



WOMEN'S
MICROFINANCE
INITIATIVE

Factbook

E. Lushaya Women's
Group (ELWG)

Kabale, Uganda

August 2011

www.wmionline.org



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Background on WMI

- WMI is a U.S. based non-profit organization that provides micro-credit to women in rural East Africa.
- By the end of 2011, WMI will have funded or guaranteed over 3,500 loans for women in 8 rural hubs across Uganda and Kenya.
- WMI provides borrowers with training in financial literacy, business management, record keeping and financial planning.
- Village level organizations administer the loan programs with grants from WMI. All local operating costs are covered by income from interest collected on the loans.
- Women are organized into solidarity groups of 20 borrowers who cross-guarantee each other. No physical or monetary collateral is required.
- Women use their business profits to pay school fees, buy more food for their families, improve their homes, pay for health care and expand their businesses.
- After 24 months in the WMI loan program, borrowers transition to loans issued by a local commercial bank. Their WMI loan funds are then recycled to provide loans to new borrowers. Once the initial loans are funded the WMI loan program becomes self-sustaining.

Methodology

- Hope Kazahuura, ELWG's Head Coordinator, supervises data collection in Kabale, Uganda.
- WMI administers a borrower survey every 6 months, concurrent with new and follow-up loan applications.
- Local village women who are proficient in English administer the surveys. U.S. based staff analyze the data.
- The data presented in this fact book were collected from October 2010 to April 2011 from 80 borrowers.*



*Not all respondents answered all questions on the forms and applications.

Preliminary Results of Loan Program*

- Borrowers' top spending priorities for their income are: expanding their businesses, paying school fees and paying medical expenses.
- All borrowers reported an improvement in business skills since receiving their loans.
- Borrower's average daily income nearly doubled after they received a loan.
- The majority of borrowers reported being able to save on a weekly basis after receiving a loan; their top reasons for saving are to: expand their businesses; pay for school fees; and, pay for health care.
- Over 50% of borrowers reported that their husbands help them in their businesses by providing labor, offering encouragement, contributing money and assisting with household chores. Almost all borrowers reported that their children help them in their businesses by providing labor and assisting with household chores.
- 20% of borrowers' homes have improved since the loan. These changes include purchasing furniture and adding rooms to the home.
- 80% of borrowers have purchased mosquito nets since receiving their loans.
- After receiving a loan, many borrowers reported having more food for meals and some reported eating meat more often.

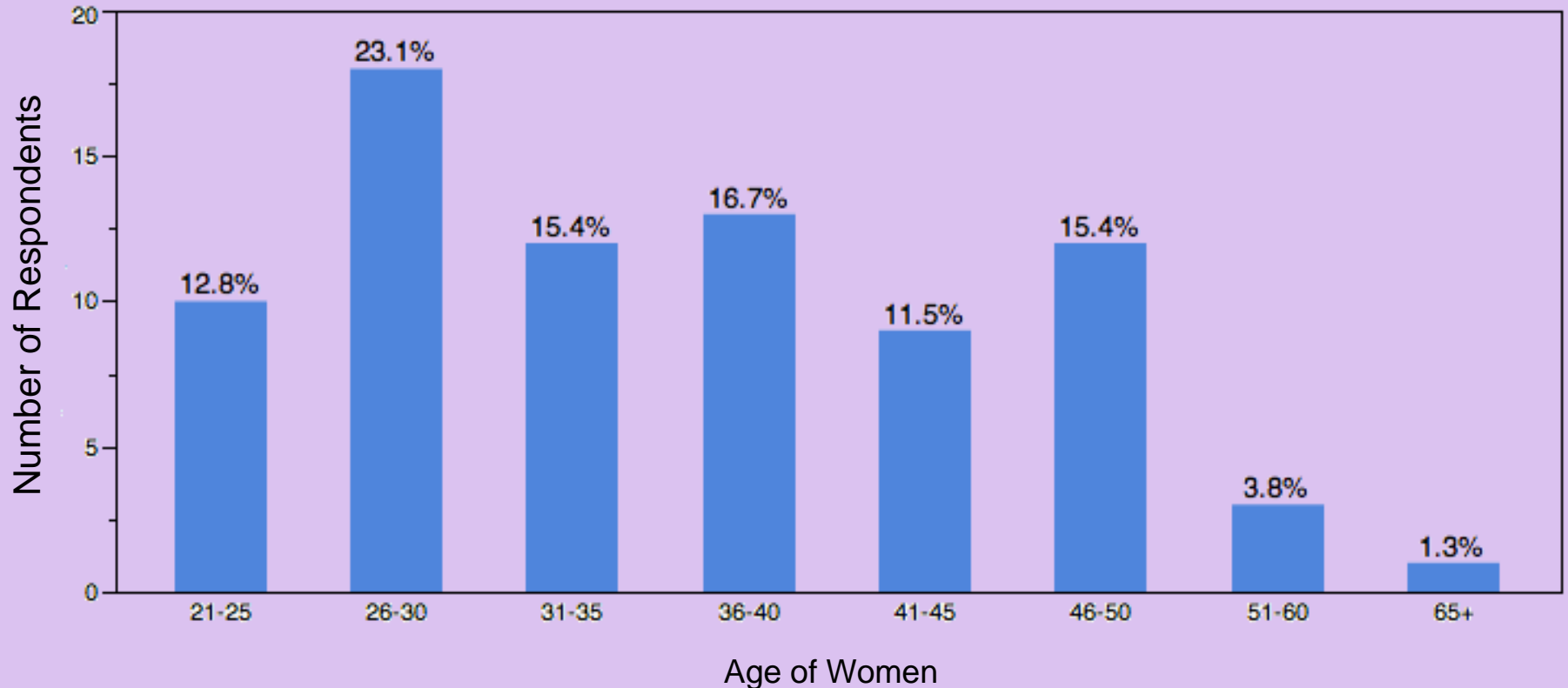
* Follow up data is from April 2011 as reported by the first 20 borrowers in the first ELWG loan group.

I. DEMOGRAPHICS

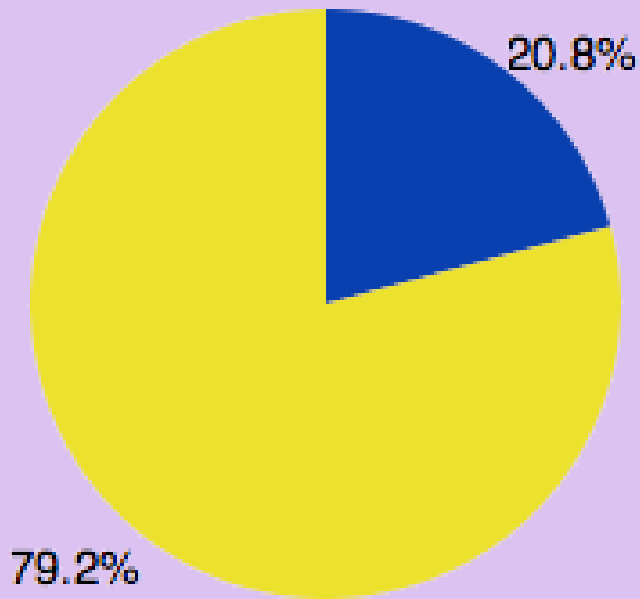
1. Age Distribution
2. Marital Status
3. Number of People in Household
4. Children in Household
5. Orphaned Children in Household
6. Summary



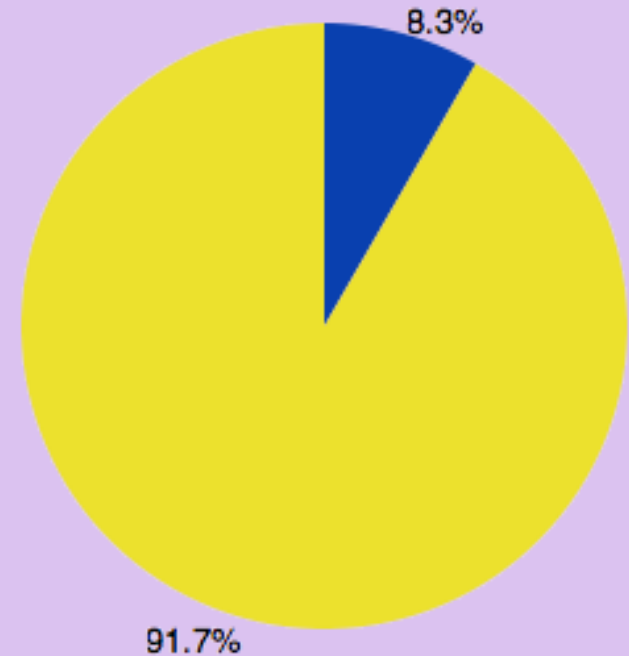
Two-thirds of WMI borrowers are between the ages of 26 and 45.



Nearly 80% of borrowers are married. Over 90% of married borrowers' husbands live in the household.

