

YouthNet



Fear and hoping in the UK

Today and tomorrow through young peoples' eyes

August – September 2011

YouthNet
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Executive Summary

- Between 22nd August and 26th September 2011, 1,101 respondents aged 16 to 25 and living in the UK completed a survey conducted by YouthNet which explored young people's hopes and fears for the future, as well as their attitudes towards various aspects of life in the UK, including work, education, housing, family affairs, global issues.
- The same questionnaire was undertaken three years ago, just when the UK went into a recession (in July 2008). The answers from the 2011 and 2008 questionnaires were compared to see whether the changing economic climate has had an impact on young people's aspirations for the future.

Overview of findings

- The overall theme arising from the findings is that although respondents were aware of the challenges they face in the current economic climate, their aspirations remained high, even higher than three years ago. However, respondents' perspective for the future appeared to have become more focused on practicalities and their priorities shifted since 2008.
 - When asked what their one wish for the future would be, 'happiness', which had topped the list in 2008, moved down to third place in the 2011 survey (17%) and the majority now said "getting a job" (32%), followed by "being financially secure" (19%)
 - When asked what their one fear for the future would be, 'death', which had topped the list in 2008, moved down to the bottom of the list in 2011 (4%) and the majority now said "fear of debt/ lack of money" (24%), followed by failing to achieve ambitions (21%).

Education, jobs and career

- Respondents' aspirations were still very high, especially when it comes to jobs and careers.
 - When it comes to education, the great majority of respondents still at school were planning to go to university or college (84%), a proportion which hasn't decreased since 2008
 - Respondents' main wish for the future was getting a job, specifically a *good* job, which they will enjoy and which will fulfill their aspirations (32% of the wishes were about getting a job, as opposed to only 11% in 2008)

- Given the importance placed on their education and job prospects, it's perhaps unsurprising then that the second most recurrent fear for the future was about not fulfilling ambitions and underachieving in life (accounting for 21% of the answers, as opposed to the 13% in 2008).
- However, whilst their aspirations remain high, respondents were well aware of the wider issues the country faces and the impact this might have on them:
 - When asked what the main fear for the future was, the most recurrent answer was debt or money problems, accounting for the 24% of the total fears (as opposed to 14% in 2008)
 - 75% of respondents thought the economic crisis will make it harder for them to find a job and 67% of respondents thought it is going to be harder for them to find a job than for their parents
 - When it comes to education, 24% respondents considered "being able to afford it" as the main challenge they face in considering if they will be able to go to university, more than double than in 2008.

Owning a house

- Owning a house was also a recurrent aspiration. Surprisingly, even though the economic times are difficult, the majority of respondents thought they were likely to buy a house in 10 years time (59%).
- However, respondents evidently were not naïve about the current situation.
 - 71% of respondents thought the economic crisis will make it harder for them to buy a house
 - 65% of respondents agreed with the statement "It's too difficult to get on the property ladder nowadays"
 - 30% of respondents also thought it is difficult to get a mortgage.

Having a family

- Respondents also aspired to having a family. In fact, results show young people seem to have a stronger aspiration about having a family now than three years ago.
 - 83% of respondents wanted to get married, an increase from 2008 (72%)
 - 70% of respondents wanted to have children now, an increase from 2008 (65%)

- Respondents thought that the ideal age to have children is 28, one year younger than the average given by respondents in 2008.
- Respondents were asked to what extent the economic crisis would affect their decision to have a family.
 - Surprisingly, there was no a clear opinion about this, with 30% of respondents thinking the crisis will have a great effect, 31% thinking it will have some effect and 31% thinking it won't have any effect at all
 - Respondents who did think the crisis might have some or a great effect on their decision to have a family referred to not to be able to afford children, due to the lack of financial stability, concerns about job security and increased cost of living.

Role of YouthNet

- 70% of TheSite.org users have found it helpful to a great or a small extent
 - A large proportion of respondents said that TheSite.org gave them good information and advice about a range of different issues
 - The language of the articles on TheSite.org was judged to be impartial and frank, unpatronising, unbiased and non- judgmental
 - Respondents also commented positively about being able to find the information that they need easily, with everything collected in one place
 - Many other respondents said TheSite.org is a place to turn to when it comes to sensitive issues which they may not want to discuss with their family and friends
 - Furthermore, another reason why young people thought TheSite.org helped them through different issues in their lives was that it is a support service available at all times and always reliable.

Introduction

YouthNet's research aims to provide a unique insight in to young people in the UK, helping us to understand the needs of 16 to 25 year olds and enabling us to provide the best support possible.

To mark YouthNet's 16th birthday, we conducted a survey called 'Fear and Hoping in the UK' to explore young people's fears and hopes for their future, as well their attitudes to work , education, housing and family affairs and global issues.

The research was undertaken at what is a challenging time for young people. Currently in the midst of the first financial and economic recession since 1991, significant reductions in Government funding for public services and the voluntary sector, as well as increases to student fees mean that young people face uncertainty about the information, guidance and support that will be available to them. At the same time, youth unemployment has increased substantially, now accounting for 20.2% of the population.¹

YouthNet asked its users the same questions on hopes, fears and aspirations in July 2008, just before the economic downturn hit the country and these impacts began to be felt. Here, findings from 2008 and from 2011 are compared to see how the changing economic climate may have influenced young people's aspirations for the future. Are young people giving up their aspirations because of the hard times they are living in? Is the economic crisis creating a new lost generation?

¹ ONS statistics, August 2011; <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3A77-222417>

Methodology

- Between 22nd August and 26th September 2011, YouthNet conducted an online survey called 'Fear and Hoping in the UK' to explore young people's hopes, fears and aspirations for the future.
- The online questionnaire was promoted through TheSite.org, our online community, youth panel and newsletters.
- The survey was completed by 1,101 16–25 year old residents of the UK. The sample is not representative of the UK's youth population, as it is self-selected and mainly consists of TheSite.org users.
- As the sample is self-selected, there was no weighting applied to the data for this survey and no quotas added.
- The same survey was conducted in July 2008, reaching 1,003 16 –24 year old UK residents – most likely to be TheSite.org users (since the survey was communicated through YouthNet's channels).
- The average results from 2008 and 2011 were compared and the differences in young people's hopes and fears for the future are explained in the report.
- To make the comparisons more robust, we also contacted respondents who completed the original survey in 2008; 35 of whom completed the survey again in 2011.
- More in-depth analysis was undertaken within this sub sample of 35 people, comparing their average responses from 2008 and 2011. The results from the 2008–2011 whole sample comparison were reported *only* when the trend was corroborated by the responses of the 35 people completing the questionnaire both in 2008 and 2011. When the trends from both groups didn't match, the data was not considered reliable for longitudinal comparison.
- Both in 2008 and in 2011 respondents had to answer two open-ended questions on their main wish and fear for the future. The qualitative quotes have been coded and grouped into different categories. Each category consists of a list of key words used as indicators in both the 2008 and 2011 surveys in order to allow comparison. Since the questions were open ended, many respondents wrote more than ONE wish and fear; therefore, the base the percentages were calculated on is the total number of hopes and fears mentioned.
- The large sample size allowed the possibility to run cross tabulations between demographic variables

and other variables of interest. Statistically significant tests were run on each cross tabulation, and only the differences that were statistically significant (at the 5%) level were reported.

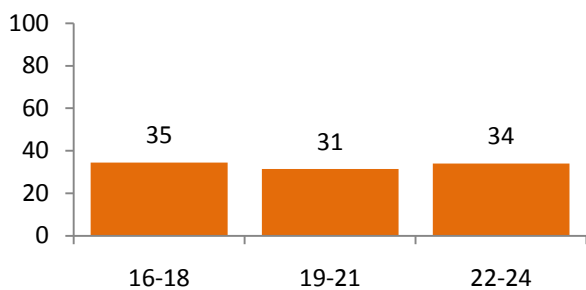
Demographic profile

This section shows the demographic profile of those who completed the survey.

1.1 Age and gender

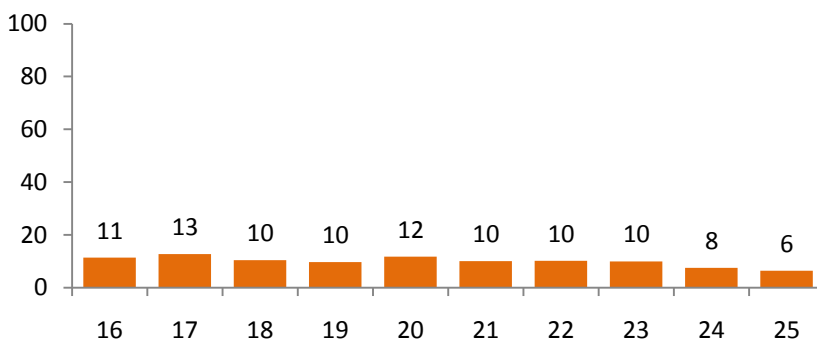
Eligibility questions were asked at the beginning of the questionnaire in order to screen out those younger than 16 years of age, or older than 25. As Figure 1 and Figure 2 show, all ages between 16 and 25 were fairly evenly represented within the sample.

Figure 1: Age of respondents – banded



Base (all): 1,101

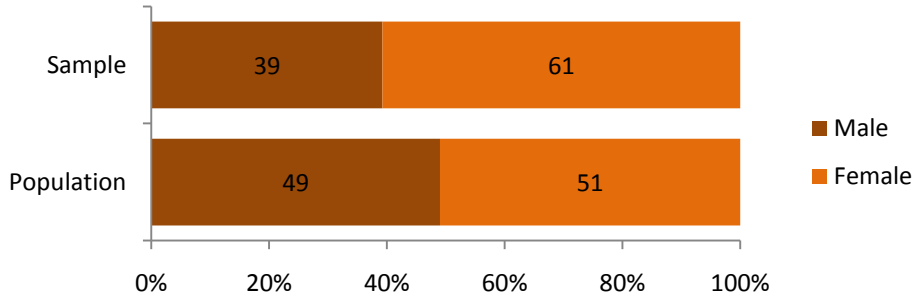
Figure 2: Age of respondents



Base (all): 1,101

Conversely, Figure 3 shows that gender was not fairly represented in the sample, since females were over-represented compared to the national population (61% of the total vs 51% of UK populations).

Figure 3: Sample and population² gender comparison

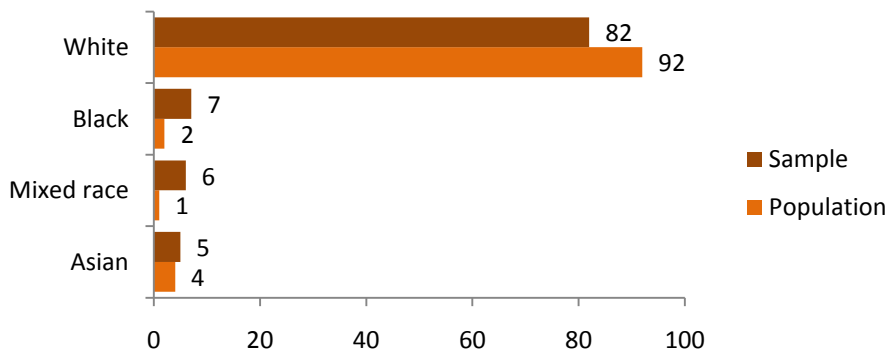


Base (all): 1,101

1.1 Ethnicity

In terms of the ethnic profile of respondents, ethnic minorities were over-represented compared with the national population, as shown in Figure 4. Eight in 10 respondents (82%) described themselves as white, and 18% described themselves as being from an ethnic minority – 7% were black, 6% were mixed race and 5% were Asian.

Figure 4: Sample and population ethnicity comparison



Base (all, excluding "Other", "Prefer not to say" and missing cases): 1,088

² Data from Census 2001. <http://www.statistics.gov.uk>

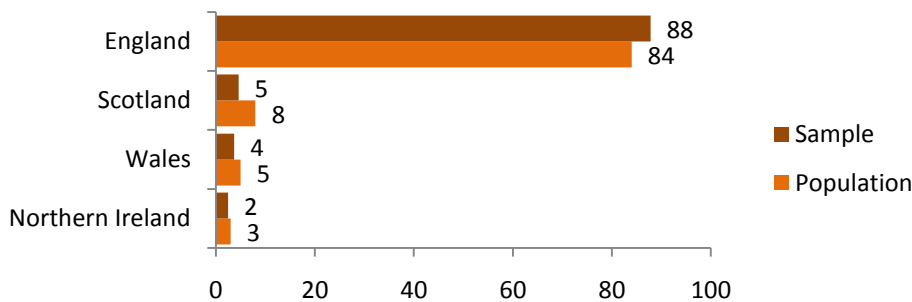
1.2 Disability

Respondents were asked if they would consider themselves to have a disability or impairment. A significant amount of respondents, one in five (20%), said they would consider themselves to be disabled, and a further 1% chose not to say.

1.1 Geographical location

Further eligibility questions screened out respondents from outside the UK. Figure 5 shows which region in the UK respondents were from, alongside the actual population split³. Unsurprisingly, the vast majority of respondents (88%) were from England. However, all areas of the UK were represented in the sample. The geographical split of respondents was fairly representative of the actual geographical split of the UK population, even though England was slightly over-represented over the other regions.

