



Emergency Service Patient Experience Report

Emergency Service January to March 2024

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Report Period: January to March 2024

Date of Report: July 2024

Emergency Service patient experience results for January to March 2024

Introduction

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST) has ceased the routine undertaking of patient experience postal surveys. However, the Emergency Service (ES) and Emergency Clinical Advice and Triage (ECAT) Service survey has remained available on the Trust's public website, enabling patients to feedback on their experiences at any time.

The objective of this survey is to establish patient satisfaction, to involve patients in the healthcare and service received and to monitor the quality of the care and service provided by the Trust. Listening to patient feedback enables the Trust to identify what is working well but also to highlight areas for service improvement.

This report summarises the results of the EEAST's ES and ECAT patient experience survey for patients who used the service during January to March 2024.

Sample

The online survey is undertaken by way of a self-selected sample and is available to complete via EEAST's public website. However, a random sample of ES and ECAT patients is also collated each month, with these patients posted an invitation to feedback letter.

Most patients complete the survey online, although paper versions of the questionnaire are available. Any paper survey responses have been included within this report. It is not possible to calculate the response rate for the online survey, as although the number of invitation letters posted is recorded, it is not clear how many information cards have been provided. Some surveys have also been completed by patients who found the survey through alternative means.

Methodology

The survey is available on the Trust's public website for patients to complete at any time and has been promoted using various methods, such as via the Trust's social media channels and patient information cards (which include the web address and QR code to the survey). The information cards have been distributed across the region and ES staff have been asked to provide these to patients following their contact with the service.

The Patient Survey Team undertake a monthly random sample collection of ES and ECAT patients (obtained through Siren and provided by the Trust's Information Management Team). Patient samples are traced using the Demographic Batch Trace Service, with any patients who do not trace removed from the sample. An invitation to feedback letter is then posted to each patient. This letter provides a unique reference number to enter upon completion of the survey. The surveys can then be separated by the Integrated Care System (ICS) area. Patients can also provide the first half of their postcode if preferred. The area is recorded as unknown if this information is unavailable.

Conclusion

Overall, **86.3%** of respondents who answered the overall satisfaction question and had used the ES during January to March 2024 rated the service received as either 'good' or 'very good.'

Respondents were generally satisfied with the handling of their emergency call (87.5%), with 180 respondents (77.3%) advising that they had received an emergency response following their call. Overall, 72.0% of respondents who received an emergency ambulance response were satisfied with the length of wait, however, 14.2% of respondents rated the time the ambulance took to arrive as either 'poor' or 'very poor.'

Positively, the majority of respondents felt that they were treated with dignity, respect and privacy and could trust the ambulance service staff. 196 respondents also provided 'good' (5.8%) or 'excellent' (89.3%) ratings in relation to staff attitude.

Overall, 96.0% of respondents felt that they were involved in the decisions made in relation to their care to at least 'some extent,' with treatment and care explained in an understandable way to most patients (97.5%). The majority of respondents felt that their pain had either been managed (63.7%) or they had not been experiencing pain (28.0%). However, 15 respondents (7.8%) did not feel that their pain had been appropriately managed.

Cleanliness of the interior of the ambulance, equipment and the appearance of staff were rated highly, and 78.6% of conveyed patients had felt at least 'fairly comfortable' during their journey to hospital.

The majority of additional comments received were positive and demonstrated the professionalism, kindness and care provided by staff. However, the main area of dissatisfaction was once again in relation to ambulance delays / non-attendance.

The continuation of collecting and reporting on patient feedback will enable the Trust to ensure that it meets the community it serves and for every patient to have access to a high standard of service.

Results:

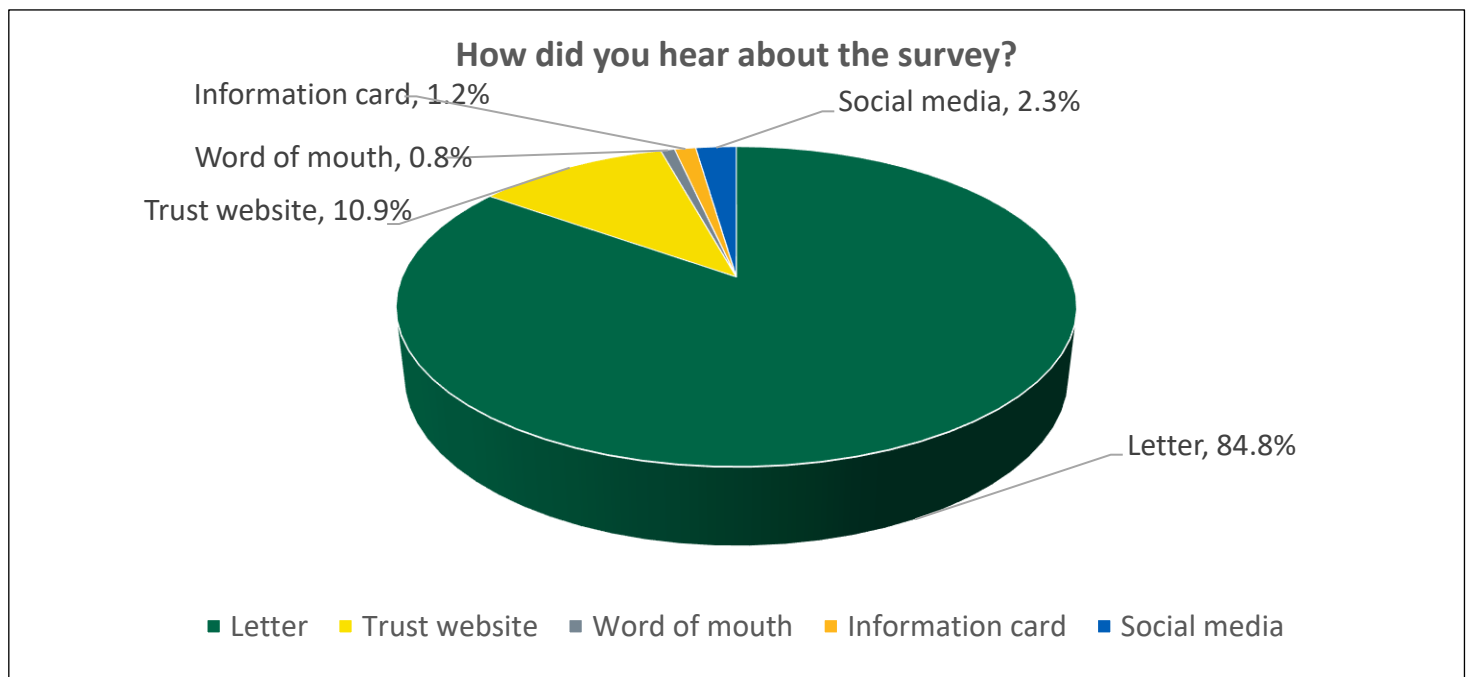
The results to the survey have been grouped into the below Integrated Care Systems (ICS):

- Bedfordshire and Luton (Beds & Luton)
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (Cams & Peterborough)
- Hertfordshire and West Essex (Herts & West Essex)
- Mid and South Essex (Mid & South Essex)
- Norfolk and Waveney (Norfolk & Waveney)
- Suffolk and North East Essex (Suffolk & North East Essex)

An additional column 'Unknown' has been included in the tables for patients who have not provided a reference number or postcode.

