



OBSERVATORIO DE DERECHOS SOCIALES  
CUBA

# ***THE STATE OF SOCIAL RIGHTS IN CUBA***

REPORT I - 2019



Observatorio Cubano  
de Derechos Humanos

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## INTRODUCTION

The document we share today is the first in a series of reports from the Social Rights Observatory (ODS-CUBA), under the Cuban Human Rights Observatory (OCDH). It is an effort in which our observers and collaborators from within the island have participated in, in the midst of a climate that is becoming increasingly repressive against certain actions and groups independent of the State.

Since its founding, OCDH with its various services has placed an important emphasis on reporting civil and political rights violations in Cuba, and the presentation of the Social Rights Observatory marks a new stage in these efforts. With it, we seek to turn the eyes of public opinion and international institutions towards realities that, as a result of the Cuban government's deception and propaganda, many do not know.

For years, many people of goodwill have believed that social rights are fully respected in Cuba. Others, fascinated by the revolutionary mythology, have believed that the absence of political rights was justified since the Cuban government supposedly guarantees a decent standard of living from the existential point of view. But, does it really happen that way?

Answering this question is one of the objectives of the Social Rights Observatory and this first report; which will have continuity and a continue to progress. In the coming months, we will share a deeper understanding of the Cuban reality and the daily life of its citizens.

## METHODOLOGY AND FACT SHEET

The survey was conducted by ODS-Cuba at the national level in various municipalities in the Western, Central and Eastern regions. The fieldwork was carried out entirely through individual interviews assisted by digital media, with everything that that implies regarding the paper questionnaire in terms of security, efficiency and speed.

An open source tool was used that combined and facilitated the entire survey cycle (from design, input and subsequent data analysis), based on OpenDataKit (ODK) technology and other tools viewed as standard for data collection through mobile devices or tablets. This tool has been fundamentally improved and optimized through the field work conducted by humanitarian organizations in emergency situations and is the product of the joint effort of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC).

### UNIVERSAL

Cuban residents of both sexes,  
18 years and older.

### SAMPLE

1,082 cases of which 1,000 interviews have been  
validated after clearing the data.

### SAMPLE METHOD

Simple randomization.  
Stratified cluster-sample: residence,  
sex and age.  
Affixation: proportional

### MARGIN OF ERROR

+/- 3%

### CONFIDENCE LEVEL

95% in the case of p=q=50%

### FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

Personal survey with interviewers,  
assisted by data entry via mobile  
phones and tablets.

### FIELDWORK TIMEFRAME

August 15 to September 8, 2019.

## SAMPLE DESIGN

The distribution of interviews is proportional to the existing population in the 11 provinces in which the fieldwork was done (table 1) and to the distribution by age groups (table 2).

AGE GROUPS YEARS	NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS THEORETICAL SAMPLE	NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS SAMPLE REACHED
18-30	212	207
31-45	239	238
46-60	306	304
61-70	123	129
>70	119	122

PROVINCES	TOTAL	% POPULATION THEORETICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE SAMPLE	% DISTRIBUTION OF THE SAMLE REACHED BASE OF 1000 INTERVIEWS
PINAR DEL RÍO	470.687	6.36%	7
ARTEMISA	407.320	5.50%	5.7
LA HABANA	1.750.950	23.65%	23.9
MAYABEQUE	309.549	4.18%	4.3
MATANZAS	580.240	7.84%	8
VILLA CLARA	642.216	8.67%	9.2
CIENFUEGOS	327.733	4.43%	5.3
CAMAGÜEY	617.755	8.34%	8.2
HOLGUÍN	820.250	11.08%	8.3
GRANMA	652.978	8.82%	8.9
SANTIAGO DE CUBA	824.595	11.14%	11.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7.404.273</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00</b>





## 1 - SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC SAMPLE DATA



## 1.1 - DISTRIBUTION BY GENDER AND AGE

The distribution between men and women is balanced throughout the sample, although there is a certain prevalence of men over women (50.8% versus 47.3%); 2% of the interviewees identify themselves as a gender other than male or female (graph 1-1).

### What gender do you identify with ?

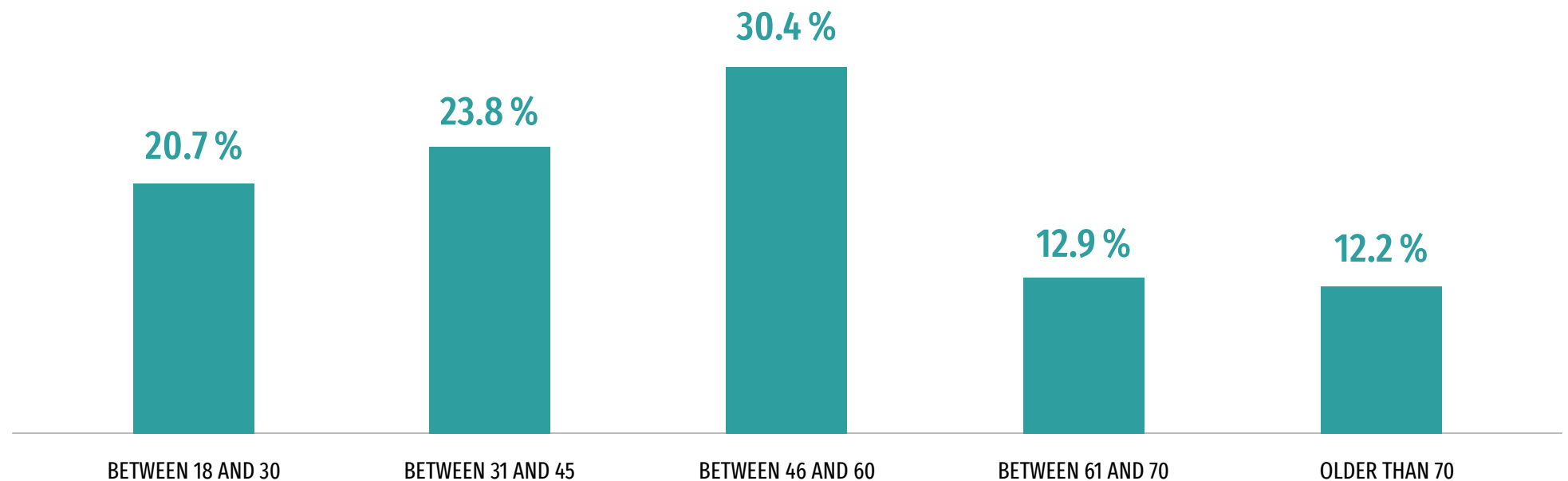


GRAPH 1-1

The age distribution is fairly uniform in the youngest age groups and also for those over 60 years old (graph 1-2). Twenty percent of the interviews were collected among the young adults between 18-30 years of age and the following age group (31-45 years). Twelve percent of the respondents were in the age group above 60 and 70 years old. In the sample as a whole, the population of 46-60 year olds was the most represented (30.4%) with regards to the sample design carried out.

GRAPH 1-2

### Distribution by age group



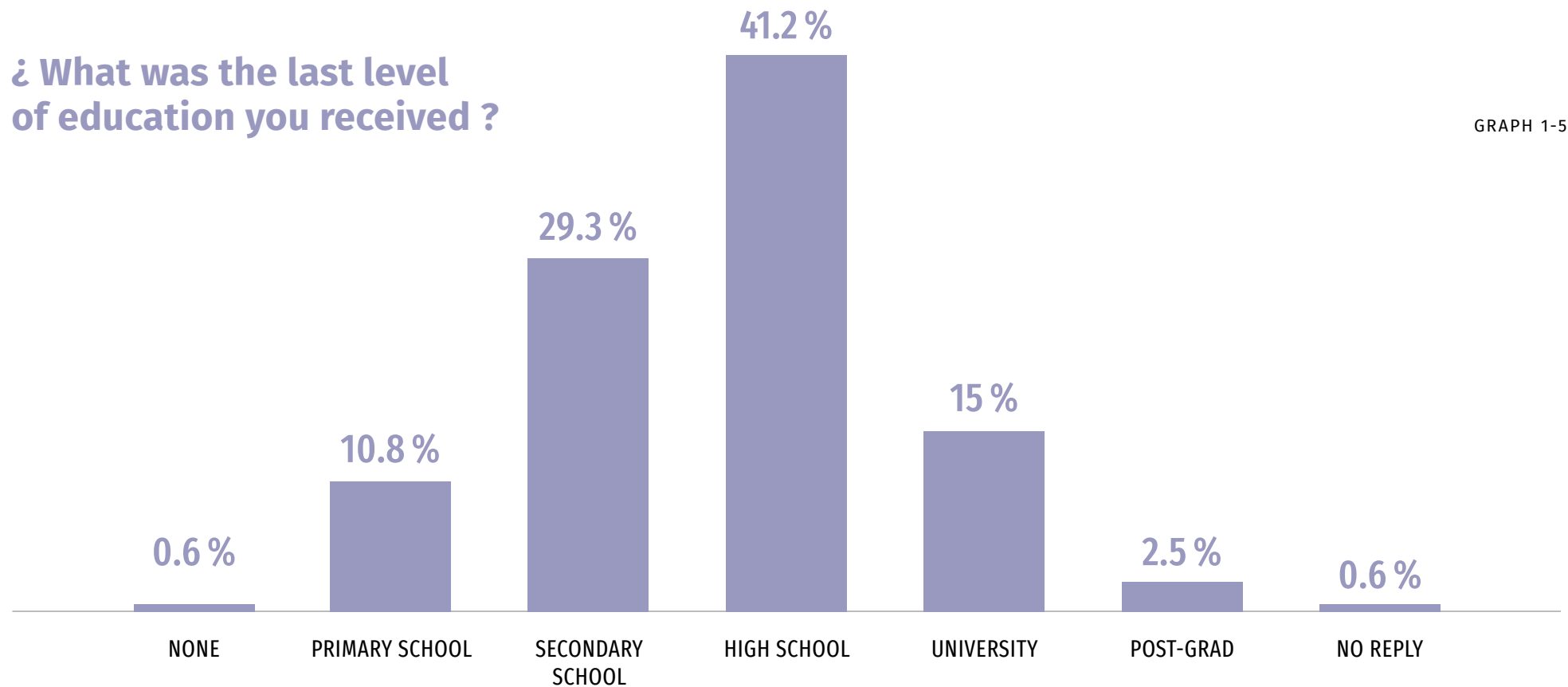


## 1.2 - LEVEL OF STUDIES

Most of the interviewees have high school level studies (41.2%), while about a third (29.3%) completed only secondary education (29.3%) or less (11.4%), including a few cases in which there are people without any level of study. The university population stands at 15% for undergraduate degrees and 2.5% with postgraduate degrees.

¿ What was the last level of education you received ?

GRAPH 1-5



Among the people 30 years or younger, the percentage of pre-university students is significantly higher, rising to 64.7%, something that also occurs in the following age group (31-45 years) although to a lesser extent. In turn, among those over 60 years of age, the proportion of people with primary and secondary education is significantly higher, doubling the results obtained for the whole sample (table 1-2). University studies are more frequent among people 46-60 years old and are significantly less in the older age group, with 9% of those interviewed over 70 years old receiving university education and 17.1% for those 61- 70 years.

TABLE 1-2

LEVEL OF EDUCATION ATTAINED	TOTAL	AGE					RACE					
		BETWEEN 18 AND 30	BETWEEN 31 AND 45	BETWEEN 46 AND 60	BETWEEN 61 AND 70	OLDER THAN 70	WHITE	MULATTO OR MESTIZO	BLACK	ASIAN	INDIGENOUS	OTHER
NONE	0.6	0	0	0	0.8	4.1	0.8	0	1	0	0	0
PRIMARY SCHOOL	10.8	1.0	1.3	7.6	22.5	41.8	10	10.2	12.6	17.4	25	0
SECONDARY SCHOOL	29.3	20.3	29.8	29.9	40.3	30.3	24.3	31	38.8	30.4	25	16.7
HIGH SCHOOL	41.2	64.7	50.4	38.2	18.6	14.8	43.6	40.5	36.9	34.8	50	50
UNIVERSITY	15	13	15.5	19.4	14	7.4	17.4	15	9.7	13	0	33.3
POST-GRAD	2.5	0.5	2.5	3.9	3.1	1.6	3.7	1.8	0.5	4.3	0	0
NO REPLY	0.6	0.5	0.4	1	0.8	0	0.2	1.5	0.5	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>

The survey shows a negative trend regarding university education in the youngest people: there are no pay incentives for university students once they finish their studies. Professionals are held captive in state employment that is very poorly paid, and the state does not allow university graduates to find professions in the private sector, which is much better paid. Jobs that require less professional qualification have salaries much higher than the incomes of qualified professionals in Cuba. This lag has been called an “inverted pyramid” and has been the case in Cuba for the past 30 years.

