

Census 2021 – West Suffolk data summary

Disability, unpaid care, and sexual orientation. February 2024

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About this document

- This document summarises the Census 2021 data that have so far been released, at the West Suffolk level. Further information and analysis tools from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Suffolk-level summaries by Suffolk County Council (SCC) are available at: [Healthy Suffolk – Census in Suffolk](#)
- The maps in this report were taken directly from the above analysis by SCC and this report follows much of the structure of SCC's summary but replicated at the district level. We are grateful for SCC colleagues' work in this area.
- Further summaries of West Suffolk data will be issued as more data is released.

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Glossary of terms used

OA denotes 'output area'. This is the smallest geography for which census data are released.

There are **587 output areas** in West Suffolk in 2021, with an average usual resident population of just over 300 people.

LSOA denotes 'lower super output area'. All data available at OA level are also available for LSOAs.

There are 107 LSOAs in West Suffolk, with an average usual resident population of just under 1,700 people.

MSOA denotes 'middle super output area'. There are **21 MSOAs in West Suffolk**, with an average usual resident population of just under 8,500 people.

LTLA denotes 'lower tier local authority' (district and borough council areas).

Please note that US military personnel and dependents **are included** in the results for West Suffolk if they were in the district on Census night.

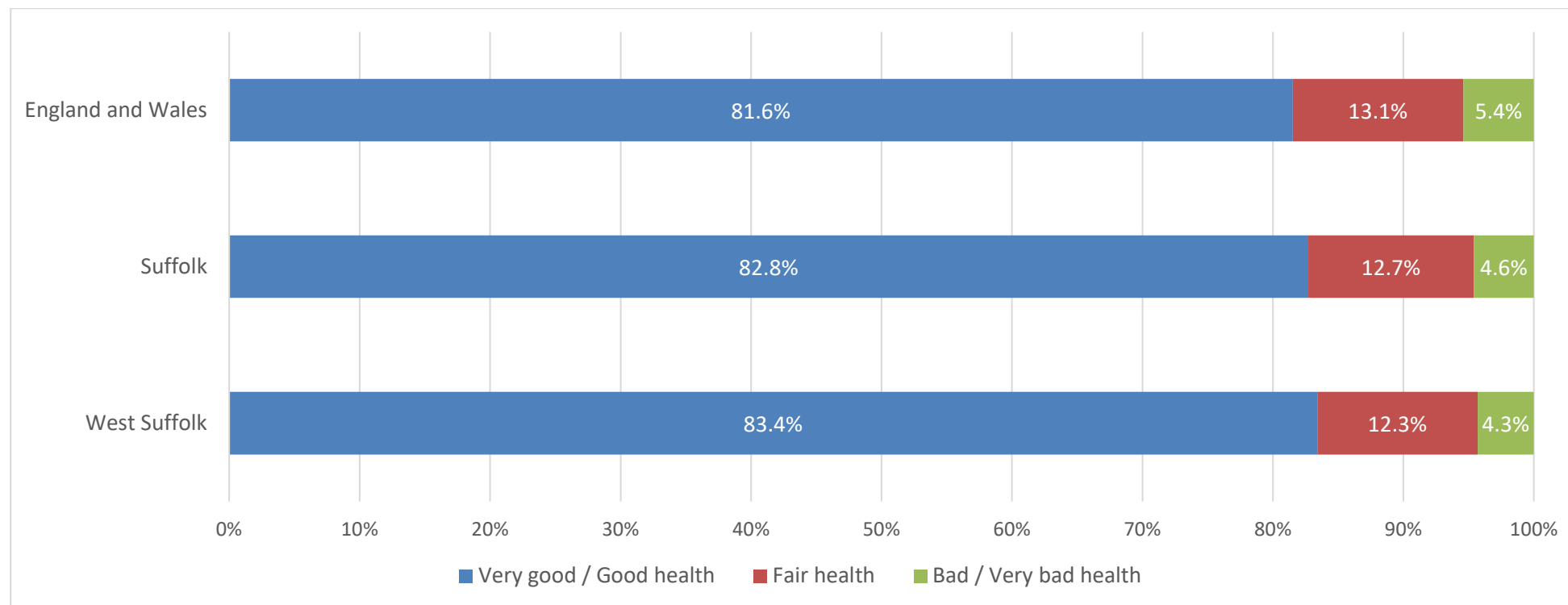
All data used in this paper were sourced from the 2021, 2011 and 2001 ONS census outputs. Some total counts may differ slightly.

Disability

General health

Data on general health were collected on all Census 2021 respondents. They were asked to assess the general state of their health on a scale from very good to very bad (very good health, good health, fair health, bad health, very bad health). This assessment is not based on a person's health over any specified period of time.

Chart 1: General health – age standardised. Census 2021



The age-standardised proportion of residents in West Suffolk reporting very good or good health (83.4 per cent) was higher than Suffolk (82.8 per cent) and England and Wales (81.6 per cent) The proportion reporting bad or very bad health in West Suffolk (4.3 per cent) was lower than Suffolk (4.6 per cent) and England and Wales (5.4 per cent).

General health – by MSOA

- By MSOA in Suffolk, the five areas with the highest percentages of people reporting that they have **very good health** are:
 - Moreton Hall (West Suffolk 012, 55.7 per cent)
 - Lakenheath (West Suffolk 001, 54.8 per cent)
 - Red Lodge, Icklington and Moulton (West Suffolk 007, 53.9 per cent)
 - Beck Row, Eriswell and Barton Mills (West Suffolk 003, 51.9 per cent)
 - Kesgrave East and Martlesham (East Suffolk 025, 51.5 per cent).

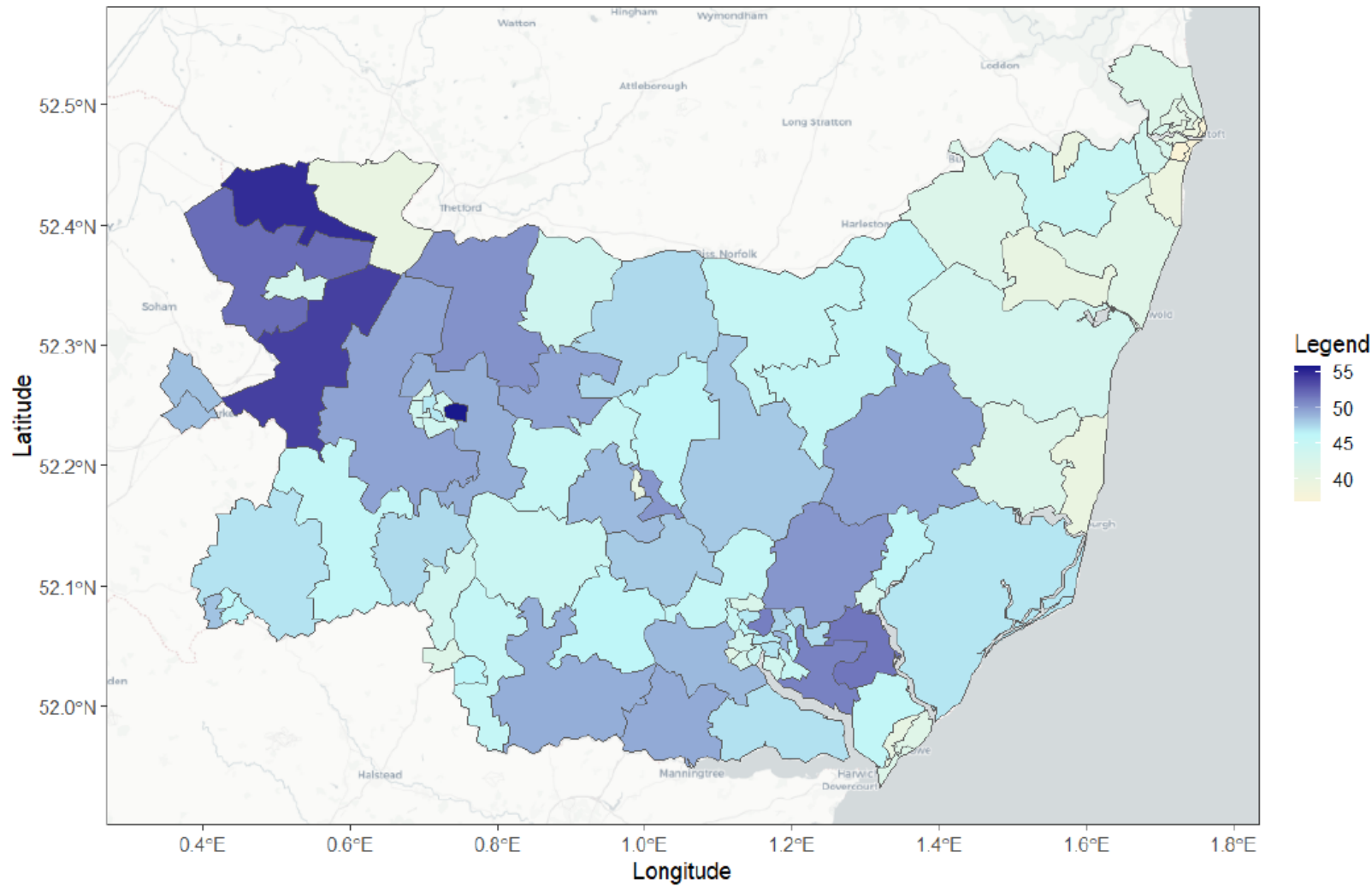
Four of the five areas are in West Suffolk

