

FY2 Wave 3-4 NI: Chapter 4 Eating out and takeaways

[The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme](#) (FHRS) helps people make informed choices about where to eat out or shop for food by giving clear information about the businesses' hygiene standards. Ratings are typically given to places where food is supplied, sold or consumed, including restaurants, pubs, cafés, takeaways, food vans and stalls.

The FSA runs the scheme in partnership with district councils in Northern Ireland, and with local authorities in England and Wales. In Northern Ireland, district council food safety officers are responsible for checking food hygiene standards at food premises to assess compliance with legal requirements through unannounced hygiene inspections. Businesses are given a rating from 0 to 5. A rating of 5 indicates that hygiene standards are very good and a rating of 0 indicates that urgent improvement is required.

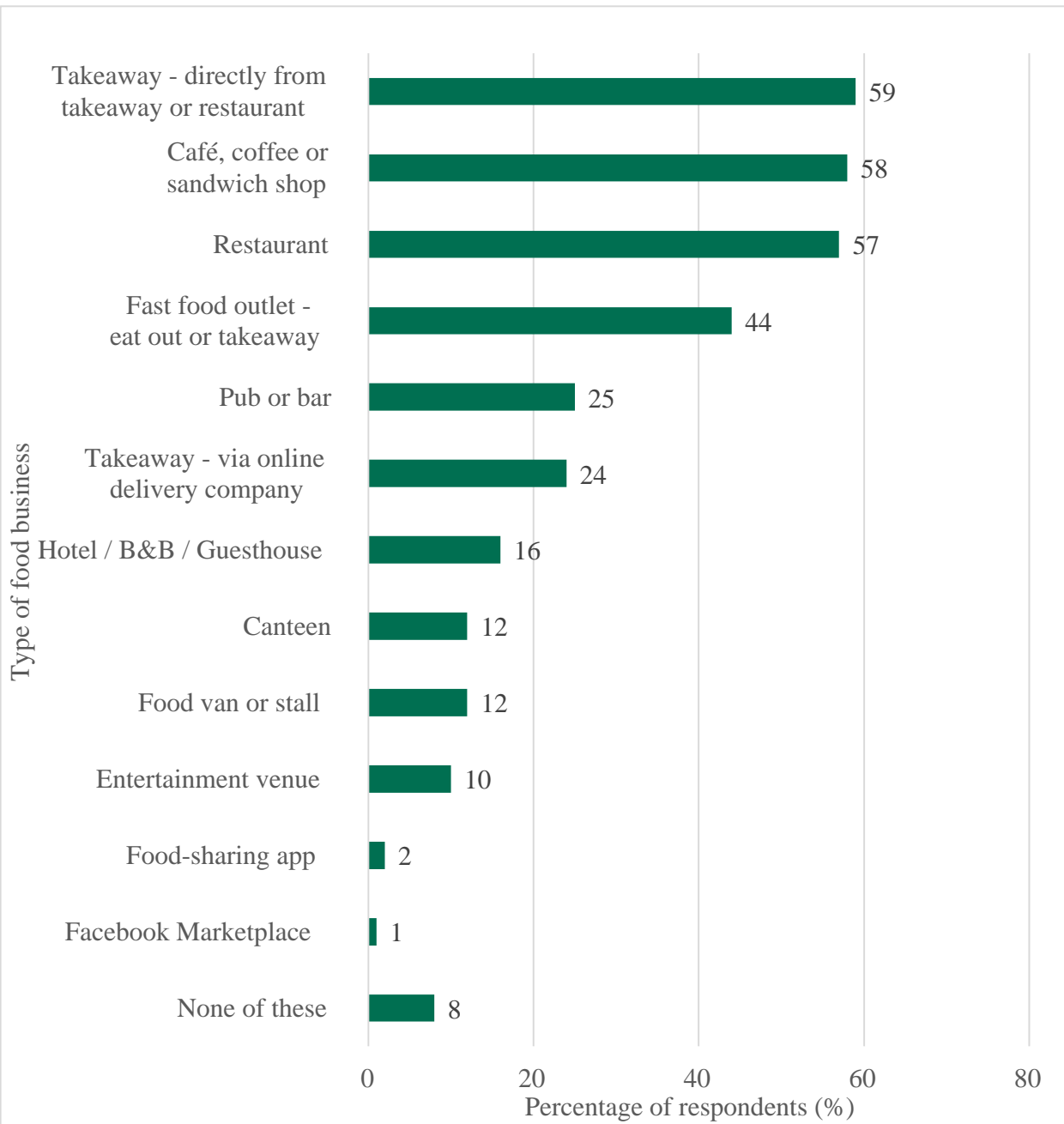
Food businesses are provided with a sticker which shows their FHRS rating. In Northern Ireland and Wales food businesses are legally required to display their FHRS rating, however in England businesses are encouraged to display their FHRS rating ([footnote 1](#)). FHRS ratings are also available on the FSA website.