**The survey shows a negative trend regarding university education in the youngest people: there are no pay incentives for university students once they finish their studies.**

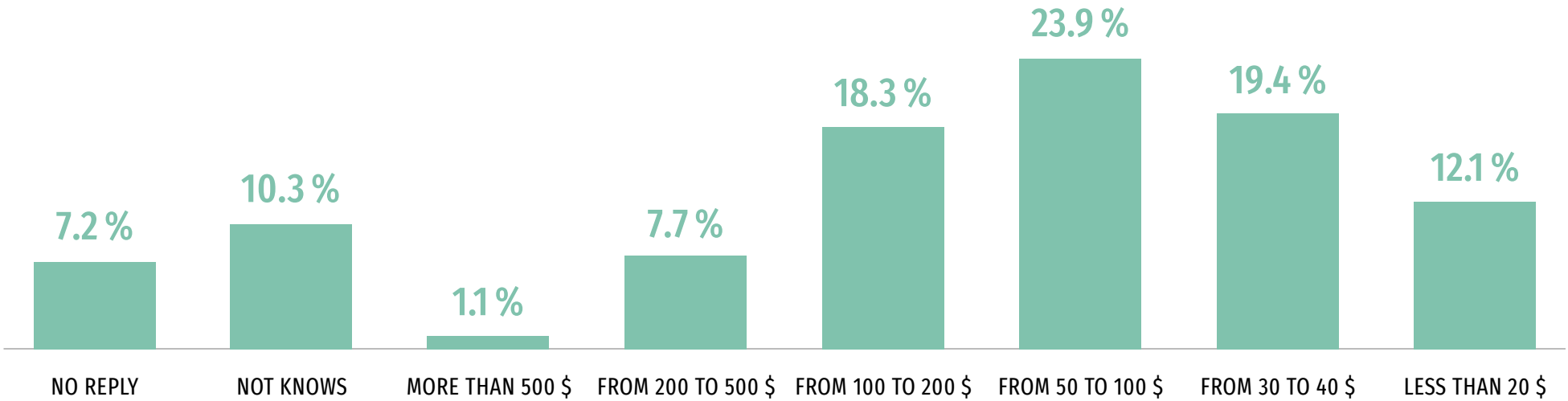


### 1.3 - HOME INCOME LEVELS

With respect to the level of household income (graph 1-6), the rate of non-response to questions rises, since 7.2% prefer not to answer and 10.3% “do not know” what their level of income is. Nearly one third of the population (31.5%) in this study indicates having incomes below \$30.00. The next most common income segment for households would be \$50.00 to \$100.00 (23.9%). Only 8.8% have a higher income level (from \$200.00 to \$500.00).

Select the monthly income that your home receives

GRAPH 1-6



Among the youngest part of the population (18-30 years), the number of households with the lowest income (\$20.00) decreases significantly at 4.8%. This is also true for the two age groups between 31 and 60 years (7.1% for 31-45 and 7.6% for 46-60), while increasing significantly for the elderly; 21.7% of those interviewed between 61-70 years old and 35.2% of those over 70 years of age were placed in this income section. Therefore, although age did not mark many differences in the level of education, it is found that at an older age, there is greater economic instability in terms of household income.

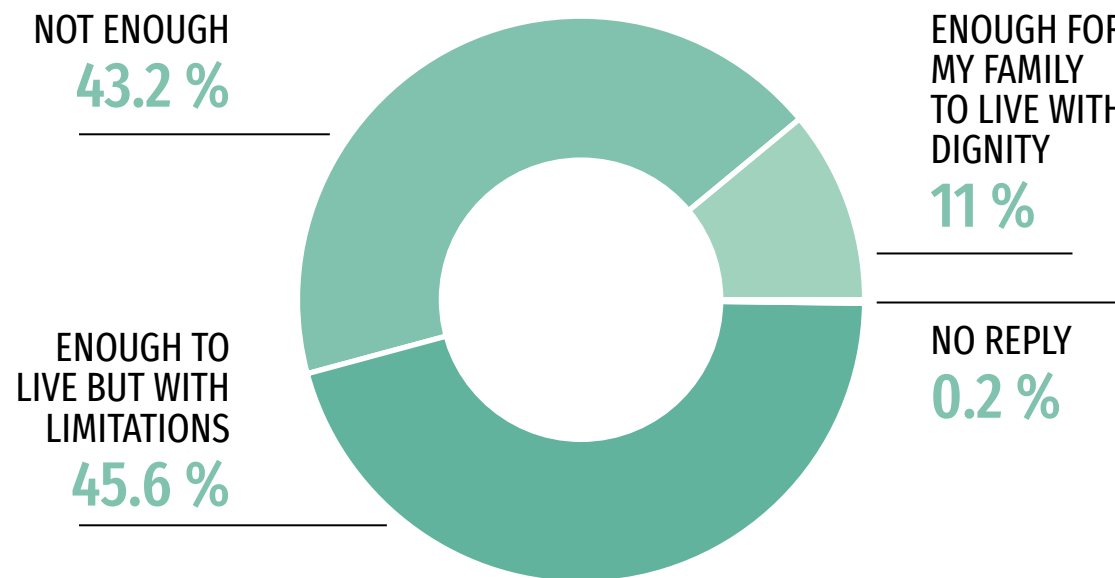
**About 50% of the population would be below the poverty rate based on labor and retirement income.**

The survey points to relevant income problems in the country: according to the official press, cubadebate.cu (June 28, 2019), 36% of the Economically Active Population (EPA) does not work. Seventy percent of those who work are employed in companies and state institutions whose minimum wage, after the salary increases last July, is \$16.00 per month and the average salary is \$42.68 per month. A labor organization specialist estimates that \$85.00 a month is the level of income needed to have a similar standard of living prior to the disappearance of Soviet subsidies (1989). The survey shows that 55.4% of the sample receives less than \$100.00 a month in their homes, which coincides with the estimate of economists on the poverty rate in Cuba. About 50% of the population would be below the poverty rate based on labor and retirement income. The Cuban state does not publish the poverty rate in the country.

On the other hand, retirees are among the social sectors most affected by low income. The minimum retirement is, after its increase in November 2018, \$ 9.68 per month (242 Cuban pesos), which increases the poverty rate in Cuba according to the parameters of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Eighty-eight-point eight percent of Cubans consider that the income they receive in their home is insufficient or enough to live with limitations. Only 11% of the interviewees consider that household income is “enough for their family to live with dignity”.

### You consider that the incomes your home currently receives are...



GRAPH 1-7

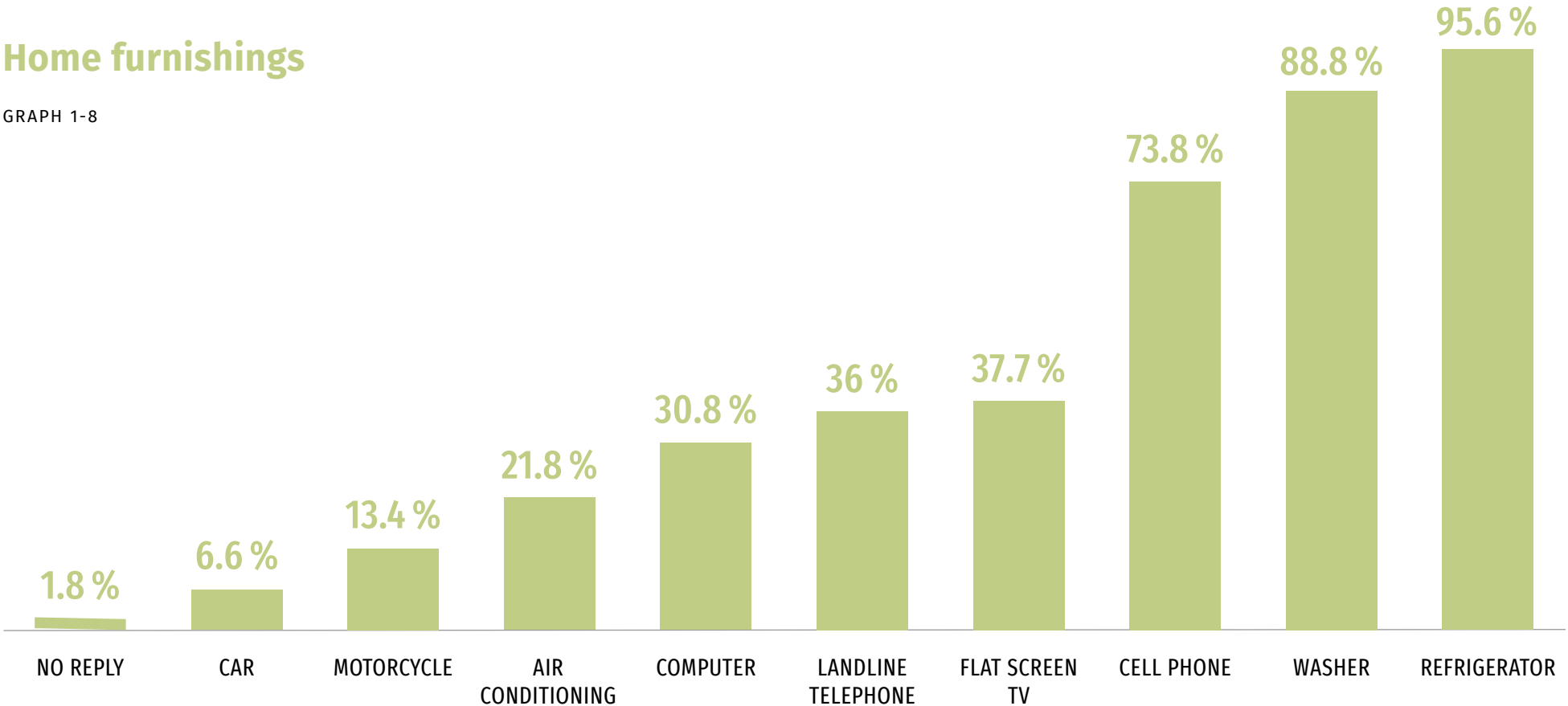


### 1.4 - HOME FURNISHINGS

Among the items proposed in the question, there are only three that are present in most households; refrigerators (95.6%), washers (88.8%) and cell phones (73.8%). Among the remaining options there are three others that are in about a third of the homes which are: flat-screen televisions (37.7%), landline telephones (36%) and computers (30.8%). On the other hand, air conditioning is only found in one of every five homes (21.8%), while vehicles are only found in just over one in ten homes (13.4% in the case of motorcycles, and 6.6% when it comes to a car).

### Home furnishings

GRAPH 1-8



The survey shows the low acquisition of household appliances due to the low purchasing power. As for the possession of cars and motorcycles, according to the results, it is practically a luxury that only 20% of the surveyed population can access. Exorbitant prices and low incomes prevent access to private means of transport while public transport is very scarce. With air conditioning equipment, a necessity on the island because of its high temperatures throughout the year, something similar happens: the price-income ratio prevents access. The survey shows that, when facing precarious conditions, people favor having a refrigerator to take care of scarce food given a climate with very high temperatures throughout the year.

