



OBSERVATORIO DE DERECHOS SOCIALES
CUBA



THE STATE OF SOCIAL RIGHTS IN CUBA

REPORT II - JUNE 2020



Observatorio Cubano
de Derechos Humanos

INTRODUCTION

This document presents the most relevant findings of the second report of the *State of Social Rights in Cuba*. It is a result of the work of a technical team that compiled the responses of 1,200 Cuban citizens related to the state of their social rights. The information presented reflects a reality that is not shared in the official government media, which hides more than it reveals. Once again, ODS-CUBA presents evidence of the daily difficulties that millions of Cubans face.

THEMATIC AREAS

1 RIGHT TO HEALTH

2 RIGHT TO FOOD AND FOOD SECURITY

3 RIGHT TO WATER

4 RIGHT TO HOUSING

5 RIGHT TO A JOB AND A FAIR SALARY

6 RIGHT TO SOCIAL PROTECTION (social security, work leave, unemployment, retirement, maternity leave, etc.)

7 RIGHT TO QUALITY AND FREE EDUCATION.

8 RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted at the national level in the occidental, central and oriental regions through in-person (face to face) interviews using open access digital tools and coding. These tools were designed for the collection of data through mobile devices.

DATA SHEET

UNIVERSE Population residing in Cuba of both sexes, 18 years and older

SAMPLE 1,201 Interviews

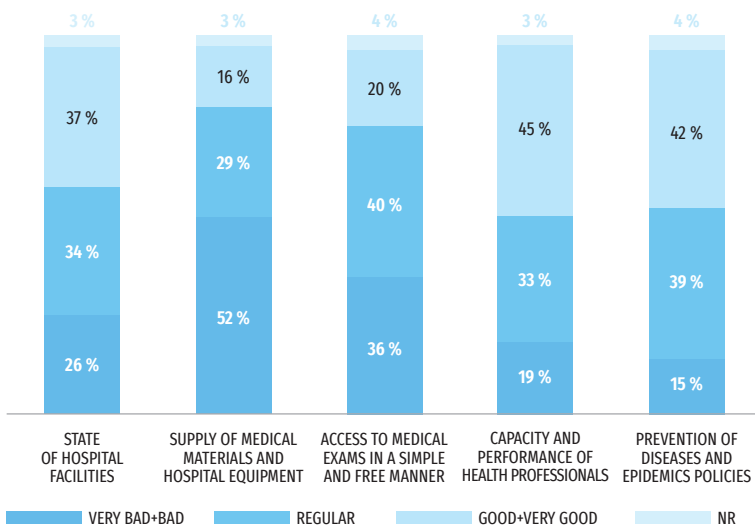
SAMPLING METHOD Simple randomization

MARGIN OF ERROR +/- 2.8 %

CONFIDENCE LEVEL 95%

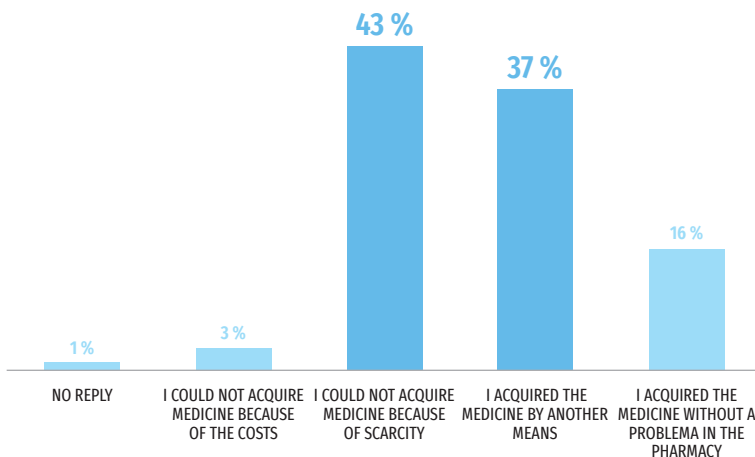
FIELD WORK 20 of January- 10 of February 2020

