



science & innovation

Department:  
Science and Innovation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



National  
Research  
Foundation



HSRC  
Human Sciences  
Research Council

DCES  
Developmental, Capable  
& Ethical State



UNIVERSITY  
OF  
JOHANNESBURG

CENTRE  
for  
SOCIAL  
CHANGE



UJ/HSRC Covid-19  
Democracy Survey

# Class, Masks and Schools

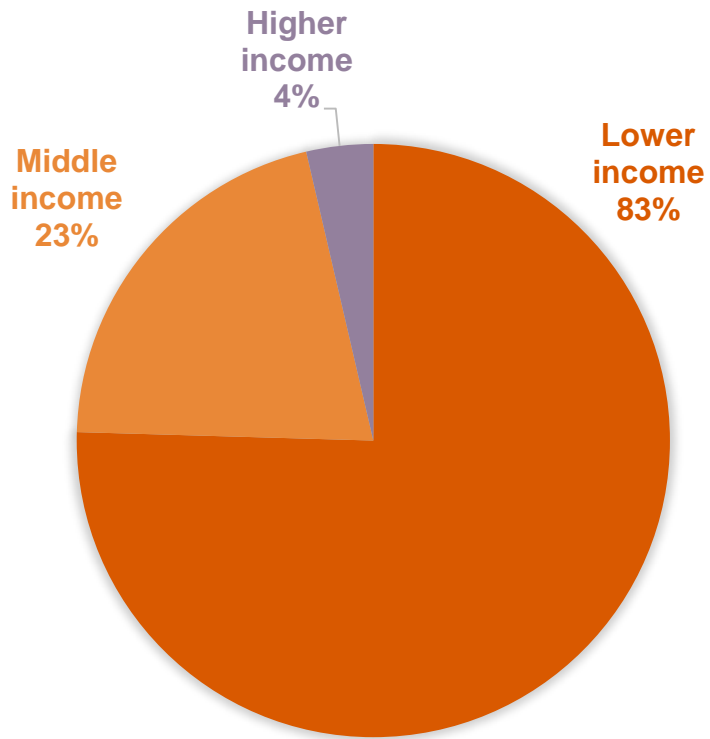
Professor Kate Alexander

South African Research Chair in Social Change  
Director: Centre for Social Change