The percentages within the tables/charts do not include the patients who either did not respond to the question or who were 'unable to say.' Some patients may also have provided multiple responses.

How did you hear about the survey?



Various methods are used to signpost the online surveys, however, most respondents (84.8%) advised that they had heard about the survey via the invitation to feedback letter.

Q1 – Overall, how was your experience of our service?

The Friends and Family Test (FFT) score is calculated in line with NHS England guidelines: providing the percentage of patients who responded that their experience of the service was either ‘good’ or ‘very good.’

Table in relation to the overall satisfaction for each ICS area:

Response	ICS Areas							
	Beds & Luton	Cambs & Peterborough	Herts & West Essex	Mid & South Essex	Norfolk & Waveney	Suffolk & North East Essex	Unknown	January to March 2024 combined percentage
Overall satisfaction	14/19 73.7%	37/42 88.1%	24/30 80.0%	47/52 90.4%	46/51 90.2%	39/44 88.6%	7/10 70.0%	214/248 86.3%
Total number of responses	19	42	33	53	54	45	10	255

Chart illustrating overall satisfaction for all ICS areas:



Overall, 86.3% of respondents who answered the FFT question and had used the service during January to March 2024 rated the service as ‘good’ (7.7%) or ‘very good’ (78.6%). Eight respondents (3.2%) rated the service as ‘neither good nor poor’ and 23 respondents rated the service as either ‘poor’ (2.4%) or ‘very poor’ (6.9%). Three respondents (1.2%) answered ‘don’t know’ and the remaining respondents did not provide a response.

Q2 – Are you the patient?

Overall, 71.5% of respondents were the patient. Examples of respondents who completed the survey on behalf of the patient included: “mother,” “daughter,” “son” and “niece.”

Q3 – Please tell us if you had contacted any of the following before contacting the ambulance service:

Overall, 153 respondents advised that had been in contact with another healthcare provider prior to calling 999: 98 respondents (64.0%) had initially contacted the NHS 111 Service, 35 respondents (22.9%) had contacted their GP, eight respondents (5.2%) had contact with the hospital department, two respondents (1.3%) had contact with the mental health service, one respondent (0.7%) had contact with a pharmacy and nine respondents (5.9%) had contacted 'somewhere else.'

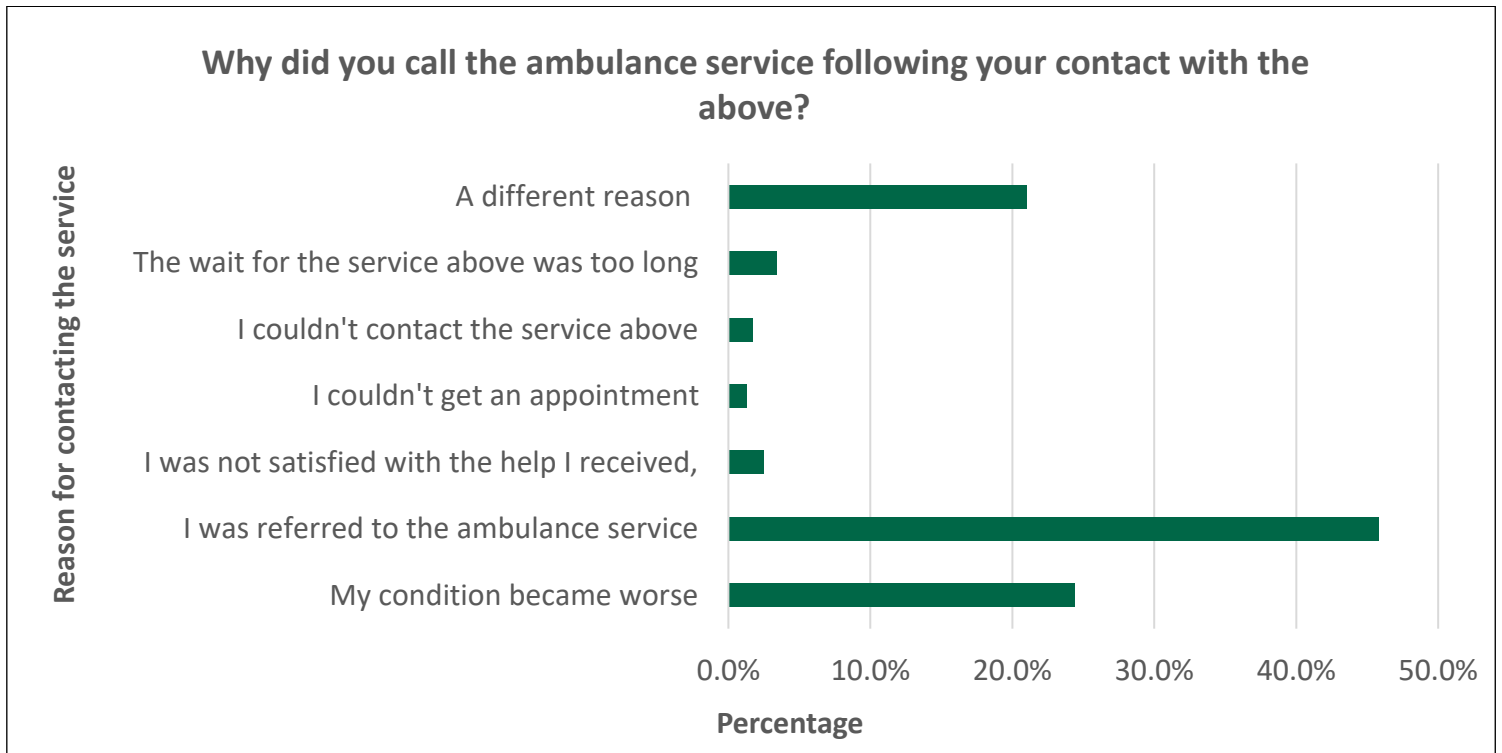
The remaining respondents were either 'unable to say' or did not respond.

Q4 – Why did you call the ambulance service following your contact with the above?

