



OBSERVATORIO DE DERECHOS SOCIALES
CUBA

THE STATE OF SOCIAL RIGHTS IN CUBA

REPORT III - 2020



Observatorio Cubano
de Derechos Humanos

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INTRODUCTION

The third ODS-Cuba (Social Rights Observatory) report closes a research cycle aimed at reporting about the reality of social rights in Cuba. It provides a temporary series of unquestionable value for a variety of organizations and entities, both public and private, that are interested in monitoring the development of these rights in Cuba. The data collection has happened through meticulous efforts by our observers and collaborators on the island, who have professionally collected data, experiences and perceptions of a vast and representative number of Cubans.

The report sheds light on the difficult Cuban socio-economic situation, which does not allow a decent standard of living and personal fulfilment; this situation has worsened over the last year according to this report. For example, there has been a 45% increase in the number of households living on monthly incomes

below 1,000 Cuban pesos (\$40), more than 75% of respondents are experiencing a severe to moderate situation of scarcity and 40% even struggle to buy the most essential to survive. Another critical fact relates to the access of drinking water. Findings reveal that 83% of Cubans don't have access to a stable service provision and households relying on constant access dropped from 32% to only 14%. About 46% of houses in Cuba need to be repaired while another 11% are in danger of collapsing.

Many of these findings coincide across the three studies conducted on the social rights of Cubans, who also have to carry the burden of the Covid-19 situation. Therefore, we have added a question about how Cubans believe that some of the serious problems that affect them today regarding household income, food and access to medicine, will develop in the future.

METHODOLOGY AND TECHNICAL DATASHEET

The survey is representative at the national level, with subsamples in various municipalities of the western, central and eastern regions broken down by gender, age and racial groups, according to the population across the different provinces.

The fieldwork was carried out through individual interviews assisted by digital tools built on 'Open Data Kit (ODK)' technology, which has been designed to collect data through mobile devices (phones or tablets). The technology and tools used have been jointly developed by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC). These tools, which are used by different humanitarian organizations in emergency situations, have been incorporated into our data collection procedures because they allow to conduct interviews in countries with bad connectivity conditions like those found in Cuba.

The questionnaire was designed entirely by the OCDH team, with the advice of various international experts

UNIVERSE Cuba's resident population, both genders, age 18 and older.
SAMPLE 1,249 interviews.
SAMPLE METHOD Random Sample. Stratified sampling by clusters: quotas according to place of residence, gender and ages, racial group.
AFFIXATION Proportional.
MARGIN OF ERROR +/- 2.7%
CONFIDENCE LEVEL 95% and probability p/q=50%.
FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY Individual surveys conducted by interviewers and data entered via mobile phones and tablets.
FIELD WORK DATES 17 July - 10 August - 2020
BODY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FIELDWORK Cuban Human Rights Observatory (OCDH).

and based on previous experience in the field and pilot tests. This time, a new surveying group was introduced in a new province, thus extending the study to 12 of the country's 16 provinces.

Given the Covid-19 context, it should be noted that OCDH established specific and mandatory safety and health protocols for this survey and monitored those established locally.

NOTES ON THE METHODOLOGY

As for data processing in the report, since the margin of error is several percentage points, the decimals in tables and graphs have been rounded for reading clarity, without affecting statistical accuracy. For data reporting purposes and since the margin of error is several percentage points, the decimals in tables and graphs have been rounded for reading clarity, without affecting the statistical accuracy.



1 - SOCIAL DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FROM THE SAMPLE



1.1 - DISTRIBUTION BY GENDER, AGE AND RACIAL GROUPS

The distribution of interviews by gender, age and racial groups is proportional to the population according to demographic data made available by the ONEI - National Office of Statistics and Information of the Republic of Cuba. The survey has been monitored for correct quota application in the fieldwork.

Therefore, the results accurately represent the structure of the current population. In this sense, we would like to emphasise the fact that 50% of the population is male and the other 50% female. The gender ratio is also similar within each of the racial groups and age categories (although there are comparatively more women between the

TABLE 1-1

RACIAL GROUPS BASED ON GENDER AND AGE OF THE INTERVIEWED POPULATION	TOTAL %	WHITE		MULATTO O MIXED RACE		BLACK	
		MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
BETWEEN 18 AND 30 YEARS	21	24	20	21	20	24	20
BETWEEN 31 AND 45 YEARS	24	25	23	21	31	18	21
BETWEEN 46 AND 60 YEARS	30	25	32	27	31	32	38
BETWEEN 61 AND 70 YEARS	13	12	15	16	8	13	12
OVER 70 YEARS OLD	12	15	10	15	10	13	10
TOTAL	1,249	339	332	140	159	143	136

ages of 46 and 60 and less over 70). Age distribution shows a fairly young population, with 49% of interviews conducted with those aged 18 to 45 and 30% aged 46 to 60, the remaining 25% were interviews with older people.

The representation of the different races results from adjusting the sampling through racial quotas. According to ONEI, data from the 2012 Census (only available data found on racial distribution in the country) just over half of the population is white-skinned, a quarter mulatto or mixed-race, and the rest are black along with a minority of other ethno-racial groups.

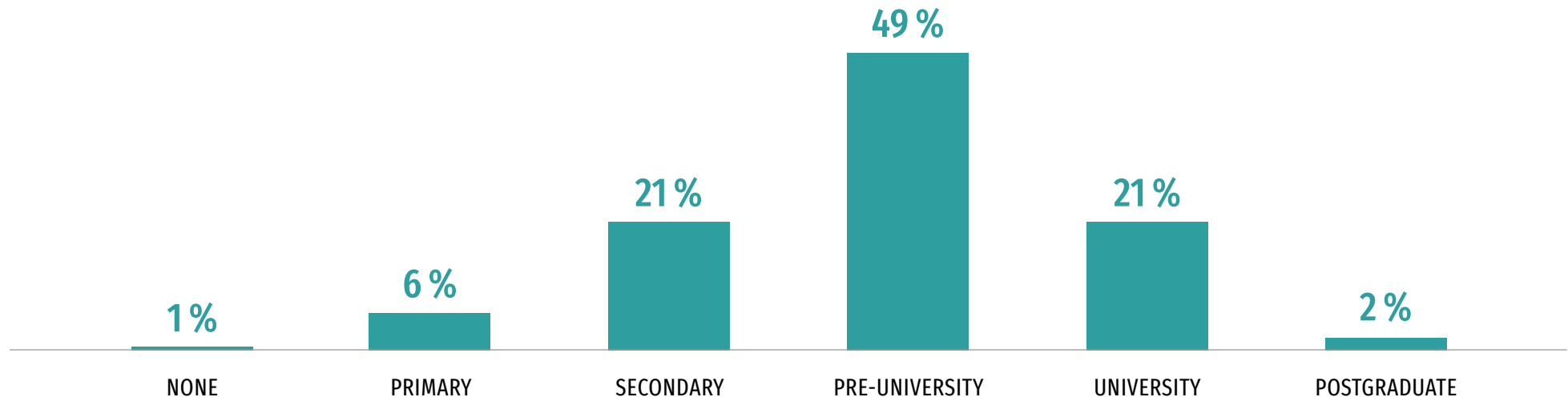
1.2 - EDUCATION LEVEL

About half of the interviewees have completed pre-university studies, one in five has secondary school studies which coincides with that of those having university studies. Only a small part of the population has only primary school studies, no studies or university postgraduate education.

Disaggregated by age and racial groups, the percentage of pre-university studies is significantly higher within the 18 to 30 age group (63%) and lower among those over 70. The proportion of people with university studies remains similar across all age groups, although it decreases slightly among the youngest (by 18%) and those over 70 (by 13%). Lower levels of studies (secondary and primary) are more commonly found among people aged 70 and over.

What is the highest level of study you have completed ?

GRAPH 1-1





2 - WORK AND SOCIAL SECURITY

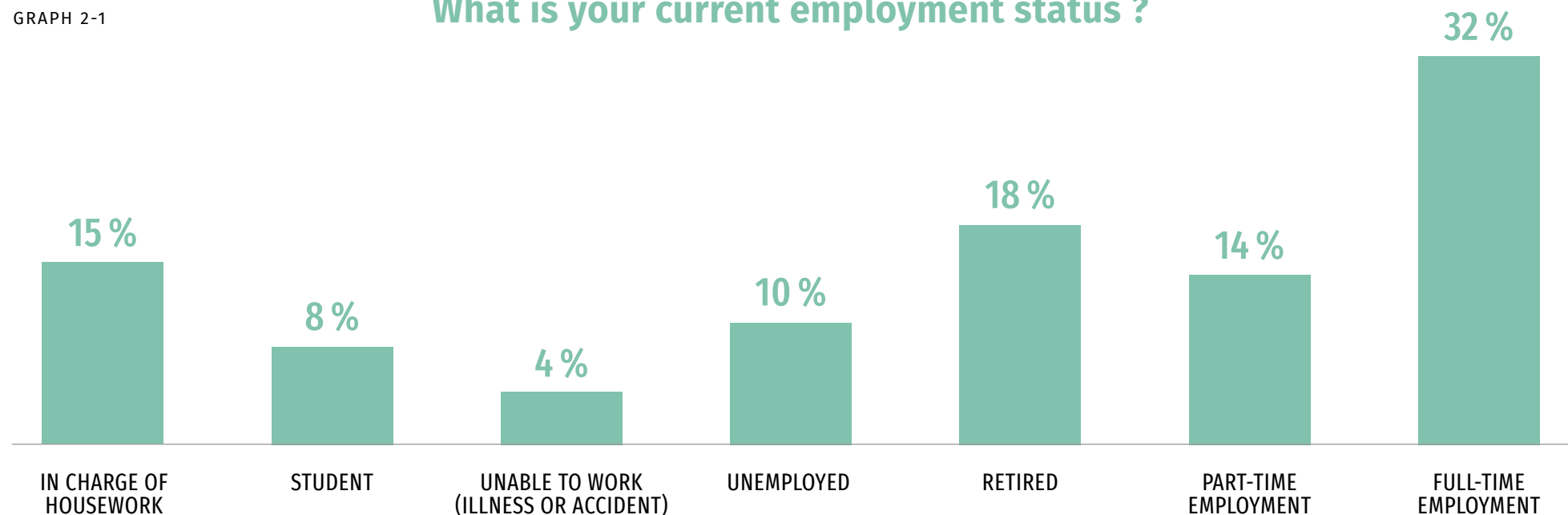


2.1 - EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

The employment situation remains similar with findings from the previous two reports, with 45% of the interviewees working, of which 32% have a full-time job and 14% have a part-time. There are no major variations between the two levels of employment. This can be mainly explained by the labor structure of the country, with a majority of the workforce being employed by the Cuban Government. The full-time employment situation occurs less among women (38% of men versus 25% of women), who are more dedicated to housework, a predominantly female occupation (28% of those interviewed and 1% of men). Full-time employment increases significantly among those with university studies (48%) with incomes ranging between 1,001 and 2,500 pesos Cuban, that is \$41 to \$100 (45% US dollars), and over 2,500 pesos (44%).

GRAPH 2-1

What is your current employment status ?



While actual unemployment in Cuba reaches 10%, considering both the people in charge of household chores (15%) as well as those unable to work because of some illness (4%), and excluding retirees and pensioners, the percentage of non-remunerated people is at 29% within the working age population.

The following table shows the distribution of employed and unemployed people by age:

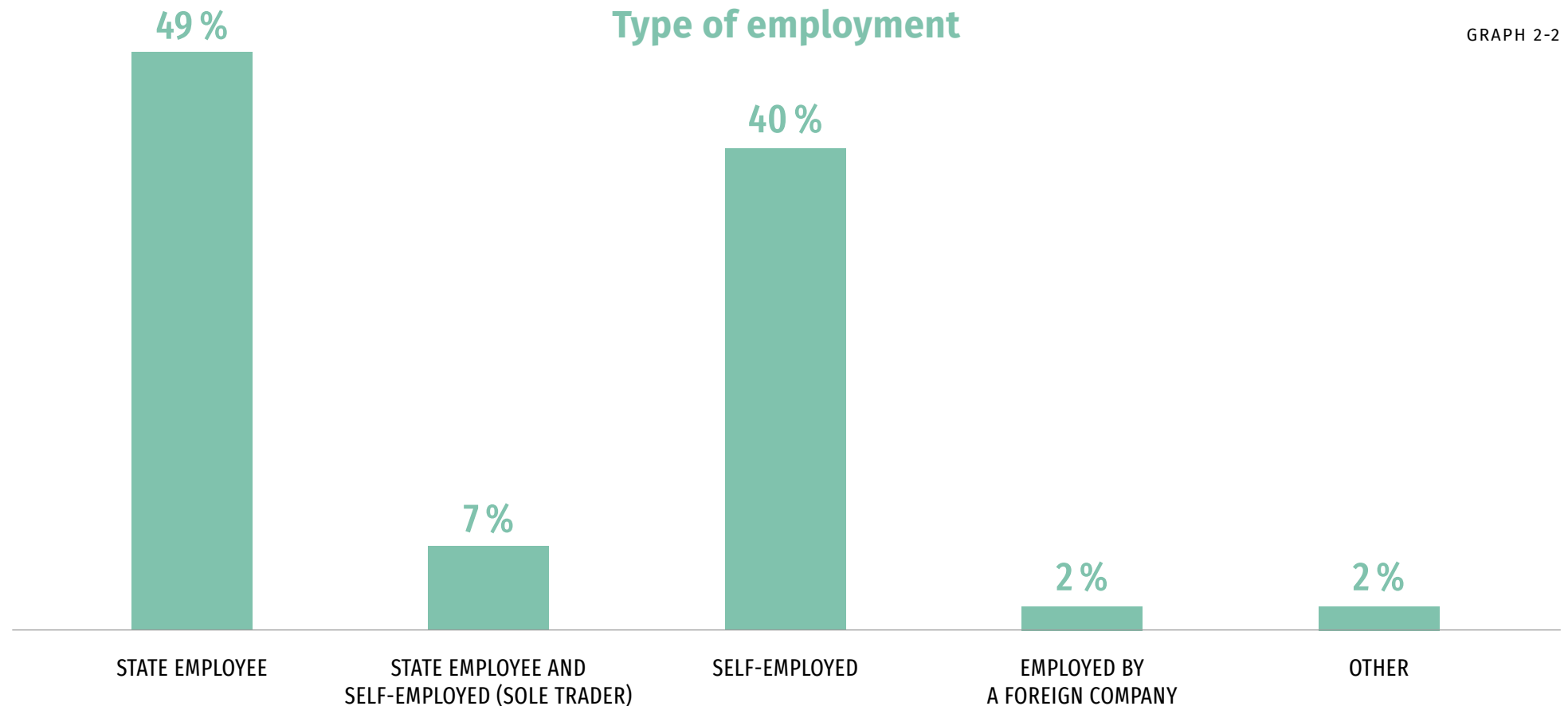
WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT EMPLOYMENT SITUATION ?	%	BETWEEN 18 AND 30 YEARS	BETWEEN 31 AND 45 YEARS	BETWEEN 46 AND 60 YEARS	BETWEEN 61 AND 70 YEARS	OVER 70 YEARS OLD
FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT	31.8 %	25.1	45.7	48.3	8.2	1.3
PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT	13.8 %	13.9	19.5	13.6	13.3	3.3
RETIRED	17.5 %	0	0	4.3	56.3	73.9
UNEMPLOYED	9.9 %	13.5	10.6	11.7	5.1	3.3
UNABLE TO WORK (ILLNESS OR ACCIDENT)	3.9 %	0.7	4.1	6.4	5.1	2
STUDENT	8.2 %	37.5	0.7	0	0	0
IN CHARGE OF HOUSEWORK	14.7 %	8.6	19.5	15.7	12	15.7
NO RESPONSE	0.2 %	0.7	0	0	0	0.7
TOTAL	1249	267	293	375	158	153

TABLE 2-1

2.2 - TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT

The percentage of the population working exclusively for the state (49%) displays similar values as in previous reports. Furthermore, the proportion of people (7%) combining government employment with self-employment has remain stable or similar to findings from the previous surveys.

