

Coronavirus Student Survey phase 4 March 2021

Accommodation

Embargoed until 00.01 on Thursday 8th April

Commissioned by NUS, NUS Charity and TOTUM

Delivered by NUS Insight

Project Overview

Objectives

This is the fourth survey in the series commissioned by NUS, NUS Charity and TOTUM to understand more about how students feel about the current Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic and the impacts they are experiencing. Previous surveys – phases 1, 2 and 3 - took place in March, July and November 2020 respectively.

Methodology

A sample of 5832 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 NUS channels in March 2021.

The survey took around 20 minutes to complete and was in field from 8th March to 29th March 2021

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

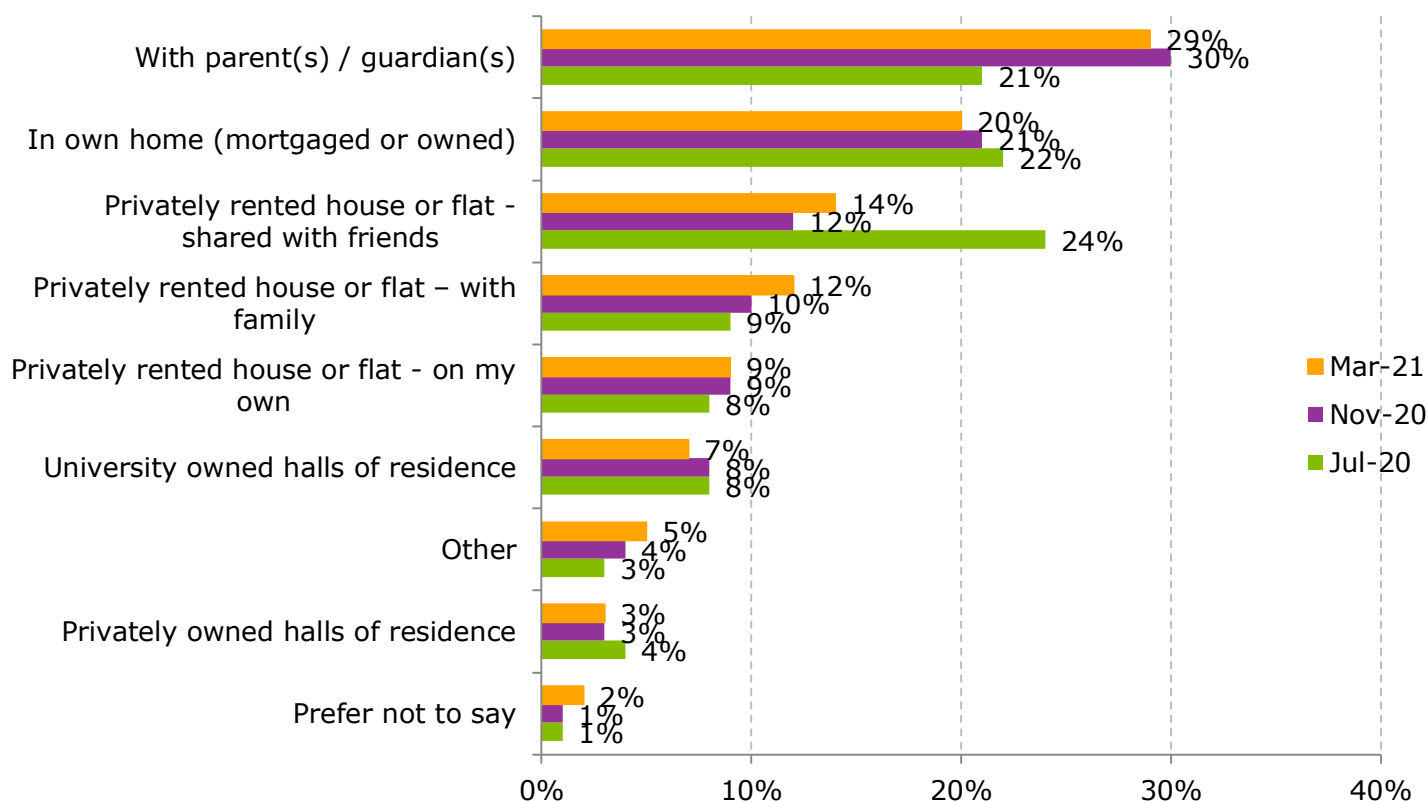
NUS achieved an original sample of **5892** students. The response rate reflected the trend that females participate more than males in completing surveys - the initial gender split was: 65% female and 27% male.

While this survey sampled both HE, FE and other learners, 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 x% female and x% male and a sample of **5832**.

Accommodation

Students' living arrangements have stayed fairly consistent since November 2020. The largest proportions still live with parent(s)/guardian(s) or in their own home.

Tracked



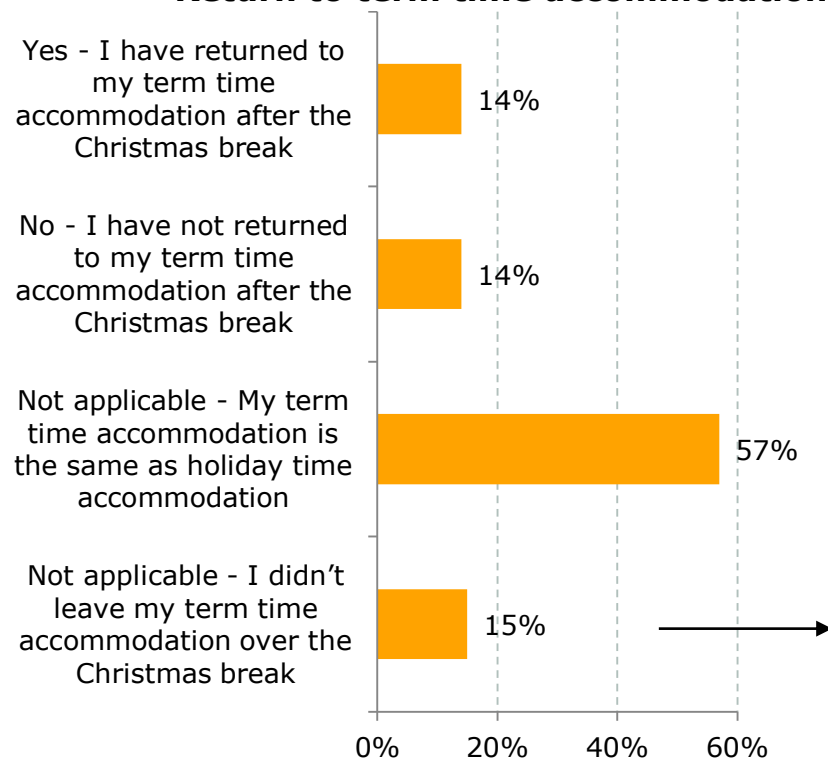
Weighted Base: 5345 respondents. Balance: no response

F1a. Where do you currently live during term time?

Over half of students live in the same place during term time and holidays. Of the almost two in five students who do have a different address in term time, around a third returned to their term time accommodation following the Christmas break.