238 respondents answered the above question, of these 109 respondents (45.8%) advised that they were referred to the ambulance service. Other responses included 'couldn't contact another healthcare provider' (1.7%), 58 (24.4%) respondents advised that their condition became worse and three respondents (1.1%) couldn't get an appointment. Six respondents (2.5%) were not satisfied with the help they received and (21.0%) of respondents advised a different reason.

The remaining respondents were either 'unable to say' or did not respond.

Chart illustrating reason for contacting ambulance service:



Overall, 45.8% of respondents who answered the above question had been referred to the ambulance service.

Q5 – Before your call to the ambulance service, had you received advice/treatment for the same condition, or something related to it?

60.3% of respondents who answered the above question had not previously received advice/treatment about the same condition/something related. The remaining respondents had either received advice/treatment less than a week (19.7%), less than a month (10.9%) or more than a month (9.2%) previously.

The remaining respondents were either 'unable to say' or did not respond.

Q6 – How would you rate the handling of your emergency call?

Overall, 87.5% of respondents who answered the above question rated the emergency call handling as 'good' (16.2%) or 'very good' (71.3%). However, 16 respondents (2.3%) felt the call handling was 'poor' (0.9%) or 'very poor' (5.1%).

The remaining respondents were either 'unable to say' or did not respond.

Q7 – What was the outcome of your call to the ambulance service?

180 respondents (77.3%) who answered the above question advised that they received an emergency response following their 999 call. Other outcomes included 'other' (12.9%), advice on how to care for themselves/the patient (6.9%), and seven patients (3.0%) had an appointment arranged/advised with another healthcare professional.

The remaining respondents were either 'unable to say' or did not respond.

Q8 – How would you describe the length of time you waited for an emergency response?

Table in relation to the length of time waited for an emergency response:

Response	ICS Areas							January to March 2024 all areas total
	Beds & Luton	Cambs & Peterborough	Herts & West Essex	Mid & South Essex	Norfolk & Waveney	Suffolk & North East Essex	Unknown	
Very good	7 (50.0%)	17 (47.2%)	11 (36.7%)	32 (69.6%)	22 (46.8%)	19 (50.0%)	1 (14.3%)	109 (50.0%)
Good	3 (21.4%)	7 (19.4%)	8 (26.7%)	9 (19.6%)	10 (21.3%)	8 (21.1%)	3 (42.9%)	48 (22.0%)
Neither good nor poor	0 (0.0%)	5 (13.9%)	3 (10.0%)	2 (4.3%)	6 (12.8%)	5 (13.2%)	1 (14.3%)	22 (10.1%)
Poor	0 (0.0%)	5 (13.9%)	2 (6.7%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (8.5%)	2 (5.3%)	1 (14.3%)	14 (6.4%)
Very poor	4 (28.6%)	0 (0.0%)	6 (20.0%)	2 (4.3%)	1 (2.1%)	3 (7.9%)	1 (14.3%)	17 (7.8%)
Don't know	0 (0.0%)	2 (5.6%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (2.2%)	4 (8.5%)	1 (2.6%)	0 (0.0%)	8 (3.7%)
Total number of responses	14	36	30	46	47	38	7	218
No reply to question	5	6	3	7	7	7	3	38

Overall, 72.0% of respondents who answered the above question rated the length of wait as 'good' (22.0%) or 'very good' (50.0%). However, 14.2% of respondents felt the time they waited was 'poor' (6.4%) or 'very poor' (7.8%).

Q9 – Did the ambulance service staff introduce themselves to you?

Overall, 97.4% of respondents advised that ambulance service staff had introduced themselves. However, five respondents (2.6%) did not recall receiving an introduction.

The remaining respondents were either 'unable to say' or did not respond.

Q10 – Did the ambulance staff treat you with dignity and respect?

Of the 205 respondents who answered the above question, 197 advised that they had either 'definitely' (94.6%) or to 'some extent' (1.5%) been treated with dignity and respect. The remaining respondents were either 'unable to say' or did not respond.

Q11 – Did the ambulance staff respect your privacy?

Of the 202 respondents who answered the above question, 198 (98.1%) advised their privacy was respected to at least 'some extent,' with 96.5% of these respondents advising that they had 'definitely' been treated with privacy. However, four respondents (2.0%) did not feel they were treated with privacy.

The remaining respondents were either 'unable to say' or did not respond.

Q12 – How would you describe the attitude of the ambulance service staff?

Of the 206 respondents who answered the above question, 196 (95.1%) described the attitude of ambulance service staff as 'excellent' (89.3%) or 'good' (5.8%). However, 10 respondents (4.9%) rated staff attitude as 'poor.'

The remaining respondents were either 'unable to say' or did not respond.

Q13 – Did you feel you could trust the ambulance service staff?

200 respondents (96.2%) who answered the above question felt they could trust the ambulance service to 'at least some extent,' with 97.0% of these respondents advising that they 'definitely' trusted the ambulance service staff.

Unfortunately, eight patients (4.0%) did not feel that they could trust the ambulance service staff.

The remaining respondents were either 'unable to say' or did not respond.

Q14 – Did the ambulance service staff explain your care and treatment to you in a way that you could understand?

Overall, 193 respondents (97.5%) who answered the above question recalled the explanation of their care/treatment as definitely being in a way they could understand.' One respondent (0.5%) advised that they did not understand the explanation provided and four respondents (2.0%) did not recall receiving an explanation from staff.

The remaining respondents were either 'unable to say' or did not respond.

Q15 – Did you feel involved in the decisions made about your care?

The majority of respondents (96.0%) felt involved to at least 'some extent' in the decisions made regarding their care, with 88.0% of these respondents answering that they were 'definitely' involved. However, eight respondents (4.0%) did not feel involved in the decisions made.

