



# Coronavirus Student Survey Phase III

## November 2020

## Accommodation

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.

## 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.

## 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.

# 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**.

# Accommodation

# Summary

Almost **half of students live in rented accommodation** of some sort, with a similar proportion having little idea of what their notice period is. Around a third of renters do not believe they would be allowed to leave their tenancy agreement early due to the pandemic.

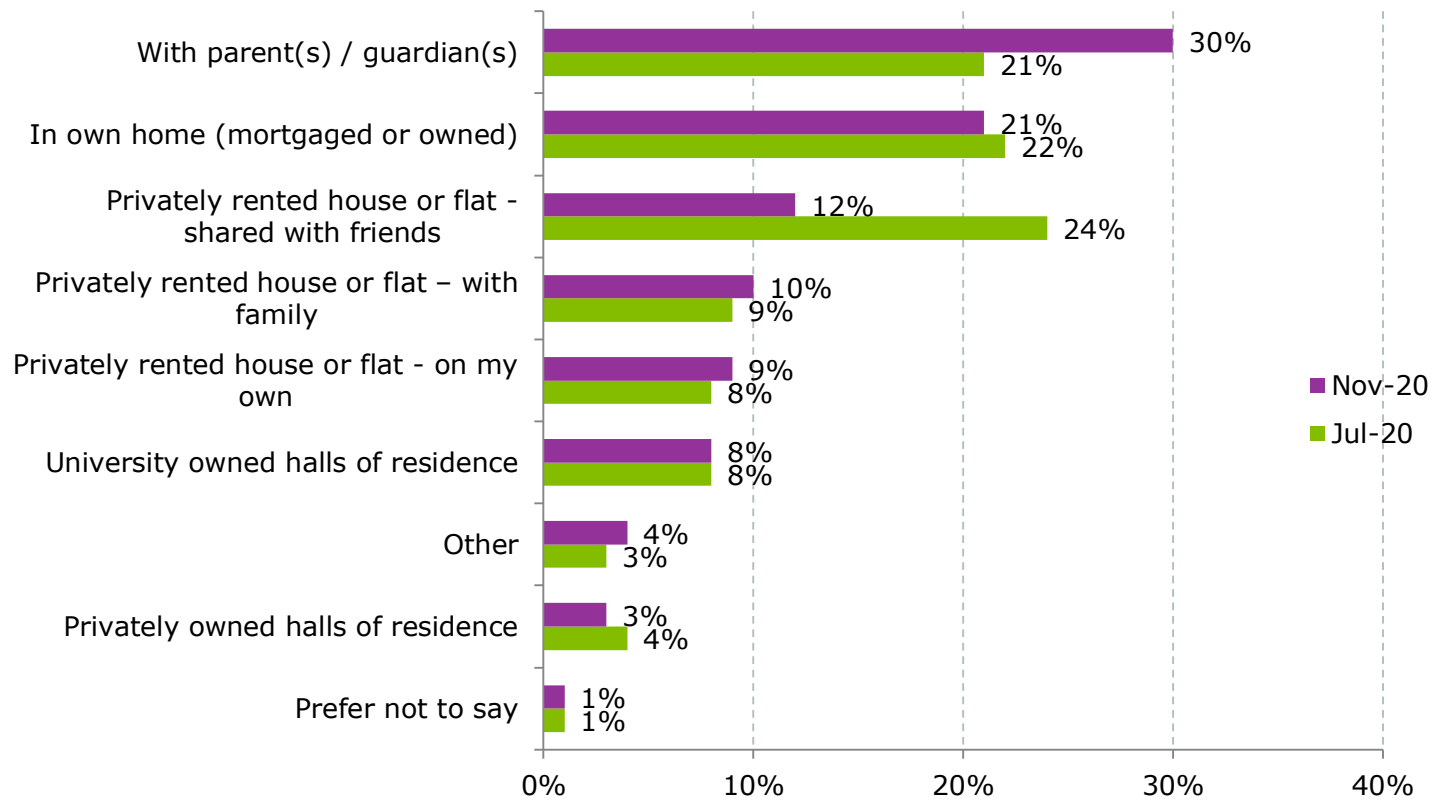
Over two thirds of renters **are concerned about their ability to pay rent** with a quarter having been unable to pay rent or bills during the pandemic.

Positively, the **majority of students feel very to extremely safe** in their current accommodation, but this leaves a remaining third who don't feel quite so secure, particularly the small proportion who do not feel safe at all. This feeling is **more likely amongst renters or those living in halls, students identifying as non-binary and disabled** students.

A quarter of students have had to **self-isolate during this term**, or are currently self-isolating, while a small proportion have had to lockdown. A **third of students self-isolating or in lockdown have received support** from either their SU or institution.

The proportion of students living with parents/guardians has gone up since July, whilst those living in privately rented accommodation with friends has gone down.

## Tracked

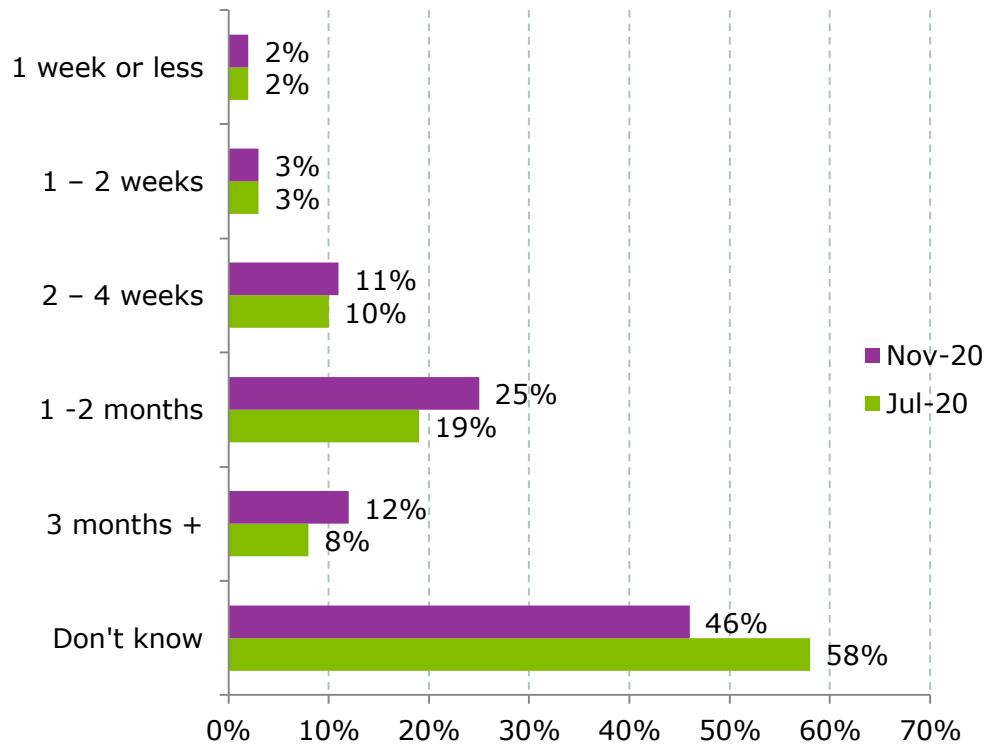


Weighted Base: 4160 respondents. Balance: no response

Just under half do not know what notice period is required under their tenancy contracts.