- The five MSOAs with the highest percentages of people reporting that they have **very bad health** are:
 - Gunton West (East Suffolk 002, 2.0 per cent)
 - Lowestoft Harbour & Kirkley (East Suffolk 006, 1.8 per cent)
 - Pakefield North (East Suffolk 009, 1.7 per cent)
 - Brandon (West Suffolk 002, 1.7 per cent)
 - Beccles (East Suffolk 010, 1.7 per cent).

One of the five areas is in West Suffolk

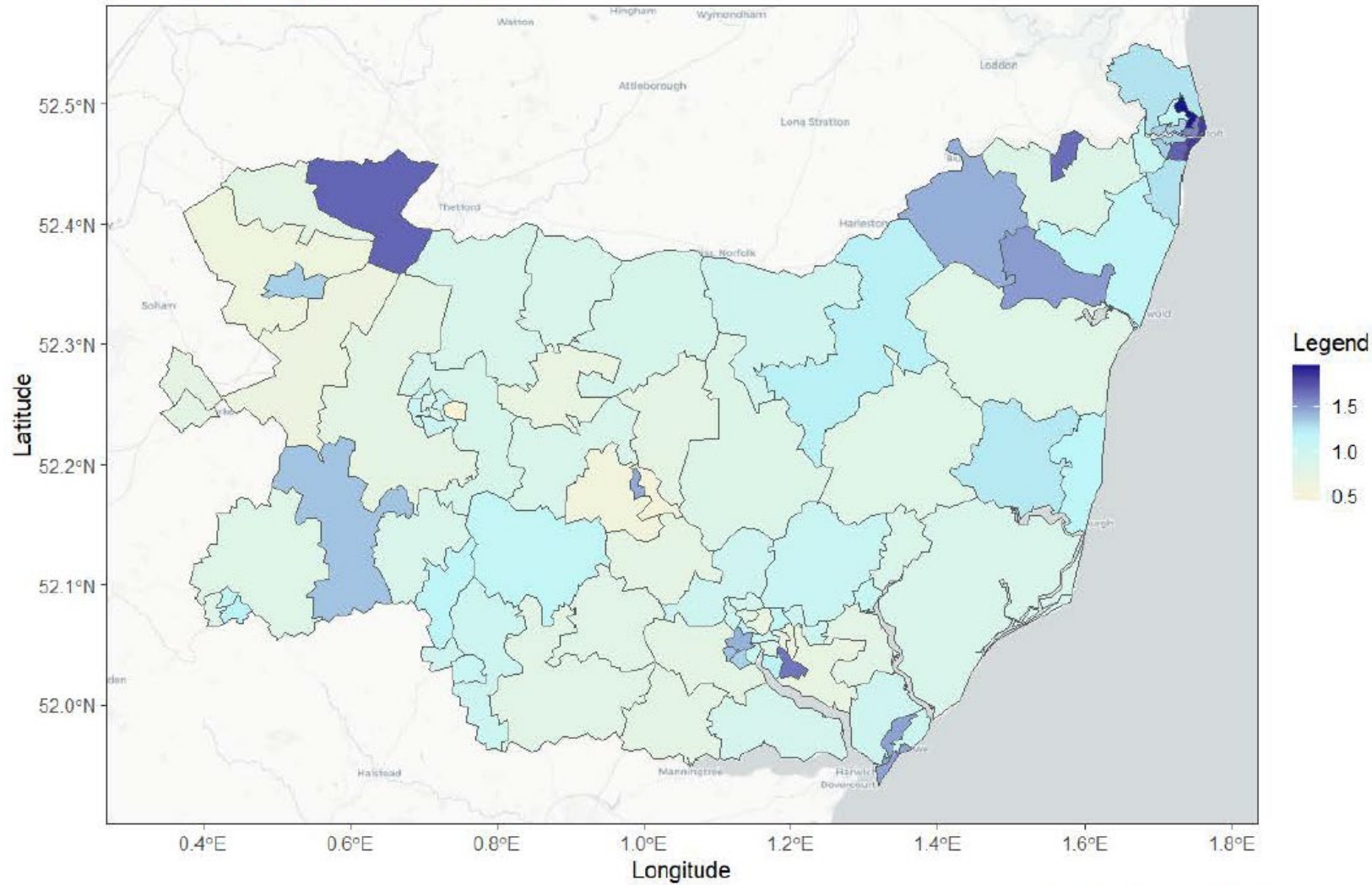
General health – very good or very bad health

Percentage of Suffolk residents in very good health, 2021 Census
By Middle layer Super Output Area (MSOA)



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Percentage of Suffolk residents in very bad health, 2021 Census
By Middle layer Super Output Area (MSOA)



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Disability – under the Equality Act

Data on disability were collected from all usual residents. Individuals could respond:

- Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a lot
- Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a little
- Not disabled under the Equality Act: Has long term physical or mental health condition but day-to-day activities are not limited
- Not disabled under the Equality Act: No long term physical or mental health conditions, or
- Does not apply.

