

Winter Storm

Uri

11.9.21

Impacts on low-income
Texans

Background



Extreme cold
and snow



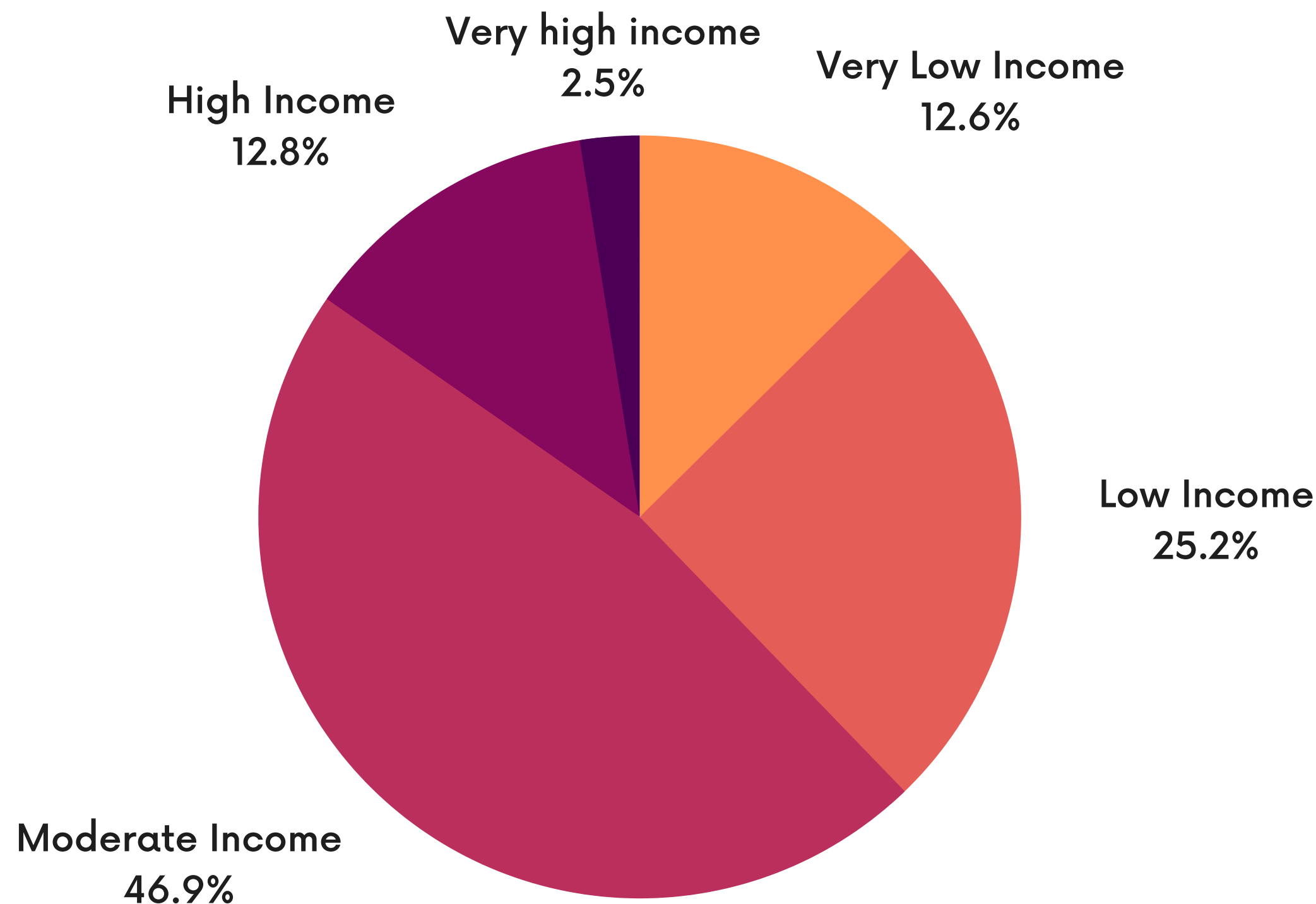
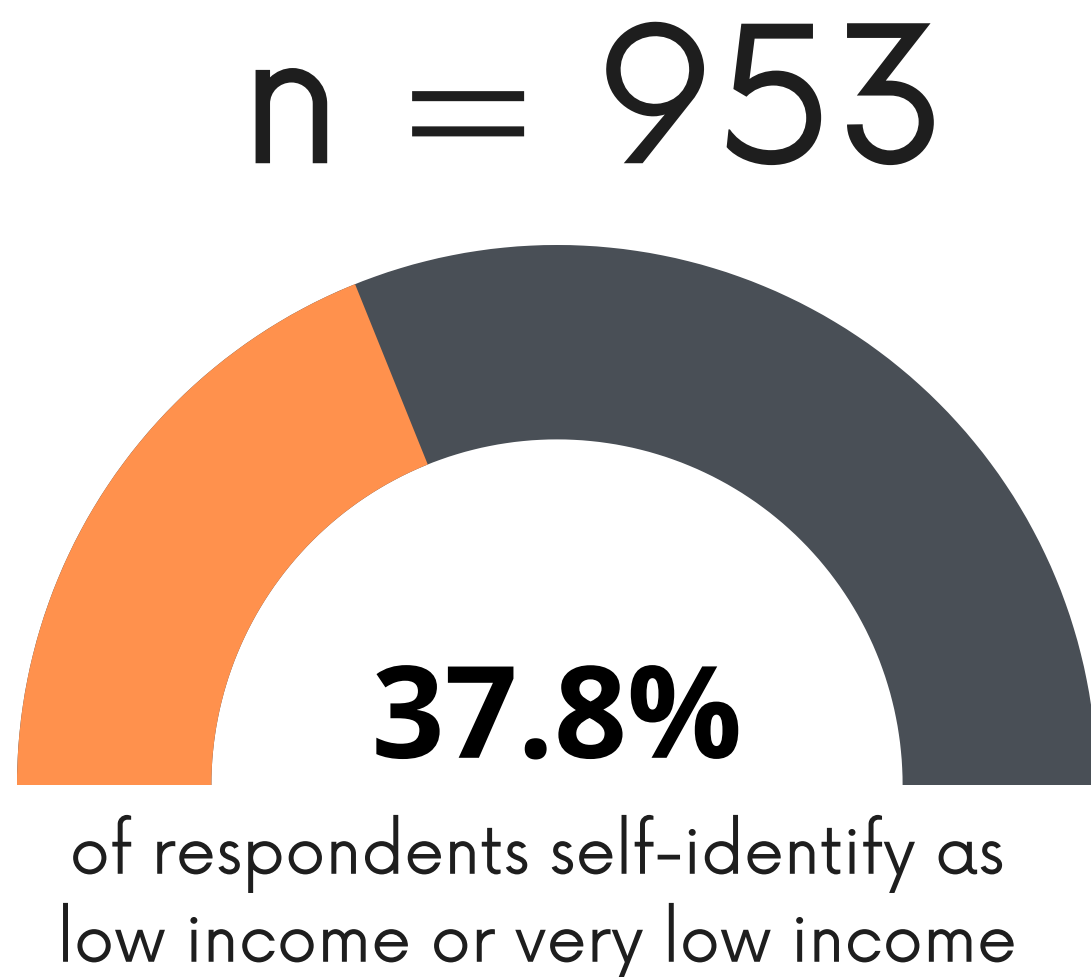
Skyrocketing
heat demand



