

Responding to COVID-19 in African Countries:

Executive Summary of Polling Results: Egypt

August 2020



INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact societies across health, financial and day to day life.

This document provides the findings from public opinion polls in Egypt to understand the public's knowledge, risk perception, attitudes, access to information, reactions, behaviors and practices related to COVID-19.

This Executive Summary is supplemented by an Appendix with the results should readers require additional detail.

METHODOLOGY

The public opinion poll in Egypt was conducted from 12 August to 19 August 2020. The polling was conducted by telephone.

Samples were drawn to be nationally representative of each Member State; weighting was applied by gender and region to align the final data with the population. The national unweighted sample size in Egypt is 1,206 interviews.

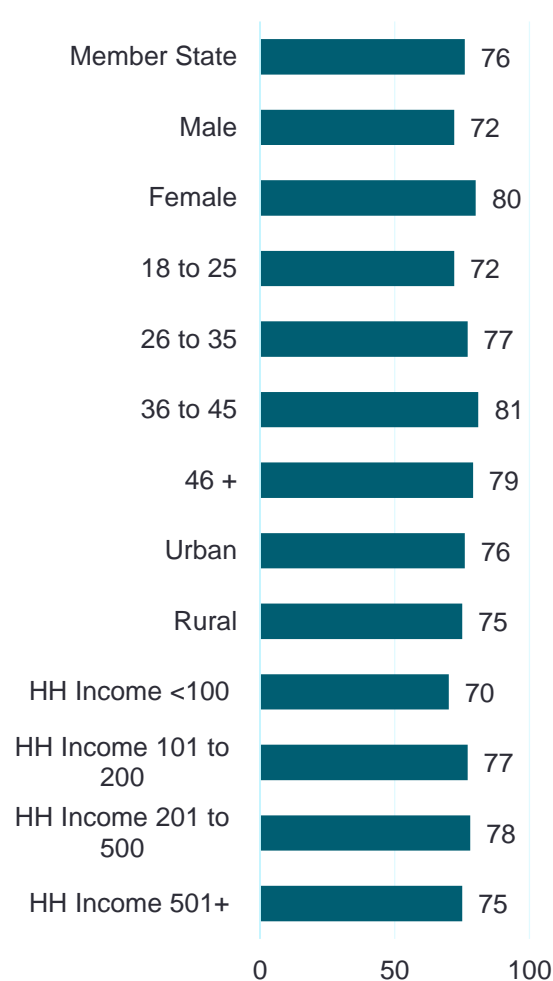
Key Findings

- **PHSM support and adherence:** Support for almost all PHSMs in Egypt is similar compared to other African Union (AU) Member States surveyed. Self-reported adherence for these measures is also relatively low, particularly for measures that restrict public gathering and economic activity.
- **Risk perceptions and information:** While most respondents in Egypt agree that COVID-19 will infect many people in the country, only one in four respondents in Egypt believe they are personally at risk. Many respondents in Egypt hold misconceptions or believe rumors or myths that could undermine adherence to PHSMs.
- **Essential health services:** Half of surveyed Egyptian households that needed medical care have had difficulty accessing health care visits, and 38% of those needing medicines reported that access has been difficult during the COVID-19 crisis. Some respondents in Egypt with suspected COVID-19 symptoms were unable to access care.
- **Economic burden and food security:** Over half of respondents in Egypt report having lost income since last year, and a similar proportion are facing barriers to accessing food. These burdens are particularly acute for low-income households.

Information, Perception & Misinformation

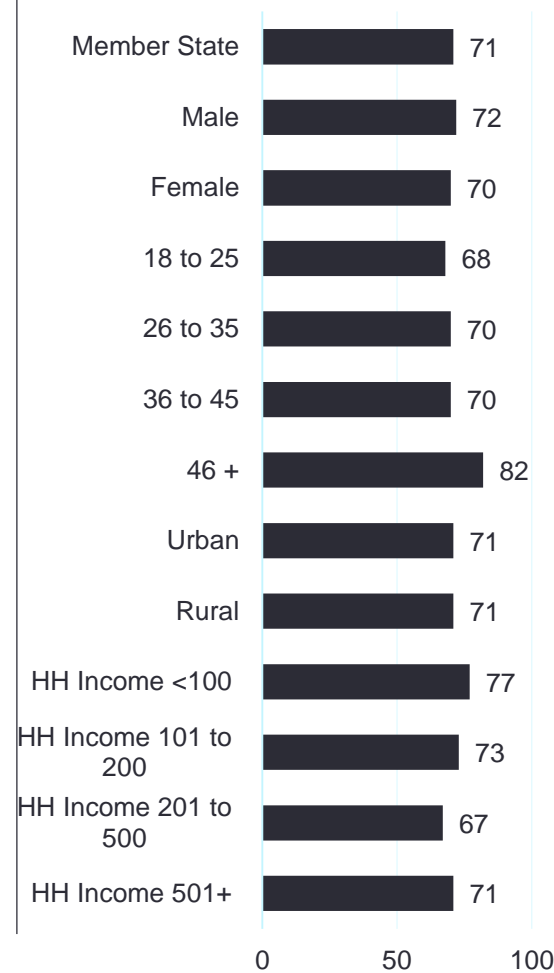
Preventive Measures

- % True for ALL three statements:**
- Washing hands helps prevent getting COVID-19
 - Infected people may not show symptoms for 5 to 14 days
 - Wearing a face mask when around other people prevents the spread of COVID-19



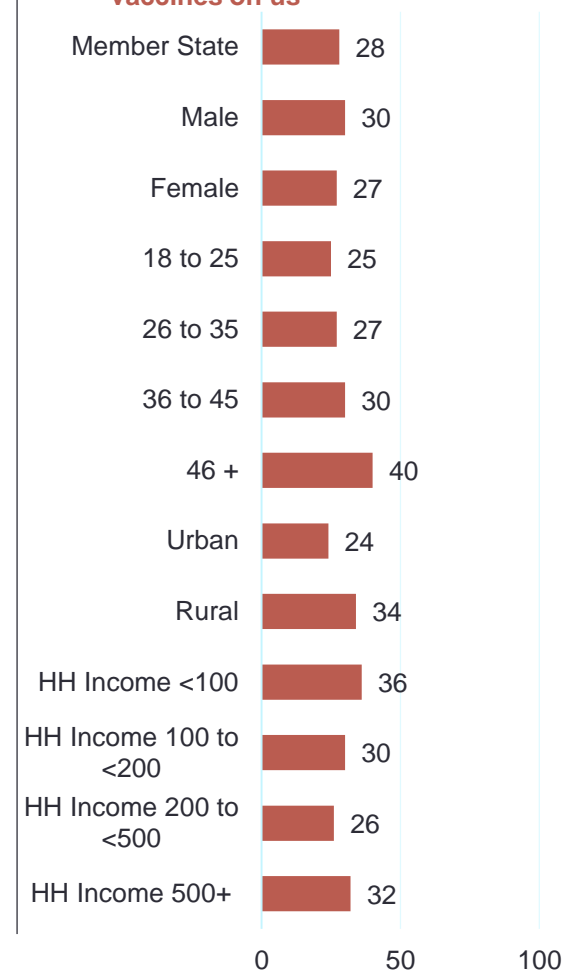
Reaction to Recovered Patients

- % True (one statement):**
- People who have recovered from COVID-19 should be avoided to prevent spreading it.



