

Coronavirus and Students Survey: Further Education Sector Results

April 2020

NUS Insight

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Project Overview

Objectives

NUS Insight conducted a survey alongside One Voice Digital who run the TOTUM product for students, and NUS member students' unions to understand more about how students feel about the current Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

Methodology

A sample of **9872** was achieved overall and in the FE sector we achieved **2189** responses.

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

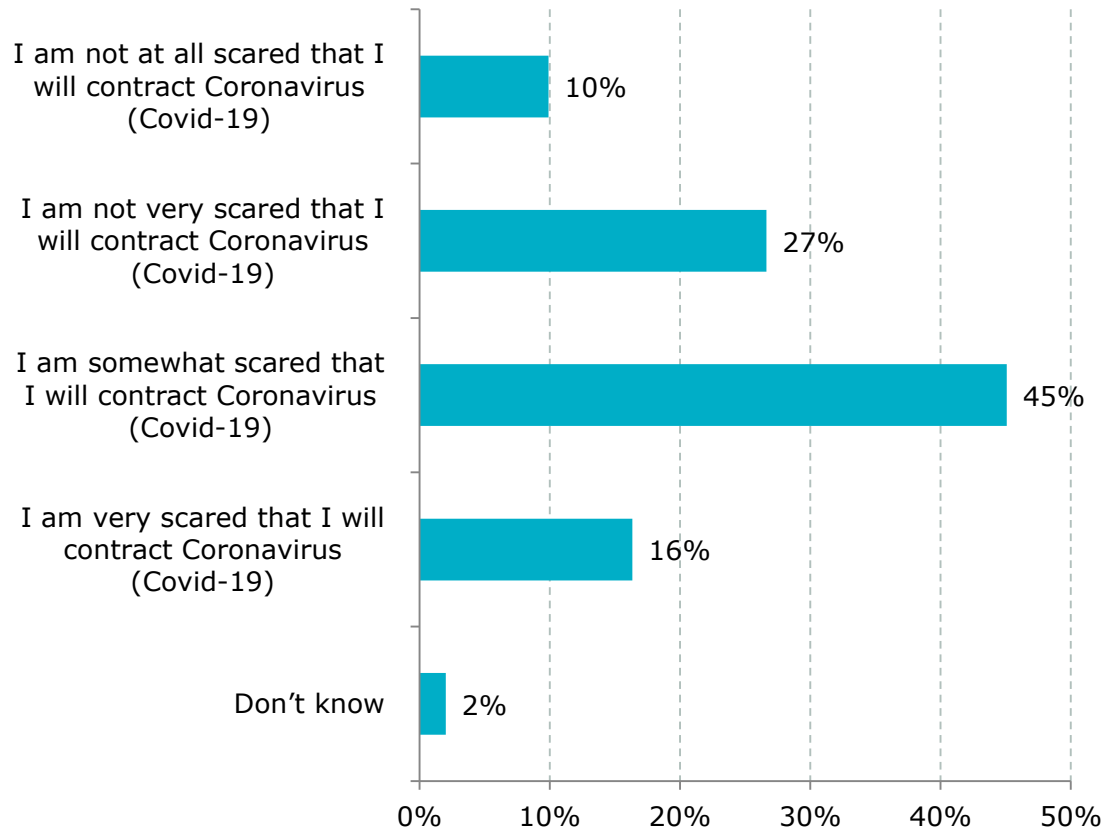
The survey was promoted via the NUS Student database, the TOTUM database, through social media & via NUS' member unions at the end of March 2020.

The survey took 20 **minutes** to complete & was in field from Friday 27th March until Monday 6th April.

Health, wellbeing and welfare

One in ten FE students are not at all concerned about getting Covid-19.

Feelings towards contracting the Coronavirus (Covid-19)

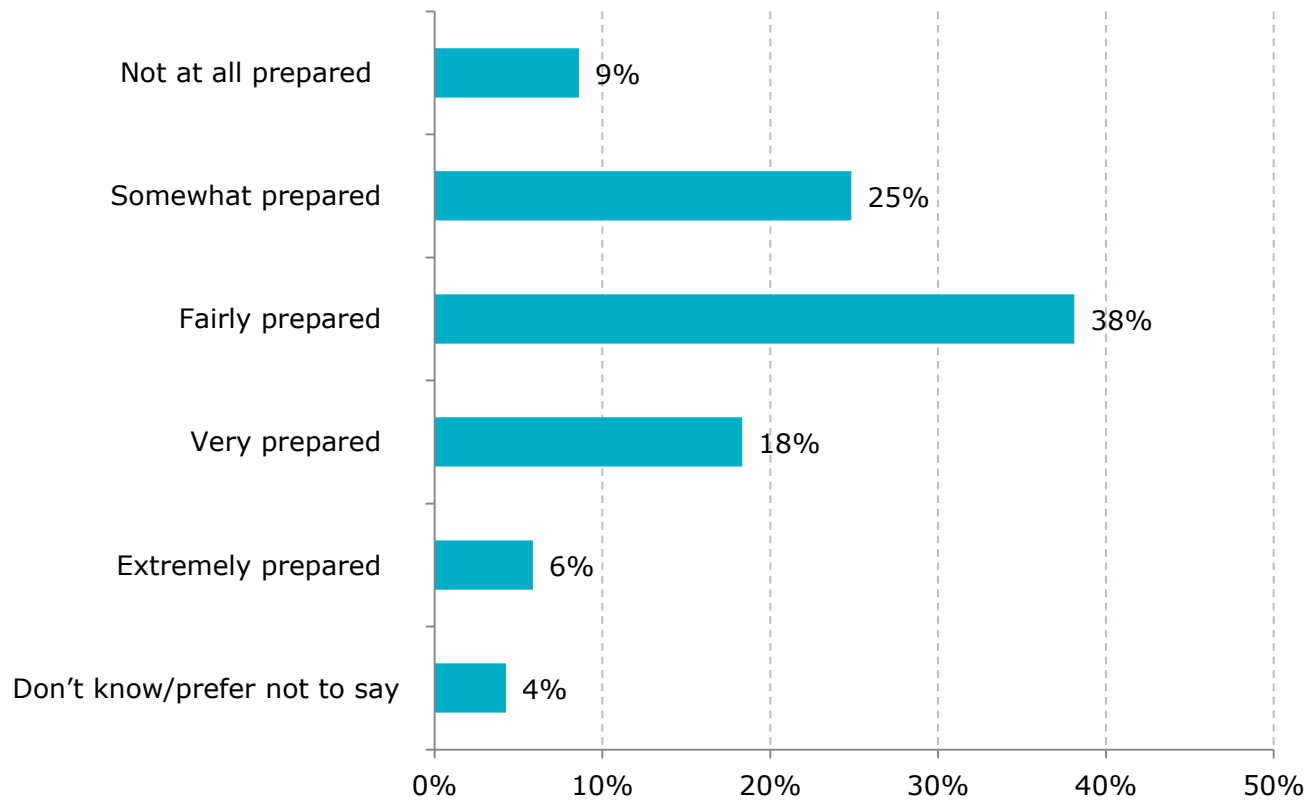


Base: 2189 respondents.

B1. Which, if any, of the following statements best describes your feelings towards contracting the Coronavirus (Covid-19)?

Two in three students in FE claim to feel 'somewhat' or 'fairly' prepared to manage any health conditions they have should they contract Covid-19. One in ten say they are 'not at all prepared'.

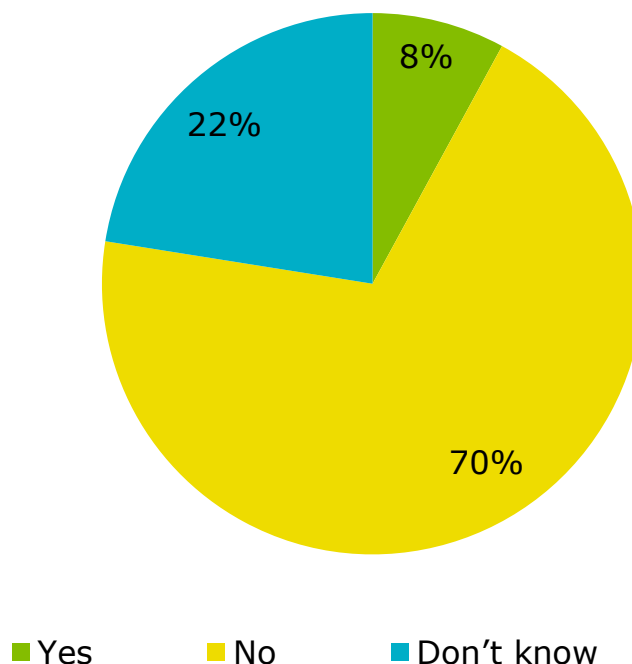
Preparedness to manage health conditions if contract Coronavirus (Covid-19)



Base: 2183 respondents. Balance: no response

Less than a tenth of disabled students have been asked to confirm or declare any impairments that may relate specifically to Covid-19 and their ability to study.

Declaration of any impairments

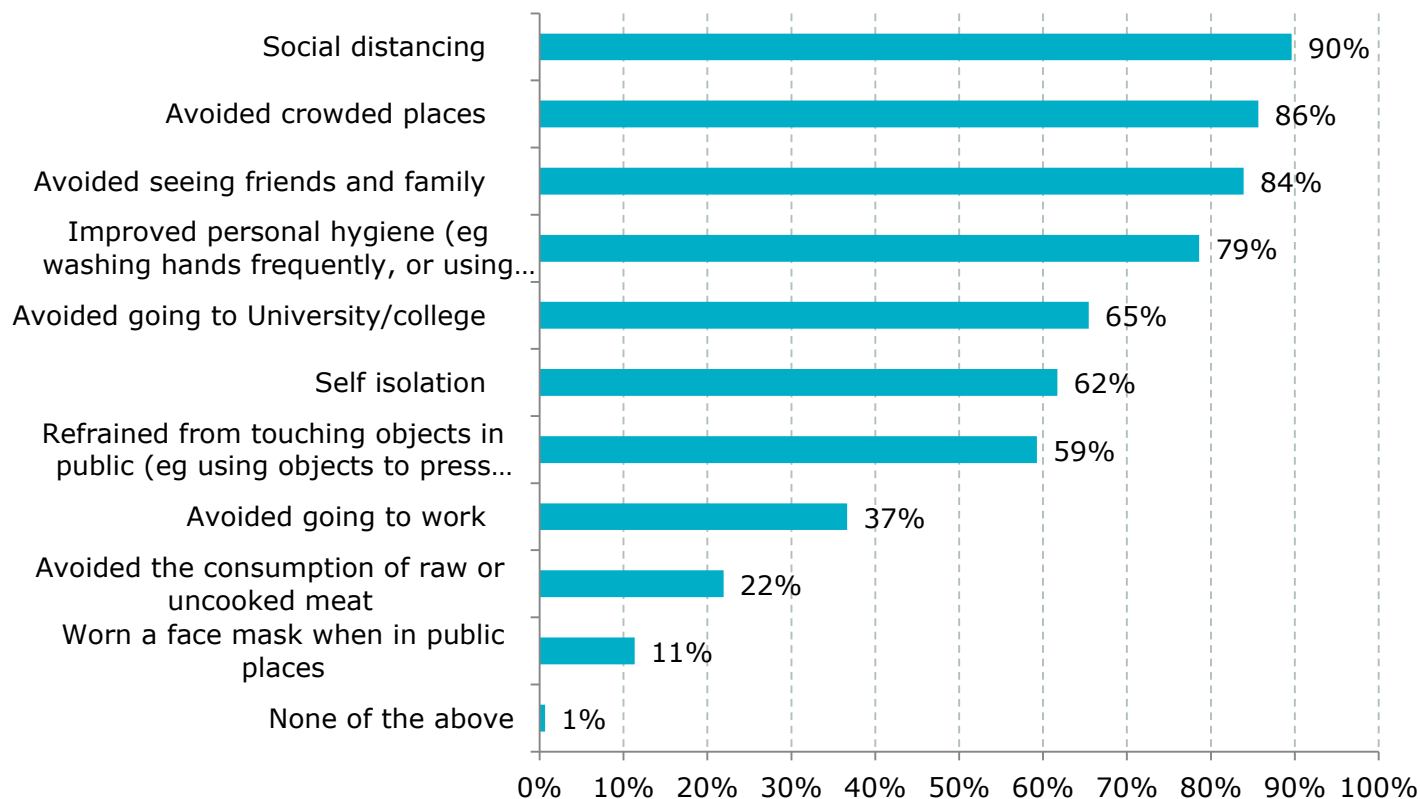


Base: 756 respondents. Balance: those with no known disability, impairment or long term health condition, no response

B3. Have you been asked to confirm or declare any impairments that may relate specifically to Coronavirus (Covid-19) and your ability to study?

The majority of students in FE have practiced social distancing and have avoided crowded places in the past two weeks. Four in five have avoided seeing friends and family and improved their personal hygiene. Two in three have avoided going to college.

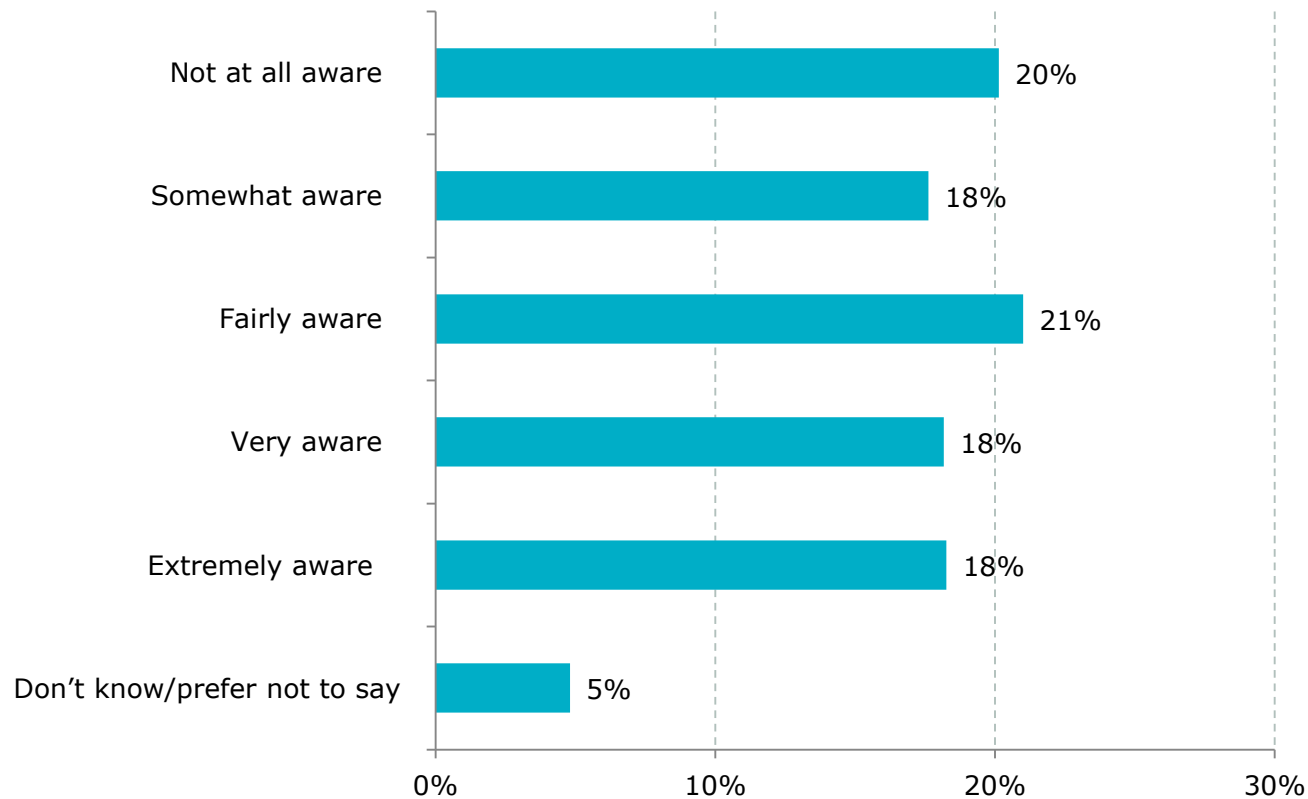
Measures taken in the past 2 weeks specifically to protect yourself from the Coronavirus (Covid-19)



Base: 2189 respondents.

Encouragingly three in four FE students are aware to some extent of the public health guidance on living in shared accommodation in relation to Covid-19. Over one in three claim to be 'very' or 'extremely' aware.

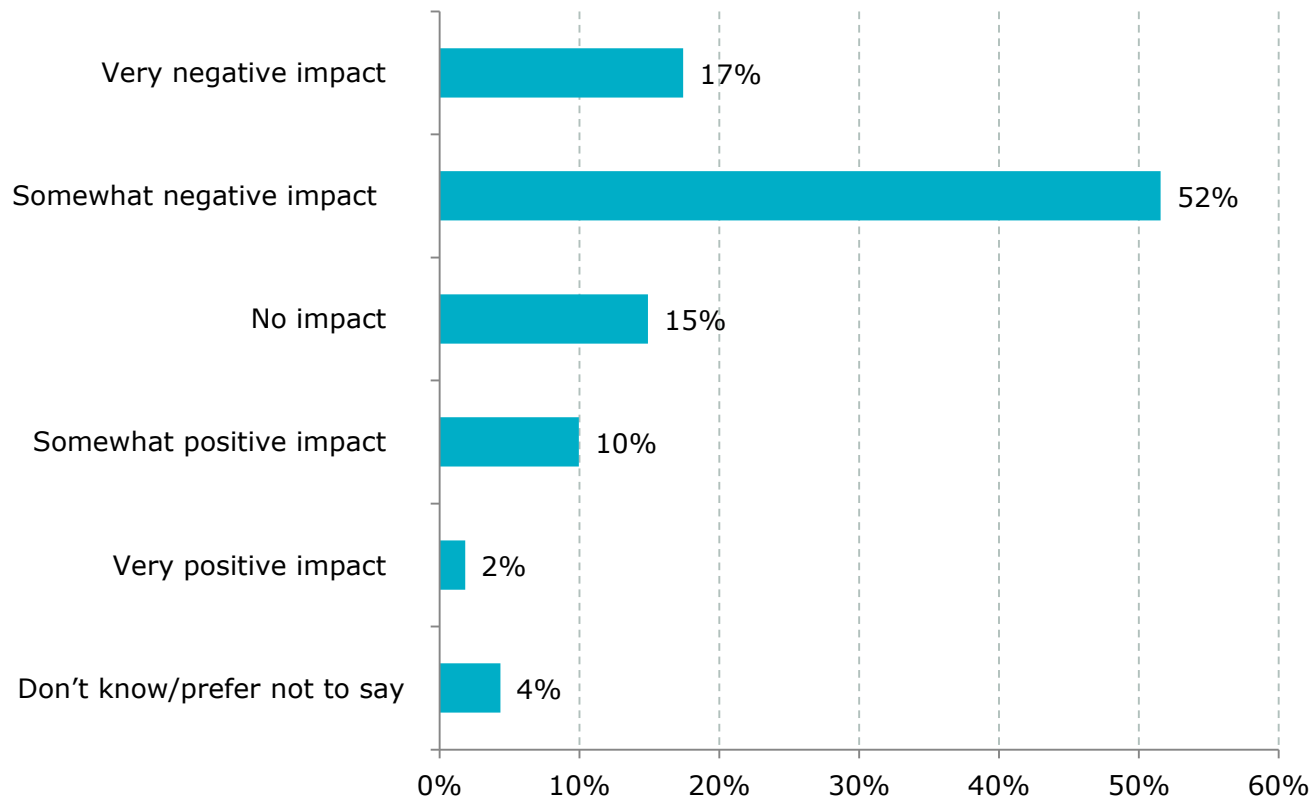
Awareness of the public health guidance on living in shared accommodation in relation to the Coronavirus (Covid-19)



Base: 2185 respondents. Balance: no response

Seven in ten FE students say that Covid-19 has had a negative impact on their family life.

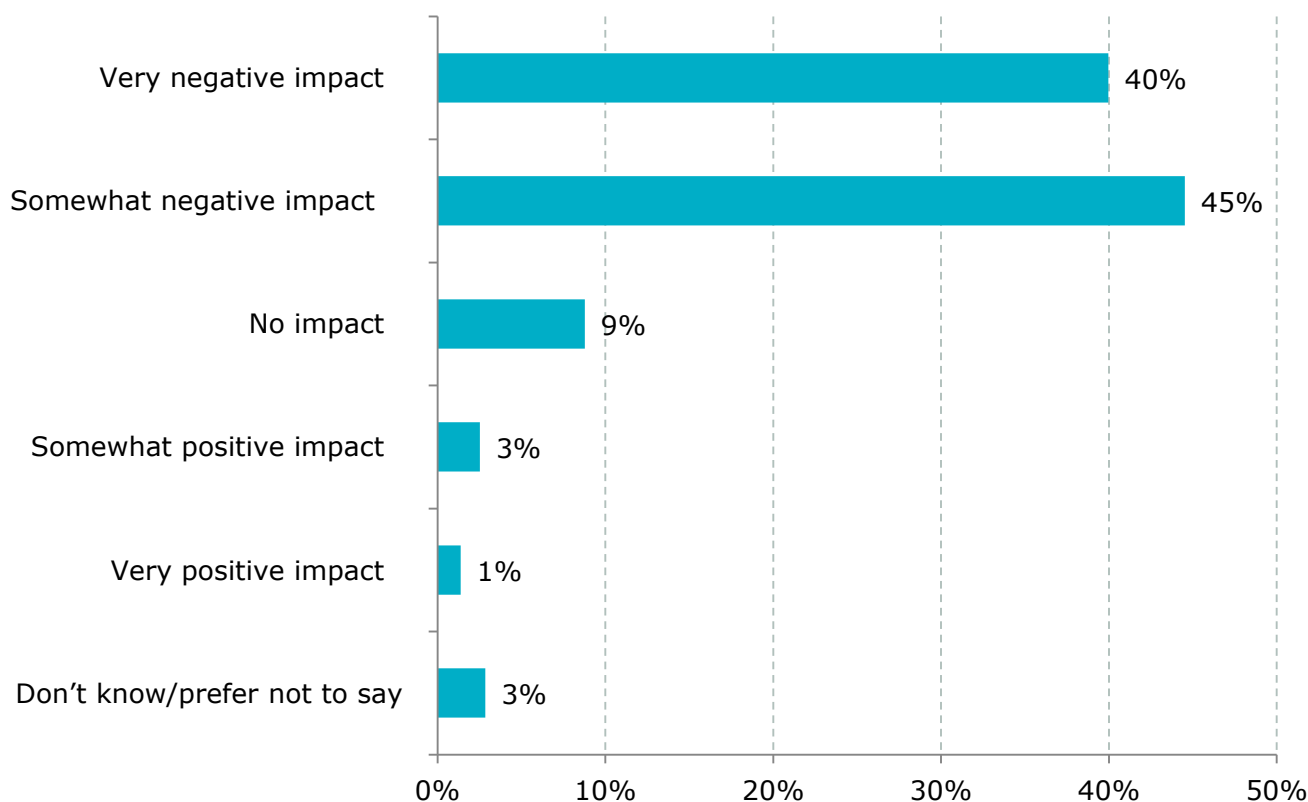
Impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) on family life



Base: 2182 respondents. Balance: no response

Over four in five FE students say that Covid-19 has had a negative impact on their friends and social life.

Impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) on friends and social life

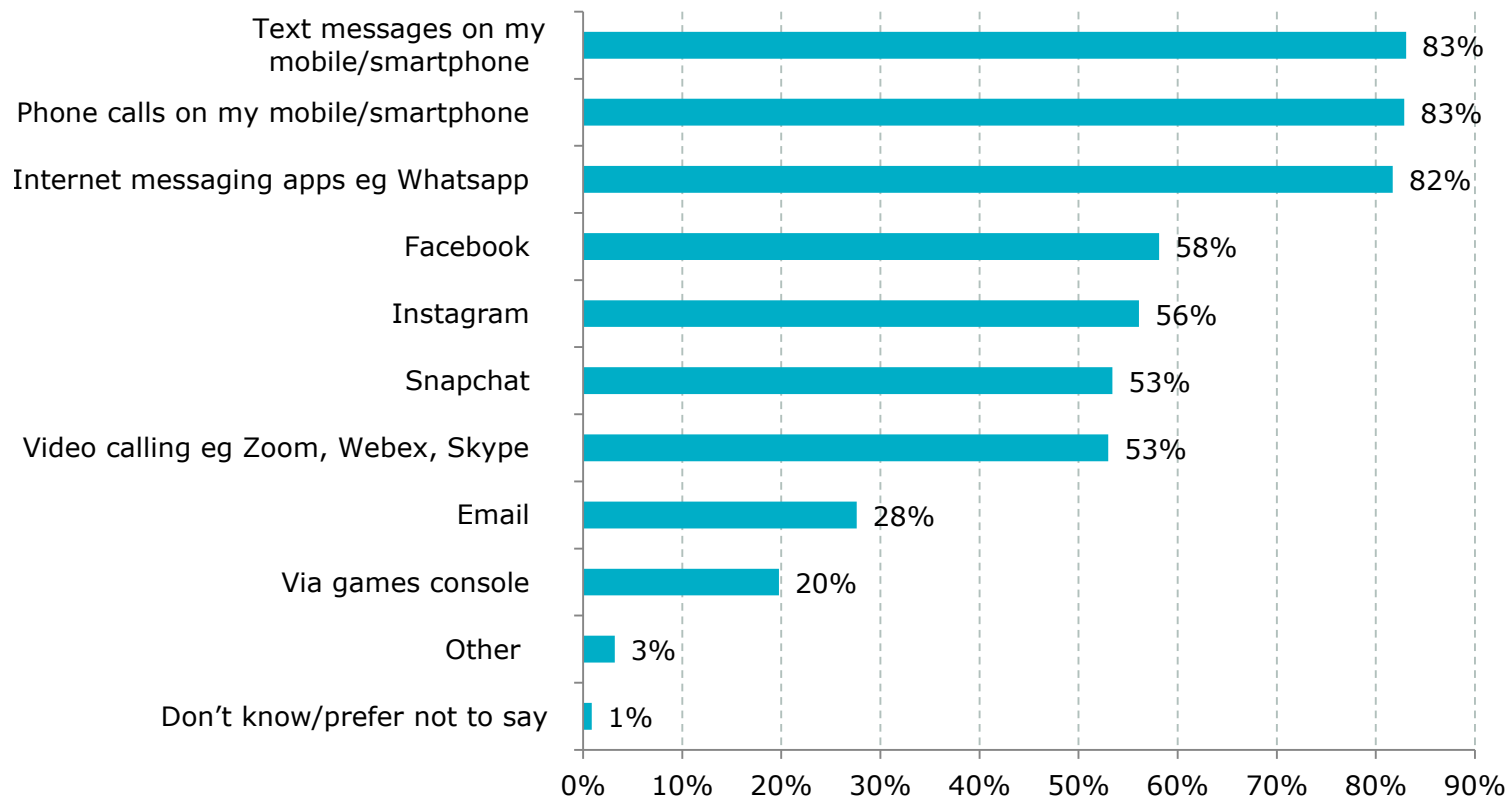


Base: 2179 respondents. Balance: no response

B7. And, what has been the impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) on your friends and social life?

FE students are most likely to be keeping in touch with friends and family via text messages, phone calls and internet messaging apps (e.g. WhatsApp). Facebook is a popular option for six in ten with Instagram being of importance to a similar proportion of FE students.

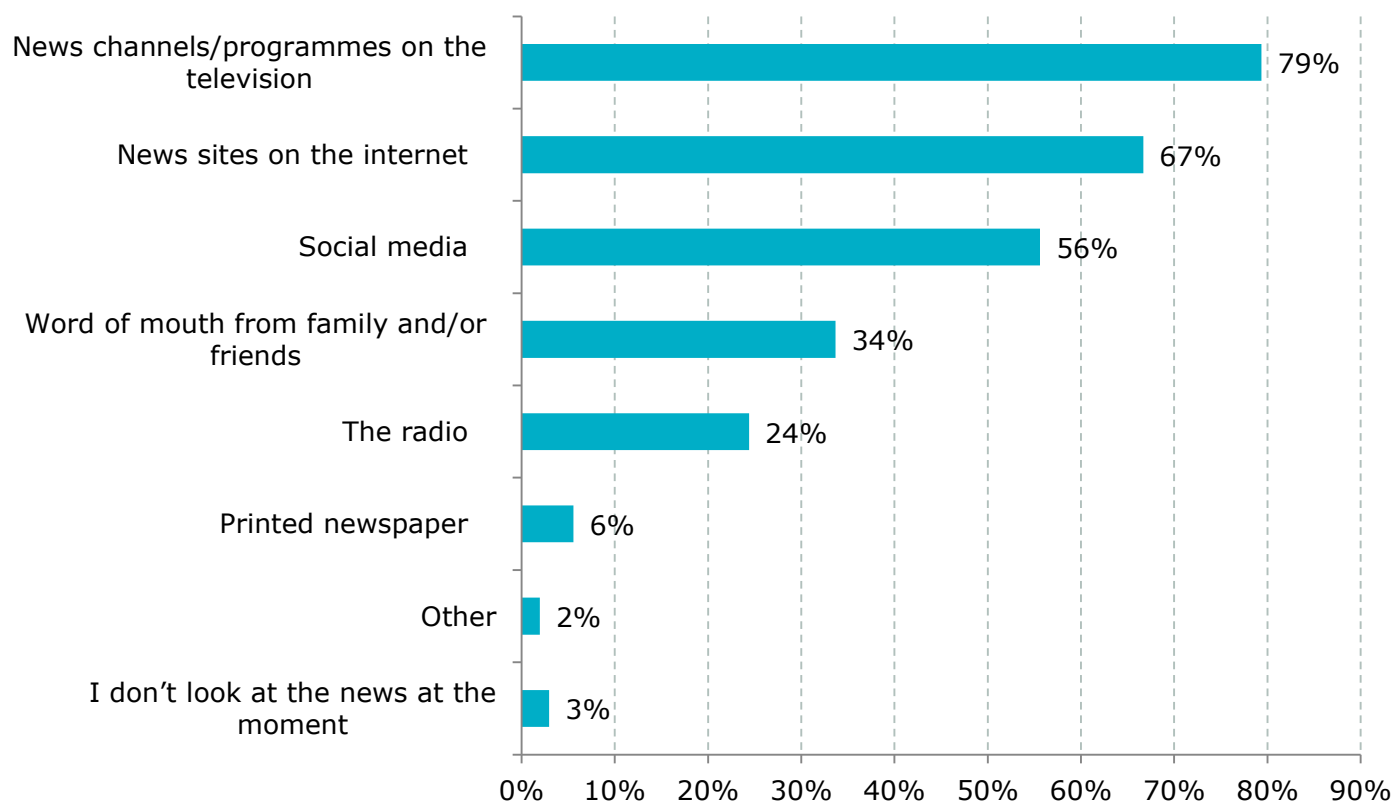
How students are staying in touch with friends and family



Base: 2187 respondents. Balance: no response

FE students are most likely to be keeping up to date with developments or latest government advice via news outlets on TV or online.

How students are keeping up to date with developments or latest government advice on the Coronavirus (Covid-19)



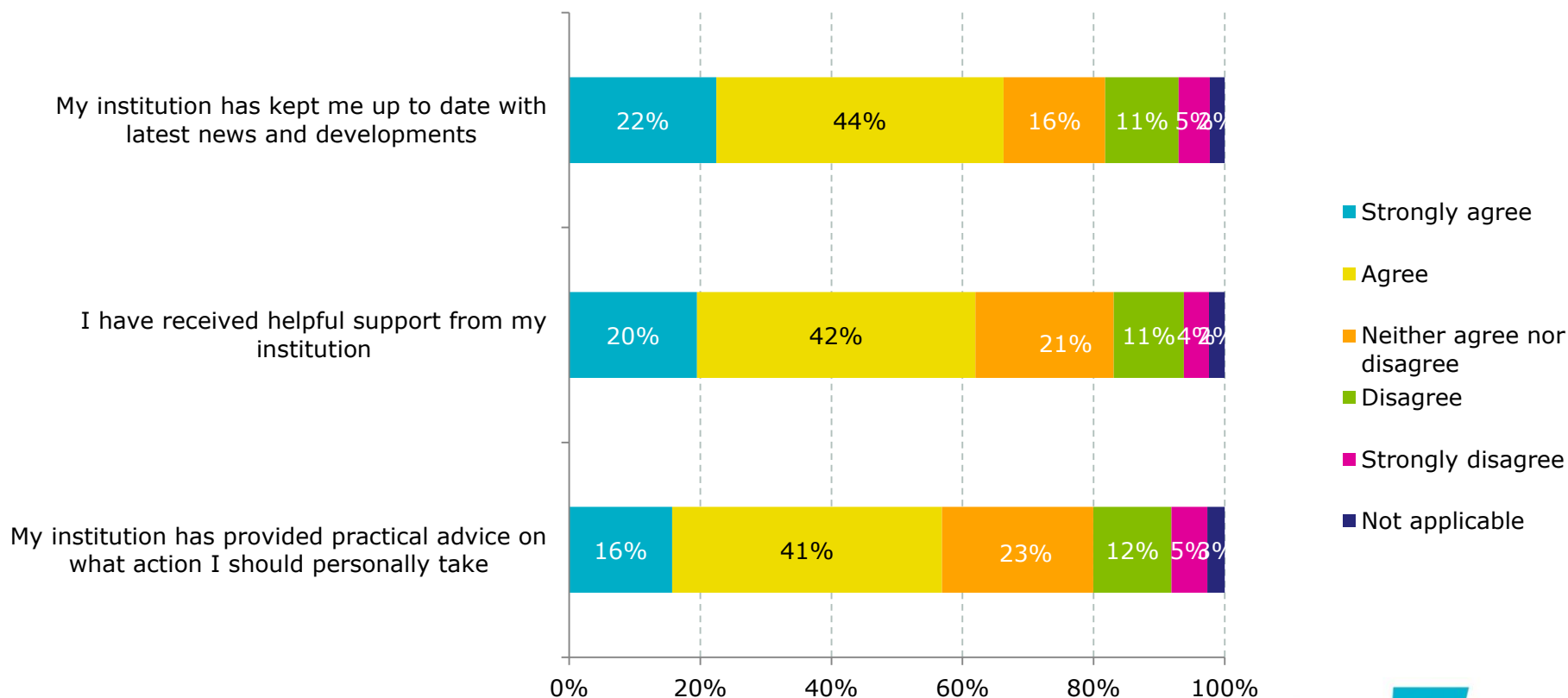
Base: 2185 respondents. Balance: no response

B9. Which of the below do you use to keep up to date with developments or latest government advice on the Coronavirus (Covid-19)?

Support received from institutions about Coronavirus (Covid-19)

On the whole students agree that their institution has provided up to date news/developments, helpful support and practical advice on what action to take.

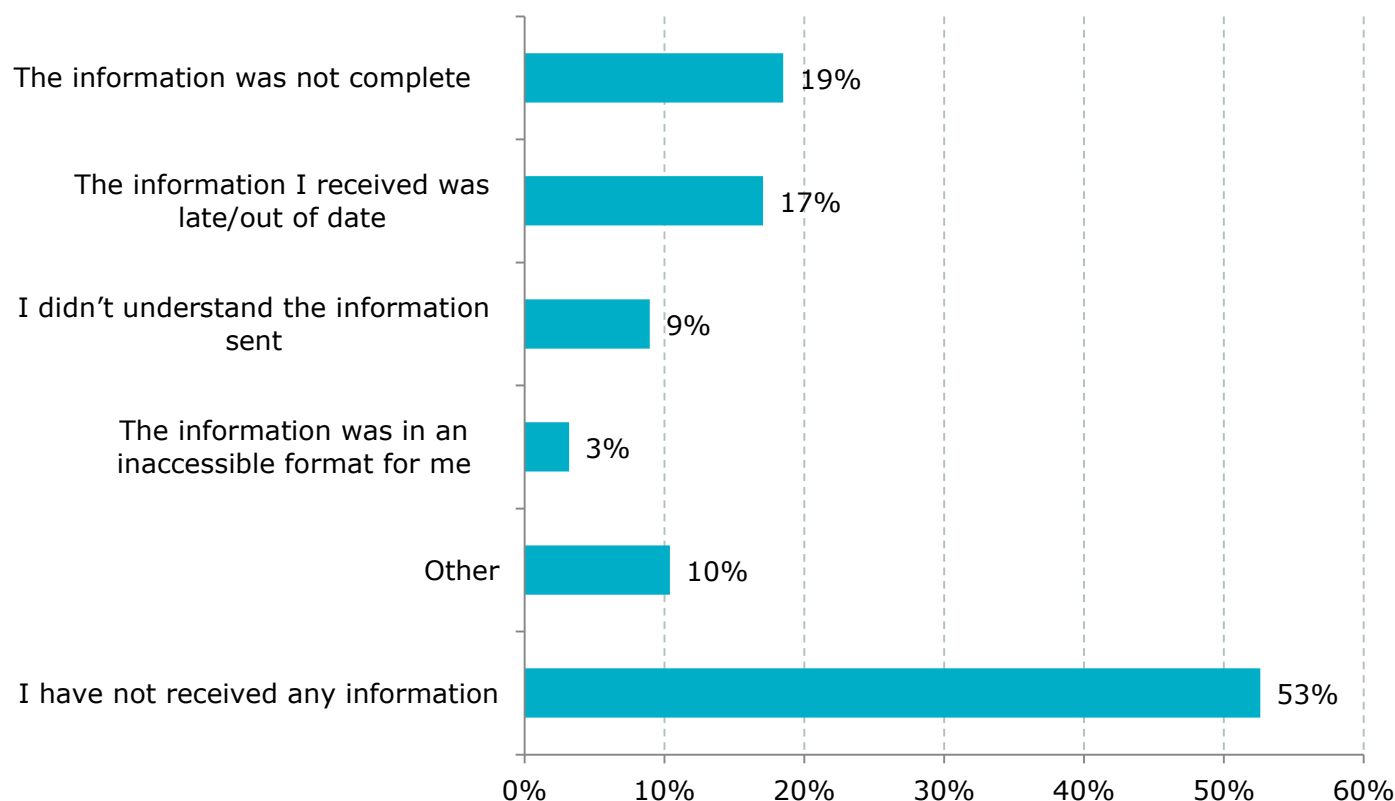
Agreement with statements



Base: 2189 respondents.

Where FE students disagreed that their institution kept them up to date with the latest news/developments this was largely down to not receiving information at all.

Reasons for disagreement that institution has kept you up to date with latest news and developments



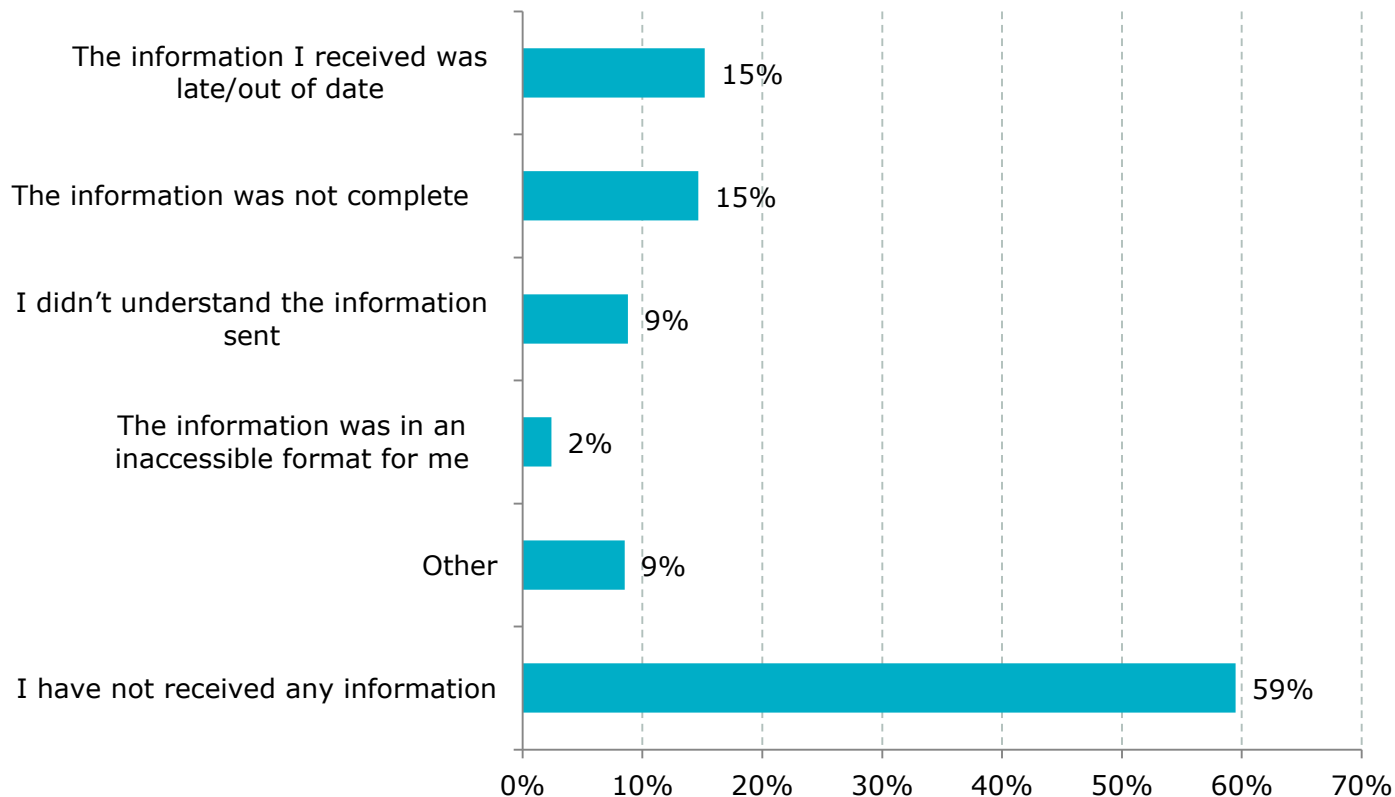
**16%
disagreed**

Base: 346 respondents. Balance: those who agreed that their institution had kept them up to date with latest news and developments, no response

C2. You've told us that you don't agree that your institution has kept you up to date with latest news and developments, why is that?

Where FE students disagreed that their institution had provided them with practical advice on what action to take, this was largely down to simply not having received any information at all.

Reasons for disagreement that institution has provided you with practical advice on what action you should personally take



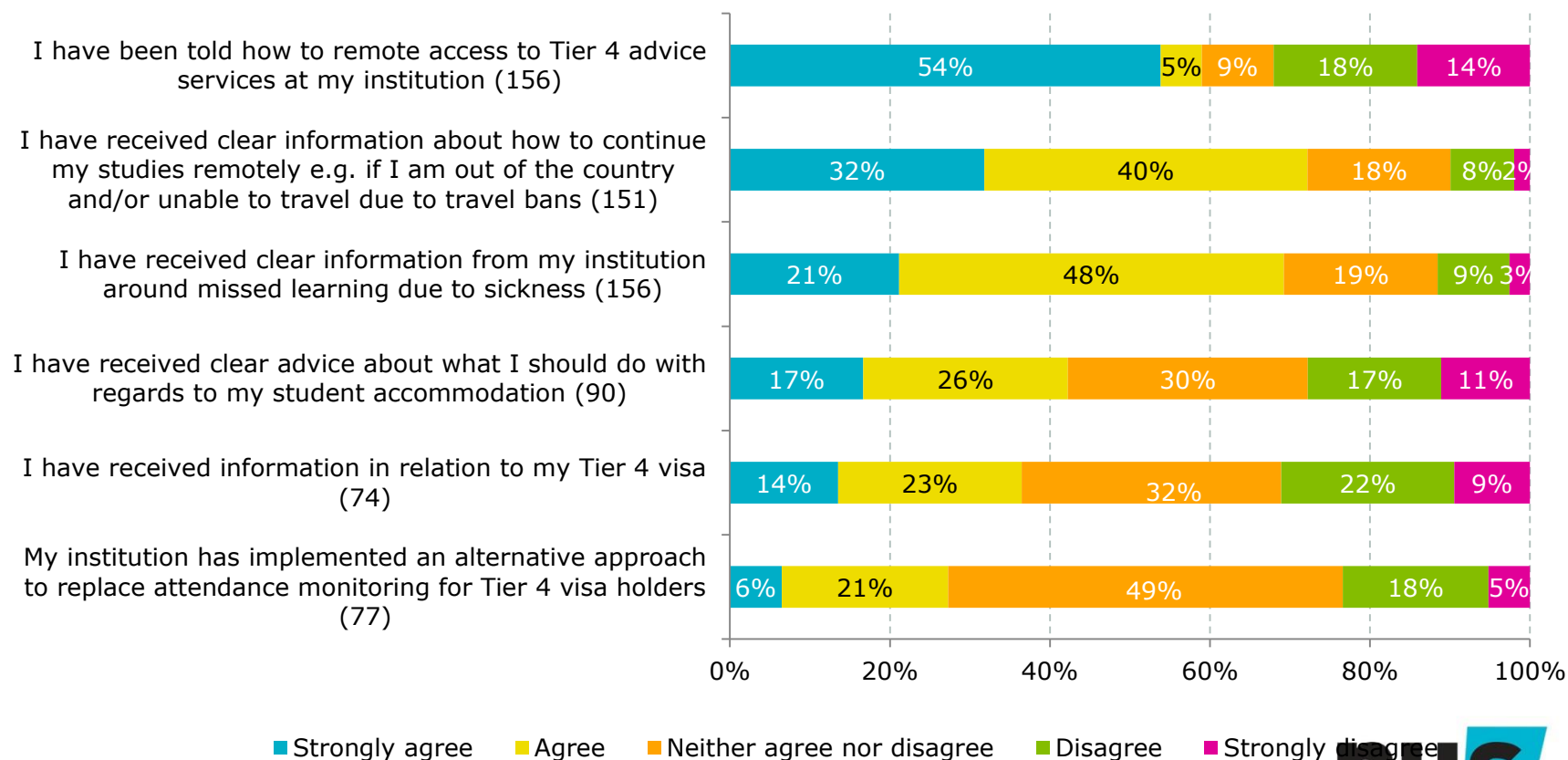
**17%
disagreed**

Base: 375 respondents. Balance: those who agreed that their institution had provided practical advice on what action they should personally take, no response

C3. You've told us that you don't agree that your institution has provided you with practical advice on what action you should personally take, why is that?

