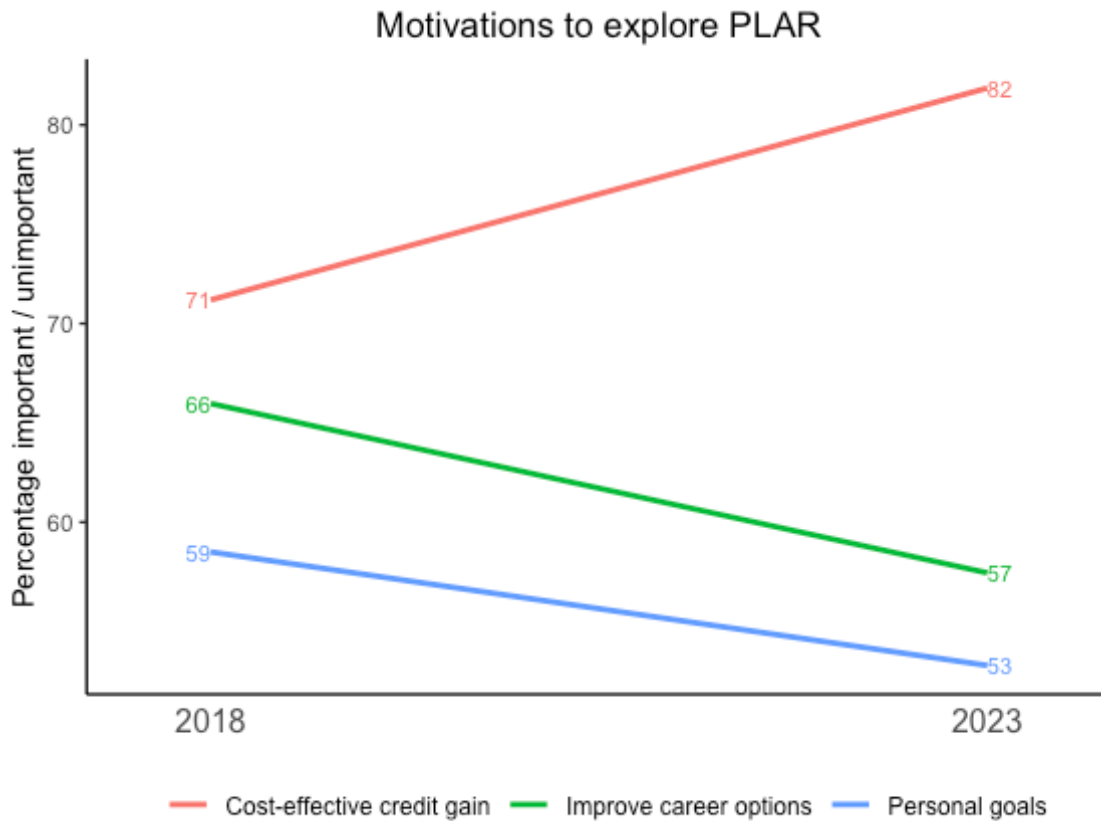


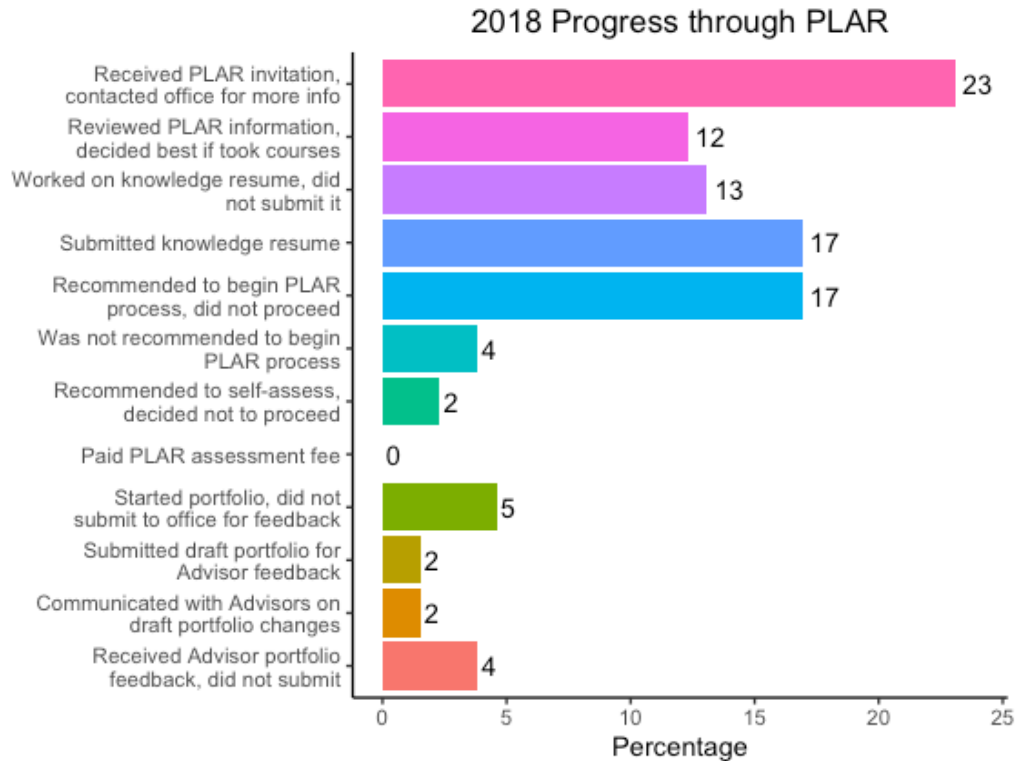
PLAR Persistence Surveys
Comparison of 2023 and 2018 Surveys
Preliminary Report by Iain Pardoe (Sep 28, 2023)



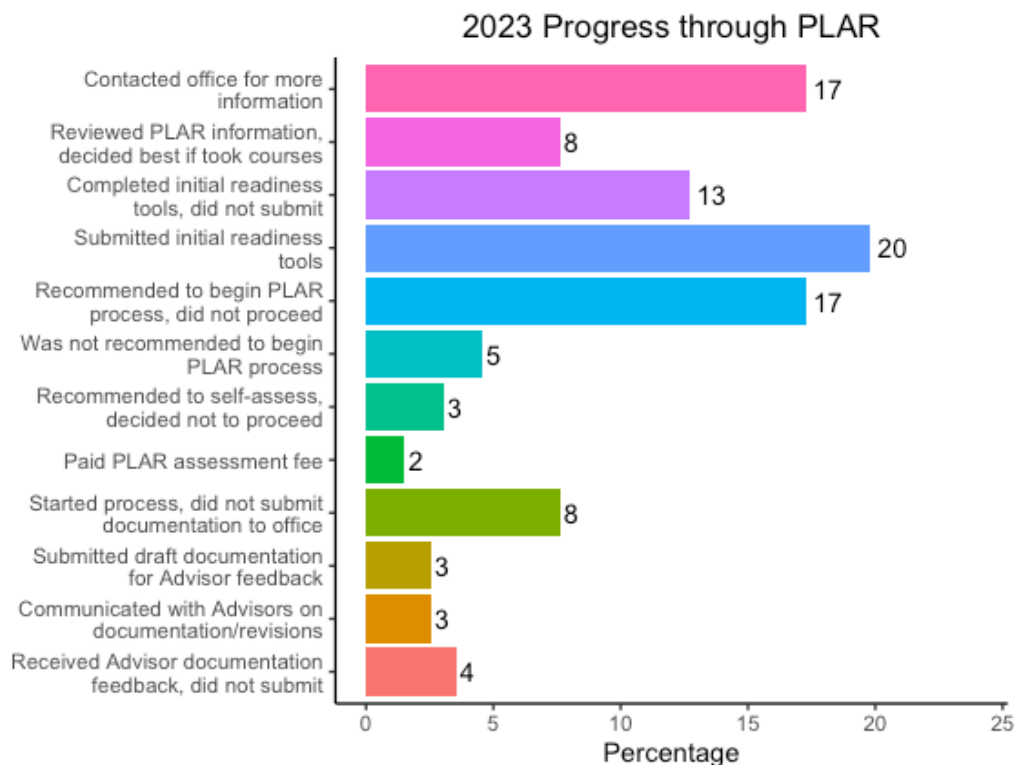
Plotted scores represent the percentage of survey respondents who rated each motivation category as “very important” or “important” versus “unimportant” or “very unimportant.” For example, the score would be 100% if all respondents rated a category as “very important,” the score would be 50% if they all gave “important” ratings, the score would be 0% if they all gave “neither” ratings, the score would be –50% if they all gave “unimportant” ratings, and the score would be –100% if they all gave “very unimportant” ratings.

