

# Responding to COVID-19 in African Countries:

Executive Summary of Polling Results: Ghana

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August 2020



# INTRODUCTION

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

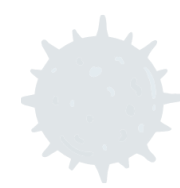
This document provides the findings from public opinion polls in Ghana to understand the public's knowledge, risk perception, attitudes, access to information, reactions, behaviors and practices related to COVID-19.

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

# METHODOLOGY

The public opinion polls were conducted from 3 August to 16 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 Ghana is 1,338 interviews.



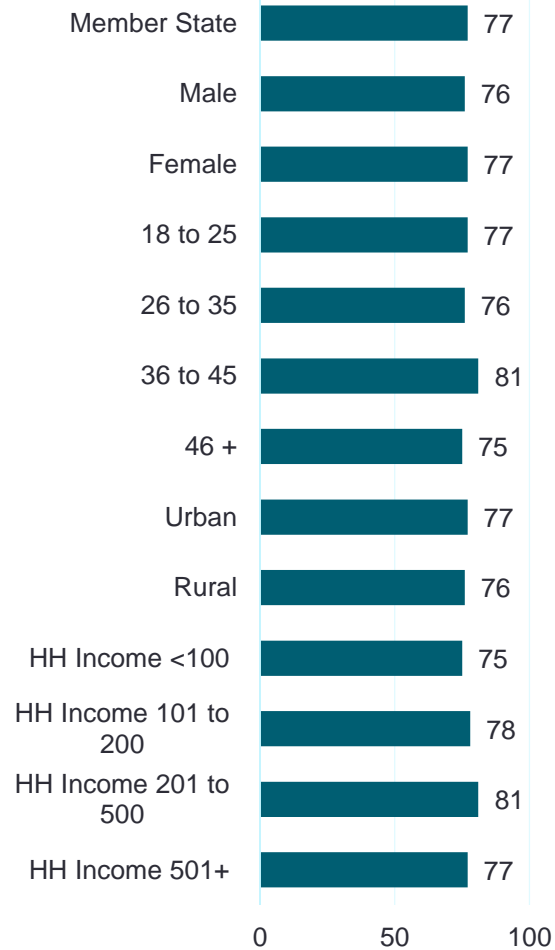
# KEY FINDINGS

- **PHSM support and adherence:** In general, the majority of respondents support PHSMs, but support is lower for public gathering measures and even lower for measures that restrict economic activity.
- **Risk perceptions and information:** Perceptions of personal risk of COVID-19 and severity of the disease are markedly low, according to survey results, despite the size of the outbreak. In addition, there is substantial misinformation, including narratives around anti-foreign sentiment.
- **Essential health services:** A high proportion of Ghanaian respondents who needed health care delayed or skipped a visit (43%) or medicines (34%) during the COVID-19 crisis, and those with chronic conditions are particularly affected. Those who have reported a missed health facility visit are primarily concerned about the risk of catching COVID at the health facility.
- **Economic burden and food security:** A majority of Ghanaian respondents (69%) report having lost income, and many are facing difficulty accessing food. Only one in three (36%) surveyed had received aid from the government in the previous month, as the government stopped all assistance programs in June.

