*This is one of a number of Ancillary Papers relating to the report of the Marriage and Relationships Task Group that is being presented to the Methodist Conference in 2019. The report itself, entitled* **God in love unites us** *can be found and downloaded from* [*www.methodist.org.uk/MandR19*](http://www.methodist.org.uk/MandR19)

*The report does not depend on these papers. They have not been presented to the Conference or approved by any formal body in the Methodist Church. They have been written as background papers or to help the Task Group think through some particular issues as it sought to come to a mind and develop its views in writing its report. They are not necessarily the considered view of the whole of the Task Group, but are offered here in the hope that some may find them stimulating, challenging or illuminating.*

**ANCILLARY PAPER A:**

**STATISTICS ABOUT GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS.**

1. Calculating the numbers of people of different genders and sexualities is difficult. We need to acknowledge that, because of the centuries of rejection and persecution of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people, it still proves difficult to ascertain accurate statistics about sexuality. That said, according to the Office for National Statistics, “The proportion of the UK population aged 16 years and over identifying as heterosexual or straight has decreased from 94.4% in 2012 to 93.2% in 2017” and “the proportion of the UK population identifying as lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) has increased from 1.5% in 2012 to 2.0% in 2017, although the latest figure is unchanged from 2016”.[[1]](#footnote-1) That 2.0% consisted of 1.1 million of the UK population aged 16 and over who identified themselves as lesbian, gay or bisexual. Over half of these (1.3% of the whole population) identified themselves as lesbian or gay, and the rest (0.7% of the whole) as bisexual. “A further 0.6% identified as “other”, meaning that they did not consider themselves to fit into the heterosexual or straight, bisexual, gay or lesbian categories. This proportion has increased since 2012 (0.3%). A further 4.1% refused, or did not know how, to identify themselves”.
2. Furthermore, more males (2.3%) than females (1.8%) identified themselves as lesbian, gay or bisexual in 2017. The people most likely to do so were those in the 16 to 24 age group (4.2%), with 1.9% identifying as gay or lesbian and 2.3% identifying as bisexual. This “youngest age group was the only age group to have a larger proportion identifying as bisexual than gay or lesbian” and “the only age group for which more women (4.7%) identified as LGB than men (3.7%); this was driven by a larger proportion of women identifying as bisexual in this age group than in older age groups”. The 16 to 24 age group also had the highest percentage of people identifying themselves in “other” (0.9%) and “don’t know or refuse” (5.3%) categories.
3. In 2017, as in previous years, older age groups were more likely to identify as heterosexual or straight. Only 0.7% of the population aged 65 years and over identified as LGB in 2017. “One reason for this pattern may be that younger people could be more likely to explore their sexuality combined with more social acceptability of sexual identities today and the ability to express these.” Overall, 69.4% of people who identified themselves as LGB in 2017 had a marital status of single (never married or in a civil partnership).
4. The Office for National Statistics has also published figures for Families and Households in 2017.[[2]](#footnote-2) In them, it defines a family as “a married, civil partnered or cohabiting couple with or without children, or a lone parent, with at least one child, who live at the same address. Children may be dependent or non-dependent”. They define a household as “one person living alone, or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address who share cooking facilities and share a living room, sitting room or dining area. A household can consist of a single family, more than one family, or no families in the case of a group of unrelated people.”
5. The figures show the following:

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| **Table 1: Detailed family types, UK, 2017** |
|  Thousands |
| Family type | 2017 |
| With dependent children | Without dependent children2 | Total families |
|
| Married couple family1 | 4,944 | 7,890 | 12,834 |
|  Opposite sex married couple family  | 4,938 | 7,862 | 12,800 |
|  Same sex married couple family |  6 |  28 |  34 |
| Civil partner couple family3 |  8 |  47 |  55 |
| Cohabiting couple family1 | 1,251 | 2,040 |  3,291 |
|  Opposite sex cohabiting couple family | 1,246 | 1,943 |  3,190 |
|  Same sex cohabiting couple family |  4 |  97 |  101 |
| Lone parent family | 1,781 | 1,037 |  2,817 |
| All families | 7,983 | 11,014 | 18,997 |
| *Source: Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics* |
| Notes:  |
| 1. Married couple families include both opposite sex and same sex married couples. Cohabiting couple families include both opposite sex and same sex cohabiting couples. |
| 2. Families without dependent children have only non-dependent children or no children in the household. |
| 3. Civil partnerships were introduced in the UK in December 2005. |
| 4. Marriages to same sex couples were introduced in England and Wales in March 2014. |
| 5. Totals may not sum due to rounding. |
| 6. Some small numbers are likely to be less reliable. The reference tables published alongside this bulletin indicate the statistical robustness of each estimate. |
| **Table 2: Households: by household type in 1996, 2007 and 2017, UK** |
| Millions |
| Year | One person households | One family household: couple1 | One family household: lone parent | Two or more unrelated adults | Multi-family households | All households |
|
|
| 1996 | 6.6 | 13.9 | 2.3 | 0.7 | 0.2 | 23.7 |
| 2007 | 7.4 | 14.6 | 2.6 | 0.8 | 0.2 | 25.6 |
| 2017 | 7.7 | 15.7 | 2.7 | 0.8 | 0.3 | 27.2 |
| *Source: Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics* |
| 1. Households where there is one family and one individual for example a married couple with their daughter and a lodger or a married couple with one elderly parent are classified as a one family household: couple. |
| 2. ‘One family household: couple’ and ‘One family household: lone parent’ can contain dependent and non-dependent children. |

1. Statistics in this and the following two paragraphs are taken from Office of National Statistics Statistical Bulletin “Sexual Orientation, UK: 2016” released on 21 January, 2019. [ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/sexuality/bulletins/sexualidentityuk/2017](http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/sexuality/bulletins/sexualidentityuk/2017) (accessed 23 April, 2019). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The information in this and the succeeding paragraphs is quoted from the Office for National Statistics Statistical Bulletin “Families and Households: 2017” released on 08 November 2017 [ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/families/bulletins/familiesandhouseholds/2017](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/families/bulletins/familiesandhouseholds/2017) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)