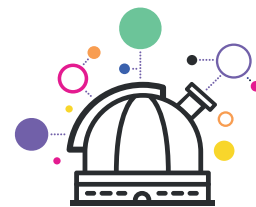


December 2019

# Access to period products in your school, college or university

Survey Results



#YSObservatory 



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# Executive Summary

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Over the past academic year (August 2018 – June 2019), the Scottish Government provided funding to make period products available for free in schools, colleges and universities. To find out what pupils and students think about this initiative, the Scottish Government asked Young Scot to help develop, host and analyse a survey of young people in education across Scotland.

The survey ran between 19th June and 2nd September 2019 and was hosted on [young.scot](http://young.scot). The survey was also promoted on Young Scot social media channels and received a total of **3,602** completed responses.



## Key Findings

**1.1** The majority of respondents (87.0%) stated that they had used or needed to use a period product in the past academic year.

**Of those respondents who had used or needed to use a period product in the past academic year...**

**1.2** Almost two-thirds of respondents (64.7%) stated that they had received free period products from their school, college or university in the past academic year.

**Of those respondents who had taken/ received free period products from their school, college or university...**

**1.3** Around three-quarters of respondents who identified as attending University (73.8%) and almost three-quarters of respondents who identified as attending College (70.2%) in the previous academic year had accessed free period products. Just over half of the respondents who had attended a *State primary or State secondary school* (54.2%) had accessed free period products.

**1.4** Most respondents stated that they accessed free products *Rarely* (46.2%) or *Sometimes* (41.9%) from their school, college or university. A minority of respondents stated that they accessed products *Often* (11.9%).

**1.5** The most commonly accessed product was *Sanitary towels* (80.1%), followed by tampons (59.4%). A minority of respondents had accessed reusable products, such as menstrual cups (4.0%) or reusable pads (2.1%).

**1.6** The majority of respondents (81.8%) stated that they were able to access their preferred product.

**1.7** The majority of respondents (85.4%) stated that they were able to access enough products to meet their needs.

**1.8** Almost half (47.7%) of respondents reported an issue that prevented them from accessing period products from their educational establishment at some point over the past academic year. Among those respondents, the most common theme within these responses was *Lack of availability* (48.4%).

**1.9** When asked why they accessed the free period products, almost all respondents selected *I didn't have the product(s) I needed with me* (91.9%). Around 1 in 8 respondents reported that they accessed products because they/their family *didn't have enough money to buy sanitary products* (12.6%).

**1.10** When asked if they felt that the availability of free period products had an impact on them, most respondents (83.9%) selected Yes – Positive impact. Of these respondents, most stated that they were Less worried about having [their] period (83.4%) and that they were More able to continue with day to day activities during [their] period (60.3%). Around a quarter stated that the availability of products Improved [their] mental health and wellbeing (23.2%).



## Key Findings

**Of those respondents who had not taken/ received free period products from their school, college or university...**

- 1.11** The most commonly selected reason why these respondents didn't access products was *I didn't need to because I/my family purchased sanitary products* (61.9%).
- 1.12** When asked if they felt that the availability of free period products had an impact on them, the most commonly selected answer was *No impact* (56.3%). However, almost a third of respondents (29.6%) selected that the availability of free period products had a *Positive impact* even though they themselves had not accessed a product.

**When asked about their use of reusable period products...**

- 1.13** The majority of respondents (84.8%) stated that they do not currently use reusable period products.
- 1.14** Of those respondents who stated that they don't currently use reusable period products, around half (50.9%) stated that they would consider using them and almost a third (30.0%) were *Undecided*.

## Important Notes

- ⦿ Although pupils/students in all 32 Local Authorities responded, around a third of the responses were from individuals who stated that they live in Glasgow (30.1%). Therefore, survey responses should not be considered as representative of the views or experiences of all pupils or students across Scotland.
- ⦿ The terms *sanitary products* and period products have been used interchangeably in this report. Questions in the survey used the term "*sanitary products*" which were defined as "products like tampons, sanitary pads/ towels and panty liners. It also includes reusable products such as menstrual cups and reusable towels/pads."
- ⦿ Several questions mention "the past academic year". This was defined in the survey as between August 2018 and June 2019.
- ⦿ Some free-type responses have been labelled as 'non-pertinent'. These were typed responses that were deemed either overly explicit or not understandable.



# Survey Results

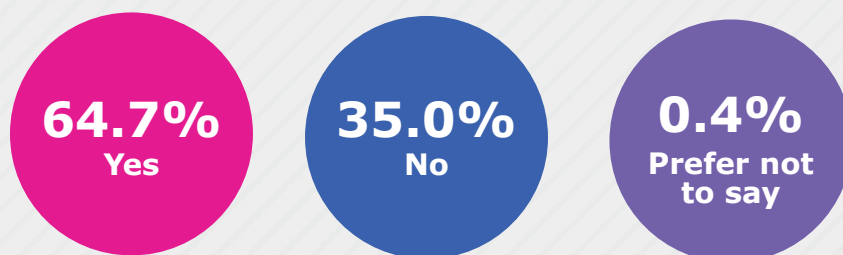
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The survey received 3,671 completed responses. There have been 69 responses removed from the analysis as these individuals stated that they had not attended an educational establishment in the past academic year. Therefore, this report is based on 3,602 completed responses<sup>1</sup>.

Out of these 3,602 respondents, 3,138 (87.1%) stated that they had used or needed to use a *sanitary product over the past academic year*. These respondents were asked the following questions.

## 2.1.1. Thinking about the past academic year, have you taken/received any free sanitary products from your school/college/university?

Almost two-thirds of respondents<sup>2</sup> stated that they had received free period products from their school, college or university within the past academic year.

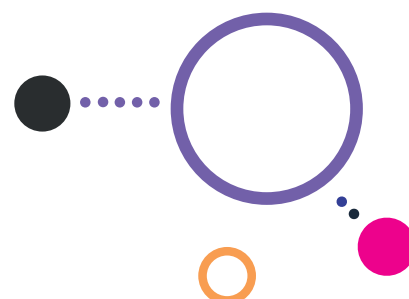


## 2.2. Responses from individuals who had accessed free period products from school, college or university in the past academic year

There were **2,001** respondents (64.7%) who stated that they had taken or received free period products from their school, college or university within the past academic year.

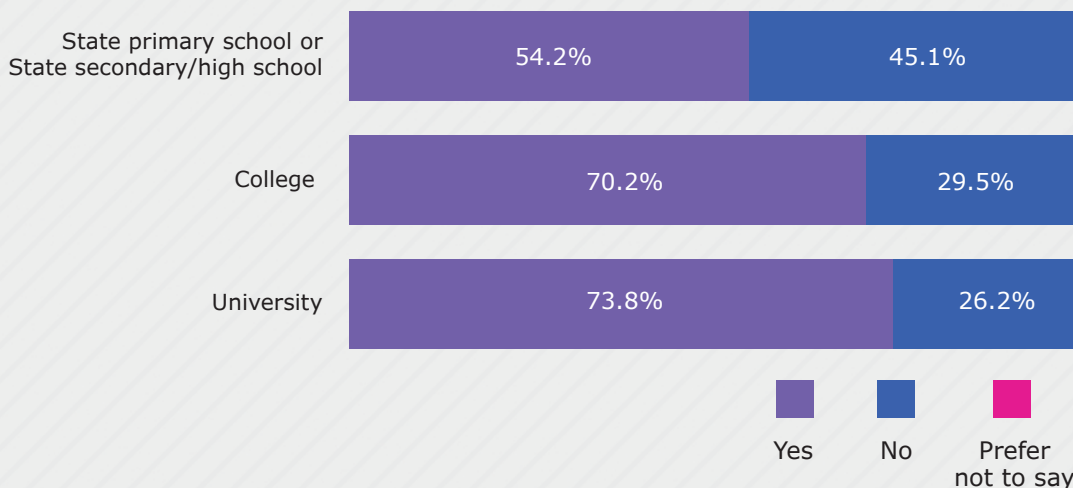
<sup>1</sup>All further questions were asked of respondents who selected *Yes* to the question *Have you used or needed to use a sanitary product over the past academic year?* with the exception of the Further comments section.

<sup>2</sup>Sample: 3,094 respondents who selected *Yes* to the question *Have you used or needed to use a sanitary product over the past academic year?* and *Yes* or *No* to the question *Have you ever experienced difficulty accessing sanitary products?*



### 2.2.1. Respondents who had taken products: Educational establishment

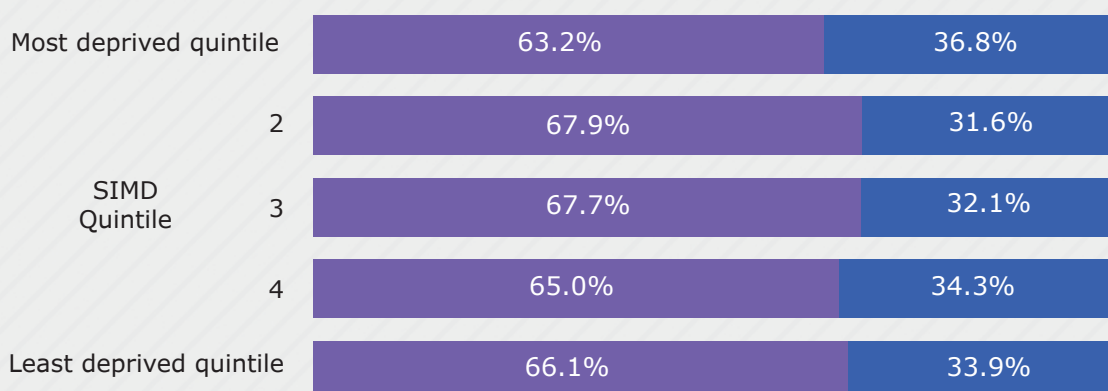
Around three-quarters of respondents who identified as attending *University* and almost three-quarters of respondents who identified as attending *College* in the previous academic year had accessed free period products<sup>3</sup>. Just over half who had attended a *State primary or State secondary school* had accessed free period products<sup>4</sup>.



