

UKRAINE: COVID-19 Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices Assessment

Non-Government Controlled Areas of Donetsk and Luhansk

Round 2: October 2020

INTRODUCTION

Entering its 7th year, the armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine is still active with 3.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance¹. The COVID-19 pandemic has further compounded the ongoing crisis; as of October 27th the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 had surpassed 350,000 in the country². Actors including the World Health Organization (WHO) and oblast administrations expect that this is an under-representation of the situation, with levels of testing roughly equivalent to one confirmed case for every 14 tests completed, substantially higher than the WHO-recommended 5% positive samples^{2,3,4}. The population in Ukraine is particularly vulnerable to the COVID-19 outbreak, due to both an ageing population and high rates of chronic illness such as multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, heart disease, diabetes⁵. Between the Government and Non-Government Controlled Areas (GCA and NGCA) of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, elderly individuals account for almost one third (32%) of people in need – the highest proportion among humanitarian crises worldwide¹.

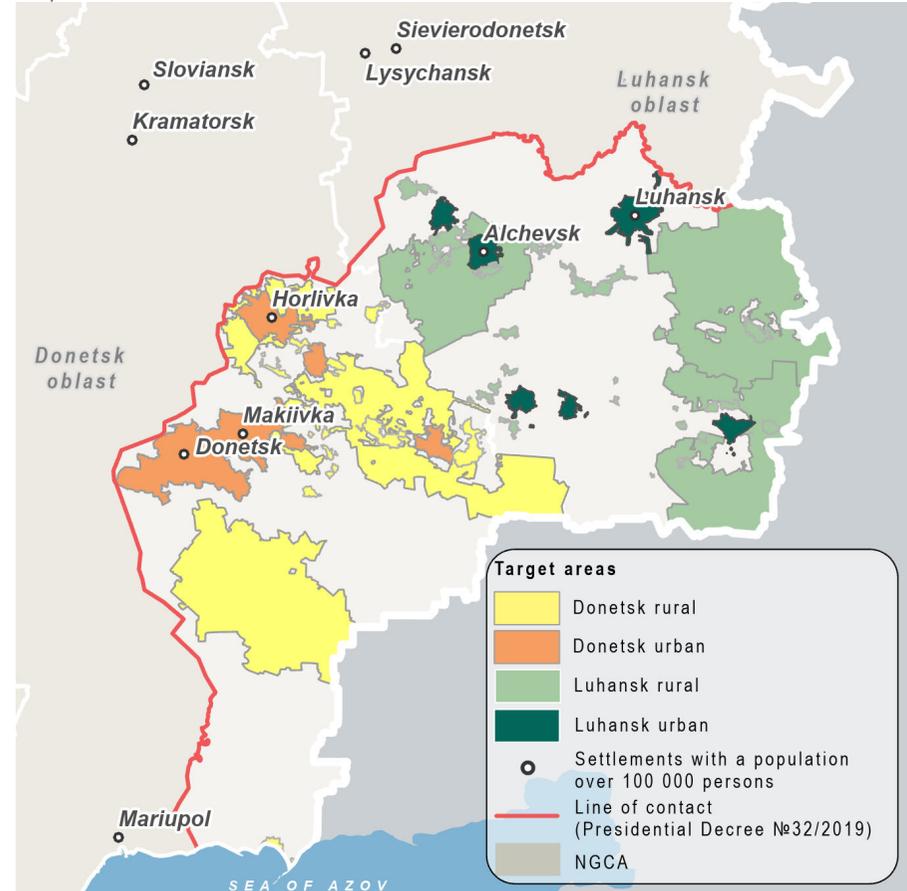
With the fastest-growing domestic number of COVID-19 cases during the month of September², community engagement in infection prevention and control (IPC) practices is essential to stemming the spread of the virus. To inform humanitarian partners responding to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices Assessment (KAPA) was launched to evaluate the degree to which populations have access to and use information on COVID-19 and the recommended actions for reducing the risk of infection and transmission. It also seeks to understand household attitudes towards COVID-19 messaging, uptake of recommended preventative practices, as well as access to essential healthcare services and water and hygiene materials required to observe IPC measures. This second round focused on NGCA residents, and data collection and analysis were completed in partnership with the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (KIIS) between 02 September and 11 October 2020. A total of 824 household surveys were completed via Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI) using stratified simple random sampling of non-comprehensive resident lists. Findings are therefore representative with a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error, but may not be generalisable to all households in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts in NGCA. Settlements for the randomly selected respondents can be seen on the assessment coverage map to the right. The urban / rural split is intended to provide a reference for the distribution of assessed settlements but findings are not available for this distinction. Findings presented in this factsheet may not include answers such as "Don't know" or "Decline to answer" and total percentages may therefore not sum to 100%. The full activity terms of reference can be accessed at this [link](#).

