

JF surveys in 2021 and 2020: Covid-19 impact on career, research and teaching



**Karolinska
Institutet**

Junior Faculty Surveys

JF survey 2021 (run June 6th – July 10th)

- Sent to: **2142** JF members at KI with active email addresses
- Responded: **320** (response rate **14.94%**)

JF survey 2020 (run June 8th – June 30th)

- Sent to: **1943** JF members at KI with active email addresses
- Responded: **383** (response rate **19.71%**)

General demographics

Survey 2021

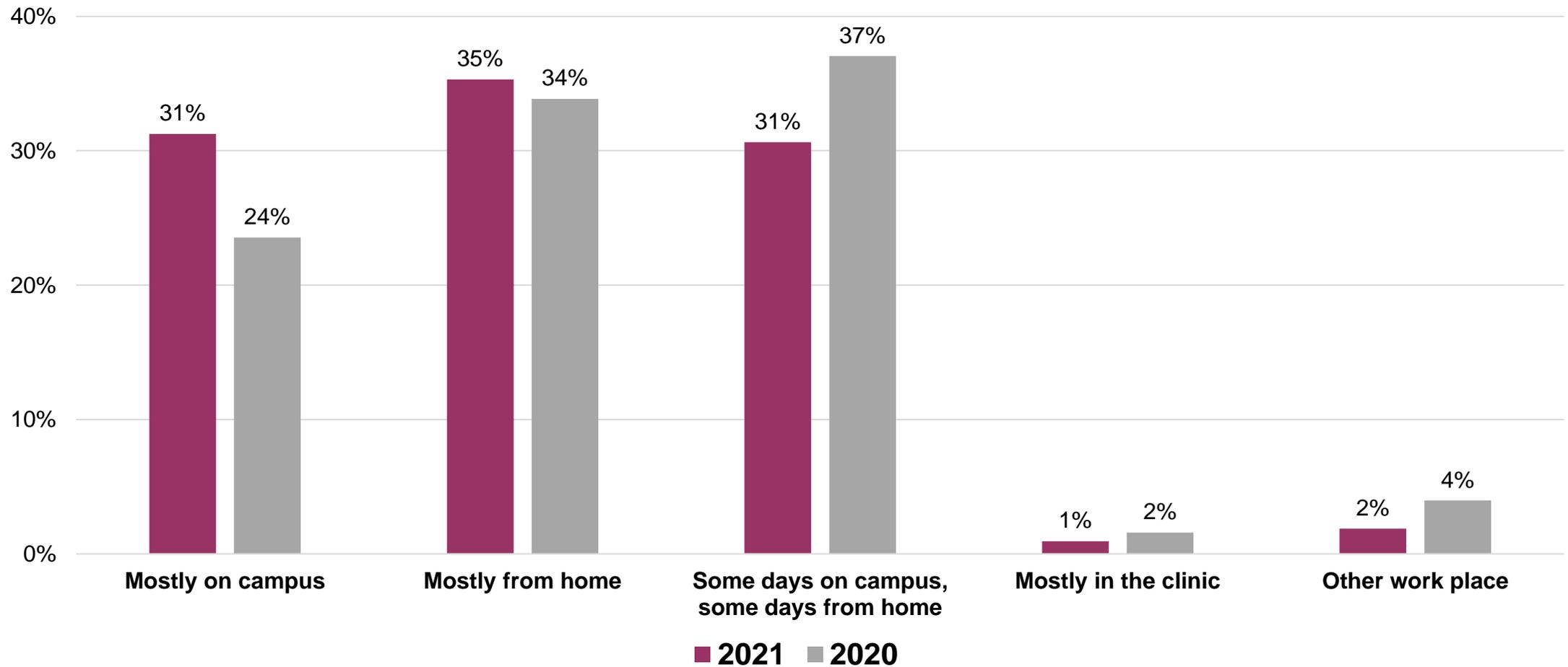
- Women – 56%
- Non-Swedish – 60%
- Living with children – 44%
- Postdocs – 58%
- Clinicians – 4%

Survey 2020

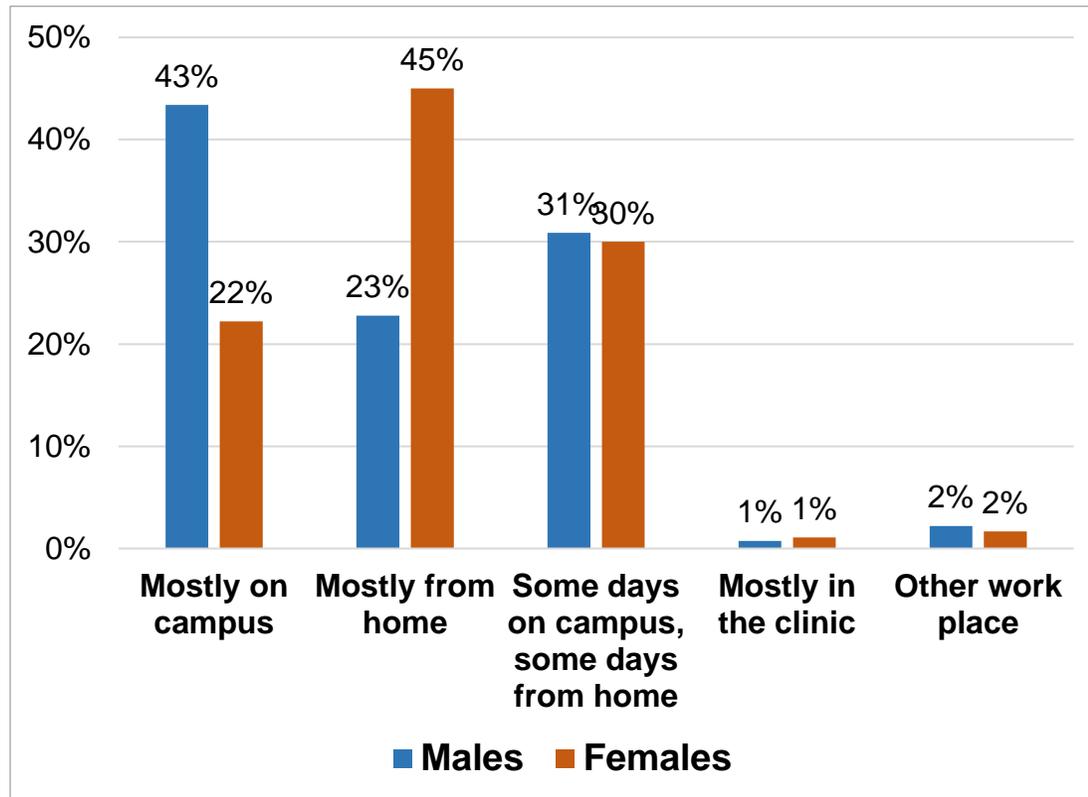
- Women – 59%
- Non-Swedish – 59%
- Living with children – 52%
- Postdocs – 52%
- Clinicians – 5%

Working conditions and progress of
research projects

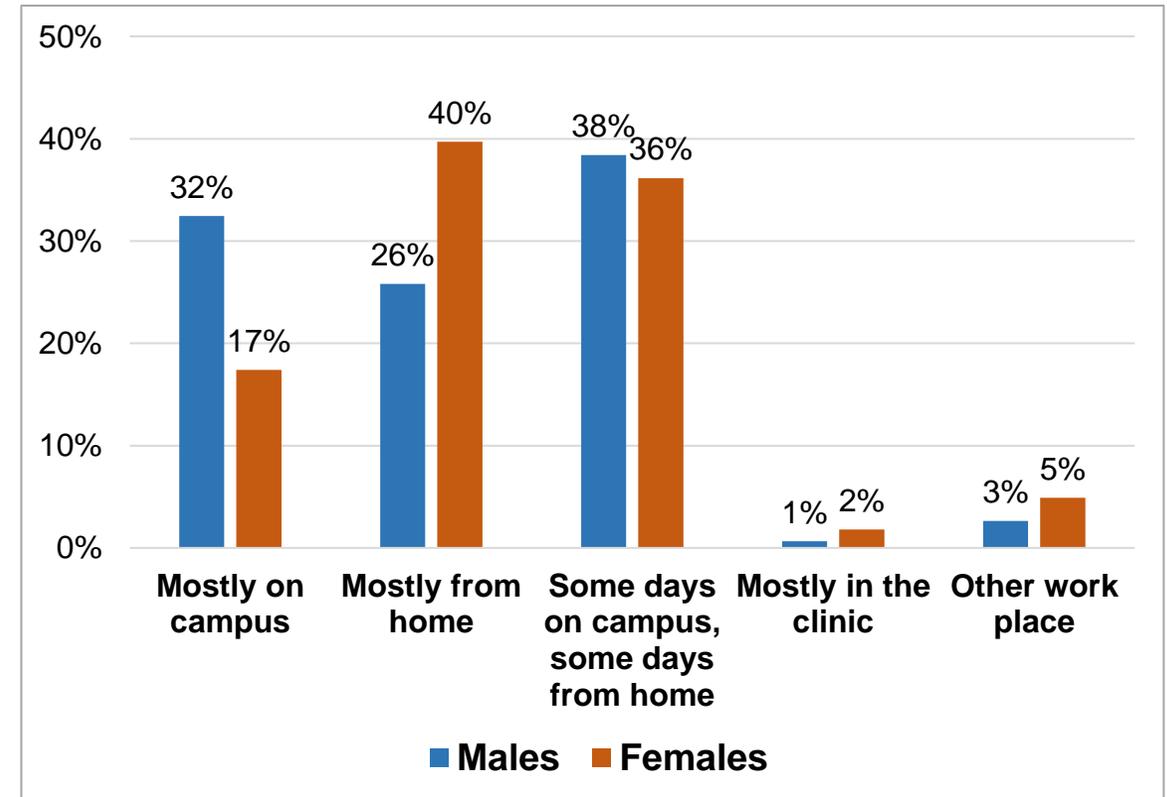
Working from home or on-site during the pandemic



