

Policy Briefing - Participation in Higher Education in South Lanarkshire (July 2009)

The Central Research Unit has been given the remit of reviewing and scanning the environment that the council and its community planning partners operate within. As part of this process, the Unit has developed a series of Policy Briefings on issues relating to the interests of the council and the social, economic and policy environment in which it operates.

They are not intended to be for information only, but to provide background information on a topic of relevance to the Council and its partners with a focus on analysing and, where relevant, identifying issues arising from this work.

Their aim is to: -

- Promote consideration of issues arising out of an analysis of key statistics and trends
- Reflect on the issues and direction of emerging Government and Executive policies
- Deepen the council and partners' understanding and knowledge of issues.

This particular Policy Briefing contains the results of an analysis of ***Participation in Higher Education in South Lanarkshire in 2007-08***. This summarises the overall South Lanarkshire situation and trends over time.

This report is based on copyrighted information supplied by the Higher Education Statistics Agency which bears no responsibility for the analysis and interpretation presented here.

For further information on this subject contact: -

Alex Morton

Tel: 01698 453829

Email: alex.morton@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

SUMMARY

In 2007-08, there were 10,402 residents of South Lanarkshire participating in Higher Education. This represents a fall of 1,014, or 8.9% from 2006-07 and comes after two years of increasing numbers. The number of students had been rising steadily and the fall in 2007-08 represents a major break in this trend. The overall participation rate in Higher education was 5.1% - the lowest recorded since 2000-01.

The majority of students have always been Women in South Lanarkshire – 61% in 2007-08 and at 39% in 2007-08 the Male share was one of its lowest ever. Male student numbers have risen since 2000-01 but at just over half the rate of increase in the number of Women. The Male participation rate in Higher education is now nearly around two-thirds of the Female rate and in 2007-08 was at its lowest level since 2000-01.

The largest proportion of students (44%) was aged 29 to 40 in South Lanarkshire in 2007-08 and another 39% was aged 25 to 29. The most recent figures show a fall in the numbers for all age groups except in the under 16 age group (with only 4 students being in this age group). Over the longer term, the largest percentage increases have been in the numbers aged 60-64 or 65 & over attending Higher education – but from a very small base. There has been a rise of nearly a fifth in the numbers aged 19 to 24 but of only 3% in those aged 16-18. The highest participation rate in Higher Education was amongst those aged 19-24, at 17.1%. The next highest rate was amongst those aged 16-18 – at 14.4% - and 3% for those aged 25 to 59. The lowest participation rate was amongst the under 16s, at 0.05%, with the next lowest rate being amongst the under 65s at 0.3%. There has been a downward trend in participation rates amongst those aged 19-24 and 16-18.

Over half of students were taking their First Degree with the next largest proportion being Other Undergraduates and the smallest proportion (18%) were doing Post graduate studies. The trend has been for the numbers taking their First Degree to fall with increases in those doing Other Undergraduate work and Post graduate study (though this number fell significantly in 2007-08).

In 2007-08, the greatest number of South Lanarkshire students were studying subjects Allied to medicine (nursing, etc.). There were 1,530 accounting for 14.7% of the total. The next largest numbers were studying Business Administration (1,293 or 12.4%), Education (1,210, 11.6%), Combined subjects (1,150, 11.1%) and Biological Sciences (726 or 7%). Humanities and Languages have seen increasing numbers of students taking them and Agriculture and Business Administration being the main subjects where student numbers are falling steadily. Recently IT & Computer science has seen a significant decline in student numbers.

In 2007-08, of South Lanarkshire Higher Education students 9,760 (92.4%) were from the White Community. Increasing numbers are coming from the Minority Ethnic Communities – especially the Black and Asian communities but the proportion from the Chinese community has remained relatively constant.

Students with No known disability accounted for 87.5% (9,235) of all Higher Education students from South Lanarkshire in 2007-08. Those with Specific Learning Disabilities (mostly dyslexia) and Unseen disabilities (diabetes, etc.) are the largest groups. Over time the proportion with Known disabilities has been rising, particularly those with Mental Health difficulties.

Over a quarter of Higher education students from South Lanarkshire came from East Kilbride, with just under a fifth coming from Hamilton and just under a tenth from Rutherglen. However in terms of the participation in Higher Education, the highest rates were in Bothwell, Uddingston and Strathaven and the lowest in Lesmahagow, Larkhall and Stonehouse.

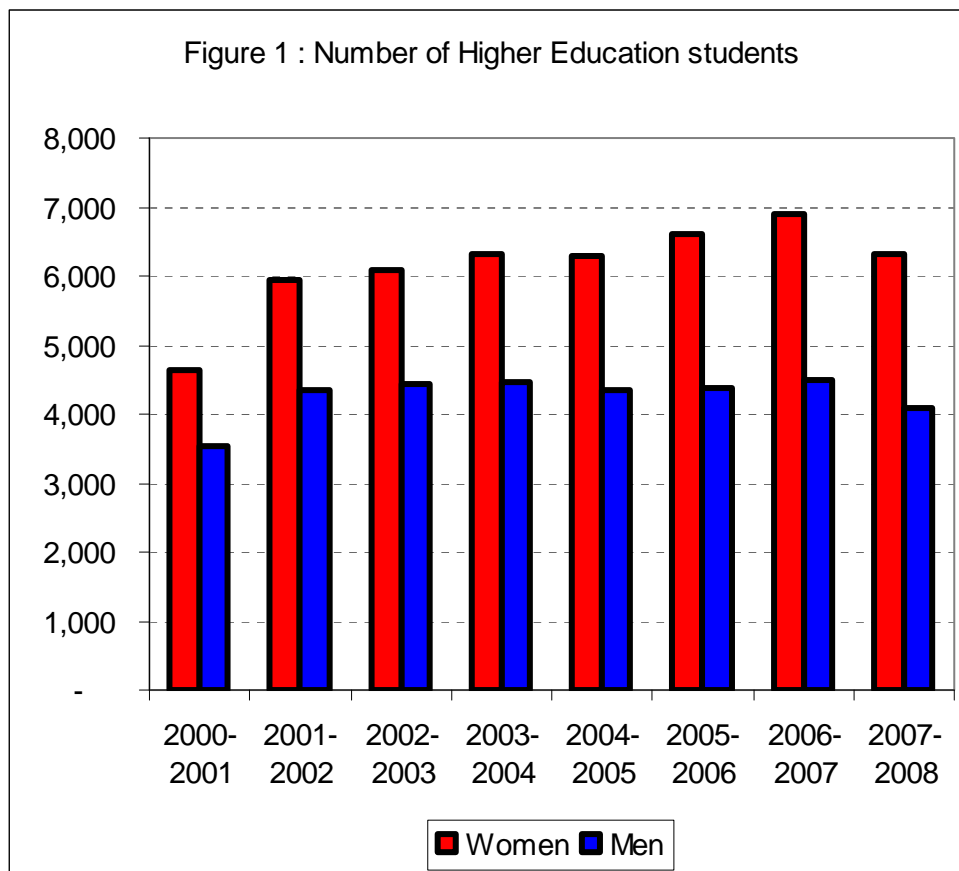
1. PARTICIPATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION BY GENDER

In 2007-08 there were 10,402 residents of South Lanarkshire participating in Higher Education. This represents a fall of 1,014, or 8.9% since 2006-07 and comes after two years of increasing numbers. Table 1 shows the number of people in South Lanarkshire participating in Higher Education by gender since 2000-01 and Figure 1 shows these numbers graphically.