**Access to internet is one of the lowest in the Western Hemisphere. Despite the access to cell phones, mobile data packages are too expensive for the population's income. The cheapest of these packages costs the equivalent of half of the state's minimum wage.**



## 2 - WORK AND SOCIAL SECURITY

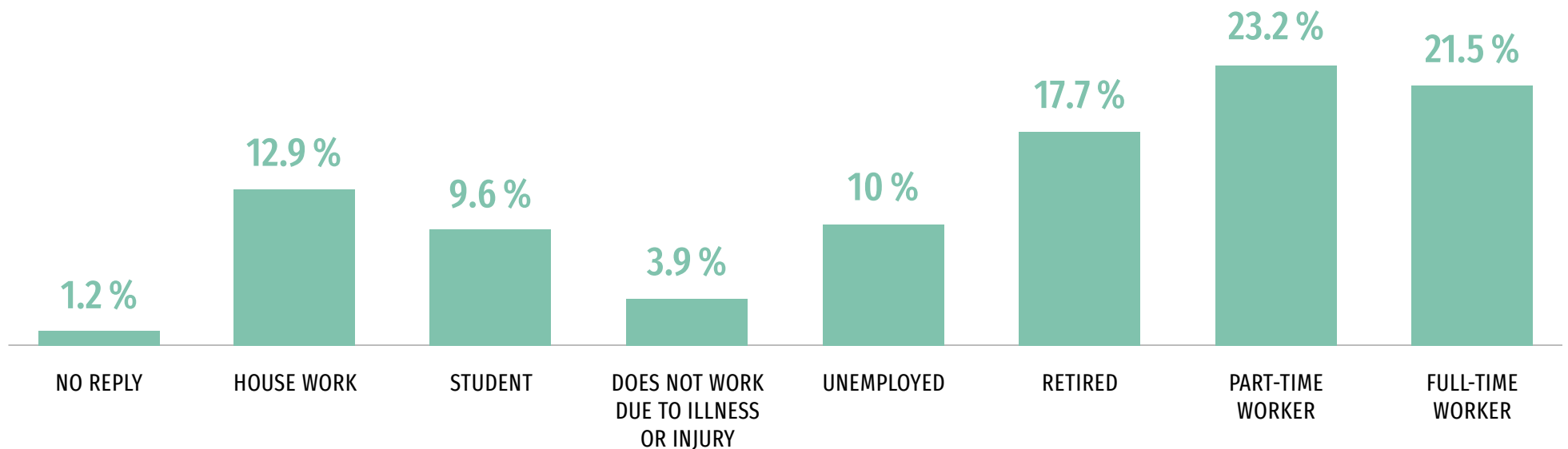




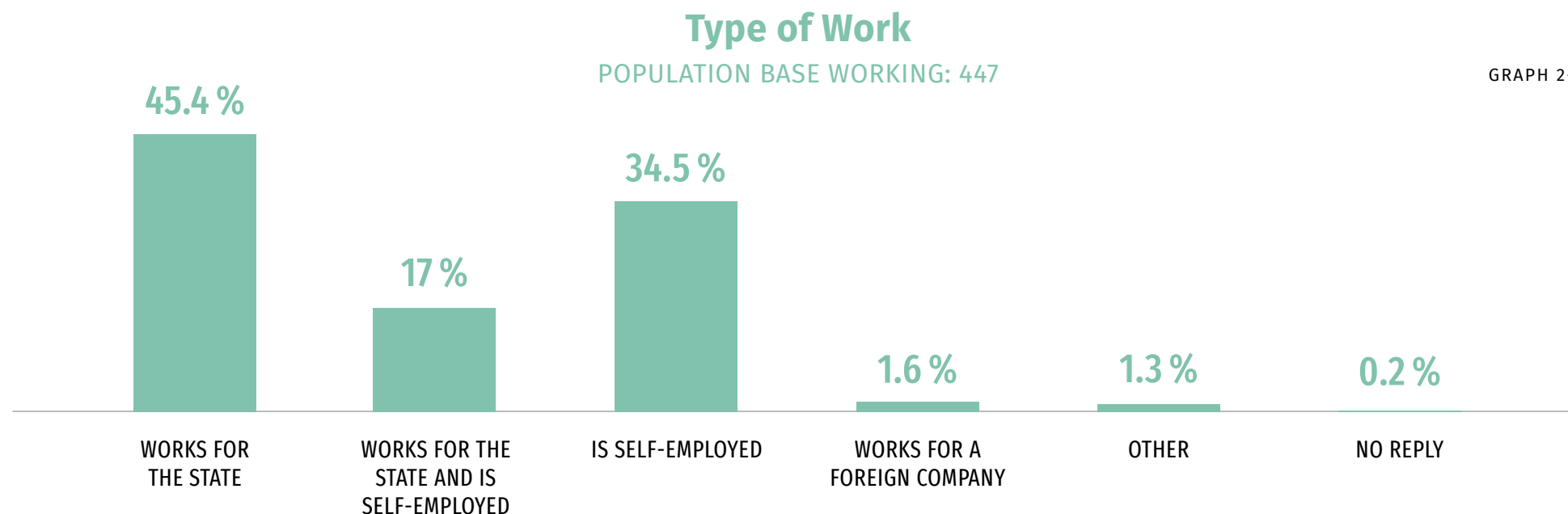
Regarding the employment situation at the time of the survey, 44.7% of the interviewees were working. The survey highlighted the high proportion of part-time workers, since they exceed the number of full-time workers (23.2% and 21.5% respectively). The percentage of unemployed people is 10% and the people unable to work - either temporarily or definitively - is 3.9%. Approximately one in ten of the respondents were students, while 12.9% were in charge of housework (graph 2-1) and 17.7% were retired.

## Current Labor Situation

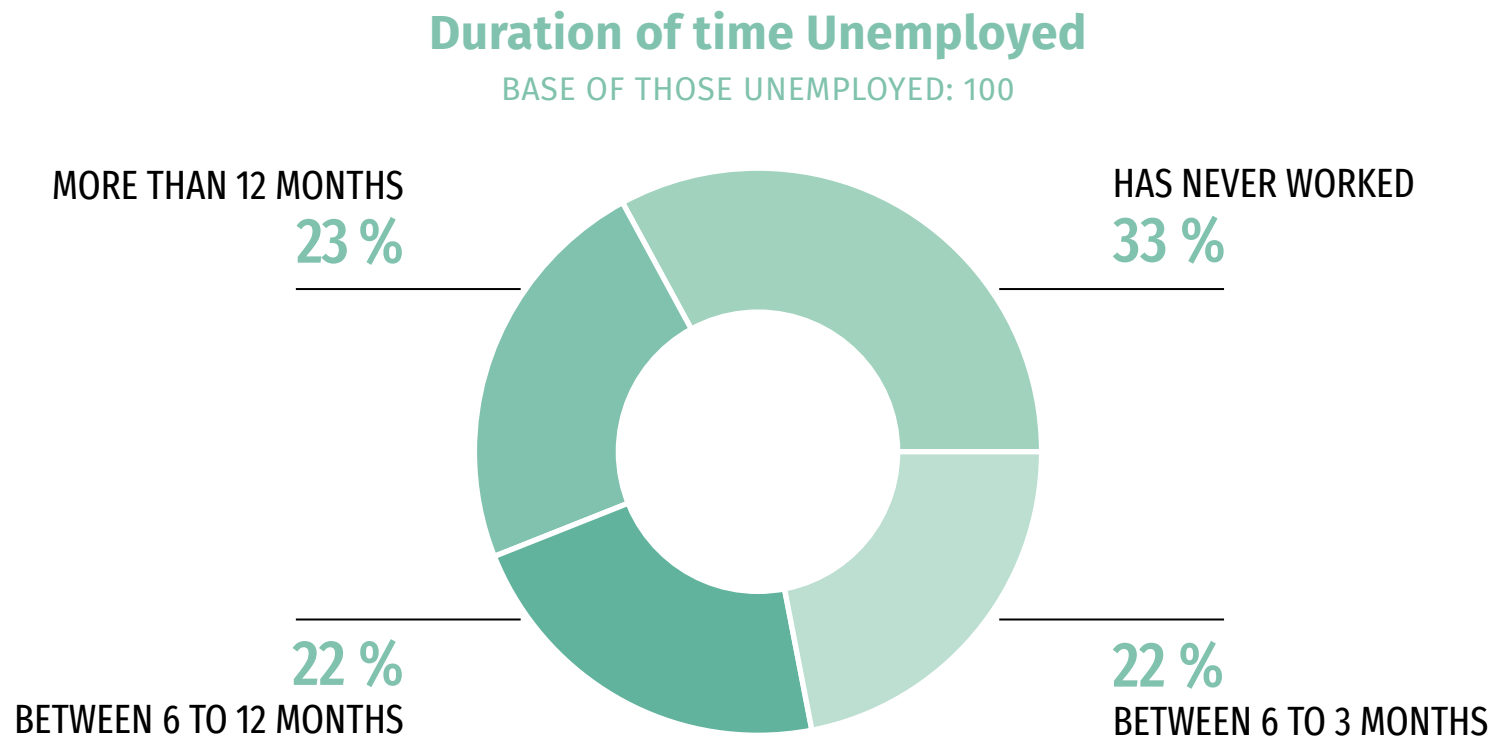
GRAPH 2-1



Among the people who are working, the most frequent type of work is that performed for the state (45.4%). If you add those who in addition to working for the state are also self-employed (17%), 62.4% of the population would be represented without significant differences being observed by gender, age groups or race, and hardly any by province. In the province of Matanzas, the proportion of people who work only for the state (65.2%) is significantly higher and that of those who are self-employed (13%), which represents more than a third of the people interviewed in the sample (34.5%). On the other hand, in the province of Camagüey the percentage of those who work for foreign companies is higher, 5.7%, compared to the scarce 1.6% in the population as a whole. The uniformity observed in this field is probably very representative of the situation of the country, with the economic structure of the labor market determining the labor options of the population regardless of other personal and social conditions that they may have.



For their part, those who are unemployed (10% of the population surveyed) were asked three specific questions: how long they have not worked, if they have received any support from the state, and if they found that support helpful. The data indicates that one third of the unemployed have never worked, while the rest are evenly distributed between the shortest (3 to 6 months) unemployment time, the intermediate (6 to 12) unemployment time and the longest duration, considered as more than 12 months.



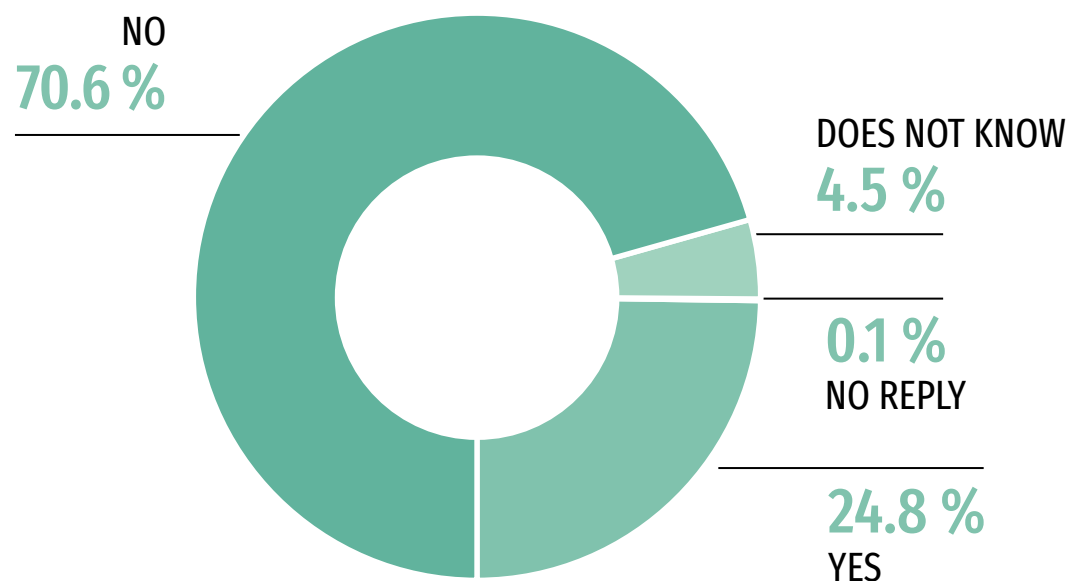
GRAPH 2-3

The survey shows the consequences of the problems that the labor market has in Cuba, which are cited below. A high percentage of the Economically Active Population does not work (36%). A high concentration of state employees, about 62% of the population, have very low wages in relation to prices. There is an emerging private sector with many restrictions to function, especially in hiring employees (given state control and rising taxes). State jobs that keep many excess staff have very low wages. It should also be mentioned that professionals are prohibited from working independently.