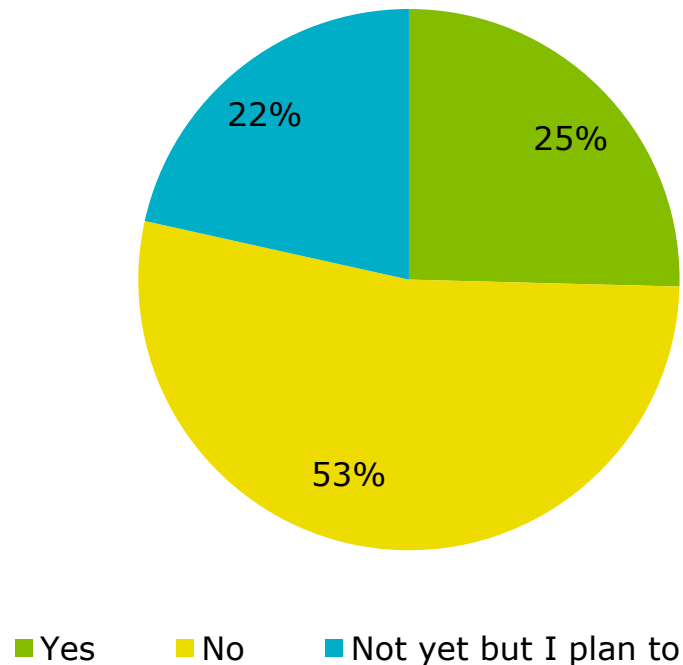
International students studying in FE colleges are most likely to agree that they have been told how to remote access to Tier 4 advice services at their institution.

Agreement with statements



One in four students in FE have already volunteered to help those within the community who are vulnerable or who may self isolating since the outbreak of Covid-19. A further one in five say they plan to volunteer in such a way in the future.

Volunteered within community to help those who are more vulnerable or those who may be self isolating since the outbreak of Coronavirus (Covid-19)

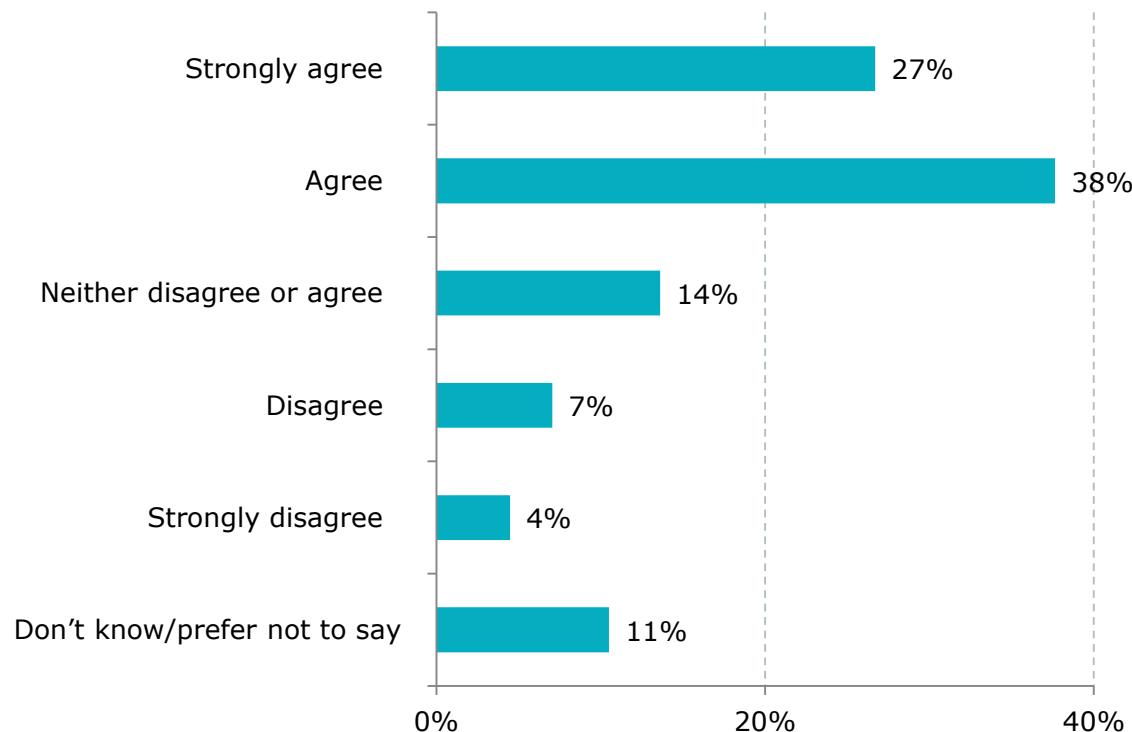


Base: 2184 respondents. Balance: no response

C7. Since the outbreak of Coronavirus (Covid-19) have you volunteered within your community to help those who are more vulnerable or those who may be self isolating?

Two in three FE students agree that people at their institution are adhering to the Government advice and guidance on social distancing and self isolation. Encouragingly only one in ten disagreed with this statement.

Agreement that people at your institution are adhering to the Government advice and guidance on social distancing and self isolation



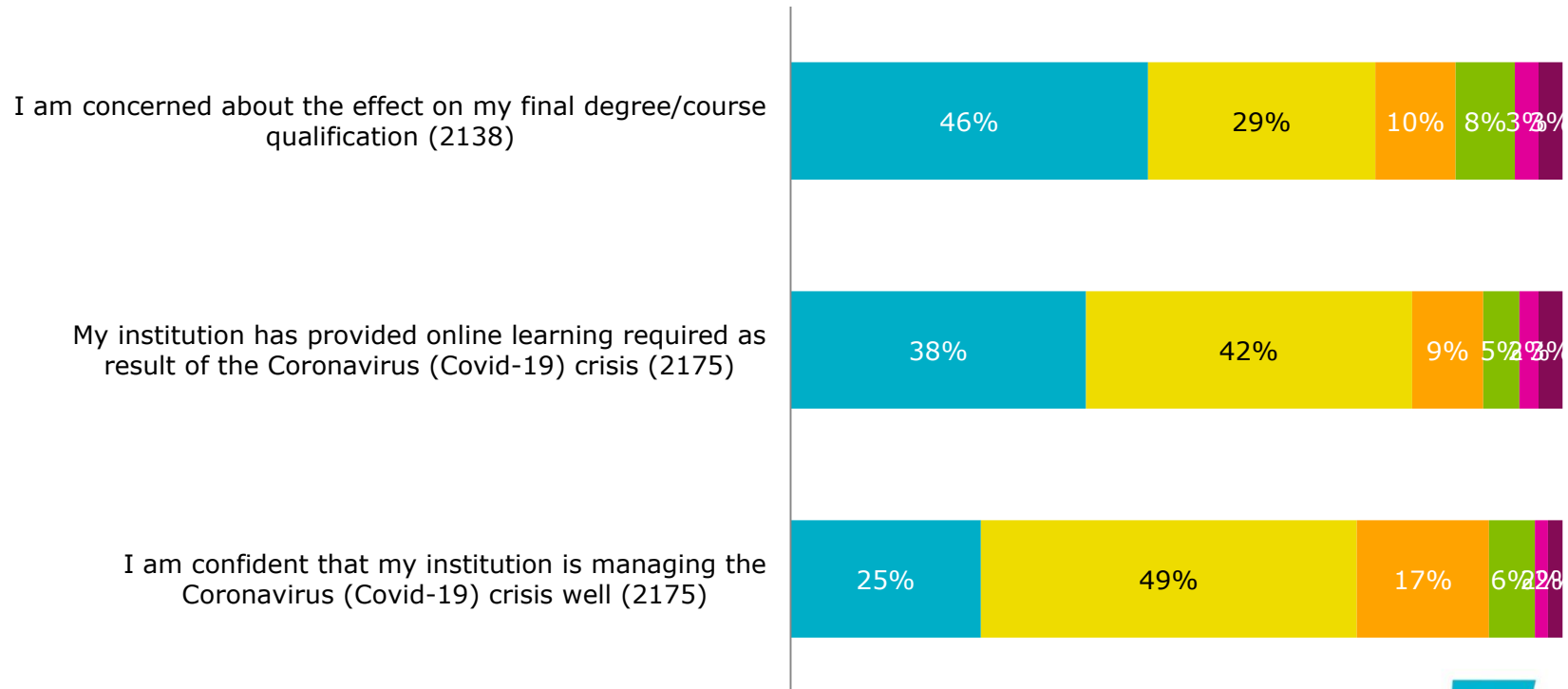
Base: 2181 respondents. Balance: no response

Education: teaching and learning
experience and academic success

Three in four FE students are concerned about the effect of Covid-19 on their course qualification. Eight in ten agree that their institution has provided online learning required as a result of the Covid-19 crisis and three in four are confident that their institution is managing the crisis well.

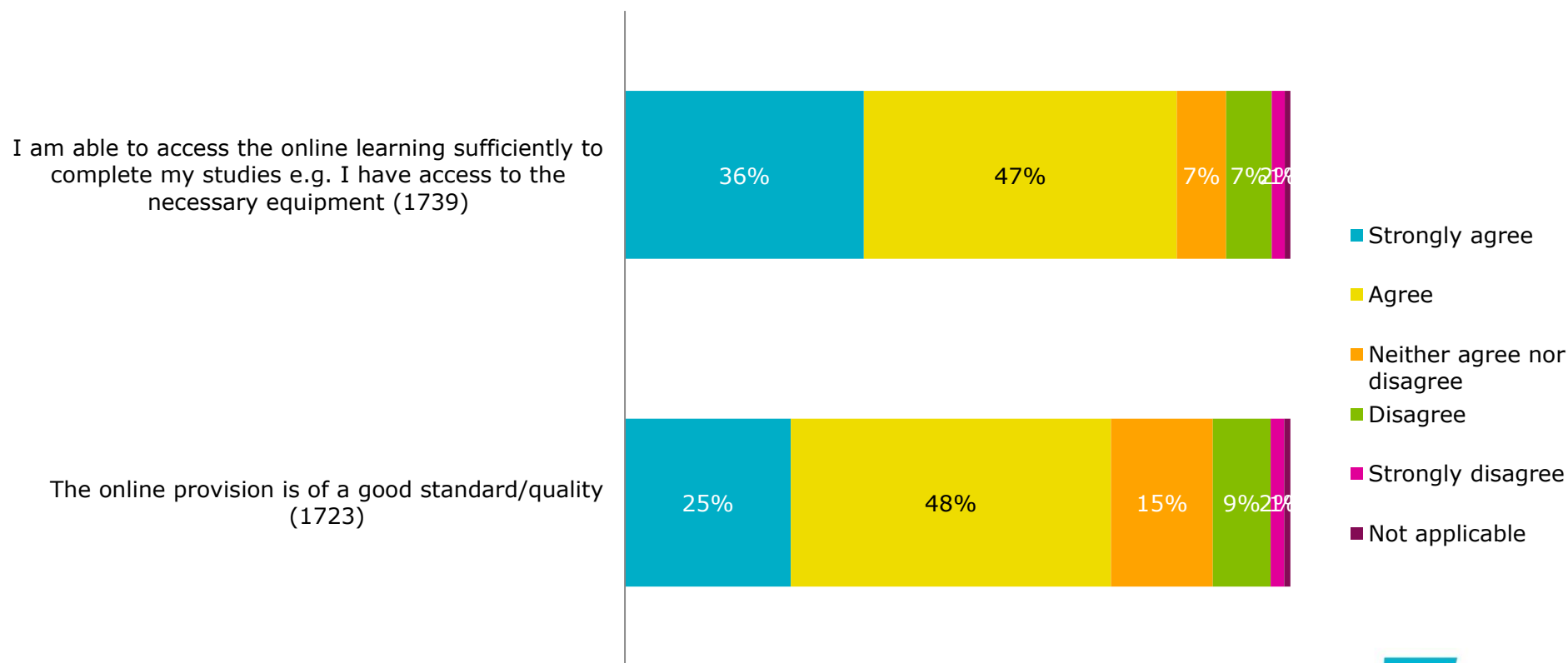
Agreement with statements

■ Strongly agree
 ■ Agree
 ■ Neither agree nor disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Strongly disagree
 ■ Not applicable



Of the FE students who have had online learning provided by their institution, over eight in ten agree that they are able to access the online learning sufficiently to complete their studies and three in four agree the online provision is a good standard/quality.

Agreement with statements – online learning has been provided

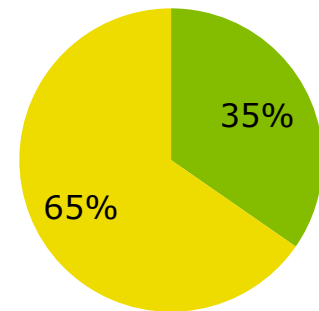


Base: (in brackets). Balance: those whose institution has not provided online learning in response to Coronavirus (Covid-19), no response

D2. You mentioned that your institution has provided online learning in response to the Coronavirus (Covid-19). How far do you agree with the following statements?

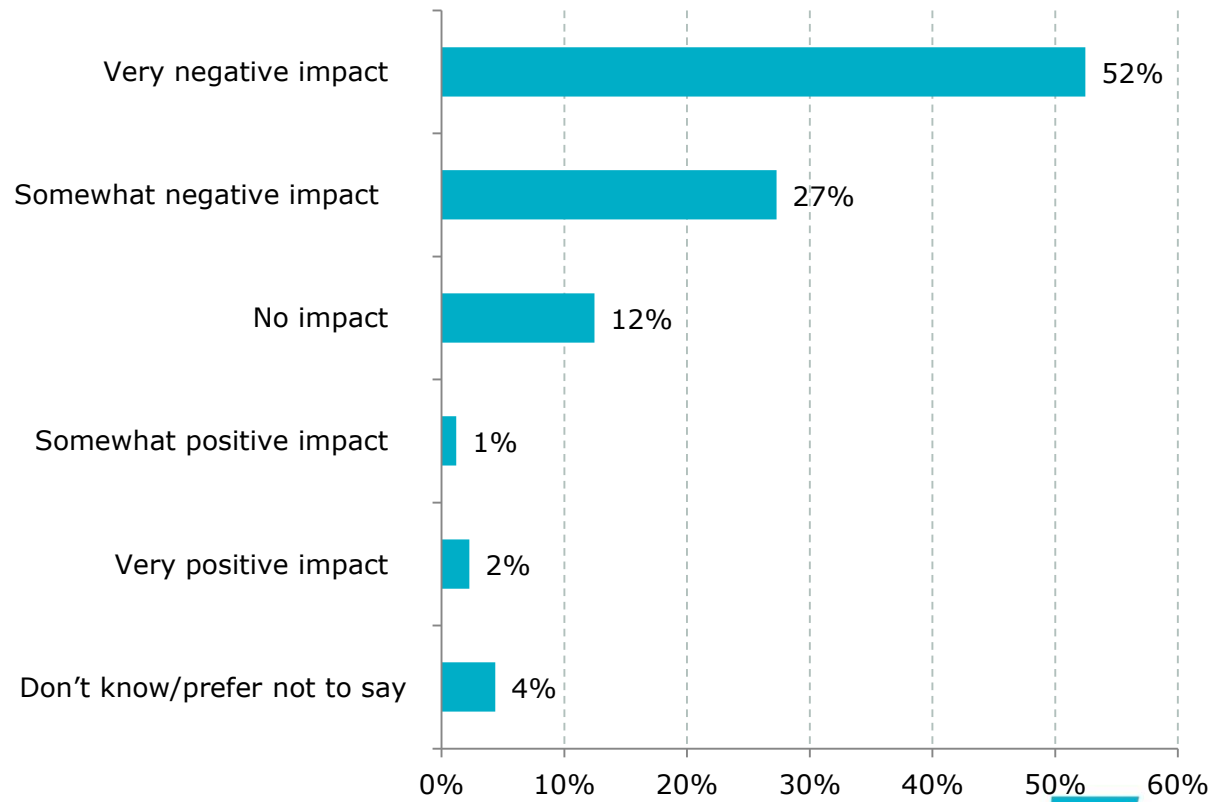
One in three FE students have a placement as part of their course. Of these, eight in ten believe the current Covid-19 outbreak will have a negative impact on their ability to complete their placement.

Placement as part of course



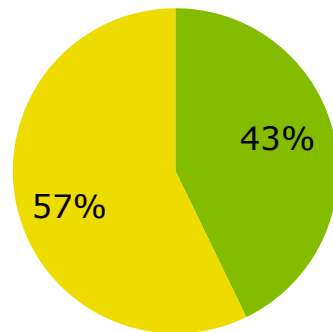
■ Yes ■ No

Impact you think Coronavirus (Covid-19) will have on your ability to complete your placement



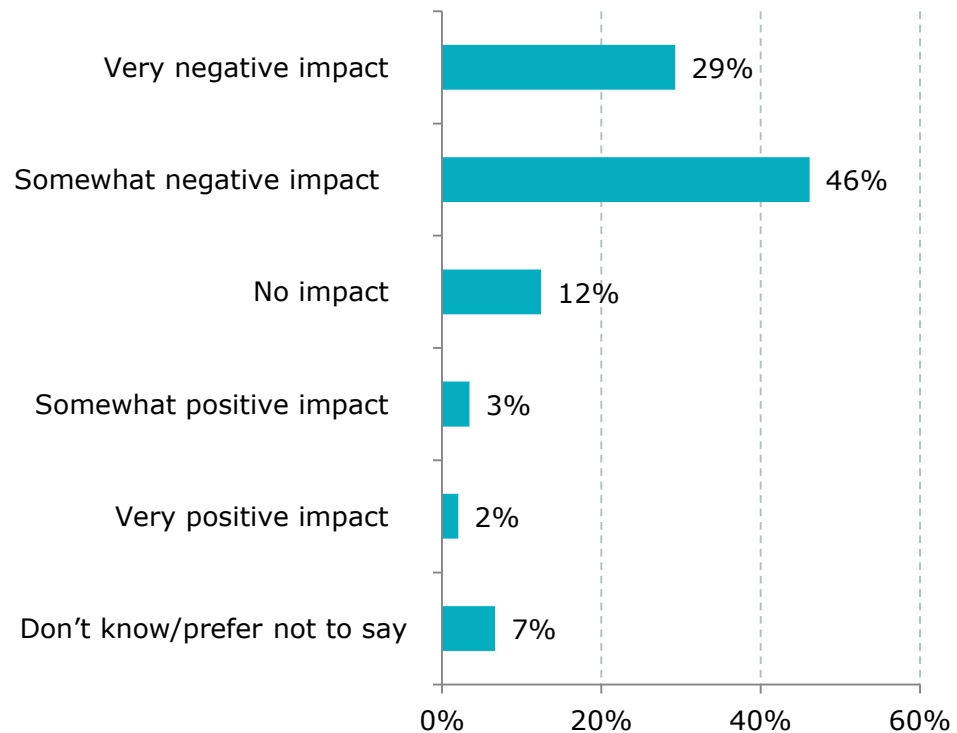
Four in ten FE students have a vocational component to their course. Of these, three in four believe the Covid-19 outbreak will have a negative impact on the vocational element of their course.

Vocational / vocational component



■ Yes ■ No

Impact you think Coronavirus (Covid-19) will have on the vocational element of your course

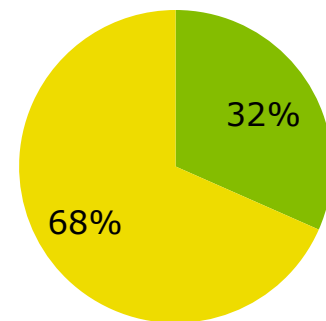


base: 932 respondents. Balance: those who do not have a vocational element to their course

D5, D6. What impact, if any, do you think Coronavirus (Covid-19) will have on the vocational element of your course?

