



An applicant's view:

**Awarding grades
during the Corona
pandemic**

April 20th 2020 webinar

YouthSight

UCAS
Media

Security marking: PUBLIC

A partnership approach between YouthSight and UCAS

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Second look at our applicant mood tracking data

Representative sample of applicants,
by gender and school type, and
including all UK regions

All sample from YouthSight's
OpinionPanel Community

Fieldwork **9th – 14th April 2020**

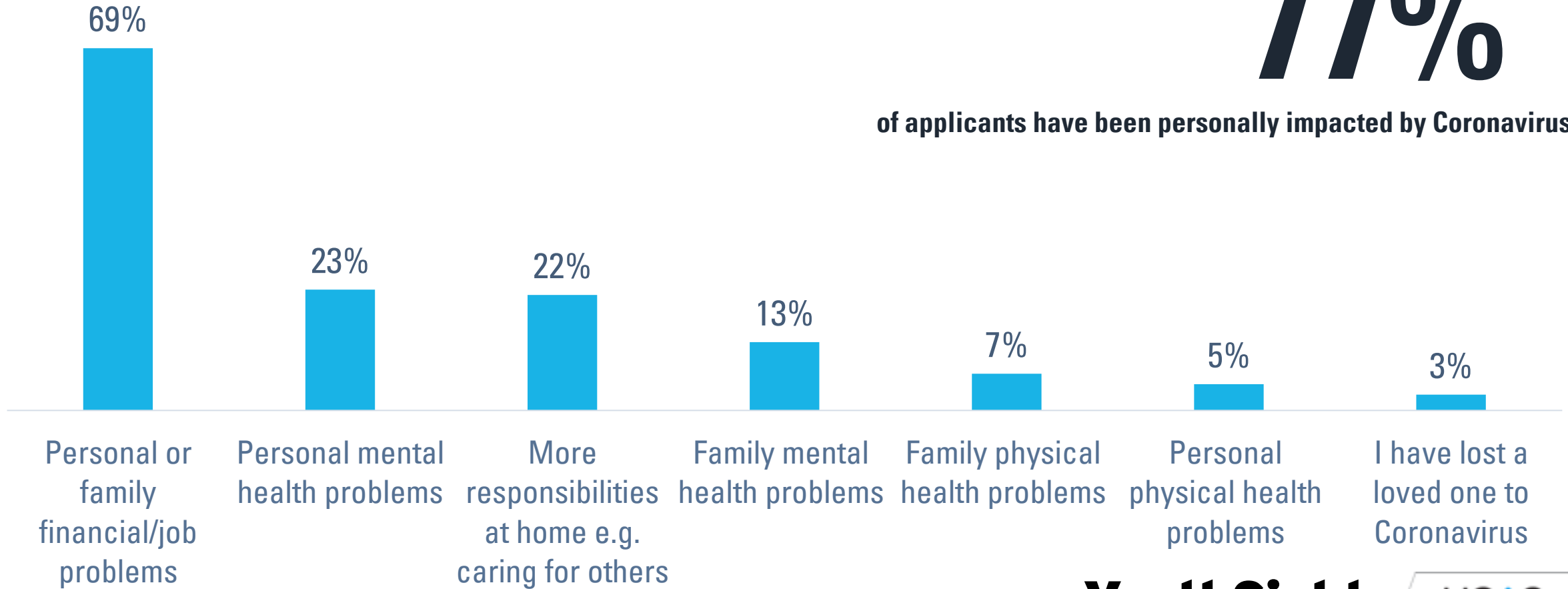
500

17-19 year old
university applicants

Covid-19 will have a lasting impact on applicants this year - this will stay with them as undergraduates

77%

of applicants have been personally impacted by Coronavirus



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Q6. Young people like yourself may have been impacted by Coronavirus in different ways. Which of the following, if any, have impacted you as a result of Coronavirus?
Base: All respondents (519)

Security marking: PUBLIC



Self-declared mental health by applicants has risen every cycle since 2013.

This cycle at Jan 15th (pre coronavirus) there were **14,980** UK applicants who had declared a mental health condition compared to **3,630** in Jan 2013.

