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# Covid-19 Global Pandemic in Nairobi's Low-Income Areas: Children's Learning and Domestic Violence

Round Three Survey Report | 1<sup>st</sup> Release | 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020

## Survey Sponsors

Activity supported by the  
Canada Fund for Local Initiatives

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# Survey Sponsors



For this Third Round of a multi-round survey of (mostly) the same respondents, TIFA gratefully acknowledges the support of the following organizations:

- The Canadian High Commission in Kenya
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# Executive Summary



**This 1<sup>st</sup> Release of TIFA's Round Three survey of Nairobi's low-income earners shares their perspectives on children's learning and domestic violence**





# Access to Educational Content

## Households with school-going children

□ **76%** of the respondents indicate that they have school-going children.

## Children's access to educational content

□ **40%** of those with children indicate that their children were accessing education content and of these;

□ **36%** access mainly through TV

□ **34%** access mainly through a smart-phone

□ **11%** access mainly through radio



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# Level of Worry About Their Children Contracting the Virus When They Return to School

- ❑ **70%** of households in the low income areas in Nairobi with school-age children fear that their children would contract the virus when they return to school.
- ❑ Level of worry varies by gender with women being more worried.
  - ❑ **73%** of women are worried
  - ❑ **67%** of men are worried



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- ❑ **44%** of all those with a child/children are “very worried” about they will personally get infected with the Coronavirus.
- ❑ The level of worry is higher amongst women as compared to men
  - ❑ **51%** of women have this level of worry
  - ❑ **35%** of men have this level of worry



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# Domestic Violence

## Incidence of domestic violence increase

- ❑ **37%** report an increase in violence **against women** in the neighborhood
- ❑ **29%** report an increase in violence **against men** in the neighborhood
- ❑ **22%** report an increase in violence **against children** in the neighborhood

## Types of violence against children

- ❑ **28%** physical abuse
- ❑ **21%** verbal abuse
- ❑ **46%** both physical & verbal abuse



## Types of violence against women

- ❑ **25%** physical abuse
- ❑ **20%** verbal abuse
- ❑ **52%** both physical & verbal abuse



## Types of violence against men

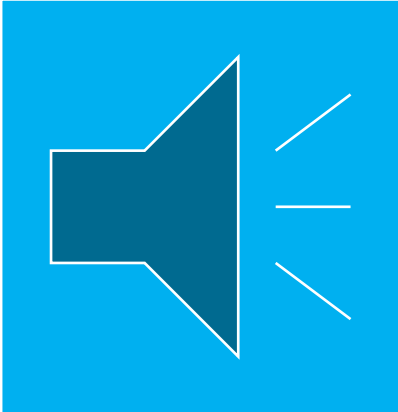
- ❑ **26%** physical abuse
- ❑ **30%** verbal abuse
- ❑ **39%** both physical & verbal abuse





# Study Background and Objectives

# Overall Study Objectives



- ❑ To measure the level of **awareness of the disease** among residents of selected low-income areas in Nairobi, and their level of concern with it
- ❑ To assess the immediate **social-economic impact** of the Covid-19 crisis on them
- ❑ To understand their current **coping mechanisms and future expectations** of their medical and economic well-being
- ❑ To establish their experience with and opinions about relevant **government enforcement efforts**
- ❑ To determine the proportion who say they have **benefited from any remedial measures** instituted by either state or non-state actors, or even know about them

# Study Background: Concept



❑ The measures in Kenya taken to contain Covid-19 over the last seven months have affected households in many ways, including job loss, loss of remittances, higher commodity prices, heightened insecurity, and disruption to health care services and education. While these impacts have affected most households across the country, they appear to be more profound and longer-lasting amongst low income-earners in more congested urban areas who are inherently more vulnerable.



❑ Nairobi has registered the highest number of Covid-19 cases in Kenya – nearly one-third of the national total (yet fewer than one-in-ten Kenyans reside there). Given the restrictions initially placed on movement in and out of this county as well as a night-time curfew, crowd-limitation and 'social isolation' measures, many people have found it difficult to 'make ends meet', especially those in the lower-income areas captured in this survey.

❑ In this context, TIFA Research, in collaboration with Dr. Tom Wolf, designed and implemented a survey to explore these issues among this section of Nairobi's population over time. Round One of the survey was conducted at the end of April and captured the experiences, views and expectations of 356 respondents resident in Nairobi's main low-income areas. Subsequently, a webinar was held to explore some of the issues captured. (Both the webinar and the entire Round One Release may be accessed from here <http://www.tifaresearch.com/the-covid-19-global-pandemic-in-nairobis-low-income-areas/>. This was followed six weeks later with Round Two with 579 respondents (including 286 who had participated in Round One) in these same low-income areas and that was completed on 15<sup>th</sup> June. The data generated six releases which can be found by accessing the same (TIFA) website.

❑ This Round Three survey was conducted between 24<sup>th</sup> September and 2<sup>nd</sup> October, and involved 555 respondents (428 of whom had been interviewed in either Round One, Round Two, or both).



# Study Background: Survey Topics



❑ This 1<sup>st</sup> Release covers issues related to the challenges families are facing by having school-age children at home, particular with regard to learning. In addition, it presents data regarding domestic violence (showing comparisons with similar data obtained in Round Two).

❑ Subsequent Releases will cover the following issues:



- Socio-Economic Impact: Income, savings, expenditure reductions
- Government and Individual infection-prevention Measures
- Restrictions: Curfew, Gatherings, Mask-Wearing
- The Virus: Awareness/Knowledge of Covid-19 facts
- The Virus: Anxiety Level of Contracting the Virus/Future Expectations of Its Course
- The Virus: Main Sources of Information About Covid-19
- Assistance to the Needy: Awareness/Evaluations of Government Measures to Assist the Needy
- Assistance to the Needy: Personal Receipt/Knowledge of Such Receipt of Such Any Such Assistance
- Assistance to the Needy: Awareness of Non-State/Foreign Organizations Providing Such Assistance
- General: Evaluation of Government Performance: Containing the Virus/Assisting the Needy

# Study Background: Round Three 1<sup>st</sup> Release



❑ When President Uhuru Kenyatta addressed the nation on 6 July to lay out the ‘way forward’ with regard to the continuing efforts required to contain the Covid-19 virus pandemic by both government and citizens, he instructed the Cabinet Secretary of Education Professor George Magoha to inform the country “within 24 hours) what the future of this year’s education calendar will be.



❑ Subsequently, on 7 July, he announced that primary and secondary schools will remain closed until January, 2021, meaning that the entire 2020 academic year will have to be repeated. Then, in September, CS Magoha gave schools “six weeks” to prepare for re-opening, such preparations mainly involving expanding the capacity of schools to accommodate students in accordance with the hygienic and distancing guidelines laid down by the Ministry of Health. Such increased capacity involves various measures, especially an increase in the space provided for classroom and boarding facilities.

❑ Most recently, on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020, CS Magoha announced that on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> October, primary pupils in Grade 4 and Standard 8 and secondary students in Form 4 should report to their schools to prepare for their exams that they will sit at the end of the First Quarter of next year.

# Study Background: Round Three 1<sup>st</sup> Release (con't)



- ❑ However, several cases have been filed in court to stop this from happening on grounds that too few schools are currently prepared in terms of keeping the students safe from the Coronavirus. Even absent these legal challenges, it is unclear how many/which schools have met the infrastructure requirements (i.e., clean water supply, classroom space, supply of masks, etc.) to allow for learning of even the limited number/designated classes to begin.
- ❑ In the context of such uncertainties, it remains unclear when other students will report. (Note that in July all students had been told that schools would re-open in January, 2021.)
- ❑ Whatever the eventual re-opening schedule, its prospect raises several questions that the results of this 1st Release shed light on with regard to the survey's target population. These include:
  - Have students been able to access the stipulated educational content during these many months since schools were closed, and if so, how have they been doing this?
  - How useful is this content viewed by their parents, and how much attention have children been paying to it?
  - Whenever students are recalled, how concerned are their parents about their medical safety, given the still ever-present virus, especially in urban schools that serve very densely populated neighborhoods?

# Methodology: Data Collection



Sub-topic	Detailed information
Field work dates	24 <sup>th</sup> September – 02 <sup>nd</sup> October 2020
Geographical scope of study	Nairobi County - low income areas (Huruma, Kibera, Mathare, Korogocho, Mukuru kwa Njenga, Kawangware )
Proportion of Nairobi's adult population covered	29% of the estimated 820,000 i.e., adults living in the low income areas
Target respondents	Adults (18+ years) living
Sample size	555 respondents (Male = 281, Female = 274)
Margin-of-error	+/- 4.2% for the total sample. (Note: Sub-sample results have higher error-margins)
Average duration of interview	28 minutes
Proportion who stated that they enjoyed the interview	98%
Proportion who agreed to participate in a similar future survey	98%
Data collection methodology	Telephonic – calls made to respondents recruited face-to-face in previous surveys.

The safety and well-being of our office and research field staff, as well as of our survey respondents, is paramount during this period of the COVID-19 threat. In aligning with government guidelines to minimize movements and promote safe (i.e., physical) distancing, TIFA has set up a virtual-call centre platform allowing the field staff to make interview-calls from their homes.