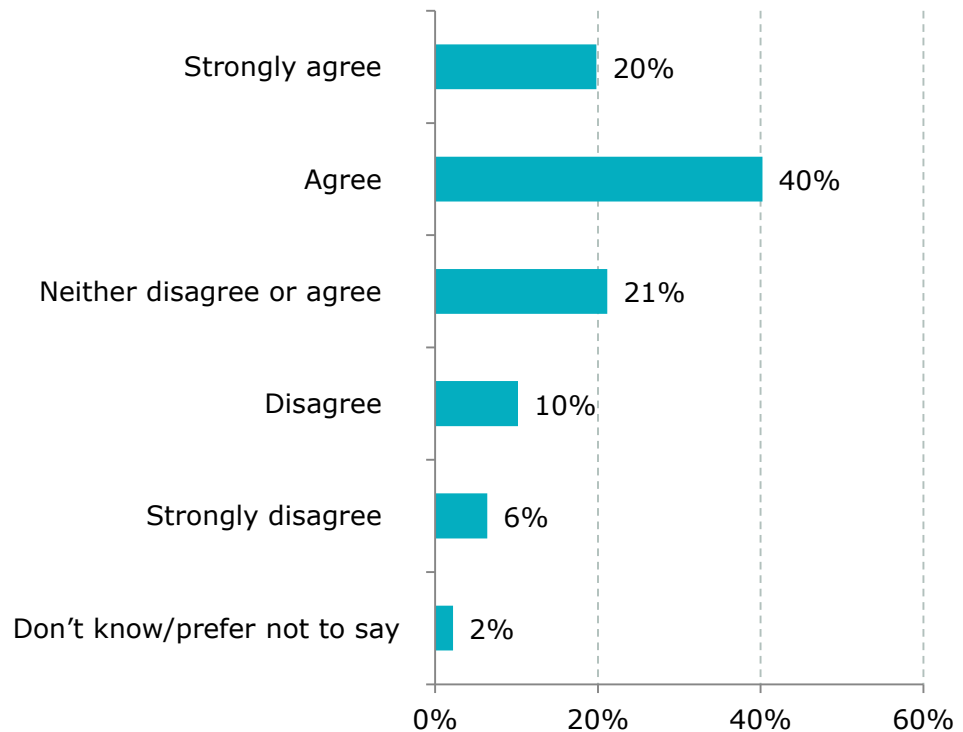
Of those who receive learning support from their institution (one in three), six in ten feel they have received adequate support to enable them to continue their work to the best of their ability throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

Learning support



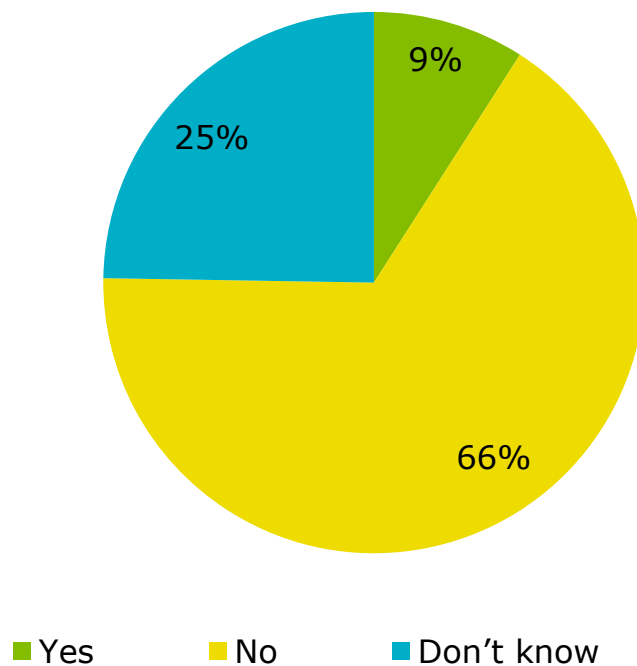
■ Yes ■ No

Agreement that you have received adequate support from your institution to enable best ability



Only one in ten have either themselves, or known of someone, who has been disciplined for non-attendance as an attempt to minimise social interaction since the covid-19 outbreak.

Have you, or anyone you know been disciplined for non-attendance as an attempt to minimise social interaction since the outbreak of Coronavirus (Covid-19)?

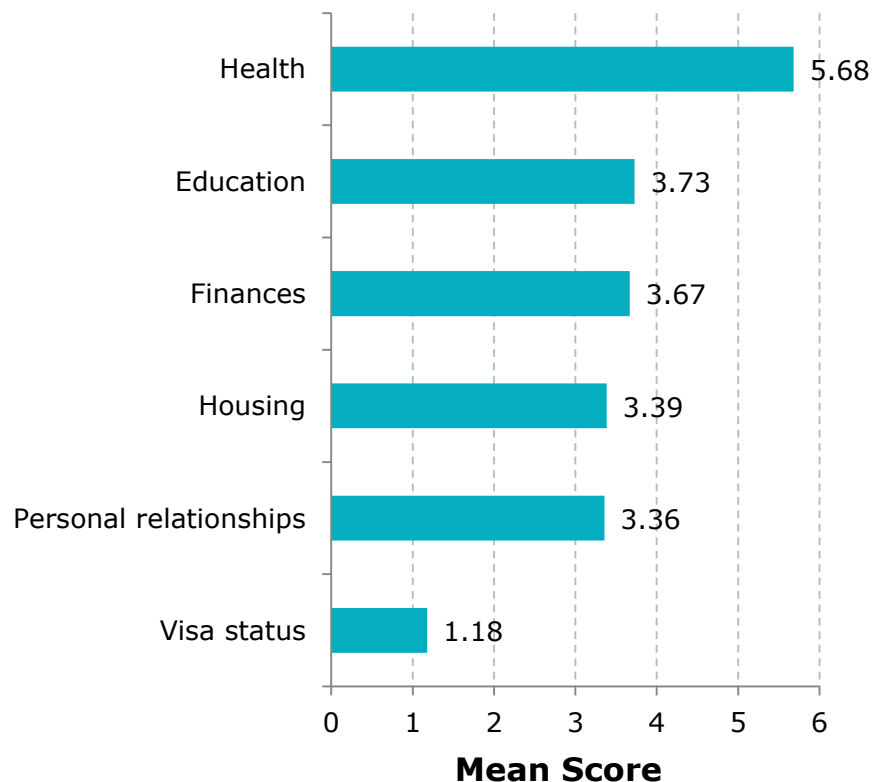


Base: 2183 respondents. Balance: no response

D9. Have you, or anyone you know been disciplined for non-attendance as an attempt to minimise social interaction since the outbreak of Coronavirus (Covid-19)?

Unsurprisingly more than four in five FE students ranked their health as the number 1 priority during the Covid-19 outbreak. Education was most likely to be ranked the 2nd most important concern, followed by finances, housing, personal relationships and then Visa status (which is only relevant for certain international students)

Ranking of importance for yourself during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak



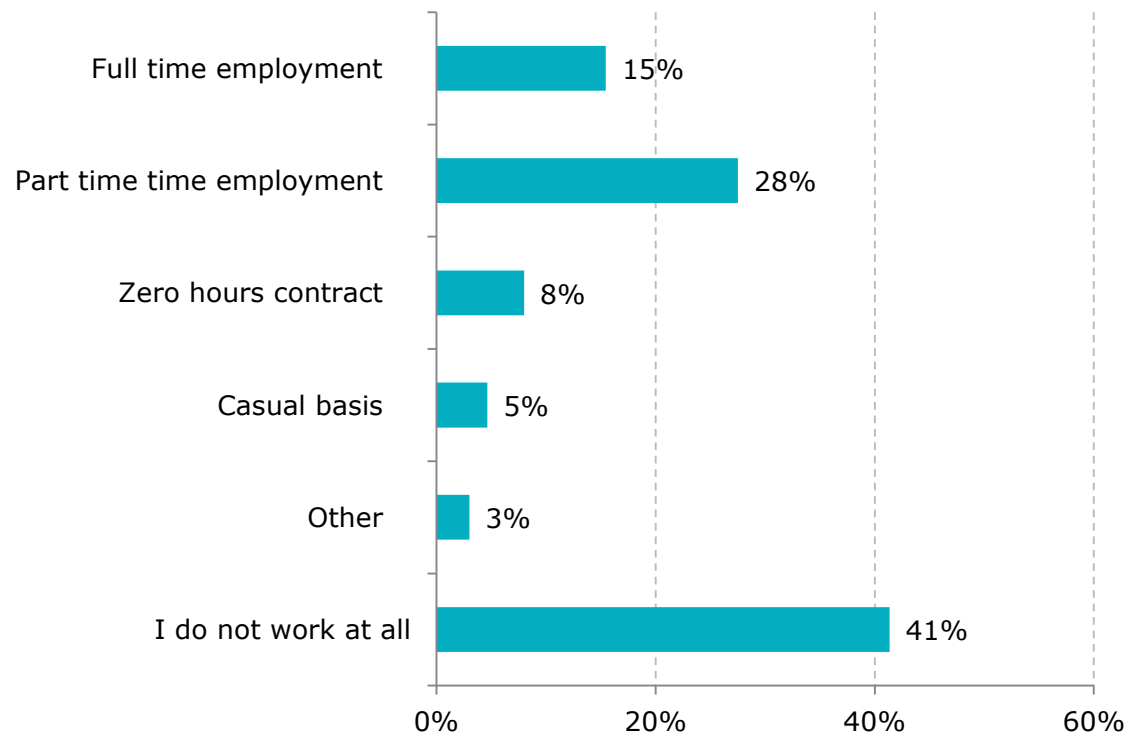
base:1865 Balance: no response

D10. Please rank the following in order of importance for yourself during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak, where 6 is the most important

Income and Financial Circumstances

Less than half of FE students are in either full or part time employment. One in ten have a zero hours contract. Four in ten do not work at all.

Job(s) held alongside studies

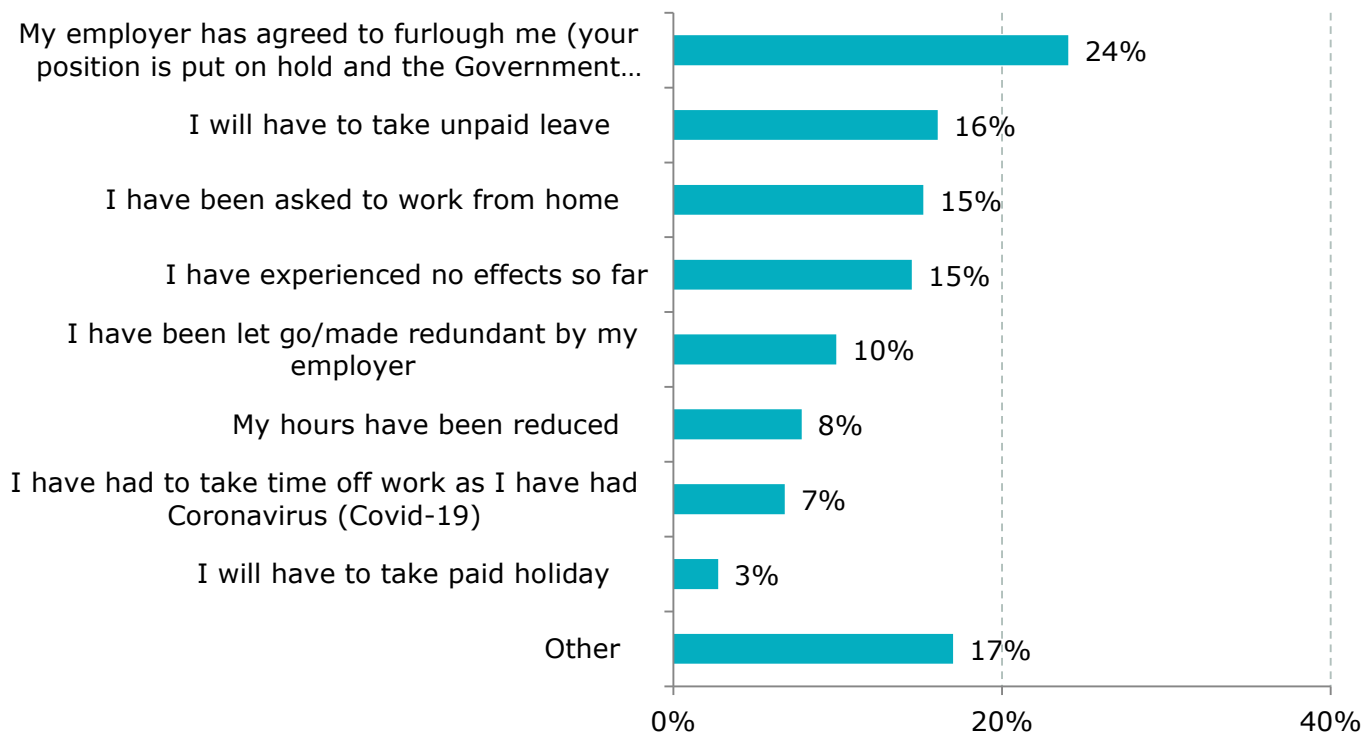


Base: 2188 respondents. Balance: no response

E1. Do you have a job alongside your study? If you have several jobs, please choose your main one.

Of those FE students who currently work, one in four have been furloughed. One in six say they have not been affected.

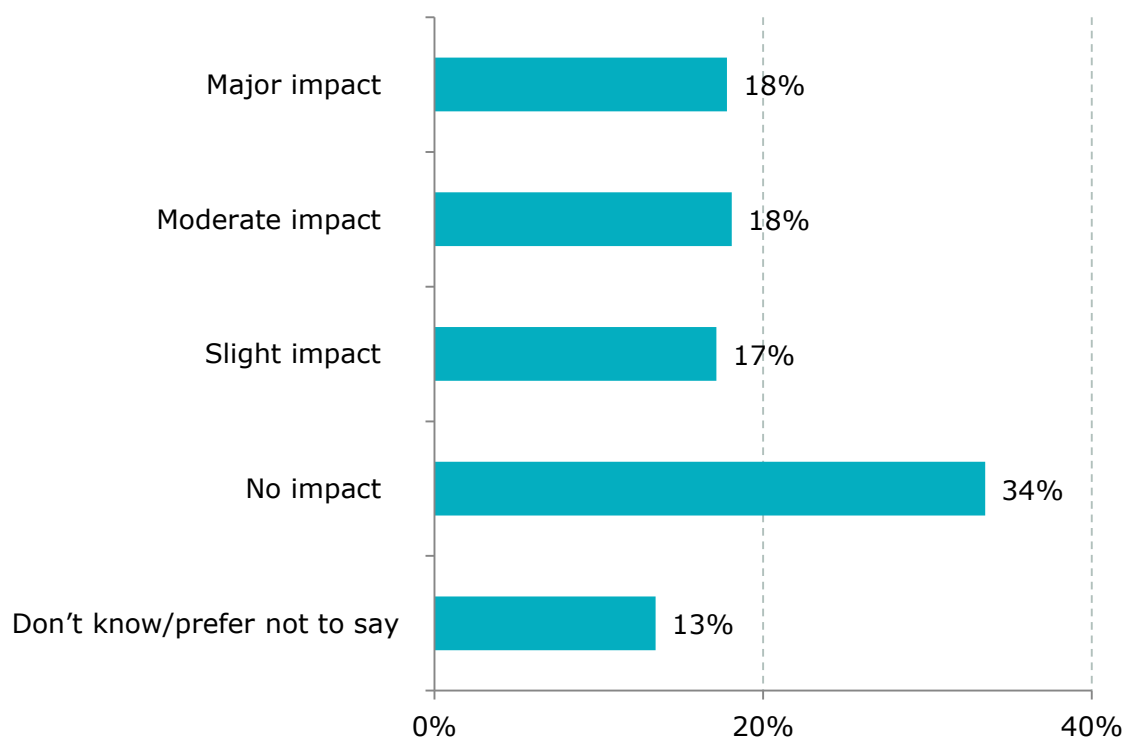
How work has been affected by Coronavirus (Covid-19)



Base: 1281 respondents. Balance: those who do not work

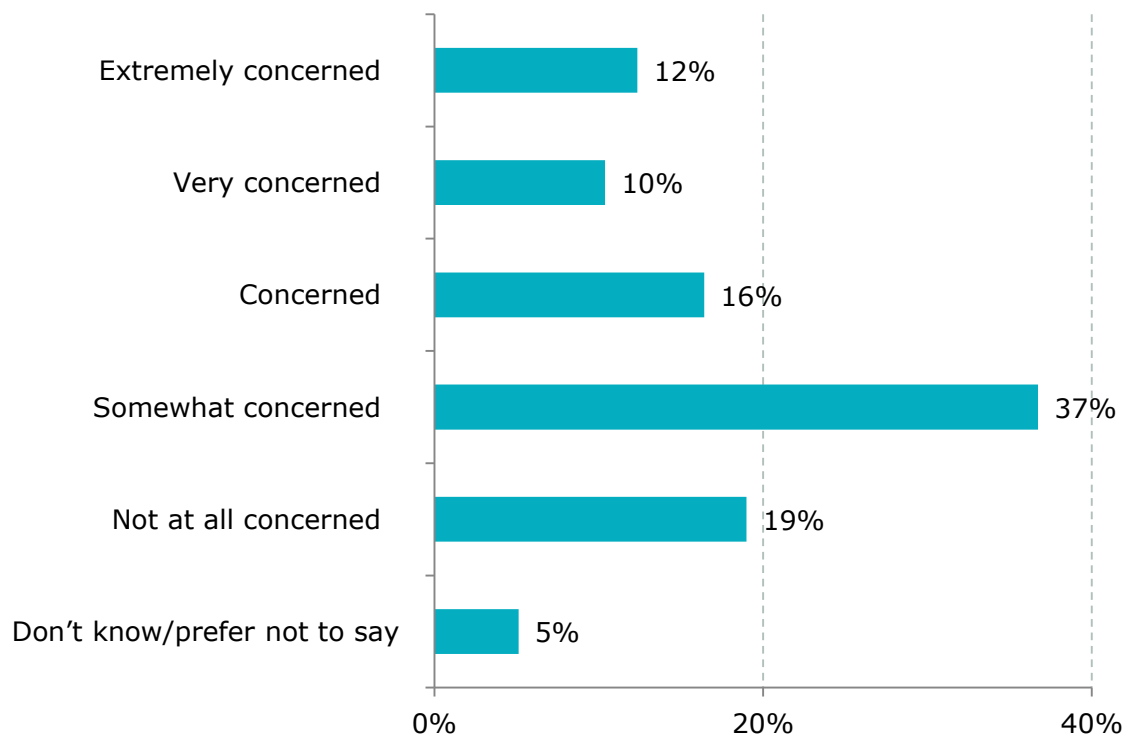
Just over half of FE students say that the income of someone who supports them financially has been impacted by Covid-19, with almost one in five saying it has had a major impact.

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



Three in four FE students are concerned about their ability to manage financially during the Covid-19 outbreak. One in five are 'very' or 'extremely' concerned.

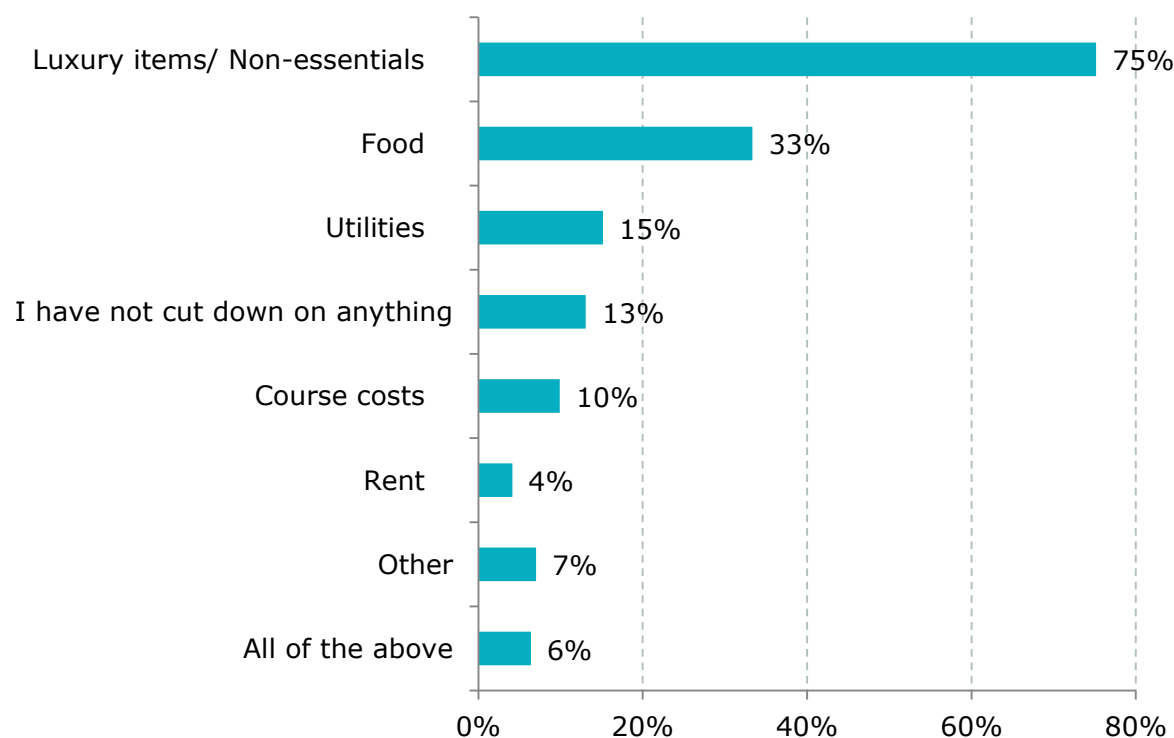
Concern about ability to manage financially during outbreak



Base: 2186 respondents. Balance: no response

Three in four students in FE have cut back on luxury/non-essential items since the Covid-19 outbreak. A third have also cut back on food expenditure.

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

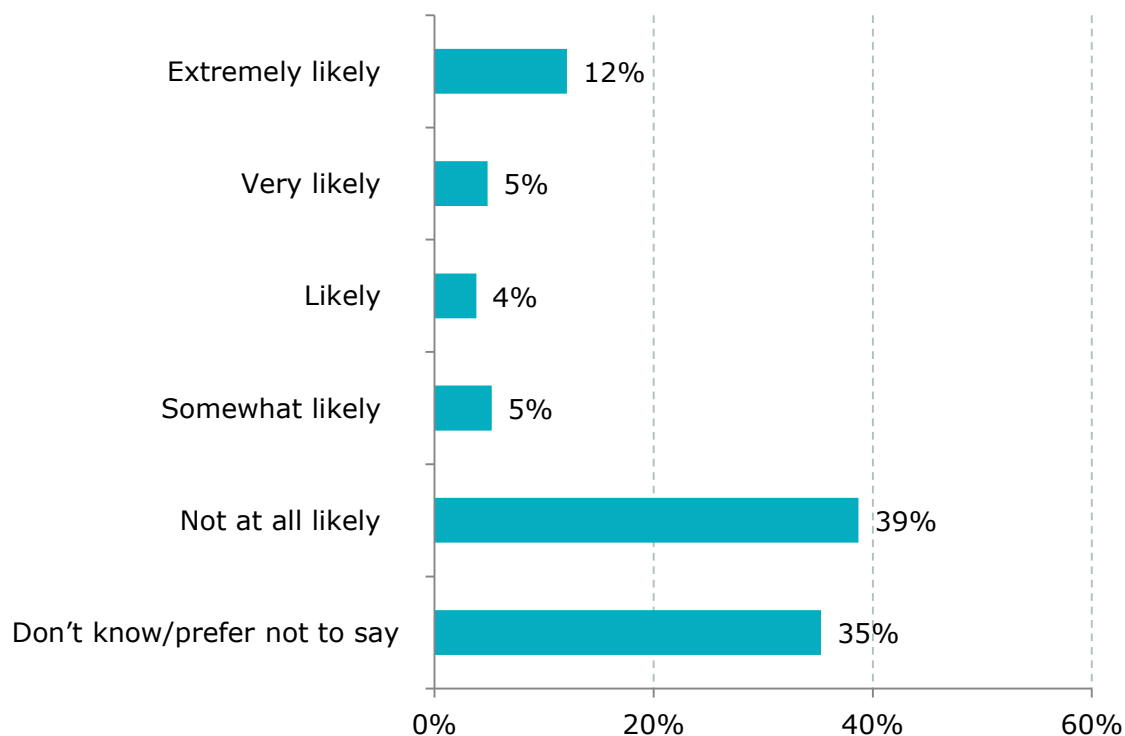


Base: 2180 respondents. Balance: no response

Accommodation

One in four FE students who are living in privately rented accommodation/owned halls of residence say there is some likelihood that they will need to stay in their current property beyond the original planned contract date.