# Information, Perception & Misinformation

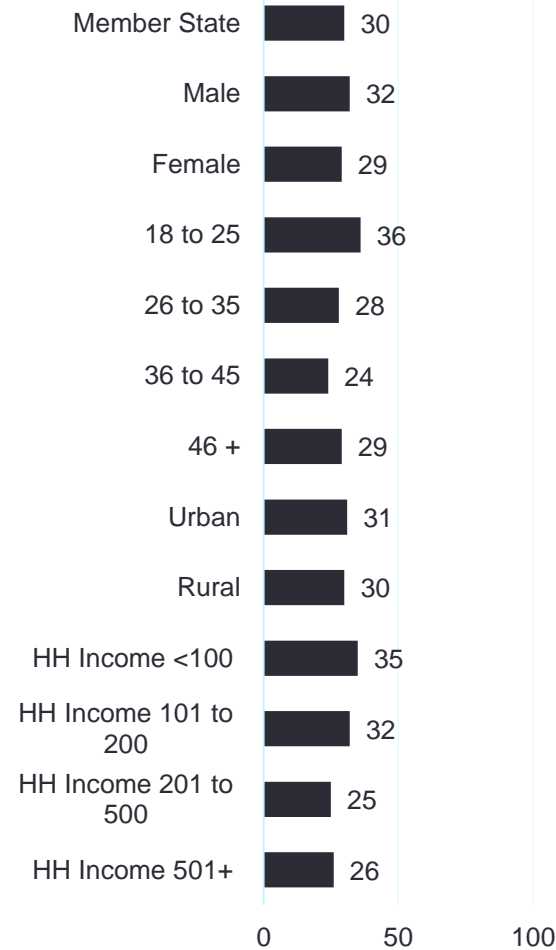
## Preventive Measures

- % 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



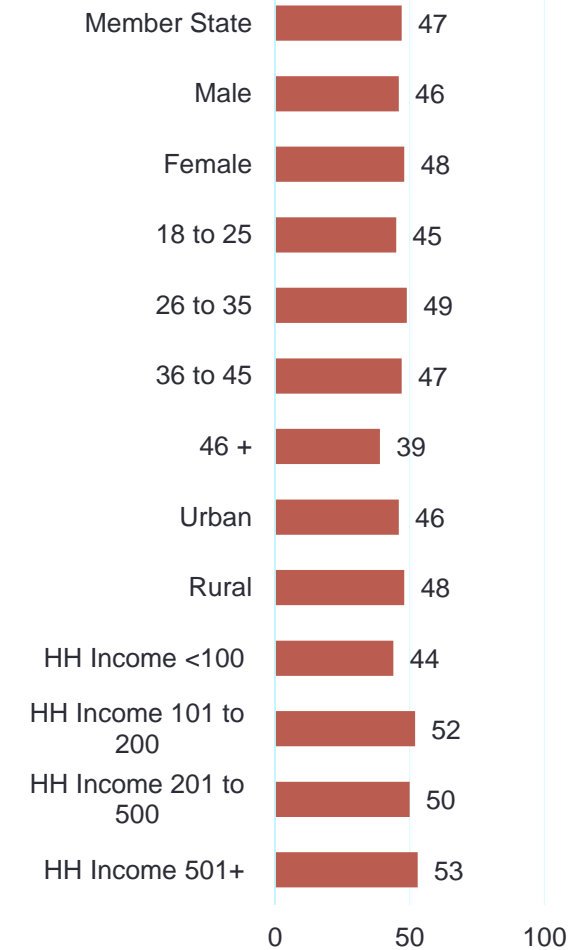
## Reaction to Recovered Patients

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

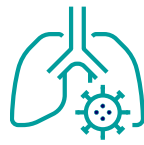


## Misinformation

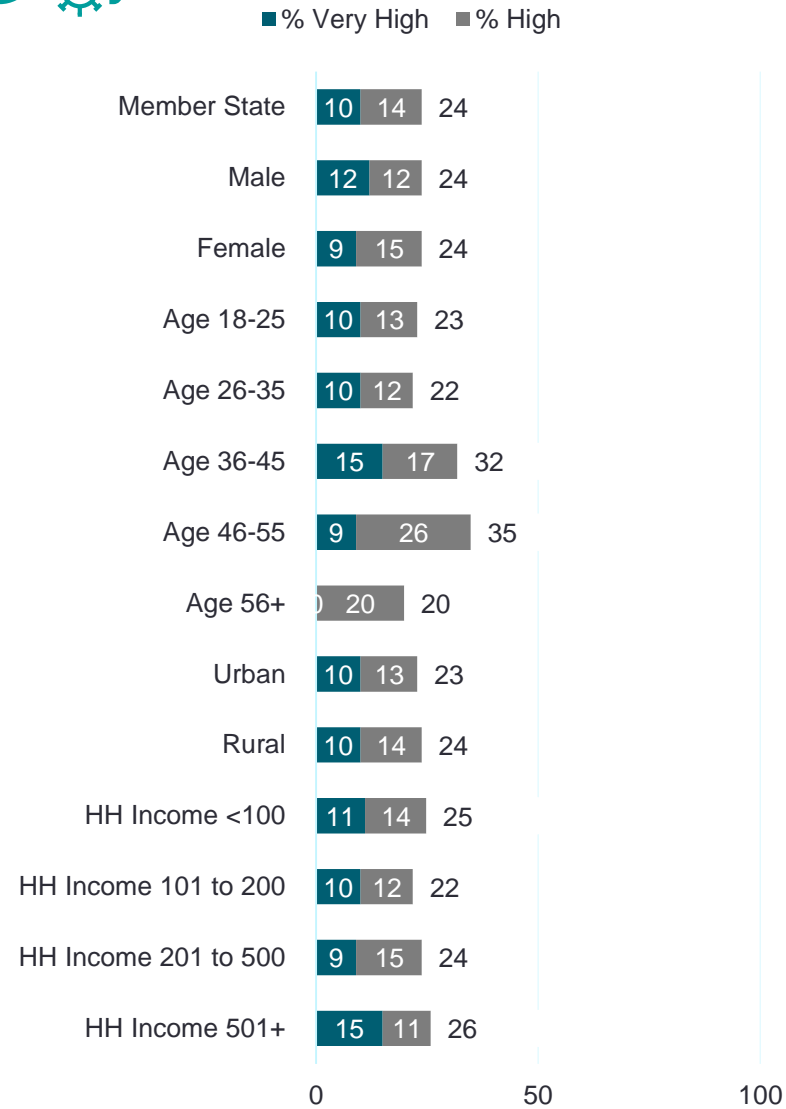
- % True for BOTH statements:**
- Foreigners are discrediting African medicines which could cure COVID-19
  - Foreigners are trying to test vaccines on us



# Risk Perceptions



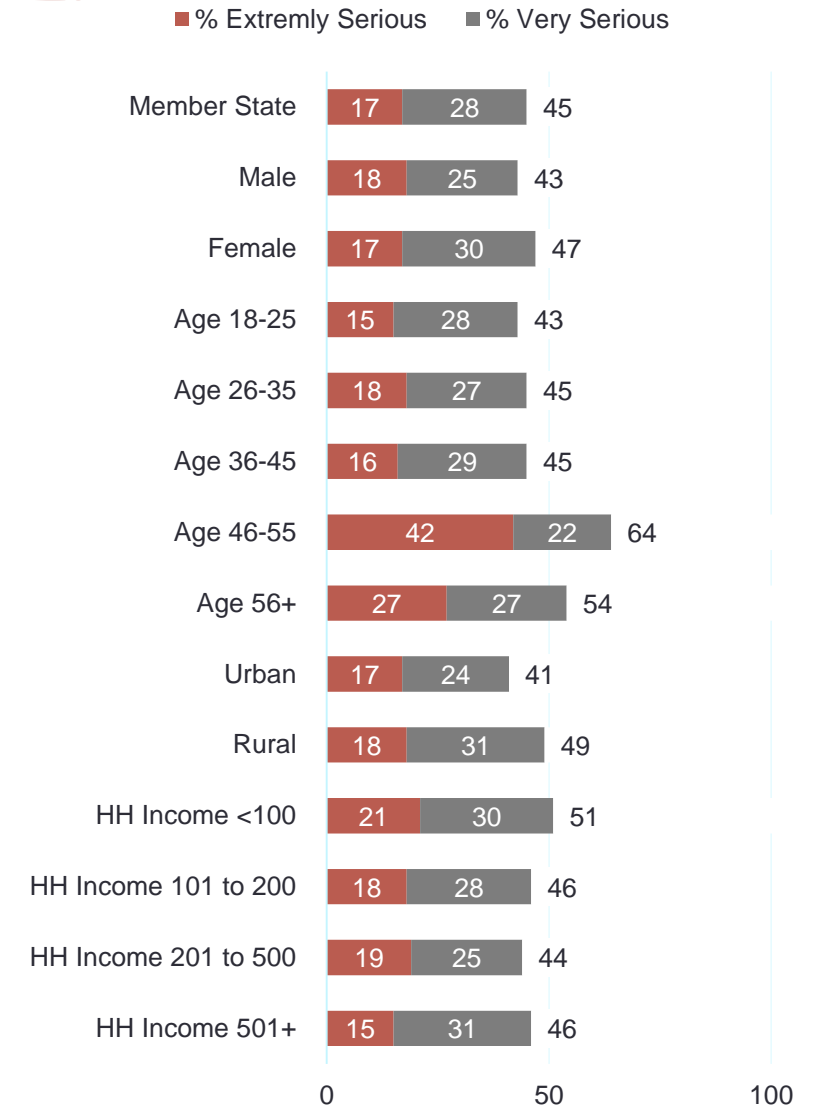
## Perceived risk of catching COVID-19:



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:



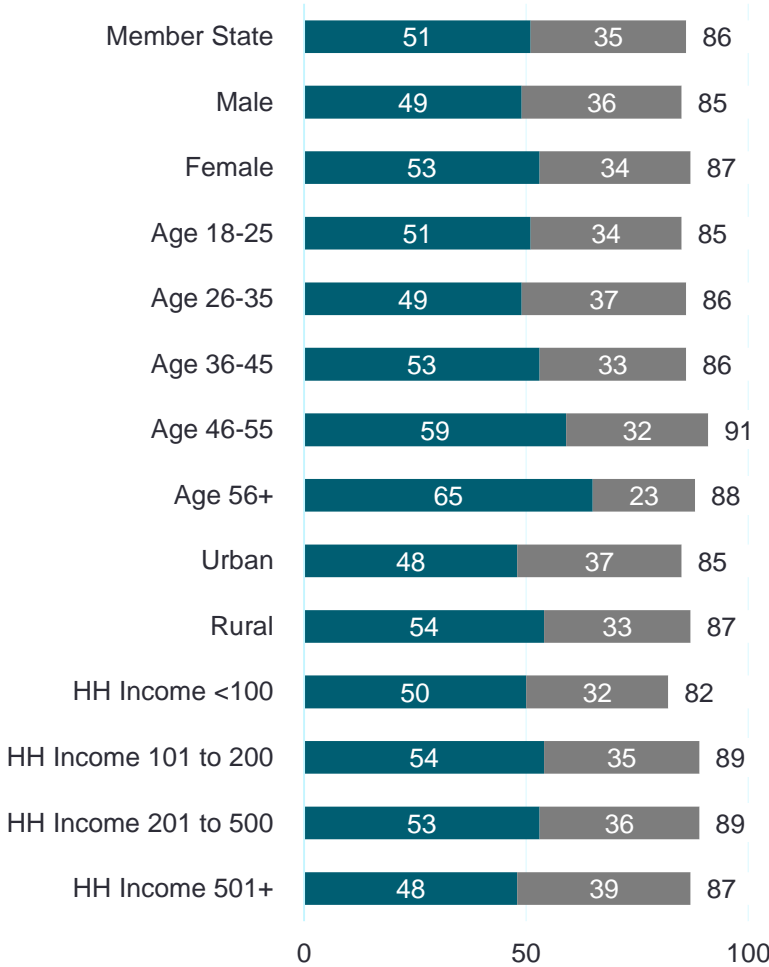
Q9. If you were infected by coronavirus or COVID-19, how seriously do you think it would affect your health? Not at all seriously, Somewhat seriously, Very seriously, Extremely seriously, Don't know / no response

