



Cambodian Youth Policy Survey:

What do young people think about key government policies affecting their lives?

31 October 2022



Content

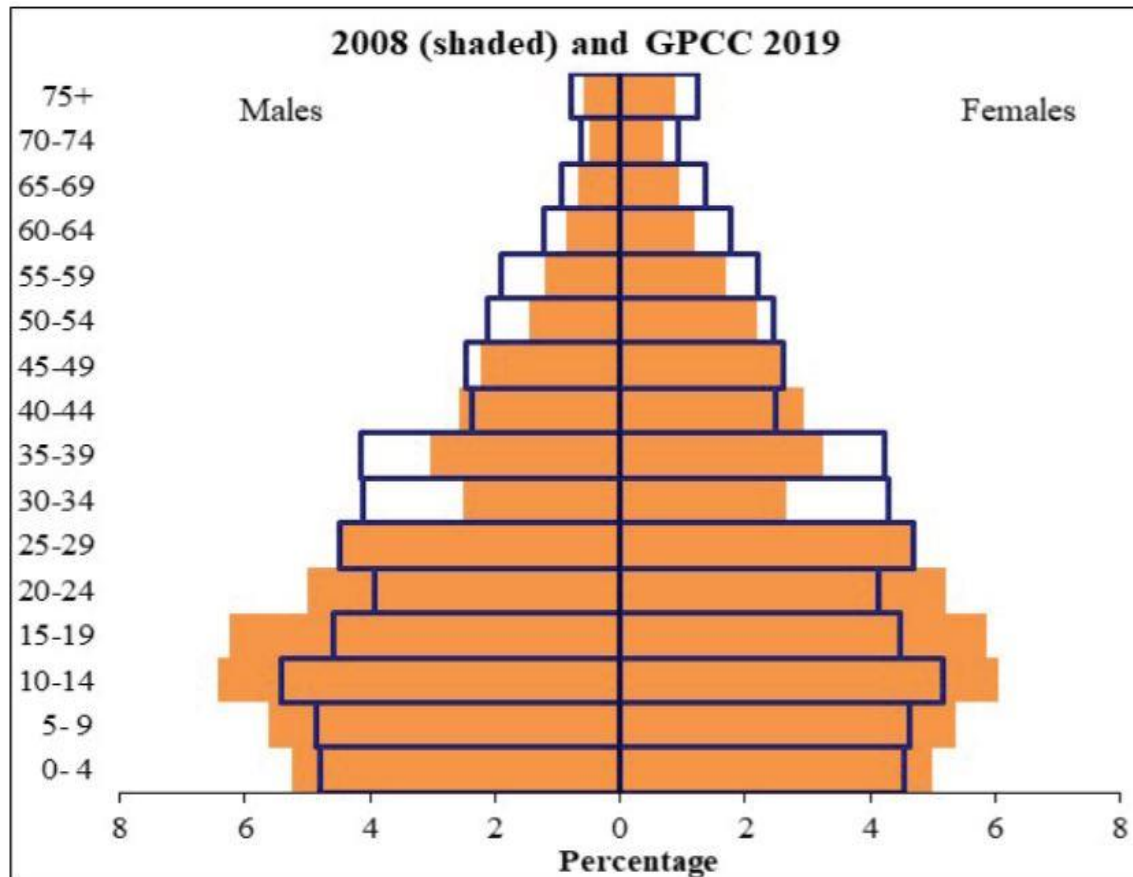


Background
Research objectives
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Research's background

A youthful nation...

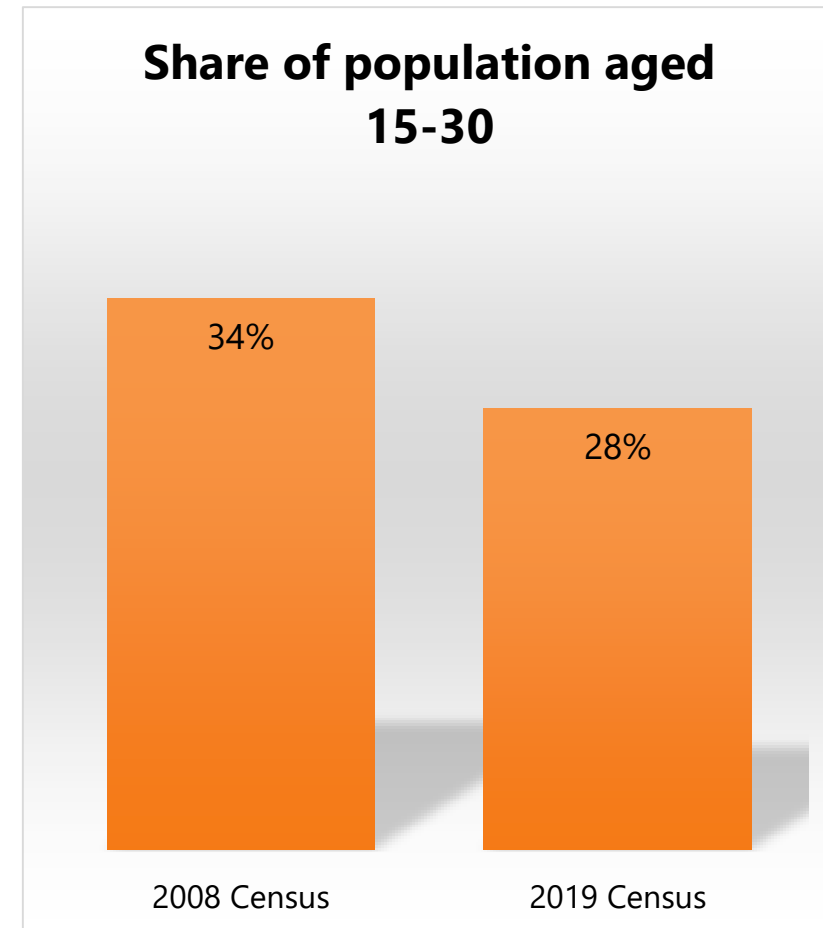
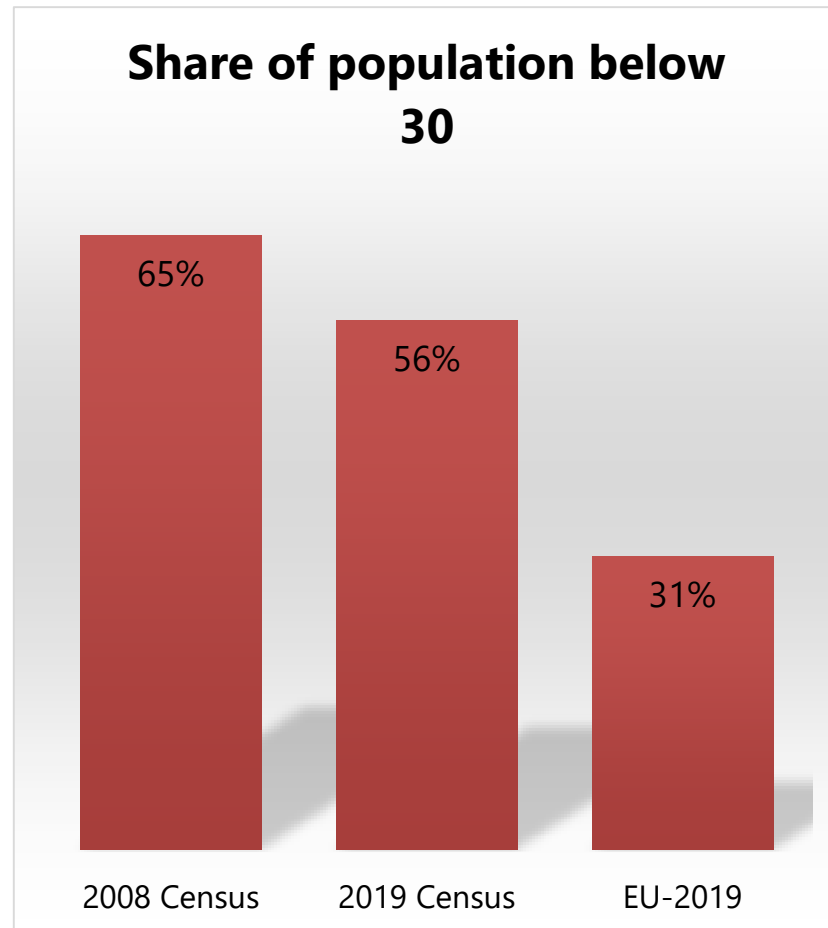
Figure 3.3.2.1. Population pyramid, Cambodia Total, 2008 and 2019



- Despite recent demographic shifts, Cambodia remains a youthful nation

(Source: National Institute of Statistics, 2020)

Changes in youth population



(Source: National Institute of Statistics, 2020; Eurostat, 2020)

How government policies affect youth

- Investment in youth is key to promoting growth (World Bank, 2007)
- Failing to focus on young people induces substantial economic, social, and political costs (World Bank, 2010)
- Government policies, especially concerning education, employment, and health, decisively impact youths (USAID, 2012)
- Huge gaps exist between youth policy and implementation (Youth Policy Labs, 2012)

Policy framework concerning youth

- In Cambodia, there is an **extensive policy framework** that aims at improving youth situation

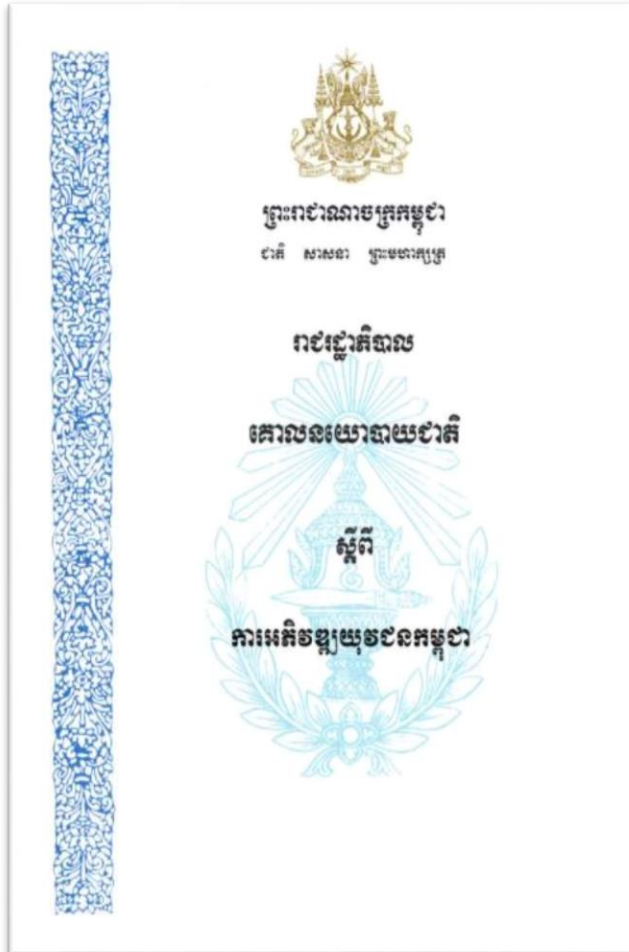
Strategies/policies	Launching year
National Development Frameworks	
Rectangular strategy Phase 4	2018
National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2019-2023	2018
National Employment Policy	2015
Labor Migration Policy	2014
National Policy on Youth Development	2011
The National Youth Action Plan	2015

Policy framework concerning youth

Strategies/policies	Launching year
Sectoral	
Education	
National Policy on Non-Formal Education	2002
Child Friendly School Policy	2007
School Health Policy	2019
Policy and Strategy on Information and Communication Technology in Education	2018
New Generation School Policy	2016

Strategies/policies	Launching year
Sectoral	
Healthcare	
Health strategic plan 2016-2020	2015
National Policy for Quality in Health	2005
Employment	
National Social Protection Policy Framework 2016-2025	2015
TVET Policy 2017-2025	2016
Labour Migration Policy 2019-2023	2018
National Plan of Action on Child Labour Reduction and Elimination of the Worst Form of Child Labour 2016-2025	2015

Policy Goals of the National Policy on Youth Development (2011)



Overarching Goal: 'Youth have opportunities to develop their potential to access education, employment, and health services and to participate in decision-making and to contribute to family, community, national, and global development.'

Policy Goal 1: Provide opportunities to get equitable access to quality education and vocational training.

Policy Goal 2: Motivate youth to develop their sense of initiative, creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Policy Goal 3: Promote gender equity and equality and the creation of opportunities to empower young females in particular.

Policy Goal 4: Assist youth in their personal development in terms of physical strength, knowledge, morals, etc.

Policy Goal 5: Enable youth to share their perspectives, opinions, and decisions in their community and in the broader national development context.

Policy Goal 6: Mobilize efforts from all relevant ministries, institutions, development partners, civil society, communities, parents, or guardians towards youth development.

Source: RGC, 2011

Gaps between policies and implementation

- However, there are **significant discrepancies** between **policy** and **implementation**
- Research shows that Cambodian youths encounter **substantial challenges**, especially in
 - Education
 - Health
 - Employment
 - Political participation

(United Nations Country Team, 2009; Kampuchean Action to Promote Education, 2014; OECD Development Centre, 2017)

Research objectives

- **Measure** youth's **knowledge** of major policies concerning youth's healthcare, education, employment and civic participation.
- **Understand** youth's **experiences** and **perceptions** of the implementation of youth policies.
- **Draw evidence-based implications** for policies, programmes, and interventions pertaining to healthcare, education, employment and civic engagement of young people.

Methodology

- A face-to-face survey of **1,600** youths, aged between **15** and **30**
 - Randomly selected from among **200 villages**, spread over **100 communes**, across **25 provinces**
- Four-stage stratified random selection
- A highly experienced survey firm conducted field data collection, from November to December, 2021
 - Using a Computer-Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI) software and digital devices
- Interviews took place at the home of respondents.

Consultative approach to the research


- An **Advisory Committee** was formed to provide advice on this research project
 - Members consisted of **10** experts from across **media, academia, civil society,** and **donor community**
- The Committee provided detailed feedback on key stages of the research process
 - Through **consultative meetings** and **written submission**

Questionnaire

- The **National Policy on Youth Development (2011)** provides the main framework for the questionnaire
- Questionnaire focuses on gathering knowledge, experiences, opinions of Cambodian youth on key policies, namely, education, healthcare, employment and civic participation
- Questionnaire contains a total of **113** questions distributed across **10** sections
- Average length of the interview: **35** min

Generated by marady, Nov 08, 2021 20:03
Questionnaire created by marady, Oct 10, 2021 09:58
Last modified by marady, Nov 04, 2021 15:14
Not shared with anyone

Sections: 16, Subsections: 0
Questions: 140
Questions with enabling conditions: 34
Questions with validation conditions: 5
Rosters: 1
Variables: 5



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SURVEY IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION
QUESTIONNAIRE DESCRIPTION

ទំព័រដើម
No sub-sections, No rosters, Questions: 4, Static texts: 1.

ការជ្រើសរើសអ្នកគបសម្ភាសន៍
No sub-sections, Rosters: 1, Questions: 7, Static texts: 1, Variables: 5.

ការប្រើប្រាស់ឧបករណ៍បច្ចេកវិទ្យា
No sub-sections, No rosters, Questions: 3.

ស្ថានភាពបរិញ្ញត្តិយុវជន
No sub-sections, No rosters, Questions: 7, Static texts: 1.

សេដ្ឋកិច្ច និងស្តង់ដារនៅ និងអនាគត
No sub-sections, No rosters, Questions: 3.

ការយល់ដឹងអំពីគោលនយោបាយយុវជន
No sub-sections, No rosters, Questions: 6.

សុខភាព និងសុខុមាលភាព
No sub-sections, No rosters, Questions: 13.

វិស័យអប់រំ
No sub-sections, No rosters, Questions: 14.

ការងារ
No sub-sections, No rosters, Questions: 22.