## 2.1 - MEMBERSHIP IN UNIONS OR WORKERS ASSOCIATIONS

Nearly a quarter of those interviewed (24.8%) belong to a union or association aimed at protecting the rights of the worker, 70.6% do not and 4.6% do not know or did not answer. The proportion of people belonging to a union or association increases significantly between the age group 46-60 years (rising to 36.5%) and decreases markedly among those over 70 years (7.4%).

### Membership in unions or workers associations

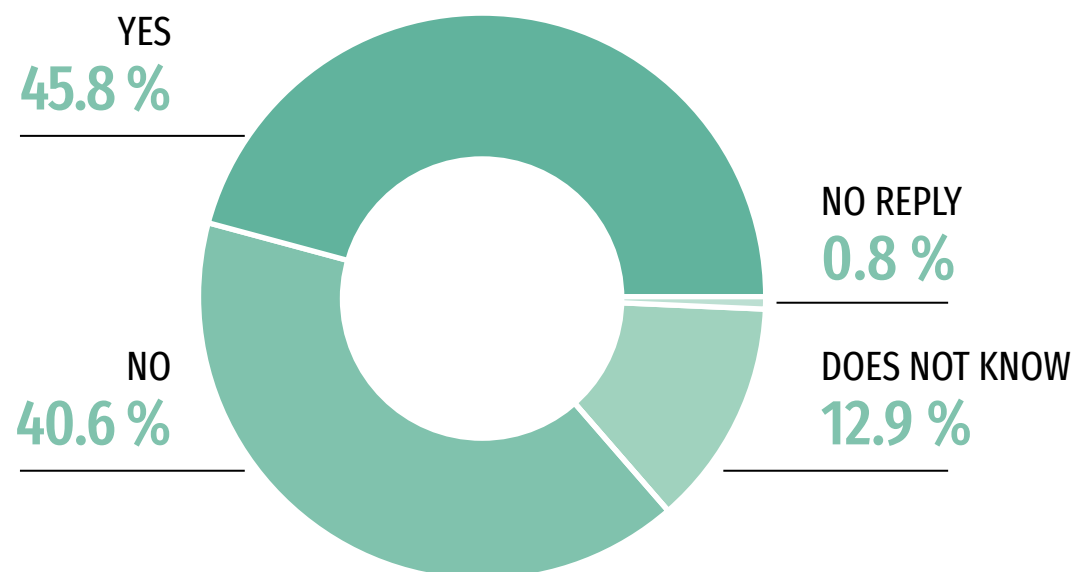


GRAPH 2-4



**Fifty-three percent of the population does not feel represented or does not know if the union they belong to defends their rights as a worker.**

**Do you think said union or workers association defends your rights as a worker ?**



GRAPH 2-5

It is necessary to point out that in Cuba there is only one national workers union, the Center for Cuban Workers (CTC), represented in the State Council which is the highest government body. It is mandatory for all workers to belong to this union even if it does not appear in the labor code. Trade unionists and independent journalists, considered illegal in Cuba, have reported dismissals from their jobs for workers who do not want to integrate to the official union or want to create an independent union.

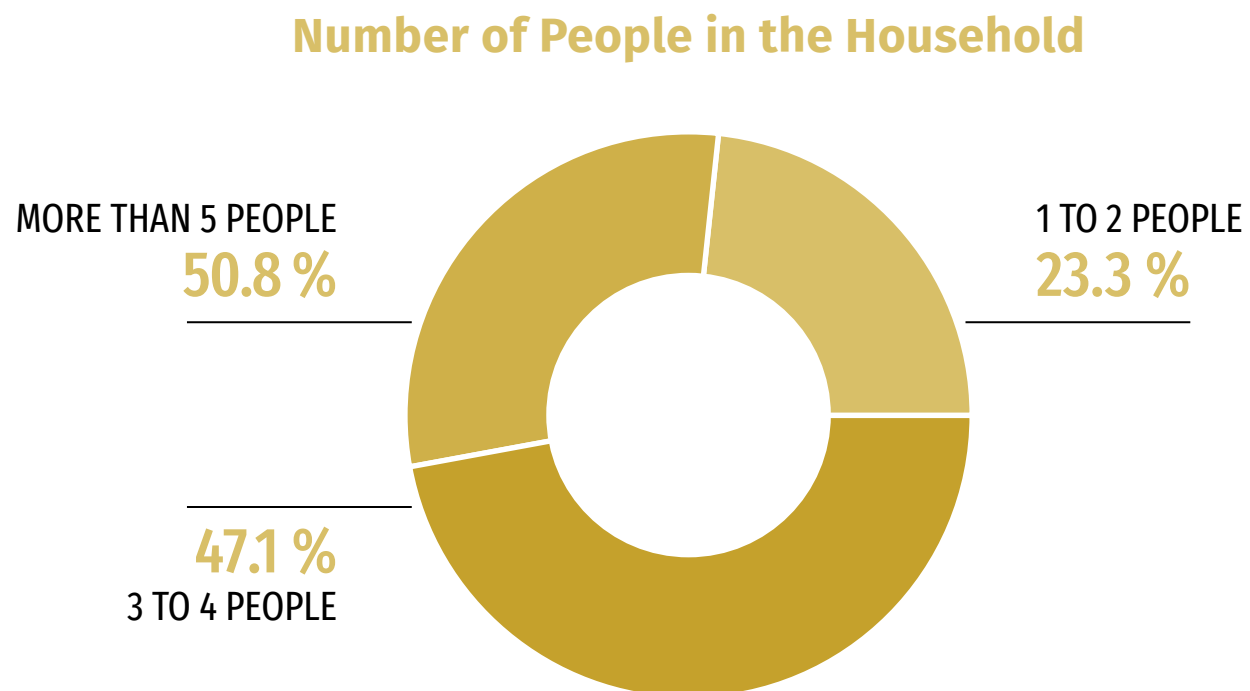


### 3 - HOUSING



This chapter analyzes the data referring to the number of people that make up the home, the amount of space in a home, and the conditions that the household has in terms of maintenance, ownership, and water and electricity supplies.

### 3.1 - NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT COMPRISE THE HOUSEHOLD



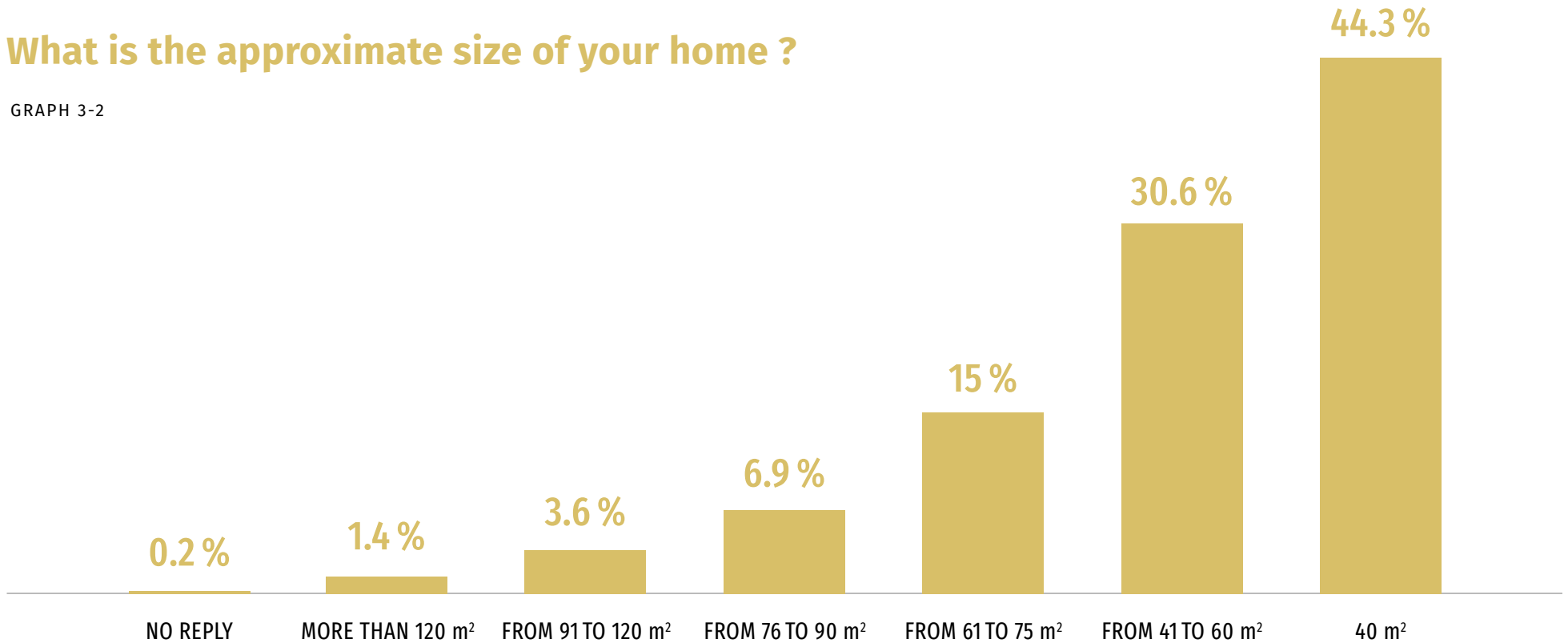
GRAPH 3-1

### 3.2 - HOUSING SPACE AND MAINTENANCE CONDITIONS

Almost half of the population estimates that the approximate size of their home is 40 square meters or less (44.3%), with 30% of people placing their home between 40 and 60 square meters. Twenty-one-point nine percent of the population says their homes are between 60-90 square meters and only 5% of the population stated that their homes are above 90 meters in size.

#### What is the approximate size of your home ?

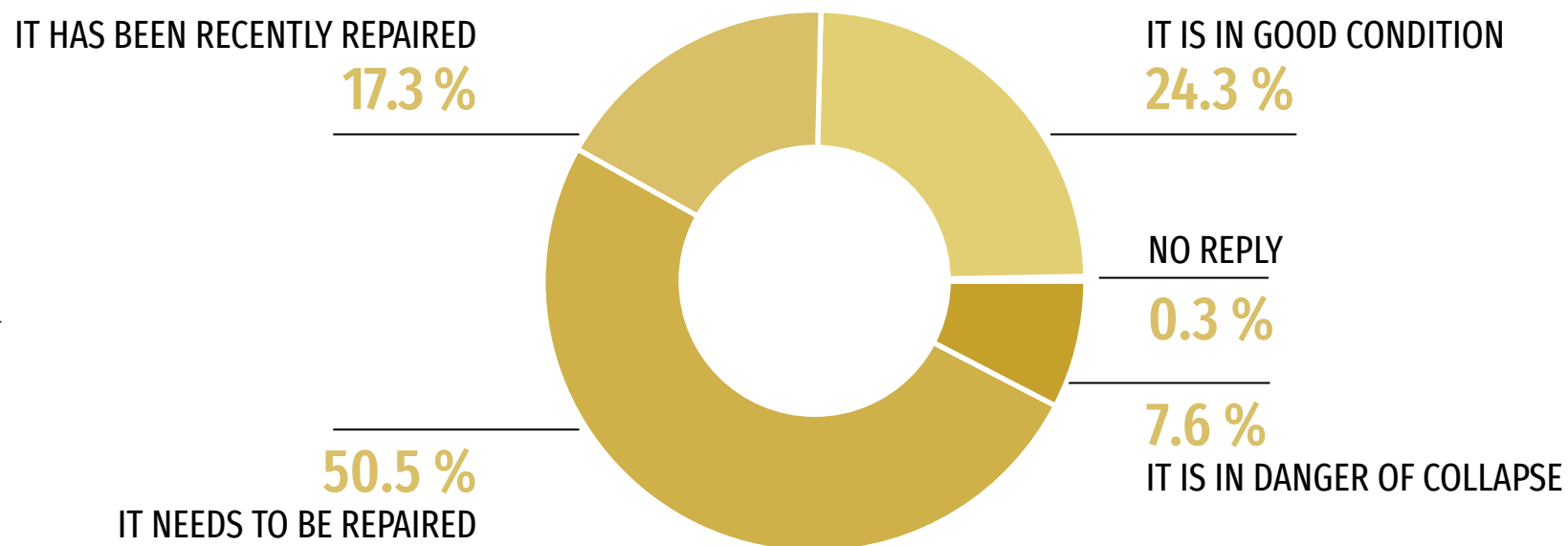
GRAPH 3-2



Regarding housing conditions: more than half of the population considers that their home needs to be repaired (50.5%) or is in danger of collapse (7.6% or about 1 million families), while only one in four remains in good condition (24.3%).