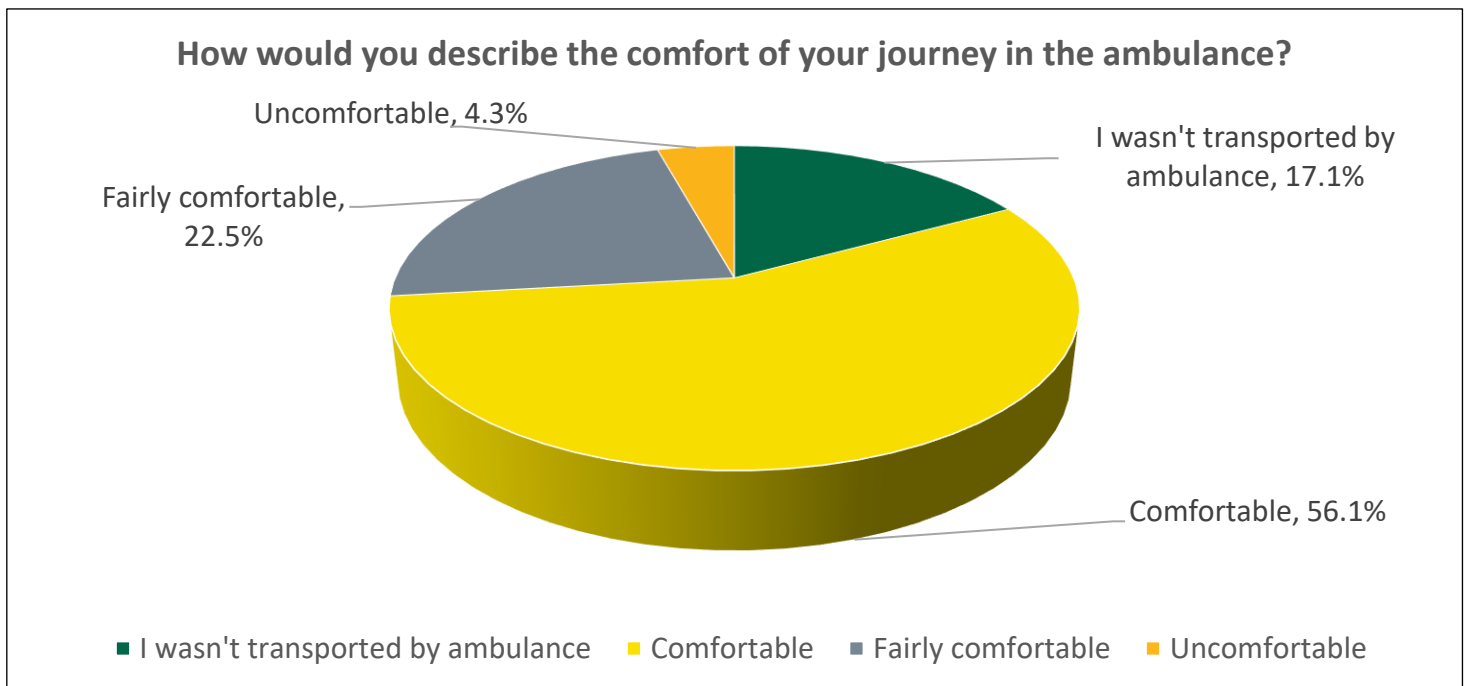
The remaining respondents were either 'unable to say' or did not respond.

Q16 – Did you feel the ambulance service staff managed your pain?

Overall, 177 respondents who answered the above question felt that their pain had either been managed (63.7%) or they had not been experiencing pain (28.0%). One (0.5%) respondent advised that they declined pain relief and 15 respondents (7.8%) did not feel that their pain had been appropriately managed.

The remaining respondents were either 'unable to say' or did not respond.

Q17 – How would you describe the comfort of your journey in the ambulance?

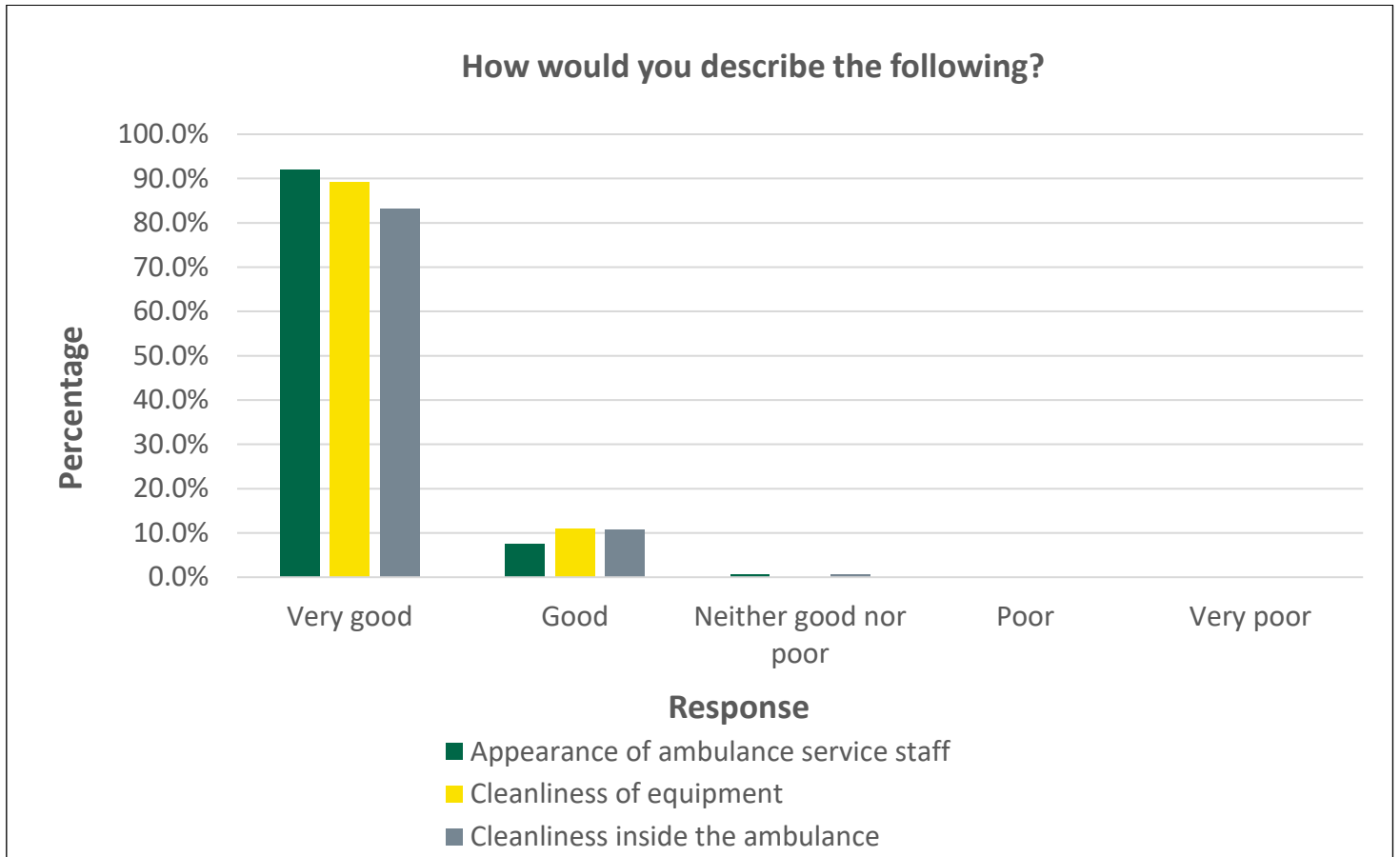


Overall, 78.6% of respondents who were able to answer the above question advised that they were either 'fairly comfortable' (22.5%) or 'comfortable' (56.1%) when travelling in the ambulance. Eight respondents (4.3%) felt 'uncomfortable' whilst travelling to hospital.