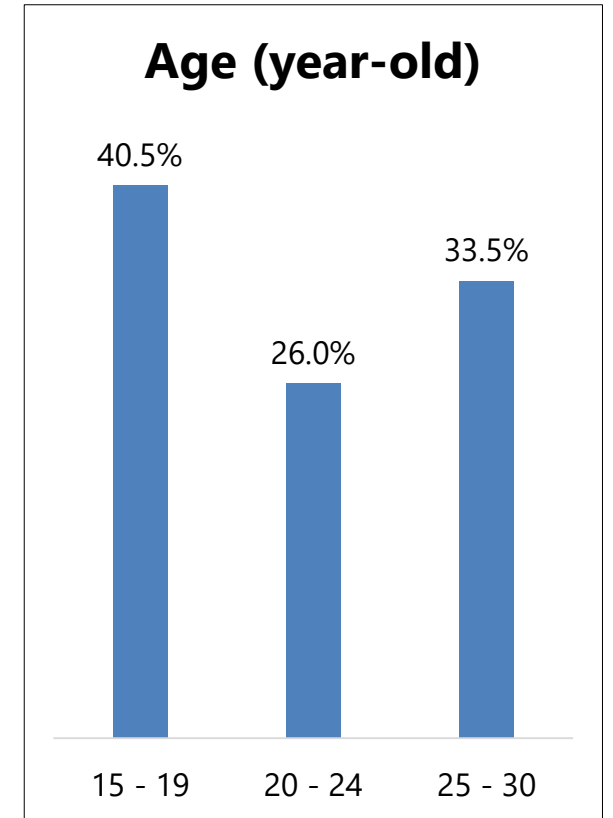
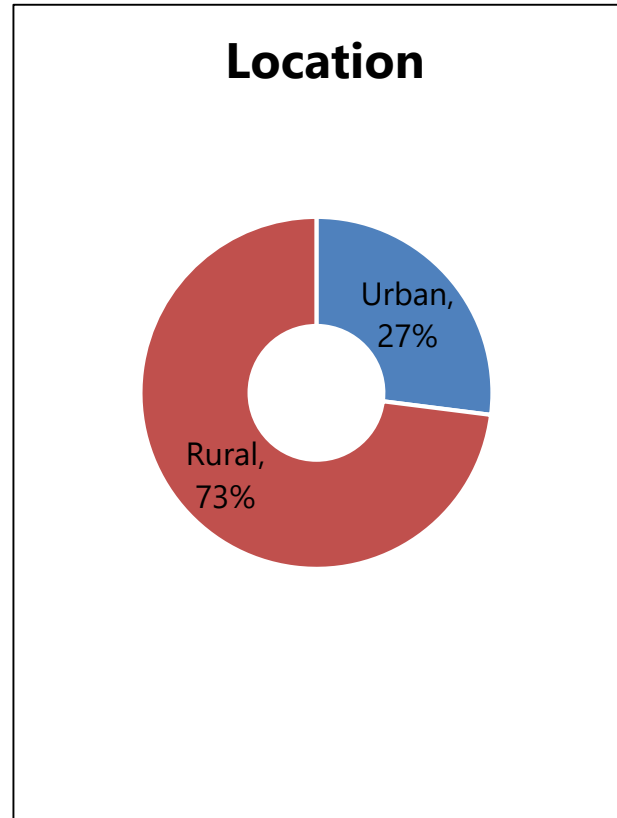
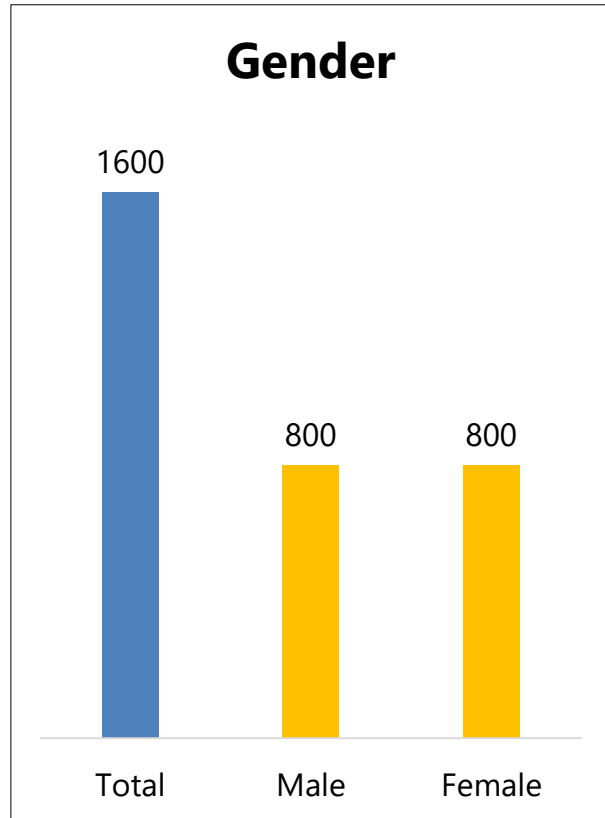
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ចំណាប់អារម្មណ៍លើនយោបាយ
No sub-sections, No rosters, Questions: 5.

ចំណាប់អារម្មណ៍រឿងនយោបាយលើបណ្តាញសង្គម

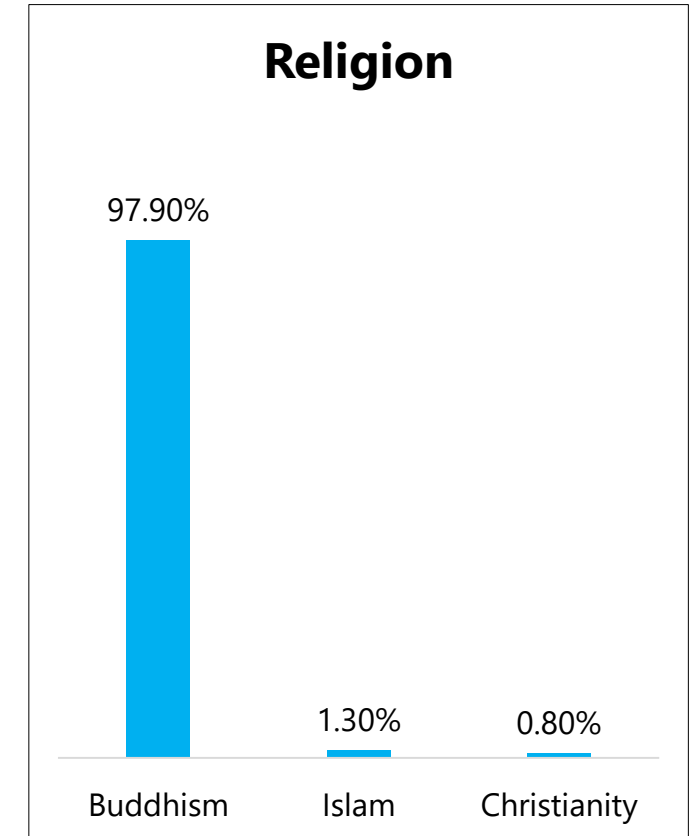
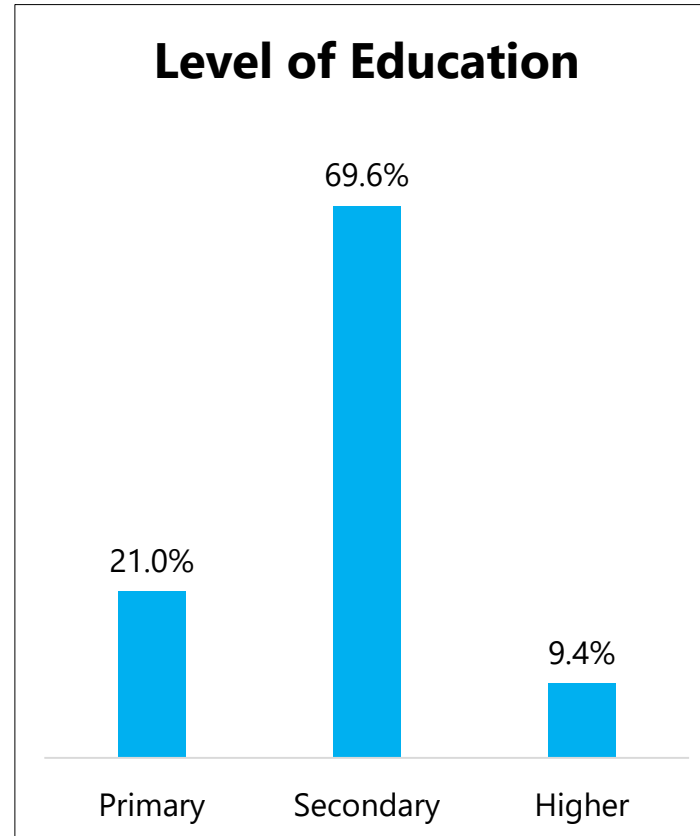
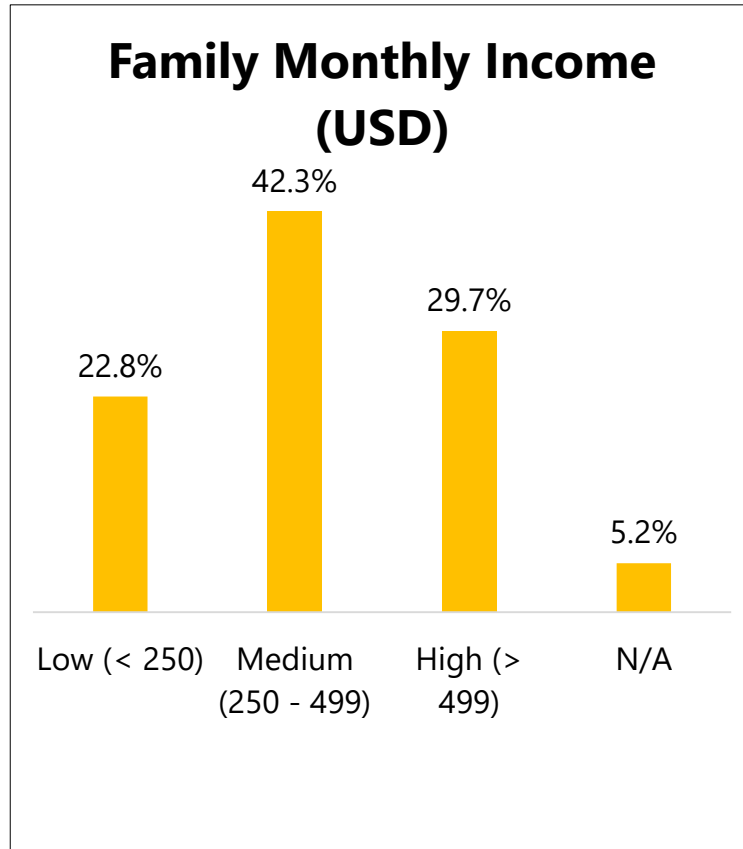
Respondents' Profile

Respondents' profile



***N=1600**

Respondents' profile

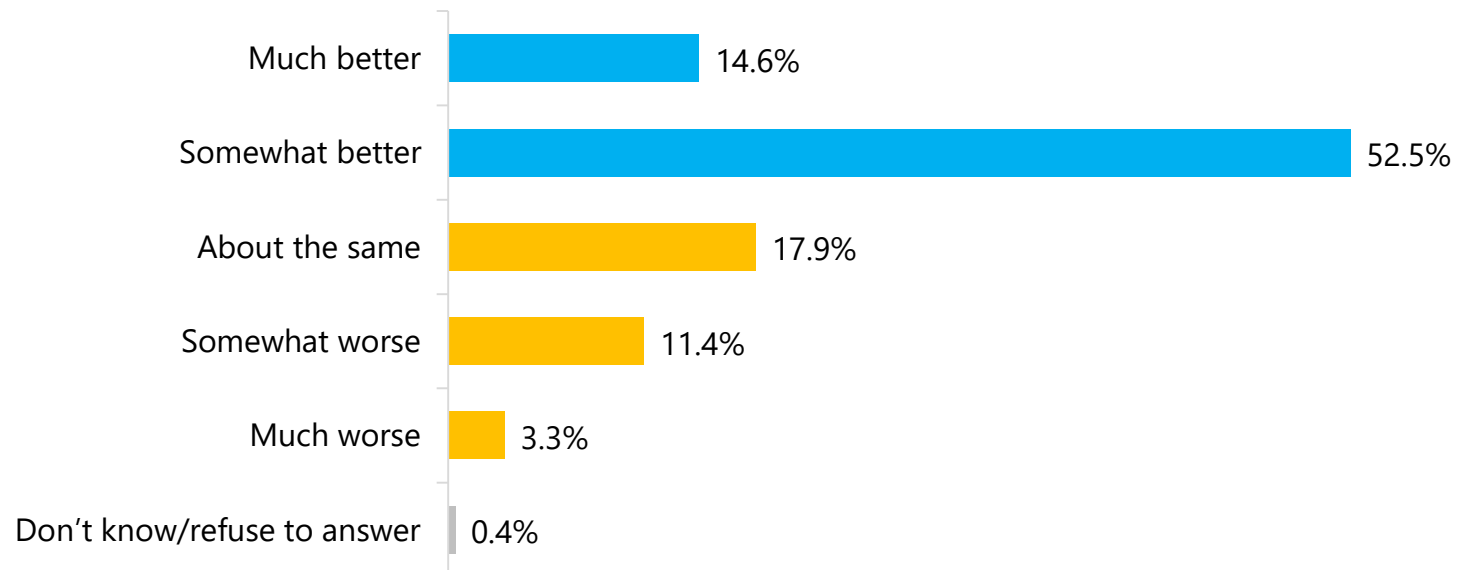


***N=1600**

Key Findings

Standard of Living

How would you describe your current standard of living compared to five years ago?

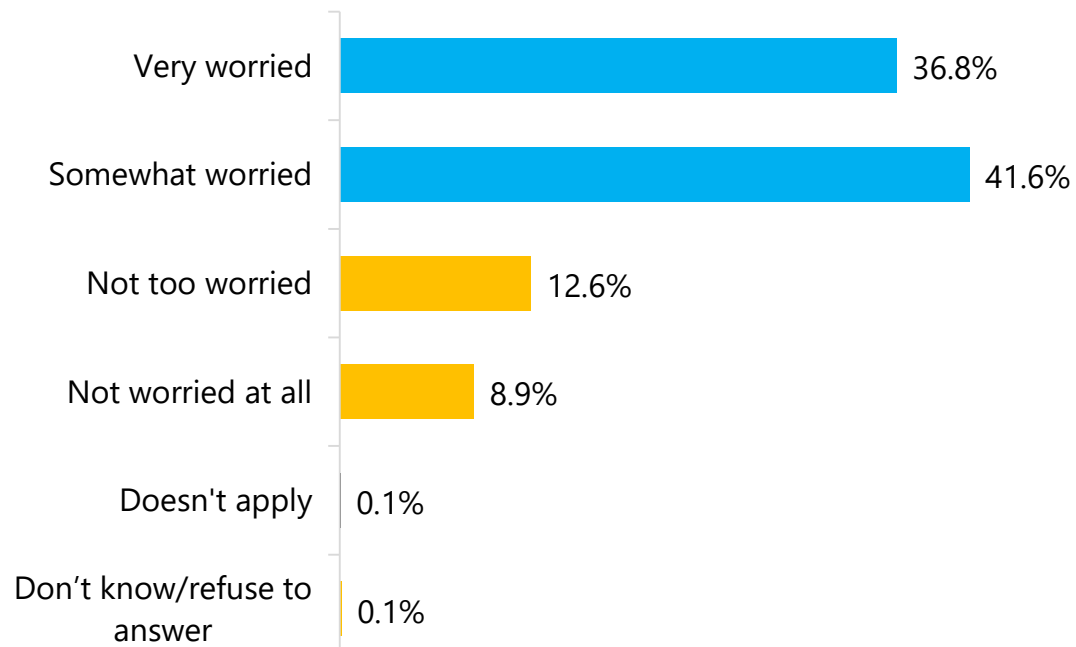


Key takeaway: The majority of youth saw their standard of living as improving. A significant minority, however, viewed their standard of living as either stagnating or declining.

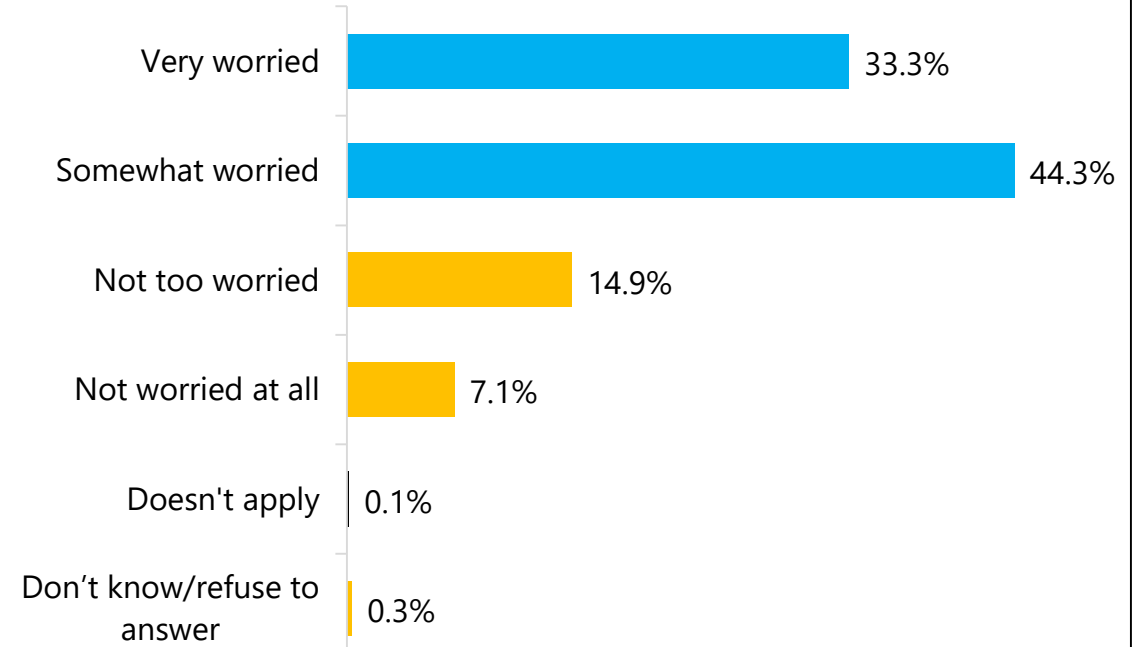
Section 1

Youth Financial Situation

How worried are you about NOT being able to pay medical costs for normal healthcare?