Working from home or on-site during the pandemic by the respondents' gender

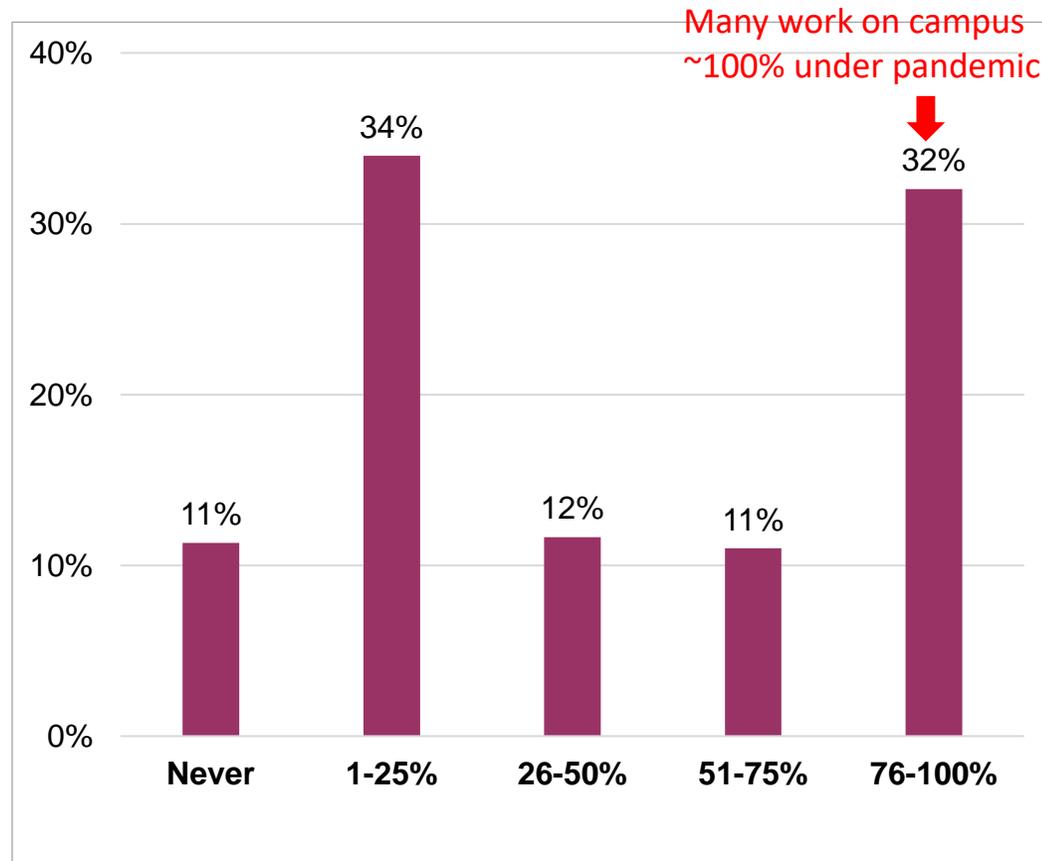


Survey 2021

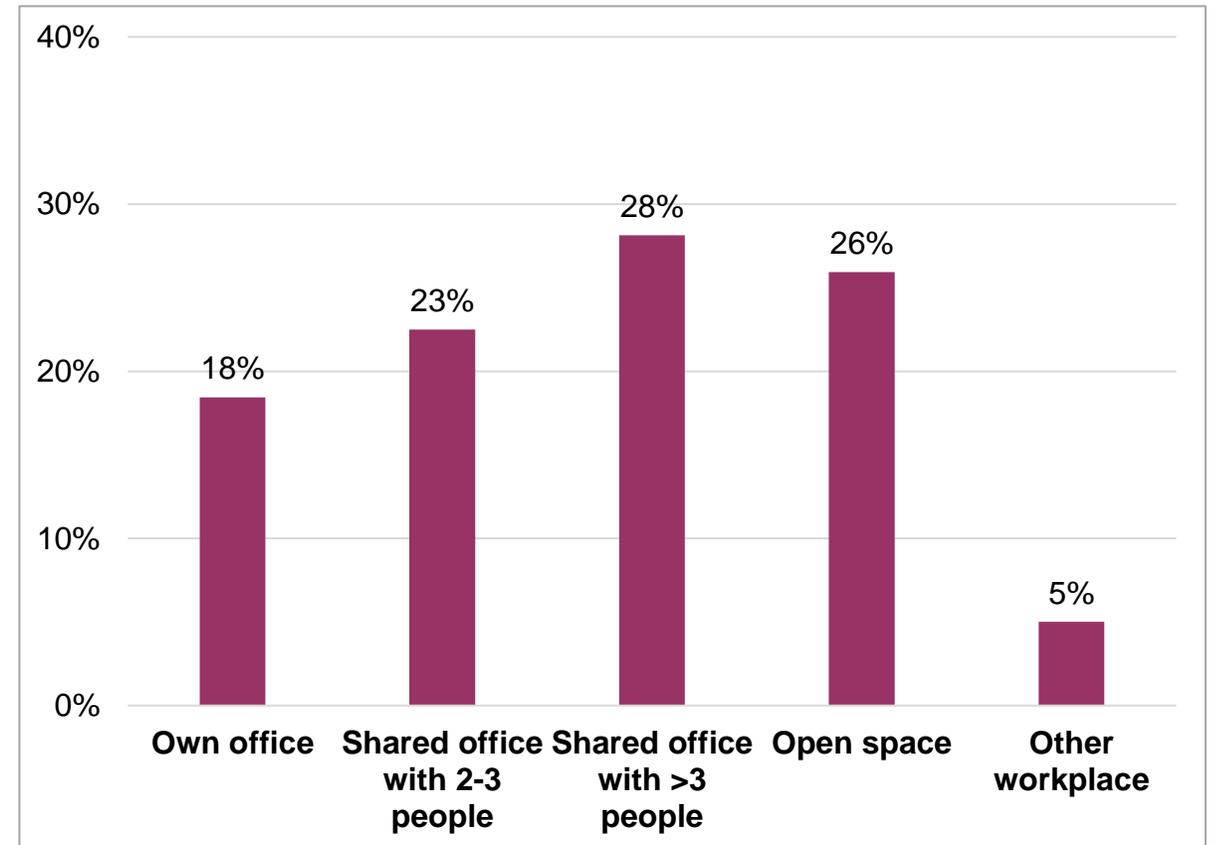


Survey 2020

Percentage of working hours on campus during pandemic (left) and physical workplace on campus (right) *(questions included only in JF survey 2021)*

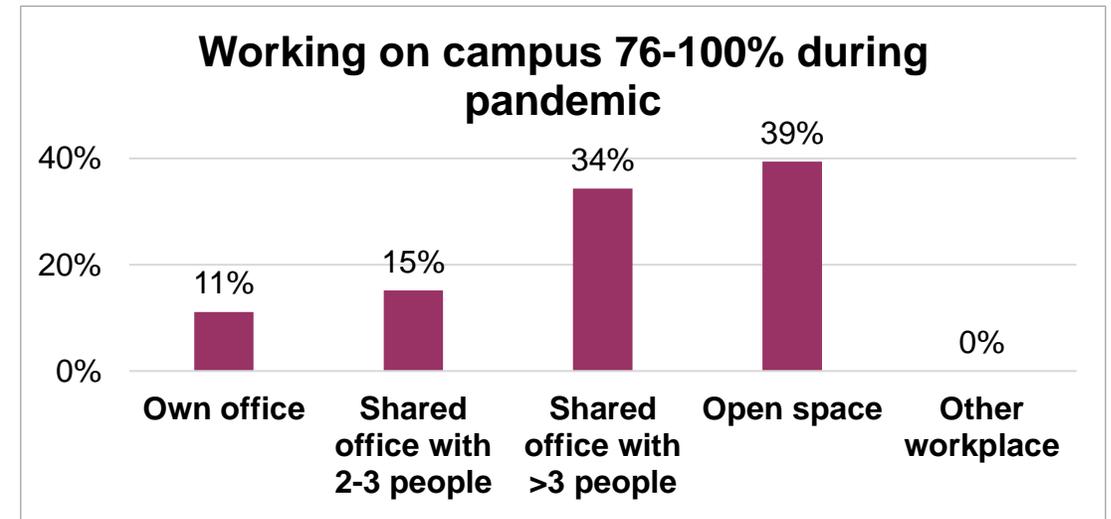
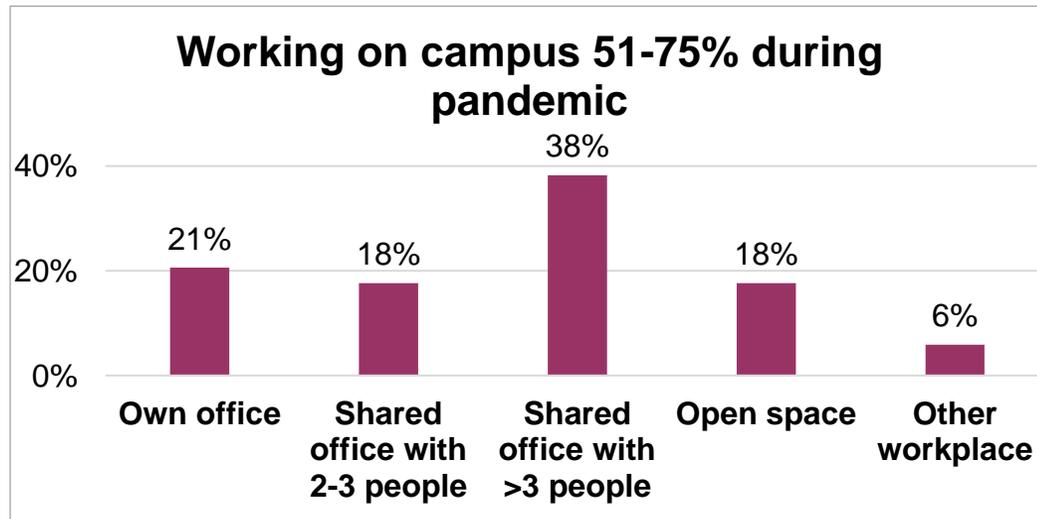
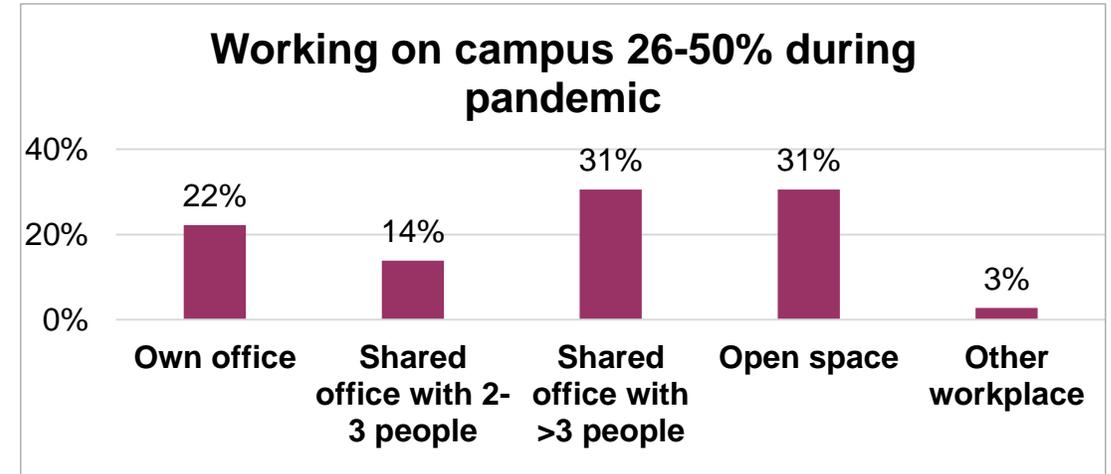
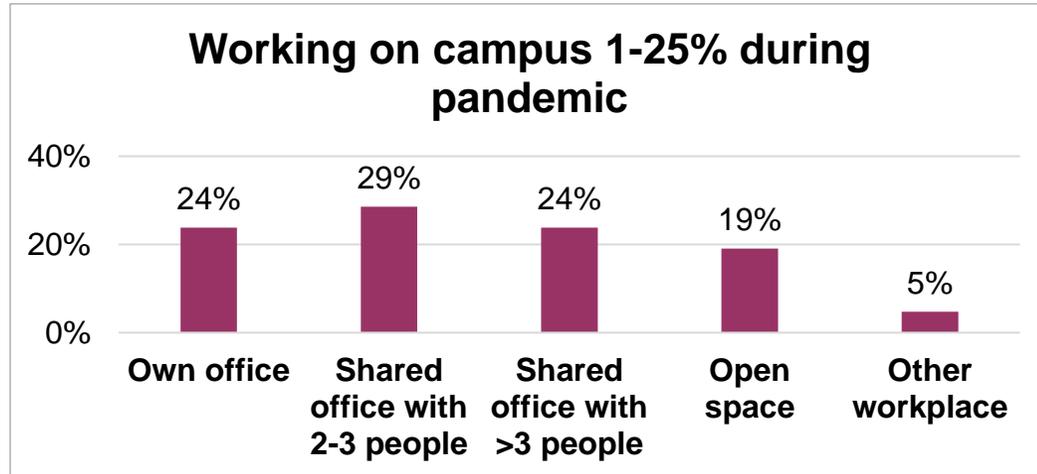


