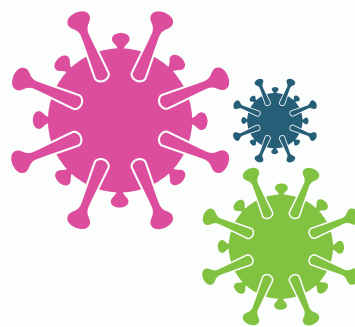


# THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC- 'RETURNING TO NORMAL'

2021



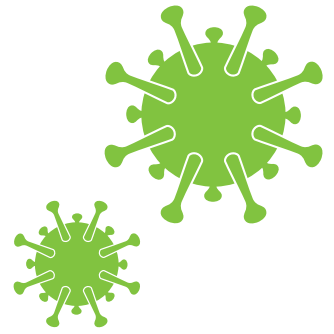
HEALTHWATCH STAFFORDSHIRE  
SURVEY REPORT JUNE 2021

**healthwatch**  
Staffordshire



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Thank you!

# ABOUT HEALTHWATCH STAFFORDSHIRE

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Healthwatch Staffordshire are the independent champion for people using health and social care services. We listen to what people like about services and what they think could be improved. We share these views with those with the power to make change happen.

We also provide support and information about health and social care services available in Staffordshire.



**Our sole  
purpose is to  
help make  
health and  
social care work  
better for  
people.**

# THE RESEARCH



## RETURNING TO NORMAL SURVEY AND REPORT

Over the last 18 months we have experienced anxiety, suffering, tragedy, restrictions on our activities and employment - not to mention the challenges to our health and social care systems that no one could have foreseen in our lifetimes.

We have also seen great community spirit, marvelled at the ingenuity and resilience of front-line health and social care workers and those that support the delivery behind the scenes, not to mention the Public Health, Local Government and an army of volunteers that have stepped up to the plate.

**But how do people feel about returning to normal?**

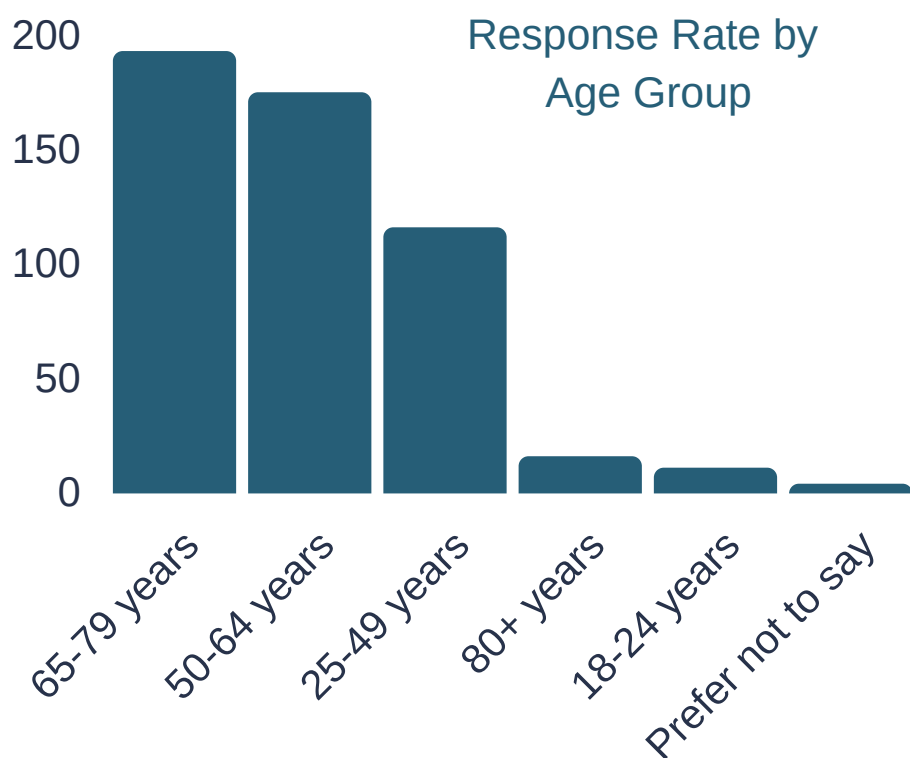
We thought it would be good to ask our own residents this very question across a small number of focused questions to find out how they feel about returning to normal.

To do this, we designed a quick survey consisting of 10 main questions plus several demographic questions. We ran it over a two-week period and promoted it extensively over social media, email, we sent out paper copies, held two virtual focus groups, and advertised it through our partners who included it in their mailings and staff bulletins.

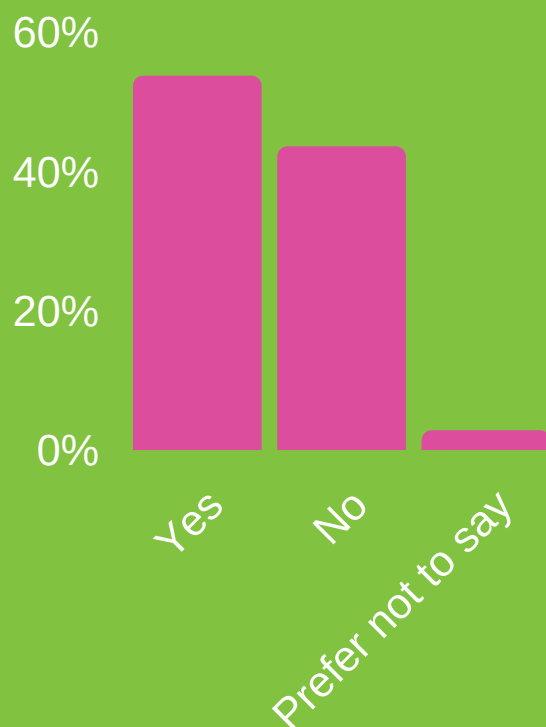
# RESPONSE

All together, **523** Staffordshire residents completed our 'returning to normal' survey. Most of the responses came from residents in the age group 65-79 years, closely followed by residents in the age group 50-64 years. The fewest responses came from younger residents in the 18-24 age group.

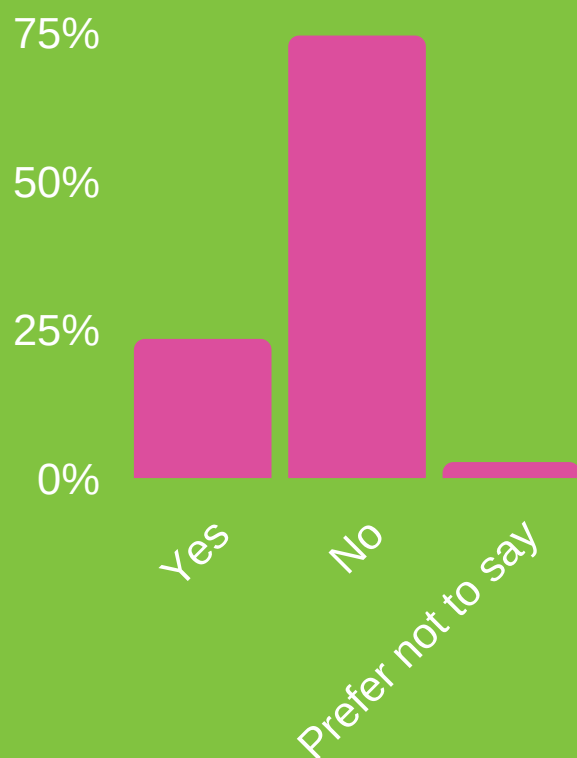
Other demographic information collected about the respondents showed that 53% of the respondents considered themselves to have a long-term condition and 23% considered themselves to have a disability. 91% of responses came from people who considered themselves to be White: British / English / Northern Irish / Scottish / Welsh. The remaining 9% of responses was made up from people from seven other ethnic groups.



Do you consider yourself to have a long-term condition?



Do you consider yourself to have a disability?



# POSTCODE MAP



Mapping of the first part of respondent's postcodes showed that we had effectively collected data from all parts of the county.

