# Fiji
# 2024-2025
## WAVE 2 June 28 – August 15, 2024

**MICS** PLUS

The Fiji Bureau of Statistics, in collaboration with UNICEF, finalized the implementation of the first MICS Plus in May 2024 (MICS Plus 2024-2025). MICS Plus generates data to understand the situation of households, families, and children and inform decision-makers and stakeholders accordingly. This snapshot summarizes the main results of the MICS Plus 2024-2025 second wave of calls from June 28 – August 15, 2024.

## Methodology

MICS Plus combines the power of representative, statistically robust household surveys with the ability to report in near real-time basis over an extended period, using CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing). Essentially, the mode of data collection is based on direct phone calls to respondents[1], as opposed to traditional face-to-face interviews.

In essence, the MICS Plus methodology is based on:
- Selecting a probability sample of households from an up-to-date household sample frame that includes phone numbers of households/household members
- Interviewing the sample of households over an extended period via direct calls
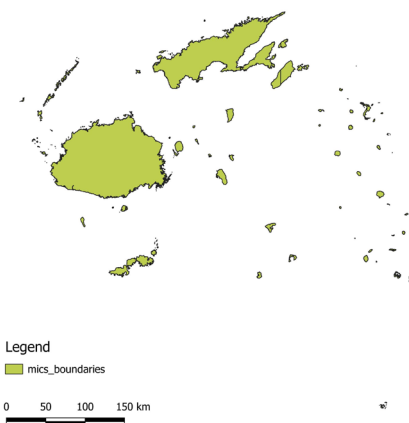
The Fiji Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey was conducted in 2021 (MICS 2021) when consent and phone numbers for the MICS Plus survey were collected. The Fiji MICS 2021 was used as a sample frame for MICS Plus and the target sample size was 2,734 households.

**Fiji MICS 2021 boundaries
The sample frame for Fiji MICS Plus**



Legend
▉ mics_boundaries

0    50    100    150 km

MICS Plus uses a nationally representative sample. Urban and rural areas were defined as the major sample domains, and the sample was allocated as follows: 1,452 households were selected from urban areas and 1,282 from rural areas. The survey collects data from the same households in different waves of calls, building longitudinal data.

A model-based substitution approach was used to replace non-responding households during the first wave of MICS Plus to reach the targeted sample size and ensure representativeness. Weights were calculated using propensity score adjustments to ensure the representativeness of the findings and deal with any potential bias. The propensity scores model included all relevant household and individual variables available from the MICS 2021.

During the second wave of calls, households were asked about the characteristics of the household and household members, child discipline and labour, and livelihood of the household.

[1] In each household, calls were conducted with a "knowledgeable adult household member" who was available at the time of the call. Since respondents were not selected randomly, data based on respondents' own characteristics, opinions and behavioural patterns may not be representative of the adult population Fiji.

# Survey Implementation

## Response Rates

| | Wave 1 (February 21 – May 05, 2024) | | Wave 2 (June 28 – August 15, 2024) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Before Substitution | After Substitution | |
| **Households sampled** | **2,734** | **2,734** | **2,509** |
| Interviewed | 1,347 | 1,907 | 1,575 |
| Refused | 67 | 37 | 37 |
| No eligible respondent | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Phone number(s) does not belong to sampled household | 132 | 69 | 60 |
| Telephone number(s) inactive | 260 | 119 | 308 |
| Respondent busy/postponed | 38 | 24 | 71 |
| No response after repeated call attempts or phone(s) turned off | 646 | 452 | 420 |
| No phone number available for sampled household | 243 | 126 | na |
| Other | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Not called in the current wave* | na | na | 38 |
| **Response rate (percent)** | **49.3** | **69.8** | **62.8** |

*Households that were interviewed in the previous wave but did not provide consent for the current wave*

With the target sample size set at 2,734 households, the response rate in Wave 1 was 70 percent after substituting 1,387 households with the model-based substitution that utilizes the "Nearest Neighbour" feature based on the "Euclidian distance" approach. Wave 2 targeted 2,509 households after excluding the households refused in Wave 1 without consent for the next wave, households where the phone number did not belong to the sampled household, and households for which phone numbers were not available. The substitution was not performed in the second wave. The response rate in the Wave 2 was 63 percent.
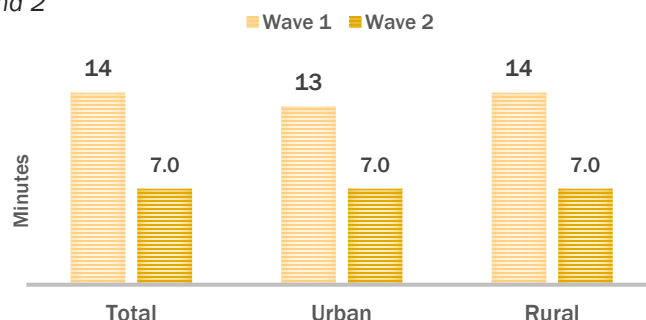
## Average Call Attempts

*Average number of call attempts for completed interviews, by area of residence, Waves 1 and 2*
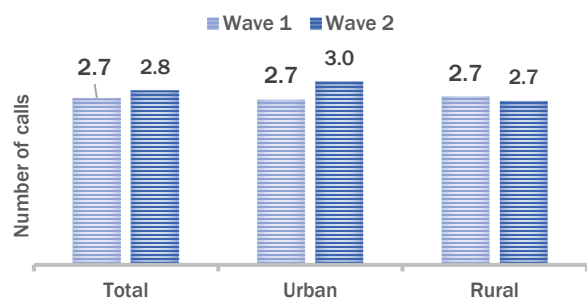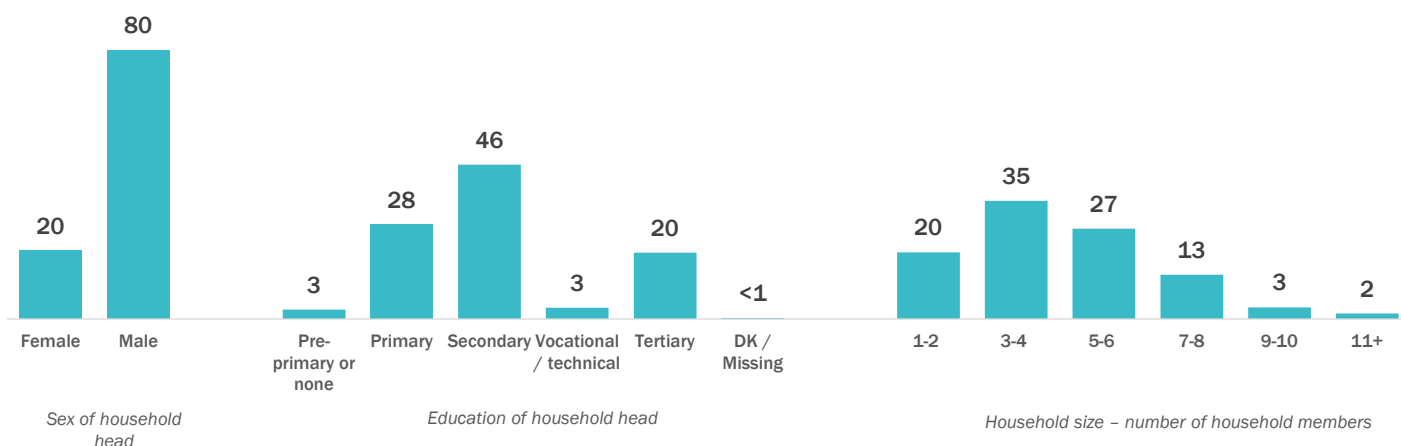