The percentage of self-employment has decreased by 3% since the second survey. This may have been caused by the coronavirus crisis and the suspension of more than 200,000 self-employment licenses.



GRAPH 2-2

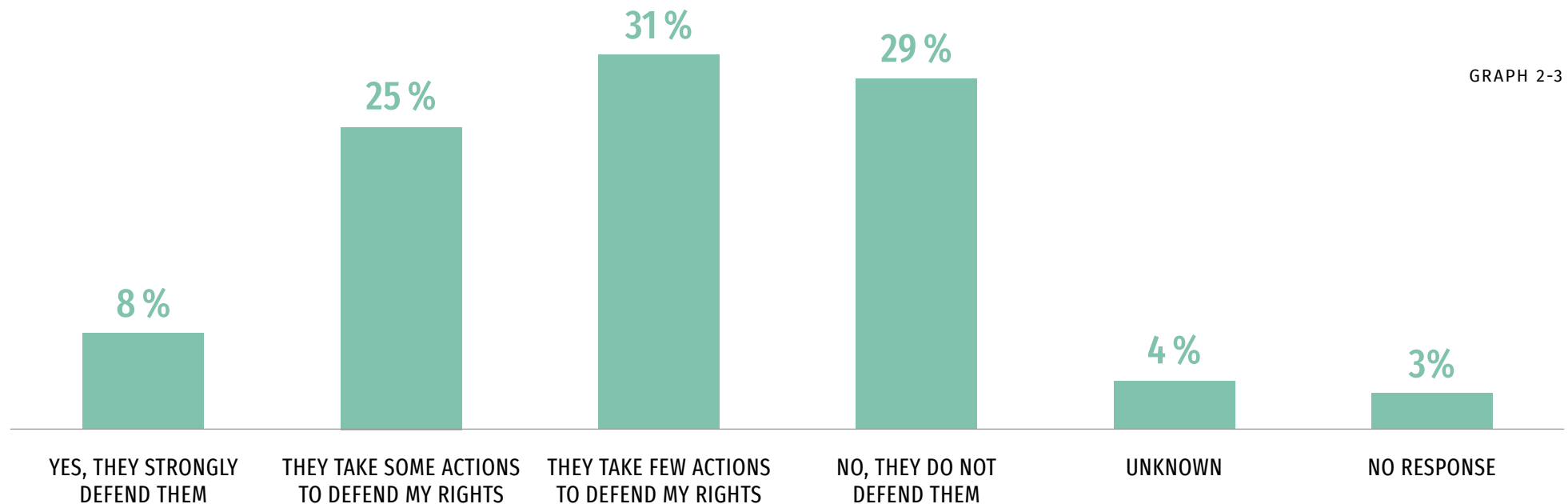
It should be noted that among the youngest (18-30 years) the percentage of self-employment has reached 52%, while self-employment combined with the public sector is higher among those over 70 years of age (43%). Based on educational level differences, the percentage of self-employed among those with university studies decreases significantly (28%), while for those working for State increases slightly (56%).

As noted in the previous report, among those with lower incomes (<1,000 pesos Cubanos per month), the proportion of State employees (60%) increases, whereas that of the self-employed decreases (3%). At the same time, within the high income category (>2500 pesos), self-employment (44%), the State and self-employment combination (14%) as well as working with some foreign company (4%) increases; the latter two figures coincide with the percentages obtained in the previous survey.

2.3 - MEMBERSHIP OF TRADE UNIONS OR WORKERS' ASSOCIATIONS

70% of respondents do not belong to either a trade union or a workers' association intended to protect the workers rights. Among those who are members of a trade union or an association, like in the previous report, 60% consider that their union or association defends little (31%) or not at all (29%) their rights. Only one in ten people within that group (8%) considers that the union strongly defends their rights.

Do you think that the union or association defends your rights as a worker ?

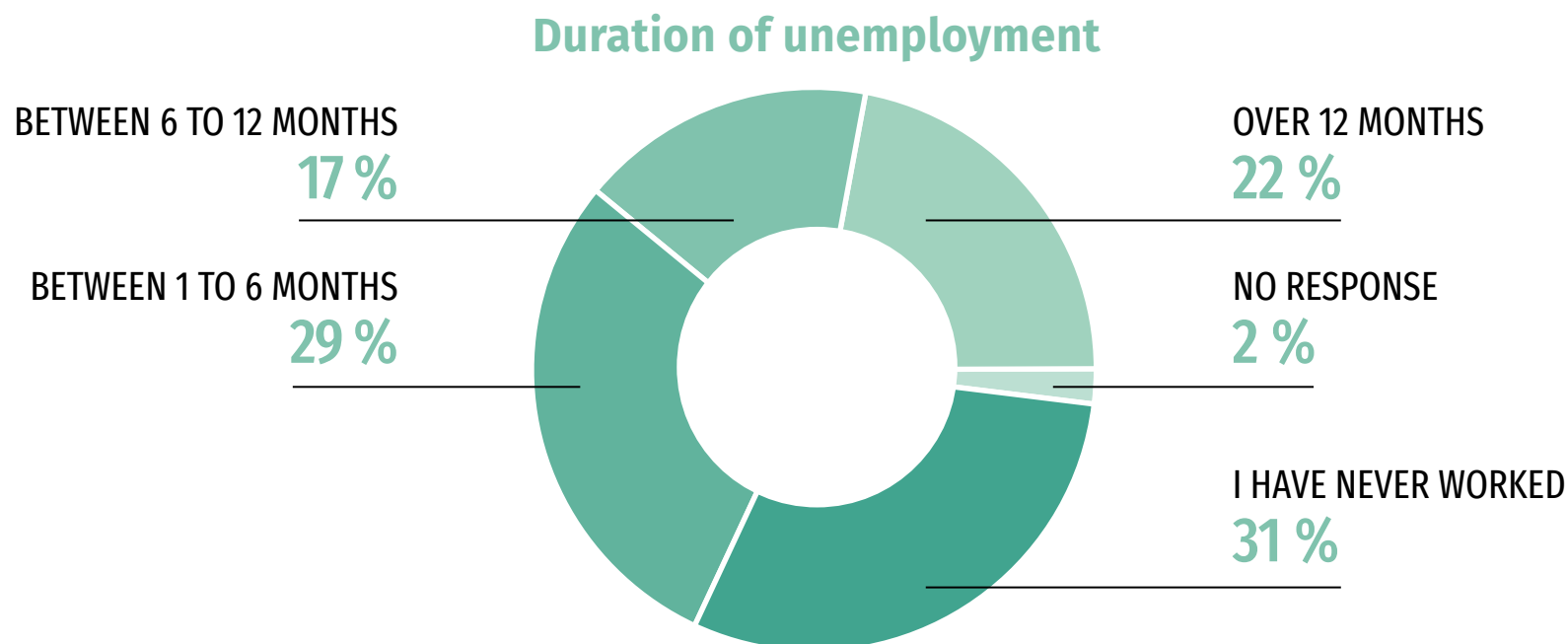


GRAPH 2-3

2.4 - UNEMPLOYMENT SUPPORT

The total percentage of unemployed people has increased by 2% compared to the last report and finds itself now at 10%, without including the 4% of the population expressing their inability to work (illness or accident). For a third of the unemployed population (29%), a figure that has doubled since the previous recordings, the duration of unemployment is between 1 and 6 months.

Furthermore, for one in five interviewees (22%) it is longer than 12 months. Average length unemployment (between 6 and 12 months) is at 17% and therefore similar to the previous surveys. It is worth noting the significant increase from 23% to 31% of those who have not worked, which is related to the increase in unemployment among young people. This mirrors the trend of higher unemployment among youth in various countries in both Latin America and Southern Europe. According to data from the latest survey, the percentage of young people who have never worked is 36%.

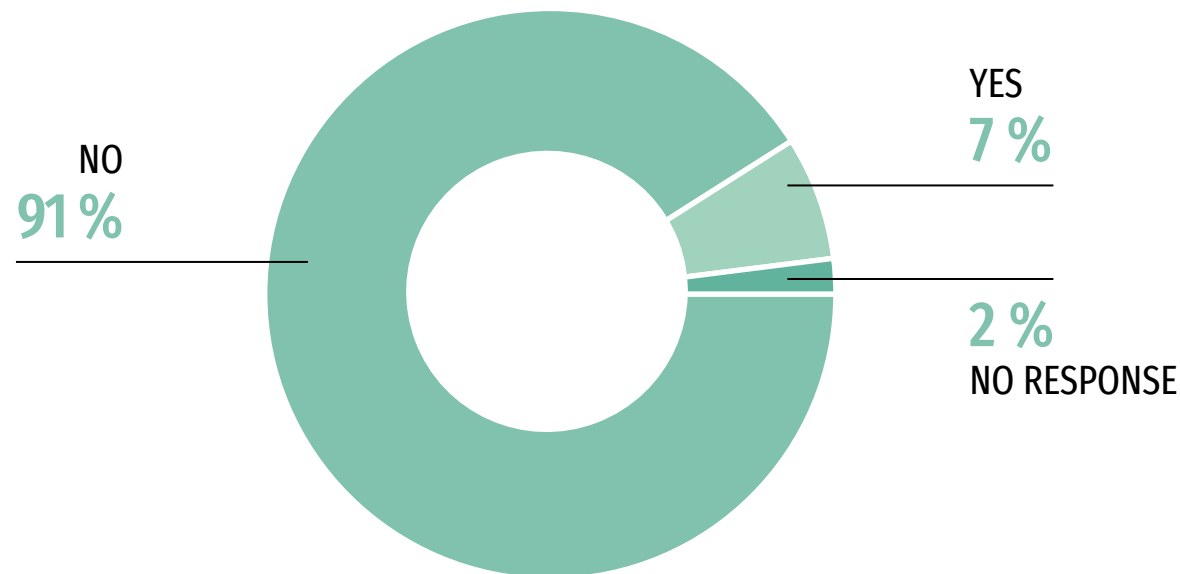


GRAPH 2-4

Long-term unemployment is significantly more common among Cubans between 46 and 60 years old (39% for those having spent over 12 months unemployed). By racial groups, unemployment is lower among the white and mulatto or mixed-race population, while it is higher among the black population (35%).

Confirming the data collected in the previous surveys, almost all unemployed people (92.8%) say they have never received government support. Once more, it can be said that this is common to all the unemployed people, and that only a minority enjoy unemployment support (6%). The majority of those who have received support are people aged between 61 and 70 (38%), and 20% for those over 70.

Do you receive any support from the Government during unemployment period?

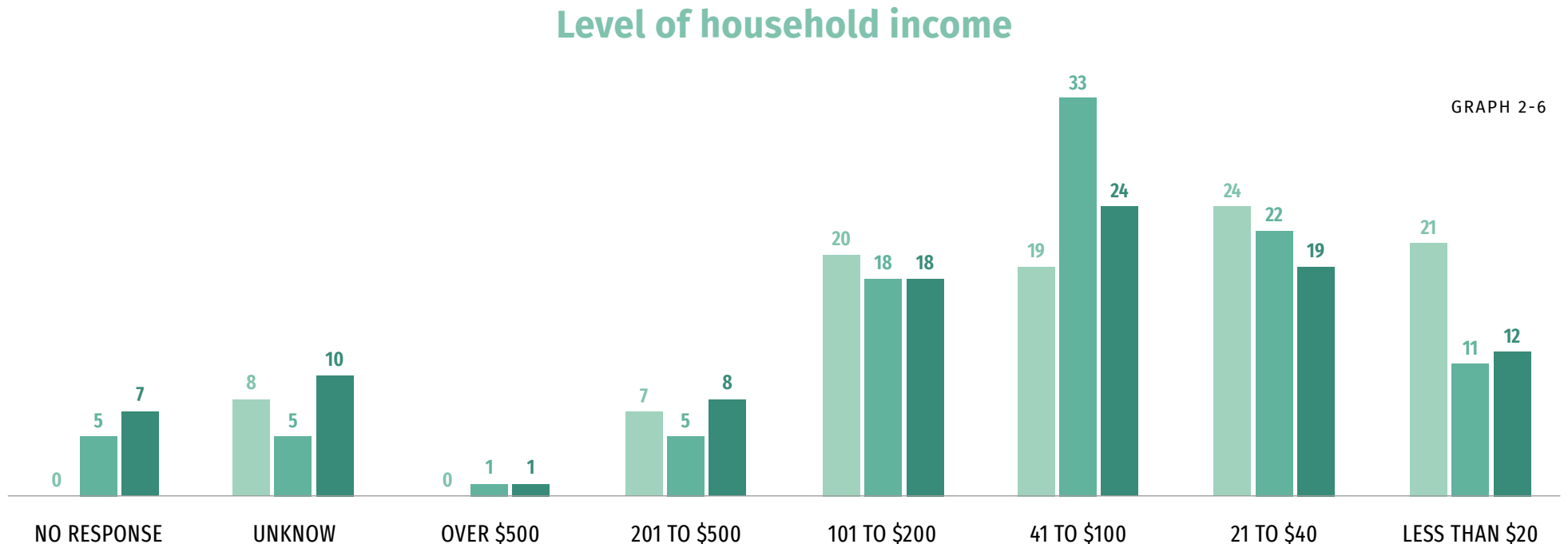


GRAPH 2-5

2.5 - HOUSEHOLD INCOME LEVEL

The level of household income is also a relevant indicator that helps analyze and describe the economic situation. Comparing the current results with data collected in pre-Covid-19 crisis surveys, there is a noticeable increase in the proportion of households with the lowest income (less than 500 pesos Cuban, i.e. less than \$20), currently being 21%, thus doubling the figures collected throughout the previous studies.

According to the current data, the percentage of those receiving between 1,001 and 2,500 pesos (\$41 to \$100) has decreased and the percentage of those found within lower income levels has increased, so it is likely that a shift has been taking place.



It should be noted that if we group the different income categories under 2,500 pesos (\$100) per household, the figure stands at 64%.

