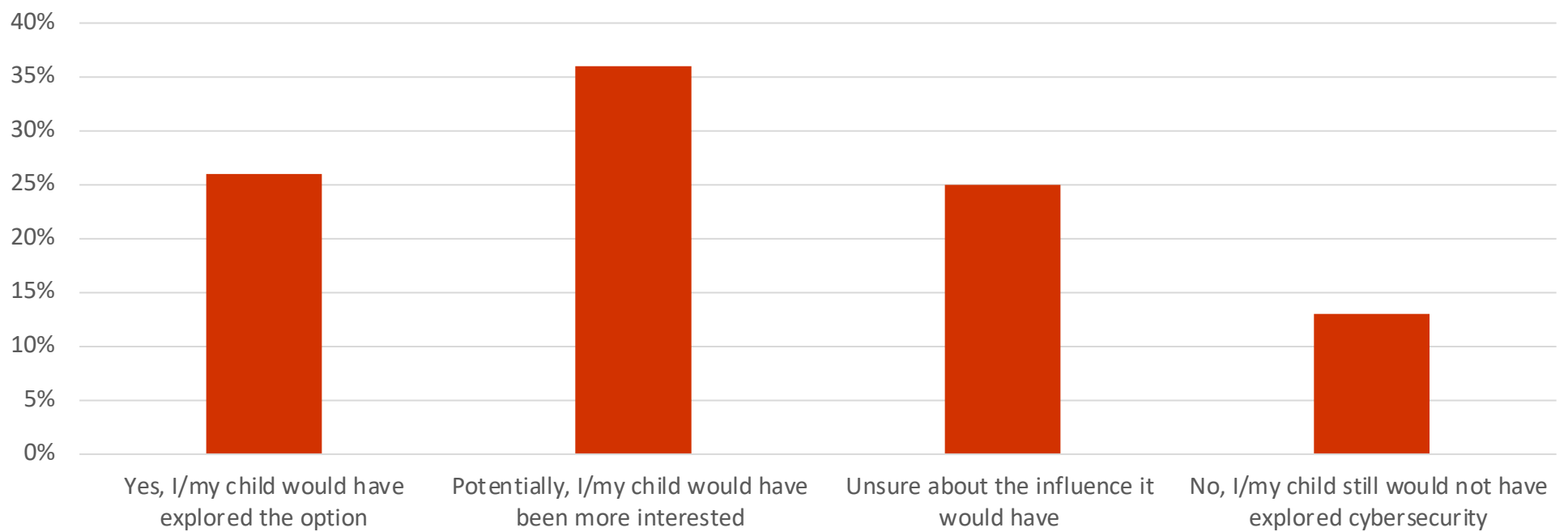


ThreatX announced the findings from a 2023 survey of 2,000 consumers ages 18+ across the US and UK on the role education (or lack thereof) plays in the current cybersecurity talent shortage. The data offers a better understanding of consumers' thoughts on today's cybersecurity talent shortage, their outlooks and concerns for the future if this trend continues, and what needs to be done to bring more exposure to this increasingly important field.

## 62% agree if they or their child had more education around cybersecurity at an earlier age, they would have considered entering the field

**1** With more than [3.4 million cybersecurity jobs](#) still open worldwide, the cybersecurity industry is in desperate need of professionals, but at the same time, it's still hard to get into the industry – both due to the unrealistic expectations of practitioners hiring today, but also in part due to limited exposure to the field early on. **90% of consumers polled say they have concerns about the future of cybersecurity** if more isn't done at an earlier stage to expose students to the field, and **62% agree that if they or their child had more established education around cybersecurity in school**, including courses, clubs, and access to STEM programs, they would have considered entering the cybersecurity field.

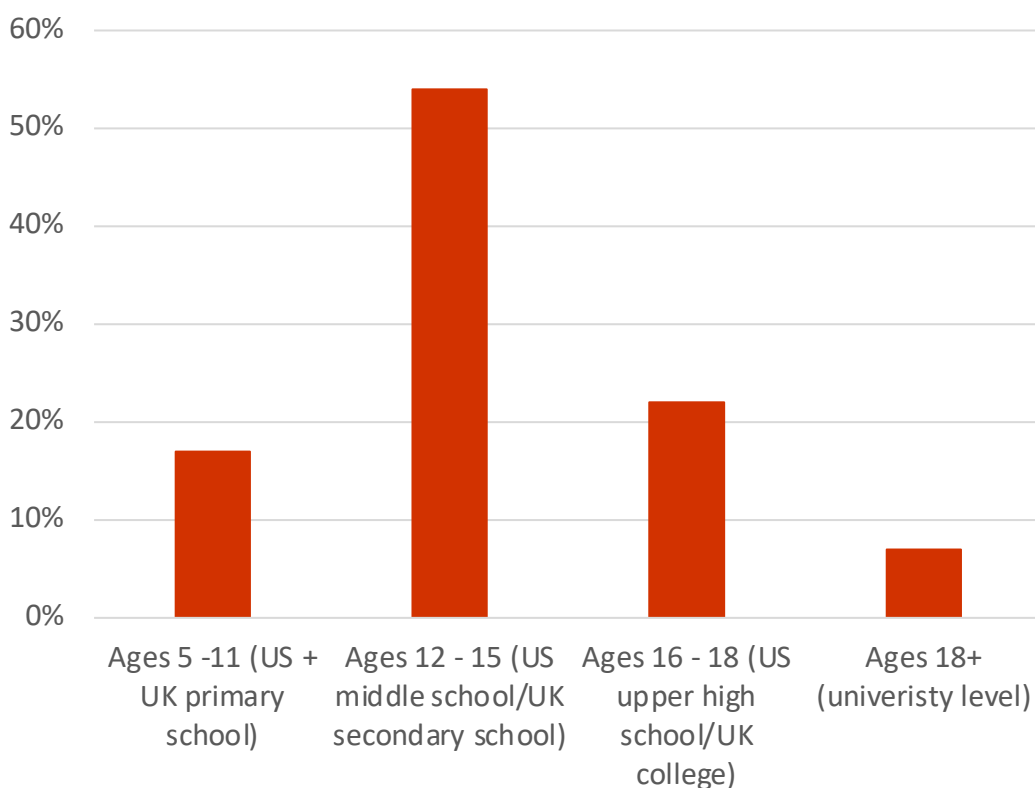
**Influence more established education around cybersecurity plays in career choice**



