



Congleton
Pride

LGBTQIA+
Congleton Pride
2023 Survey Results

June 2023

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Method and Purpose

Congleton Pride ran two online surveys, both based on best-practice examples from around the world

- The **'Attitudes' Survey** is based on international standards to evaluate the general public's attitudes to LGBTQIA+ people
- The **'Community' Survey** asks LGBTQIA+ people what it is like living in Congleton

Both were initially carried out in late 2021 and repeated in early 2023

- Response in 2023 was lower for the public Attitudes Survey (n=77 vs 133) but similar for the Community Survey (n=43 vs 38)

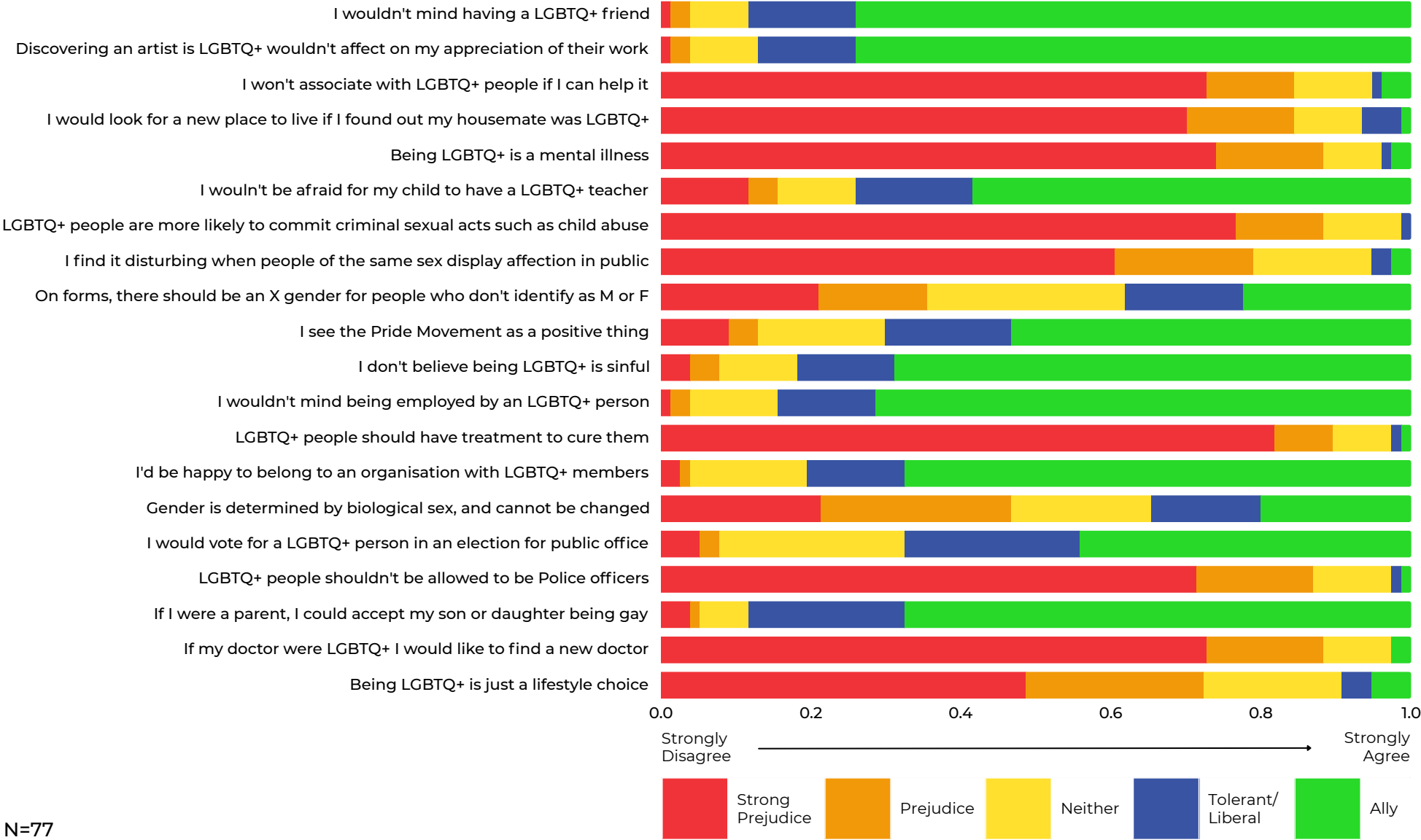




RESULTS

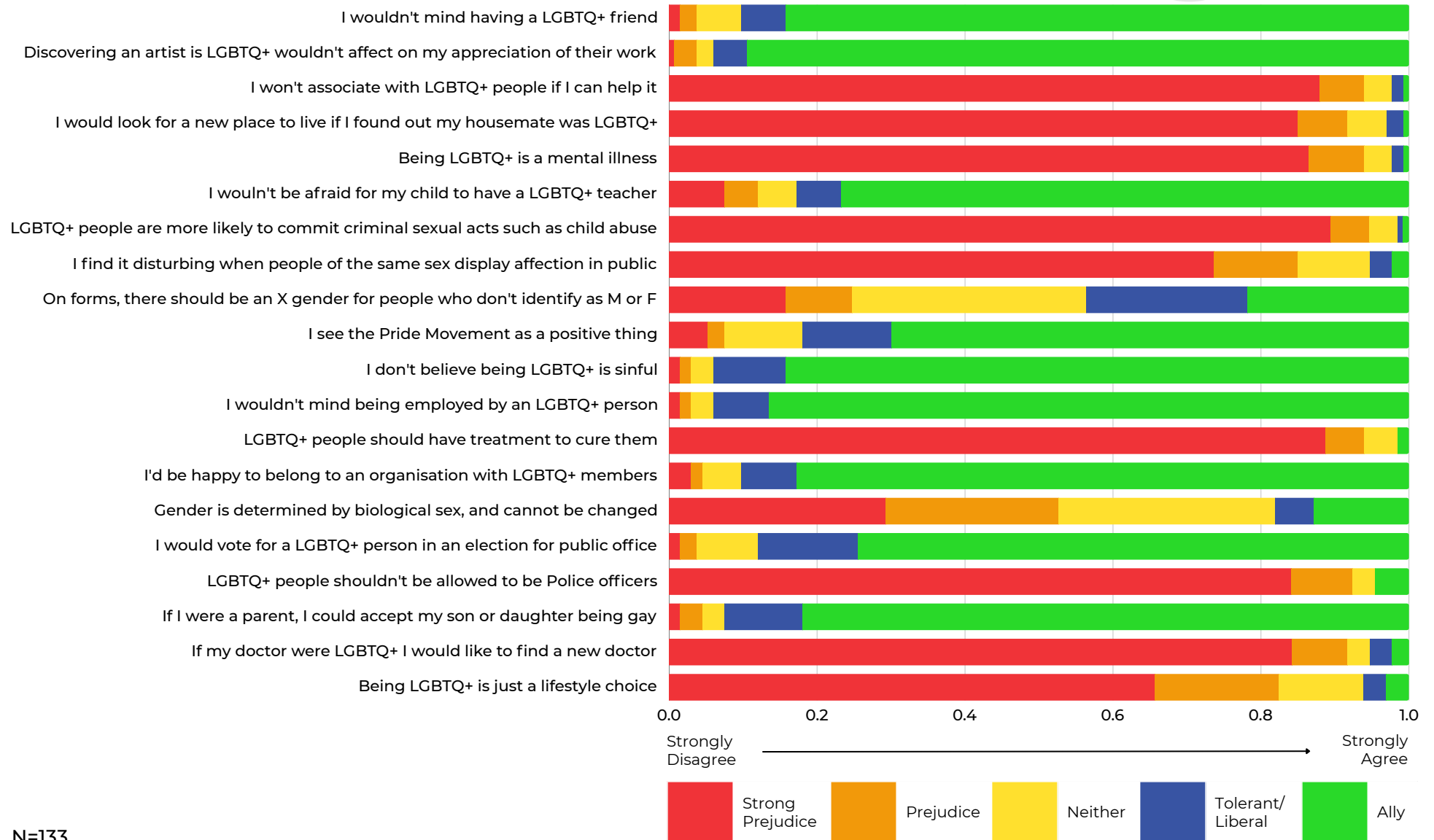
Congleton LGBTQIA+ Public Attitudes Survey
2023