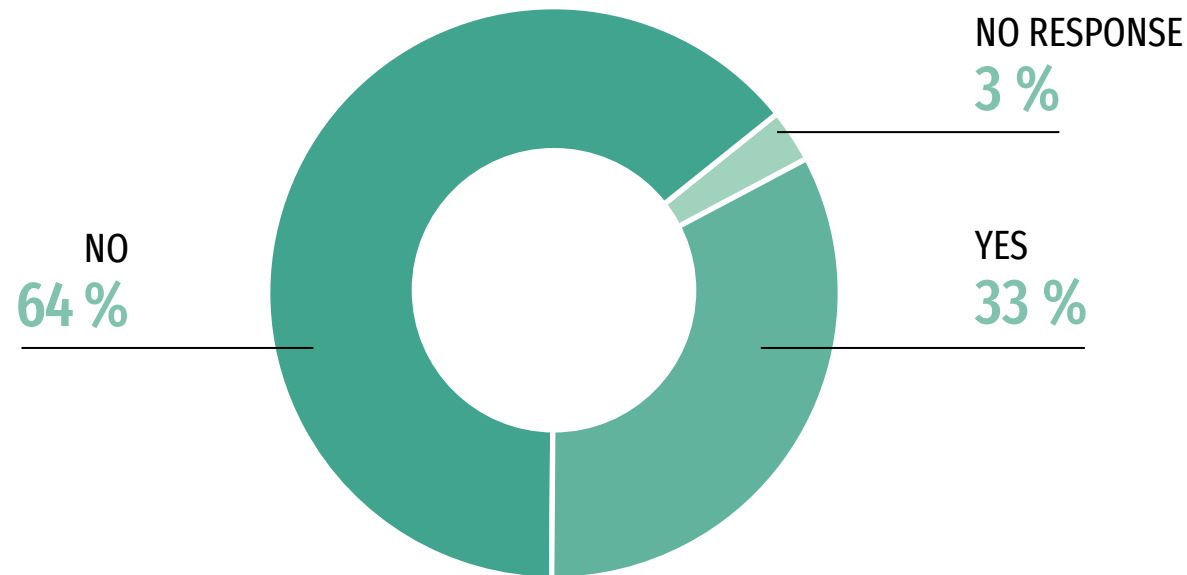
Among respondents receiving remittances, the percentage of households with an income under 500 pesos Cubanos, falls significantly to 15%; households with an income over 2,500 pesos have increased up to 50% and therefore exhibiting significant variations.

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2.6 - FAMILY REMITTANCES

Remittances is another factor, regardless of the employment status, the proportion of households receiving this type of income has been monitored on the basis of a three-month period since the previous survey. According to the latest data, 33% of households receive, this is a significantly larger amount that was recorded throughout the previous survey (26%) and estimates made by some economists. This indicator requires further monitoring over time in order to confirm if this value will stabilize or be subject to important fluctuations.

Over the last three months. Has your household received money from relatives abroad



GRAPH 2-7

There are no major changes when data is broken down by gender or age, however, there are changes when looking at racial groups. Unlike white and mixed-race racial groups, among black interviewees, the proportion of households receiving remittances diminishes by 24%, this is nearly ten percent less than the overall population.

Confirming the results from the previous survey among households earning a medium-to-high income (>2,500 Cuban pesos or over \$100), money remittances received increases significantly: 62% of households with high incomes versus 42% of middle-income households receive such support. As for low-income households, the number of households receiving such aid diminishes significantly and stands at only 11%

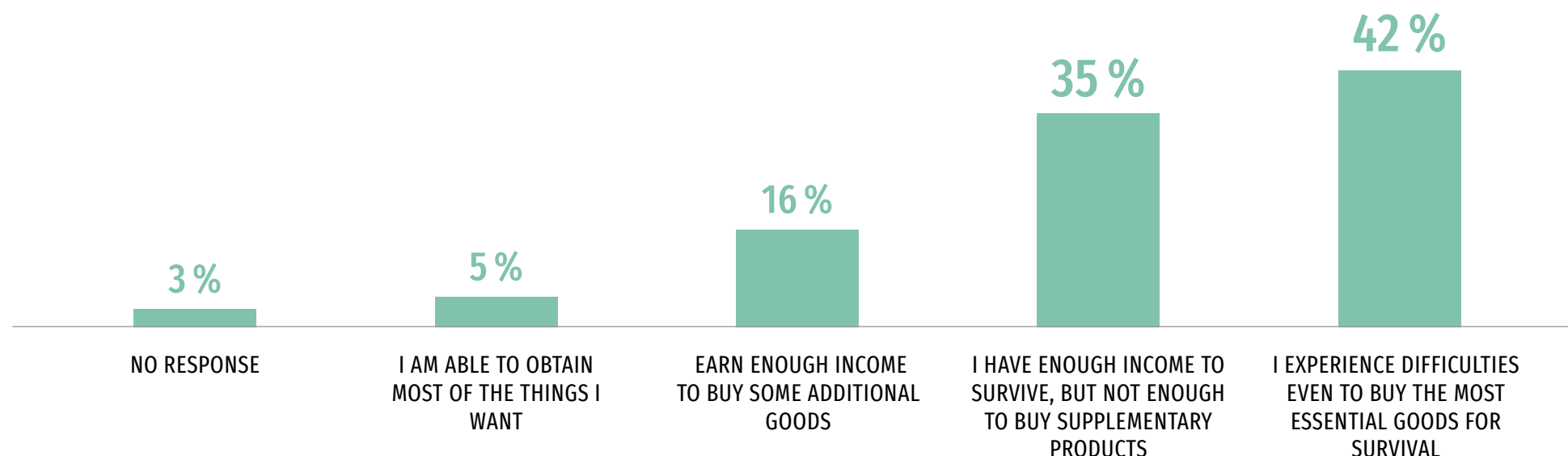
2.7 - ASSESSING THE FAMILY ECONOMY

Confirming with previous results, it can be said that more than 75% of Cubans acknowledge a situation of severe or moderate scarcity. More than 40% of respondents believe that the following sentence best describes their household's situation: "I have difficulties buying the most essential goods for survival"; and 35% say they have "enough to survive, but not enough to buy supplementary products".

For people aged over 70, there are increased "Difficulties buying the most essential goods for survival" has increased; it is now at 64%, therefore exceeding the already high figure of 59% recorded during the previous research.

Description of the household's economic situation

GRAPH 2-8



Evidently, receiving remittances by relatives abroad affects the assessment of the family economy situation. Households receiving such support report "difficulties buying the most essential goods" is lower. This is a significant decrease of the survey's overall result of 42% down to 14%. Among them, percentages related to "enough income to buy some additional goods" have increased regarding the total amount (34% versus 16%). Furthermore, 10% express that they are "able to obtain most of the things", thus doubling the responses of the population as a whole.



3 - HOUSING



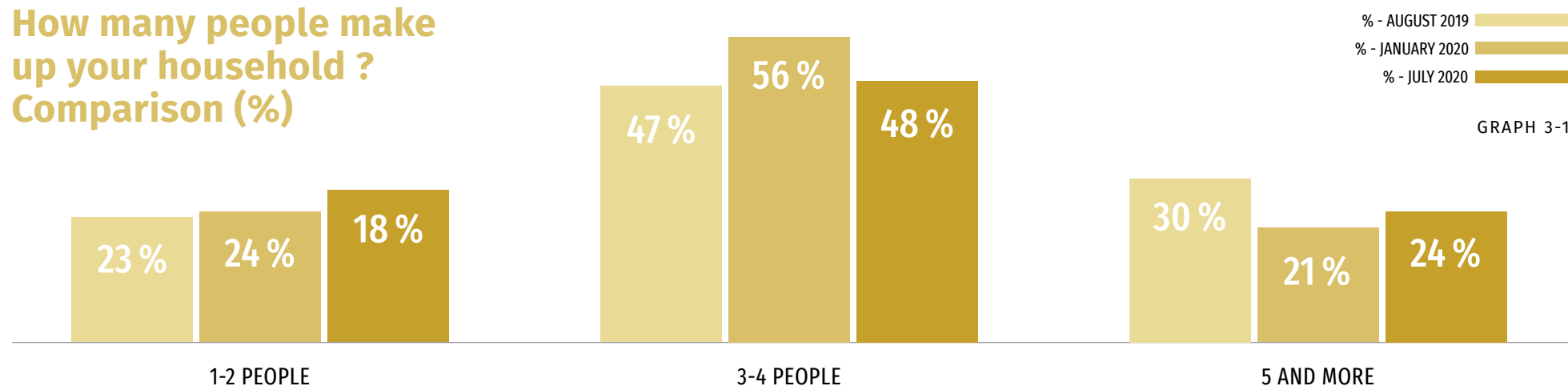
The indicators includes the number of people living in the household, the available residential space as well as the general maintenance conditions of the construction.

3.1 - HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

The survey's results confirm that an average household is made up of 3.5 people which is in line with previous surveys. By grouping the number of members into categories, it is found that the percentage of households consisting of 3 to 4 people remains similar at around 50% over the three surveys, while exhibiting some increase in the second survey, whereas about a quarter of households either consist of less than three or more than five people. With almost the same number of households composed of five or more people as well as small ones, it can be said there is a trend towards an increasing amount of single-person households. Two-person units as observed in other countries, do not yet exist in Cuba.

As indicated in previous surveys, among the over-60s group, the 1-2 person household is the most common, 45% of people aged 61-70 live in this type of household, and 54% of those are over 70.

How many people make up your household? Comparison (%)



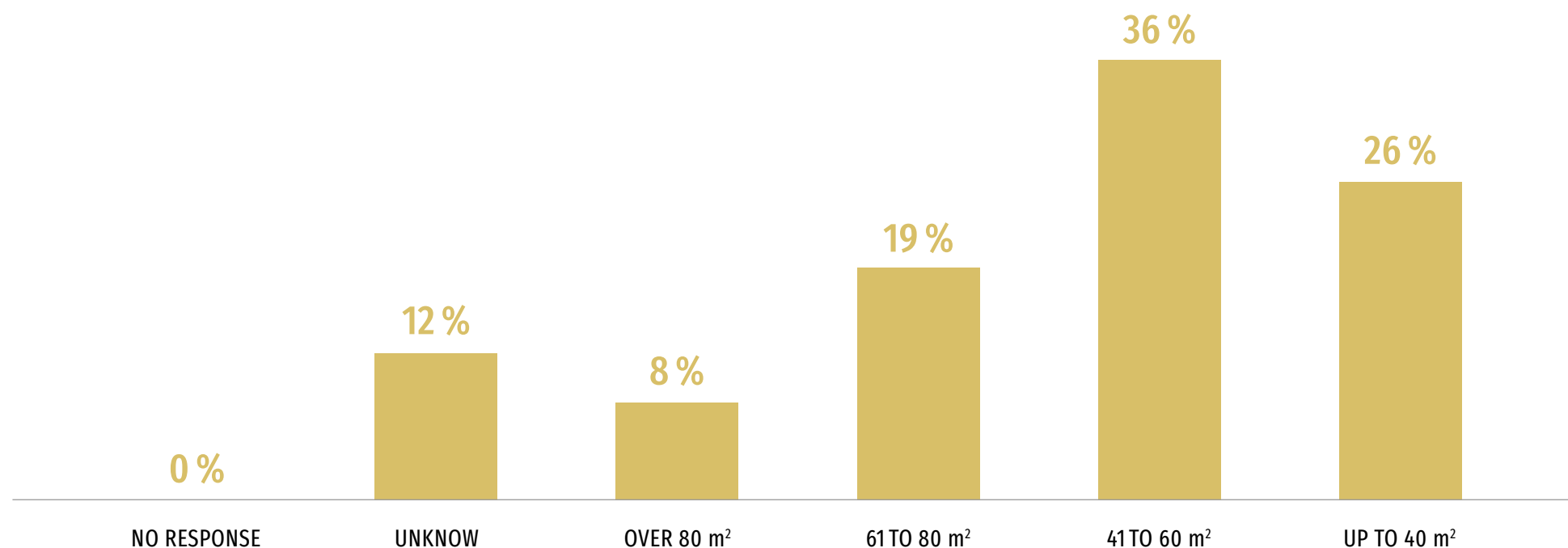
GRAPH 3-1

3.2 - AVAILABLE RESIDENTIAL SPACE

There is a predominant number of small households, with about a quarter of the population living in households with an area of 40 square metres or less (26%), and one in three (35%) in houses with an area of 41 to 60 square metres; in other words, more than 60% of the households tend to be small. 20% of the interviewees live in medium-sized households (61-80 square metres) and less than 10% reside in large houses (over 80 square metres).

GRAPH 3-2

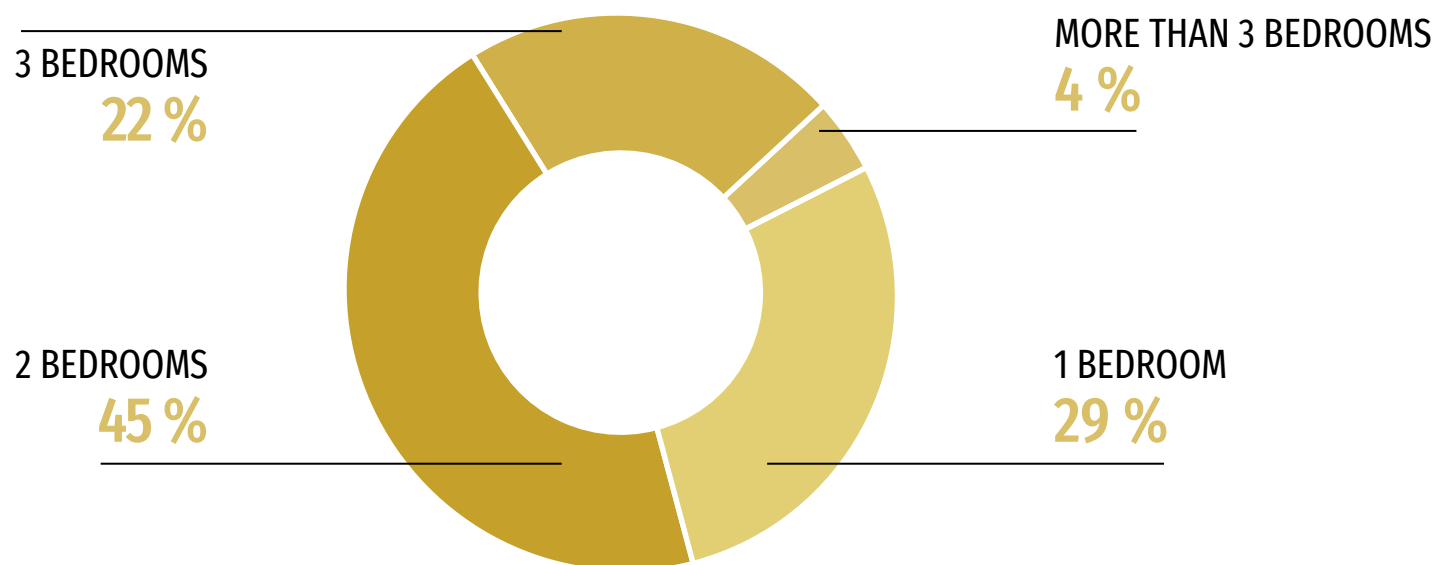
What is the size of your home?



