Monitoring of the Effects of the Economic Deterioration on Refugee Households (Iraqi and other nationalities)

WAVE I – March 2020

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Supported by:

WFP

Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

OBJECTIVES

- Monitoring changes at the household level over time in key areas in the context of the deteriorating economic situation in Lebanon. The focus will be on the following areas:
  - **Livelihoods**: Loss of jobs, salary cuts, job retention and new job opportunities.
  - **Economic vulnerability**: household debt
  - **Living conditions**: rental costs, mobility, eviction and eviction threats
  - **Access to health services**: demand and access to primary healthcare and hospitalization
  - **Food and Livelihood Coping Strategies**: Rates of key negative food and non-food related coping strategies

- Inform UNHCR/WFP and LCRP partner advocacy in order to: (A) maintain or improve funding for affected refugees; an (B) advocate against the reallocation of funds away from refugee centred programming.

- For the initial wave, identify those socio-economic areas most impacted that could be further investigated through VARON 2020 (currently planned for the end of March/April).

Summary of the methodology

- To achieve this, we will use a nationally representative **simple random sampling approach**, extracted from the UNHCR database in Lebanon.

- Two nationally representative samples will be extracted: **(1)Syrian refugees**, and **(2)Non-Syrian** refugees. Each sample is estimated at 500 (total 1,000) refugee households.

- Data collected through the call center via **Phone survey**

- Accounting for non-response rate, sampled: 1,000 Syrian; 1,000 non-Syrian

- NB: Please note that while comparison is made to VARON/VASYR, methodologies completely differ and as such comparisons should be approached with caution and not interpreted to the dot. Preference is not to focus on magnitude of differences but rather just to better understand what challenges and difference might be arising and to be further confirmed by VARON 2020.

RESULT:

- High non-response rate (49% Syrians, 58% non-Syrian)

- 513 Syrian cases and 417 Non-Syrian surveys completed
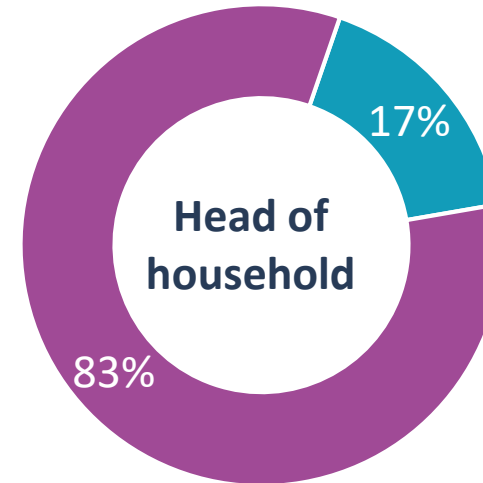
DEMOGRAPHICS

DEMOGRAPHICS
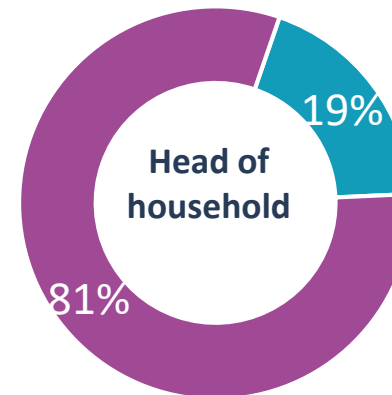
HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE:

3.7
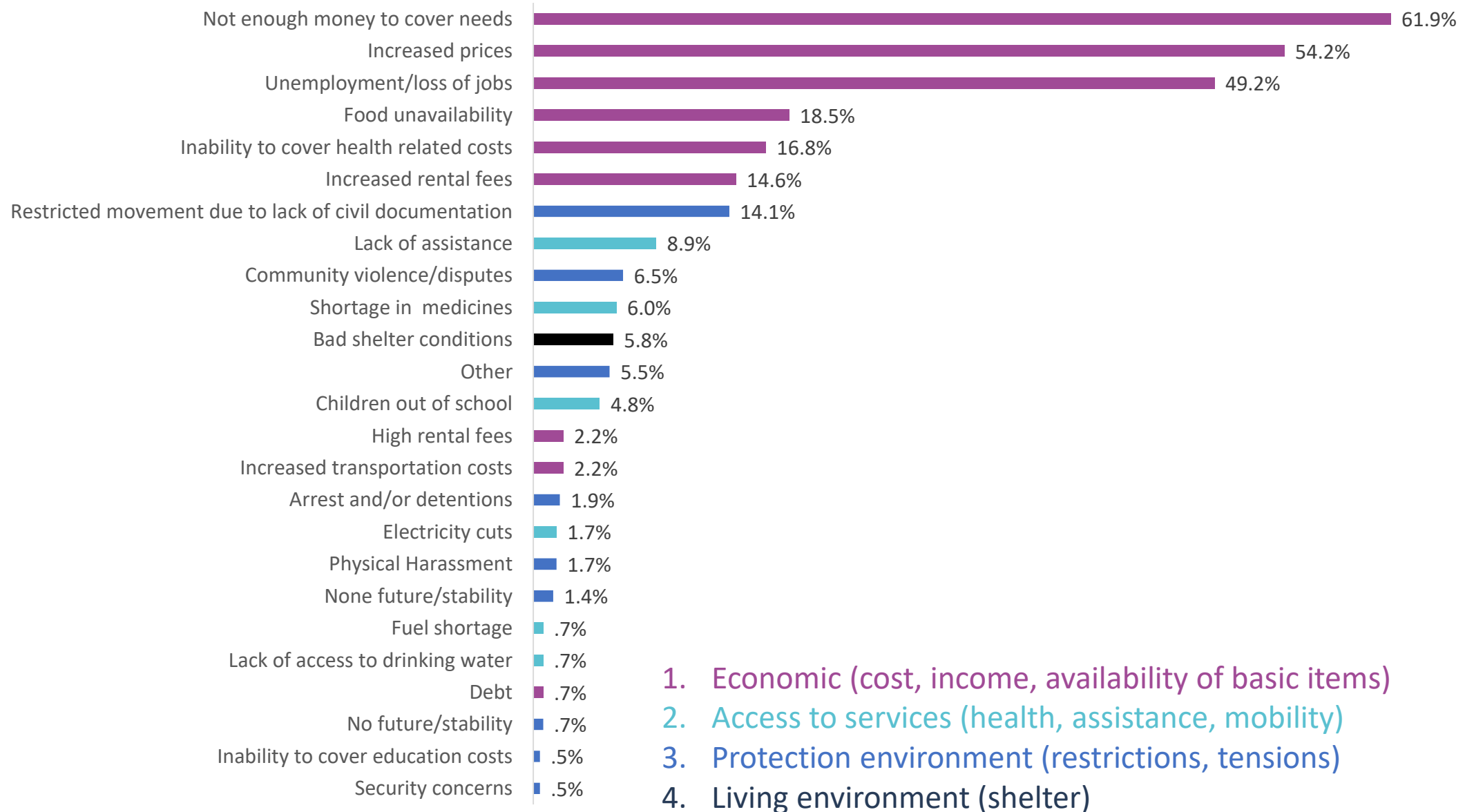
(VARON 2019: 3.1)

(phone wave I)

