

COMPLETE UNIVERSITY GUIDE 2022-23

DATA INSIGHTS

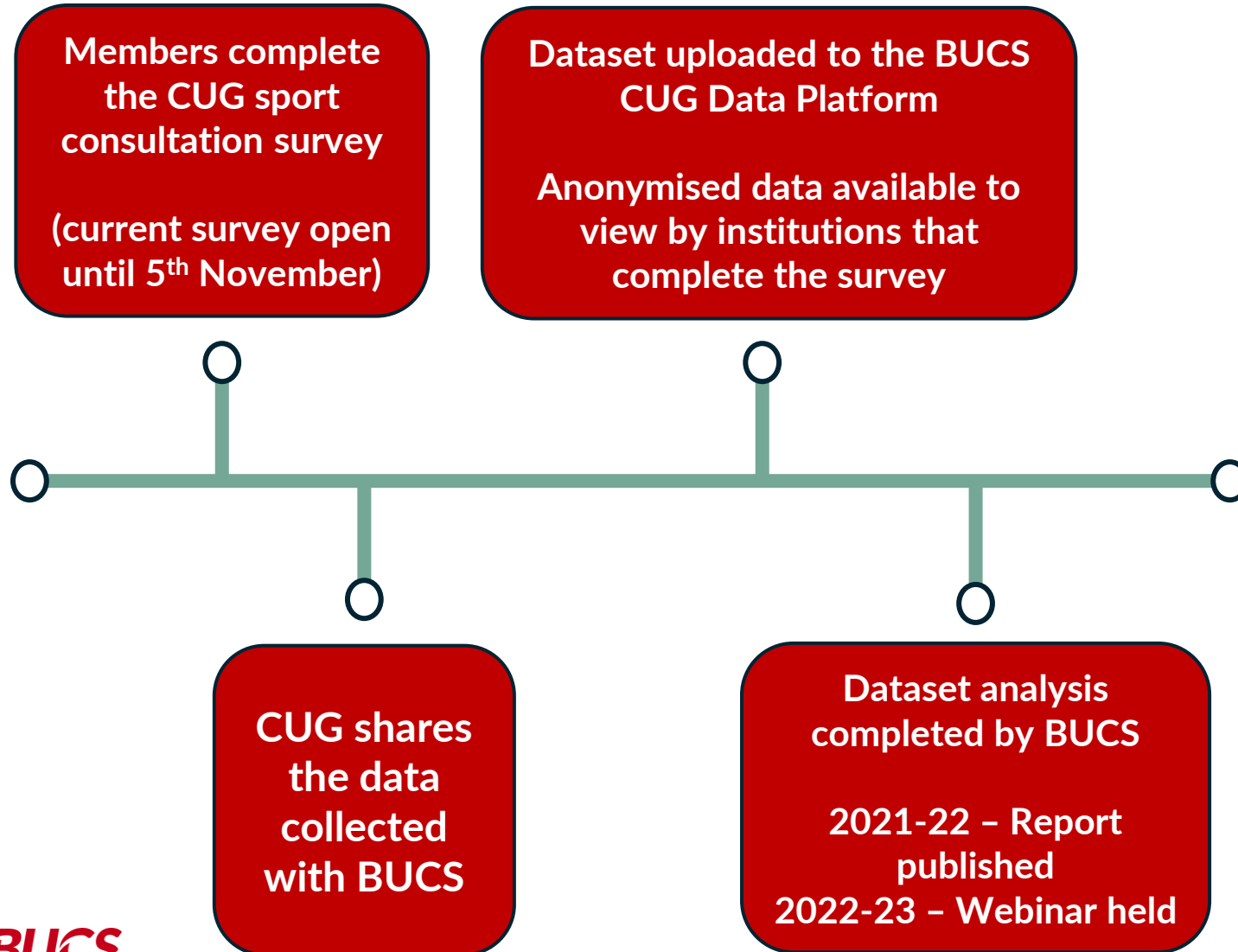
OCTOBER 2024



AREAS OF DISCUSSION

- **INTRODUCTION – BUCS X CUG RELATIONSHIP**
- **WHO RESPONDED?**
- **OVERALL HE SECTOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE WIDER SPORTING ECOSYSTEM**
- **TRENDS PRESENT WITHIN HIGHER EDUCATION SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY OFFERS**
- **INSTITUTIONAL INVESTMENT IN SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**
- **INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES WITHIN SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

BUCS X CUG RELATIONSHIP



BUCS has been partnering with CUG to collect data on sport and physical activity provisions within the higher education sector for the last 5 iterations of the survey.

The survey is split into 2 sections. Part 1 is broadly on institutions' sport and physical activity offer in areas such as the sports offer, physical activity offer, volunteering schemes, facilities and student scholarships. Part 2 of the survey deals with areas of the provision such as cost and investment and strategy areas.

This iteration of the survey was open between September and November 2024. Once the data has been cleaned the CUG shares the data with BUCS.

Once received, BUCS will upload the data onto the BUCS x CUG data platform where institutions are able to benchmark against other institutions within the sector.

This data is analysed by BUCS and reported back to the sector. Previously the 2021-22 data was published as a report, with the 2022-23 data reported via a webinar.

CUG SURVEY AND PLATFORM

We work with a group of members to check and challenge the work we do with the data, improvements to data collection and overall offer to the members. Improvements have been made in the following areas recently:

After feedback from members on the value of de-anonymised data, there have been questions included this year which allows institutions to opt in and have de-anonymised data shared with them.

Improvements have been made to the BUCS x CUG platform to improve the user experience and how easily accessible information is, including an information button to give context to what is being presented on each platform report.

We lifted the maximum number of institutions that are selected on the platform so anywhere between 5 and the total number of responses can be viewed.

Data is now available from the 2021-22 and 2022-23 datasets.

EXAMPLE

The screenshot on the right shows the performance support and scholarship areas. As you see, of the 17 institutions selected, 14 do have a sports scholarship programme and 3 do not. The 14 who do have a sports scholarship programme support 55 students on average and these scholarships are generally both cash and financial support as well as services/facility access.

The screenshot shows two survey result tables from the BUCS platform. The top table is for 'Performance Support' and the bottom table is for 'Scholarship'. Both tables include a 'Download CSV' button and an information icon.

Performance Support

Support Role	Total Responses	Is it offered?	If offered, is it provided by accredited professionals?
Performance sport manager	13	10	8
Coaching (sport specific)	13	9	7
Strength & conditioning facility	13	13	12
Strength & conditioning coaches	13	13	13
Testing (gait testing, strength testing etc)	13	13	12
Sport medicine (physiotherapy, massage, podiatry, rehab)	13	13	13
Sport nutrition	13	11	11
Sports science	13	9	9
Performance athlete life skills (career support, transition support etc)	13	12	11
Athlete mentoring	13	11	10
Sport psychology	13	11	11

Scholarship

Question	Total Responses	YES	NO	Total Number	Average
Institution has a sports scholarship (or equivalent) programme	17	14	3	0	0
Number of students are supported by a sports scholarship programme	14	0	0	783	55.93
Institution is a nominated TASS delivery site.	17	7	10	0	0
Institution offers TASS Scholarships or Winning Students?	7	7	0	0	0
Institution holds TASS Dual Career Accreditation?	7	7	0	0	0
Institution offers academic flexibility for performance athletes	16	13	3	0	0
Is the sports scholarship just Cash / Financial Support?	14	0	14	0	0
Is the sports scholarship just Services / Facility Access?	14	1	13	0	0
Is the sport scholarship Both?	14	13	1	0	0

WHO RESPONDED?