New to Phase 4

Return to term time accommodation



Of the 2257 students (38% of those who took part in the survey) who do have a different term time address to their 'holiday' time accommodation:

32% returned to their term time accommodation

33% did not return to their term time accommodation

35% didn't leave over Christmas

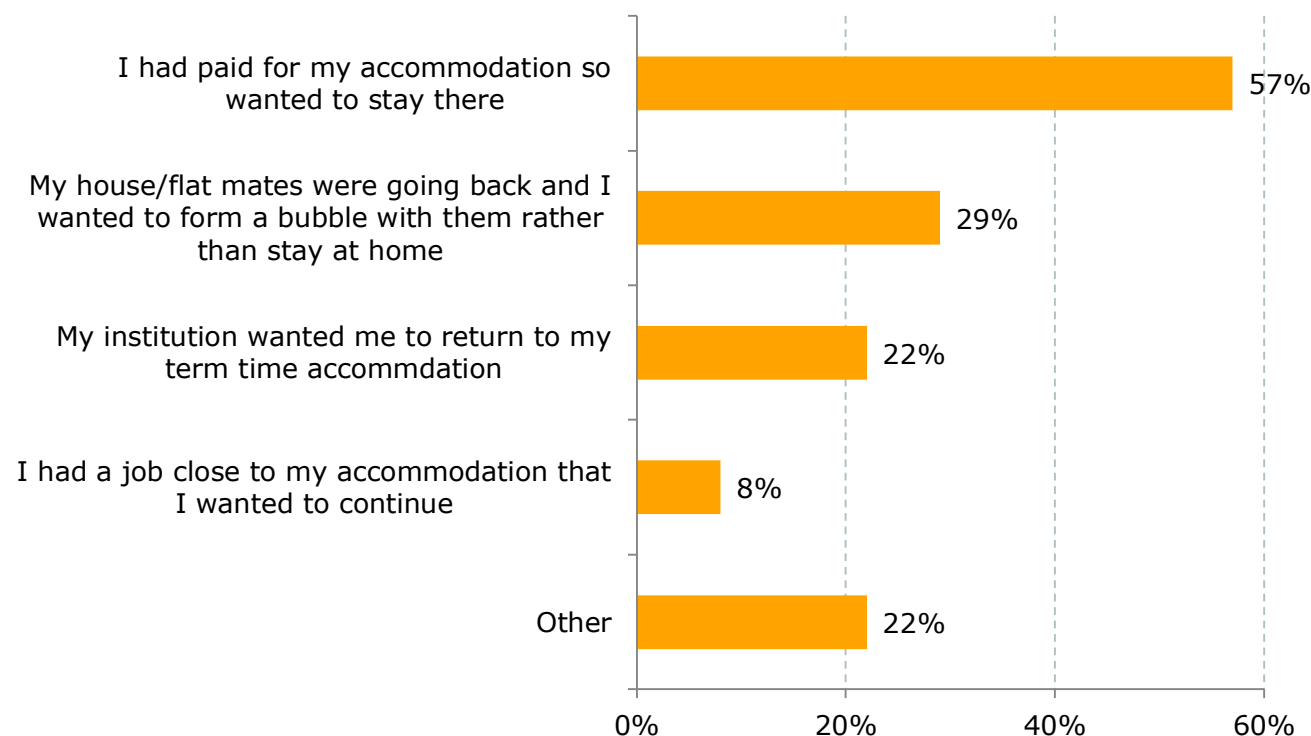
Why not?

- Travel restrictions
- Vulnerable / shielding relatives

Of those who did return to their term time accommodation, over half did so because they had already paid for it. Just over a fifth did so because their house/flat mates were going back and they wanted to form a bubble with them.

New to Phase 4

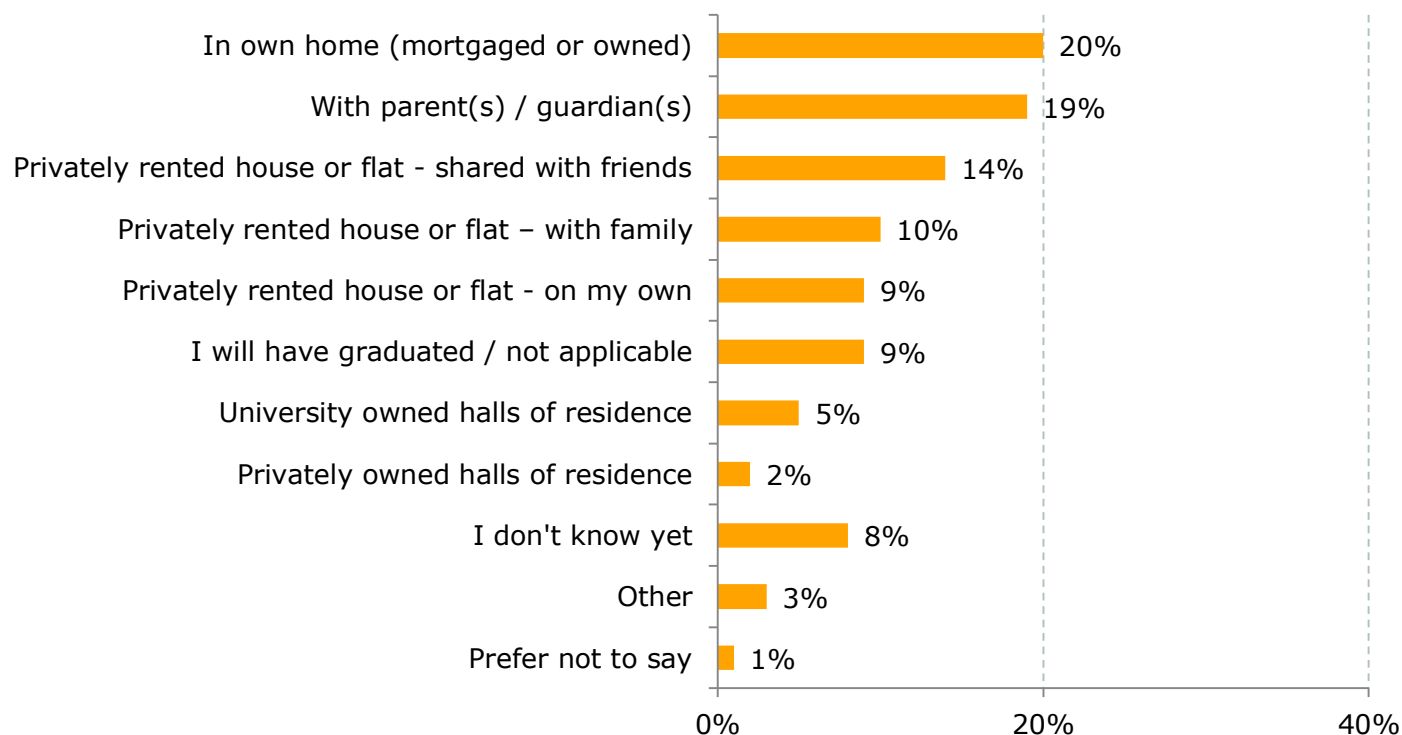
Reasons for return to accommodation



Thinking ahead to the next academic year (Sept 2021) three in five plan to be living on their own or with their parent(s)/guardian(s) or family. Around a fifth plan to live with friends in a flat or in halls of residence.

New to Phase 4

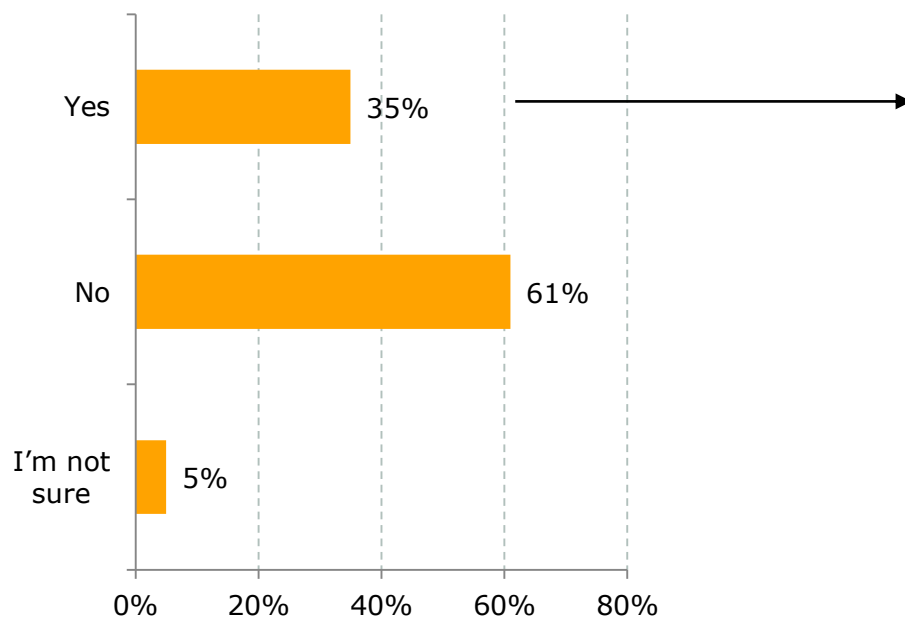
Accommodation in September 2021



For those who plan to be in rented accommodation in September around a third have already signed a contract.