Figure 5: Sample and population geographical location



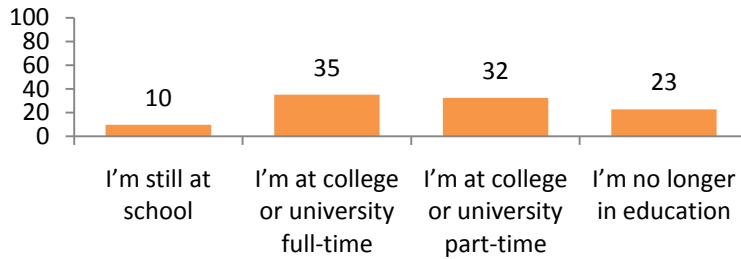
Base (all): 1,101

1.2 Education and working status

Figure 6 and Figure 7 show the education and working status of respondents respectively. Unsurprisingly, a considerable proportion of respondents were still in some form of education; the majority (67%) were at college or university, and a further one in 10 (10%) were still at school. The majority of respondents were in employment (57%), with four in 10 employed part-time (42%) and three in 10 full-time (28%).

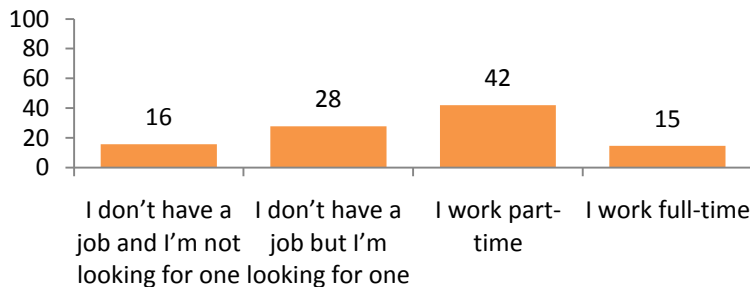
³ Data from Census 2001. <http://www.statistics.gov.uk>

Figure 6: Education status



Base (all): 1,101

Figure 7: Working status



Base (all): 1,101

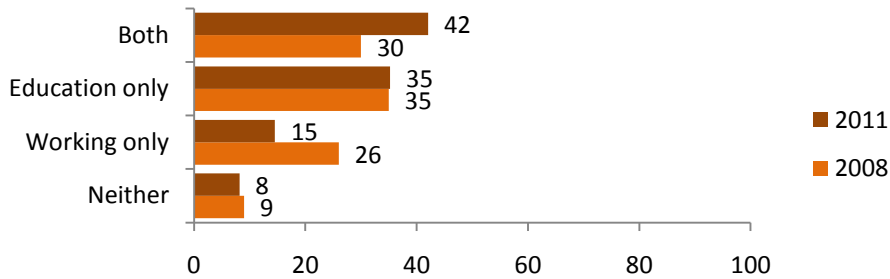
The data has been combined in Figure 8 to show the proportion of respondents only in employment, only in education, both employed and in education, or neither, and has been compared with the 2008 sample. The biggest proportion of respondents were both studying and working (42%), 35% were in education only, 15% were working only, and 8% were neither in employment nor education. The sample under-represents young people not in education, employment or training, which account for 16% of young people in the UK⁴.

When it comes to respondents who were students only, or neither in work or education the situation hasn't changed significantly from 2008. However, there has been an increase in those people who both worked and studied; in 2008 only one in 10 respondents (30%) both worked and studied, whereas in 2011 this figure rose to four in 10 (42%).⁵

⁴ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-12565041>

⁵ Base (all): in 2008: 1,033; in 2011: 1,101

Figure 8: Education and working status – combined. Comparison with 2008

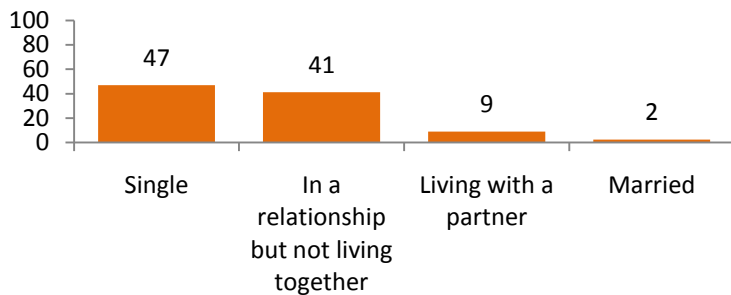


Base (all): in 2008: 1,033; in 2011: 1,101

1.3 Marital status and children

Figure 9 shows the marital status of the young people who completed the survey. Around half of the respondents were single (47%), and the other half were in a relationship (52%). Four in ten respondents (41%) were in a relationship but not living together, one in ten (9%) were living with a partner, and only 2% were married or in a civil partnership.⁶

Figure 9: Marital status



Base (all): 1,101

Respondents were also asked whether they had children. A total of 100 (9%) had at least one child, and of those 38% were single, 23% were in a relationships, 29% were living with a partner, and 10% were married.⁷

⁶ Base (all): 1,101

⁷ Base (only respondents with children): 100

Education

The young people who were still at school at the time they completed the survey were asked about their academic future and the challenges they might face.

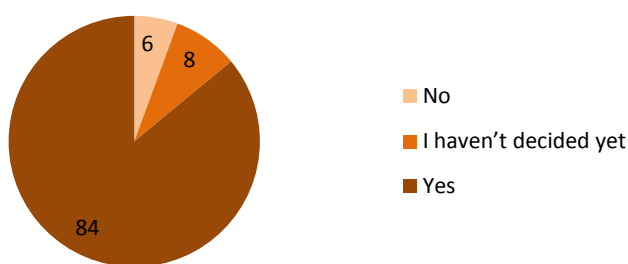
2.1 Going to college or university

Respondents were asked whether they planned on going to college or university after leaving compulsory education. Those who did were asked about potential barriers to further education.

2.1.1 Plans to go to college or university

As shown in Figure 10, the vast majority of respondents who were still at school planned to go to college or university when they finished compulsory education (84%). A further one in 10 was yet to make a decision (8%), and only 6% had decided not to continue formal education⁸. Interestingly, the answers of the sample surveyed in 2011 are similar to the answers given in 2008, suggesting that the economic downturn and the raise in university fees have not yet affected young people’s aspirations to go to university.⁹

Figure 10: Planning to go to college or university



Base (only the ones still at school): 109

⁸ Base (only the ones still at school): 109

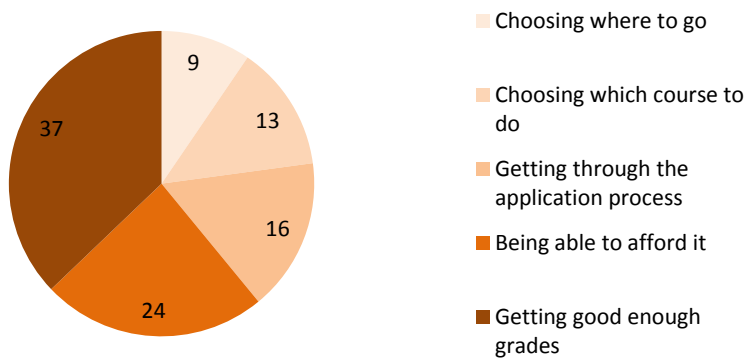
⁹ In 2008 85% respondents were planning to go to college or university, compared to 84% in 2011; in 2008 10% respondents were undecided whether to go to university and college compared to 8% in 2011; in 2008 5% respondents didn't want to go on with their studies compared to 6% in 2011. Bases (only respondents still at school): 2008: 119; 2011: 109. No comparison between the 35 people who responded to the questionnaire both in 2008 and 2011 was made, because none of the 35 respondents was still at school in 2011 and therefore were not routed to the question on plans to go to university

2.1.2 Potential barriers to college and university

However, even if respondents did not give up their ambition to go to university, they were aware of the increasing financial challenge of paying for their study.

Respondents still at school who planned to go to college or university were asked what the perceived main challenge was when applying for colleges or universities. As shown in Figure 11, those at school were likely to consider achieving the necessary grades as the biggest challenge above everything else (37%), but being able to afford university fees came a close second (24%).¹⁰

Figure 11: The biggest challenge when applying for college or university



Base (only respondents still at school. The base excludes three missing case): 106

Interestingly, in 2008 a much bigger proportion of respondents perceived the likelihood of not getting the grades as the main barrier (56% in 2008 and 37% in 2011). However, in 2011 concerns about being able to afford university were higher than in 2008 (only 11% in 2008 and 24% in 2011).¹¹

¹⁰ Base (only respondents still at school. The base excludes 3 missing case): 106

¹¹ In 2008 54% respondents chose “getting good enough grades” as main challenge as opposed to 37% in 2011; in 2008 11% of respondents picked “being able to afford university or college” as the main challenge, as opposed to the 24% in 2011. There are not significant differences between 2008 and 2011 regarding the other options. Both in 2008 and 2011 16% of respondents considered getting through the application process the main challenge. In 2008 12% of respondents thought the main challenge was choosing what course to do, against 13% in 2011. Finally, 9% of 2008 respondents considered “choosing where to go” as the main challenge, against 4% of 2011 respondents. Bases (only respondents still at school): 2008: 119; 2011: 109. No comparison between the 35 people responding to the questionnaire both in 2008 and 2011 was taken, because none of the 35 respondents was still at school in 2011 and therefore nobody was routed to the question on challenges to go to university or college

Working lives

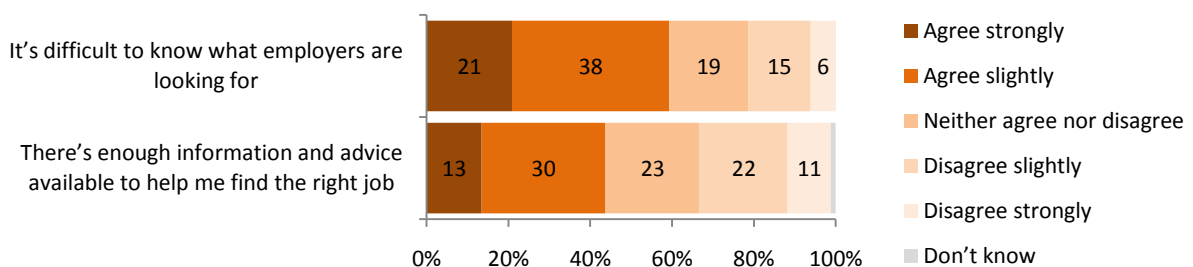
Most young people enter employment for the first time between the ages of 16 and 25. This section briefly looks at respondents' attitudes towards work and access to jobs, including their perceptions of the level and quality of information available to them regarding career-related choices.

2.2 Information for school-leavers

Considering the importance of career and education-related decisions, it is important that young people are given access to quality information and advice to help them make the right choices. To explore respondents' attitudes towards careers information and advice, they were asked how much they agreed or disagreed with various statements about the information available.

As shown in Figure 12, one in three respondents thought there is not enough information and advice about jobs (33%) and 59% think it is difficult to know what employers are looking for.¹² These results suggest more work is necessary to give young people the right information and support with career choices.¹³

Figure 12: Agreement with statements – Careers information and advice



Base (all): 1,101

¹² Base (all): 1,101

¹³ There were not significant differences between 2011 and 2008 respondents. In fact, in 2008 13% of respondents agreed strongly with the statement "It's difficult to know what employers are looking for", 41% agreed slightly, 10% neither agreed nor disagreed, 19% disagreed slightly, 7% disagreed strongly and 2% didn't know. In 2008 13% of respondents agreed strongly with the statement "There is enough information and advice available to help me find the right job", 29% agreed slightly, 22% neither agreed nor disagreed, 21% disagreed slightly, 14% disagreed strongly and 2% didn't know. The comparison between the 35 people responding to the questionnaire both in 2008 and 2011 confirms this trend, since there were no significant differences between 2008 and 2011 responses

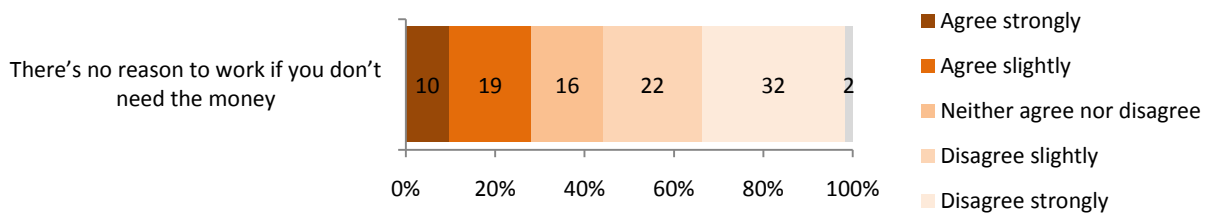
Interestingly, respondents' working status didn't have any effect on how easily they found information about jobs. However, it did appear to influence how easily they felt they were able to understand what employers are looking for, as respondents already working (27%) were more likely to know what employers are looking for than other respondents not working (14%).

