

# Wiltshire Children and Young People's (8 to 18+ years) Health and Wellbeing Survey 2021

## Community Safety



Part of Wiltshire Intelligence



## Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	2
Introduction.....	6
Focus of this report .....	6
Presentation of results.....	7
Key findings.....	8
Comparison to the 2020 and 2017 surveys .....	10
Response demographics .....	12
Table 1: Overall response.....	12
Types of school.....	12
Schools and deprivation.....	12
Age and gender .....	13
Figure 1: Survey response population pyramid (2021 and 2020)* .....	13
Ethnicity .....	14
Table 2. Ethnicity breakdown by broad categories .....	14
Other characteristics.....	14
Table 3: Ethnic minority.....	15
Table 4: Children of military parent/carer(s).....	15
Table 5: Social worker involved .....	15
Table 6: Special Educational Need and/or Disability.....	16
Table 7: Free School Meals.....	16
Table 8: Young carers .....	16
Table 9: Children identifying as LGBT .....	17
Table 10: Children who have/had a family member (who lives with them) in prison .....	17
Results.....	18
Alcohol consumption.....	18
Figure 2: Question 3.04. Do you drink alcohol? .....	18
Figure 2a: Question 3.04. Do you drink alcohol? Vulnerable groups. * .....	19
Figure 3: Question 3.06. Have you ever been drunk? 2021.....	20
Figure 3a: Question 3.06. Have you ever been drunk? 2017. ....	20
Figure 4: Question 3.15. Where do you normally get alcohol from? * .....	21
Figure 4a: Question 3.06 and Question 3.15. Where do you normally get alcohol from? Frequently drunk. * .....	22

Figure 5: Question 6.13 and Question 3.04. Overall, are you basically satisfied with your life? Alcohol drinking frequency. .... 23

Figure 6: Question 4.20. How helpful have you found it to learn about the things listed below: Alcohol..... 23

Illegal drugs..... 24

Figure 7: Question 3.08. Have you ever been offered illegal drugs? ..... 24

Figure 8: Question 3.09. Have you ever tried illegal drugs? ..... 25

Figure 8b: Question 3.09. Have you ever tried illegal drugs? Vulnerable groups. \* ..... 26

Figure 9: Question 6.13. Overall, are you basically satisfied with your life? Illegal drug use. .... 27

Prescription drug misuse..... 28

Figure 10: Question 3.22. Have you ever been *offered* prescription drugs (medicine you can only get from a doctor) that are NOT your own, for fun or to feel good? This is sometimes called Pharming. Gender. .... 28

Figure 11: Question 3.23. Have you ever *tried* prescription drugs (medicine you can only get from your doctor) that are NOT your own, for fun or to feel good? This is sometimes called Pharming..... 29

Figure 11a: Question 3.23. Have you ever *tried* prescription drugs (medicine you can only get from your doctor) that are NOT your own, for fun or to feel good? This is sometimes called Pharming. Vulnerable groups. \* ..... 30

Feelings of safety ..... 31

Figure 12: Question 5.01. How safe do you feel at school? ..... 31

Figure 12a: Question 5.01. How safe do you feel at school? Vulnerable groups. \* ..... 32

Figure 13: Question 5.02. How safe do you feel at home or the place where you live? Gender. .... 33

Figure 13a: Question 5.02. How safe do you feel at home or the place where you live? Vulnerable groups. \* ..... 34

Figure 14: Question 5.14. How safe do you feel being outside, near your house? ..... 35

Figure 14a: Question 5.14. How safe do you feel being outside, near your house? Gender. .... 35

Figure 15: Question 5.08. How safe do you feel riding your bike on the roads? Primary. .... 36

Figure 16: Question 5.64. How safe do you feel on your way to and from school? ..... 37

Figure 17: Question 5.06. How safe do you feel from crime? ..... 37

Figure 17a: Question 5.06. How safe do you feel from crime? Gender. 2021. .... 38

Figure 17b: Question 5.06. How safe do you feel from crime? Vulnerable groups. \* ..... 39

Run away from home..... 40

Figure 18: Question 5.26. In the last 6 months have you run away from where you live?  
 ..... 40

Figure 19: Question 5.27. How did you return home? Those who ran away in last 6  
 months. .... 40

Involvement with crime ..... 41

Figure 20: Question 5.28. Have you ever been in SERIOUS trouble with the police?.... 41

Figure 20a: Question 5.28. Have you ever been in SERIOUS trouble with the police?  
 Vulnerable groups. \* ..... 42

Figure 21: Question 5.30. Have you ever felt you’ve had to carry a weapon? Gender. . 43

Figure 22: Question 5.31. Have you ever felt you have had to join a gang? ..... 44

Selling drugs ..... 44

Domestic abuse ..... 45

Figure 23: Question 5.11. Have you or anyone in your immediate family ever been a  
 victim of domestic abuse or domestic violence? ..... 45

Figure 23a: Question 5.11. Have you or anyone in your immediate family ever been a  
 victim of domestic abuse or domestic violence? Gender..... 45

Figure 23b: Question 5.11. Have you or anyone in your immediate family ever been a  
 victim of domestic abuse or domestic violence? Vulnerable groups. \* ..... 46

Safety in personal relationships ..... 47

Figure 24: Question 5.21. Have you ever been a victim of abuse from a  
 boyfriend/girlfriend? ..... 47

Figure 24a: Question 5.21. Have you ever been a victim of abuse from a  
 boyfriend/girlfriend? Vulnerable groups. \* ..... 48

Figure 25: Question 11.08. How old were you when you had sexual intercourse for the  
 first time? ..... 49

Figure 25a: Question 11.08. How old were you when you had sexual intercourse for the  
 first time? Gender..... 49

Figure 26: Question 11.10. Do you feel you can say no to having sexual activity? Those  
 who have had sexual intercourse. .... 50

Figure 26a: Question 11.10. Do you feel you can say no to having sexual activity?  
 Those who have had sexual intercourse. Gender. 2021. .... 51

Figure 26b: Question 11.10. Do you feel you can say no to having sexual activity?  
 Those who have had sexual intercourse. Gender. 2017. .... 51

Online safety ..... 52

Figure 27: Question 5.43. Have you ever met a stranger in the real world that you got to  
 know first online? Gender. .... 52

Figure 28: Question 5.44. Did you take someone with you when you met up with them?  
 Those who answered yes to 5.43. .... 52

Figure 29: Question 5.55. What was the age of the person that you met? Those who answered yes to 5.43. .... 53

Blackmail ..... 53

Figure 30: Question 5.61. Have you ever been involved in sharing messages or pictures of a sexual nature on the internet or your phone? ..... 54

Figure 30a: Question 5.61. Have you ever been involved in sharing messages or pictures of a sexual nature on the internet or your phone? Gender. 2021..... 55

Figure 30b: Question 5.61. Have you ever been involved in sharing messages or pictures of a sexual nature on the internet or your phone? Gender. 2017..... 55

Figure 30c: Question 5.61. Have you ever been involved in sharing messages or pictures of a sexual nature on the internet or your phone? Vulnerable groups. \* ..... 56

Gambling ..... 57

Figure 31: Question 3.56. Have you spent any of your money on any of the following gambling activities in the past 12 months? \* ..... 57

Figure 31a: Question 3.56. Have you spent any of your money on any of the following gambling activities in the past 12 months? Gender. \* ..... 58

Figure 31b: Question 3.56. Have you spent any of your money on any of the following gambling activities in the past 12 months? Vulnerable groups. \* ..... 59

Support and knowledge..... 60

Next steps..... 60

Acknowledgements..... 60

Appendix..... 61

Table 1. Proportion and ranking of pupils eligible and claiming FSM for primary schools as of summer 2021 ..... 61

Table 2. Proportion and ranking of pupils eligible and claiming FSM for secondary schools as of summer 2021 ..... 63

## Introduction

The Wiltshire Children and Young People's (8 to 18+ years) Health and Wellbeing Survey aims to develop a better understanding of Wiltshire's children and young people's experiences of life, both inside and outside the school environment. The survey helps schools to identify areas for improvement and address issues raised by their own pupils. It also provides evidence to influence the development of services provided by Wiltshire Council and their partners that improve the health and wellbeing of young people in the county. The survey was commissioned by Wiltshire Council and carried out by Foster and Brown Research Limited.

All schools in Wiltshire were invited to take part in the voluntary survey, which was carried out in 2020 (January to March) and 2021 (May to July). In 2020, 57 schools took part and there were nearly 6,000 responses, but the survey was cut short due to the pandemic. In 2021, two months after the end of the third national lockdown and a gradual lifting of Covid regulations<sup>1</sup>, all schools were again invited to participate in the survey and 7,499 pupils were involved from 77 schools – 65 primary and 13 secondary. Of these schools, 4 were independent.

Although no sampling method was used, the large number of children and young people and different schools involved means that we can have some confidence that the responses are representative of Wiltshire's children and young people. To get an idea of representation in the 2021 survey, see the demographic section below for an overview of the survey population characteristics and school representation in terms of type and deprivation. A similar survey was also carried out in 2017 and 2015. This allows us to begin to track how behaviours have changed over time.

The survey was completed online by pupils in year groups 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 12 and took advantage of the additional capabilities that online surveys bring, including accurate sliding response questions and presenting questions to a respondent based on their previous answers. There were three versions of the questionnaire designed separately for primary, secondary and year 12/Further Education (FE) college pupils, plus adaptations for children and young people with special educational needs. The questions covered a wide range of aspects of young people's lives, including healthy lifestyles, learning experiences, relationships, wellbeing, safety, risky behaviours, aspirations, and support requirements.

Schools have been given access to their own data, which they can compare to an overall Wiltshire proportion for the appropriate school phase, created using the 2021 survey data. This means that they can make informed decisions about how to support the health and wellbeing needs of their pupils and use the data to monitor the impact of interventions.

## Focus of this report

This report provides detailed findings surrounding community safety, predominantly drawn from the 2021 survey data. This includes topics of alcohol consumption, illegal drugs, prescription drug misuse, feelings of safety, running away from home, involvement in crime, domestic abuse, safety in personal relationships, online safety and gambling.

Several other topic reports based on the survey findings will be published related to emotional health and wellbeing, risky behaviours, healthy lifestyles and school experience.

---

<sup>1</sup> [Timeline of UK government coronavirus lockdowns and restrictions | The Institute for Government](#)

For a summary of the key findings across all themes, click here:

<https://www.wiltshireintelligence.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Wiltshire-CYP-HWB-survey-Overview-report-.pdf> to find the Overview report for the 2021 survey.

## Presentation of results

This report starts by providing a summary of the results, including how the 2021 survey compares to the results in 2020 and 2017. This is followed by information on the demographics of the respondents, including school participation and a variety of different pupil characteristics. It then details participant responses to questions relating to the community safety, broken down into the topic sections mentioned above. Also included is a short section on support and knowledge, related to the issues discussed in this report. Most questions are presented graphically with a short narrative.

Initial results for alcohol consumption are presented by the school levels of primary, secondary and year 12/FE. As the proportions of primary school children consuming alcohol were low, primary school respondents are usually not included in the presentation of subsidiary results in these sections. Questions on drug use, domestic abuse and abusive personal relationships were not asked of primary school respondents, and as such these sections describe only the secondary and year 12/FE results.

All results are broken into school phase; primary, secondary or year 12/FE, and are broken down by gender and vulnerable groups where appropriate. The term 'vulnerable group' refers to those who the evidence indicates to be at greater risk of poor outcomes compared to the general population. Through the survey, participants were invited to identify themselves as one or more of the following (these groups are non-exclusive):

- Having a family member in prison – now or in the past
- Being lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or trans (LGBT)
- Being adopted, fostered or looked after by the local authority (AFL)
- Having a parent/carer in the armed forces
- Being part of a family with a social worker
- Have free school meals or knew they were eligible
- Being a young carer
- Having a special educational need
- Having a disability
- From a minority ethnic group.

Children reporting that they have a Special Educational Need (SEN) and pupils reporting that they have a disability were grouped together (SEND) due to significant crossovers between the two and wide recognition of the term 'SEND'. Details relating to numbers and proportions of these groups can be found in the demographic section below.

Where possible, comparisons to the 2020 and 2017 Wiltshire survey results have been made, as well as with recent national reports that consider similar themes, providing a useful benchmark. Comparisons should be used with caution, however, due to the variations in sample size, amendments to question wording and changes to the schools involved, as well as the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Key findings

The key findings relating to community safety from the 2021 survey are outlined below. The survey has shown that perceptions of safety at home are high among all school phases (around 90%). It also indicates that most children do not drink alcohol or use illegal drugs or prescription drugs. There are some areas for concern, however, surrounding gambling and online safety, as well as outcomes for those identifying with the vulnerable groups. To see a visual summary of the key findings from this report, navigate to the Wiltshire Intelligence website: [School Health Survey - Wiltshire Intelligence](#).

### Alcohol consumption

- **76%** of primary, **45%** of secondary and **24%** of year 12/FE pupils never drink alcohol. **22%** of primary pupils had tried it once or twice. **51%** of year 12/FE pupils and **21%** of secondary school pupils reported drinking alcohol monthly or more frequently.
- **17%** of secondary pupils and **23%** of year 12/FE pupils get drunk frequently. Most children obtain their alcohol from home with their parents' permission.

### Illegal drugs

- **80%** of secondary pupils and **62%** of year 12/FE pupils had not been offered illegal drugs. **20%** of secondary and **38%** of year 12/FE pupils had.
- **7%** of secondary pupils and **19%** of year 12/FE pupils reported having tried illegal drugs, though the majority had not (**93%** secondary, **81%** year 12/FE). Only **2%** of the secondary sample and **3%** of the year 12/FE sample take illegal drugs frequently.
- In secondary and year 12/FE school phases, **children who have/had a family member in prison** were significantly more likely than the overall Wiltshire sample to have tried illegal drugs (**19%** and **49%** respectively).

### Prescription drug misuse

- **90%** of secondary and year 12/FE pupils reported **never** having tried prescription drugs for recreational use ("pharming"). **22%** of year 12/FE pupils who **have/had a family member in prison** had tried prescription drugs for recreational use.

### Perceptions and feelings of safety

- Around **90%** of respondents from all three school phases reported feeling safe in their home or in the place where they live
- Perceptions of safety at school were lower. **84%** primary, **63%** secondary and **86%** of year 12/FE pupils reported feeling very safe/safe at school. This dip in secondary school phases has been observed in previous surveys.
- Feelings of safety from crime were lowest in primary school phases (**52%**) and highest in year 12/FE school phases (**63%**). **55%** of secondary pupils felt safe from crime. **Males** were more likely to feel safe from crime compared to females in all school phases.



- **62%** of primary children felt safe/very safe riding a bike on the roads.

### Involvement in crime

- **93%** of each school phases had **never** been in serious trouble with the police. These proportions decreased in all vulnerable groups in all school phases. **18%** of year 12/FE adopted, fostered and looked after children (**AFL**) reported having been in serious trouble with the police.
- **96%** of secondary and year 12/FE pupils have **never** been asked to sell drugs.

### Domestic abuse

- **81%** of secondary and **79%** of year 12/FE pupils reported that they or someone in their immediate family had never been a victim of domestic abuse or violence. **2 in 10** had been. In both school phases, **females** were more likely than males to report that they or a member of their family had been a victim of domestic abuse or violence. **12%** of pupils said that the abuse was still happening.
- Among those identifying with the vulnerable groups, proportions were particularly high for **children who have/had a family member in prison** (**53%** secondary, **66%** year 12/FE) compared to the Wiltshire proportions (**19%** secondary, **21%** year 12/FE).

### Safety in personal relationships

- **8%** of secondary and **14%** of year 12/FE pupils reported that they had been a victim of abuse from a boyfriend or girlfriend. Among those identifying with the vulnerable groups, proportions of children experiencing abuse in relationships was particularly high among secondary AFL children (**21%**) and year 12/FE children who have/had a family member in prison (**30%**).
- Of those who are sexually active, **67%** of secondary and **80%** of year 12/FE pupils felt they could **say no** to having sexual activity. **Males** were less likely to report this than females.

### Online safety

- **38%** of secondary school respondents and **46%** of year 12/FE respondents **had** been involved in sending or receiving pictures or messages of a sexual nature online. Involvement was most likely to be receiving messages or pictures. **62%** of secondary and **54%** of year 2/FE pupils had not. **Females** were more likely to have been involved in sharing picture or messages of a sexual nature compared to males.
- **9 in 10** primary children had **never** met a stranger in the real world that they'd met online.

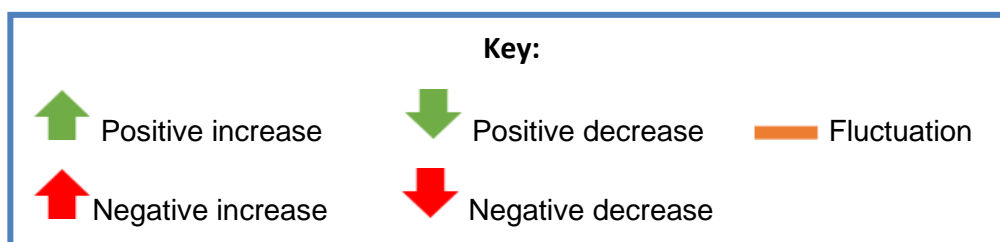
### Gambling

- **28%** of primary school pupils, **36%** of secondary school pupils and **32%** of year 12/FE students had spent their money on gambling activities in the past 12months. This was most likely to be in-game currency. **Males** were much more likely to have




gambled than females (**50% vs 28%**). Those identifying with the vulnerable groups were more likely than the Wiltshire proportion to have spent their money on gambling activities.

## Comparison to the 2020 and 2017 surveys



The 2021 survey results show some differences from the previous surveys conducted in 2020 and 2017. For some questions, clear positive or negative changes or fluctuations can be identified, these are indicated below by school phase using the key. Questions that have stayed relatively constant have not been included. Due to changes to samples, sample sizes and question wording over the years, these changes should be interpreted with caution. In addition, the Covid-19 pandemic may have influenced the 2020 and 2021 results and therefore had unusual effects on the proportions. Hence, no significance testing has been carried out on the changes to avoid making inaccurate claims of significant change or trend. Overall, there seem to be positive improvements in the year 12/FE school phase across many of the questions, while the direction of change is mixed in primary and secondary phases.









### Primary School










<i>Direction of change</i>	2021	2020	2017	Question
	52%	47%	50%	Feeling safe from crime (Very safe/safe)
	9%	7%	6%	Met a stranger in the real world that you got to know first online (Yes)
	72%	77%	N/A	Have you spent any money on gambling activities? (None)

### Secondary School

<i>Direction of change</i>	2021	2020	2017	Question
	17%	11%	13%	Have you ever been drunk? (Weekly/daily)
	29%	22%	23%	How often do you take illegal drugs? (Weekly/daily)

	63%	57%	69%	How safe do you feel at school? (Safe/very safe)
	75%	71%	81%	How safe do you feel being outside, near your house? (Very safe/safe)
	73%	67%	N/A	How safe do you feel on your way to and from school? (Safe/very safe)
	55%	48%	52%	How safe do you feel from crime? (Safe/very safe)
	21%	19%	25%	Do you feel you can say no to having sexual activity (No, never or not often)
	64%	71%	N/A	Have you spent any money on gambling activities? (None)

### Year 12/FE

<i>Direction of change</i>	2021	2020	2017	Question
	51%	59%	64%	Do you drink alcohol? (At least monthly)
	23%	25%	30%	Have you ever been drunk? (Weekly/daily)
	38%	50%	45%	Have you ever been offered illegal drugs? (Yes)
	19%	29%	28%	Have you ever tried illegal drugs? (Yes)
	15%	19%	22%	How often do you take illegal drugs? (Weekly/daily)
	12%	16%	15%	Have you ever been offered prescription drugs? (Yes)
	7%	11%	11%	Have you ever tried prescription drugs? (Yes)
	86%	80%	80%	How safe do you feel at school? (Safe/very safe)
	14%	17%	19%	How old were you when you had sexual intercourse for the first time? (Under the legal age)

## Response demographics

There are several ways that the results can be grouped using the following response demographics. The database contains 7,499 respondents in 2021, which is around 11% percent of the Wiltshire population of 8- to 18-year-olds. Table 1 provides a breakdown of these respondents by year group. In 2020, there were nearly 6,000 responses and in 2017 nearly 10,000 (4,375 primary, 4,083 secondary and 1,492 year 12/FE).

**Table 1: Overall response**

Phase	Primary				Secondary			FE	Total
	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total	Year 8	Year 10	Total	Year 12	
No.	1,330	1,251	1,600	4,181	1,485	773	2,258	1,060	7,499
%	18%	17%	21%		20%	10%		14%	100%

## Types of school

The secondary and year 12/FE respondents were taken from 13 of the 77 schools. 31% (4) of these were independent schools. This is a slightly higher proportion to the proportion of independent schools in Wiltshire that have secondary aged pupils (25%).<sup>2</sup> The primary school respondents were taken from 65 different schools, 6% (4) of which were independent schools. This is a similar proportion to the proportion of independent schools in Wiltshire that have aged primary pupils (6.8%).<sup>3</sup> This suggests that the representation from independent schools in the 2021 survey roughly matches the overall representation of independent schools in Wiltshire. The remaining schools were academy or LA schools. No special schools took part in the survey.

