

# NISRA CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OPINION SURVEY

## KEY FINDINGS FROM PHASES 1 AND 2

### Introduction

On 20 April 2020, NISRA launched a new Coronavirus (COVID-19) Opinion Survey designed to measure how the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic was affecting peoples' lives and behaviour in Northern Ireland. The NISRA Coronavirus (COVID-19) Opinion Survey questionnaire was based on a similar survey that was being conducted by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in Great Britain.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/coronavirusandthesocialimpactsongreatbritain/previousReleases>

This report provides a summary of the key findings following the completion of Phase 2 of the NISRA Coronavirus (COVID-19) Opinion survey. Survey data from Phase 1 has been merged with survey data from Phase 2 to produce the information used in this report. Users should note that this analysis relates to addresses which were sampled in the first eight weeks of the survey. The results are based on 1,785 interviews carried out with members of the public in the period 21 April to 23 July 2020.

Additional findings are now included in this report on home schooling, key workers, consumer support and how Coronavirus (COVID-19) has affected work and wellbeing. Further analysis is also provided by age groups, by those with or without longstanding illnesses and by those residing in urban or rural areas, where significant differences were found.

NISRA is currently planning to carry out five phases of the survey. Further results from the survey will be published periodically as more data becomes available when Phases 3-5 fieldwork periods close.

All figures published in these Key Findings are weighted estimates. More information on the weighting applied to these results can be found in the Technical Report which accompanies this report.

Due to rounding, the percentages in the charts may not always add up to 100%. Where two or more categories are combined together the sum of the combined proportions may not equal the sum of the individual proportions in the charts or tables due to rounding.

Any differences reported in this publication are statistically significant at the 95% Confidence Level.

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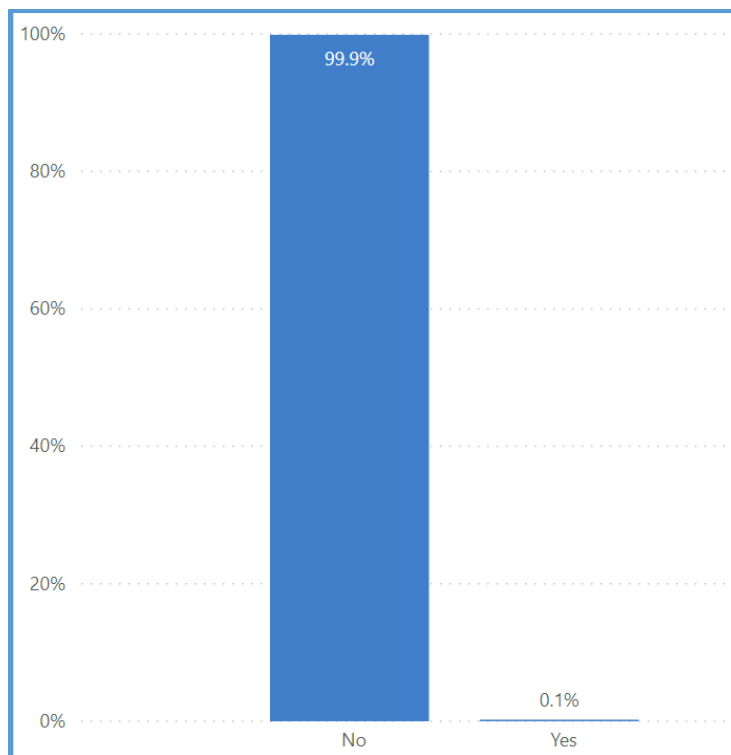
## Key Findings

### Coronavirus (COVID-19) Diagnosis and Symptoms

People were asked if they had been officially diagnosed with Coronavirus (COVID-19) or had experienced symptoms in the previous seven days. Please note that these figures were collected after 20 April 2020 and are self-reported findings which cannot be verified and, therefore, should not be regarded as official rates of infection or symptom rates for NI.

A very small proportion of people (0.1%) reported that, in the seven days prior to interview, they had been officially diagnosed with Coronavirus (COVID-19) by a medical professional (Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Proportion of people self-reported as having been officially diagnosed with Coronavirus (COVID-19) by a medical professional in the seven days prior to interview**

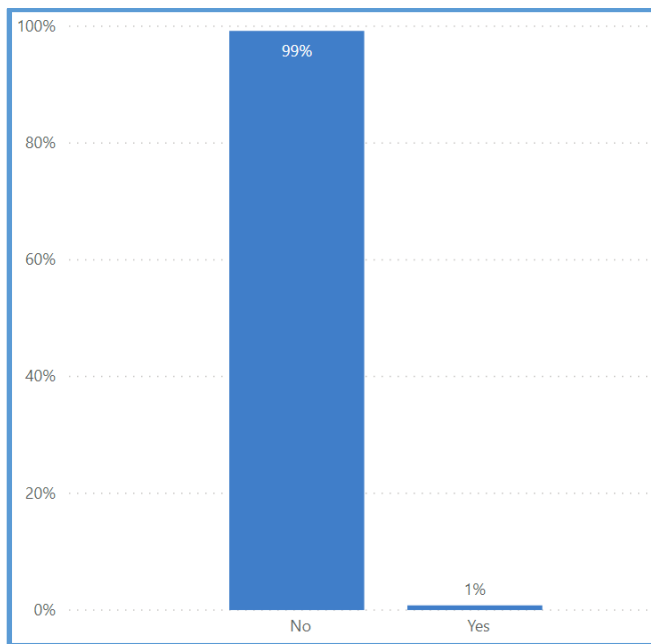


The survey asked questions about whether people, or anyone else in their household, had experienced Coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms in the seven days prior to interview. Symptoms included a high temperature or continuous new cough, or both.

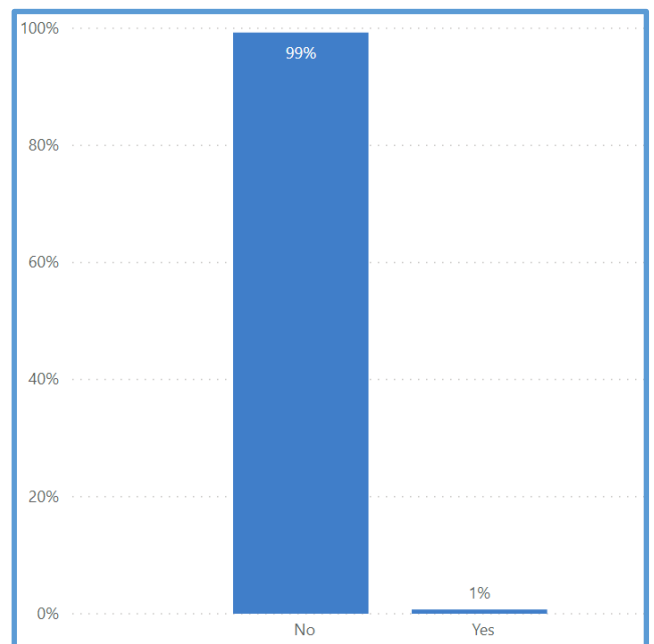
A further 1% of people had experienced symptoms themselves in the previous seven days (Figure 2).

A similar proportion of people (1%) indicated that someone else in their household had experienced symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the seven days prior to interview (Figure 3).

**Figure 2<sup>1</sup>: Proportion of people self-reported as having had Coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms in the seven days prior to interview**



**Figure 3: Proportion of people self-reported as having someone else in their household with Coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms in the seven days prior to interview**



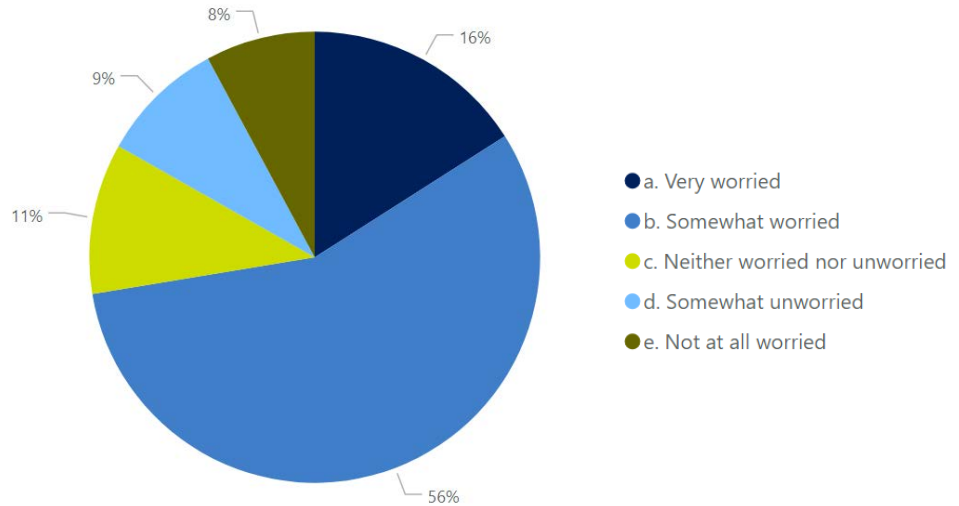
<sup>1</sup> Only asked of those not diagnosed with COVID-19 by a medical professional in the seven days prior to interview.

Concerns about the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The survey found high levels of worry among the people regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

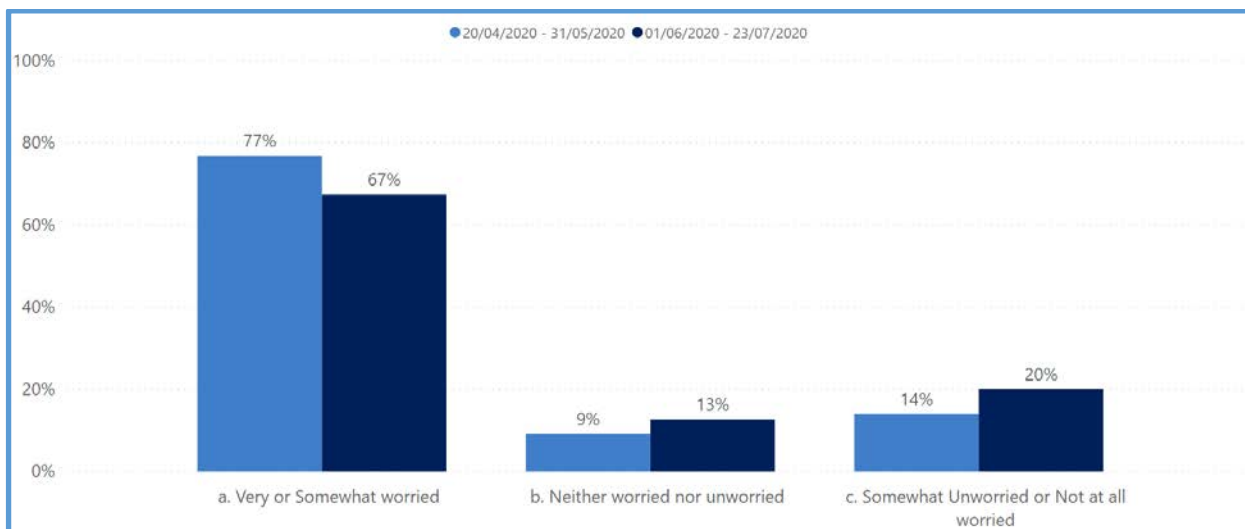
Just over seven out of ten people (72%) said that they were very worried or somewhat worried about the effect the Coronavirus (COVID-19) was having on their lives (Figure 4).

**Figure 4: Levels of worry about the effect the Coronavirus (COVID-19) was having on their life**



However, these levels of worry appear to be decreasing over time. Approximately, eight out of ten people (77%) interviewed in the period 20 April to 31 May 2020 said that they were very worried or somewhat worried about the effect the Coronavirus (COVID-19) was having on their lives. This was significantly higher than the period from 1 June to 23 July 2020 when the proportion decreased to 67% (Figure 5).

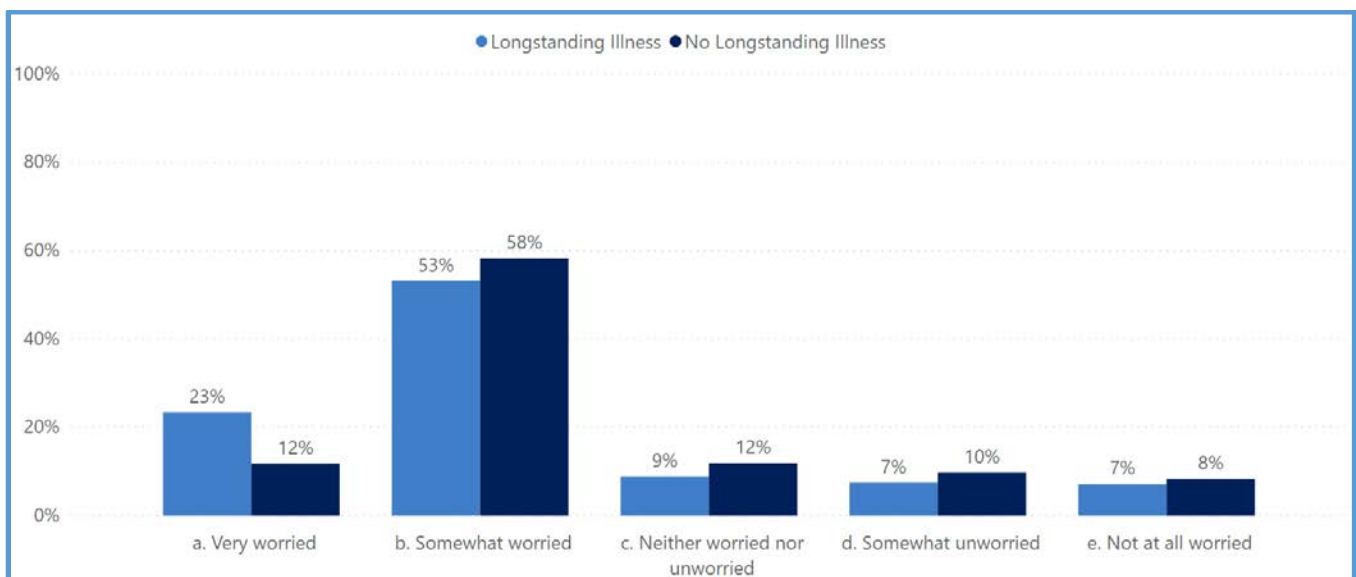
**Figure 5: Levels of worry about the effect Coronavirus (COVID-19) was having on their life, by date of interview**



The results showed that 77% of people with a longstanding illness were very worried or somewhat worried about the effect the Coronavirus (COVID-19) was having on their lives. This was significantly higher than the proportion of those without a longstanding illness (70%) (Figure 6).