Likelihood of remaining in current property beyond original planned contract data

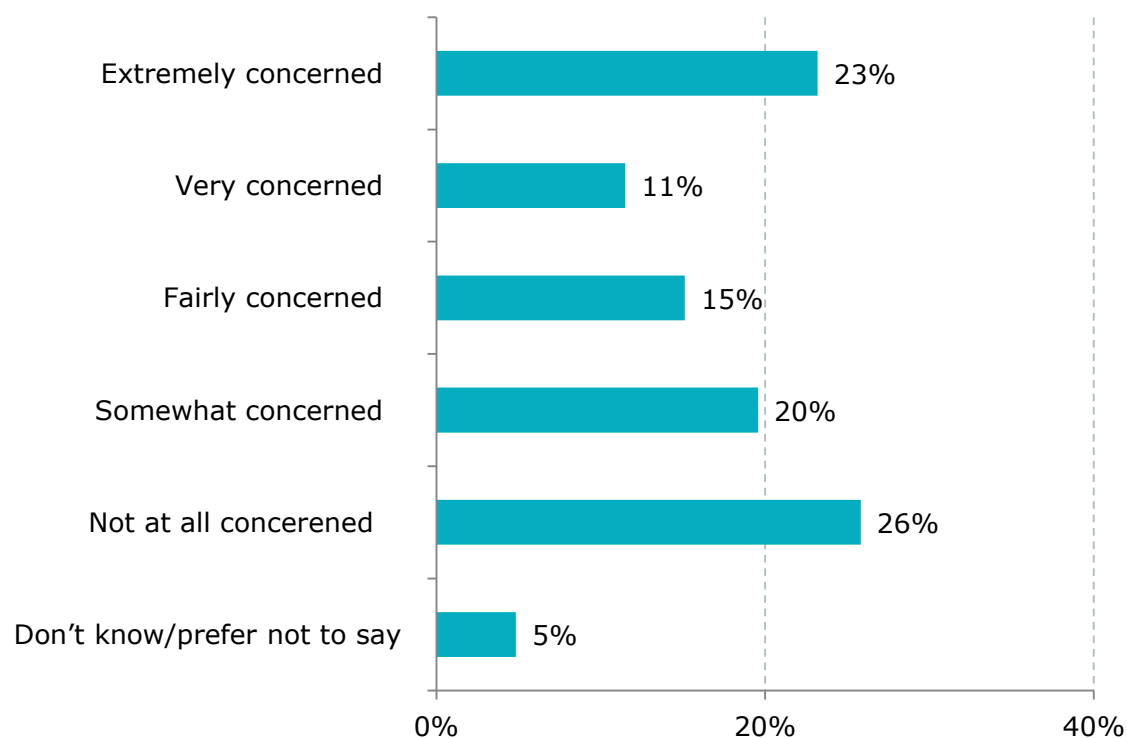


Base: 496 respondents. Balance : those not living in privately rented accommodation or owned halls of residence

F1 How likely is it, if at all that you will need to remain in your current property beyond the originally planned contract date as a result of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak?

Seven in ten are concerned to some extent about their ability to pay rent as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak. One in three are 'very' or 'extremely' concerned.

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

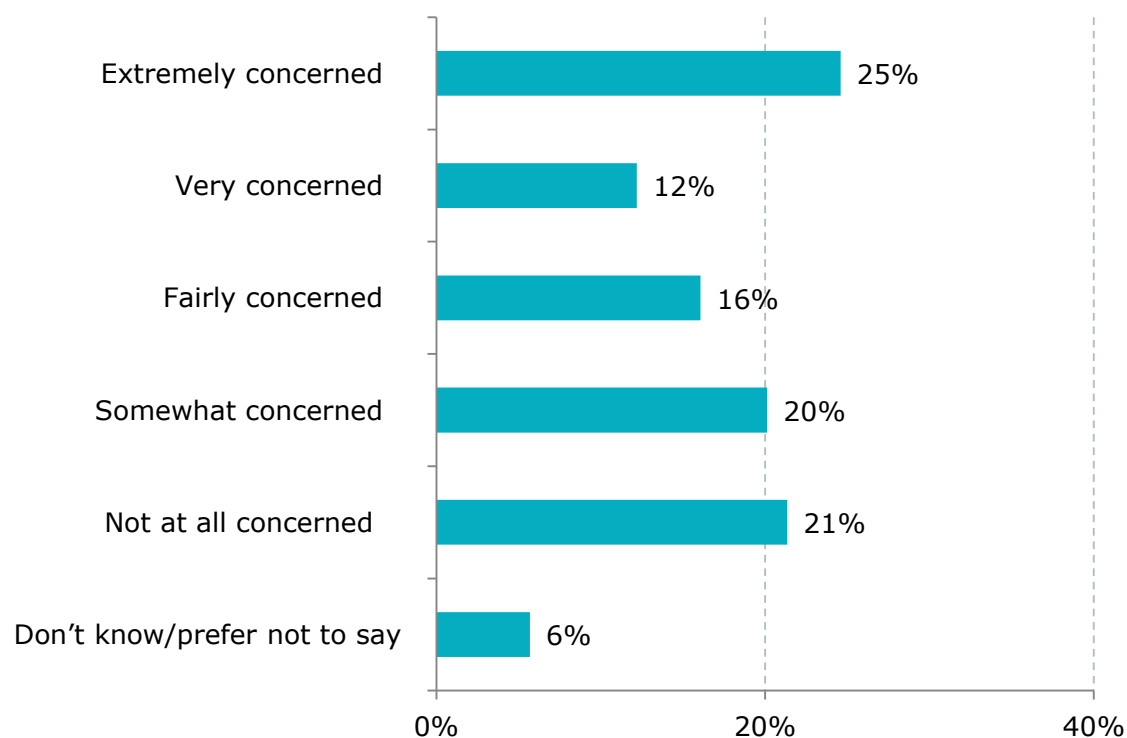


Base: 496 respondents. Balance : those not living in privately rented accommodation or owned halls of residence

F3. How concerned are you, if at all, about the financial impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) on your ability to pay rent?

Three in four FE students are concerned to some extent about their ability to pay their bills as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak. Again one in three are either 'very' or 'extremely' concerned.

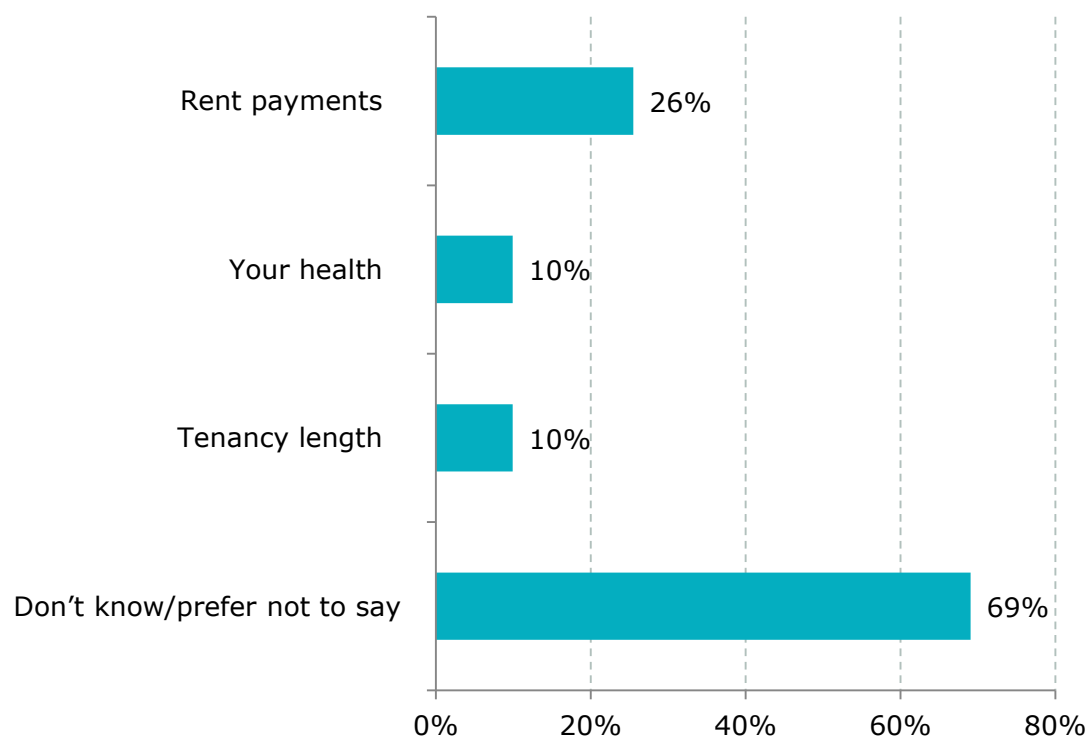
Level of concern about financial impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) on ability to pay bills



Base: 492 respondents. Balance : those not living in privately rented accommodation or owned halls of residence

One in four FE students have communicated with their landlord about rent payments, but only one in ten have communicated about their tenancy length or their health.

Have you spoken to your landlord about these issues?

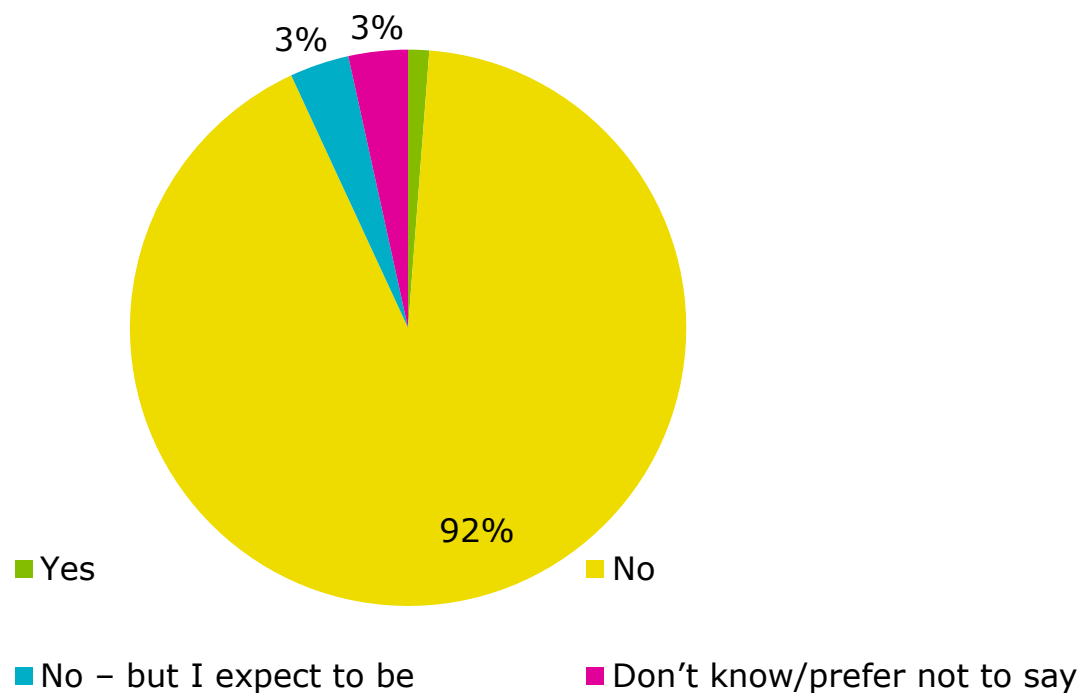


Base: 443 respondents. Balance : those not living in privately rented accommodation or privately owned halls of residence

F5. Have you discussed or had any communication with your landlord/accommodation provider on any of the following issues during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic?

Encouragingly the majority of FE students in private rented accommodation/owned halls of residence have not been issued with an eviction notice.

Have you been issued with an eviction notice?

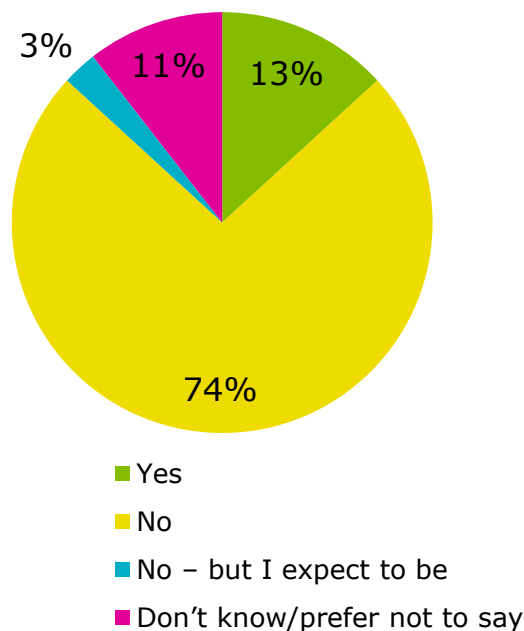


Base: 493 respondents. Balance : those not living in privately rented accommodation or privately owned halls of residence

F7. Have you been issued with an eviction notice?

Around one in eight FE students would like to be released early from their rental obligations. The main reason given for this preference is the fact that learning has now moved online or they want to be with their family.

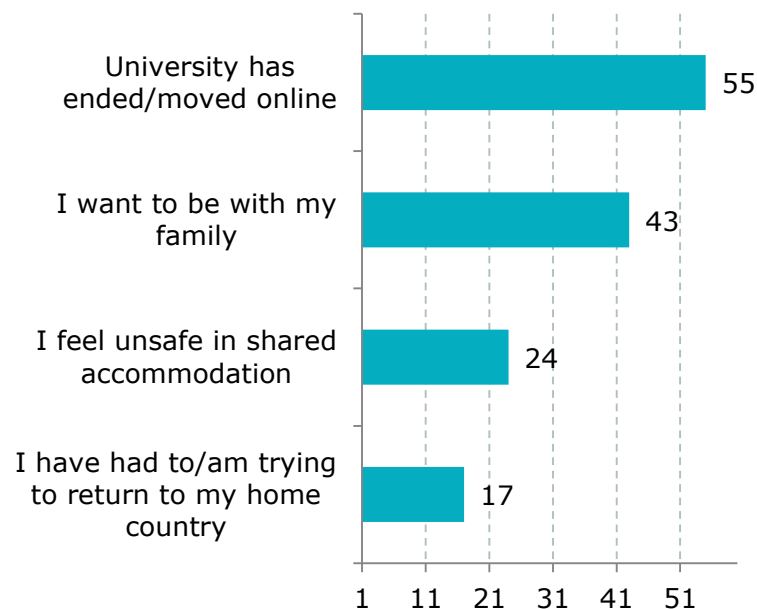
Preference for being released from rental early?



Base: 485 respondents. Balance : those who have been issued with an eviction notice

F8. As a result of Coronavirus, would you like to be released from your current tenancy contract/rent obligations early and move out?

Why do you want to be released from your contract?

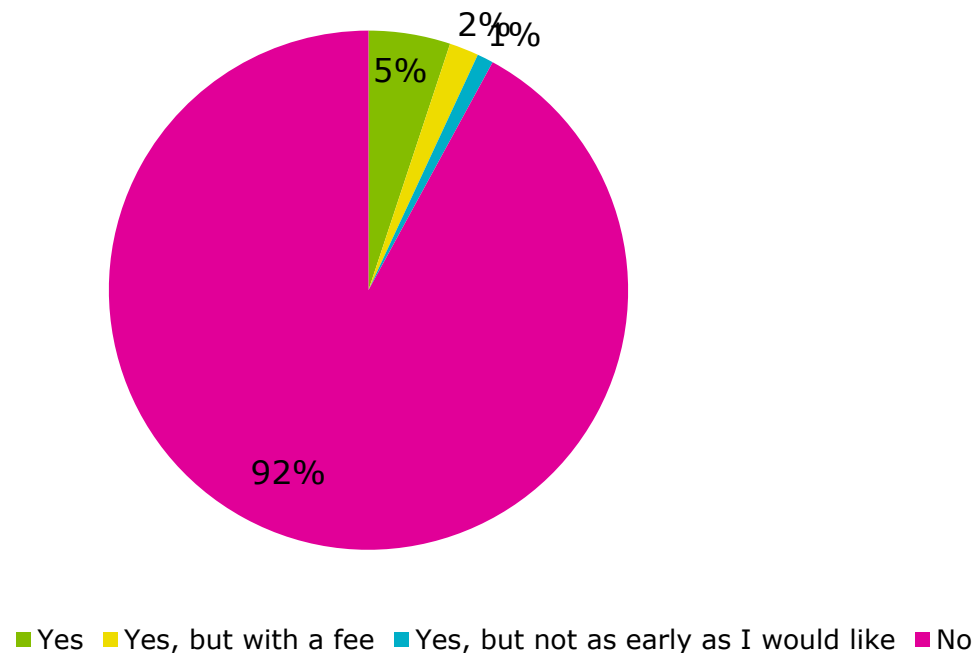


Base: 62 respondents. Balance : those who do not want to be released from their contract

F9. Why do you want to be released from your contract?

However, fewer than one in ten have been given the opportunity to be released early from their tenancy/rental obligations.

Has your landlord given you the option to release early from your current contract?



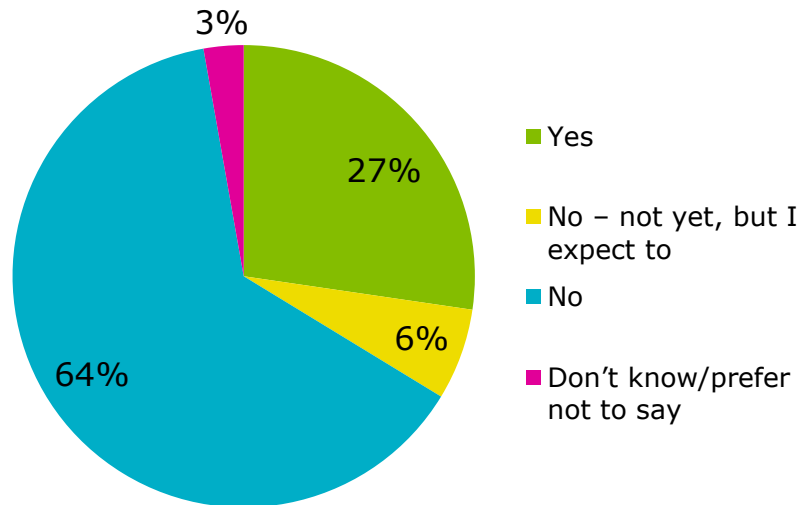
Base: 491 respondents. Balance : those not living in privately rented accommodation or privately owned halls of residence

F10. Has your landlord/accommodation provider offered you the opportunity to be released early from your current tenancy/rent obligations as a result of Coronavirus?

Consumption/Goods and Purchases

One in four students studying in FE say they have purchased something more than usual. In the main this has related to long life groceries. Toilet roll and snacks were also mentioned by around four in ten as items that they have purchased more of than usual.

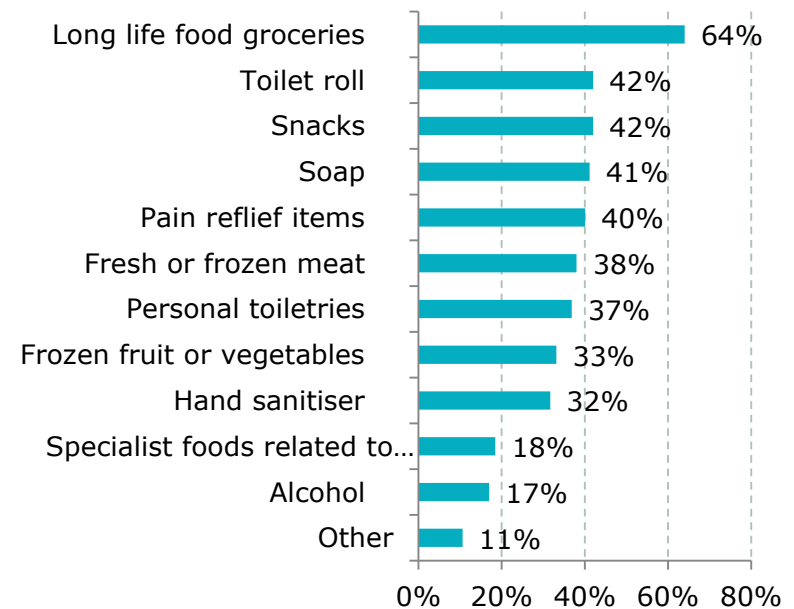
Have you purchased more of anything than usual?



Base: 2189 respondents.

G1. Have you recently purchased more of anything than usual?

What items have you bought/are considering buying more of in the last 3 weeks?

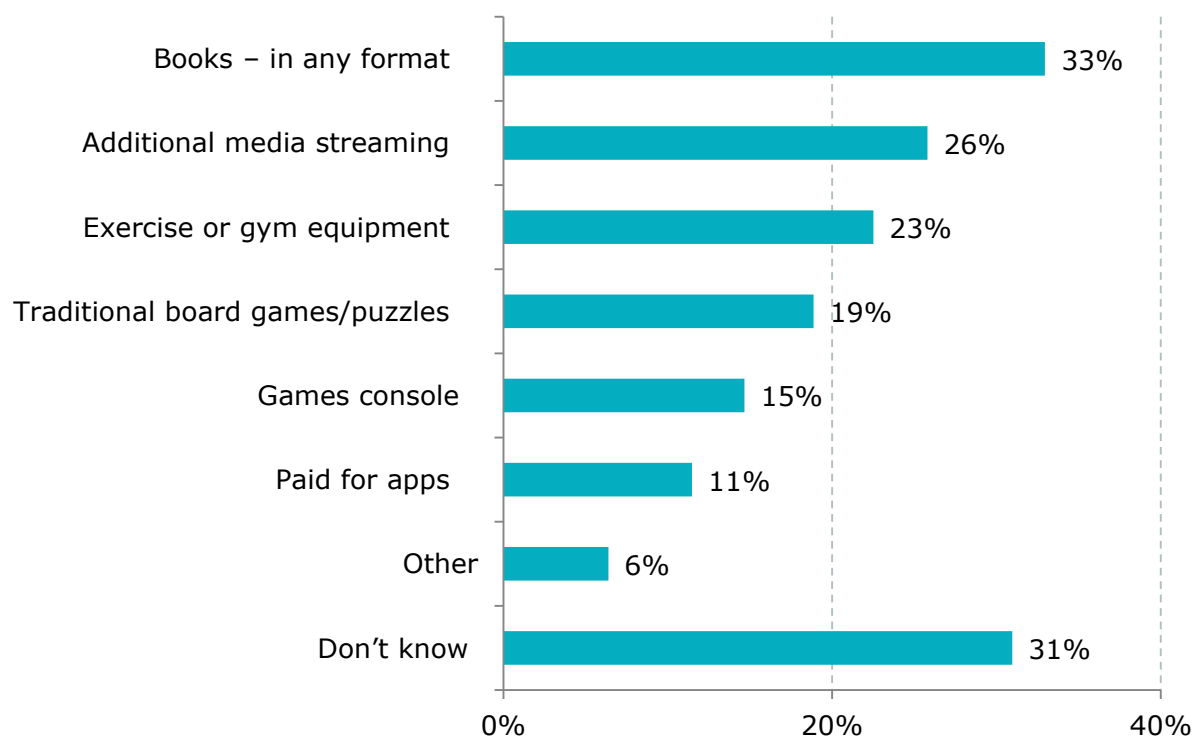


Base: 736 respondents. Balance : those who have not bought/don not expect to buy more than usual

G2. Please tell us what items you have bought more of in the past 3 weeks, or are considering buying?

