

Sierra Leone RECOVR Survey Analysis



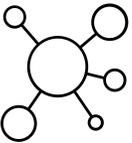
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IPA's Research for Effective COVID-19 Responses (RECOVR)



Rapid response surveys to answer critical policy questions (8+ countries)



A global hub that centralizes research and policy lessons



A portfolio of IPA studies to generate rigorous evidence (80+ studies)

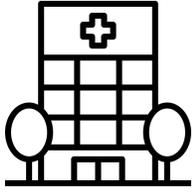


Advising 15+ governments on evidence-based approaches

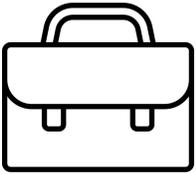


Research-on-Research to strengthen the quality of remote data collection

RECOVR Survey: Key Takeaways



Health/COVID: Around 10% of respondents or someone in their household have developed mental health symptoms since COVID-19 reached the country



Employment: 45% of employed individuals have earned less pay than they did in a typical week before the government closed schools



Financial Security: 60% of respondents say they have had to deplete savings to pay for food since February 2020



Food Security: More than 40% of respondents say they have had to limit portion sizes at meal times or reduce the number of meals they eat



Education: 63% of respondents say their main concern regarding primary and secondary school-aged children in their household is their children falling behind in education

Sierra Leone Survey Information

Dates of survey: May 27 - June 19, 2020

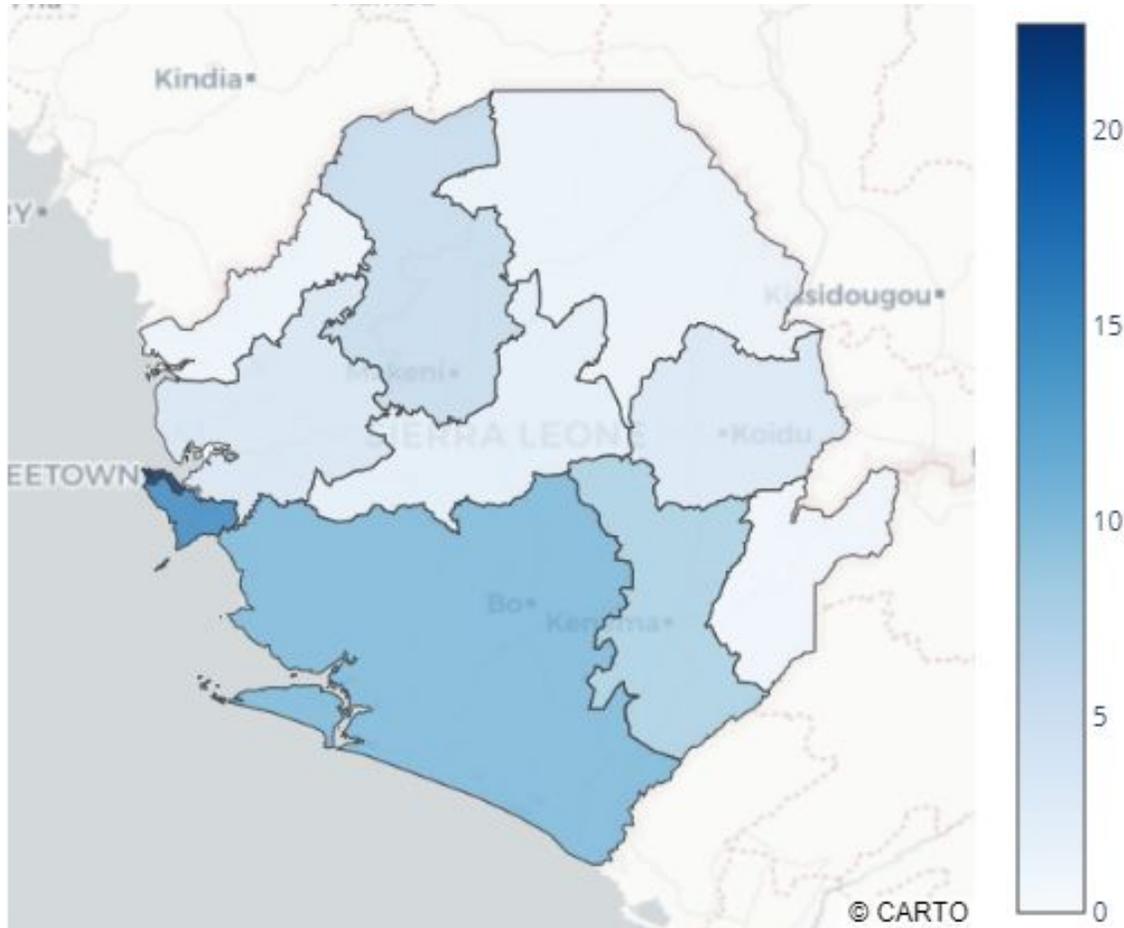
Sampling method: *Random Digit Dialing of a nationally representative sample of phone numbers*

Sample size: 1,304 respondents out of 3,831 call attempts

Average respondent demographics:

% women	35%
Age	32.5 years old
% that completed more than secondary school	22%
Household size	5.6
% Under national poverty line:	24% (Estimated with the PPI)

Sample is heavily concentrated in the capitol district



Region	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Sample
Western Area Urban	592	45.40%
Western Area Rural	203	15.60%
Southern Province	142	10.90%
Kenema	105	8.10%
Bombali	78	6.00%
Port Loko	51	3.90%
Kono	48	3.70%
Tonkolili	32	2.50%
Koinadugu	21	1.60%
Kambia	19	1.50%
Kailahun	13	1.00%

Survey Definitions

- **Poor vs. non-poor**
 - Is this household most likely below the national poverty line?
 - Estimated using the [PPI](#), which uses a simple machine-learning algorithm to build a proxy means test estimating poverty rates using a set of household characteristics.
 - Based on the SLIHS-2018 dataset produced by GoSL and the World Bank.
- **School-age children**
 - “How many children who had been enrolled in primary/secondary school before the national quarantine live in your household?”
- **Employment Sectors**
 - 20+ occupations across agriculture, manufacturing, services, transport, mining, retail, etc.
- **Error Bars** in each graph represent the 95% confidence interval.
 - If error bars do not overlap, the difference between groups is statistically significant ($p < 0.05$).

Sierra Leone RECOVR: Survey and Policy Timeline





Health & COVID-19 Mitigation

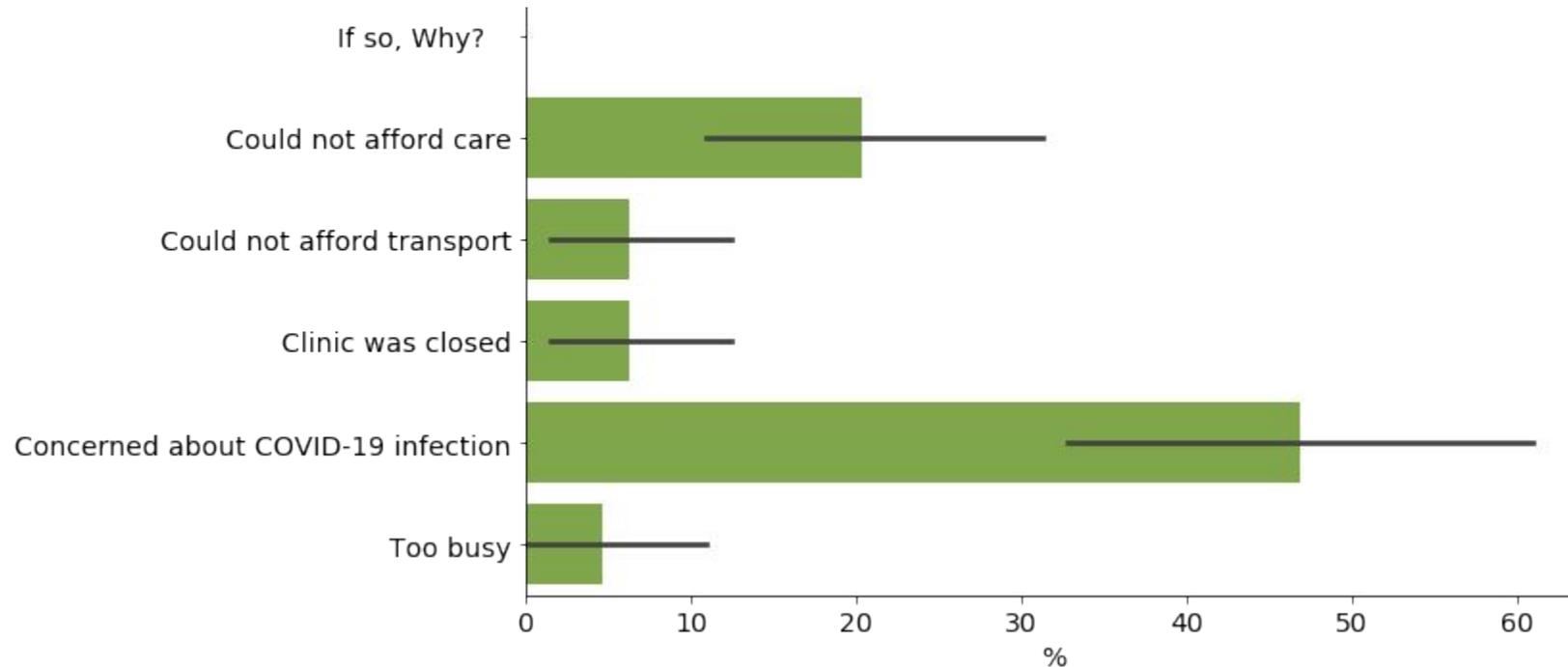
Health & COVID-19 Mitigation: Key Takeaways

- Around 10% of respondents or someone in their household have developed mental health symptoms since COVID-19 reached the country
- Only 6% of respondents say they delayed or skipped needed healthcare visits since mid-March.
- About 85% of respondents have continued visiting community health centers for vaccinations and antenatal care
- 32% of respondents say they did not stay home any days in the last week

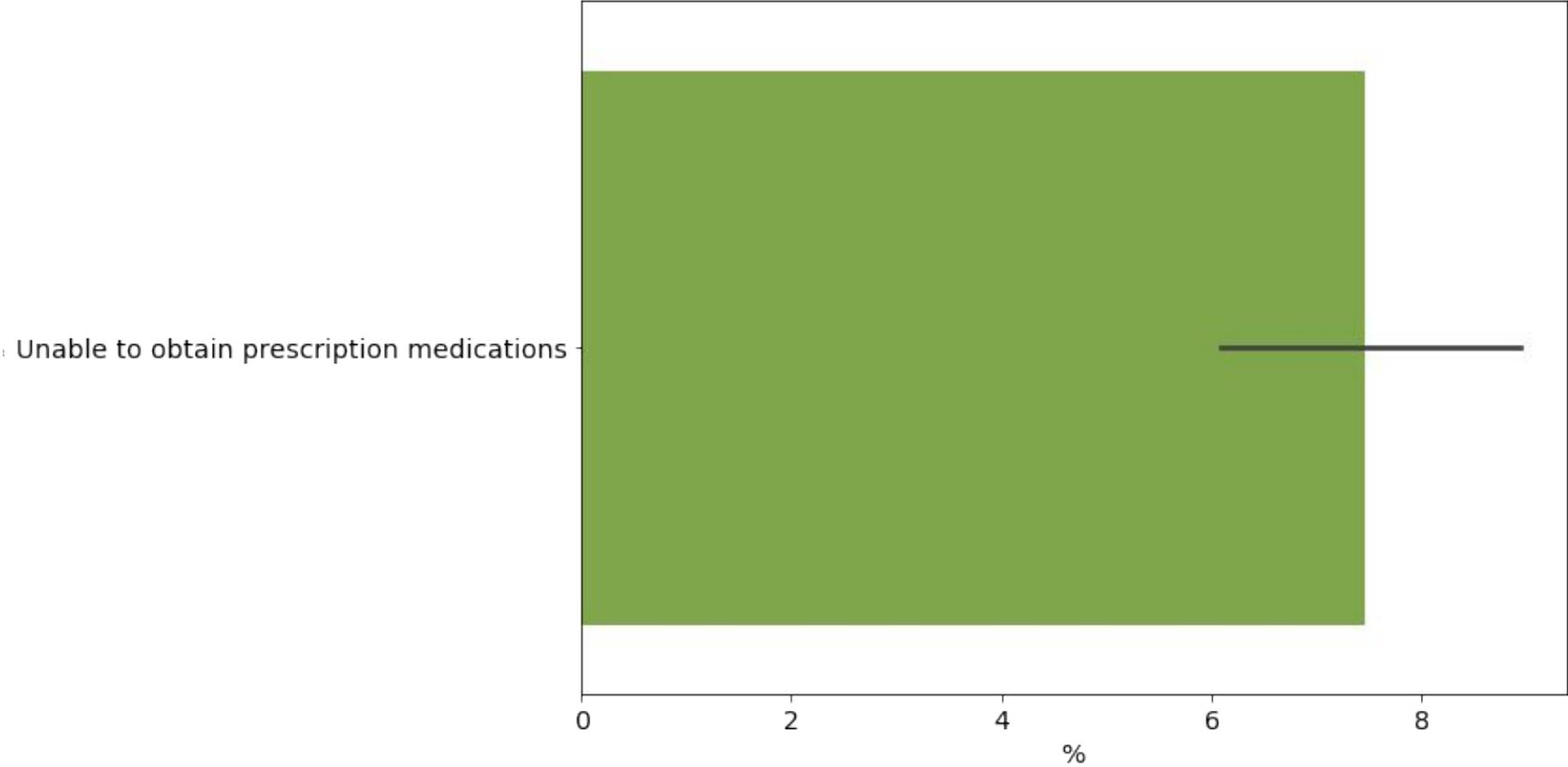
Only 6% of respondents say they delayed or skipped needed healthcare visits since mid-March



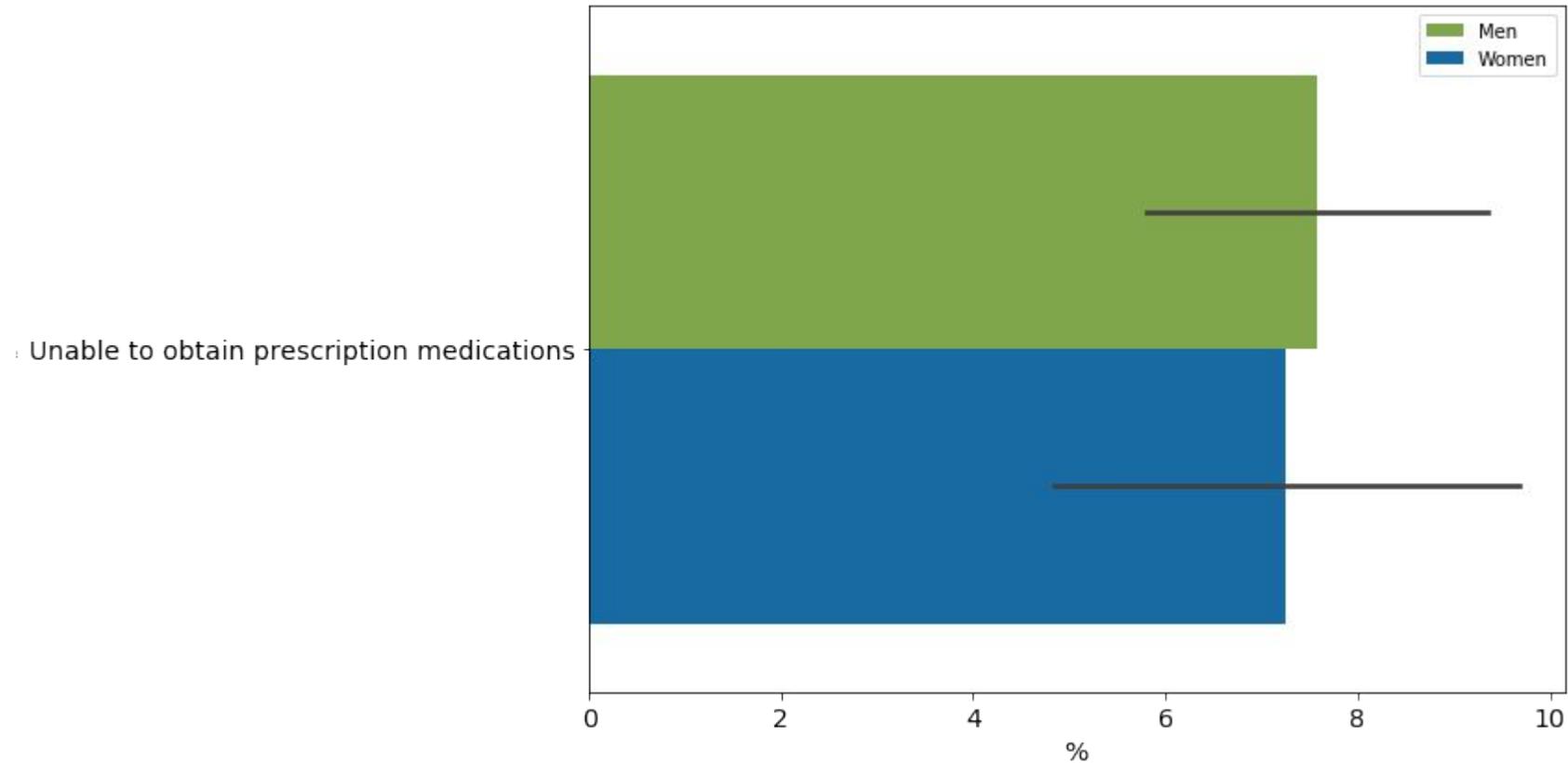
Of those who skipped, nearly 50% was because of concerns due to COVID-19



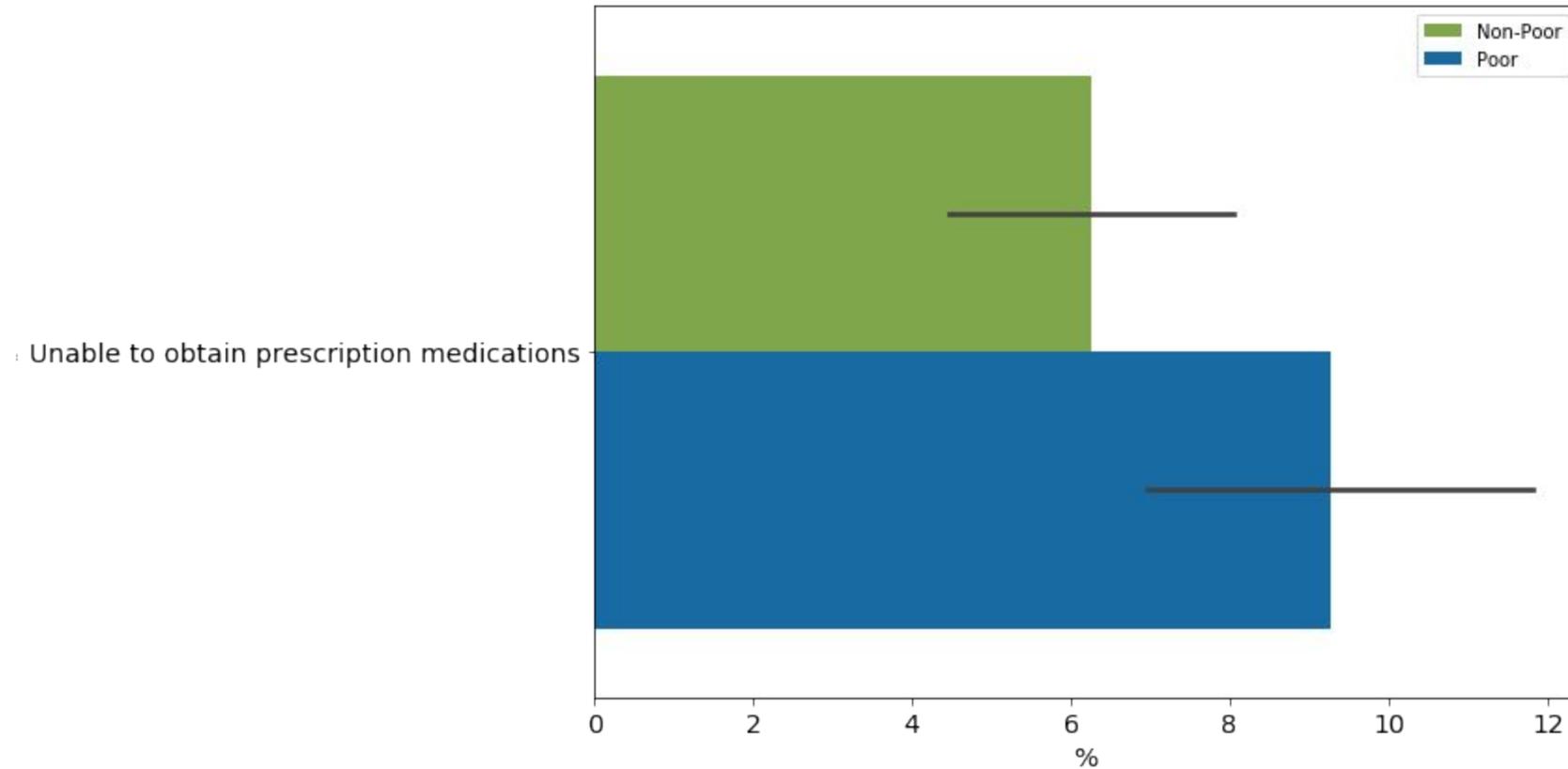
7% of respondents have been unable to obtain prescription medications since mid-March



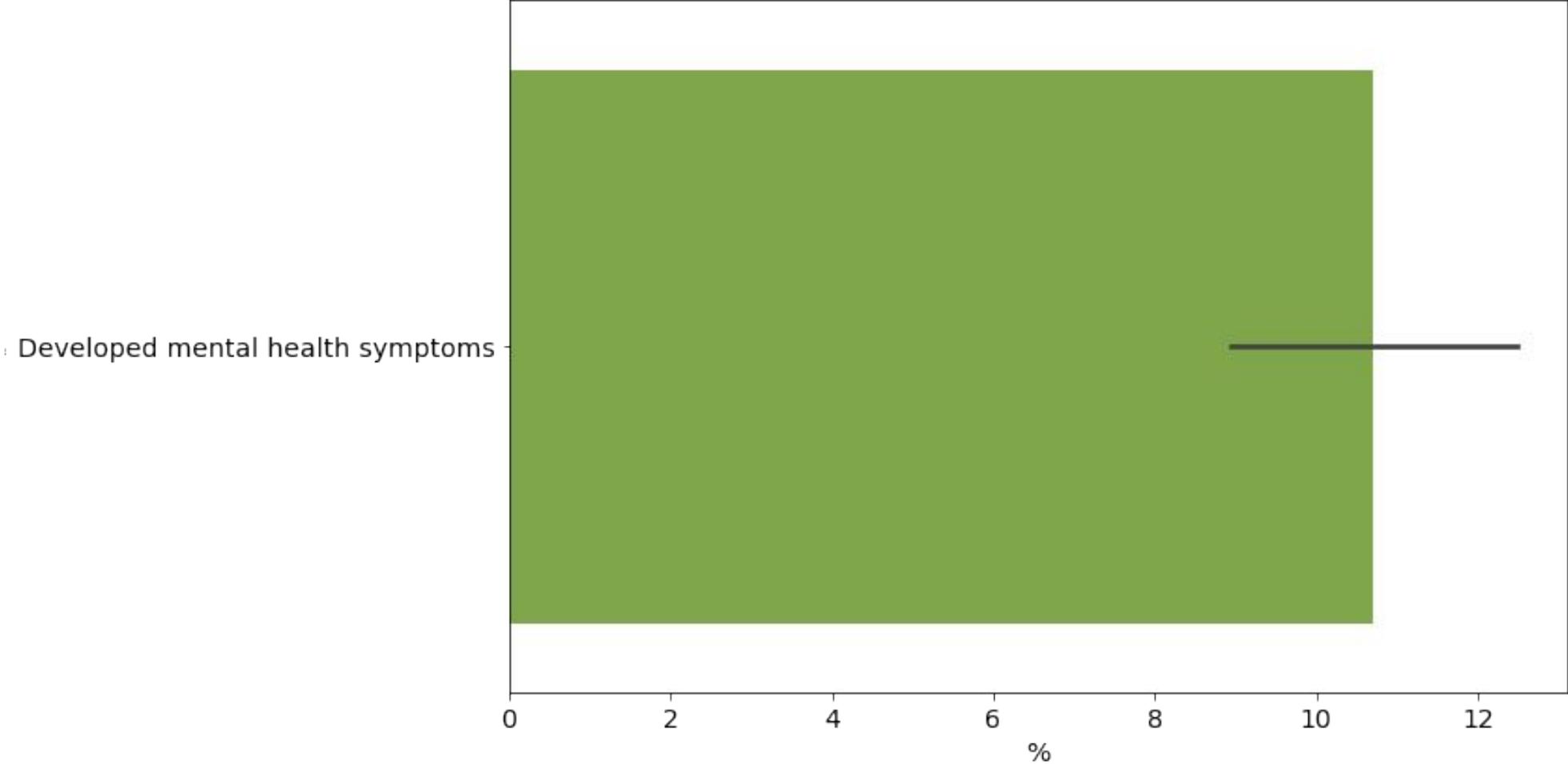
Men and women have been similarly unable to obtain prescription medications since mid-March



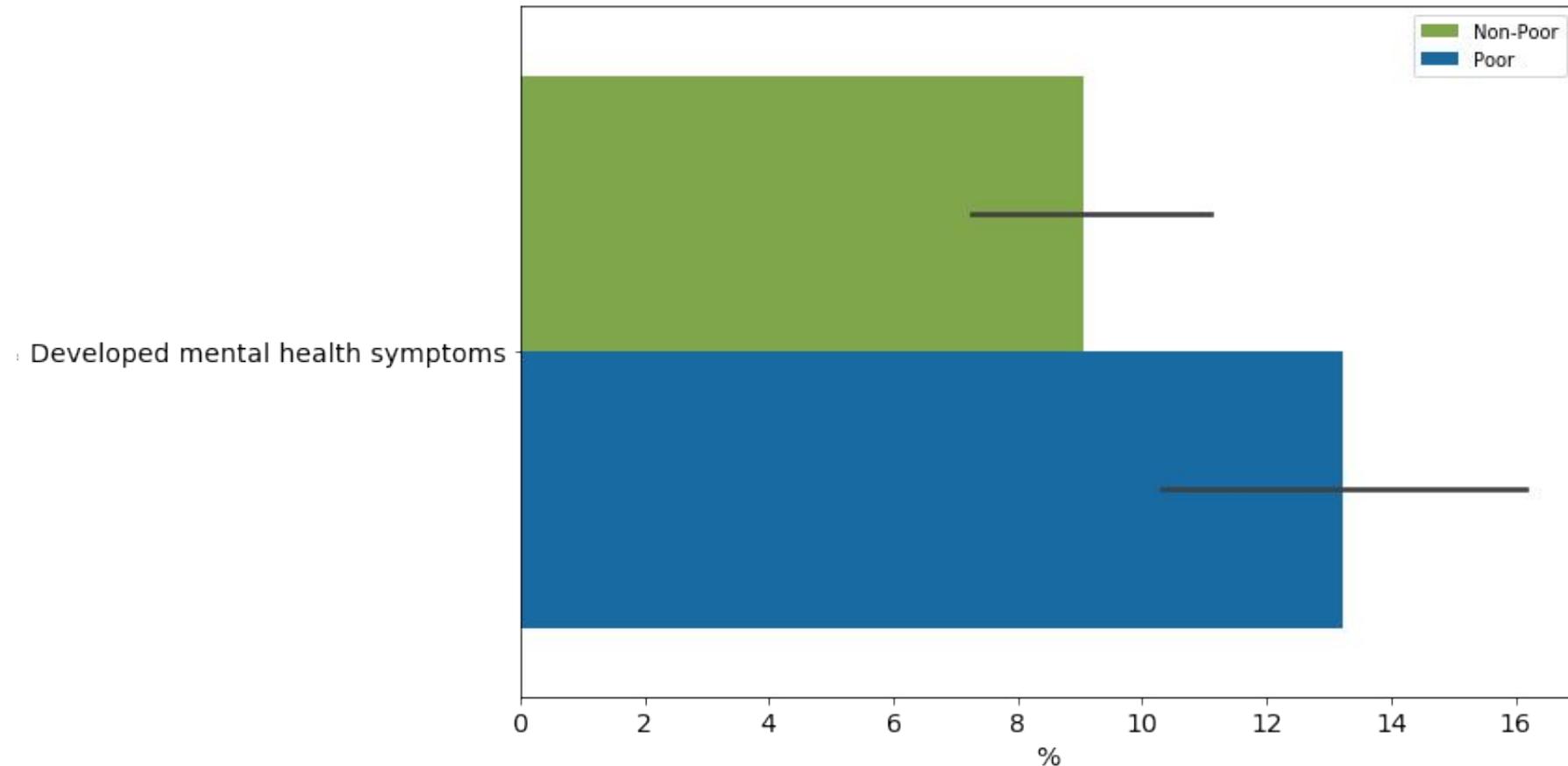
Poorer and wealthier respondents have been similarly unable to obtain prescription medications since mid-March



Around 10% of respondents or someone in their household have developed mental health symptoms since the quarantine began



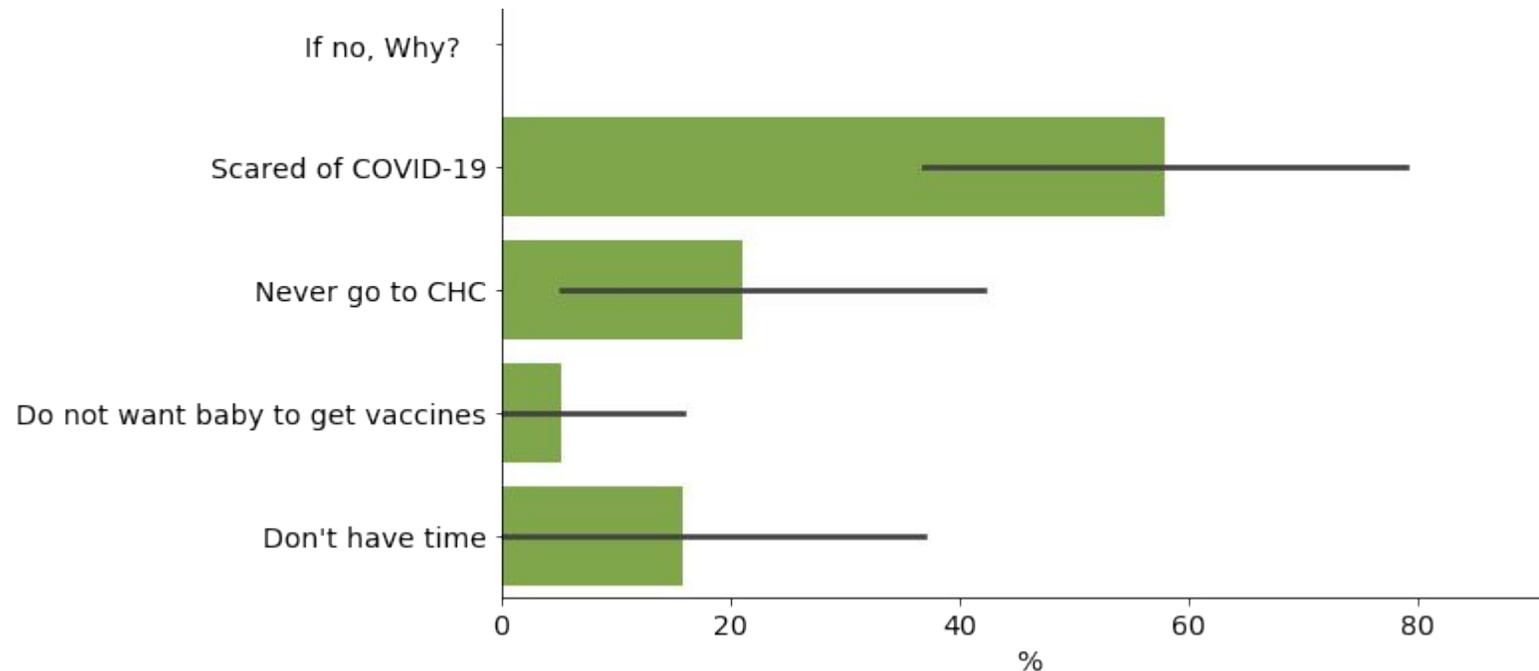
Poorer households are more likely to say they or someone in their household have developed mental health symptoms



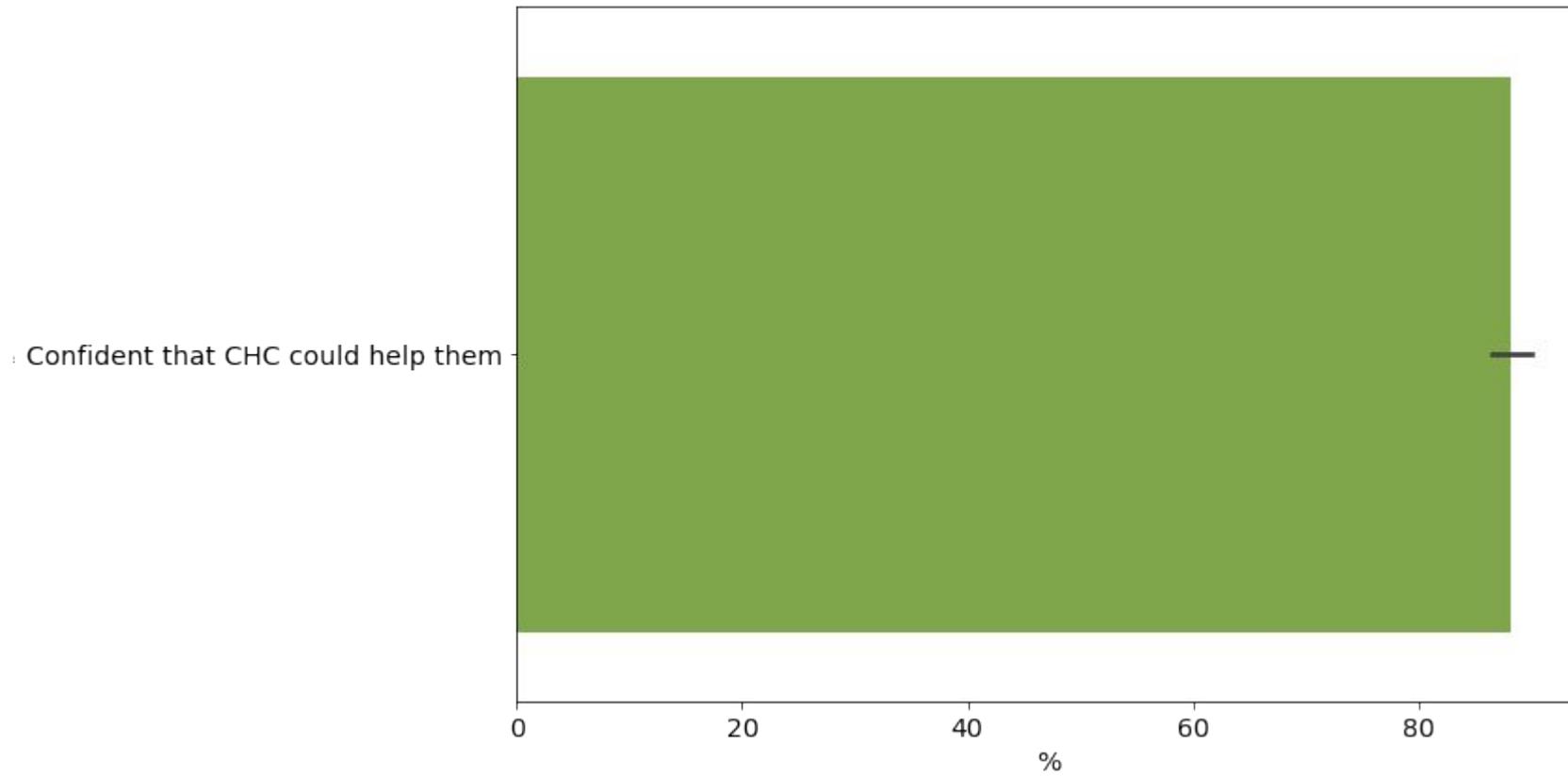
About 85% of pregnant respondents and respondents living with small children have continued to visit community health centers for vaccinations and antenatal care



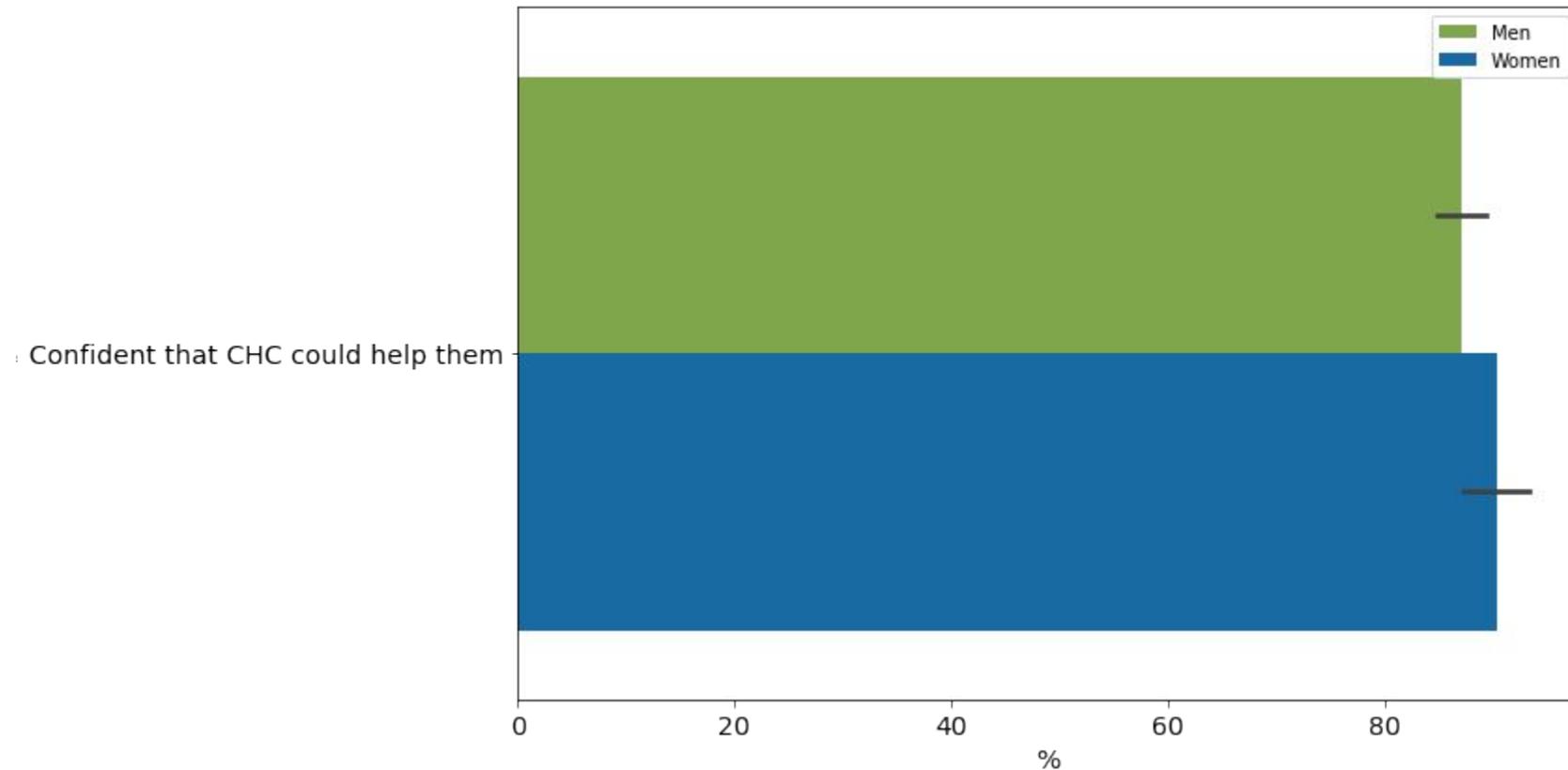
Those who have not been visiting community health centers (n=20) cite fear of COVID-19 or lack of time