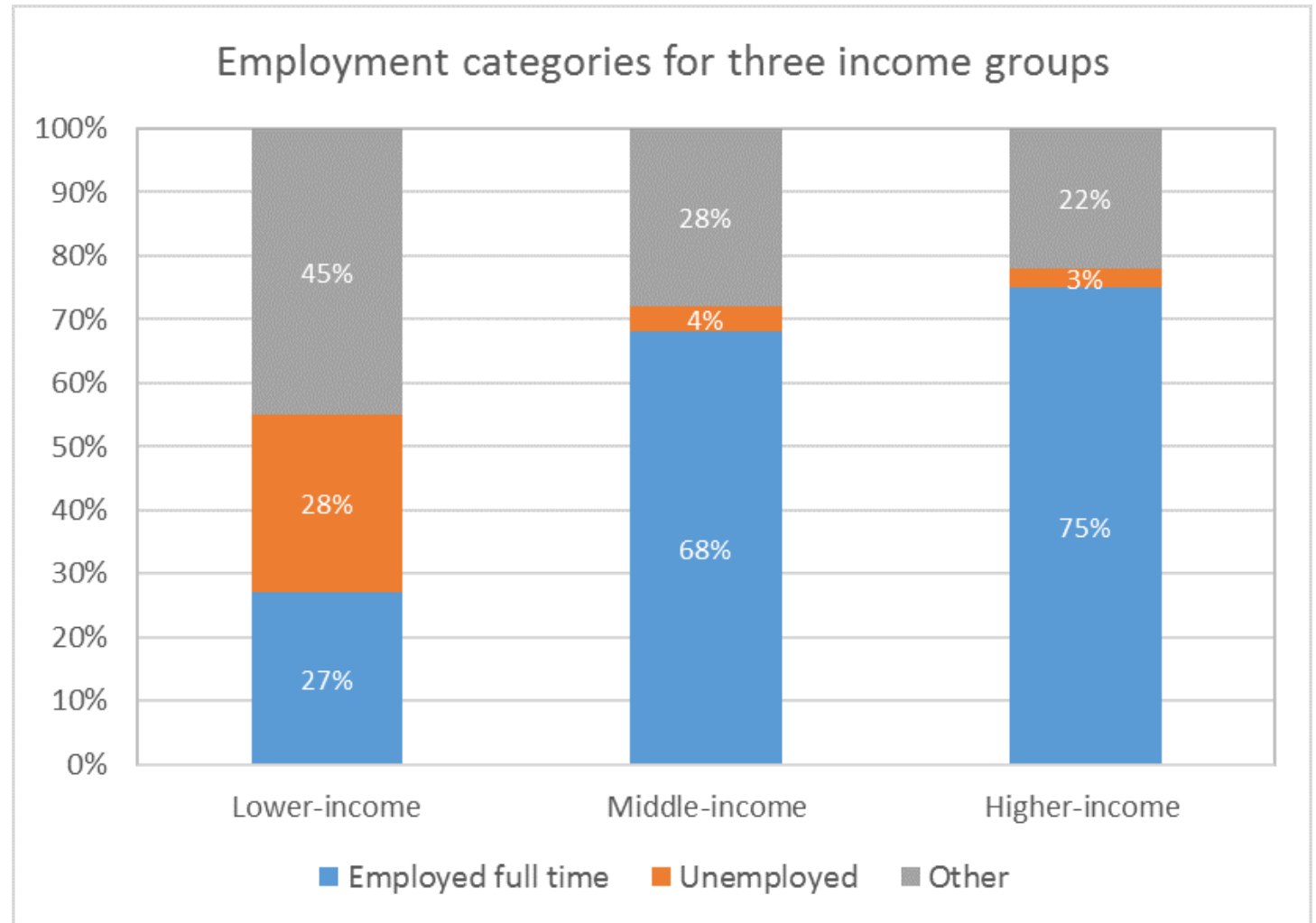
HSRC Webinar 4 June 2020



Lower income: Up to R10,000  
 Middle income: R10,000-R40,000  
 Higher income: Above R40,000