In an attempt to manage self-isolation and movement restrictions FE students are most likely to be buying books, additional media streaming and equipment to aid exercise.

What have you/are you considering buying to manage self isolation or movement restrictions?



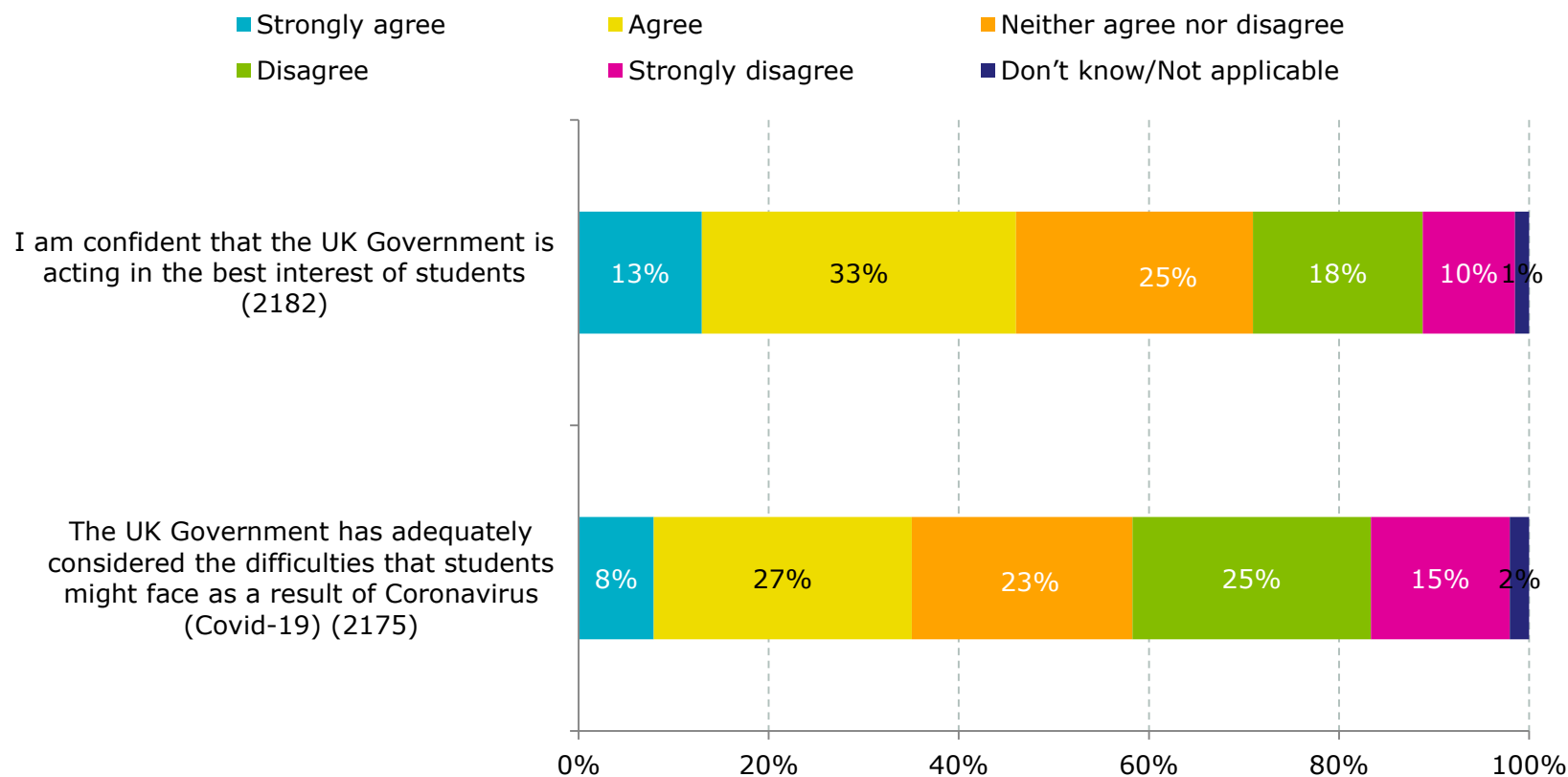
Base: 2067 respondents. Balance: no response

G3. Have you, or are you considering buying any of the below to manage either self isolation or the newly announced movement restrictions?

Government actions

Less than half of FE students agree that they are confident that the UK Government is acting in the best interest of students. Fewer (one in three) agree that the UK Government has adequately considered the difficulties students face as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Agreement with statements – UK Government

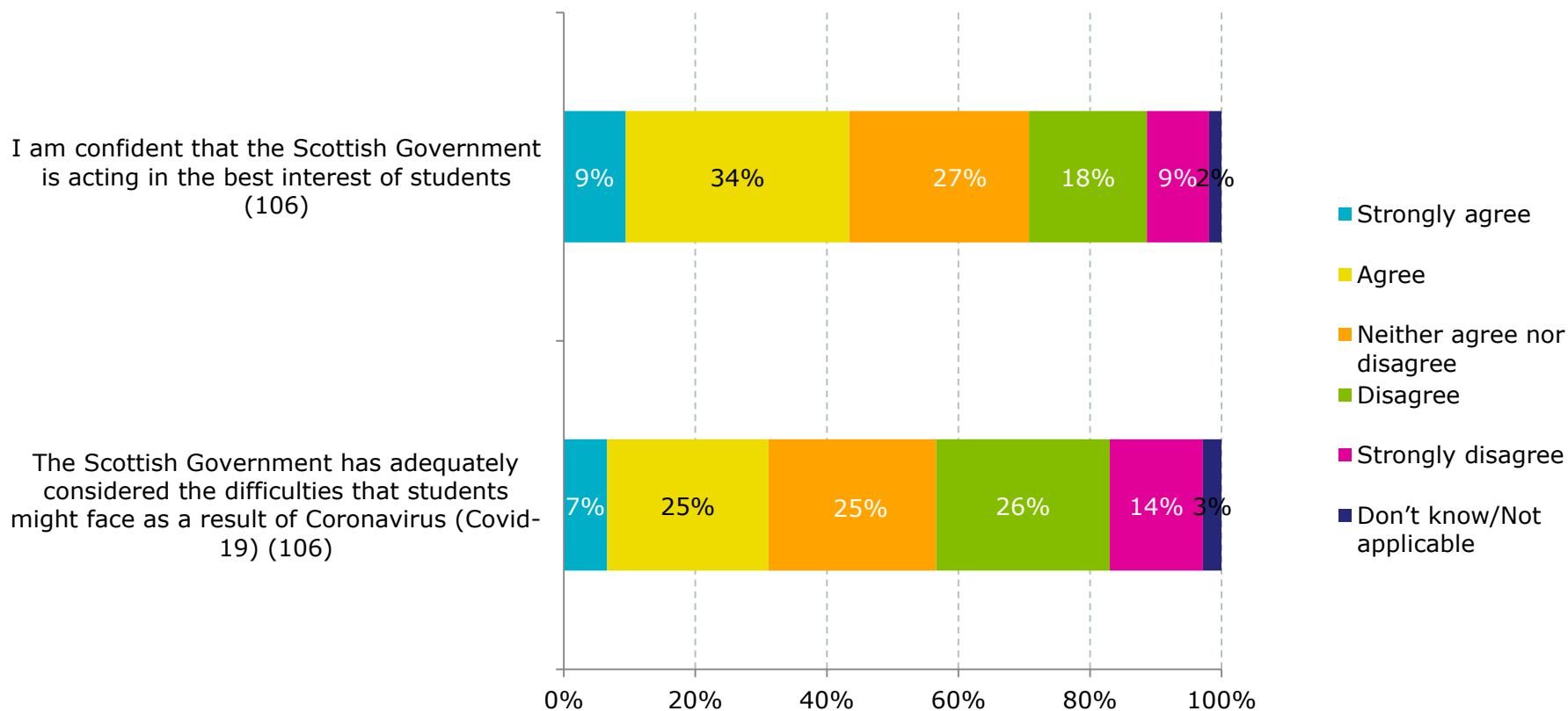


Base: (in brackets). Balance: no response

H1. Please tell us how far you agree, if at all, with the statements below in relation to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic?

Only two in five FE students studying in Scotland agree they are confident the Scottish Government is acting in the best interest of students. Fewer agree that the Scottish Government is adequately considering the difficulties students are facing as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Agreement with statements – Scottish Government

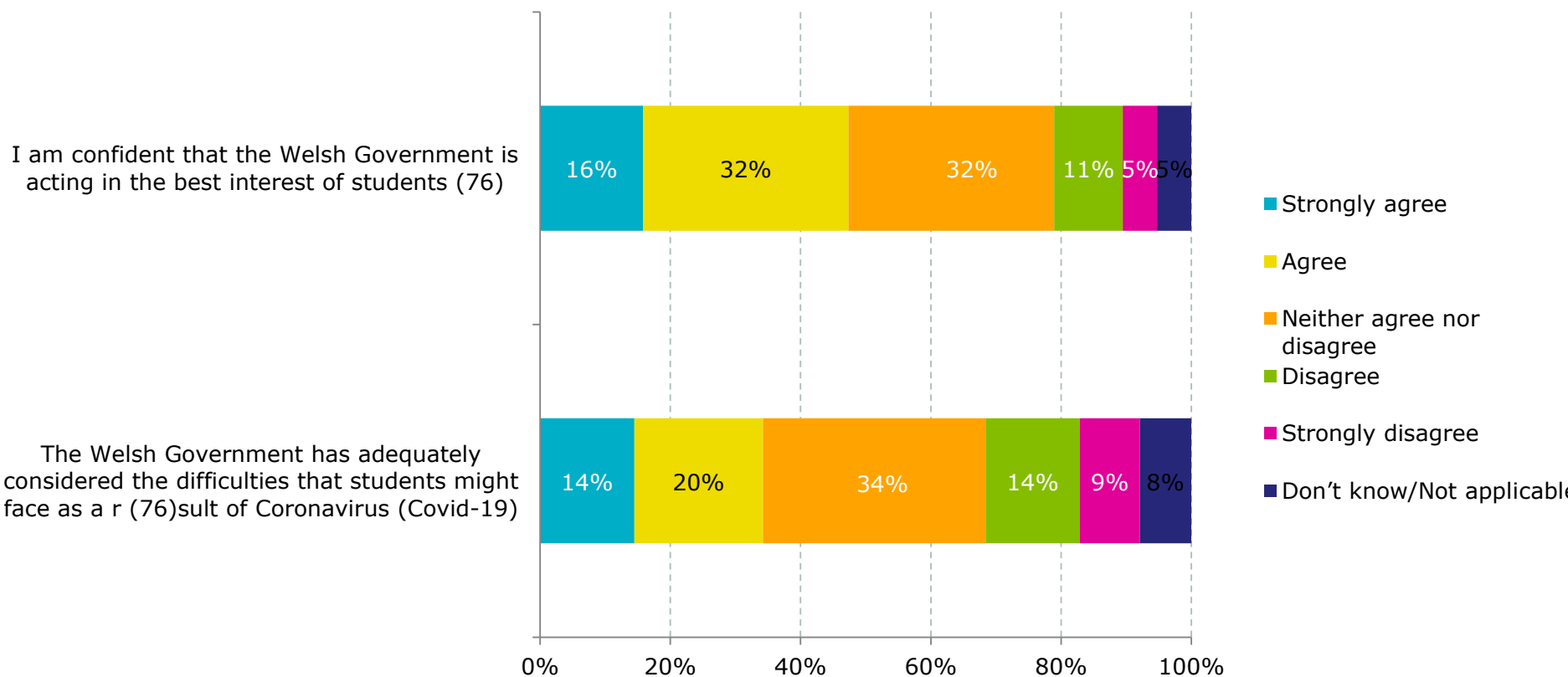


Base: (in brackets). Balance: students not studying in Scotland

H2. Please tell us how far you agree, if at all, with the statements below in relation to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic?

Almost half of FE students studying in Wales agree that the Welsh Government is acting in the best interests of students. Fewer agree that the Welsh Government is adequately considering the difficulties students are facing as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Agreement with statements – Welsh Government

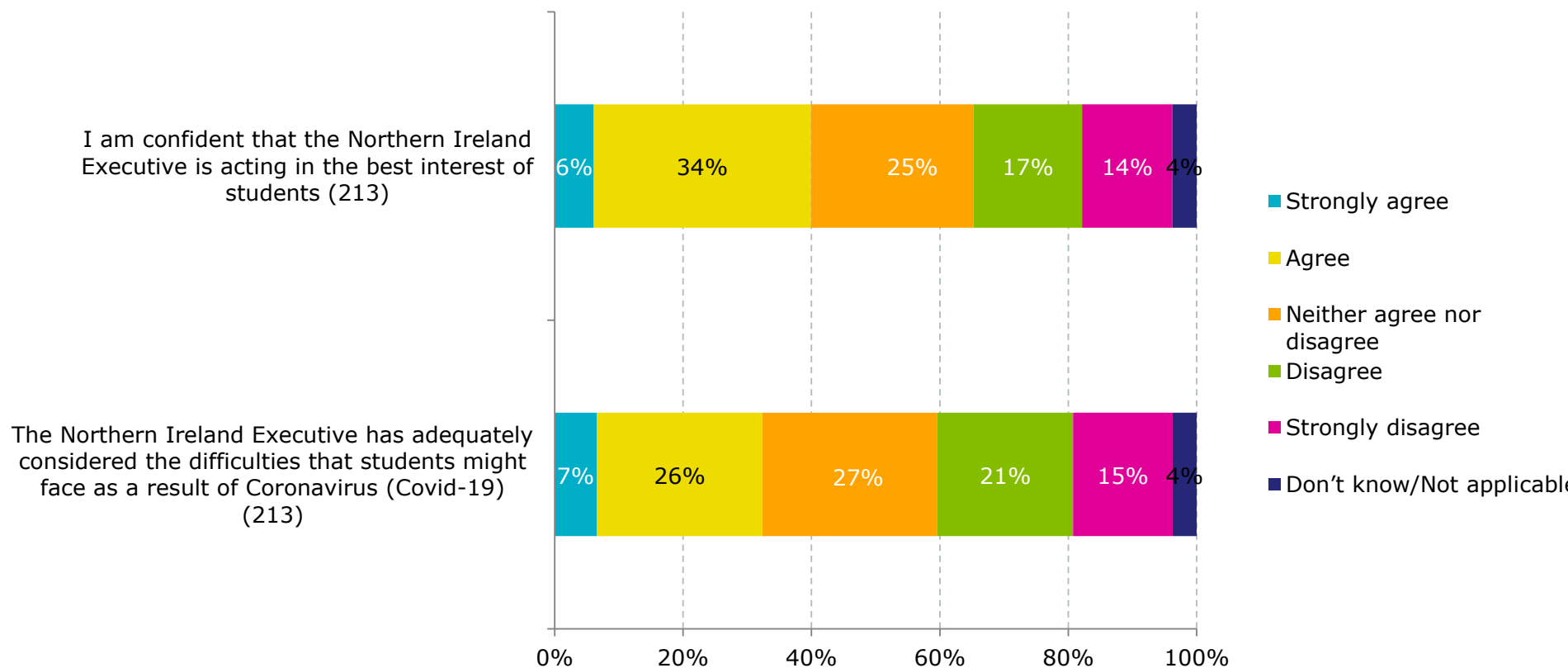


Base: (in brackets). Balance: students not studying in Wales

H3. Please tell us how far you agree, if at all, with the statements below in relation to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic?

Two in five FE students studying in Northern Ireland agree that the NI Executive are acting in the best interests of students. Fewer agree that the NI Executive are adequately considering the difficulties students are facing as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Agreement with statements – Northern Ireland Executive

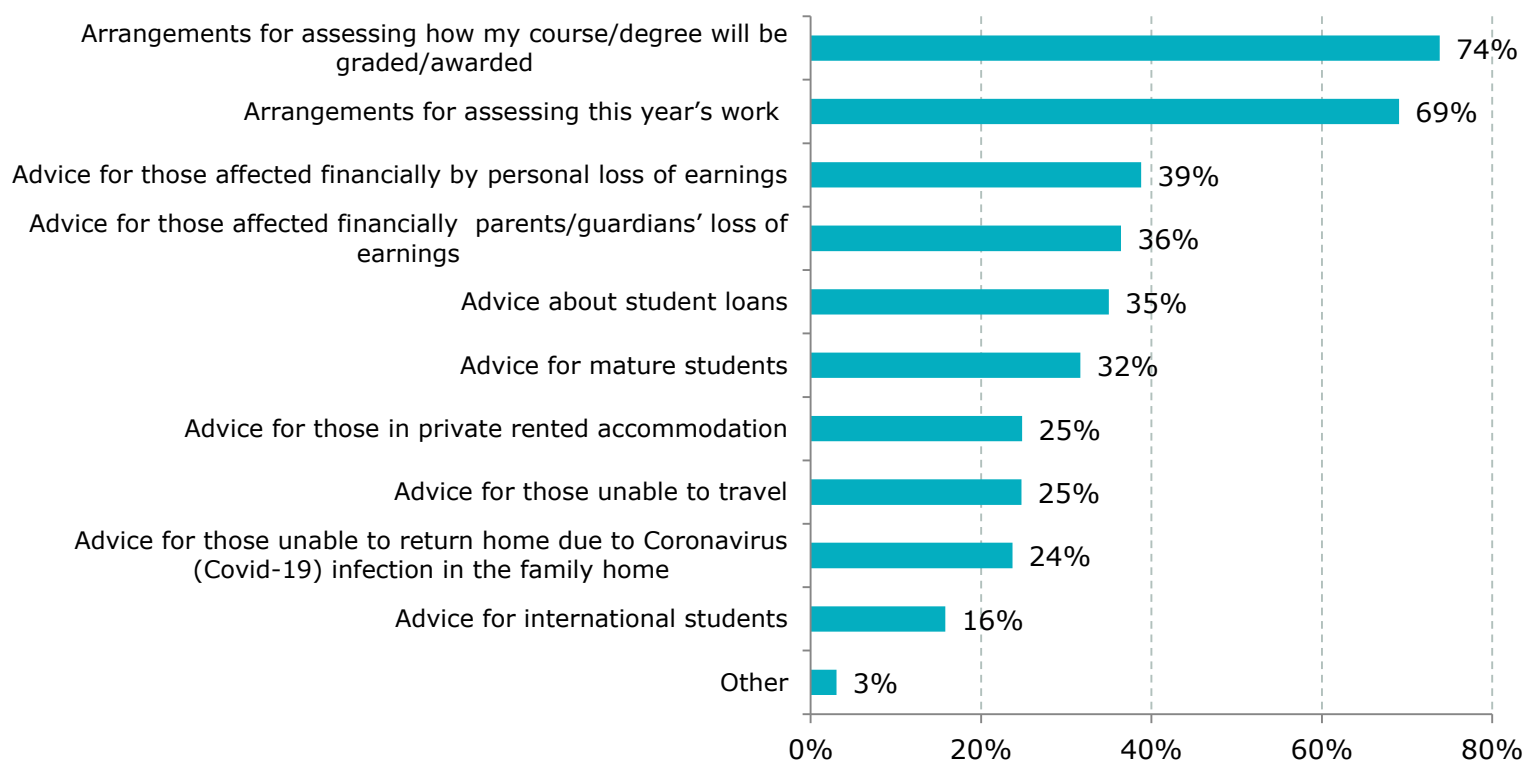


Base: (in brackets). Balance: students not studying in Northern Ireland

H4. Please tell us how far you agree, if at all, with the statements below in relation to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic?

Three in four FE students would like further info/guidance from governments on how their course will be graded/awarded. Seven in ten would like further info/guidance on how this year's work will be assessed.

Other information/guidance would like from governments

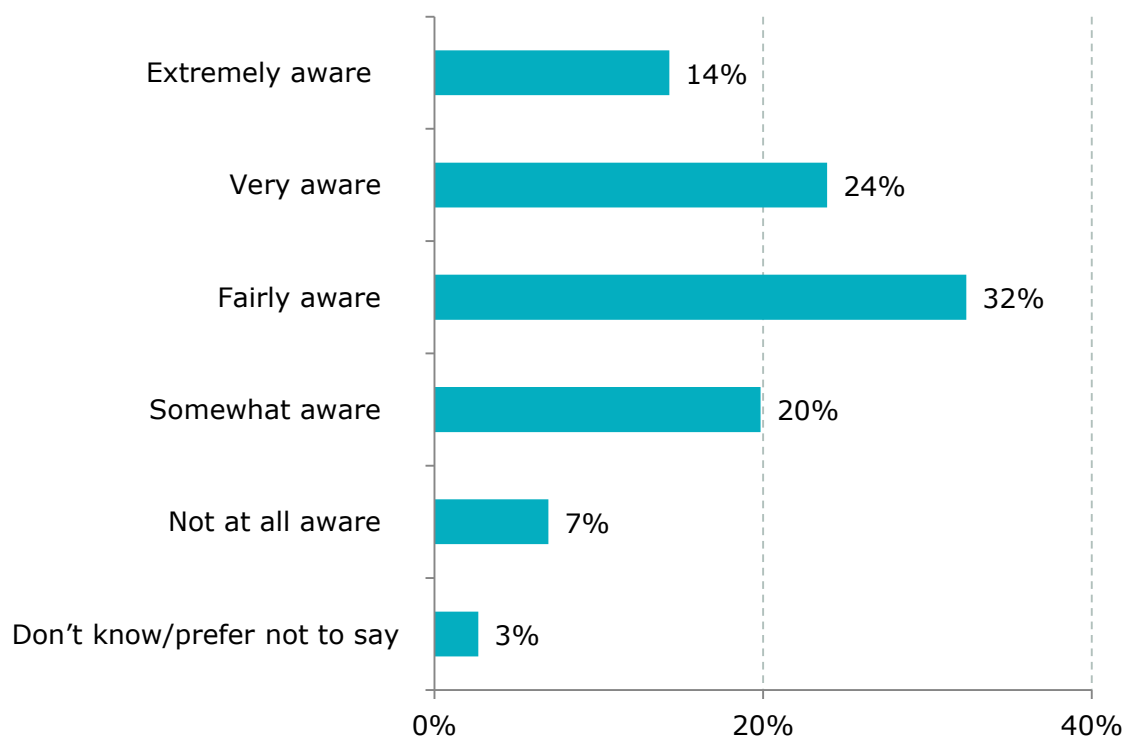


Base: 2114 respondents. Balance: no response

H5. What further information or guidance would you like the relevant Governments (UK, Scottish, Welsh and NI) to issue for students?

