



The Pharmacy Regulator
An Rialtóir Cócaisíochta

2025 STUDENT AND REGISTER DATA SUMMARY

April 2026



EFQM

Recognised for Excellence
4 Star - 2019

We assure patient safety and public trust in pharmacy through effective regulation

FUTURE PLANNING FOR PHARMACY



The PSI, together with other stakeholders, have committed to supporting workforce modelling to ensure that pharmacy can continue to meet the needs of the public and the wider healthcare system in the short and longer term. In December 2025, the Department of Health published [Ireland's Future Health and Social Care Workforce](#) Report setting out how the Department of Health is taking a comprehensive approach to long-term health and social care workforce planning, including pharmacy workforce planning, based on 5 pillars: Plan, Build, Optimise Performance, Recruit & Retain, and Invest.

Work is on-going to improve data collection for the purposes of determining future demand and supply. To support this work, the PSI has obtained data from the **CAO**, **UCAS**, and **APPEL** examining the future potential pipeline of those who will seek to register with us, and the sentiment from fourth year pharmacy students about their future plans.

DATA LIMITATIONS & CONSIDERATIONS



CAO – Central Applications Office

- CAO is Ireland’s centralised undergraduate admissions system to higher education institutions.
- CAO data category code (006) is not exclusive to MPharm (pharmacy) programmes and includes a wider range of pharmaceutical courses. As a result, figures captured within these categories may reflect interest in programmes that do not lead to a qualification appropriate to practice as a pharmacist in Ireland. Accordingly, the data presented should be interpreted as indicative of overall demand within the broader discipline, rather than demand for MPharm programmes alone.

UCAS – Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

- UCAS is the UK’s central organisation for managing applications to higher education courses (i.e. the CAO equivalent)
- The data presented relates to applications from students identified as Irish domiciled (i.e. applicant’s area of permanent residence is Ireland).
- UCAS applies disclosure controls to its data to minimise the risk of identifying individual persons. These controls are applied at individual cell level in the raw data, which can result in totals not equalling the sum of their component values. As different disclosure parameters (e.g. age, provider, gender, etc). produce slightly different figures, an average has therefore been calculated and is the value presented in the following graphs.