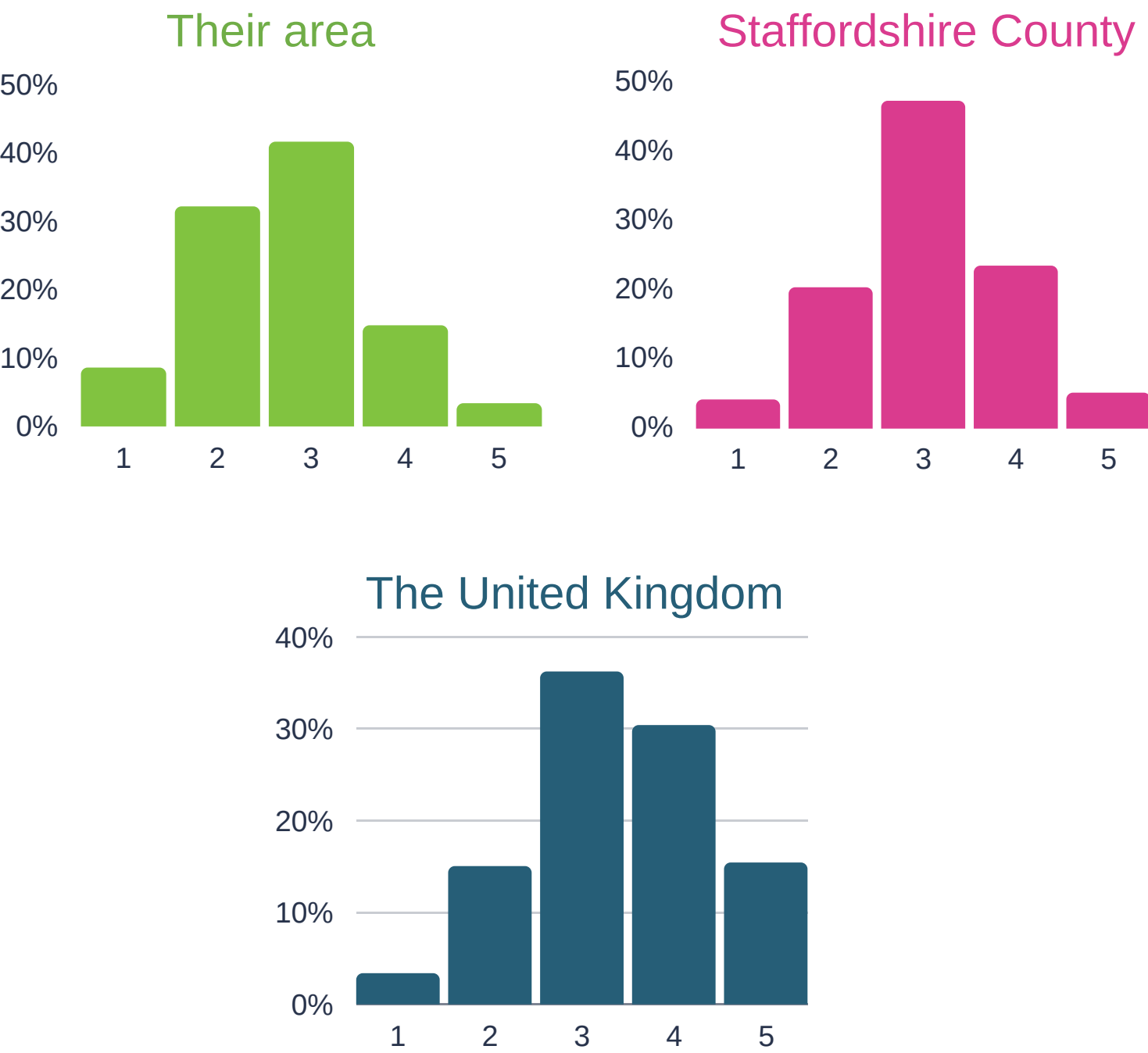
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# THREAT LEVEL ANALYSIS



# PERCEIVED THREAT

When asked to rate on a scale of 1-5, 1 being no threat and 5 being a high level of threat, what level of threat they thought coronavirus poses to their area, Staffordshire County, and the United Kingdom, respondents said...



The majority of respondents rated their own area as a 'level three threat' while the fewest number of respondents rated their own area as a 'level five threat'. In contrast, for Staffordshire County and the United Kingdom, the fewest number of respondents rated these as a 'level one threat'.



# COMPARING THREAT LEVEL

When comparing the average reported threat level in all three areas, it can be inferred that respondents feel safest and feel the lowest threat in their own area, followed by Staffordshire county, and the United Kingdom.

## YOUR AREA

2.7

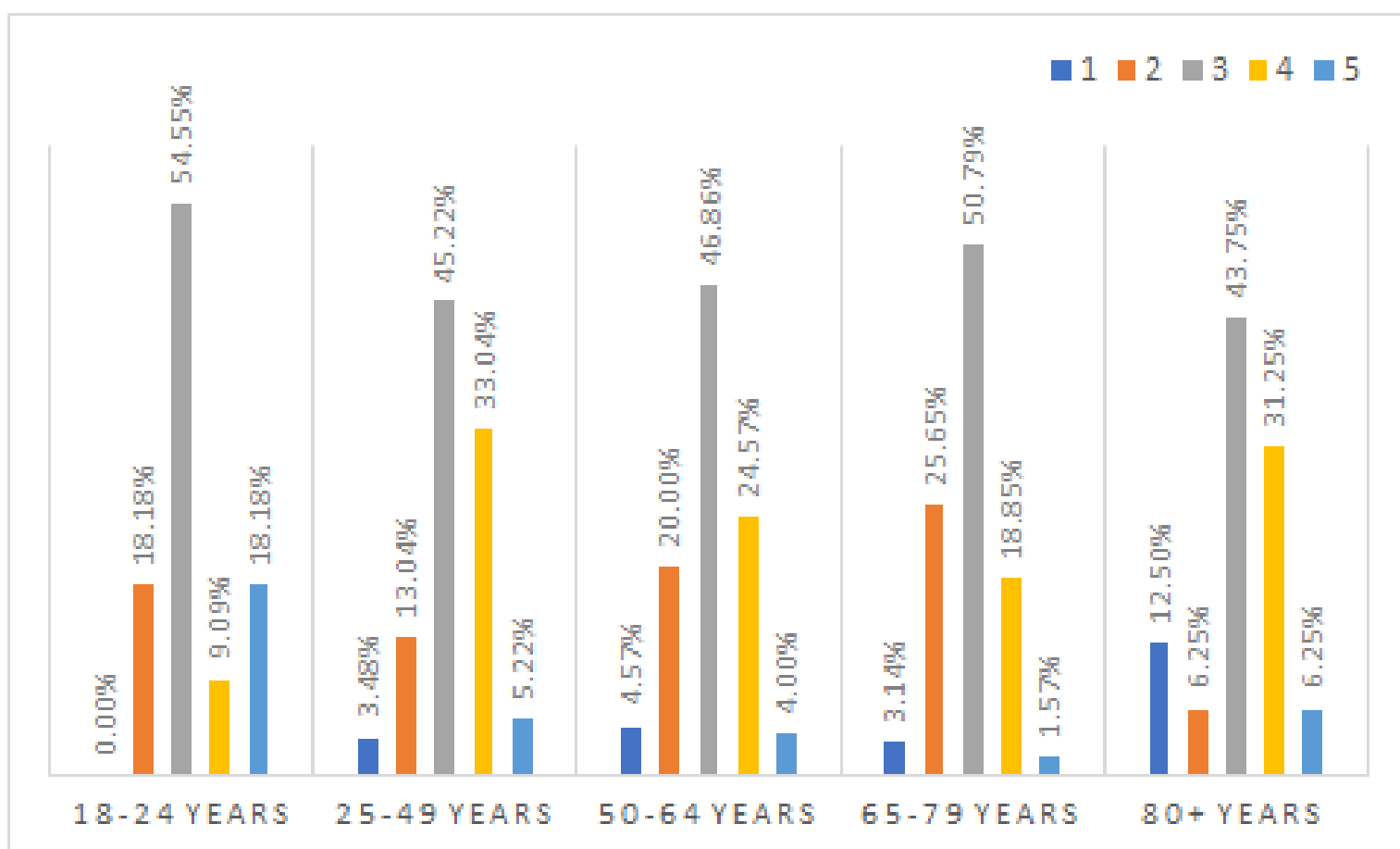
## STAFFORDSHIRE

3.1

## THE UNITED KINGDOM

3.4

This graph shows the average threat level across all three areas for each age group.