Power grid
failures

Which of the following categories best describes your household's financial circumstances?

- Very low income / experiencing poverty
- Low income / struggling to get by



Pre-storm conditions

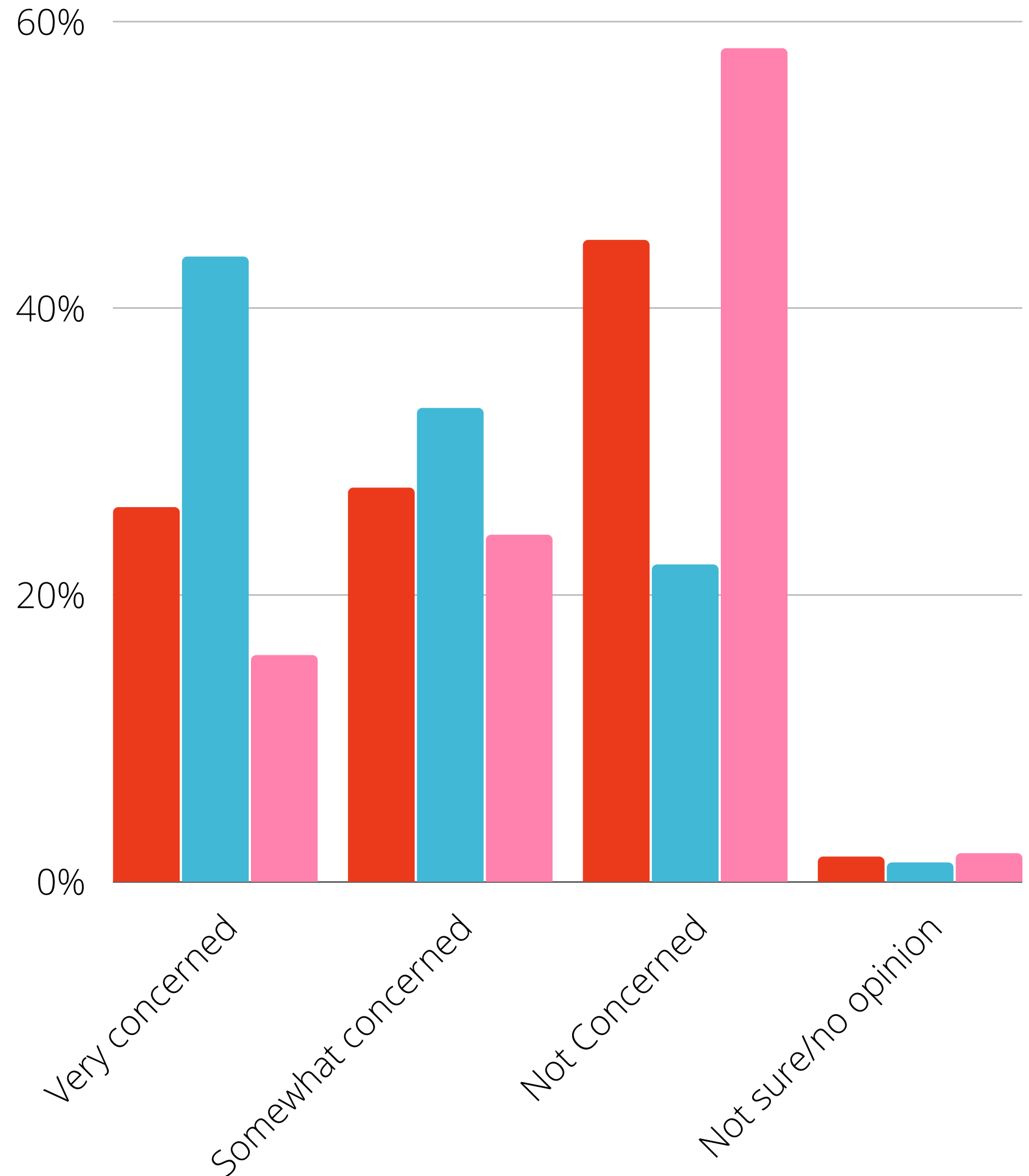


Pre-storm conditions - electricity affordability

Q11

Before the winter storm, how concerned were you about being able to afford your electricity bill?

