

Access to HE comparative statistics 2011

Introduction

1 The purpose of this paper is to provide Access Validating Agencies (AVAs) and other stakeholders with information derived from the 2009-10 Access to HE statistics. The paper provides a summary of the data collected through the annual data submission from AVAs and provides a comparison with data from previous years, where appropriate. The information shows comparative statistics by AVA for a variety of categories. The data includes national totals as well as AVA-specific data to enable individual AVAs to compare their performance with that of others.

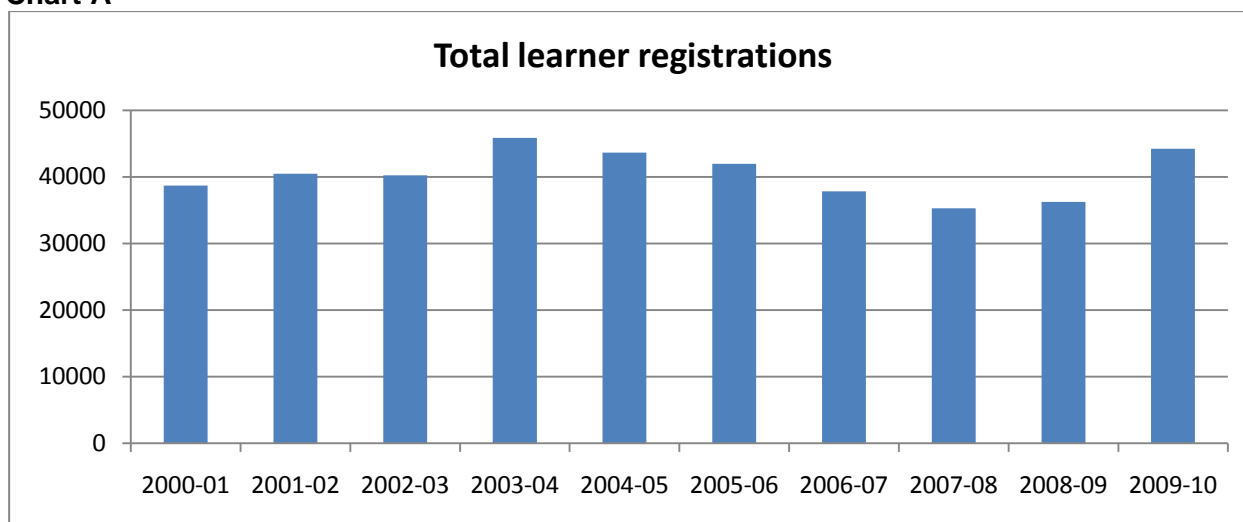
Presentation of key statistics

2 Analysis has been undertaken to identify where major changes have occurred nationally, and by AVA. Each section refers to tables of data, which are listed in Appendix 1. All AVAs returned completed statistics pro formas in 2010. All numbers relating to students shown in this paper are rounded to the nearest five.

Registrations

3 The total number of learner registrations (see also Appendix 1, tables 1 and 2) increased in 2009-10 to 44,235 from 36,230 registrations in 2008-09, an increase of 8,005 learners (22 per cent).

Chart A

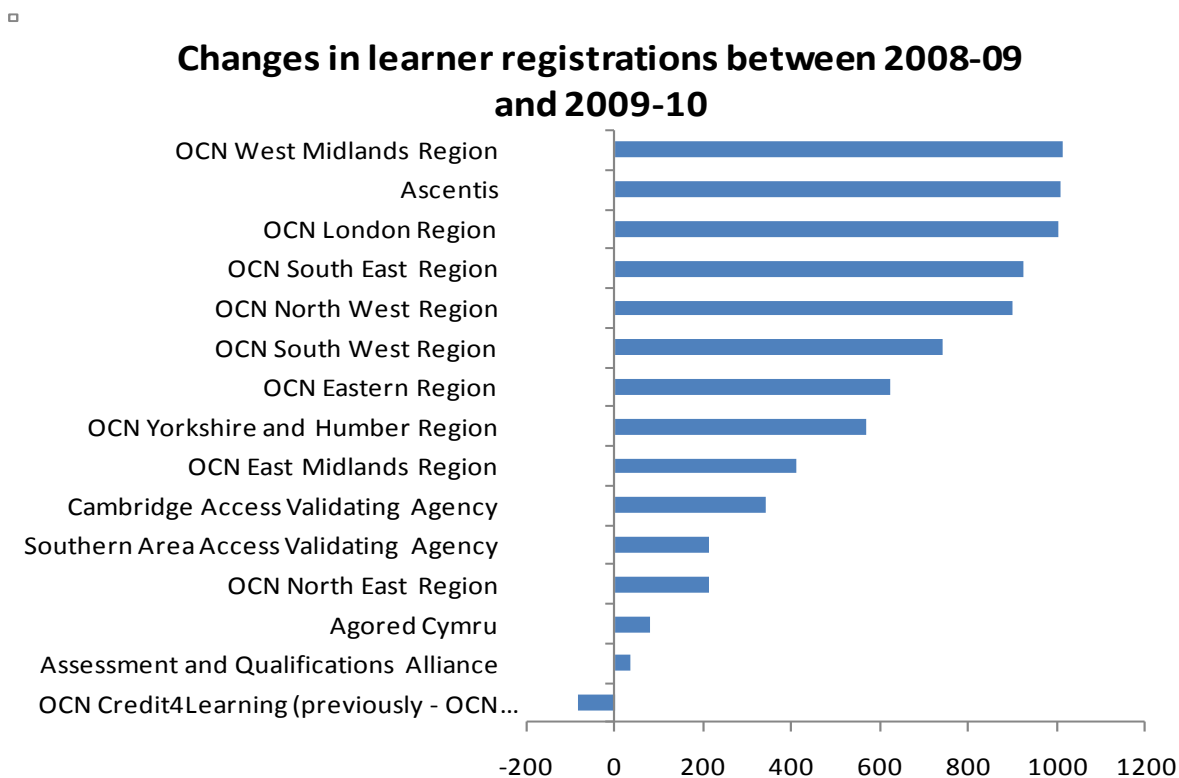


4 All AVAs apart from one¹ recorded a rise in student registrations in 2009-10 compared to 2008-09, as can be seen in Chart B (see also Appendix 1, table 3). The AVA with the largest increase in registrations recorded a rise of 1,015, an increase of 26 per cent. The AVA with the second highest increase in registrations recorded a rise of 1,010, an increase of 55 per cent, which was also the largest proportional increase in registered learners across all AVAs.

¹ The one AVA where numbers apparently fell between 2008-09 and 2009-10 has reported that the data it submitted in 2008-09 was inaccurate and that, if the true figures for 2008-09 are taken into account, it also saw an increase in registrations between 2008-09 and 2009-10.

