



OBSERVATORIO DE DERECHOS SOCIALES
CUBA

THE STATE OF SOCIAL RIGHTS IN CUBA

IV REPORT - 2021



Observatorio Cubano
de Derechos Humanos

PRESENTATION

We present the most relevant findings of the fourth consecutive report on the ***State of Social Rights in Cuba***, the result of the work of a team of collaborators residing on the island and advised by international experts. We have managed to collect and analyze the perceptions of 1,141 Cubans on the situation and quality of their social rights. This information reflects, once again, the reality of millions of Cubans, which is increasingly evident to the world and more difficult for the regime to hide.

The survey was conducted under the serious health circumstances related to the management of the Covid-19 pandemic on the island, being one of the countries with the worst figures of infections and deaths. Along with the structural social and economic crisis, there is also the failure of the Ordering Task (*Tarea Ordenamiento*), the inclemency of Hurricane Elsa, as well as the historic citizen protest of July 11.

A third of the interviews were conducted during and after the July 11 protests, which gives a qualitative value to the study that goes beyond its statistical representativeness. The results presented below allow us to see more clearly the social tensions and the sensitivity regarding the critical situation to which the Cuban people are subjected. The post-July 11 data can be seen as a true “amplifier” of the people’s voice, the loss of fear, and the opinion of a country dissatisfied with the current political regime, which is summarized in the demand for **change**.

THEMATIC AREAS

1 MAIN ISSUES FOR CUBANS

2 THE RIGHT TO HEALTH

3 THE RIGHT TO FOOD AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

4 THE RIGHT TO BASIC SERVICES: WATER AND ELECTRICITY

5 THE RIGHT TO WORK AND A FAIR WAGE. Labor conditions in the tourism sector

METHODOLOGY

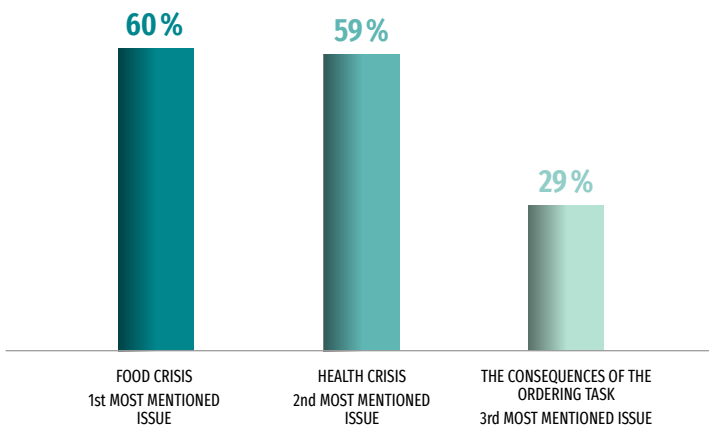
The study was carried out at the national level in the western, central, and eastern regions, covering 39 municipalities and 11 of the 16 provinces of Cuba. A stratified sample design was applied in quotas according to sex, age, and racial groups. The information was collected through in-person interviews using open-source applications for mobile devices. Given the context of the pandemic, specific mandatory health safety and protection protocols were established.

TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

UNIVERSE	Population residing in Cuba of both sexes, over 18 years of age
SAMPLE	1,141 in-person interviews
GEOGRAPHIC AREA	National; western, central, and eastern regions (11 provinces)
SAMPLING METHOD	Simple randomized with stratification by clusters; residence, sex, age, and racial group
ERROR RANGE	+/- 2.9%
CONFIDENCE LEVEL	95%
FIELDWORK	From June 25 to July 19, 2021

MAIN ISSUES FOR CUBANS

What are the three main issues facing the country?