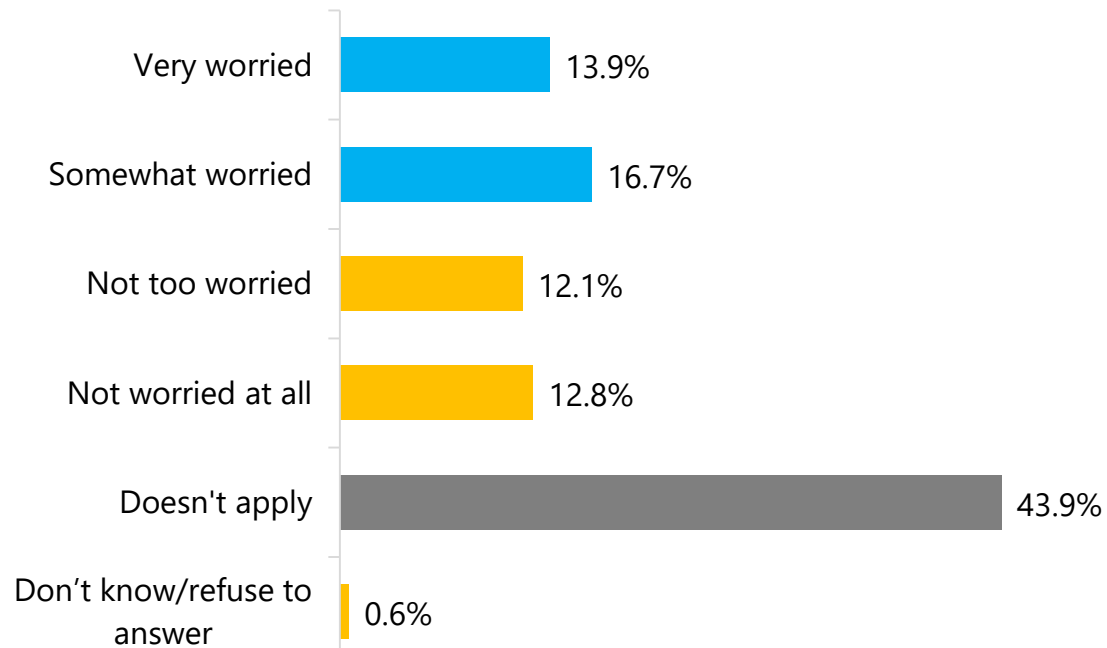
How worried are you about NOT being able to maintain the standard of living you enjoy?



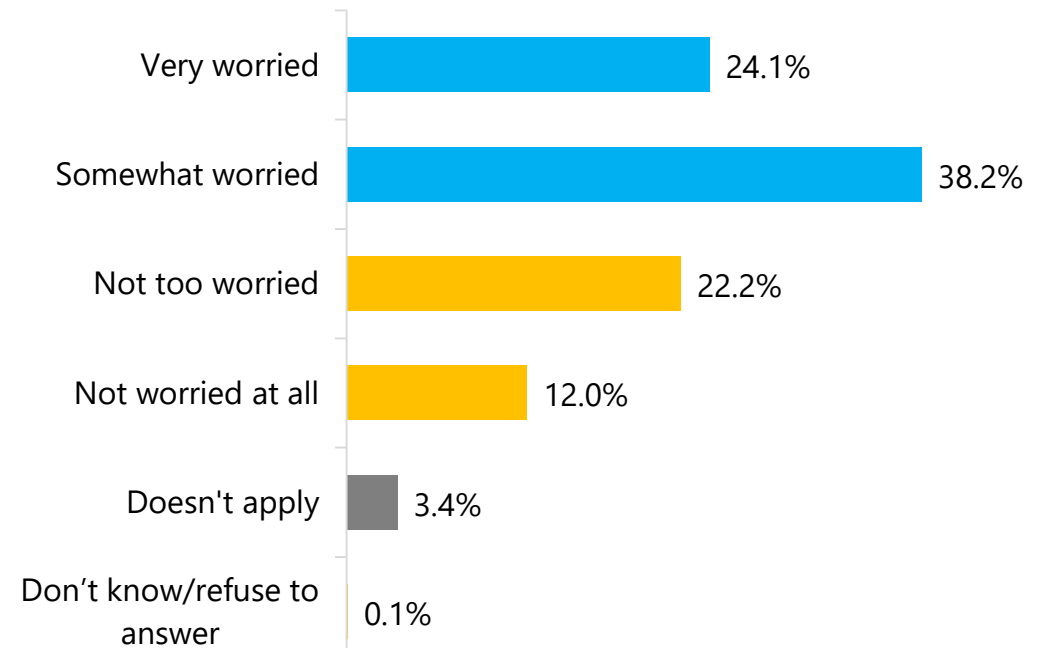
Section 1

Youth Financial Situation

**How worried are you about NOT having enough money to pay for your education?
(Among student respondents)**



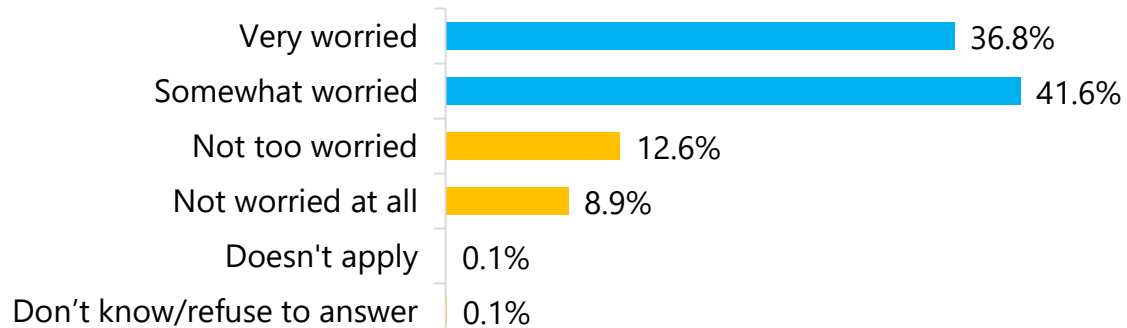
How worried are you about NOT having enough to pay your normal monthly bills?



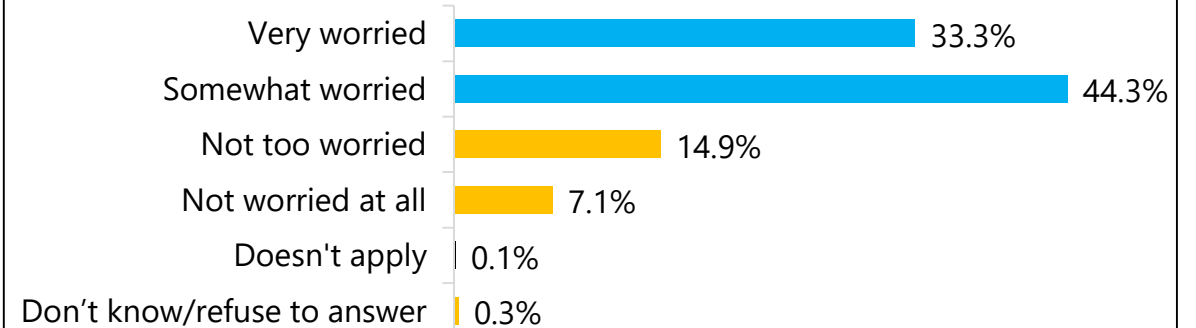
Section 1

Youth Financial Situation

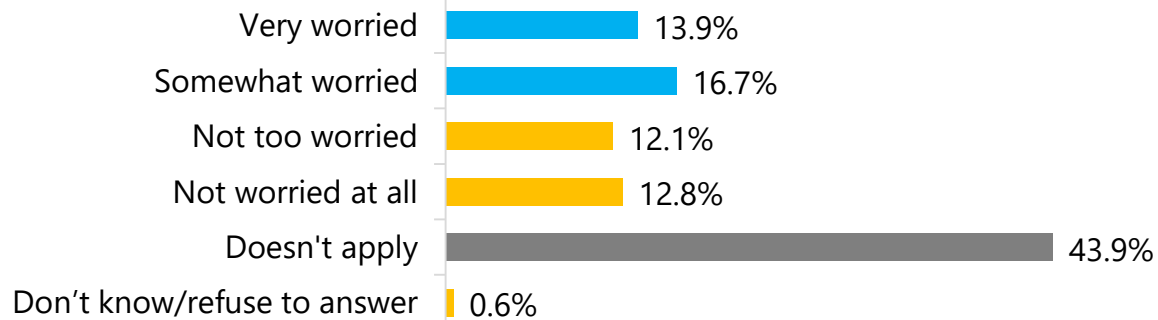
How worried are you about NOT being able to pay medical costs for normal healthcare?



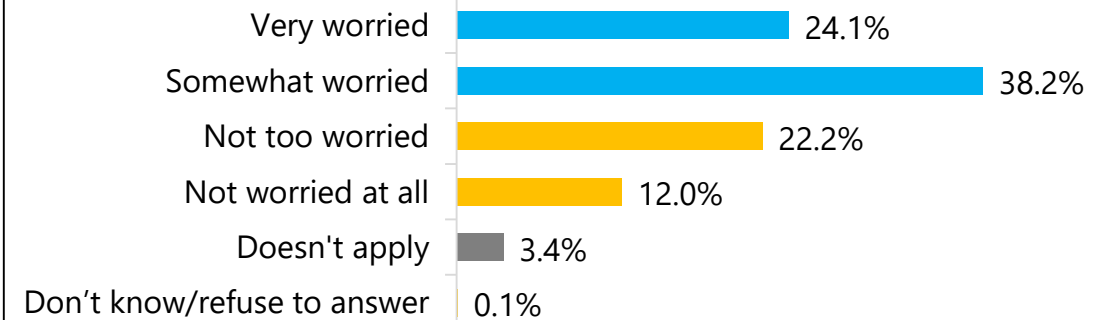
How worried are you about NOT being able to maintain the standard of living you enjoy?



How worried are you about NOT having enough money to pay for your education?



How worried are you about NOT having enough to pay your normal monthly bills?



Key takeaway: Youth were worried about meeting basic financial needs.

Section 2

Knowledge of Key Government Policies and Strategies

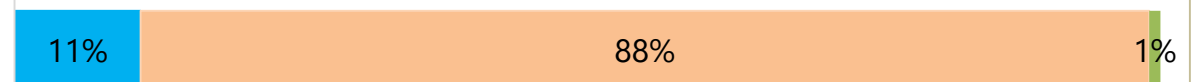
Have you ever heard of the Rectangular Strategy IV ?



Have you ever heard of the National Strategic Development Plan ?



Have you ever heard of the Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals?



Have you ever heard of the National Policy on Youth Development?



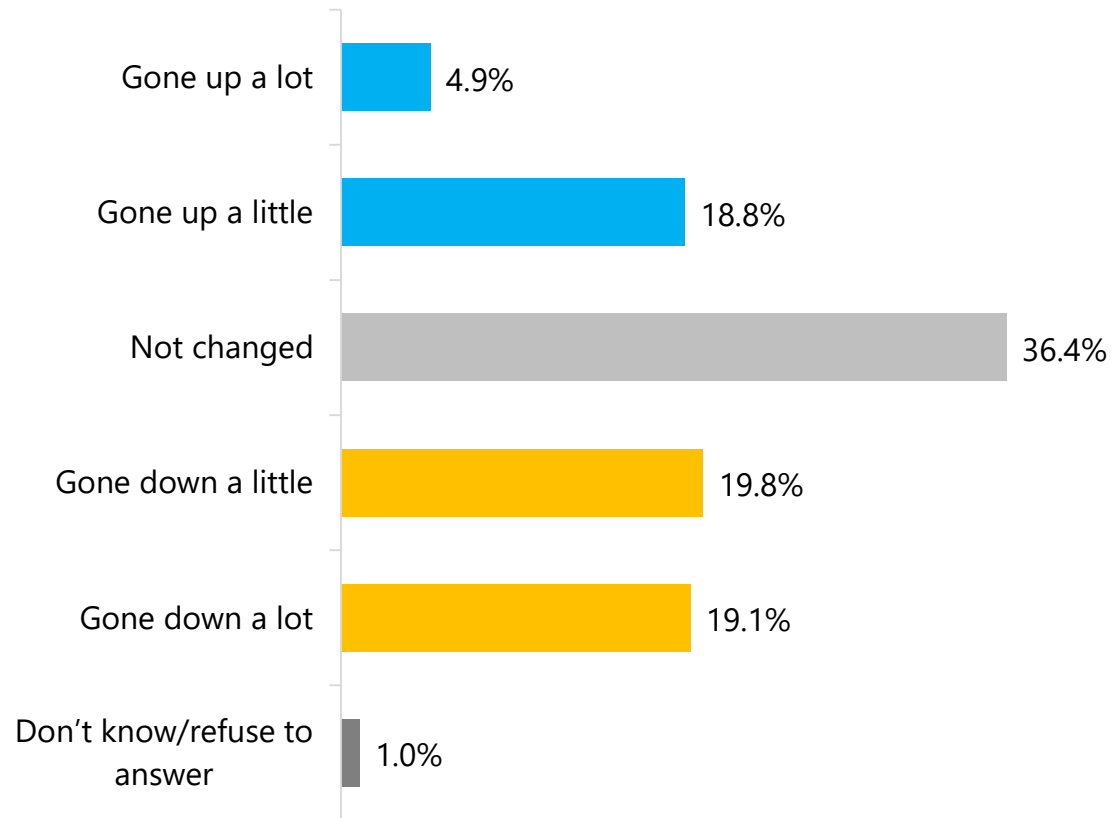
■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know/refuse to answer

Key takeaway: Youth knowledge of key government's development strategies was low.

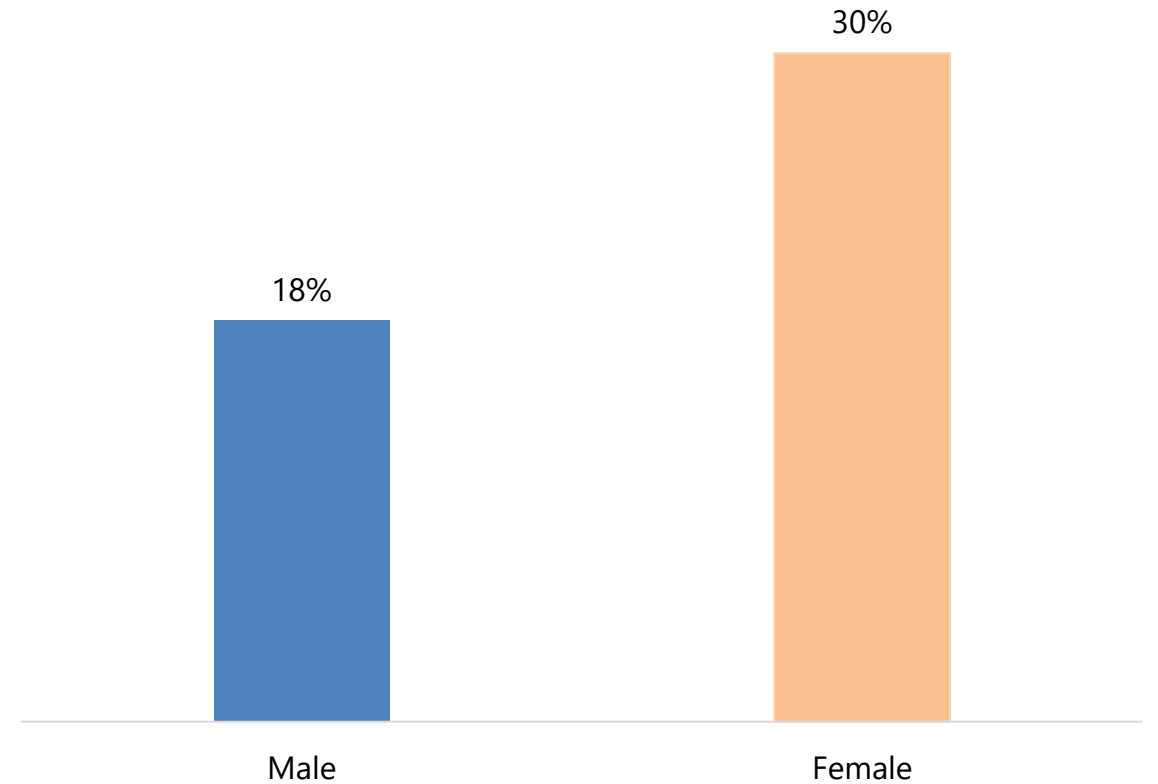
Section 3

Healthcare and Wellbeing

Over the past year, the amount YOU paid for your healthcare has:



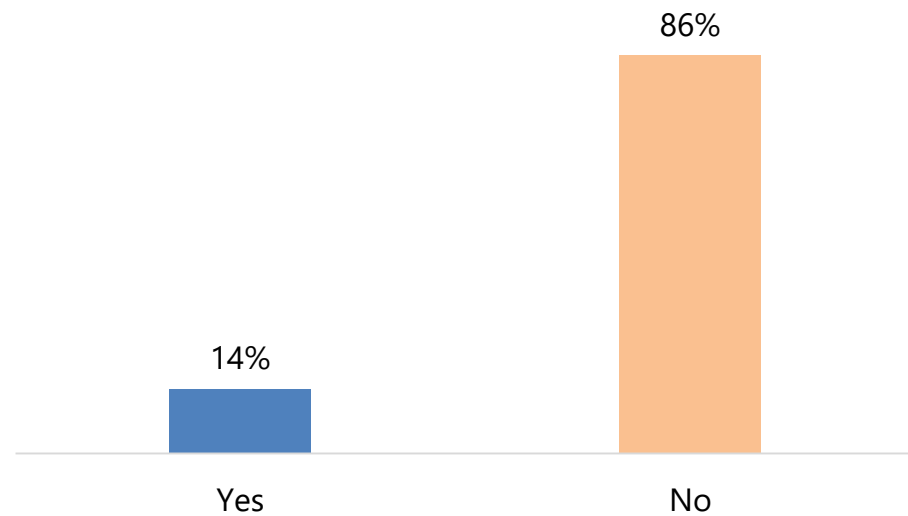
Percentage who said their healthcare's expenses had increased by gender



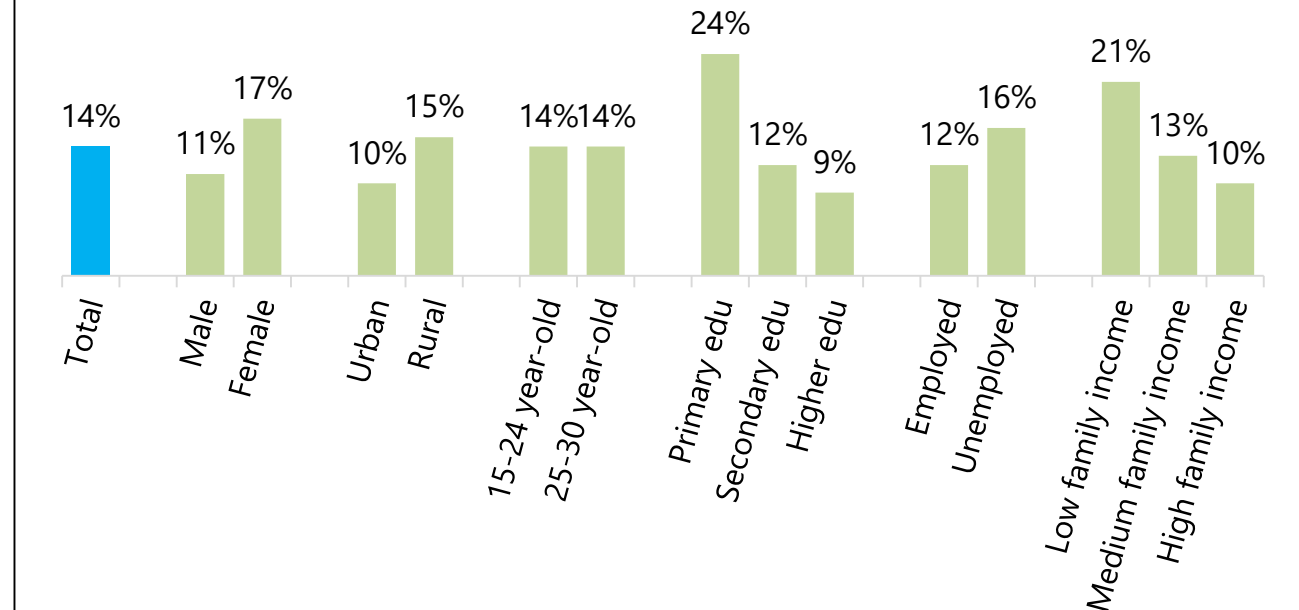
Section 3

Healthcare and Wellbeing

Within the last 12 months, have you put off any sort of medical treatment because of the cost you would have to pay?



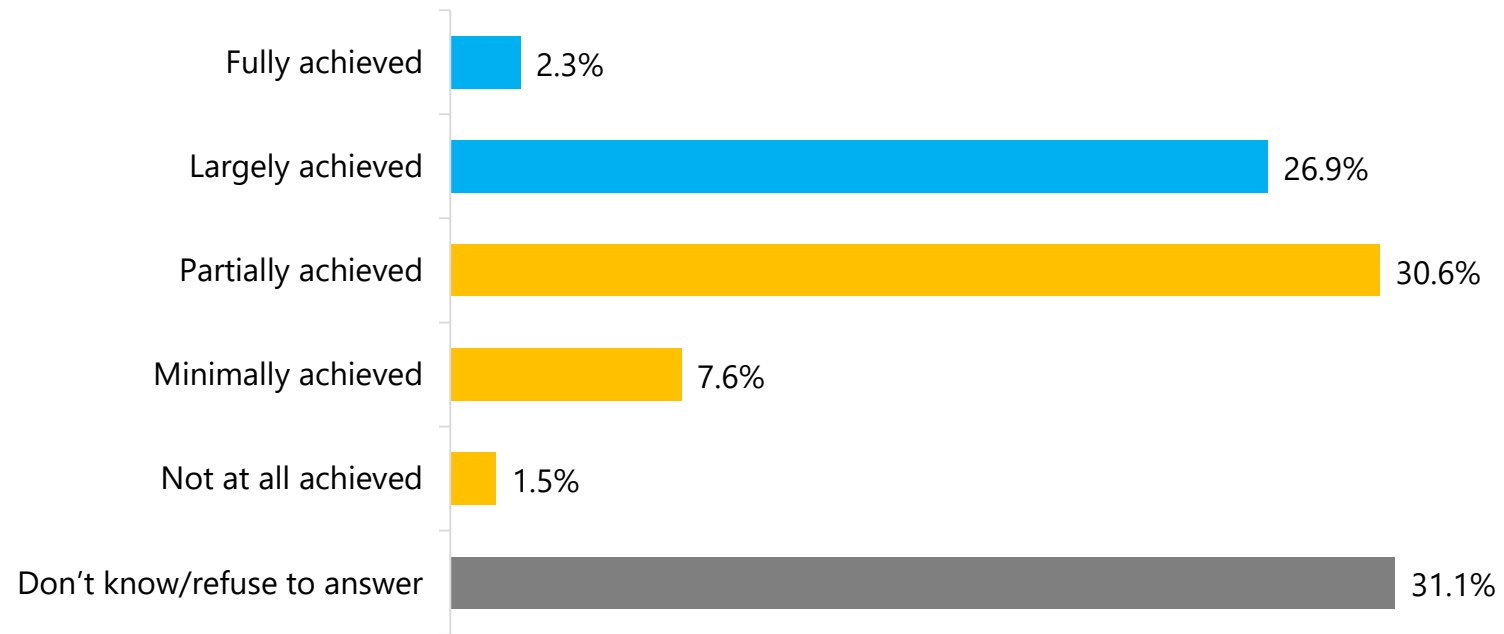
Percentage who put off medical treatment by gender, socioeconomic status, and location



Key takeaway: Female, rural, low-income and less educated youth were more likely to delay their medical treatment compared to male, urban, high-income, and well educated youth.

Healthcare and Wellbeing

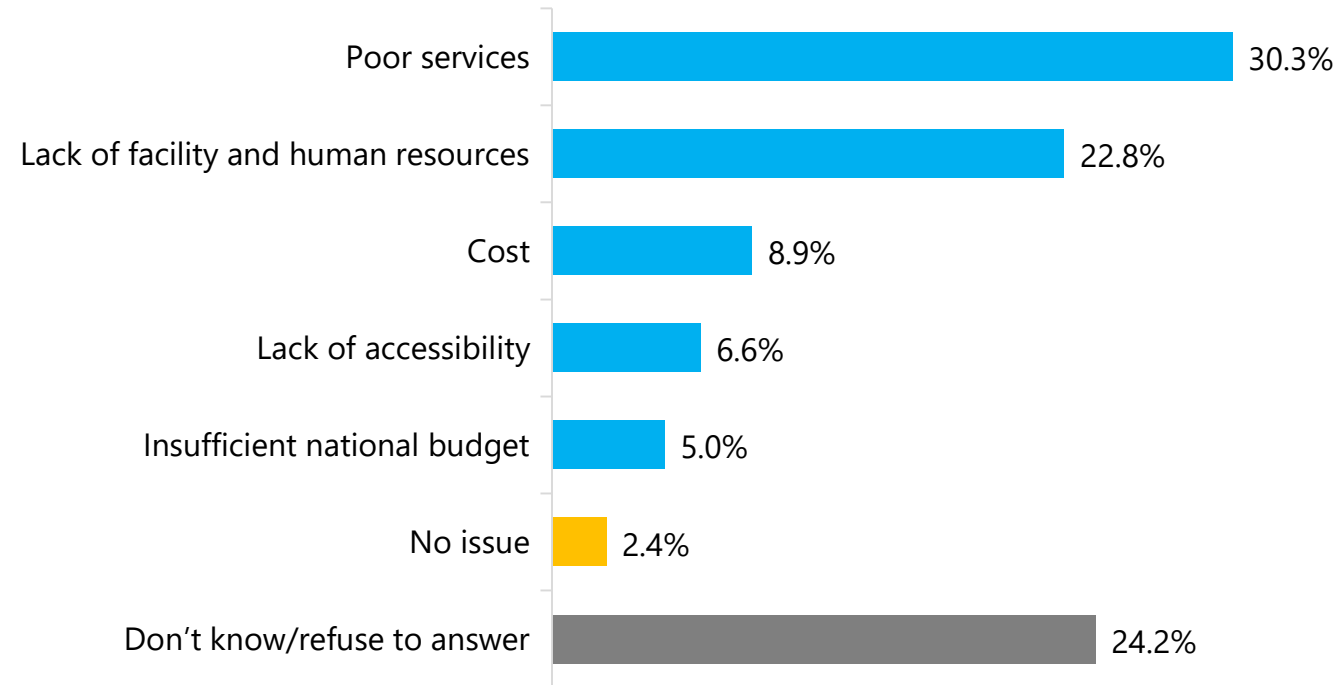
One of the key objectives of the National Youth Development Policy is to enhance health service provision for youth. To what extent do you think this objective has been achieved so far?



Key takeaway: A sizable proportion of youth thought that government efforts to strengthen health service provision for youth remained insufficient.

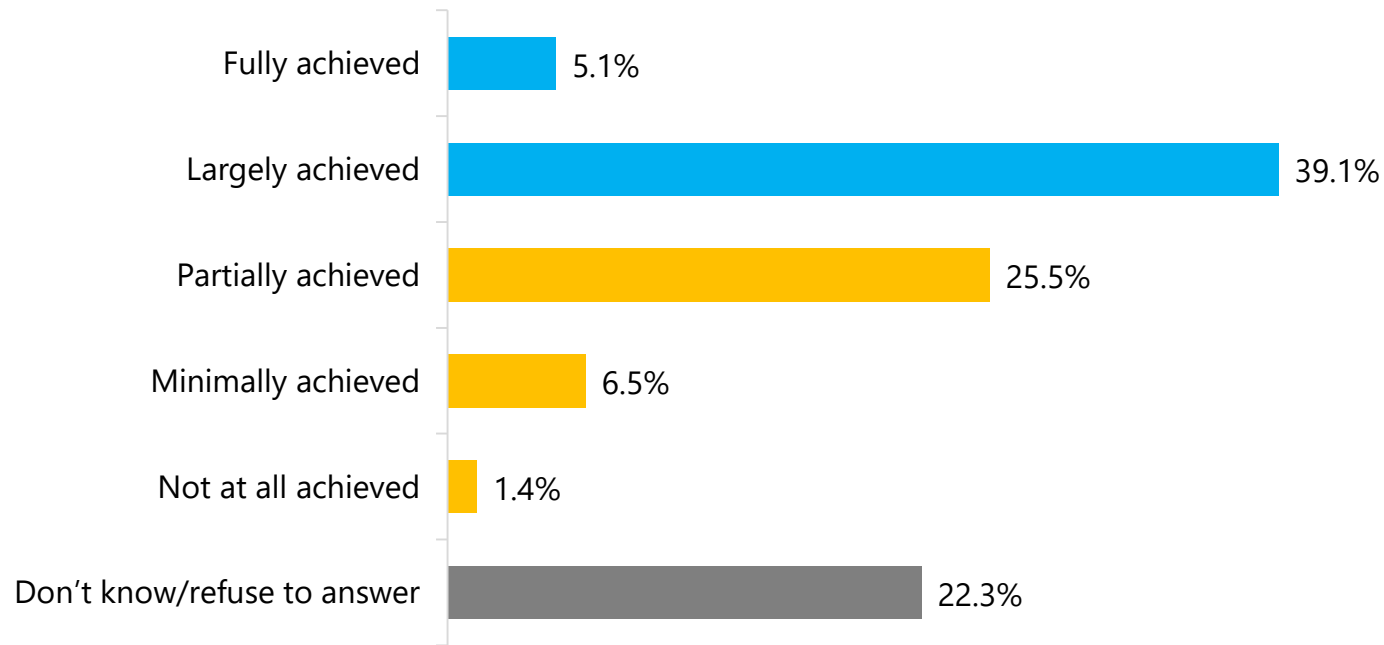
Healthcare and Wellbeing

Based on your observation, what is the most pressing issue facing public healthcare system in the country?



Key takeaway: Youth viewed poor services (including corrupt and unequal services) as the most critical challenge facing public healthcare, followed by a lack of facility and human resources, and high cost.

One of the key objectives of the National Youth Development Policy is to provide youth with opportunity to get quality education and vocational training. To what extent do you think this objective has been achieved so far?

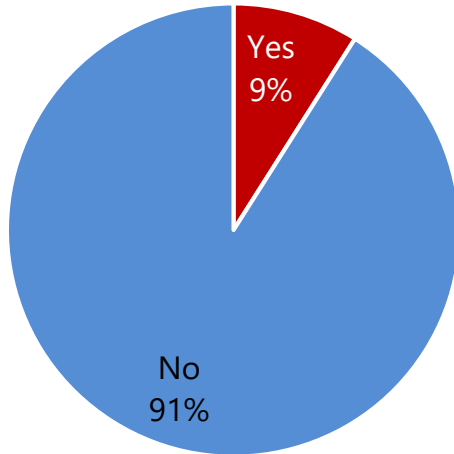


Key takeaway: Many youth were of the view that the government had not done enough to promote quality education for youth.

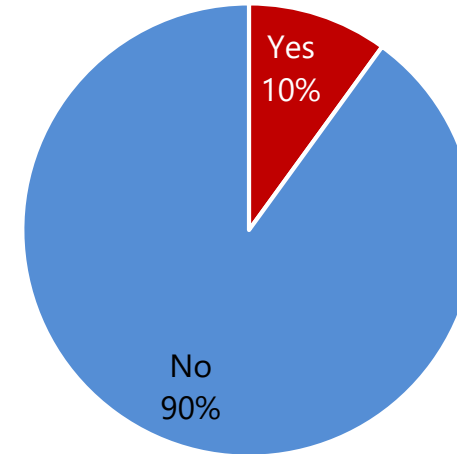
Section 4

Education

In the past three years, have you been discriminated because of your gender identity (women, LGBTIQ+) or vulnerability (poor, disability or ethnicity) during your schooling time?



In the past three years, have you been sexually harassed because of your gender identity (women, LGBTIQ+) or vulnerability (poor, disability or ethnicity) during your schooling time?

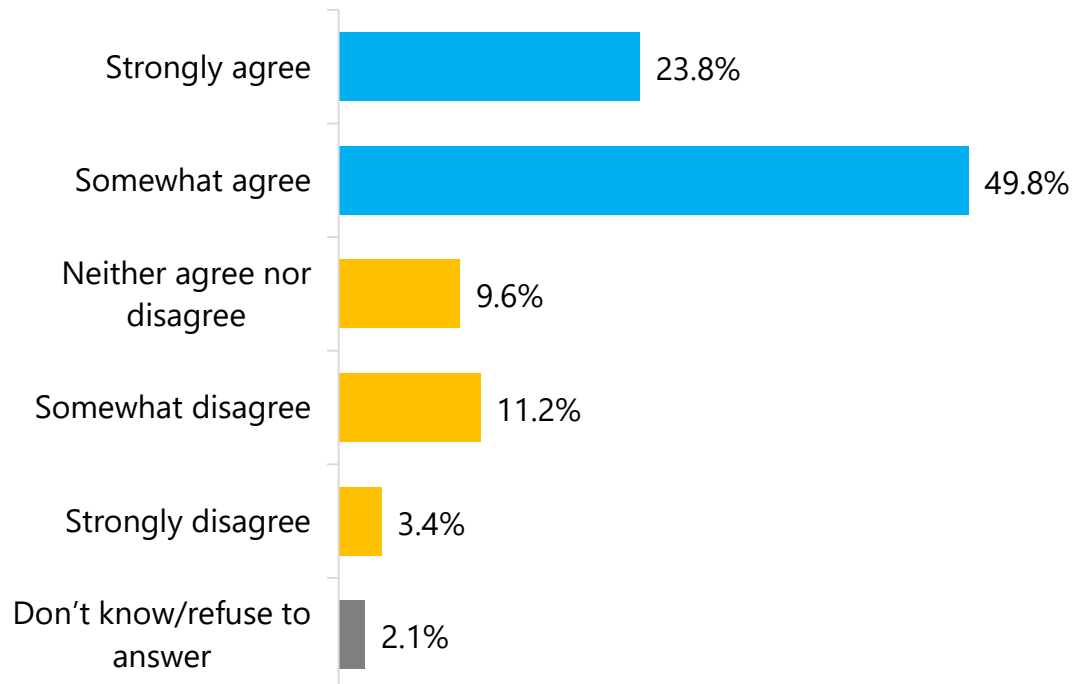


Key takeaway: Small proportions of youth reported experiencing discrimination or harassment based on their gender identity or vulnerability at schools.

