

# **ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF GHANAIANS: WHAT THE AFROBAROMETER SAYS**

**RESULTS FROM THE AFROBAROMETER ROUND 5 SURVEY IN  
GHANA**



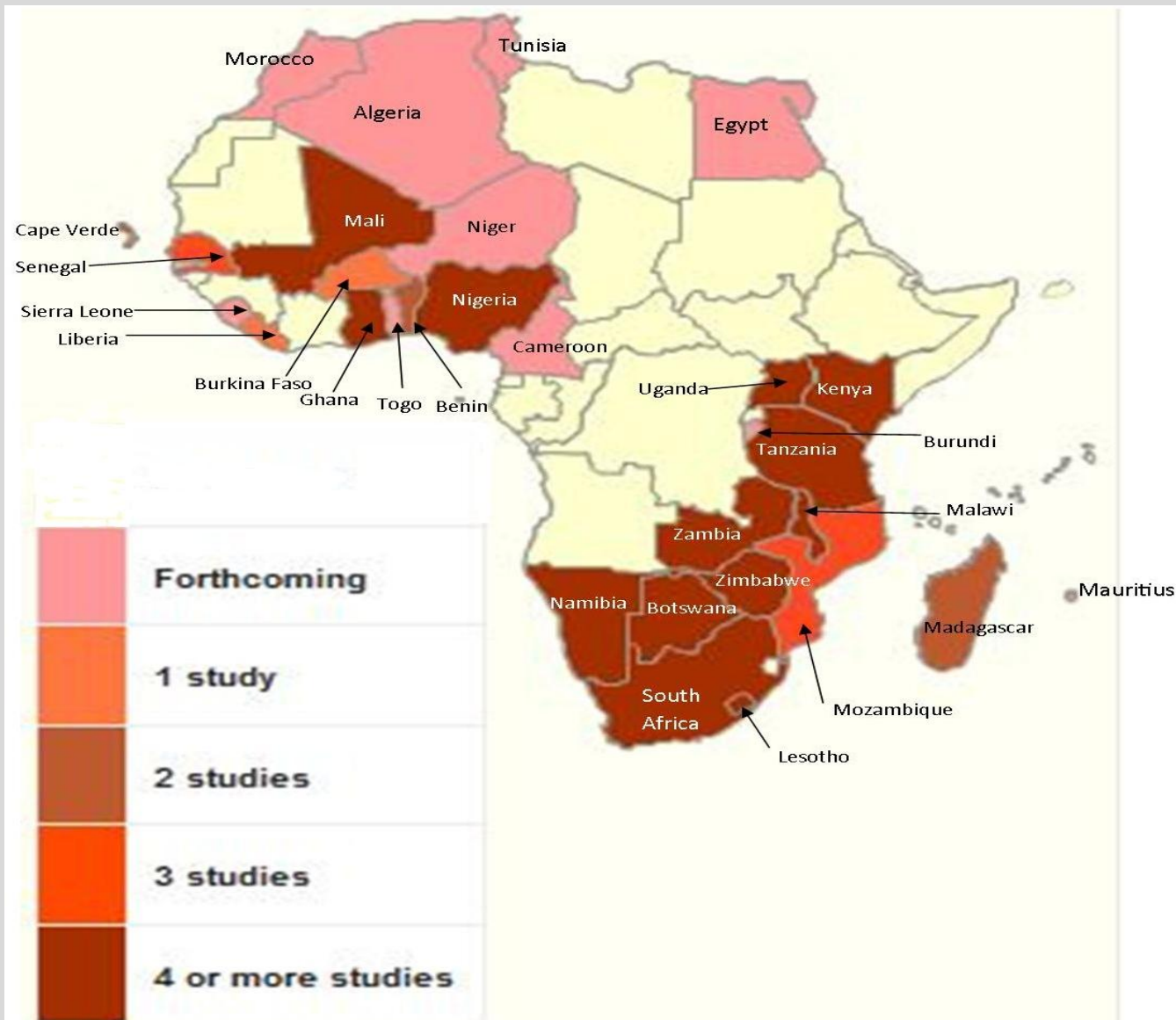
**Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2012**

[www.afrobarometer.org](http://www.afrobarometer.org)  
[www.cddghana.org](http://www.cddghana.org)

## What is the Afrobarometer?

- ★ The Afrobarometer (AB) is a comparative series of public opinion surveys that measure public attitudes toward democracy, governance, the economy, leadership, identity, and other related issues
- ★ The AB is an independent, non-partisan, African-based network of researchers
- ★ The first round of surveys took place in 1999-2001 in 12 countries. The Network is now conducting “Round 5” surveys in up to 35 countries during 2011-2012
- ★ **Purpose:** To measure popular perspectives on the social, political, and economic environments in each country where it is implemented and across Africa
- ★ **Goal:** To give the public a *voice* in policy making processes by providing high-quality public opinion data to policy-makers, policy advocates and civil society organizations, academics, media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans

- ★ **Round 1, 1999-2001, 12 countries**
  - *Southern Africa: Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe*
  - *West Africa: Ghana, Mali, Nigeria*
  - *East Africa: Tanzania, Uganda*
  
- ★ **Round 2, 2002-2003, 16 countries**
  - *All Round 1 countries*
  - *Cape Verde, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal*
  
- ★ **Round 3, 2005-2006, 18 countries**
  - *Benin, Madagascar*
  
- ★ **Round 4, 2008-2009, 20 countries**
  - *Burkina Faso, Liberia*
  
- ★ **Round 5, 2011-2013, 35 countries targeted**
  - *Burundi, Cameroon, Mauritius, Niger, Togo, and Sierra Leone*



An African-led Network of survey researchers and analysts:

- ★ In each country there is a **National Partner** responsible for survey implementation. In Ghana, the National Partner is CDD-Ghana
- ★ Four **Core Partners** provide technical assistance and Network management:
  - *Center for Democratic Development (CDD), Ghana*
  - *Institute for Democracy in South Africa (Idasa), South Africa*
  - *Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi, Kenya*
  - *Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy (IREEP), Benin*
- ★ Two **Support Units** for capacity building and quality assurance
  - *Michigan State University*
  - *University of Cape Town*
- ★ Round 5 **Core Funders** include
  - *DFID*
  - *SIDA*
  - *USAID*
  - *Mo Ibrahim Foundation*

- ★ Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
  - *All respondents are randomly selected*
  - *Every adult citizen has an equal and known chance of being selected*
- ★ Face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice
- ★ Standard survey instrument across all countries for comparability
- ★ The survey interviewed 2400 adult Ghanaians; A sample of this size yields results with a margin of error of  $\pm 2.0\%$  at a 95% confidence level
- ★ Field work for Round 5 in Ghana was conducted between May 9 and June 1 in 2012
- ★ Afrobarometer's work in Ghana is coordinated by [CDD-Ghana] and field work was carried out by Practical Sampling International (PSI-Nigeria/Ghana in collaboration with CDD-Ghana

	Weighted	Un-weighted
<b>AGE</b>		
Mean Age	37 years	37 years
Youngest Respondent	18 years	18 years
Oldest Respondent	100 years	100 years
18 – 30 years	45%	44%
31 – 45 years	30%	30%
46 – 60 years	16%	16%
60 years and above	9%	10%
<b>GENDER</b>		
Male	50%	50%
Female	50%	50%
<b>EDUCATION</b>		
None/Informal	21%	23%
Primary completed / Some primary school	37%	37%
Secondary completed / Some secondary school	32%	31%
Higher (Post-secondary / Univ. / Some Univ.)	10%	9%
<p><i>Note: Some primary school = 15% for both un-weighted and Weighted results. Some secondary school = 15% for both un-weighted and Weighted results.</i></p>		

	Weighted	Un-weighted
<b>REGION / PROVINCE</b>		
Western	9.5%	9.7%
Central	8.7%	8.7%
Greater Accra	18.6%	15.7%
Volta	8.6%	9.7%
Eastern	10.6%	11.0%
Ashanti	19.5%	18.3%
Brong-Ahafo	9.0%	9.3%
Northern	8.9%	10.3%
Upper East	4.0%	4.7%
Upper west	2.6%	2.7%
<b>LOCATION</b>		
Urban	54%	48%
Rural	46%	52%



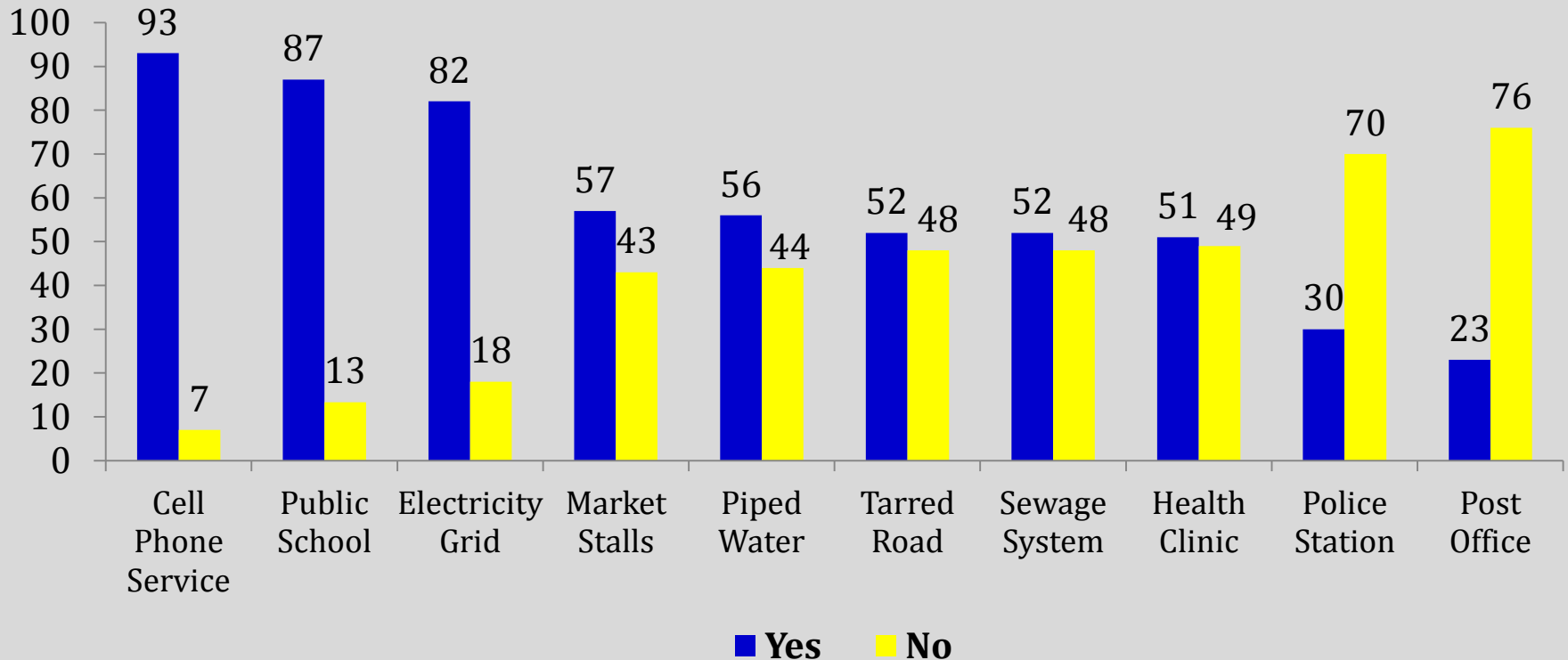
# STRUCTURE OF PRESENTATION

The presentation will focus on the findings relating to the following:

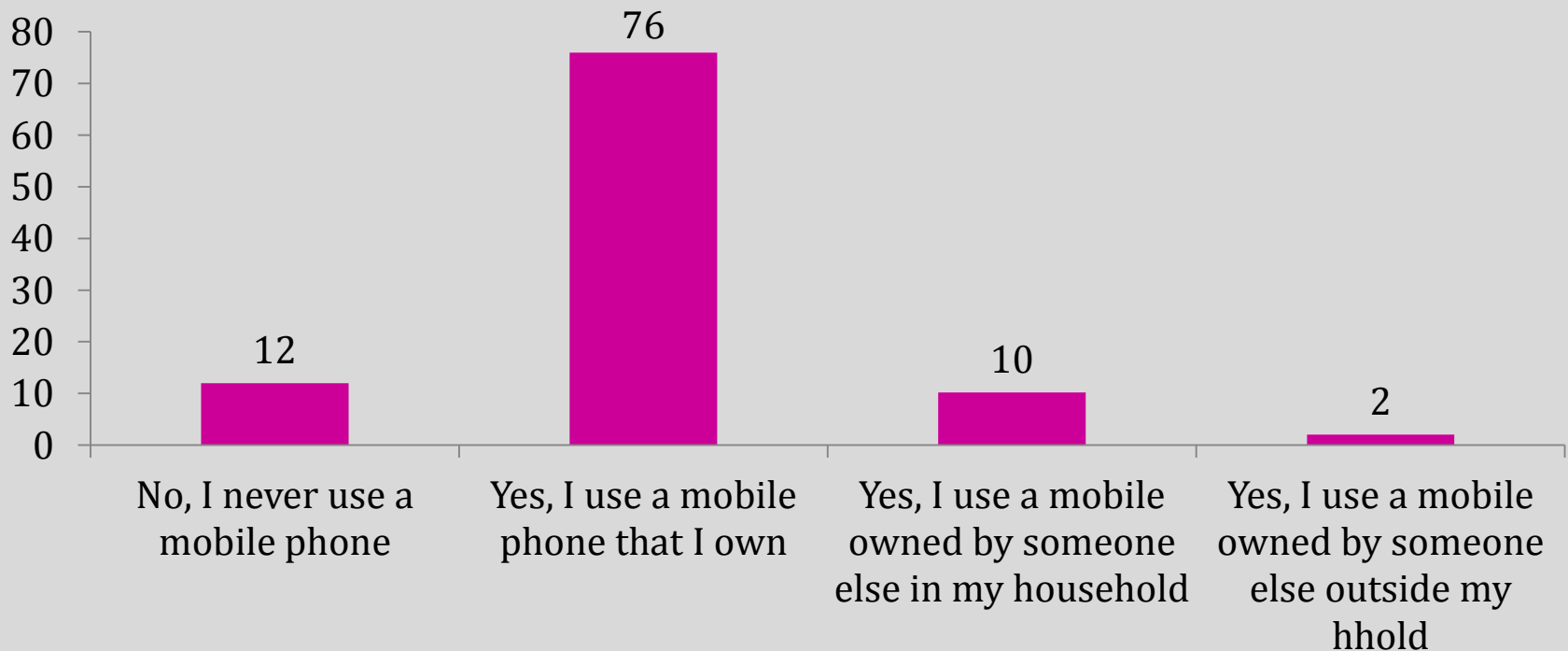
- ★ Social conditions of Ghanaians
- ★ Evaluations of national economic conditions
- ★ Evaluations of personal economic/living conditions
- ★ Ghanaian experiences with lived poverty
- ★ Ghanaian public agenda (or the needs of Ghanaians)

# SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF GHANAIANS

- ★ Apart from police stations and post offices, AB fieldworkers found mobile phone network services, public schools, electricity grids, market stalls, piped water systems, tarred roads, sewage systems and health clinics in more than half of the survey locations



- ★ Mobile phone usage among Ghanaians is very high at **88%** (i.e. 76% + 10% + 2%)
- ★ But mobile phone ownership is 12 percentage points lower than usage (**76%**)

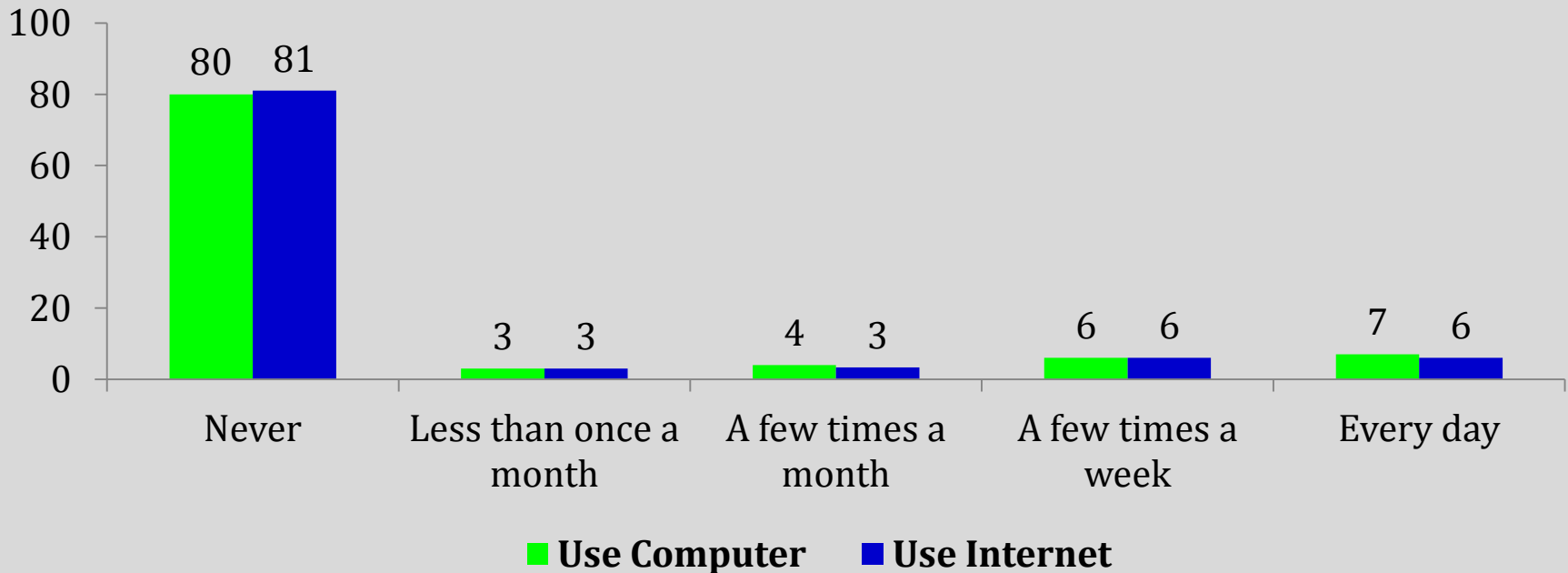


- ★ The frequency of usage of mobile phones for calls among Ghanaians is very high (i.e. **81%**)
- ★ The usage of mobile phones for sending text messages and/or for transferring money is much lower at **36%** and **3%** respectively

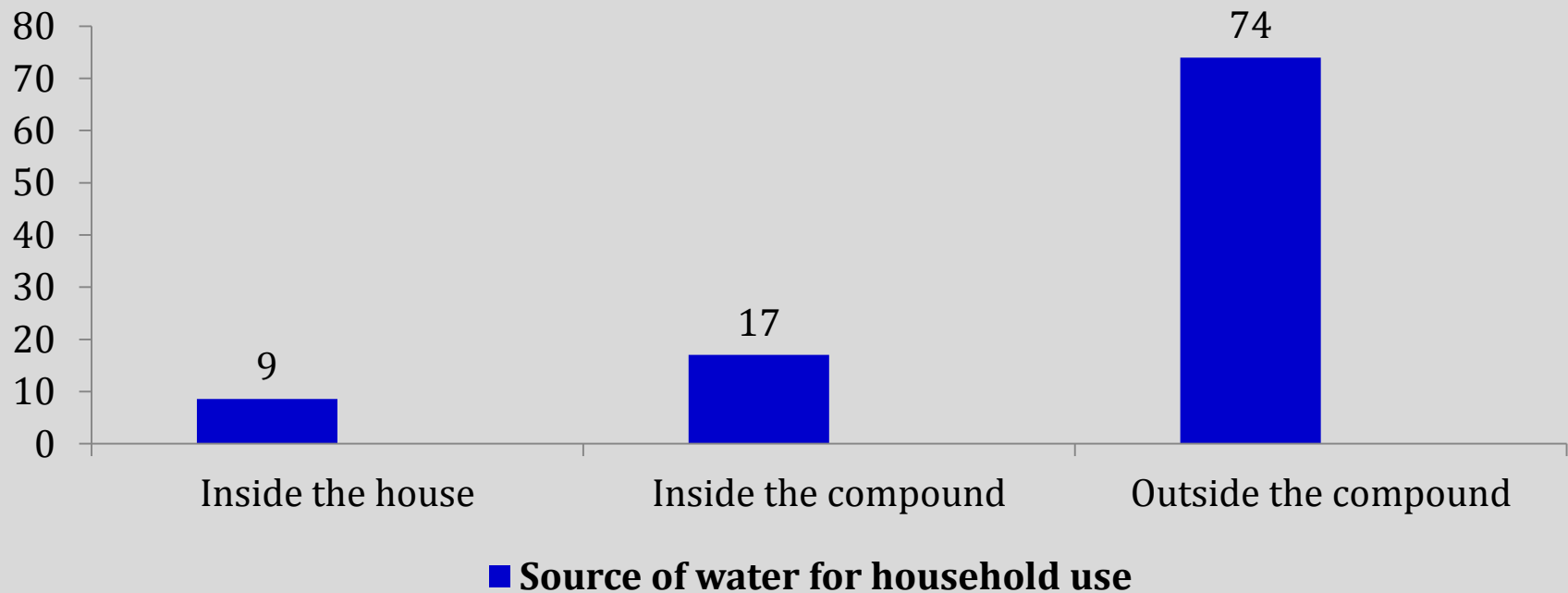
## Usage of mobile for specific purposes among Ghanaians

