

Coronavirus Student Survey Phase III

November 2020

Finance

Commissioned by NUS, NUS Charity, TOTUM and the Co-op

Delivered by NUS Insight

Project Overview

Objectives

This is the third survey in the series commissioned by NUS, NUS Charity and TOTUM to understand more about how students and recent graduates feel about the current Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic and the impacts they are experiencing. The Co-op is also now a partner in this study. Previous surveys – phases I and II – took place in March and July 2020 respectively.

Methodology

A sample of 4,193 was achieved.

Respondents were given a chance to win £500 to encourage response.

The survey was promoted via the NUS Student database, the TOTUM database, and through social media in November 2020.

The survey took around 25 minutes to complete and was in field from noon 6 November to 9.00 am 23 November.

What we look for

Within this report, a number of questions have been broken down by demographics, which have been compared with each other. Where applicable and the base size is large enough ($n > 50$), statistically significant differences between demographics and their answers have been shown. A difference is significant when it is likely to have been caused by something other than random chance.

Sample weighting

Explanation of weighting

NUS achieved an original sample of **4,241** students. The response rate reflected the trend that females participate more than males in completing surveys - the initial gender split was: 65% female and 27% male.

While this survey sampled both HE and FE, our practice is to reflect a student population where possible. In the absence of any national FE statistics, NUS practice is to use HESA. According to HESA statistics the gender split within Higher Education is 56% female and 45% male. In order to reflect this, 'weighting' was applied to the data in this report. In this case, we adjusted the profile of the sample by applying weights so that the over represented group, females, are down weighted and the under represented group, males, are up weighted. This resulted in a gender split in this survey of 56% female and 36% male and a sample of **4,193**.

Employment, income and financial circumstances

Summary

Three in five students continue to say that Coronavirus has had some degree of impact upon their income. Of those working or employed before the pandemic, around one in five have had their hours reduced, one in ten were on furlough, at the time of completing the survey, and a similar proportion have lost their job.

Two in five students continue to say they have sought financial assistance from family members and one in three have used savings. However the proportion of students who have cut back on spending across a range of items has continued to drop since March - further indicating a gradual return to shopping habits seen prior to lockdown. Concern with regards to managing financially during the Covid-19 outbreak continues to be high and the reduction noted in July compared to March appears to have plateaued with three in four students concerned compared to four in five back in March 2020 (73% vs 80%).

As was the case in July and March 2020, half of students say that the income of someone who supports them financially has been impacted by Covid-19. And thinking ahead to beyond the pandemic, three in four continue to say they are concerned about their ability to manage financially.

Summary

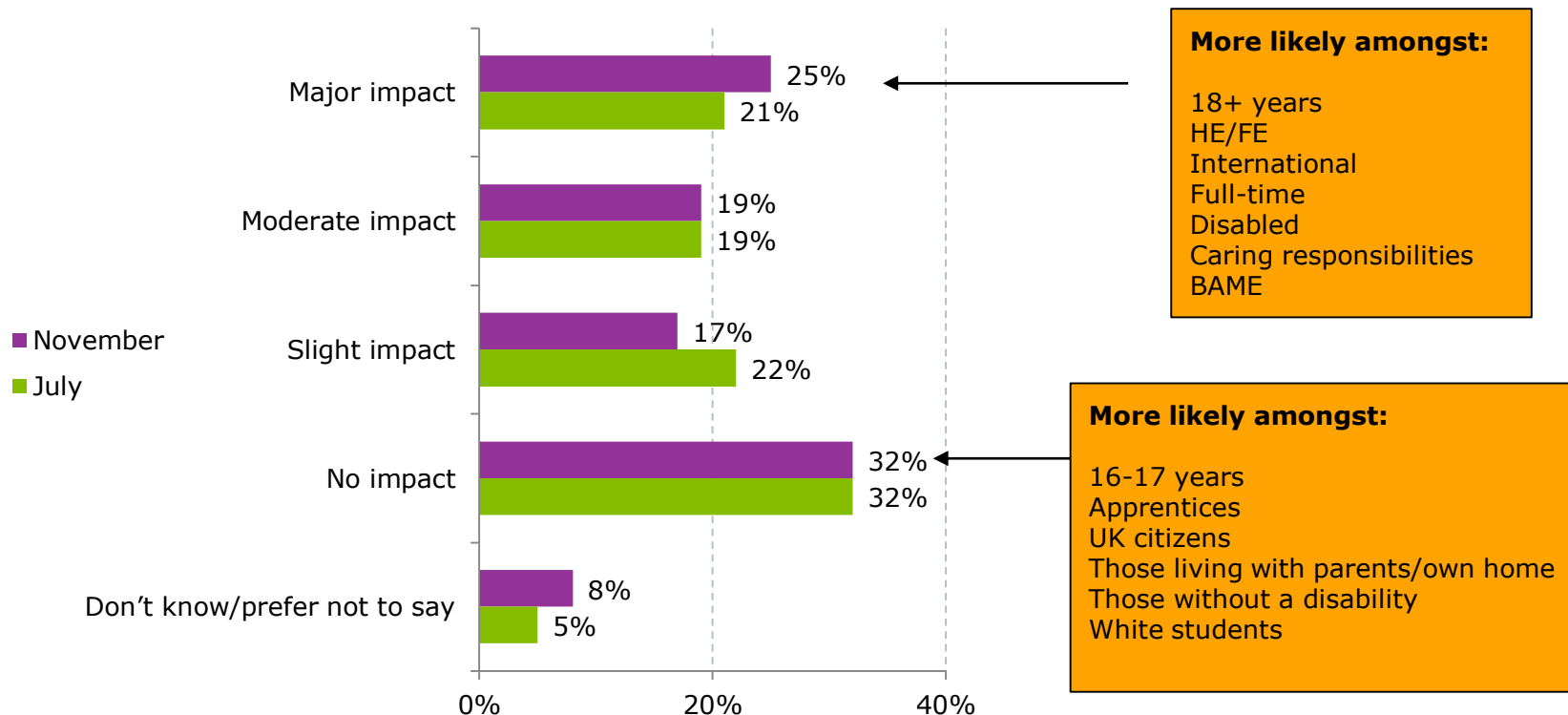
The proportion of students in part-time employment has dropped to a fifth compared to around a third in July. With regards to those currently working figures have remained fairly stable with one in five working from home and similar proportions having had their hours reduced or been made redundant.

Three in five students either already have a Christmas job or are looking for one. Of those who are still looking, confidence in finding a job is relatively low; with two in three not at all confident they will find one.

As was the case in July, three in five students say that Coronavirus has had some degree of impact upon their income; with a quarter saying this impact has been major.

Tracked

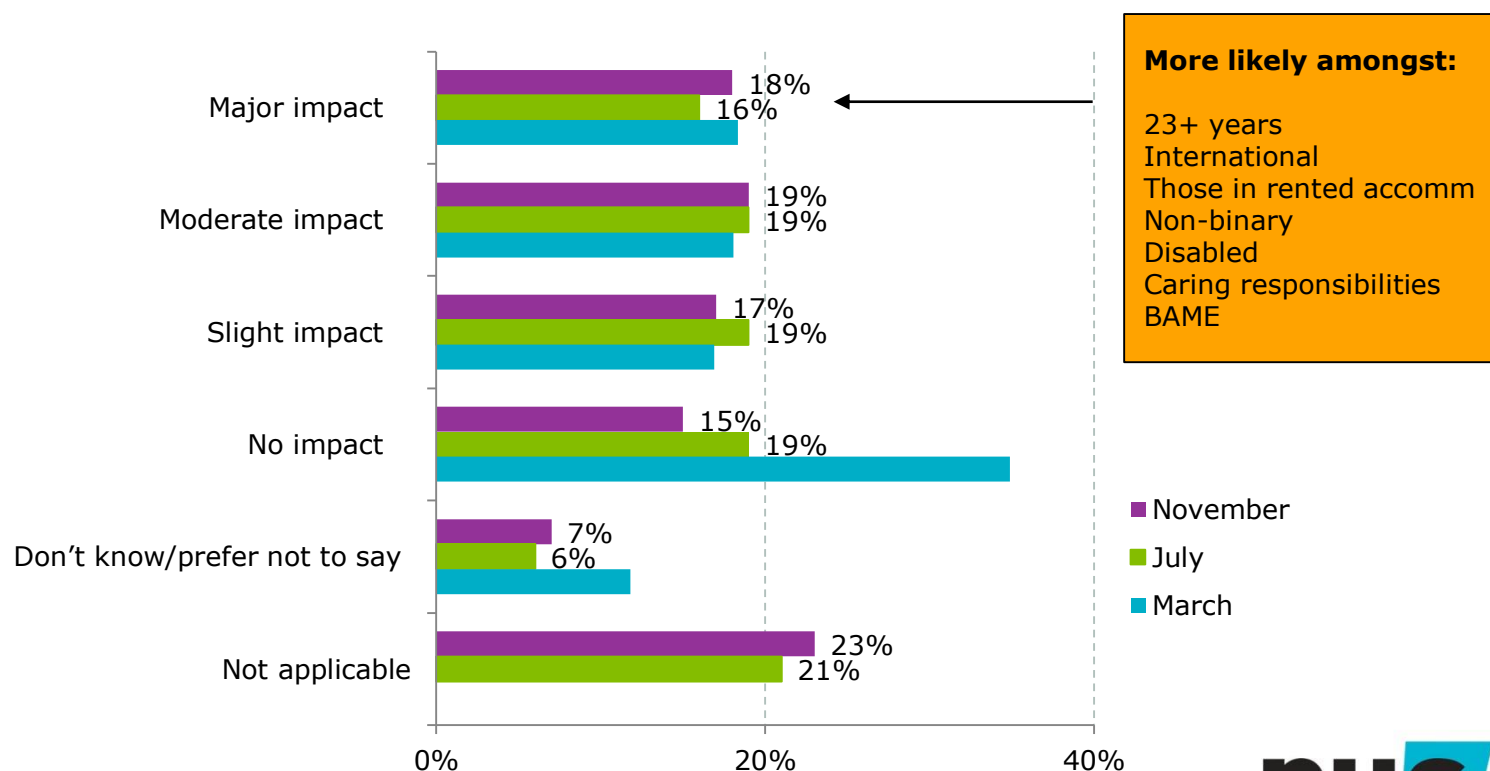
Impact of Coronavirus on your income



The proportion of students who say that the income of someone who supports them financially has been impacted by Covid-19 has remained consistently at around half since the first lockdown was brought in in March. The drop in those saying it has had no impact is most likely accounted for by the increase in those selecting 'not applicable'.

