

# Report of the Voice snapshot survey on Covid-19: 6 months on from lockdown

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Contact: [media@bva.co.uk](mailto:media@bva.co.uk)

# Introduction

- The BVA Voice of the Veterinary Profession survey panel had been paused during 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic
- Six months on from the national lockdown we decided to run a small snapshot survey to “take the temperature” of BVA members to understand how concerned they are feeling about a number of areas that have been impacted (or may be impacted) by Covid-19.
- A snapshot survey using Survey Monkey was sent to members of the BVA Voice of the Veterinary Profession survey panel (2086 members) on Tuesday 29 September.
- A follow up reminder email was sent to those who had not opened the original email on Wednesday 7 October and the survey closed on Wednesday 14 October.
- We had 565 responses which is a 27% response rate.



# Question areas

## Demographics

Area of work

Employment status

Region

Age

## Health and wellbeing

Risk of contracting Covid in your workplace

Stress and burnout for yourself

Stress and burnout for your colleagues

Stress and burnout in the profession generally

## Finance and employment

Financial sustainability of the veterinary sector

Job security in the vet sector

Job security in your area of work

Potential impact of a recession on the vet sector

Potential impact of a recession on your workplace

## Students and new grads

Impact on student and new grad confidence

Ability of workplaces to provide EMS placements

## Animal health and welfare

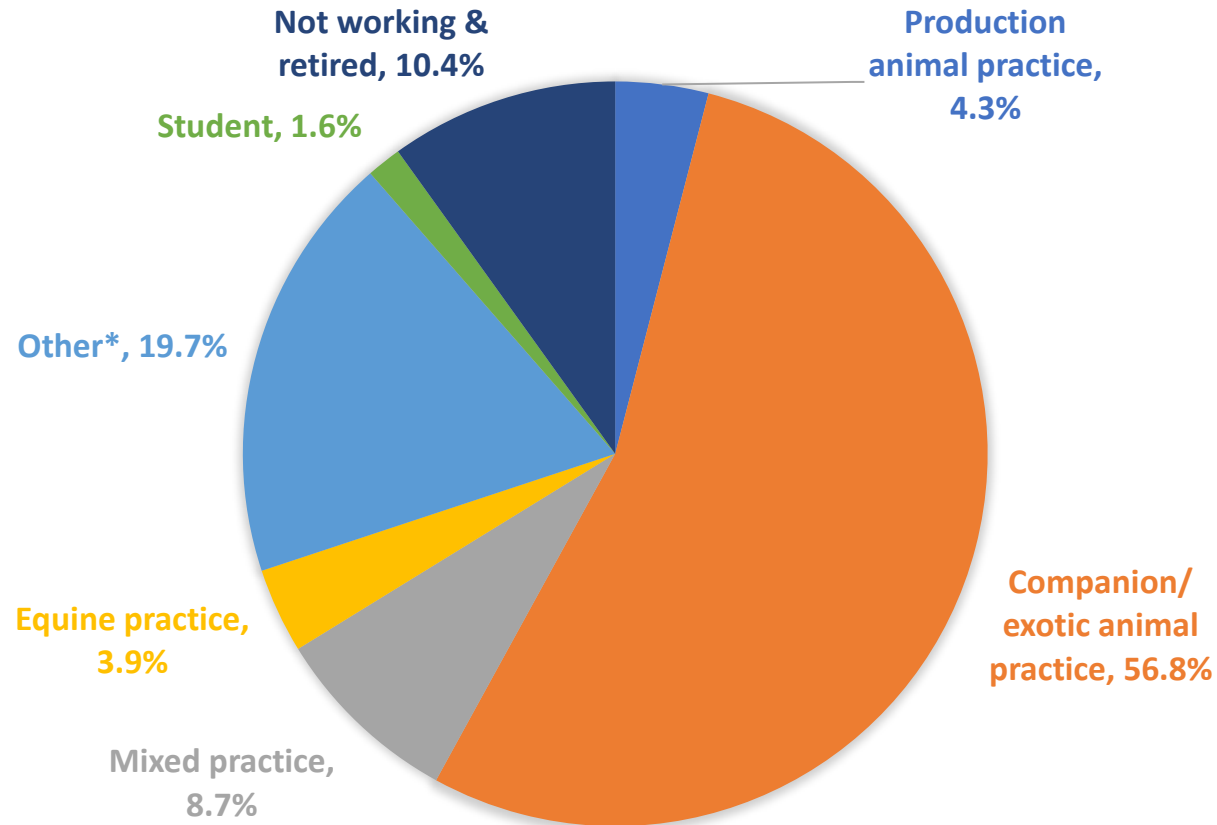
Impact on companion AHW in the medium term

... equine health and welfare ...

... production AHW ...

... wildlife and zoo AHW ...

# Demographics: area of work



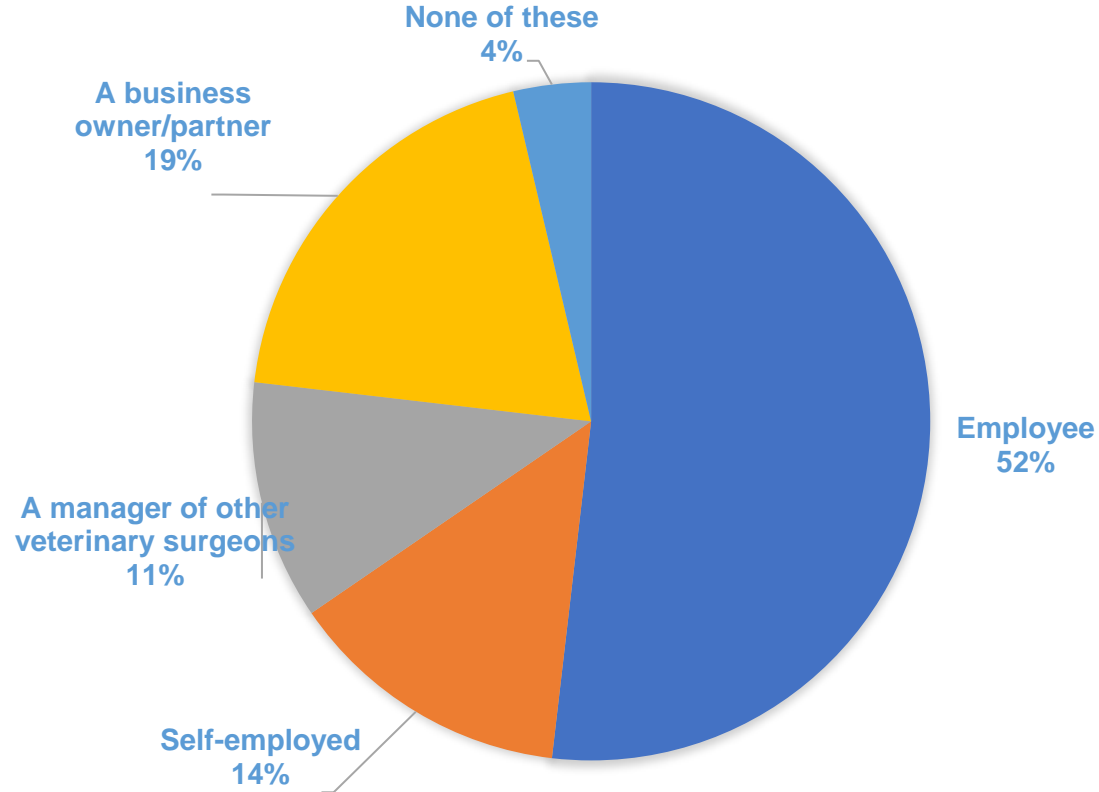
Just over half of the respondents are in small animal/exotics practice (54%).