New to Phase 4

Signing of contract for September 2021



Why

- Secure room
- Rolling contract / remaining in same house

Weighted Base: 1590 respondents. Balance: No response

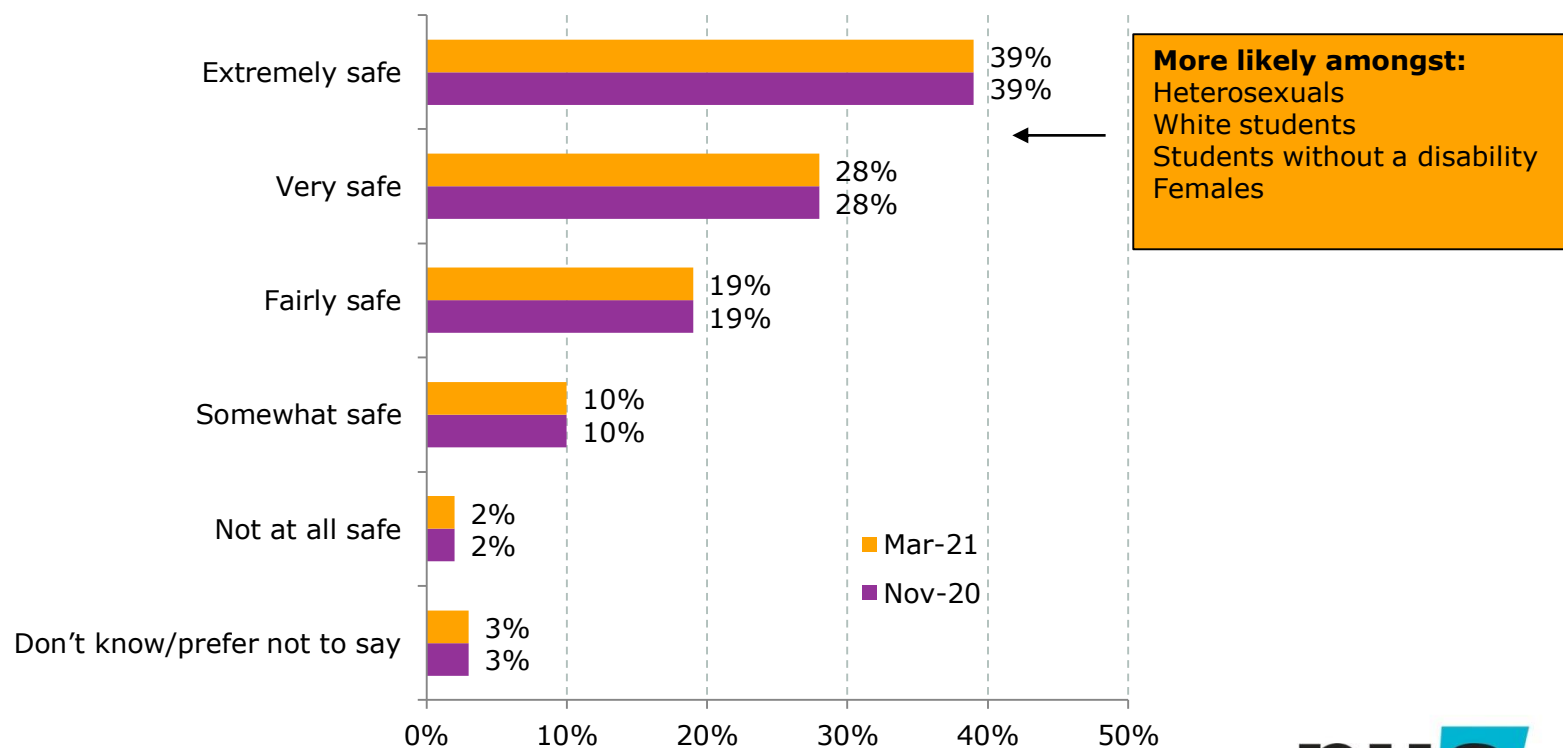
F5. Have you signed a contract for your accommodation next year?

F6. Why have you decided to sign this contract?

Feelings of safety are identical to November 2020; around two thirds of students continue to feel very or extremely safe in their accommodation.

Tracked

Safety in accommodation



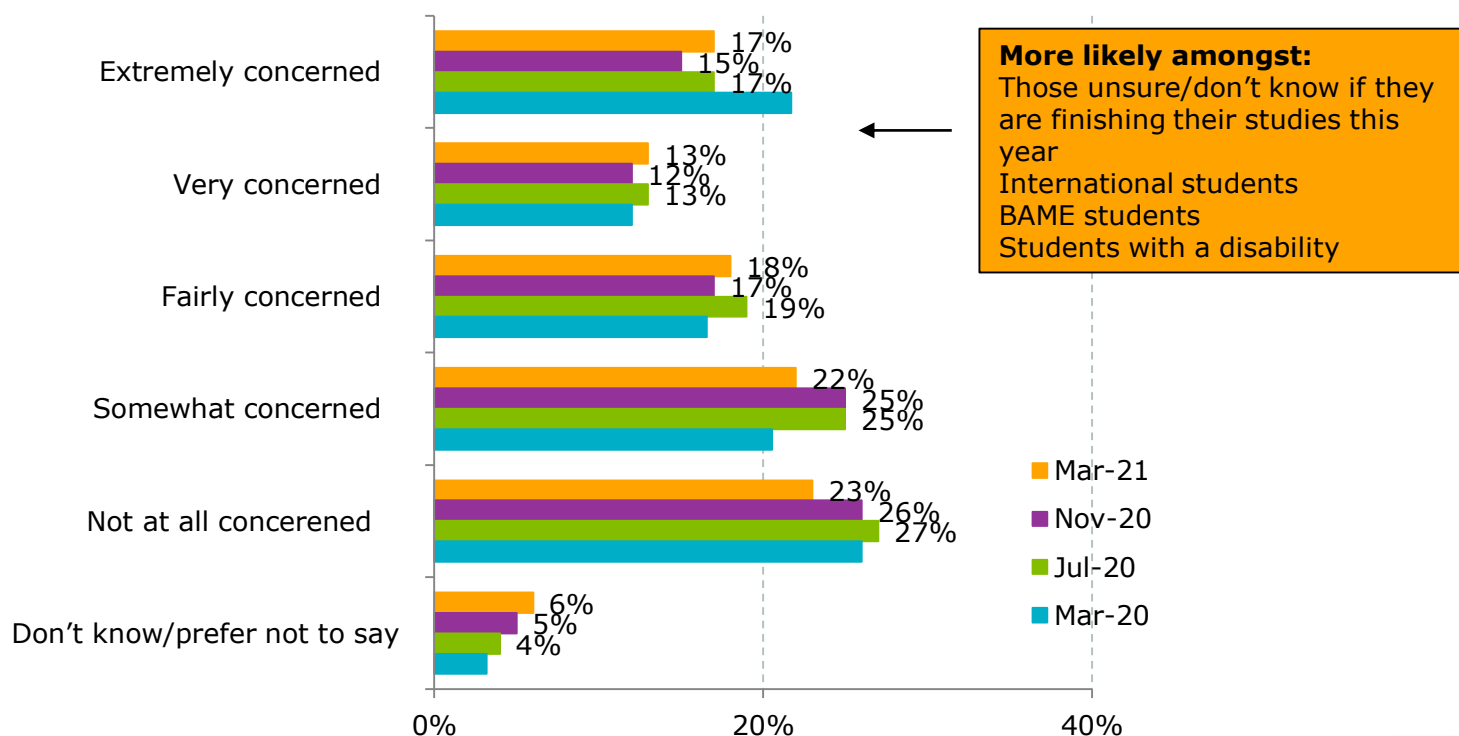
Weighted Base: 5323 respondents. Balance: no response

F7.How safe do you feel in your current accommodation?