Prevalence of eating out and ordering takeaways

Figure 8 Type of food business respondents had eaten at or ordered food from in the previous 4 weeks

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Type of outlet	Percentage of respondents
None of these	8
Facebook Marketplace	1
Food-sharing app	2
Entertainment venue	10

Type of outlet	Percentage of respondents
Food van or stall	12
Canteen	12
Hotel / B&B / Guesthouse	16
Takeaway - via online delivery company"	24
Pub or bar	25
Fast food outlet - eat out or takeaway"	44
Restaurant	57
Café, coffee or sandwich shop"	58
Takeaway - directly from takeaway or restaurant"	59

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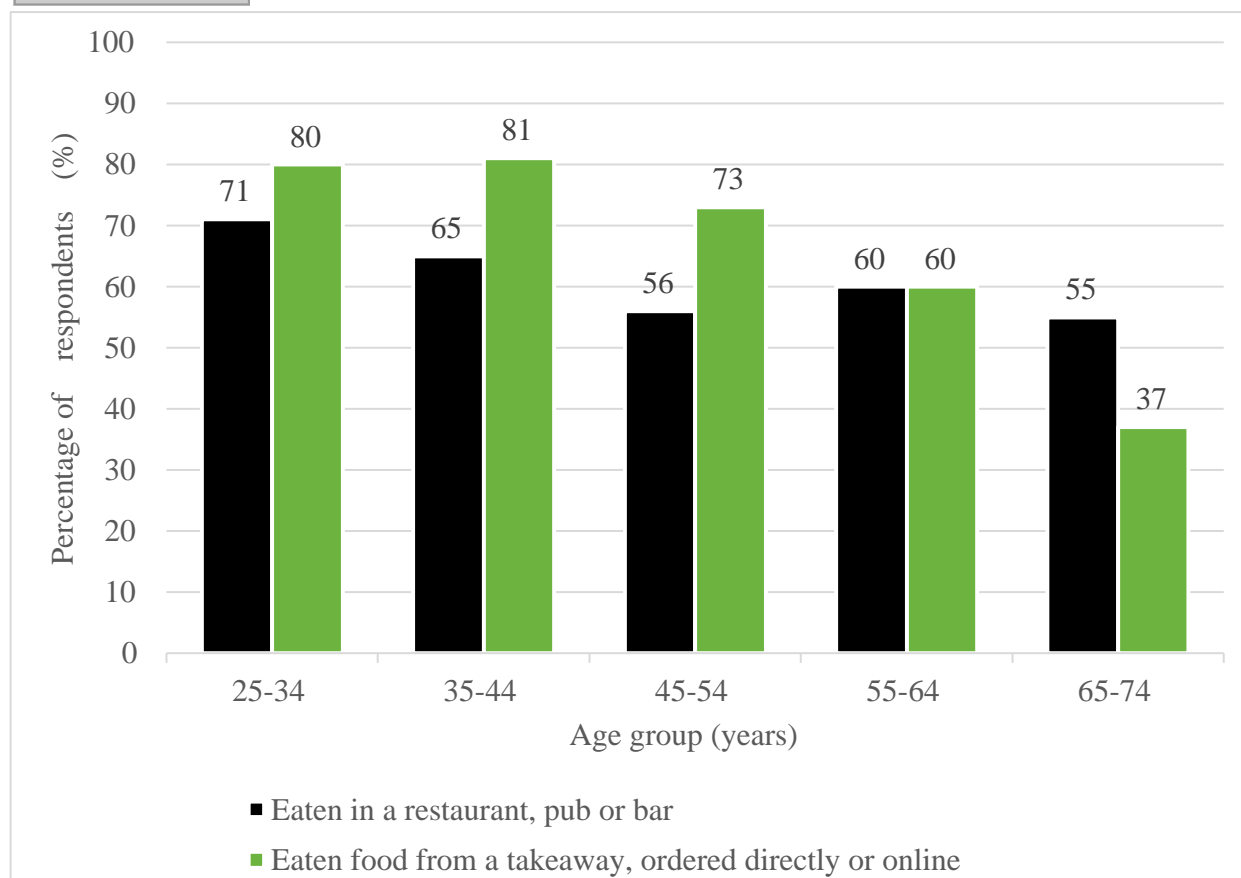
Source: Food & You 2: Wave 4

