



Regional Refugee Response

## Bulgaria

# SOCIO-ECONOMIC INSIGHTS SURVEY

Beneficiaries of international  
protection & asylum-seekers

June-November 2025

## Preliminary analysis

Photo credit: UNHCR/Nikolay Stoykov

Bulgaria

## OBJECTIVES & METHODOLOGY

# OBJECTIVES

The **SEIS** is a collaborative process which identifies the most pressing needs of beneficiaries of international protection and asylum-seekers across various sectors. Comprehensive and accurate data is gathered to guide the planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs and interventions aimed at addressing those needs. The 2025 SEIS presents results on:

- the needs of beneficiaries of international protection and asylum-seekers in Bulgaria, focusing on the in-country population;
- the level of socio-economic integration and access to national systems;
- Service gaps and priorities for the coming year.
- Identifying changing trends in the needs of beneficiaries of international protection and asylum-seekers

These preliminary results cover the following topics:

- **DEMOGRAPHICS**
- **PROTECTION**
- **EDUCATION**
- **SOCIAL ECONOMIC INCLUSION AND LIVELIHOOD**
- **HEALTH & MHPSS**
- **ACCOMMODATION**

# OVERVIEW



**COMPLETED  
VISITS**

**283 HH**



**POPULATION  
COVERAGE**

283 HH covered, obtaining information for 505 beneficiaries of international protection and asylum-seekers living in private accommodation and in government-designated collective sites.



**DATA COLLECTION  
BY**

UNHCR Bulgaria, Global Metrics,  
Caritas, USRF Foundation, Bulgarian  
Red Cross, International Organization  
for Migration



**DATA COLLECTION**

From **23 June** to **14  
November 2025**



**PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS  
BY**

UNHCR Bulgaria/Global Metrics

# METHODOLOGY

The **preliminary result** are based on the analysis of part of the total surveys to conducted.

<b>POPULATION</b>	Beneficiaries of international protection and asylum-seekers living in private accommodation and in government-designated collective sites.
<b>DESIGN</b>	Household interviews.
<b>DATA COLLECTION</b>	From <b>23 June to 14 November</b> by enumerators from UNHCR-Bulgaria and Global Metrics, Caritas, USRF Foundation, Bulgarian Red Cross, International Organization for Migration
<b>SAMPLE SIZE</b>	283 HHs, covering 505 individual HH members 47% living in collective sites 53% living outside of collective sites.

**SAMPLING AND REPRESENTATIVENESS:** Purposively selected (geographical coverage, different accommodation types), but **not statistically representative**. Results are indicative.

## LIMITATIONS:

- **Lack of comprehensive data on population locations**, and difficulties interviewing outside of collective sites and distribution points.
- Sensitivity around **protection and income questions**, therefore, large non-response rate and less reliable data;
- **Respondent bias:** certain indicators may be under-reported or over-reported due to the subjectivity and perceptions of respondents.

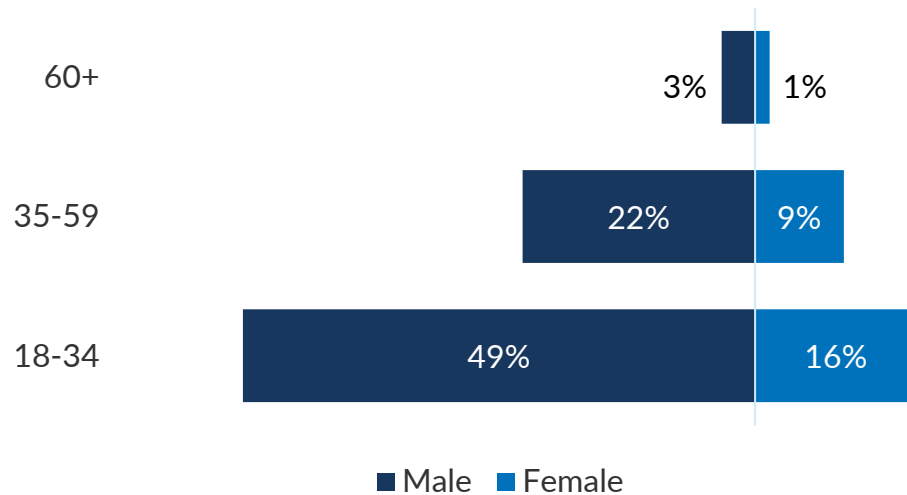
Bulgaria

## DEMOGRAPHICS

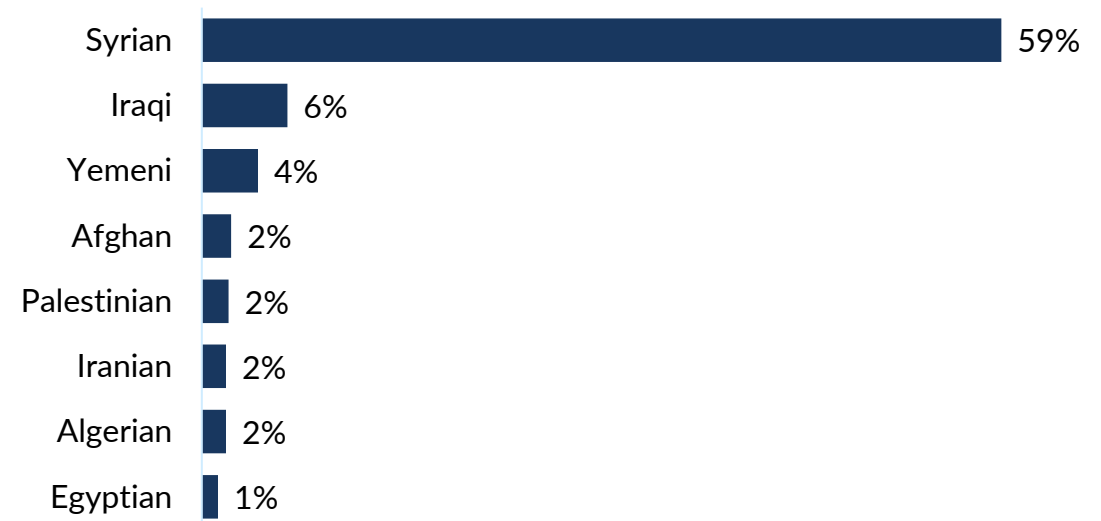
# DEMOGRAPHICS

## RESPONDENTS

Respondents by gender & age (HH level)



% of respondents by citizenship



Around **74%** of household respondents are **men**, **26%** are **women**. The largest age group is 18-34 years (65%).

59% of the respondents have Syrian citizenship, while 6% have Iraqi and 4% - Yemeni citizenship.

# DEMOGRAPHICS

## HOUSEHOLD AND POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS



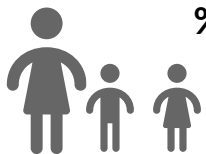
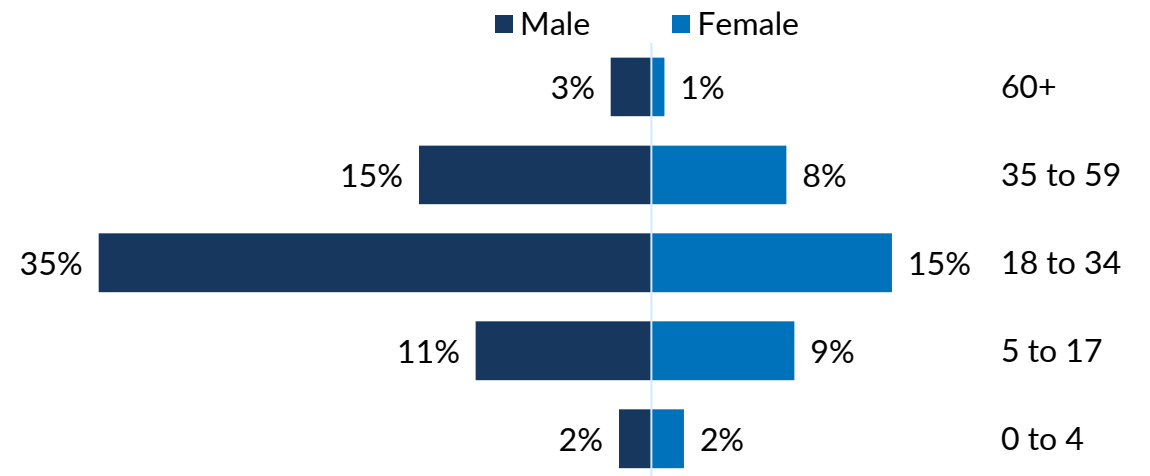
Average HH size  
**1.8**

% of HHs with a  
chronically ill member  
**16%**

HHs with children  
**19%**

Average stay  
**2 years**

Household Members by Age Group and Gender



% Female Headed  
HHs  
**19%**



% HHs with  
infants  
**7%**



% children  
**24%**



% of older  
individuals  
**3%**



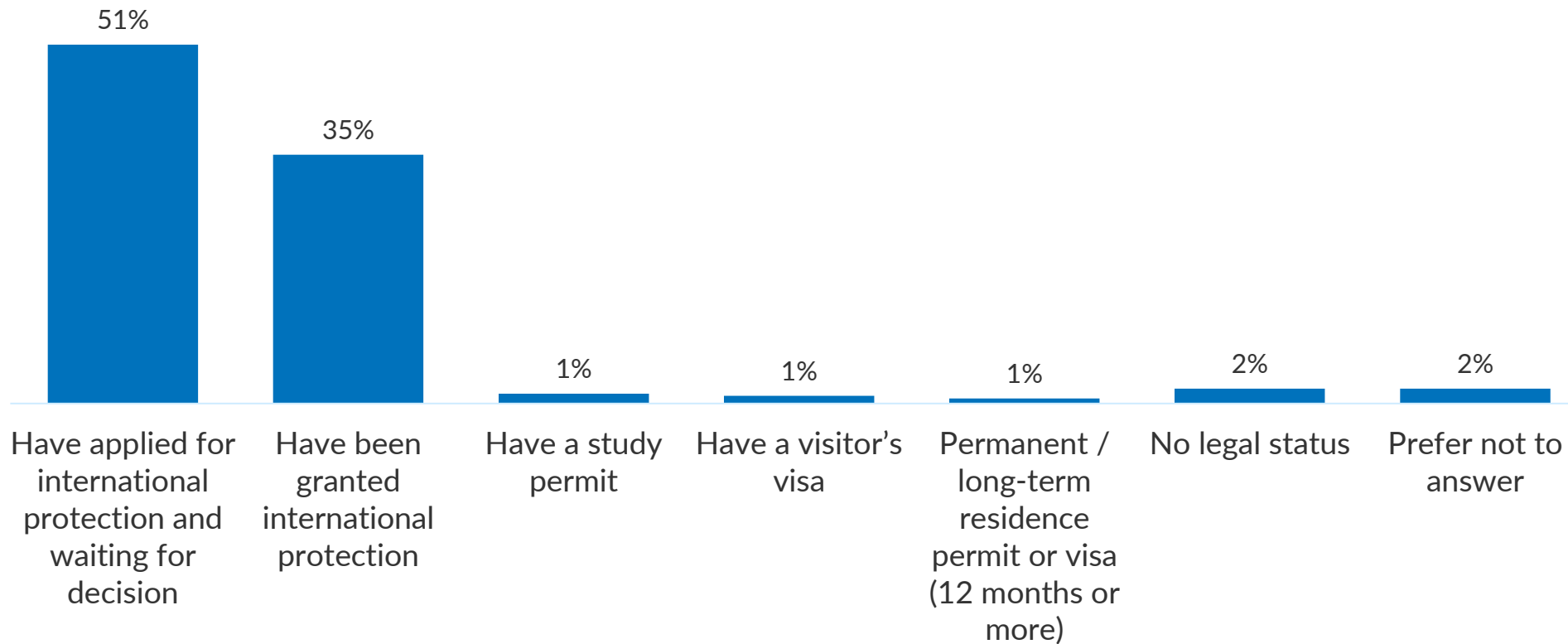
% of individuals with disability  
(high support needs)  
**4%**

Bulgaria

# PROTECTION

# LEGAL STATUS

What is your current legal status in the country?