Tracked

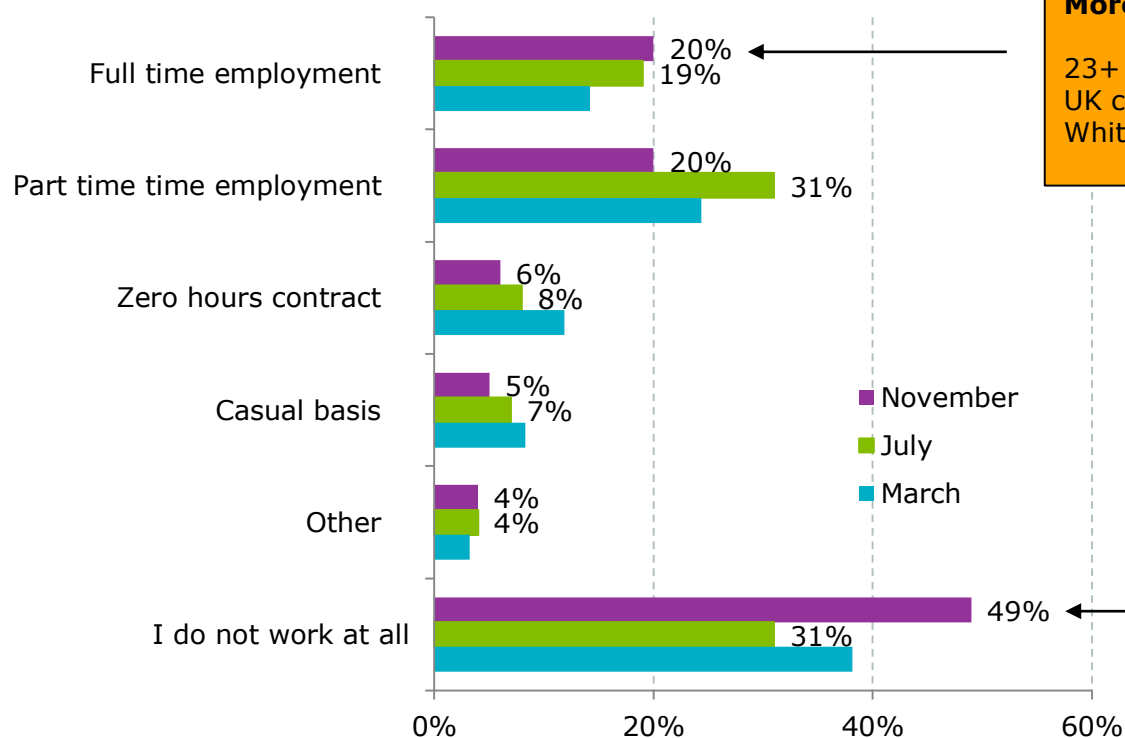
Has the income of someone who helps support you financially been impacted by Coronavirus (Covid-19)?



The proportion of students who have a part time job alongside their studies has dropped from July; 20% compared to 31%. And correspondingly the proportion who do not work at all has jumped; 49% compared to 31%

Tracked

Job(s) held alongside studies



More likely amongst:

23+ years
UK citizens
White students

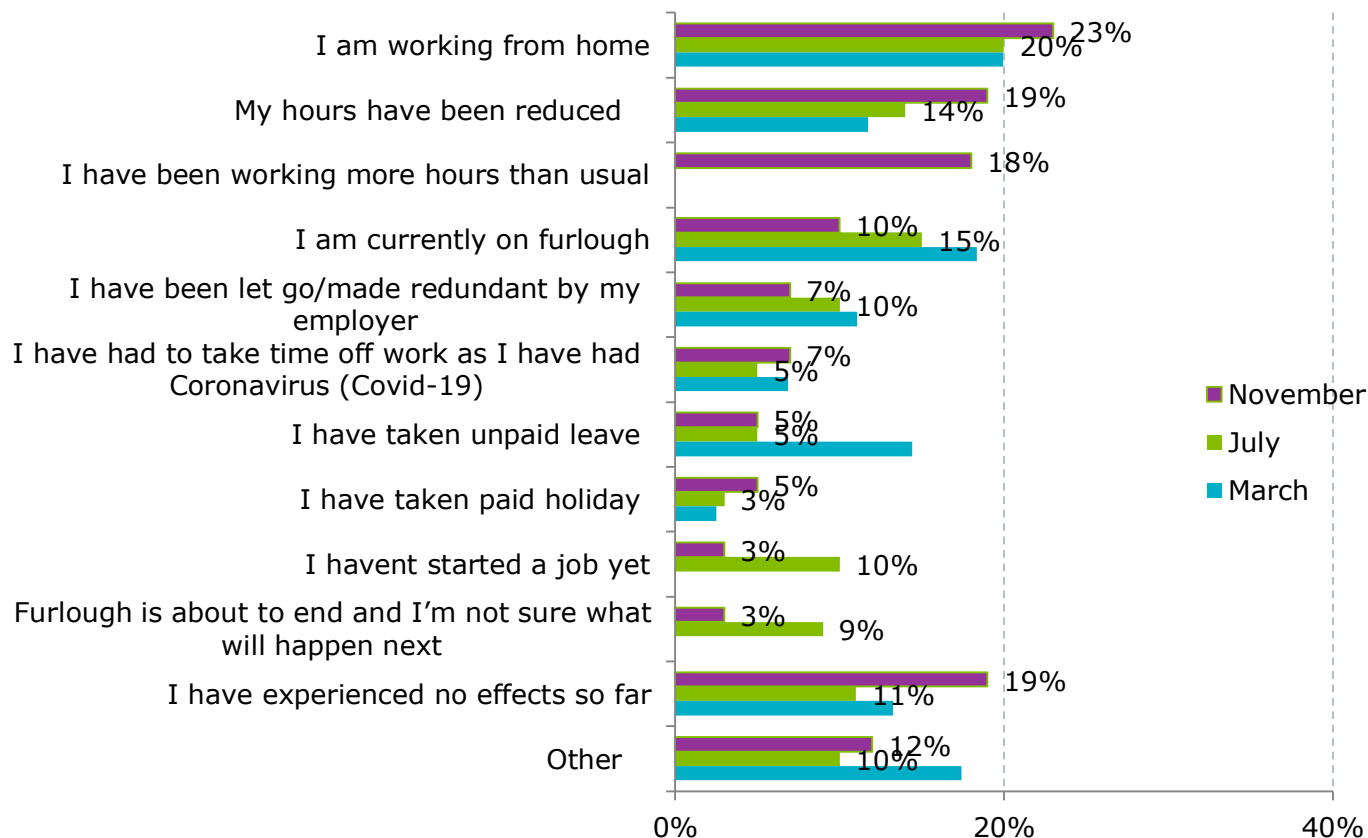
More likely amongst:

16-22 years
FE students
Those in halls
Public transport commuters
Full-time
Those with a disability
BAME students

As was the case in March and July, around one in five students who have a job have been working from home and similar proportions have had their hours reduced or have actually been working more hours than usual. The proportion of students on furlough has continued to drop, however this may in part be the result of far fewer students currently having a job.

Tracked

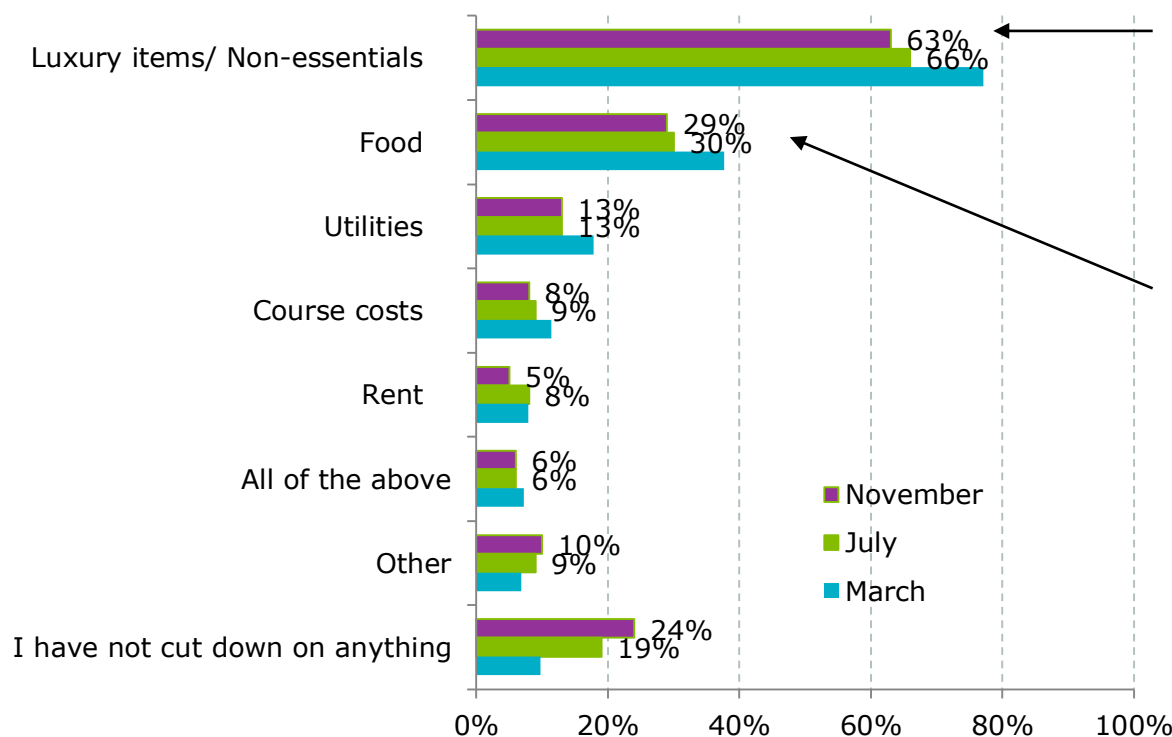
How work has been affected by Coronavirus (Covid-19)



The reduction in the proportion of students cutting back on spending that was observed in July, has persisted. In tandem with this the proportion stating they have not had to cut down on anything has increased; this perhaps reflects the continuing gradual return to shopping habits seen prior to the Coronavirus pandemic and the imposed lockdowns.