Respondents were asked where they had eaten out or ordered food from in the previous 4 weeks. Around 6 in 10 respondents had ordered a takeaway directly from a takeaway shop or restaurant (59%), from a café, coffee shop or sandwich shop (either to eat in or take out) (58%) or eaten out in a restaurant (57%). Less than 1 in 10 (8%) respondents had not eaten food from any of the listed food businesses in the previous 4 weeks (Figure 8) [\(footnote 2\)](#).

Figure 9 Prevalence of eating out in a restaurant, pub or bar, or from a takeaway by age group in the previous 4 weeks.

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AGE RANGE	Eaten in a restaurant, pub or bar	Eaten food from a takeaway, ordered directly or online
25-34	71	80
35-44	65	81
45-54	56	73
55-64	60	60
65-74	55	37

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Younger respondents were more likely to have eaten out in a restaurant, pub or bar, or from a takeaway (ordered directly or online) in the previous 4 weeks compared to older respondents. For example, 71% of respondents aged 25-34 years had eaten out in a restaurant, pub or bar compared to 55% of those aged 65-74 years. Similarly, 80% of respondents aged 25-34 years had eaten food from a takeaway (ordered directly or online) compared to 37% of those aged 65-74 years (Figure 9).

The prevalence of eating out in a restaurant, pub or bar or eating food from a takeaway (ordered directly or online) in the previous 4 weeks also varied between different types of people in the following ways:

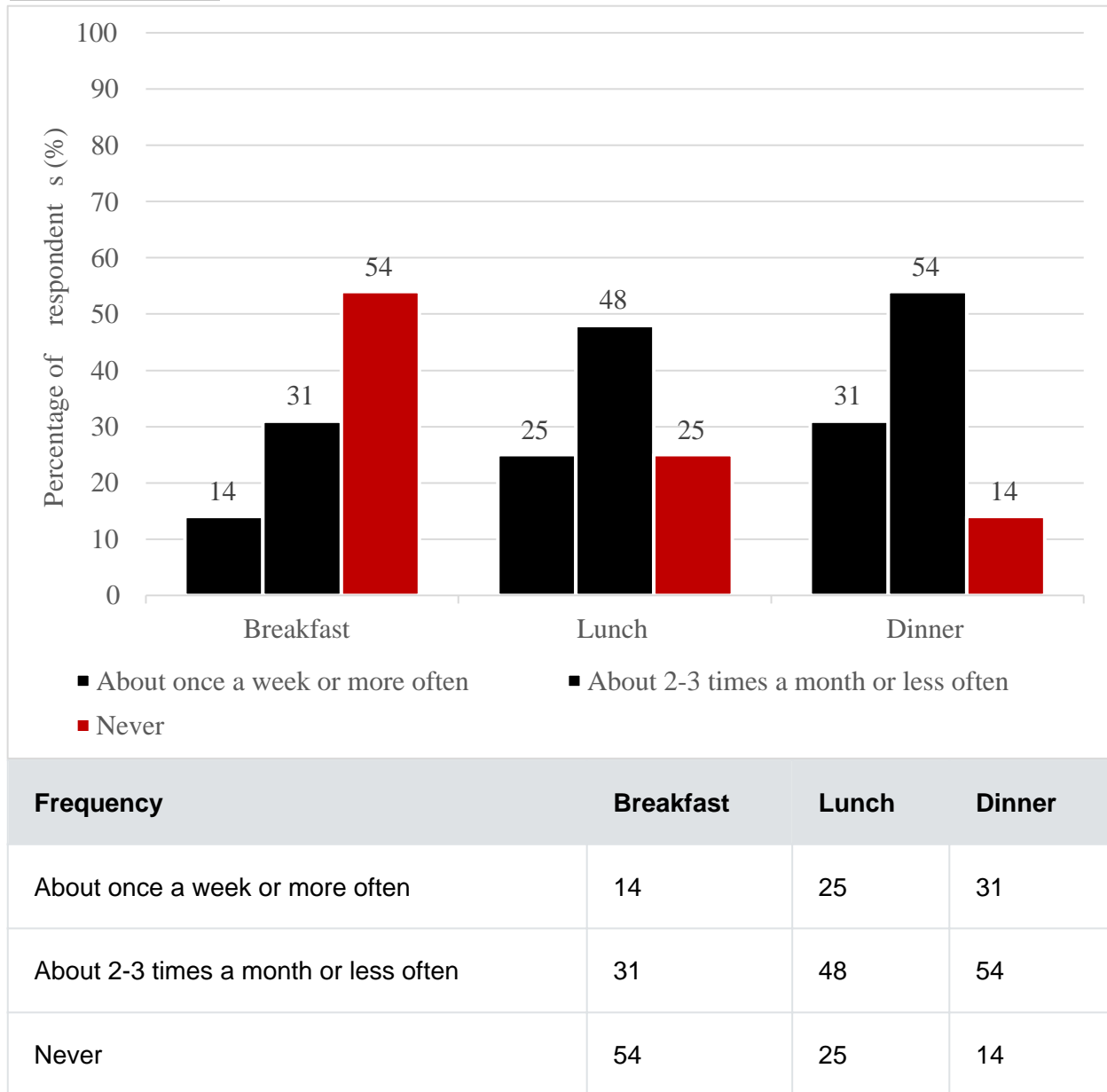
- Annual household income: Respondents with a higher household income between £19,000 and £63,999 (for example 74% of respondents with an income of £32,000-£64,999) were more likely to have eaten out in a restaurant, pub or bar, in the previous 4 weeks compared to respondents with an income below £19,000 (43%) ([footnote 3](#)).
- Household size: respondents who lived in larger households were more likely to have eaten food from a takeaway than those who lived in smaller households. For example, 78% of respondents living in 4-person households had eaten food from a takeaway compared to 40% of respondents living alone.
- Children under 16 years in household: respondents who had children in the household (82%) were more likely to have eaten food from a takeaway than those who did not have children aged 16 years or under in the household (60%). However, the prevalence of eating out in a restaurant, pub or bar did not differ between those with (60%) or without (62%) children aged 16 years or under in the household**.
- NS-SEC: respondents in some occupational groups (for example, 68% of those in managerial, administrative and professional occupations) were more likely to have eaten out in a restaurant, pub or bar compared to those in lower supervisory and technical occupations (54%) and semi-routine and routine occupations (44%).
- Urban/rural: respondents who lived in an urban area (70%) were more likely to have eaten food from a takeaway than those who lived in a rural area (60%). However, the prevalence of eating out in a restaurant, pub or bar did not differ between those who lived in urban (60%) or rural (63%) areas**.
- Food security: respondents with high (68%) food security were more likely to have eaten out in a restaurant, pub or bar than those with marginal (54%) or low (52%) food security ([footnote 4](#)).
- Long term health condition: respondents without a long-term health condition (66%) were more likely to have eaten out in a restaurant, pub or bar compared to respondents who had a long-term health condition (54%), however the prevalence of eating food from a takeaway did not differ greatly between those with (68%) or without (62%) a long-term health condition**.
- NIMDM: respondents who lived in the least deprived areas (NIMDM 5) (68%) were more likely to have eaten out in a restaurant, pub or bar compared to respondents who lived in the most deprived areas (NIMDM 1) (55%). However, respondents who lived in the most deprived areas (NIMDM 1) (76%) were more likely to have eaten food from a takeaway than those who lived in the less deprived areas, for (example NIMDM 3, 60%).

