



# THE STATE OF SOCIAL RIGHTS IN CUBA

VII REPORT 2024

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Methodology and technical data.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. Main social problems .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4. Sectors that are currently experiencing the worse living conditions .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5. Employment status .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>6. The households' economic situation .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>7. The Food situation.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>8. Public health .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>9. The government's economic and social management.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>10. Family remittances, poverty and household's economic situation .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>11. Model for the future national development .....</b>	<b>18</b>

# THE STATE OF SOCIAL RIGHTS IN CUBA



## 1. Introduction

### ***89% of Cuban families suffer from extreme poverty***

The food crisis and the shortage of medicines, and high rates of unemployment, hit millions of Cubans, who see the course of their lives passing after past calls for civic resistance, not expecting any alternatives other than “solving” or escaping.

Since 2019, in accordance with the findings collected in these reports on the state of social rights, we have denounced the growing deterioration of the socioeconomic situation on the island. We have been warning with data in hand, resulting from thousands of systematic interviews throughout the whole country, about the reality of a humanitarian disaster that would ultimately worsen, supporting our analyses drawn from the grievances that we received from both our observers and the locals.

Cubans suffer and also complain in the streets, but the authorities do not listen. Perhaps a reflection of this is

### ***the high level of disapproval found in this survey about the government’s economic and social management, reaching 91%***

its record figure since we are measuring this parameter.  
This dire situation is based on

### ***the fact that only 3% believe that the current Cuban model should be the reference for future development***

while the vast majority prefer models such as the North American one (53%), or the Spanish/European (21%) to get out of the current crisis.

Similar to earlier reports, this seventh report offers objective data on our investigation about the social rights conditions prevailing on the island while also highlighting the seriousness of the situation in Cuba, which calls for an urgent resolution.



## 2. Methodology and technical data

### *The interviews were carried out in all the provinces of the country*

Following the methodology of personal interviews assisted by digital media we used in the previous surveys in a total of 78 municipalities, a representative sample has been designed, with provincial quotas according to age groups, and according to sex and racial group for the entire population, adjusted to the demographic weight referred to by the latest official census information (September 2012).

SURVEY'S TECHNICAL DATA
<b>Universe:</b> population residing in Cuba aged 18 and over, both sexes.
<b>Sample:</b> 1.148 interviews.
<b>Sampling method:</b> aleatorio simple. Sample stratification by clusters: habitat of residence, sex, age and racial group.
<b>Fixation:</b> proportional.
<b>Margin of error:</b> +/- 2,8 for global data.
<b>Confidence level:</b> 95% with probability p/q=50%.
<b>Methodology for field work:</b> personal survey with assisted data entry using mobile phones and tablets.
<b>Dates of field work:</b> from May 8 to June 2, 2024.
<b>Organization responsible for field work:</b> Cuban Observatory of Human Rights (OCDH).

- Open Data Kit (ODK) technology has been used for field work; and for data processing and statistical analysis, the SPSS v28.0.0.1 and Gandia Barbwin v7.5 programs were used.
- In the analyses presented, the decimals obtained in the percentages were rounded to integers (taking into account that the margin of error is greater than +/- 2.5).



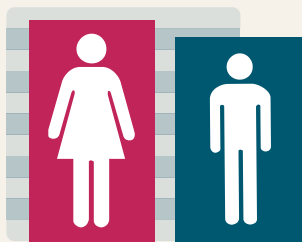
# Distribution according to gender, age and racial groups

The distribution by sex and age remains proportional to the census data,

**with a slightly higher proportion of women**

but without significant differences by sex in the different age groups.