Tracked

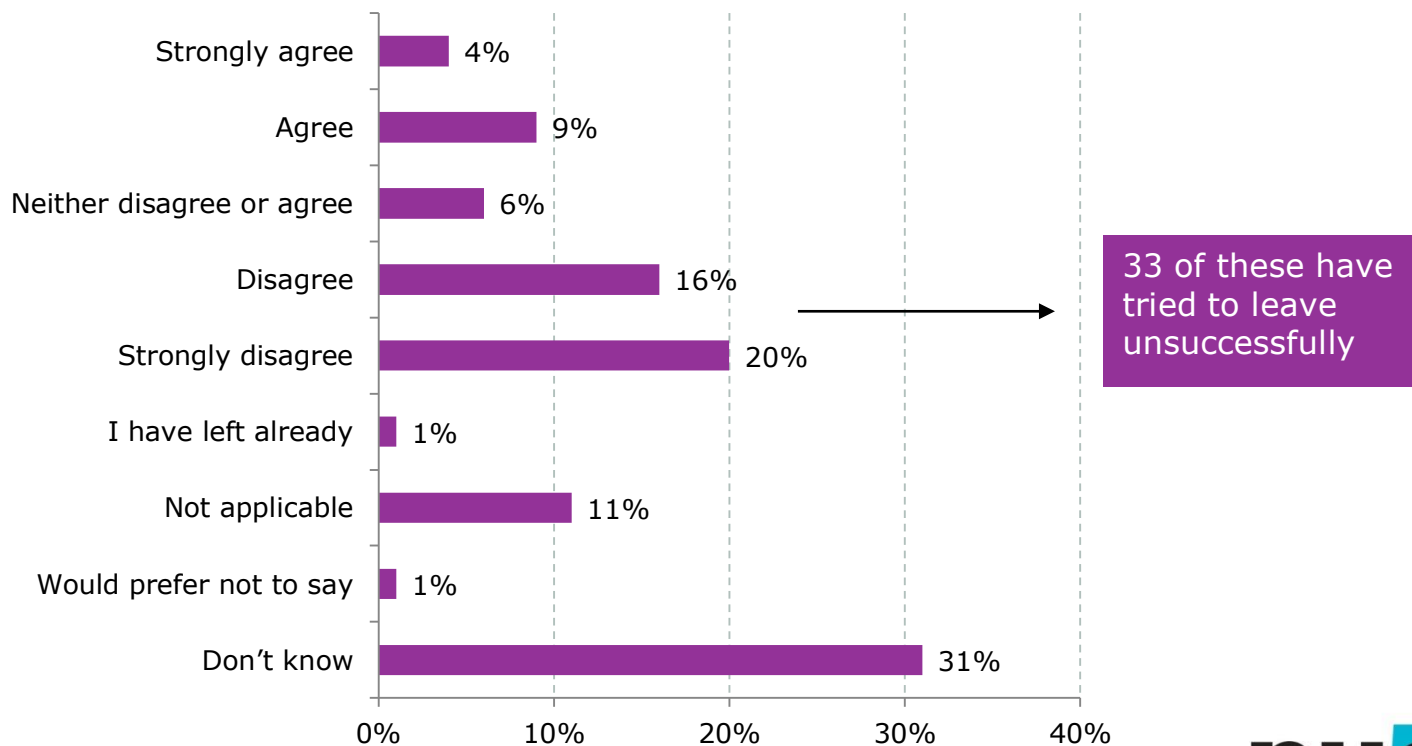
### Notice period in contract



Over a third would not be allowed to leave their tenancy early due to coronavirus.

November 2020

### Allowed to leave tenancy



Weighted Base: 853 respondents. Balance: no response

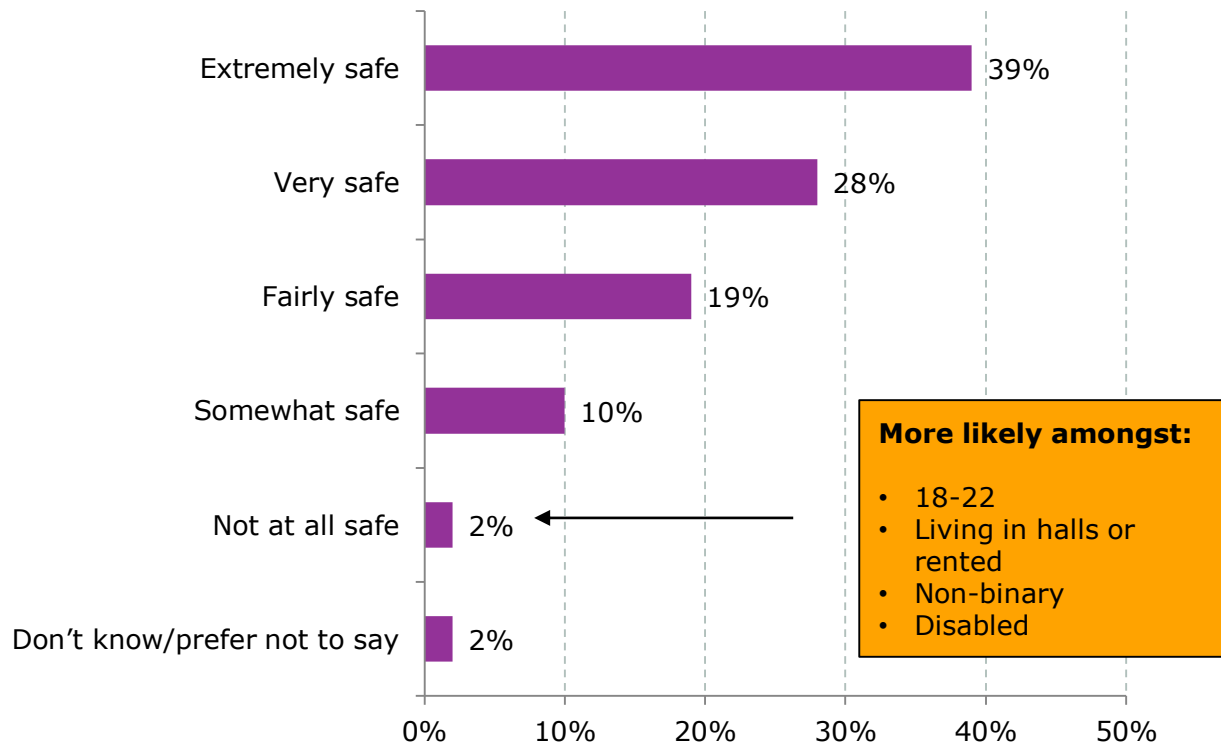
F1c. To what extent do you agree with the following statement: 'My landlord will allow me to leave my tenancy early because of the current situation' F1d. Leaving tenancy



Around two thirds of students feel very or extremely safe in their accommodation.

November 2020

### Safety in accommodation



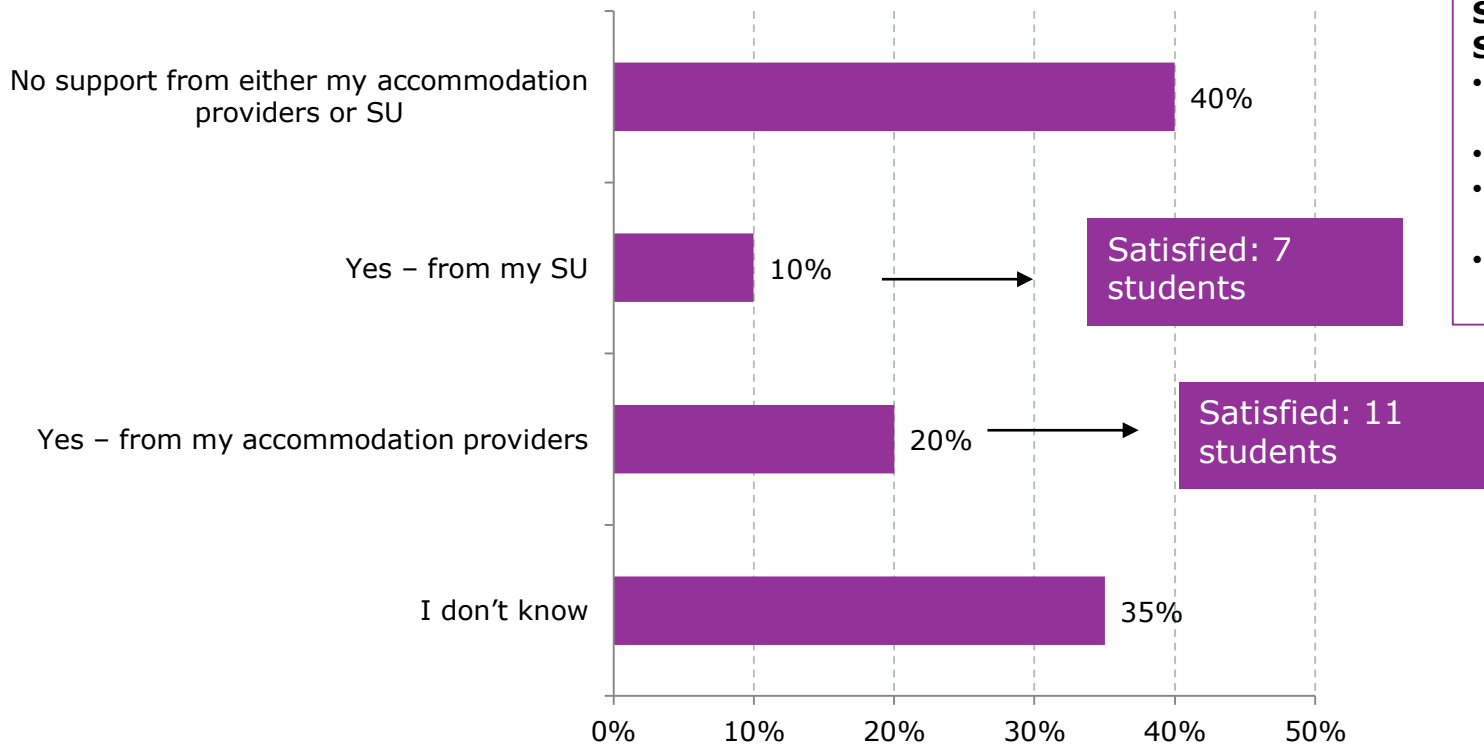
Weighted Base: 4153 respondents. Balance: no response

F2.How safe do you feel in your current accommodation?