# Satisfaction and Trust with the COVID-19 Response



## Satisfaction with Government response to COVID-19:

■ % Very Satisfied ■ % Somewhat Satisfied

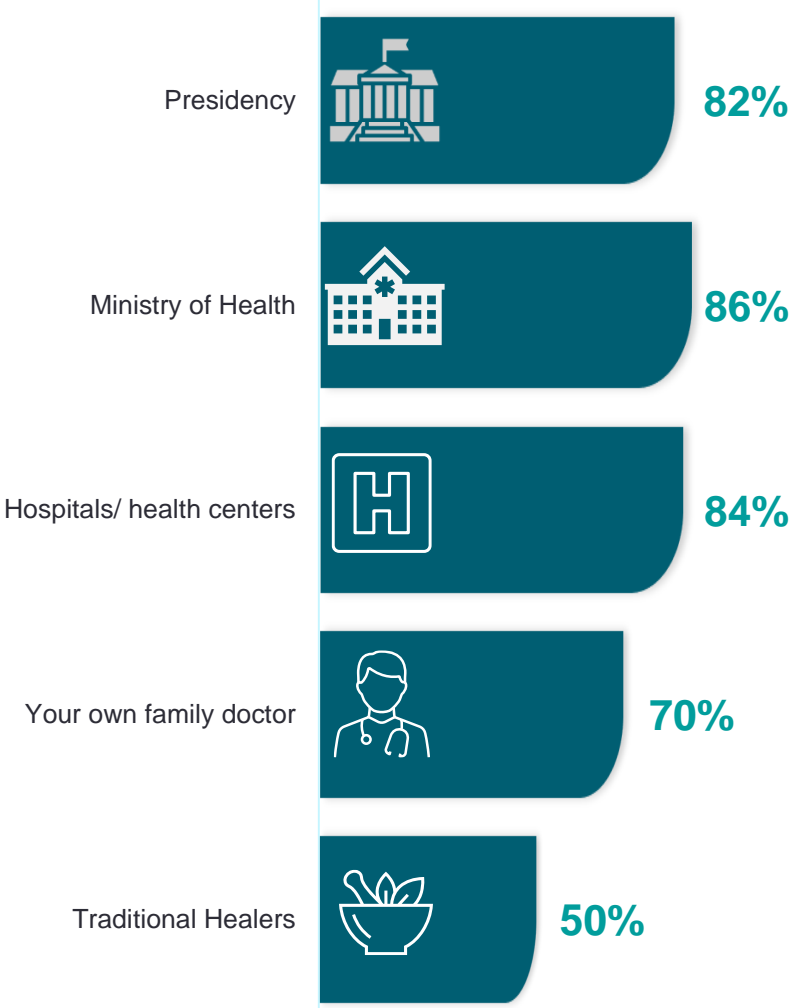


Q11. How satisfied are you with your (Ghana) government's response to coronavirus or COVID-19? Very satisfied, Somewhat satisfied, Somewhat dissatisfied, Very dissatisfied, Don't know / not sure



## Trust in handling of the coronavirus in Ghana:

% Trust a great deal + fair amount



Q12. To what extent, if at all, do you trust each of the following individuals and organizations' handling of the coronavirus in Ghana? A great deal, A fair amount, Not very much, Not at all, Don't know, Not heard of organisation, Not applicable.

# 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	75	18	6	1	91	7	2
Wash more often than they used to	65	23	11	23	91	8	1
Avoid handshakes and physical greetings	67	19	9	6	84	13	3
PERSONAL PHSMS: SUMMARY	69	20	9	10	87	9	2
Stop joining public gatherings and places of entertainment	50	25	16	8	66	23	11
Stop going to the church/mosque	30	21	26	23	35	32	32
PUBLIC GATHERING PHSMS: SUMMARY	40	23	21	16	51	28	22
Reduce the number of times going to the market or grocery store	34	29	27	10	53	36	10
Staying home instead of going to work, school or other regular activities	26	21	29	24	38	34	28
MOBILITY PHSMS: SUMMARY	30	25	28	17	46	35	19

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 Ghana?

# Face masks: Perceptions, Use and Attitudes

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

they are being careful, and I appreciate that they are protecting others

they may be infected, and I should stay away from them

they are being foolish, because this is unlikely to protect anyone



99% have a face mask ready to wear

**Adherence:**  
**Wear a Face Mask in Public Around Others:**  
**Completely applies: 75%**  
**Mostly applies: 18%**

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)	44%
People with longstanding illness	48%
Women	45%
Low Income (HH Income <100)	53%
High Income (HH Income 501+)	49%
Urban	44%
Rural	44%

Base = require services (36%)



## Difficulty accessing medications:

% Much More Difficult (among those requiring medications)	16%
People with longstanding illness	22%
Women	15%
Low Income (HH Income <100)	26%
High Income (HH Income 501+)	19%
Urban	14%
Rural	19%

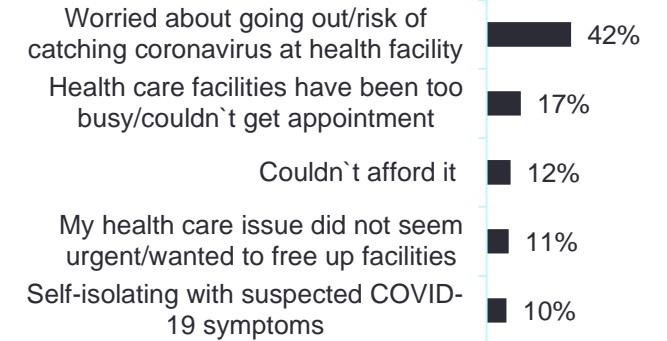
Base = require medication (82%)

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?

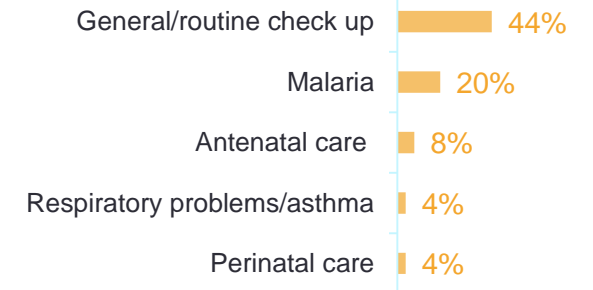
Q24. Has the COVID-19 crisis made it more difficult to obtain medications you need for you or your household or has it had no impact? If you do not need medications, please say so.



## 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 (1)	Male	Female	Urban (5)	Rural (4)	HH income < 100USD (3)	HH income 500+ (2)
EXPERIENCED 'ANY' BARRIER ONE DAY OR MORE: <i>Experienced 1 day or more:</i>	67	62	71	64	69	78	66
...had difficulties in going to food markets due to restrictions imposed	26	24	26	22	30	34	30
...had difficulties in buying food due to most food markets being closed?	26	27	27	26	27	33	28
...been unable to buy the amount of food you usually buy because of shortages in the markets	31	30	34	30	35	43	33
...been unable to buy the amount of food you usually buy because the price was too high?	52	48	55	50	54	64	46
...been unable to buy the amount of food you usually buy because your income has dropped?	45	42	49	44	46	57	39

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	67%
Women	69%
Men	66%
Low Income (HH Income <100)	73%
High Income (HH Income 501+)	56%
Urban	66%
Rural	68%

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.



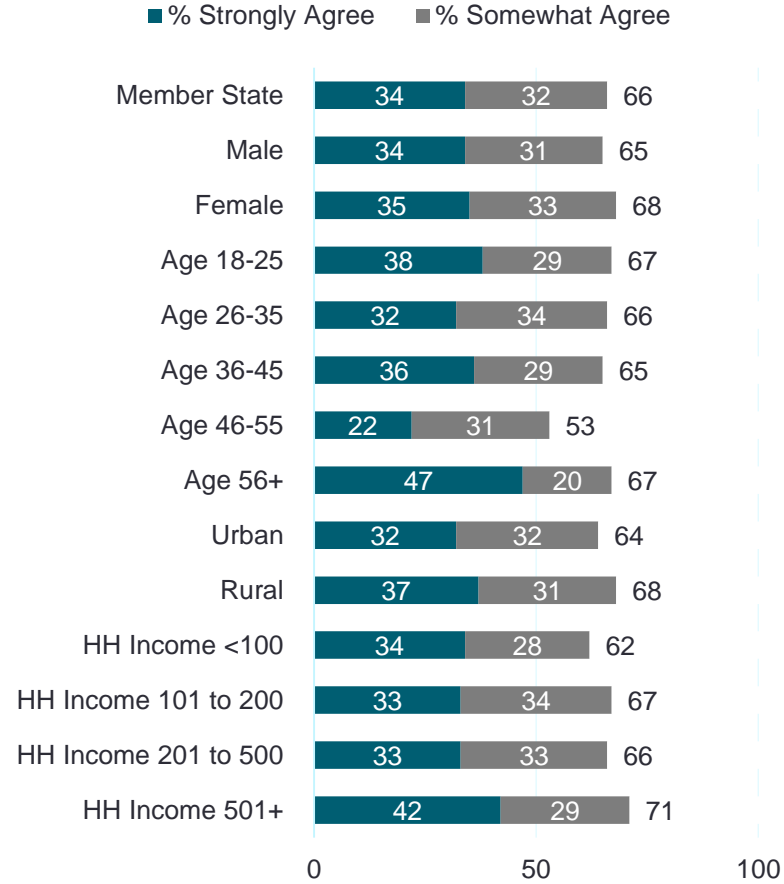
Impact on Unpaid work: % Reporting More Hours on Unpaid Work	32%
Women	38%
Men	26%
Low Income (HH Income <100)	31%
High Income (HH Income 501+)	31%
Urban	30%
Rural	35%

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.