The majority of respondents were tolerant and liberal-minded overall, but there is evidence of the need for some education



N=77

...with a slightly less tolerant response than previously



N=133

Our 'LGBTQ+ Friendliness Index' has slipped slightly in the last 2 years

Statement	Score /5	
	2021	2023
I would not mind having a LGBTQ+ friend.	4.7	4.6
Finding out that an artist was LGBTQ+ would have no effect on my appreciation of their work.	4.8	4.6
I won't associate with LGBTQ+ people if I can help it.	4.8	4.5
I would look for a new place to live if I found out my housemate was LGBTQ+.	4.7	4.5
Being LGBTQ+ is a mental illness.	4.8	4.6
I would not be afraid for my child to have a LGBTQ+ teacher.	4.4	4.1
LGBTQ+ people are more likely to commit criminal sexual acts such as child abuse.	4.8	4.6
I find it disturbing when individuals of the same sex hold hands or display affection in public.	4.5	4.3
I think there should be an 'x' gender on official forms for people who do not identify as male or female.	3.2	3.0
I see the Pride Movement as a positive thing.	4.4	4.0
Being LGBTQ+, as far as I'm concerned, is not sinful.	4.7	4.4
I would not mind being employed by an LGBTQ+ person.	4.8	4.5
LGBTQ+ people should have treatment to cure them of being LGBTQ+	4.8	4.7
I would be happy to be a member of an organization with LGBTQ+ members.	4.7	4.4
Gender is determined by biological sex, and cannot be changed.	3.5	3.1
I would vote for a LGBTQ+ person in an election for public office.	4.6	4.0
LGBTQ+ people should not be allowed to be Police officers.	4.7	4.5
If I were a parent, I could accept my son or daughter being gay.	4.7	4.5
If my doctor were LGBTQ+ I would like to find a new doctor.	4.7	4.6
Being LGBTQ+ is just a lifestyle choice.	4.4	4.1
LGBTQ+ 'friendliness' of Congleton	91%	85%

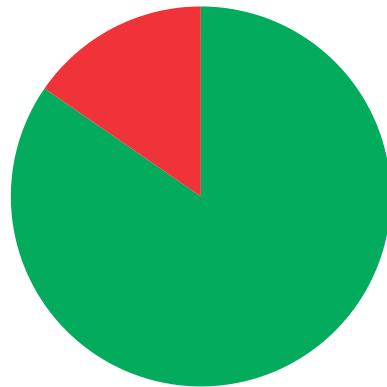
As seen previously, questions on gender seem to require the most work

What do the public think about Congleton Pride?

2021

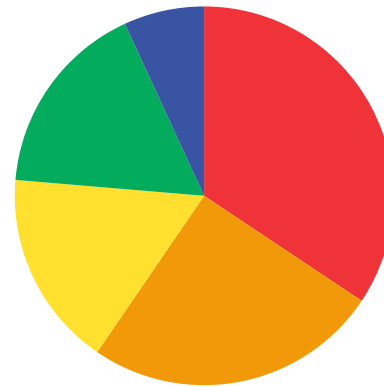
N=133

Do you think having an annual pride event is a positive thing for Congleton?



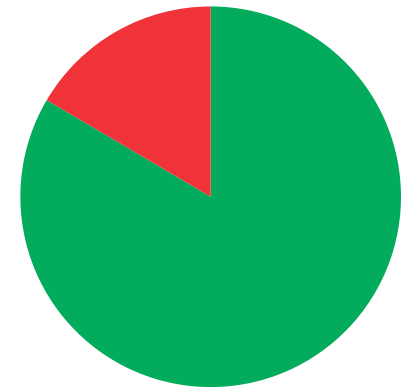
Yes No

With respect to Congleton Pride's event last year, what did you do?



I attended
I wanted to go but couldn't
I didn't want to go
I didn't know it was happen...
I didn't live in Congleton th...

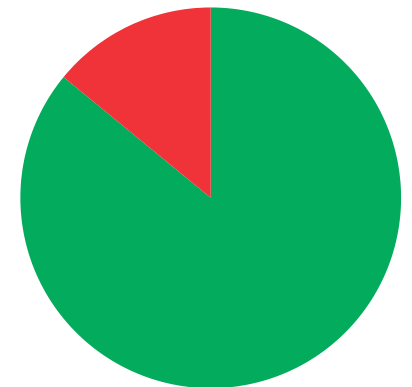
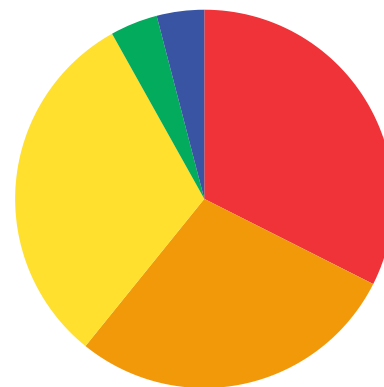
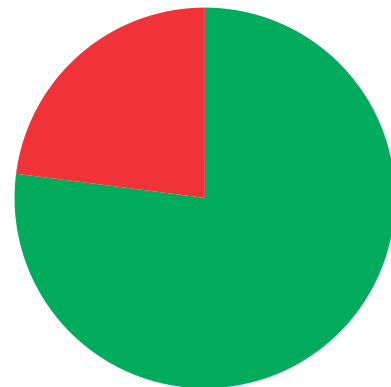
Do you think Congleton is a good place for LGBTQ+ people to live?



Yes No

2023

N=77



Some mixed views this time about the value of an annual Pride event

Do you think having an annual Pride event is a positive thing for Congleton?

We all need to be kind and understanding to each other.

I can't see that being LGBT is something particularly to celebrate. It should just be taken for granted.

I love going to the pride events, it's great seeing everyone come together.

Yes, however I hope I hope that one day we won't need a pride because everyone will just be accepted.

I have several friends who identify as LGBTQIA+. Four of my very best friends in fact. Three of them don't agree with pride events. I don't either. I have zero issues with people who identify in this way; I value all people the same. I don't think sexuality should be shoved in one's face though. So see no need for a pride event. I don't run around shouting I'm straight and see no need for pride events to take place. It's accepted and more mainstream now. Let's just keep people's sexuality as their business. I state again - I have no issues with people identifying - but don't see the need for blasting it at a pride event and neither do my gay friends.

I'm a straight white middle aged man, who's never once had to justify my existence. No one else should have to either.

Brings the community together, whether a member of the LGBTQIA+ or not. Always super positive happy events!

Possibly positive, and unlikely to be negative.

There are many more important things we could do with our time and money.

I don't understand why it's needed and needs to be celebrated. Just live your life no one really cares if you're gay or straight.

I don't mind either way as long as it's not pushed in your face.

When is straight pride going to be held, or a normal carnival aimed at everyone, why should a minority percentage have an annual event.

It is important that any town encourages equality and acceptance for all and more importantly, it needs to be inclusive of everyone no matter what their sexual orientation or class etc.

The old Congleton Carnival was for everybody. I see no reason for a minority of the population to have a specific separate event.

Do you think Congleton is a good place for LGBTQIA+ people to live?

No better or worse than anywhere else of a similar size.

Yes, but not strongly. I feel like it's trying?

But I don't feel like it's a great place to live as someone who regards themselves as very Liberal, so in that thought I think I would feel more uncomfortable here if I were LGBTQIA+

But it could still be better!

I think some residents are quite narrow minded.

Not just in this instance but with respect to colour and even gender.

No idea but glad the town supports pride.

I think in general yes, but as always there is a small vocal that make it more difficult than it should be.

There is more work to do to make everyone feel welcome, safe and at home.

I'm not sure Congleton offers a great deal for the community but the Pride festival is a great step forward.

I think some of the local churches need to drastically change their outlook and approach for LGBTQIA.

It can be, but I feel there are many who hold bigoted views.

Don't know / hope so x 12

I would like to think it is improving in a large part down to the work Congleton Pride continues to do.

However, I don't think it is for me to decide if it is a good place or not.