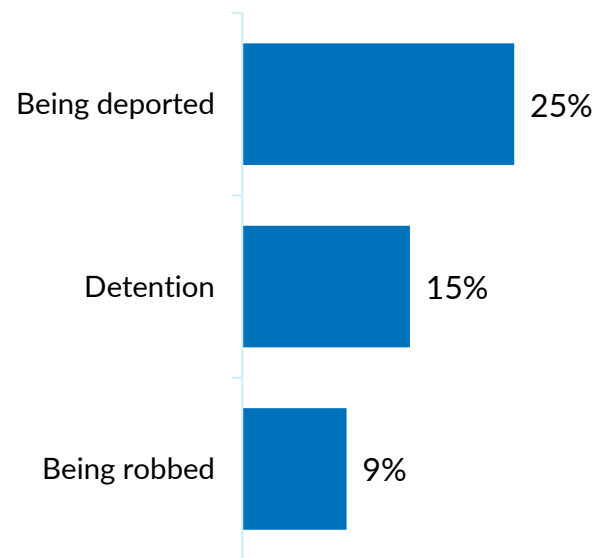


% of HHs with at least one member without ID document

**33%**

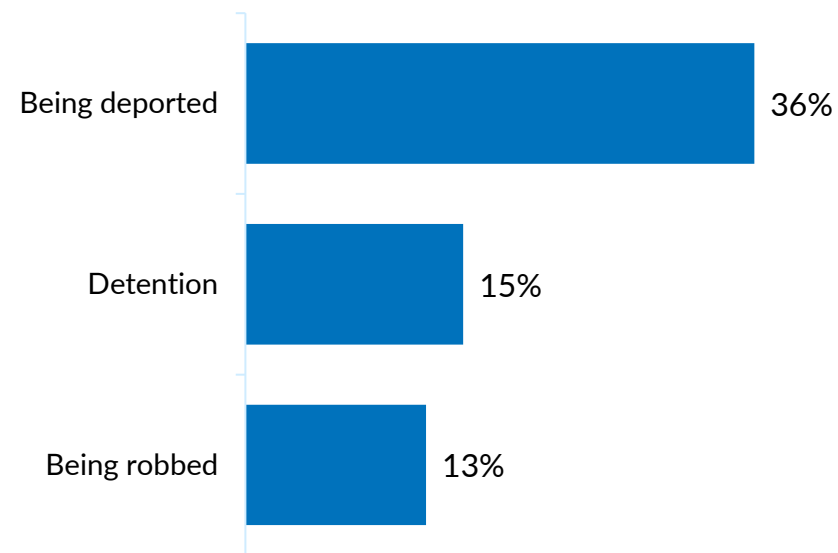
# SENSE OF SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR WOMEN AND MEN

What do you think are the top 3 main safety and security concerns for women in the areas of residence, if any?



12% of HHs indicated no safety and security concerns for women (among HHs with at least one woman)

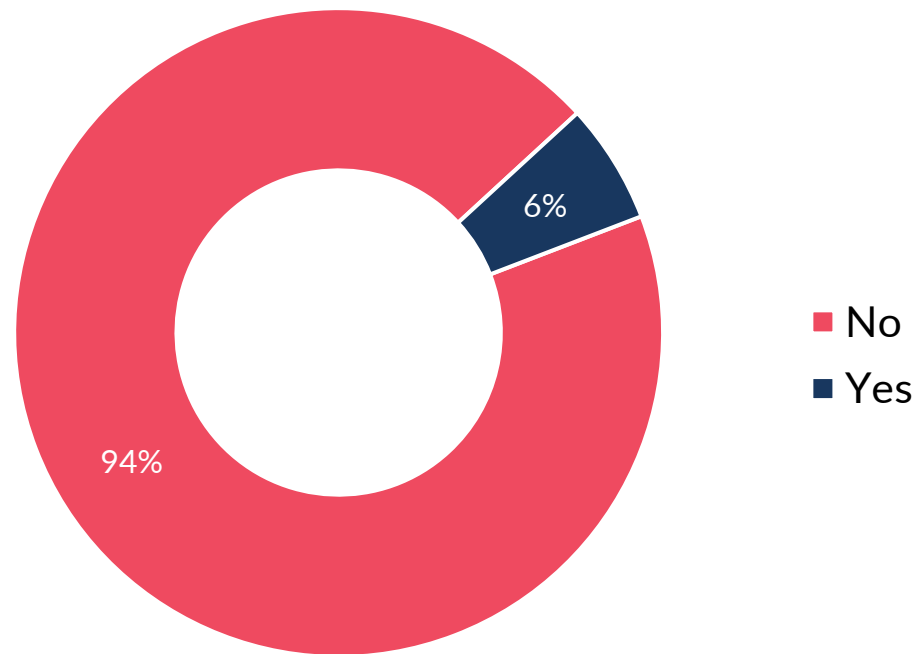
What do you think are the top 3 main safety and security concerns for men in the areas of residence, if any?



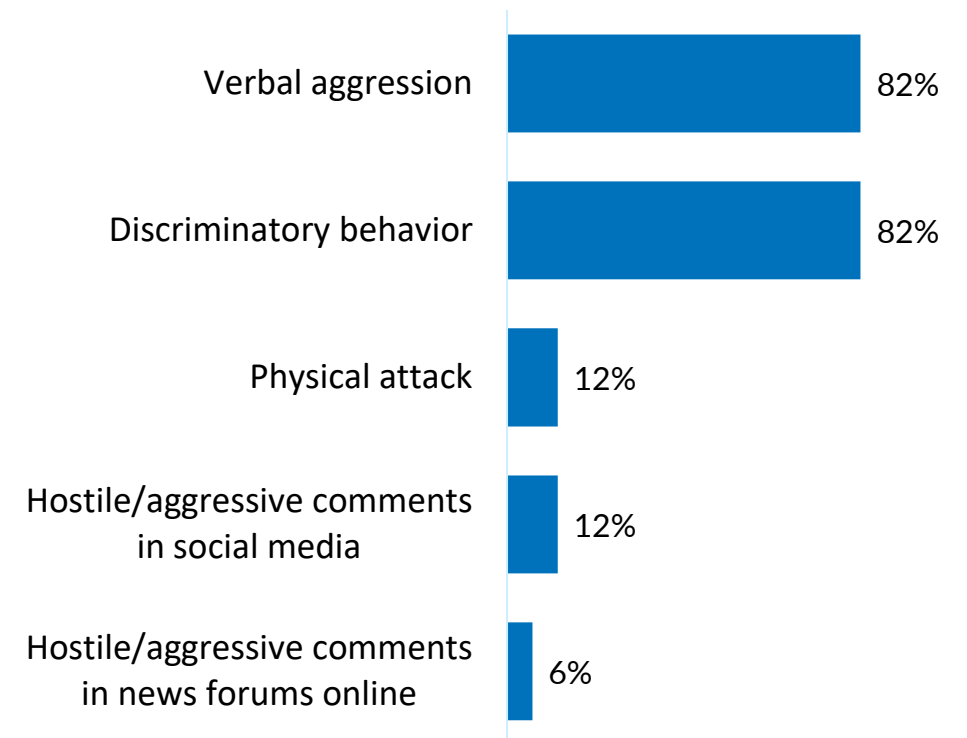
24% of HHs indicated no safety and security concerns for men (among HHs with at least one man)

# SENSE OF SAFETY AND SECURITY

Have you or anyone in your household experienced what you felt was hostile behavior or attitudes from the local population in the last 12 months in Bulgaria?

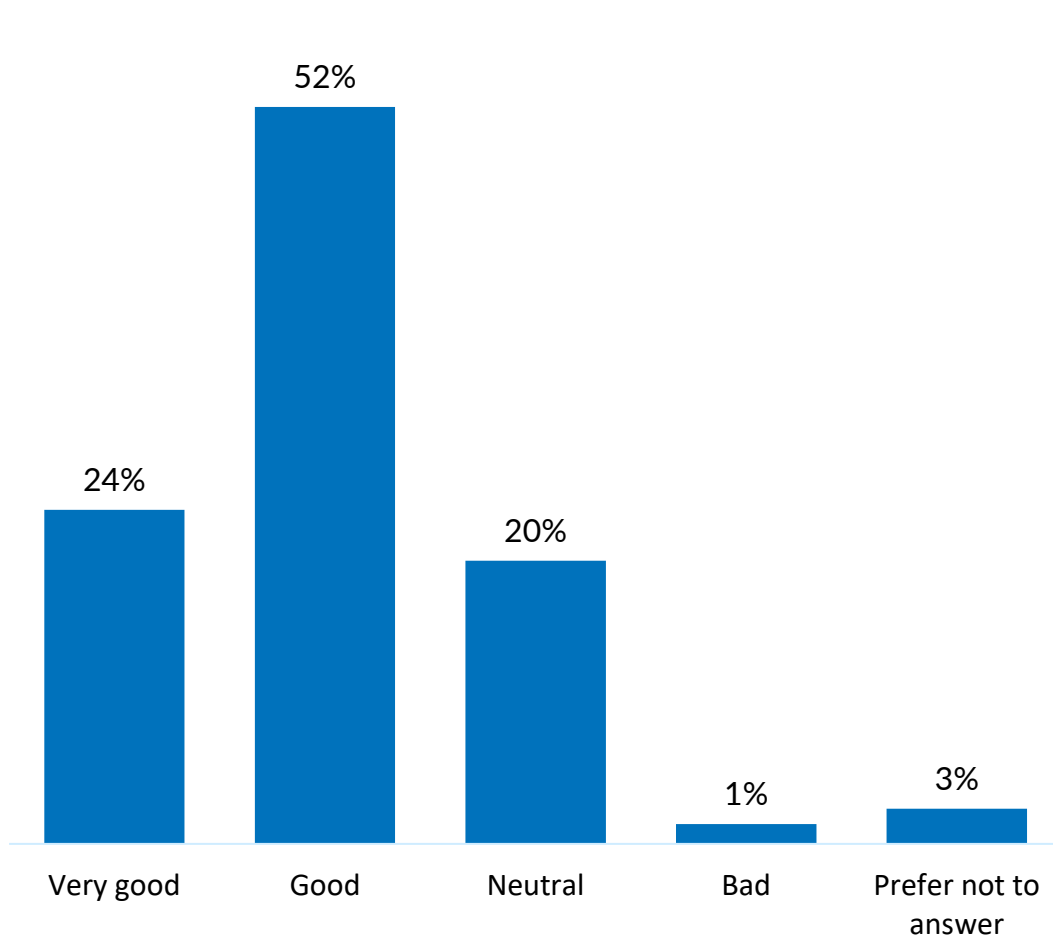


Type of hostile behavior reported (out of the 6% reporting tensions)