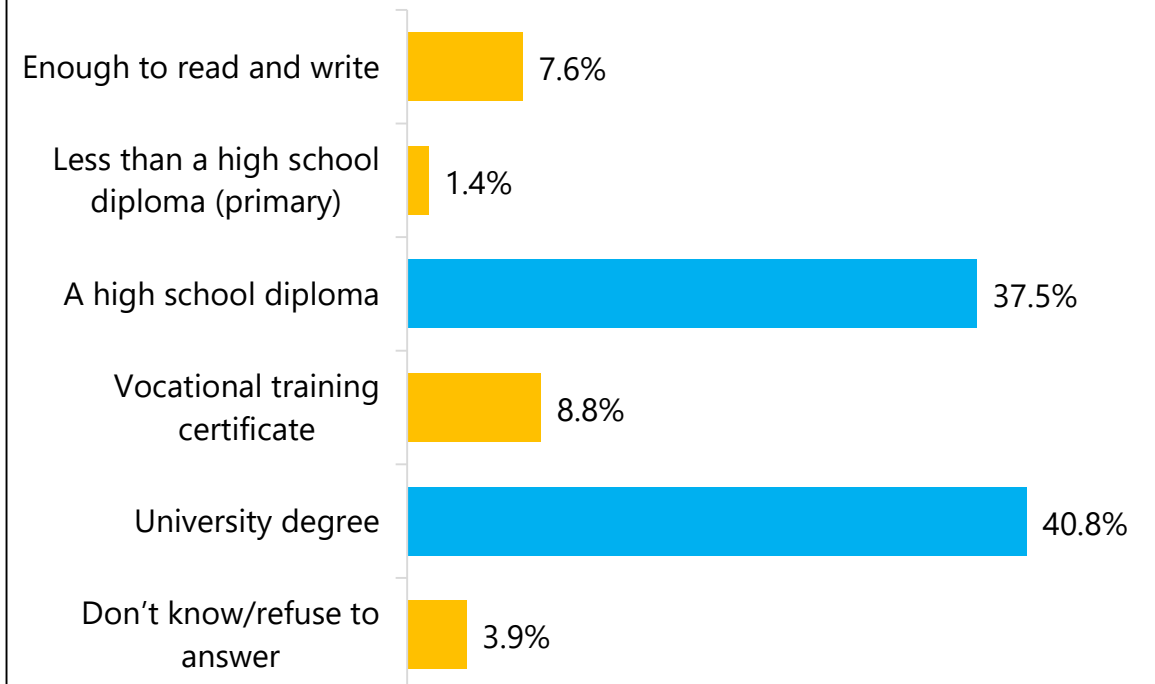
Section 4

Education

To what extent do you agree with the statements: "The education I want to achieve is beyond my financial means."?



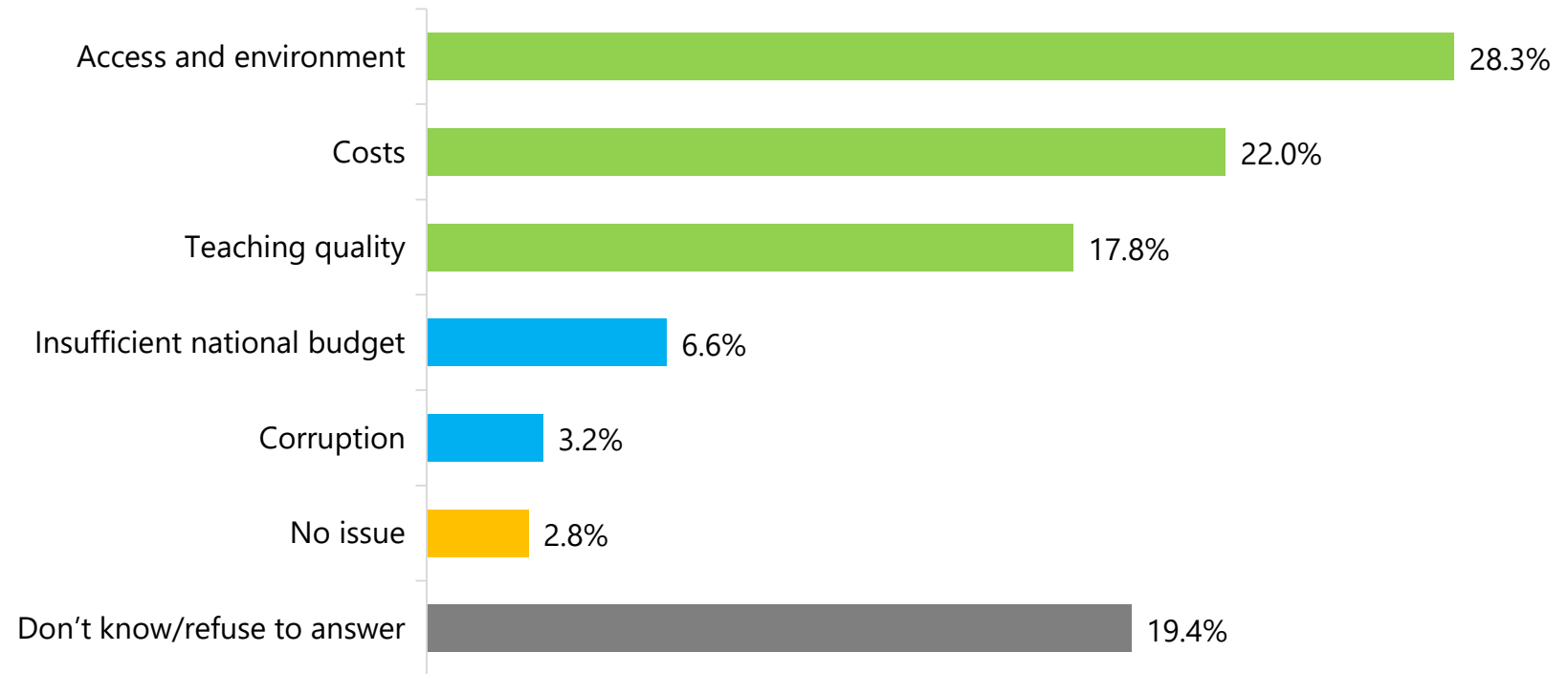
How much education do you think a person needs in order to get along in this society?



Key takeaway: Higher education was viewed as essential but unaffordable by many youths.

Education

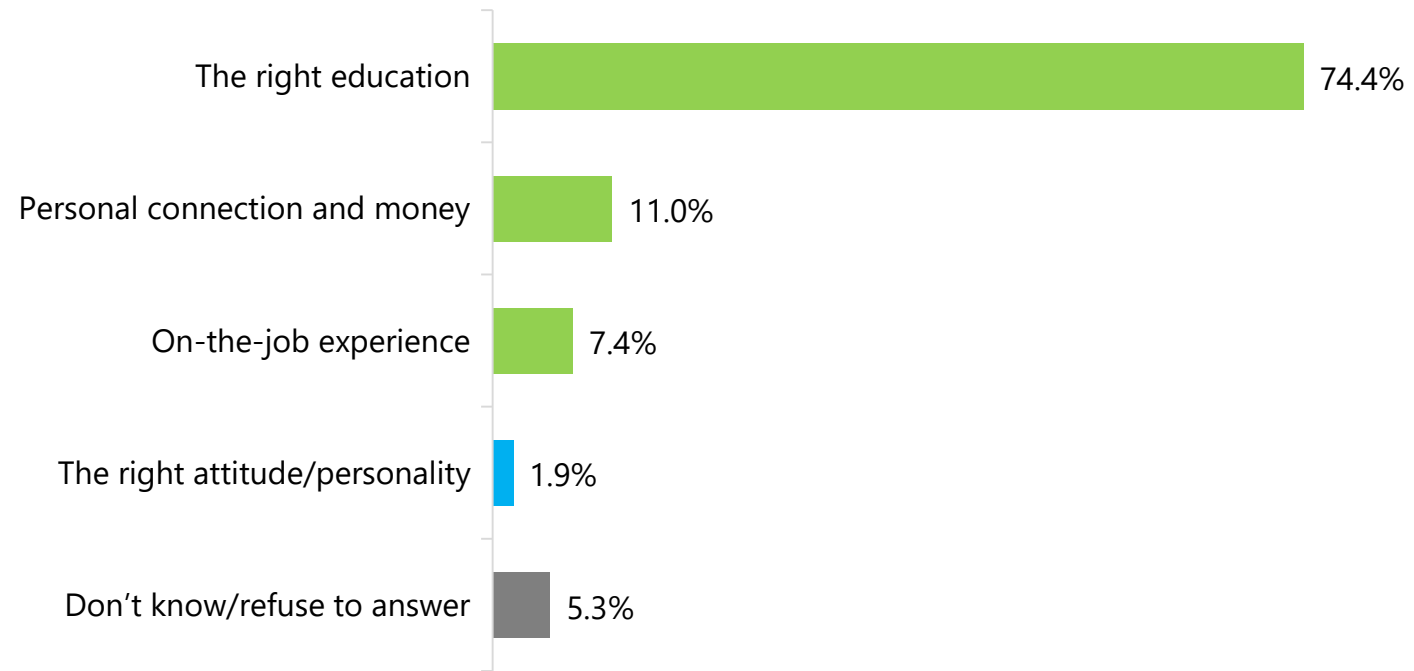
In your opinion, what is the most pressing issue facing public education in the country?



Key takeaway: Access and environment, costs, and teaching quality ranked as the three biggest problems facing public education, according to youth.

Employment

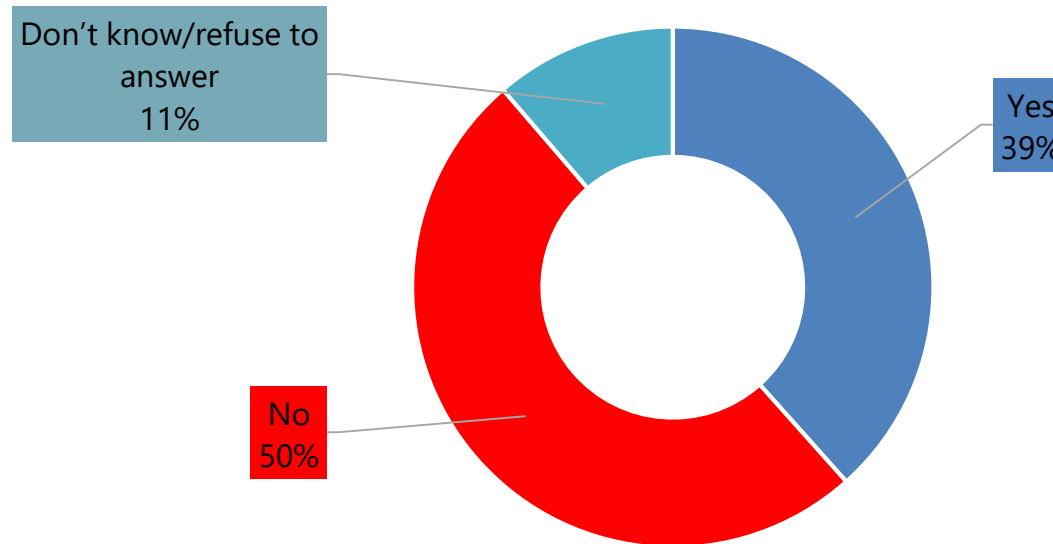
What makes it easier to find a job in the public sector?



Key takeaway: The right education and skillsets were viewed as the key to securing a job in the public sector, followed by personal connection and money, and on the job experience.

Employment

Do you think workplaces in Cambodia offer sufficient job opportunity for youth with disability?

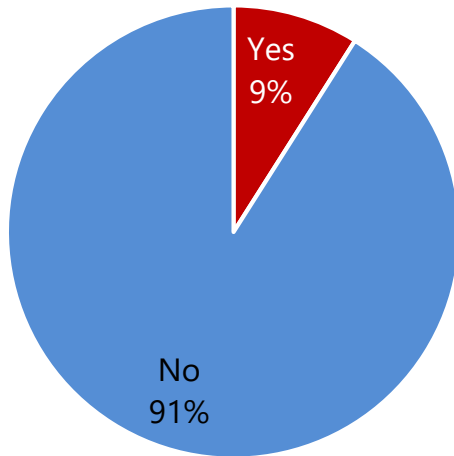


Key takeaway: Many youth thought that workplaces in Cambodia had not provided adequate job opportunity for youth with disability.

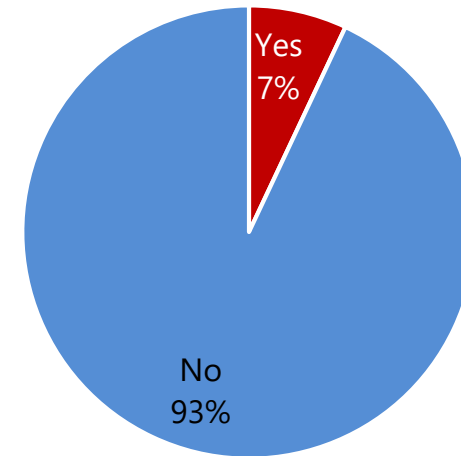
Section 5

Employment

If currently employed, have you been discriminated because of your gender identity (women, LGBTIQ+) or vulnerability (poor, disability or ethnicity) at your workplace?



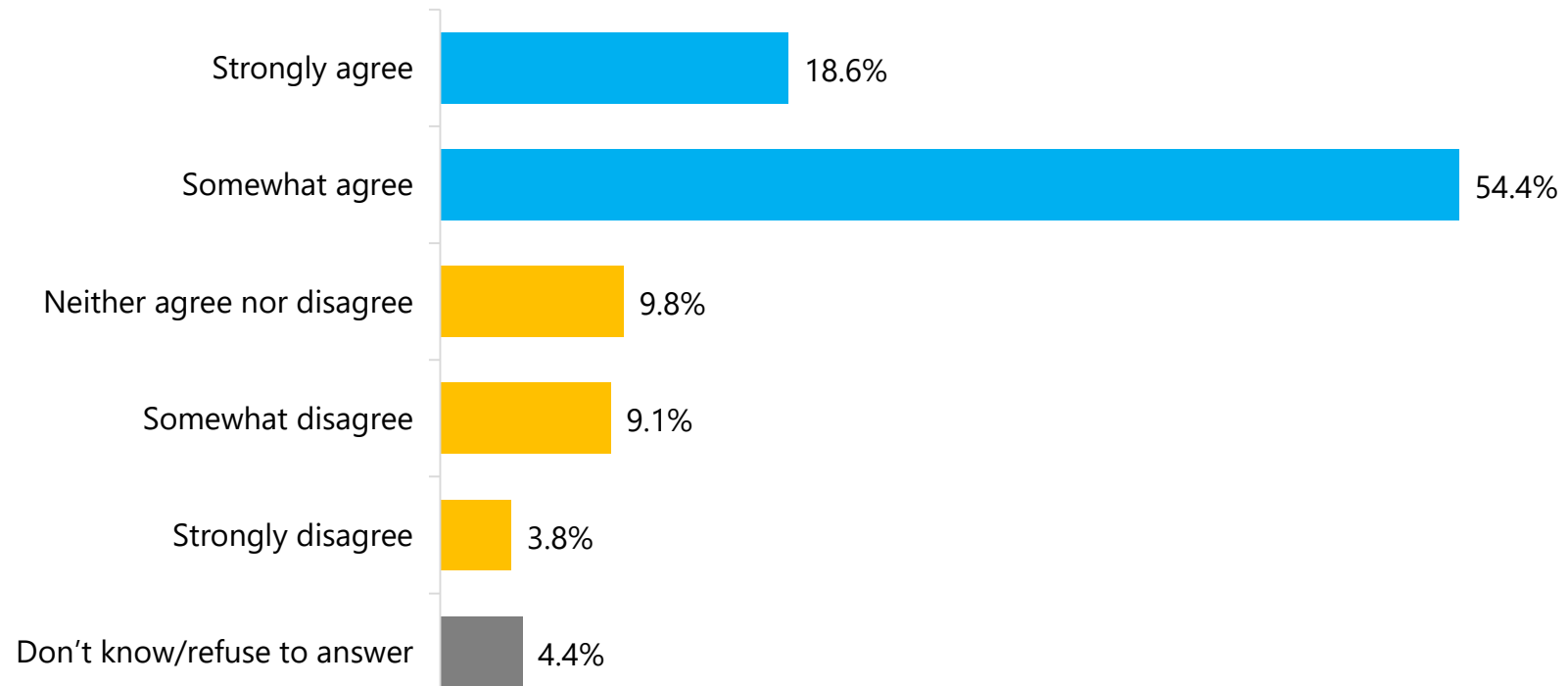
If currently employed, have you been sexually harassed because of your gender identity (women, LGBTIQ+) or vulnerability (poor, disability or ethnicity) at your workplace?