RIGHT TO HEALTH Evaluation of the health system



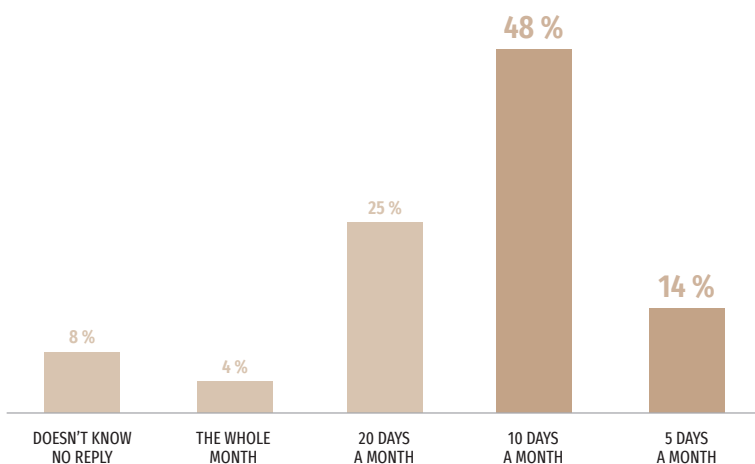
60% state that the conditions of hospital facilities are “regular” and “very bad”. For more than half (**52%**) of Cubans the supply of medical materials and hospital equipment is “bad or very bad” and **29%** believe it is “regular”.

RIGHT TO HEALTH In the last 3 months, what has your experience been in acquiring medicine?



83% of the people that needed medicines were not able to acquire them in pharmacies, of which: **43%** said it was because of scarcity and **37%** had to obtain them by another means.

RIGHT TO FOOD AND FOOD SECURITY How many days does the food received through the ration book last for you and your family?



For more than half of the families, **62%** of the food received through the ration book only lasts from 5 to 10 days a month.

RIGHT TO FOOD AND FOOD SECURITY

Evaluation of the quality of the family's food supply.

Almost three quarters of the population,

74 %

qualify their family food supply as deficient. **20%** of the population states that, they, or someone in their family, has skipped breakfast, lunch, or eating at least one time in the last trimester.

ELECTRICITY

More than

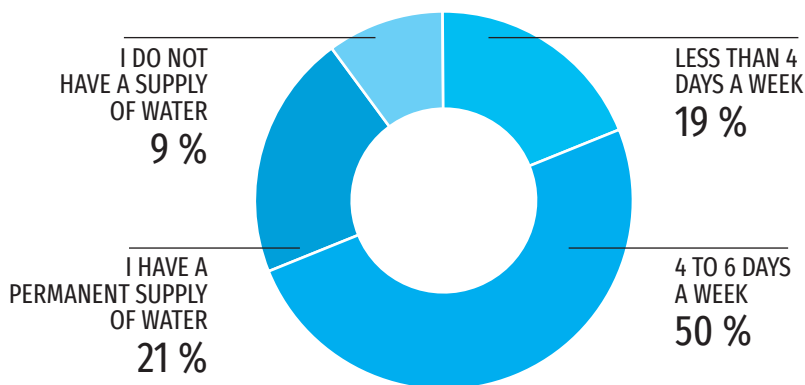
70 %

of the population has experienced shortages in electricity within the last 3 months, whether they were 1 to 2 times a week (**65%**) or in a more recurring fashion (**8%**).

Hours without electricity: **35%** of those interviewed go between 2 to 6 hours without power and **23%** between 6 hours to a whole day.

RIGHT TO WATER

What is the water supply (from the state) like in your home?