Table 1: South Lanarkshire Further Education participation since 2000-01

Year	Women	Men	Total
2000-2001	4,648	3,537	8,185
2001-2002	5,929	4,360	10,289
2002-2003	6,098	4,429	10,527
2003-2004	6,321	4,454	10,775
2004-2005	6,278	4,337	10,615
2005-2006	6,614	4,366	10,980
2006-2007	6,910	4,506	11,416
2007-2008	6,329	4,073	10,402

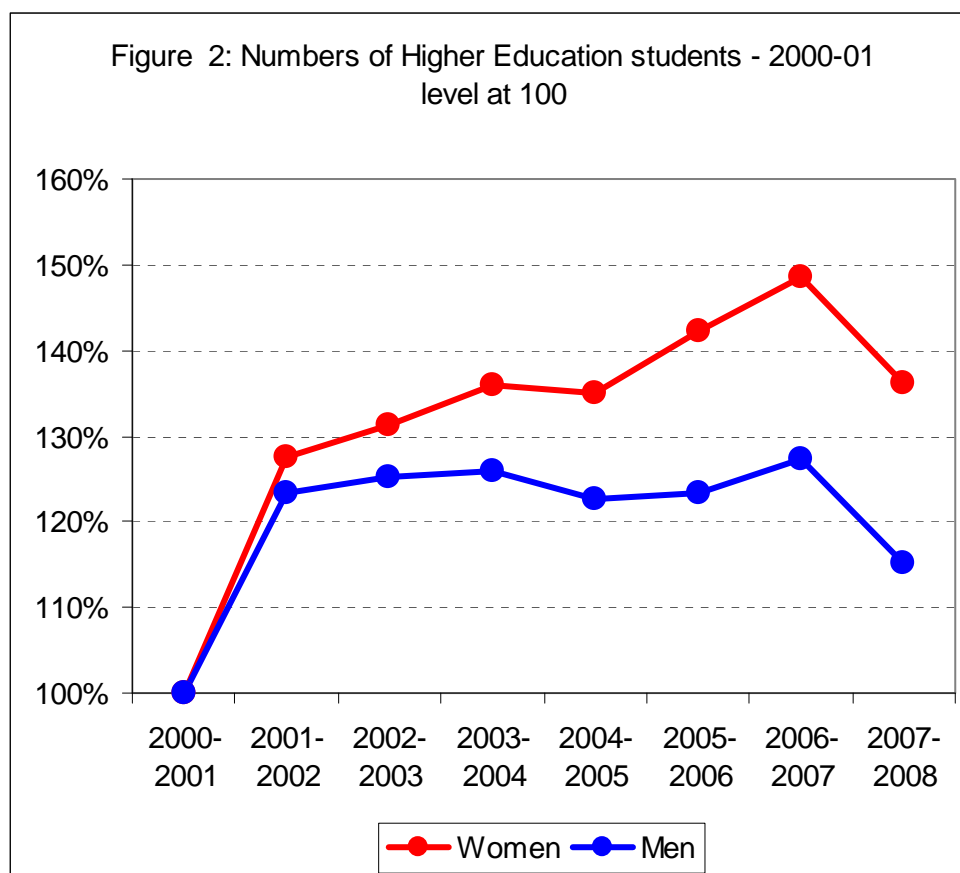
As this table shows, in 2007-08, 6,329 of those participating in Higher Education in South Lanarkshire were Women – 61% - and 4,073 (39%) were Men. This was the lowest number of Men participating in any year since 2000-01 and the lowest number of women participating since 2004-05.



Over the 2006-07 to 2007-08 period the number of Men participating in Higher Education in South Lanarkshire fell by 433, or -9.6%. This compares to a fall of 581, or 8.4% in the number of Women in Higher Education.

Compared to 2000-01, the overall numbers participating in Higher Education has risen by 2,217 or 27%. The number of Women participating has increased by 1,681 or 36.2% compared to a rise of 536 or 15.2% in the number of Men in Higher Education.

Figure 2 shows the number of students by gender based on their 2000-01 level being set at 100. As this figure shows the number of Women in Higher Education students has increased almost continuously each year until 2007-08. For Men, the number of students has remained roughly constant since 2001-02, with 2007-08 showing the most significant decline.



In 2007-08 it is estimated that around 5.1% of the 16 plus population of South Lanarkshire were participating in Higher Education. This is the lowest figure recorded since 2000-01. Figure 3 show the participation rates by gender for South Lanarkshire since 2000-01. As this figure shows, the rates all “peaked” in 2006-07.

In 2007-08, the Female participation rate in Higher Education is estimated at 6.1% and the Male rate is estimated at 4.1%. The Male rate is the lowest since 2000-01 – as is the Total rate – but the Female participation rate is back to its 2004-05 level.

In every year the participation rate for Men has been below that for Women – though the ‘participation gap’ has widened each year. From being around a fifth lower than the Female rate in 2000-01 it is now down to just over two-thirds of the Female rate.

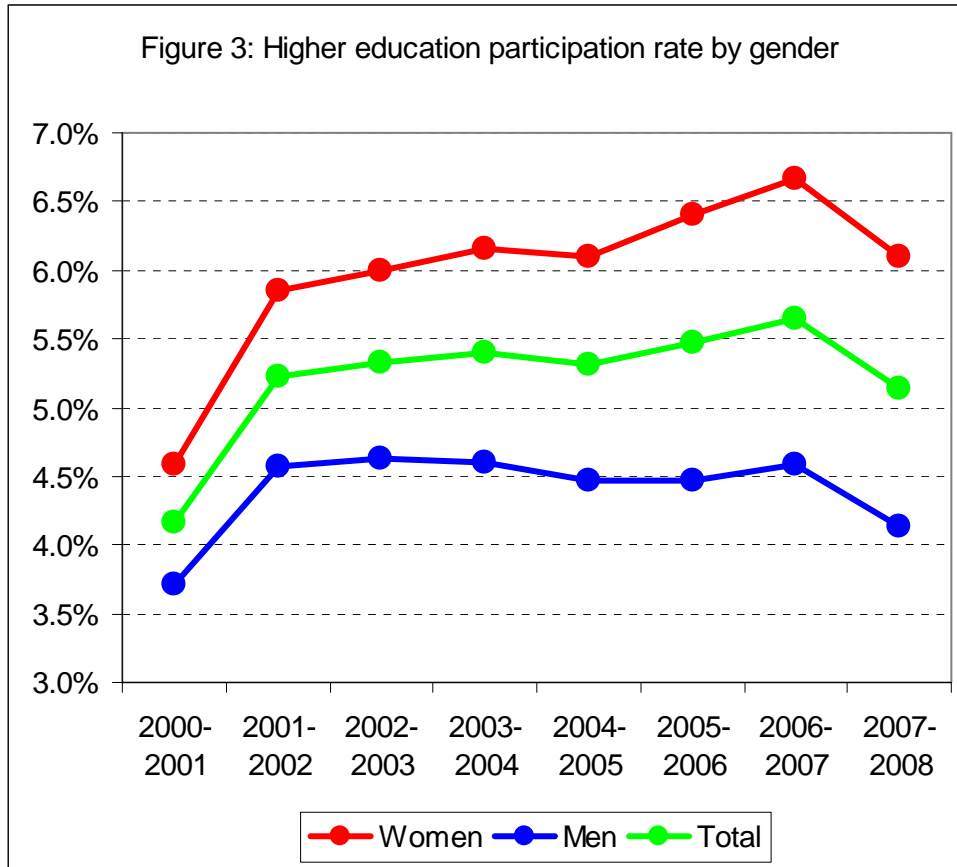


Table 2 shows the participation rates by gender for South Lanarkshire since 2000-01.

Table 2: South Lanarkshire Further Education participation rates

Year	Women	Men	Total
2000-2001	4.6%	3.7%	4.2%
2001-2002	5.8%	4.6%	5.2%
2002-2003	6.0%	4.6%	5.3%
2003-2004	6.2%	4.6%	5.4%
2004-2005	6.1%	4.5%	5.3%
2005-2006	6.4%	4.5%	5.5%
2006-2007	6.7%	4.6%	5.6%
2007-2008	6.1%	4.1%	5.1%

2. PARTICIPATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION BY AGE

In 2007-08 of those participating in Higher Education 44% (4,479) were aged 25-59, with 39% (3,952) aged 19-24 and a further 17% were aged 16 to 18 (1,690). The smallest number were aged under 16 – four. Table 3 shows the number of South Lanarkshire residents participating in Higher Education in 2007-08 by age and the percentage changes from 2006-07 and 2000-01.

Figure 6 shows the breakdown by age of those participating in Further Education in South Lanarkshire in 2007-08, its percentage of the total and the percentage change by age from 2006-07 and from 2000-01..

