

Census 2021 Topic Summary: Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity

West Yorkshire Research & Intelligence Team

6th January 2023

Sexual Orientation Notes

Sexual orientation and gender identity were new questions for the 2021 Census. Both questions were voluntary and were only asked of usual residents aged 16 years and over.

Sexual orientation is an umbrella term covering sexual identity, attraction, and behaviour. For an individual respondent, these may not be the same, which means 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.

For sexual orientation, the question was “***Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?***”, with options of “**straight or heterosexual**”, “**gay or lesbian**”, “**bisexual**”, “**other sexual orientation**” (where people were asked to write in the sexual orientation with which they identified).

Sexual orientation is included on the Annual Population Survey, however inclusion on the Census will allow for a much richer understanding of sexual orientation when combined with other Census 2021 data sets. The data will meet the needs for better quality information on the LGB+ population (“gay or lesbian”, “bisexual” or “other sexual orientation”) for monitoring and supporting anti-discrimination duties under the Equality Act 2010.

The abbreviation LGB+ is used to refer to people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and other minority sexual orientations (for example, asexual).

Gender Identity Notes

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.

For gender identity the question was “*Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?*”, and respondents had the option of selecting either “**Yes**”, or selecting “**No**” and writing in their gender identity.

This data set marks the first official data on the size of the transgender population in England and Wales, which will help to provide better quality information for monitoring purposes, support anti-discrimination duties under the Equality Act 2010 and aid allocation for resources and policy development.

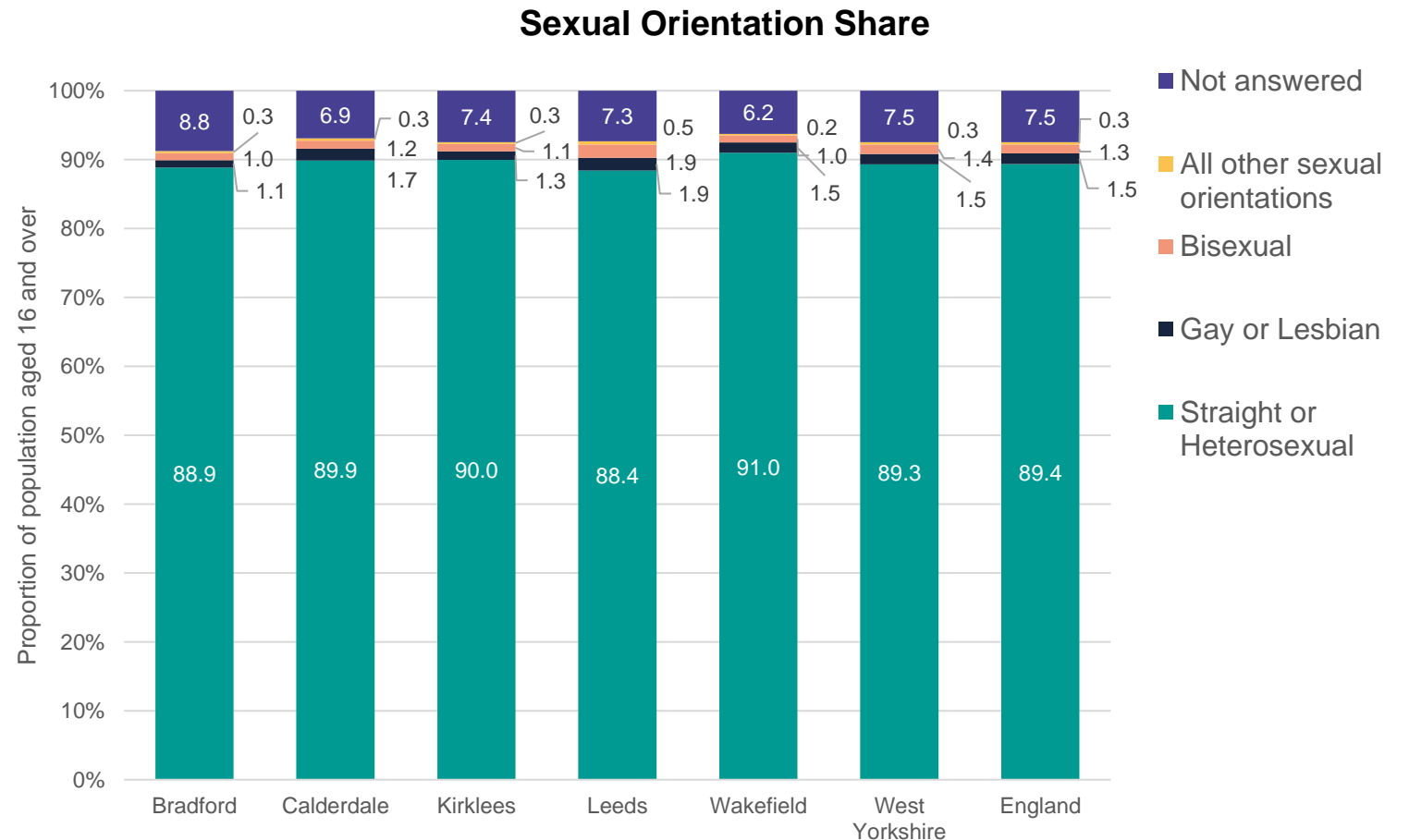
As both questions were voluntary, please be aware of differences in response rates when comparing between different areas.