5 From inspection of the data on number of registrations and number of providers for 2008-09 and 2009-10, Chart E indicates that there appears to be no relationship in the changes in number of providers and number of registrations, as an increase in the number of registrations did not necessarily match an increase in the number of providers, and in some instances the number of providers fell although registrations increased.

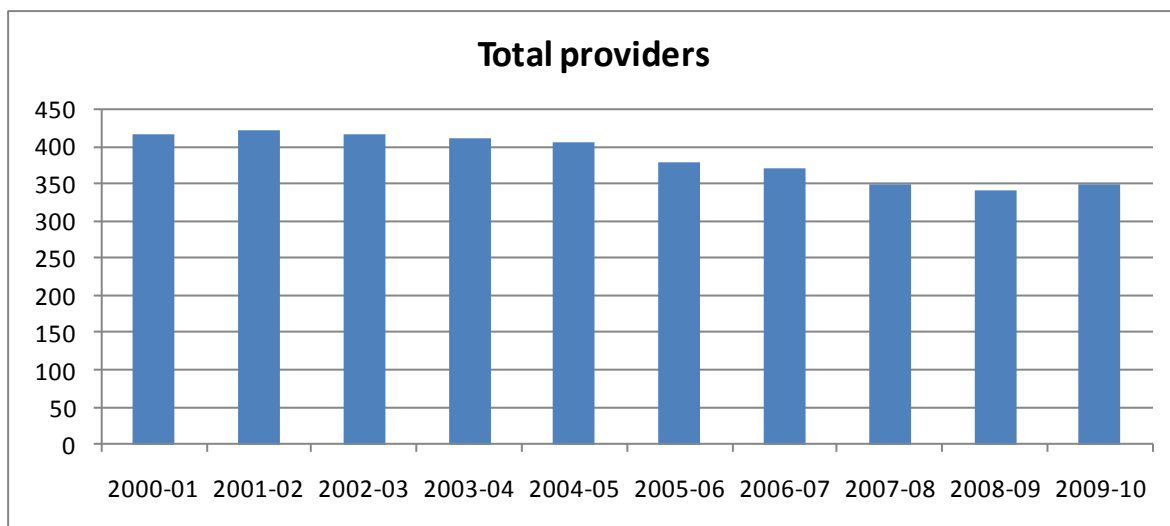
Chart B



Providers and courses

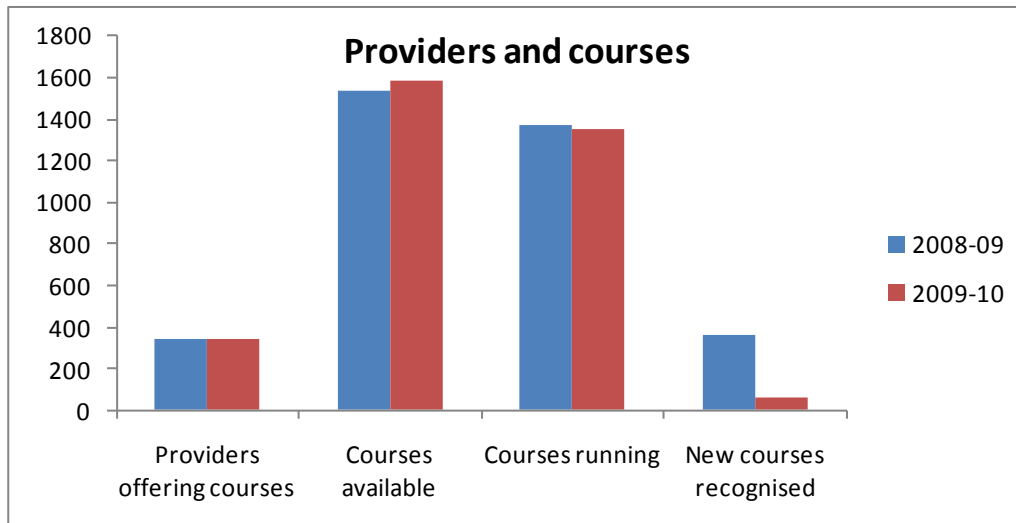
6 The number of providers offering Access to HE courses (Chart C, and Appendix 1, table 4,) increased from 341 in 2008-09 to 348 in 2009-10, which represented a rise of seven (2 per cent), halting the previous downward trend over several years. The main increase in providers was in the category FE institutions, which increased from 284 in 2008-09 to 290 in 2009-10. The number of HE institutions and adult/community education centres remained the same in 2009-10 compared to the previous year, and sixth form colleges fell from nine in 2008-09 to eight in 2009-10. The category 'Other' increased by two in 2009-10.

Chart C



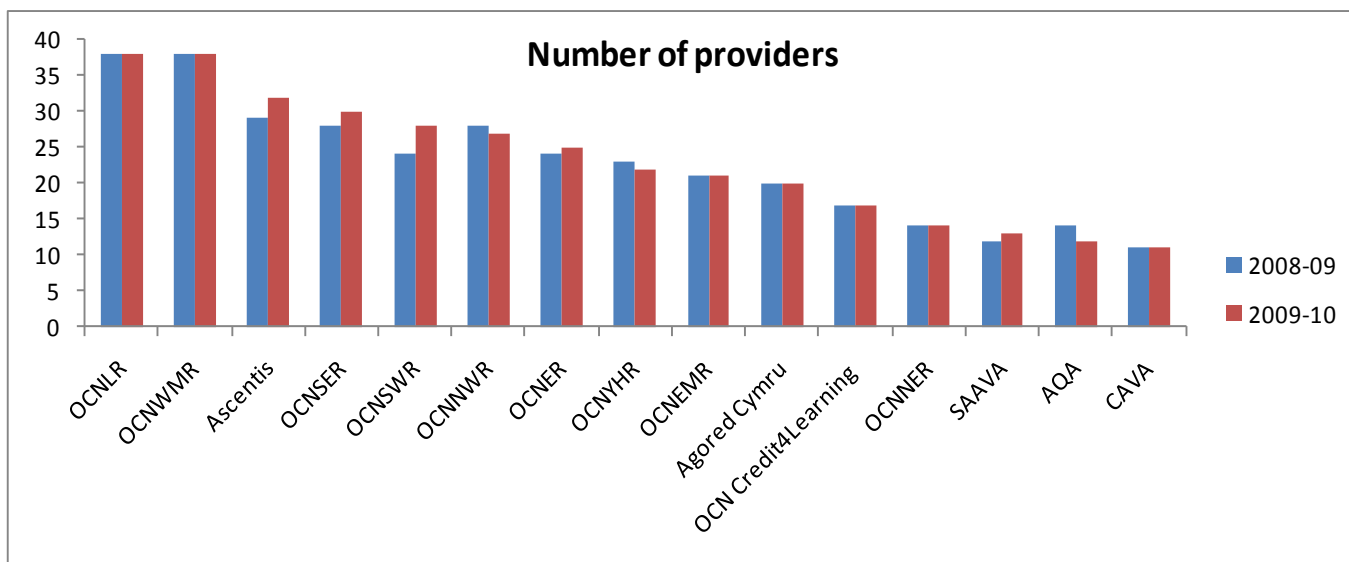
7 The number of courses available increased in 2009-10 by 40, which represents a three per cent rise (Chart D). However, the number of courses running decreased compared to 2008-09, by 23 (two per cent). There was also a fall in the number of new courses recognised during 2009-10 to 64, from 362 in 2008-09. This fall in the number of new courses recognised may indicate that the substantial revalidation and renaming of courses that took place in 2007-08 and 2008-09, following the introduction of the Access to HE Diploma, may now be complete and it may not therefore be possible to draw any reliable conclusions from these changes. The changes resulting from the introduction of the Access to HE Diploma may have been responsible for the increase in new courses available.