32 respondents advised that they were not conveyed in an ambulance and the remaining respondents were either 'unable to say' or did not respond.

Q18 – How would you describe the following?

Chart in relation to appearance of ambulance service staff, cleanliness of equipment and cleanliness inside the ambulance:



Cleanliness of equipment was rated as either 'good' (10.9%) or 'very good' (89.1%) by all respondents who answered this question, with a similar proportion of respondents also satisfied with the appearance of staff: 'very good' (91.9%) or 'good' (7.6%) and the cleanliness inside the ambulance: 'very good' (83.1%) or 'good' (10.8%).

Two patients (0.4%) rated either the appearance of staff or cleanliness inside the ambulance as 'neither good nor poor.'

The remaining respondents were either 'unable to say' or did not respond.

Q19 – If you were transported to hospital, how did you find the handover process?

Of the 148 respondents who were able to answer this question, 137 respondents (92.6%) rated the handover process as being either 'good' (21.6%) or 'very good' (70.9%). However, three respondents felt the handover was 'poor' (2.0%) and eight respondents (5.4%) answered 'neither good nor poor.'

The remaining respondents were either not conveyed to hospital, 'unable to say' or did not respond.

Q20 – If you were treated over the telephone, were you able to follow the advice given?

Five respondents advised that they were able to follow the advice and 11 respondents advised that this question was 'not applicable/unable to say.'

The remaining respondents did not answer this question.

Q21 – Which service did we advise seeing / arrange an appointment with?

Seven respondents who were able to answer the above question and advised 'GP' (57.1%), 'hospital department' (28.6%) or 'district nurse' (14.3%). The remaining respondents did not respond.

Q22 – Did we explain why an ambulance would not be sent on this occasion?

42 respondents were able to answer this question, with 29 (69.0%) of these respondents advising that it was explained why an ambulance would not be dispatched. 13 respondents advised that it was not explained why an ambulance would not be dispatched. 196 respondents answered, 'not applicable/unable to say,' and the remaining respondents did not respond.

Q23 – Did you agree with the decision not to send an ambulance?

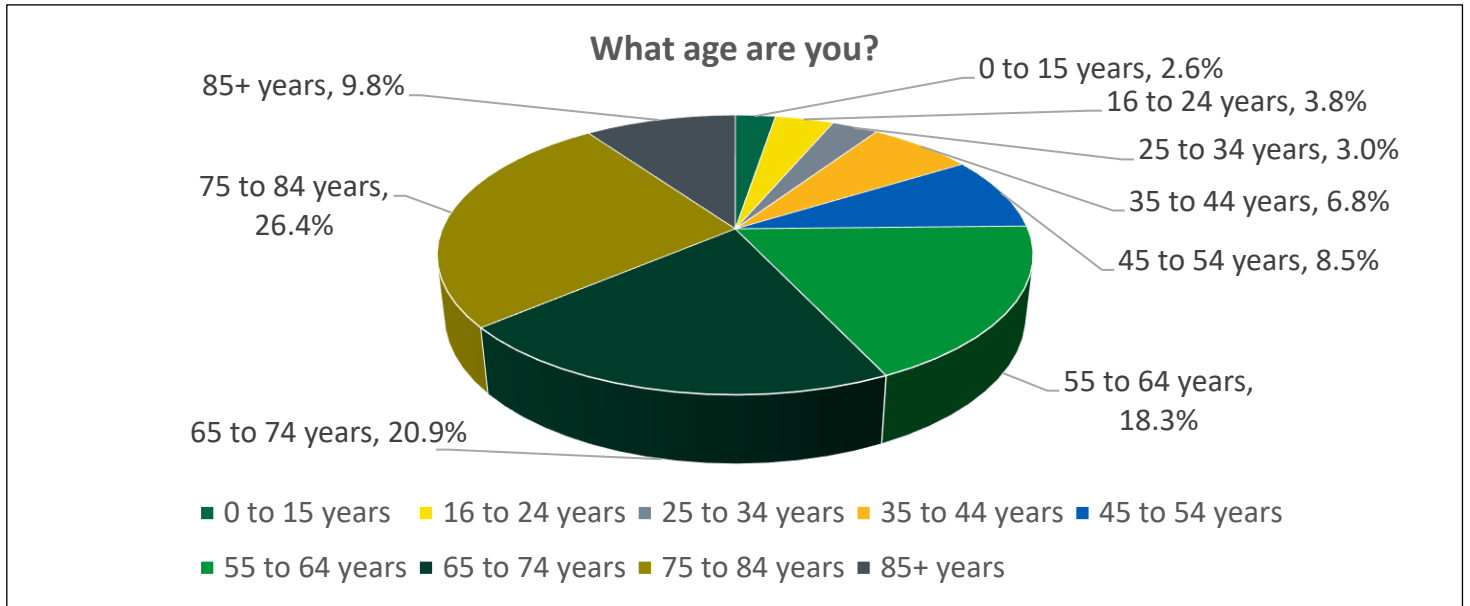
Of the 38 respondents who were able to answer this question, 15 respondents did not agree that an ambulance had not been dispatched and 23 respondents did agree that an ambulance had not been dispatched. 201 respondents answered, 'not applicable/unable to say,' and the remaining respondents did not respond.

The below comments were also provided in response to this question:

- *"I was not told that an ambulance wouldn't be coming. At the time of calling the ambulance my boyfriend was vomiting and screaming because of the pain of his bowel being twisted. I didn't agree that a call from a doctor would suffice." (Patient 15, Norfolk & Waveney)*
- *"I would rather have waited at home in comfort for help." (Patient 29, Suffolk & North East Essex)*
- *"I was having a severe nose bleed which would not stop, which ended up with having to be operated on." (Patient 46, Hertfordshire & West Essex)*
- *"I needed an ambulance as I had a fall and not sure what caused the fall and if there was any injury." (Patient 81, Suffolk & North East Essex)*
- *"Just advised 4 hour wait, then updated to 7 hour wait. Relative died, police called." (Patient 95, Hertfordshire & West Essex)*
- *"We are very busy today" is not helpful to a heart attack victim." (Patient 104, Unknown area)*
- *"They said an ambulance would be sent but would be 8-12hrs (I can't remember exactly) because my son was breathing so wasn't a priority." (Patient 121, Unknown area)*
- *"I could have gone myself rather than waiting to be fobbed off!" (Patient 147, Norfolk & Waveney)*
- *"My son was in a lot of pain with a distended abdomen and feeling nauseous. He is also non ambulatory and I had to get him dressed, hoist him into his wheelchair and then get him into our wheelchair accessible vehicle. This was very stressful for him (and me) and driving wasn't easy with him in so much pain." Patient 235, Mid & South Essex)*
- *"I required help which I was not given." (Patient 236, Bedfordshire & Luton)*
- *"The wait was too long." (Patient 243, Bedfordshire & Luton)*