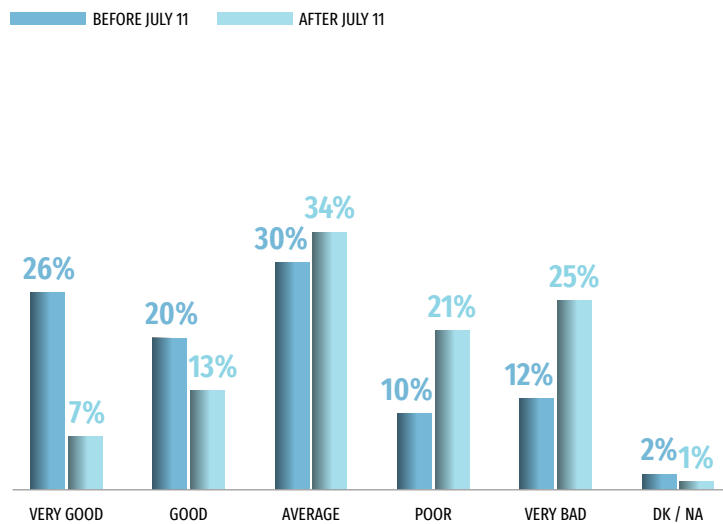


60% of those interviewed point to the **Food Crisis** as the main issue. **59%** rank the **Health Crisis** as the second main issue facing the country. The third most cited issue is the economic consequences caused by the **Ordering Task (Tarea Ordenamiento)** (**29%**).

THE RIGHT TO HEALTH

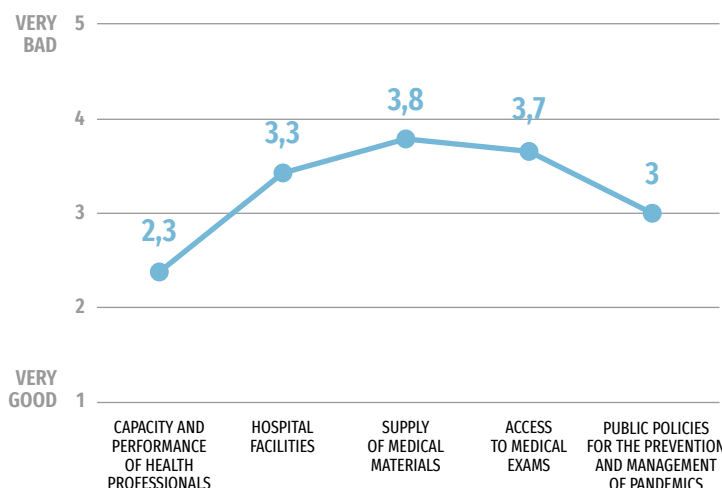
How do you evaluate the Cuban government's management of the Covid-19 pandemic?

79% rate the government's management of the pandemic between **average and very bad**. Among youth, between 18 and 30 years old, the negative assessment stands out; **63%** assess the management between average and very bad. The negative evaluation trend after July 11 increases considerably, going from **22%** to **46%** who qualify it as poor and very bad.



THE RIGHT TO HEALTH

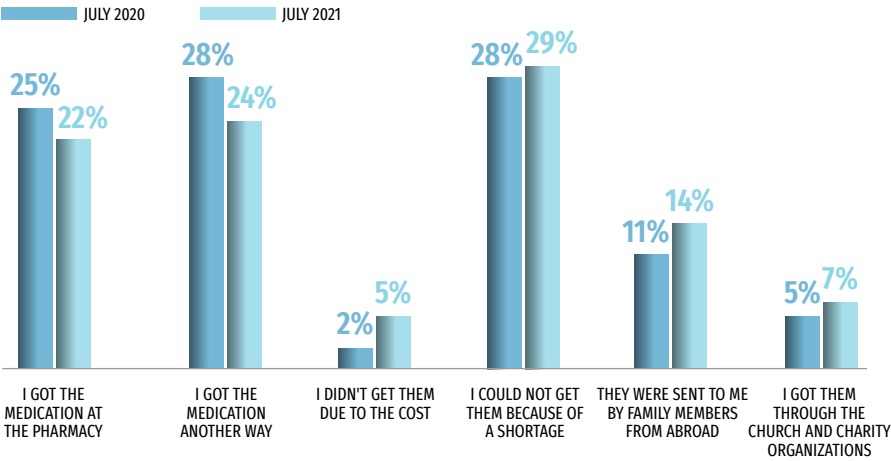
Assessment of the Healthcare System



The general assessment of the **healthcare system** is between **“average and poor”**, except for the rating given to **health professionals**. On the other hand, the aspects with the lowest rating by citizens are the **supply of medical materials and access to exams (poor)**.

