

NCPS

Student EDI

Survey

2026



Introduction

We know from our most recent EDI survey that many of the barriers people face begin long before they join a professional body. The cost of training, of supervision, of the time it takes to qualify, how training fits around students' lives and work... all these things determine who even feels able to step into a counselling training room, let alone go on to build a career in the profession.

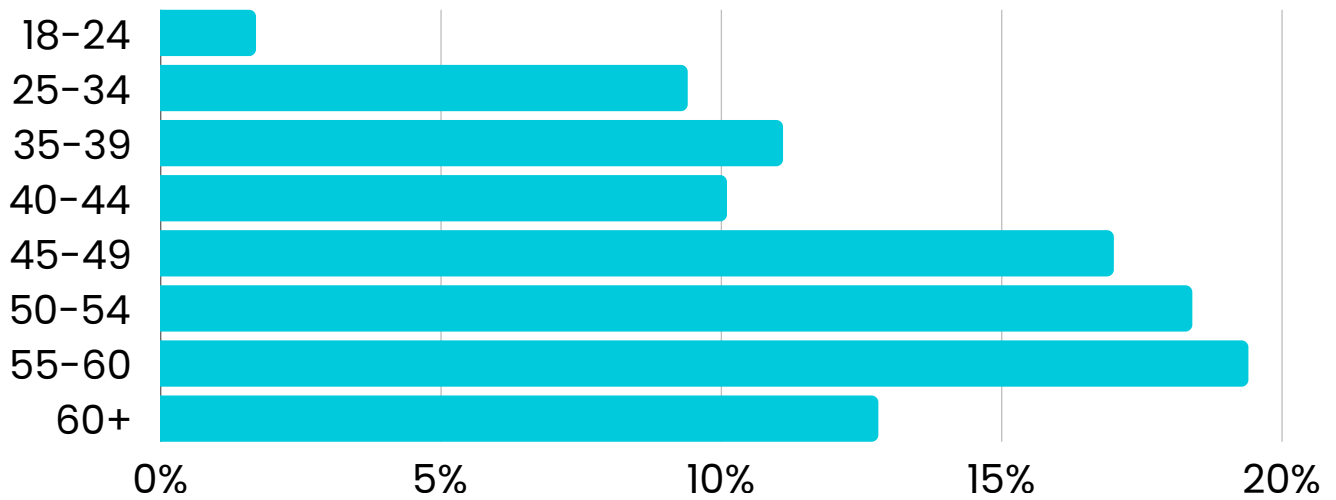
We sent this survey to our NCPS student members, asking them to share information about their backgrounds and circumstances. We want to understand who is in training right now, and what their experiences are, so that we can build a clearer picture of the people entering the profession and the factors that shape their journey.

We will run the survey annually to see how these findings change over time and how they compare with our wider membership data. Over time, this will help us understand who enters training, who goes on to qualify, and where barriers may prevent people from completing their journey which gives us a better understanding of how we can support them.

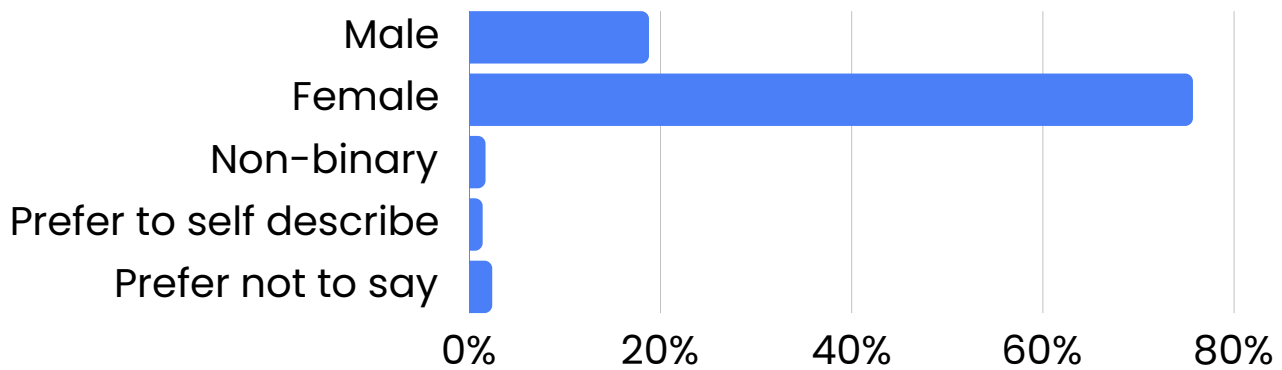
At this first stage, this survey aims to provide a snapshot of who is undertaking counselling and psychotherapy training, including their backgrounds, experiences and circumstances.

