




Access to Period Products - Survey Results






1. Please tell us which of the following applies to you:

Answer Choices			Response Percent
1	I HAVE used period products in the last year		62%
2	I have NEVER used period products		34%
3	I have NOT used period products in the last year		5%



NB: This question was used as a filter to screen out those who don't use period products or hadn't used them in the last year.


The following questions are about you.

2. Please tell us how old you are:

Answer Choices			Response Percent
1	Under 12 years old		6%
2	12-14		39%
3	15-17		47%
4	18 or older		9%
5	Prefer not to say		< 5 respondents

3. Which of the following applies to you?




Answer Choices			Response Percent
1	I'm in full time education (school or college)		98%
2	I am not in full time education		< 5 respondents

3	Other (please specify):		< 5 respondents
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4. Please tell us which year group you are in:

Answer Choices			Response Percent
1	Year 6		< 5 respondents
2	Year 7		7%
3	Year 8		18%
4	Year 9		9%
5	Year 10		14%
6	Year 11		14%
7	Year 12 (lower sixth)		21%
8	Year 13 (upper sixth)		13%
9	I am not in full time education		< 5 respondents
10	Prefer not to say		< 5 respondents





5. How would you describe your ethnicity (cultural background)? Please choose as many as apply

Answers			Response Percent
1	Jersey		68%
2	British		47%
3	Irish		9.9%





Numerous other ethnicities were noted including French, Portuguese, Madeiran, Polish, Romanian, African, Asian, Australian and mixed.

The following questions are about your ability to access period products.

6. In the last year have you ever struggled to access period products?

Answer Choices			Response Percent
1	Yes - frequently		6%
2	Yes - occasionally		46%
3	No		45%
4	Prefer not to say		3%

7. If you answered Yes to the previous question - what was the reason for that?

Answer Choices			Response Percent
1	I didn't have the products I needed with me		90%
2	I/my family didn't have the money to buy period products		10%
3	Prefer not to say		5%
4	Other (please specify):		5%





Other (please specify): (6)


1	Having an irregular cycle means sometimes I don't know when i'll get it which becomes an issue when i'm out in public or in school and don't have any access to pads etc..
2	I just didn't have time to get any or my classmates didn't have any to lend me
3	There weren't enough in the shop I went to
4	I didn't bring any to school
5	too expensive
6	couldn't find them in shops

8. Has your access to period products changed following the Coronavirus pandemic?

Answer Choices			Response Percent
1	Yes, it has worsened		13%
2	No change		79%
3	Yes, it has improved		< 5 respondents
4	Prefer not to say		4%
5	Other (please specify):		4%
Other (please specify): (7)			
1	didnt need them during lockdown or before		
2	my mummy gave them to me		
3	During lockdown it was hard to get stuff		
4	got perid neer start of covid so dont know other		
5	I have only experienced my first period so far so it is hard to say.		
6	i didnt have my periof during the big vein of covid		
7	i started recently so I don't know if it more difficult for my mum or not		





9. Have you ever experienced any of the following because you had difficulty accessing period products when you needed them? (Please select all that apply)

Answer Choices			Response Percent
1	Had to ask someone else for a tampon/towel		45%
2	Had to use an alternative e.g., toilet paper, cloths etc.		20%
3	Used a product for longer than advised		15%
4	Had to use cheaper type of tampon/towel		< 5 respondents

5	Other (please specify):		20%
Other (please specify): (36)			
1	All of above but cannot select all		
2	i had to ask someone else, use an alternative and use one for longer than advised		
3	all of the above, didn't let me choose multiple		
4	+ alternatives		
5	All of the above^		
6	All of them above, wouldn't let me select multiple		
7	aternative eg toilet paper used a product for longer and had to use a cheaper type (all of the above basically)		
8	+ used a product longer than advised		
9	had to do more than one of these because i cant select multiple		
10	All of the above		
11	All 4		
12	(Couldn't select more than one) but 1, 2 and 3		
13	All of the above		
14	All of the above (it would not let me select more than one)		
15	All of the above		
16	used product for long than advised (will only let me select one)		
17	done all of the above		
18	Had to ask someone for a pad or tampon Had to use an alternative Had to use the product for longer than advised Had to use a cheaper type of tampon/pad		
19	All of the top 3		
20	all		
21	I can't select all that apply so im going to put them in here Had to ask someone else for a tampon/towel Had to use an alternative e.g., toilet paper, cloths etc Used a product for longer than advised		