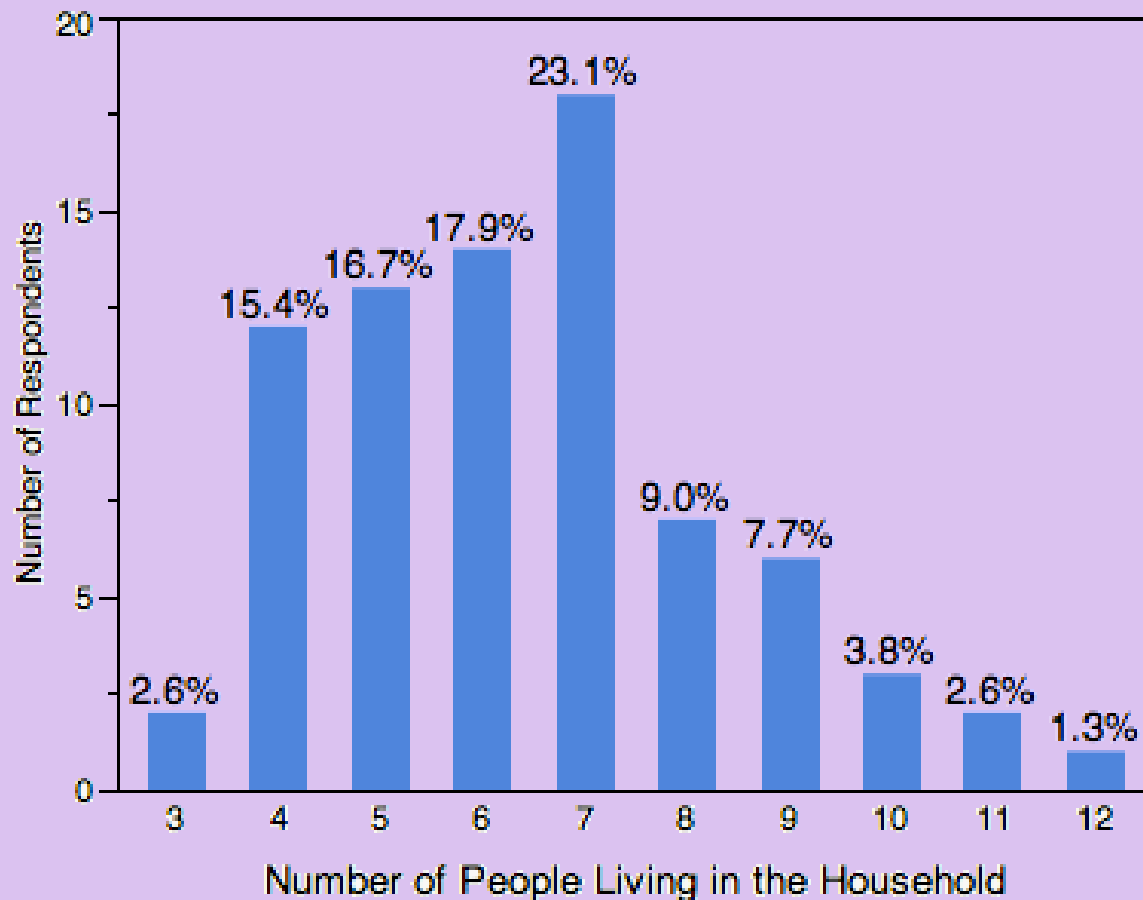


Are you married? ■ No ■ Yes

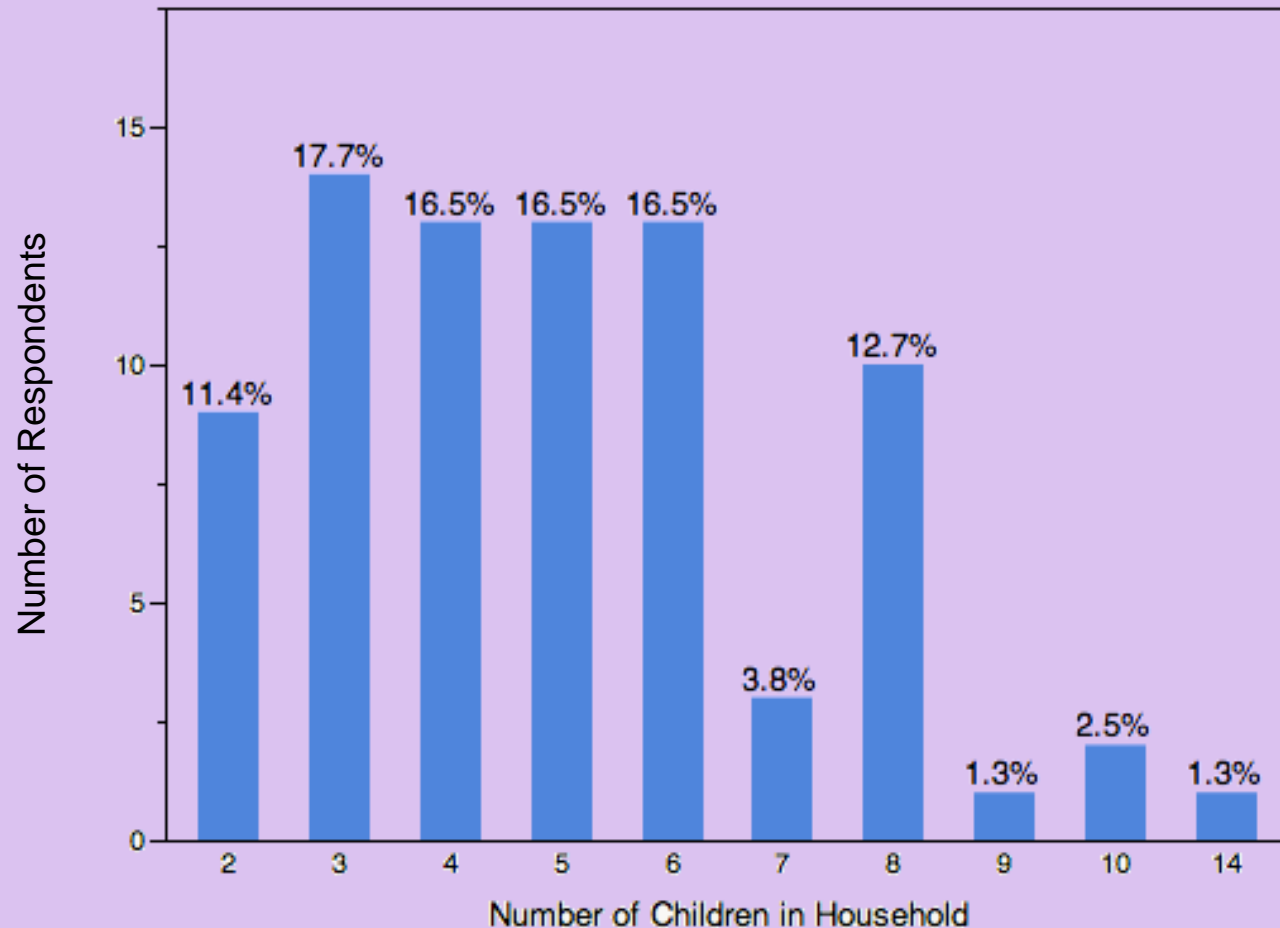


Does your husband live in your household? ■ No ■ Yes

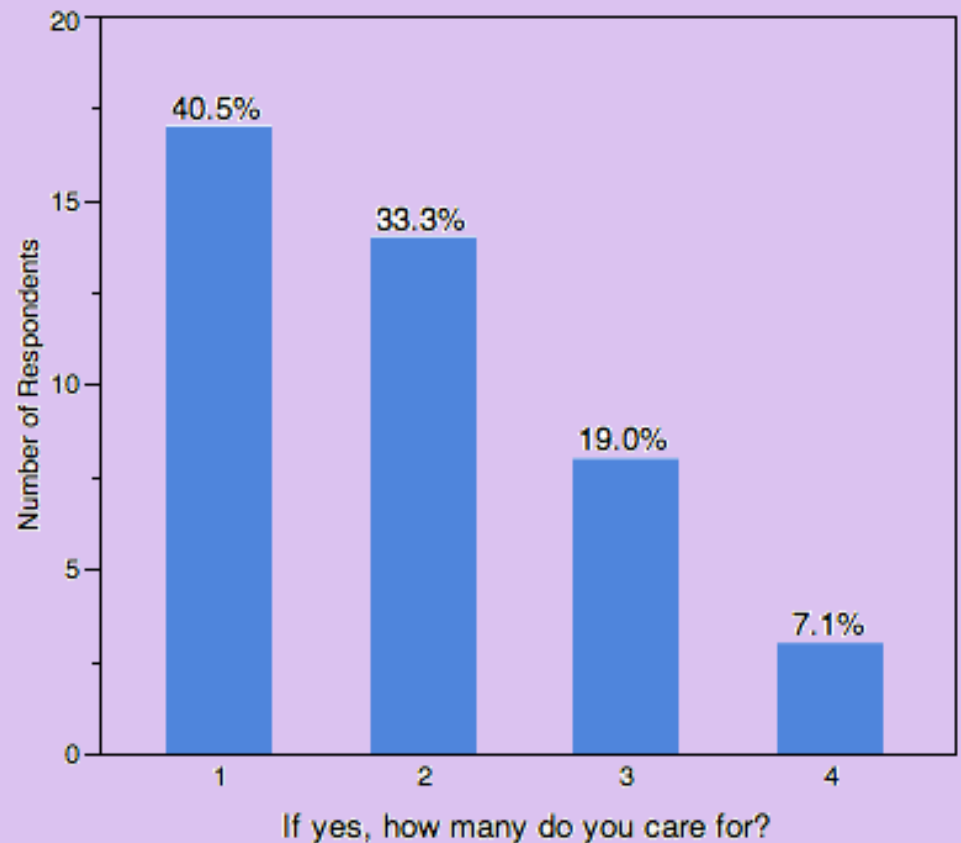
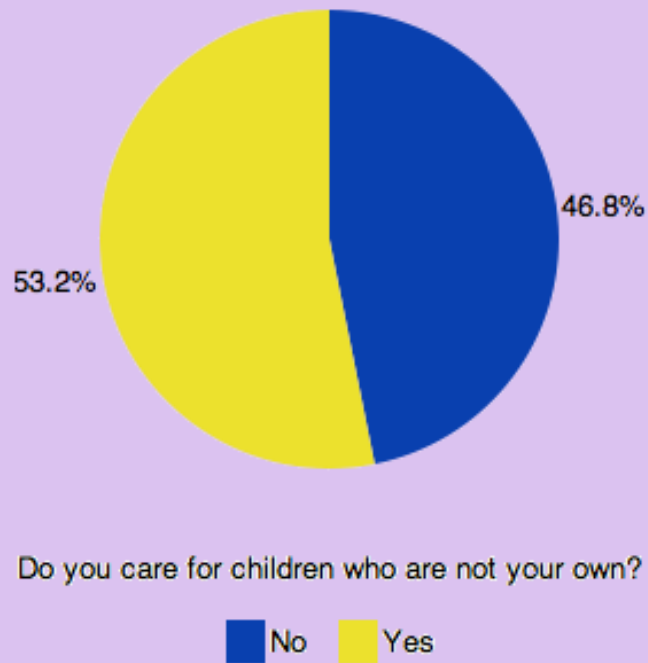
Nearly 50% of borrowers have 7 or more people living in their household.



Nearly 55% of borrowers have 5 or more children in their household.



The majority of borrowers take care of children who are not their own.



DEMOGRAPHICS SUMMARY

- The majority of borrowers are married, live with their husbands, and have very large households.
- With such large households, each business started with a WMI microloan positively impacts many people besides the borrower, including orphans whom many borrowers care for in their homes.