## Schools and deprivation

To gauge the level of representation in the survey from different schools in relation to deprivation, the proportion of children eligible for free school meals (FSM) has been used as a measure. This is a widely used measure as an indicator of deprivation, found to be a reliable indicator of low socioeconomic status.<sup>4</sup> The term 'eligible' used here refers to those

<sup>2</sup> [All schools and colleges in Wiltshire - GOV.UK - Find and compare schools in England \(compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/all-schools-and-colleges-in-wiltshire)

<sup>3</sup> [All schools and colleges in Wiltshire - GOV.UK - Find and compare schools in England \(compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/all-schools-and-colleges-in-wiltshire)

<sup>4</sup> Chris Taylor (2018) The Reliability of Free School Meal Eligibility as a Measure of Socio-Economic Disadvantage: Evidence from the Millennium Cohort Study in Wales, British Journal of Educational Studies, 66:1, 29-51, DOI: [10.1080/00071005.2017.1330464](https://doi.org/10.1080/00071005.2017.1330464)

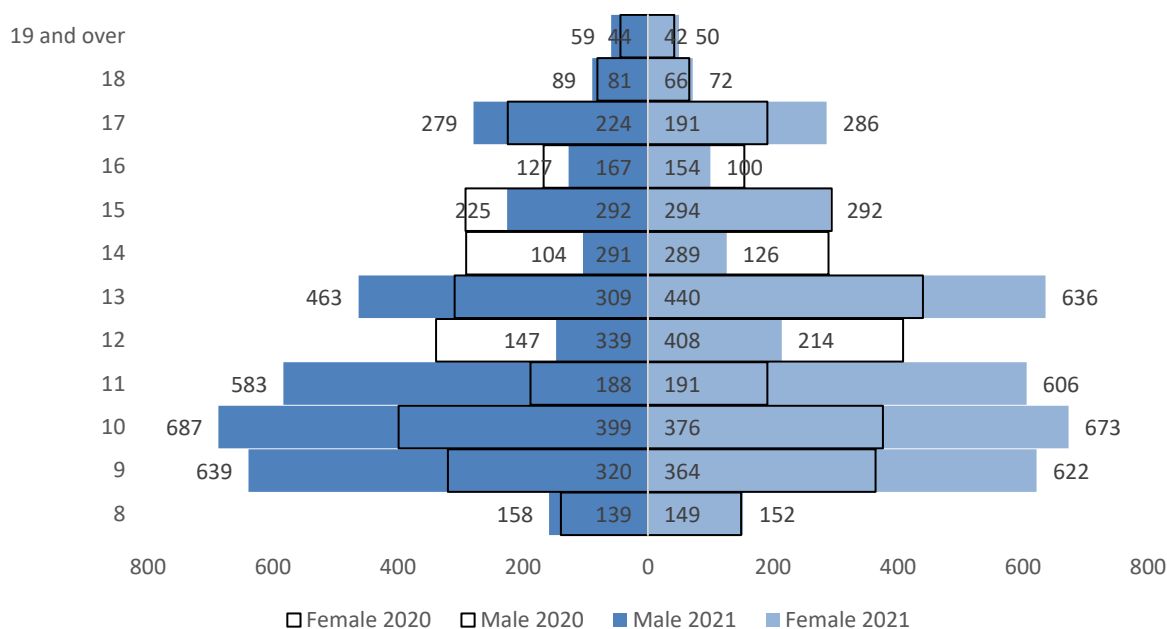
who meet the eligibility criteria AND make a claim.<sup>5</sup> Data was taken from the summer term 2021 school census to coincide with the dates that the survey was completed. Proportions of pupils eligible for FSM for all Wiltshire non-independent schools were ranked, with 1 being the highest proportion of FSM pupils, indicating higher deprivation. These rankings are displayed in tables in the appendix, only for those schools which took part in the 2021 survey, alongside the proportions. Year 12/FE pupils are not eligible for free school meals so tables only detail primary and secondary schools.

The primary schools involved in the survey cover a wide range of different levels of deprivation, as shown by the variation in the FSM rankings. On the other hand, for secondary schools, the top 9 most deprived schools in terms of proportion of FSM pupils did not take part in the 2021 survey.

### Age and gender

Age and gender information was collected from the respondents. Figure 1 below shows this information alongside the population information from the 2020 survey. The numbers sitting closest to the centre point (0) reflect the age and gender split of the 2020 survey responses and the numbers furthest from the centre point show the age and gender split of the 2021 survey response. There were similar or more responses from almost all ages in 2021 than in 2020. However, there were fewer responses from those aged 12, 14 and 16.

**Figure 1: Survey response population pyramid (2021 and 2020)\***



\*Data labels on the inside (closest to the axis) relate to the 2020 bars and on the outside relate to the 2021 bars.

<sup>5</sup> [Complete the school census - Data items 2022 to 2023 - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/complete-the-school-census-data-items-2022-to-2023)

## Ethnicity

Pupils were given the same options as the Census when asked about their ethnicity.<sup>6</sup> Overall, 79.6% (5,972) of the pupils described themselves as “White British”, 14.6% (1,096) described themselves as from another ethnic background (see broad breakdown in Table 2) and 5.7% (431) did not want to say or did not respond. The 2020/21 Wiltshire school census found that 84.4% of pupils were white British, slightly higher than the proportion in the survey data.<sup>7</sup>

**Table 2. Ethnicity breakdown by broad categories**

Ethnicity	Pupils	Proportion of survey respondents
White British	5,972	79.6%
White other (White Irish, White other, White European, Traveller and Gypsy/Roma)	433	5.8%
Asian or Asian British (Pakistani, Indian, Bangladeshi, Chinese, Any other Asian background)	169	2.3%
Black, Black British, British Caribbean or African	155	2.1%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	339	4.5%
Did not respond/did not want to say	431	5.7%

\*Percentages do not sum exactly due to independent rounding

## Other characteristics

This section of demographic information relates to the groups termed ‘vulnerable groups’ and displays counts and proportions of each group by school phase (percentages may not sum due to independent rounding). It is difficult to determine whether the proportion of each group is representative of the Wiltshire proportion due to lack of available data for all groups. However, where possible, recent Wiltshire school census statistics have been included to provide some comparison to the survey proportions.

53% of the pupils surveyed in 2021 were a member of at least one of the above groups. Multiple group membership was also apparent. 1,493 pupils across the three school phases were a member of more than one of the above groups, which is 22% of the total sample. In primary school phases, 50% of pupils were a member of at least one vulnerable group, 19% were a member of two or more. In secondary school phases, 58% of pupils were a member of at least one vulnerable group, 24% were a member of two or more. In year 12/FE phases, 55% of pupils were a member of at least one vulnerable group, 18% were a member of two or more.

<sup>6</sup> [List of ethnic groups - GOV.UK \(ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/list-of-ethnic-groups)

<sup>7</sup> [Schools, pupils and their characteristics, Academic Year 2020/21 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/schools-pupils-and-their-characteristics-academic-year-2020-21)

In 2021 most respondents in all school phases were white British (Table 3). Of the ethnic minority individual groups, no single category was large enough to be representative. The proportion of ethnic minority pupils was largest in secondary school phases.

**Table 3: Ethnic minority**

	Primary		Secondary		Year 12/FE	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
White British	3,277	78%	1,773	79%	922	87%
Ethnic minority	554	13%	421	19%	121	11%
No Response	350	8%	64	3%	17	2%

The percentage of children with military parents/carer(s) decreases by school phase, as seen in Table 4. 11% of primary school children, 11% in secondary school and 6% in year 12/FE had military parents/carer(s). This could be a sign that the parent/carers have exited the armed forces as their child progresses through the school phases. At the time of the survey, the termly school census (summer 2021) reported that 8.66% of primary and 11.42% of secondary pupils in Wiltshire were military children.

**Table 4: Children of military parent/carer(s)**

	Primary		Secondary		Year 12/FE	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
With military parent/carer(s)	460	11%	253	11%	67	6%
No military parent/carer(s)	3,702	89%	1,999	89%	992	94%

119 children (69 primary, 31 secondary and 19 year 12/FE) reported being either adopted, fostered, in care, or a looked after child (LAC). Between the school phases, 29-37% of these children are adopted (40 children overall). This group will be referred to as AFL throughout the report and it is important to note that this is a relatively small sample size.

Some respondents reported having a social worker (Table 5). The highest proportion of children with a social worker was in primary school (11%).

**Table 5: Social worker involved**

	Primary		Secondary		Year 12/FE	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Social worker involved	466	11%	186	8%	62	6%
No social worker	3,659	89%	2,054	92%	994	94%

In 2021, 16% of primary school pupils, 14% of secondary school pupils and 24% of year 12/FE pupils from the survey reported having a special educational need and/or a disability (SEND) (Table 6). At the time of the survey, the Wiltshire school census 2020/21 found that 12.6% of primary children had SEN support and 11.5% of secondary children had SEN support.<sup>8</sup>

**Table 6: Special Educational Need and/or Disability**

	Primary		Secondary		Year 12/FE	
<b>SEND</b>	661	16%	326	14%	255	24%
<b>Non-SEND</b>	3,520	84%	1,932	86%	805	76%

11% of primary school pupils and 10% of secondary school pupils reported that they have free school lunches or knew they were eligible for free school meals (FSM) in the 2021 survey sample (Table 7). In 2020/21, 14.1% of primary and 10.9% of secondary pupils in Wiltshire were known to be eligible for free school meals according to the school census.<sup>9</sup> The term 'eligible' used here refers to those who meet the eligibility criteria and make a claim.

**Table 7: Free School Meals**

	Primary		Secondary	
<b>Has free school meals</b>	465	11%	223	10%
<b>Does not have free school meals</b>	2,326	57%	1,584	71%
<b>Did not know</b>	1,325	32%	437	19%

To help to understand and meet young carers' needs, respondents were asked whether they were young carers. The question was worded as 'do you take on a caring role or support a family member who is disabled, long term sick, experiences mental ill health or misuses drugs or alcohol?'. In the 2021 survey 6% of primary school pupils, 7% of secondary school pupils and 6% of year 12/FE students in the survey reported being a young carer (Table 8).

**Table 8: Young carers**

	Primary School		Secondary School		Year 12/FE	
<b>Yes</b>	255	6%	163	7%	67	6%
<b>No</b>	3,860	94%	2,049	93%	982	94%

<sup>8</sup> [Special educational needs in England, Academic Year 2020/21 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/explore-education-statistics)

<sup>9</sup> [Schools, pupils and their characteristics, Academic Year 2020/21 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/explore-education-statistics)



In this survey, the secondary school and year 12/FE respondents were asked about their sexual orientation and gender identification. Two categories were used to create a combined group of pupils who reported being lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or trans (LGBT). There were 400 LGBT respondents in the secondary school sample and 211 in the year 12/FE sample. This represents 20% of the year 12/FE respondents and 18% of the secondary school respondents (Table 9).

**Table 9: Children identifying as LGBT**

	Secondary School		Year 12/FE	
LGBT	400	18%	211	20%
Not LGBT	1,858	82%	849	80%

Children were asked whether anyone in their family (who lives in their house) had ever been in prison. In all school phases, less than 8% of children reported that someone in their family had ever been in prison (Table 10). This was not asked in 2017.

**Table 10: Children who have/had a family member (who lives with them) in prison**

	Primary School		Secondary School		Year 12/FE	
Yes	287	7%	159	7%	52	5%
No	3,856	93%	2,084	93%	1,005	95%

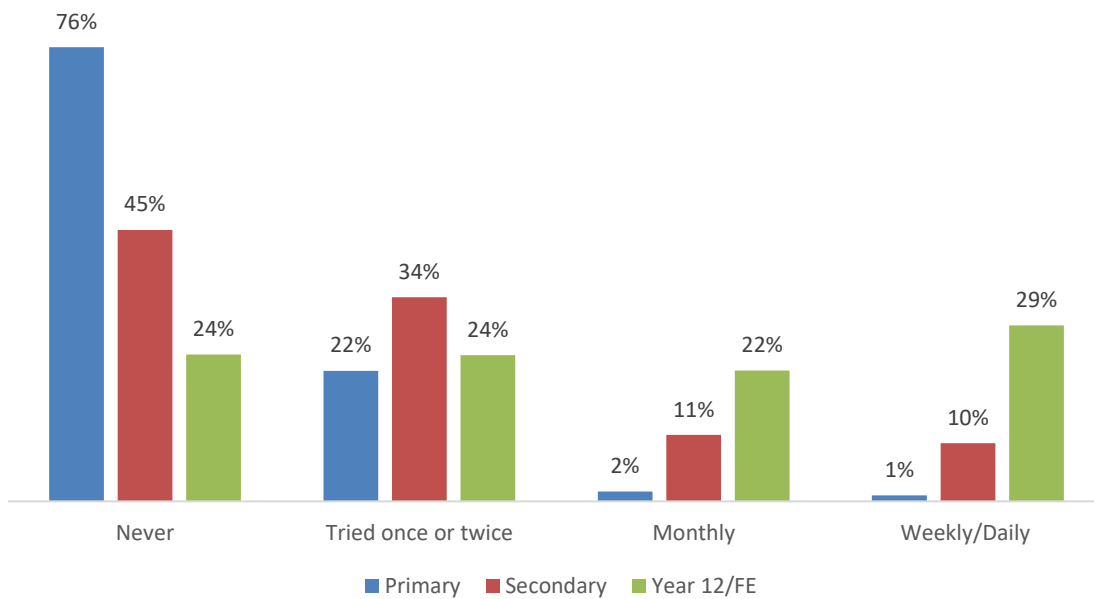
## Results

### Alcohol consumption

The proportion of respondents who drink alcohol (monthly, weekly or daily basis) increases with the school setting due to the increasing age of respondents (Figure 2). 21% of secondary and 51% of year 12/FE pupils drank alcohol at least monthly. 76% of primary, 45% of secondary and 24% of year 12/FE reported that they had never drunk alcohol. No meaningful differences in alcohol consumption were found between genders in all school phases, though primary and secondary females were slightly more likely to report never trying alcohol.

**Previous years:** Overall, these results do not differ substantially from the results in the 2020 and 2017 surveys. The proportion of year 12/FE children reporting drinking alcohol at least monthly has decreased since 2017 (64%) and 2020 (59%) to 51% in 2021, with more pupils reporting 'never' (17% in 2020 and 16% in 2017).

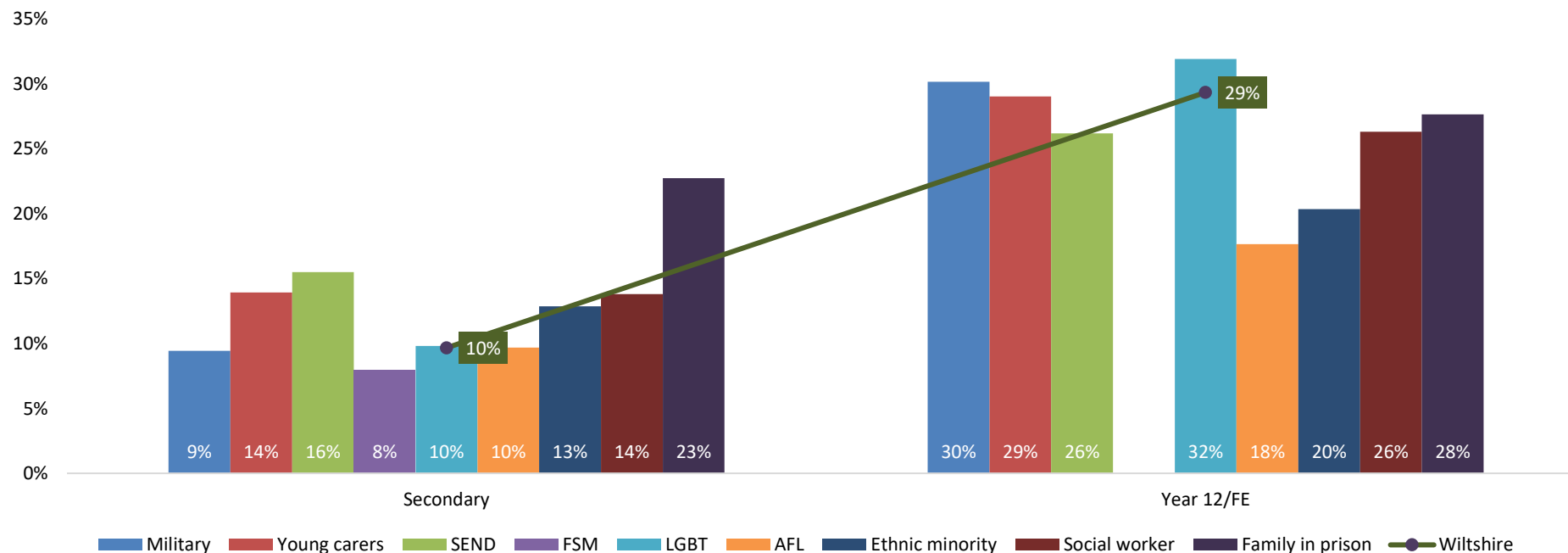
**Figure 2: Question 3.04. Do you drink alcohol?**



There was some variation in alcohol consumption among children identifying with the vulnerable groups across secondary and year 12/FE school phases (Figure 2a). In secondary schools, children who have/had a family member in prison had the highest proportion of those reporting drinking alcohol weekly/daily. Children with a social worker, ethnic minority children, SEND children and young carers also had significantly higher proportions than the Wiltshire rate. In year 12/FE phases, LGBT children were the only group to report drinking alcohol weekly/daily more than the overall Wiltshire sample, but the difference was small and not statistically significant.

**Figure 2a: Question 3.04. Do you drink alcohol? Vulnerable groups. \***

**Response: Weekly/Daily**

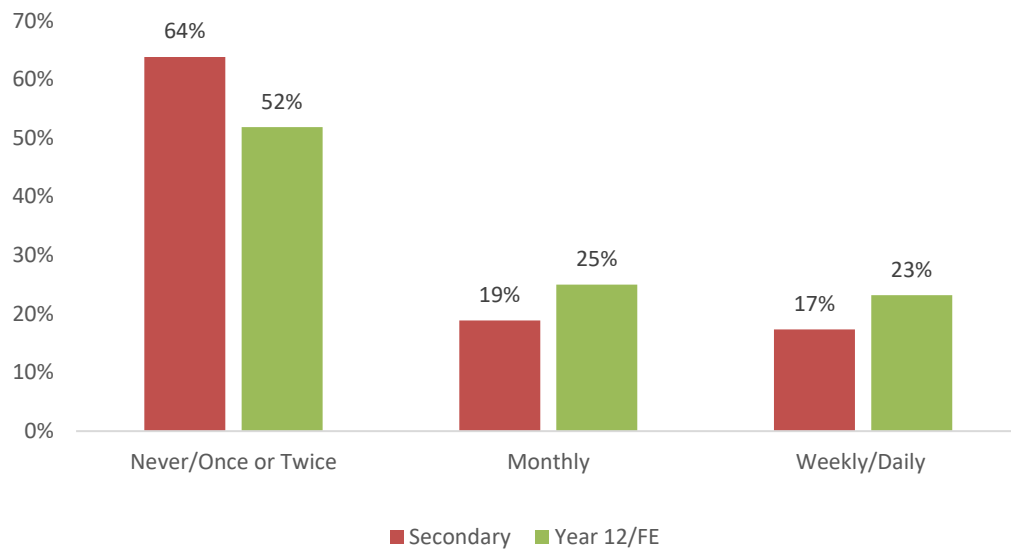


\*Year 12/FE students were not asked if they were in receipt of free school meals (FSM). The AFL group in all school phases represents a relatively small sample size and caution should be taken when interpreting their results.

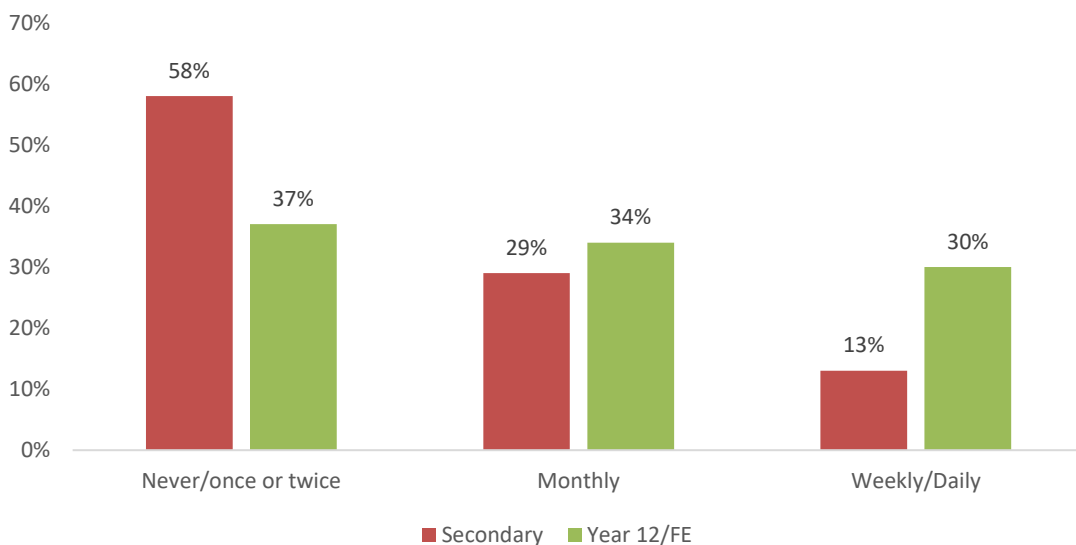
Negligible numbers of primary school children reported ever having been drunk, and these responses are therefore not included in the following charts. 23% of year 12/FE children reported being drunk weekly/daily and 17% of secondary school children reported the same (Figure 3). Only small numbers of the overall samples answered this question (20% secondary and 54% year 12/FE). Other than a slightly lower proportion of females reporting never/once or twice being drunk monthly compared to males in the secondary school setting, there were no meaningful differences between the genders in either sample.

**Previous years:** The proportion of secondary school pupils reporting getting drunk weekly/daily has increased since 2017 (See Figure 3a: 13%) and 2020 (11%), but the proportion has also increased for those reporting never/once or twice. In contrast, the proportion of year 12/FE pupils getting drunk weekly/daily has decreased since 2017 (Figure 3a; 30%) and 2020 (25%).