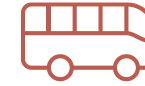
# Concerns about resuming normal activities



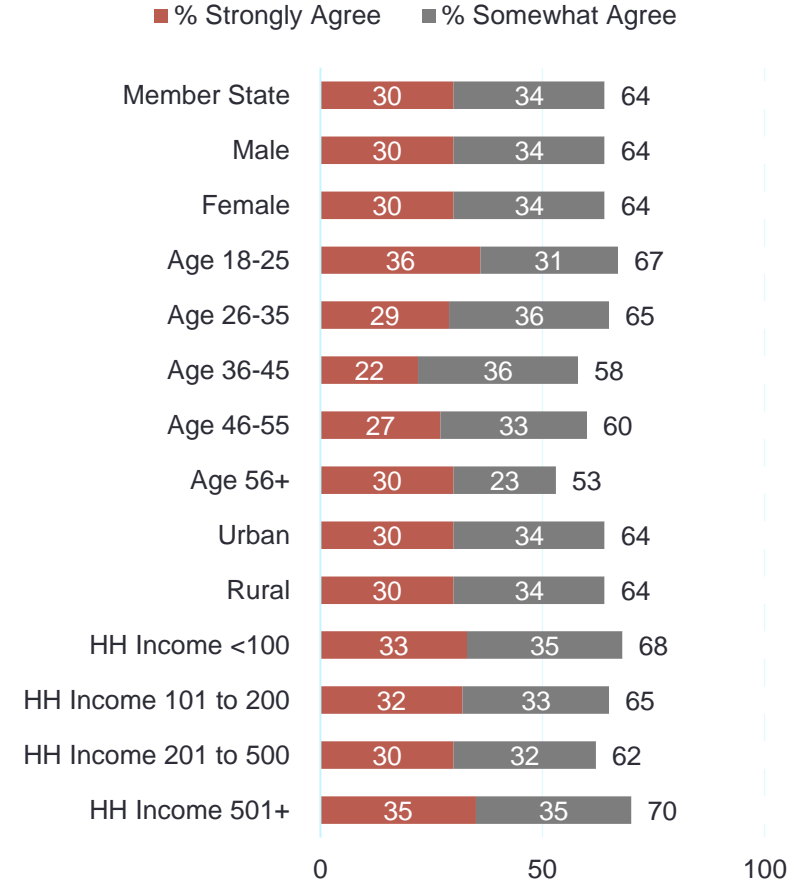
Thinking about resuming normal activities after the lockdown makes me feel very anxious



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

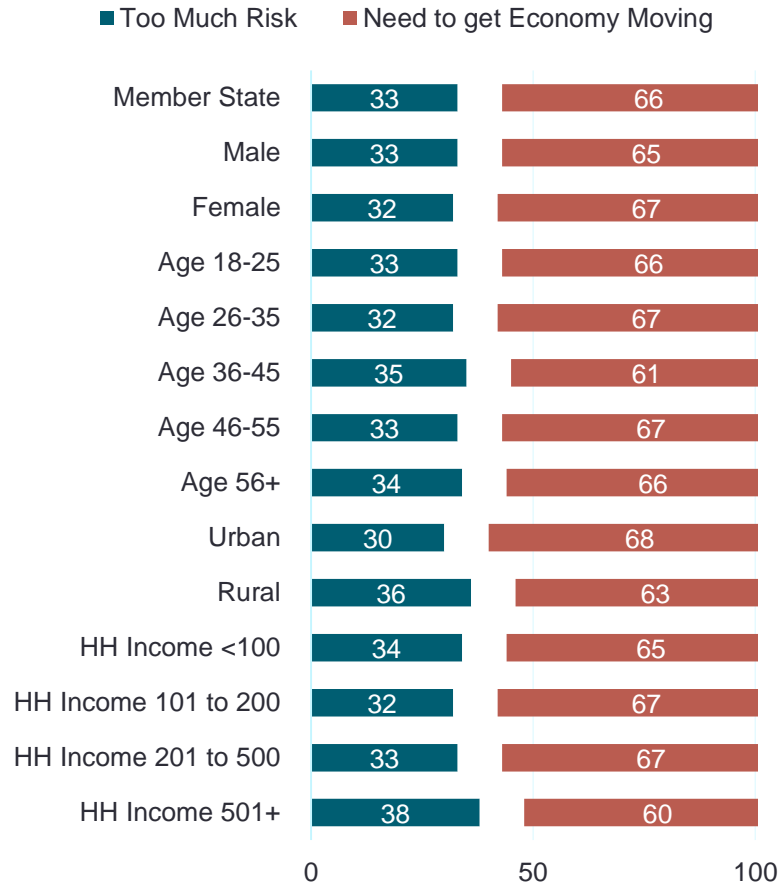


Q15. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

# Expectations about COVID-19



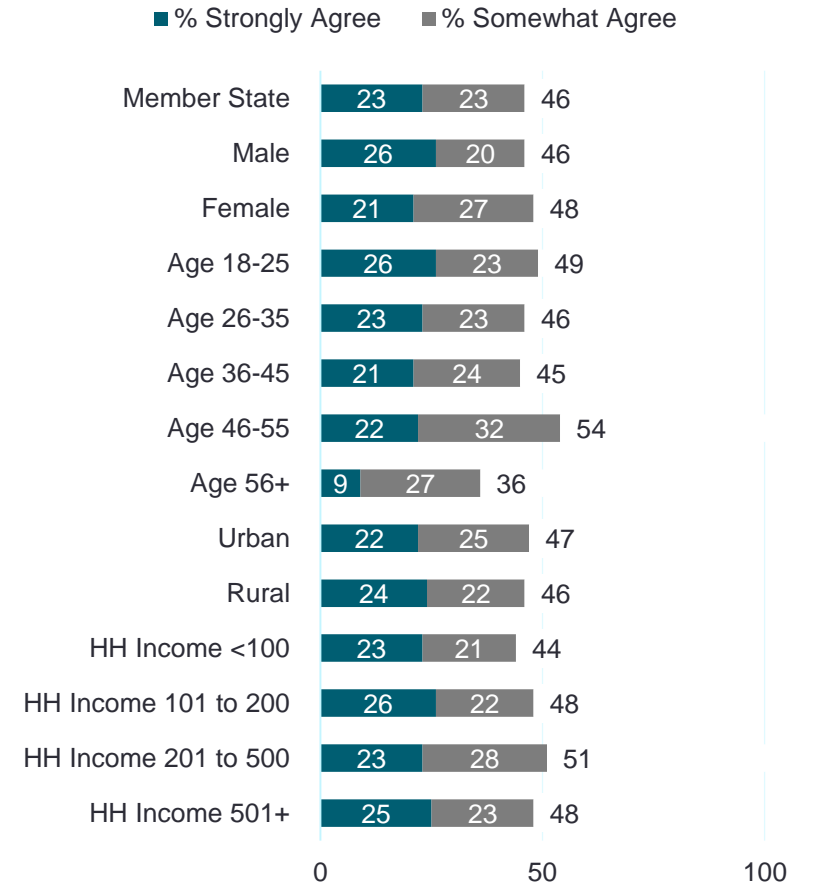
**Loosening Restrictions: “too risky to loosen restrictions” versus “there is a low risk and need to get economy moving”**



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:

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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.
- 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:

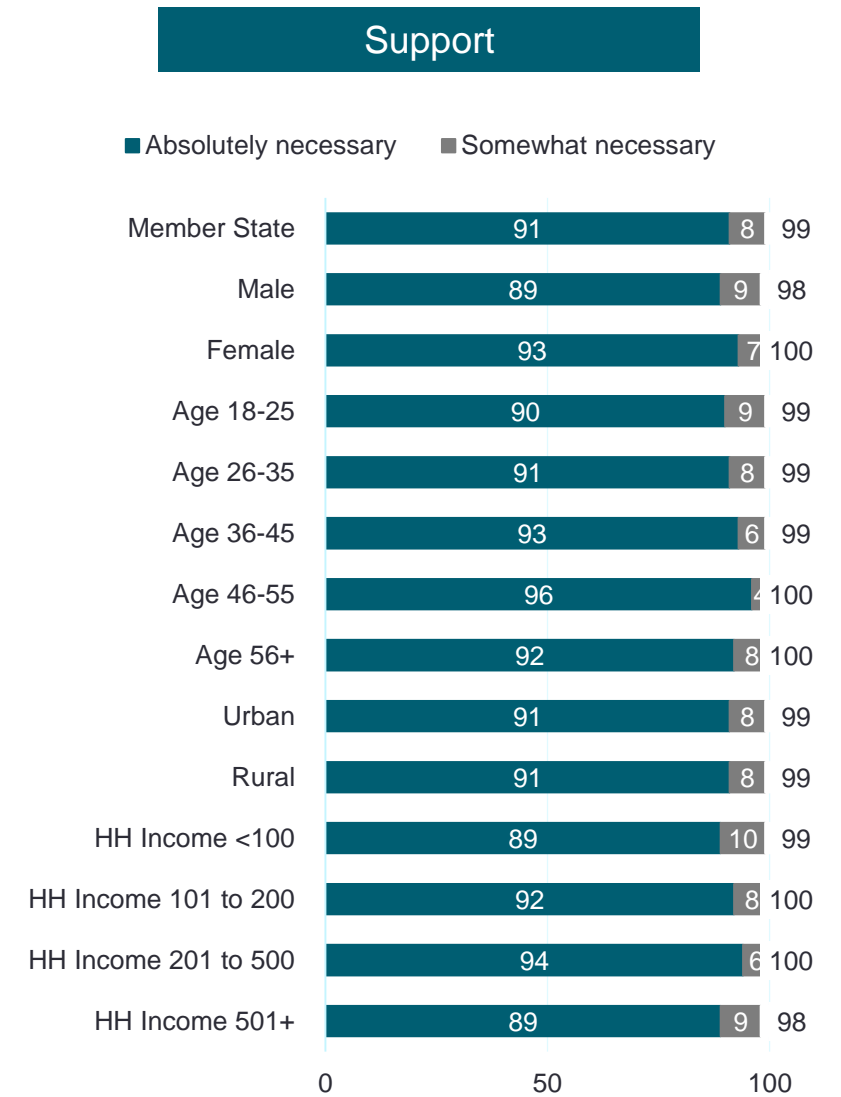
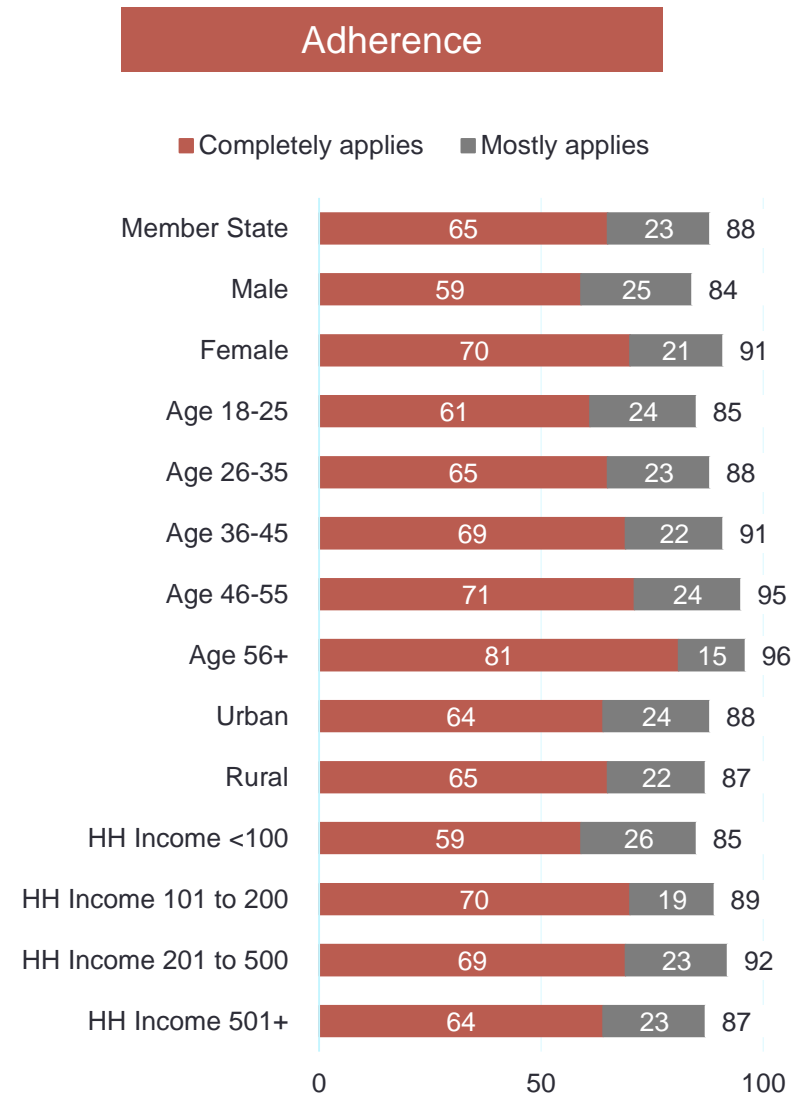
	Total	Male	Female	18-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56+	Urban	Rural	Under 100	101 - 200	201 - 500	501+
Base: All	1200	585	615	409	592	136	40	23	611	589	257	355	224	145

- 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.



# PERSONAL Public health and social measure (PHSM)

## Washing my hands many times per day

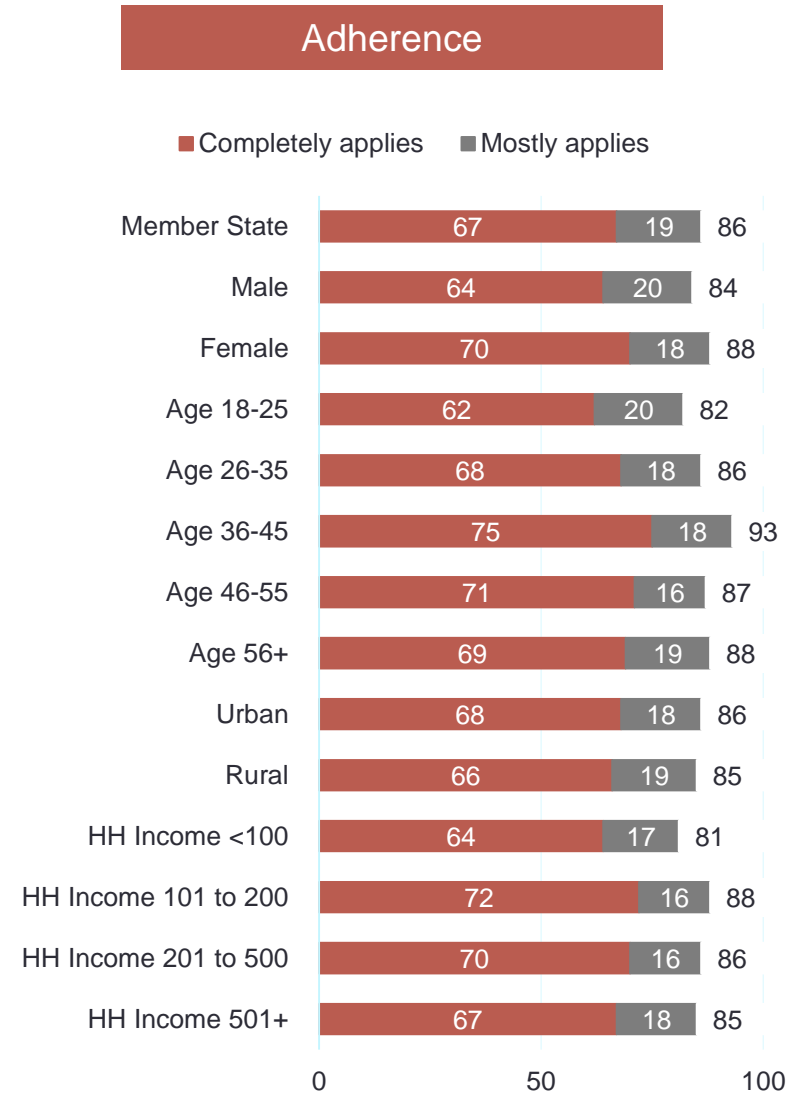


Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Washing my hands with soap or using hand sanitizer many times per day