\*Other veterinary roles account for one fifth including charity 2%, government 3%, academia 3%, industry 4%, meat hygiene 1%, research/lab 1%, and other 5%).

Note: respondents could select more than one response

# Demographics: employment status

Q2. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY WORKING, WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBES YOU



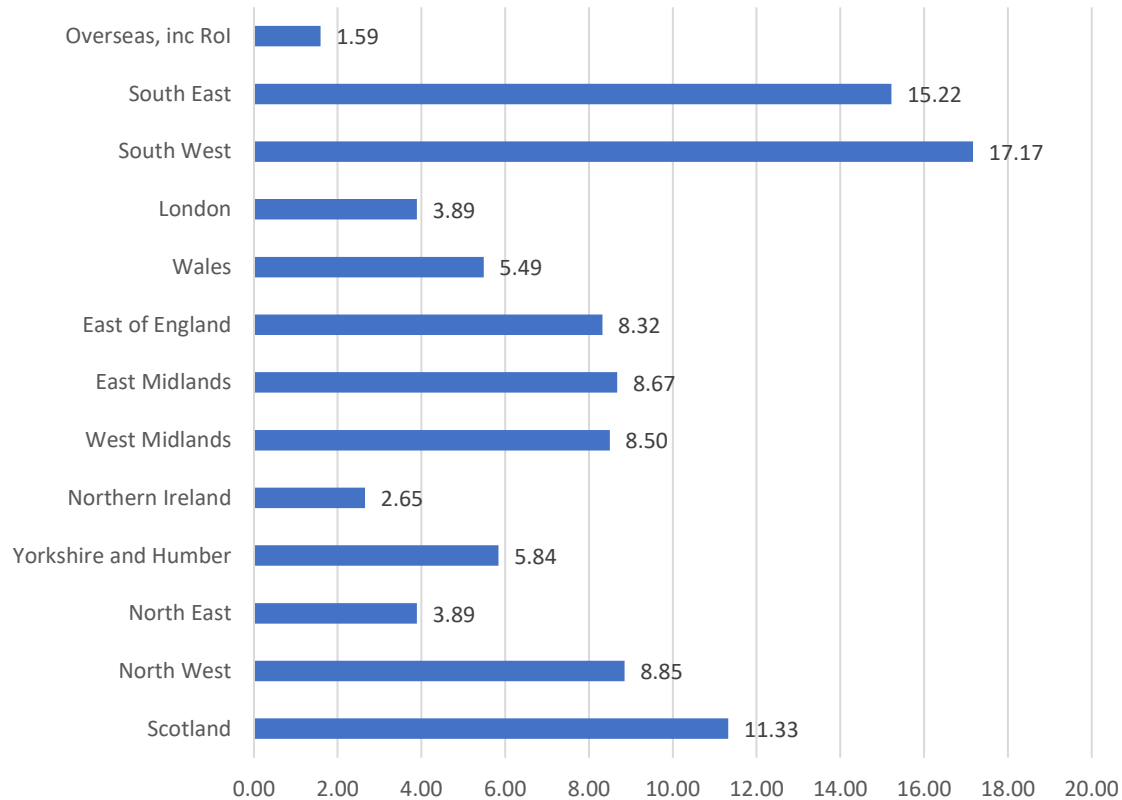
515/565 answered this question.

Just over half of the 515 respondents are employees.

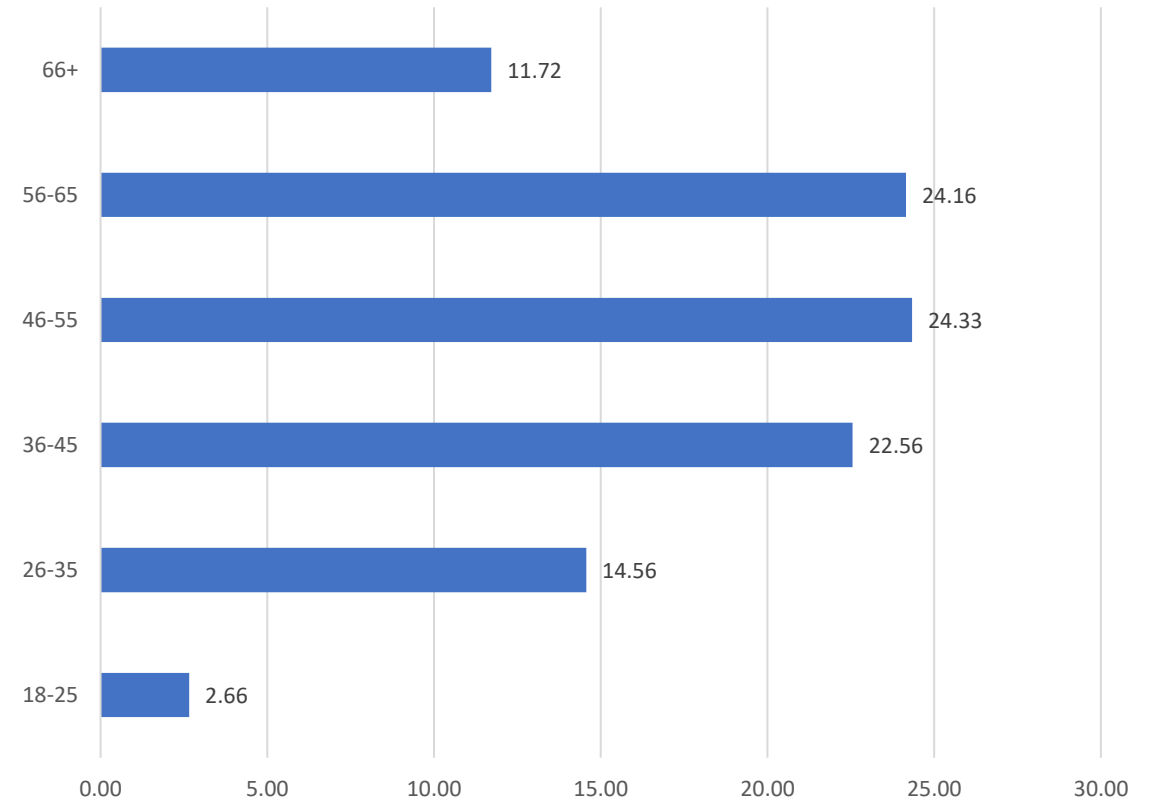
Note: respondents could select more than one response

# Demographics: region and age

Q3. Which part of the UK do you live in?



Q4. What is your age?