WHO RESPONDED?

119 institutions responding to at least one section of the survey (74% of BUCS member institutions)

Part 1- 119 responders
Part 2a – 88 responders
Part 2b – 73 responders

Compared to 2021-22 survey, there were 7 fewer responders for part 1 of the survey. There was a consistent number of responses for Part 2a and 2b.

REGION/NATION	RESPONDERS BY REGION/NATION
NORTHERN IRELAND	2%
SOUTH EAST	11%
WEST MIDLANDS	8%
WALES	6%
SCOTLAND	12%
EAST MIDLANDS	8%
NORTH EAST	3%
NORTH WEST	11%
SOUTH WEST	11%
LONDON	16%
EAST	5%
YORKSHIRE	8%

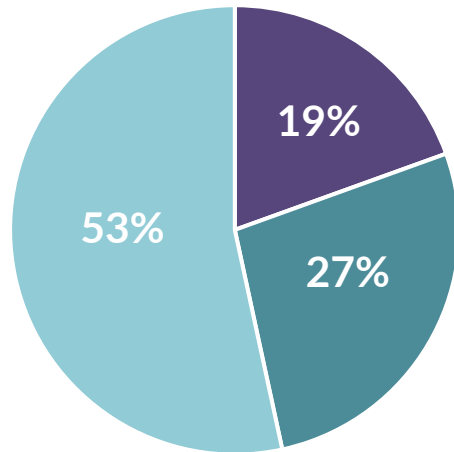
PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDERS BY NUMBER OF BUCS MEMBER INSTITUTIONS IN REGION/NATION		
100%	0	
93%	1	
90%	0	
88%	1	
88%	0	
83%	0	
80%	1	
72%	1	
68%	1	
68%	2	
67%	1	
53%	1	

The survey responses included a good representation of institutions across regions and nations, as seen in the table above left.

The table above right shows the representation of BUCS member institutions in terms of total BUCS members in the region/nation. The coloured boxes show the increase or decrease in number of responses from the region/nation compared to the previous year.

SUMMARY OF RESPONDENTS

RESPONDENTS BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION



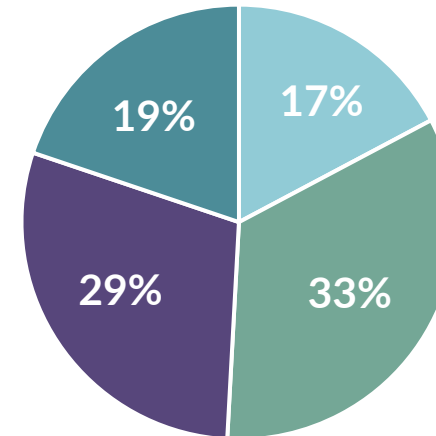
■ Russell Group ■ Traditional ■ Post 1992

This corresponds to:

- 74% of all BUCS institutions
- 96% of BUCS Russell Group institutions
- 84% of BUCS Traditional institutions
- 83% of BUCS Post-1992 institutions

The chart above outlines the spread of responders by type of institution; Post-1992 institutions are the most common. The box shows the proportion of BUCS members who responded for each type of institution, showing a good representation of BUCS members from each type of institution. Note that there is some overlap in these classifications.

RESPONDENTS BY BUCS POINTS RANKING



■ Top 20 ■ 21-60 ■ 61-100 ■ 101 and below

This corresponds to:

- 100% of Top 20 institutions
- 98% of 21-60 institutions
- 85% of 61-100 institutions
- 52% of 101 and below institutions

The chart above outlines the spread of responders by BUCS points ranking. As reported in the box, institutions ranked 1-100 are well-represented while those ranked 101 and below are less well-represented.

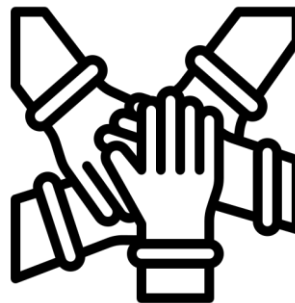
CONTRIBUTION TO THE WIDER SPORTING ECOSYSTEM

CONTRIBUTION TO THE WIDER SPORTING ECOSYSTEM



Workforce (across 63 institutions)

2,479 full-time equivalent positions



Volunteers (across 104 institutions)

24,892 sports volunteers per annum



Spending

Annual spending on sport (running costs)
(across 66 institutions)

£162,234,835

Planned facilities investment in the next 5 years (across 56 institutions)

£220,434,370



Classes (across 103 institutions)

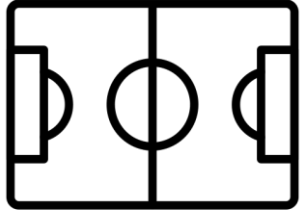
86,269 available slots per week
across **4,250** classes



Athletes (across 97 institutions)

5,415 athletes supported through scholarships

OWNED FACILITIES BREAKDOWN



1,224 Pitches →

359 Full-size natural grass football pitches
357 Artificial grass pitches (90% are public access in England)
160 Full-size natural grass rugby union pitches



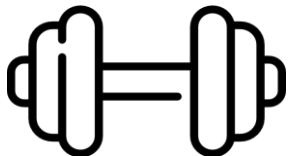
830 Courts →

281 Courts for tennis/ basketball/ netball/ volleyball
200 Squash courts (82% are public access in England)
90 Indoor tennis courts (92% are public access in England)



50 Pools →

32 25m indoor pools
9 50m indoor pools



368
Gym/Fitness →

187 Strength and conditioning areas
181 Fitness suites (cardio training/resistance equipment)

OWNED FACILITIES BREAKDOWN



352 Other
Gym/Fitness



167 Separate dance studio
72 Separate spin bike studio



33 Cycling
/Athletics



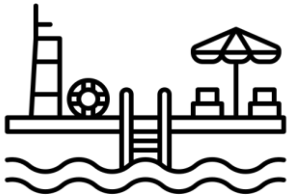
21 Artificial athletics track and/or field (400m/8 lane)
All athletic tracks in England are public access



54 Other
Facilities



23 Dedicated martial arts areas



48 Other
Water Facilities



25 Boat houses

Scotland (from 88% of BUCS member institutions in the area)
 Pitches - 103
 Courts - 79
 Pools - 5
 Other Water Facilities - 9
 Gym/Fitness Facilities - 37
 Other Gym/Fitness Facilities - 34
 Cycling/Athletics - 1
 Other - 2

North East (from 80% of BUCS member institutions in the area)
 Pitches - 46
 Courts - 20
 Pools - 1
 Other Water Facilities - 4
 Gym/Fitness Facilities - 10
 Other Gym/Fitness Facilities - 10
 Cycling/Athletics - 1
 Other - 3