## Interview Duration

*Median duration of interviews by area of residence, Wavs 1 and 2*



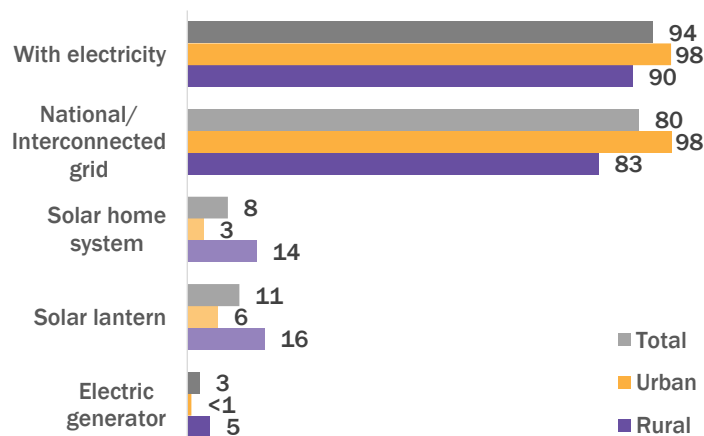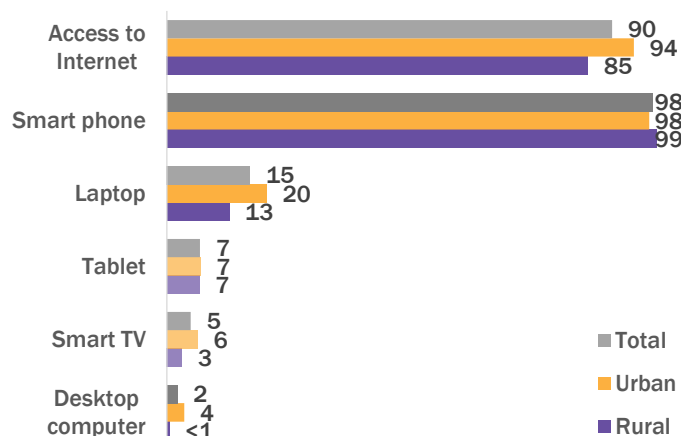## Characteristics of the Head of Household & Household Composition



Sex of household head

Education of household head

Household size – number of household members

# Household characteristics

## Access to electricity

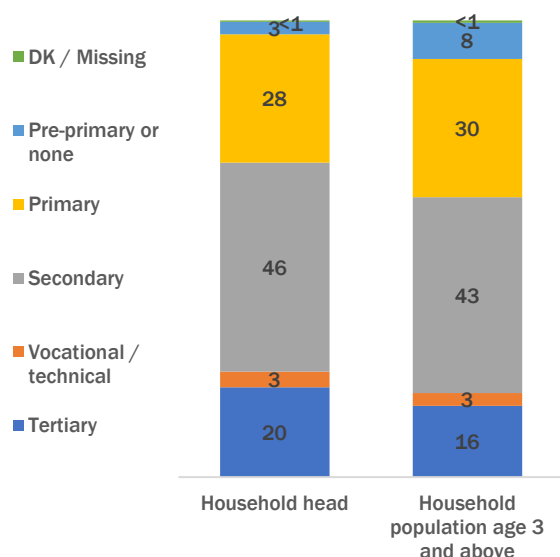*Percentage of households by electricity, sources and area of residence, Wave 2*

| | |
|---|---|
| **With electricity** | Total 94, Urban 98, Rural 90 |
| **National/ Interconnected grid** | Total 80, Urban 98, Rural 83 |
| **Solar home system** | Total 8, Urban 3, Rural 14 |
| **Solar lantern** | Total 11, Urban 6, Rural 16 |
| **Electric generator** | Total 3, Urban <1, Rural 5 |

Legend: Total, Urban, Rural

## Access to internet at home

*Percentage of households by internet access, equipment used and area of residence, Wave 2*

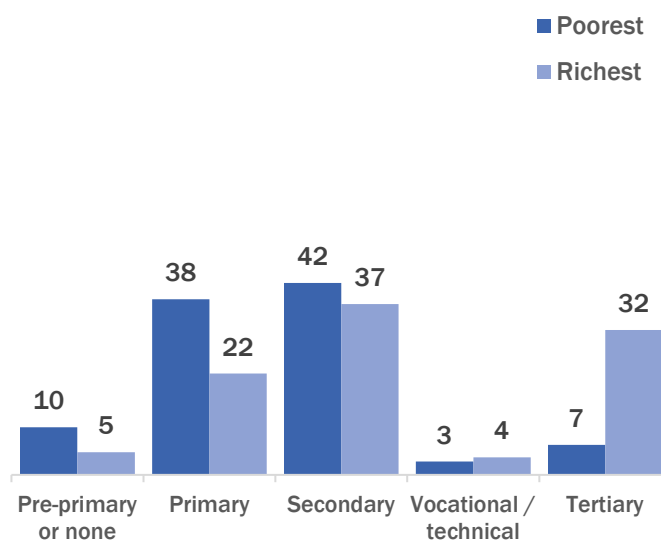| | |
|---|---|
| **Access to Internet** | Total 90, Urban 94, Rural 85 |
| **Smart phone** | Total 98, Urban 98, Rural 99 |
| **Laptop** | Total 15, Urban 20, Rural 13 |
| **Tablet** | Total 7, Urban 7, Rural 7 |
| **Smart TV** | Total 5, Urban 6, Rural 3 |
| **Desktop computer** | Total 2, Urban 4, Rural <1 |