### 2.2.2. Respondents who had taken products: Area Deprivation

Of the 2,001 respondents who had taken or received free period products, 1,696 provided their household postcode. We linked this to data on areas of multiple deprivation to determine the level of deprivation<sup>5</sup> in the area they live in. As this was a free-type text box in the survey, 94 entries were not valid postcodes. This leaves a total of 1,602 viable postcodes (85% of those who had taken or received free period products).

Around two-thirds of respondents in each SIMD quintile<sup>6</sup> accessed free period products.



<sup>3</sup>Sample: 2,001 respondents who selected Yes to the question *Thinking about the past academic year, have you taken/received any free sanitary products from your school/college/university?*

<sup>4</sup>Around half of respondents who stated that they had gone to an *Independent school* (50.0%) or *Other educational establishment* (52.6%) accessed free period products. This question was multiple choice therefore results will not total 100%

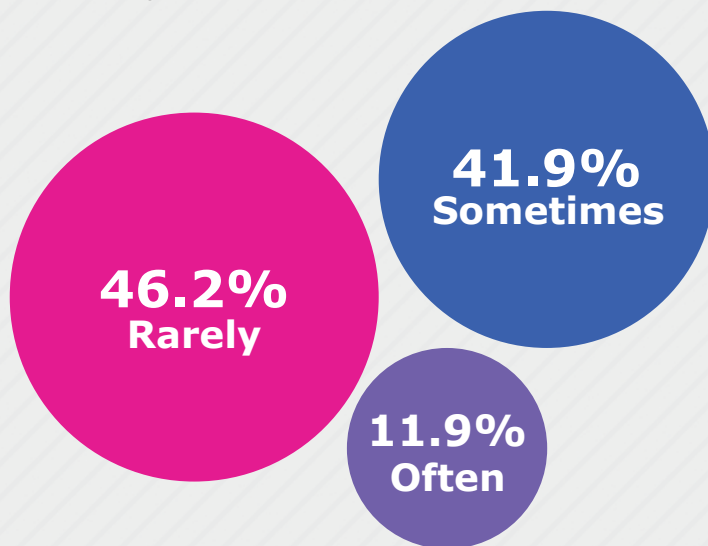
<sup>5</sup>Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation: <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/SIMD>

<sup>6</sup>Sample: 1,602 respondents who provided viable postcodes.



**2.2.3. How often did you access free sanitary products at your school/college/university?**

Of the respondents who accessed free products<sup>7</sup>, most respondents stated that they accessed them *Rarely* or *Sometimes*<sup>8</sup>.

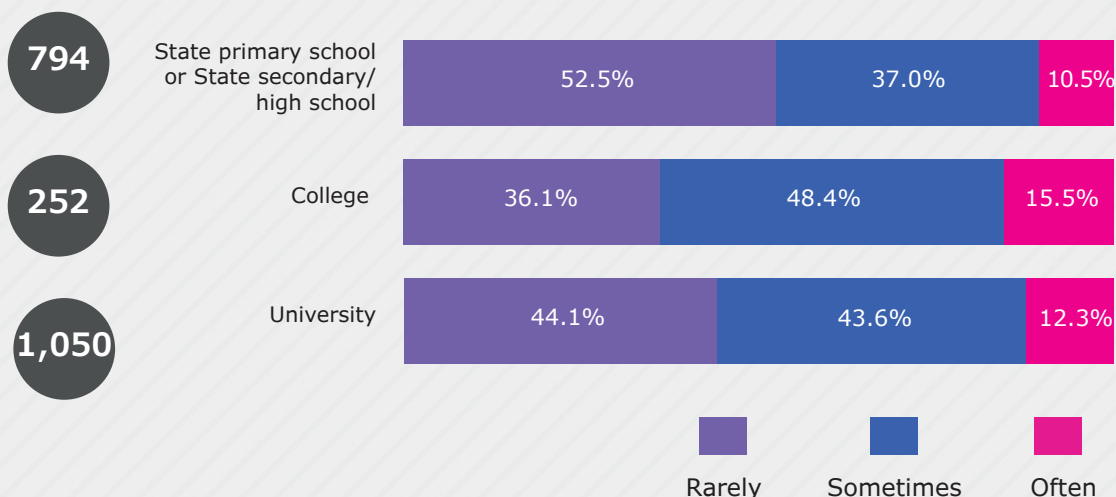


<sup>7</sup>Sample: 2,001 respondents who selected Yes to the question *Thinking about the past academic year, have you taken/received any free sanitary products from your school/college/university?*

<sup>8</sup>The terms used to phrase this question were not defined so could be seen as subjective.

**2.2.4. Respondents who had taken products<sup>9</sup>: Frequency by educational establishment**

The frequency of taking free products was broadly consistent across respondents attending school, college and university. A slightly higher proportion of university students took products *Often* (15.5%), compared with college students (12.3%), and school pupils (10.5%). Likewise, a higher proportion of school pupils took products *Rarely* (52.5%) compared with college students (36.1%) and university students (44.1%)<sup>10</sup>.



<sup>9</sup>Sample: 2,001 respondents who selected Yes to the question *Thinking about the past academic year, have you taken/received any free sanitary products from your school/college/university?* This was a multiple-choice question so the number of respondents attending each institution will not total 2,001.

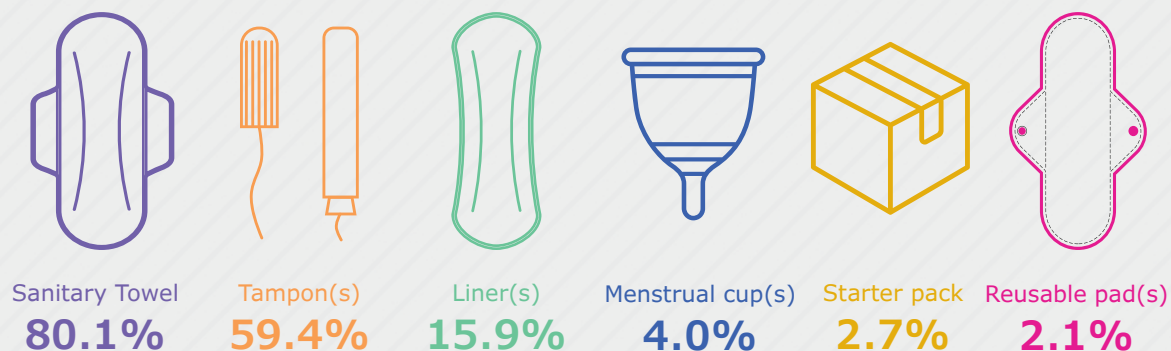
<sup>10</sup>This was a multiple-choice question so the number of respondents attending each institution will not total 2,001.



### 2.2.5. What type(s) of products did you take or receive?

The majority of respondents who had taken or received free period products<sup>11</sup> accessed *Sanitary towel(s)*<sup>12</sup>. Almost two-thirds of respondents accessed *Tampons*.

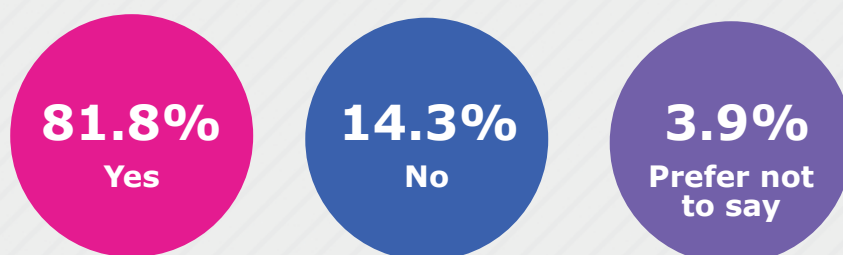
A minority of respondents had taken or received reusable period products, such as *Menstrual cup(s)* (4.0%) or *Reusable pad(s)* (2.1%).



### 2.2.6. Were you able to access your preferred type of product?

The majority of respondents who had taken or received free period products<sup>13</sup> reported that they were able to access their preferred product.

Of the 78 respondents who selected *Other*, 77 provided a written response. These responses are summarised in the appendix. The most common issues mentioned by respondents were that there was a lack of choice in the stock available, the stock itself had often run out, or the correct product was available but not the correct version.



