) and 'other' identity (16.5%) residents; levels were statistically similar.
- Levels of very bad/bad health were lower among Southwark gay/lesbian (3.6%), bisexual (3.4%) and other non-heterosexual identity (3.3%) residents than in heterosexual residents (4.9%); the younger age profile of LGB+ residents probably contributes to this difference.
- Rates of fair health were significantly higher among bisexual (10.1%) and other non-heterosexual identity (13.2%) residents, compared with lesbian/gay residents (8.7%).
- Levels of fair health was lower among Southwark gay/lesbian and bisexual residents but similar in other non-heterosexual identity residents, compared with heterosexual residents (11.2%).

Figure 17: Proportion of 16+ yr respondents by sexual identity and general health level, for Southwark, London and England, March 2021



#### Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Sexual orientation and gender identity data combining multiple variables, England and Wales: Census 2021. Data for 16+ yr usual residents.

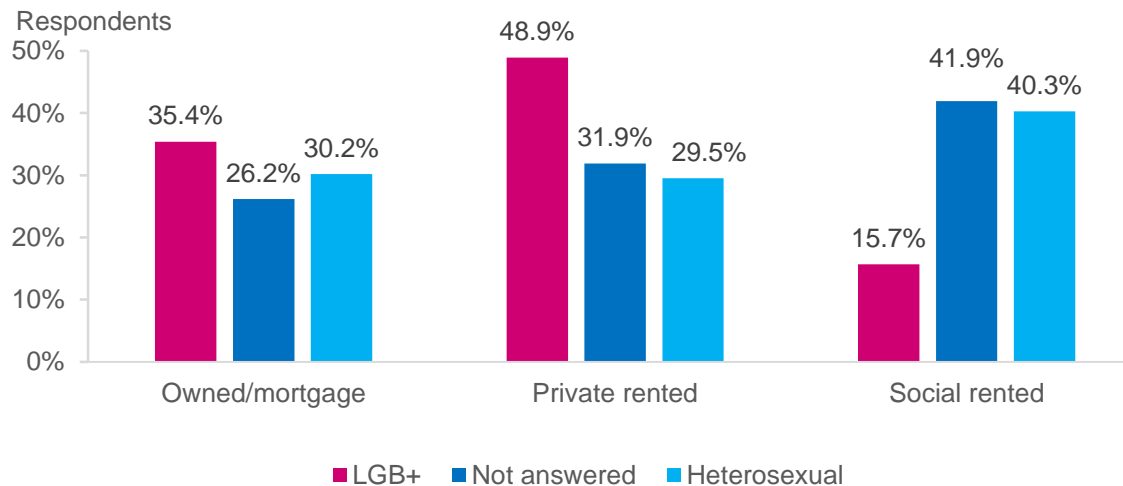
# LGB+ residents are more likely to live in private rentals and much less likely to live in social rentals

## SEXUAL ORIENTATION: HOUSING

### Census data on sexual orientation was available for different types of housing tenure.

- Southwark LGB+ residents had two-thirds higher rates of private rental housing and less than half the level of social rental housing, compared with heterosexual residents (private rental: one-half (48.9%) vs over one-quarter (29.5%), respectively; social rental: one-sixth (15.7%) vs two-fifths (40.3%), respectively).
- LGB+ residents were significantly more likely to own their home or have a mortgage (1 in 3 (35.4%), compared with heterosexual residents (30.2%).
- Residents identifying as bisexual or other non-heterosexual identities were much more likely to live in private rental housing than lesbian/gay residents (private rental levels: three-fifths (58.3%), two-thirds (66.0%) and two-fifths (40.2%), respectively).

Figure 18: Proportion of Southwark 16+ yr respondents by housing tenure and sexual identity category or question non-response, March 2021



#### Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Sexual orientation and gender identity data combining multiple variables, England and Wales: Census 2021. Data for 16+ yr usual residents.