Percentage of working hours on campus

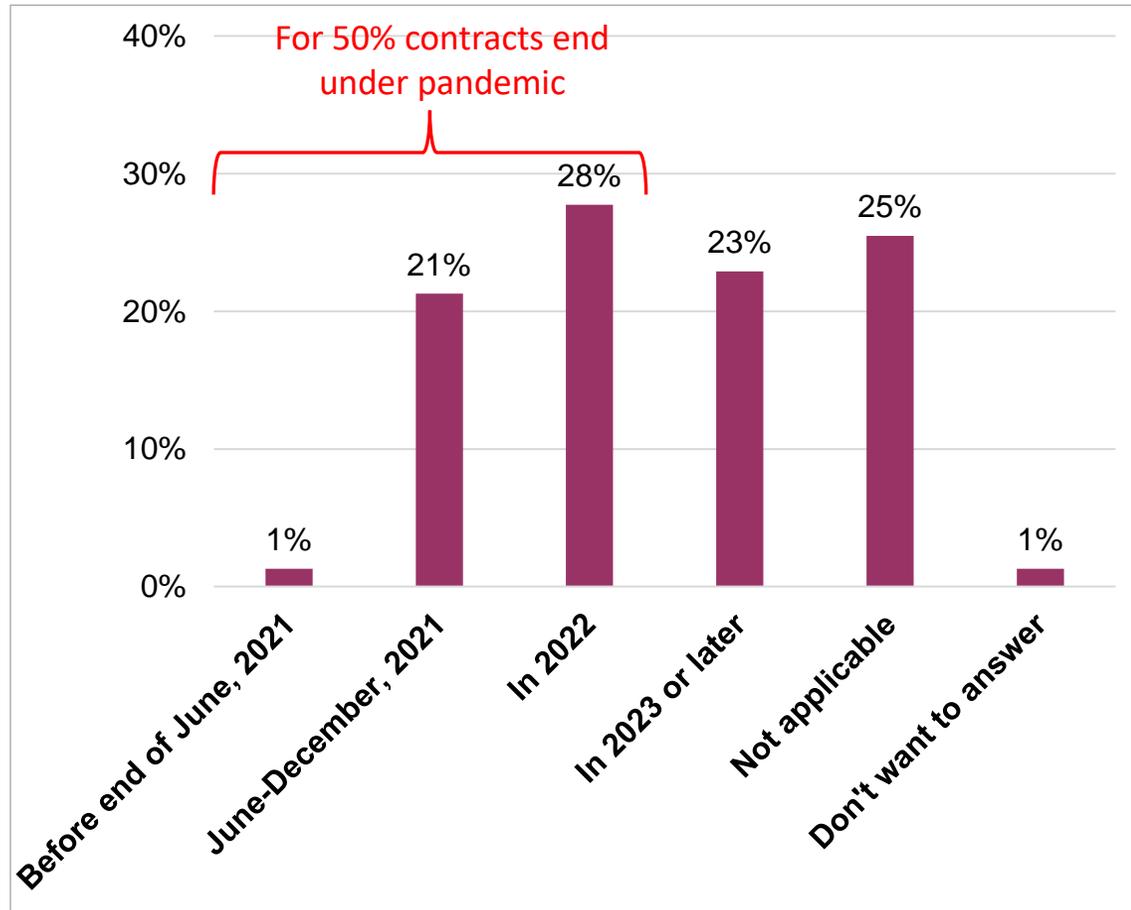


Physical workplace on campus

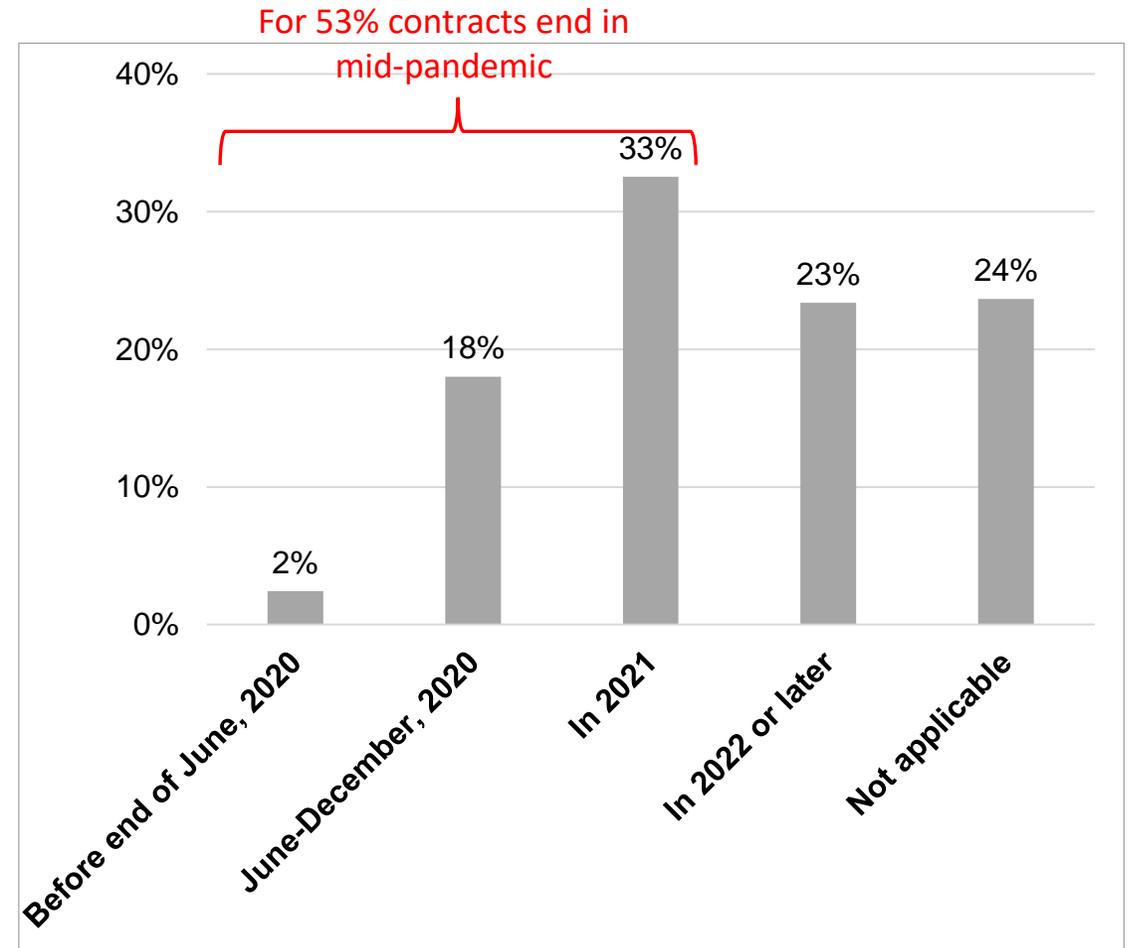
Work on campus during pandemic and physical workplace (question included only in JF survey 2021)



When does time-limited employment contract end?

