

HOMES FIT FOR STUDY

STUDENT EXPERIENCES OF PRIVATELY RENTED ACCOMODATION

2022



STUDENTS
ORGANISING FOR
SUSTAINABILITY
UNITED KINGDOM

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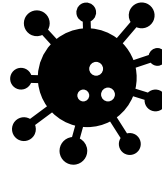
SUMMARY

Students living in private rented accommodation told us...



72%

Say they're satisfied with their current accommodation



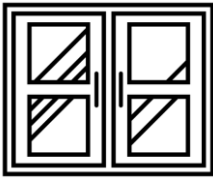
31%

Say they've experienced damp or mould on walls or ceilings in their current accommodation



30%

have experienced condensation in their current accommodation



33%

Say their accommodation is poorly insulated/draughty



57%

Agree they limit the length of time they have their heating on to save money on energy bills



39%

Agree they have felt uncomfortably cold in their current accommodation

ABOUT THE RESEARCH

Introduction

Students' experiences of the private rented sector are commonly associated with areas of poorly heated, low quality, dense, urban accommodation, accompanied by a widespread cultural expectation that it is acceptable for students to live in housing with these characteristics. NUS and SOS-UK have been tracking students' experiences of living in the private rented sector since 2013.

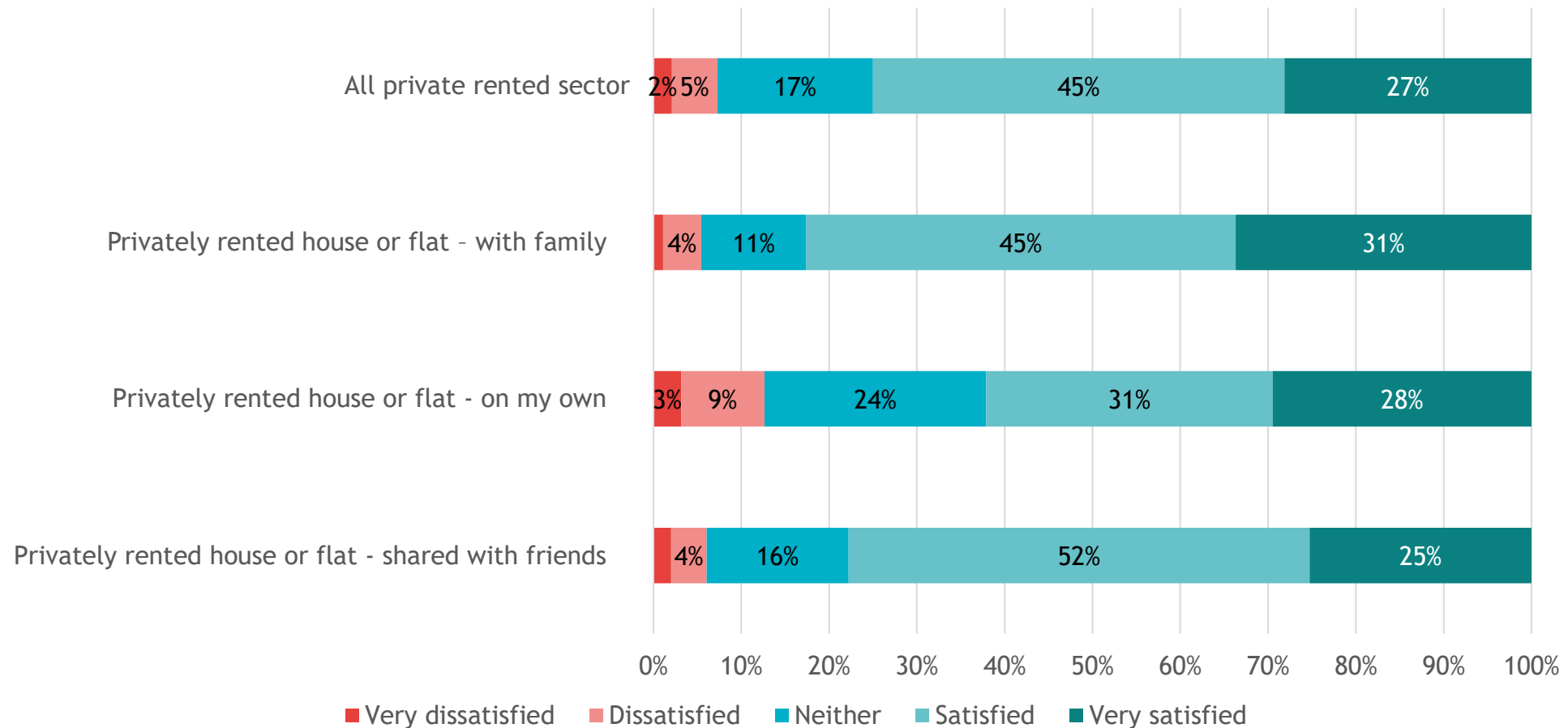
In 2022, we carried out a short survey via NUS' monthly omnibus survey to TOTUM discount card holders to understand specific experiences related to energy use and experiences of cold homes. 331 students living in privately rented accommodation completed the survey.

The private rented accommodation includes students living:

- In a private rented house or flat - with family
- In a private rented house or flat - on their own
- In a private rented house or flat - shared with friends