APPEL – Affiliation for Pharmacy Practice Experiential Learning

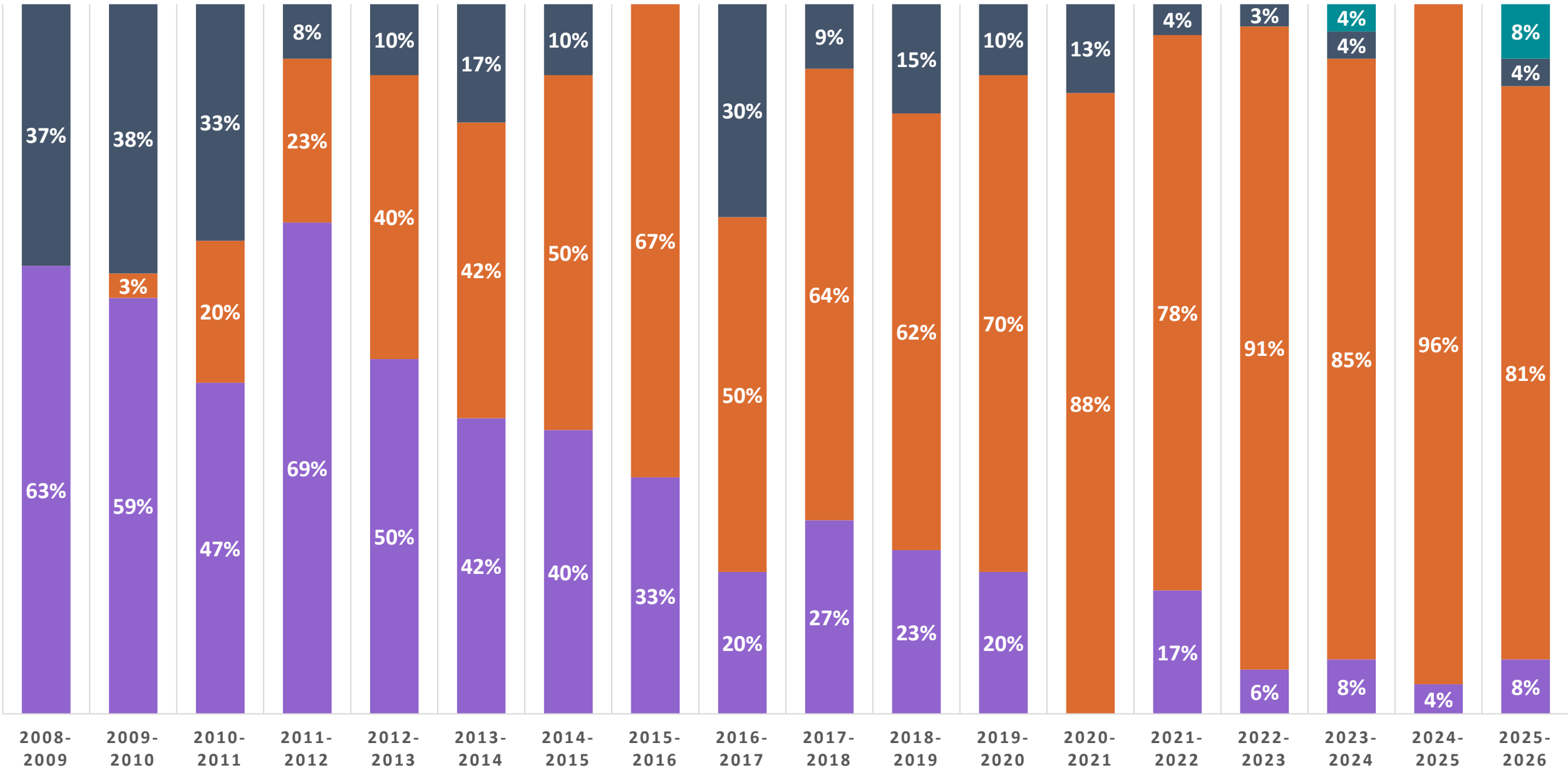
- APPEL is the national body that organises and quality-supports pharmacy student experiential learning placements in Ireland.
- APPEL issues placement evaluation surveys to students at the end of each experiential placement. It has been agreed by the APPEL Board that questions relating to student sentiment are included as part of the annual fourth year placement evaluation. The answers in this document relate to students in their fourth year during the 2025/26 academic year. This year’s survey had a relatively low response rate so figures should be viewed accordingly.