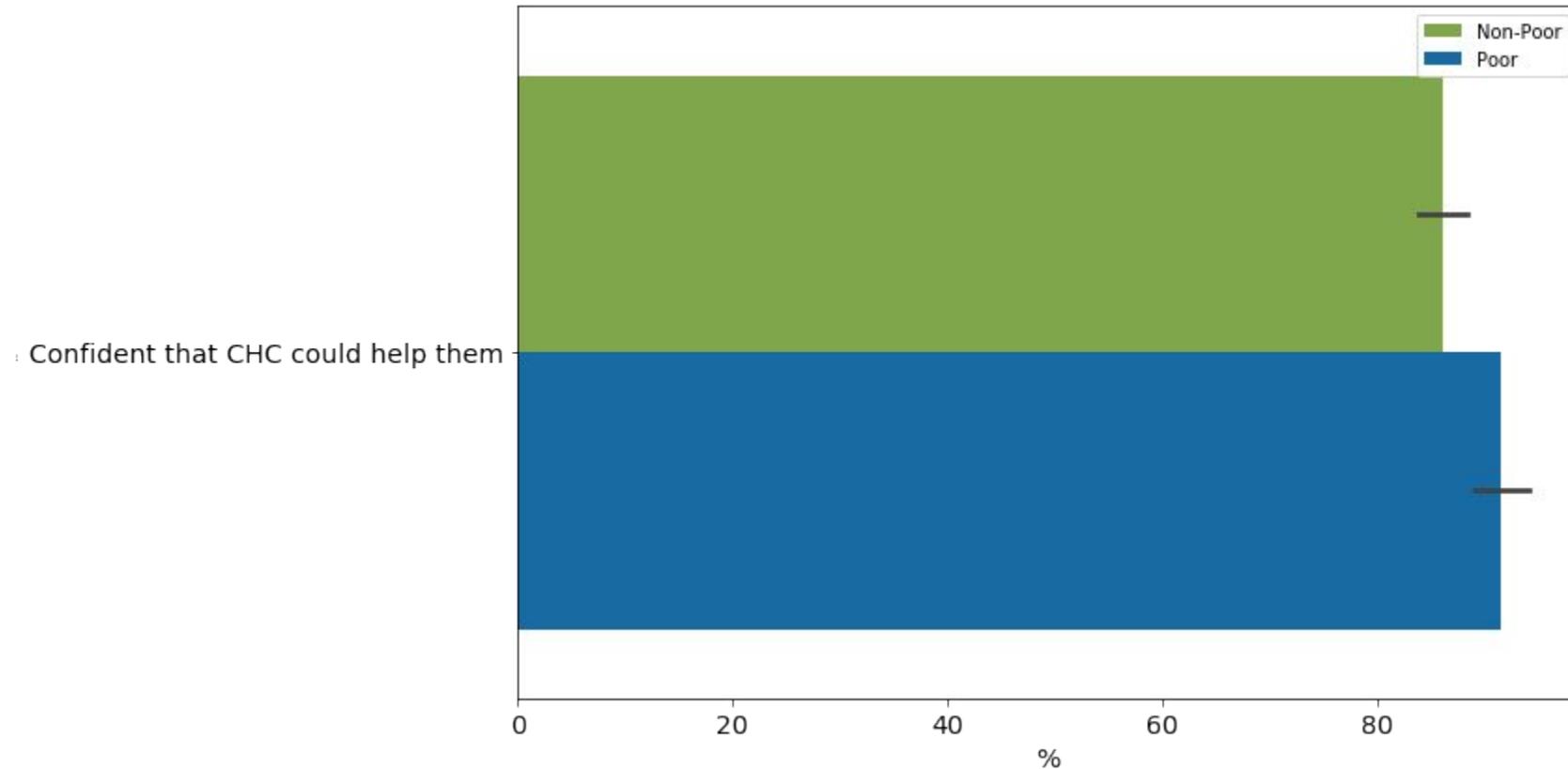
More than 80% of respondents are confident that the community health clinic could help them if they were to seek medical assistance



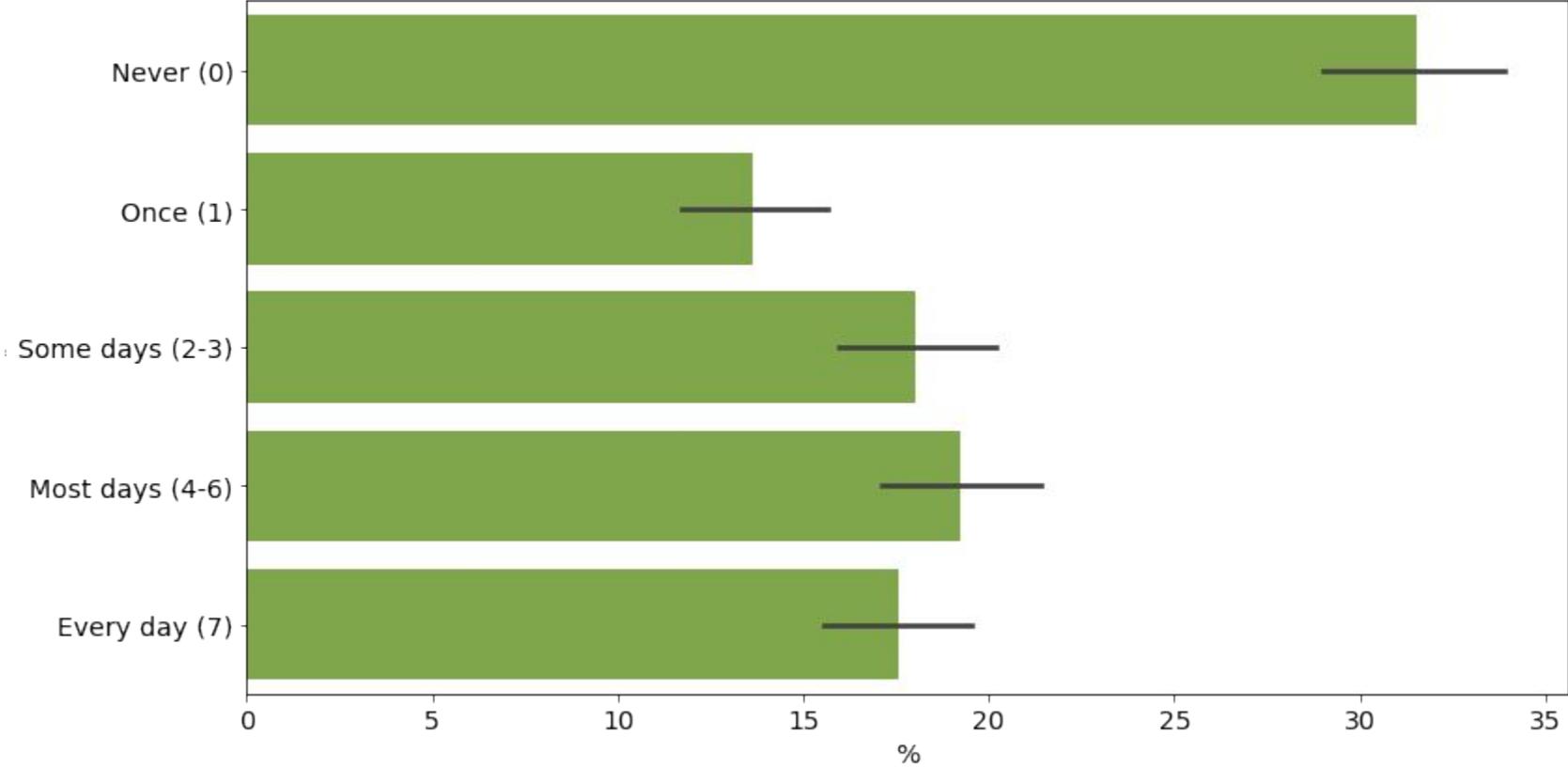
Men and women are similarly confident that the community health clinic could help them if they were to seek medical assistance



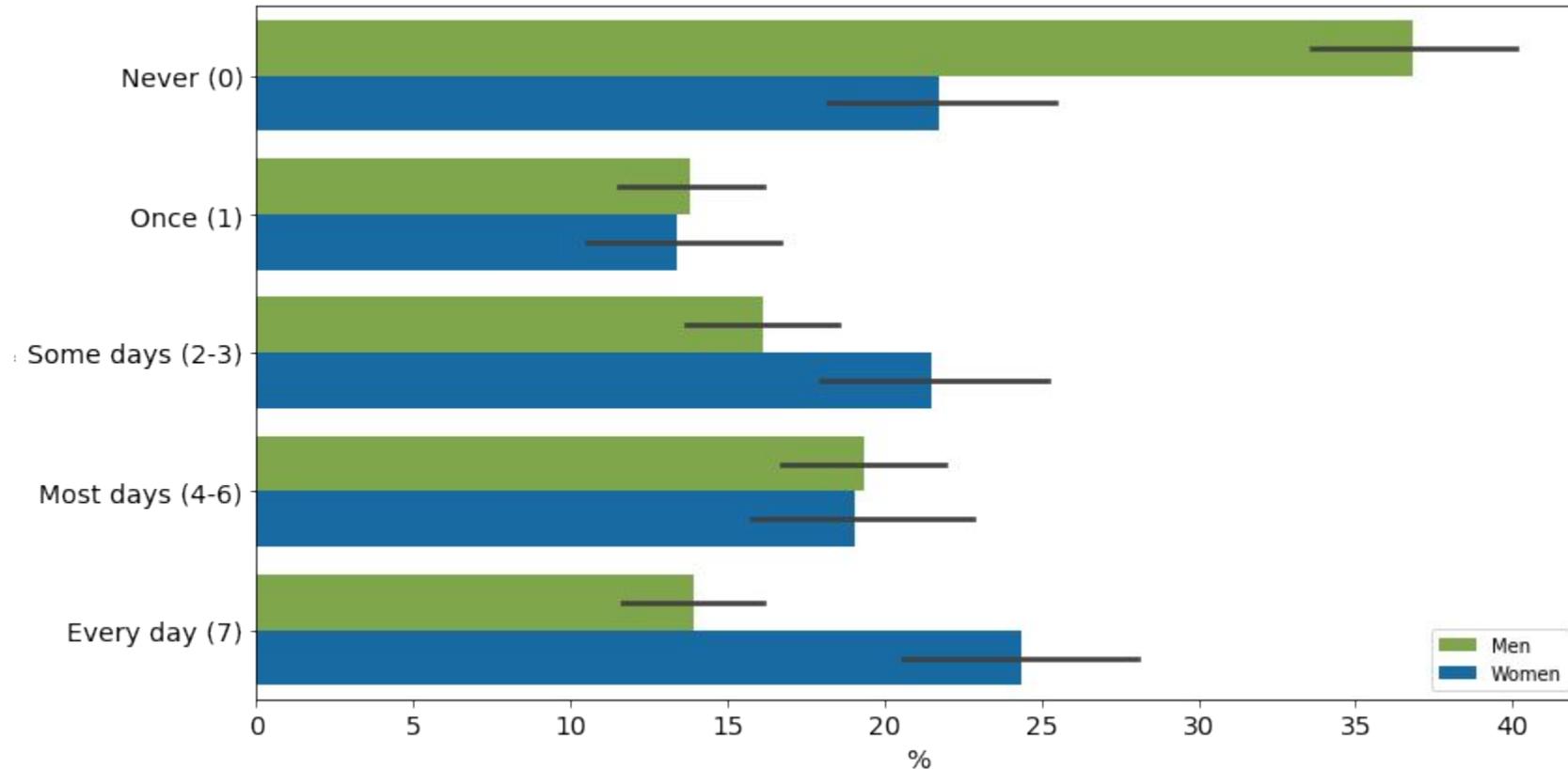
Poorer respondents are only slightly more confident than wealthier respondents that the community health clinic could help them if they were to seek medical assistance



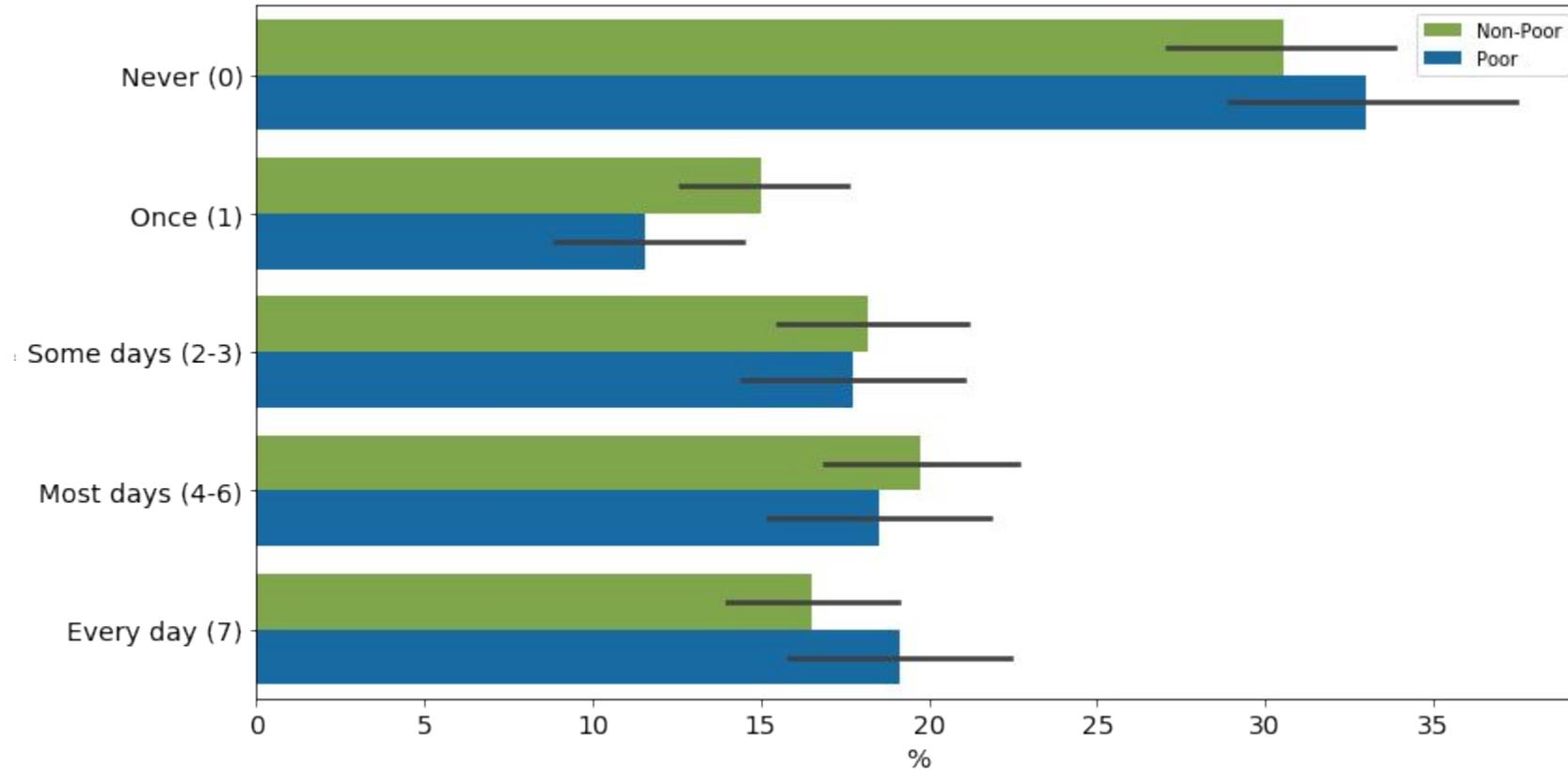
32% of respondents say they did not stay home any days in the last week



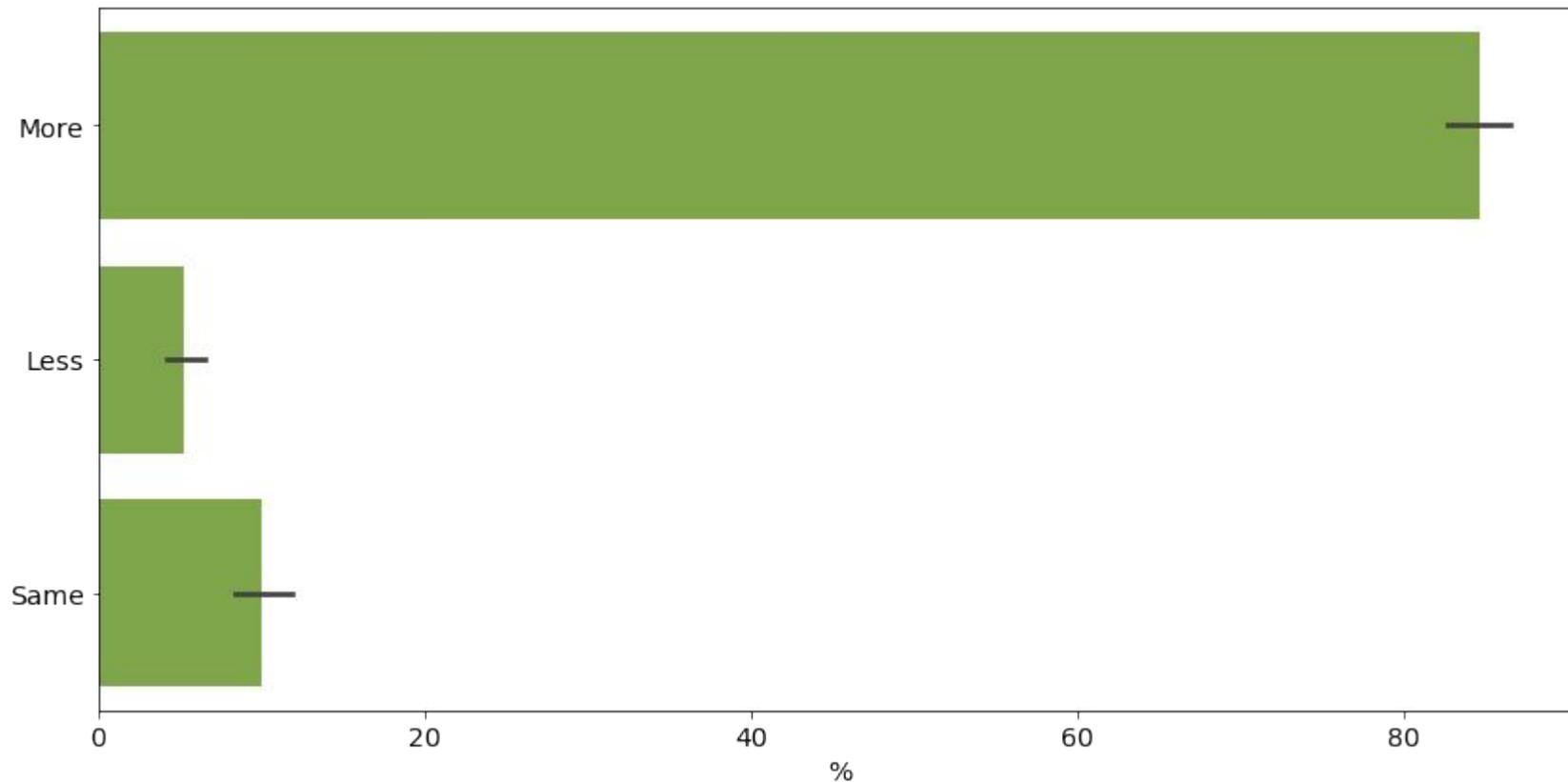
Women are much more likely to stay home every day than men, and more than 35% of male respondents report not staying home any days in the last week



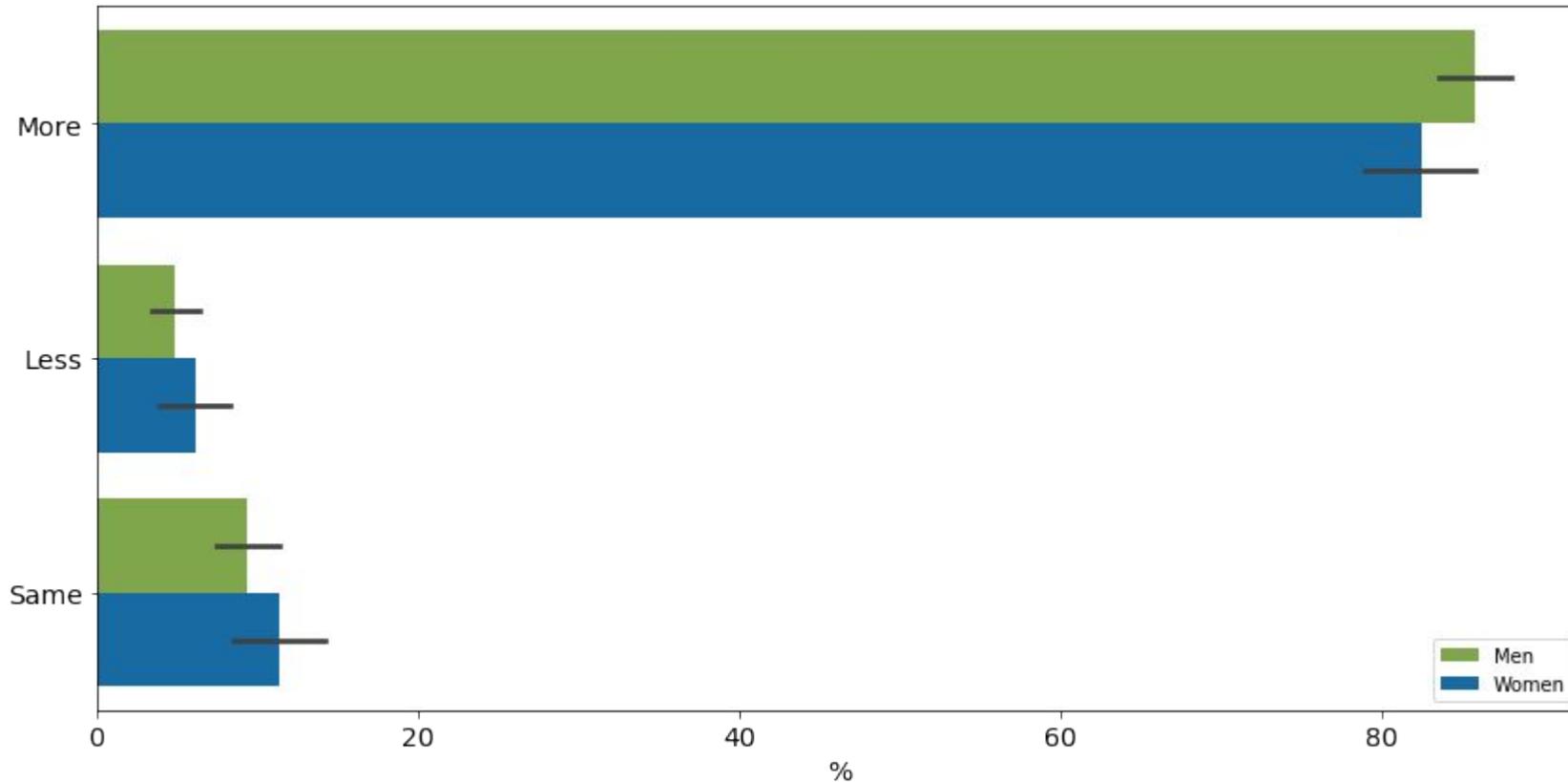
Poorer and wealthier respondents are similarly likely to say they did not stay home any days in the last week



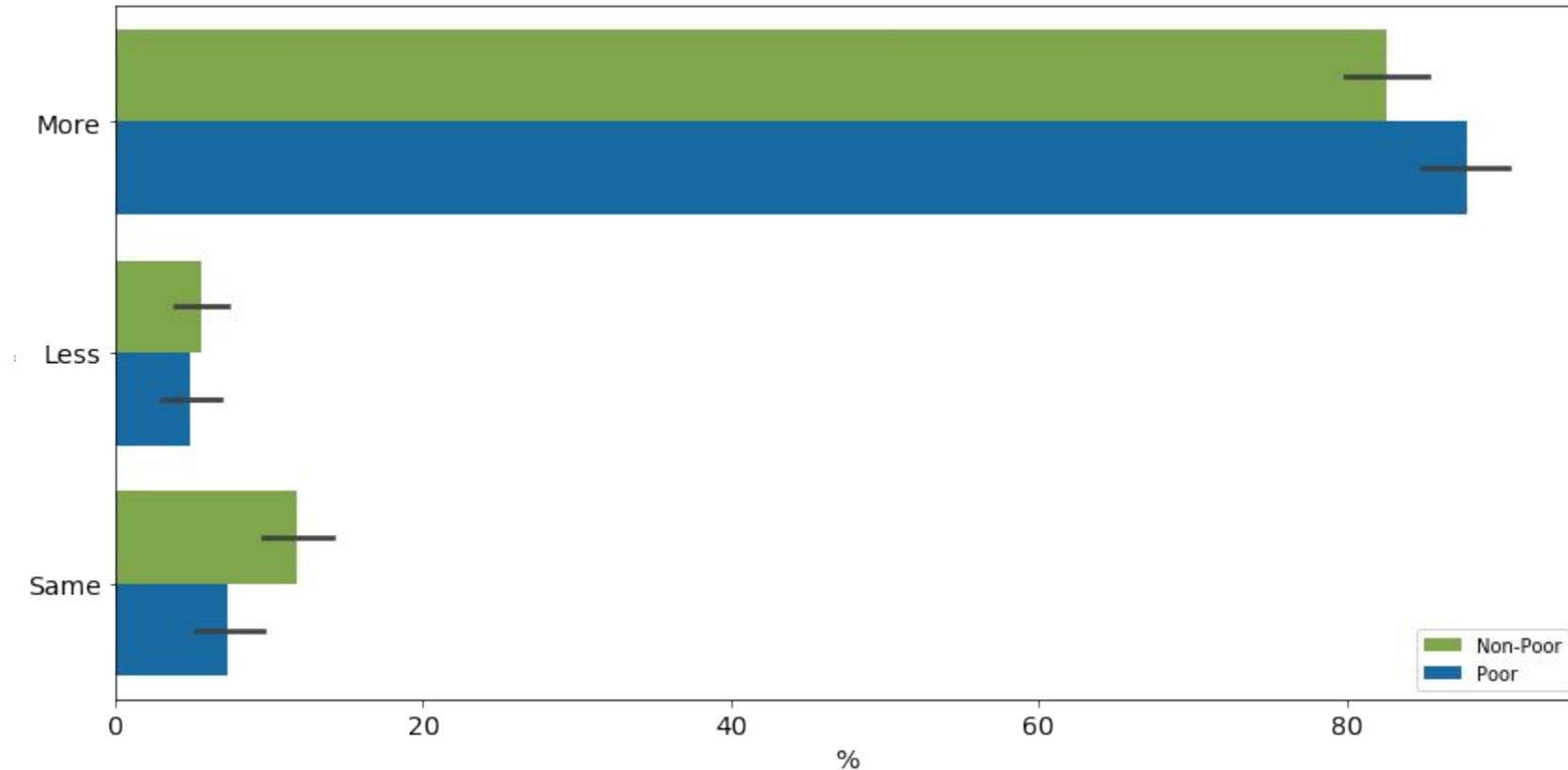
More than 80% of respondents say they washed their hands more often this week than before mid-March



Men and women are similarly likely to say they washed their hands more often this week than before mid-March



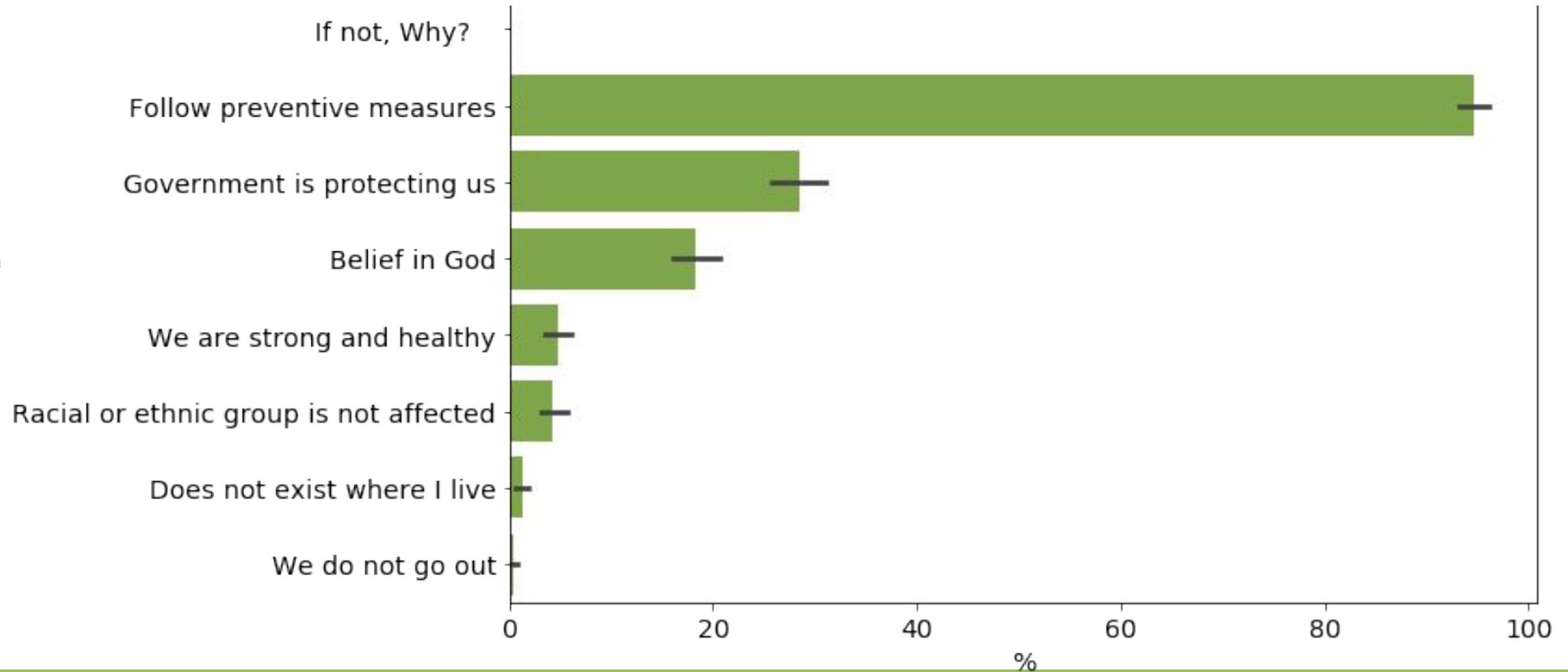
Poorer and wealthier respondents are similarly likely to say they washed their hands more often this week than before mid-March



20% of respondents say they feel their household is at risk of contracting COVID-19



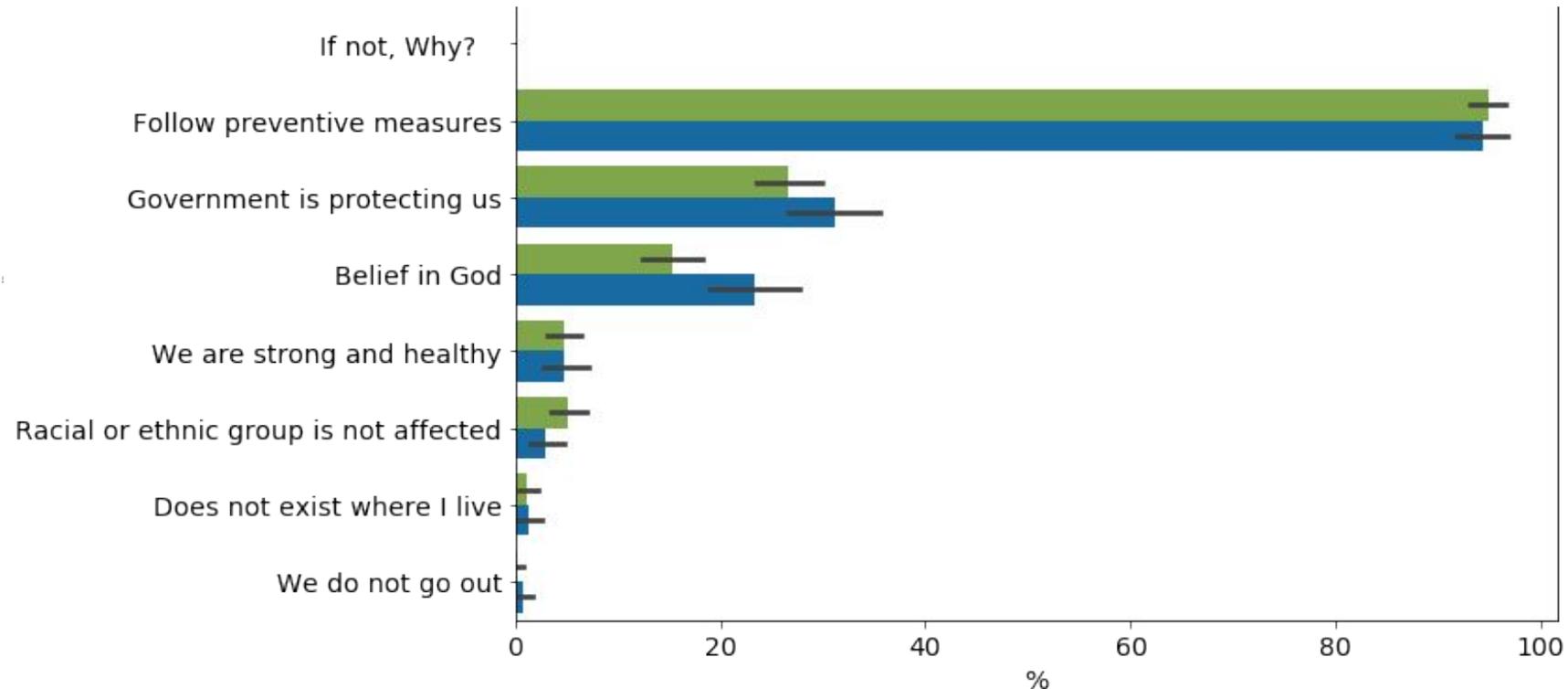
For those who do not feel at risk, nearly all respondents cite compliance with preventive measures



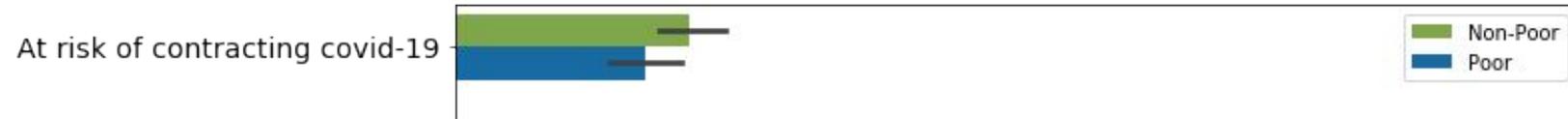
Men are more likely than women to say they feel their household is at risk of contracting COVID-19



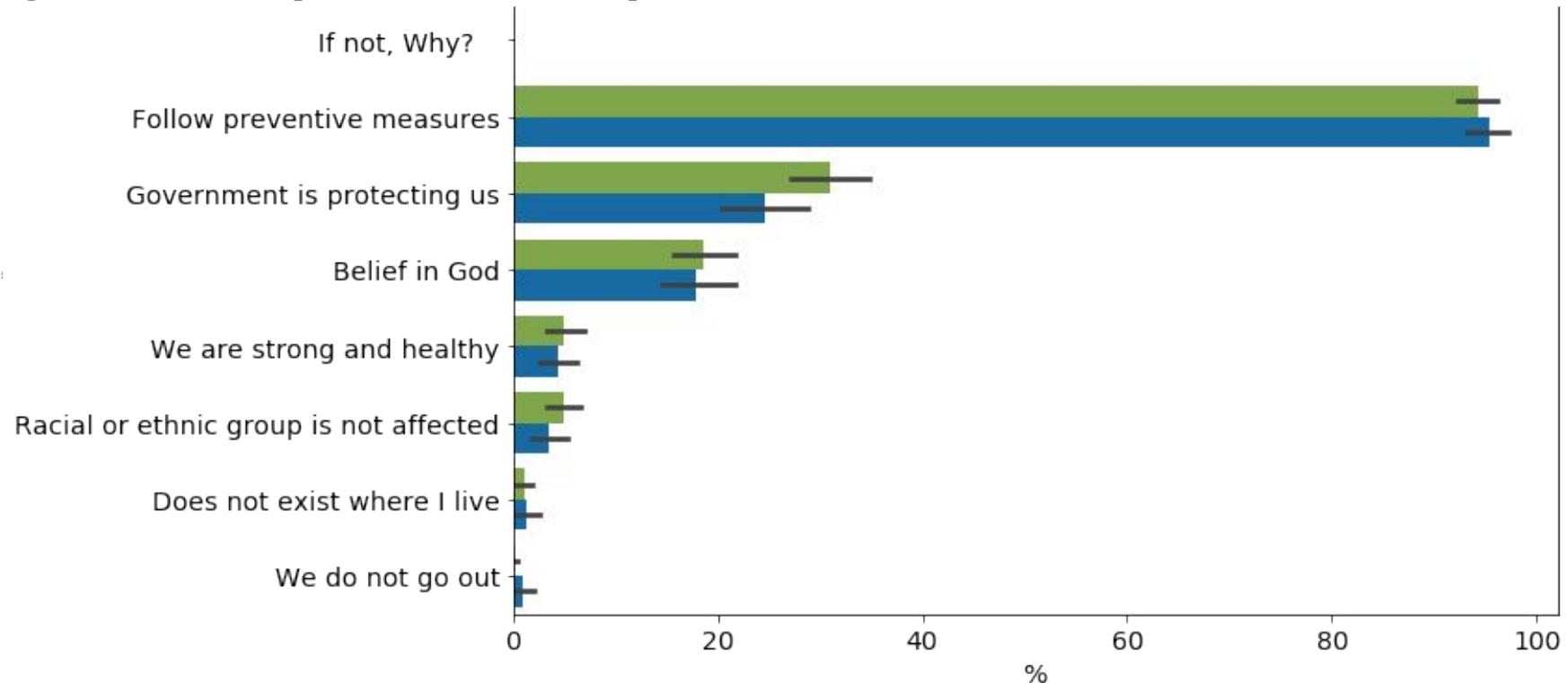
For those who do not feel at risk, men and women similarly cite compliance with preventive measures