Key takeaway: Small numbers of youth reported that they had been discriminated or harassed based on their gender identity or vulnerability at work.

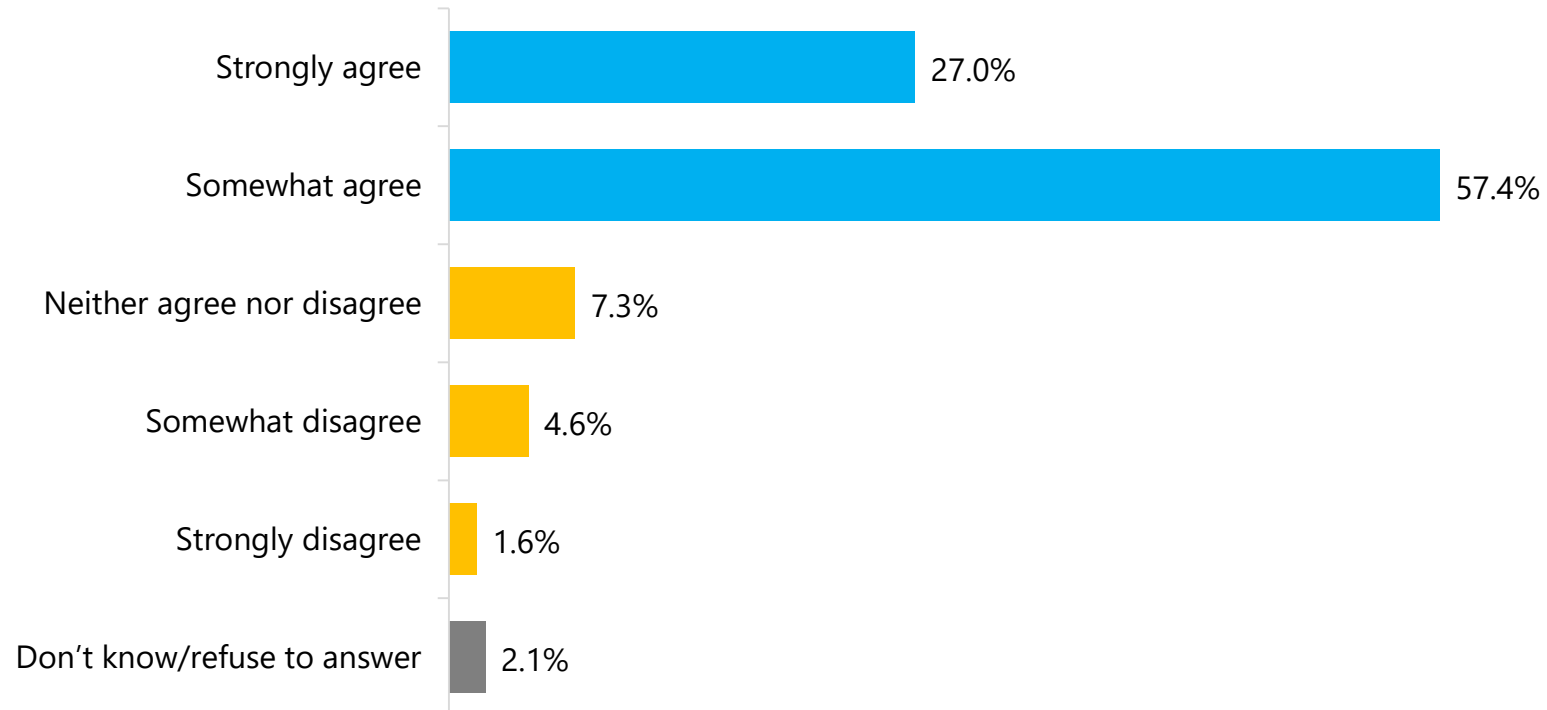
Employment

To what extent do you agree with the statement: “I don’t receive adequate information about jobs”?



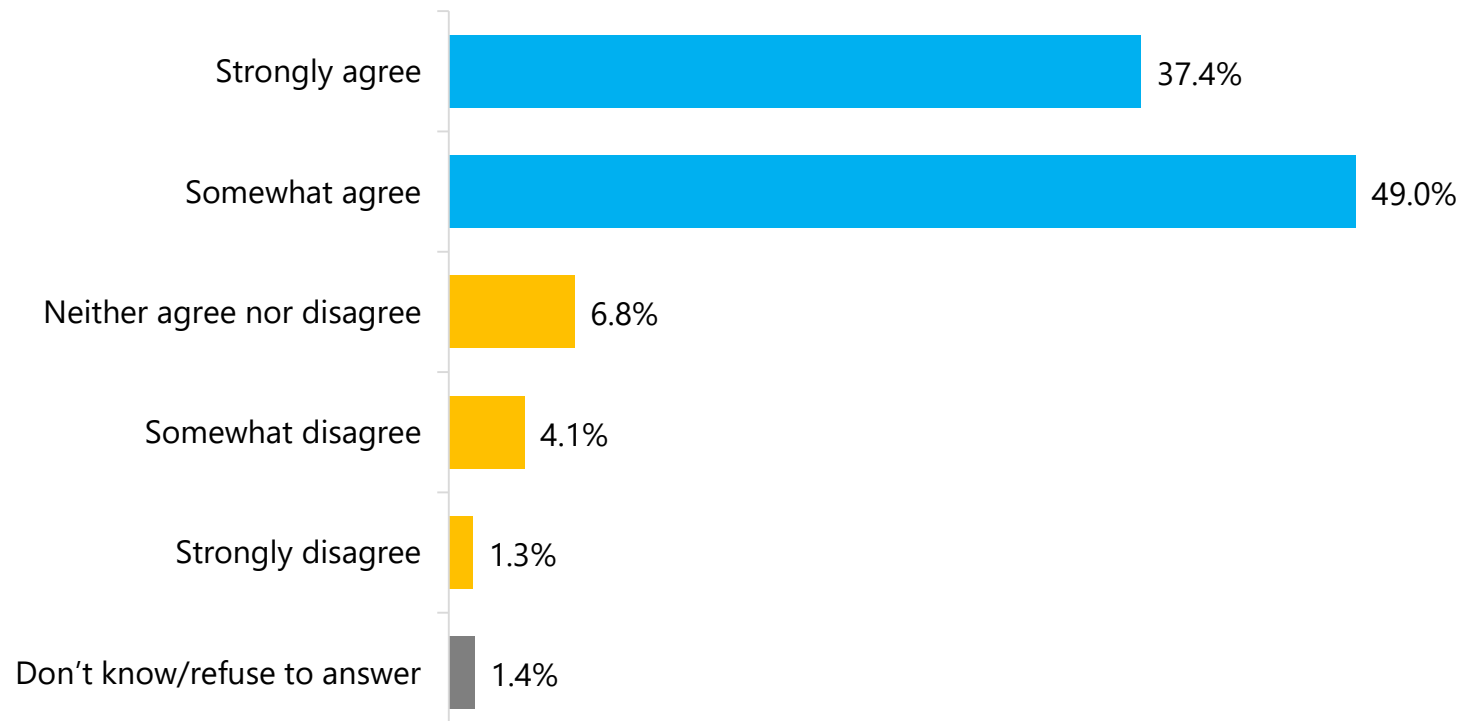
Employment

To what extent do you agree with the statement: “I am worried that I lack necessary skills to get any job”?

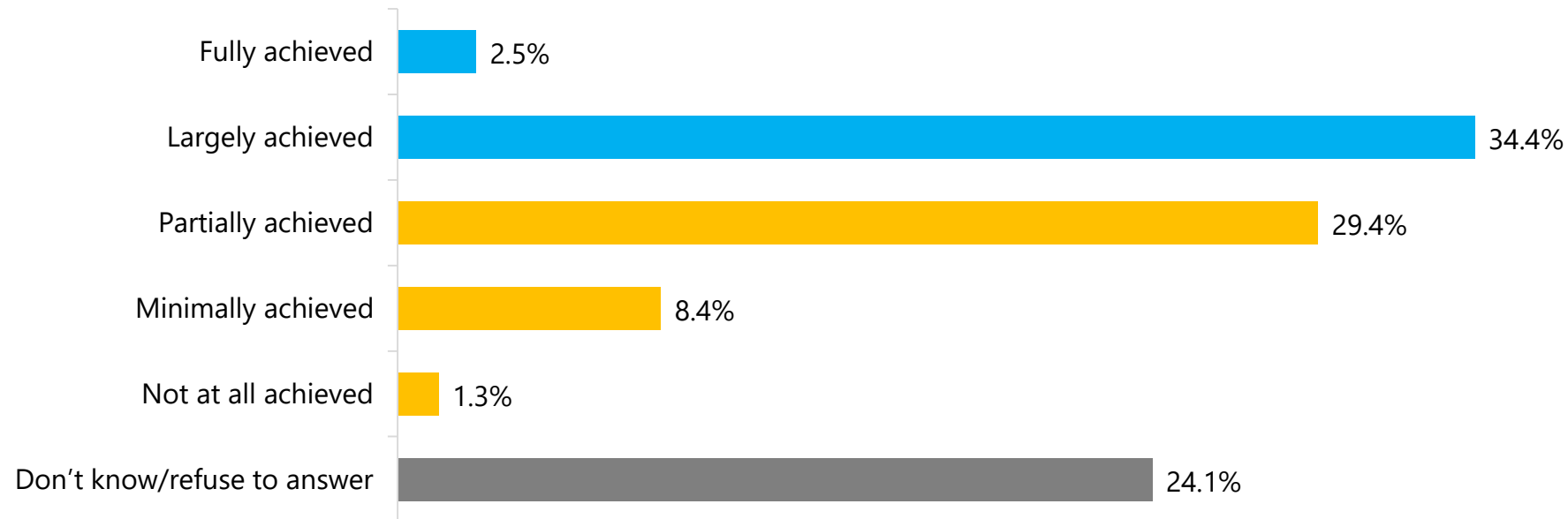


Employment

To what extent do you agree with the statement: “The hardest challenge for my generation is finding a well-paid job”?



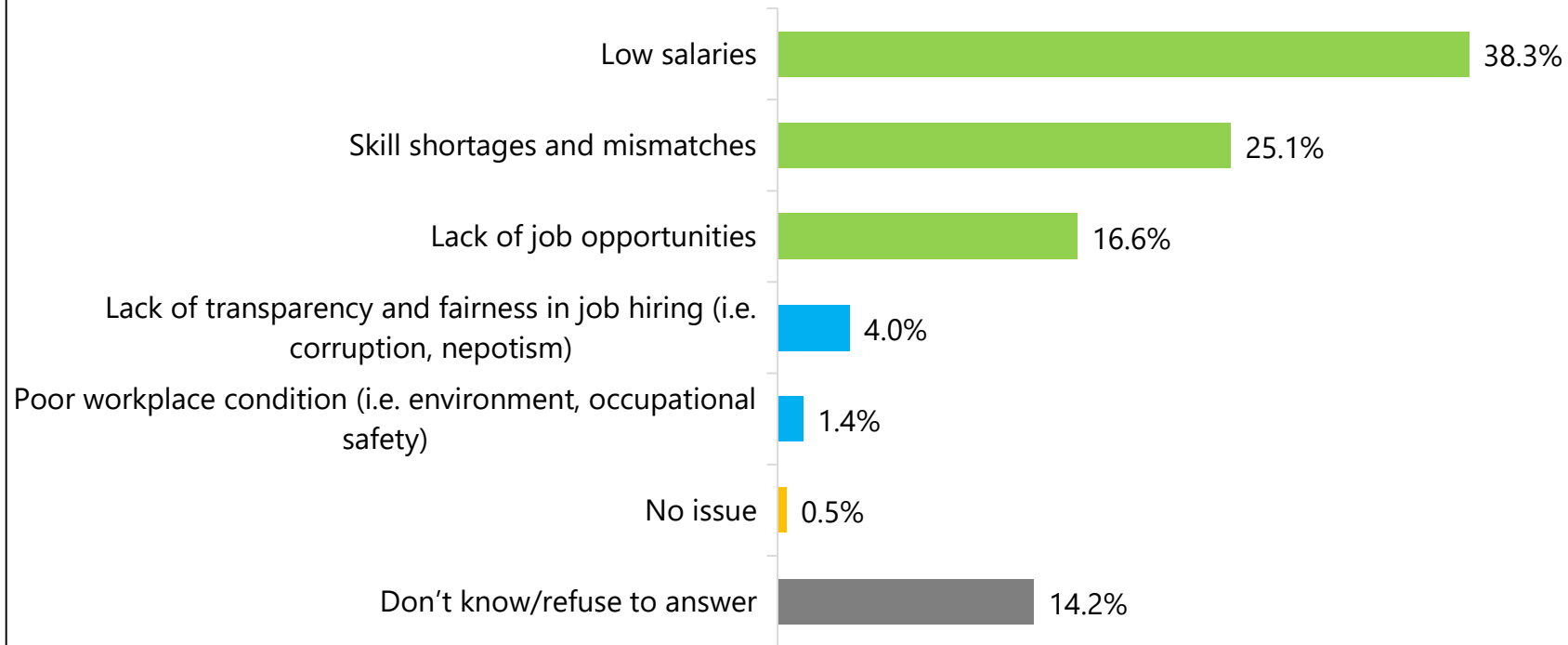
One of the key objectives of the National Youth Development Policy is to promote employment amongst youth. To what extent do you think this objective has been achieved so far?



Key takeaway: A considerable proportion of youth thought that more could be done to promote youth employment in Cambodia.

Employment

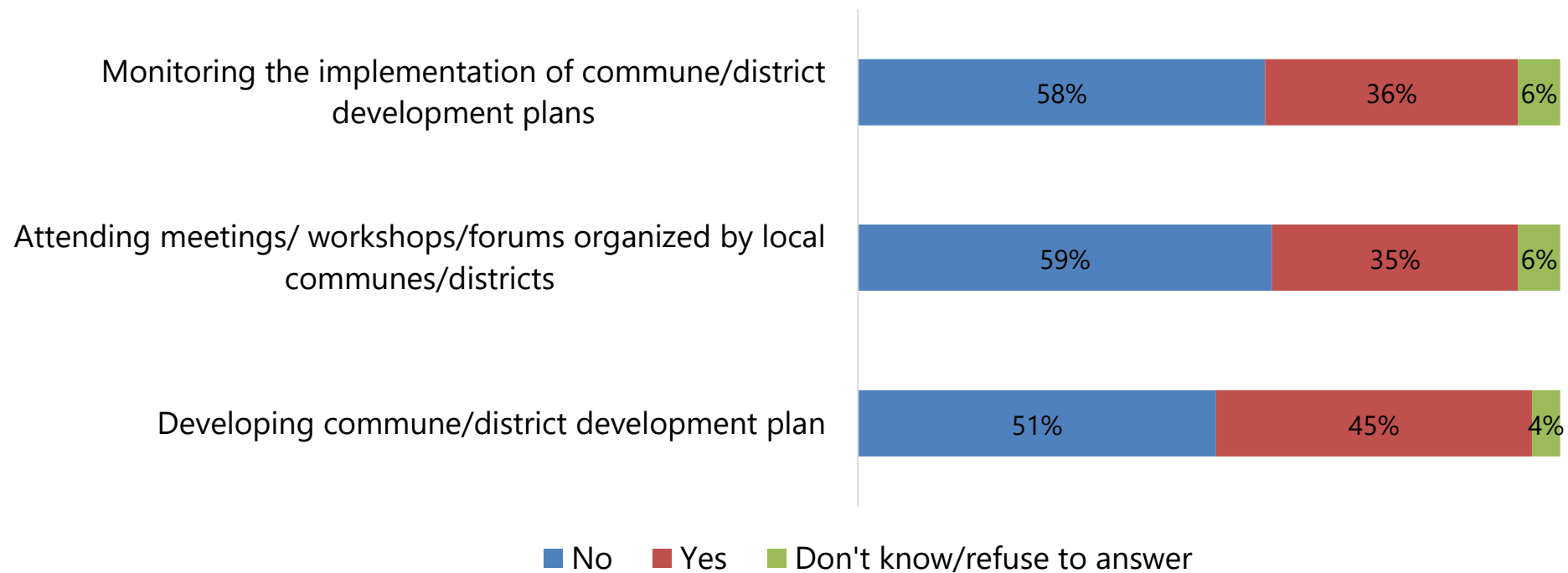
In your opinion, what is the most pressing issue concerning employment in the country?



Key takeaway: The top three issues in the employment sector were low salaries, skill shortages and mismatches, and insufficient job opportunities.

Civic and Political Engagement

Are you aware that you have the rights to participate in the following activities?