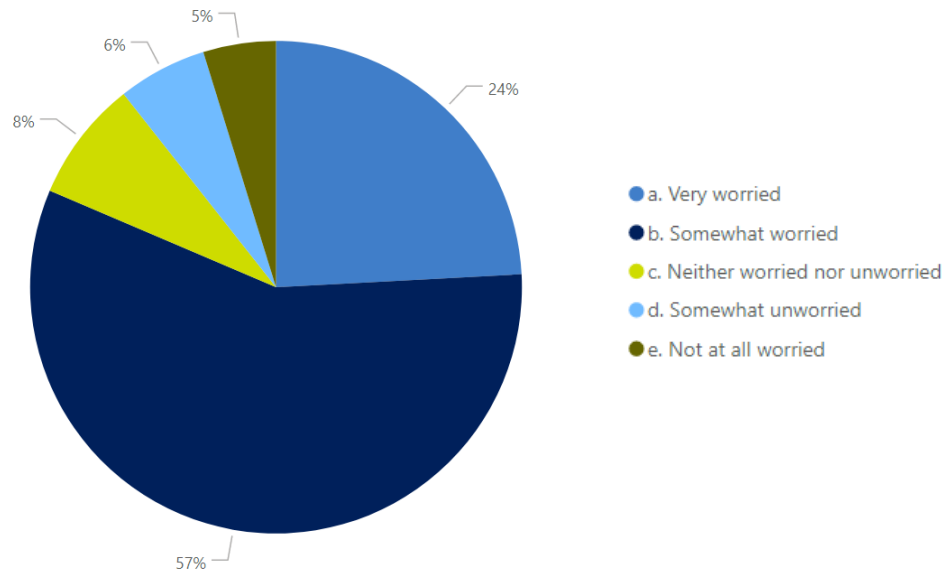
Adults with a longstanding illness in this context, refers to those people who have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last for 12 months or more.

**Figure 6: Levels of worry the Coronavirus (COVID-19) was having on lives of those with and without a longstanding illness**



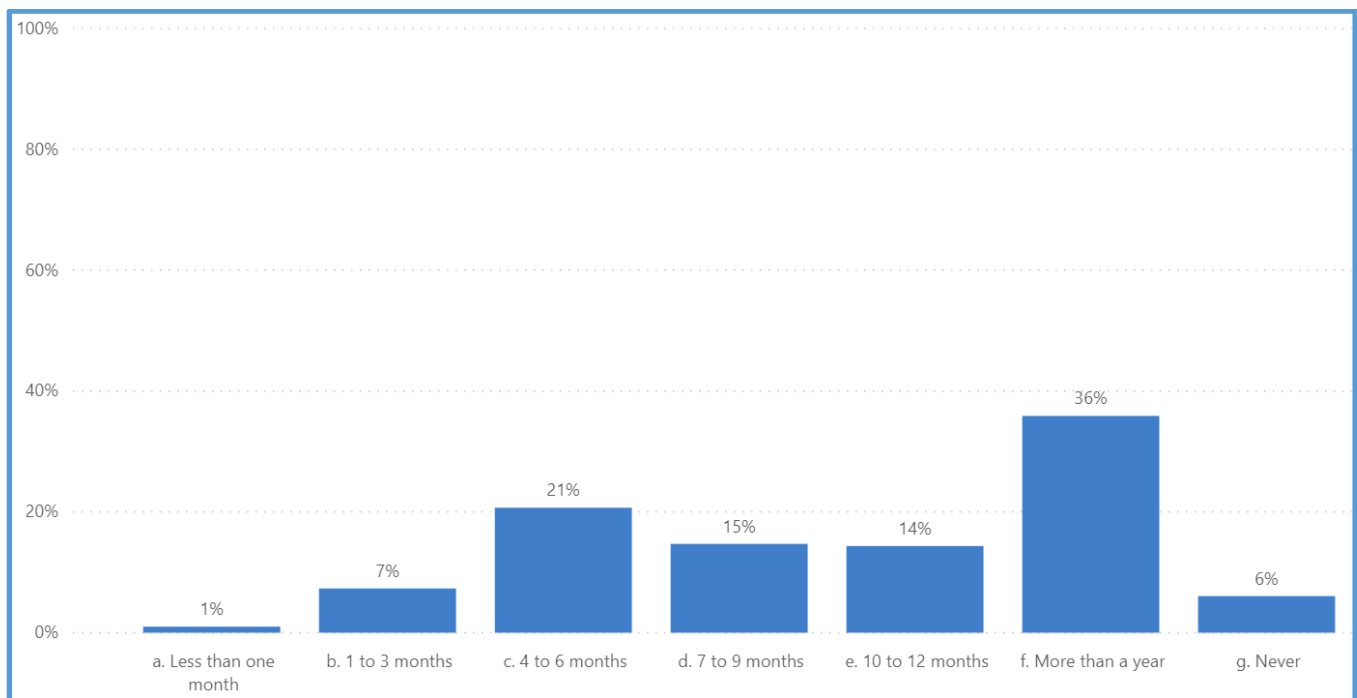
The vast majority of people (81%) said that they were worried about how the Coronavirus (COVID-19) was affecting their family and friends (Figure 7).

**Figure 7: Levels of worry about how the Coronavirus (COVID-19) was affecting their friends and family**



Just over one third of people (36%) thought it would be more than a year before life returns to normal. A further 6% said that life would never return to normal (Figure 8).

**Figure 8: Proportion of people who thought life would return to normal, by length of time**



## Ways the Coronavirus (COVID-19) was affecting lives

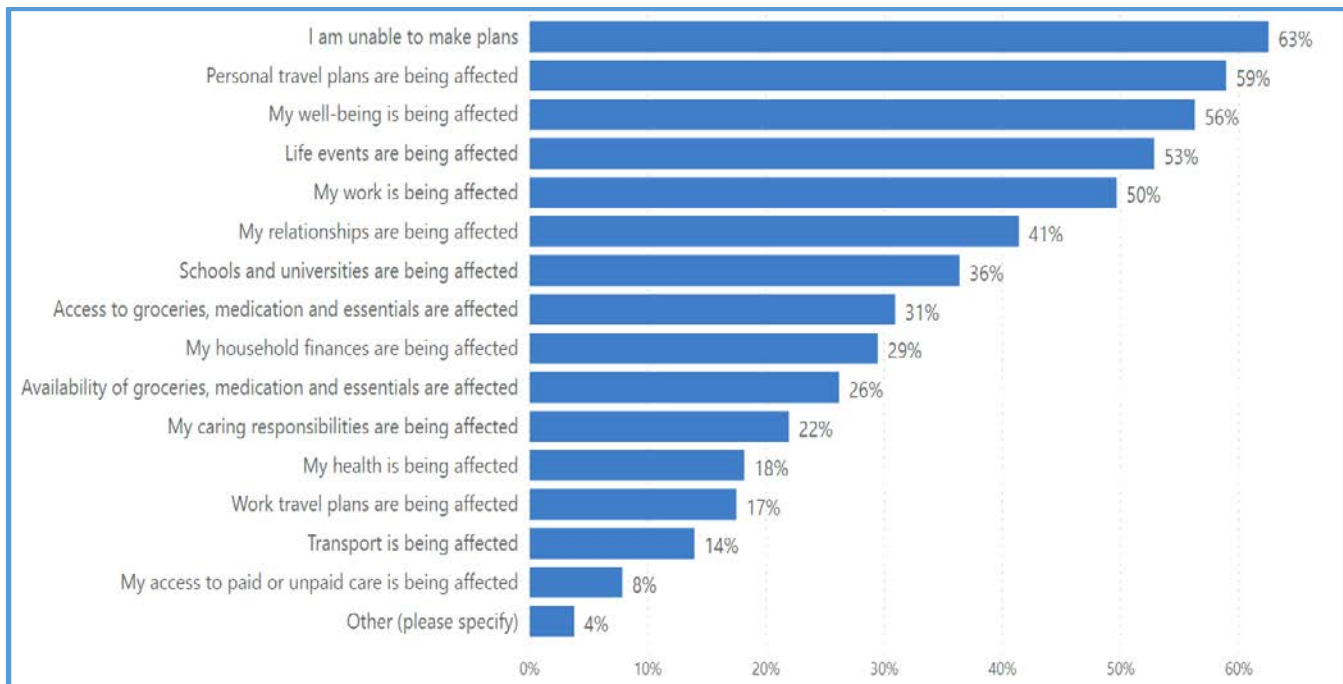
Those people who said that they were worried about the effect the Coronavirus (COVID-19) was having on their lives were asked some additional questions about how it was affecting them.

The most common way that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic was affecting their lives was on their ability to make plans, with 63% saying this was being affected (Figure 9).

Approximately, six out of ten people said their personal travel plans (59%) or their well-being (56%) was being affected.

Just over half of people stated that life events were being affected (53%) and one in two (50%) said their work was affected by the pandemic.

**Figure 9<sup>1</sup>: Ways in which the Coronavirus (COVID-19) was affecting lives**



<sup>1</sup> Multiple responses allowed. Only asked of people who stated they were either very worried or somewhat worried about the impact Coronavirus (COVID-19) was having on their lives

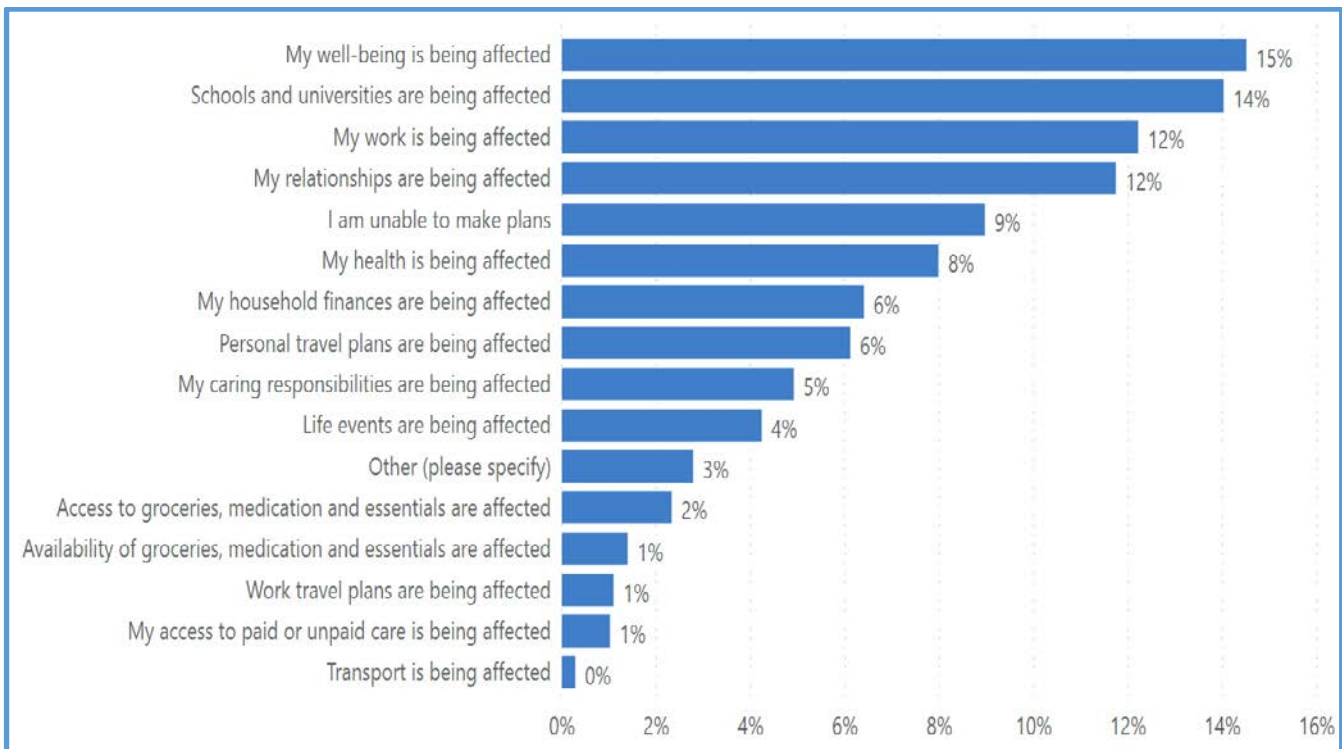
These people were asked to select their single biggest concern from all of the worries they had reported to the previous question.