Head of household

17%

83%

■ Female ■ Male

VARON 2019

Head of household

19%

81%

■ Female ■ Male

MAIN PROBLEMS FACED REPORTED BY FAMILIES

Problem	Percentage
Not enough money to cover needs	61.9%
Increased prices	54.2%
Unemployment/loss of jobs	49.2%
Food unavailability	18.5%
Inability to cover health related costs	16.8%
Increased rental fees	14.6%
Restricted movement due to lack of civil documentation	14.1%
Lack of assistance	8.9%
Community violence/disputes	6.5%
Shortage in medicines	6.0%
Bad shelter conditions	5.8%
Other	5.5%
Children out of school	4.8%
High rental fees	2.2%
Increased transportation costs	2.2%
Arrest and/or detentions	1.9%
Electricity cuts	1.7%
Physical Harassment	1.7%
None future/stability	1.4%
Fuel shortage	.7%
Lack of access to drinking water	.7%
Debt	.7%
No future/stability	.7%
Inability to cover education costs	.5%
Security concerns	.5%

1. Economic (cost, income, availability of basic items)
2. Access to services (health, assistance, mobility)
3. Protection environment (restrictions, tensions)
4. Living environment (shelter)

SHELTER

SHELTER

SHELTER CATEGORIES

(Phone wave I)

92% Residential
6% Non-residential
2% Non-permanent

(VARON 2019)

95% Residential
5% Non-residential
1% Non-permanent

- Residential
- Non-residential
- Non-permanent
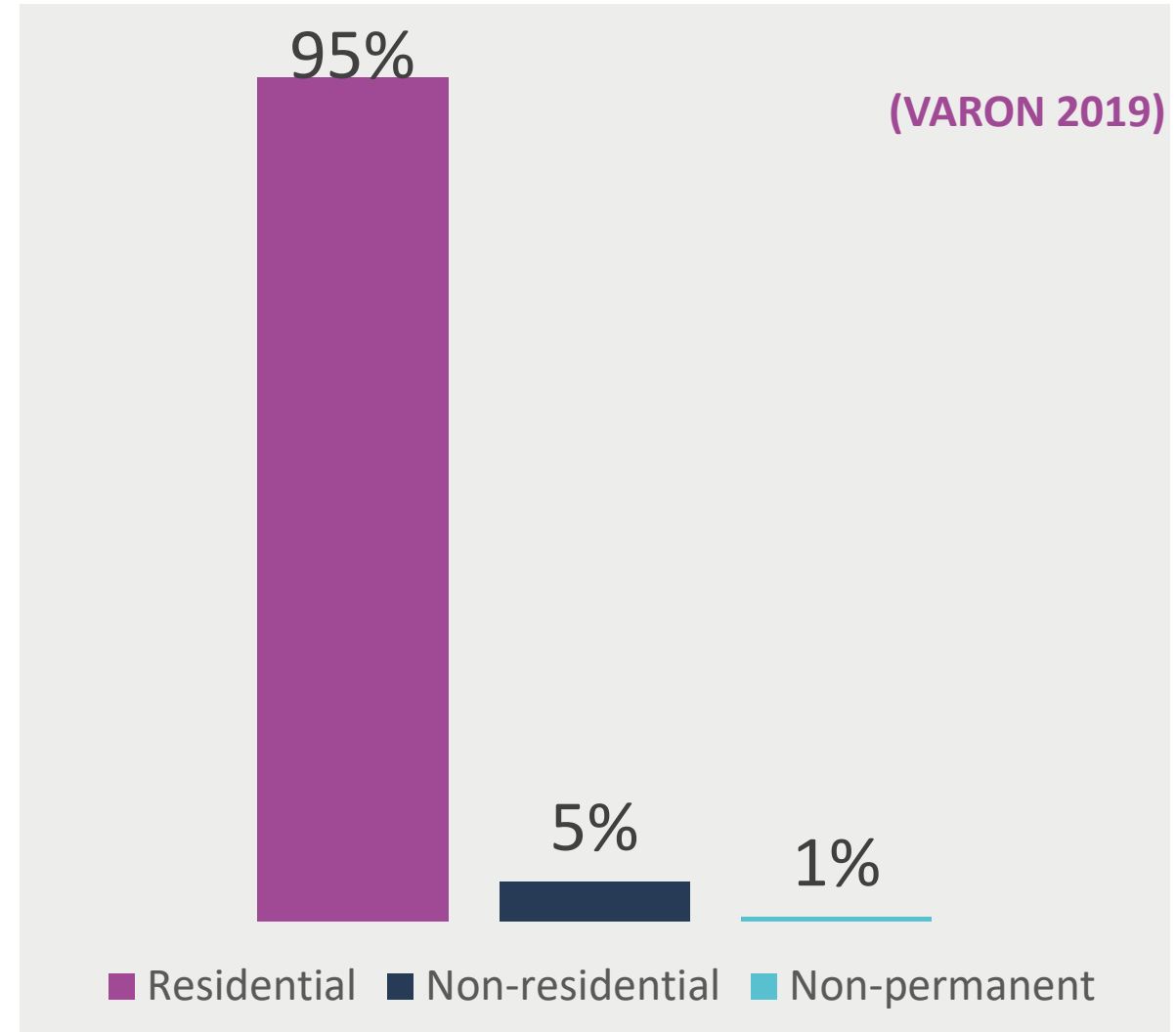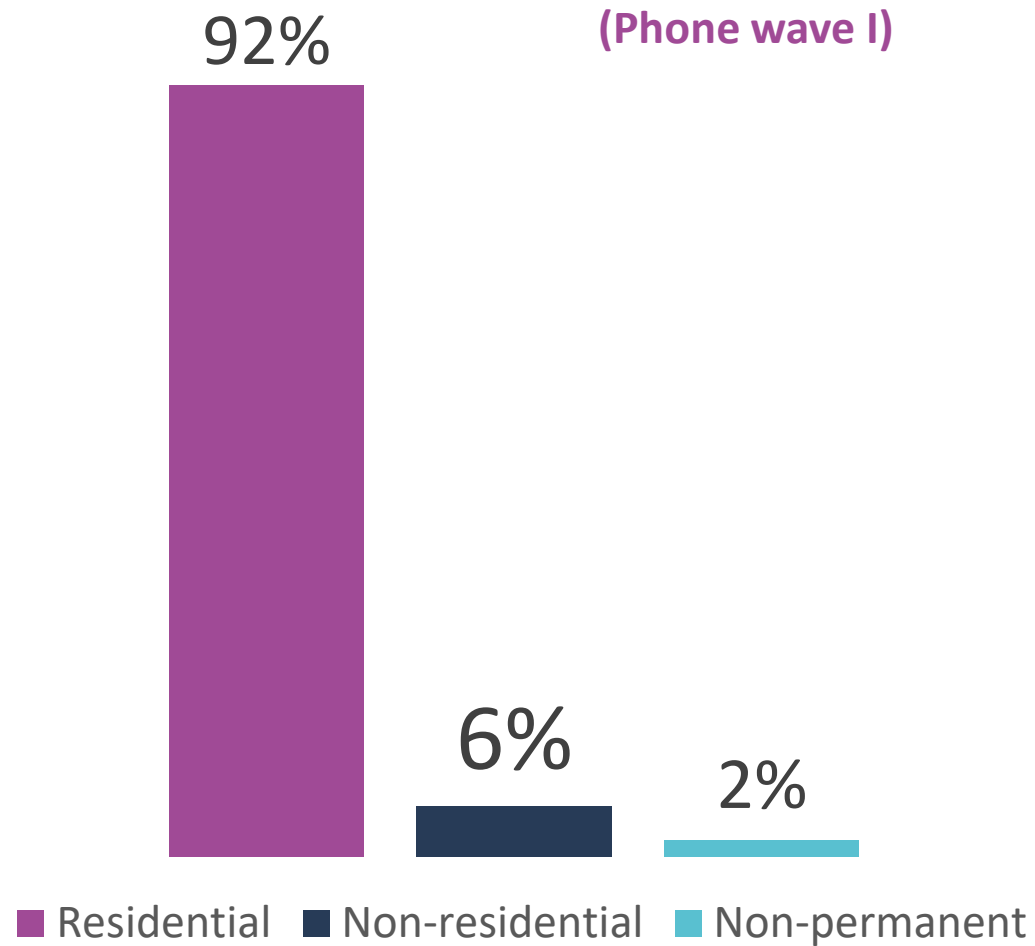
SHELTER
RENT