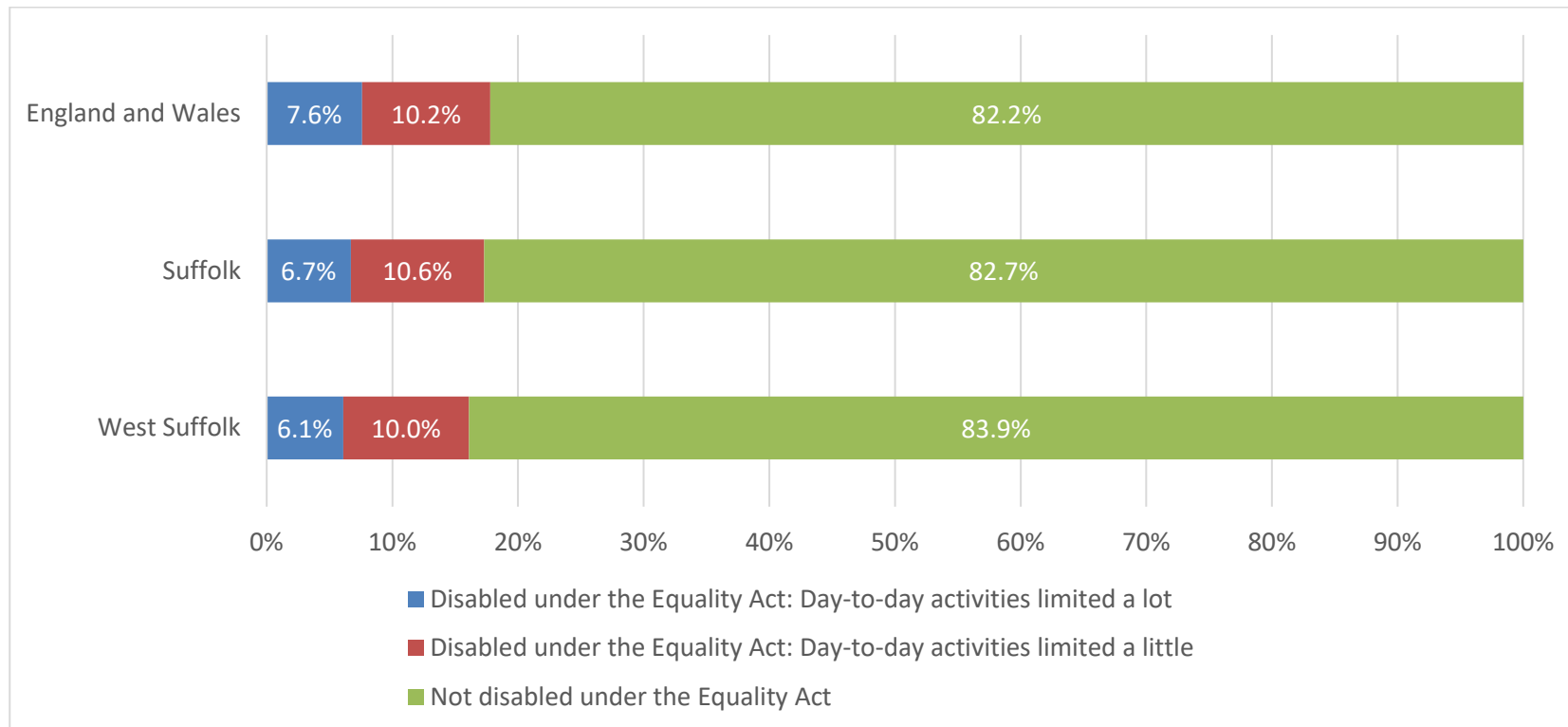
These counts were then converted into age-standardised proportions:

- Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a lot
- Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a little
- Not disabled under the Equality Act, or
- Does not apply.

The number of disabled people in a household has also been calculated:

- No people disabled under the Equality Act in household
- 1 person disabled under the Equality Act in household
- 2 or more people disabled under the Equality Act in household, or
- Does not apply.

Chart 2: Disability: Age-standardised proportions. Census 2021



For West Suffolk, the age-standardised proportion of the population that is disabled under the Equality Act is 16.1%. This is lower than the Suffolk (17.3 per cent) and England and Wales figures (17.8 per cent).

Disability or long term physical or mental health condition

West Suffolk has over 29,000 usual residents who are disabled under the Equalities Act with 11,212 residents stating that their day-to-day activities are limited a lot. This represents 6.2 per cent of the population and is lower than the figure for Suffolk and England and Wales.

There are however 13,834 usual residents who state that they are not disabled under the Equality Act but they have a **long term physical or mental health condition**, but day-to-day activities are not limited. This represents 7.7 per cent of the population which is lower than the figure for Suffolk (7.9 per cent) but higher than the figure for England and Wales (6.8 per cent).

Table 1: Disability and mental health conditions, West Suffolk, Suffolk and England and Wales

	West Suffolk		Suffolk	England and Wales
	Number	Percentage (%)	Percentage (%)	Percentage (%)
Total: All usual residents	179,949			
Disabled under the Equality Act	29,375	16.3%	18.3%	17.5%
Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a lot	11,212	6.2%	7.2%	7.5%
Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a little	18,163	10.1%	11.0%	10.0%
Not disabled under the Equality Act	150,574	83.7%	81.7%	82.5%
Not disabled under the Equality Act: Has long term physical or mental health condition but day-to-day activities are not limited	13,834	7.7%	7.9%	6.8%
Not disabled under the Equality Act: No long term physical or mental health conditions	136,740	76.0%	73.8%	75.7%

Disabled people in a household

Chart 3: Number of people disabled under the Equality Act in household. Census 2021