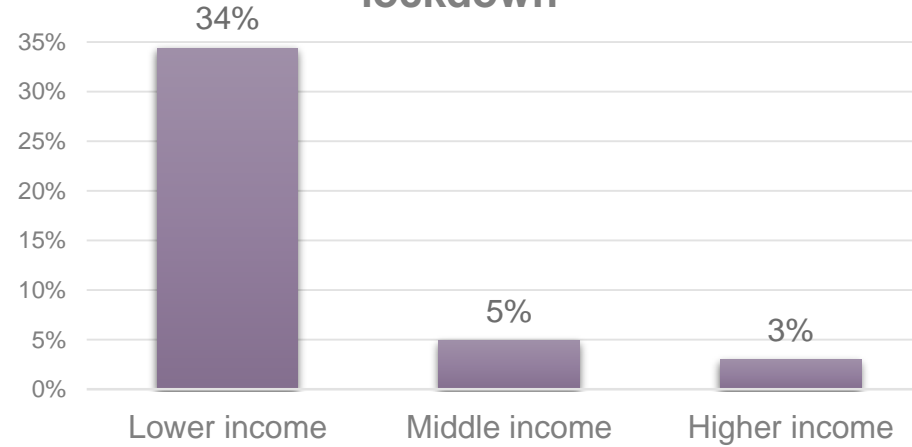


**ADULTS BY INCOME CATEGORY**

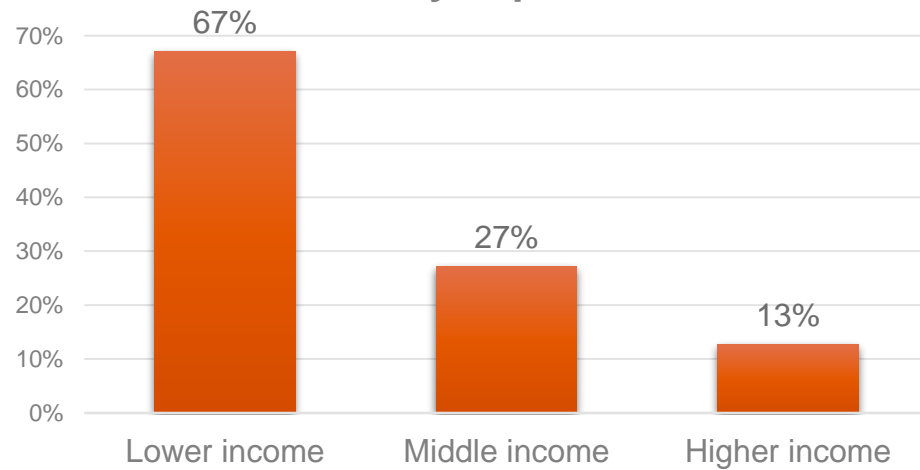


# Hardship, hunger and food parcels

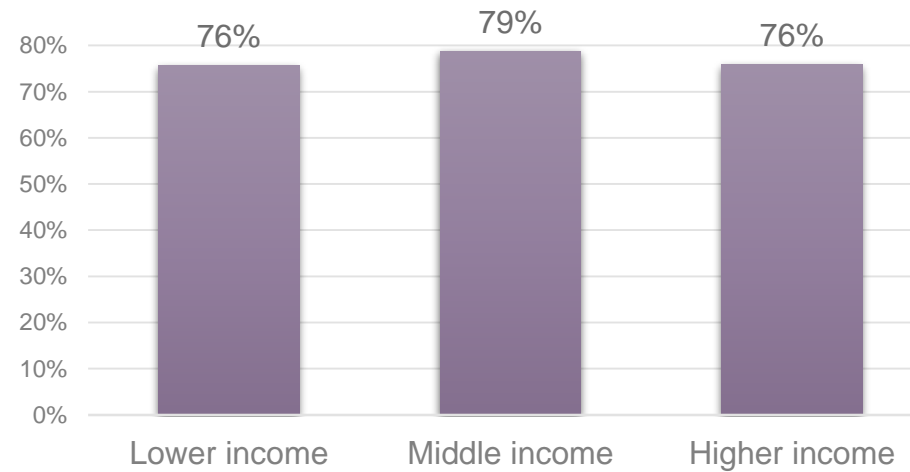
### Been to bed feeling hungry during lockdown



