

Situational Assessment of Labor Migrants in Asia:
Needs and Knowledge During Covid-19
Research Brief 3: NEPAL
August 2020

Location of Respondents



Respondents

195

Returned migrants participated in interviews between June 9 – June 17

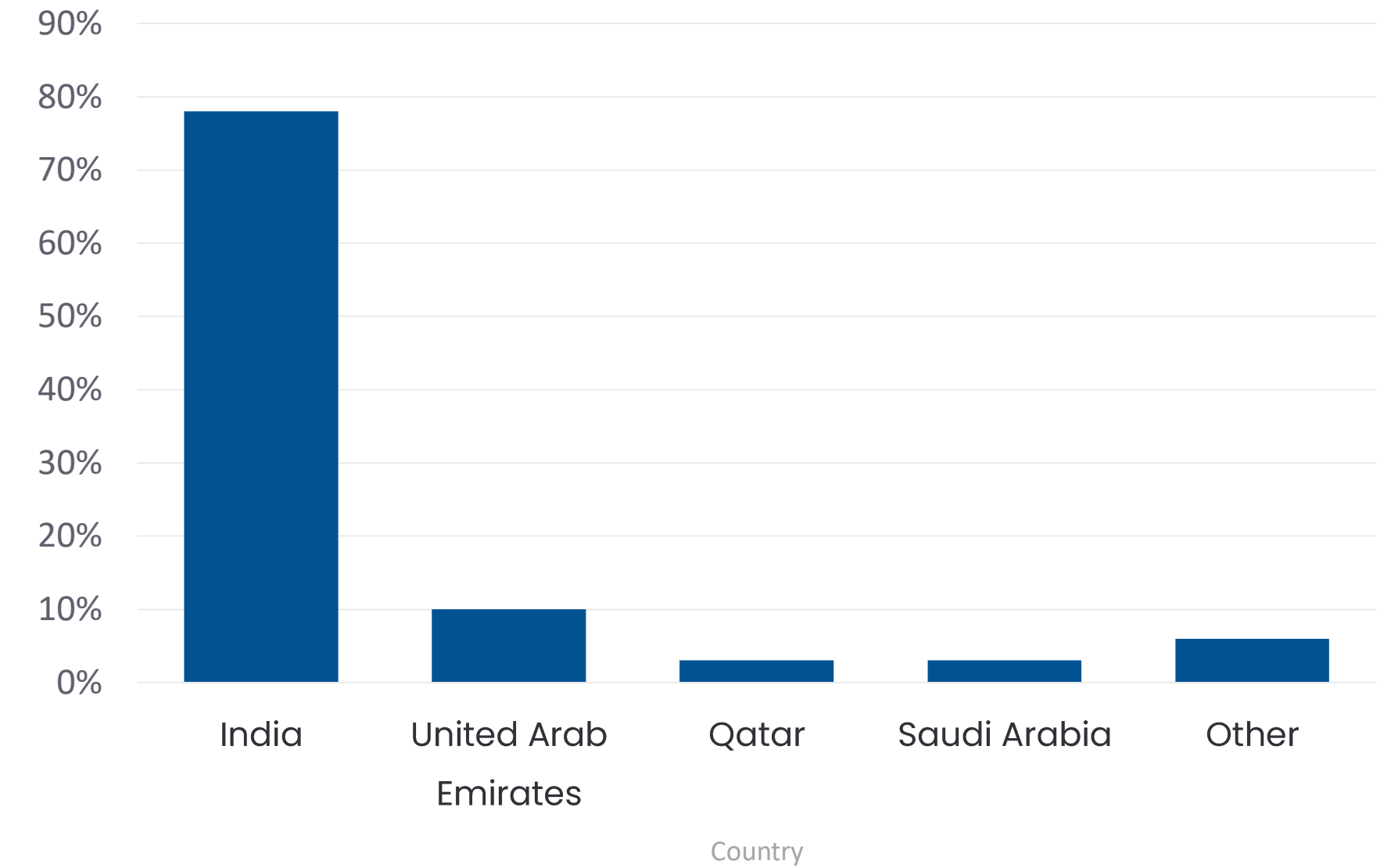
89%