Eating out and takeaways by mealtime

Figure 10 Frequency of eating out and take away by mealtime

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Source: Food & You 2: Wave 4

Respondents were asked how often they ate out or bought food to take out for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Respondents were least likely to eat out or buy food to take out for breakfast, with 54% of respondents never doing this. Around half of respondents (48%) reported that they ate out or bought take out food for lunch 2-3 times a month or less often (Figure 10) [\(footnote 5\)](#).

Factors considered when ordering a takeaway

Respondents were asked which factors, from a given list, they generally considered when deciding where to order a takeaway from [\(footnote 6\)](#).

Figure 11 Factors considered when ordering a takeaway.

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Factors	Percentage of respondents
Calorie information provided	2
Allergen information provided	3
Healthier options provided	7
Independent business or chain	8
Reviews	20

Factors	Percentage of respondents
Whether food can be ordered online	26
Delivery or collection option	27
Offers, deals, discounts	27
Delivery or collection times	34
Food hygiene rating	40
Location of takeaway	50
Type of food (e.g. cuisine or vegetarian / vegan options)	51
Price	52
Recommendations from family or friends	56
Quality of food	78
Experience of the takeaway	80

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Source: Food & You 2: Wave 4

Of those who had ordered food from a takeaway, the factors most commonly considered when deciding where to place an order were the respondents' previous experience of the takeaway (80%) and the quality of food (78%). In addition, 4 in 10 (40%) respondents considered the food hygiene rating when deciding where to order a takeaway from (Figure 11) [\(footnote 7\)](#).