KEY FINDINGS

- Roughly 25% of NGCA respondents either do not consider or do not know if COVID-19 is a contagious disease, or report COVID-19 to be not important at all or a little important only. In parallel, 4 respondents out of 10 report being very or extremely fearful of COVID-19 and 2 out of 10 believe that the likelihood to contract COVID-19 is very or extremely high.
- Hand-washing (68%) and wearing a facemask (63%) were the two most frequently reported personal protective measures adopted by respondents of NGCA, followed by keeping a distance in public and avoiding crowded areas reportedly adopted by less than a third of all respondents⁶.
- As many as 4 respondents out of 10 felt that their communities have had little to no compliance with social distancing measures and **less than one tenth reported feeling that their communities have complied to a great extent**.
- Respondents reported problems with transportation (14%), inability to visit relatives (9%) and the closure of Entry-Exit Checkpoints (EECPs) (6%) as some key COVID-19-related concerns. Other major concerns are economic in nature, with immediate needs (loss of job, of income) increasingly reported as compared to long-term economic perspectives (increase in the value of goods, economic decline)⁶.
- Eight respondents out of 10 report feeling somewhat to extremely confident in the information available to them. However, **two-thirds of respondents have reportedly heard conflicting information on COVID-19**. Respondents report greater levels of trust towards family members (63%) and healthcare workers (54%) compared to other sources of information: national authorities (37%), local authorities (36%), local media (40%), social media (26%).
- Ten per cent (10%) of respondents report problems in accessing healthcare and 5% in accessing mental health services.

- A significant proportion of respondents (84%) reported the absence of issues associated to the availability of hygiene items in their settlements, with sanitizers and masks being the two most frequently reported items that respondents were unable to buy (6%)⁶.
- In the eventuality of a new outbreak, almost 8 in 10 respondents (76%) would either do nothing different or do not know if they would. The 25% remaining would instead stock up on food, medicines (to a greater extent in NGCA) or other personal protective equipment and disinfectant (to a greater extent in GCA for round 1)⁶.

Map 1: Assessed settlements in Donetsk and Luhansk (NGCA)



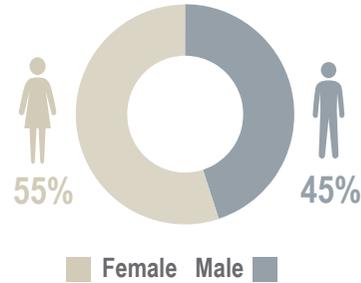
1. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO). Ukraine. 2020.
2. Official information [portal](#) of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.
3. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The COVID-19 crisis in Ukraine. September 2020.
4. World Health Organization (WHO). [Public health criteria](#) to adjust public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19. 2020.
5. Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. [Ukraine](#).