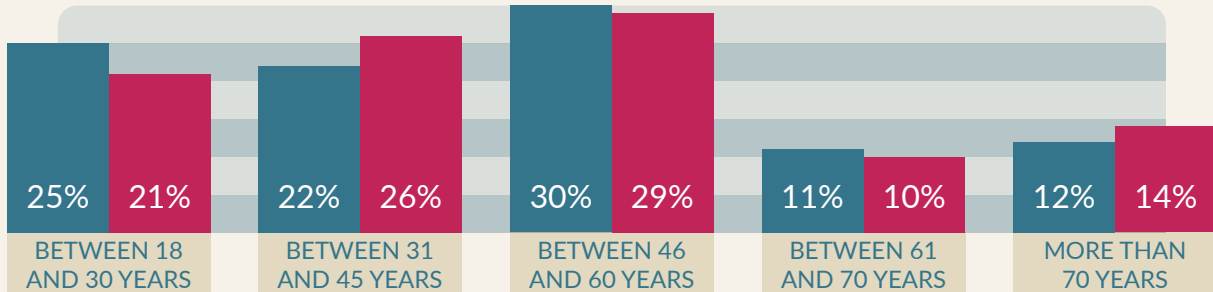
**52%**



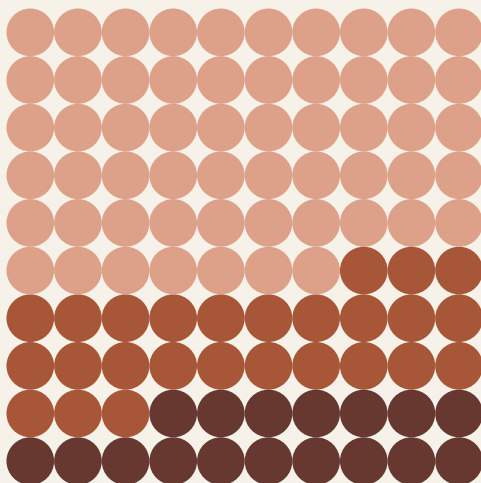
WOMEN  
• 52%

MEN  
• 48%

## DISTRIBUTION BY AGE AND SEX GROUPS



## DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO RACIAL GROUPS



WHITE  
• 57%

MULATO  
OR MESTIZO  
• 26%

BLACK  
• 17%



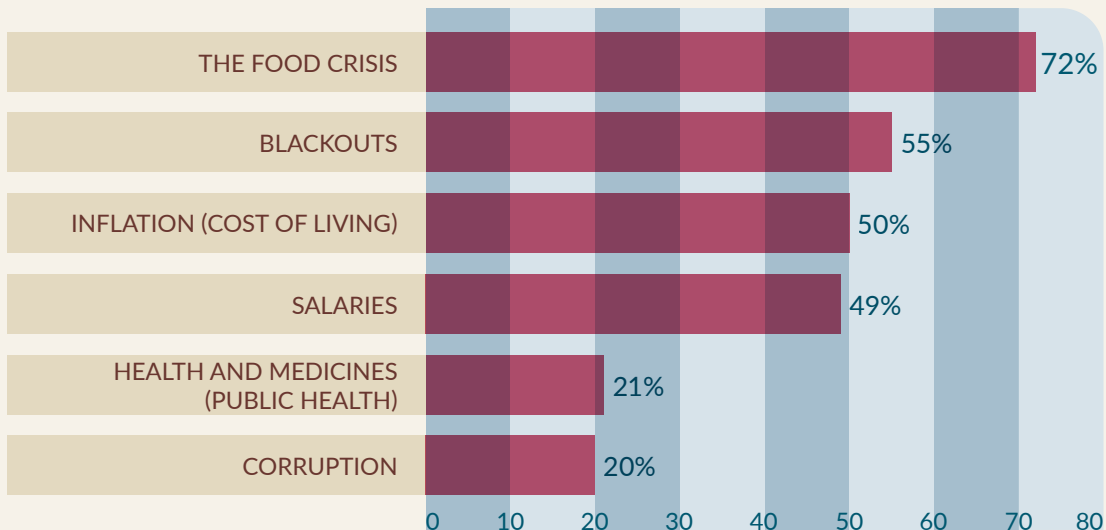
### 3. Main social problems

**The food crisis** remains **72%** the main concern among Cubans, followed by **blackouts, inflation, low purchasing power of salaries, and healthcare**



**Corruption** is indicated as the next social problem that most worries Cubans, in sixth place at **20%**

**MAIN SOCIAL PROBLEMS**  
(multiple response; most named first)



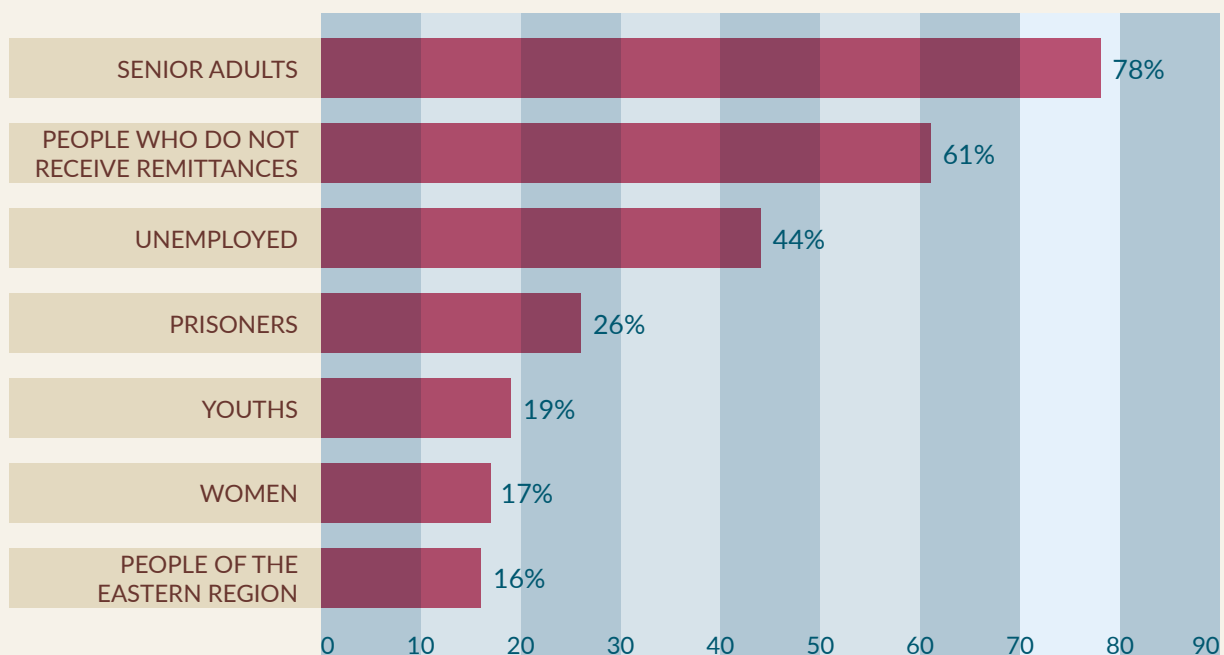


## 4. Sectors that are currently experiencing the worse living conditions

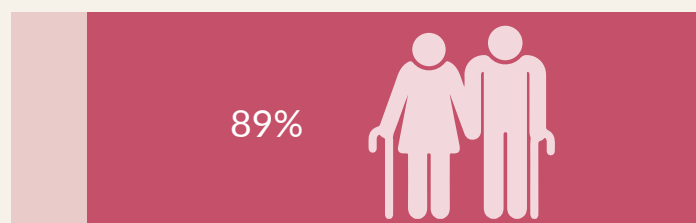
The same order of the disadvantaged sectors has been maintained since the survey above, which are the following:

### SECTORS OF THE POPULATION THAT ARE HAVING THE WORSE LIVING CONDITIONS

(Multiple response)



