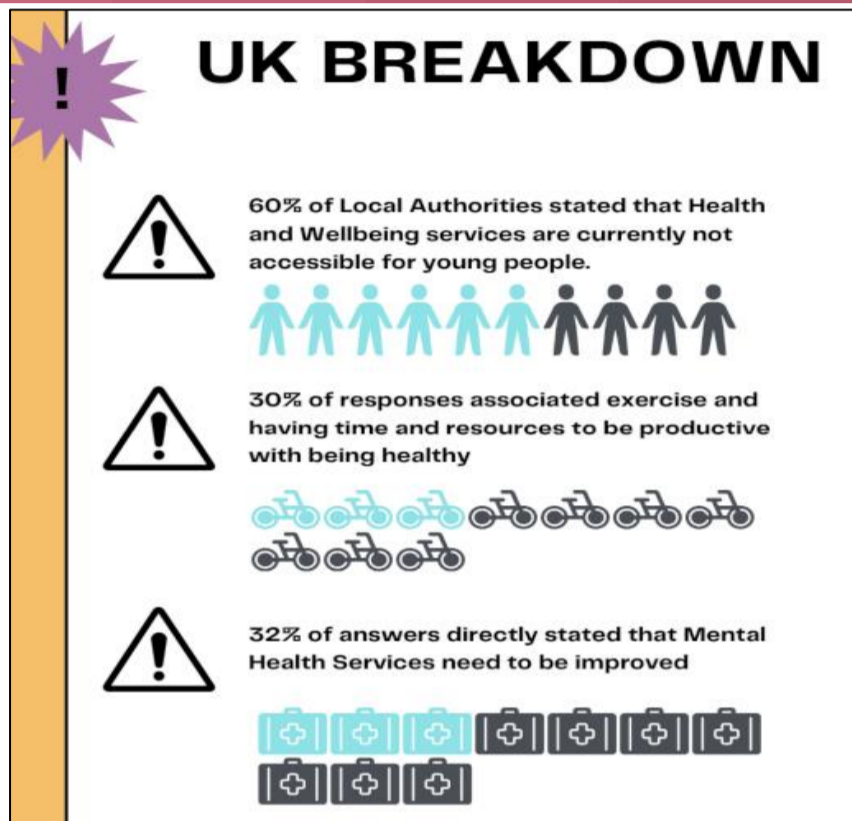


Make Your Mark 2022, British Youth Council (UK Youth Parliament)

Health and Wellbeing report – empowering young people’s opinions through data analysis

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A section of my report on Health and Wellbeing issue which informed Members of Youth Parliament

Overview of the Data Fellowship

During my 8 week fellowship, I worked with staff from the British Youth Council to produce a report highlighting key health and wellbeing issues faced by young people across the UK. I analysed data from 92 focus groups across the UK which consulted a total of 1067 young people. The report informed Members of Youth Parliament about which key issues should be debated about and therefore should be at the heart of the campaigns for the upcoming year.

Data Analysis

To analyse the qualitative data taken from focus groups, I used Excel to identify the key themes within young people’s answers. I then used a colour code table to work out how many focus groups had mentioned specific health and well being issues (e.g mental health). Each focus groups had a 6 questions to ask young people so I created separate spreadsheets to analyse data from each individuals question. To create the report, I analysed the data on a regional and national basis as this allowed me to identify how young people’s health and wellbeing issues were changed based on their geographical location.

My favourite part of my internship was being able to present my report to Members of Youth Parliament from the South West at the Annual Conference. I was also invited to the UK Youth Parliament annual debate in the House of Commons where I was able to see how my data analysis had impacted debates and campaigns for young people.

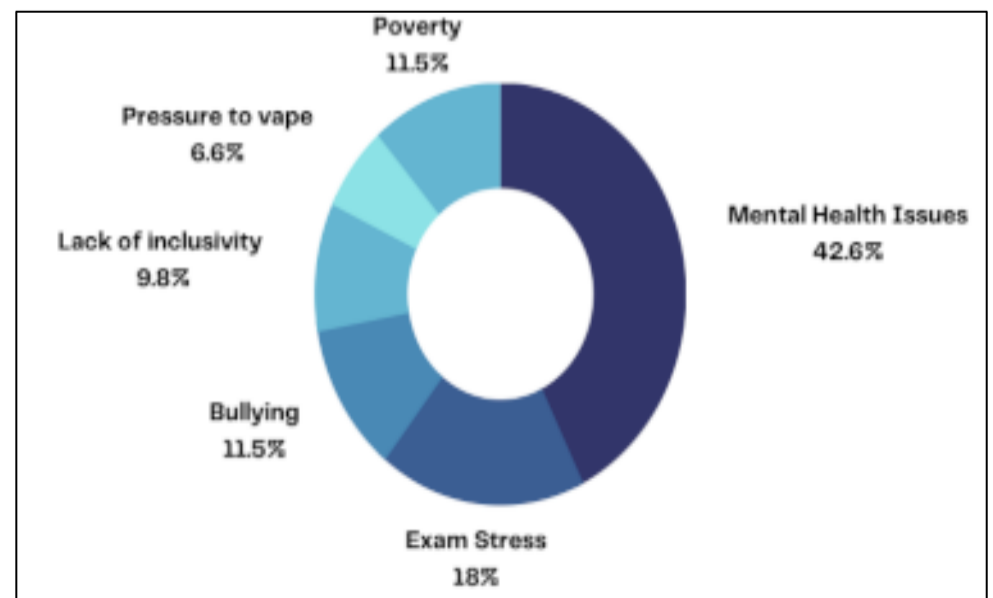
Findings

- The most significant finding from my report was that 60% of Local Authorities stated that Health and Wellbeing services were not currently accessible for young people
- My report found that young people across the UK, currently believe that people in power do not care or understand the issues that young people face. Furthermore, young people stated frequently that mental health services need to be improved.

Key Skills Learnt

Although I had worked with quantitative data prior to starting my data fellowship, I had very limited knowledge on how to analyse interviews. Therefore, I had to learn and adapt my skills whilst managing my time to meet report deadlines. I really enjoyed learning more about types of data analysis and working in a team, particularly when my work would have a large impact on young people and future policies.

The second key skill that I developed was my written communication. It was crucial that I adapted how I presented information to cater to my audience. In this case, my health and wellbeing report would be given to young people from 11 to 18 years old. To overcome this challenge, I ensured that I was using more simplified language and displaying my data analysis in a way which could be interpreted easily. I also worked with my manager and other team members to structure the report in a way which would be more accessible. For example, the report had a page with the 5 key topic findings. This allowed Members of Youth Parliament to understand the key issues that young people talked about during their focus groups more efficiently.



An example of the data visualization (pie chart) that I created to display the top health and wellbeing issues on a regional level