<sup>11</sup> Sample: 2,001 respondents who selected Yes to the question *Thinking about the past academic year, have you taken/received any free sanitary products from your school/college/university?*

<sup>12</sup> This was a multiple-choice question so the results will not total 100%.

<sup>13</sup> Sample: 2,001 respondents who selected Yes to the question *Thinking about the past academic year, have you taken/received any free sanitary products from your school/college/university?*



### 2.2.7. Which type of sanitary product you would have preferred to access?

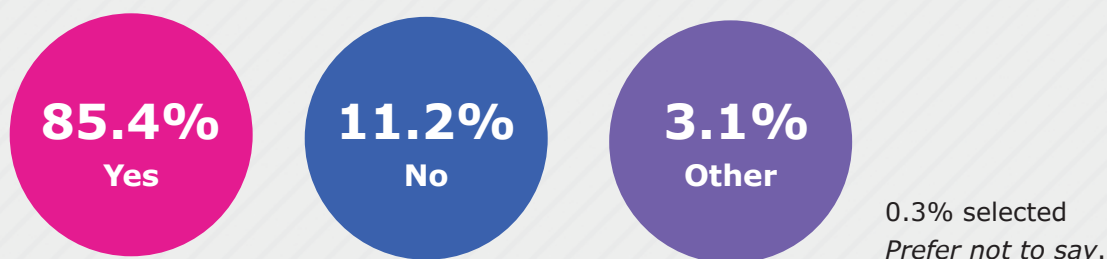
Among the 287 (14.3%) respondents who reported that they were not able to access their preferred type of product, all provided a written response to specify the type of product they would have preferred to access.

Over half of these respondents (52.3%) stated that they would have preferred to access a *Reusable product* of some form, with 38% identifying *Menstrual cups* specifically.

General Product Type	Specific Product Type	Number of Responses
Reusable products (52.3%)	Menstrual cup	110
	Reusable sanitary pad or towel	27
	Non-specific reusable product	11
	Period pants	2
Tampons (35.5%)	Non-specific tampon	52
	A range of tampon sizes	23
	Tampon without applicator	9
	Applicator tampon	8
	Brand of tampon	5
	Eco-friendly tampon	5
Sanitary pads or towels (23.7%)	Non-specific sanitary pad or towel	37
	Sanitary pad or towel for different flows	13
	Brand of sanitary pad or towel	11
	Sanitary pad or towel with wings	6
	Sanitary pad or towel free from perfume	1
Liners (6.3%)	Eco-friendly liner	2
	Liner with wings	2
	Brand of liner	1
Anything		4
Organic products		1
Recycled products		1

### 2.2.8. Were you able to access enough products to meet your needs?

The majority of respondents who had taken or received free period products were able to access enough products<sup>14</sup> to meet their needs.

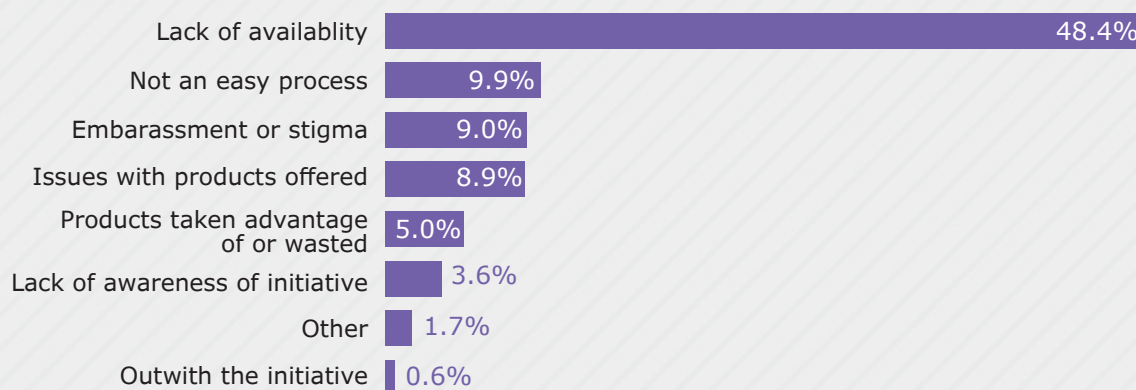


Of the 62 respondents who selected Other, all provided a written response. These responses are summarised in the appendix. The most common issues were that the restocking of products was inconsistent and that not all products were suitable.

<sup>14</sup>Sample: 2,001 respondents who selected Yes to the question *Thinking about the past academic year, have you taken/received any free sanitary products from your school/college/university?*

### 2.2.9. Was there anything that prevented you accessing free sanitary products at school/college/university when you needed them?

Almost half (47.7%) of respondents reported an issue that prevented them from accessing period products from their educational establishment<sup>15</sup>. These responses were sorted into eight key themes. A small proportion of responses were categorised as non-pertinent (3.1%) and 27.0% stated No or Nothing.



Around half of respondents (48.8%) who provided a response to this question stated that a *Lack of availability* prevented them from accessing free products. This was attributed to various reasons, including restocking issues (31.4%) and not being available in all bathrooms of buildings (13.0%).

<sup>15</sup>Sample: 955 respondents who typed a response to the question *Was there anything that prevented you accessing free sanitary products at school/college/university when you needed them.*



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**Lack of availability**

Only very few of the toilets on campus have the baskets... Additionally, the toilets that do have them are sometimes out because the baskets aren't refilled often enough.

**Not an easy process**

It is awkward to go into the office and ask due to the office staff being judgemental and rude

**Embarassment or stigma**

I couldn't go and get one as my school bullies... were standing there. They make fun of and slag girls off that take a product.

**Issues with products offered**

Not enough diversity in types of pads to fit girls' periods flows

**Products taken advantage of or wasted**

Some people wasted them or messed around with products available as they thought it was funny

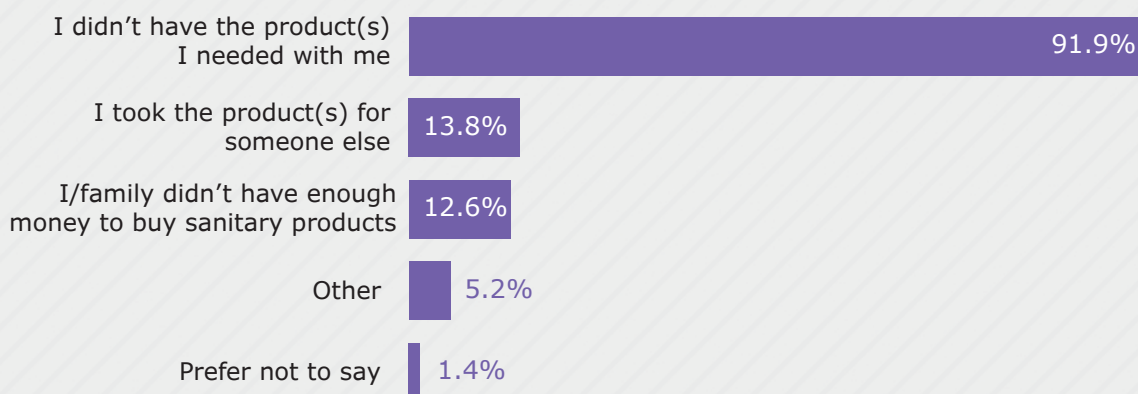
**Lack of awareness of initiative**

There's not many free products and it's hard to know where to find them



### 2.2.10. Which of the following describes your reasons for accessing free sanitary products at school, college or university?

Almost all respondents (91.9%) selected *I didn't have the product(s) I needed with me* as their reason for accessing free period products<sup>16</sup>. A further 13.8% stated that they *took the product(s) for someone else*, and 12.6% reported that *they/their family didn't have enough money to buy sanitary products*<sup>17</sup>.



Of the 105 respondents who selected Other, 104 provided a written response. These responses are summarised below. The most common themes were that accessing free period products helped the respondents to save money.

<sup>16</sup>Sample: 2,001 respondents who selected Yes to the question *Thinking about the past academic year, have you taken/received any free sanitary products from your school/college/university?*

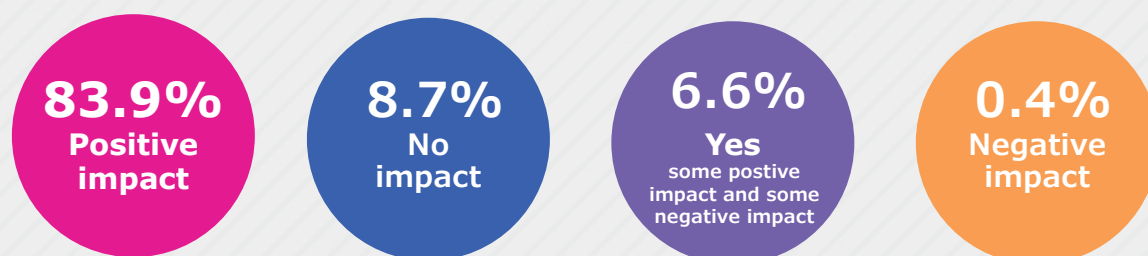
<sup>17</sup>This was a multiple-choice question so the results will not total 100%



Theme	Number of responses
Helps save money	38
Forgot to bring own supply	15
Helpful if period is unexpected	15
All period products should be free	9
Trying new products	9
Available to everyone	7
Convenient	7
Able to access in a subtle way without being noticed	6
Helped stock up personal supply	5
Samples given out by the school, college or university	4
Problems with own supply	3
Health issues	2

**2.2.11. Do you feel that the availability of free sanitary products at school/college/university over the past academic year has had an impact on you?**

Among the respondents who accessed products from their educational establishment, the majority stated that they felt the provision of free products<sup>18</sup> had had a positive impact on them<sup>19</sup>.



