



## Office for Health Improvement & Disparities

### **Life Expectancy by sexual orientation, England and Wales: March 2021 to March 2024**

On 03 February 2026 the Office for National Statistics published a statistical bulletin and data on Life Expectancy by sexual orientation, England and Wales: March 2021 to March 2024. This was based on 2021 census and death registrations and are classified as experimental statistics. The full report and associated data are available here: [Life expectancy by sexual orientation, England and Wales: March 2021 to March 2024 - GOV.UK](#).

The England and Wales Census 2021 included a voluntary question on sexual orientation for the first time. ONS linked census data to death registrations to estimate life expectancy according to sexual orientation. This briefing summarises the information. Please note there is no regional breakdown.

#### **Key points**

- At age 20 years, life expectancy for both LGB+ men and women is lower compared to the population identifying as straight or heterosexual.

At age 20 years:

- Life expectancy for men identifying with an LGB+ orientation ("gay or lesbian", "bisexual" or "other sexual orientation") was 1.2 years lower compared with men identifying as straight or heterosexual. Life expectancy was 59.4 years for LGB+ men and 60.7 years for straight or heterosexual men.
- Life expectancy for women identifying with an LGB+ orientation was 0.9 years lower compared with women who identified as straight or heterosexual. Life expectancy was 63.0 years for LGB+ women and 64.0 years for straight or heterosexual women.
- Life expectancy for individuals identifying with a gay or lesbian sexual orientation was 59.3 years for men and 62.8 years for women. For those identifying with a bisexual orientation, life expectancy was 59.6 years for men and 62.9 years for women.

**Data notes:** Differences in remaining life expectancy between people who identify as LGB+ and people identifying as straight or heterosexual are based on large samples with consistent patterns across age groups and previous findings. However, ONS cannot say from this analysis whether sexual orientation is a contributing risk factor for decreased life expectancy.