



Impact of COVID-19 on Student Wellbeing

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Background

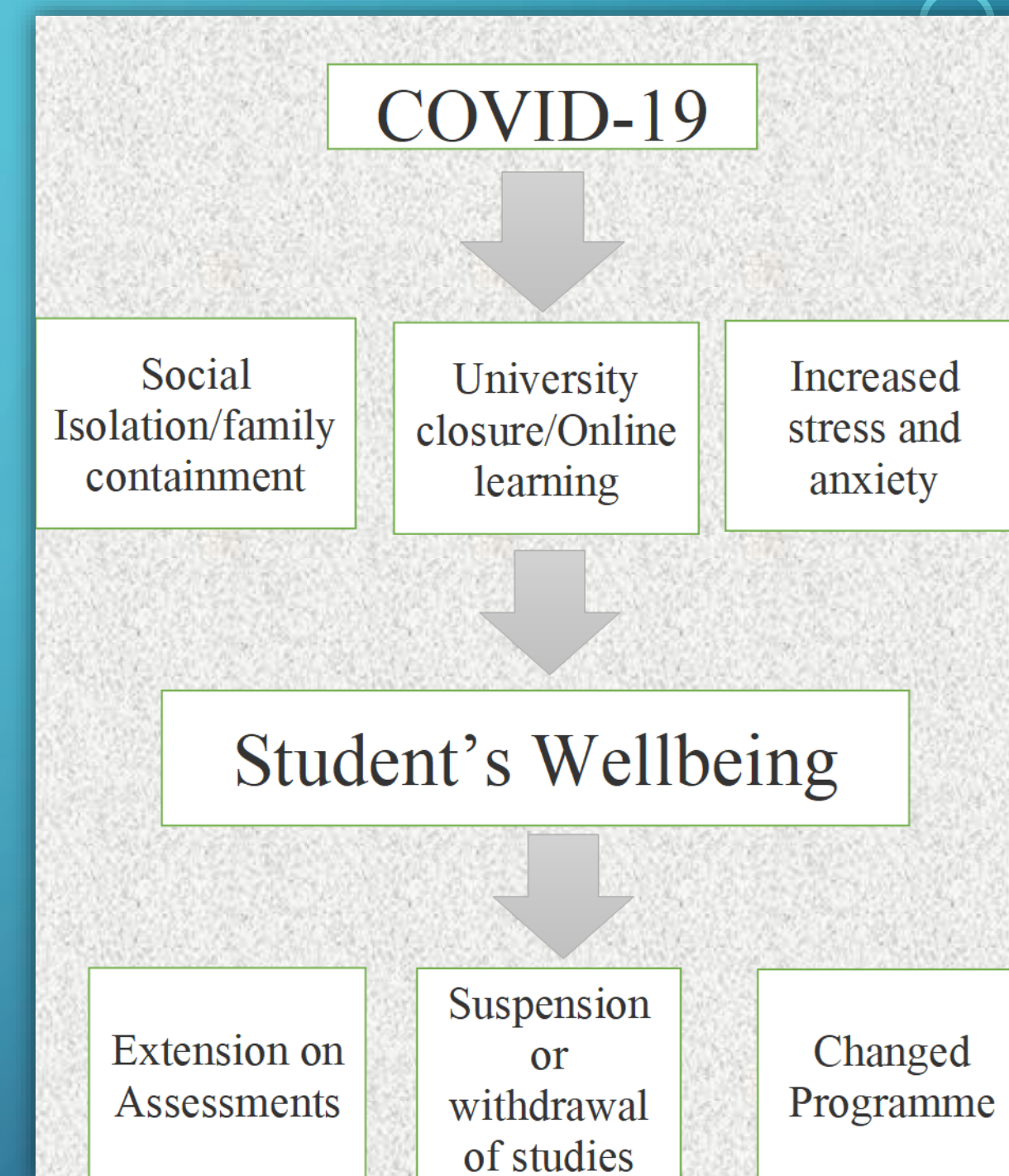
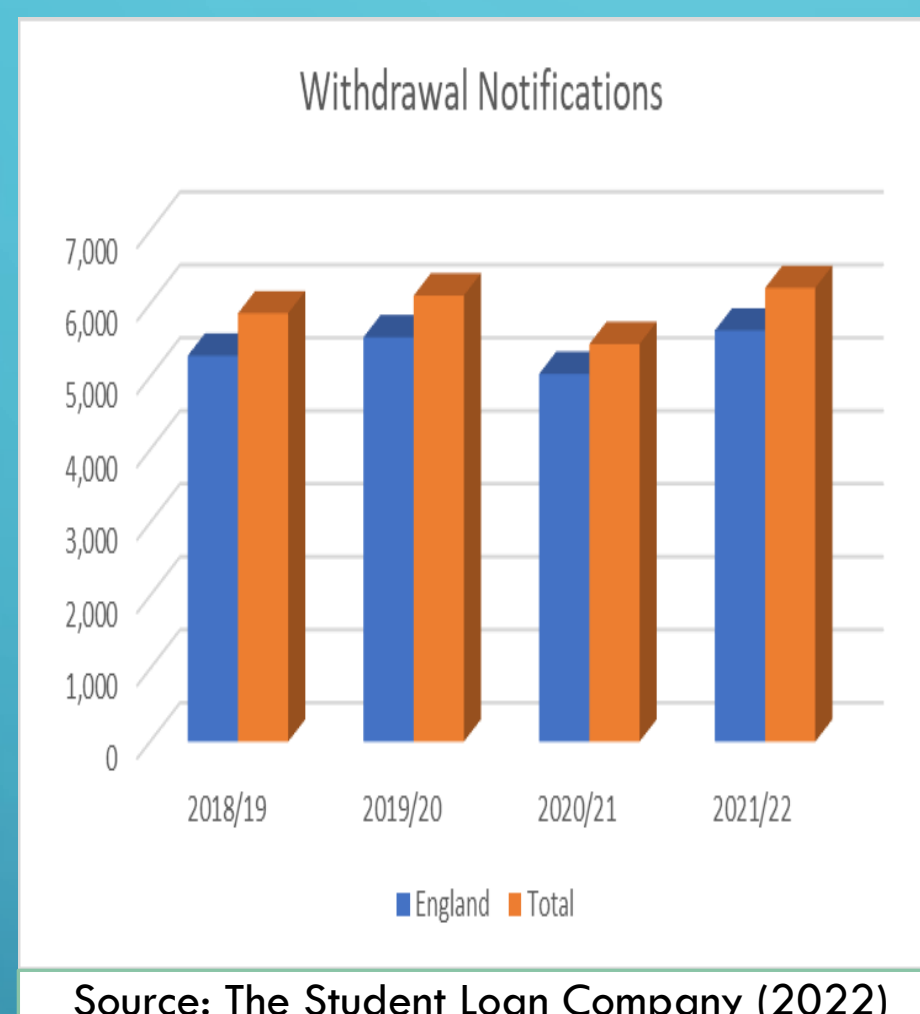
Wellbeing services within universities in the United Kingdom have seen a rise in mental health cases within the last decade. Since March 2020, in addition to the stress of transitioning into university life as well as the pressure to perform well academically, students also had to contend with an uncertain learning environment due to COVID-19.