0.3% selected *Prefer not to say*.

<sup>18</sup>Sample: 2,001 respondents who selected Yes to the question Thinking about the past academic year, have you taken/received any free sanitary products from your school/college/university?

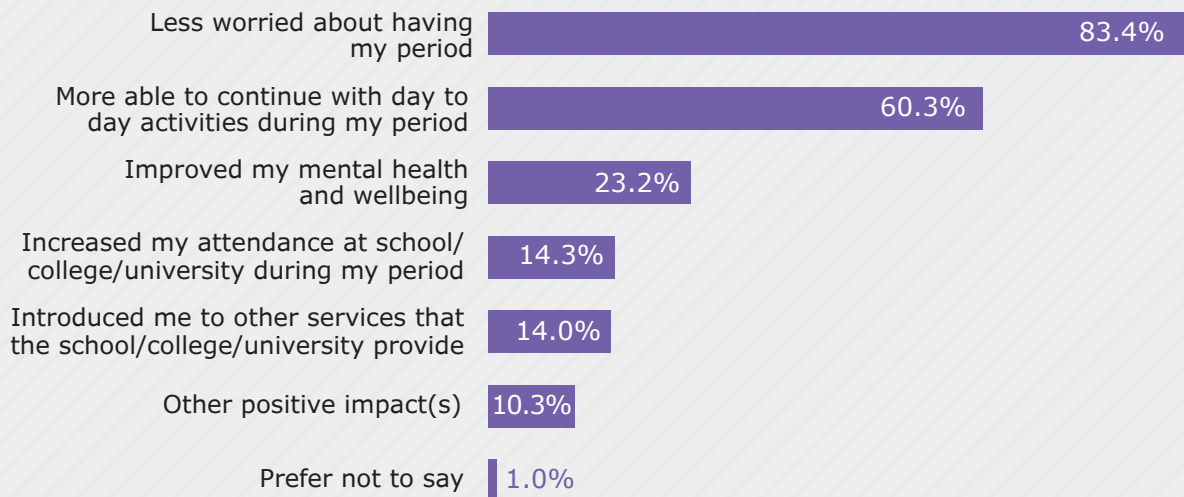
<sup>19</sup>Nine respondents (0.4%) selected *Negative impact* to this question. As the response rate was so low the open text responses are not included in this report but in the Appendix.





**2.2.12. In what way(s) has the availability of free sanitary products at school/college/ university over the past academic year had a positive impact on you?**

Of the respondents who stated that the initiative had a positive impact<sup>20</sup>, the most commonly selected reason by 8 in 10 respondents was that they were Less worried about having [their] period<sup>21</sup>. Almost two-thirds of respondents stated that they were More able to continue with day to day activities during [their] period, and a quarter reported that the availability of products Improved [their] mental health and wellbeing.



Of the 173 respondents who selected *Other positive impact(s)*, 165 provided a written response. The most common themes were feelings of security when their periods were unexpected, economic benefits and the reduction of stigma around periods. These responses are summarised on the next page. Three responses were categorised as non-pertinent.

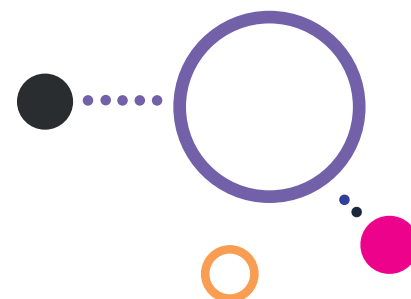
<sup>20</sup>Sample: 1,679 respondents who selected *Yes – Positive impact to the question Do you feel that the availability of free sanitary products at school/college/university over the past academic year has had an impact on you?*

<sup>21</sup>Sample: This was a multiple-choice question so the results will not total 100%.

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The most common themes were feelings of security when their periods were unexpected, economic benefits and the reduction of stigma around periods.



Theme	Number of responses
Security for when period is unexpected	51
Economic benefits	44
Reduced the stigma around periods	24
Felt supported by school, college or university	20
Helps continue daily life	12
Good policy for reproductive rights	10
Positive initiative for others in need	9
Tried new products otherwise unable to	6
Positive impact on sexual health or hygiene	3
Raised awareness of period poverty	3
Felt supported by government	3
Don't have to resort to unsuitable alternatives	2
General positive comment	2
Able to access in a subtle way without being noticed	2
Proud to live in Scotland	2

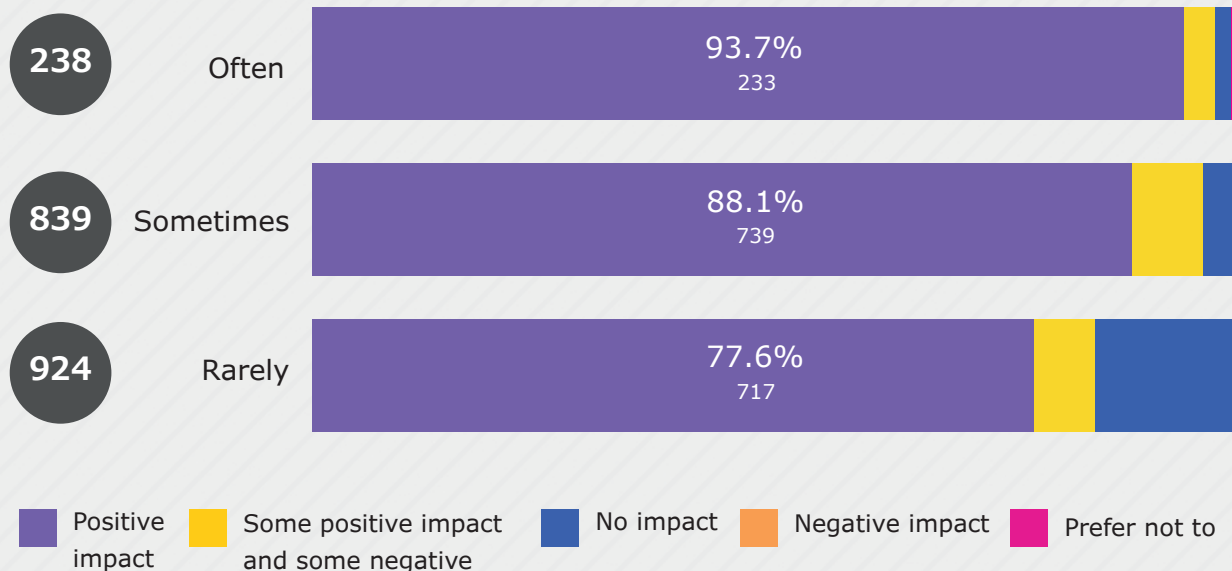
### 2.2.13. Impact on individuals who accessed products: Some positive and some negative impact

Of the 133 respondents (6.6%) who selected that the availability of free period products had some positive *impact and some negative impact*, two thirds (66.9%) stated that accessing products made them feel *Less worried about having [their] period*. Of the negative impacts, just over a third (36.8%) selected that they *felt embarrassed about having to discuss sanitary products*.



### 2.2.14. Impact on individuals who accessed products by frequency of access

Almost all respondents who reported that they *Often* accessed the free products<sup>22</sup> stated that the initiative had a *Positive impact* on them. Respondents who accessed the products *Sometimes* or *Rarely* selected *No impact* slightly more often than those who had accessed the products *Often*.



<sup>22</sup>Sample: 2,001 respondents who selected *Yes* to the question *Thinking about the past academic year, have you taken/received any free sanitary products from your school/college/university?*