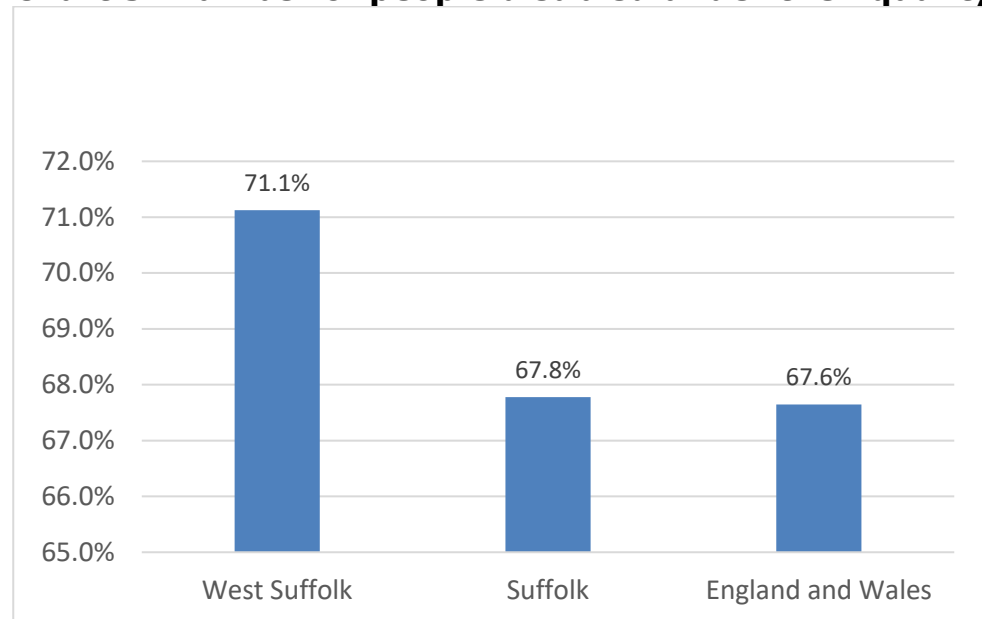


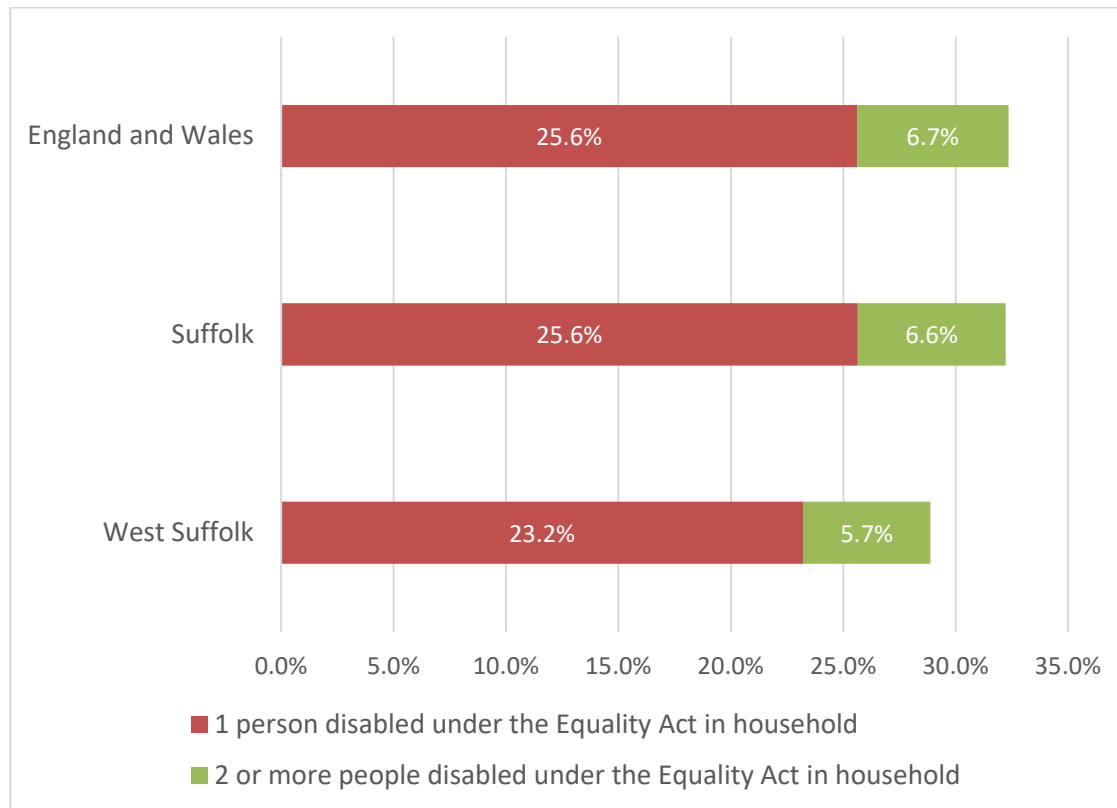
Table 2: Number of disabled people in a household. Census 2021

Number of disabled people in household	West Suffolk	Percentage (%)
Total: All households	78,746	
No people disabled under the Equality Act in household	56,010	71.1%
1 person disabled under the Equality Act in household	18,282	23.2%
2 or more people disabled under the Equality Act in household	4,454	5.7%

West Suffolk has a significantly higher percentage of households where no one was disabled (71.1 per cent) than Suffolk (67.8 per cent) and England and Wales (67.6 per cent).

28.9 per cent of West Suffolk households are home to a disabled person compared to 32.2 per cent in Suffolk and 32.3 per cent in England and Wales.

Chart 4: Percentage of disabled people in a household. Census 2021



Disabled people in a household, by MSOA

- By MSOA in Suffolk, the five areas with the highest percentages of households reporting that there are **no people living with disability** are:
 - Red Lodge, Icklington and Moulton (West Suffolk 007, 77.8 per cent)
 - Lakenheath (West Suffolk 001, 77.3 per cent)
 - Moreton Hall (West Suffolk 012, 77.2 per cent)
 - South Newmarket and Racecourse (West Suffolk 015, 76.1 per cent)
 - Beck Row, Eriswell and Barton Mills (West Suffolk 003, 75.4 per cent).

All five areas are in West Suffolk

Please note that several of the MSOAs are associated with the preferred housing locations of US air force personnel and their dependents.

- By MSOA in Suffolk, the five areas with the highest percentages of households reporting that there are two or more people living with disability are all in East Suffolk and Ipswich. **None of the five areas are in West Suffolk.**

Unpaid care

Definition, Census 2021

Census 2021 asked "Do you look after, or give any help or support to, anyone because they have long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses, or problems related to old age?". People were asked to exclude anything they did as part of their paid employment. People could respond:

- No
- Yes, 9 hours a week or less
- Yes, 10 to 19 hours a week
- Yes, 20 to 34 hours a week
- Yes, 35 to 49 hours a week, or
- Yes, 50 or more hours a week.

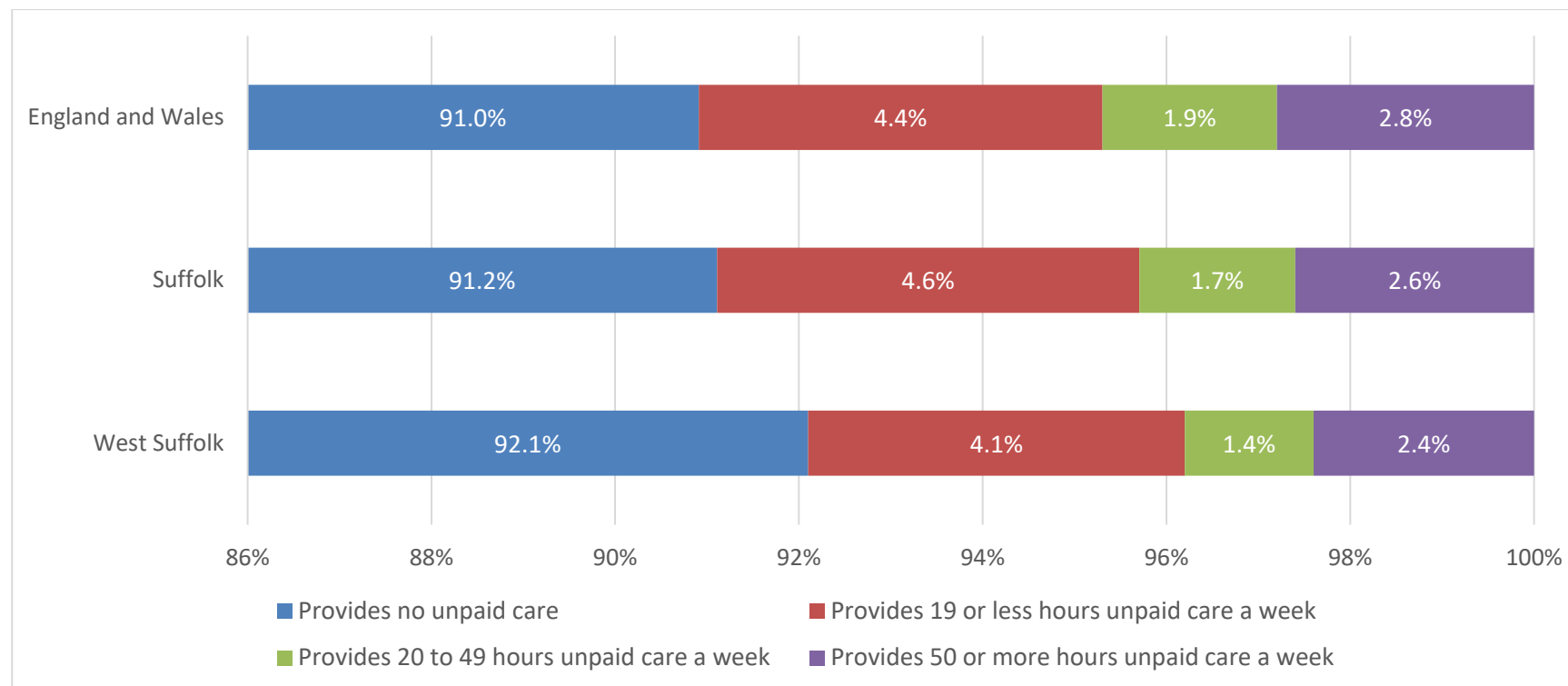
The wording of the question differs from the 2011 Census question.

Census 2021 was undertaken during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which may have influenced how people perceived and undertook their provision of unpaid care and therefore may have affected how people chose to respond.

Note: Age-standardised proportions (ASPs) account for different age structures in populations and are more appropriate than crude percentages when drawing comparisons over time and across areas.