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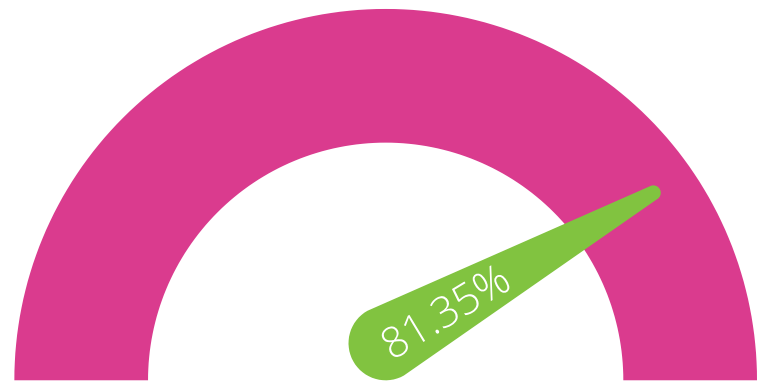
# CONFIDENCE IN NHS CORONAVIRUS TREATMENTS



# CONFIDENCE IN THE NHS TO TREAT CORONAVIRUS

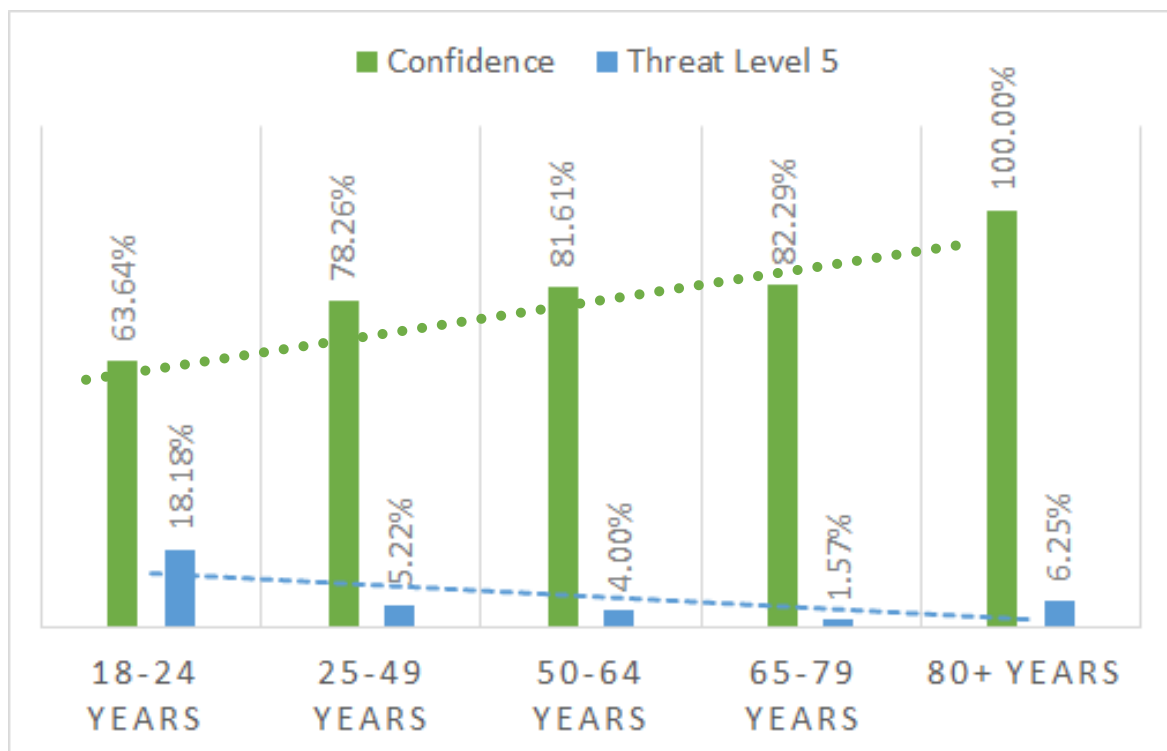


When asked 'how confident are you in the ability of the NHS to effectively treat those who have contracted coronavirus, over 81% of respondents reported they were either very or somewhat confident.



Confidence

As shown on the graph below, for the respondents, confidence in the NHS to effectively treat those who have contracted coronavirus increases with age.

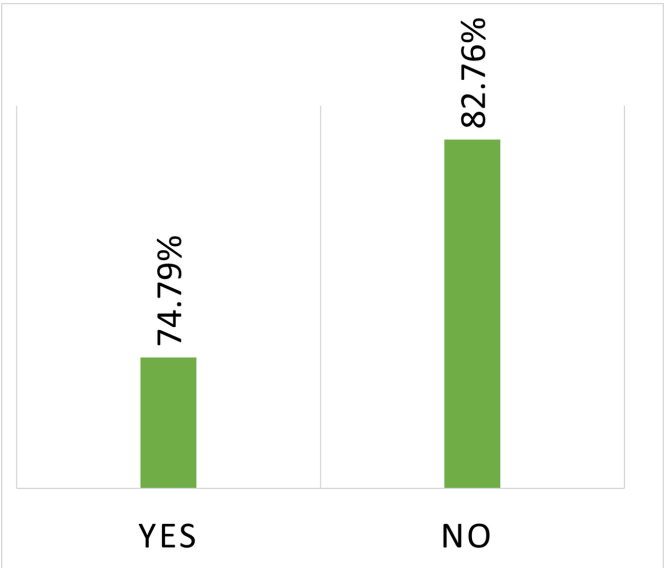


When comparing confidence in the NHS to effectively treat those who have contracted coronavirus to perceived threat level 5 by age group, a general trend can be seen that a higher confidence in the NHS is associated with fewer reports of level 5 coronavirus threats.

# COMPARING CONFIDENCE BY DEMOGRAPHICS

## Disability

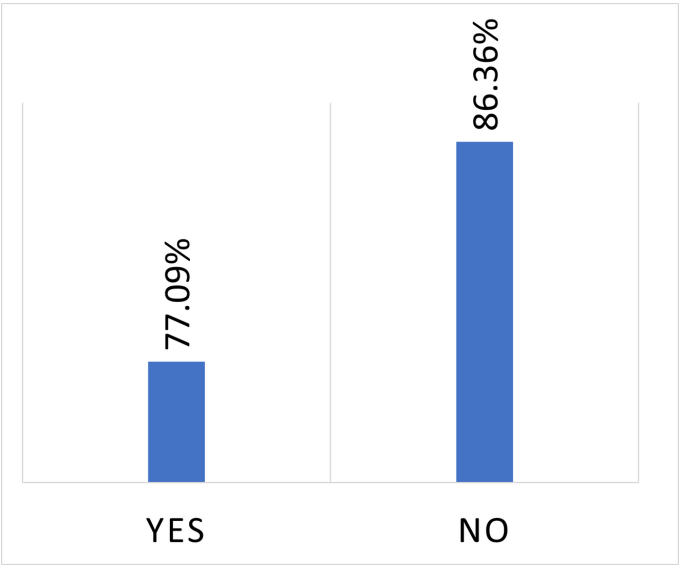
Respondents who considered themselves to have a disability displayed less confidence in the NHS to effectively treat those who have contracted coronavirus than those who did not consider themselves to have a disability.



Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

## Long-term Condition

Respondents who considered themselves to have a long-term condition displayed less confidence in the NHS to effectively treat those who have contracted coronavirus than those who did not consider themselves to have a long-term condition.



Do you consider yourself to have a long-term condition?