UCAS Applications vs. Acceptances

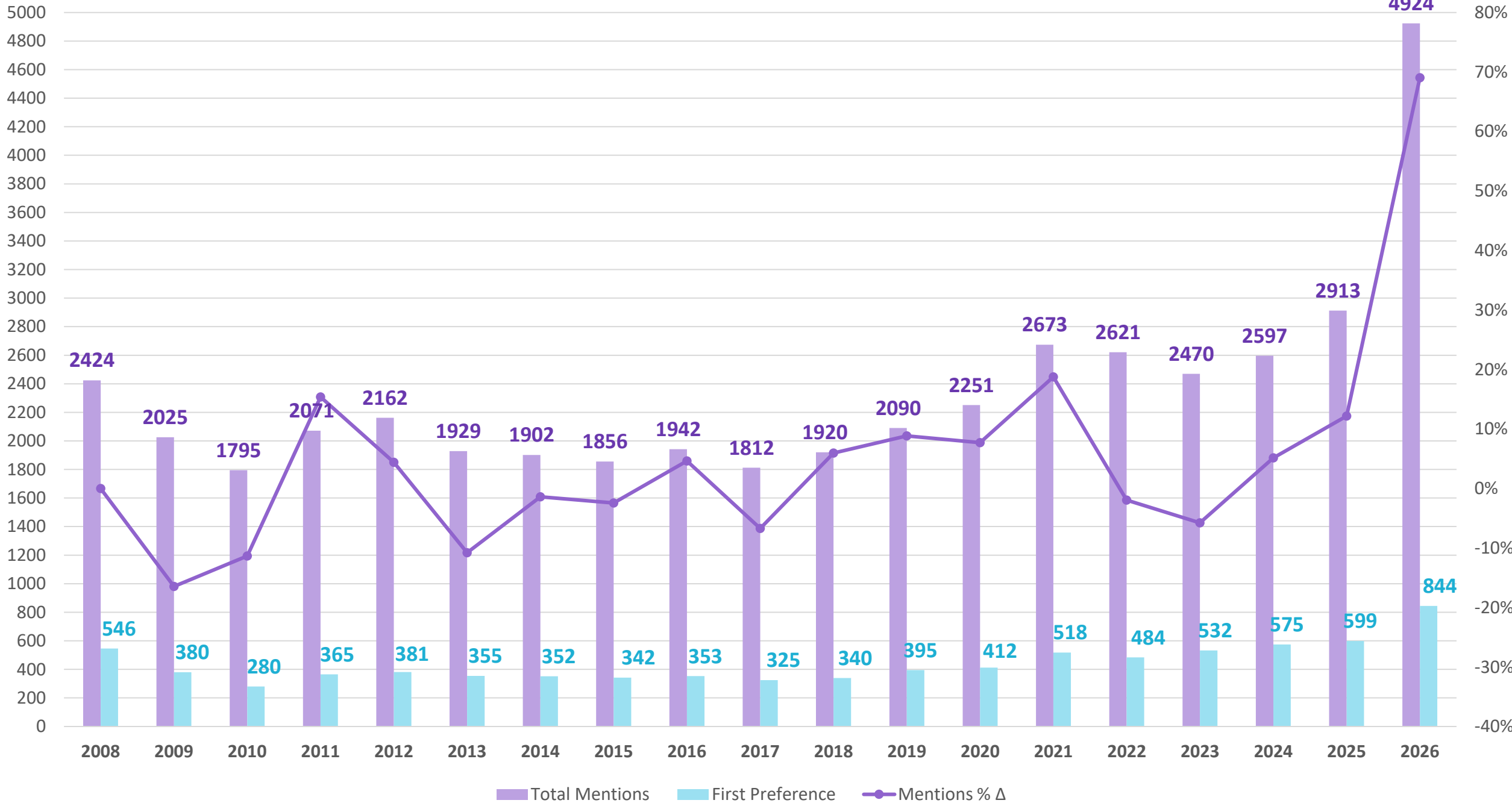


UCAS Acceptances by Country

■ England ■ Northern Ireland ■ Scotland ■ Wales



CAO Applicant Statistics – 1 February (annually)