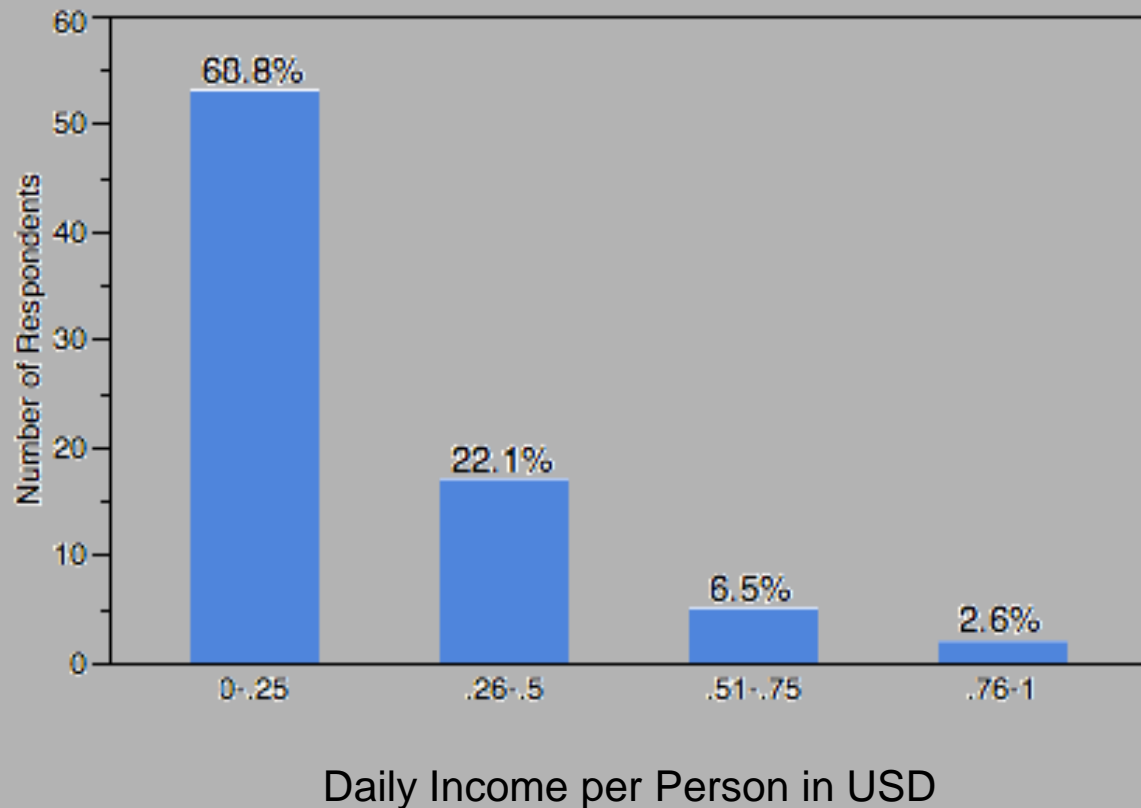


II. STANDARDS OF LIVING

1. Daily Income
2. Savings Practices
3. Type of Home
4. Details of Home
5. Food Eaten Most Often
6. Daily Meals
7. Shoes for Children
8. Ownership: Livestock
9. Ownership: Amenities
10. Cooking Fuel & Light Source
11. Drinking Water
12. Toilet Facility
13. Summary

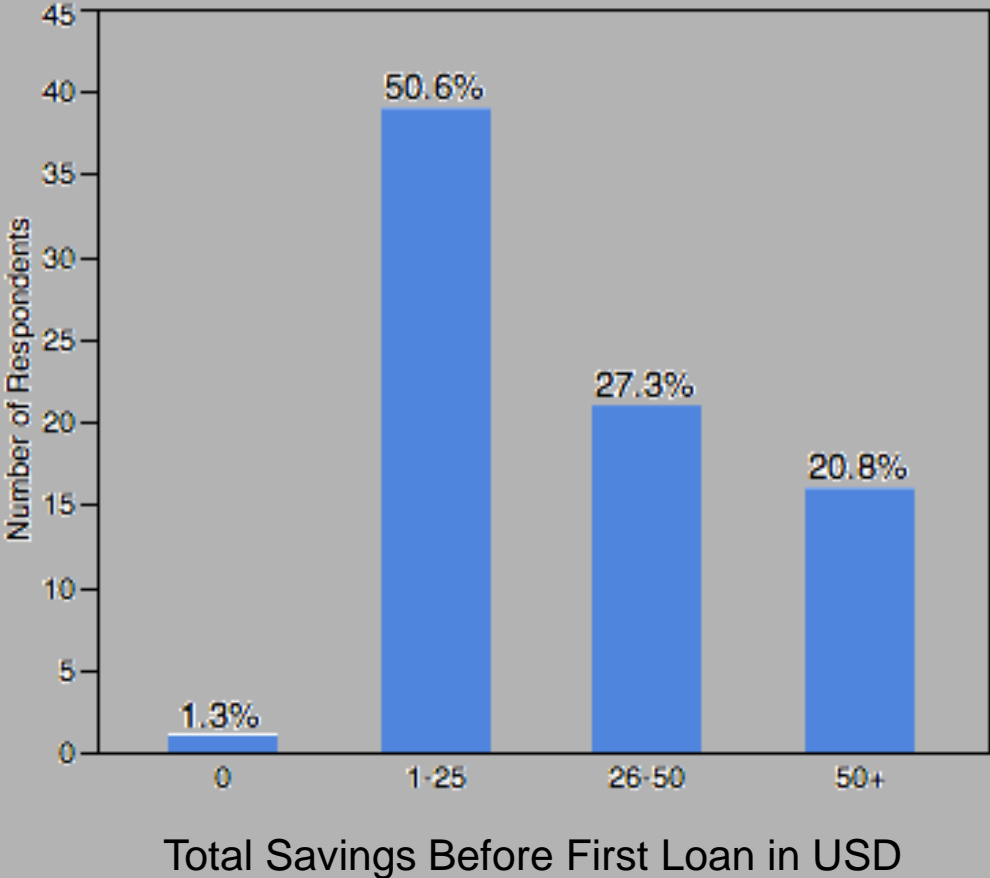
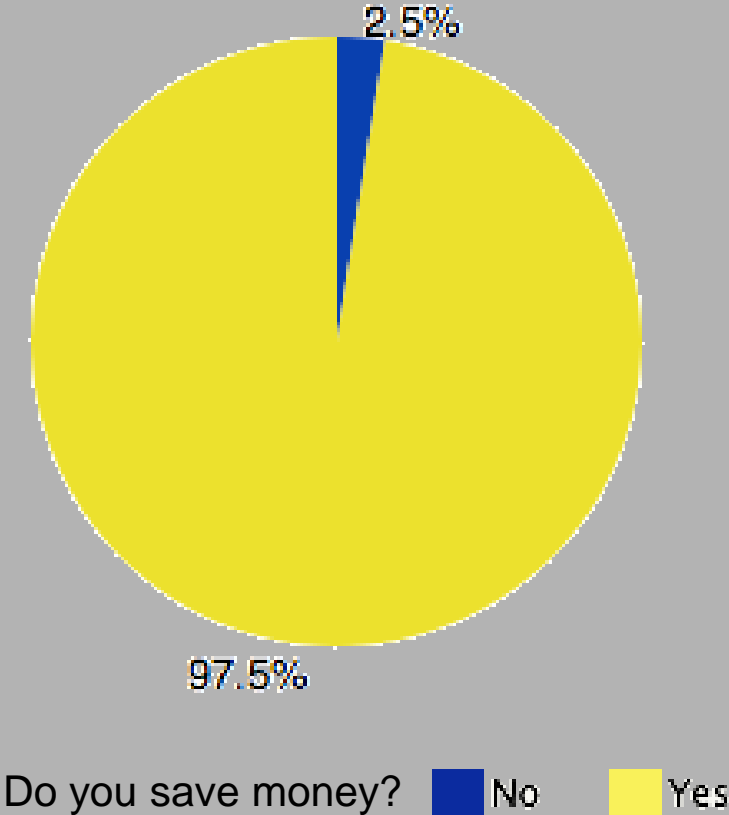


90% of borrowers live on less than 50 cents per day.

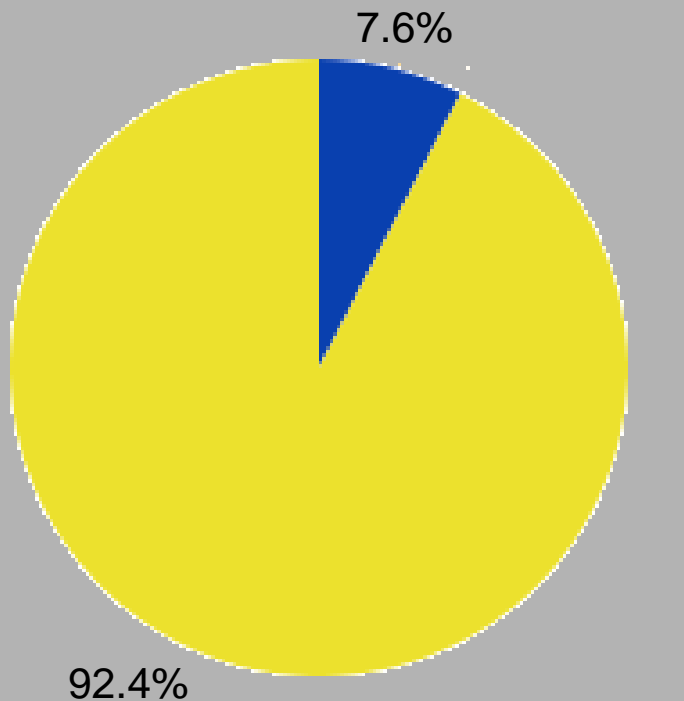


- Borrower's average daily income is 20 cents.

Before the first loan, nearly 100% of borrowers reported saving money, but more than 50% had less than \$25 in total savings.



Over 90% of borrowers own their homes; over 95% of these homes are semi-permanent.



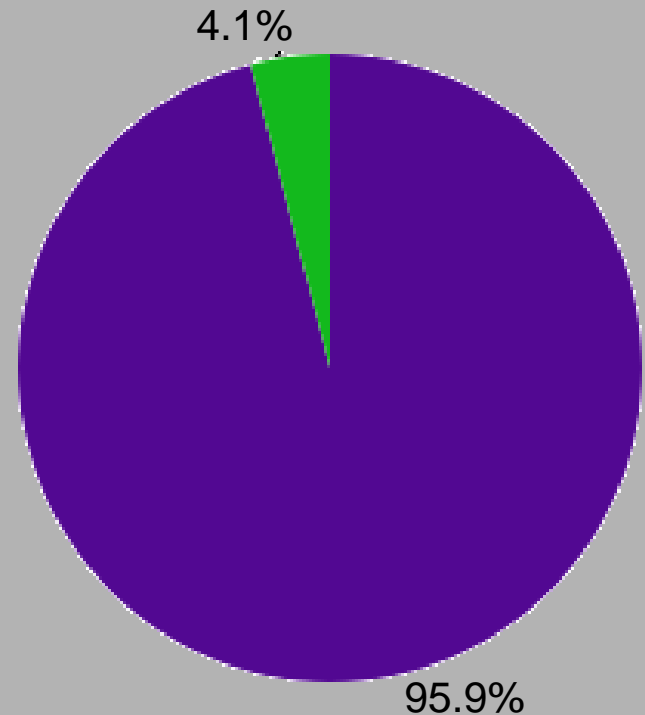
Do you own your house?



No



Yes



Is your home permanent or semi-permanent?