Households Renting Accommodation

74%

(VARON 2019: 71%)

Method of Payment

86%

12%

■ LBP ■ USD ■ Either

20% were paying in LBP prior to Oct 19

One third were paying in USD prior to Oct 19
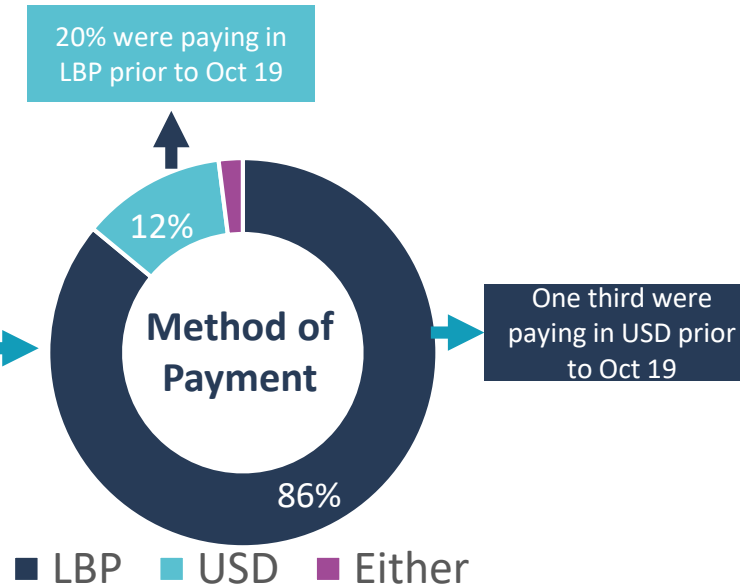
For those paying in LBP or either
- **Average rent: 415, 000 LBP/month**
- **Average paid: 394, 000 LBP/month**
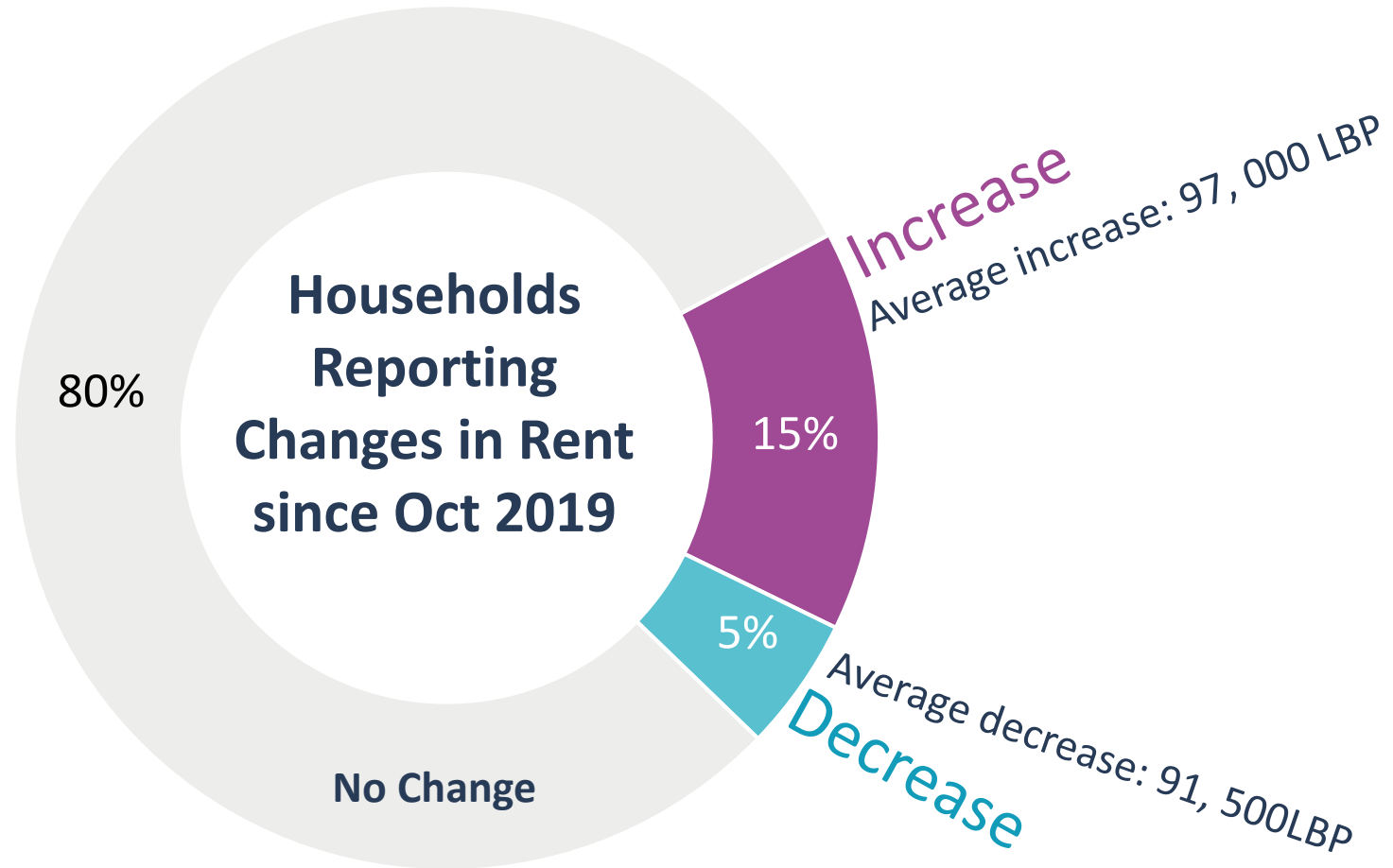
For those paying in USD (12 cases)
- **Average rent: 352 USD/month**
- **Average paid: 327 USD/month**
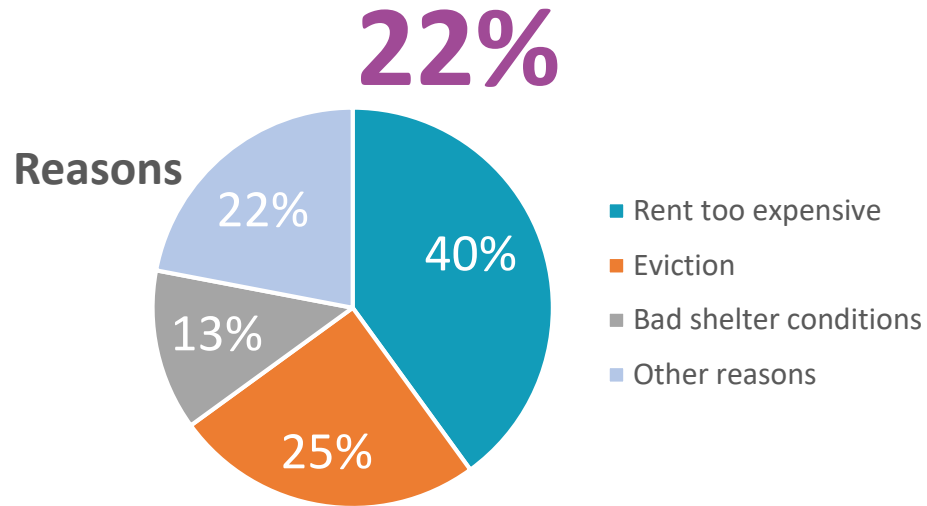
Average rent (per month)