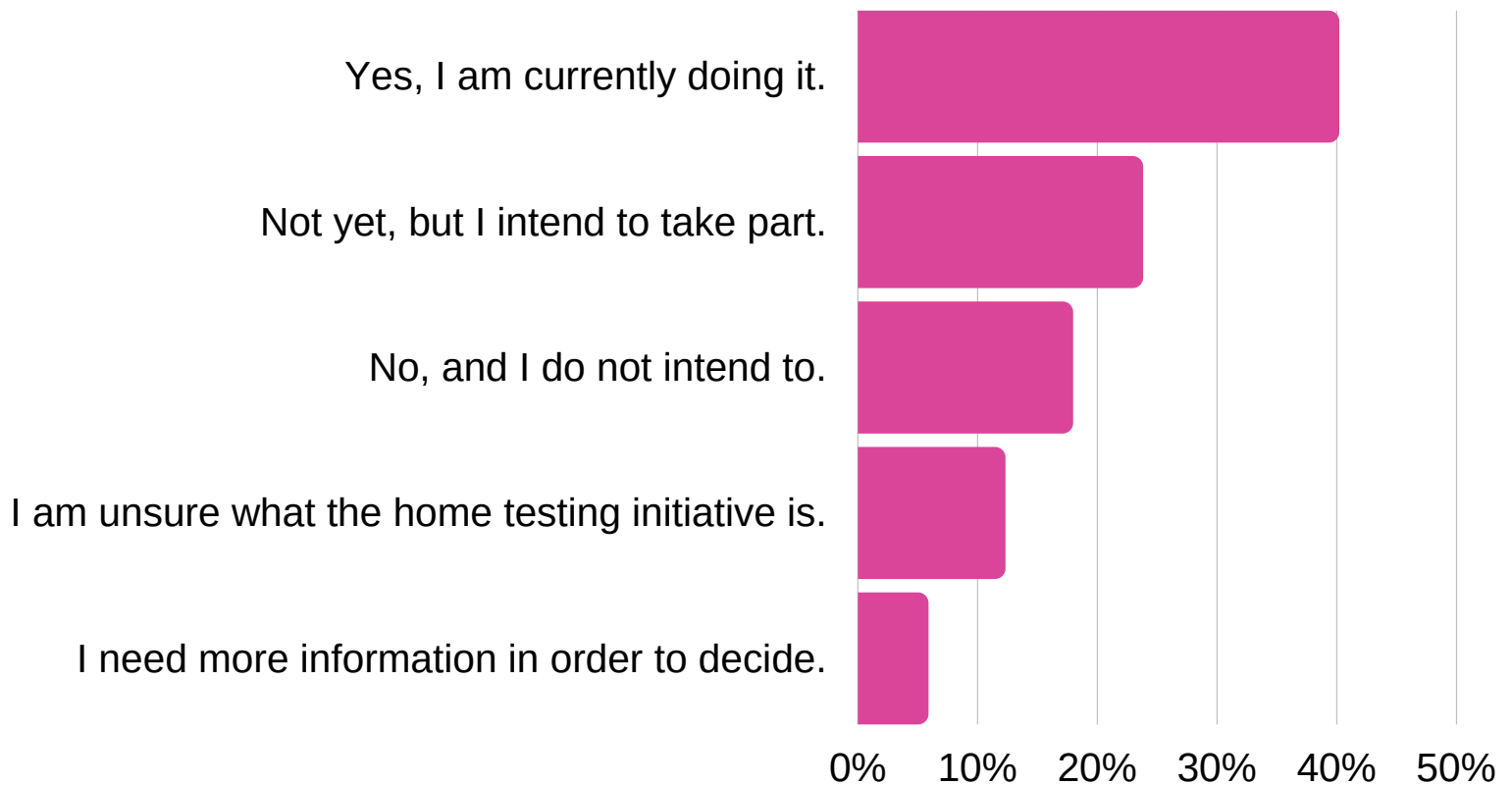
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# HOME TESTING INITIATIVE



# HOME TESTING INITIATIVE

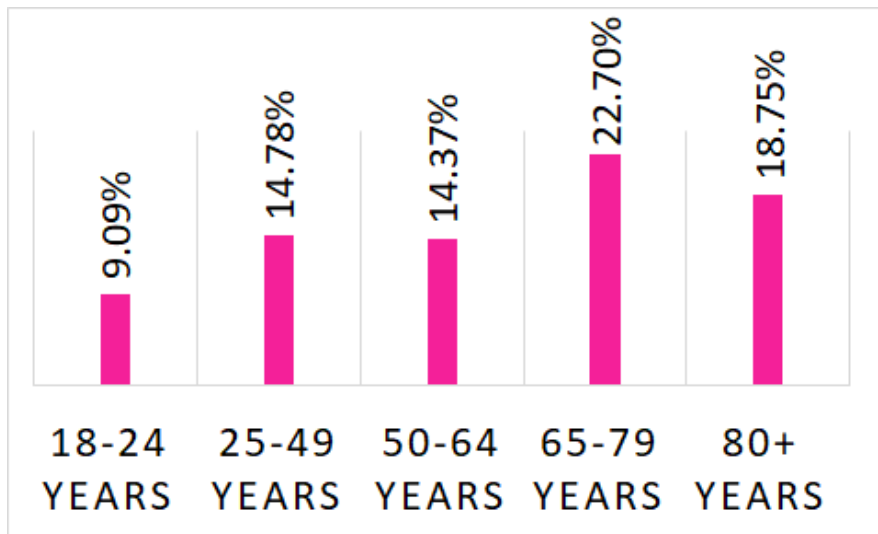
Respondents were asked if they were taking part in the home testing initiative...



Almost 64% of respondents said they were currently taking part or intend to take part in the home testing initiative. Just under 18% of respondents reported that they do not intend to take part in the initiative and just over 18% of respondents reported that they do not know what the home testing initiative is or they need more information in order to decide.



# HOME TESTING INITIATIVE, CONTINUED

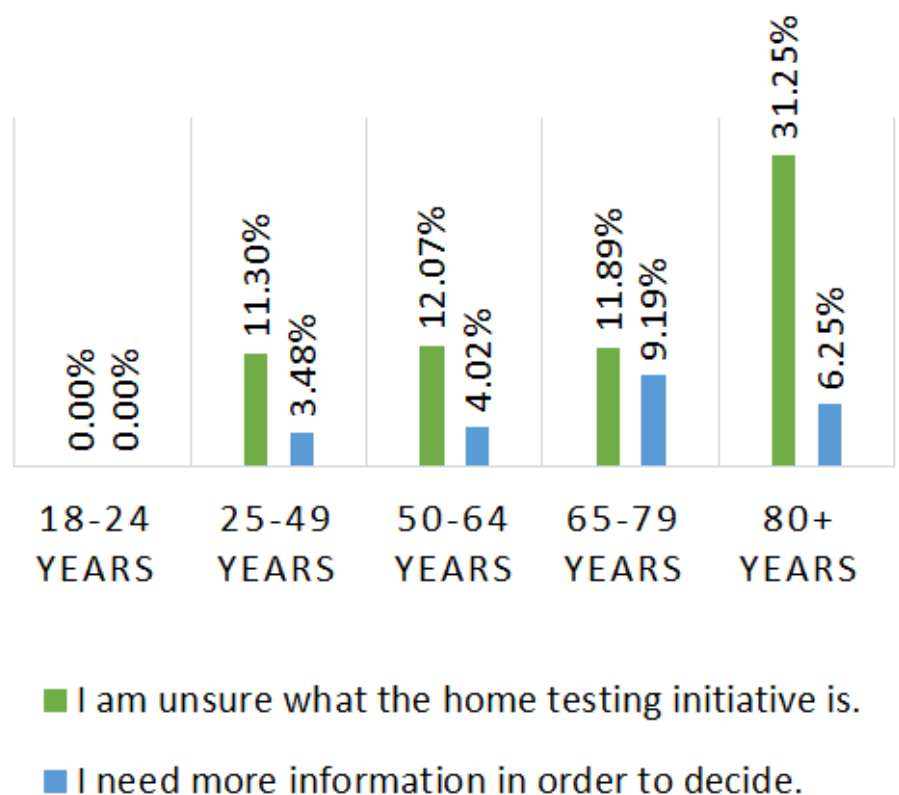


'No, and I do not intend to'

The largest proportion of respondents who said they do not intend to take part in the home testing initiative came from those aged 65-79 while the smallest proportion came from those aged 18-24.

