

Statistical bulletin

# Coronavirus and higher education students: England, 20 November to 25 November 2020

Experimental statistics from a pilot of the Student Covid Insights Survey in England. Includes information on the behaviours, plans, opinions and well-being of higher education students in the context of guidance on the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Contact:  
Tim Gibbs  
publicservicesanalysis@ons.gov.  
uk  
+44 (0)1633 456921

Release date:  
9 December 2020

Next release:  
To be announced

## Table of contents

1. [Main points](#)
2. [Coronavirus and higher education students data](#)
3. [Analysing the data](#)
4. [Related links](#)

# 1 . Main points

- Between 20 and 25 November 2020, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) conducted a pilot survey of university students to provide information on student behaviour at university, during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
- An estimated 56% of students, who live away from their home (usual non-term address), plan to return home for Christmas.
- Of those who responded, more than half (57%) reported a worsening in their mental health and well-being between the beginning of the autumn term (September 2020) and being surveyed.
- Students are significantly more anxious than the general population of Great Britain, with mean scores of 5.3 compared with 4.2 respectively, (where 0 is “not anxious at all” and 10 is “completely anxious”).
- Student experience has changed because of the coronavirus; considering academic experience, 29% of students reported being dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their experience in the autumn term.
- Over half (53%) of students reported being dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their social experience in the autumn term.

These are experimental statistics, so care needs to be taken when interpreting them.

## More about coronavirus

- Find the latest on [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in the UK](#).
- All ONS analysis, summarised in our [coronavirus roundup](#).
- View [all coronavirus data](#).
- Find out how we are [working safely in our studies and surveys](#).

# 2 . Coronavirus and higher education students data

## [Coronavirus and higher education students, England](#)

Dataset | Released 9 December 2020

Experimental statistics from a pilot of the Student Covid Insights Survey. Includes information on the behaviours, plans, opinions and well-being of higher education students in England in the context of guidance on the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

# 3 . Analysing the data

## Student Covid Insights Survey

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) are conducting a pilot study analysing student behaviour during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This survey is called the Student Covid Insights Survey. This is the third pilot study; datasets for pilot 1 and pilot 2 are published and links are available in the [Related links](#).

In this pilot study, 100,000 students were invited by email (from the National Union of Students (NUS)) to participate in the online study. There were 2,006 responses, giving us a response rate of 2%. We would like to thank and acknowledge the important role the NUS had in this survey.

## Analysing the data

The estimates are adjusted (weighted) to ensure they are representative of students in England. The pilot was sent to 100,000 students across England, but not all responded. A disproportionate number of female students responded, and responses also varied by region. To address this, we apply weighting to ensure the sample is representative of the student population in different regions of England and representative of sex.

## Uncertainty in the data

The estimates presented in this bulletin contain [uncertainty](#). All survey data based on a sample have an element of uncertainty. In some cases, we have used confidence intervals to determine whether differences between students and the general population of Great Britain are statistically significant.

## 4 . Related links

### [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) latest data and analysis](#)

Web page | Updated as and when data become available

Latest data and analysis on the coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK and its effect on the economy and society.

### [Coronavirus and university students, 12 October to 18 October 2020, England](#)

Dataset | Released 5 November 2020

Experimental statistics from an initial pilot of the Student Covid Insights Survey. Includes information on the behaviours and well-being of university students attending three English universities in the context of guidance on the coronavirus (COVID-19).

### [Coronavirus and university students, 3 November to 8 November, Great Britain](#)

Dataset | Released 18 November 2020

Experimental statistics from a pilot of the Student Covid Insights Survey. Includes information on the behaviours and well-being of university students attending four British universities in the context of guidance on the coronavirus (COVID-19).

### [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) roundup](#)

Article | Updated as and when data become available

Catch up on the latest data and analysis related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.