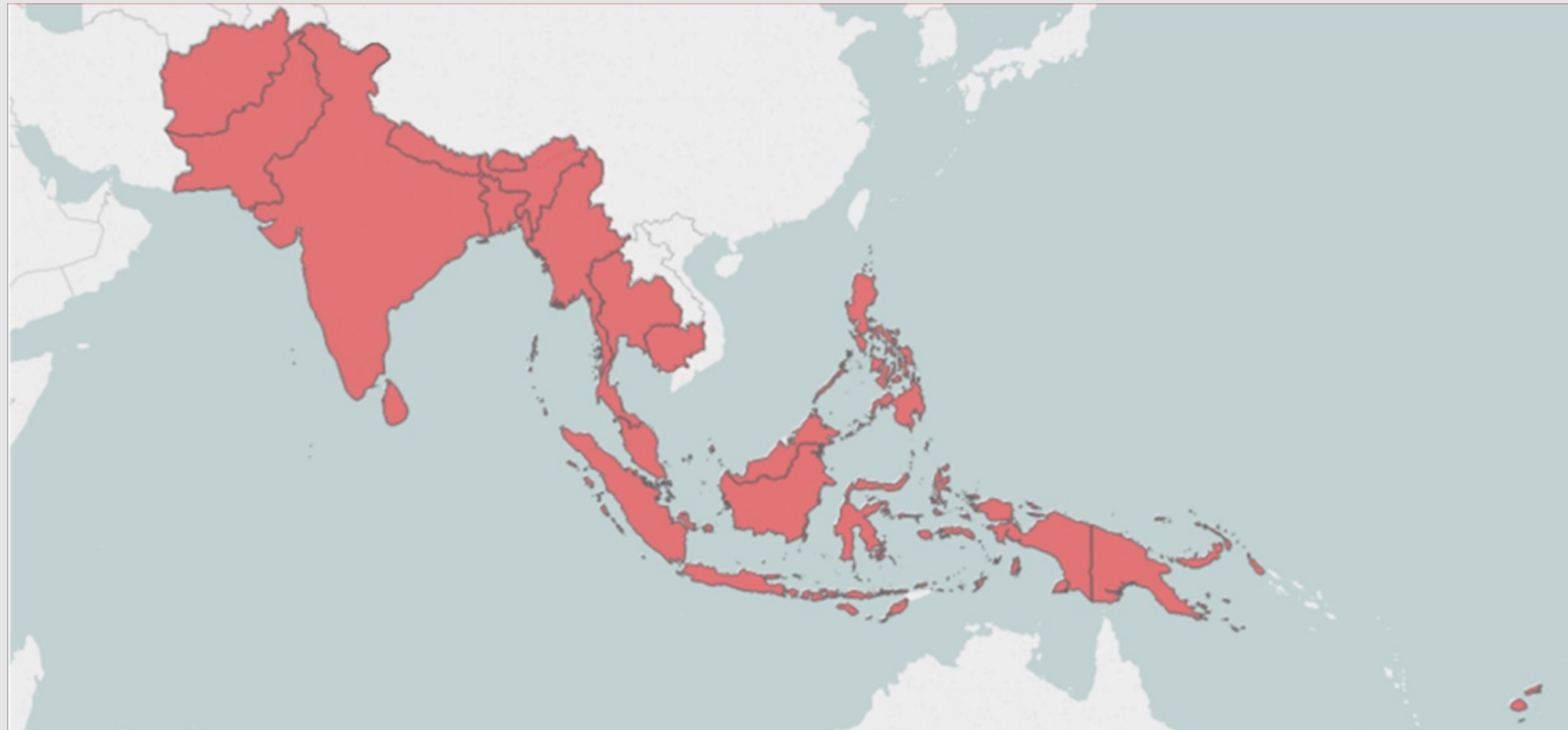


Digital for education in Sri Lanka

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Education Forum Policy Dialogue #20
26 March 2022

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LIRNEasia: a pro-poor, pro-market Asia Pacific think tank; focus on infrastructure policy and regulation



Our Mission:

“Catalyzing policy change through research to improve people’s lives in the emerging Asia Pacific by facilitating their use of hard and soft infrastructures through the use of knowledge, information and technology”

Digital access in education explored in inside and outside (physical) schools

Settings



Digital in
(physical) school

Elements



Devices



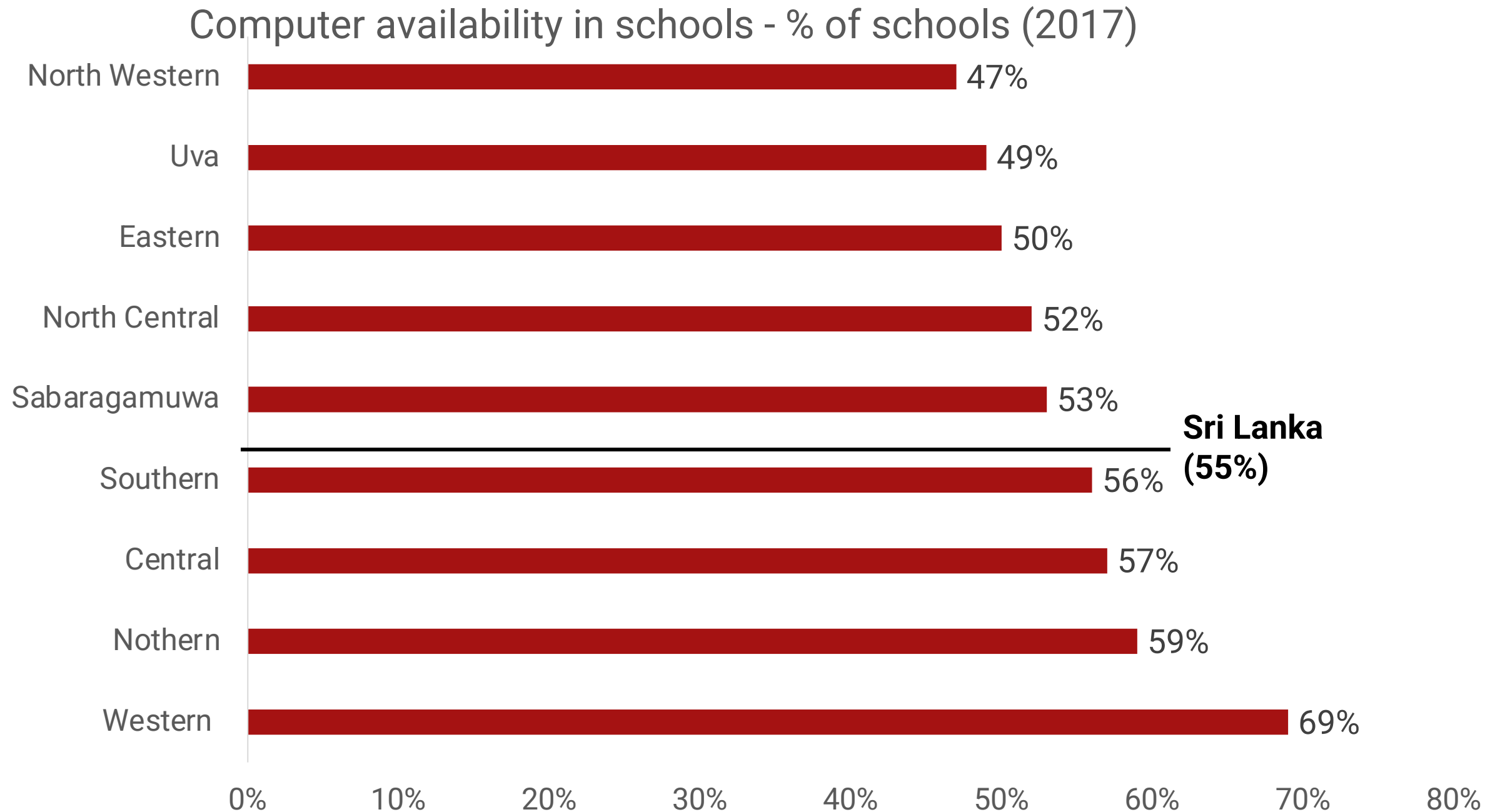
Digital outside
physical school



Connectivity

In (physical) school: digital access low; efforts underway to increase connectivity