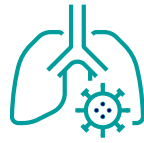
Misinformation

- % True for BOTH statements:**
- Foreigners are discrediting African medicines which could cure it
 - Foreigners are trying to test vaccines on us

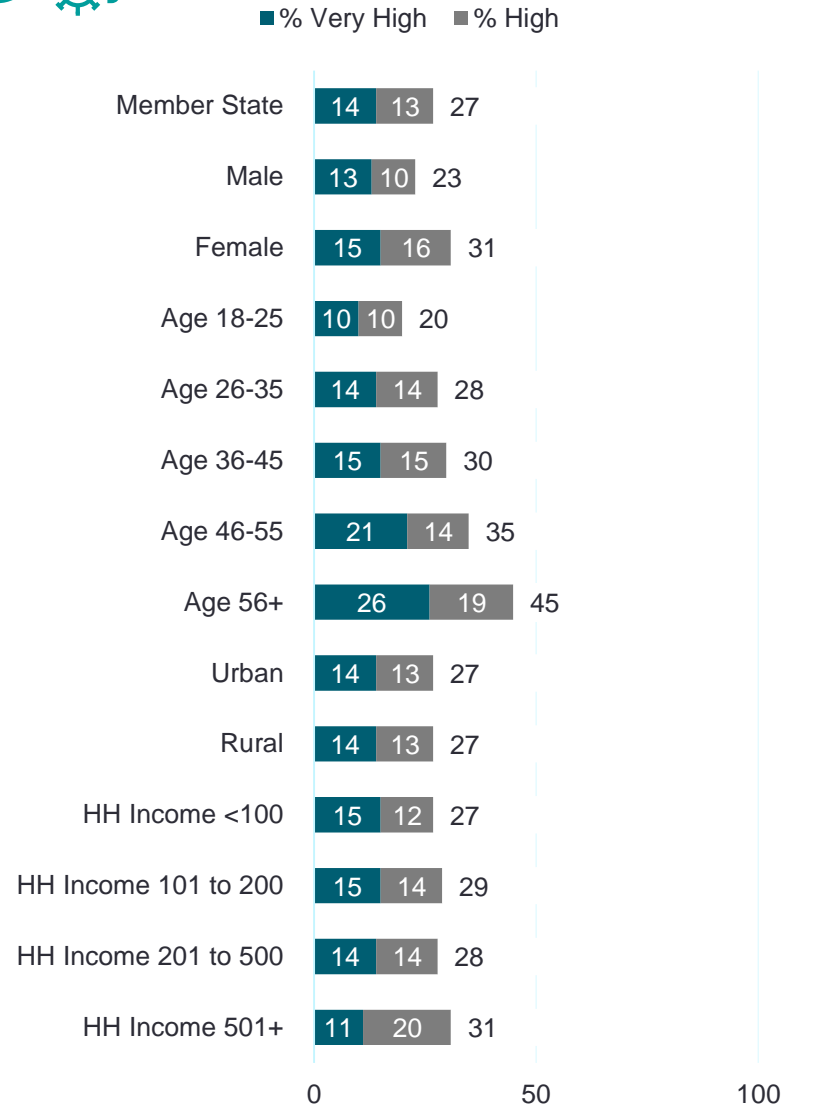


Q2. I'm going to read things people have said about coronavirus or COVID-19. Please tell me if you think each is definitely true, probably true, probably false, or definitely false. If you don't know, say so. (True = Definitely + Probably True)

Risk Perceptions



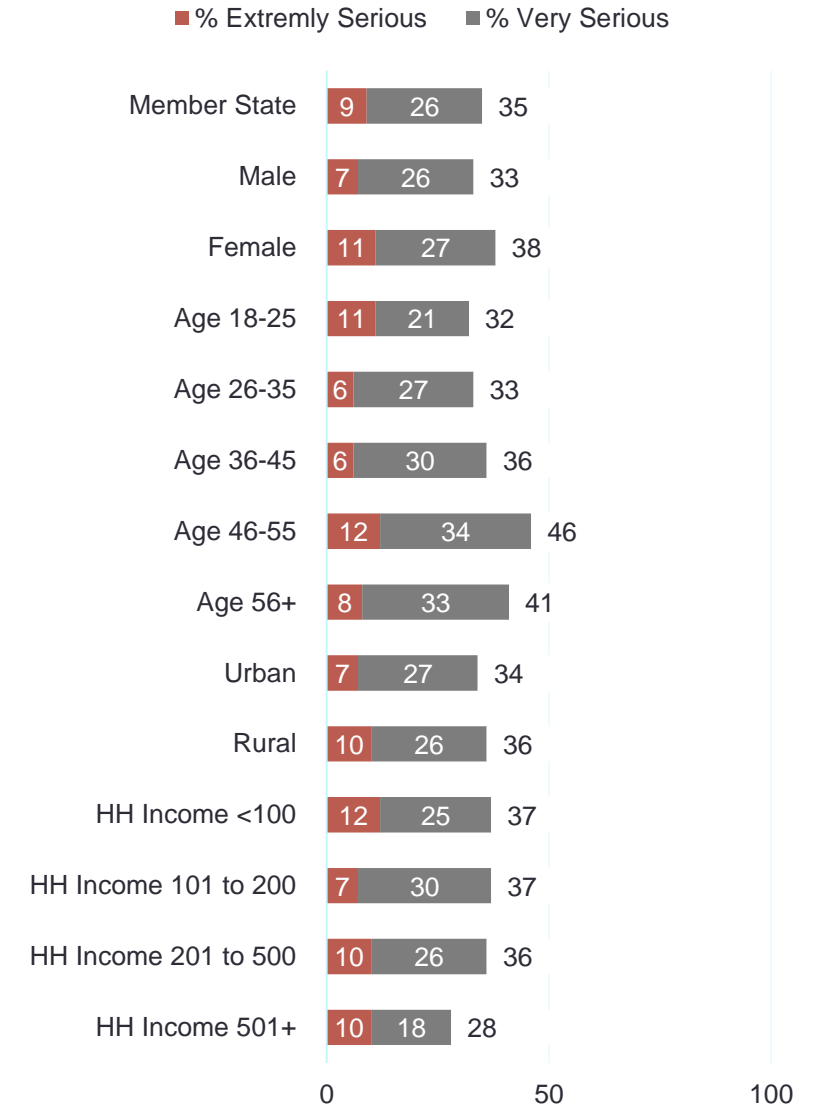
Perceived risk of catching COVID-19:



Q8. Please indicate what you think your level of risk of catching coronavirus or COVID-19 is: Very high, High, Medium, Low, Very Low, Don't know



Perceived severity of COVID-19 on health:



Q9. If you were infected by coronavirus or COVID-19, how seriously do you think it would affect your health? Not at all seriously, Somewhat seriously, Very seriously, Extremely seriously, Don't know / no response

SUMMARY OF Public Health and Social Measures (PHSMs)

Public Health and Social Measures (PHSMs)

	Adherence: level to which these activities describe “you personally”				Support: perception of necessity		
	<i>Completely applies</i>	<i>Mostly applies</i>	<i>Sometimes applies</i>	<i>Does not apply to me</i>	<i>Absolutely necessary</i>	<i>Somewhat necessary</i>	<i>Not really necessary</i>
Wear a face mask in public when near others	72	14	9	5	85	11	3
Wash more often than they used to	73	14	10	14	89	8	2
Avoid handshakes and physical greetings	53	21	16	10	82	12	5
PERSONAL PHSMS: SUMMARY	66	16	12	10	85	10	3
Stop joining public gatherings and places of entertainment	52	17	17	14	68	20	11
Stop going to the church/mosque	41	18	19	22	37	33	26
PUBLIC GATHERING PHSMS: SUMMARY	47	18	18	18	53	27	19
Reduce the number of times going to the market or grocery store	43	22	22	13	59	33	7
Staying home instead of going to work, school or other regular activities	41	17	19	23	55	33	11
ECONOMIC PHSMS: SUMMARY	42	20	21	18	57	33	9