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The majority still haven't changed their university decisions with location not proving to be an influence yet

30%

Of applicants who have now made a decision have chosen their closest university

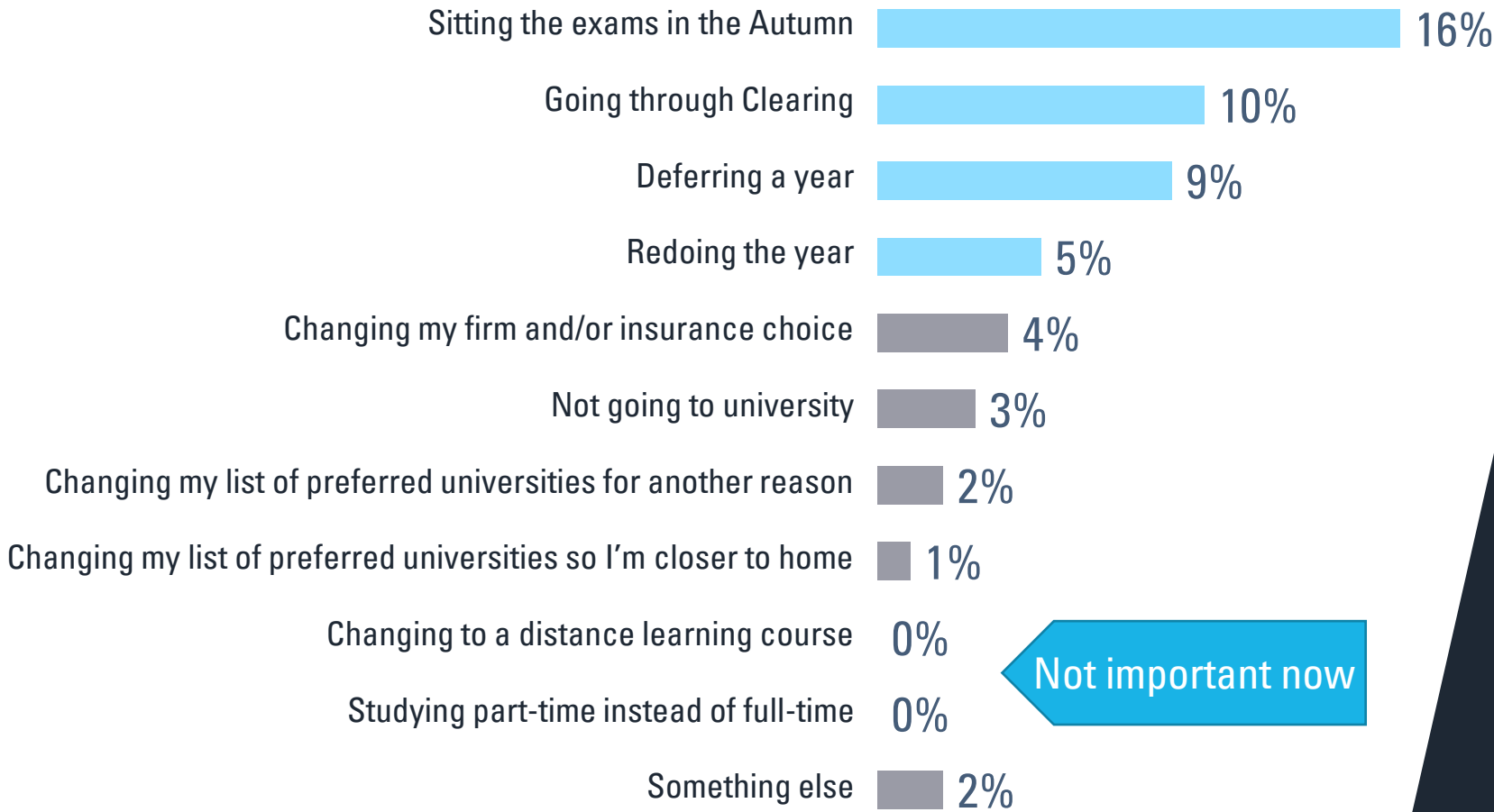
This compares to **31%** from the same point in the 2019 cycle.