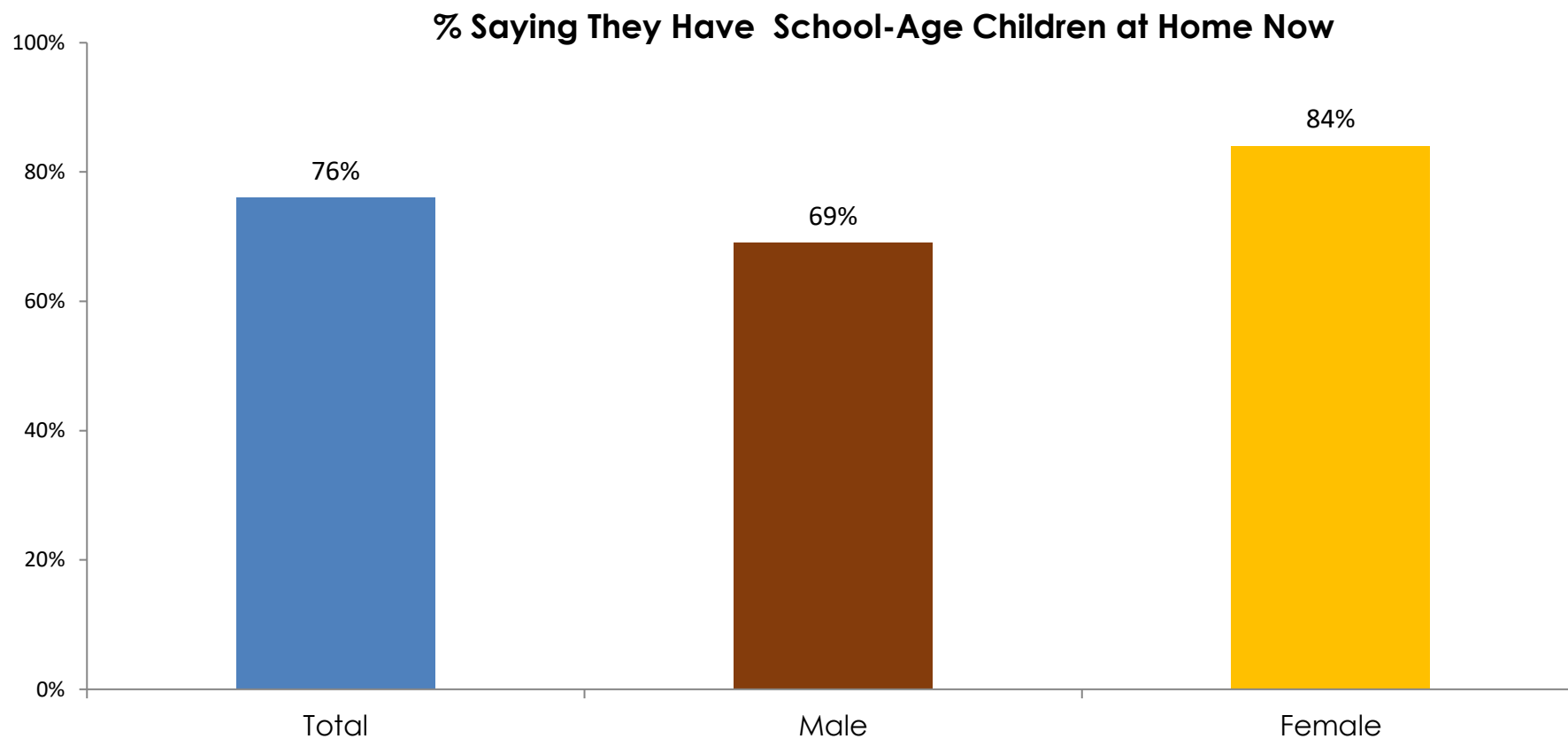
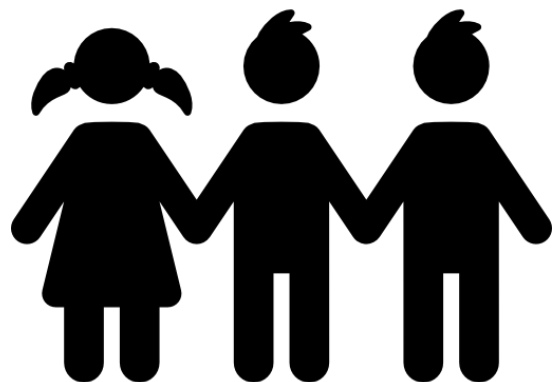
## Socio-Economic Impact of the Virus

- ❑ Children learning at home/parents fear of infection when children return to school

# School Age Children in the Household: by Total, Gender



- ❑ Three-quarters of all respondents report the presence of school-age children in their households, with rather more women than men doing so.



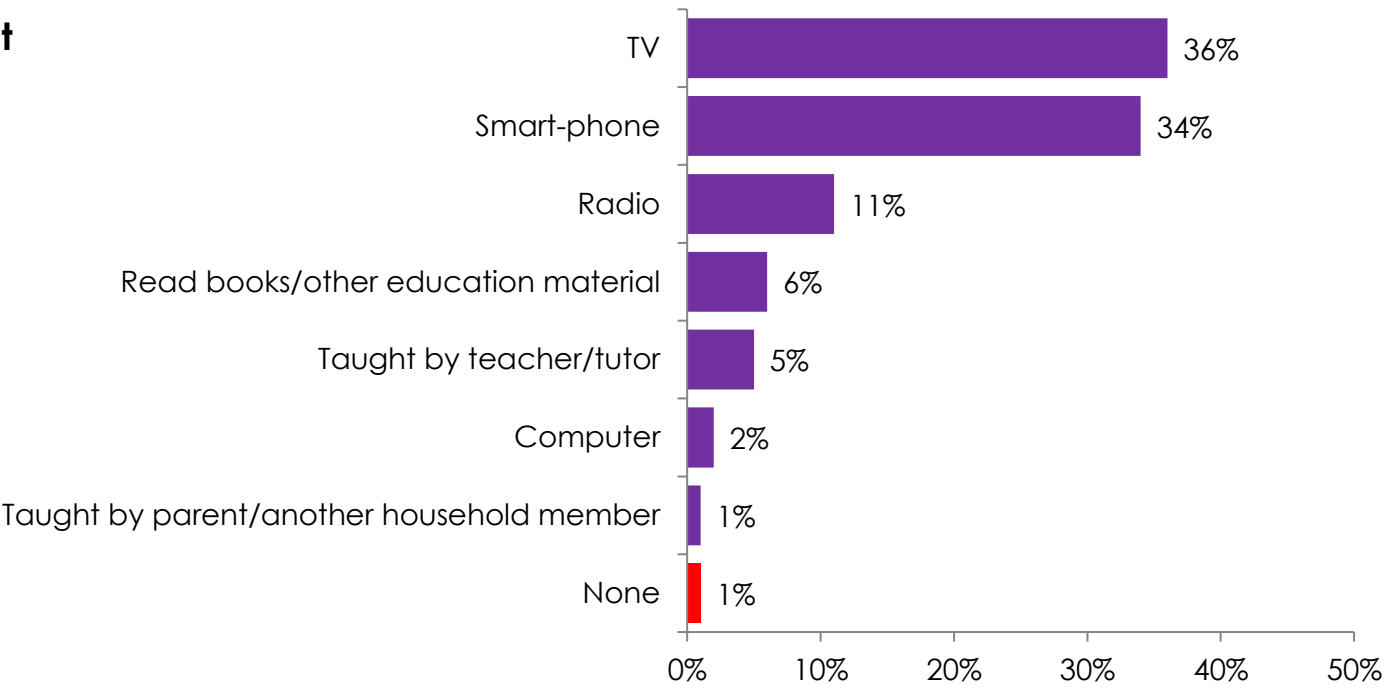
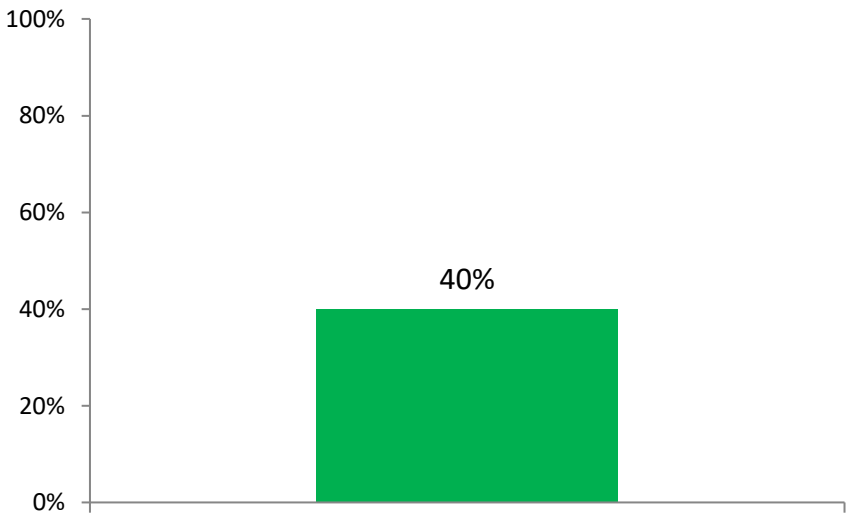
# Level/Mean of Access to Educational Content: by Those With School-Age Children



- ❑ Only four-in-ten of those with school-age children indicate that they are accessing learning content through various platforms whilst at home.
- ❑ The two most common main ways of accessing such content are TV and smart-phones. (Note: Children may be using more than one such ways to do this.)