**Figure 3: Question 3.06. Have you ever been drunk? 2021.**

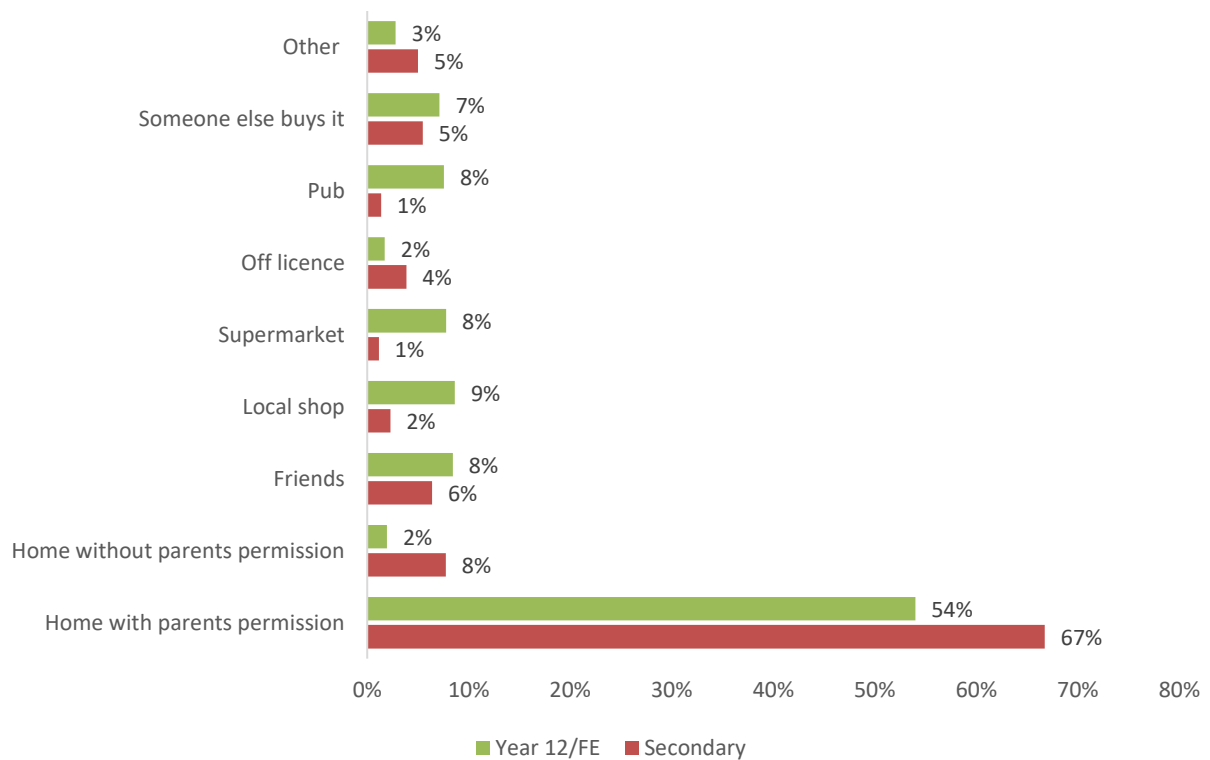


**Figure 3a: Question 3.06. Have you ever been drunk? 2017.**



Most respondents from both secondary and year 12/FE school phases usually get their alcohol from home with their parents' permission (Figure 4). These patterns of acquiring alcohol have not changed since 2017, except for a reduction in year 12/FE pupils getting their alcohol from a pub or supermarket (15% and 12% respectively in 2017). According to a national survey in 2018, most pupils aged 11-15 obtain their alcohol from parents (71%).<sup>10</sup>

**Figure 4: Question 3.15. Where do you normally get alcohol from? \***

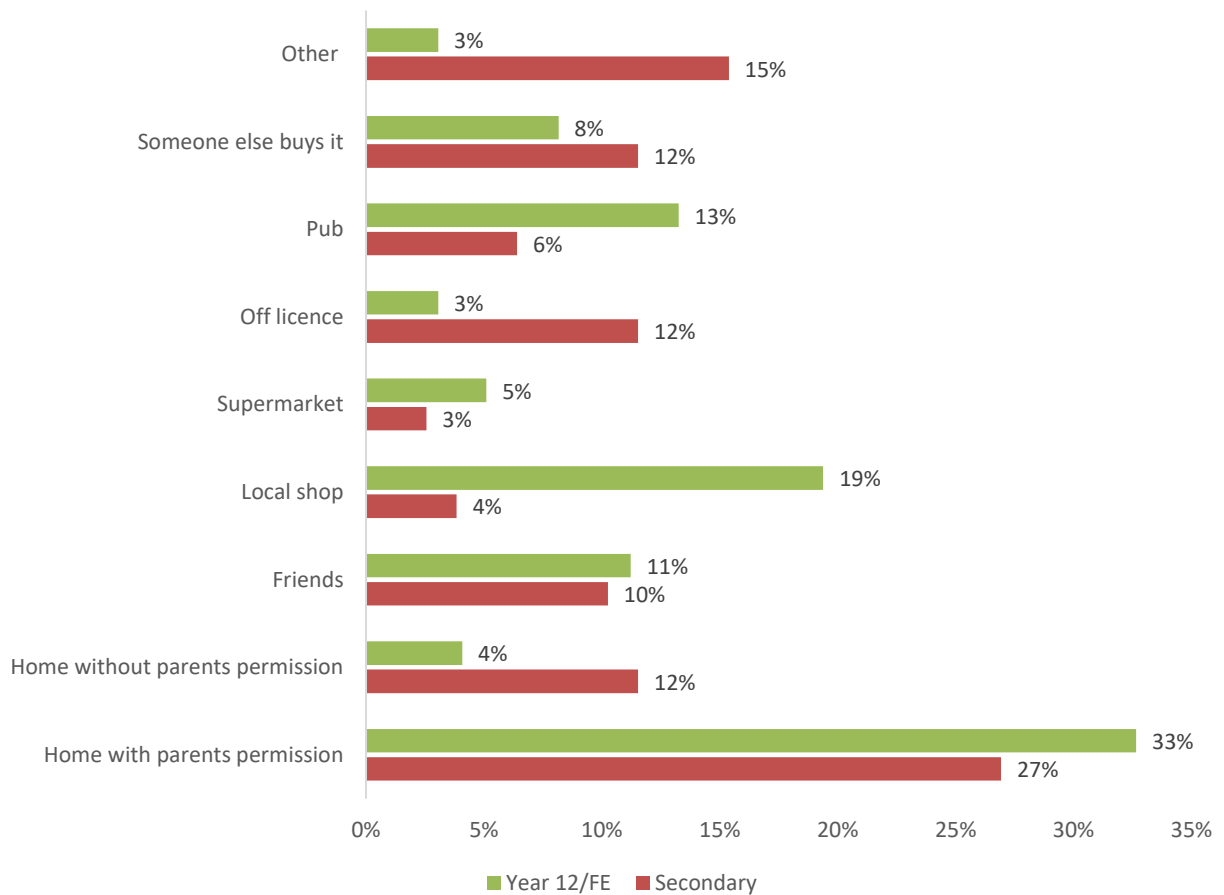


\*Respondents could select multiple options

<sup>10</sup> [Part 5: Drinking behaviours among children - NHS Digital](#)

This pattern of acquiring alcohol changes slightly for children who get drunk frequently (e.g. weekly or daily - Figure 3), in both the secondary and year 12/FE samples (Figure 4a). While the majority still acquire their alcohol from home with permission, 19% of year 12/FE children get their alcohol from a local shop. 15% of secondary children get their alcohol from a local shop. 15% of secondary children get their alcohol from other means and a similar proportion get their alcohol from someone else, an off-licence, or from home without parents' permission.

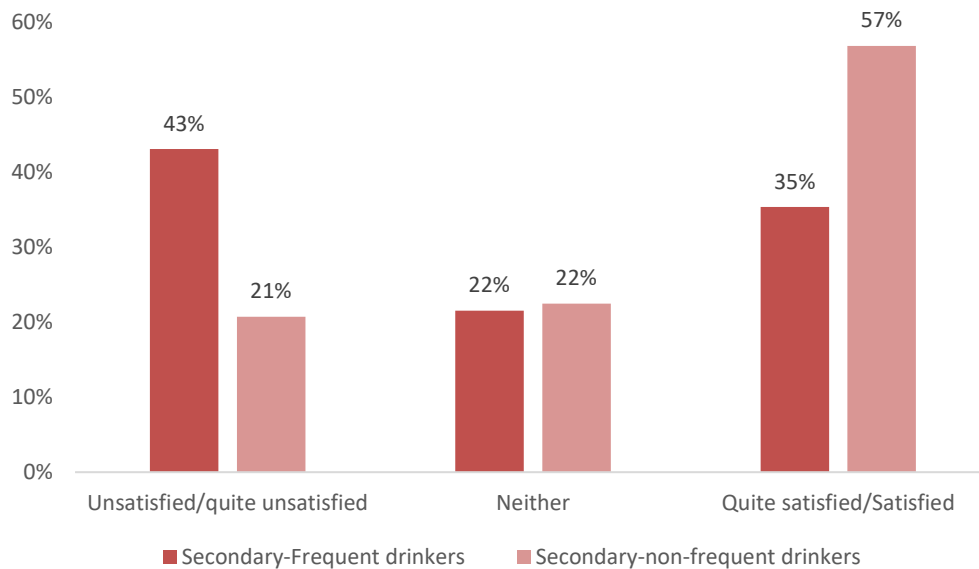
**Figure 4a: Question 3.06 and Question 3.15. Where do you normally get alcohol from? Frequently drunk. \***



\*Respondents could select multiple options

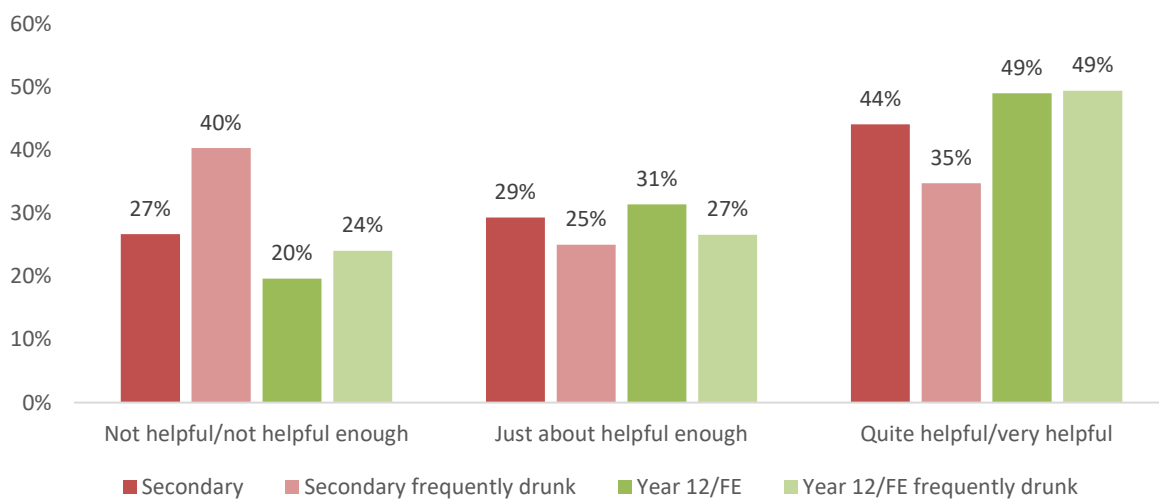
Figure 5 shows that secondary school children who reported drinking frequently were more likely to report being unsatisfied/quite unsatisfied with their life compared to those drinking infrequently (43% vs 21% respectively). The life satisfaction question was only asked of secondary school children.

**Figure 5: Question 6.13 and Question 3.04. Overall, are you basically satisfied with your life? Alcohol drinking frequency.**



Almost half of the year 12/FE respondents and 44% of the secondary school respondents reported finding it quite helpful or very helpful to learn about alcohol (Figure 6). Those in secondary school phases who reported being frequently drunk were less likely to find learning about alcohol helpful, supported by 40% reporting finding it not helpful or not helpful enough.

**Figure 6: Question 4.20. How helpful have you found it to learn about the things listed below: Alcohol.**



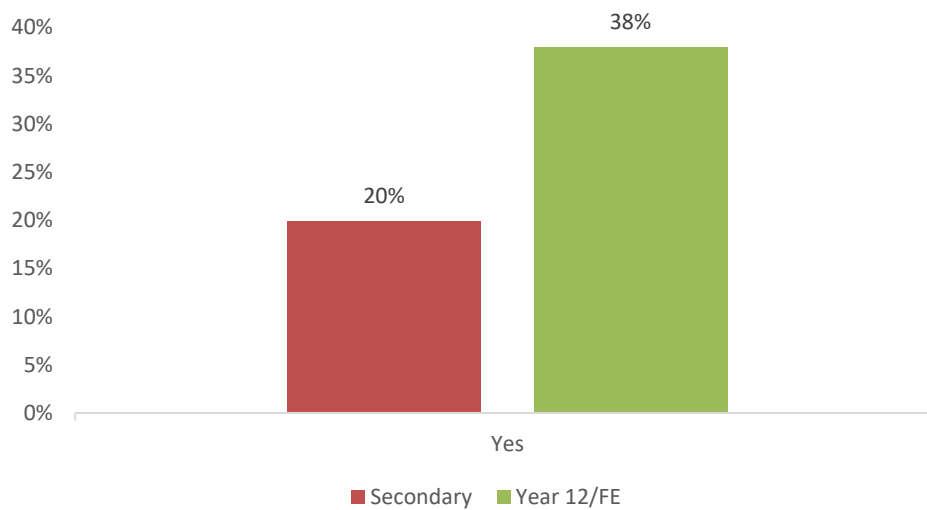
## Illegal drugs

1 in 5 secondary school pupils and almost 2 in 5 year 12/FE pupils reported having been offered illegal drugs (Figure 7), the remainder had not. In both school phases, a slightly higher percentage of males had been offered illegal drugs compared to females: secondary (males 21%, females 19%), year 12/FE (males 40%, females 36%).

**Previous years:** The same proportion of secondary school pupils reported being offered drugs in 2020 and 2017, however, the proportion of year 12/FE students reporting having been offered illegal drugs has decreased since 2017 (45%) and 2020 (50%).

**Figure 7: Question 3.08. Have you ever been offered illegal drugs?**

**Response: Yes.**





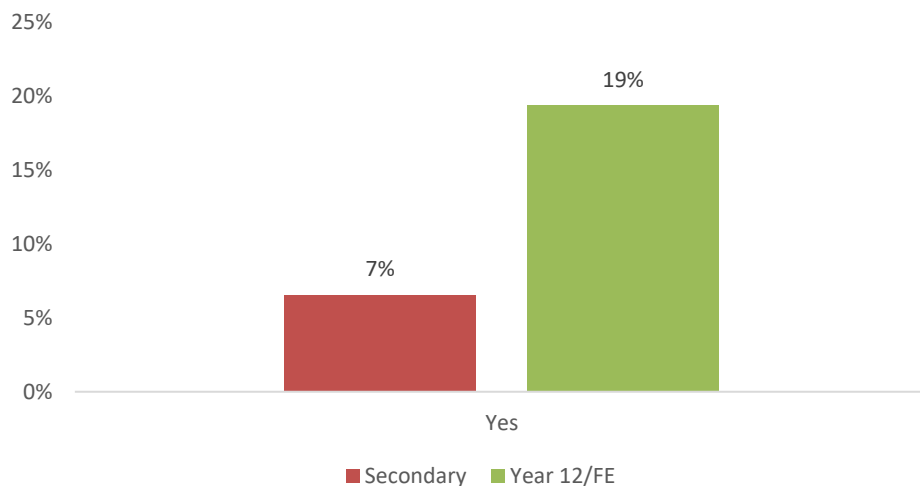
7% of secondary school respondents reported having tried illegal drugs (Figure 8), while, in the year 12/FE sample, 19% of respondents reported having tried illegal drugs, the remainder had not. There were not any noticeable differences between genders in either school phase.

Of those who answered yes to this question, 29% of secondary school children and 15% of year 12/FE children reported taking illegal drugs frequently, either quite often (e.g., weekly) or on most days. This represents 2% of the overall secondary school sample, and less than 3% of the overall year 12/FE sample.

**Previous years:** These figures are approximately the same for secondary school respondents in 2020 and 2017 but show a decrease in the year 12/FE school phase (28% in 2017 and 29% in 2020). The proportion of year 12/FE pupils taking illegal drugs frequently has decreased since 2017 (22%) and 2020 (19%) to 15% in 2021. On the other hand, frequent drug use has increased among secondary pupils (23% in 2017 and 22% in 2020) to 29% in 2021.

#### Figure 8: Question 3.09. Have you ever tried illegal drugs?

Response: Yes.

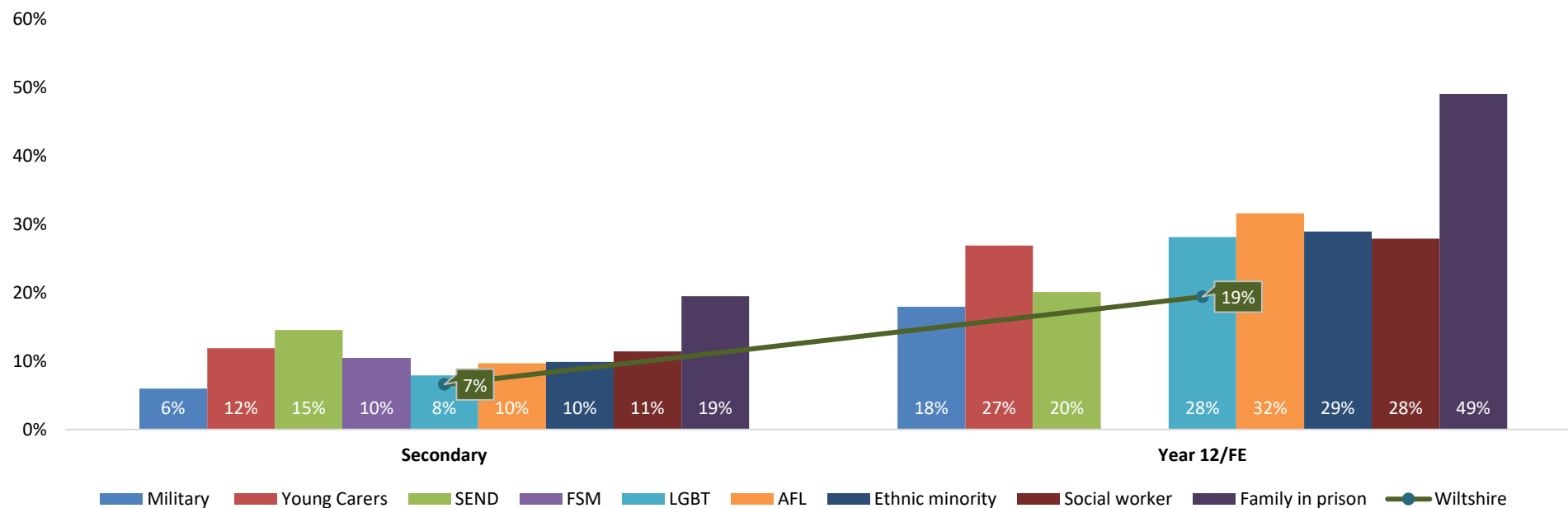


Most reported illegal drug use was of cannabis, but 22% of secondary school children who had tried illegal drugs reported taking other illegal drugs frequently. This represents less than 2% of the overall secondary school sample.

In the secondary school sample, all vulnerable groups apart from children of military parents/carers were statistically significantly more likely to have tried illegal drugs than the overall Wiltshire sample (Figure 8b). In the year 12/FE sample, children of military parents/carers and SEND children were the only vulnerable groups near or below the Wiltshire proportion. Almost half of year 12/FE children who have/had a family member in prison reported having tried illegal drugs, which is more than any other vulnerable group.

**Figure 8b: Question 3.09. Have you ever tried illegal drugs? Vulnerable groups. \***

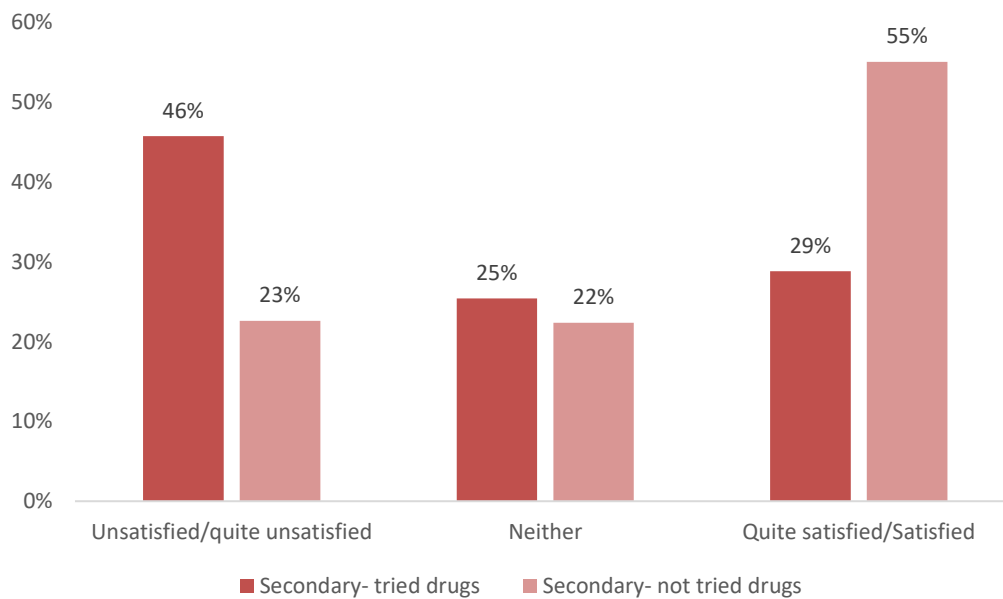
**Response: Yes.**



\* Year 12/FE students were not asked if they were in receipt of free school meals. The AFL group in all school phases represents a small sample size and caution should be taken when interpreting their results.

Respondents' overall satisfaction with their lives was lower among those who reported having taken illegal drugs. As Figure 9 shows, 55% of secondary school students who had not tried illegal drugs reported being quite satisfied or satisfied with their life, compared with only 29% of those who had tried illegal drugs. The difference between the groups has increased compared to 2017. A national survey in 2018 observed similar patterns, finding that those who had taken drugs in the last month had reported lower life satisfaction.<sup>11</sup> The life satisfaction question was only asked to secondary school pupils.