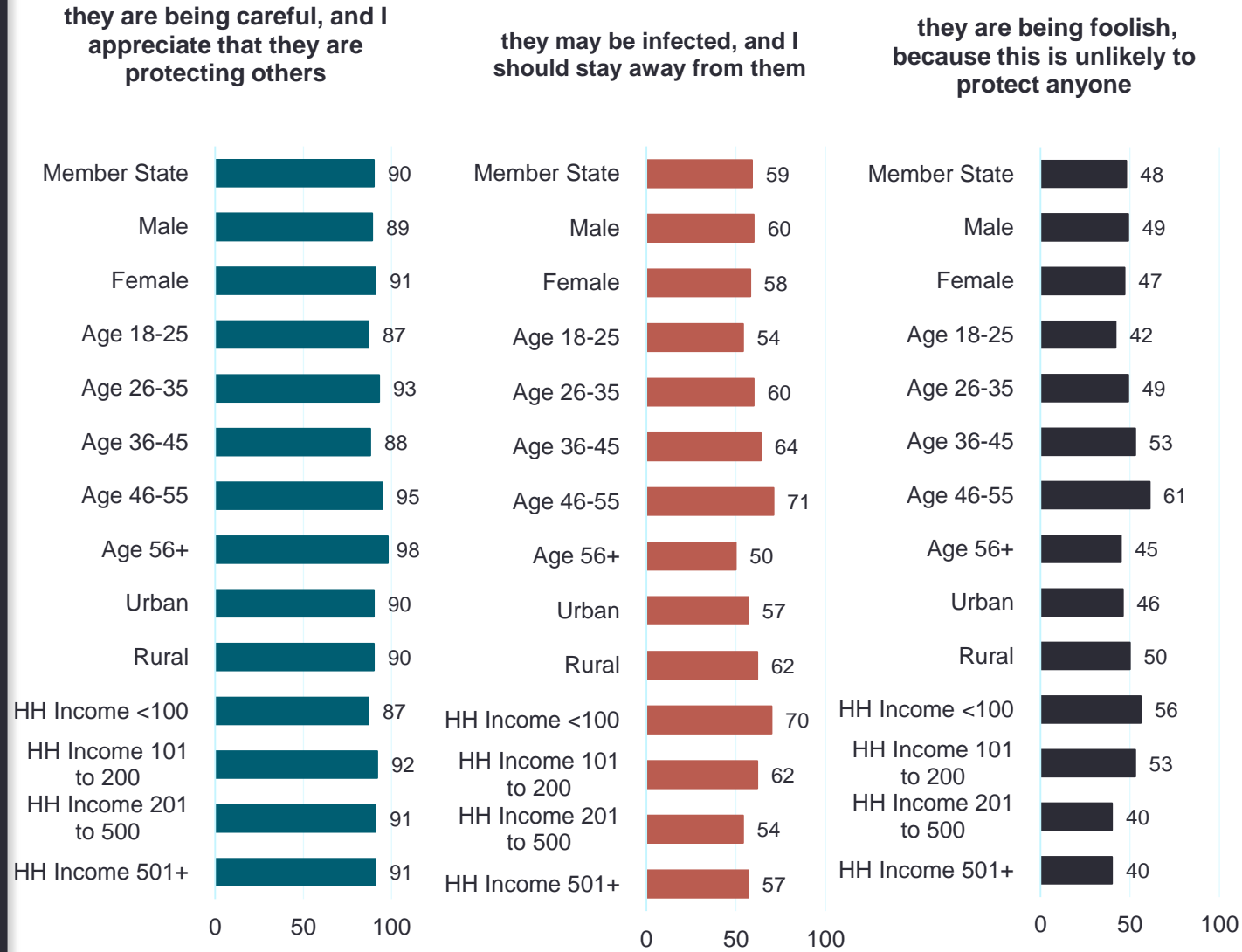
Please see Appendix for detail by country

Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?

Q14. Thinking of the last four weeks, was asking people to do each of the following absolutely necessary, somewhat necessary, or not really necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in Egypt?

Face masks: Perceptions, Use and Attitudes

When other people wear face masks near me, I think...



95% have a face mask ready to wear

Adherence:
Wear a Face Mask in Public Around Others:
Completely applies: 72%
Mostly applies: 14%

Q4. Do you have a face mask of any kind that is ready for you to wear?
 Q13g. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: G) Wearing a face mask in public when near others

Q3. I would now like to ask your opinion about face masks, which some people are wearing at the moment. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Showing % agree (Strongly + Somewhat agree)

Impact on Health Care Services



Missed, Delayed or Skipped Health Care Services:

% Yes: (among those requiring services)	58%
People with longstanding illness	60%
Women	61%
Low Income (HH Income <100)	50%
High Income (HH Income 501+)	49%
Urban	61%
Rural	53%

Base = required services (44%)



Difficulty accessing medications:

% Much More Difficult (among those requiring medications)	21%
People with longstanding illness	22%
Women	24%
Low Income (HH Income <100)	22%
High Income (HH Income 501+)	27%
Urban	22%
Rural	19%

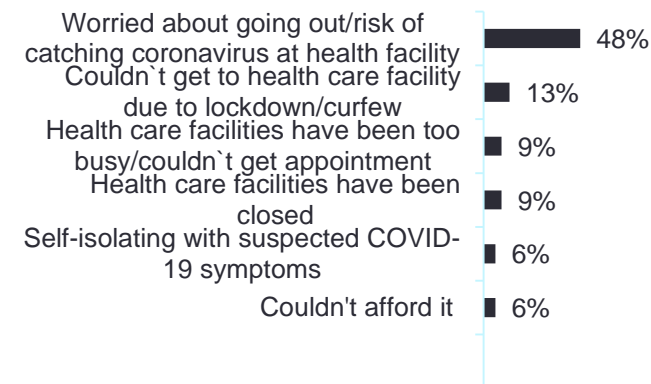
Base = required medication (88%)

Q21. Have you or any other person in your household delayed, skipped or been unable to complete health care visits since the COVID-19 crisis?

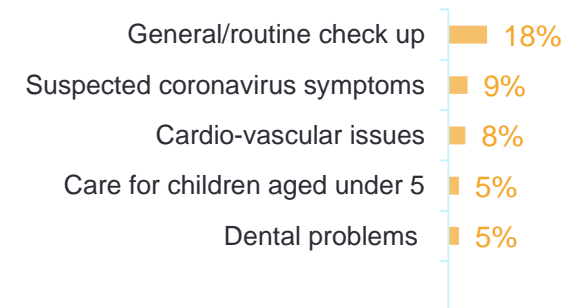
Q24. Has the COVID-19 crisis made it more difficult to obtain medications you need for you or your household or has it had no impact? If you do not need medications, please say so.



Reason for missed, delayed or skipped services:



Types of services missed, delayed or skipped:



Q22. Why have you or another person in your household delayed, skipped or been unable to complete health care visits since the COVID-19 crisis?

Q23. And do you mind if I ask what those delayed, missed or not completed health care visits were for?

Economic and Food Relief Measures



Barriers and Difficulties Purchasing Food

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural	HHSD income < 100USD	HHSD Income 500+USD
EXPERIENCED 'ANY' BARRIER ONE DAY OR MORE:	54	52	57	54	55	74	48
<i>Experienced 1 day or more:</i>							
...had difficulties in going to food markets due to restrictions imposed	24	23	29	24	26	38	23
...had difficulties in buying food due to most food markets being closed?	26	24	29	28	27	39	28
...been unable to buy the amount of food you usually buy because of shortages in the markets	25	23	30	26	27	39	24
...been unable to buy the amount of food you usually buy because the price was too high?	35	31	38	35	34	54	28
...been unable to buy the amount of food you usually buy because your income has dropped?	36	35	40	36	41	67	25

Q17. In the past 7 days, how many days have you or someone in your household experienced any of the following?



Impact on Income: % Reporting Income is Smaller than last year	59%
Women	58%
Men	59%
Low Income (HH Income <100)	66%
High Income (HH Income 501+)	51%
Urban	59%
Rural	58%

Q18. How does the amount of money you made in the past 7 days compare to the amount you made this time last year? Is it... Bigger, Smaller, Stayed the Same, Don't make any, Don't know.



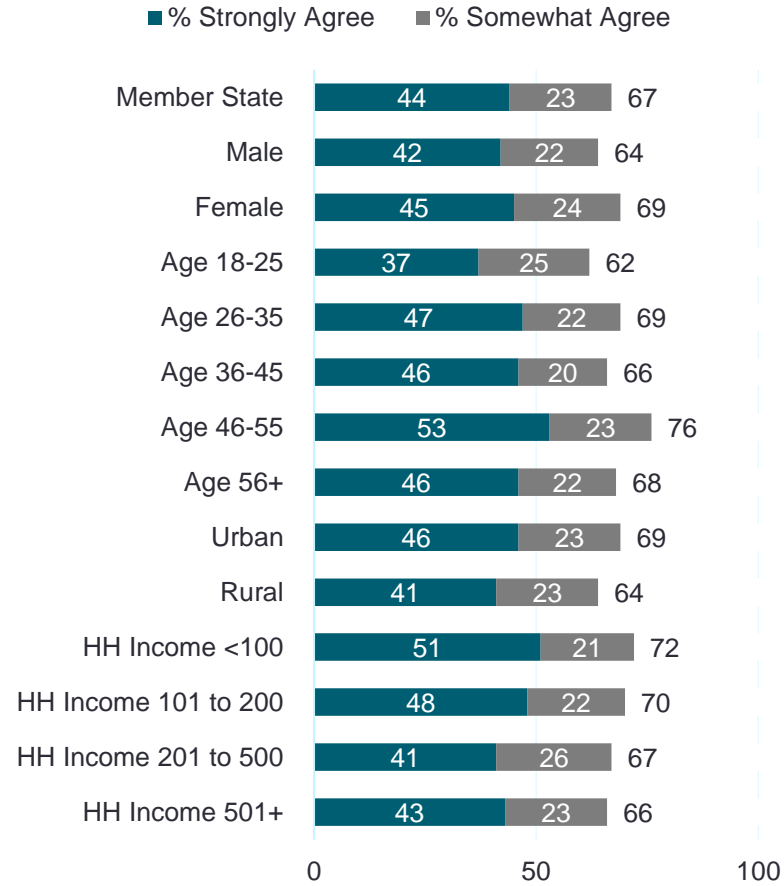
Impact on Unpaid work: % Reporting More Hours on Unpaid Work	32%
Women	33%
Men	32%
Low Income (HH Income <100)	38%
High Income (HH Income 501+)	31%
Urban	33%
Rural	32%

Q19. Since the crisis began, have you had a change in your hours spent on unpaid work, such as childcare, care of the elderly and housework? More hours, less hours, no change in hours, don't know.