Tracked

Cutting back in terms of spending since Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak



More likely amongst:

18+ years
HE
Halls/rented

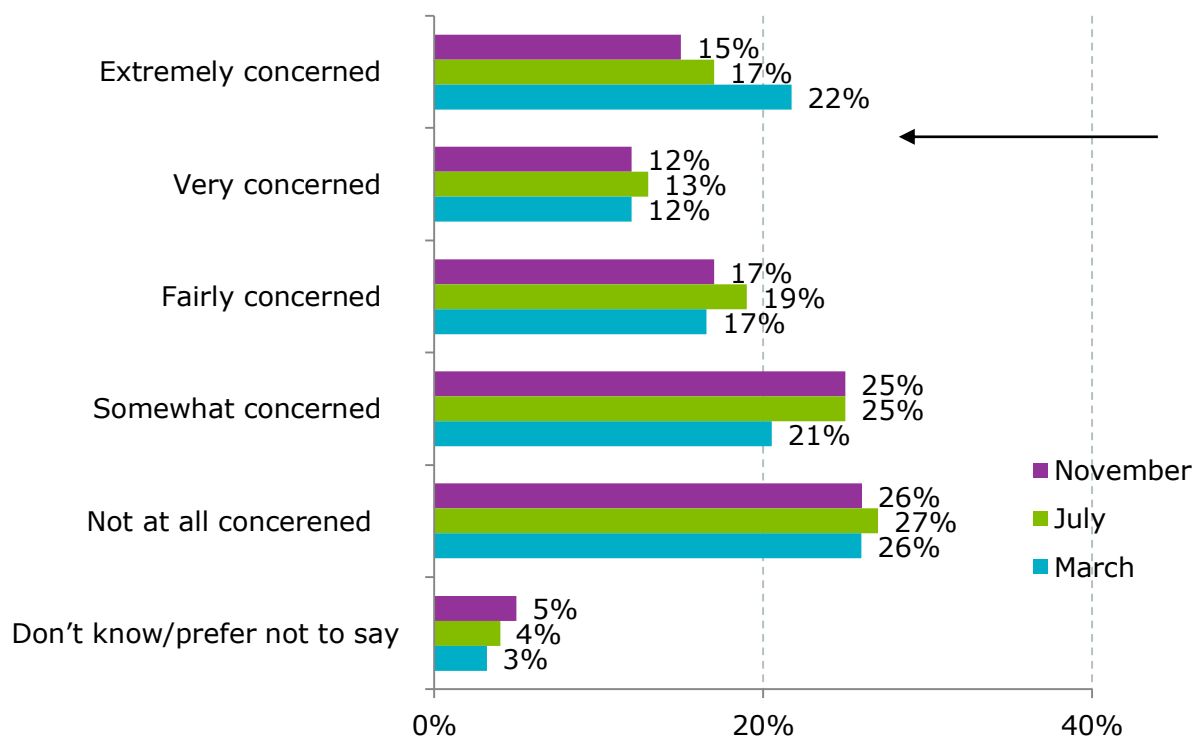
More likely amongst:

18-39 years
International
Halls/rented
Bisexual/Bi & Gay/Lesbian

Over two thirds of renters have some level of concern about being able to pay their rent in the coming year, particularly international students, those from a BAME background and those who commute on public transport

Tracked

Level of concern about financial impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) on ability to pay rent



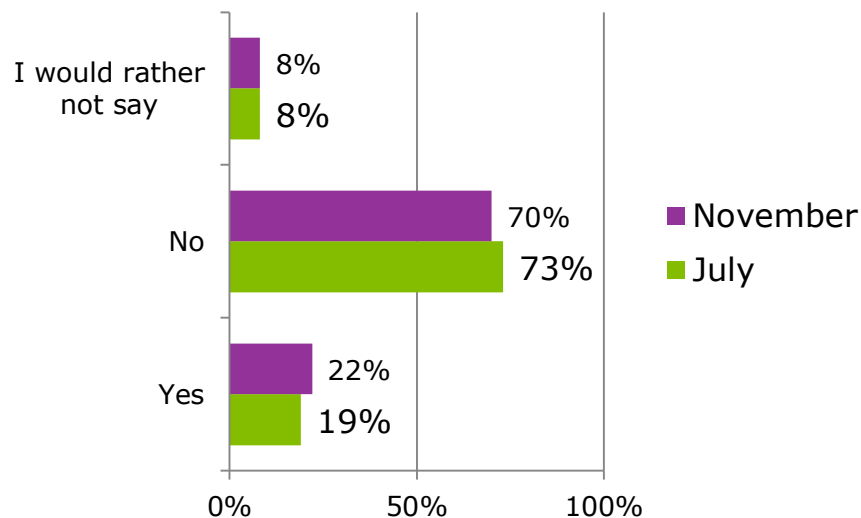
More likely amongst:

- International
- BAME
- Commuting on public transport

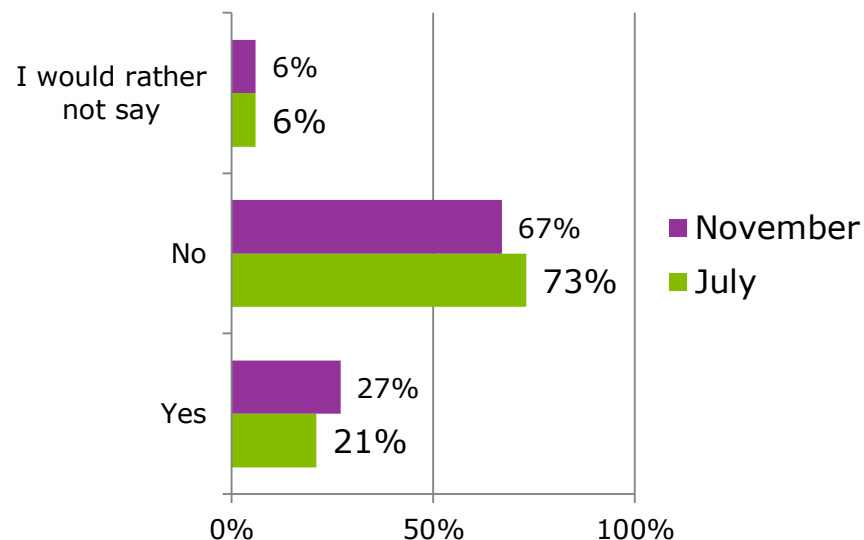
Around a fifth of students admit to having been unable to pay their rent in full over the past 4 months. And around a quarter admit they have been unable to pay their bills in full over the past 4 months. These figures are slightly up from the summer.

Tracked

Unable to pay rent in full over past 4 months?



Unable to pay bills in full over past 4 months?

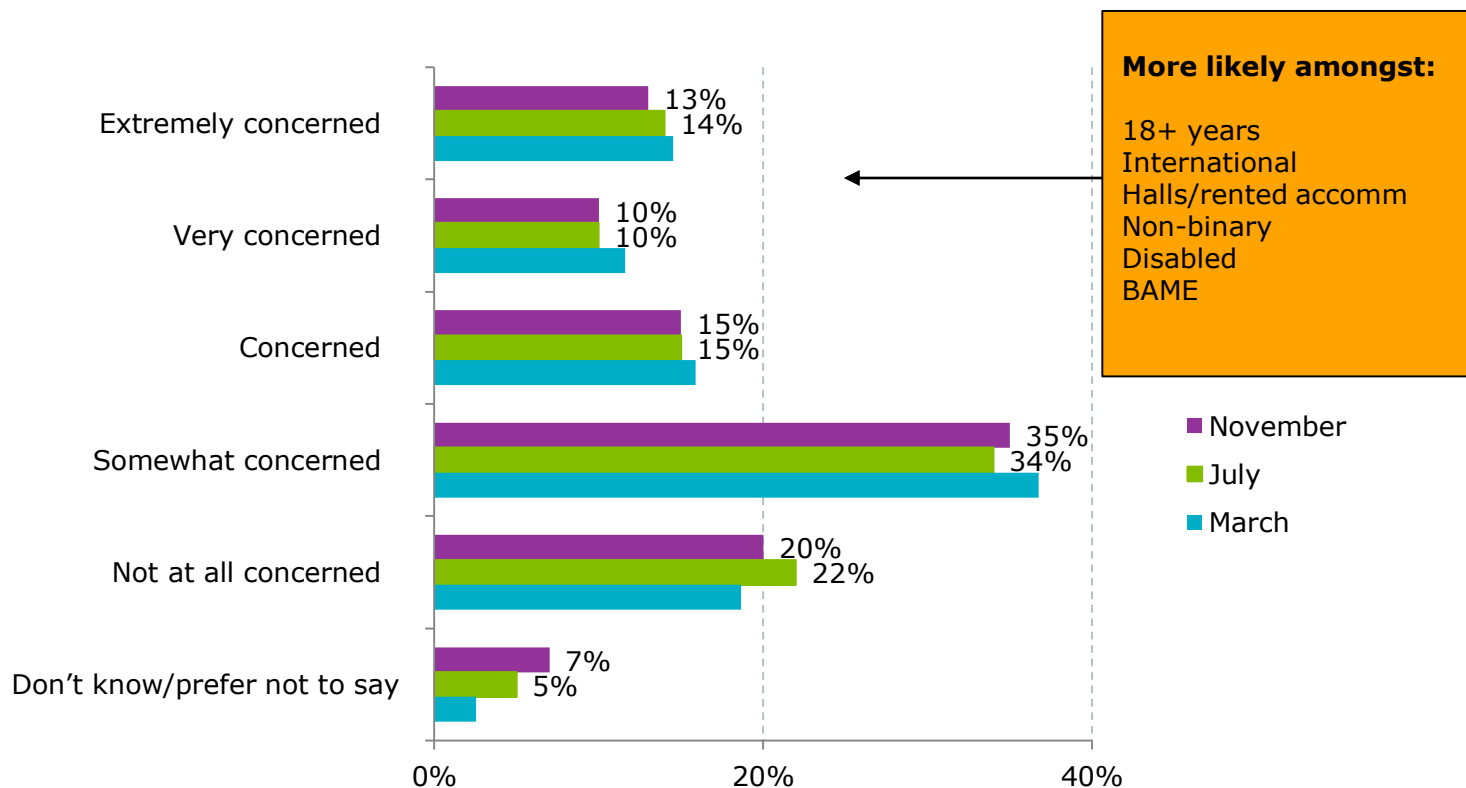


Weighted base: 1176 respondents. Balance: those who do not receive learning support from their institution
F12. Have you been unable to pay your rent in full as a result of Coronavirus over the previous 4 months?
Weighted base: 2659 respondents. Balance: those who do not receive learning support from their institution
F13. Have you been unable to pay your bills in full as a result of Coronavirus over the previous 4 months?

Concern with regards to managing financially during the Covid-19 outbreak continues to be high and any reduction observed in July appears to have plateaued; with three in four students (73%) currently concerned (as was the case in July) compared to four in five back in March 2020 (80%).

Tracked

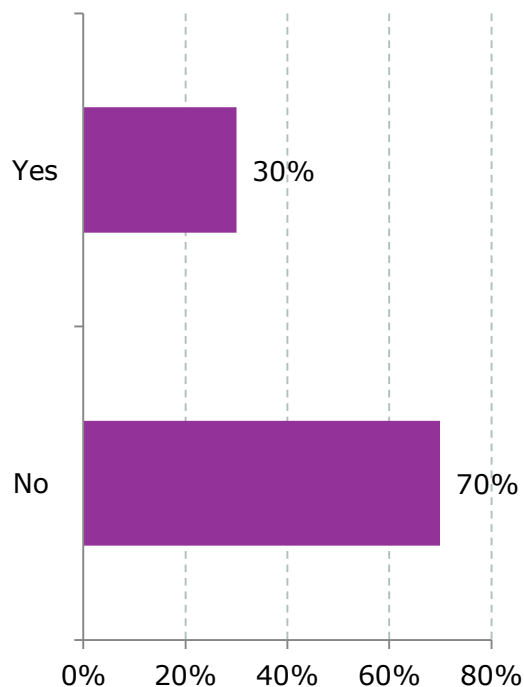
Concern about ability to manage financially during pandemic



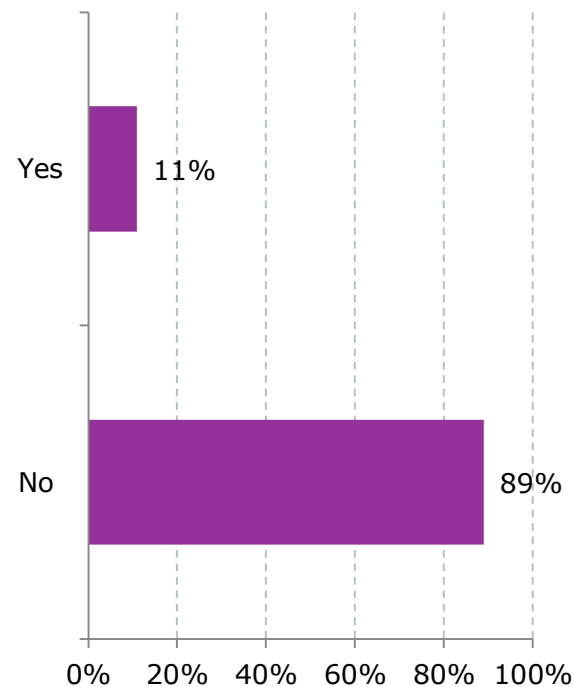
Around one in three receive funding/a bursary for their studies which is conditional upon their physical attendance at their institution. Only one in ten of those who receive this funding say it has been impacted as a result of non-attendance at their institution during the Coronavirus pandemic.