### Strongly agree, difficulties paying my expenses

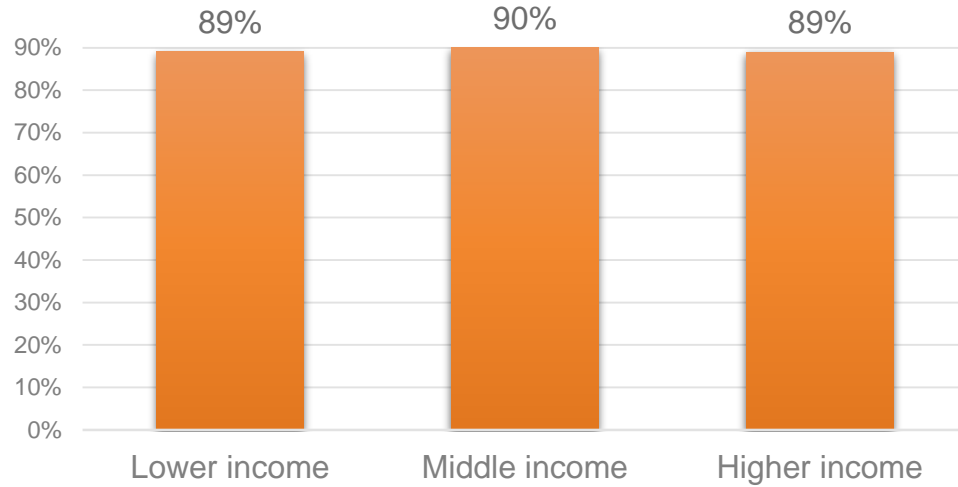


### Free food parcels should be given to everyone who needs them

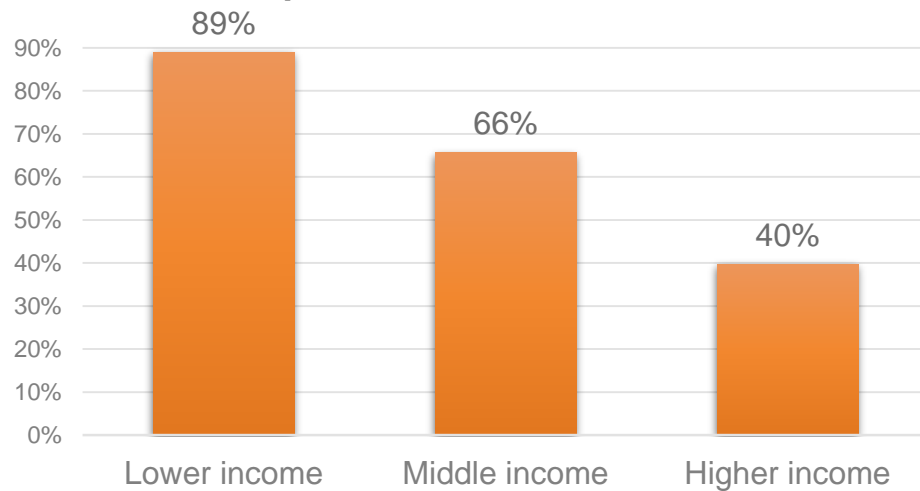


# Financial situation and lockdown

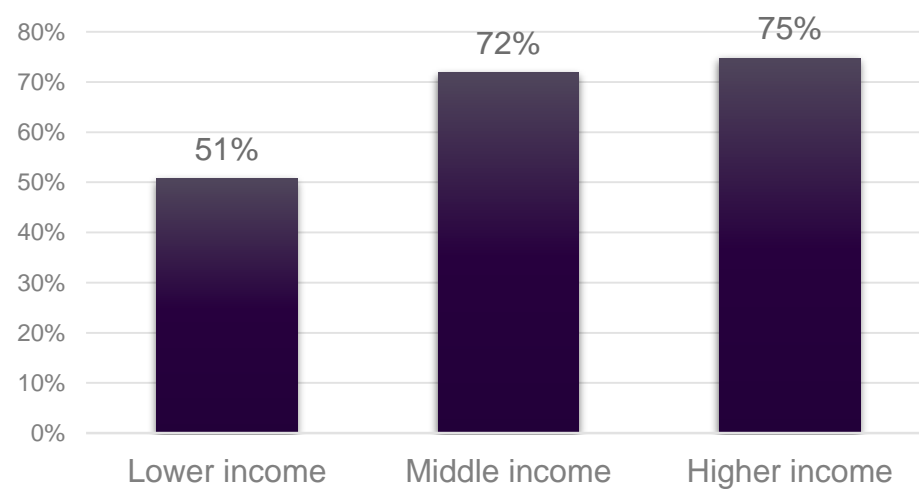
### Very concerned about effect of pandemic on general financial situation



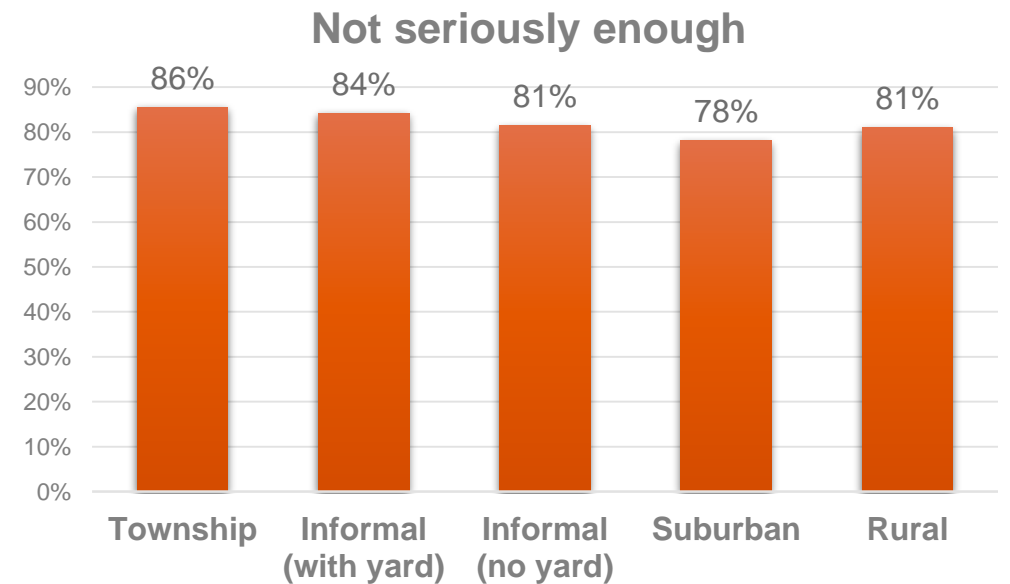
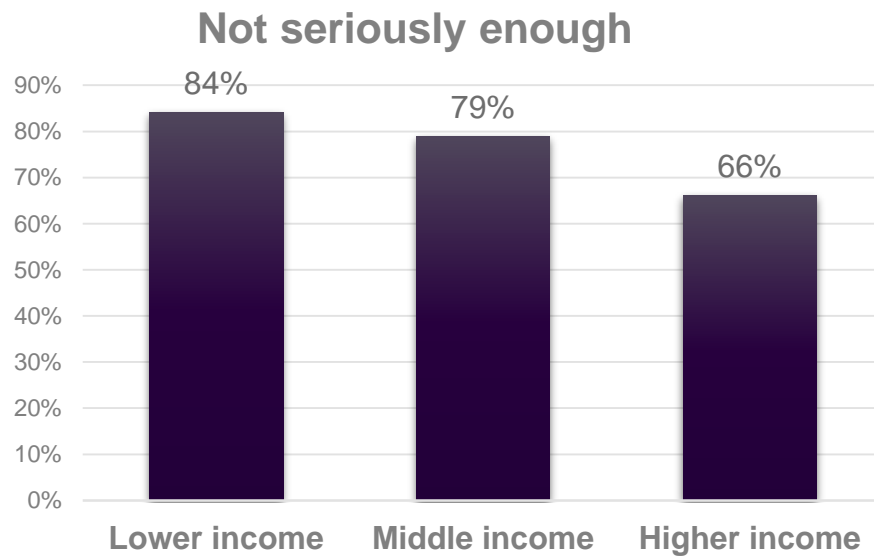
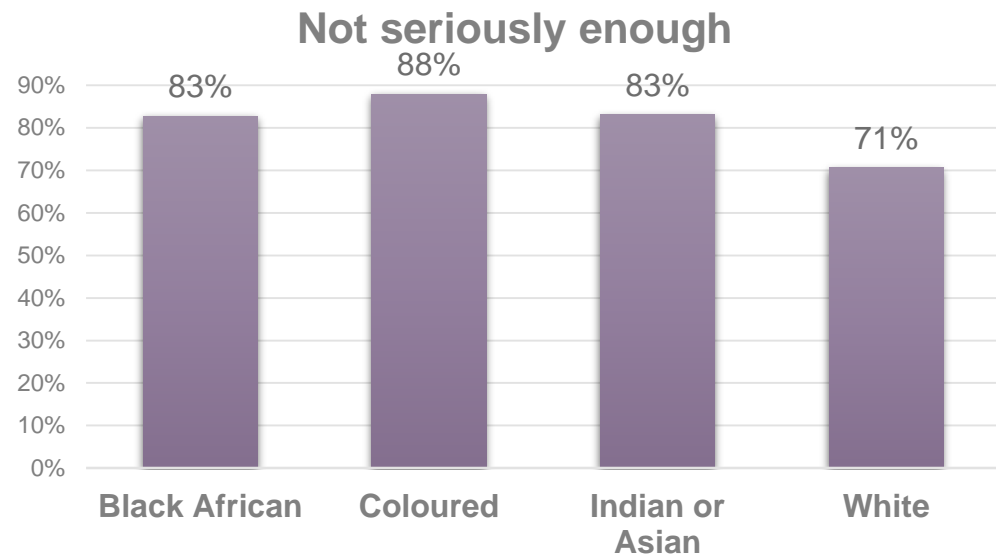
### Very concerned about effect of pandemic on personal financial situation



