



Fife results from Scotland's Census 2022

Sexual orientation & trans status or history

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Scotland's Census is the official count of every person and household in the country. There has been a census in Scotland every 10 years since 1801, except 1941. The 2021 census in Scotland was moved to 2022 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The answers people give to census questions help build up a picture of the population. Government and other service providers rely on census data to make important decisions. Scotland's census collection phase took place between 28 February and 1 June 2022.

This briefing is the third in a series of topic summaries and provides census data on LGBTQ+ people for the first time. This data was collected through two new questions. One on trans status or history, and one on sexual orientation. Census data will help government, local authorities, charities and other service providers to understand more about the needs of LGBTQ+ people.

Sexual orientation

Question background

Scotland's Census included a new question on sexual orientation in 2022, so no comparable data is available from previous censuses.

The census question was "Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?". People were asked to tick "Straight / Heterosexual", "Gay or Lesbian", "Bisexual" or "Other sexual orientation". People who ticked "Other sexual orientation" were asked to describe their sexual orientation. Sexual orientation is an umbrella term covering sexual identity, attraction, and behaviour. The term sexual orientation may mean different things to different people.

This was a voluntary question for people aged 16 and over. Around 8% of people did not answer the sexual orientation question in Fife (similar to Scotland). The percentages used in this briefing are calculated using the overall population (aged 16 and over), not just those who answered the sexual orientation question.

In this briefing the term LGB+ people is used to refer to people who described their sexual orientation as "Gay or Lesbian", "Bisexual" or "Other sexual orientation".

Key points

In Fife, the Census found that 273,416 people identified as straight or heterosexual, accounting for 88% of people aged 16 and over, and similar to the Scottish average.

There were 11,919 LGB+ people in Fife. This is 4.0% of people aged 16 and over, and similar to the Scottish level.

Figure 1 shows the number of people in the LGB+ categories in Fife.

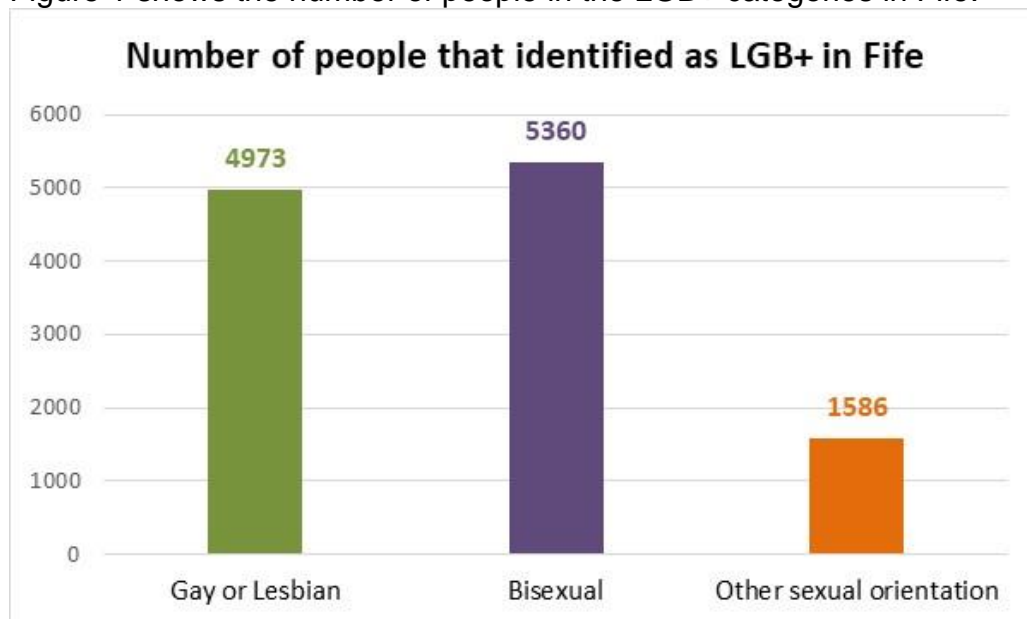


Figure 1. Number of Fife people that identified as LGB+ (Census 2022)

Of all LGB+ people in Fife, 45% identified as bisexual, compared with 43.6% for Scotland, and 41.7% identified as gay or lesbian, compared with Scotland at 43.6%.

The 'other sexual orientation' category, which accounts for around 13% of LGB+ people, includes a number of different groups of people. Over a third did not specify their sexual orientation. The most common responses were 'pansexual', 'asexual' and 'queer'. Those three groups account for over half of people in this category.

Figure 2 shows how the number of LGB+ people varies across age groups.