Of respondents were male

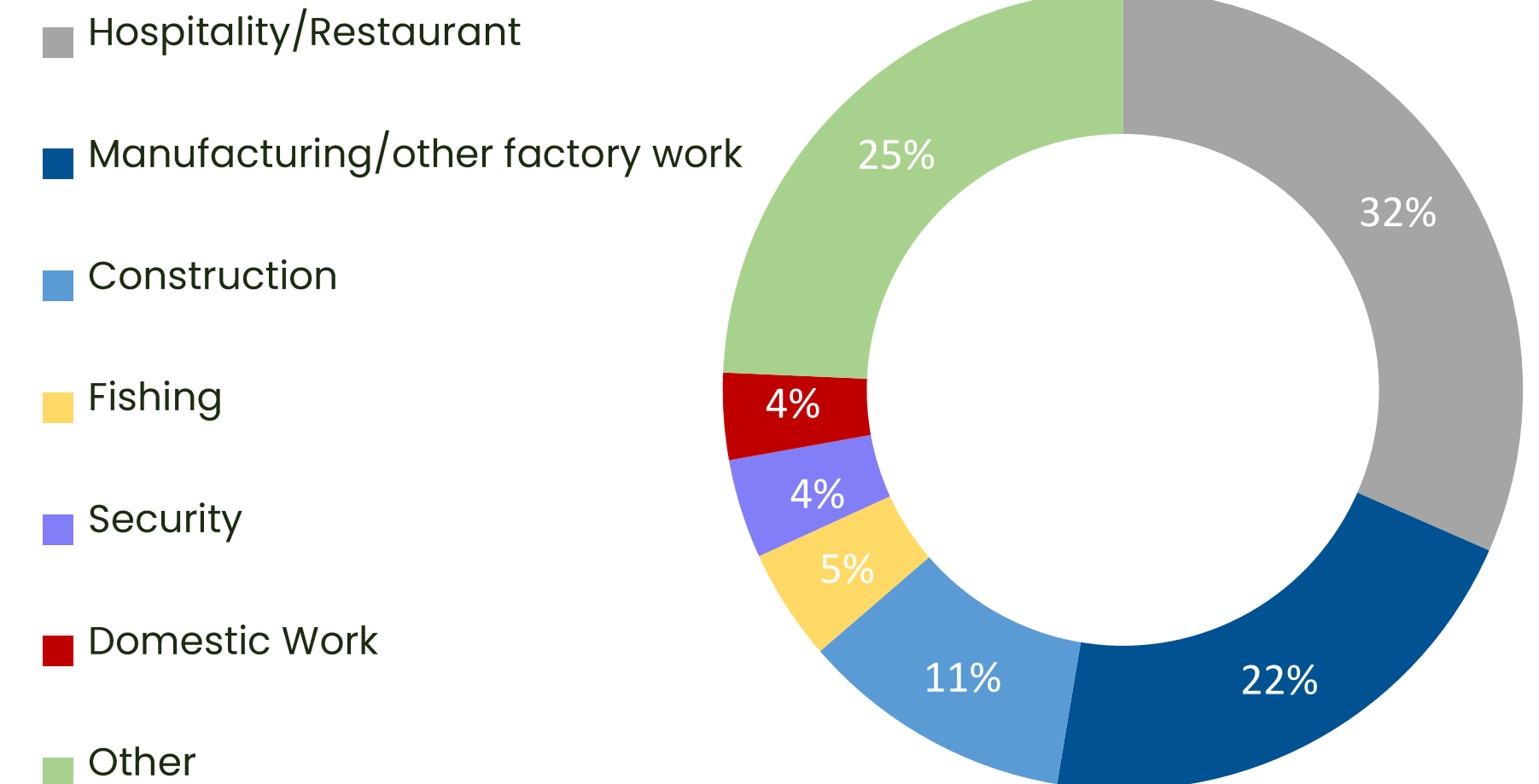
78%

Of respondents were under the age of 40

Country of Return, by Respondents



Type of Job in Destination Country



31%

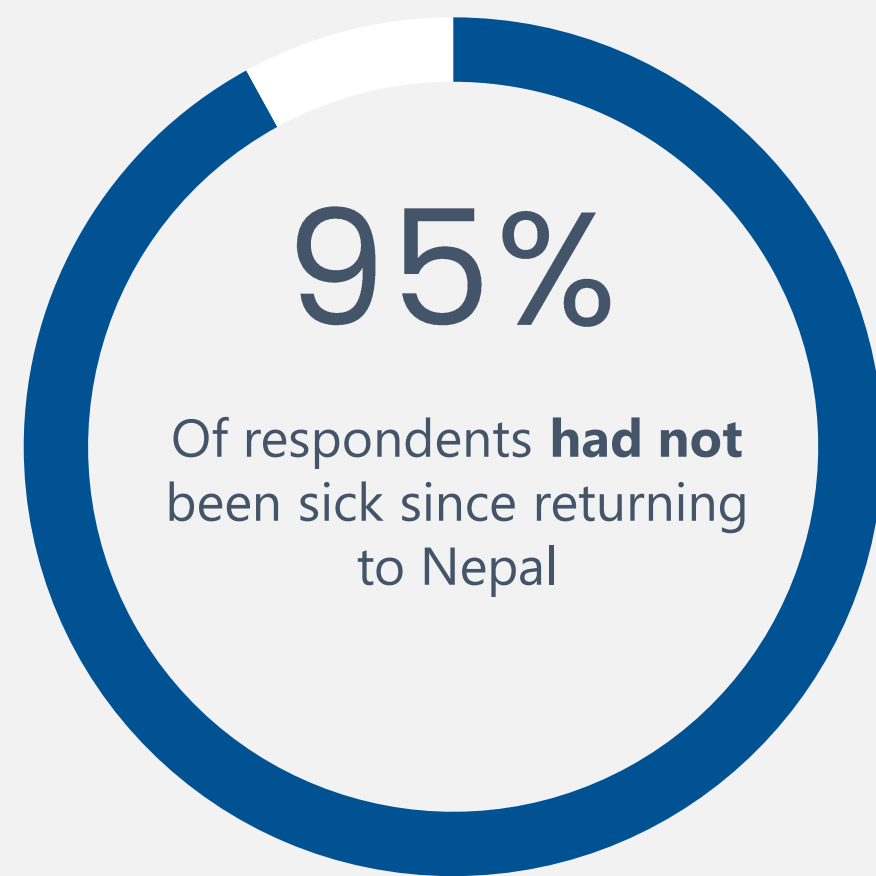
Of respondents **do not** have enough food to eat every day