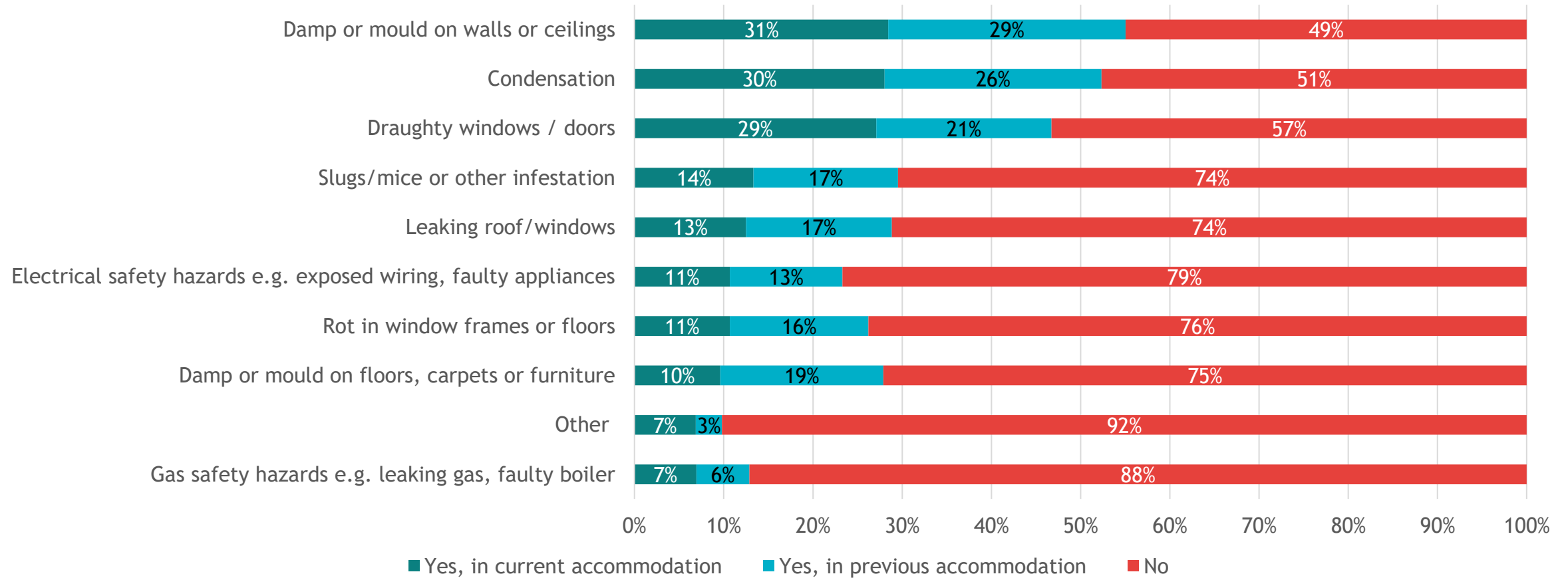
RESEARCH FINDINGS

72% of respondents say they're satisfied or very satisfied with their current accommodation, across the private rented sector overall.



Q. Overall, how satisfied are you with your current term-time accommodation? Base 333. Balance: don't know, rather not say, no response.

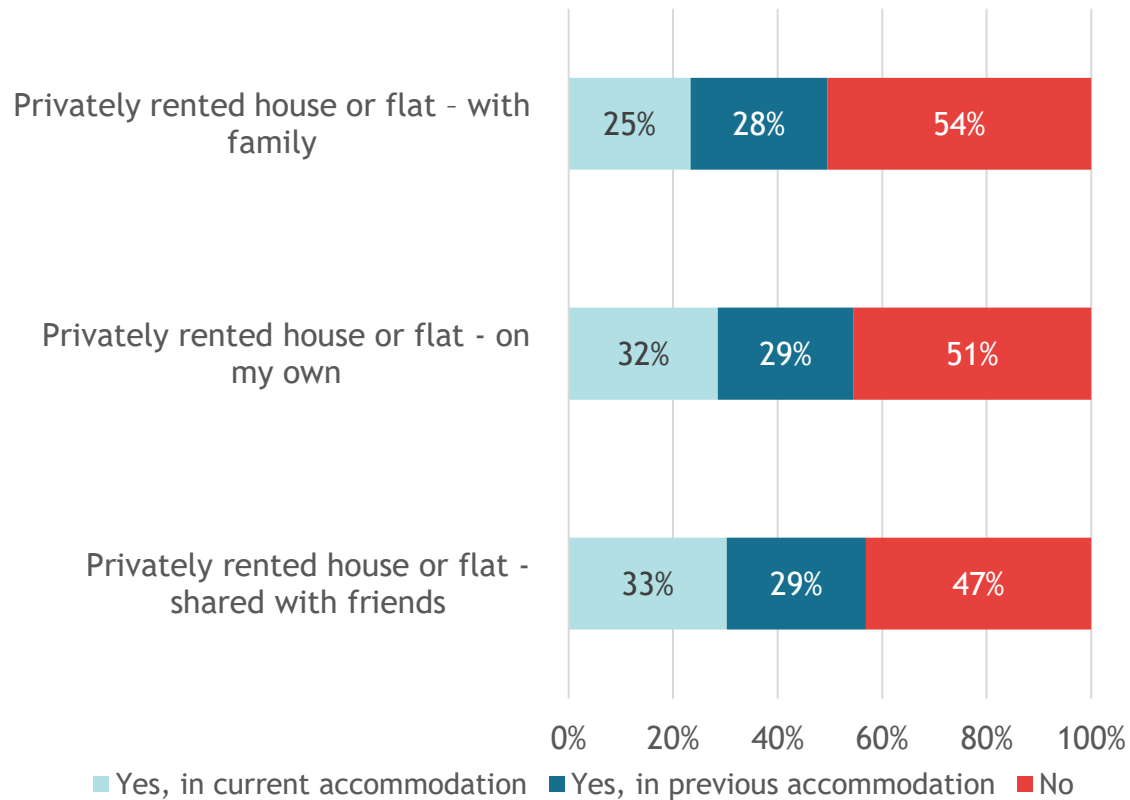
Around a third of respondents report experiencing damp or mould on walls/ceilings, condensation and draughty windows/doors in their current accommodation in the private rented sector overall.



