



WIDENING ACCESS

Supporting young people enter the healthcare sector.

INVESTIGATING

the barriers
preventing young
people from
accessing the over

350

**DIFFERENT
CAREERS**

in the NHS



619

RESPONSES

From young
people aged 14
to 25 years old
from England.

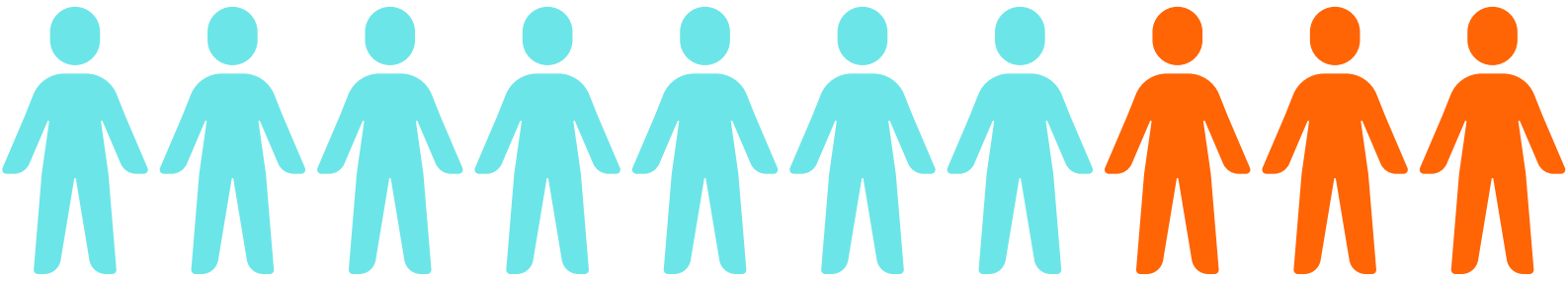


Our survey aimed to identify barriers, by asking questions about:

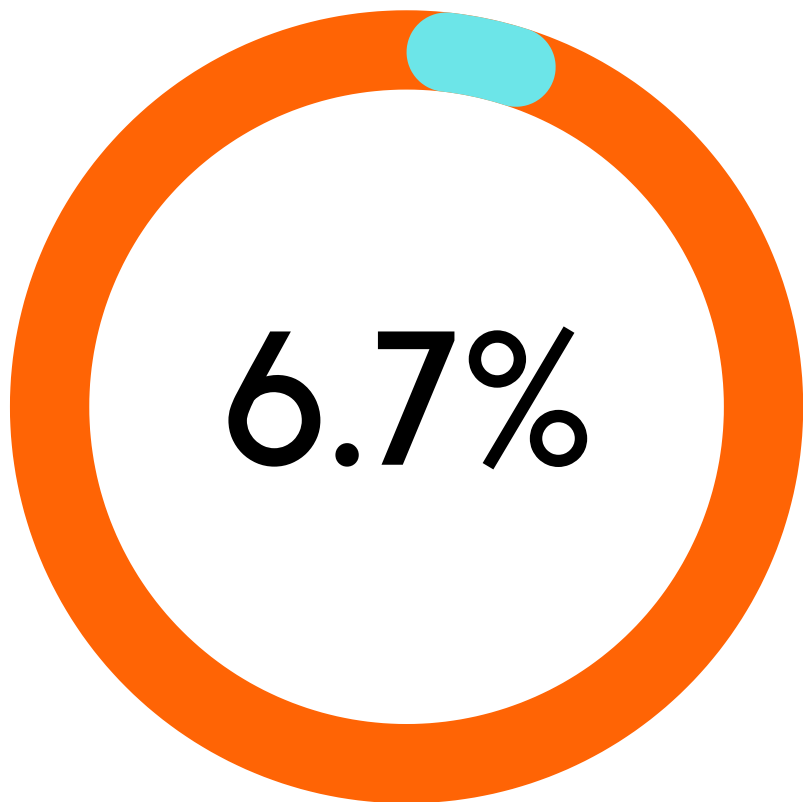
- Awareness of schemes such as Widening Access and Participation
- Underrepresented groups
- Resources and work experience in the sector
-



Our Survey Found That



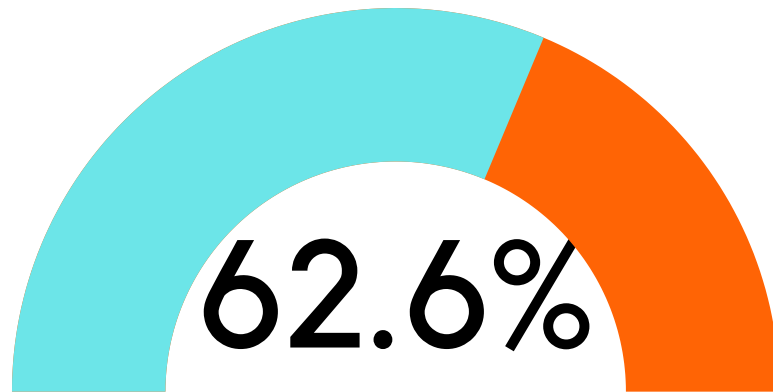
457 respondents felt that there was not enough awareness of Widening Access