Devices

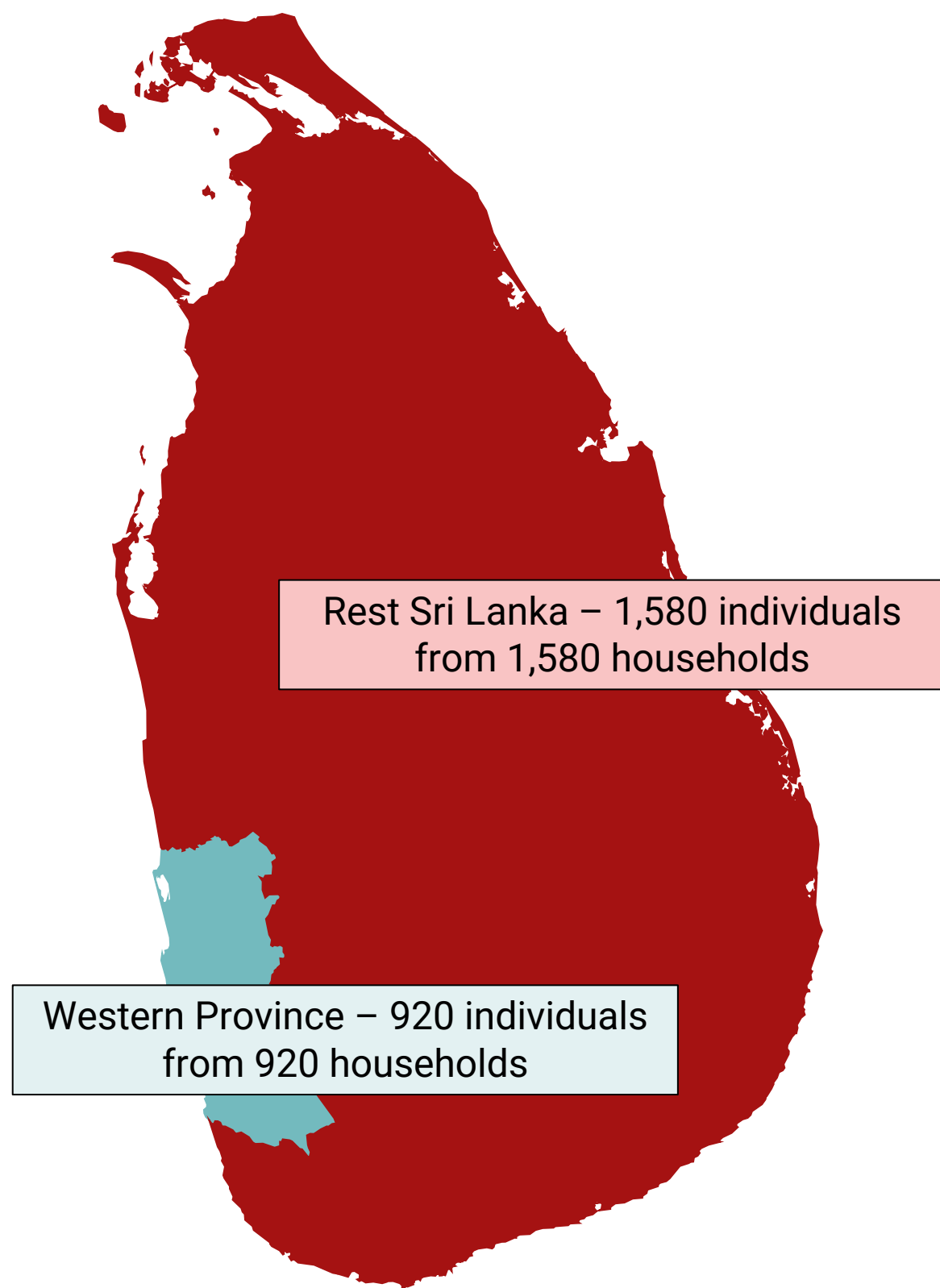


Connectivity

- Giga – international initiative by ITU/UNICEF effort to connect all schools
- TRCSL: Efforts underway to provide 4G & fibre connectivity to all schools

Outside physical school: insights from representative survey

(95% confidence interval; +/-2.8% margin of error)



Nationally representative sample

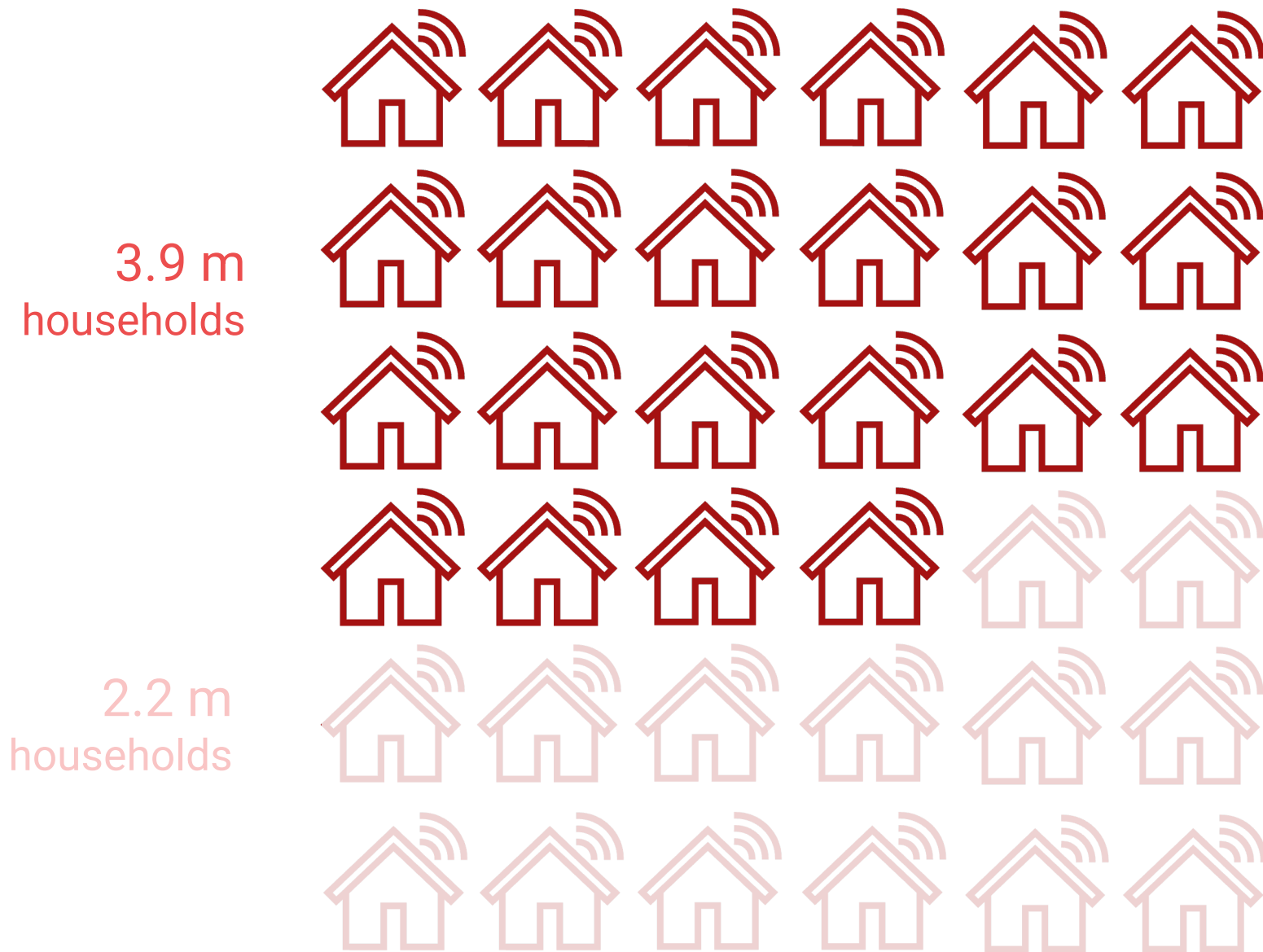
 2,500 Households/ individuals	  125 GN divisions
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- Sample designed to be representative of 15+ population at:
- National level,
 - Urban-rural level
 - Men vs. women
 - Western province vs rest Sri Lanka
 - SEC (socio-economic classification, a proxy for income)
 - Age