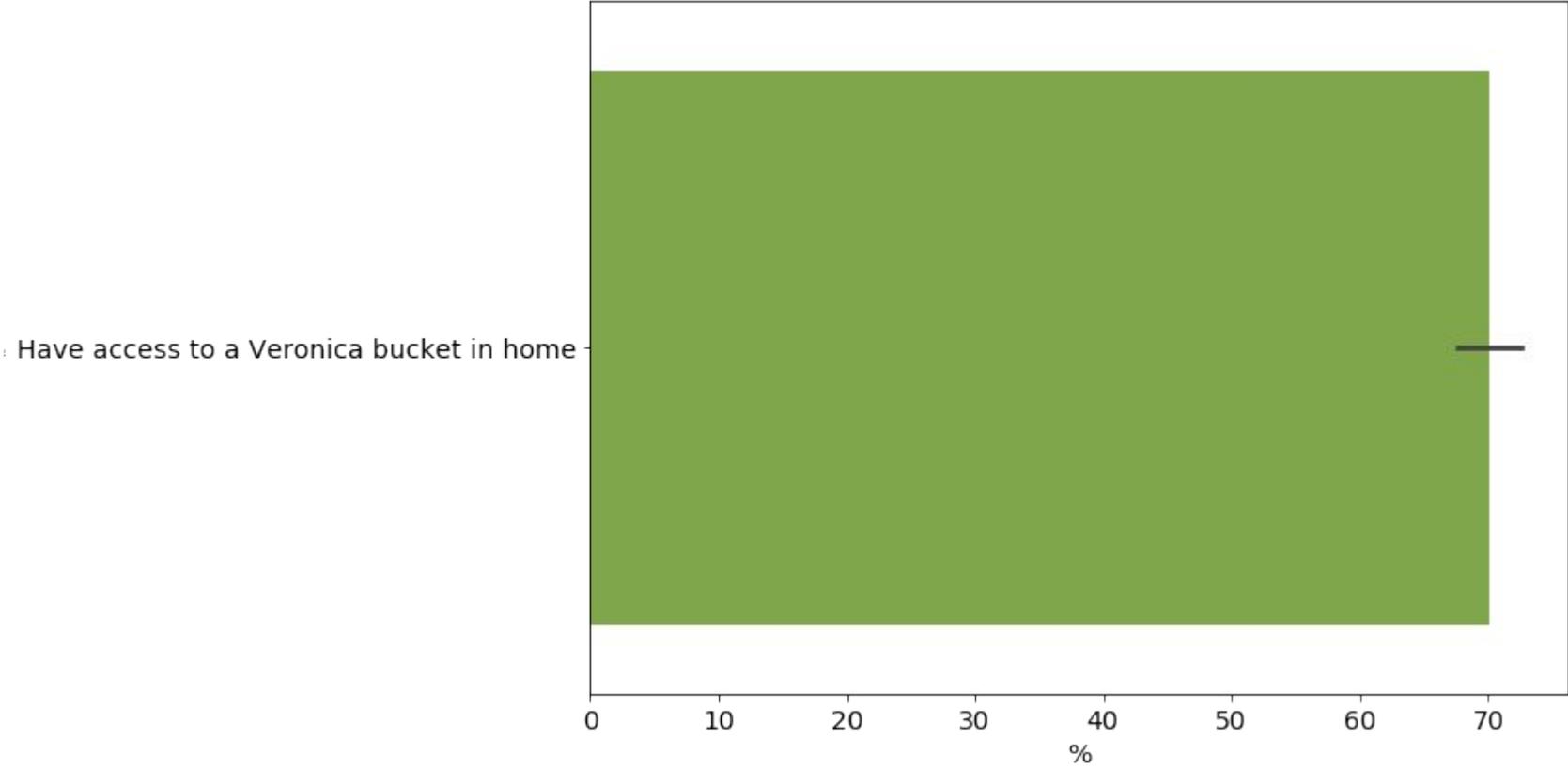
Poorer and wealthier respondents are similarly likely to say they feel their household is at risk of contracting COVID-19



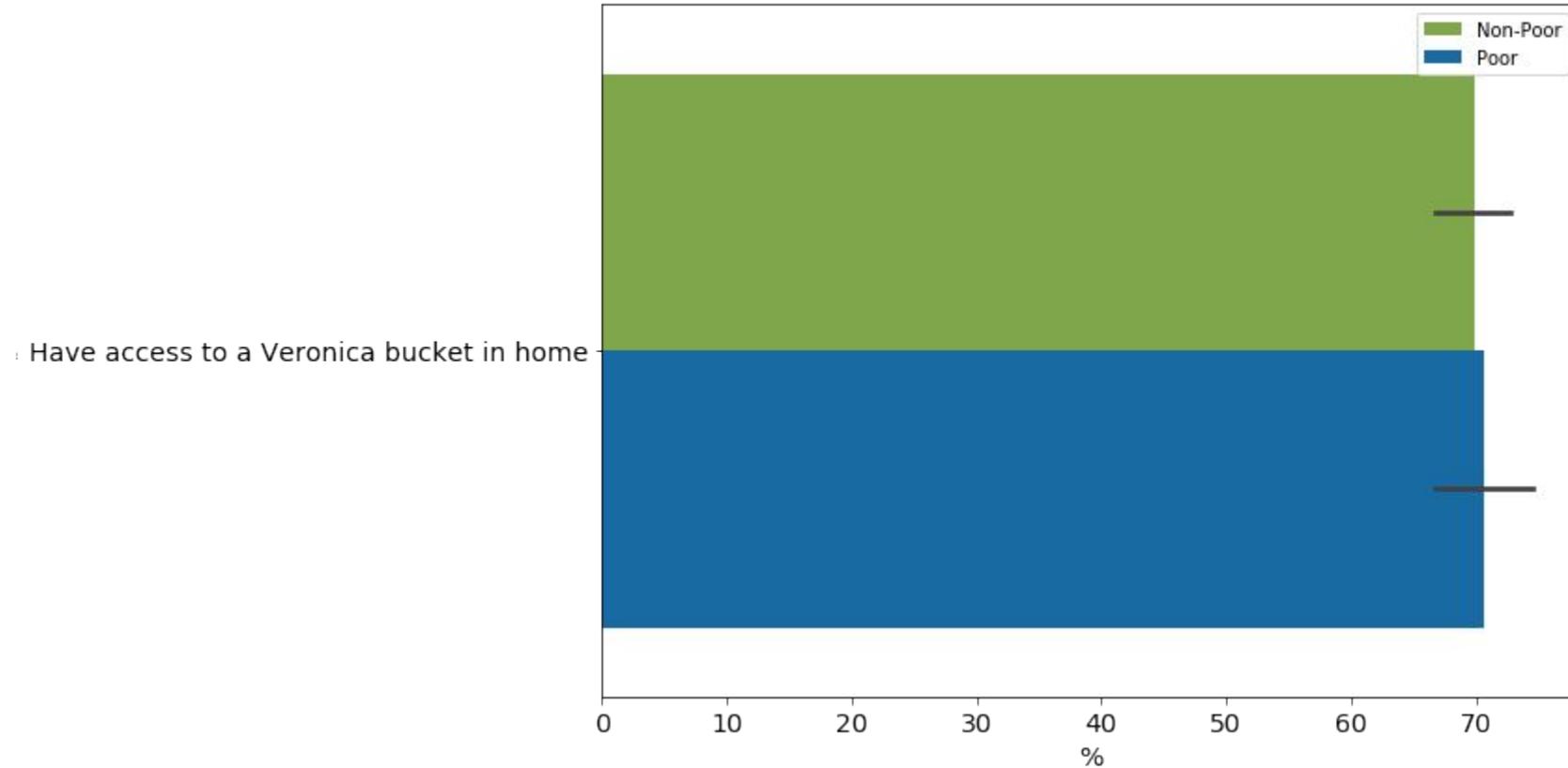
For those who do not feel at risk, poorer and wealthier respondents similarly cite compliance with preventive measures



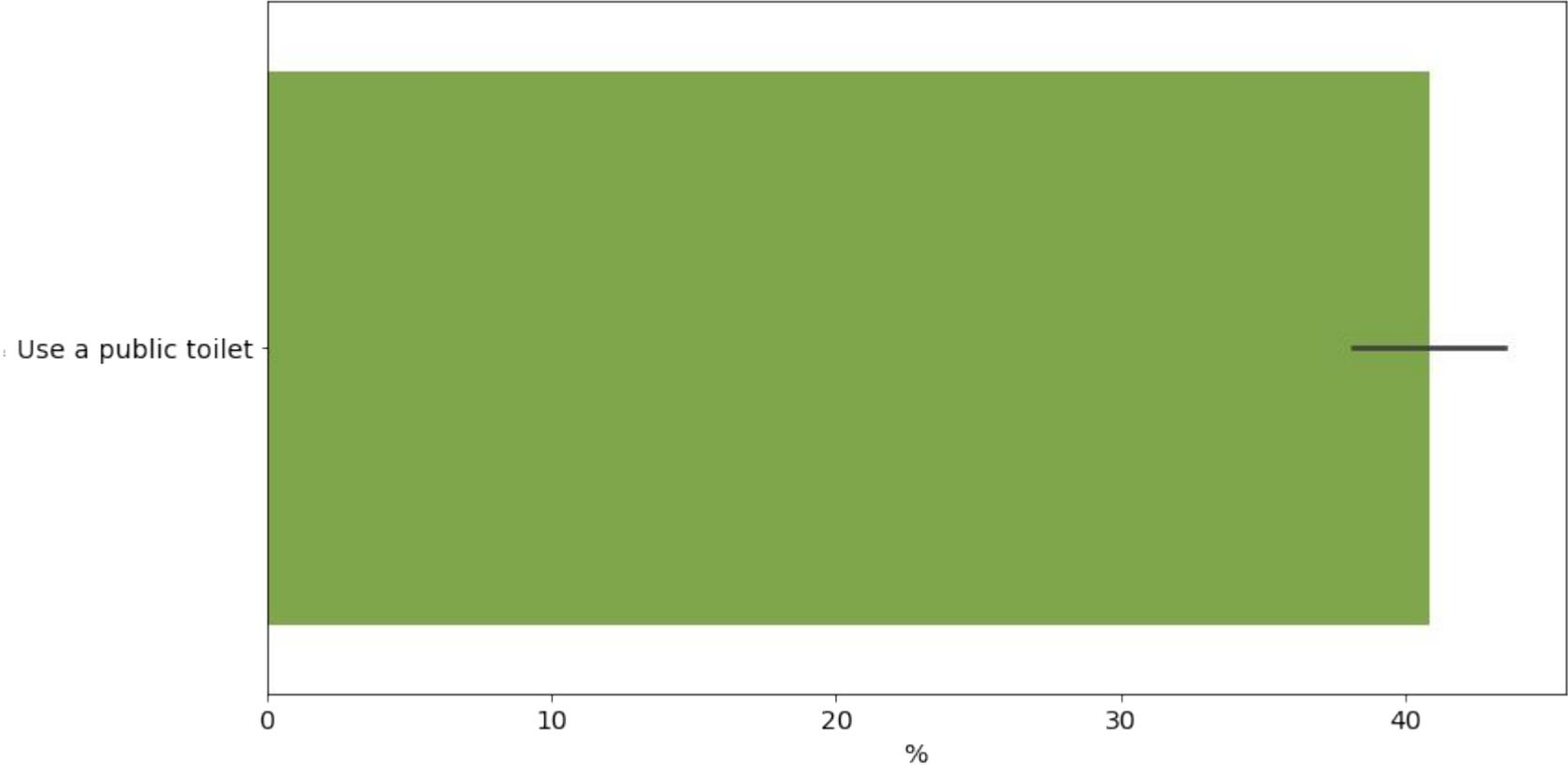
70% of respondents have access to a Veronica bucket in their home/compound



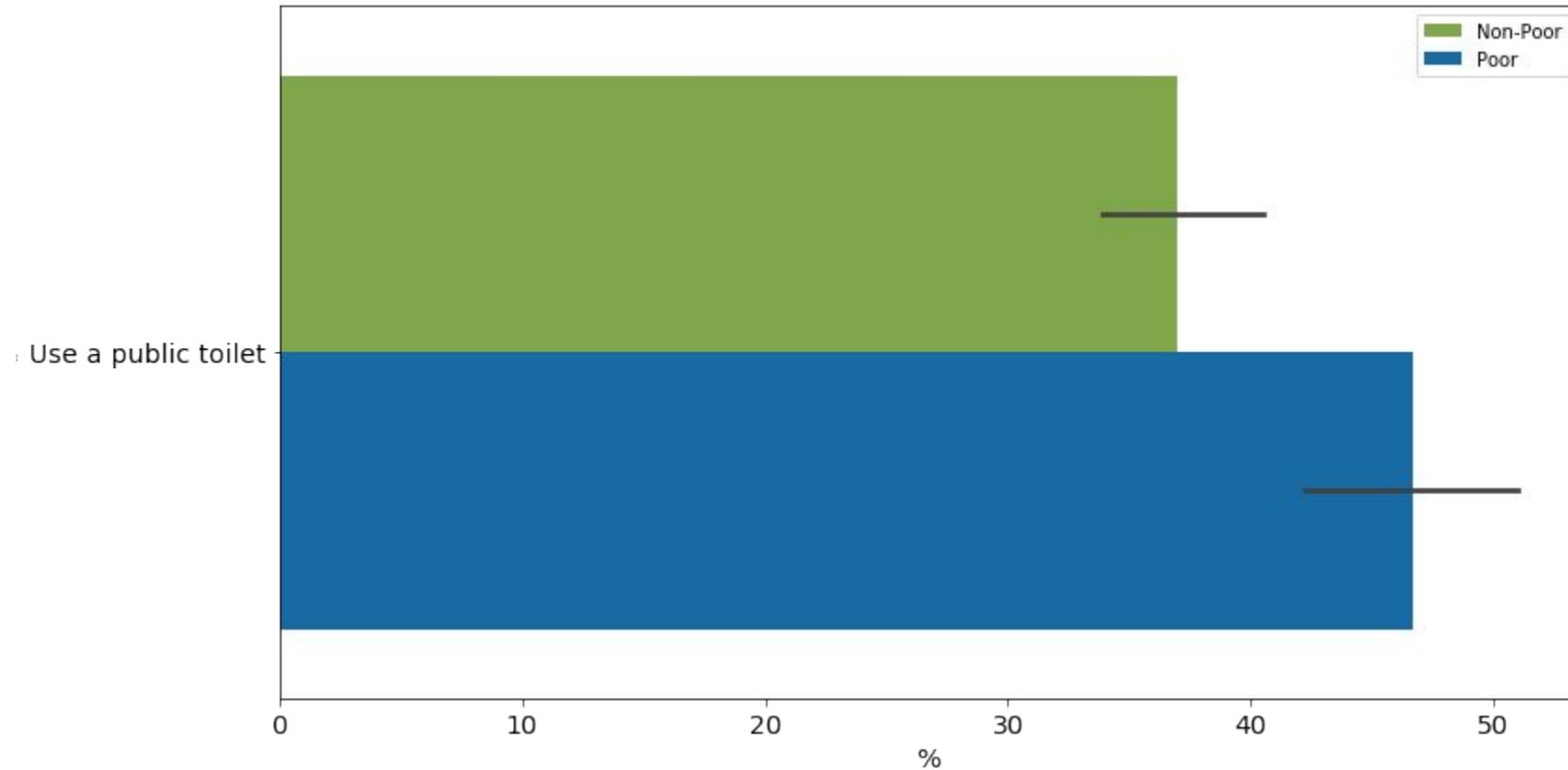
Poor and non-poor respondents have nearly identical rates of access to a Veronica bucket in their home/compound



42% of respondents use a public toilet (a toilet that is shared with other households)



Poorer households are more likely than wealthier households to report using a public toilet (a toilet that is shared with other households)



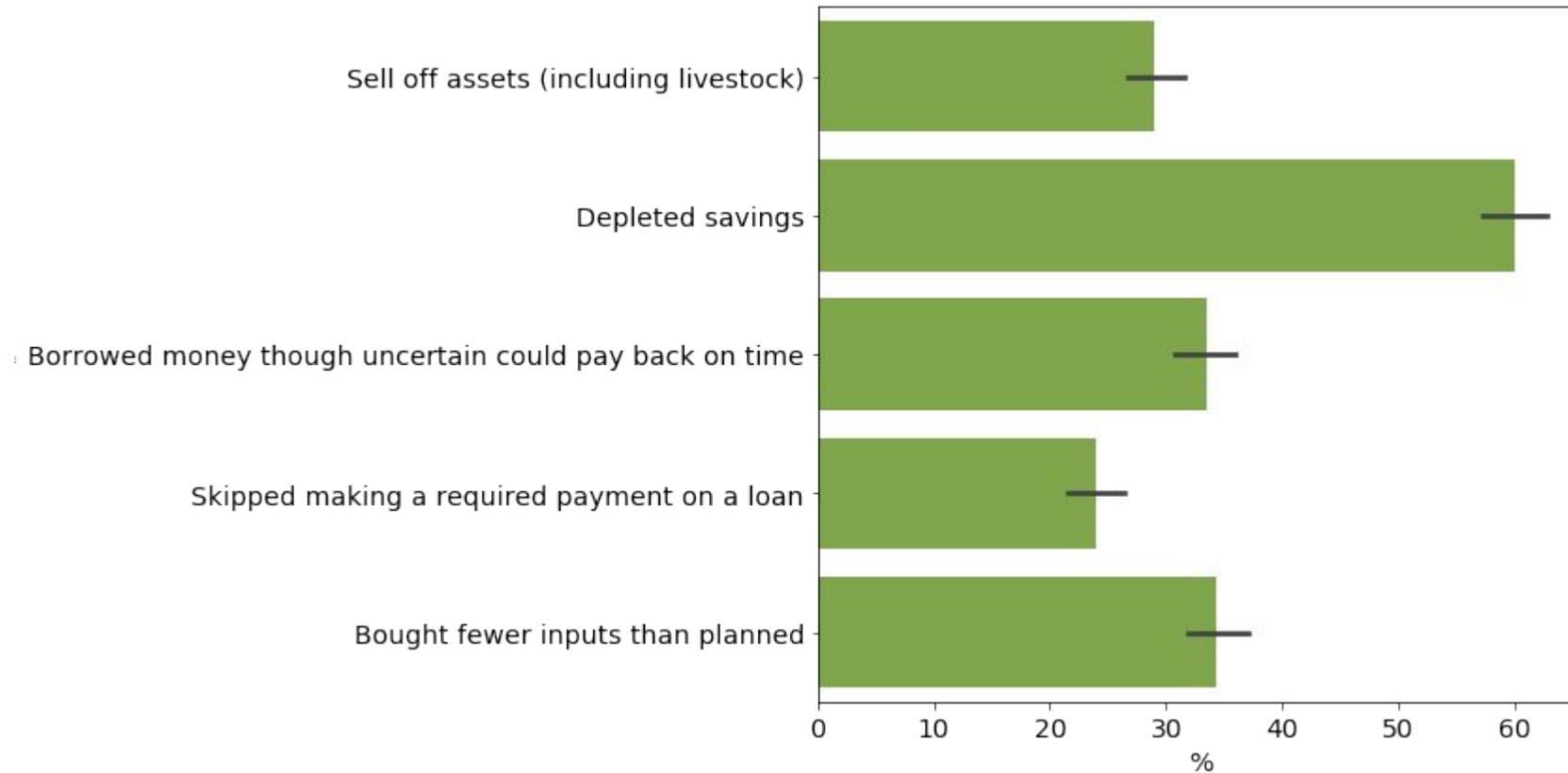


Social Protection & Financial Resilience

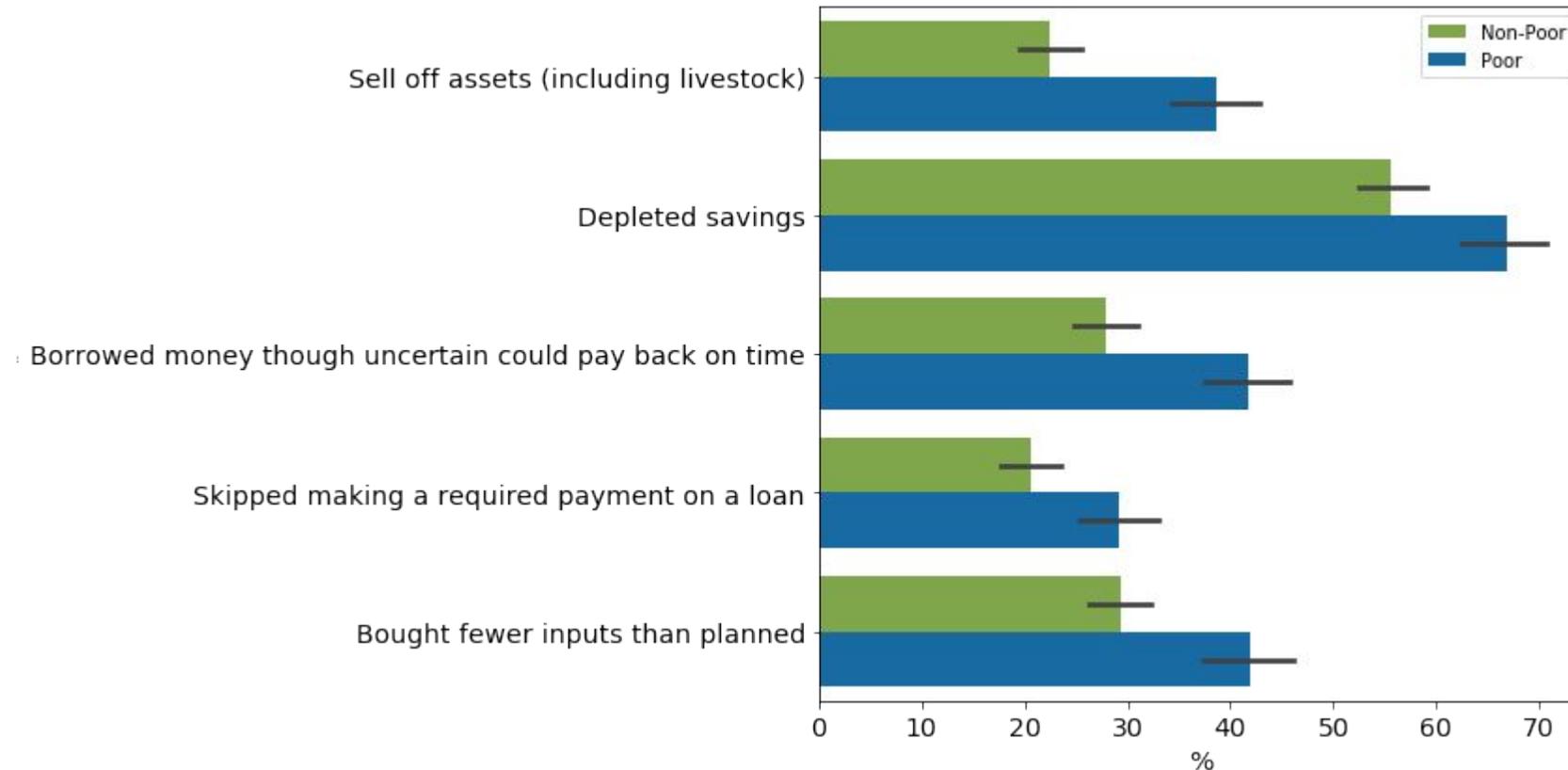
Social Protection & Financial Resilience: Key Takeaways

- 60% of respondents say they have had to deplete savings to pay for food since February 2020
- More than 40% of respondents say they have had to limit portion sizes at meal times or reduce the number of meals they eat
- Nearly 80% of respondents say they have had difficulty going to food markets because the price of food was too high. 70% indicate it is because household income has dropped.
- Nearly 90% of households have no additional assistance from the government in response to COVID-19

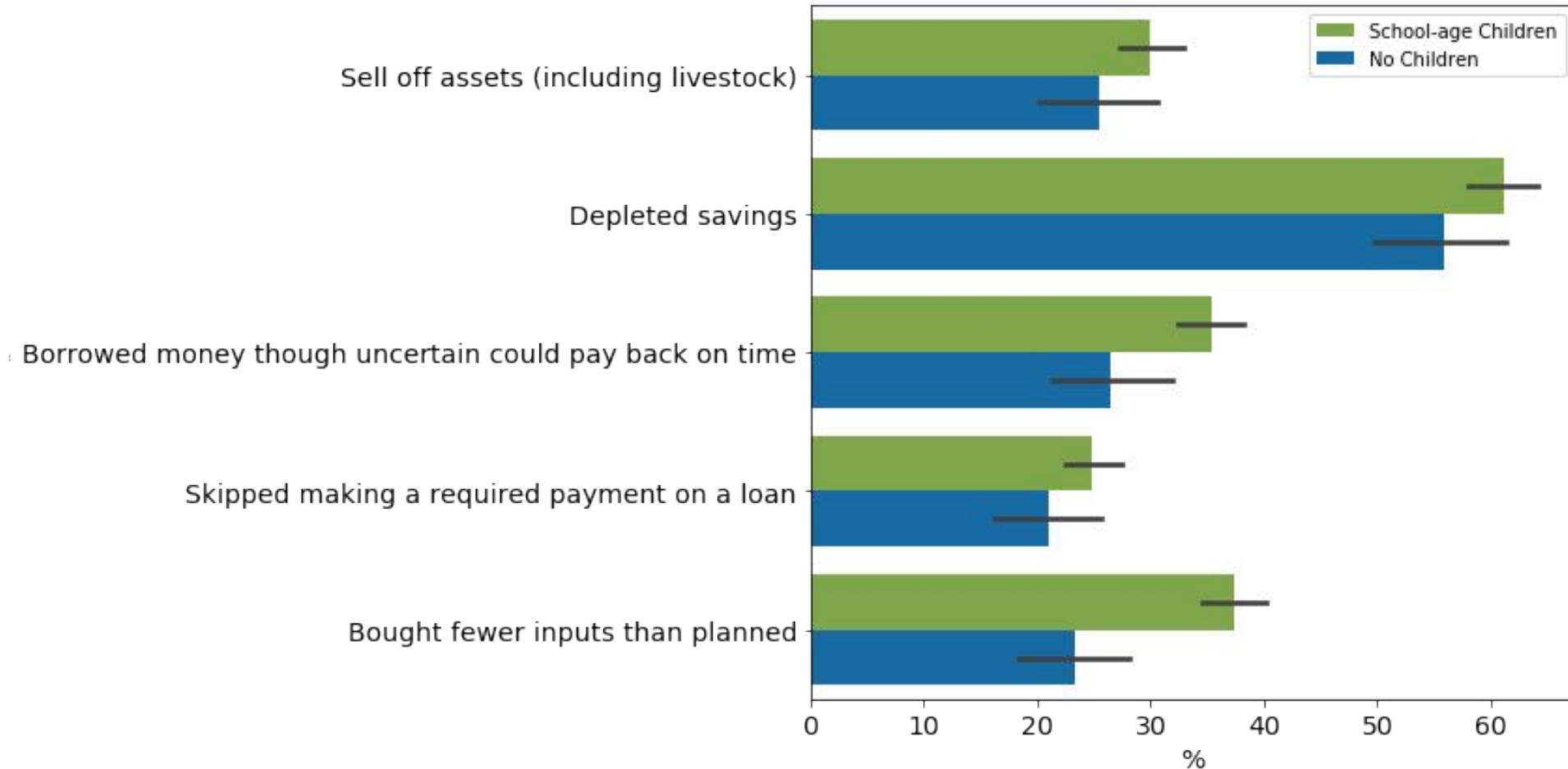
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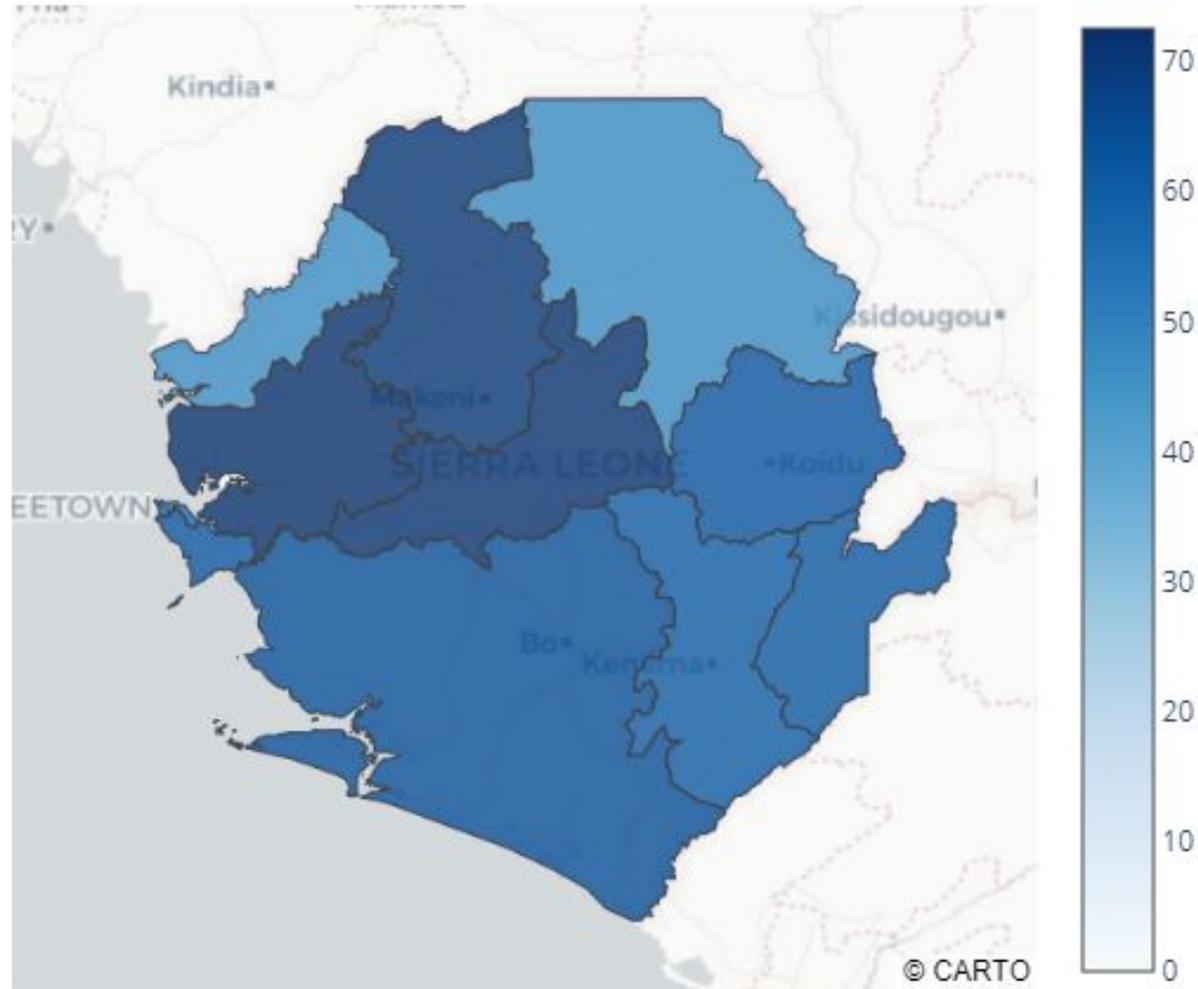
Poorer respondents are more likely than wealthier respondents to resort to selling off assets, depleting savings, borrowing money, and adjusting spending to pay for food since February 2020



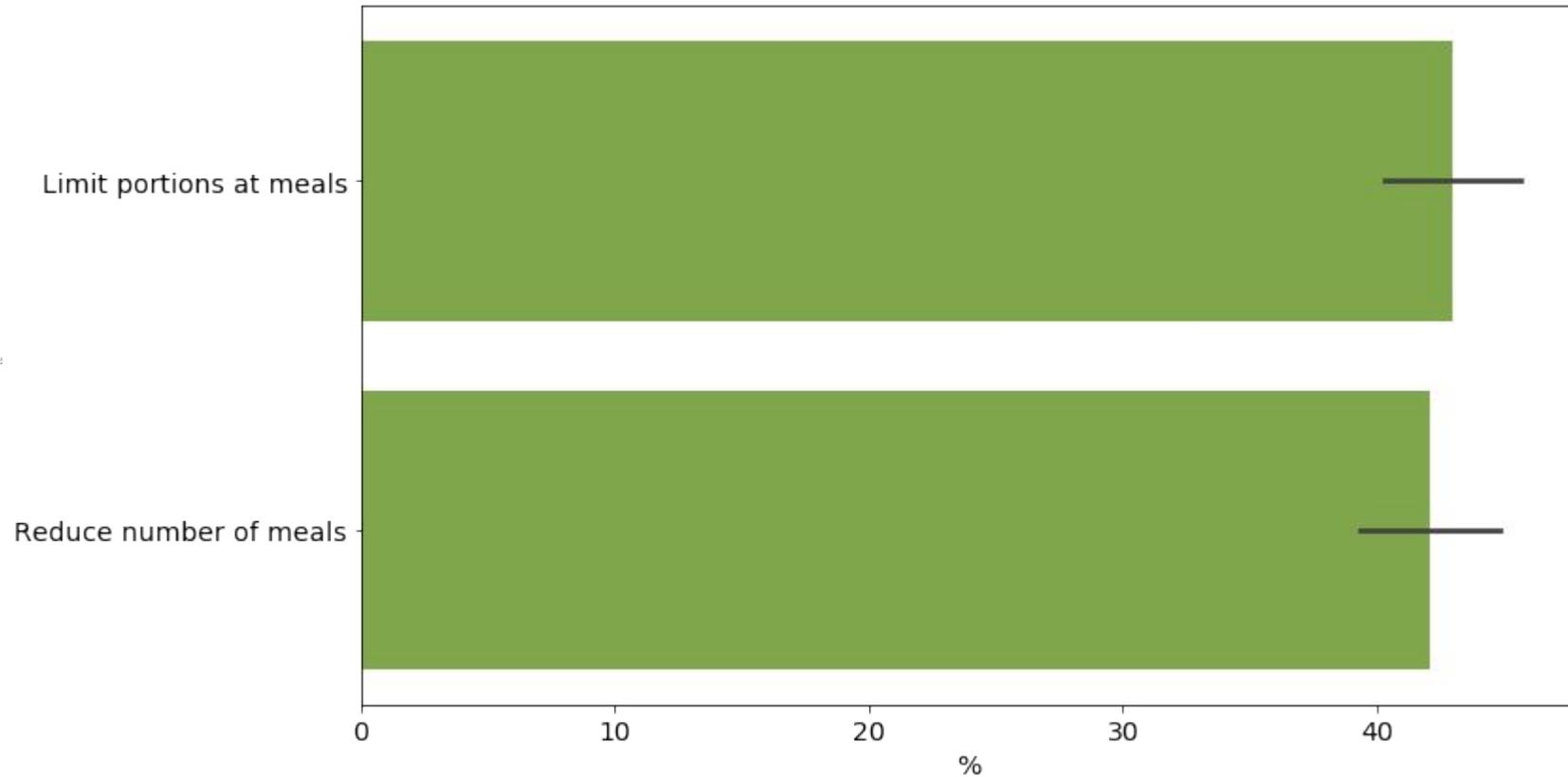
Respondents with school-age children are more likely than those without to resort to buying fewer inputs than planned to pay for food since February 2020



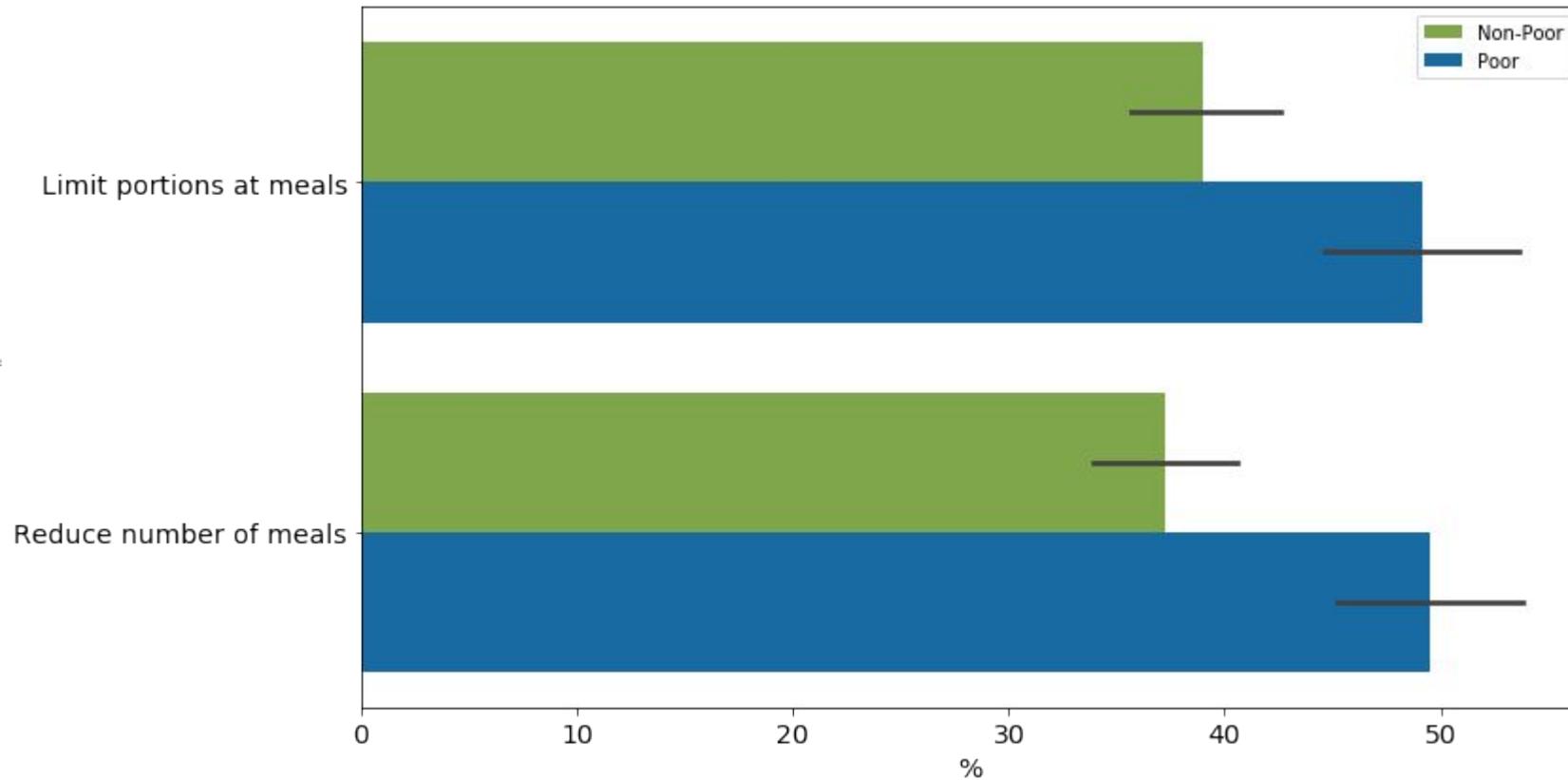
60% of respondents say they have had to deplete savings to pay for food since February 2020, a problem especially prevalent in the districts of Bombali, Tonkolili, and Port Loko