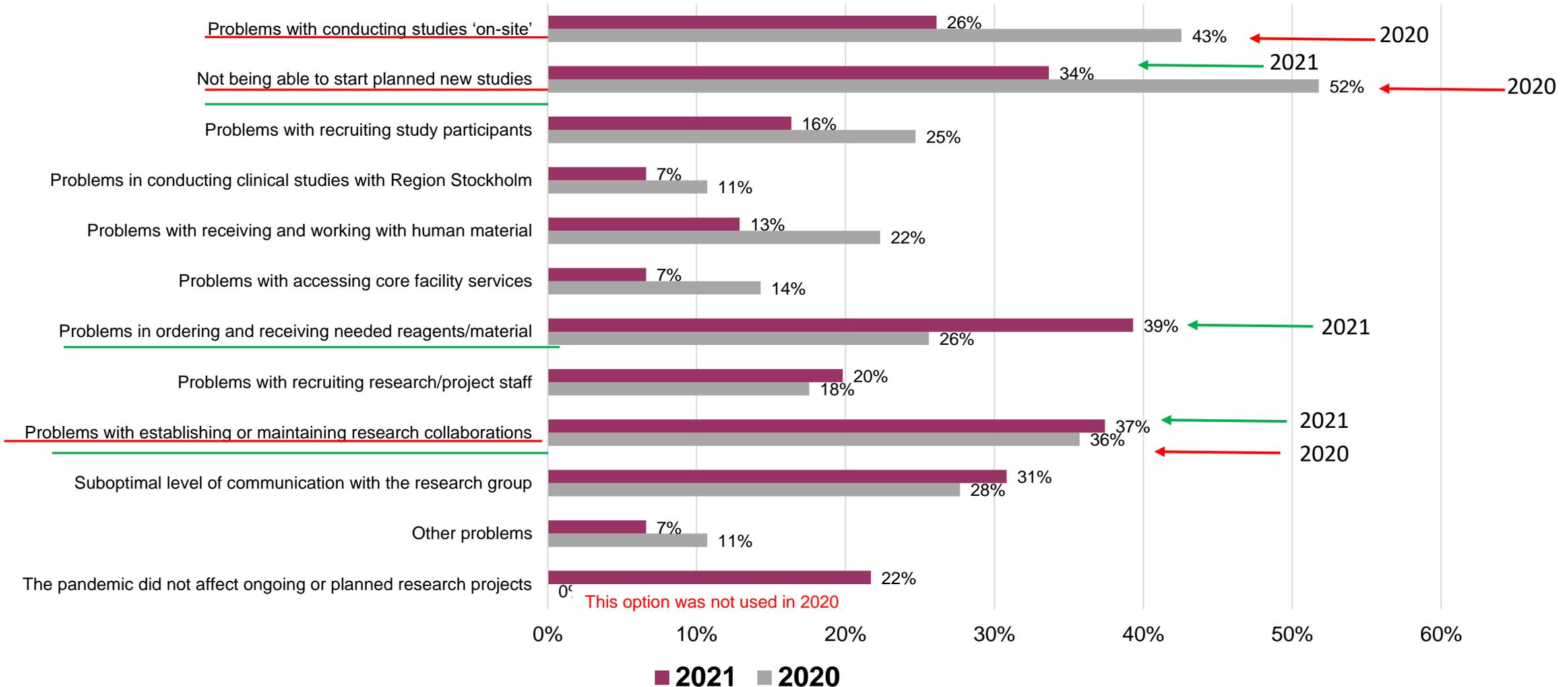


Survey 2021



Survey 2020

Problems with ongoing or planned research (multiple answers)



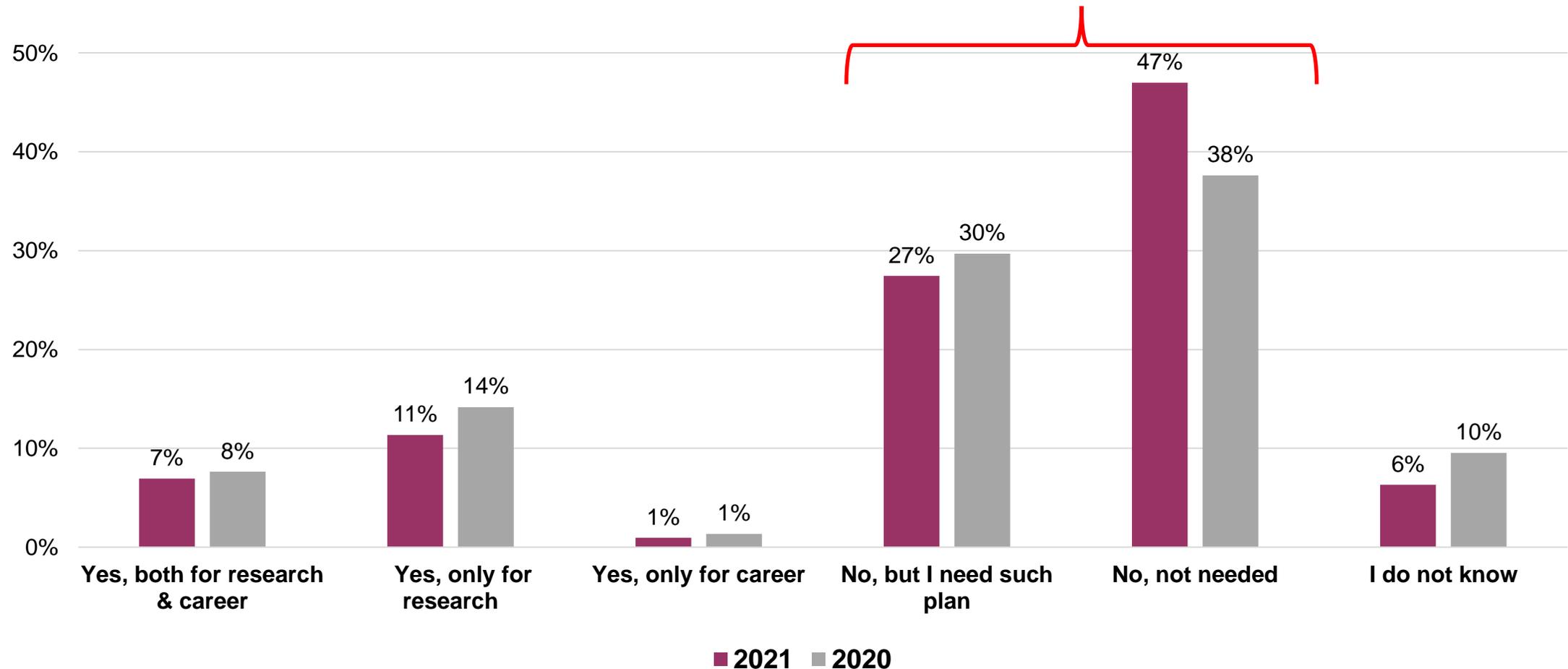
Additional problems for research reported

- Difficulties in recruiting personnel and research participants
- Lowered overall research productivity
 - Difficulties in finishing studies
 - Reduced motivation
 - Less publications
- Running costs for salaries despite halted research and on the other not possible to spend all grants as not possible to do the planned studies
- Mental distress due to various issues

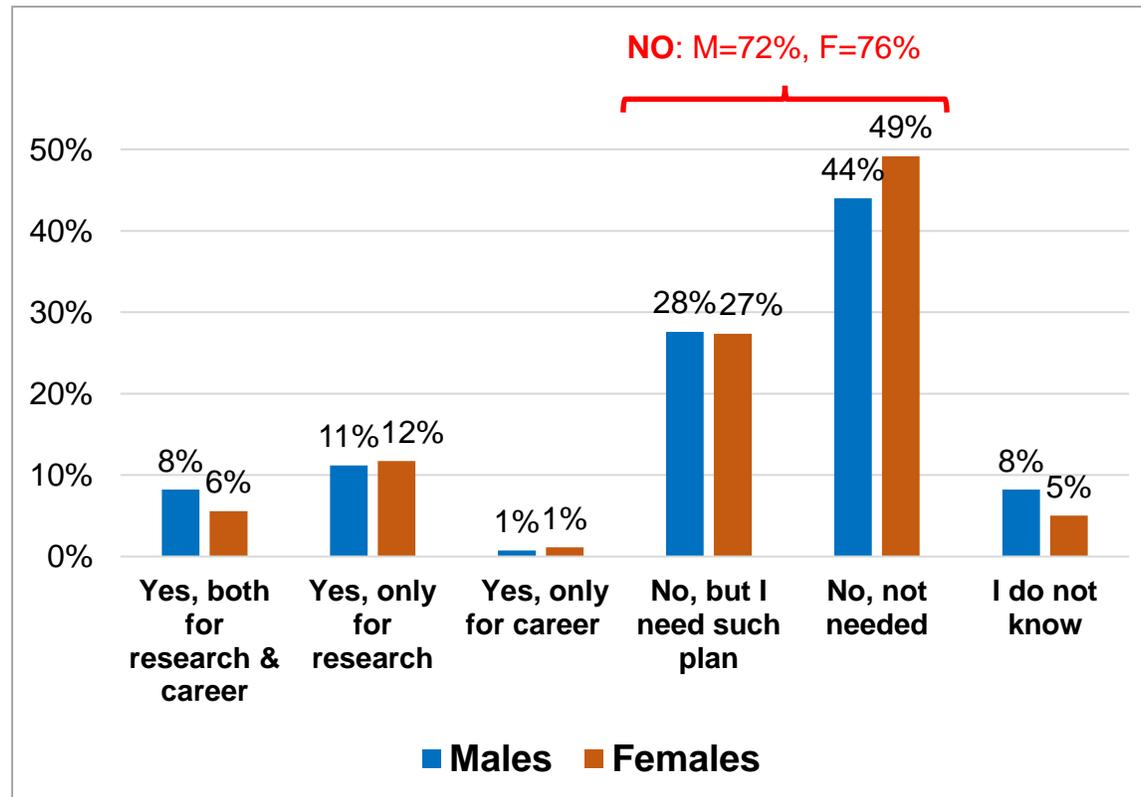
Positive sides reported: new research avenues and funding for COVID-19 related research