Figure 10 ranks these concerns from highest to lowest based on the proportion of people stating each response. The top five highest ranking concerns were:

- Their well-being being affected (15%)
- Schools and universities being affected (14%)
- Their work being affected (12%)
- Their relationships being affected (12%)
- Being unable to make plans (9%)

**Figure 10<sup>1</sup>: Biggest concern the Coronavirus (COVID-19) was having on people’s own lives**

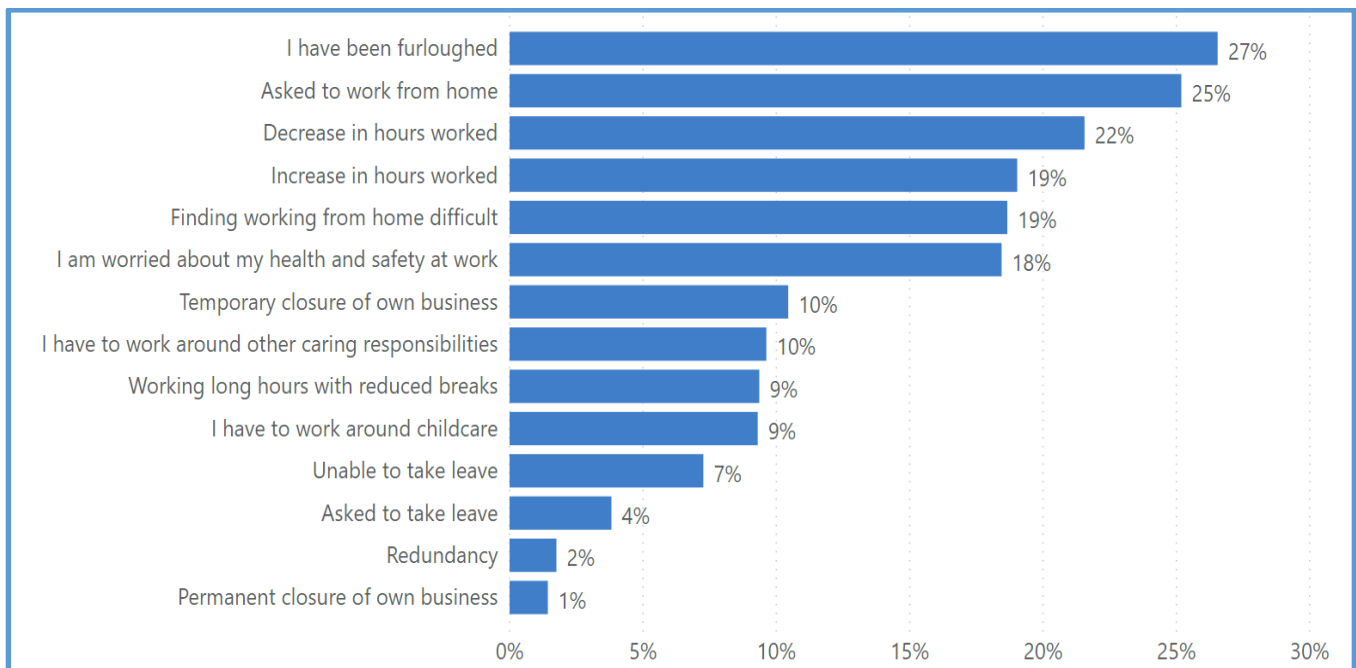


<sup>1</sup> Only asked of people who stated they were either very worried or somewhat worried about the impact Coronavirus (COVID-19) was having on their lives

Those people who said that they were very worried or somewhat worried about the effect the Coronavirus (COVID-19) was having on their work, were asked an additional question about how their work had been affected in the seven days prior to interview.

The most common ways in which people’s work had been affected was being furloughed (27%), asked to work from home (25%) or a decrease in hours worked (for example, place of work was closed or reduced opening times or availability of work) (22%) (Figure 11).

**Figure 11<sup>1</sup>: Ways in which the Coronavirus (COVID-19) was affecting work in the seven days prior to interview**

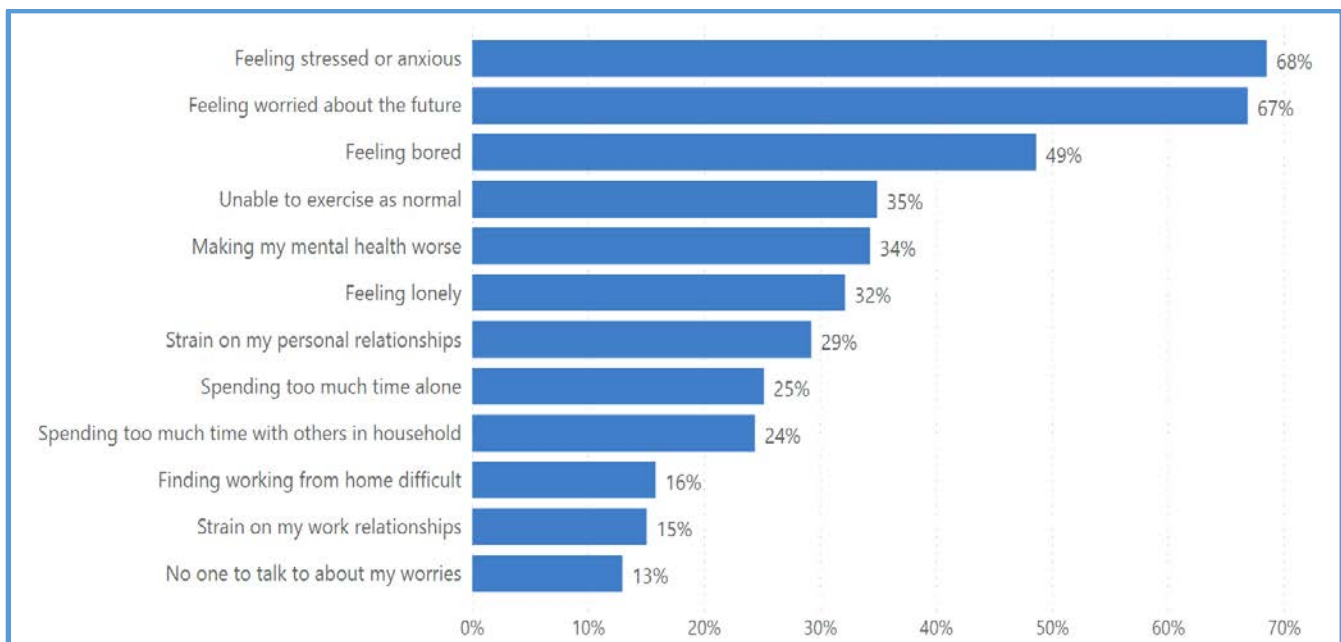


<sup>1</sup> Only asked of people who stated they were either very worried or somewhat worried about the impact Coronavirus (COVID-19) was having on their lives and that their work was being affected.

Those people who said that they were very worried or somewhat worried about the effect the Coronavirus (COVID-19) was having on their wellbeing were asked an additional question about how their wellbeing had been affected in the seven days prior to interview.

Over two-thirds of these people said that they were feeling stressed or anxious (68%) or feeling worried about the future (67%). Slightly less than half (49%) said that they were feeling bored (Figure 12).

**Figure 12<sup>1</sup>: Ways in which the Coronavirus (COVID-19) was affecting wellbeing in the seven days prior to interview**



<sup>1</sup> Only asked of people who stated they were either very worried or somewhat worried about the impact Coronavirus (COVID-19) was having on their lives and that their wellbeing was being affected.

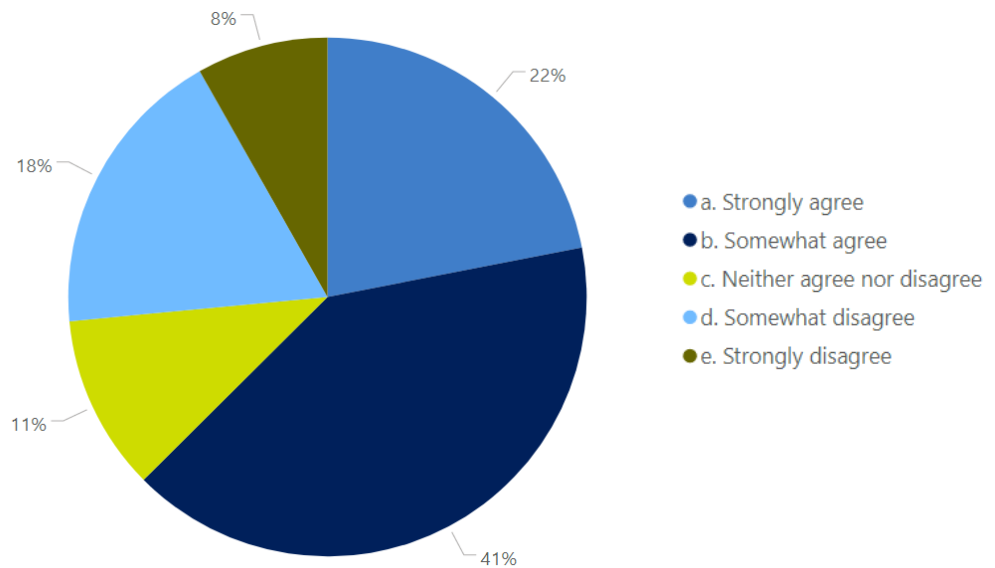
Home Schooling

The survey asked those with dependent children whether or not they had home schooled their child/children due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in the seven days prior to interview. As other household members may have undertaken the home schooling, it is not possible to provide an accurate proportion of those people who have home schooled their child/children. Furthermore, it is not possible to distinguish whether or not all dependent children were of school age.

However, for those respondents who reported they home-schooled their child/children in the seven days prior to interview, it is possible to provide a breakdown of perceived confidence in their abilities to home-school and whether or not they felt children within the household were continuing to learn whilst being home-schooled.

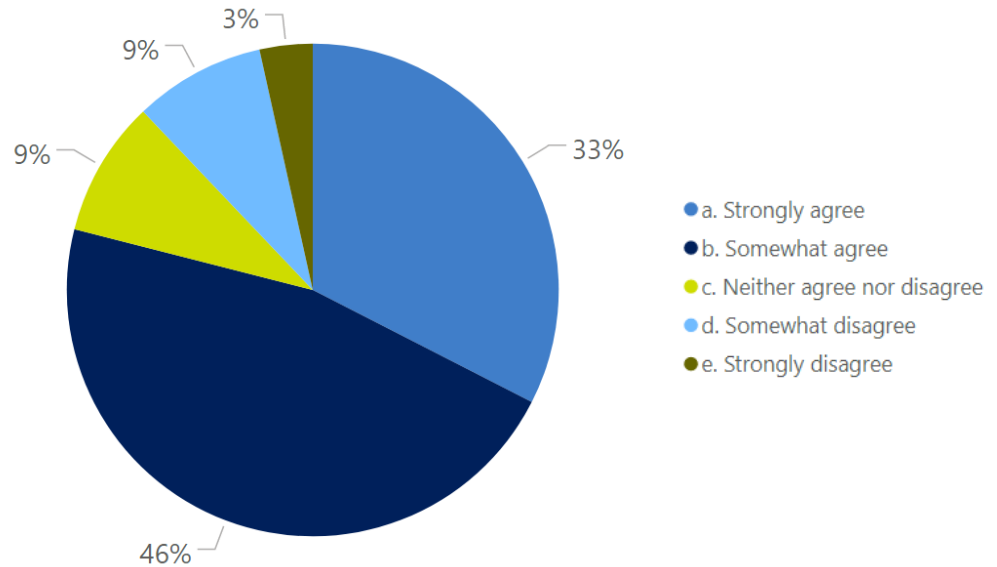
Just over six in ten of these people (63%) agreed that they were confident in their abilities to home-school their children but just over a quarter (26%) strongly or somewhat disagreed (Figure 13).

**Figure 13: Proportion of people home schooling who were confident in their abilities to home school the child/children in their household**



The vast majority of these people (79%) strongly or somewhat agreed that the child/children within their household were continuing to learn whilst being home-schooled, whilst just over one in ten (12%) somewhat or strongly disagreed (Figure 14).