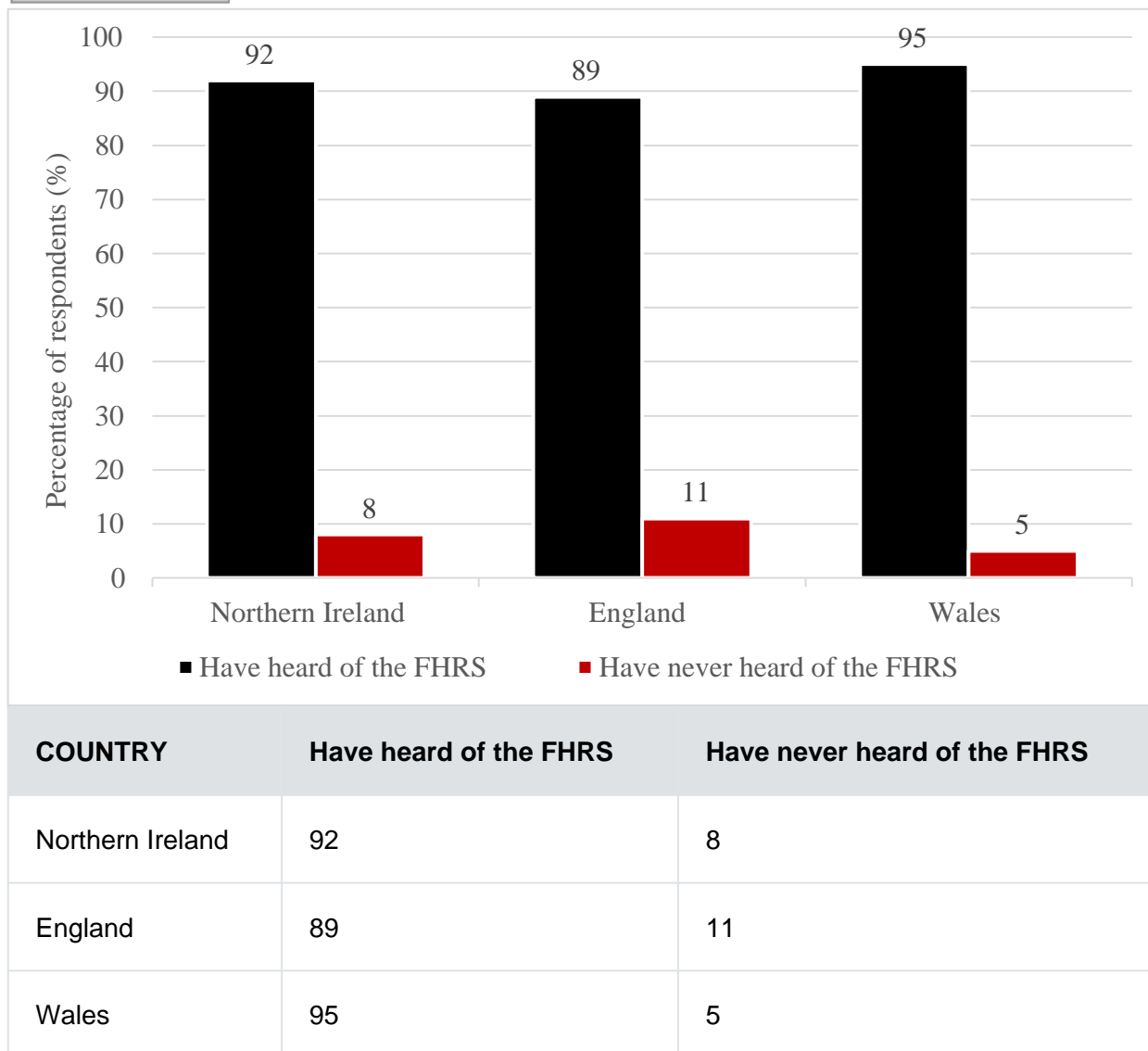
Awareness and recognition of the FHRS

Most respondents (92%) reported that they had heard of the FHRS. Almost three quarters (65%) of respondents reported that they had heard of the FHRS and had at least a bit of knowledge about it [\(footnote 8\)](#), [\(footnote 9\)](#).

Figure 12 Percentage of respondents who had heard of the FHRS by country

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Source: Food and You 2: Wave 4

Most respondents living in Northern Ireland (92%), England (89%), and Wales (95%), had heard of the FSA (Figure 14)**.

Respondents in Wales (74%) were more likely to report that they had heard of the FHRS and had at least some knowledge of the FHRS compared to those in England (57%) and Northern Ireland (65%)**.