Establishing a risk handling plan due to COVID-19 situation

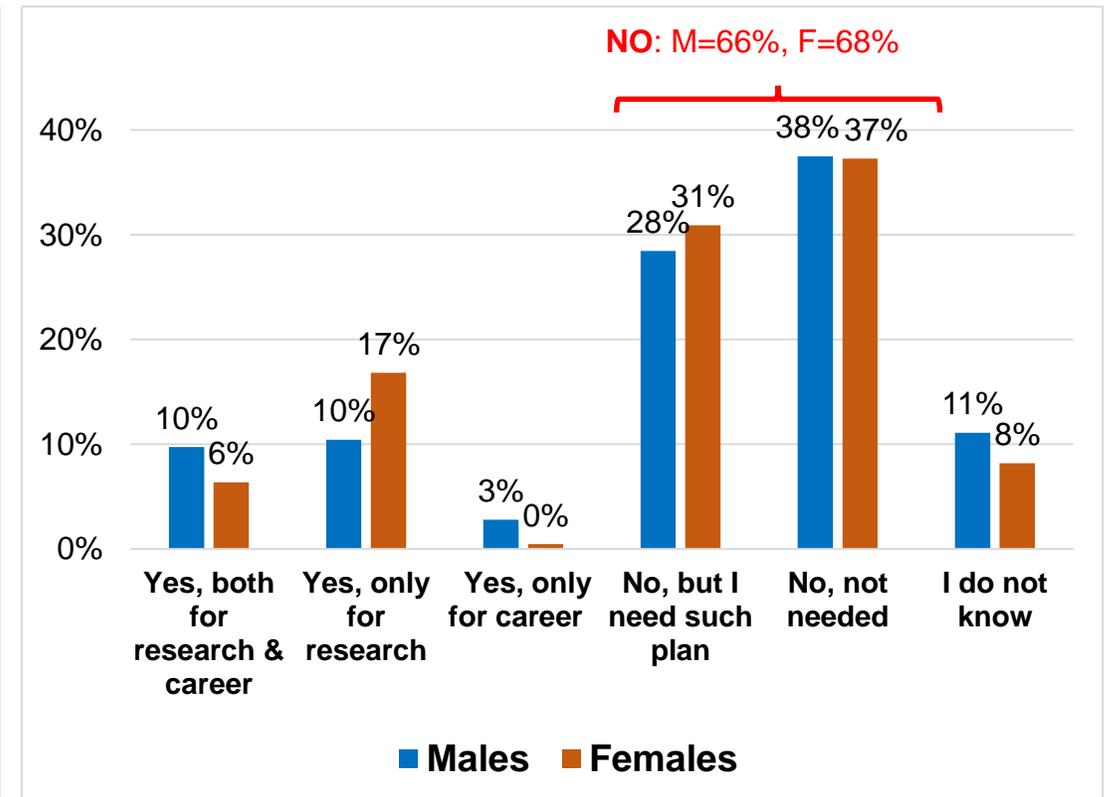
NO: 2021 = 74.4%, 2020 = 67.3%



Establishing a risk handling plan due to COVID-19 situation



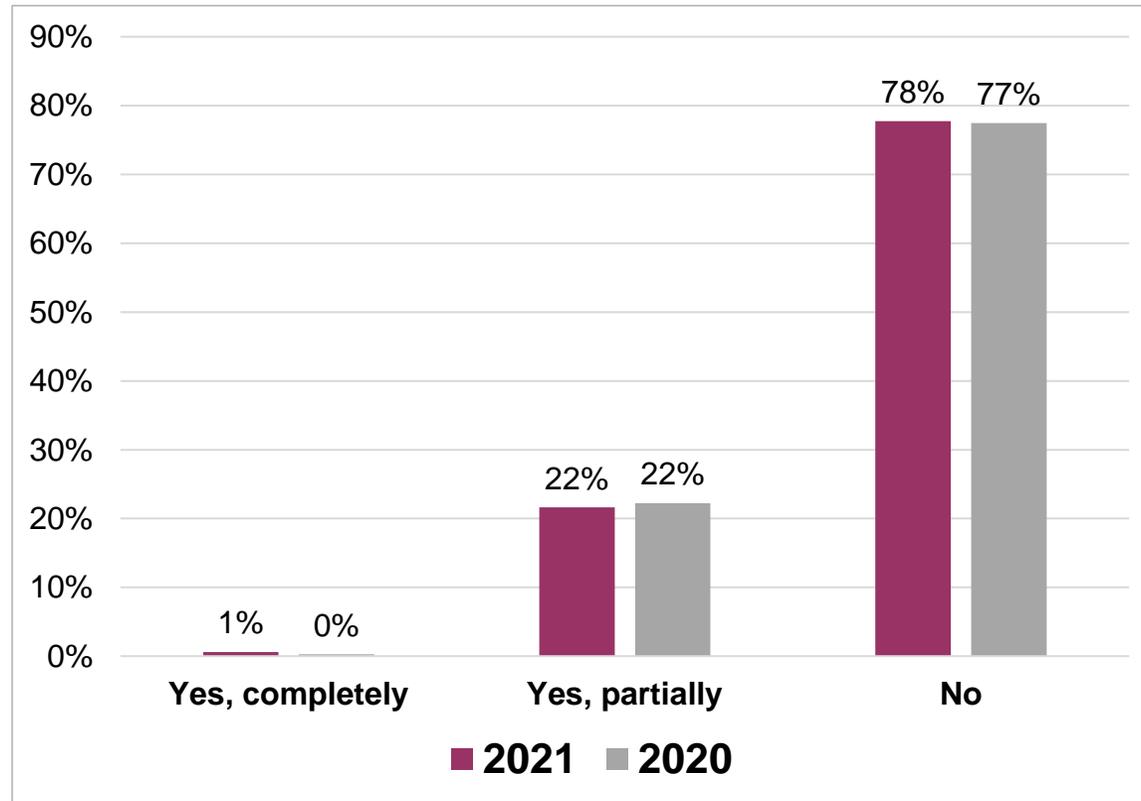
Survey 2021



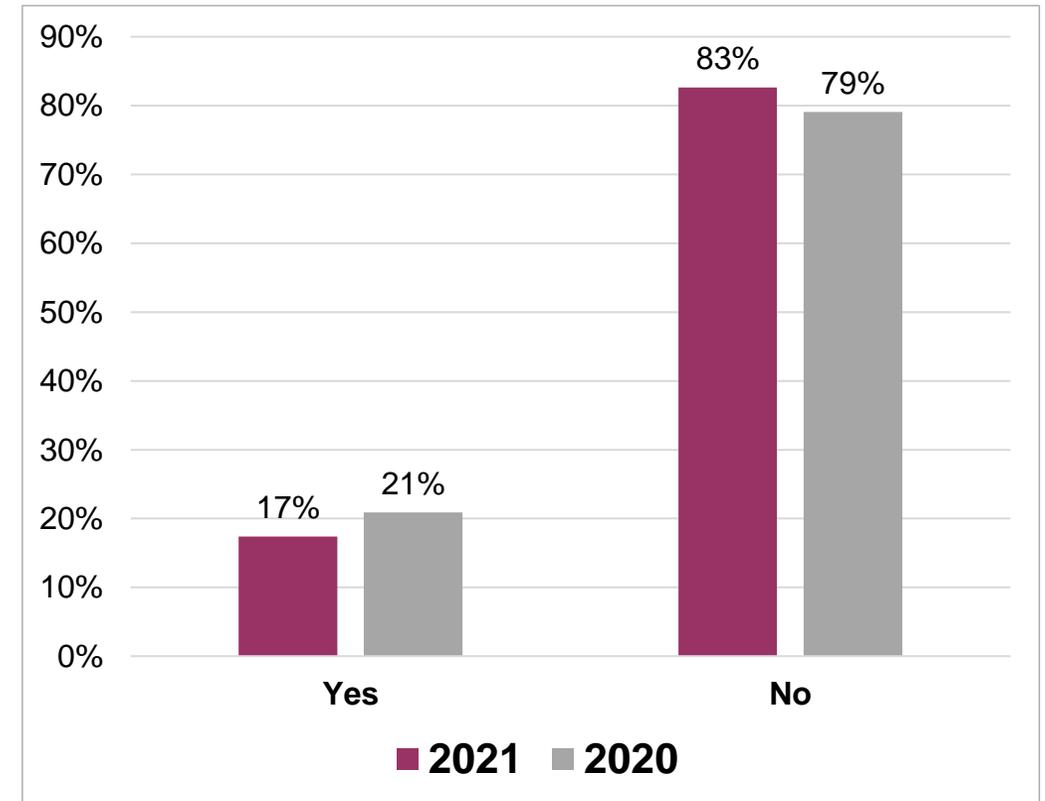
Survey 2020

Research related to COVID-19 and
SARS-Cov-2

Changed research focus towards COVID-19 and SARS-Cov-2 (left) and reported problems conducting these studies (right)