DEMOGRAPHICS

Breakdown of respondents by age:



Breakdown of respondents by gender:

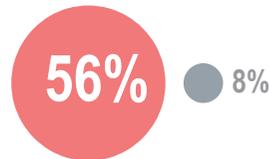


44% of households had at least one member over the age of 60

34% of respondents were internally displaced (both with or without status)

28% of households had children under the age of 15

Average monthly household income reported, as above or below the national average⁷ in Ukrainian hryvnia (UAH):



25% of households that had a member with a disability, reported the following difficulties⁶:

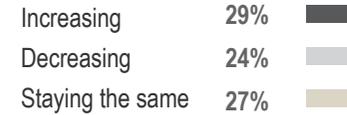
- 17% Seeing even while wearing glasses
- 7% Walking or climbing stairs
- 5% Hearing even if using a hearing aid
- 4% Self-care (washing or dressing)
- 4% Memorisation or concentration
- 2% Using usual language

45% of households that had a member with an underlying health condition, reported the following conditions⁶:

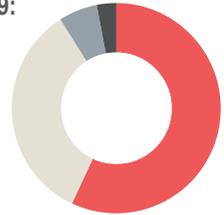
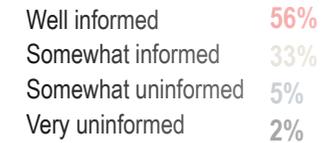
- 22% Hypertension, high blood pressure
- 11% Serious heart condition
- 7% Other ongoing chronic illness
- 6% Diabetes
- 4% Chronic lung disease
- 4% Liver disease
- 4% Oncology, cancer

KNOWLEDGE OF COVID-19

% of respondents reporting trends in Ukraine's COVID-19 prevalence:



% of respondents considering themselves to be knowledgeable about COVID-19:

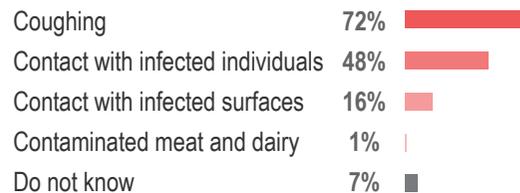


Groups of individuals most at risk of severe COVID-19 infection identified by respondents⁶:

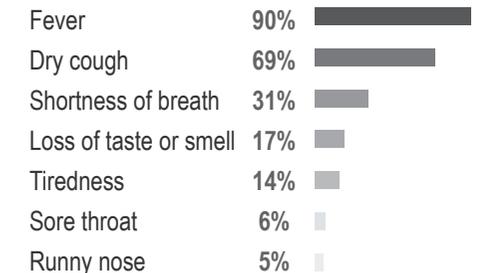
Elderly individuals (65+)	50%
Everyone	21%
Weakened immune systems	13%
Underlying health conditions	12%
Do not know	7%
Children	6%
Healthcare workers	5%



Respondents named the primary modes of COVID-19 transmission⁶:



Respondents named the main symptoms of COVID-19⁶:



% of respondents reporting period of time after being infected with COVID-19 before someone would show symptoms:

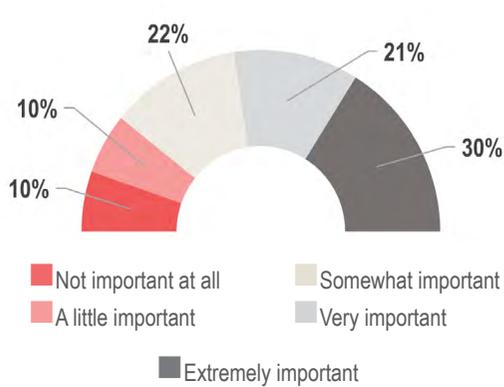


6. Multiple answers were allowed for this question.

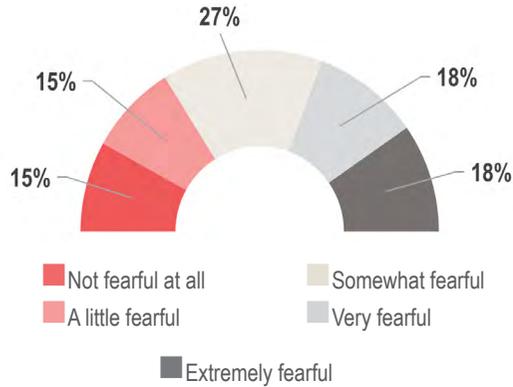
7. National average monthly wage from September 2020, from [State Statistics Service of Ukraine](#).