Over two thirds of renters continue to have some level of concern about being able to pay their rent in the coming year, particularly those who don't know/are unsure if they are finishing their studies this year, international students, those from a BAME background and students with a disability.

Tracked

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



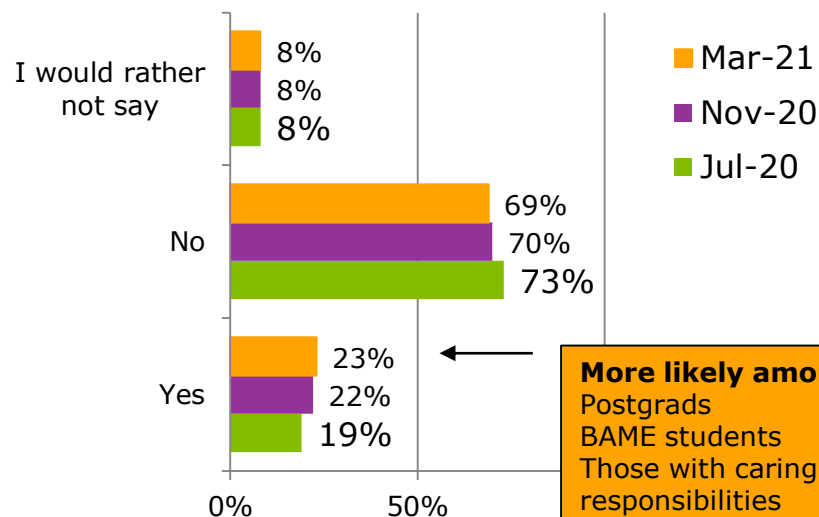
Weighted Base: 2387 respondents. Balance : those not living in privately rented accommodation or owned halls of residence

F8. How concerned are you, if at all, about the financial impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) on your ability to pay rent in the coming academic year?

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 consistent with those reported in November 2020.

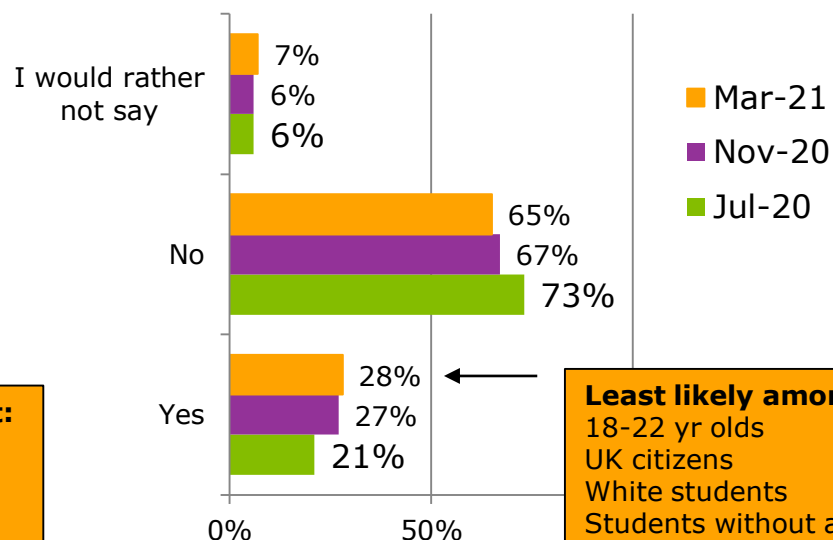
Tracked

Unable to pay rent in full over past 4 months?



More likely amongst:
Postgrads
BAME students
Those with caring responsibilities

Unable to pay bills in full over past 4 months?



Least likely amongst:
18-22 yr olds
UK citizens
White students
Students without a disability
Students without caring responsibilities

Weighted base: 2383 respondents.

F9. Have you been unable to pay your rent in full as a result of Coronavirus over the previous 4 months?

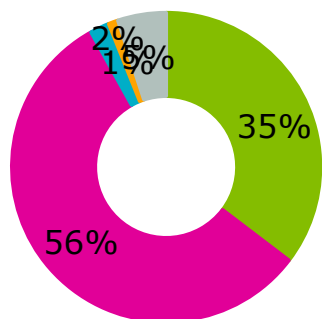
Weighted base: 3473 respondents. Balance: : those not living in privately rented accommodation or owned halls of residence

F10. Have you been unable to pay your bills in full as a result of Coronavirus over the previous 4 months?

Demographics

Key demographics (weighted base)

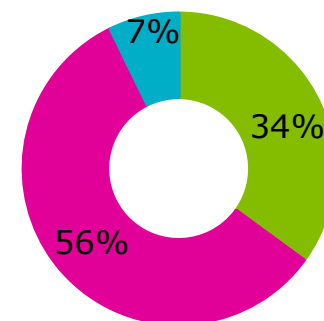
Gender



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

Level of study

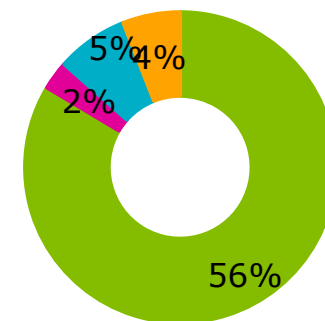
- FE
- HE
- Apprentice



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



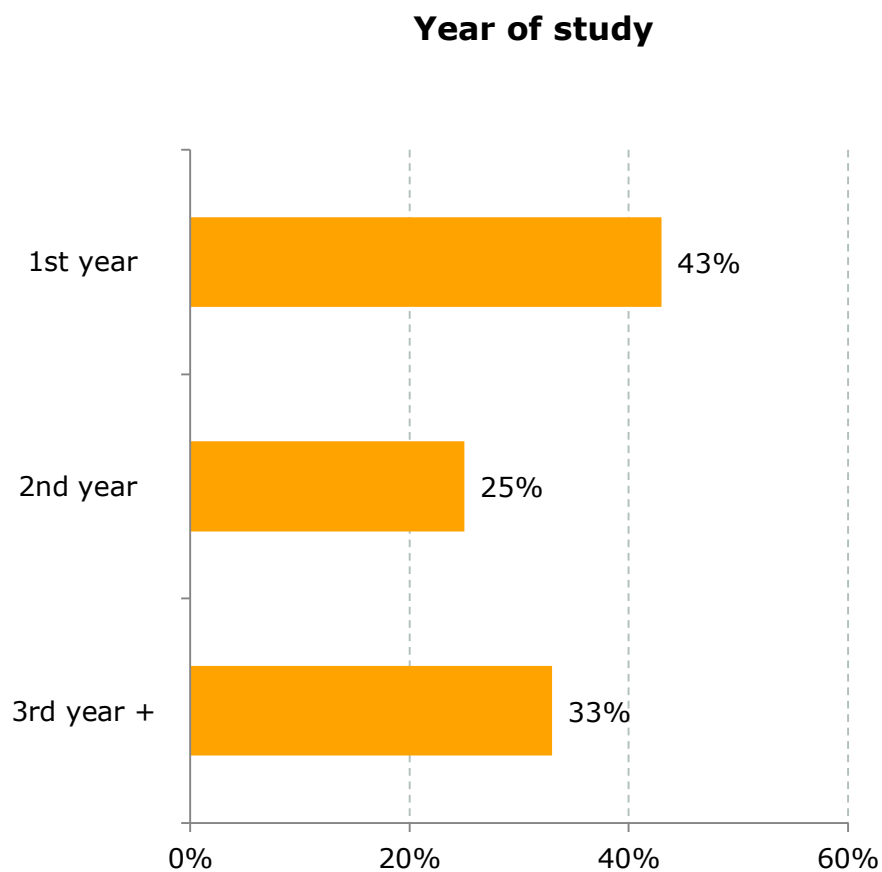
Full time: 64%
Part time: 26%
Distance learner: 17%

Demographics

Region	Percentage
North East	6%
North West	11%
Yorkshire and the Humber	7%
East Midlands	8%
West Midlands	9%
London	14%
East of England	5%
South West	11%
South East	13%
England Total	84%
Scotland	9%
Wales	4%
Northern Ireland	4%