	Use cell Phone for calls	Receive/Send Text Message	Receive/Send Money
Never / Less than one time per day	19	63	97
One or two times per day	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>
Three or four times per day	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>
Five or more times per day	<b>50</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>

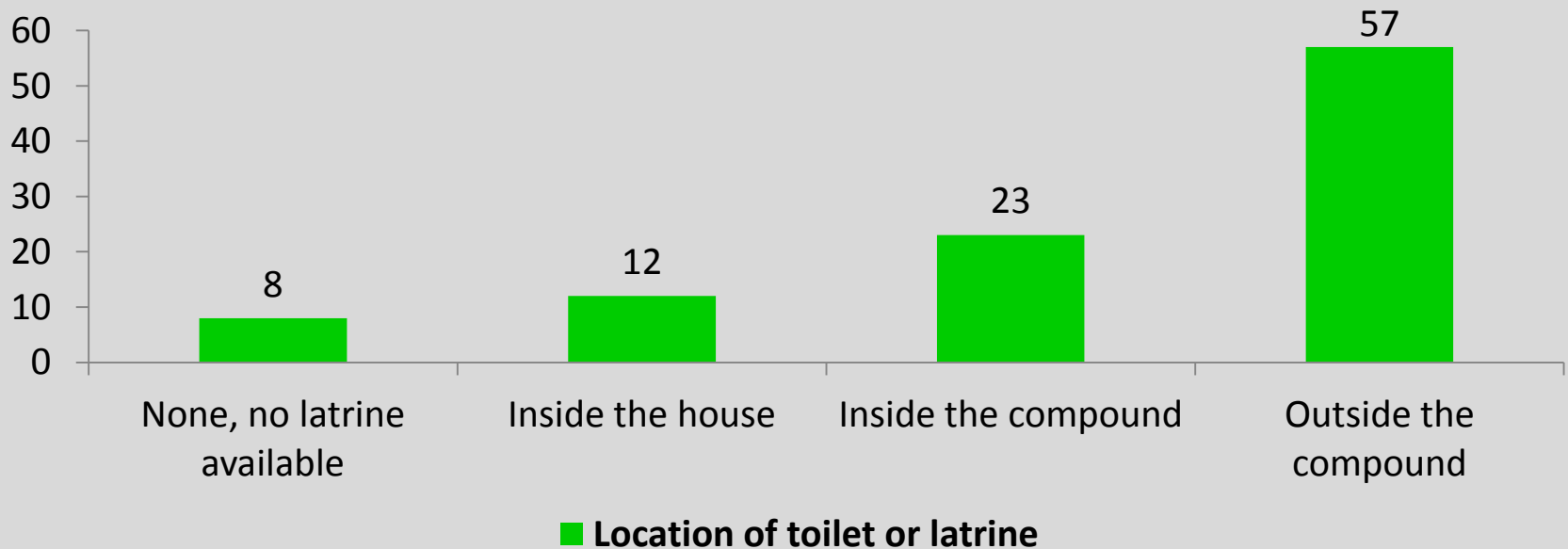
- Computer and internet usage among Ghanaians is quite low. Less than a fifth use the computer (17%) and the internet (15%) a few times in a month, week or daily
- A vast majority of Ghanaians (83% and 84% respectively) never use or use the computer and the internet less than once a month



- ★ A majority of the respondents (74%) obtain their water for household use from outside their compounds/houses.
- ★ A quarter (26%) source their household water from inside the compound/house

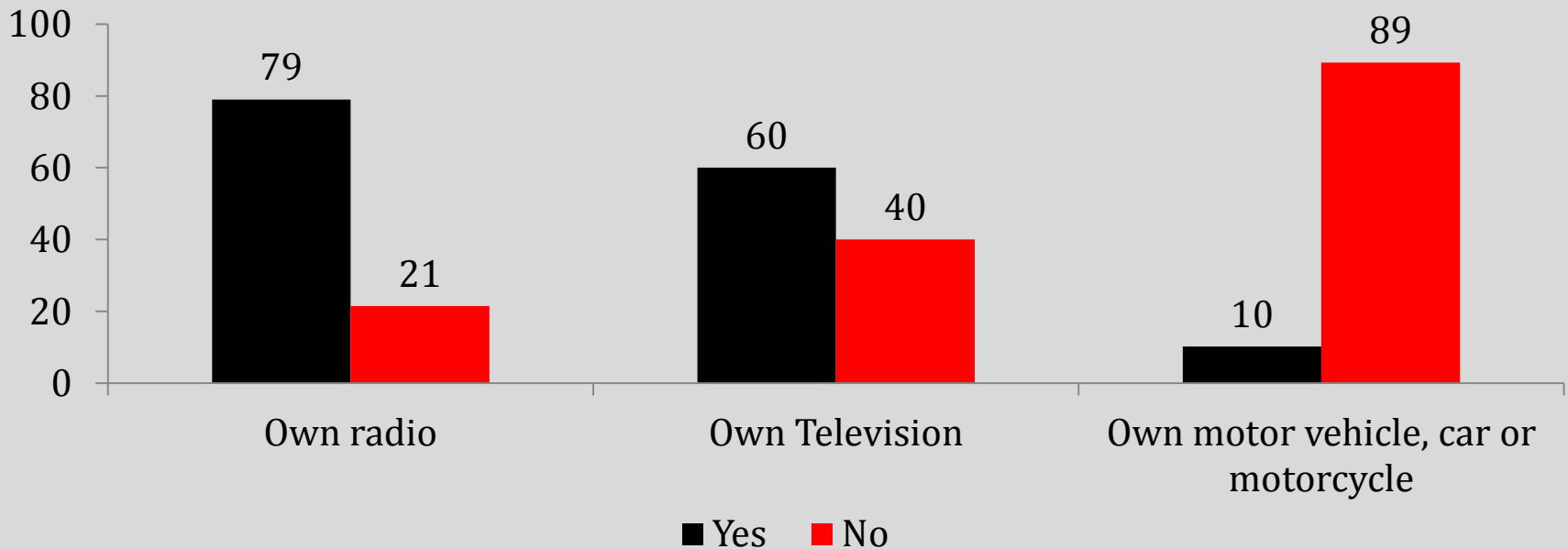


- ★ A majority (57%) have their toilets or latrines located outside their compounds
- ★ A third (35%) report their that toilets/latrines are located inside the compound/house
- ★ 8% of Ghanaians lack access to toilets/latrines

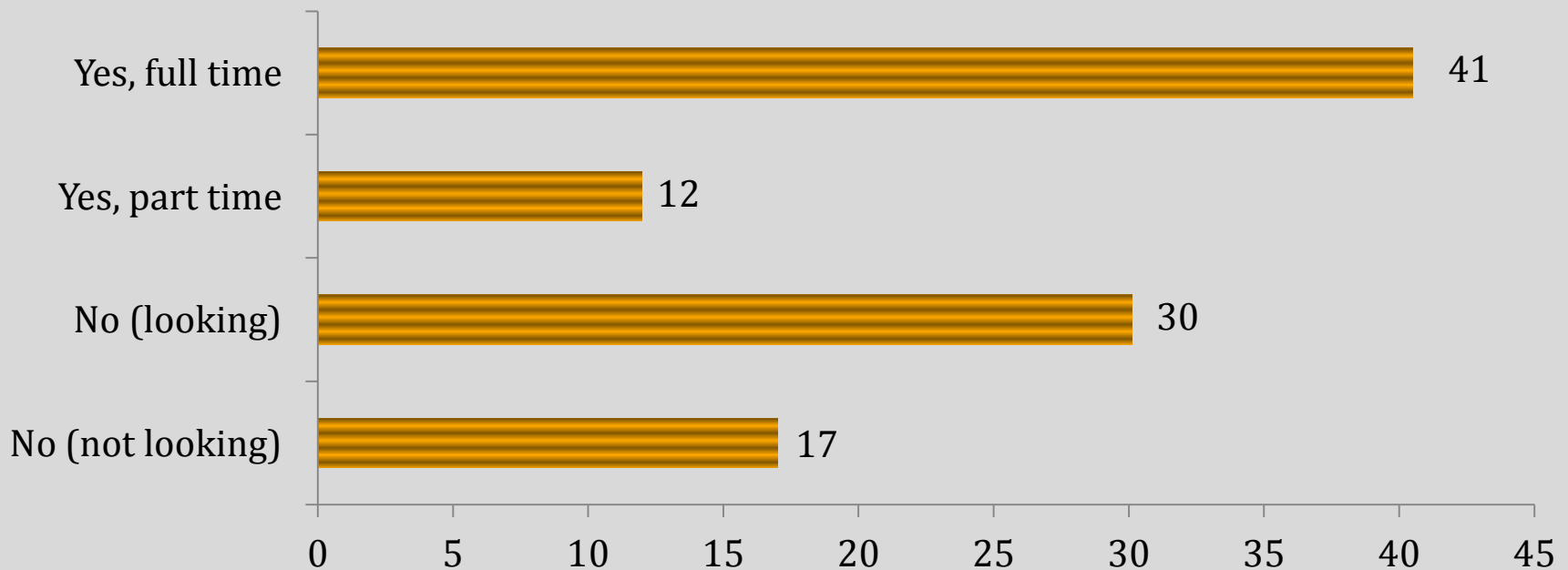




- ★ Most Ghanaians own a radio (**79%**)
- ★ Most Ghanaians own a television (**60%**)
- ★ Only **10%** own a motor vehicle or a motorcycle.