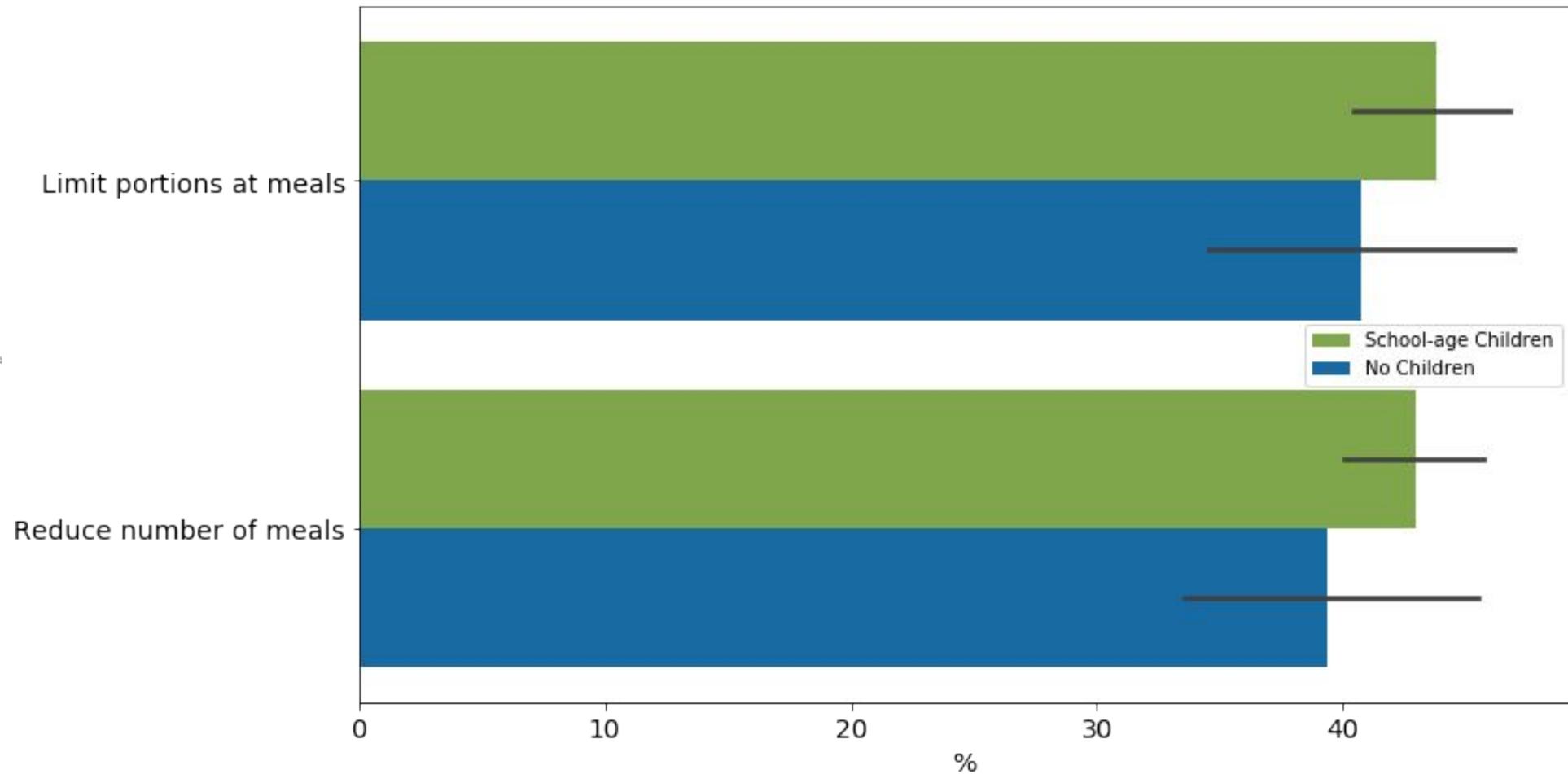
More than 40% of respondents say they have had to limit portion sizes at meal times or reduce the number of meals they eat



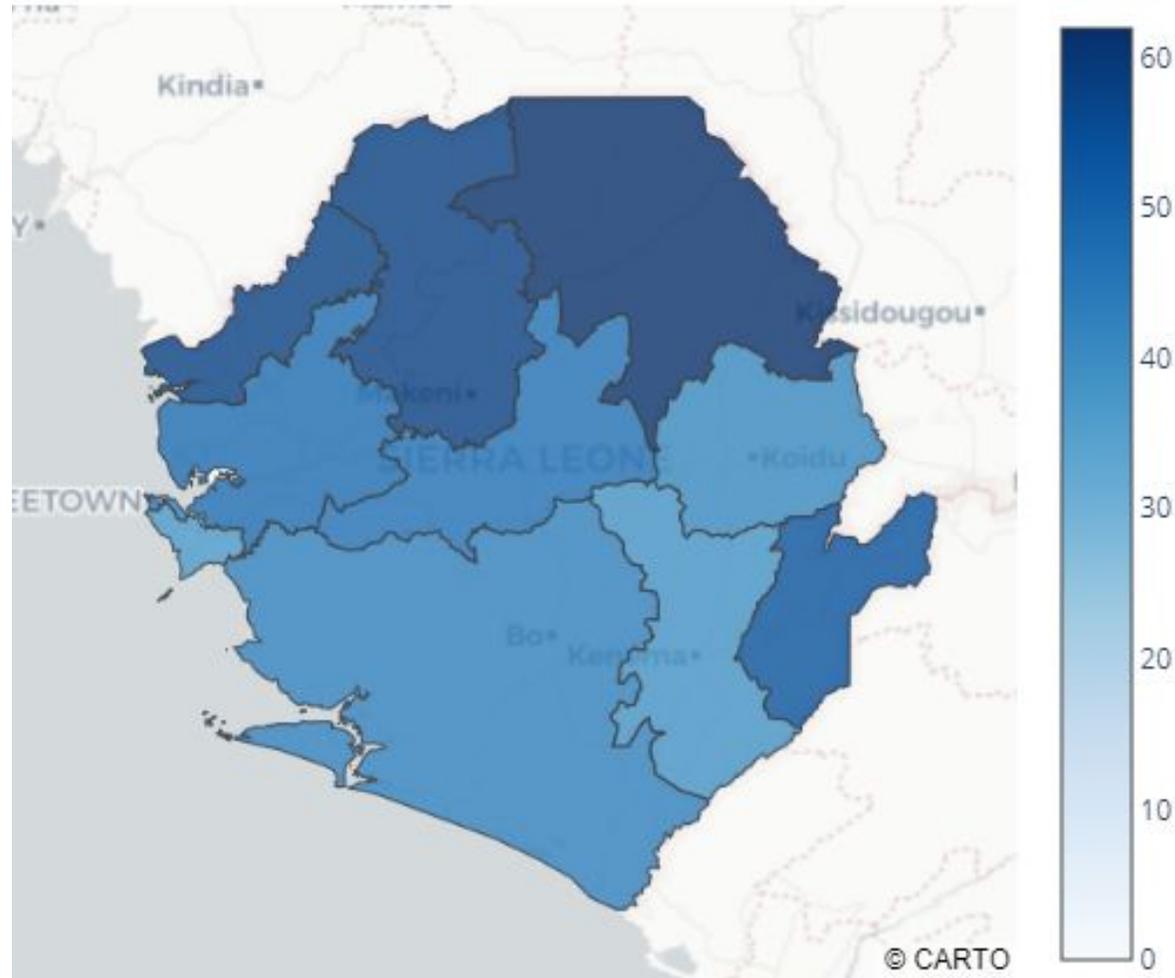
Poorer respondents are more likely than wealthier respondents to say they have had to limit portion sizes at meal times or reduce number of meals



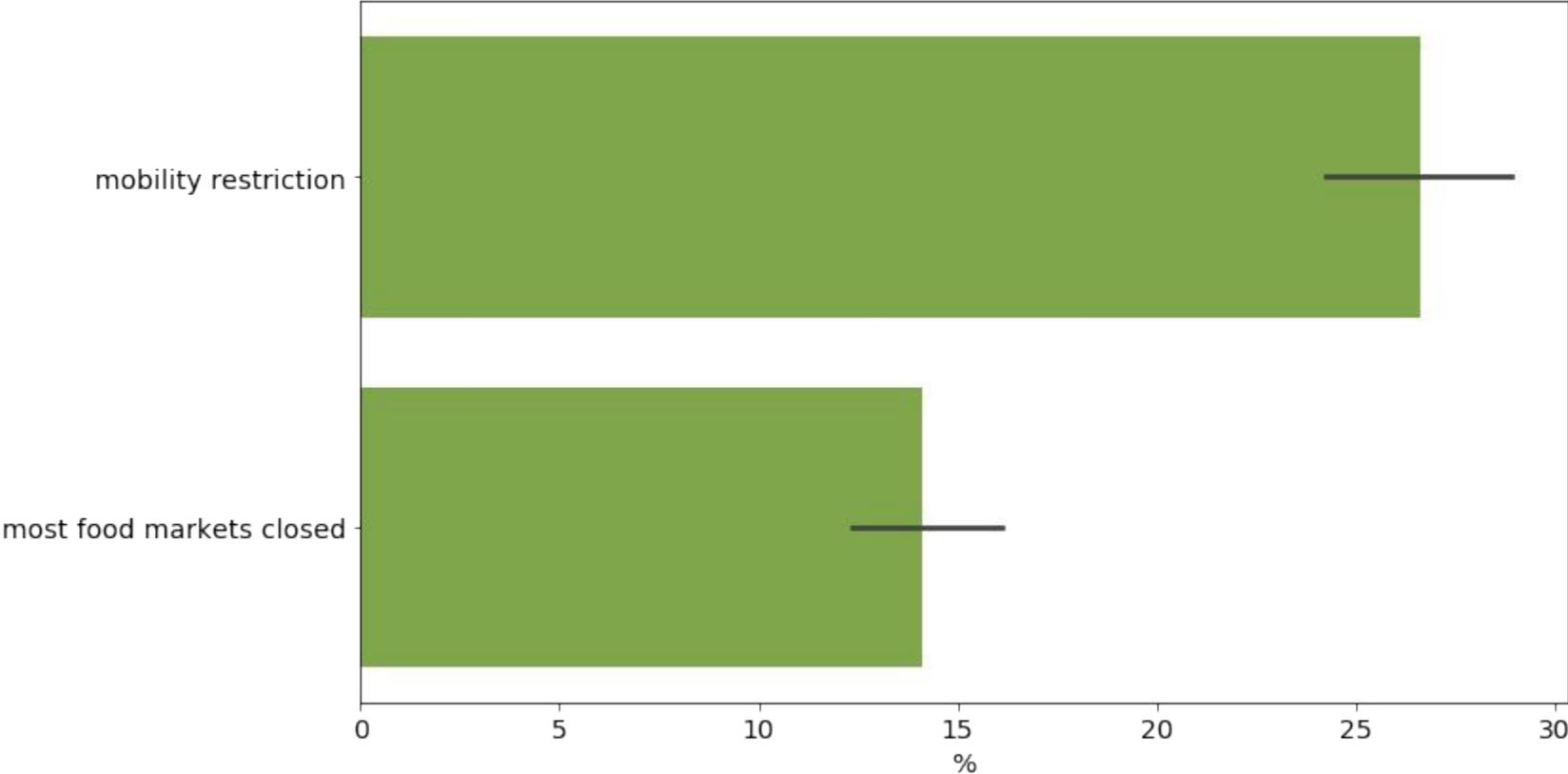
Respondents with/without school-age children similarly say they have had to limit portion sizes at meal times in the past week



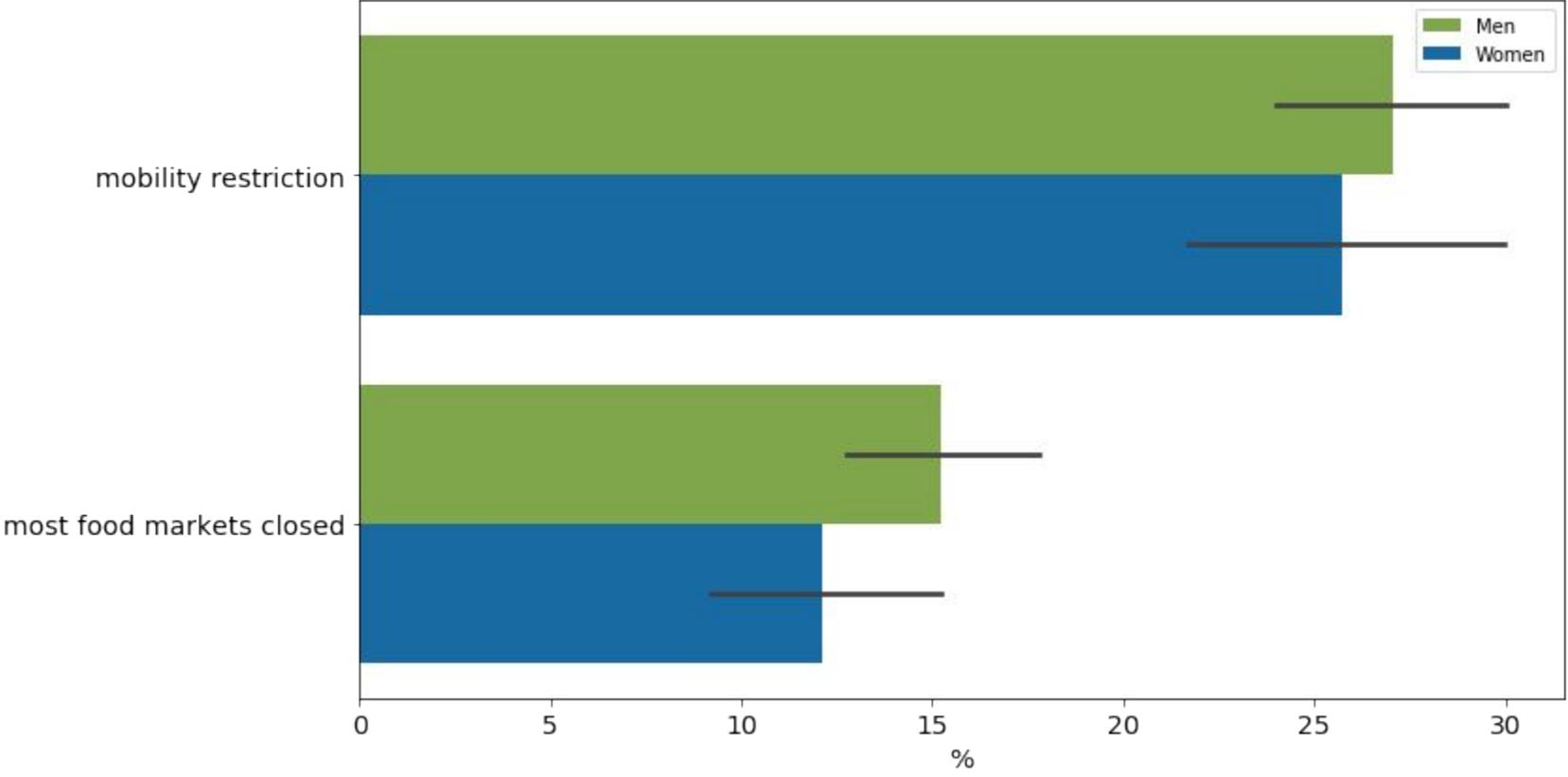
More than 40% of respondents say they have had to limit portion sizes at meal times or reduce the number of meals they eat, particularly in the northern district of Koinadugu



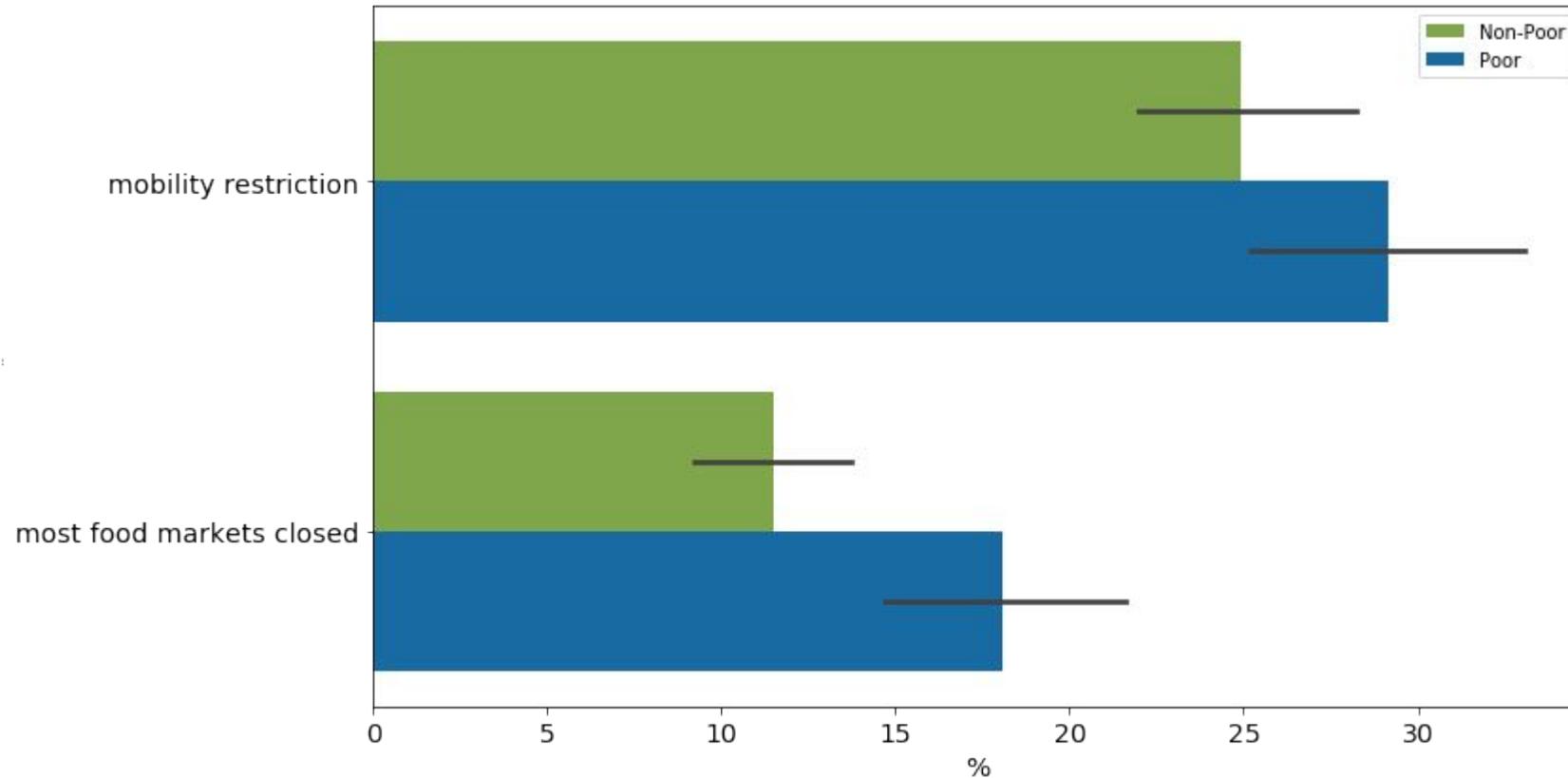
27% of respondents say they have had difficulty going to food markets due to mobility restrictions



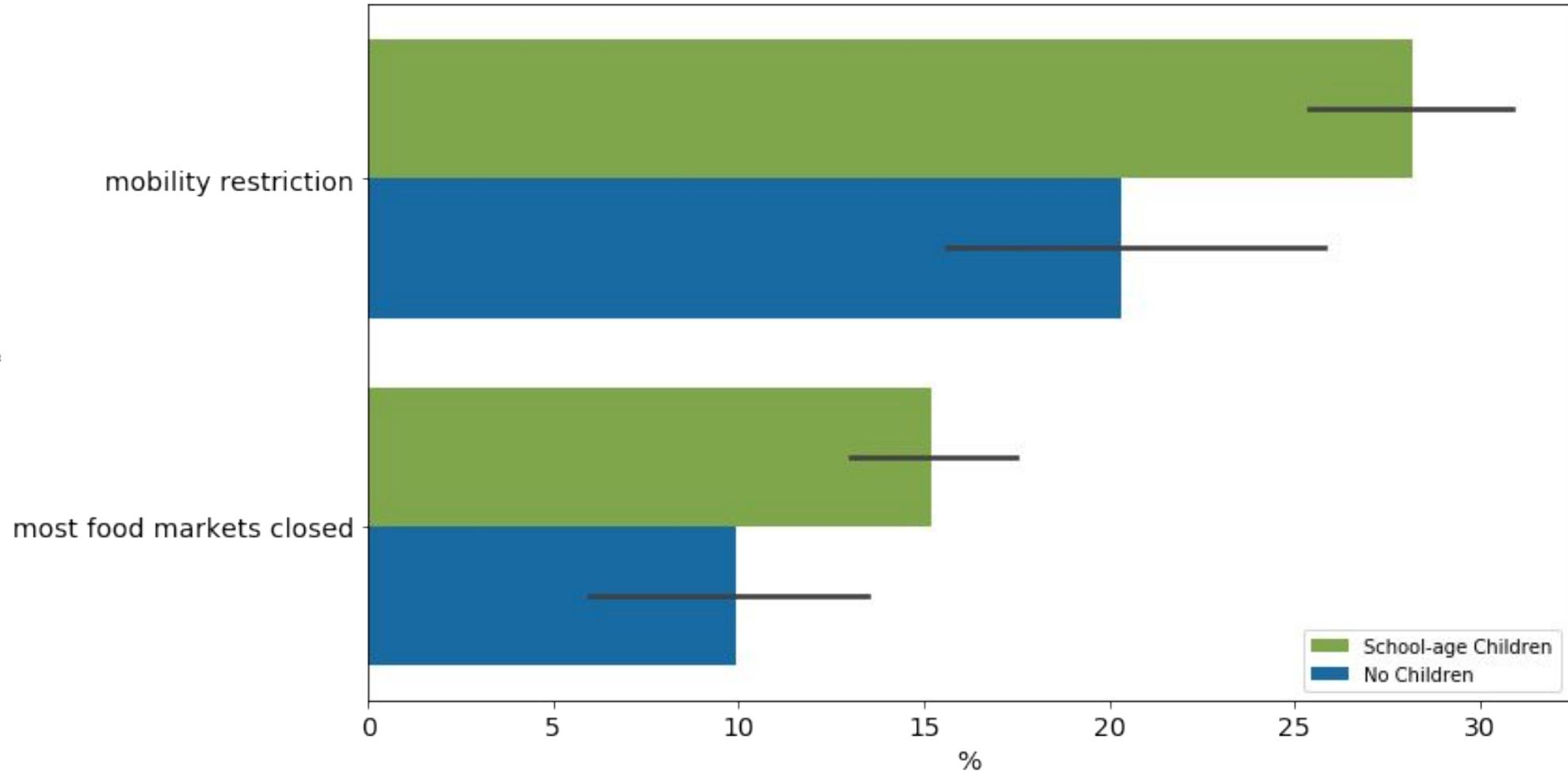
Men and women report similar mobility restrictions for accessing food markets



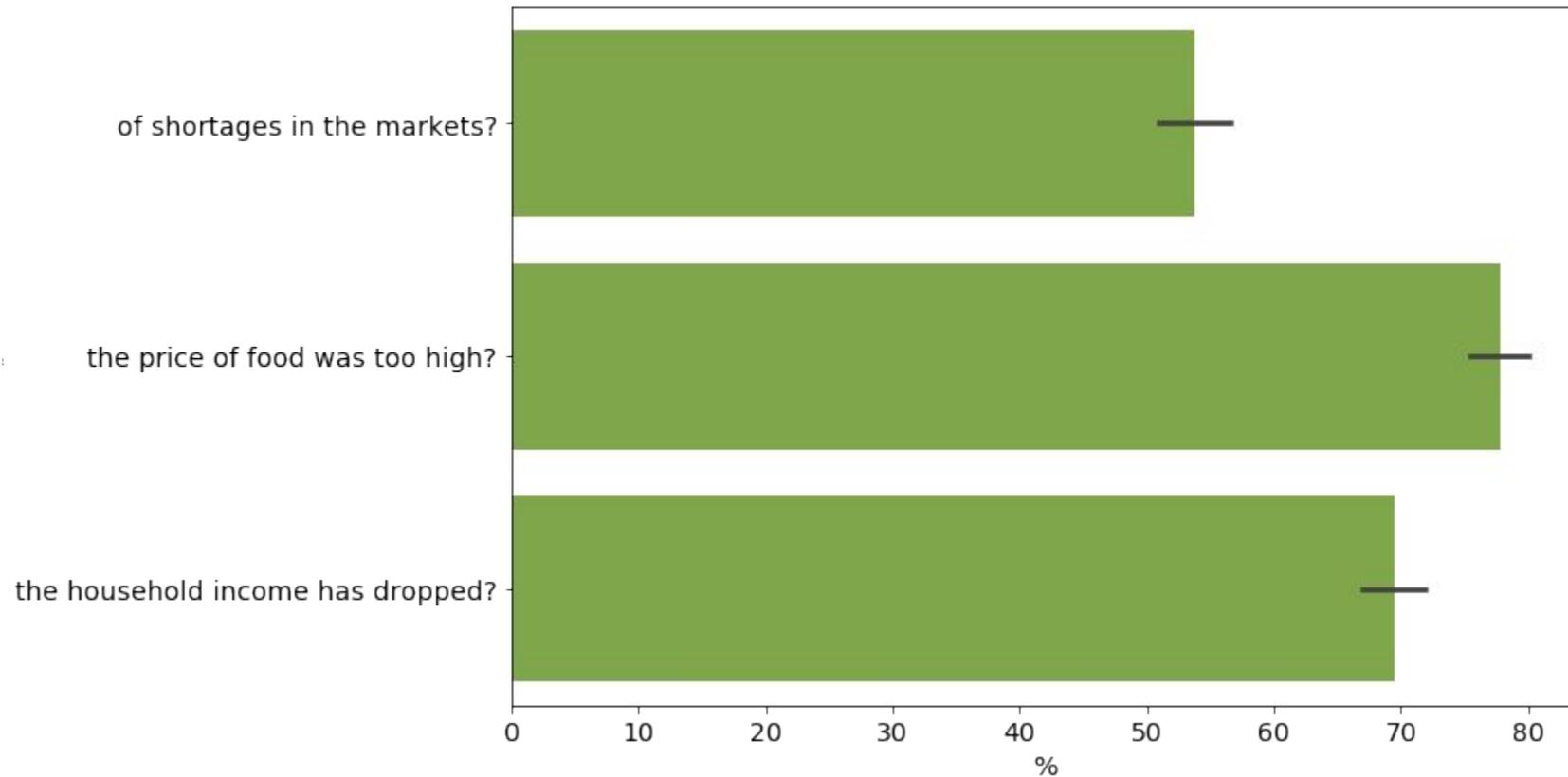
Poor respondents are more likely to report that they have had difficulty going to food markets due to market closures



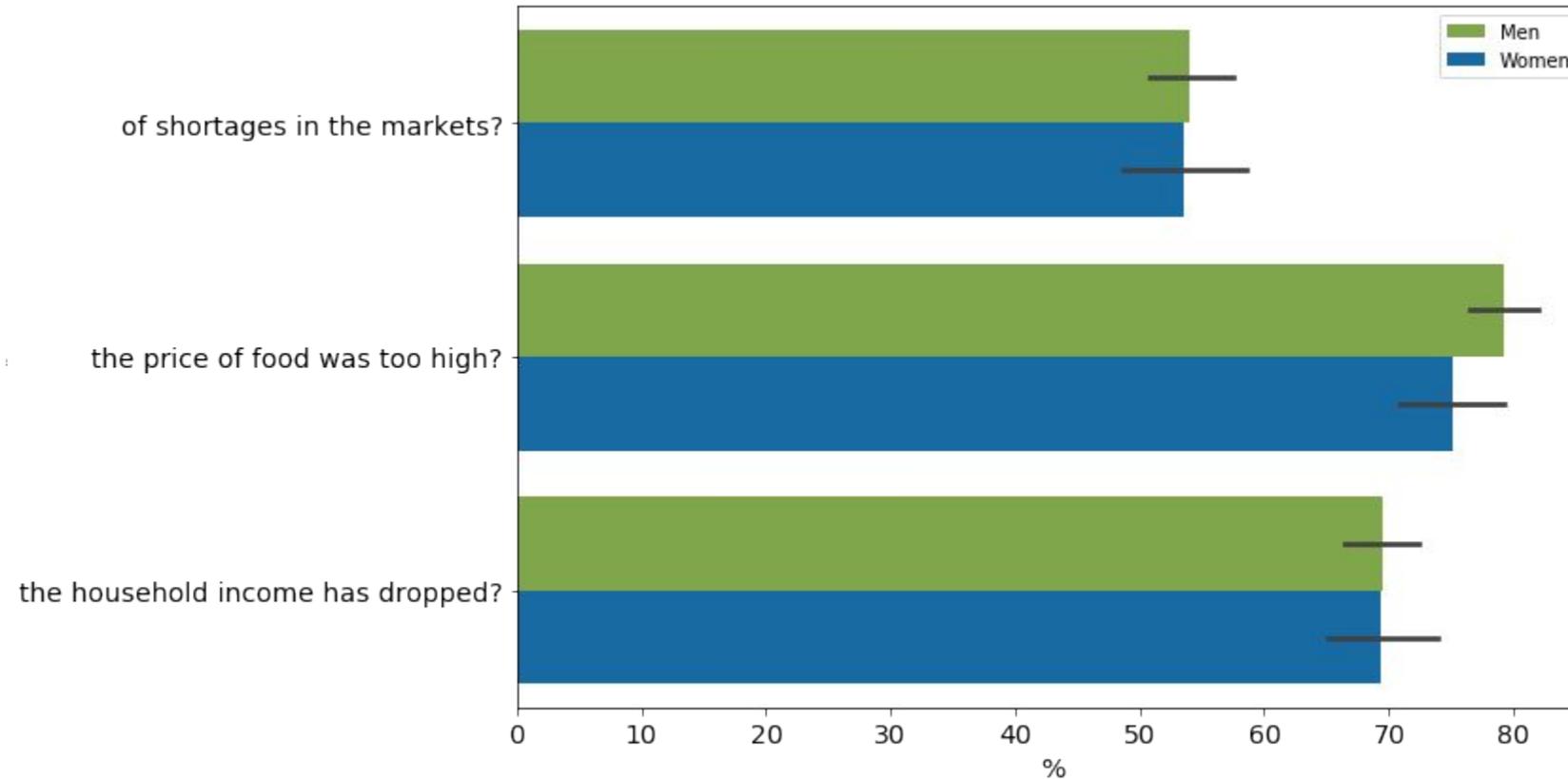
Households with school-aged children are more likely to have faced market access challenges



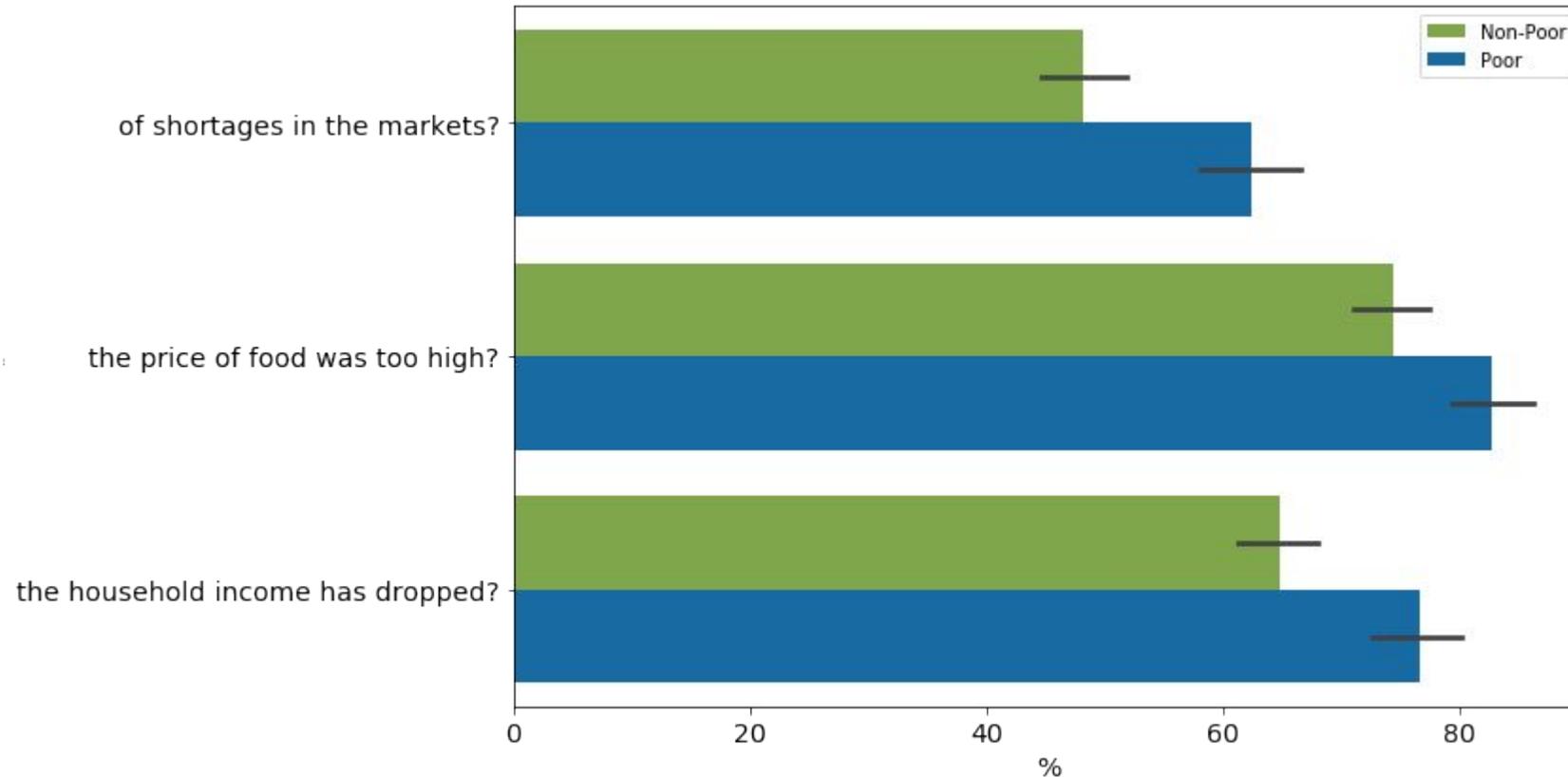
Nearly 80% of respondents say they have had difficulty going to food markets because the price of food was too high. 70% indicate it is because household income has dropped



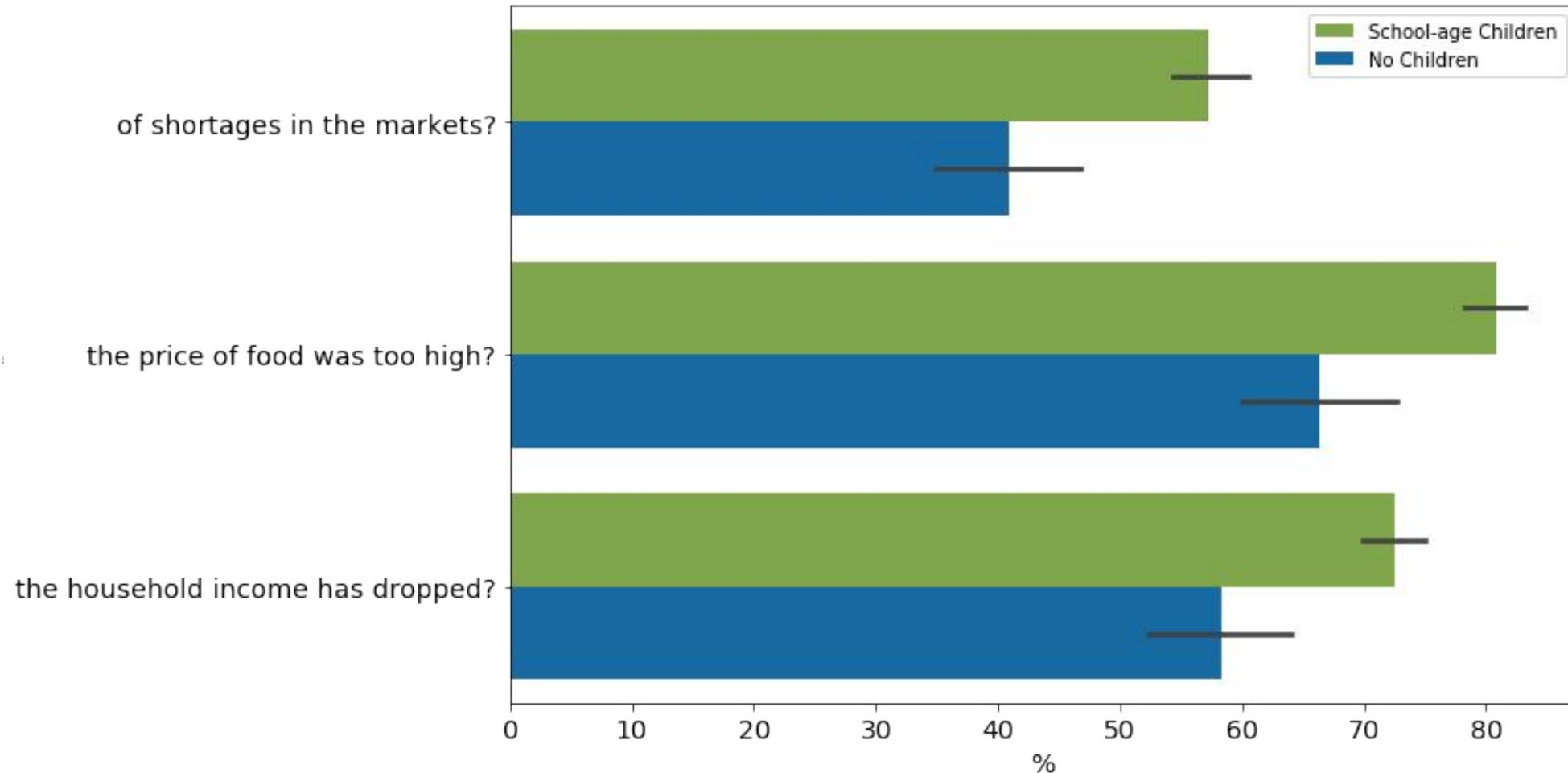
Men and women cite similar difficulties in going to food markets between shortages, high prices, and lower household incomes



Poorer respondents are more likely than wealthier respondents to report difficulty going to food markets due to shortages in the markets, high food prices, and lower household incomes

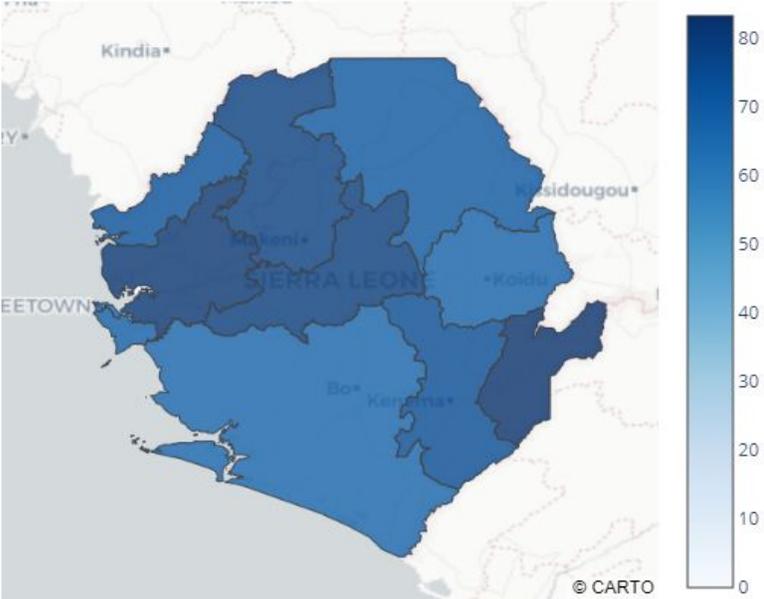
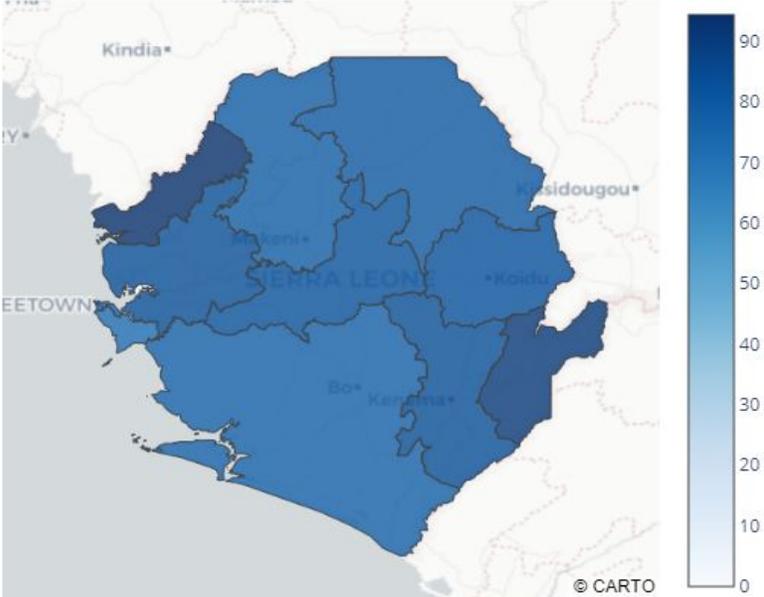