I need to hear that directly from the LGTBQIA+ community.

As good as for anybody else.

No one cares if you're gay or lesbian.

I don't think people care either way - far too many other serious issues to worry about - like money, lack of doctors surgeries etc.

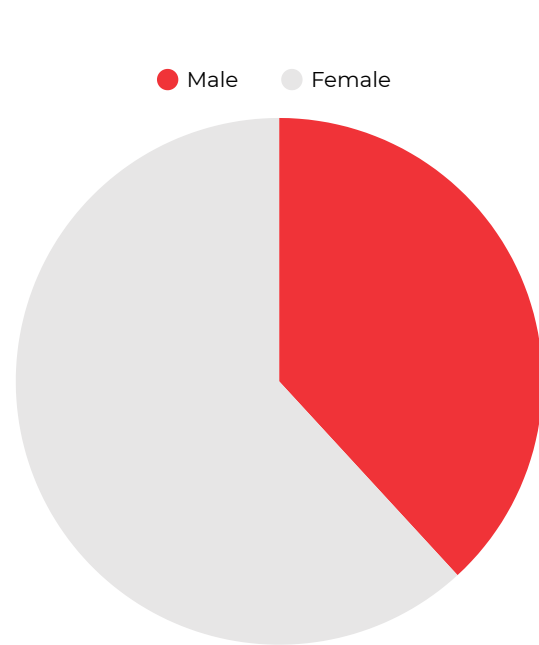
Compared with the problems caused by race, poverty, or disability, this issue is almost irrelevant.

Don't care.

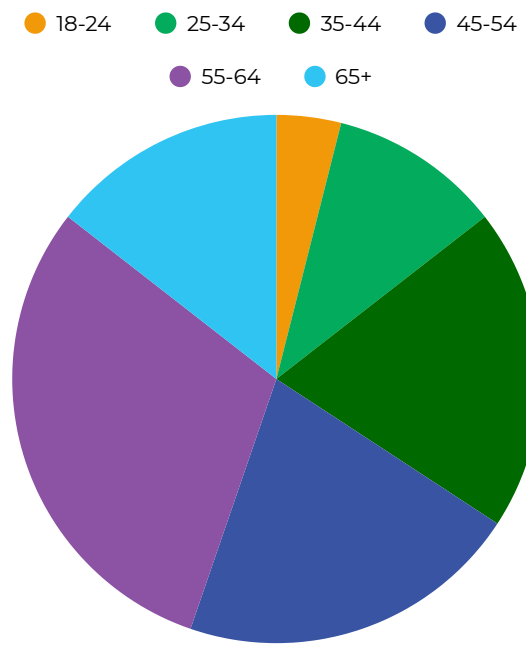
Some new cynicism, not seen in 2021.



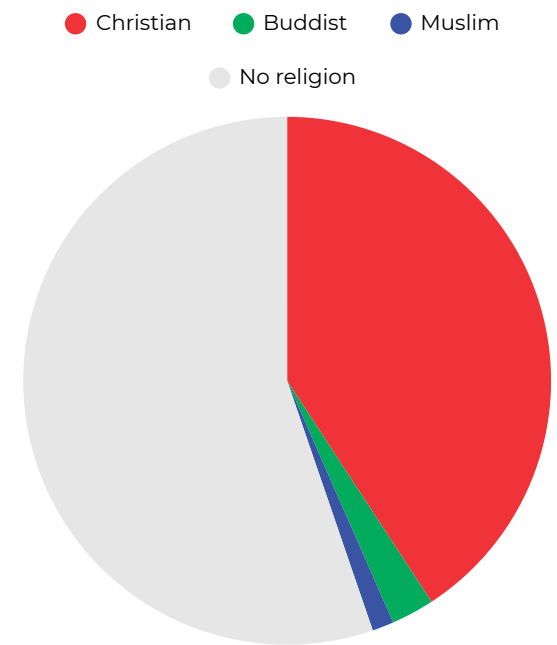
Demographics of Public who answered survey



What is your gender?



What is your age?



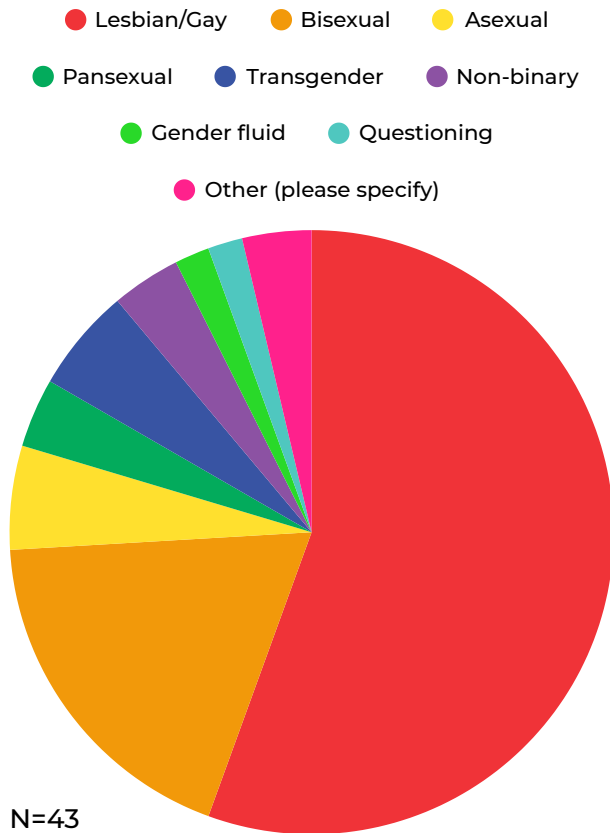
What is your religion?