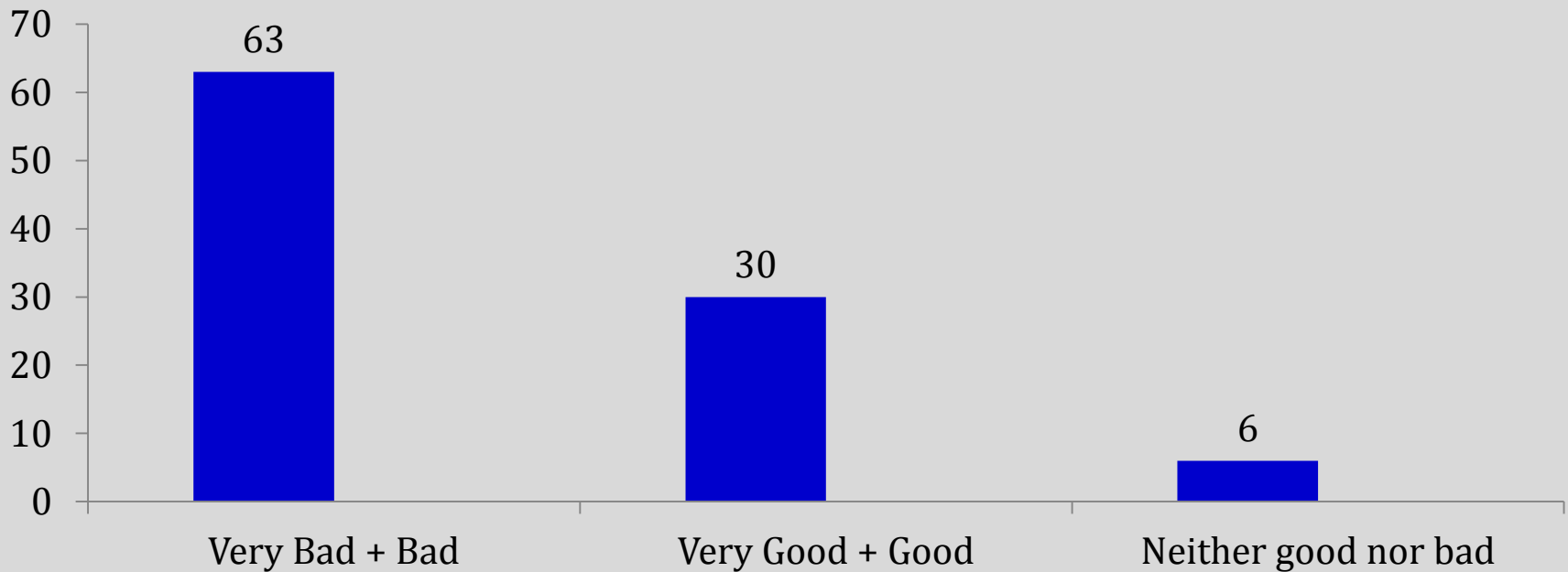
- ★ Just a small majority of respondents are either employed full-time or part-time (**53%**)
- ★ A sizeable minority (**47%**) are unemployed and are either looking for or not looking for job



# GHANAIAN EVALUATION OF THE ECONOMY

# Country's Economic Conditions [1]

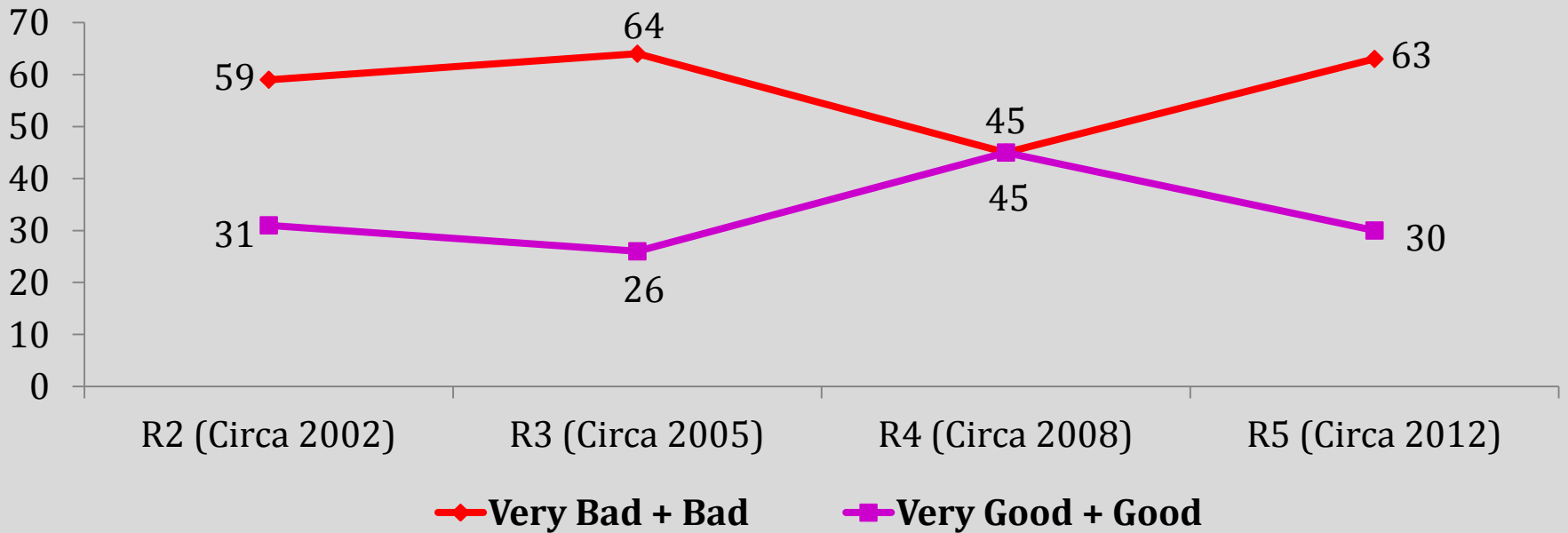
- ★ Majority of those interviewed describe the country's economic conditions (**63%**) as “very bad” or “bad”
- ★ However, about a third (**30%**) think otherwise



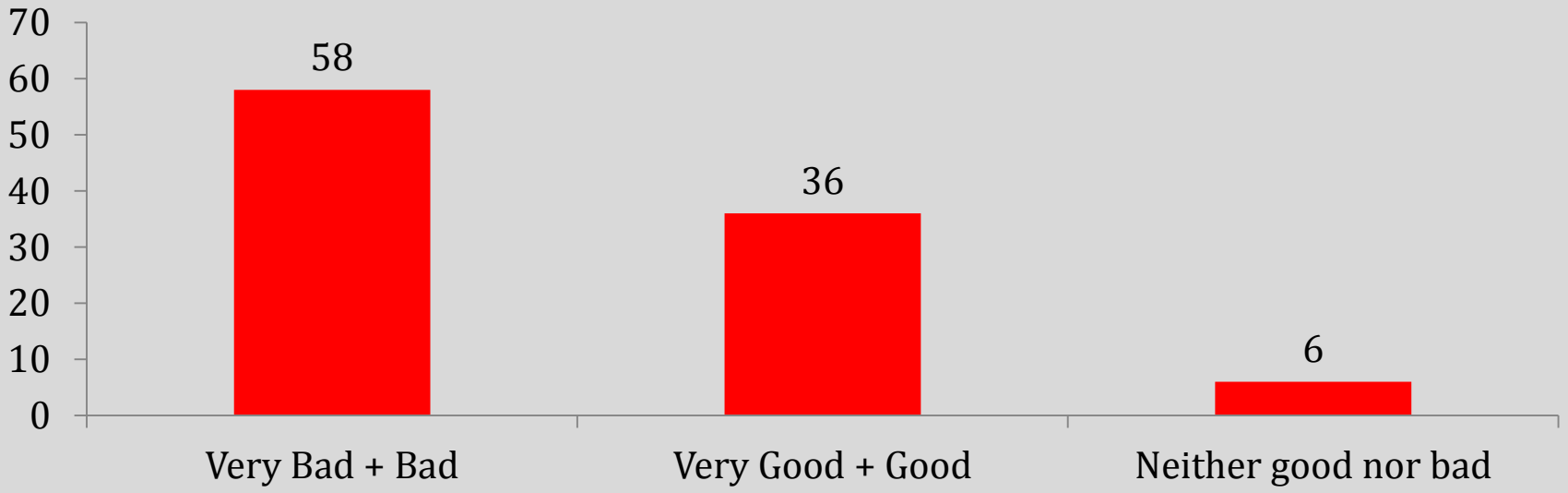
■ Country's Economic Conditions

# Country's Economic Conditions [2]

- ★ Between 2008 and 2012, we observe an **18%** increase in negative perception about the country's economy
- ★ There was a **15%** decline in positive perception over the same period
- ★ However, the trend from 2002 to 2012 has been fairly stable

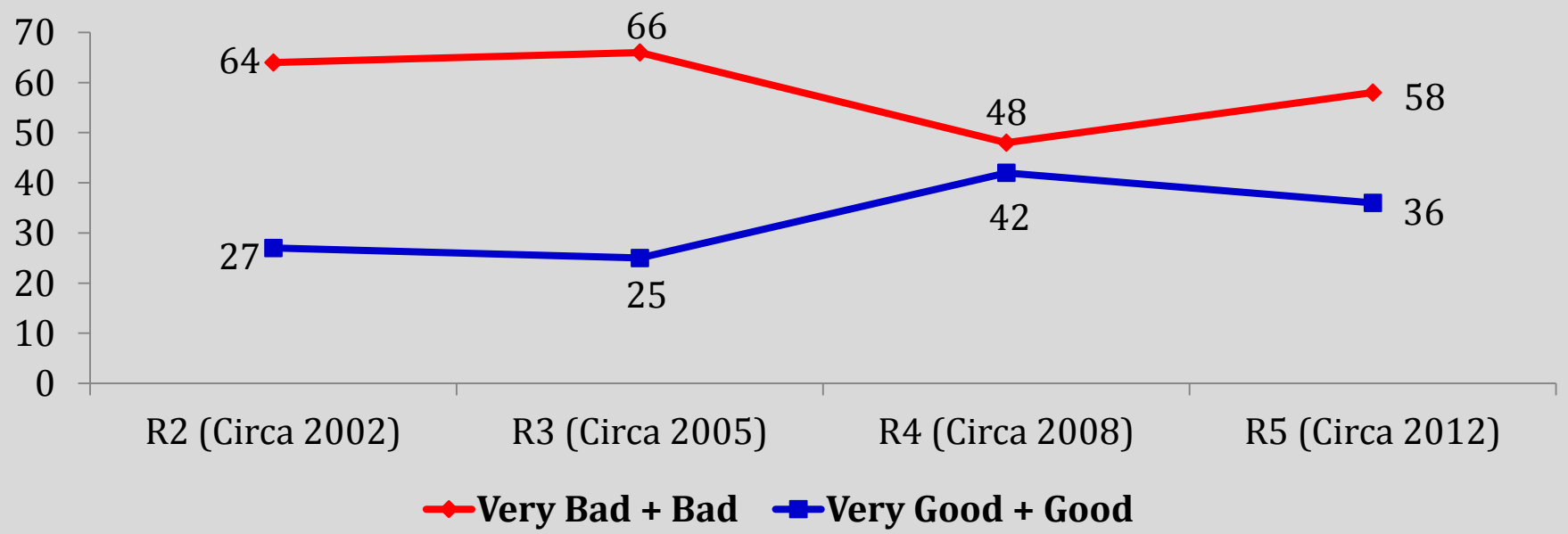


- ★ A majority of Ghanaians assess their personal living conditions (**58%**) as “very bad” or “bad”
- ★ However, a little over a third (i.e. **36%**) assess their living conditions as “very good” or “good”