Thus, of the three motivation categories, respondents rated “cost effective credit gain” as the most important; its importance increased from 71% to 82% between 2018 and 2023. The other two categories were also rated as important, but less so than “cost effective credit gain.” Second in importance was “improve career options,” which decreased in importance from 66% to 57%, and last in importance was “personal goals,” which decreased in importance from 59% to 53%.

A two-sample chi-squared test of independence finds marginal significance of a difference in rating patterns between 2018 and 2023 for each of the three motivation categories. The p-values are 0.08 for “cost effective credit gain,” 0.05 for “improve career options,” and 0.08 for “personal goals.”

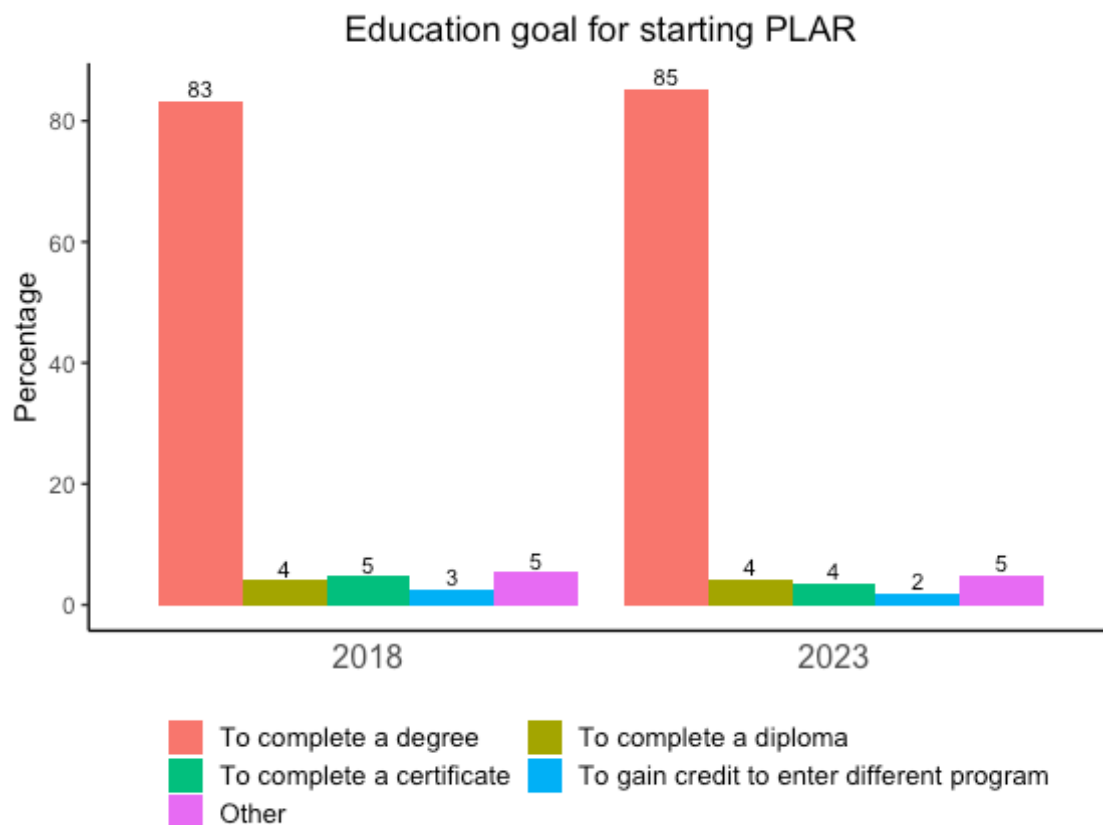


In 2018, 14% of respondents submitted their portfolio for final approval assessment. The remaining 86% of respondents had progressed through PLAR according to the graph above. For example, 23% (of the 86% remaining respondents) received a PLAR invitation and contacted the office for more information.

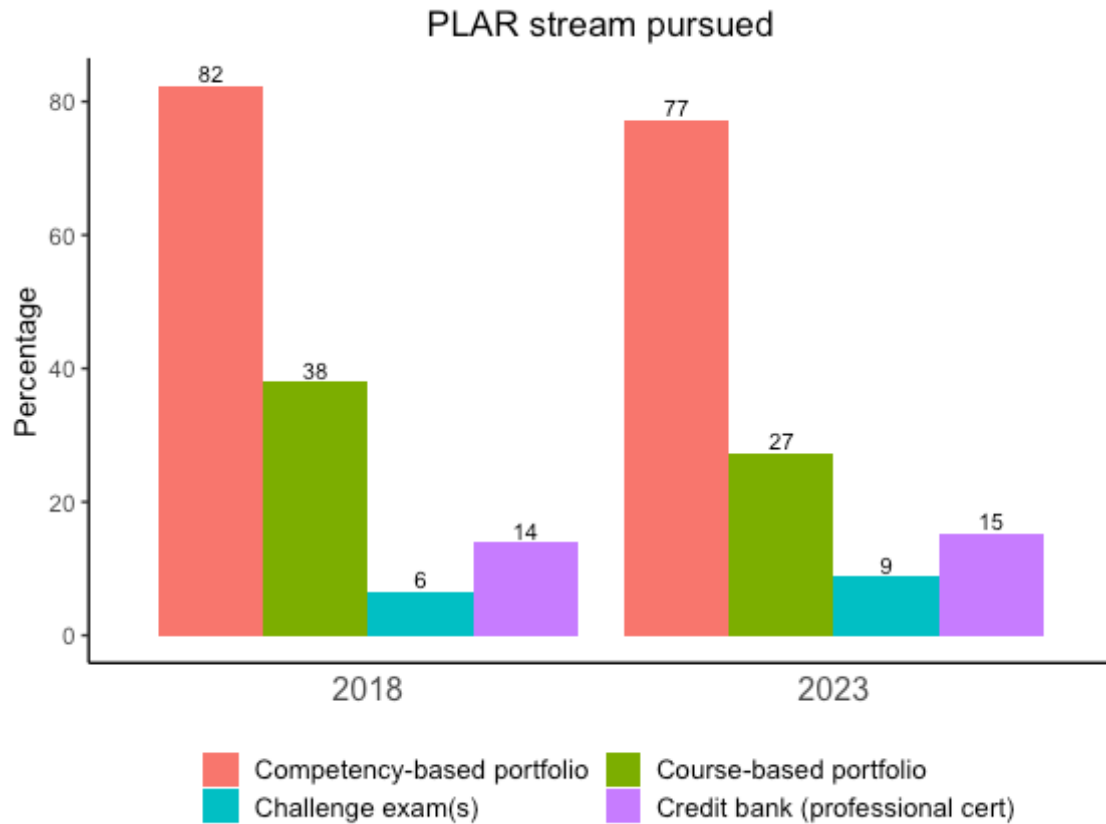


In 2023, 36% of respondents submitted documentation for final approval assessment/credit award. The remaining 64% of respondents had progressed through PLAR according to the graph above. For example, 17% (of the 64% remaining respondents) contacted the PLAR office for more information.

