

Key findings

Context

Profile of respondents

Working hours

Time for research activities

Impact on research

External peer reviewing activities

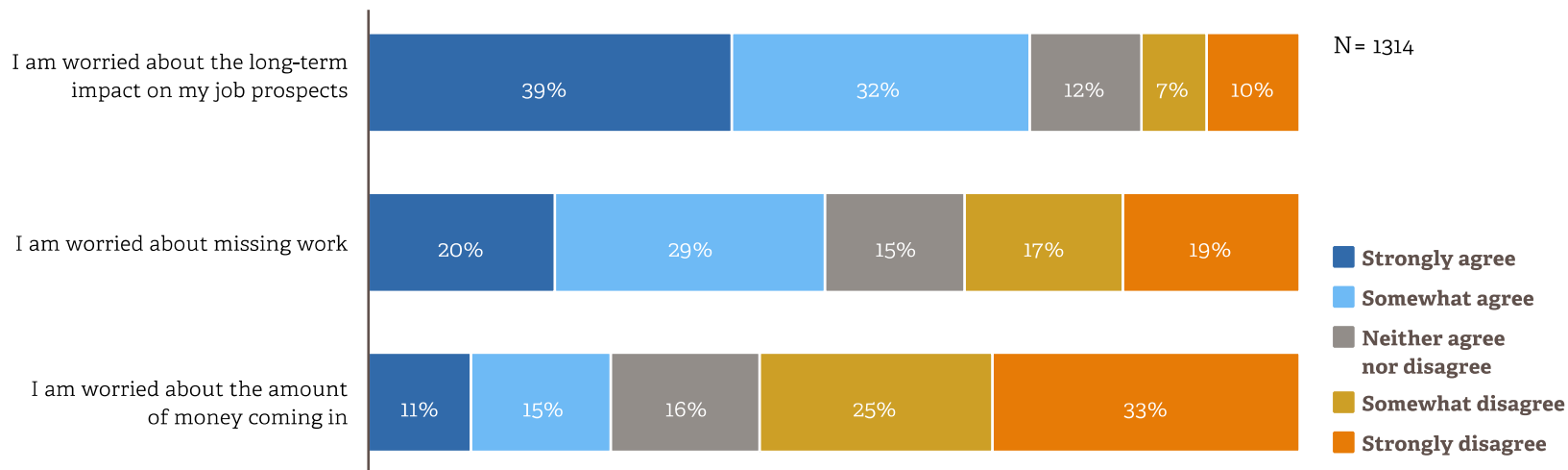
Funder support

Health and wellbeing

Next steps

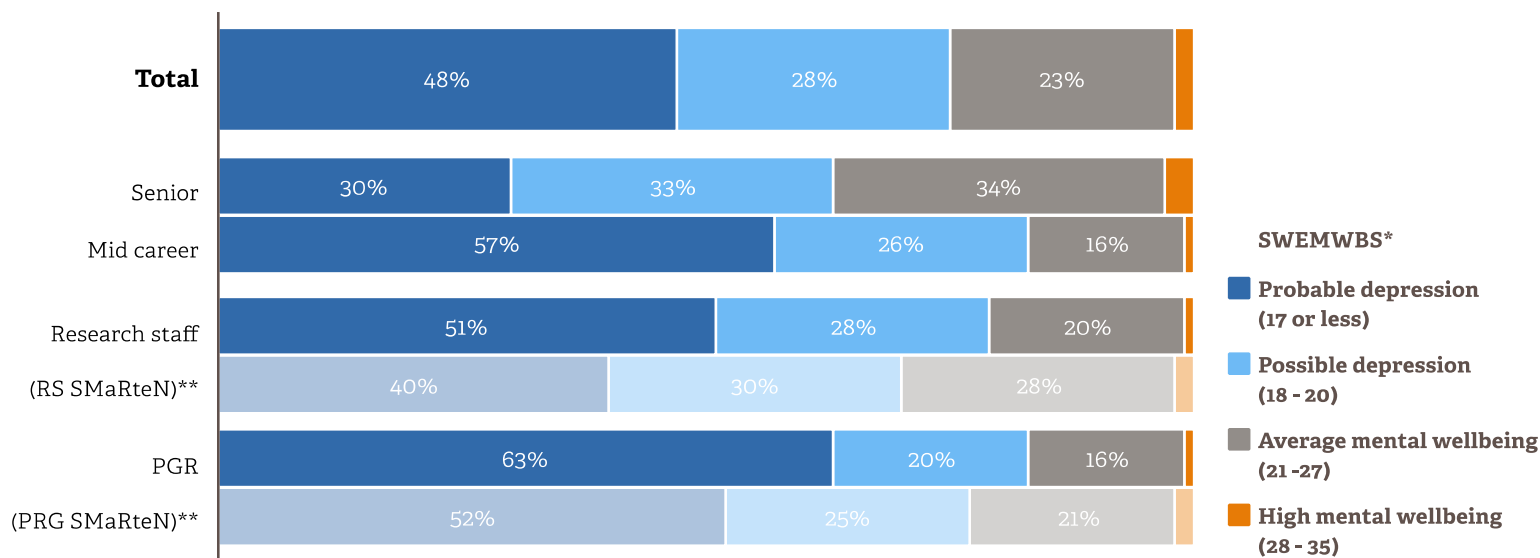


PGRs, women and carers most concerned about the long-term impact of Covid on their job prospects