## 54% of consumers believe cybersecurity training/exposure is best introduced at ages 12 – 15.

**2** More than half (52%) say engaging students of all backgrounds earlier in proper STEM/cybersecurity courses will help minimize the talent shortage in the cybersecurity industry. More specifically, **54% feel that adding STEM/cybersecurity courses into school curriculums at the US middle school/UK secondary school level** is the best way to increase interest in a cybersecurity career later in life.

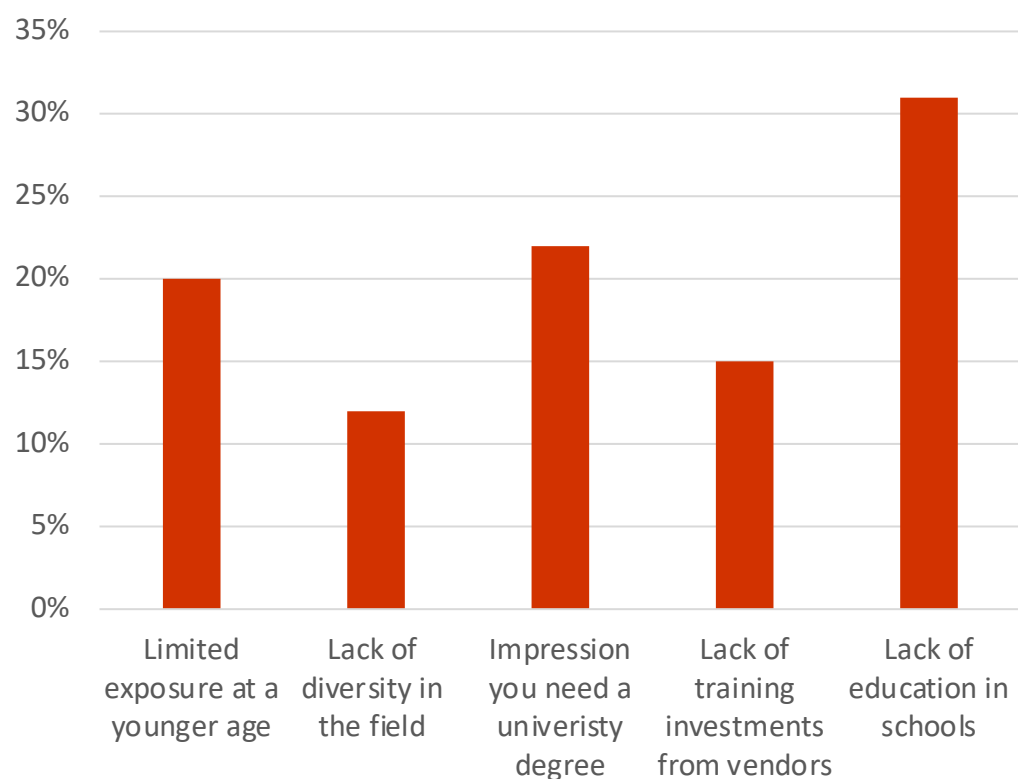
**Best ages to introduce students to cybersecurity**



## 72% of consumers blame limited exposure, higher Education qualifications, and lack of training for today's talent gap

**3** Limited exposure to and educational resources focused on cybersecurity are contributing to the industry's talent shortage as consumers are less inclined to explore these types of careers. **72% of consumers agree** that limited exposure to the profession at a younger age, the belief that candidates need a 4-year college degree to be considered, and the lack of cybersecurity education and training in schools **are top reasons to blame for the cybersecurity talent shortage.**

**Top reasons consumers blame for today's talent gap**



\*Source: July 2023 Dynata survey of 2,000 US and UK based consumers ranging from 18+ years of age.