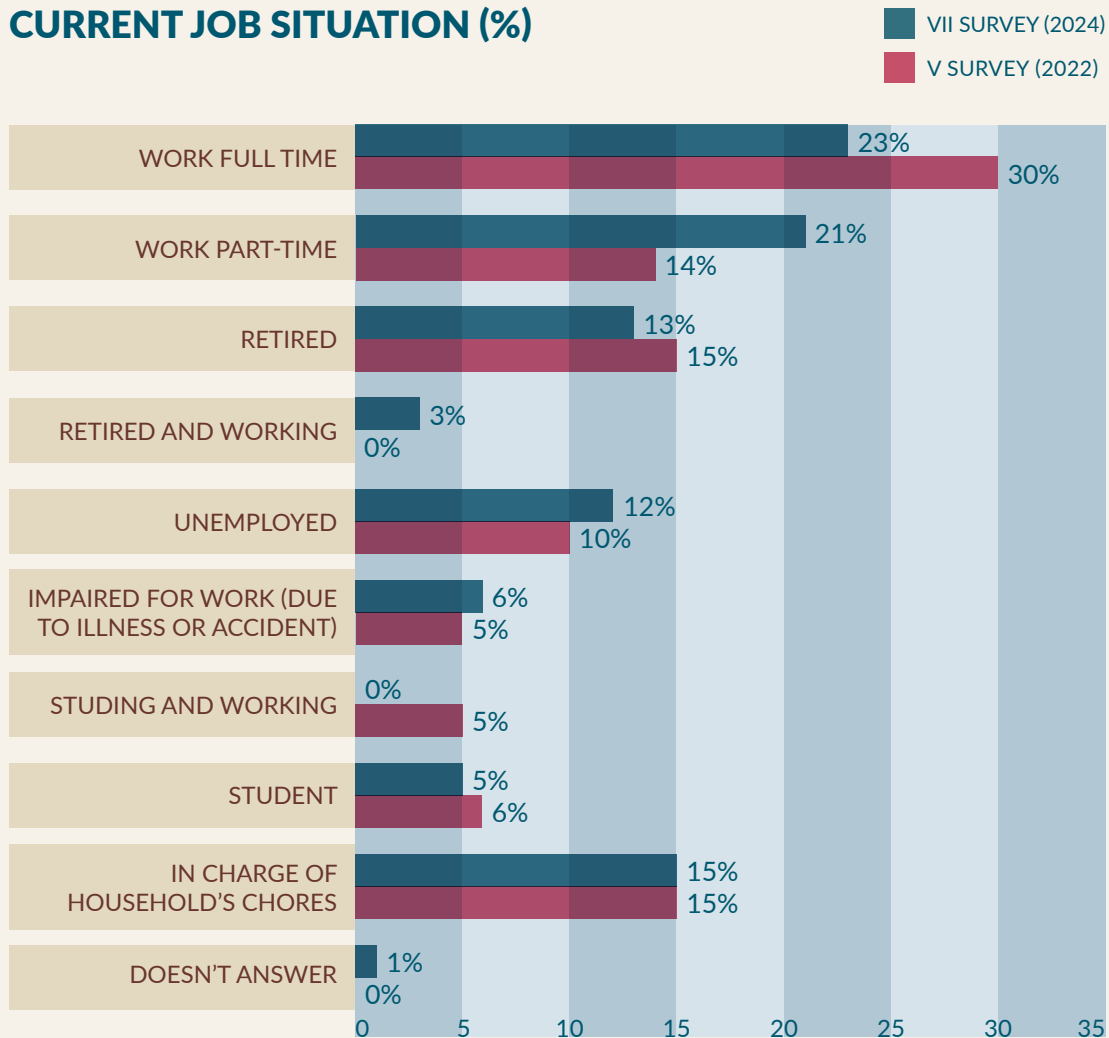
**Older people tend to consider themselves as the most disadvantaged, reaching up to 89% in those over 70 years of age**





## 5. Employment status

### CURRENT JOB SITUATION (%)



**12%** of those consulted  
declare themselves unemployed  
(two percentage points above the 2021 and 2022 studies)

Among the unemployed population, **69%**  
have been unemployed for more than a year







Considering the unemployed, students, retirees, people engaged in domestic work, and those who cannot work due to chronic illness or accident, we observe that

**51%** of those consulted of working age are not integrated into the formal labor market

Among women, the most frequent situation is that of “in charge of household’s chores”, with **27%** of those surveyed

The state remains the main source of employment (49% of those consulted), although an important part of these (14%) work for the state while being employed in Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) or as self-employed.



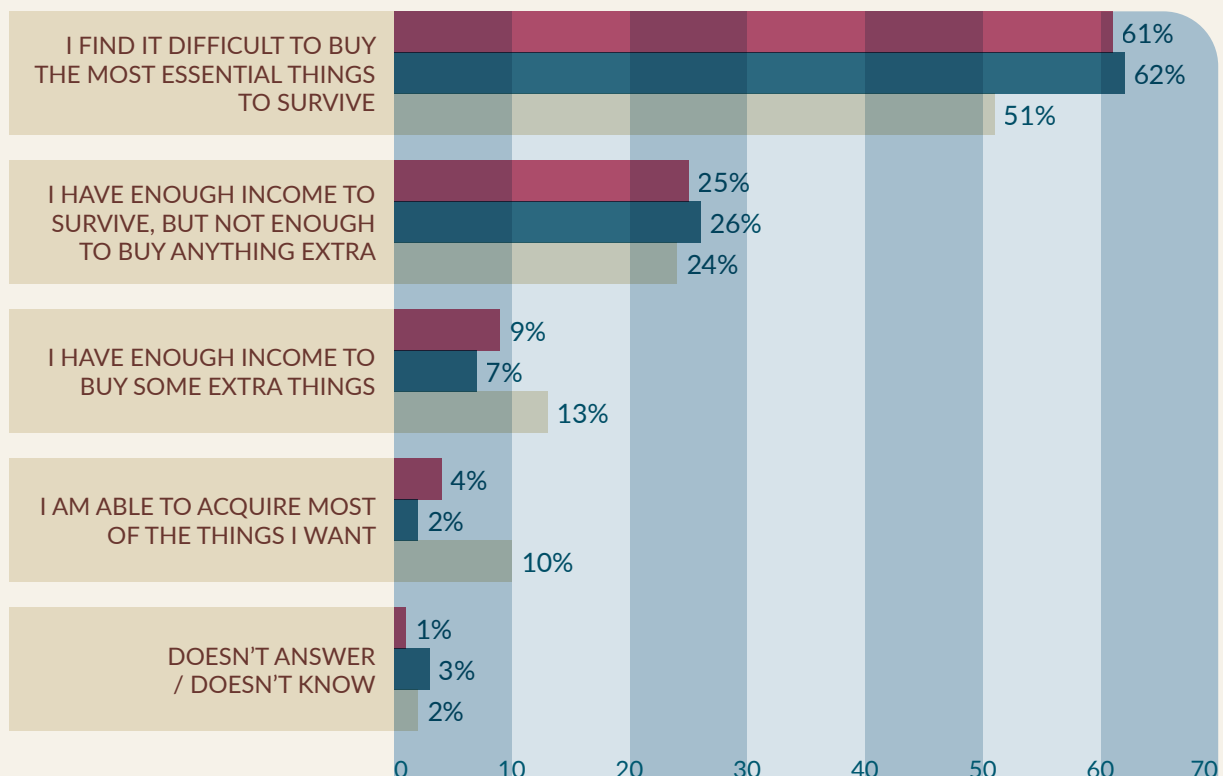
## 6. The household's economic situation