**Around 1 million families consider that their home is in danger of collapse.**

### What is the Situation with regards to the Conditions of your Home ?



GRAPH 3-4



The state places responsibility for the production of construction materials and the construction of homes on state-owned companies and entities (which do not have resources to meet the demand), and on the personal management of each family. Consequently, almost 60% of the sample responds that their home is in danger of collapse or needs repair.

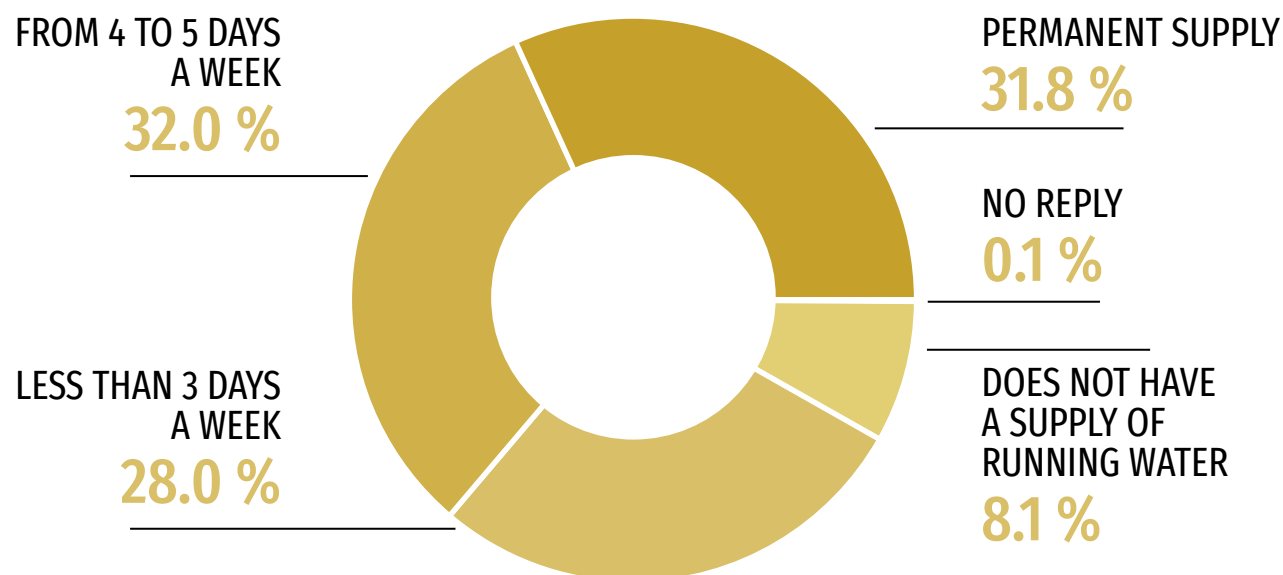
**For the most common home size (40 meters squared), in more than 65% of the cases there are three, four, five or more people living in the home. This demonstrates the overcrowding that most Cubans live in.**

METERS SQUARED	1 TO 2 PEOPLE	3 TO 5 PEOPLE	5 OR MORE PEOPLE
UP TO 40 METERS SQUARED	34.8%	45.4%	19.9%
FROM 41 TO 60 METERS SQUARED	17.6%	49.0%	33.3%
FROM 61 TO 75 METERS SQUARED	12.0%	49.3%	38.7%
FROM 76 TO 90 METERS SQUARED	18.8%	46.4%	34.8%
FROM 91 TO 120 METERS SQUARED	2.8%	50.0%	47.2%
MORE THAN 120 METERS SQUARED	0.0%	28.6%	71.4%
NO REPLY	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23.3%</b>	<b>47.1%</b>	<b>29.6%</b>

### 3.3 - CURRENT WATER SUPPLY

Most of the population does not have a permanent supply of running water, since 32% state they have a supply between 4 and 5 days per week and 28% less than three days a week. Among the remaining population, the percentage of homes without running water supply (8.1%) is lower than that of those homes that have permanent coverage (31.8%).

#### How much Water supply do you have at Home ?

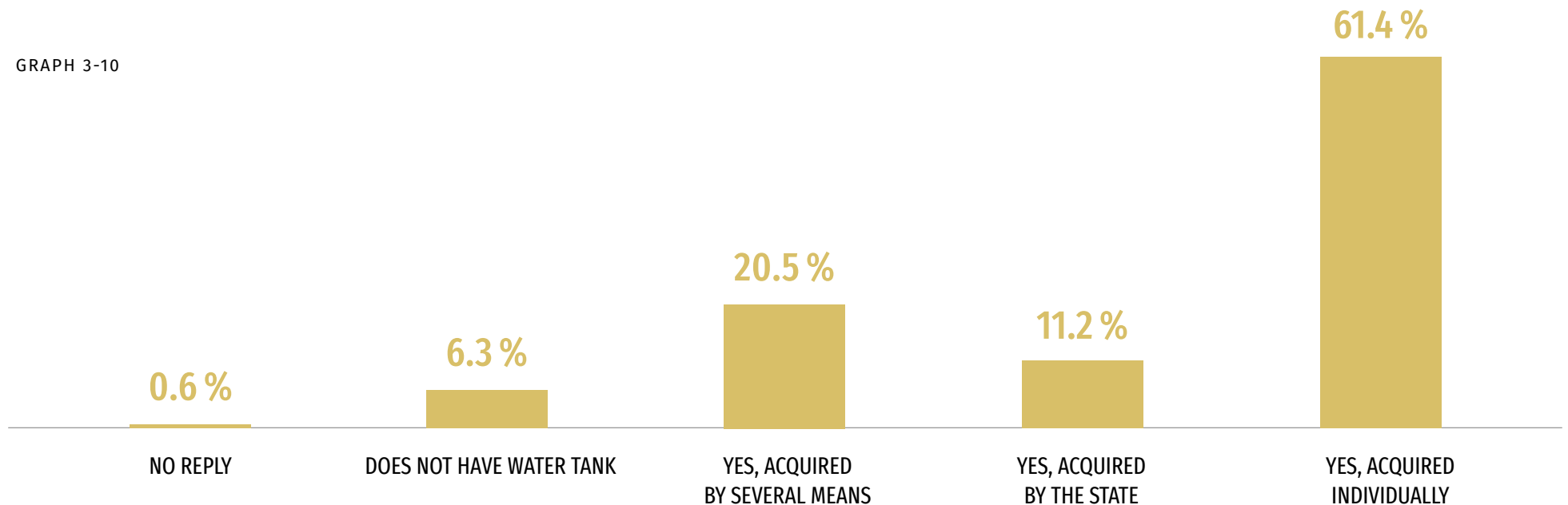


GRAPH 3-7

A large majority of households have an individual means of storing water (61.4%) and only 11.2% have storage methods provided by the state. The percentage of homes without water storage is comparatively small (6.3%), while the responses that indicate that they have tanks “acquired by several means” is high; practically one in five households (20.5%).

### Do you have a means to store Water at you Home ?

GRAPH 3-10

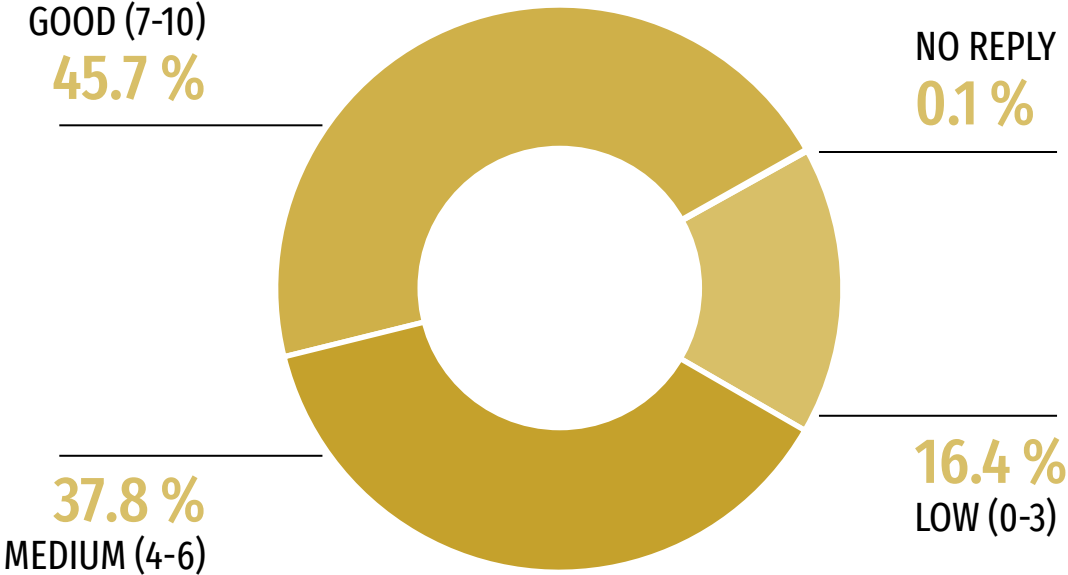


In households where people over 70 were interviewed, there were more cases of a lack of storage facilities with 14.8% responding that they do not have water tanks. This is similar to what is observed by racial groups for blacks (10.7% have no tanks).

A water quality assessment from 0 to 10 was requested. The average of this assessment barely exceeds a ranking of 6. In fact, water quality is medium or low for 54.2% of respondents.

Water is not potable in Cuba, it needs purification by cooking or chlorination, and those who receive running water permanently are a small percentage of the population.

### Water Conditions in the Household

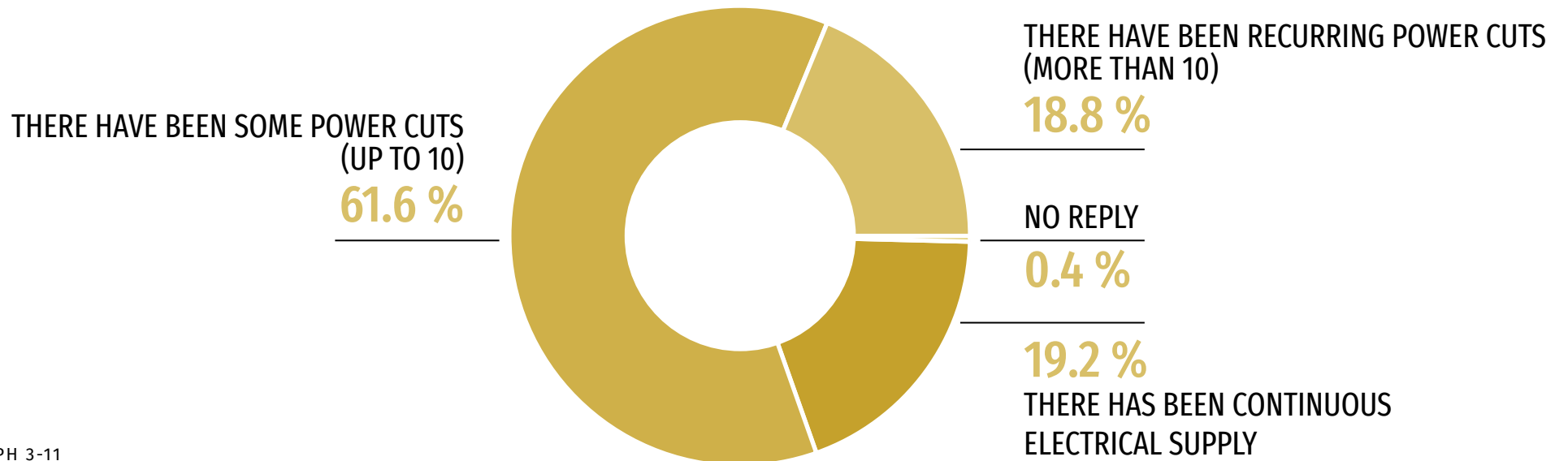


The sample reveals that more than 80% of those interviewed have water delivered to them in a particular way. A notable percentage of the people surveyed report not having water every day of the week, even with water being deposited to them. Tanker truck dispatch cycles to fill the water tanks range from three to five days, although longer periods and several-day supply crises are frequent, as was shown with the popular discontent in Havana this year.