New to phase 3

Receipt of funding



Impact of non attendance on funding



Weighted Base: 1626 respondents. Balance: no response

D10 Do you currently receive funding/a bursary for your studies which is conditional upon physical attendance at your institution?

Weighted Base: 291 respondents. Balance: no response and those not in receipt of funding

D12 Has your funding / bursary been impacted as a result of non-attendance during the pandemic?

Of the minority who said their funding has been impacted upon by non-attendance, this has taken the form of reduced funding and childcare payments being withdrawn to name a few.

November 2020

Impact of non-attendance on funding / bursary

"In March and April 2020 my funding was reduced by half due to me not being able to attend online due to having no suitable equipment."

Female, 30-39, FE

"Both my childcare and discretionary payments will not be paid. Childcare provider will withdraw contract if funds aren't paid."

Female, 23-29, FE

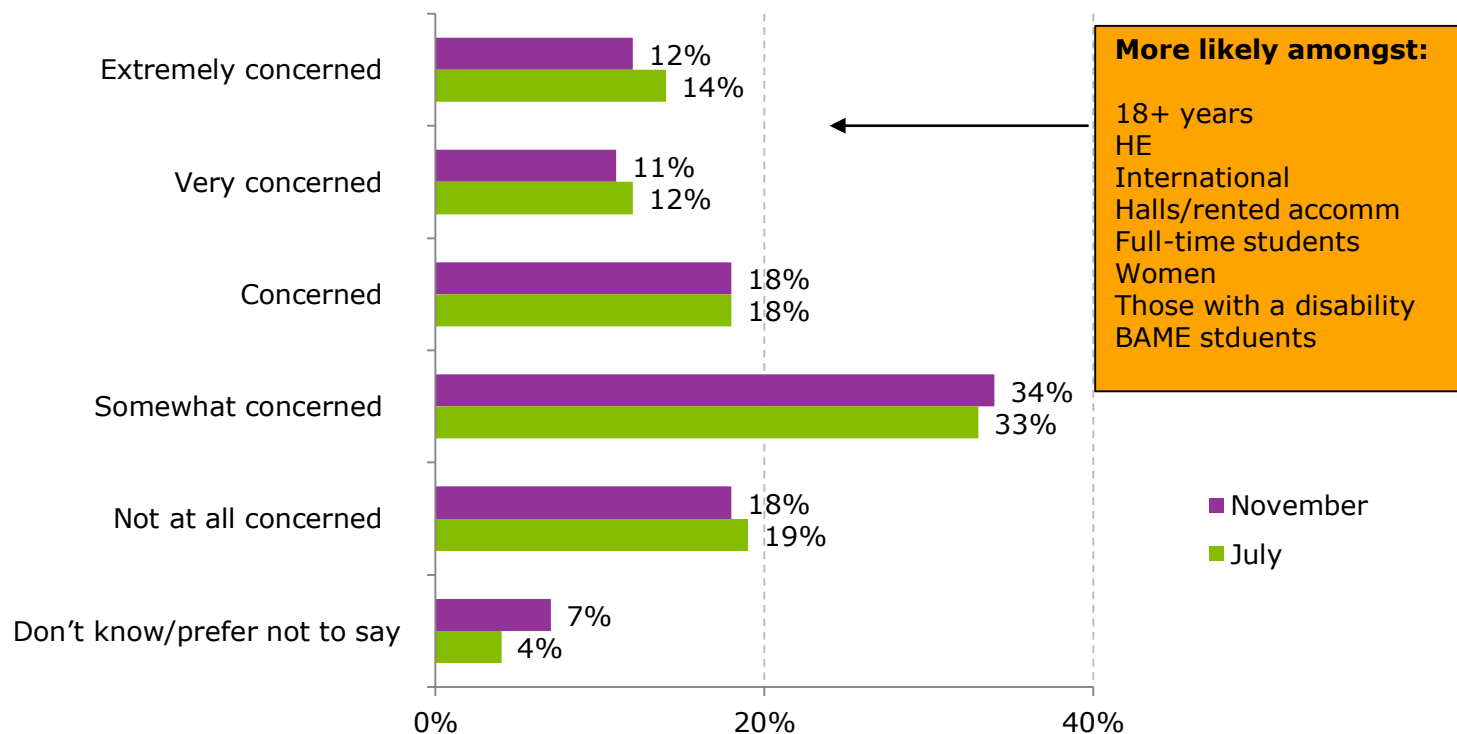
"Self isolating so missed classes and funding has been affected because of this"

Male, 23-29, FE

As was the case in July, three in four say they are concerned about their ability to manage financially beyond the pandemic.

Tracked

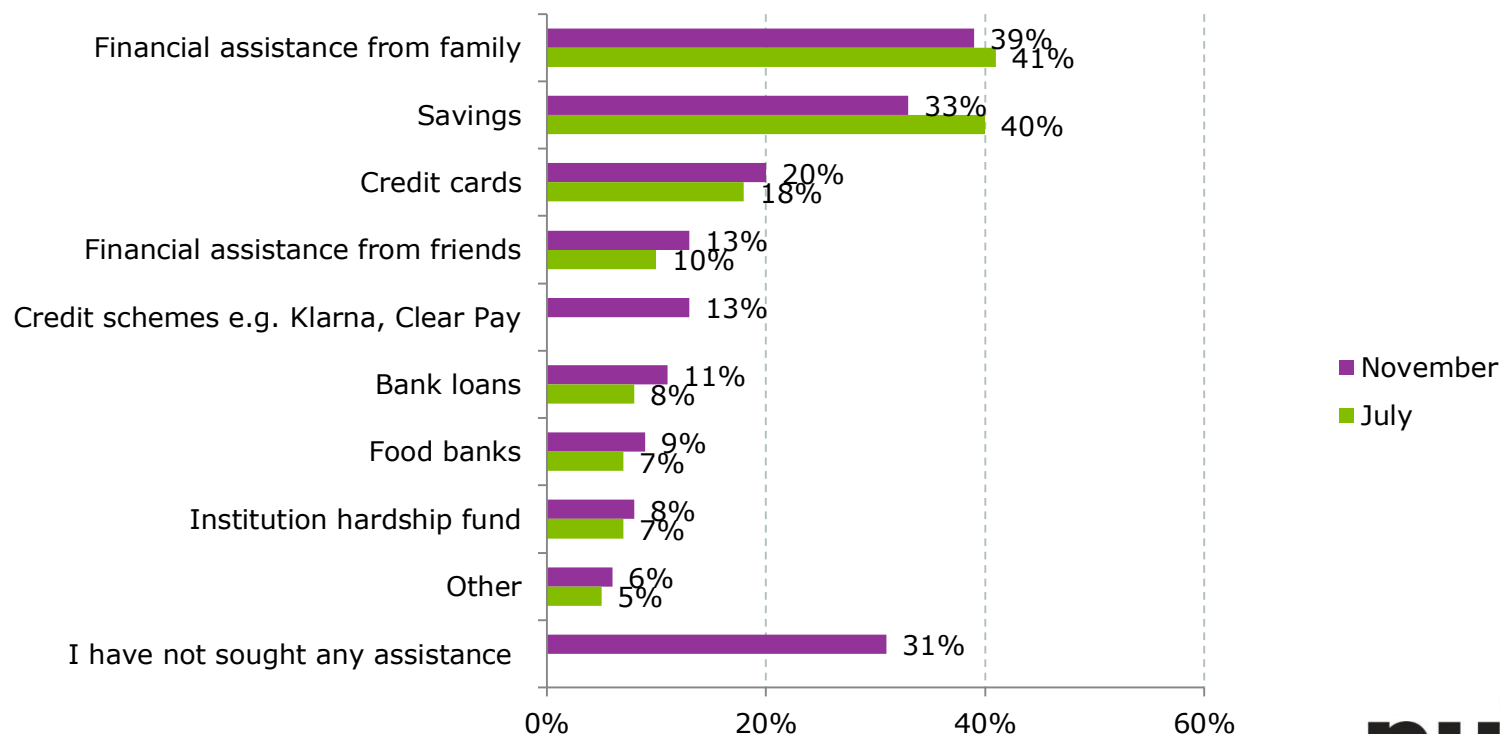
Concern about ability to manage financially beyond the pandemic



Around two in five students say they have sought financial assistance from family members. One in three have utilised savings. A further one in five say they have used credit cards to help them out.