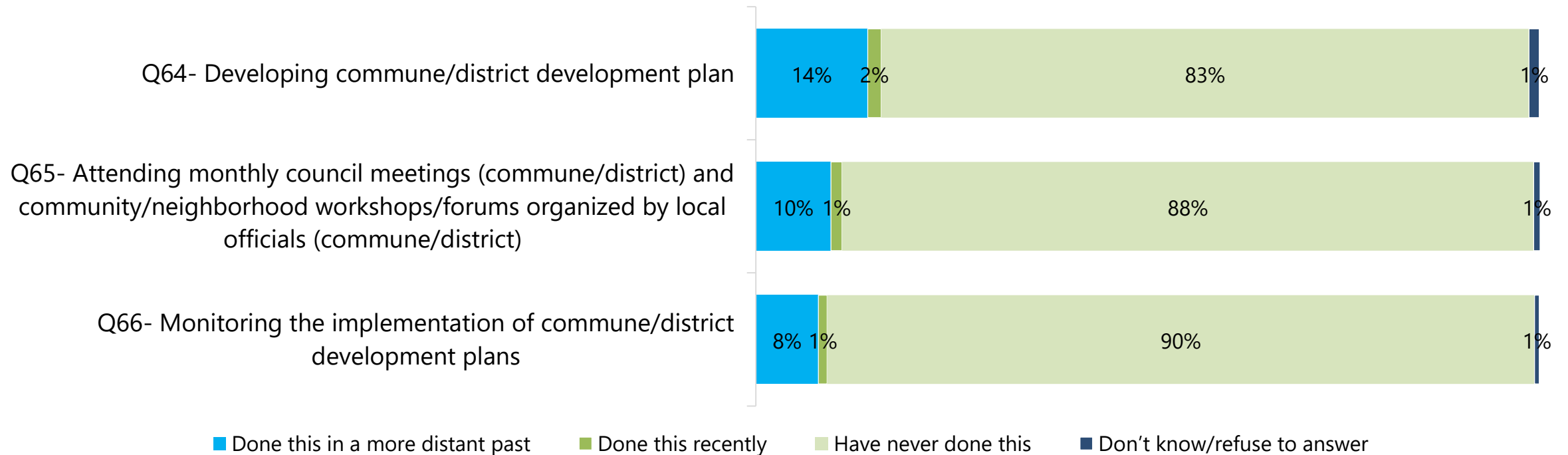


Key takeaway: The majority of youth were not aware of the rights to participate in local governance.

Section 6

Civic and Political Engagement

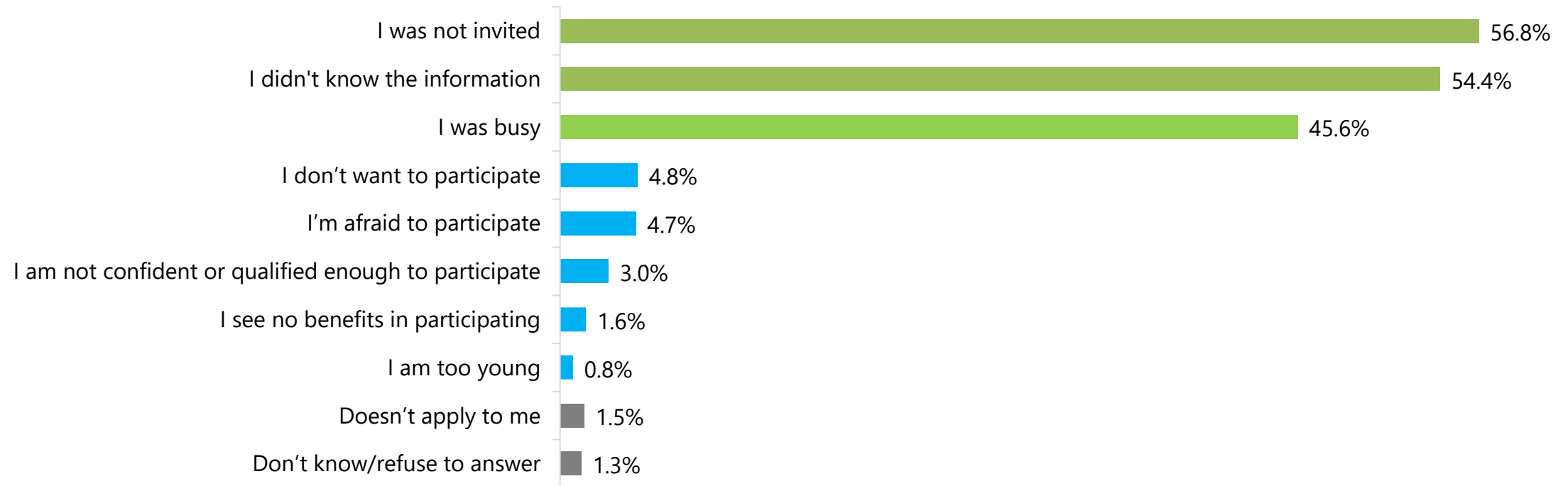
Have you participated in the following activities?



Key takeaway: The level of local participation was low among youth.

Civic and Political Engagement

Q67- If you have not participated in one or more of the abovementioned activities, what prevented you from doing so?

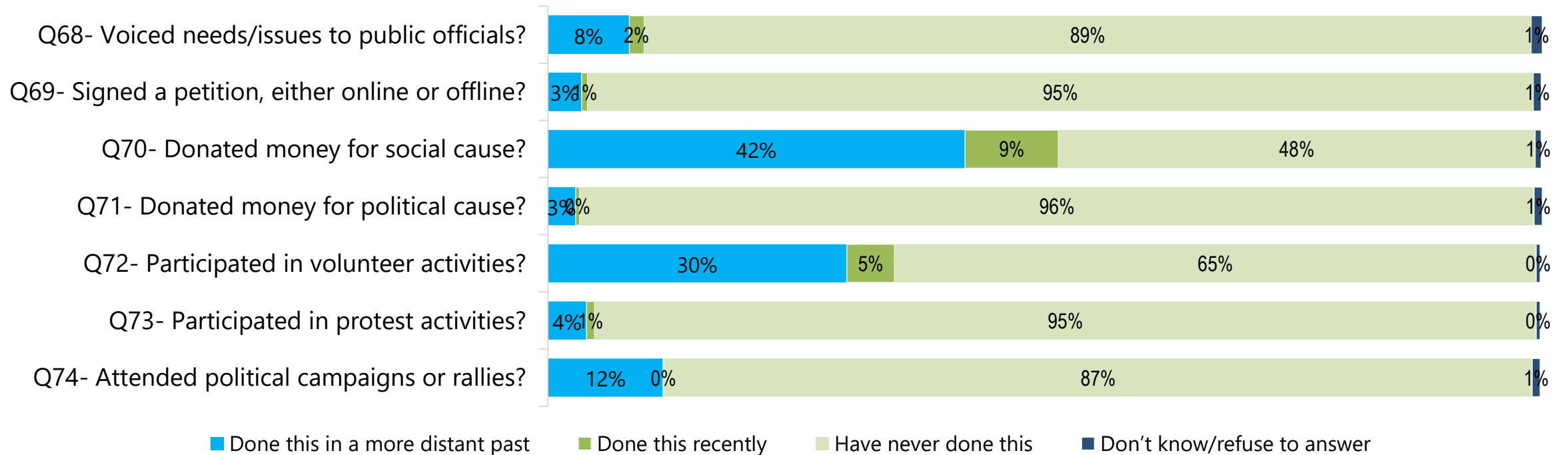


Key takeaway: The top three barriers that kept youth from engaging include not being invited, a lack of information and being too limited on time.

Section 6

Civic and Political Engagement

Have you done the following activities?

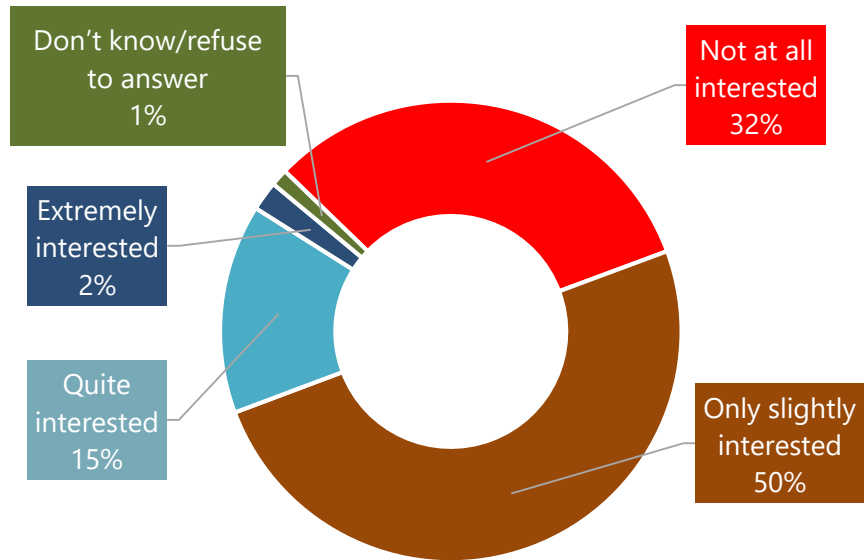


Key takeaway: The level of civic and political participation was low among youth.

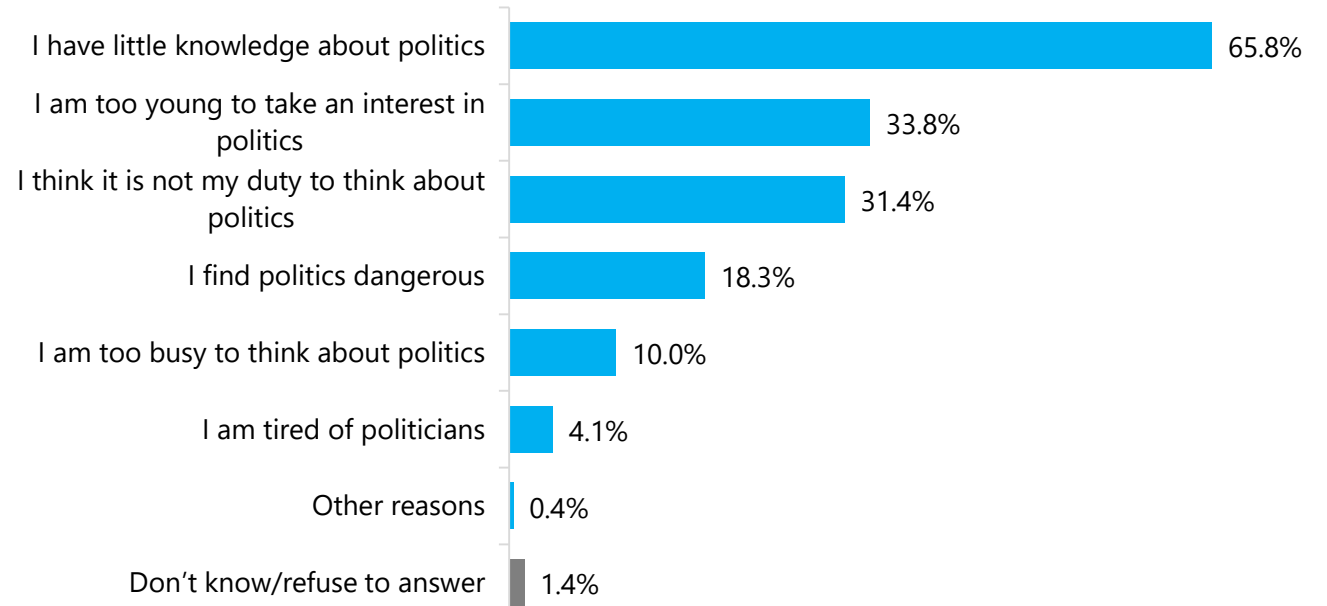
Section 6

Civic and Political Engagement

How interested would you say you are in politics?



Why are you 'not at all interested' or 'only slightly interested' in politics?

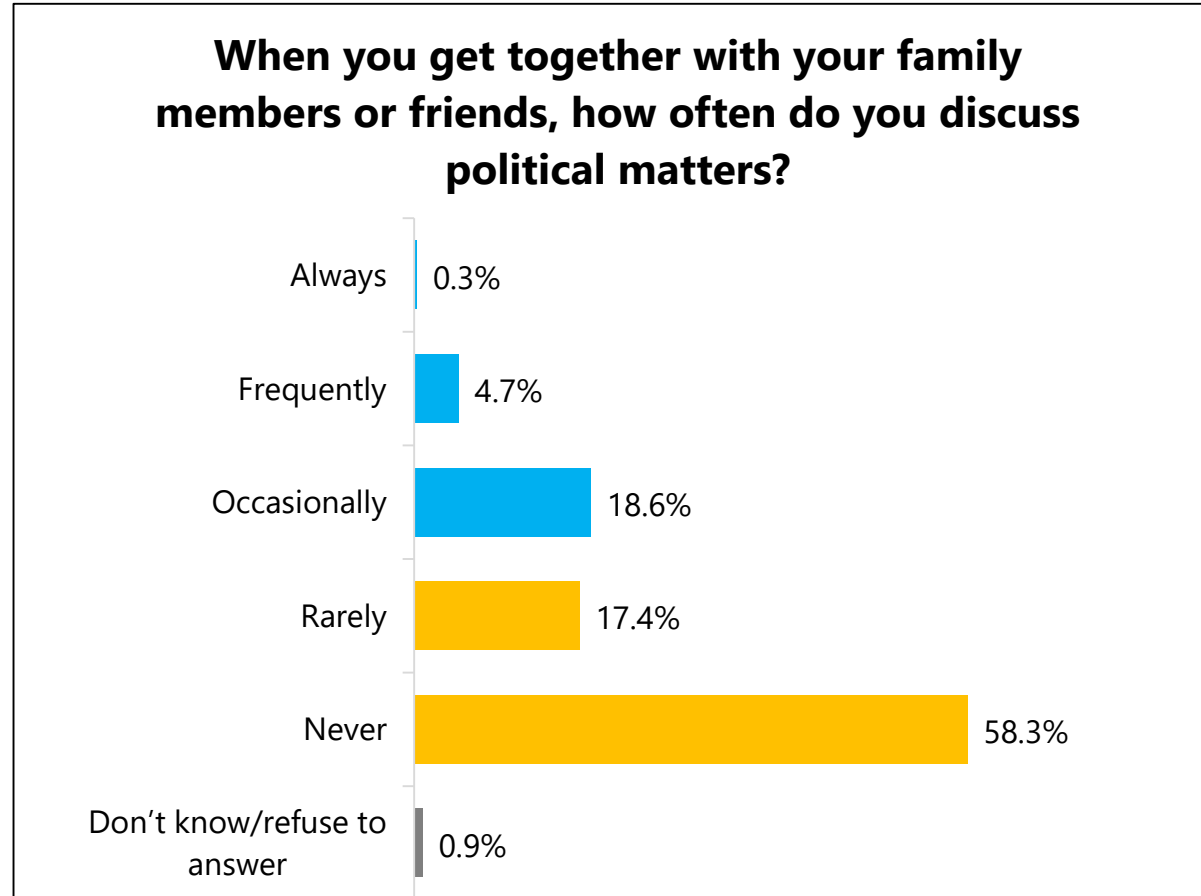


Key takeaway: Youth's interest in government and public affairs was low.

Key takeaway: Poor knowledge about politics was the top reason preventing many youth from taking an interest in politics. A sizable number of youth found politics dangerous.

Section 6

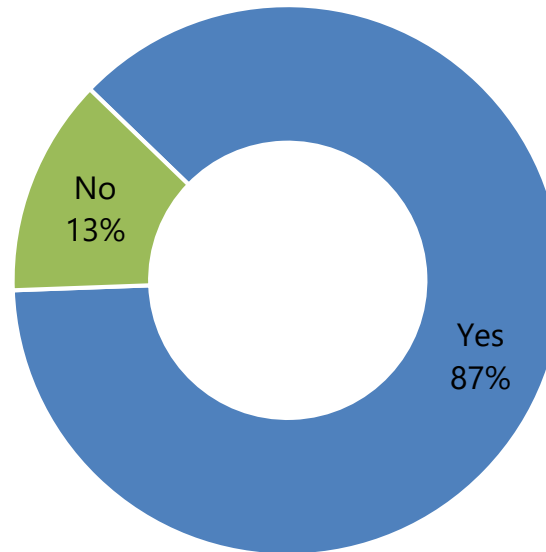
Civic and Political Engagement



Key takeaway: Only a small percentage of youth discussed politics at home or with friends.