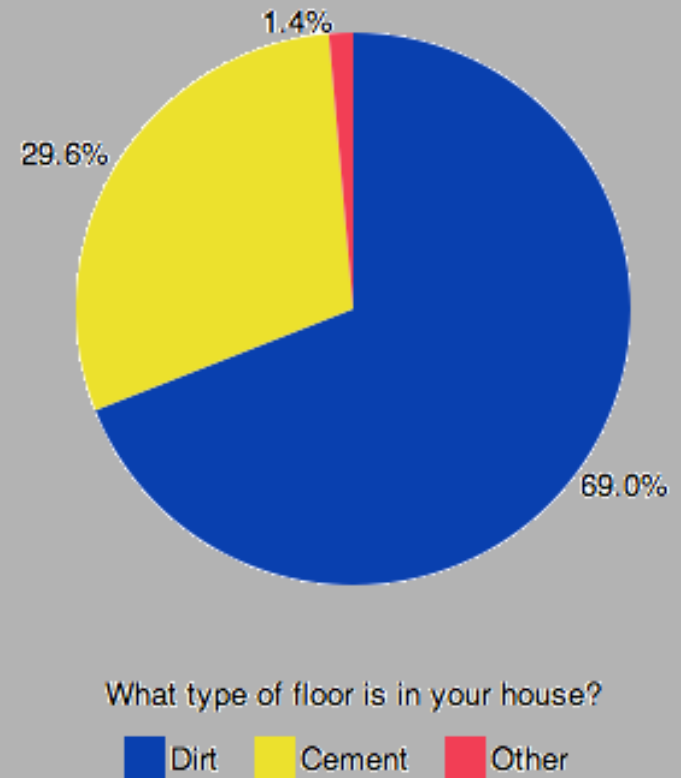
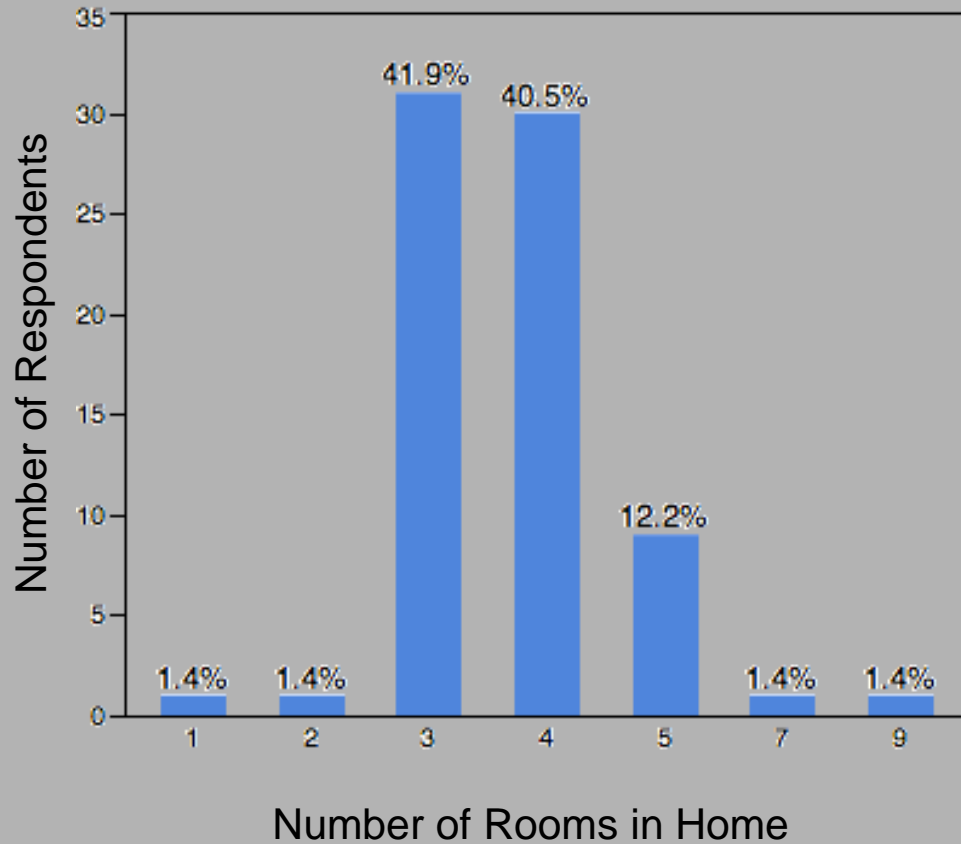


Semi-permanent

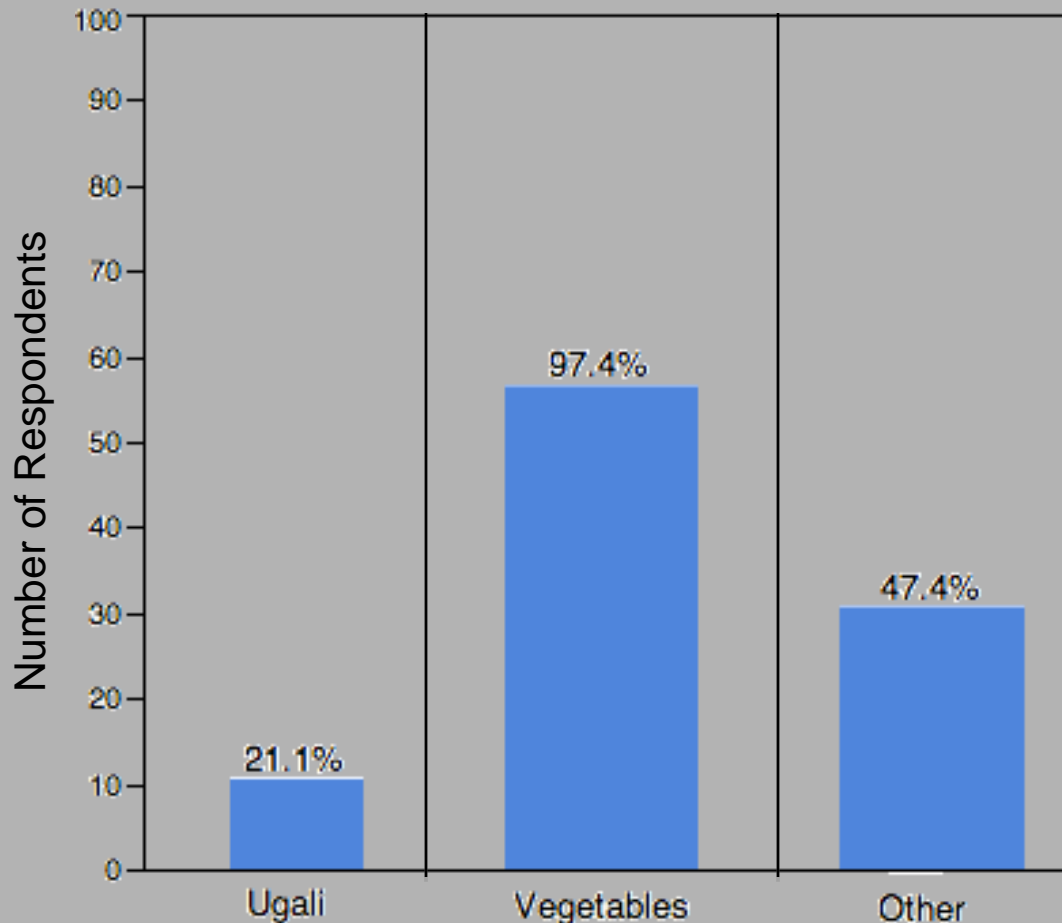


Permanent

85% of borrowers' homes have 4 or fewer rooms and nearly 70% have dirt floors.



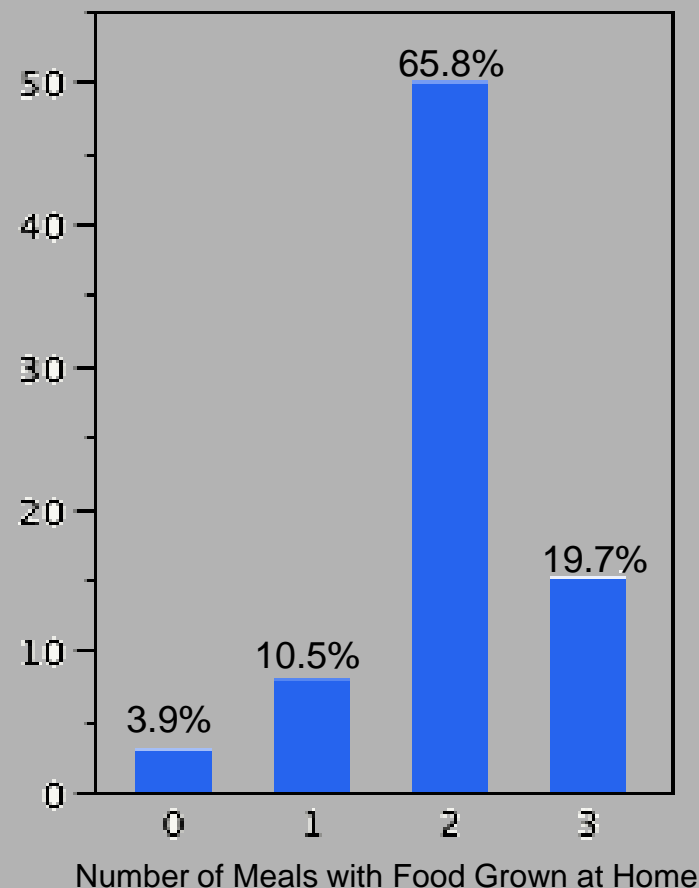
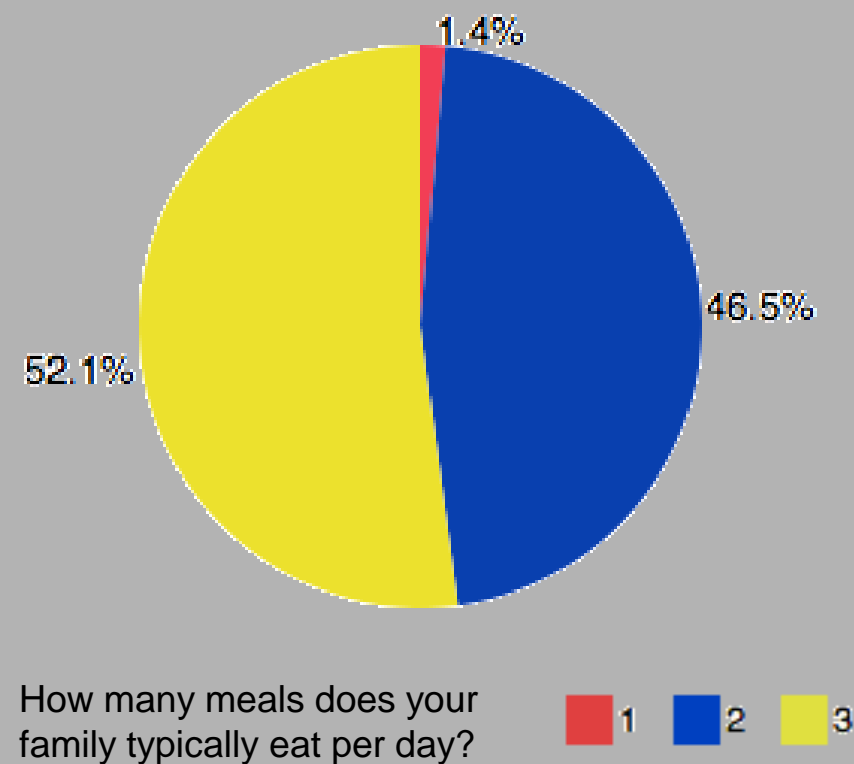
Borrowers report that their diets mainly consist of vegetables.