Interestingly, those respondents in school or education were more likely to find it easy to get information and advice about finding a job than those respondents no longer in education, with 46% agreeing with the statement "There is enough information and advice available to help me find the right job" against 38% of respondents no longer in education. This finding suggests that the career advice and information available to students at university or college is not very accessible to those who are not in education.¹⁴

3.1 Attitudes towards work

The findings show that young people's career ambitions are not purely money-related. In fact, only three in 10 respondents would work just for money (29%), where five in 10 would work even if they had the money already (54%), and two in 10 were undecided (16%).¹⁵

Figure 13: Agreement with statements – There's no reason to work if you don't need the money



Base (all): 1,101

¹⁴ Cross-tabulations were run to test the relationship between (1) the statements "there is enough information and advice available to help me find the right job" and "it's difficult to know what employers are looking for" as dependent variables and (2) age, education and working status as independent variables. Bases: having a job: 478; not having a job: 623; 16-17: 265; 18-21: 461; 22-25:375. Still at school: 108; in college or university: 743; no longer in education: 250

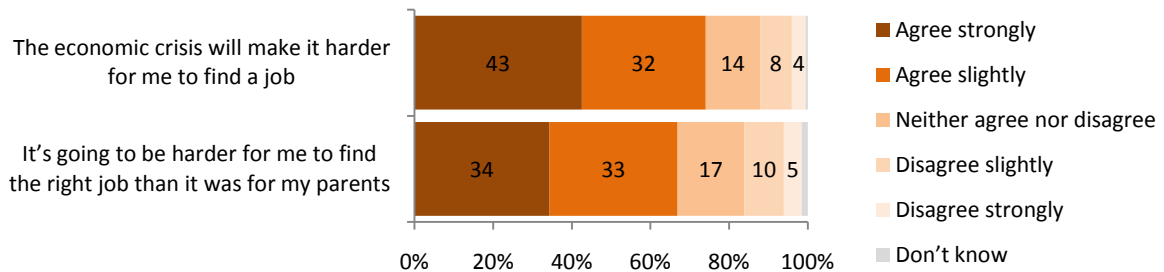
There were no significant differences between 2011 and 2008 respondents. In fact, in 2008 8% of respondents agreed strongly with the statement "There is no reason to work if you don't need the money", 22% agreed slightly, 12% neither agreed nor disagreed, 19% disagreed slightly, 26% disagreed strongly and 30% didn't know. Bases (all): 2008 – 1,033. 2011 – 1,101. The comparison between the 35 people responding to the questionnaire both in 2008 and 2011 confirms this trend, since there were no significant differences between 2008 and 2011 responses

¹⁵ Base (all): 1,101

3.2 Attitudes towards access to jobs

Figure 14 shows several statements about access to jobs and how the economic crisis will affect their career development. Unsurprisingly, 75% of respondents thought the economic crisis will make it harder for them to find a job. The majority of respondents also think that finding a job will be harder for them than it was for their parents (67%).¹⁶

Figure 14: Agreement with statements – Access to jobs



Base (all): 1,101

Work and education status had an impact on respondents' concerns about the economic crisis and their future careers. Respondents who didn't have a job when answering the survey were more likely to think that the economic crisis will make it harder for them to find a job, with 87% of them agreeing with the statement against 64% of all other respondents.

Furthermore, respondents studying at college or university were more likely to be optimistic about the future than respondents still at school or not in education. When asked if they agreed with the statement "The economic crisis will make it harder for me to find a job", 69% of respondents in college or university agreed with the statement. Although high, this increased to 83% among respondents no longer in education, and 85% from those still at school. Perhaps those at college or university feel more confident because they think their qualifications will help them get a job?

Interestingly, findings show younger respondents were more pessimistic about their future careers. In fact,

¹⁶ Base (all): 1,101

81% of 16–17 year olds agreed with the statement “The economic crisis will make it harder for me to find a job” against 72% of 18–25 year olds. Similarly, 73% of 16–17 year olds agreed with the statement “It’s going to be harder for me to find the right job than it was for my parents” against 65% of 18–25 year olds.

Gender also had an effect on respondents’ attitudes towards their future careers. Interestingly, females seemed to be slightly more pessimistic about the situation, with 77% thinking the crisis will make it harder for them to find a job, as opposed to 70% of males.¹⁷

¹⁷ Cross-tabulations were run to test the relationship between (1) the statement “the economic crisis will make it harder for me to find a job” as a dependent variable and (2) gender, age, education and working status as independent variables. Bases: having a job: 478; not having a job: 623; 16-17: 265; 18-25: 836. Still at school: 108; in college or university: 743; no longer in education: 250. Females: 667, males: 431

Housing

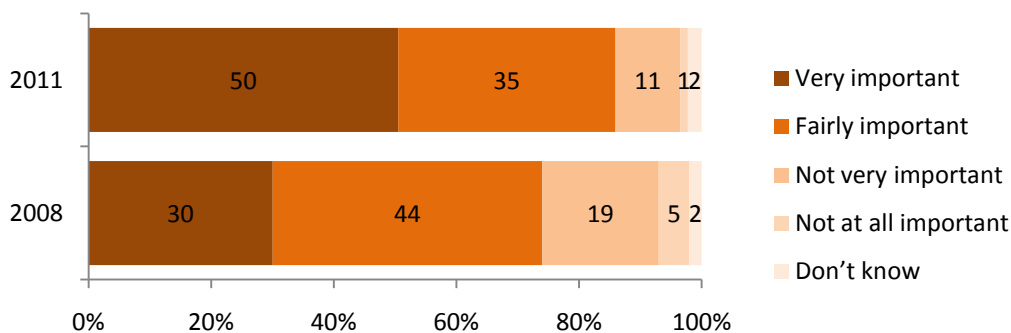
Respondents were asked some questions on their aspirations of owning a house and of the likelihood they will be in a position to buy a property in the near future.

4.1 Home ownership

Respondents were asked about the importance of owning their own home, and how likely they thought it was that they would be able to afford their own home in the next 10 years.

As Figure 15 shows, the majority of respondents feel that owning their own house is important; this has increased significantly since 2008. In fact, in 2008 74% of respondents rated owning a house as very or fairly important; this has increased to 85% in 2011.¹⁸

Figure 15: Importance of owning own home



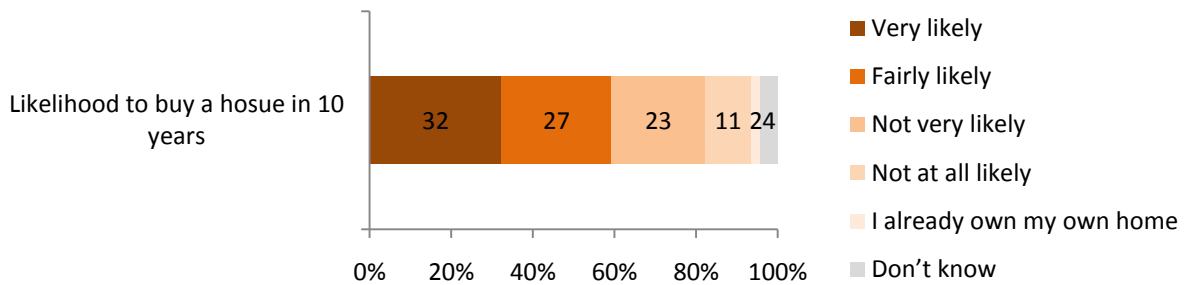
Base (all): 2008: 1,033. 2011: 1,101

Surprisingly, even in today's difficult economic climate 59% of respondents thought they were likely to own their own home in 10 years' time.¹⁹

¹⁸ Base (all): 2008: 1,033. 2011: 1,101. The comparison between the 35 people responding to the questionnaire both in 2008 and 2011 confirms this trend, since more respondents thought owning a house was important in 2011 than in 2008. However, the magnitude of difference within the 35 sample was smaller than the difference within the whole sample

¹⁹ Base (all): 1,101. Surprisingly, more respondents thought they would be able to buy a house in 10 years in 2011 than in 2008. In fact, in 2008 13% of respondents thought it very likely they would buy a house in 10 years time, 31% thought it fairly likely, 31% thought it not very likely and 26% thought it not likely at all. However, when comparing the responses of the 35 people completing the questionnaire both in 2008 and in 2011, the trend appears to be the opposite. In fact, in 2008 more

Figure 16: Likelihood of owning own home



Base (all): 1,101

The more respondents wanted to own a house, the more likely they thought they will be in a position to buy a property in 10 years time. In fact, 68% of those respondents who thought that owning a house is important said they will be likely to buy a property in 10 years time, as opposed to only 25% of those who didn't consider owning a house important.

The overall optimism about buying a house in the future is quite unexpected in these challenging economic times. However, it was largely driven by economic circumstance: 44% of respondents who were no longer in education were less likely to think they will own a house in 10 years time than other respondents (67%). This may be because those who have left education are more likely to be experiencing the realities of the job market and pressures of financial independence. The respondents still in education have yet to face these additional pressures.²⁰

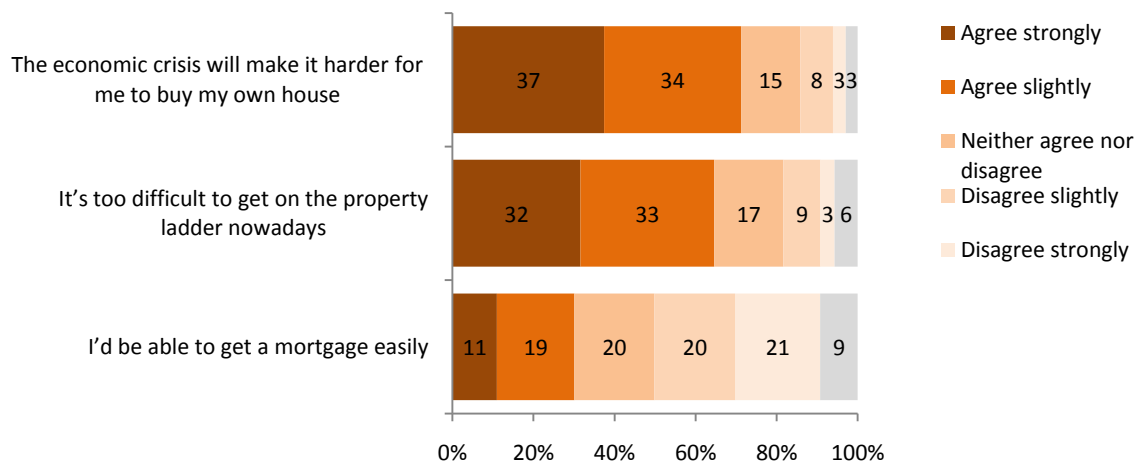
Furthermore, when probed further on how they would be able to afford a house, respondents seemed to realise that fulfilling this aspiration is not that easy. In fact, Figure 17 shows the great majority of

respondents thought they would be able to buy a house in 10 years time than respondents in 2011 (2008: 13% = very likely; 47% = fairly likely; 34% not very likely; 9%: not likely at all. 2011: 10% = very likely; 31% = fairly likely; 38% not very likely; 21%: not likely at all.) Because of this inconsistency, comparative data are not mentioned in the main report

²⁰ Cross-tabulations were run to test the relationship between (1) the likelihood of owning a house as a dependent variable and (2) gender, age, working status and importance of owing a house as independent variables. Bases: having a job: 610; not having a job: 444; 16-17: 262; 18-21: 456; 22-25: 352; Males: 422; Females: 645. Owing a house as important: 913; Owing a house as not important: 122. There was no significant difference between males and females at the 5% significance level. Unsurprisingly, respondents who had a job were more significantly confident about the possibility of owning their own house in 10 years time than the ones without a job (73% of employed respondents against 47% of unemployed)

respondents thought the economic crisis will make it harder for them to buy a house (71%). Respondents also recognised the challenges of buying their first home, with 65% agreeing with the statement “It’s too difficult to get on the property ladder nowadays”. Young people answering the survey also appreciated it is difficult to get a mortgage, with only three in 10 respondents thinking they will get a mortgage easily (30%).

Figure 17: Agreement with statements – buying a house



Base (all): 1,101

Interestingly, findings show younger respondents who still had to complete compulsory education were more pessimistic about the prospective of buying a house. In fact, 46% of 16–17 year olds disagreed with the statement “I’d be able to get a mortgage easily” against 39% of 18–25 year olds. Similarly, 79% of the younger respondents agreed with the statement “The economic crisis will make it harder for me to buy my own house” against 70% of the oldest respondents.²¹

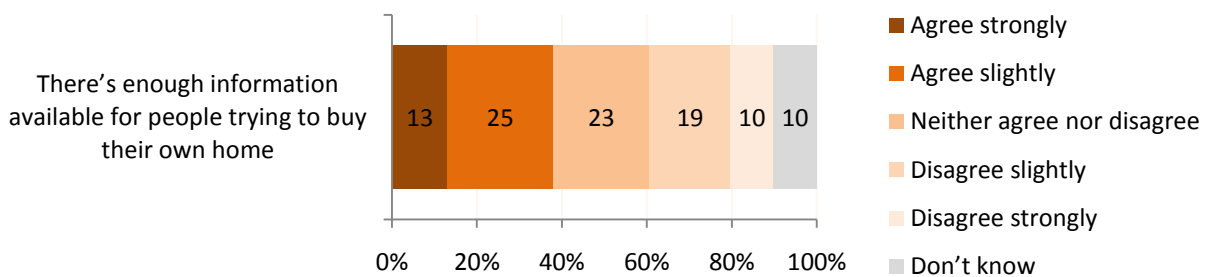
4.2 Housing knowledge and information

Getting onto the property ladder can be very difficult, if not impossible, without quality advice and information. Figure 18 shows how much respondents agreed or disagreed with a statement on information about the housing market.