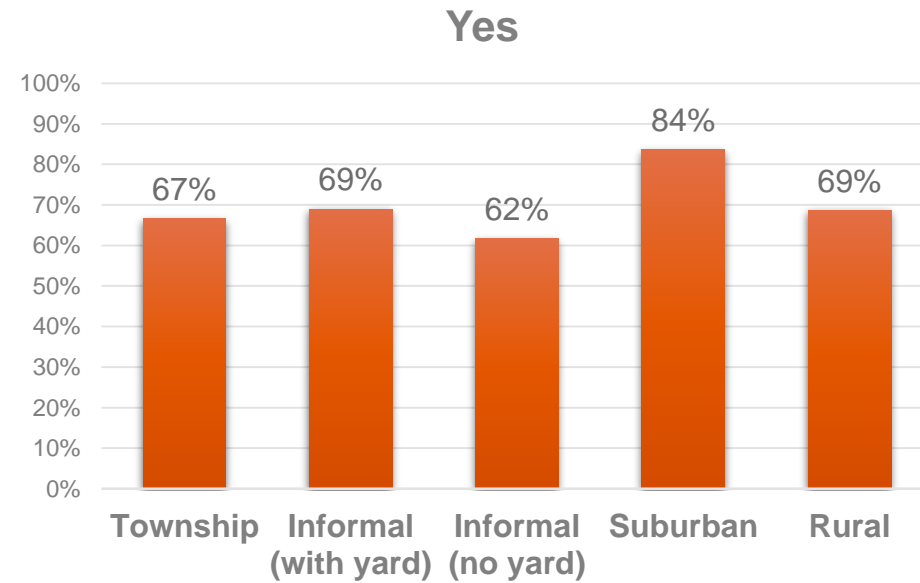
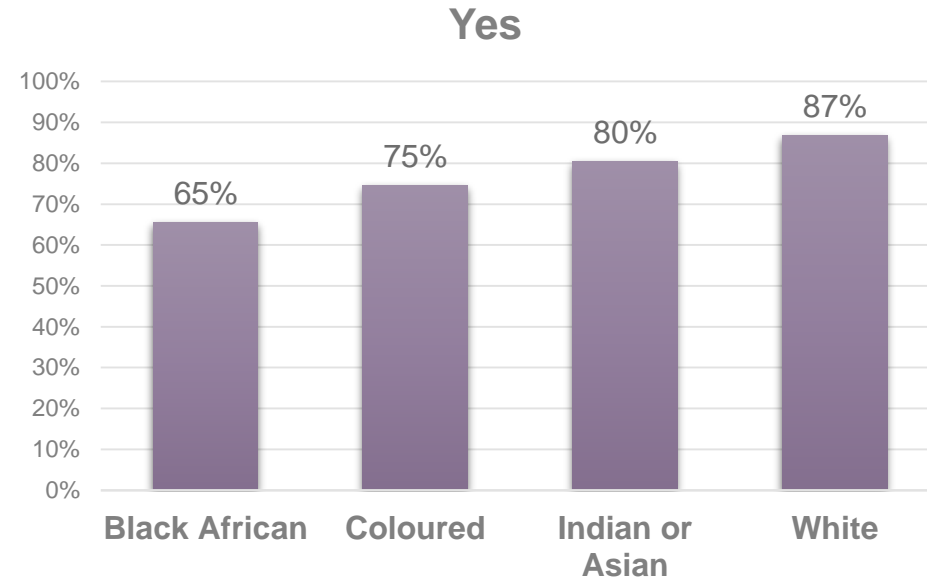
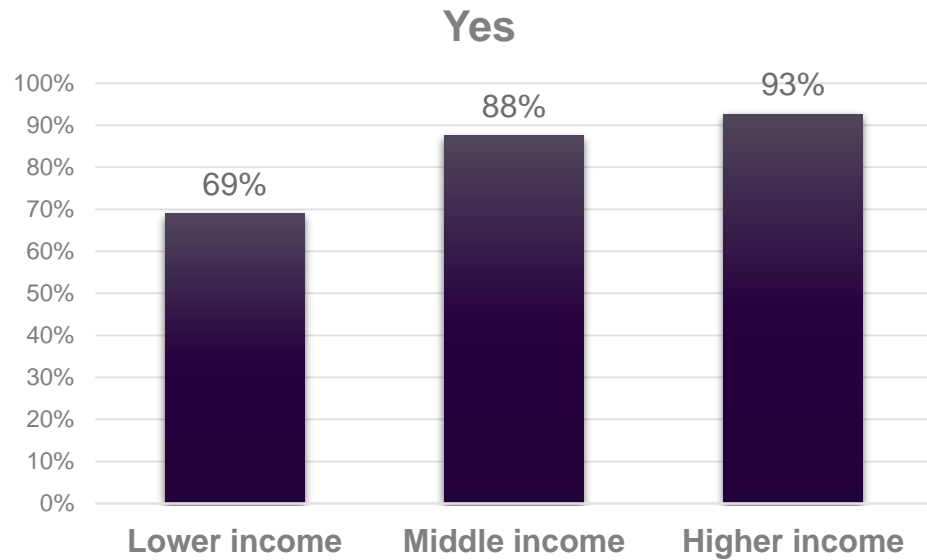
### I agree with the lockdown extension