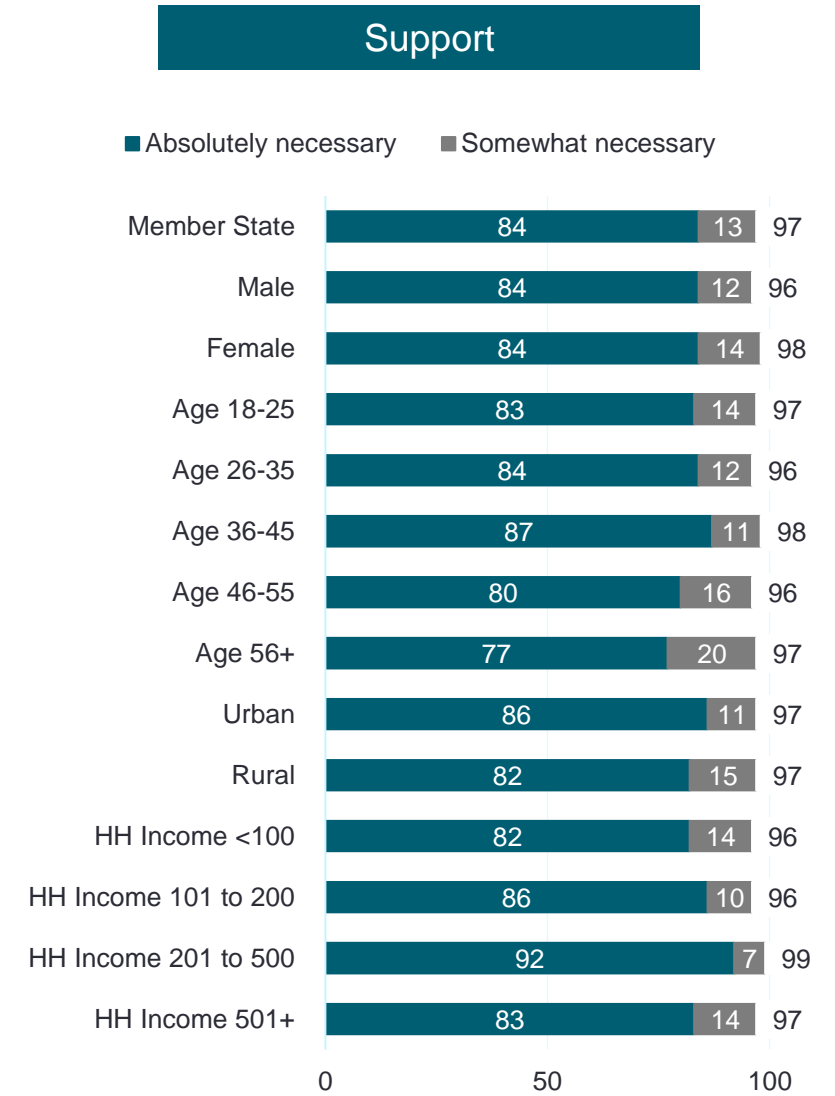
Q14. Thinking of the last four weeks, was asking people to do each of the following absolutely necessary, somewhat necessary, or not really necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in Ghana?: ...wash their hands with soap or use hand sanitizer more often than they used to

# 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

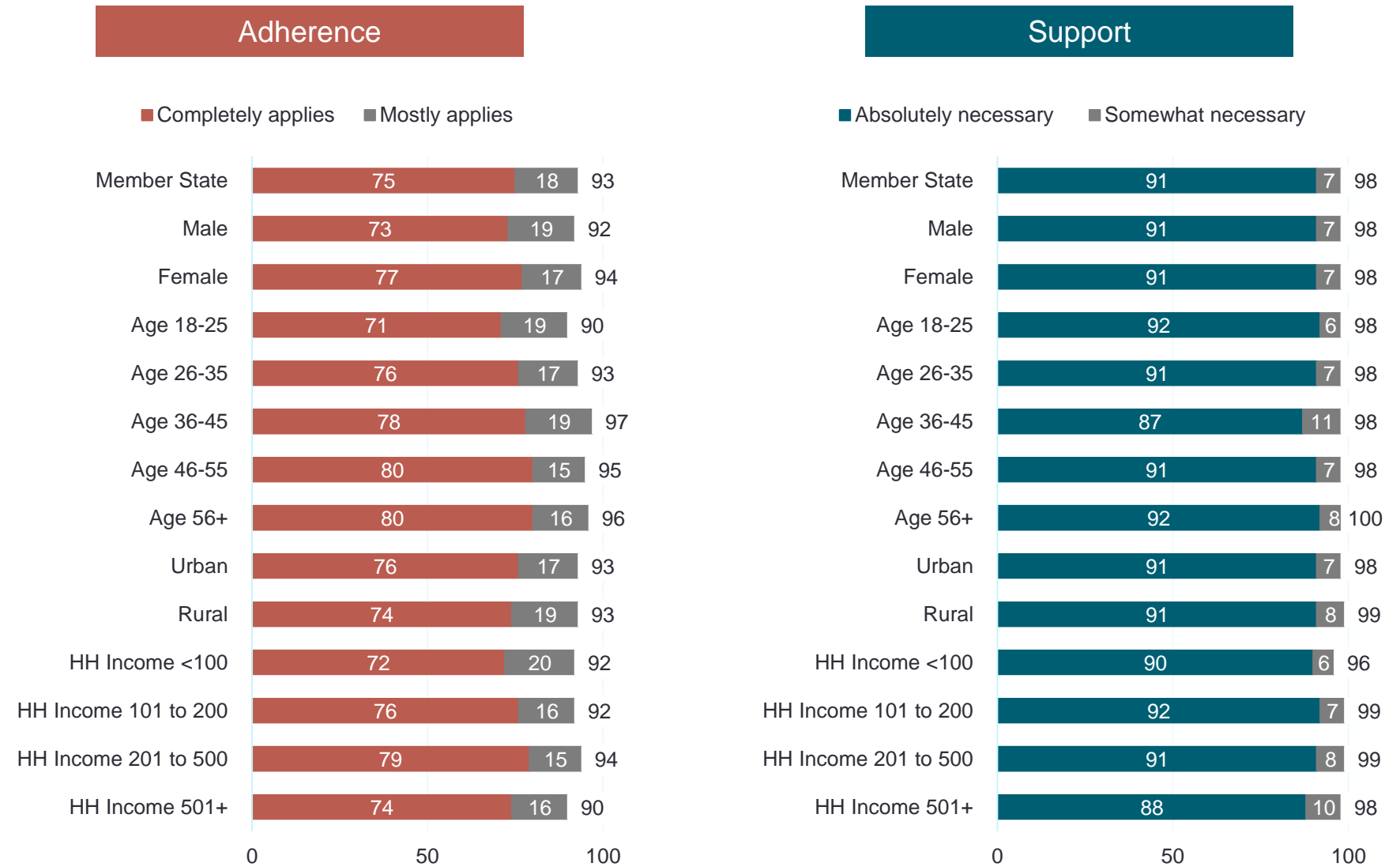


Q14. Thinking of the last four weeks, was asking people to do each of the following absolutely necessary, somewhat necessary, or not really necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in Ghana?: Avoiding handshakes and physical greetings