6.7%

Only 92 of our respondents felt that the measures for Widening Access were adequate

Support Needed to Access Careers

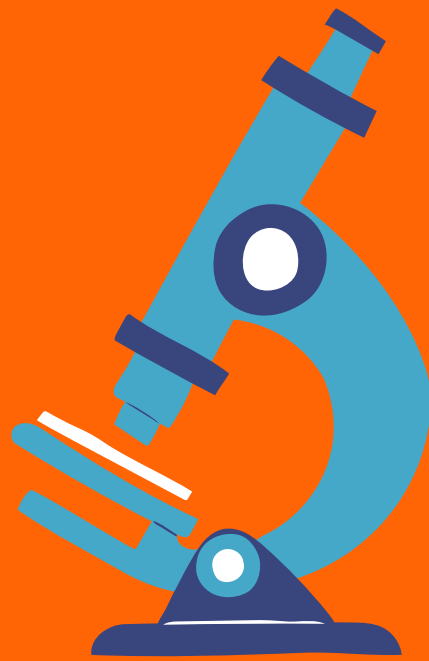


of our respondents said that 'limited opportunities' made it increasingly difficult to get work experience.



of respondents said they wanted more work experience to support them entering the healthcare sector.





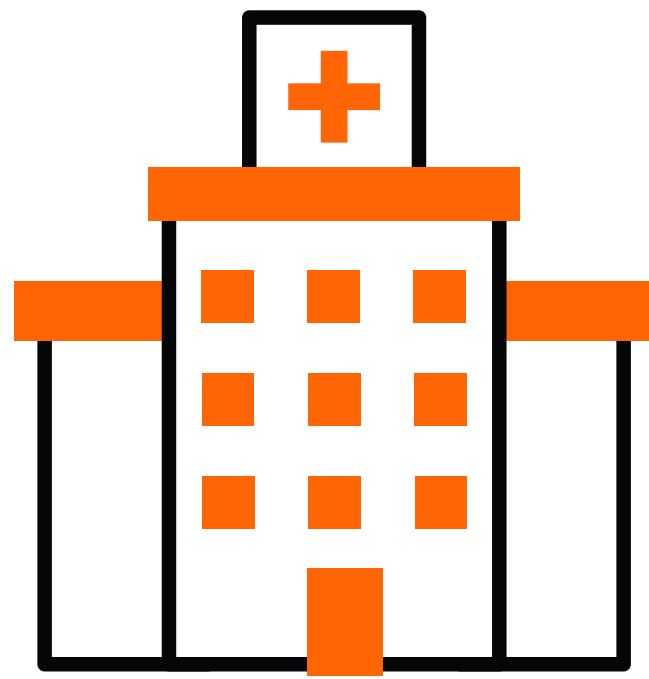
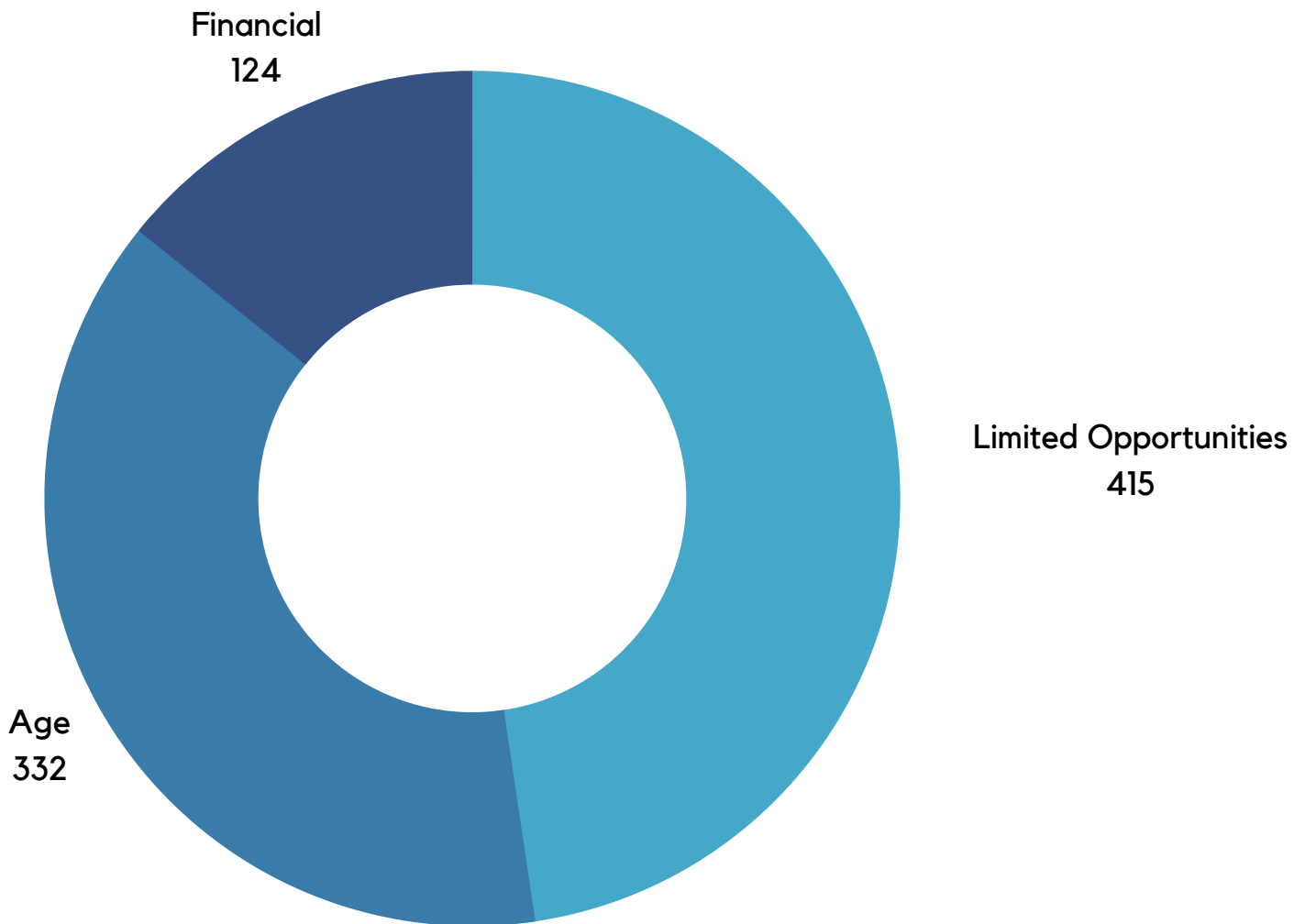
Only...