475,500

415,000

VARON

Phone
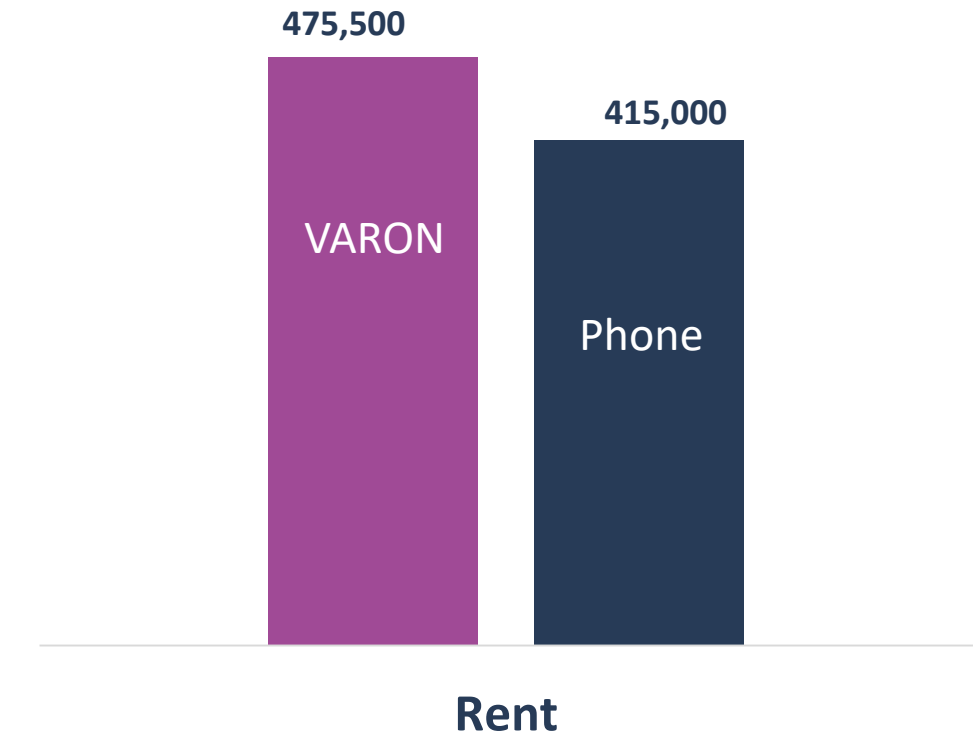
Rent

SHELTER
MOBILITY

Changed Shelter since Oct 2019

22%

Reasons

- 40% Rent too expensive
- 25% Eviction
- 13% Bad shelter conditions
- 22% Other reasons

Planning to change shelter
next three months

26%

Reason	%
Rent is too expensive	37%
Living conditions	17%
Lack of work opportunities	12%
Eviction or tension with landlord	5%
Due to change in rental price	6%
Due to change in rental currency	8%
End of housing agreement	4%
Security & community tensions	3%
Other	9%