PERCEPTIONS OF COVID-19

% of respondents reporting the degree to which they consider COVID-19 an important issue:



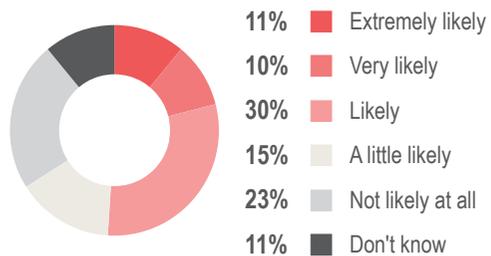
% of respondents reporting how they feel about COVID-19:



Three most commonly reported concerns relating to COVID-19, by % of respondents⁶:

No concerns	37%
Loss of income	17%
Problems with public transport	14%
Loss of job	10%
Cannot visit relatives	9%
Problems obtaining / wearing a mask	8%
Borders / 'Contact Line' closed	6%
Lack of access to education	5%
Inability to access healthcare	5%

% of respondents reporting their perceived likelihood of contracting COVID-19:



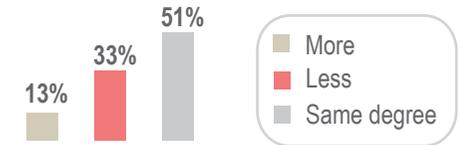
KNOWLEDGE & UPTAKE OF IPC BEHAVIOURS

Personal preventative measures

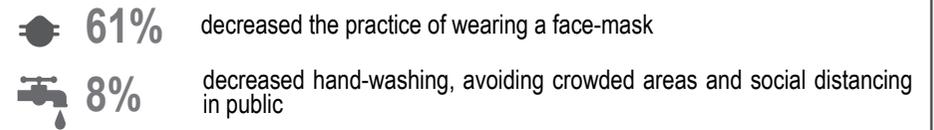
Most commonly cited preventative measures against COVID-19, by proportion of respondents⁶:

Hand-washing	68%
Wearing a facemask	63%
Social distancing in public	32%
Avoiding crowded areas	30%
Avoid touching face	17%
Avoid contact with sick persons	16%
Staying home when sick	13%
Hygienic coughing practices	12%
None	7%

Degree to which respondents practice preventative measures at the time surveyed, when compared with the quarantine period:



Among the 33% of respondents⁸ that reported practicing preventative measures less:



Behaviour change

Respondents estimated the recommended distance to stand from others to avoid COVID-19 infection:

About 1 metre	11%
About 1.5 metres	62%
About 2 metres	13%
More than 2 metres	4%

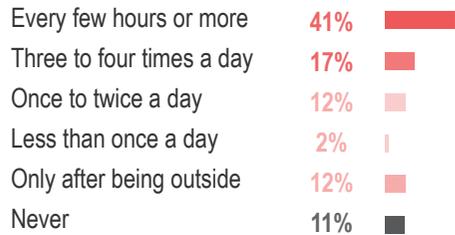
% of respondents reporting how they usually greeted people outside of their household (during 2 weeks prior to data collection)⁶:

Verbally (1.5 metres apart)	31%
Shake hands	27%
Have not met anyone	21%
Verbally (less than 1.5m apart)	19%
Hug	9%

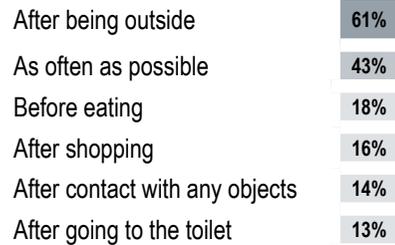
8. This question was asked to a subset of 251 respondents that reported that their level of compliance with preventative measures against COVID-19 had decreased since the quarantine.