Main Way of Accessing Educational Content

% of Children Able to Access Educational Content



Q: “Are such children able to access any educational content/material?”  
Q: “What is the main way they are doing this?” (Single response)

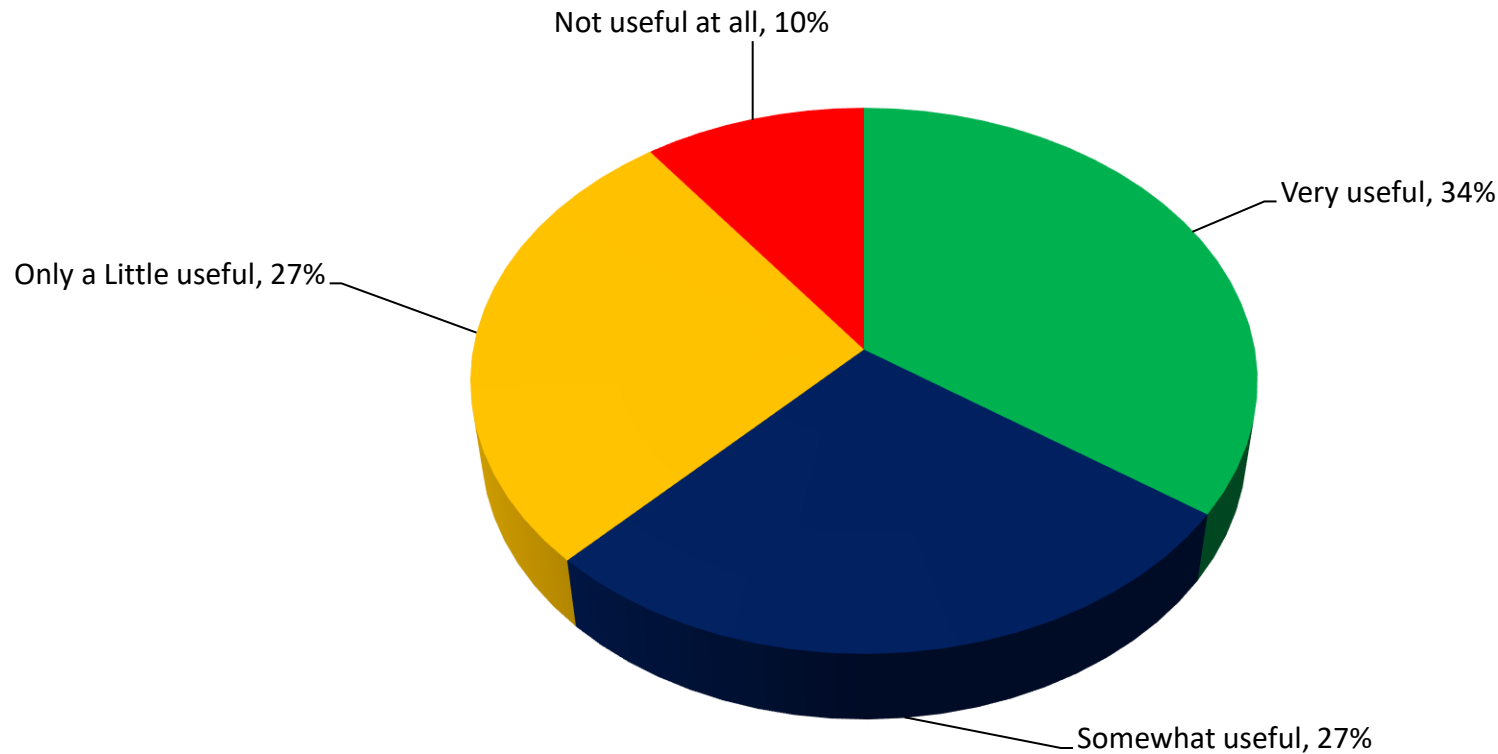
Base = 422 (Households with school-age children )  
Base = 169 (Households with children who can access educational content) 19

# Perceived Value of Accessed Educational Content: by Those With Children At Home Who Can Access It



- ❑ More than half (61%) of those with children who can access educational content through any type of technology consider it as either “very” or “somewhat useful.”

**Perceived Value of Accessed Educational Content**



Q: “How useful would you say this content is to the child or children? Would you say it is...?”

Base=169 (households with school-age children who can access educational content)

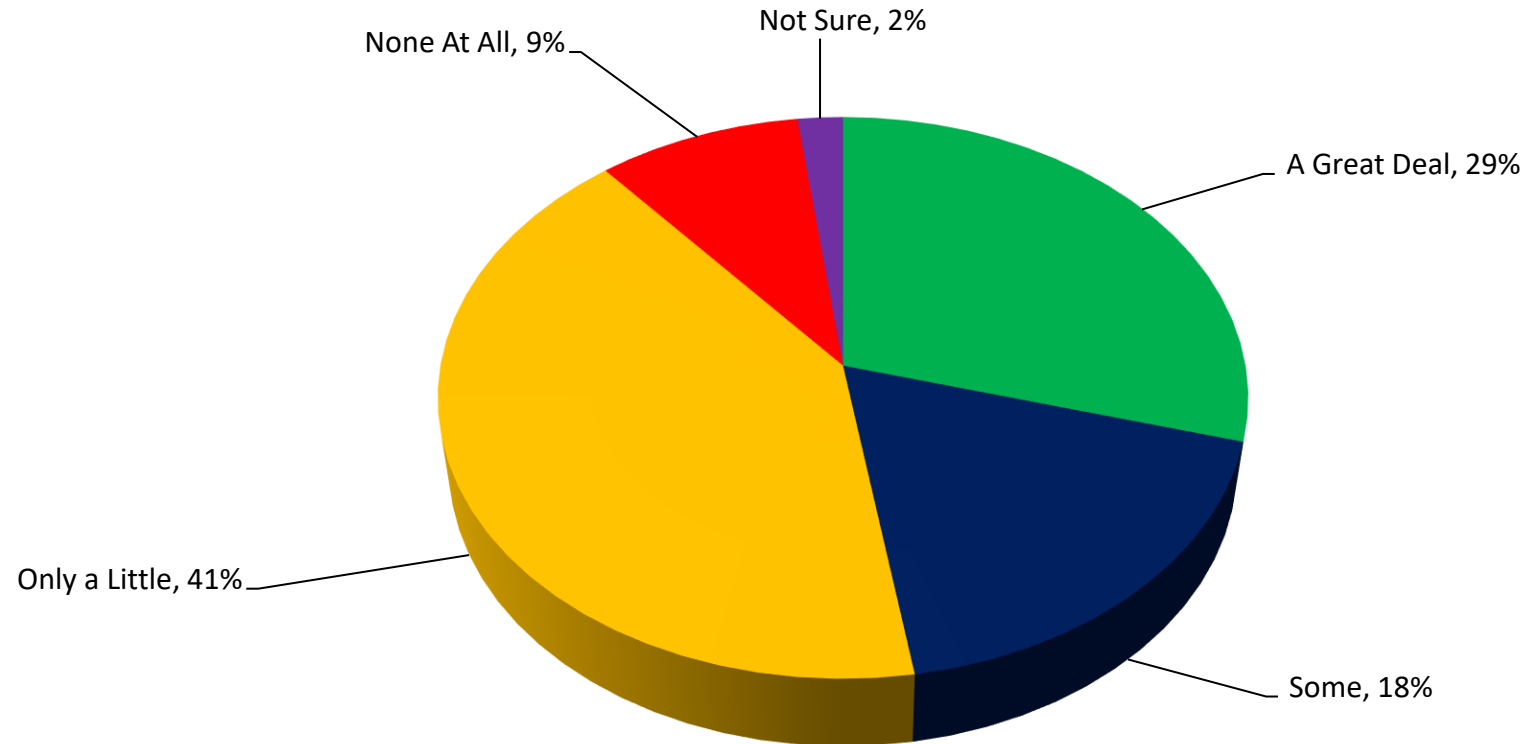


# Level of Attention Children Are Giving to Educational Content: by Those With Children At Home Who Can Access Such Content



- ❑ Among the half of all children who can access any educational content fewer than one-third of their parents report that
- ❑ they are giving it “a great deal of attention”, while half say their children are giving it either “only a little attention” or “not at all.”

## Level of Attention Children Are Giving Educational Content



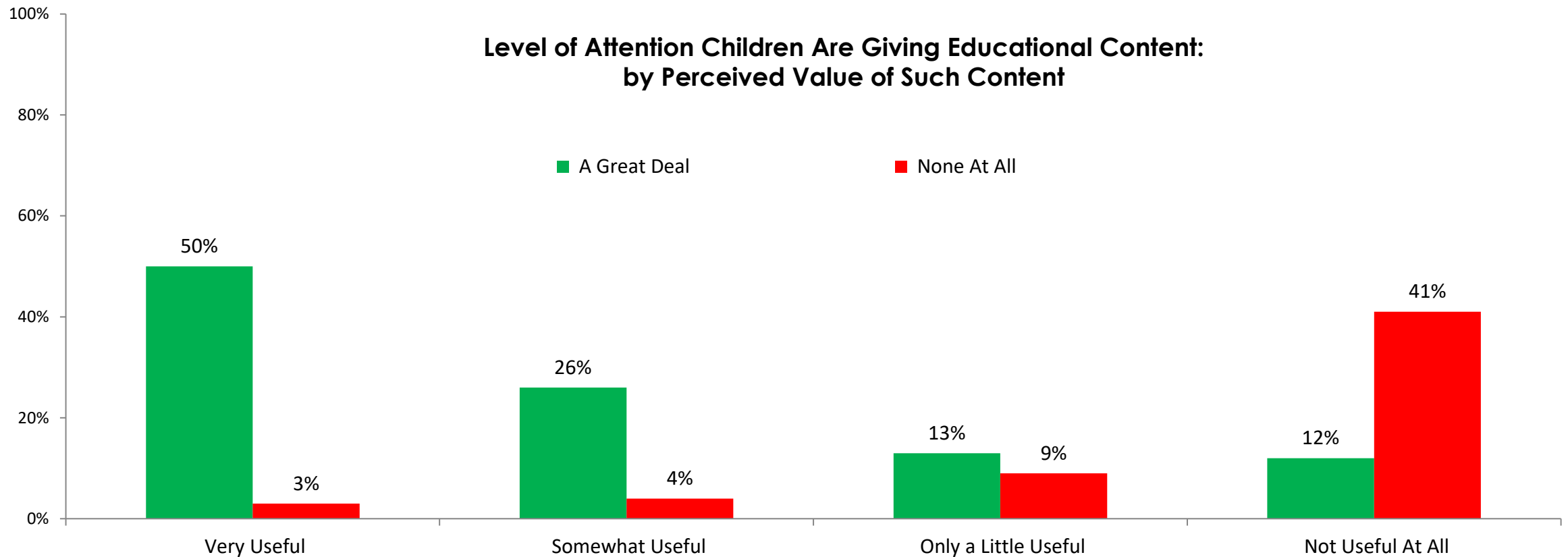
**Q: “However useful, how much attention and time is the child/are the children giving to this content? Is she/he/are they giving it...?”**

**Base=169 (households with school-age children who can access educational content)**

# Correlation - Level of Attention Children Are Giving to the Educational Content They Access: by the Perceived Value of Such Content



□ Those with children who consider the educational content they are accessing to be “very useful” report that these children are paying much more attention to it than do those who consider it to be “not useful at all.” (Note: It is not possible to determine whether such contrast at least partly reflects the specific content being accessed.)