Civic and Political Engagement

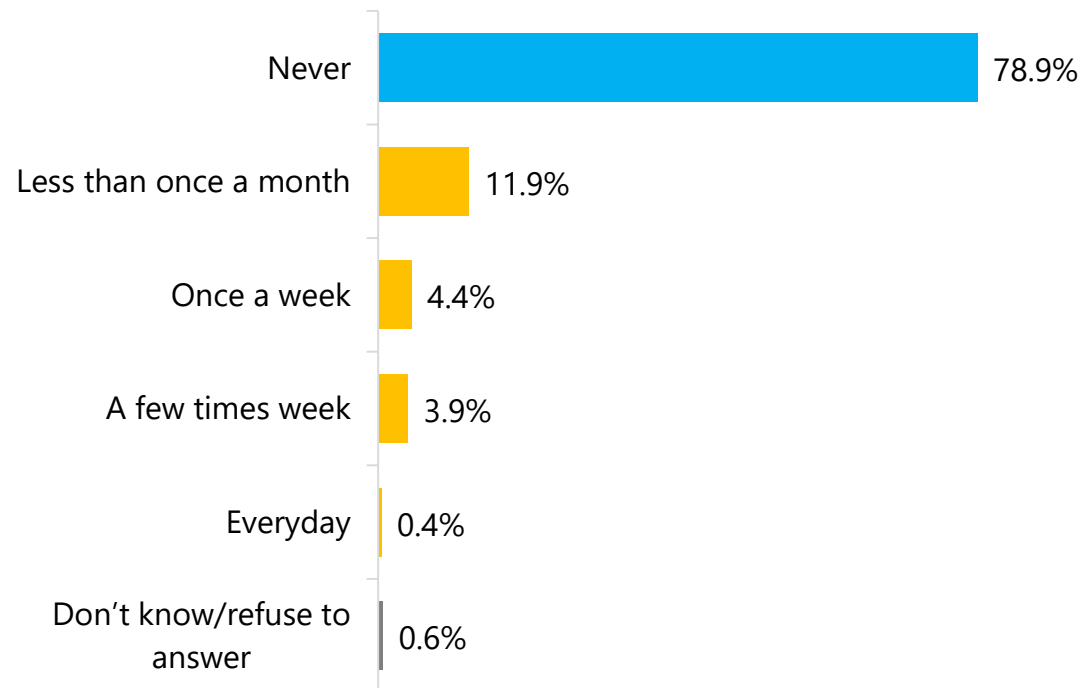
Do you own a social media account?



Key takeaway: The vast majority of youth had a social media account.

Civic and Political Engagement

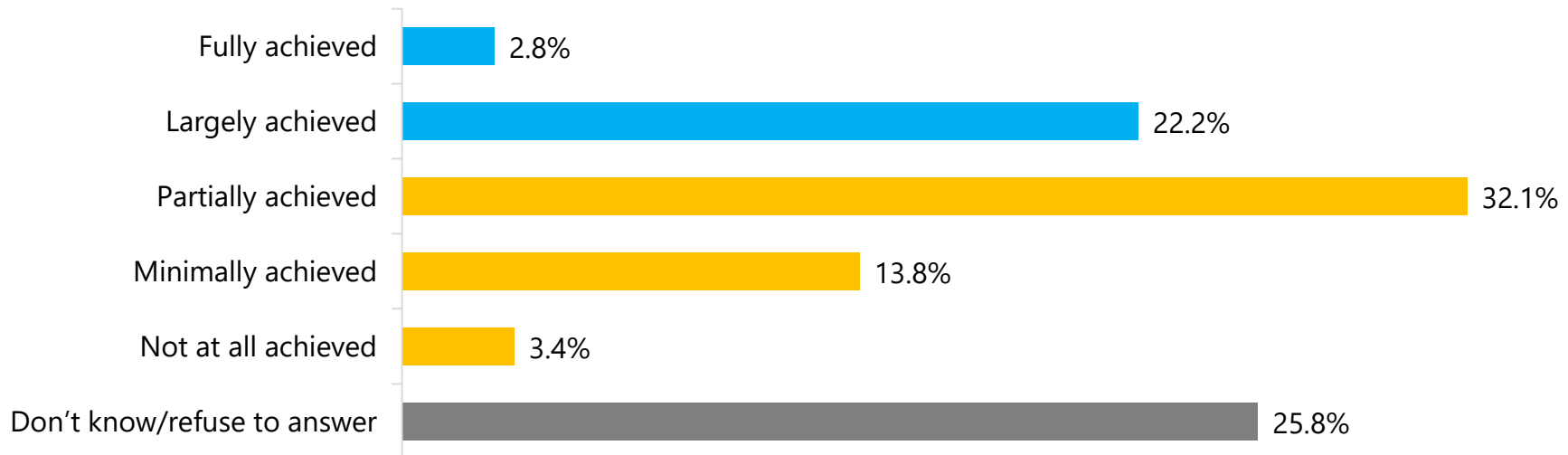
How often do you use social media to do the Post, share, comment or discuss politics and government on social media?



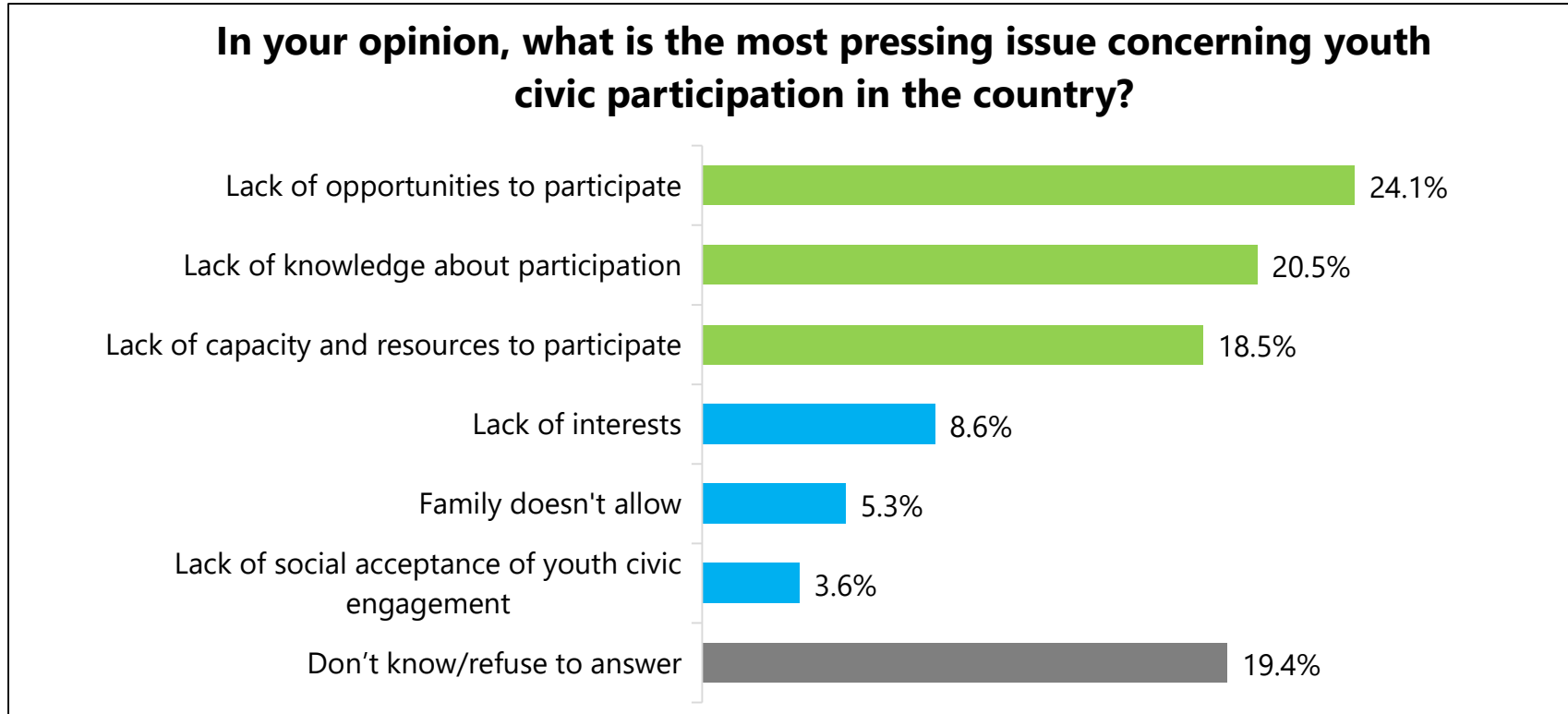
Key takeaway: Despite social media being an indispensable part of youth's everyday lives, only a small share of them used it to follow contents or express their views about politics.

Civic and Political Engagement

One of the key objectives of the National Youth Development Policy is to enable youth to fully participate in the country's social and political development. To what extent do you think this objective has been achieved so far?

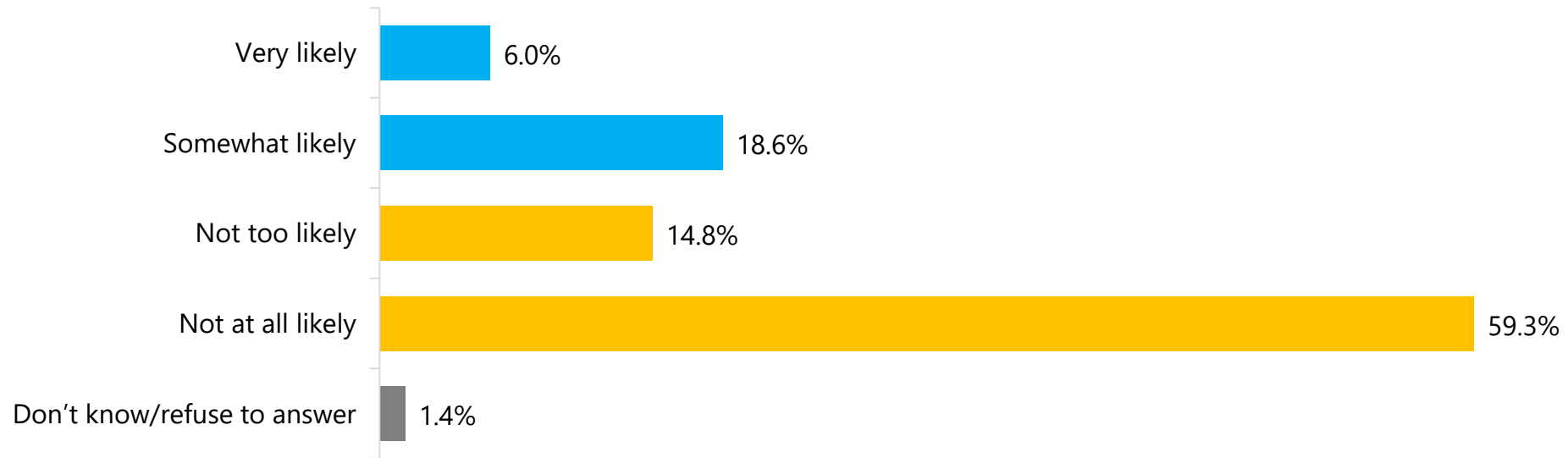


Key takeaway: Many youth felt that the government's efforts to promote youth civic and political engagement remain insufficient.



Key takeaway: When it comes to civic political participation, the top three issues youth identified were, on the supply side, lack of opportunities (including unfavorable political climate and a lack of mechanisms for participation), and, on the demand side, lack of knowledge about participation, and lack of capacity and resources to participate.

If you are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with public services you receive (healthcare, documents, infrastructure, etc.), how likely are you personally to take action on it, such as contact an official or agency or report the issue on your social media

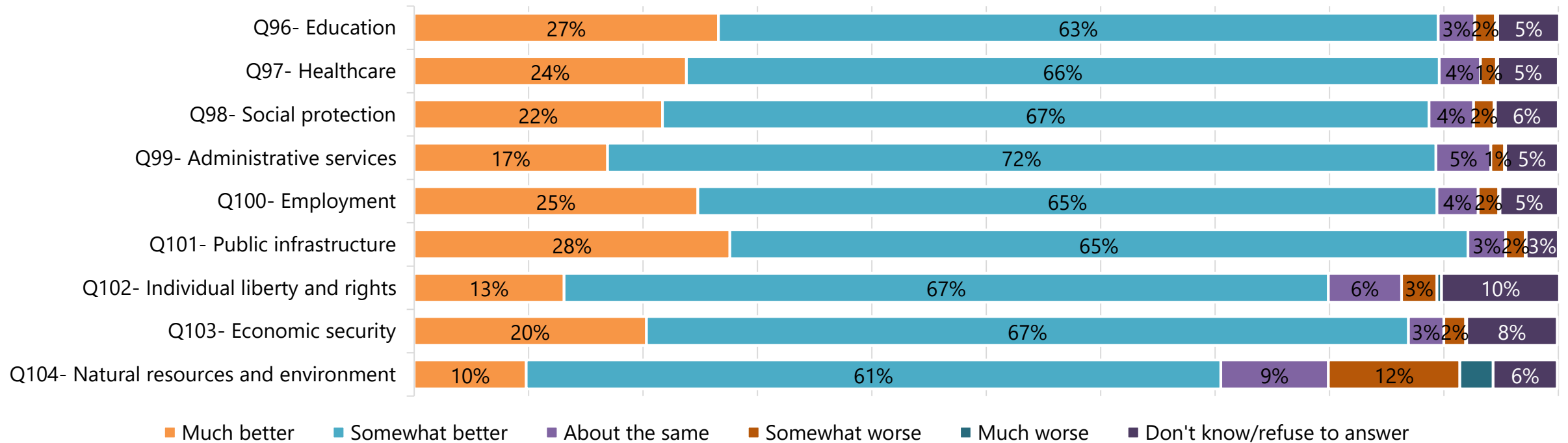


Key takeaway: A substantial majority of youth were not willing to complain about public services.

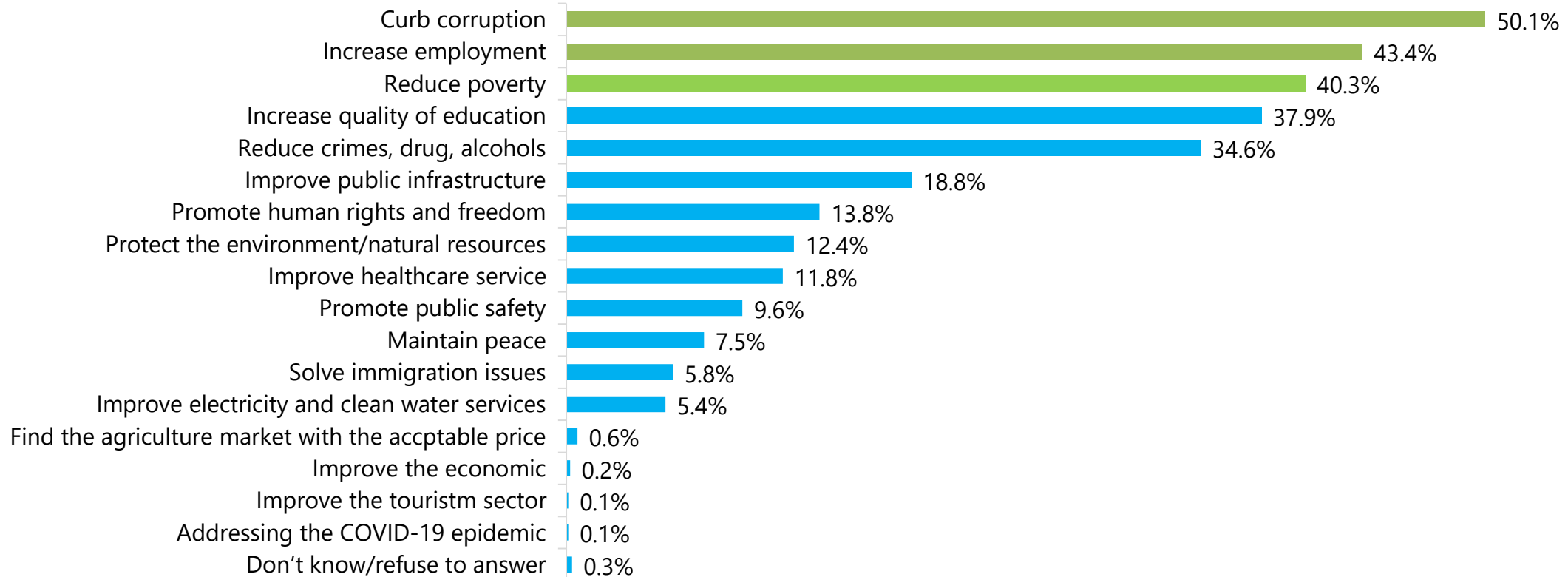
Section 7

Perceptions on government performance

When you think about the future, how do you see the condition of the following aspects of life in the next five years?



Key takeaway: Youth were optimistic that public services will change for the better in the next five years. A sizable proportion of youth were less hopeful about the future when it comes to natural resources and environment protection.

Now, I'd like to ask you about priorities of the government over the next five years?

Key takeaway: Curbing corruption, reducing poverty, and increasing employment topped the Cambodian youth's policy agenda for the next five years.

Recommendations

- Increase youth interest, knowledge and engagement in key public policies
- Develop indicators to track progress in the implementation of the National Policy on Youth Development
- Make higher education and vocation training affordable for youth
- Increase job information for youth

- Promote employment of youth with disabilities
- Adopt non-discrimination and equal treatment charters
- Promote equal access to public sector positions for young people
- Improve the legal, policy and political environments for youths to participate in the civic and political life of the country.
- Enhance efforts to contain corruption and promote good governance

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THANK YOU!

Q&A