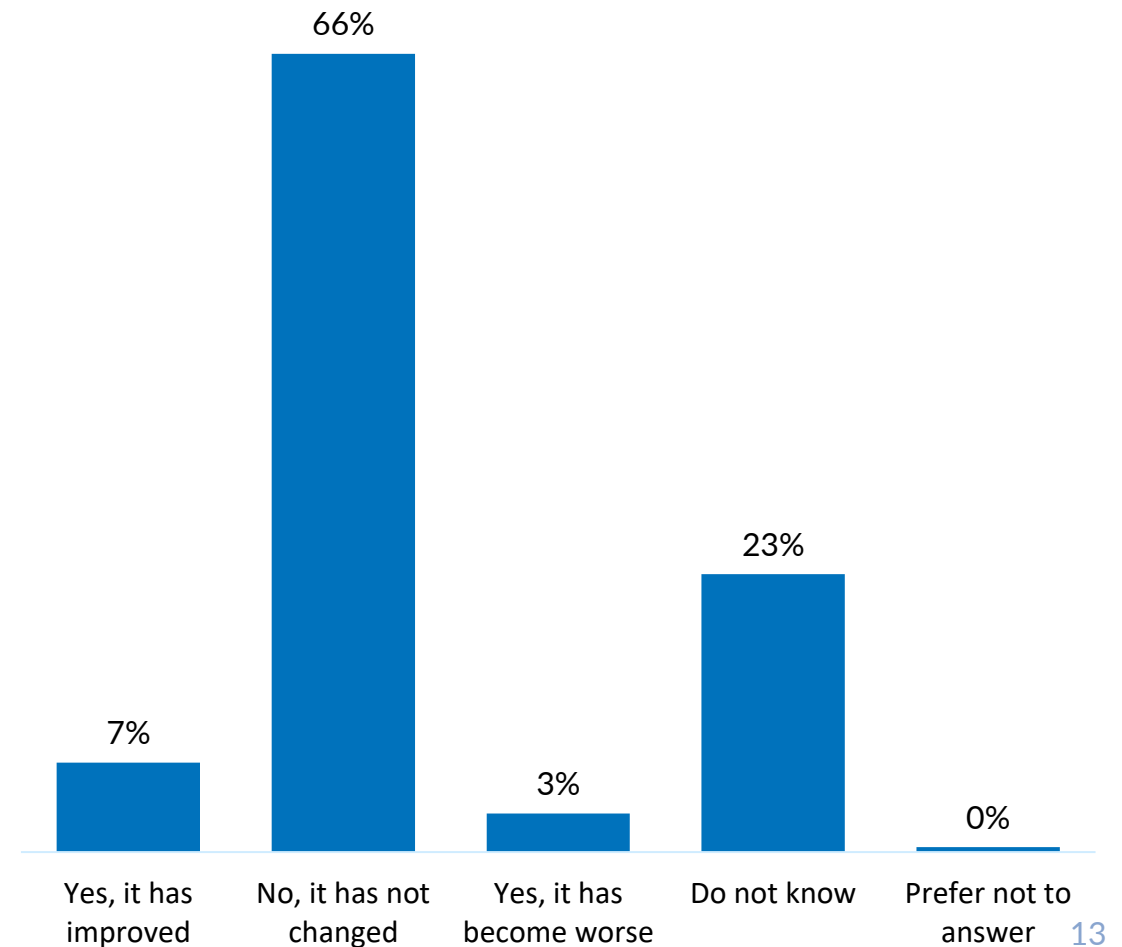


# SOCIAL COHESION

% HHs perceived relationship between the refugee and the host communities in the last 12 months



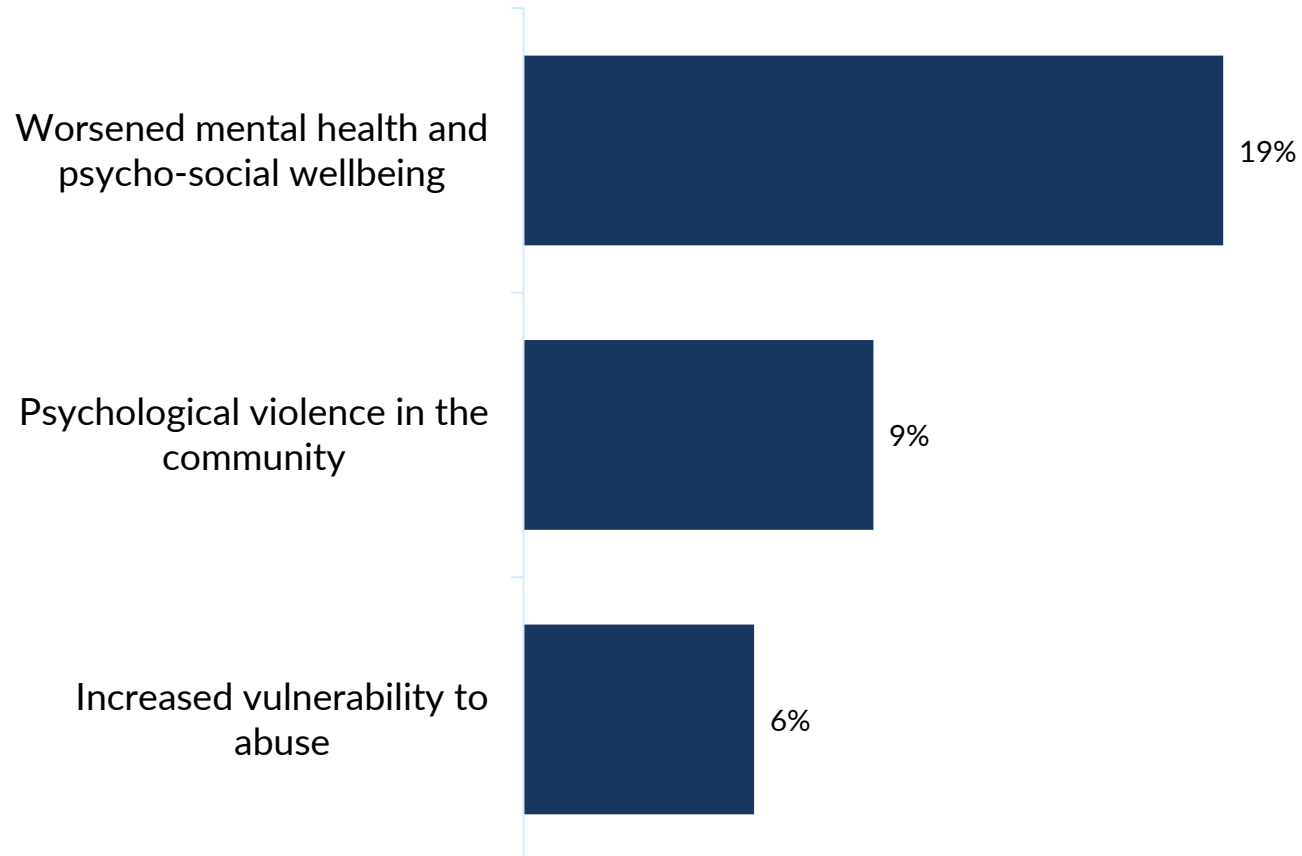
% HHs that reported relationship changes between the refugee and the host communities in the last 12 months



# CHILD PROTECTION

What are the three most serious risks faced by girls under the age of 18 in your neighborhood?

*\* among HHs with at least one girl (11%)*



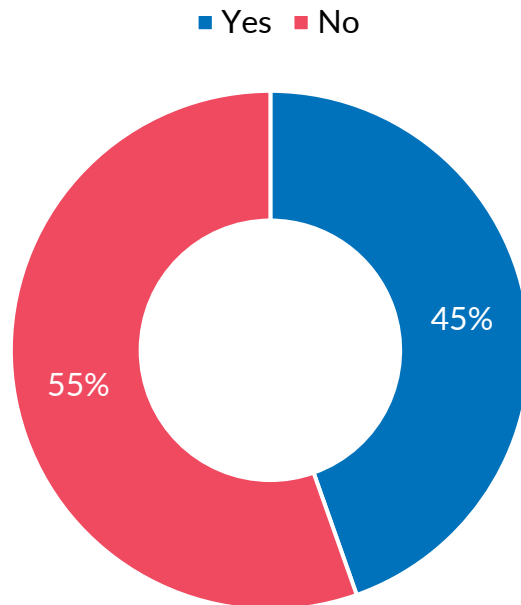
What are the three most serious risks faced by boys under the age of 18 in your neighborhood?

*\* among HHs with at least one boy (14%)*

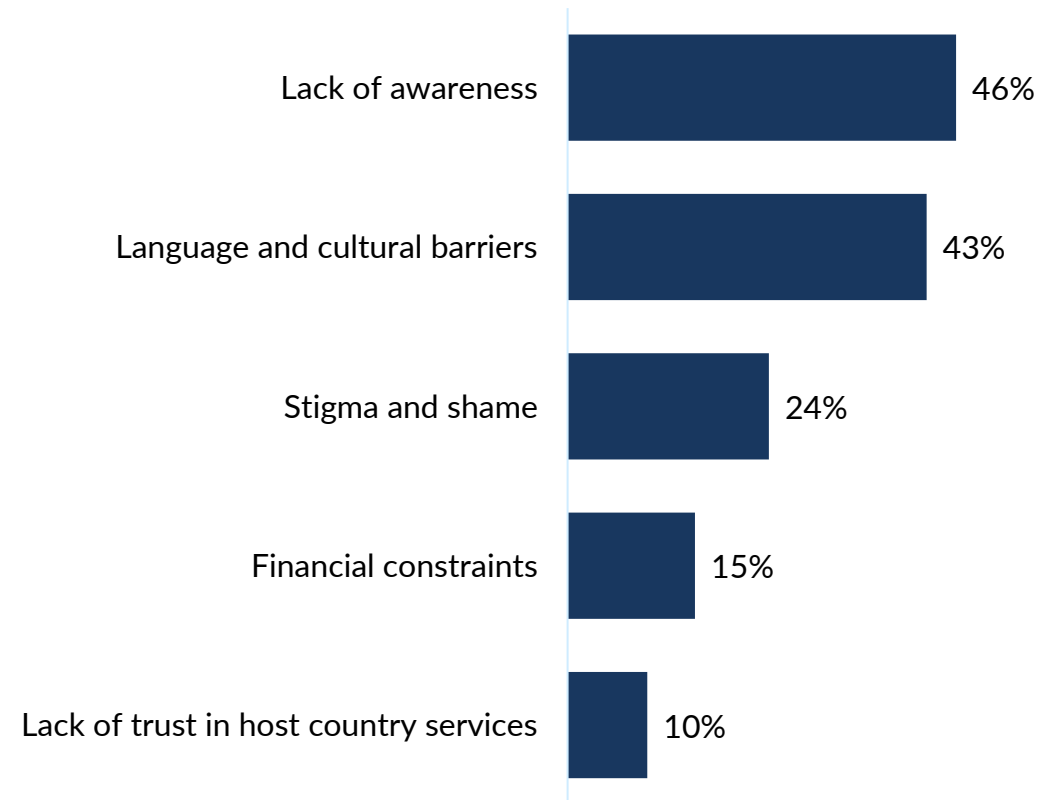


# GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

If someone in your community is subject to gender-based violence and asks for your help, would you be able to tell this person about the following services in this area?  
*(100% responded to the question)*

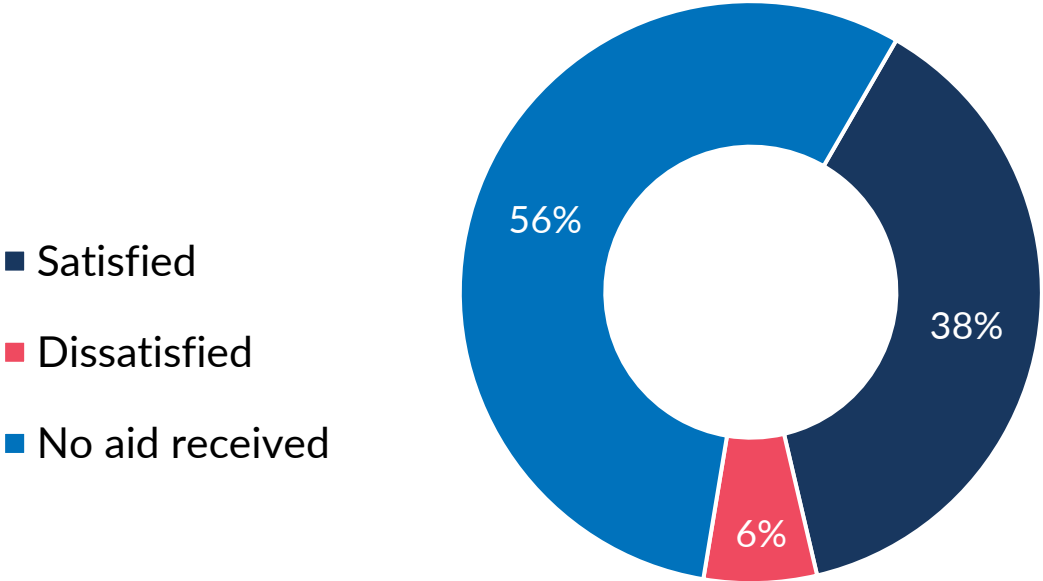


What do you perceive to be the main barriers that survivors could face when trying to access GBV services? (top 5)



## SATISFACTION OF AID RECEIVED

% of HHs satisfied/dissatisfied with the aid they received in the last 3 months \*