Q: “How useful would you say this content is to the child or children? Would you say it is...?”

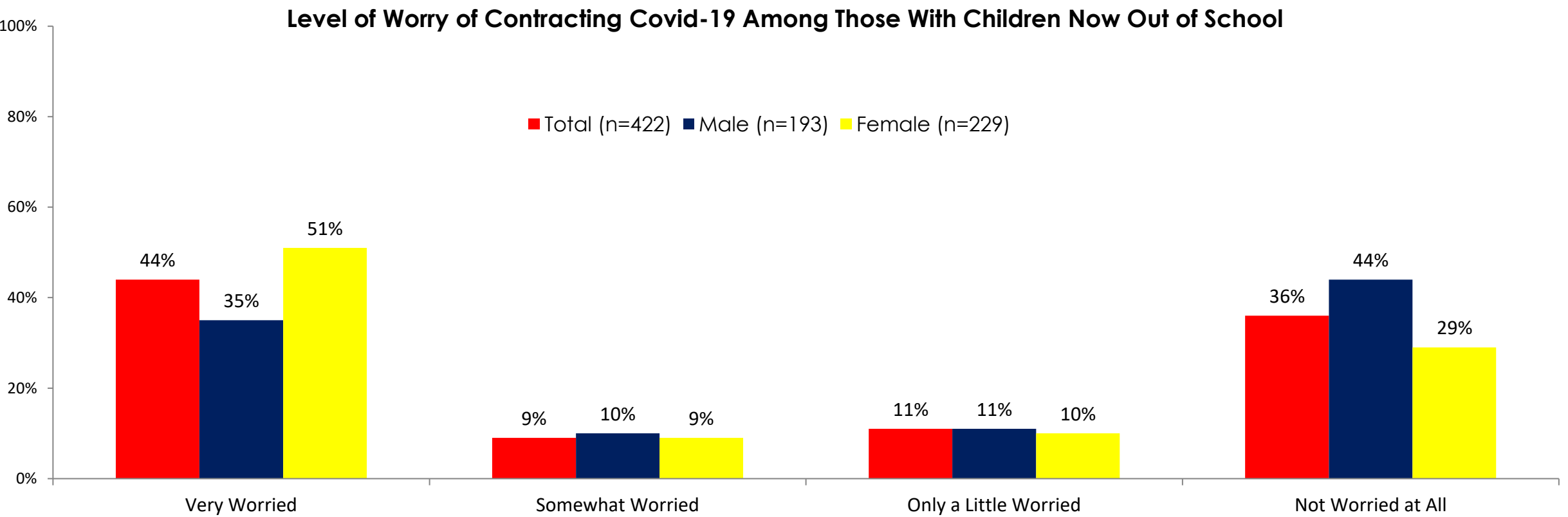
Q: “However useful, how much attention and time is the child/are the children giving to this content? Is she/he/are they giving it...?”

Base=169 (households with school-age children who can access educational content)

# Level of Worry of Contracting Covid-19 Among Those With School-Age Children Now at Home



- Among those with school-age children, there is a fairly even split between those who are either “very worried” or “somewhat worried” and those who are “only a little worried” or “not worried at all” about contracting the Coronavirus ( 44% vs. 36%). However, rather more women than men express the highest level of such worry (“very worried”: 51% vs. 35%).



Q: “How worried are you of being infected by the virus? Are you...?”

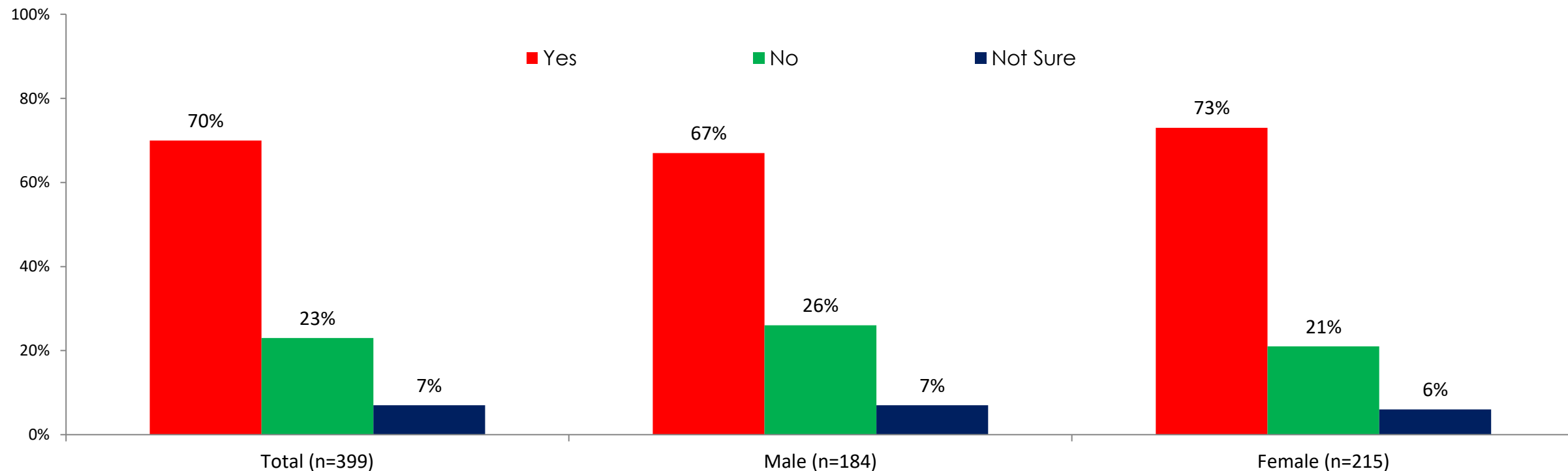
Base=422 (households with school-age children)

# Level of Worry About Their Child/Children Contracting the Virus When They Return to School: by Their Level of Worry About Contracting It Themselves



- More than two-thirds of those with school-age children fear that they would contract the virus when they return to school, with slightly more women than men having this anxiety.

**Whether Worried About Children Contracting Covid-19 When They Return to School:  
By Total, Gender**

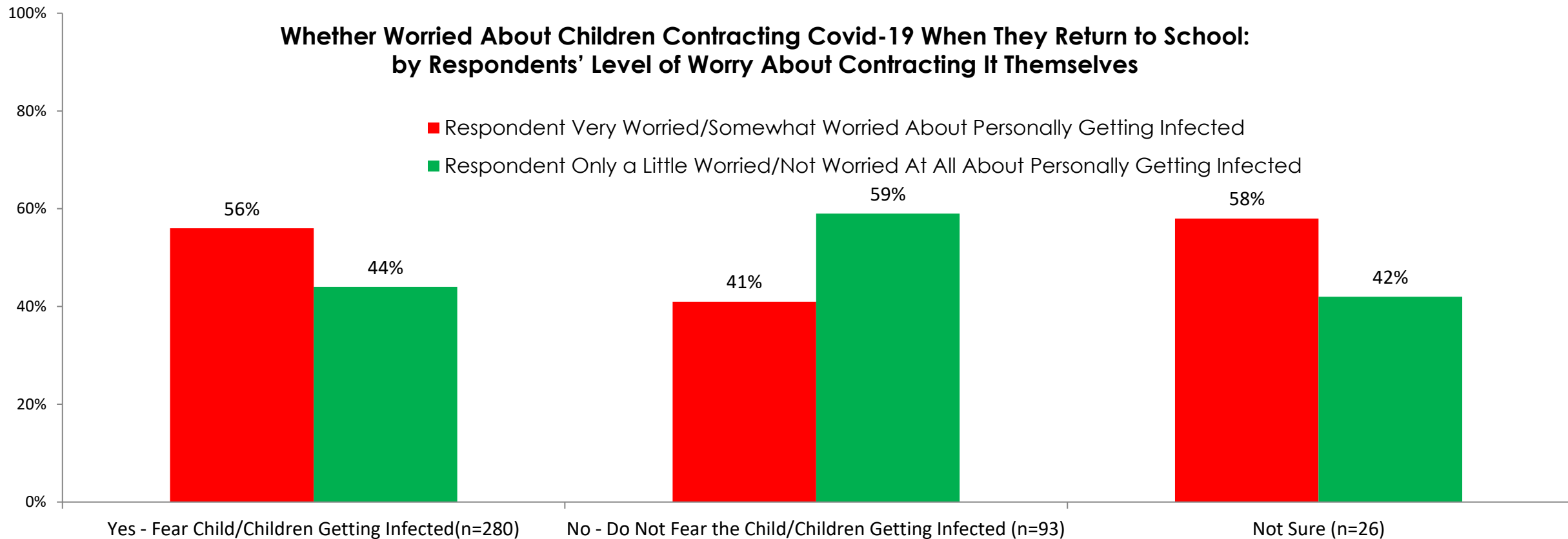




# Level of Worry About Their Child/Children Contracting the Virus When They Return to School: by Their Level of Worry About Contracting It Themselves



- Among those with school-age children, more of those with higher levels of personal concern about themselves contracting the virus (i.e., are “very worried” or “somewhat worried”) believe this fate would befall their children if/when they return to school. Conversely, those with little/no fear of contracting it have much fear that this will happen to their child/children.



Q: “When the child/children in this household return to school, are you worried that they might get infected by the virus?”  
Q: “How worried are you of being infected by the virus? Are you...?”

Base=422 (Those with school-age children)



- ❑ While some three-quarters of all respondents indicate they have children of school age at home now, fewer than half (40%) indicate that they are able to access educational content through any electronic/technical device.
- ❑ Among this group, the two most common means of accessing such content are TV and Smart-Phones in about equal measure (36% and 34%).
- ❑ However, only one-third of respondents consider such educational content “very useful”, though another quarter consider it “somewhat useful.” Only a small minority (10%) consider it “not useful at all.” (Note: It cannot be assumed that all these children are accessing the same educational content.) Given that most children (i.e., those not in their final, examination year) will remain out of school until next year, it is unclear how much attention even those who can access it will continue to give to such content. Much will depend on whether parents consider this a priority, and have the resources of whatever nature to encourage/require their children to put in at least some time for study.
- ❑ Whatever the perceived value of such content, only half of those with children who access such content report that their out-of-school learners have been giving it “a great deal” or “some attention”, with the rest reporting that their children give it “only a little” or “not attention at all.”