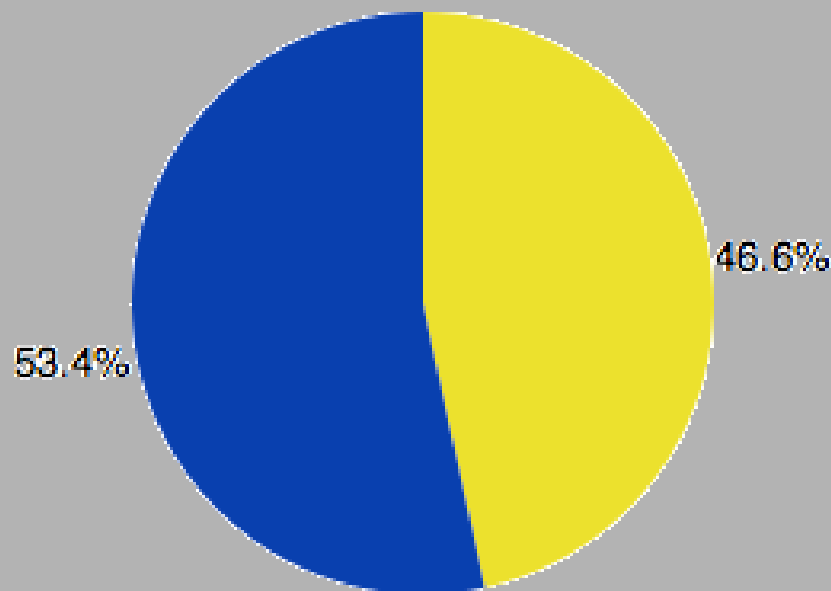
- Other foods include maize, eggs, small silver fish and cassava.

Most common type of food eaten by borrowers

Over 45% of borrowers and their families only eat two meals a day. Most meals include food grown at home.



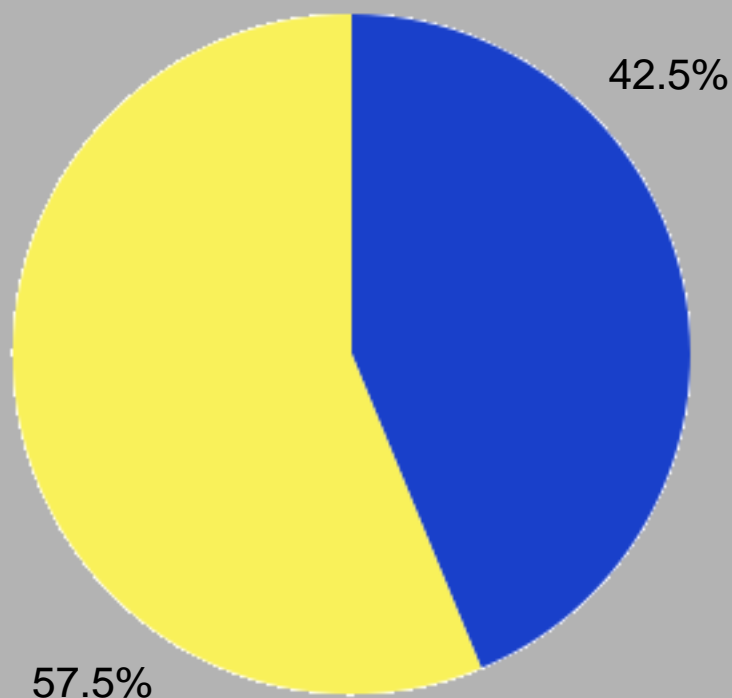
Over 50% of borrower's children **do not** have shoes.



Do all of your children have shoes?

Yes No

Over 50% of borrowers own some type of livestock.



Do you own any livestock?



Yes



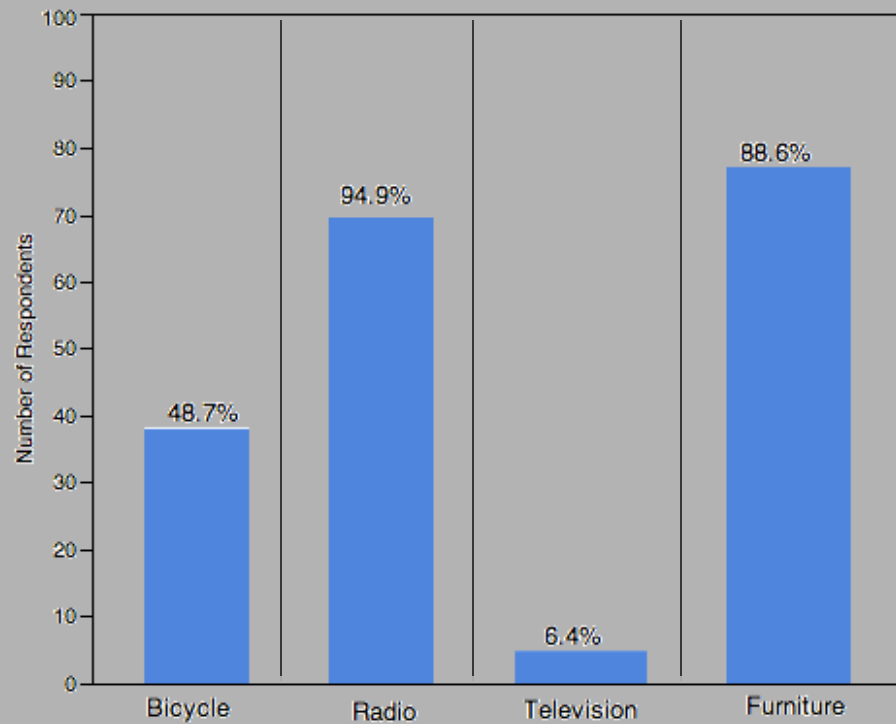
No

Percentage of borrowers who own...*

Chickens	31.3%
Goats	27.5%
Cows	12.5%
Other	11.3%

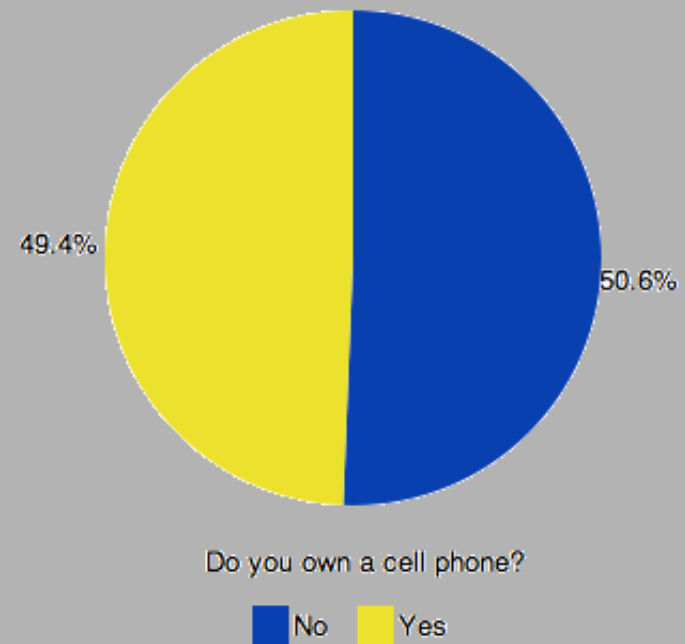
Animals reported in the other category included turkeys and pigs.

*Borrowers could report owning more than one species of livestock.

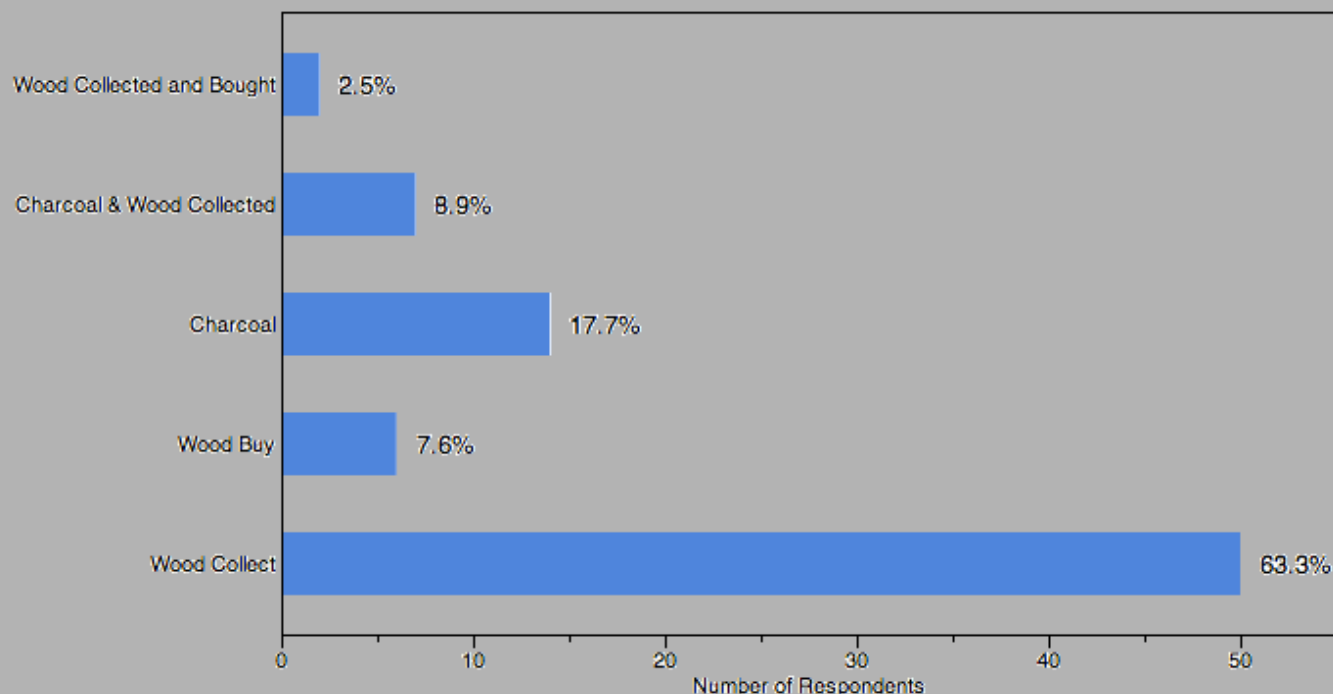


...nearly 50% of borrowers have a cell phone, demonstrating the importance of communication.