**Figure 9: Question 6.13. Overall, are you basically satisfied with your life? Illegal drug use.**



<sup>11</sup> [Part 13: Wellbeing of young people - NHS Digital](#)

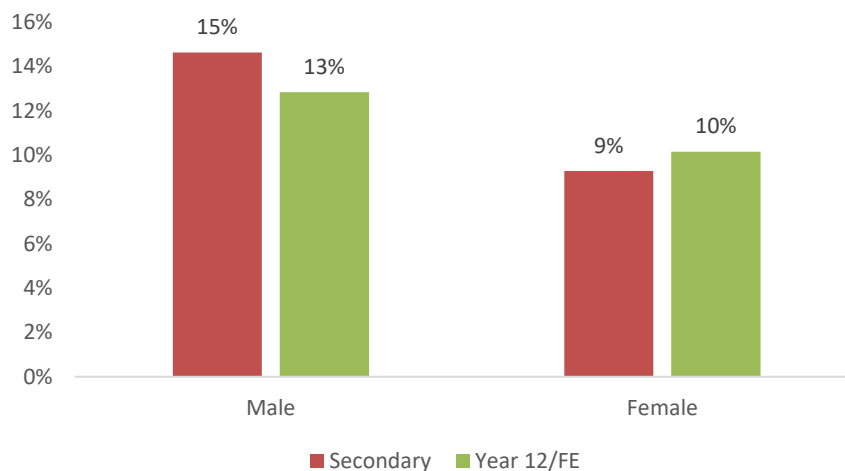
## Prescription drug misuse

Questions on prescription drug use were not asked of primary school pupils. 12% of respondents from secondary school and 12% of respondents from year 12/FE phases reported that they had been offered prescription drugs for recreational use (pharming), the remainder had not. 'Pharming' is a slang term used to refer to the unauthorised ingestion of prescription drugs to become intoxicated. In both school phases, the proportion of males that have been offered prescription drugs was slightly higher than the proportion of females (Figure 10). This is particularly true for the secondary school respondents, where 1 in 7 males reported having been offered prescription drugs.

**Previous years:** The proportion of children reporting being offered prescription drugs for recreational use has decreased slightly since 2017 (16% secondary and 16% year 12/FE) and 2020 (14% secondary, 15% year 12/FE) to 12% in 2021 for both groups. In previous years, males were also more likely to have been offered prescription drugs than females.

**Figure 10: Question 3.22. Have you ever been offered prescription drugs (medicine you can only get from a doctor) that are NOT your own, for fun or to feel good? This is sometimes called Pharming. Gender.**

**Response: Yes.**



Less than 1 in 10 of both the secondary school and year 12/FE respondents had tried recreational prescription drugs (Figure 11). Of those who answered yes to this question, 12% of secondary school children and 18% of year 12/FE children reported using prescription drugs for recreational purposes frequently, either quite often (e.g. weekly) or on most days. This represents 1% of the overall secondary school and year 12/FE samples. Males were slightly more likely than females, in both school phases, to have tried prescription drugs for recreational use.

**Previous years:** There has been a small decrease in the proportion of pupils who have tried prescription drugs in year 12/FE school phases since 2017 and 2020 (11% in both years).

**Figure 11: Question 3.23. Have you ever *tried* prescription drugs (medicine you can only get from your doctor) that are NOT your own, for fun or to feel good? This is sometimes called Pharming.**

**Response: Yes.**

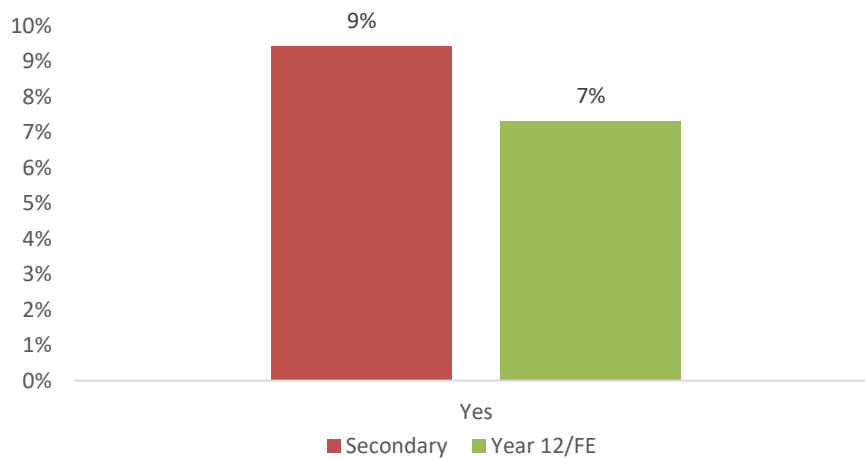
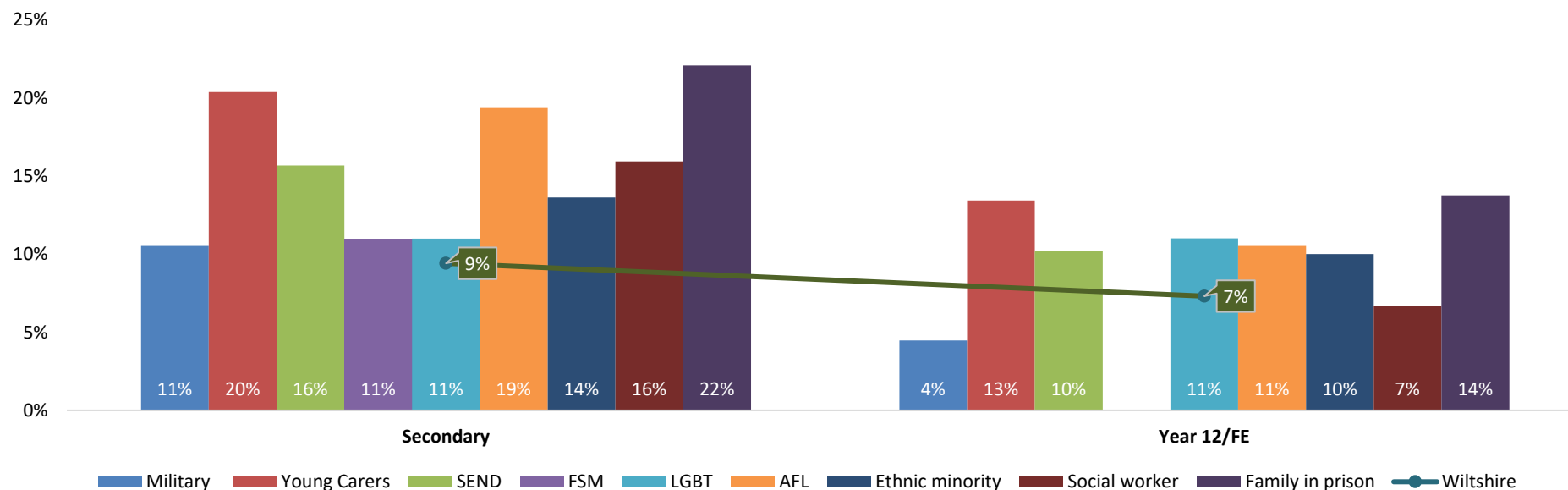


Figure 11a shows that in secondary school phases, almost all groups of vulnerable children, were more likely to have tried prescription drugs for recreational use than year 12/FE students. All vulnerable groups in secondary phases were just as likely or more likely to have tried prescription drugs compared to the overall Wiltshire sample. The same was true in year 12/FE phases, apart from children of military parents/carers who were less likely to have tried prescription drugs than the overall Wiltshire sample. Children who have/had a family member in prison in both school phases reported significantly higher proportions than the Wiltshire proportion (22% vs 9% secondary and 14% vs 7% year 12/FE).

**Figure 11a: Question 3.23. Have you ever tried prescription drugs (medicine you can only get from your doctor) that are NOT your own, for fun or to feel good? This is sometimes called Pharming. Vulnerable groups. \***

**Response: Yes.**



\* Year 12/FE students were not asked if they were in receipt of free school meals. The AFL group in all school phases represents a small sample size and caution should be taken when interpreting their results.

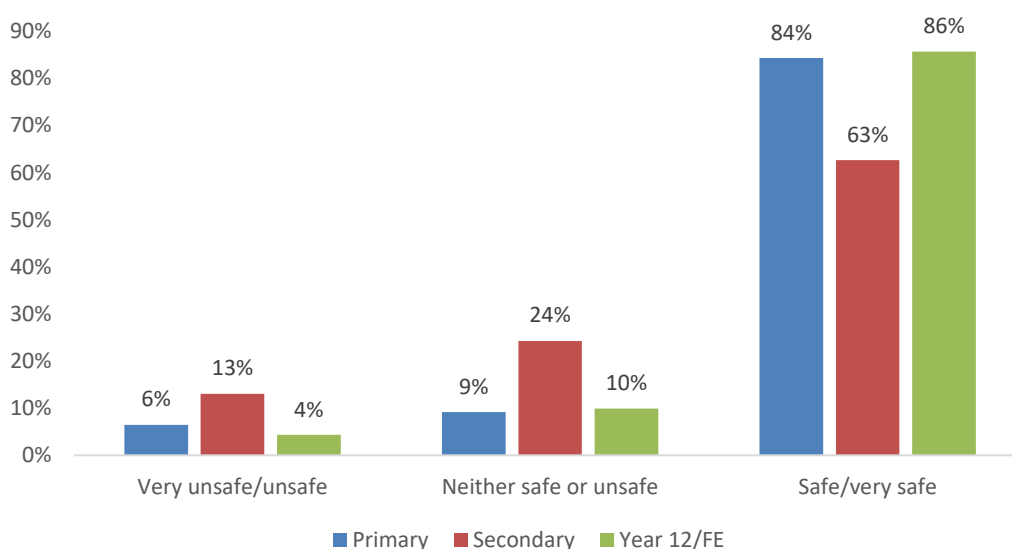
## Feelings of safety

84% of primary school respondents reported feeling safe or very safe at school. This decreases to only 63% of secondary school respondents and then rises again to 86% for year 12/FE respondents (Figure 12). There were no gender differences in the primary school or year 12/FE phases. In the secondary school group, females were 7% less likely to report feeling safe at school compared to males (67% males vs 60% females).

**Previous years:** The same school phase pattern was apparent in previous years. Primary school children's feelings of safety at school have stayed relatively constant over the past few surveys. In contrast, the proportion of secondary school pupils feeling safe/very safe has fluctuated from 69% in 2017, down to 57% in 2020 and back up to 63% in 2021. The proportions of year 12/FE pupils feeling safe at school has increased over the years (80% in both 2017 and 2020) to 86% in 2021.

Year 12/FE females' feelings of safety at school have improved since 2017 (77%, 87% in 2021) but have decreased in secondary phases (69% in 2017, 60% in 2021).

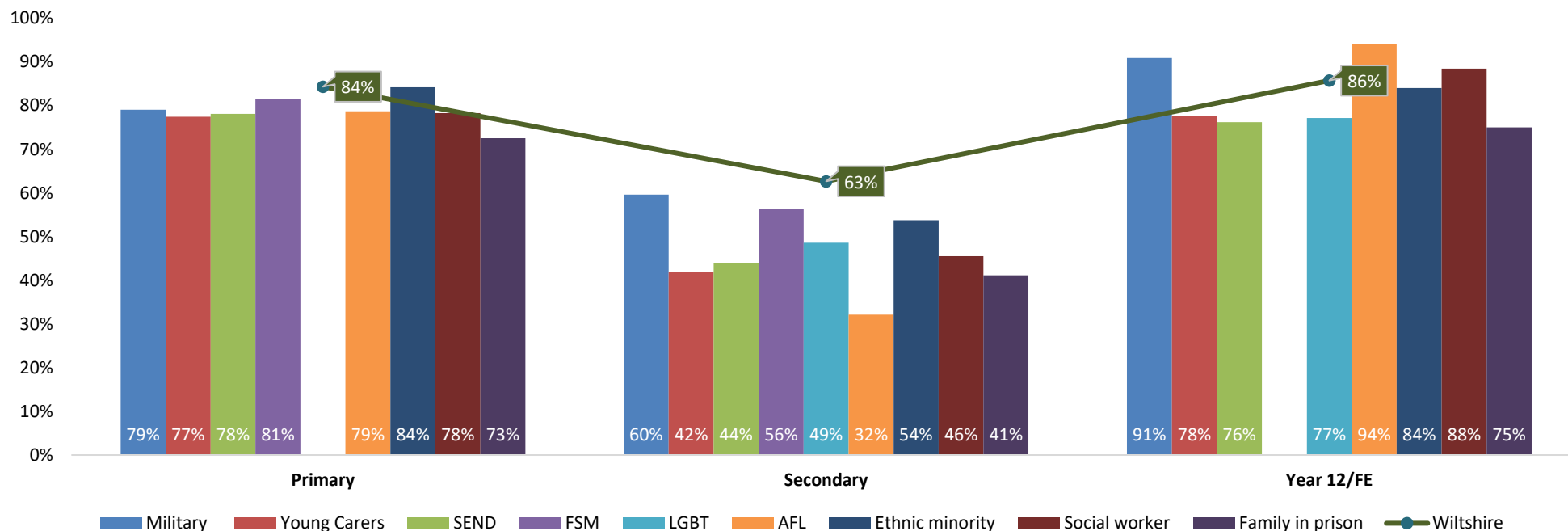
**Figure 12: Question 5.01. How safe do you feel at school?**



Feelings of safety at school were lower than the overall Wiltshire rates for many children identifying with the vulnerable groups (Figure 12a). There was some variation in groups feelings of safety between the three school phases. The only groups on or above the Wiltshire proportion were children of military parents/carers, AFL children and children with a social worker in year 12/FE phases and ethnic minority children in primary phases. Feelings of safety were lowest for children who have/had a family member in prison in primary phases (73% vs 84% average), AFL children in secondary phases (32% vs 63% average) and children who have/had a parent in prison in year 12/FE phases (75% vs 86% average).

**Figure 12a: Question 5.01. How safe do you feel at school? Vulnerable groups. \***

**Responses: Safe/Very safe.**



\*Primary school children were not asked for their LGBT status and Year 12/FE students were not asked if they were in receipt of free school meals. The AFL group in all school phases represents a small sample size and caution should be taken when interpreting their results.

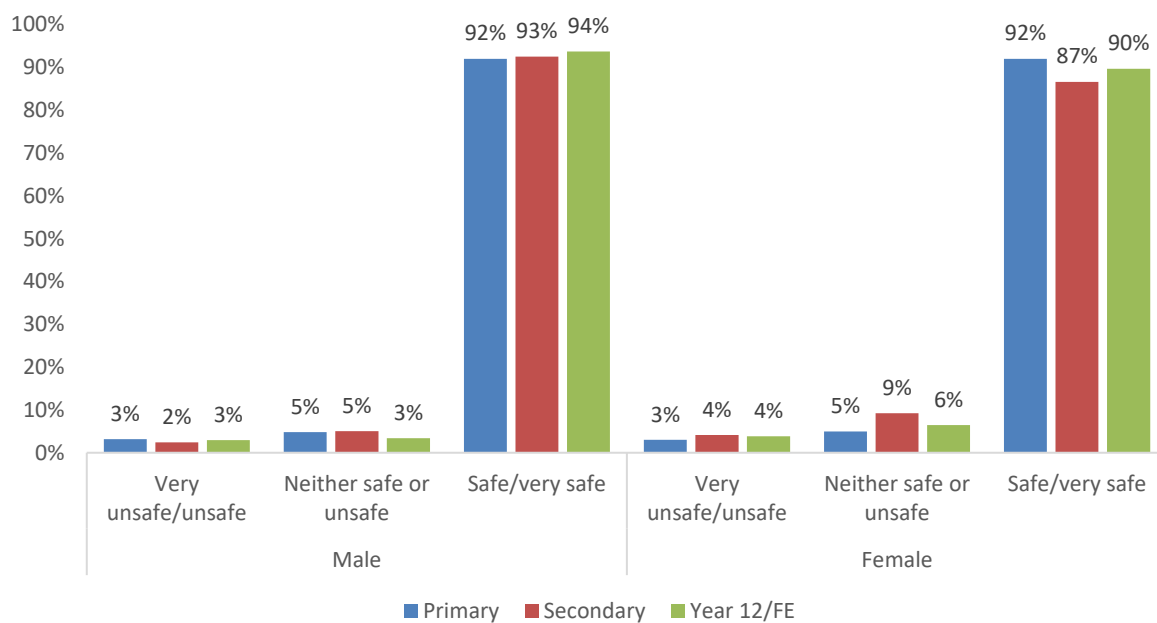


Around 90% of respondents from all school types felt safe or very safe at home or in the place where they live.

There was little difference between the genders regarding feelings of safety at home or the place they live, in the primary and year 12/FE school phases (Figure 13). In secondary school phases, males were slightly more likely than females to report feeling safe at home or the place they live.

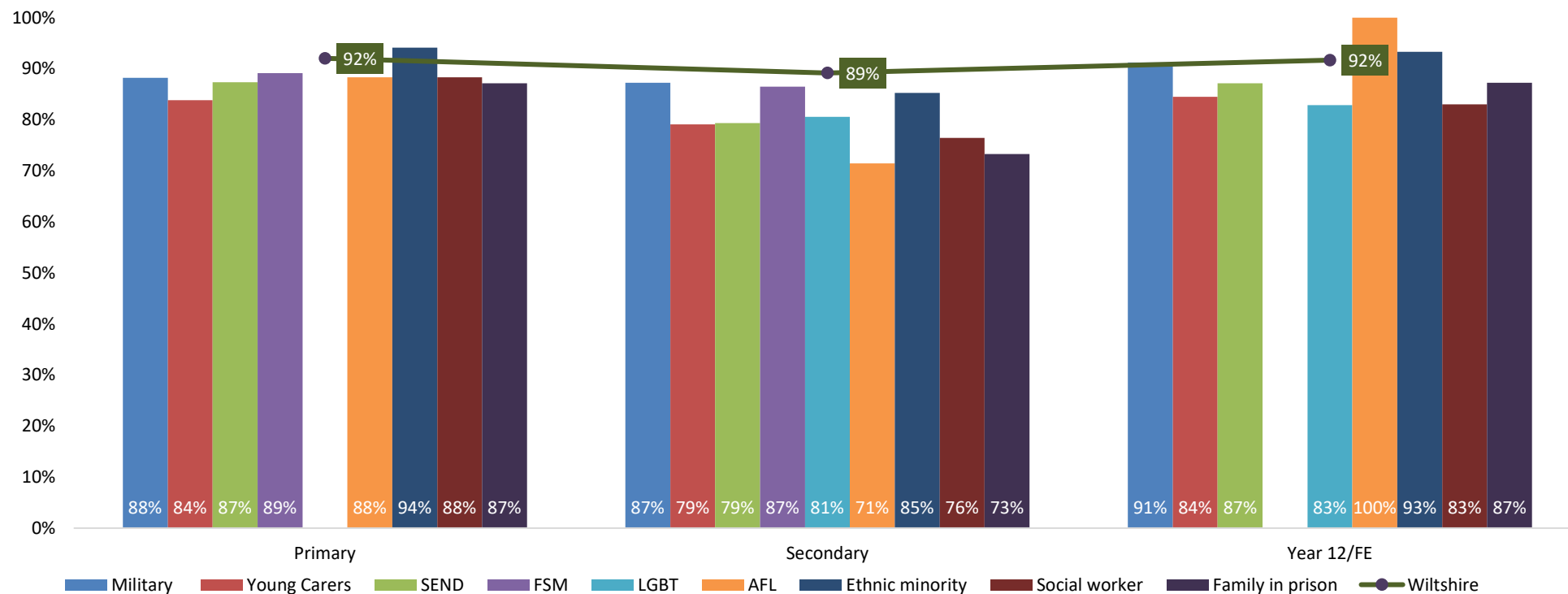
**Previous years:** There have not been any major changes to feelings of safety at home compared to the last few surveys. In 2017, the same gender patterns were observed but in 2020 there were no differences between genders at all.

**Figure 13: Question 5.02. How safe do you feel at home or the place where you live? Gender.**



In all school phases, children identifying with the vulnerable groups were significantly less likely to feel safe/very safe at home or in the place they live than the overall Wiltshire sample, except for primary ethnic minority children and ethnic minority, military and AFL year 12/FE pupils. Proportions were particularly low for AFL secondary children (Figure 13a).

**Figure 13a: Question 5.02. How safe do you feel at home or the place where you live? Vulnerable groups. \***  
**Response: safe/very safe**

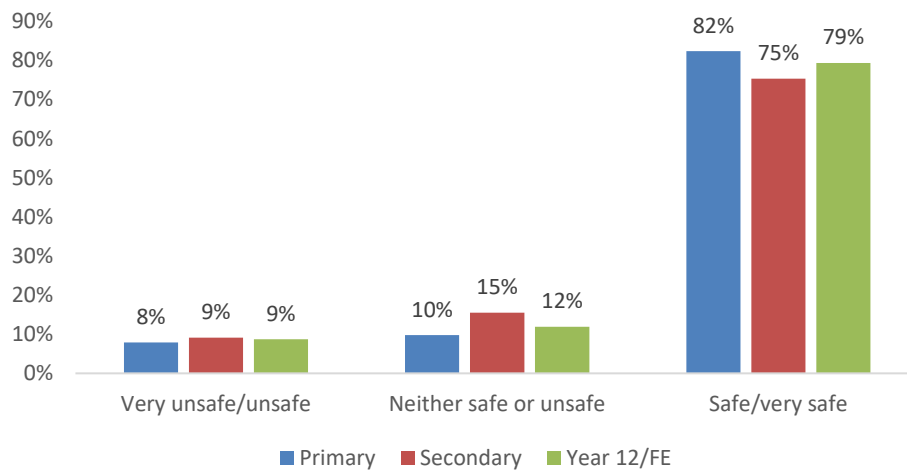


\*Primary school children were not asked for their LGBT status and Year 12/FE students were not asked if they were in receipt of free school meals. The AFL group in all school phases represents a small sample size and caution should be used in interpreting their results.

82% of primary, 75% of secondary and 79% of year 12/FE respondents reported feeling safe or very safe outside near their home (Figure 14).

**Previous years:** These results are close to those of the 2020 survey (79% primary, 71% secondary, 79% year 12/FE) and reasonably close to the 2017 survey (79% primary, 81% secondary and 83% year 12/FE), though feelings of safety outside near their homes have reduced slightly in secondary and year 12/FE phases since 2017.