North West (from 72% of BUCS member institutions in the area)
 Pitches - 106
 Courts - 81
 Pools - 9
 Other Water Facilities - 2
 Gym/Fitness Facilities - 36
 Other Gym/Fitness Facilities - 34
 Cycling/Athletics - 2
 Other - 2

Yorkshire (from 53% of BUCS member institutions in the area)
 Pitches - 121
 Courts - 56
 Pools - 5
 Other Water Facilities - 4
 Gym/Fitness Facilities - 24
 Other Gym/Fitness Facilities - 26
 Cycling/Athletics - 7
 Other - 4

Northern Ireland (from 100% of BUCS member institutions in the area)
 Pitches - 45
 Courts - 16
 Pools - 2
 Other Water Facilities - 3
 Gym/Fitness Facilities - 11
 Other Gym/Fitness Facilities - 13
 Cycling/Athletics - 0
 Other - 3

East Midlands (from 83% of BUCS member institutions in the area)
 Pitches - 133
 Courts - 107
 Pools - 5
 Other Water Facilities - 6
 Gym/Fitness Facilities - 40
 Other Gym/Fitness Facilities - 46
 Cycling/Athletics - 4
 Other - 7

Wales (from 88% of BUCS member institutions in the area)
 Pitches - 85
 Courts - 47
 Pools - 5
 Other Water Facilities - 3
 Gym/Fitness Facilities - 33
 Other Gym/Fitness Facilities - 26
 Cycling/Athletics - 6
 Other - 4

East (from 67% of BUCS member institutions in the area)
 Pitches - 70
 Courts - 65
 Pools - 3
 Other Water Facilities - 1
 Gym/Fitness Facilities - 15
 Other Gym/Fitness Facilities - 23
 Cycling/Athletics - 2
 Other - 2

West Midlands (from 90% of BUCS member institutions in the area)
 Pitches - 106
 Courts - 76
 Pools - 3
 Other Water Facilities - 3
 Gym/Fitness Facilities - 34
 Other Gym/Fitness Facilities - 31
 Cycling/Athletics - 3
 Other - 4

London (from 68% of BUCS member institutions in the area)
 Pitches - 103
 Courts - 59
 Pools - 1
 Other Water Facilities - 2
 Gym/Fitness Facilities - 54
 Other Gym/Fitness Facilities - 44
 Cycling/Athletics - 3
 Other - 3

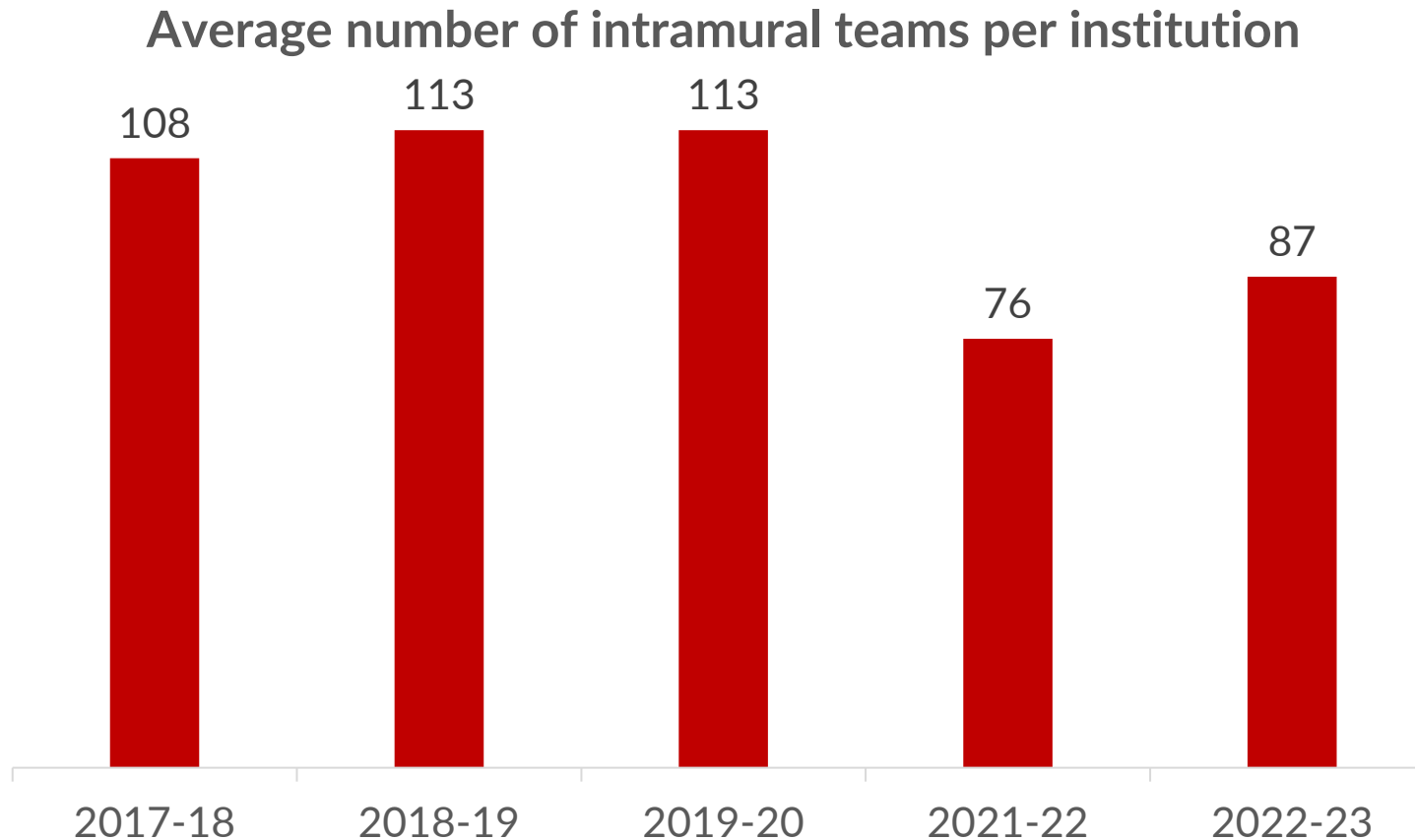
South West (from 68% of BUCS member institutions in the area)
 Pitches - 174
 Courts - 108
 Pools - 6
 Other Water Facilities - 6
 Gym/Fitness Facilities - 30
 Other Gym/Fitness Facilities - 25
 Cycling/Athletics - 3
 Other - 16

South East (from 93% of BUCS member institutions in the area)
 Pitches - 132
 Courts - 116
 Pools - 5
 Other Water Facilities - 5
 Gym/Fitness Facilities - 44
 Other Gym/Fitness Facilities - 40
 Cycling/Athletics - 1
 Other - 4



SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY OFFER TRENDS

AVERAGE NUMBER OF INTRAMURAL TEAMS PER INSTITUTION SHOWS SIGNS OF RECOVERY



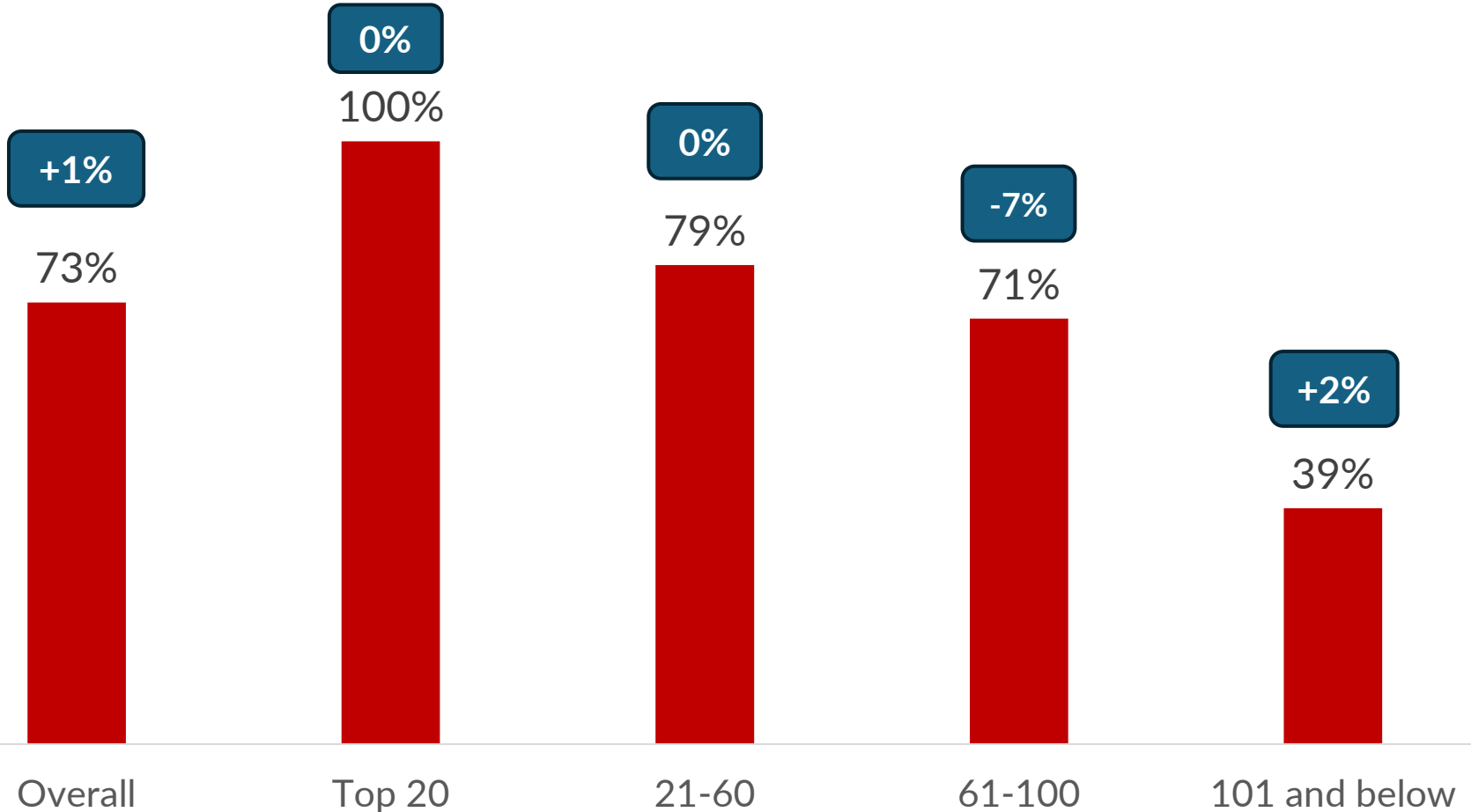
The average number of intramural teams per institutions fell in 2021-22 following the COVID-19 pandemic, but we have seen signs of recovery in 2022-23 with an increase in the average number of teams per institution from 76 to 87.

As part of the BUCS cost-of-living research, some students told us they were opting for intramural sport because it required less time and financial investment. This might explain some of the increase in intramural teams, though we note they are still not at pre-COVID levels.

When completing a direct comparison of those institutions that completed each iteration of the survey, there was a consistent trend to what is shown. This does not track in line with the BUCS competition team entries which fluctuates around the 5000 mark both pre and post COVID.

INTRAMURAL SPORT OFFERING BY BUCS RANKING

Institutions offering intramural sport (%)



Percentage point change from 2021/22

This graphs outlines the percentage of institutions that offer intramural sport in terms of overall responses and broken down by BUCS point ranking.

These are broadly similar levels compared to the 2021-22 survey, with 73% of institutions that responded offering intramural sport.

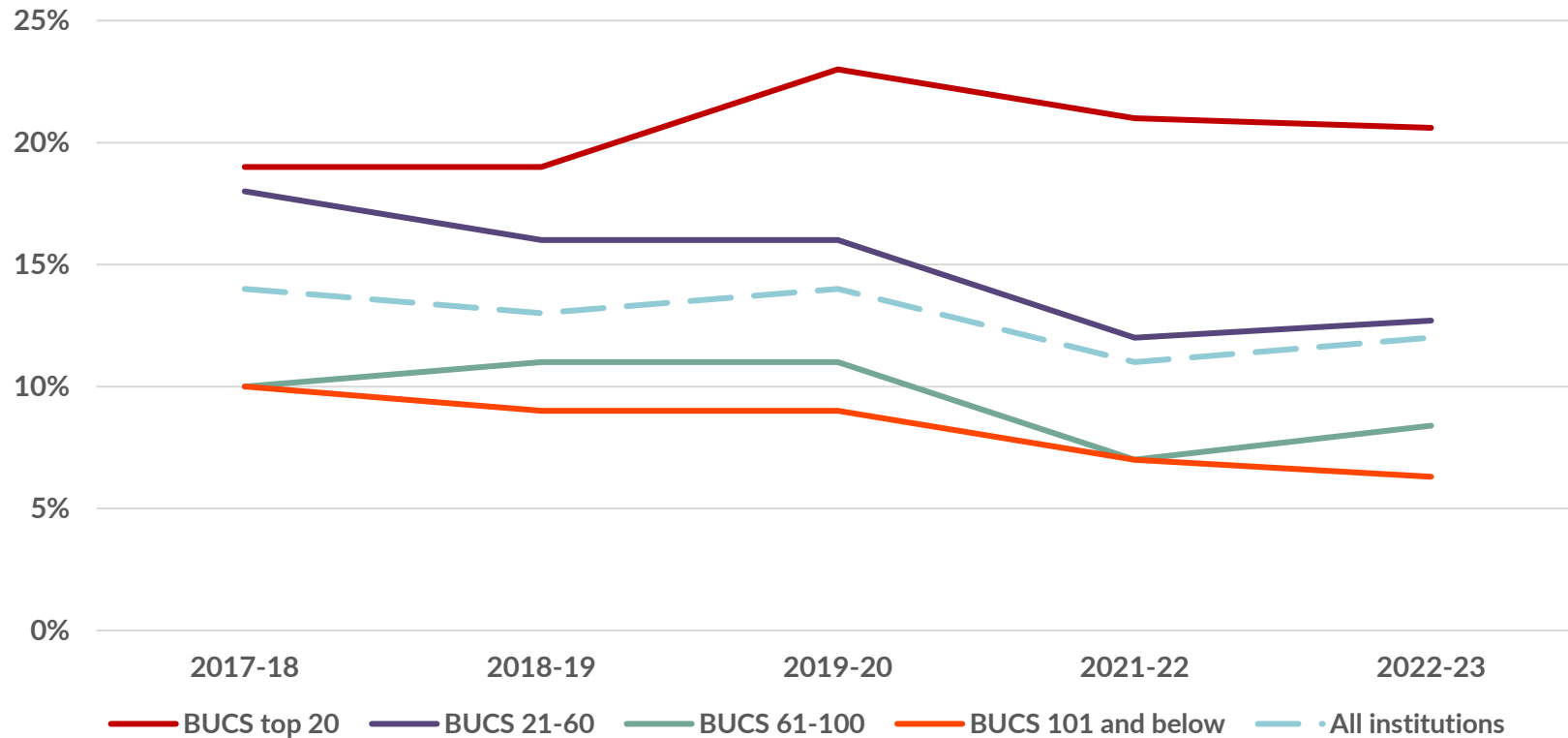
TOP RECREATIONAL SPORT ACTIVITIES OFFERING BY GENDER