Tracked

Which of the following have you sought support/assistance from during the pandemic



When looking at the data across different demographics we can see some significant differences

Where support/assistance has been sought

Disabled students more likely to seek support from:

- Food banks
- Institution hardship fund
- Financial assistance from family
- Financial assistance from friends
- Credit cards

BAME students more likely to seek support from:

- Financial assistance from friends

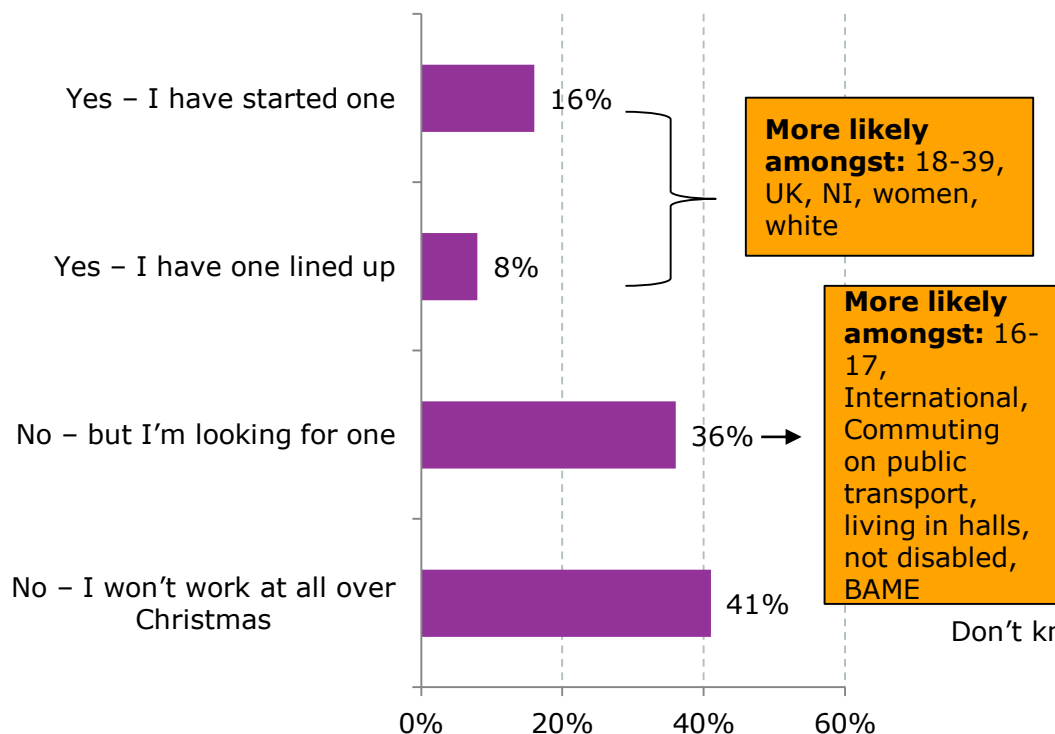
Part time students are more likely to seek support from:

- Credit cards
- Credit schemes (e.g. Klarna)

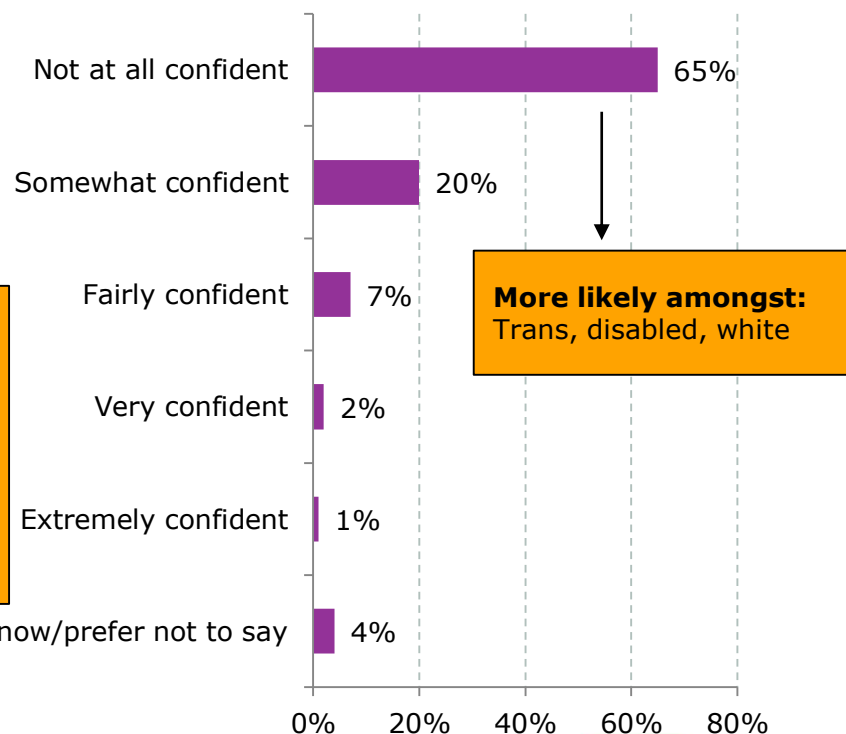
Three in five students either have a job over Christmas or are looking for one. Of those looking, two thirds demonstrate no confidence at all in finding one

New to phase 3

Planned Christmas job



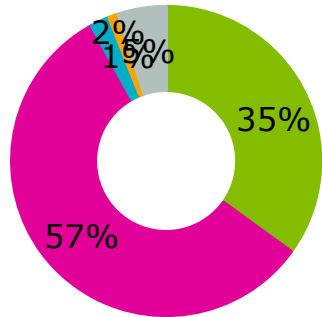
Confidence in finding a Christmas job



Demographics

Key demographics (weighted base)

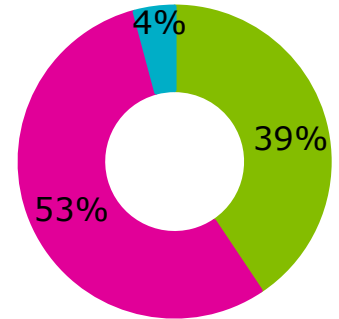
Gender



- Man
- Woman
- Non-binary
- I prefer to self-describe
- Prefer not to say

Level of study

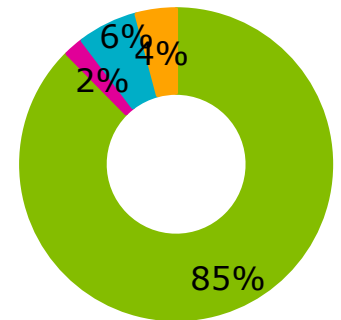
- FE
- HE
- Apprentice



Age



- I am a UK citizen studying in the UK
- I am an Irish citizen from the UK studying in the UK
- I am an international student from within the EU studying in the UK
- I am an international student from outside the EU studying in the UK



Full time: 69%
Part time: 21%
Distance learner: 15%

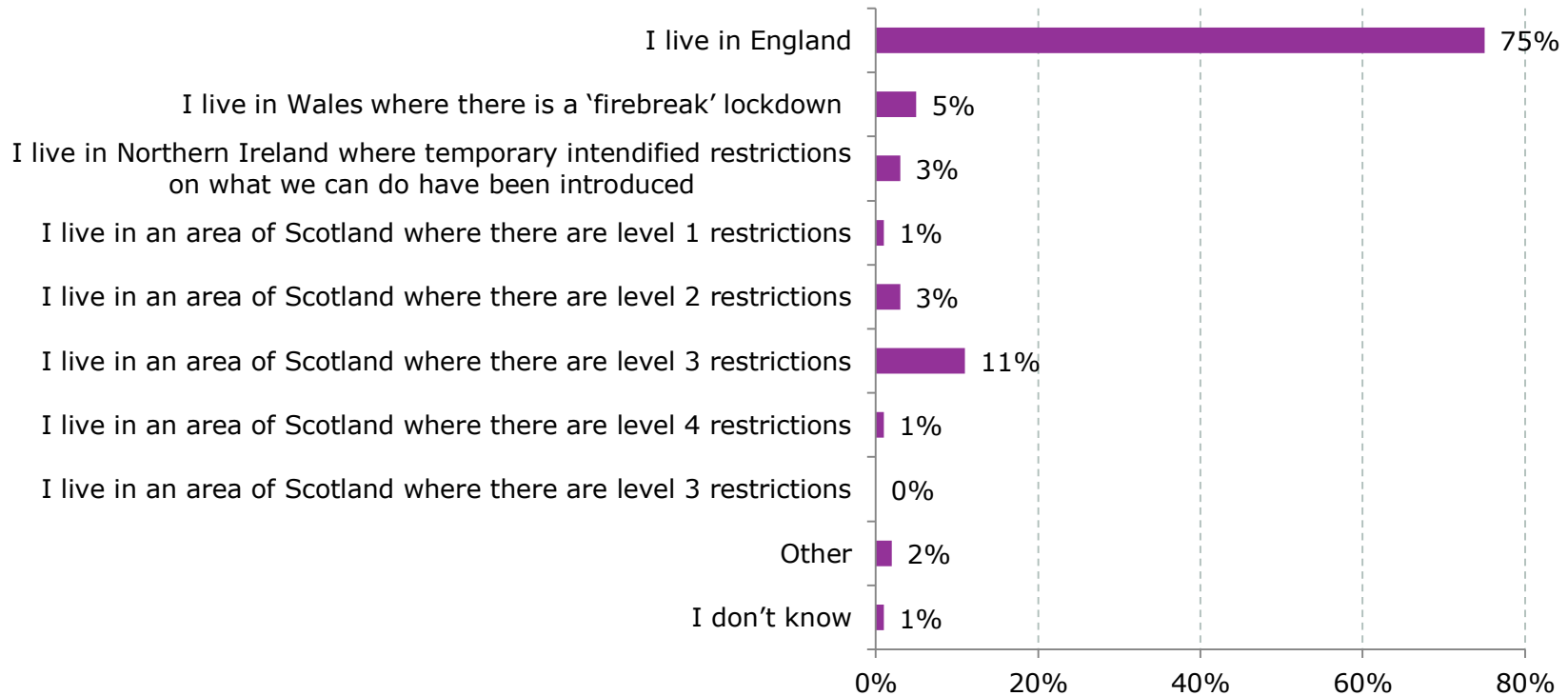
Demographics

Region	Percentage
North East	5%
North West	13%
Yorkshire and the Humber	7%
East Midlands	7%
West Midlands	8%
London	12%
East of England	4%
South West	10%
South East	11%
England Total	77%
Scotland	15%
Wales	5%
Northern Ireland	3%



Demographics

Living in areas of lockdown

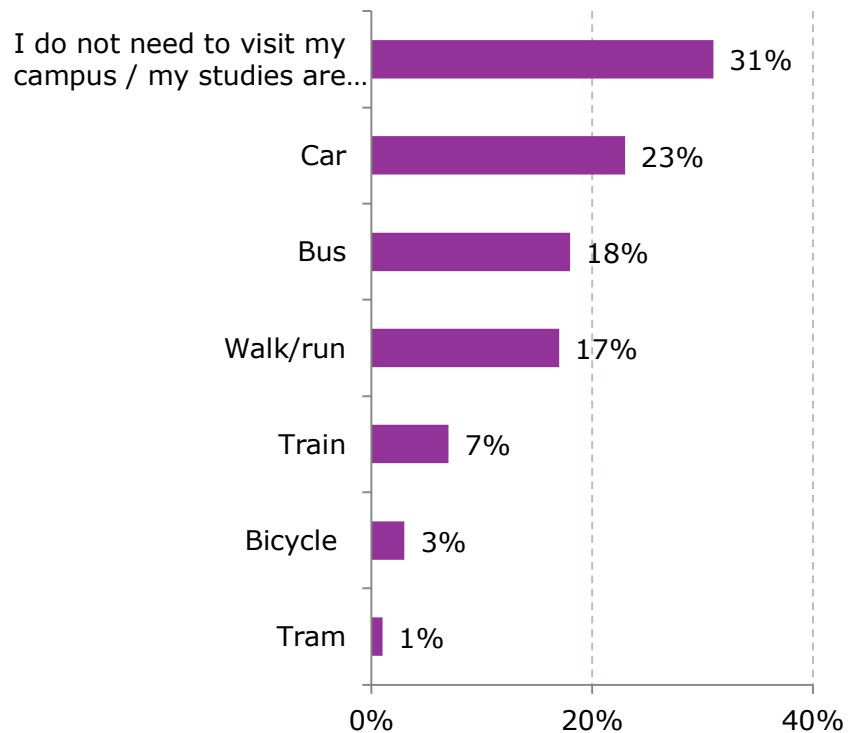


Weighted Base: 4193 respondents

A5. Please tell us which of the following applies to where you live during term time:

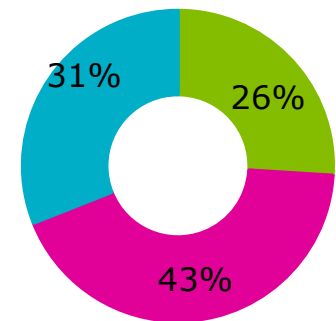
Demographics

Mode of transport to commute



Commuters

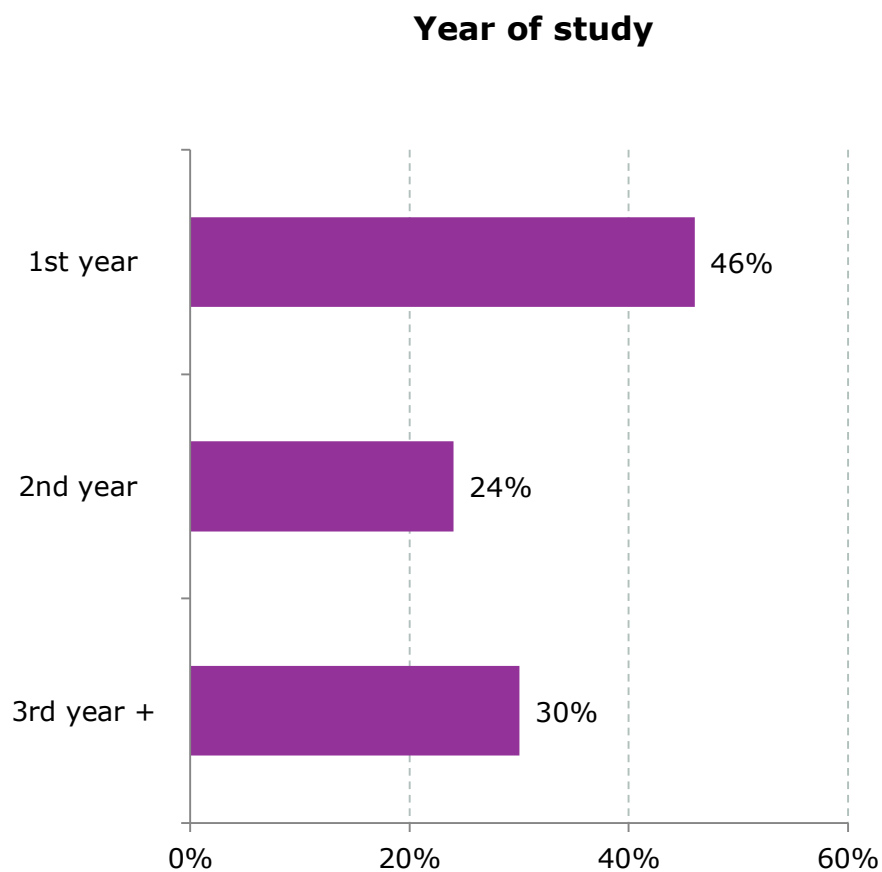
- Commuting on public transport
- Commuting in own transport
- Don't commute



Weighted Base: 4185 respondents Balance : FE students, no response

A6. Which of the following modes of transport do you use regularly in order to get to and from your campus?

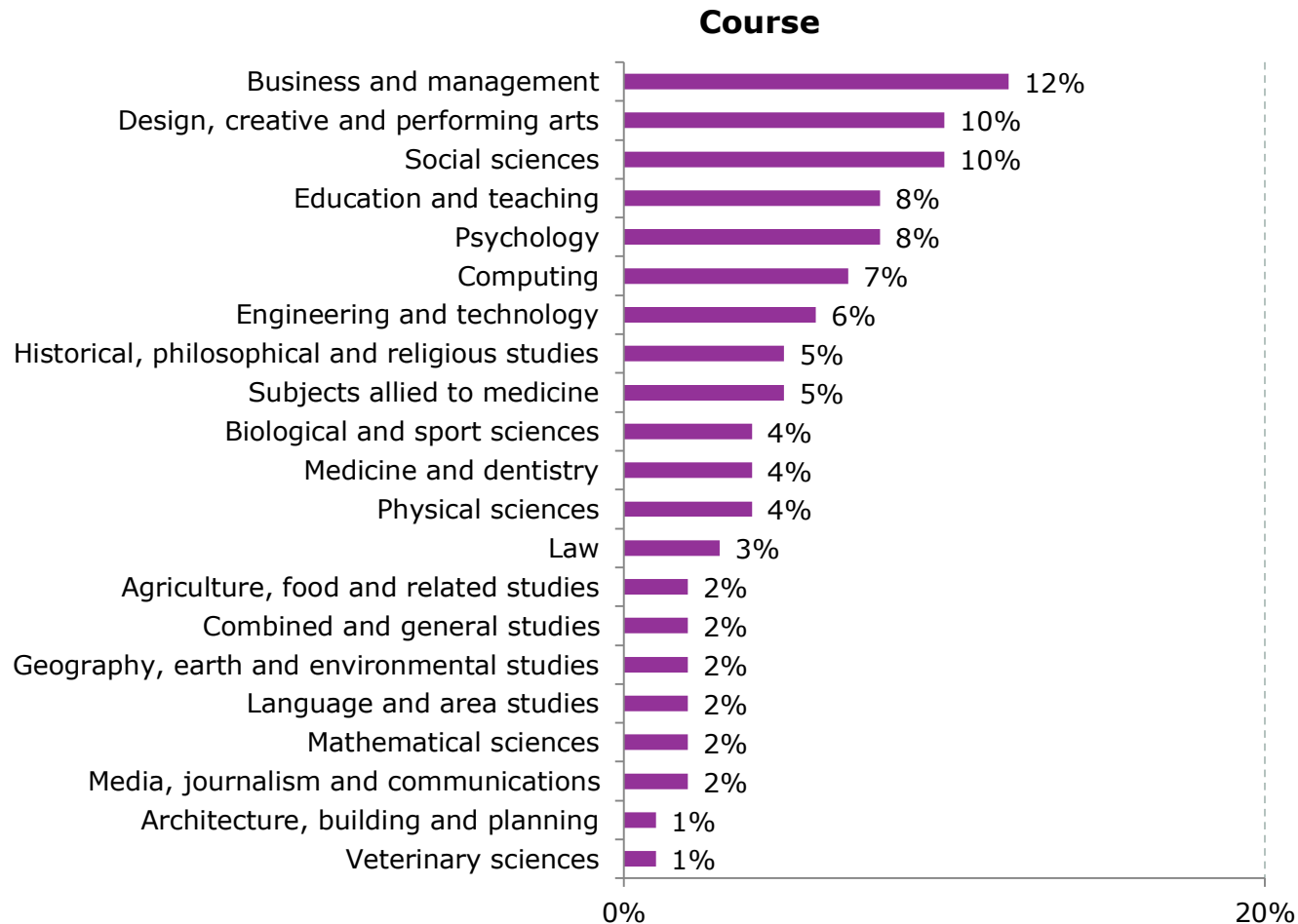
Demographics



Weighted Base: 1522 respondents Balance : FE students, no response

K1. What year of study are you in?

Demographics

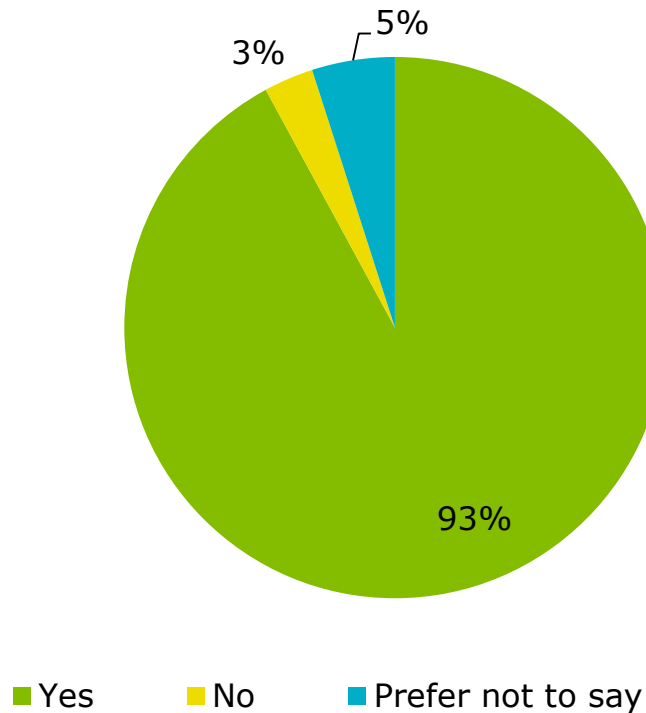


Weighted Base: 4048 respondents Balance: no response

K4. Which of the following best describes your course (or your most recent course)?

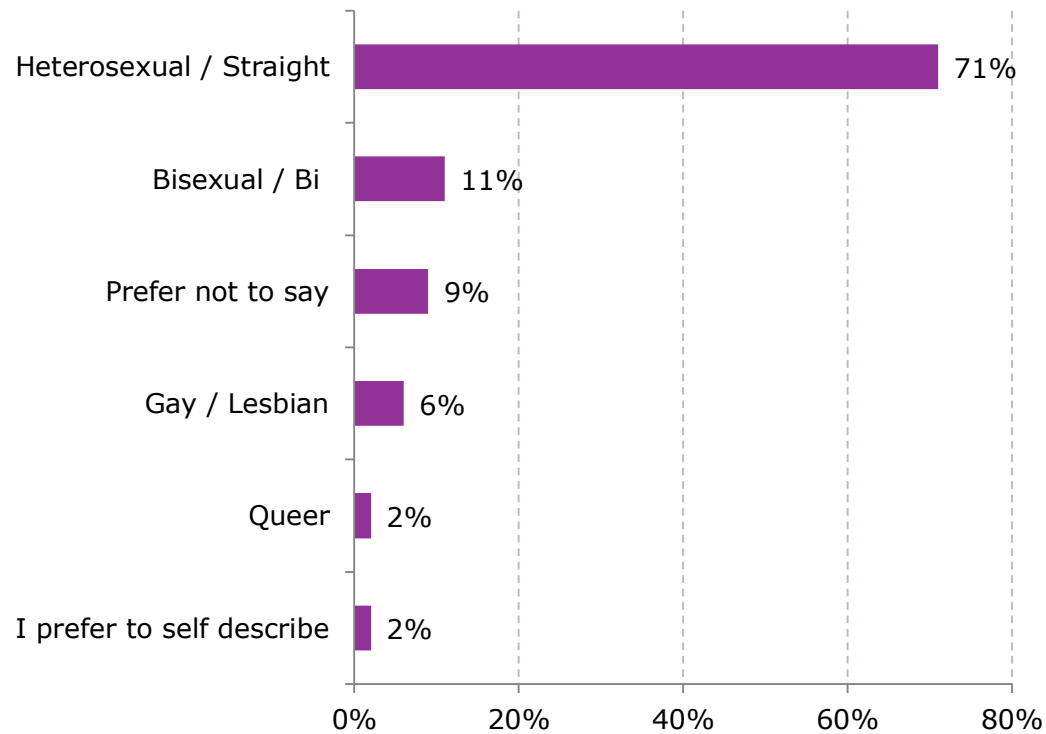
Demographics

Does your gender identity match the gender you were assigned at birth?