²¹ Cross-tabulations were run to test the relationship between (1) the statement “I’d be able to get a mortgage easily” and “The economic crisis will make it harder for me to buy my own house” as dependent variable and (2) age as independent variables. Bases: having a job: 478; 16-17: 265; 18-25: 836

Results show that respondents felt that there is a need for more information about buying a property, with only four in 10 thinking there is enough information available for people trying to get on the property ladder (38).²²

Figure 18: Agreement with statements –There’s enough information available for people trying to buy their own home



Base (all): 1,101

²² Respondents in 2011 were slightly more likely to think there was enough information available for people trying to buy their own house than respondents in 2008. In fact, in 2008 8% of respondents agreed strongly with the statement “there is enough information available for people trying to buy their own home”, 24% slightly disagreed, 27% neither agreed nor disagreed, 20% disagreed slightly, 12% disagreed strongly, 10% didn't know. Base (all): in 2008: 1,033; in 2011: 1,101. The comparison between the 35 people responding to the questionnaire both in 2008 and 2011 didn't confirm this trend, since respondents in 2008 were more likely to agree with the statements than respondents in 2011. Therefore, comparative findings are not mentioned in the report since data are considered to be unreliable in this instance

Family

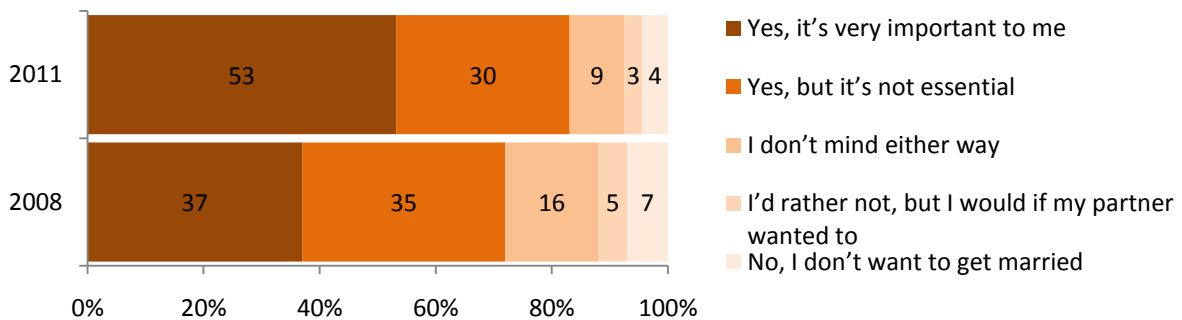
The questionnaire included several questions about respondents' family circumstances, and this section covers opinions relating to children and marriage. Results show that despite the economic crisis young people seem to have a stronger aspiration to having a family now than three years ago.

5.1 Marriage

As noted in the demographics section, only 2% of the young people who completed the survey were married or in a civil partnership. Those who were not married were asked about whether they could see themselves married or in civil partnership one day.

As Figure 19 shows, the majority of respondents want to get married (83%), suggesting that young people consider marriage more important than it was in 2008, when fewer respondents wanted to get married (72%).²³

Figure 19: Importance of getting married



Base (only respondents not married. The base excludes three missing cases): 1,070

Interestingly, demographic characteristics (such as gender and age) and working status didn't affect

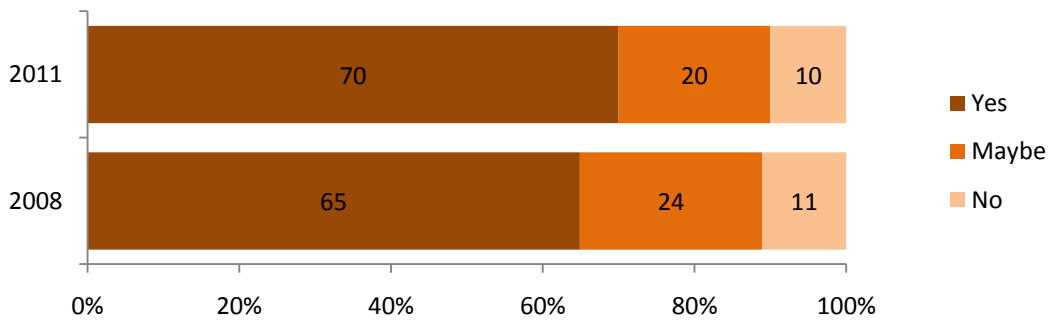
²³ Base (only respondents not married. The base excludes 3 missing cases): 2008: 950; 2011: 1,070. The comparison between the 35 people responding to the questionnaire both in 2008 and 2011 confirms this trend, since only 46% of 2008 respondents thought getting married was important as opposed of 62% of 2011 respondents

respondents' perception of how important marriage is.²⁴

5.2 Children

As already mentioned, one in 10 respondents had children at the time they completed the survey (9%). Of those who didn't have children, seven in 10 said they wanted to have children in the future (70%). As figure 20 shows, this is slightly more than in 2008 (65%). The recession didn't seem to have had an effect on respondents' aspiration of having children.

Figure 20: Wanting to have children



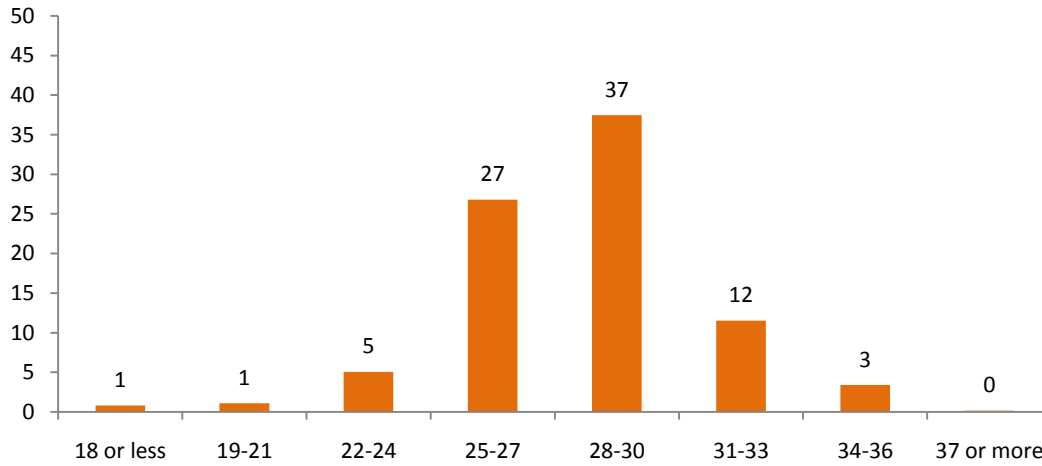
Base (only respondents not having children): 1,001

Also, respondents thought that the ideal age to have children is 28, one year younger than it was in 2008.²⁵ The proportion of respondents mentioning the different ideal ages to have children is shown in Figure 21.

²⁴ Cross-tabulations were run to test the relationship between (1) how important marriage was rated as dependent variable and (2) gender, age and working status as independent variables. Bases: having a job: 600; not having a job: 470; 16-17: 262; 18-21: 456; 22-25: 352; Males: 422; Females: 645

²⁵ Base (all): 2008: 1,033. 2011 (the base excludes 18 missing cases): 1,086. The comparison between the 35 people responding to the questionnaire both in 2008 and 2011 confirms this trend, since the average ideal age to have children in 2008 was 28 and in 2011 27

Figure 21: Ideal age to have children

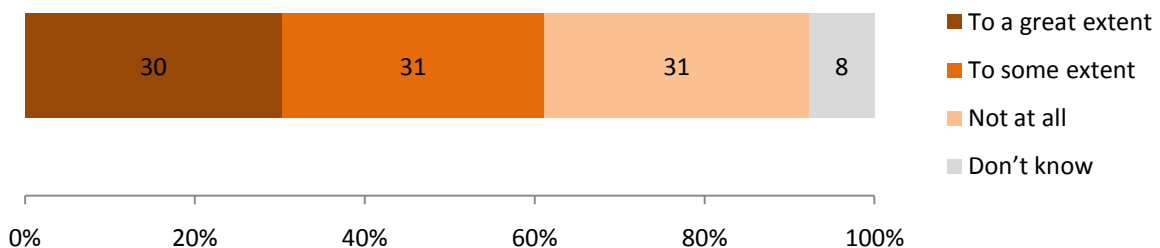


Base (all. The base excludes 18 missing cases): 1,086

5.3 Having a family

As Figure 22 shows, respondents were asked to what extent the economic crisis would affect their decision to have a family. Surprisingly, there was no a clear opinion about this. In fact, opinion was more or less split three ways: a third of respondents think the challenging economic times will make it harder for them to have a family (30%); 31% think the financial instability will have some effect; and another 31% didn't think the current economic climate will make any difference in their decision.²⁶

Figure 22: To what extent is the current economic crisis affecting your decisions about having a family?



Base (all): 1,101

²⁶ Base (all): 1,101

Interestingly, findings show 16–17 year olds were less likely to think the crisis will affect their decision to have a family than older respondents. In fact, 43% of 16–17 year olds think the economic crisis will have a great, or some, effect on their decision about having a family, against 67% of 18–25 year olds.²⁷

Respondents who thought the crisis might have an effect on their decision to have a family were also asked to explain why.²⁸ Unsurprisingly, all of them referred to not being able to afford children.

The majority of respondents were particularly concerned about the lack of financial stability, because they felt it is harder now to find a stable job and to have job security. This also impacts on being able to own a property, or being able to rent a house for the family.

Another significant proportion of respondents stated cost of living has increased significantly; making it harder to provide for children’s needs (e.g. increases in university fees).

A few respondents also stated they don’t want to bring up a child in these difficult and uncertain times because it wouldn’t be fair to them.

I think that money will always be tight. It's not only hard to get jobs but it seems like people who do have jobs are uncertain about whether they will have jobs in the future. People can be made redundant at any time! Having kids' costs a lot of money and it seems that it would be a constant financial burden. If you had kids and lost your job, it would make life harder than if you lost your job and didn't have kids. Also, benefits seem hard to come by and it seems that you can't rely on benefits to live on if you lose your job.

The cost of living has increased, so the cost of children is a concern. Also it is more difficult to get married due to cost.

²⁷ Cross-tabulations were run to test the relationship between (1) to what extent the economic crisis will have an effect on respondents’ decision about having a family as dependent variable and (2) age as independent variables. Bases: 16-17: 265; 18-25: 836

²⁸ Base (only respondents stating the crisis will have some or a great effect to their decision to have children): 673

Having a family is more expensive in the current economic climate. I also don't know if I want to raise my children in a world that is so economically unstable.

The raise in everything e.g. VAT, also not much child benefit to help you with the kids, and family tax cuts, but the main reason is that it is impossible to find work these days.

I would like to be more financially stable before thinking about starting a family. As the crisis has impacted the housing market, this means I will most likely have to save up for longer to get a house.

I think it is difficult to afford to have children in this day and age. I personally would love to have children at a young age, but people are more focused on needing to get qualifications to put them in a better stance later on in life. Childcare is another issue, parents cannot afford to go back to work as they would lose more money through childcare than they would staying at home. I think that is a disgusting situation to be and something should be done about it. As more people are having to put off having children as they cannot afford it and that is an awful thing to have to decide to do. Everyone should have the right to have a family.

Global issues

Negative global issues continue to receive a great deal of media attention. Issues such as global warming and terrorism have the potential to at least indirectly affect the lives of young people and future generations. The global financial crisis and the recent food crisis in Africa have also been at the centre of media discussion.²⁹

To get an idea of which issues cause young people the most concern, respondents were asked how worried they were about each of the issues shown in Figure 23. Generally, findings show that the majority of respondents are actually concerned about global issues. This might suggest that the media's portrait of young people as 'disengaged and not concerned about anything beyond their day-to-day life' is not accurate. However, as illustrated later on, when young people have to weigh up global issues against other challenges they are facing in their personal life (such as finding a job), their concerns for global matters became less important.

The majority of respondents (76%) were worried about global financial uncertainty. This result corroborates other findings from the survey, showing that the financial crisis has a huge impact on young people's fears and aspirations.

The other main concerns were war (74%), followed by global injustice (73%), global warming (72%) and global poverty (71%).

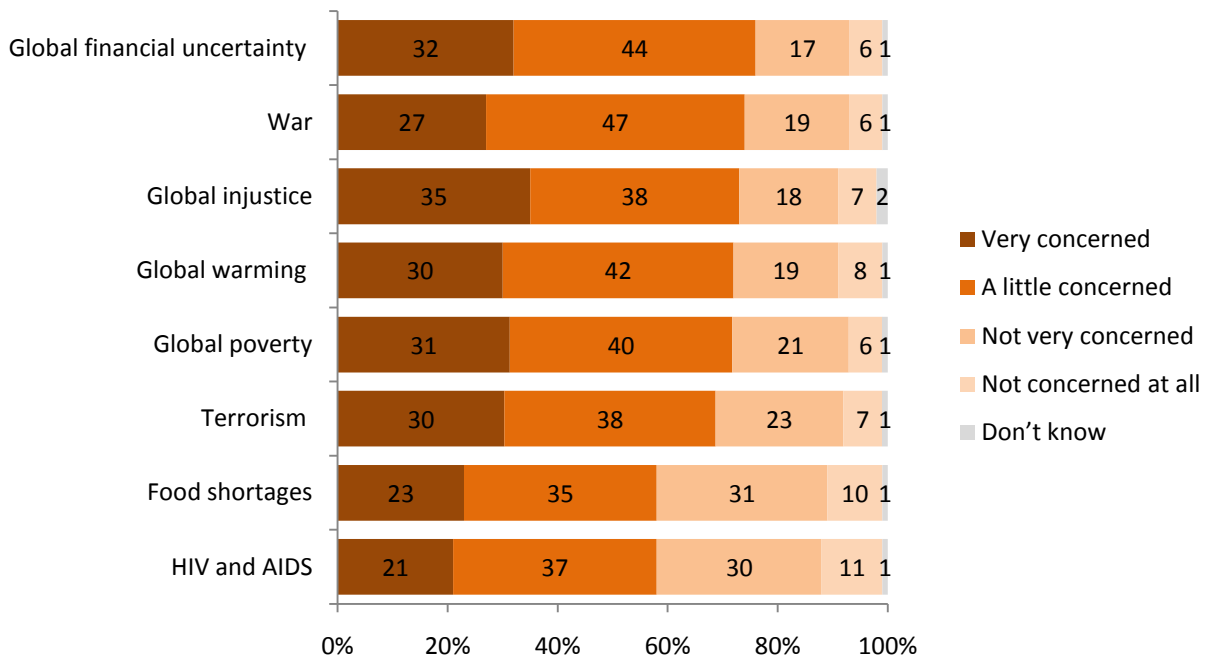
Interestingly, while terrorism was the top concern in 2008 (74%), this dropped down to sixth in the list in 2011, with only 68% of respondents being very or slightly concerned about it.