- All respondents
- Low income respondents
- Medium and high income respondents

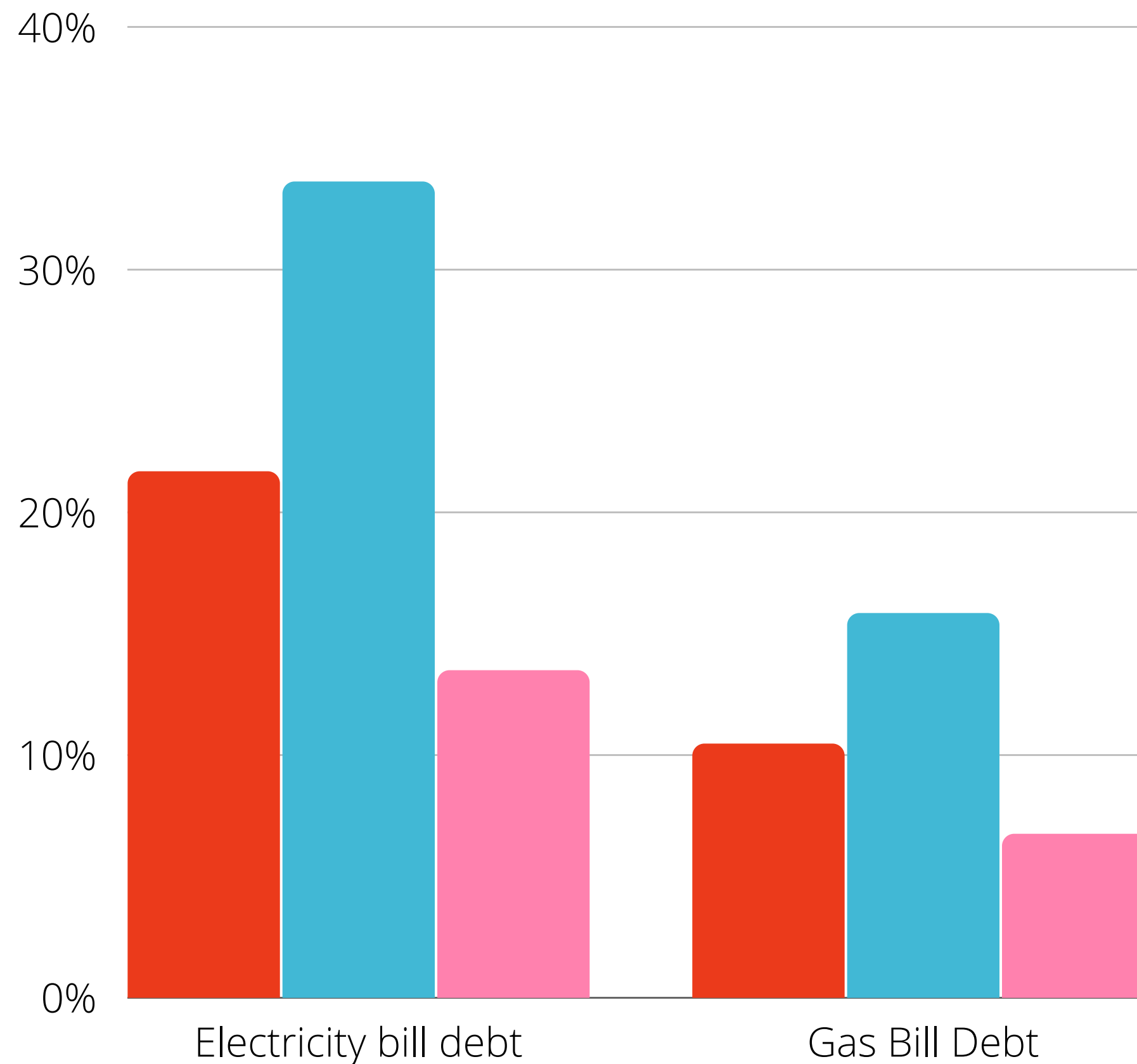


Pre-storm conditions - utility debt

Q21

Before the storm event, did you have any household energy bill debt (outstanding past due amount) already?

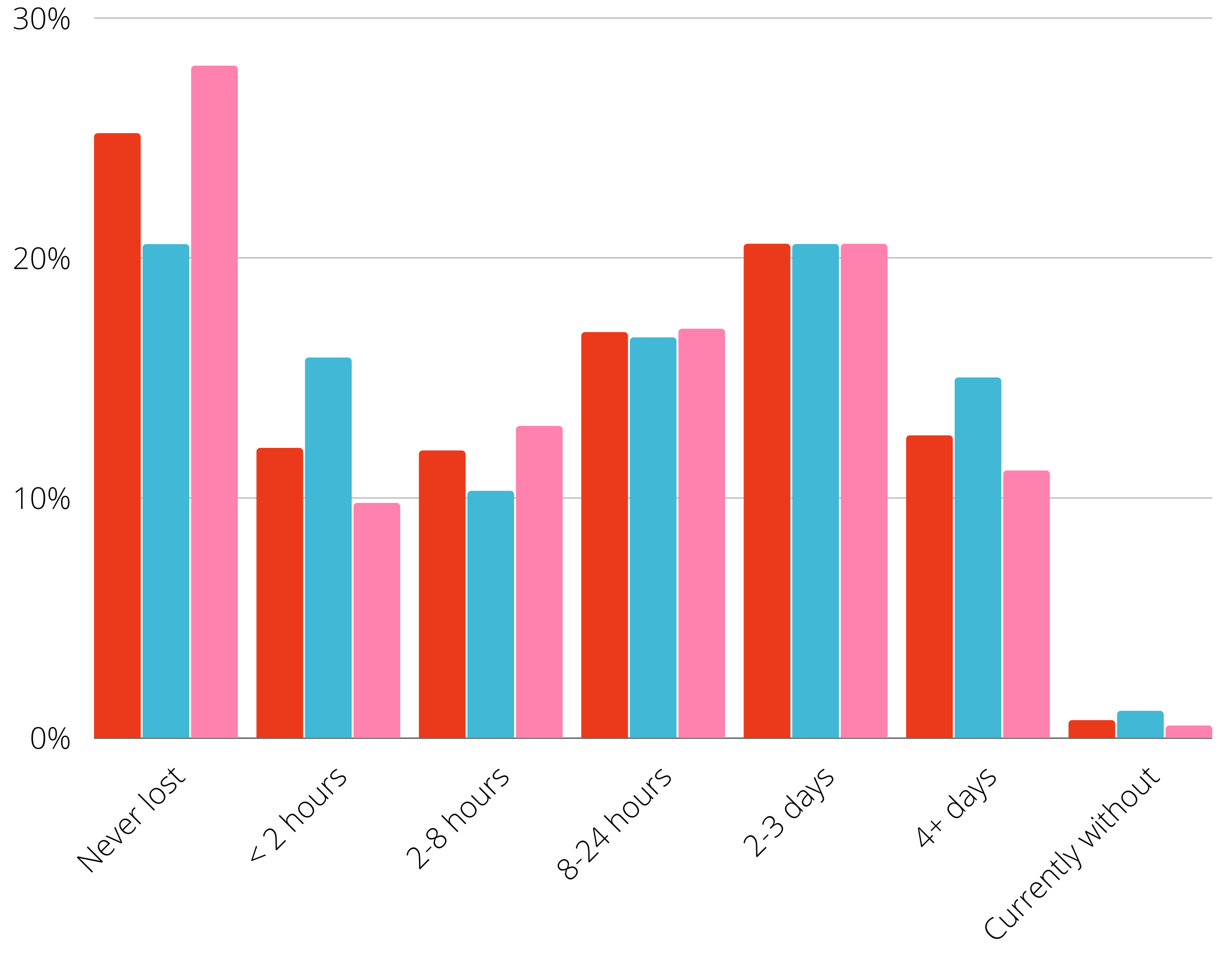
- All respondents
- Low income respondents
- Medium and high income respondents