14.5%

Had a full understanding of Widening Participation Schemes and the Criteria

BARRIERS

Facing Young People



Work Experience Barriers

Our young people listed:

- Limited Opportunities
- Age
- Finances



As the **main barriers** which faced young people trying to access work experience in the healthcare sector.



52.9% of respondents said that they wanted more support when accessing work experience.

30.2% of young people who took our survey noted that they had been unable to find **any** opportunities in the healthcare sector.

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SAID...

**“PEOPLE WHO ARE JUST ABOVE THE
THRESHOLD OF WIDENING
PARTICIPATION CRITERIA ARE AS
DISADVANTAGED AS PEOPLE BELOW
THE THRESHOLD, THERE SHOULD BE
MORE OPPORTUNITIES.”**

**“PEOPLE AREN'T PRIVILEGED
ENOUGH TO ACCESS ALL
OPPORTUNITIES BUT AREN'T
DEPRIVED ENOUGH TO QUALIFY
FOR WIDENING ACCESS.”**

Young people identified numerous underrepresented groups in our survey, including:

Young Carers

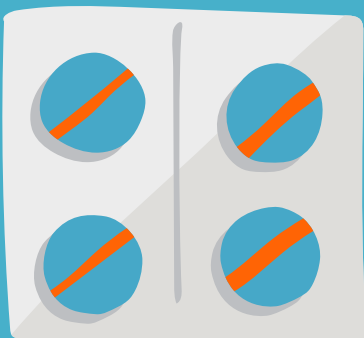
Single Parent Households

Mental Health Conditions

Ethnic Minorities

Disabilities and Chronic Illnesses

Young people noted that widening access eligibility criteria should become more nuanced to support a wider range of applicants access the healthcare sector.



It was highlighted in numerous responses, that young people who just surpassed the threshold for widening access were still disadvantaged in their applications.

MOVING

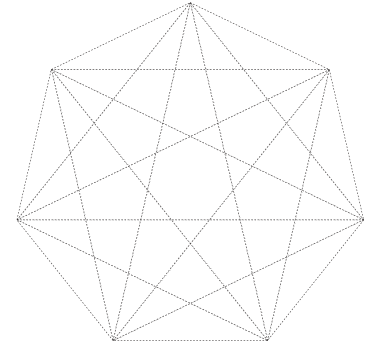
**EQUITY NOT
EQUALITY**



With **45.7%** of applicants learning about Widening Access through social media, universities and UCAS should utilise this tool.

FORWARDS

73.8% said that not enough awareness had been raised, so using social media to give clear information will inevitably help prospective candidates



Accessibility of information on:

- Courses
- Placements
- Criteria

Needs to be improved.