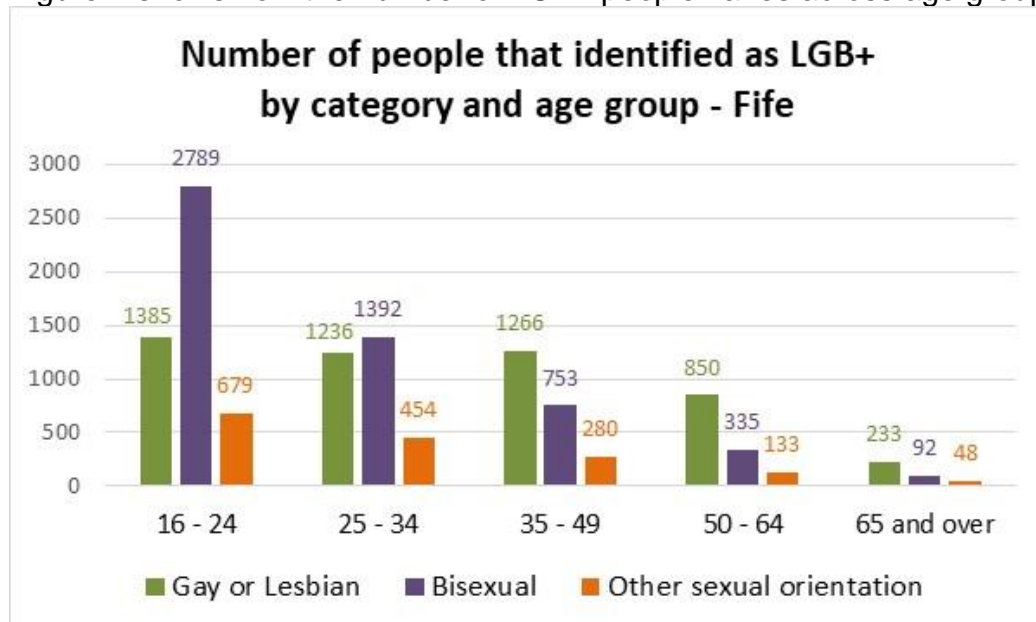


Figure 2. Fife people that identified as LGB+ by category and age (Census 2022)

There are more LGB+ people in younger age groups than in older groups. More than half (52%) of bisexual people were aged 16 to 24 in Fife, compared to 46.6% for Scotland. Just over one quarter (26%) were aged 25 to 34, lower than the Scottish average of 32%.

In Fife, 28% of gay or lesbian people were aged 16 to 24, compared with Scotland at 23.1%. A further 25% were aged 25 to 34, lower than the Scotland figure of 28.6%. Similar to Scotland, from age 35, gay or lesbian people make up the bulk of LGB+ people in Fife.

Figure 3 shows how the percentage of LGB+ people varies across age groups.

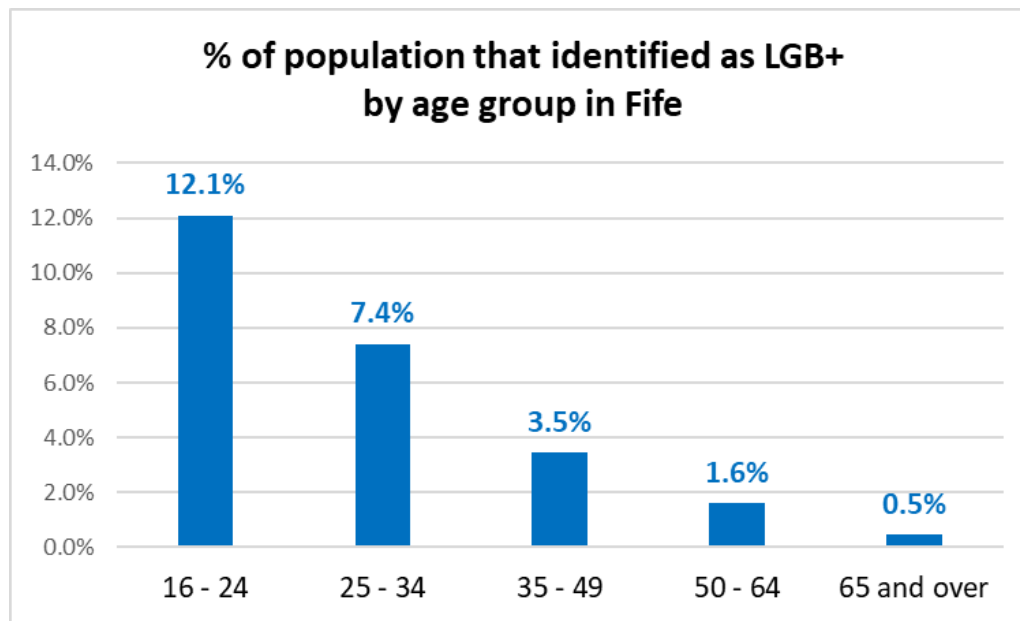


Figure 3. Percentage of Fife population that identified as LGB+ by age group (Census 2022)

The highest proportion of LGB+ people in Fife are in the 16 to 24 age group (12.1%), followed by the 25 to 34 age group (7.4%). Proportions of LGB+ people decrease from younger to older age groups.