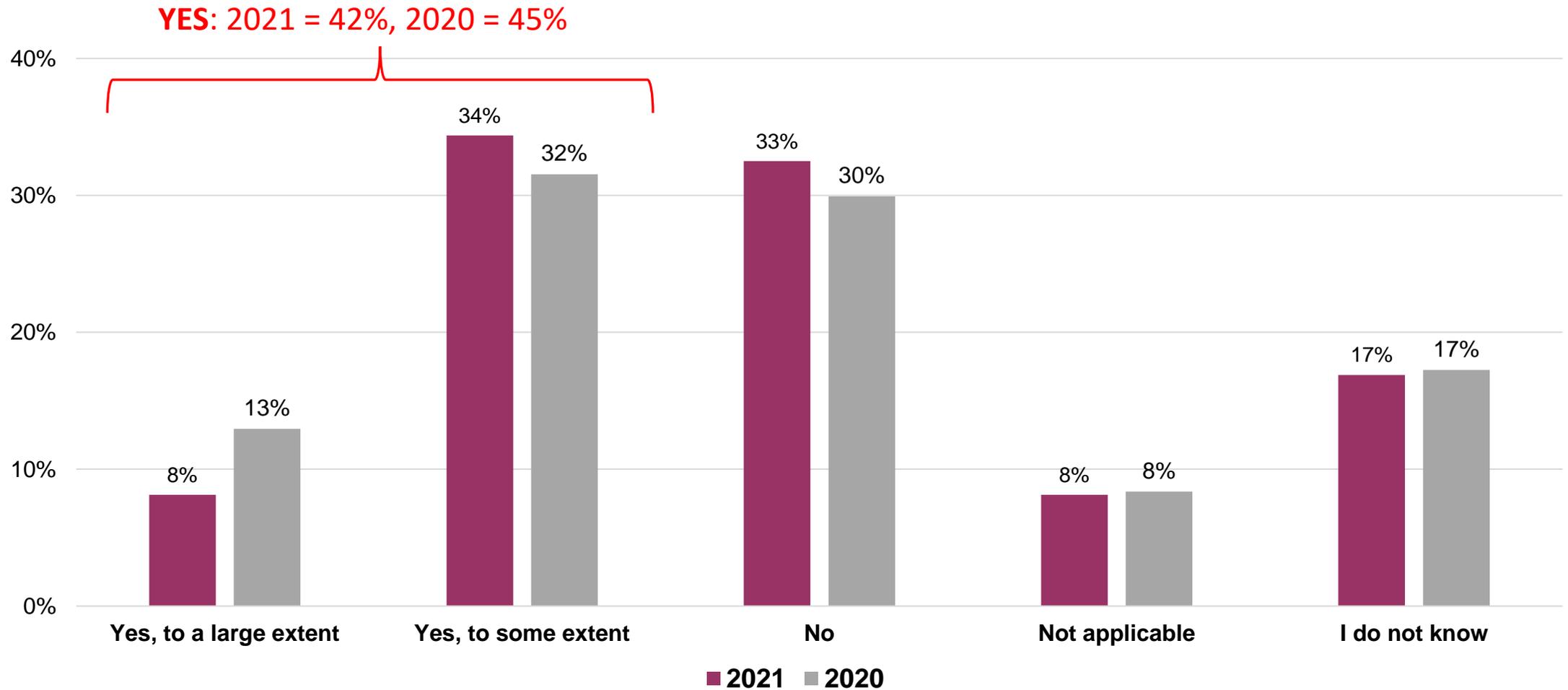
Changed research focus towards COVID-19 & SARS-Cov-2



Problems conducting COVID-19 & SARS-Cov-2 studies

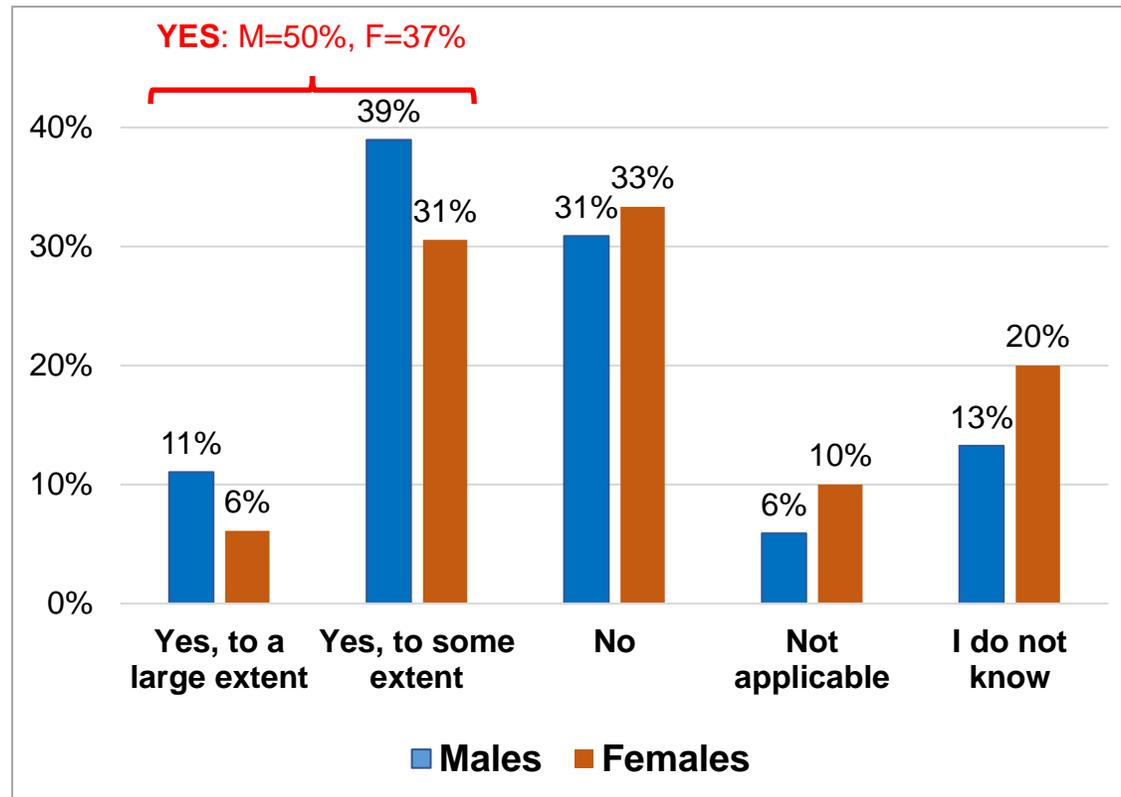
Employment and career prospective

Negative impact on applying for academic position

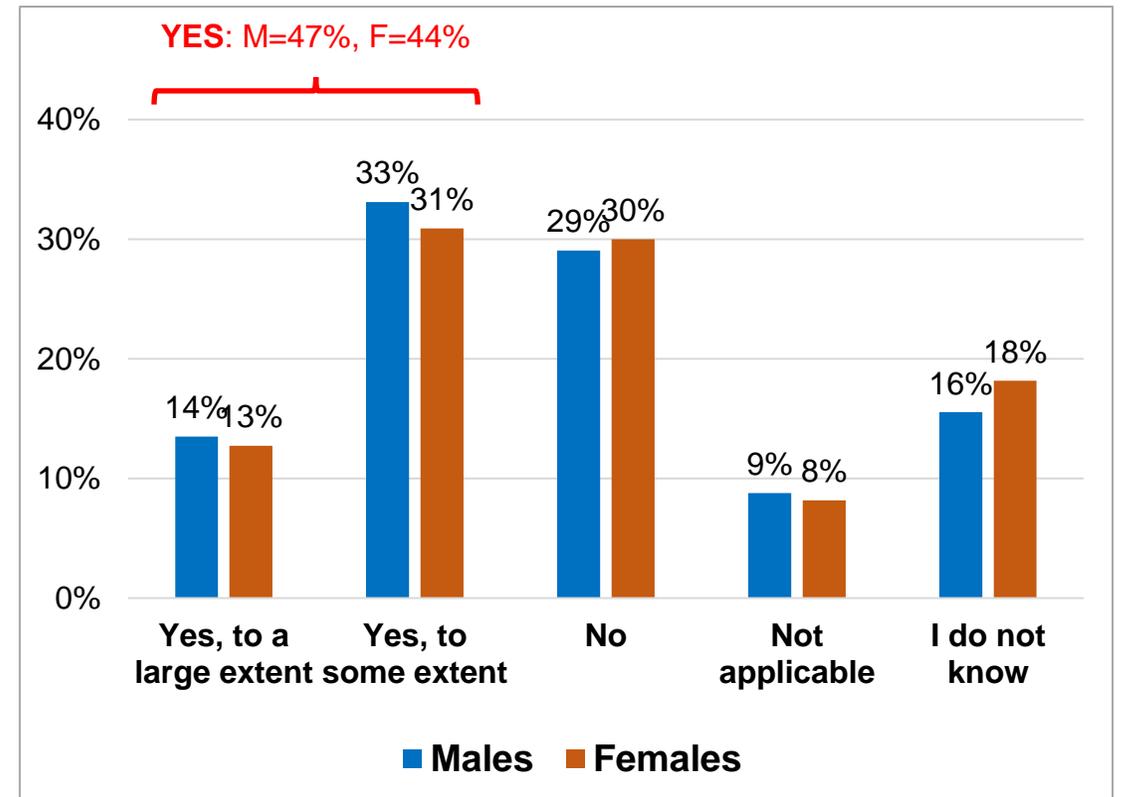


Negative impact on applying for academic position by gender

from survey 2021 (left) and from survey 2020 (right)