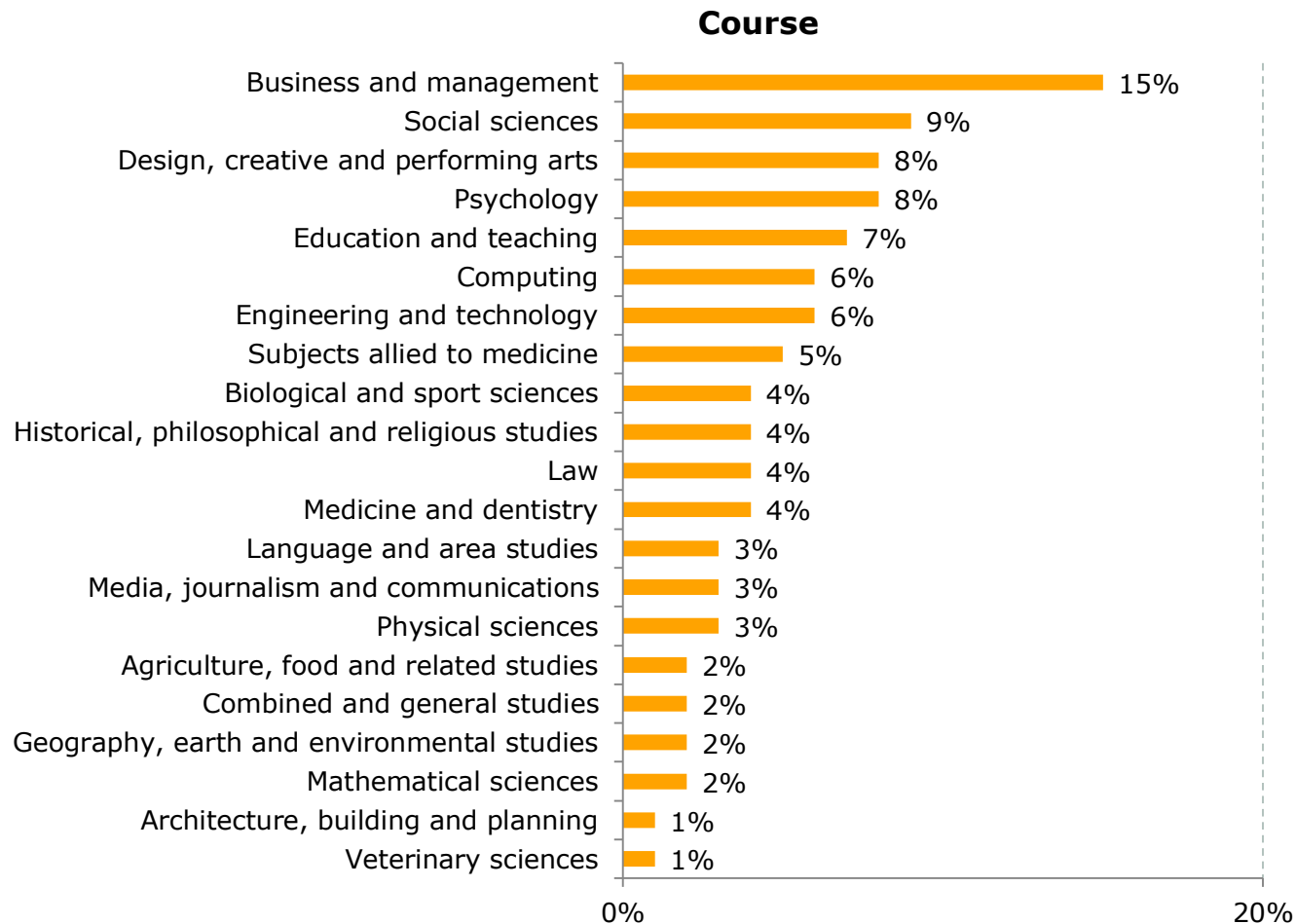
Demographics



Weighted Base: 2217 respondents Balance : FE students, no response

J1. What year of study are you in?

Demographics

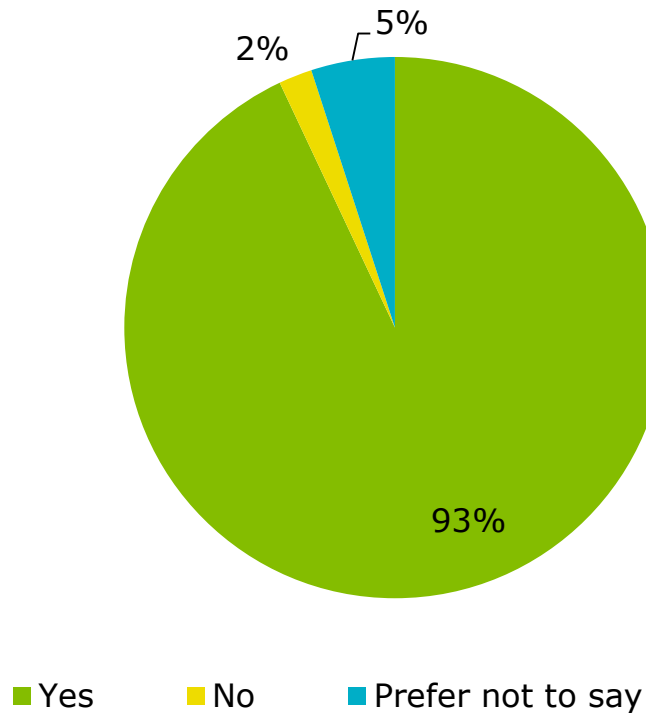


Weighted Base: 5629 respondents Balance: no response

J4. Which of the following best describes your course (or your most recent course)?

Demographics

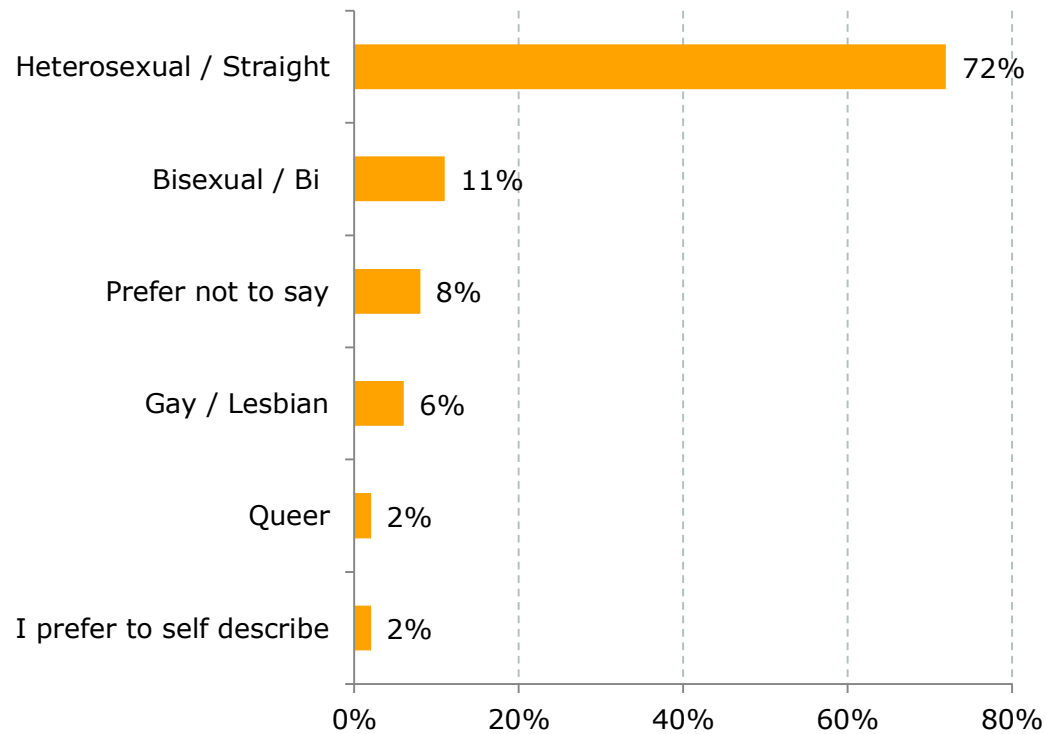
Does your gender identity match the gender you were assigned at birth?