**86%** of Cuban households move within the margins of survival; of these, **61%** cannot even buy the essentials to survive

### 6. DESCRIPTION OF THE HOUSEHOLD'S ECONOMIC SITUATION (%)

VII SURVEY (2024)  
VI SURVEY (2023)  
V SURVEY (2022)



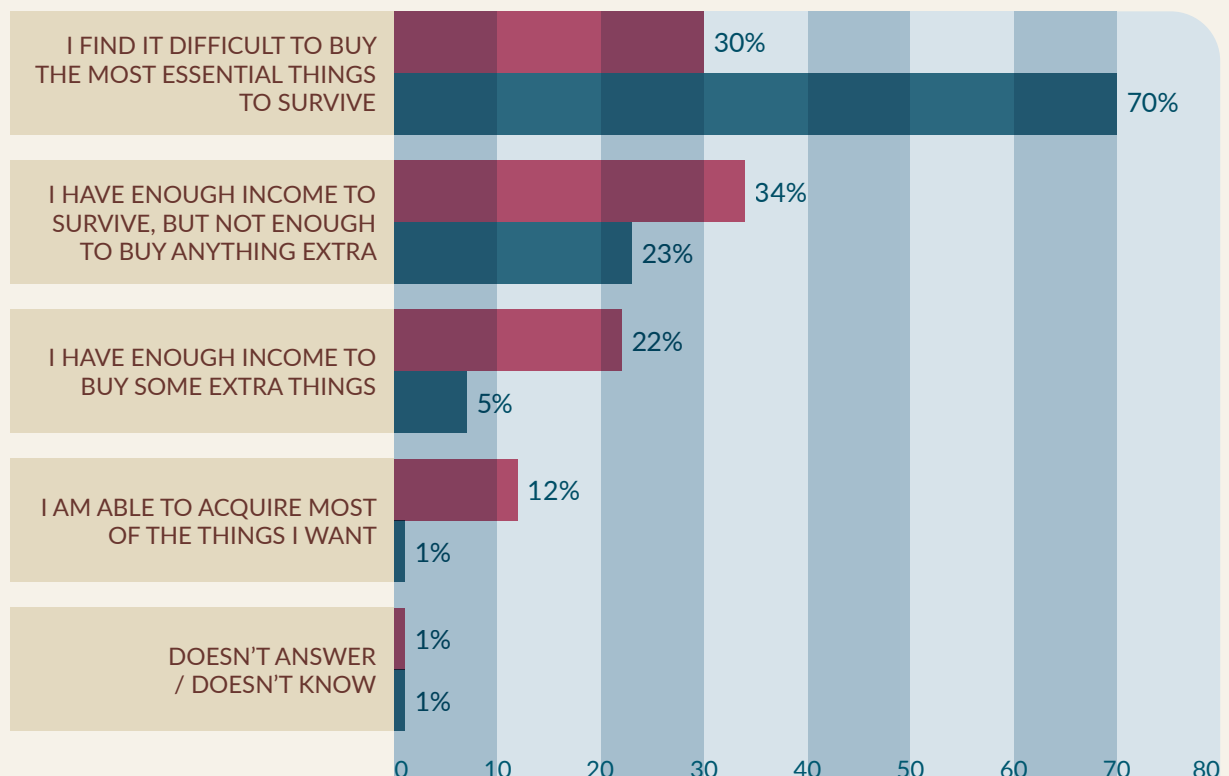
The situation is relatively better in households that receive family remittances, although more than **30%** of these continue to have problems purchasing even the most basic products

In contrast, the situation of serious material precariousness rises to **70%** for those who do not have access to remittances



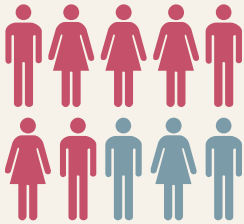
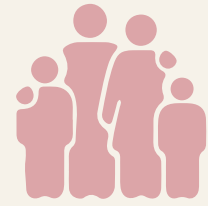
### HOUSEHOLD SITUATION REGARDING RECEIPT OF FAMILY REMITTANCES (%)

RECEIVE REMITTANCES  
DOES NOT RECEIVE REMITTANCES





## 7. The Food situation



**7 out of 10 Cubans**  
have stopped eating breakfast, lunch or dinner,  
due to lack of money or food shortages



Only **15%** of Cubans  
have been able to eat three meals  
without interruption



People over 70 years of age  
suffer the most nutritional  
deficiencies **79%**



**80%** of black people  
declare themselves affected by the food crisis,  
as well as 83% of those who do not receive  
family remittances



## 8. Public health

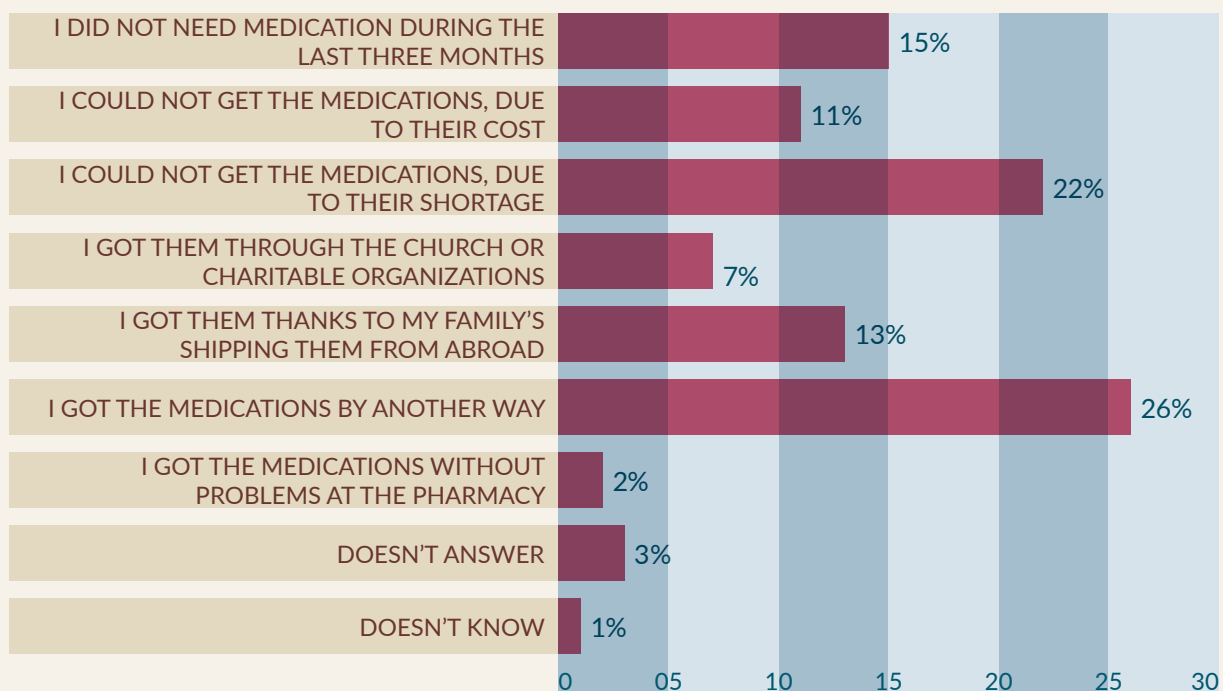
The shortage or the cost of medicines mainly affects the elderly:

**38%** of those between 61 and 70 years old could not get them, nor among those over 70 years old

**43%**



### WHAT HAS YOUR EXPERIENCE BEEN WHEN ACQUIRING MEDICATIONS? (%)



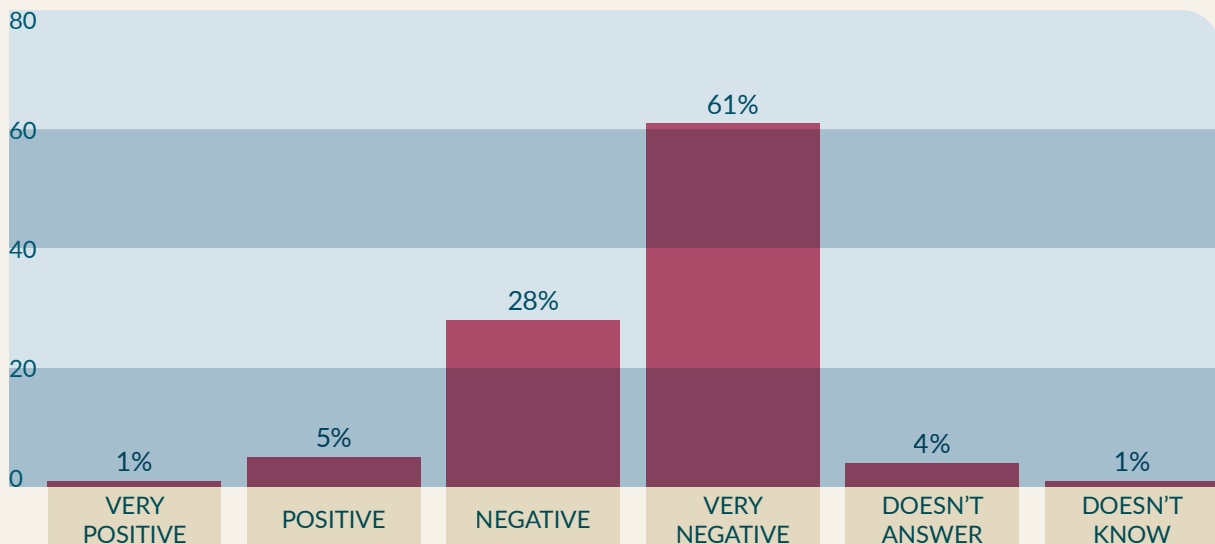
**89%** negatively value  
the Cuban public health system



A critical view  
of the health system  
is shared by all races,  
with a slight majority  
of the black race: **92%**



**HOW DO YOU RATE THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE?**





## 9. The government's economic and social management



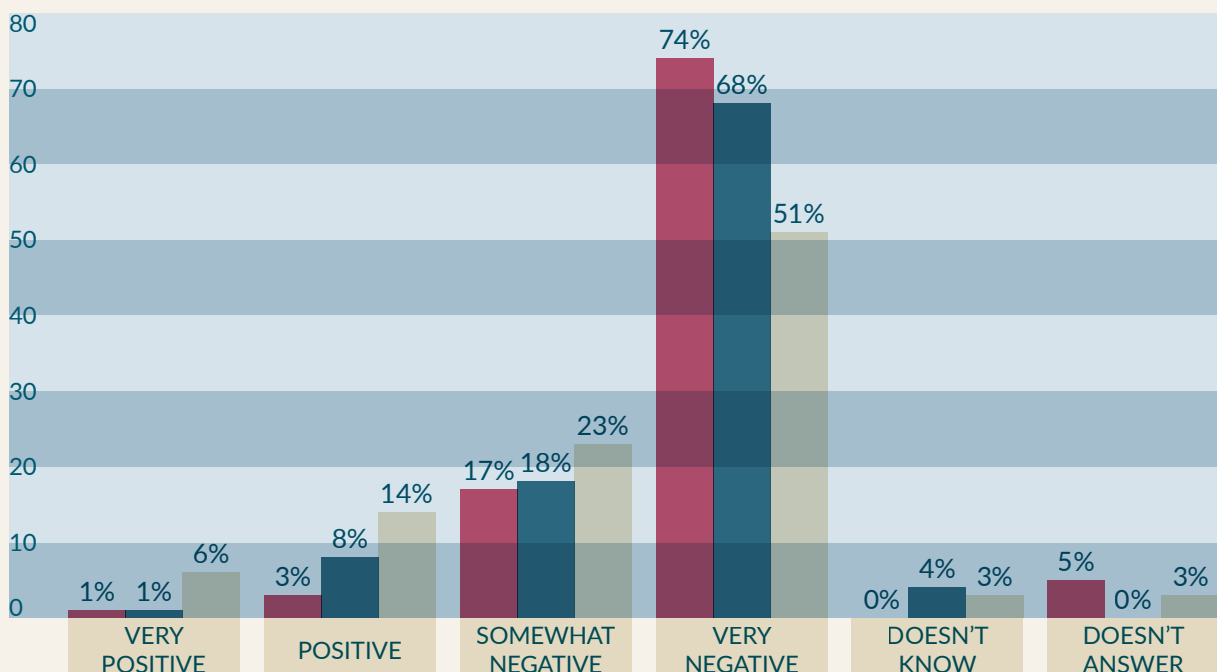
Disapproval of the government's economic and social management increased by five points compared to the previous survey, standing at **91%**