Households with school-age children are more likely to say they have had difficulty going to food markets due to market shortages, the high price of food, and lower household incomes

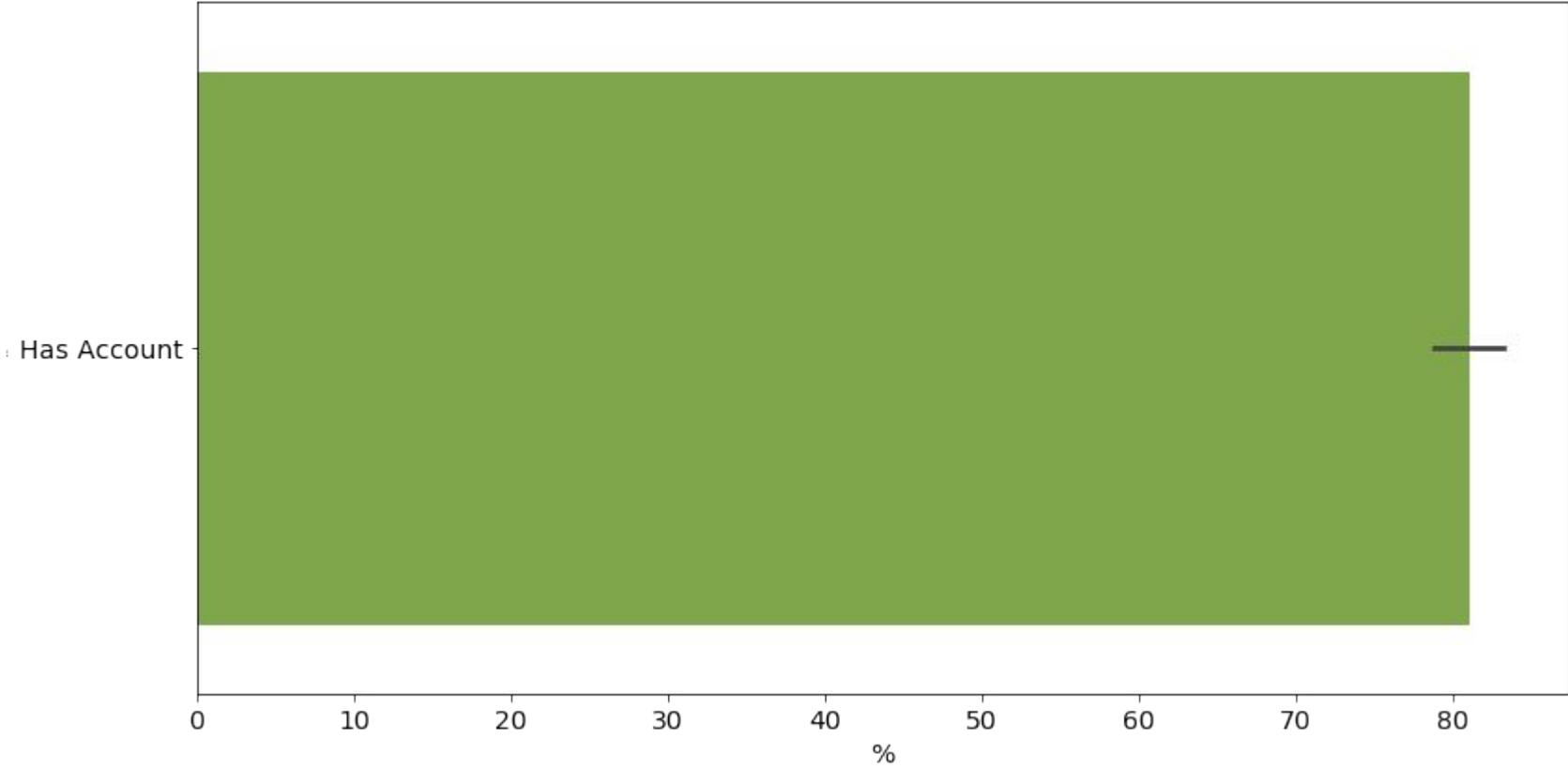


Nearly 80% of respondents say they have had difficulty going to food markets because the price of food was too high, especially in Kambia and Kailahun

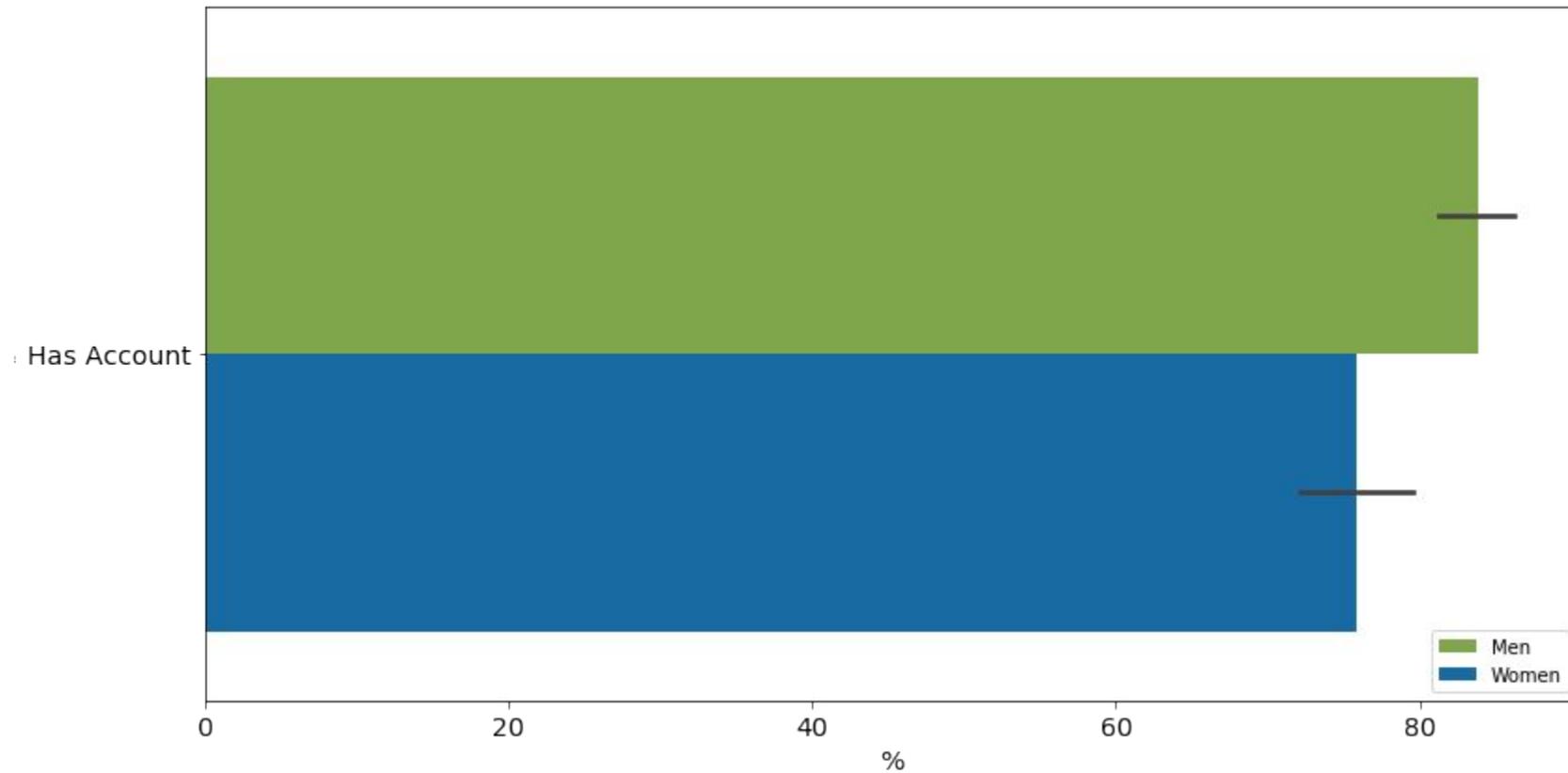
70% indicate it is because household income has dropped. We see this in the east in Kailahun, and in the west in Port Loko and



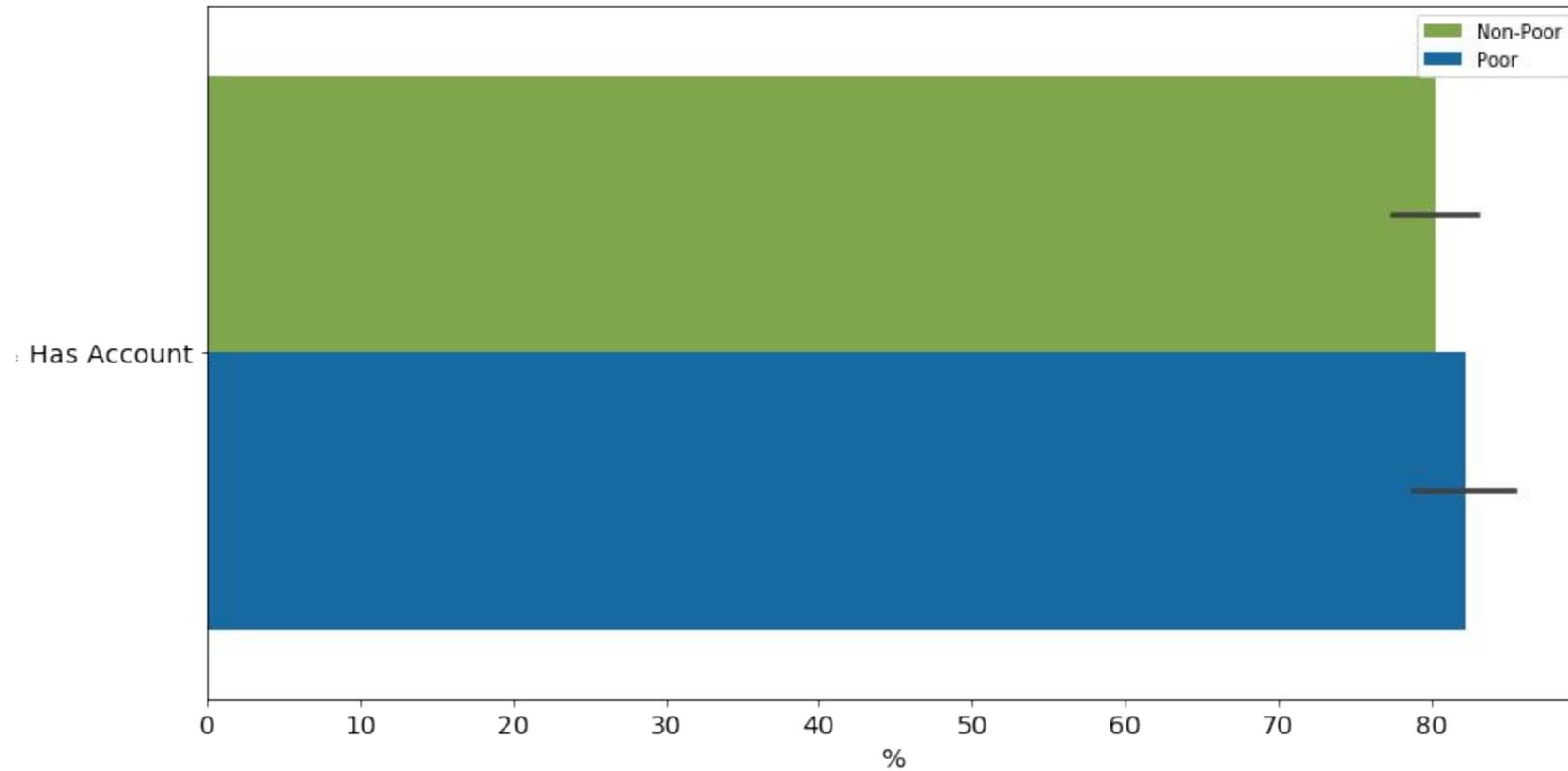
80% of respondents say they have access to an account where they can make and receive payments



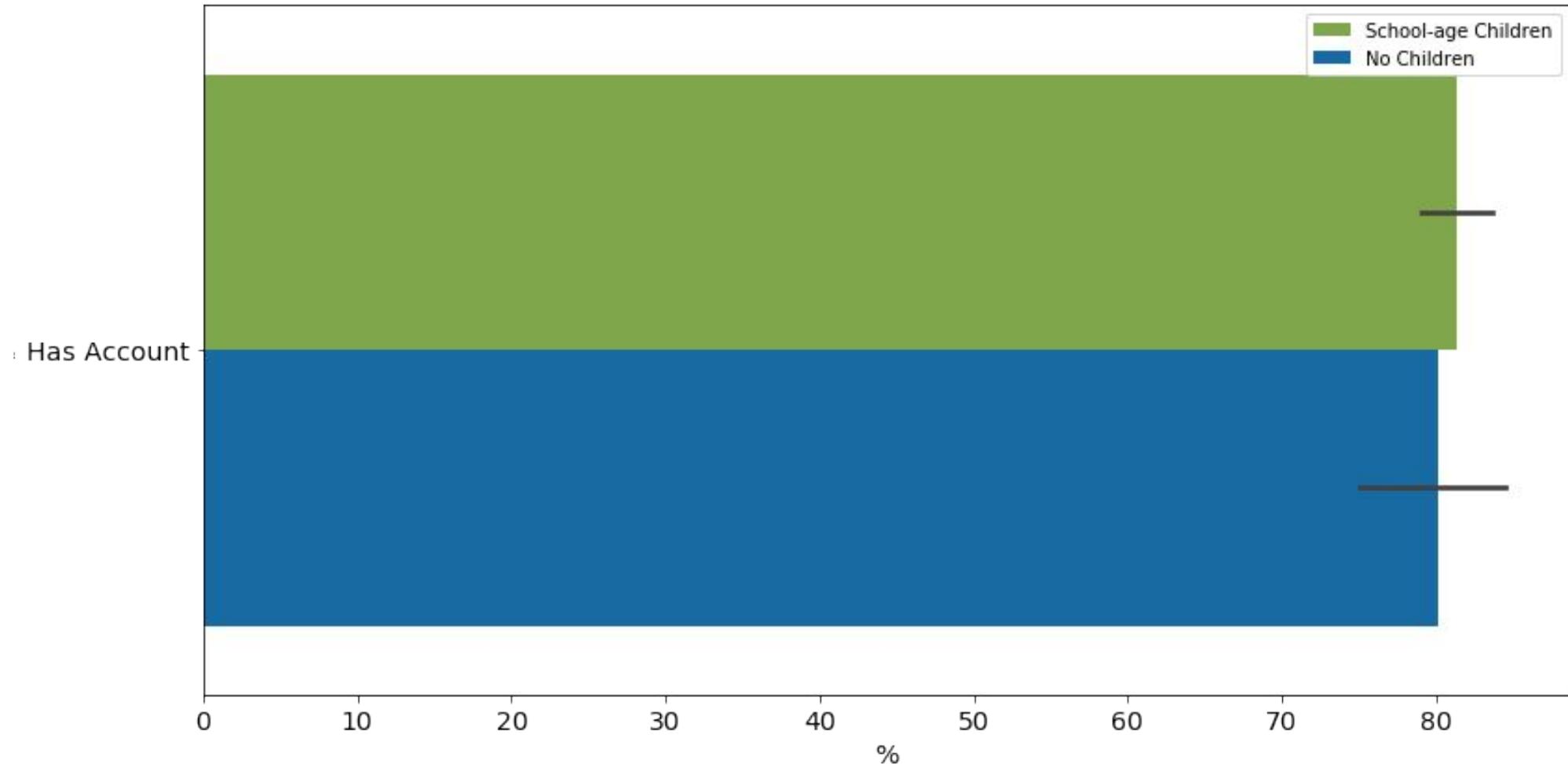
Men are more likely than women to say they have access to an account where they can make and receive payments



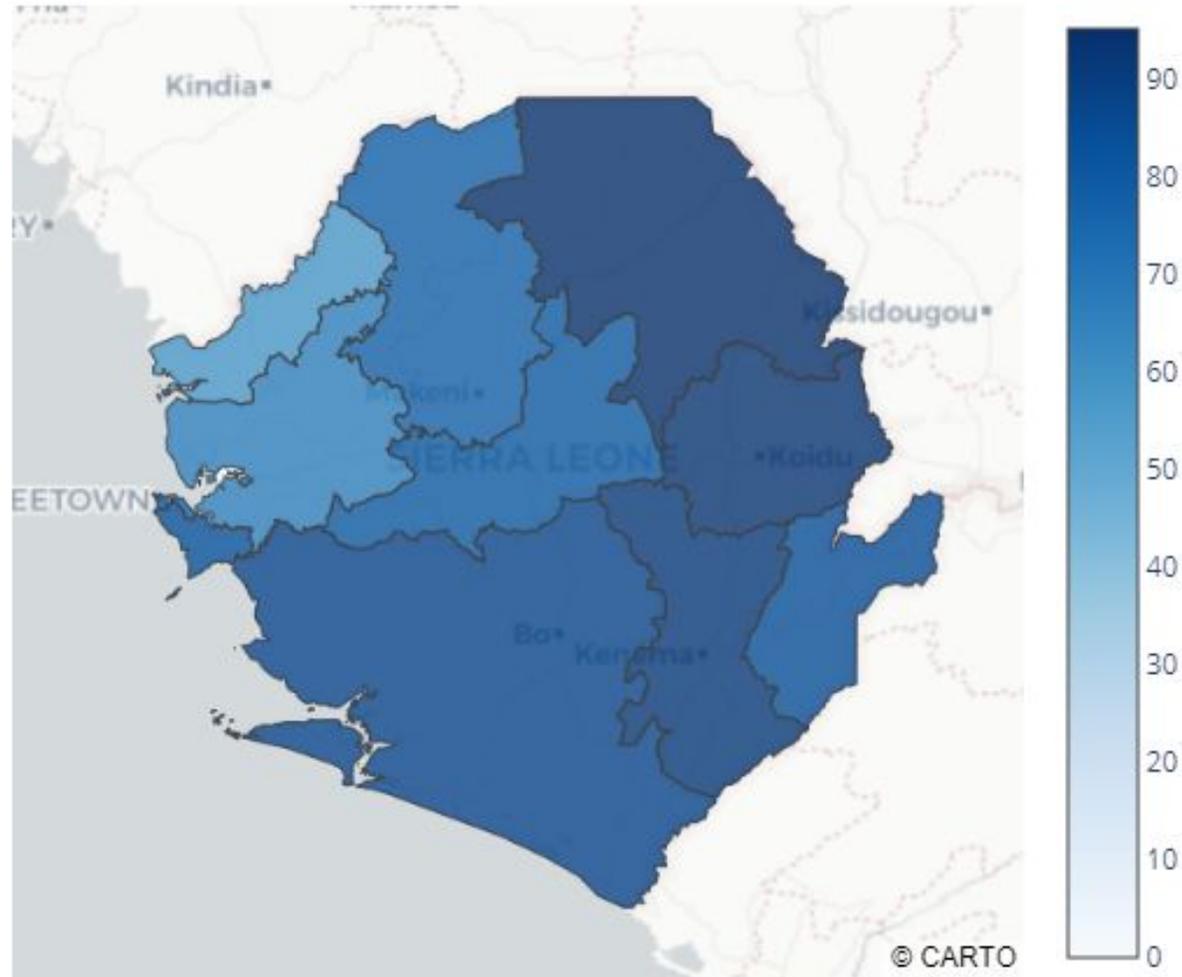
Poorer and wealthier respondents report similar rates of access to an account where they can make and receive payments



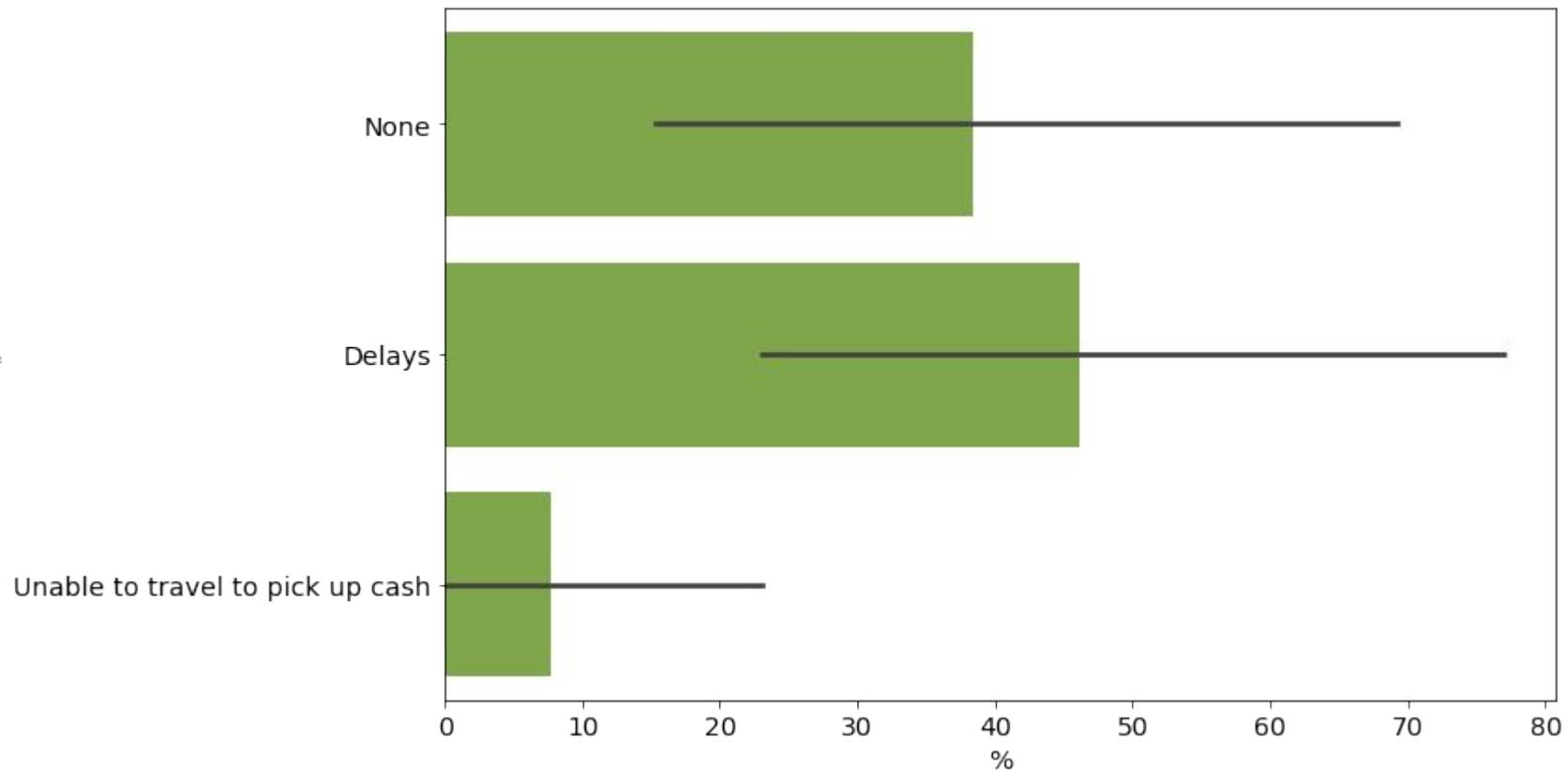
Respondents with/without school-aged children say they have access to an account where they can make and receive payments



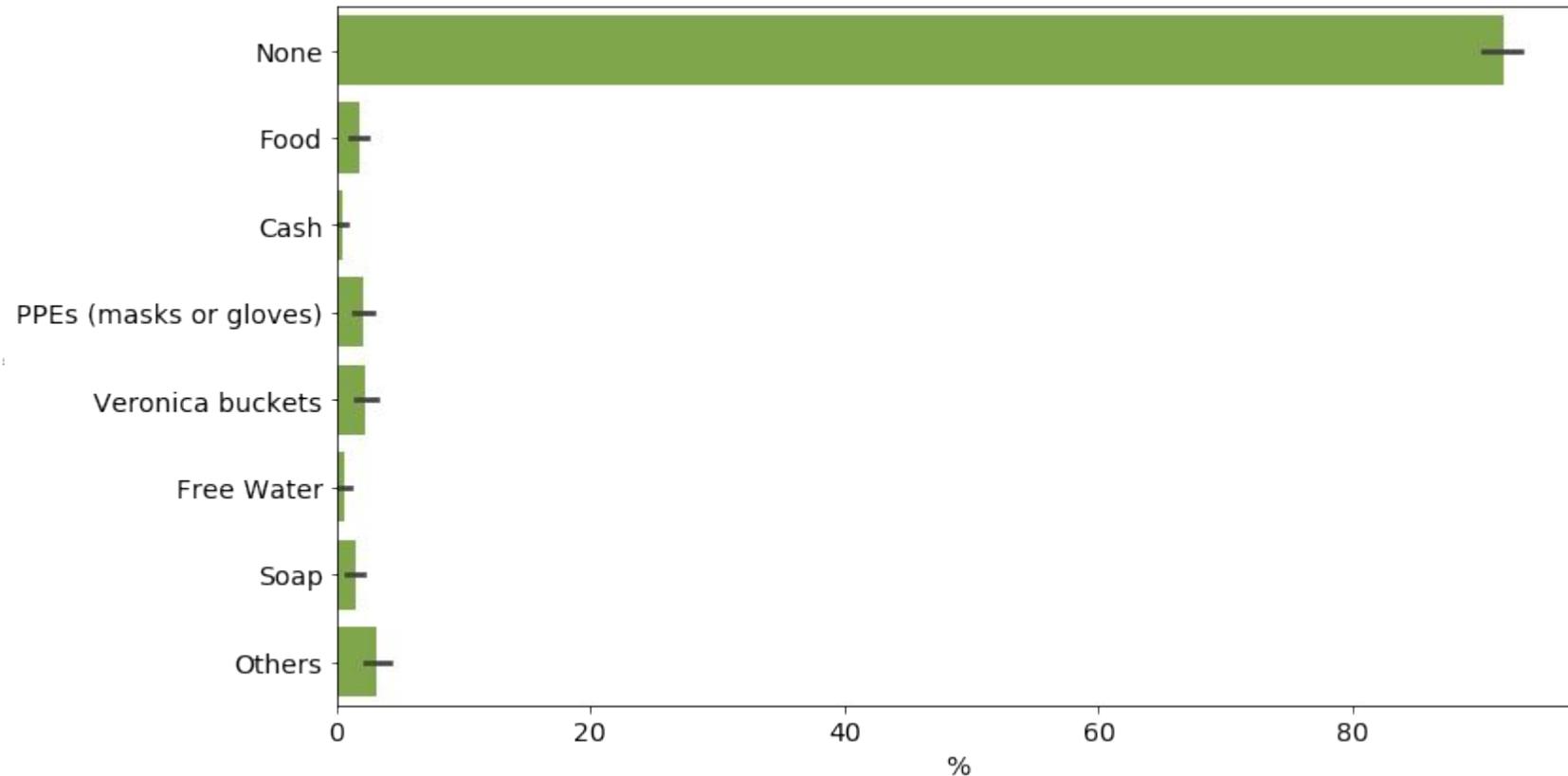
58% of respondents say they have access to an account in Kambia, but over 90% do in Koinadugu, Kono, and Kenema



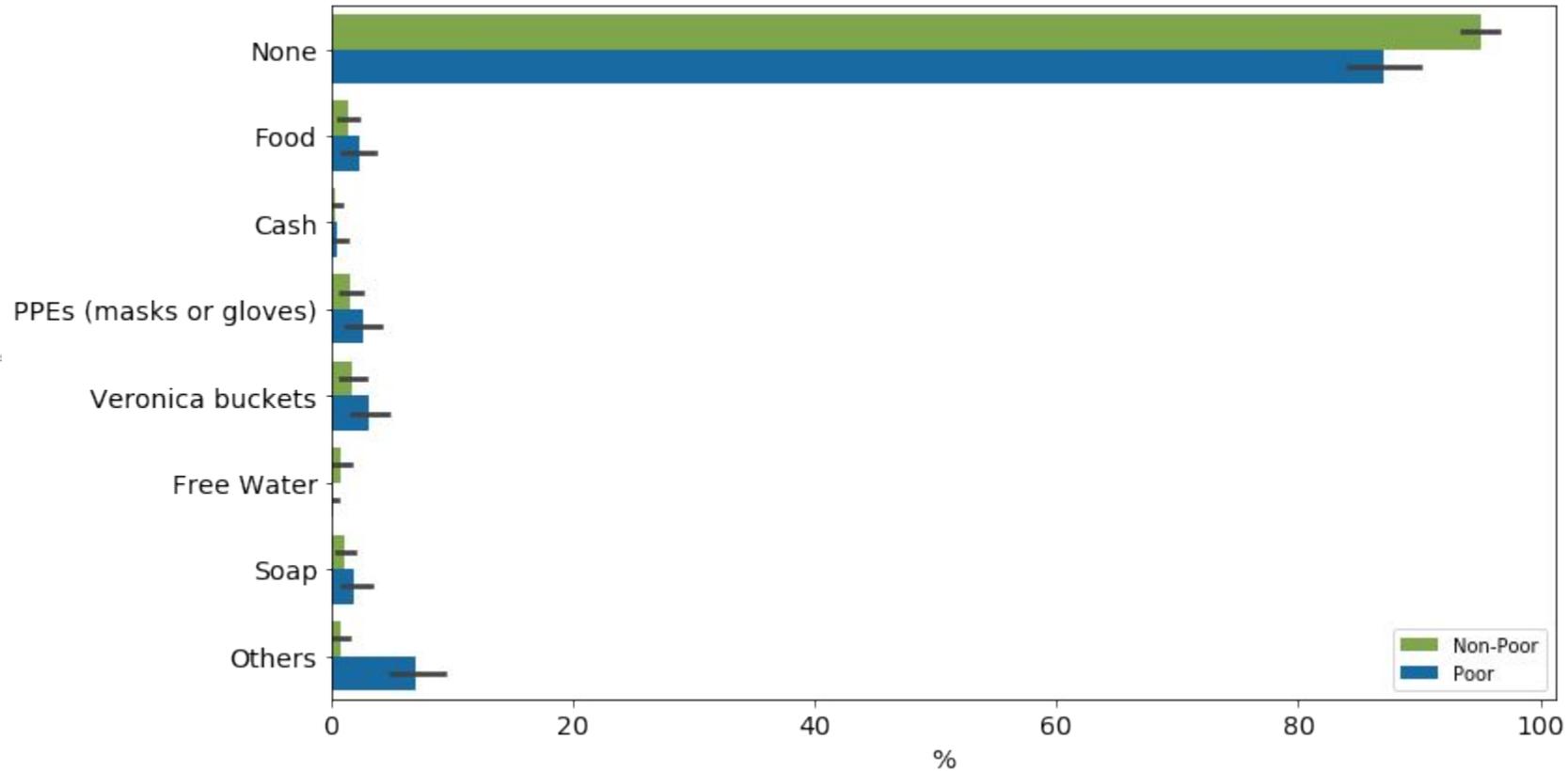
Out of 13 households that usually receive payments, almost half have experienced delays or difficulties in accessing these payments



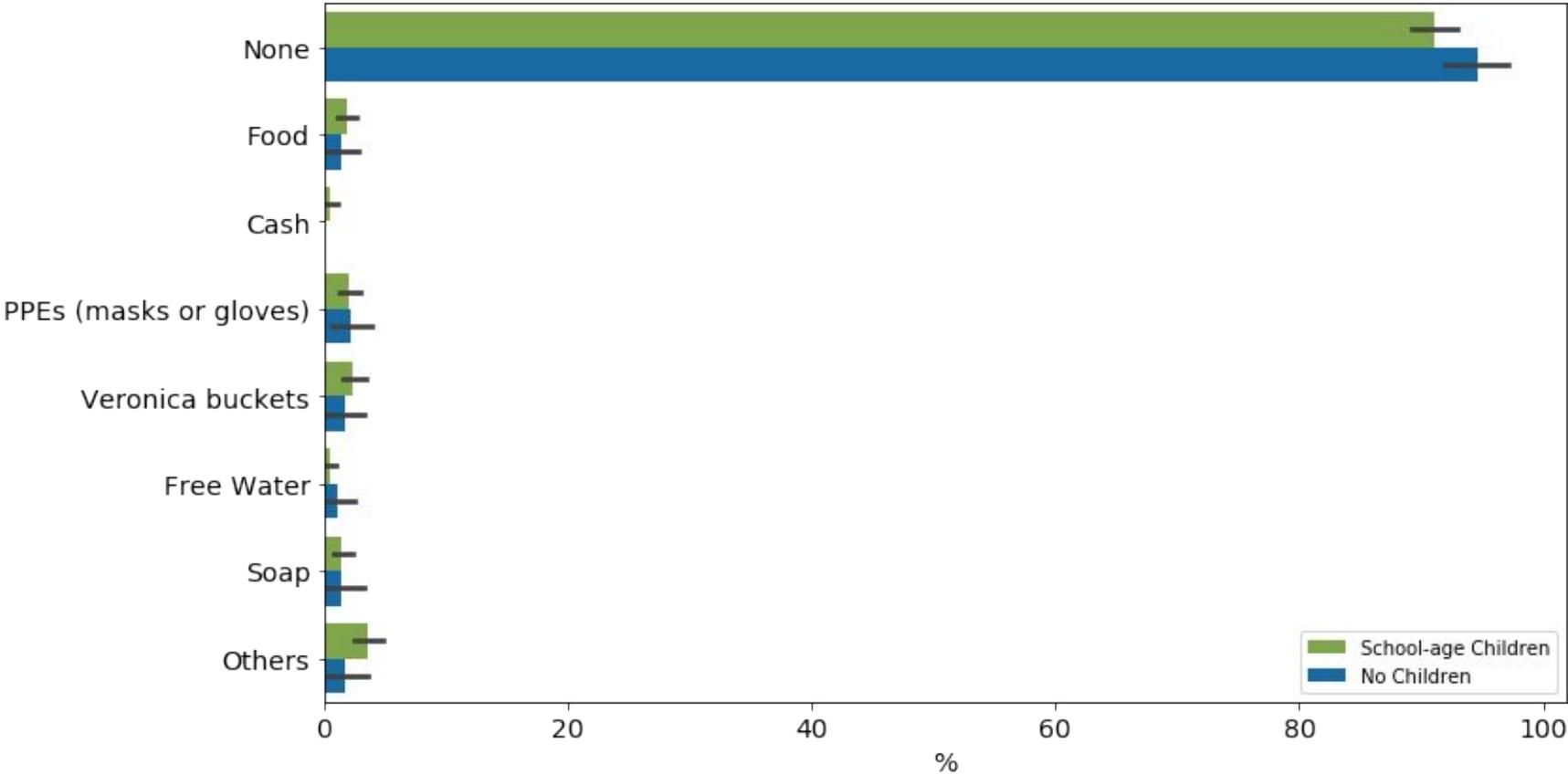
Nearly 90% of households have received no additional assistance from the government in response to COVID-19



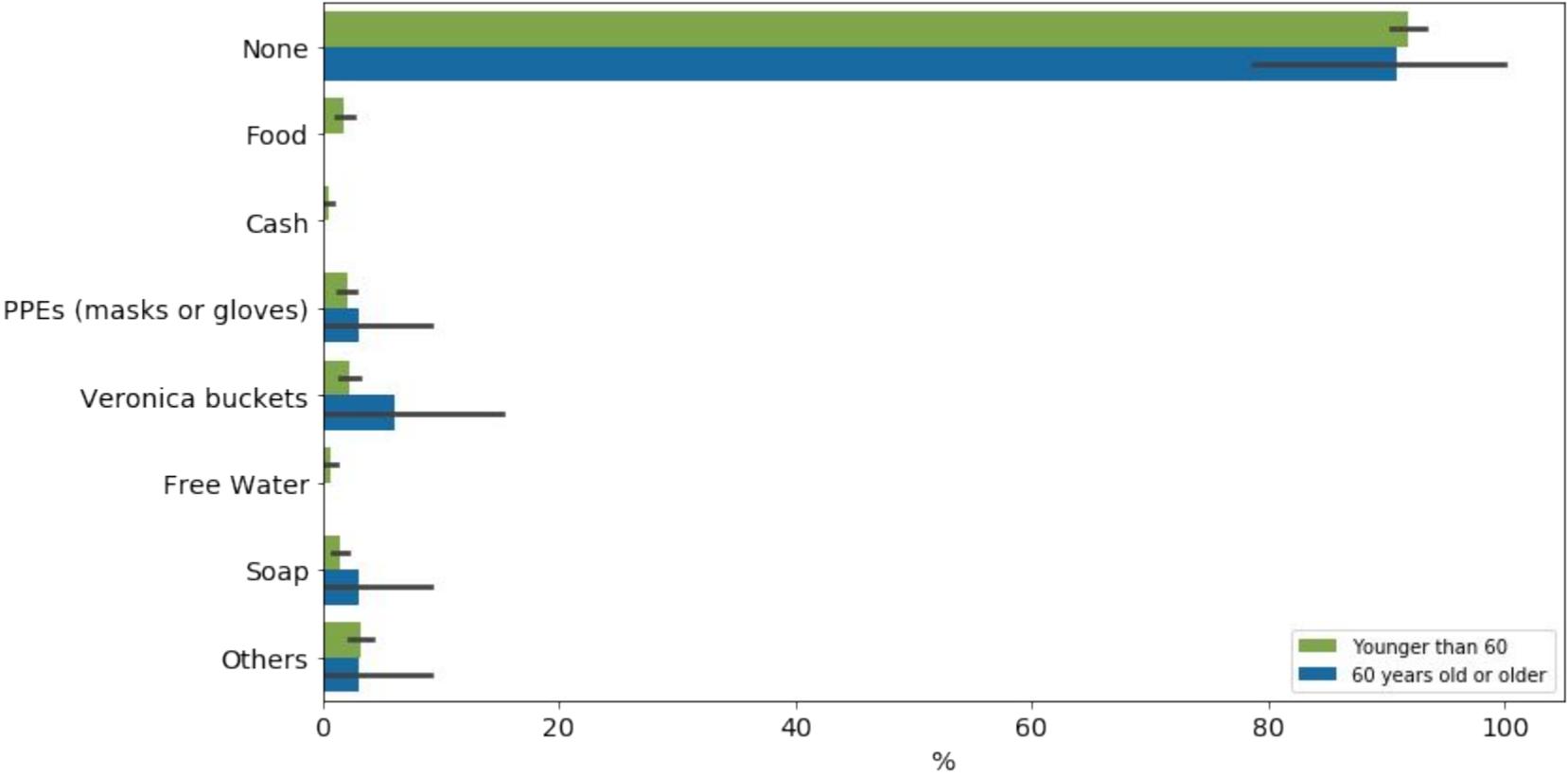
Wealthier households are less likely to have received food/cash from the government in response to COVID-19