Almost a third of those in lockdown at their student accommodation have received some form of support.

November 2020

### Support during lockdown of accommodation



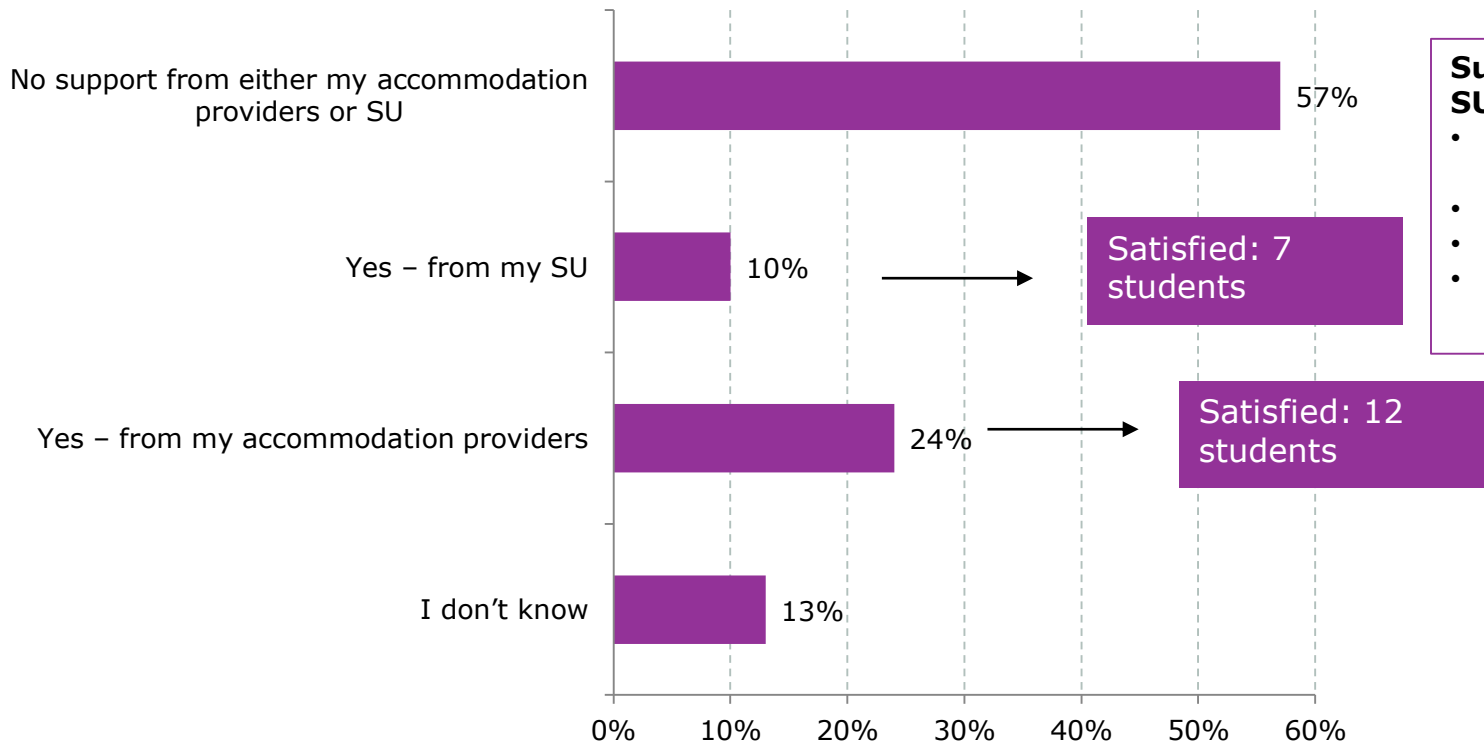
#### Support received from SU

- SU running online drop-ins
- Treat boxes provided
- Resident tutors doing extra checks
- Offering grocery deliveries

Around a third of those self-isolating have received support from either the SU or their institution.

November 2020

### Support during self-isolation



#### Support received from SU:

- Frequent calls to check up
- Being kept up to date
- Free food boxes
- Occasional surprises!

Weighted Base: 86 respondents. Balance: Those not having had to self isolate

F6.You indicated earlier that you have had to self isolate or have previously self isolated in your current accommodation. Did you, or are you receiving any extra support from your accommodation providers / landlord or from your SU? F7a and F9a Satisfaction with support received. F9b Support received

Those who would like more support from their SU or accommodation provider would specifically like regular check-ins to see if they are OK, financial/rent support and grocery deliveries.

## New November 2020

### Desired SU or accommodation provider support

#### Key themes:

- Regular check-ins
- Financial/rent support
- Food deliveries

*"Financial support. I skip eating and any non-essential bills in order to pay rent."*

Non-binary, 18-22, FE

*"Regular check ins and the offer of grocery deliveries"*

Female, 18-22, HE

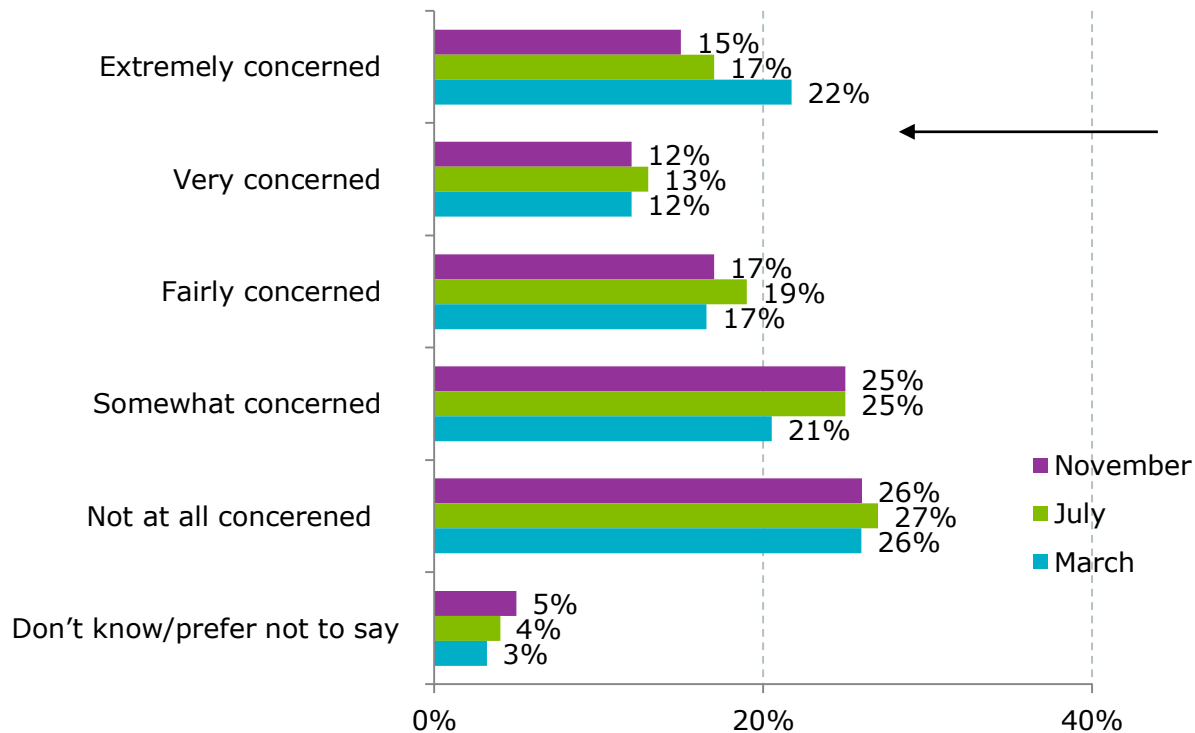
*"Delivery of food to houses managed by the uni"*