The favorable assessment for the government is at **4%**

This assessment encompasses the whole population, with no appreciable differences between age groups, races, or gender

### HOW WOULD YOU EVALUATE THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT?

VII SURVEY (2024)  
VII SURVEY (2023)  
VI SURVEY (2022)



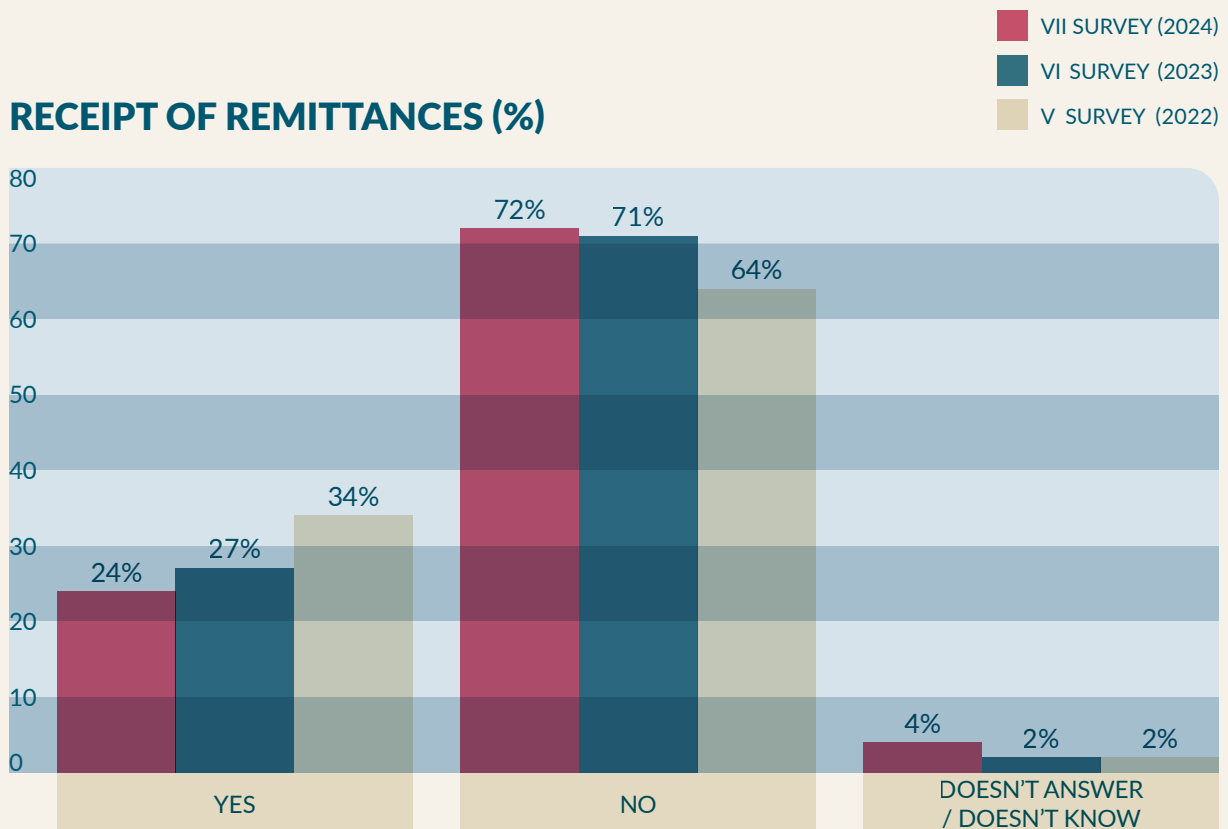


## 10. Family remittances, poverty and household's economic situation



The decline in the number of people receiving family remittances continues. Black people receive them the least: **81%**

### RECEIPT OF REMITTANCES (%)





In recent years, the Cuban authorities have applied a policy of eliminating subsidies. Subsidized products and services, due to their short duration, quantity, intermittency, or scarcity, have less and less impact on many households.

A significant portion of households have been severely affected by the ongoing depreciation of the Cuban peso. Although family remittances have a considerable positive influence on the households receiving them (which represent only 24% of the population), the scarcity of basic products and services or the increase of their prices also limits these families.

From the end of the previous survey to the current one (from August 2023 to May 2024), the value of the Cuban peso (CUP) in the parallel market, which is the usual monetary reference for Cubans, continued to depreciate with respect to the euro and the dollar. In this context, we take the median exchange rate from the monthly data on said rate compiled by OCDH collaborators: 1 dollar to 274 Cuban pesos.

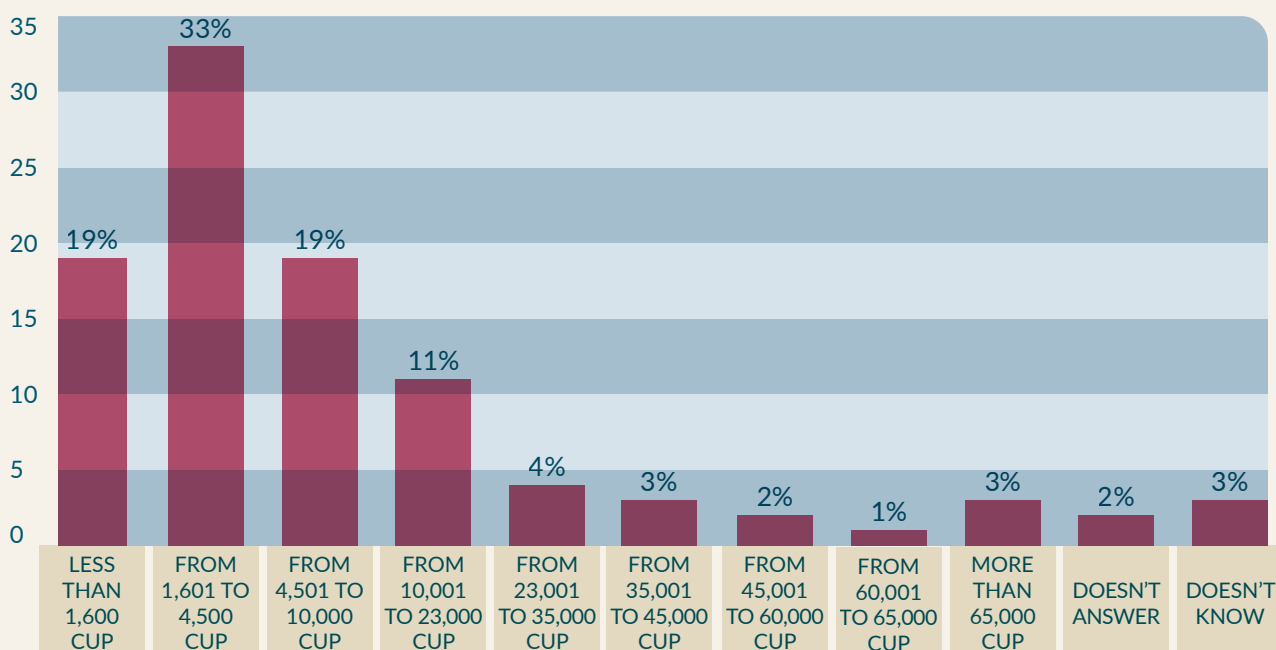
Since 2015, the international extreme poverty line established by the World Bank is at USD 1.90. A household of three people will need to earn the equivalent of USD 171 per month to not be in extreme poverty.