Top 5 social/recreational men's sport/fitness activities	Percentage of institutions offering the recreational sport/fitness activity	Top 5 social/recreational women's sport/fitness activities	Percentage of institutions offering the recreational sport/fitness activity
Football	72%	Netball	72%
Basketball	64%	Football	67%
Rugby union	54%	Basketball	63%
Volleyball	53%	Rugby union	58%
Badminton	50%	Hockey, Volleyball	52%

In general, **football** is the most frequently offered recreational sport across all institutions.

STUDENT SPORT CLUB MEMBERSHIP BY BUCS RANKING

AVERAGE SPORTS CLUB/SOCIETIES MEMBERSHIPS (AS A PERCENTAGE OF STUDENT POPULATION)



This graph illustrates the average sports club/society memberships as a percentage of student population.

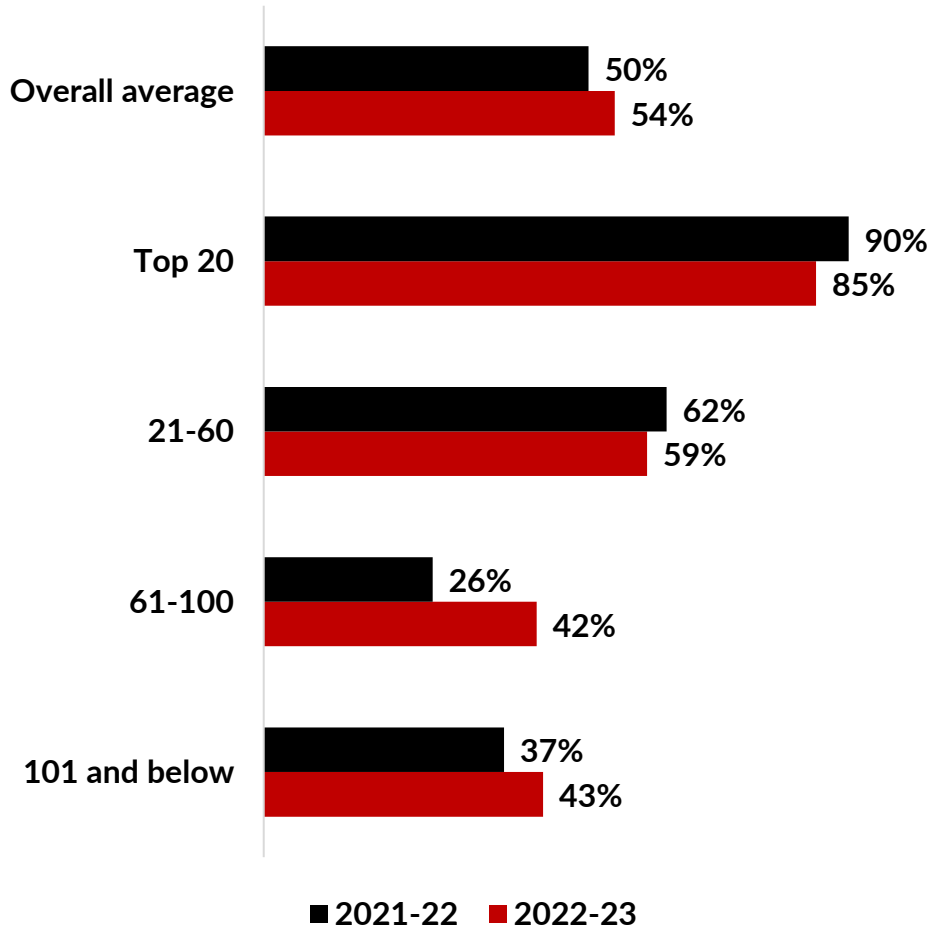
This had been on the decline following the COVID-19 pandemic, but there has been a one-percentage point uptick from 2021-22 to 2022-23.

When looking at institutions by BUCS Points ranking, top 20 institutions and those ranked 101 and below have seen a decline while those ranked 21-60 and 61-100 have seen a slight increase.

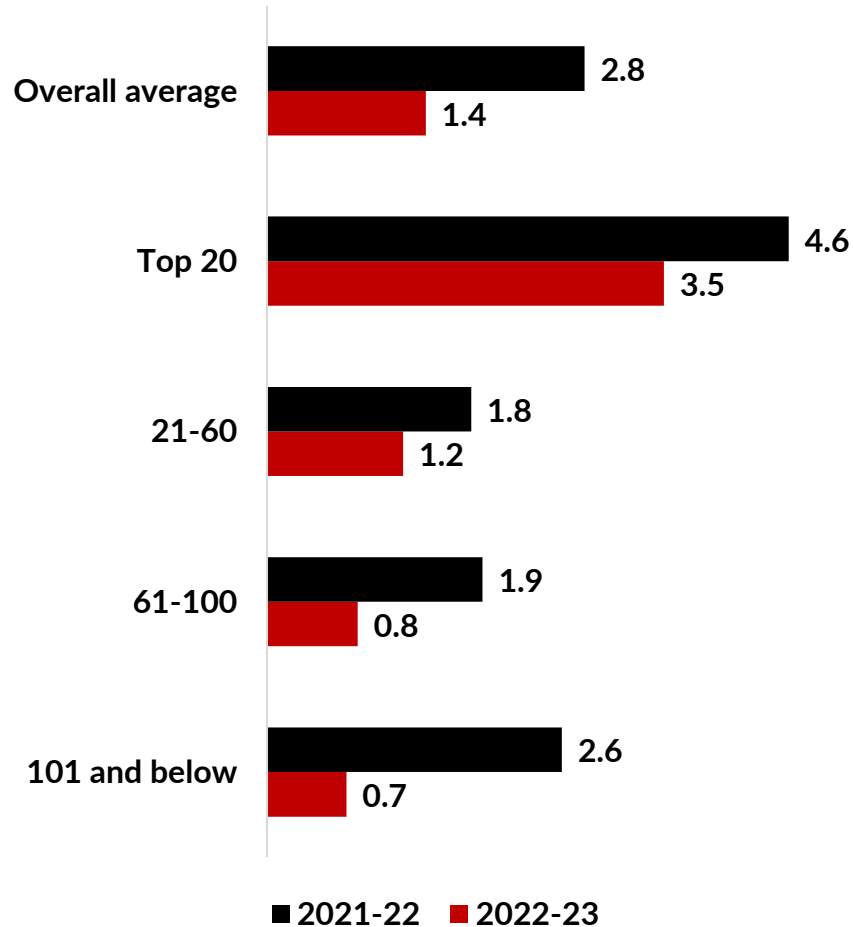
Consistent with intramural sport teams, this has not recovered to pre-COVID levels.