ACCESS TO MEDICATION

How was your experience acquiring your medication? (in the last 3 months)



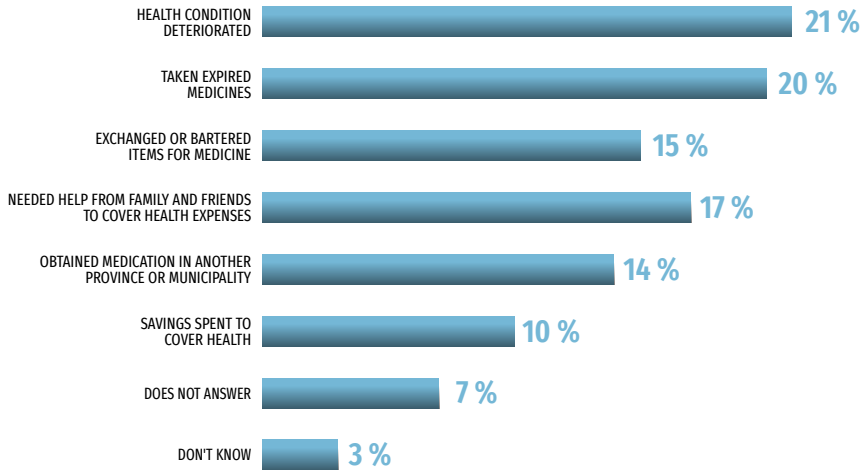
8 OUT OF 10

Cubans could not get their medication in pharmacies. The main reason is due to **shortage (29%)**.
 24% obtained their medication by other means, and **14%** thanks to their family who sent it from abroad.

DETERIORATION OF HEALTH CONDITION

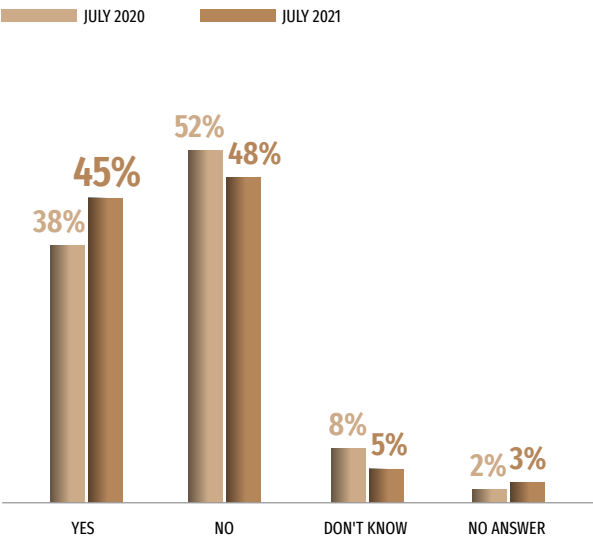
In the last three months, due to lack of medication or lack of money, your family has: (multiple answers)

The perception of health condition is critical:
21% say that their family's health condition has deteriorated.
20% indicate having taken expired medicines in the last three months.
15% have bartered items for medicine.



RIGHT TO FOOD

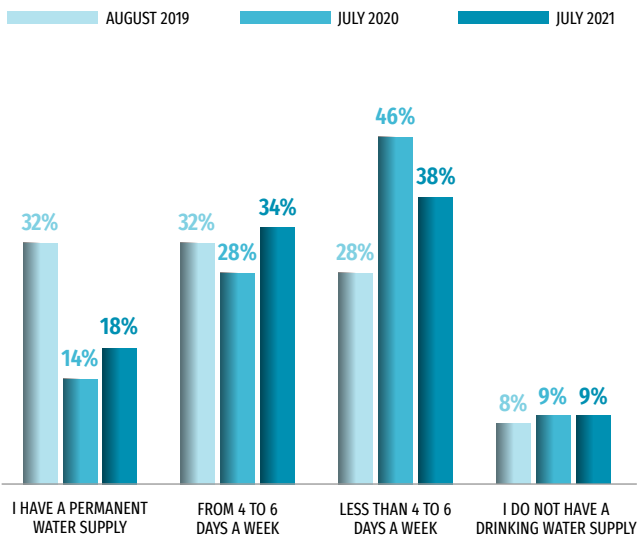
In the last three months, due to lack of medication or lack of money, you or someone in your family has: (multiple answers)



In 2021
45% of the population had to deprive themselves of at least one meal.
73% of the population rates their family's diet as **deficient**, 6 points higher than a year ago (2020).