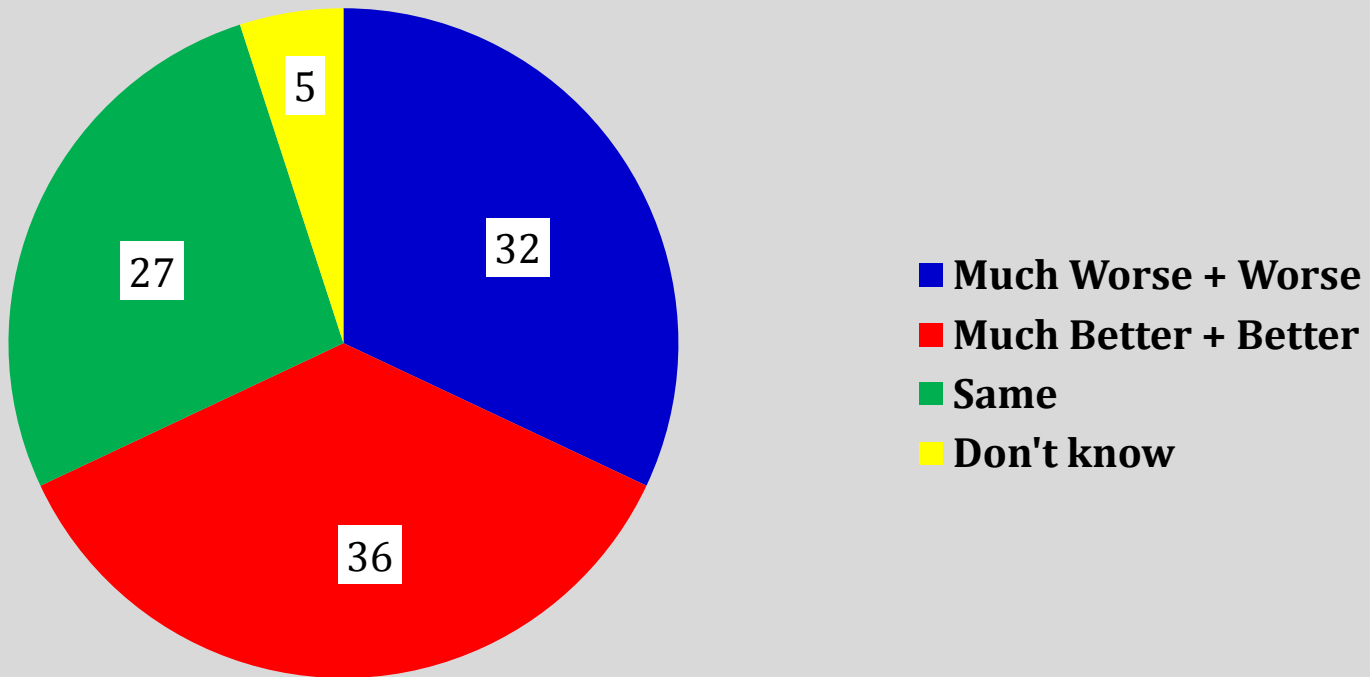
■ Personal Living Conditions

- ★ The trend from 2002 to 2012 shows a dip in the number of Ghanaians describing their living conditions as “very bad” and “bad”, and an upturn in the numbers rating their living conditions as “very good” or “good”
- ★ However, from 2008 to 2012 there has been a **6%** decline in the number describing their conditions as “very good” or “good” and a **10%** increase in those saying conditions are “very bad” or “bad”



# Personal Living Conditions Compared to Others [1]

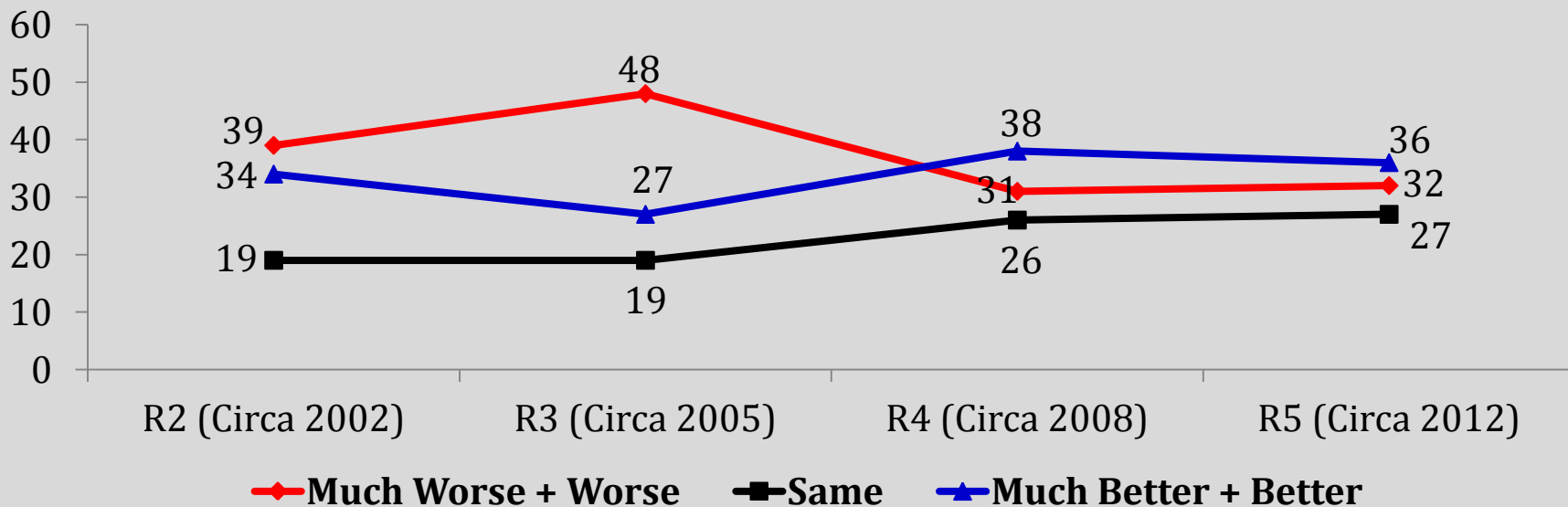
- ★ Ghanaians are almost equally divided in the assessment of their living conditions relative to their compatriots as “much better” or “better” (36%) and “much worse” or “worse” (32%)
- ★ Nearly a third do not see a difference between their living conditions and that of other Ghanaians (i.e. Same, 27%)





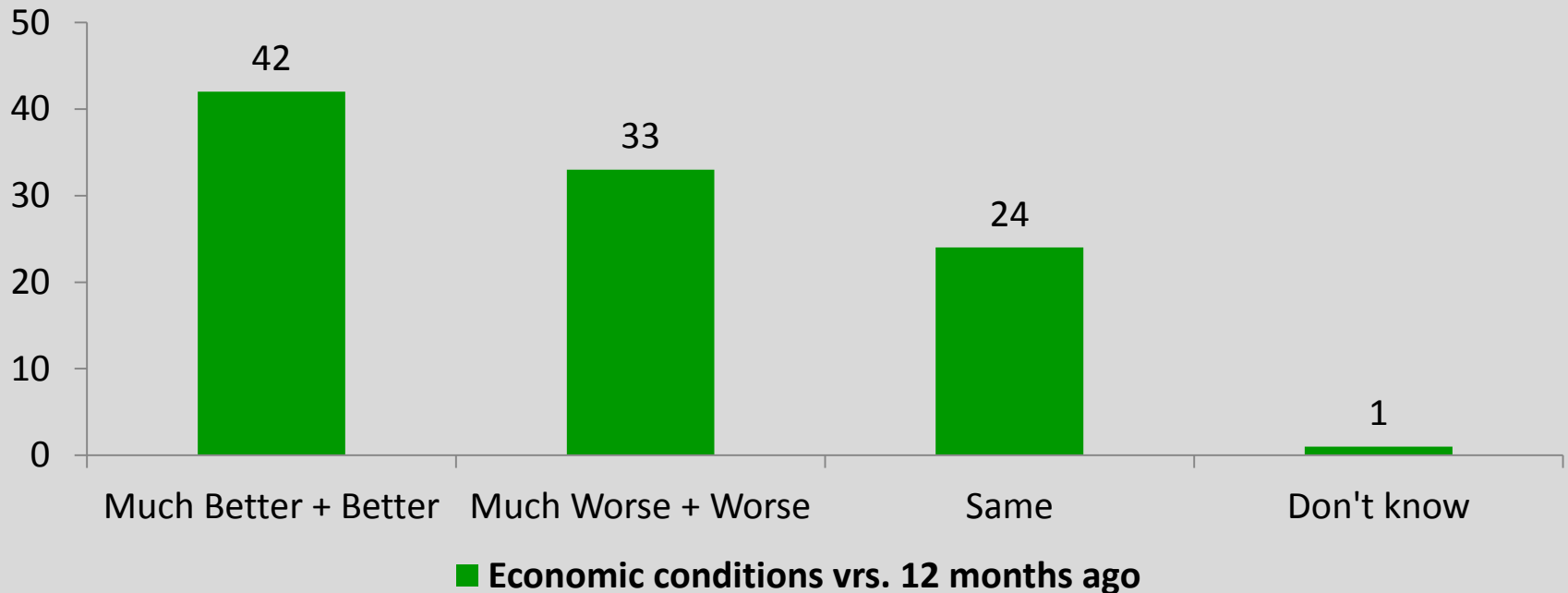
## Personal Living Conditions Compared to Others [2]

- ★ The percentages of respondents describing their living conditions as “much better” or better” relative to that of other Ghanaians have remained fairly stable from 2002 to 2012
- ★ Those who claim they are worse-off has dropped by **7%** while the number who perceive no difference between their living conditions and that of their compatriots is up by **8%**
- ★ Over the last 4 years (i.e. 2008 to 2012) all these opinions have remained stable