12% of the people do not know the surface area of their home. This could be due to the culture, many years of regime support, indifference to private property and the little commercial reference of such property type.

Most households have only two bedrooms (45%), and nearly 30% have a single room. The Cubans over 70s are living in the smallest homes, and they also tend to live in single-room dwellings (38%) more than any of the other age ranges, as well as black respondents (36%).

How many rooms (bedrooms) does your home have?

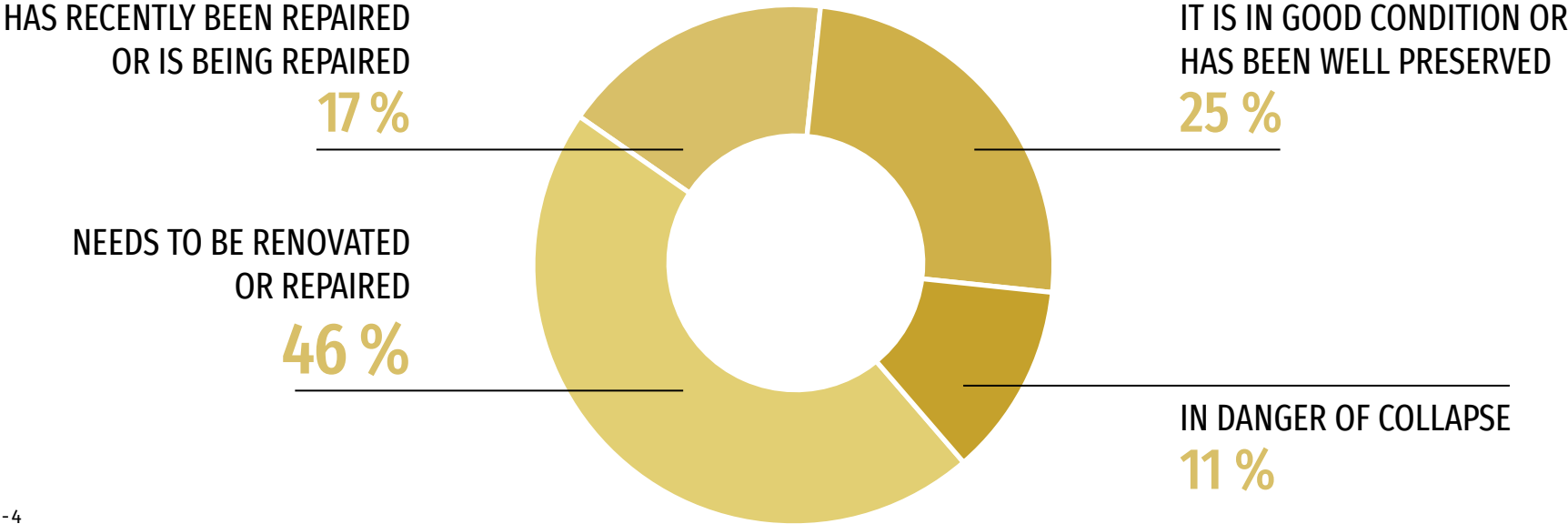


GRAPH 3-3

3.3 - HOUSING CONDITIONS AND HOUSING MAINTENANCE

The results confirm that the precariousness of housing is a widespread social problem. As per previous reports, nearly half of the homes need renovation or repair (46%), and 11% are at risk of collapse. Only a quarter of the population lives in well-preserved residences. The percentage of recently repaired homes is in line with those recorded in the first report. Therefore, a situation of deficiency and need for major repair is still there, whereas an unequal maintenance situation prevails.

What the situation regarding the quality of your home ?



GRAPH 3-4

Among the population over 70, the situation of homes "at risk of collapse" (22%) increases significantly, and more than half has responded that "Needs to be renovated or repaired" (52%).

Interviewees with university studies are more likely to live in good housing conditions (41%) or in a home that has been recently repaired (23%), these people are also found in the high-income segment.

As revealed in previous reports, the housing situation is a cross-cutting issue for all population groups.

By cross tabbing the housing quality assessment with the number of people who make up these households, the percentage of 1 to 2-person homes in danger of collapse reaches 20% (remember, these homes are also the most common ones among those over 70 years), and there are fewer that have been recently repaired (12%). For households of 3-4 people, the amount of well-preserved homes stands at 29%.

For households that have received remittances by relatives abroad, the good condition of homes increases significantly and reaches 44%. Those in danger of collapse are at a 4%. Households that do not receive financial support are increasingly exposed to the risk of collapse (15%) and the need for repair (56%), cases of homes in good condition reach only 16%



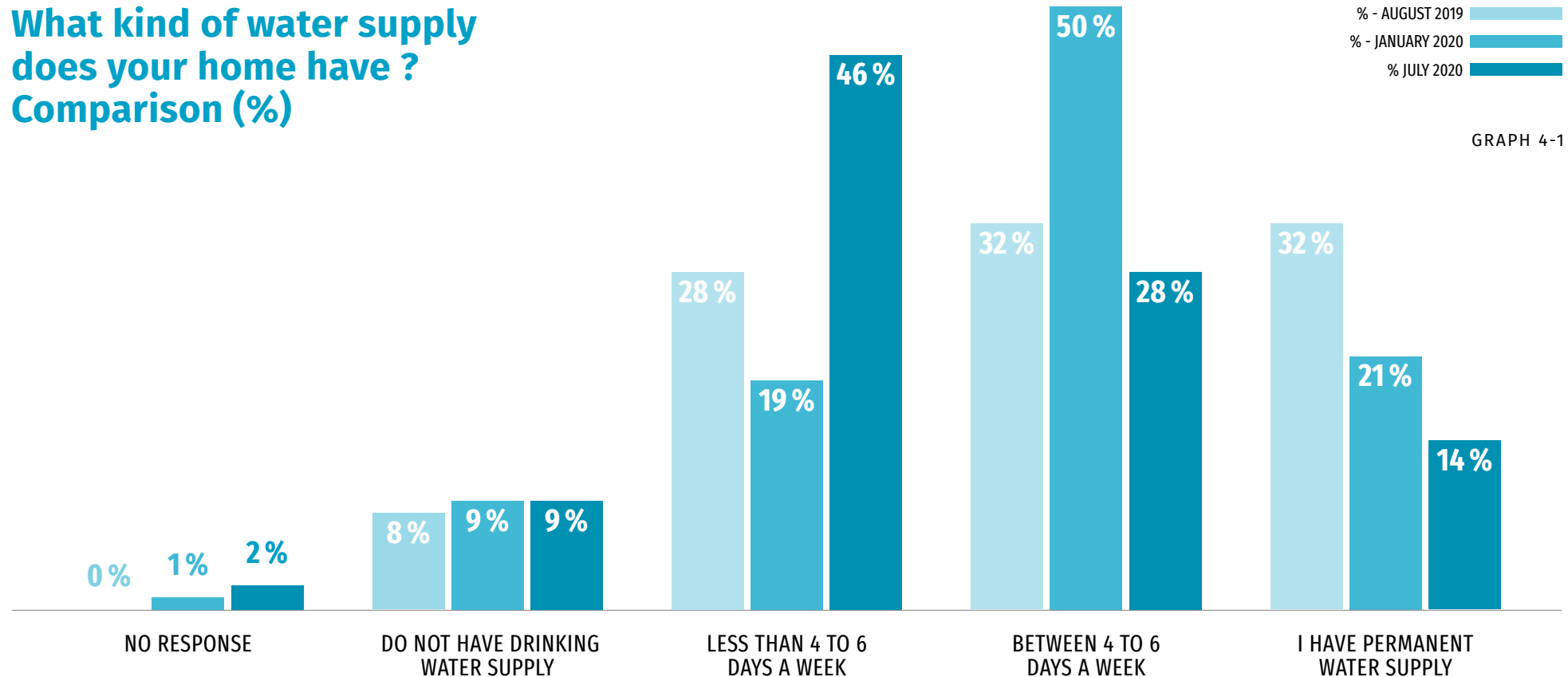
4 - WATER AND ELECTRICITY



4.1 - DRINKING WATER SUPPLY

The vast majority of the population does not receive a permanent running water supply, 83% of respondents suffer from some sort of supply interruption or do not have a drinking water supply at all (9%). The percentage of homes with permanent supply has fallen from 21% to 14% from the previous survey, thus these value points downwards since the first survey when it was at 32%. The percentage of households with no drinking water supply remains stable (9% and 8%), but there is a significant increase in those having access to such supply less than 4 days per week: it has skyrocketed from 19% in the previous report to 46% as of today.

What kind of water supply does your home have ? Comparison (%)



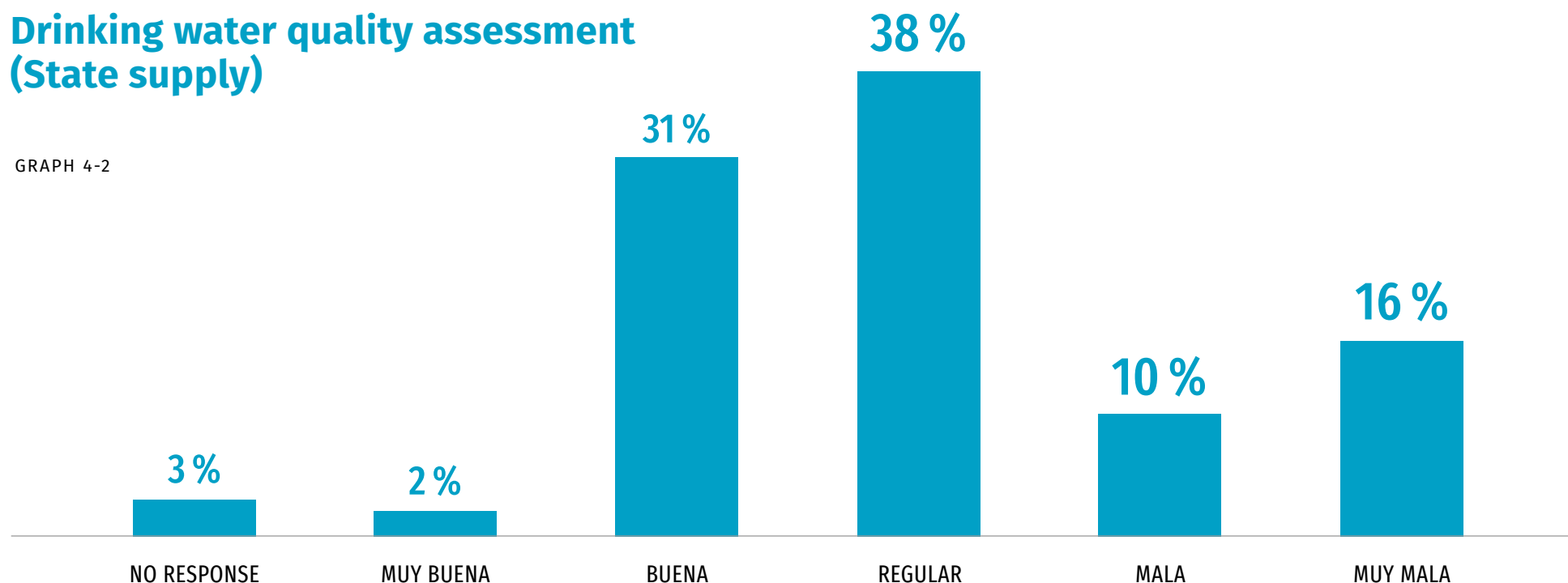
GRAPH 4-1

In line with the previous report, it is confirmed that access to permanent water supply increases significantly among the high-income population segment (22%), as well as supply coverage between 4 to 6 days per week (35%), whereas among the lowest-income segment, unavailability is higher (15%) and permanent supply plummets down to 10%. Among the interviewees who stated they received remittances sent by relatives abroad, cases of unavailable drinking water supply are down to 6%. Nevertheless, as was the case among those families with high incomes, there are still homes without the supply (this simply reveals the scale of the problem at the state level).

The water quality provided by the state is considered bad or very bad by a quarter of the population (26%). As noted in the previous report, despite the existing supply shortage, one in three respondents states that water quality is good, and about 40% say it is regular (48%).

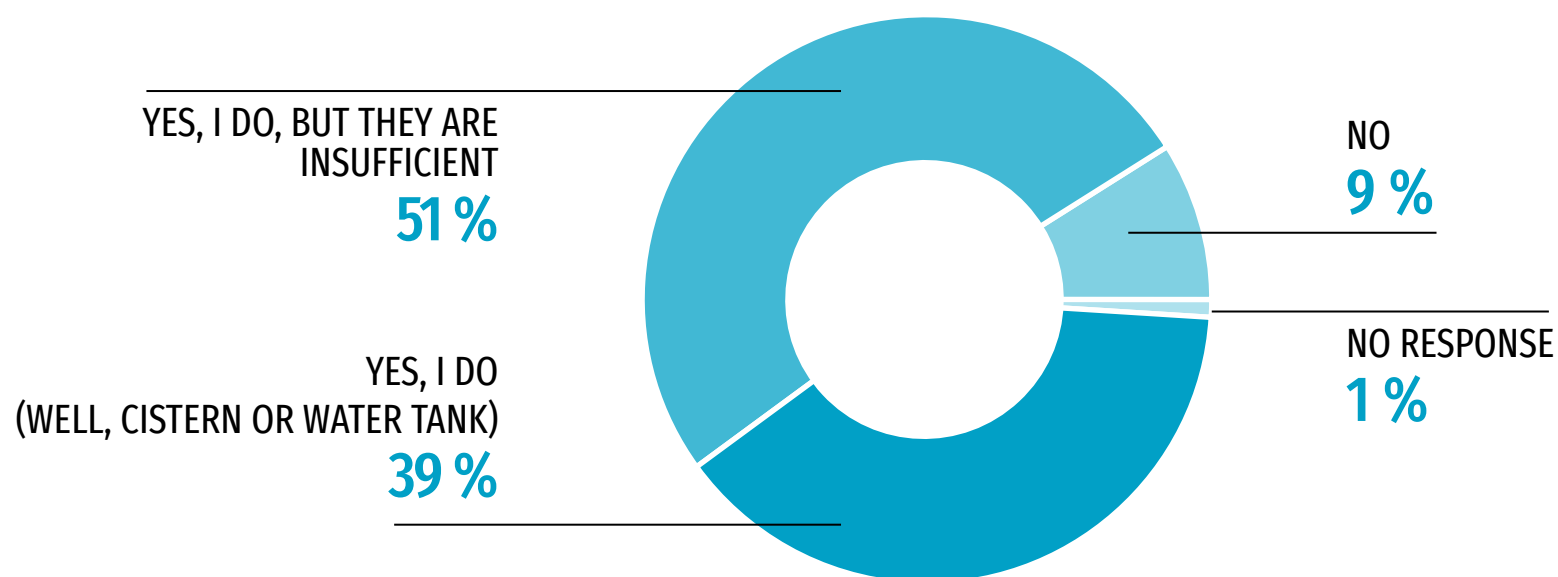
Drinking water quality assessment (State supply)

GRAPH 4-2



The results accurately confirm the data from the previous survey. Most homes are equipped with water storage, although for 51% these are insufficient. According to the population segment with lower incomes and lower educational levels, this figure soars to about 60%. Among those that are sufficiently equipped (well, cistern or water tank), we can find more people with higher education (54% of those who have university studies, and only 29% of those with secondary education); those having insufficient equipment (42%) are fewer, even though there are still some cases. For interviewees found in the low-income segment, 66% responded they were underequipped. It should also be noted that, among the interviewees who stated they receive remittances from relatives abroad, the existence of own storage equipment increases significantly (59%)

Do you have a water storage equipment for your home?