Chart D



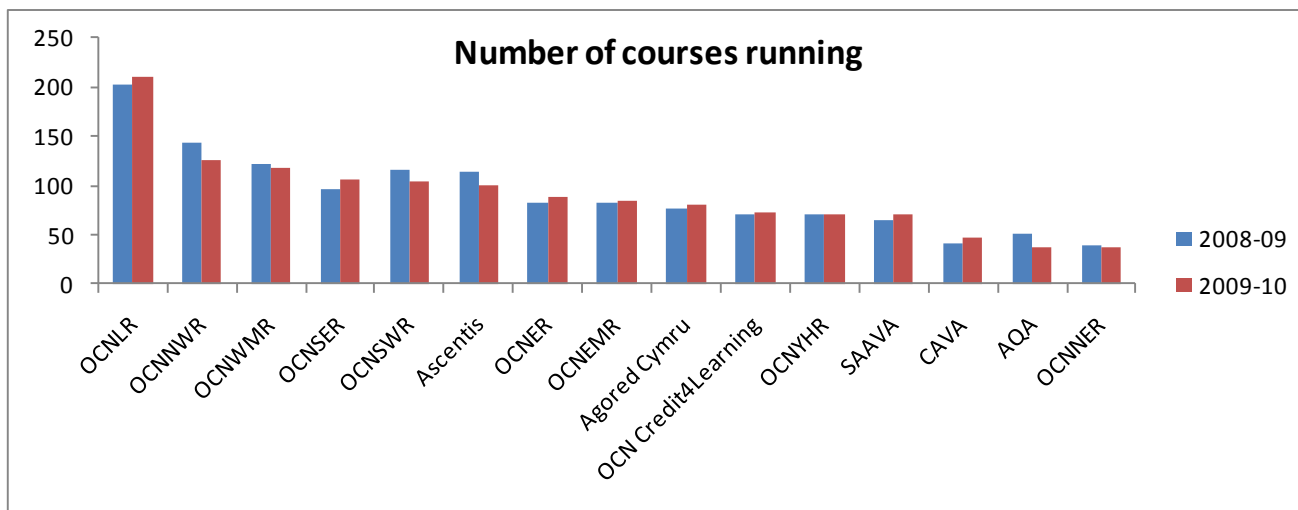
8 The differences between individual AVAs, in terms of the number of providers, in part reflect differences in areas of coverage and density of population (see Appendix 1, table 5). The increases and decreases by AVA in the number of providers were less in 2009-10 compared to the previous year, with the largest recorded gain in providers being four and the largest decrease being two. Seven AVAs recorded no change in number of providers (see Chart E).

Chart E



9 Similarly, there are considerable differences between AVAs in terms of the number of courses running, again due to differences in areas of coverage and density of population (see Appendix 1, table 6). As with providers, there were also differences in terms of increases and decreases in the numbers of courses running as can be seen in Chart F. Here, there were similar numbers of AVAs who saw an increase as those who saw a decrease in the number of courses running, with eight AVAs recording an increase and seven a decrease. The greatest increase recorded was nine (recorded by two AVAs) and the sharpest decrease (recorded by one) was 18, representing 13 per cent.²

Chart F



Access to HE Diplomas awarded (success rates)

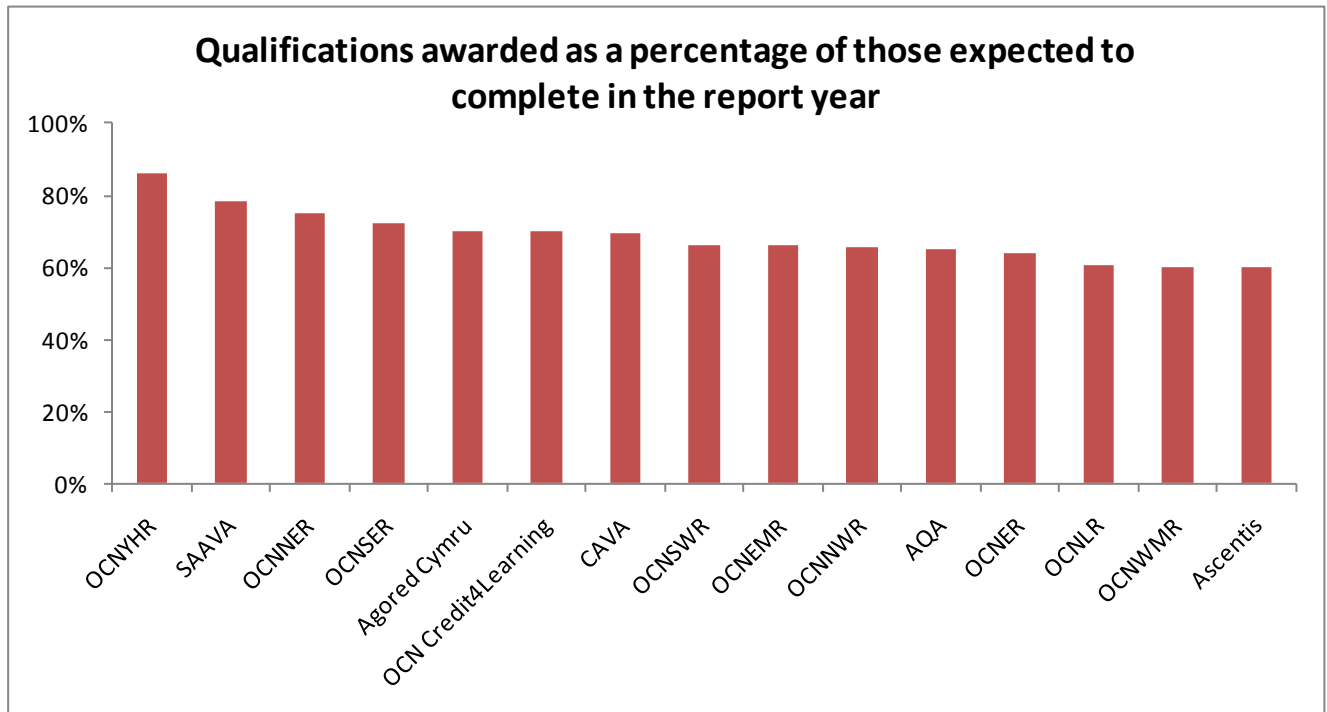
10 In 2009-10, 26,030 Access to HE Diplomas were awarded, an increase of 6,070 (30 per cent) compared to 2008-09 (see Appendix 1, table 7). The proportion of Diplomas awarded of all learners who were registered to complete (success rate) was 67 per cent in 2009-10, an increase from the 2008-09 figure of 64 per cent. The number of Diplomas awarded across all AVAs in 2009-10 ranged from 515 to 4,015, and the success rate from 60 per cent to 86 per cent. It should be noted that the variation in success rates is dependent on the accuracy of the registration data which is submitted. From a comparison of the changes in success rates between 2008-09 and 2009-10, the