**Reasons
for planned change in shelter**
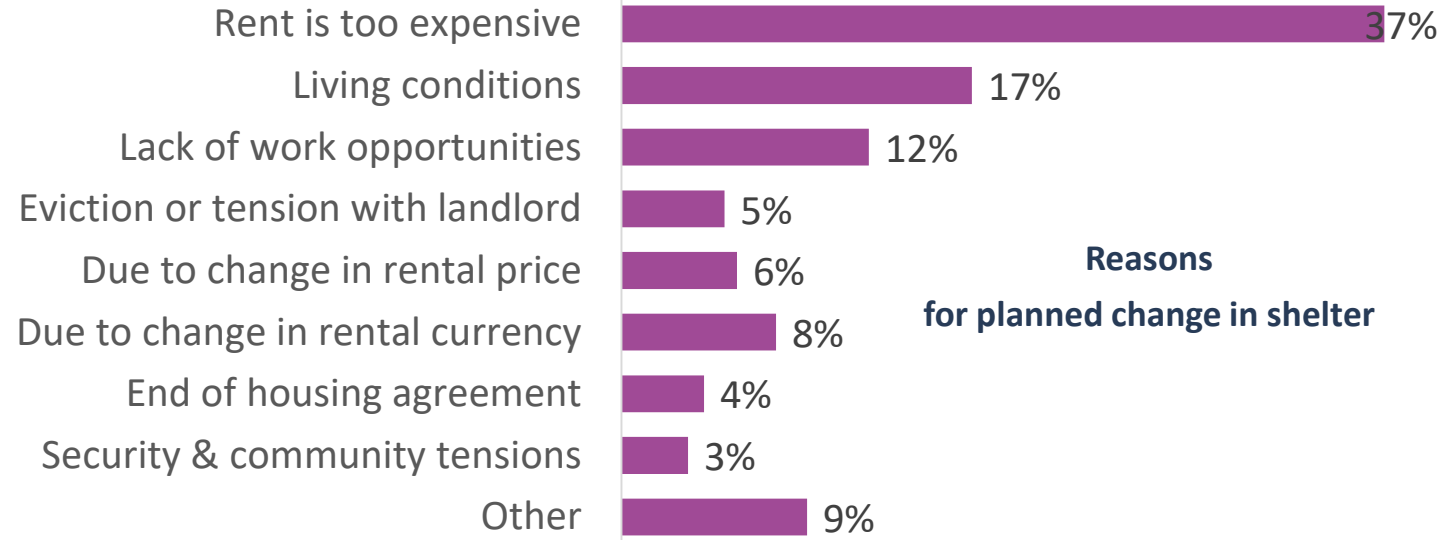
Planning to move
to third country

31%

Planning to return
to CoO

2%

LIVELIHOODS & DEBT

LIVELIHOODS & DEBT

DEBT

31%

69%

% of Households in debt
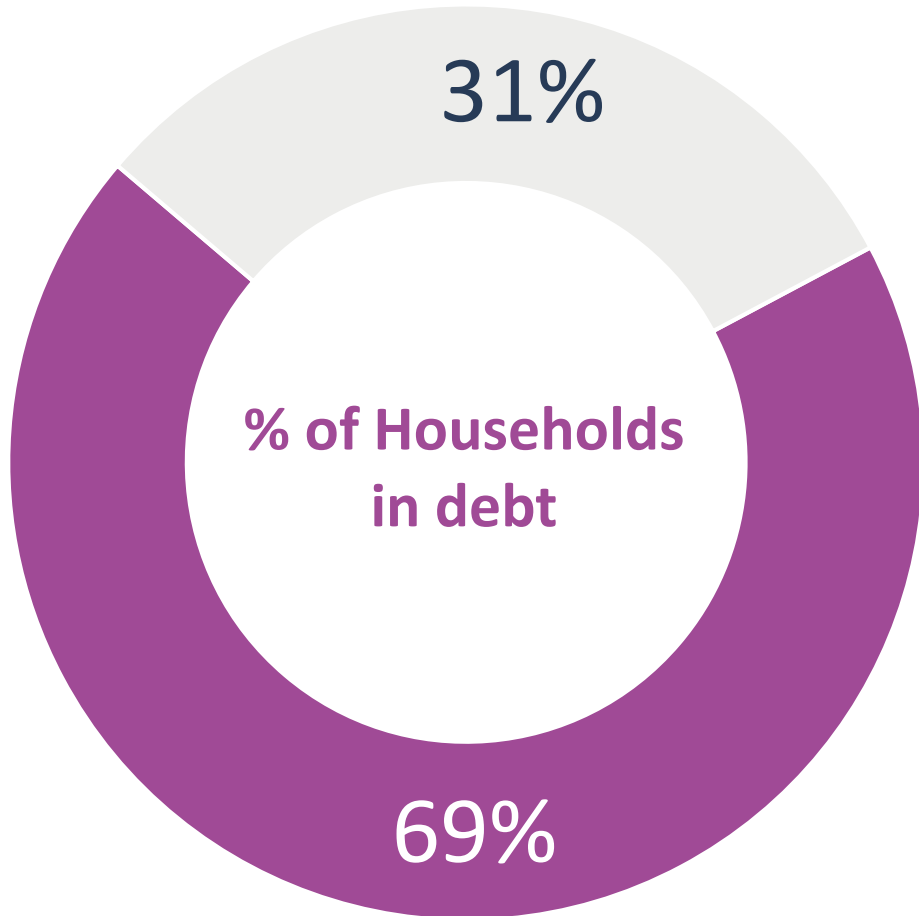
VARON 2019: 58% in debt

2, 235, 000

1, 608,899

(VARON 2019) (phone wave I)

Newly incurred debt
Past three months

61%

863, 210 **LBP average**

LIVELIHOODS & DEBT

WORK

32%

OF HOUSEHOLDS HAVE NO WORKING MEMBERS (ABOVE 15)

2%

REPORTED ENGAGING CHILDREN IN INCOME GENERATING ACTIVTIES SINCE OCT 2019
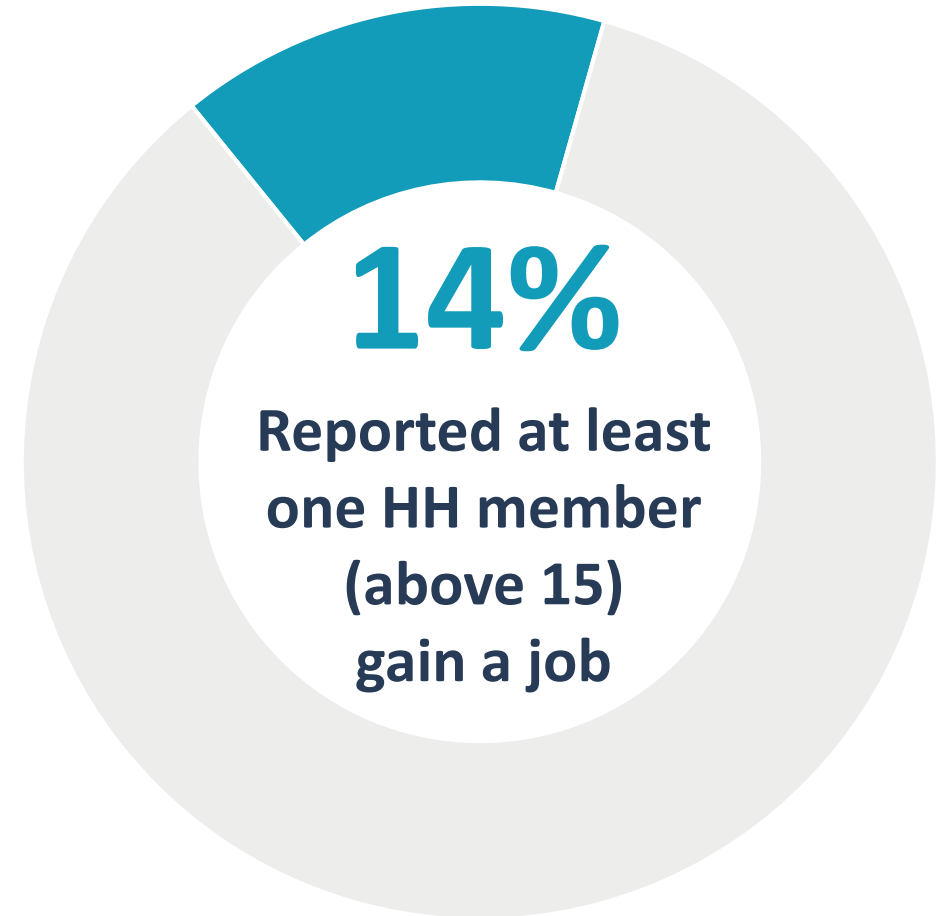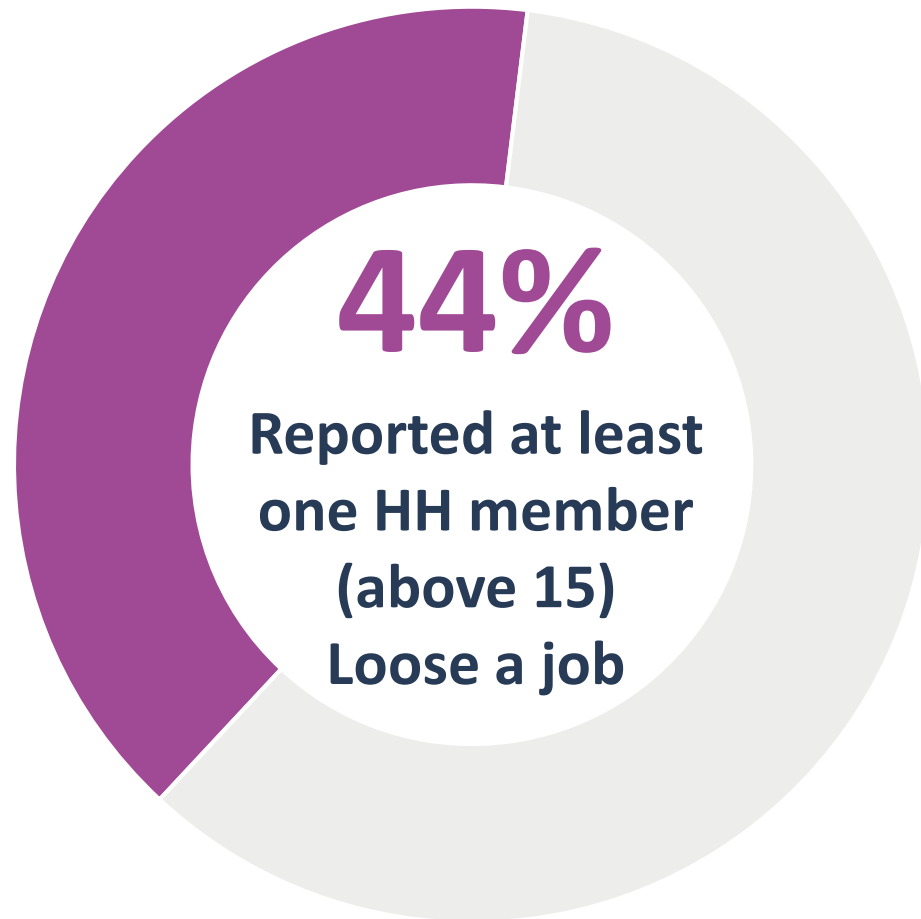
1.5