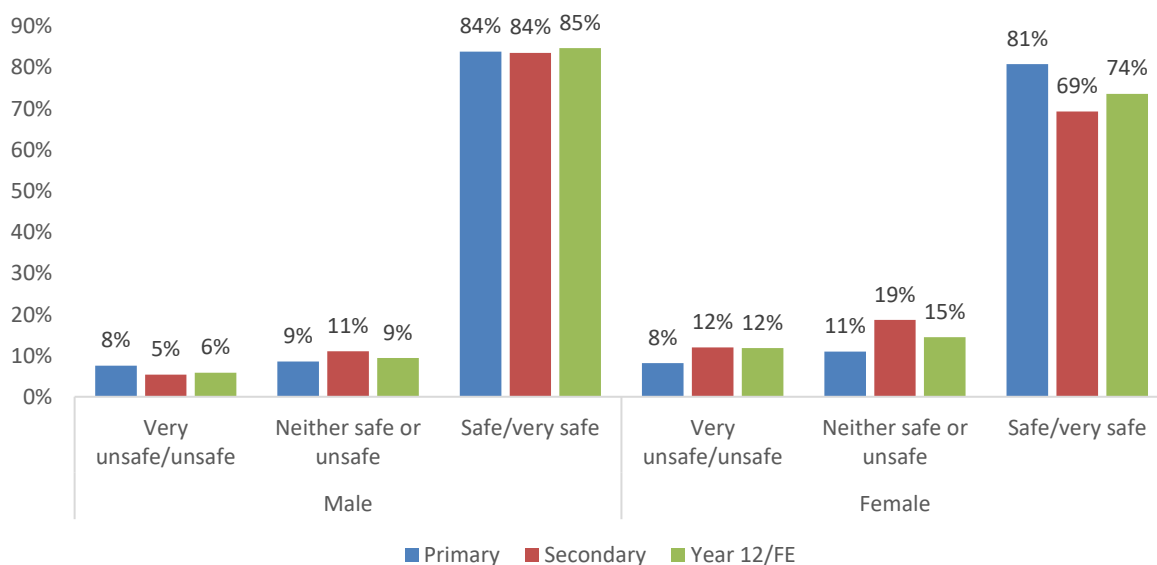
**Figure 14: Question 5.14. How safe do you feel being outside, near your house?**



There were minimal gender differences in the primary school setting, however, males were more likely than females, in secondary and year 12/FE phases, to report feeling safe or very safe outside their home (Figure 14a).

**Previous years:** The proportion of secondary school females feeling safe outside or near their house has decreased since 2020 and 2017 (78% in both years).

**Figure 14a: Question 5.14. How safe do you feel being outside, near your house? Gender.**



Primary school respondents were asked how safe they felt when crossing roads or walking near roads. 75% reported that they felt safe or very safe. Males were more likely to feel safe crossing the roads compared to females.

Primary school respondents were also asked about their feelings of safety while riding their bike on the roads. Overall, 62% of primary children said that they felt safe or very safe riding their bike on the roads (Figure 15). There were some slight gender differences. Males were more likely than females to feel safe riding their bike on the roads, though this did not mean that more females reported feeling unsafe or very unsafe.

**Previous years:** Overall there has been a slight increase in primary pupils feeling safe riding their bike on the roads over the years (59% in 2017, 57% in 2020). Males were more likely to feel safe riding their bike on the roads compared to females in previous years.

**Figure 15: Question 5.08. How safe do you feel riding your bike on the roads? Primary.**

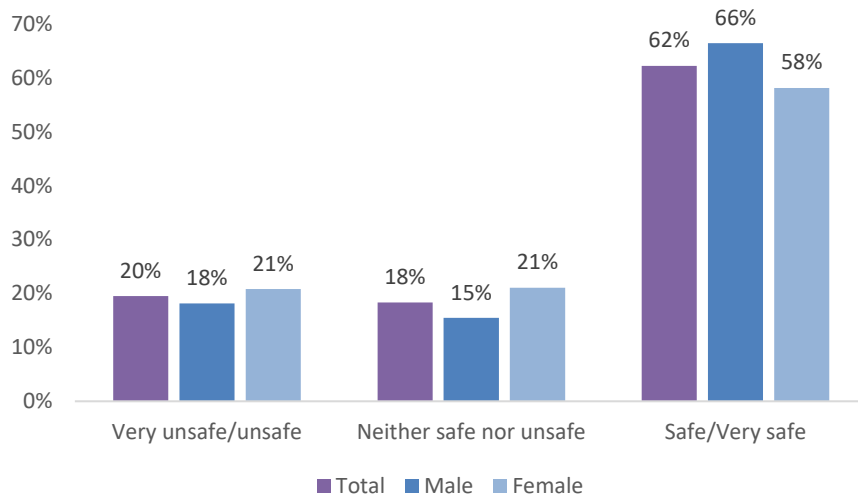
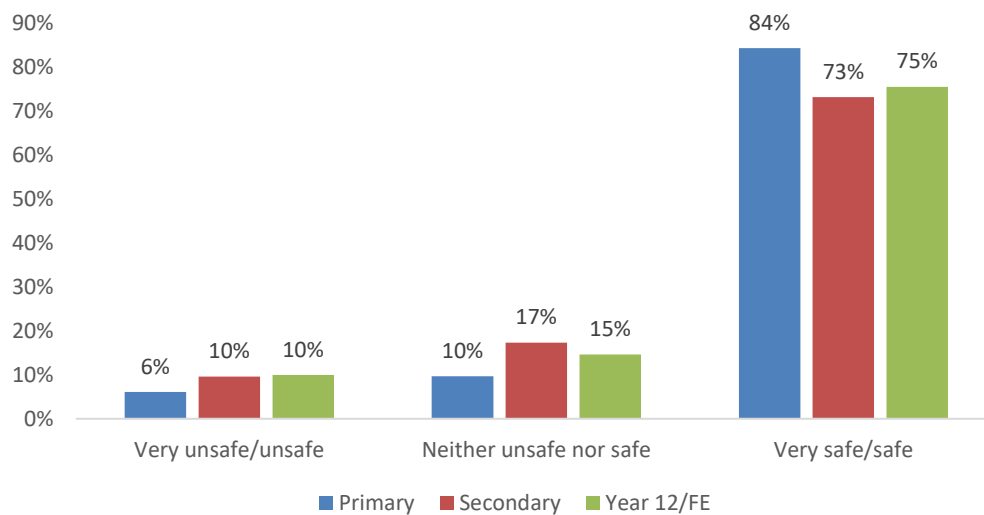


Figure 16 shows that primary school children feel the safest on their way to and from school out of the three school phases. 10% of secondary and 10% year 12/FE respondents reported feeling very unsafe of unsafe on their way to and from school.

**Previous years:** Results were the same in 2020 for primary and year 12/FE phases. In secondary phases, feelings of safety to and from school have increased (67% in 2020). This question was not asked in 2017.

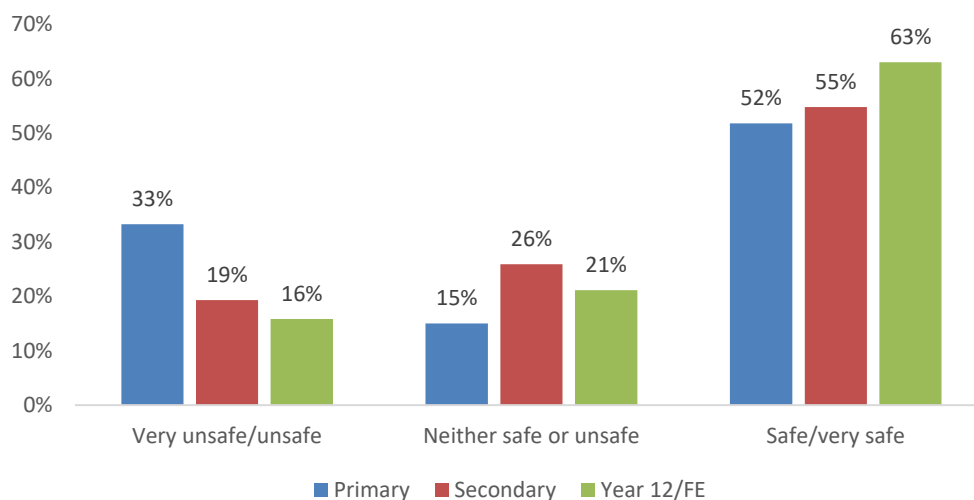
**Figure 16: Question 5.64. How safe do you feel on your way to and from school?**



52% of primary school respondents, 55% of secondary school respondents and 63% of year 12/FE respondents, reported that they felt safe or very safe from crime in 2021 (Figure 17).

**Previous years:** There has been no meaningful change in year 12/FE school phases. These findings represent a slight increase in primary school respondents feeling safe from crime (50% in 2017 and 47% in 2020). The proportion of secondary respondents feeling safe/very safe has fluctuated over the years: 60% in 2017, 48% in 2020 and back up to 52% in 2021.

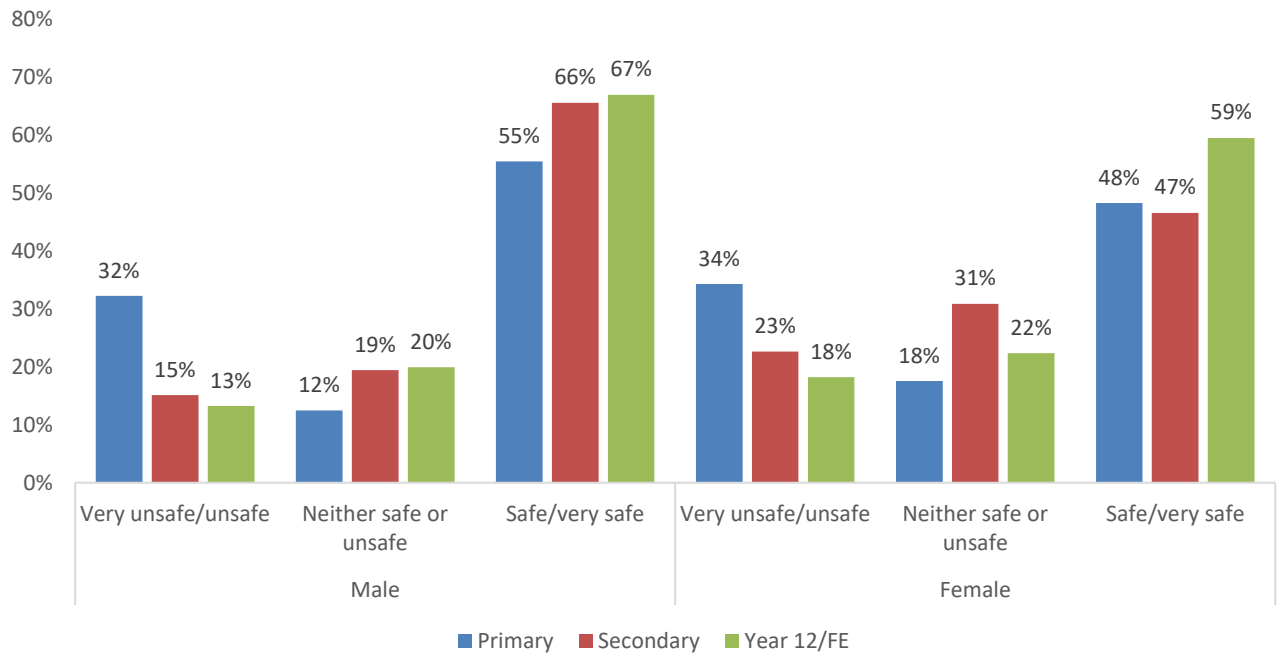
**Figure 17: Question 5.06. How safe do you feel from crime?**



There were some gender differences in all school phases when reporting on feeling safe from crime (Figure 17a). In primary school phases, males were more likely to feel safe from crime compared to females. The same was true in secondary school phases and year 12/FE phases.

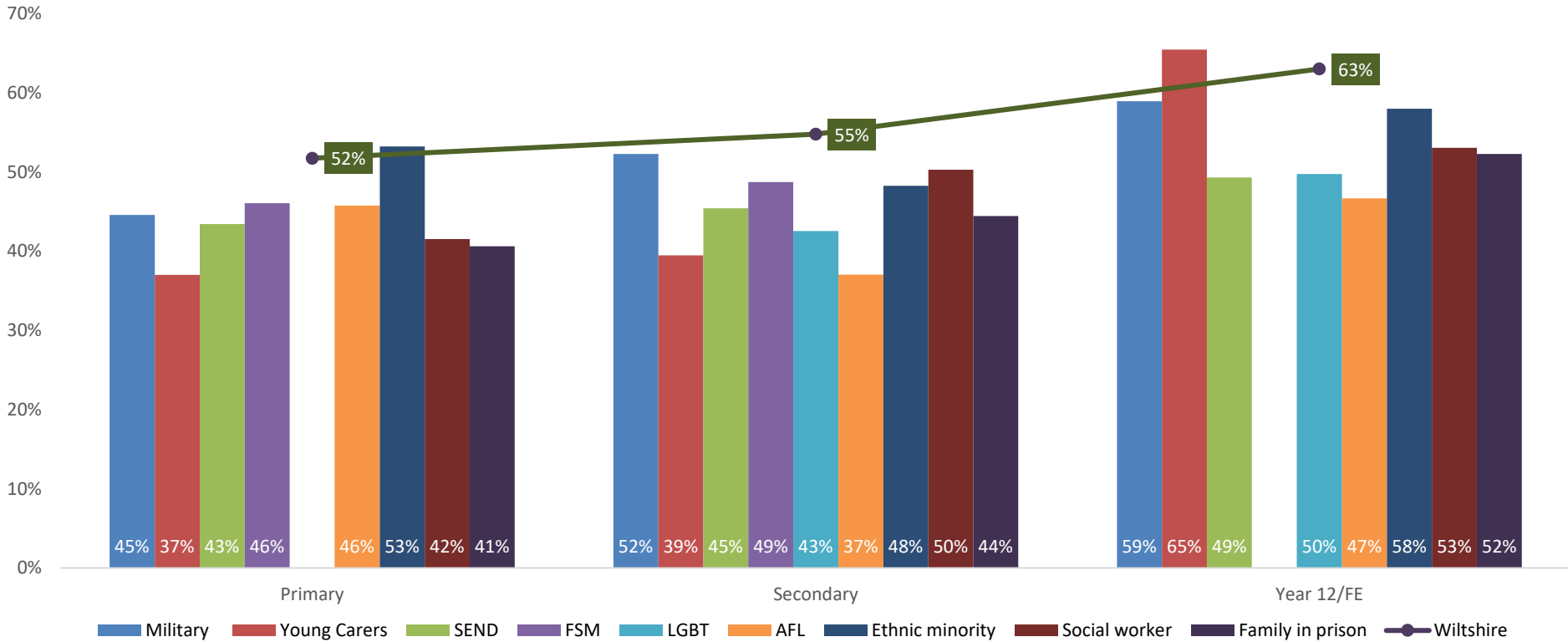
**Previous years:** In 2020 and 2017 males were also more likely to feel safer from crime than females. The proportion of secondary females feeling safe from crime has decreased since 2017 (55%) and 2020 (54%) to 47% in 2021.

**Figure 17a: Question 5.06. How safe do you feel from crime? Gender. 2021.**



Almost all of the vulnerable groups in all school phases were significantly less likely to feel safe from crime than the overall Wiltshire samples. Proportions were particularly low for primary young carers, secondary AFL children and year 12/FE AFL children (Figure 17b).

**Figure 17b: Question 5.06. How safe do you feel from crime? Vulnerable groups. \***  
**Response: safe/very safe.**



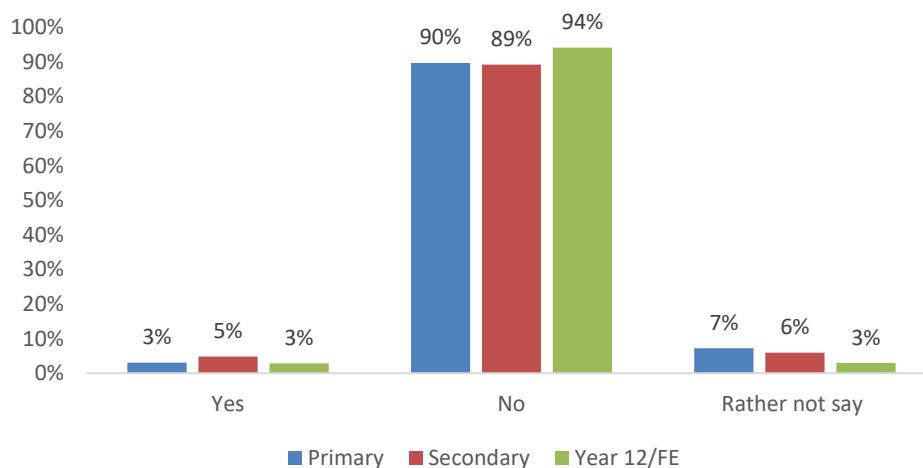
\*Primary school children were not asked for their LGBT status and Year 12/FE students were not asked if they were in receipt of free school meals. The AFL group in all school phases represents a small sample size and caution should be used in interpreting their results.

## Run away from home

89% or more of respondents from each school type have not run away from where they live in the last 6 months (Figure 18). Little difference was found between genders in the proportions of respondents who ran away from home.

**Previous years:** Results are very similar to 2020 and 2017.

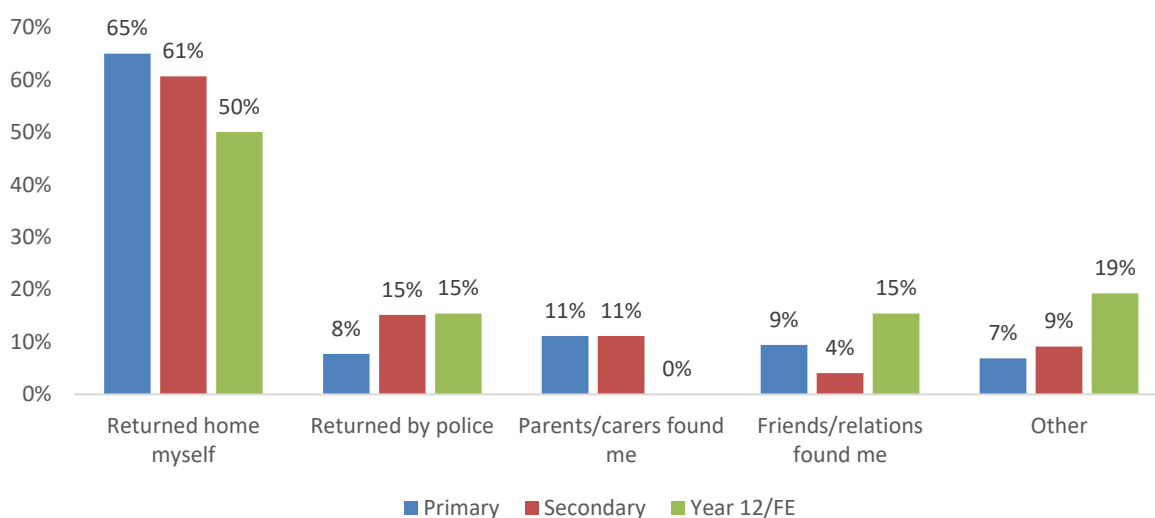
**Figure 18: Question 5.26. In the last 6 months have you run away from where you live?**



Of those who reported running away from home in the previous six months, over 50% from each school setting returned home by themselves (Figure 19).

**Previous years:** Results were largely the same in 2017 and 2020 but a higher proportion of year 12/FE students returned home by themselves in previous years (62% in 2017 and 68% in 2020 compared to 50% in 2021).

**Figure 19: Question 5.27. How did you return home? Those who ran away in last 6 months.**



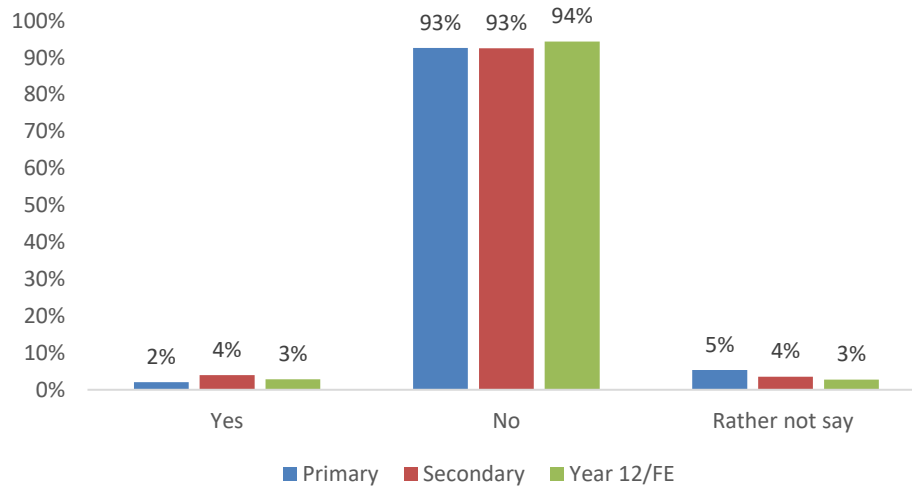


## Involvement with crime

Over 90% of respondents from all school types reported never having been in serious trouble with the police (Figure 20). In all school phases, males were slightly more likely than females to report having been in serious trouble with the police.