Are people taking the lockdown seriously enough?

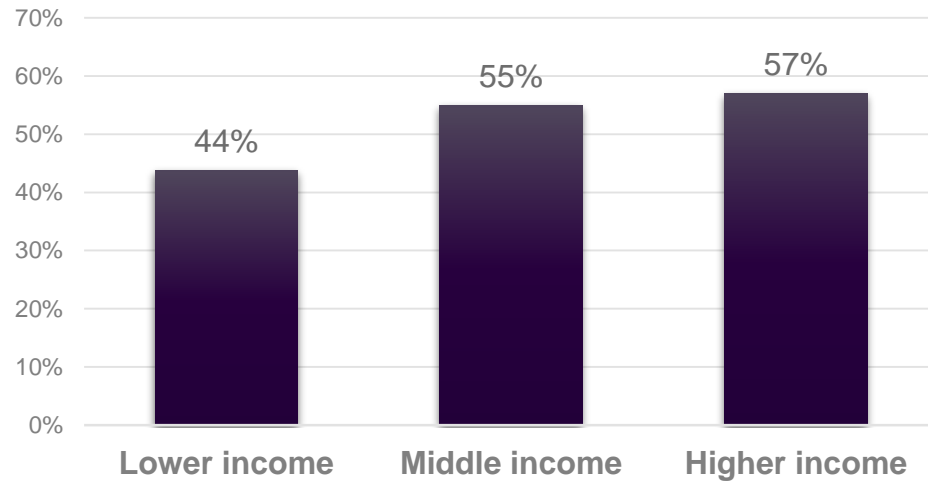


Have you been keeping physical distance from people outside your household?