# PERSONAL Public health and social measure (PHSM)

## Wearing a face mask in public when near others

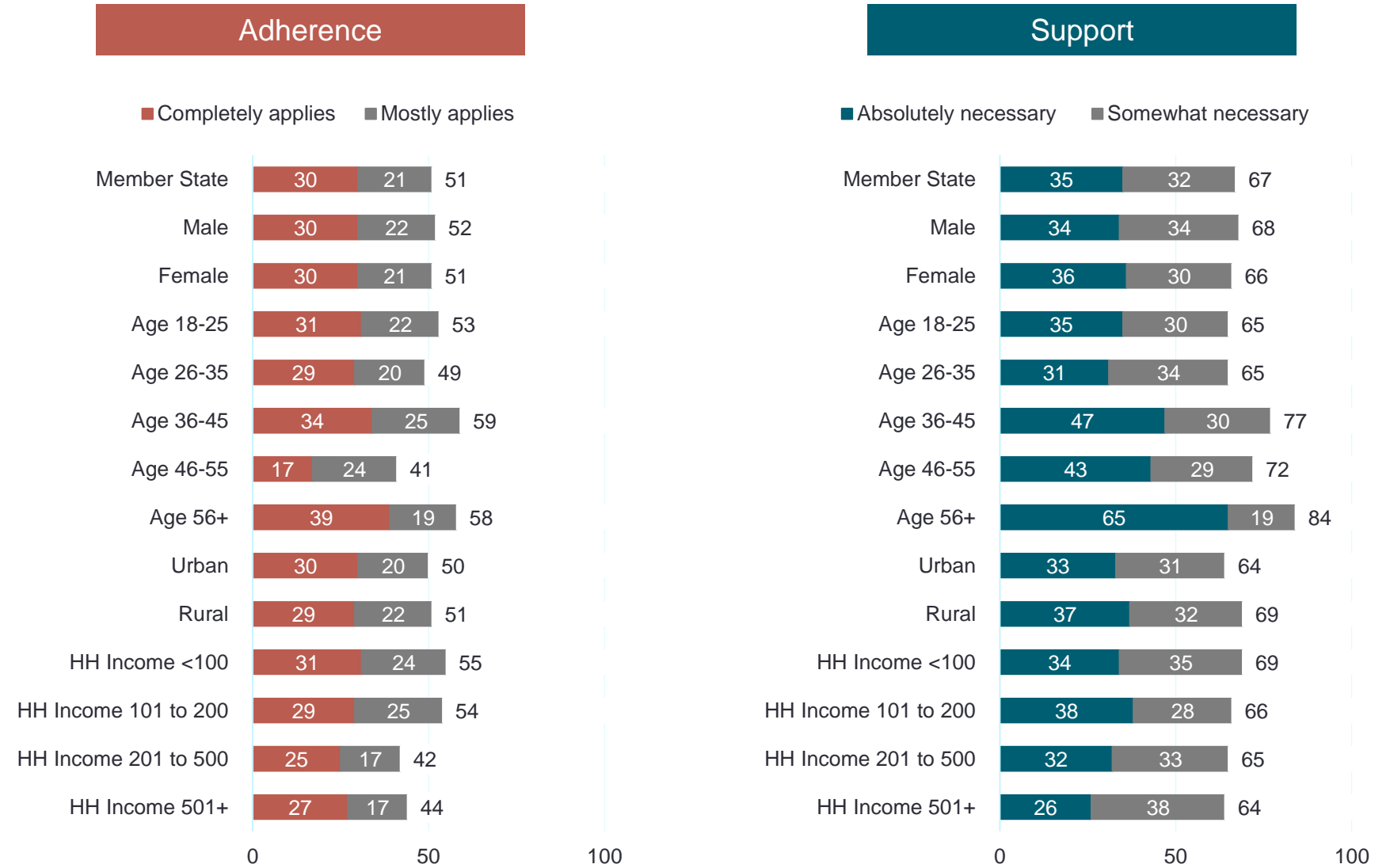


Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Wearing a face mask in public when near others

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 Ghana?: Wearing a face mask in public

# PUBLIC GATHERING Public health and social measure (PHSM)

## Avoiding the church/mosque

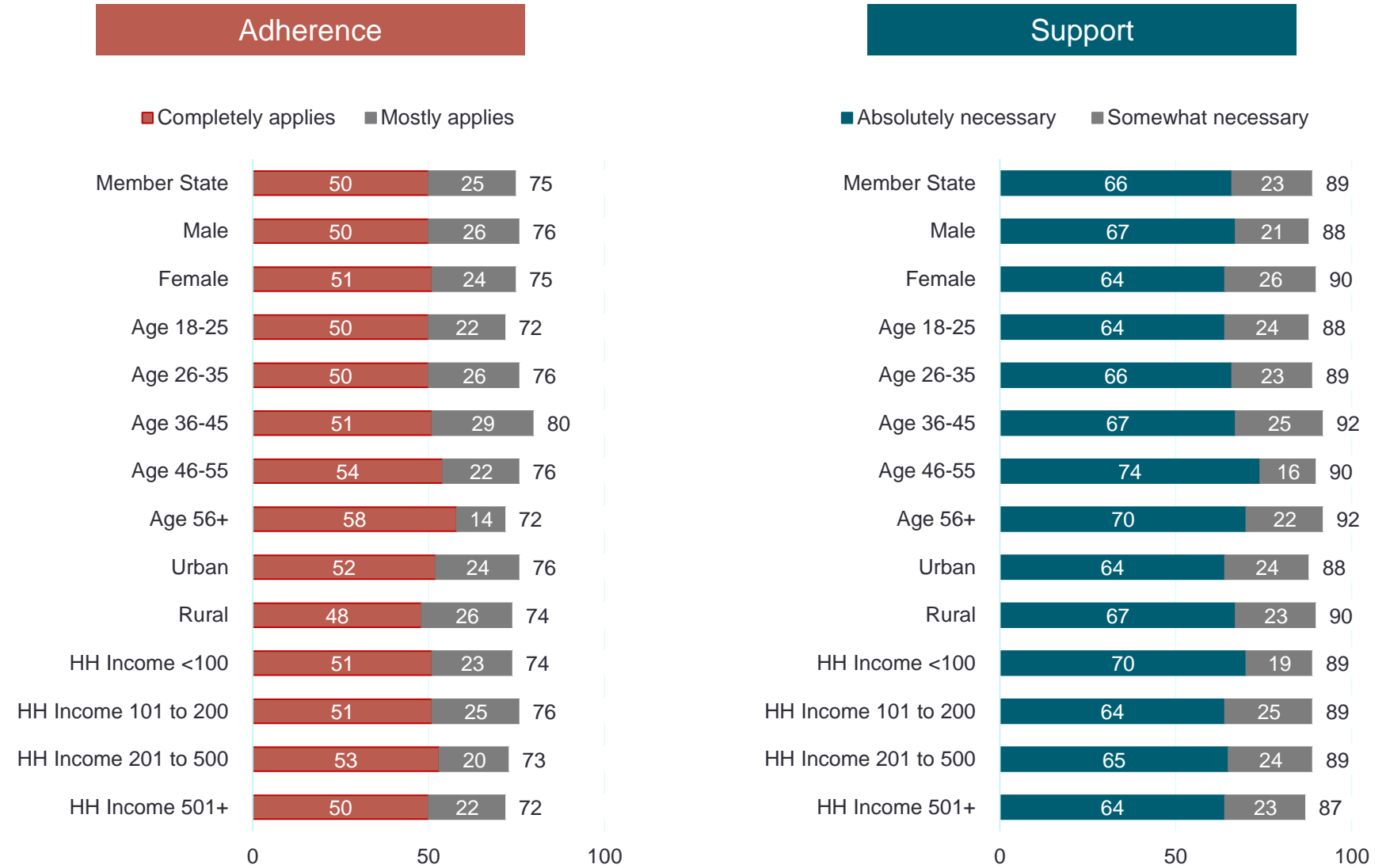


Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Avoiding the church/mosque

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 Ghana?: Avoiding the church/mosque

# PUBLIC GATHERING Public health and social measure (PHSM)

## Avoiding public gatherings and places of entertainment



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 Ghana?: Avoiding public gatherings and places of entertainment