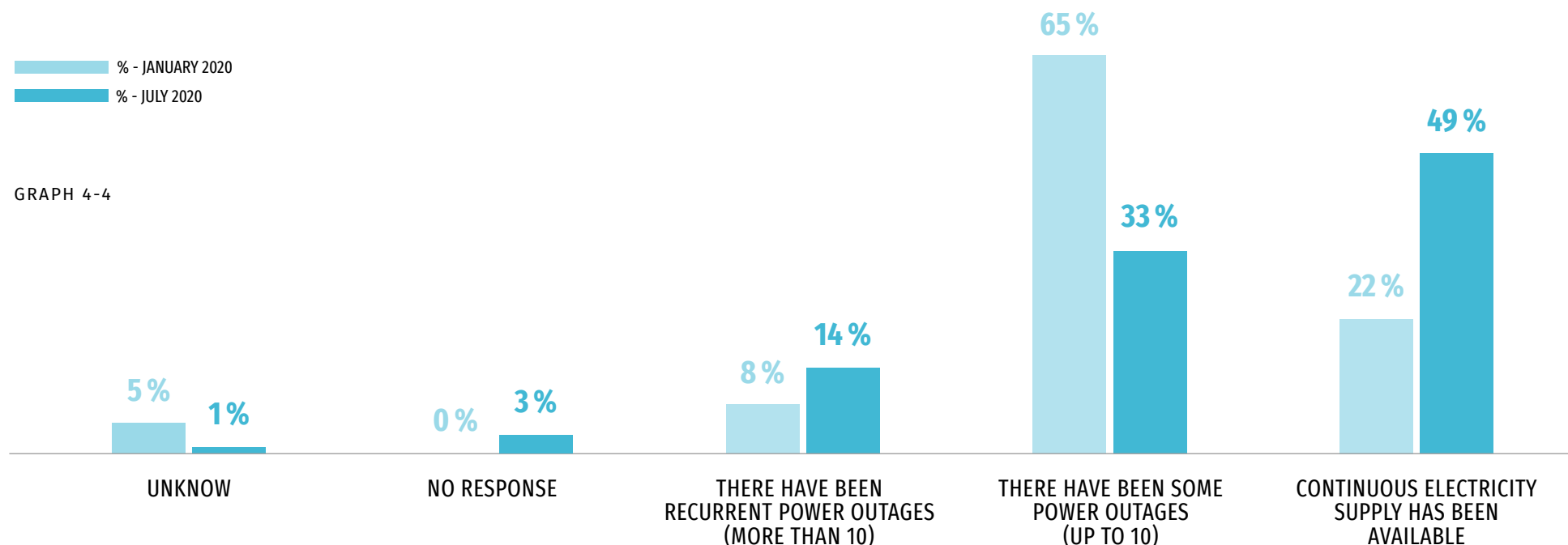


GRAPH 4-3

4.2 - POWER SUPPLY

As for the electricity supply, there is a change in trend from the previous survey, unlike what is observed regarding the water supply in the previous section and which is consistent. The percentage of households that have not suffered power outages over the last 3 months has risen significantly, approaching 50% of the total while the previous report stood at 22%. Therefore, the number of people reporting one-off cuts has been reduced proportionally affecting now one third of those interviewed (33%). However, recurring cuts (more than 10 in that period) have increased from 8% to 14% within this period of time.

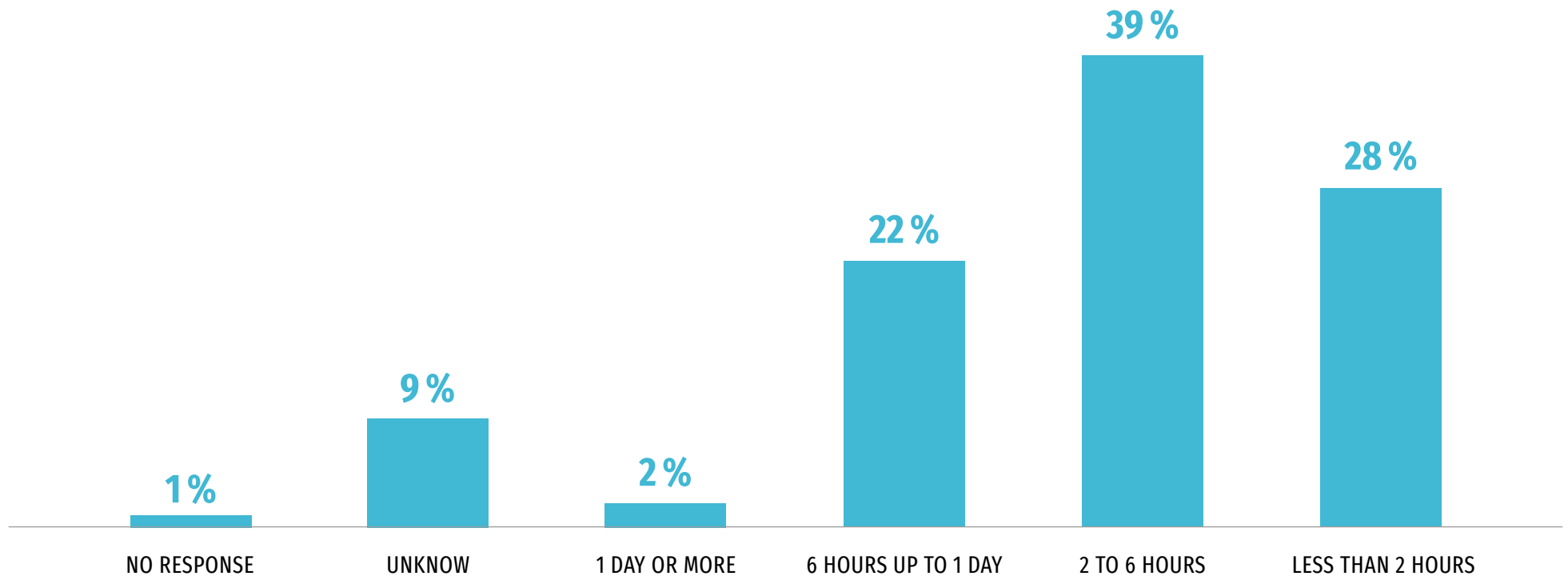
Over the last 3 months, regarding your home's electricity supply:



The outage length reported by those affected is relatively short and does indeed coincide with the previous report, since approximately a quarter of the incidences lasted less than two hours, though almost 40% of the cases went on between 2 and 6 hours. Outages lasting one or more days only affected two out of a hundred people.

GRAPH 4-5

How long do think do the power outages last on average ?





5 - FOOD AND NUTRITION

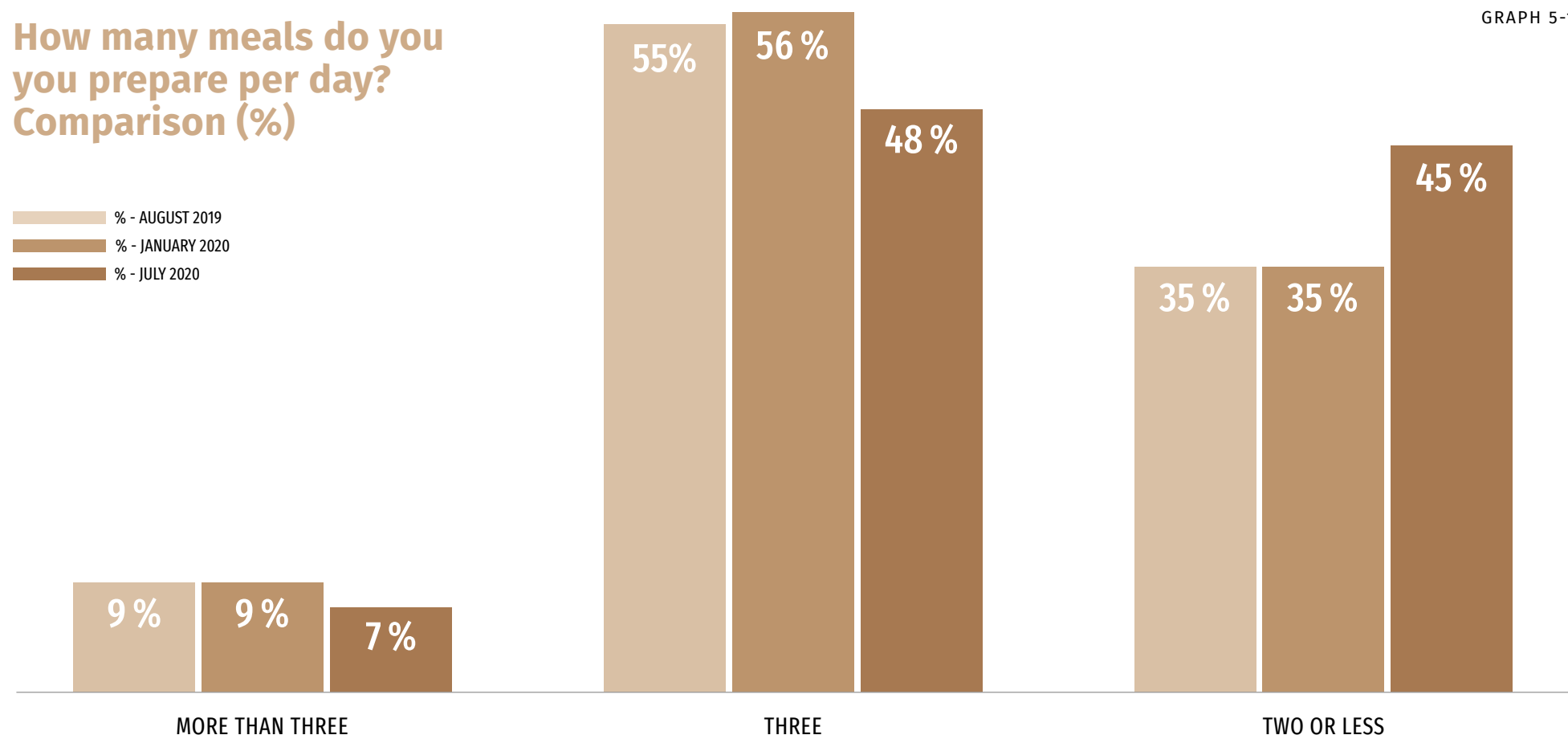


5.1 - FAMILY NUTRITION QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Compared to the previous report, the percentage of people who state they prepare two or fewer meals per day increases (between 35% to 45%), and the responses of those eating three meals drops likewise (from 56% to 48%). This variation could be related to food scarcity amid the Covid-19 crisis, as there was little variation in results between the first and second surveys.

How many meals do you you prepare per day? Comparison (%)

% - AUGUST 2019
 % - JANUARY 2020
 % - JULY 2020

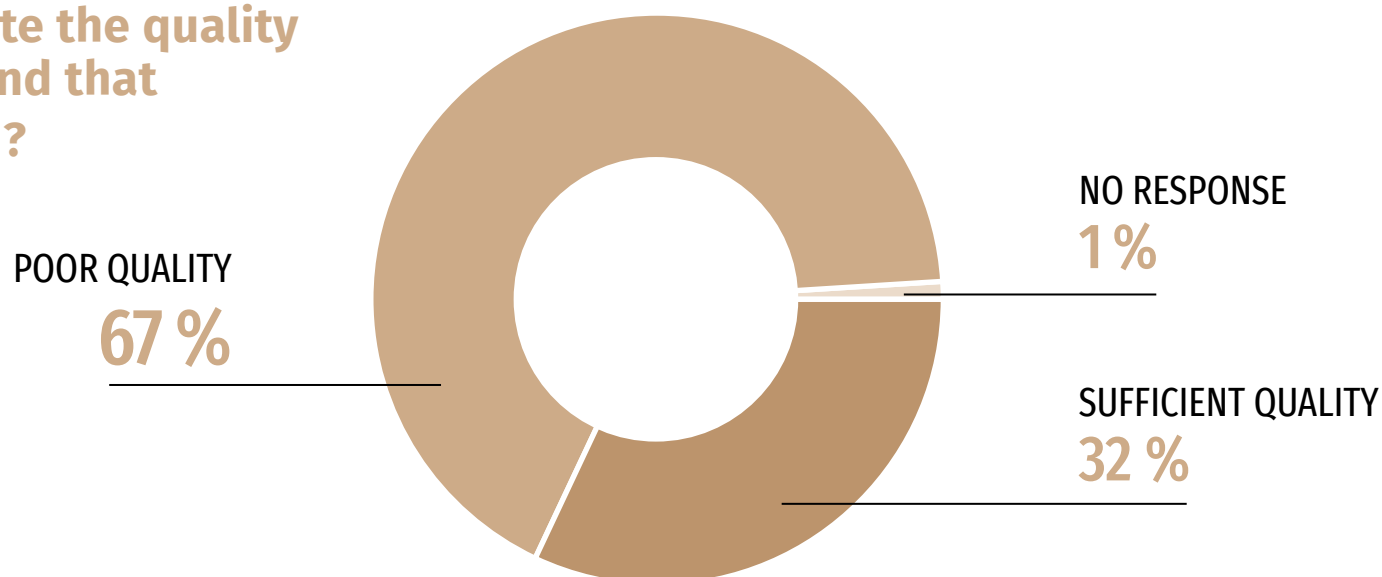


The percentage of people who prepare more than 3 meals a day increases significantly for those with high income levels, rising from 7% to 16%, and drops to 1% for those who are found within the low income segment. The percentage of those who are able to prepare three meals and more, also increases among those who said to receive remittances (64% and 16%, respectively). Among the people with lower studies, those responding they eat two or fewer meals is significantly higher (69% among those holding primary school studies or less, and 60% for secondary school).

Despite the variety of reported food, the majority of the population rates the quality of their food and that of their family as insufficient (67%). Only one in three interviewees considers the quality to be sufficient.

This largely coincides with previous surveys, where only a quarter of respondents valued their diet as balanced and healthy, indicating that there are many households where food is below their expectations.