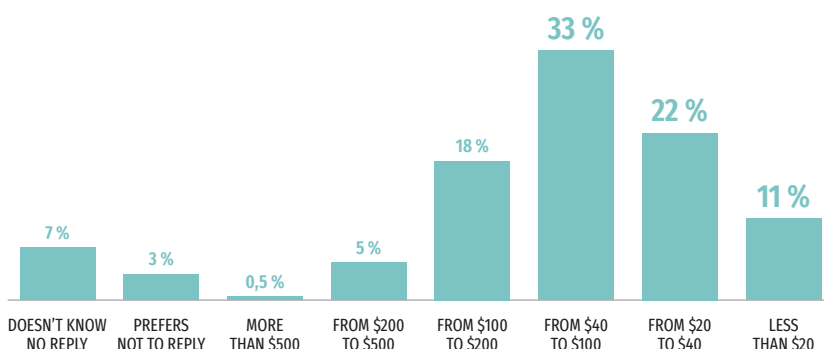


79 %

of Cubans don't have permanent water supply in their homes. Half (**50%**) have water between four to six days a week and almost ten percent don't have water supply in their homes. **73%** of the population qualifies the quality of the water they receive between "regular" and "very bad".

RIGHT TO A JOB AND A FAIR SALARY

Income levels at home



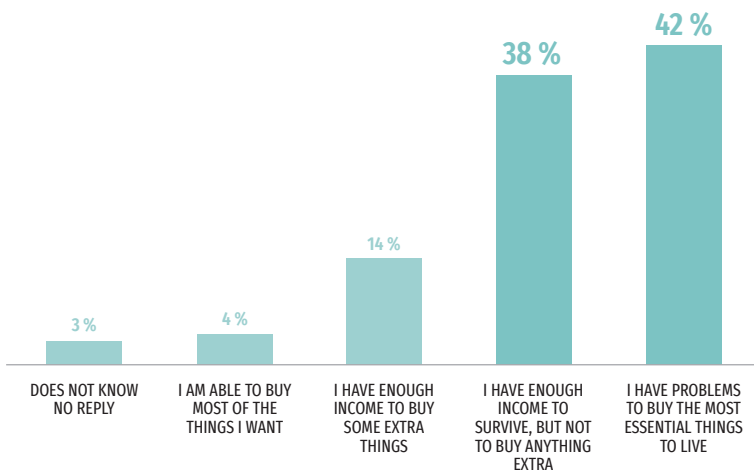
One third of the homes in Cuba

33 %

, approximately 1,3 million families, live with less than \$40,00 a month.

This means that families, comprised of at least three members, have to survive with \$1,33 or less a day.

RIGHT TO A JOB AND A FAIR SALARY
Description of the economic situation in the home

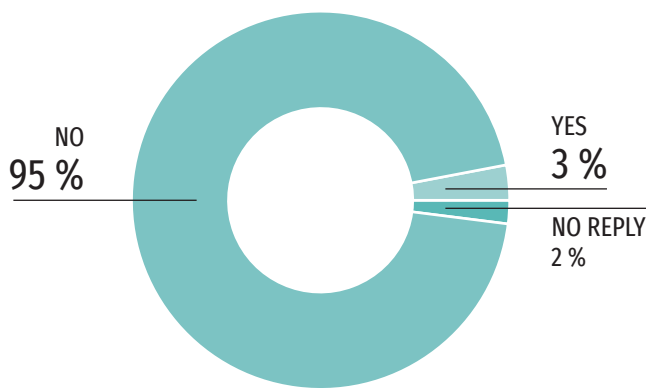


80%
of Cubans feel that there is a severe or moderate economic crisis in their home: **42%** affirm that “they have problems to buy the most essential goods”. **38%** affirm that “they have enough to live, but not to buy anything extra”.