Considering the above, we can conclude that

**at least 89% of Cubans live in extreme poverty**



### MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME (%)

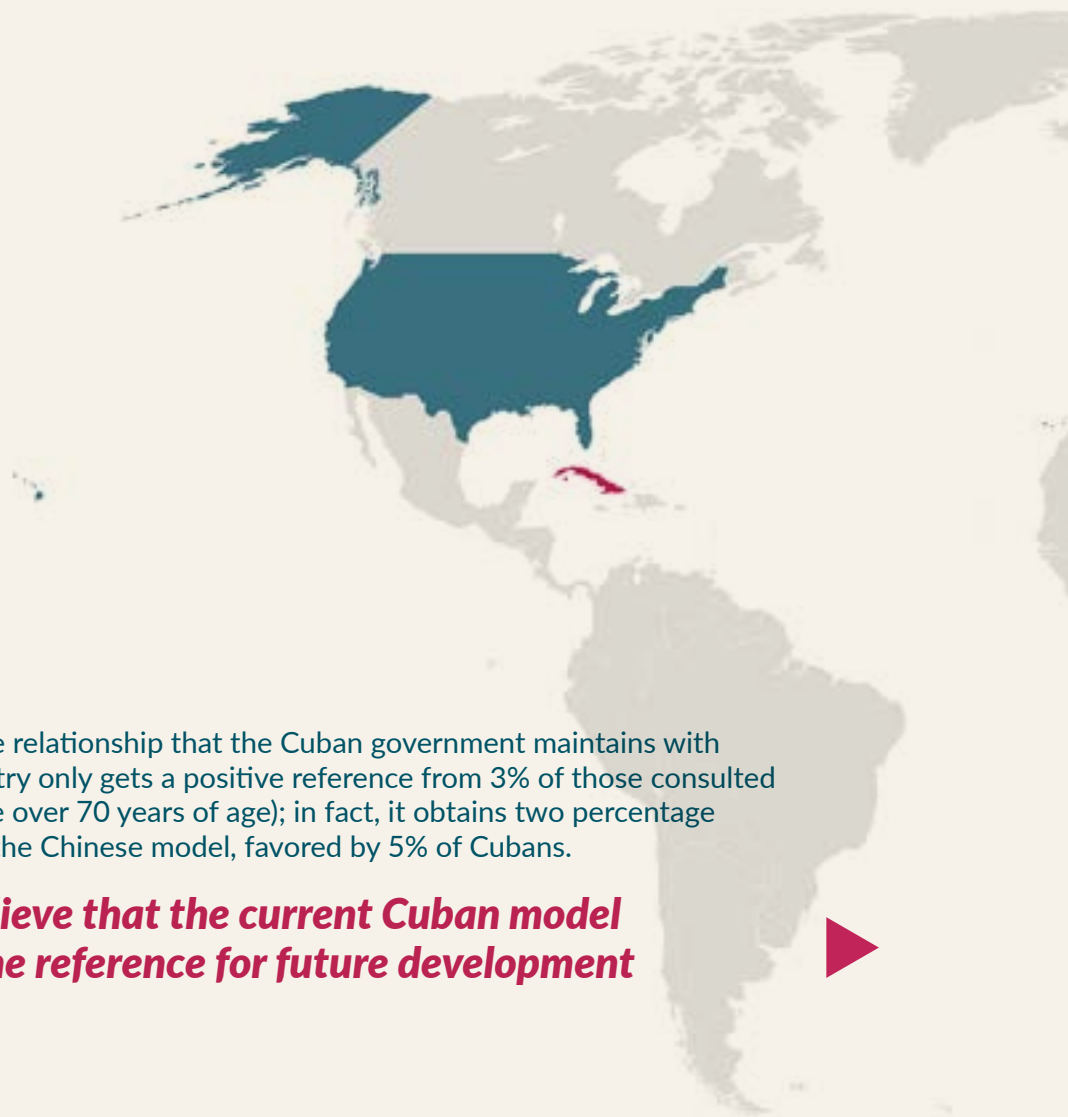




## 11. Model for the future national development

**53%** *The North American model (USA) is the country's model preferred by the majority of 53% of Cubans to emerge from the current situation*

**63%** *This preference reaches up to 63% among the youngest (18 - 30 years old). The Spanish/European model follows with 21%*