66%

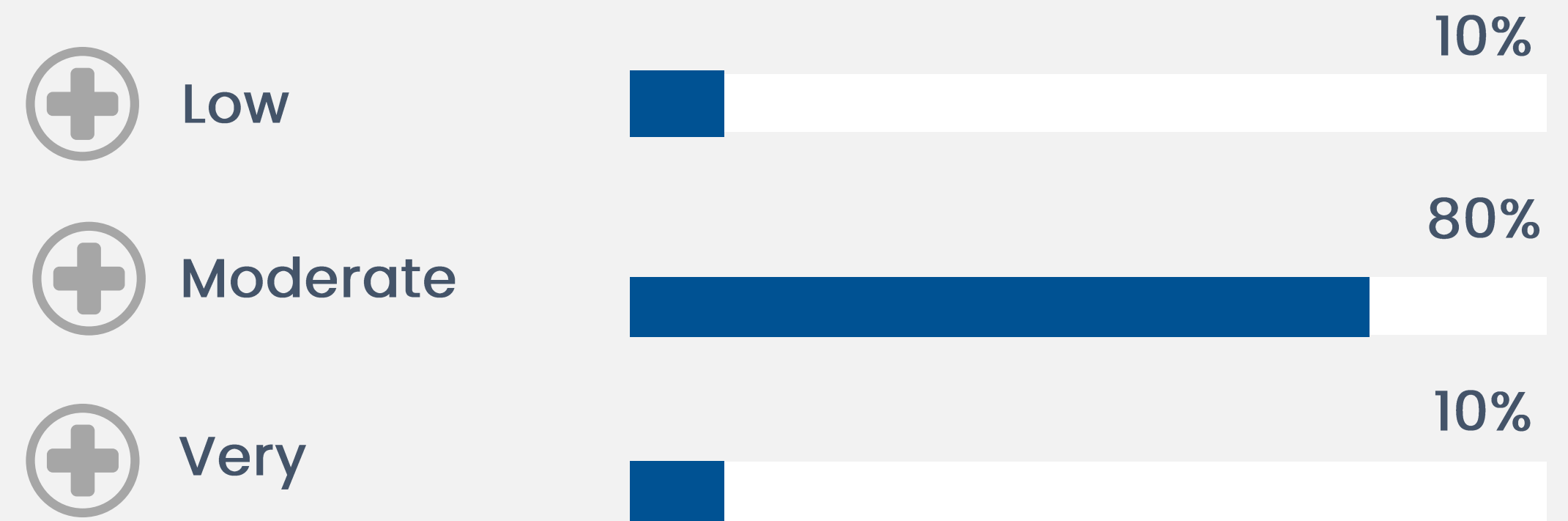
Of respondents **do not** have enough income to support themselves

68%

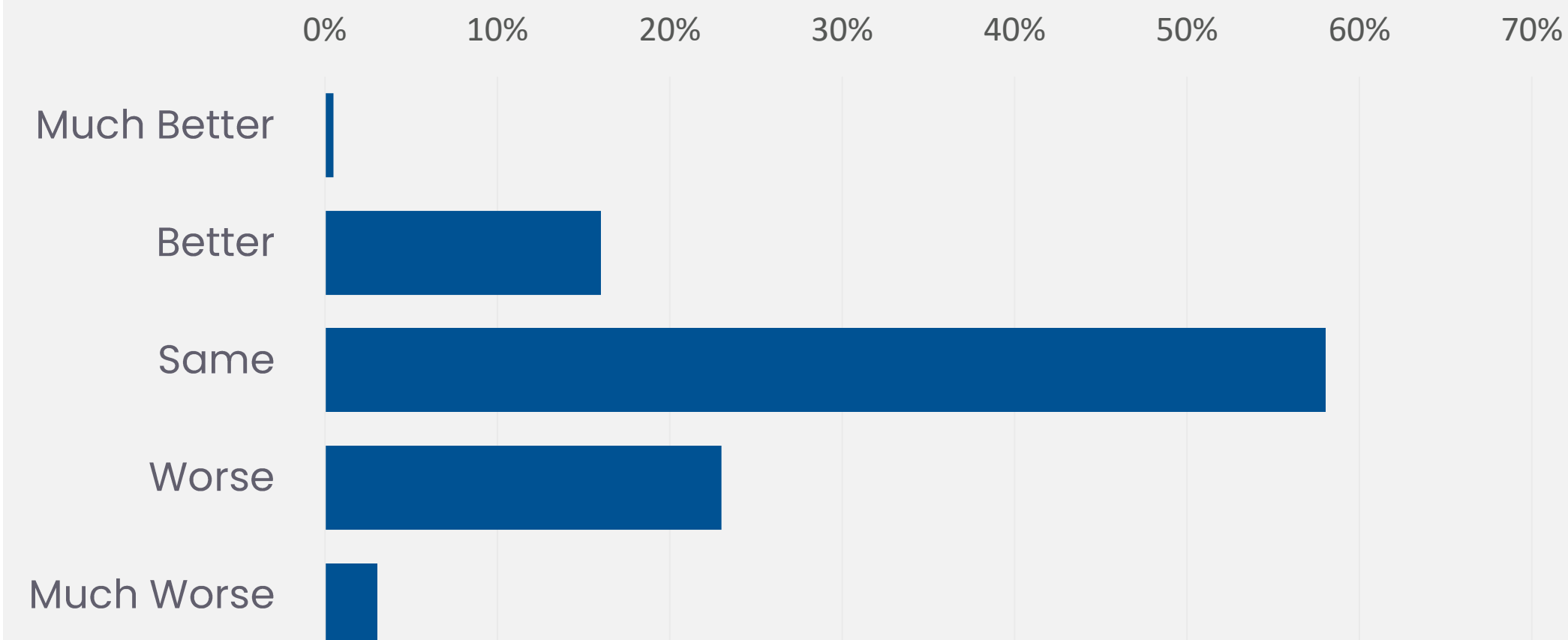
Have **not** received any support since returning to Nepal