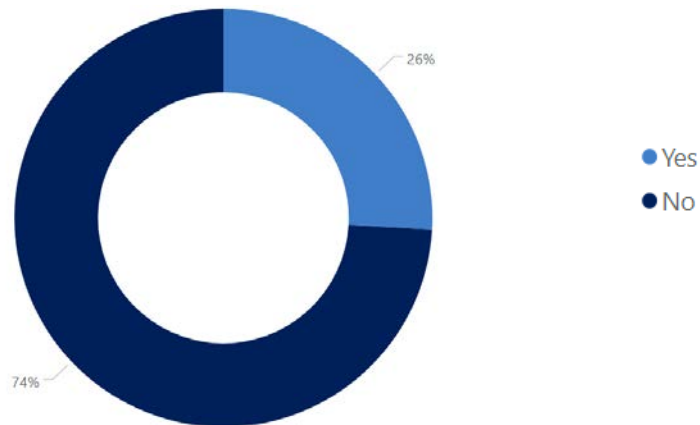
**Figure 14: Proportion of people home schooling who thought that the child/children within their household were continuing to learn whilst being home-schooled**



Key Workers

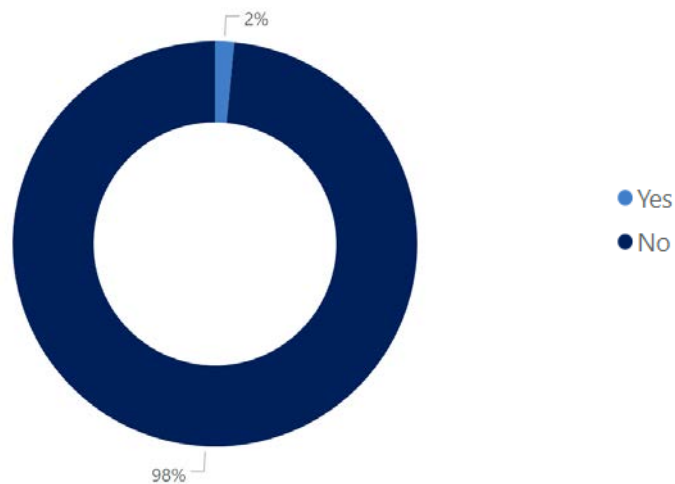
People were asked if they had been given ‘key worker’ status due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Just over one quarter of people (26%) self-reported they had been given ‘key worker’ status (Figure 15).

**Figure 15: Proportion of people self-reported as having ‘key worker’ status due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**



Key Workers, who had dependent children of nursery or school age, answered an additional question about whether or not they had sent the child/children within their household to nursery or school. The vast majority of Key Workers (98%) had not sent their child/children to nursery or school in the seven days prior to interview (Figure 16).

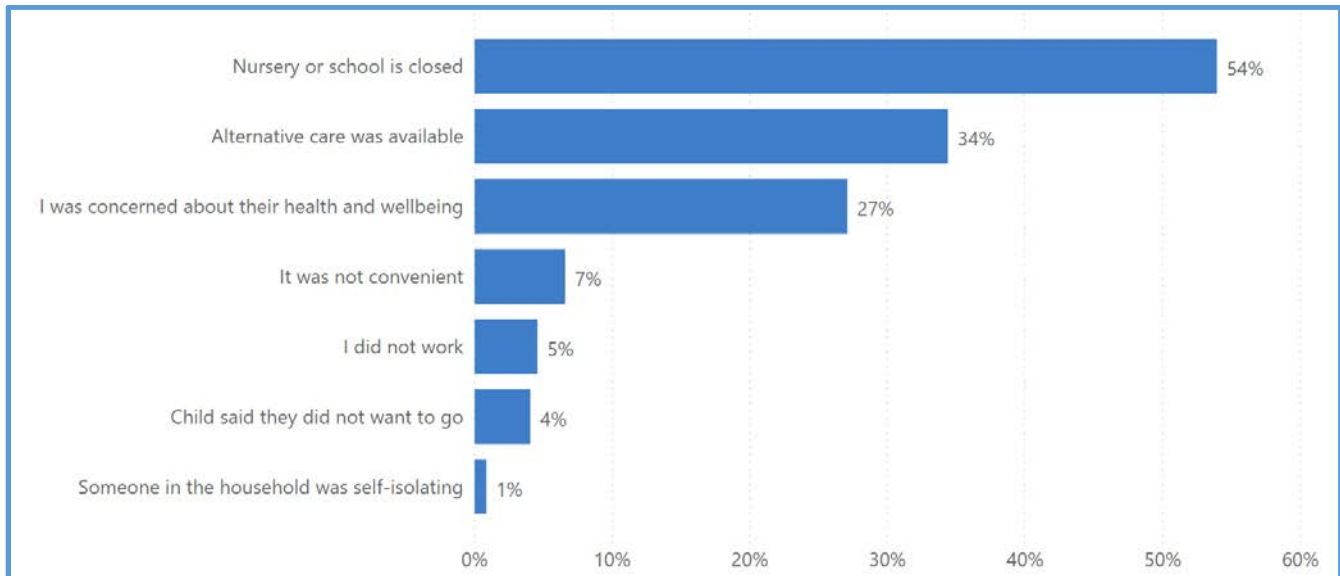
**Figure 16<sup>1</sup>: Proportion of self-reported keyworkers who sent their child/children to nursery or school in the seven days prior to interview**



<sup>1</sup> Those who answered not eligible as a reason for not sending child/children to school have been excluded from the analysis as it is assumed that these dependents were not yet of nursery or school age.

Those Key Workers who did not send their child/children to nursery or school were asked to state the reasons why they did not. The most common responses given were that the nursery or school was closed (54%), alternative care was available (34%) or they were concerned about the health and well-being of their child/children (27%) (Figure 17).

**Figure 17<sup>1</sup>: Reasons self-reported keyworkers' child/children did not attend nursery or school in the seven days prior to interview**

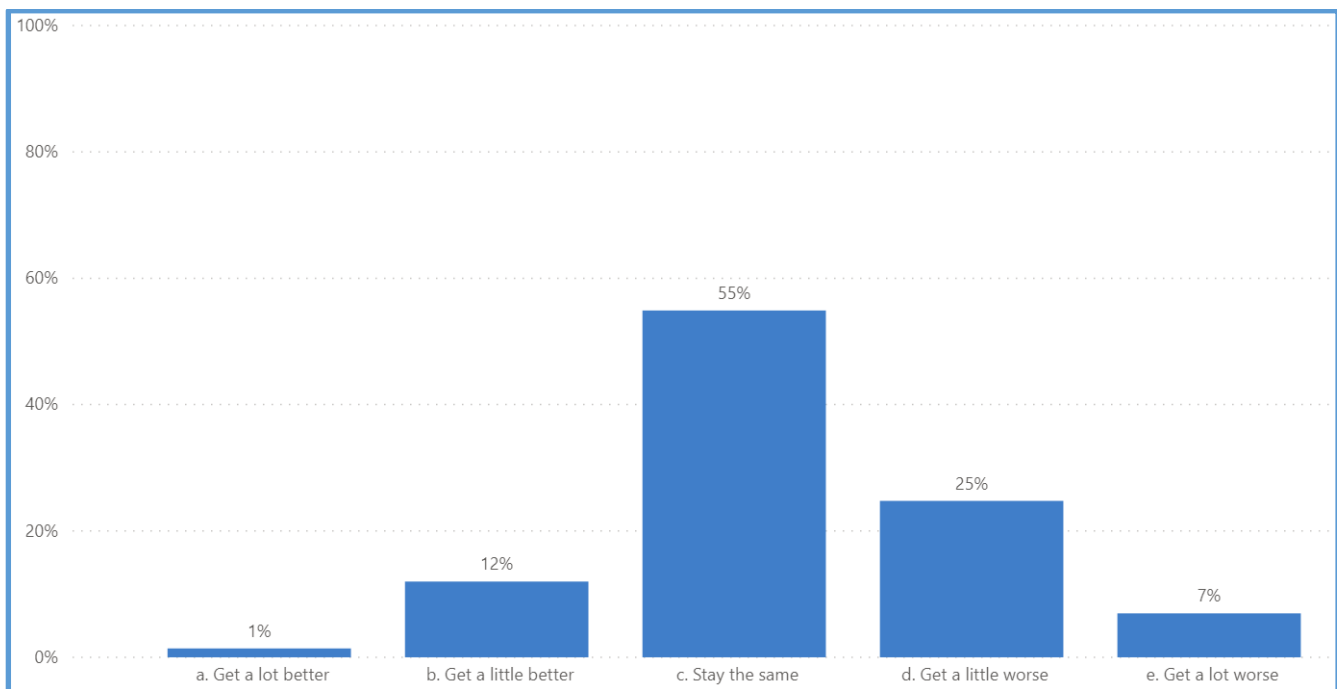


<sup>1</sup> Multiple responses allowed. Only asked of people who stated they were a key worker with dependents who did not attend nursery or school in the seven days prior to interview.

## Financial Concerns

Almost one third of people (32%) expected the financial position of their household to get worse in the next 12 months. Slightly more than half (55%) expected their household financial situation to stay the same whilst 13% expected it to get better (Figure 18).

**Figure 18: Proportion of people who expected the financial position of their household to get better, stay the same or get worse in the next 12 months**



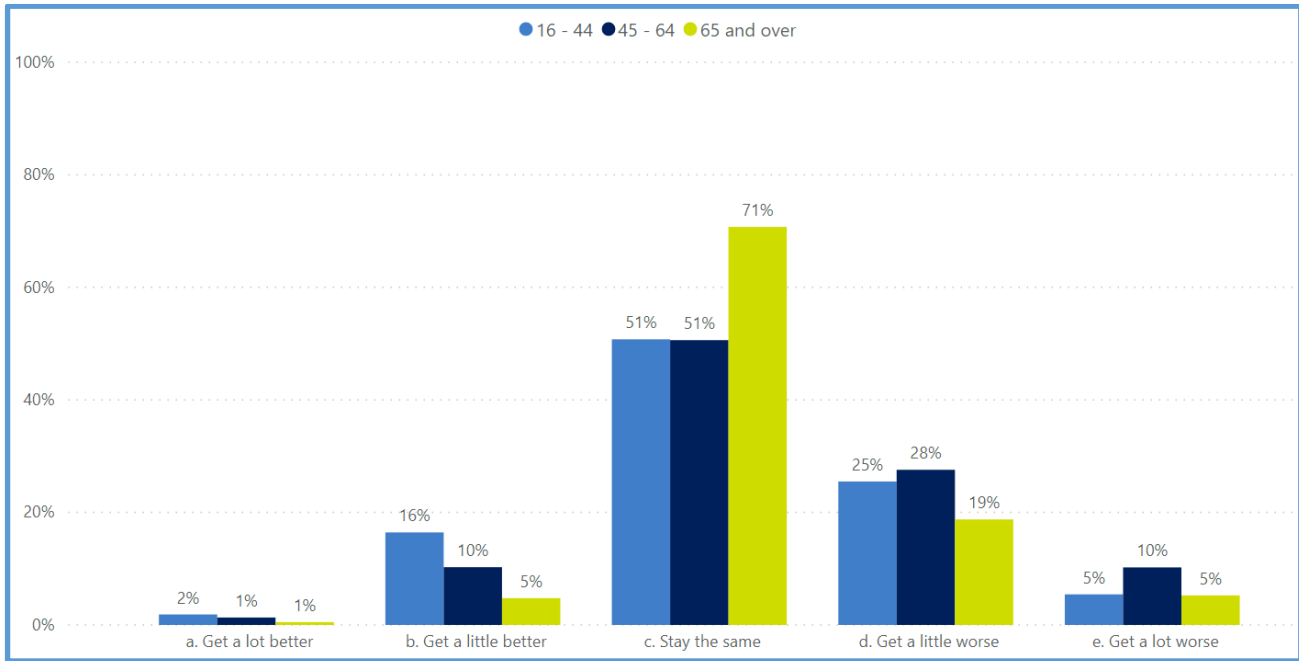
Additional analysis of the results showed that there were some significant differences in the perceptions of how the financial position of the household would change in the next 12 months by age groups.

Almost four out of ten people aged 45-64 (38%) expected the financial position of their household to get a little or a lot worse in the next 12 months. This was significantly higher than those aged 65 years and over (24%) (Figure 19).

The majority of people aged 65 and over (71%) expected the financial position of their household to remain the same in the next 12 months. This was significantly higher than people in the younger age groups where just over half (51%) expected it to remain at the same level in the next 12 months (Figure 19).