MEMBERS WORKING ON AVERAGE AMONG HH WITH WORKING MEMBERS

2.7

Persons above 15 On Average per household

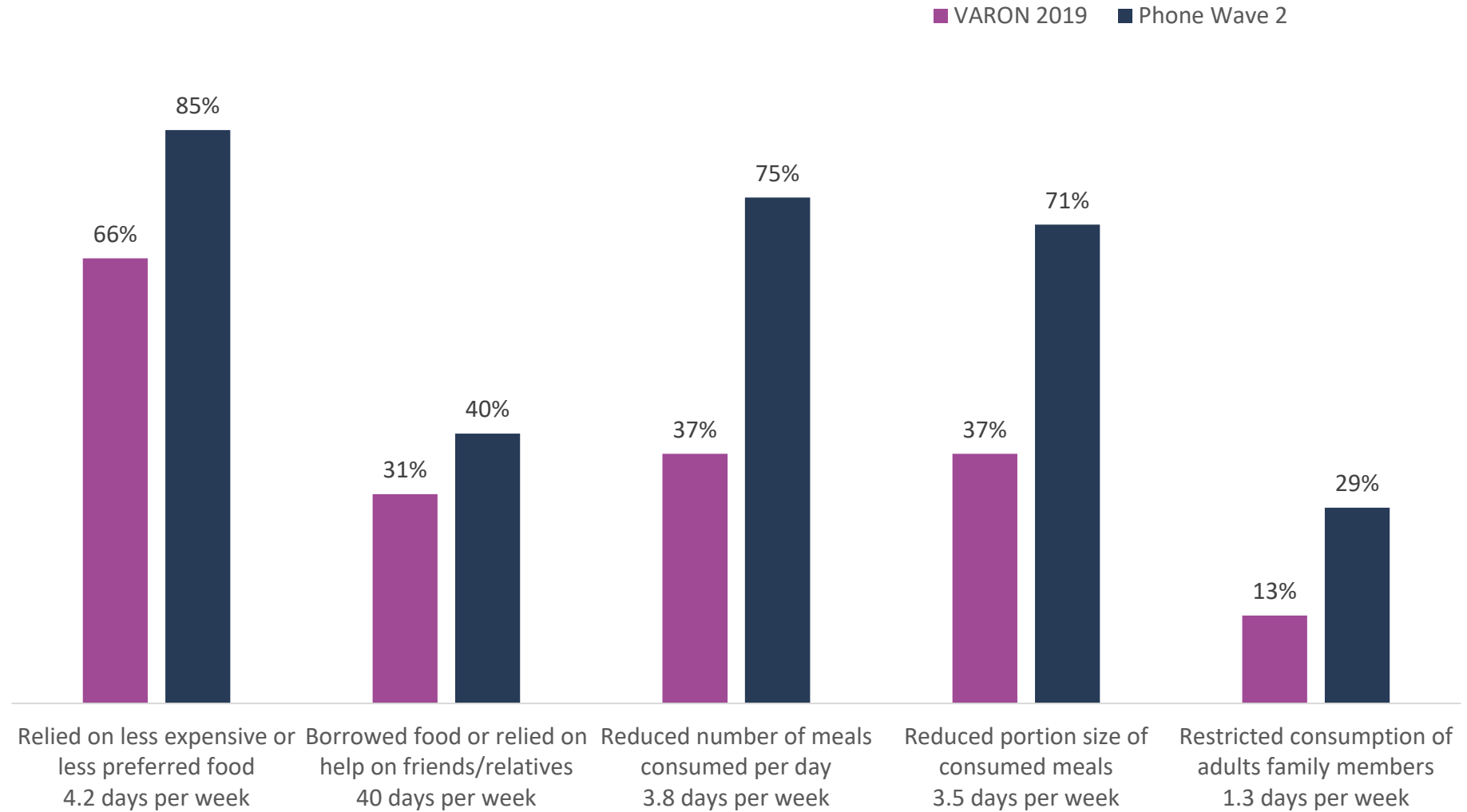# LIVELIHOODS & DEBT

LOSS/GAIN OF JOBS SINCE OCT 2019

44%
Reported at least one HH member (above 15) Loose a job

14%
Reported at least one HH member (above 15) gain a job

COPING STRATEGIES

FOOD & LIVELIHOODS

COPING STRATEGIES
FOOD

Legend: VARON 2019 (purple), Phone Wave 2 (dark blue)

Strategy	VARON 2019	Phone Wave 2
Relied on less expensive or less preferred food 4.2 days per week	66%	85%
Borrowed food or relied on help on friends/relatives 40 days per week	31%	40%
Reduced number of meals consumed per day 3.8 days per week	37%	75%
Reduced portion size of consumed meals 3.5 days per week	37%	71%
Restricted consumption of adults family members 1.3 days per week	13%	29%