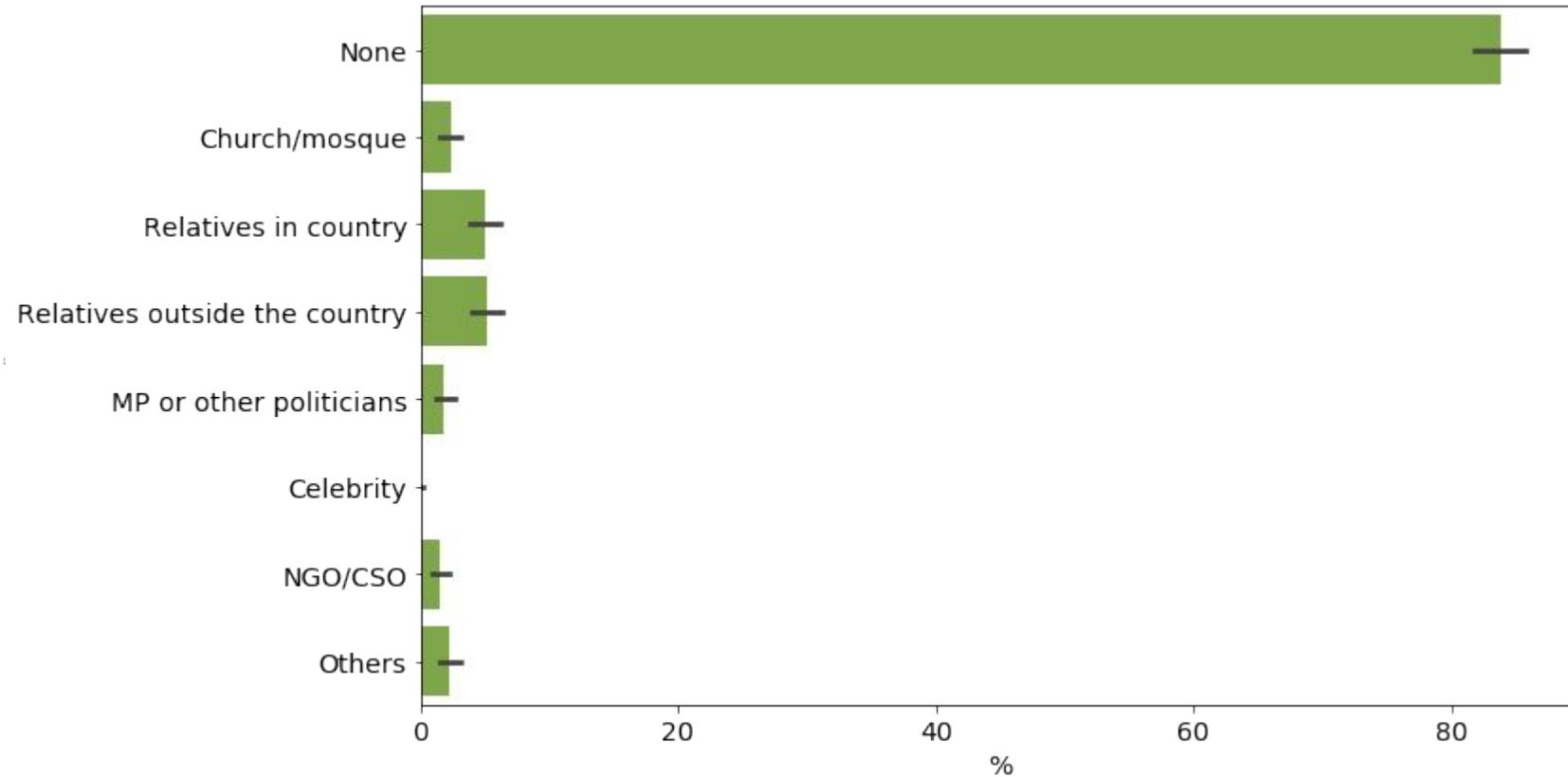
There are no significant differences in households with/without school-age children receiving food/cash from the government in response to COVID-19



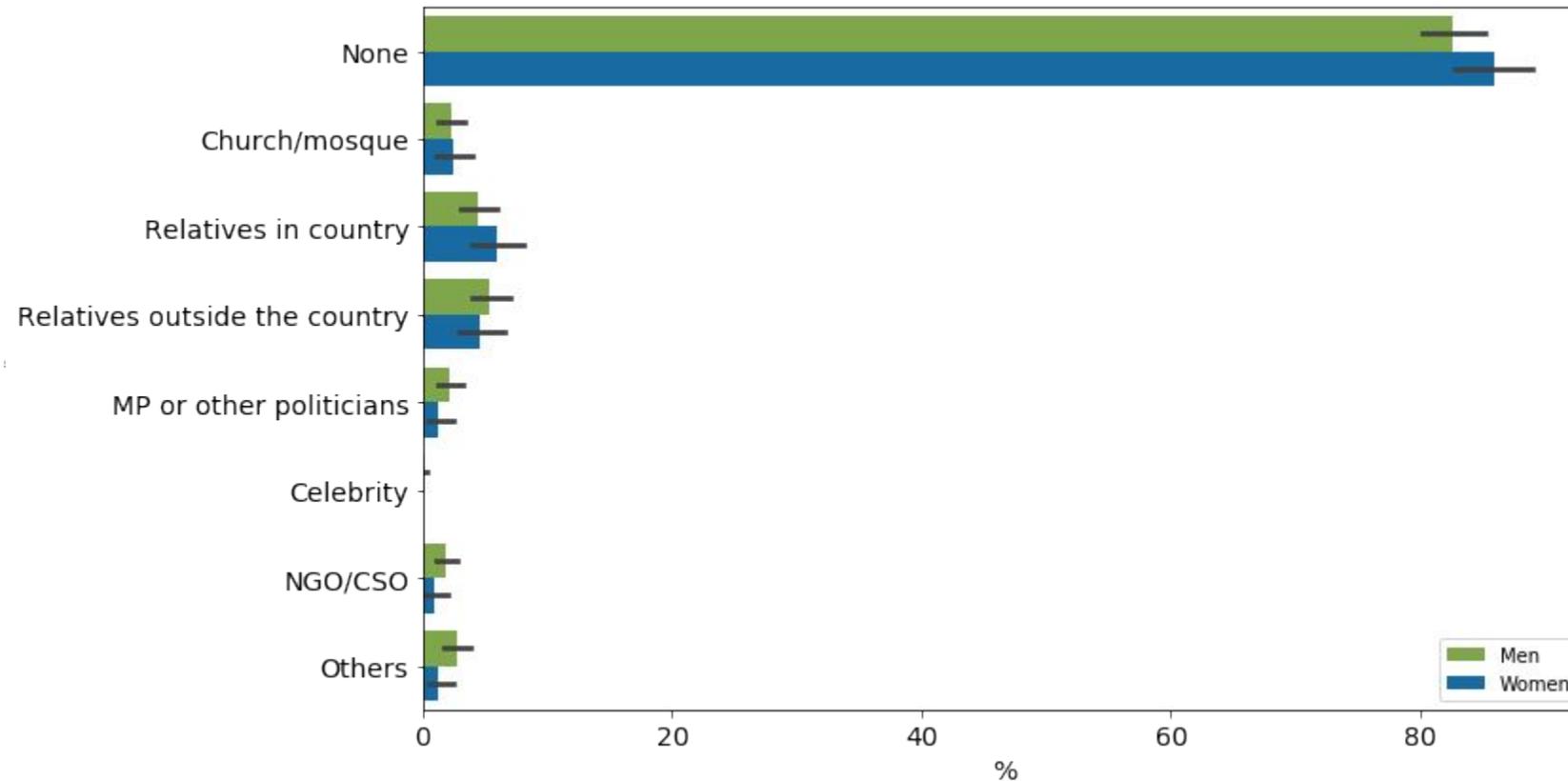
There are no significant differences in households with/without elderly family members receiving food/cash from the government in response to COVID-19



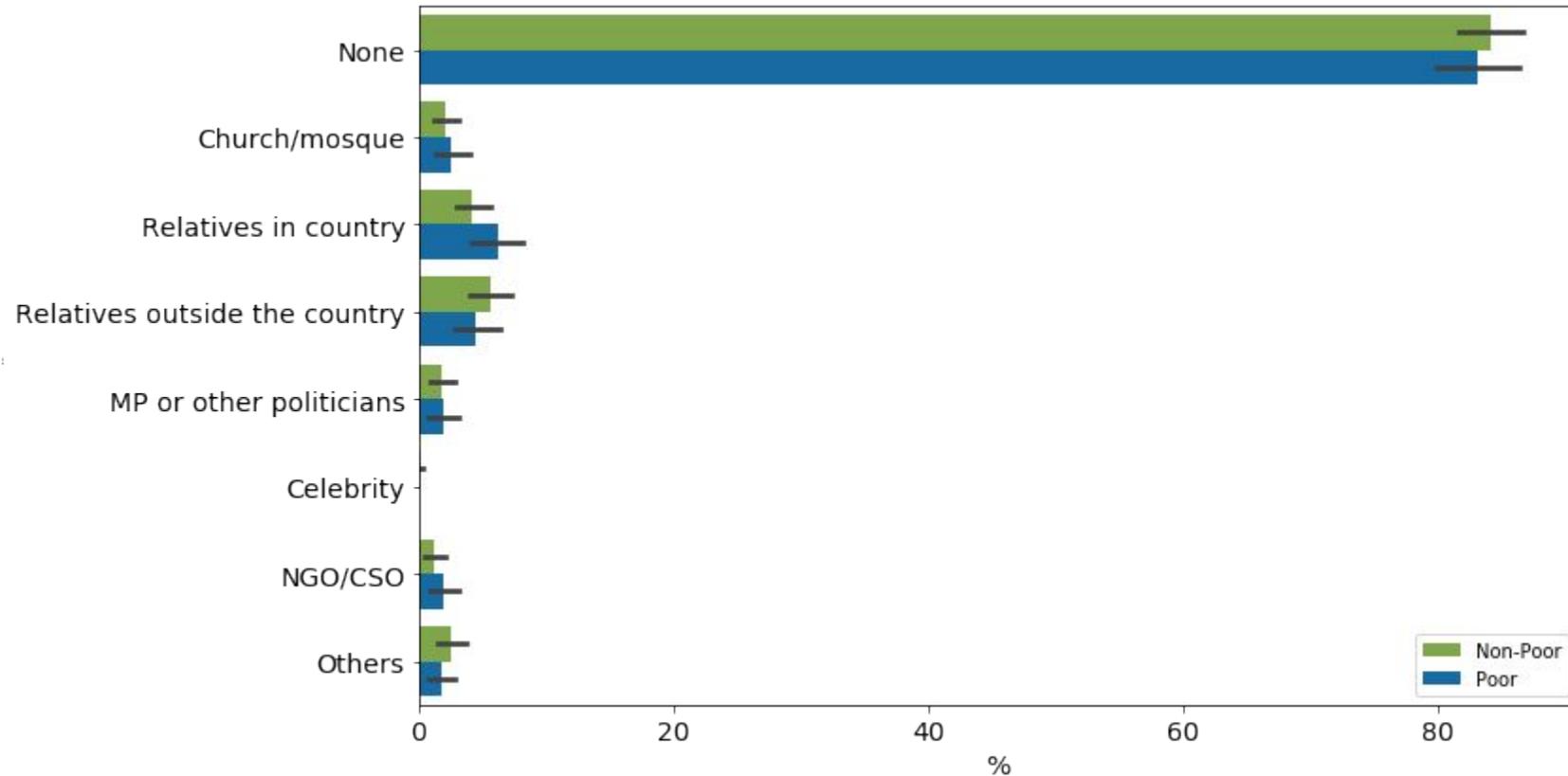
Similarly, an overwhelming majority of households have not received food, cash, or other support from someone else in response to COVID-19



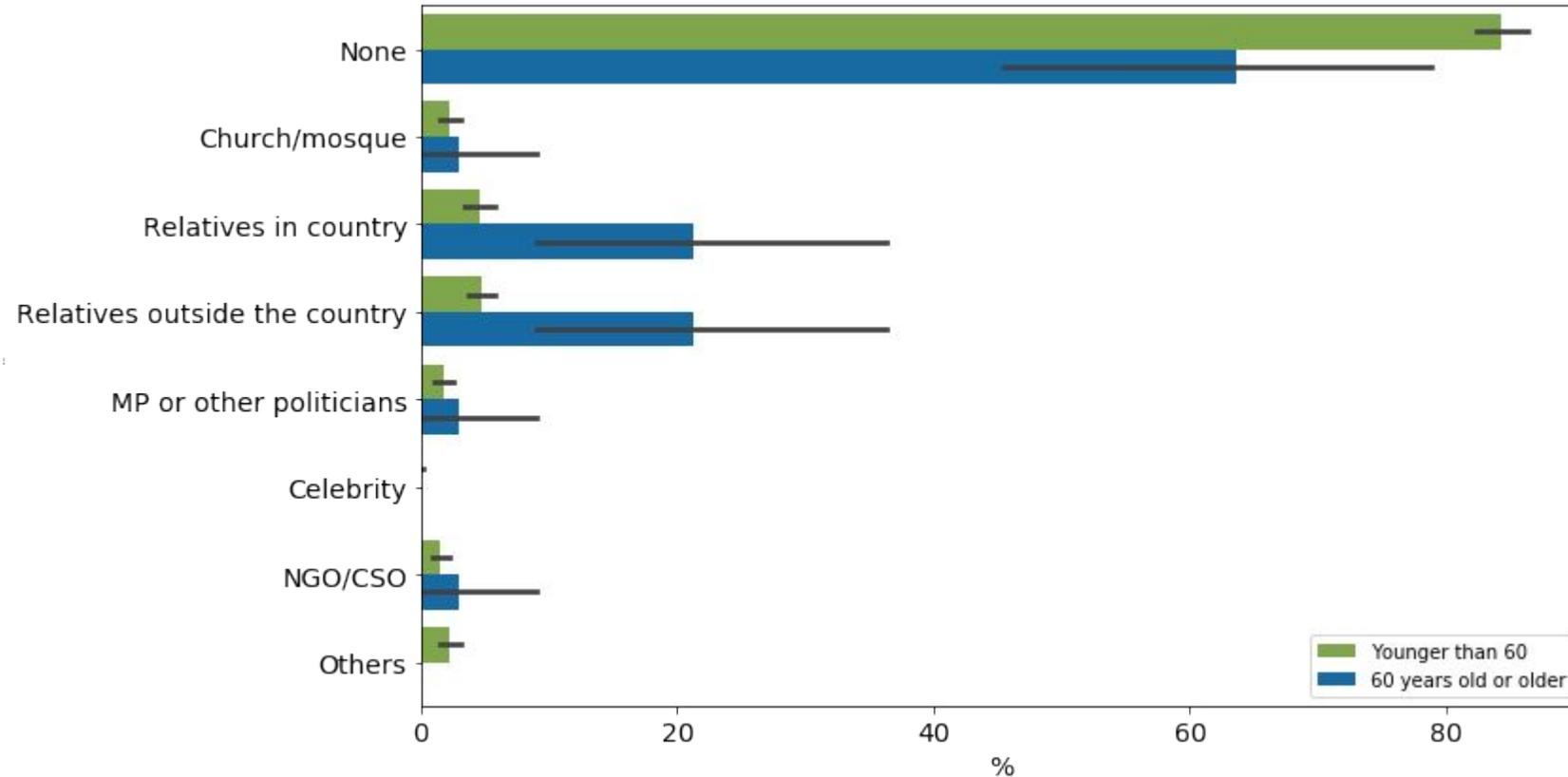
Men and women report receiving similar levels of assistance in response to COVID-19



Poorer and wealthier households report receiving similar levels of assistance in response to COVID-19



Households with elderly family members (33 households) are more likely to report receiving assistance from relatives in response to COVID-19



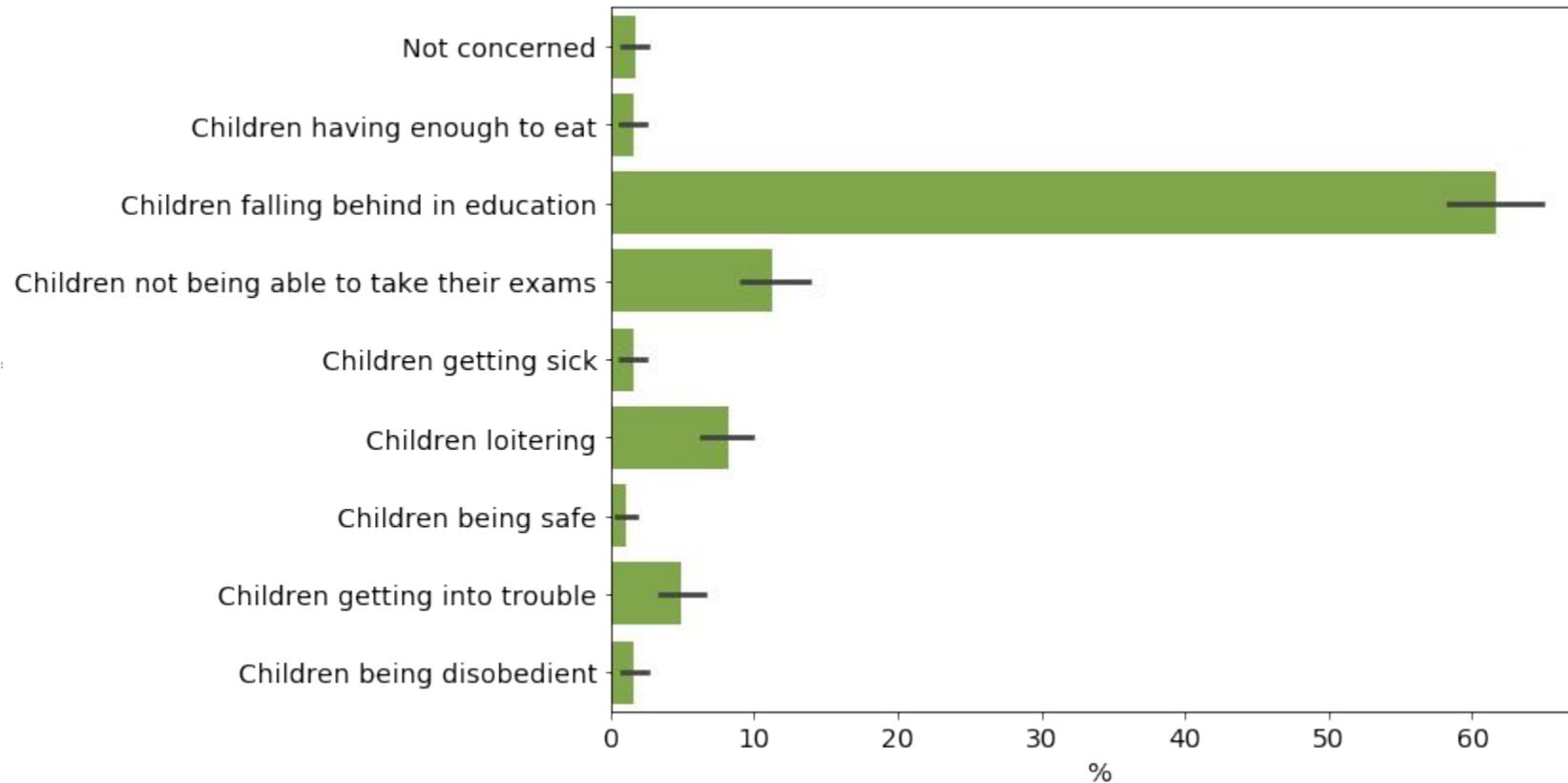
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Education

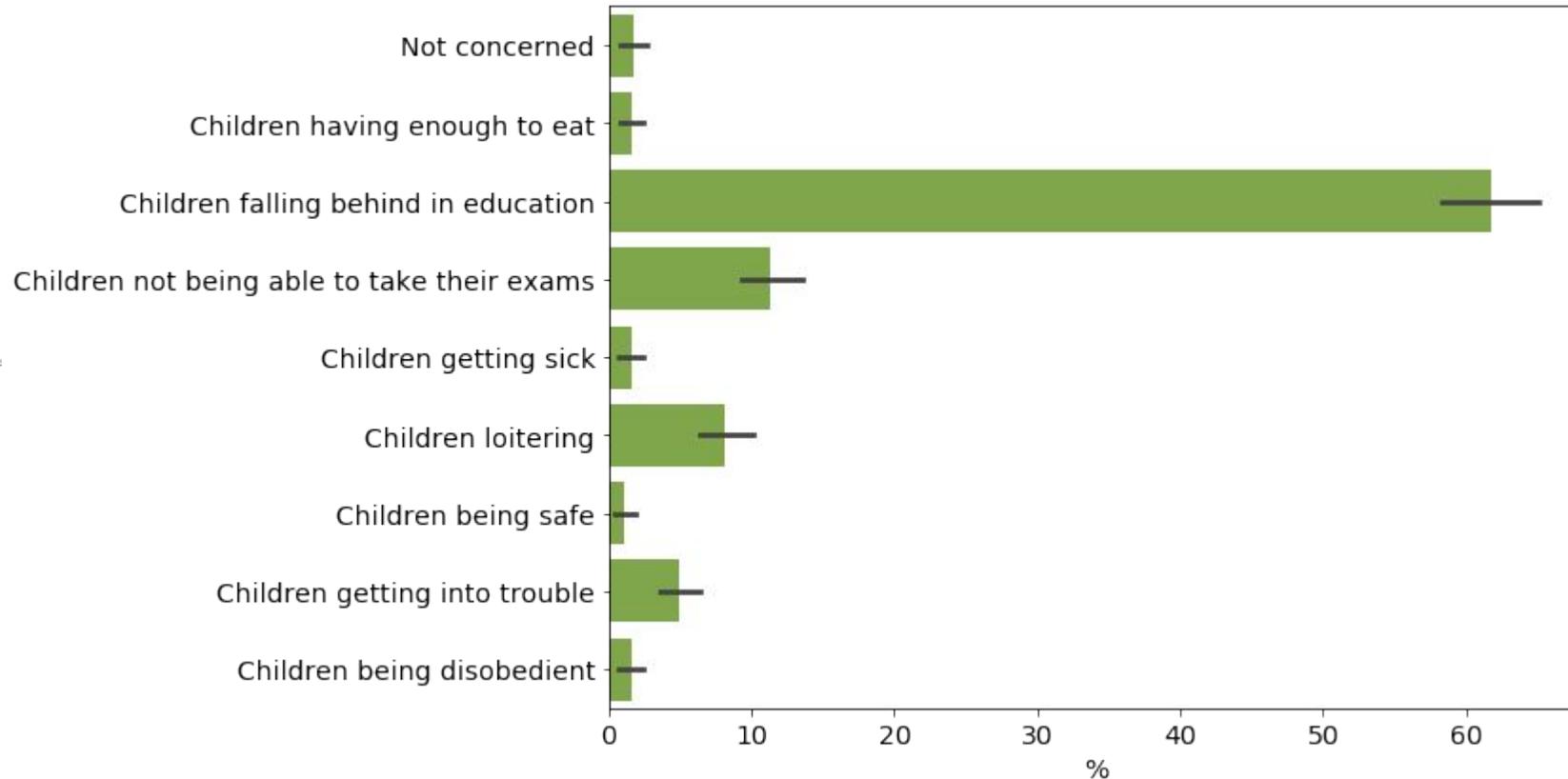
Education: Key Takeaways

- 63% of respondents say their main concern regarding primary and secondary school-aged children in their household is their children falling behind in education
- Among children in primary and secondary school engaged in distance learning, the majority are using their own schoolbooks
- Nearly 75-80% of respondents report all children in primary and secondary school in their household are spending time on education at home
- 55-60% of children in primary and secondary school are spending an average of more than two hours per day on education

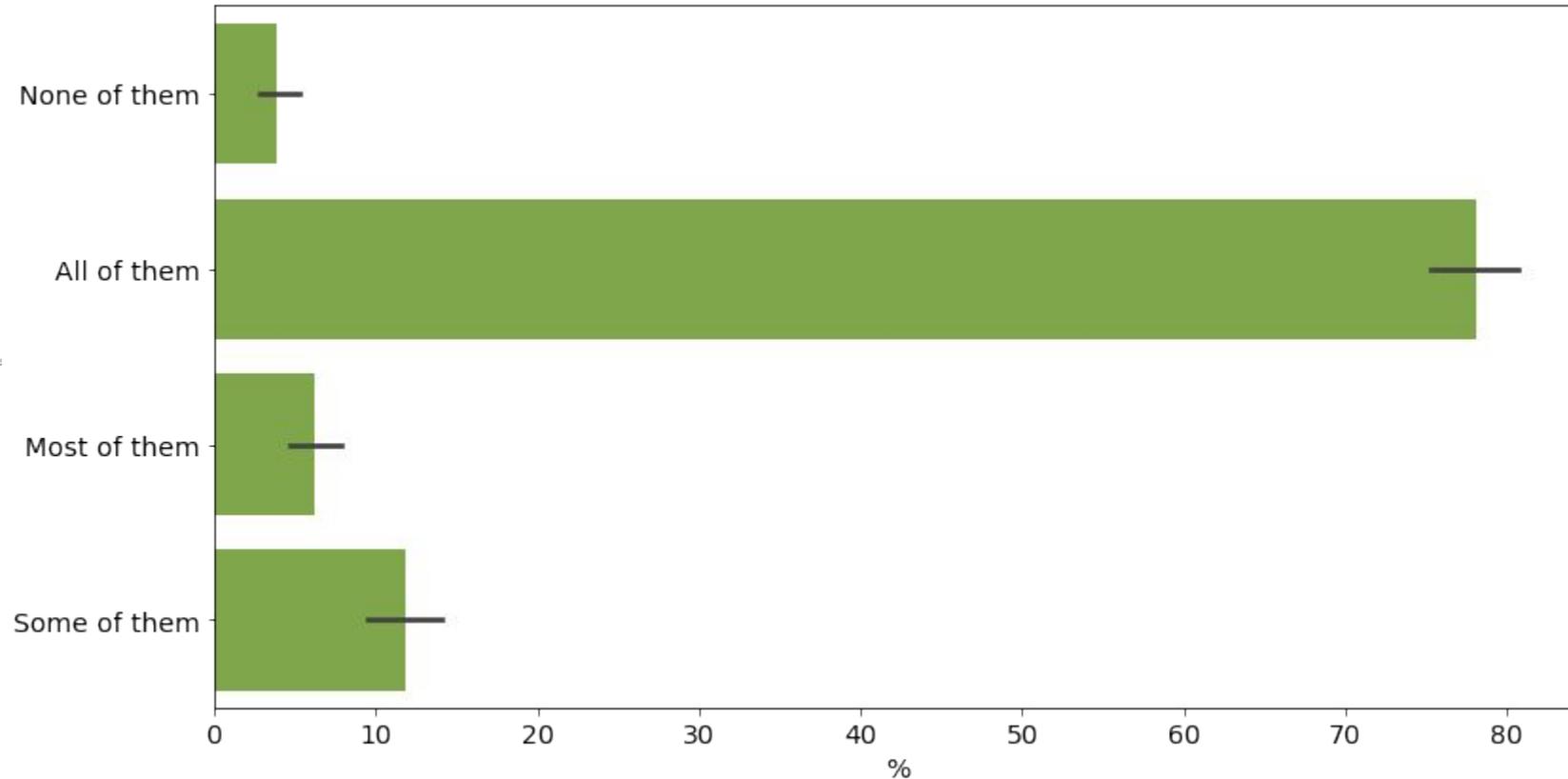
63% of respondents say their main concern regarding primary school-aged children in their household is their children falling behind in education



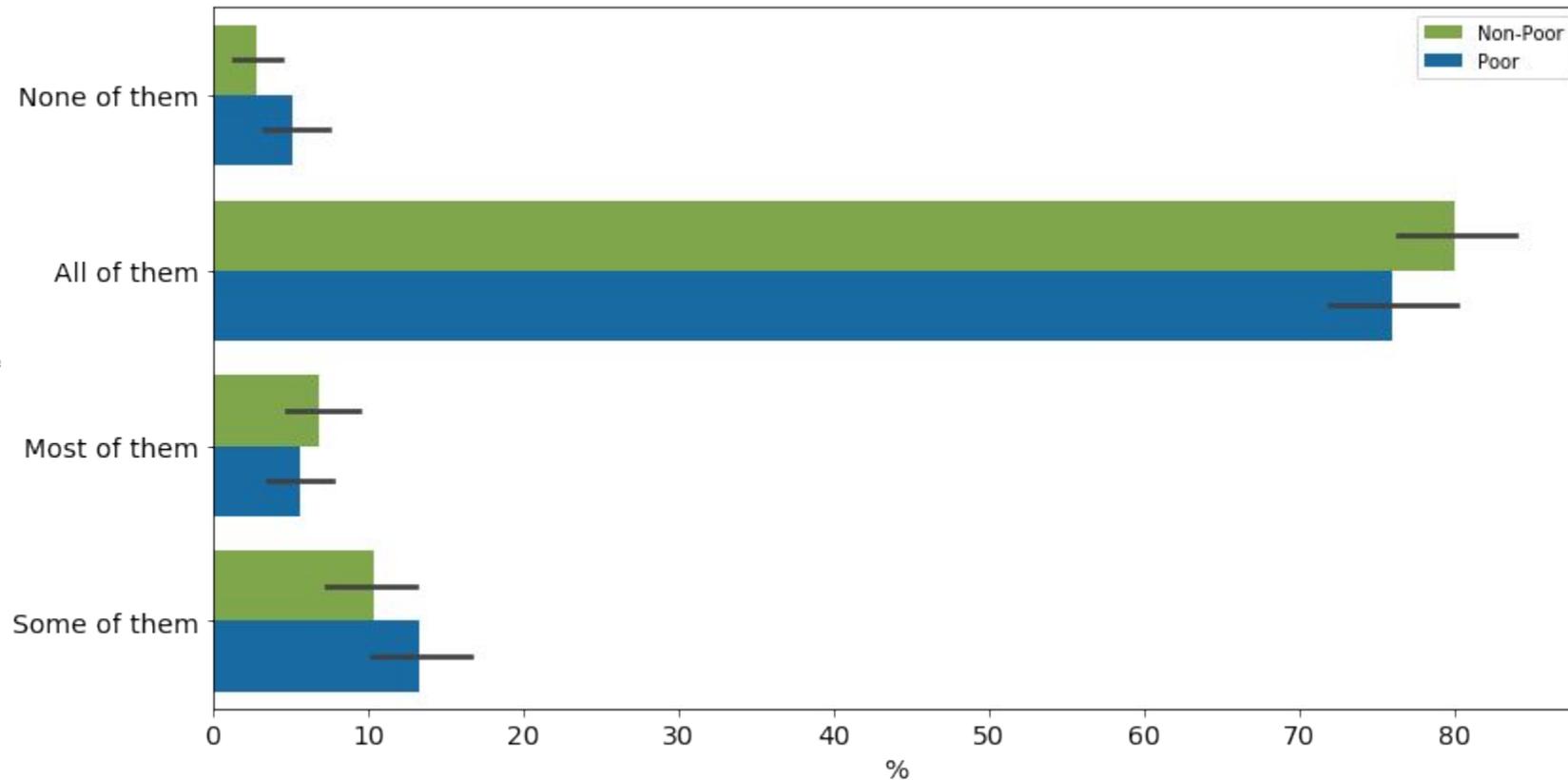
63% of respondents say their main concern regarding secondary school-aged children in their household is falling behind on their education



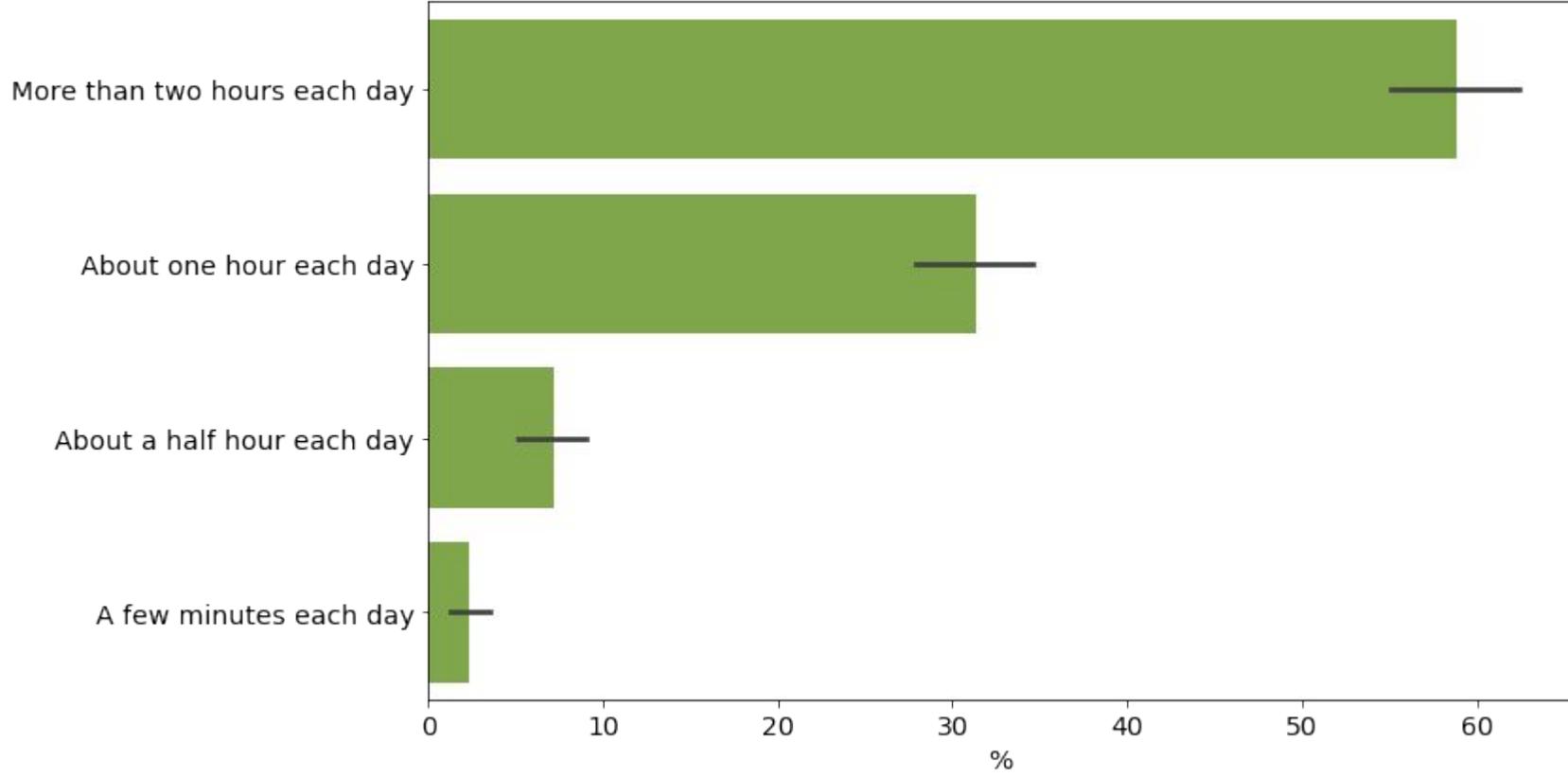
Nearly 80% of respondents report all children in primary school in their household are spending time on education at home



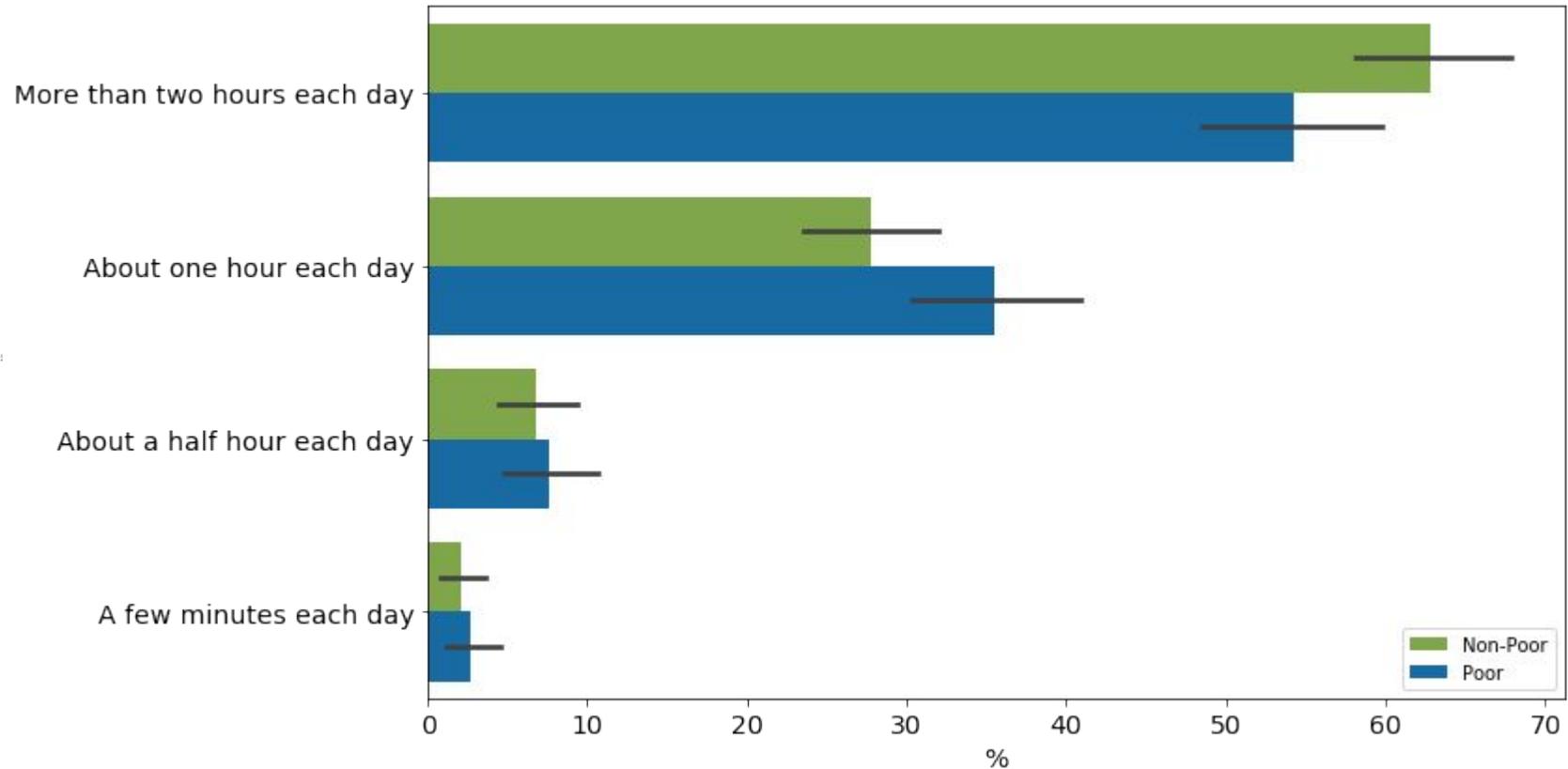
Poorer and wealthier households similarly report that all children in primary school in their household are spending time on education at home