PARASPORT OFFERING

Institutions that offer at least one parasport



Average number of parasports offered by institutions



There has been a small rise in the number of institutions that offer at least one parasport.

There is a decline in average number of parasports per institutions by 50% from 2.8 to 1.4 and this is seen across all institutions regardless of BUCS ranking.

This decrease may be due to institutions facing the challenge of running multiple parasport clubs and due to the number of participants or other factors, such as institutions needing to consolidate their offers, to ensure a sustainable offer is present.

In some cases non-parasport clubs may have conducted work to be more inclusive, therefore obviating the need for separate parasport offers.

MOST COMMON PARASPORT OFFERING

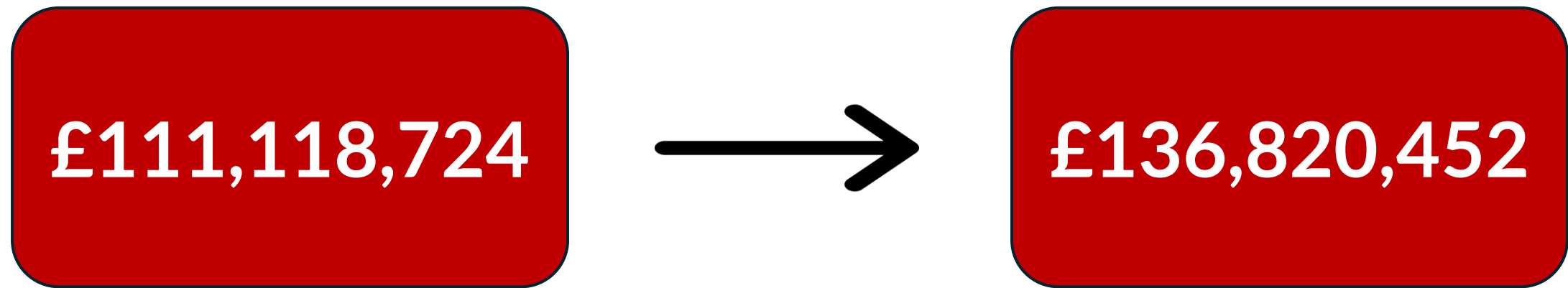
Most common parasport offering across all institutions	Percentage of institutions offering the parasport
Wheelchair basketball	17%
Para-swimming	11%
Para-athletics	10%
Boccia	8%
Adaptive rowing, wheelchair tennis	6%

INSTITUTIONAL INVESTMENT IN SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

INSTITUTIONAL SPEND ON SPORT AND FACILITIES

Total annual spend on sports (including staffing, consumables etc - not capital investment)

Direct institution comparison across 49 institutions



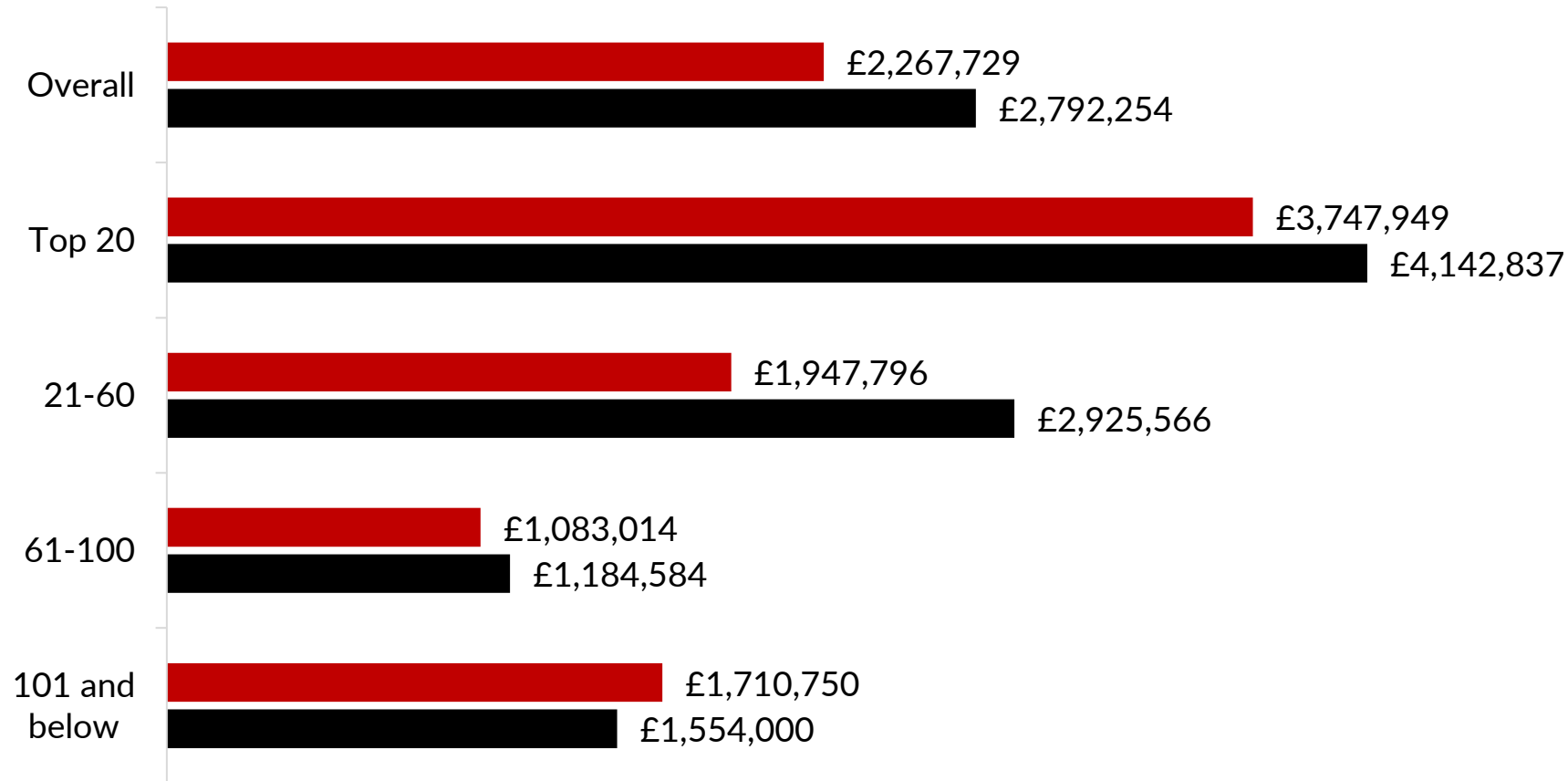
2021/22

This increase in the total annual spend between 2021-22 and 2022-23 is most likely down to contributors such as inflation levels, rising energy costs and rising transport costs.