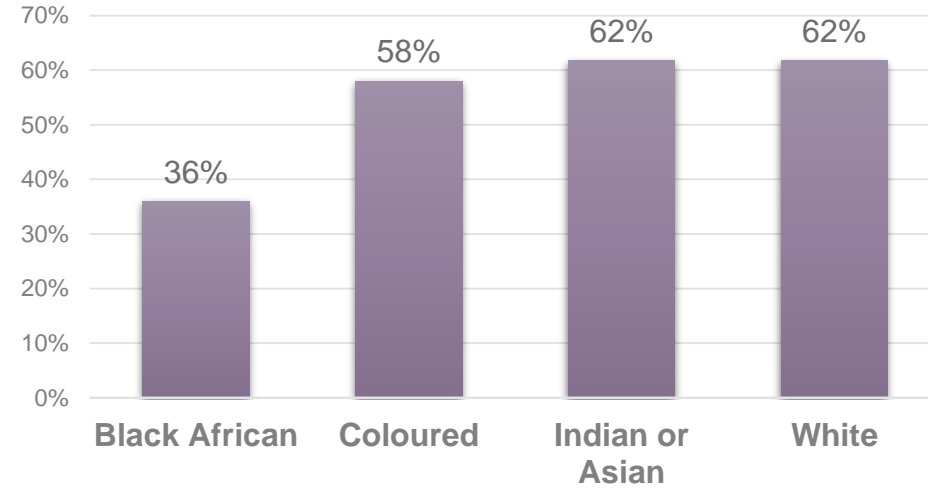


Have you been using a face mask to protect yourself?