Hygiene-related behaviours

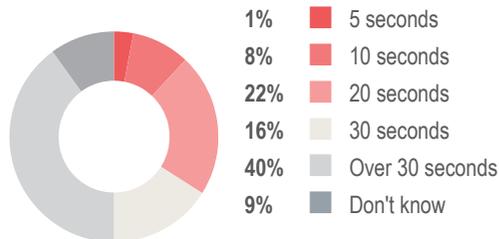
Frequency of daily hand-washing or cleaning with alcohol-based disinfectant among respondents:



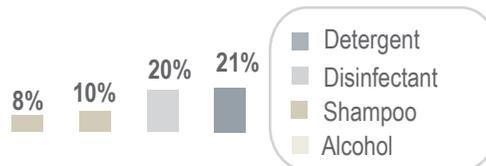
Respondents named times of the day that they should wash their hands⁹:



% of respondents reporting duration of time spent washing hands:



Respondents reported how they would wash their hands if soap was unavailable⁹:



% of respondents that disinfect items in their homes⁶

Cell phones	46%
Keys	21%
TV remote	19%
Wallet	14%
Laptop / tablets	11%
Shopping products	11%
None of the above	43%

% of respondents that disinfect surfaces in their home⁶

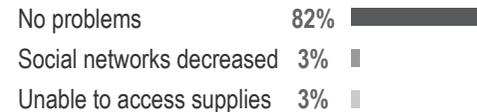
Door handles / knobs	48%
Bathroom	25%
Tables	25%
Kitchen surfaces	24%
Light switches	20%
Cupboard handles	18%
Kitchen appliances	17%
None of the above	36%

Barriers and challenges

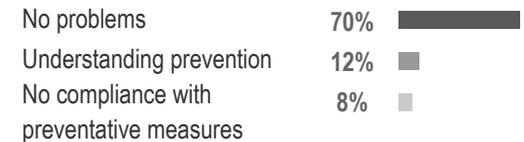


- 8% of respondents reported that hygiene goods were too expensive
- 8% of respondents reported limited or no access to water
- 5% of respondents reported that some hygiene goods were not available
- 2% of respondents reported that hygiene goods are of poor quality

Primary challenges reported for elderly (60+) household members in protecting themselves against COVID-19¹⁰:



Primary challenges reportedly faced by households in protecting children (under 15) against COVID-19¹¹:



Primary challenges reported for households with at least one member with a disability in protecting themselves against COVID-19¹²:



Among households with at least one member with a disability, 3% reported other challenges, including decrease in social networks due to social distancing.

9. Not all answers for this question are presented: a number of alternate answers were identified, corresponding to the approximately 40% missing (including water, soda, or powder).

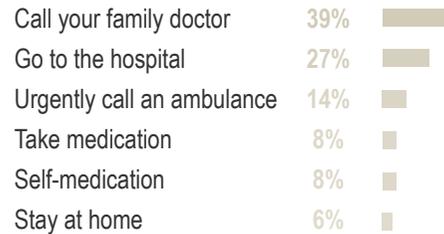
10. This question was asked to a subset of 217 respondents that reported having an elderly member (60+) within their household.

11. This question was asked to a subset of 218 respondents that reported having a household member under the age of 15.

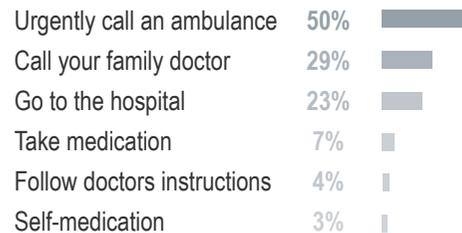
12. This question was asked to a subset of 205 respondents that reported having a household member that was living with a disability.