² This AVA is withdrawing from the Scheme in 2012. Some providers have therefore already opted to transfer their provision to other AVAs in advance of the final closure date.

largest increase in success rate was 29 per cent and the largest decrease was six per cent. Eight AVAs reported a increase in success rate in 2009-10 compared to 2008-09 and five reported a decrease. The remaining two AVAs had no change.

11 Chart G illustrates the differences between AVAs in terms of the qualifications awarded as a proportion of those registered to complete within that reporting year (see also Appendix 1, table 7). It illustrates a wide range with the highest percentage of qualifications awarded being 86 per cent and the lowest 60 per cent.

Chart G

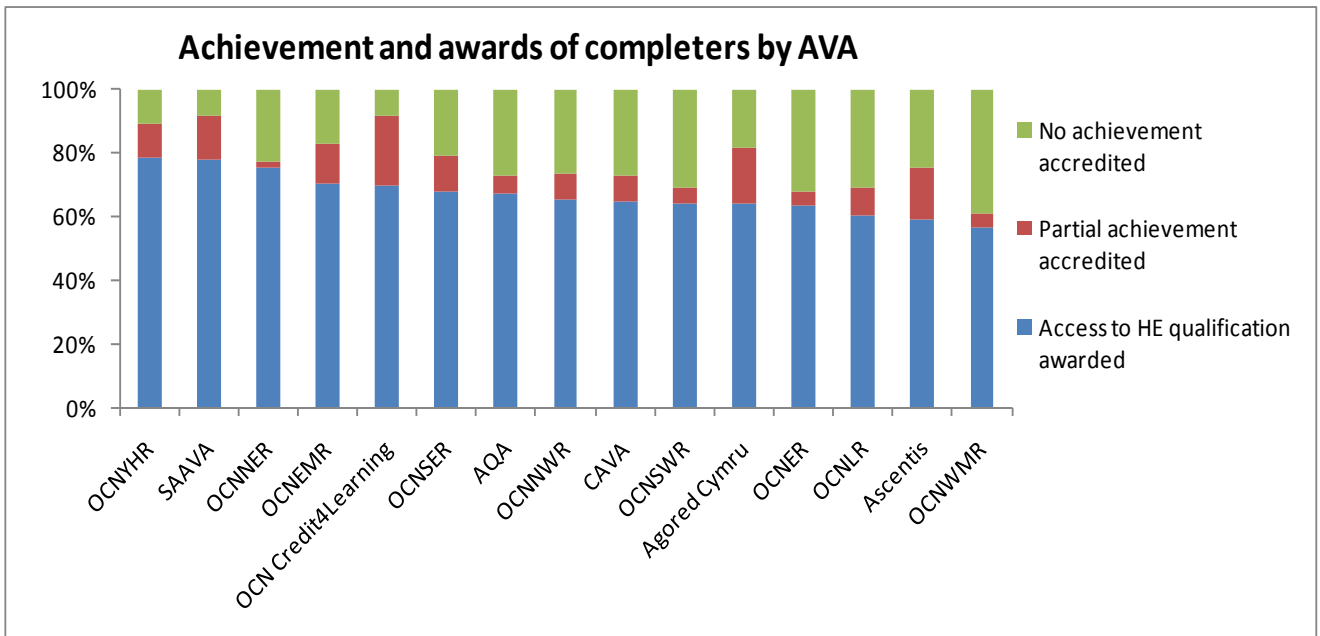


Completion and achievement profiles

12 In 2009-10, 29,505 learners completed an Access to HE course, an increase of 6,145 (26 per cent) compared to 2008-09. Of those completing in 2009-10, 2,640 (nine per cent) gained partial achievement and 840 (three per cent) did not gain any credit. By comparison, in 2008-09, 2,035 (nine per cent) of learners gained partial achievement and 1,560 (seven per cent) did not gain any credit.

13 In terms of qualifications awarded, partial achievement accredited or no achievement accredited, the differences between AVAs are shown in Chart H (see also Appendix 1, table 8). Note that these are percentages of all learner completions and therefore exclude withdrawals (see Chart I). It also excludes learners who transferred out of their course. This chart illustrates that the qualification awarded percentage ranged from 57 per cent to 78 per cent of learner completions. The range for partial achievement accredited was two per cent to 22 per cent and for no achievement accredited the range was eight per cent to 39 per cent. (Note that, as this data return is based on data returned to the Skills Funding Agency, the Skills Funding Agency's definitions apply and 'partial achievement' is recorded only where at least 50 per cent of the full qualification has been achieved.)