While less than 10% of people own a television...



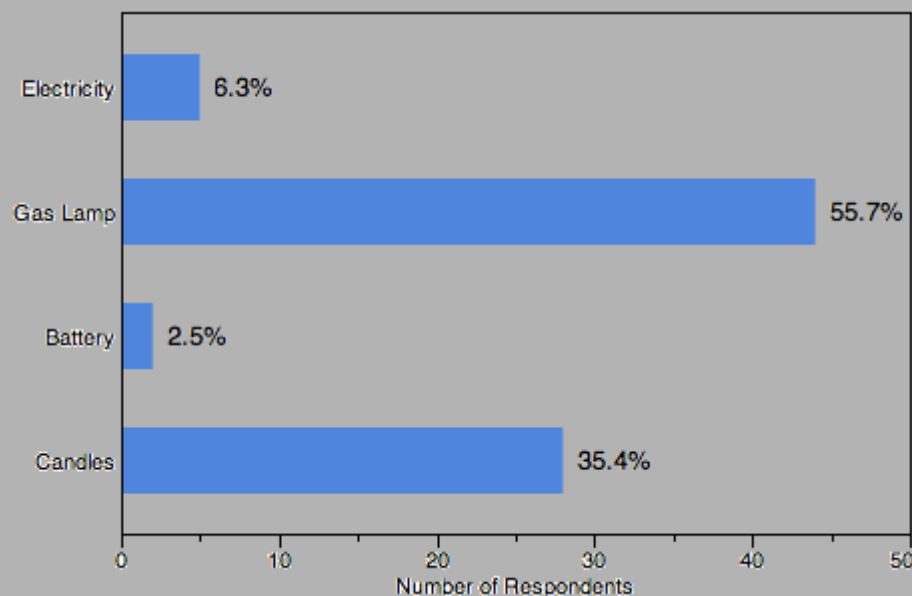
Type of Cooking Fuel Used

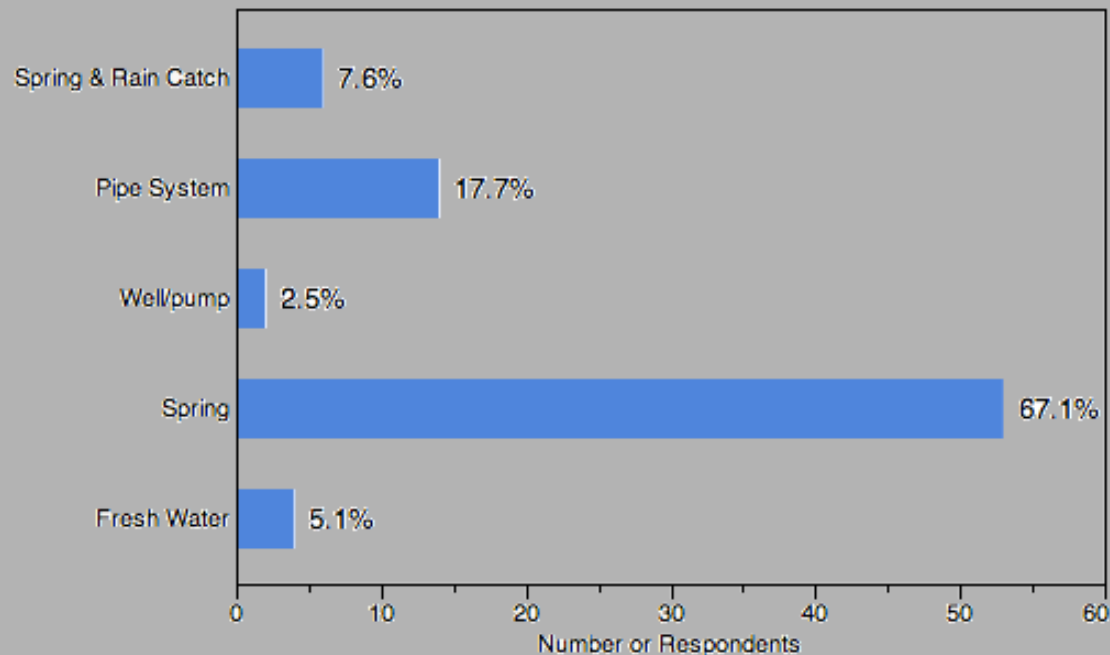


Over 60% of borrowers collect their own wood for cooking fuel.

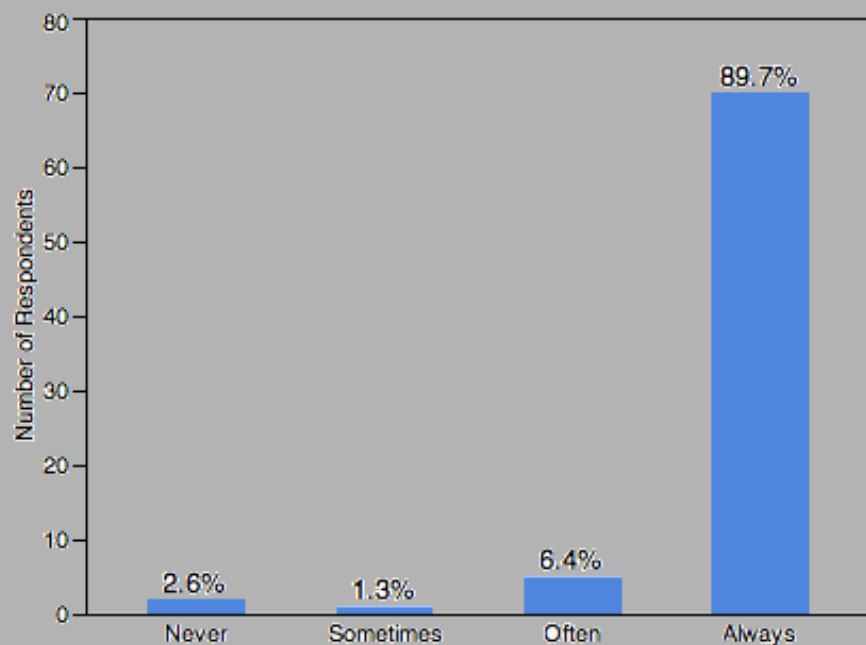
Less than 10% of borrowers use electricity as their source of light.

Lighting Used in Household





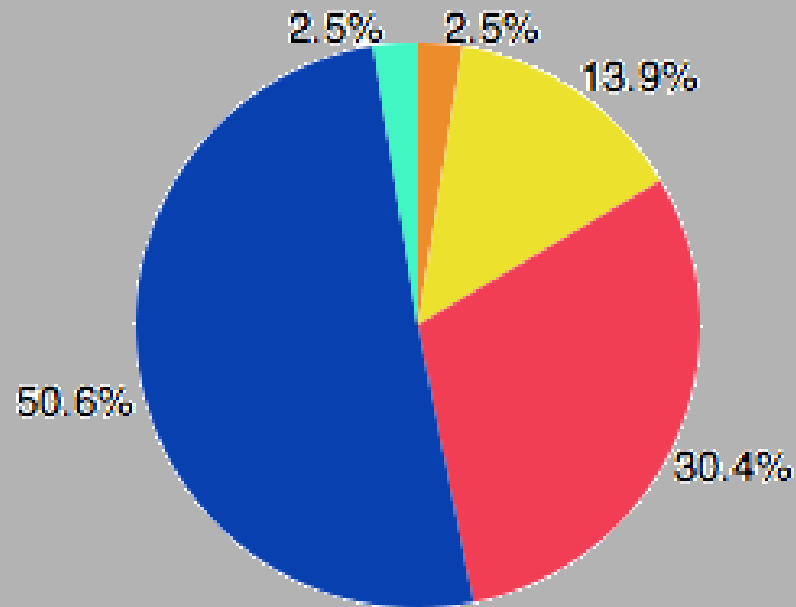
Over two-thirds of borrowers get their drinking water from a spring.



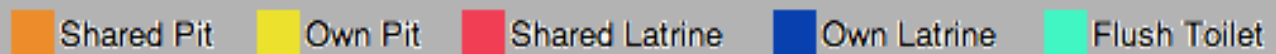
Almost 90% of borrowers always boil their drinking water.

How often do you boil your water?

Only 2.5% of borrowers have a flush toilet in their households.



Which type of toilet facility to you use?



STANDARD OF LIVING SUMMARY

- Over 95% of borrowers' homes are semi-permanent, meaning the walls and floors are made of mud. Space is cramped - the majority of borrowers' homes have 4 or fewer rooms.
- The majority of borrowers live on less than 50 cents per day and they lack many household amenities.
- The most common source of cooking fuel, firewood, is inefficient and produces a lot of smoke. Regular exposure to large quantities of smoke is detrimental to borrowers' health.
- Communication is obviously valuable to borrowers, as nearly 50% own a cell phone.
- Many borrowers own livestock and farming tools both of which are important assets to people who regularly eat food grown or raised at home.