Food shortage and HIV – two very actual and pressing global issues – didn't seem to concern respondents as much as the other issues listed. In fact, four in 10 respondents were not worried about these two issues (41%

²⁹ Results have been compared with the 2008 responses. Respondents concerned about war: 2008: 72%; 2011: 74%; Respondents concerned about global warming: 2008: 72%; 2011: 72%; Respondents concerned about terrorism: 2008: 75%; 2011: 68%; Respondents concerned about food shortage: 2008: 56%; 2011: 58%; Respondents concerned about HIV: 2008: 54%; 2011: 58%. Bases (all): 2008: 1,033; 2011: 1,101. The comparison between the 35 people responding to the questionnaire both in 2008 and 2011 confirms this trend except for concerns about war (where more respondents in 2008 were concerned than in 2011) and about HIV (where the same proportion of respondents in 2008 and in 2011 were concerned about the issue)

in both the instances).³⁰

Figure 23: Concerns about global issues



Base (all): 1,101

³⁰ Base (all): 1,101

The future

Young people between 16 and 25 years old are in a period of transition from childhood into adulthood; they suddenly have to face new responsibilities and start thinking about their future. The respondents seemed to be aware of the crucial period they are in their life journey, and they take it seriously. In fact, when asked to what extent they agreed with the statement “The choices I make now will affect the rest of my life”, the majority agreed with the statement (96%).

This final section of the report looks at wishes and dreams for the future.

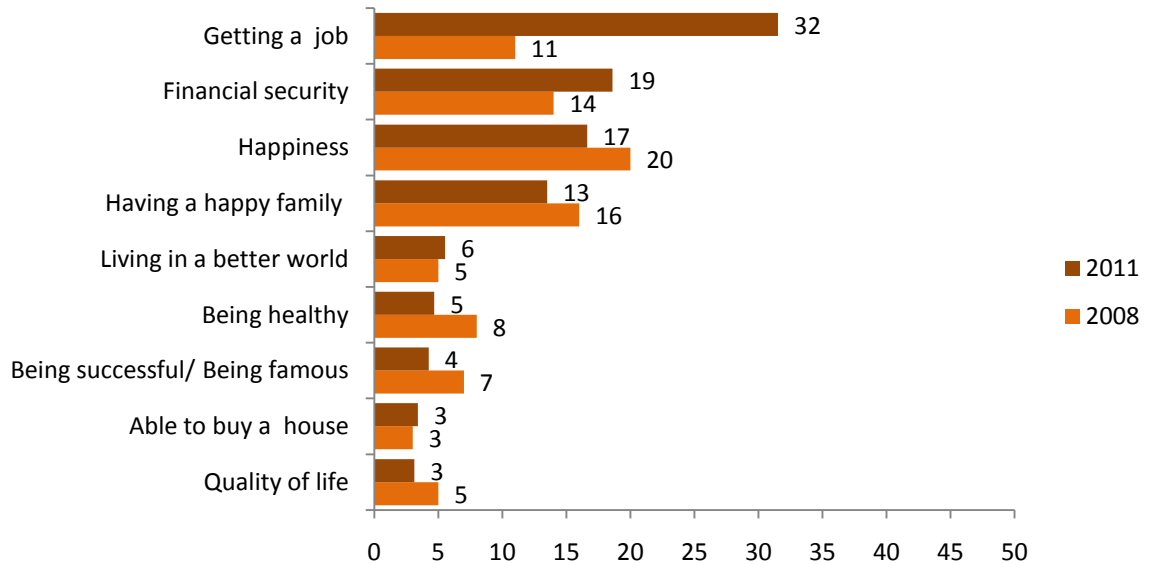
9.1 *One wish for the future*

At the end of the questionnaire, respondents were asked an open-ended question about their one wish for the future. Responses have been coded and grouped into the categories shown below and in Figure 24:³¹

- **Quality of life**, including words as comfortable life, nice life, interesting life, life with no fears, life with no stress, dream lifestyle
- **Ability to buy a house**
- **Being successful/being famous**, also referring to achieve own goals, ambitions and aspirations
- **Being healthy**, including having a nice body
- **Living in a better world**, a world without inequality, without war and poverty, and where people help each other
- **Having a happy family**, which included finding the perfect soul mate, getting married, having children, living happily and healthily with a future family
- **Financial security**, which includes both being rich and having enough money to live comfortably
- **Happiness**
- **Getting a job**, including getting a better job.

³¹ See Appendix for list of key words used for the coding. Base: 704. The base includes only the wishes following in any of the categories above. Many respondents mentioned more than one wish in the same answer. In these instances, all the wishes mentioned in the answer were counted as different cases (and all included in the base)

Figure 24: One wish for the future – comparison with 2008



Base (the wishes falling in any of the categories above): 704

In these difficult economic times, young people answering the survey were aware of the challenges of getting a job; in fact, when asked what their one wish for the future would be, respondents were most likely to say they wanted to find a good job (32%, 222 wishes)³². In fact, getting a job scored well above happiness!

Interestingly, of these 222 wishes, only 15%³³ were about finding *any* job. The rest of the wishes mentioned finding a ‘good job’ – one they would enjoy and that will fulfill their aspirations. Even if finding a job is getting more and more difficult, it appears that respondents weren’t giving up on their aspirations, or feeling like they should rush into the first job they can get.

Almost half of the 222 wishes around jobs (48%)³⁴ mentioned a specific job or career, or referred to finding an enjoyable job. One in 10 of the 222 wishes mentioned the possibility of developing a successful career. Job stability and earning enough money to live comfortably was also an important requirement of ‘a good job’, with 11% of the 222 wishes referring to a stable or permanent job, and 8% to a well-paid job.

³² Base: 704. The base includes only the wishes falling in any of the categories above. The unit of analysis is the wish, and not the answer – since many respondents mentioned different wishes in the same answer

³³ Base (all the respondents wishing to get a job): 222

³⁴ Base (all the respondents wishing to get a job): 222

I would wish to be in a career or job where I would be happy. I don't necessarily want nor need it to be well-paid but as long as I was getting satisfaction out of it and I was passionate about it, then I'd be happy in my job.

To have a stable life and permanent job with enough to survive life in a very light way, but also have a lot of time to spend with my family.

That I could find a job that allows me to combine my passions with earning enough to live on.

That I have a job that is fulfilling, that I love, and that allows me to support my (future) family.

Financial security was the second most popular wish, with 19% of the wishes (131) choosing it as the main hope (as opposed to 14% in 2008). Of these 131 wishes, only a third of them were about being rich; the other 72% just referred to having enough money to live a comfortable life and provide for their family.³⁵

Have enough money to provide a bright future for my family and for us to not ever need to worry about anything.

Interestingly, happiness, which was the top wish in 2008, moved down to the third wish in 2011 (17%). This finding might suggest that now, during these challenging times, young people have become more practical and realistic, focusing on what they think they need to achieve in order to be happy – like finding a good job.

Just to be happy. Nothing else really matters after that. Even though it's cheesy, it's the truth.

Another recurrent wish was about having a happy and healthy family, including the hope to find a soul mate and to settle in a stable and loving relationship (13%).

³⁵ Base (all respondents wishing financial stability): 131

To be able to have children and bring them up better than I was brought up.

That I settle down with one relationship turning into a marriage and a family.

Other wishes included being successful (4%), being able to buy a house (3%) and having a good quality of life (3%). However, these were pretty low in the list, which could be because they are seen as outcomes of getting a good job.

That I will be success in both my career and home life.

To reach my full potential, making my family proud.

Have my dream ideal lifestyle.

To live comfortably without any great fears dominating my life.

To own my own home.

9.2 *Greatest fear for the future*

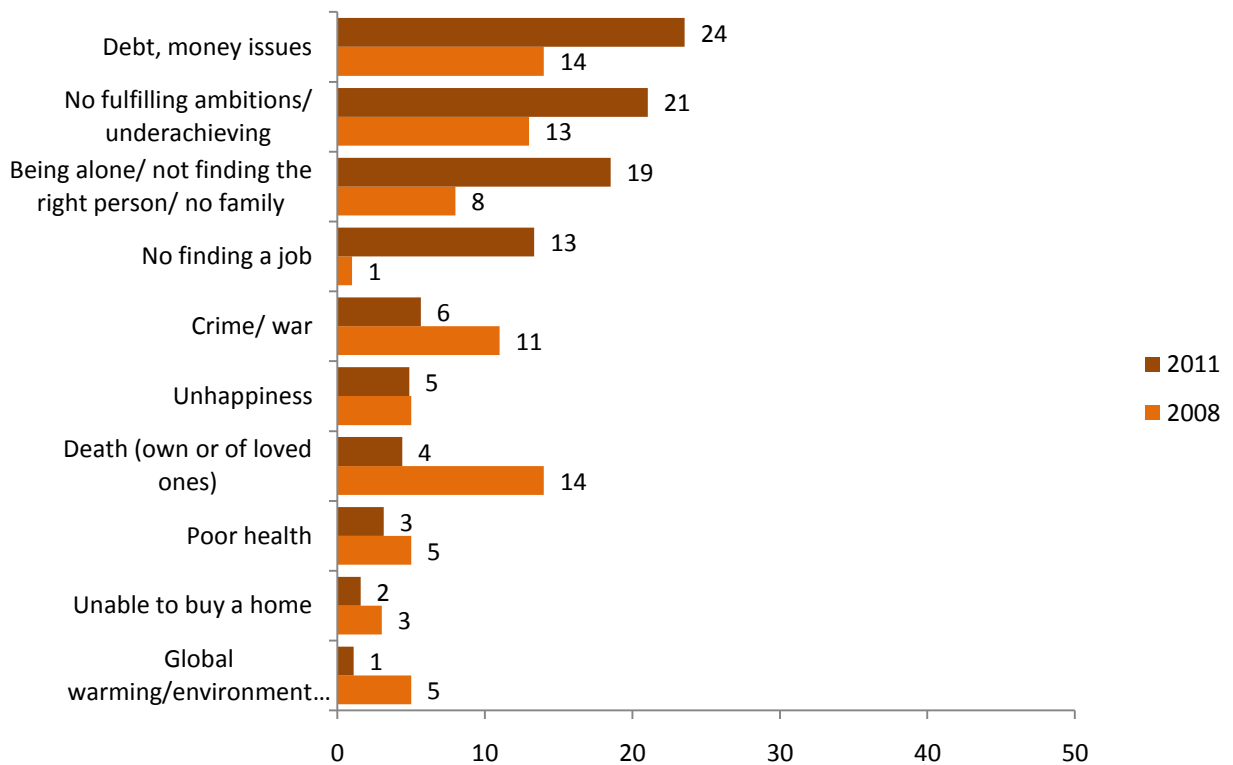
The second open-ended question asked respondents about their greatest fear for the future. Again, the responses have been coded into categories which are displayed below and in Figure 25.³⁶

- **Debts/money:** including not having a comfortable lifestyle, being in debt, not earning a high income, being homeless, not being financially independent
- **Fulfilling ambitions:** not getting a good job, not choosing the right career, not going to university, not fulfilling ambitions, failing, being unsuccessful
- **Being alone/not finding the right person/no family:** including being alone, not finding the right person, not having children, not getting married, not having a family
- **Not finding a job or losing the current job**
- **Crime and war,** both in young people's small communities, in the UK, and the rest of the world
- **Unhappiness,** associated with depression, lack of content and living a grim and sad life
- **Death,** both of themselves and of the loved ones

³⁶ Base: 637. The base includes only the wishes falling in any of the categories above. The unit of analysis is the wish, and not the answer – since many respondents mentioned different wishes in the same answer.

- **Poor health**, including specific health issues respondents were facing when answering the survey
- **Inability to buy a home**
- **Global warming or environmental issues.**

Figure 25: Greatest fear for the future – comparison with 2008



Base (all the wishes displayed above): 637

As Figure 25 shows, respondents’ top fear in 2011 was being in debt or not having enough money to live a comfortable life (24%). Not having enough money was more of a concern to respondents than death, which was the top fear in 2008. In fact, only 4% of fears referred to respondents’ own death or the one of their loved ones in 2011, as opposed to 14% in 2008. This result is supported by the quantitative finding, which shows that only 17% of all the respondents were not concerned about being in debt.³⁷

³⁷ Base (all): 1,101. Respondents were asked to agree with a set of statements, one of them being “I’m concerned about being in debt”

Not being able to earn enough money to do all the things I want to do, like travelling etc.

That I'll get too much in debt after university and won't be able to pay it off.

The second most recurrent fear was not being able to fulfill ambitions and aspirations (e.g. not getting the right job, not going to university, etc) and underachieving in life, accounting for 21% of the fears. Respondents' answers to this question corroborated with the observation noted above about young people being very ambitious even in these challenging times.

My fear is that I won't get into university and that I will not be able to get a job that I really like after university. Instead I'll be stuck with one that I don't like.

Being in a dead-end job due to circumstance rather than choice.

Not being able to fulfill any of my ambitions for the future and missing opportunities.

Being unsuccessful in my career and having to give it up to work in a shop.

Furthermore, not being able to find a job and to remain unemployed is another big concern, accounting for the 19% of the fears.

Not finding a job. I think our generation is screwed.

Another recurrent fear was about being lonely or not finding the right person, accounting for 19% of all the fears. Interestingly, there was an increase in the number of respondents that mentioned loneliness or not finding the right person as their main fear, accounting for 19% of all fears in total. People's honesty about these feelings is notable; as such personal feelings are not commonly things that young people might openly share. Female respondents were more likely to be concerned about these aspects, accounting for 73% of the respondents that mentioned fear of being alone. However, younger respondents were more likely to be worried about ending up alone, with 16–18 year olds making up 50% of people fearing loneliness; 32% were aged 19–21, and 24% were aged 22–25.³⁸

³⁸ Base (only respondents mentioning being alone as fear): 119

Being lonely, not having anyone to turn to. As an only child I am worried about the future when my parents are no longer around.