■ Yes ■ No ■ Prefer not to say

Demographics

Sexual orientation/preference

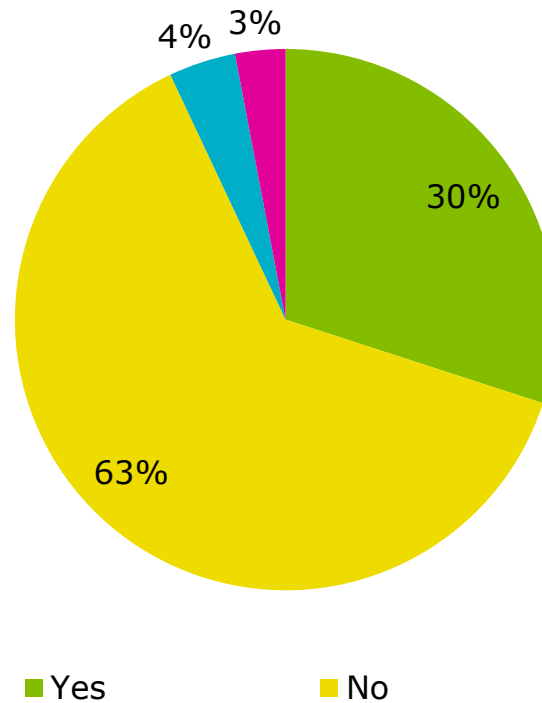


Weighted Base: 5832 respondents.

J7. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation/preference?

Demographics

Disability, impairment or long term health condition

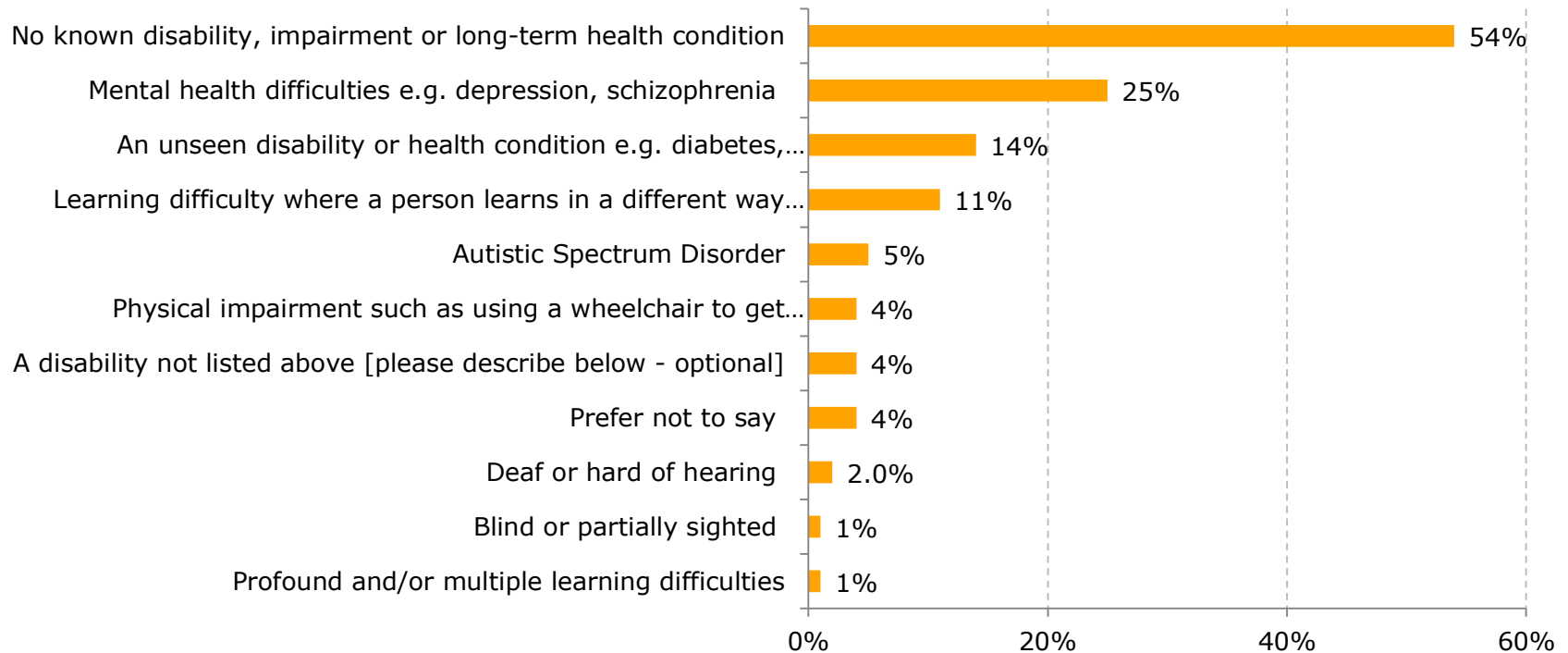


Weighted Base: 5697 respondents.

J11. Do you consider yourself to have a specific learning disability, other disability, impairment, long-term illness or health condition?