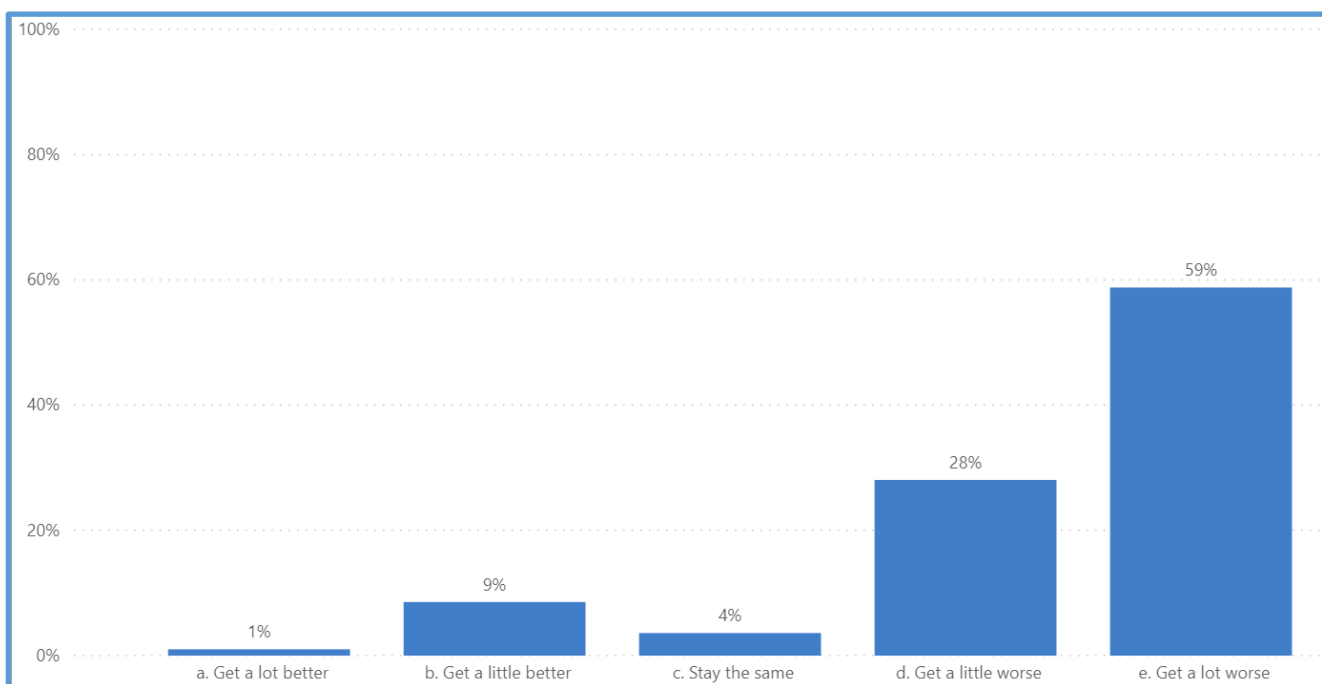


**Figure 19: Proportion of people who expected the financial position of their household to get better, stay the same or get worse over the next 12 months, by age group**



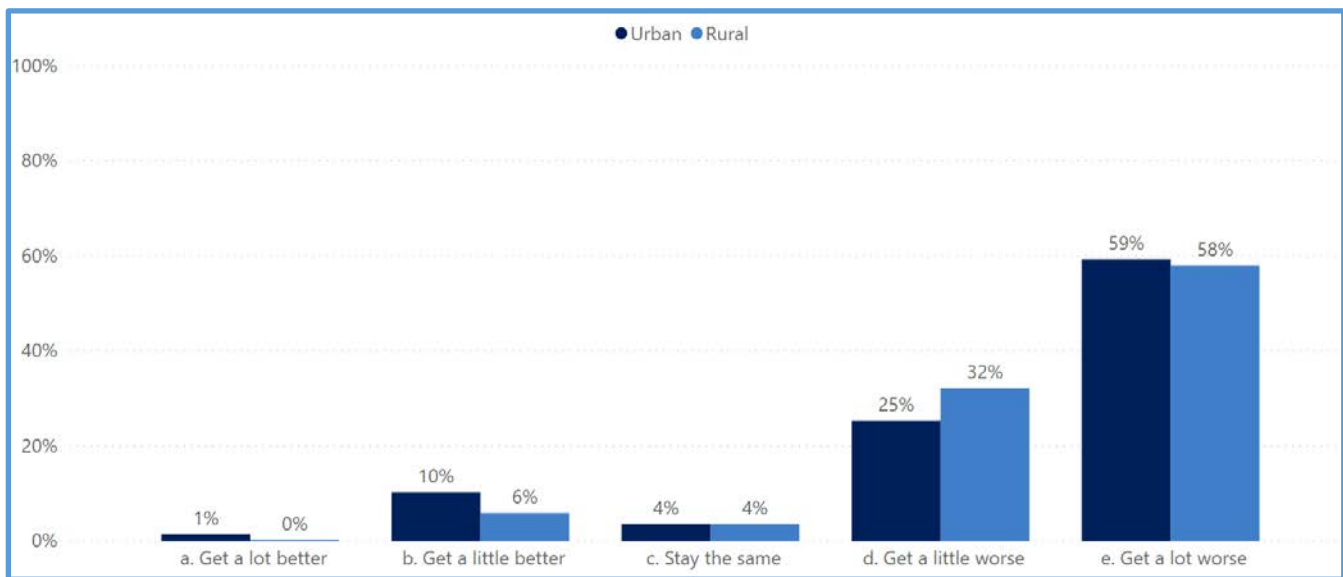
The vast majority of people (87%) expected the general economic situation to get worse in the next 12 months. Almost six out of ten people (59%) said that they expected it to get a lot worse (Figure 20).

**Figure 20: Proportion of people who expected the general economic situation in this country to get better or worse over the next 12 months**



Nine out of ten people living in rural areas (90%) reported that they expected the general economic situation in this country to get worse in the next 12 months. This was significantly higher than those living in urban areas (85%) (Figure 21).

**Figure 21<sup>1</sup>: Proportion of people who expected the general economic situation in this country to get better, stay the same or get worse over the next 12 months, by urban/rural classification**



<sup>1</sup> The Urban/Rural analysis included is based on the 2015 NISRA Urban/Rural classification. Further information regarding urban/rural classification can be found on the NISRA webpage at; <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/support/geography/urban-rural-classification>

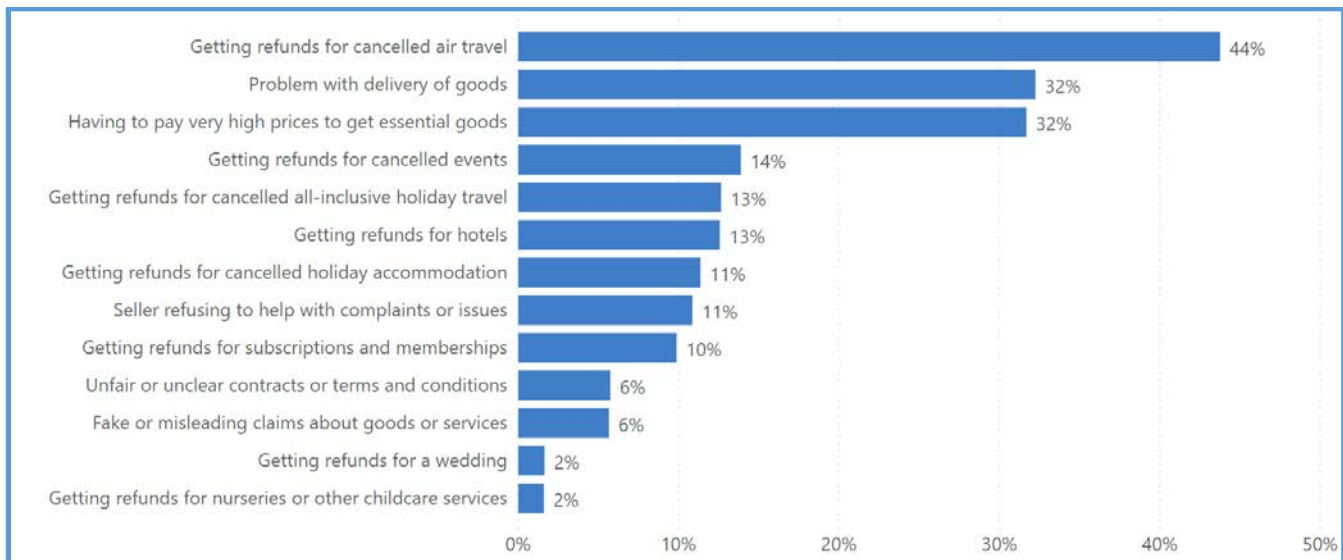
## Consumer Support

In Phase 2 only, the survey asked a multiple response question to establish what problems, if any, people had experienced with companies due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Some companies were supporting their consumers in many ways, such as offering refunds for cancelled events or trips.

Just over half of people (51%) reported that they had not experienced any problems with companies since the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. However, due to limitations around the question, it is not possible to differentiate between those people who had not experienced a problem because they did not have any contact with a company and those who had contact with a company but did not experience any problems with them.

Of those people who had experienced a problem with a company, 44% said they had difficulty with getting refunds for cancelled air travel. Just under one-third of people (32%) reported problems with delivery of goods or having to pay very high prices to get essential goods (32%) (Figure 22).

**Figure 22<sup>1</sup>: Problems experienced with companies since the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**

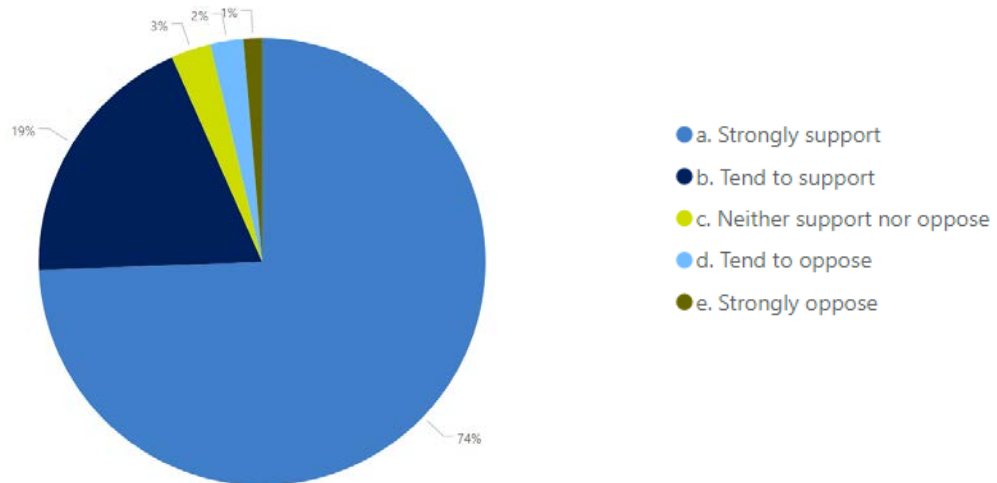


<sup>1</sup> Multiple responses allowed.

## Staying at Home

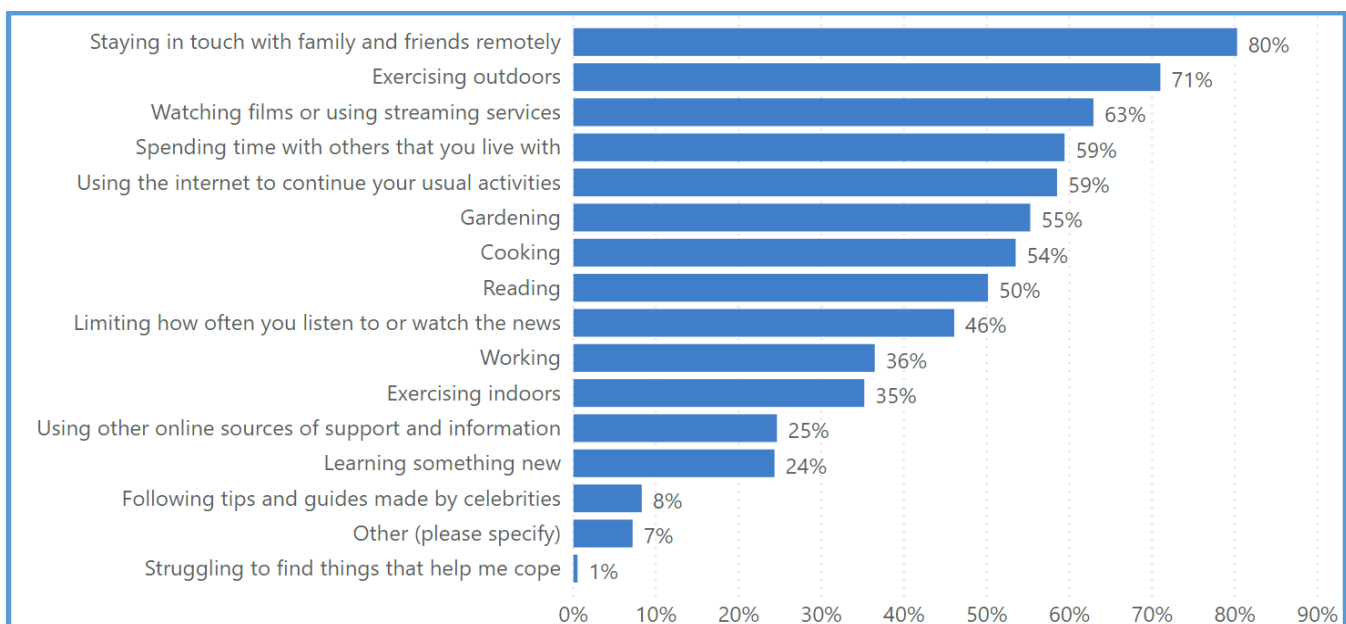
Practically all people (93%) supported the ‘Stay at Home’ measures put in place by the Government. Almost three quarters of people (74%) strongly supported these measures (Figure 23).

**Figure 23: Proportion of people who supported or opposed the stay at home measures put in place by the Government**



People were asked what helped them to cope whilst staying at home. The most common responses given by people were keeping in touch with family and friends remotely (80%), exercising outdoors (71%), watching films or using streaming services (63%), spending time with others that they lived with (59%) and using the internet to continue their usual activities (59%). A very small proportion of people (1%) said they were struggling to find things to help them cope whilst staying at home (Figure 24).