Demographics

Sexual orientation/preference

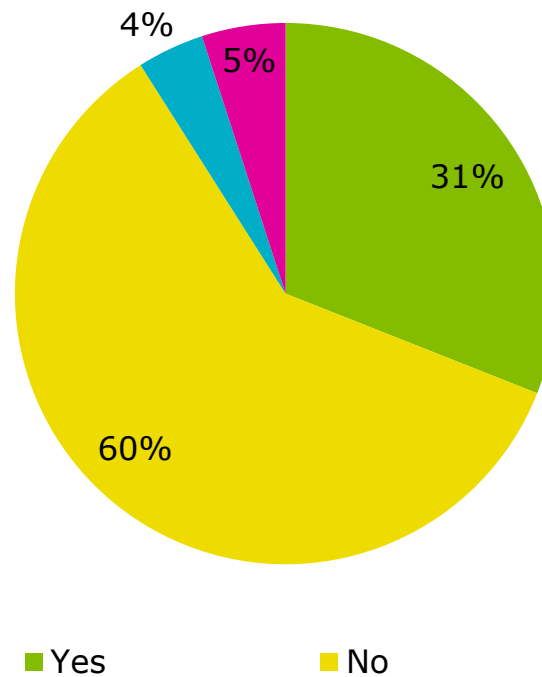


Weighted Base: 4193 respondents.

K7. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation/preference?

Demographics

Disability, impairment or long term health condition

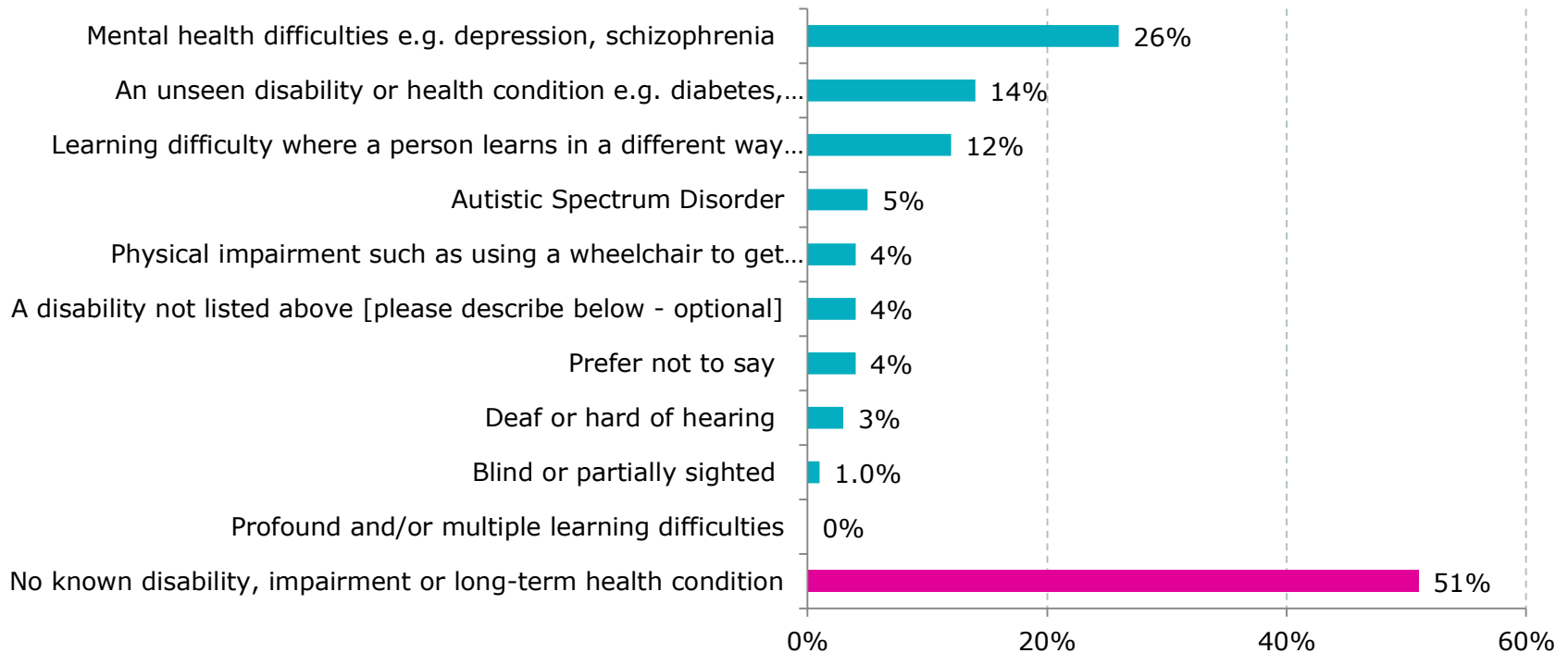


Weighted Base: 4193 respondents.

K11.Do you consider yourself to have a specific learning disability, other disability, impairment, long-term illness or health condition?