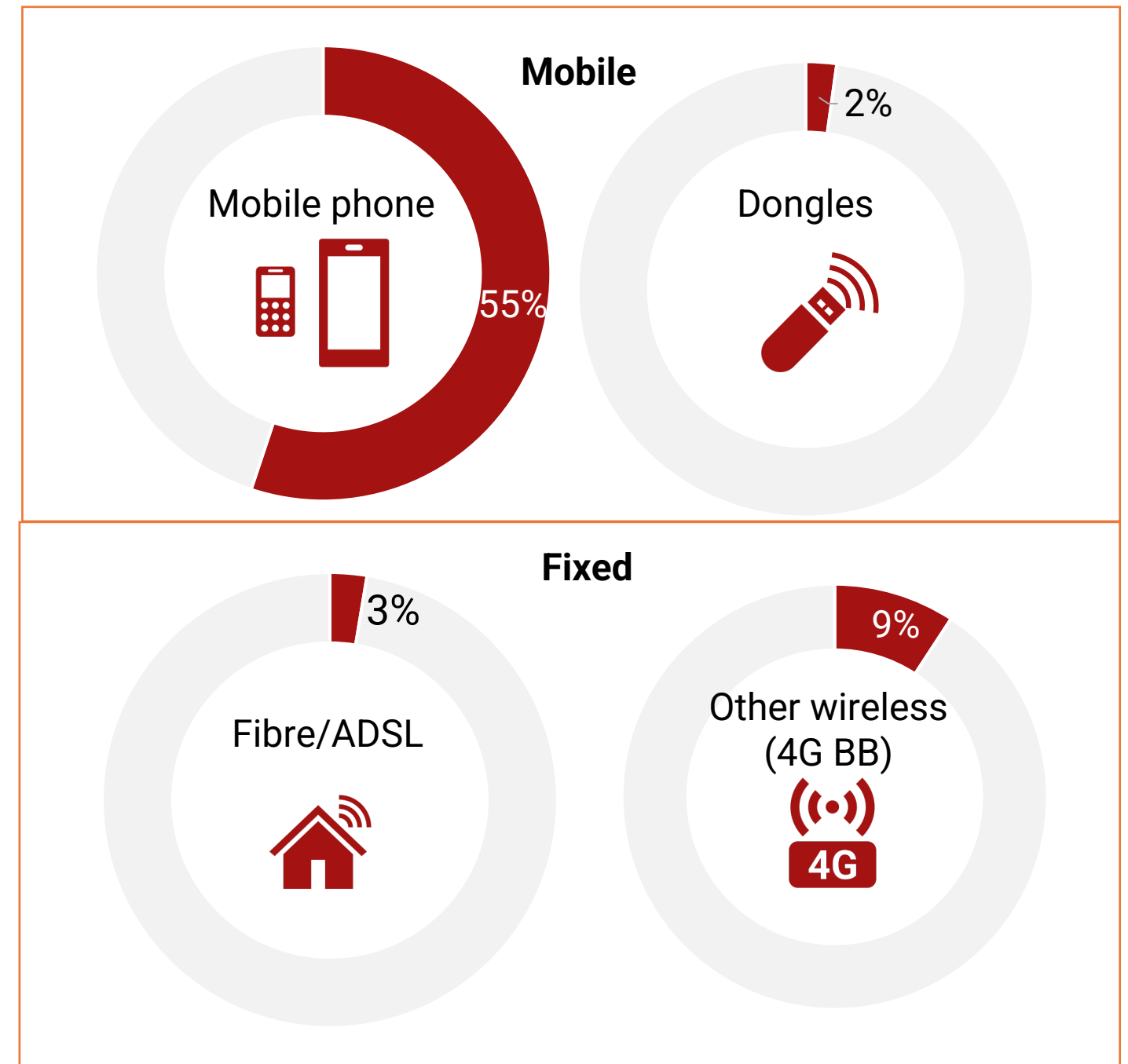
Fieldwork time period: 4-Mar-2021 to 11-Oct-2021

61% of households had an active internet connection in 2021; mobile ~5x more popular than fixed connections

Households with an active internet connection



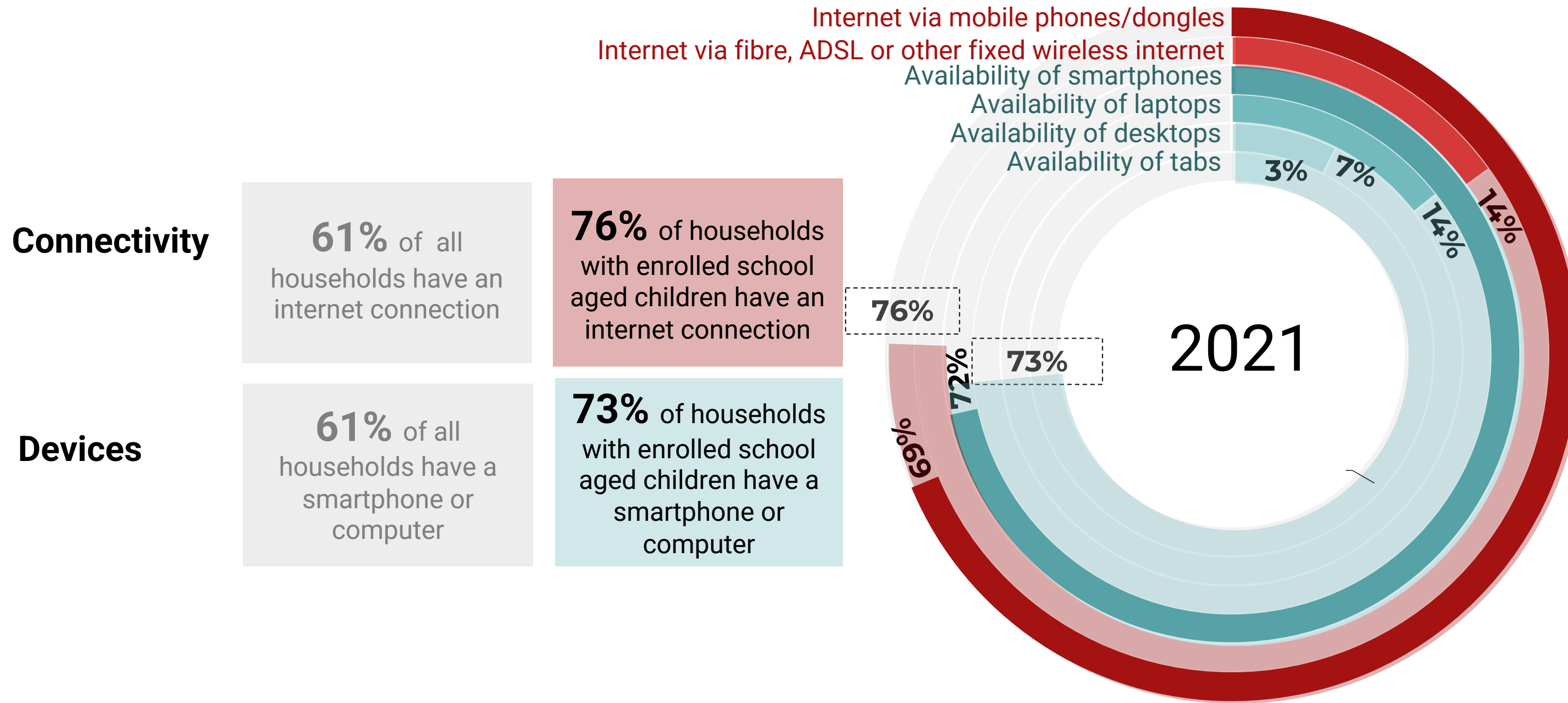
Type of internet connectivity (% of households)



Q: Does this household have a working Internet connection, if so what type? (one that is exclusive for the household and is accessible to all household members)

Access to digital greater in households with enrolled school aged children (vs. all households)

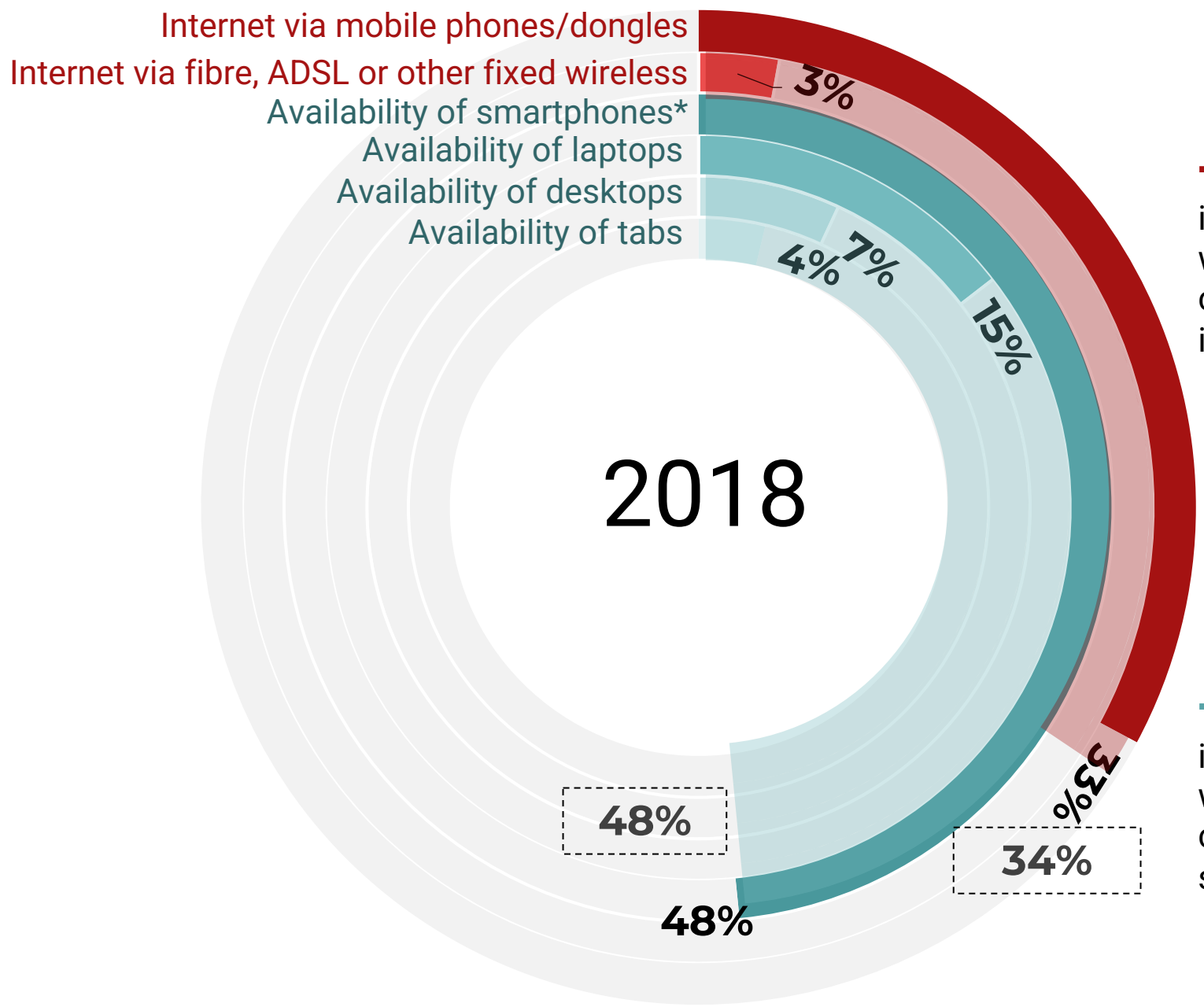
Household availability of internet connection, smartphones & computers
(% households with enrolled school aged children)