- ❑ However disappointing these figures for such low-income families in Nairobi, it may be assumed that children in most rural areas are facing even greater challenges with regard to making full use of whatever educational content they can access.
- ❑ Among those with a child/children in the household, there is nearly even split between those who are either “very worried” or “somewhat worried” about contract the virus themselves, and those who are “only a little worried” or “not worried at all” about this happening to them (51% vs. 47%).
- ❑ However, a clear majority (70%) state that they are “worried” that their child/children will contract it if/when they return to school.
- ❑ Moreover, there is a clear (if modest) correlation between the respondents’ level of concern worry of contracting it themselves and of this fate befalling their child/children, with rather more of those worried about it themselves worried that this will happen to their children, and more of those not worried about it of the view that it will not infect their children. Indeed, on several occasions Education CS Magoha has emphasized that the Ministry’s “biggest headache” in preparing for children to return to school is ensuring that they will be able to maintain sufficient social distance. At the same time, KNUT Secretary-General Wilson Sossion has insisted that children will be “safer at school than at home.”



# Social Impact of the Virus

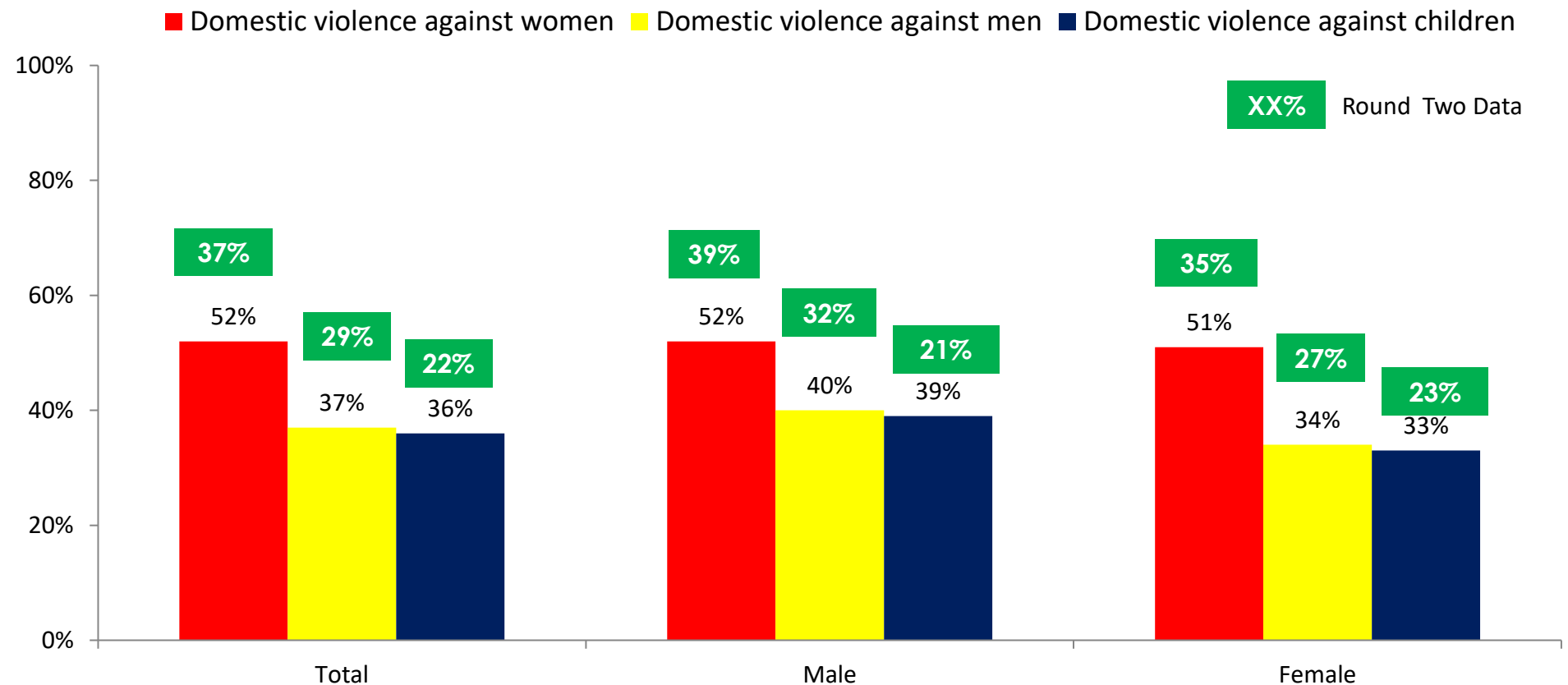
## □ Domestic Violence

# Reported Types of Domestic Abuse: by Total, Gender (with Round Two Comparisons)



- ❑ Considerable levels of domestic violence of all three types are present in the Nairobi areas included in the survey, though rather more against women than against men or children.
- ❑ In general, men seem to be more aware of such issues than women, perhaps because of their wider social interaction.
- ❑ There has been a significant increase in the incidence of domestic violence as compared with those obtained in Round Two.

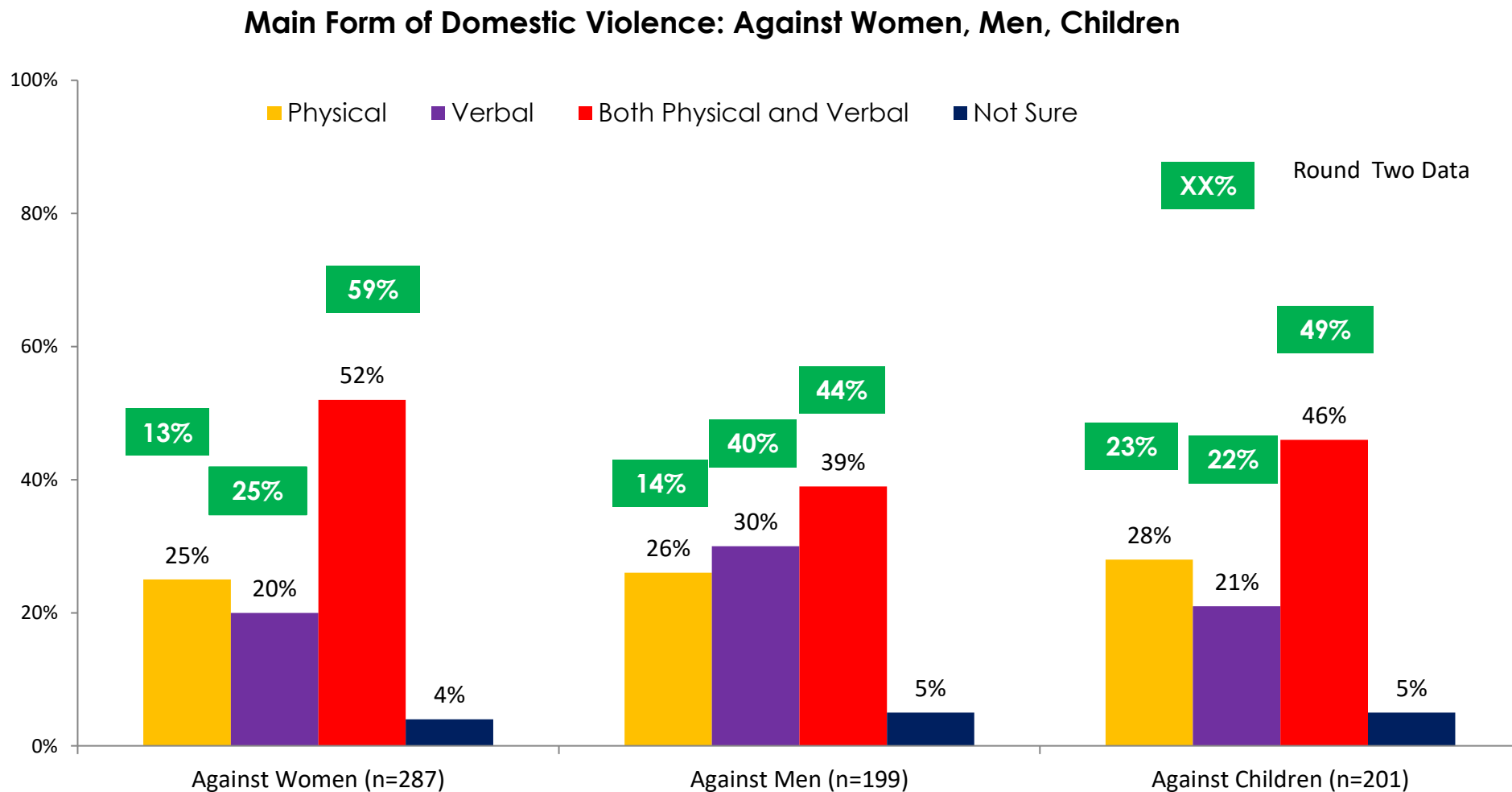
## Awareness of an Increase in Domestic Violence in the Locality Since the Curfew Began: *by Total, Gender*



# Main Form(s) of Domestic Violence Against Women/Men/Children: by Those Who Report Any Such Violence (with Round Two Comparisons)



- ❑ A considerable increase in the levels of domestic violence of all three types is reported for the Nairobi areas included in the survey.
- ❑ While children have reportedly suffered slightly more domestic violence of a purely physical nature than either women or men, more women have suffered a combination of physical and verbal violence than either men or children. All three categories of victims have suffered a combination of both types of violence than either one type on its own.



Q: "Would you say this domestic violence against women/men/children is mainly....?"