COPING STRATEGIES

LIVELIHOOD

Legend:
- VARON 2019
- Phone Wave 1

Category	VARON 2019	Phone Wave 1
Reduced expenses on health related costs	27%	60%
Reduced expenditure on legal documentation	n/a VARON	19%
Sold assets	17%	26%
Withdrew children from school	5%	20%
Engaged children in income generating activities	1%	2%
Household member left Lebanon	n/a VARON	4%
Marriage of under 18	1%	0%
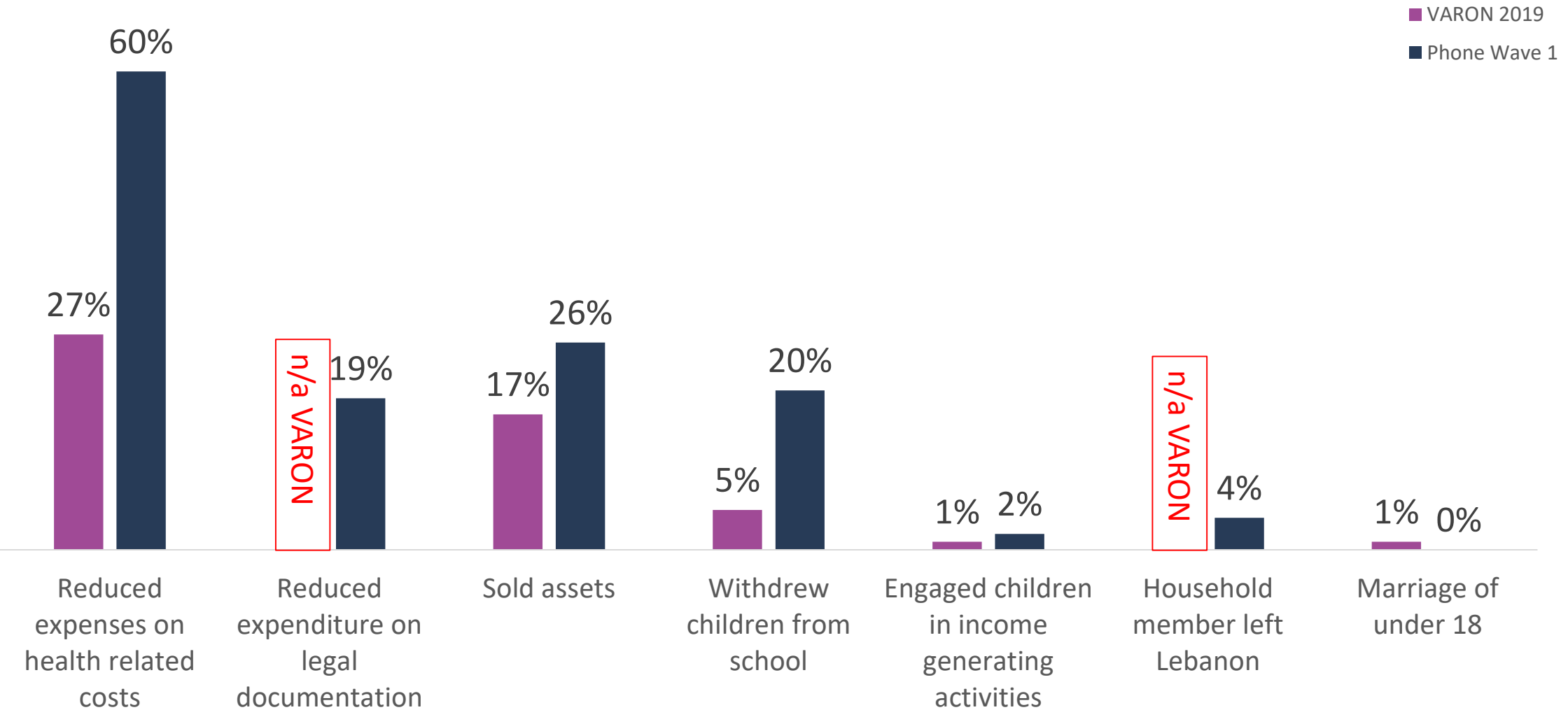
HEALTH

HEALTH

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

% HH Requiring Primary health care

VARON 2019   2020 (phone)

40% → 64%

% Able to Access (from those requiring)

VARON 2019   2020 (phone)

89% → 47%
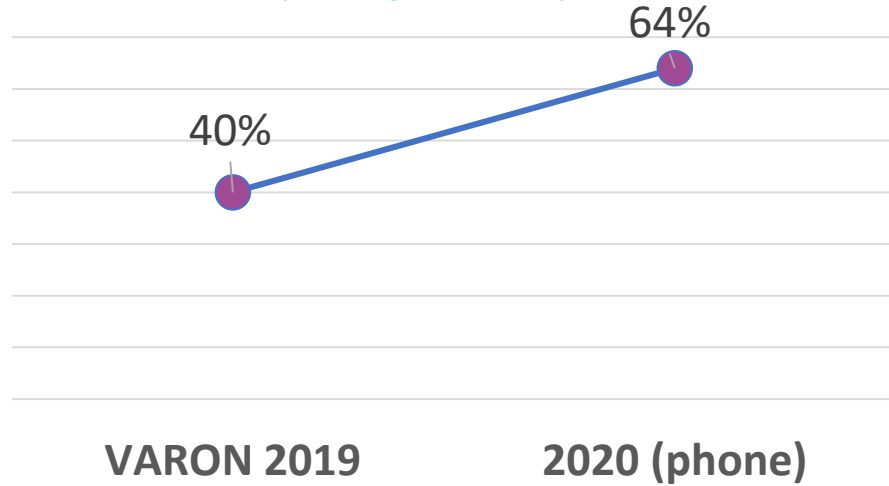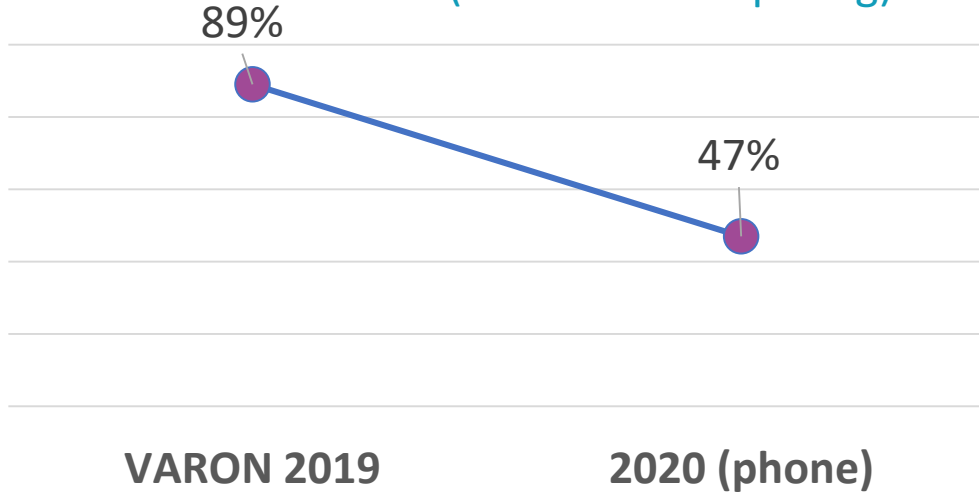
SECONDARY HEALTH CARE

% HH Requiring Secondary health care

VARON 2019   2020 (phone)

15% → 27%

% Able to Access (from those requiring)

VARON 2019   2020 (phone)