**Figure 24<sup>1</sup>: Activities which helped people cope whilst staying at home**



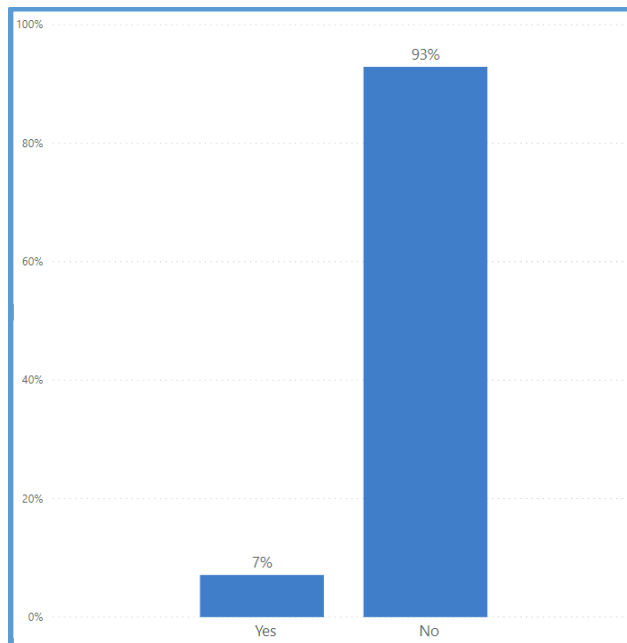
<sup>1</sup> Multiple responses allowed

## Self-Isolation

People were asked about whether or not they had self-isolated in the seven days prior to interview. Self-isolation was defined as staying at home because they had symptoms or they had been in contact with someone who had symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19). People may have self-isolated at home for other reasons, so the figures presented below should not be interpreted as estimates of all those with Coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or those diagnosed with Coronavirus (COVID-19).

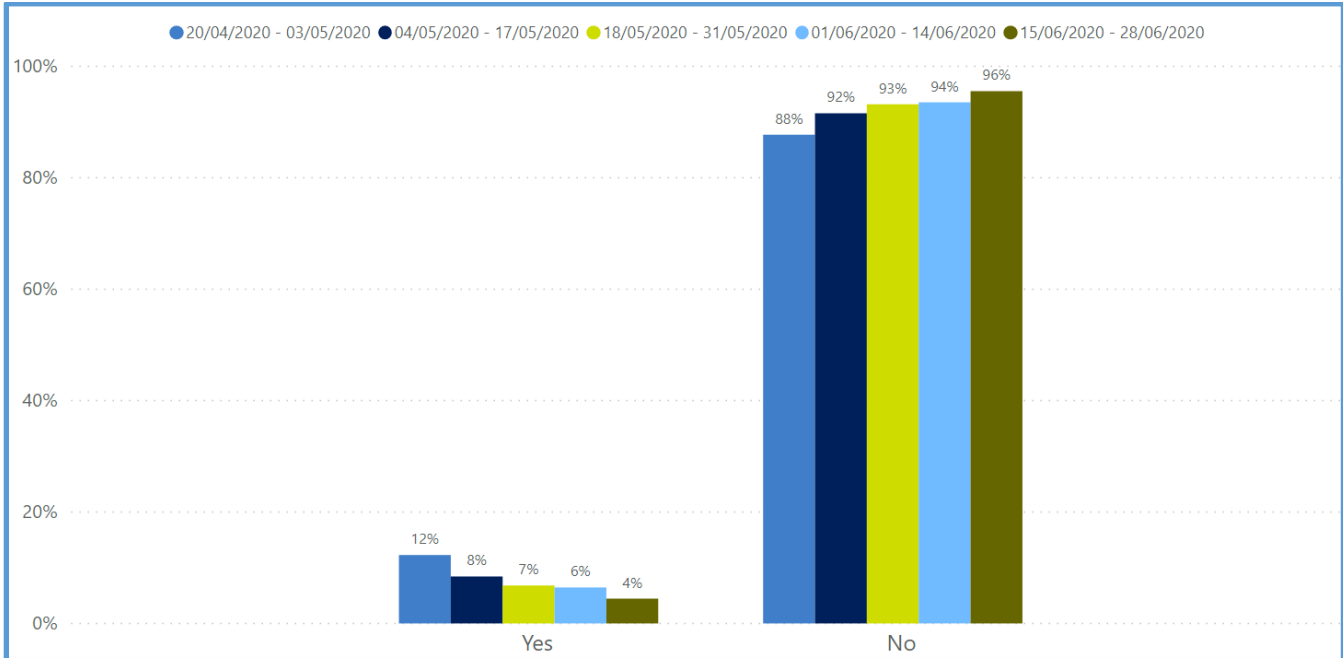
Some 7% of people had self-isolated at home, in the seven days prior to interview, because of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) (Figure 25).

**Figure 25: Proportion of people who had self-isolated at home in the seven days prior to interview because of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**



More than one in ten people (12%) reported self-isolating in the two week period commencing 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020, which was significantly higher than the proportion of people (4%) who reported self-isolating in the two week period after the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (Figure 26).

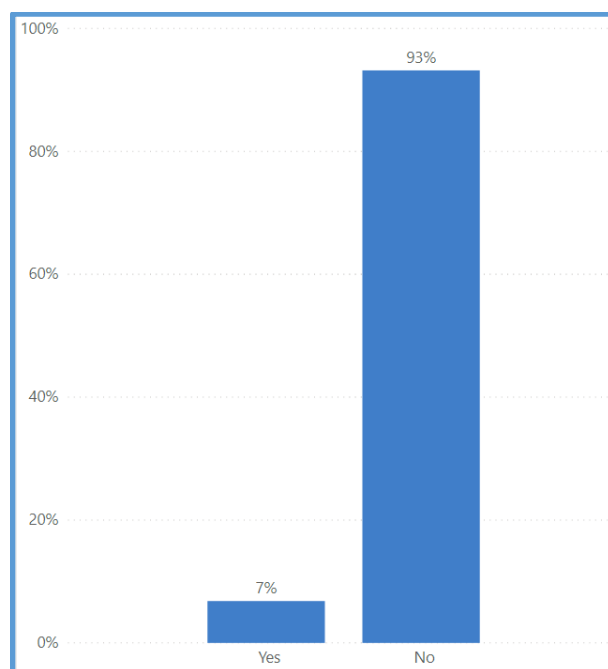
**Figure 26<sup>1</sup>: Proportion of people who had self-isolated at home in the seven days prior to interview because of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, by date of interview**



<sup>1</sup> The number of interviews carried out after 28 June 2020 are too low to report on separately in these results

Some 7% of people reported that another member of their household had self-isolated at home because of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the seven days prior to interview (Figure 27).

**Figure 27<sup>1</sup>: Proportion of people with someone else in their household in the seven days prior to interview who had self-isolated because of Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**

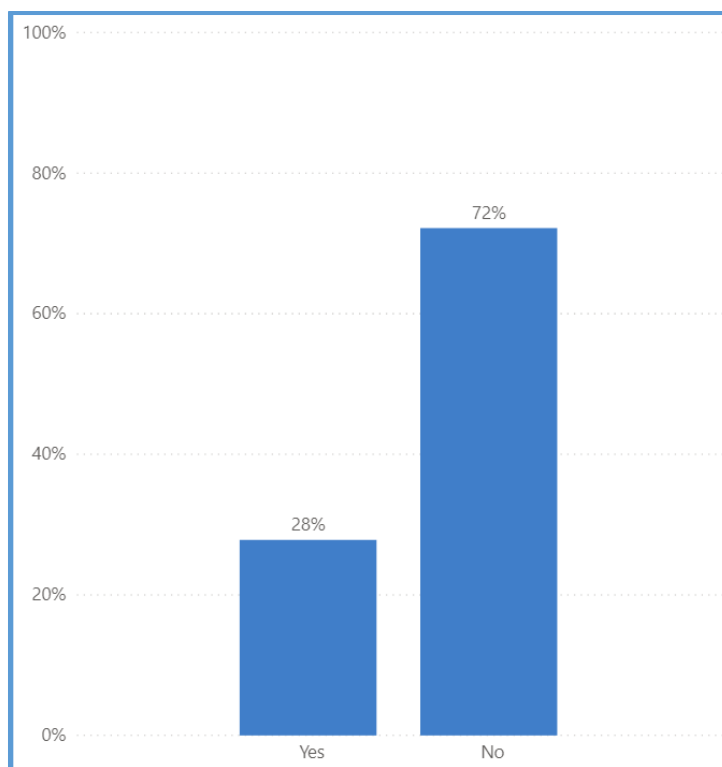


<sup>1</sup> Excludes single person households

People were also asked about whether they knew someone living outside of their household who had self-isolated in the seven days prior to interview because of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Over a quarter of people (28%) reported they knew someone living outside of their household who had self-isolated at home because of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in the seven days prior to interview (Figure 28).

**Figure 28<sup>1</sup>: Proportion of people who knew someone living outside of their household who had self-isolated in the seven days prior to interview because of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**

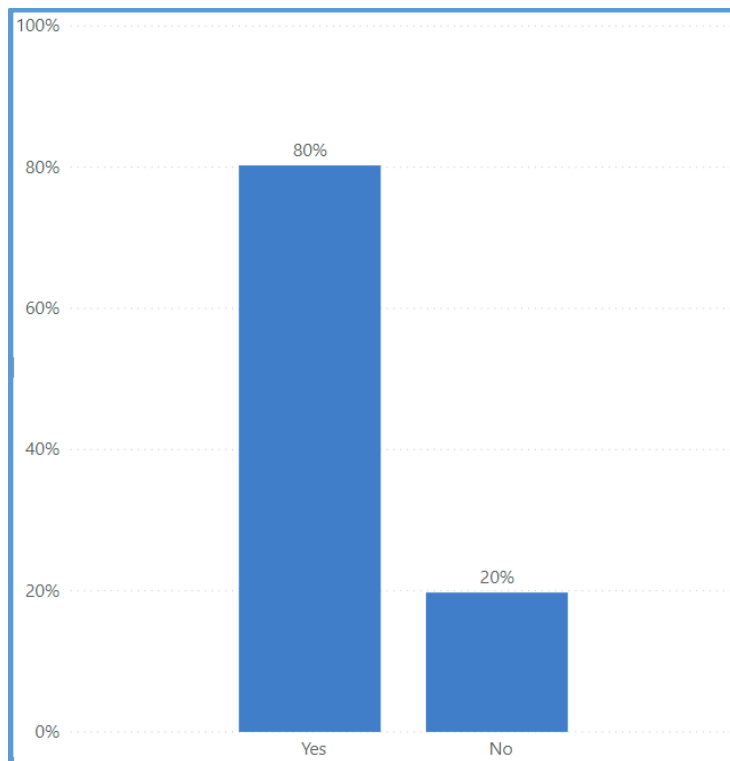


<sup>1</sup> Excludes persons who answered not applicable

## Protecting Older and Vulnerable People

The majority of people (80%) said they had avoided contact with older people or other vulnerable people in the seven days prior to interview because of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak (Figure 29).

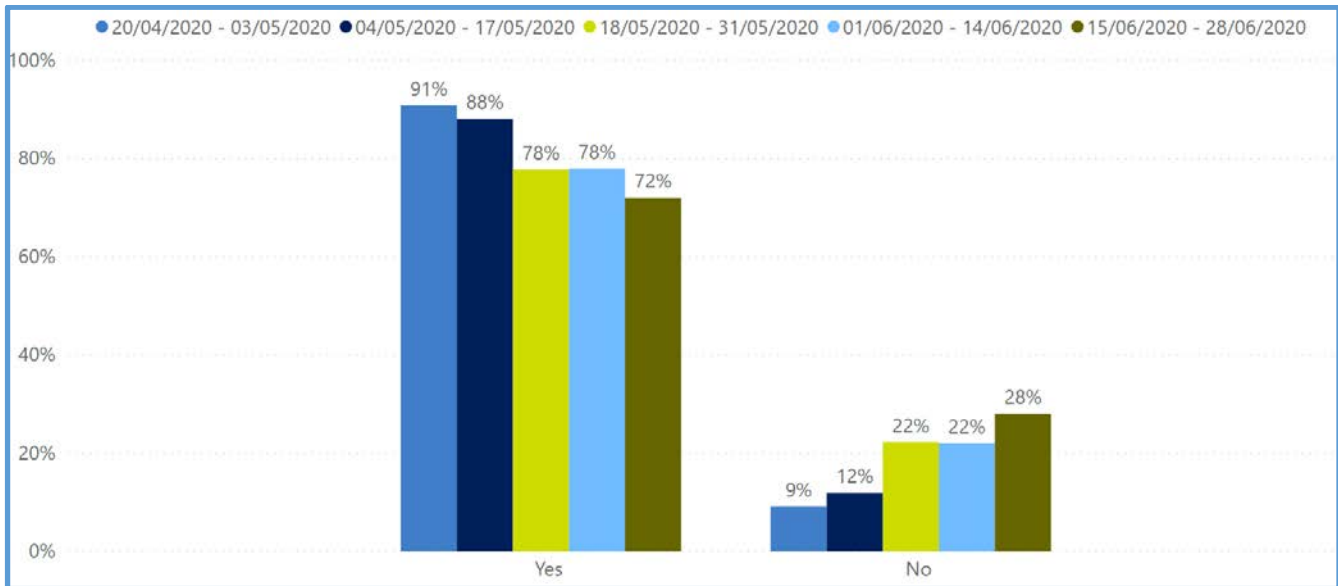
**Figure 29: Proportion of people who avoided contact with older people or other vulnerable people in the seven days prior to interview because of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**



The results show that this proportion decreased over time. Approximately, nine out of ten people interviewed in the period 20 April to 17 May 2020 said that they had avoided contact with older or vulnerable people in the seven days prior to interview because of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. This proportion decreased to 72% in the two-week period after 15 June 2020 (Figure 30).



**Figure 30<sup>1</sup>: Proportion of people who avoided contact with older or vulnerable people in the seven days prior to interview because of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak by date of interview**



<sup>1</sup> The number of interviews carried out after 28 June 2020 are too low to report on separately in these results

## Personal Wellbeing Indicators

This section contains estimates of reported ‘life satisfaction’, feeling that things done in life are ‘worthwhile’, ‘happiness’ and ‘anxiety’ for those people interviewed in Phases 1 and 2.