PSI Register Data – UK qualified pharmacists

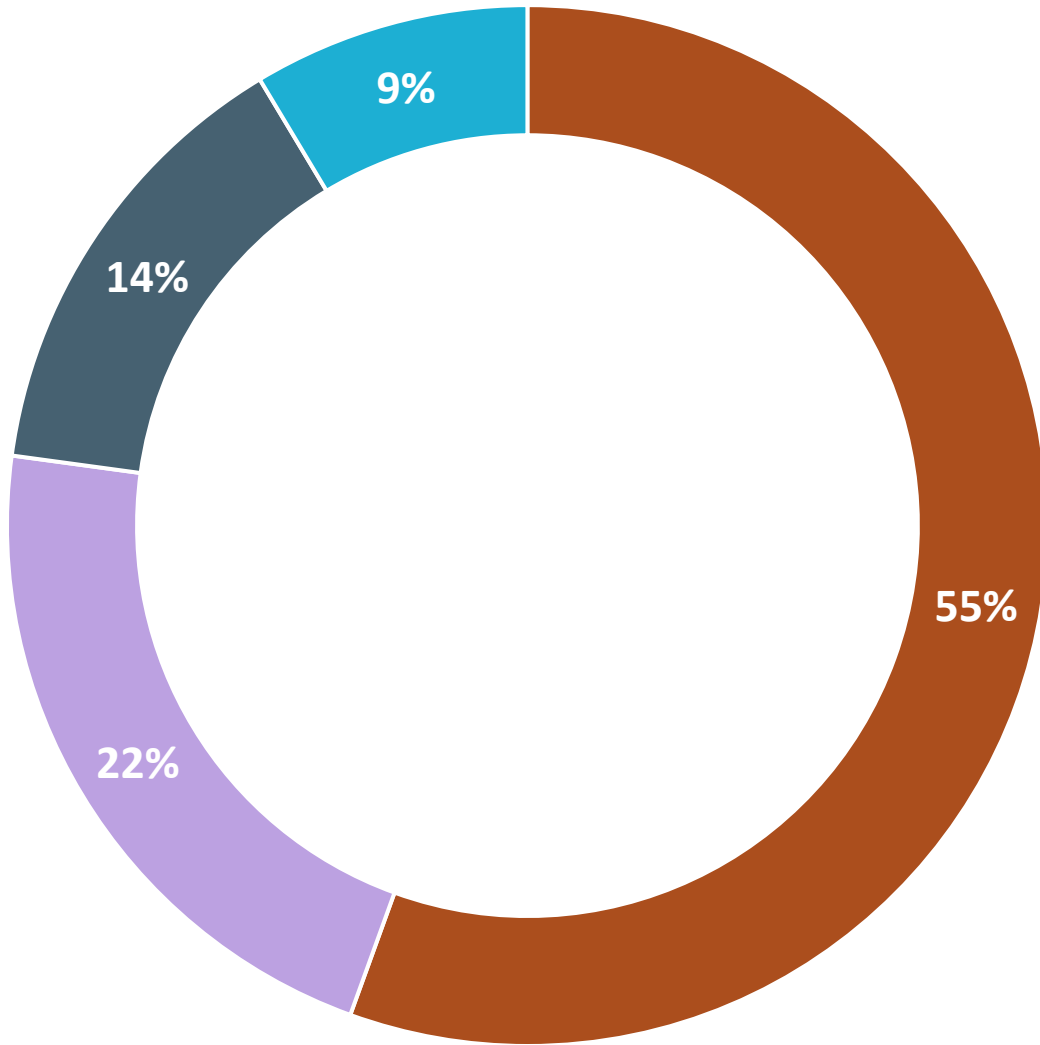
407 pharmacists
registered with the PSI for
the first time in 2025

Over 50% were 25 or
younger

Of the 25 or younger,
approximately 20%
received their
qualification in the UK

