

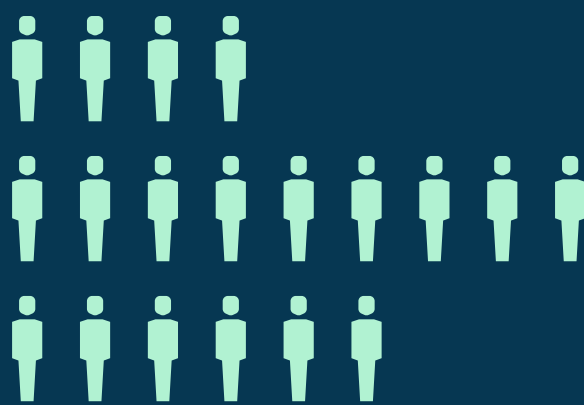
One year of higher education advice

Unlock is a national independent advocacy charity that supports, speaks up and campaigns for people facing stigma, prejudice and discrimination because of their criminal record.

People with criminal records can face stigma and discrimination in all aspects of their lives. For example when seeking employment, financial services or housing. One area of particular challenge is access to higher education.

We operate a helpline that offers specialist criminal records advice. We conducted a review of this service between March 2022 - March 2023 for records relating to higher education. The records we reviewed provide a snapshot of some of the barriers to higher education faced by people on a daily basis.

We found the following:



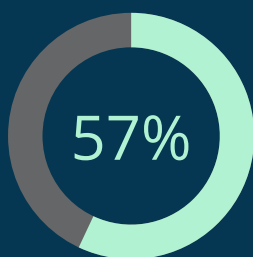
157
Personal stories

On average, **13 years** had passed since someone received the criminal record that was now posing barriers to study

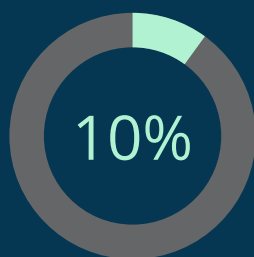


Every caller was uncertain how their chosen University was going to respond to them or to their criminal record

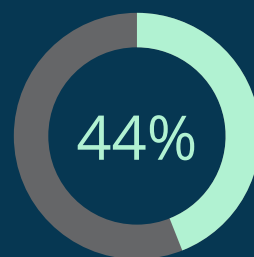
Almost 10% of those who contacted Unlock for help accessing higher education had received their criminal record as a **child**



Did not understand/ could not find guidance on what they were being asked to disclose.



Reported inaccurate advice/ instruction from Universities regarding protected (filtered) records



Were seeking help for access to regulated courses (e.g social work, medicine, teaching)

2,500 people used our self-serve advice for applying to University in the same year