### 3.4 - ELECTRICAL SUPPLY

Only 19.2% of the population has a continuous power supply, without interruptions and power cuts, while more than 50% of the population have had occasional cuts - up to 10 cuts in the last 6 months. Almost the same amount of the population has recurring power cuts (18.8%) as that which is well supplied (19.2%).

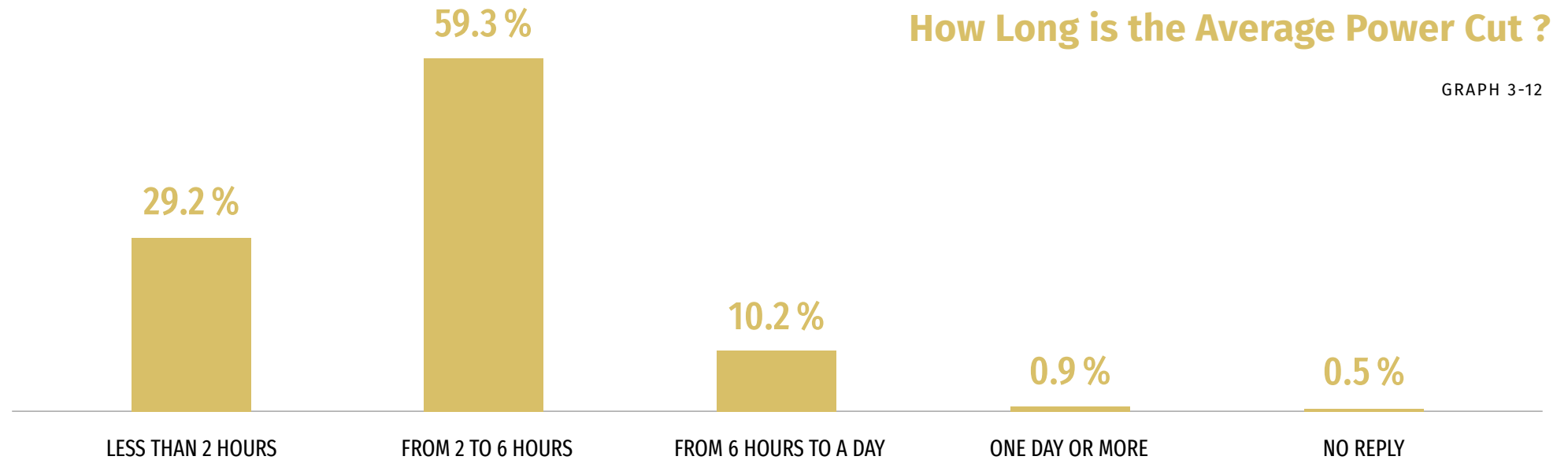
#### In the past 6 months, what is the Condition of Electrical Supply in your Home:



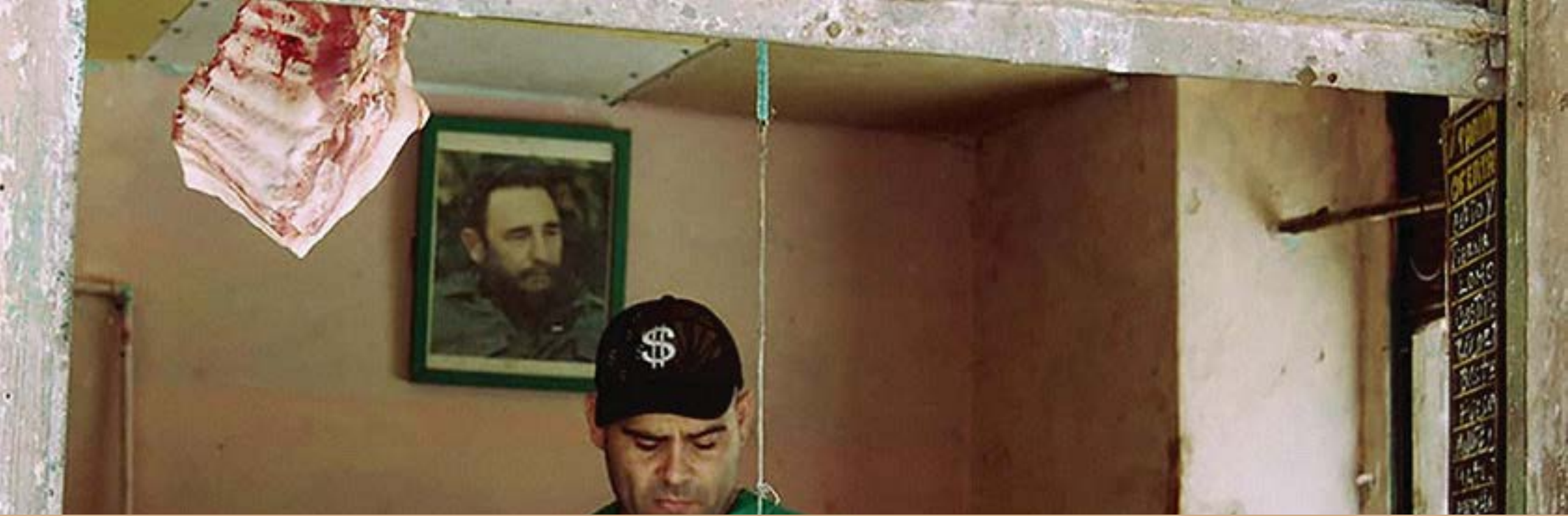
GRAPH 3-11



The duration of power outages on average (graph 3-12) is mostly between 2-6 hours (59.3% of cases), with fewer cases above that duration (10.2%) than below. For almost a third of the cases in which there were power outages the duration did not exceed 2 hours (29.2%).



Energy insecurity has been an endemic and recurring problem due to the lack of maintenance and investment in electricity generation. The government depended on the subsidies of the Soviet Union for 30 years and from Venezuela since 2000 and has not guaranteed the independence and energy autonomy of the country. Between 2013 and 2018, the exchange with Venezuela decreased by 71% due to the Venezuelan crisis which has caused a permanent energy vulnerability. Today the government states that a “normal” fuel consumption is like that of the 90s, which was a period of famine and power cuts of up to 12 hours a day. Faced with the crisis since 2015 with the reduction of oil shipments from Venezuela, there has been no efforts to achieve energy security in the country. The survey shows the problem is residential magnitude as 80% of the respondents report having had frequent power outages in the last six months.



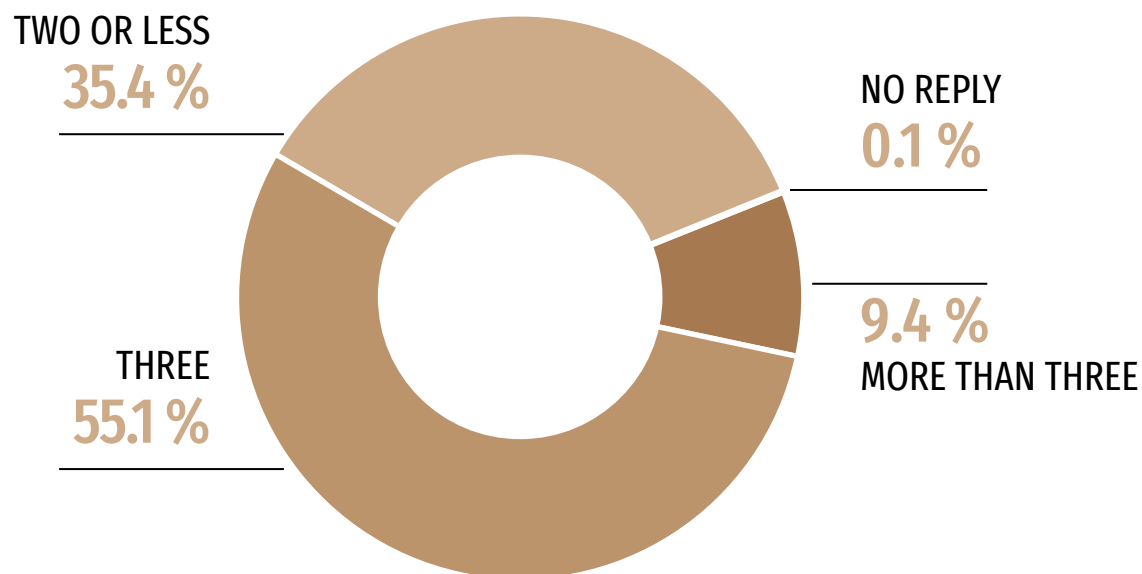
## 4 - FOOD AND NUTRITION



This section on nutrition has initially proven that the number of daily food intake is, for most of the population, three meals a day (graph 4-1); however, one in three citizens is in the lower threshold of two or less meals per day.

**One in three citizens is in the lower threshold of two or less meals per day.**

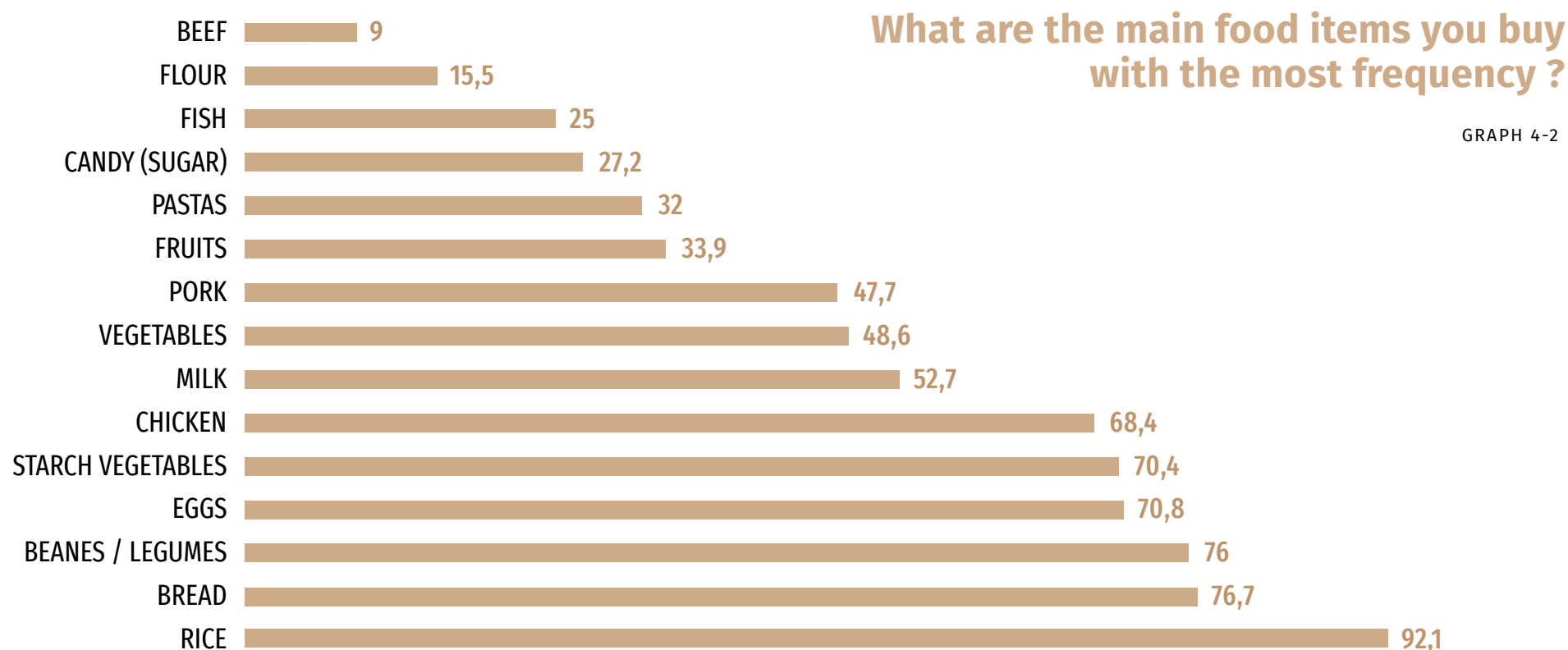
### How many Meals do you Eat per Day ?