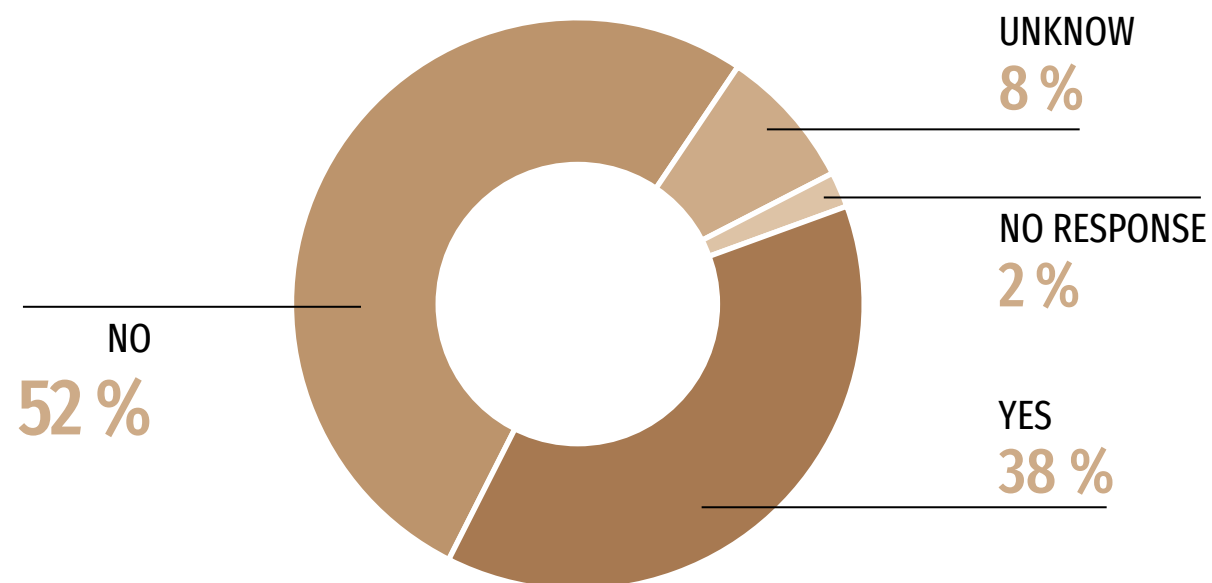
How do you rate the quality of your food and that of your family ?



GRAPH 5-2

This confirms the existence of a significant food precariousness, which is confirmed by another social indicator which is the number of people who cannot prepare some of the daily meals due to the lack of money or resources over the last three months. This figure has increased from 23% in the previous survey to 38% in the current one.

Over the last 3 months, did you or any family member stop having breakfast, lunch or dinner due to the lack of money or other resources?



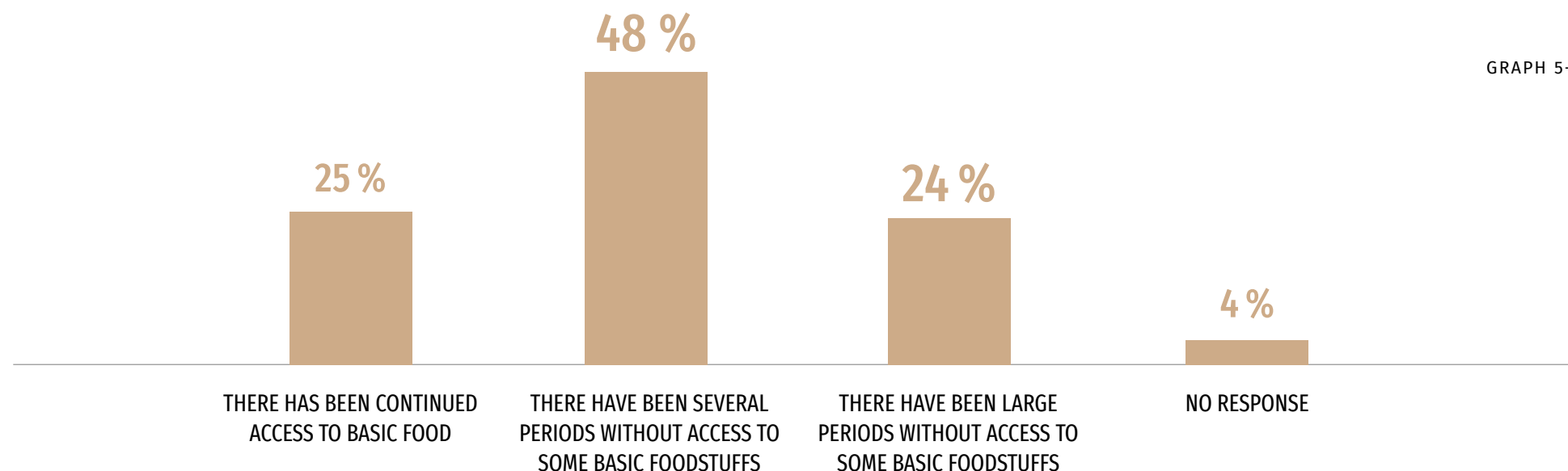
GRAPH 5-3

Among the people aged 70 or over, the lack of some meal has increased in up to 52% of cases, indeed an alarming figure.

We have also polled the access to basic food quality offered by the Government and the results clearly show the precariousness or deficiencies with regard to food. The figures indicate that for a little over 70% of the population, there have been times when they have had no access to some basic foods provided by the Cuban Government; for 48% this lack of access has been somewhat unusual, while for 24% there were “long periods without access”.

The percentage of respondents who have had continuous access to food remains aligned with the previous survey, while the percentage of long periods without access to some basic food has slightly increased from 21 to 24%.

Over the last three months, in relation to access to basic food provided by the Government

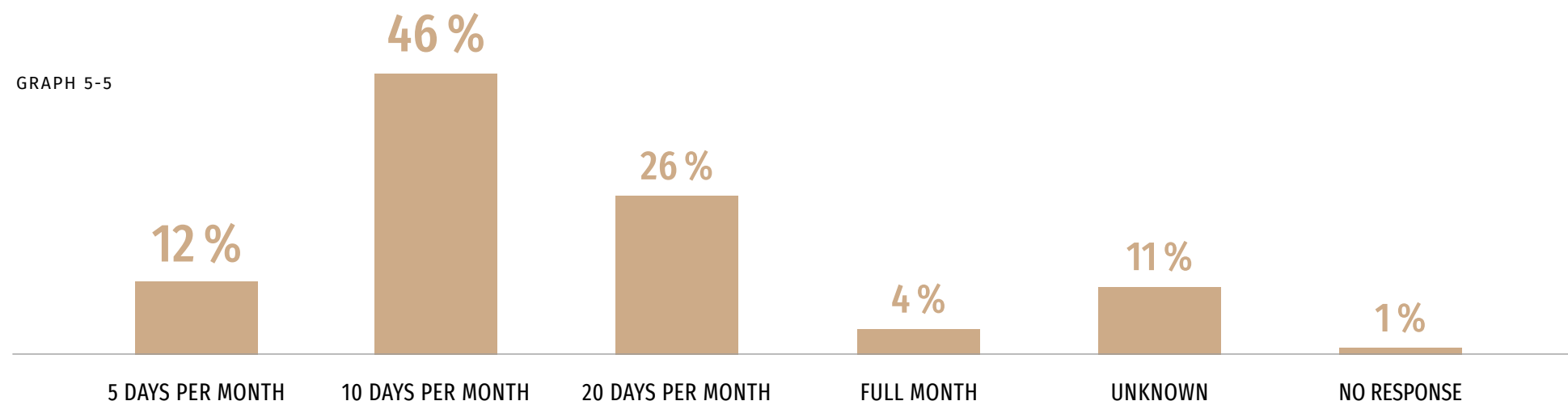


GRAPH 5-4

For about half of the families, access to food purchased through the ration book meets the needs of families for about 10 days a month (46%); and for 12% it covers only about 5 days. Coinciding with the previous survey, about 5% have responded that they can live on it for a complete month. The 25% of cases where food is available for 20 days per month remain constant across the different age groups and by gender, however, it is at only 8% among those who have primary school studies or below.

When looking at the different household income levels, these ration books last for a shorter time period among people with less income: for 23% of those on low incomes, the ration book lasts only 5 days. This is a fact that stands in contrast with the significant increase in cases where products from the ration booklet lasts 20 days among the population in the middle (34%) and high-income (33%) segment, whereas for the latter group, they confirm that the ration booklet covers the entire month (9%).

How many days do the products received through the ration booklet last for your family?





6 - EDUCATION



6.1 - EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM ASSESSMENT

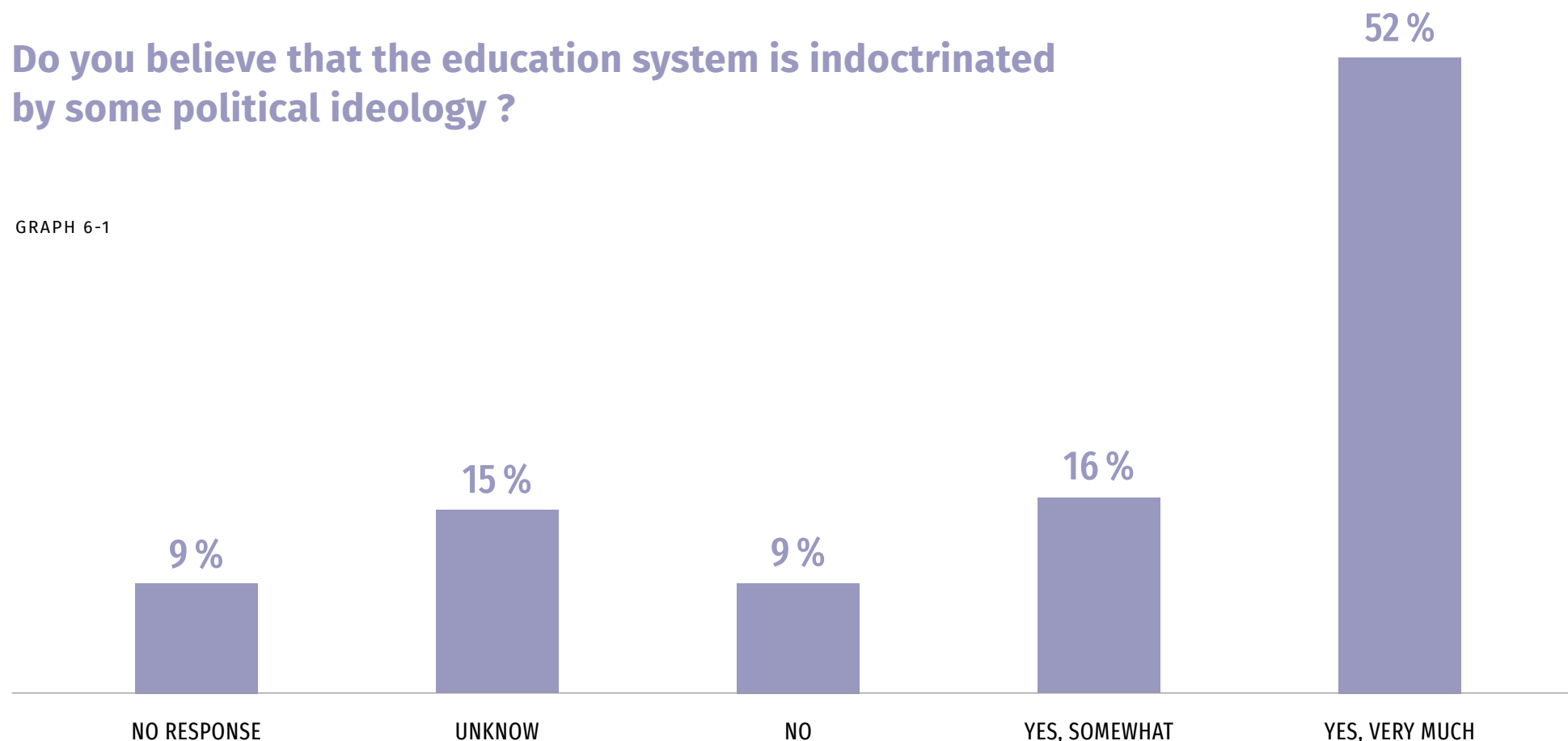
Among the four aspects that have been assessed regarding public education, two of them have passed according to the population and the other two have failed. More than half of the interviewees value as good or very good the teachers' skills and performance, and also, though to a lesser extent, the teaching contents, an aspect that certainly goes hand in hand with the former. On the other hand, there are predominantly negative quality assessments regarding the facilities and the learning materials provided by the government. The results largely match the trend described in the previous reports, with a significant percentage of "no response" by interviewees.

6.2 - Political Indoctrination through the Education System

On the topic of indoctrination found inside the education system, the first survey revealed that 58.5% of respondents considered that indoctrination was taking place. Throughout the second survey, we refined the degree of indoctrination and 65% confirmed its presence in education. Now, this third report consolidates the above data, as 52% of respondents believe that there is a strong ongoing indoctrination process, along with those 16% who also believe this is happening, but to a lesser degree.

Do you believe that the education system is indoctrinated by some political ideology ?

GRAPH 6-1





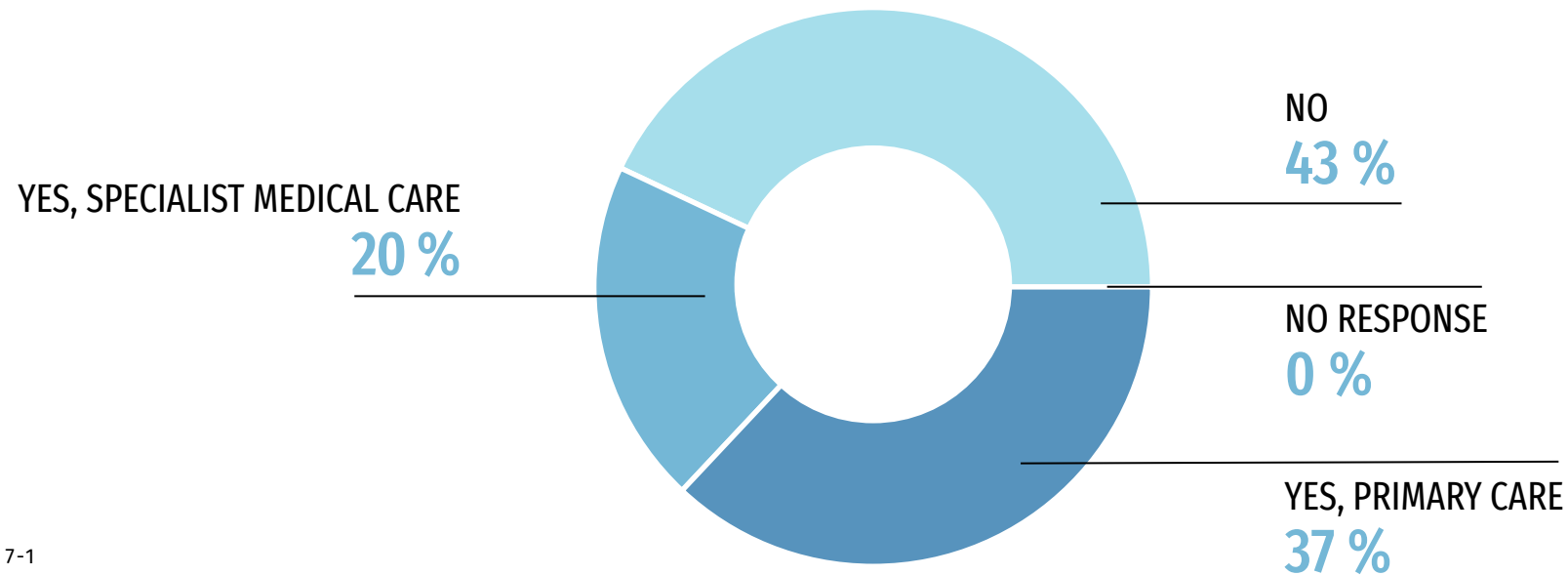
7 - HEALTH AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE



7.1 - ACCESS TO MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

The results indicate that more than 60% of the population has received health care at some point in time. Just over a third have received primary care (37%) and one in five specialist medical care, this latter percentage has slightly decreased since the previous survey (down from 29% to 20%).