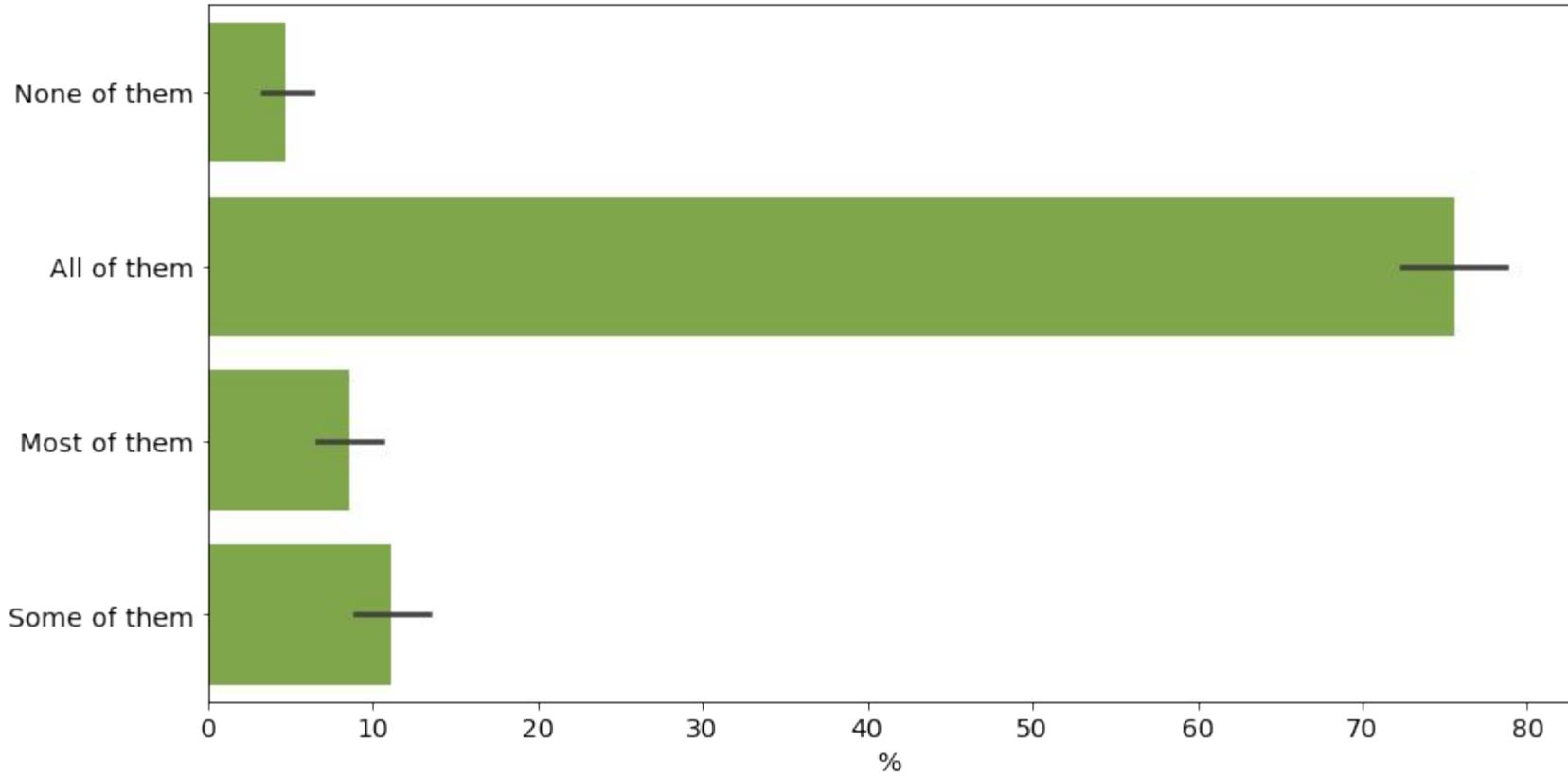
60% of students are spending an average of more than 2 hours per day on education



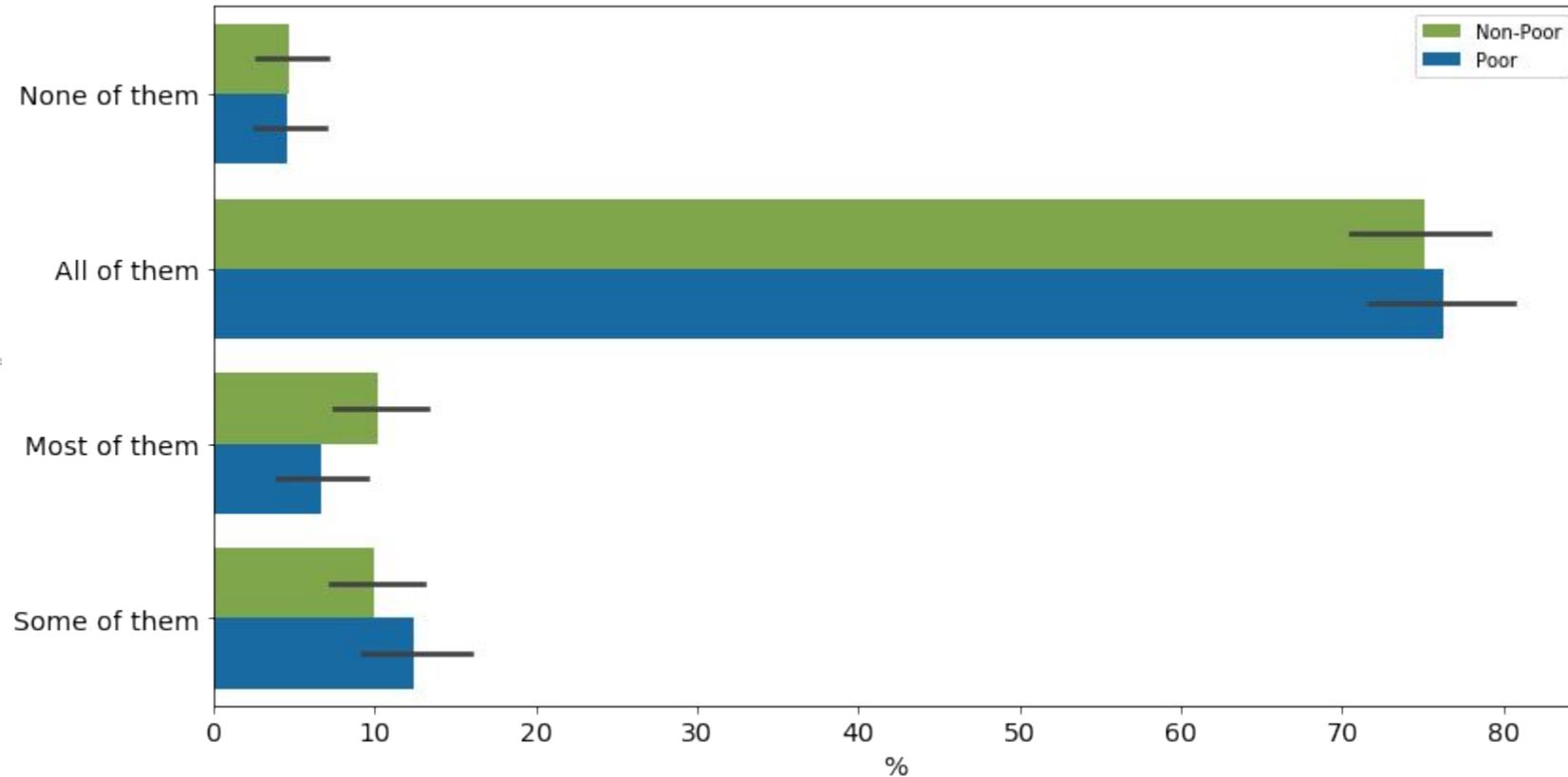
Wealthier households are slightly more likely to report that children in primary school in their household are spending an average of more than two hours per day on education



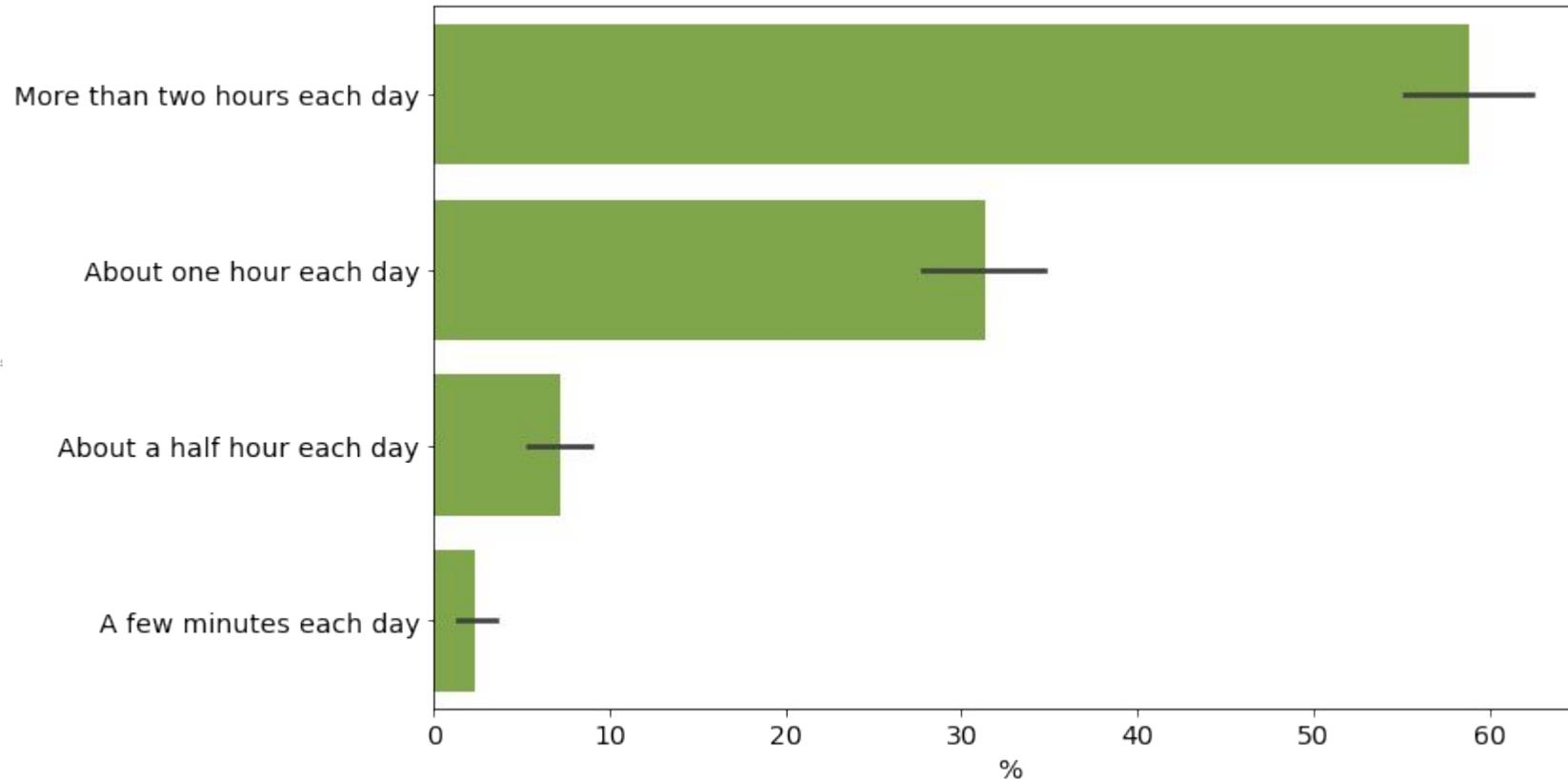
75% of respondents report that all children of secondary school age in the household are spending time on education at home



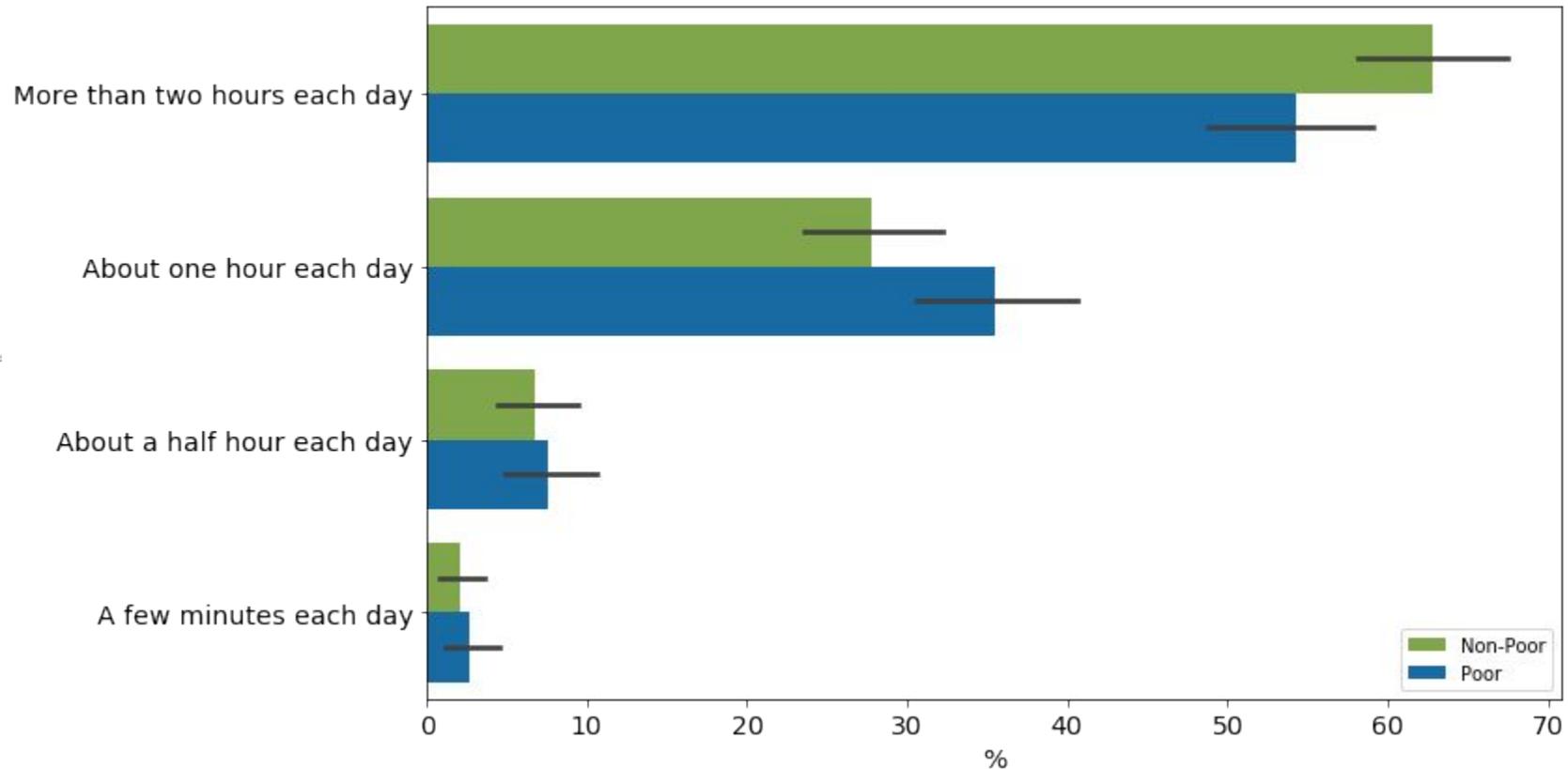
Poorer and wealthier respondents report similar rates of children in secondary school in the household spending time on education at home



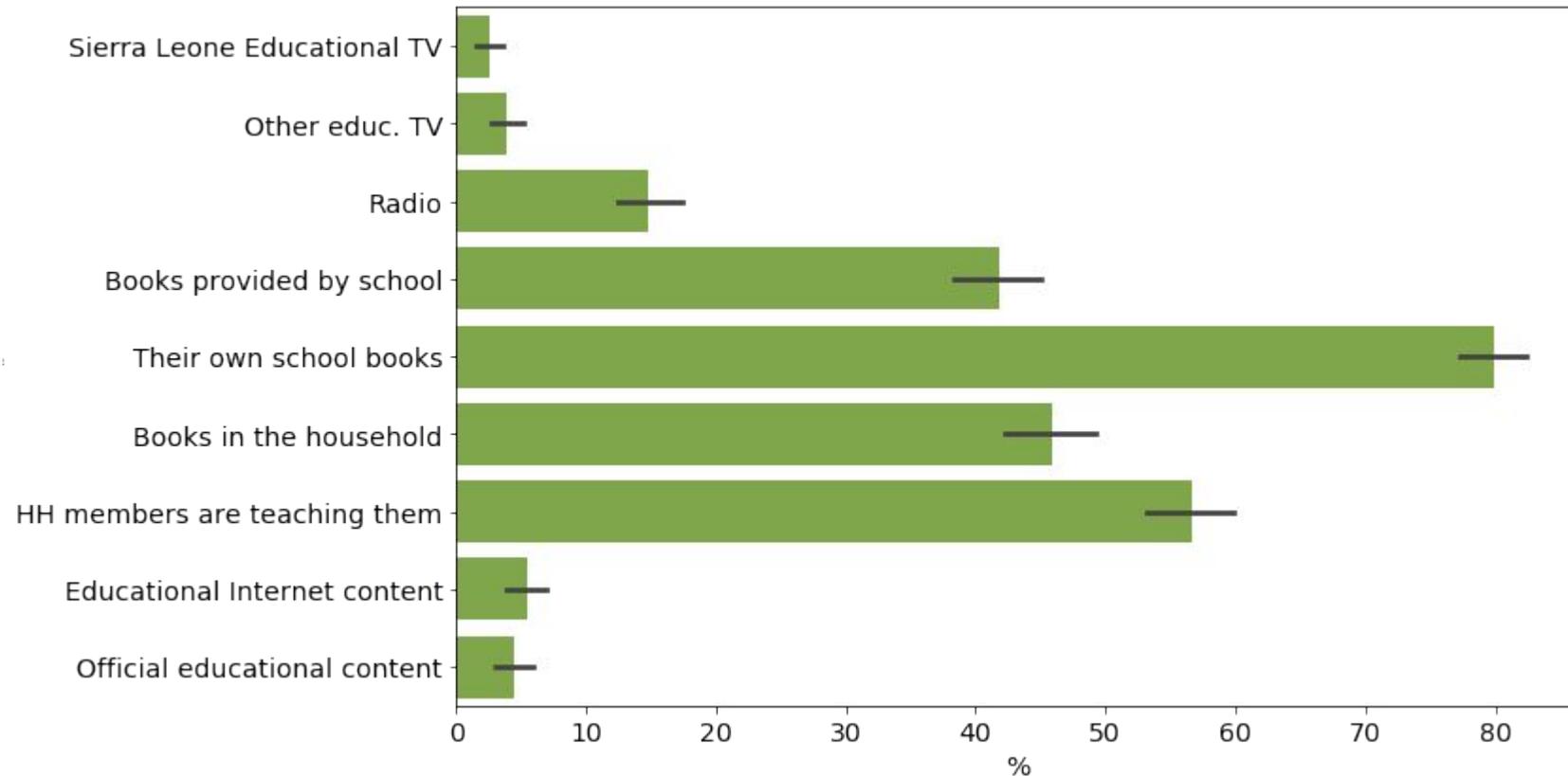
Nearly 60% of respondents with children in secondary school report the children are spending an average of more than two hours per day on education



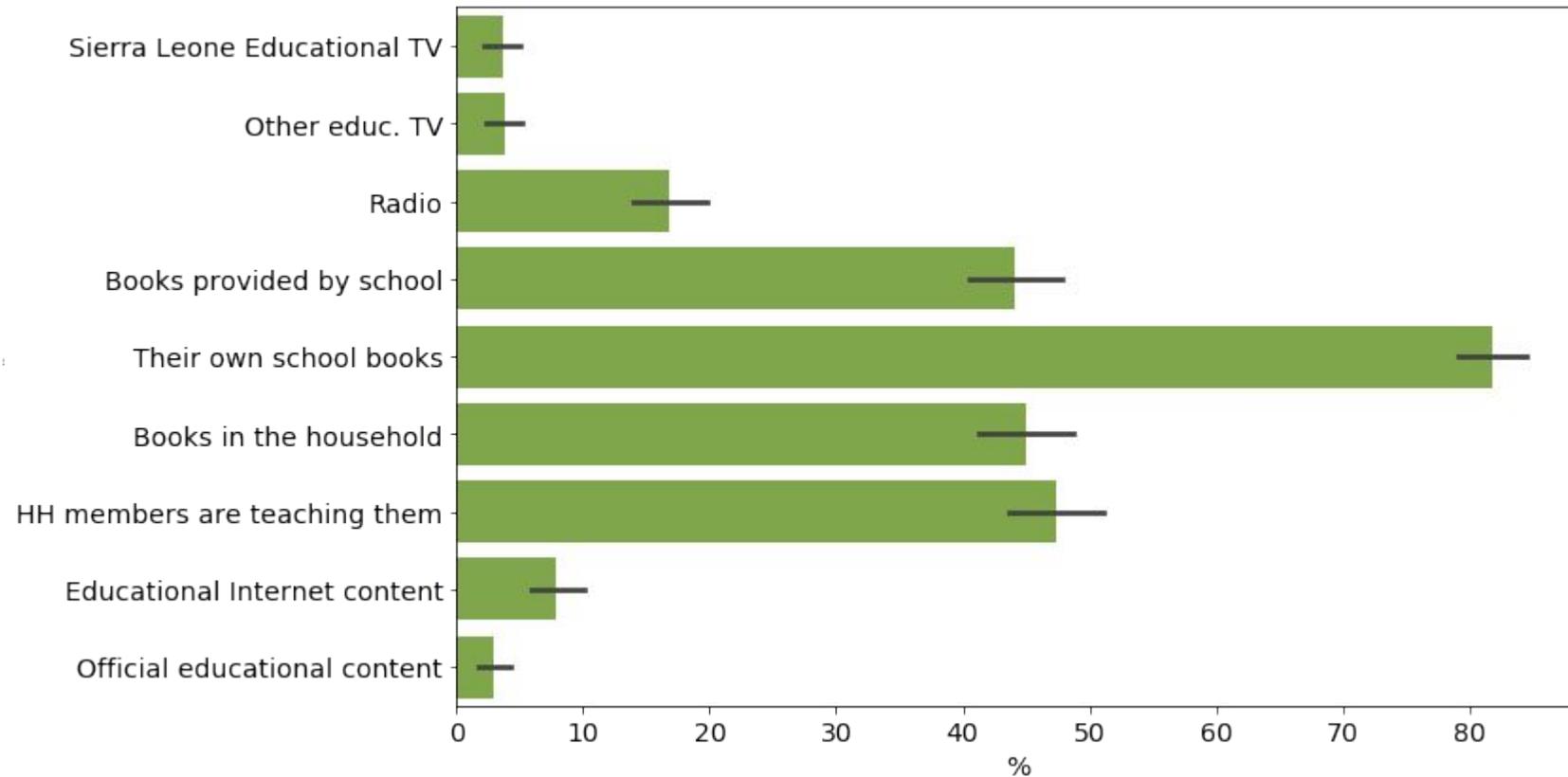
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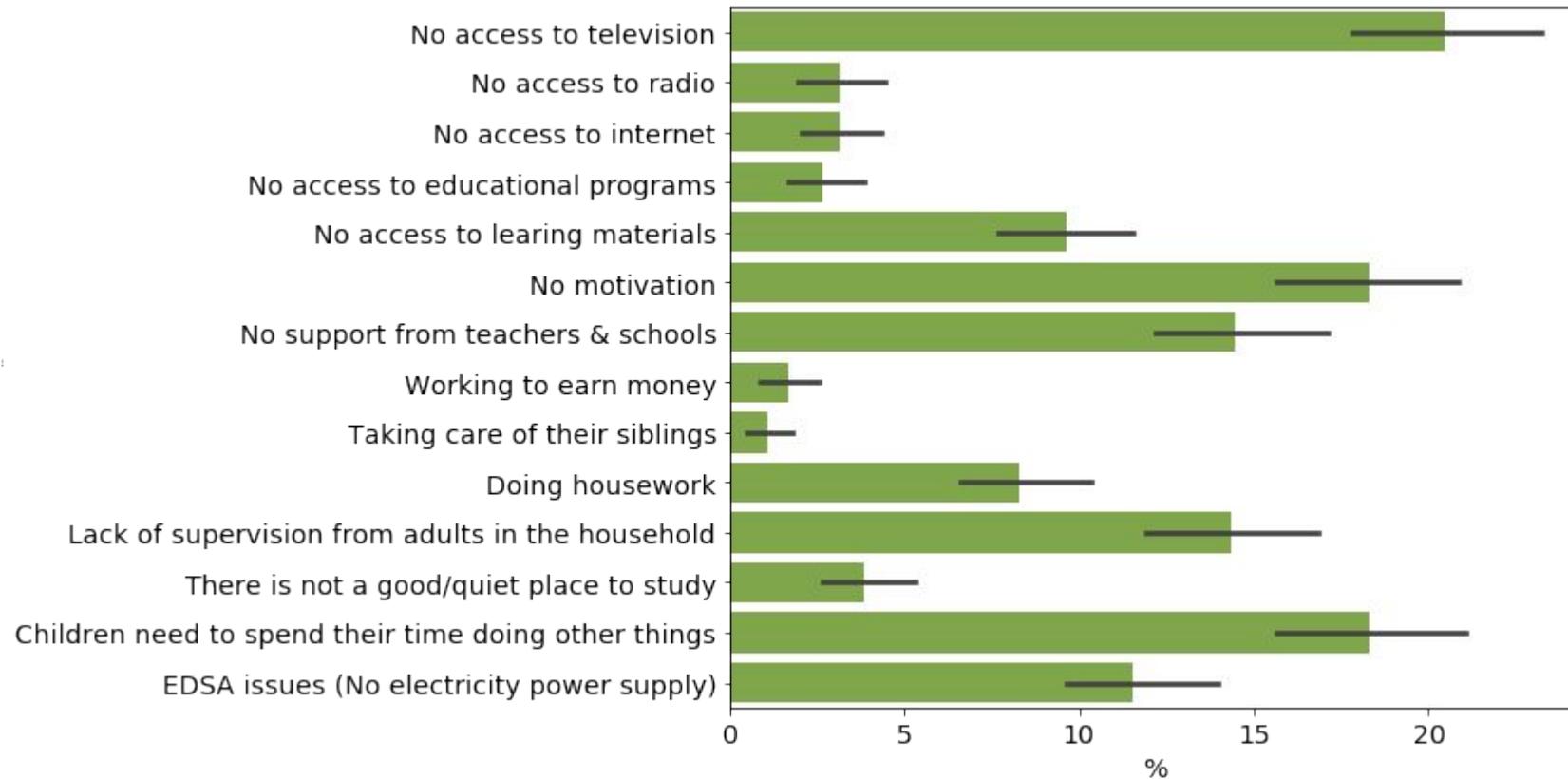
Among children in primary school engaged in distance learning, the majority are using their own schoolbooks



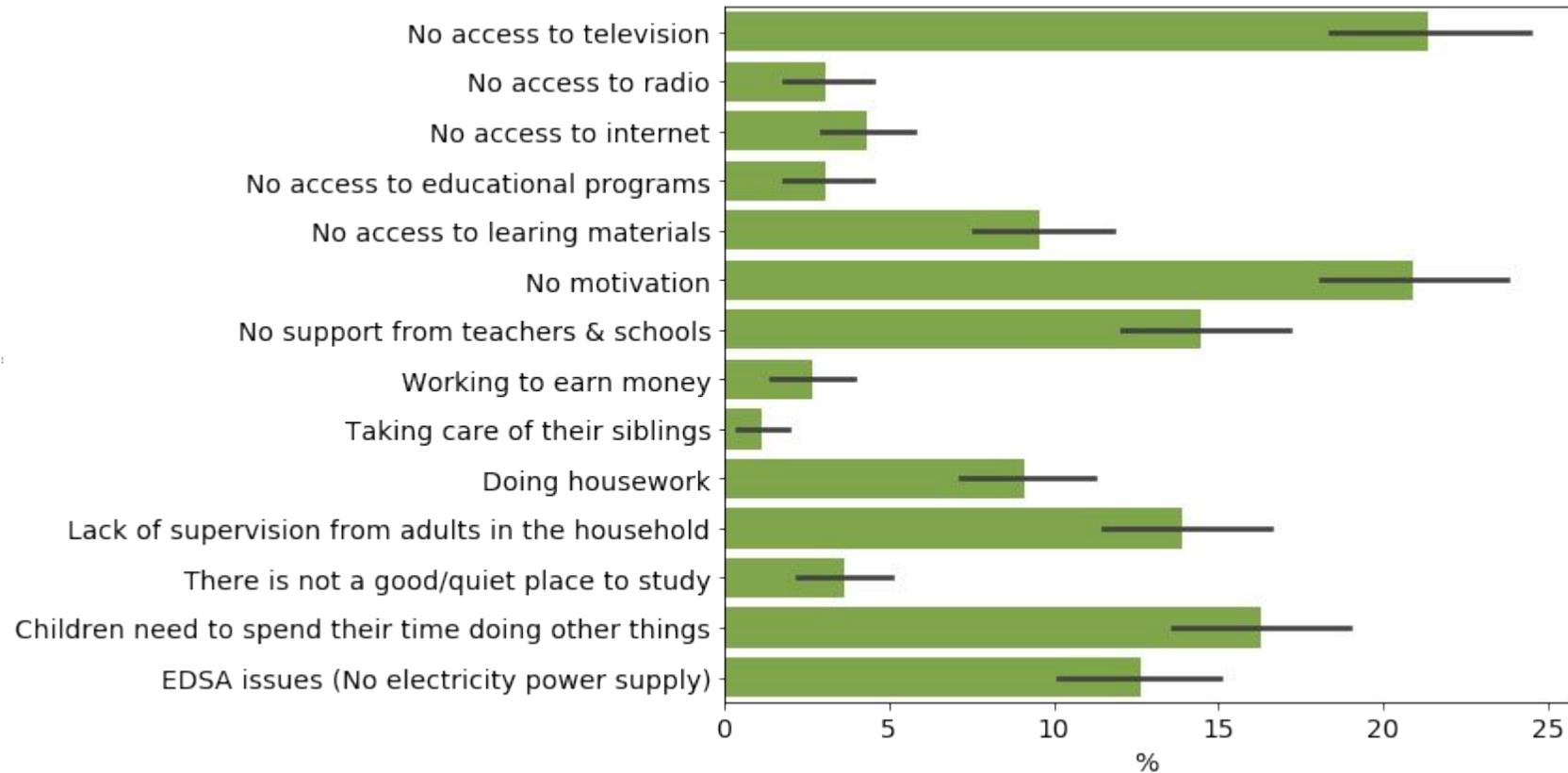
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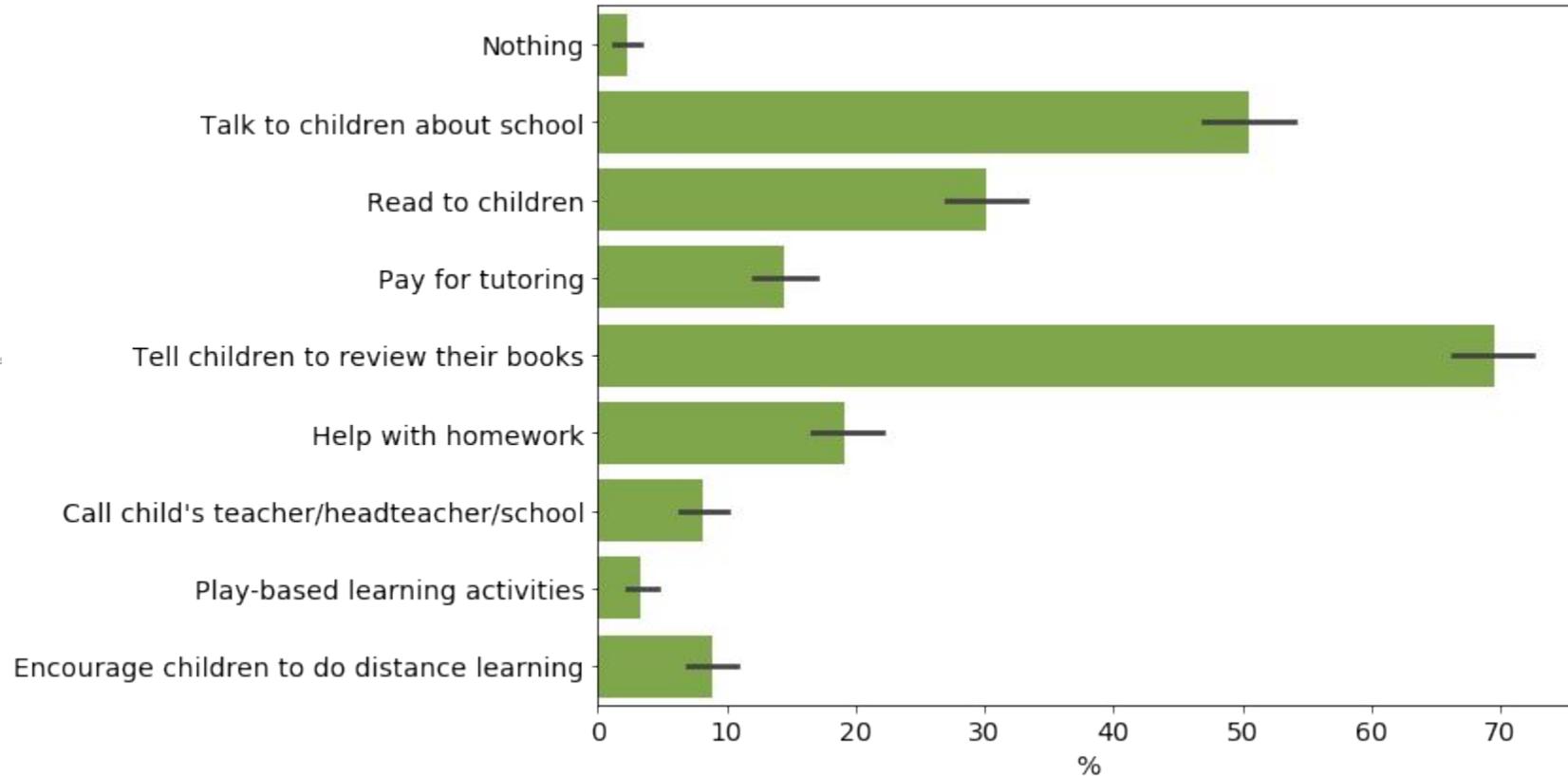
Children in primary school face barriers in access to television, a lack of motivation, and competing priorities when attempting to spend time on education at home



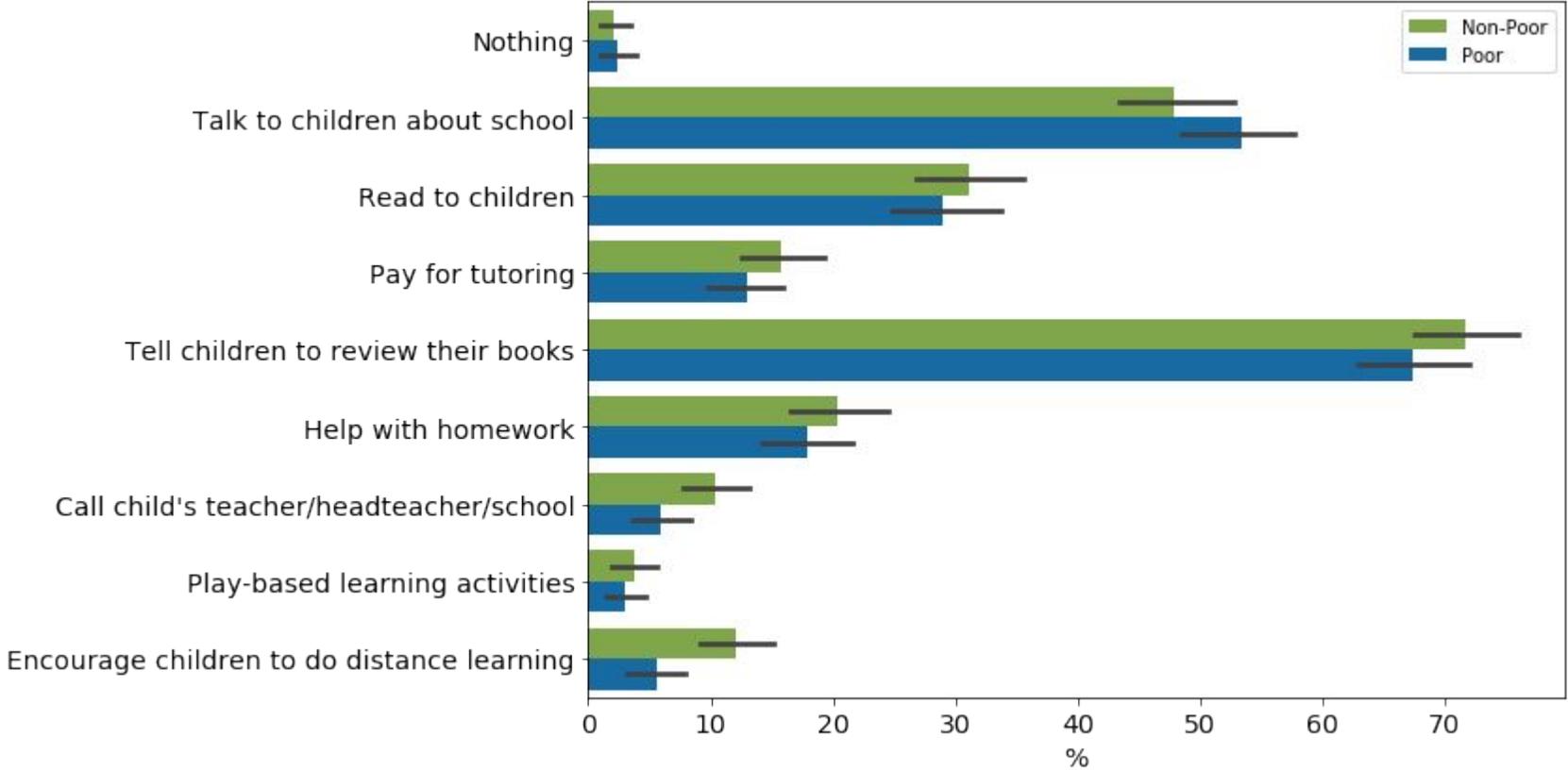
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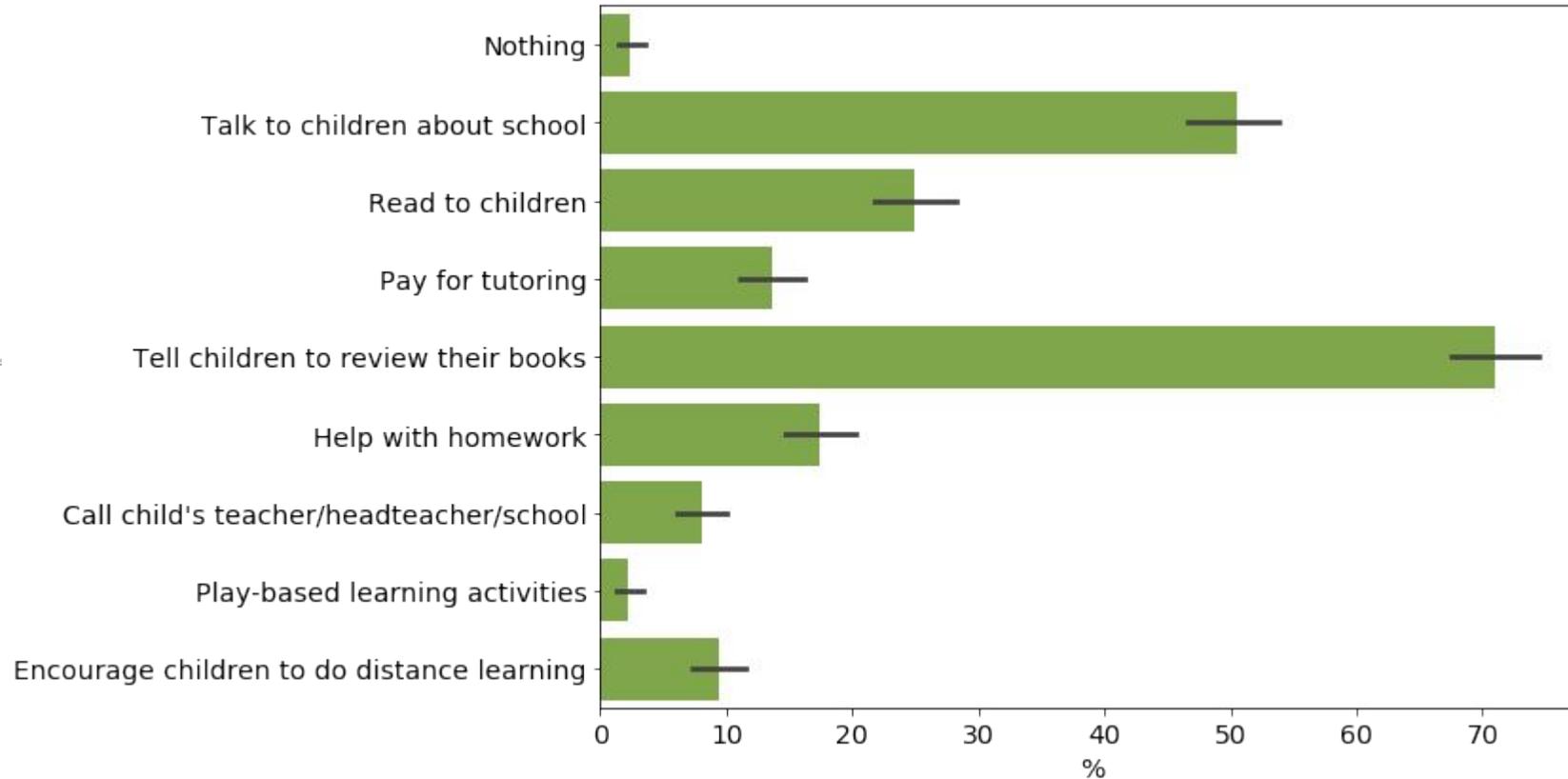
Respondents are supporting primary school children's education by telling their children to review their books, talking to their children about school, and reading to their children