Access to household internet more than doubled over 3 years in households with school aged children

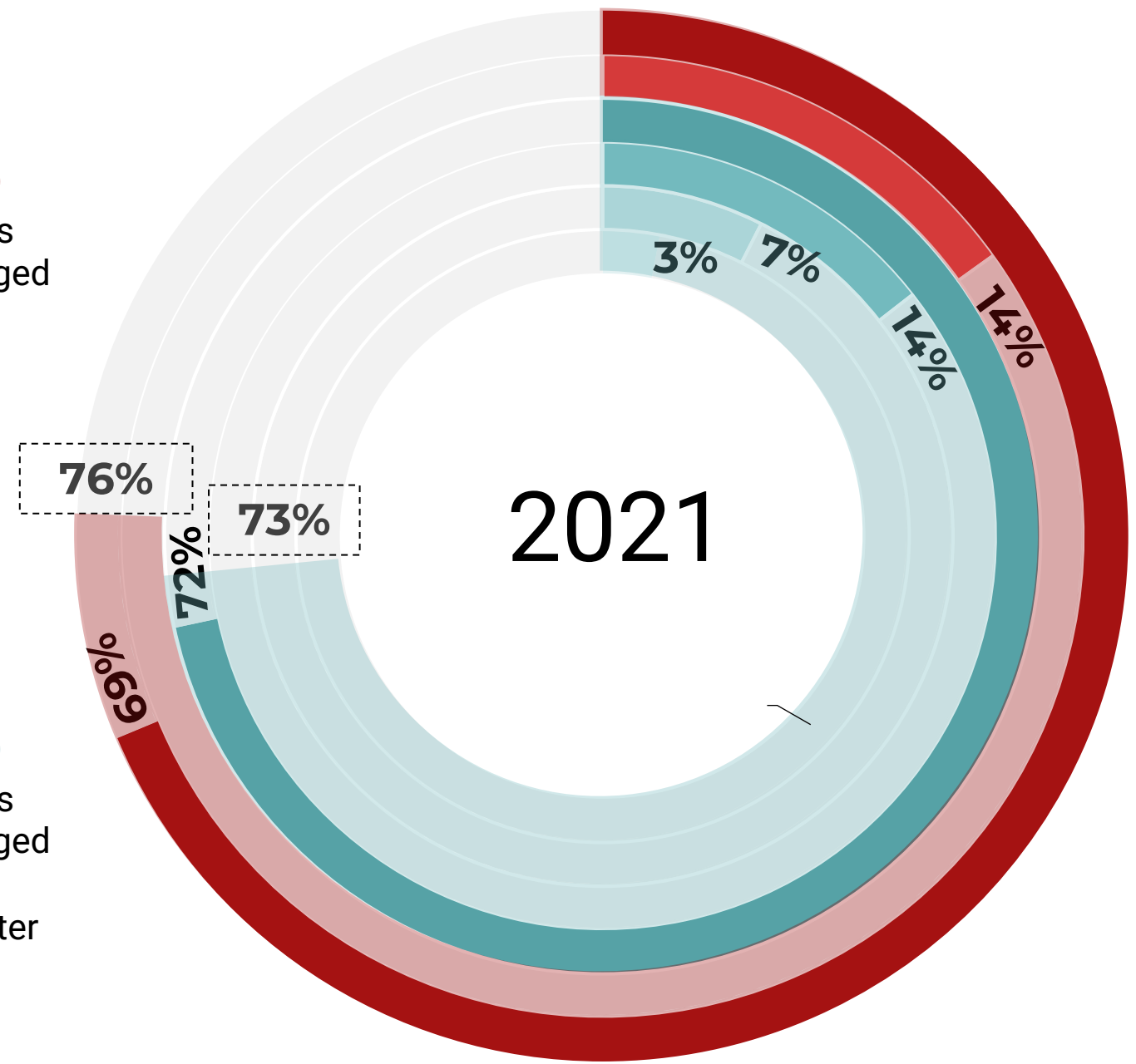
Household availability of internet connection, smartphones & computers
(% households with children)

Household availability of internet connection, smartphones & computers
(% households with enrolled school aged children)



+42% pp (2.2x)
increase of households with enrolled school-aged children who have an internet connection

+25% pp (1.5x)
increase of households with enrolled school-aged children who have a smartphone or computer



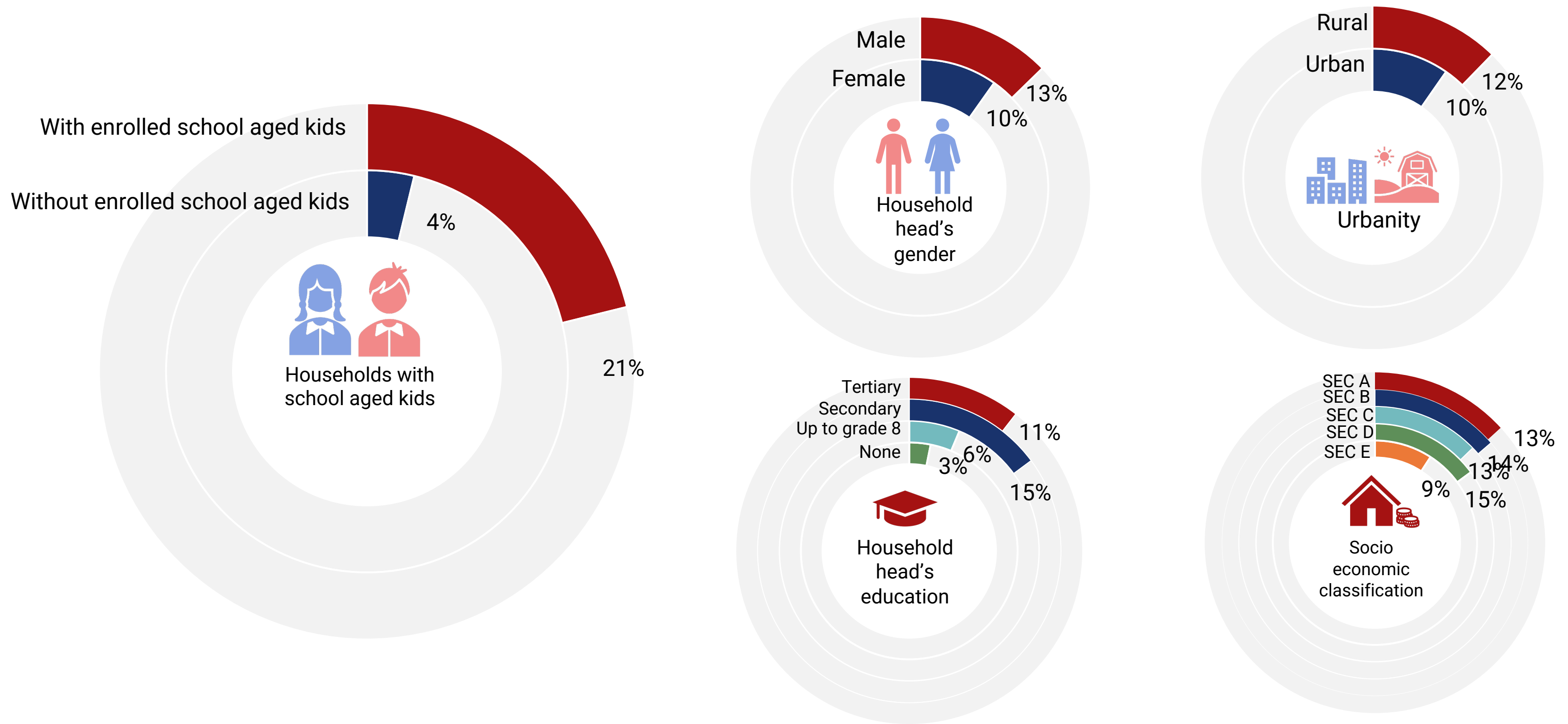
Base: Households with children aged 18 or below (n=1,301)
Survey data collected between December 2018 – January 2019
* Based on statistical modeling of survey data

Base: Households with enrolled school aged kids (n=1,171)
Survey data collected between March – August 2021

Q1: Does your household have a working...? Desktop, Laptop or Tab. Q2: How many working smartphones does your household have?
Q3: Does this household have a working Internet connection, if so what type? (one that is exclusive for the household and is accessible to all household members)

Households with school aged children ~5x more likely to obtain a new internet connection due to COVID-19 induced needs

Households who obtained a new internet connection due to COVID-19 related reasons (% of households)

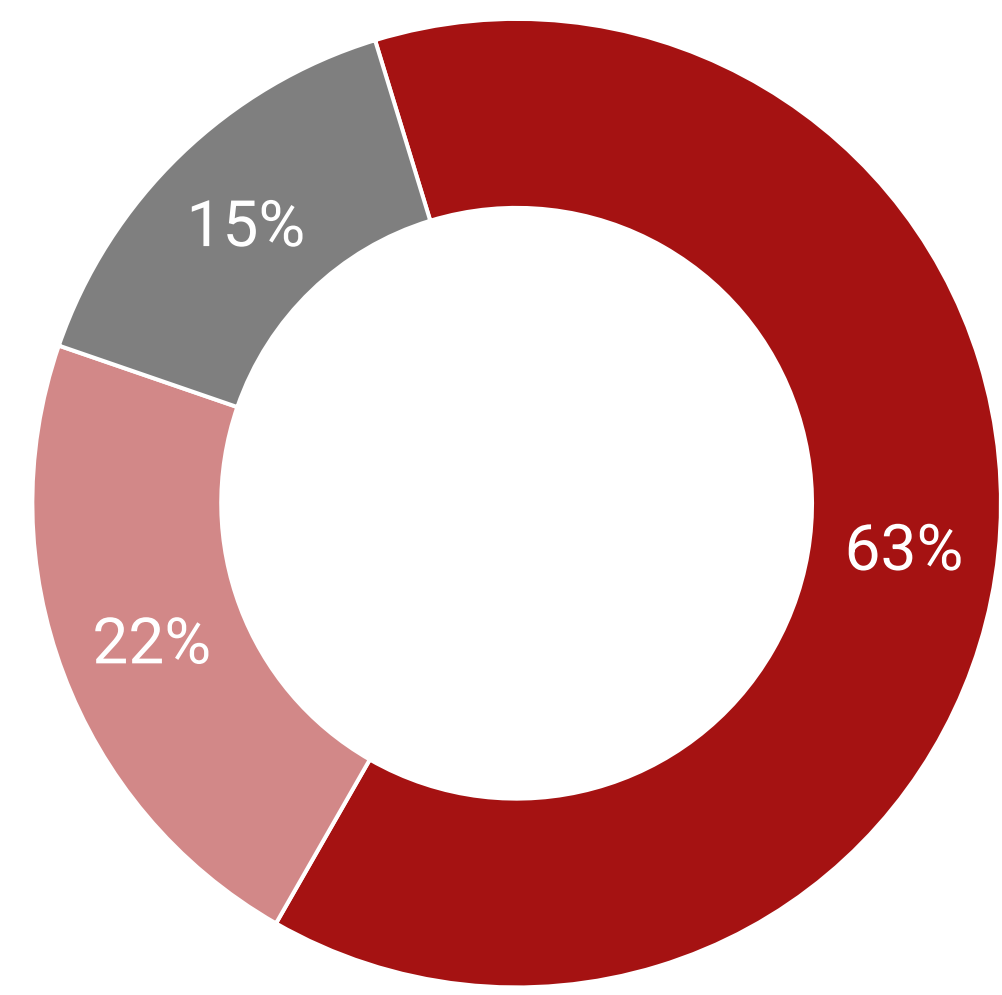


Q: Did your household obtain a new internet connection or change your existing internet package due to a need brought about by the COVID-19 crisis?

Base: All households (n=2,501)

63% of children enrolled in primary and secondary education had some access to online education during early school closures

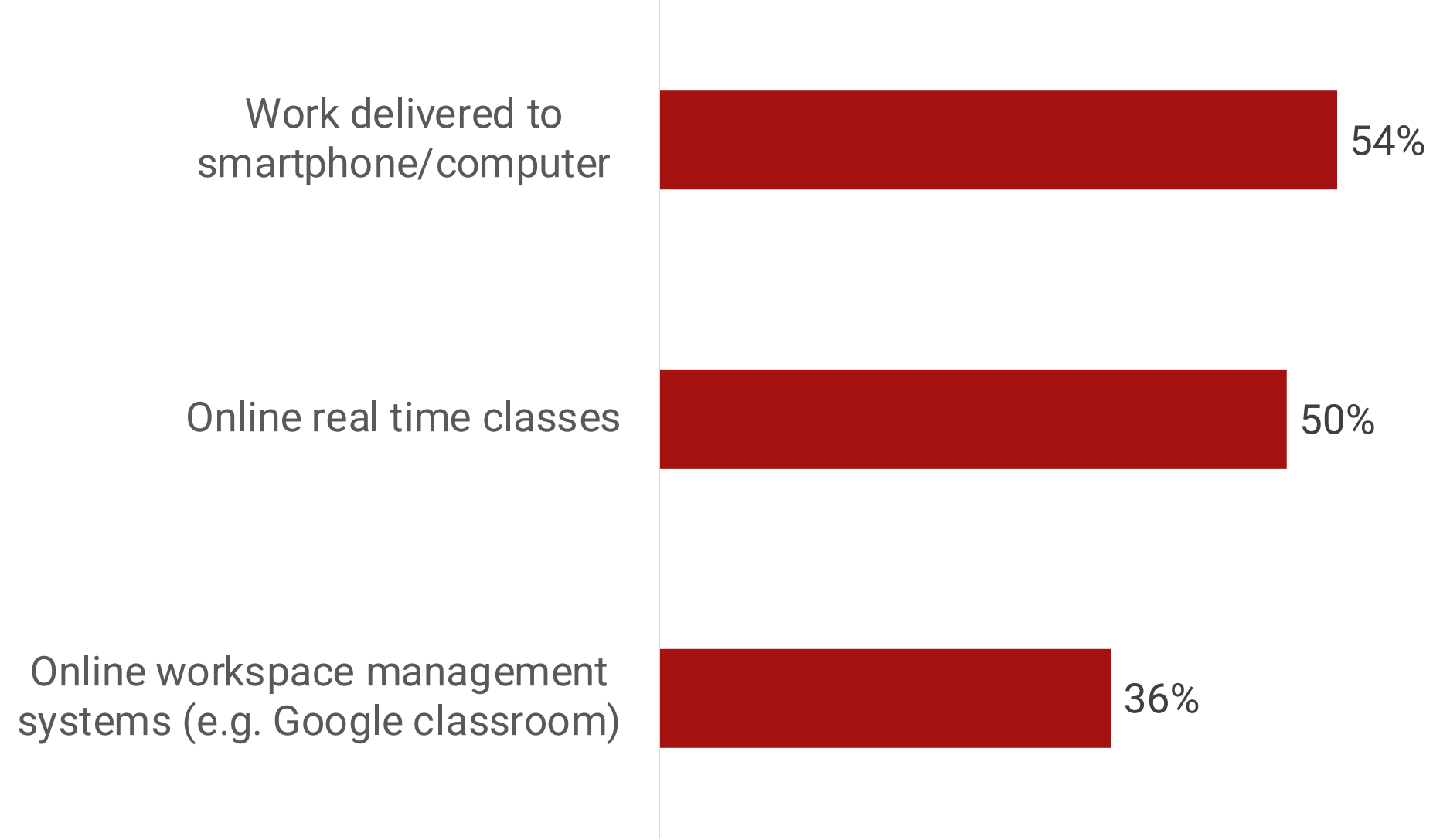
Access to education
(% of enrolled school aged children)



■ Online education* ■ Offline** education only ■ No education

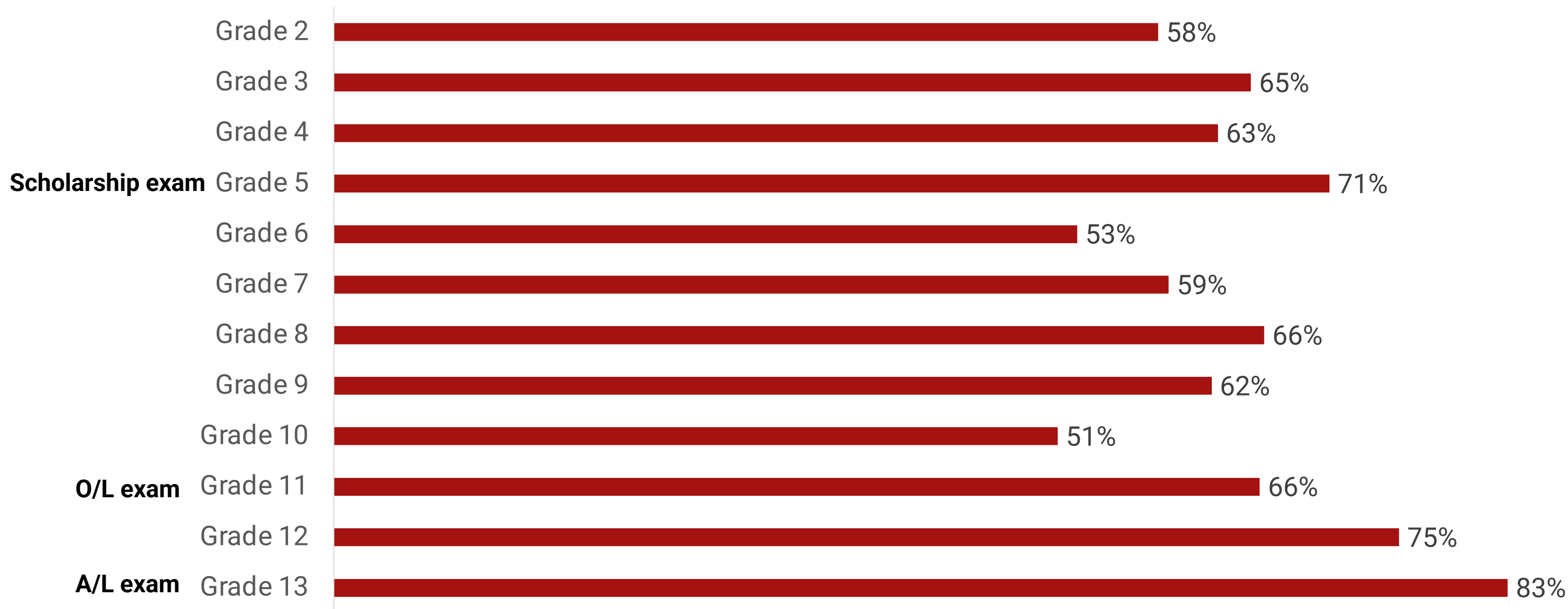
* Those who received online education may have also received offline education

Access to online education
(% of enrolled school aged children)



Access to online education greatest among students due to sit for A/L and scholarship exams; O/L exam had a lesser impact

Access to online education by grade (% of enrolled students)



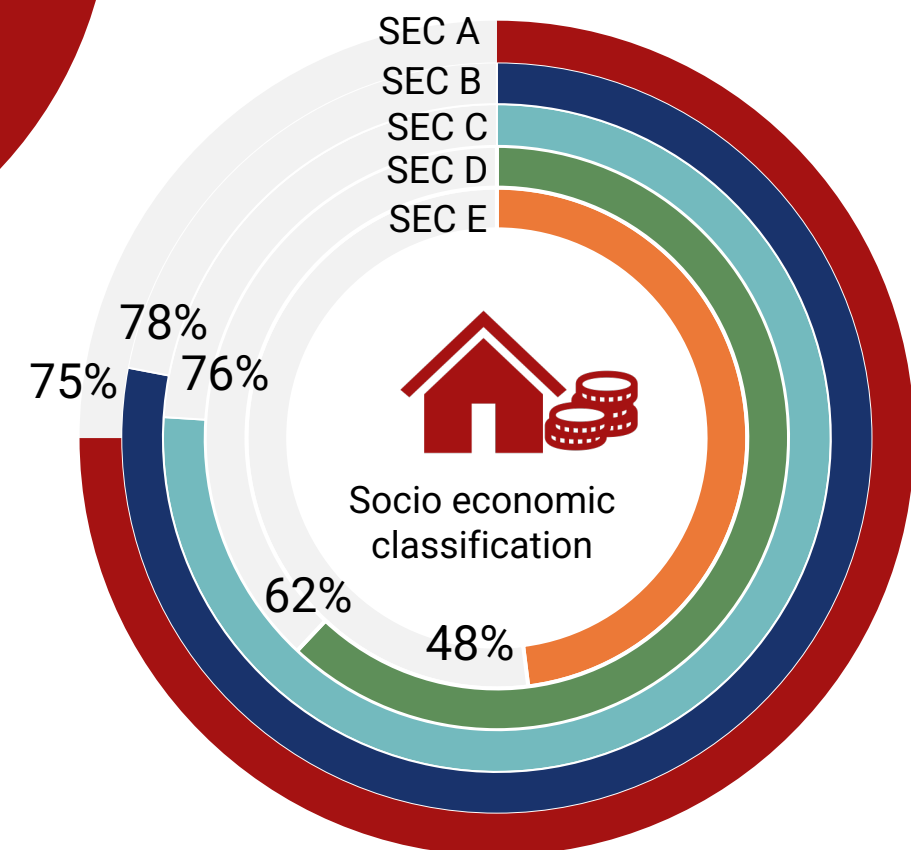
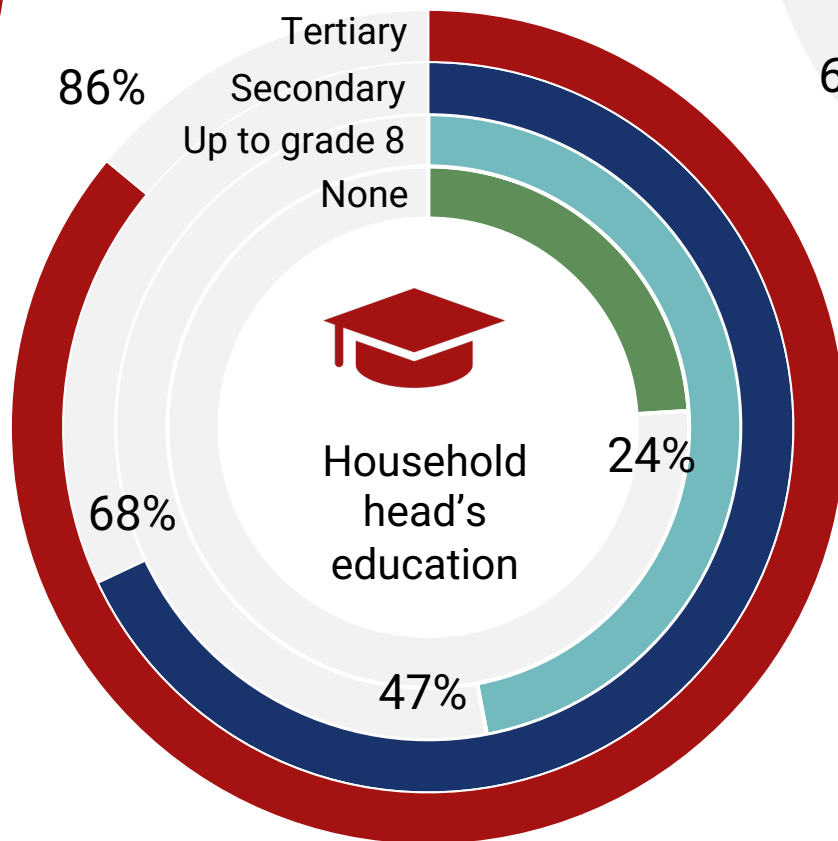
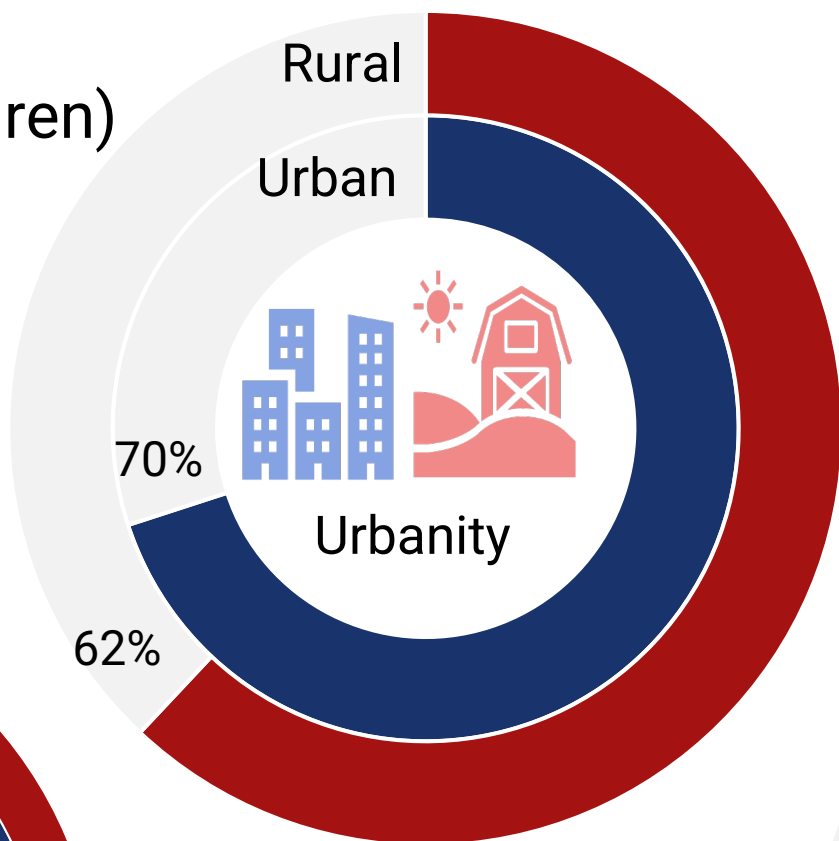
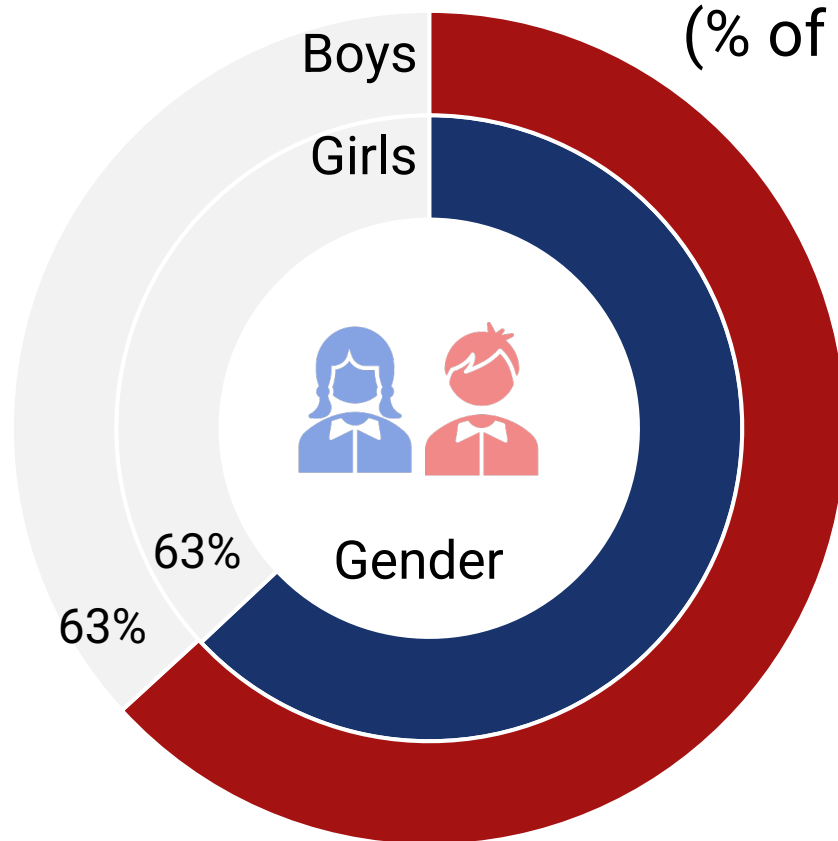
* Those who received online education may have also received offline education

Note: Grade 1 was excluded from analysis

Q: Did you receive any of the following education services for your school age-child during March -July period when schools were closed? Base: Enrolled school-aged children (n=1,809) 11

More students from wealthier, urban households with educated household heads received online education

Access to online education
(% of enrolled school aged children)

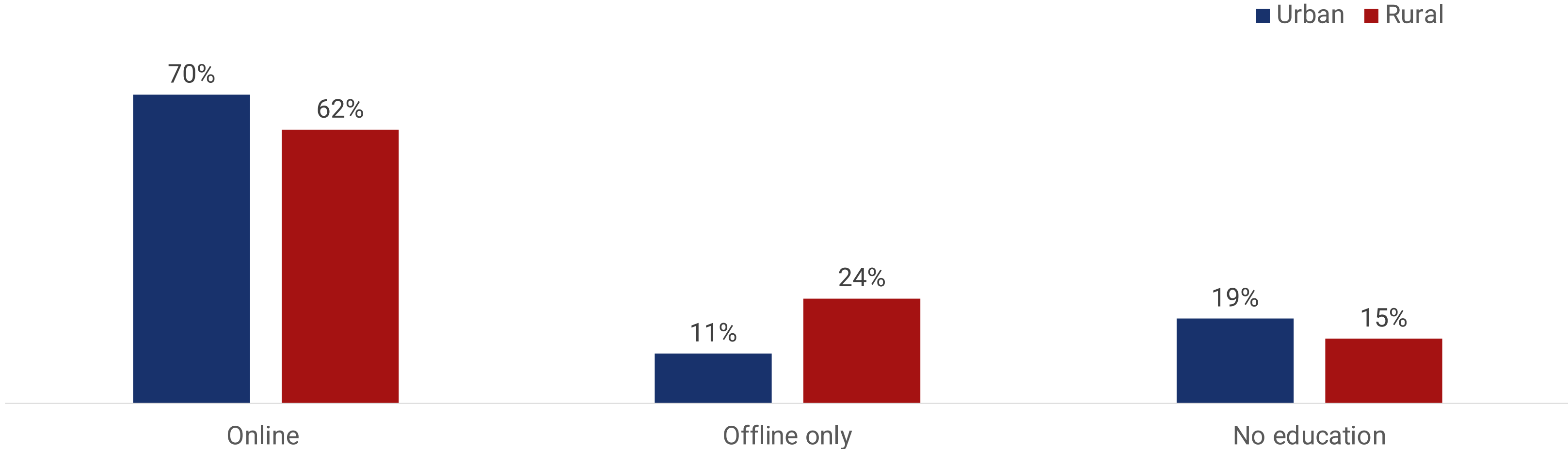


* Those who received online education may have also received offline education

Q: Did you receive any of the following education services for your school age-child during March -July period when schools were closed?

Children in rural areas had 2x more access to offline only education; urban students more likely to have had no education at all

Access to education
(% of enrolled school aged children)



* Those who received online education may have also received offline education

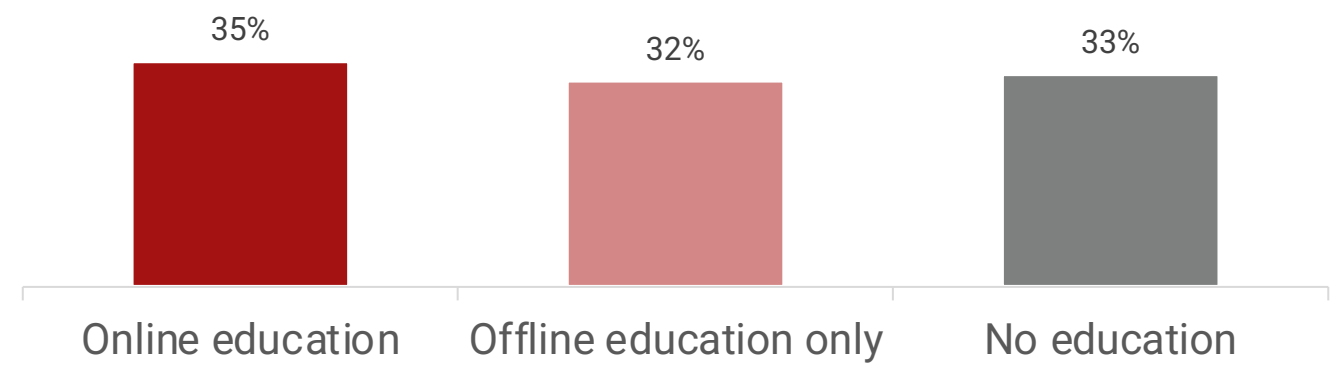
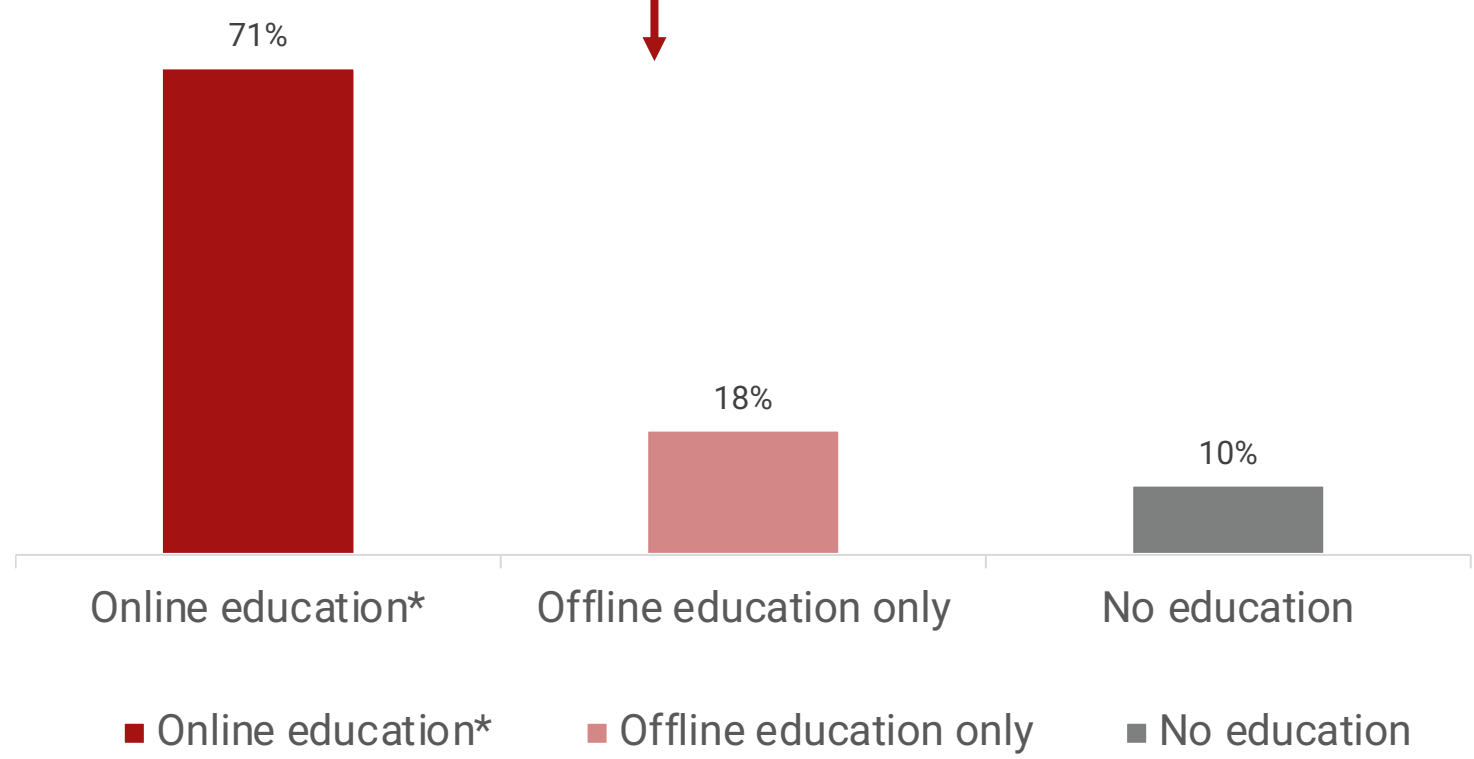
Internet connectivity a key facilitator of online education; but 35% of children from households without connectivity had online education



HH with school-aged children

76% with household internet connection

24% without household internet connection



■ Online education* ■ Offline education only ■ No education

* Those who received online education may have also received offline education

Q1: Did you receive any of the following education services for your school age-child during March -July period when schools were closed?