Sexual Orientation

Sexual Orientation - West Yorkshire

The 2021 Census reveals that:

- 89.3% of West Yorkshire residents aged 16 and over identified as being Straight or Heterosexual, compared to 89.4% in England as a whole.
- 1 in 13 people (7.5%) in England didn't provide a response to this question, and locally that figure was higher in Bradford (8.8%).
- 60,368 people, 3.2% of West Yorkshire residents identified as LGB+, with just under half (46%) living in Leeds (4.2% of people aged 16 and over identify as LGB+).
- Overall, 4.1% of England's residents who identify as being LGB+ live in West Yorkshire.



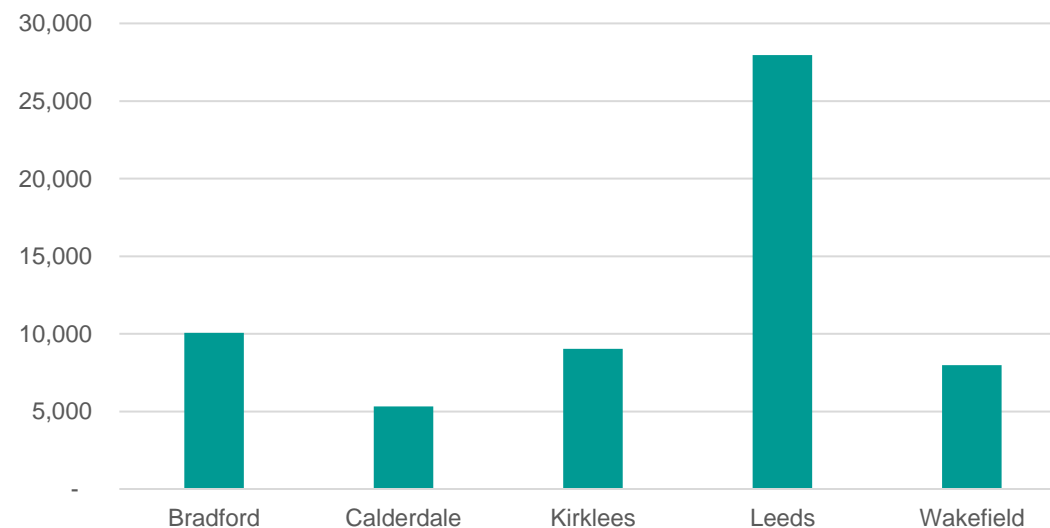
LGB+ population - West Yorkshire

Counts and proportion of people who identity as LGB+

	Bradford		Calderdale		Kirklees		Leeds		Wakefield		WY		England	
Gay or Lesbian	4,545	1.08%	2,811	1.69%	4,340	1.25%	12,229	1.86%	4,321	1.50%	28,246	1.50%	709,704	1.54%
Bisexual	4,261	1.01%	1,968	1.18%	3,697	1.07%	12,656	1.92%	2,968	1.03%	25,550	1.36%	591,682	1.29%
Pansexual	951	0.23%	395	0.24%	732	0.21%	2,022	0.31%	504	0.18%	4,604	0.24%	107,850	0.23%
Asexual	176	0.04%	71	0.04%	147	0.04%	502	0.08%	126	0.04%	1,022	0.05%	26,615	0.06%
Queer	59	0.01%	62	0.04%	58	0.02%	387	0.06%	29	0.01%	595	0.03%	13,933	0.03%
All other sexual orientations	72	0.02%	22	0.01%	61	0.02%	166	0.03%	30	0.01%	351	0.02%	9,969	0.02%