'I am unsure what the home testing initiative is' or 'I need more information in order to decide'

From the graph, it is evident that older age groups have less knowledge about the home testing initiative. This perhaps highlights an opportunity in Staffordshire to direct communication towards these age groups and increase home testing take-up.



# QUALITATIVE INFORMATION

We wanted to give people who said that they were not taking part in the home testing the initiative the opportunity to share their views and tell us why. Some of the most prominent themes were...

## Not aware of the initiative

Respondents reported that they had not heard of the home testing initiative before...

*"This is the first I have heard of it".*

*"Not being informed about it".*

*"I have not had any information about this system and am completely at a loss over it".*

## A lack of understanding about the initiative

Respondents thought that there was no need to take part in the initiative if they have been vaccinated or do not have coronavirus symptoms...

*"My wife and I have received the two vaccinations".*

*"Double vaccinated and still following guidelines".*

*"My household has already been fully vaccinated, and my son goes to a small village school".*

## Feelings that the initiative is unnecessary

Respondents reported feeling that as they are following guidelines they did not feel the need to take part in the initiative...

*"I don't feel it's necessary as I am still being very careful where I go and with whom I mix".*

*"I don't feel the need to as wearing a mask and social distancing should be enough".*



---

# CONFIDENCE IN THE VACCINATION PROGRAMME



# VACCINATION CONFIDENCE

When asked 'how confident are you in the ability of the Covid vaccination programme in Staffordshire to reduce transmission and number of new coronavirus cases?', respondents said...

87%

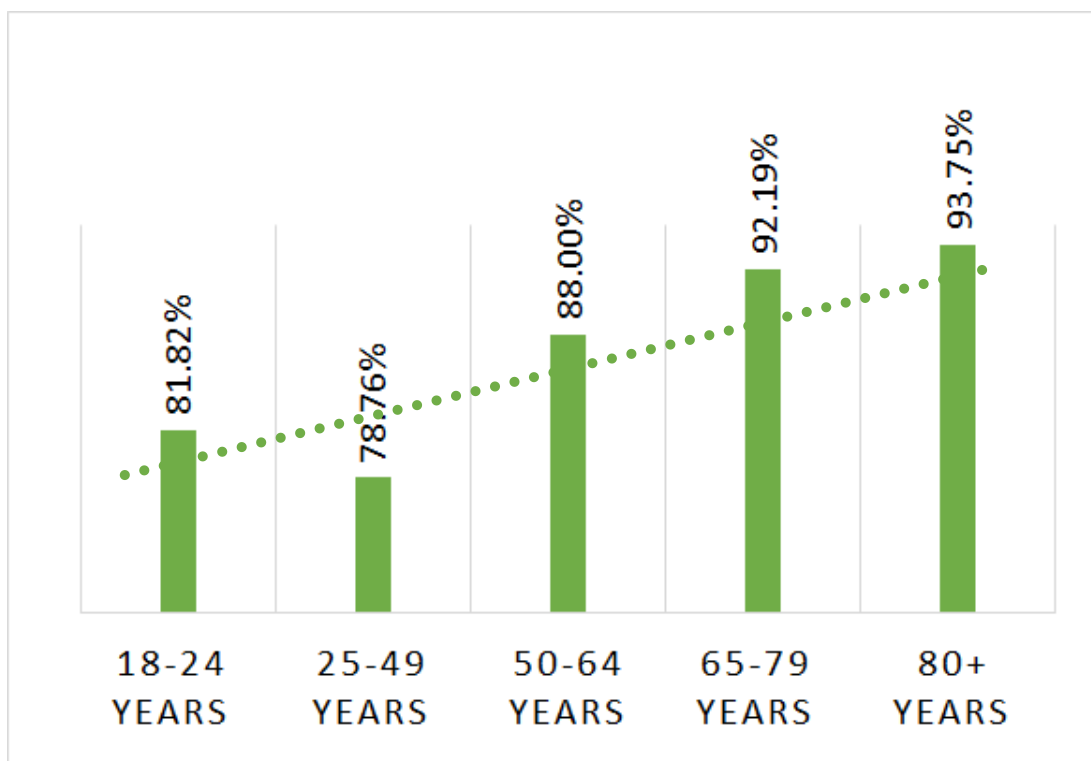
Reported they were  
very or somewhat  
confident

5%

Reported they were  
very or somewhat  
unconfident

8%

Reported they were  
neither confident nor  
unconfident



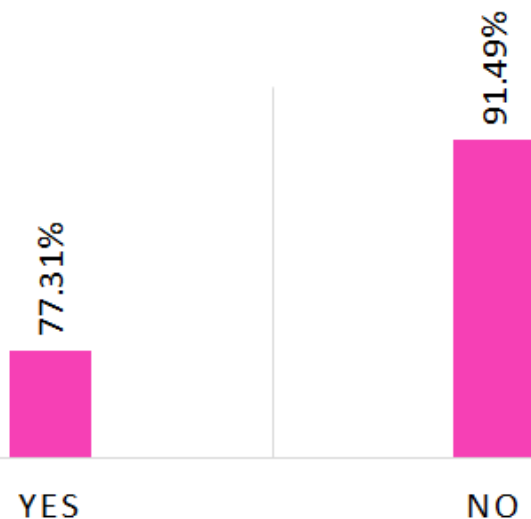
When looking at confidence by age, a general trend can be seen that confidence in the vaccination programme to reduce transmission and the number of new coronavirus cases increases with age.

# COMPARING VACCINATION PROGRAMME CONFIDENCE BY DEMOGRAPHIICS

## Disability

Respondents who considered themselves to have a disability displayed less confidence in the vaccination programme in Staffordshire to reduce transmission and the number of new coronavirus cases compared to respondents who did not consider themselves to have a disability.

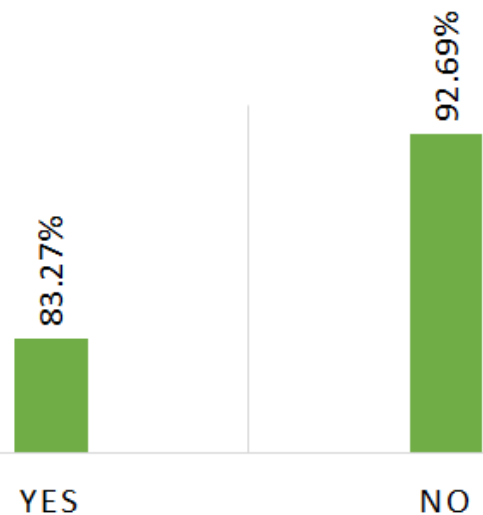
Percentage of respondents who reported they were either very or somewhat confident in the vaccination programme to reduce transmission and the number of new coronavirus cases in Staffordshire.



Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

## Long-term Condition

Respondents who considered themselves to have a long-term condition displayed less confidence in the vaccination programme in Staffordshire to reduce transmission and the number of new coronavirus cases compared to respondents who did not consider themselves to have a long-term condition.



Do you consider yourself to have a long-term condition?