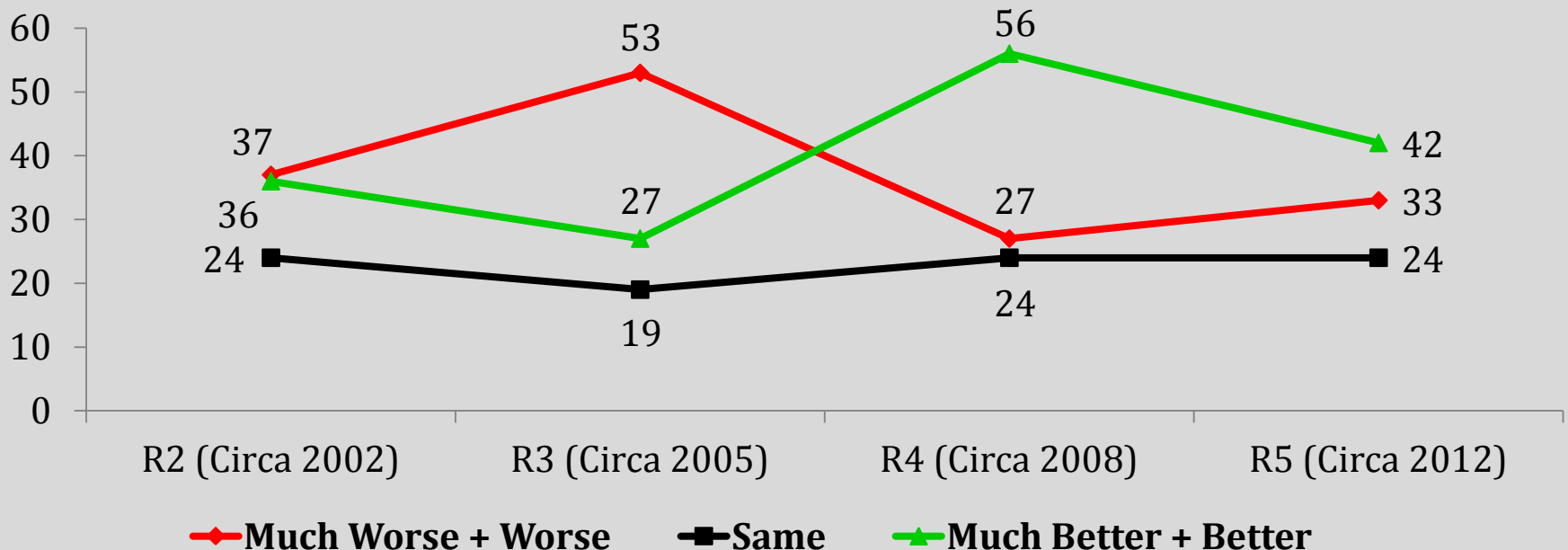
# Country's Economic Conditions - Retrospective [1]

- ☉ Retrospective opinions show that nearly half of respondents (42%) rate national economic conditions as “much better” or “better” than 12 months ago
- ☉ Nonetheless, a third (33%) rate it as “much worse” or “worse”



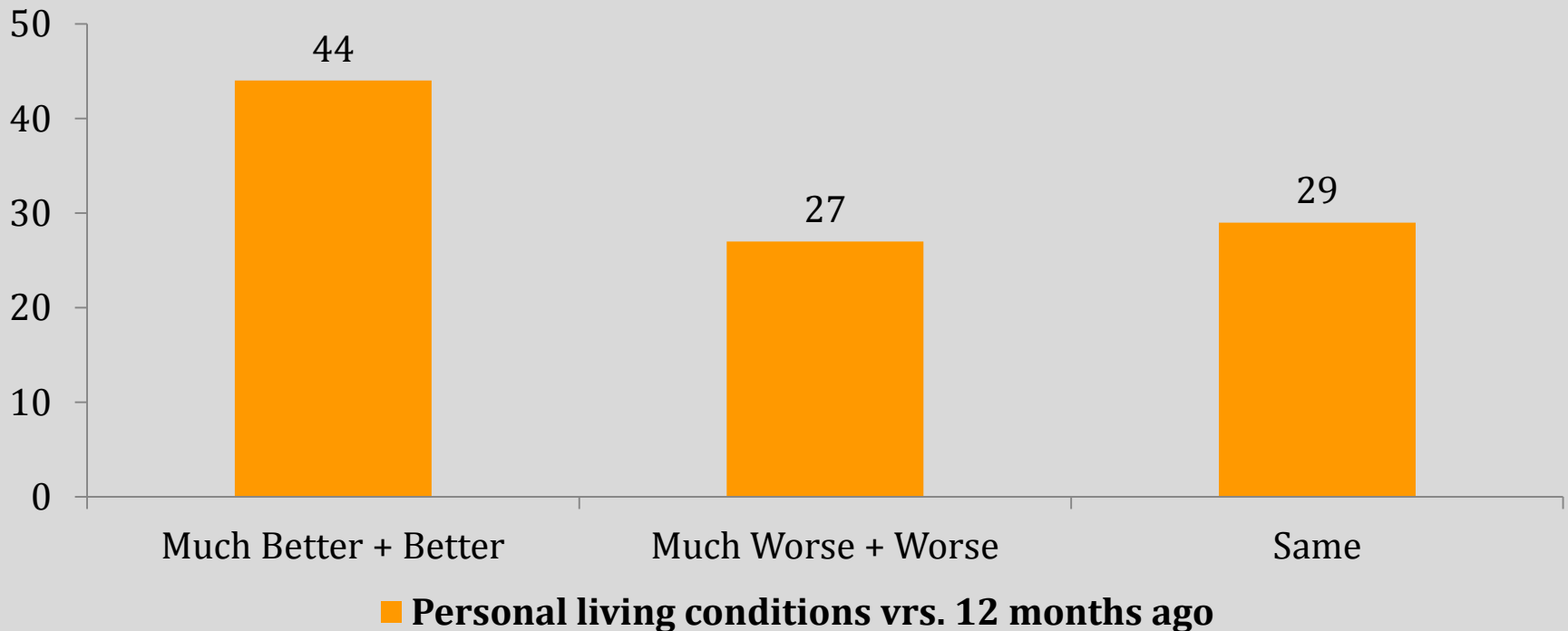
# Country's Economic Conditions - Retrospective [2]

- ★ Retrospective assessments of national economic conditions between 2008 and 2012 shows a **14%** decrease in the number of respondents who think conditions are “much better” or “better”
- ★ The long term trend (2002 to 2012) shows a **6%** increase in the number of Ghanaians who assess the country's economic conditions as “much better” and “better”



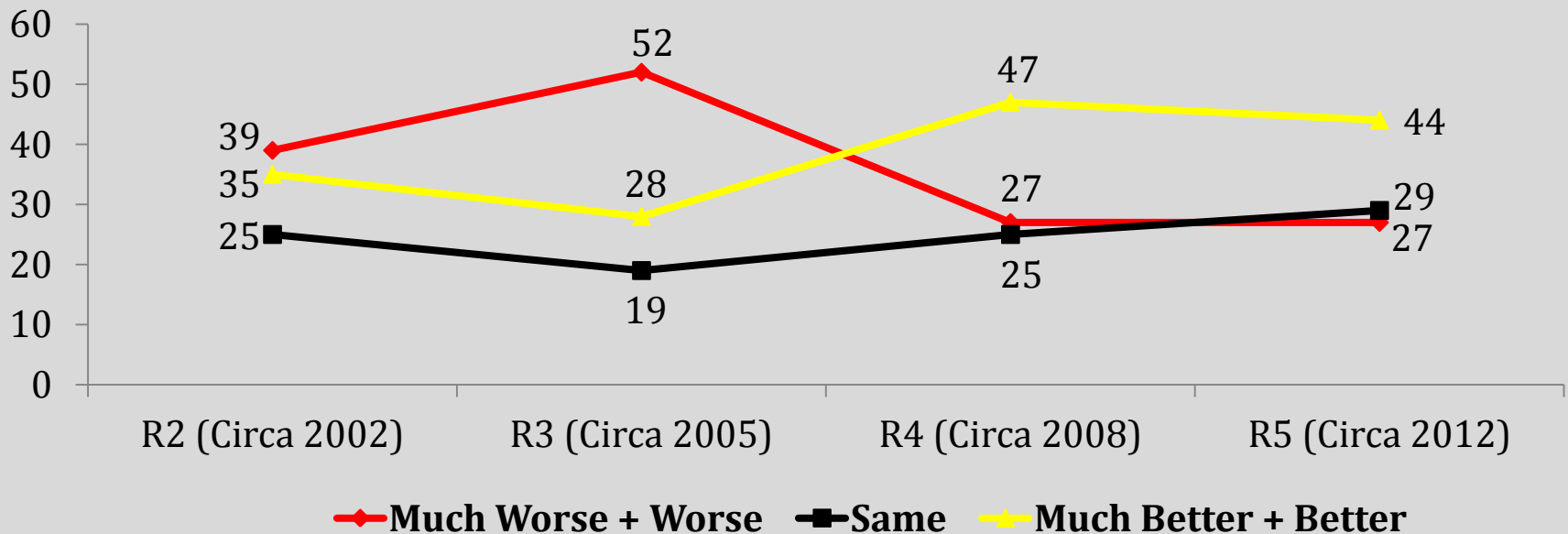
# Personal Living Conditions - Retrospective [1]

- ★ Nearly (44%) half of Ghanaians rate the present personal living conditions as “much better” or “better” than 12 months ago
- ★ A little above a quarter (27%) rate present living conditions as “much worse” or “worse” than 12 months ago



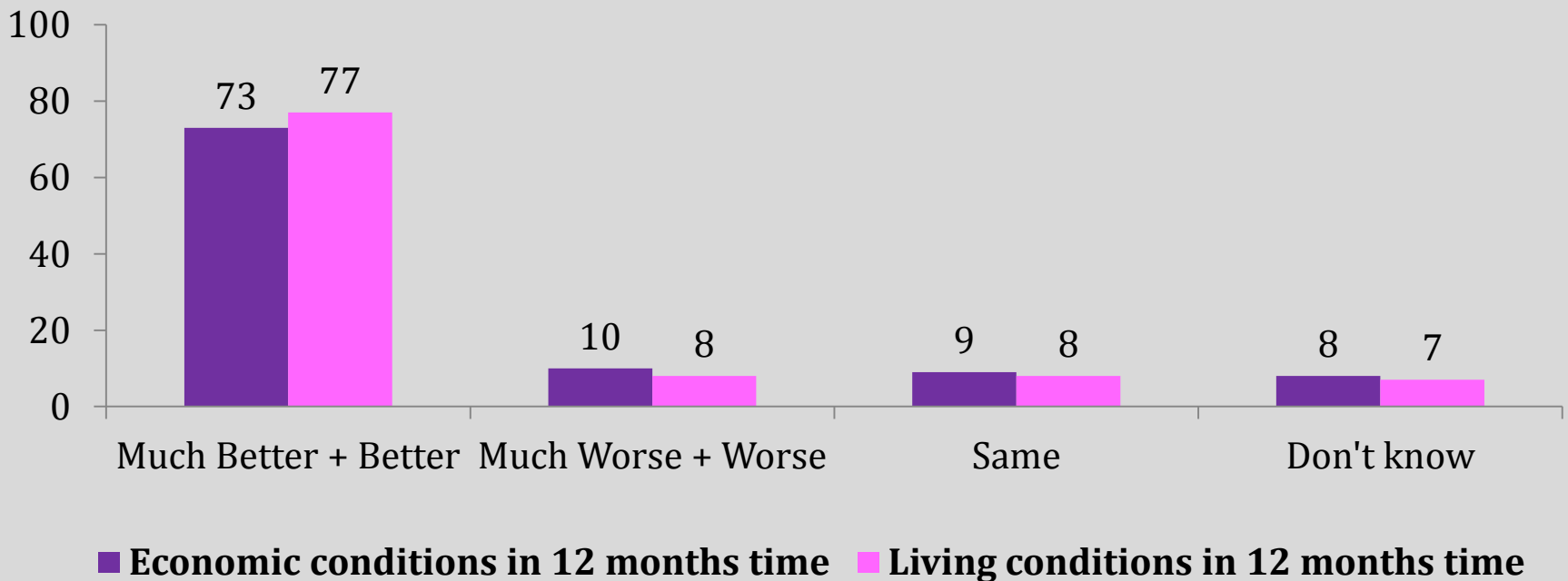
# Personal Living Conditions - Retrospective [2]