**Previous years:** There are no differences to note when 2021 results were compared with the 2017 and 2020 surveys.

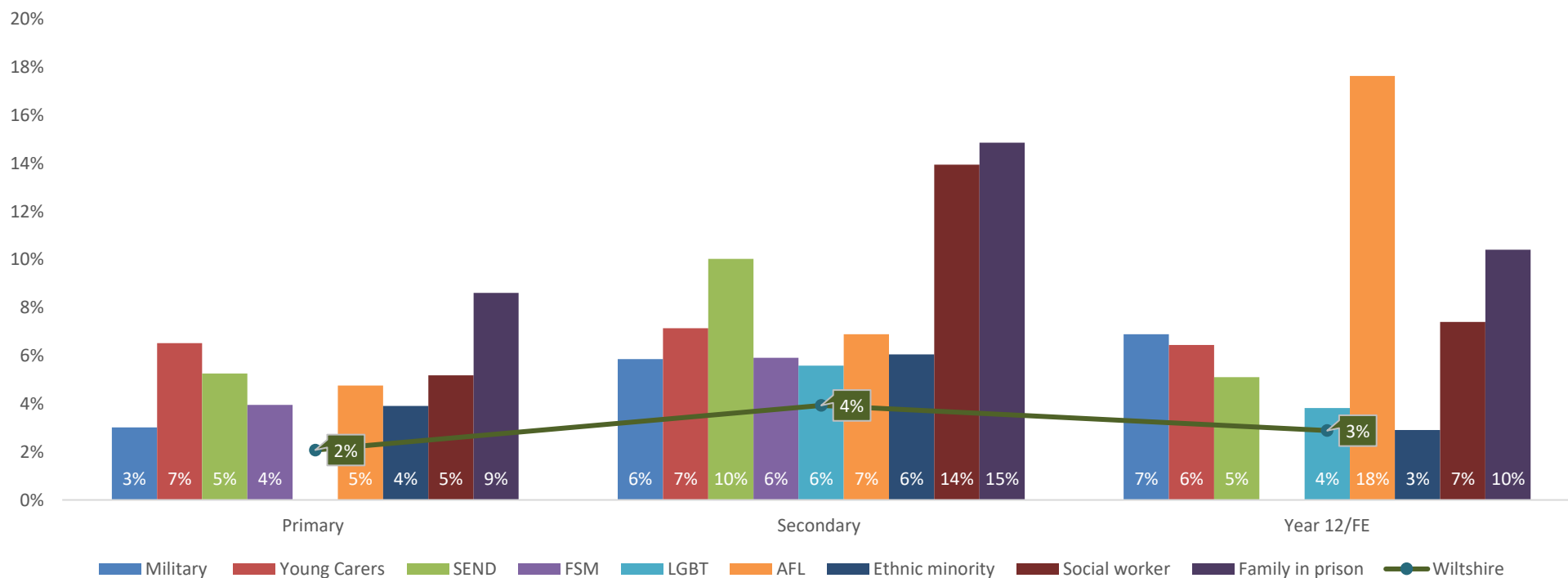
**Figure 20: Question 5.28. Have you ever been in SERIOUS trouble with the police?**



At all school levels, higher proportions of all the vulnerable groups listed in the chart below reported that they had been in serious trouble with the police than the overall Wiltshire samples (Figure 20a). The only group not above the Wiltshire rate was ethnic minority children in the year 12/FE setting (3%). Children who have/had a family member in prison had the highest proportions of 'yes' responses to being in serious trouble with the police in both the primary and secondary school phases (9% and 15% respectively). In year 12/FE phases, AFL children were most likely to have been in serious trouble with the police (18% vs 3% Wiltshire proportion).

**Figure 20a: Question 5.28. Have you ever been in SERIOUS trouble with the police? Vulnerable groups. \***

**Response: Yes.**



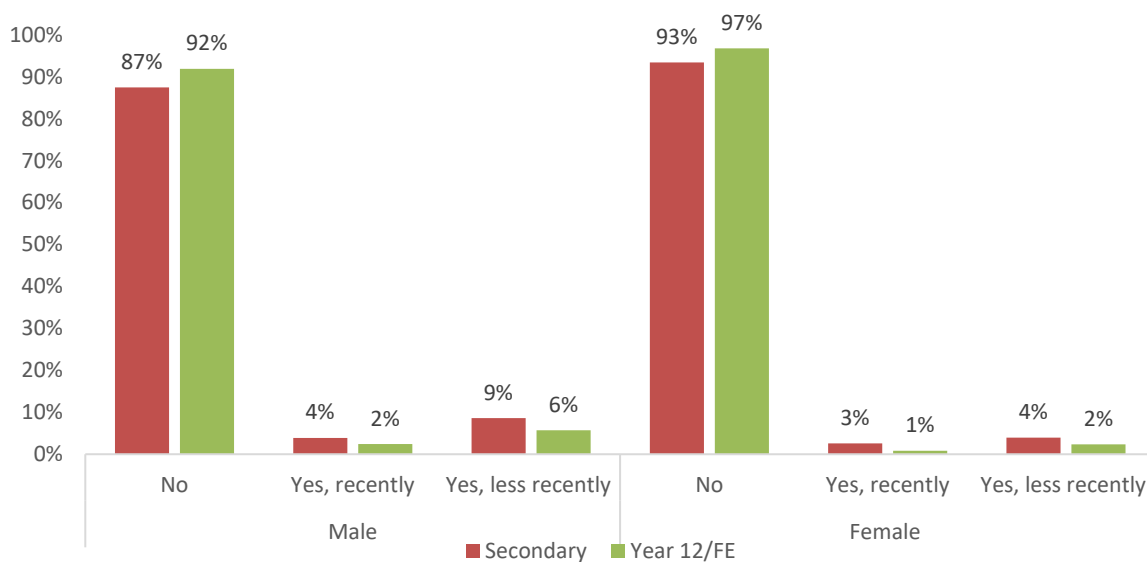
\*Primary school children were not asked for their LGBT status and Year 12/FE students were not asked if they were in receipt of free school meals. The AFL group in all school phases represents a small sample size and caution should be used in interpreting its results.

91% of respondents in secondary school and 94% in year 12/FE reported that they have never felt the need to carry a weapon. A slightly higher proportion of males have felt the need to carry a weapon than females (Figure 21) in both secondary school and year 12/FE phases. When asked why they felt the need to carry a weapon, the majority of respondents reported doing so to keep safe or to protect themselves. Primary school children were not asked about weapons.

**Previous years:** There has been an increase in pupils reporting that they had not felt the need to carry a weapon compared to 2017 (82% secondary, 88% year 12/FE). Numbers have stayed constant since 2020. The same gender patterns were found in the 2020 and 2017 surveys.

\*Recently (last week or month) less recently (in the last 6 months or over 6months ago)

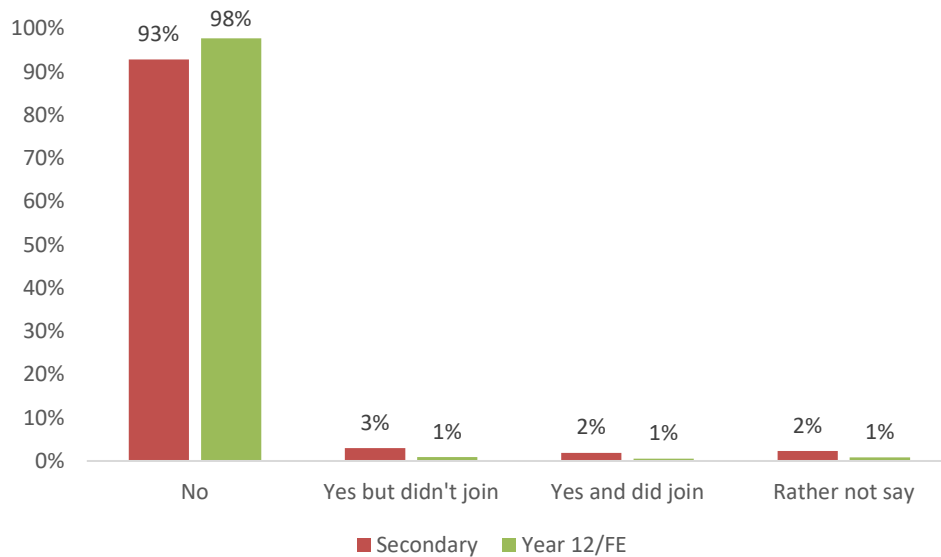
**Figure 21: Question 5.30. Have you ever felt you've had to carry a weapon? Gender.**



93% of secondary school respondents and 98% of year 12/FE respondents reported that they had never felt they needed to join a gang (Figure 22). There was little difference between the genders regarding the perceived need to join a gang.

**Previous years:** The 2021 proportions are approximately the same as the 2020 survey. There has been an increase, however, since 2017 in respondents not feeling the need to join a gang (88% secondary, 92% year 12/FE).

**Figure 22: Question 5.31. Have you ever felt you have had to join a gang?**



### Selling drugs

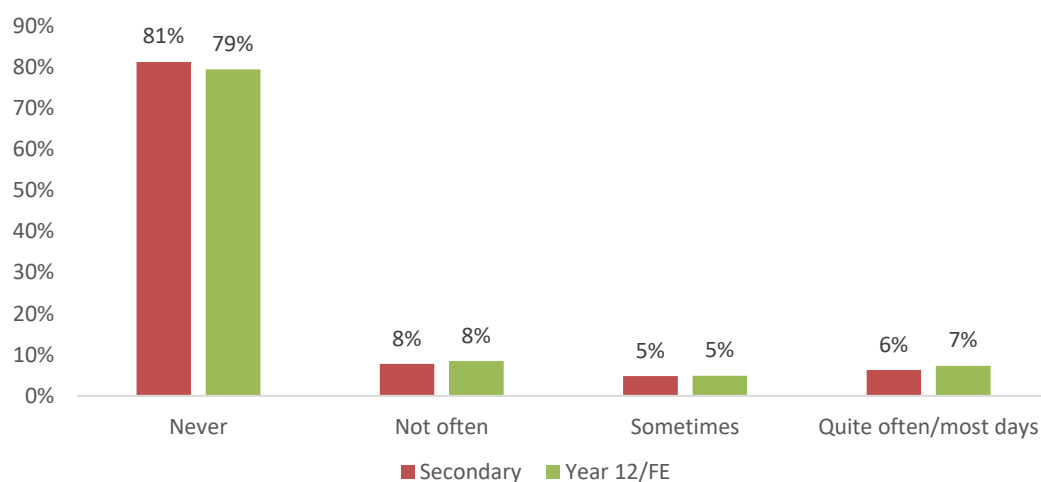
Pupils in secondary and year 12/FE school phases were also asked whether they had ever been asked to sell drugs. 4% of pupils in each school phases answered 'yes', the remainder answered 'no'. Proportions were higher among most of the vulnerable groups and highest among LGBT and SEND children. Most of these pupils said that the person who asked them to sell drugs was a friend (46% secondary and 51% year 12/FE).

## Domestic abuse

81% of secondary school and 79% of year 12/FE pupils reported that they or someone in their immediate family had never been a victim of domestic abuse or violence (Figure 23). Primary school respondents were not asked this question. Of those who said yes, 14% of the secondary school respondents and 9% of these year 12/FE respondents reported that the abuse was still ongoing. This represents around 2% of each sample.

**Previous years:** Proportions are similar to the 2020 survey and 2017 survey.

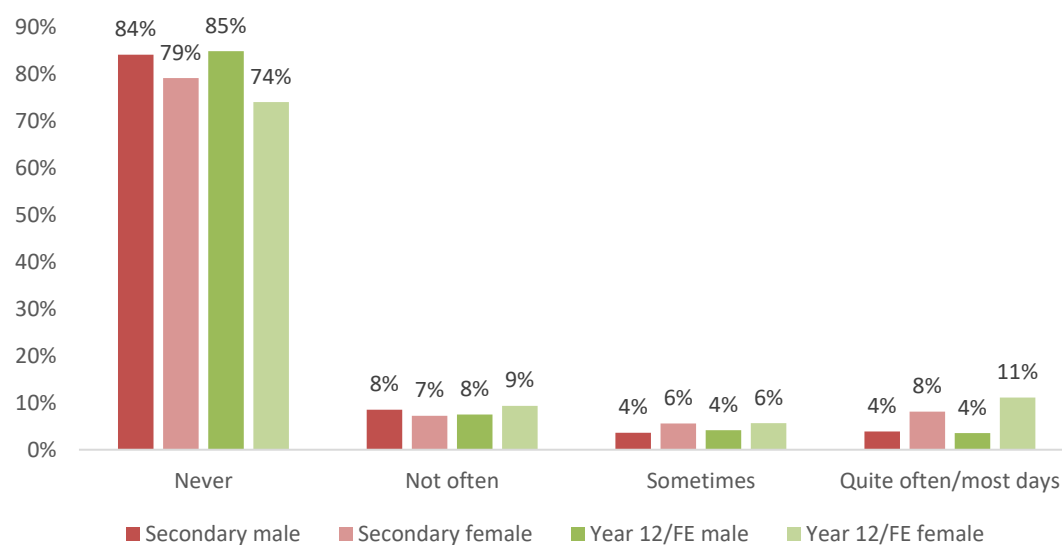
**Figure 23: Question 5.11. Have you or anyone in your immediate family ever been a victim of domestic abuse or domestic violence?**



A larger proportion of females reported that they or a family member had been a victim of domestic abuse or violence quite often/most days (Figure 23a).

**Previous years:** These gender differences were also apparent in 2017 and 2020.

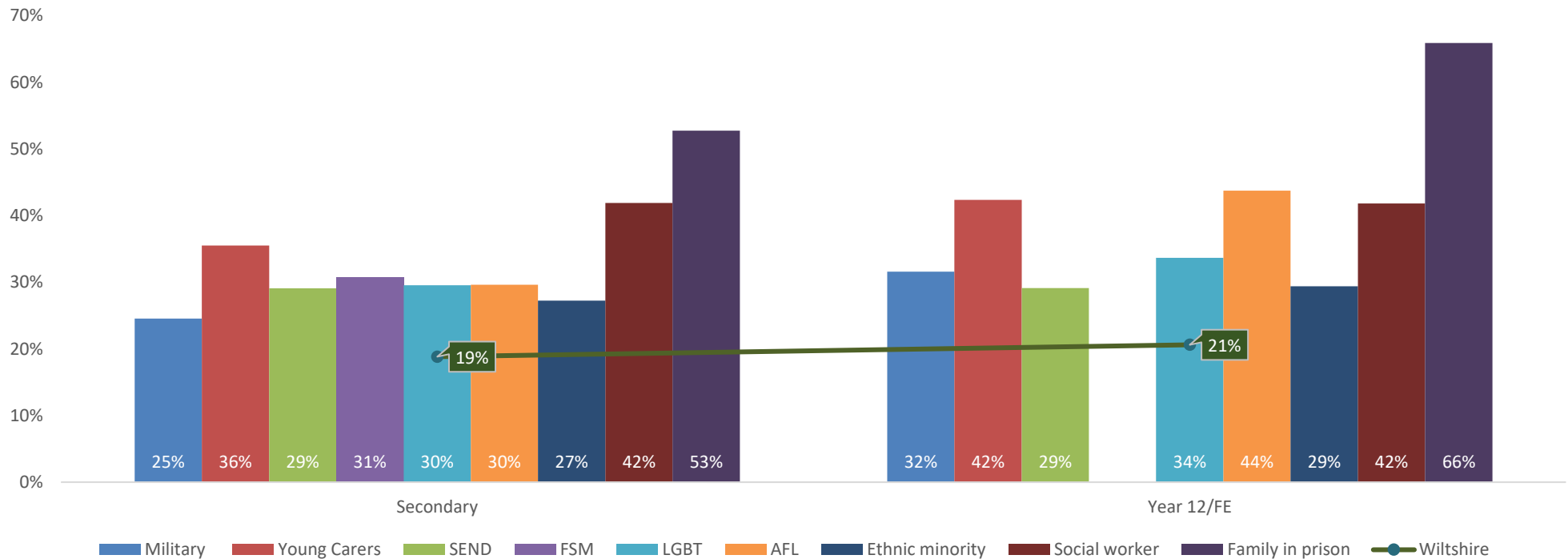
**Figure 23a: Question 5.11. Have you or anyone in your immediate family ever been a victim of domestic abuse or domestic violence? Gender.**



Significantly higher proportions of respondents in all the vulnerable groups reported that they or someone in their immediate family had suffered domestic abuse compared to the overall Wiltshire sample (Figure 23b). In both the secondary and year 12/FE phases, the proportions were particularly high among children who have/had a family member in prison (53% and 66% respectively), children with a social worker (42% for both), year 12/FE young carers (42%) and year 12/FE AFL children (44%).

**Figure 23b: Question 5.11. Have you or anyone in your immediate family ever been a victim of domestic abuse or domestic violence? Vulnerable groups. \***

**Responses: All except 'never'.**



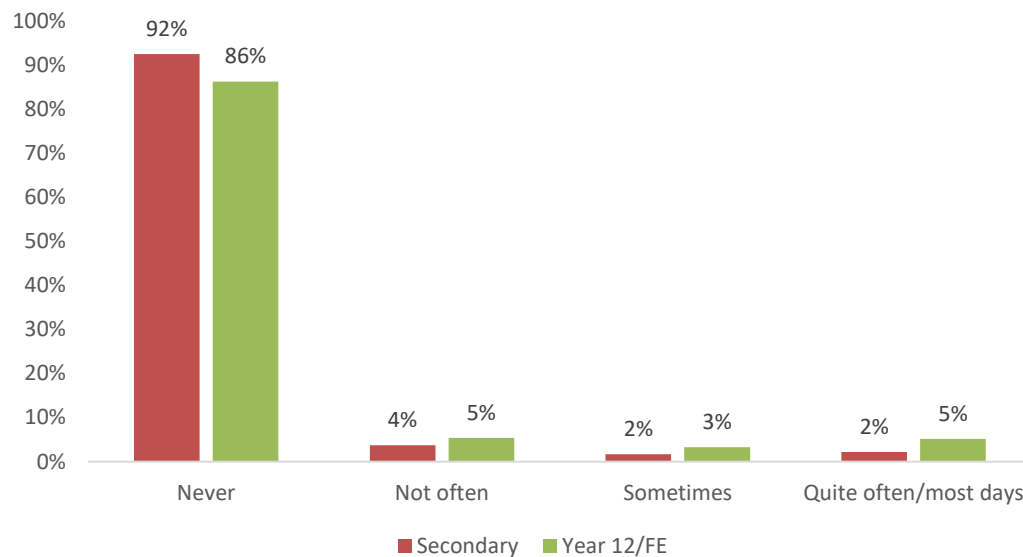
\* Year 12/FE students were not asked if they were in receipt of free school meals. The AFL group in all school phases represents a small sample size and caution should be used in interpreting their results.

## Safety in personal relationships

92% of secondary and 86% of year 12/FE pupils reported that they had never been a victim of abuse from a boyfriend or girlfriend (Figure 24). Primary school respondents were not asked this question. There were not any significant differences between genders in the secondary school setting. Females in year 12/FE were slightly less likely to report never having been a victim of abuse from a boyfriend or girlfriend. 14% of these secondary school respondents and 6% of these year 12/FE respondents reported that the abuse was still ongoing. This represents less than 1% of the secondary school and year 12/FE samples.

**Previous years:** Proportions were the same in 2020 and 2017 and the same gender patterns were observed.

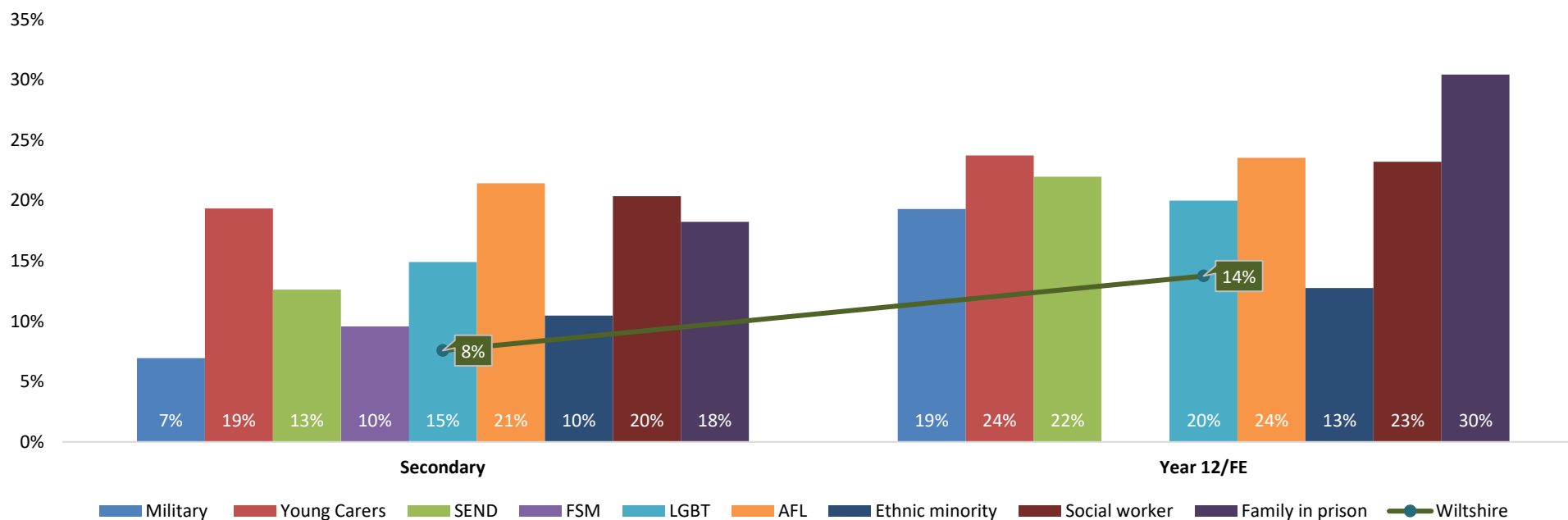
**Figure 24: Question 5.21. Have you ever been a victim of abuse from a boyfriend/girlfriend?**



All vulnerable groups apart from secondary school children with military parents/carers and ethnic minority year 12/FE children were above the Wiltshire proportions in reporting that they had been a victim of abuse from a boyfriend/girlfriend (Figure 24a). In the secondary phases, AFL children were most likely to have been a victim of abuse from a boyfriend/girlfriend and more than twice as likely than the Wiltshire proportion (21% vs 8% for Wiltshire). In year 12/FE phases, children who have/had family in prison were most likely (30% vs 14% for Wiltshire).

**Figure 24a: Question 5.21. Have you ever been a victim of abuse from a boyfriend/girlfriend? Vulnerable groups. \***

**Responses: All except 'never'.**



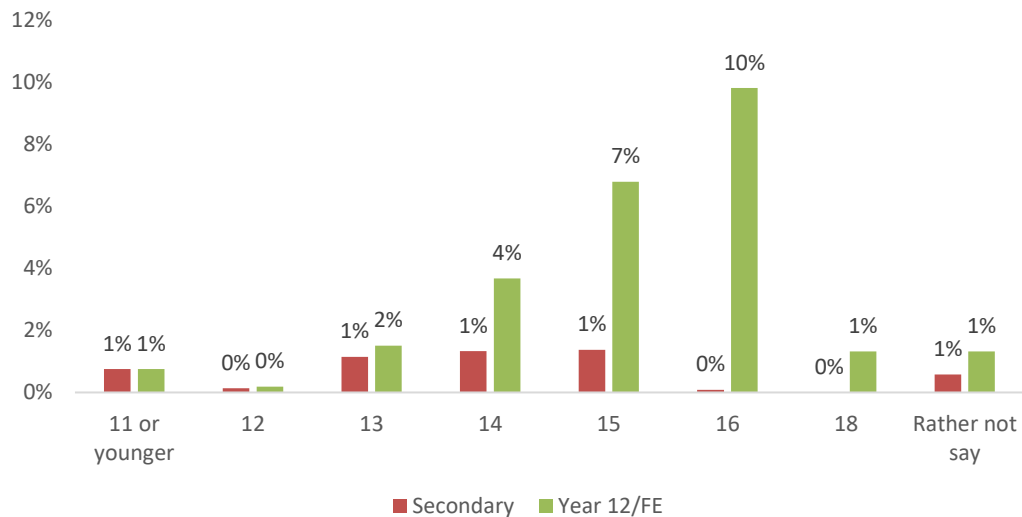
\* Year 12/FE students were not asked if they were in receipt of free school meals. The AFL group in all school phases represents a small sample size and caution should be used in interpreting their results.