Personal wellbeing statistics are reported on in two different ways; (i) the average (mean) rating and (ii) the proportion of respondents scoring within each of the thresholds.

People were asked to respond to each question on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is “not at all” and 10 is “completely”. This means that a higher score indicates better wellbeing in relation to ‘life satisfaction’, ‘worthwhile’ and ‘happiness’, and a lower score indicates better wellbeing for ‘anxiety’.

### (i) Average (mean) Wellbeing ratings

The average (mean) wellbeing ratings across the four measures of personal wellbeing were:

- 7.54 out of 10 for ‘life satisfaction’
- 7.89 out of 10 for feeling that what you do in life is ‘worthwhile’
- 7.55 out of 10 for ‘happiness’ yesterday
- 3.33 out of 10 for ‘anxiety’ yesterday

**Table 1: Comparing Personal Wellbeing averages with the latest NISRA published data (2018/19) for the same indicators**

Average (mean)	Life Satisfaction	Worthwhile	Happiness	Anxiety
NISRA COVID-19 OPN Survey Phases 1-2	7.54*	7.89	7.55	3.33*
Personal Wellbeing in NI 18/19	7.89*	8.07	7.69	2.83*

\*A significant difference has been observed

The average (mean) wellbeing rating for ‘life satisfaction’ (7.54) was significantly lower than that reported by NISRA in the latest published data for this indicator in 2018/19<sup>1</sup> (7.89) (Table 1).

The average (mean) wellbeing rating for ‘anxiety’ (3.33) was significantly higher than that reported by NISRA for the 2018/19 year (2.83) (Table 1).

There were no significant differences observed in the wellbeing ratings of people interviewed in Phases 1 and 2 in terms of feeling what they do in life is ‘worthwhile’ and ‘happiness’ when compared with that reported by NISRA for 2018/19 (Table 1).

<sup>1</sup>NISRA report on Personal Wellbeing in Northern Ireland 2018/19 - <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/personal-wellbeing-northern-ireland-201819>

**Table 2: Variation in average personal wellbeing ratings by Gender, Age and Longstanding Illness**

Average (mean)	Life Satisfaction	Worthwhile	Happiness	Anxiety
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	7.59	7.82	7.62	3.08*
Female	7.49	7.96	7.49	3.57*
<b>Age-group</b>				
16 – 44	7.40**	7.85**	7.47**	3.32
45 – 64	7.43**	7.77**	7.42**	3.53*
65 & over	8.03**	8.18**	7.92**	3.07*
<b>Longstanding illness</b>				
Yes	7.12*	7.45*	7.12*	3.91*
No	7.78*	8.14*	7.79*	3.01*
<b>Total</b>				
NISRA COVID-19 OPN Survey Phases 1-2	<b>7.54</b>	<b>7.89</b>	<b>7.55</b>	<b>3.33</b>

\*A significant difference has been observed

\*\* A significant difference has been observed in between one or more age categories (details in commentary)

Feelings of ‘life satisfaction’, what you do in life is ‘worthwhile’ and ‘happiness’ were significantly higher for people aged 65+ when compared to other age groups, however, there were no significant differences observed between people aged 16-44 and 45-64 for these measures. Similarly, feelings of ‘anxiety’ for people aged 65+ were significantly lower than for those aged 45-64.

Females reported a higher ‘anxiety’ score on average than males, which is indicative of poorer wellbeing in this measure.

People with a longstanding illness reported significantly lower wellbeing averages for ‘life satisfaction’, ‘worthwhile’ and ‘happiness’ than those without a longstanding illness. The average ‘anxiety’ score is higher for those with a longstanding illness than those without.

(ii) The proportion of respondents scoring within each of the Personal Wellbeing thresholds

Labelling of Thresholds

Life satisfaction, Worthwhile and Happiness scores		Anxiety scores	
Response on an 11 point Scale	Label	Response on an 11 point Scale	Label
0 to 4	Low	0 to 1	Very low
5 to 6	Medium	2 to 3	Low
7 to 8	High	4 to 5	Medium
9 to 10	Very high	6 to 10	High

The proportion of people reporting ‘Very high’ (score of 9 or 10) levels of personal wellbeing, indicating better personal wellbeing was:

- 29% for ‘life satisfaction’
- 37% for feeling that what you do in life is ‘worthwhile’
- 33% for ‘happiness’.

In terms of ‘anxiety’, where a lower score indicates better personal wellbeing, 32% of people reported a ‘Very low’ score (0 or 1) (Figure 31).

Figure 31: Proportion of respondents scoring 0 to 10 on each of the personal wellbeing scales



Figure 31 shows the distribution of scores for each personal wellbeing measure. All four personal wellbeing measures are skewed towards the positive end of the scale (note that a lower score in the anxiety scale represents better personal wellbeing).

**Table 3: Comparing the proportion of people reporting better personal wellbeing with the latest NISRA published data (2018/19)**

Proportion of people reporting better wellbeing scores	Very high (score of 9 or 10)			Very low Score (0 or 1)
	Life Satisfaction	Worthwhile	Happiness	Anxiety
NISRA COVID-19 OPN Survey Phases 1-2	29%*	37%*	39%*	32%*
Personal Wellbeing in NI 18/19	37%*	42%*	38%*	41%*

\*A significant difference has been observed

For those people interviewed in Phases 1 and 2, all four personal wellbeing measures were significantly lower than those reported by NISRA in their latest annual published data for 2018-19 (Table 3).

## Loneliness

This measure asks people the question, 'How often do you feel lonely?' with the following 5 response options: 'often/always', 'some of the time', 'occasionally', 'hardly ever' and 'never'. This question therefore measures the frequency with which people report feeling lonely, but not the level of loneliness they experience.

Some 6% of people reported feeling lonely 'often/always'. This is similar to the last NISRA published figure for the same indicator in 2018/19<sup>2</sup> (5%). However, the proportion of people reporting they feel lonely 'some of the time' (15%) was significantly higher than the figure reported in the 2018/19 annual data (12%). Similarly, just over a quarter of people (26%) reported feeling lonely 'never', significantly lower than the 33% figure reported by NISRA in 2018/19 (Table 4).

**Table 4: Frequency of loneliness in people aged 16+**

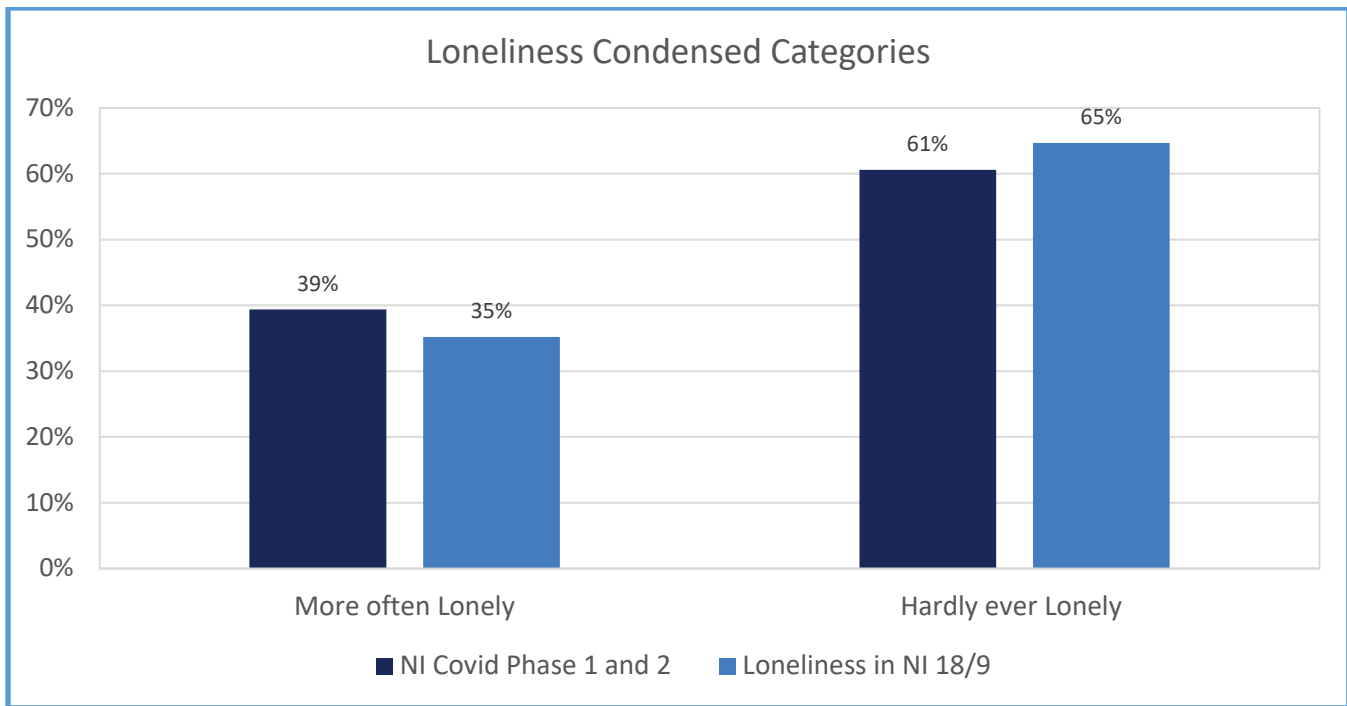
	Often/always	Some of the time	Occasionally	Hardly ever	Never
Total Phases 1 & 2	6%	15%*	19%	35%	26%*
Loneliness in NI 2018/19	5%	12%*	18%	32%	33%*

\*A significant difference has been observed

<sup>2</sup> NISRA report on Loneliness in Northern Ireland 2018/19 - <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/loneliness-northern-ireland-201819>

Approximately, four out of ten people (39%) reported feeling ‘more often lonely’ (condensed category<sup>3</sup>). This figure is not significantly different compared to the latest 2018/19 figure published by NISRA (35%) (Figure 32).

**Figure 32: Frequency of loneliness (Condensed Categories)**



Almost one in three people with a longstanding illness (30%) reported feeling lonely ‘often/always’ or ‘some of the time’, this is significantly higher than those without a longstanding illness (15%). Less than one in five people with a longstanding illness (18%) reported never feeling lonely, significantly lower than those without a longstanding illness (30%) (Table 5).

**Table 5: Frequency of loneliness for people with and without a longstanding illness**

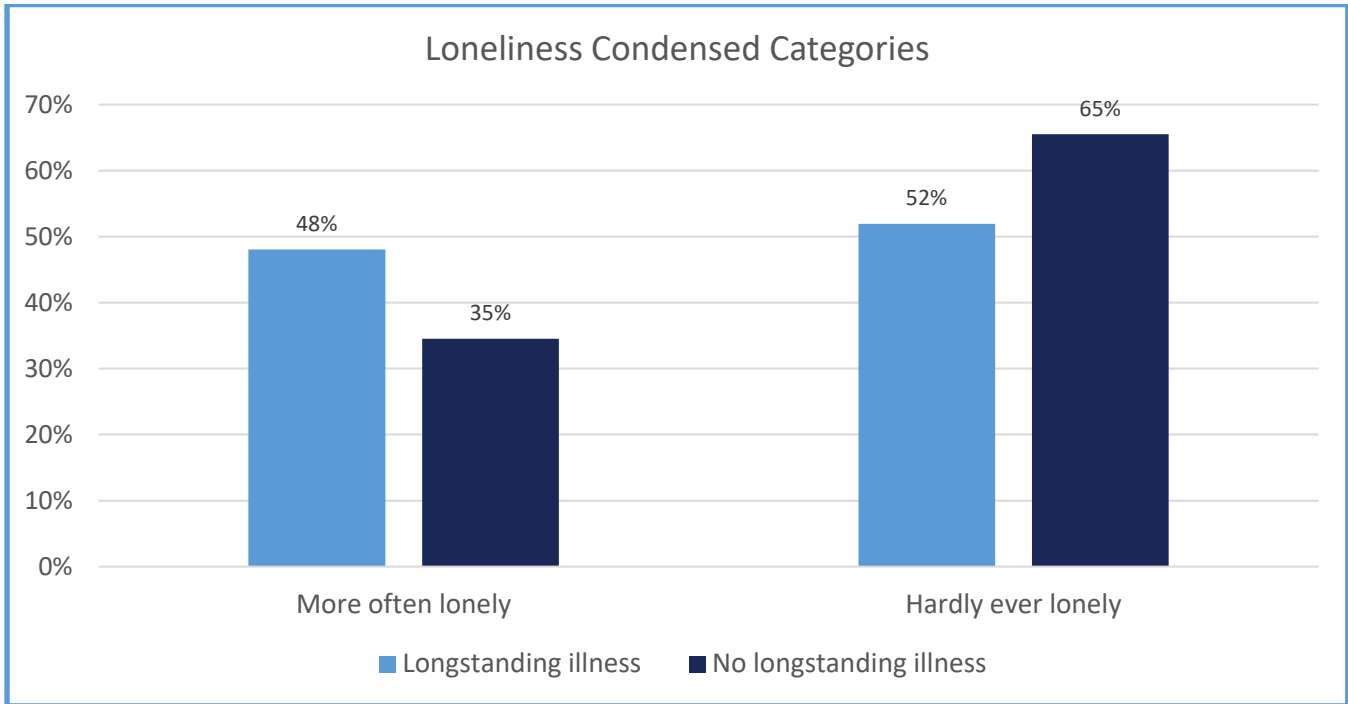
Frequency of loneliness	Often/always	Some of the time	Occasionally	Hardly ever	Never
With longstanding illness	11%*	20%*	18%	34%	18%*
Without longstanding illness	3%*	12%*	20%	35%	30%*
Total Phases 1 & 2	6%	15%	19%	35%	26%

\*A significant difference has been observed

<sup>3</sup> For condensed categories responses ‘often/always’, ‘some of the time’ and ‘occasionally’ were grouped into a single category called ‘more often lonely’ and responses ‘hardly ever’ and ‘never’ were grouped into the category ‘hardly ever lonely’.

