**Gay Population in Britain Overestimated**

The number of people in the UK that identified themselves as being Gay or Lesbian has been exaggerated. The gay population was estimated to be 6% when civil partnership legislation was drawn up in 2003. This figure was disputed then as being too high and has again been refuted.

Only one in every 66 people say they are gay or bisexual, a nationwide survey revealed yesterday. While overall 1.5 per cent of people in Britain said they were lesbian, gay or bisexual, the level was 2.4 per cent in London.

The numbers are in contrast with the decades-old and widely accepted 10 per cent figure for the gay population, and the 6 per cent estimate used by Whitehall when civil partnership legislation was drawn up in 2003.

The Office of National Statistics survey found that 1.5 per cent of men say they are gay, 0.7 per cent of women say they are lesbian, and 0.4 per cent of people identify themselves as bisexual.

[One in 66 Britons is gay or bisexual - NOT one in ten, as previously thought | Mail Online](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2210310/One-66-Britons-gay-bisexual--NOT-previously-thought.html?ito=feeds-newsxml)

The survey was carried out by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). The figures released through the household surveys surveyed more than 350,000 people. The figures correspond with figures released in 2010.

The official count of sexual identity was made by the Integrated Household Survey, which questioned 350,000 people. The 1.5 per cent of men who said they were gay compared to 1.3 per cent in 2010, while the 0.7 per cent lesbian figure is up from 0.6 per cent in 2010. The heterosexual population, recorded at 94.2 per cent in 2010, was 93.9 per cent this year.

The release of this information comes at a time of controversy in the UK regarding the introduction of same sex civil marriage laws.