22	All of the above
23	I didn't have any difficulties
24	Had to do all of the above options
25	All of the above
26	all of the above
27	all of the above
28	
29	No
30	
31	I never had needed to
32	All of the above
33	can't select all but the first 3
34	All of the above
35	Used cheaper products and used alternatives such as toilet paper
36	Not trouble accessing them it's just I once went and started without warning

10. Have you ever felt any of the following because of difficulty accessing period products?

Answer Choices			Response Percent
1	Felt worried or anxious		61%
2	Felt unable to concentrate at school or college		51%
3	Embarrassed		62%
4	Other (please specify):		5%
Other (please specify): (9)			
1	I was worried because I was late to my PE class and they were leaving to go somewhere but I started my period and couldn't go or I'd miss the bus		

2	no
3	No
4	I haven't
5	All of the above
6	all of the above to be fair
7	No
8	I don't feel any difficulties
9	Nope

11. Have you ever done any of the following because of difficulty accessing period products when you needed them? (Please select all that apply)

Answer Choices	Yes	No	Not Applicable
Missed school/college	11%	83%	6%
Come into school/college late	23%	72%	5%
Left school/college early	26%	70%	5%
Not taken part in an activity such as sport, socialising, hobbies etc	59%	35%	5%
Been late to an activity such as sport, socialising, hobbies etc	35%	59%	6%
Left an activity such as sport, socialising, hobbies etc early	37%	58%	5%
Other (please specify): (2)			
1	I had really bad pain for 12 hours straight in a rehearsal and had to leave because I threw up		
2	i didnt want to do PE as i was worried it would be obvious		

12. If you answered YES to any part of Q.11, have you ever done any of the following? (Please select all that apply)

Answer Choices	Response Percent
1 Told my teacher/the person organising the	34%

	activity that this was because of my period		
2	Given a different reason to my teacher/the person organising the activity (i.e. said it was because of something other than related to your period)		48%
3	Neither of these		14%
4	Don't know/ can't remember		16%

The following questions are about the provision of free period products.






13. Does your school or college offer free period products?

Answer Choices			Response Percent
1	Yes		43%
2	Not sure		36%
3	No		18%
4	Other (please specify):		4%
Other (please specify): (9)			
1	Primary school at the time- no. Secondary yes		
2	at the office but in the toilets we have to pay		
3	Yes, but as they're in student support it's really hard and embarrassing to access, would prefer them to be in the bathrooms		
4	yes but only in one classroom		
5	But you also have to pay for the ones in the toilet.		
6	our form teacher has been given things for us		
7	only if you can't afford them, not if you've been caught off guard. And if you have you need to buy them from e type of vending machine and they cost a lot.		
8	Yes but you have to go and ask for them which is embarrassing and I cannot leave lesson to go to the office		
9	I think so		

14. If you answered YES to Q.13 – Have you ever used the free products?

Answer Choices			Response Percent
1	Yes - frequently		< 5 respondents
2	Yes - occasionally		14%
3	No - I never would		18%
4	No - But I would if I needed to		60%
5	Prefer not to say		< 5 respondents
6	Other (please specify):		4%
Other (please specify): (5)			
1	don't have		
2	N/A		
3	no because not sure if school has them and wouldnt feel comfortable going to get things if requires talking to a teacher		
4	i would but never available		
5	N/A		

15. If period products were available for free at your school/college, what would you do?

Answer Choices			Response Percent
1	I would use the free products a lot.		22%
2	I would use the free products sometimes.		50%
3	I would not use the free products.		18%
4	Prefer not to say		3%
5	Other (please specify):		8%





Other (please specify): (17)	
1	I'm on the pill due to my period
2	If I forgot mine
3	note: so long as they were of good quality
4	If I had forgotten some them I would use the free ones.
5	Only use them when I didn't have access to my own
6	if i did not have any of my own with me,
7	I use the cup so I wouldn't need them
8	not sure
9	if i need it
10	only if i didnt have anything with me
11	Only where necessary to avoid taking away from those who need them
12	I would use them if I needed to but I would rather not
13	i would let others use them rather than me because others may need them more
14	i would use if i needed it/ if i was unprepared
15	I'd use them only when in dire need, like if I don't have any then only I will go and use the free ones.
16	I would use them if I needed to cause I forgot mine
17	I would use it if I had to however I'd try my best not to as there are others that need them more