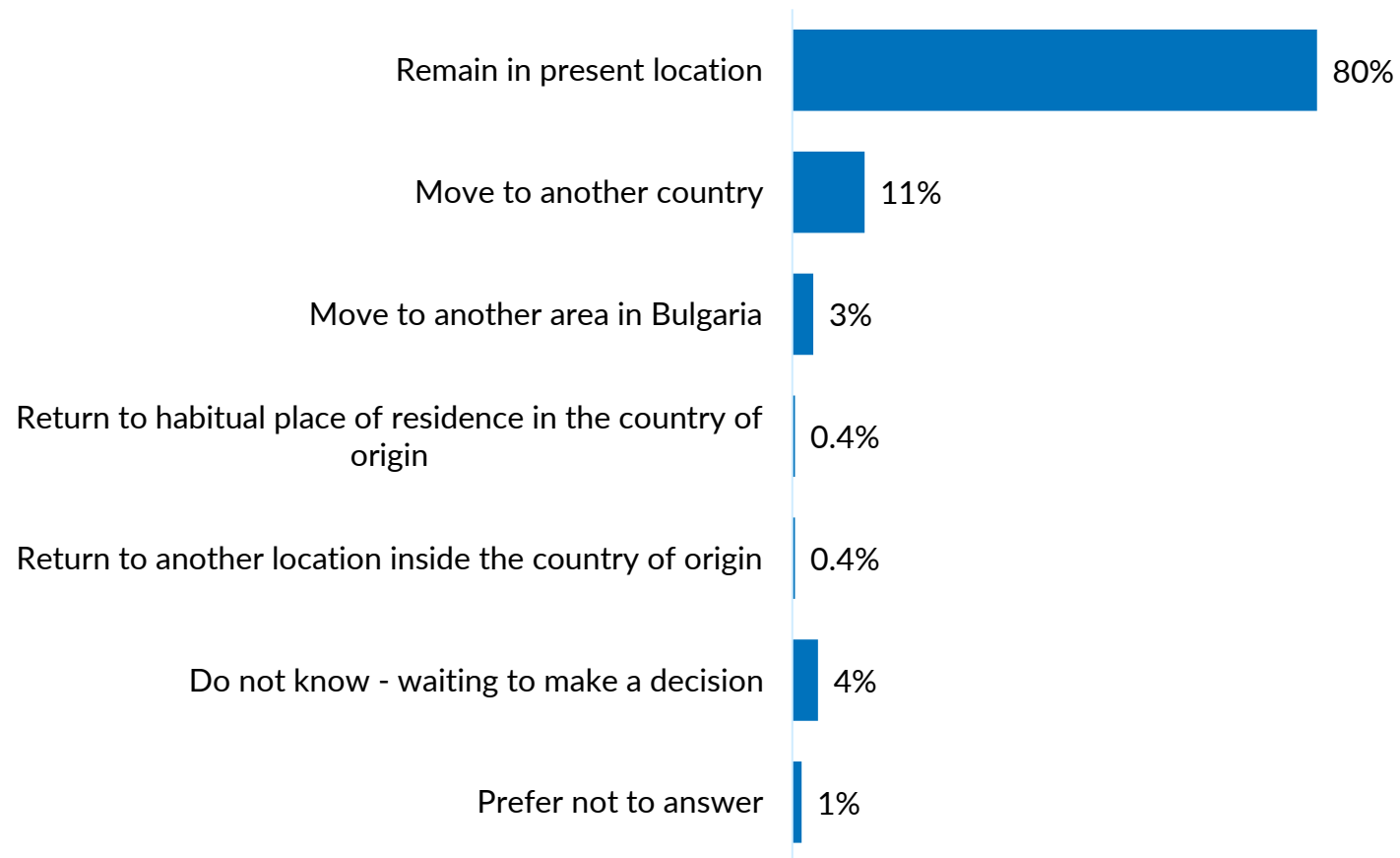
% of HHs who received aid in the last 3 months

44%

\* Aid refers to in-kind support, financial aid, accommodation

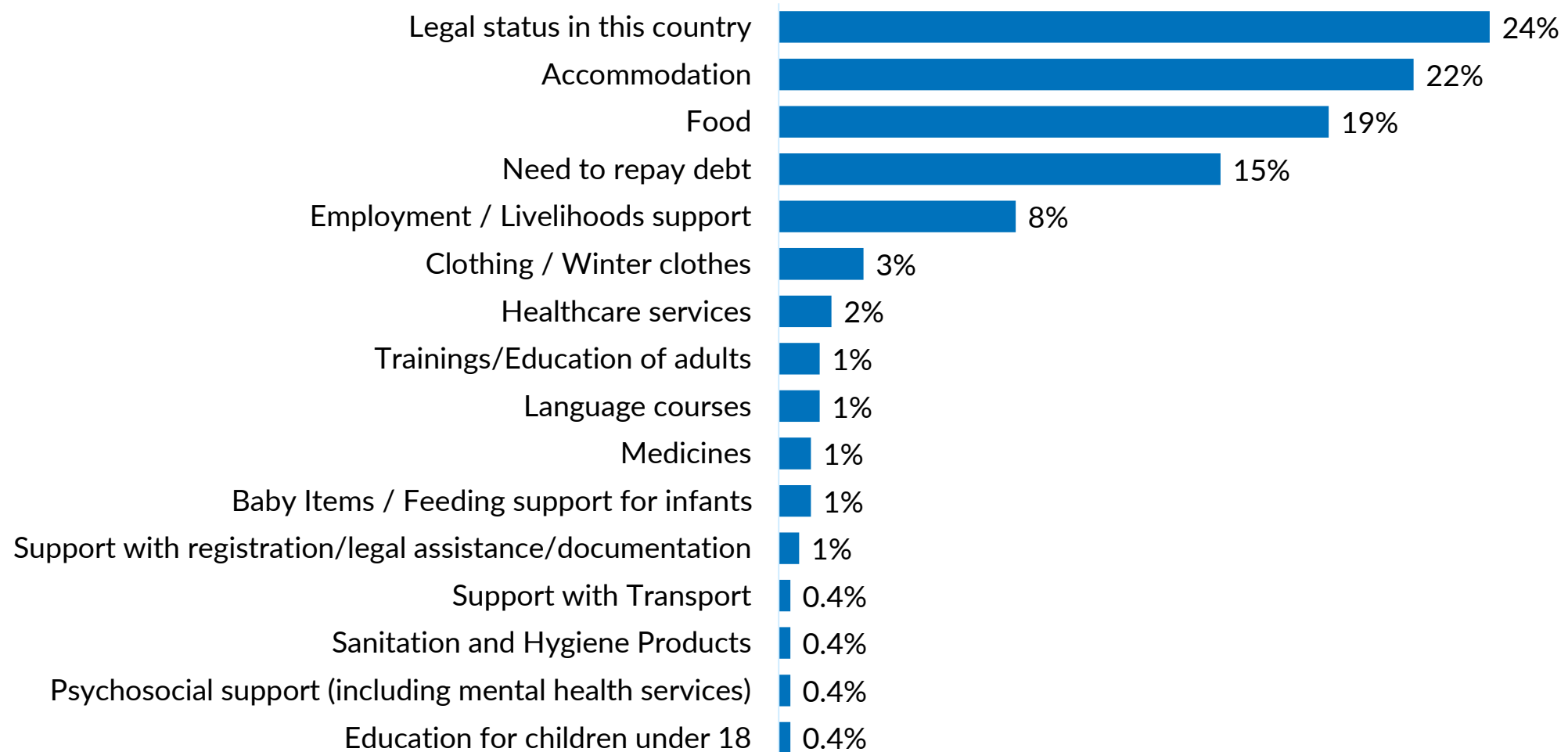
# INTENTIONS

What are your HH's intentions regarding your location within the next 12 months?



# PRIORITY NEEDS

% of HHs by top priority need reported (among HHs who reported any need (98%))