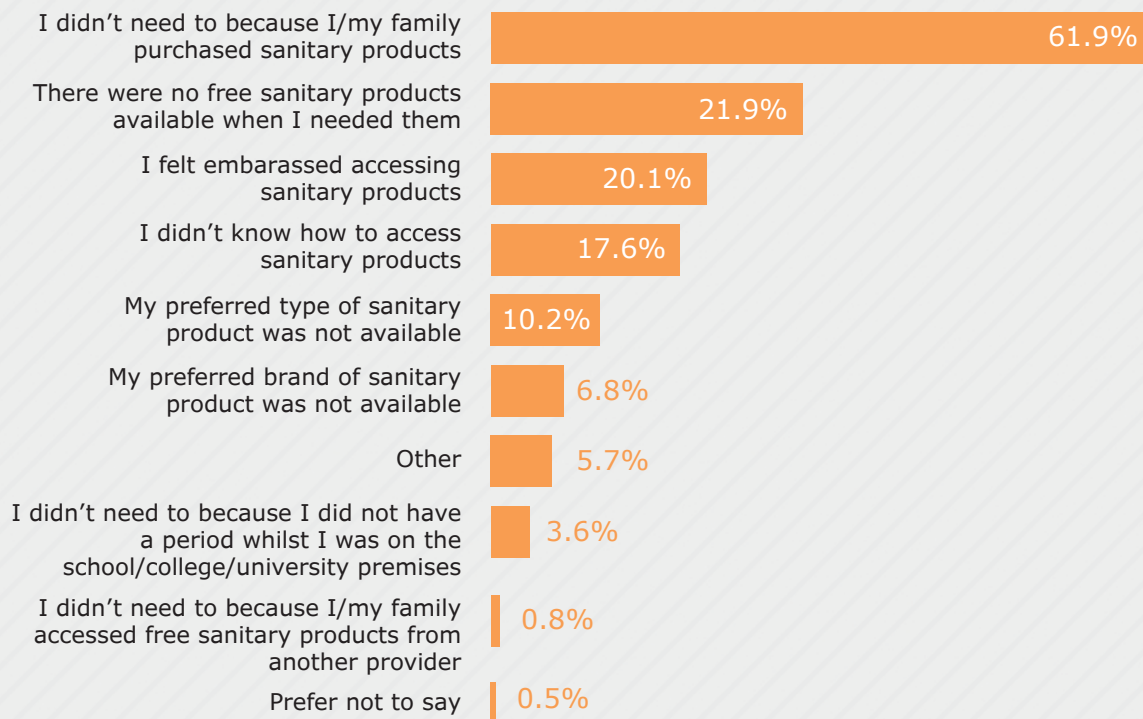


**2.3. Responses from individuals who had not accessed free period products from school, college or university in the past academic year.**

There were **1,082** respondents (35.0%) who stated that they had not taken or received free period products from their school, college or university within the past academic year. These respondents were asked the following questions.

**2.3.1. Which of the following describes your reasons for not accessing free sanitary products at school, college or university?**

Of those respondents who had not accessed free period products<sup>23</sup>, the most commonly selected reason was *I didn't need to because I/my family purchased sanitary products* (61.9%). However, almost a third (29.1%) reported that this was because *There were no free sanitary products available when [they] needed them*<sup>24</sup>, a fifth of respondents reported that they *felt embarrassed accessing sanitary products* (20.1%) and just over a sixth reported that they *didn't know how to access sanitary products* (17.6%).

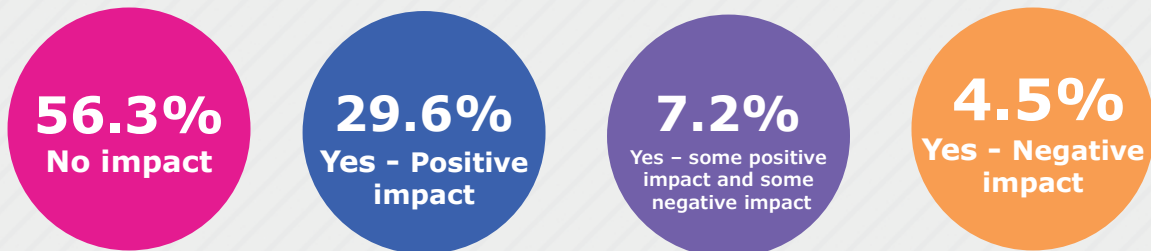


<sup>23</sup>Sample: 1,082 respondents who selected No to the question *Thinking about the past academic year, have you taken/received any free sanitary products from your school/college/university?*

<sup>24</sup>This was a multiple-choice question so the results will not total 100%

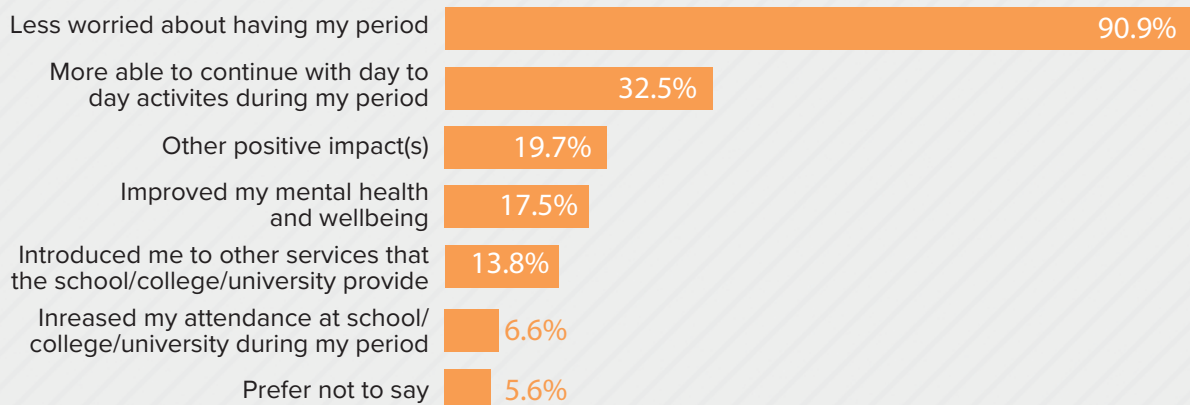
**2.3.2. Do you feel that the availability of free sanitary products at school/college/ university over the past academic year has had an impact on you?**

Over half of respondents who did not access products<sup>25</sup> stated that they felt the provision of free period products had no impact on them. However, almost a third of respondents (29.6%) selected that the availability of free period products had a *Positive impact* even though they had not accessed a product.



**2.3.3. In what way(s) has the availability of free sanitary products at school/college/ university over the past academic year had a positive impact on you?**

Of the respondents who stated that the initiative had a positive impact, the most commonly selected reason was that they were *Less worried about having [their] period*<sup>26</sup>. A third of respondents reported that they were *More able to continue with day to day activities during [their] period*.



<sup>25</sup>Sample: 1,082 respondents who selected No to the question *Thinking about the past academic year, have you taken/received any free sanitary products from your school/college/university?*

<sup>26</sup>This was a multiple-choice question so the results will not total 100%.







Of the 57 respondents who selected *Other positive impact(s)*, 54 provided a written response. These responses are summarised below.

Theme	Number of responses
Felt supported by school, college or university	17
Security for when period is unexpected	15
Positive initiative for others in need	14
Reduced the stigma around periods	12
Good policy for reproductive rights	6
Felt supported by government	6
Raised awareness of period poverty	5
Proud to live in Scotland	3
Economic benefits	2
General positive comment	1
Helps continue daily life	1
Feeling included as a transgender individual	1
Equality of opportunity in education	1





Felt supported by school, college or university

It matters to me that the university cares about the menstrual health of its students

Security for when period is unexpected

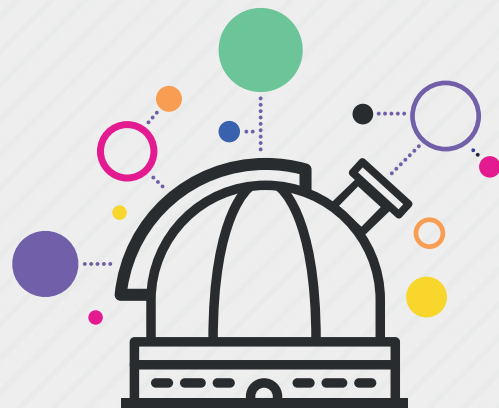
You can relax a bit more, knowing that if you are caught off guard there will be products available

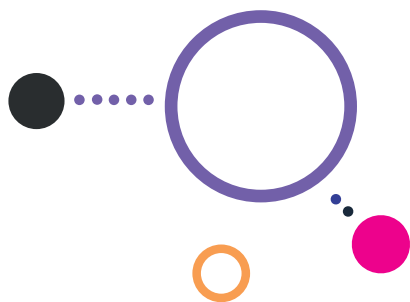
Positive initiative for others in need

I'm glad it is there for those who need this to allow them to have a sense of dignity around their period

Reduce the stigma around periods

Reinforcing the idea that menstruation is normal, healthy, part of life!





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## 2.4. Usage of reusable period products

Respondents who selected Yes to the question *Have you used or needed to use a sanitary product over the past academic year?* were asked the following two questions about reusable products (3,083 respondents).

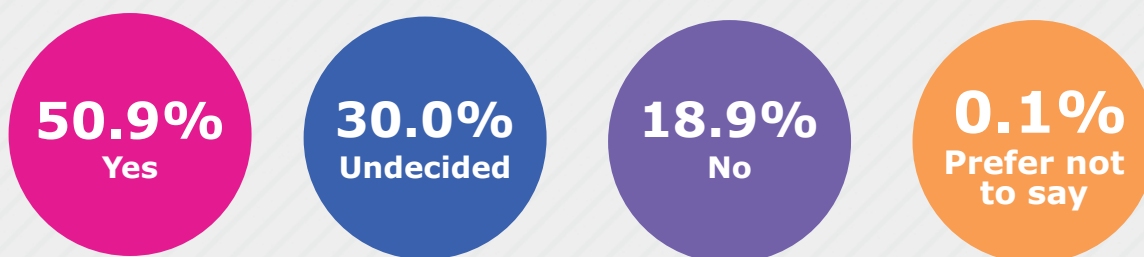
### 2.4.1. Do you currently use reusable sanitary products<sup>27</sup>?

The majority of respondents stated that they do not currently use reusable products.