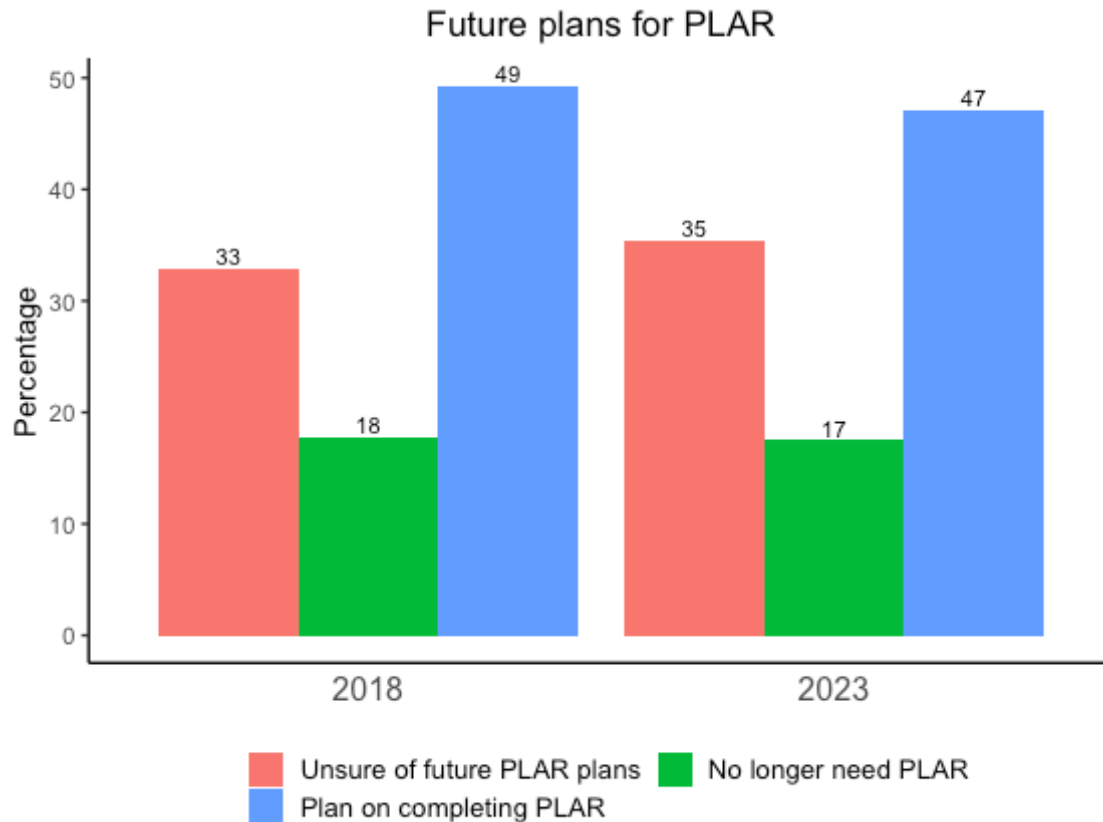
Comparing 2018 and 2023, there is a decrease from 23% to 17% for respondents at the “contacting the office for more information” stage, a decrease from 12% to 8% for respondents at the “reviewed PLAR information and decided it was best to take courses” stage, and an increase from 5% to 8% for respondents who “started the PLAR process but had not submitted documentation to the office.” However, a two-sample chi-squared test of independence finds no significant difference in the overall response patterns between 2018 and 2023 (p-value = 0.76).



Comparing 2018 and 2023, there is a slight increase from 83% to 85% for respondents starting PLAR to complete a degree, but the overall pattern of responses is similar. Moreover, a two-sample chi-squared test of independence finds no significant difference in the overall response patterns between 2018 and 2023 (p-value = 0.97).

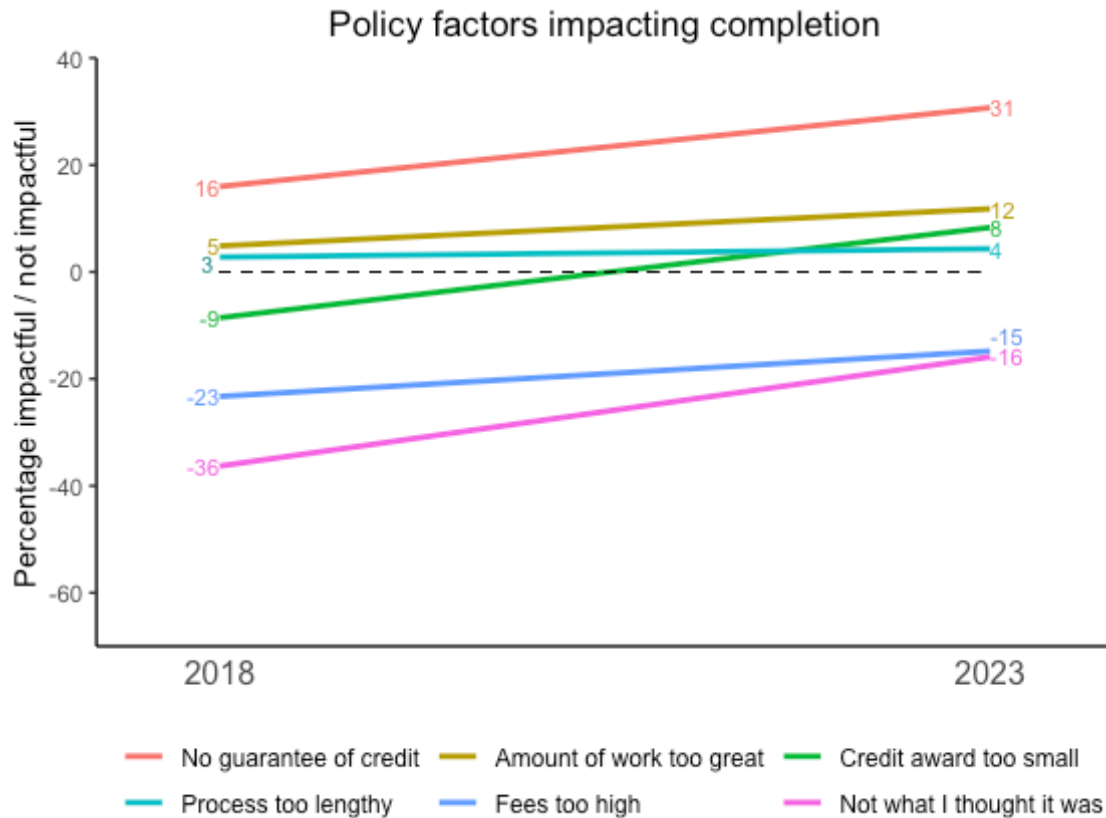


Comparing 2018 and 2023, there are small changes in the numbers pursuing each PLAR stream, but the overall pattern is similar (keep in mind that respondents could select more than one stream). Moreover, a two-sample chi-squared test of independence finds no significant difference in the overall response patterns between 2018 and 2023 (p-value = 0.46).



In 2023, 24% of respondents selected “I have completed PLAR” for this question. The remaining 76% of respondents selected their future plans for PLAR according to the 2023 side of the graph above. For example, 47% (of the 76% remaining respondents) planned on completing PLAR. The category “I have completed PLAR” was not included in the 2018 survey.