- Just under 1.5 million people (aged 16 and over) in England identified as LGB+, with 60,368 living in West Yorkshire.
- 28,246 West Yorkshire residents (aged 16 and over) identified as Gay or Lesbian (1.5% of the population) and 25,550 identified as Bisexual (1.36% of the population), slightly higher than the England average.
- 4,604 West Yorkshire residents identified as Pansexual, 1,022 identified as Asexual and just under 600 identified as Queer, whilst 351 identified as another sexual orientation.

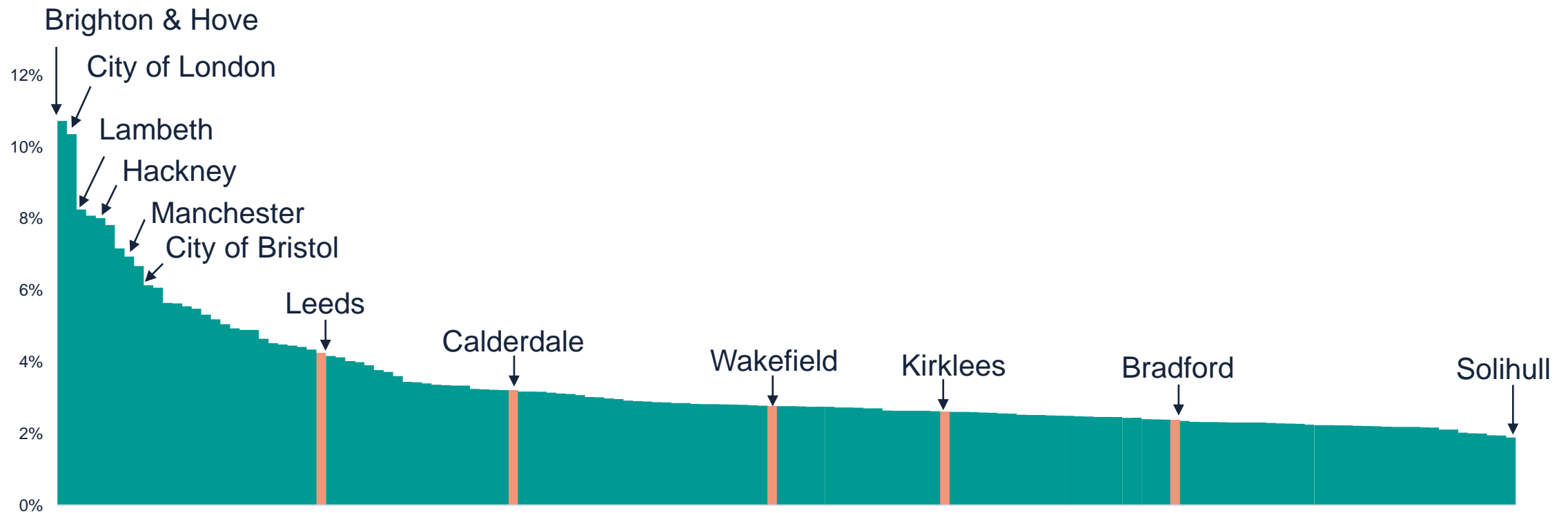
Number of people who identify as LGB+



LGB+ population – West Yorkshire Districts vs Upper Tier Local Authority (UTLAs)

Within England, at ULTA level, Brighton & Hove has the largest LGB+ population (10.7%). 7 of the other local authorities in the top 10 were in London.