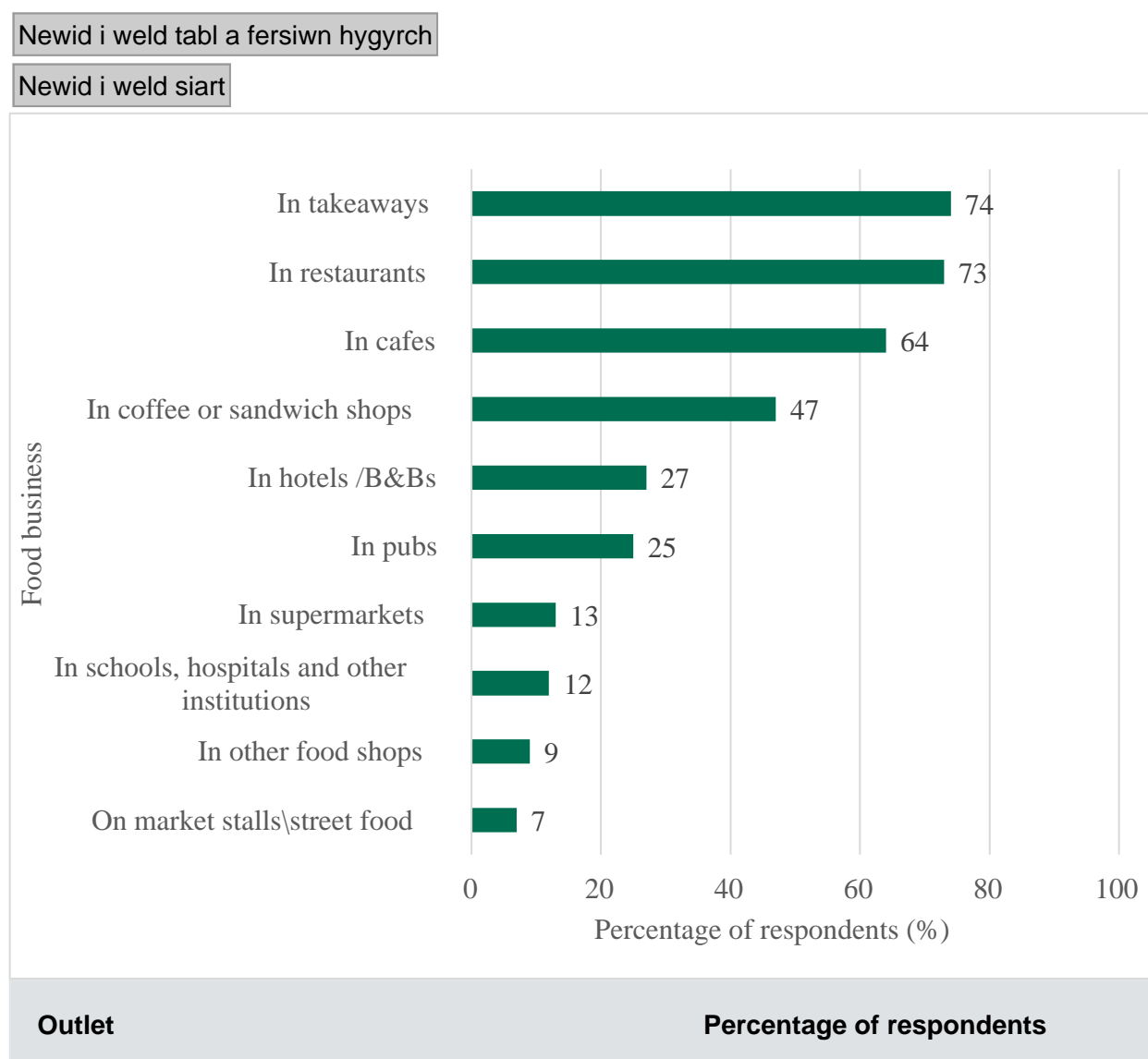
When shown an image of the FHRS sticker, recognition of the FHRS sticker was comparable across Northern Ireland (94%), England (87%), and Wales (95%) (Figure 12) [\(footnote 10\)](#) **.

FHRS usage

Respondents living in Wales (54%) were more likely to have checked the hygiene rating of a food business in the last 12 months compared to respondents in England (40%) and Northern Ireland (46%)** [\(footnote 11\)](#).

Figure 13. Food businesses where respondents in Northern Ireland had checked the food hygiene rating in last 12 months.

Figure 13 Food businesses where respondents in Northern Ireland had checked the food hygiene rating in last 12 months



On market stalls\street food	7
In other food shops	9
In schools, hospitals and other institutions	12
In supermarkets	13
In pubs	25
In hotels /B&Bs	27
In coffee or sandwich shops	47
In cafes	64
In restaurants	73
In takeaways	74

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Source: Food & You 2: Wave 4

Respondents who said they had checked the hygiene rating of a food business in the last 12 months were asked what types of food businesses they had checked. In Northern Ireland the most common types of food business which respondents had checked the food rating of were takeaways (74%) and restaurants (73%) (Figure 13) [\(footnote 12\)](#).

1.

Legislation for the mandatory display of FHRS ratings was introduced in November 2013 in Wales and October 2016 in Northern Ireland.