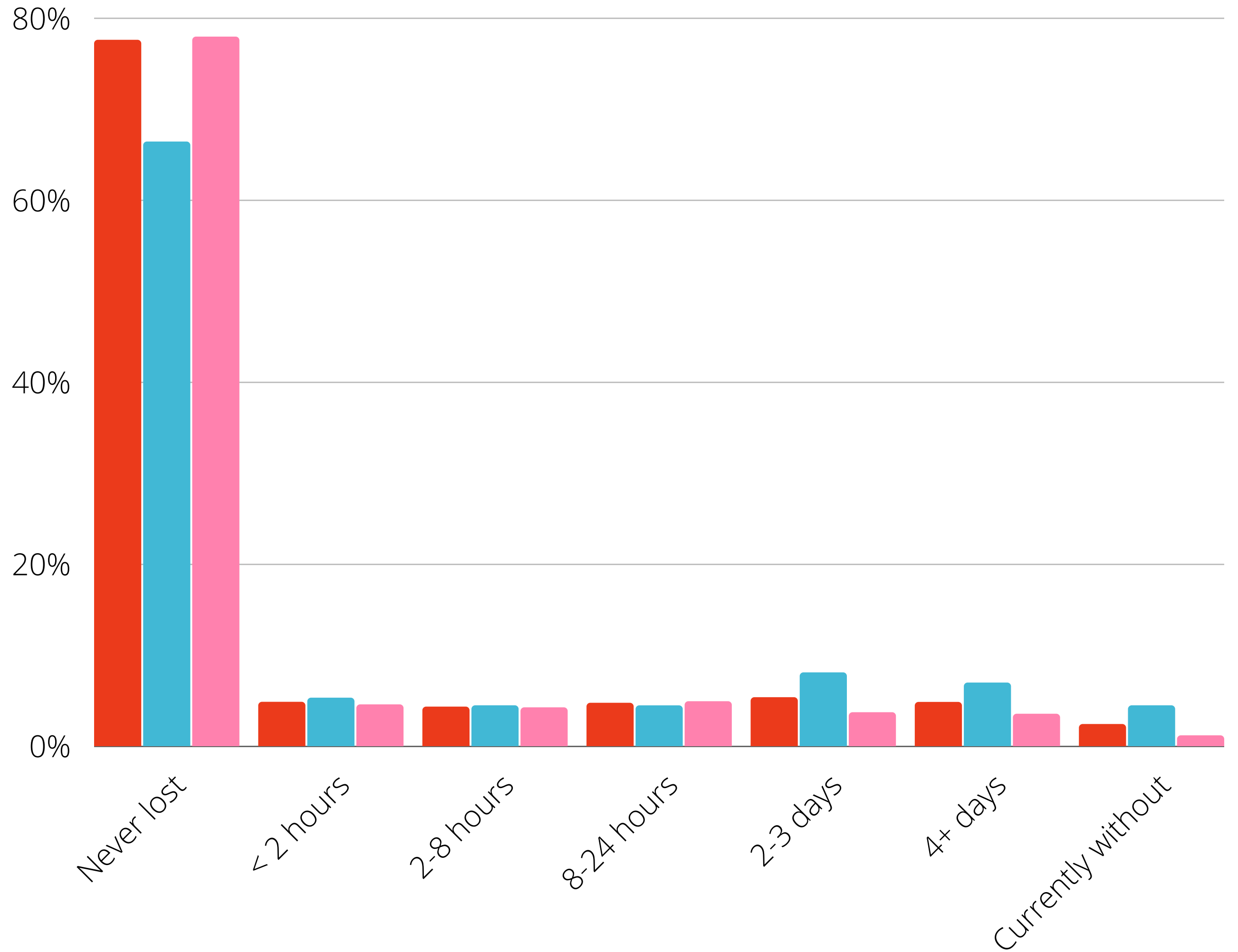
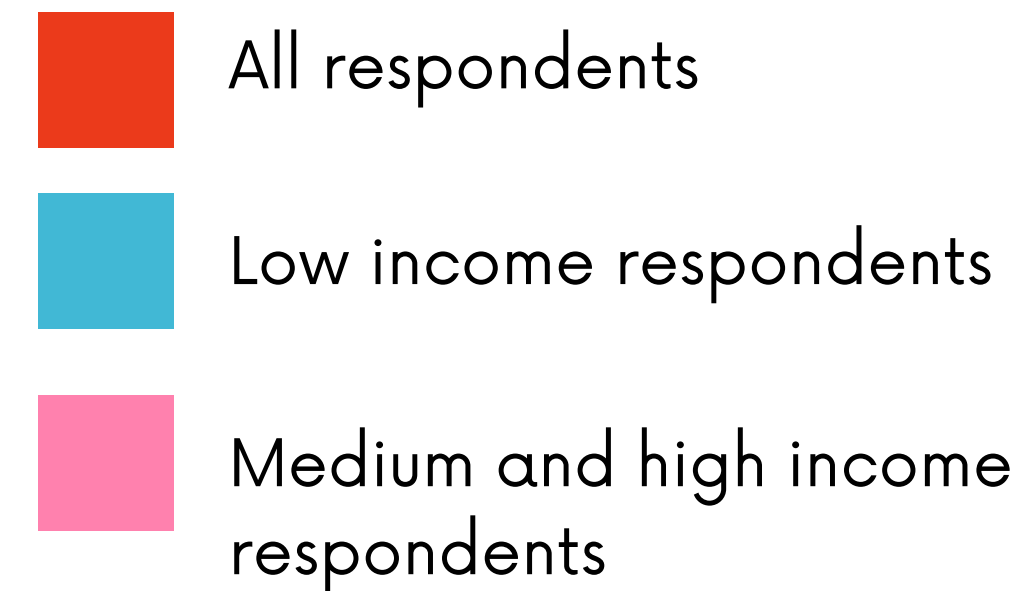
Immediate Impacts on Health and Safety