The vast majority of FE students are aware to some extent of the measures the governments are taking so far to combat the economic impacts of the Covid-19. Over one in three are either 'very' or 'extremely' aware.

Awareness of Government measures to combat economic impacts



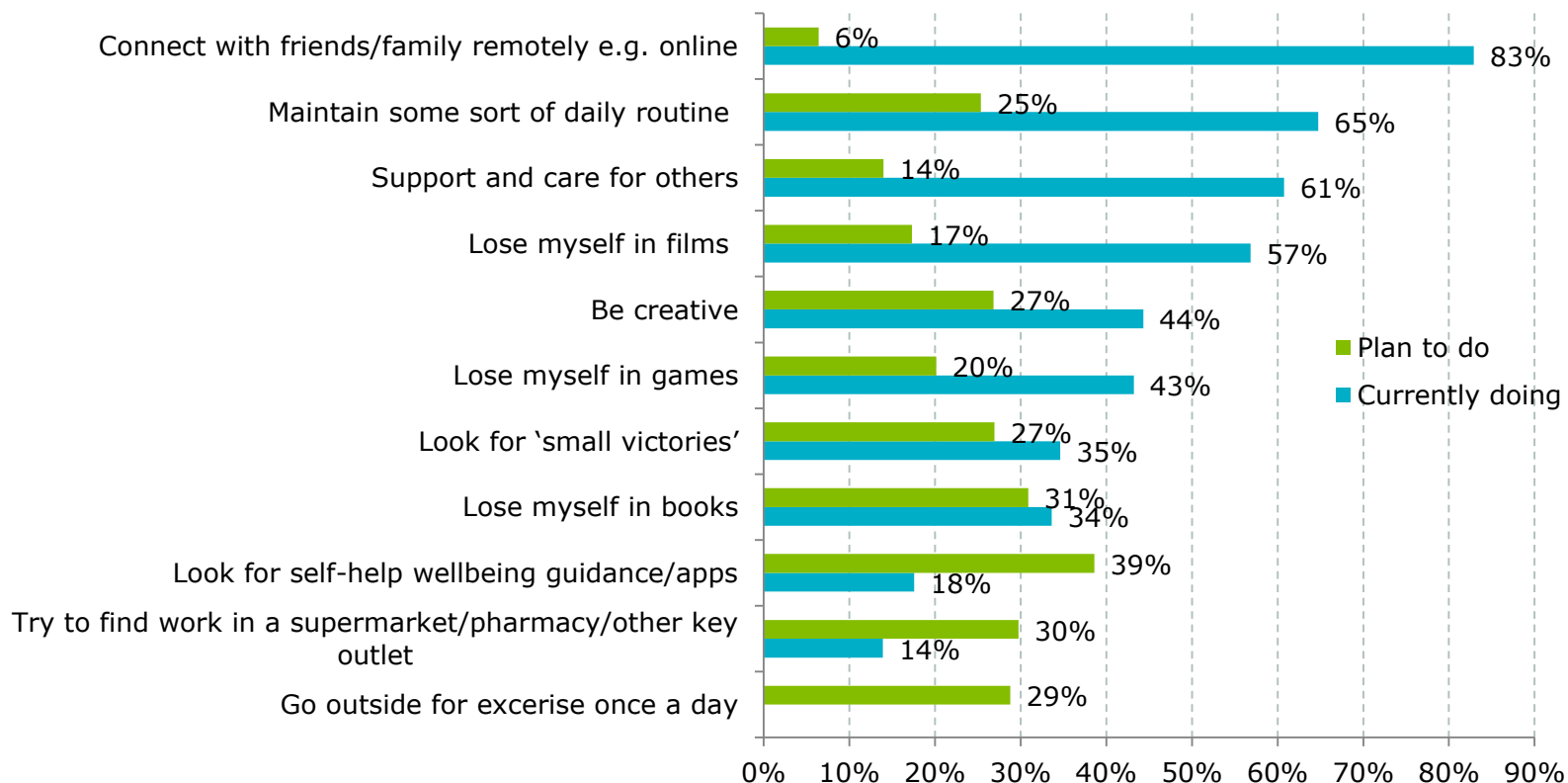
Base: 2176 respondents. Balance: no response

H6. How aware are you, if at all, of the measures that the relevant Governments (UK, Scottish, Welsh and NI) have taken so far to combat the economic impacts of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic?

Self isolating/your health/movement restrictions

The vast majority of respondents currently connect with friends and family online. They are less likely to look for self help, although a third plan to do this, or work in a supermarket, although a quarter plan to do this

What are you currently doing/plan to do to support your well being?

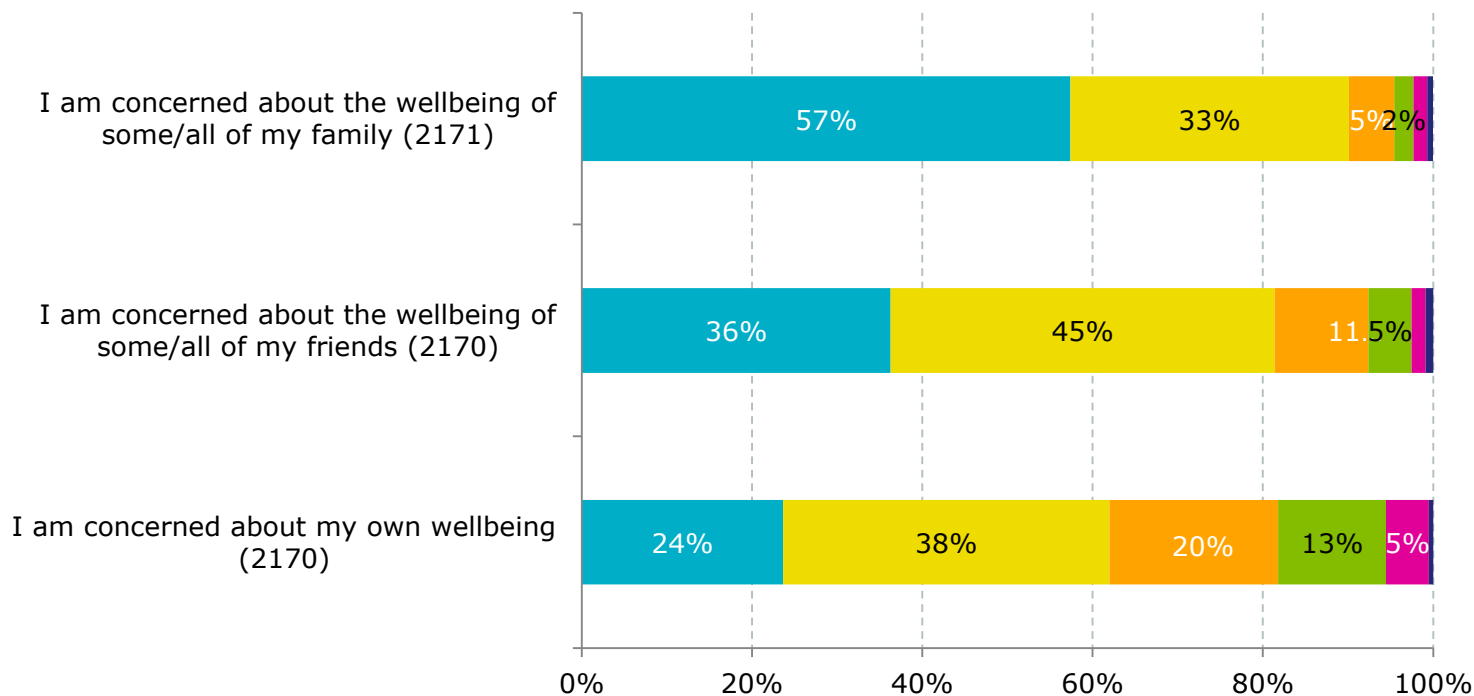


Base: 2189

FE respondents are more likely to be concerned about the wellbeing of their family than of themselves or their friends

Agreement with statements

■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree ■ Don't know/Not applicable



Base: (in brackets). Balance: no response

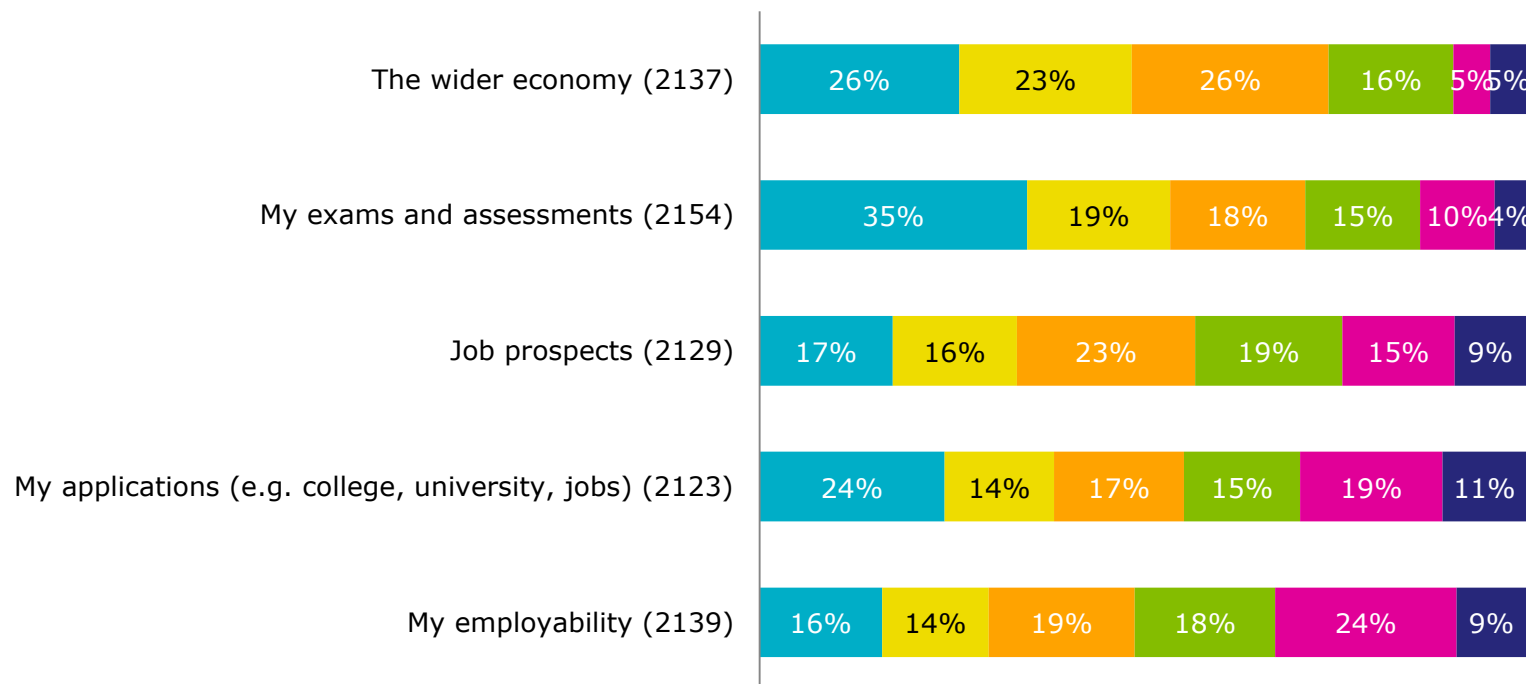
12. How far do you agree or disagree with the following statements as a result of Coronavirus (Covid-19)?

The future

FE students are most likely to show a level of concern for the wider economy, closely followed by concern about their exams and assessment.

Levels of concern about impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19)

■ Extremely concerned ■ Very concerned ■ Concerned
■ Somewhat concerned ■ Not at all concerned ■ Don't know/Not applicable



Base: (in brackets) respondents. Balance: no response

J1. How concerned are you about the impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) on the following?

FE students are concerned about the impact of the virus on so many aspects of their studies and student life. These are just the main areas highlighted

Key themes:

- **Ultimate grades / predicting grades**
- **Lack of time** to prepare / meeting deadlines
- Impact on stress and health
- Having to work / submit online
- Lack of **motivation / focus / concentration**

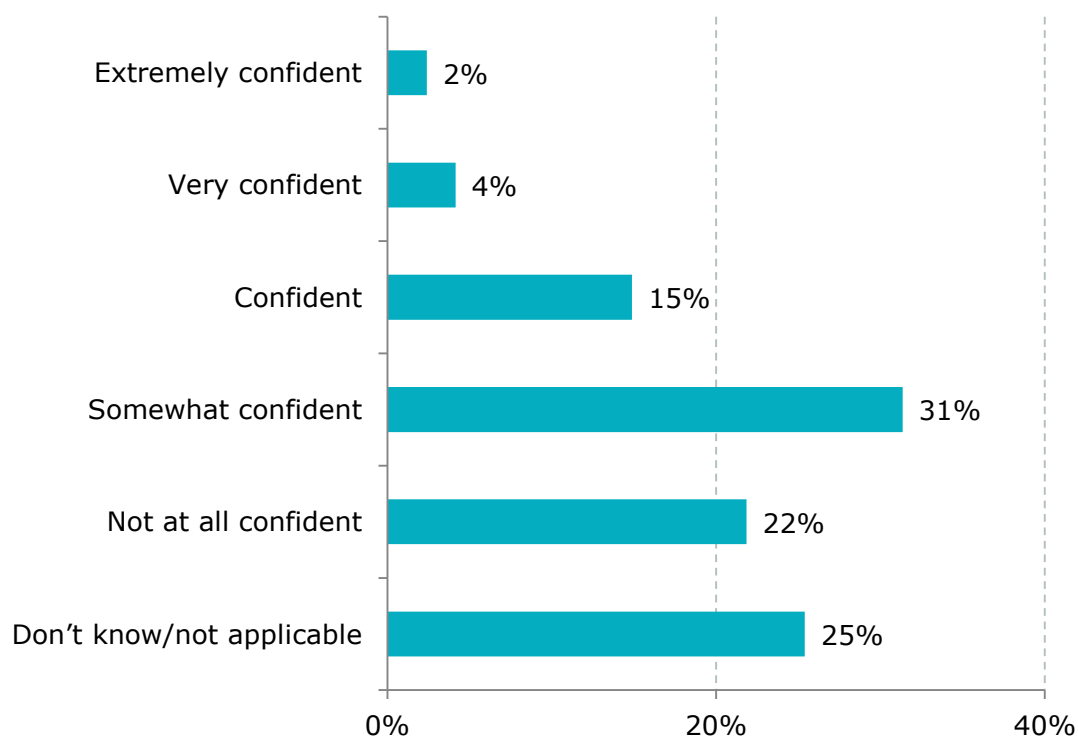
"I am concerned that my education and learning is not going to be sufficient enough to get the grades I require for further education"

"There is a lot of ambiguity relating to how the exams are going to be marked, and whether all universities will be accepting these grades as they if they were 'normal' grades. There is a lot of uncertainty at this time and it is impacting the mental health of both myself and a lot of my friends."

"We are still expected to stick to deadlines even with the current pandemic"

One in four FE students simply don't know whether enrolment for next years studies will take place in person on campus or remotely.

Confidence that next year of study enrolment will take place in person on campus

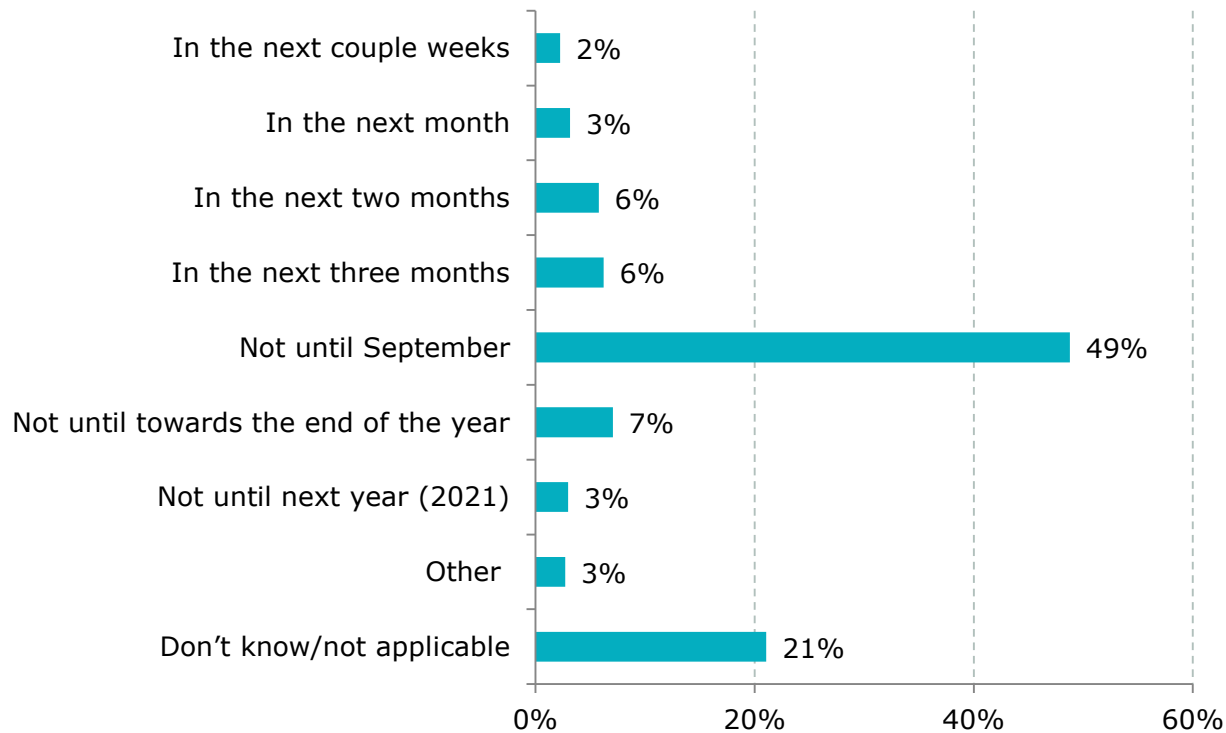


Base: 2170 respondents. Balance: no response

J3. Thinking ahead to your next year of study, how confident are you that enrolment will take place in person on campus as opposed to remotely?

FE students most commonly believe that they will return to study in September

When expect to return to studying?

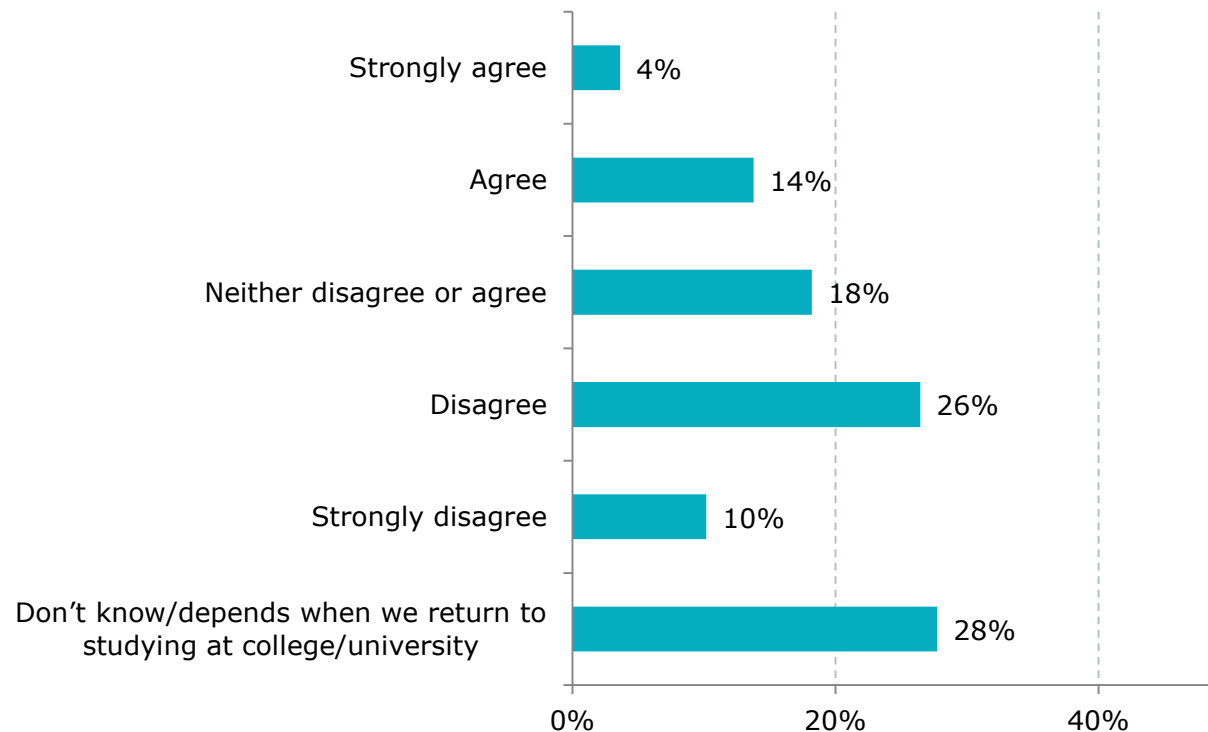


Base: 2180 respondents.

J4. When do you expect to return to studying at your college/university?