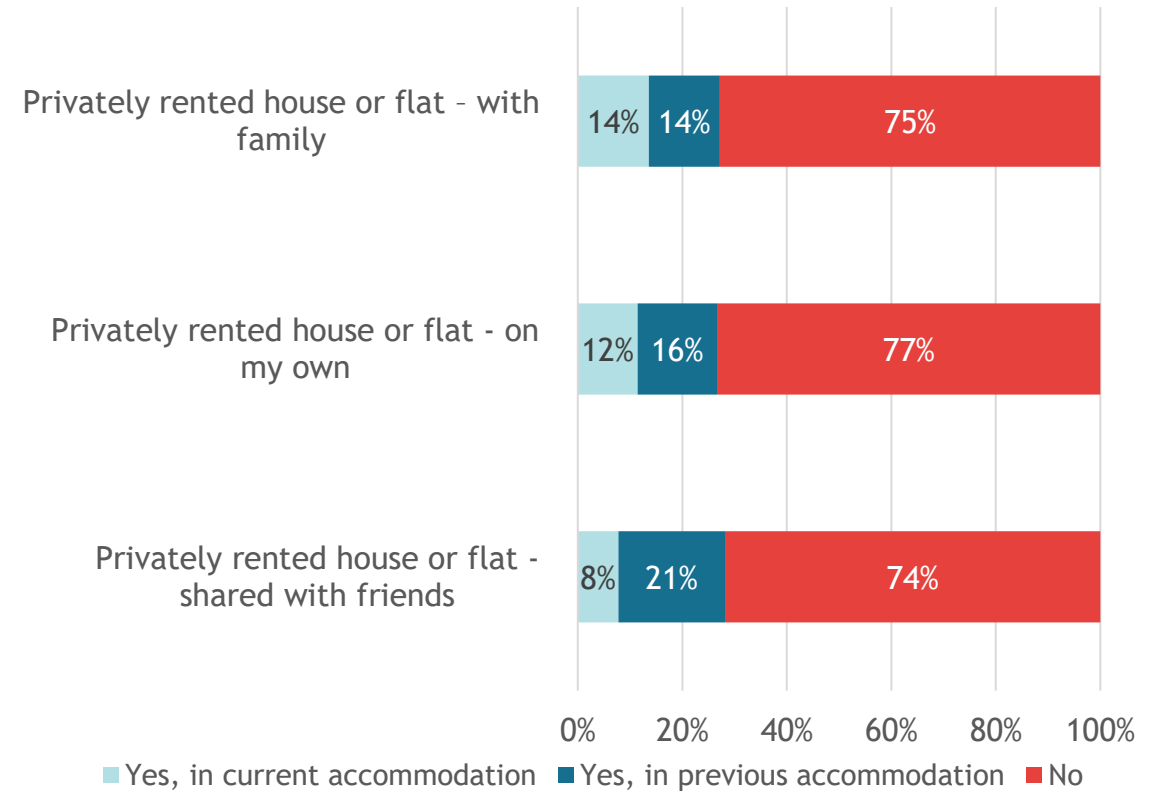
Q. Are/were the following present in your current, or previous homes you have rented whilst you have been a student? Base 381. Balance: No response

The following charts show the different experiences across different areas of the private rented sector:

Damp or mould on walls or ceilings

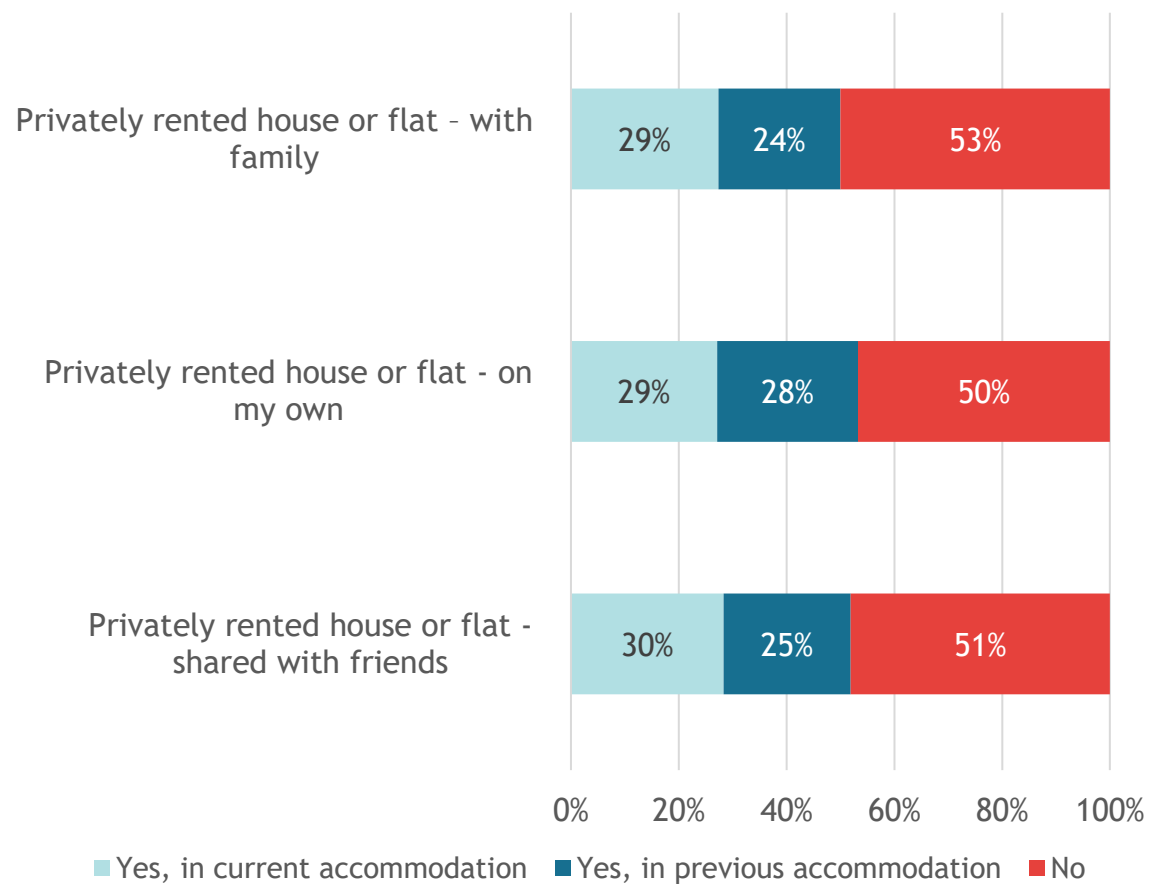


Damp or mould on floors, carpets or furniture

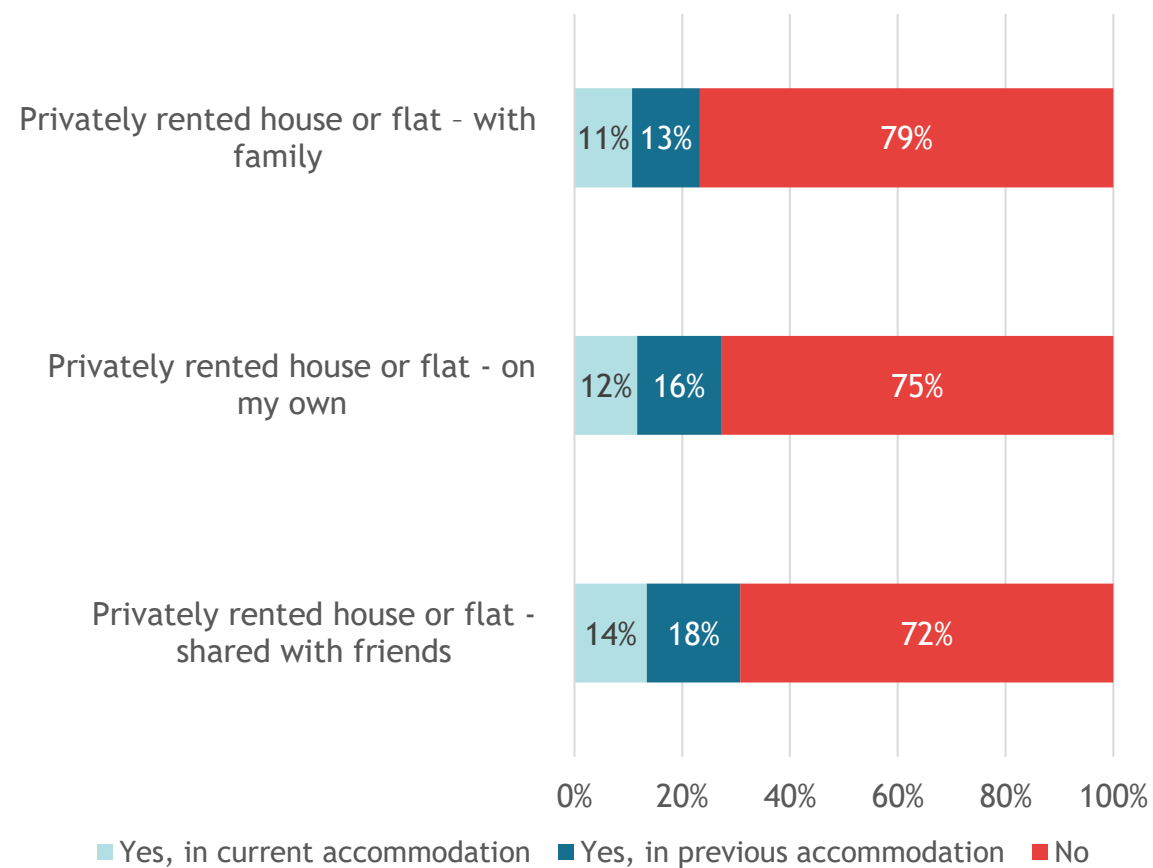


Q. Are/were the following present in your current, or previous homes you have rented whilst you have been a student? Base 381. Balance: No response