Legend: Total, Urban, Rural

## Education of household head and household population age 3 years or above

*Percent distribution of household heads and household members age 3 years or above by highest level of education attended, Wave 2*

Legend (top to bottom): DK / Missing, Pre-primary or none, Primary, Secondary, Vocational / technical, Tertiary

**Household head:** Tertiary 20, Vocational/technical 3, Secondary 46, Primary 28, Pre-primary or none 3, DK/Missing <1

**Household population age 3 and above:** Tertiary 16, Vocational/technical 3, Secondary 43, Primary 30, Pre-primary or none 8, DK/Missing <1

*Percentages of household members age 3 years or above by highest level of education attended, in poorest and richest households, Wave 2*

Legend: Poorest, Richest

| Education level | Poorest | Richest |
|---|---|---|
| Pre-primary or none | 10 | 5 |
| Primary | 38 | 22 |
| Secondary | 42 | 37 |
| Vocational / technical | 3 | 4 |
| Tertiary | 7 | 32 |

## Number of rooms used for sleeping

*Percent distribution of households by number of rooms used for sleeping, Wave 2*

*Number of rooms used for sleeping*

| Rooms | Percent |
|---|---|
| 4 | 14 |
| 3 | 32 |
| 2 | 36 |
| 1 | 19 |
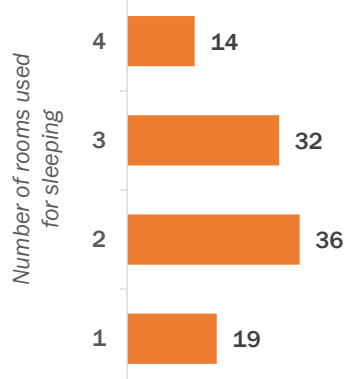
## Wealth Index

*Percent distribution of household population, by wealth index quintile and area of residence, Wave 2*

| | Poorest | Second | Middle | Fourth | Richest |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Urban | 5 | 16 | 25 | 24 | 30 |
| Rural | 36 | 25 | 14 | 15 | 10 |

Legend: Poorest, Second, Middle, Fourth, Richest
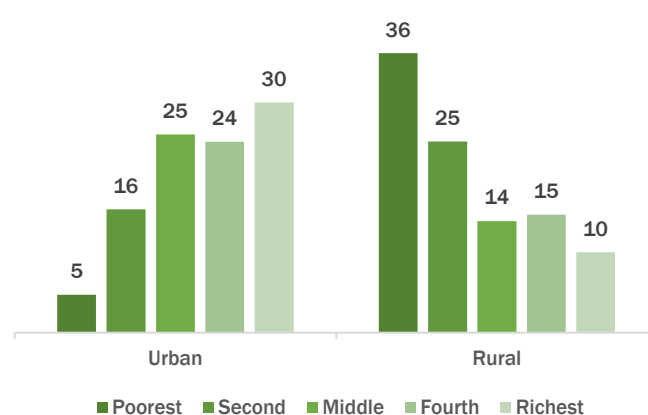
# Child discipline

## Types of child discipline

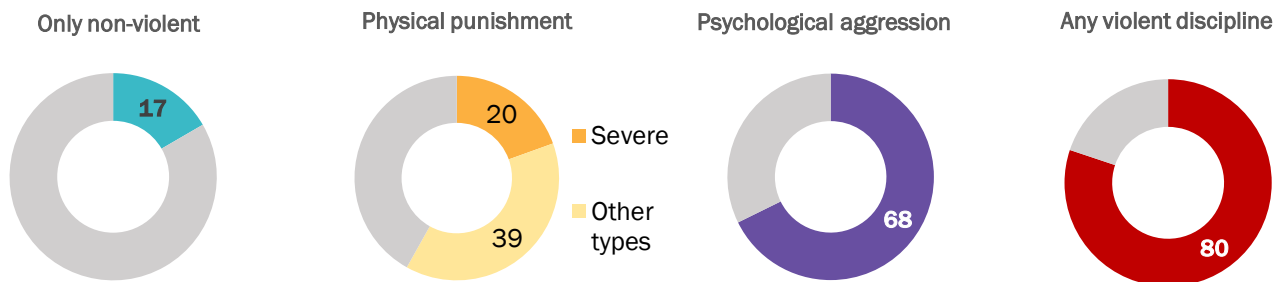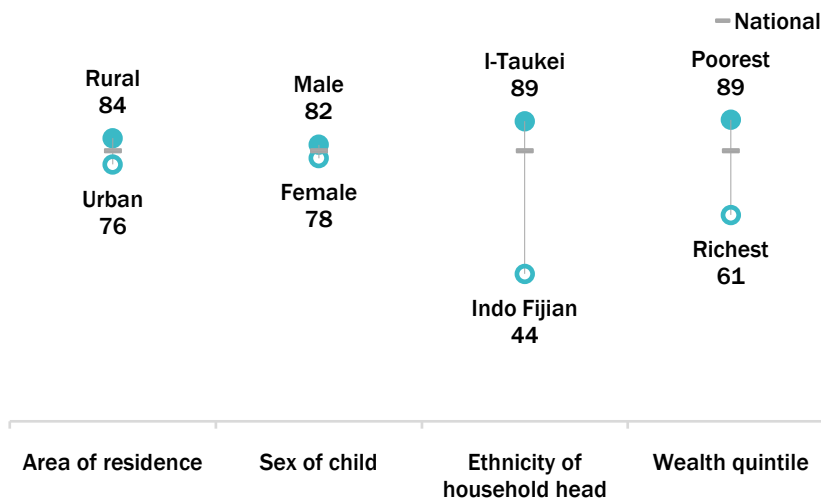*Percentage of children age 1-14 years, by child disciplining methods experienced during the last one month, Wave 2*

**Only non-violent**

17

**Physical punishment**

20 — Severe
39 — Other types

**Psychological aggression**

68

**Any violent discipline**

80

## Violent discipline: Inequalities

*Percentage of children age 1-14 years who experienced any violent discipline in the past month, by background characteristics, Wave 2*