One in three do not expect that they will return to 'business as usual' when they recommence their studies. Around a quarter are unsure and believe it will be down to when they actually return to their course

Expectation that when you return to studying it will be 'business as usual'



Base: 2170 respondents. Balance: no response

Demographics

Key demographics

Gender



Women 69%

Men 29%

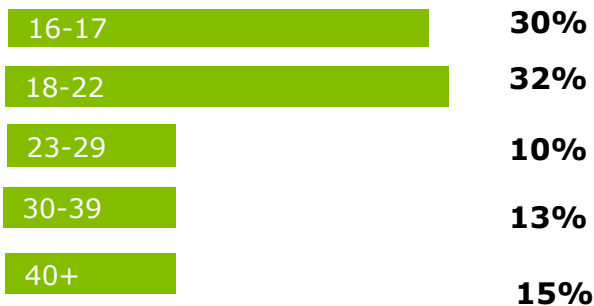


Full time: 72%

Part time: 23%

Distance learner: 8%

Age

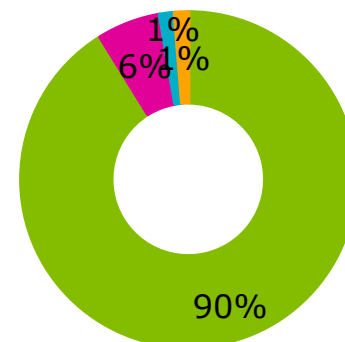


■ I am a UK citizen studying in the UK

■ I am an international student from within the EU studying in the UK

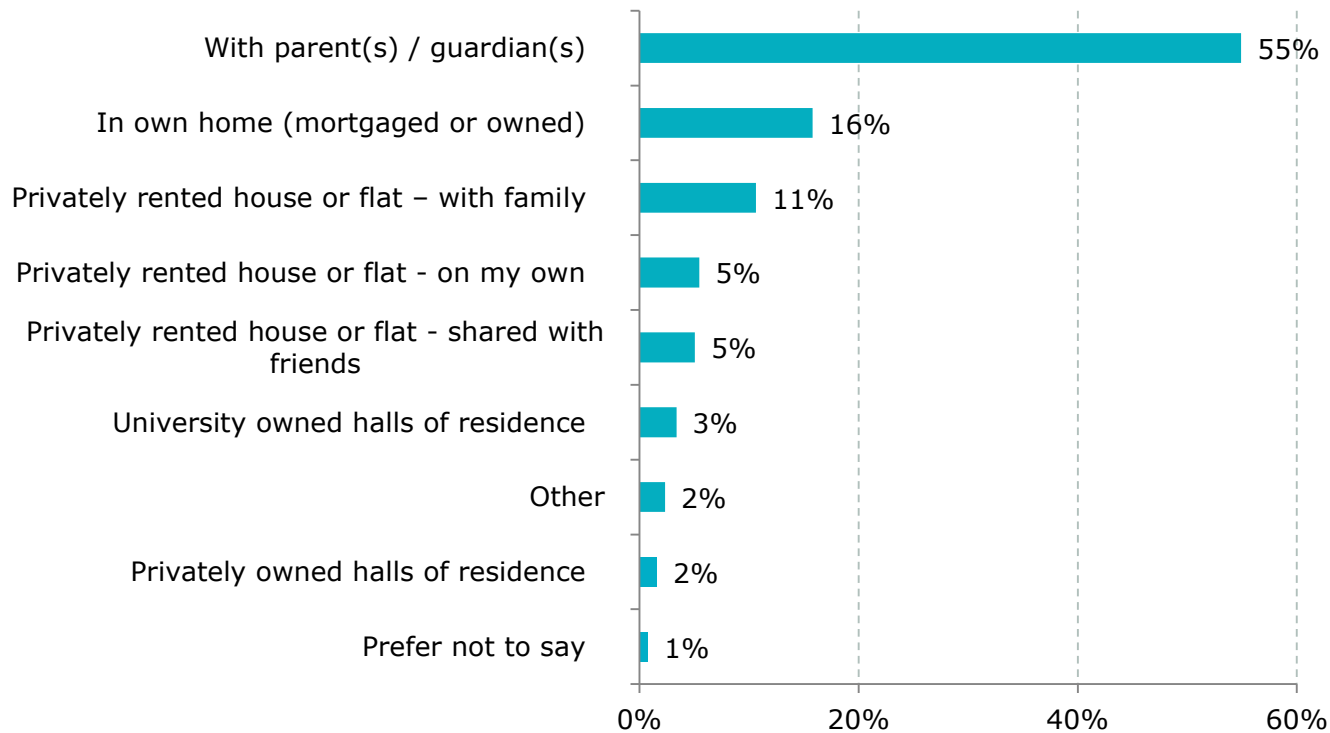
■ I am an international student from outside the EU studying in the UK

■ Other



Demographics

Usual term time living circumstances before the Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak

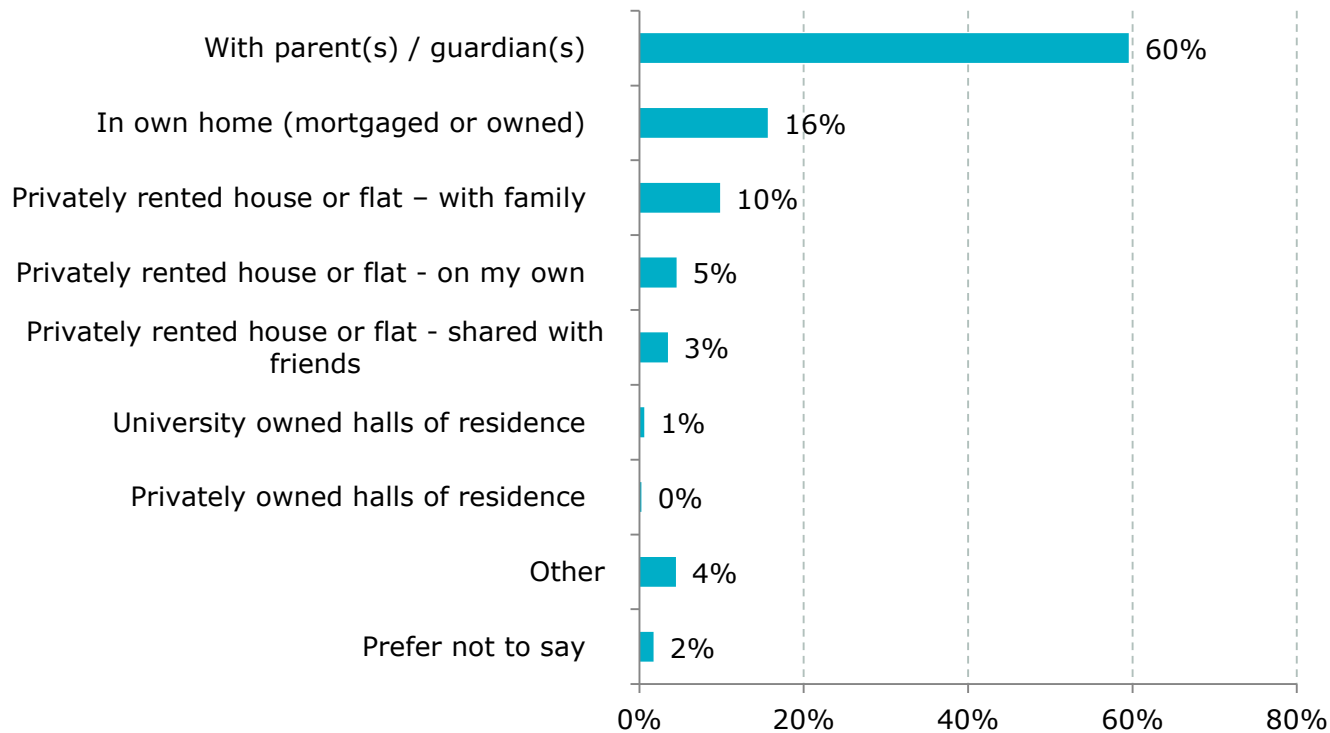


Base: 2189 respondents

A3. Which of the following statements best describes your usual term time living circumstances before the Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak?

Demographics

Current living circumstances

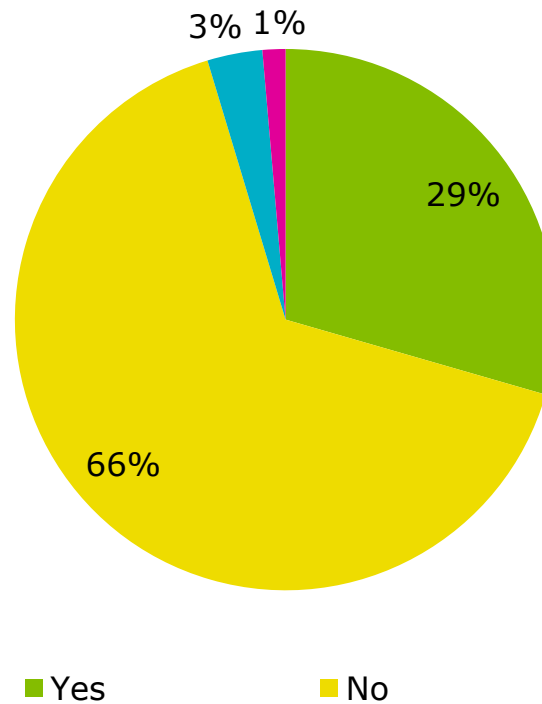


Base: 1906 respondents Balance : circumstances not changed, no response

A4. If your living circumstances have recently changed as a result of Coronavirus (Covid-19), please select the option which best reflects where you now are.

Demographics

Disability, impairment or long term health condition

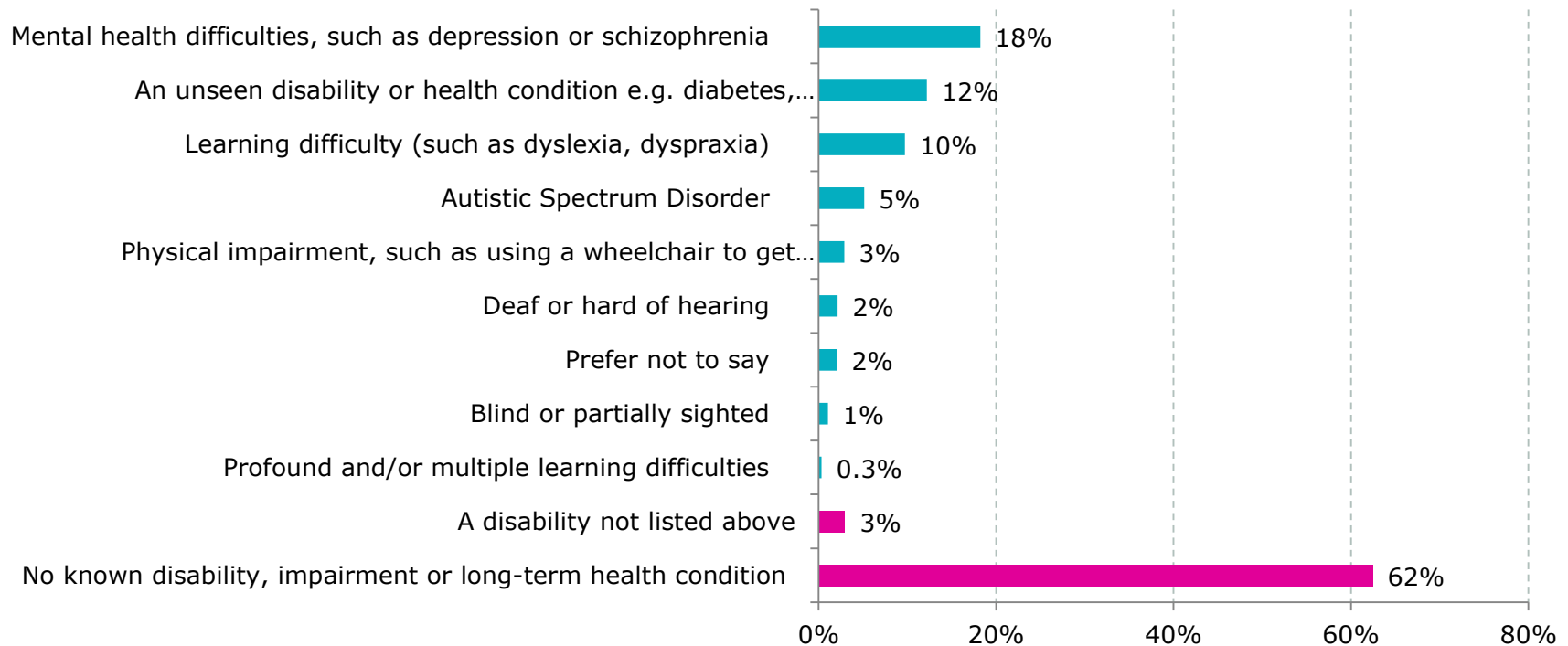


Base: 2189 respondents.

A6. Do you consider yourself to have a specific learning disability, other disability, impairment or long-term health condition?

Demographics

Disability, impairment or long term health condition

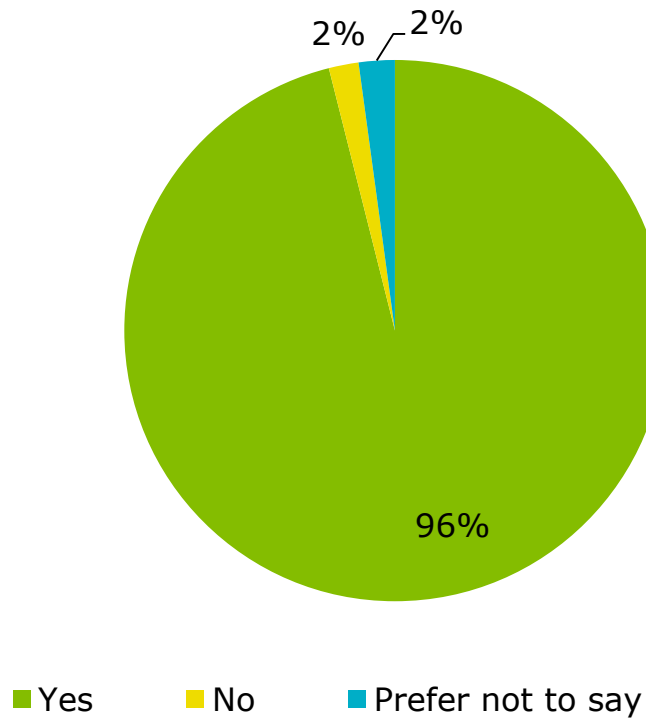


Base: 2189 respondents

A7. Please describe your disability, impairment or long-term health condition

Demographics

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

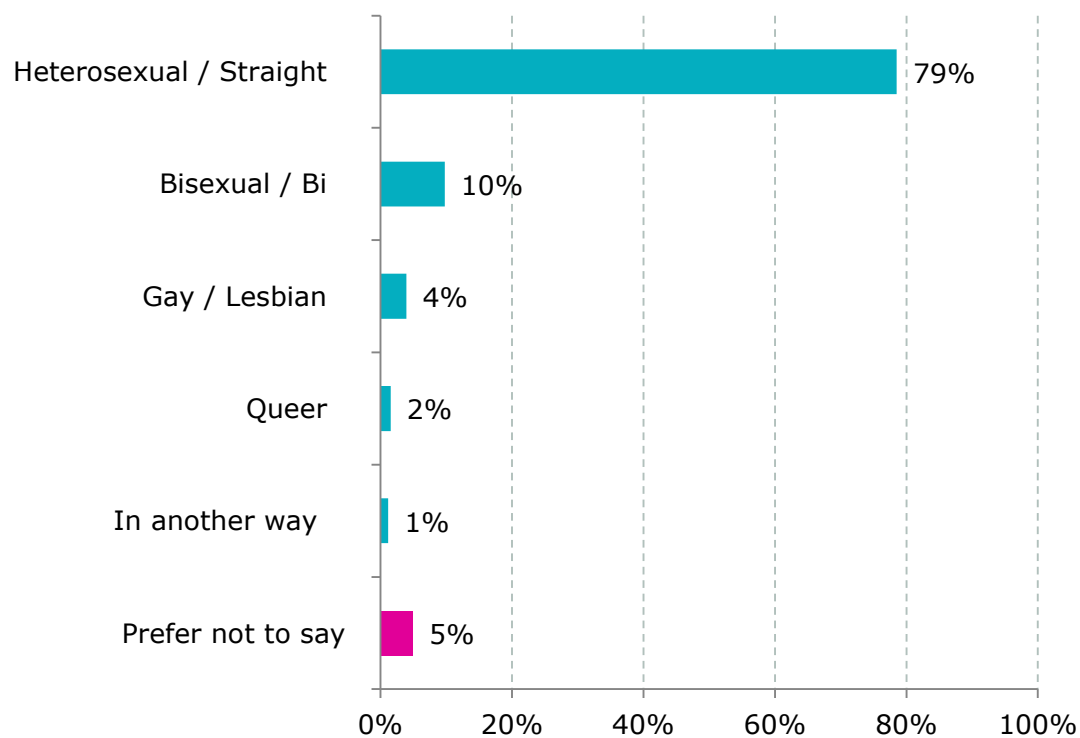


Base: 2189 respondents.

L5. Does your gender identity match the gender you were assigned at birth?

Demographics

Sexual orientation/preference

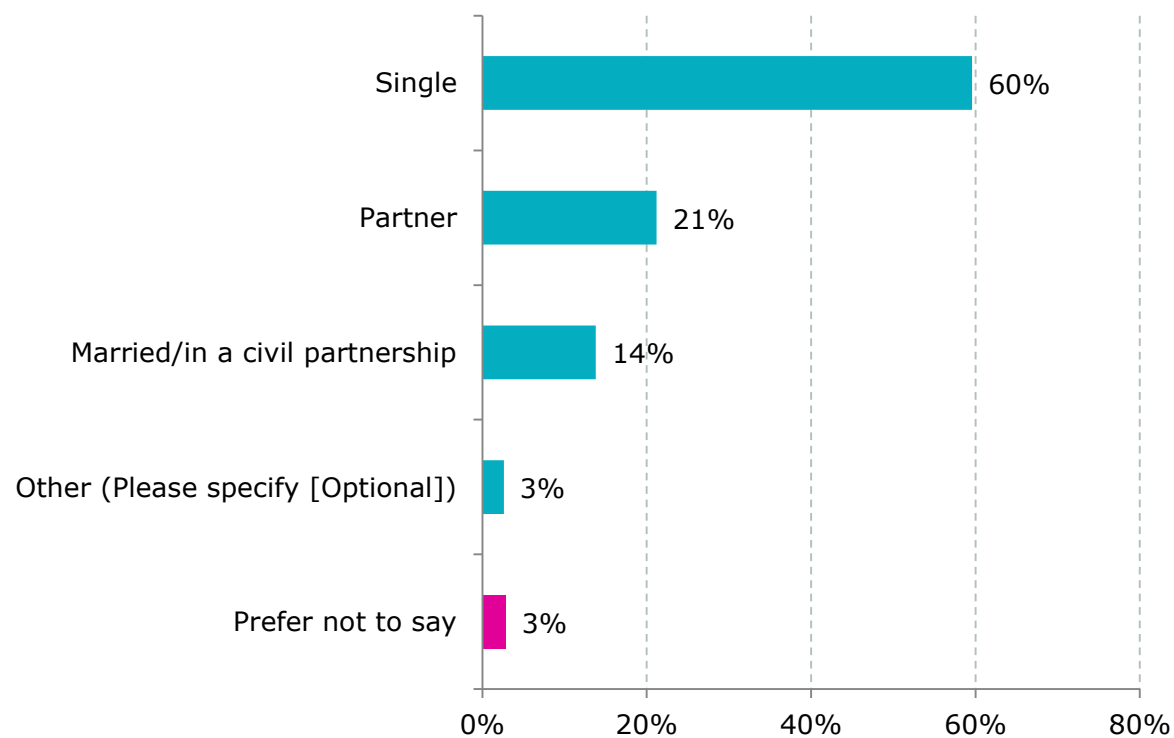


Base: 2189 respondents.

L6. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation/preference?

Demographics

Marital status

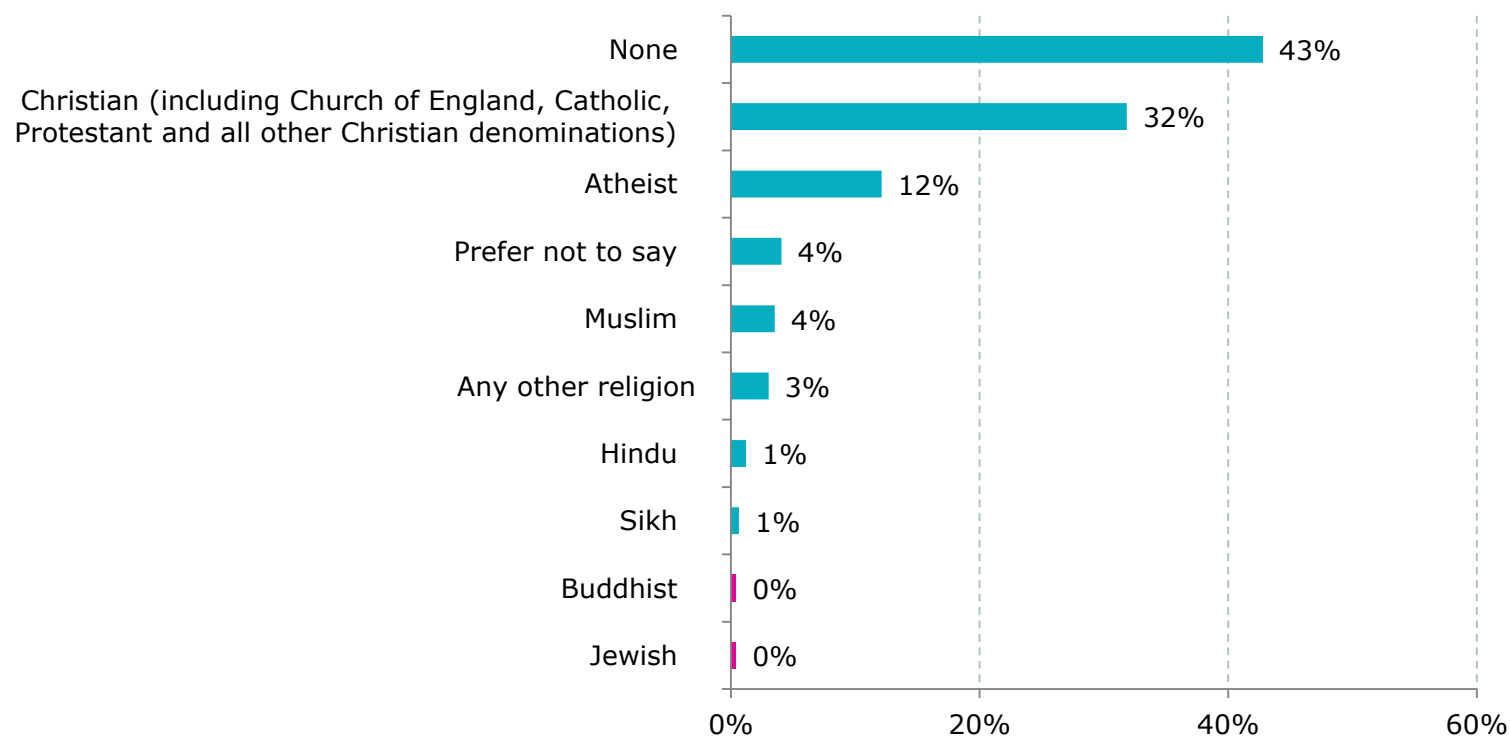


Base: 2189 respondents.

L7. Which of the following best describe your marital status?

Demographics

Religion, faith or belief



Base: 2189 respondents.

L9. What is your religion, faith or belief?

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NUS Insight