Condensation

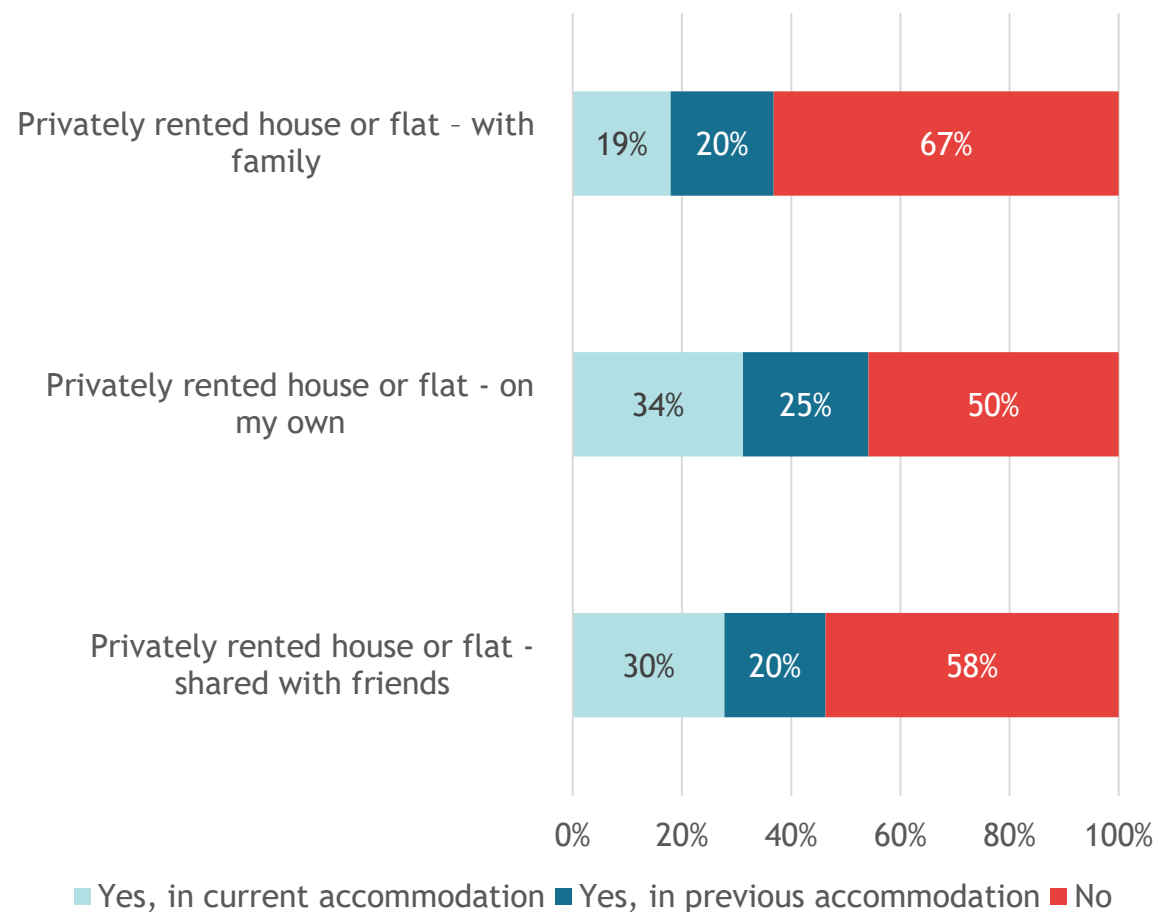


Leaking roof/windows

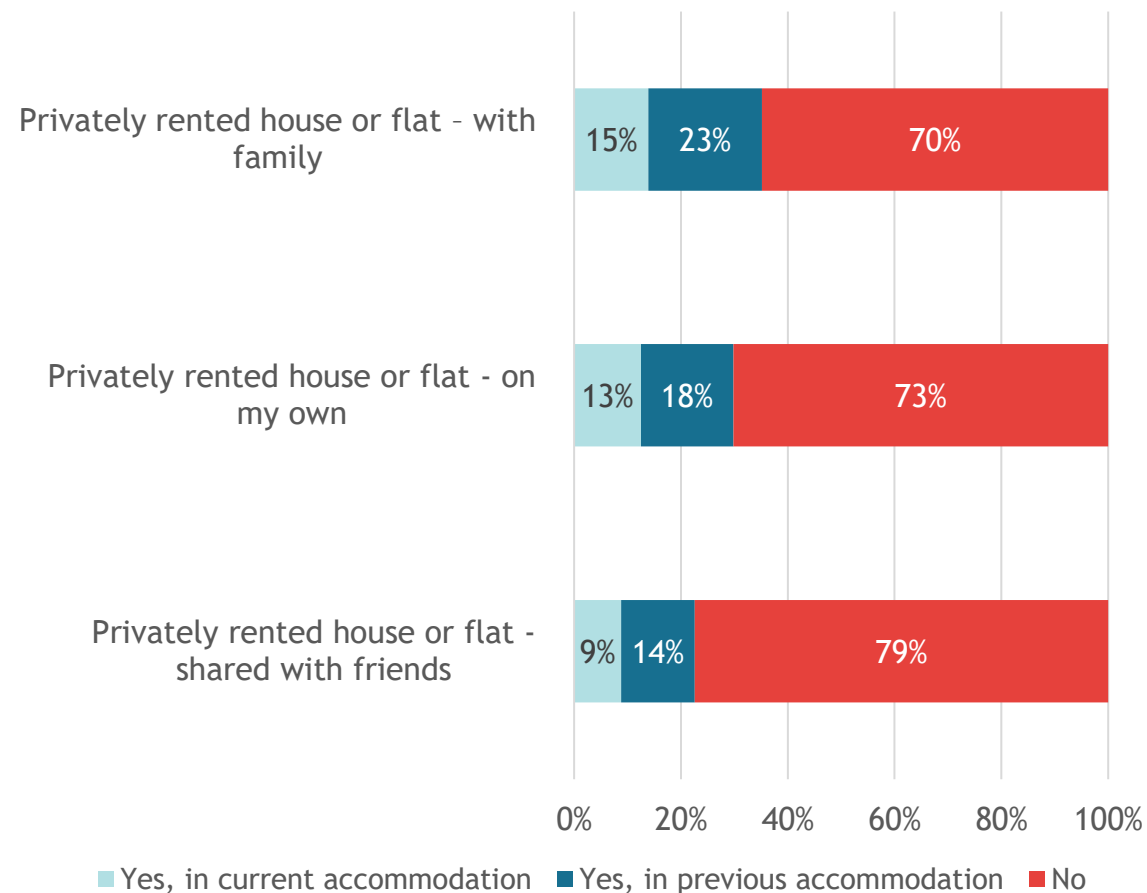


Q. Are/were the following present in your current, or previous homes you have rented whilst you have been a student? ? Base 379