In fact, students in higher education report high levels of mental health issues and psychological distress that affects their ability to cope with their studies. Therefore, an investigation into the impact of COVID-19 on students' wellbeing is warranted.

To date, studies tend to examine the influences of COVID-19 and online instruction on student performance. This study fills the gap in the literature by examining the impact of COVID-19 on students' wellbeing and their overall engagement.

Discussion

We will compare data before and after March 2020 to assess the impact of COVID-19 on student wellbeing. Specifically, we will investigate the impact of COVID-19 on students seeking extension on assessments; withdrawals and suspension of studies and change of programme of study. Demographic data on gender; age; mode of study; programme; domicile are considered.



Summary

The impact of covid-19 resulted in quick measure by universities to reduce the spread of the virus. Online teaching was introduced, students in hostels could not return home and were forced self-isolate alone in their hostels. Foreign students who were already in the UK were severely affected as they additionally were worried about loved ones at home. Assessments were also altered to ensure they are fair for online method of assessment. The changes were very rapid and mostly introduced in piecemeal. Students were thus very anxious about their studies and how they are to adjust to all the changes. Coupled with the fact that students could not socialise, students' mental health was negatively impacted. One question that scholars have raised is what measures were taken by universities to prevent increase in mental health issues and improve student well-being?

This paper seeks to answer this question by using real data to analyse measures taken by the university of Birmingham and Manchester and the difference it had on students' well-being. We also discuss resilience by students and the effort they made to improve their well-being.

This study will be particularly valuable in shaping student wellbeing in light of COVID-19 as we strive to learn how to live with it.