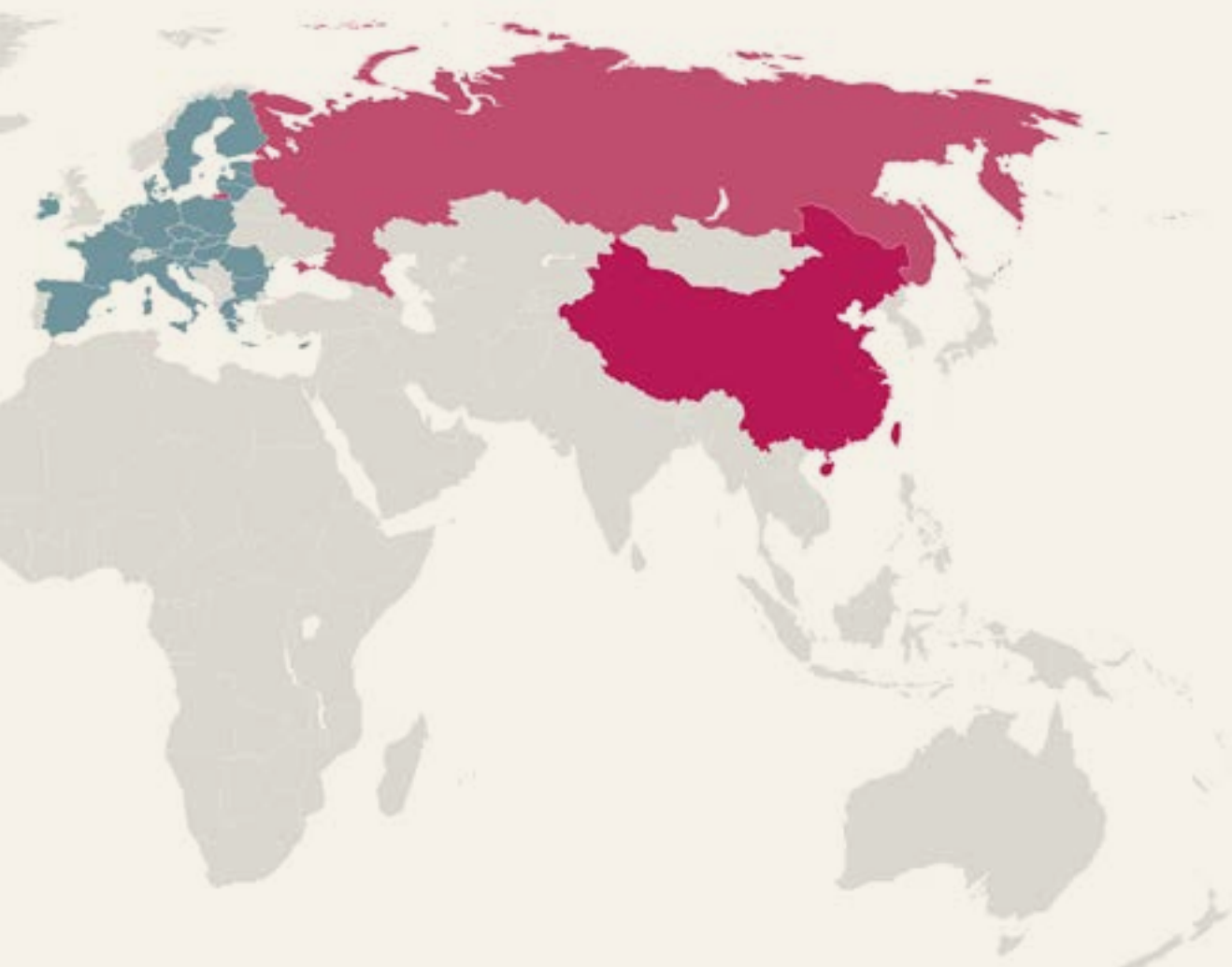
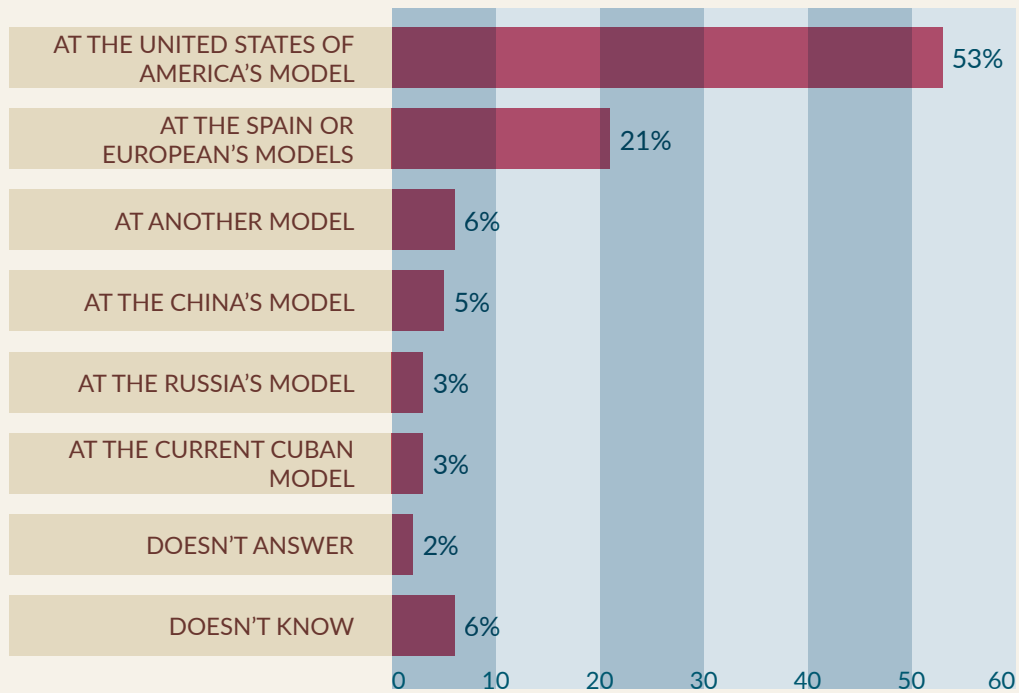


Despite the close relationship that the Cuban government maintains with Russia, this country only gets a positive reference from 3% of those consulted (9% among those over 70 years of age); in fact, it obtains two percentage points less than the Chinese model, favored by 5% of Cubans.

**Only 3% believe that the current Cuban model should be the reference for future development**



## WHAT MODEL OR COUNTRY SHOULD WE LOOK AT TO EMERGE FROM THE CURRENT SITUATION?





OBSERVATORIO DE DERECHOS SOCIALES  
CUBA

[info@derechossocialescuba.com](mailto:info@derechossocialescuba.com)



Observatorio Cubano  
de Derechos Humanos

[www.observacuba.com](http://www.observacuba.com)  
[info@observacuba.com](mailto:info@observacuba.com)  
[@observacuba](https://www.instagram.com/observacuba) 