RIGHT TO A JOB AND A FAIR SALARY

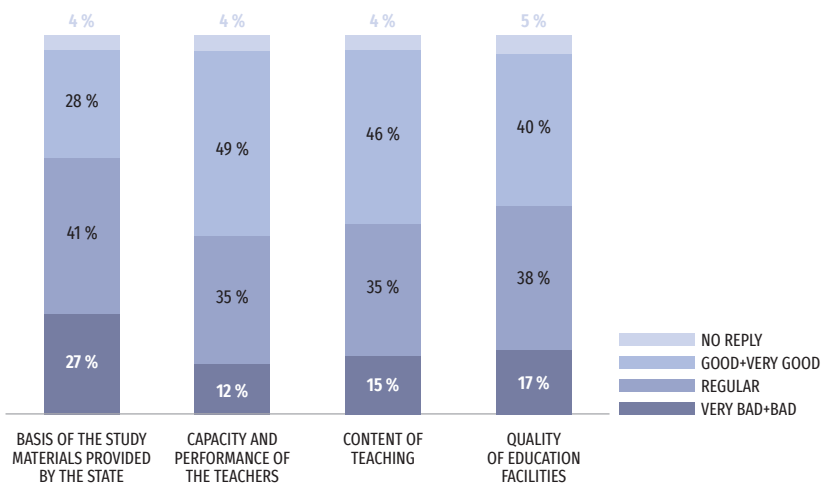
Labor unions and defense of human rights.
Only **1 OF EVERY 10** people affiliated with a labor union believe that it defends their human rights. More than **60%** consider that said labor union defends their human rights a little (**31%**), or not at all (**32%**).

RIGHT TO A JOB AND A FAIR SALARY
Have you received any support from the State because of your unemployment?



9 OF EVERY 10 unemployed people have not received any assistance from the State. Of those unemployed, **37%** have been unable to work for more than one year.

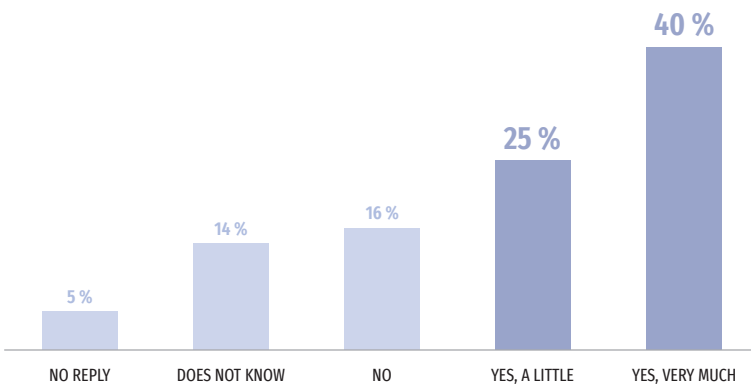
RIGHT TO QUALITY AND FREE EDUCATION Evaluation of the education system



55%

of those interviewed the quality of education facilities between “regular” and “very bad”. **Half** consider that the content of teaching is between “regular” and “very bad”. With respect to the basis of the study material, a majority (41%) believes it is “regular” and 28% believe it is “bad” or “very bad”.

RIGHT TO QUALITY AND FREE EDUCATION Do you consider that the the education system is indoctrinated by a political ideology?



65%

of those interviewed consider that there is an aspect of indoctrination in school. **4 in every 10** people that responded believe that the level of indoctrination is very high. The vast majority (75%) of the youth between 18 and 30 years old believes that there is political indoctrination in schools.

PROFILE OF THE SITUATION OF THE ELDERLY IN CUBA

The study also reflects the critical situation in which the elderly find themselves with regards to their social rights.



- More than half (59%) indicate that they have problems to buy what is most essential to survive. The minimum retirement benefit that equals \$9.60 a month is not enough.
- Their economic situation impacts their food supply: 48% have two or less meals a day.
- They live alone, more than 40% of those older than 60 years live in homes of 1 to 2 people.
- They are the group most affected by the scarcity and cost of medicine (40% and 63% respectively).

The **Social Rights Observatory (ODS-Cuba)** is an initiative from OCDH that since 2009 has been working in the documentation and investigation of the violation of human rights in Cuba.

ODS-Cuba was created because of the need to have **updated information about the Cuban population in terms of health, jobs, housing, access to water, education, and food supply, that is supported by evidence.** In order to do this, research, monitoring, and information sharing is conducted with regards to social rights on the island.

We have the objective to be **a monitoring instrument for civil society and the international community about the situation of social rights in Cuba,** with the goal to contribute to the decisions that would improve the quality of lives of Cubans.



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