84% → 51%
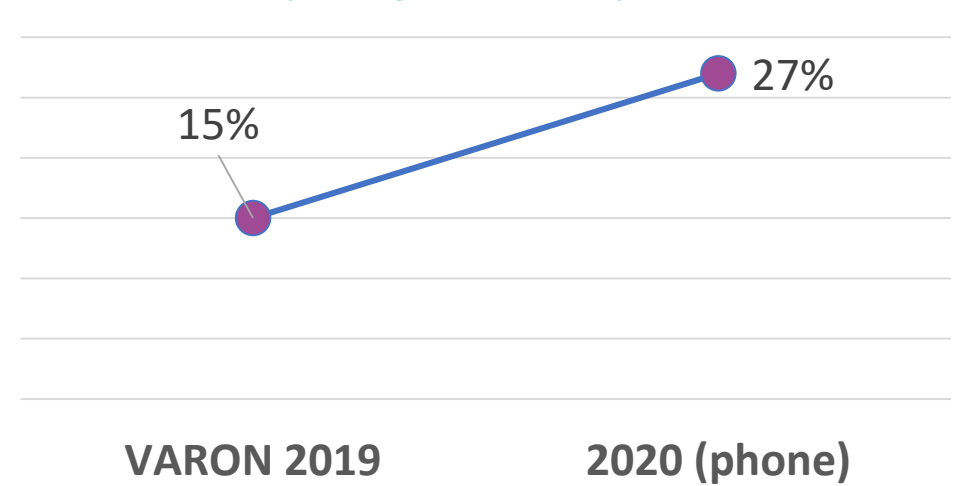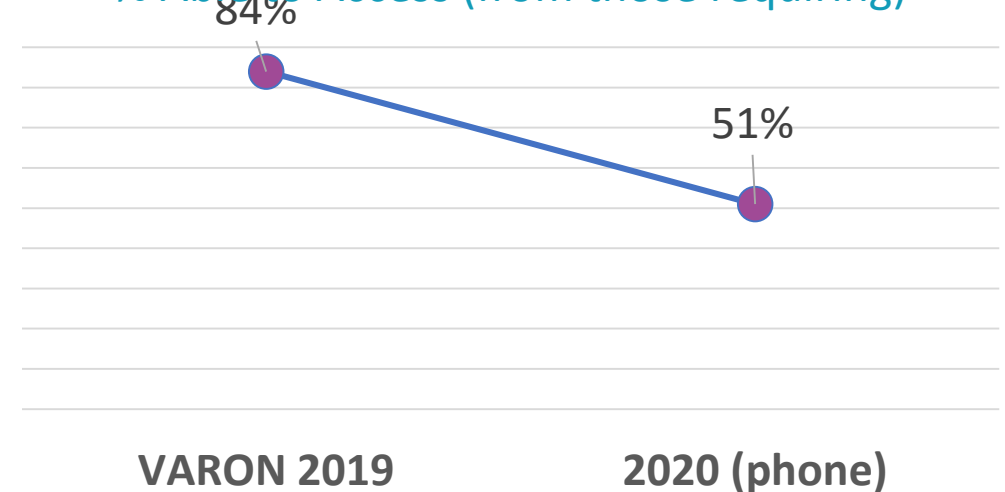
HEALTH

REASONS FOR NO ACCESS

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

62%
28%
10%
5%
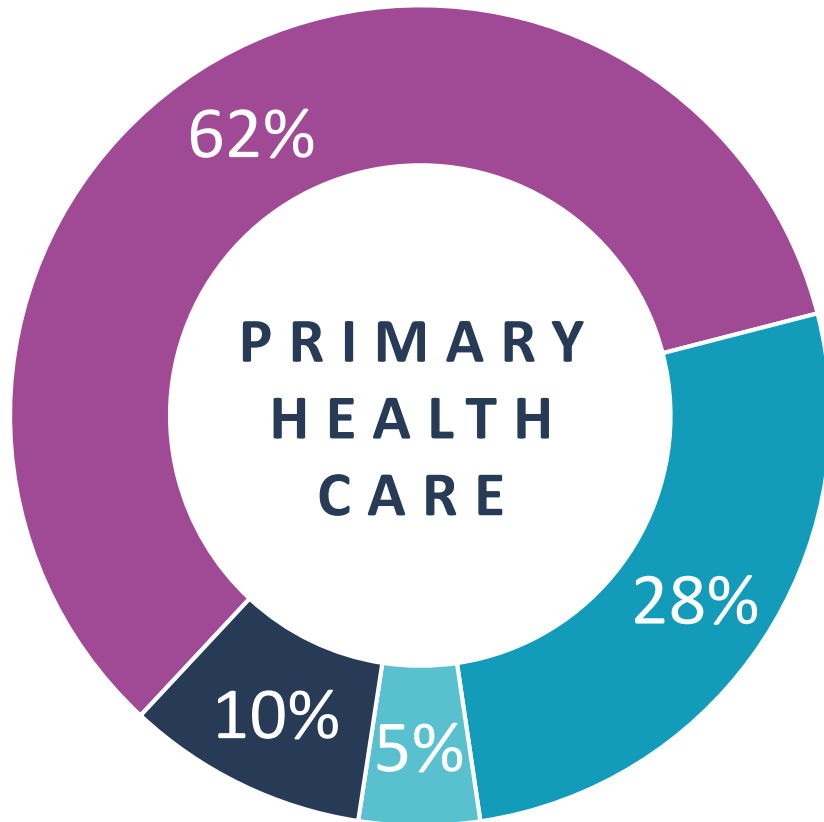
- Cost of drugs/treatment/test
- Doctor fees
- Transportation
- Other

SECONDARY HEALTH CARE

78%
15%
7%
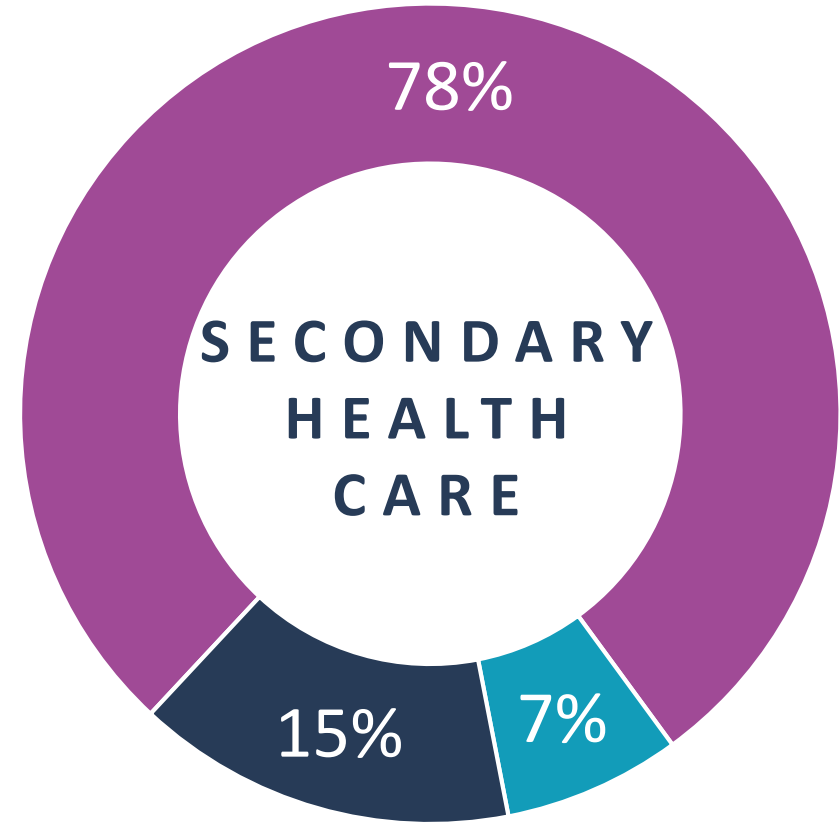
- Cost of treatment
- Could not secure deposit
- Other