Female, 18-22, HE

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

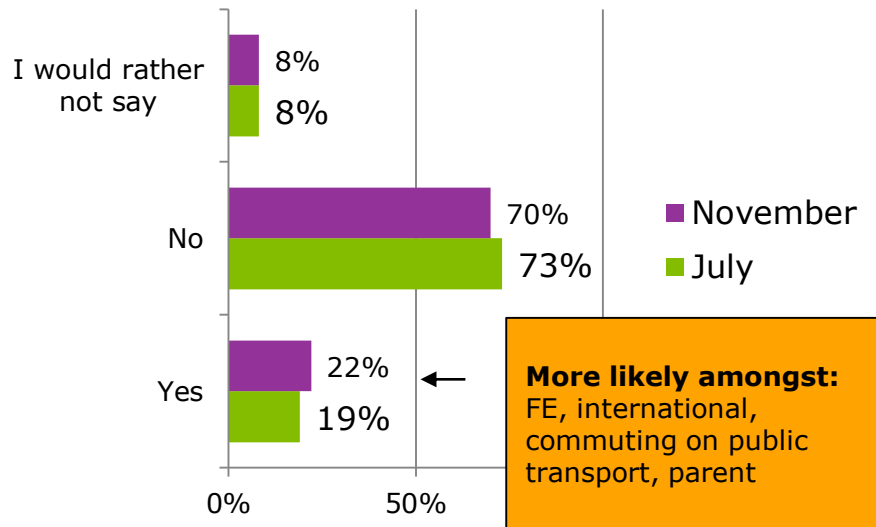
Weighted Base: 1777 respondents. Balance : those not living in privately rented accommodation or owned halls of residence

**F11. 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?**

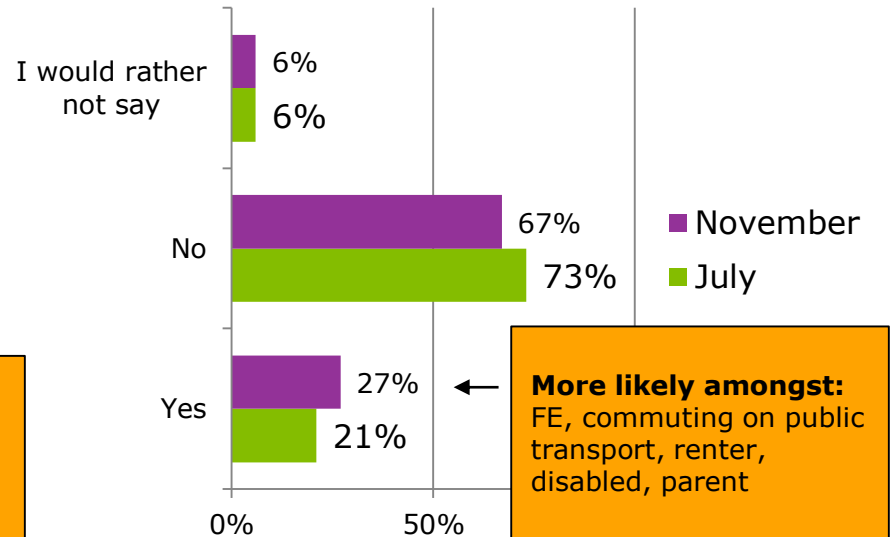
Around a fifth of students admit to having been unable to pay their rent in full over the past 4 months. And around a quarter admit they have been unable to pay their bills in full over the past 4 months. These figures are slightly up from the summer.

## Tracked

**Unable to pay rent in full over past 4 months?**



**Unable to pay bills in full over past 4 months?**

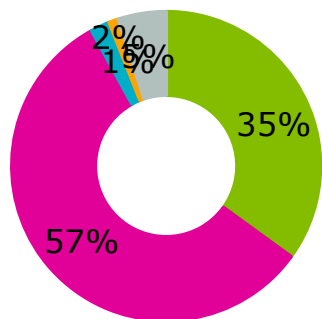


Weighted base: 1176 respondents. Balance: those who do not receive learning support from their institution  
**F12. Have you been unable to pay your rent in full as a result of Coronavirus over the previous 4 months?**  
 Weighted base: 2659 respondents. Balance: those who do not receive learning support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

# Demographics

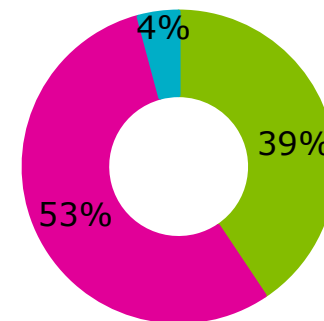
# Key demographics (weighted base)

## Gender



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

## Level of study

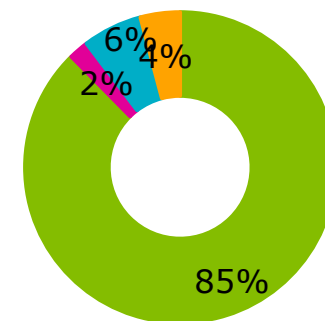


- FE
- HE
- Apprenticeship

## 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%**



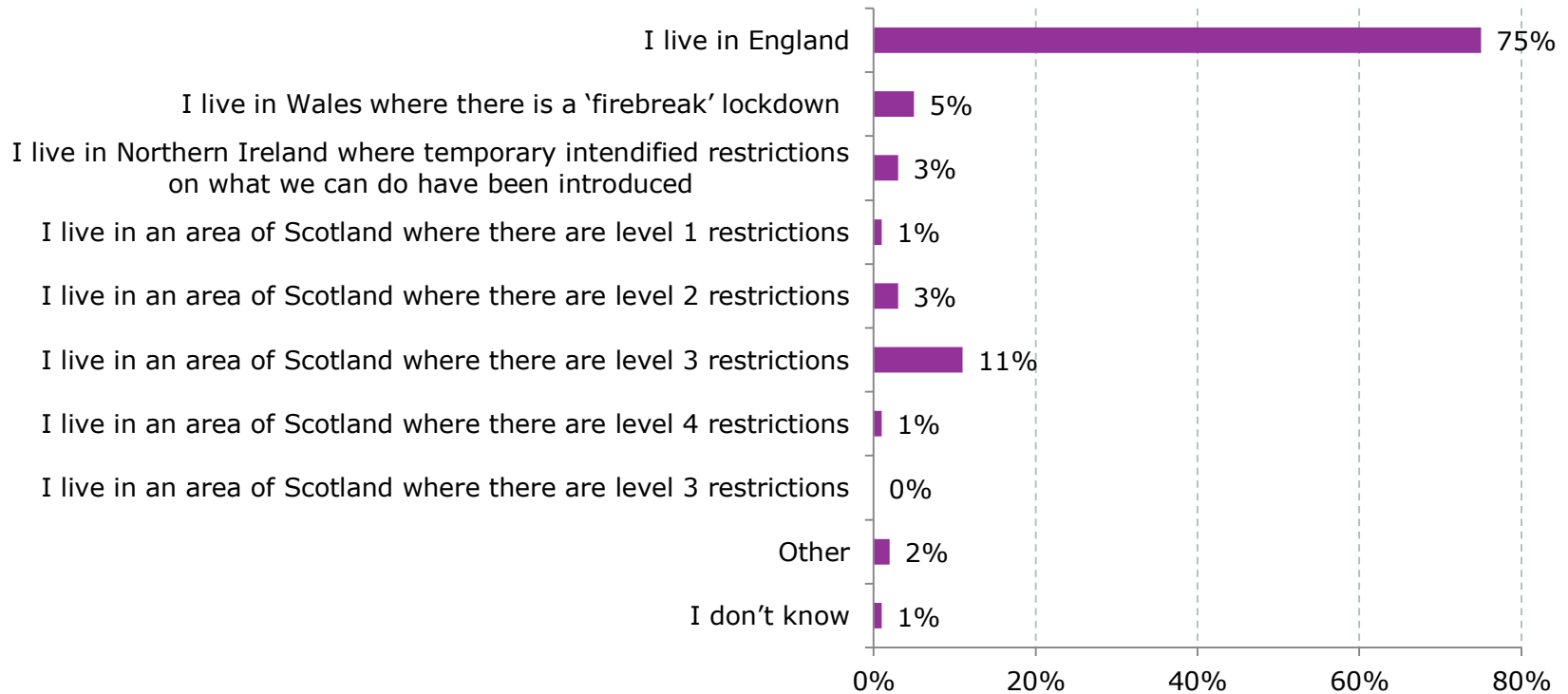
# Demographics

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%
<b>England Total</b>	<b>77%</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Wales</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>3%</b>