Table 3: Higher Education participating by age in 2007-08

AGE BAND	Numbers	%	% change 2006-07	% change 2000-01
under 16	4	0.0%	100.0%	n/a
16 to 18	1,690	16.7%	-3.7%	3.3%
19 to 24	3,952	39.0%	-5.3%	17.8%
25 to 59	4,479	44.2%	-12.7%	47.6%
60 to 64	132	1.3%	-13.7%	109.5%
65 & over	141	1.4%	-17.5%	65.9%
Total	10,402	100%	-8.9%	27.1%

Over the 2006-07 to 2007-08 period, the numbers fell by 1,014, or 8.9%. The numbers participating fell in all but one age group. The only increase was in the number of under 16s in Higher Education – up by 2 to 4. Of the other age groups, the largest percentage fall was in the numbers aged 65 & over, by 17.5%. The smallest decline was in those aged 16 to 18, down 3.7%. In general, the percentage fall increased with age.

Comparing 2000-01 with 2007-08 the number of students has risen by 27.1% overall. The numbers aged under 16 have gone from none to 4. All the other age groups show a rise, varying from 109% in the numbers aged 60-64 and a 66% rise in the numbers aged 65 & over to a 48% rise in the numbers aged 25 to 59 and a 3% rise in the numbers aged 16 to 18.

Table 4 shows the number of participants in Higher Education by age & gender in 2007-08

Table 4: Higher education in 2007-08 by age and gender

AGE BAND	Women	Men	% Women	% Men
under 16	0.1%	0.0%	100.0%	0%
16 to 18	15.4%	18.7%	56.2%	43.8%
19-24	36.2%	43.5%	56.5%	43.5%
25-59	48.3%	37.8%	66.6%	33.4%
60-64	1.3%	1.3%	61.4%	38.6%
65 & over	1.2%	1.6%	54.6%	45.4%
Total	100%	100%	60.9%	39.1%

In 2007-08, 61% of all participants in Higher Education were Women. Of those participating aged under 16, all were Women. Of those aged 16-18, 56.2% were Women and this rose to reach 66.6% of those aged 25-59 before declining to 61% of those aged 60-64 and a low of 54.6% of those aged 65 & over.

Of Women Higher Education participants 48% were aged 25-59, with 36% being aged 19-24 and 15% aged 16-18. Of Male Higher Education participants, 43% were aged 19-24, with 38% being aged 25-59 and 19% are aged 16-18. In general, Male participants were younger than Female participants in 2007-08 – although 2.9% of Male participants were aged 60 plus compared to 2.5% of Female participants.

Participation rates by gender for 2007-08 have been calculated for each age group. In 2007-08 the overall participation rate in Higher Education was 4%. It is estimated that the highest participation rate in Higher Education was amongst those aged 19-24, at 17.1%. The next highest rate was amongst those aged 16-18 – at 14.4% - and 3% for those aged 25 to 59. The lowest participation rate was amongst the under 16s, at 0.05%, with the next lowest rate being amongst the under 65s at 0.3%.

Amongst Women, the highest participation rate was in the 19-24 age group at 19.9%, followed by a rate of 16.9% in the 16-18 age group and 3.8% in the 25-59 age group. The same pattern exists for Men but the rates are lower – 14.4% for 19-24 year olds, 12.1% for 16-18 year olds and 2.1% for the 25-59 age group. For all but the 65 & over age group, the participation rate for Women is above that of Men.

Amongst 25-59 year olds, the Higher Education participation rate for Women was almost twice that for Men. It was over a third higher for all other rates except the youngest and oldest age groups. In the youngest, there were no Men participating and in the 65 plus age group the Male and Female rates were the same.

Table 5: Higher Education participation rates by age in 2007-08

AGE BAND	Numbers	Rate %	Male rate	Female rate
Under 15	4	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
16-18	1,690	14.4%	12.1%	16.9%
19-24	3,952	17.1%	14.4%	19.9%
25-59	4,479	3.0%	2.1%	3.8%
60-64	132	0.7%	0.6%	0.9%
65 plus	141	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
TOTAL	10,402	4.0%	3.3%	4.6%

Figure 4 shows the participation rates from 2000-01 in South Lanarkshire.

As this figure shows, the highest participation rate in Higher Education has always been in the 19-24 age group but this has fallen over the years from 2002-03 to reach its lowest level since 2000-01 in 2007-08. The participation rate for those aged 16-18 has also been significantly higher than for other age groups and again exhibits a downward trend. The rates for the other age groups have remained roughly the same.

Figure 5 shows the numbers of Higher Education students by age indexed on their 2000-01 level which is set at 100. As this figure shows, there has been a dramatic relative rise in the numbers participating in Higher Education aged 60-64, over twice the level in 2007-08 as in 2000-01. There has also been increases in the numbers aged 25 to 59 and 65 & over but declines in the numbers aged 16-18 and 19-24 in recent years.

Figure 4 :South Lanarkshire Higher Education participation rates by age

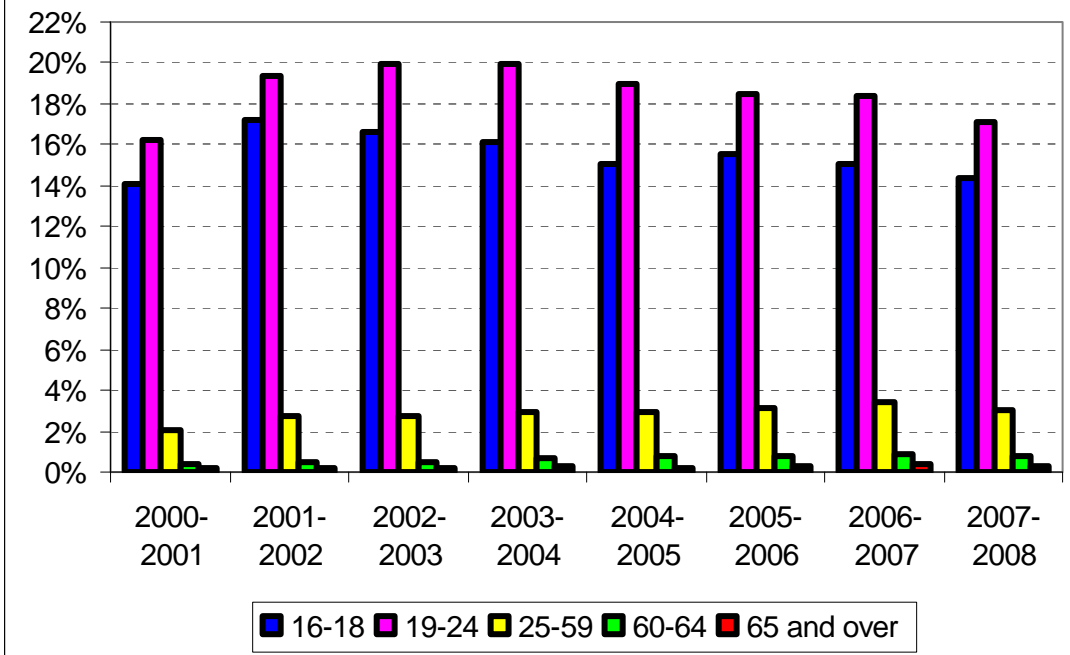
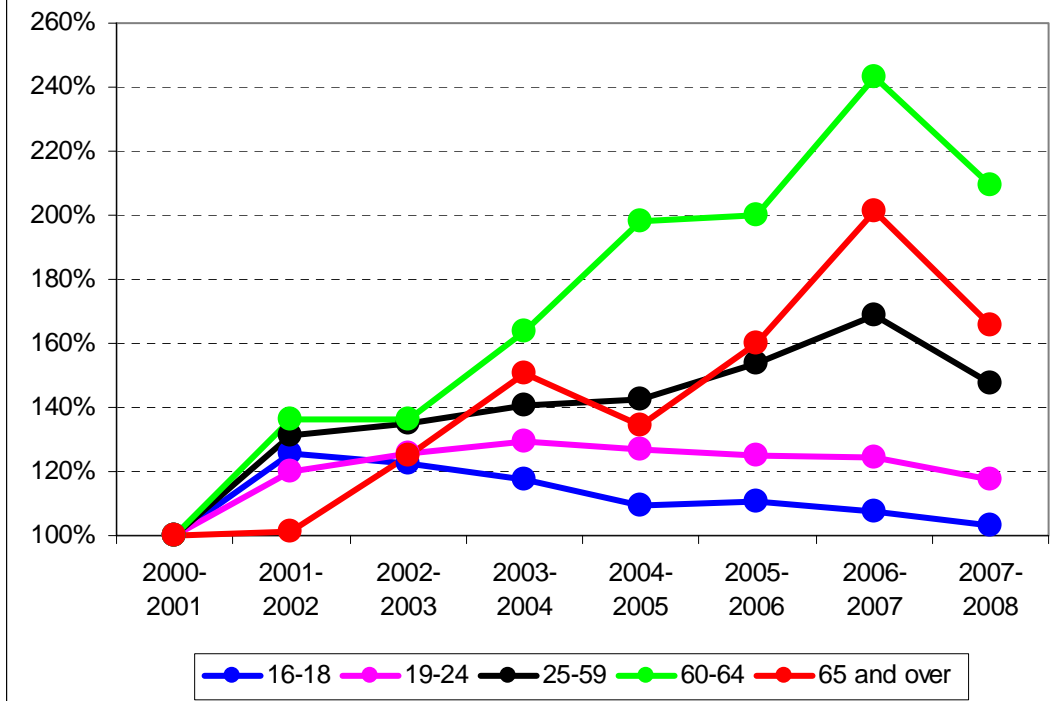