2022/23

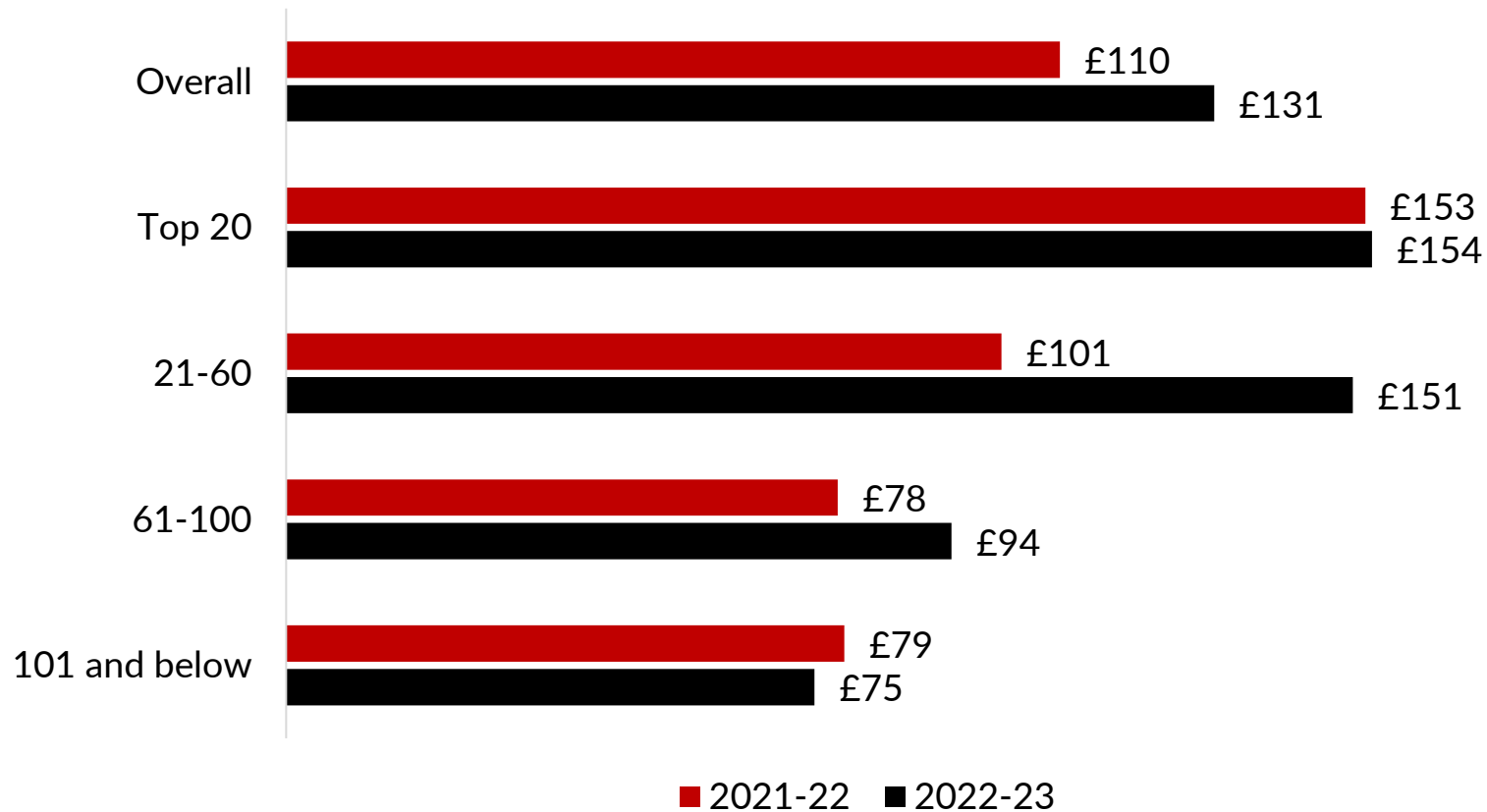
IS THIS IMPACT BEING REFLECTED ACROSS THE SECTOR?

Average Annual Spend on Sport by BUCS Ranking (Direct Comparison between 2021-22 and 2022-23)



IS THIS IMPACT BEING REFLECTED ACROSS THE SECTOR?

Average Annual Spend on Sport per Student by BUCS Ranking (Direct Comparison between 2021-22 and 2022-23)



This slide and the previous slide outline that generally the rising costs and increased financial pressures are impacting all institutions, regardless of BUCS ranking.

Institutions in the 21-60 ranking bracket saw the largest increase, with costs rising from £101 to £151.

LOOKING FORWARD...

PLANNED INVESTMENT IN SPORTS FACILITIES IN THE COMING 5 YEARS

TOTAL
(55 RESPONDERS)

£220,434,370

WHAT ARE THE PLANNED FACILITY AND EQUIPMENT DEVELOPMENTS?

Gym enhancements

Refurbishments, new equipment and expansions.

Pitch upgrades

Resurfacing and replacing various types of sports pitches including 3G and artificial.

New facilities

New multisport hubs, pavilions and courts to enhance sports offerings.

Changing facilities

Upgrades to changing rooms and showers to improve student experience.

Equipment investment

Continuous replacement and upgrade of fitness and sports specific equipment.

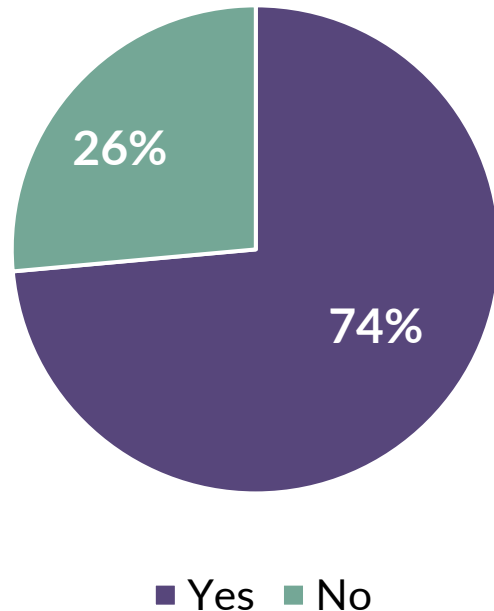
General upgrades

Improvements to overall infrastructure including lighting and drainage.

INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES FOR SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGIES

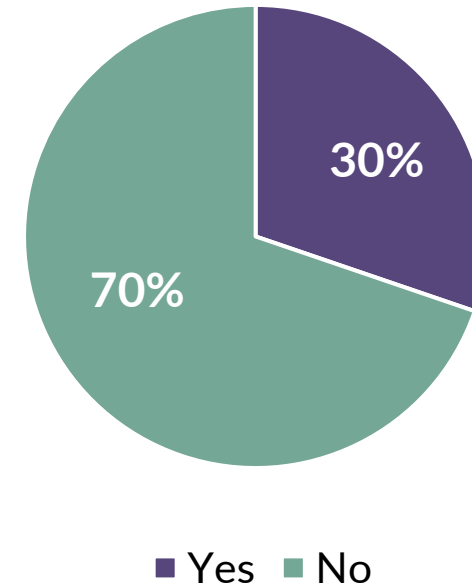
DO YOU HAVE A STRATEGY FOR SPORTS AND/OR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FOR YOUR INSTITUTION?



Most institutions who responded to the survey have a strategy for sports and/or physical activity, as seen in the chart on the left.

However, far fewer feature sport/physical activity in their institution's corporate strategy, as seen in the chart on the right. There is an improvement to be made in this area as members work with their institutions to increase recognition that sport and physical activity are core aspects of student life and can improve student experience.

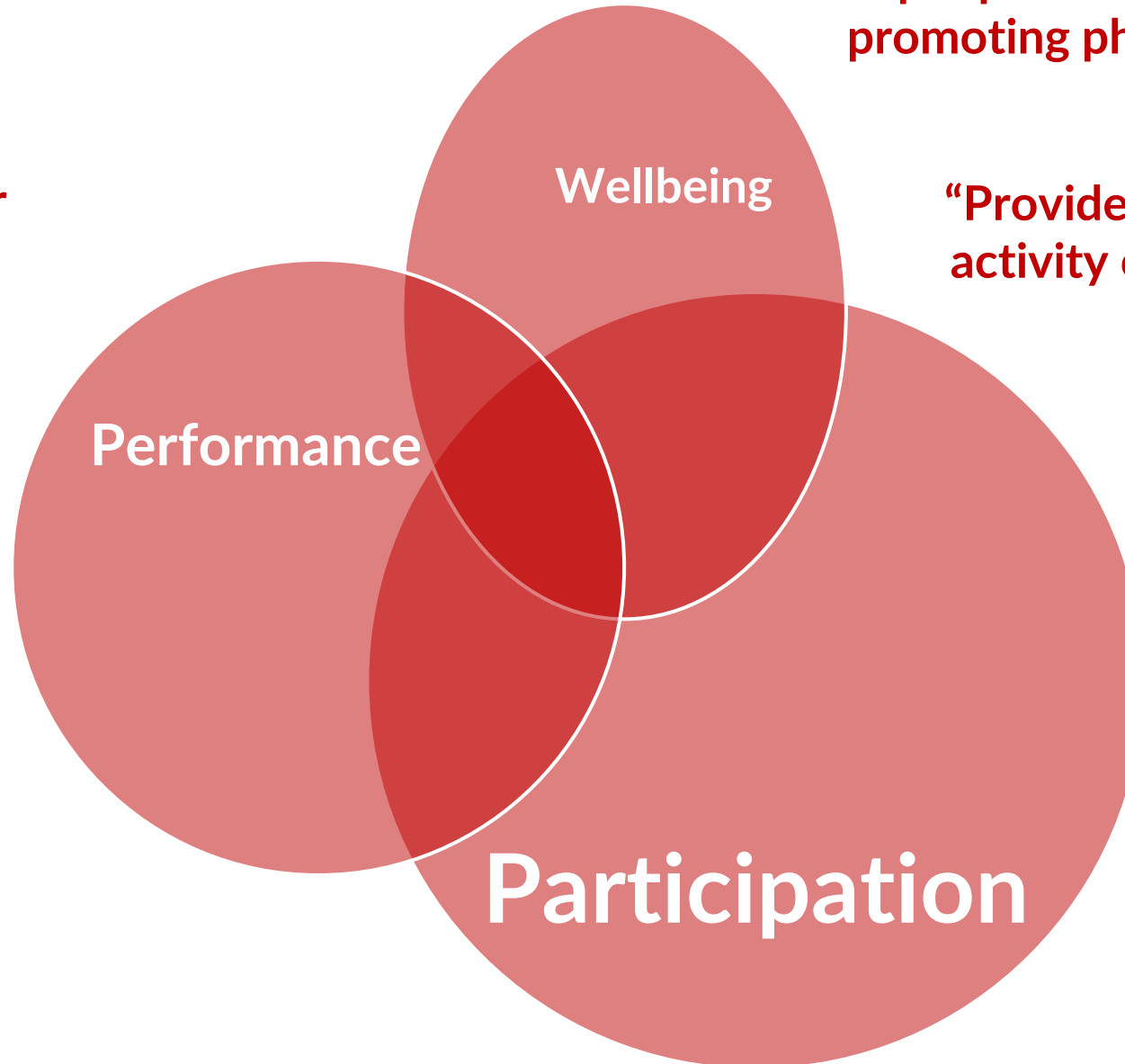
DOES SPORT AND/OR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FEATURE AS A SPECIFIC TERM IN YOUR INSTITUTION'S CORPORATE STRATEGY?



KEY STRATEGIC THEMES

“Provide opportunities for students to train for and compete in competitive matches/leagues, whilst supporting clubs to flourish.”

“Develop a top-class performance pathway.”



“Be an active and healthy university, more people to be active in their daily lives, promoting physical and mental wellbeing.”

“Provide participation and physical activity opportunities for students and staff.”

Institutions identified three main strategic areas of work going forward: participation, performance and wellbeing.

Of the 65 institutions that answered this question, two-thirds mentioned areas which can be associated with at least two of these themes.

TOP 3 KEY STRATEGIC THEMES: WELLBEING



Mental and Physical Health and Wellbeing

- Improving mental and physical wellbeing through physical activity
- Offer an inclusive programme to enable the majority of students to be active



Health and Wellbeing Services

- Align the sport and physical activity offer with staff and student wellbeing objectives

TOP 3 KEY STRATEGIC THEMES : PARTICIPATION

Sense of Belonging and Community

- Develop a sense of belonging, connect students and unite communities
- Developing affinity with the university through sport and physical activity

Inclusive Engagement

- Supporting inclusive clubs
- Increase participation and engagement in sport and physical activity

Opportunities for All

- Sport opportunities for all at the level they want them
- Delivering sport programmes for all students

TOP 3 KEY STRATEGIC THEMES: PERFORMANCE

High Performance

- Achieve highest possible BUCS ranking
- Recruit and retain the most talented student athletes

Facility Improvement

- Develop high-quality sports facilities to enhance university campuses

Competitive Sport Experience

- Support clubs to provide a first-class student sporting experience
- Provide opportunities for students to train for and compete in competitive matches/leagues

Student Development and Employability

- Skill development through volunteering, employment and leadership
- Equipping students with the skills they need to succeed

OTHER CROSS-CUTTING THEMES AMONG INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIES

**Sustainability
and Financial
Viability**

Financial sustainability in sports
facilities and services

**Community
Engagement**

Bringing communities together
through sports

**Student and
Staff
Experience**

Enhancing the student and staff
experience through sport