— National

Rural 84
Urban 76

Male 82
Female 78

I-Taukei 89
Indo Fijian 44

Poorest 89
Richest 61

**Area of residence** | **Sex of child** | **Ethnicity of household head** | **Wealth quintile**

> **Physical punishment:** Shaking, hitting or slapping a child on the hand/arm/leg, hitting on the bottom or elsewhere on the body with a hard object, spanking or hitting on the bottom with a bare hand, hitting or slapping on the face, head or ears, and hitting or beating hard and repeatedly.
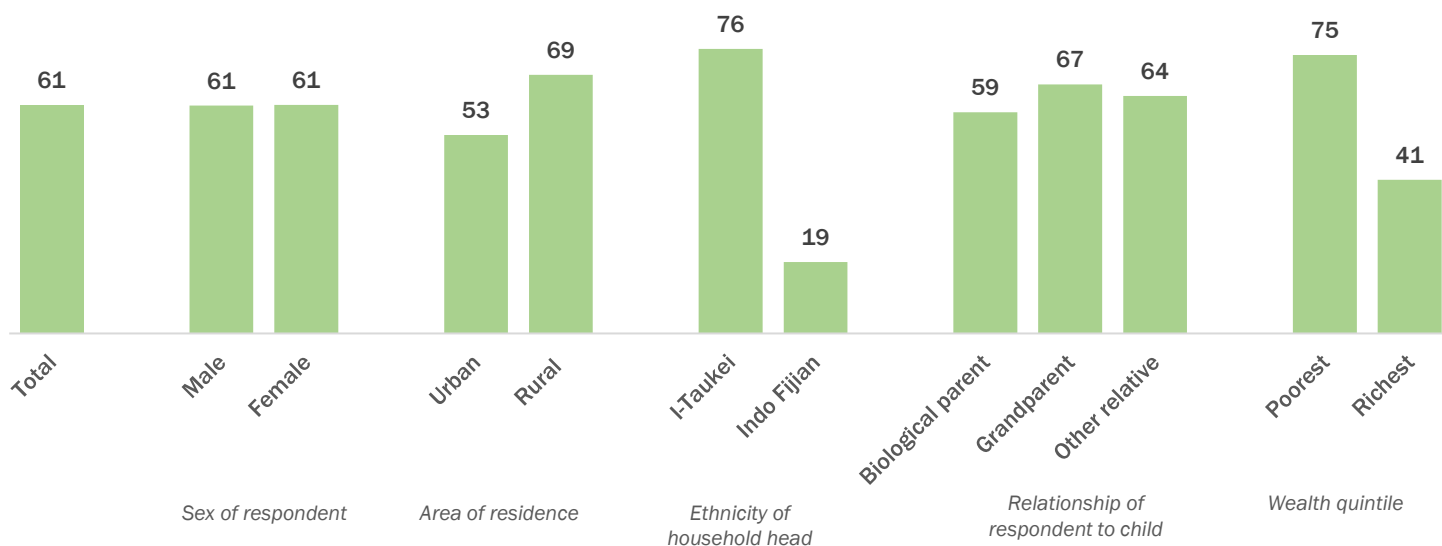>
> **Severe physical punishment:** Hitting or slapping a child on the face, head or ears, and hitting or beating a child hard and repeatedly.
>
> **Psychological aggression:** Shouting, yelling or screaming at a child, as well as calling a child offensive names such as 'dumb' or 'lazy'.
> **Violent discipline:** Any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression.

## Attitudes to physical punishment

*Percentage of respondents to the Child Discipline module for children age 1-14 years who believe that physical punishment is needed to bring up, raise, or educate a child properly, by background characteristics, Wave 2*

| Total | Male | Female | Urban | Rural | I-Taukei | Indo Fijian | Biological parent | Grandparent | Other relative | Poorest | Richest |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 61 | 61 | 61 | 53 | 69 | 76 | 19 | 59 | 67 | 64 | 75 | 41 |

*Sex of respondent* | *Area of residence* | *Ethnicity of household head* | *Relationship of respondent to child* | *Wealth quintile*
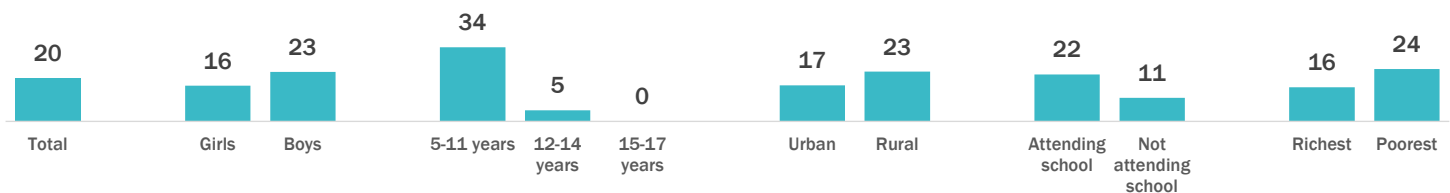
# Child labour

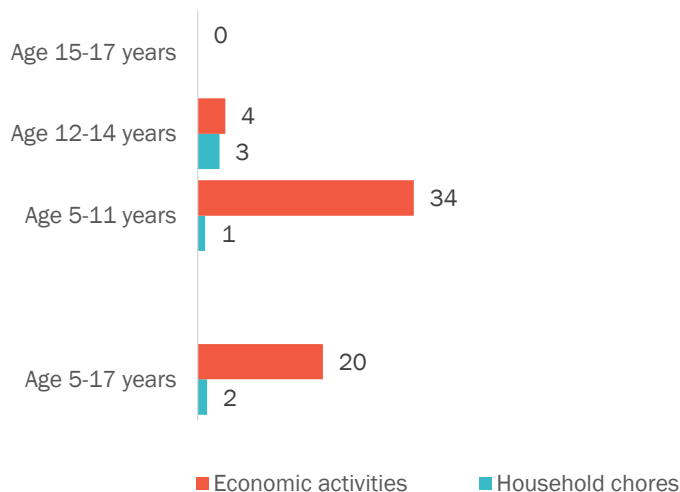## Child labour for age 5-17 years

*Percentage of children age 5 to 17 years engaged in child labour, by background characteristics, Wave 2*

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | Girls | Boys | 5-11 years | 12-14 years | 15-17 years | Urban | Rural | Attending school | Not attending school | Richest | Poorest |
| 20 | 16 | 23 | 34 | 5 | 0 | 17 | 23 | 22 | 11 | 16 | 24 |

## Types of child labour

*Percentage of children age 5 to 17 years engaged in child labour, by type of activity and by age, Wave 2*

| Age group | Economic activities | Household chores |
|---|---|---|
| Age 15-17 years | 0 | |
| Age 12-14 years | 4 | 3 |
| Age 5-11 years | 34 | 1 |
| Age 5-17 years | 20 | 2 |

■ Economic activities  ■ Household chores

Note: These data reflect the proportions of children engaged in the activities at or above the age specific thresholds outlined in the definitions box.

### Definition of Child Labour

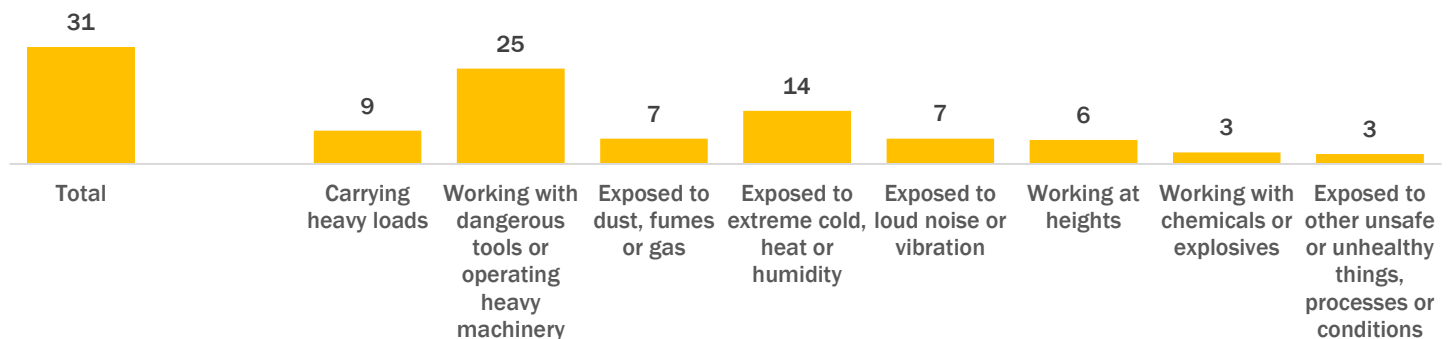Age 5 to 11 years: At least 1 hour of economic activities or 21 hours of unpaid household services per week.

Age 12 to 14 years: At least 14 hours of economic activities or 21 hours of unpaid household services per week.

Age 15 to 17 years: At least 43 hours of economic activities. There is no threshold for the number of hours of unpaid household services.

Economic activities include paid or unpaid work for someone who is not a member of the household or work for a family farm or business. Household chores include activities such as cooking, cleaning or caring for children.

## Hazardous working conditions

*Percentage of children age 5 to 17 years working under hazardous conditions, Wave 2*

| Total | Carrying heavy loads | Working with dangerous tools or operating heavy machinery | Exposed to dust, fumes or gas | Exposed to extreme cold, heat or humidity | Exposed to loud noise or vibration | Working at heights | Working with chemicals or explosives | Exposed to other unsafe or unhealthy things, processes or conditions |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 31 | 9 | 25 | 7 | 14 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 3 |

## Main source of household income

*Percent distribution of households by main source of income, Wave 2*

| Category | Value |
|---|---|
| Formal paid work (employee) in private sector | 36 |
| Farming / Livestock raising | 18 |
| Formal paid work (employee) in public sector | 16 |
| Government assistance / Unemployment benefit or other subsidies | 10 |
| Own business / trade | 9 |
| Temporary wage work | 4 |
| Support from families and friends | 2 |
| Informal work (selling in the street) | 2 |
| Retirement | 2 |
| Remittances from abroad | 1 |
| Other | <1 |
| No income | <1 |
| No response | <1 |

## Change in household income

*Percentage of households with change in average monthly income compared to the same time last year, Waves 1 and 2*

■ Wave 1
■ Wave 2

| | Increased | Decreased | DK / Can't say |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wave 1 | 59 | 35 | 6 |
| Wave 2 | 71 | 26 | 3 |

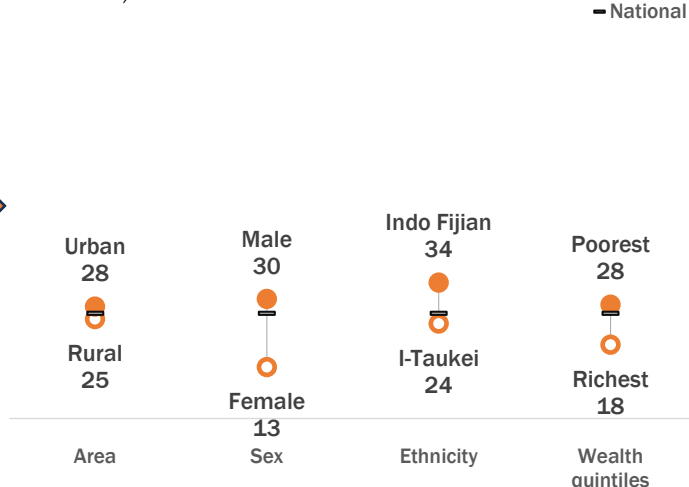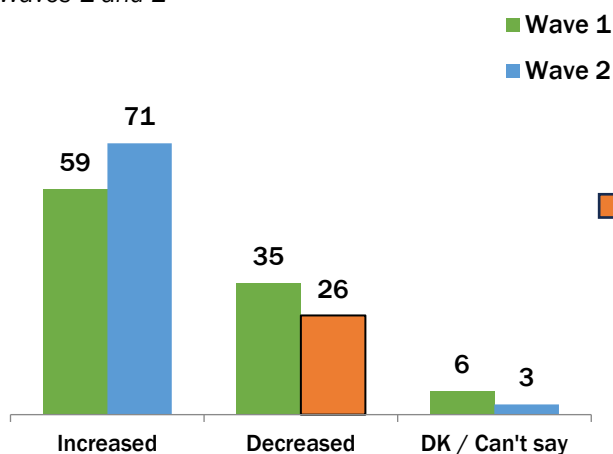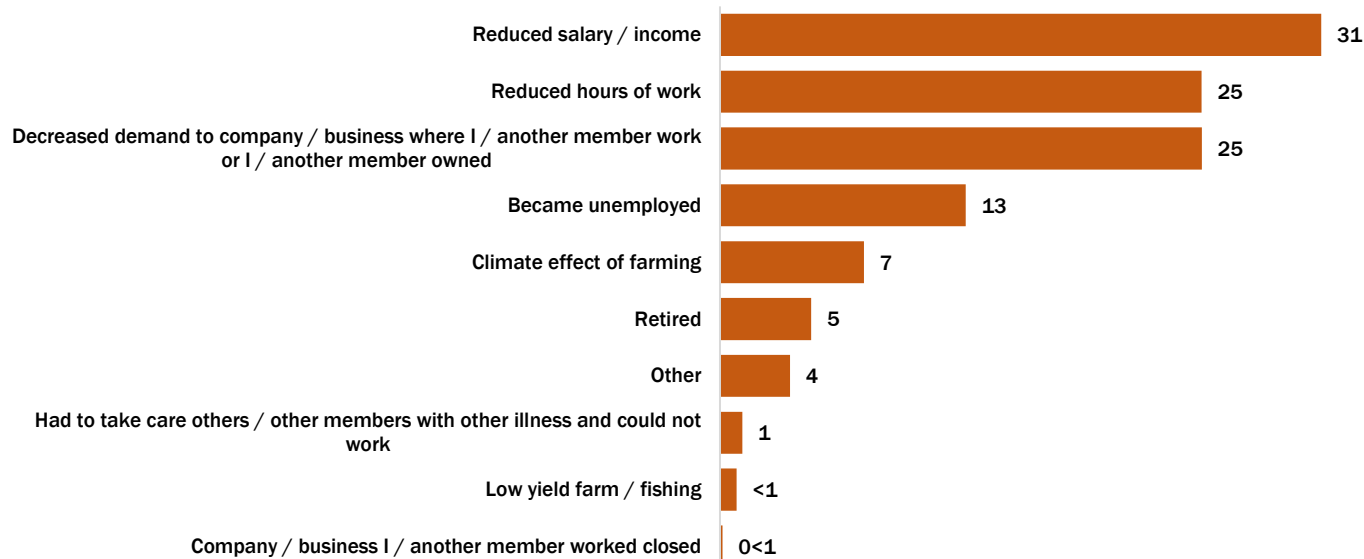## Decrease in household income: inequalities

*Percentage of households with a decrease in average monthly income compared to the same time last year by selected characteristics, Wave 2*

➖ National

**Area**
Urban 28
Rural 25

**Sex**
Male 30
Female 13

**Ethnicity**
Indo Fijian 34
I-Taukei 24

**Wealth quintiles**
Poorest 28
Richest 18

## Reasons to decline in household income

*Percentage of households with average monthly income declined compared to the same time last year by reasons of decline, Wave 2*

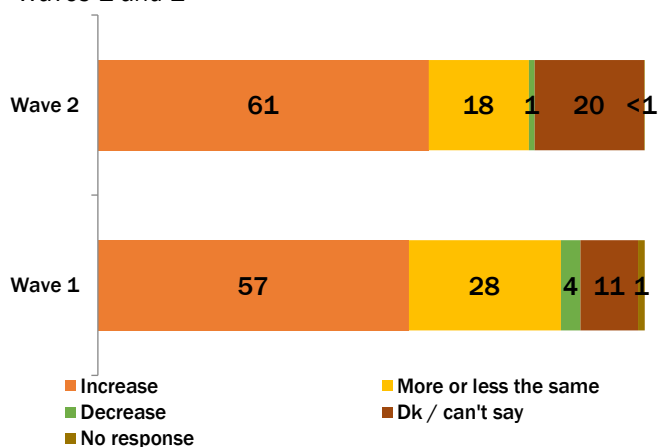| Reason | Value |
|---|---|
| Reduced salary / income | 31 |
| Reduced hours of work | 25 |
| Decreased demand to company / business where I / another member work or I / another member owned | 25 |
| Became unemployed | 13 |
| Climate effect of farming | 7 |
| Retired | 5 |
| Other | 4 |
| Had to take care others / other members with other illness and could not work | 1 |
| Low yield farm / fishing | <1 |
| Company / business I / another member worked closed | 0<1 |

## LIVELIHOOD

### Level of change in household income

*Percent distribution of households with average monthly income declined by level of decline, by selected characteristics, Wave 2*

| | Total | Urban | Rural | | Poorest | Second | Middle | Fourth | Richest | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 51-100% | 2 | 1 | 2 | | (0) | (0) | (2) | (5) | (3) | ■ 51-100% |
| 16-50% | 11 | 8 | 14 | | (14) | (9) | (9) | (14) | (7) | ■ 16-50% |
| 11-25% | 28 | 23 | 32 | | (31) | (38) | (24) | (20) | (22) | ■ 11-25% |
| 10% or less | 52 | 55 | 49 | | (48) | (44) | (63) | (49) | (55) | ■ 10% or less |
| DK/Not sure/Missing | 8 | 13 | 3 | | (7) | (9) | (3) | (12) | (12) | ■ DK/Not sure/Missing |

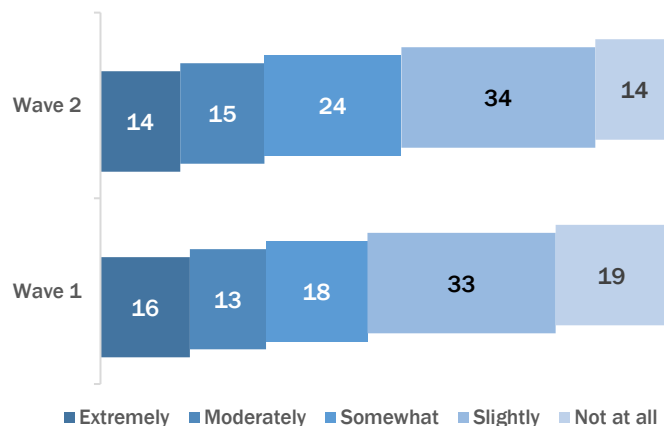*Area* — *Wealth index quintiles*

### Expectations about household income

*Percentage of respondent by their expectations that the household income will increase, be more or less the same or decrease in one year from now on, Waves 1 and 2*
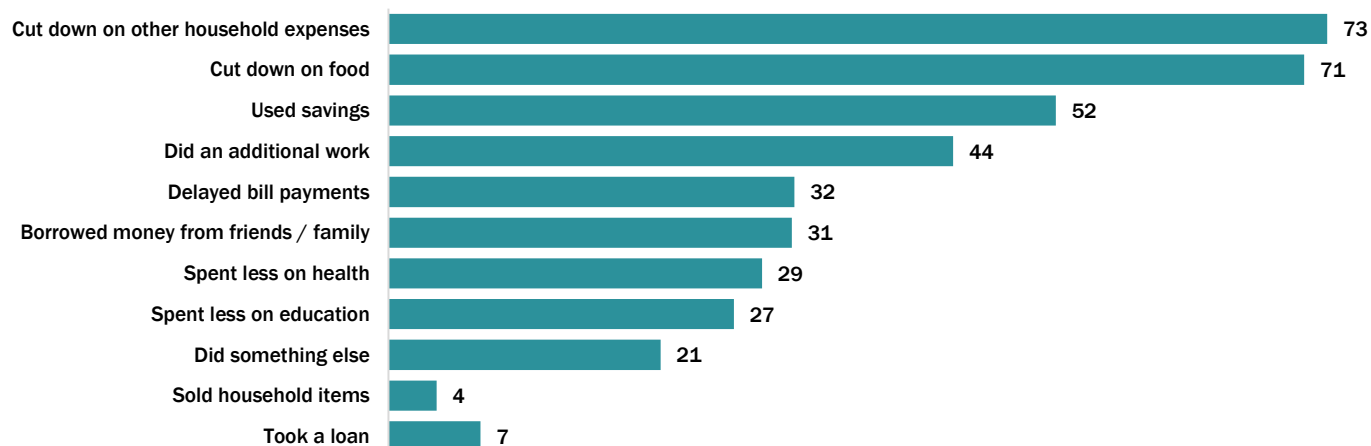
| | Increase | More or less the same | Decrease | Dk / can't say | No response |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wave 2 | 61 | 18 | 1 | 20 | <1 |
| Wave 1 | 57 | 28 | 4 | 11 | 1 |