Draughty windows / doors

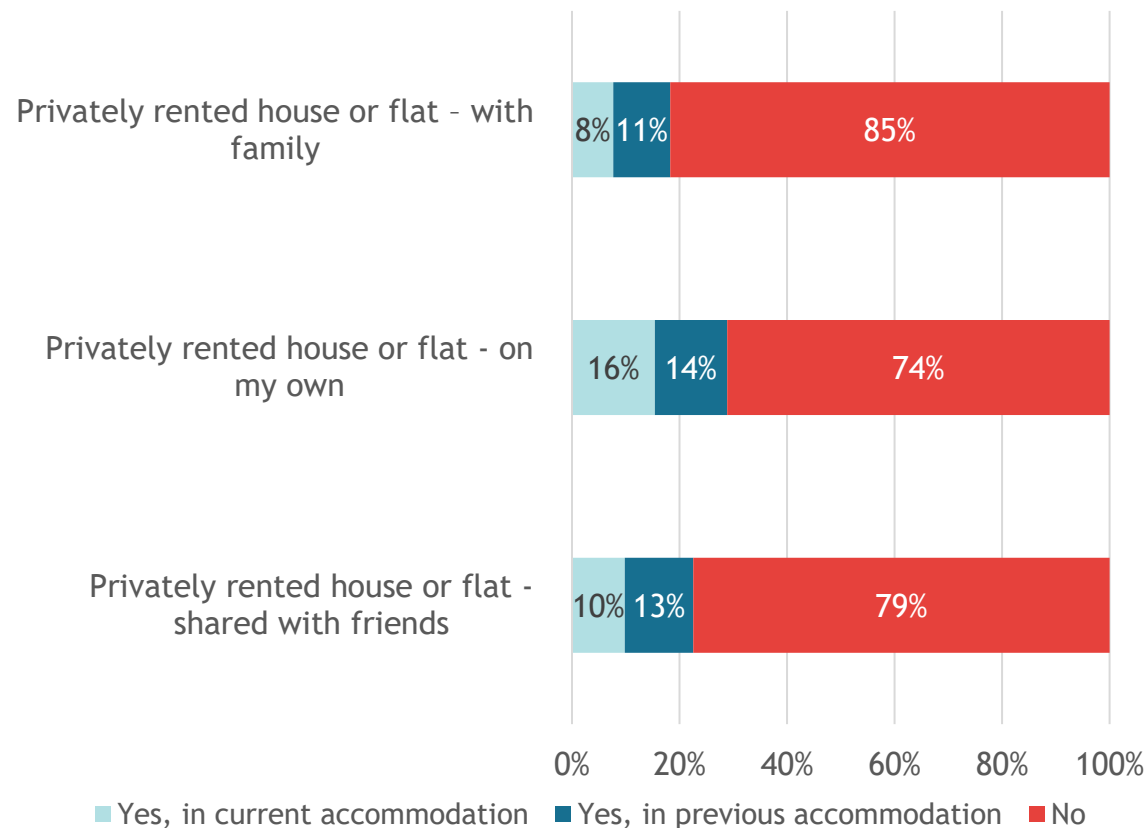


Rot in window frames or floors

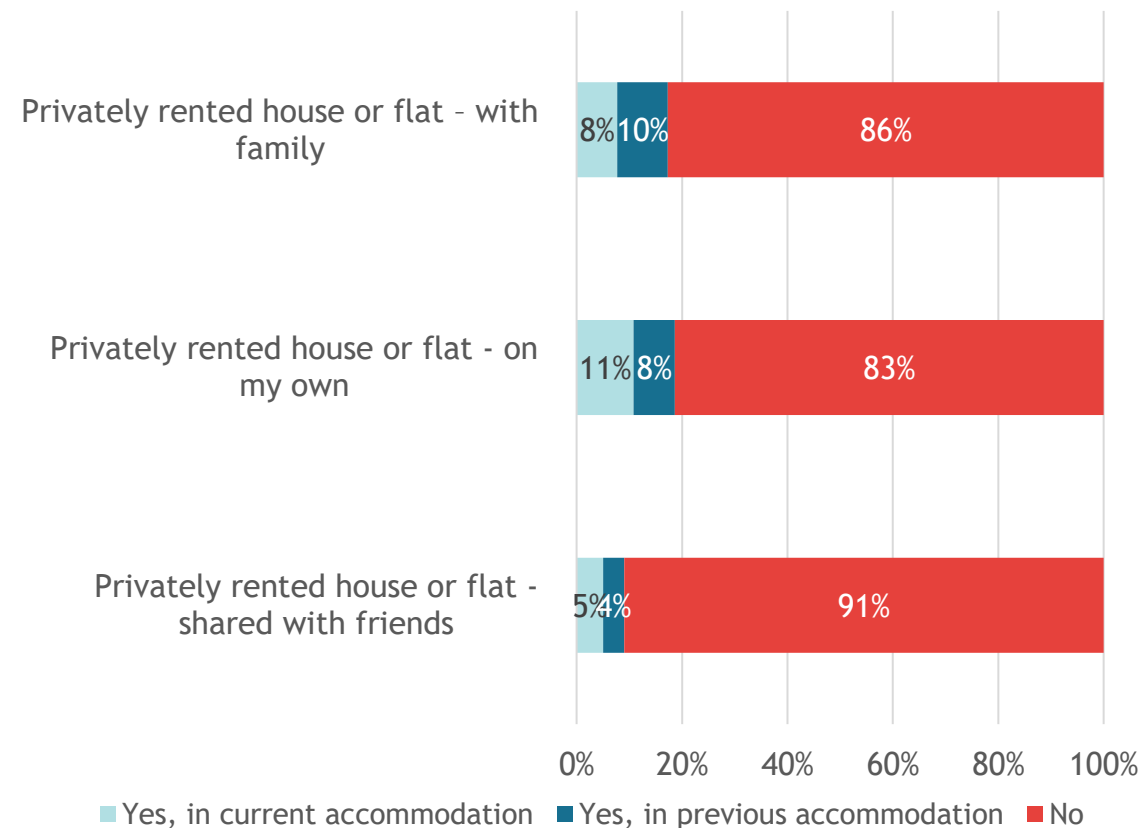


Q. Are/were the following present in your current, or previous homes you have rented whilst you have been a student? ? Base 381