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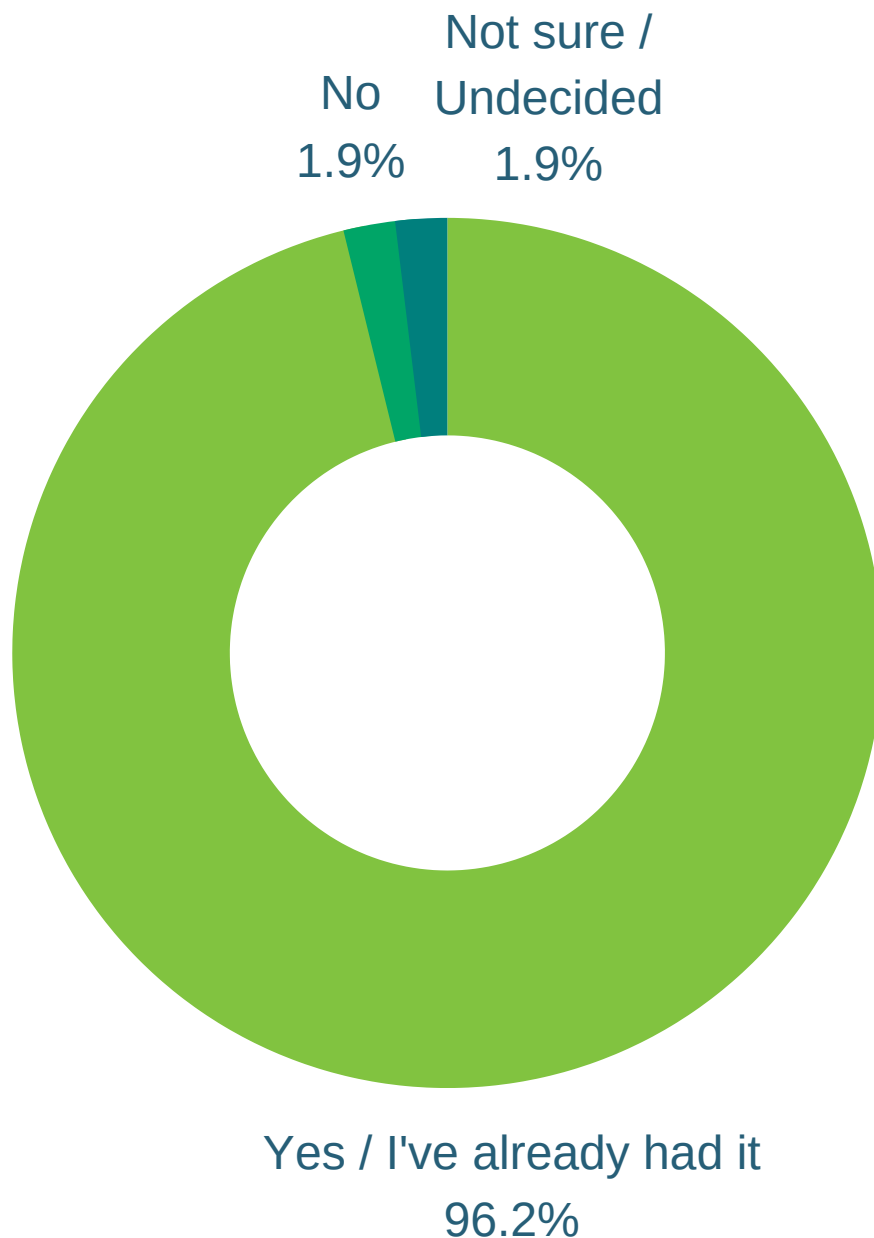
# VACCINATION UPTAKE ANALYSIS



# VACCINATION UPTAKE

---

When asked “if you were offered the jab as part of the Covid vaccination programme, would you have it?”, respondents said...



When analysed further, vaccination uptake did not differ significantly by age, ethnicity, disability or long-term conditions.

# QUALITATIVE INFORMATION

We wanted to give people who said that they would not have the vaccination or were not sure/undecided the opportunity to share their views and tell us why. Some of the most prominent themes were...

## Concerns regarding the safety and side effects

Respondents reported that they were concerned and did not have enough information about the safety and side effects of the vaccination...

*“Fears regards its safety”.*

*“The risk of blood clots - means they didn't test them enough - what else is going to come out”.*

*“You don't know what the jab will do to you”.*

*“It isn't possible to know the long-term effects of these vaccines in the short-term”.*

## Concerns about the speed at which the vaccination was produced

Respondents reported that they were concerned that as the vaccination had been produced so quickly, it had not undergone the same rigorous testing as other vaccinations...

*“The jab has been issued under emergency licence and is currently undergoing clinical trials until 2023. I will consider having the jab when there is more information about the long-term efficacy of it”*

*“It was issued under emergency measures so HAS NOT undergone the same rigours as a normal virus regardless of what we were being told”.*

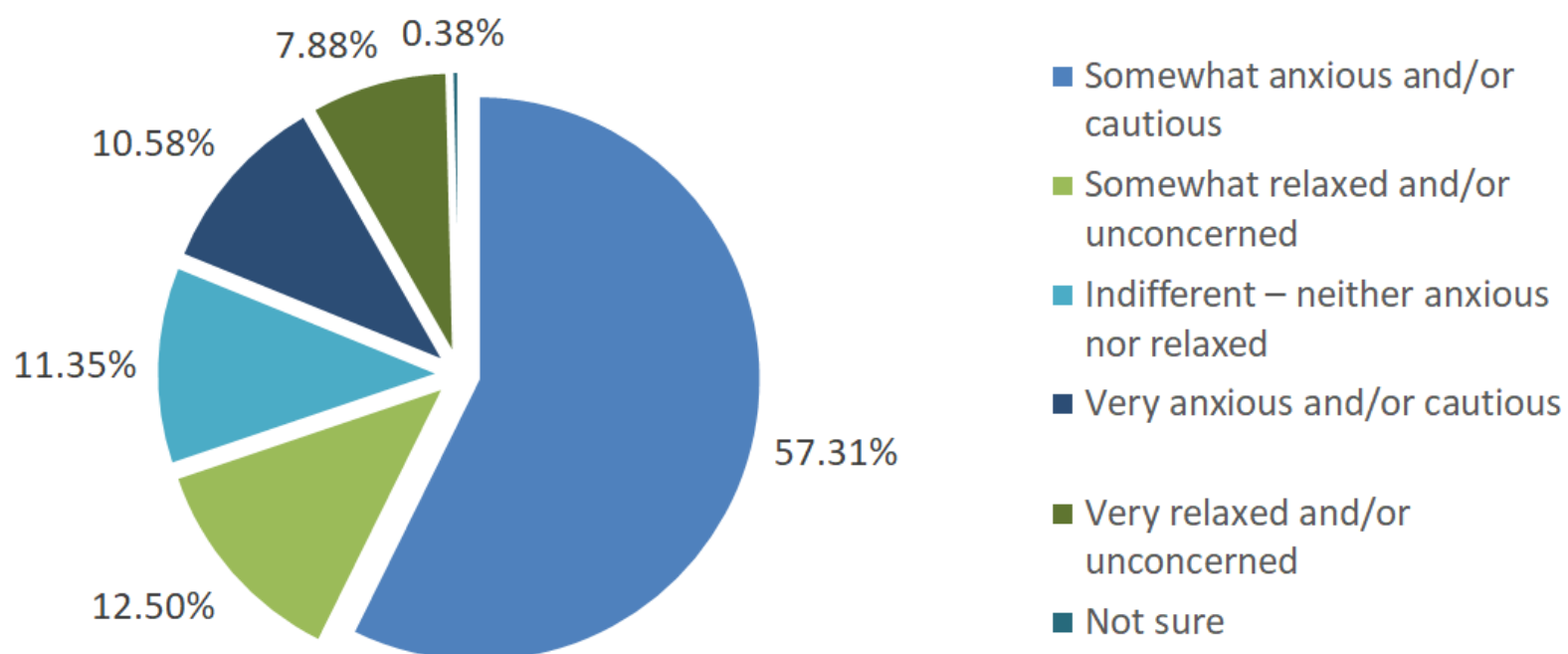
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# THE EASING OF LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS



# THE EASING OF LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS

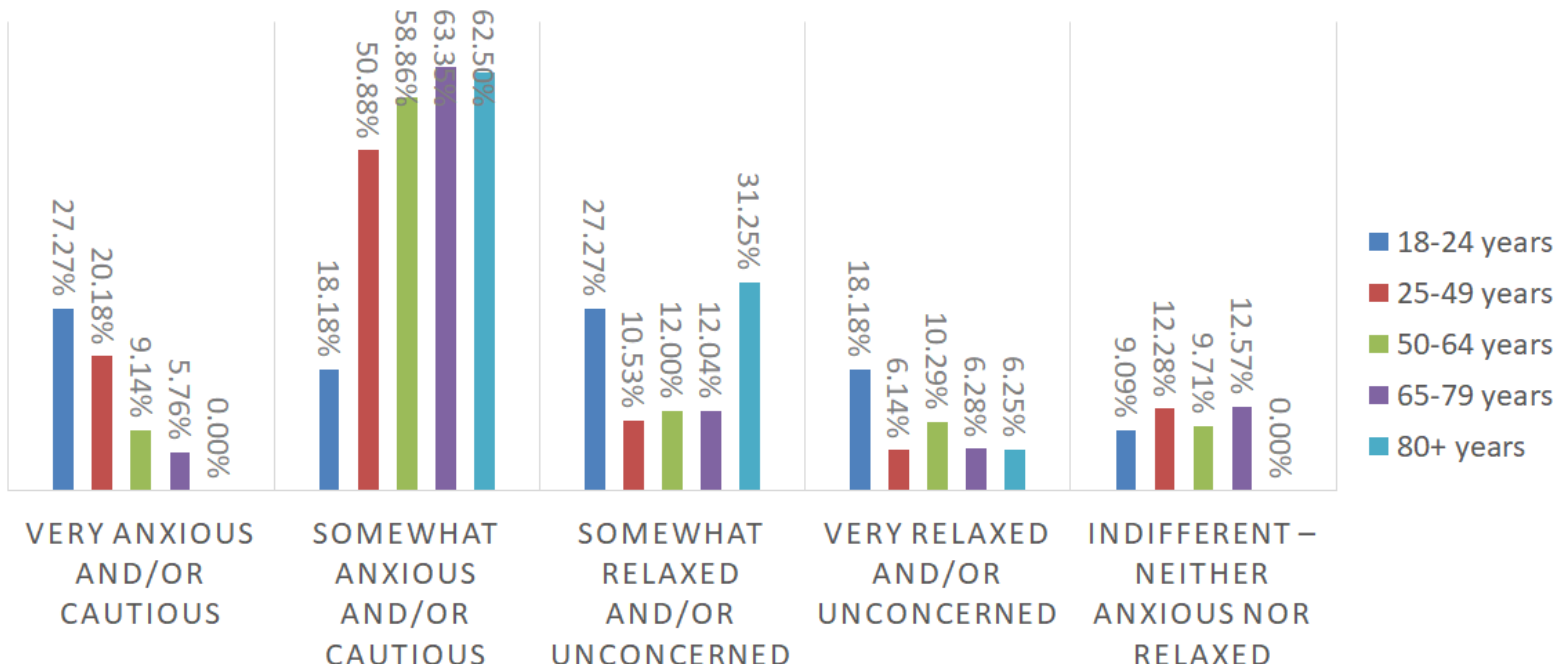
Respondents were asked how they felt about lockdown restrictions easing. This was asked on the lead up to and just after May 17th, whereby restaurants were allowed to open indoor dining, indoor venues such as cinemas opened, and people were allowed visitors inside their houses.





# THE EASING OF LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS

As seen in the graph below, the youngest age group, 18-24 years, were both the most anxious and the most relaxed about lockdown restrictions easing. In the oldest age group, 80+ years, 0% reported that they were very anxious and/or cautious despite possibly the most at-risk. A possible explanation for this could be that the 80+ age group displayed the most confidence in the NHS to effectively treat coronavirus and the vaccination programme to reduce transmission.

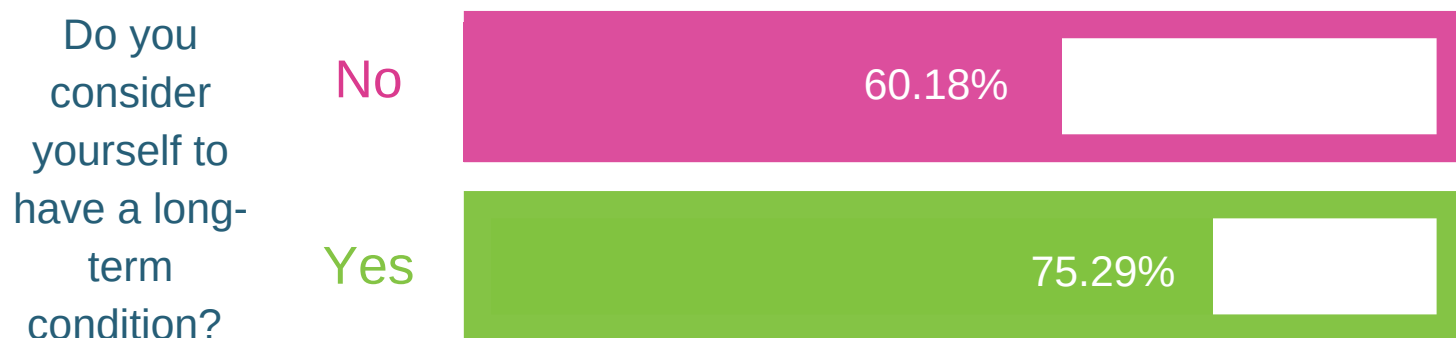


# THE EASING OF LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS: RESPONDENTS WITH A LONG-TERM CONDITION

When looking at the demographics of the responses, it was evident that those who considered themselves to have a long-term condition were more anxious and/or cautious about the easing of lockdown restrictions than those who did not consider themselves to have a long-term condition.

This may be attributed to the increased risk of hospitalisation from coronavirus for many long-term conditions, as well as the reported lack of confidence in the NHS to effectively treat those who have contracted coronavirus and a higher perceived threat level of coronavirus as previously discussed.

Percent of respondents who reported they were either very or somewhat anxious and/or cautious about the easing of lockdown restrictions



# THE EASING OF LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS: RESPONDENTS WITH A DISABILITY

When looking at the demographics of the responses, it was evident that respondents who considered themselves to have a disability were more anxious and/or cautious about the easing of lockdown restrictions than those who did not consider themselves to have a disability.

Again, this could be attributed to a lack of confidence in the NHS to effectively treat those who have contracted coronavirus and the higher perceived threat of coronavirus reported by respondents who considered themselves to have a disability.

Percent of respondents who reported they were either very or somewhat anxious and/or cautious about the easing of lockdown restrictions

Do you  
consider  
yourself to  
have a  
disability?

No

64.21%

Yes

78.99%

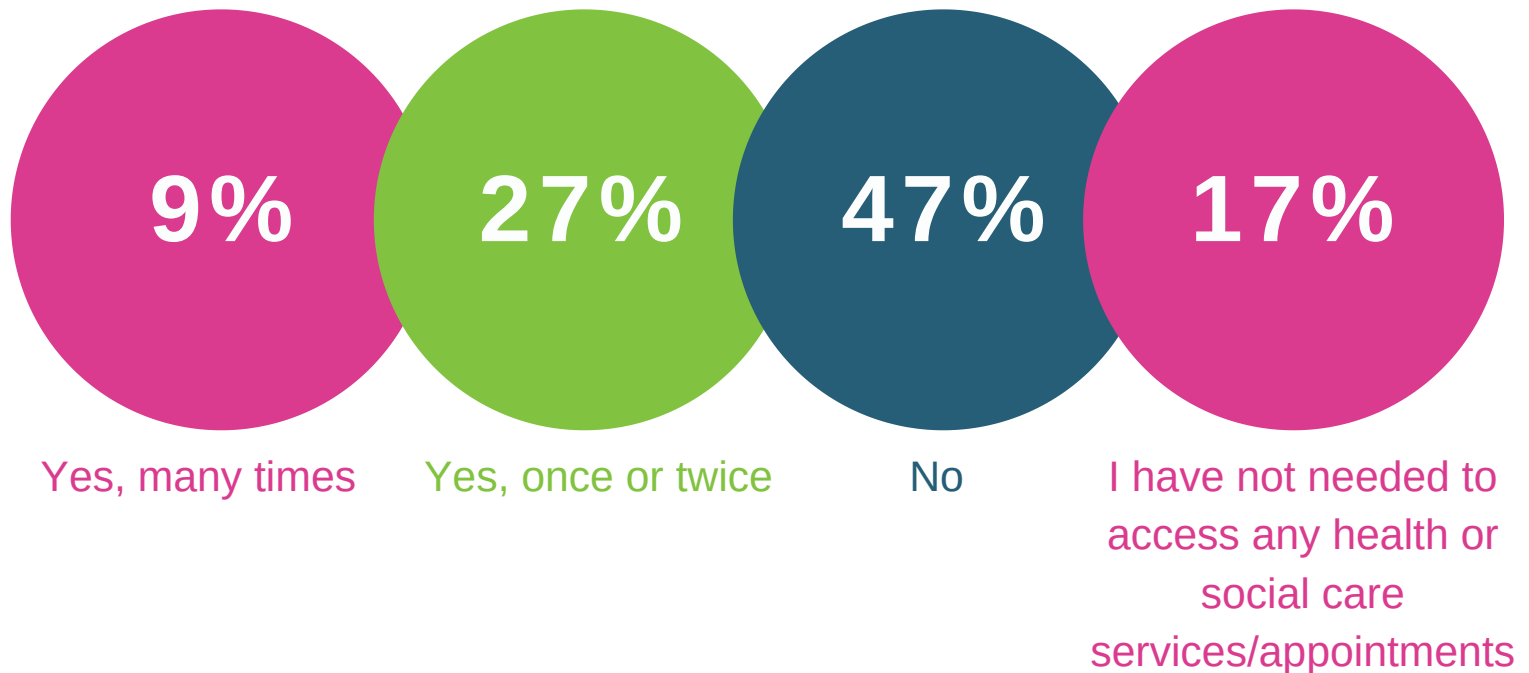
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# MISSED APPOINTMENTS