### 2.4.2. Would you be interested in using reusable sanitary products in the future?

Of the respondents who stated that they don't currently use reusable period products, around half reported that they would be interested in using reusable products<sup>29</sup> in the future and a third were *Undecided*.



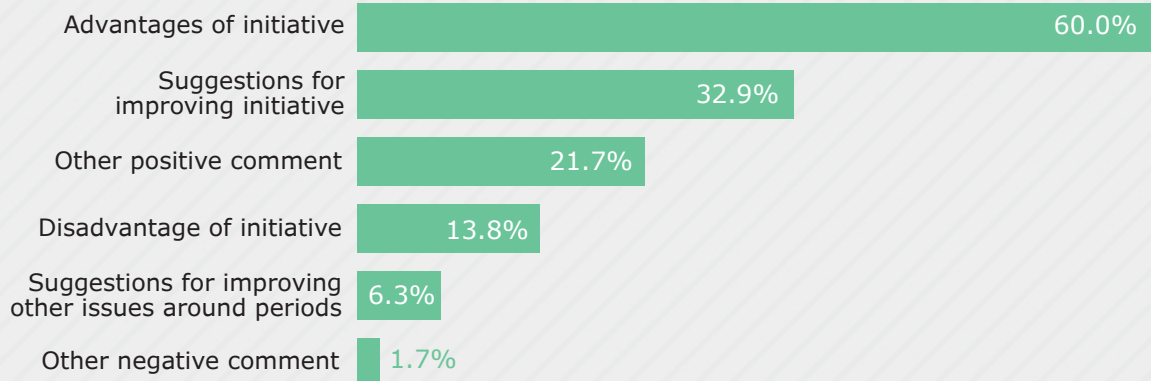
<sup>27</sup> Respondents were given the following definition for "reusable products": *Reusable sanitary products refer to menstrual cups and reusable pads/towels.*

<sup>28</sup> Sample: 3,083 respondents who selected *Yes or No* to the question *Have you used or needed to use a sanitary product over the past academic year?*

<sup>29</sup> Sample: 2,613 respondents who selected *No* to the question *Do you currently use reusable sanitary products?*

## Further comments

2.5. All 3,602 respondents were asked if they had any further comments or thoughts on the Scottish Government's commitment to providing free period products in schools, colleges and universities. Of these, 1,789 freely typed a response. These responses were sorted into six key themes.



Twenty-seven responses were categorised as non-pertinent and 116 stated *No or Nothing*.

### Advantages of initiative

I think it represents an important step towards tackling period poverty and creating more inclusive learning environments

### Suggestions for improving initiative

Would like to see menstrual cups/reusable pads available and promoted more as a sustainable, environmentally friendly solution!

### Other positive comment

This is a brilliant and long-overdue policy... I fully support the lifting of taboo and the unfussy provision of these essential products.

### Disadvantages of initiative

Need to be made available always not just sometimes when the school remembers to restock them in the toilets

### Suggestions for improving other issues around periods

I think there should be better awareness to do with menstruation and both boys and girls at school should be taught about periods

### Other negative comment

I don't believe there are actually that many girls and women in Scotland that can't afford less than £5/month for their period



# 3. Summary of Findings

#YSObservatory

Overall, the responses to the survey suggest that the Scottish Government's initiative to provide free period products in schools, colleges and universities has been positively received.

Almost two-thirds of respondents reported that they had accessed the free products in the previous academic year. Of these, the majority were able to access their preferred product and enough products to meet their needs.

Most respondents who accessed free period products reported that the availability of products had a positive impact on them. A variety of positive impacts were noted, with the majority of respondents stating that they felt *Less worried about having [their] period* and two-thirds reporting that they were *More able to continue with day to day activities during [their] period*. Other positive impacts reported include improvements to mental health and wellbeing, increased attendance at their school, college or university and being introduced to other services that their educational establishment provide.

The benefits were also seen by respondents who had not accessed the free products themselves, with almost a third stating that the initiative had a positive impact. Nearly all of these respondents stated that they also felt *Less worried about having [their] period* even though they had not accessed the products.

Among the minority of respondents who reported something that had prevented them from accessing period products, almost half reported a lack of product availability at their educational establishment. Nearly a fifth of respondents reported that they were not able to access their



preferred product, with the majority preferring to access reusable products.

When asked about the usage of reusable period products, over 4 in 5 respondents were not currently using reusable products. However, over half of these respondents said they would be interested in using reusable period products in the future, and almost a third were undecided. The most common suggestion in the further comments section of the survey was to increase the use of reusable/eco-friendly products<sup>30</sup>.

Several additional suggestions were made to improve the initiative. Suggestions include providing a wider range of products, ensuring the products are in bathrooms rather than having to be accessed by asking someone, raising the visibility and awareness of the initiative, and extending the scheme to include workplaces and/or public spaces<sup>31</sup>.

<sup>30</sup>The Scottish Government, in partnership with Zero Waste Scotland and Marine Scotland, is running a campaign in November 2019 to raise awareness of the benefits of reusable products and to give people a chance to try out some of the range of reusable period products available. The campaign aims to drive long term behaviour change to encourage people to switch away from disposable options, and to tackle a significant aspect of the 'throwaway society'.

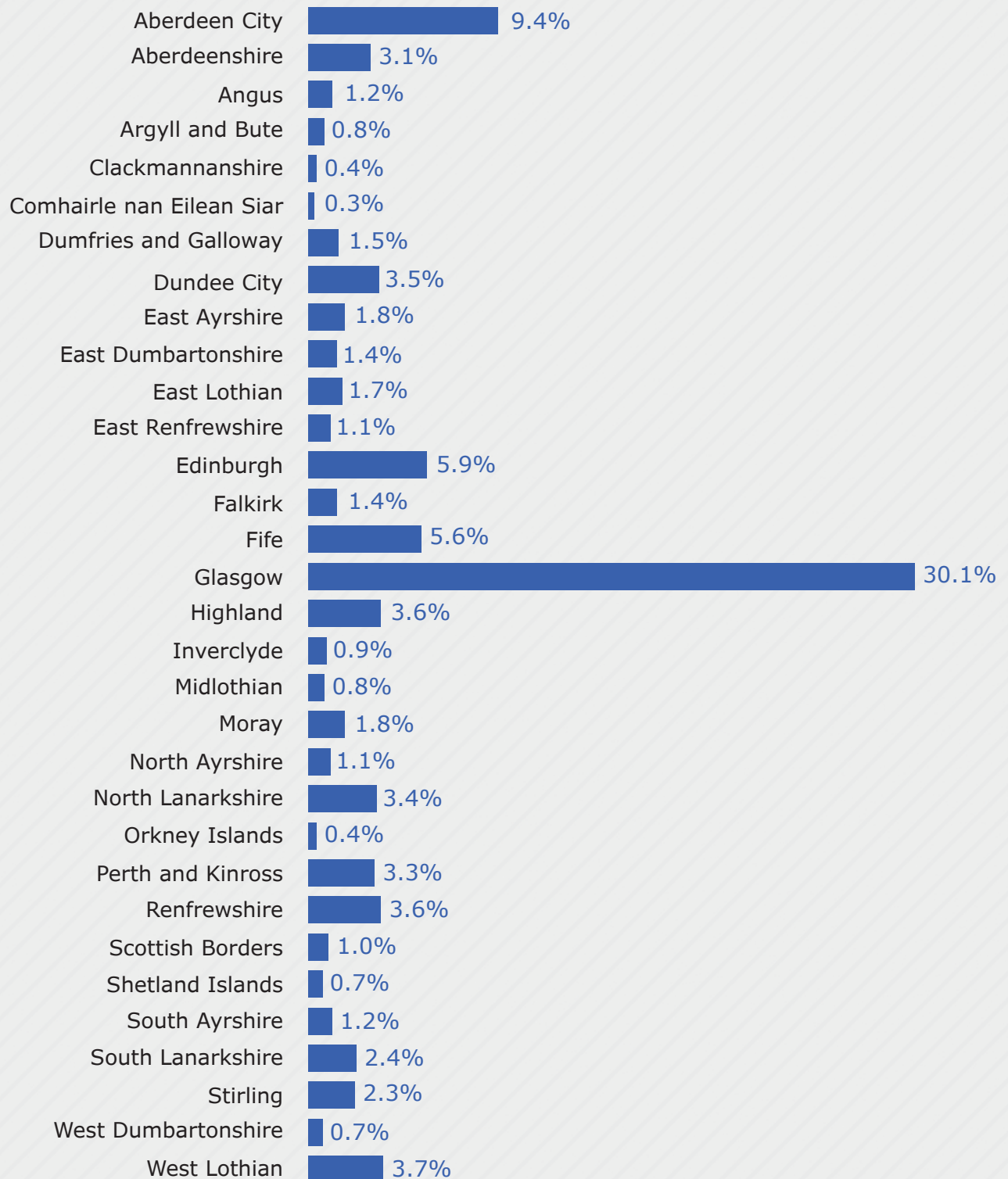
<sup>31</sup>From January 2019, the Scottish Government provided over £2.8 million funding to all local authorities to make period products freely available in wide range of community settings such as libraries, community centres, council offices and public toilets.