Electrical safety hazards e.g. exposed wiring, faulty appliances

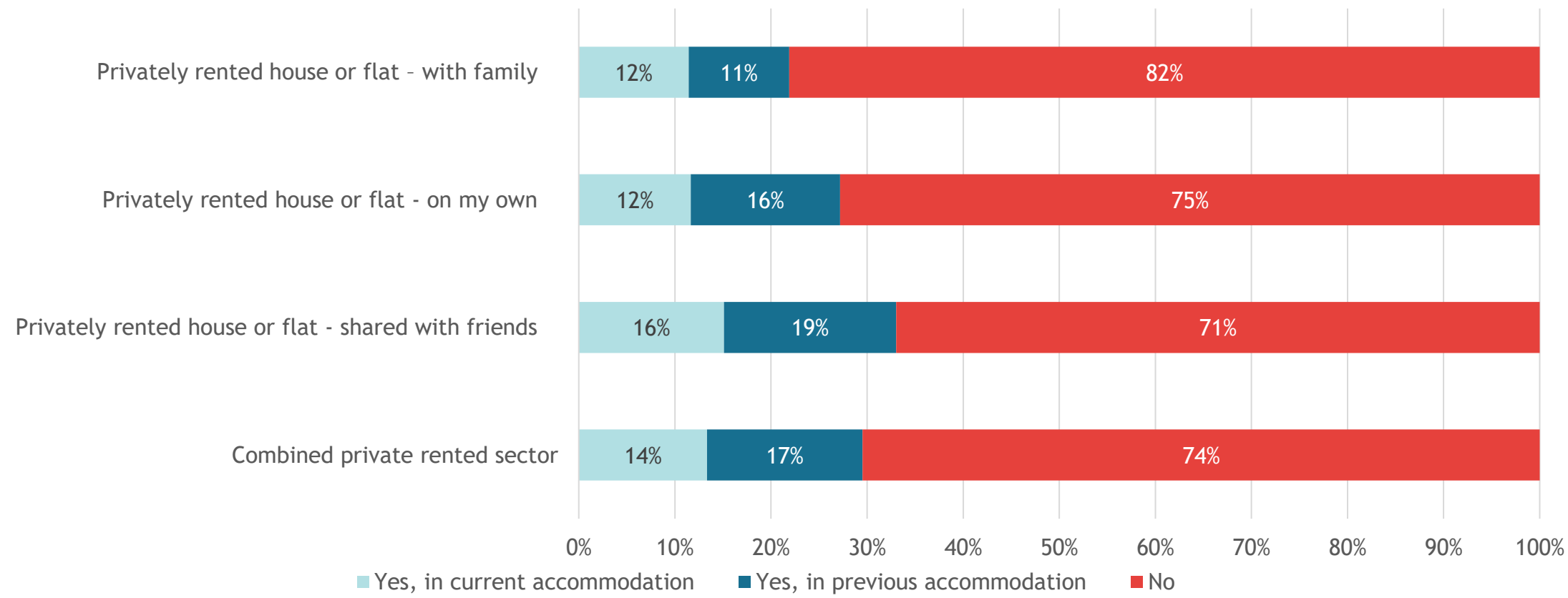


Gas safety hazards e.g. leaking gas, faulty boiler



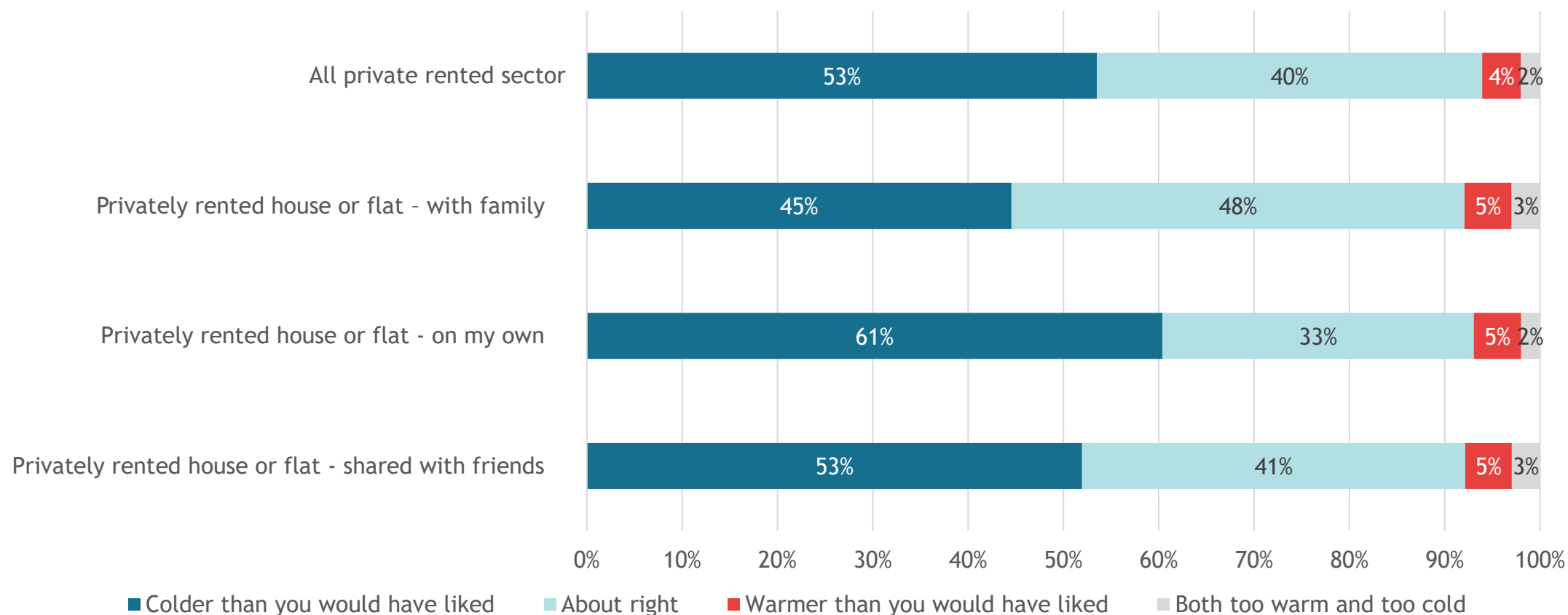
Q. Are/were the following present in your current, or previous homes you have rented whilst you have been a student? ? Base 381

The majority of respondents have not experienced infestation. One fifth of students living in rented homes with their friends have experienced infestation in previous accommodation.



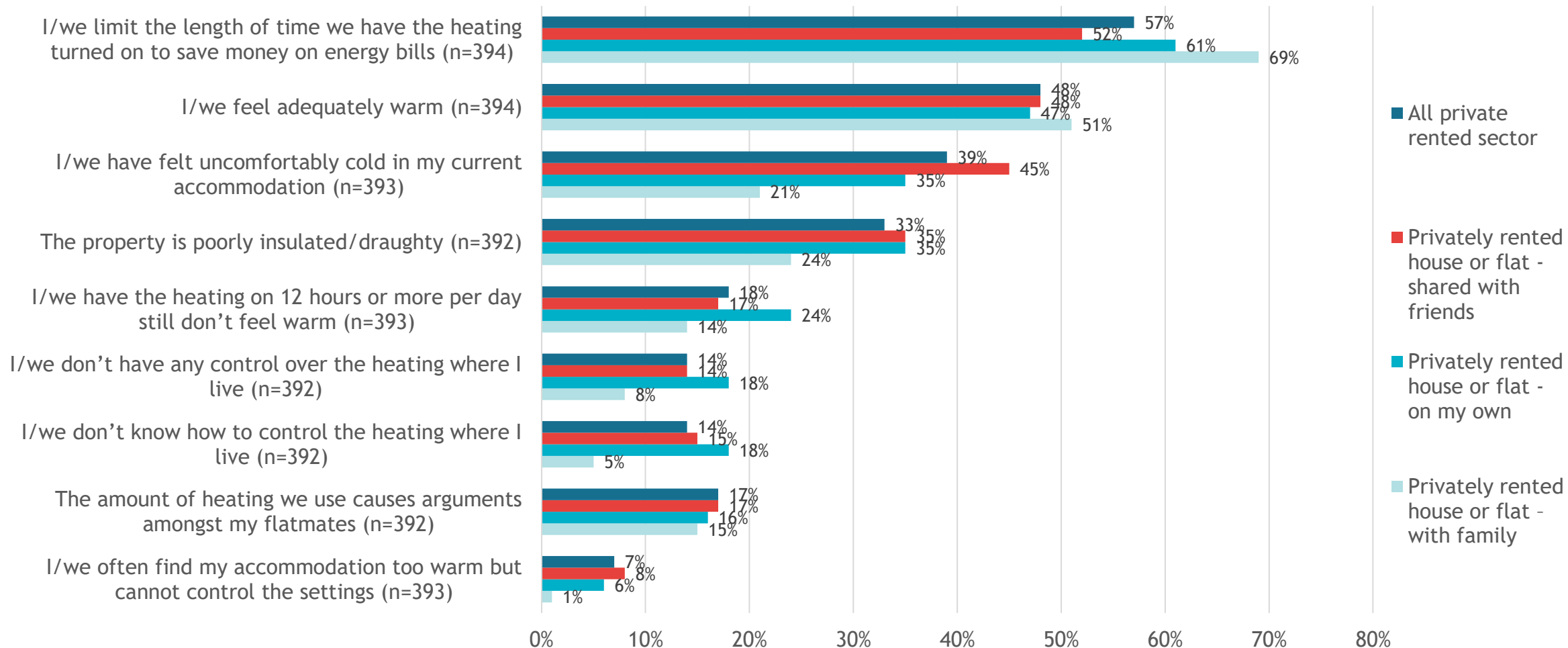
Q. Are/were the following present in your current, or previous homes you have rented whilst you have been a student? ? Base 378