Figure 5: Higher Education students by Age 2000-01=100



3. PARTICIPATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION BY STUDY LEVEL

In 2007-08 of the 10,402 students from South Lanarkshire participating in Higher Education a total of 5,863 (56%) were studying at First Degree level, with 28% studying at Other Undergraduate level (2,870) and 1,669 (16%) studying at Post graduate level.

Table 6: Higher education in 2007-08 by Level of Study

STUDY LEVEL	Numbers	%
Postgraduate	1,669	16.0%
First Degree	5,863	56.4%
Other Undergraduate	2,870	27.6%
Total	10,402	100.0%

Table 7: Higher education study levels by gender in 2007-08

STUDY LEVEL	Female	Male	Female %	Male %
Postgraduate	1,125	544	17.8%	13.4%
First Degree	3,324	2,539	52.5%	62.3%
Other Undergraduate	1,880	990	29.7%	24.3%
Total	6,329	4,073	100.0%	100.0%

Of Female participants in Higher Education in 2007-08, 18% were studying at Post Graduate level, 52% were studying their First Degree and 30% at Other undergraduate level. This compares to the situation for Men – 13% were studying at Postgraduate, 62% at First Degree level and 24% at Other Undergraduate level.

Overall, 61% of Higher Education participants were Women in 2007-08 but Women accounted for 67% of those studying at Postgraduate level, 65% of those studying at Other Undergraduate level but only 57% of those studying at First Degree level.

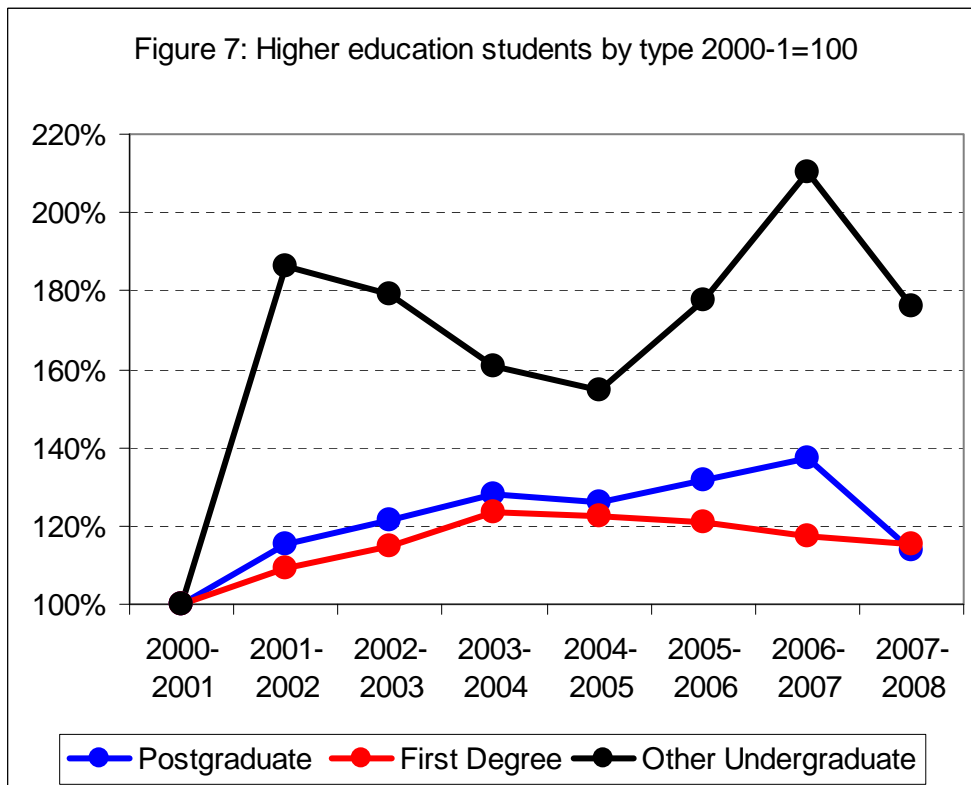
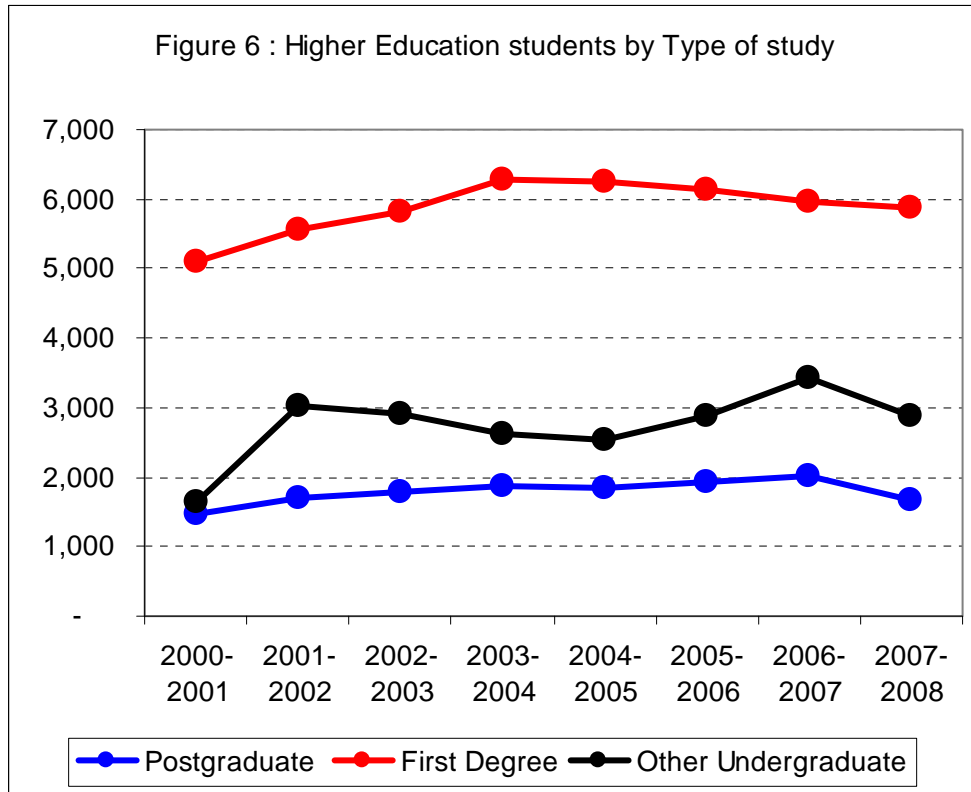
Between 2006-07 and 2007-08 the numbers participating in Higher Education fell by 1,014 or 8.9%. The numbers studying at Other Undergraduate level fell by 559 or 16.3% while the numbers studying at Postgraduate level fell by 348 or 17.3% and those studying for their First degree fell by 107 or 1.6%.

Since 2000-01, the overall number of students has risen by 2,217 or 27.1%. The numbers studying for their First Degree rose by 777 or 15.3% , the numbers studying for a Postgraduate qualification rose by 199 or 13.5% and the numbers studying at Other undergraduate level rose by 1,241 or 76.2%.

Figure 6 shows the number of students from South Lanarkshire studying at First Degree, Other undergraduate and Post graduate level since 2000-01.