# Demographics

## Living in areas of lockdown

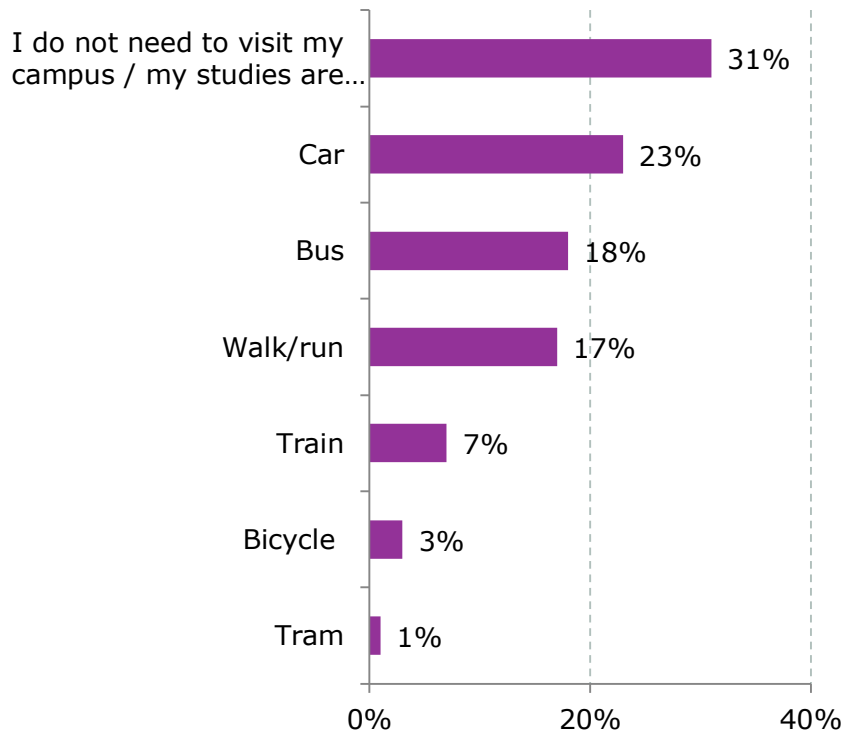


Weighted Base: 4193 respondents

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

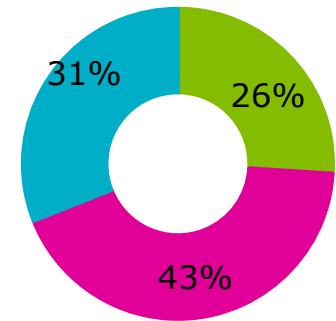
# Demographics

## Mode of transport to commute



## Commuters

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

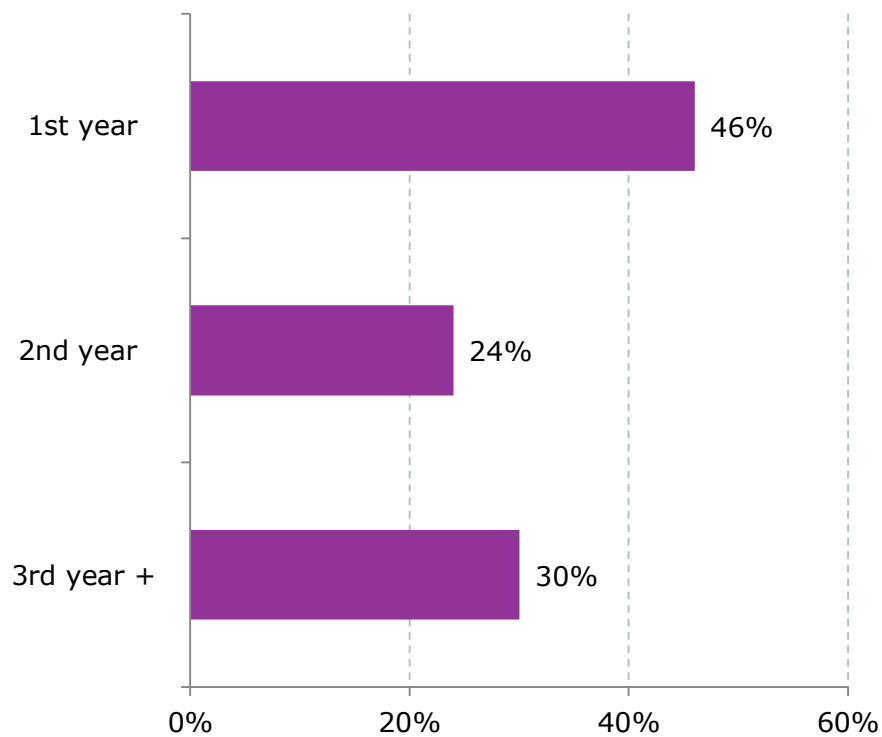


Weighted Base: 4185 respondents Balance : FE students, no response

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

# Demographics

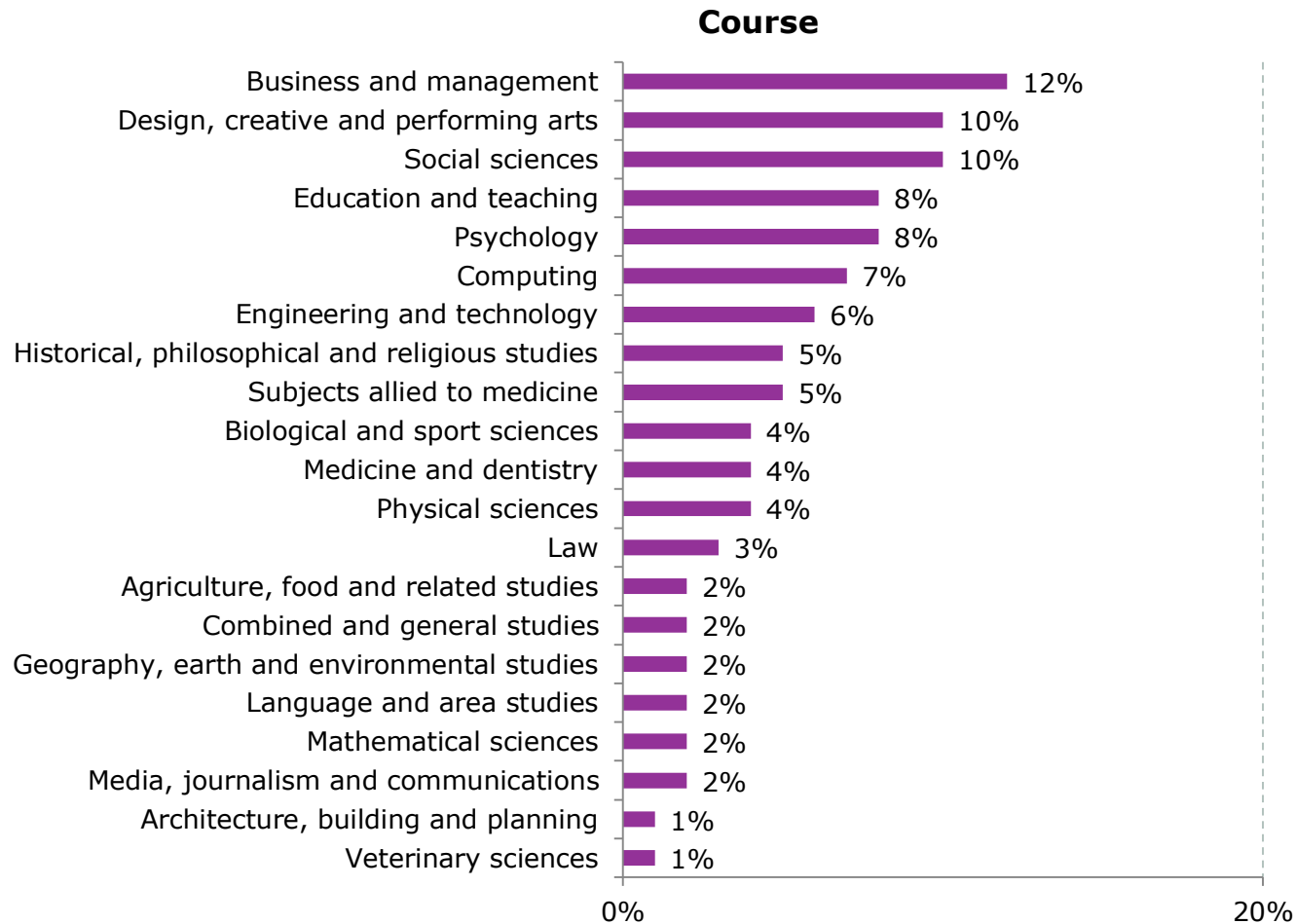
Year of study



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