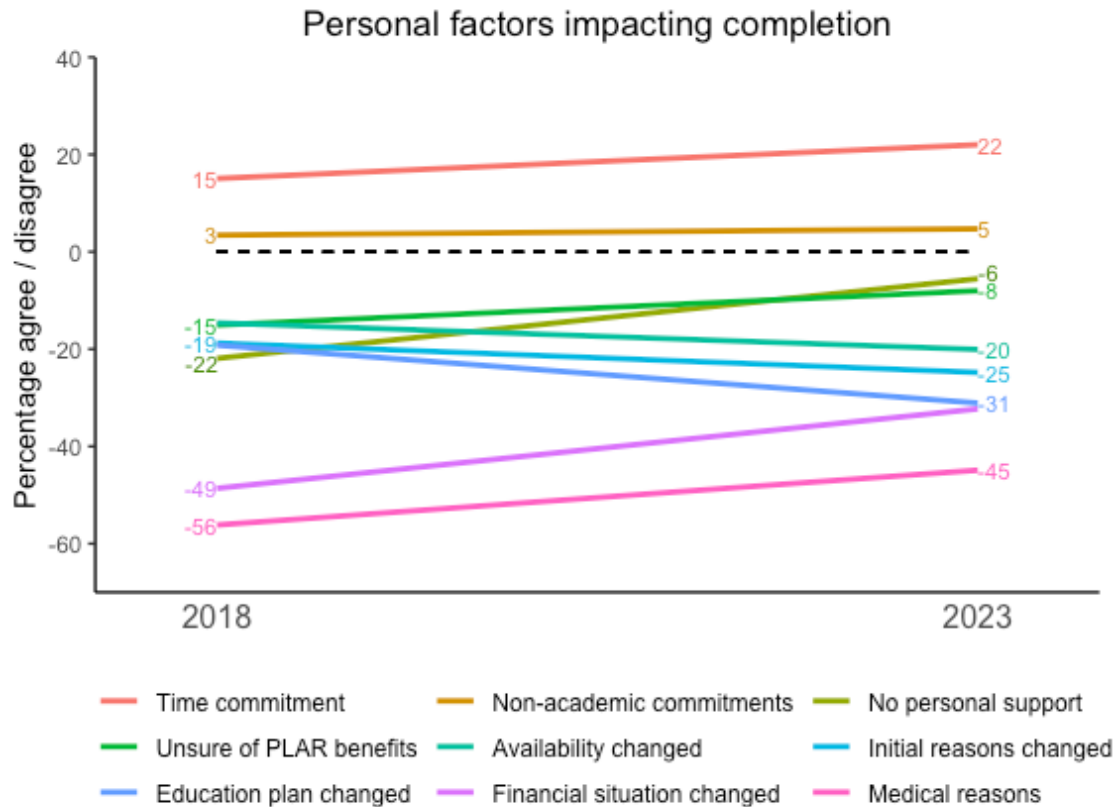
Comparing 2018 and 2023, there are small changes in the numbers in each “future plans” category, but the overall pattern is similar. Moreover, a two-sample chi-squared test of independence finds no significant difference in the overall response patterns between 2018 and 2023 (p-value = 0.88).



Plotted scores represent the percentage of survey respondents who rated each policy factor as “very impactful” or “fairly impactful” versus “slightly impactful” or “not impactful.” For example, the score would be 100% if all respondents rated a factor as “very impactful,” the score would be 50% if they all gave “fairly impactful” ratings, the score would be 0% if they all gave “impactful” ratings, the score would be -50% if they all gave “slightly impactful” ratings, and the score would be -100% if they all gave “not impactful” ratings.

Thus, of the six policy factors, respondents rated “no guarantee of credit” as the most impactful (as the red line is the furthest above the dashed “neutral” zero line), and its overall impact increased from 16% to 31% between 2018 and 2023. The next three factors (“amount of work too great,” “credit award too small,” and “process too lengthy”) were rated as less impactful (impact scores between 4% and 12% in 2023), but also increased in overall impact between 2018 and 2023, particularly “credit award too small.” The remaining two factors (“fees too high” and “not what I thought it was”) had more “slightly impactful” and “not impactful” ratings, but also increased in overall impact between 2018 and 2023.

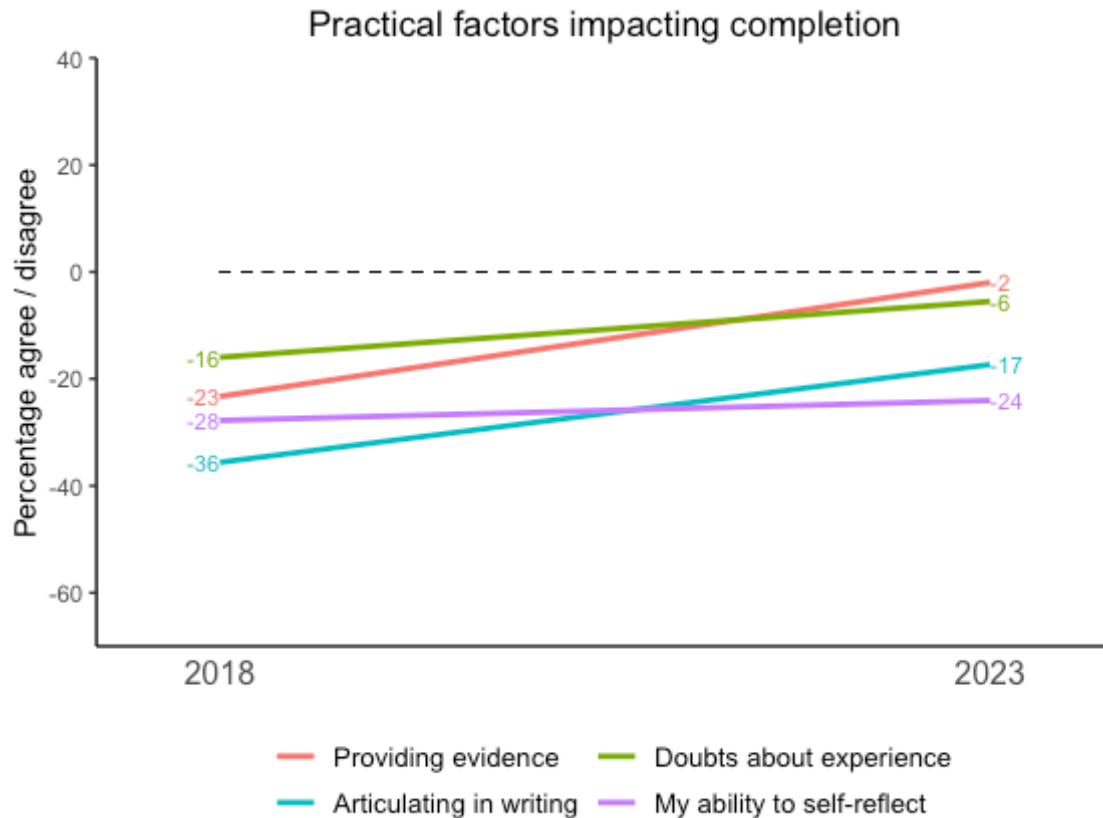
A two-sample chi-squared test of independence finds a significant difference in rating patterns between 2018 and 2023 for the “no guarantee of credit” factor (p-value = 0.01). The other factors have non-significant p-values: “not what I thought it was” (p-value = 0.17), “credit award too small” (p-value = 0.37), “amount of work too great” (p-value = 0.40), “fees too high” (p-value = 0.51), and “process too lengthy” (p-value = 0.90).