As this figure shows the number of those taking a First Degree “peaked” in 2003-04 and has since fallen each year. The number studying at Other undergraduate level was nearly the same as for those studying at Post graduate level in 2000-01 but since then it has always been higher. The gap has been widening since 2004-05 as the numbers studying at this level grew faster than the numbers studying at Post Graduate level, which showed an almost steady year on year rise until 2007-08 when it fell significantly for the first time.

Figure 7 shows the numbers studying at each level indexed on their 2000-01 levels. As this figure shows, the lowest relative rise has been in the numbers studying at First Degree level, with the numbers at Other undergraduate level being four-fifths higher than in 2000-01 in 2007-08, although they had been twice as high in 2006-07.



4. PARTICIPATION IN FURTHER EDUCATION BY SUBJECT

In 2007-08, the greatest number of South Lanarkshire students were studying subjects Allied to medicine (nursing, etc.). There were 1,530 accounting for 14.7% of the total. The next largest numbers were studying Business Administration (1,293 or 12.4%), Education (1,210, 11.6%), Combined subjects (1,150, 11.1%) and Biological Sciences (726 or 7%). The smallest numbers were studying Veterinary studies – 38 or 0.4% - and 18 (0.2%) were studying Agriculture.

Table 8 shows the breakdown of Higher Education participants in 2007-08 by subject and the percentage changes in the numbers taking each subject over the 2006-07 to 2007-08 and 2000-01 to 2007-08 periods.

Table 8: Higher Education subjects taken in 2007-08

SUBJECT	Numbers	%	% change 2006-07	% change 2000-01
Medicine and Dentistry	275	2.6%	-1.4%	27.1%
Allied Medicine	1,530	14.7%	-4.0%	70.4%
Biological Sciences	726	7.0%	-7.8%	45.0%
Veterinary Studies	38	0.4%	-1.3%	55.9%
Agriculture	18	0.2%	-39.7%	-60.8%
Physical Sciences	386	3.7%	2.6%	36.0%
Maths	124	1.2%	-1.4%	18.7%
Information Technology	386	3.7%	-67.1%	9.0%
Engineering & Technology	657	6.3%	-10.4%	5.8%
Architecture	333	3.2%	-1.6%	26.9%
Social Studies	708	6.8%	-11.5%	65.8%
Law	419	4.0%	-1.0%	78.6%
Business Administration	1,293	12.4%	-10.2%	-5.4%
Mass Communication	111	1.1%	-9.8%	33.1%
Languages	391	3.8%	35.4%	152.7%
Humanities	296	2.8%	32.2%	177.9%
Creative Arts	352	3.4%	5.7%	67.9%
Education	1,210	11.6%	3.0%	47.6%
Combined	1,150	11.1%	1.5%	-22.0%
Total	10,402	100%	-8.9%	27.1%

Over the 2006-07 to 2007-08 period, there was an 8.9% fall in participation in Higher education. Six subjects experienced an increase over this period, with the largest percentage rises being in Languages, up 35.4%, Humanities, up 32.3%, Creative Arts showing a 5.7% rise and a 2.6% rise in Physical Sciences.

The numbers studying Information Technology fell by 67.1% over the period – the largest percentage decline. The next largest falls were of 39.7% in those studying Agriculture, an 11.5% fall in Social Studies, a 10.4% fall in Engineering & Technology and a 9.8% fall in those studying Mass communication.

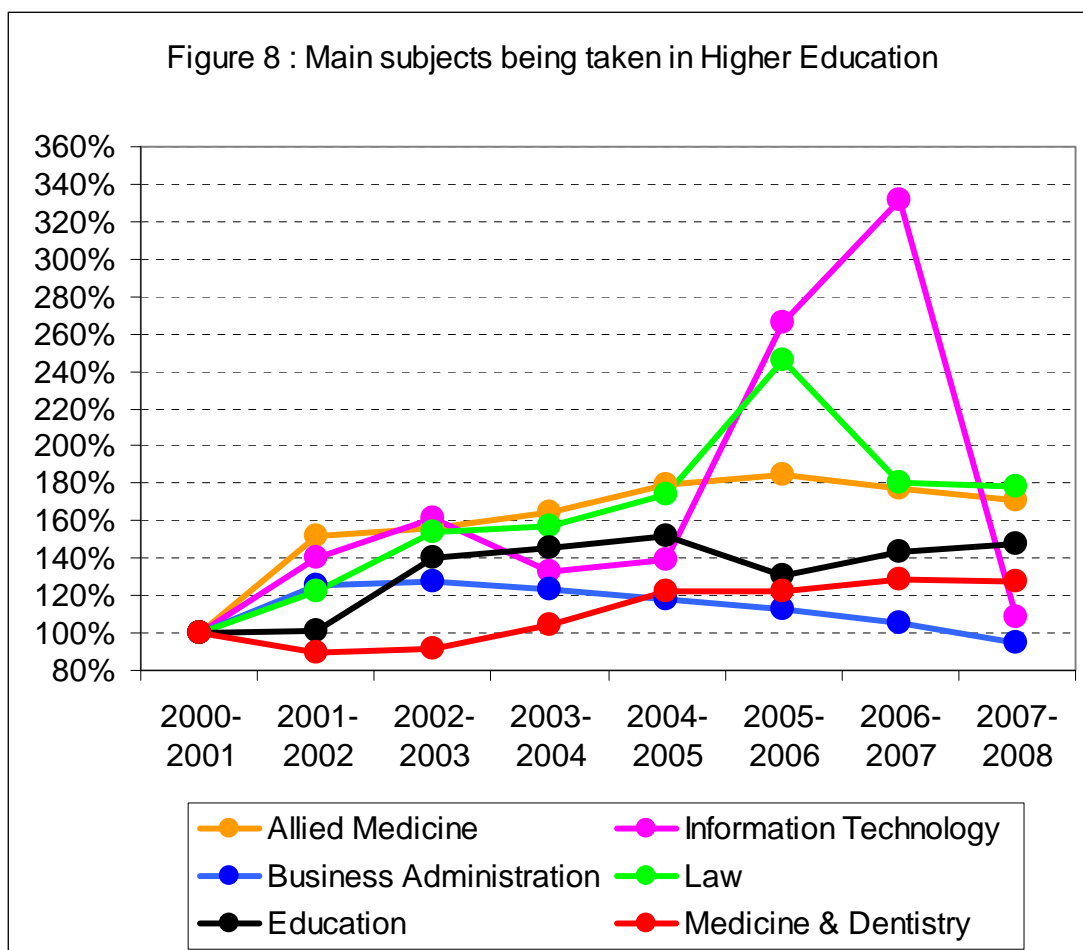
Between 2000-01 and 2007-08, there was a 27.1% increase in the numbers participating in Higher Education. There was a decline in student numbers studying

three subjects. There was a 5.4% fall in those studying Business Administration, a 22% fall in those taking Combined subjects and a 61% fall in those studying Agriculture.

Of those subjects showing an increase the largest percentage rises were in those taking Humanities, up 178%, a 153% rise in those studying Languages and a 79% rise in those taking Law.

Figure 8 shows the numbers taking certain specific subjects with their 2000-01 levels set at 100. As this figure shows, the numbers studying Allied Medicine (which includes nursing) – the most popular subject – rose from its 2000-01 level until it peaked in 2005-06 and it has since fallen back, but is still above its 2000-01 level. In the case of IT & Computer science the numbers increased significantly, reaching over three times their 2000-01 level by 2006-07 but then crashed to being just above their 2000-01 level in 2007-08.

The numbers studying Medicine & Dentistry fell below their 2000-01 levels until 2003-04 but then grew each year before remaining roughly steady for the past two years. Business Administration peaked in 2002-03 but has fallen every year since with the numbers now back at close to their levels in 2000-01. The numbers taking Education courses rose until 2004-05 and then fell back but have since risen again each year and by 2007-08 was close to its highest figure ever. The number studying Law peaked at two and a half times its 2000-01 level in 2005-06 but has since fallen back although it remains almost four fifths higher in 2007-08.



5. PARTICIPATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION BY ETHNICITY

In 2007-08, of South Lanarkshire Higher Education students, 9,760 (92.4%) were from the White Community. A further 3.3% (321) were from Minority Ethnic Communities and for 4.5% (478) their ethnic origin was unknown.

In terms of the known Minority Ethnic Communities, the largest number – 91 (0.9%) – were from Other ethnicity, including mixed ethnicity. The next largest were from the Asian or Asian British Pakistani community – 81 (0.8%) - followed by 53 (0.5%) from the Chinese community, 41 (0.4%) from the Asian or Asian British Indian community and 31 (0.3%) from the Black or Black British African community.