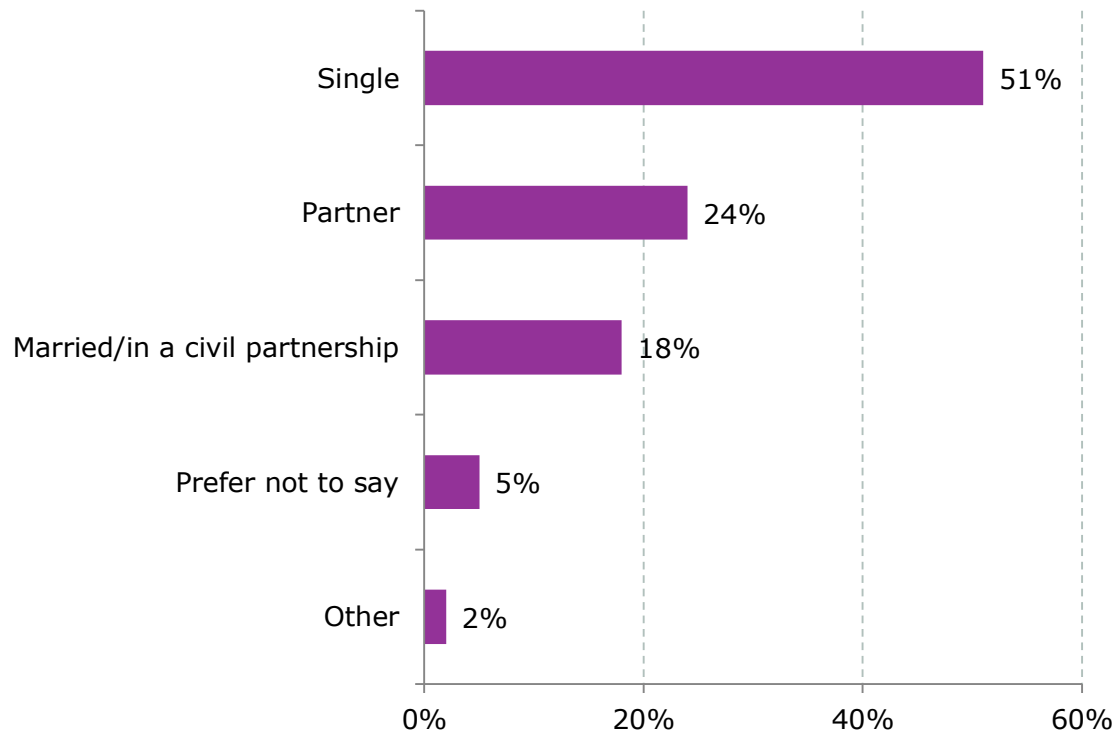
Demographics

Disability, impairment or long term health condition

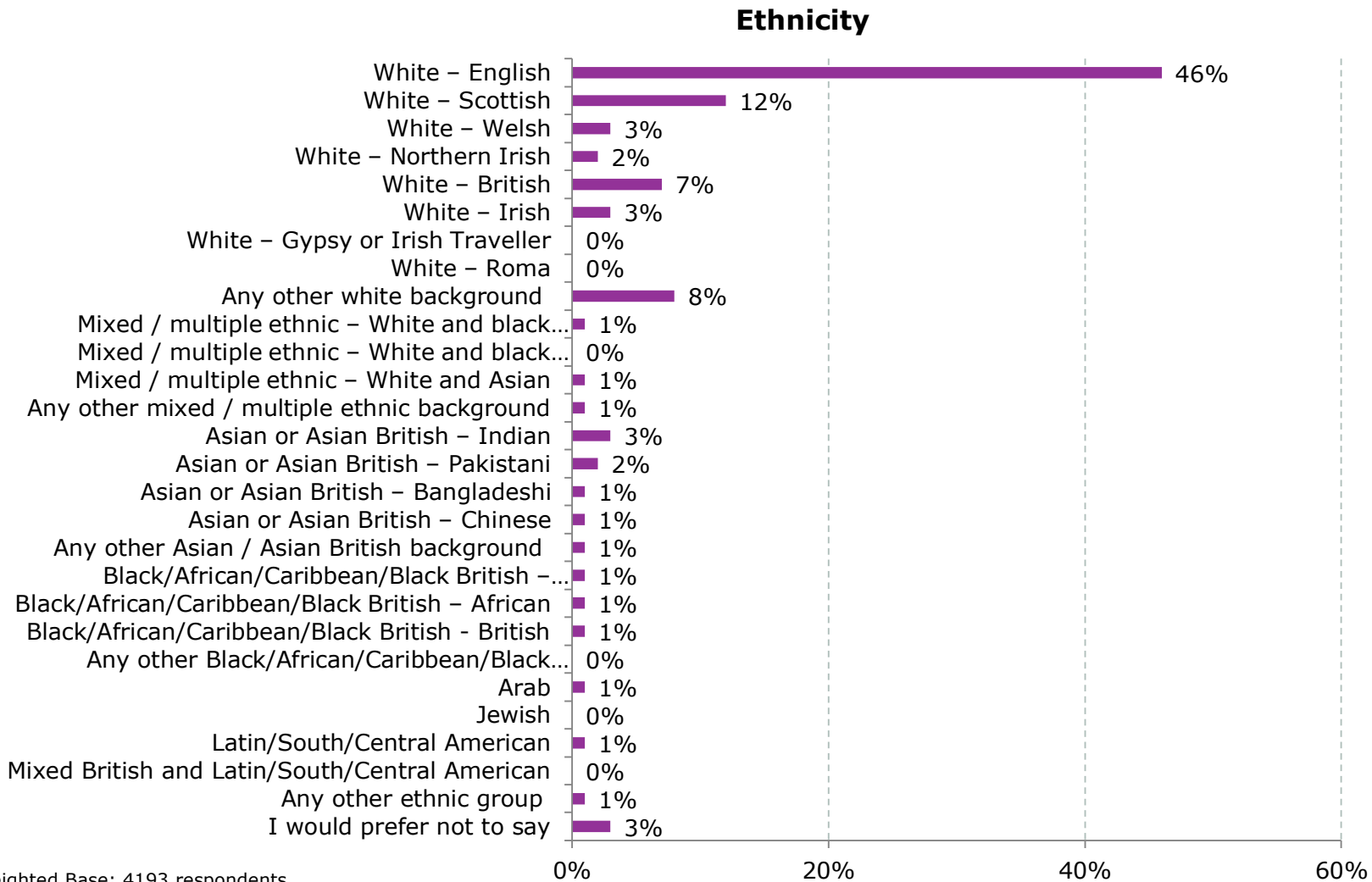


Demographics

Marital status



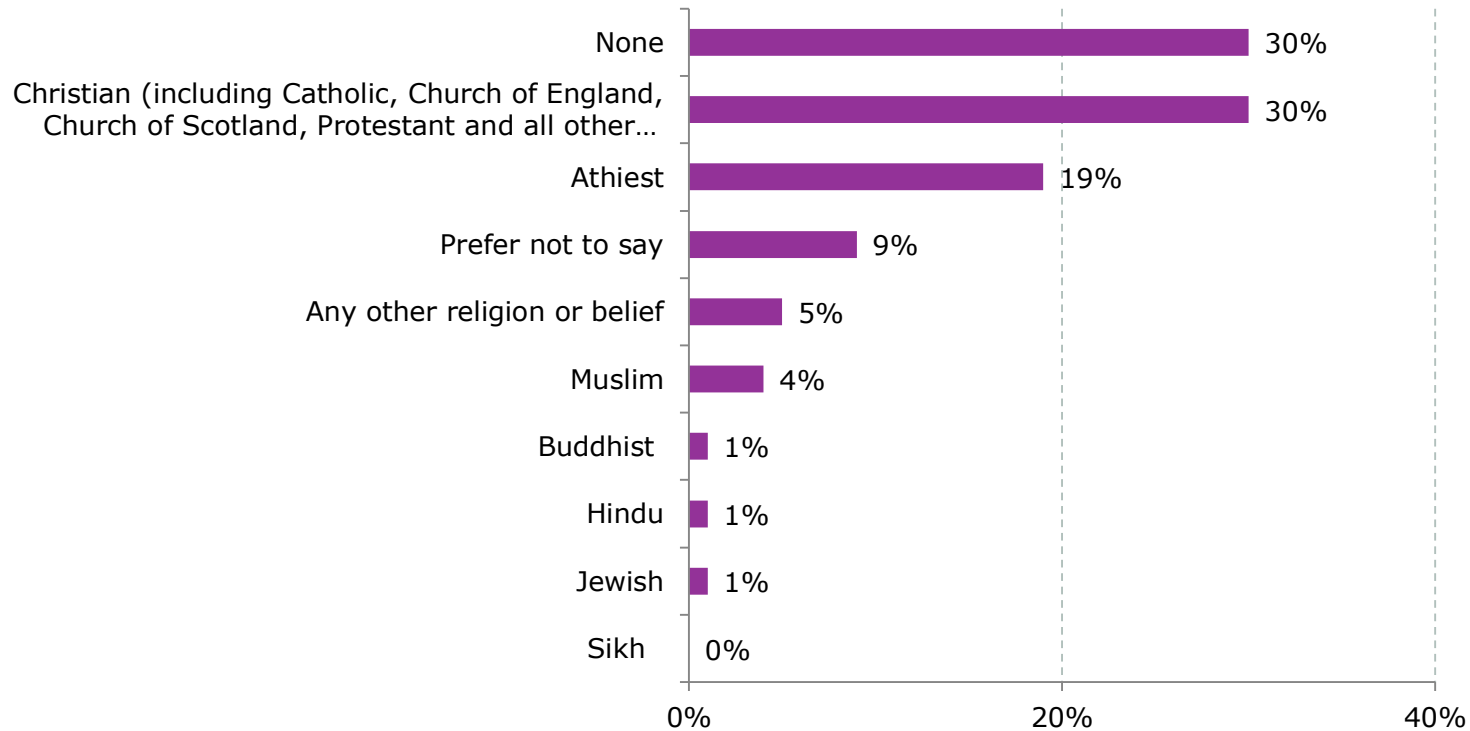
Demographics



K9. Which of the following best describes your ethnic group?

Demographics

Religion, faith or belief

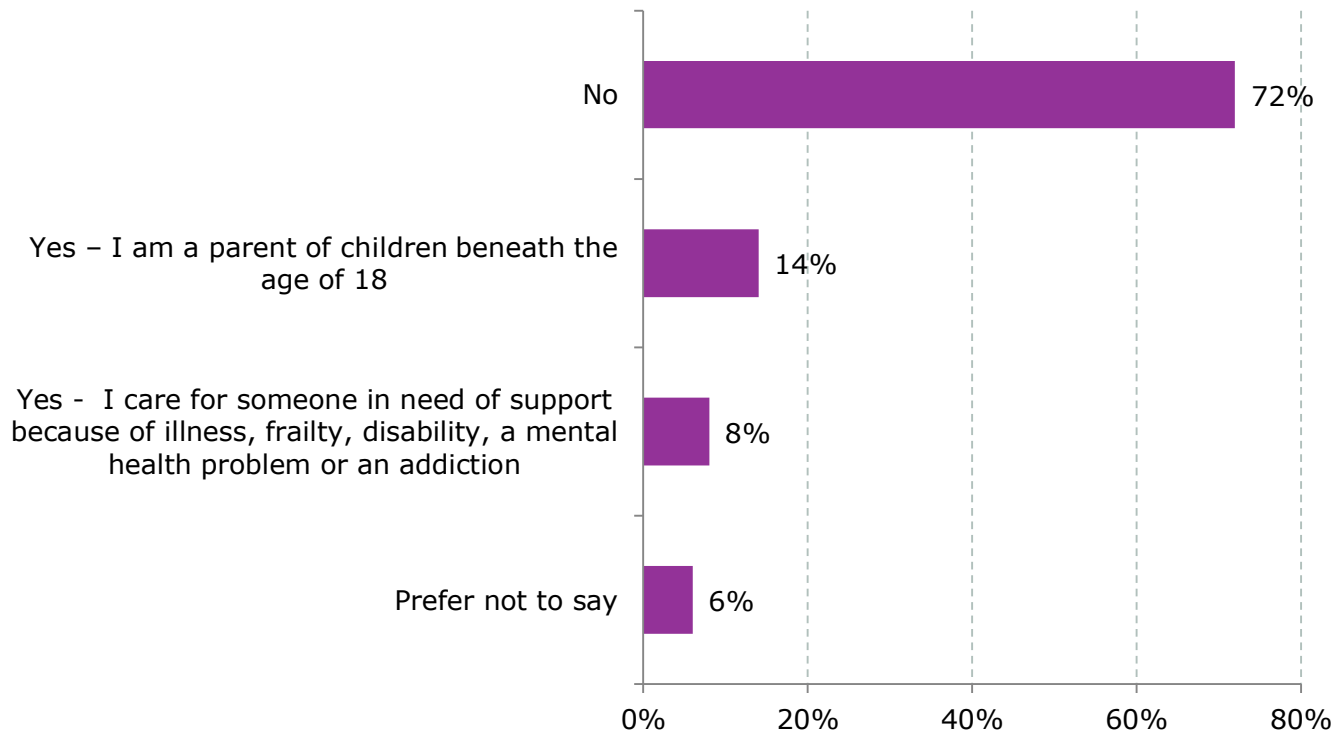


Weighted Base: 4193 respondents.

K10. What is your religion, faith or belief?

Demographics

Caring responsibilities

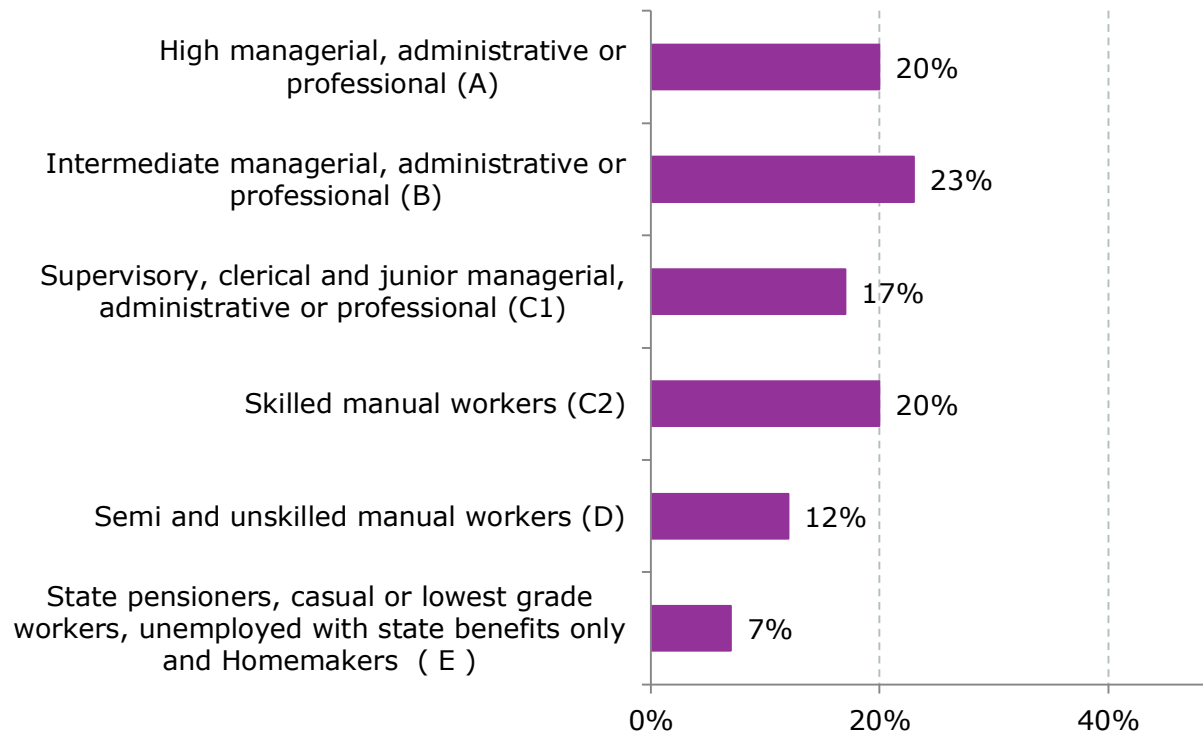


Weighted Base: 4193 respondents.

K13. Do you have any caring responsibilities?

Demographics

Social Grade



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