Students living in privately rented accommodation are more likely to say they feel colder than preferred than warmer. Over half (53%) say the level of warmth is colder than they would like in their current accommodation.



Q. How would you describe the overall level of warmth in your current accommodation so far this winter? Is it...? Base 390. Balance: no response

Over half (57%) of respondents in privately rented accommodation limit their heating time to save money on energy bills. 39% say they have felt uncomfortably cold in their current accommodation.

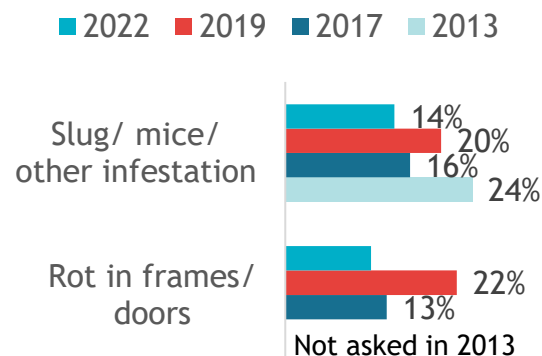


Q. Thinking about the heating in your accommodation, please tell us to what extent do you agree, if at all, with the following statements? Base: see graph. Balance: disagree, strongly disagree, don't know, rather not say

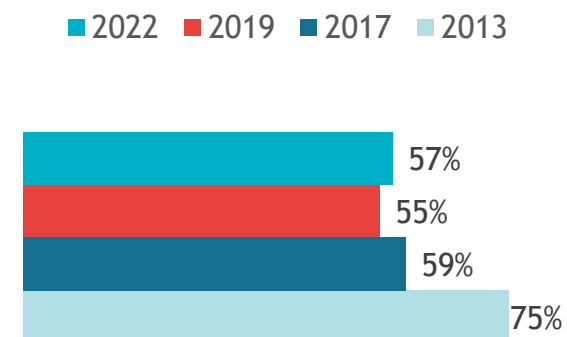
COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS RESEARCH

Notable changes and similarities over the years

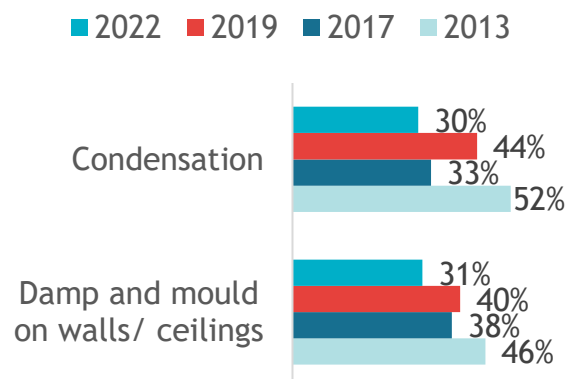
Respondents report issues such as rot in window frames/ doors and slugs/mice or other infestation less frequently



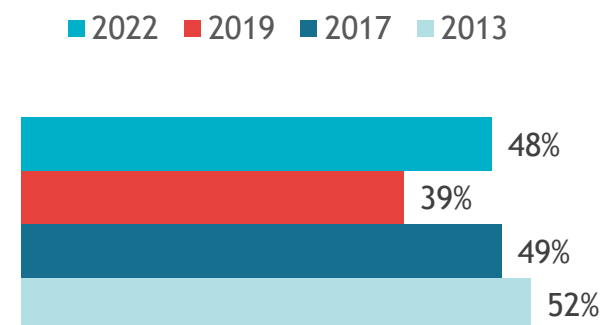
Over half of respondents limit the time they leave their heating on to save money on energy bills.



Despite being at lower rates than previous years, renters issues, such as damp, mould and condensation, are still persistent in private rented accommodation.



Around half of respondents say they feel uncomfortably cold in their private rented accommodation, with the figure dropping to two fifths in 2019



RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

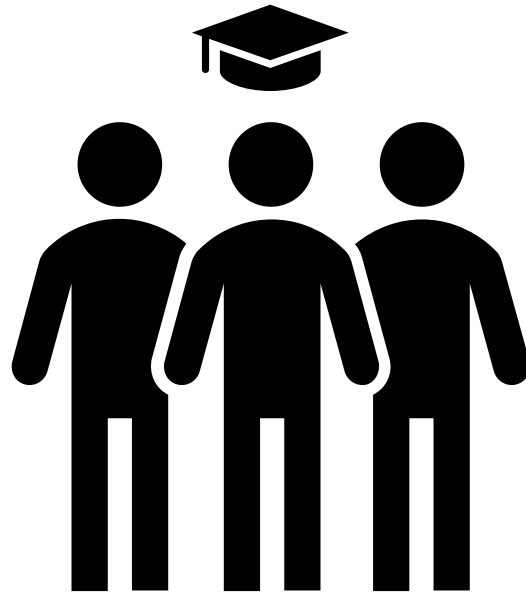
The Sample

72% of participants are at university

61% of participants are White British, and over three quarters are UK citizens who study in the UK.

One fifth of students live in university owned halls of residence

96% of participants are under 30 years old



58% of participants are undergraduates in their first year

Just over 500 student renters completed the survey

44% of students live in the South of England (inc. London)

For more information about our research and programmes, please visit our [website](#) or email hello@sos-uk.org