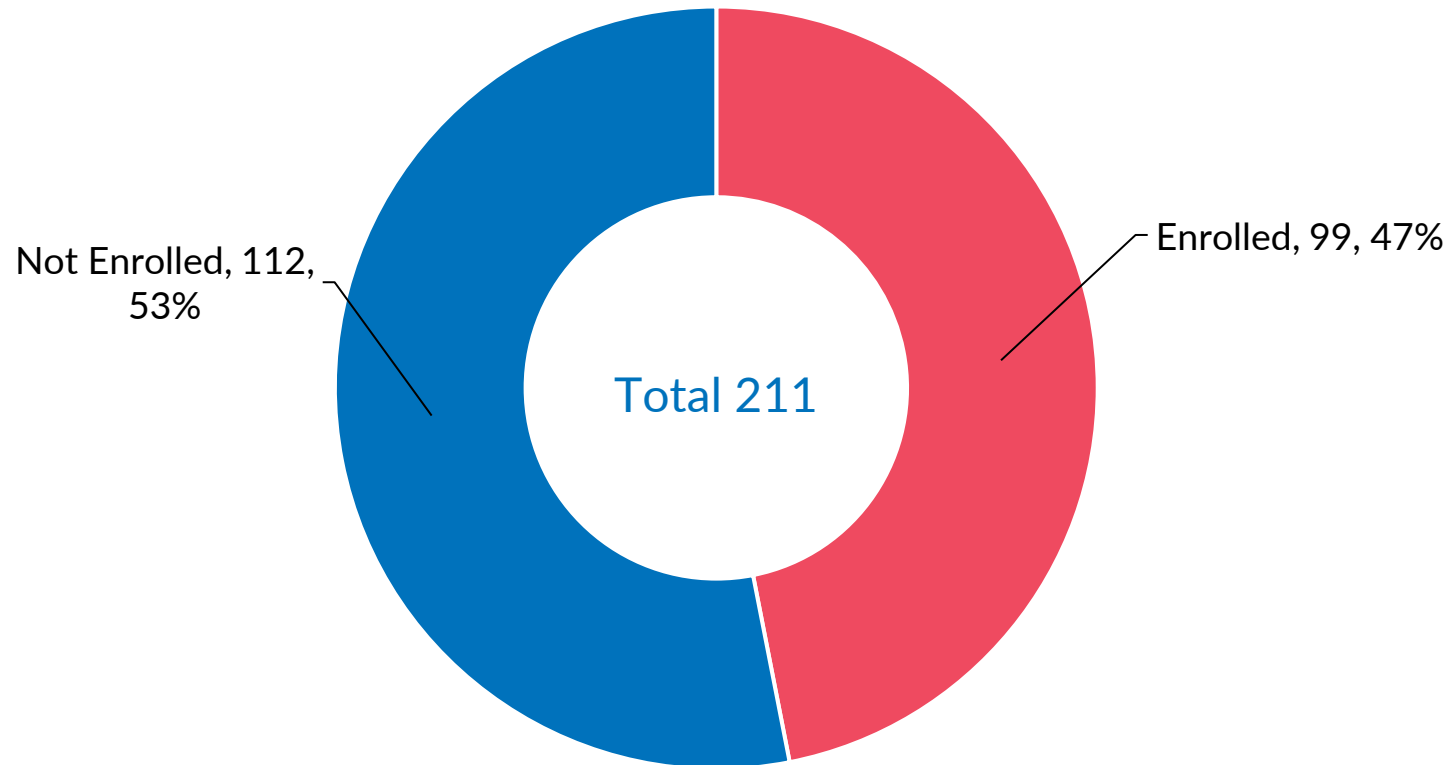


## EDUCATION

# SCHOOL ENROLMENT

**% of school-aged children enrolled in formal education for the 2024/2025 school year**

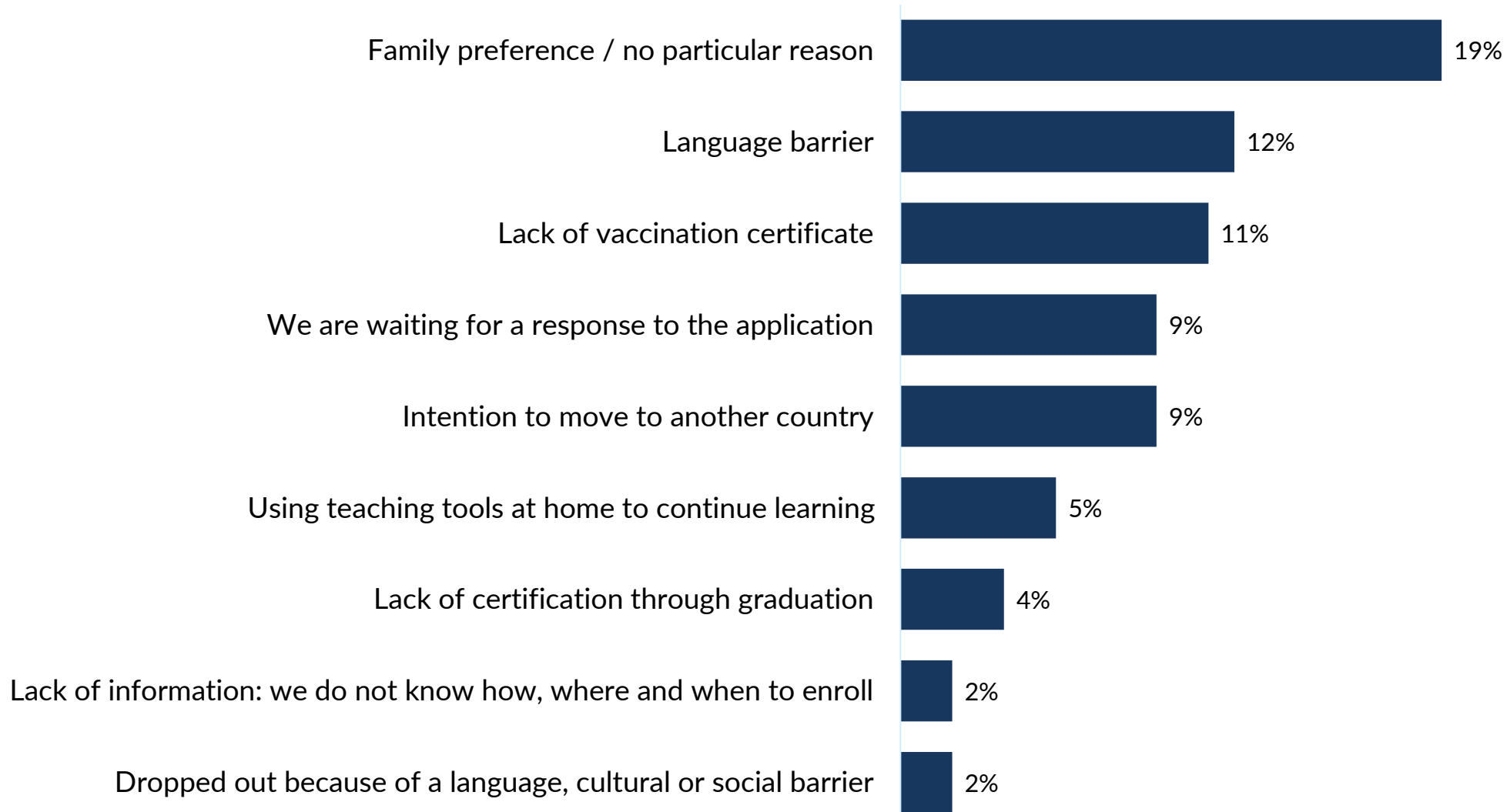
*Sample: 46% answered the question*



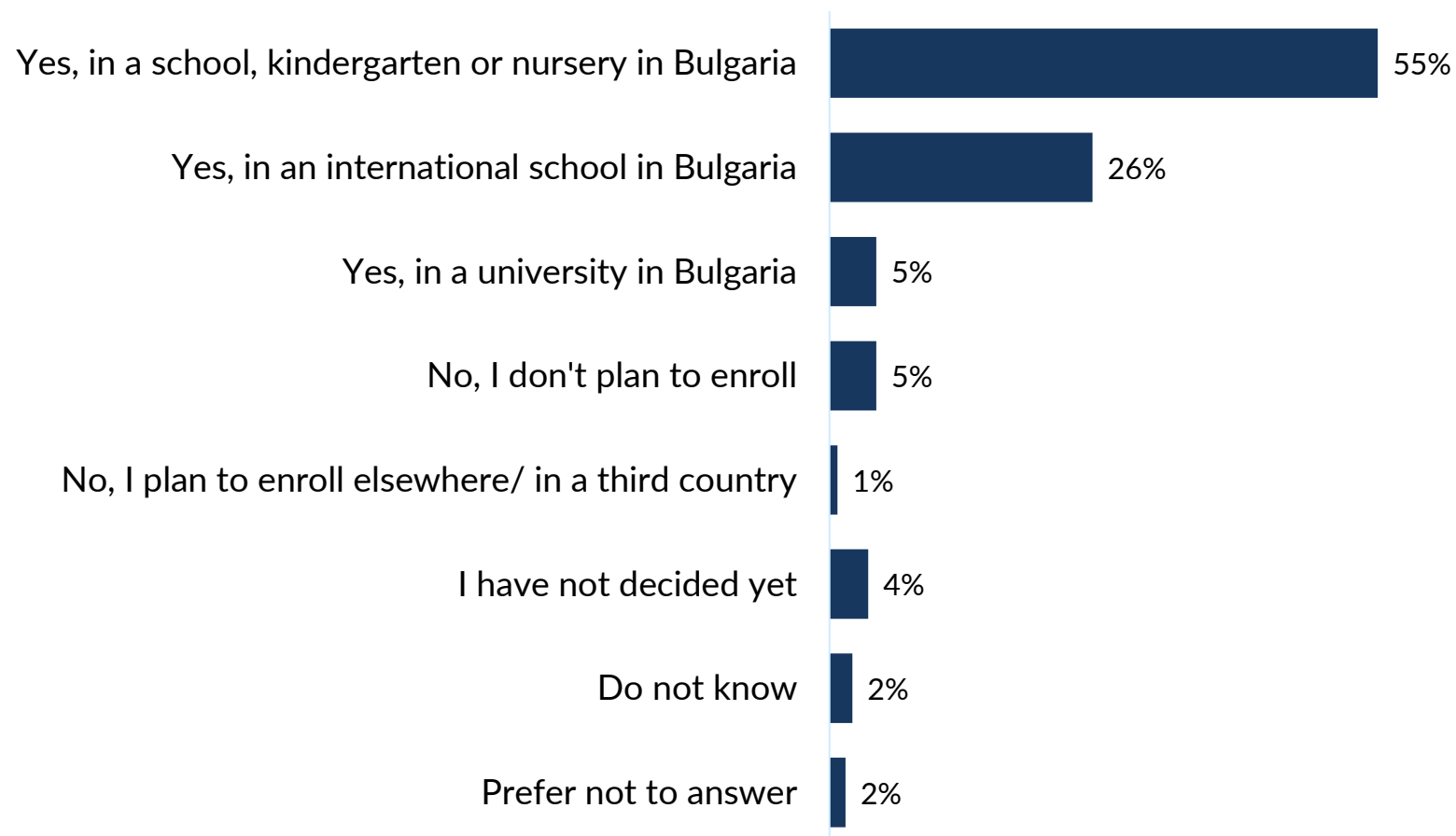
# EDUCATION

## Primary barriers for enrolling children in school (top 10)

*For those respondents who have not enrolled their children (53%)*



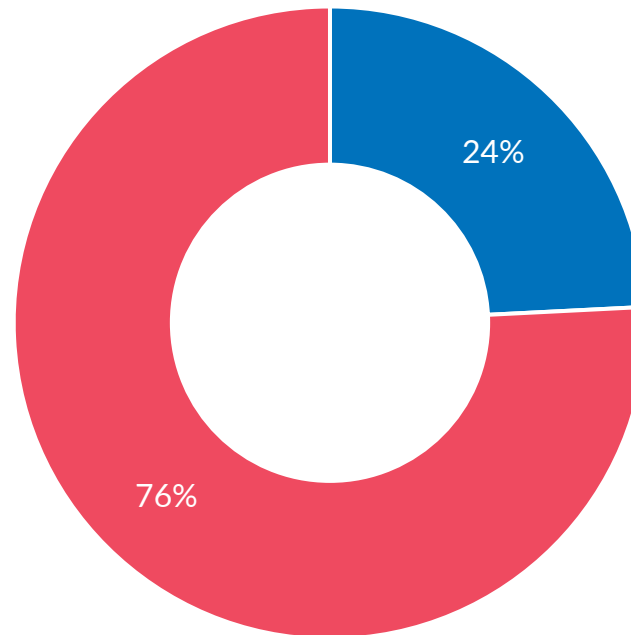
## % of HHs intended to enroll children into Bulgarian education system for the next school year (2025/2026)



# LOCAL LANGUAGE KNOWLEDGE

**% of HH members (aged 12 to 64) who are able to communicate effectively in local language**

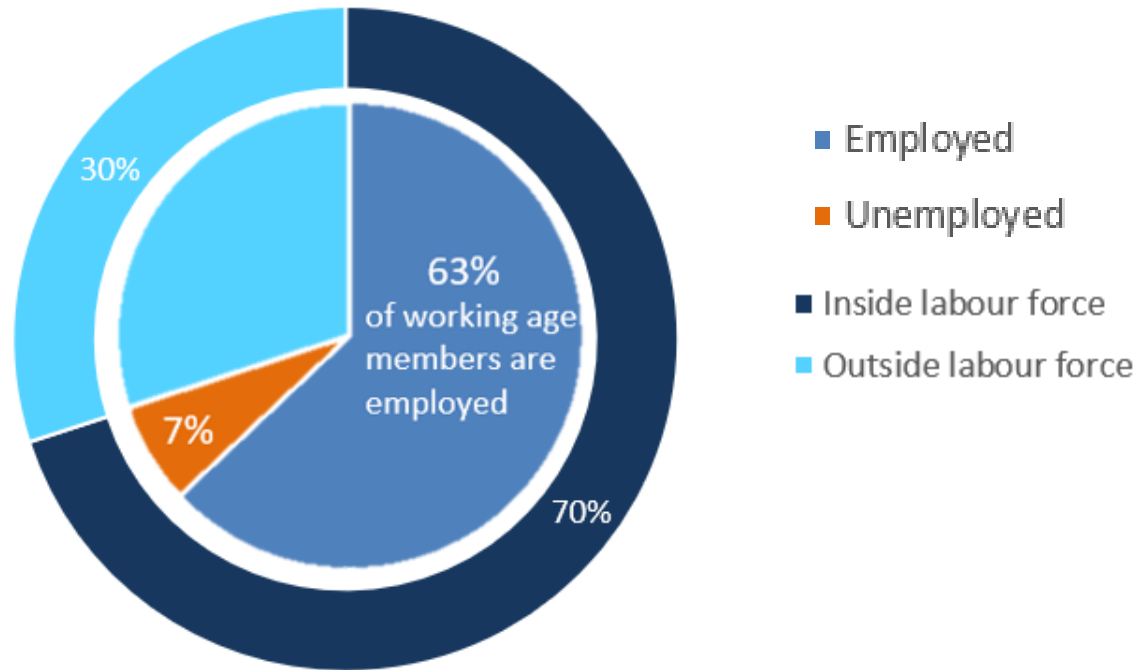
- Able to communicate effectively in local language
- Unable to communicate effectively in local language



Bulgaria

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

## Labour force participation (out of working age population 16-64)



% of youth (15 to 24) who are not in Education, Training or Employment: **17%**

**Working-age population:** the population above the legal working age, but for statistical purposes it comprises all persons above a specified minimum age threshold for which an inquiry on economic activity is made. To promote international comparability, the working-age population is often defined as all persons aged 15 and older, but this may vary from country to country based on national laws and practices (some countries also apply an upper age limit).