Plotted scores represent the percentage of survey respondents who rated each personal factor as “strongly agree” or “agree” versus “disagree” or “strongly disagree.” For example, the score would be 100% if all respondents rated a factor as “strongly agree,” the score would be 50% if they all gave “agree” ratings, the score would be 0% if they all gave “neutral” ratings, the score would be –50% if they all gave “disagree” ratings, and the score would be –100% if they all gave “strongly disagree” ratings.

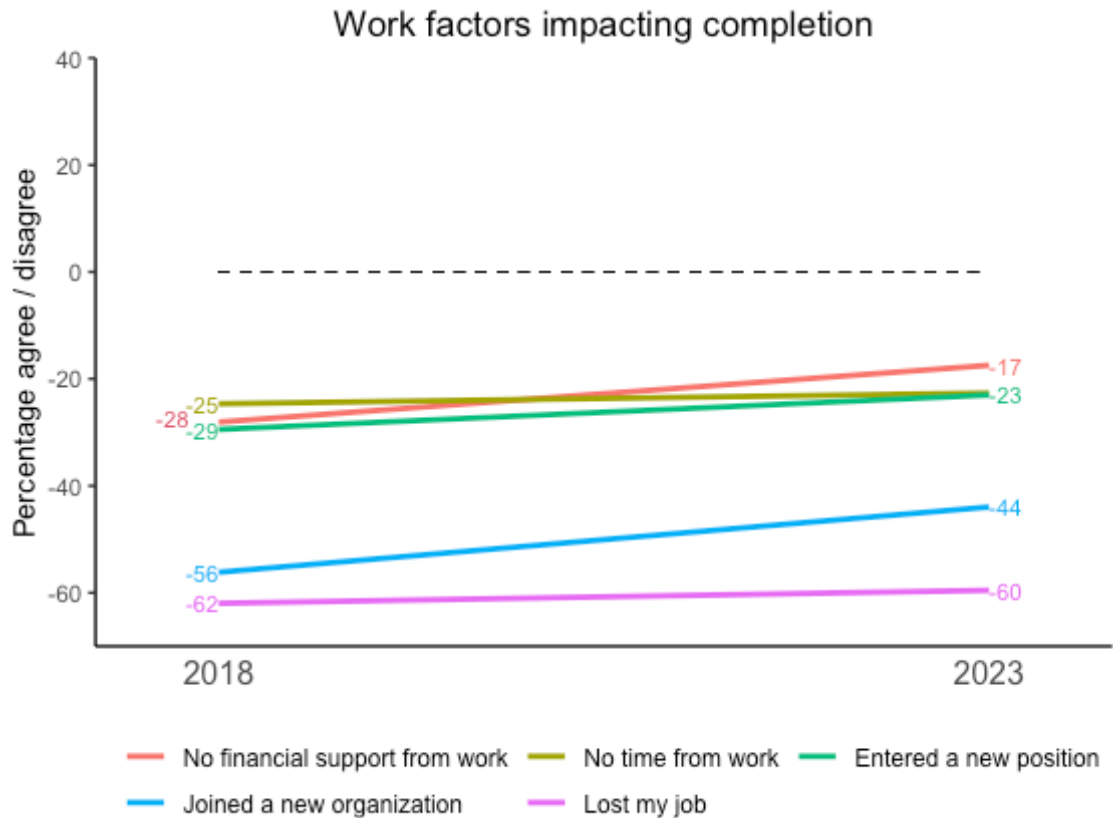
Thus, of the nine personal factors, respondents agreed with the “time commitment” factor the most (as the red line is the furthest above the dashed “neutral” zero line), and its overall level of agreement increased from 15% to 22% between 2018 and 2023. The only other factor with an overall positive level of agreement was “non-academic commitments,” which increased slightly from 3% to 5% between 2018 and 2023. The remaining factors all have higher levels of disagreement than agreement (as they are below the dashed “neutral” zero line), particularly “medical reasons” (–56% in 2018, –45% in 2023). However, whereas some of these remaining factors decreased the overall amount with which they were disagreed (“no personal support,” “unsure of PLAR benefits,” “financial situation changed,” and “medical reasons”), others increased the overall amount with which they were disagreed (“availability changed,” “initial reasons changed,” and “education plan changed”).

A two-sample chi-squared test of independence finds a significant difference in rating patterns between 2018 and 2023 for the “availability changed” factor (p-value = 0.06). The other factors have non-significant p-values: “financial situation changed” (p-value = 0.12), “medical reasons” (p-value = 0.17), “no personal support” (p-value = 0.18), “time commitment” (p-value = 0.19), “education plan changed” (p-value = 0.25), “unsure of PLAR benefits” (p-value = 0.33), “initial reasons changed” (p-value = 0.39), and “non-academic commitments” (p-value = 0.50).



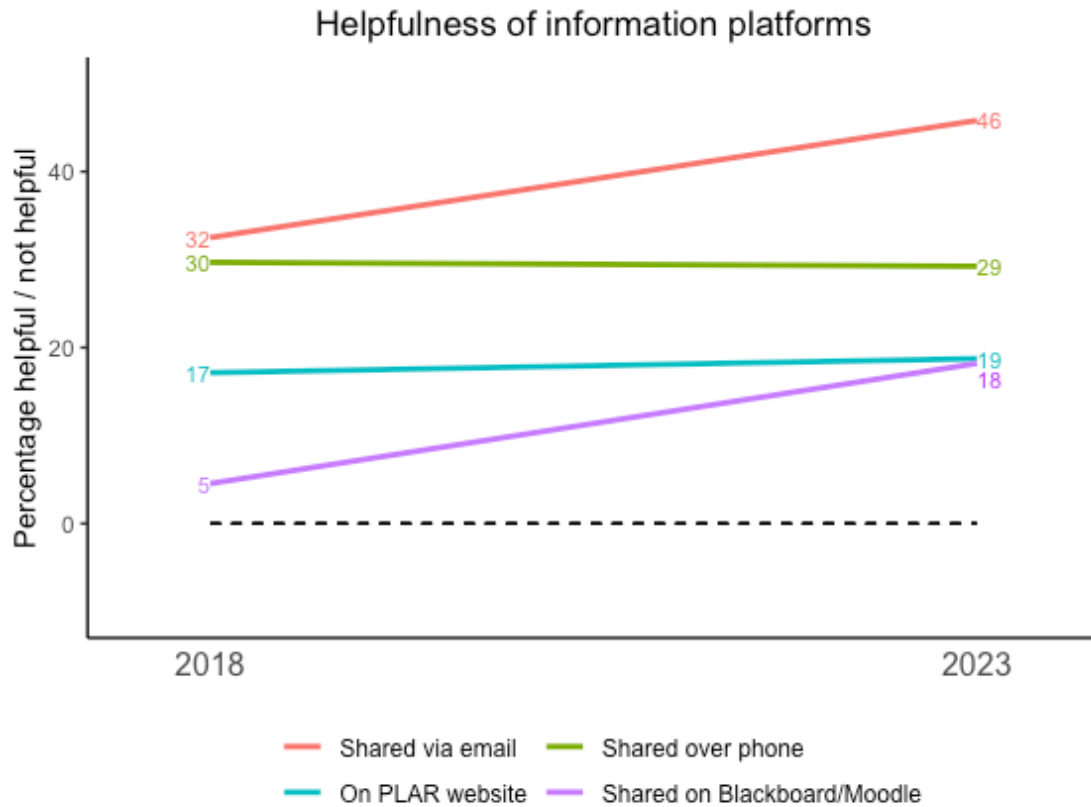
Plotted scores represent the percentage of survey respondents who agreed versus disagreed with each practical factor. Thus, all four personal factors have higher levels of disagreement than agreement (as they are below the dashed “neutral” zero line) but decreased the overall amount to which they were disagreed with between 2018 and 2023. Overall levels of disagreement decreased from 23% to 2% for “providing evidence,” from 16% to 6% for “doubts about experience,” from 36% to 17% for “articulating in writing,” and from 28% to 24% for “my ability to self-reflect.”