Provision of unpaid care

Chart 5: Provision of unpaid care – age standardised proportions. Census 2021



- For West Suffolk, the age-standardised proportion of the population aged 5 and over who do not provide unpaid care (92.1 per cent) is slightly higher than Suffolk (91.2 per cent) and England and Wales (91 per cent).
- For West Suffolk, the age-standardised proportion of the population aged 5 and over who provide some care each week (7.9 per cent) is lower than the figures for Suffolk (8.9 per cent) and England and Wales (9.1 per cent)
- Among Suffolk LTLAs, East Suffolk had the highest age-standardised proportion of people providing unpaid care (9.6 per cent) and West Suffolk had the lowest (7.9 per cent).

Provision of unpaid care by MSOA

By MSOA in Suffolk, the five areas with the highest percentages of people reporting that they **did not provide care** each week are:

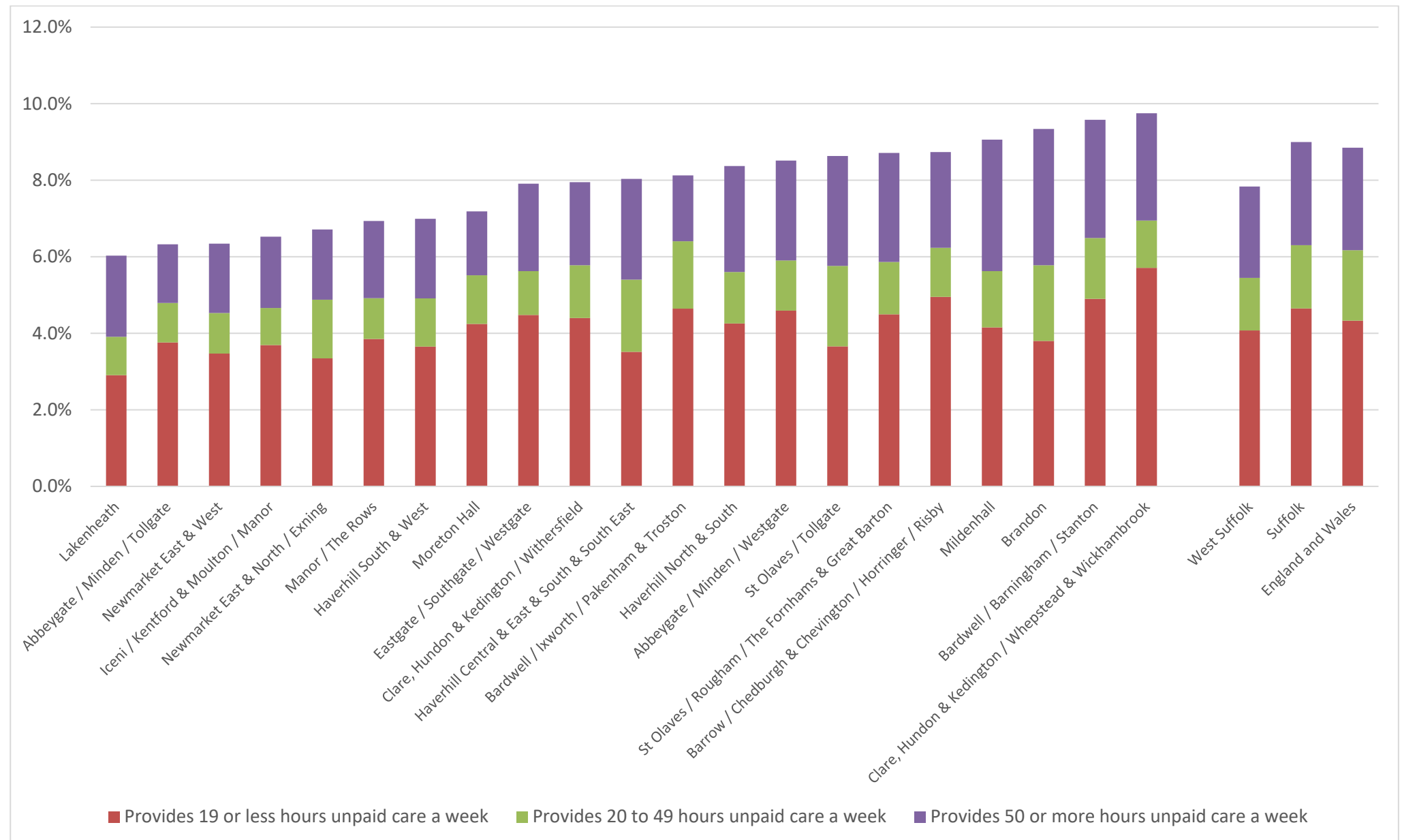
- Lakenheath (West Suffolk 001, 94.0 per cent)
- Bury St Edmunds Central (West Suffolk 011, 93.7 per cent)
- South Newmarket and Racecourse (West Suffolk 015, 93.7 per cent)
- Red Lodge, Icklington and Moulton (West Suffolk 007, 93.5 per cent)
- North Newmarket, Studlands and Exning (West Suffolk 008, 93.3 per cent).

All five areas are in West Suffolk

West Suffolk MSOAs **do not appear** in the top five areas of people reporting that they provided 50 or more hours unpaid care a week.

They are variations in the amount of unpaid care between areas in West Suffolk. The MSA that covers Lakenheath has 6% of residents providing care and the MSA that covers Clare, Hundon and Kedington, and Whepstead and Wickhambrook had 9.8% of residents providing care.

Chart 6: Provides unpaid care by MSOA in West Suffolk. Census 2021



Sexual orientation. Census 2021

These questions are newly included in the 2021 census and therefore there are no previous data from the 2011 census for comparison over time.

Data on sexual orientation were collected on individuals aged 16 and over.

- For West Suffolk, the percentage of the population aged 16 and over that self-identify as being straight or heterosexual is 90.4 per cent, similar to the percentage seen across Suffolk (90.3 per cent), but higher than the England and Wales percentage (89.4 per cent).
- 6.9 per cent of West Suffolk residents did not answer the question on sexual orientation.

Chart 7: Sexual orientation: straight or heterosexual

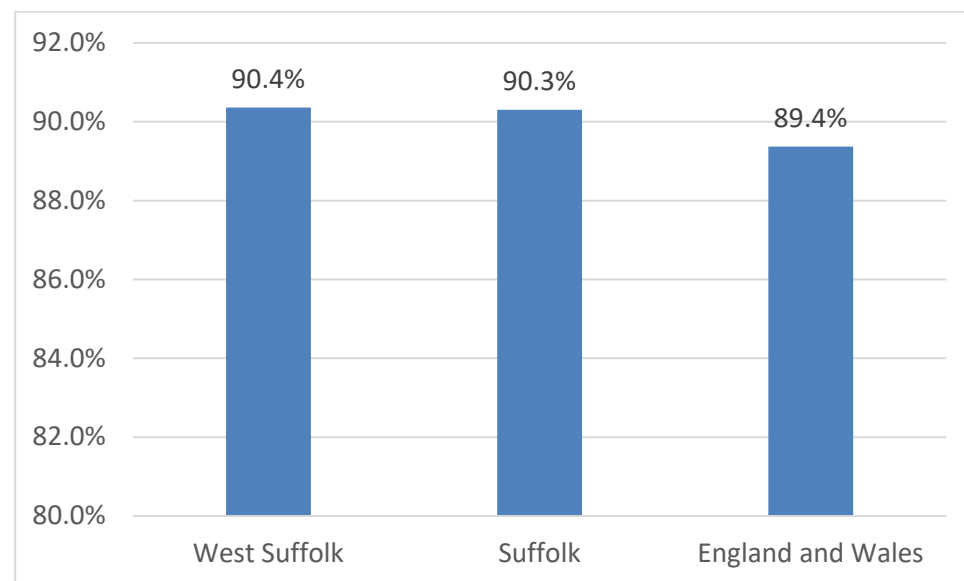


Chart 8: Sexual orientation: Question not answered.