Table 9 shows the numbers of South Lanarkshire higher education students in 2007-08 by ethnic group, each group's percentage share and the percentage change from 2006-07 and from 2000-01.

Table 9: Higher Education students by ethnicity in 2007-08

Ethnicity	Numbers	%	% from 2006-07	% from 2000-01
White	9,760	92.43%	-7.8%	35.6%
Black or Black British - Caribbean	5	0.05%	-16.7%	150.0%
Black or Black British - African	31	0.29%	-6.1%	287.5%
Other Black background	3	0.03%	-62.5%	-25.0%
Asian or Asian British - Indian	41	0.39%	-14.6%	41.4%
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	81	0.77%	8.0%	189.3%
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	1	0.01%	-75.0%	-66.7%
Chinese	53	0.50%	-11.7%	-7.0%
Other Asian background	15	0.14%	15.4%	150.0%
Other (including mixed) ethnicity	91	0.86%	4.6%	250.0%
Unknown	478	4.53%	-3.6%	-42.1%
Total*	10,559	100%	-7.5%	29.0%

* Please note that table totals may as sources differ

Between 2006-07 and 2007-08, the overall number of students in South Lanarkshire fell by 7.5%. The number of those from the White ethnic community fell by 7.8%. There was a 75% fall in the number from Asian or Asian British (Bangladeshi), a 62% fall in Other Black backgrounds and a 17% fall in the number of Black or Black British (Caribbean). There were three Minority Ethnic Communities where the number of students rose – a 15% rise from Other Asian backgrounds, +8% from the Asian or Asian British (Pakistani) community and a 4.6% rise in Other (including mixed) ethnicity groups.

Over the 2000-01 to 2007-08 period, the number of students rose by 29% in South Lanarkshire, with the number from the White ethnic community rising by 36%. There were only three Minority Ethnic Communities where the number of students was lower in 2007-08 than in 2000-01 – by 7% for the Chinese community, by 25% for Other Black backgrounds and a 67% fall in those from an Asian or Asian British (Bangladeshi) background.

There was a 287% rise in the number of students of Black or Black Asian (African) origin, a 250% increase in those from Other ethnicity groups, 189% from Asian or

Asian British (Pakistani), and 150% from both the Other Asian and Black or British Black (Caribbean) communities.

Figure 9 shows the proportion of higher education students from South Lanarkshire who were from the White Ethnic Community. As this figure shows the proportion rose continually from 2000-01 to 2003-04 and has fallen continually from 2005-06.

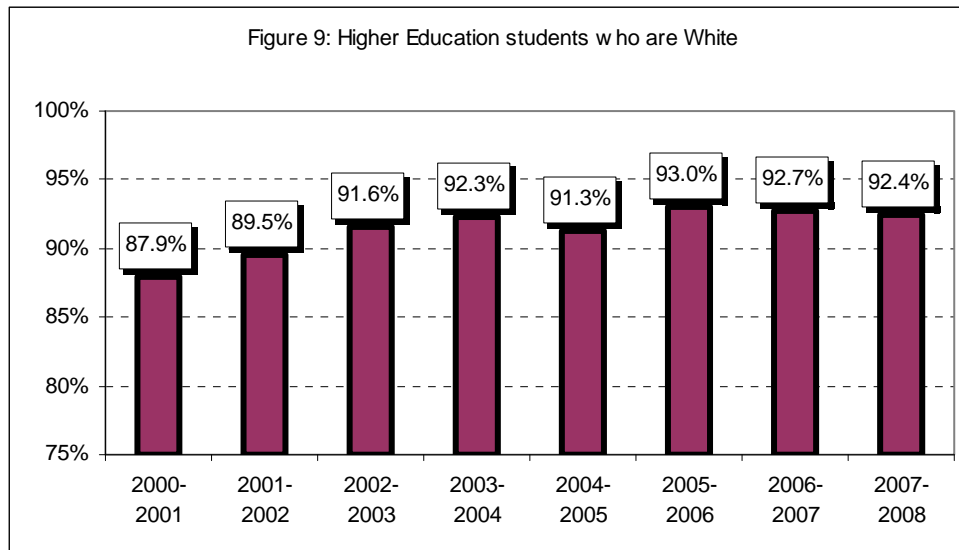


Figure 10 shows the shares accounted for by the main Minority Ethnic Communities from 2000-01 to 2007-08. As this figure shows, there has been an increasing share in those from the Asian and from the Other Ethnicity communities with a fall in the proportion from the Chinese community and a slight growth in those from Black communities.

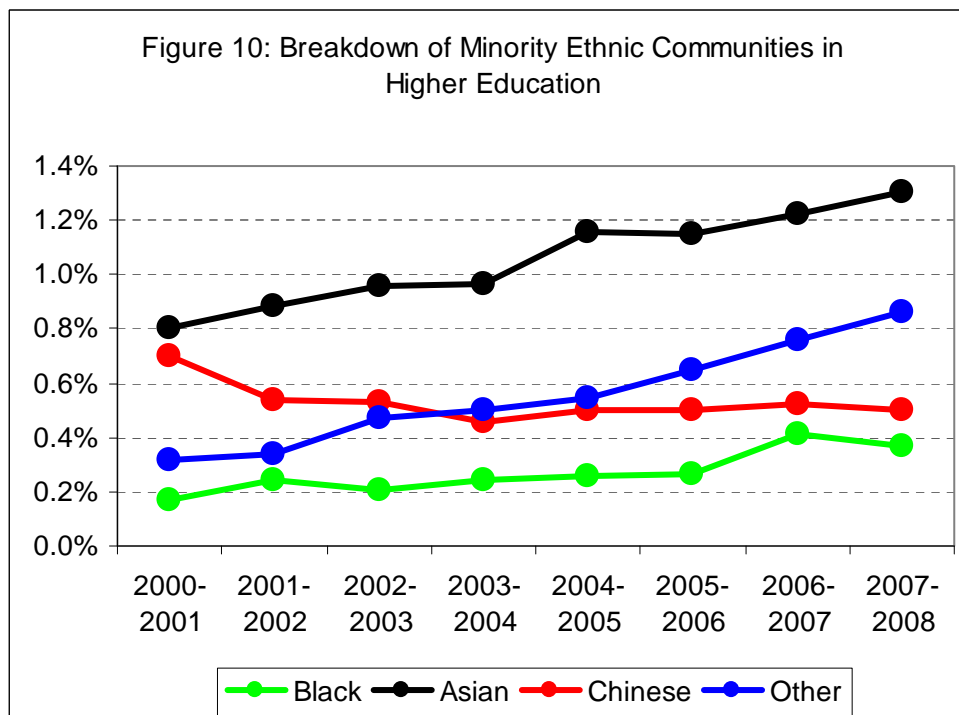
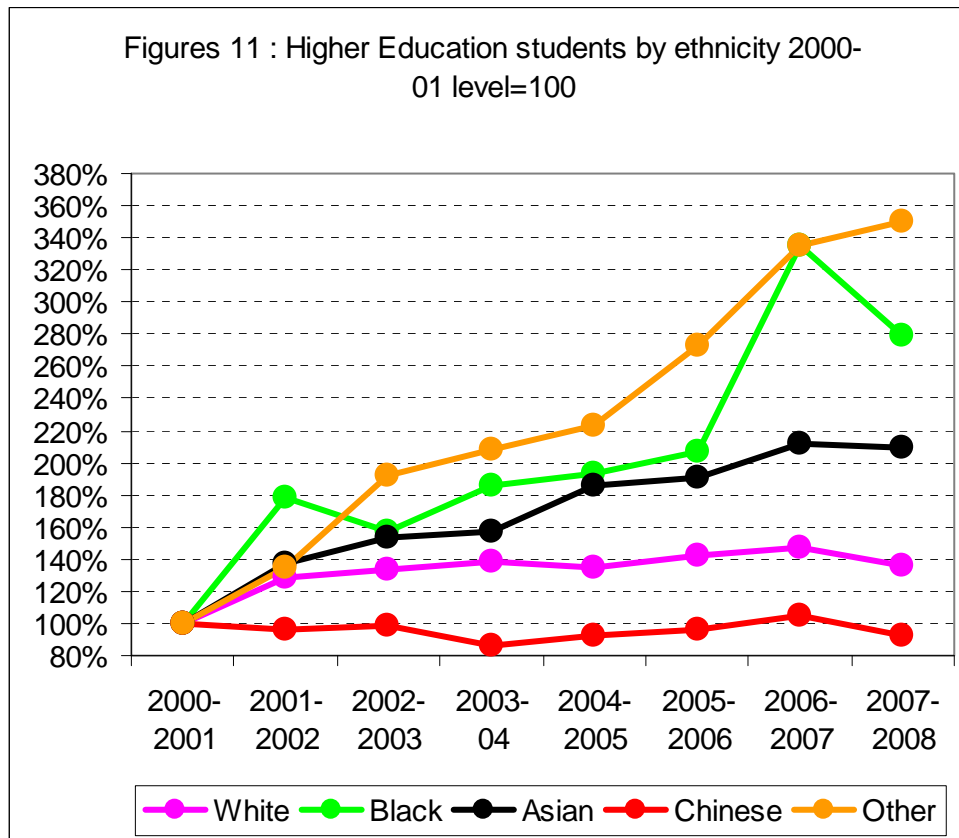