Concerns about resuming normal activities



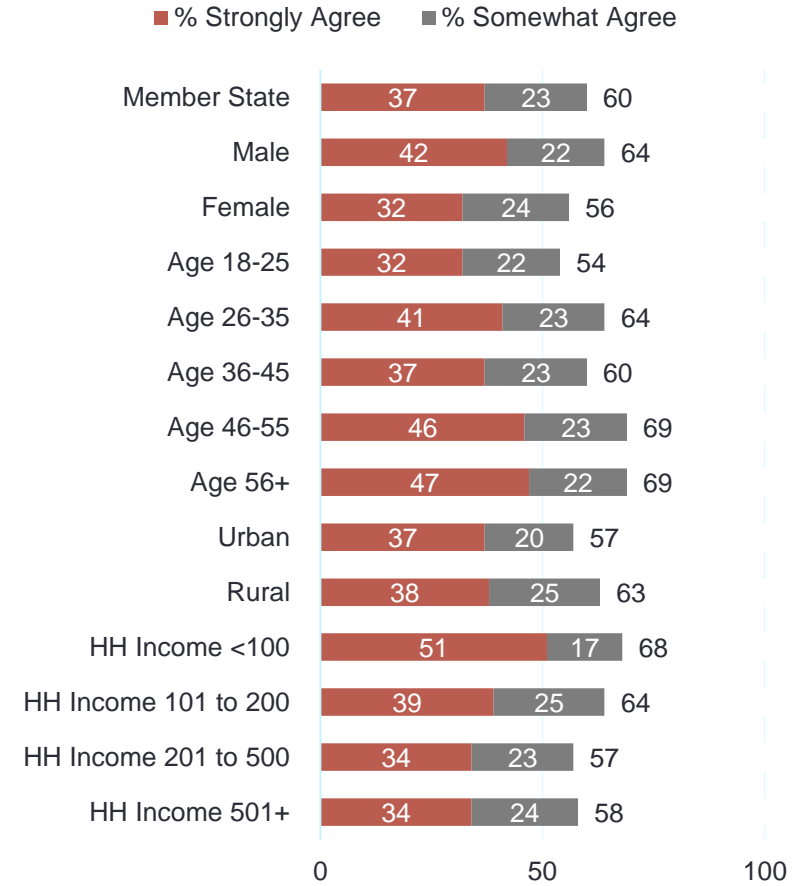
Thinking about resuming normal activities after the lockdown makes me feel very anxious



Q15. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



I would feel comfortable taking public transportation such as local buses or trains if it was not too busy

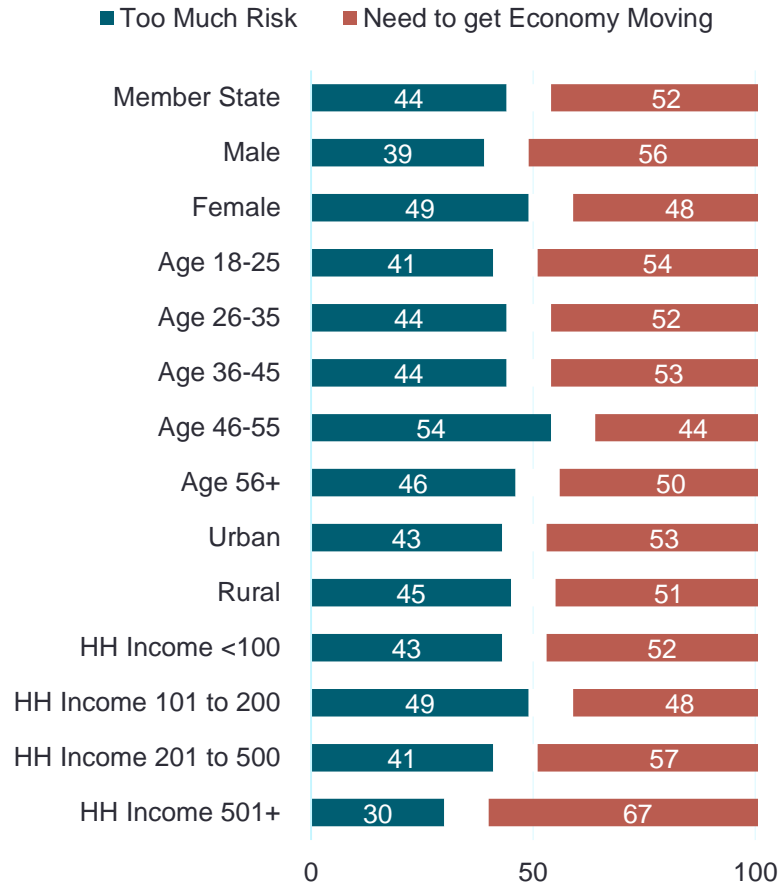


Q15. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Expectations about COVID-19



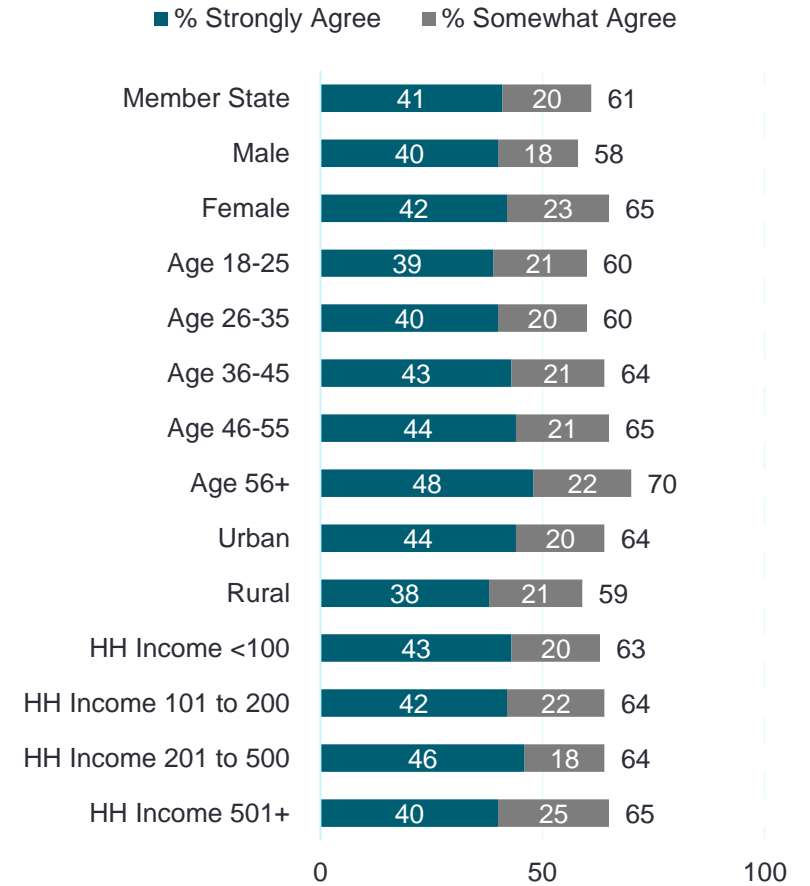
Loosening Restrictions: “too risky to loosen restrictions” versus “there is a low risk and need to get economy moving”



Q16. Some people say that loosening restrictions now puts too many people at risk of contracting COVID-19 and we need to wait at least a few more weeks. Other people say that the health risk is minimal if people follow social distancing rules and we need to get the economy moving again. Which is closer to your point of view?



It will be at least six months before COVID-19 is contained



Q15. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statements?