# 4. Respondent Demographics



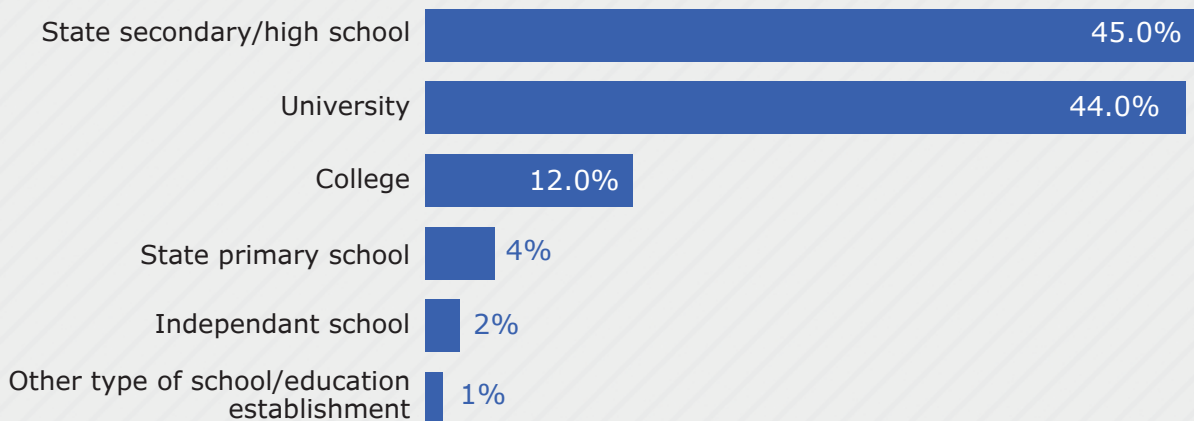
## Local Authority of school, college or university

There were responses from individuals studying in all 32 of Scotland's Local Authorities. A third of respondents were based at a school, college or university in Glasgow.

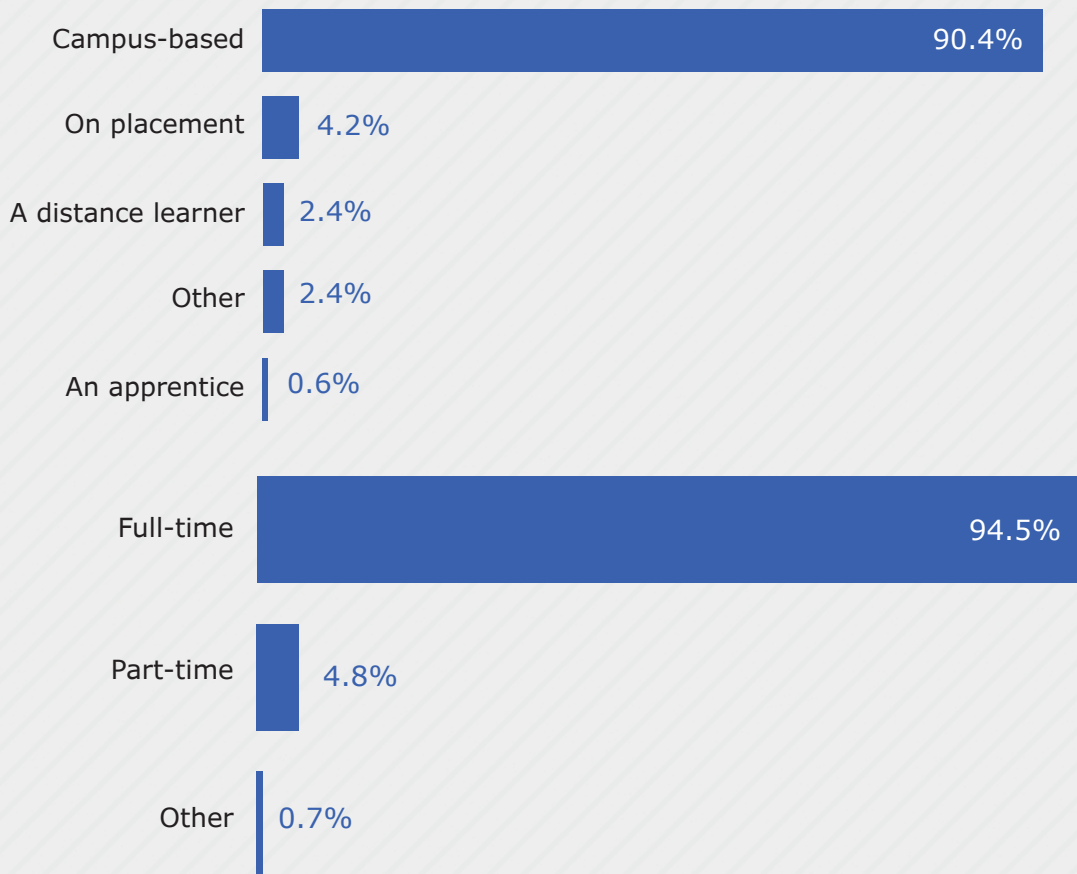


### Educational Establishment

The majority of respondents stated that they had attended state secondary/high school or university in the last academic year.



Of those studying at college or university, the majority were *campus-based* and studying *full-time*.

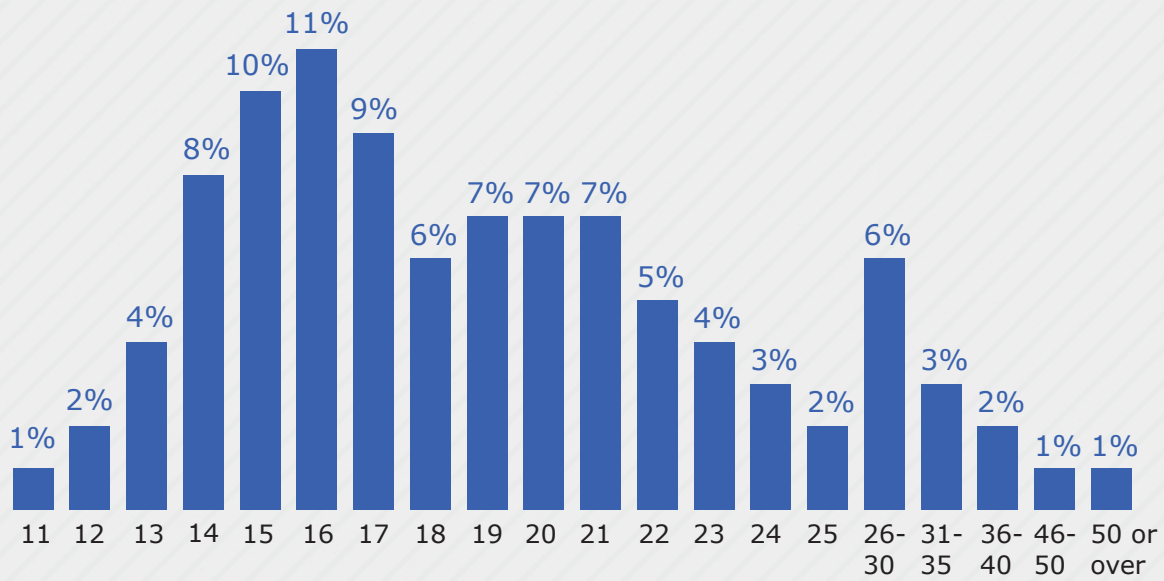


Sample: 1,985 respondents who selected *College or University* to the question *Over the past academic year have you attended any of the following in Scotland...?*



## Age

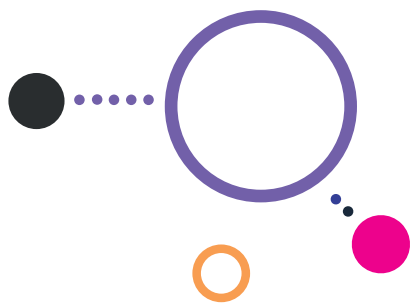
Respondents were a range of ages, from 11 to 50 or over.



## Gender

The majority of respondents (93%) identified themselves as *Female*, with 4% as *Male*, 2% *In another way* and 1% *Prefer not to say*.