Out of the total populations, 14% of year 12/FE students and 4% of secondary students reported first having sexual intercourse while under the age of legal consent (Figure 25).

**Previous years:** There has been a slight decrease since 2020 and 2017 in the year 12/FE school phases for those reporting having sexual intercourse while under the legal age (19% in 2020 and 2017). There have been no changes in the secondary school phases since 2017 and 2020.

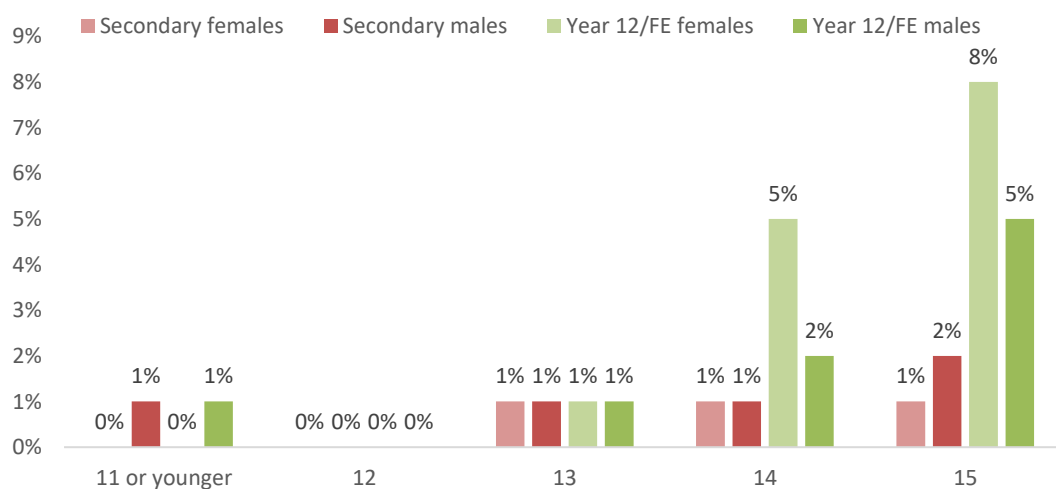
**Figure 25: Question 11.08. How old were you when you had sexual intercourse for the first time?**



There were minimal gender differences in both school phases in regard to having sexual intercourse under the age of legal consent (Figure 25a). In year 12/FE phases, females were slightly more likely than males to report having had sexual intercourse at age 14 or 15 and therefore under the age of legal consent.

**Previous years:** There were no gender differences in 2020 or 2017 in either school phase.

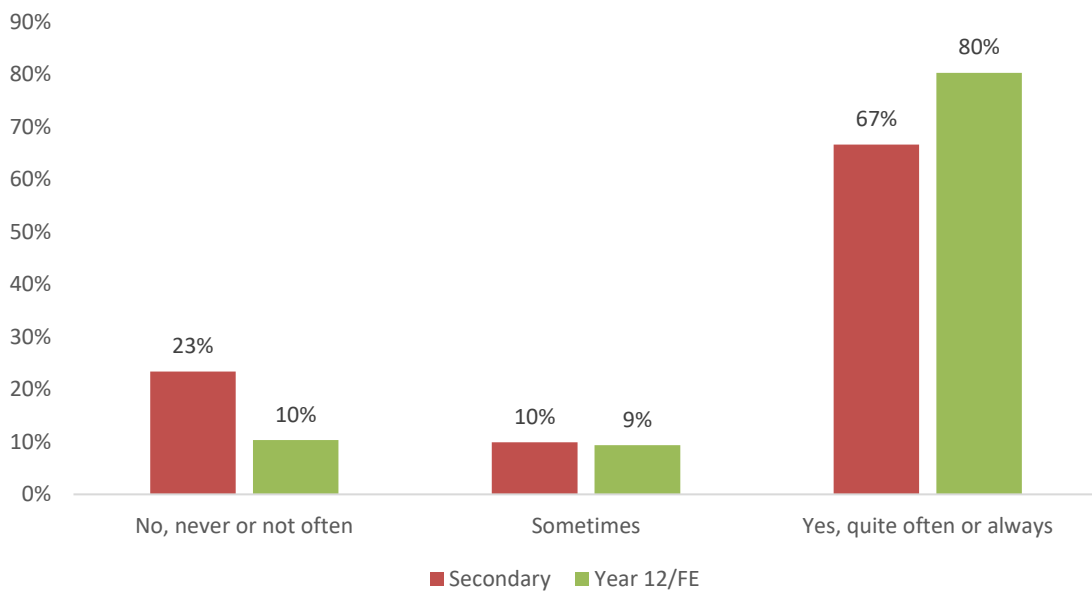
**Figure 25a: Question 11.08. How old were you when you had sexual intercourse for the first time? Gender.**



23% of the secondary school pupils who reported ever having had sexual intercourse, and 10% of the year 12/FE pupils who reported this, said that they never or rarely felt able to say no to sexual activity (Figure 26). This represents 1% of the total secondary sample, and 3% of the total year 12/FE sample.

**Previous years:** The proportion of secondary children that felt unable to say no to sexual activity has fluctuated over the years, 25% in 2017 down to 19% in 2020 and back up to 23% in 2021. The proportion for year 12/FE pupils have stayed largely the same.

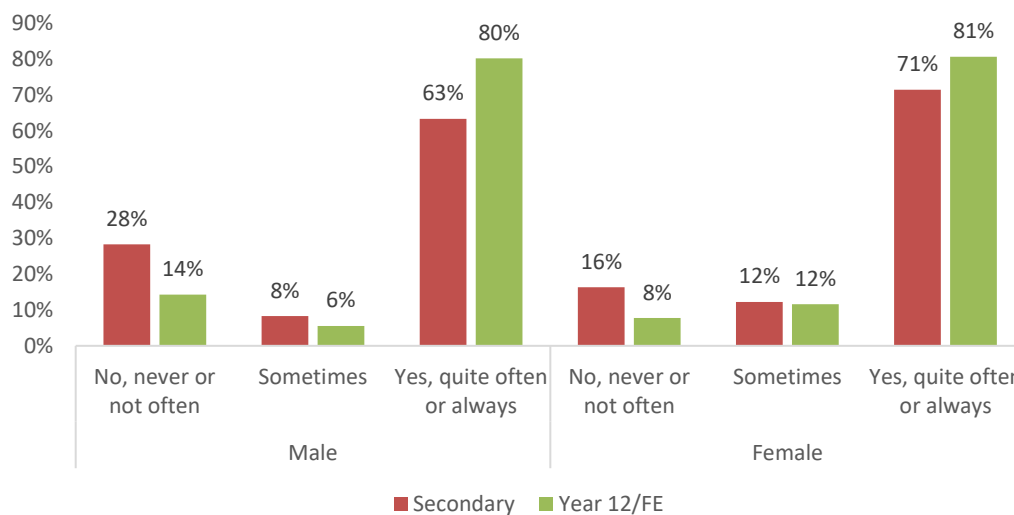
**Figure 26: Question 11.10. Do you feel you can say no to having sexual activity? Those who have had sexual intercourse.**



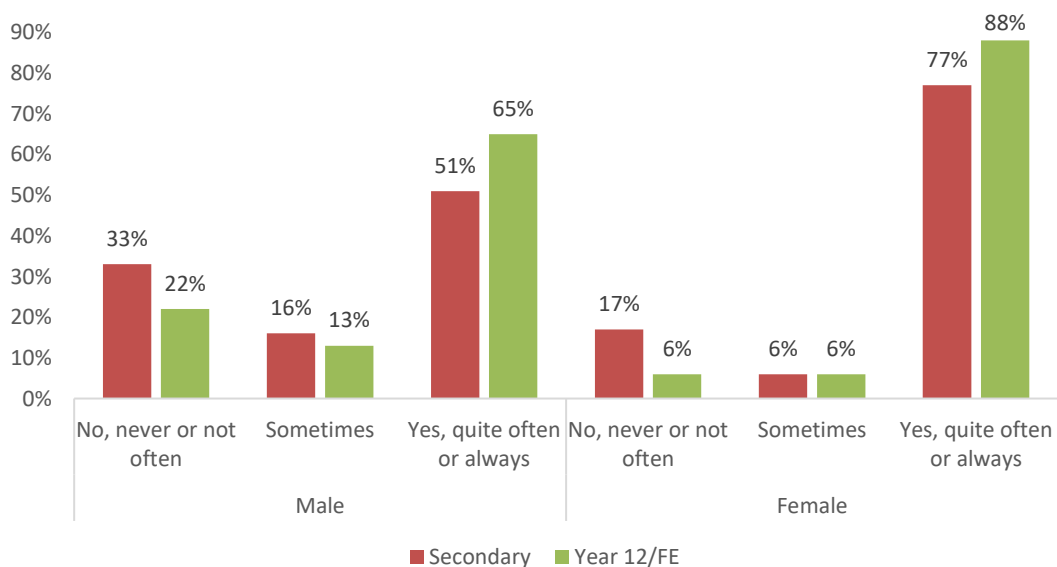
In both the secondary and year 12/FE phases, males were more likely than females to report that they felt unable to say no to sexual activity (Figure 26a).

**Previous years:** The same gender patterns were observed in 2017 and 2020 but there have been some key changes to proportions (see Figure 26a and 26b). The proportion of male secondary pupils able to say no to sexual activity has fluctuated over the past few years to now (51% in 2017, 66% in 2020, 63% in 2021), but overall has improved since 2017. The proportion for female secondary pupils has also fluctuated (77% in 2017, 81% in 2020, 71% in 2021) but has overall declined since 2017. The proportion of male year 12/FE pupils being able to say no to sexual activity has increased (65% in 2017, 75% in 2020, 80% in 2021). On the other hand, the proportion has decreased for female year 12/FE pupils (88% in 2017, 86% in 2020, 81% in 2021).

**Figure 26a: Question 11.10. Do you feel you can say no to having sexual activity? Those who have had sexual intercourse. Gender. 2021.**



**Figure 26b: Question 11.10. Do you feel you can say no to having sexual activity? Those who have had sexual intercourse. Gender. 2017.**

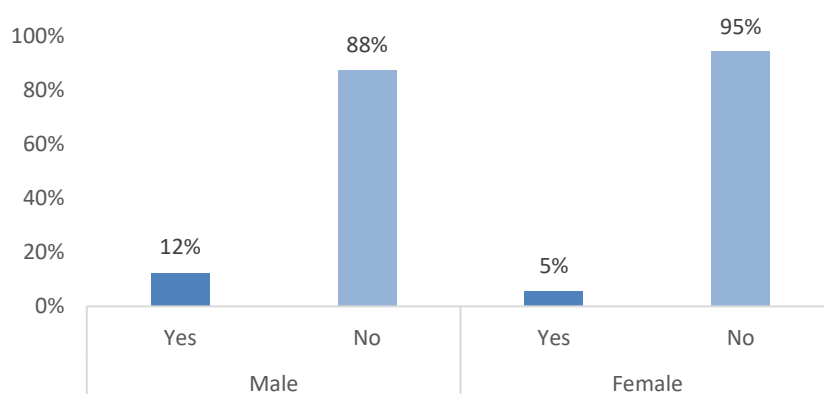


## Online safety

In primary school phases, only 9% of the students reported that they had ever met a stranger in person who they knew first in an online setting. This question was not asked of the secondary or year 12/FE respondents in 2020 or 2021. Males were more likely than females to report having met someone in person who they first knew online (Figure 27).

**Previous years:** The proportion of primary children reporting yes to having ever met a stranger in the real world have increased very slightly since 2017 (6%) and 2020 (7%). The same gender pattern was observed in previous years.

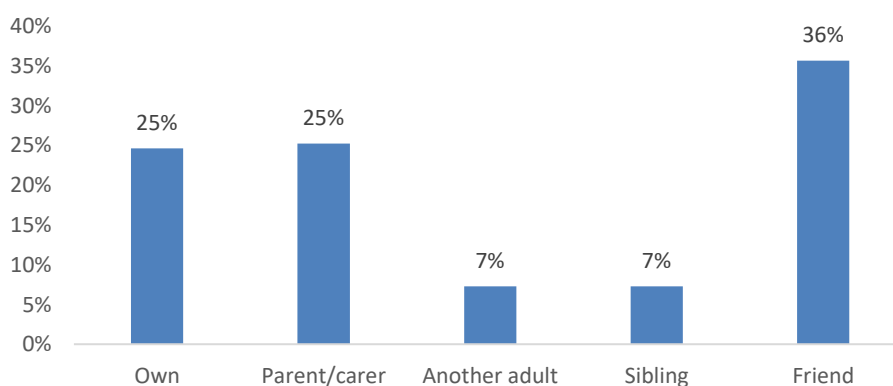
**Figure 27: Question 5.43. Have you ever met a stranger in the real world that you got to know first online? Gender.**



36% of the primary school respondents who reported meeting someone in person who they had first met online said that they had taken a friend with them when they met (Figure 28). A quarter reported going on their own and a quarter took a parent or carer. Proportions differed between genders. A larger proportion of males than females in primary school reported having gone alone when they met their online acquaintance (30% males to 13% females). A higher proportion of females reported going with a parent/carer than males (35% females vs 21% males).

**Previous years:** Patterns were the same in 2020. In 2017, only 27% reported taking a friend with them, while 38% reported going alone.

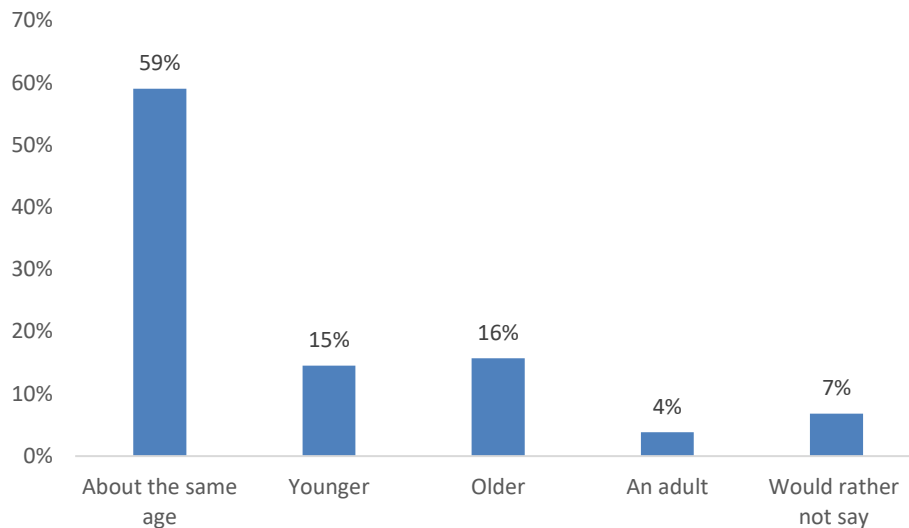
**Figure 28: Question 5.44. Did you take someone with you when you met up with them? Those who answered yes to 5.43.**



59% of the primary school respondents who had met someone in person that they first knew online reported that the person in question was about the same age as them (Figure 29). There were no noticeable gender differences for this question.

**Previous years:** The proportion of children meeting someone the same age as them, has increased since 2017 (42%) and 2020 (49%). In previous years, more respondents reported meeting an adult (11% in 2020, 17% in 2017 compared to 4% in 2021).

**Figure 29: Question 5.55. What was the age of the person that you met? Those who answered yes to 5.43.**



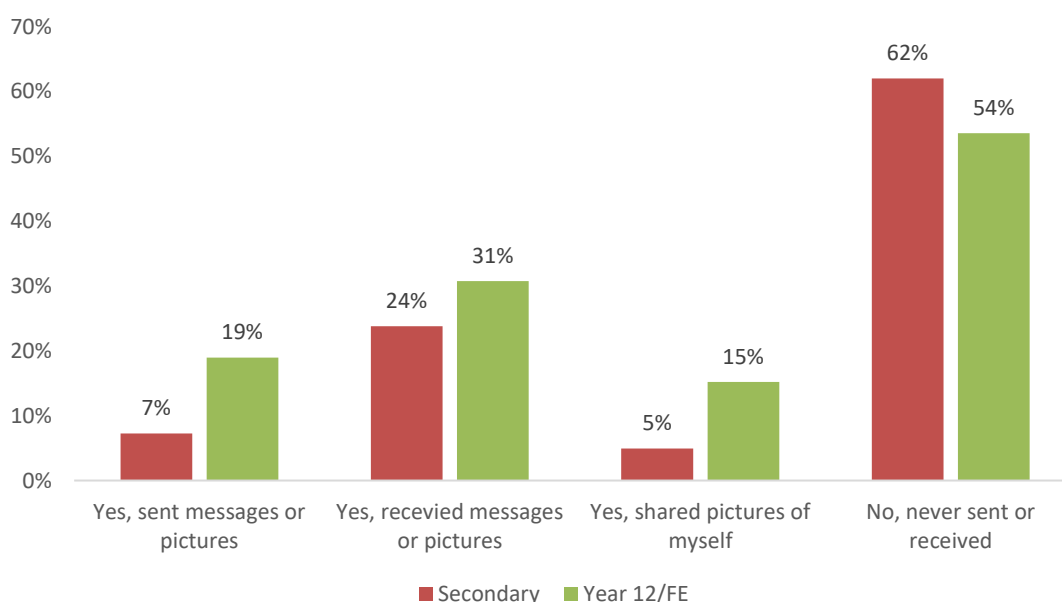
### Blackmail

Pupils in secondary schools and year 12/FE phases were asked about their use of the internet and whether they had ever been blackmailed. 13% of secondary respondents and 10% of year 12/FE respondents reported that someone had tried to blackmail them over the internet. Proportions were very similar in 2020. There were some gender differences in both school phases. Females were more likely to report being blackmailed than males (secondary 16% females, 9% males, year 12/FE 14% females and 5% males). The same gender differences were observed in 2020.

Pupils were also asked whether they had been involved in sharing messages or pictures of a sexual nature (Figure 30). 62% of secondary school respondents, and 54% of year 12/FE respondents, reported that they had never been involved in sending or receiving pictures or messages of a sexual nature. 38% of secondary and 46% of year 12/FE pupils reported that they had been involved in sharing messages or pictures of a sexual nature on the internet or on their phone in some way. In 2020, a national survey found that around 1 in 10 children aged 13-15 reported receiving a sexual message, while 1 in 100 reported sending one.<sup>12</sup> When looking at this same age range, the findings from the survey were higher than this with 4 in 10 of 13-15 year olds reporting that they had received a sexual message and 7 in 100 reported sending one.

**Previous years:** The proportion of pupils saying ‘no’ was very similar in previous years.

**Figure 30: Question 5.61. Have you ever been involved in sharing messages or pictures of a sexual nature on the internet or your phone?**



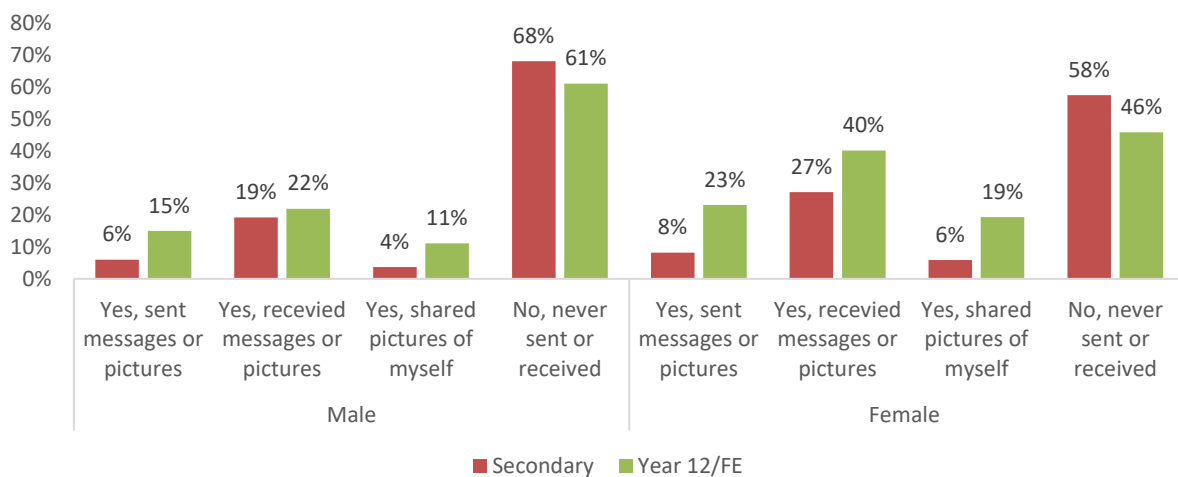
\*Respondents could pick multiple options from the yes responses

<sup>12</sup> [Children’s online behaviour in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/people-in-the-uk/children-and-young-people/childrens-online-behaviour-in-england-and-wales)

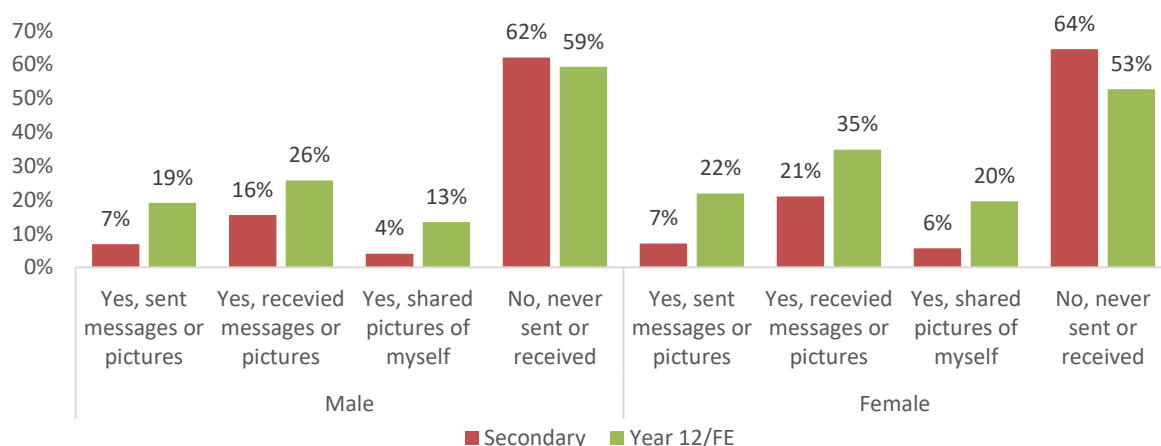
In both the secondary school and year 12/FE phases, females were more likely to report having sent, shared or received messages of a sexual nature (Figure 30a: secondary: 42% females, 32% males, year 12/FE: 64% females, 39% males). In a 2020 national survey, females aged 13-15 were also significantly more likely to report receiving sexual messages compared to males.<sup>13</sup>

**Previous years:** Proportions were similar in 2020 as well as the same pattern of gender differences. In 2017, the gender differences were not as apparent in secondary school phases (Figure 33b). Since 2017, the proportions of female secondary and year 12/FE students reporting having shared pictures or messages of a sexual nature have increased (secondary 36%, year 12/FE 47% in 2017; secondary 42%, year 12/FE 54% in 2021). On the other hand, the proportion of male secondary respondents reporting the same has decreased since 2017 (38% compared to 32% in 2021).