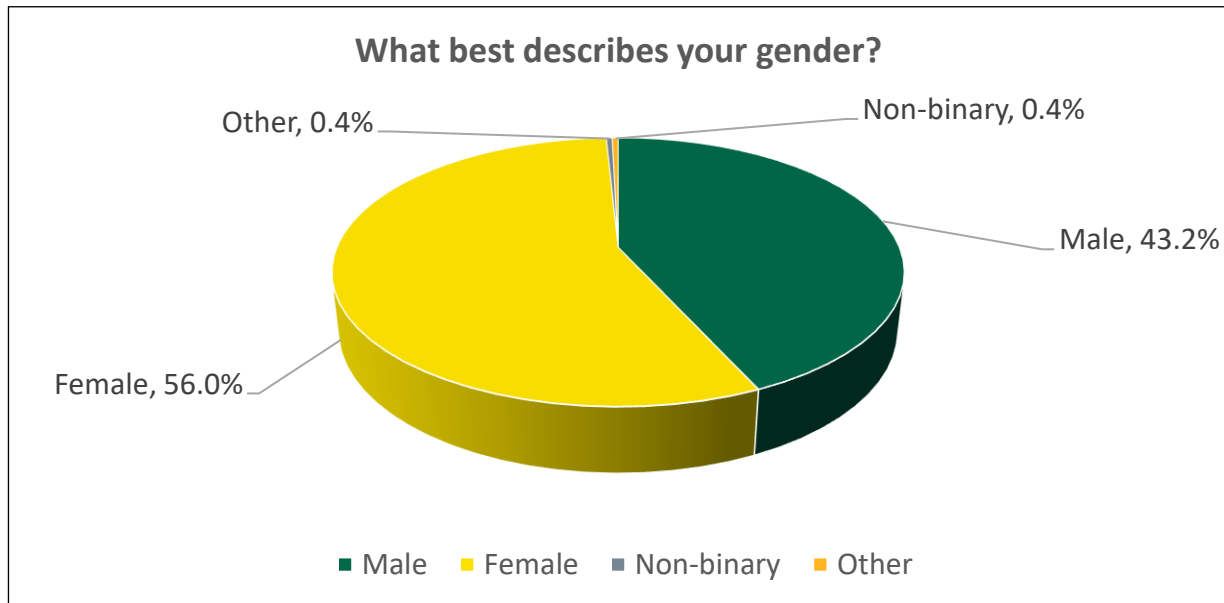
Demographics and Equality and Diversity Information

What age are you?



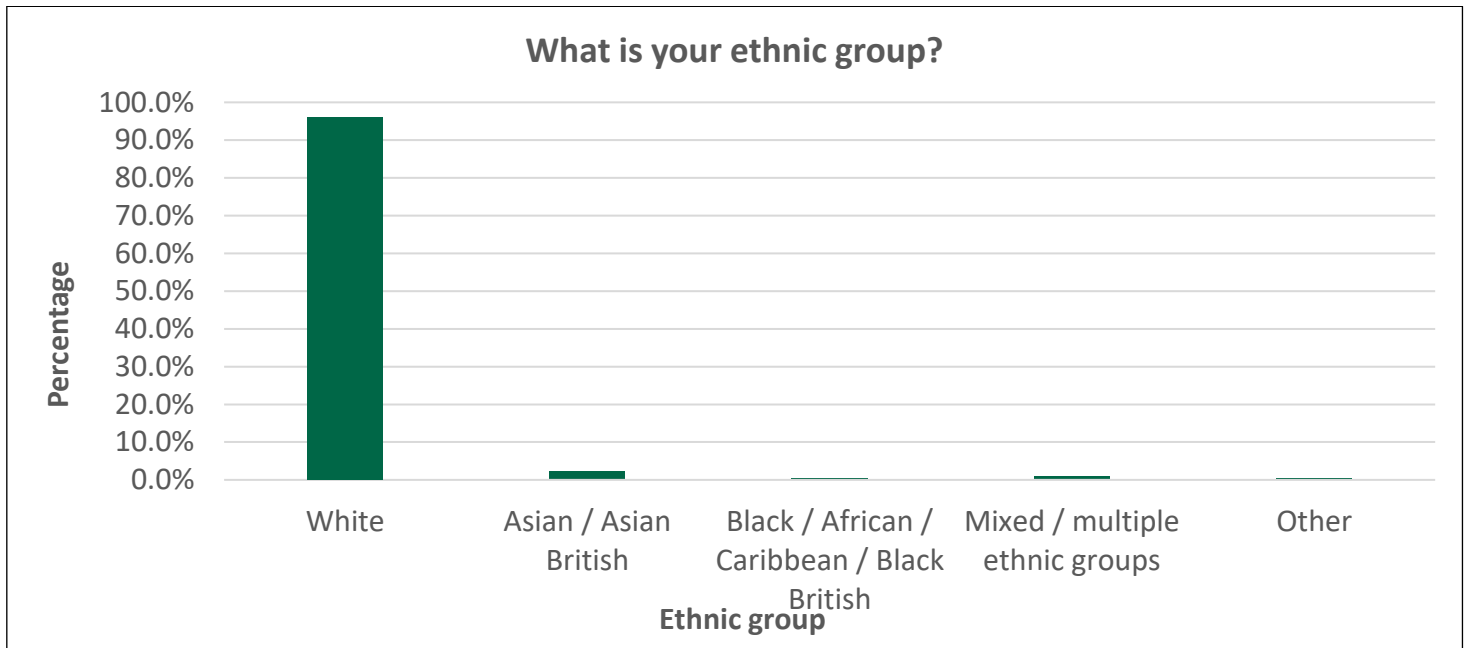
Eight respondents did not complete this question and one respondent answered, 'prefer not to say.'

What best describes your gender?