SUPPLY
52% state that the rationing booklet (libreta de abastecimiento) provides only for 10 days of the month, and only **2%** can cover their nutritional needs for the entire month.

RIGHT TO WATER Water coverage in households



In the last two years (2019-2021) there have been no improvements in the guarantee of the right to water.

82 %

of Cubans do not have a permanent drinking water supply in their homes.

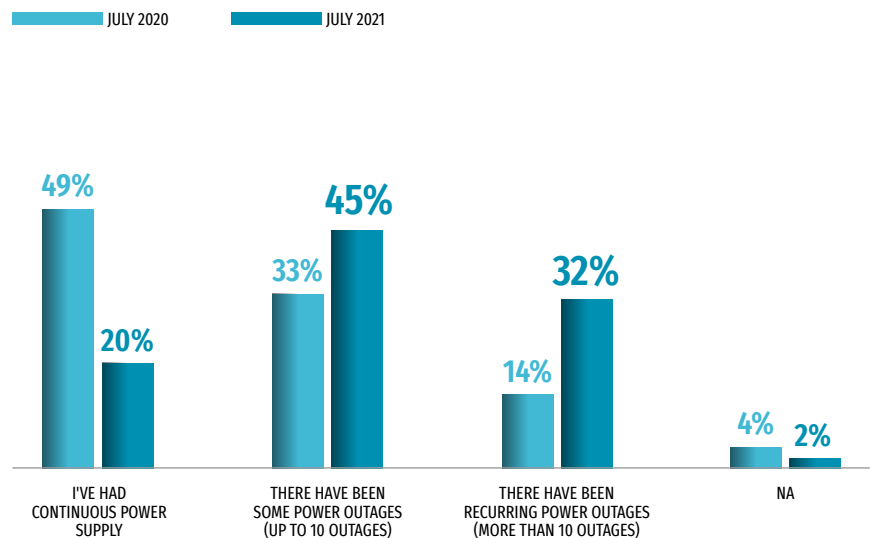
38% receive water less than 4 days a week, while 34% receive water from 4 to 6 days a week. 9% continue without a drinking water supply in their homes.

62% of the population rate the water quality from average to very bad.

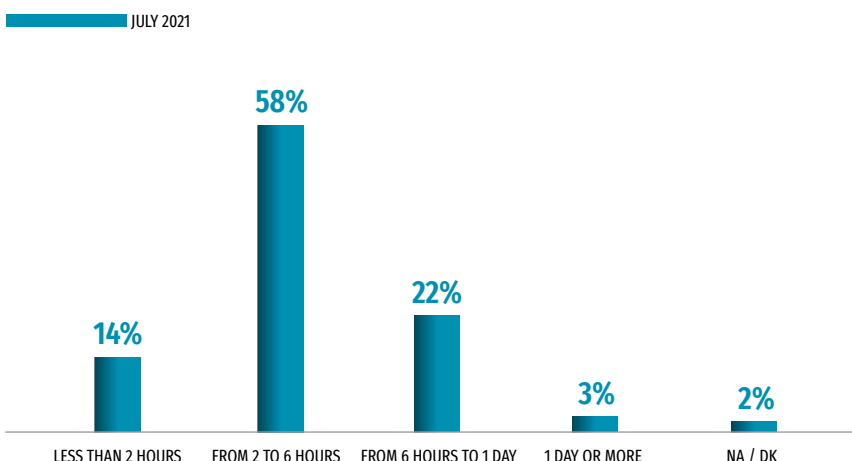
ELECTRICITY Power coverage in households (In the last three months)

80 %
of the population has experienced power outages in the last three months, and households with more than 10 outages have more than doubled, going from 14% (2020) to 32% (2021) in one year

Continuous power supply only reaches **1 in 5** homes.