For more information, contact:

Stephanie Salyer, DVM, MPH
Africa-CDC
stephanies@africa-union.org

Nandita Murukutla, PhD
Vital Strategies
nmurukutla@vitalstrategies.org



Partnership for Evidence-Based
Response to COVID-19

Additional Methodology Details

- The public opinion polling was conducted using a telephone interviewing methodology.
- The questionnaire was developed by Resolve to Save Lives, Ipsos and members of the PERC consortium.
- The polling program was approved by local review boards and all respondents gave explicit permission to participate in the polling program.
- Note that where referenced, income categories should be interpreted as indicative as sample sizes vary and income reporting can be subject to bias.
- The weighted sample sizes for the demographic breaks in this report are as follows:

	Total	Male	Female	18-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56+	Urban	Rural	Under 100	101 - 200	201 - 500	501+
Base: All	1200	618	582	462	371	207	122	38	649	551	146	437	319	94

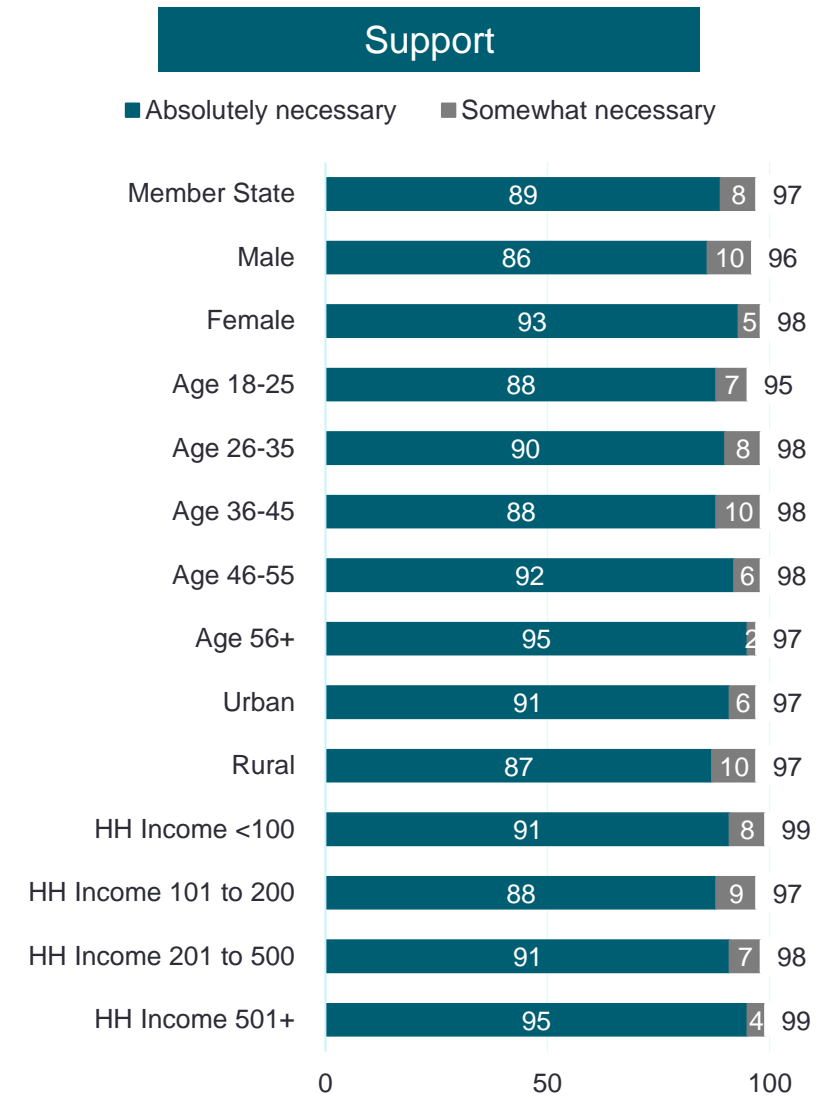
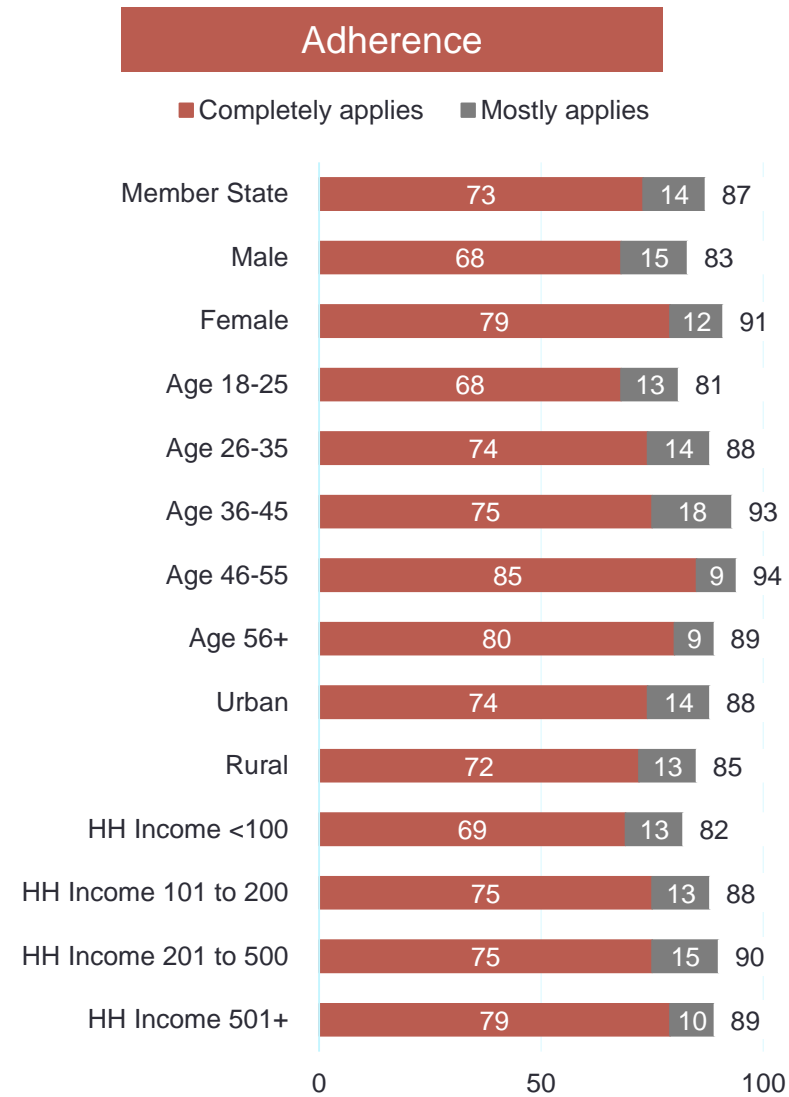
- The percentages reported in this document may be different from percentages reported in other PERC products and communication of this data. Differences may be reconciled by investigating the denominator used, as indicated in each instance of use.



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Response to COVID-19

PERSONAL Public health and social measure (PHSM)