- ★ Retrospective evaluations of personal living conditions remained stable between 2008 and 2012
- ★ Retrospective assessments of living conditions between 2002 and 2012 shows a **9%** rise in the number of respondents who think conditions are “much better” or “better”
- ★ Correspondingly, there has been a **12%** reduction in the percentage of respondents who perceive their personal living conditions to be “much worse” or “worse”



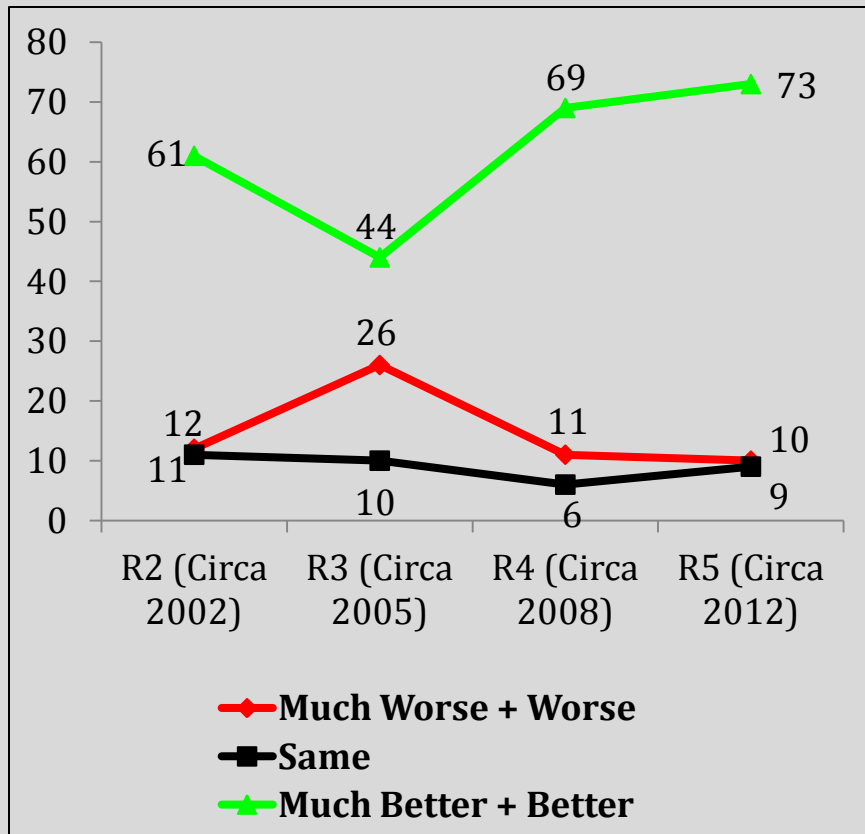
# Economic and Living Conditions – Prospective [1]

- ★ Ghanaians are very optimistic about the future
- ★ Prospective evaluations indicate that a majority expect the country's economic condition and their own living conditions to improve in the coming year (73% and 77%, respectively)

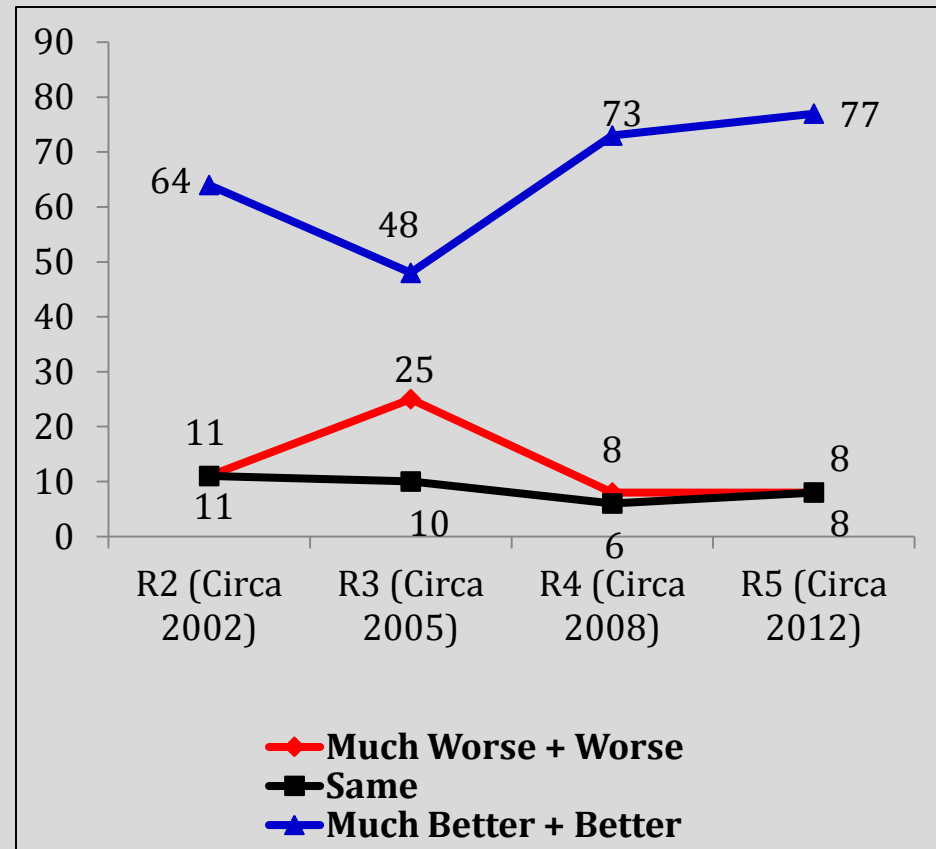


- ★ Prospective evaluations of national economic and personal living conditions have seen a positive increase since 2002