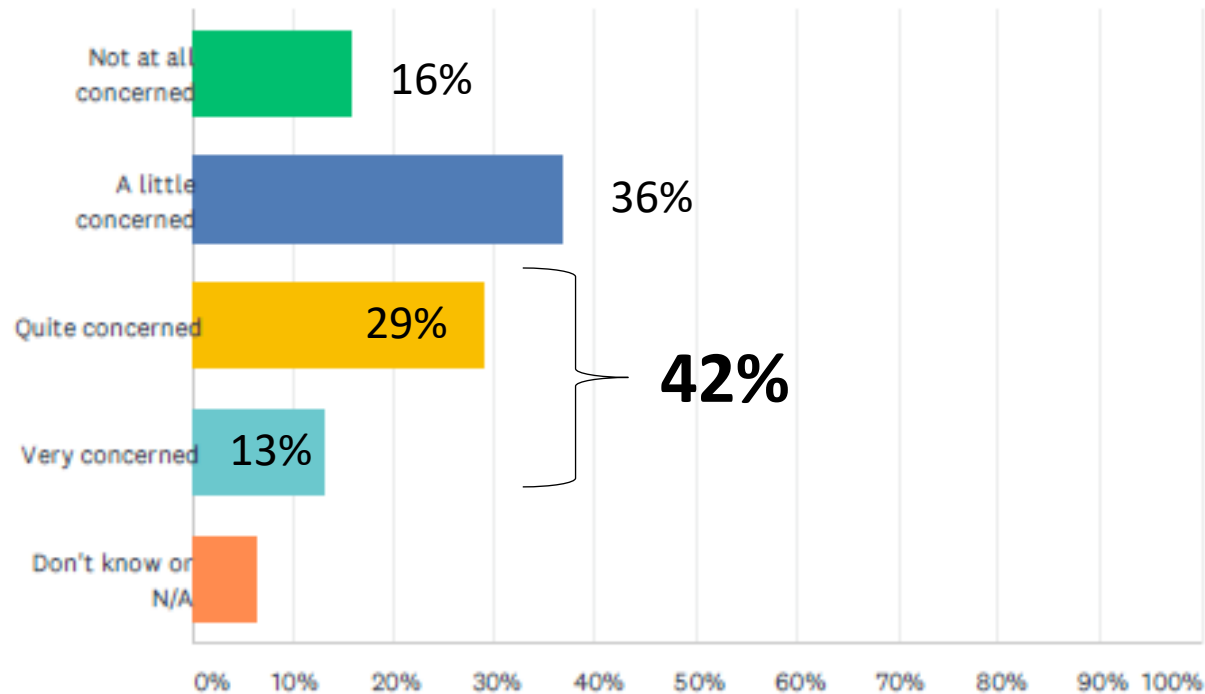


# Health and wellbeing

# Four in ten are very or quite concerned about contracting Covid-19 in their workplace

## Q5 The risk of contracting Covid-19 in your own workplace

Answered: 565 Skipped: 0



It varies by **type of work** but not by age, region or employment status...

**55%** mixed

**50%** companion/  
exotics

**40%** equine\*

**21%** production\*

**19%** Government\*

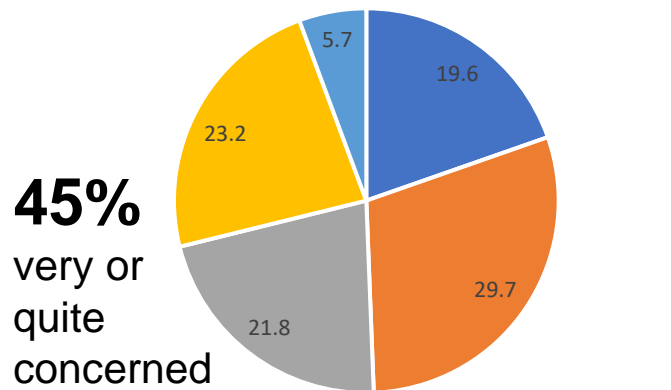
\* Small sample size <25



# Three quarters are very or quite concerned about stress and burnout in the profession

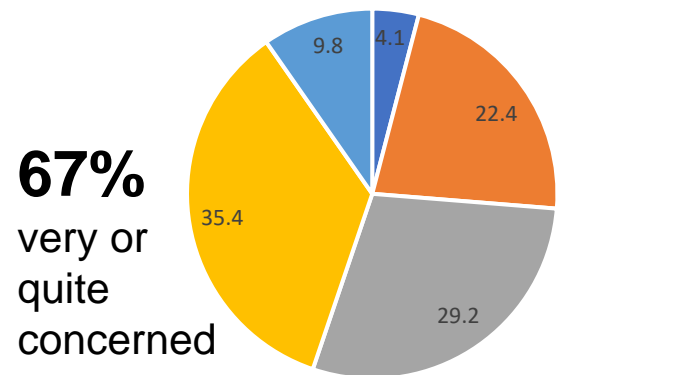
Q6/7/8: To what extent are you concerned about stress and burnout....

For yourself...



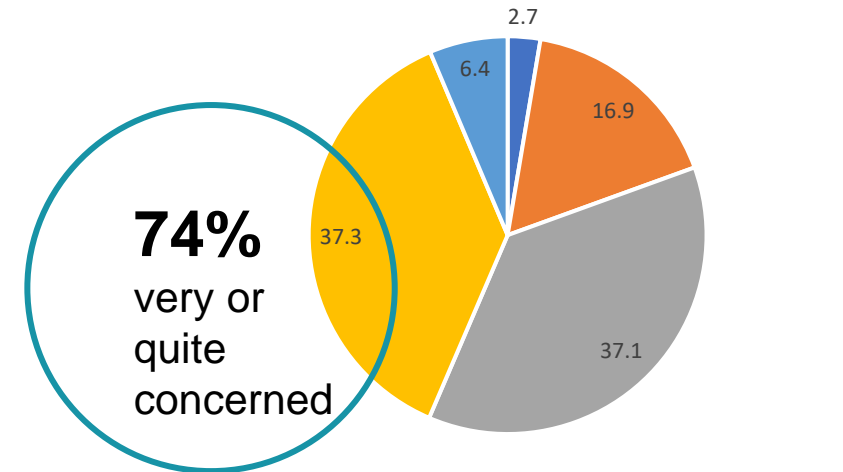
- Not at all concerned
- A little concerned
- Quite concerned
- Very concerned
- Don't know or N/A

Amongst your workplace colleagues...



- Not at all concerned
- A little concerned
- Quite concerned
- Very concerned
- Don't know or N/A

In the profession generally...



- Not at all concerned
- A little concerned
- Quite concerned
- Very concerned
- Don't know or N/A

# Students and small animal vets are the most concerned about their own stress and burnout

Q6/7/8: To what extent are you concerned about stress and burnout....