Washing my hands many times per day

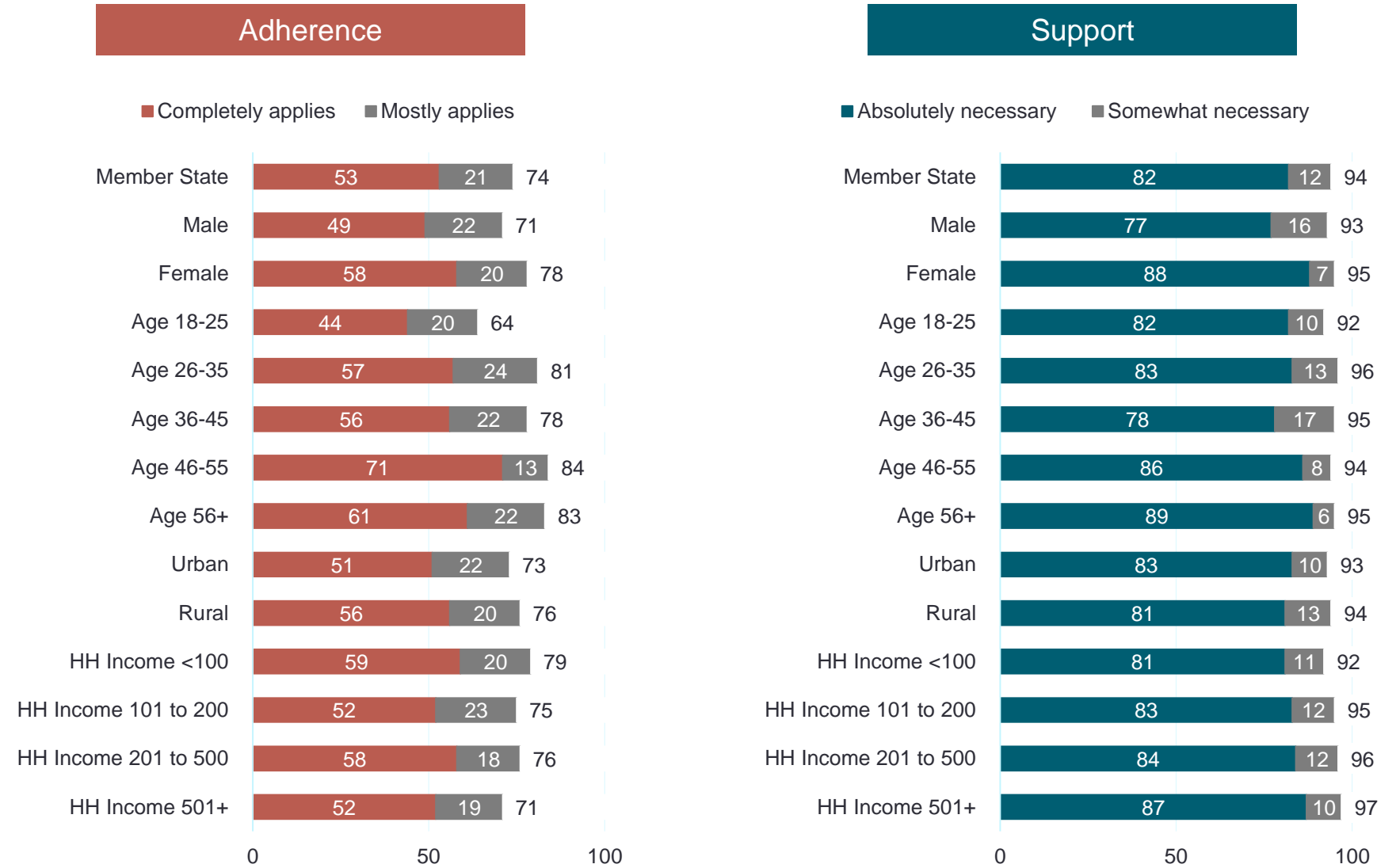


Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Washing my hands with soap or using hand sanitizer many times per day

Q14. Thinking of the last four weeks, was asking people to do each of the following absolutely necessary, somewhat necessary, or not really necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in Egypt?: ...wash their hands with soap or use hand sanitizer more often than they used to

PERSONAL Public health and social measure (PHSM)

Avoiding handshakes and physical greetings

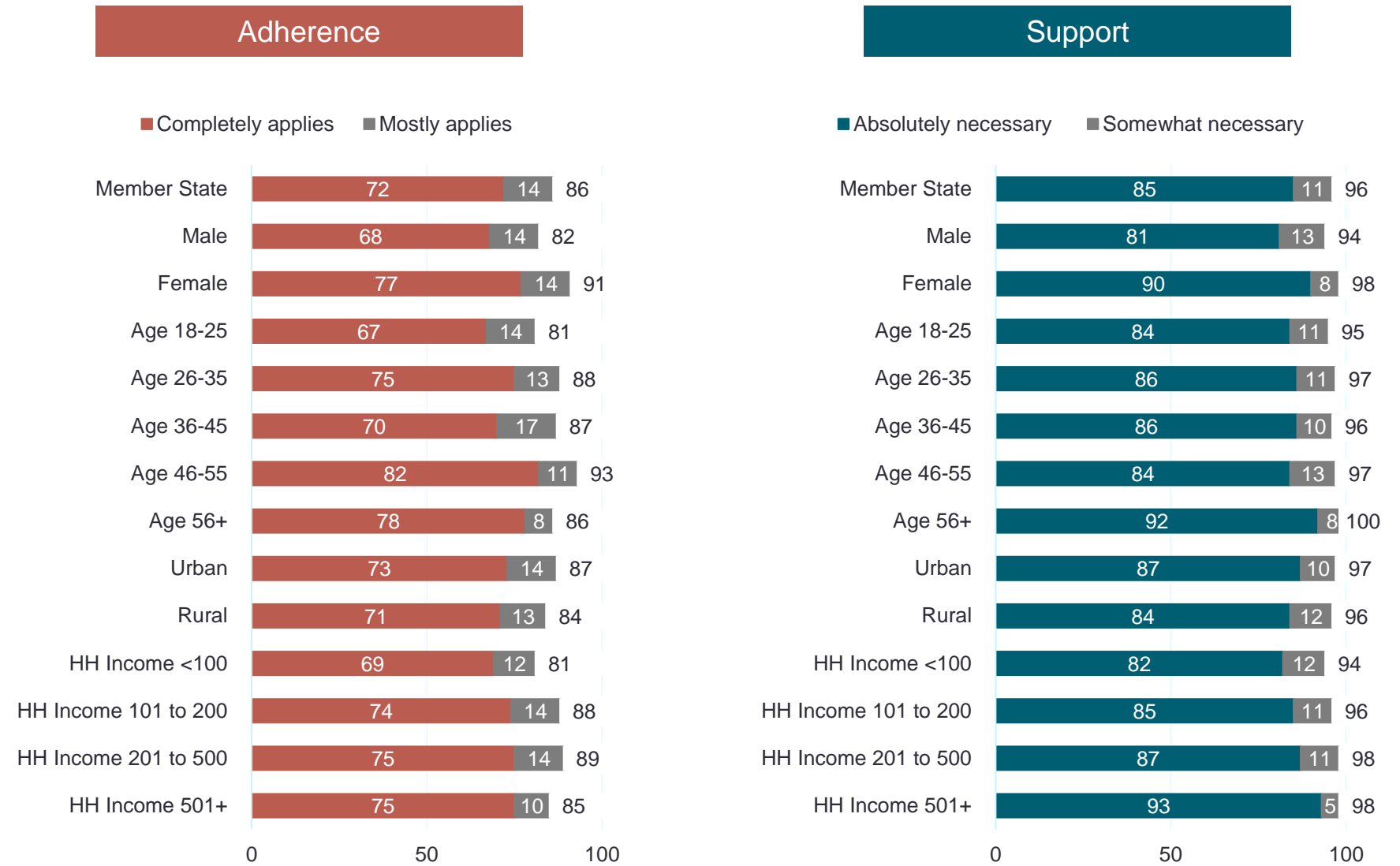


Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Avoiding handshakes and physical greetings

Q14. Thinking of the last four weeks, was asking people to do each of the following absolutely necessary, somewhat necessary, or not really necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in Egypt?: Avoiding handshakes and physical greetings

PERSONAL Public health and social measure (PHSM)

Wearing a face mask in public when near others

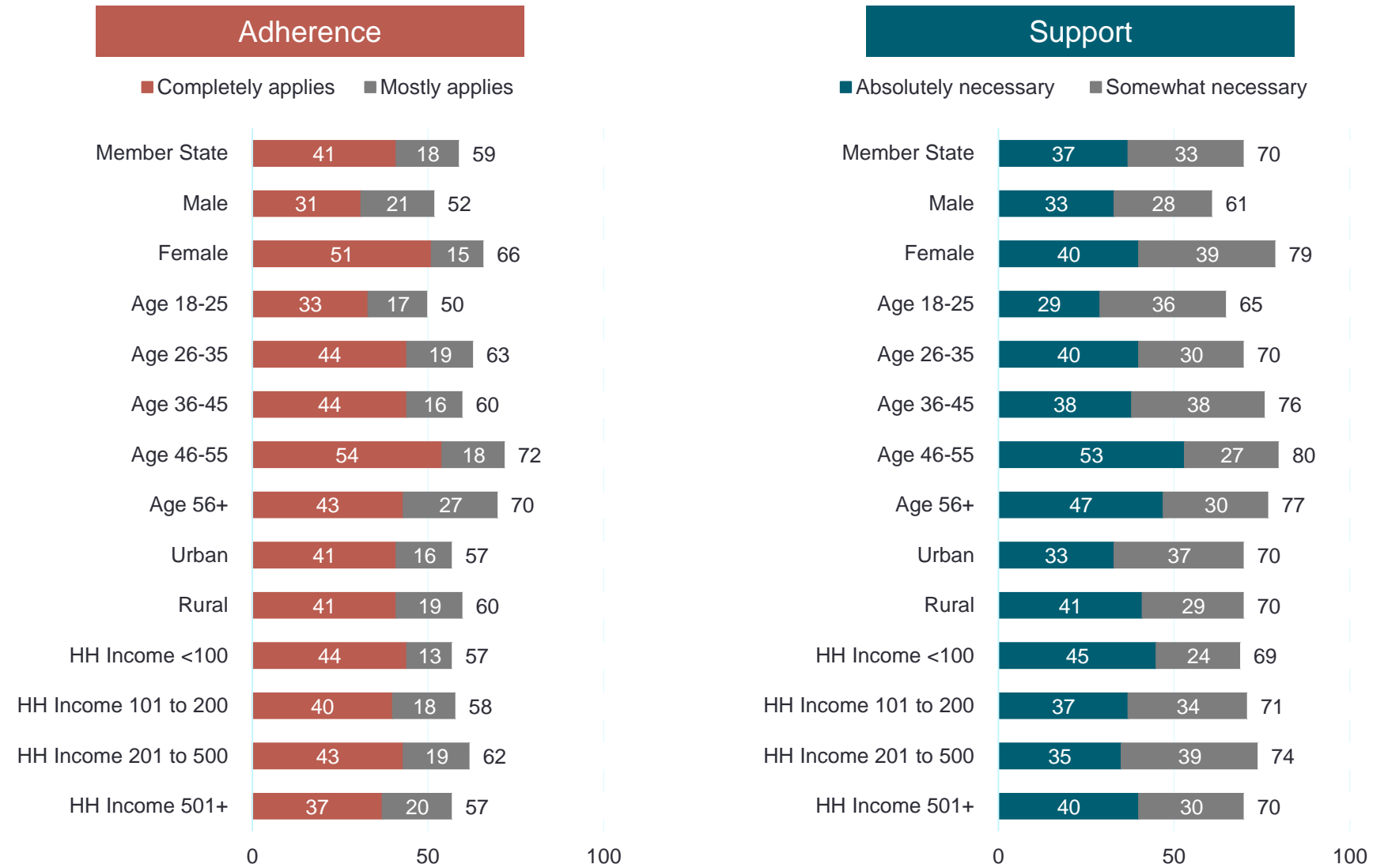


Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Wearing a face mask in public when near others