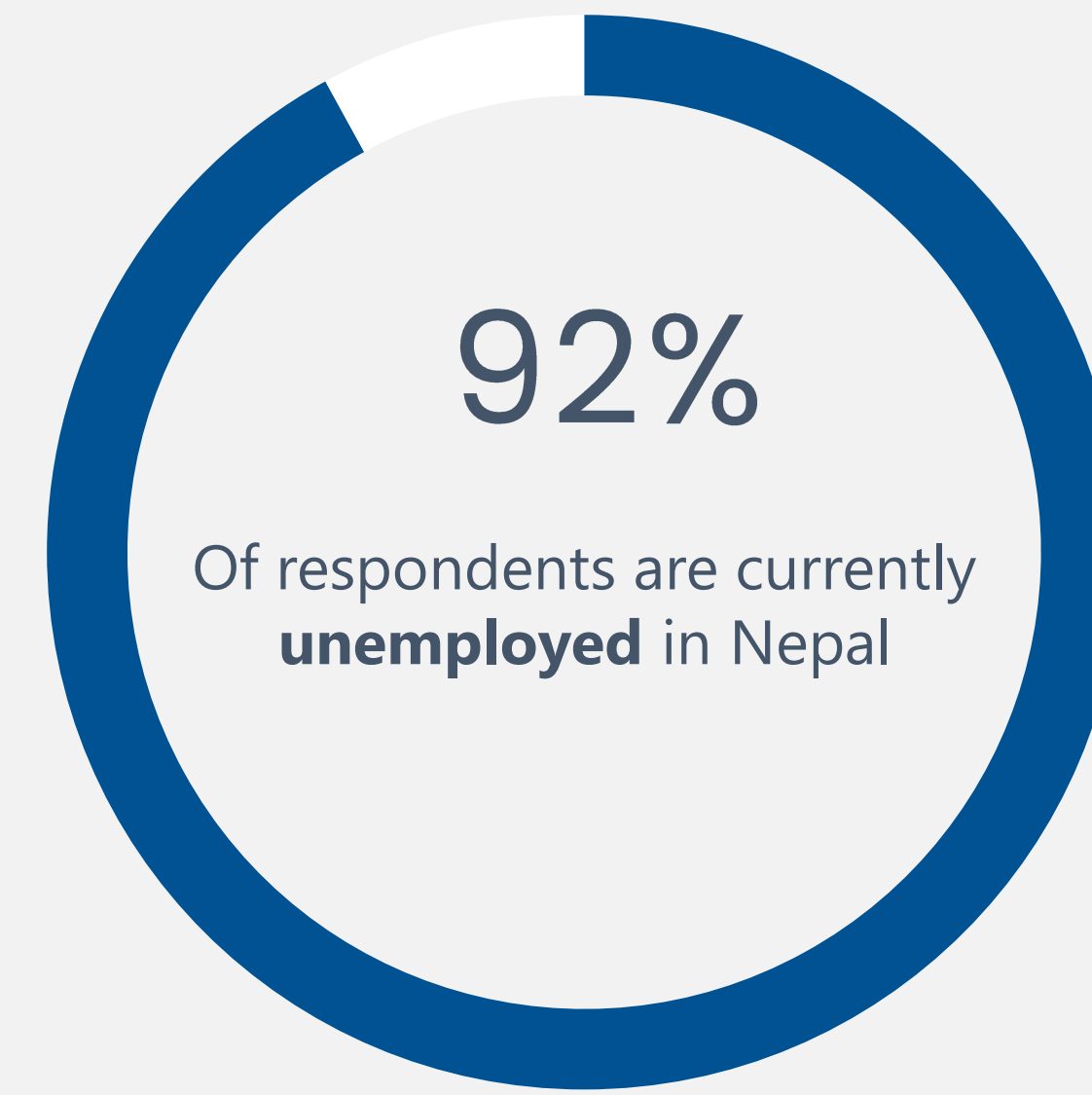
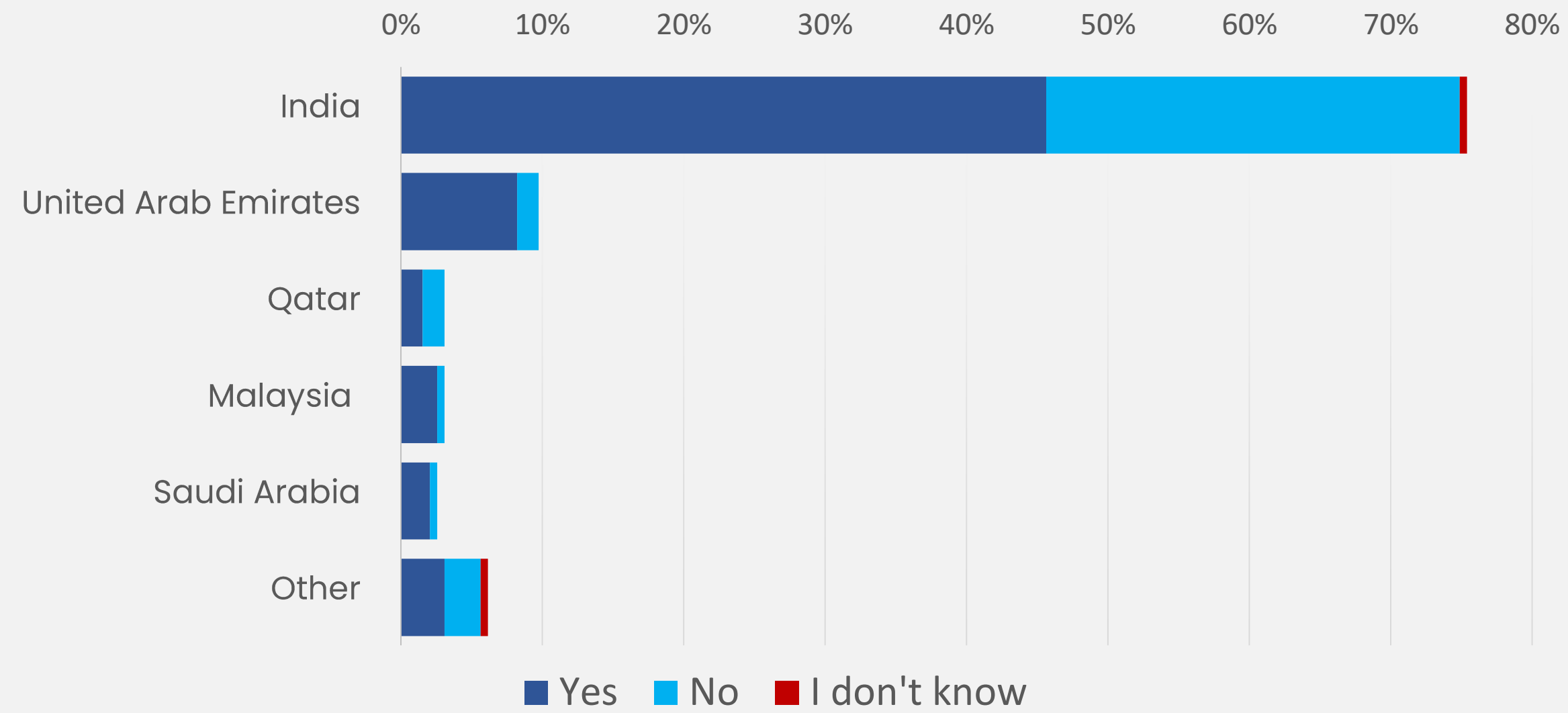
Confidence in accessing medical care if respondents became sick (n=187)



Are returnees being treated differently than others? (n=195)



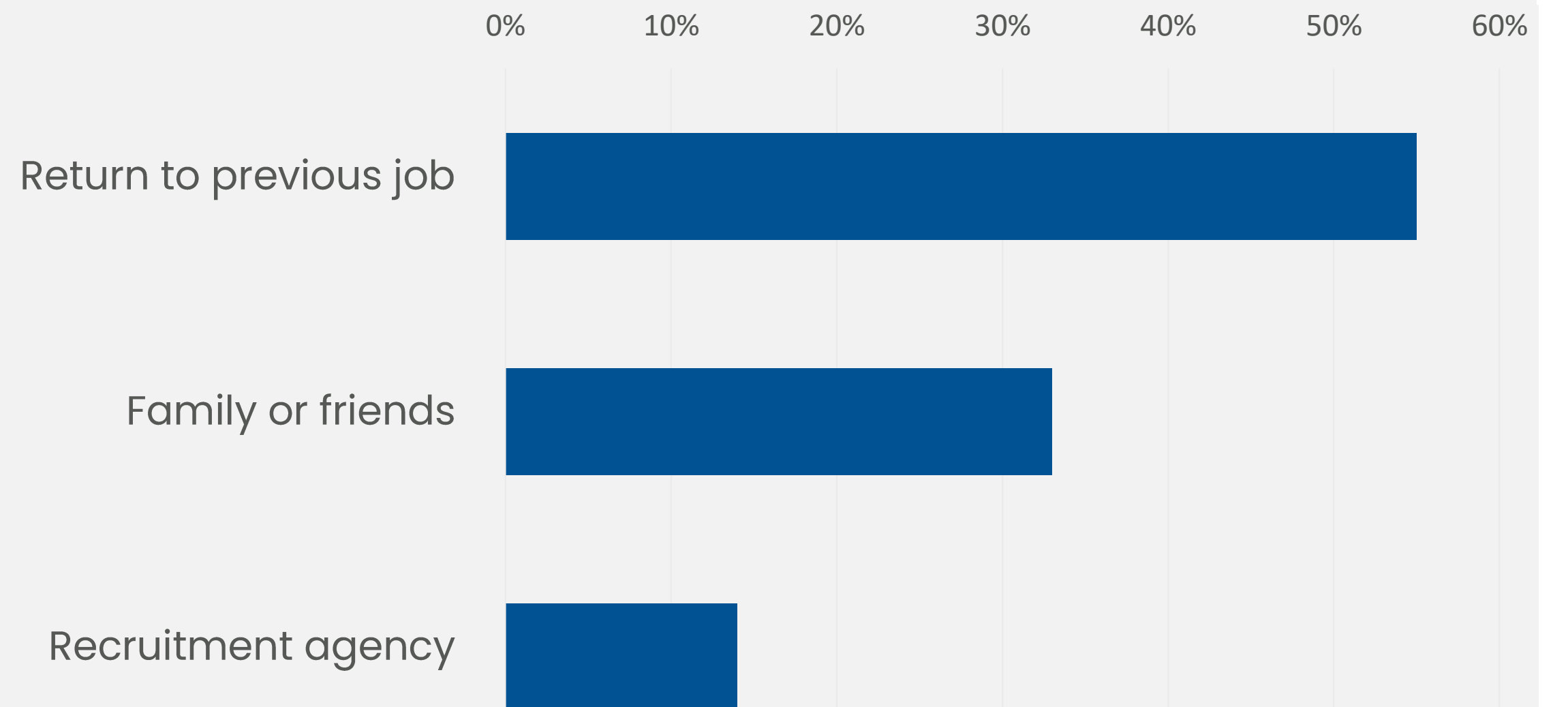
Did respondents receive their full salary before returning?

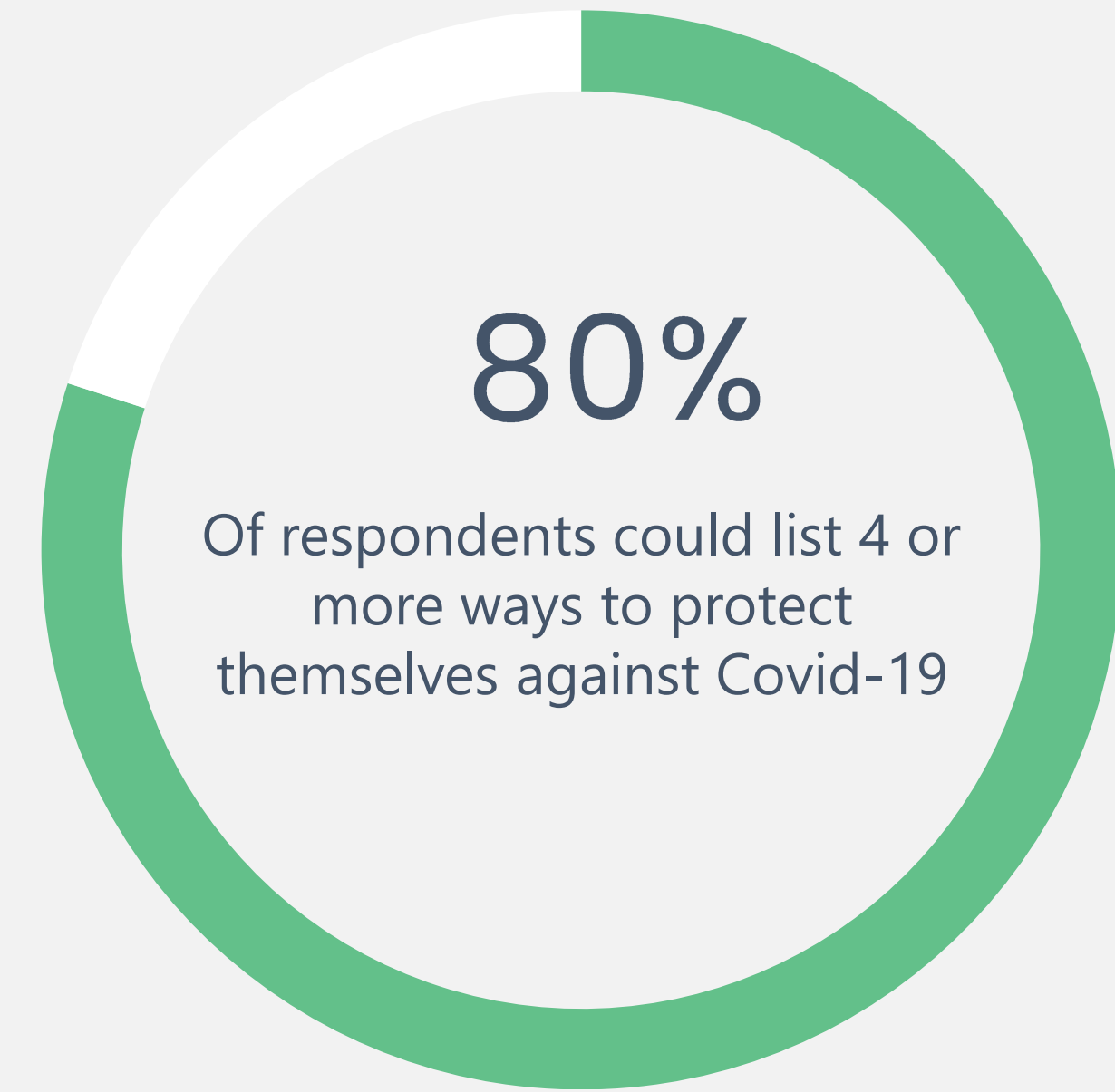
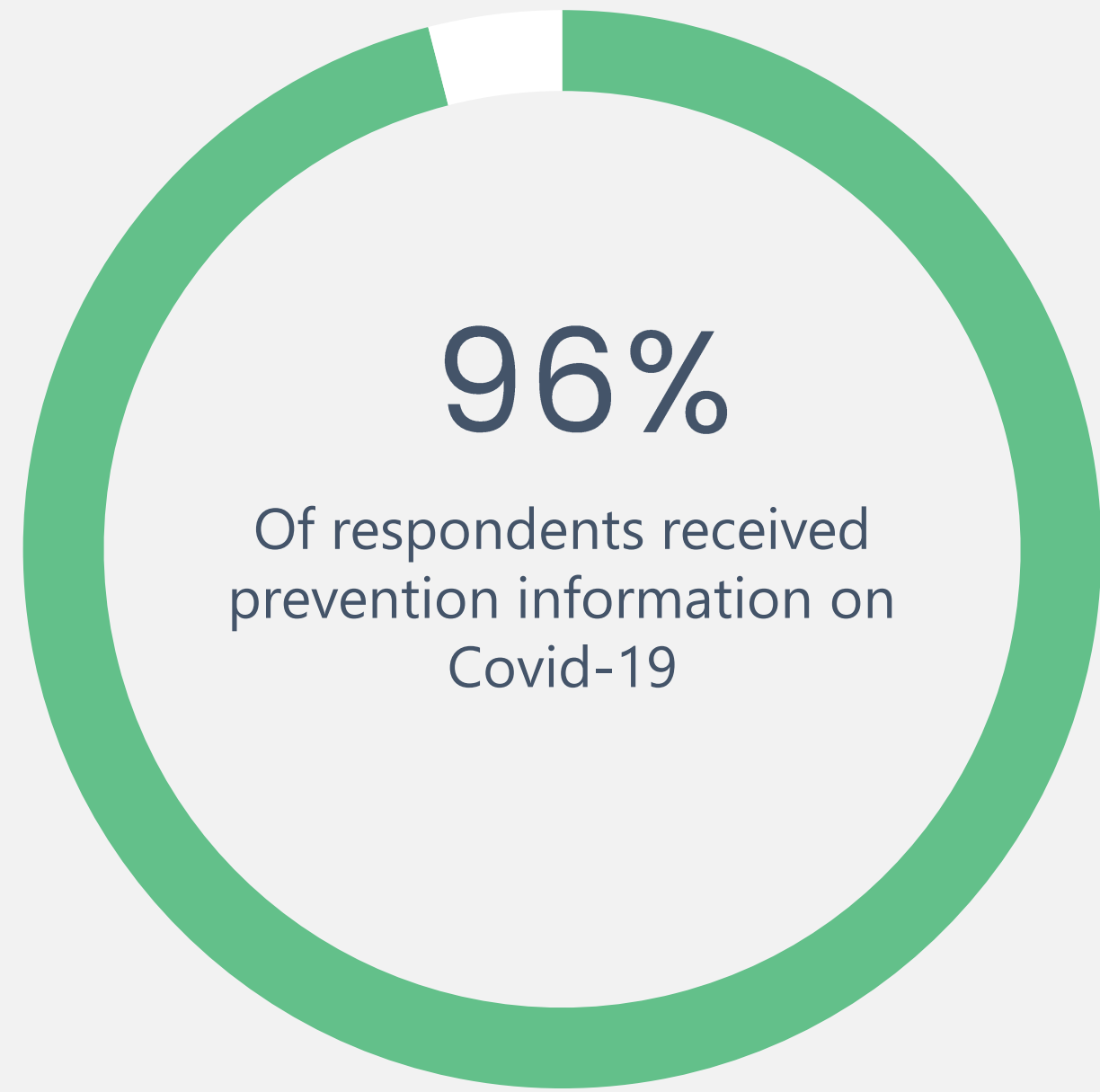


Do respondents plan to re-migrate for work?

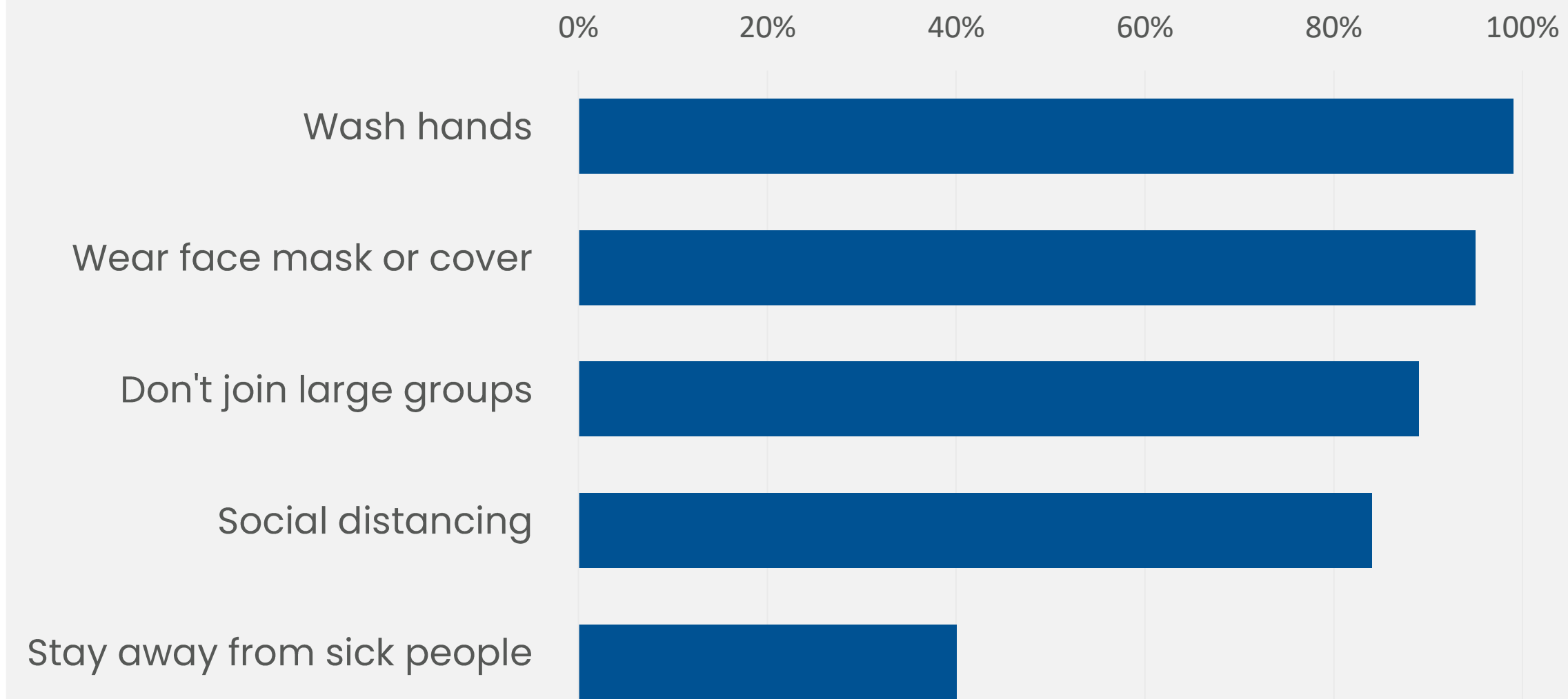


How respondents plan to find a job in destination country (n=102, multi-response)





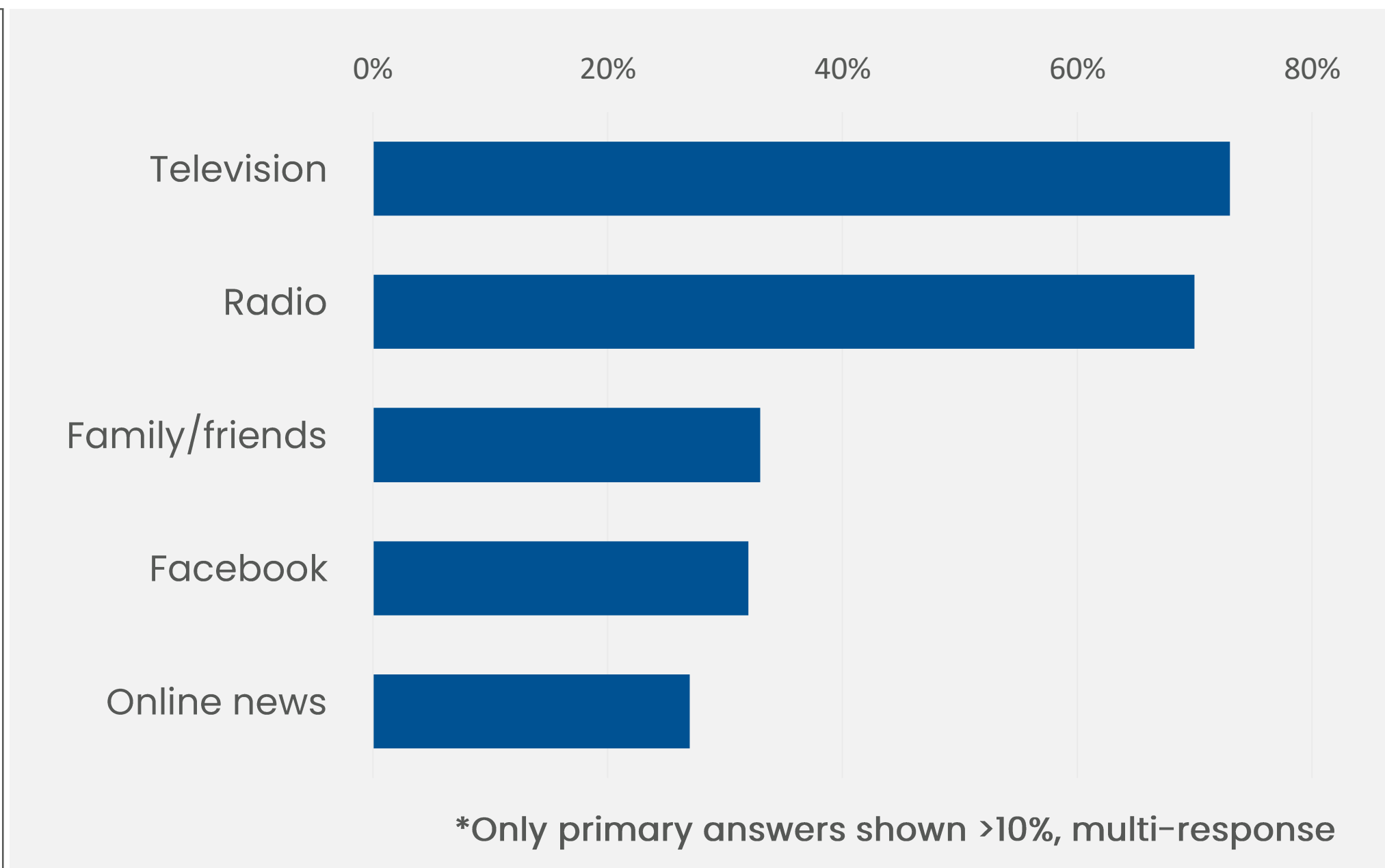
Ways respondents listed to protect themselves against Covid-19 (multi-response)



70%

Need more information on Covid-19. This is where they would go for trusted information

→



RECOMMENDATIONS



Nepali returnees are facing extremely high unemployment rates: 92% of those interviewed said they were currently unemployed. As the country prepares to open its borders in August, millions of Nepalis who have been stuck abroad are anticipated to return home. **To ensure that current and future returnees have opportunities to enter the labor market, the government of Nepal – particularly at municipal level - should facilitate domestic job placement and skill training services for returnees.** International organizations should invest in programming that will provide income-generating opportunities to returnees.



Since returning to Nepal, 66% of respondents reported not having enough income to support themselves and 31% said they did not have enough food to eat every day. When asked if respondents had received any support services since returning, 68% said 'none'. **Immediate needs packages such as food and hygiene items should be distributed to returnees.** Cash transfer schemes should also be considered as an influx of more unemployed, vulnerable migrants make the journey home. .



Over a third (36%) of returnees interviewed reported not receiving full payment for their work in the destination country before returning to Nepal. **Migrant assistance and labor rights organizations could take this opportunity – while returnees remain at home – to conduct outreach campaigns for those who may have faced exploitation while working abroad and connect them with needed support services such as legal assistance and/or mental health professionals.**



Over half of respondents (52%) said they plan to re-migrate for work and most (82%) said they would ask family or friends when deciding if it's safe and possible to re-migrate. **Up-to-date travel restrictions and guidelines should be provided at community-level so returnees can receive the vital information needed to safely take on a return journey.** Both local and international organizations should work in coordination with municipal governments to support migrant resource centers that could provide this information as well as pre-departure orientations and worker rights briefings.