Figure 11 shows the numbers of students from broad ethnic communities based on their 2000-01 levels being set at 100. As this figure shows, the number of those from Other ethnic communities is over three and a half times its 2000-01 level by 2007-08. The numbers from Black Minority Ethnic Communities has also been rising but fell back in 2007-08 although it is still at nearly three times the 2000-01 level. The number from Asian communities has been over twice the 2000-01 levels since 2006-07. For the Chinese community, the numbers have remained close to the 2000-01 levels for most of the period.



6. PARTICIPATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION BY DISABILITY

In 2007-08 of all Higher Education students from South Lanarkshire 87.5% (9,235) had No known disability. There were 712 (6.7%) whose disability status is Unknown.

The largest number of students with a Known disability were 182 (1.7%) with a Specific Learning Disability (e.g. dyslexia), followed by 134 (1.3%) with an Unseen disability (for example, diabetes, epilepsy, asthma, etc.) and 89 had Other Disabilities (0.8%) while 53 (0.5%) had Mental health difficulties.

Over the 2006-07 and 2007-08 period, the number of students fell by 7.5%. Over this period there was an 8.9% fall in the numbers with No known disability, a 13.3% fall in the numbers who were Deaf or Hearing impaired and a 22% fall in the numbers who were Blind or partially sighted. There was a 150% rise in the numbers with Personal Care support and a 100% rise in the numbers with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder. There was a 56% rise in the numbers with Mental Health difficulties and a 43% rise in Other disabilities.

There was a 29% rise in the number of all students from South Lanarkshire over the 2000-01 to 2007-08 period – with a rise of 27% in the numbers with No known disability. There were increases in all forms of disability – with a 430% rise in the numbers of students with Mental health difficulties, a 200% rise in those who were Deaf / hearing impaired, a 185% rise in those with Multiple disabilities and a 153% rise in the numbers with a Specific learning disability like dyslexia. In 2000-01 there were no students with Personal Care support needs but 5 in 2007-08.

Table 10 shows the number of students in higher education in 2007-08 by disabilities, percentages of the total and the percentage change since 2006-07 and from 2000-01.

Table 10: Higher education students by disabilities in 2007-08

Disability	Numbers	%	% from 2006-07	% from 2000-01
No known disability	9,235	87.5%	-8.9%	26.6%
Specific learning disability (dyslexia, etc)	182	1.7%	4.6%	152.8%
Blind/partially sighted	21	0.2%	-22.2%	23.5%
Deaf/hearing impairment	39	0.4%	-13.3%	200.0%
Wheelchair user/mobility difficulties	28	0.3%	7.7%	133.3%
Personal care support	5	0.0%	150.0%	n/a
Mental health difficulties	53	0.5%	55.9%	430.0%
Unseen disability (diabetes, asthma. etc)	134	1.3%	1.5%	20.7%
Multiple disabilities	57	0.5%	9.6%	185.0%
A disability not listed above	89	0.8%	43.5%	128.2%
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	4	0.0%	100.0%	26.6%
Unknown	712	6.7%	-1.4%	19.7%
Total*	10,559	100%	-7.5%	29%

* Please note that table totals may as sources differ

Figure 12 shows the percentage of all Higher education students from South Lanarkshire who had No known disability from 2000-01.

As this figure shows, the proportion has never fallen below 86%. It rose each year from 2000-01 to “peak” at 94% in 2003-04 and then fell back to an all time low in 2004-05 before rising again until 2006-07 and then falling back.

Figure 13 shows the breakdown of students in Higher education from South Lanarkshire in 2007-08 by their disability status.

Figure 14 shows the numbers of Higher education students by disability with their 2000-01 levels being set to 100. As this figure shows, over the period there has been a significant increase in the numbers in Higher education with Mental health Difficulties – nearly five and a half times their 2000-01 level by 2007-08. There were also significant increases in relation to those with Deafness / Hearing impairment and Multiple disabilities in Higher education. The numbers with Specific Learning disabilities (primarily dyslexia) and of Wheelchair users / those with mobility difficulties all show numbers over twice their 2000-01 levels.