Q14. Thinking of the last four weeks, was asking people to do each of the following absolutely necessary, somewhat necessary, or not really necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in Egypt?: Wearing a face mask in public

PUBLIC GATHERING Public health and social measure (PHSM)

Avoiding the church/mosque



Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Avoiding the church/mosque

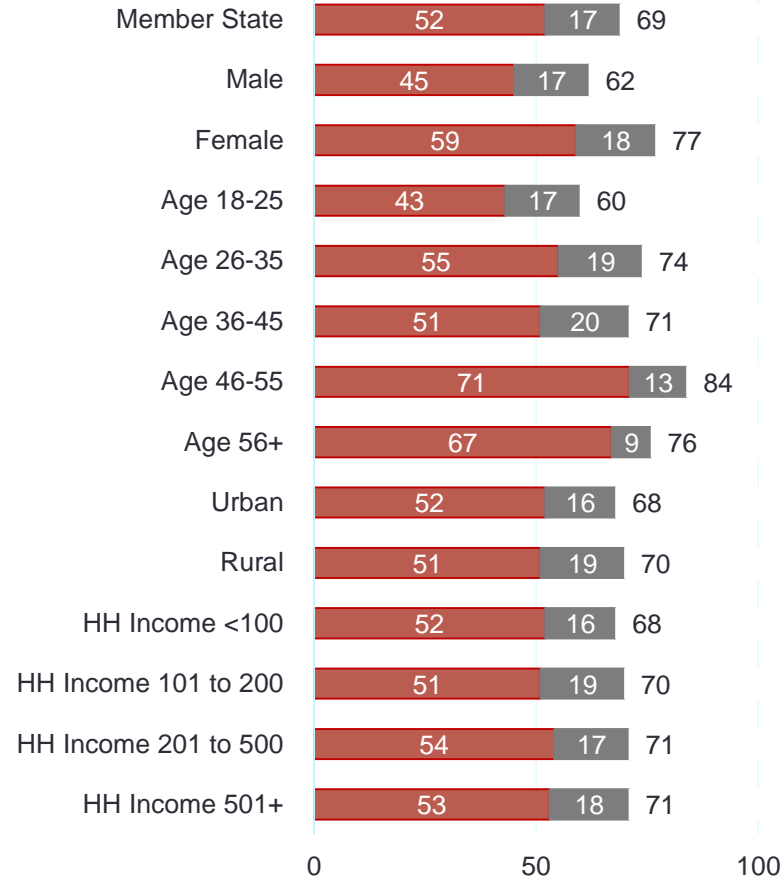
Q14. Thinking of the last four weeks, was asking people to do each of the following absolutely necessary, somewhat necessary, or not really necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in Egypt?: Avoiding the church/mosque

PUBLIC GATHERING Public health and social measure (PHSM)

Avoiding public gatherings and places of entertainment

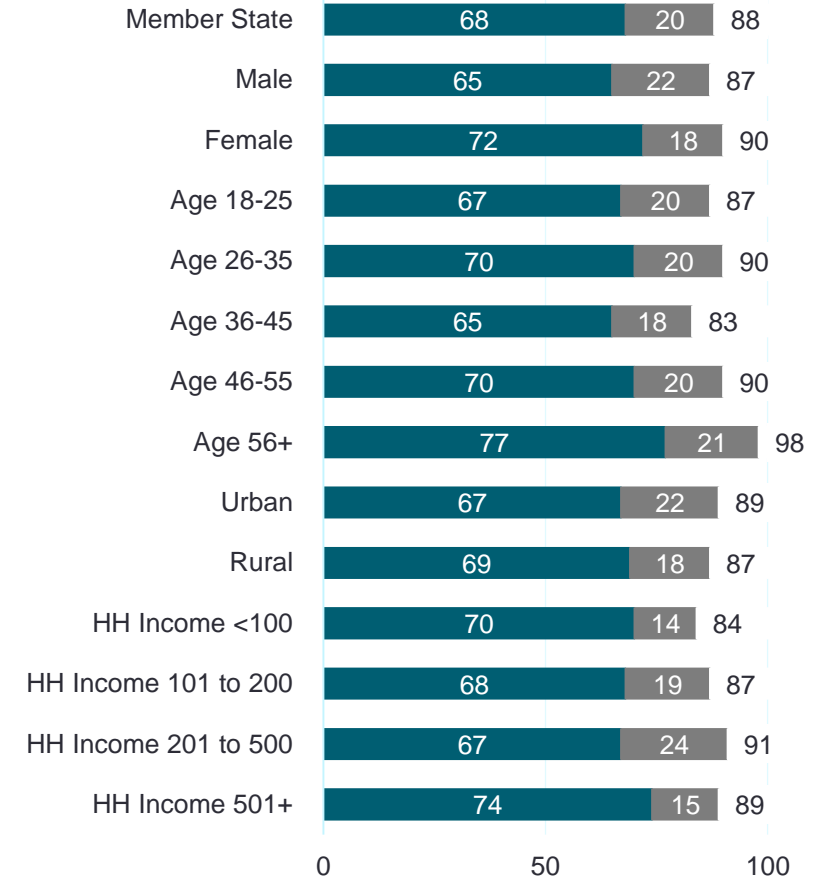
Adherence

■ Completely applies ■ Mostly applies



Support

■ Absolutely necessary ■ Somewhat necessary



Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Avoiding public gatherings and places of entertainment

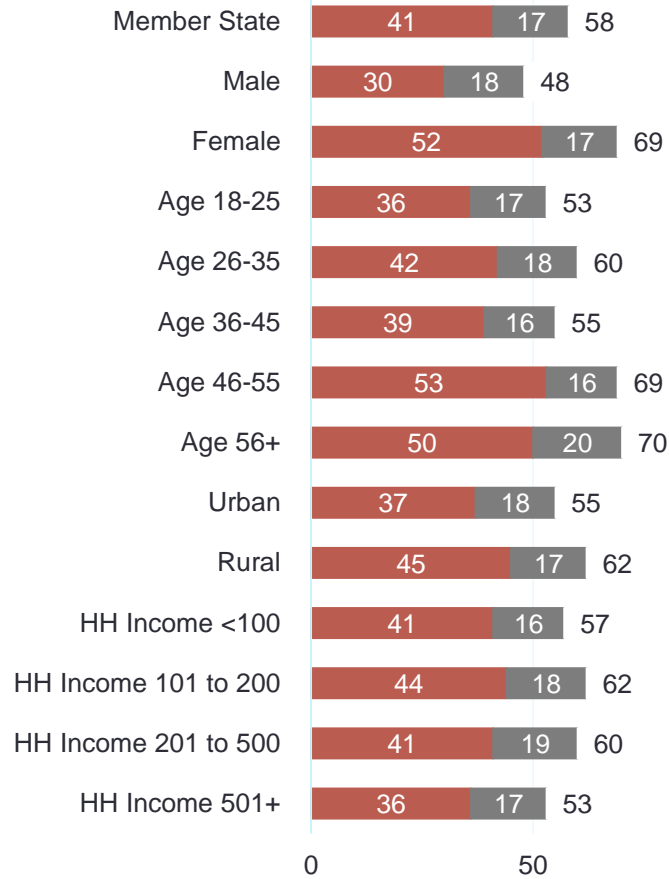
Q14. Thinking of the last four weeks, was asking people to do each of the following absolutely necessary, somewhat necessary, or not really necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in Egypt?: Avoiding public gatherings and places of entertainment

MOBILITY Public health and social measure (PHSM)

Staying home instead of going to work, school or other regular activities

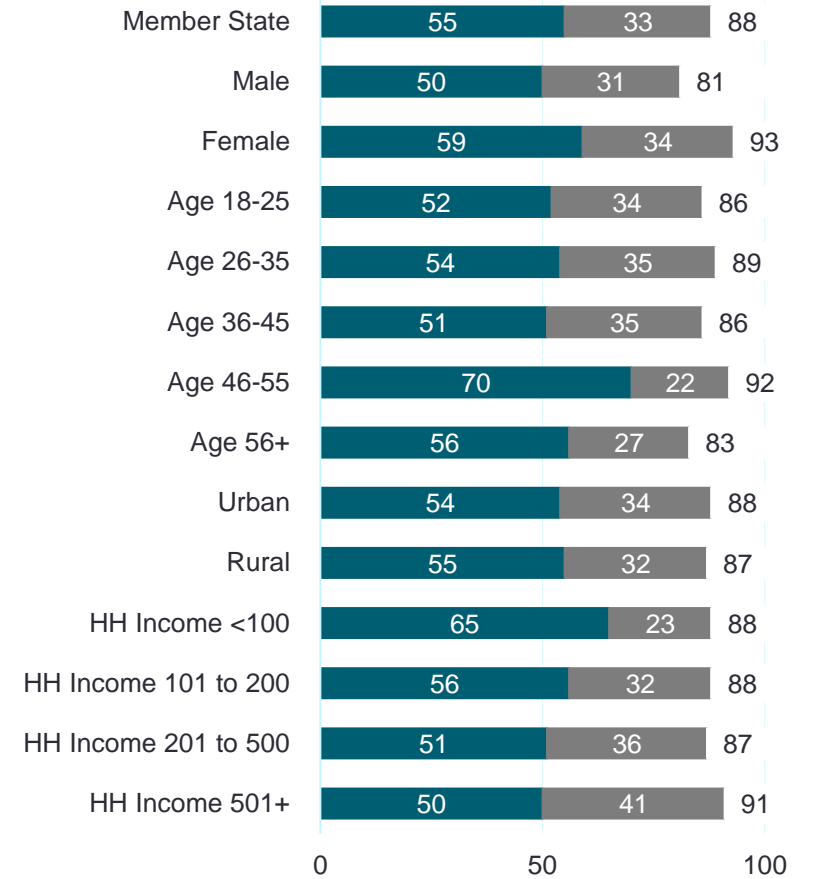
Adherence

■ Completely applies ■ Mostly applies



Support

■ Absolutely necessary ■ Somewhat necessary

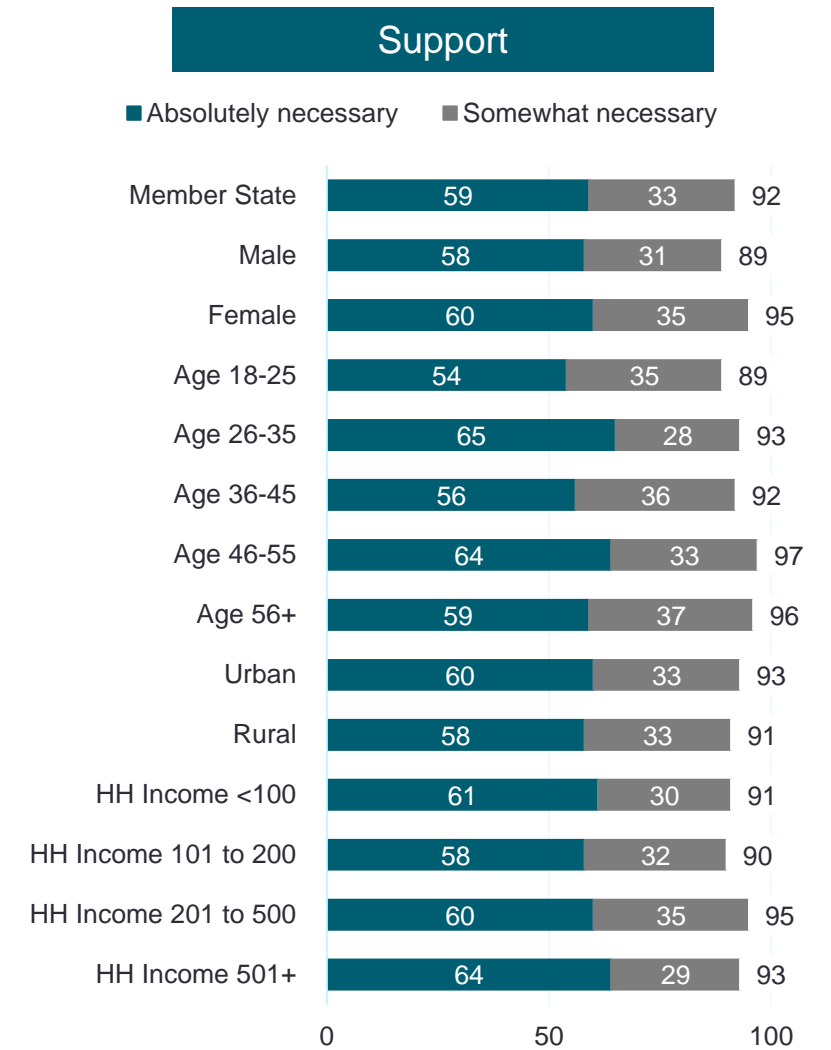
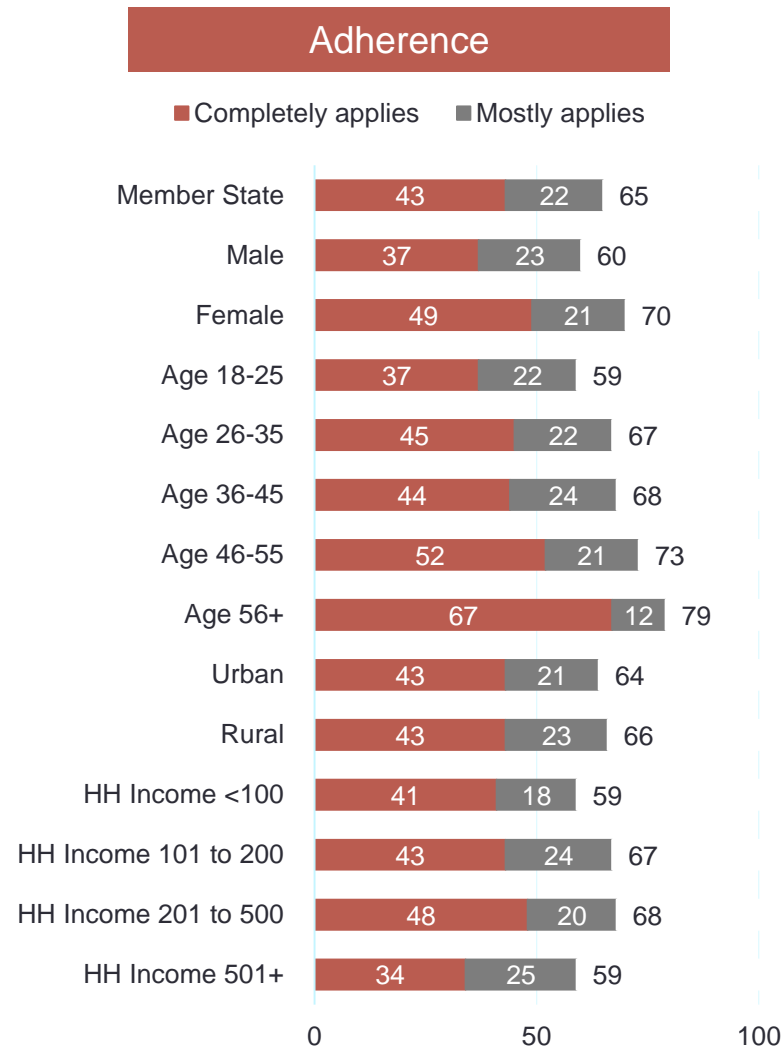


Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Staying home instead of going to work, school or other regular activities

Q14. Thinking of the last four weeks, was asking people to do each of the following absolutely necessary, somewhat necessary, or not really necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in Egypt?: Staying home instead of going to work, school or other regular activities

MOBILITY Public health and social measure (PHSM)

Reducing the number of times I go to the market or grocery store



Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Reducing the number of times I go to the market or grocery store

Q14. Thinking of the last four weeks, was asking people to do each of the following absolutely necessary, somewhat necessary, or not really necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in Egypt?: Reducing the number of times I go to the market or grocery store