**...for yourself**

% quite or very concerned

**45%** average

**58%** SA/exotics

**67%** students\*

**12%** production\*

**...for colleagues**

% quite or very concerned

**67%** average

**77%** SA/exotics

\* Small sample size <25

**...for the profession**

% quite or very concerned

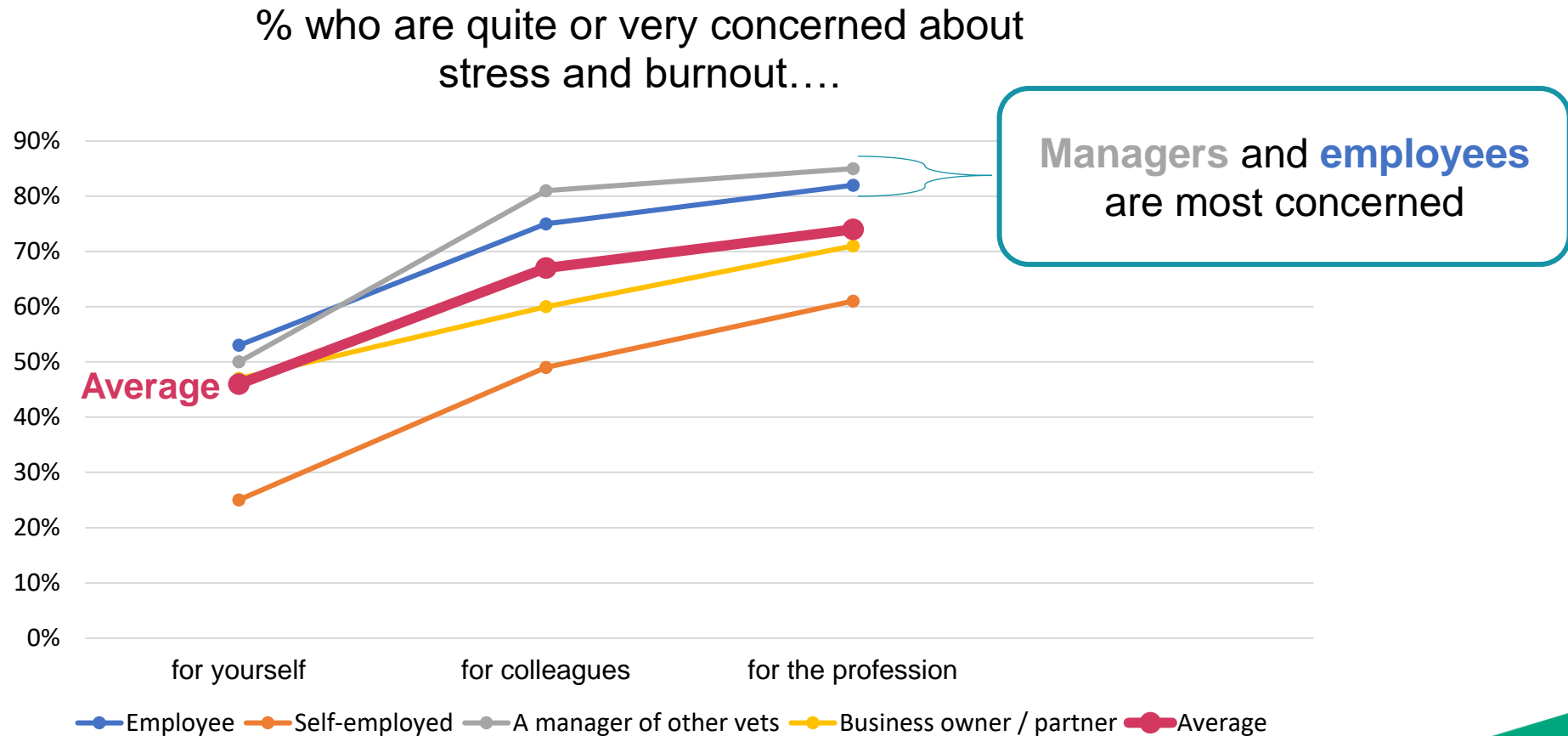
**74%** average

**81%** SA/exotics

**85%** research/lab\*

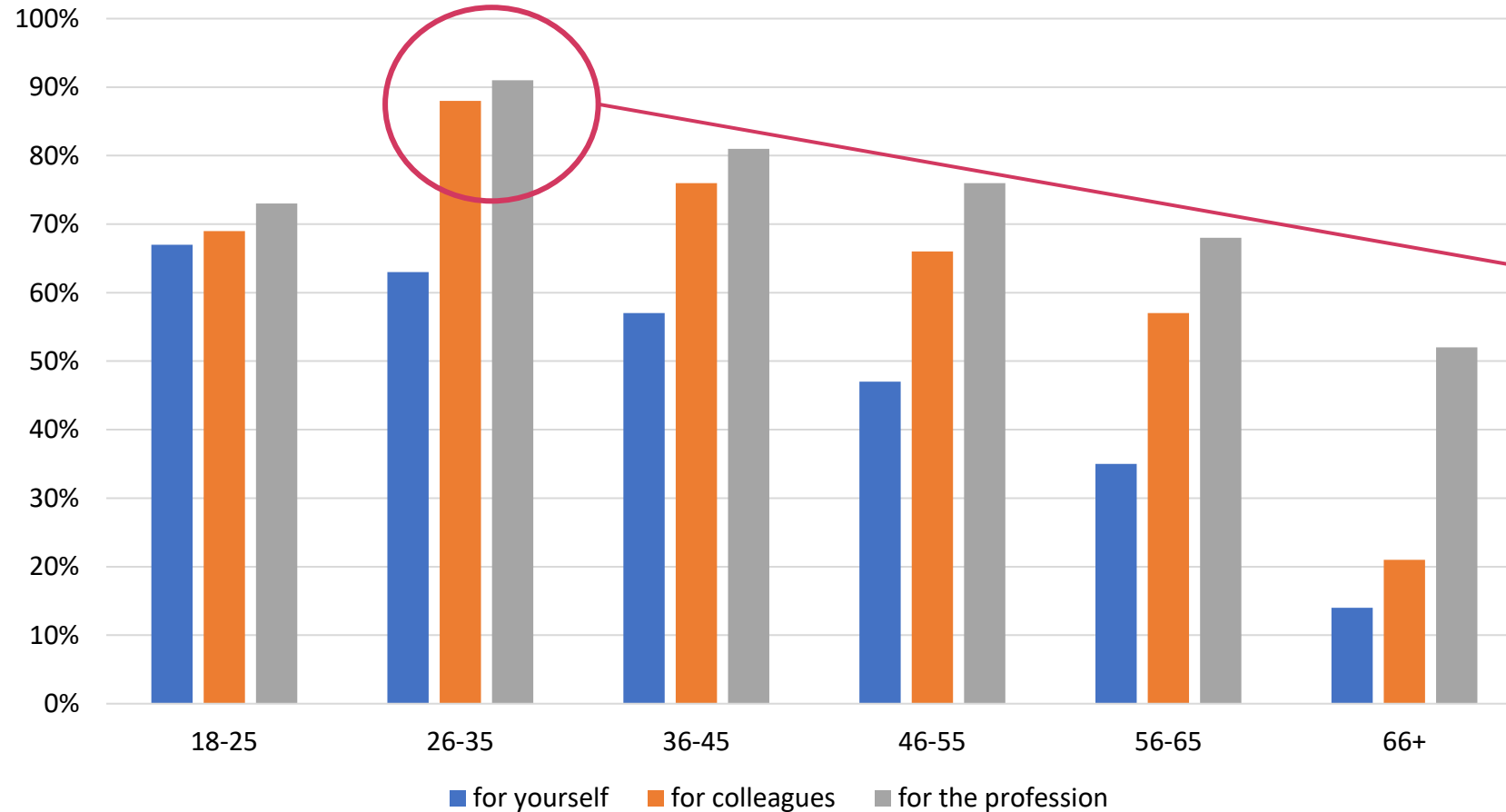
**50%** academia\*

# Self-employed vets and partners are less likely to be concerned about stress and burnout



# The older members are, the less concerned they are about stress and burnout

% who are quite or very concerned about stress and burnout...



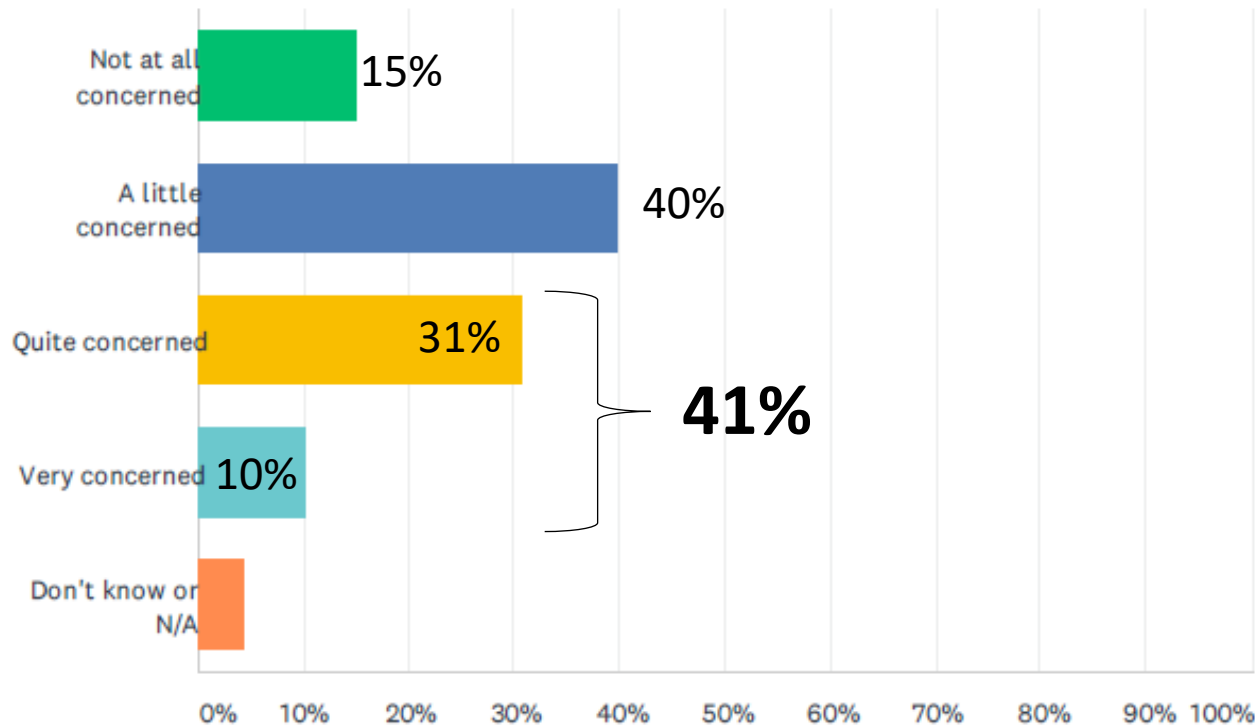
**26-35 year olds** are the most concerned about stress and burnout amongst their colleagues and in the profession more generally