GRAPH 4-1

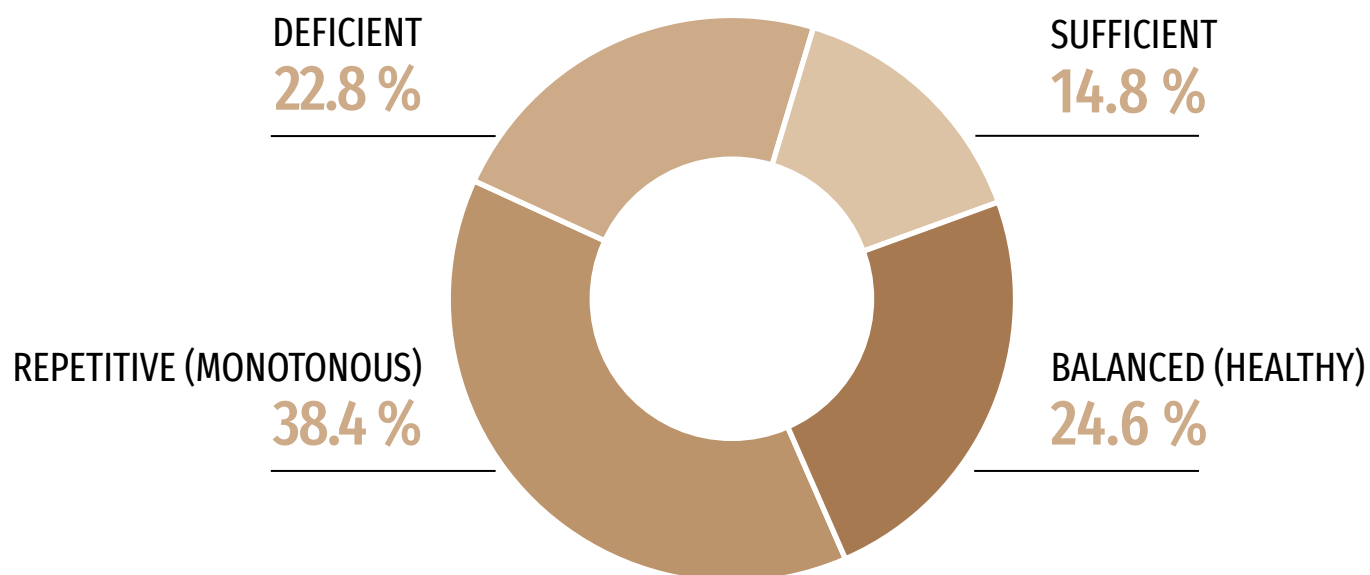
The food most consumed by the population (graph 4-2) are carbohydrates, with rice (92.1%) and bread (76.7%), followed by legumes (76%), egg and starch vegetables. For animal proteins, chicken is the main source of food (68.4%), followed by milk (52.7%). Vegetables, pork, and fish are eaten by less than 50% of the population.

The consumption of fruits and pastries is relatively low, since only a third of the population acquires them frequently. This is also the case with sweets and fish, mentioned only by a quarter of those reviewed. Two other products are mentioned less often though they are consumed more in other countries, while beef is mentioned by only 9% of respondents.



More than half of the population considers that their diet and that of their family is deficient (22.8%) or repetitive and monotonous (38.4%). The specific data on the most consumed foods described above is especially relevant in view of these statements (graph 4-3).

### How would you rate the Quality of the your Food Consumption and that of your Family's ?

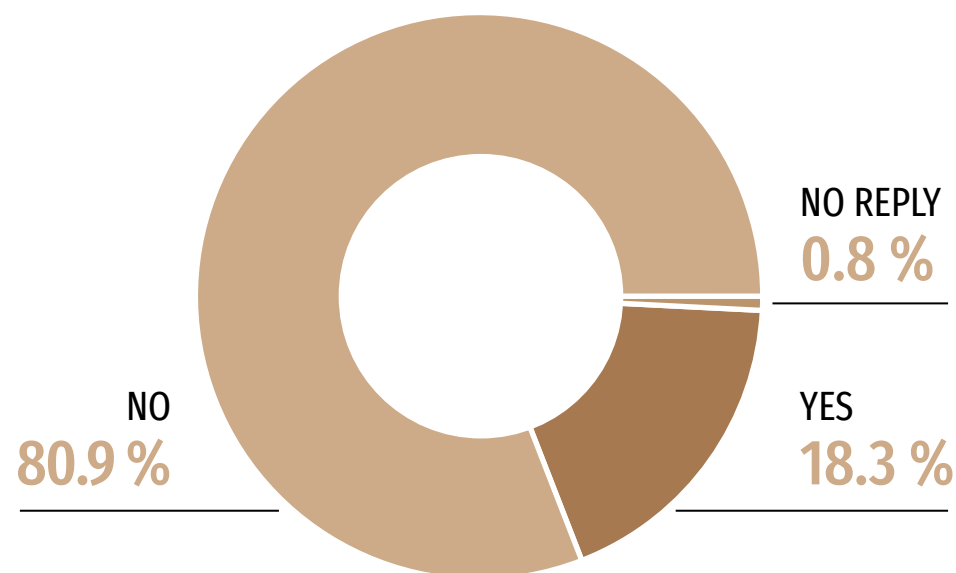


GRAPH 4-3



It is possible to describe in greater depth the food precariousness that a part of the population suffers based the question that distinguishes the group of people who have had to stop making any of the daily meals due to lack of money or resources in the last six months (graph 4-4). Consistent with the answers to the question discussed above, about 20% of the population interviewed said that they themselves, or someone in their family, have stopped eating breakfast, lunch or dinner sometime in the last 6 months.

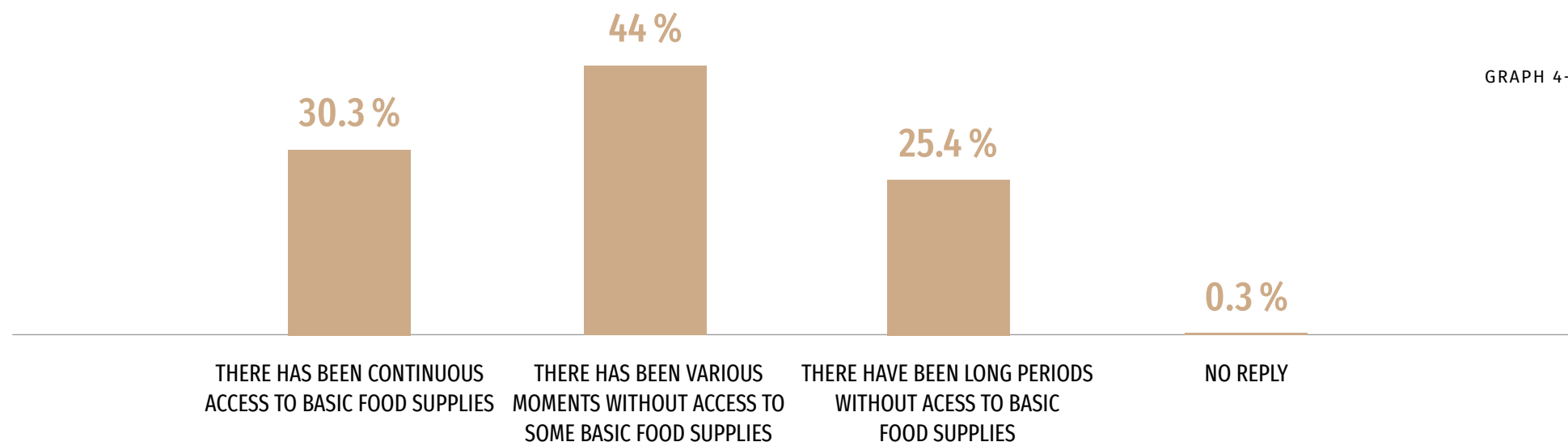
**In the last 6 months, due to lack of Money or Resources,  
have you or a member of your Family not eaten Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner ?**



GRAPH 4-4

The data indicates that for almost 70% of the population there have been times without access to some basic foods provided by the state. For 44% of those interviewed this lack of access has been somewhat timely, while for 25.4% there were “long periods without access.” Food insecurity (the rations book is only enough for a consumption of ten days a month) has been a national problem since the beginning of the 1990s. The two main causes have been external dependence on access to imported food and the absence of an agricultural policy that encourages national production.

### In the last 6 months, with relation to Food provided by the State:



GRAPH 4-6

The survey shows a permanent shortage for 69% of the population due to the absence of essential foods for short or long periods of time. ONEI, the Cuban national statistics and information office, has never published a basic basket of food and cleaning products nor the national cost of that basic basket. This limits the effects of what the ration books offer.

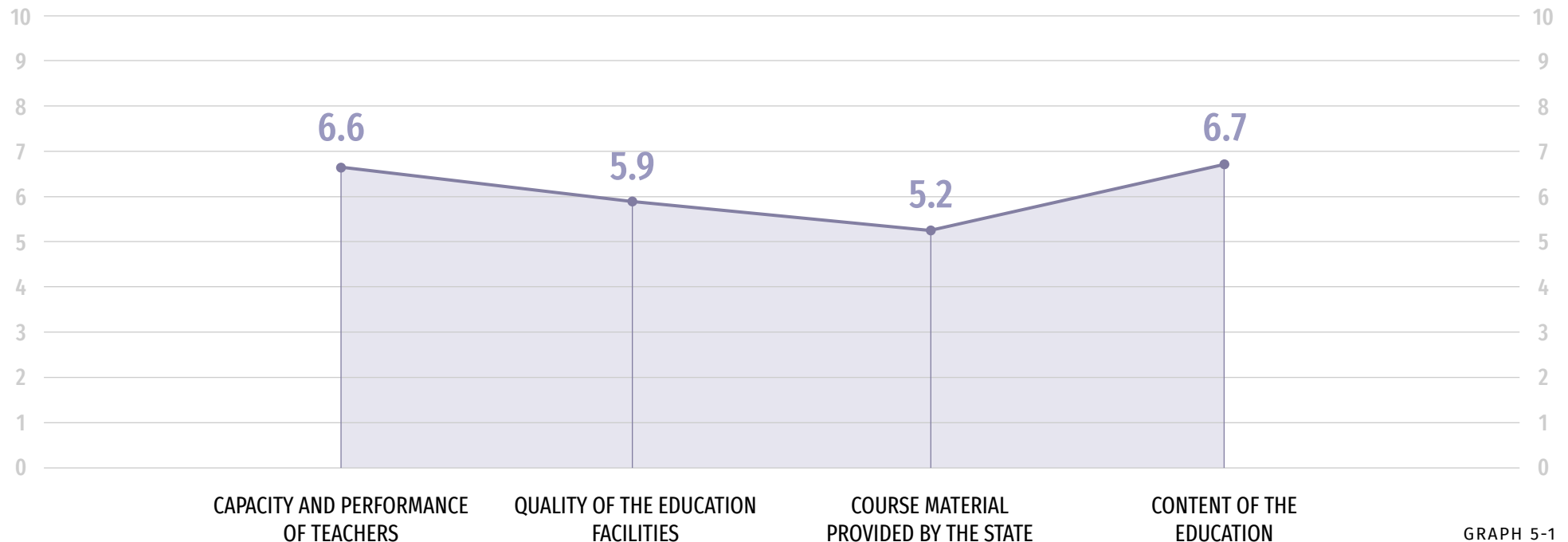
## 5 - EDUCATION



To evaluate the degree of satisfaction with public education, four items were scored on a scale of 0-10 (graph 5-1). The best rated aspects of public education were two: the "capacity and performance of teachers" and the "content of the education", while the "course material provided by the state" is the worst valued and the "quality of the educational facilities" also has a low value, although it scored close to six points out of ten. As seen, none of the low scores are lower than five out of ten, nor do the high scores approach values of excellence (8 onwards). It can be interpreted that the results indicate a relatively negative general assessment, in which some nuances need to be observed.