Outages - Electricity



- All respondents
- Low income respondents
- Medium and high income respondents

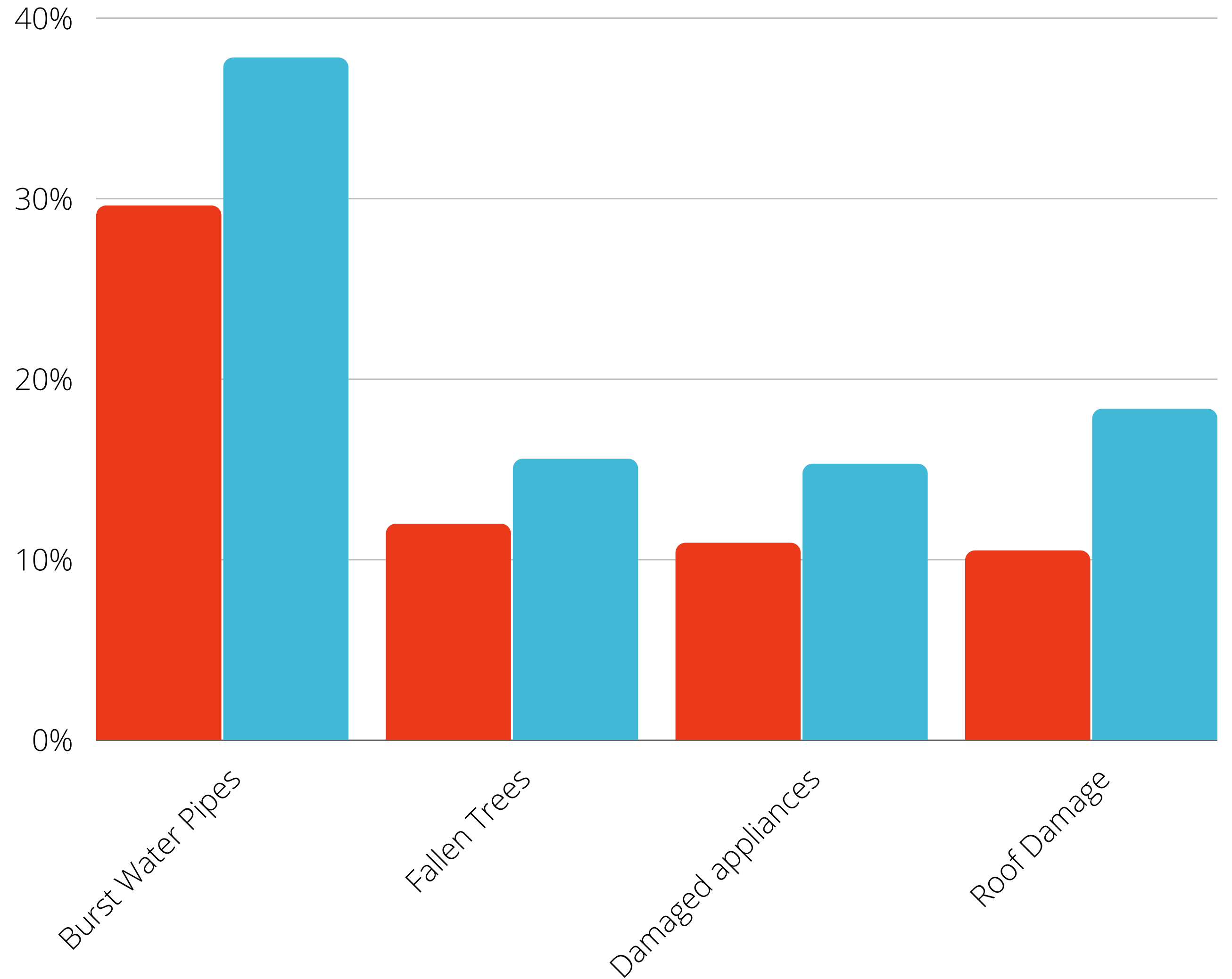
Outages - Natural Gas







Property Damage

Property Damage



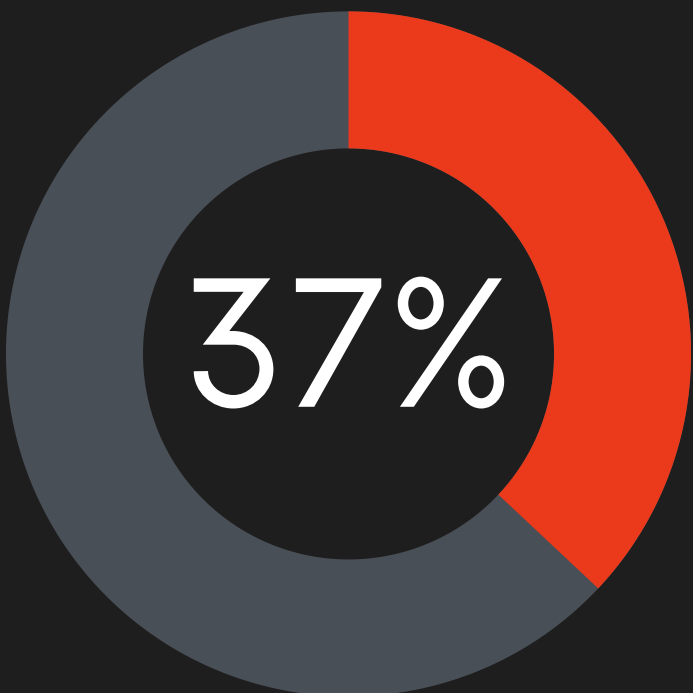
 All respondents

 Low income respondents