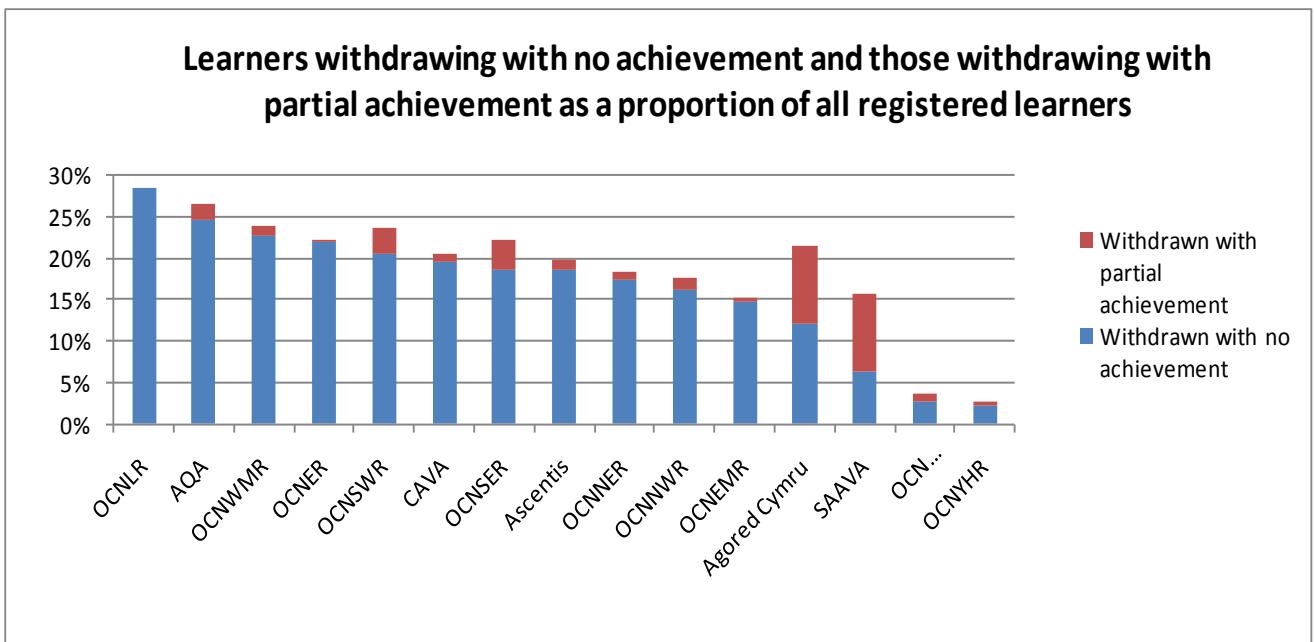
Chart H



Withdrawal rates

14 The differences between AVAs in terms of learner withdrawals, those learners withdrawing with no achievement and those withdrawing with partial achievement are shown in Chart I (see also Appendix 1, table 9). The data presented shows withdrawal as a percentage of all registrations. Again, the performance varied between AVAs with the highest percentage of withdrawals with no achievement recorded as 28 per cent and the lowest two per cent. Withdrawal with partial achievement ranged from 0 per cent to 10 per cent. The accuracy of this data will be affected by the accuracy of registration data that is submitted.

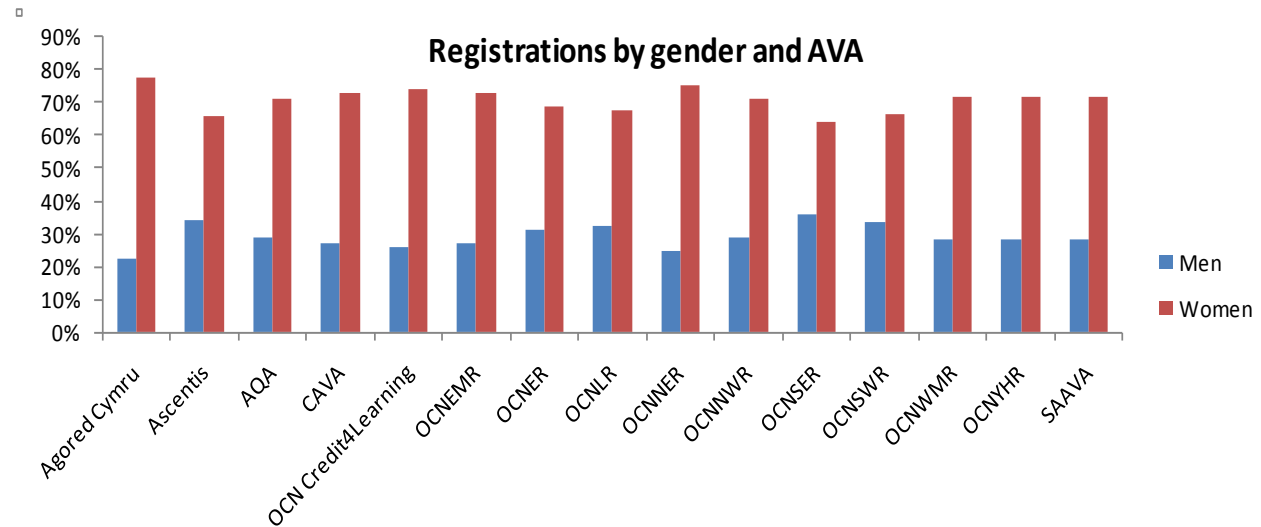
Chart I



Gender

15 The proportion of women decreased slightly in 2009-10 to 70 per cent, compared to 72.4 per cent in 2008-09. There was a corresponding increase in the proportion of male learners from 27.6 per cent to 30 per cent in 2009-10. The increase in the proportion of men has continued the trend since 2005-06 when men accounted for 23 per cent of all learners. Chart J illustrates the gender profile by AVA (see also Appendix 1, table 10). In all cases, the proportion of women is significantly greater than of men.

Chart J

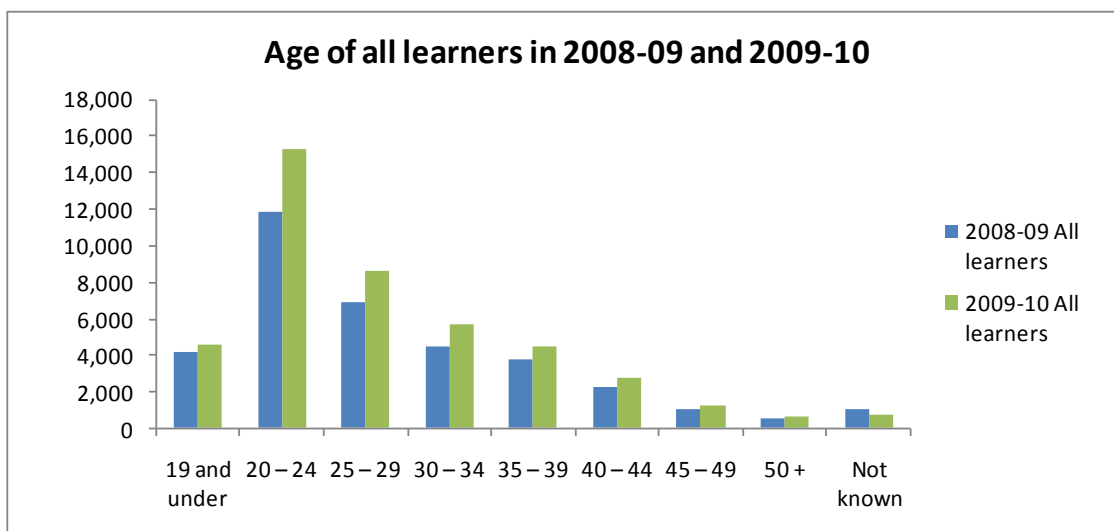


Age

16 The majority of learners were aged from 20 to 24 in 2009-10, accounting for 15,295 (35 per cent) of all learners, compared to 11,860 (33 per cent) of learners in 2008-09. In line with the increase in the number of registrations in 2009-10, all age categories had more learners than in the previous year, and the proportion within each category was similar to proportions in 2008-09 (see Chart K and Appendix 1, table 11).