HEALTH-SEEKING BEHAVIOURS

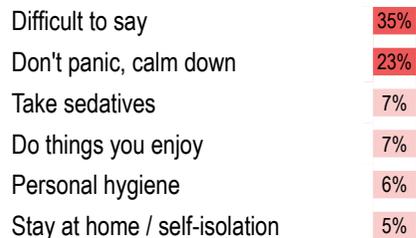
% of respondents reporting actions they would take in the case of mild COVID-19 symptoms^{6,13}:



% of respondents reporting actions they would take in the case of severe COVID-19 symptoms^{6,14}:



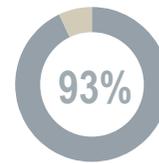
Respondents named activities to reduce stress, anxiety and depression during the COVID-19 outbreak⁶:



% of households with elderly members reporting healthcare services elderly members were unable to access^{6,15}



COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH MESSAGING

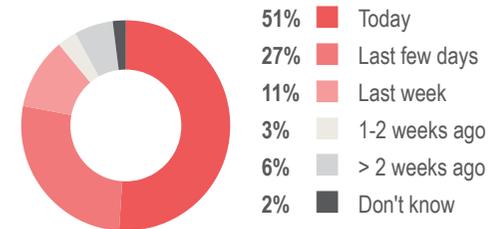


93% of respondents reported that they had seen or heard public health advertisements with messages on recommended COVID-19 preventative practices, since the beginning of the outbreak

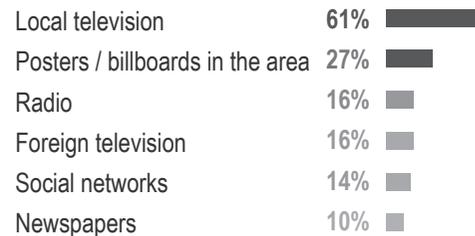


56% of respondents reported that they had not seen or heard any information materials concerning mental health and well-being during the COVID-19 outbreak

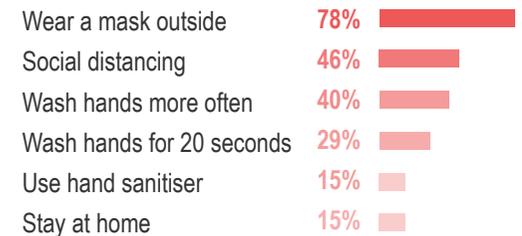
% of respondents reporting when they saw or heard COVID-19 related public health announcements:



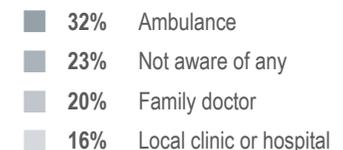
Respondents recalled where they had seen or heard COVID-19 related public health announcements⁶:



Respondents recalled three things that they remembered about these public health messages⁶:



% of respondents reporting service providers or hotlines to contact in case of concerns relating to COVID-19⁶:



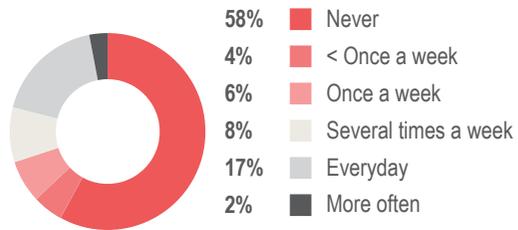
13. Mild COVID-19 symptoms were described as a dry cough, mild fever and tiredness.