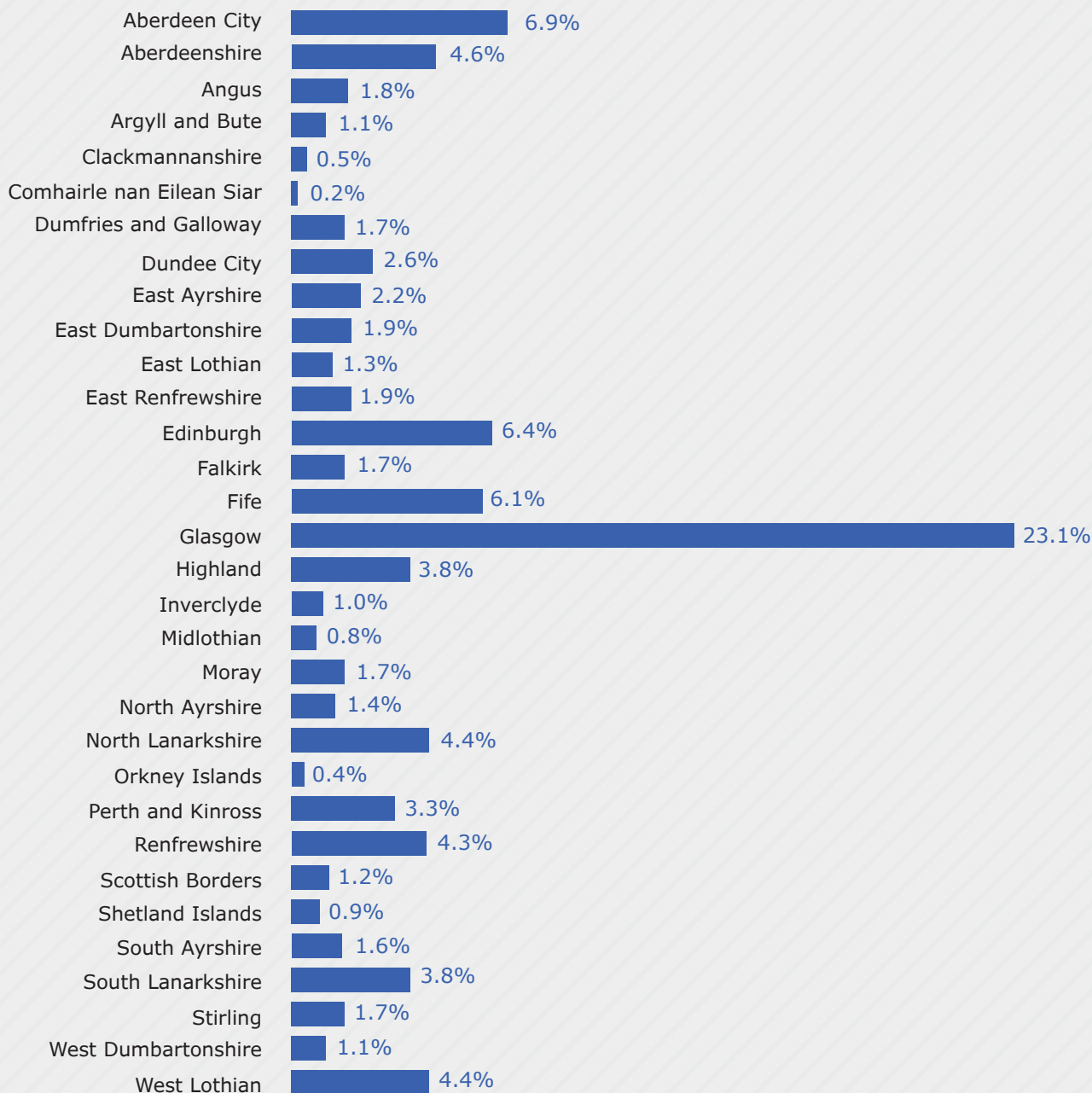




#YSObservatory

### Local Authority of Home Address

Most respondents lived in Glasgow. There were responses from individuals studying in all 32 of Scotland's Local Authorities.

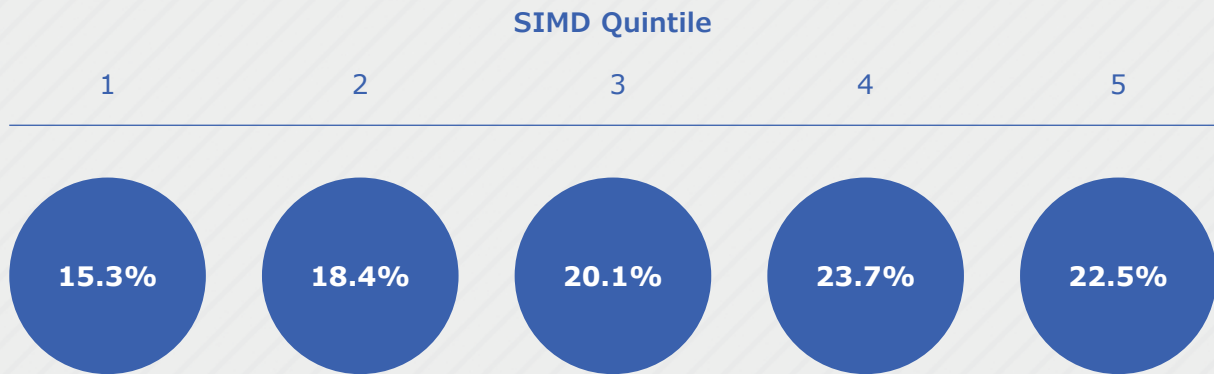




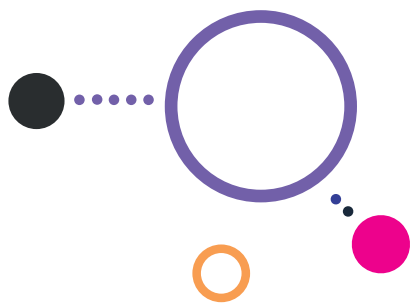
### Area Deprivation of Home Address

When given the option to provide their postcode, 2,982 individuals freely typed a response. We were able to link this to SIMD data to determine the level of area deprivation of their home address. As this was a freetype text box in the survey, 183 entries were not found within the SIMD database due to typing errors. This leaves a total of 2,799 viable postcodes (78% of the overall survey sample).

There was a fairly even spread of responses from different SIMD quintiles, with most living in quintiles 4 and 5.

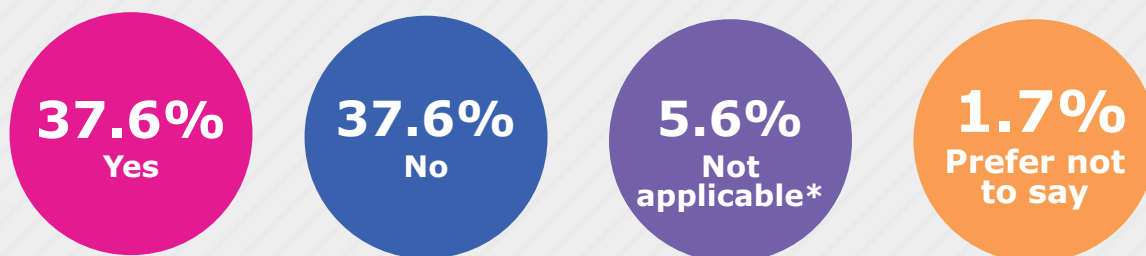






### Have you ever experienced difficulty accessing sanitary products? <sup>32</sup>

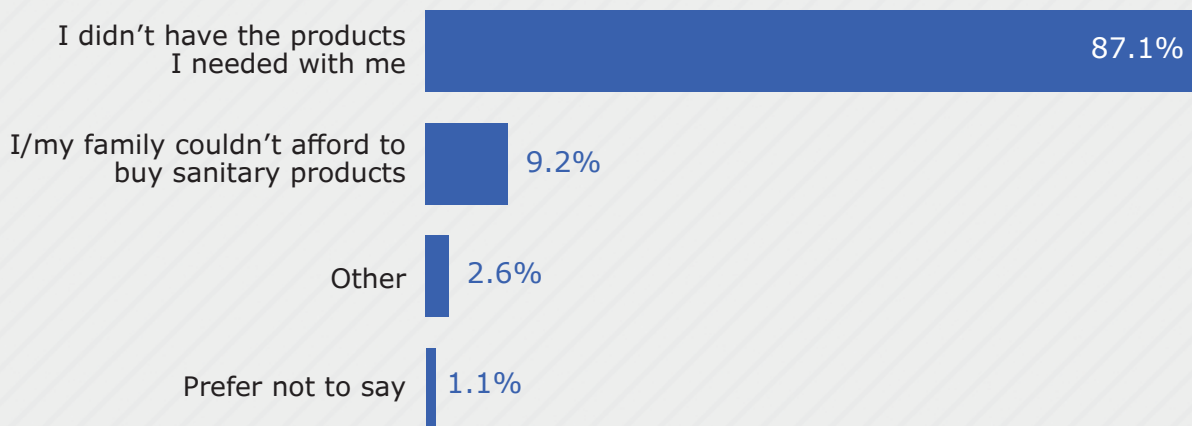
Around two fifths of respondents stated that they had experienced difficulty accessing period products at some point in their lives.



\*Respondents who selected Not applicable – I have never needed to use a sanitary product

### Why was this?

Of the respondents who had experienced difficulty<sup>33</sup>, the majority selected *I didn't have the products I needed with me*.



<sup>32</sup>Please note that this question is different from the question asked about difficulty accessing period products in our previous survey. That question only made reference to the previous year: (*Thinking about the last year, have you experienced difficulty accessing sanitary products?*) whereas the question in this survey is in reference to difficulty accessing period products in any point of the respondents' lives.

<sup>33</sup>Sample: 1,356 respondents who selected Yes to the question *Have you ever experienced difficulty accessing sanitary products?*

# Get in touch

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Rowan Morris  
Insight and Intelligence Officer  
rowanm@young.scot  
0131 313 2488

youngscot.net  
0131 313 2488  
info@young.scot



youngscot



facebook/  
youngscot



@youngscot



youngscot snaps

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company limited by guarantee (202687) with its registered office at:

Rosebery House,  
9 Haymarket Terrace,  
Edinburgh, EH12 5EZ