A two-sample chi-squared test of independence finds a significant difference in rating patterns between 2018 and 2023 for the “providing evidence” factor ($p\text{-value} = 0.02$). The other factors have non-significant $p\text{-values}$: “articulating in writing” ($p\text{-value} = 0.21$), “doubts about experience” ($p\text{-value} = 0.22$), and “my ability to self-reflect” ($p\text{-value} = 0.88$).



Plotted scores represent the percentage of survey respondents who agreed versus disagreed with each work factor. Thus, all five work factors have higher levels of disagreement than agreement (as they are below the dashed “neutral” zero line) but decreased the overall amount to which they were disagreed with between 2018 and 2023. Overall levels of disagreement decreased from 28% to 17% for “no financial support from work,” from 25% to 23% for “no time from work,” from 29% to 23% for “entered a new position,” from 56% to 44% for “joined a new organization,” and from 62% to 60% for “lost my job.”

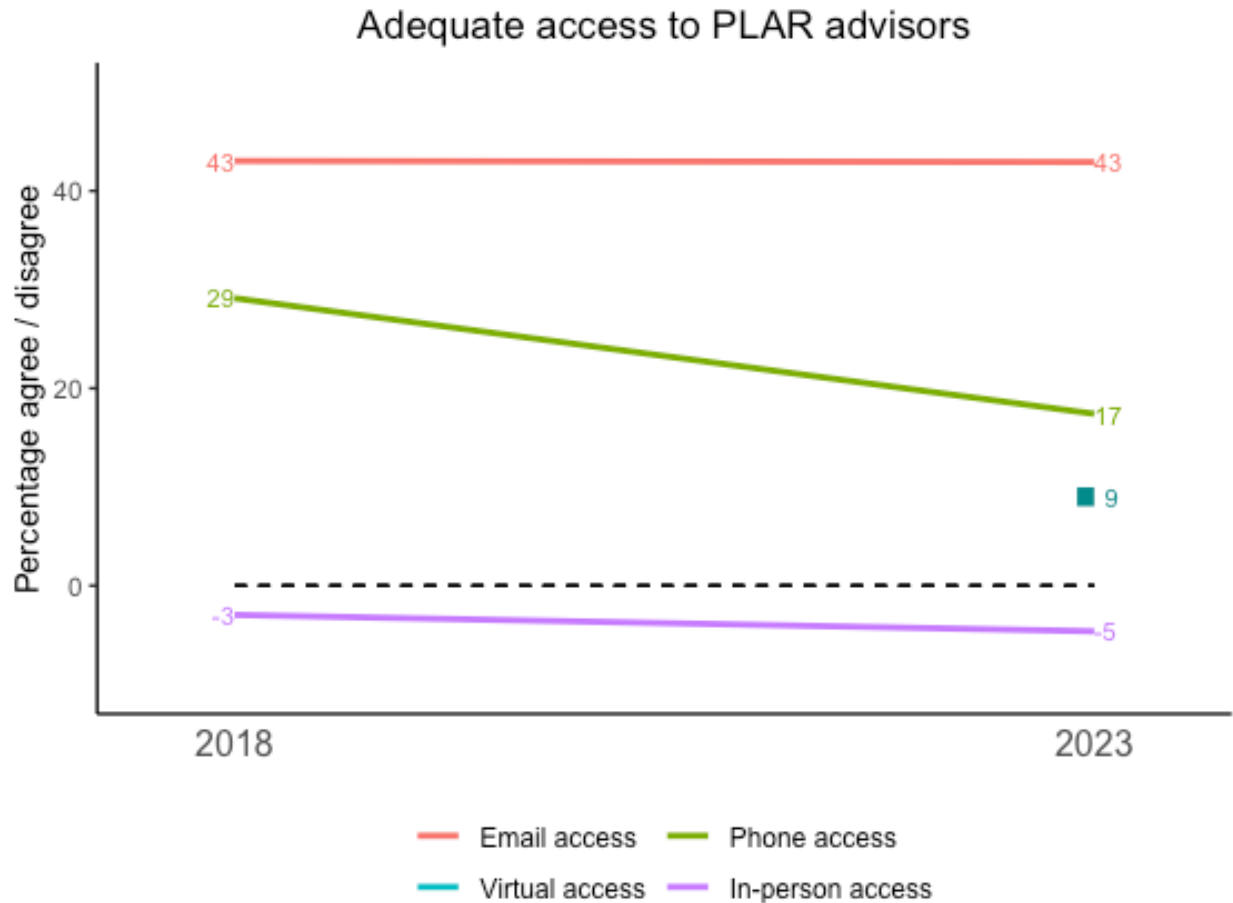
A two-sample chi-squared test of independence finds no significant differences in rating patterns between 2018 and 2023: “joined a new organization” (p-value = 0.20), “entered a new position” (p-value = 0.30), “lost my job” (p-value = 0.33), “no financial support from work” (p-value = 0.36), and “no time from work” (p-value = 0.69).



Plotted scores represent the percentage of survey respondents who rated each information platform as “extremely helpful” or “helpful” versus “somewhat helpful” or “not helpful.” For example, the score would be 100% if all respondents rated a platform as “extremely helpful,” the score would be 50% if they all gave “helpful” ratings, the score would be 0% if they all gave “neither not helpful nor helpful” ratings, the score would be –50% if they all gave “somewhat helpful” ratings, and the score would be –100% if they all gave “not helpful” ratings.

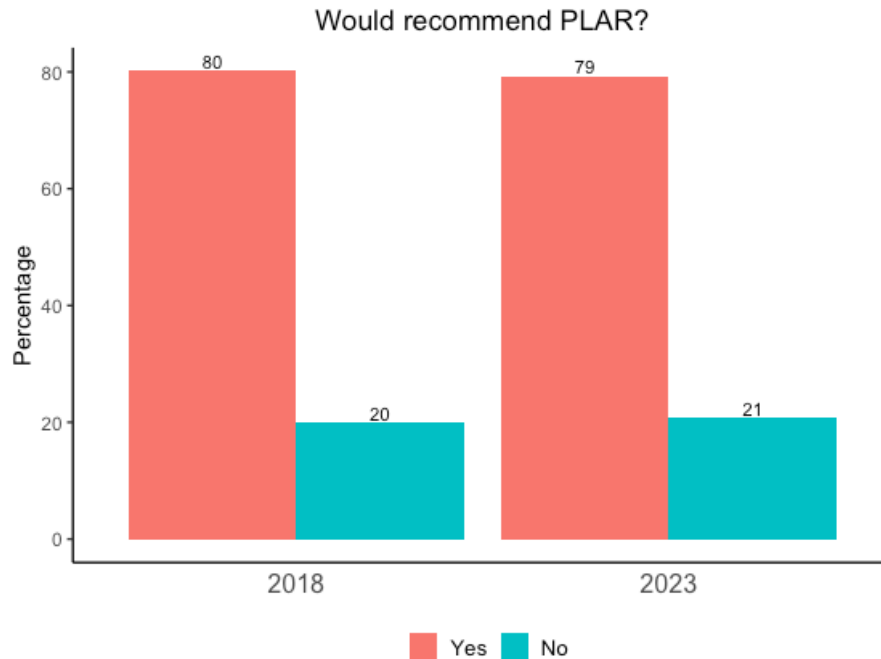
Thus, all four information platforms were rated as more helpful than not helpful (as they are above the dashed “neutral” zero line). Respondents found information shared via email the most helpful, and its overall level of helpfulness increased from 32% to 46% between 2018 and 2023. Information shared over the phone is the next most helpful platform, but its overall level of helpfulness remained essentially unchanged at 30% in 2018 and 29% in 2023. Information shared on the PLAR website and Moodle have overall helpfulness levels of 19% and 18%, respectively, in 2023. Website helpfulness is essentially unchanged from 2018 (17%), whereas information shared on Blackboard scored only 5% in 2018.