# Finance and employment

# Four in ten are very or quite concerned about the financial sustainability of the vet sector

Q9 The financial sustainability of the veterinary sector in light of the Covid-19 pandemic

Answered: 561 Skipped: 4



The level of concern varies by **type of work** ...

**77%** charity\*

**60%** retired

**59%** Government\*

**59%** equine\*

**22%** academia\*

**27%** industry\*

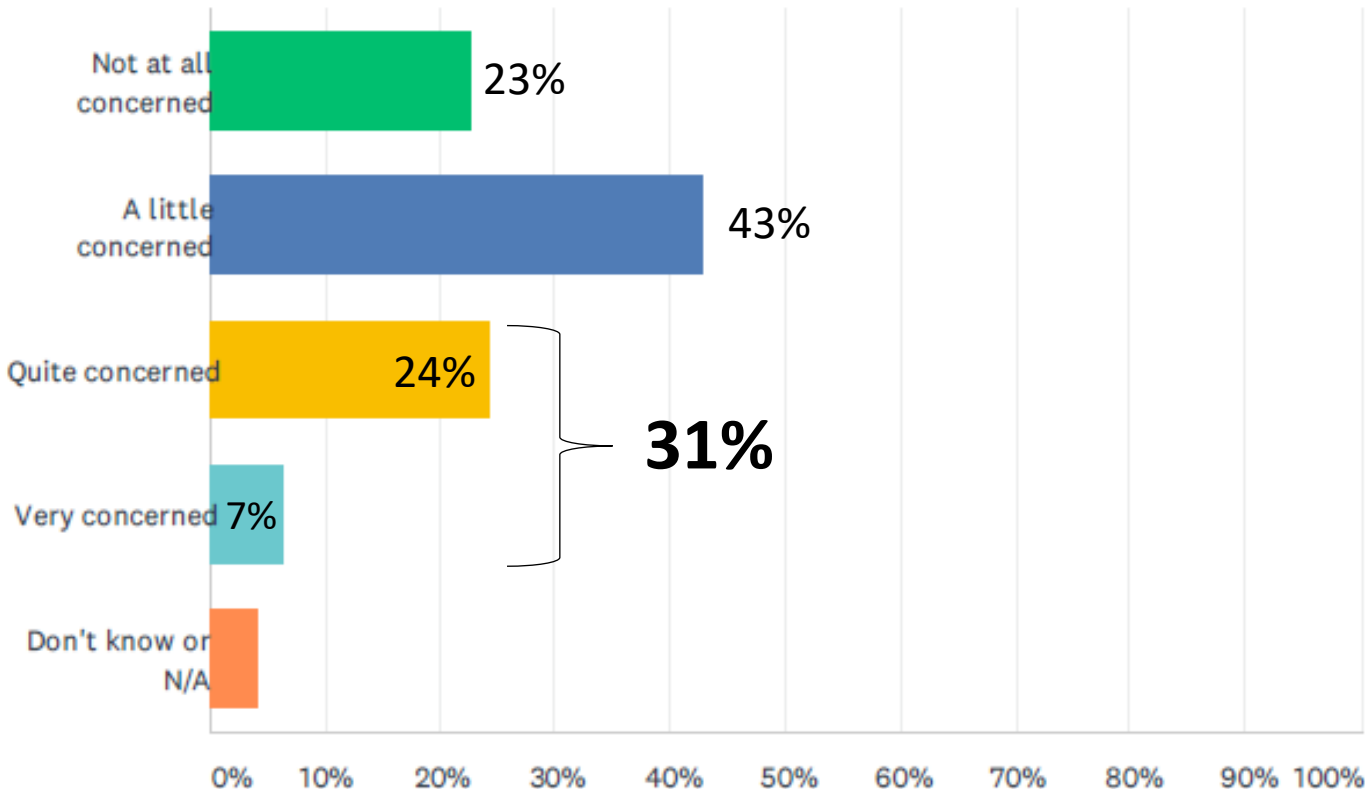
**29%** production\*

\* Small sample size <25

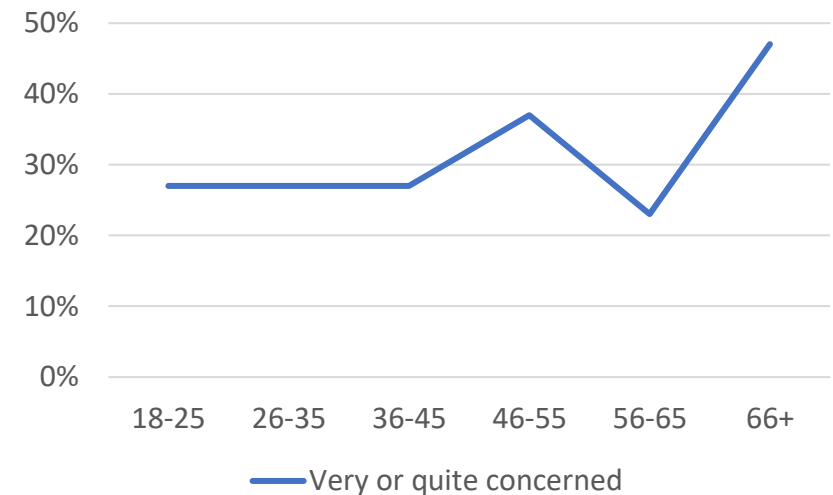
# Three in ten are very or quite concerned about **job security** in the **vet sector** and **over 1/5** are not at all concerned

## Q10 Job security in the veterinary sector as a whole

Answered: 563 Skipped: 2



## The level of concern varies by **age group**...



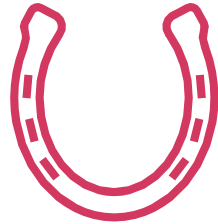
Those aged 46-55 and 66+ are the most concerned about job security in the vet sector

# Equine and charity vets are most concerned about job security in their own sector

Q11: To what extent are you concerned about job security in your own sector of veterinary work?