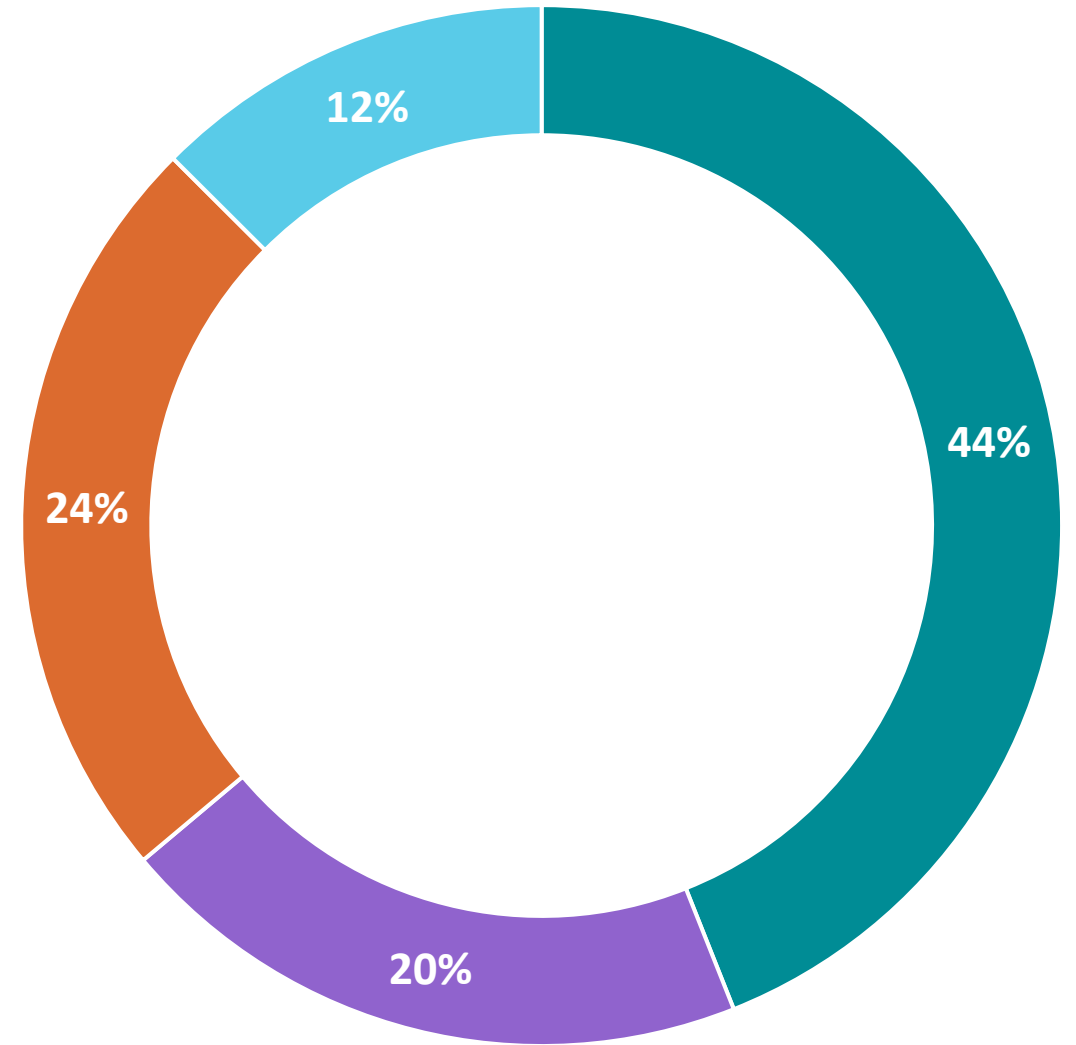
Assuming this cohort of
25 or younger UK
qualified all began their
qualifications in the
2019/2020 or 2020/2021
academic years, **around 1
in 3** subsequently register
in Ireland within a year of
qualifying.