- ❑ The period since March when the Covid-19 pandemic arrived in Kenya has clearly witnessed an increase in levels of domestic violence, affecting all three categories of victims: women, men and children.
- ❑ As compared with Round Two (in June), a significantly larger proportion of respondents report increases in domestic violence against all three categories of victims (i.e., women, men, children). This is despite two reductions in the duration of the night-curfew since it was first imposed in March (from 7pm-4am to 9pm-5am and most recently from 11pm to 5pm). This suggests that the length of the curfew (and thus the extended confinement of household members to their residences) itself does not account for the overall increase in such violence. If that is so, it is perhaps the continuing economic strains of a still-crippled economy that accounts for most stress that finds such violent (if largely 'private') expression (i.e., confined to the household).
- ❑ As for its specific forms, a majority of those reporting an increase in domestic violence against women indicate that it has been both physical and verbal in nature. While the most common type of violence affecting men and children is also a combination of these two types, though for both of them it is somewhat lower than it is for women.





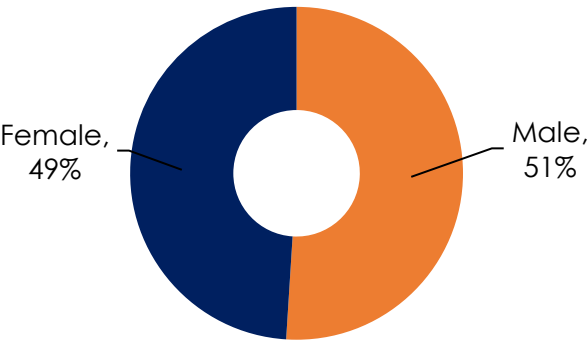
# Sample Demographics

# Demographics: Gender, Age and Education

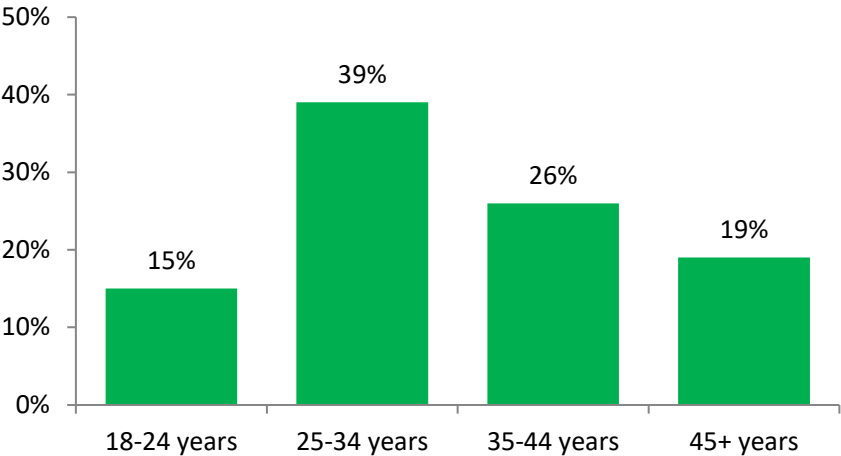


- ❑ The sample has a slightly higher number of men than women.
- ❑ The largest age group category is that of 25-35 years.
- ❑ In terms of education, 40% did not study past primary

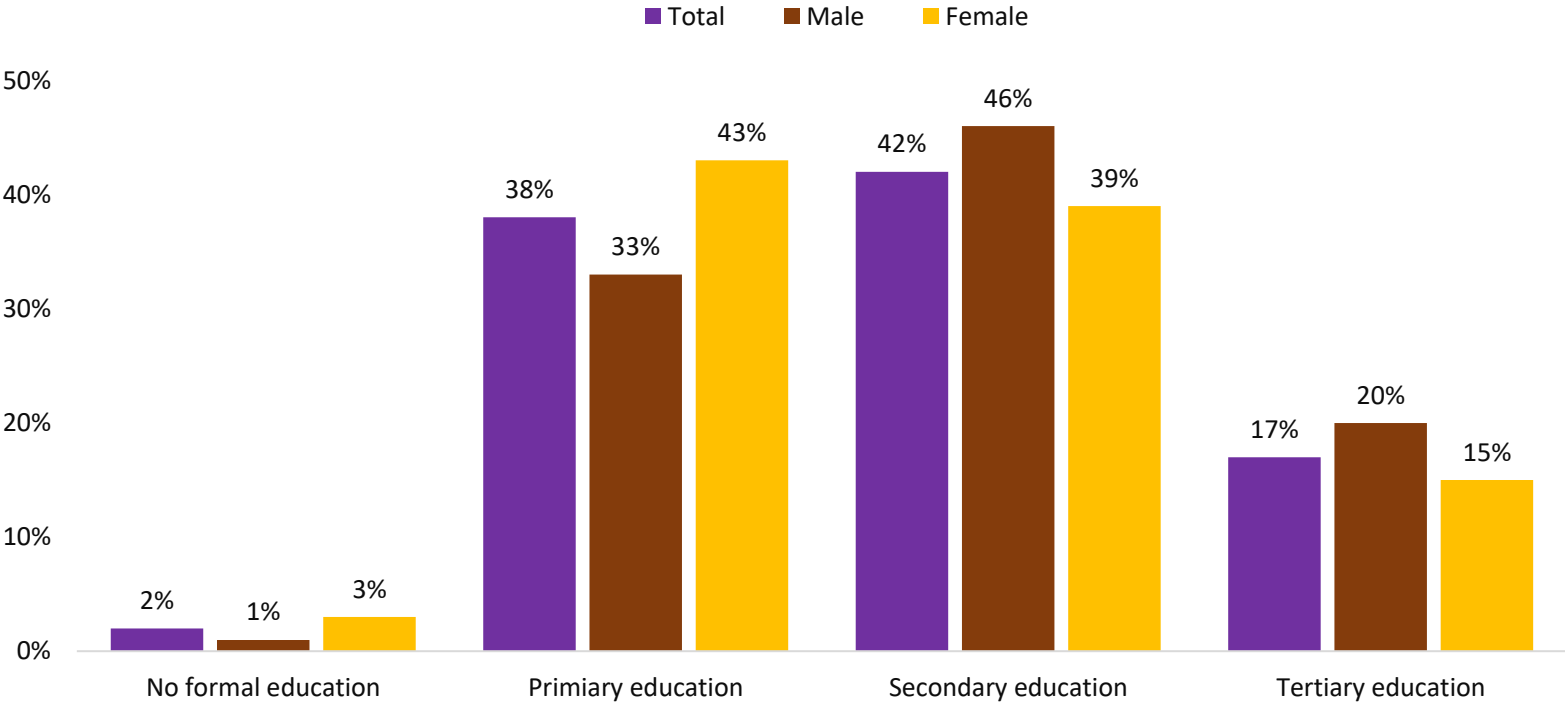
Gender



Age Group



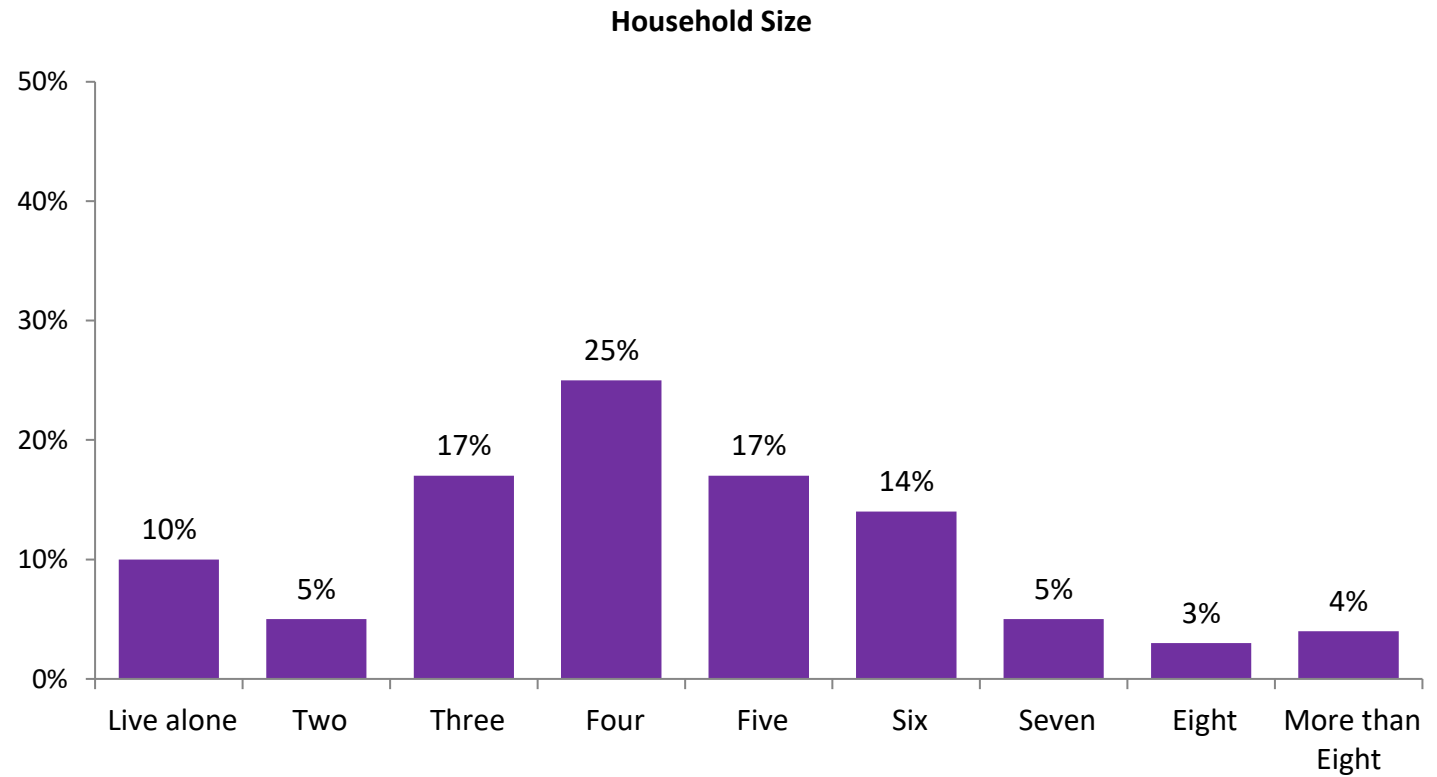
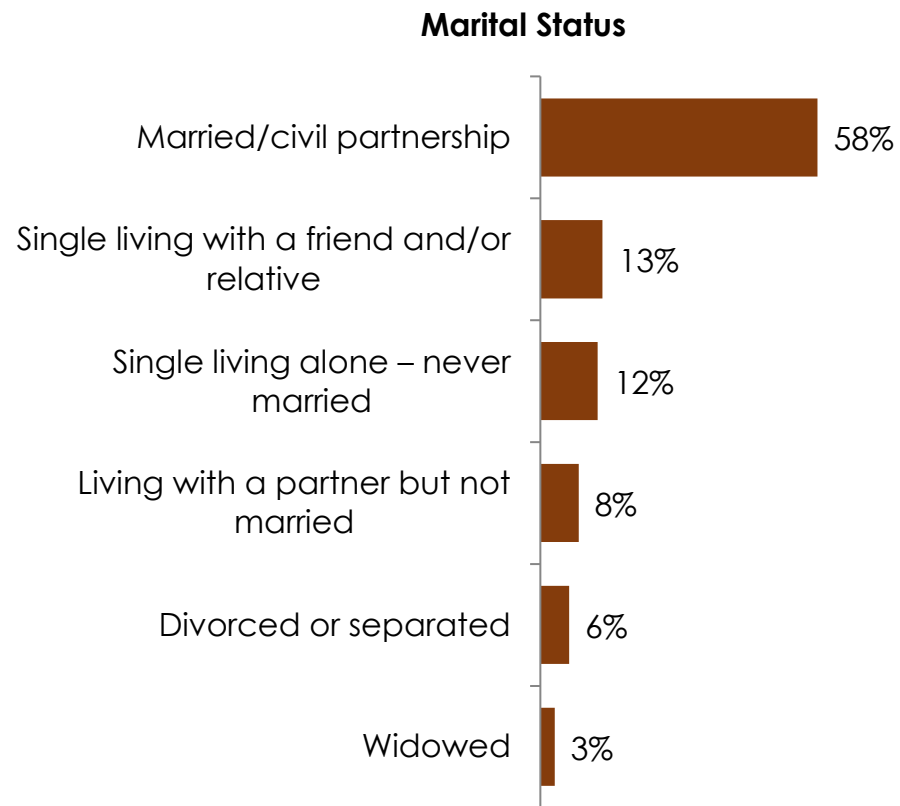
Level of Education