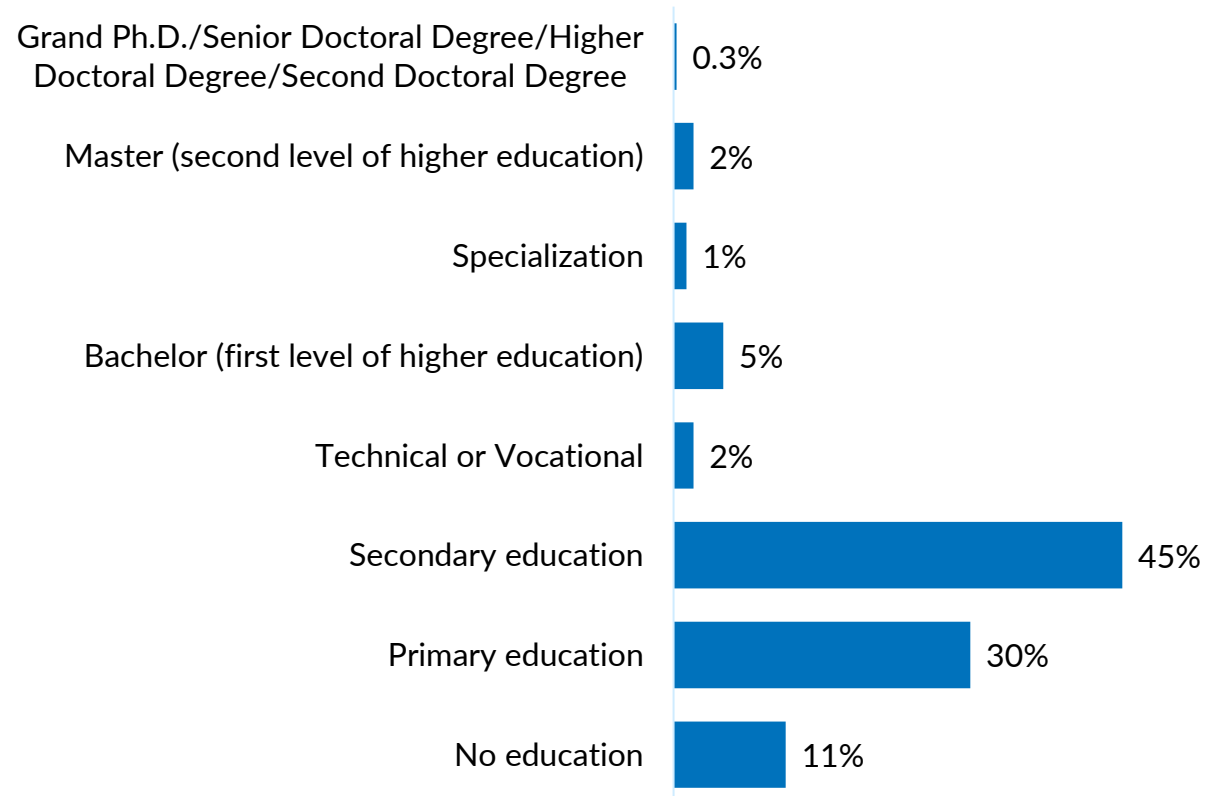
**Employment:** Employment includes individuals of working age who have engaged in income-generating activities in the past week. This encompasses formal and informal employment, self-employment, agricultural/fishing work, diverse income generation, temporary absence from paid roles, and unpaid contributions to family businesses.

**Unemployment:** # of working-age who were not employed during the past week (as per the definition above), who looked for a paid job or tried to start a business in the past 4 weeks, and who are available to start working within the next 2 weeks if ever a job or business opportunity becomes available.

**Outside labor force:** # working-age individuals (who were not employed during the past week, and who either cannot start working within the next 2 weeks if a job or business opportunity becomes available, or did not look for a paid job or did not try to start a business in the past 4 weeks).

**Inside labor force:** Employed and Unemployed

## % of HH members by highest education level achieved



# SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

% of HHs not receiving social protection benefits in Bulgaria

**91%**

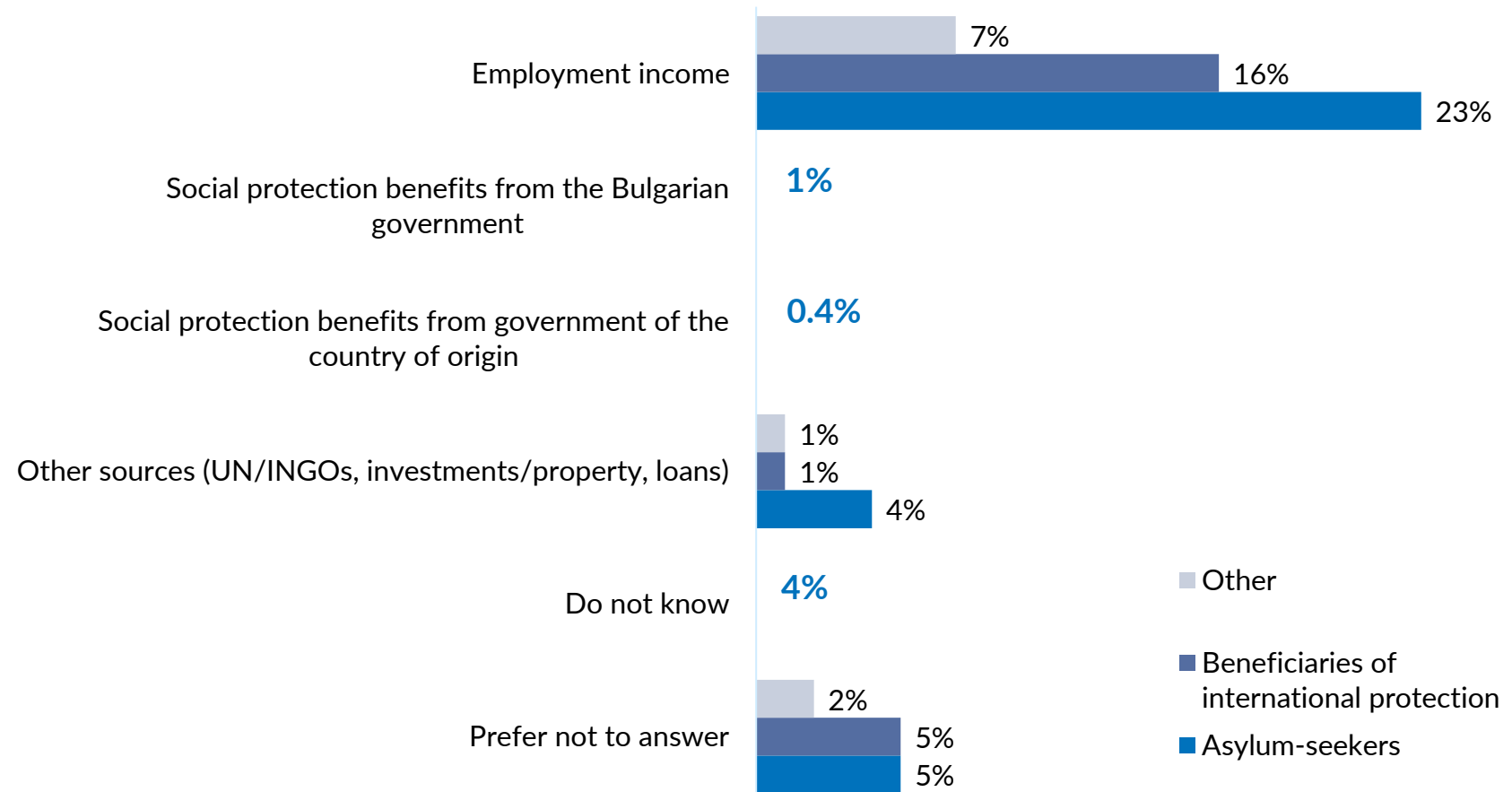
% of HHs with income source

**69%**

% of HHs satisfied with their overall income level

**2%**

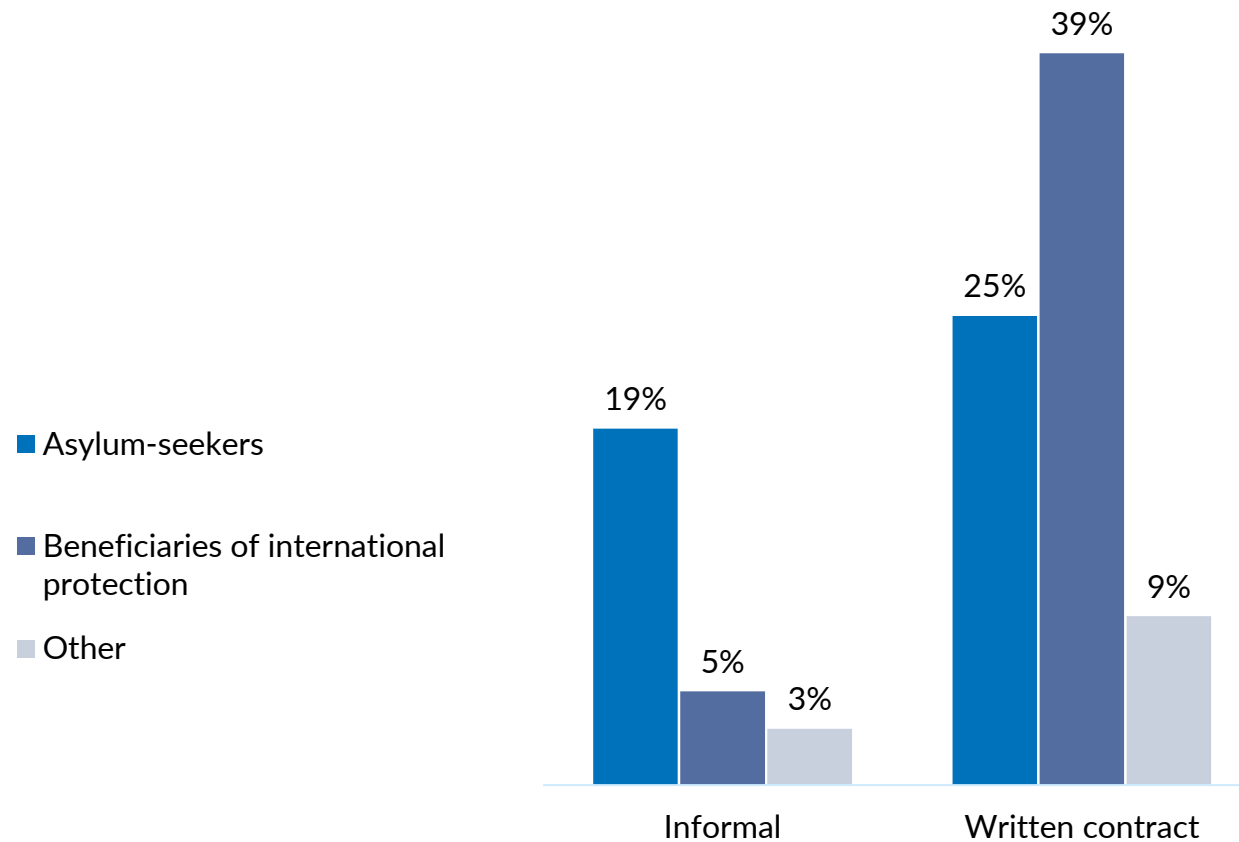
% of HHs by income source in the last 30 days (among those who have an income source (69%))



# SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

Does this person have a formal contract or informal work arrangement at their main job? \*