As always, we welcome your thoughts, comments, and feedback, and look forward to working with our members to create a profession where all those with the emotional and relational skills to become counsellors and psychotherapists are welcomed and encouraged to do so.

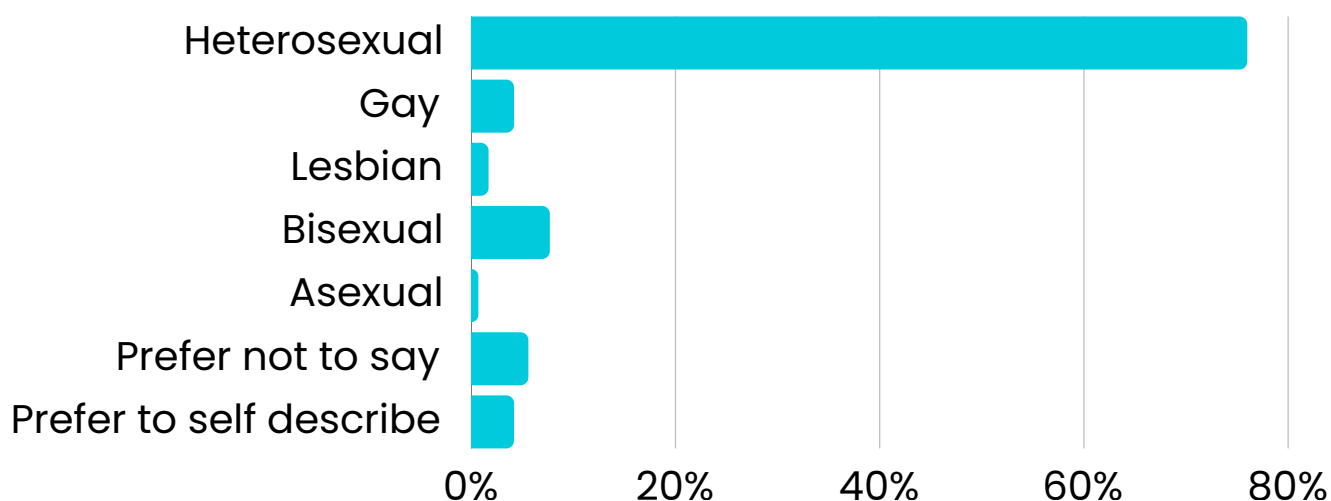
Q1 – Please select your age group.



Q2 – Which of the following best describes your gender identity?



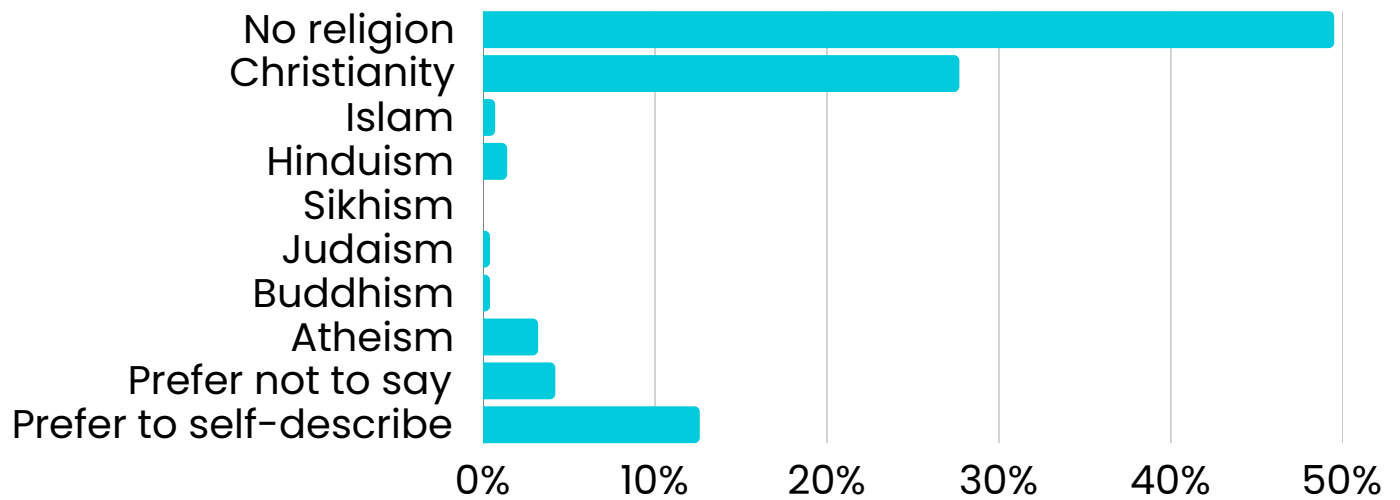
Q3 – Which of the following best represents your sexual orientation?