A two-sample chi-squared test of independence finds significant differences in rating patterns between 2018 and 2023 for three of the information platforms: “shared on Blackboard/Moodle” (p-value < 0.01), “shared over phone” (p-value = 0.02), and “shared via email” (p-value = 0.04). In 2018, for information “shared over phone,” relatively more respondents selected “somewhat helpful” or “extremely helpful”. By contrast, in 2023 relatively more respondents selected “helpful” or “not helpful”. This is why there is a significant difference in rating patterns between 2018 and 2023 for this information platform, but the overall level of helpfulness remained essentially unchanged. Finally, information shared “on PLAR website” has a non-significant p-value of 0.49.

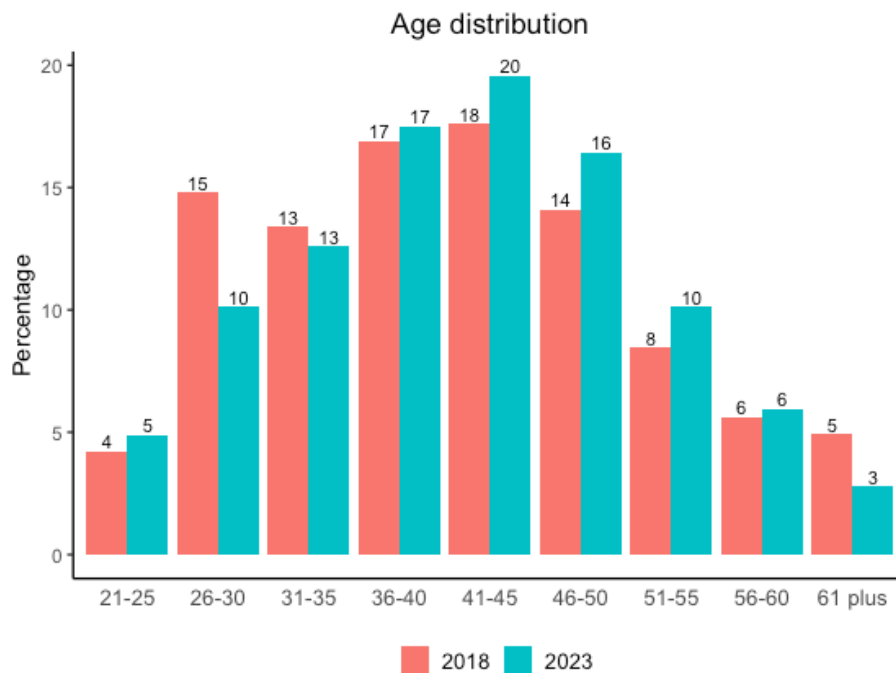


Plotted scores represent the percentage of survey respondents who agreed versus disagreed with adequate access to PLAR advisors for each method of access. Thus, three access methods have higher levels of disagreement than agreement (as they are above the dashed “neutral” zero line). The highest level of agreement about adequate access is for email, with overall levels of agreement remaining the same at 43% for 2018 and 2023. Next comes phone access, but its overall level of agreement decreased from 29% to 17% between 2018 and 2023. Virtual access, which is new for 2023, has an overall agreement level of 9%. Finally, in-person access, which is not really something currently offered, has slightly higher levels of disagreement than agreement, increasing from 3% disagreement to 5% disagreement between 2018 and 2023.

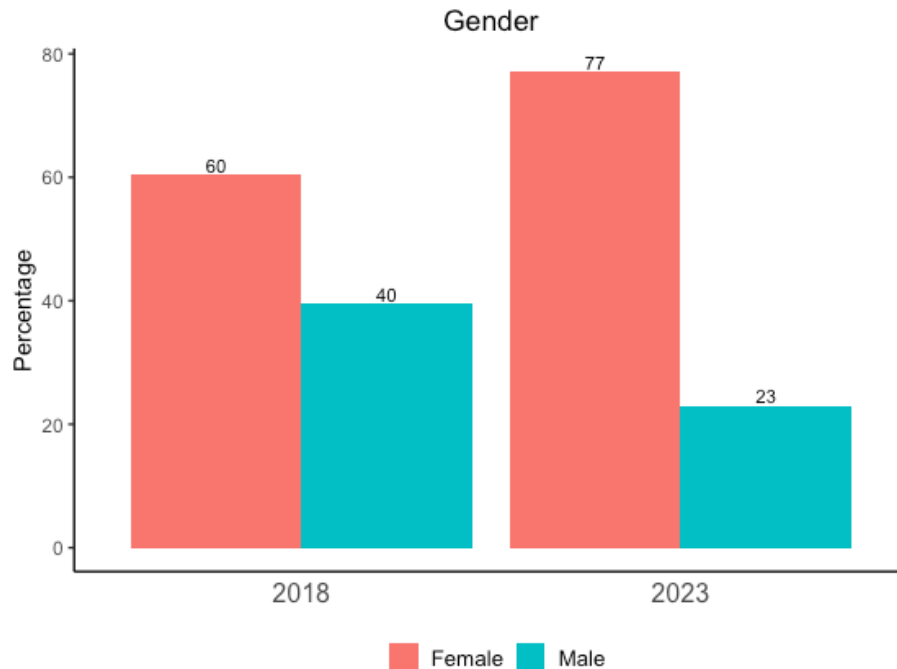
A two-sample chi-squared test of independence finds marginal significance of a difference in rating patterns between 2018 and 2023 for “phone access” (p-value = 0.07). The other access methods have non-significant p-values: “email access” (p-value = 0.27) and “in-person access” (p-value = 0.62).



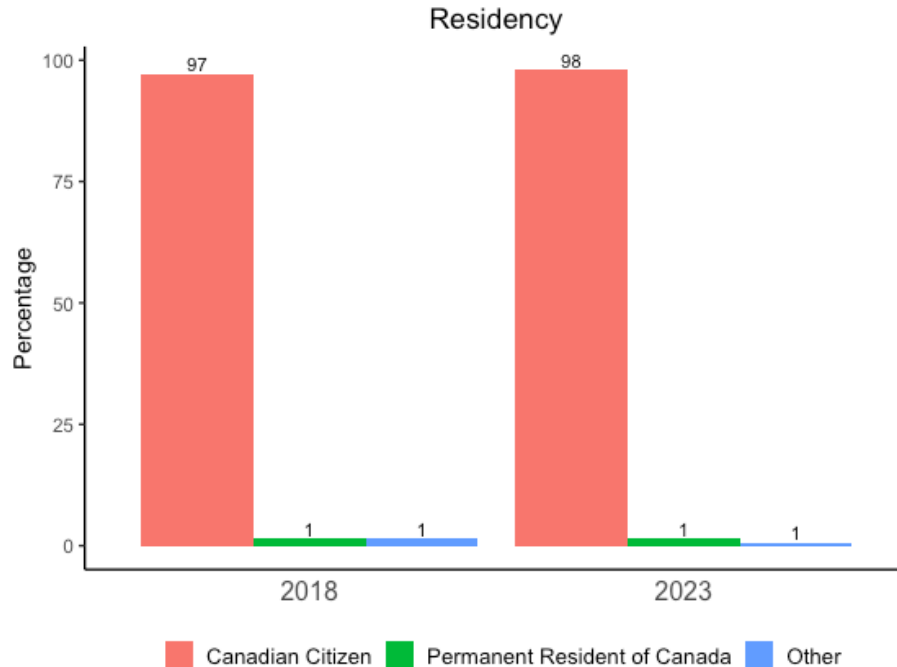
Comparing 2018 and 2023, the percentage of respondents who would recommend PLAR remains essentially unchanged. Moreover, a two-sample chi-squared test of independence finds no significant difference in the proportion recommending PLAR between 2018 and 2023 (p-value = 0.94).