This is higher for applicants from Polar Quartile 1 and those predicted CCC.

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The top decision changes applicants are thinking about making relate to grades



Not important now

Those more likely to be considering changes:

Don't have enough information at the moment

Don't think their first-choice university will be lenient

Have been impacted by Covid-19

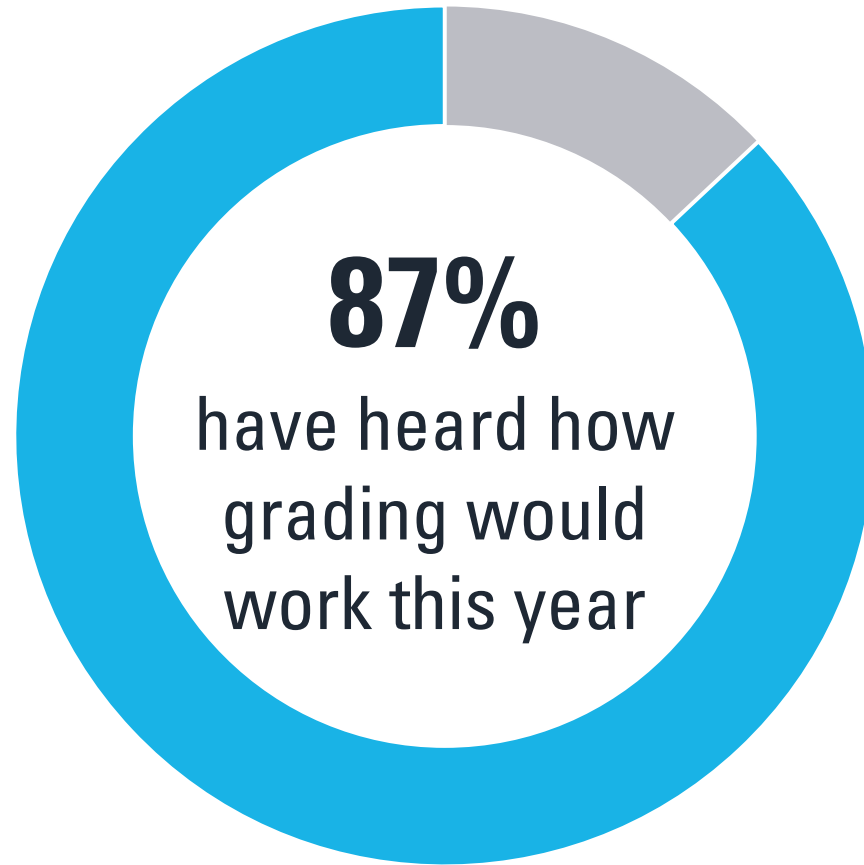
BAME

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Q8. Looking at how A Level grades will be assessed, are you thinking about changing any of your decisions about university?
Base: All respondents (519)

Majority of applicants are aware of the new grading process



WP applicants
are more likely to have not
heard of the news

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Only a quarter were able to fully recall the new grading process

Average score

8/10

33% think their performance will **only** be judged against those at their school/college

10/10 score

26%

26% think **only** their teachers will decide what their grade will be

Those **less likely** to score 10/10:

First in family
From state schools
Without enough information

23% think their final grades will be their predicted grades

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87%

of applicants feel they will still get a place at university

10%

think their chances have increased

49%

think they have the same chances

28%

think they have reduced chances but will still get a place

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WHAT THIS MEANS FOR PROVIDERS

Ensure your website is tailored to different audiences and provides as much information as possible - combat misinformation about grading head on and in plain language

Be clear and transparent on how applicants' grades will be taken into consideration when awarding places, stressing fairness

Supporting these applicants in the coming months and years will be the true measure of UK HE - e cannot let our WP agenda be diverted

77% of applicants have been personally affected by coronavirus

32% of applicants are considering changing their choices

9% are considering deferring

1% are considering moving closer to home

74% of applicants demonstrated some confusion with the grading process

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