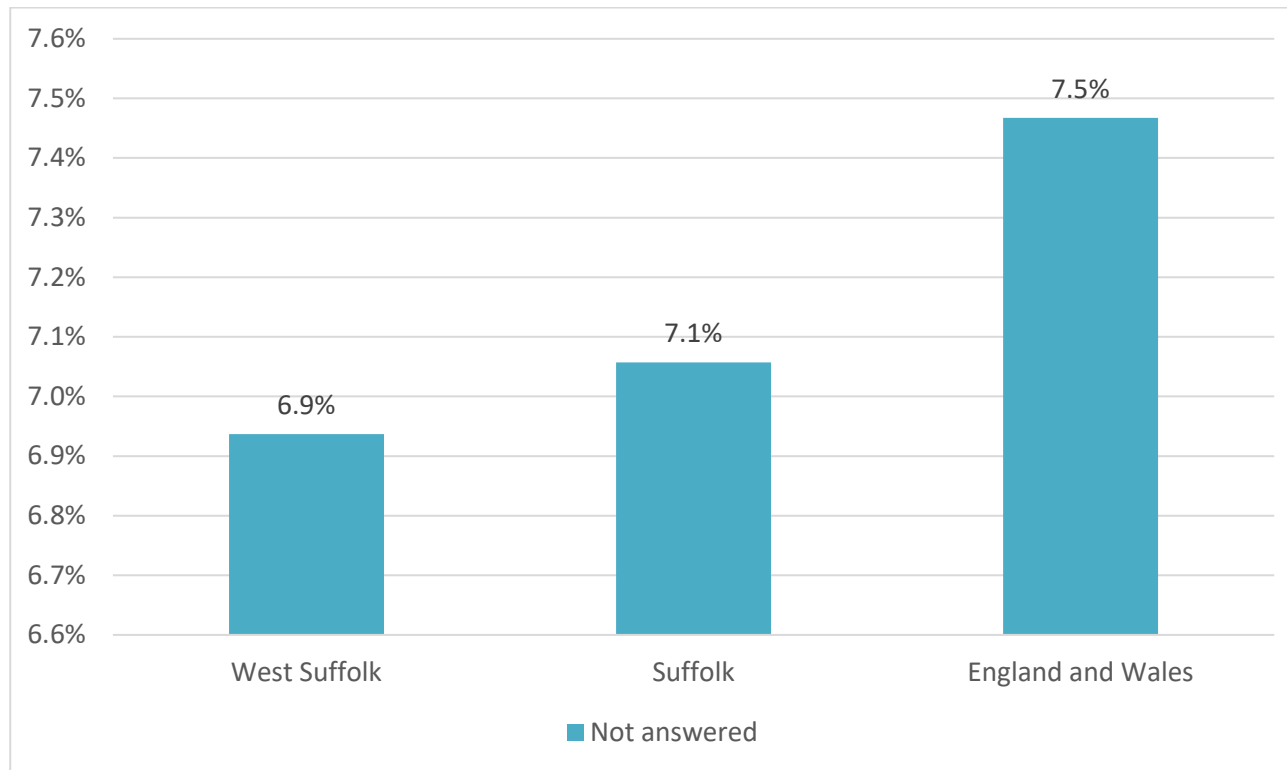
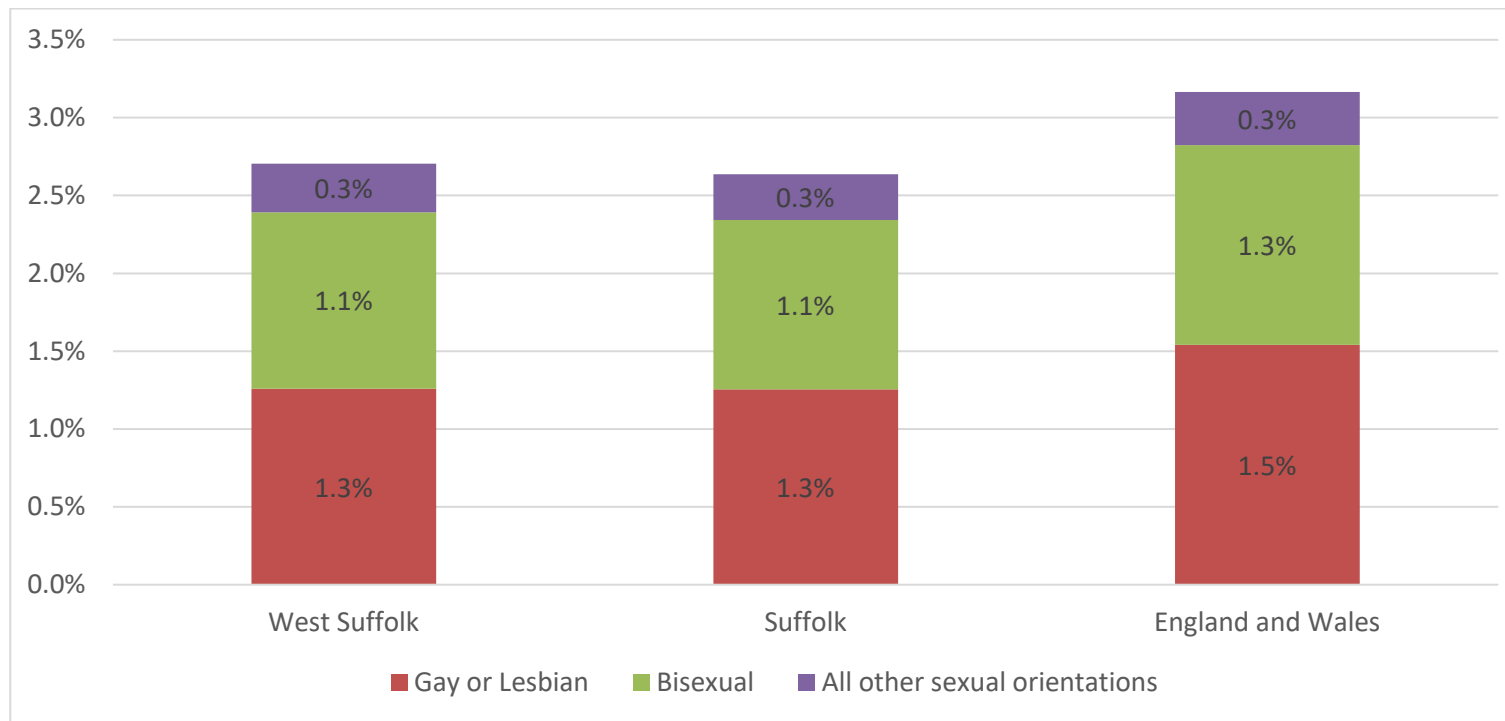


Chart 9: Sexual orientation: gay or lesbian, bisexual or all other sexual orientations