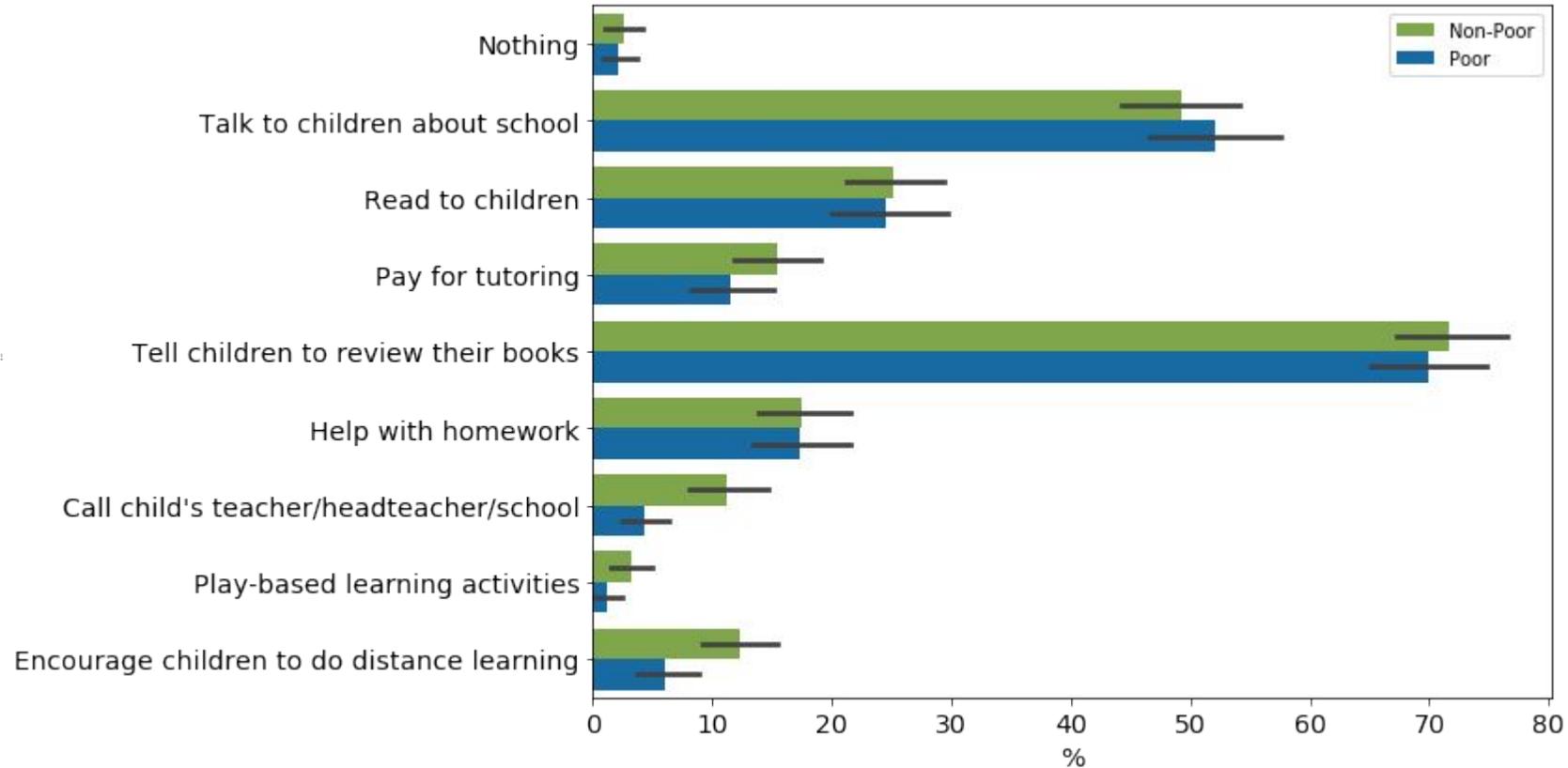
Poorer and wealthier respondents are similarly supporting primary school children's education by telling their children to review their books



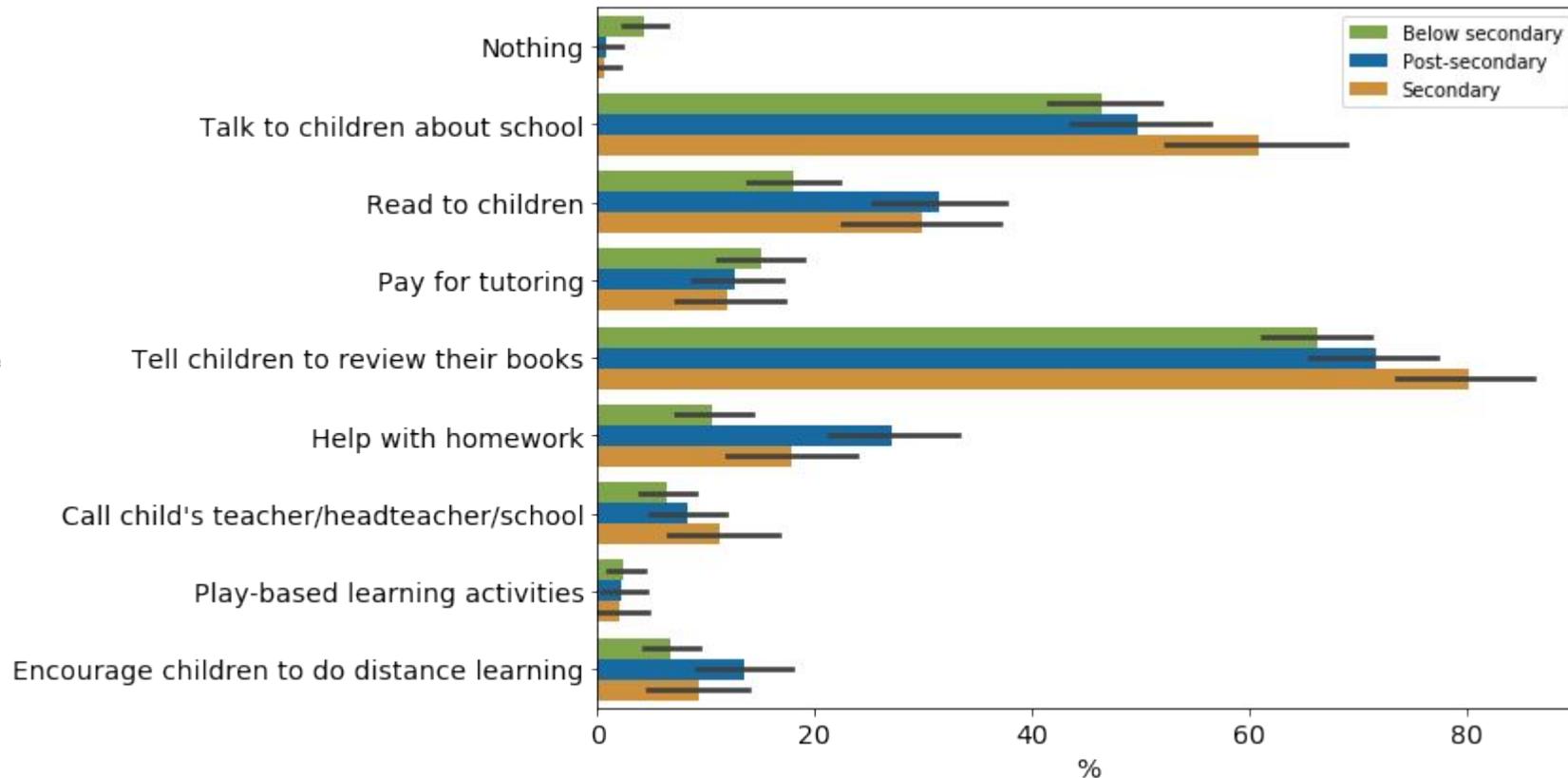
Respondents are supporting secondary school children's education primarily by telling children to review their books and talking to children about school



Poorer and wealthier households support secondary school children's education in similar ways, including telling children to review their books and talking to children about school



Parents with different education levels are similarly likely to support secondary school children's education by telling children to review their books and talking to children about school. Parents with post-secondary education are slightly more likely to help children with their homework



4 Economic Activity & Employment

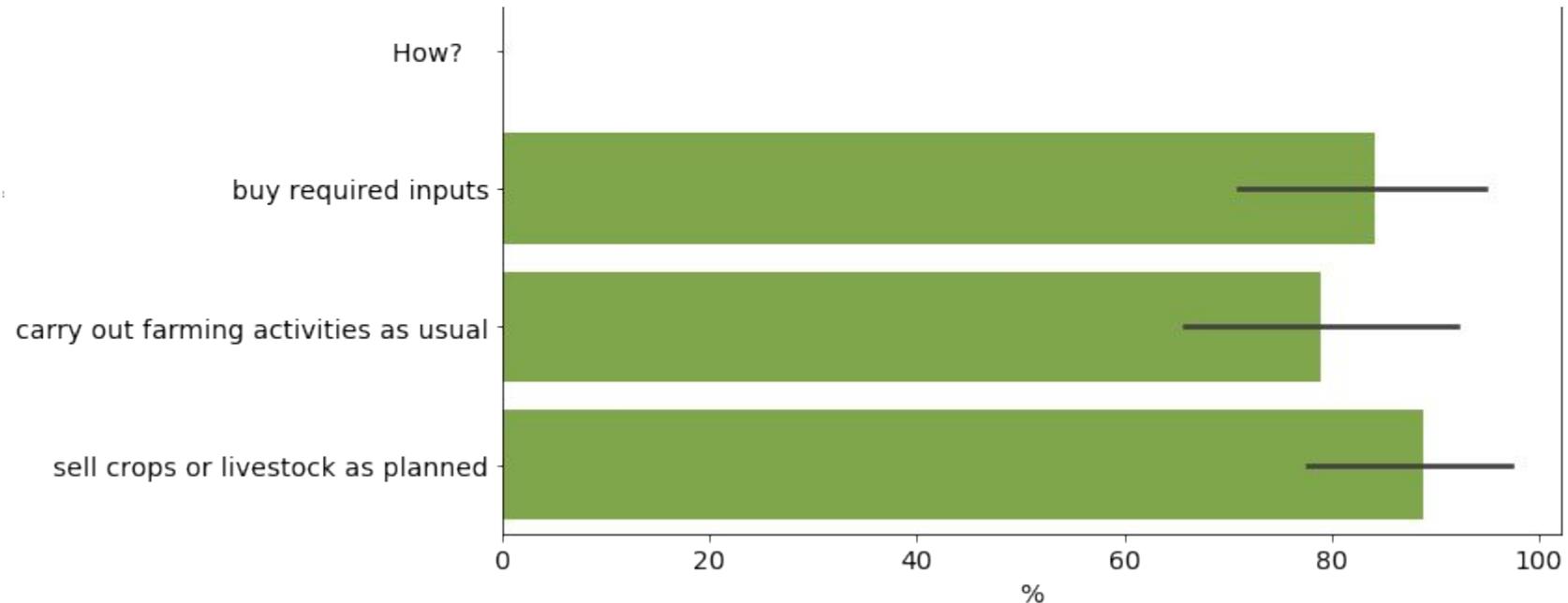
Economic Activity & Employment: Key Takeaways

- 60% of households working in agriculture have altered planting, harvesting, or marketing of agricultural products because of COVID-19-related restrictions
- Almost 70% of employed individuals have spent fewer hours working for pay/running a business/helping on a family business than they did in a typical week before the government closed schools
- 36% of employed individuals have earned less pay than they did in a typical week before the government closed schools

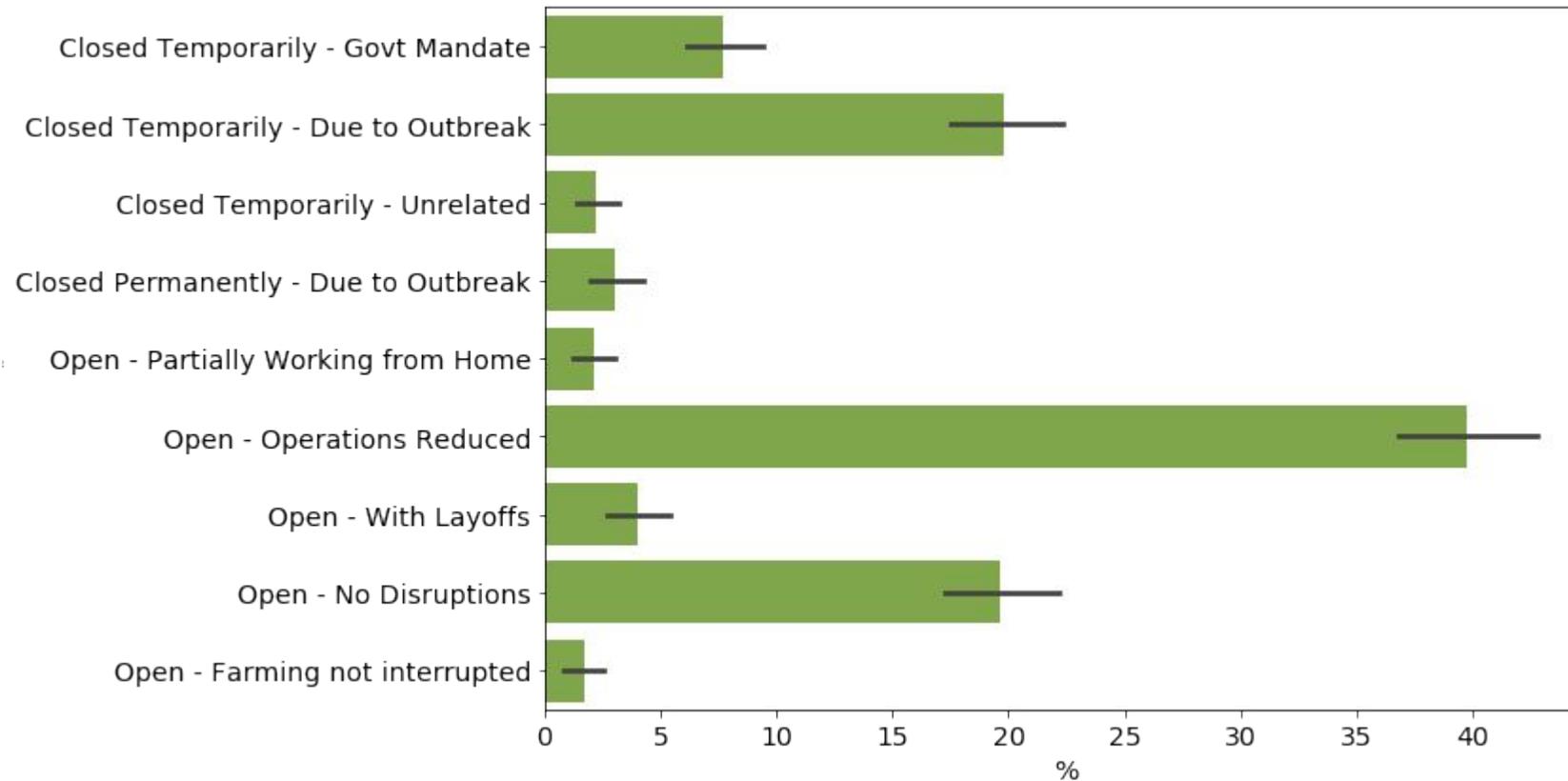
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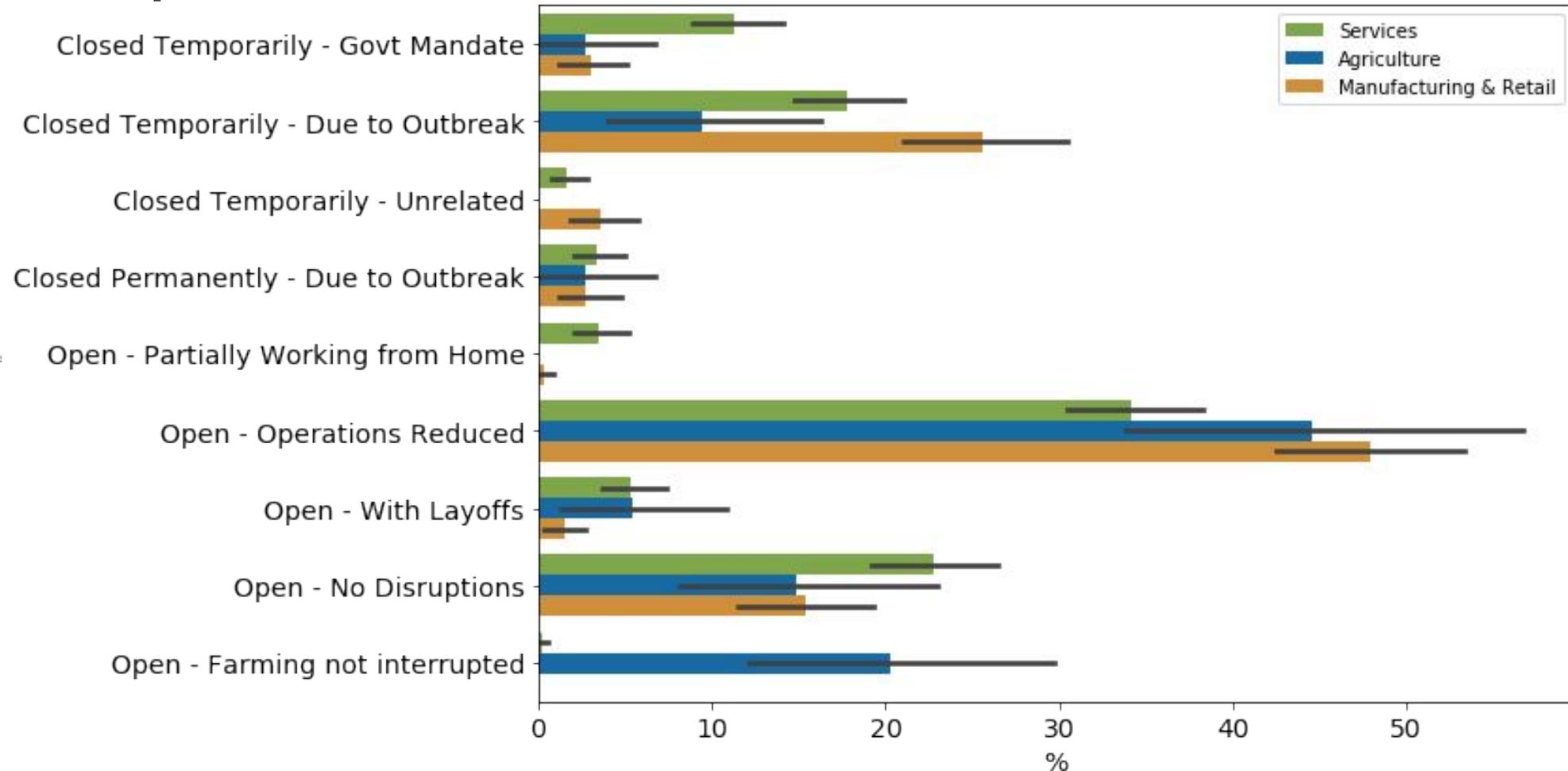
These respondents have faced challenges in buying required inputs, carrying out farming activities as usual, and selling crops or livestock as planned



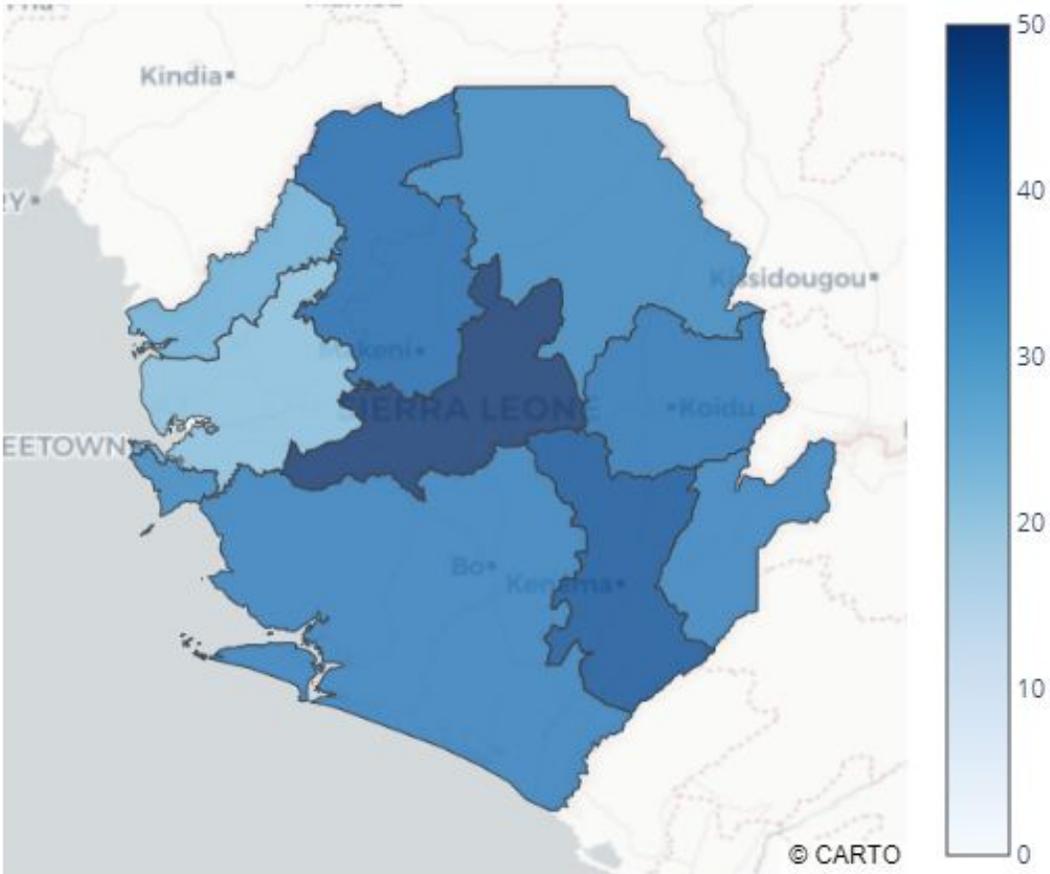
19% of households' places of work are currently open with no disruptions, while 28% are closed. Almost 40% are open with reduced operations



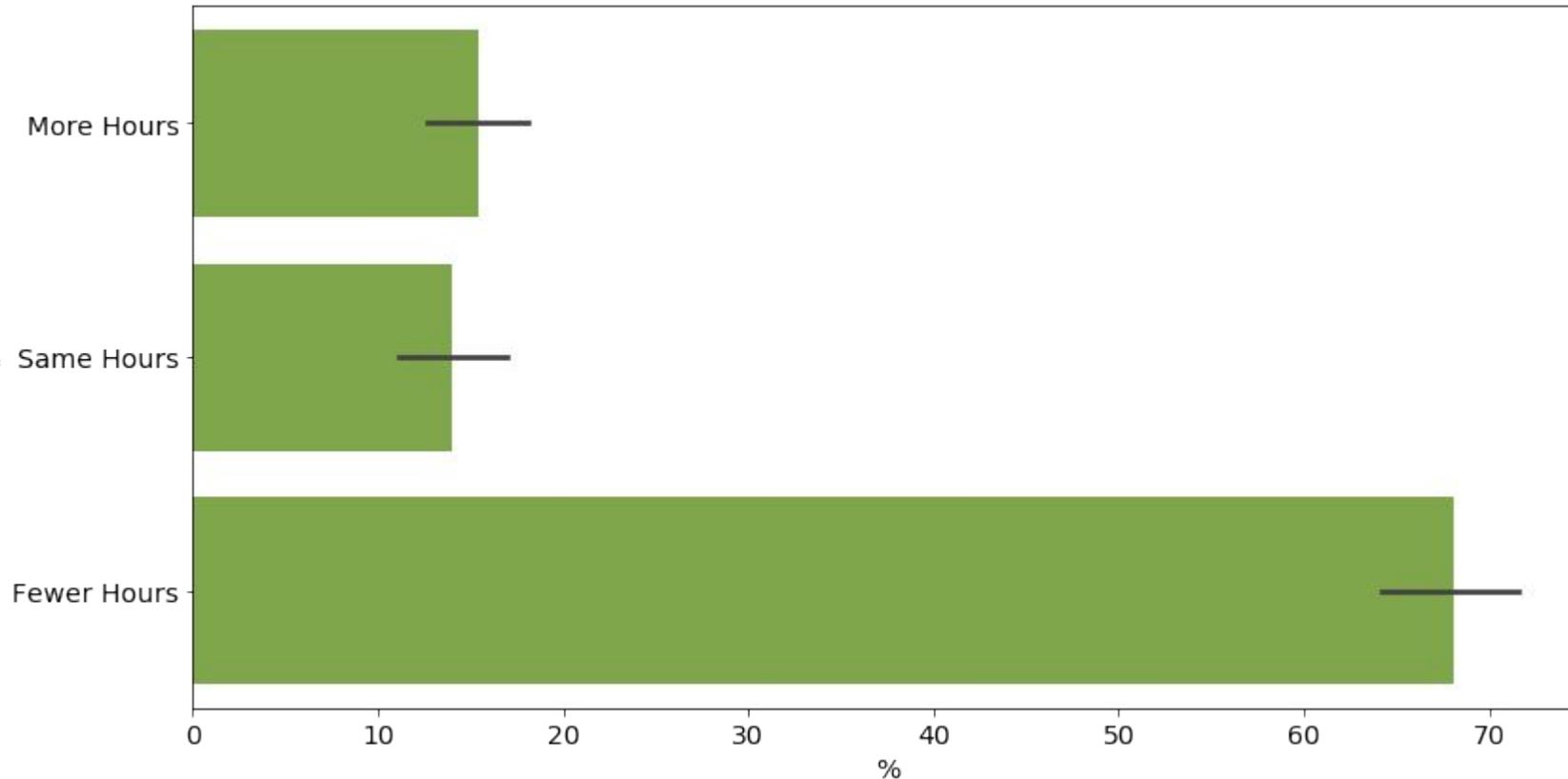
Respondents in the manufacturing and retail sector are more likely to report their workplaces being closed temporarily due to the outbreak. Respondents working in services, agriculture, and manufacturing and retail are similarly likely to report their workplaces being open with reduced operations



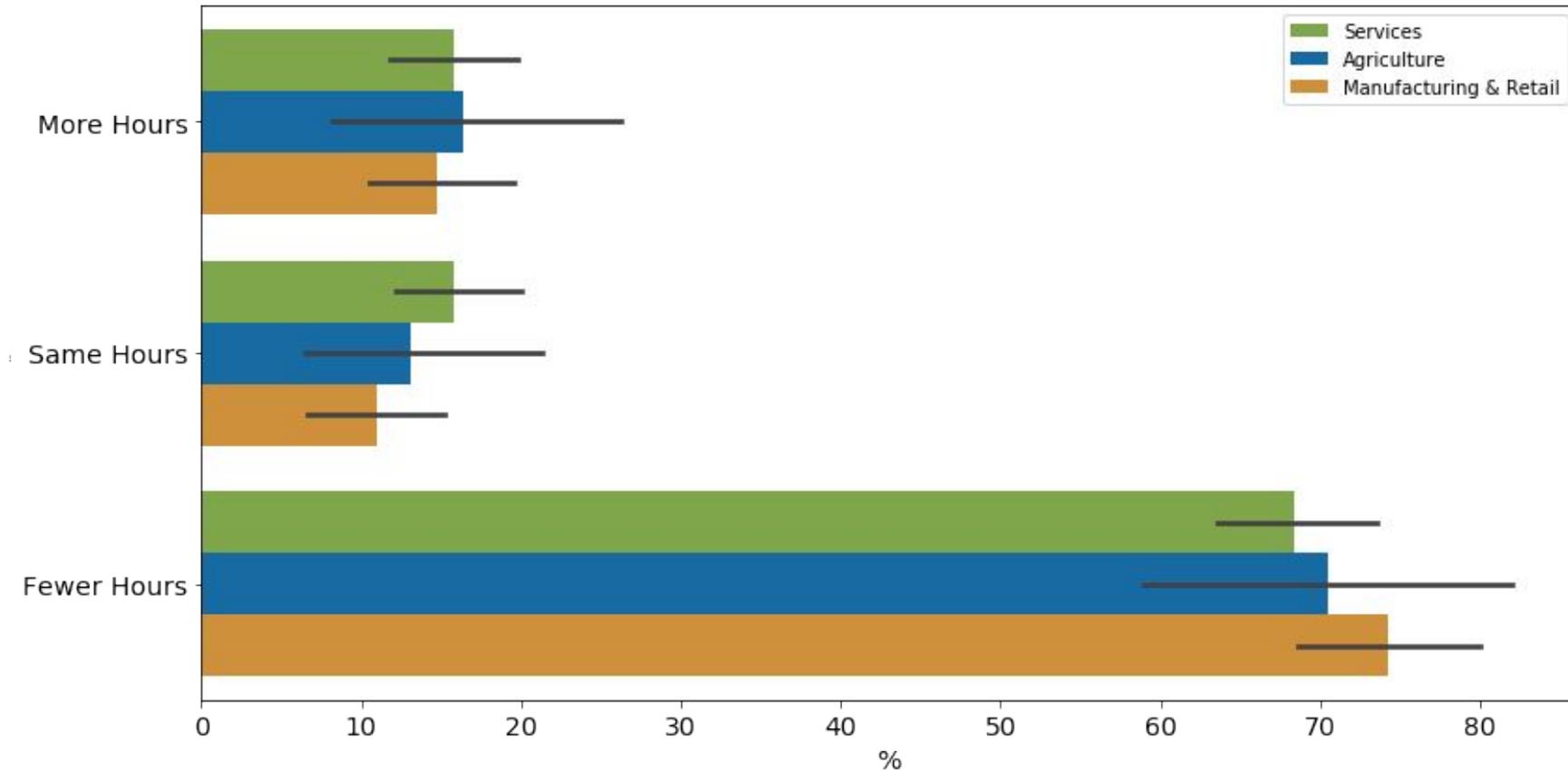
**28% of households' places of work are currently closed.
Around 50% are closed in Tonkolili, the worst hit district**



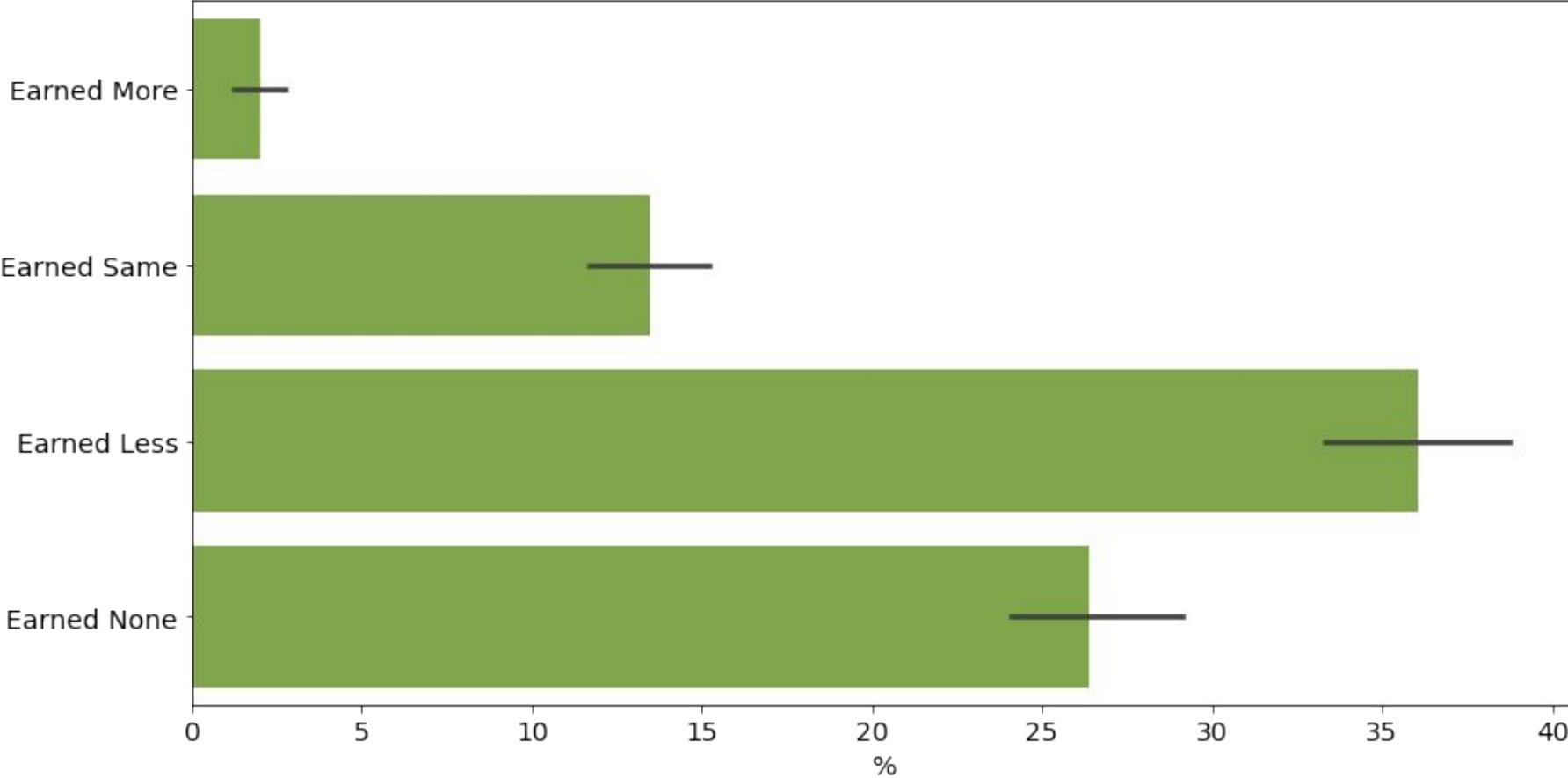
Almost 70% of employed individuals have spent fewer hours working for pay/running a business/helping on a family business than they did in a typical week before the government closed schools



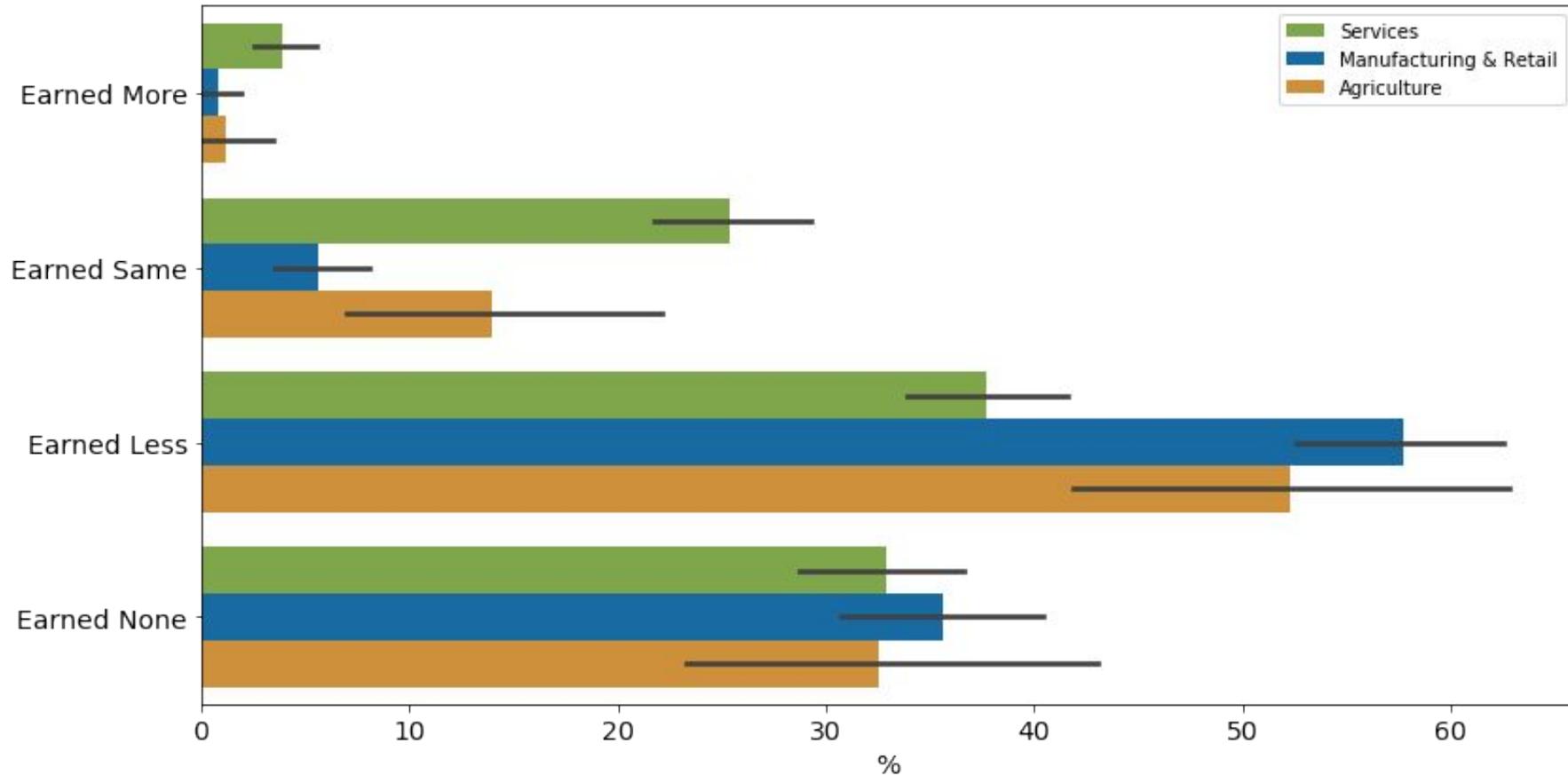
Respondents working in the services, agriculture, and manufacturing & retail sectors have similarly spent fewer hours working for pay/running a business/helping on a family business than they did in a typical week before the government closed schools



36% of employed individuals have earned less pay than they did in a typical week before the government closed schools



Respondents working in the services sector were more likely to report that they have earned the same pay that they did in a typical week before the government closed schools



Thank you



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<https://www.poverty-action.org/recover>