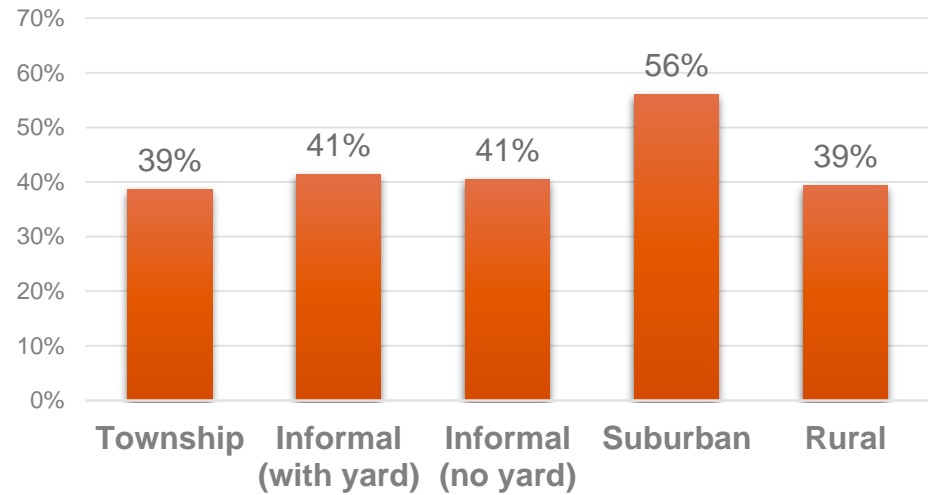
Yes



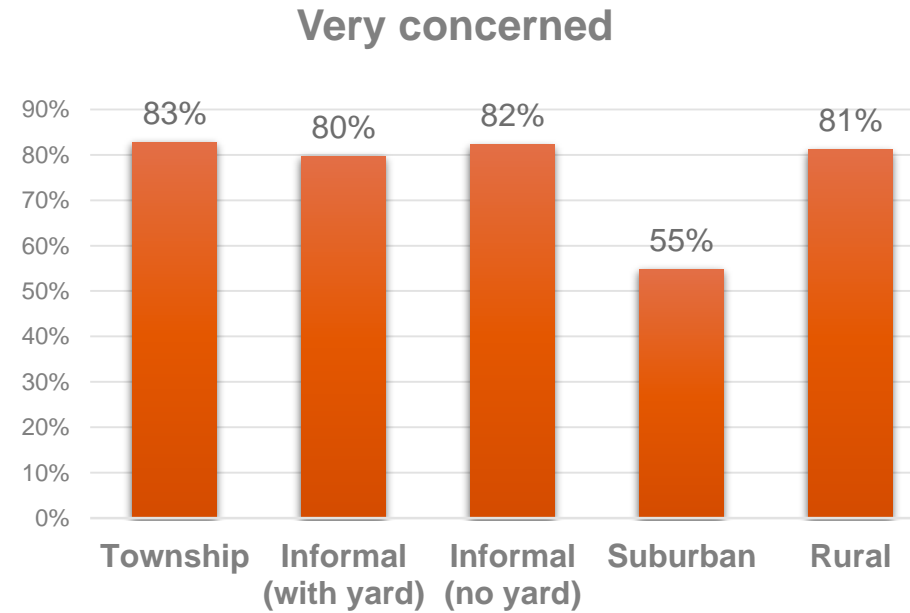
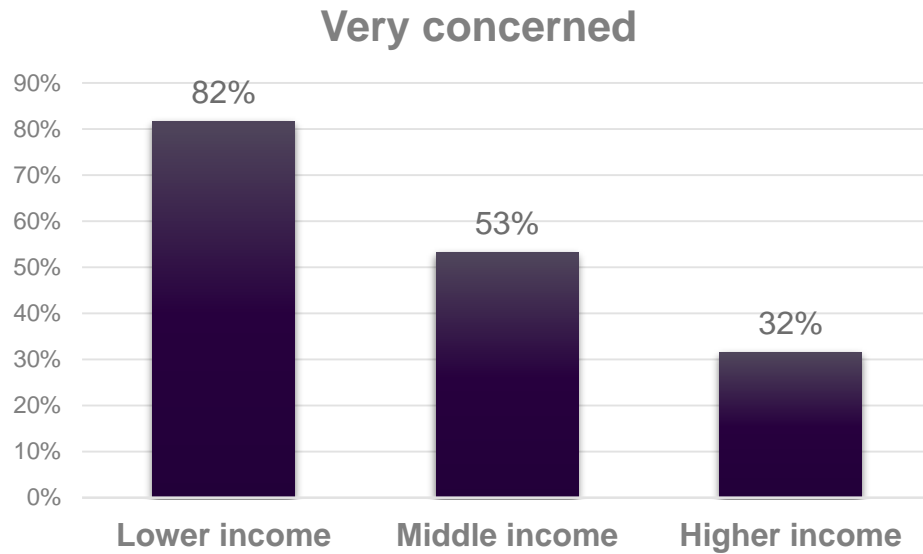
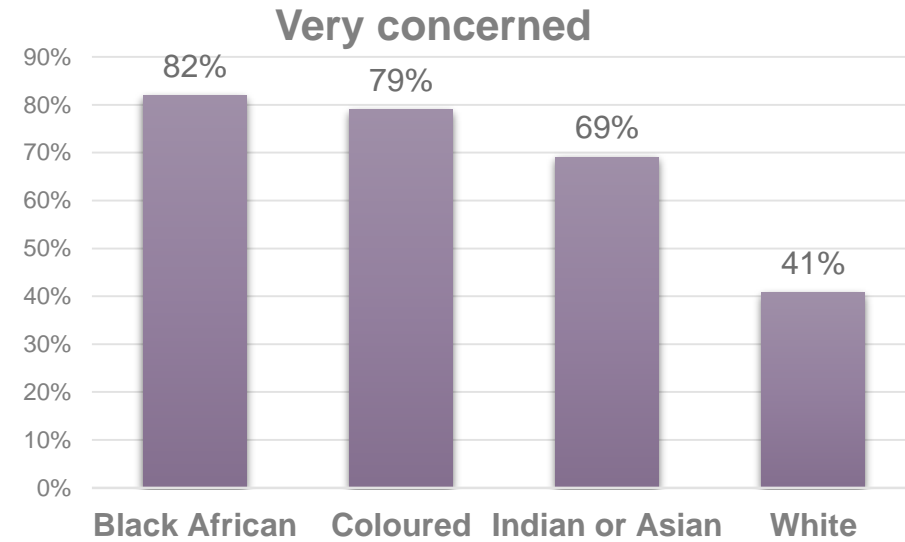
Yes



Yes



How concerned are you that the coronavirus situation will have a negative impact on your child's education?





## Conclusions (A)

Some responses reveal people from different income groups offering similar opinions. That is, there is evidence of convergence. This is true for instance on the issue for food parcels. Almost everybody recognises that Covid-19 poses a threat to health and life, and they do not want to see people dying from the disease or from hunger.

There is also evidence of divergence. This is especially apparent at the level of experience. Adults on lower incomes are much more likely than those on higher incomes to have personal knowledge of financial hardship and hunger. Poorer people have practiced social distancing and wearing of masks to a lesser extent than those who are better off, and this may explain why poorer people are more likely to say the lockdown is not being taken seriously enough.

There is substantial divergence about the ‘coronavirus situation’ having a negative impact on education. Taken together with data related to safety, one can understand why statements from working class people and teachers emphasise re-opening of schools, but only when they are prepared.



## Conclusions (B)

Despite material problems with physical distancing in densely populated areas and with wearing masks when people are poorer, most poorer people do protect themselves with these measures and more could do so if the state and civil society co-operated with provision of public education and free masks.

This last conclusion can make a big difference to saving lives. Medical solutions are a long way off and ‘herd immunity’ is about animal husbandry. We require social interventions to save lives.

As the president has said ‘it’s in our hands’. There is increasing scepticism about aspects of government, and civil society mobilisation becomes increasingly important. As some NGOs and activists are now saying: Asivikelane - ‘let us protect each other’.