**K1. What year of study are you in?**

# Demographics

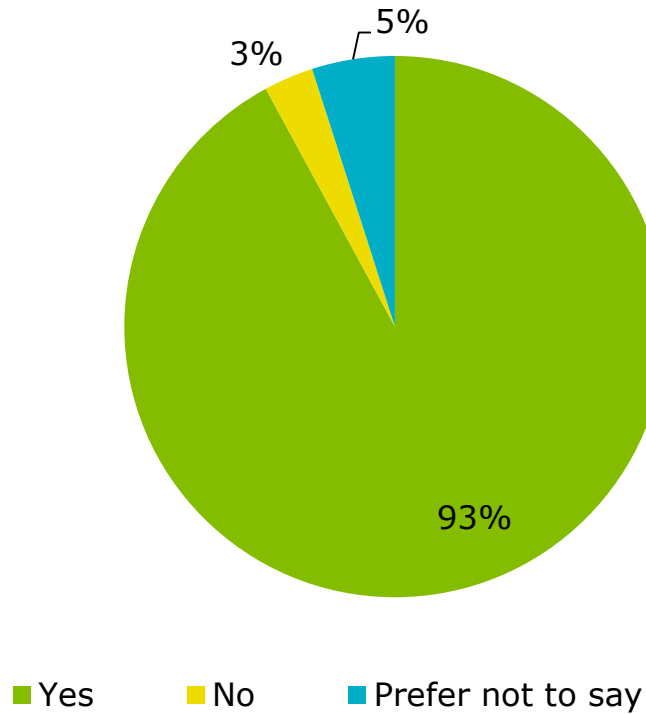


Weighted Base: 4048 respondents Balance: no response

**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?**

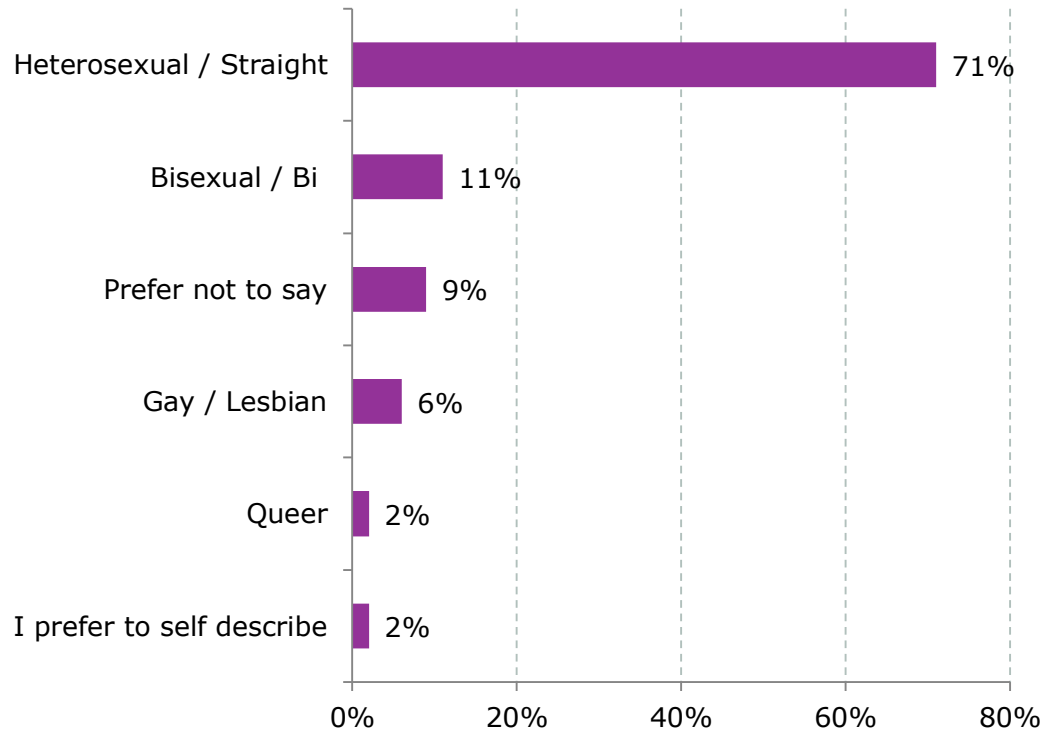


Weighted Base: 4193 respondents.

**K6. Does your gender identity match the gender you were assigned at birth?**

# Demographics

## Sexual orientation/preference

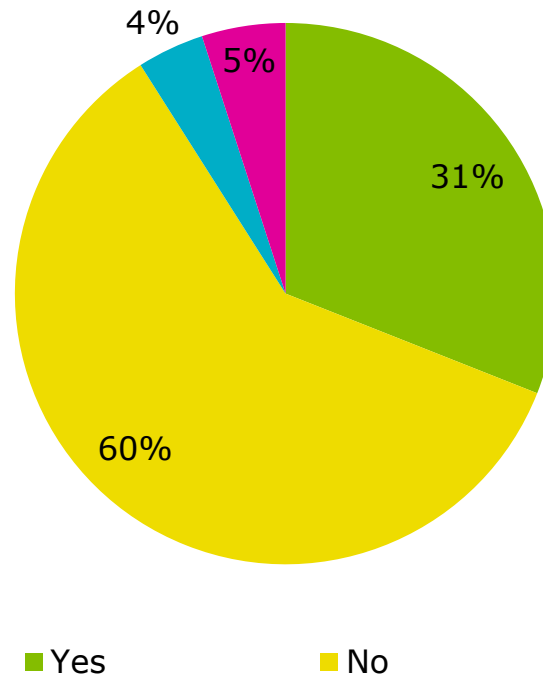


Weighted Base: 4193 respondents.

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

# Demographics

## Disability, impairment or long term health condition



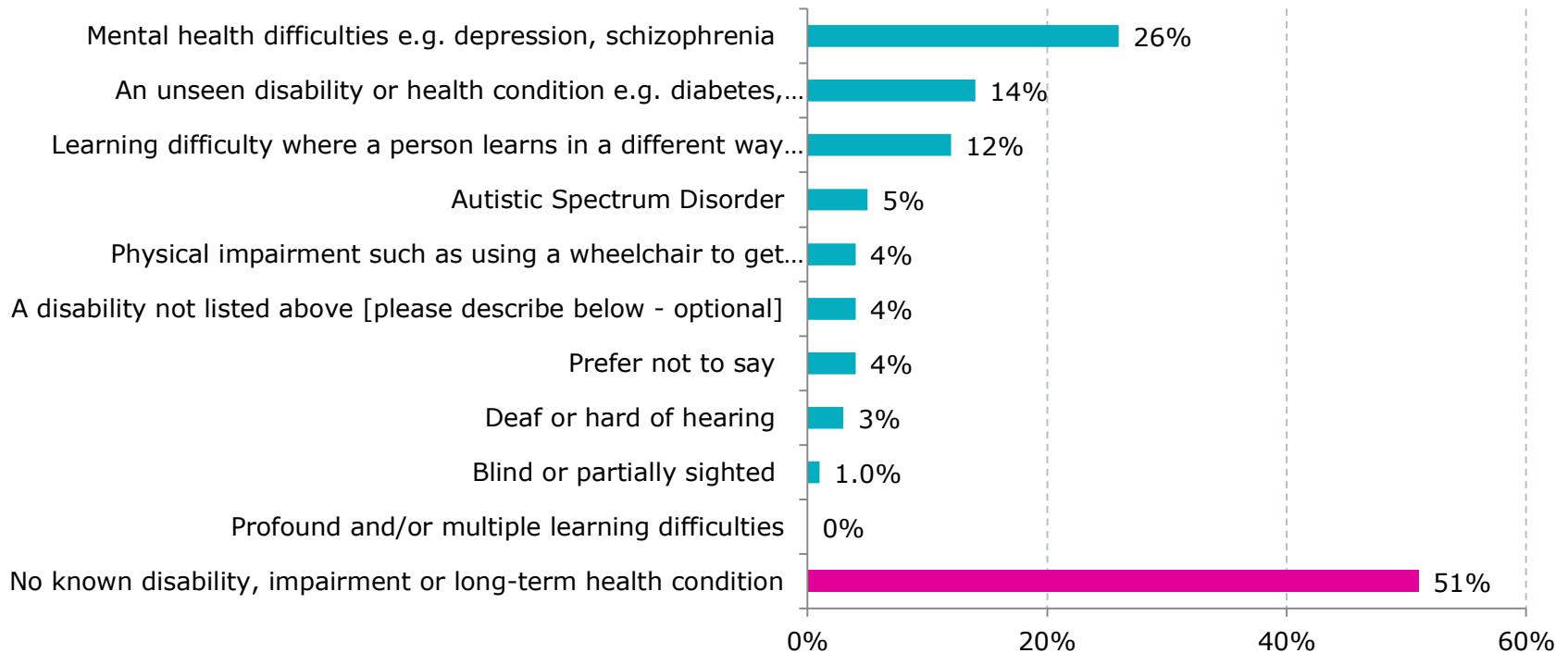
Weighted Base: 4193 respondents.