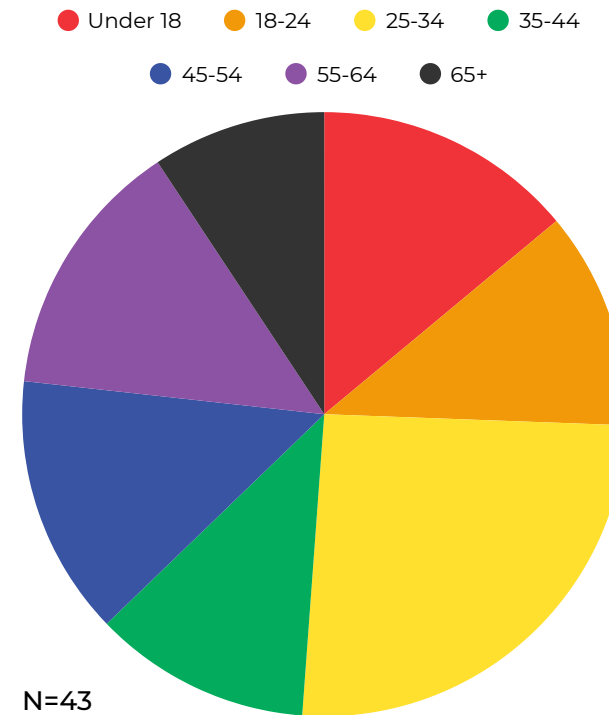
RESULTS

Congleton LGBTQIA+ Community Survey 2023

Demographics of LGBTQIA+ Respondents

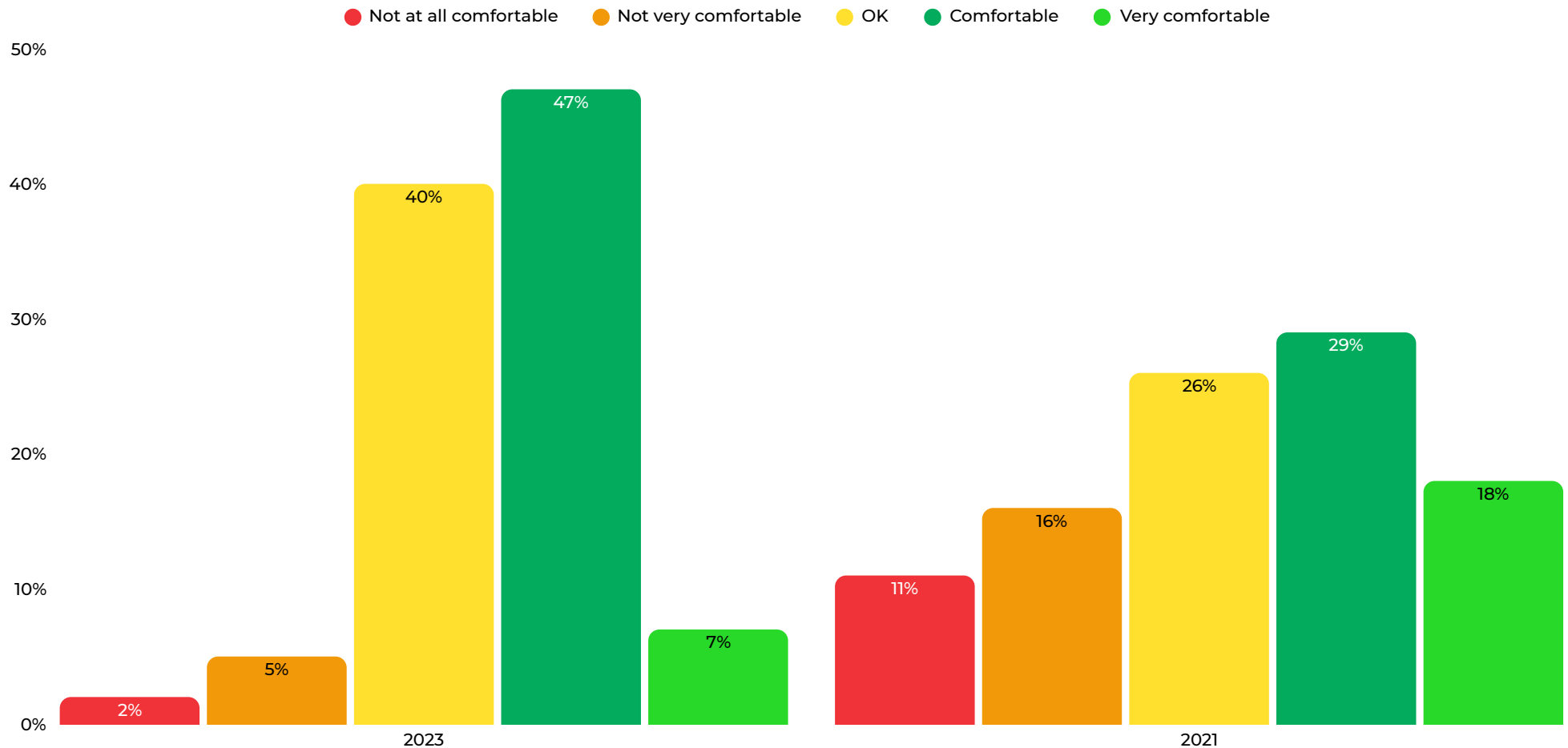


Do you consider yourself to be
(choose all that apply):



What age range are you in?

Almost 90% of LGBTQIA+ people now feel 'comfortable' or 'OK' in Congleton, up from 55% in 2021, but only 7% feel 'very comfortable'



2021 N=38
2023 N=43

How LGBTQIA+ people feel about living in Congleton in 2023

Not (yet) experienced homophobia, and everyone seems polite!

We have walked the streets and been in shops wearing rainbow tie and at times holding hands.

We felt respected in Wetherspoon and most shops.

No one has ever given me a reason not to feel comfortable.

I've had many years to get used to the attitude of others - almost!

Congleton is a welcoming place and I feel safe here. Friends and my partner have experienced mild homophobia in the town, but I haven't had that myself.

I pass pretty well so don't really fear about being assaulted or hate crimed. If i didn't pass well i would feel uncomfortable.

Although there is a lot of love in many communities there is still a lot of internalised hate with older and younger generations that may not understand each other

I still feel the older generation and younger people don't get the fact that being gay is normal. People act differently towards you.

I experience little confrontation, however it only takes them few incidents for me to be constant looking over my shoulder. Which in turn makes me less comfortable.

It can be a bit uncomfortable as everyone makes a lot of jokes and hate crimes towards gays in my opinion.

There is still a lot prejudice against LGBTQIA+ Community in Congleton, especially on social media.

I feel safe being out in public, only more recently as I was experiencing homophobia from the same individuals on a regular basis.

The police were less than helpful and suggested I tried to settle the matter in a "civil" manner in the form of speaking to those people. Out of the question, why suggest having someone put themselves in harm's way in an attempt to resolve a situation?

Despite having another police officer come to my home to reassure that my reports would be taken seriously I cannot have trust in that it will. The time frame between the initial report and something actually being done is around 2-3 weeks from experience.

Again from experience other incidents have happened that may have been prevented had my report been taken seriously in the first place.

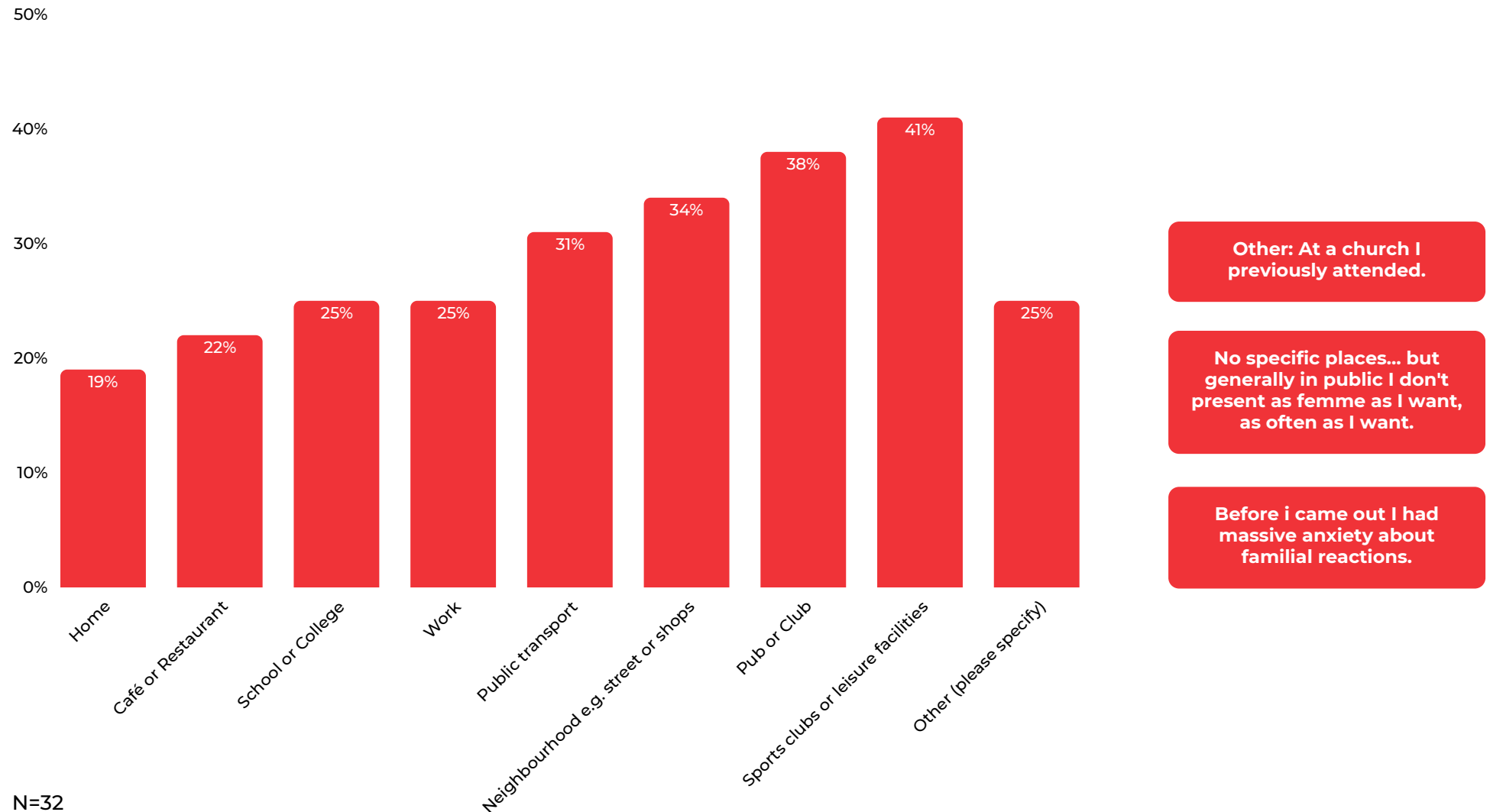
As a positive I have a good network of people I know in the town and this makes me feel safer - despite this there is nothing like knowing your local authority will take an interest in actually dealing with it.