ULTAs ordered by the percentage of population identifying as being LGB+

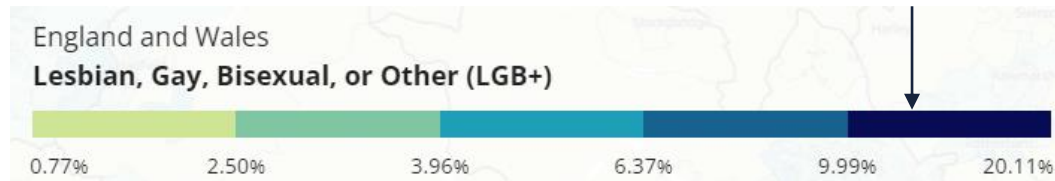
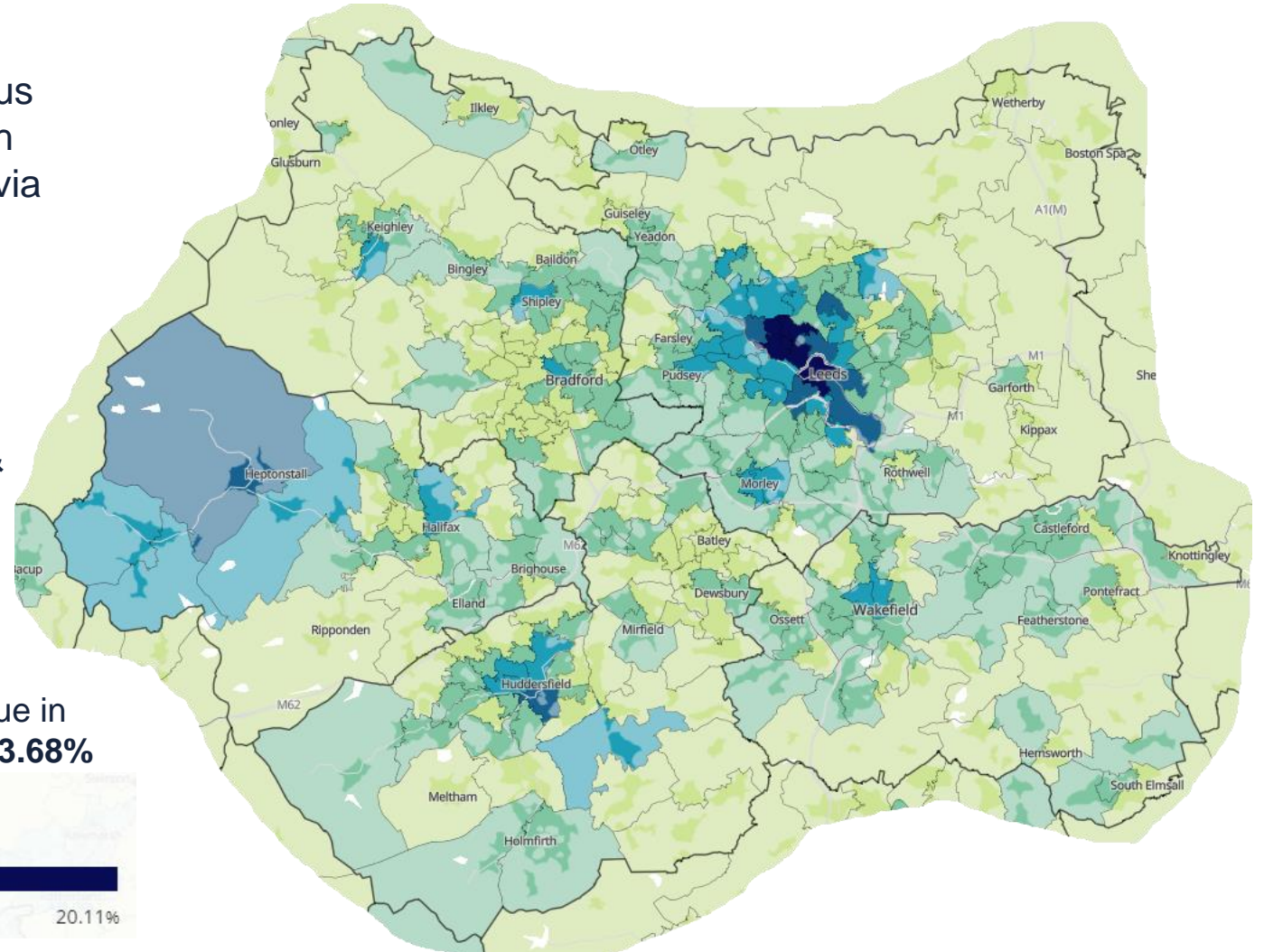


LGB+ population – spatial patterns

The map on the right shows the proportion of people who identified as LGB+ in the 2021 Census at Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) level, which is taken from the ONS interactive map available via the link below:

[Sexual orientation - Census Maps, ONS](#)

The distribution of people who identify as LGB+ isn't spatially uniform. Burley, Hydepark Corner & Woodhouse Cliff, Headingley, University & Little Woodhouse and Leeds City centre (all in Leeds) and Hebden Bridge (in Calderdale) have the largest LGB+ communities in West Yorkshire.