- **71% agreed they were worried about the long-term impact on their job prospects, particularly PGRs (89%) and research staff (88%) with more than half of both these groups strongly agreeing they were worried about their prospects.**
- **49% were worried about missing work, increasing to around 73% of PGRs (40% strongly agreeing). 45% of PGRs also reported being worried about the amount of money they had coming in (6% of PGRs were self-funded).**
- **60% of those with caring responsibilities were concerned about missing work, compared with 44% of those without.**
- **Female researchers were more concerned about the long term impact on their job prospects (75%) and missing work (54%) than male researchers (65% and 43%, respectively).**
- **Panels A & B strongly agreed that they were concerned about the long term impact on their job prospects (41%) compared to Panel C (30%) and Panel D (28%). Panels A & B also were more likely to be worried about missing work (51%) than Panel C (37%) and Panel D (44%).**

PGRs, research staff and mid career researchers reported poor levels of mental wellbeing



- **PGRs (63%), mid-career researchers (57%) and research staff (51%) exhibited high levels of probable depression. The SMarTeN / Vitae survey in April 2020, a month after the initial Covid-19 lockdown, also recorded high levels of mental distress in PGRs and research staff.**
- **There were minimal differences by gender, REF Panel or with caring responsibilities.**
- **The ONS reported 21% of adults in Great Britain experiencing depressive symptoms in early 2021, more than double pre-Covid levels.*****

* Short Warwick Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (SWEMWBS) © NHS Health Scotland, University of Warwick and University of Edinburgh, 2008. This widely adopted scale is used nationally and internationally in clinical and community settings. <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/med/research/platform/wemwbs/about/use>

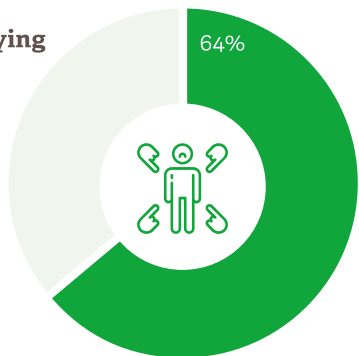
** Impact of Covid-19 on doctoral researchers and research staff, 2020, SMarTeN / Vitae <https://www.smartent.org.uk/covid-19-study.html>

*** Coronavirus and depression in adults, Great Britain: January to March 2021. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/articles/coronavirusanddepressioninadultsgreatbritain/januarytomarch2021>

11% experienced bullying and harassment over the last year - two thirds reporting more than pre-Covid

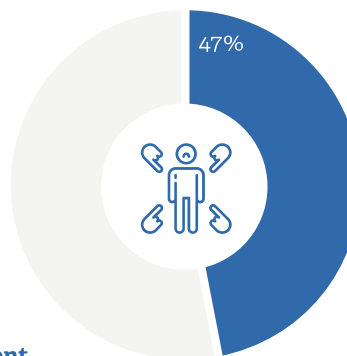
11% experienced bullying and harassment over the last year of Covid-19 restrictions: 13% of women and 7% of men (N=1253)

Of those that experienced bullying and harassment
(N=133, small sample)

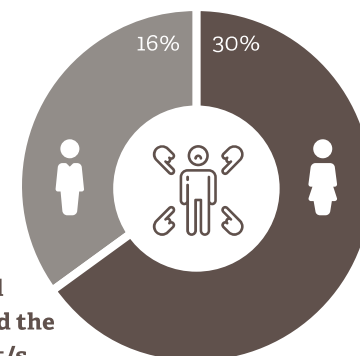


64% reported this as more than before Covid-19 restrictions

47% had sought support within their research group/department



24% had reported the incident/s



Comparative data:

Wellcome Trust: What Researchers Think About the Culture They Work In 2020

43% reported experiencing bullying and harassment sometime during their research career; 49% women, 34% men (2019; N=4267, 76% in UK; 58% mid and senior career, 37% research staff)

<https://wellcome.org/reports/what-researchers-think-about-research-culture>

Vitae: CEDARS 2020 Aggregate UK results

25% of mid and senior researchers reported experienced bullying and harassment in the last two years; 26% women, 20% men.

17% of research staff experienced B&H in the last two years; 22% women, 13% men (2020; N=3025; 62% mid and senior career, 29% research staff)

<https://www.vitae.ac.uk/impact-and-evaluation/cedars/culture-employment-and-development-in-academic-research-survey>

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Uses for the survey data

- **UKRI, BEIS and other interested organisations will use this data to understand the current and anticipated impact of Covid-19 on researchers and research and to track changes in pressures on this sample since June 2020. This information will be used by UKRI to better understand the needs of the sector at this point in time and to inform potential future action, including ongoing work to support healthy research culture and environments.**
- **Vitae will use the results to inform their work related to the Researcher Development Concordat in improving the research culture and the mental health and wellbeing of researchers. Specifically, Vitae will explore the results with their wellbeing and researchers' careers working groups.**