Not meeting the right person and being lonely.

Respondent' fears were more focused on the self than on wider issues. In fact, only 1% of fears were about global warming, or wider environmental issues. This finding is interesting because of the relatively high profile environmental issues have these days. Furthermore, as previously mentioned, 72% of respondents said they were concerned about global warming. However, despite this concern when weighed up against other more personal challenges (such as finding a job, or a partner), it appears global matters become less important.

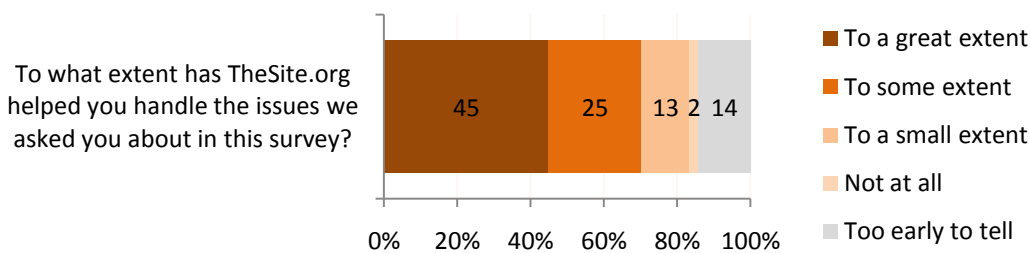
That the economic crisis would settle down and things wouldn't be so tremendously expensive. It would just make life a bit easier for everyone, especially for families.

I wish people were kinder to each other. Selfishness, not money, is the root of all evil.

How TheSite.org is helping young people

The great majority of respondents have used TheSite.org, since the survey was mainly promoted through YouthNet’s channels (89%, 980 people). These 980 respondents were asked to what extent TheSite.org has helped them handle the issues addressed in the survey. As Figure 26 shows, the great majority of respondents have found TheSite.org helpful to a great or a small extent (70%).³⁹

Figure 26: how TheSite.org has helped young people



Base (only the ones using TheSite.org. The base excludes six missing values): 974

Respondents who said TheSite.org has helped them to a great, some, or small extent were asked to explain how.⁴⁰

A large proportion of respondents said that TheSite.org gave them good information and advice about a range of different issues.

Advise about issues that I was facing at that moment. Feel like I had the right information to be able to handle it.

Has some useful information about different issues, such as housing.

It provides good, clear advice without dressing it up or providing false hope.

The language of the articles on TheSite.org was judged to be impartial and frank, not patronising, unbiased and not judgmental. Respondents felt that the information was easy to understand and that the people behind TheSite.org really know what issues young people face today.

³⁹ Base (only the ones using TheSite.org. The base excludes 6 missing values): 974

⁴⁰ Base (only respondents finding TheSite.org helpful to a great, some or small extent): 882

I stumbled upon and I thought it was good in that it is pretty honest. When it first appeared I was looking forward to copying the URL onto facebook and making all my friends laugh at the patronising adults who understand teenagers. But I was actually surprised in that it was pretty decent. The honesty and the casual minor swearwords make it sound like it's actually written by people who genuinely know how people my age think.

It explains things in an easier way to understand.

Sound, frank info.

Straightforward, impartial, realistic advice.

I like the way it tackles issues of 'the youth' so to say in a very real way. It doesn't just bash about: It knows what the problems are, it knows what we're up to and takes it from there in a neutral non-patronizing way.

Respondents also commented positively about being able to find the information that they need easily, with everything collected in one place.

Information that you want is clearly displayed so you don't waste time searching for an answer.

Easy to find out things you need to know.

It's great to have somewhere where you can find answers to all those questions you're not too sure where you can find the answers to.

Lots of information, easy to navigate, subjects relevant to my life at the moment... very user friendly.

Many other respondents said TheSite.org is a place to turn to about sensitive issues that they may not want to discuss with family and friends; on TheSite.org people feel free to ask questions they wouldn't always feel comfortable asking face-to-face with someone. Anonymity of users and the non-judgemental and non-patronising approach of TheSite.org were important factors here.

By offering help and advice on a range of issues where I might not be able to or feel comfortable getting somewhere else.

I can find the answers to questions I wouldn't want to ask my parents through embarrassment or not wanting to worry them.

You feel free to openly ask anything.

Discussion boards have allowed me to ask my peers about my concerns and gain their advice in an anonymous setting.

Furthermore, another reason why young people thought TheSite.org helped them through different issues in their lives was that it is a support service available at all time and always reliable.

It is a reliable source of information and easy to access at any time.

It is always there for me, could do with some more in-depth info though.

It is always available if I need help.

Whenever I have a problem I look on TheSite.org first to see if it can help; especially relationship problems!

Also, some respondents said that TheSite.org – especially the discussion boards – reassured them and made them feel less isolated in facing their issues.

It is reassuring to know that other people have similar concerns.

By reading other people's experiences of being in situations similar to my own and knowing that if they've got through it then so can I.

Great advice – and comforting to know that I am not the only person going through the issues I had.

A few respondents also mentioned the fact that TheSite.org signposts young people to the right support organisations.

Knowing people to contact regarding issues.

Gave good advice on what to do about housing and money issues, and where else to go for help.

To conclude this section, some respondents said that as result of the information they were able to understand more about different topics, to take informed decisions, and to sort out their issues.

It helped me understand why I was self-harming and how I could help myself get over that phase in my life. It has also answered some of my questions to do with my sexual health.

It's helped me make decisions about the near future such as taking a gap year and university.

The discussion boards help me a LOT with my perspective on things, and it broadens my views to understand how others see things.

Seeing as though TheSite is aimed at people of my age range I've found invaluable information to tackle problems in my education and career, and it has helped me to become a little confident with meeting new people in jobs and college.

Conclusions

It's perhaps no surprise that young people demonstrate real concerns over the impact the current economic climate will have on their future. But what is surprising is that their fears about money and jobs don't appear to have dampened their ambitions and dreams, merely shifted their priorities.

Counter to negative media stereotyping about the UK's youth, our respondents appeared keenly focused on achieving goals like getting a good job, going to university, owning a house and having a family. Even with the drastic increase in university fees, the great majority of respondents planned to go to college or university (84%), a figure unchanged since 2008. Similarly, aspirations related to getting married and having children were more important now than they were 2008; also, three fifths of respondents thought they would be likely to own their own house in 10 years time (59%).

Even though young people's goals and aspirations may not have changed dramatically since the start of the economic crisis, their perspective appears to have become more focused on practicalities. The most prevalent fear overall related to debt and finances (24%), more so than their own death (4%); furthermore, the majority of respondents recognised it will be harder for them to find the right job than it was for their parents (67%). One in five respondents (24%), twice as many as in 2008, now saw being able to afford to study as the main barrier they face in achieving this goal, while one in five of the fears mentioned was about underachieving (21%).

It appears then that young people's understanding of the current climate has triggered a shift in their priorities. When asked about their one fear for the future, in 2008 "happiness" was the most common response, but this has now been replaced by "finding a job" (32%) and "financial security" (19%). Happiness now comes in third place (17%), although it is likely that many people feel that if they achieve their goals of finding the right job and financial security, happiness will follow.

The need for information to help young people achieve these major life goals is a key theme of our findings. Only one third of 16 to 25 year olds still at school said they feel they have access to enough information and advice to help them find a job (33%) and another third felt there was not enough information available for people trying to buy their own home (29%).

Given the range and strength of feeling about the issues that concern young people, it is clear that the right support, information and guidance at these key life stages are crucial. In the circumstances in which young people currently find themselves, this is a need that cannot be ignored.

Appendices

9.1. Questionnaire 2011

First of all, we need to ask a couple of questions about you. We'd like to hear the opinions of 16–25 year olds living in the UK, so will need to know your age and where you live. All the information will be strictly anonymous and confidential and used for research purposes only. If you don't wish to provide us with this information, please tick "I'd prefer not to say", and you won't be asked to complete the survey.

1. How old are you?

- Enter number
- I'd prefer not to say

IF UNDER 16 OR OVER 25: "Sorry, but we're only asking people aged between 16 and 25 to complete this survey".

2. Where do you live?

- North East
- North West
- Yorkshire and the Humber
- East Midlands
- West Midlands
- Greater London
- South East
- South West
- Wales
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Other location in the UK
- Outside the UK
- I'd prefer not to say

IF OUTSIDE THE UK: "Sorry, but we're only asking people who live in the UK to complete this survey".

Great, thanks. The first few questions are about your education and career.

3. Which of the following best describes your working status?

- I don't have a job and I'm not looking for one
- I don't have a job but I'm looking for one
- I work part-time
- I work full-time

4. Which of the following best describes your situation at the moment in terms of education?

- I'm still at school
- I'm at college or university full-time
- I'm at college or university part-time
- I'm no longer in education

IF STILL AT SCHOOL:

5. Do you plan on going to college or university when you finish school?

- Yes
- No
- I haven't decided yet

IF NO:

6. Why not? (Select all that apply)

- I don't want to study anymore
- I want to go travelling instead
- I don't think I'd like it
- I couldn't afford it
- I've been advised against it
- I think experience is more important than qualifications
- I want to do an apprenticeship
- I don't think I'll get the grades
- I don't need to go to university for what I want to do

IF YES:

7. What do you think is the biggest challenge when trying to get into college or university?

- Getting good enough grades
- Choosing where to go
- Being able to afford it
- Choosing which course to do
- Beating discrimination
- Getting through the application process

ASK ALL:

8. How much do you agree or disagree with these statements on the education system and the job situation?

- The choices I make now will affect the rest of my life
- There's no reason to work if you don't need the money
- It's difficult to get a job if you haven't been to university
- It's difficult to know what employers are looking for
- There's enough information and advice available to help me find the right job
- It's going to be harder for me to find the right job than it was for my parents

- Only people with a lot of money will be able to go to university now
- The economic crisis will make it harder for me to find a job
- I'm concerned about being in debt
 - Agree strongly
 - Agree slightly
 - Neither agree nor disagree
 - Disagree slightly
 - Disagree strongly
 - Don't know

Thinking now about your living circumstances, family and relationships...

9. How important do you think it is to own your own home?

- Very important
- Fairly important
- Not very important
- Not at all important
- Don't know

10. How likely do you think it is that you'll be able to buy your own place within the next 10 years?

- Very likely
- Fairly likely
- Not very likely
- Not at all likely
- I already own my own home
- Don't know

11. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

- I'm concerned that the instability in the housing market might affect my future
- It's too difficult to get on the property ladder nowadays
- I'd be able to get a mortgage easily
- The 'housing crisis' is media hype
- There's enough information available for people trying to buy their own home
- The economic crisis will make it harder for me to buy my own house
 - Agree strongly
 - Agree slightly
 - Neither agree nor disagree
 - Disagree slightly
 - Disagree strongly
 - Don't know

12. Are you...

- Single

- In a relationship but not living together
- Living with a partner
- Married
- I'd rather not say

IF NOT MARRIED:

13. Would you like to get married in the future?

- Yes, it's very important to me
- Yes, but it's not essential
- I don't mind either way
- I'd rather not, but I would if my partner wanted to
- No, I don't want to get married

ASK ALL

14. Do you have any children?

- No, and I don't want any
- No, but I'd like to have children in the future
- No, and I'm undecided about whether I want them
- Yes, but I don't want any more
- Yes, and I'd like to have more in the future
- Yes, and I'm undecided about whether I'd like more

15. What do you think is the ideal age to have children?

- Enter number
- Don't know

16. To what extent is the current economic crisis affecting your decisions about having a family?

- To a great extent
- To some extent
- Not at all
- Don't know

ONLY THE ONES SAYING TO A GREAT EXTENT OR TO SOME EXTENT

17. Do you want to tell us how the current economic crisis affected your decision to have a family?

- _____
I'd prefer not to say

Thanks loads for your input so far. The following three questions are about all aspects of your future.

18. If you could have one wish for the future, what would it be?

- Open-ended
- I'd prefer not to say

19. What is your greatest fear for the future? (e.g. being in debt, terrorism, not meeting the right person, finding a job)

- Open-ended
- I'd prefer not to say

20. What about *wider* issues? How concerned are you about the following affecting you – or your children – in the future?

- Global warming
- War
- Terrorism
- Food shortages
- HIV and AIDS
- Global financial uncertainty
- Global poverty
- Global injustice
 - Very concerned
 - A little concerned
 - Not very concerned
 - Not concerned at all
 - Don't know

21. The survey is almost finished! These two questions are about TheSite.org and its role in helping you tackle the issues discussed in this survey.

22. To what extent has TheSite.org helped you handle the issues we asked you about in this survey?

- To a great extent
- To some extent
- To a small extent
- Not at all
- Too early to tell

ASK THE ONES ANSWERING "TO A GREAT EXTENT" AND "TO SOME EXTENT" ABOVE

23. Do you want to tell us a bit more about how TheSite.org has helped you?

- Open ended
- I'd prefer not to say

Finally, we just need to ask a couple more questions about you.