# MISSED APPOINTMENTS

Respondents were asked if they had missed, delayed, or avoided any health or social care appointments since January 2021 due to fear of catching coronavirus. They said...



Over 36% of respondents admitted to missing, delaying, or avoiding at least one appointment. The graph below explores how this differs between demographic information.



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# IMPACT ON MENTAL HEALTH



# THE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON MENTAL HEALTH

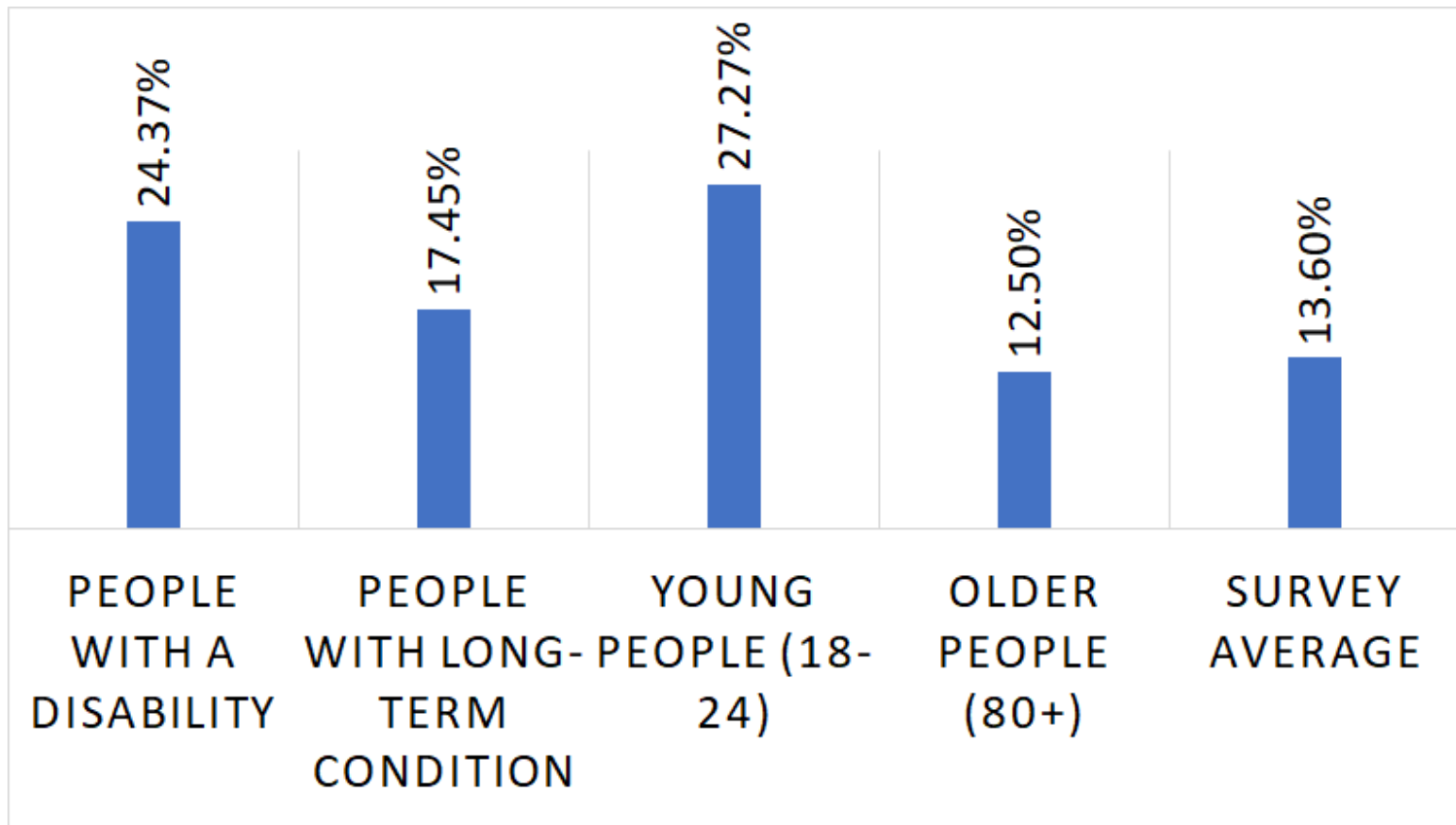
When asked 'what impact has the pandemic had on your mental wellbeing?' respondents said....

Some negative impact	47%
No impact	20%
Huge negative impact	14%
Some positive impact	9%
Not sure	9%
Huge positive impact	1%

Worryingly, a large majority of respondents said that the coronavirus pandemic has had a negative impact on their mental health. In addition to this, only 10% of respondents reported that the pandemic has had a positive impact on their mental wellbeing.

# MENTAL WELLBEING BY DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

This graph explores some of the demographic information for respondents who reported the pandemic has had a 'huge negative' impact on their mental wellbeing



Young people reported the worst impact on their mental health, with over 27% of 18-24 year olds reporting a 'huge negative' impact. This was closely followed by people with a disability with over 24% reporting a 'huge negative'. Over 17% of people with a long-term condition reported a 'huge negative' impact on their mental health. Older people (80+) reported the least negative impact on their mental health with only 12% of people in this age group reporting a 'huge negative' impact – lower than the survey average.



# KEY FINDINGS

Staffordshire residents reported that they felt safest in their own area followed by Staffordshire county and then the United Kingdom.

Over 81% of respondents said they were confident in the ability of the NHS to effectively treat those who have contracted coronavirus.

Around 64% of respondents said they were currently or intend to take part in the home testing initiative, with just 18% reporting that they will not take part.

87% of respondents said they were confident in the vaccination programme in Staffordshire to reduce coronavirus transmission and the number of new cases.

Over 96% of respondents said they have already had or would have the coronavirus vaccination.

Over 67% of respondents reported feeling anxious and/cautious with the easing of lockdown restrictions.

Over 36% of respondents admitted to missing at least one health or social care appoint for fear of catching coronavirus since January 2021.

Over 61% of respondents said that the pandemic has had a negative impact on their mental wellbeing, with young people (18-24) reporting the worst impact.

# THANK YOU!

Healthwatch Staffordshire would like to say a huge thank you to all residents who took part in our 'returning to normal' survey.



## Healthwatch Staffordshire

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**healthwatch**  
Staffordshire

The contract to provide the Healthwatch Staffordshire service is held by Engaging Communities Solutions C.I.C.

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