

# The Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual (LGB) community

## Key findings

- 2.2% of Londoners classify themselves as being lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB). Other reported figures tend to be higher (up to 10%) though an exact figure is difficult to source due to the sensitivity of the subject area and the variety of definitions used
- A higher proportion of the LGB population are men compared to the heterosexual population. The LGB community tends to also have a younger age profile
- Similar proportions of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) people and all Londoners mention concerns over crime and anti-social behaviour as potential barriers to increased Tube use. LGBT Londoners are more likely to mention issues of overcrowding, cost and unreliability (potentially due to a greater proportion being of working-age and therefore more likely to be commuting through London)
- For some LGBT people, fears over intimidation and/or abuse affect travel behaviour

## Summary

A small proportion (2.2%) of Londoners identifies themselves as being lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB)<sup>1</sup>[3]. This is marginally higher than in the UK where 1.5% of people identify themselves as LGB. Note that approximately five per cent of people interviewed did not give a response to this question. The majority of Londoners (92.3%) claim to be heterosexual with the equivalent figure for the UK being 94.8% [3]. Other figures for the proportion of people in London who are LGB tend to be higher (at about ten per cent) though these figures are approximated and reflect the broader definition of sexual orientation (how people act) as opposed to how they define their own identity [82].

## Demographics

- 55% of the LGB (UK)<sup>2</sup> population are men compared to 49% of the heterosexual population [3]
- The age profile of the LGB community in the UK is younger than the heterosexual population [3]
- LGB people are more likely to be in managerial and professional occupations compared to heterosexual people[3]

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<sup>1</sup> Note that in this survey, 'transgender' was not listed as a pre-coded answer

<sup>2</sup>Figure is unknown for London

## Barriers

Very few differences exist between heterosexual and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT)<sup>3</sup> people regarding spontaneously mentioned barriers to increased Tube use. Some differences exist when people are prompted with a list of potential barriers. LGBT people are more likely to cite overcrowded services (73% compared to 60% of all Londoners), the cost of tickets (54% vs. 43%) and unreliable services (50% vs. 33%) as potential barriers to increased Tube use [83].

Fears of intimidation and/or abuse are sometimes mentioned by people from LGBT communities. The extent to which these fears affect travel behaviour depends on peoples' personalities, previous experiences and the degree to which they perceive themselves as being visibly LGBT [84].

Much of the research conducted by TfL and other organisations does not ask about an individual's sexual orientation so this chapter is largely based on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Integrated Household Survey and TfL's own research into barriers to increased Tube use.

Although not held by TfL, there are a number of reports available on more generic research issues concerning sexual orientation published by Stonewall. These can be found at [http://www.stonewall.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/research\\_and\\_policy/default.asp](http://www.stonewall.org.uk/what_we_do/research_and_policy/default.asp)

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<sup>3</sup> Data in this survey is based on the broader definition of LGBT rather than LGB, and looks specifically at barriers to Tube travel rather than travel on public transport in general