# Demographics: Marital Status and Household Size



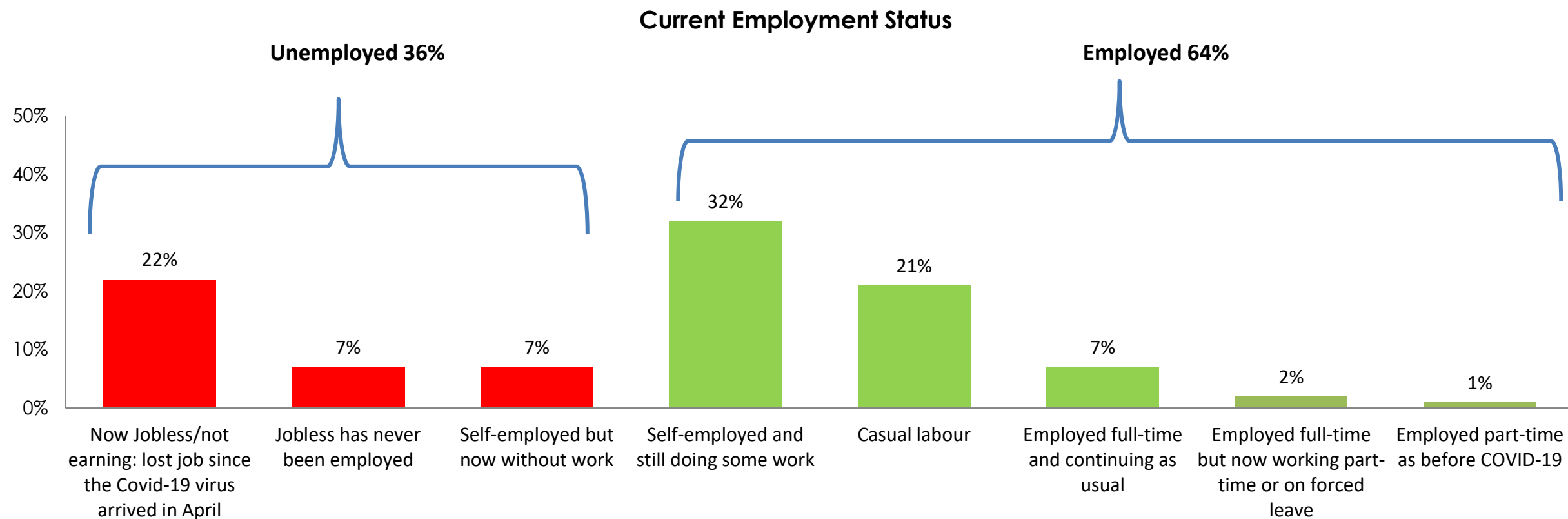
❑ A majority of respondents are married/living with a partner. The average household size is 4 members.



# Demographics: Employment Status



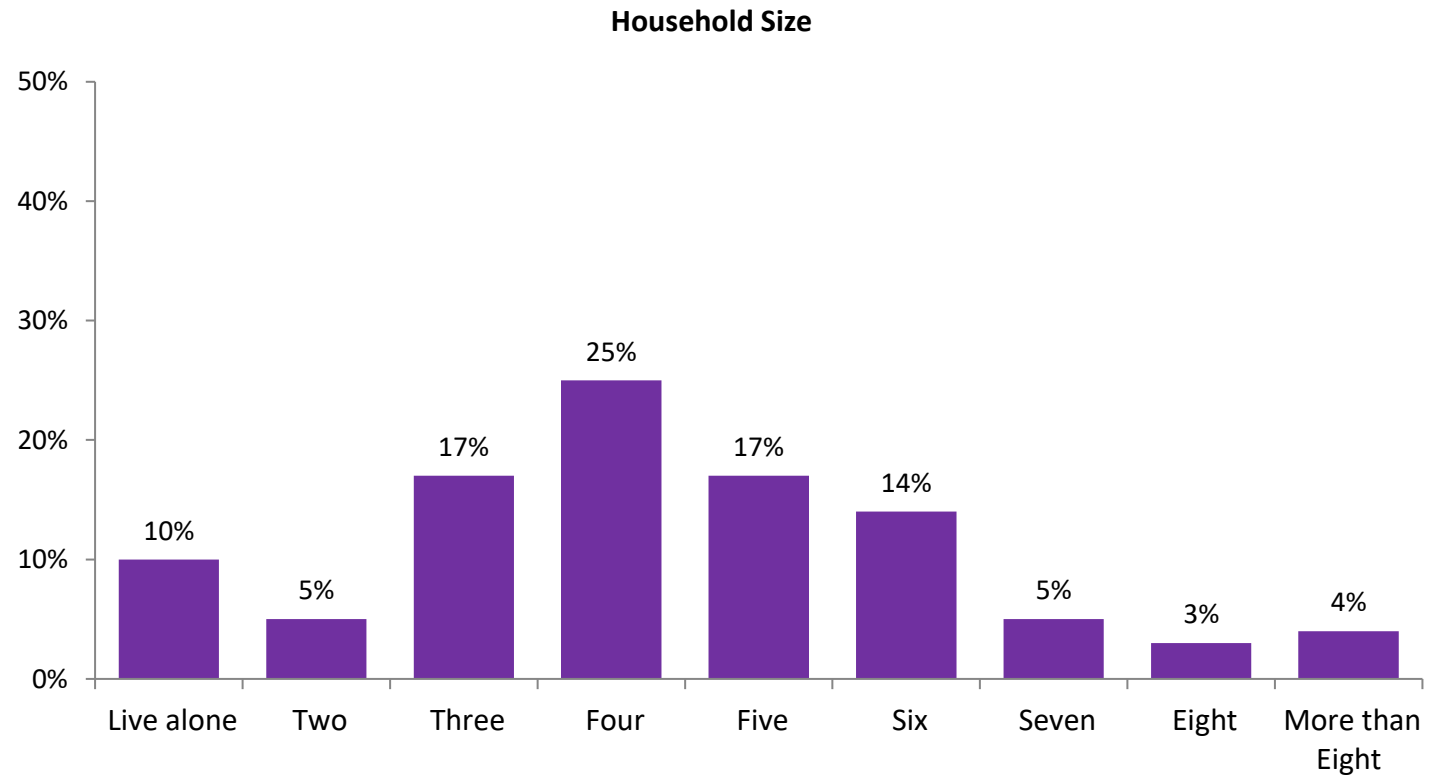
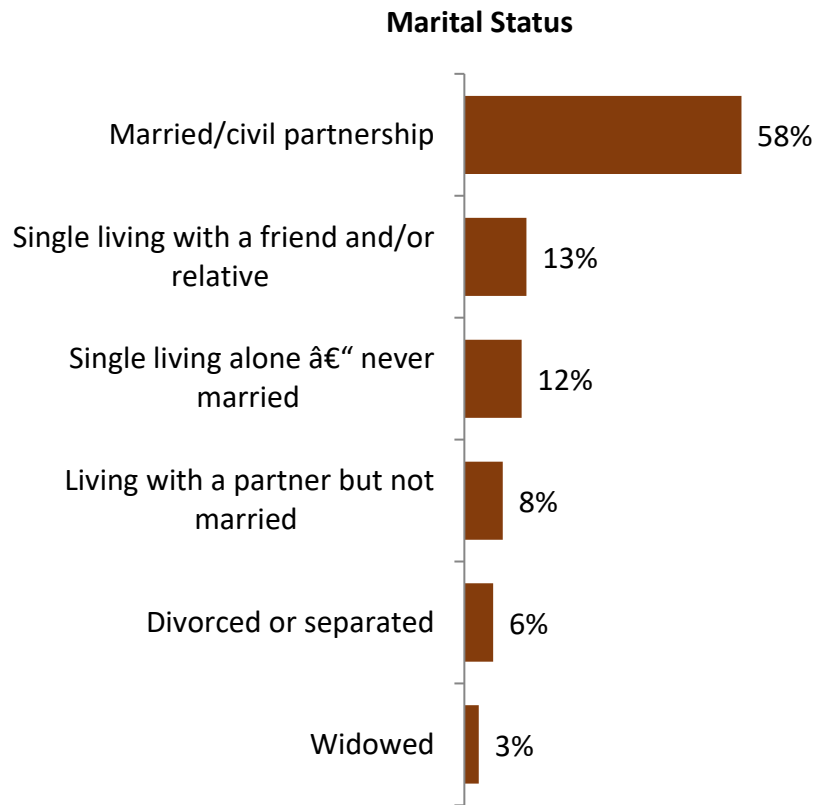
- ❑ For the unemployed sample, majority of them lost their job since COVIS-19 arrived in April