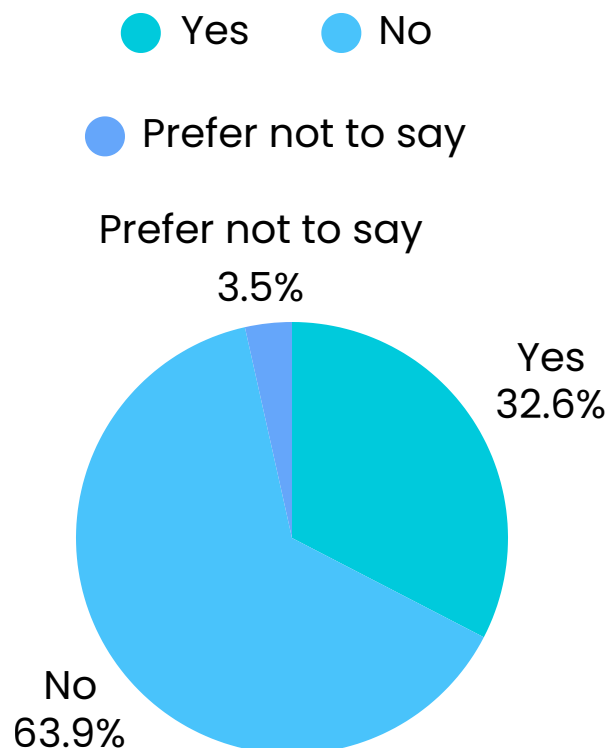
Q4- Which of the following best describes your ethnic background?

The majority of respondents identified as White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British (68.1%), followed by Other White (10.4%) and White: Irish (3.1%). Smaller proportions identified as White and Black African (2.0%), Black Caribbean (2.1%), Indian (1.7%), Black African (1.7%), Other Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups (1.4%), White and Asian (1.0%), White and Black Caribbean (1.0%), Chinese (0.7%), Other Black (0.7%), Any other ethnic group (0.7%), Bangladeshi (0.3%), Other Asian (0.3%), and Arab (0.3%). No respondents identified as Pakistani, Gypsy or Irish Traveller, or Roma (0.0%). Additionally, 3.1% preferred not to say, while 1.0% preferred to self-describe.