## Numerically rate your level of Satisfaction with the Public Education you received

0-10 SCALE: MEDIUM SCORE

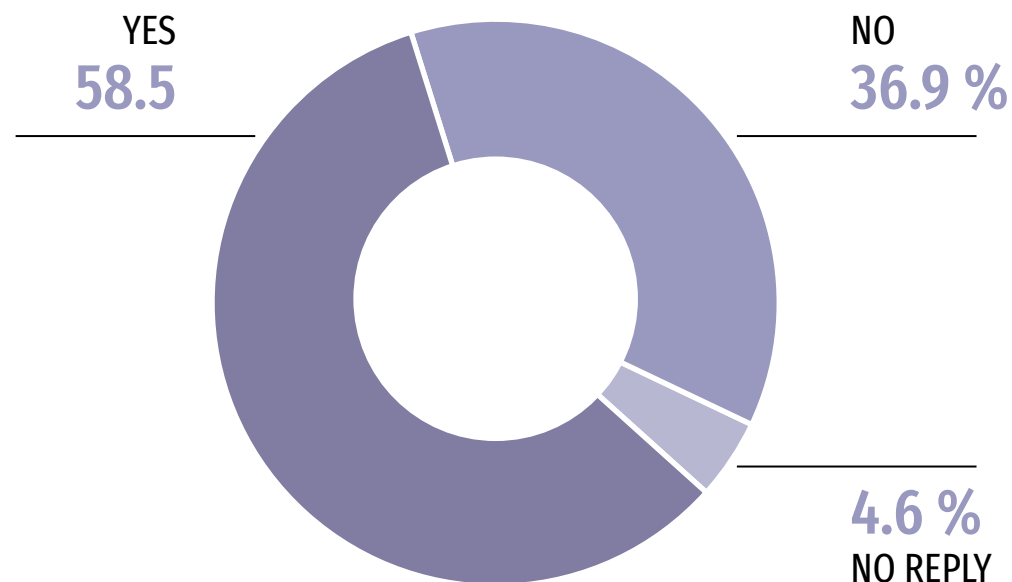


GRAPH 5-1



All respondents have also been asked if they believe that the educational system is ideologically and politically indoctrinated. This is a controversial question, so it is no surprise that there was an increase in the percentage of no replies (4.6%); however, the majority of the responses were “yes” (58.5%).

### Do you think the education system is influenced by any political ideology ?



GRAPH 5-2

The survey reveals serious problems in education: the precarious conditions of school facilities, the lack of school materials, and ideological indoctrination.

It is necessary to point out that the Cuban government does not accept international standard evaluations of its educational system, so the assessment of the quality of education in Cuba is based on the official government discourse, without real and verifiable foundations. Universal education coverage does not guarantee its quality. On the other hand, the latest resolutions on postgraduate studies and the statements made by the Minister of Higher Education confirm political discrimination in Cuban universities.



## 6 - HEALTH, SOCIAL WELFARE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

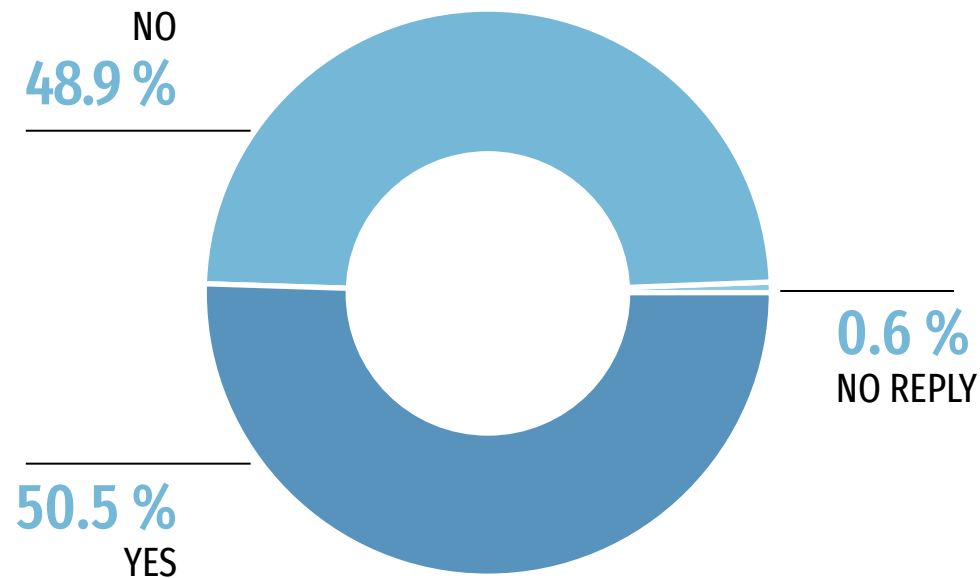




## 6.1 - HEALTH

To assess certain aspects of health care, it was initially necessary to distinguish the sectors of the population that received health care from those that had not. In the whole of the population interviewed, 50.5% of those surveyed stated that they have received health care in the last six months. This proportion does not vary greatly by gender or racial groups, but by age groups.

### Have you received medical attention in the past six months ?



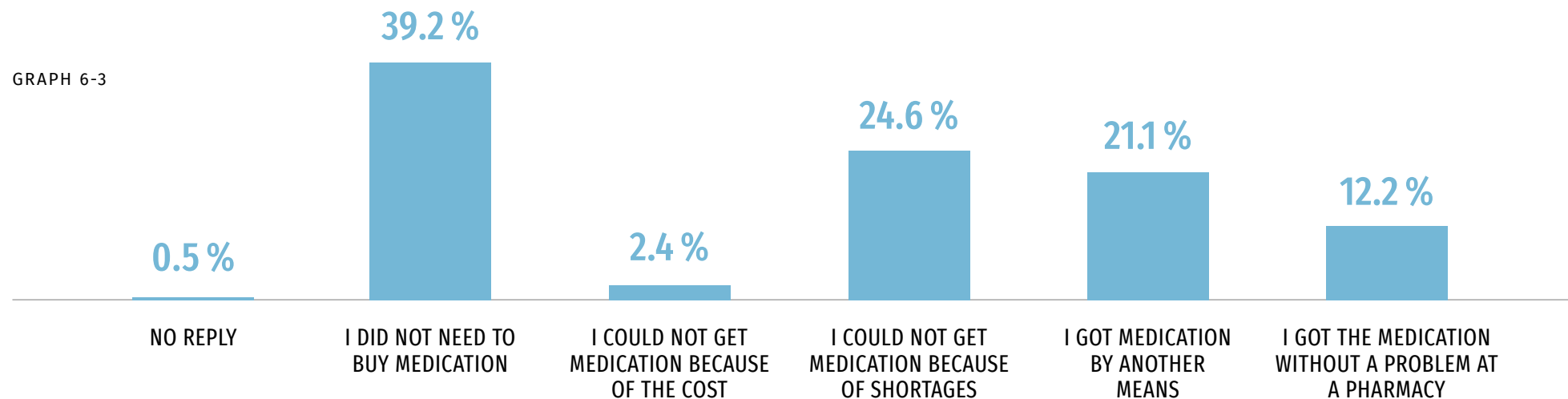
GRAPH 6-1

Of those between 61 and 70 years old and for those over 70 years old, health care use increases dramatically. Sixty per cent of those between 61 and 70 years old received health care and 75% of those over 70 years old used health care.

Thirty-nine-point two percent of the respondents did not need any medication in the last 6 months. Only slightly more than one in ten respondents stated, "I got medication without problems at the pharmacy (12.2%)." Furthermore, there is a quarter of the population (24.6%) that were not able to acquire medications when needed because of shortages. Other respondents got medication by another means (21.1%).

The survey reveals a central problem of the Cuban health system and the intermittent access to medications. Forty-five-point seven percent of the interviewees did not get medication from the pharmacies.

### In the last six months what has your Experience been acquiring Medication ?

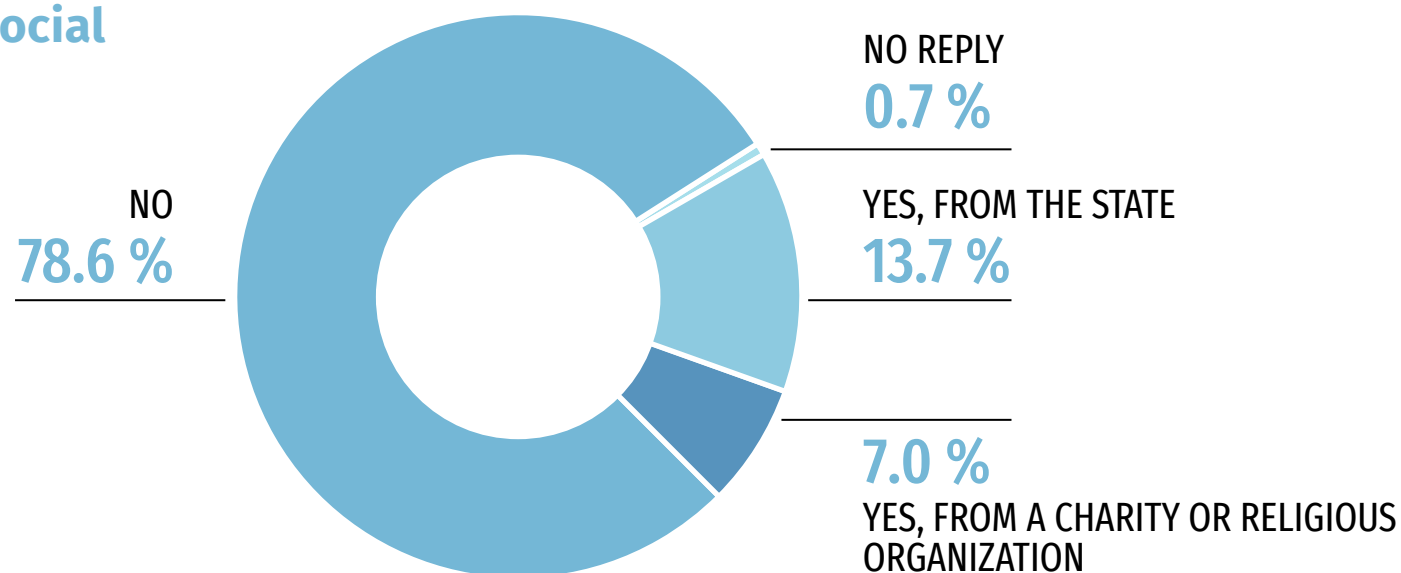


**Forty-five-point seven percent of the Interviewees did not get Medication from the Pharmacies.**

## 6.2 - SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Like what was previously stated for health care, respondents were asked if they themselves or someone in their family received any social assistance. In this case, the results indicate that most of the population does not receive this type of assistance (78.6%), while 13.7% receives it from the state and 7% from charitable or religious organizations.

### Do you receive any social or assistance ?



GRAPH 6-4

Social assistance is not universal in Cuba. As of 2008, Raúl Castro's policy was to reduce social assistance to retirees and to those that had an employed family member. In addition, the state sector, where 70% of those employed work, have very low salaries. Both issues leave these sectors in a precarious situation; reducing them to levels that are difficult to specify because ONEI does not publish data on those who have stopped having social assistance. Currently, the “monetary benefit of social assistance” is reduced to \$8.68 per month, a support that does not facilitate social inclusion and condemns those receiving it to continue being the most vulnerable and poor sectors of the nation.

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**

The photographs appear inside this report are part of the First Edition of the Cuban Digital Photography Contest of Social Issues (OBSERVARTE) of the Cuban Observatory of Human Rights ( <https://observarte.net/primera/> )

Photo page 6: Photograph of the *Soltera de Oro* series, a Cuban family, by Elio Delgado Valdés, Finalist.

Photo page 17: *Push*, by Omar Rodríguez Saludes. Finalist.

Photo page 24: *Imminent collapse*, by Miladys Carnel González. Finalist.

Photo page 34: *Butcher*, by Benny López González. Featured (public).

Photo page 40: *Today I learn*, from Hector Yoel Drago Ricardo. Featured (public).

Photo page 43: *Veteran*, by Benny López González. Finalist and outstanding (public).

## **GRAPHIC DESIGN AND LAYOUT**

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