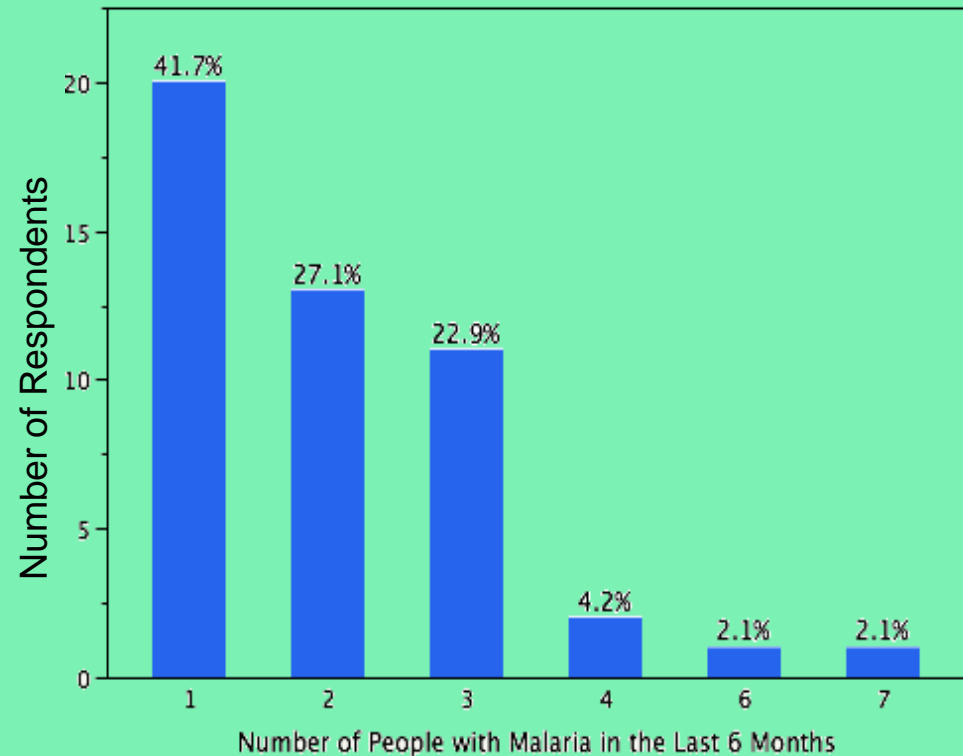
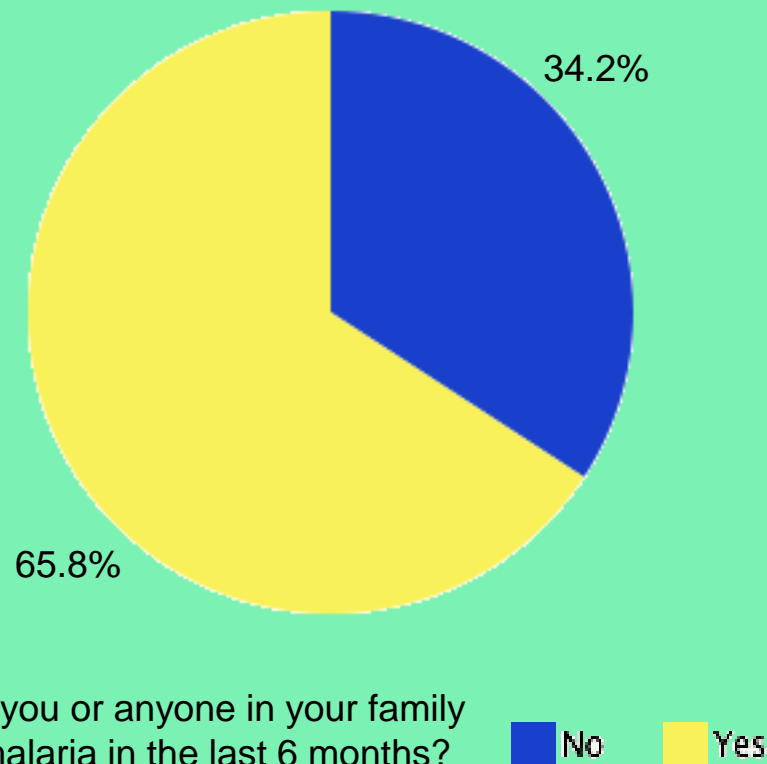


III. FAMILY HEALTH AND WELFARE

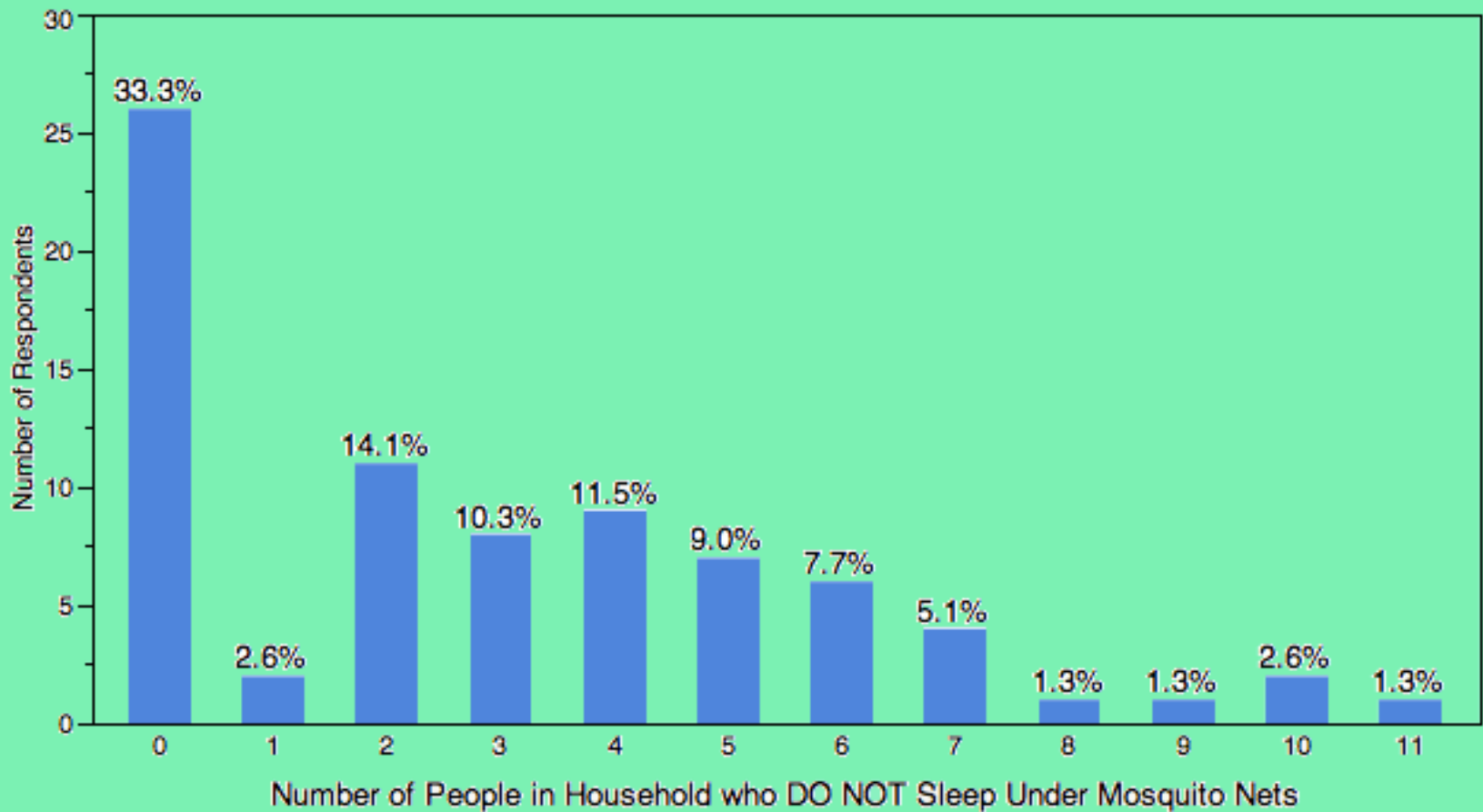
1. Malaria in Household
2. Mosquito Nets
3. HIV/AIDS Testing
4. Difficulty in Paying Medical Bills
5. Involvement in Community
6. School Attendance
7. Out-of-School Activities for Children
8. Summary



Over 65% of borrowers reported at least one case of malaria in their family in the last 6 months.



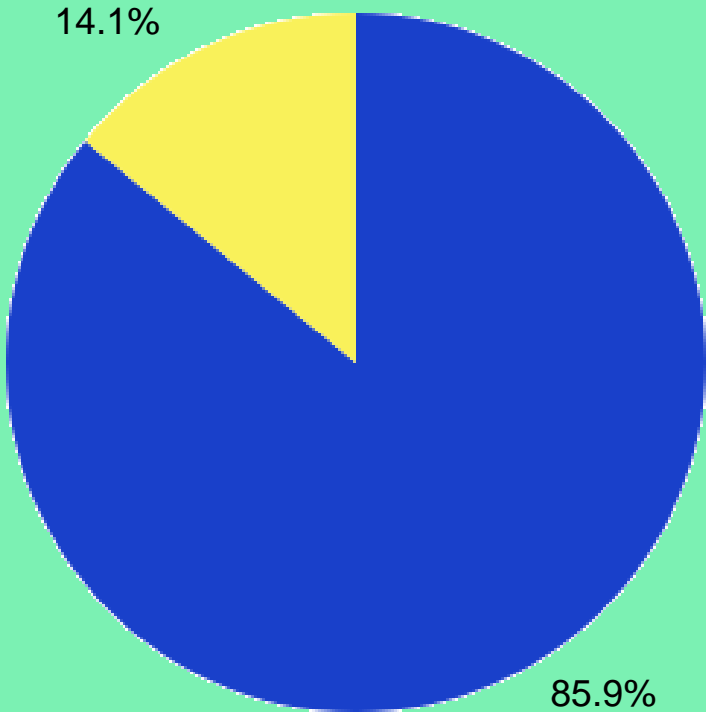
In two-thirds of borrowers' homes, at least one person **does not** sleep under a mosquito net.



Over 85% of borrowers have been tested for HIV/AIDS; 14% of borrowers care for someone with HIV/AIDS.