# Demographics: Marital Status and Household Size



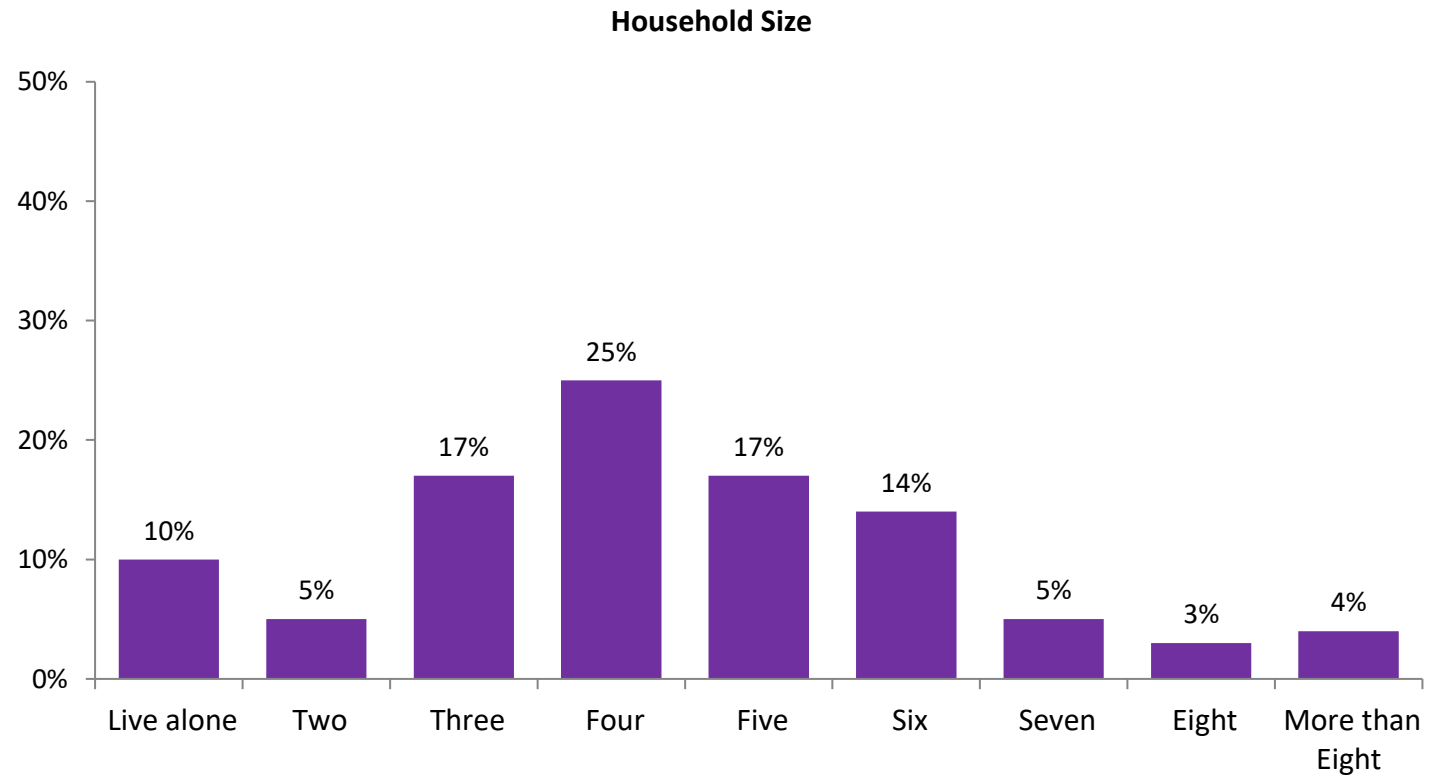
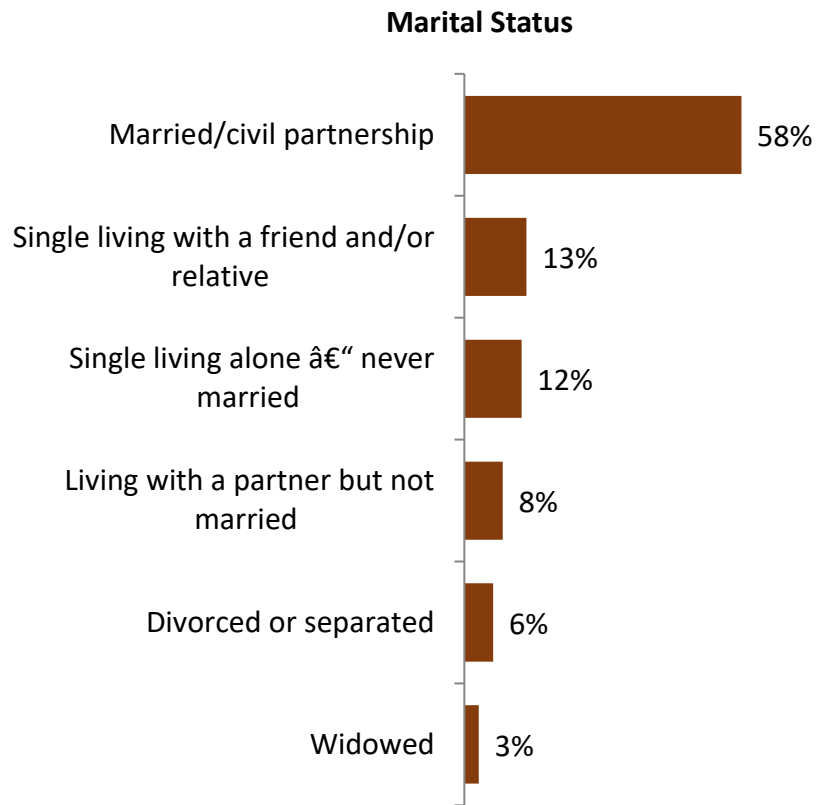
☐ A majority of respondents are married/living with a partner. The average household size is 4 members.



# Demographics: Marital Status and Household Size



☐ A majority of respondents are married/living with a partner. The average household size is 4 members.

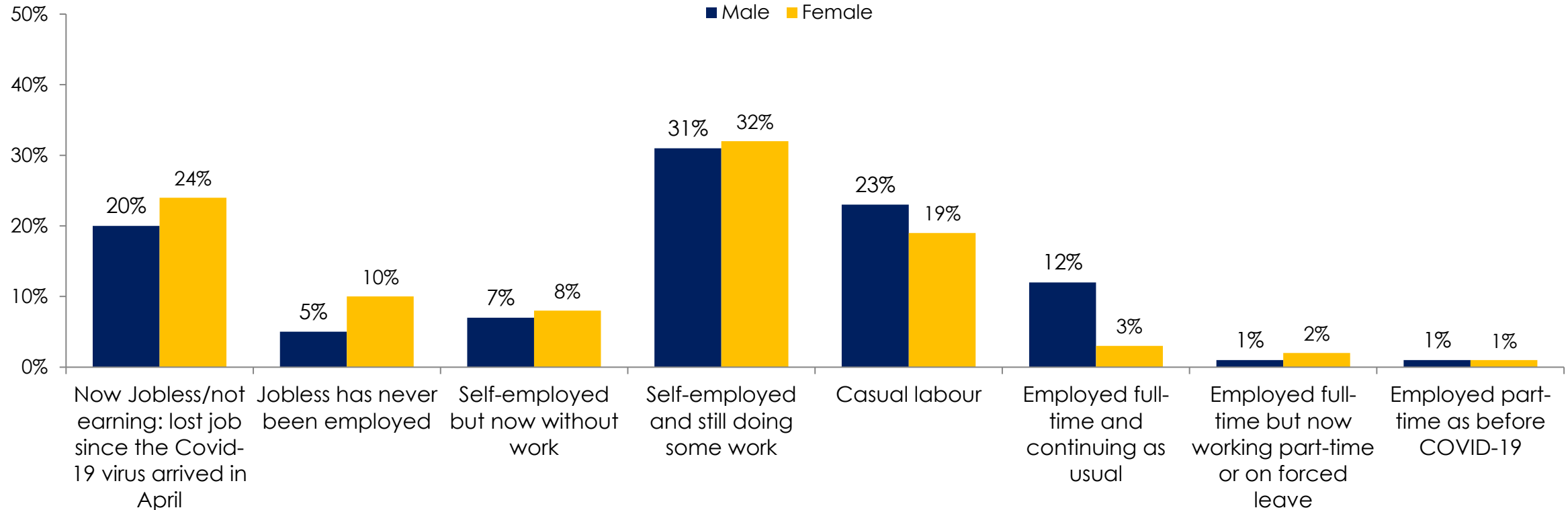


# Demographics: Employment Status by Gender



- ❑ There are moderate but significant disparities in employment status by gender, especially the fact that a higher proportion of women are either jobless or have never been employed.

**Current Employment Status : By Gender**







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