- ■ Increase
- ■ More or less the same
- ■ Decrease
- ■ Dk / can't say
- ■ No response

### Worry about household's finances and income

*Percent distribution of respondents by how worried about household's finances in the next month, by selected characteristics, Waves 1 and 2*

| | Extremely | Moderately | Somewhat | Slightly | Not at all |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wave 2 | 14 | 15 | 24 | 34 | 14 |
| Wave 1 | 16 | 13 | 18 | 33 | 19 |

- ■ Extremely
- ■ Moderately
- ■ Somewhat
- ■ Slightly
- ■ Not at all

### Coping measures to cover expenses

*Percentage of households with a member who took certain coping measures to cover the household's usual expenses during the last 30 days, Wave 2*

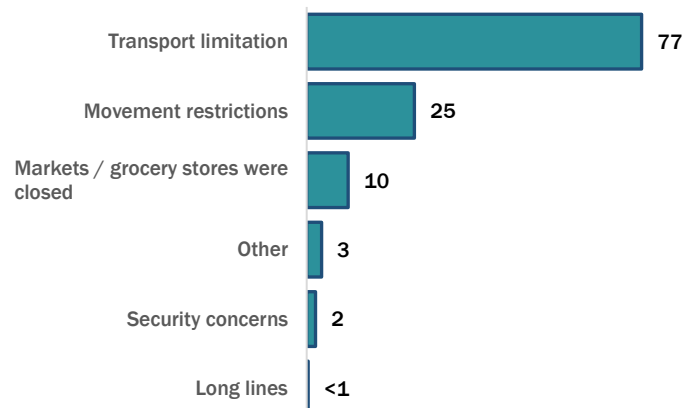| Coping measure | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Cut down on other household expenses | 73 |
| Cut down on food | 71 |
| Used savings | 52 |
| Did an additional work | 44 |
| Delayed bill payments | 32 |
| Borrowed money from friends / family | 31 |
| Spent less on health | 29 |
| Spent less on education | 27 |
| Did something else | 21 |
| Sold household items | 4 |
| Took a loan | 7 |

## LIVELIHOOD

## Access to markets / grocery stores

*Percentage of households with a member who could not access the markets / grocery stores that household usually goes to in the last 30 days, Wave 2*
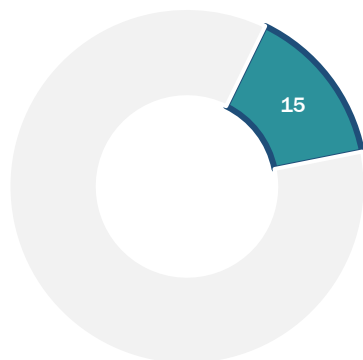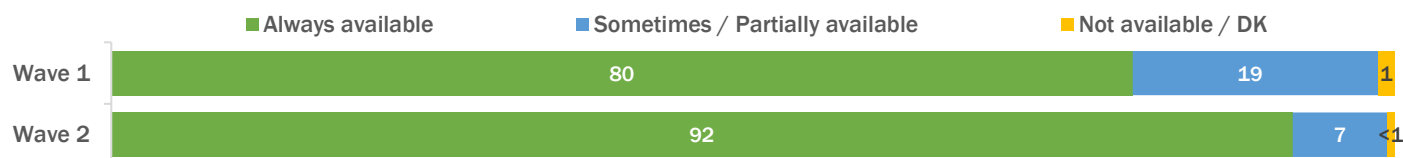
*Percentage of households with a member who could not access the markets / grocery stores that household usually goes to in the last 30 days, by reason for could not have access, Wave 2*
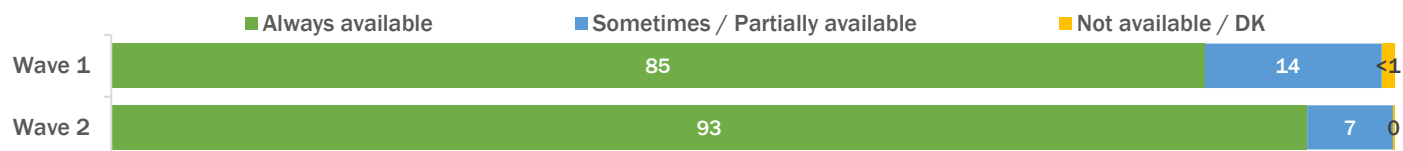
**15**

| Reason | Value |
|--------|-------|
| Transport limitation | 77 |
| Movement restrictions | 25 |
| Markets / grocery stores were closed | 10 |
| Other | 3 |
| Security concerns | 2 |
| Long lines | <1 |

## Availability of livelihood items in the markets / grocery stores

*Percent distribution of households by whether the livelihood items were available in the markets/stores or clinics / pharmacies that household usually goes to in the last 30 days, Wave 2*
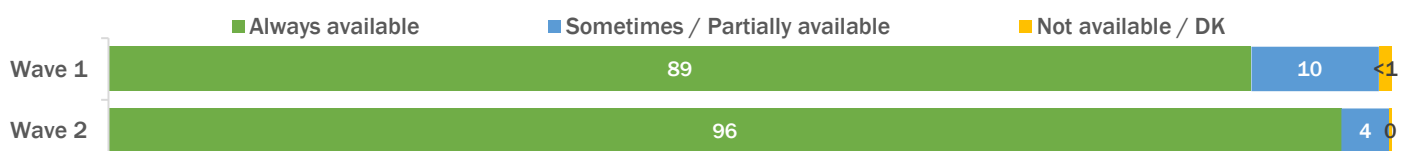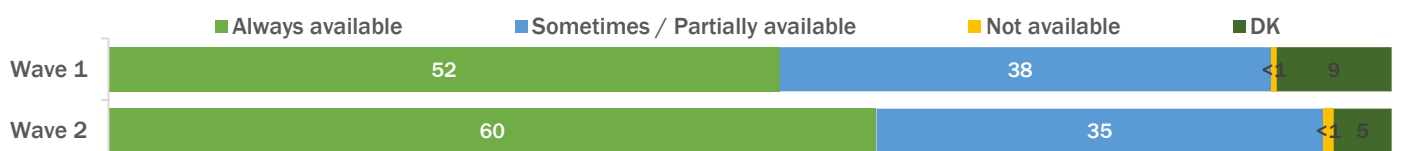
**Fresh food items**