2. Question: In the last 4 weeks, have you eaten food... ? (Select all the apply) Responses: Ordered a takeaway directly from a takeaway shop or restaurant, From a café, coffee shop or sandwich shop (either to eat in or take out), Ordered a takeaway from an online food delivery company (e.g. Just Eat, Deliveroo, Uber Eats), From a fast food outlet (either to eat in or take out), In a restaurant, In a pub or bar, From a canteen (e.g. at work, school, university, or hospital), From a mobile food van or stall, In a hotel, B&B or guesthouse, From an entertainment venue (e.g. cinema, bowling alley, sports club), From a food-sharing app (e.g. Olio or Too Good To Go), From Facebook Marketplace (e.g. pre-prepared food or meals), None of these. Base is 1329, all online respondents and those answering the

Eating Out postal questionnaire in Northern Ireland Wave 4. (see Annex A). Please note, percentages shown do not add up to 100% as multiple responses could be selected. Data were not reported for 16-24 years and 75+ years due to a small number of respondents being in this group.

3.

Data for those with an income of £64,000 and above were not reported due to a small number of respondents being in this group.

4. Data for those with very low food security were not reported due to a small number of respondents being in this group.

5. Question: At the moment, how often, if at all, do you eat out or buy food to take out for...? A) Breakfast, B) Lunch, C) Dinner. Responses: Several times a week, About once a week, About 2-3 times a month, About once a month, Less than once a month, Never, Can't remember. Base is 1329, all online respondents and those answering the Eating Out postal questionnaire in Northern Ireland. Wave 4.

6. Including takeaway ordered directly from a takeaway shop or restaurant or via an online food delivery company.

7. Question: Generally, when ordering food from takeaways (either directly from a takeaway shop or restaurant or from an online food delivery company like Just Eat, Uber Eats or Deliveroo) what do you consider when deciding where to order from? Responses: My previous experience of the takeaway, Quality of food, Price (including cost of delivery), Type of food (e.g. cuisine or vegetarian/vegan options), Recommendations from family or friends, Food Hygiene Rating, Location of takeaway, Whether there is a delivery or collection option, Offers, deals or discount available, Delivery/ collection times, Whether food can be ordered online e.g. through a website or app, Reviews e.g. on TripAdvisor, Google, social media, or in newspapers and magazines, Whether it is an independent business or part of a chain, Whether healthier options are provided, Whether allergen information is provided, Whether information about calories is provided, None of these, Don't know. Base is 922, all online respondents who order takeaways in Northern Ireland. Wave 4.

8. Question: Have you heard of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme? Responses: Yes, I've heard of it and know quite a lot about it, Yes, I've heard of it and know a bit about it, Yes, I've heard of it but don't know much about it, Yes, I've heard of it but don't know anything about it, No, I've never heard of it. Base is 1329, all online respondents and those answering the Eating Out postal questionnaire in Northern Ireland. Wave 4.

9. Responses to other FHRS questions not included in this report are available in the full dataset and tables. A more detailed FHRS report will be published separately. Wave 4.

10. Question: Have you ever seen this sticker before? Responses: Yes, No, Don't know/ Not sure. Base is 4755, (England is 2085, Wales is 1027, Northern Ireland is 122), all online respondents and those answering the Eating Out postal questionnaire. Wave 4.

11. Question: In the last 12 months, have you checked the hygiene rating of a food business? You may have checked a rating at the business premises, online, in leaflets or menus whether or not you decided to purchase food from there. Responses: Yes, I have checked the Food Hygiene Rating of a food business, No, I have not checked the Food Hygiene Rating of a food business, Don't know. Base is 4755 (England is 2347, Wales is 1079, Northern Ireland is 1329) , all online respondents and those answering the Eating Out postal questionnaire in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Wave 4.

12. Question: In which of the following kinds of food businesses have you checked the hygiene ratings in the last 12 months? Responses: In takeaways, In restaurants, In cafés, In coffee or sandwich shops, In pubs, In hotels & B&Bs, In supermarkets, In other food shops, In schools, hospitals and other institutions, On market stalls/street food, Manufacturers (Business-to-Business traders), Somewhere else, Don't know. Base is 617, all online respondents and all those who completed the Eating Out postal questionnaire who have checked the Food Hygiene Rating of a food business in the last 12 months in Northern Ireland. Wave 4