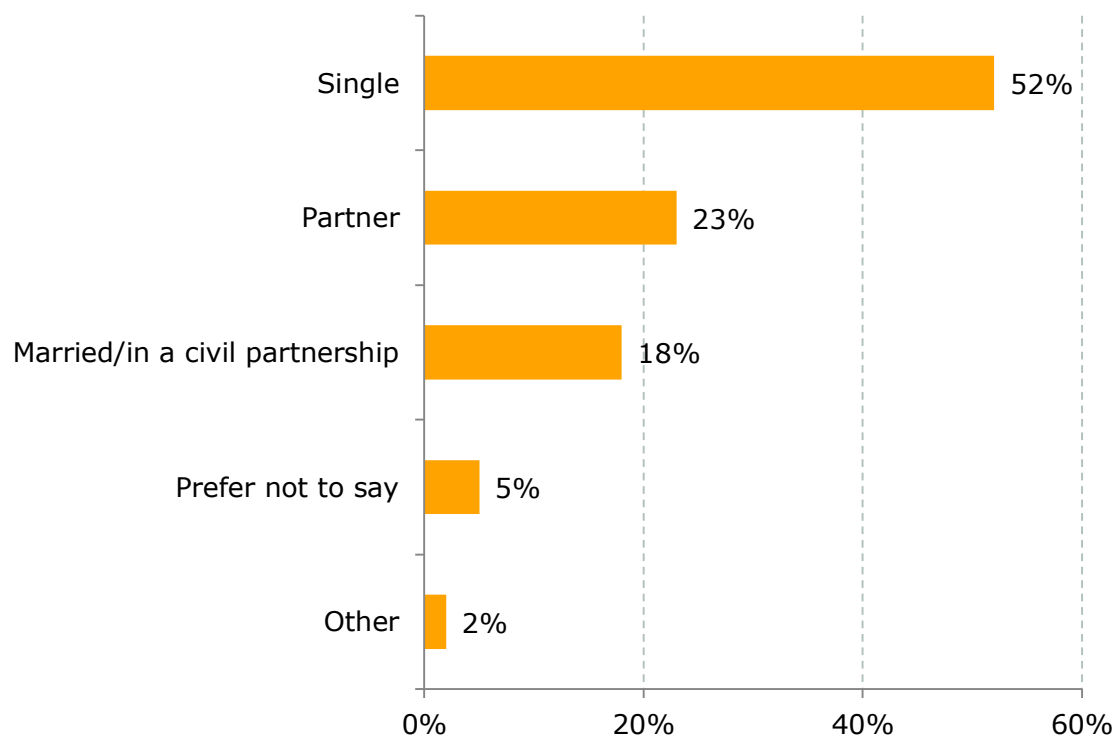
Demographics

Disability, impairment or long term health condition



Demographics

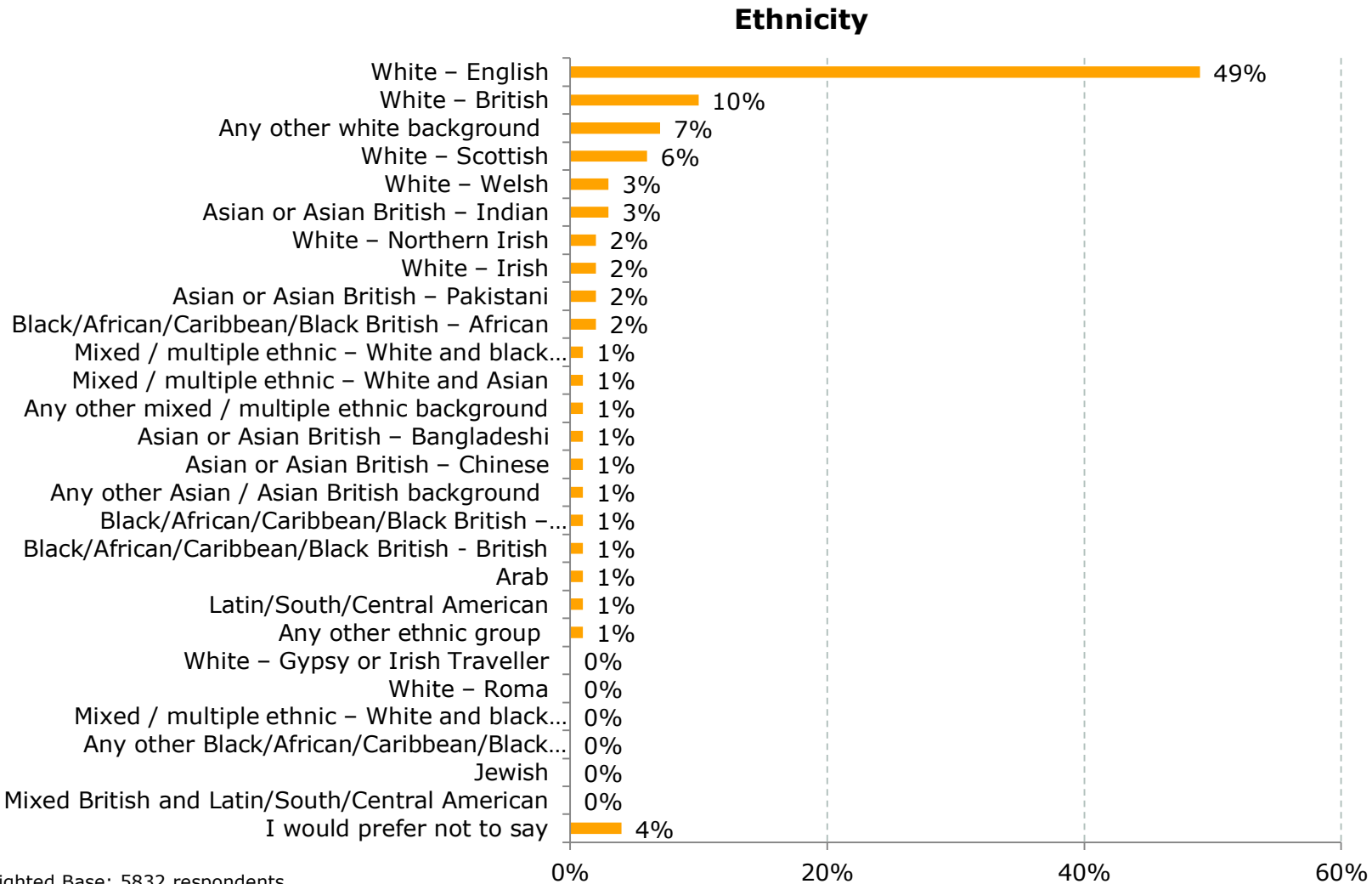
Marital status



Weighted Base: 5832 respondents.

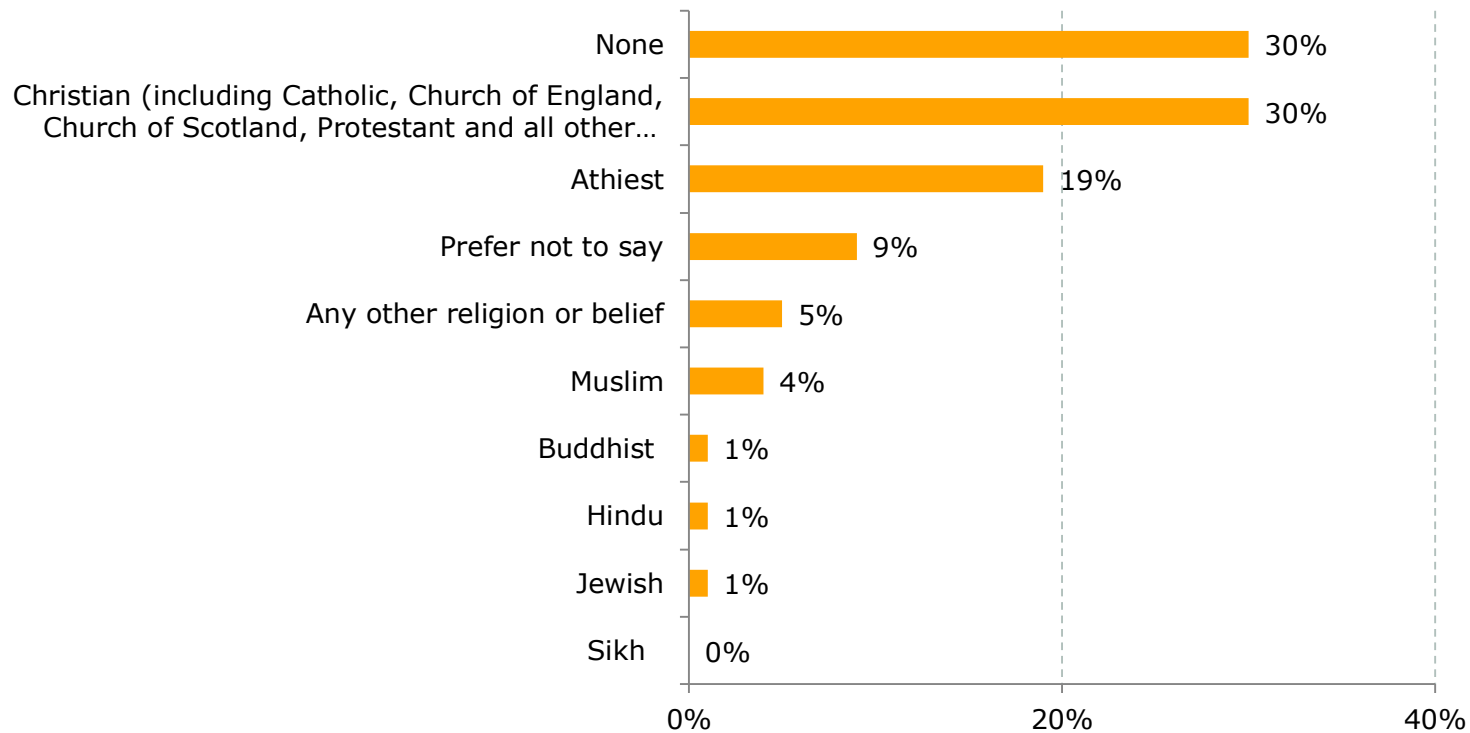
J8. Which of the following best describe your marital status?