24. Are you...

- Male
- Female
- I'd prefer not to say

25. Would you describe yourself as...

- White – British
- White – Irish
- White – Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- Any other white background
- Mixed/multiple ethnic group – white and black Caribbean
- Mixed/multiple ethnic group – white and black African
- Mixed/multiple ethnic group – white and Asian
- Any other mixed/multiple ethnic backgrounds
- Asian/Asian British – Indian
- Asian/Asian British – Pakistani
- Asian/Asian British – Bangladeshi
- Asian/Asian British – Chinese
- Any other Asian/Asian British backgrounds
- Black/black British – African
- Black/black British – Caribbean
- Any other black/black British backgrounds
- Arab/Arab British
- Any other ethnic group
- I'd prefer not to say

26. Would you consider yourself to have a disability or impairment?

- Yes
- No
- I'd prefer not to say

ASK ALL

27. If you want to be entered into a prize to win one of 200 £5 Amazon vouchers, please write your email address below. The voucher will be sent by the beginning of October.

- Open ended
- No, thanks

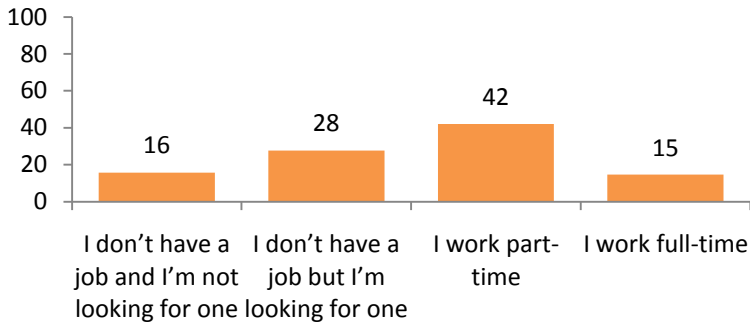
28. We might like to contact you for further help with similar research. Would that be OK?

- Yes
- No thanks

29. If you want to be entered into a prize draw to receive one of 10 TheSite.org bags, please write your post code below. If you are the winner, we will contact you by email by the beginning of October asking you for the full address.

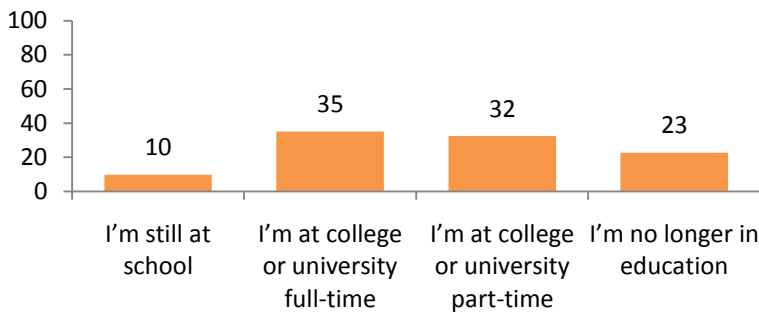
9.2. Graphs 2011

Figure 27: Which of the following best describes your working status?



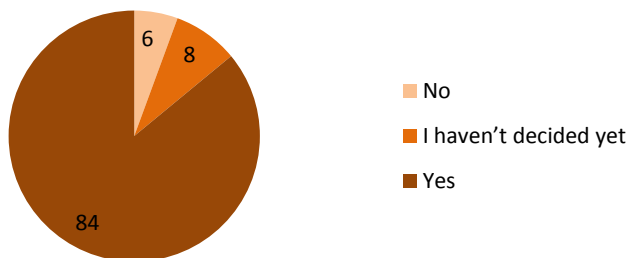
Base (all): 1,101

Figure 28: Which of the following best describes your situation at the moment in terms of education?



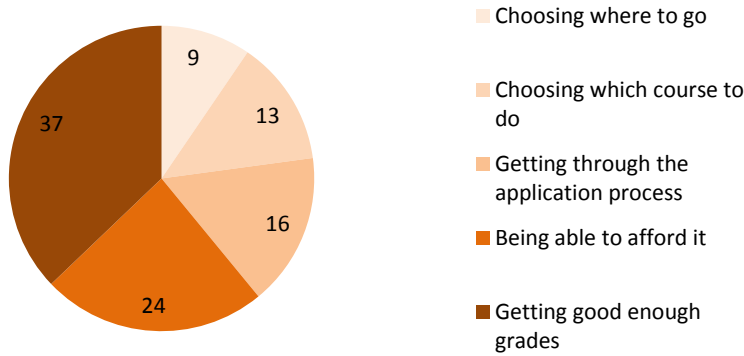
Base (all): 1,101

Figure 29: Do you plan on going to college or university when you finish school?



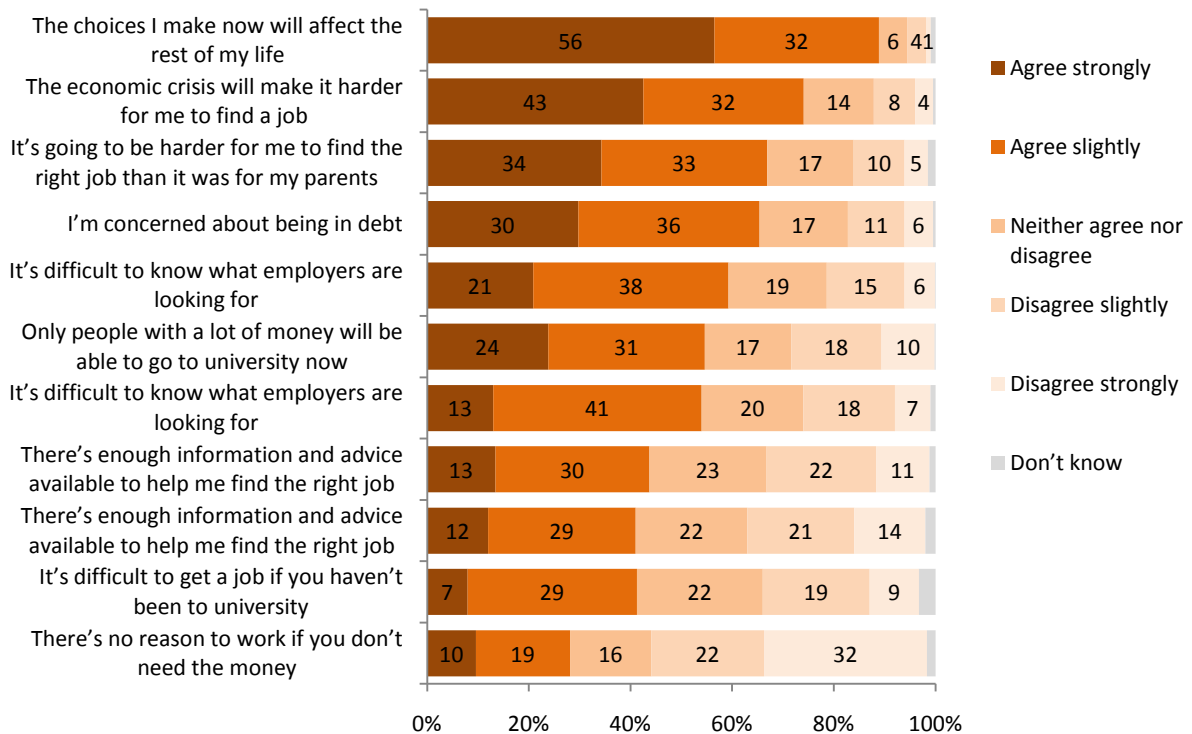
Base (only the ones still at school): 109

Figure 30: What do you think is the biggest challenge when trying to get into college or university?



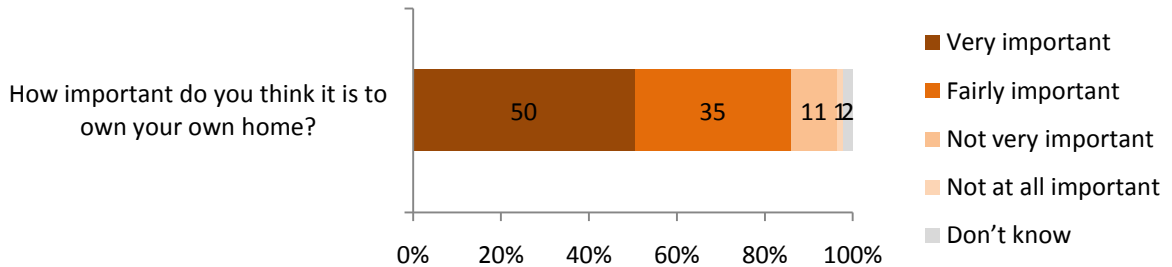
Base (only respondents still at school. The base excludes 3 missing case): 106

Figure 31: How much do you agree or disagree with these statements on the education system and the job situation?



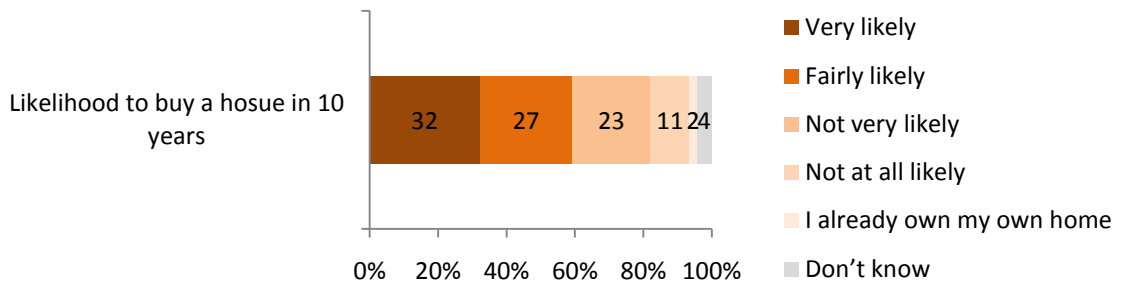
Base (all): 1,101

Figure 32: How important do you think it is to own your own home?



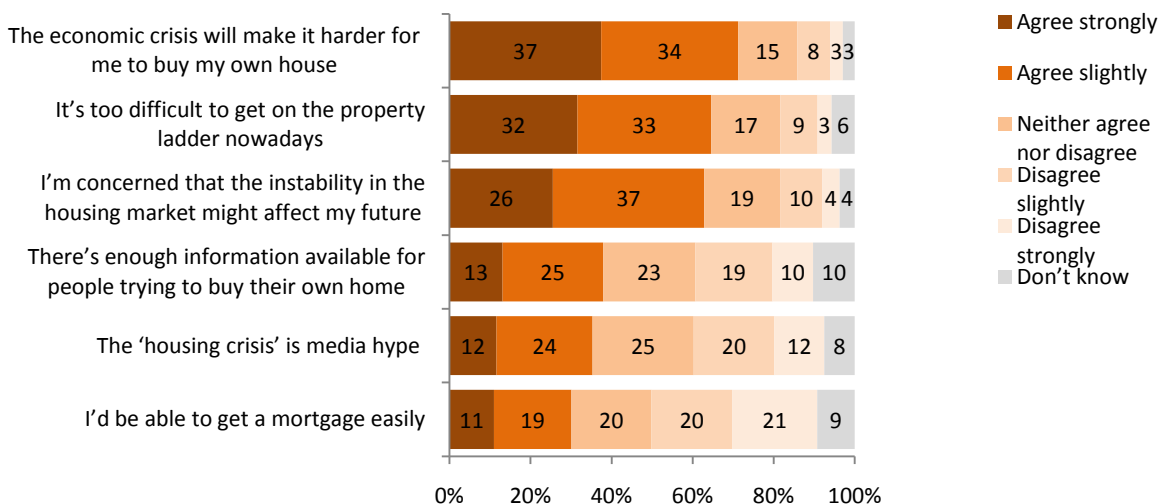
Base (all): 1,101

Figure 33: How likely do you think it is that you'll be able to buy your own place within the next 10 years?



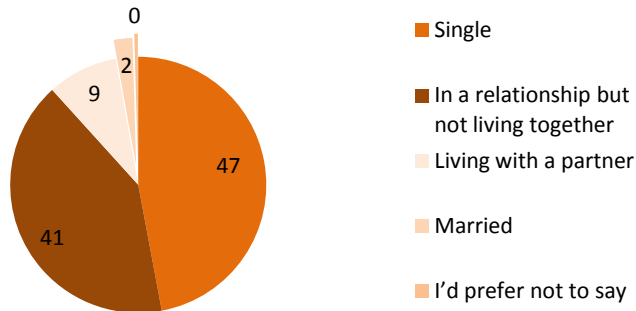
Base (all): 1,101

Figure 34: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



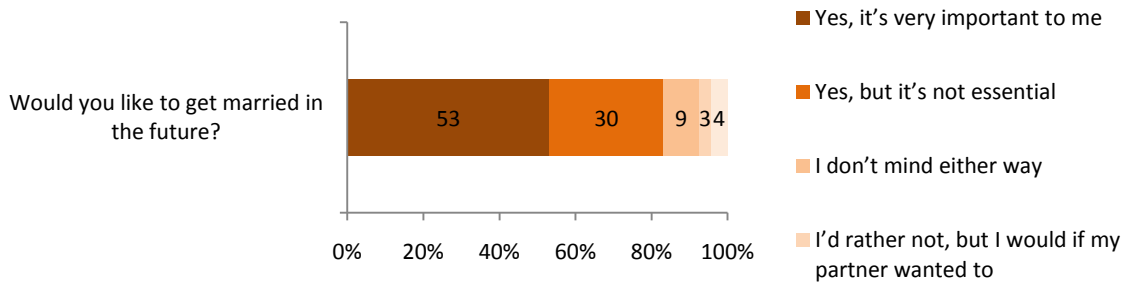
Base (all): 1,101

Figure 35: Are you...