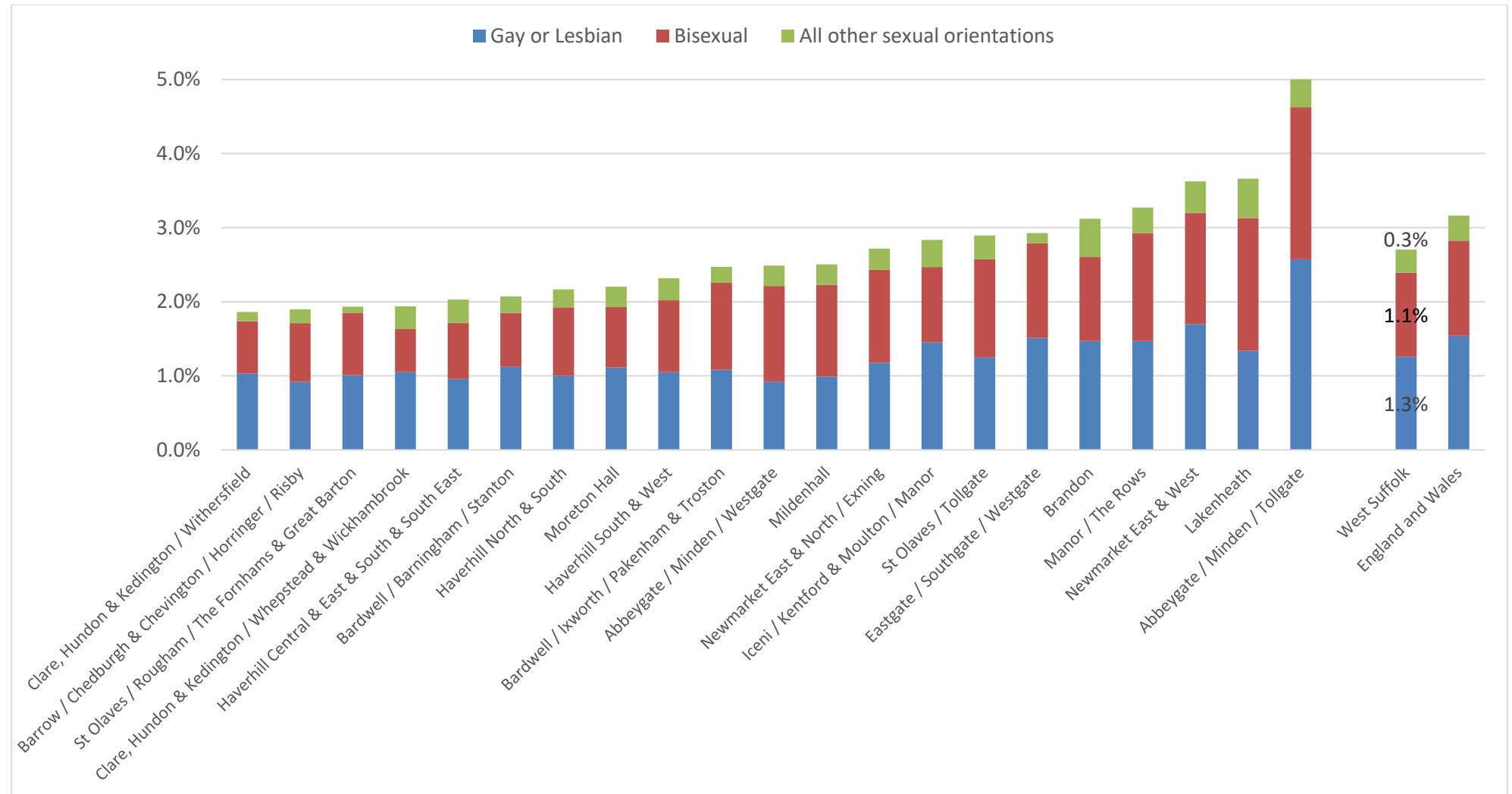
For West Suffolk, the percentage of the population aged 16 and over that self-identify as being gay or lesbian is 1.3 per cent, this is the same as the figure for Suffolk, but slightly lower overall than the England and Wales national percentage (1.5 per cent).

For West Suffolk, the percentage of the population aged 16 and over that self-identify as being bisexual is 1.1 per cent, again this is the same as the figure for Suffolk, but slightly lower overall than the England and Wales national percentage (1.3 per cent).

All other sexual orientations account for 0.3 per cent of the population aged 16 and over, this is the same across West Suffolk, Suffolk and England and Wales nationally.

Sexual orientation by MSOA

Chart 10: Sexual orientation: gay or lesbian, bisexual, or all other sexual orientations, by MSOA



While 2.7 per cent of West Suffolk's population (aged 16 and over) state their sexual orientation as gay or lesbian, bisexual or all other sexual orientations, this varies from 1.9 per cent to 5.3 per cent across the district.

Gender identity

Data on gender identity were collected on individuals aged 16 and over.

Note that 5.44 per cent of the West Suffolk resident population did NOT answer this question. We see a similar non response for Suffolk (5.45 per cent) and a higher non response rate of 6 per cent for England and Wales.

Of the residents who DID answer this question:

- For West Suffolk, the percentage of the population aged 16 and over whose gender identity is the same as sex registered at birth is 99.59 per cent, very similar as the percentage seen in Suffolk (99.62 per cent) and slightly higher than the percentage seen across England and Wales as a nation (93.43 per cent).
- 0.38 per cent of the West Suffolk population aged 16 and over state that their gender identity is not the same as their sex registered at birth. The figure for Suffolk is very slightly higher at 0.41 per cent and higher again for England and Wales at 0.57 per cent.

Chart 11: Of those residents who answered the question on gender identity – the percentage who reported that they were the same sex as registered at birth. Census 2021.

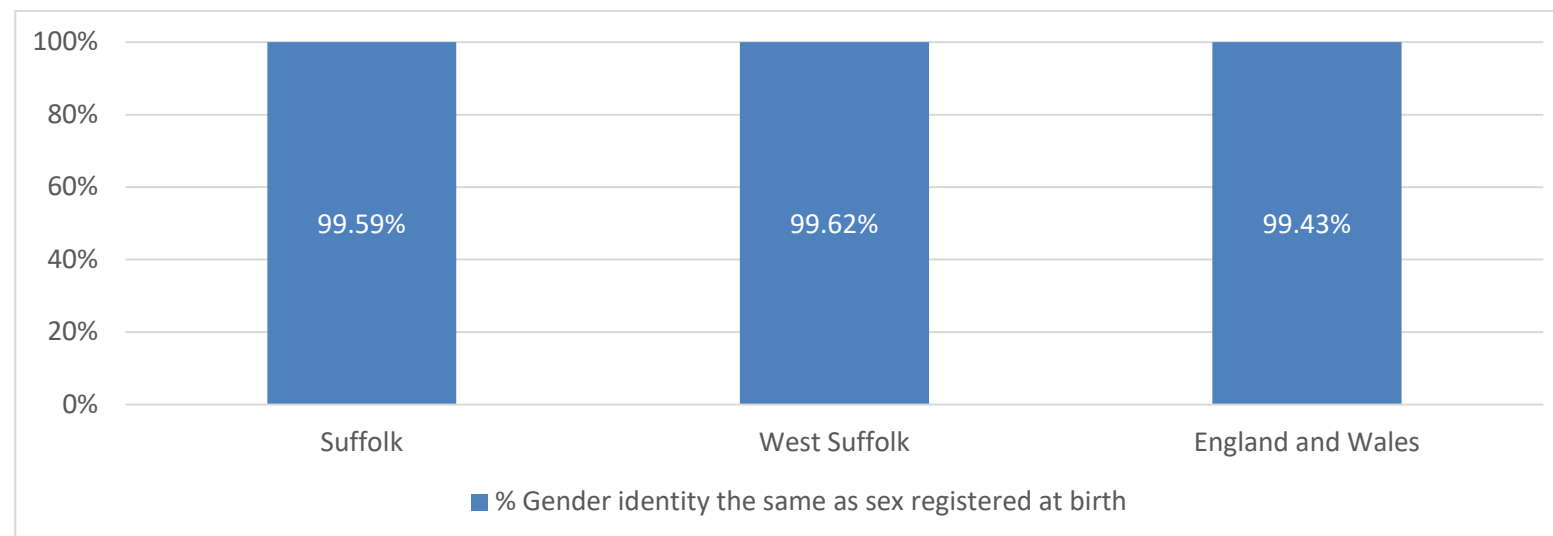
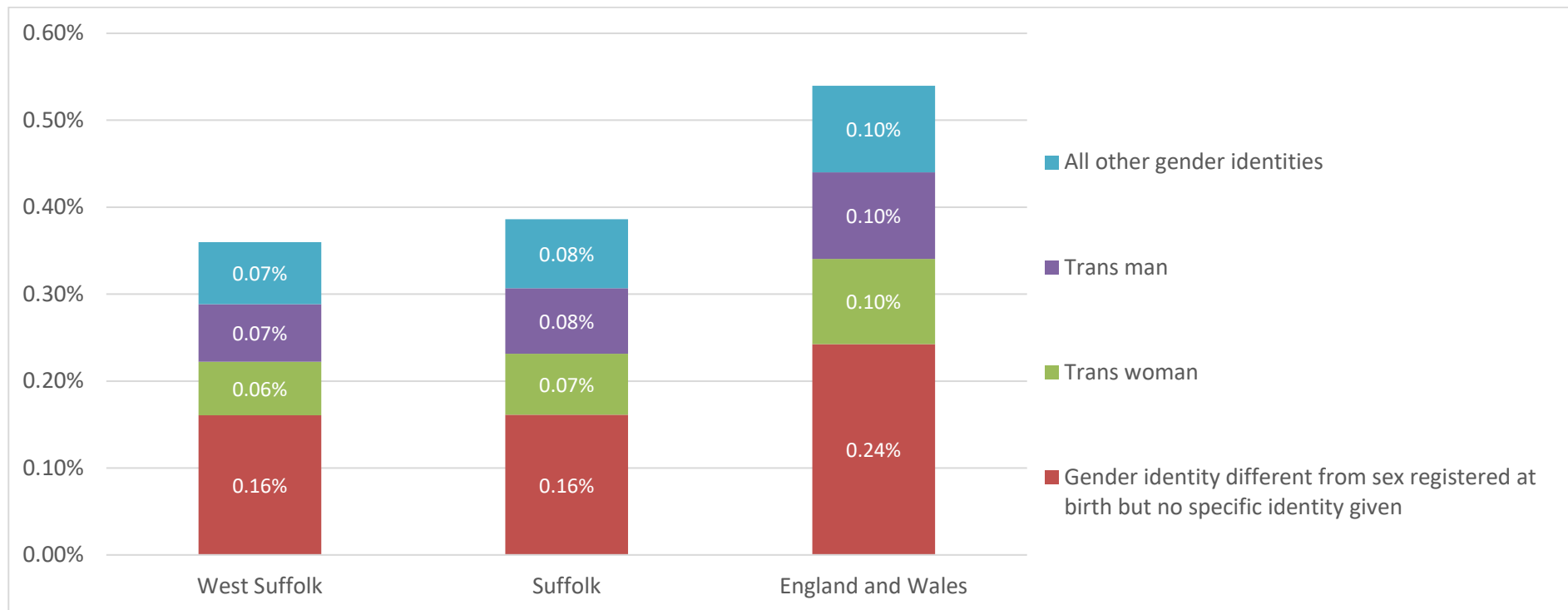