# MOBILITY Public health and social measure (PHSM)

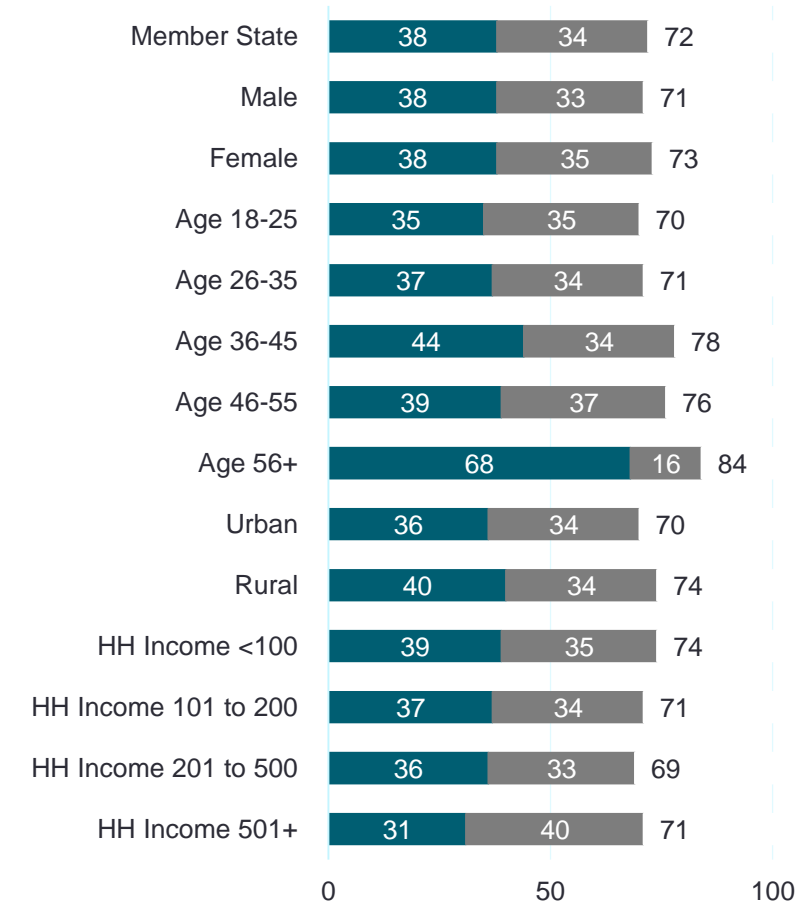
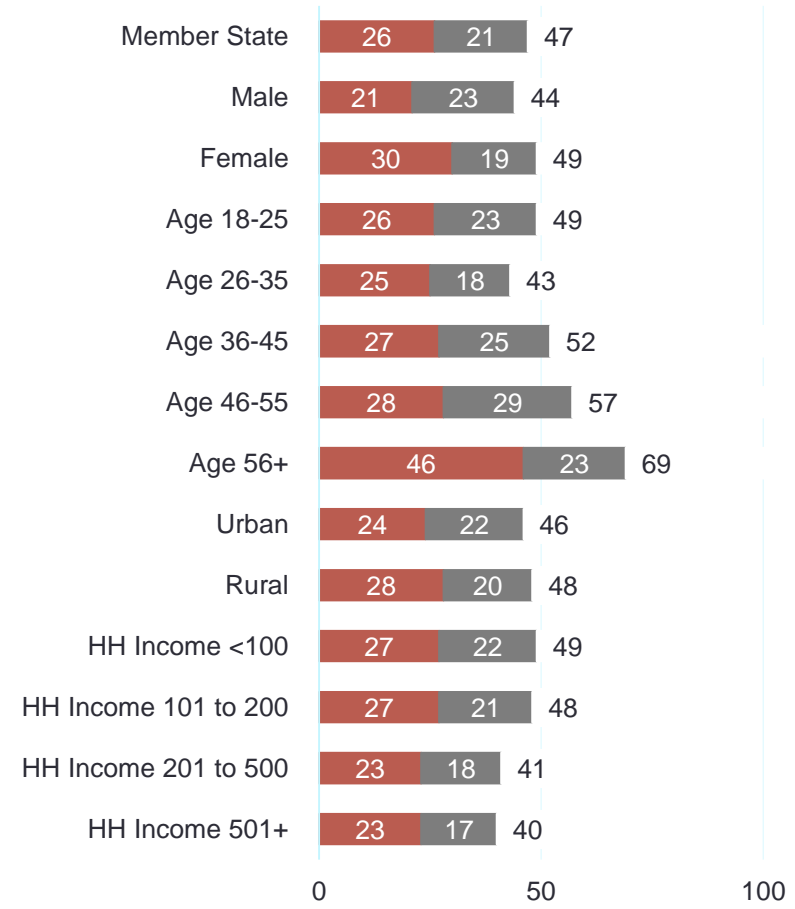
## Staying home instead of going to work, school or other regular activities

### Adherence

### Support

■ Completely applies ■ Mostly applies

■ Absolutely necessary ■ Somewhat necessary

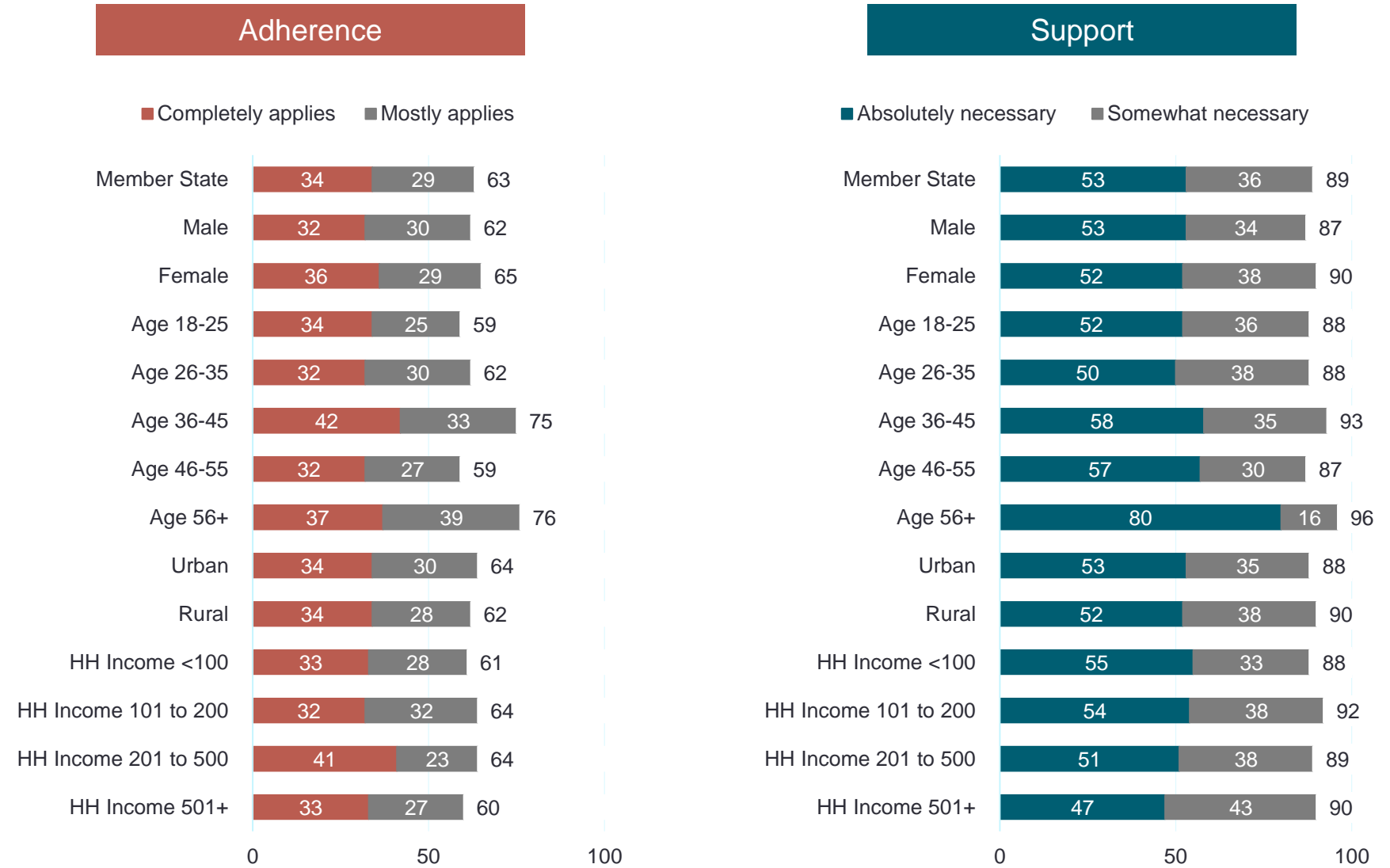


Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Staying home instead of going to work, school or other regular activities

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