Figure 4 shows more females were LGB+ than males. This is explained by the higher number of females identifying as bisexual. More males (2,589) than females (2,381) identified as gay or lesbian, whereas the number of females (3,894) identifying as bisexual was more than double the number of males (1,468). There were also more females (1,012) than males (574) in the 'Other sexual orientation' category.

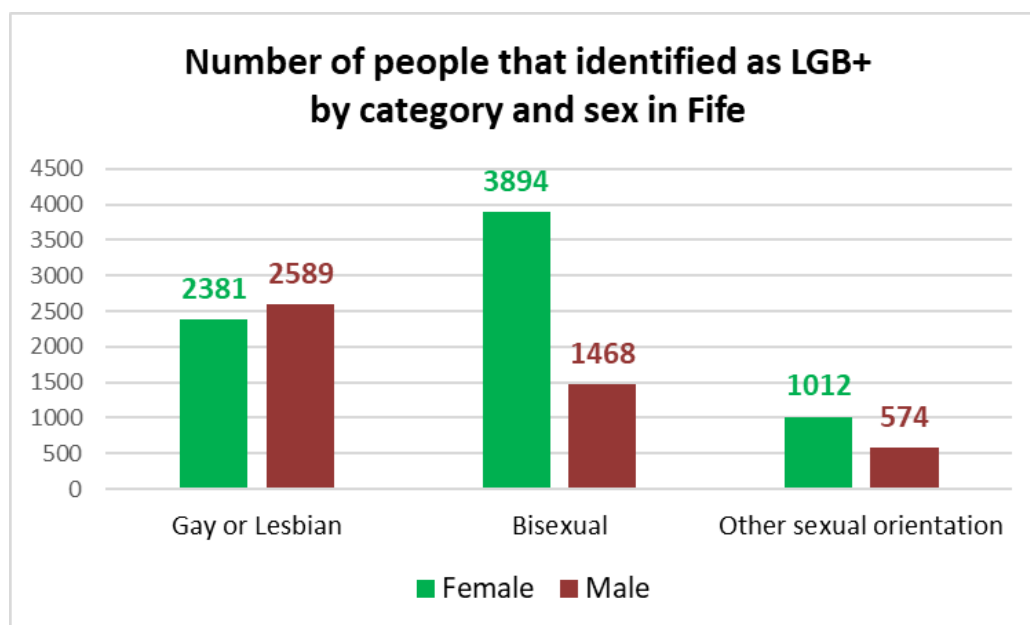


Figure 4. Number of Fife people that identified as LGB+ by category and sex (Census 2022)

Figure 5 shows that more females than males identified as LGB+ in younger age groups, particularly ages 16 to 24. From age 50 onwards, this changes to more males identifying as LGB+.

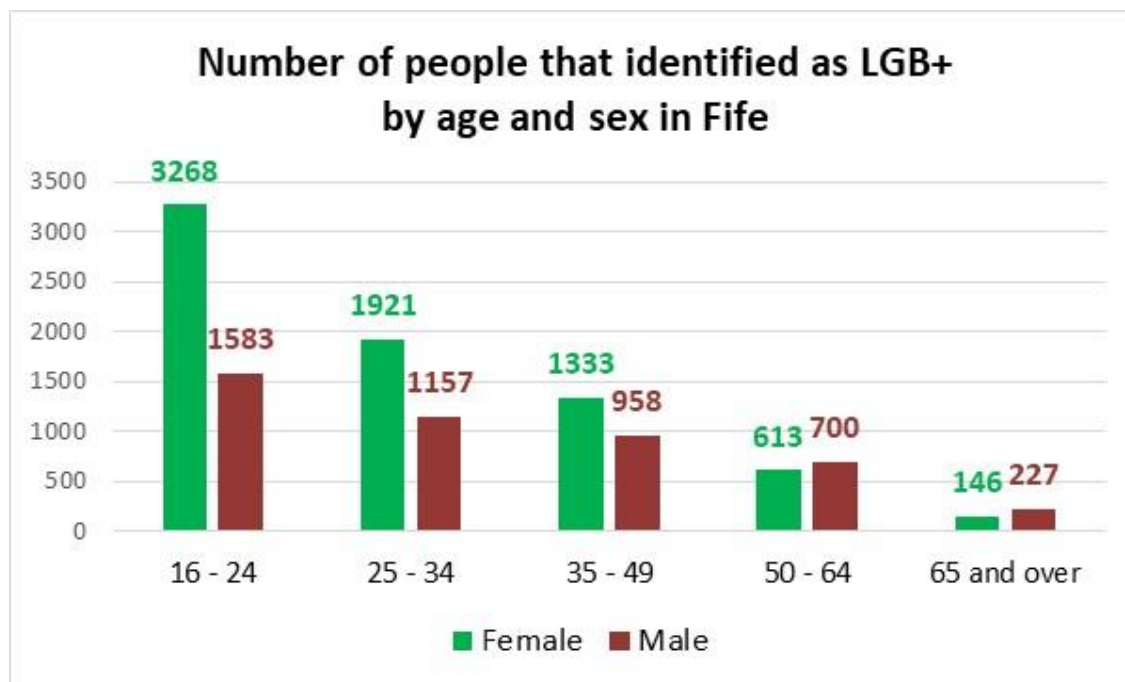


Figure 5. Number of Fife people that identified as LGB+ by age and sex (Census 2022)

The largest concentrations of LGB+ people in Scotland are mainly in the four ‘City’ council areas, which have the highest percentage of LGB+ people relative to their population (aged 16 and over). City of Edinburgh had the highest percentage (7.6%), followed by Glasgow City (7.1%), Dundee City (6.6%) and Aberdeen City (5.2%). This compares with Fife’s 4.0%. This higher proportion of LGB+ people in city areas is due to them having higher levels of younger age groups, through large student populations, and a generally younger demographic profile.

Trans status or history

Question background

Scotland’s Census included a new question on trans status or history in 2022. Comparisons with previous censuses are therefore not possible for this topic.

The census question was “Do you consider yourself to be trans, or have a trans history?”. People were asked to tick “No” or “Yes”. People who ticked “Yes” were asked to describe their trans status (for example, non-binary, trans man, trans woman).

Transgender or trans is a term used to describe people whose gender is not the same as the sex they were assigned at birth. This was a voluntary question for people aged 16 and over. In 2022 5.7% of people in Fife did not answer the trans status question. The percentage of people who were trans or have a trans history is calculated using the overall population (aged 16 and over), not just those who answered the question.

In this briefing people that consider themselves to be trans, or have a trans history are referred to as trans people.

Key findings

The 2022 Census found that there were 1,294 trans people in Fife. This is 0.4% of people aged 16 and over, similar to the Scottish average.

Figure 6 shows how trans people responded across five high level categories.



Figure 6. Number of Fife people that identified as trans or had a trans history (Census 2022)

Just under 44% of Fife trans people identify as ‘non-binary’, slightly lower than the Scotland figure of 45%. 17% of trans people identified as trans men, while 15% identified as trans women, and 15% did not specify their trans status or history, similar to the Scottish average.

9% stated ‘Other trans status or history’ in Fife, compared with 7% for Scotland. The 120 people in this category includes a number of different groups of people. The most common responses in this category were ‘genderfluid’, ‘agender’ and ‘genderqueer’. Those three different groups account for around two thirds of people in this category.

Figure 7 shows the number of trans people across five age groups.

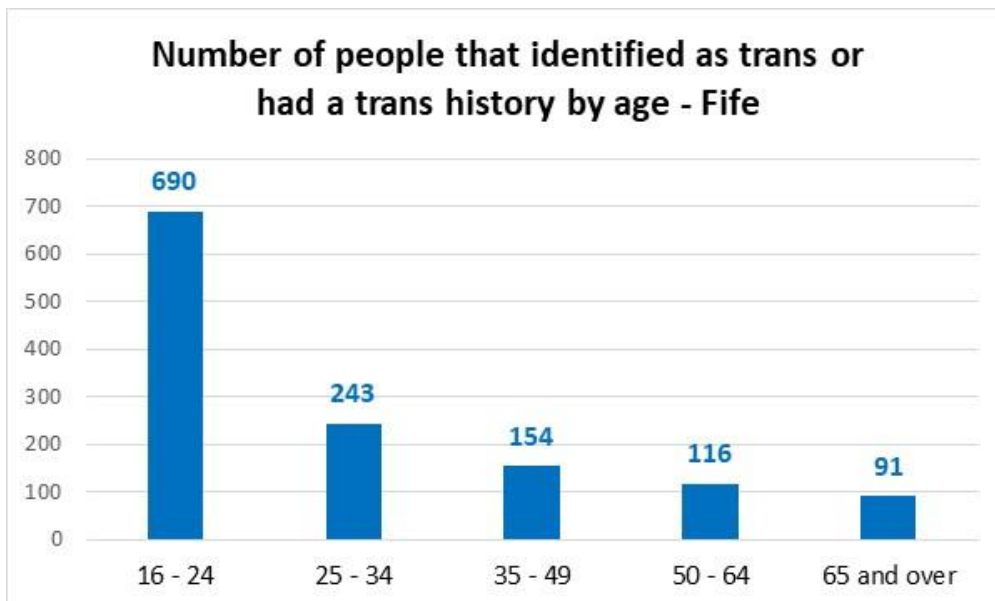


Figure 7. Number of Fife people that identified as trans or had a trans history by age (Census 2022)

There were more trans people in younger age groups than in older groups, with more than half (53%) in the 16-24 age group, which is higher than the Scotland figure of 46%. The next highest number was in the 25-34 age group with 19%, compared with Scotland at 26%.

Figure 8 shows trans people as a percentage of the population in each age group.

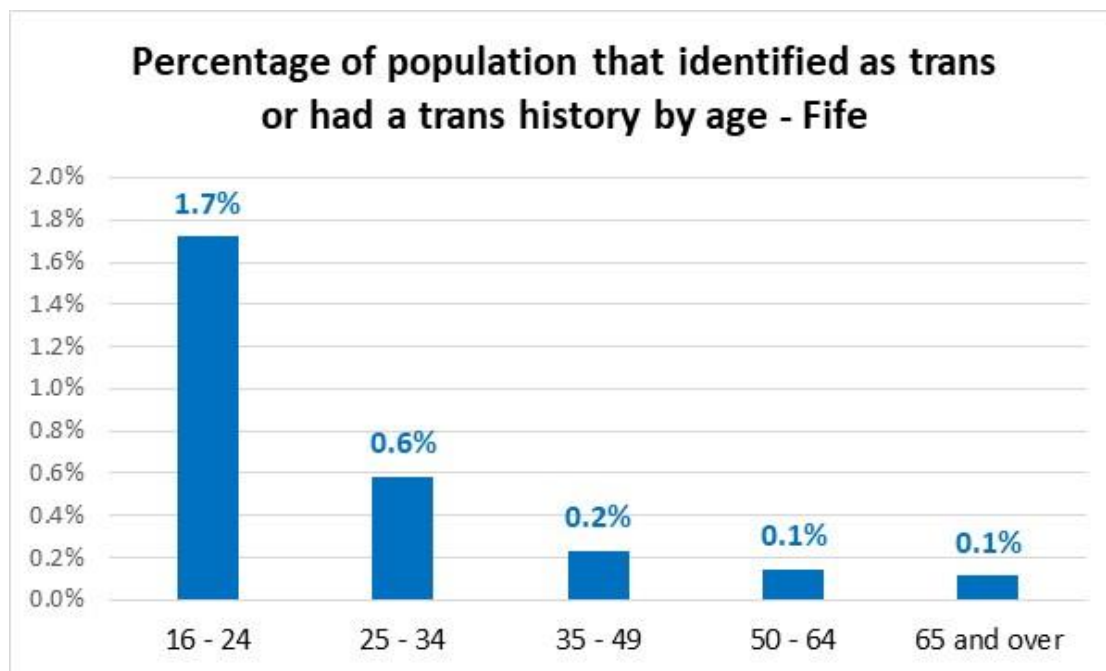


Figure 8. Percentage of Fife’s population that identified as trans or had a trans history by age (Census 2022)

As Figure 8 shows, the percentage of trans people decreases as people get older, with 1.7% of the population aged 16-24, compared with 0.1% for those over 50.

The largest proportions of trans people in Scotland are in the four ‘City’ council areas relative to their population (aged 16 and over). Dundee City had the highest percentage (0.91%), followed by City of Edinburgh and Glasgow City (both 0.77%), and Aberdeen City (0.58%). This compares with Fife’s 0.4%. The percentage of trans people is usually higher in areas with higher concentrations of younger age groups, with the four ‘City’ council areas having large numbers of student population, and a generally younger age profile.

Census Results

Fife briefings on Scotland’s Census 2022 will be available from [Census | KnowFife](#)

To access Census results, please go to [Scotland’s Census \(scotlandscensus.gov.uk\)](https://scotlandscensus.gov.uk)