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



# Demographics

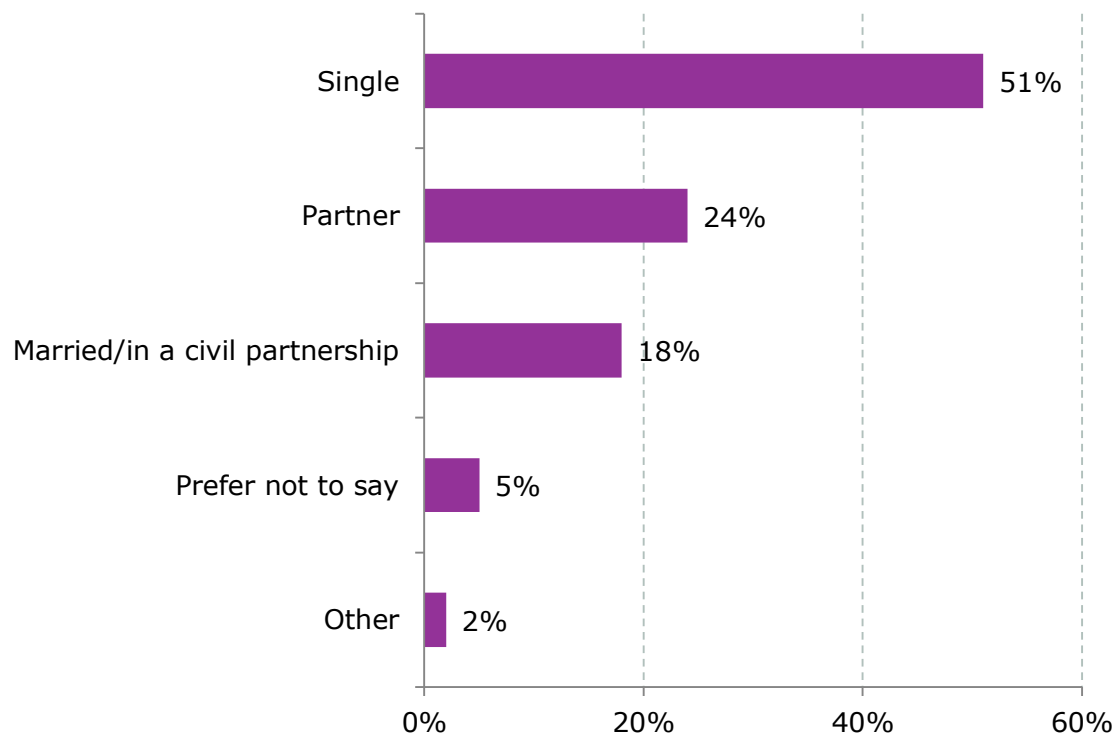
## Disability, impairment or long term health condition



Weighted Base: 3502 respondents

# Demographics

## Marital status

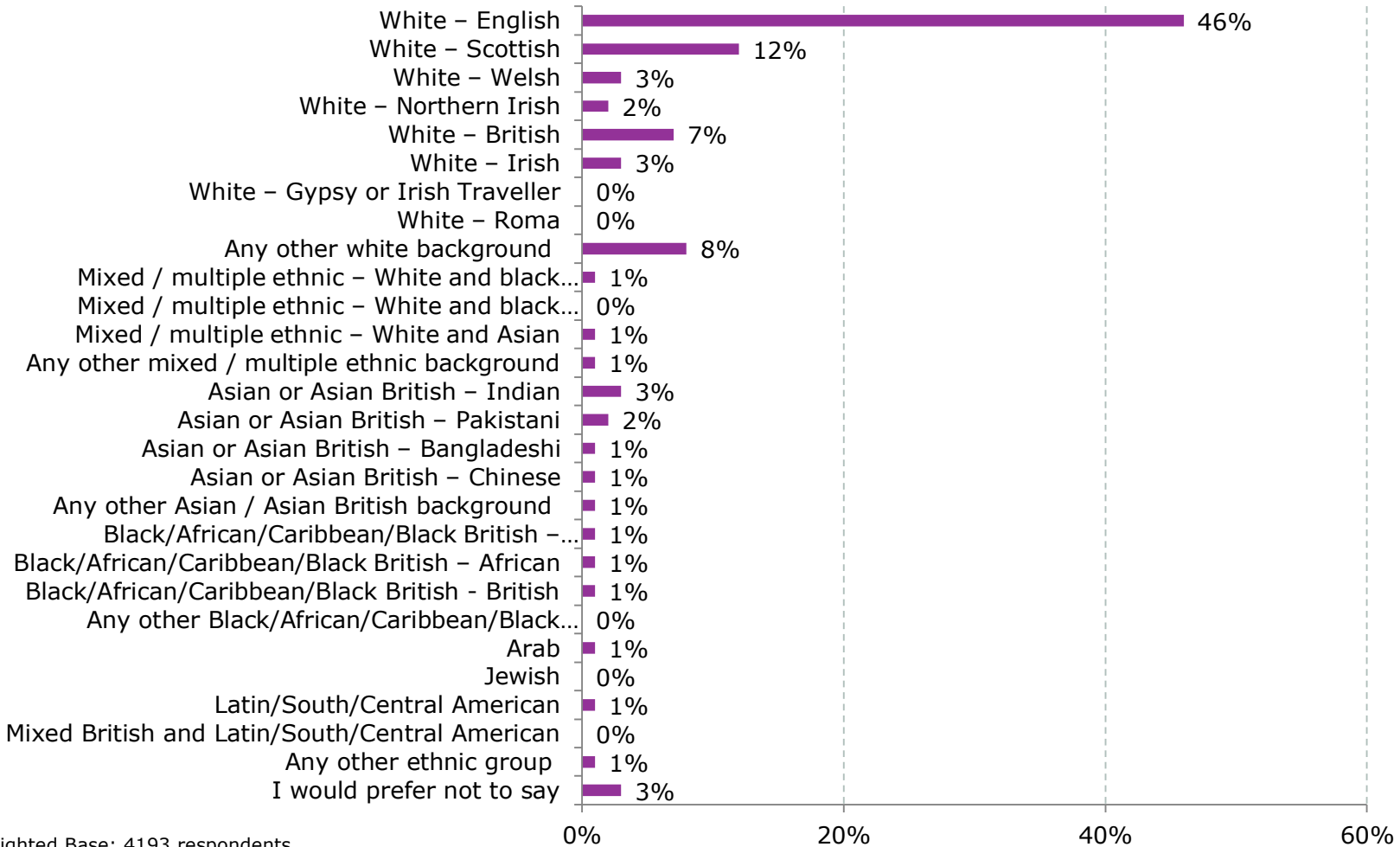


Weighted Base: 4193 respondents.