### Trends in prospective economic conditions



### Trends in prospective living conditions

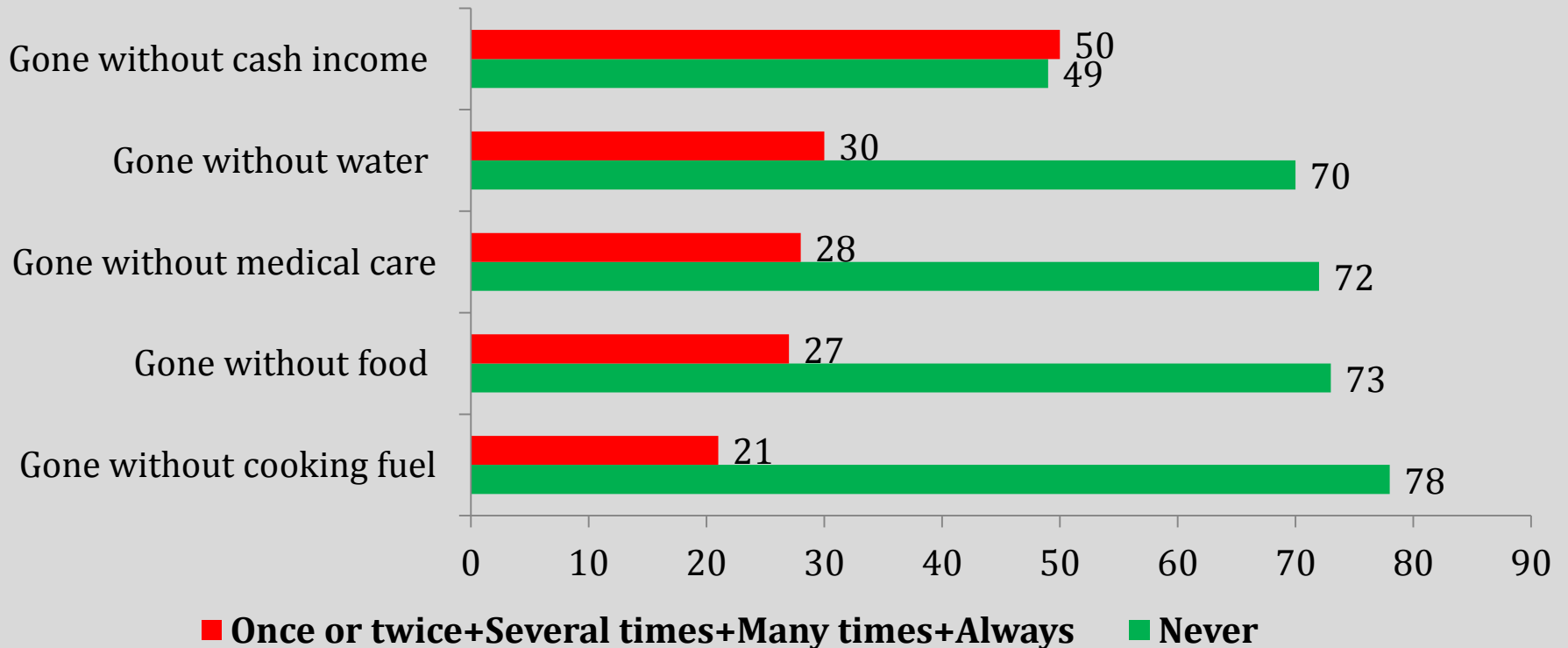




# EXPERIENCE WITH POVERTY

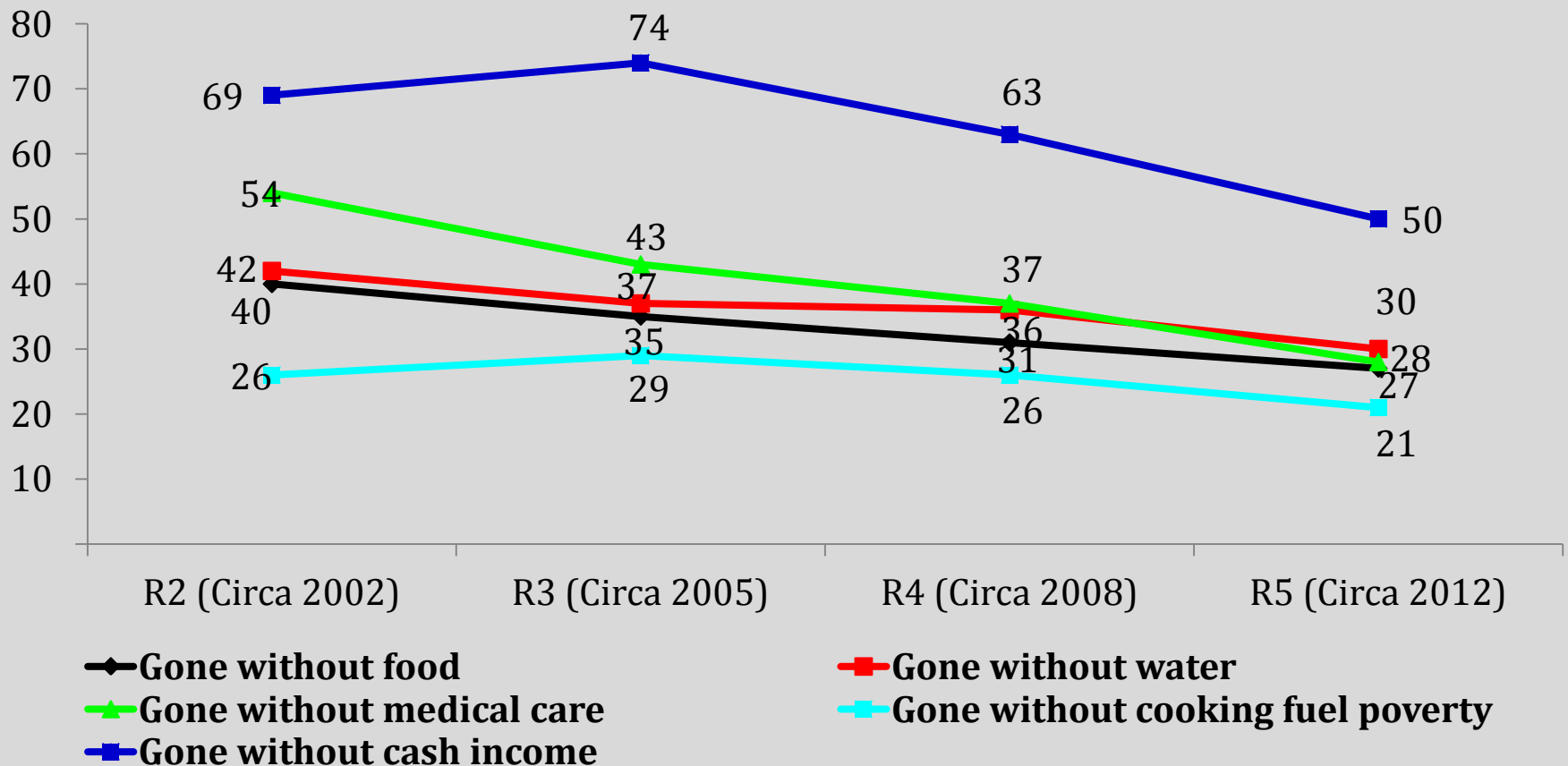


- ★ A majority of Ghanaians (**50%**) have gone without cash income sometime over the past year
- ★ Similarly, **21%** to **30%** of Ghanaians have gone without fuel, food, medical care and water sometime over the past year



# Lived Poverty Experience [2]

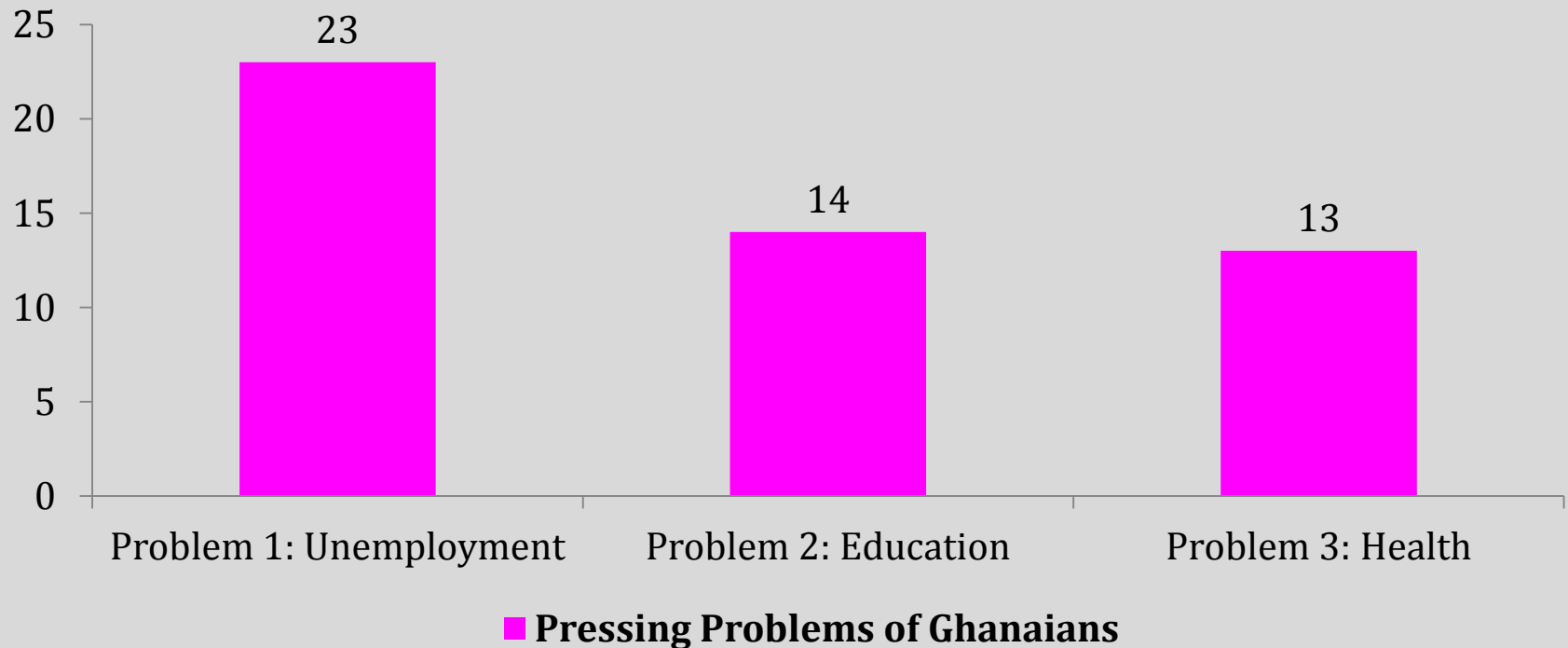
- ★ The percentages of Ghanaians who report to have lacked access to food, water, medical care, fuel and cash income sometime in the past year have been in consistent and significant decline





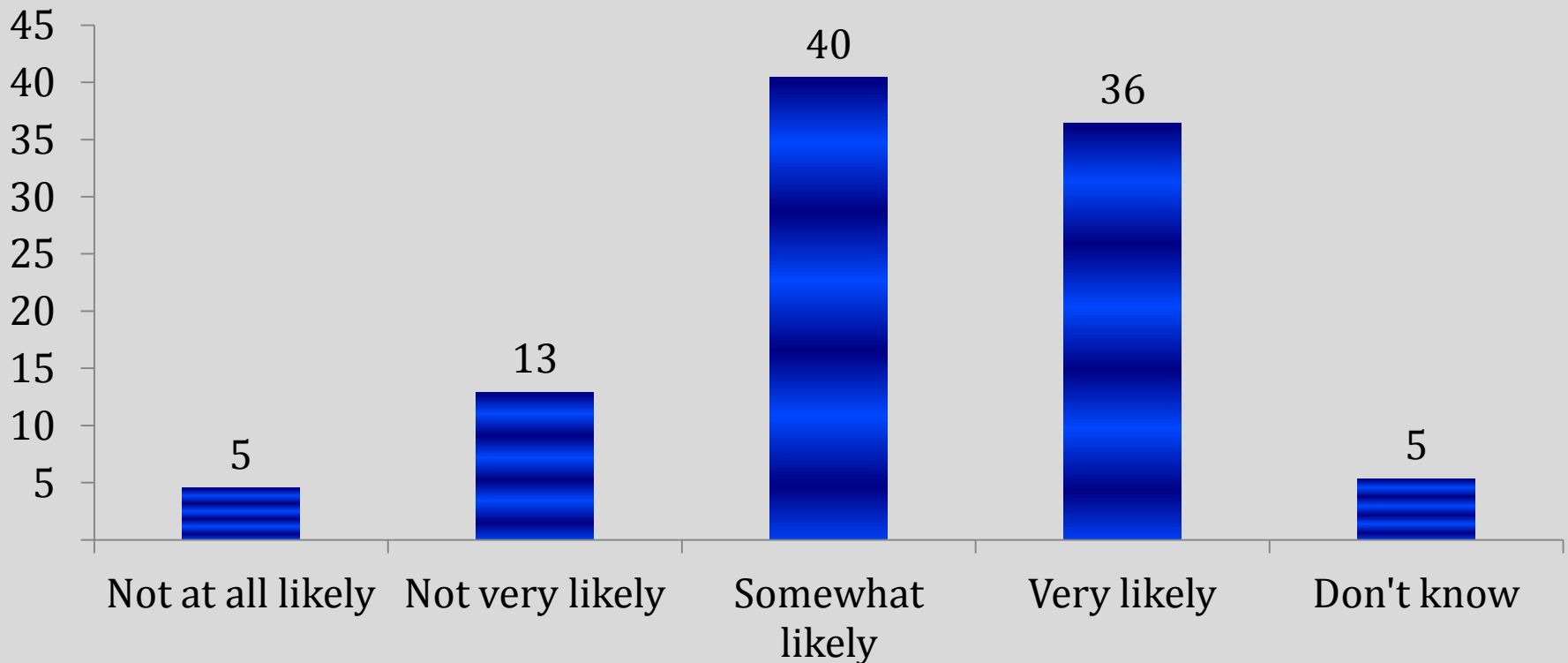
# PRESSING PROBLEMS OF GHANAIANS

- ★ Ghanaians perceive unemployment, education and health as the three most important problems facing the country that government should address



- ★ Unemployment and education have been consistently mentioned among the most pressing problems facing the country since 2005
- ★ In 2008 water supply was among the top three problems facing the nation, and in 2005 it was health
  
- **Round 4 (Circa 2008)**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Problem - Unemployment, (25%)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Problem - Water Supply(11%)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Problem - Education (12%)
  
- **Round 3 (Circa 2005)**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Problem - Unemployment, (22%)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Problem - Education (15%)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Problem - Health (14%)

- ★ Majority of Ghanaians (76%) are confident about the prospect of government solving their foremost problems within the next five years



# FORTHCOMING PRESENTATIONS

Opinions on Governmental Accountability and Responsiveness

Opinions on the Management of the Country's Oil Wealth

Opinions on Local Government in Ghana

Opinions on Ghana's Democracy

Opinions on Taxation

Opinions on Gender



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# OPEN DISCUSSIONS, QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

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