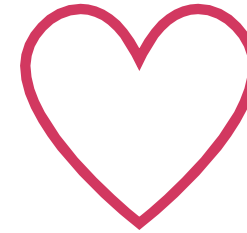


**23%** of all respondents are very or quite concerned about job security in their own sector



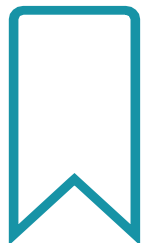
**45%** of equine vets are very or quite concerned about job security in their sector

**18%** are **very** concerned

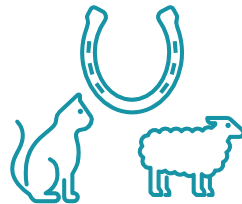


**64%** of charity vets are very\* or quite concerned...

\*But none are very concerned

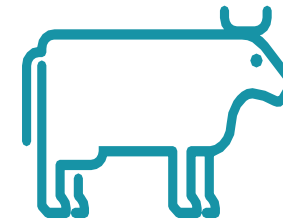


**6%** of government vets are very or quite concerned



**12%** of mixed practice vets are very or quite concerned

**41%** are **not at all** concerned



**13%** of production animal vets are very or quite concerned

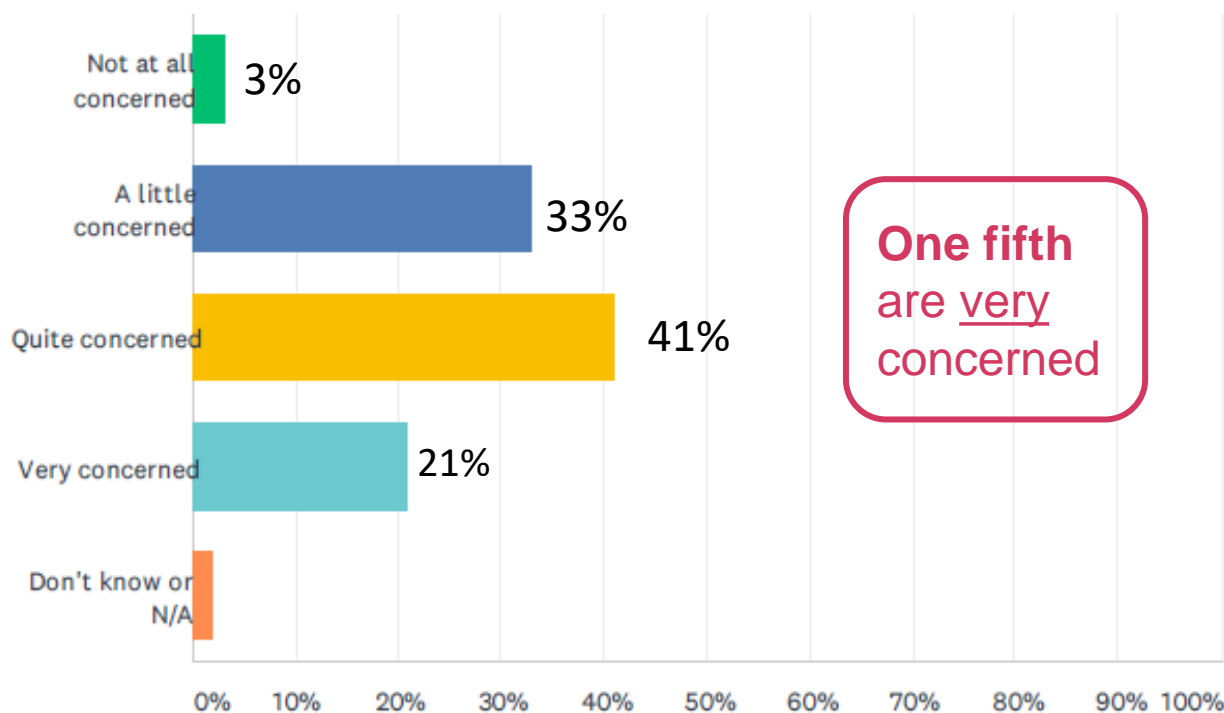
**54%** are **not at all** concerned



# 95% have some level of concern about the potential impact of a recession on the vet sector

## Q12 The potential impact of a UK-wide recession on the veterinary sector as a whole

Answered: 564 Skipped: 1



One fifth are very concerned

% very or quite concerned

**Most concerned:**

81%  
Government\*

77%  
Equine\*

77%  
Charity\*

75%  
Retired

% very or quite concerned

**Least concerned:**

40%  
Meat hygiene\*

46%  
Production

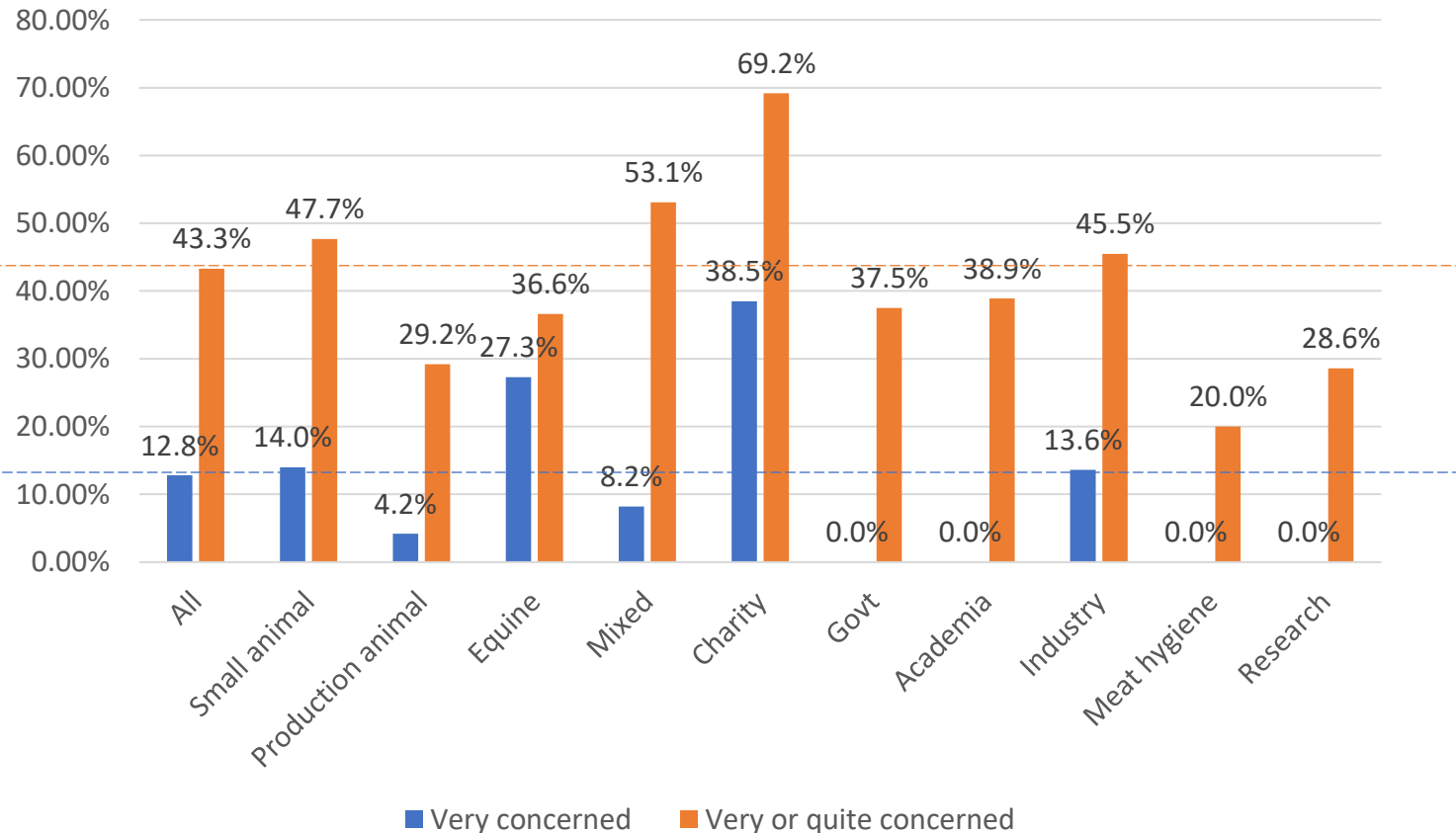
46%  
North West

53%  
Aged 56-65

\*Small sample size

# Equine and charity vets are most concerned about the impact of a recession on their own workplace

Q13: To what extent are you concerned about the potential impact of a UK-wide recession on your workplace?