**K8. Which of the following best describe your marital status?**

# Demographics

## Ethnicity

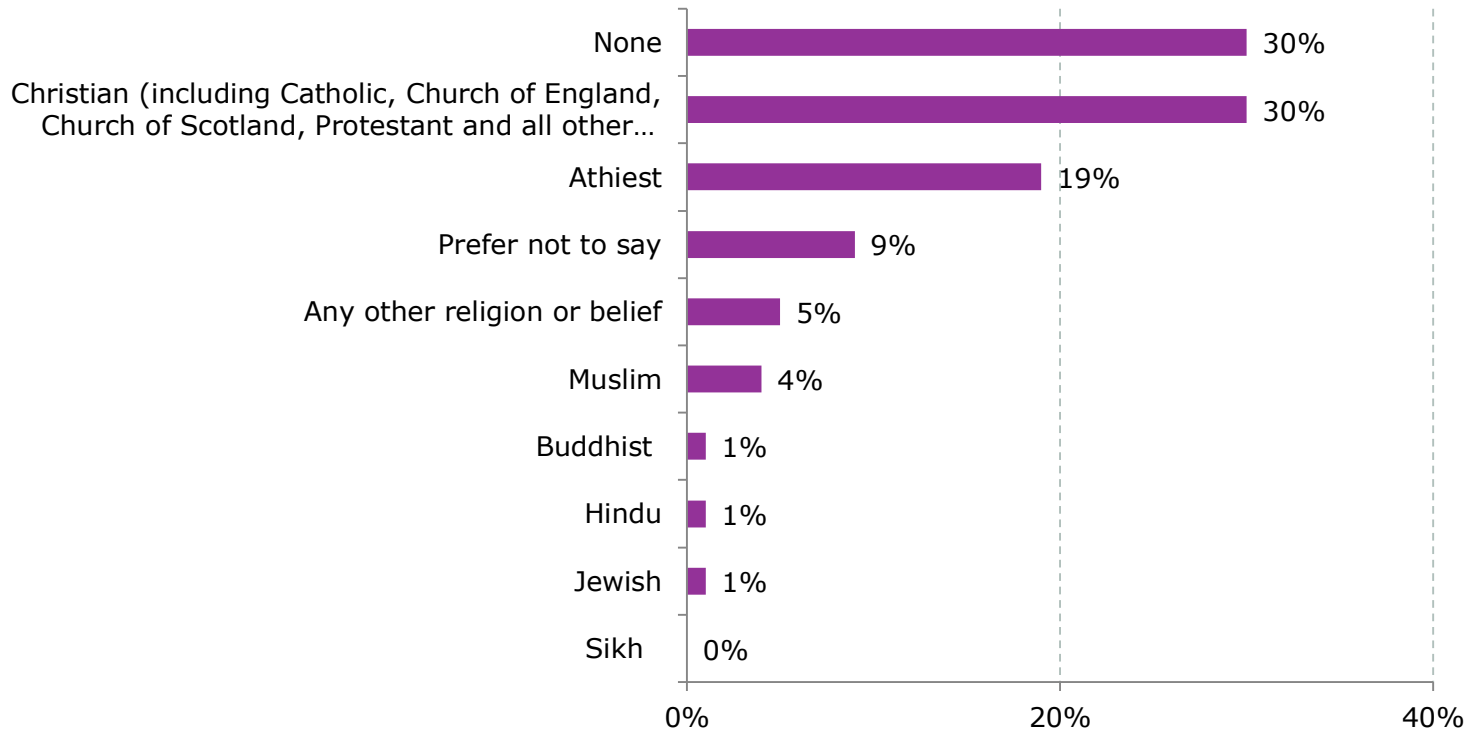


Weighted Base: 4193 respondents.

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

# Demographics

## Religion, faith or belief

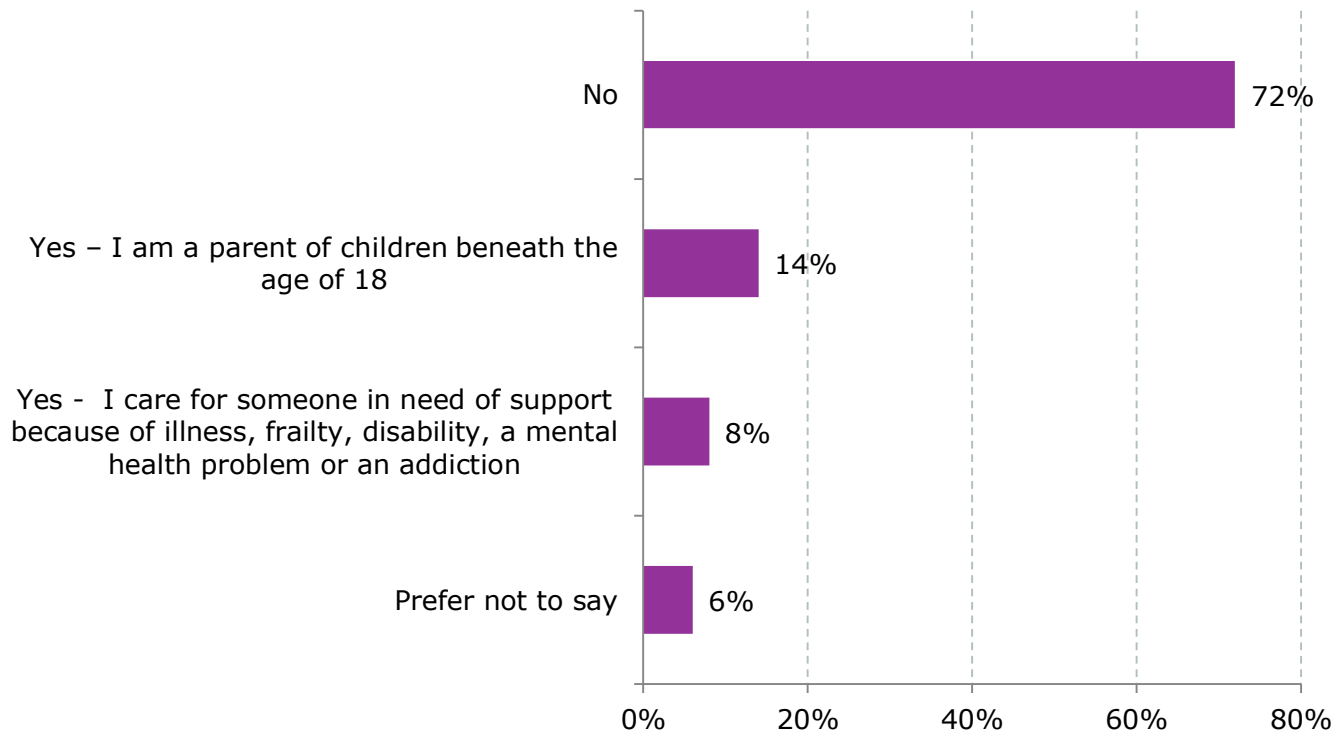


Weighted Base: 4193 respondents.

**K10. What is your religion, faith or belief?**

# Demographics

## Caring responsibilities

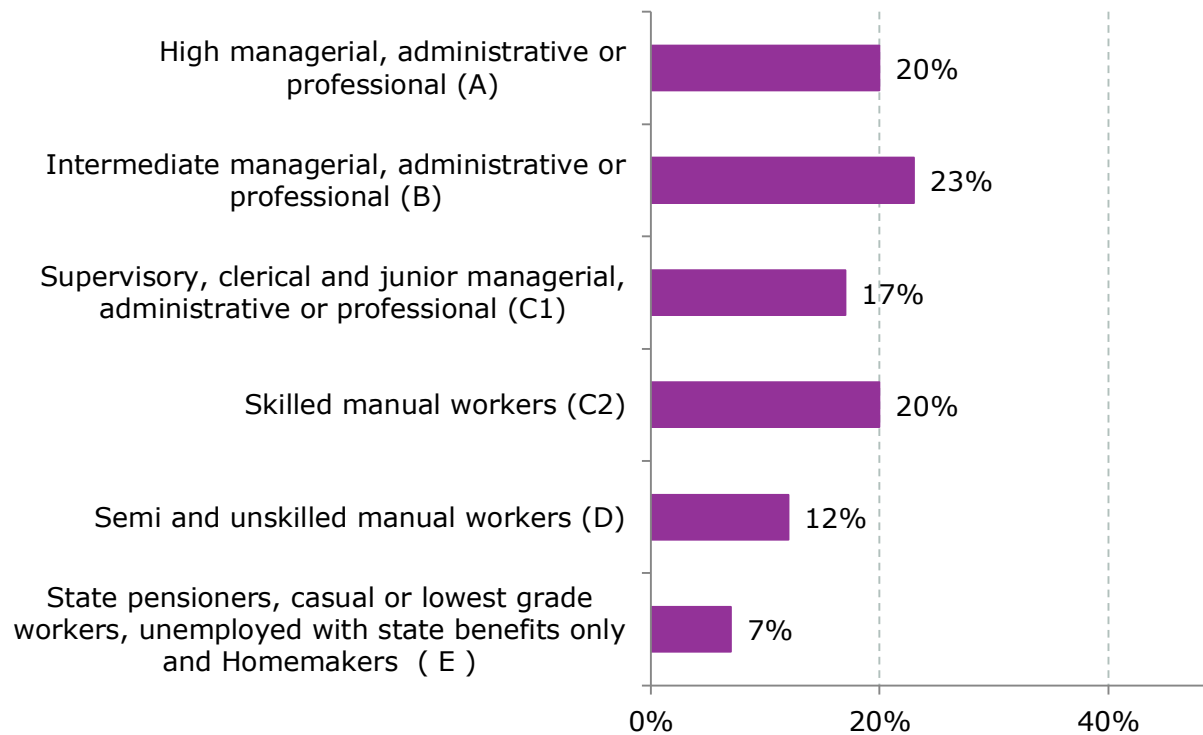


Weighted Base: 4193 respondents.

**K13. Do you have any caring responsibilities?**

# Demographics

## Social Grade



Weighted Base: 3113 respondents. Balance: Don't know / would rather not say



# Coronavirus Student Survey Phase III

**NUS Insight**