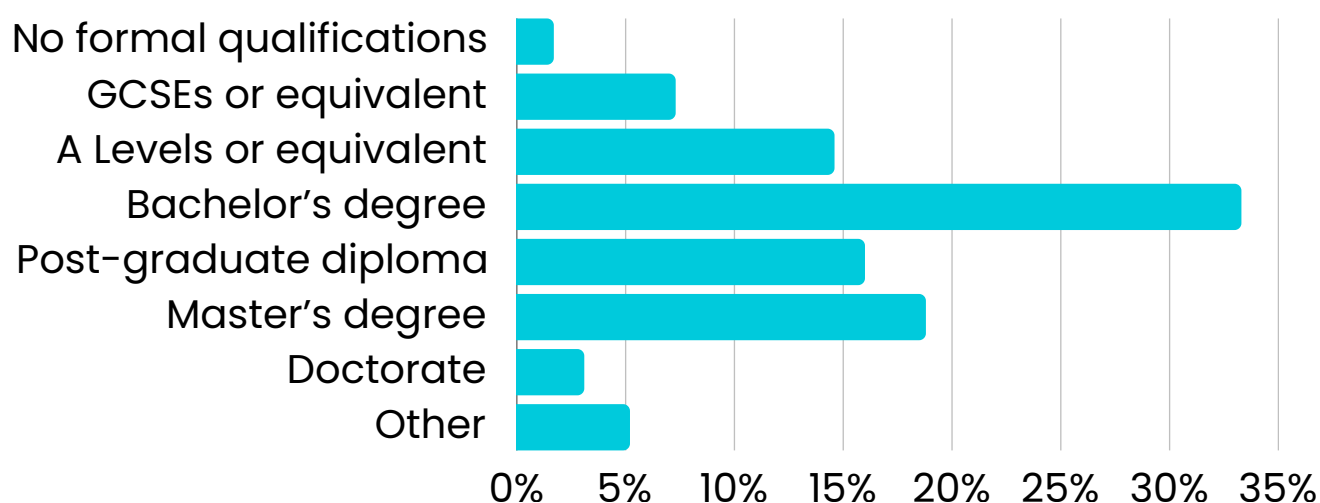
Q5- Which of the following best describes your religious belief, if any?



Q6 - Do you consider yourself to have a disability or health condition?



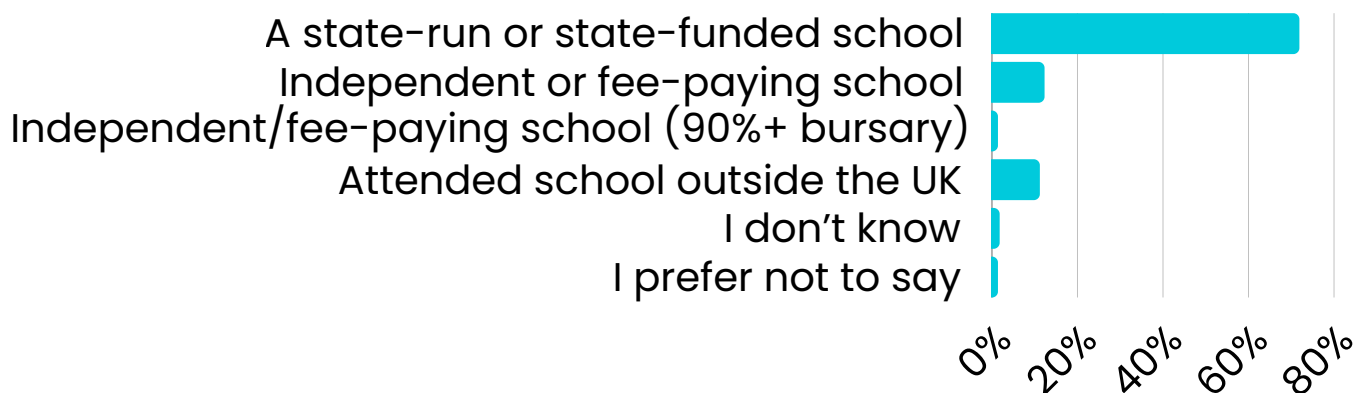
Q7 – What is the highest level of education you have completed?



Q8 – What was the occupation of your main household earner when you were about 16?

The largest proportion of respondents reported that the highest earner in their household worked in modern professional or traditional professional occupations (28.1%). This was followed by senior, middle or junior managers or administrators (12.2%), clerical and intermediate occupations (11.8%), routine, semi-routine manual and service occupations (11.1%), technical and craft occupations (10.1%), small business owners (9.0%), prefer not to say (8.3%), other (6.3%), and long-term unemployed (3.1%). Respondents selecting 'Other' described a range of occupations and circumstances, including agriculture/farming, the military, social care, domestic abuse support, nursing, policing, utilities, music, retirement, unpaid caregiving, mental ill-health, and households with no current earner.

Q9 – Which type of school did you attend for the most time between the ages of 11 and 16?



Q10 – If you finished school after 1980, were you eligible for free school meals at any point during your school years?