PSI – Age of First Time Registrations in 2025



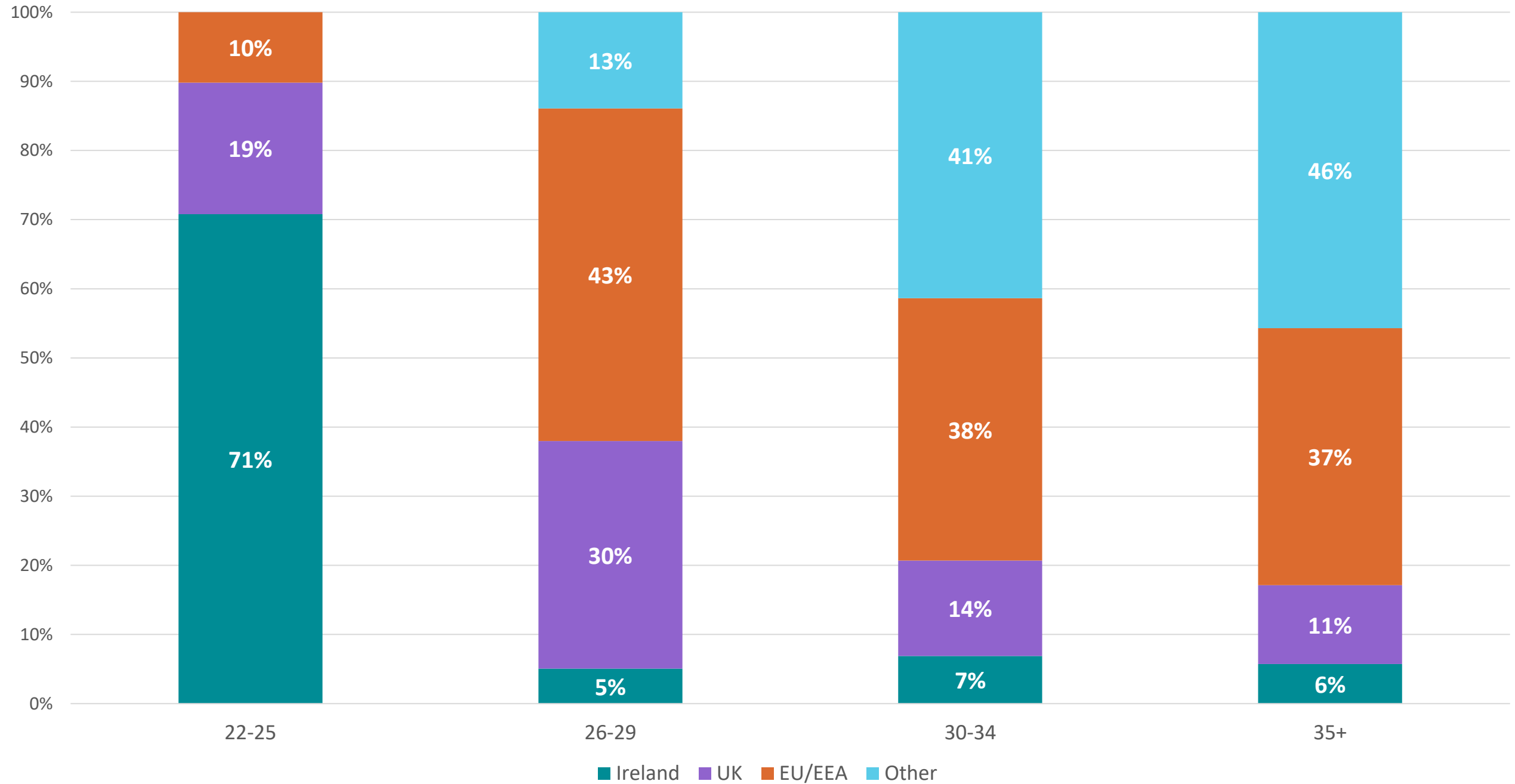
■ 22-25 ■ 26-29 ■ 30-34 ■ 35+

PSI – Country of Qualification of First Time Registrations 2025

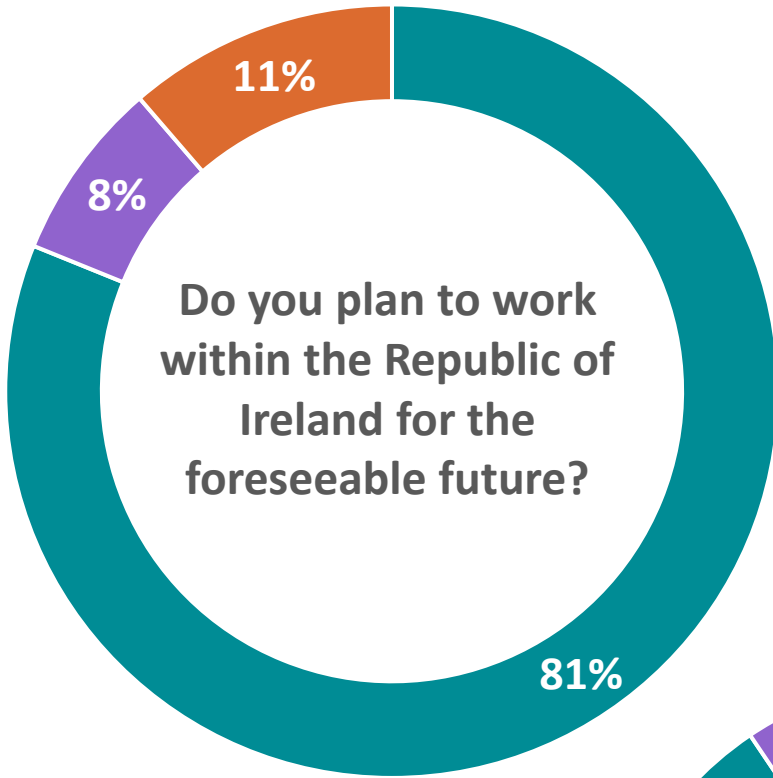


■ Ireland ■ UK ■ EU/EEA ■ Other

PSI – Country of Qualification + First Time Registration Age (2025)