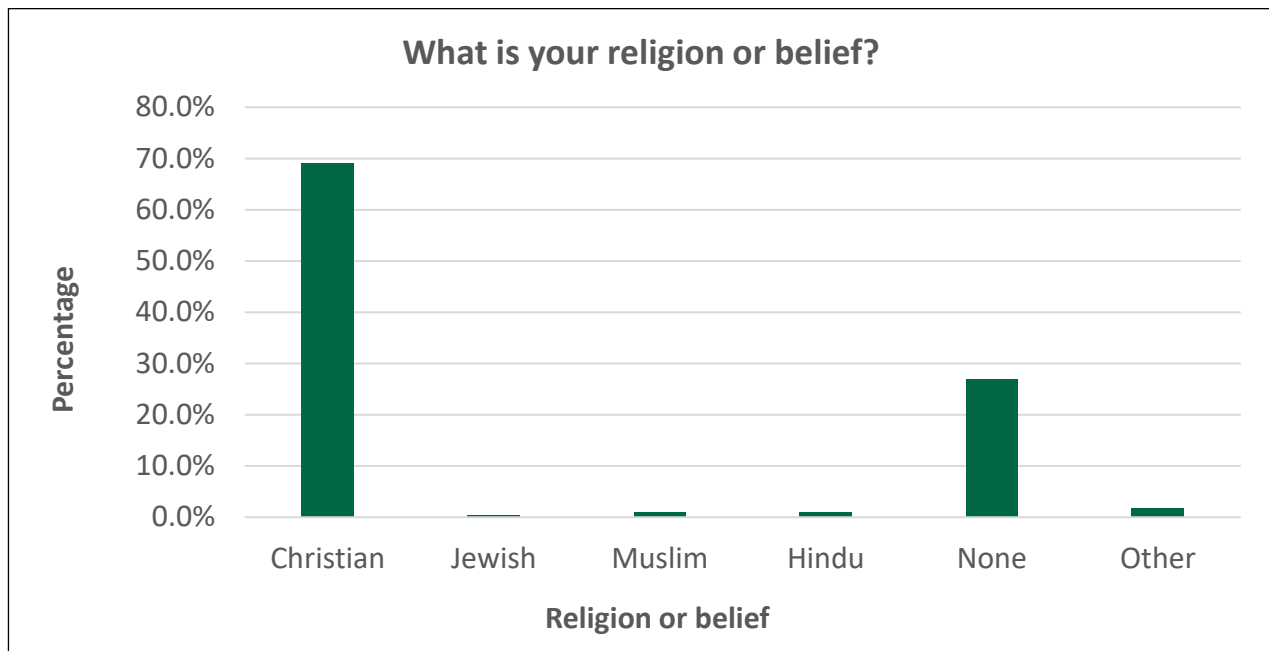
Nine respondents did not complete this question and one respondent answered, 'prefer not to say.'

What is your ethnic group?



Overall, 96.1% of patients responded that they were of a white ethnic group, the remaining 3.9% of patients were either Asian/Asian British (2.2%), mixed/multiple ethnic group (0.9%), Black/African/Caribbean/Black British (0.4%) or 'other' (0.4%). Nine respondents did not complete this question and three respondents answered, 'prefer not to say'.

What is your Religion or Belief?

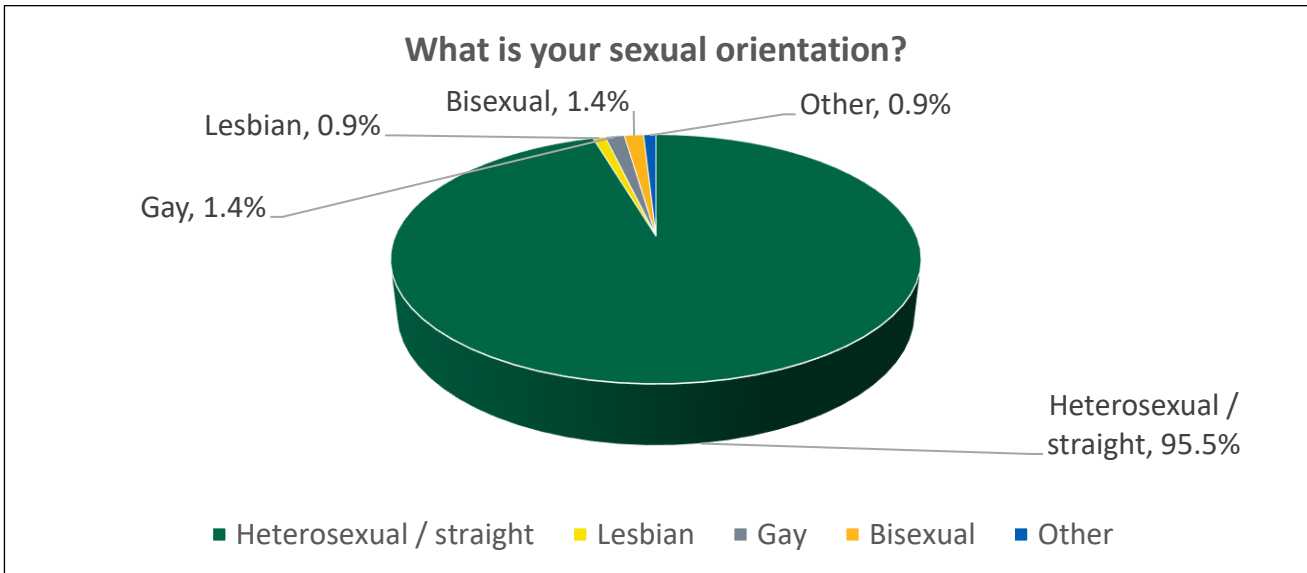


Overall, 154 (69.1%) of patients responded that their religion or belief was 'Christian,' the remaining 69 (30.9%) of patients advised either 'Jewish,' (0.4%), 'Muslim,' (0.9%), 'Hindu,' (0.9%), 'None,' (26.9%) or 'other' (1.8%). 22 respondents did not complete this question and 11 respondents answered, 'prefer not to say.'

The below comments were received from the respondent who answered 'other':