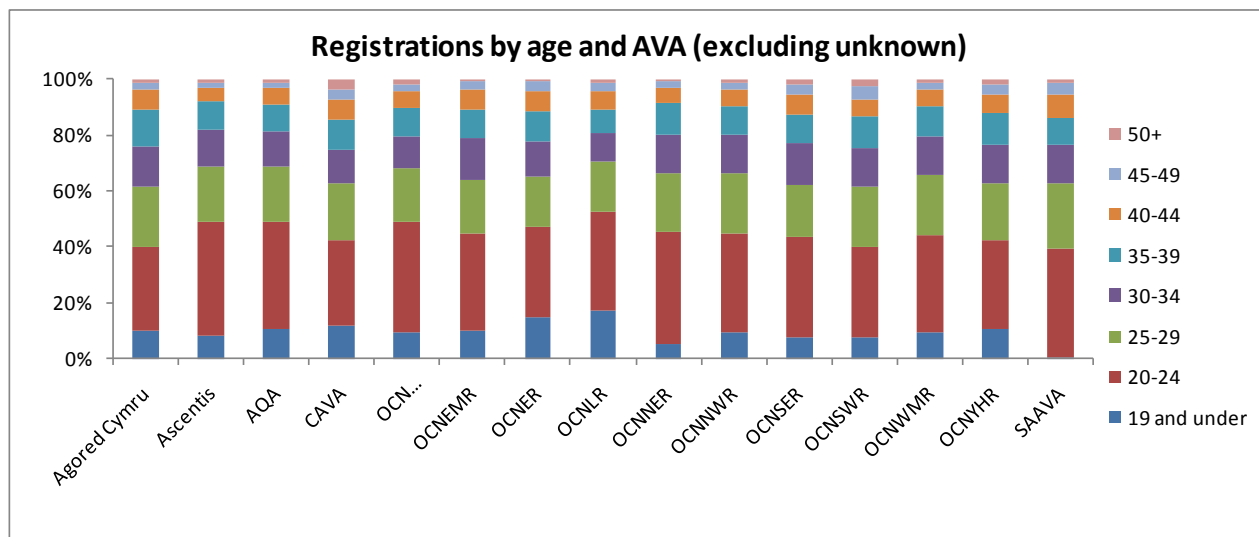
17 The number and proportion of unknowns decreased in 2009-10, from 1,050 (three per cent of all learners) in 2008-09 to 800 (two per cent of all learners) in 2009-10.

Chart K



18 There were some differences in the age profile between AVAs as illustrated in Chart L (see also Appendix 1, table 12). The 'unknown' category ranges from 0 per cent to 13 per cent. The percentage of learners under 19 varied quite considerably from 0.3 per cent to 17 per cent. The proportion of learners in other age categories across all AVAs was more comparable.

Chart L



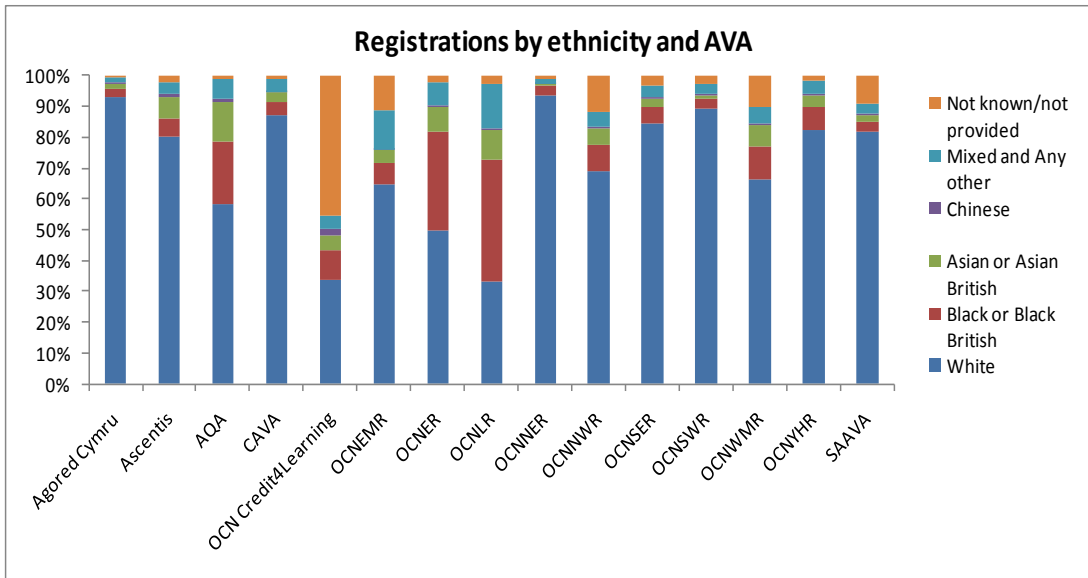
Ethnicity

19 The proportion of all learners who indicated their ethnicity as black or black British was 14 per cent in 2009-10, compared to 15 per cent in 2008-09. The proportions of learners in other ethnic categories in 2009-10 were: six per cent from Asian and Asian British groups; one per cent from Chinese groups, six per cent from other groups and 67 per cent were white.

20 The ethnicity profiles of the AVAs are illustrated in Chart M (see also Appendix 1, table 13). This shows significant variations between AVAs and represents the diversity in the areas served. The percentages for the 'white' category range from 33 per cent to 94 per cent; for 'black/black British' from three per cent to 40 per cent; for 'Asian/Asian British' from one per cent to 13 per cent; for 'Chinese' from 0.1 per cent to two per cent; and for mixed ethnicity from one per cent to 14 per cent.

21 The number of learners categorised as 'Not known/not given' decreased in 2009-10 to six per cent compared to the previous year when it represented nine per cent of all learners. This continues the trend of the previous three years where the number of learners categorised as 'Not known/not given' has continued to decrease from 21 per cent in 2005-06. Although the number of unknowns has been declining, the high proportion of unknowns in previous years makes comparisons unreliable.

Chart M



Intended destination data

This data is known to be highly unreliable, both because of the proportion of unknowns and because of the variety of ways in which it is collected by different AVAs and within different providers.

22 The number and proportion of learners categorised as 'destination unknown' increased in 2009-10 to 11,855 (36 per cent) of learners intending to progress, an increase from 8,275 (34 per cent) in 2008-09 (see Annex 1, table 14). Note that these percentages exclude those who withdrew or continued their existing course of study. The percentage of unknowns across AVAs ranged from nine per cent to 73 per cent in 2009-10.

Chart N



23 Chart N illustrates the intended destination profiles of learners by AVA, and shows significant variations between AVAs, particularly for those progressing to HE. The percentage of learners progressing to 'HE' ranged from 11 per cent to 80 per cent; to 'FE' from 0.6 per cent to four per cent; to 'employment' from one per cent to nine per cent and to 'other destinations' from 0.5 per cent to 15 per cent.

Appendix 1

Table 1: Learner registrations

	2008-09	2009-10	% change
Agored Cymru	2,420	2,500	3%
Ascentis	1,855	2,865	55%
Assessment and Qualifications Alliance	1,785	1,820	2%
Cambridge Access Validating Agency	1,310	1,650	26%
OCN East Midlands Region	1,935	2,345	21%
OCN Eastern Region	2,760	3,385	23%
OCN London Region	5,845	6,850	17%
OCN North East Region	1,575	1,785	14%
OCN North West Region	3,760	4,655	24%
OCN Credit4Learning ³	1,630	1,550	-5%
OCN South East Region	2,470	3,395	37%
OCN South West Region	2,455	3,200	30%
OCN West Midlands Region	3,915	4,930	26%
OCN Yorkshire and Humber Region	1,860	2,430	31%
Southern Area Access Validating Agency	660	875	33%

Table 2: Learning aim at initial registration

	Total 2007-08	Total 2008-09	Total 2009-10
New learners registered: expected end date before 1 August of report year	27,955	28,275	35,915
Re-registered (same course): expected end date before 1 August of report year	2,850	2,815	3,255
Sub total	30,805	31,090	39,165
New learners registered: expected end date on or after 1 August of report year	4,210	4,575	4,610
Re-registered (same course): expected end date after 1 August of report year	255	565	460
Overall total	35,275	36,230	44,235

³ Previously Open College Network (OCN) Oxford, Thames and Chiltern Region.

Table 3: Changes in learner registrations

	Change between 2008-09 and 2009-10
OCN Credit4Learning	-85
Assessment and Qualifications Alliance	35
Agored Cymru	80
OCN North East Region	215
Southern Area Access Validating Agency	215
Cambridge Access Validating Agency	345
OCN East Midlands Region	410
OCN Yorkshire and Humber Region	565
OCN Eastern Region	625
OCN South West Region	745
OCN North West Region	900
OCN South East Region	925
OCN London Region	1,005
Ascentis	1,010
OCN West Midlands Region	1,015

Table 4: Providers and courses

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Providers offering courses	349	341	348
Courses available	1,557	1,540	1,580
Courses running	1,211	1,376	1,353
New courses recognised	243	362	64

Table 5: Number of providers over last two years

	2008-09	2009-10
OCN London Region	38	38
OCN West Midlands Region	38	38
Ascentis	29	32
OCN South East Region	28	30
OCN South West Region	24	28
OCN North West Region	28	27
OCN Eastern Region	24	25
OCN Yorkshire and Humber Region	23	22
OCN East Midlands Region	21	21
Agored Cymru	20	20
OCN Credit4Learning	17	17
OCN North East Region	14	14
Southern Area Access Validating Agency	12	13
Assessment and Qualifications Alliance	14	12
Cambridge Access Validating Agency	11	11

Table 6: Number of courses running over the last two years

	2008-09	2009-10
OCN London Region	202	211
OCN North West Region	144	126
OCN West Midlands Region	121	118
OCN South East Region	97	106
OCN South West Region	116	104
Ascentis	114	100
OCN Eastern Region	83	89
OCN East Midlands Region	83	84
Agored Cymru	77	81
OCN Credit4Learning	71	72
OCN Yorkshire and Humber Region	71	70
Southern Area Access Validating Agency	65	70
Cambridge Access Validating Agency	42	46
Assessment and Qualifications Alliance	51	38
OCN North East Region	39	38

Table 7: Qualifications awarded and as a proportion of those expected to complete in the report year

	Qualifications awarded 2008-09	Qualifications awarded as a proportion of those expected to complete in 2008-09	Qualifications awarded 2009-10	Qualifications awarded as a proportion of those expected to complete in 2009-10
OCN Yorkshire and Humber Region	1,285	76%	1,740	86%
Southern Area Access Validating Agency	335	67%	515	78%
OCN North East Region	660	46%	1,310	75%
OCN South East Region	1,440	67%	2,165	72%
Agored Cymru	1,315	70%	1,385	70%
OCN Credit4Learning	835	58%	960	70%
Cambridge Access Validating Agency	695	66%	910	70%
OCN South West Region	1,435	68%	1,910	66%
OCN East Midlands Region	1,160	67%	1,450	66%
OCN North West Region	2,345	78%	2,800	66%
Assessment and Qualifications Alliance	975	63%	1,120	65%
OCN Eastern Region	1,620	70%	1,900	64%
OCN London Region	3,130	55%	4,015	61%
OCN West Midlands Region	1,710	60%	2,315	60%
Ascentis	1,015	64%	1,530	60%

Table 8: Proportion of Access to HE qualifications awarded, partial achievement accredited or no achievement accredited, of all learner completions

	Access to HE qualification awarded	Partial achievement accredited	No achievement accredited
OCN Yorkshire and Humber Region	78.4%	11.0%	10.6%
Southern Area Access Validating Agency	77.6%	13.7%	8.7%
OCN North East Region	75.0%	1.9%	23.0%
OCN East Midlands Region	70.5%	12.7%	16.9%
OCN Credit4Learning	70.0%	21.9%	8.2%
OCN South East Region	68.1%	10.7%	21.2%
Assessment and Qualifications Alliance	67.2%	5.3%	27.5%
OCN North West Region	65.0%	8.7%	26.3%
Cambridge Access Validating Agency	64.8%	8.2%	27.0%
OCN South West Region	64.1%	5.1%	30.8%
Agored Cymru	64.0%	17.8%	18.2%
OCN Eastern Region	63.6%	4.0%	32.4%
OCN London Region	60.1%	9.0%	30.9%
Ascentis	58.9%	16.4%	24.7%
OCN West Midlands Region	56.7%	3.9%	39.4%

Table 9: Withdrawals and those withdrawing with partial achievement, as a proportion of all registrations

	Withdrawn with no achievement	Partial achievement
OCN London Region	28.4%	0.0%
Assessment and Qualifications Alliance	24.5%	2.0%
OCN West Midlands Region	22.8%	1.0%
OCN Eastern Region	22.0%	0.1%
OCN South West Region	20.5%	3.2%
Cambridge Access Validating Agency	19.6%	1.0%
OCN South East Region	18.7%	3.4%
Ascentis	18.5%	1.2%
OCN North East Region	17.4%	1.0%
OCN North West Region	16.1%	1.5%
OCN East Midlands Region	14.8%	0.4%
Agored Cymru	12.0%	9.4%
Southern Area Access Validating Agency	6.3%	9.5%
OCN Credit4Learning	2.8%	0.8%
OCN Yorkshire and Humber Region	2.1%	0.5%

Table 10: Registration by gender and AVA

	Men	Women
Agored Cymru	22.6%	77.4%
Ascentis	33.9%	66.1%
Assessment and Qualifications Alliance	29.1%	70.9%
Cambridge Access Validating Agency	27.1%	72.9%
OCN Credit4Learning	25.8%	74.2%
OCN East Midlands Region	27.3%	72.7%
OCN Eastern Region	31.0%	69.0%
OCN London Region	32.4%	67.6%
OCN North East Region	24.6%	75.4%
OCN North West Region	28.7%	71.3%
OCN South East Region	35.9%	64.1%
OCN South West Region	33.8%	66.3%
OCN West Midlands Region	28.1%	71.9%
OCN Yorkshire and Humber Region	28.5%	71.5%
Southern Area Access Validating Agency	28.4%	71.6%

Table 11: Learners by age

	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
	All learners	% of total	All learners	% of total	All learners	% of total
19 and under	4,185	12%	4,135	11%	4,585	10%
20 - 24	11,235	32%	11,860	33%	15,295	35%
25 - 29	6,785	19%	6,940	19%	8,665	20%
30 - 34	4,615	13%	4,525	12%	5,695	13%
35 - 39	3,870	11%	3,775	10%	4,445	10%
40 - 44	2,275	6%	2,280	6%	2,790	6%
45 - 49	1,105	3%	1,065	3%	1,285	3%
50 +	660	2%	595	2%	680	2%
Not known/not given	545	2%	1,050	3%	800	2%

Table 12: Age profile by AVA

	19 and under	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50+	unknown
Agored Cymru	9.8%	30.3%	21.5%	14.5%	12.8%	7.0%	2.9%	1.1%	0.1%
Ascentis	8.4%	40.5%	19.5%	13.3%	9.8%	4.8%	2.0%	1.2%	0.5%
Assessment and Qualifications Alliance	10.7%	38.2%	20.0%	12.4%	9.2%	6.3%	2.0%	1.1%	0.1%
Cambridge Access Validating Agency	11.9%	30.4%	20.1%	12.1%	10.8%	7.2%	3.1%	3.9%	0.5%
OCN Credit4Learning	8.2%	34.4%	16.3%	10.0%	8.6%	5.1%	2.3%	1.7%	13.2%
OCN East Midlands Region	9.9%	34.6%	19.7%	14.4%	10.5%	6.9%	3.0%	1.0%	0.0%
OCN Eastern Region	14.5%	32.9%	17.8%	12.7%	10.7%	7.2%	3.3%	0.9%	0.0%
OCN London	17.1%	35.4%	17.7%	10.7%	8.3%	6.1%	3.0%	1.6%	0.0%

	19 and under	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50+	unknown
Region									
OCN North East Region	5.0%	40.0%	21.0%	14.0%	11.0%	5.8%	2.3%	0.7%	0.1%
OCN North West Region	9.3%	35.6%	21.7%	13.7%	10.0%	5.8%	2.5%	1.4%	0.0%
OCN South East Region	7.3%	36.5%	18.6%	14.9%	10.2%	6.8%	3.7%	2.0%	0.0%
OCN South West Region	7.1%	32.0%	21.2%	13.3%	11.0%	6.3%	4.3%	2.7%	2.1%
OCN West Midlands Region	8.7%	31.4%	19.4%	12.1%	9.7%	5.9%	2.1%	1.0%	9.7%
OCN Yorkshire and Humber Region	10.7%	31.9%	20.3%	13.7%	11.0%	7.1%	3.4%	1.9%	0.0%
Southern Area Access Validating Agency	0.3%	38.1%	22.5%	13.4%	9.2%	8.0%	4.1%	1.5%	2.9%

Table 13: Ethnicity by AVA

	White	Black or Black British	Asian or Asian British	Chinese	Mixed and Any other	Not known/not provided
Agored Cymru	93.1%	2.6%	1.8%	0.2%	1.6%	0.8%
Ascentis	80.1%	6.0%	7.0%	1.2%	3.4%	2.3%
Assessment and Qualifications Alliance	58.1%	20.6%	12.7%	1.2%	6.6%	0.9%
Cambridge Access Validating Agency	87.3%	3.8%	3.6%	0.1%	3.9%	1.3%
OCN Credit4Learning	33.7%	9.5%	4.9%	2.3%	3.9%	45.7%
OCN East Midlands Region	64.8%	6.6%	4.5%	0.2%	12.8%	11.2%
OCN Eastern Region	49.7%	32.1%	8.1%	0.2%	7.9%	2.0%
OCN London Region	33.2%	39.3%	9.7%	0.9%	14.1%	2.9%
OCN North East Region	93.7%	2.8%	0.8%	0.1%	1.3%	1.3%
OCN North West Region	68.8%	8.7%	5.1%	0.6%	4.7%	12.0%
OCN South East Region	84.3%	5.5%	2.7%	0.5%	3.9%	3.1%
OCN South West Region	89.0%	3.5%	1.2%	0.3%	3.2%	2.7%
OCN West Midlands Region	66.5%	10.6%	7.0%	0.4%	5.2%	10.4%
OCN Yorkshire and Humber Region	82.3%	7.6%	3.7%	0.3%	4.3%	1.8%
Southern Area Access Validating Agency	81.9%	3.1%	2.2%	0.3%	3.1%	9.4%

Table 14: Intended destination

	Progression to HE course	Progression to FE	Progression to employment	Other	Unknown
Agored Cymru	69.4%	3.6%	7.7%	3.6%	15.7%
Ascentis	27.4%	0.9%	2.3%	3.1%	66.3%
Assessment and Qualifications Alliance	74.7%	0.8%	5.0%	7.8%	11.7%
Cambridge Access Validating Agency	59.3%	0.9%	6.6%	14.5%	18.7%
OCN Credit4Learning	11.0%	0.8%	0.7%	0.4%	87.2%
OCN East Midlands Region	63.6%	1.4%	8.2%	5.6%	21.2%
OCN Eastern Region	36.7%	3.4%	3.3%	7.1%	49.5%
OCN London Region	52.5%	1.6%	3.7%	2.3%	39.9%
OCN North East Region	79.6%	1.1%	8.7%	1.3%	9.3%
OCN North West Region	54.0%	2.8%	3.0%	4.7%	35.4%
OCN South East Region	70.4%	0.5%	2.1%	3.0%	24.0%
OCN South West Region	37.9%	1.2%	4.4%	11.7%	44.7%
OCN West Midlands Region	76.4%	0.6%	0.7%	1.2%	21.1%
OCN Yorkshire and Humber Region	69.3%	1.6%	7.1%	6.2%	15.9%
Southern Area Access Validating Agency	21.4%	0.7%	2.2%	3.1%	72.6%

**QAA**

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