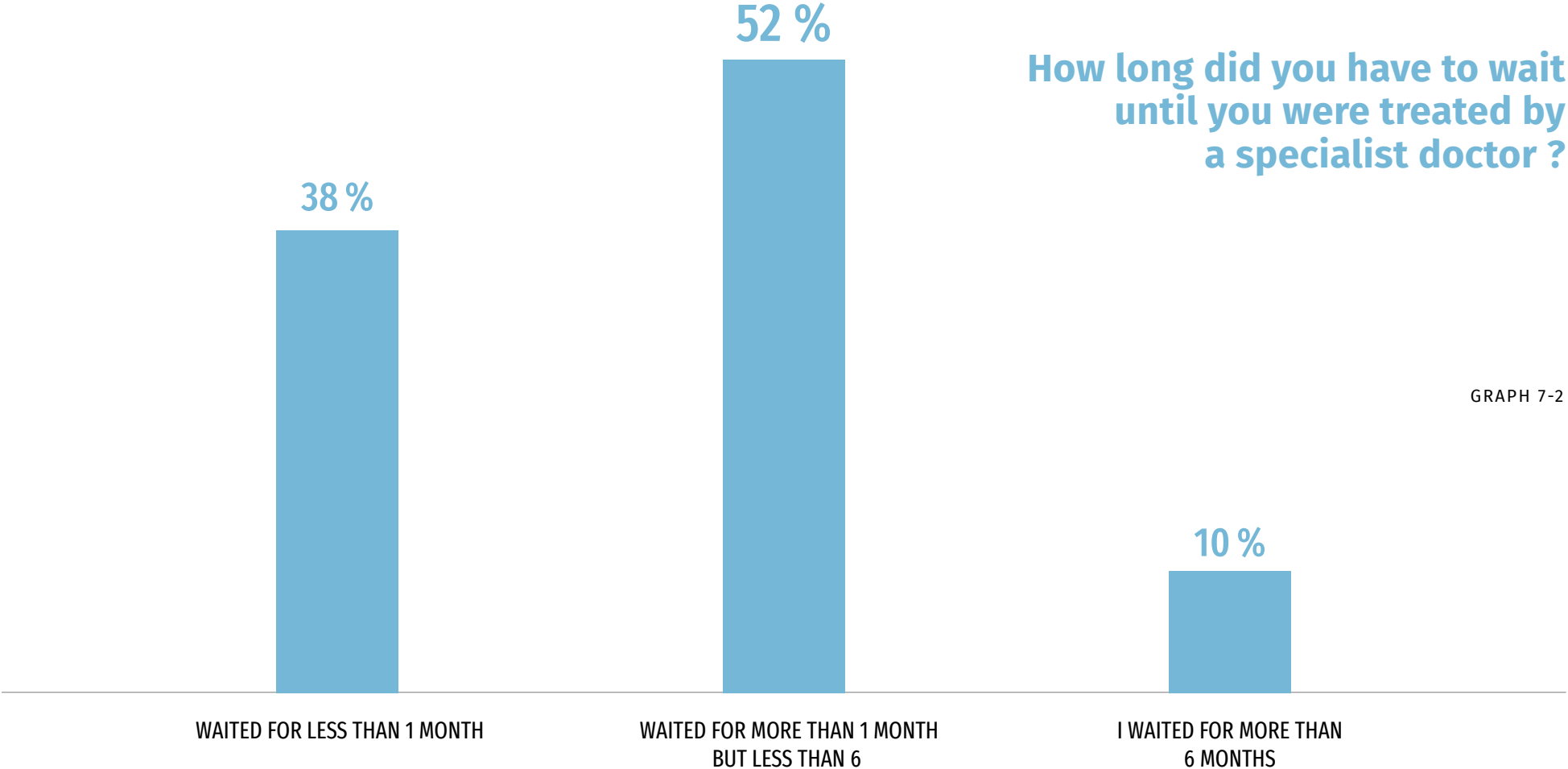
Have you received health care over the last 3 months ?



GRAPH 7-1

Most of those who needed outpatient specialist medical care had to wait between one and six months (52%), a fact that improves the outcome of the previous survey (78%). The number of people that could be seen by a doctor in a month's time has increased from 14% to 38%, however, long-term waiting (over 6 months) has increased from 4% to 10%.

Based on the answers to these two questions, it has been found that the socio-economic and educational background of the interviewees have no influence

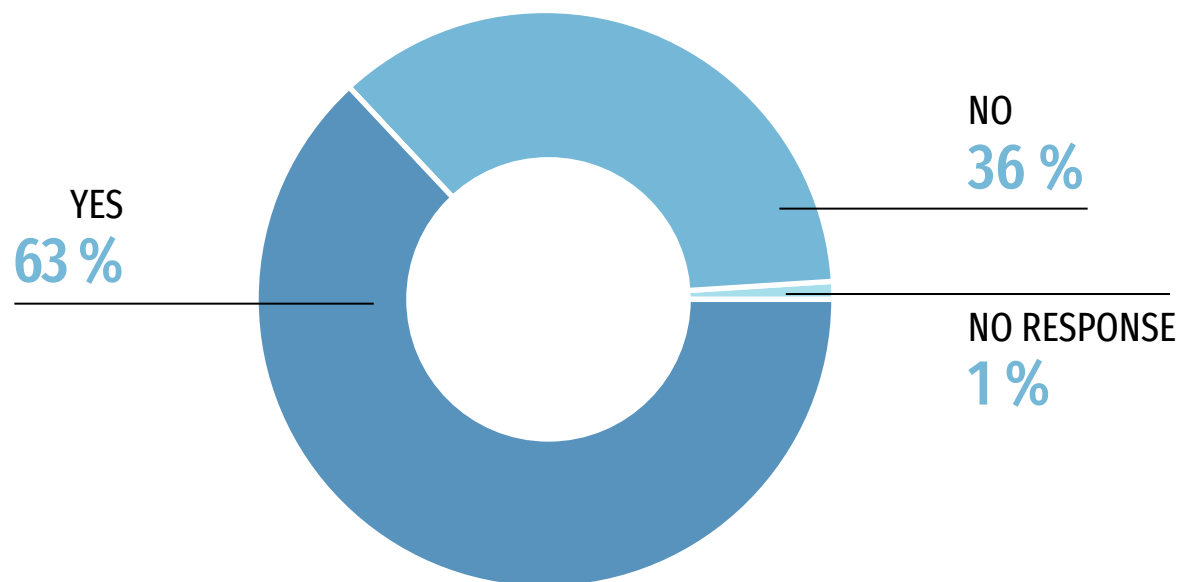


GRAPH 7-2

7.2 - ACCESS TO MEDICINE

In line with the high prevalence of provided health care assistance, medicine use is also high and has even increased compared to the previous surveys. Over the last three months, only 36% of respondents did not have the need to purchase medicine (the previous figure was around 40%). The need for medicine has increased by 3% and stands now at 62%. This figure is lower among the young population (43% for those aged 18-30 years) and higher for the elderly people (80% for those between 61-70 years old, and 89% for those over 70).

Did you have to buy medicine over the last 3 months ?

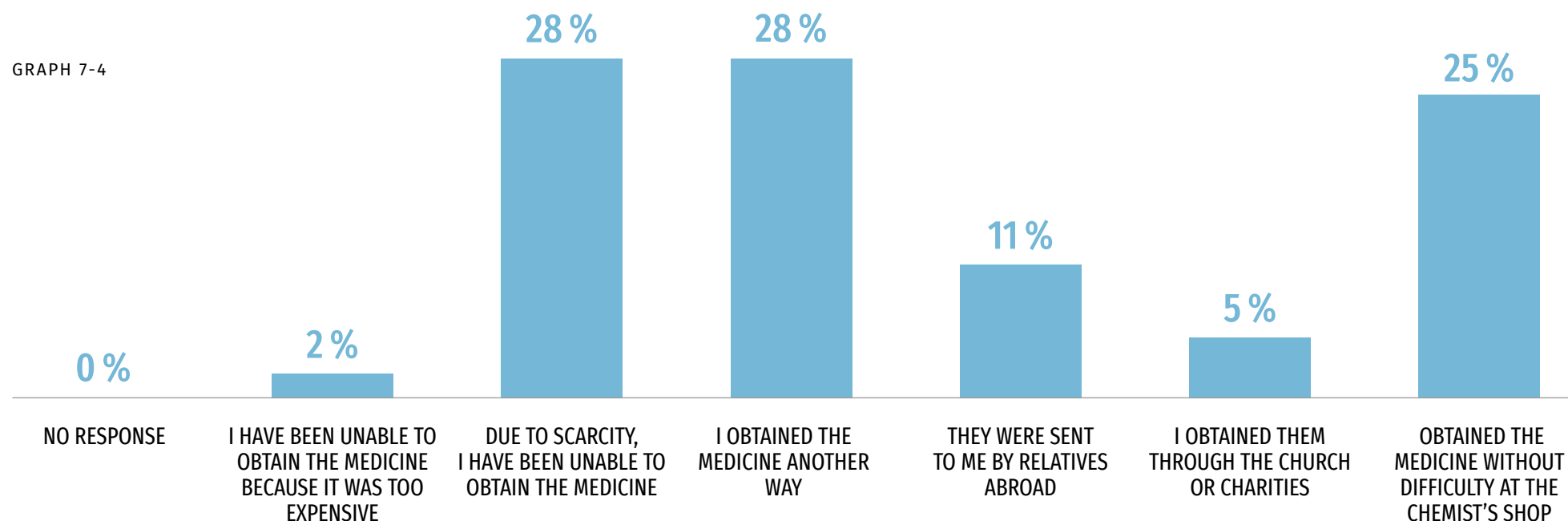


GRAPH 7-3

Taking into account the population share that needed to obtain medicine in the last three months (n=789), the experience in obtaining medicine is truly diverse or unequal. To begin with, there is almost the same proportion of people facing three very distinct circumstances: 1) not being able to purchase medicine due to scarcity (28%); 2) medicine was obtained at the Pharmacy "without any issues" (25%) or they obtained their medicine by alternative means (28%) other than from relatives abroad (10%) or by charities (5%). The cost is also becoming a limiting factor to a portion of respondents (2%).

What has been your experience to obtain medicine ?

GRAPH 7-4



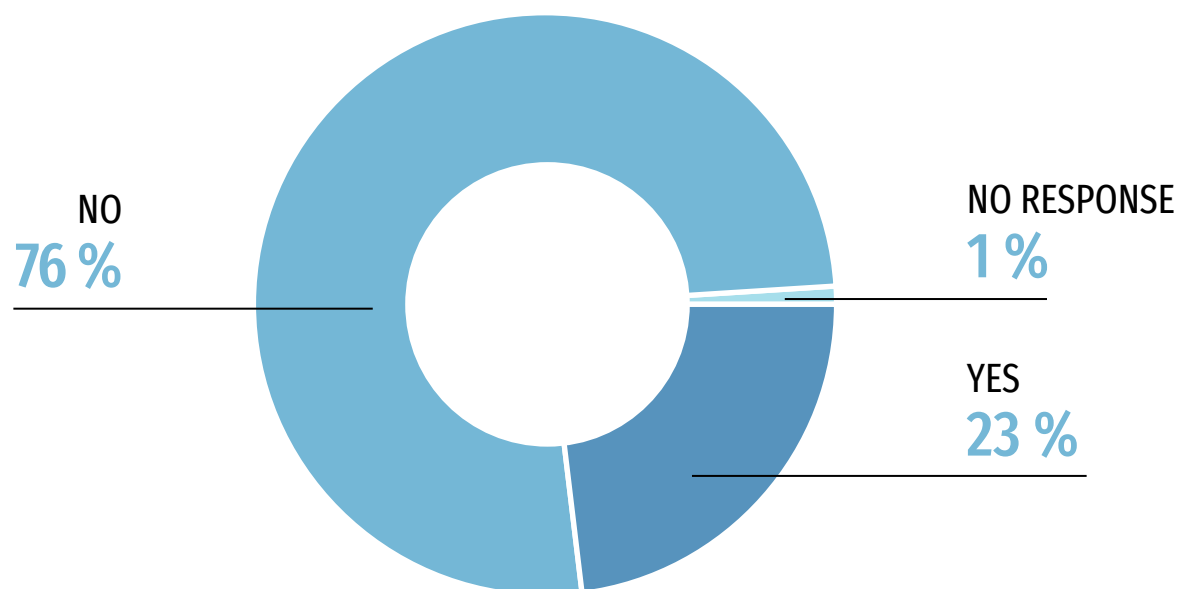
The majority of the population agrees that there are difficulties to obtain medicines. Although for those in the middle and high-income segments, they state they receive supply from their relatives abroad (16% for middle incomes, 28% for high incomes); for obvious reasons, this percentage also rises up to 30% among those who said they received remittances from relatives abroad.

Comparing the results with the previous report, it could be said that, in the context of the health crisis caused by Covid-19, the assessment of the public health system is less negative, especially in terms of "proficiency and performance of healthcare professionals" and "public policies for the prevention of diseases and epidemics". Nevertheless, 76% rate the "Supply of medical equipment and hospital supplies" as either moderate or very bad. Almost six out of ten Cubans rate both the "Access to complementary medical examinations" and the "Condition of hospital facilities" between moderate and very bad.

7.3 - SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Alongside health care, it was asked if the interviewees themselves or one of their family members received any social assistance for any particular reason, such as illness, unemployment or widowhood. The percentage of the population that has received this kind of aid is 22% in the sample as a whole. For those aged over 70 years, this figure increases up to 31%, but diminishes among those in the highest income segment (up to 10%). It also increases in households with 5 or more people, where up to 33% report they receive such support. It is also higher for those who did not receive remittances from relatives abroad (26%).