■ Always available ■ Sometimes / Partially available ■ Not available / DK

| | Always available | Sometimes / Partially available | Not available / DK |
|--------|------|------|------|
| Wave 1 | 80 | 19 | 1 |
| Wave 2 | 92 | 7 | <1 |

**Basic food items**

■ Always available ■ Sometimes / Partially available ■ Not available / DK

| | Always available | Sometimes / Partially available | Not available / DK |
|--------|------|------|------|
| Wave 1 | 85 | 14 | <1 |
| Wave 2 | 93 | 7 | 0 |

**Hygiene items**

■ Always available ■ Sometimes / Partially available ■ Not available / DK

| | Always available | Sometimes / Partially available | Not available / DK |
|--------|------|------|------|
| Wave 1 | 89 | 10 | <1 |
| Wave 2 | 96 | 4 | 0 |

**Essential medicine**

■ Always available ■ Sometimes / Partially available ■ Not available ■ DK

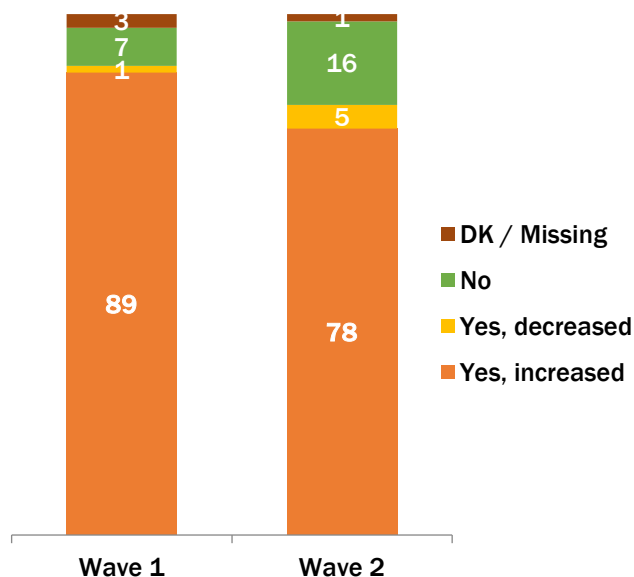| | Always available | Sometimes / Partially available | Not available | DK |
|--------|------|------|------|------|
| Wave 1 | 52 | 38 | <1 | 9 |
| Wave 2 | 60 | 35 | <1 | 5 |

# LIVELIHOOD

## Change in food prices

Percentage of households with respondents who stated that there have been changes in the prices of food items that household usually buys in the last 30 days, Waves 1 and 2
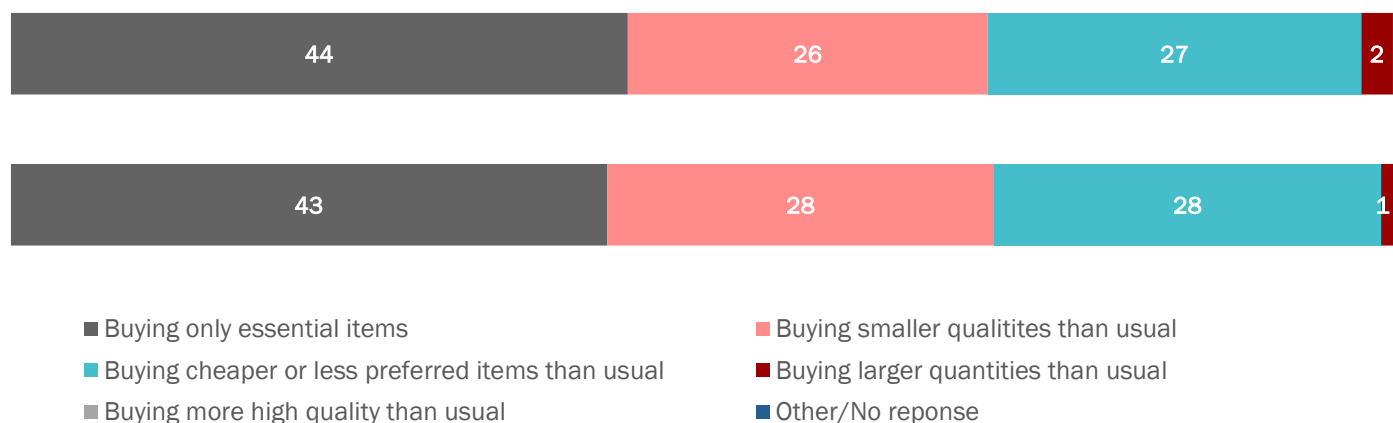


Legend:
- DK / Missing
- No
- Yes, decreased
- Yes, increased

Wave 1: DK/Missing 3, No 7, Yes decreased 1, Yes increased 89
Wave 2: DK/Missing 1, No 16, Yes decreased 5, Yes increased 78

Percentage of households with a member who changed the usual shopping habits in the last 30 days, Wave 2



72
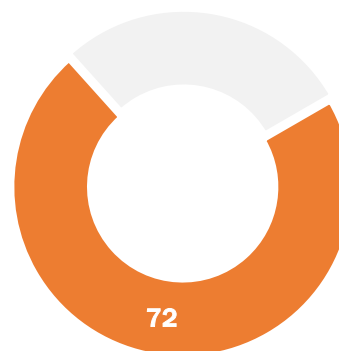
## Shopping habits

Percent distribution of households with a member who changed usual shopping habits, by main change in the usual shopping habits in the last 30 days, Waves 1 and 2



Row 1: 44 | 26 | 27 | 2
Row 2: 43 | 28 | 28 | 1

Legend:
- Buying only essential items
- Buying smaller qualitites than usual
- Buying cheaper or less preferred items than usual
- Buying larger quantities than usual
- Buying more high quality than usual
- Other/No reponse