**43%** of all respondents are very or quite concerned

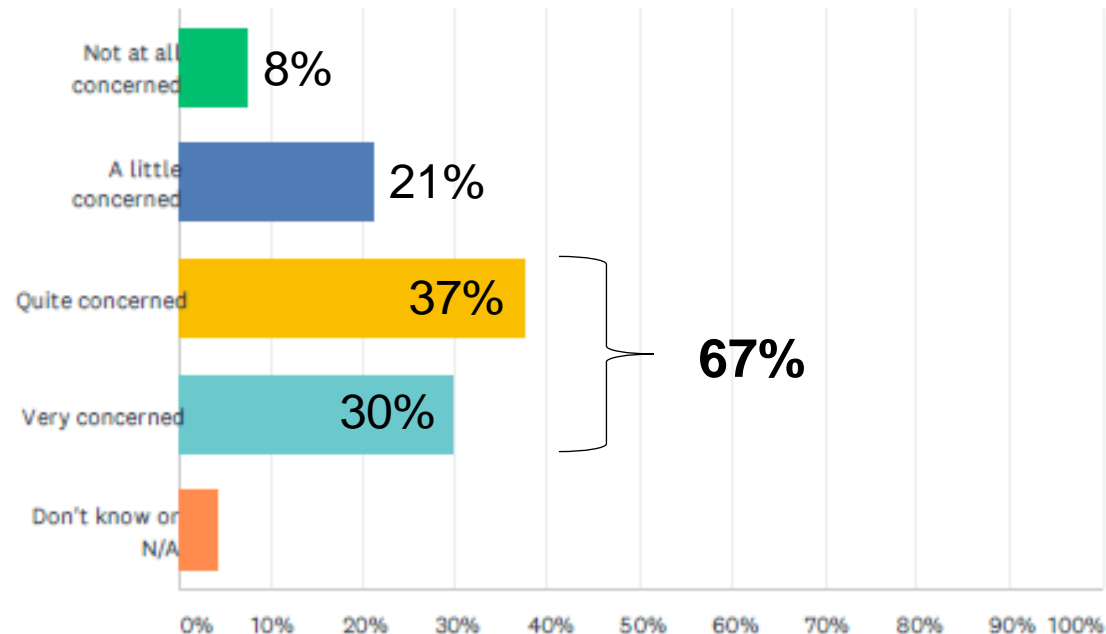
**13%** of all respondents are very concerned

# Students and new grads

# Two thirds are very or quite concerned about student and new grad confidence

Q14 The impact of Covid-19 on student and new graduate confidence in entering the veterinary workforce

Answered: 564 Skipped: 1



Older vets are less concerned than younger vets:

**66%**  
Older  
(36+)

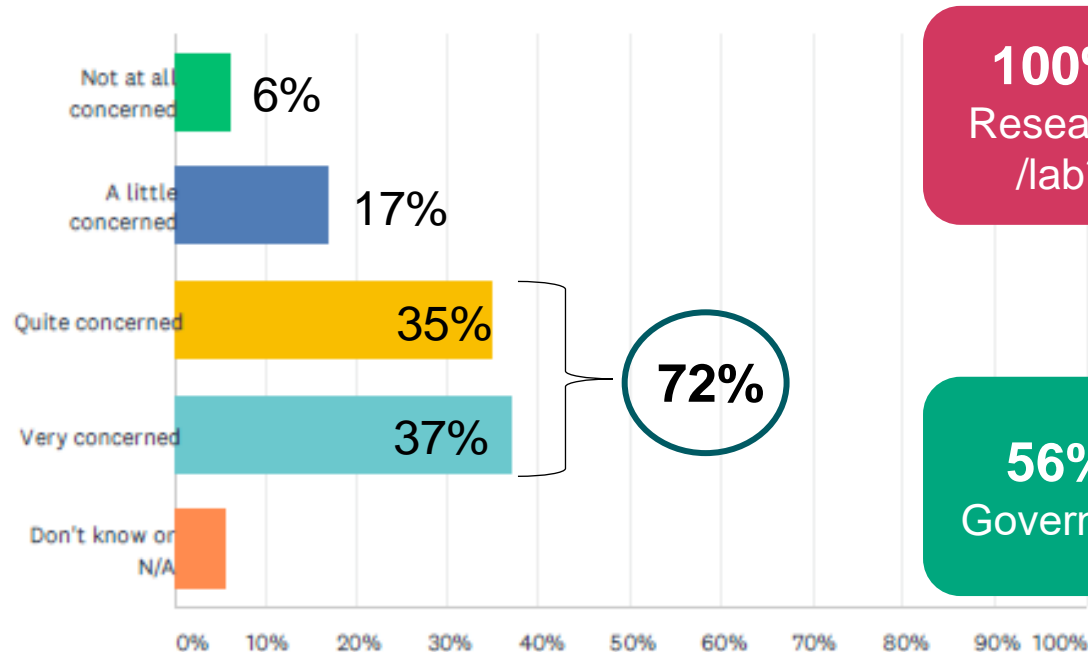
**79%**  
Younger  
(18-35)

% very or quite concerned

# 72% are very or quite concerned about the provision of EMS placements this coming year

Q15 The ability of veterinary workplaces to provide EMS placements for vet students this coming academic year