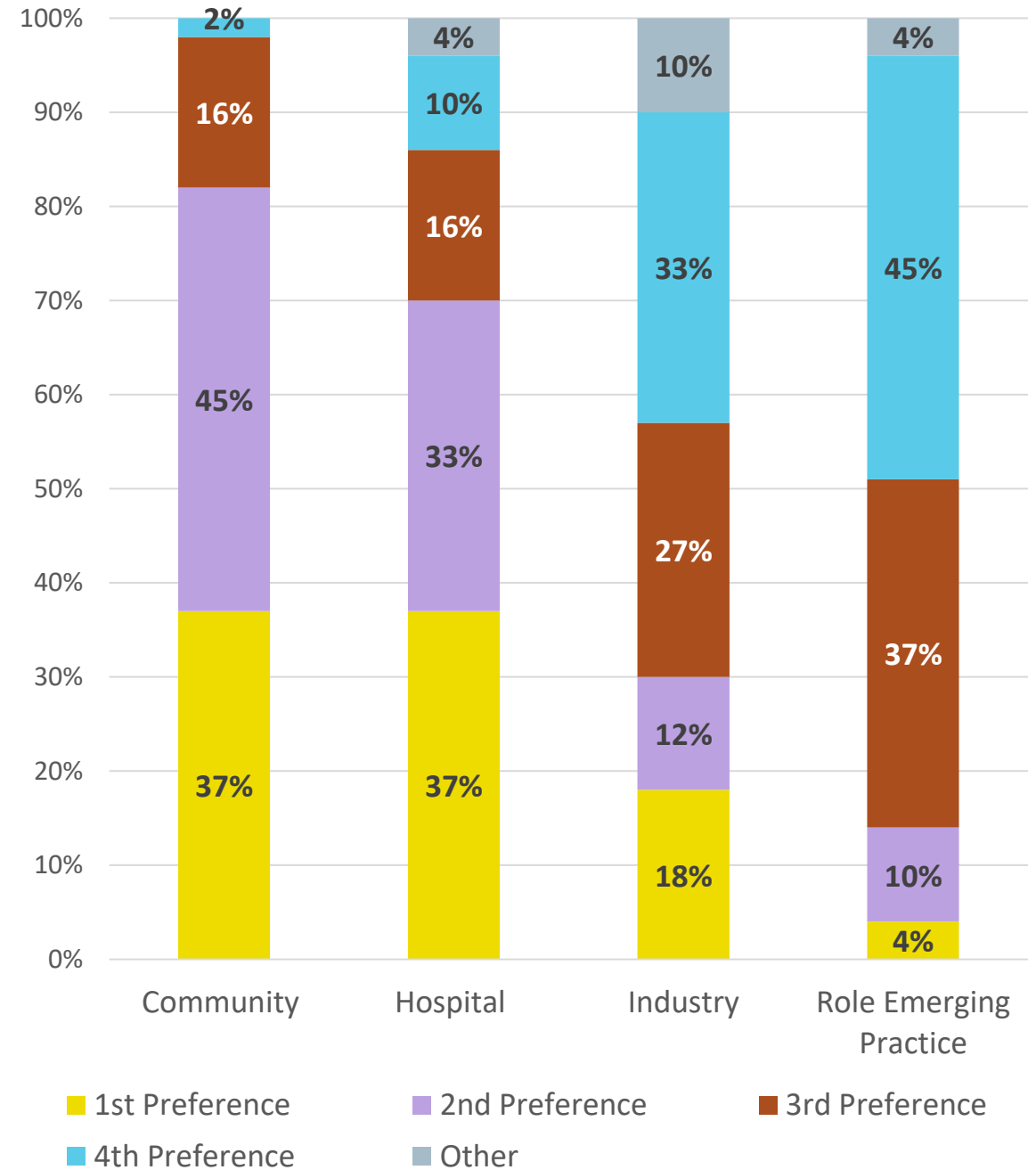
**APPEL
4th Year Students
2025/26**



■ Yes ■ No ■ Maybe



Practice Area Preferences



The Pharmacy Workforce Working Group jointly lead by the PSI and DOH are actively committed to ensuring a sustainable future pharmacy workforce. We continue to work collaboratively to support workforce planning initiatives prioritising key internal projects and workstreams to enhance the depth and quality of data available about the pharmacy workforce, including student data, to support future planning.

You can learn more about the work of this group on the [PSI website](#).