*Sample: 43% answered the question*

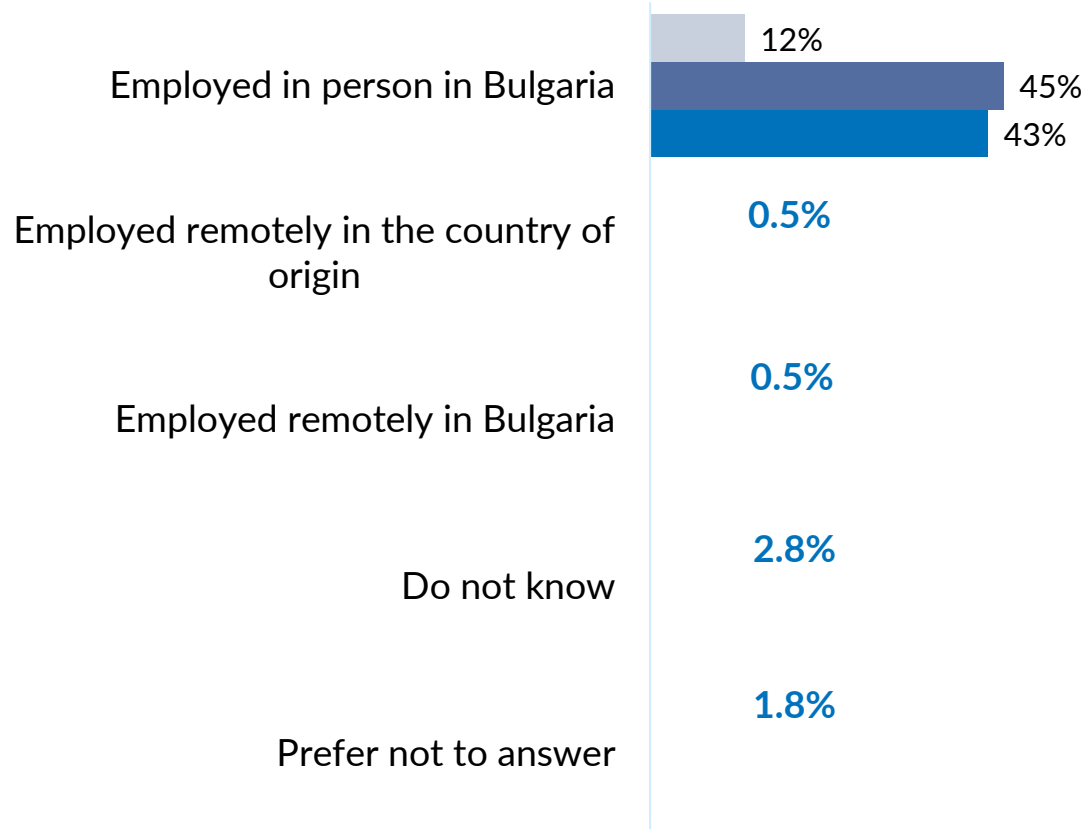


\* Sample includes those who worked for someone else for pay in the past 7 days, ran a business, farming, or any other activity to generate income

# SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

**% of HH members by main employment arrangement (among those who are employed)**

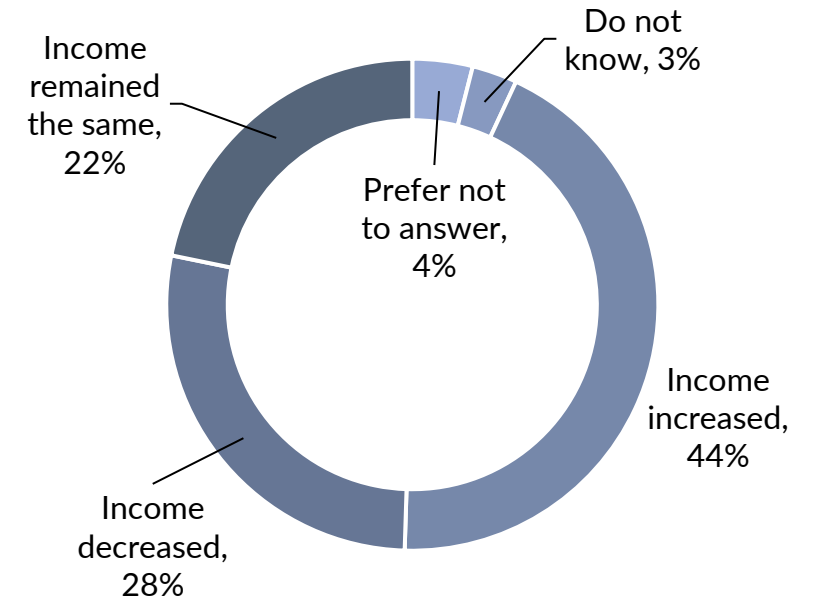
■ Other   ■ Beneficiaries of international protection   ■ Asylum-seekers



Average number of hours worked per week

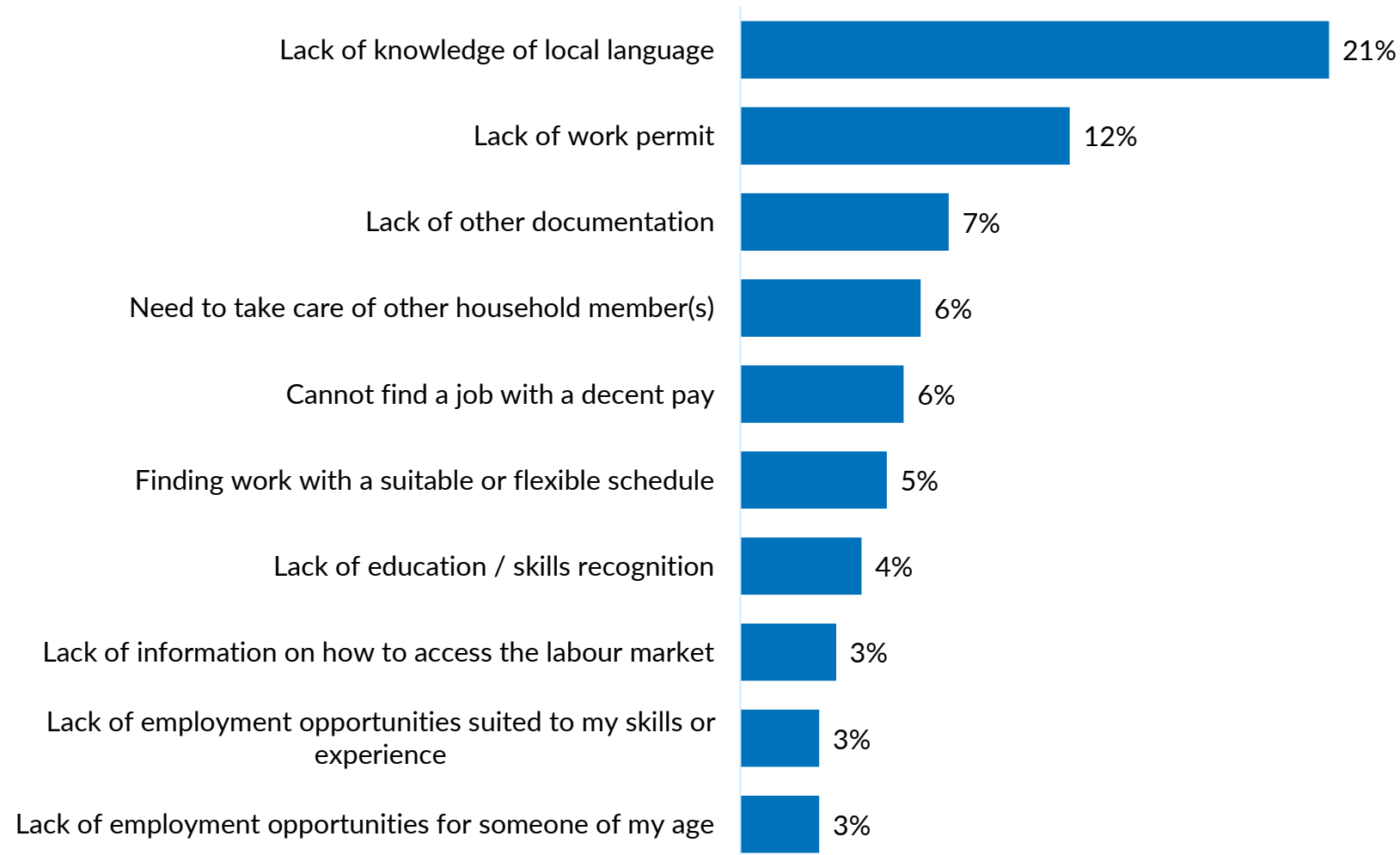
**37 hours**

**% of HHs reporting a change in household income in the past 12 months**



# SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

% of HH members by main difficulty finding work in Bulgaria (top 10)



% of HH members not looking for work

**8%**

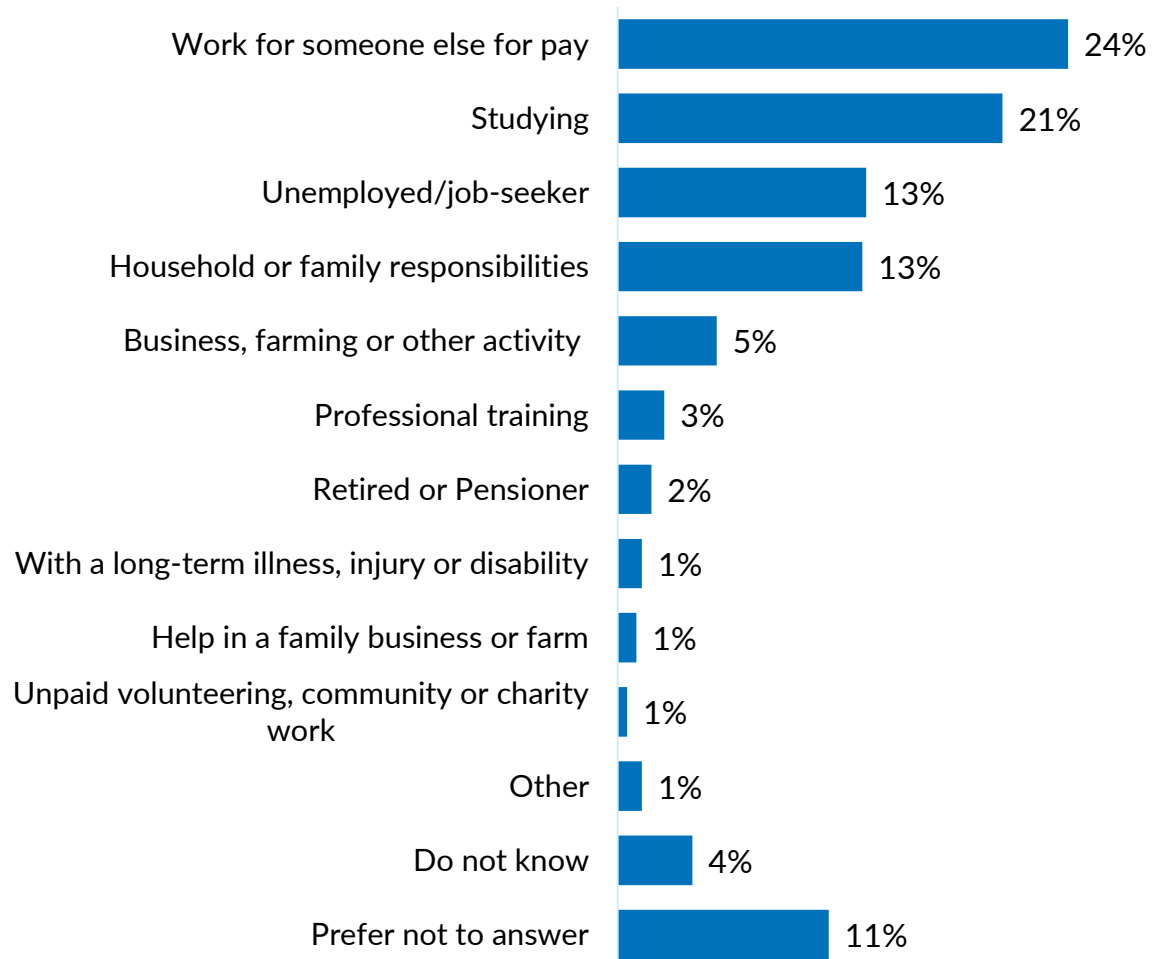
% of HH members with barriers finding work