Chart 12: Gender identity: where the gender identity is NOT the same as sex registered at birth.

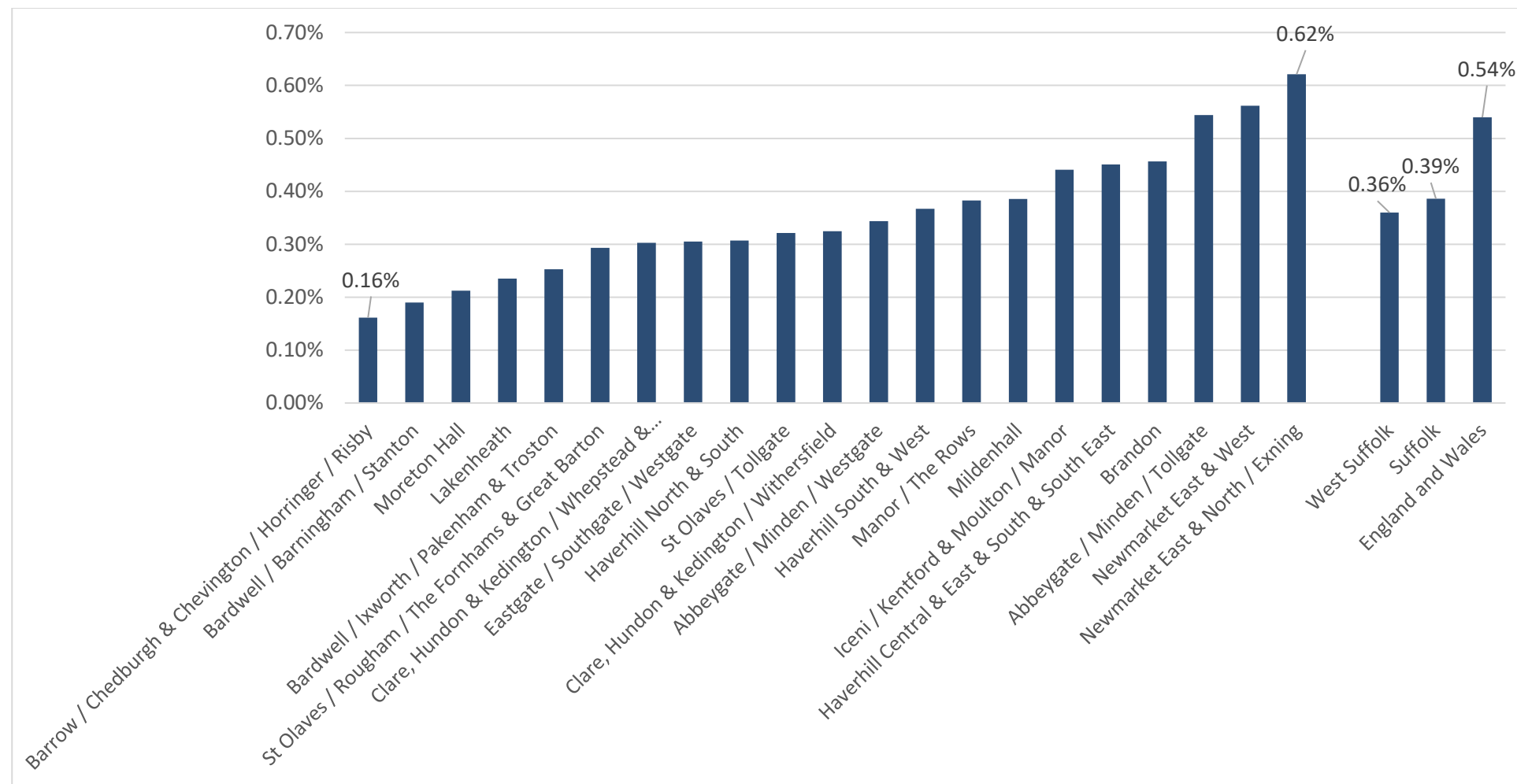


For West Suffolk, the percentage of the population aged 16 and over whose gender identity is different from sex registered at birth (including trans woman, trans man, non-binary and all other gender identities) is 0.36 per cent (533 residents), lower than the percentages seen across Suffolk (0.39 per cent) and England and Wales (0.54 per cent).

Among Suffolk lower tier local authorities, Ipswich had the highest rates of people aged 16 and over reporting that their gender identity was different from sex registered at birth (including trans woman, trans man, non-binary and all other gender identities) at 0.8 per cent, which was higher than the England and Wales rate (0.54 per cent). Mid Suffolk had the lower percentage at 0.26 per cent.

Gender identity where identity is NOT the same as registered at birth, by MSOA

Chart 13: Gender identity: where the gender identity is NOT the same as sex registered at birth.



While 0.36 per cent of West Suffolk's population (aged 16 and over) state their gender identity is **not** the same as sex registered at birth, this varies from 0.16 to 0.62 per cent across the district.