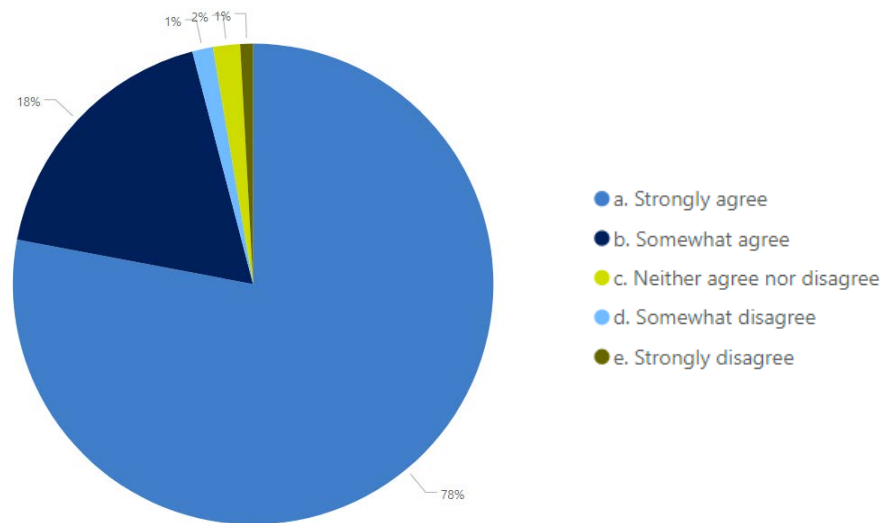
Almost half of people with a longstanding illness (48%) reported feeling ‘more often lonely’, this is significantly higher than those without a longstanding illness (35%) (Figure 33).

**Figure 33: Estimated of loneliness for people with and without a longstanding illness (Condensed categories)**



Despite these feelings of loneliness, almost all people (96%) agreed that if they needed help, people would be there for them (Figure 34).

**Figure 34: Proportion of people who agreed or disagreed that if they needed help, people would be there for them**

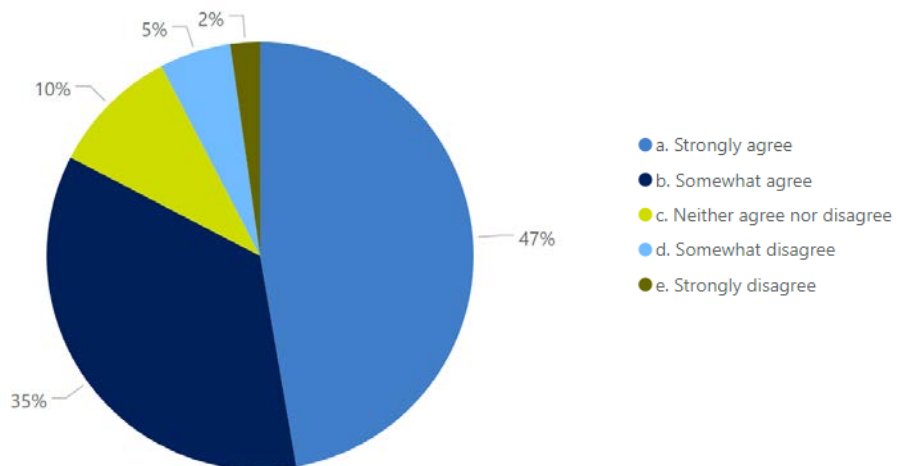


## Community Support

There was a general good feeling amongst people that there would be a high degree of community support if they needed it because of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

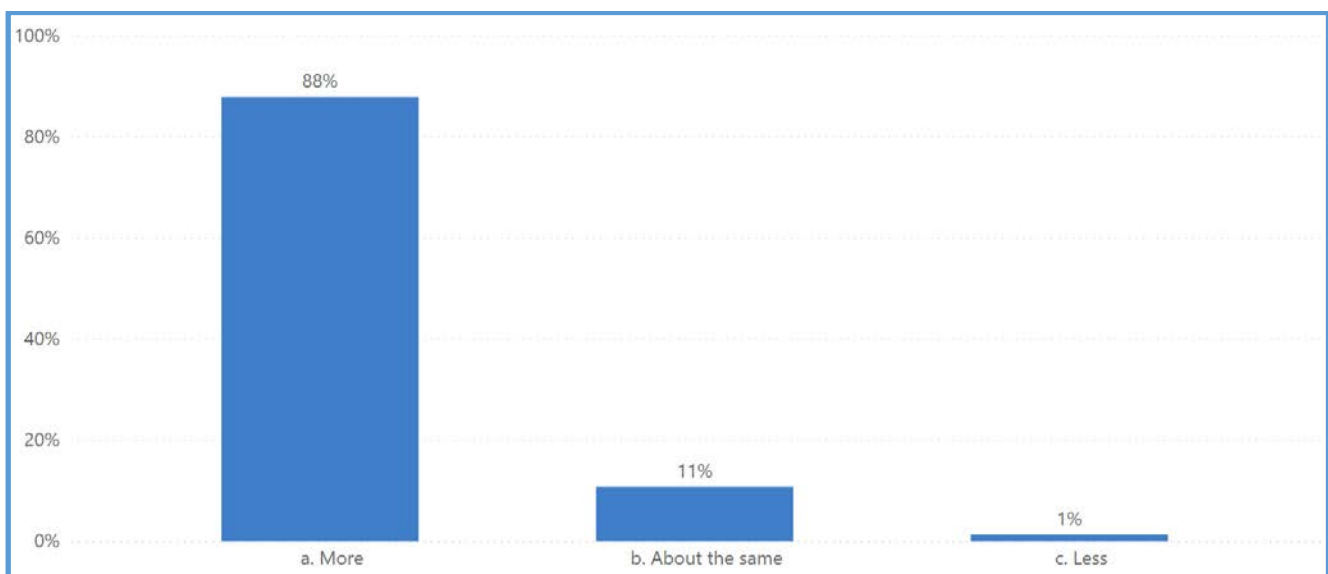
Just over eight out of ten people (82%) agreed that if they needed help, other local community members would help them during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak (Figure 35).

**Figure 35: Proportion of people who agreed or disagreed that if they needed help, other local community members would support them during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**



Most people (88%) also said that people were doing more to help others during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak (Figure 36).

**Figure 36: Proportion of people who think people are doing things to help others more, about the same or less since the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**

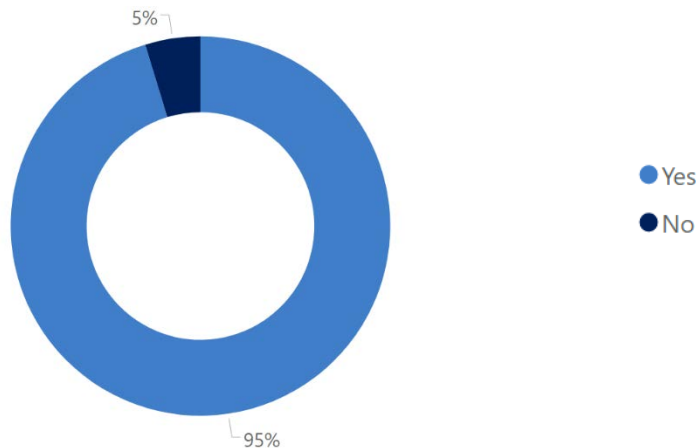




Information and Advice

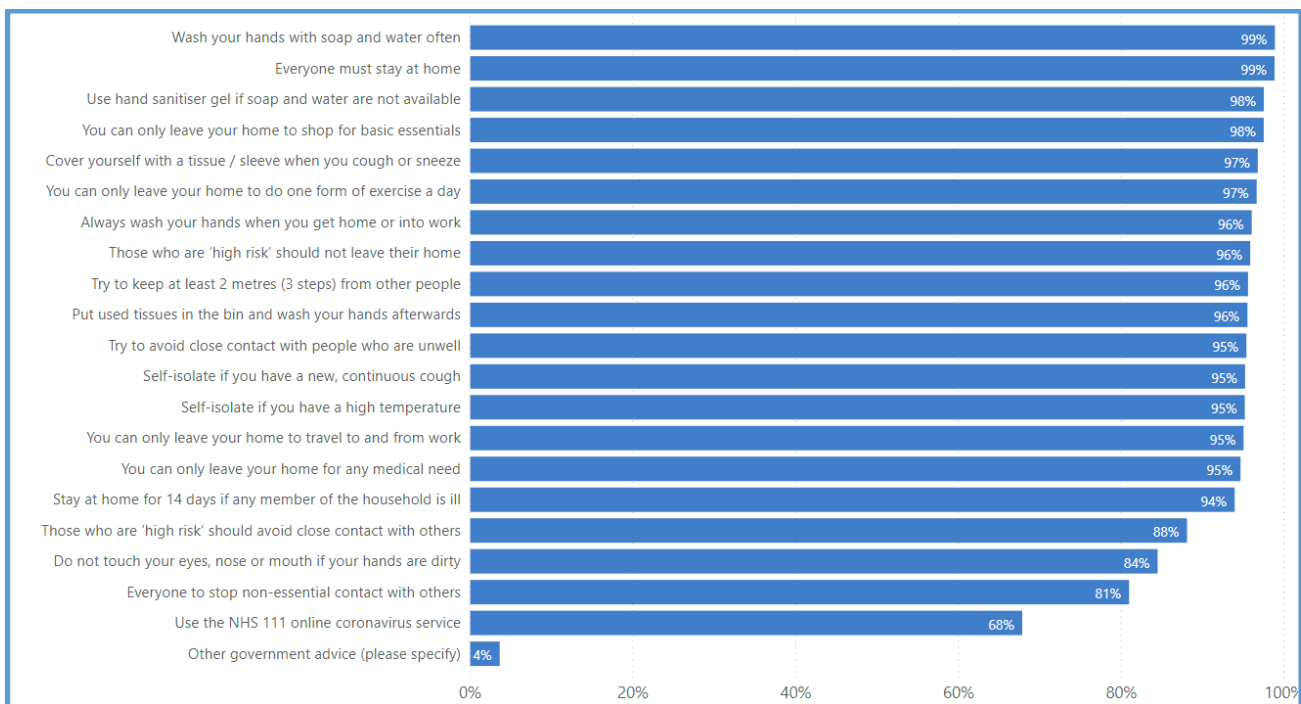
Those people who were interviewed were asked about their personal experience of finding information about the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Practically all people (95%) felt they had received enough information on how to protect themselves from Coronavirus (COVID-19) (Figure 37).

**Figure 37: Proportion of people who felt like they have enough information about how to protect themselves from Coronavirus (COVID-19)**



People also reported very high levels of awareness (typically 95%-99%) of NHS guidance and official Government advice (Figure 38).

**Figure 38<sup>1</sup>: Awareness of NHS guidance and official government advice statements on how to reduce the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19)**



<sup>1</sup> Multiple responses permitted in this question

## [Further Information](#)

NISRA would like to thank the survey interviewers and members of public who collected and provided the data for this report.

## [Results and Tables](#)

Each chart in the report is also supported by an excel spreadsheet which provides confidence intervals for each estimate. A visual representation of the findings can also be found at the following webpage:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/nisra-coronavirus-covid-19-opinion-survey>

## [Technical Report](#)

The technical report includes further details on the sampling method, data collection mode, respondent selection, fieldwork, weighting, sampling error, confidence intervals, significant differences and strengths and limitations of the survey:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/nisra-coronavirus-covid-19-opinion-survey>

## [Previous Publications](#)

The NISRA Coronavirus (COVID-19) Opinion Survey Key Findings – Phase 1, published on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020 is available at:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/news/nisra-coronavirus-covid-19-opinion-survey-phase-1-results>

## [Related Links](#)

A statistical bulletin is published each Friday by NISRA on weekly deaths in Northern Ireland. Death Registration Statistics including COVID-19 by date of death is available at:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/weekly-deaths>

Further analysis published by NISRA on COVID-19 related deaths (March-May) and Excess Mortality (March-June) in 2020 is available at:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/monthly-deaths>

The latest daily dashboard updates on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Statistics in Northern Ireland are published by the Department of Health at:

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/covid-19-daily-dashboard-updates>

The Northern Ireland Executive published the *Coronavirus Executive Approach to Decision Making* on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020. Full details can be found at:

<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/execoffice/executiveour-approach-to-decision-making.pdf>

### Further Research

NISRA is currently working with research partners on a new and important research project, the Northern Ireland Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey. The household study will help provide a better understanding of the Coronavirus and help the government work out how to manage the pandemic better moving forward. Estimates for Northern Ireland will be published once a sufficiently large sample has been achieved.

Further results from the NISRA Coronavirus (COVID-19) Opinion Survey will be published periodically as more data becomes available when Phases 3-5 fieldwork periods close.

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