**90%**

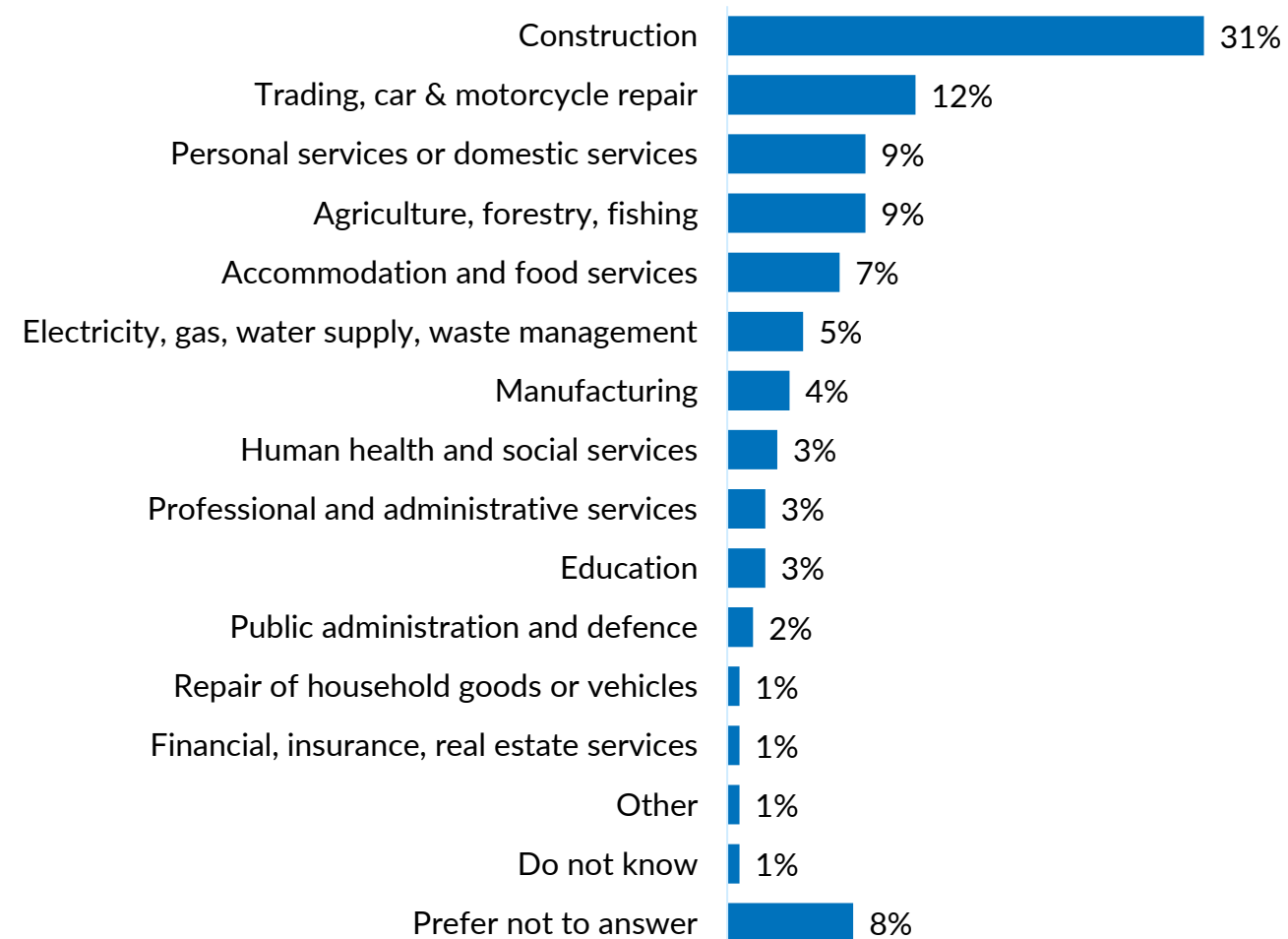
Average expenditure for debt repayment in the last 6 months

**230 BGN**

**% of HH members by main activity before leaving the country of origin**



**% of HH members by sector(s) of work experience or training before leaving the country of origin**



Bulgaria

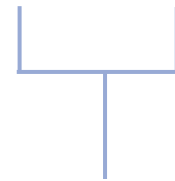
## HEALTH

# HEALTH ACCESS

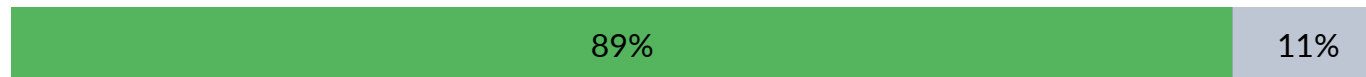
% of HHs with a  
chronically ill  
member

**16%**

% of HH members with a health problem and needed to access  
healthcare in the last 30 days

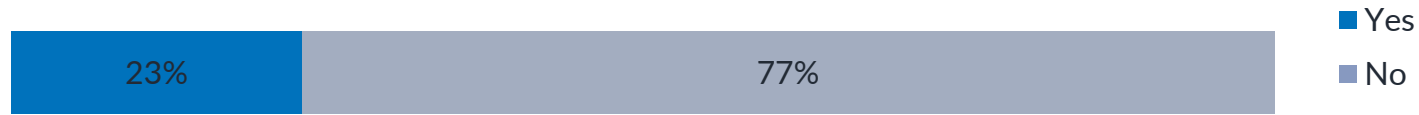


% of HH members who received access to healthcare in the last 30 days



■ Received access   ■ Did not receive access

## % of HH members (age 5+) experiencing mental health or psychosocial problems



## % of HH members who tried to access MHPSS support



## Received the required MHPSS support



## Support received by type (top 3)

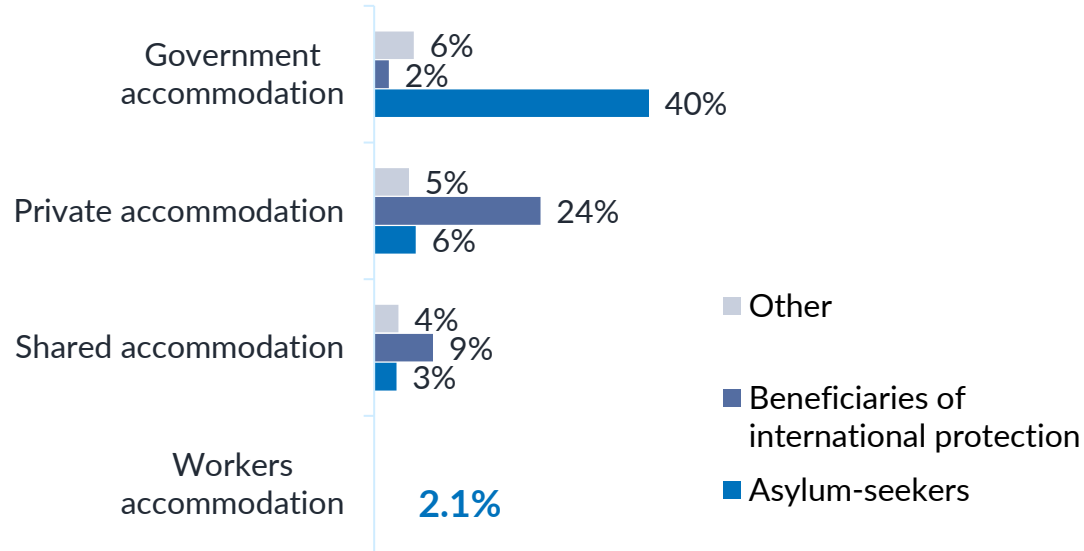


Bulgaria

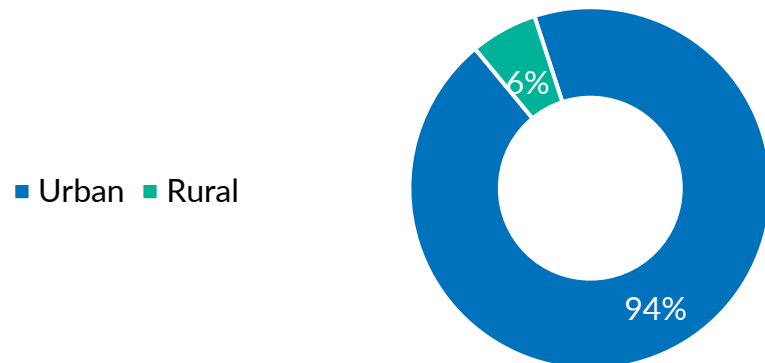
## ACCOMMODATION

# SHELTER/ACCOMMODATION

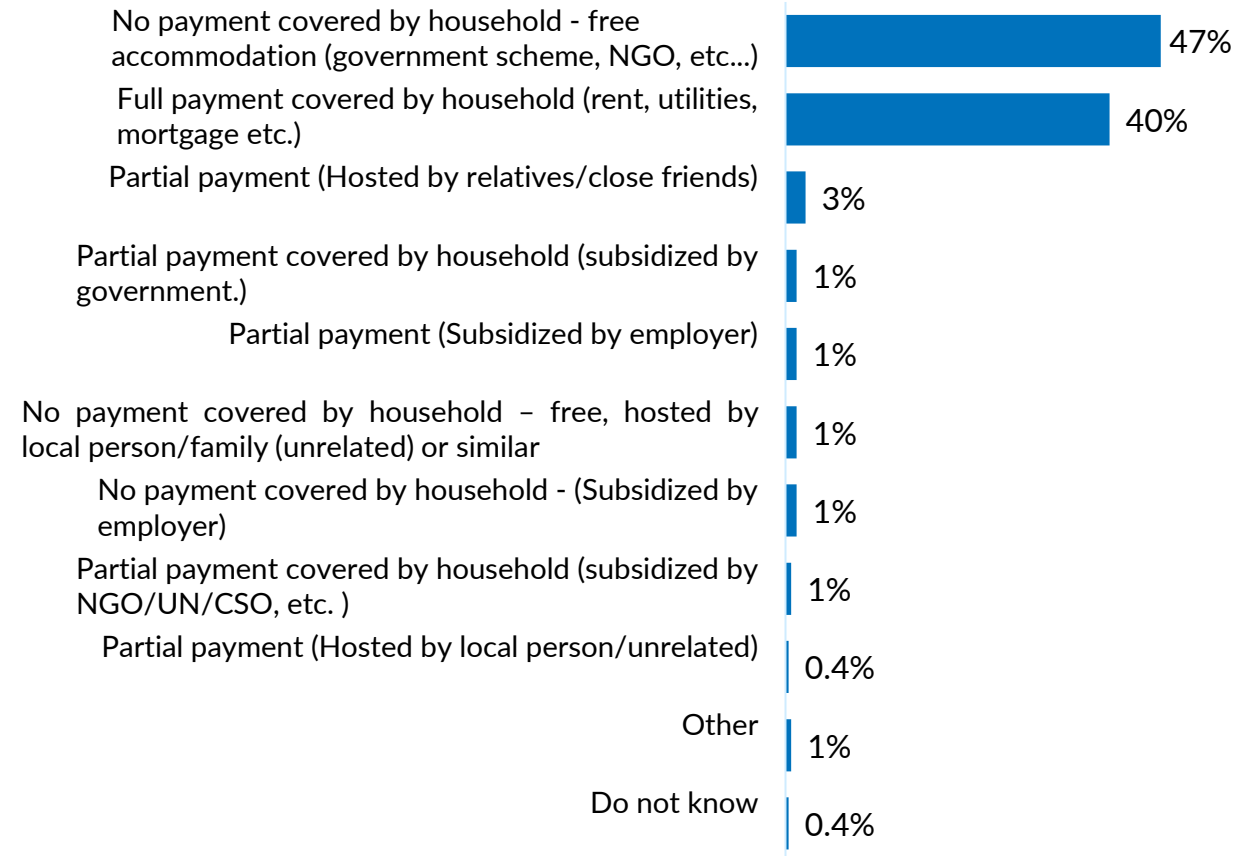
% of HHs by accommodation arrangement



% of HHs living in rural and urban areas



% of HHs by accommodation payment arrangement



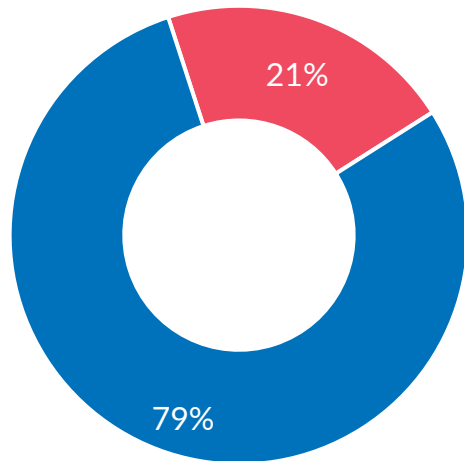
# SHELTER/ACCOMMODATION

% of HHs with living condition issues

63%

% of HHs in overcrowding conditions

■ Overcrowded ■ Not Overcrowded



% of HHs with living condition issues in current accommodation  
(among HH with living condition issues)