16. If you said that you would NOT use free period products offered by your school/college, what is the reason why? (Select all that apply)

Answer Choices		Response Percent
1	I can always get them from outside of school/college when I need them	40%
2	I would ask a friend instead	37%

3	I would be too ashamed/embarrassed/scared		45%
4	Prefer not to say		5%
5	Other (please specify):		8%
Other (please specify): (8)			
1	I'm on the pill		
2	If I had pads with me I wouldn't need them but if I were to suddenly get it then I would (if i didn't have any pads with me)		
3	i use them ;-;		
4	I use the cup		
5	i said yea		
6	I have them at home		

17. If period products were free in your school/college, how would you like to get them?

Answer Choices			Response Percent
1	Collect them from a specific place (such as a room or box)		27%
2	Collect them from a member of staff		4%
3	Have free products available in the toilets		90%
4	Other (please specify):		3%
Other (please specify): (6)			
1	I'm on the pill		
2	collecting them from a room/box is pretty inconvenient		
3	Just any way of not having to ask someone for period products, maybe just a box in the classroom which is kind of discreet		
4	Make is discrete		

5	like put in a little box in the toilets with all types of products available and less noisy bins to put the waste in
6	They ARE free

18. If there is anything else you like to tell us about period products, please put your comments or thoughts in the box below.

1	remove the tax
2	If there was free products they would need to be in toilet as know one will go somewhere else then go back to the toilet to use it there Should be a box in ever toilet
3	Periods are something that no-one can control, by denying the products needed for free is taking away some young peoples freedom to live a normal life. You shouldn't be charged for something you need to function- it should be a human right to have access to these products just like water and food. By charging for these products lower income families and children are being disadvantaged further for something they can't control, including missing school and activities. Period products aren't a luxury they are a basic necessity.
4	If free period products had to be collected from a member of staff, not many people would use them due to embarrassment.
5	Varied sizes of tampons and pads if provided by school
6	Really I think period products should be free outside of schools as well given that they are a necessary part of a lot of people's lives, not just students.
7	Dont put boxes in public places as it's obvious that you are taking them
8	I have not yet been told where the period products actually are in my school meaning when i have a period and I'm not prepared it would be hard to know what to do.
9	Remove the tax form them. they aren't luxury products. We don't bleed out of choice.
10	Period products are: - never gonna give you up - never gonna let you down - never gonna run around and desert you - never gonna make you cry - never gonna say goodbye - never gonna tell a lie and hurt you.
11	no
12	in school have them in the bathroom stalls its much easier than having to go into a classroom or paying for them
13	Although we should try to break the stigma around period products and periods, if products were offered in school most people would probably feel more comfortable if we didn't have to ask someone for them. Instead it would be best if they were in a discrete but accessible place.

14	I really think the government should work with schools to help de-stigmatise periods. Many girls like me missed out on school and many events because we were on our period and felt ashamed/embarrassed, and that should never have to be the case. Our education system should educate girls (and boys) about periods in a better way.
15	It's a natural human thing for a girl and we should not be charged for something we cannot control
16	They're expensive so I can buy them but I can't always buy enough to last more than two periods
17	let them be free it's not fair females have to pay for something that first of all is painful and second of all is part of nature and development some of us don't have the money to keep buying products so we make do with what we have got eg toilet paper please help make it free, Scotland have done it so we should too - make it a trend
18	Should be free or much cheaper - I shouldn't have to pay for something I have no control over
19	teachers need to stop not letting us go to the toilets because we 'should've gone at break/lunch' and stop saying well do you REALLY need to go just let us go.
20	I think that schools should put period boxes in the toilets because a lot of girls especially ones who have just started may be embarrassed or not like to speak about having their period to their parents/family/carers so to have a place where it's private that they can still feel safe and comfortable at school whilst on their period and I think teachers should understand when girls have their periods
21	Have different sizes and options (tampons and pads)
22	I think there should be free period products in the bathrooms so girls don't feel embarrassed
23	No thank you.
24	my school does not have anywhere to put used products in the toilets
25	For young people living in care/shelters, money is tight and is hard to get them and current society doesn't help us in getting them in a convenient or easily-known way.
26	I think period products should be free everywhere