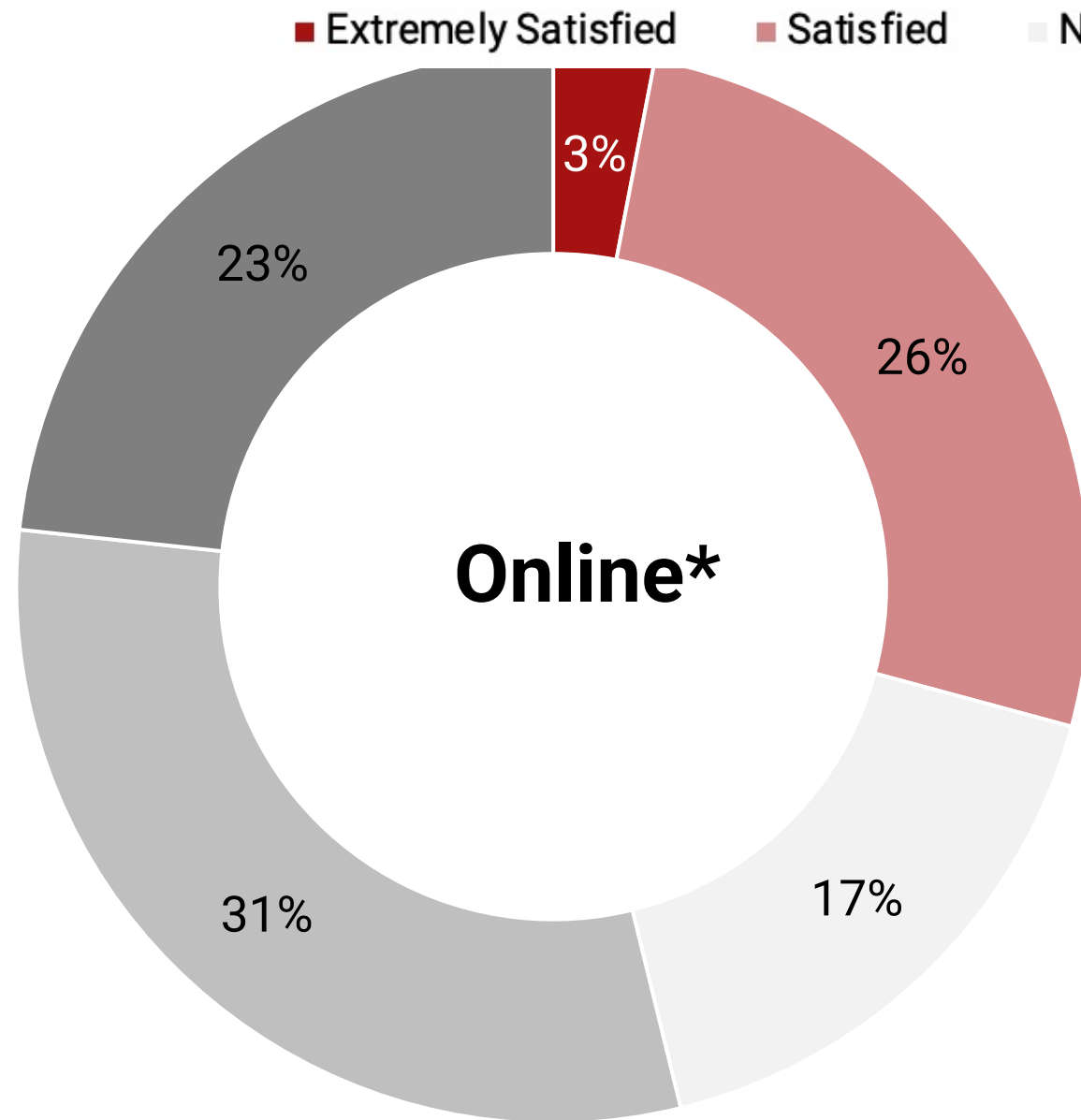
Q2: Does this household have a working Internet connection?

Base: Households with enrolled school aged kids (n=1,171)

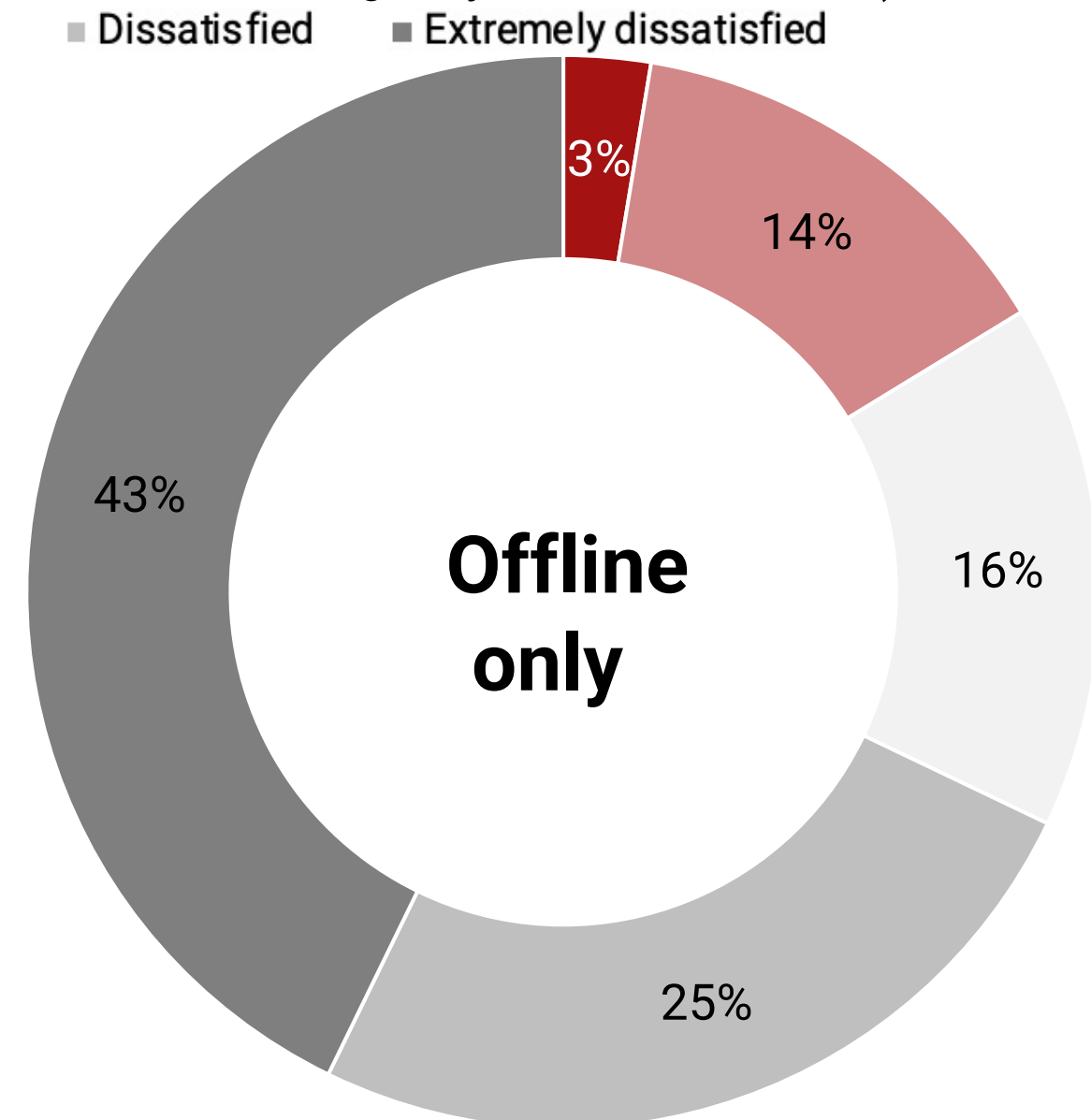
Satisfaction with remote education low; higher in households with access to online education (vs. purely offline methods)

Satisfaction with remote education

(% of households with at least one child receiving **online education**)



(% of households with children who receiving only **offline education**)



* Those who received online education may have also received offline education
Q: Are you satisfied with the education your child received during the lockdown?

Base: households with kids who received education (n=983)

Thank you!

For more information
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