Figure 12 : Higher Education students - No known disability

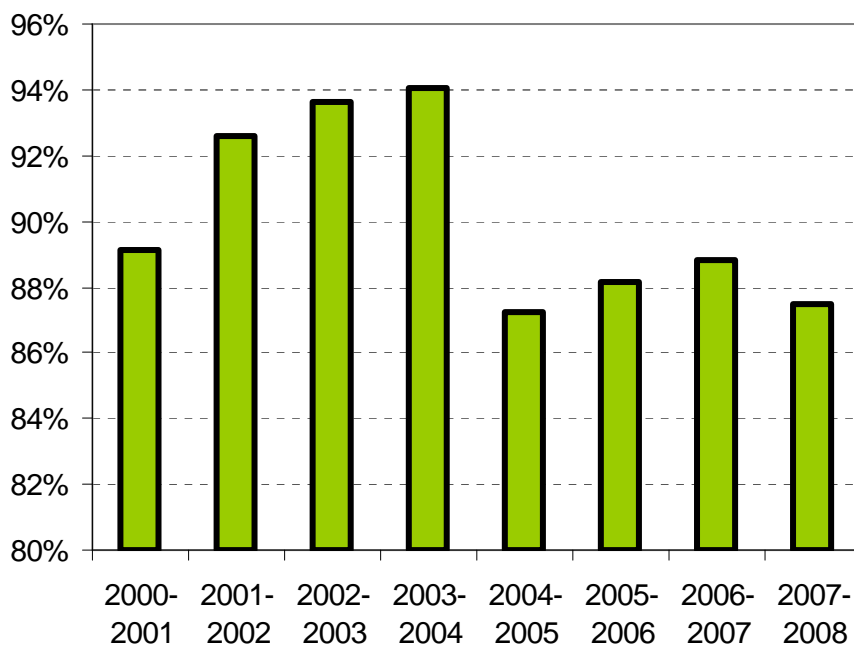
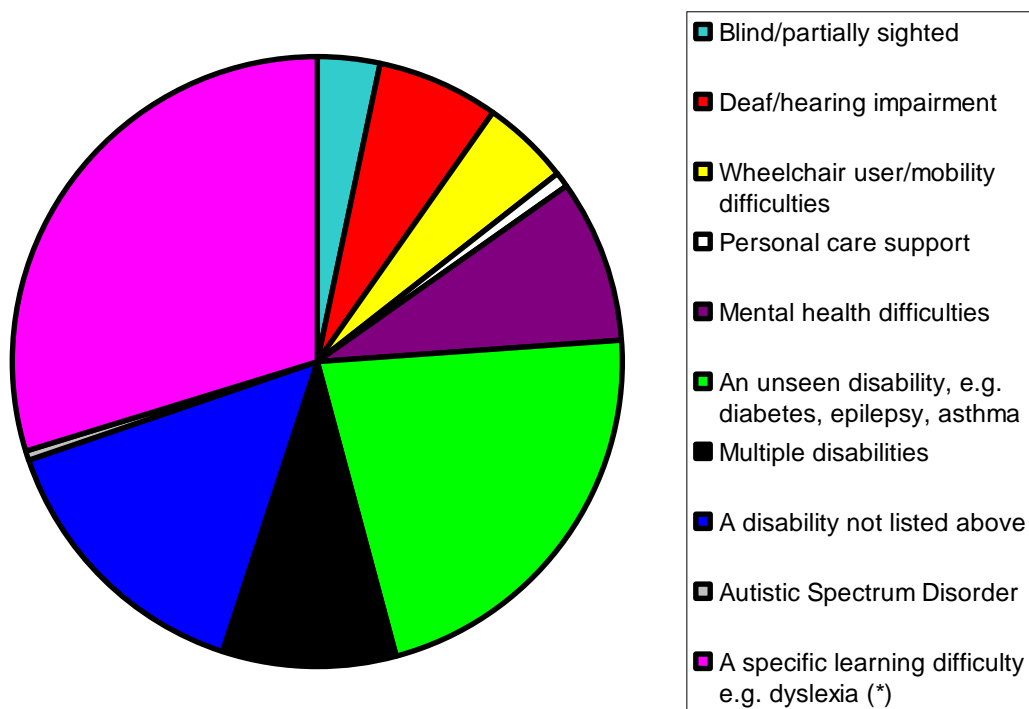
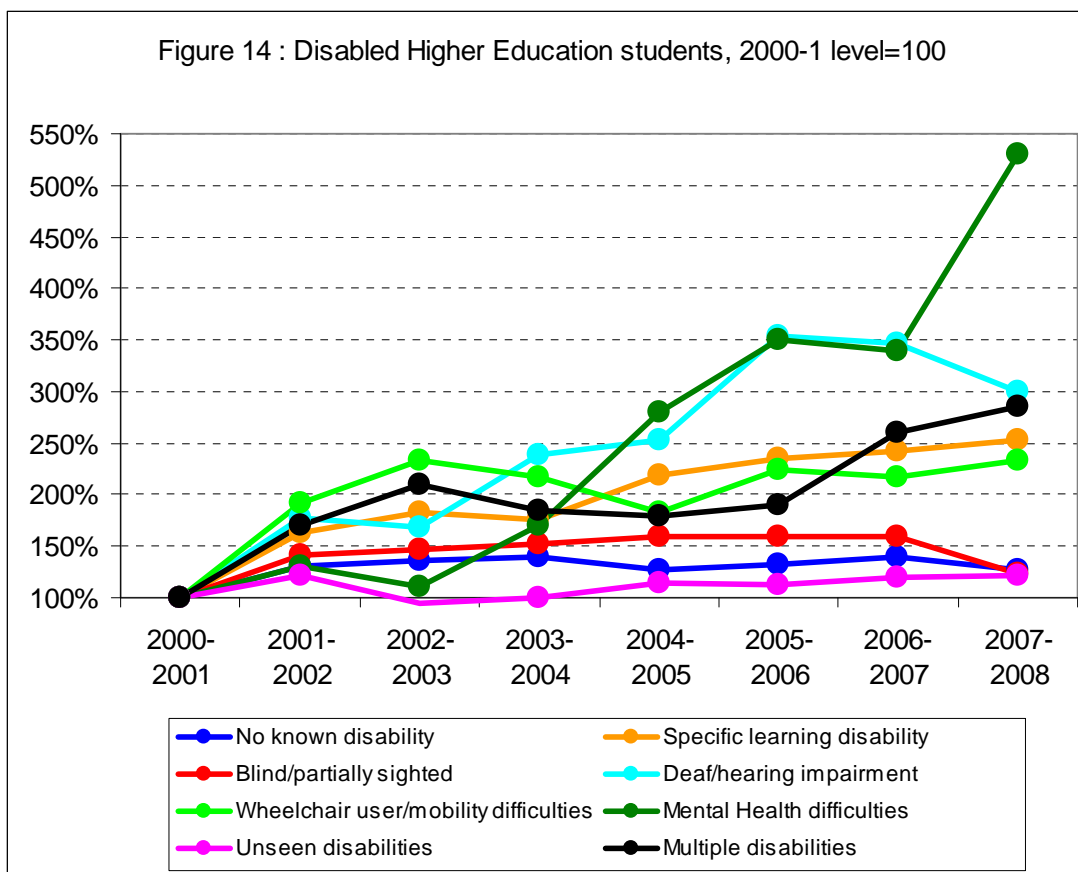


Figure 13: Higher education students with disability 2007-08





7. PARTICIPATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION BY AREA

In 2007-08, the largest numbers participating in Higher Education lived in East Kilbride – 2,663 or 25.6% of the South Lanarkshire total. Next came Hamilton with 1,811 (17.4%), followed by 970 (9.3%) from Rutherglen, 7.3% (758) from Blantyre and 6.6% (684) from Carluke. The smallest number of participants in Higher Education were from Lesmahagow with 152 (1.5% of the total) and 216 from Stonehouse (2.1%).

Table 11 shows the numbers participating in Higher Education in 2007-08 by area of residence, their share of the total and the local “participation rate” in Higher education.

In 2007-08, the overall South Lanarkshire participation rate was 5.1%. The highest participation rate in Higher education in 2007-08 was in Bothwell at 7.9%. Next came Uddingston at 7.8% and Strathaven at 6.1%. The lowest participation rates were in Lesmahagow at 3%, Larkhall at 3.7% and Stonehouse at 3.9%

At a more detailed level, the highest participation rate in higher Education was in the Thorntonhall post code (G74 5) where 9.6% of the population were in Higher Education. Next came G71 8 (Bothwell) at 7.9% and G71 8 (Uddingston) at 7.8% and East Kilbride East Mains (G74 4) at 7.1%. The lowest participation rates were in Rutherglen North (G73 1) at 2.3%, ML11 0 (Lesmahagow-Douglas) at 3% and ML9 1 (Larkhall East) at 3.4%.

Table 11: Participation in Higher Education in 2007-08

COMMUNITY	TOTAL	% total	Rate
Uddingston	301	2.9%	7.8%
Bothwell	347	3.3%	7.9%
Blantyre	758	7.3%	4.6%
Cambuslang	581	5.6%	4.3%
Rutherglen	970	9.3%	4.5%
East Kilbride	2,663	25.6%	5.5%
Strathaven	445	4.3%	6.1%
Lesmahagow	152	1.5%	3.0%
Lanark	527	5.1%	5.0%
Clydesdale East	472	4.5%	4.2%
Hamilton	1,811	17.4%	5.5%
Carluke	684	6.6%	5.2%
Larkhall	381	3.7%	3.7%
Stonehouse	216	2.1%	3.9%
Total	10,385	100.0%	5.1%

Table 12 shows the percentage change in the numbers participating in Further Education in each community area over the 2006-07 to 2007-08 and the 2000-01 to 2007-08 periods.

Table 12: % change in number of students 2000-01 and 2006-07 to 2007-08

COMMUNITY	2006-07 to 2007-08	2000-01 to 2007-08
Uddingston	-8.5%	25.4%
Bothwell	-15.4%	14.9%
Blantyre	-5.7%	31.8%
Cambuslang	-6.7%	60.9%
Rutherglen	-10.4%	17.3%
East Kilbride	-7.1%	21.7%
Strathaven	-17.0%	5.2%
Lesmahagow	-19.1%	90.0%
Lanark	-8.5%	18.4%
Clydesdale East	-12.3%	38.8%
Hamilton	-4.7%	48.3%
Carluke	-10.4%	7.0%
Larkhall	-9.3%	40.1%
Stonehouse	-23.7%	56.5%
SOUTH LANARKSHIRE	-8.9%	26.9%

Between 2006-07 and 2007-08, the numbers participating in Higher Education in South Lanarkshire fell by 8.9%. The number of students fell in every community with the largest percentage declines being in Stonehouse, down 23.7%, Lesmahagow, down 19%, Strathaven, down 17% and Bothwell, down 15.4%. The smallest percentage declines were of 4.7% in Hamilton, 5.7% in Blantyre and 6.7% in Cambuslang.

Over the 2000-01 to 2007-08 period, the number of Higher education students from South Lanarkshire increased by 27%. The numbers increased in all community areas with the largest percentage increases being in Lesmahagow, up 90%, Cambuslang, +61%, Stonehouse, up 56% and Hamilton, up 48%. The smallest increases were in Strathaven, up 5.2%, Carluke, up 7% and Bothwell, up 15%.