14. Severe COVID-19 symptoms were described as a high temperature that did not subside, and/or difficulty breathing.

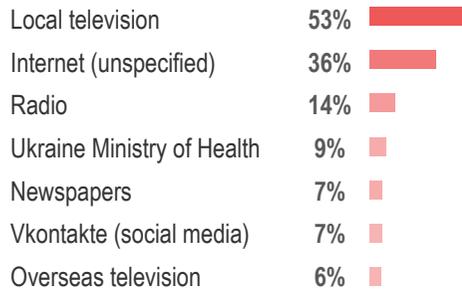
15. This question was asked to a subset of 217 respondents that reported having an elderly member (60+) within their household.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

% of respondents recalling how often they sought out information on COVID-19 in the two weeks prior to data collection:

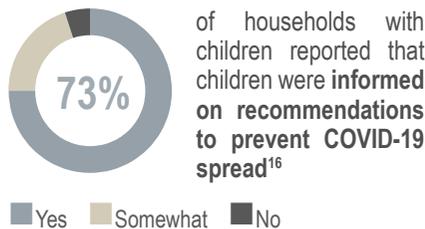
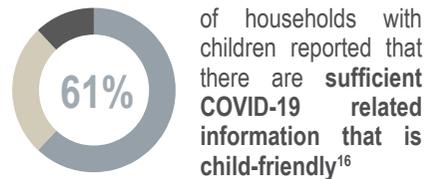


% of respondents reporting their preferred ways of accessing information on the COVID-19 outbreak⁶:



% of respondents reporting types of further information needed on COVID-19 ⁶	
No information needed	53%
What to do in case of infection	23%
How is the virus transmitted	16%
How to protect the most vulnerable	15%
National response measures	8%

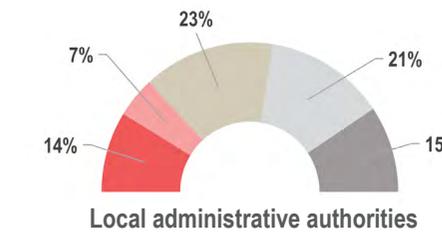
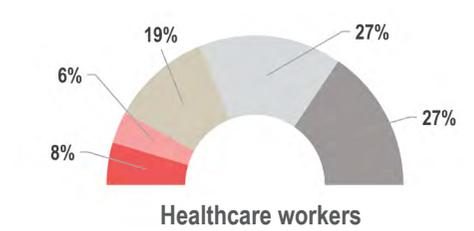
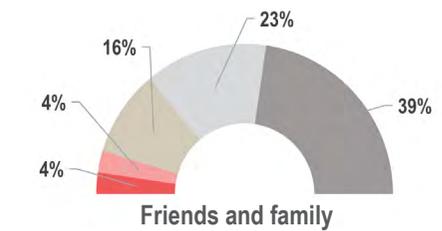
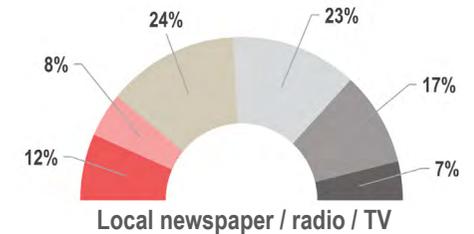
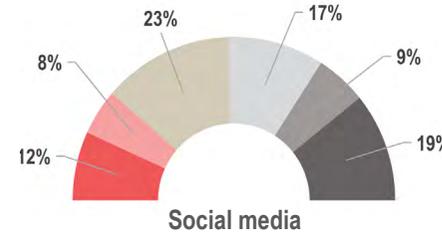
% of households reporting problems that they had in accessing information ⁶	
Household does not use media	26%
Information not or infrequently available	22%
Difficult to say	19%
Information written in a confusing way	15%
Did not know where to find information	8%
Household has no access to information	4%



84%

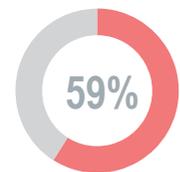
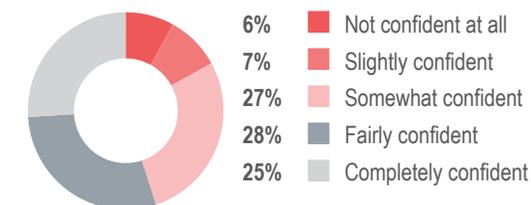
of households reported that COVID-19 related information is easy to understand and available in accessible formats that all household members can understand