Admittedly there is a scale of severity with reports the police receive but someone's mental well-being has to be priority regardless of that person's identity LGBTQIA+ or otherwise.

Funding and time cannot be used as a get out clause for not supporting members of the community. This is people's lives and safety!

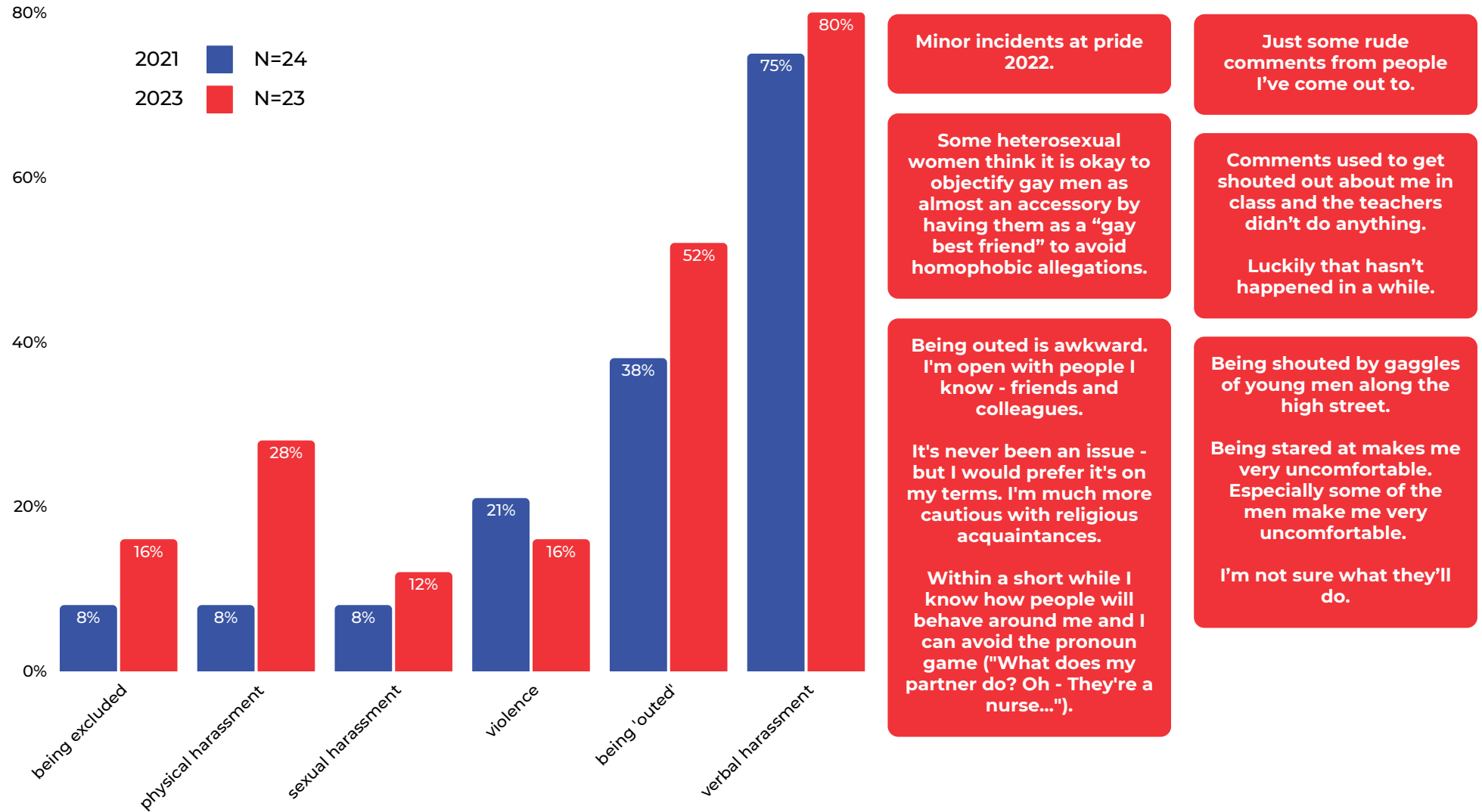
There is concern about openness, especially in sports facilities and pubs

Is there anywhere that you've avoided being open about being LGBTQ+ for fear of a negative reaction from others?



54% of 2023 respondents have experienced harassment or abuse

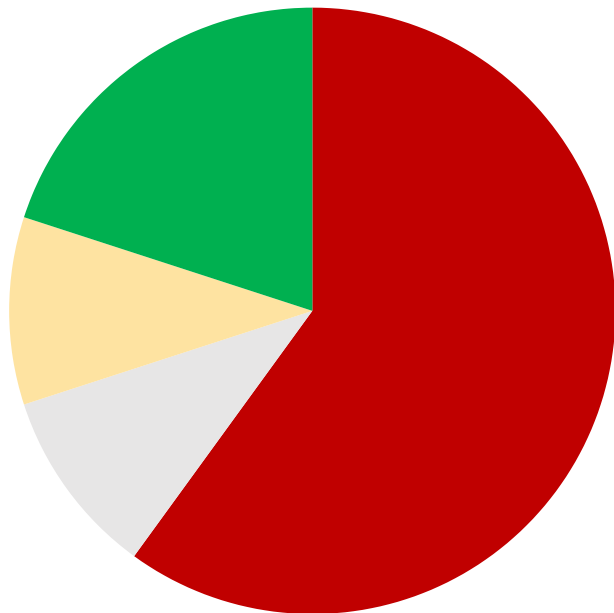
In Congleton, due to being LGBTQ+, have you ever experienced:



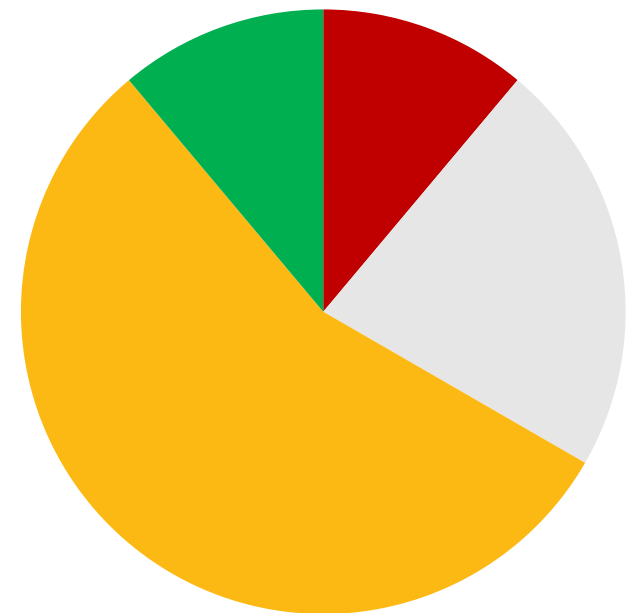
The level of satisfaction with action taken on reporting abuse has improved, although numbers are still small

If you have reported harassment, abuse or violence to an authority in Congleton, how satisfied have you been with the action taken and outcome(s)? :

- Very dissatisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- Completely satisfied



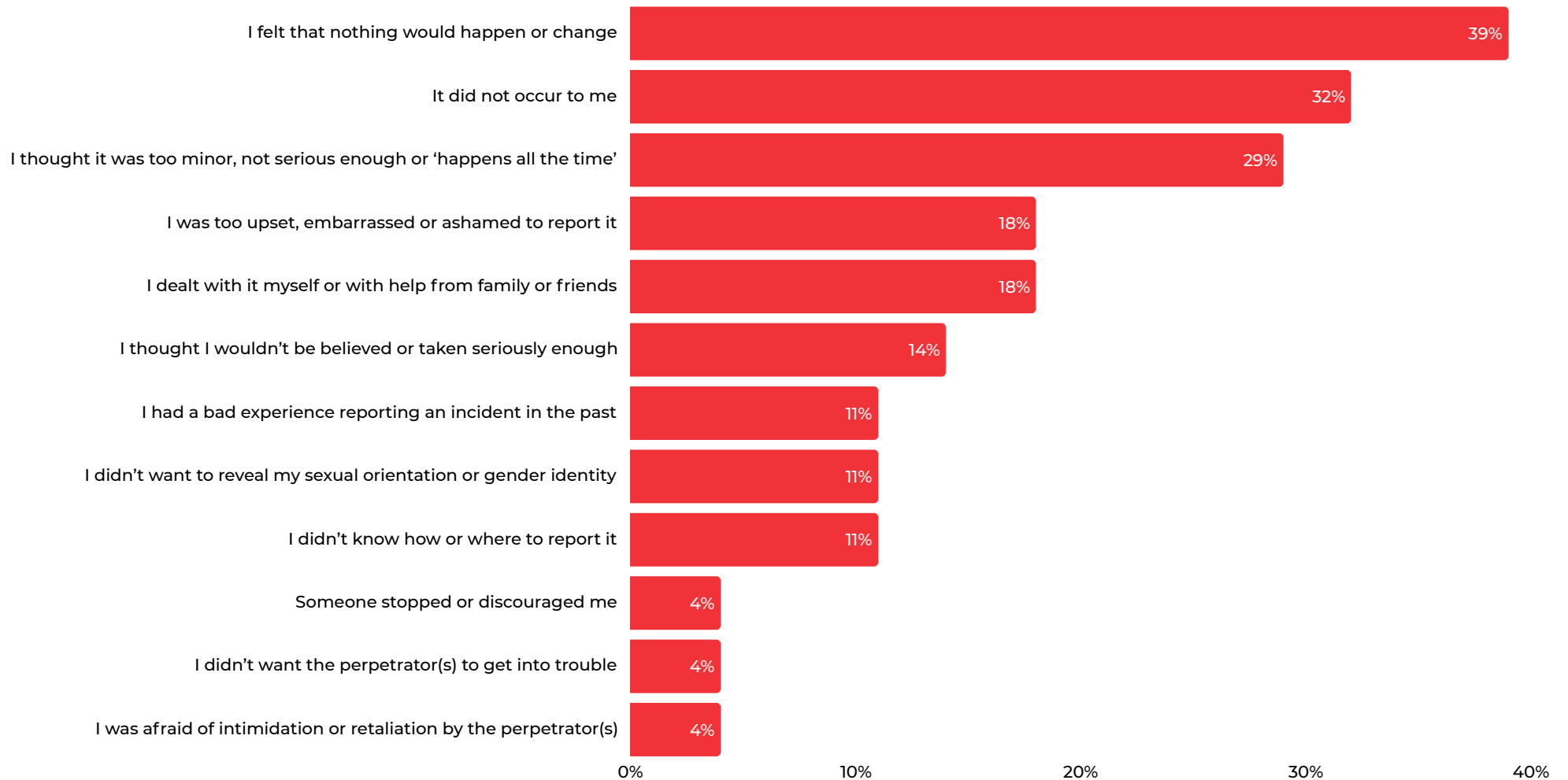
2021 N=10



2023 N=9

More than half of responding LGBTQIA+ people experienced abuse and chose not to report it for a number of reasons

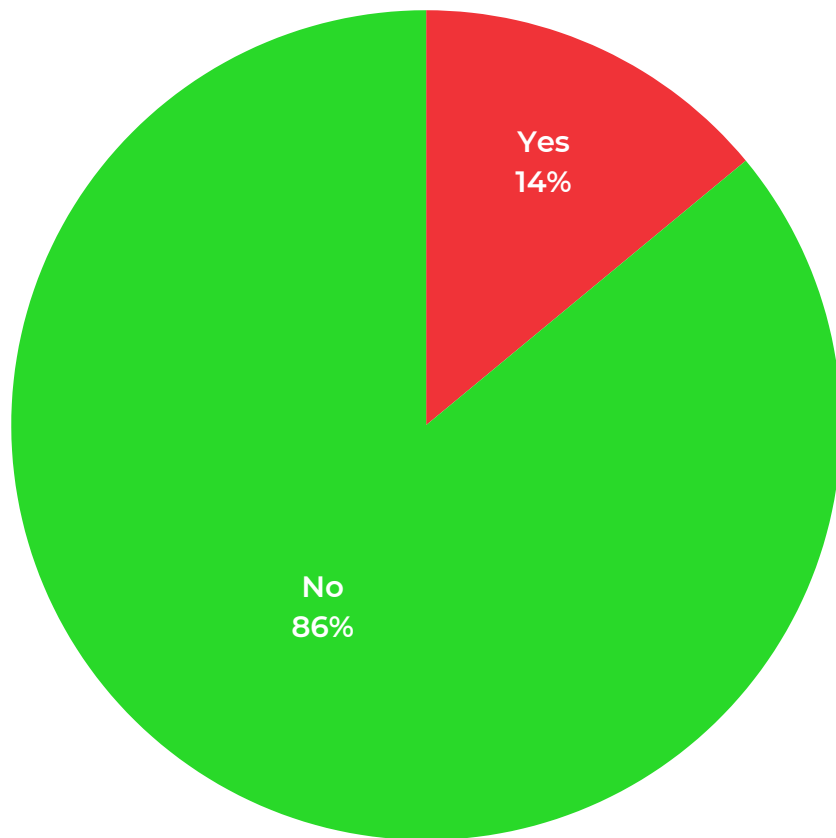
Have you experienced harassment, abuse or violence and NOT reported it in Congleton? If so, why didn't you report it?



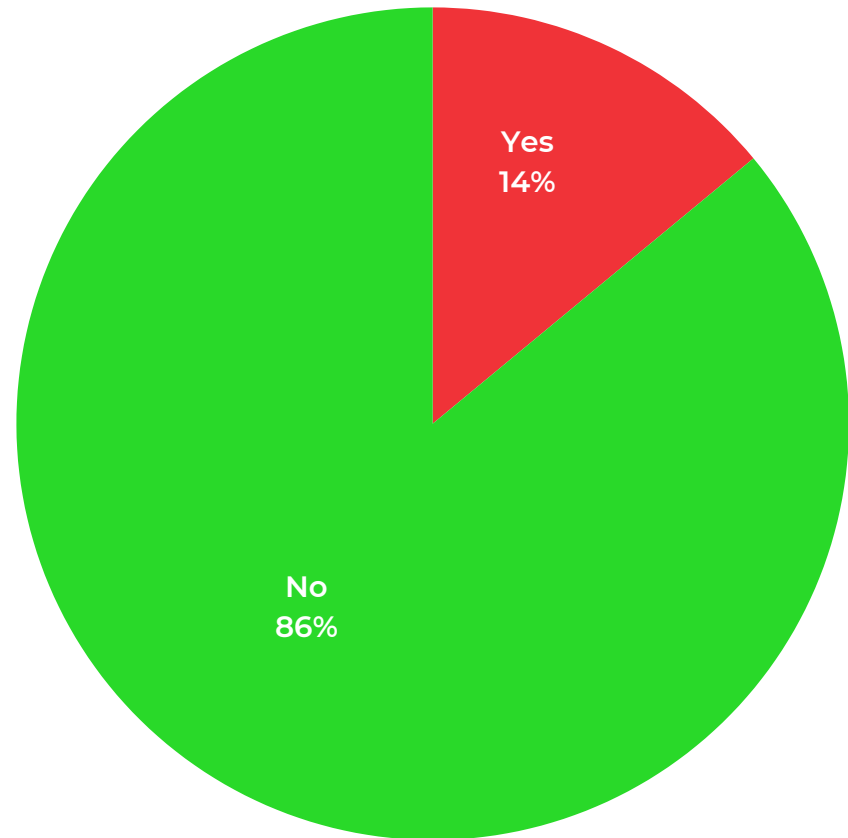
N=25 (58%)

Accessing public services in Congleton is no different from 2 years ago

Has the fact you are LGBTQIA+ been a barrier to your accessing public services (health, education, social services, police/justice system etc)?



2021
N=37



2023
N=43

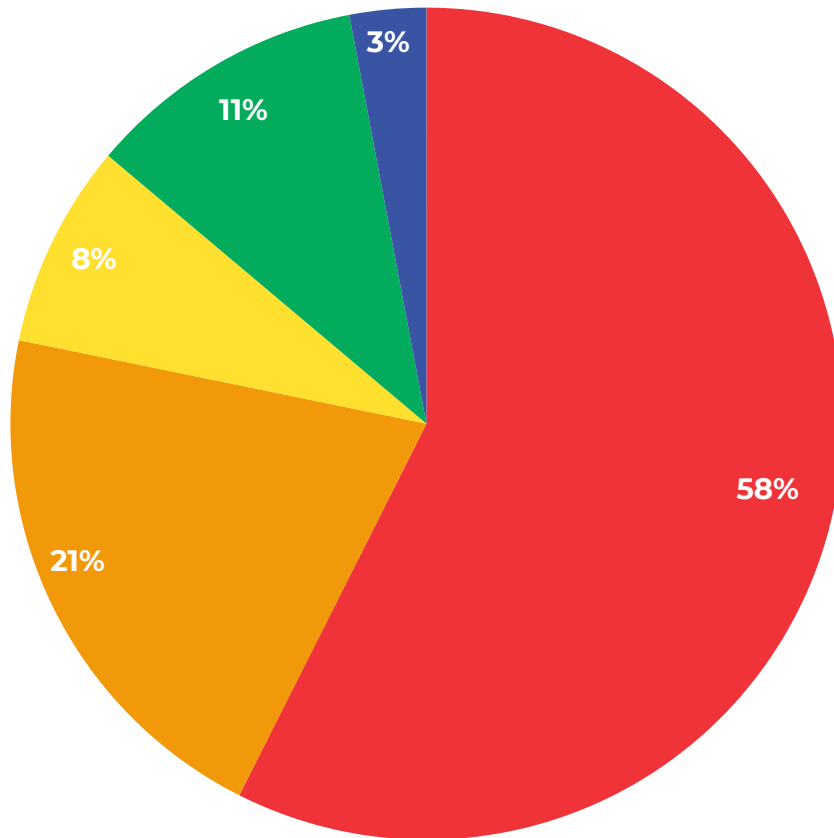
More than half attended the Pride Event

● I attended ● I wanted to go but couldn't

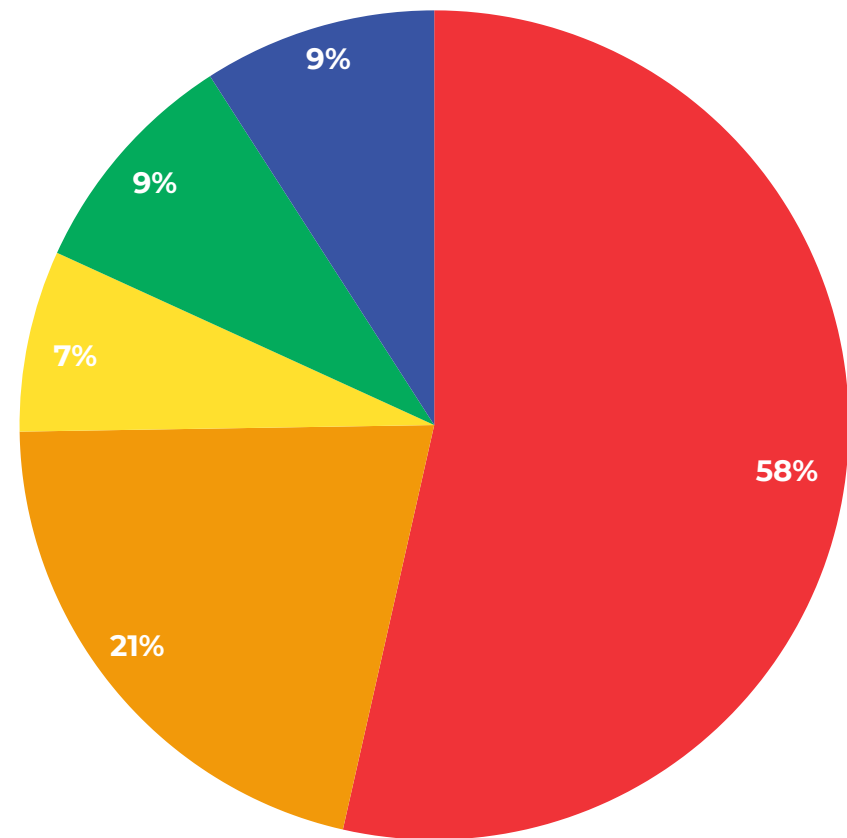
● I didn't want to go

● I didn't know it was happening

● I didn't live in Congleton then



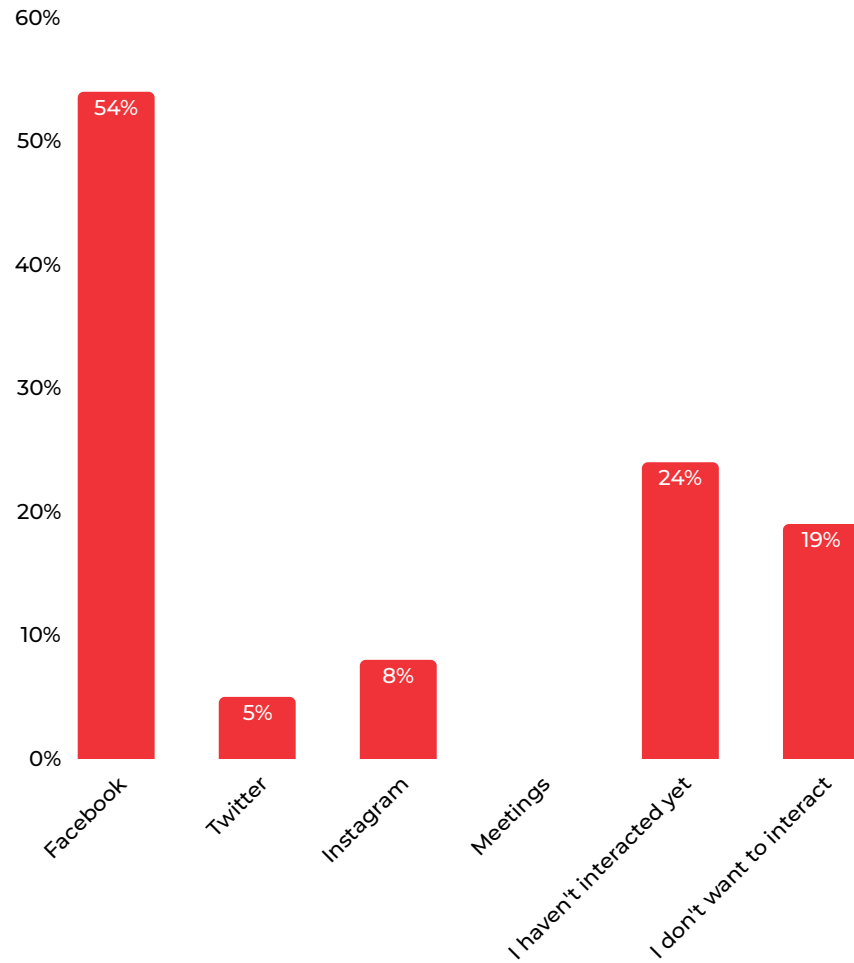
2021
N=38



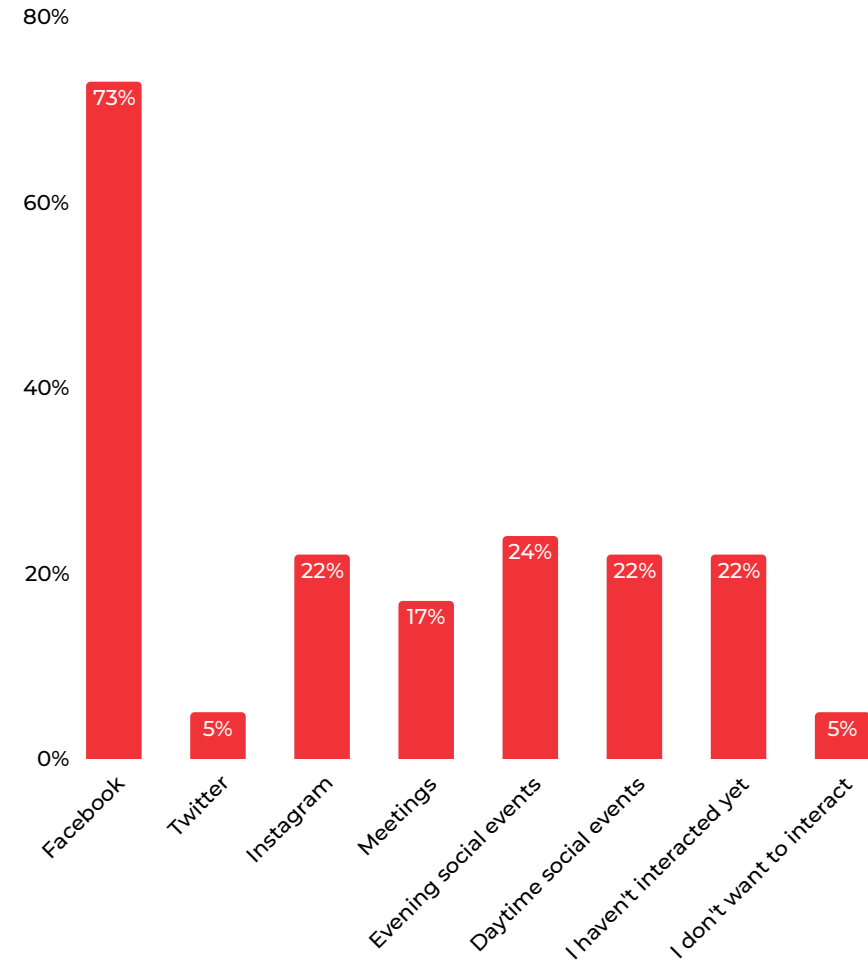
2023
N=43

There are now more ways to interact with Pride, and more people are doing so

Do you interact with the Congleton Pride Community in other ways? (choose all that apply)



2021 N=38



2023 N=43

Congleton Pride Comments from LGBTQIA+ Community

I suggest making it bigger and more obvious that it is a pride event rather than a general event such as makers market or jazz and blues.

Perhaps having the stage in front of the town hall facing west. I felt it was too cramped when the stage was at natwest.

People are watching the events while others are trying to squeeze past. It got very crowded. Specially when the barriers were moved into the road for acts that required more space.

More outside stalls selling lgbt+ community stuff.

I found it weird that there was a straight bloke making misogynistic jokes about women/his wife on the mic most of the time I was there.

I understand it's what people find funny sometimes but it was weird to see at a pride event.

Maybe an LGBTQIA+ Information stall that handed out leaflets to help educate heterosexual or questioning people and maybe a sexual health stall with information for LGBTQIA+ people.

More community outreach

Improve the headline act.

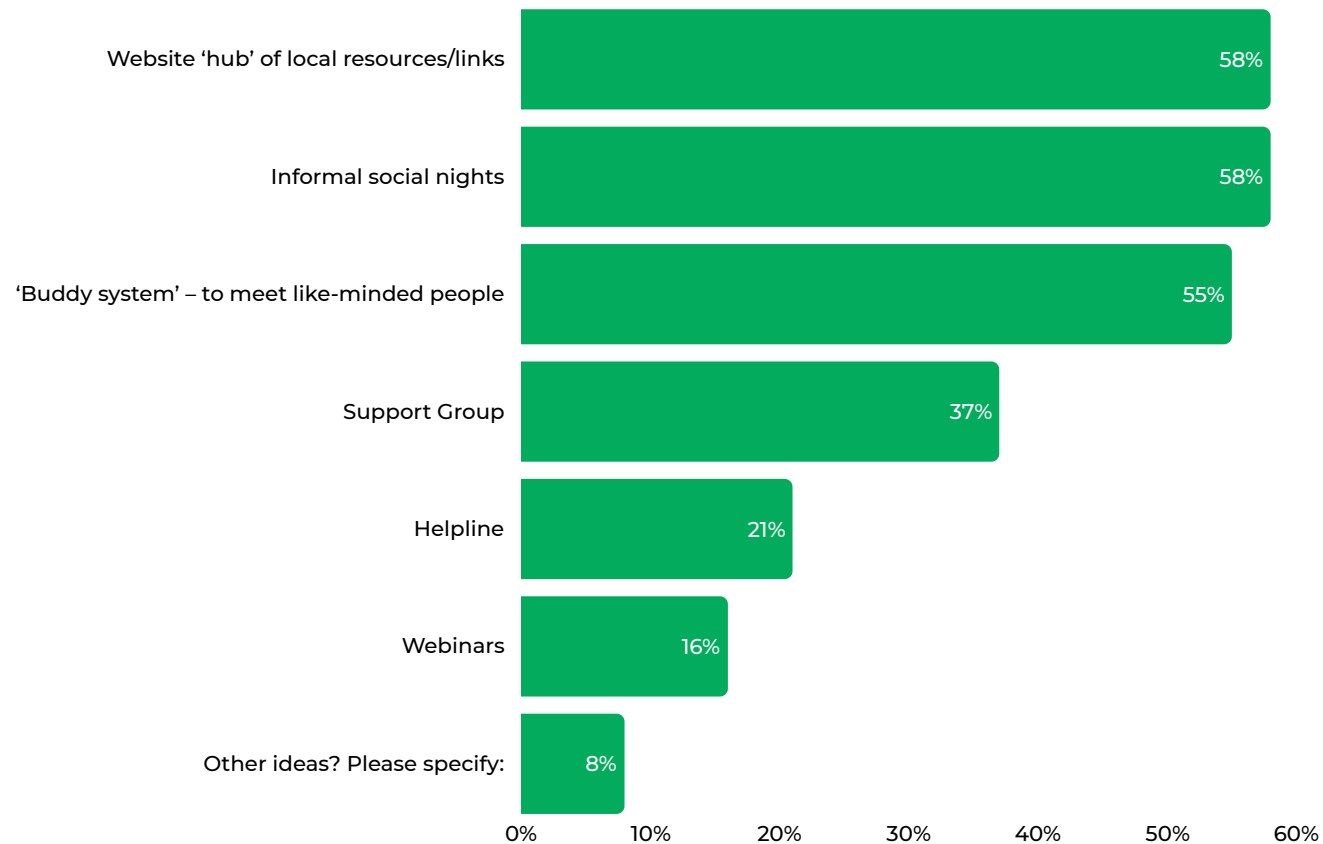
Congleton Pride has gone from strength to strength each year and has arguably become the highlight of the town's calendar - replacing the carnival.

I would like to see more community engagement away from the one day a year - perhaps a discreet helpline or webchat for people to ask for more information.

Is there access to LGBT-specific healthcare, counselling, safe rental property and community groups.

I'm aware of the coffee afternoon at Blueys but are there other events after work or at weekends that people can join in with?

Other things respondents would like from Pride



A more obvious hub place that openly shows you can find pride members there.

Invest funds into supporting individuals directly!

Pride events are great however it's vital to have more 1:1s with vulnerable individuals.

Would be great to meet more people around my age in informal things both online & in-person. i.e. early to late 20s.

Conclusions

- Overall, Congleton has improved for LGBTQIA+ people, but there is still work to do.
- Members of the community still experience harassment and abuse, and most don't report it for various reasons.
- LGBTQIA+ people interact with Congleton Pride more, and in a wider variety of ways.
- Public attitudes are more polarised, with some very supportive, yet the appearance of 'anti-Pride' or 'anti-woke'-type comments.
- This is not surprising, given the national narrative, especially around trans people, and the biased coverage in the national (and some local) media.
- As previously, LGBTQIA+ people want more than an annual event, and there is a significant number asking for signposts to information, help and support.
- Some of Congleton Pride's ongoing and planned activities, like relaxed social events, the new website content, and plans for a 'community' stall, will help to address this.



Next Survey: 2025



Congleton
Pride