ELECTRICITY Average duration of blackouts in households

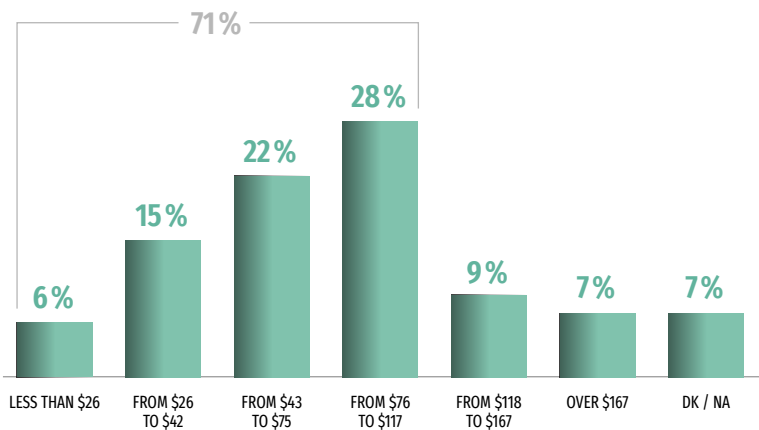


58 %

of the population spends an average of 2 to 6 hours without power during outages, and 22% have blackouts that last between 6 hours to one day.

THE RIGHT TO WORK AND A FAIR WAGE

Monthly household income (Calculated in US dollars)



71%

of families live on less than \$ 3.8 per day.

That means that for a household of three members, each member survives on just \$ 1.28 per day.

This places thousands of Cubans below the poverty line according to World Bank standards (\$ 1.90 per day)

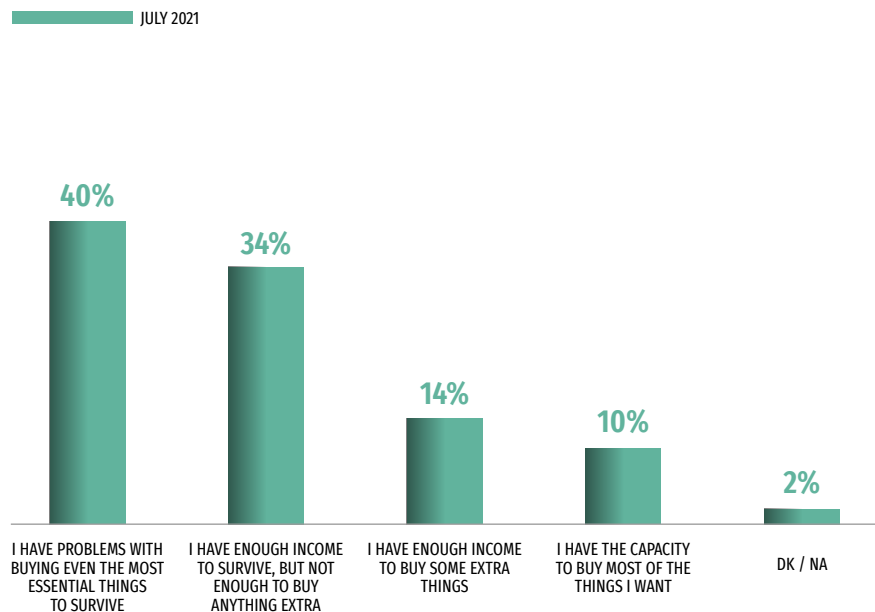
Calculated according to the exchange rate in the informal market (July 2021)

THE RIGHT TO WORK AND A FAIR WAGE

Description of the household's financial situation

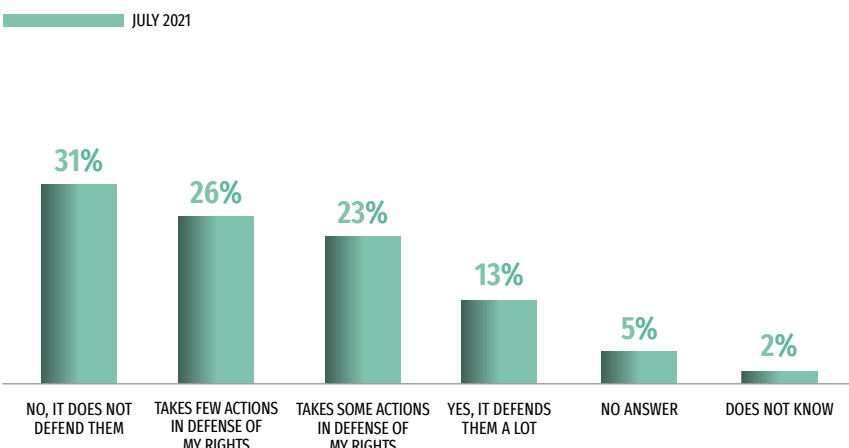
40%
state that they "have problems with buying even the most essential things to survive".

7 OUT OF 10
Cubans state they have a severe or moderate economic crisis in their homes.



LABOR UNIONS AND THE DEFENSE OF LABOR RIGHTS

Do you think that the (only) labor union you belong to defends your rights as a worker?

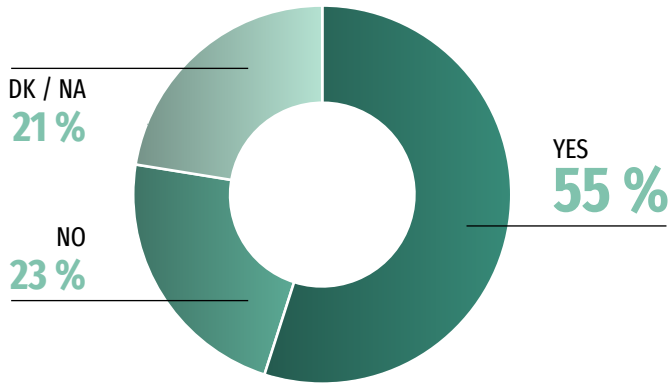


57%

of the members of the (only) labor union consider that it does not defend their labor rights (31% state that it does not defend anything, 26% that it does little to defend them).

LABOR DISCRIMINATION IN THE TOURISM SECTOR

Do you think that there is discrimination against a person who wishes to start working in the tourism sector?

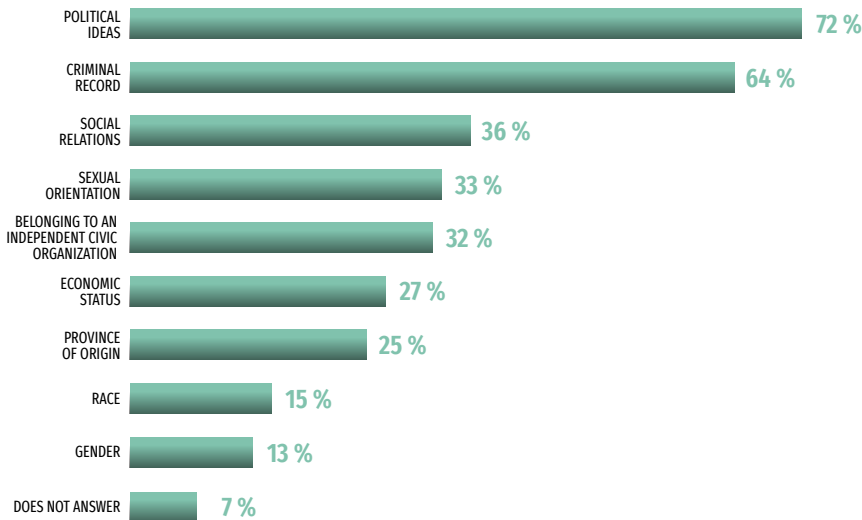


55%

of Cubans believe that there is discrimination of some kind against people who wish to start working in the tourism sector.

LABOR DISCRIMINATION IN THE TOURISM SECTOR

Reasons why people who wish to work in the tourism sector are discriminated against



72%

consider that the main reason for discrimination is their **political ideas**.

Social relations (not having influence **36%**), sexual orientation (**33%**), or belonging to an independent civic organization (**32%**) are also pointed out as reasons for discrimination.

LABOR DISCRIMINATION IN THE TOURISM SECTOR

Labor conditions in the tourism sector

70%

believe that **hiring** should be done directly between the company and the worker.



56%

agree that the State should not keep a percentage of their salary.



54%

consider that there is **more political and ideological control** in the tourism sector.

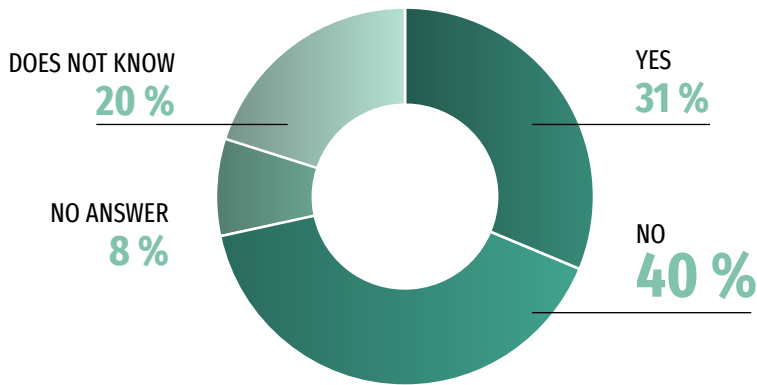


Only **2 OUT OF 10**

workers in the sector consider that free labor union activity in the tourism sector is allowed.

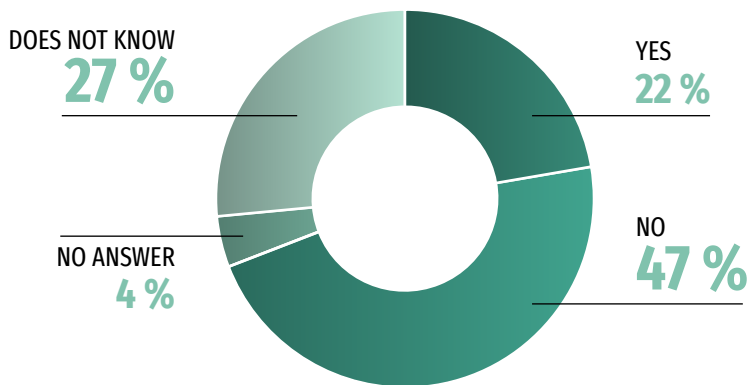


LABOR DISCRIMINATION IN THE TOURISM SECTOR
Do you think that the labor rights of workers in the tourism sector are respected?



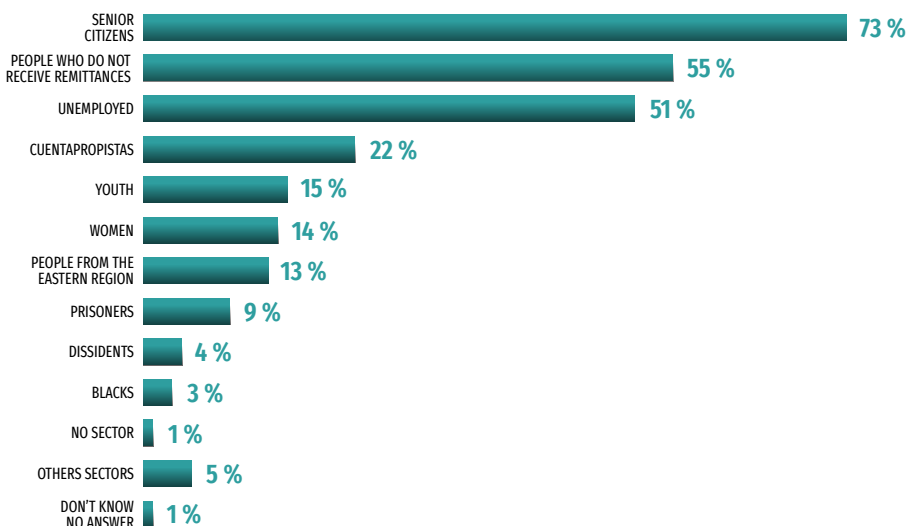
40% believe that labor rights are not respected in the tourism sector; after July 11 this opinion reached 60% of those interviewed.

LABOR DISCRIMINATION IN THE TOURISM SECTOR
Do you know of a body or mechanism workers in the international tourism sector can turn to in case of a violation of their labor rights?



Only **2 OUT OF 10** are aware of the existence of a body or mechanism they can turn to in case of a violation of their labor rights.

Mention which sectors of the population do you consider to be having a worse time given the situation of the country.



For Cubans, the sectors of the population most affected and vulnerable by the situation in the country are **the elderly (73%)**, followed by those who do not receive remittances (**55%**) and the unemployed (**51%**).

The **Observatorio de Derechos Sociales/Social Rights Observatory** (ODS - Cuba) is an initiative of the OCDH. Since 2009 the Observatory has been working on documenting and investigating human rights violations in Cuba.

The ODS-Cuba arises from the need to have **updated information, verified and supported by evidence on the situation of the Cuban population in terms of health, employment, housing, access to water, education, food, etc.** Systematic research, monitoring, and dissemination of information related to the state of social rights on the island are conducted for this purpose.

Our objective is to be a **monitoring instrument for civil society and the international community on the situation of social rights in Cuba**, in order to contribute to the development of decisions that improve the quality of life of Cubans.



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