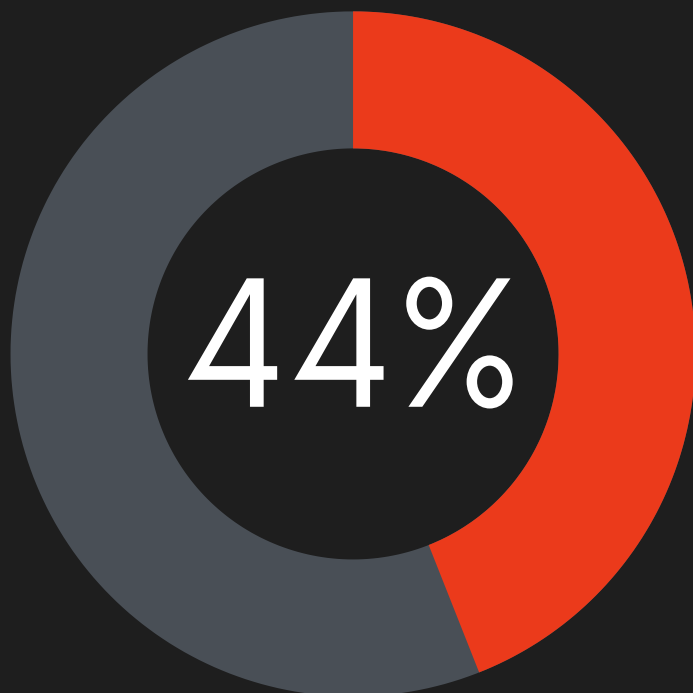
Aftermath



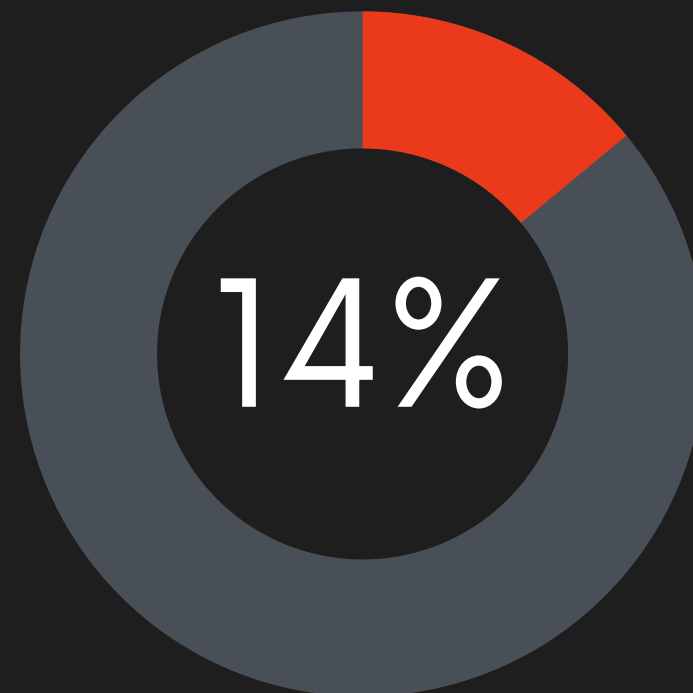
Impacts on low-income respondents (Q30)



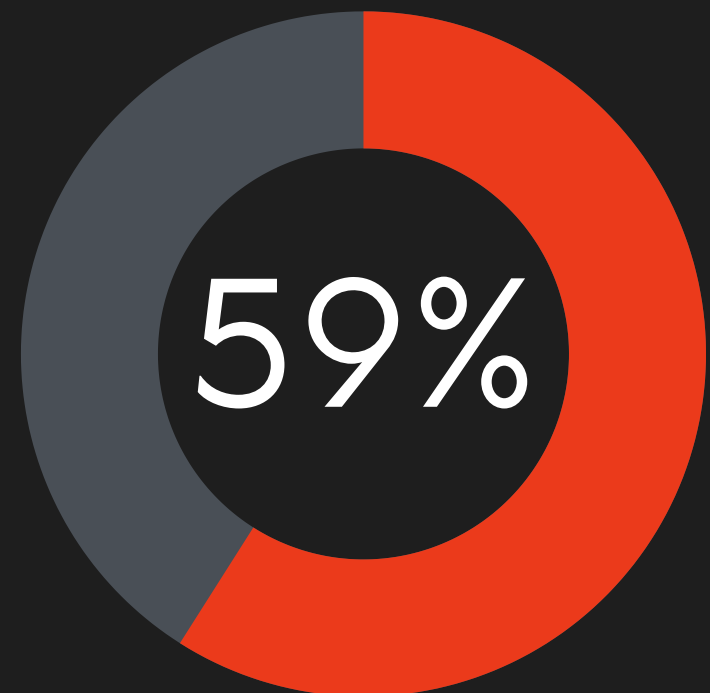
Lost wages, reduced income
(vs. 29% all respondents)



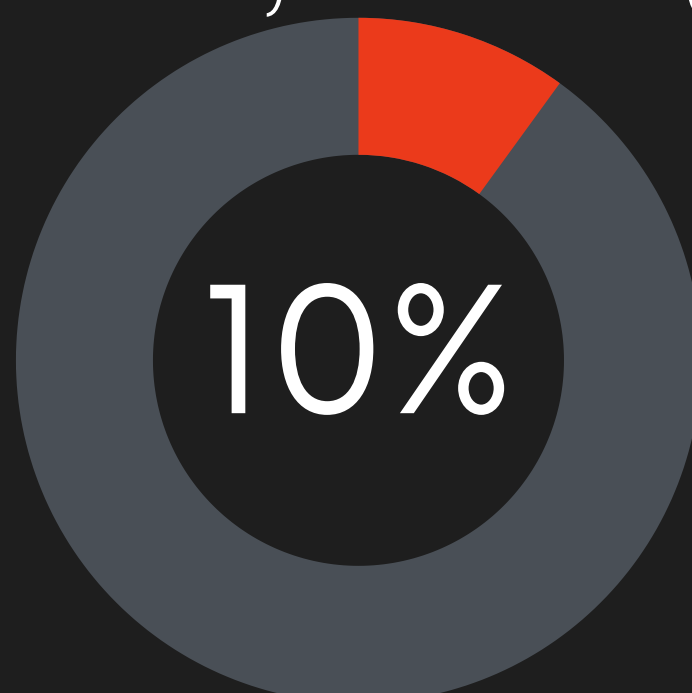
Food spoilage
(vs. 40%)



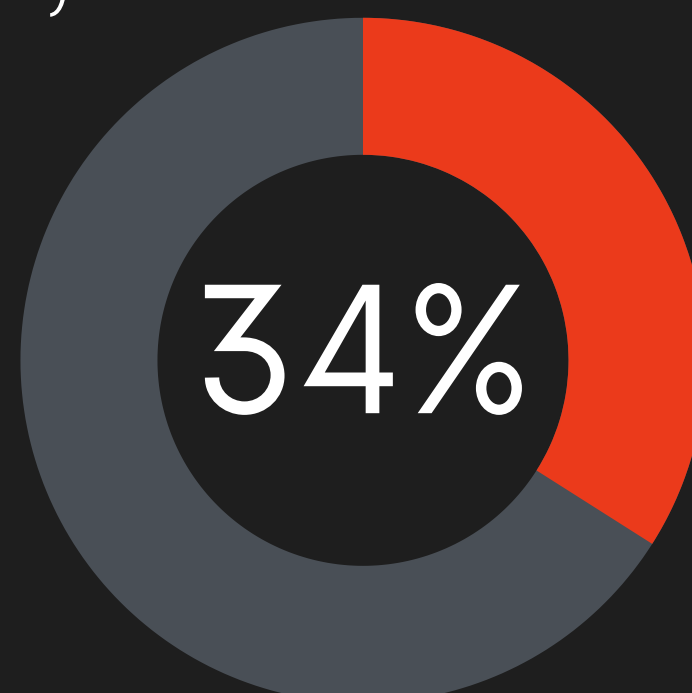
Medical equipment
malfunction (vs. 9%)



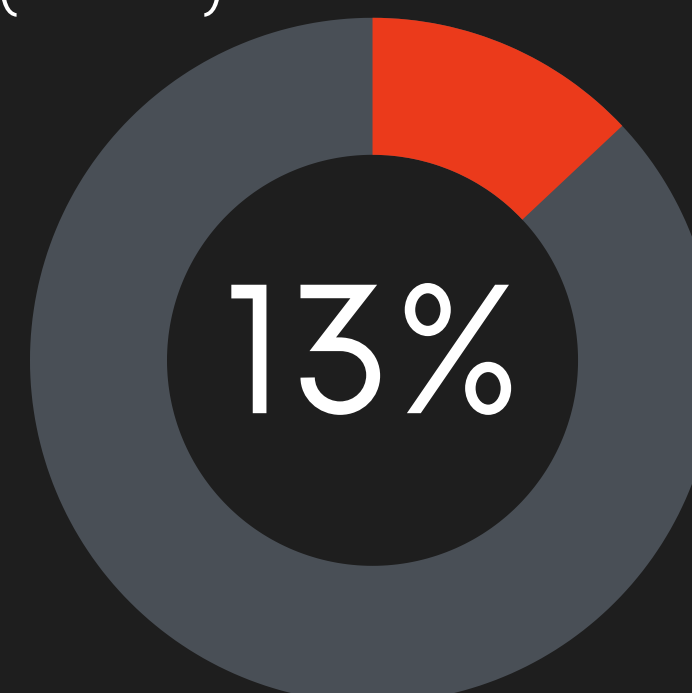
Stress, mental anguish
(vs. 55%)



Health emergency
(vs. 7%)



Unaffordable
electricity bill
(vs. 21%)

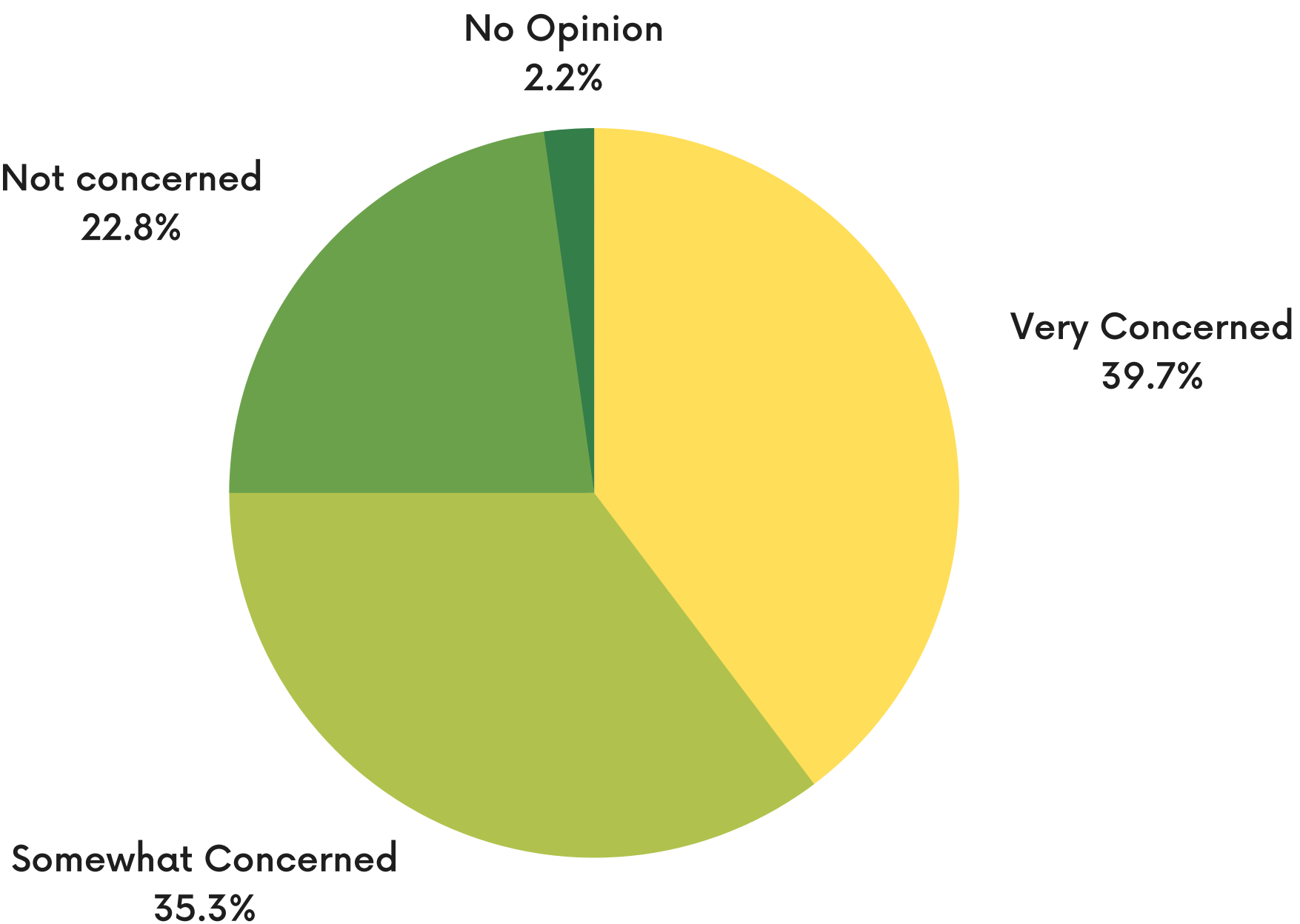


Unaffordable
gas bill (vs. 8%)

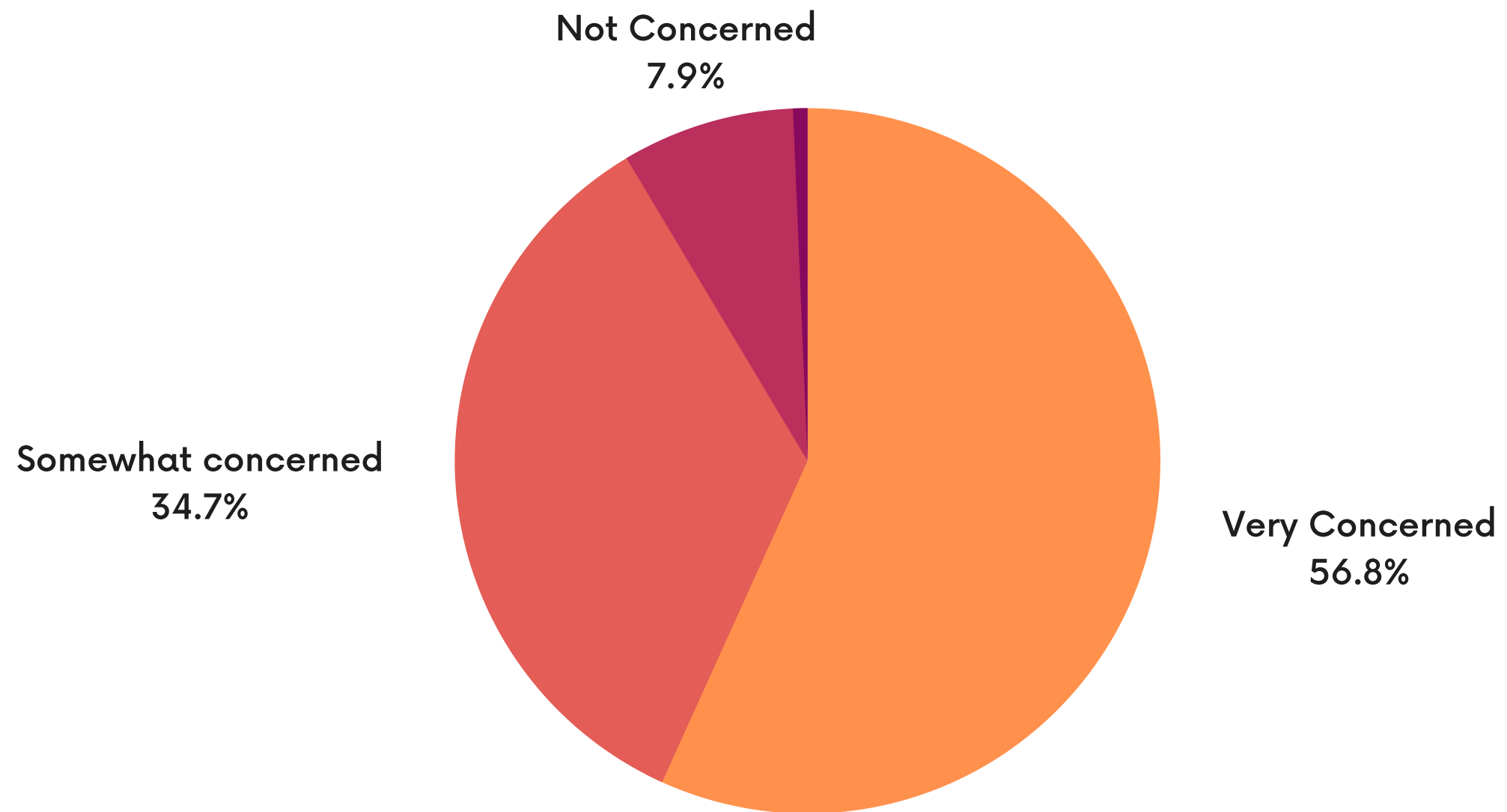


Electricity bill affordability concerns

All respondents



Low-income respondents



Legislative and Regulatory Response

SB 3 (Regular Session, 2021)

Required the PUC to establish weather emergency reliability standards, created emergency alert system.

HB 4922 (Regular Session, 2021)

Allocated hundreds of millions of dollars in bonds from the state rainy day fund to support ERCOT's operations through peak summer months as debt repayment was figured out

Public Utility Commission/Railroad Commission

PUC requires the adoption of certain weatherization standards for some facilities, waiting on full report from ERCOT. RRC allows some natural gas facilities to opt out of "critical" designation and weatherization requirements



32 extra hours of
\$9,000/MWh

Extra charges of
\$16 billion

Power bills to rise
\$18/year/pp