Answered: 561 Skipped: 4



**Most concerned:**

**100%**  
Research /lab\*

**83%**  
Production & academia

**80%**  
Students

**81%**  
Wales

**82%**  
North East\*

**Least concerned:**

**56%**  
Governm't

**68%**  
Industry

**69%**  
Small & charity

**58%**  
Yorks and the Humber

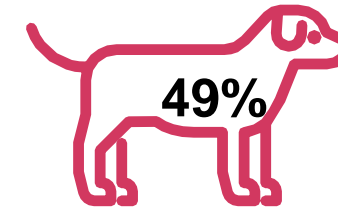
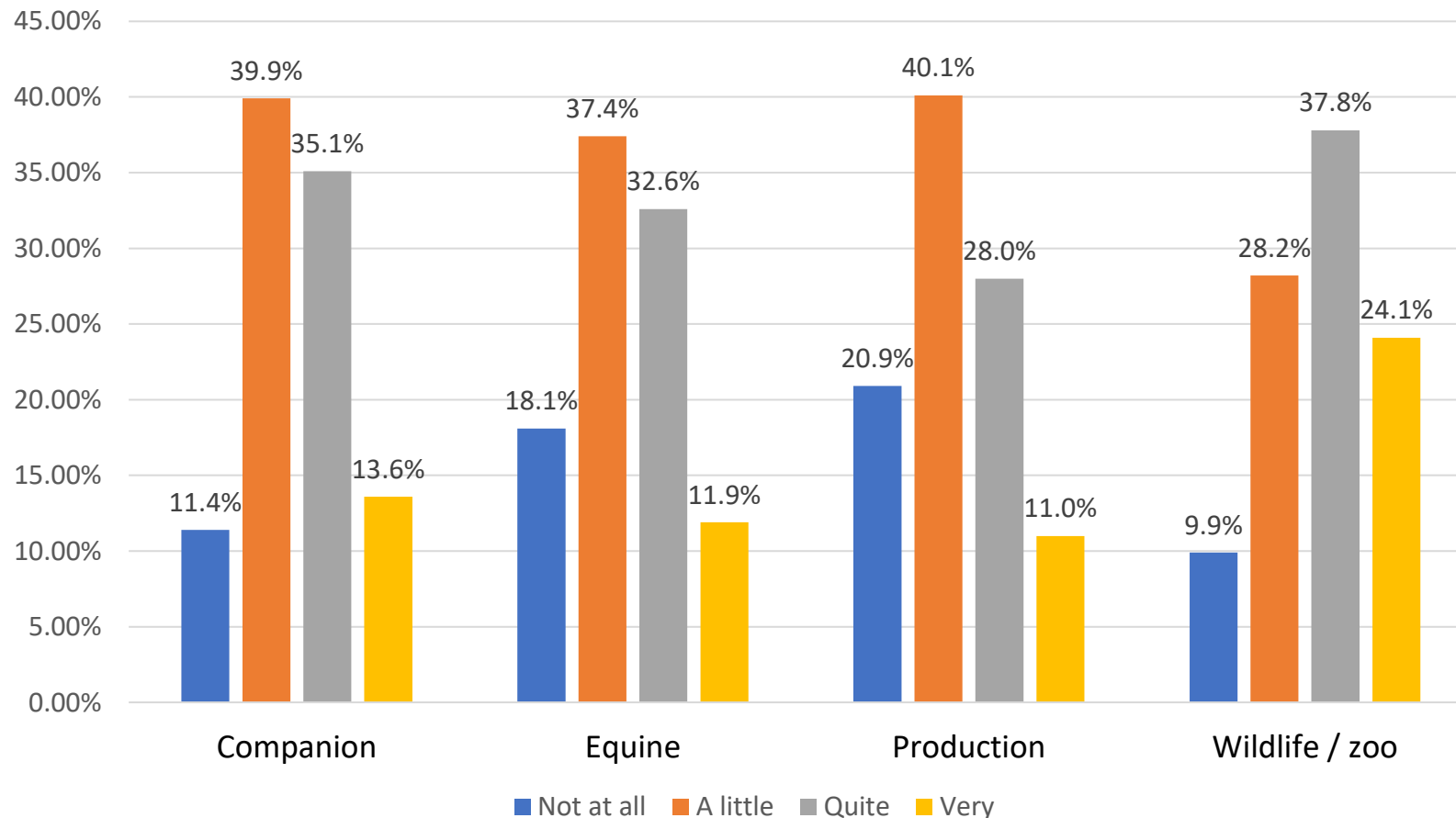
**66%**  
NI\* & South East

\*Small sample size

# Animal health and welfare

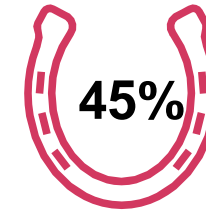
# Respondents were more concerned for the health and welfare of **wildlife/zoo animals** and **companion animals**

Q16/17/18/19: To what extent are you concerned about the impact of Covid-19 on the health and welfare in the medium term (3-6 months) in...



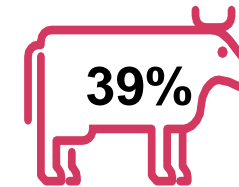
**49%**

Very or quite concerned about companion animal H&W



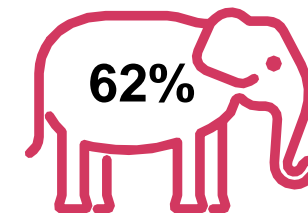
**45%**

Very or quite concerned about equine H&W



**39%**

Very or quite concerned about farm animal H&W



**62%**

Very or quite concerned about wildlife and zoo animal H&W

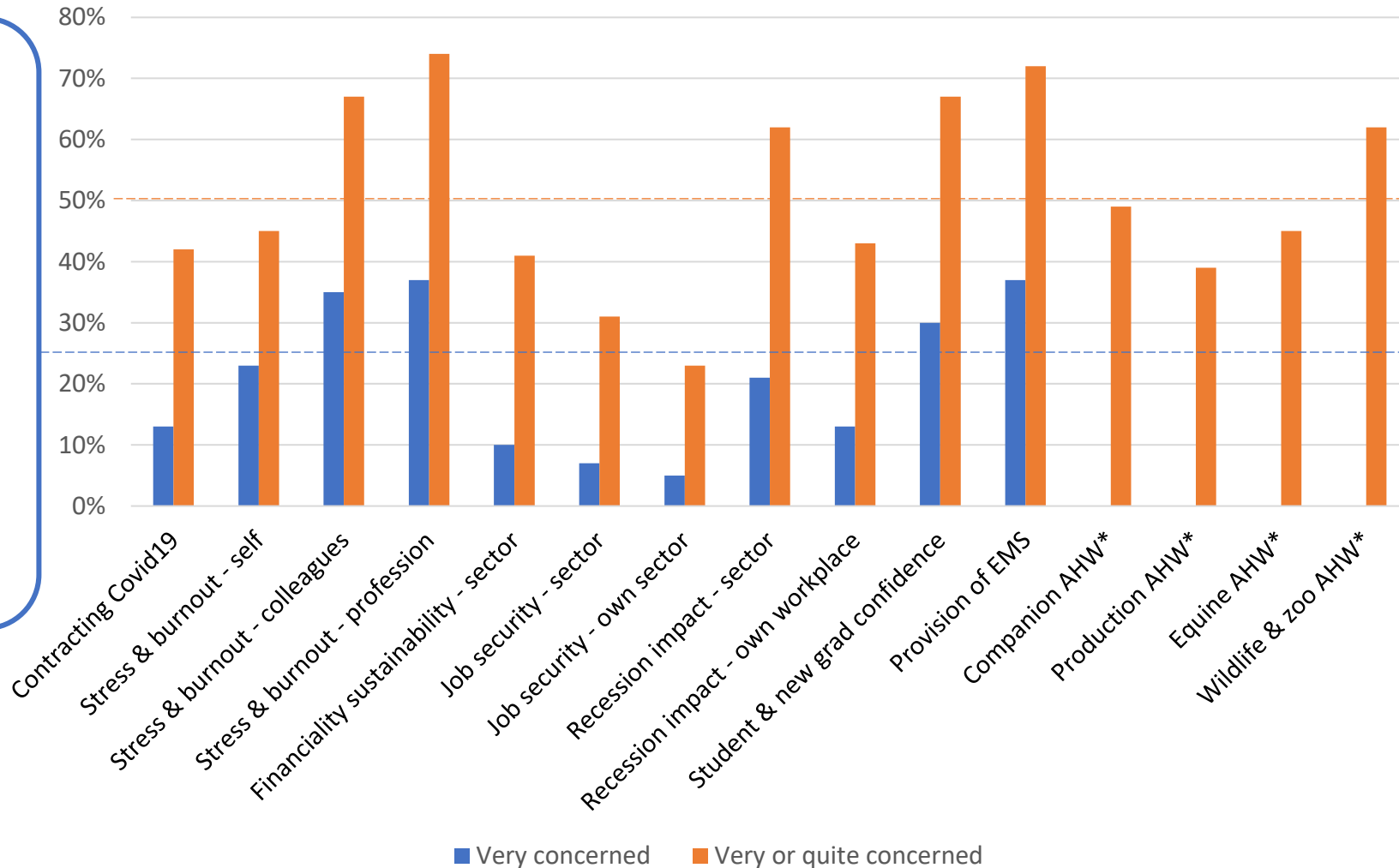
\*Percentages calculated from those who gave a view (ie don't know / N/A responses have been removed)

# Summary



# Areas of greatest concern: stress & burnout in the profession, provision of EMS, and student & new grad confidence

More than a quarter of respondents are **very concerned** about: stress & burnout amongst colleagues (35%) and in the profession generally (37%); student & new grad confidence (30%) and provision of EMS (37%)



More than half of respondents are **very or quite concerned** about: stress & burnout amongst colleagues (67%); stress & burnout within the profession (74%); the impact of a recession on the veterinary sector (62%); student and new grad confidence (67%); the provision of EMS (72%); and wildlife & zoo animal health and welfare in the medium term (62%)