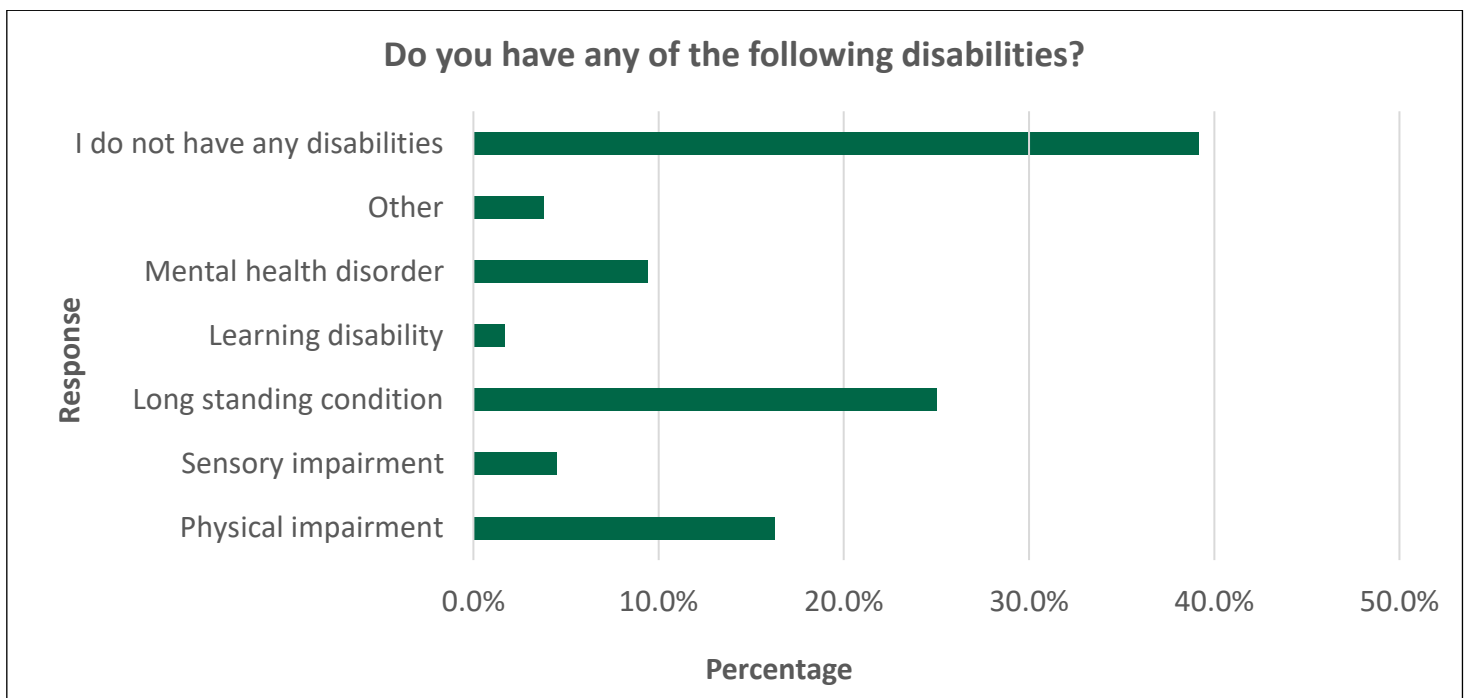
- "Chapel." (Patient 80, Norfolk & Waveney)
- "Spiritualist." (Patient 219, Cambridge & Peterborough)
- "Agnostic." (Patient 230, Hertfordshire & West Essex)
- "Humanist." (Patient 249, Mid & South Essex)

What is your sexual orientation?



22 respondents did not complete this question and 13 respondents answered 'prefer not to say'.

Do you have any of the following disabilities?

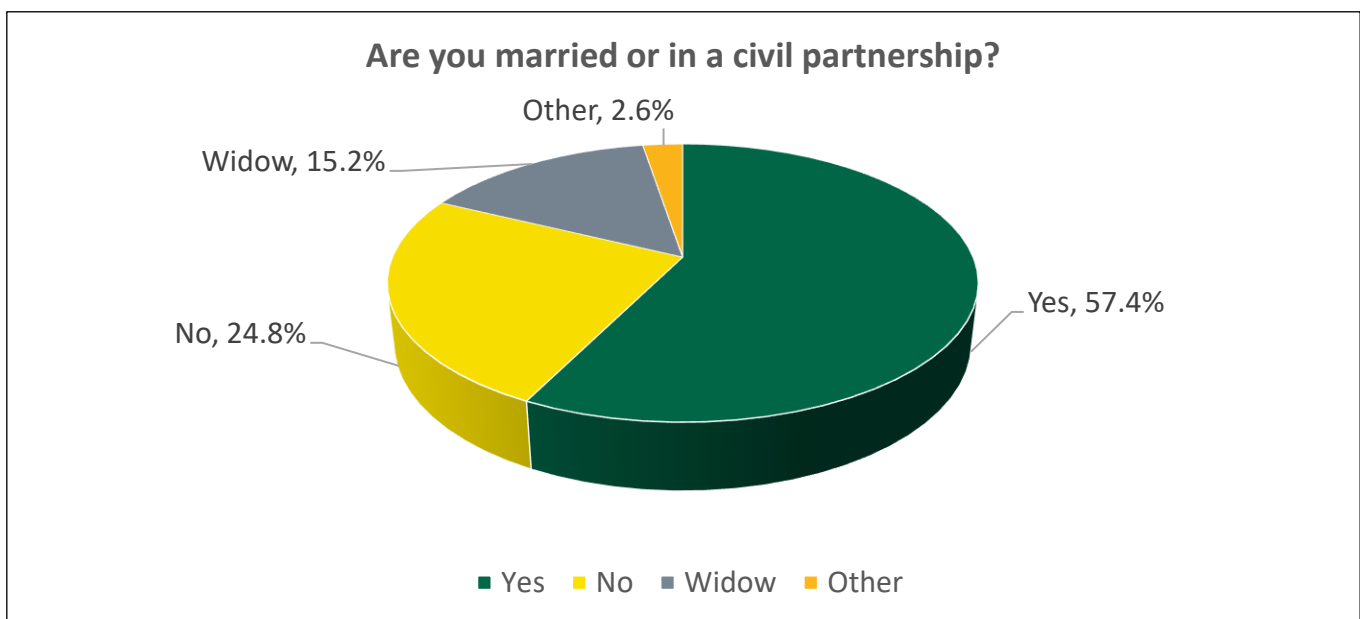


29 respondents did not complete this question and six respondents answered 'prefer not to say.'

The below comments were received from the respondents who answered 'other':

- "Arthritis. Type 2 Diabetes. Stainless steel replacement right hip. 7.5 cm embolism in left side chest." (Patient 26, Hertfordshire & West Essex)
- "Had lung cancer and copd." (Patient 80, Norfolk & Waveney)
- "Dementia." (Patient 90, Mid & South Essex)
- "Deafness." (Patient 121, Unknown area)
- "Diabetic." (Patient 157, Cambridge & Peterborough)
- "Parkinsons, Lewy Bodies + Dementia." (Patient 160, Hertfordshire & West Essex)
- "Colitis also Asthma,COPD,Arthritis, diabetes, heart condition and reflux." (Patient 162, Cambridge & Peterborough)
- "Terminal cancer." (Patient 180, Norfolk & Waveney)
- "Mobility problems." (Patient 200, Suffolk & North East Essex)

Are you married or in a civil partnership?



21 respondents did not complete this question and six respondents answered 'prefer not to say.'

The below comments were received from the respondents who answered 'other':

- *“Partner.” (Patient 53, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough)*
- *“Divorced.” (Patient 79, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough & Patient 184, Suffolk & North East Essex)*
- *“In the process of divorce.” (Patient 194, Suffolk & North East Essex)*

Are you currently pregnant or had a child within the last twelve months?

146 (98.6%) out of 148 respondents who completed the above question either answered that they were not pregnant, or they did not have a child under 12 months of age. Two respondents (1.4%) advised that they were pregnant (0.7%) or had a child under 12 months old (0.7%).

25 respondents did not complete this question and 83 respondents answered ‘prefer not to say’ or ‘not applicable.’

Aftercare

Following this survey, any letters of appreciation or comments of concern were passed to the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) for logging and actioning as appropriate.