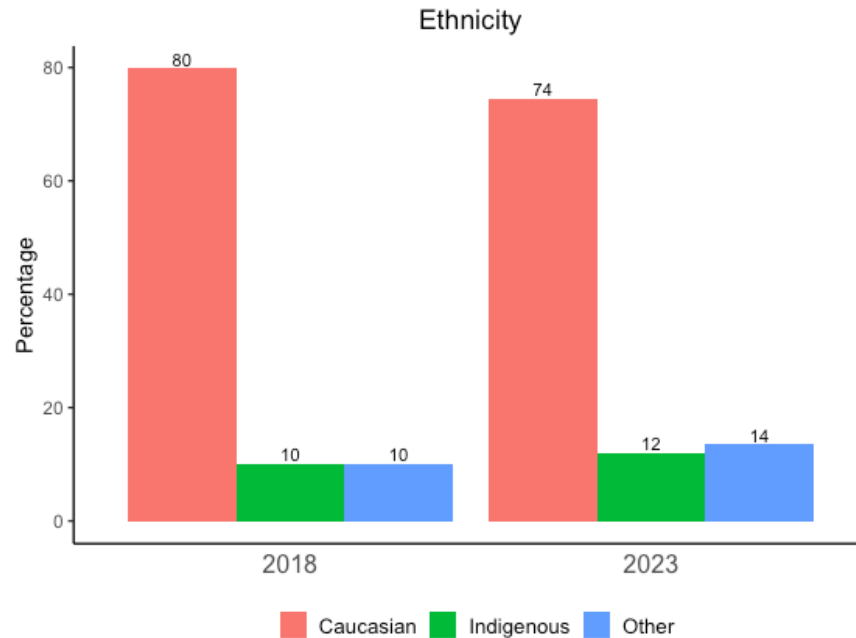
The respondent age distribution has a few small differences between 2018 and 2023, for example, slightly more respondents in their late 20s in 2018 and in their 40s in 2023. However, the median age is essentially unchanged (41 in 2018, 42 in 2023) and a two-sample chi-squared test of independence finds no significant difference in the overall age distribution between 2018 and 2023 (p-value = 0.86).



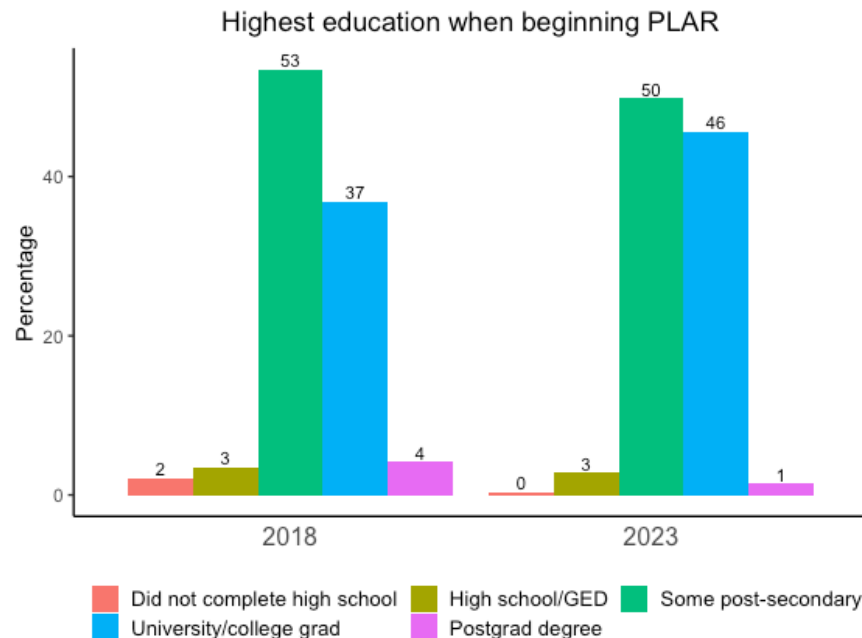
The percentage of respondents identifying as female increased from 60% to 77% between 2018 and 2023. Moreover, a two-sample chi-squared test of independence finds a significant difference in the proportions of female/male identities between 2018 and 2023 ($p\text{-value} < 0.01$).



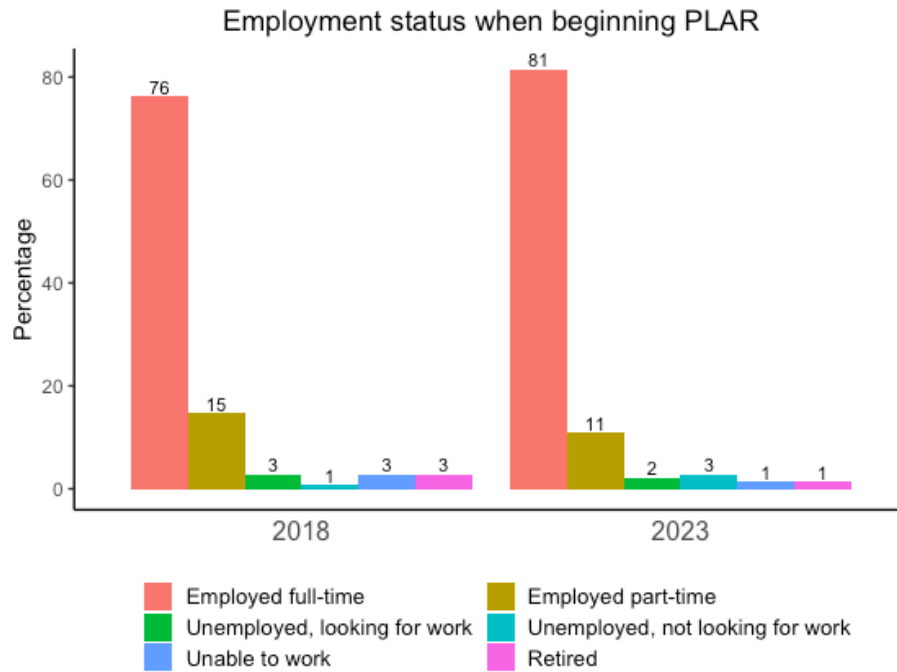
Comparing 2018 and 2023, the percentages of respondents in each residency category remains essentially unchanged. Moreover, a two-sample chi-squared test of independence finds no significant difference in the proportions in each residency category between 2018 and 2023 ($p\text{-value} = 0.87$).



Comparing 2018 and 2023, the percentages of respondents in each ethnicity category shows a small decrease in those identifying as “Caucasian” and small increases in those identifying as “Indigenous” or “other.” However, a two-sample chi-squared test of independence finds no significant difference in the proportions in each ethnicity category between 2018 and 2023 (p-value = 0.59).



Between 2018 and 2023 the percentage of respondents with some post-secondary education decreased from 53% to 50%, whereas university/college graduates increased from 37% to 46%. A two-sample chi-squared test of independence finds a marginally significant difference in the proportions in each education category between 2018 and 2023 (p-value = 0.07).



Comparing 2018 and 2023, the percentages of respondents in each employment category shows a small increase in “employed full time” and a small decrease in “employed part-time.” However, a two-sample chi-squared test of independence finds no significant difference in the proportions in each employment category between 2018 and 2023 (p-value = 0.34).