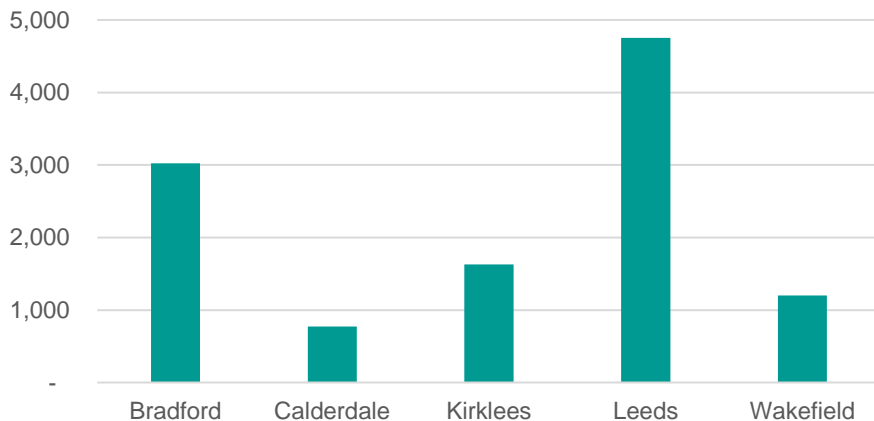


Gender Identity

Gender Identity - West Yorkshire

	Bradford		Calderdale		Kirklees		Leeds		Wakefield		WY		England	
Gender identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given	1,713	0.41%	333	0.20%	752	0.22%	2,086	0.32%	578	0.20%	5,462	0.29%	113,752	0.25%
Trans woman	511	0.12%	156	0.09%	304	0.09%	781	0.12%	224	0.08%	1,976	0.11%	45,679	0.10%
Trans man	530	0.13%	131	0.08%	316	0.09%	779	0.12%	230	0.08%	1,986	0.11%	46,520	0.10%
Non-binary	157	0.04%	99	0.06%	161	0.05%	713	0.11%	94	0.03%	1,224	0.07%	28,698	0.06%
All other gender identities	112	0.03%	55	0.03%	96	0.03%	395	0.06%	77	0.03%	735	0.04%	17,186	0.04%

Number of people who identify as having a gender identity different from the sex registered at birth



- In 2021, 11,383 people in West Yorkshire (0.61% of the population) stated they have a gender identity different from the sex they were registered at birth, which compares to 0.55% of the population of England as a whole.
- Leeds has the highest percentage in West Yorkshire of its population identifying as having a gender identity different from the sex they were registered at birth (0.72%).
- 1,976 West Yorkshire residents identified as a Trans woman, and 1,986 identified as a Trans Man, whilst 1,224 identified as Non-binary.
- 4.5% of England's residents who identify as having a gender identity different from the sex they were registered at birth live in West Yorkshire.

Gender Identity – West Yorkshire Districts vs Upper Tier Local Authority (UTLAs)

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, with Newham (1.51%) and Brent (1.31%) topping the list.

UTLAs ordered by the percentage of population whose gender identity is different from their sex registered at birth