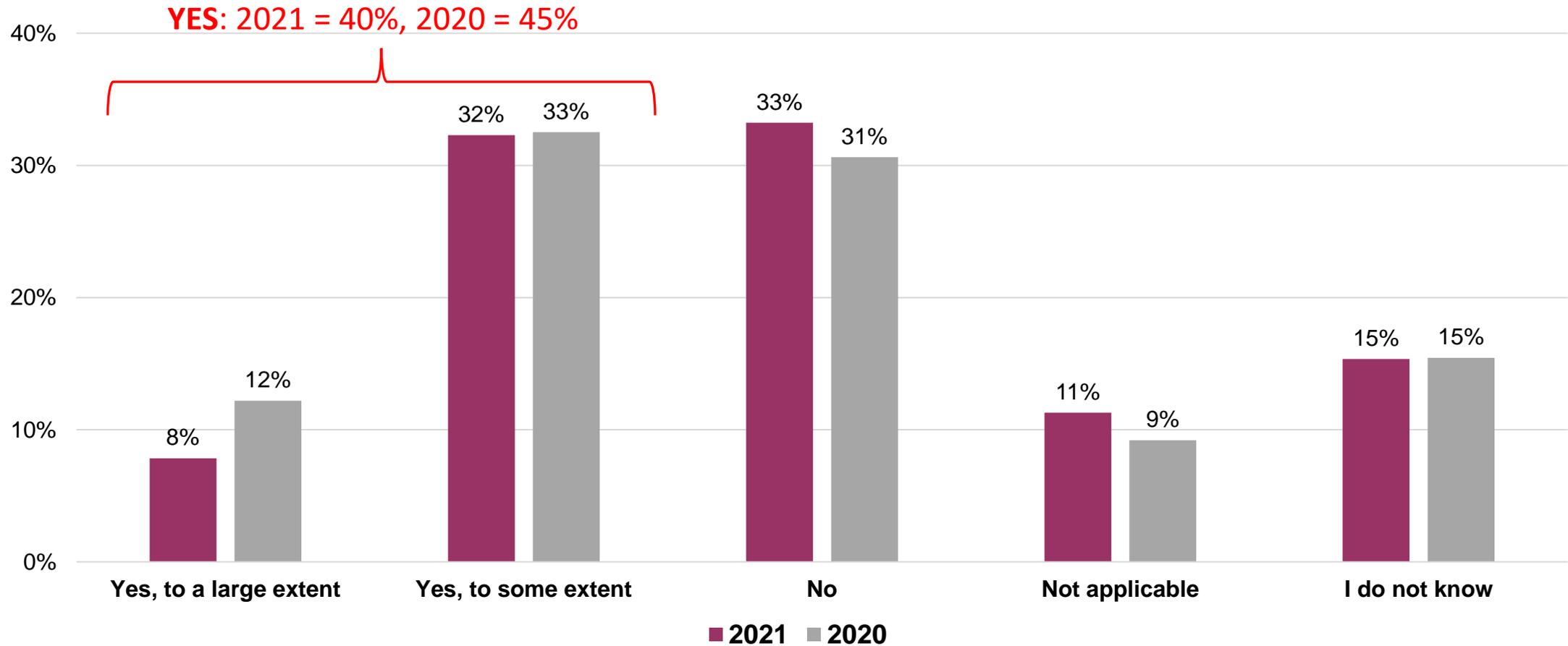


Survey 2021

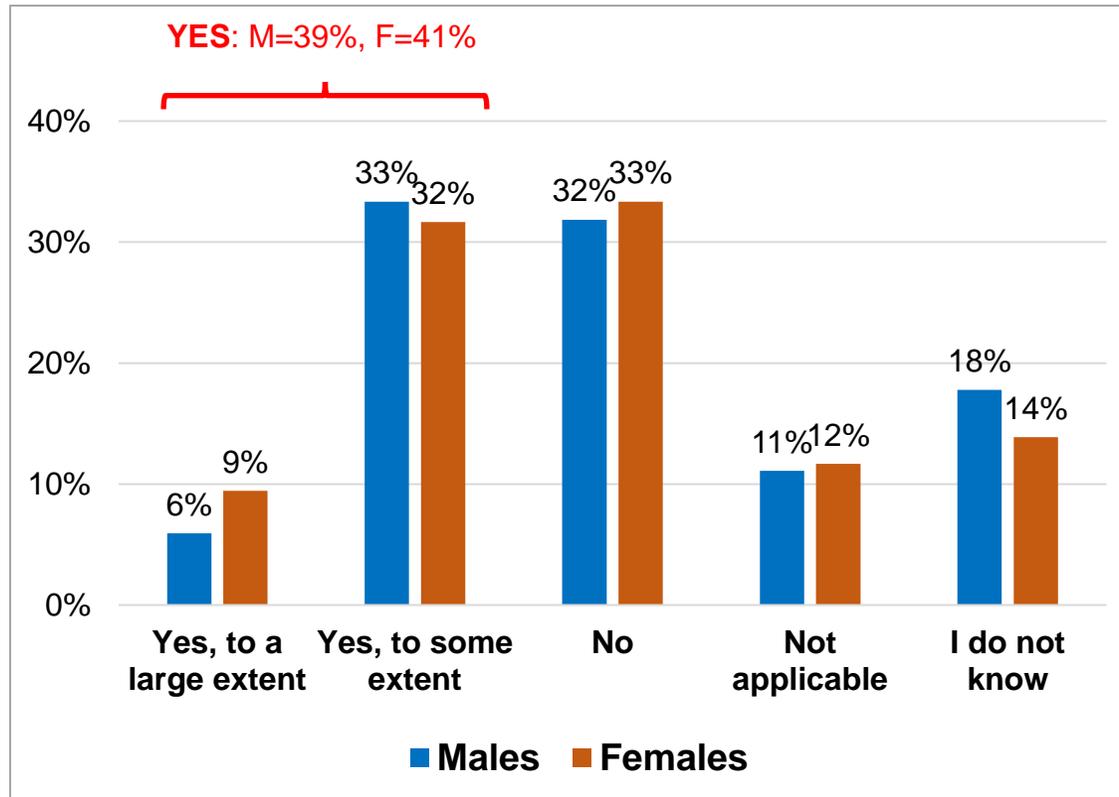


Survey 2020

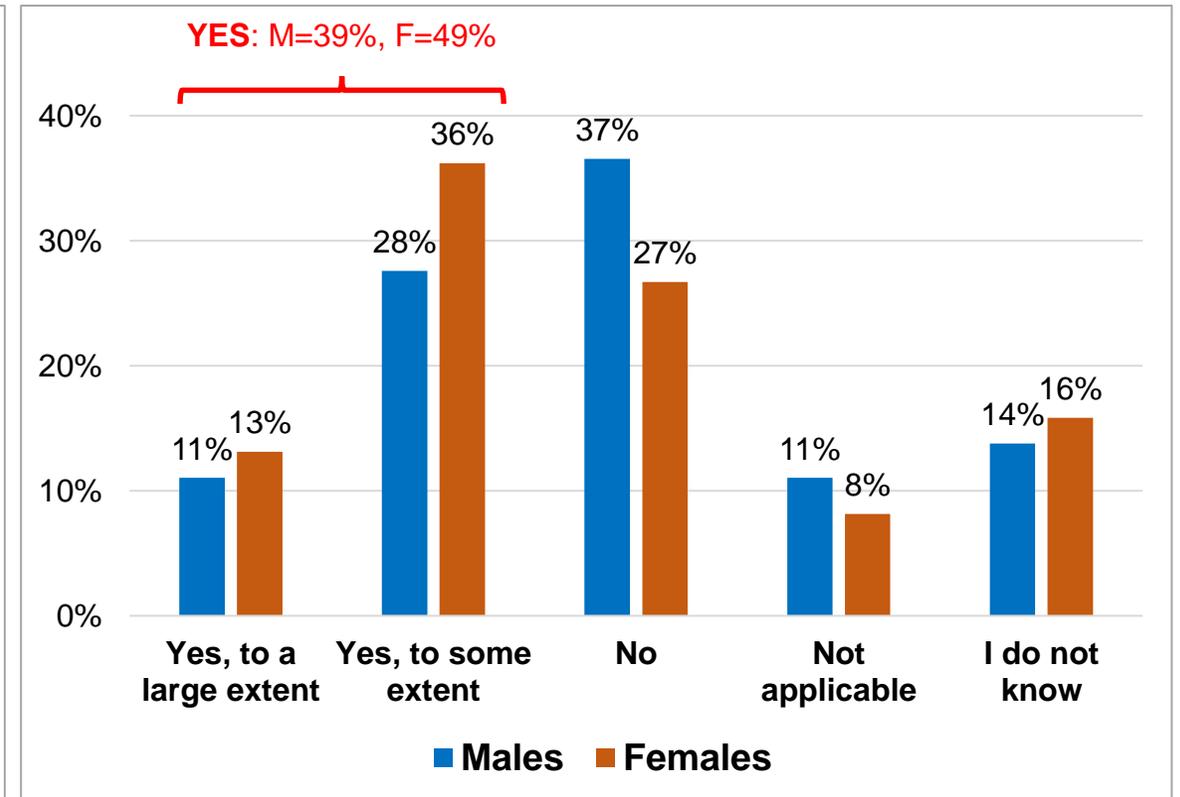
Negative impact on using current grants and applying next year