Demographics



Demographics

Religion, faith or belief

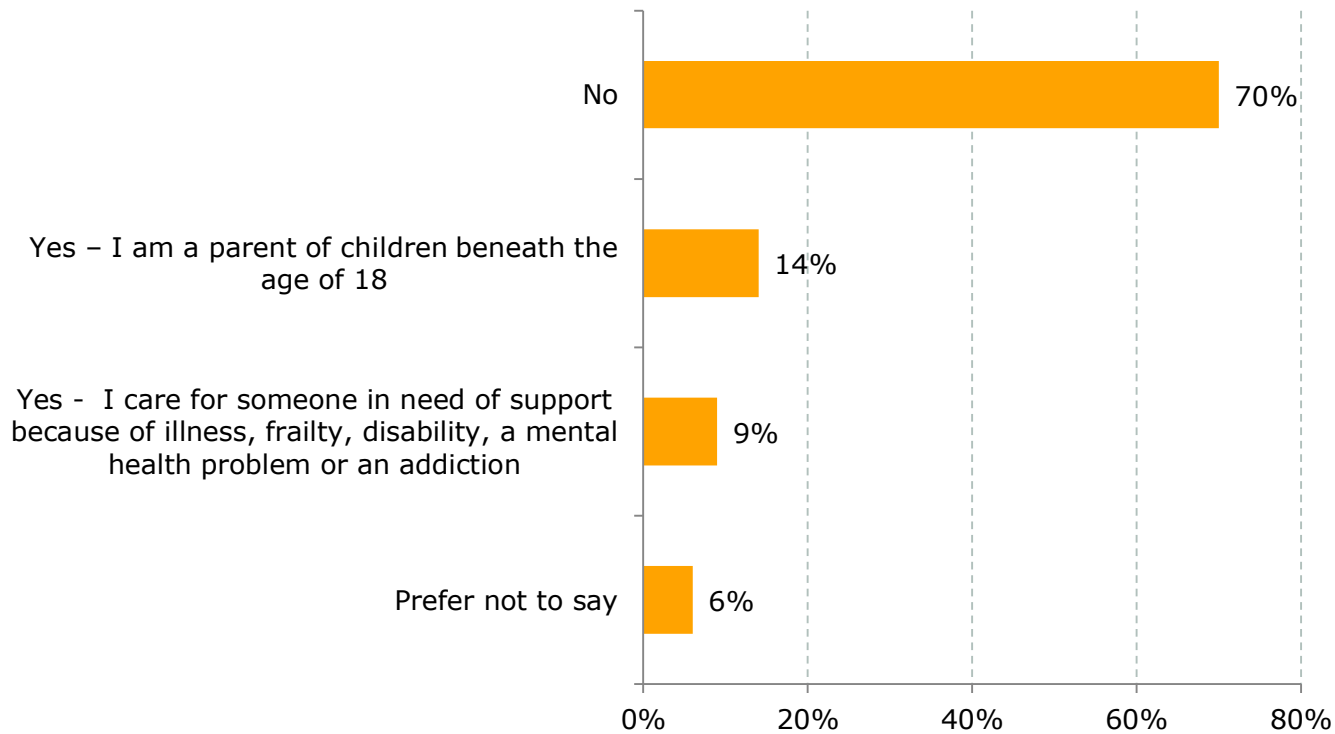


Weighted Base: 5832 respondents.

J10. What is your religion, faith or belief?

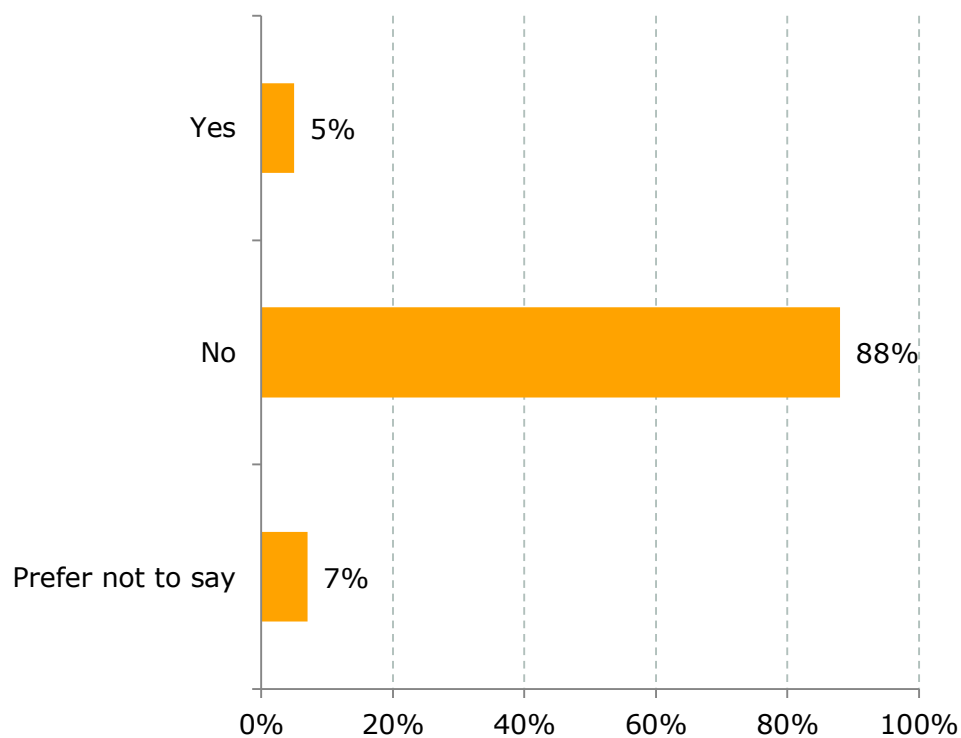
Demographics

Caring responsibilities



Demographics

Care Leaver

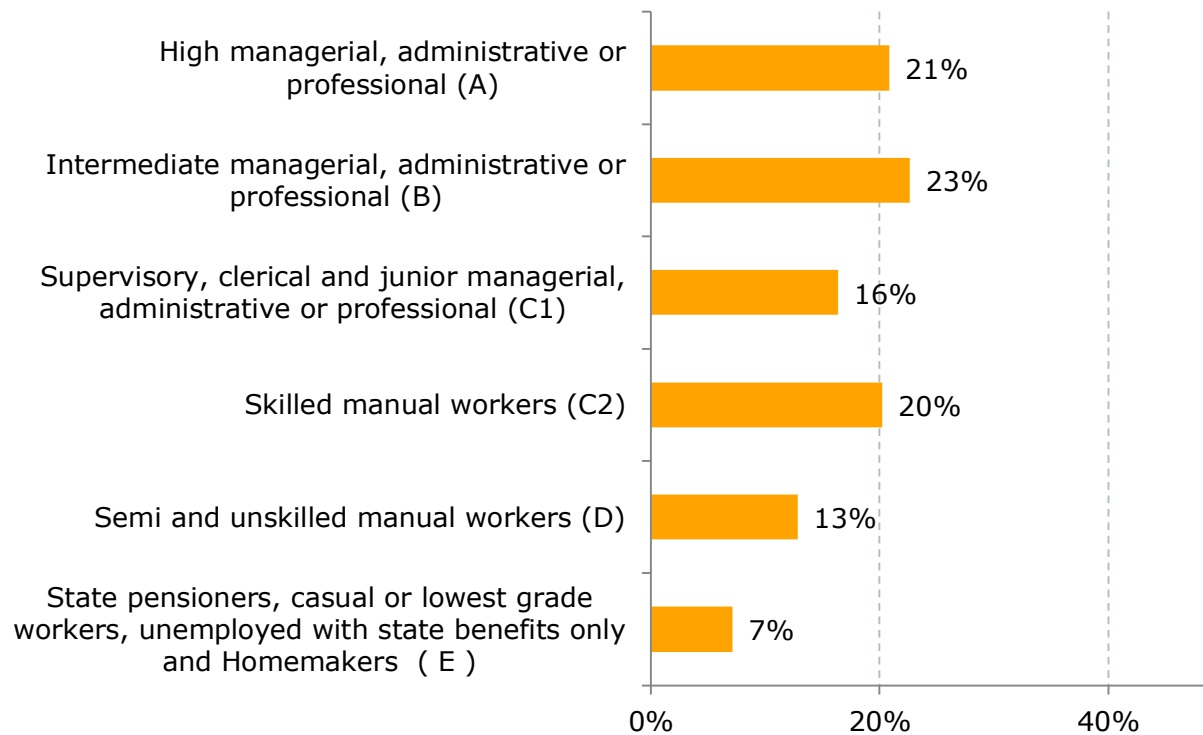


Weighted Base: 5832 respondents.

J14. Do you consider yourself to be care-experienced or a care leaver?

Demographics

Social Grade



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Accommodation

April 2021