

LGBTIQA+ stands for:

- lesbian
- gay
- bisexual
- trans and gender diverse
- intersex (people with innate variations of sex characteristics)
- queer (or questioning)
- asexual

The plus symbol allows for the many different terms used to describe identity beyond LGBTIQA.

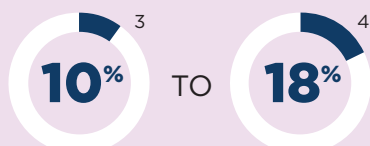
These letters have changed over time and different versions of LGBTIQA+ are used in different places.

Percentage of Australia's population who are LGBTIQA+:

Estimates range from



Among 16-24 years olds



identify with a sexuality other than 'straight' and 2% with a gender different to the one that was registered at their birth.

It is estimated that people with
**innate variations of
sex characteristics
(intersex variations)**

make up to

1.7% of the population. ⁶



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQA+ people

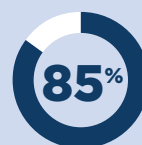
must frequently choose between
getting care that supports them

as an Indigenous person or as LGBTIQA+.

This often means having to hide
part of who they are.⁵



In a 2023 survey of **LGBTIQA+ people**
who are in Australia because they are
**not able to live safely in their country
of origin** due to their LGBTIQA+ status:



experienced racism
and migration status
discrimination



experienced LGBTIQA+
discrimination ⁷

A 2023 survey of older LGBTI people in Western Australia found:



Older LGBTI people were more likely to feel lonely

if they had few interactions with other LGBTI people.⁸

LGBTIQA+ people experience homelessness at

more than 2X

the rate of the general Australian population.⁹



How many LGBTIQ people surveyed reported that they felt accepted:



At work: 3 in 5



At social or community events: Over 1 in 3



When accessing health/support services: Over 2 in 5



At educational institutions Over 1 in 2¹⁰

People who reported in a 2020 survey experiencing psychological distress at

over 4X

the rate reported by the general population:

Trans men

Non-binary people

People who are pansexual

People who are asexual¹¹

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2024). [Estimates and characteristics of LGBTIQ+ populations in Australia](#). 5% = 4.5% of Australians 16 years and over.
2. Ipsos. (2024). [LGBT+ Pride 2024: A 26-Country Ipsos Global Advisor Survey](#). p. 54. Net % of LGBT+ Adults By Country.

Due to a lack of comprehensive, publicly available data, it is difficult to estimate the total LGBTIQA+ population in Australia- these numbers are estimates, due to LGBTIQA+ status not being captured in many key data sets.

3. Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2024). [Estimates and characteristics of LGBTIQ+ populations in Australia](#).

4. Higgins, D. J., Lawrence, D., Haslam, D. M., Mathews, B., Malacova, E., Erskine, H. E., Finkelhor, D., Pacella, R., Meinck, F., Thomas, H. J., & Scott, J. G. (2024). [Prevalence of Diverse Genders and Sexualities in Australia and Associations With Five Forms of Child Maltreatment and Multi-type Maltreatment](#). *Child Maltreatment*, 0(0), pp. 6 – 9.

5. Day, M., Carlson, B., Bonson, D., & Farrelly, T. (2022). [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQASB+ people and mental health and wellbeing](#). Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, p. 16.

Hill, B., Uink, B., Dodd, J., Bonson, D., Eades, A., & Bennet, S. (2021). [Breaking the Silence: Insights into the Lived Experiences of WA Aboriginal/LGBTIQ+ People](#). *Community Summary Report 2021*. Kurongkurl Katitjin, Edith Cowan University, p. 31.

6. Blackless, M., Charuvastra, A., Derrryck, A., Fausto-Sterling, A., Lauzanne, K., & Lee, E. (2000). [How sexually dimorphic are we? Review and synthesis](#). *American Journal of Human Biology*, 12(2), 151-166. There are many difficulties determining an accurate figure, including discrimination within medical systems, secrecy and non-disclosure, misconceptions, and stigma.

See also: InterAction. (2025, February 6). [Population figures](#).

Victoria Department of Health. (n.d.). [Health of people with intersex variations](#).

7. Cochrane, B., Dixon, R., & Dixon, T. (2023). [Inhabiting Two Worlds At Once: Survey on the experiences of LGBTIQA+ settlement in Australia](#). Forcibly Displaced People Network. pp. 40-41. 53% = 52.8%. 51% = 50.8%.

Captured in this statistic are: refugees, people seeking asylum, and migrants (both temporary and permanent) from non-Western countries who are not able to live safely in their country of origin due to their LGBTIQA+ status and subsequent discrimination, persecution and violence.

8. Brooker, R. (2023). [LGBT+ and 50+ Loneliness and quality of life under the rainbow](#). GLBTI Rights in Ageing Inc.; Department of Social Services, p. 5. Older people = 50+.

9. Hill, A. O., Bourne, A., McNair, R., Carman, M., & Lyons, A. (2020). [Private Lives 3: The health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ people in Australia](#). Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University, p. 36.

10. Hill, A. O., Bourne, A., McNair, R., Carman, M., & Lyons, A. (2020). [Private Lives 3: The health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ people in Australia](#). Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University: Melbourne, p. 37.

11. Hill, A. O., Bourne, A., McNair, R., Carman, M., & Lyons, A. (2020). [Private Lives 3: The health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ people in Australia](#). Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University, p. 47. Psychological distress = High or very high levels of distress. Percentages by group: trans men: 75.8%, nonbinary people: 74.9%, people who are pansexual: 75.9%, people who are asexual: 71.7%.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2023). [Prevalence and impact of mental illness – How many Australians experience psychological distress?](#)

This source collates multiple datasets, including the 2020-2022 National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing which estimated that 17% of Australians aged 16 – 85 experienced high or very high levels of psychological distress.