Negative impact on using current grants and applying next year

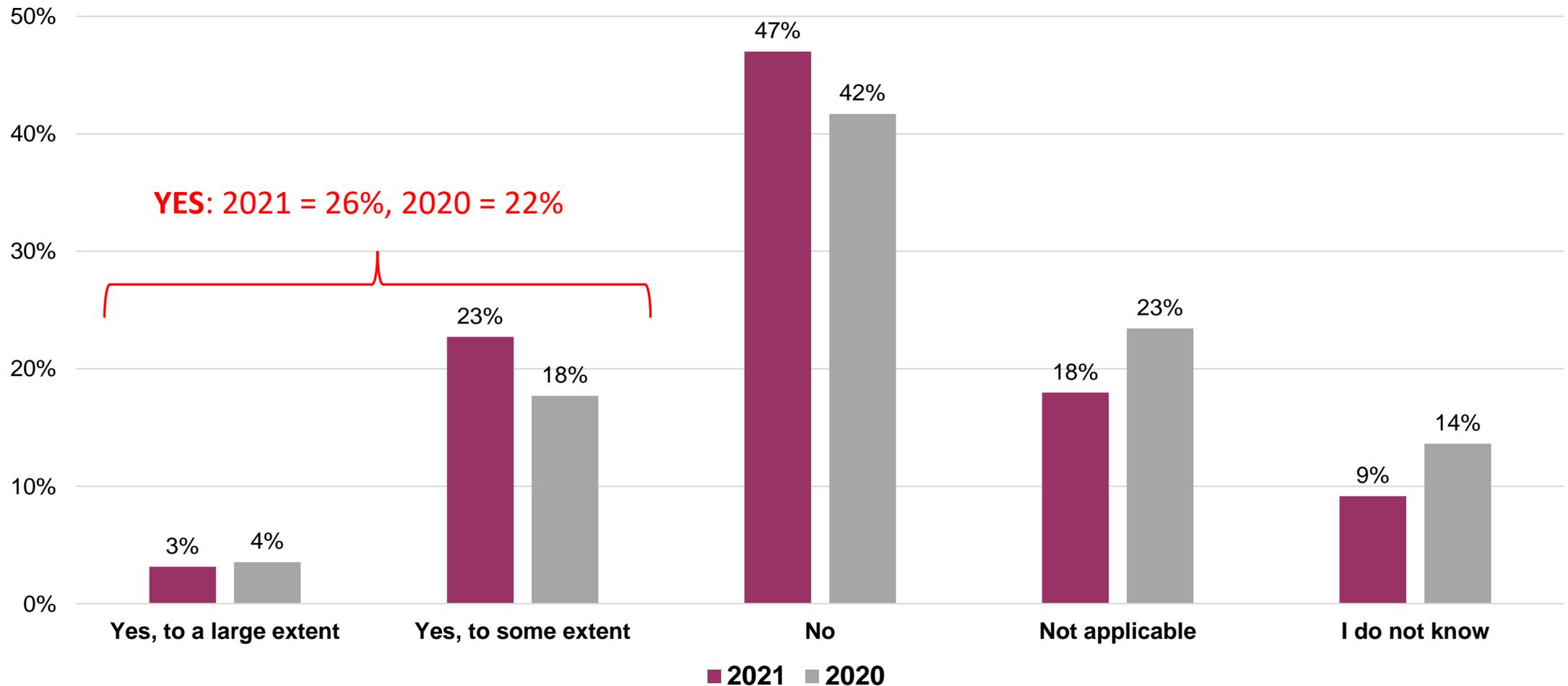


Survey 2021

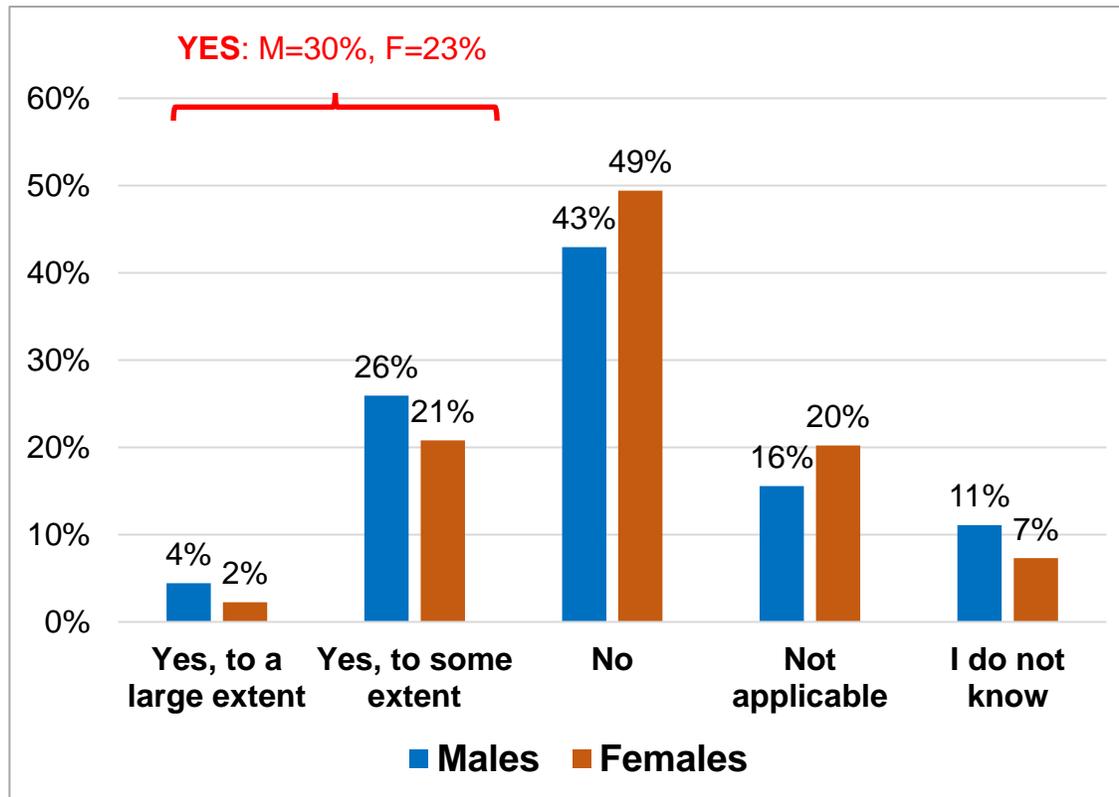


Survey 2020

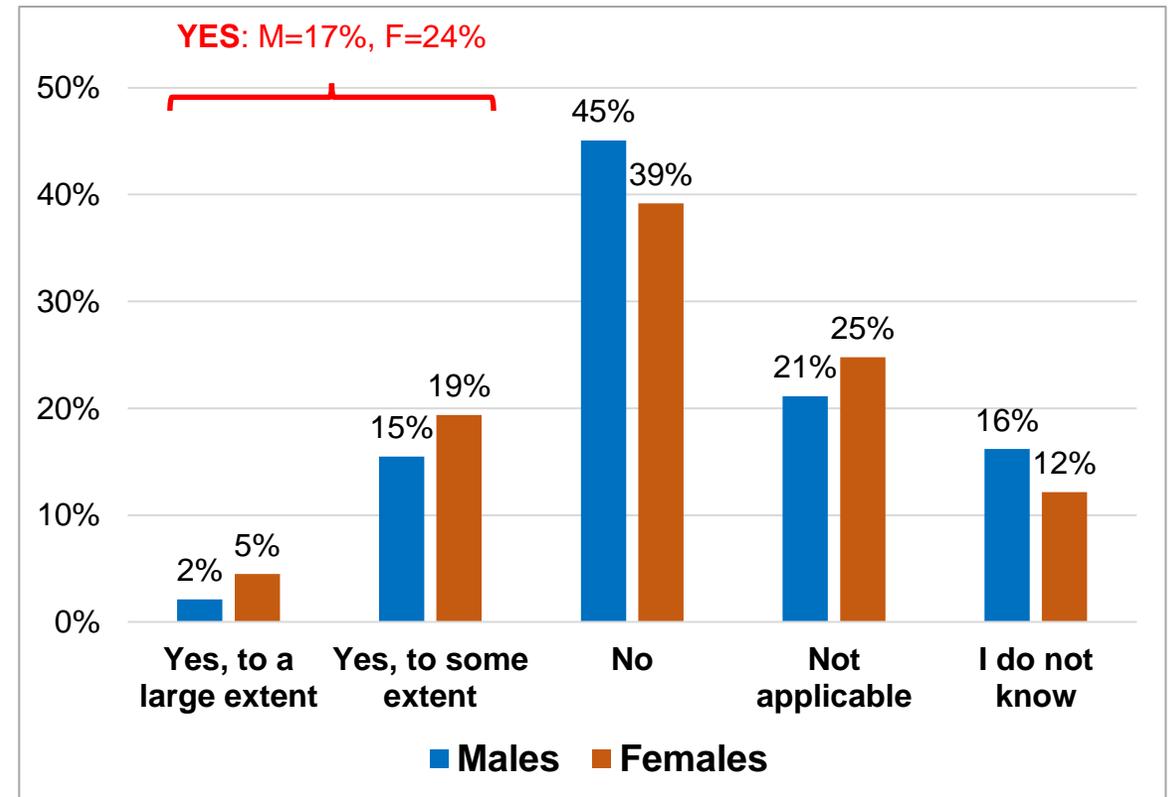
Negative impact on teaching opportunities



Negative impact on teaching opportunities by gender *from survey 2021 (left) and from survey 2020 (right)*



Survey 2021



Survey 2020

Additional problems identified for career, grants and teaching

- No networking possibilities and in-person meetings leading to less opportunities for future career
- Problems obtaining visa and other permits for postdoc periods abroad leading to delayed academic career
- Not been able to publish or finish studies thus less likely to qualify for the next steps in academic career ladder
 - Falling of the career ladder due the 5 year rule
- No preliminary data for future grants or limited output from this grant period leading to less changes in funding
- Many courses cancelled or online thus leading to less teaching opportunities

Additional comments by respondents

The impact of the pandemic on mental health among JF researchers

- anxiety or fear of getting affected (either personally or close-ones)
- social isolation
- not be able to visit their families and home countries

Potential imbalanced response and action throughout KI during the pandemic

- imbalance in actions across KI regarding working on-site / remotely
- KI had not taken enough action to provide a safe working environment

Citations

“Unless major COVID-19 exceptions are made to the career paths (e.g. allowing for a 6th year as a postdoc before moving up the career ladder) I will be forced to leave academia”

“Work during pandemic has been slower - resulting in less publications which may affect future career. Less opportunities to network with colleagues, ie less opportunities to explore more career developing activities (eg teaching, collaborations...)”

“It was hard to get new teaching opportunities and being a junior researcher and planning to teach at higher education for the first time, it is a bit scary to do everything online. I have postponed my plans for this reason, and I might be "falling behind" in my teaching career. “

“Delay in finishing projects and getting publications at KI and elsewhere combined with a limited window of opportunity after finished PhD defense for application of positions beyond post doc. May well be forced out of further academic career path (in Sweden) due to this. “

“Teaching to black windows on zoom sucks”

“Teaching performance reduced because of low level of interaction with students; split groups (on site and on zoom) require "hybrid" teaching techniques that I was not able to prepare for in due time.”

Summary of results

- Many problems with starting planned projects, conducting research on-site, collecting samples/material and maintaining collaborations
- Loss of productivity, including publications, and a high degree of uncertainty regarding how contracts and grant durations can be extended
- There might be an imbalanced impact on research across KI with certain fields being more severely affected than others
- Little impact on teaching opportunities however more in 2021 results
- Uncertainty for the future – with less funding and fewer positions available