**Figure 30a: Question 5.61. Have you ever been involved in sharing messages or pictures of a sexual nature on the internet or your phone? Gender. 2021.**



**Figure 30b: Question 5.61. Have you ever been involved in sharing messages or pictures of a sexual nature on the internet or your phone? Gender. 2017.**

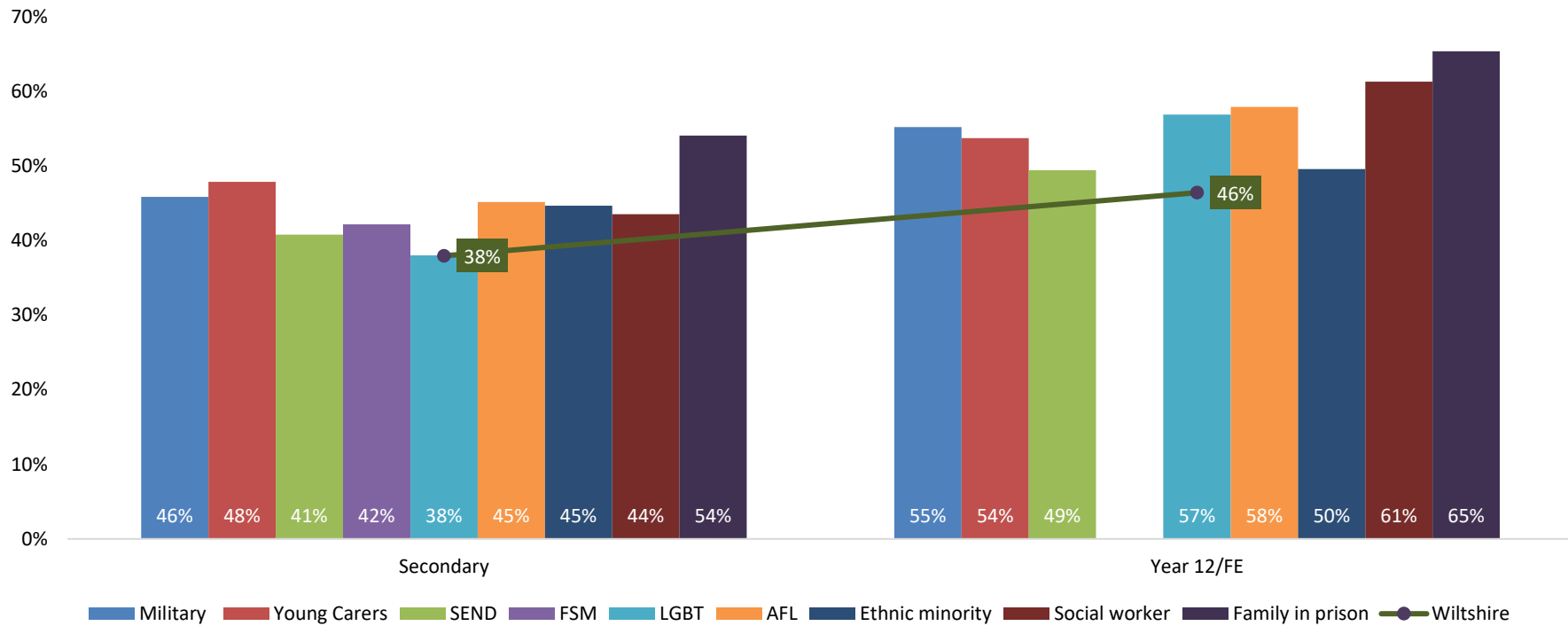


<sup>13</sup> [Children’s online behaviour in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

In both school phases, almost all of the different vulnerable groups were significantly more likely to have been involved in sharing messages or pictures of a sexual nature than the overall Wiltshire sample (Figure 30c). Children who have/had a family member in prison and LGBT children had the highest proportions (54% for both secondary and 65% and 67% for year 12/FE, respectively)

**Figure 30c: Question 5.61. Have you ever been involved in sharing messages or pictures of a sexual nature on the internet or your phone? Vulnerable groups. \***

**Response: Yes, involved in at least one way.**



\*Year 12/FE students were not asked if they were in receipt of free school meals. The AFL group in all school phases represents a small sample size and caution should be used in interpreting their results. Respondents could pick multiple options from the yes responses.

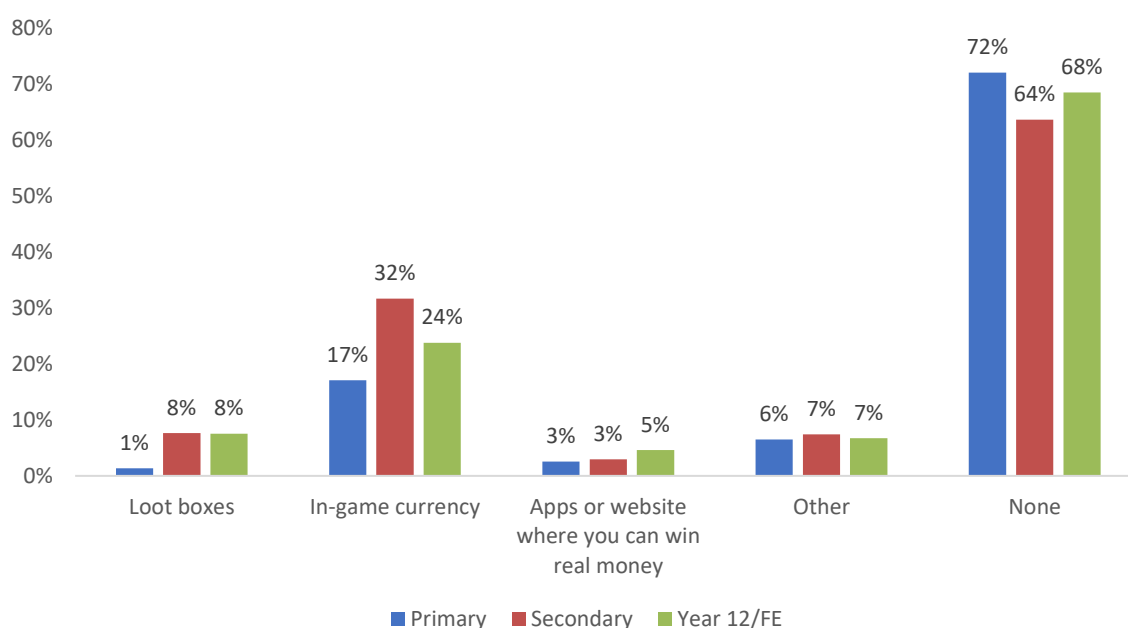


## Gambling

When asked about gambling, 28% of primary respondents, 36% of secondary respondents and 32% of year 12/FE respondents said they had spent money on gambling activities in the past 12 months (Figure 31). In 2020, a national survey found that 37% of 11–16-year-olds had gambled in the last 12 months, which roughly corresponds to the Wiltshire data. <sup>14</sup>

**Previous years:** In 2020, proportions were largely the same apart from a slightly higher proportion of primary and secondary respondents reporting never having gambled in the past 12 months (77% primary 2020 vs 72% 2021; 71% secondary 2020 vs 64% 2021). This question was not asked in 2017.

**Figure 31: Question 3.56. Have you spent any of your money on any of the following gambling activities in the past 12 months? \***



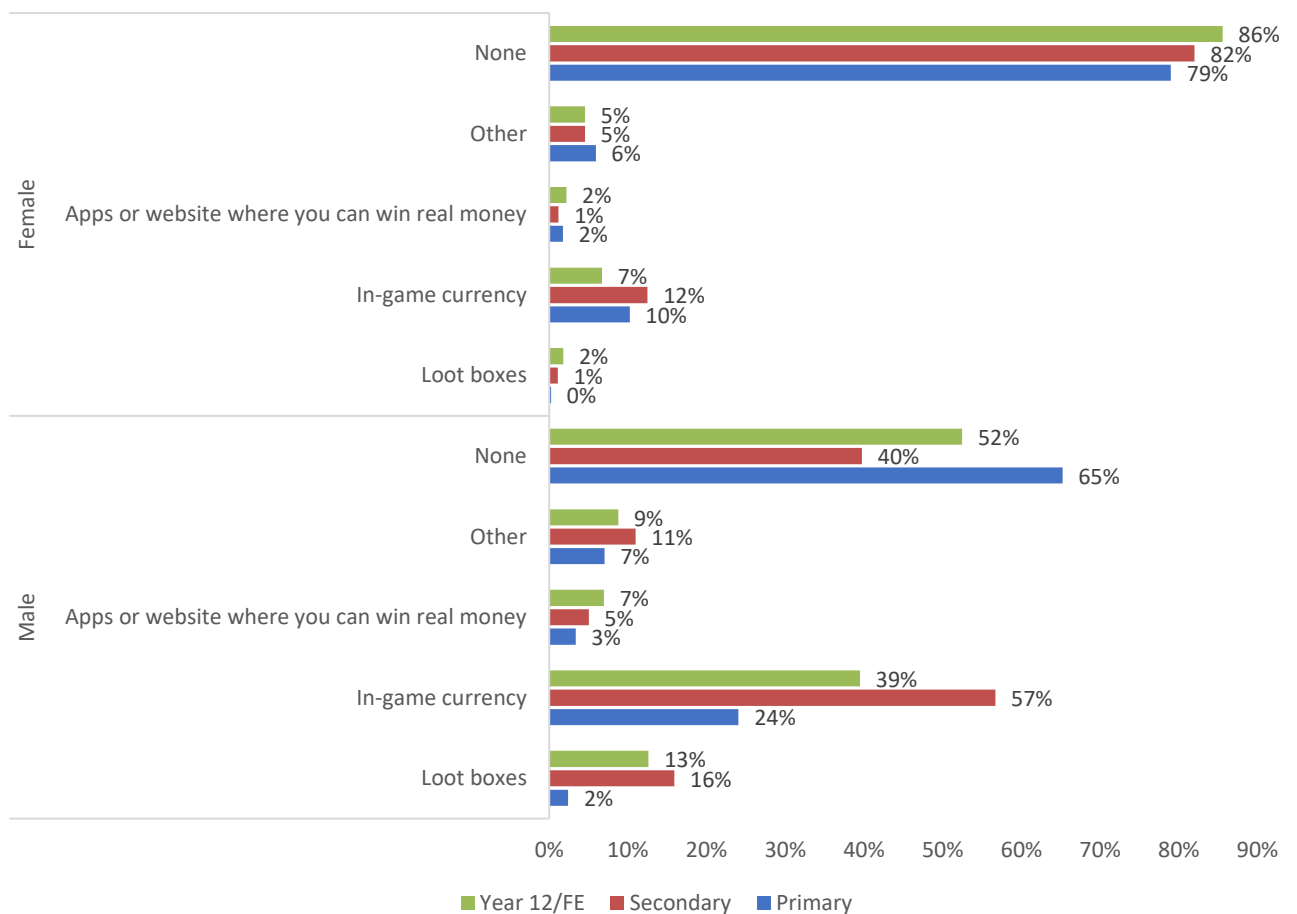
\*Respondents could pick multiple options other than none.

<sup>14</sup> [Young People and Gambling 2020 - Gambling Commission](#)

There were clear gender differences in all school phases. Males were much more likely to have spent any money on gambling activities in the past 12 months (Figure 31a; primary female 21% vs primary male 35%, secondary female 18% vs secondary male 60%, year 12/FE female 14% vs year 12/FE male 48%).

**Previous years:** In 2020, gender differences were the same were the same. Fewer secondary school males participated in gambling activities in 2020 (51% vs 60% in 2021). The same was true for year 12/FE males (32% vs 48% in 2021).

**Figure 31a: Question 3.56. Have you spent any of your money on any of the following gambling activities in the past 12 months? Gender. \***

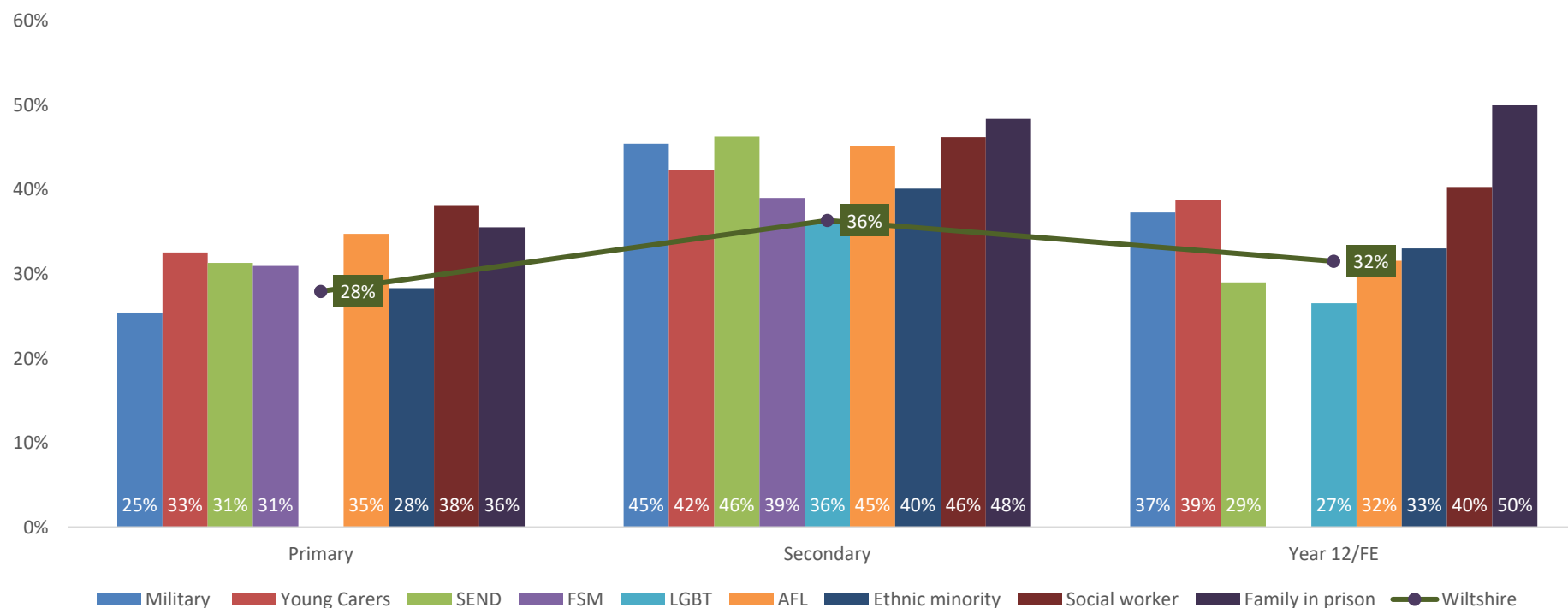


\*Respondents could pick multiple options other than none.

In primary school phases, all vulnerable groups apart from children of military parent/carers and ethnic minority children, were significantly more likely to have participated in gambling activities than the overall Wiltshire sample (Figure 31b). In secondary school phases, all groups apart from the LGBT children were significantly more likely to have gambled than the overall Wiltshire sample. In year 12/FE phases, SEND children and LGBT children were slightly less likely to have taken part in gambling activities when compared to the Wiltshire sample.

**Figure 31b: Question 3.56. Have you spent any of your money on any of the following gambling activities in the past 12 months? Vulnerable groups. \***

**Response: At least one type of gambling.**



\*Primary students were not asked about their LGBT status. Year 12/FE students were not asked if they were in receipt of free school meals. The AFL group in all school phases represents a small sample size and caution should be used in interpreting their results.

## Support and knowledge

When asked if there was anything pupils wanted to know more about, around 9% of primary school respondents felt they wanted to know more about alcohol, while 12% felt they needed more support or knowledge about drugs, and 15% about keeping safe and secure online. Around 9% of secondary school children needed more support or information about alcohol, drugs and domestic abuse, while 6% felt they needed more support in online safety. Very low percentages of year 12/FE students reported needing more support or knowledge about drugs, alcohol, keeping safe online and domestic abuse.

## Next steps

The data from this report will help schools to identify areas for improvement and address issues that were raised by their own pupils and will provide evidence to influence future services provided by Wiltshire Council and partners to improve the health and wellbeing of our children and young people. If you wish to discuss the data in this report or the other Wiltshire Children and Young People's School Health and Wellbeing Survey reports please contact the Public Health Team at Wiltshire Council: [publichealth@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:publichealth@wiltshire.gov.uk)

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank schools who took part in the 2021 survey (May to July) and the 2020 survey (January to March), particularly the staff that organised its administration and all the pupils who gave up their time to provide information. A list of schools who participated can be found at the end of the Overview report on the Wiltshire Intelligence website: [School Health Survey - Wiltshire Intelligence](#)

## Report prepared by

Wiltshire Council Public Health Intelligence Team in partnership with Local Authority colleagues.

## Appendix

Table 1. Proportion and ranking of pupils eligible and claiming FSM for primary schools as of summer 2021

School	Proportion of pupils eligible and claiming FSM	Rank out of all Wiltshire primary schools (203)
Alderbury & West Grimstead Church of England Primary School	7.22%	146
Amesbury Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	20.27%	44
Baydon St Nicholas Church of England Primary School	2.83%	197
Bellefield Primary and Nursery School	21.92%	36
Bowerhill Primary School	10.97%	107
Box Church of England Primary School	2.38%	199
Brinkworth Earl Danby's Church of England Primary School	8.07%	138
Bulford St Leonard's CE (VA) Primary School	5.0%	176
Cherhill C of E Primary School	9.36%	120
Christ Church Church of England Controlled Primary School	3.37%	190
Clarendon Junior School	9.29%	121
Colerne CofE Primary School	3.08%	194
Coombe Bissett Church of England Primary School	8.85%	125
Corsham Regis Primary Academy	37.58%	10
Crudwell CofE Primary School	4.03%	186
Dauntsey's Academy Primary School	4.62%	178
Dinton CofE Primary School	10.98%	106
Fitzmaurice Primary School	18.15%	51
Five Lanes Primary	24.66%	30
Forest & Sandridge Church of England Primary School	12.32%	98
Fynamore Primary School	20.54%	42
Great Bedwyn Church of England School	6.0%	161
Greentrees Primary School	14.39%	80
Grove Primary School (The)	17.11%	60
Hilmarton Primary School	7.14%	147
Holbrook Primary School	26.58%	27
Holt Voluntary Controlled Primary School	6.33%	156
Kington St Michael Church of England Primary School	7.35%	145
Langley Fitzurse Church of England Primary School	7.44%	141

Longford CofE (VC) Primary School	44.73%	5
Ludgershall Castle Primary School	23.1%	34
Malmesbury Church of England Primary School	9.43%	118
Neston Primary School	7.46%	140
Newton Tony Church of England Voluntary Controlled School	1.2%	203
North Bradley CofE Primary School	5.55%	168
Nursteed Primary School	15.46%	73
Old Sarum Primary School	24.69%	29
Pitton Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	9.09%	124
Queen's Crescent School	11.74%	100
Redland Primary School	18.39%	50
River Mead School	58.62%	1
Saint Edmund's Roman Catholic Academy Calne	22.73%	35
St Andrew's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School Laverstock	10.14%	114
St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School Wootton Bassett	17.80%	56
St George's Catholic Primary School, Warminster	11.11%	103
St John's Catholic Primary School Trowbridge	10.35%	112
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Malmesbury	16.66%	62
St Martin's CofE Voluntary Aided Primary School	36.49%	12
St Nicholas Church of England Primary School, Porton	7.04%	148
St Nicholas Church of England VC Primary School Bromham	6.81%	151
St Peter's Church of England Academy, Chippenham	22.58%	36
Stanton St Quintin Primary School	2.94%	195
Staverton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	18.15%	52
Studley Green Primary School	47.87%	4
Sutton Benger Church of England Aided Primary School	12.35%	95
Wansdyke Community School	14.10%	82
Westbury Leigh CofE Primary School	17.24%	59
Winterbourne Earls Church of England Primary School	3.19%	191
Winterslow Church of England Aided Primary School	6.70%	153
Woodford Valley CE Primary Academy	5.26%	171

**Table 2. Proportion and ranking of pupils eligible and claiming FSM for secondary schools as of summer 2021**

School	Proportion of pupils eligible and claiming FSM	Rank out of all Wiltshire secondary schools (30)
Abbeyfield School	15.22%	10
Bradon Forest School	11.17%	18
Hardenhuish School	7.87%	24
Royal Wootton Bassett Academy	9.46%	22
South Wilts Grammar School	2.16%	30
St Laurence School	7.63%	25
Wellington Academy (The)	12.38%	15
Wyvern College	14.75%	11