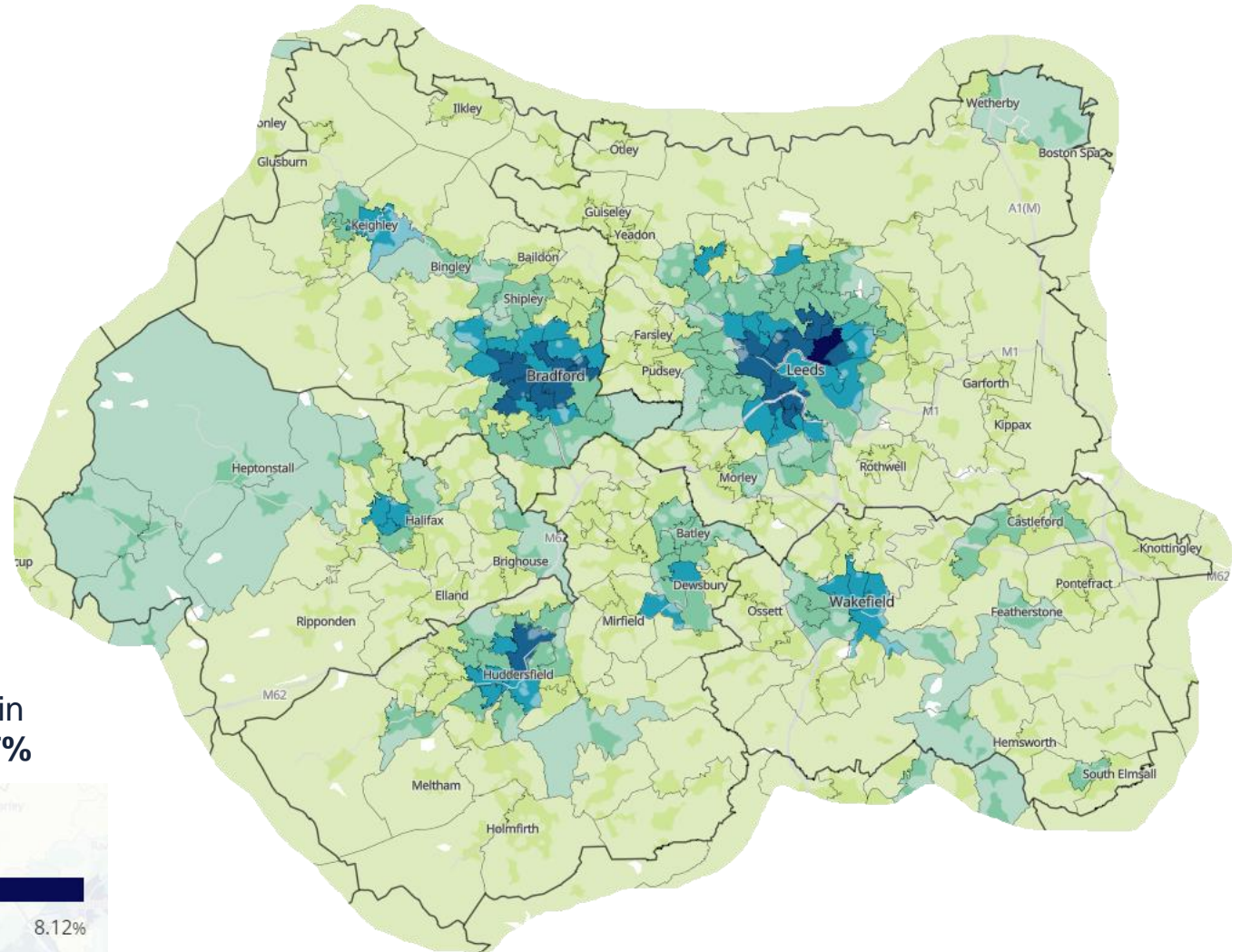


Gender identity – spatial patterns

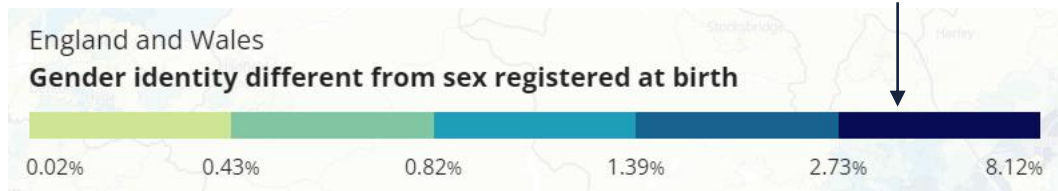
The map on the right shows the proportion of people who said their gender identity is different from their sex registered at birth in the 2021 Census at Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) level, which is taken from the ONS interactive map available via the link below:

[Gender identity - Census Maps, ONS](#)

In general, the proportion of people who said their gender identity is different from their sex registered at birth is higher in towns and cities compared to more rural areas.



Max value in
Leeds **4.47%**



What next?

Topic Summary	Release date (expected)
Education	10 th January
Health, disability and unpaid care	19 th January

Phase 2: Feb – April 2023 – Multivariate data & short term resident population

Phase 3: April 2023 onwards – small populations, detailed migration data, Origin-Destination pairs