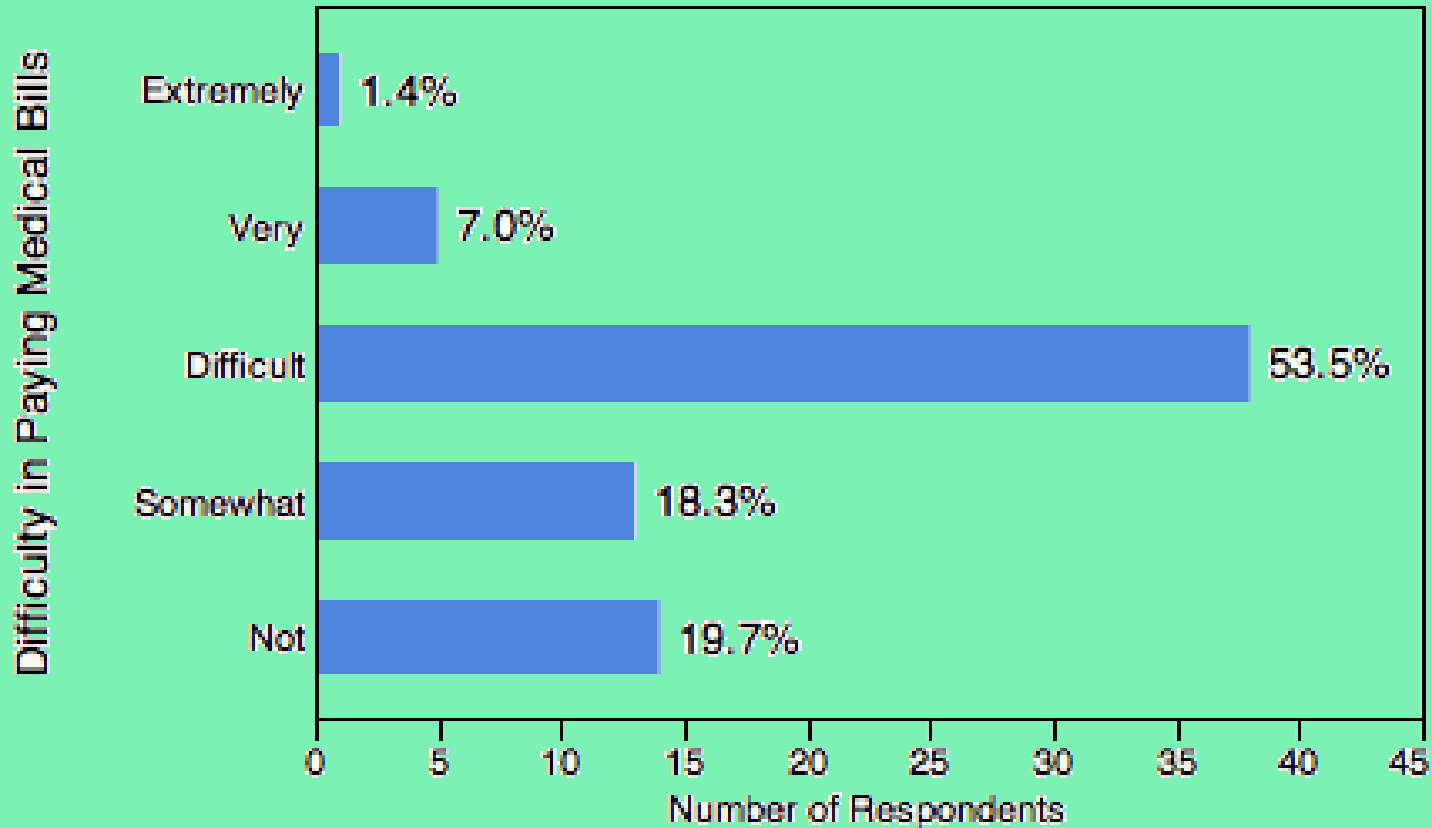
Have you been tested for HIV/AIDS?



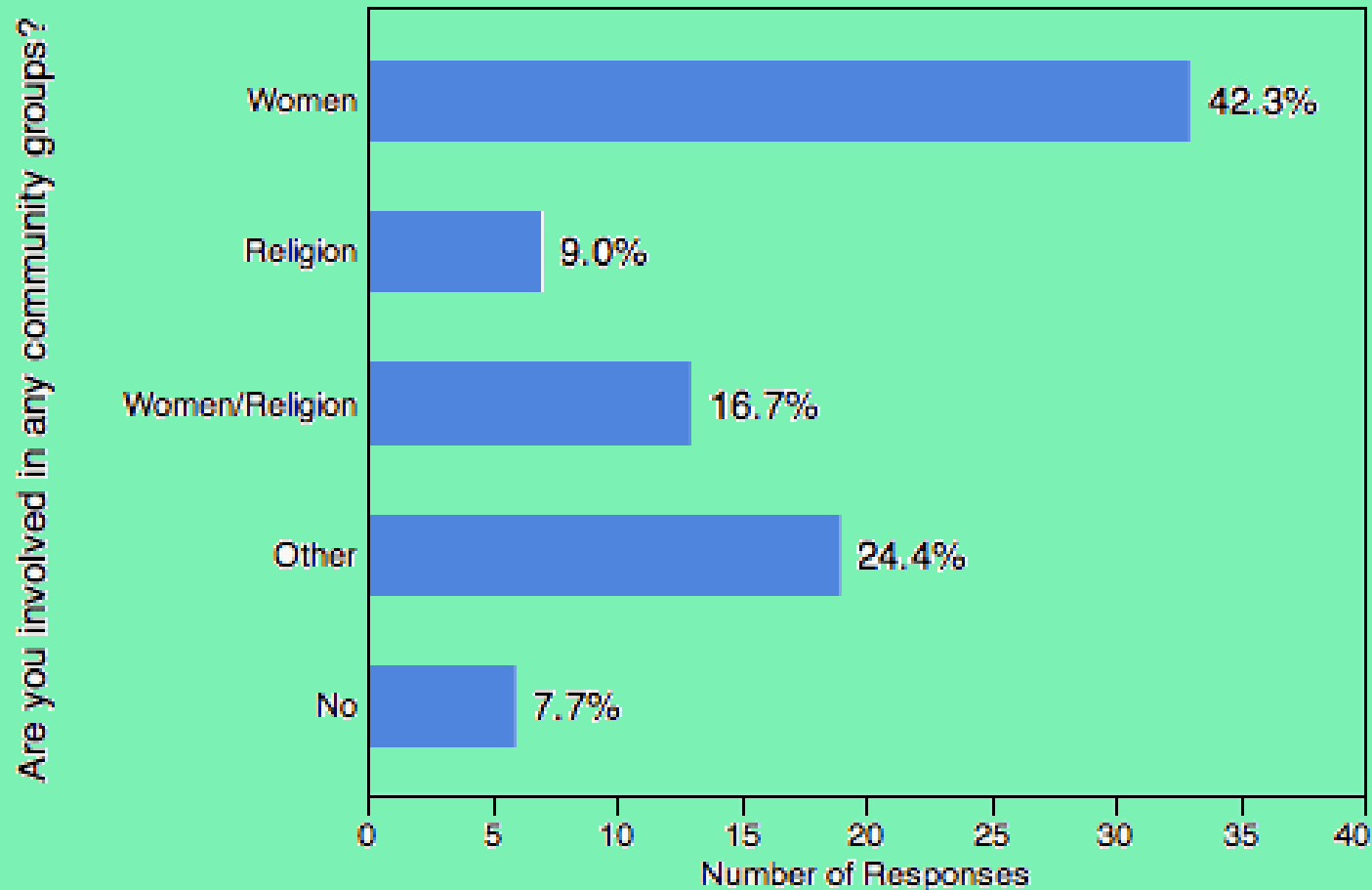
Do you or does anyone in your family have HIV/AIDS?

No Yes

Over 50% of borrowers find it difficult to pay medical bills.



Over 65% of women are involved in some type of women's and/or religious group.

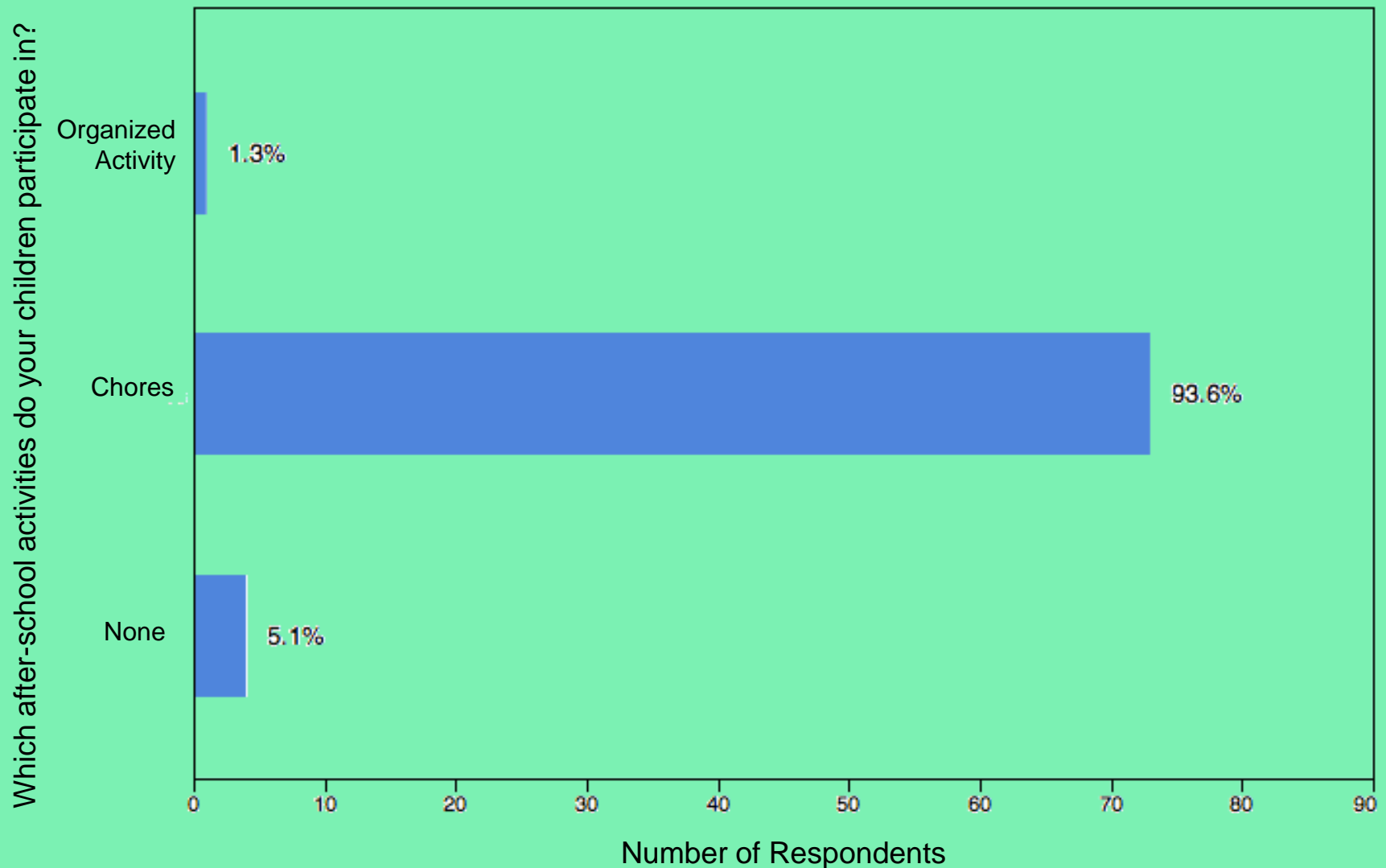


School Attendance

All borrowers reported that their children **always** attend school.



Over 90% of borrowers' reported that their children's out-of-school activities consist exclusively of chores.



FAMILY HEALTH AND WELFARE SUMMARY

- Health of the family plays a large role in the cycle of poverty. Regular sickness prevents children from attending school and parents from working. Medical treatment is extremely expensive. In most villages, no local medical services are available. Traveling to medical clinics for treatment is costly and time consuming.
- Parents in the loan program place a high value on education; their children always attend school. After school the majority of children spend their free time doing chores.
- Borrowers reported that the loan program's regular support group meetings create a sense of community that encourages other types of community involvement.

