

CENSUS 2021 – Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Briefing

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Introduction

On Friday 6th January 2023, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published its second phase outputs from the 2021 Census, which provides statistics on gender identity and sexual orientation for all local authority areas in England & Wales.

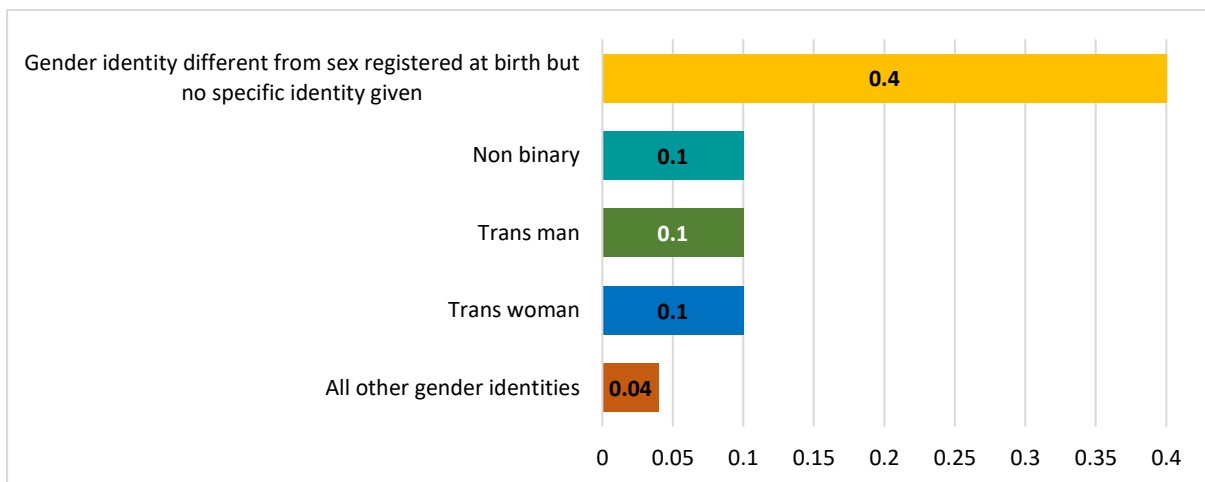
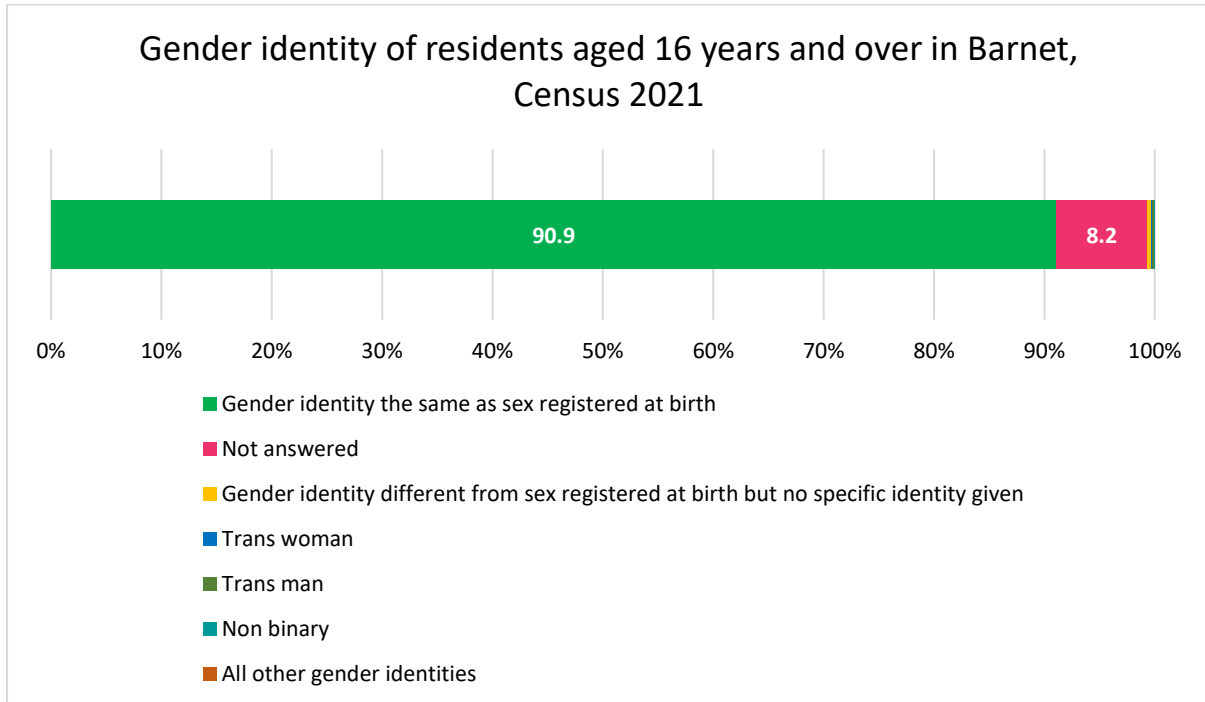
The key summary points are:

- The questions on gender identity and sexual orientation in the Census 2021 were voluntary and were only asked of residents aged 16 years and over in Barnet.
- In Barnet, about 280,000 residents (90.9%) answered “Yes”, and 2,550 residents (0.8%) answered “No” to the question “Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?”. About 25,000 residents (8.2%) did not answer the question.
- The question on sexual orientation asked the residents to choose an option that best describes their sexual orientation, which included straight or heterosexual, gay or lesbian, bisexual, and other sexual orientation.
- In Barnet, about 270,000 residents (87.3%) identified themselves as straight or heterosexual, 8,633 residents (2.8%) identified with an LGB+ orientation (gay or lesbian, bisexual, or other sexual orientation, as categorised by the Office of National Statistics). About 30,000 residents (9.9%) did not answer the question.

Gender Identity

The question on gender identity asked residents whether the gender they identify was same as their sex registered at birth with the option of selecting either “Yes” or “No”. For those who chose “No”, residents could write in their gender identity.

Chart 1. Gender identity of residents aged 16 years and over in Barnet from Census 2021



There were responses from 91.8% of the residents aged 16 years and over in Barnet. A total of 280,000 residents (90.9%) in Barnet answered “Yes”, indicating that their gender identity was the same as their sex registered at birth. A total of 2,550 residents (0.8%) in Barnet answered “No”, indicating that their gender identity was different from their sex registered at birth.

Within this group:

- 1,374 residents (0.4%) answered “No” but did not provide a write-in response
- 459 residents (0.1%) identified as a trans woman
- 452 residents (0.1%) identified as a trans man
- 155 residents (0.1%) identified as non-binary
- 110 residents (0.04%) wrote in a different gender identity

Table 1. Percentage of residents with gender identity different from sex registered at birth in Census 2021 – Barnet vs London vs England

Barnet (2021)	London (2021)	England (2021)
0.8%	0.9%	0.5%

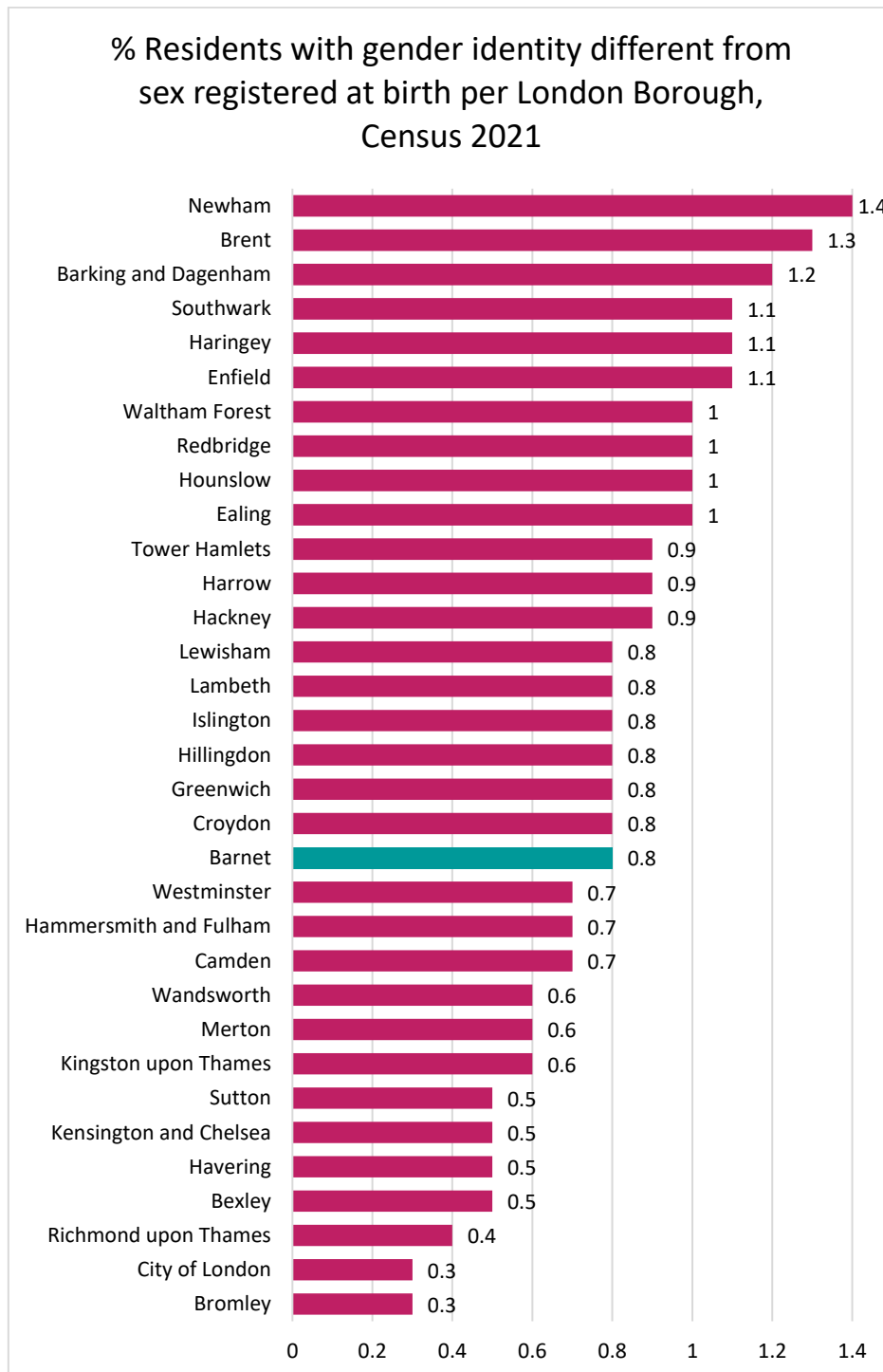
The proportion of residents in Barnet who answered “No” (0.8%) was slightly lower than the London average (0.9% of the residents aged 16 years and over in London) but higher than the England average (0.5%).

Table 2. Percentage of residents who chose not to answer the gender identity question in Census 2021 – Barnet vs London vs England

Barnet (2021)	London (2021)	England (2021)
8.2%	7.9%	6.0%

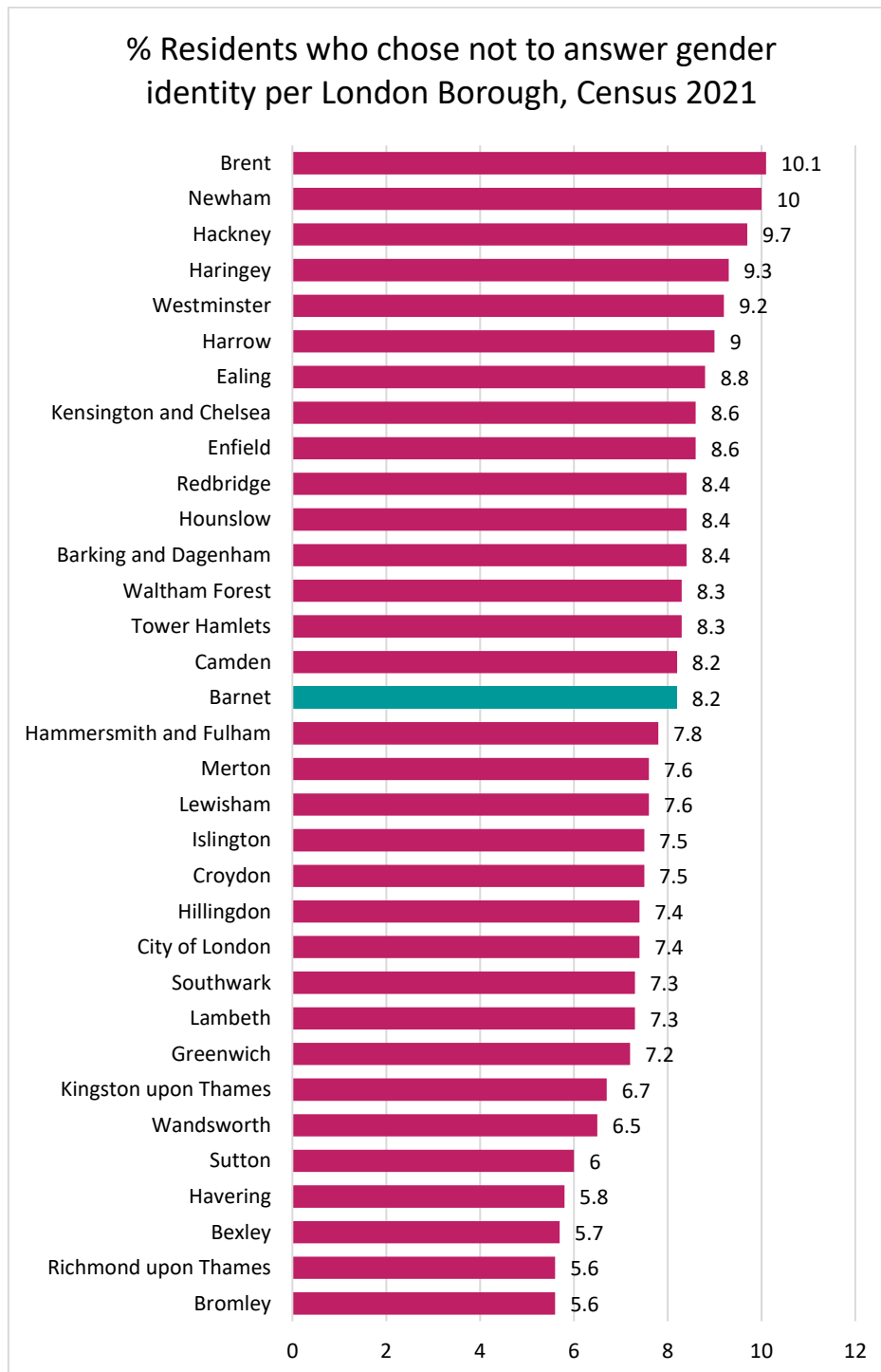
25,000 Barnet residents (8.2%) did not answer the question on gender identity. This was similar to the London average (7.9%) and higher than the England average (6.0%).

Chart 2. Percentage of residents with gender identity different from sex registered at birth per London Borough from Census 2021



Of all 33 London boroughs, Barnet had the 14th highest proportion of residents who responded that their gender identity was different from their sex registered at birth in 2021 (0.8%), along with Croydon, Greenwich, Hillingdon, Islington, Lambeth, and Lewisham.

Chart 3. Percentage of residents who chose not to answer gender identity per London Borough from the Census 2021



Barnet was the 14th highest borough in London for the proportion of residents who chose not to answer the gender identity question in the 2021 census with 8.2% of residents aged over 16 not answering the question which was similar to the percentage recorded in Camden

Table 3. MSOAs with a higher percentage of residents reporting that their gender identity was different from sex registered at birth than the Barnet average (0.8%) from the Census 2021

Index	MSOA	% Residents with gender identity different from sex registered at birth
1	North Finchley	2.2%
2	Brent Cross & Staples Corner	1.8%
3	Mill Hill Broadway	1.4%
4	Burnt Oak & Watling Park	1.4%
5	West Hendon	1.3%
6	Hendon Central	1.2%
7	North Cricklewood	1.2%
8	Colindale West & South	1.2%
9	Grahame Park	1.1%
10	Edgware Central	1%
11	New Barnet West	0.9%
12	Edgware Park	0.9%
13	Church End	0.9%
14	Childs Hill	0.9%

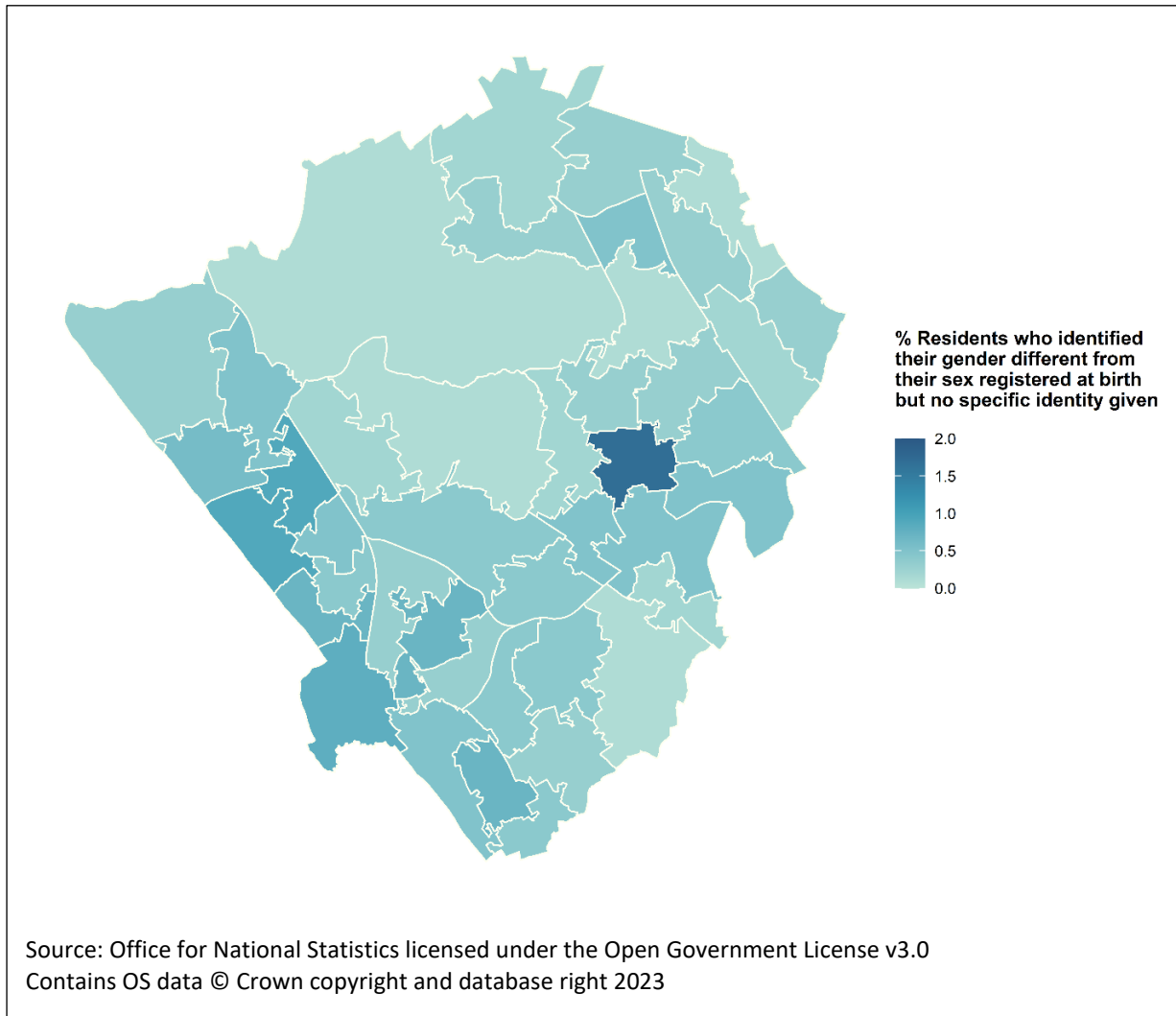
Within Barnet, the Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs) with the highest percentage of residents who reported that their identity was different from their sex at birth was North Finchley (2.2%), which was nearly 2.8 times the Barnet average (0.8%) and 2.4 times the London average (0.9%). North Finchley was followed by Brent Cross & Staples Corner (1.8%) and Mill Hill Broadway and Burnt Oak & Watling Park (1.4% each).

Table 4. MSOAs with a higher percentage of residents who chose not to answer the gender identity question than the Barnet average (8.2%) from the Census 2021

Index	MSOA	% Residents who chose not to answer
1	Golders Green North	13.6%
2	Hendon Park	10.9%
3	Burnt Oak & Watling Park	10.5%
4	Temple Fortune	10.4%
5	North Cricklewood	10.2%
6	Brent Cross & Staples Corner	10%
7	North Hendon & Sunny Hill	9.9%
8	Grahame Park	9.3%
9	West Hendon	9.2%
10	Golders Green South	9.2%
11	Woodside Park	9.1%
12	Edgware Central	8.9%
13	North Finchley	8.9%
14	Colindale East	8.7%
15	Brunswick Park Road	8.6%
16	Hendon Central	8.6%
17	Colindale West & South	8.6%
18	Whetstone East	8.5%
19	Edgware East	8.5%
20	Mill Hill East	8.4%
21	Colney Hatch	8.4%

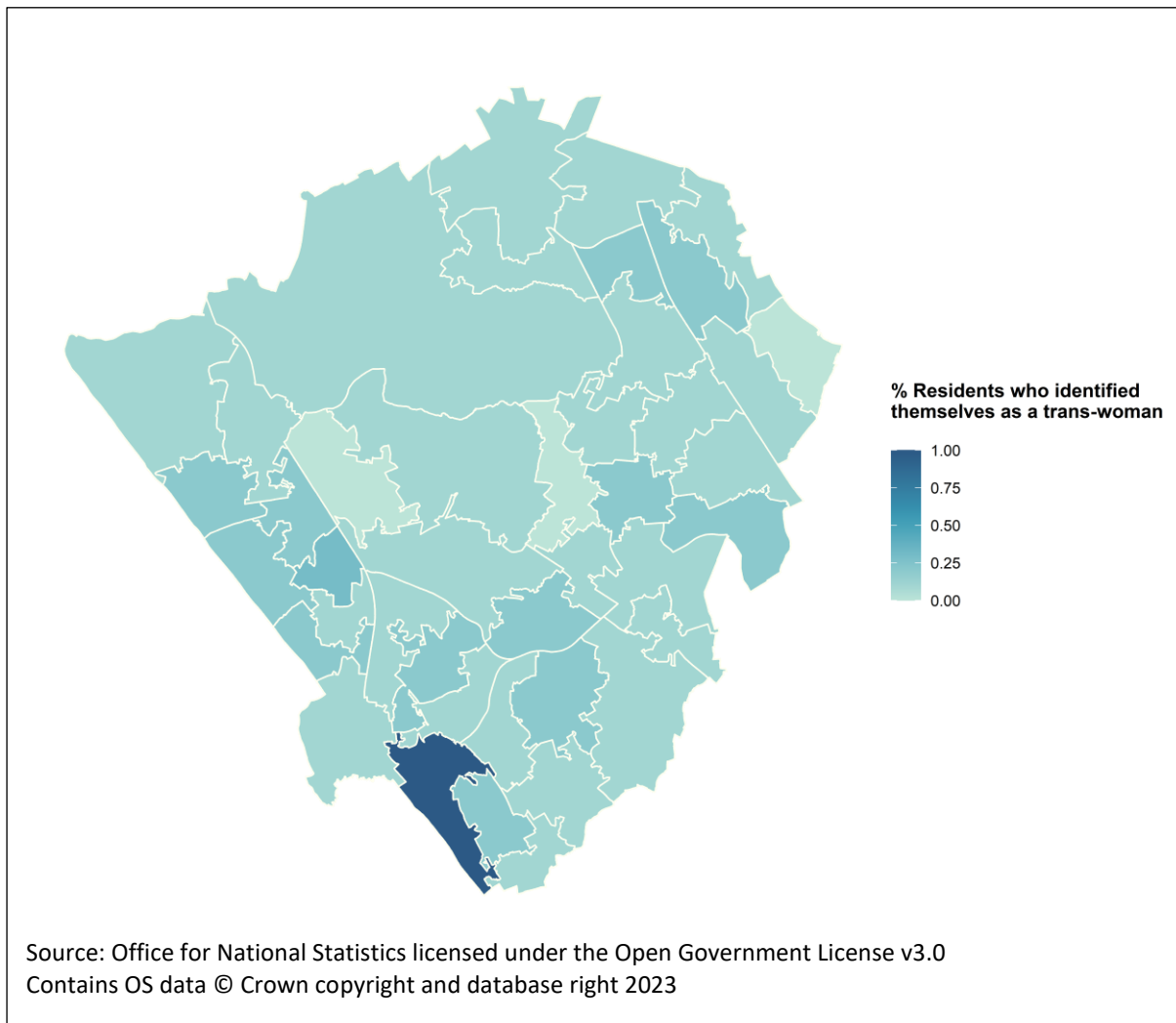
Half of the 42 MSOAs in Barnet demonstrated a higher percentage of residents who chose not to answer the gender identity question than that of Barnet overall (8.2%). Compared to the London average (7.9%), 24 MSOAs in Barnet showed higher percentages of non-respondent residents. The MSOA with the highest proportion of residents that did not answer the question in Barnet was Golders Green (13.6%), which is about 1.7 times higher than the Barnet average (8.2%) and the London average (7.9%).

Figure 1. Map of residents in Barnet with gender identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given from the Census 2021



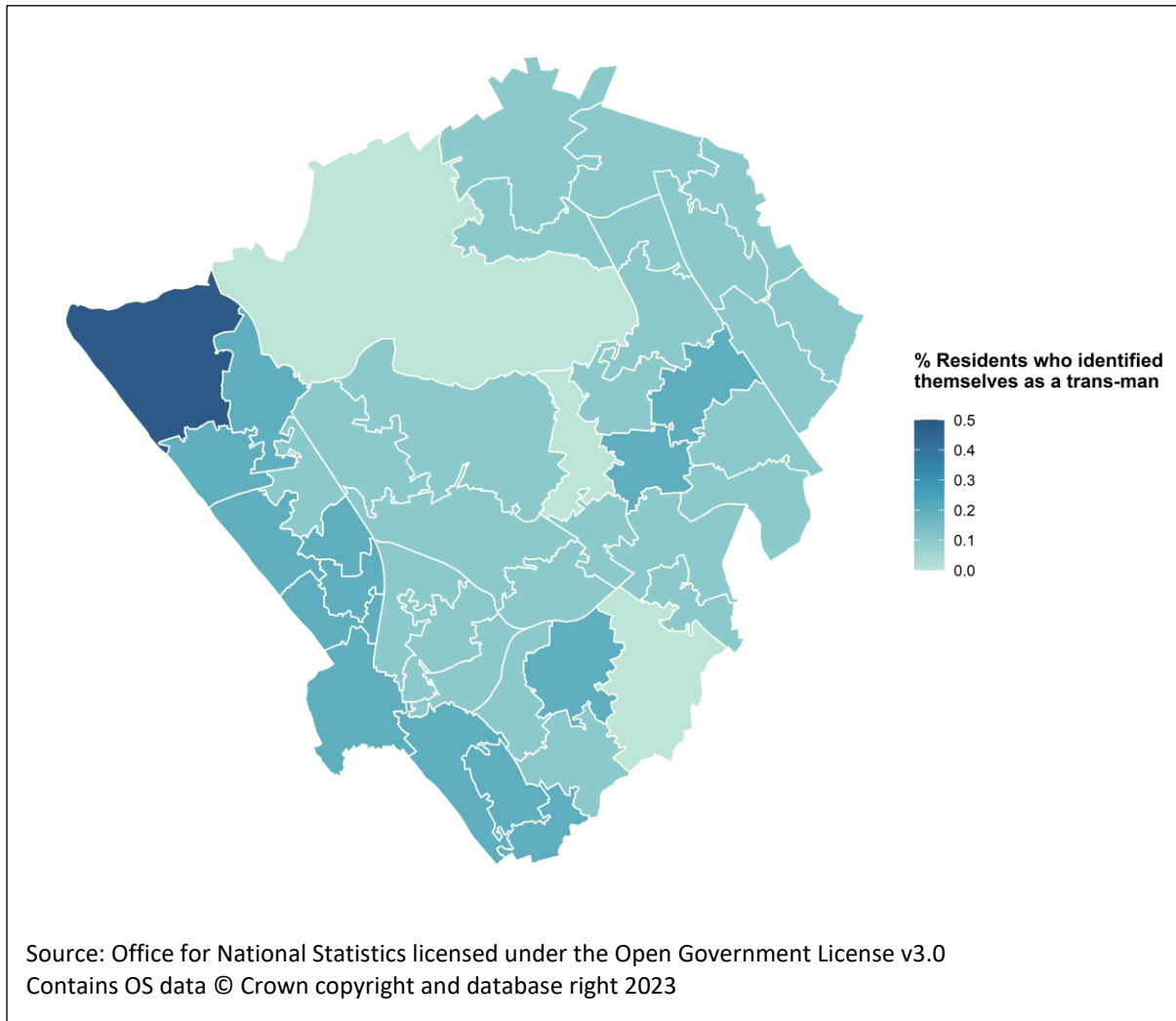
Within Barnet, North Finchley (1.7%), Mill Hill Broadway (0.9%) and Burnt Oak & Watling Park (0.9%) had the highest proportions of residents who answered that their gender identity was different from their sex registered at birth but did not provide specific identity in the Census 2021.

Figure 2. Map of residents in Barnet who identified themselves as a trans-woman from the Census 2021



Brent Cross & Staples Corner (1%) was the MSOA with the largest population of trans-women in Barnet. This was followed by Grahame Park (0.3%) and New Barnet West (0.2%).

Figure 3. Map of residents in Barnet who identified themselves as a trans-man from the Census 2021

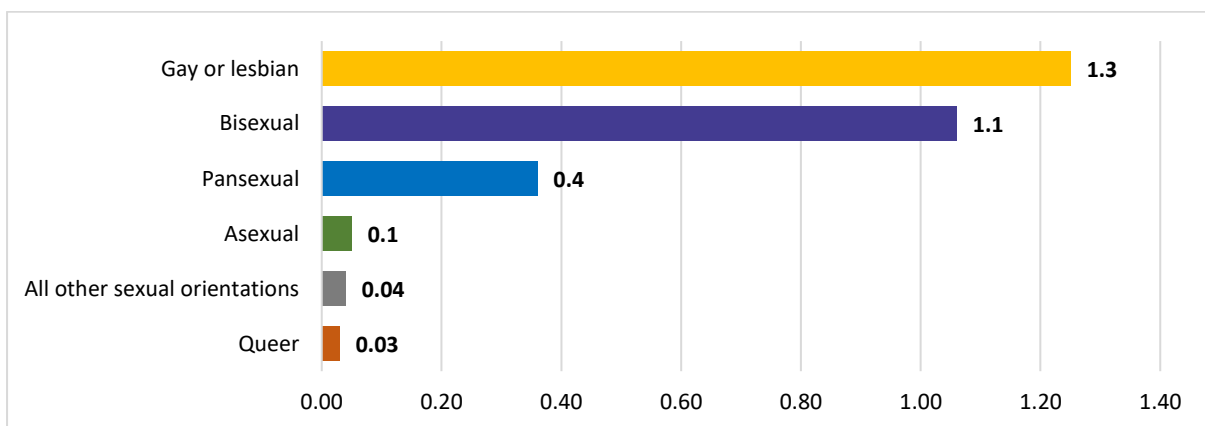
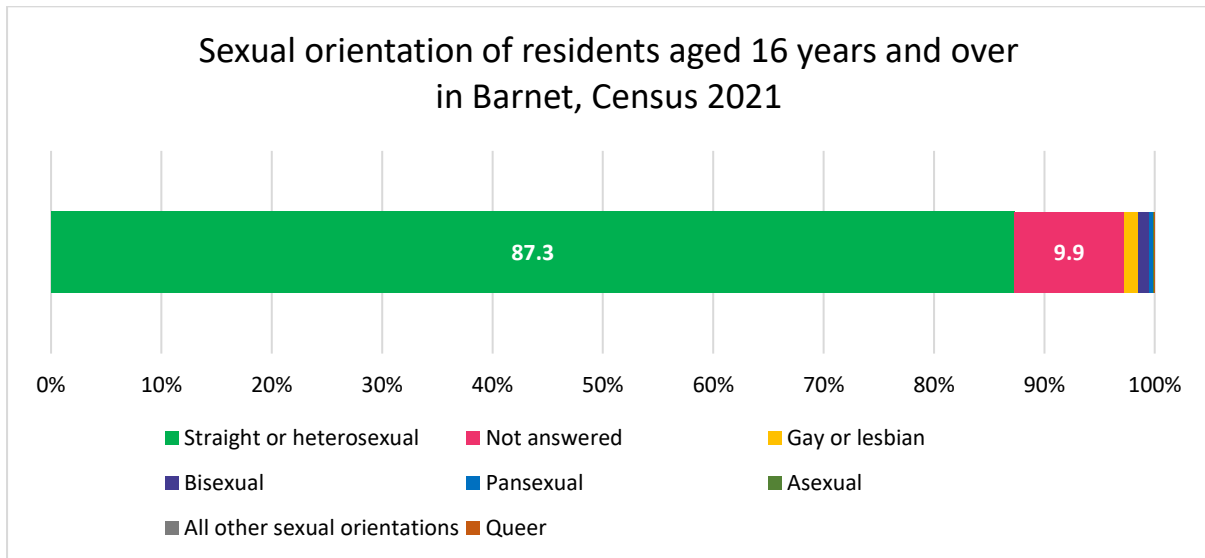


Within Barnet, Edgware Park (0.5%) had the highest percentage of the residents who identified themselves as a trans-man. This was followed by 12 MSOAs (0.2% each): Whetstone East, Edgware East, Edgware Central, North Finchley, Burnt Oak & Watling Park, Grahame Park, Temple Fortune, West Hendon, Brent Cross & Staples Corner, North Cricklewood, Childs Hill, Colindale East, and Colindale West & South.

Sexual Orientation

The question on sexual orientation asked residents which of the following best describes their sexual orientation with the answer choices, including straight or heterosexual, gay or lesbian, bisexual, and other sexual orientation. For those who chose “other sexual orientation”, respondents could write in their sexual orientation.

Chart 4. Sexual orientation of residents aged 16 years and over in Barnet from the Census 2021



About 90% of residents aged 16 years and over in Barnet answered the question in the 2021 Census. A total of 270,000 residents (87.3%) in Barnet identified themselves as straight or heterosexual.

Table 5. Percentage of residents who identified with an LGB+ orientation in the Census 2021 – Barnet vs London vs England

Barnet (2021)	London (2021)	England (2021)
2.8%	4.3%	3.2%

A total of 8,633 residents (2.8%) identified with an LGB+ orientation (“Gay or Lesbian”, “Bisexual” or “Other sexual orientation” as categorised by the Office of National Statistics). This was below both the London average (4.3%) and the England average (3.2%).

- 3,864 residents (1.3%) described themselves as gay or lesbian.
- 3,286 residents (1.1%) described themselves as bisexual.
- 1,483 residents (0.5%) selected “other sexual orientation”.

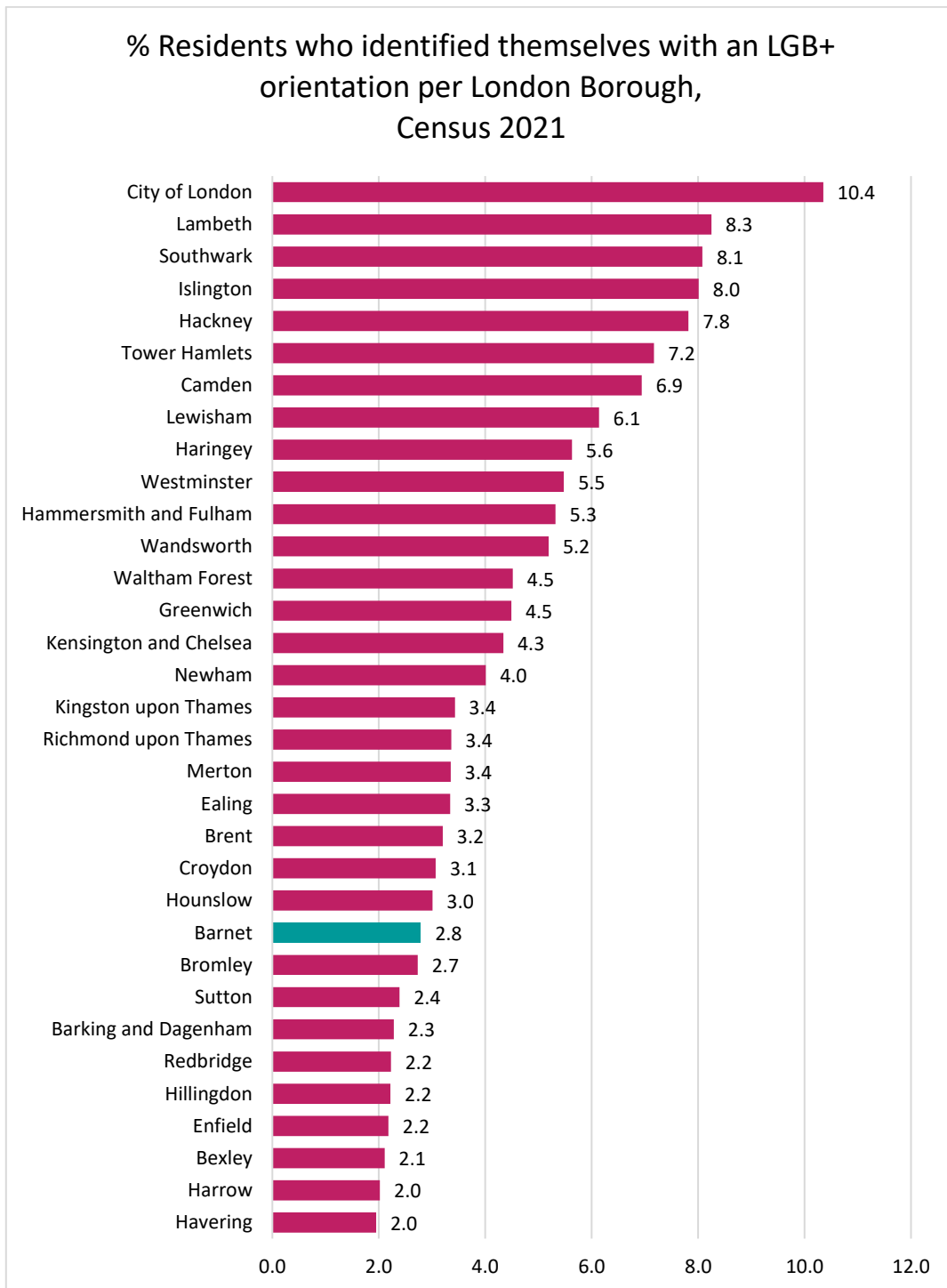
The residents who chose “other sexual orientation” wrote in responses, including pansexual (n=1,125, 0.4%), asexual (n=144, 0.1%), queer (n=99, 0.03%), and all other sexual orientations (n=115, 0.04%).

Table 6. Percentage of residents who chose not to answer the sexual orientation question in the Census 2021 – Barnet vs London vs England

Barnet (2021)	London (2021)	England (2021)
9.9%	9.5%	7.5%

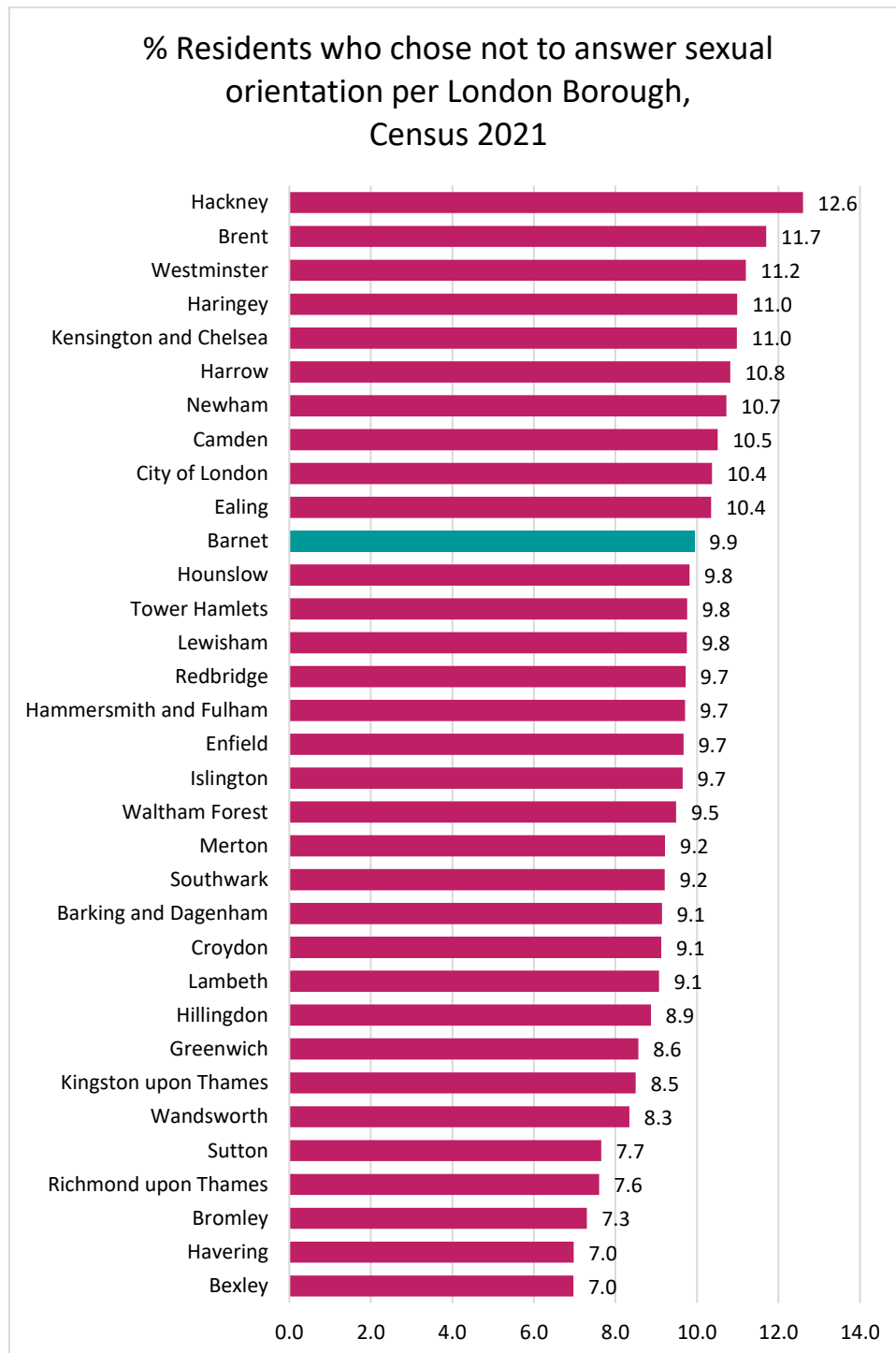
The remaining 30,000 Barnet residents aged 16 years and over (9.9%) did not answer the question on sexual orientation, which was similar to the London average (9.5%) but higher than the England average (7.5%).

Chart 5. Percentage of residents who identified with an LGB+ orientation per London Borough from the Census 2021



Barnet had the 28th highest proportion of residents in London who identified with an LGB+ orientation and responded with a sexual orientation other than straight or heterosexual.

Chart 6. Percentage of residents who chose not to answer sexual orientation per London Borough from the Census 2021



Among all London boroughs, Barnet had the 11th highest percentage for residents who chose not to answer the sexual orientation question.

Table 7. MSOAs with a higher percentage of residents who identified with an LGB+ orientation than the Barnet average (2.8%) from the Census 2021

Rank	MSOA	% Residents who identified themselves with an LGB+ orientation
1	High Barnet & Hadley	5.2%
2	Hadley Wood	4.7%
3	Oak Hill	4.6%
4	Ducks Island & Underhill	4.6%
5	New Barnet West	4.4%
6	New Barnet Town & East Barnet	4.1%
7	Totteridge & Barnet Gate	3.9%
8	Oakleigh Park	3.6%
9	Osidge	3.4%
10	Brunswick Park Road	3.4%
11	Whetstone East	3.3%
12	Woodside Park	3.1%
13	Edgware East	3%
14	Edgware Park	3%
15	Friern Barnet	2.9%

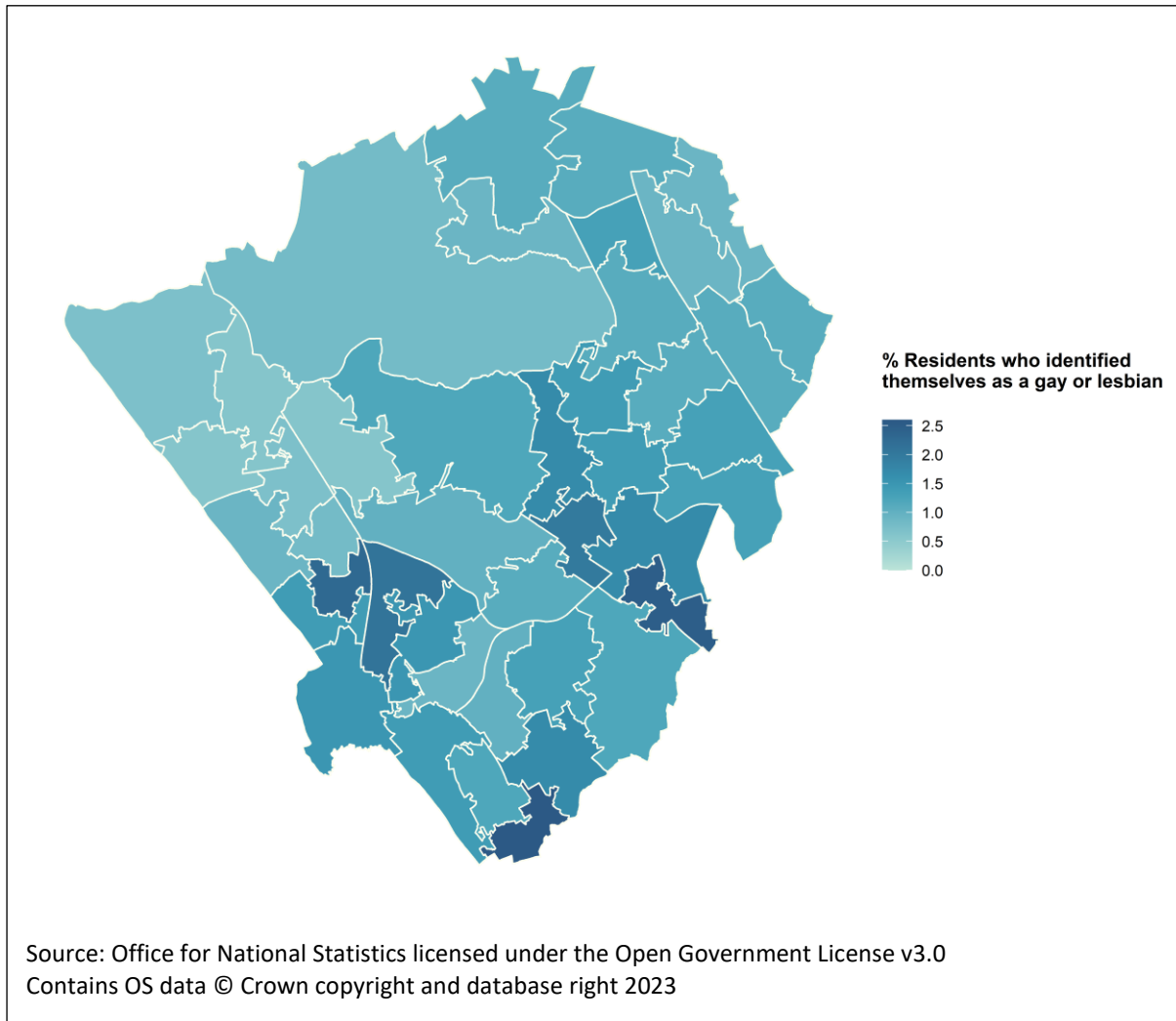
About a third of the 42 MSOAs in Barnet recorded a higher proportion of residents who identified with an LGB+ orientation than the Barnet average (2.8%) in 2021. The MSOA with the largest LGB+ population among the residents aged 16 years and over was High Barnet & Hadley (5.2%). Hadley Wood (4.7%), Oakhill (4.6%) and Ducks Island & Underhill (4.6%) followed High Barnet & Hadley.

Table 8. MSOAs with a higher percentage of residents who chose not to answer sexual orientation than the Barnet average (9.9%) from the Census 2021

Rank	MSOA	% Residents who chose not to answer sexual orientation
1	Golders Green North	16.9%
2	Temple Fortune	13.2%
3	Hendon Park	12.7%
4	Burnt Oak & Watling Park	12.2%
5	North Cricklewood	11.6%
6	Golders Green South	11.4%
7	North Hendon & Sunny Hill	11.2%
8	Edgware East	10.9%
9	Grahame Park	10.8%
10	North Finchley	10.7%
11	Edgware Central	10.6%
12	Hendon Central	10.6%
13	West Hendon	10.4%
14	Brent Cross & Staples Corner	10.4%
15	Colindale East	10.2%
16	Whetstone East	10%
17	Colney Hatch	10%

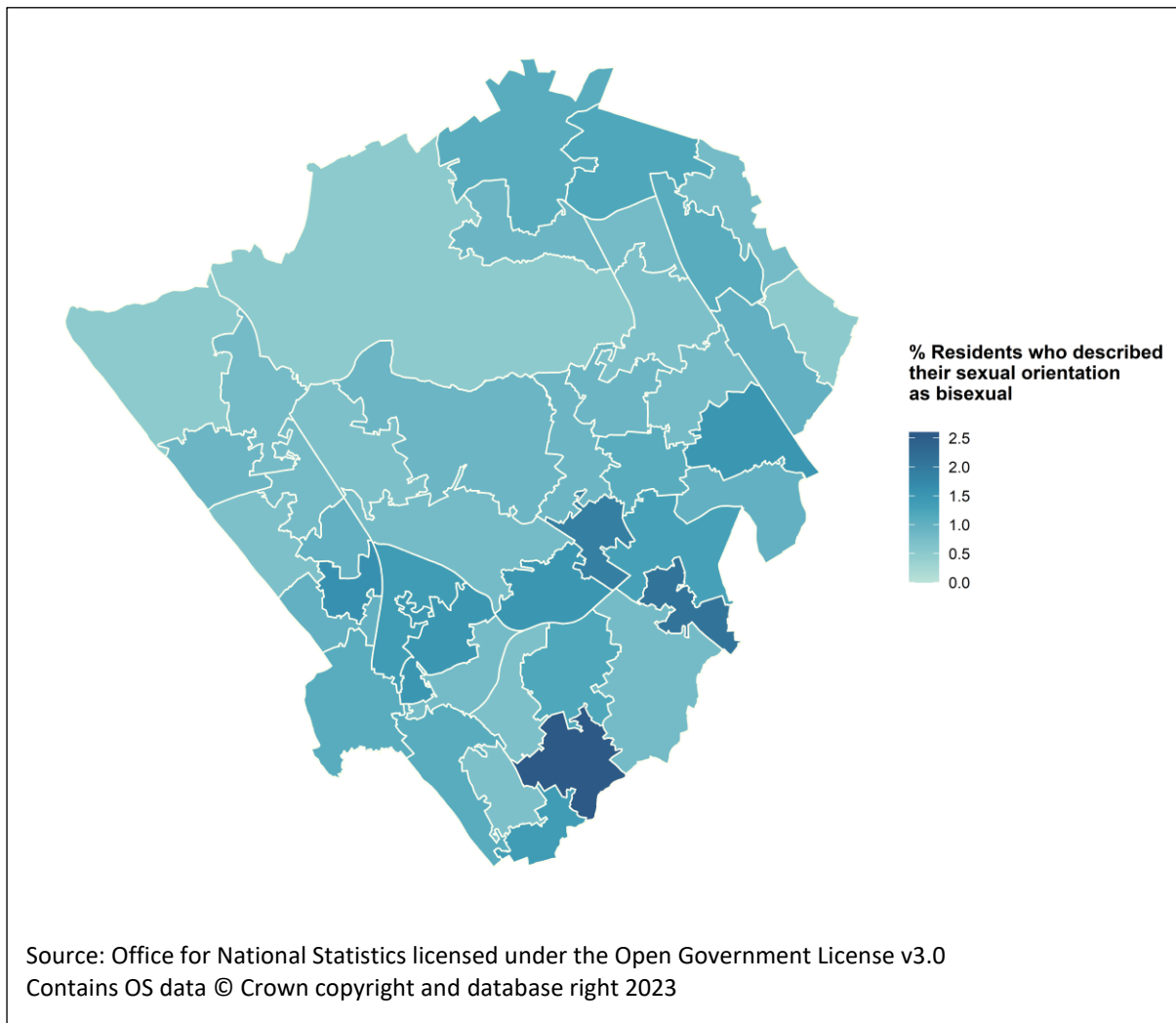
Of the 42 MSOAs, 17 had a higher proportion of residents who chose not to answer the question on sexual orientation than the Barnet average (9.9%). Among them, Golders Green North had the highest percentage of non-respondent residents (16.9%), which corresponded to roughly 1.7 times the Barnet (9.9%) and London (9.5%) averages and 2.3 times of the England averages (7.5%).

Figure 4. Map of residents in Barnet who described their sexual orientation as gay or lesbian from the Census 2021



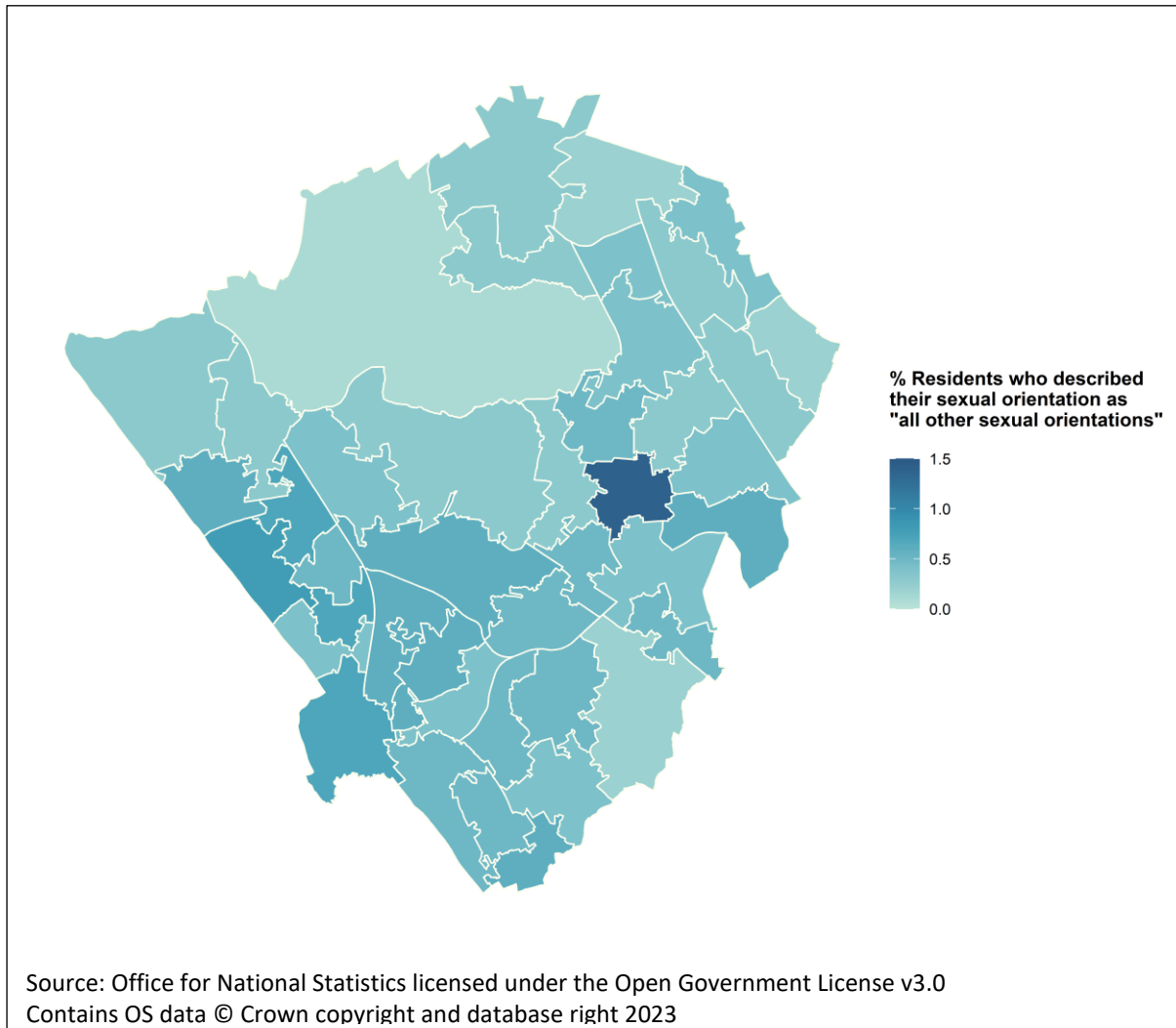
Childs Hill (2.6%), East Finchley (2.5%), and Colindale East (2.3%) were the MSOAs with the largest gay or lesbian population in Barnet, 2021.

Figure 5. Map of residents in Barnet who described their sexual orientation as bisexual from the Census 2021



Golders Green (2.6%), East Finchley (2.1%), and Church End (1.9%) recorded the highest proportion of residents who identified themselves as bisexual in the Census 2021.

Figure 6. Map of residents in Barnet who described their sexual orientation as “all other sexual orientations” from the Census 2021



In 2021, North Finchley (1.4%), Burnt Oak & Watling Park (0.8%), Mill Hill Broadway (0.7%), West Hendon (0.7%), and Colindale East (0.7%) had the highest proportion of residents who described their sexual orientation as all other.

Sources and Links

Gender identity and sexual orientation data:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/sexualorientationandgenderidentitycensus2021inenglandandwales>

Census maps:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps?lad=E09000003>

House of Commons MSOA Names:

<https://houseofcommonslibrary.github.io/msoanames/>