# Census gender identity data validity has been questioned; ONS have defended their methods and findings

## CONSIDERATIONS: GENDER IDENTITY DATA

- The validity of the census gender identity question data has been questioned, based on (i) lack of correlation with alternative gender identity data proxies and (ii) correlation with English language proficiency census data.
- England-wide census data shows, for non-native English speakers:
  - Those speaking English not well or not at all were three-quarters more likely to report a gender identity different from their birth sex registration but no specific gender identity, compared with those speaking English well/very well (1.6% vs 0.9%).
  - The trans identity disparity was much less: those speaking English not well or not at all were one-eighth more likely to report any trans identity, compared with those speaking English well/very well (0.7% vs 0.6%).
- In April 2023, ONS stated:
  - Census 2021 gender identity results were broadly consistent with gender identity data from other sources, including a 2021 NHS survey.
  - The gender identity question was thoroughly tested; alternative question wordings (e.g. asking respondents whether they were transgender) were less well understood than the final question used.
  - The census was extensively tested throughout England, including areas with large number of second-language English speakers. Census translations into nearly 50 languages were available to help ensure correct understanding.
  - A short review of Census 2021 gender identity data will be undertaken to investigate whether individual responses were affected by different question interpretations (results due June '23).

### References

1. SocArXiv Papers, 2023. Gender Identity in the 2021 Census of England and Wales: What Went Wrong?
2. ONS, 2023. Ed Humpherson to Jen Woolford: Statistics on Gender Identity based on the 2021 England and Wales Census data. Slide 29
3. ONS 2023. Gender identity in Census 2021.

# 2021 census results were influenced by a number of general factors

## CONSIDERATIONS: GENERAL CENSUS CONCERNS

- **The census was taken during the COVID-19 pandemic**, with respondents required to answer questions based on their place of residence on Census Day. At this time, many COVID-19 restrictions were still in place.
- There is likely to have been **substantial population movement and change since the March 2021 Census**. Notably, students have returned to campus' after a time of remote learning, employment of hospitality and entertainment sector workers has resumed, and people who left London temporarily during the pandemic have returned. This means that population make-up and respective characteristics may be notably different to what was reported in the census.
- As with all self-completion questionnaires, some census returns will have **contained incomplete, missing or incorrect information** about individuals or households. However, ONS took steps to correct these inconsistencies.

### Reference

1. Quality and methodology information (QMI) for Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022.
2. 2021 Census: First release. Greater London Authority. 2022.

# Other census LGBTQ+ data (e.g. on work, education and families) will be reported in the new LGBTQ+ JSNA

## FURTHER LGBTQ+ CENSUS DATA

### **More census gender identity and sexual orientation multivariate data is available.**

- Analysis of this extra data will be included in the forthcoming LGBTQ+ JSNA.
- The extra data shows differences between residents with different gender identities and sexual orientations, regarding:
  - Dwelling type, house occupancy rating and household central heating
  - Economic activity, hours worked, industry and occupation
  - Socio-economic class (NS-SEC)
  - Educational qualifications
  - Family composition and legal partnership status
  - Unpaid carer status
  - Religion

#### Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Sexual orientation and gender identity data combining multiple variables, England and Wales: Census 2021.

# Southwark has high levels of trans and LGB+ residents, with distinct demographic, geographic and disability differences

## SUMMARY

**The 2021 census assessed adult respondents' gender identity and sexual orientation for the first time. Multivariate datasets give insight into the lives of local residents identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and other non-cis-gendered and non-heterosexual identities (LGBTQ+).**

- Southwark has one of the highest levels of trans and LGB+ identity in England:
  - About 1 in 80 (1.2%; about 3,200) 16+ yr residents reported a gender identity different from their birth sex registration, significantly higher than London (0.9%) and England (0.5%) levels.
  - More than 1 in 12 (8.1%; about 20,700) 16+ yr residents reported an LGB+ sexual identity, double the levels in London (4.3%) and England (3.2%).
- Of Southwark's trans residents, about half had no specific gender identity; the remainder mostly identified as trans men, trans women or non-binary.
- Southwark's LGB+ residents mainly identified as lesbian or gay (around 1 in 20 of all residents) or bisexual or pansexual (about 1 in 30).
- There was a younger age profile among local trans residents (driven by differing age patterns in 'other' gender identity residents) and LGB+ residents (driven by age patterns among LB+ women), compared with cis-gendered and heterosexual residents.
- Burgess Park neighbourhood was home to a large cluster of residents with a gender identity different to their birth sex registration but no specific gender identity term, and with a non-heterosexual identity other than lesbian, gay or bisexual.
- Higher disability levels were seen among local trans and LGB+ populations, despite their younger age profile. Trans resident's self-reported general health was worse than cis-gendered residents; LGB+ residents' health was better than heterosexual residents' health.



**Find out more at**  
**[southwark.gov.uk/jsna](https://southwark.gov.uk/jsna)**

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