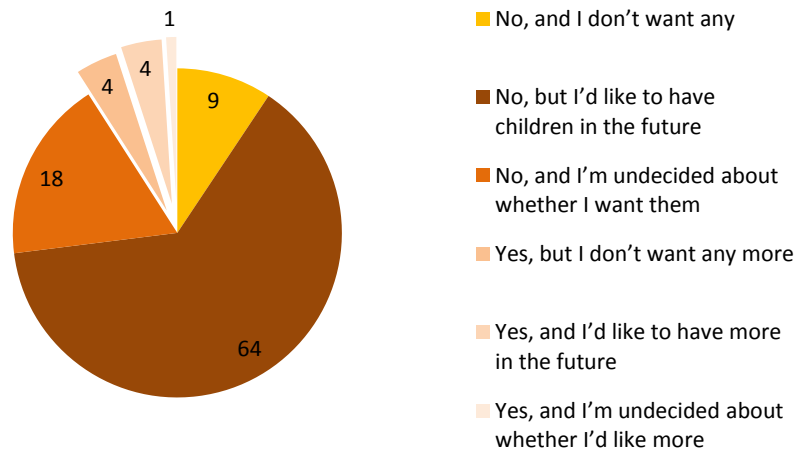
Base (all): 1,101

Figure 36: Would you like to get married in the future?



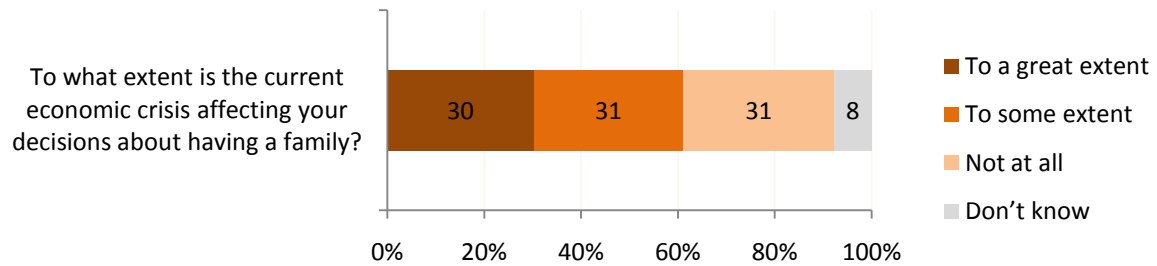
Base (only respondents not married. The base excludes 3 missing cases): 1,070

Figure 37: Do you have any children?



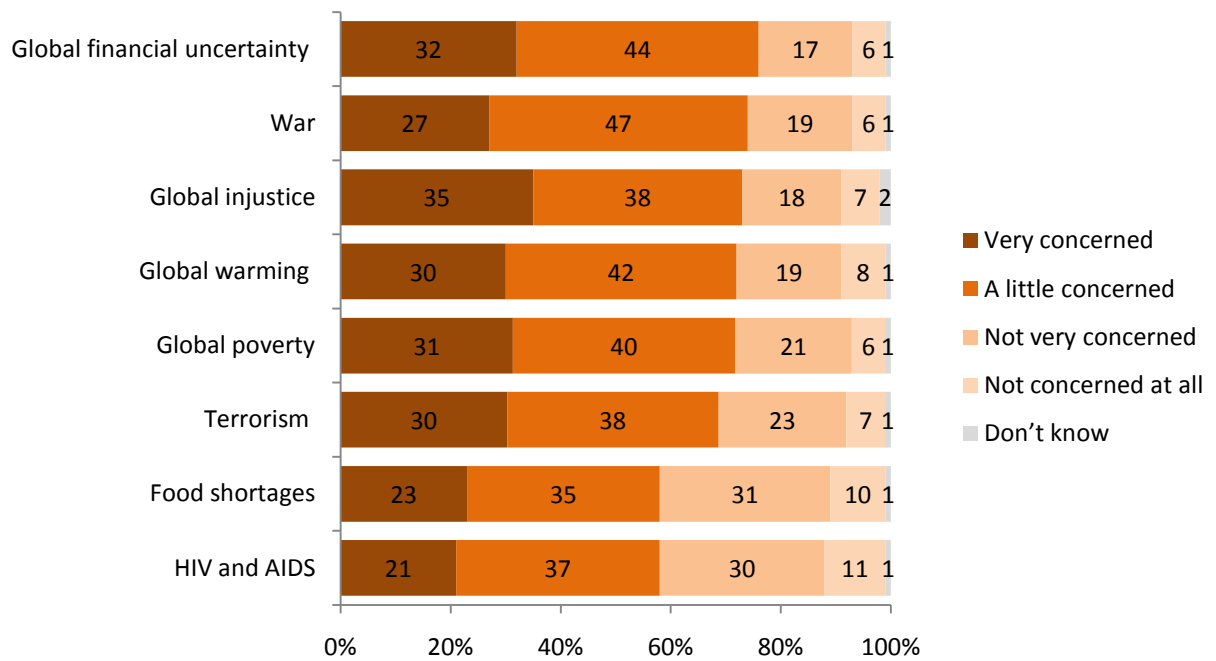
Base (all): 1,101

Figure 38: To what extent is the current economic crisis affecting your decisions about having a family?



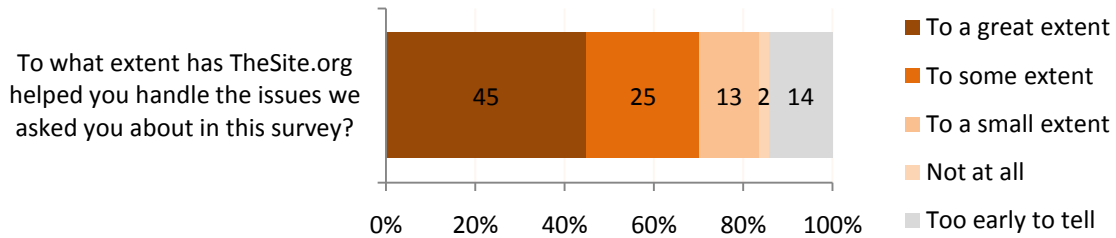
Base (all): 1,101

Figure 39: What about wider issues? How concerned are you about the following affecting you – or your children – in the future?



Base (all): 1,101

Figure 40: To what extent has TheSite.org helped you handle the issues we asked you about in this survey?



Base (only the ones using it. The base excludes 6 missing values): 974

Figure 41: Are you...

	Percent	Frequency
Male	39	431
Female	61	667
I'd prefer not to say	0	3

Base (all): 1,101

Figure 42: How old are you?

Age	Percent	Frequency
16	11	125
17	13	140
18	10	115
19	10	106
20	12	129
21	10	111
22	10	112
23	10	109
24	8	83
25	6	71

Base (all): 1,101

Figure 43: Where do you live?

Region	Percent	Frequency
North East	9	97
North West	16	171
Yorkshire and the Humber	14	159
East Midlands	9	102
West Midlands	7	76
Greater London	13	145
South East	13	140
South West	7	77
Wales	4	41
Northern Ireland	2	27

Scotland	5	51
Other location in the UK	1	15

Figure 44: Would you describe yourself as...

	Percent	Frequency
White – British	60	657
White – Irish	12	130
White – Gypsy or Irish Traveller	8	83
Any other white background	2	20
Mixed/multiple ethnic group – white and black Caribbean	1	12
Mixed/multiple ethnic group – white and black African	1	11
Mixed/multiple ethnic group – white and Asian	4	39
Any other mixed/multiple ethnic backgrounds	1	8
Asian/Asian British – Indian	2	24
Asian/Asian British – Pakistani	1	16
Asian/Asian British –Bangladeshi	1	10
Asian/Asian British – Chinese	1	6
Any other Asian/Asian British backgrounds	0	1
Black/black British – African	2	17
Black/black British – Caribbean	5	51
Any other black/black British backgrounds	0	3
Any other ethnic group	1	7
I'd prefer not to say	1	6

Base (all): 1,101

Figure 45: Would you consider yourself to have a disability or impairment?

	Percent	Frequency
Yes	20	216
No	79	872
I'd prefer not to say	1	13

Base (all): 1,101

9.3. Coding the open-ended questions

Wishes

Quality of life

- Have a secure and comfortable future-
- Emotionally comfortable
- Being able to live comfortably
- Comfortable living style
- Being comfortable
- A nice life
- Interesting life
- A better quality of life
- Beautiful life
- Having a dream ideal lifestyle.
- Better life
- Brilliant life

Ability to buy a house

- Having a house
- Getting own place
- Living in a house of my own
- Being on the property ladder
- Buying a house
- Owning a house
- Owning a house of my own with no mortgage

Being successful/ Being famous

- Achieving all goals in life
- Being able to make the most of any opportunities
- Getting the exact future planned
- Reaching full potential
- Making family proud.
- Achieving what I am capable of
- Being successful
- Becoming famous

Being healthy

- Being healthy
- Good health
- Recovering form a disease
- Body good

- Healthy body

Living in a better world

- World peace
- More peaceful and economically equal societies worldwide
- All political and economic conflict be solved
- Better economy
- Everyone can get a job.
- Fair
- For everyone to have a comfortable enough life to be happy
- For people to have a fair living
- for people to live in harmony with each other
- For the government to stop the cuts good people
- I wish people were kinder to each other. Selfishness, not money, is the root of all evil.
- I would wish that people would stop wanting more than that which they need.
- More equality and less violence in society
- Sustainable & efficient economy.
- To ensure human beings don't irrevocably destroy the planet.

Having a happy family

- Getting married
- Having a family
- Having a loving family
- Being happily married in
- Being able to get married with children
- Happy family
- A big happy family.
- Having children
- Having healthy children
- Settling down with one relationship
- Healthy family
- Stable family
- A strong, loving relationship
- Finding someone I can love and spend the rest of my life with.
- Being in love
- Not being single

Financial security

- Being to earn an income that will sustain a family
- Financial stability
- Being rich
- Financial security
- Stable income

- Debt-free
- Financially comfortable
- Financial security
- Decent income
- Having enough money to live comfortably
- Economic stability
- Not having to worry about debt
- Having a good wage
- Earning enough money to enjoy life
- Money security
- High income
- Earning money
- Money
- More money
- Being a billionaire
- Being wealthy
- Having a lot of money
- Winning some money

Happiness

- Being happy
- Happiness
- Being content with life in all aspects

Getting a job

- Job providing with an income that will sustain a family
- Good job
- Fulfilling job
- Having a Job that I love/ enjoy
- Mention of a specific job or career
- Stable/ settled job / career
- Successful career
- Having a career.
- Getting a dream job
- Job
- Finding a job
- Decent job

Fears

Debts/ money

- Becoming/ being homeless
- Being in debt
- Being declared bankrupt
- Being in financial crisis
- Being poor
- Being unable to live the lifestyle I believe is right for me
- Being unable to support myself or any family members
- Constantly struggling to live comfortably
- Buying a house I end up not being able to afford it
- Money worries
- Money problems
- Economic instability
- Money
- Not being able to earn enough money to do all the things I want to do
- Not having an income

Fulfilling ambitions

- Being unfulfilled,
- Becoming old and realising I've done nothing in my life.
- Being a person who people don't appreciate.
- Being in a job i don't enjoy
- Being in a dead end job.
- Being unable to find a good enough job
- Not getting into university
- Not getting my career aspirations
- Never coming close to or making my dreams.
- Being stuck in a job I hate
- Being stuck in a job that I don't enjoy.
- Being trapped in a job I hate
- Being trapped in a meaningless job.
- Being unsuccessful in my career
- Doing a job I don't like
- Doing a job you don't enjoy
- Dying without making any positive impact on the world.
- Failing
- Feeling unfulfilled
- Not finding a good job
- Not finding the right career path.
- Not finding the Right job
- Not finding a good job
- Having a career that I do not like
- Having no purpose in life.

- Degree and hard work wasted and
- Lack of opportunities to progress. limited security in jobs
- Making the wrong career decisions
- Not accomplishing the things i want to accomplish
- Not achieving my goals
- Not achieving all I could
- not achieving my dreams
- Not being able to become what i want to be
- Not being able to get the job I want
- Not being good enough for anyone
- Not doing well at university
- Not feeling fulfilled by the end of life
- Not finishing my degree
- Not fulfilling my potential
- Not having a purpose in life
- Not meeting my own expectations of myself career wise

Being alone/ not finding the right person/ no family

- Ending up alone
- Being alone
- Being single
- Dying alone
- Not finding the right person
- Ending up single
- Failing to start a family
- Having a lonely life
- Not falling in love
- Not finding someone who loves me back
- Not having children
- Not having children or husband
- Not meeting a partner.
- Not meeting the right person

Not finding a job or losing the current job

- Unemployment
- Not having a stable job
- No job
- Not finding a job
- Not getting a secure job
- Being unemployed long term
- Jobless
- lack of employment

- Losing job
- Redundancy

Crime and war

- Terrorism
- War
- The whole world being corrupt
- Nuclear war
- Problems within the community especially violence and situations similar to the riots and protests
- Safety and security

Unhappiness

- Everything seeming dark
- Being unhappy.
- Lacking content of my life.
- Long lasting unhappiness
- Not finding happiness
- Staying depressed

Death

- Losing a family member/ friend
- Death
- Death of loved ones
- Dying
- Loved ones dying

Poor health

- Bad health
- Mention of a specific disease
- Becoming terminally ill.
- Mental/psychological wellbeing.
- Living in a care home
- Disease
- Getting a disabling illness
- Health
- Ill health
- Illness

Inability to buy a home

- Not able to get a house
- Not being able to afford a home on my own
- Not being able to buy a house
- Not being able to get a mortgage

- Not being able to get on the property ladder
- Not being able to have a nice place to live(own)
- Still be living at home.

Global warming or environmental issues

- Rise in the amount of disregard for the environment
- Natural disaster
- Global melt down
- Humans damaging the planet
- Running out of space for food for everyone
- Running out of natural resources
- That the human race will cause their own extinction by continuing to destroy the planet
- Unsustainable energy sources.