Requires assistance or social assistance for a particular condition



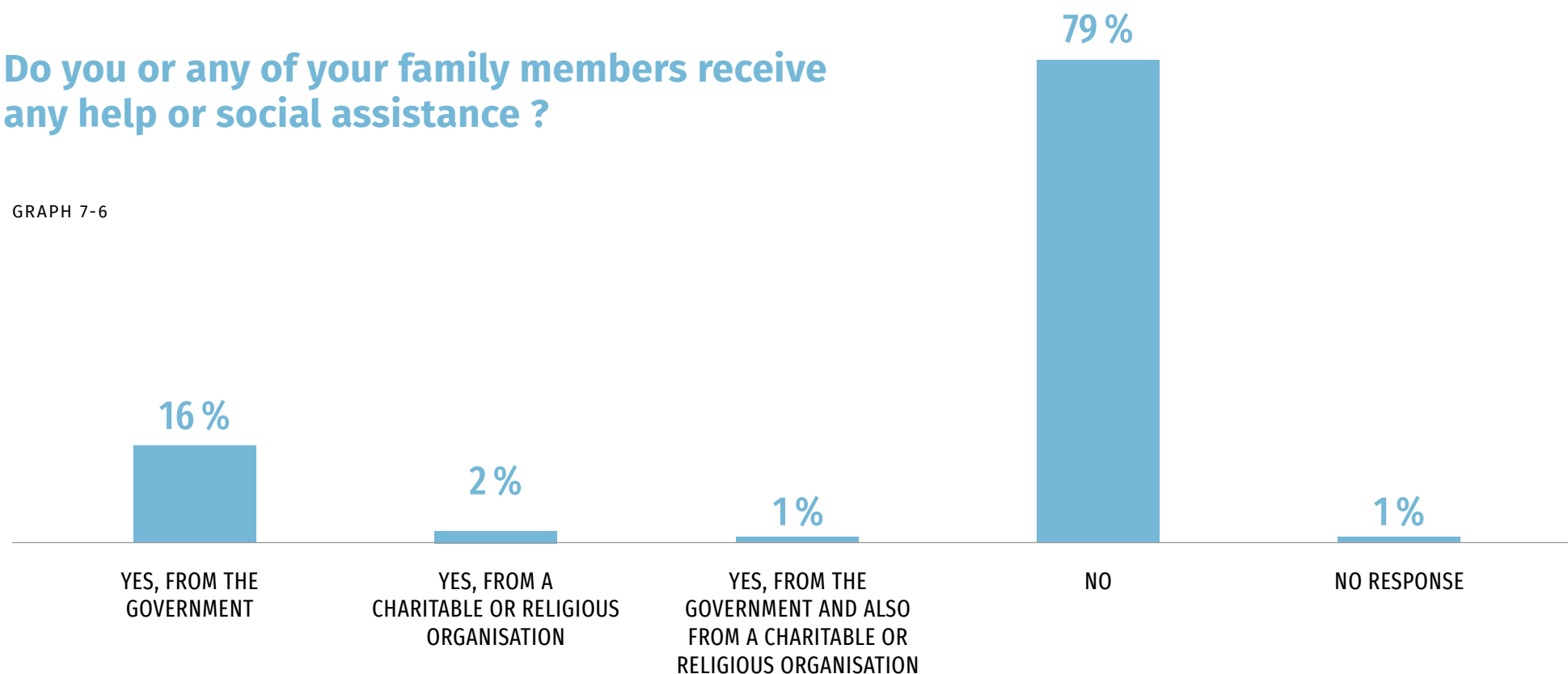
GRAPH 7-5

The percentage of the population that receives no aid remains constant with respect to previous reports, at around 80%. There is an increase in the number of cases in which government aid is received (from 10% to 16%), whereas the aid from charitable or religious organizations slightly decreases (from 5% in the previous report, down to currently 2%).

Comparing the responses by racial group, there are no significant differences. Among people with the lowest educational level, there is an increase in the help received from charities (11%).

Do you or any of your family members receive any help or social assistance ?

GRAPH 7-6





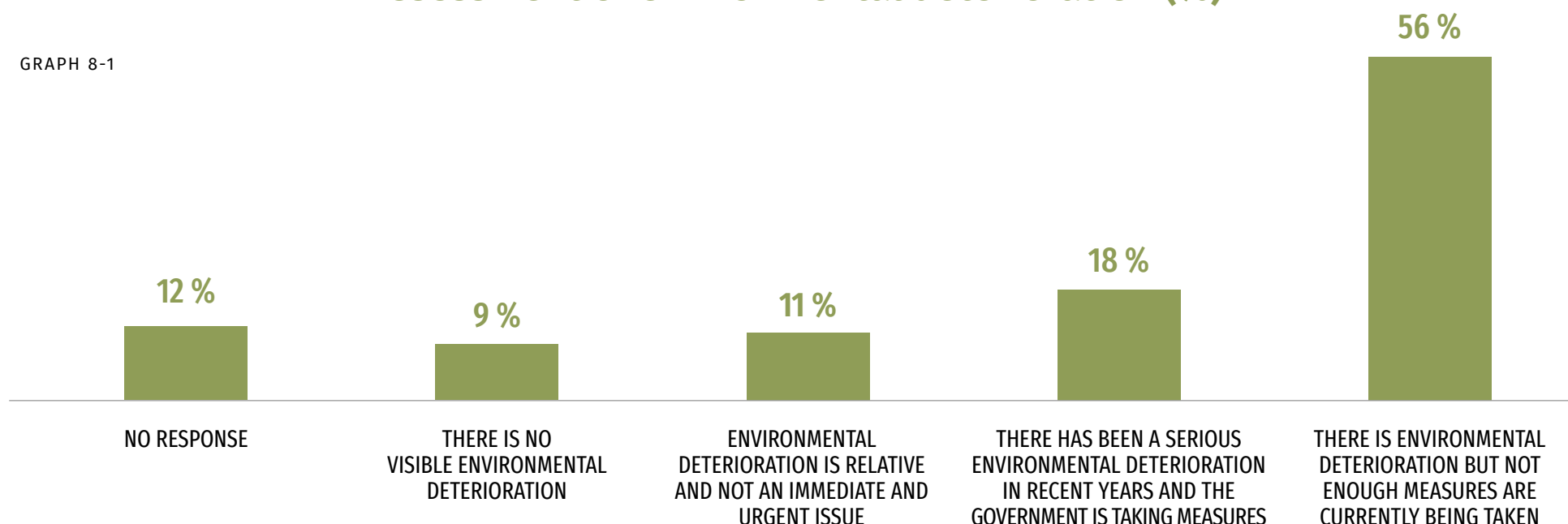
8 - ENVIRONMENT



The survey also shows the perception on some environmental issues, measuring the level of agreement and disagreement with different statements in order to describe the current situation. 74% of respondents believe that there is a certain environmental deterioration and of those there are more that believe the government is not taking sufficient measures (56%) than those who point out they are indeed putting measures in place (18%). By contrast, about 9% of respondents state that there is no environmental deterioration or that this fact is relative and not an urgent issue (11%). This question shows an increase in “no response”, which was already observed in previous surveys. Together with the questions about education, these are those causing the strongest hesitation among interviewees.

Assessment of environmental deterioration (%)

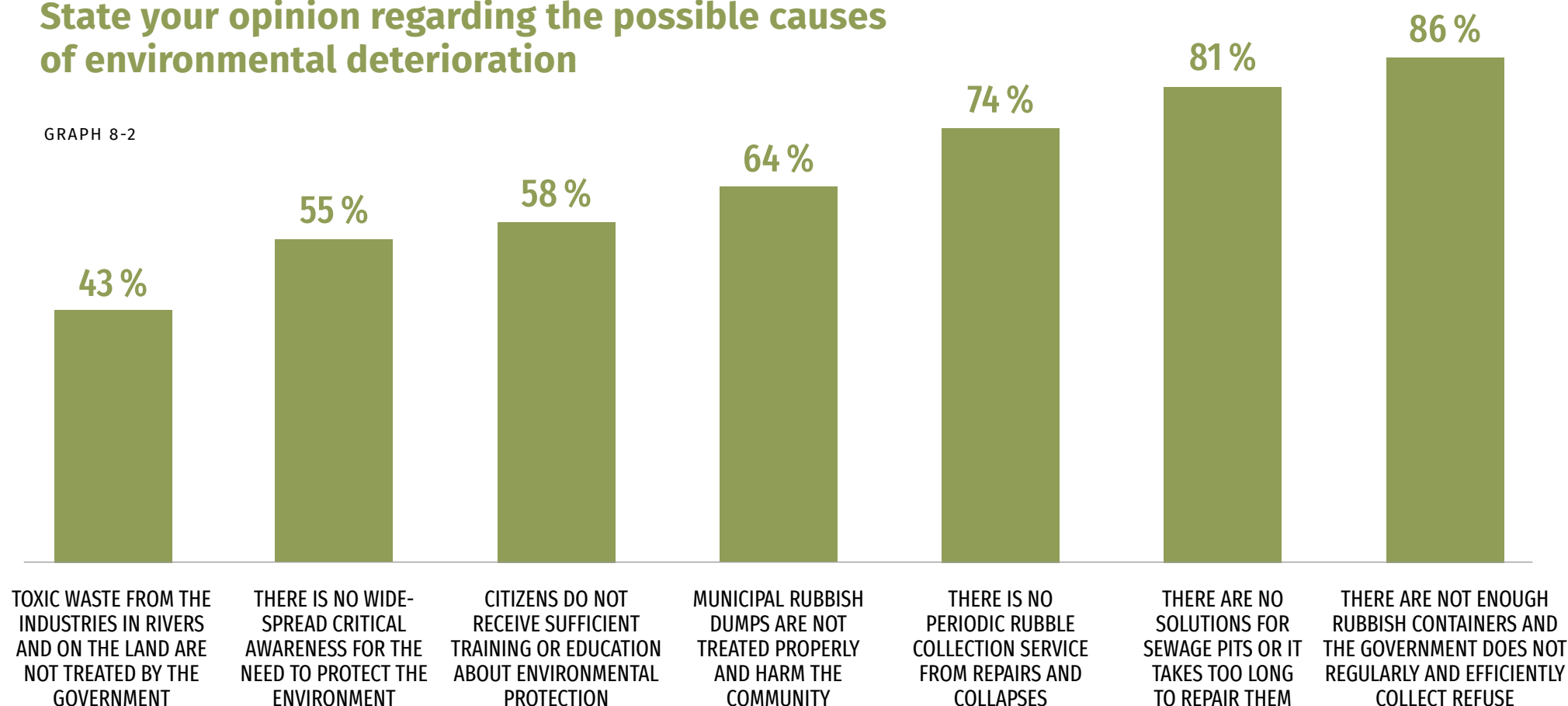
GRAPH 8-1



Analyzing the possible causes of environmental deterioration, and based on those interviewees that have expressed that such deterioration exists and among all the arguments, the most cited are those related to garbage disposal, the repair of sewage pits and the collection of rubble, whereas the first two are mentioned by over 80%, the last has been referred to by 74%. The treatment of garbage dumps is also mentioned by over 60% of respondents, which confirms that a real environmental issue exists regarding the refuse and rubbish treatment which echoes in the public opinion.

State your opinion regarding the possible causes of environmental deterioration

GRAPH 8-2



Insufficient public information on environmental issues is also mentioned by a majority (58%), as well as the lack of critical awareness to address such issues (55%). Lastly, among the proposed arguments, is that for the government to treat toxic waste produced by the industries, although it is something that is taken into account by 42% of respondents.

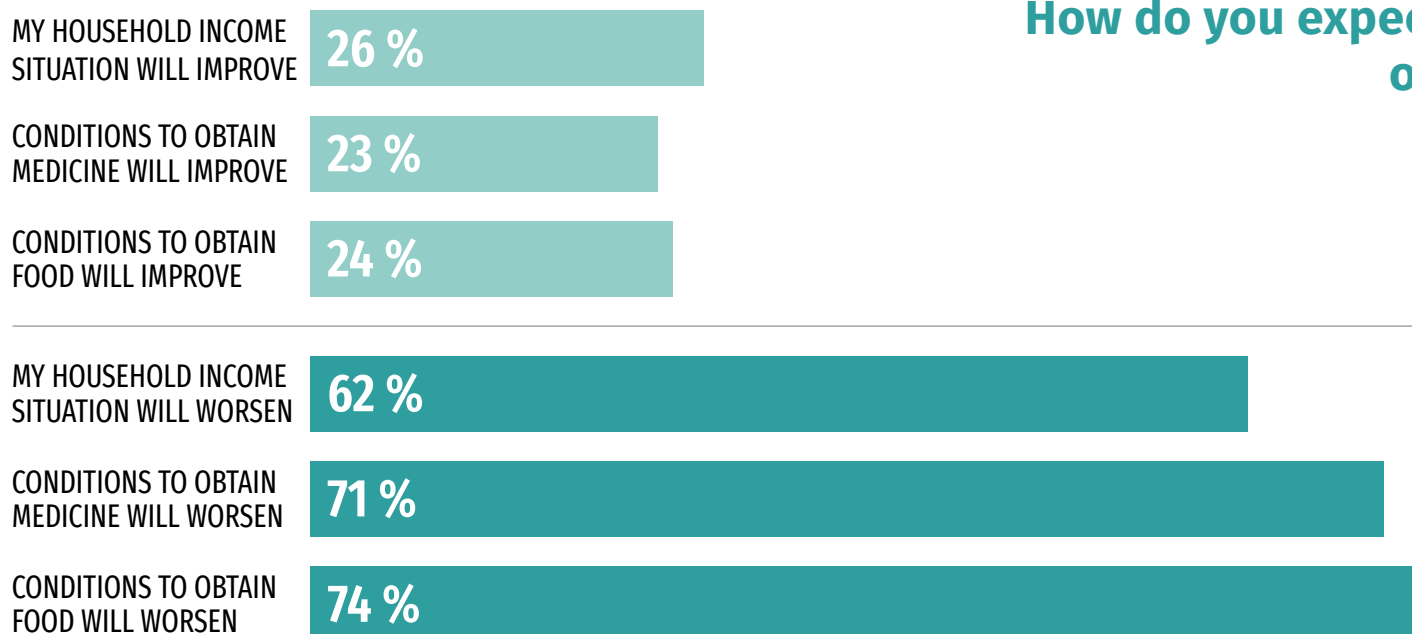
FUTURE PROSPECTS

In conclusion, interviewees were asked for a number of circumstances or scenarios that describe the evolution of some issues that preoccupies society, such as access to food and medicine as well as the household income situation.

Over 70% believe that the conditions for obtaining medicine and food will worsen, and more than 60% express the same viewpoint regarding the income situation of their households. Although there are no significant differences by gender and age, men tend to be more worried than women in believing that household income will worsen (65% and 60%, respectively).

Therefore, an optimistic outlook cannot be detected, because for each of these issues, most of the answers are inclined towards the situation getting worse.

How do you expect the situation to evolve over the next six months?



GRAPH 9-1

PHOTOGRAPHS

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

Cover: *Food is cold in Havana* (series), by Ariel Maceo

Page 6: *The medicines have arrived*, by Elena de la Caridad Ferrer

Page 10: *Sabor a ti* (series), by Nereida Román

Page 24: *The mother*, by Alexander Sánchez

Page 30: *Water*, by Nereida Román

Page 36: *This is how future is received*, by Noel Guerra

Page 42: *Middle School*, by Yasniel Rodríguez

Page 45: *A siesta*, by Alexander Sánchez

Page 53: *This is how the environment is preserved in Cuba* (series), by Lázara Sánchez

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