Respondents rated the degree of trustworthiness of the following sources of information on COVID-19:



■ Not trustworthy at all ■ Mostly trustworthy
■ A little trustworthy ■ Completely trustworthy
■ Somewhat trustworthy ■ Do not use source

% of respondents reporting how confident they feel in the reliability of information available:



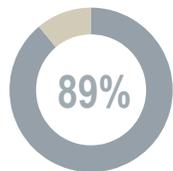
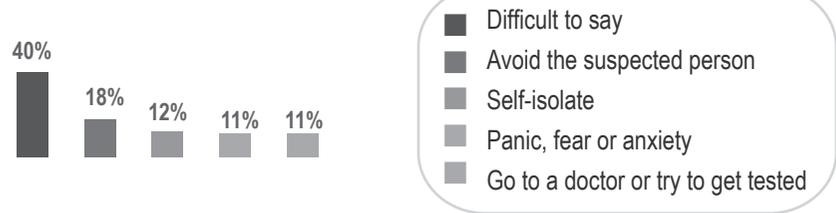
16. This question was asked to a subset of 218 respondents that reported having a household member under the age of 15.

SOCIAL DYNAMICS & COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Respondents reported the extent to which they felt their community has complied with social distancing measures:



Respondents reported on perceived neighbourhood reaction to a suspected COVID-19 case in their area⁶:



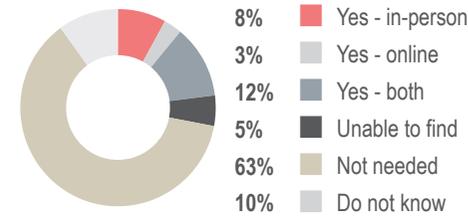
of respondents reported that they were **not aware of any instances of discrimination against any particular groups** as a result of COVID-19

% of respondents reporting on the existence of any community-led responses to the COVID-19 outbreak in their neighbourhoods⁶:

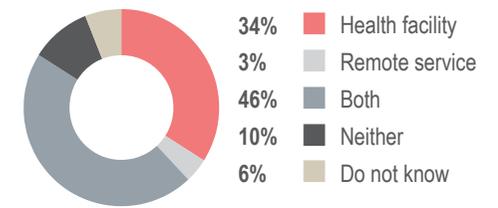
Not aware of any - there are no community responses in my area	51%
Delivering of protective equipment to elderly and vulnerable individuals	34%
Production of personal protective equipment	16%
Mental health and psycho-social support services	6%
Supporting local businesses remotely	4%

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE SERVICES & HYGIENE

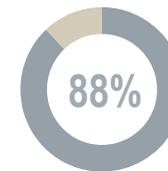
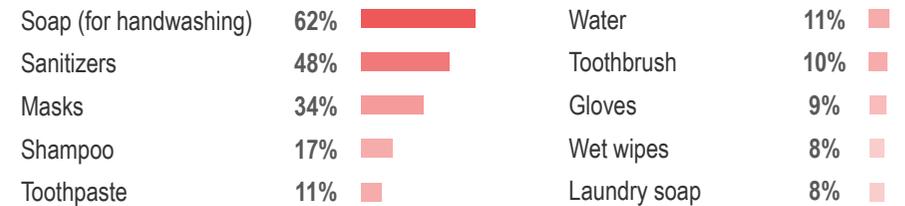
% of respondents reporting whether their household has access to mental health or psycho-social services:



% of respondents reporting the type of healthcare facility their household has access to:



% of respondents reporting the items of hygiene most needed for their household to remain healthy⁶:



of respondents reported that they were **able to find all of their most needed hygiene items within their settlement**

Respondents reported on how the hygiene situation in their household has changed, when compared to the period before the COVID-19 outbreak:

