

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Plus (LGBTQ+) Population JSNA


Summary from Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Why is this important?

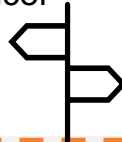
People who identify as LGBTQ+ experience a disproportionate burden of ill health and face inequalities with access to and experience of health services. 2021 Census data showed that just under 14,900 Lewisham residents stated that their sexual orientation was other than straight or heterosexual, which equates to 6.1% of the population aged 16+. 1.02% of the 16+ population stated their gender identity was other than that assigned at birth.


Key Facts and Figures

6% of Lewisham residents state their sexual orientation is other than straight or heterosexual

Rates of mental ill health are much higher for the LGBTQ+ population, particularly for those who identify as non-binary or transgender 

1% of the 16+ population state their gender identity is different to that assigned at birth

Misinformation remains around LGBTQ+ women and cervical cancer screening and STIs 

The LGBTQ+ population see higher levels of smoking, alcohol consumption and use of illegal substances 

Research indicates that people delay accessing health services due to their LGBTQ+ status or choose not to disclose their status

What is happening nationally?

The 2010 Equality Act remains the major relevant legislation. Following the 2017 national LGBT survey, the LGBT Action Plan included key health actions:

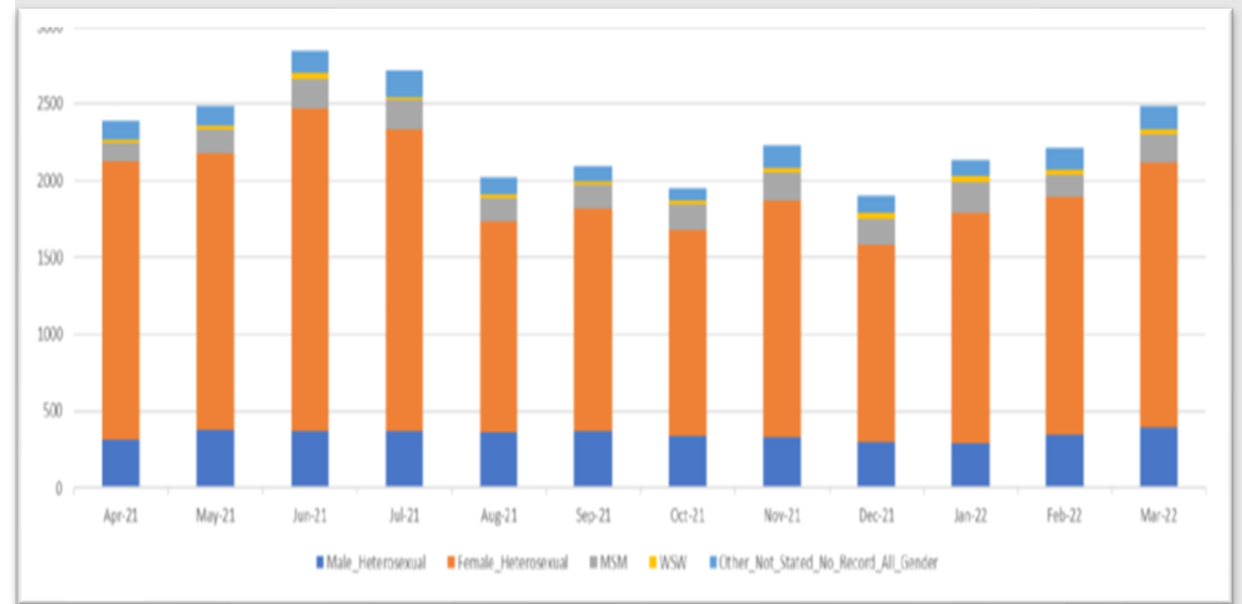
- Improve gender identity services
- Improve mental healthcare for LGBT people focusing on suicide prevention
- Enhance fertility services for LGBT people, including revising surrogacy legislation.
- Reducing HIV transmission, AIDs and HIV related deaths, including the further use of PrEP

What is happening locally?

Sexual Health
There are no specific LGBTQ+ sessions at sexual health clinics in Lewisham. CliniQ Trans Health Service is open to Lewisham residents (and also offers mental health/wellbeing services)

Addiction Services
Antidote, is a LGBT run and targeted drug and alcohol support service in Lewisham

Mental Health
METRO Mental Health
Proud and Well is a new wellbeing service to support Lewisham LGBTQ+ residents. Provision includes one-to-one wellbeing sessions and bi-monthly activities



Service Use of Lewisham Sexual Health Clinics by Sexual Orientation (2021/22)

What needs to be done?

- Comprehensive training for primary care (GPs, pharmacies, VCS groups delivering health activities, as well as acute trusts (LGT and SLAM) to ensure that appropriate language is used, inappropriate curiosity and (stereotypical) assumptions are eliminated.
- Sexual orientation and gender identity to be recorded wherever appropriate and possible
- Development of a local directory of LGBTQ+ services or similar