

The Ask Afrika COVID-19 Tracker

Unpacking the significant social change brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic

Week 17 results, Level 3 - advanced (22 - 28 July 2020)

COVID-19 topics that have been surveyed

Core weekly topics

- COVID19 understanding, fear & lockdown behaviours
- Emotional Distress
- Food Security/ Hunger
- Financial Distress
- Government & Business reputation
- Trust in leadership
- Stages of Grief

Rotation Topics week 17

- UIF
- Awareness of Healthcare Corruption
- Communities' Response to the Outbreak
- Impact on Healthcare
- Tobacco and Alcohol ban
- Traditional/Natural medicine
- Stokvels



Tracking the significant social change effected by this pandemic

PATHWAYS

- CATI & online
- 400 interviews weekly
- Core fractals measured

PASSAGEWAYS

- Videographic journals of
 10 individual respondents
- Across psychographics & provinces

The goal of forecasting is not to predict the future. But to tell you what you need to know to take meaningful action in the present.

- PAUL SAFFO



Independent Research for Decisionmakers

This research is conducted pro Bono, with the objective of giving equal Voice to Citizens during decision-making at government, business and NGO forums - whilst not being sponsored by any of them.

- The sample is proportionally distributed according to the South African demographic profile.
- The research provides a platform for South Africans to voice their experiences during this time.

We aim to provide insights to move people from fear to agency.

The COVID-19 omnibus provides reliable facts at your fingertips for smarter decision making.



Independently conducted research and strong methodological rigour

The main aim of the research is to understand the socio-economic impact that the Coronavirus, lockdown and gradual re-opening of the economy has on South Africans.

Research design

Quantitative research design 30 minute questionnaire Administered in English

Sampling

n=8324 interviews were conducted from the 1st of April to July.

The quota structure aligns with the proportions of the general population **Independently conducted research**

Research methodology



Computer Aided Telephonic Interviews (CATI)

n = 3236

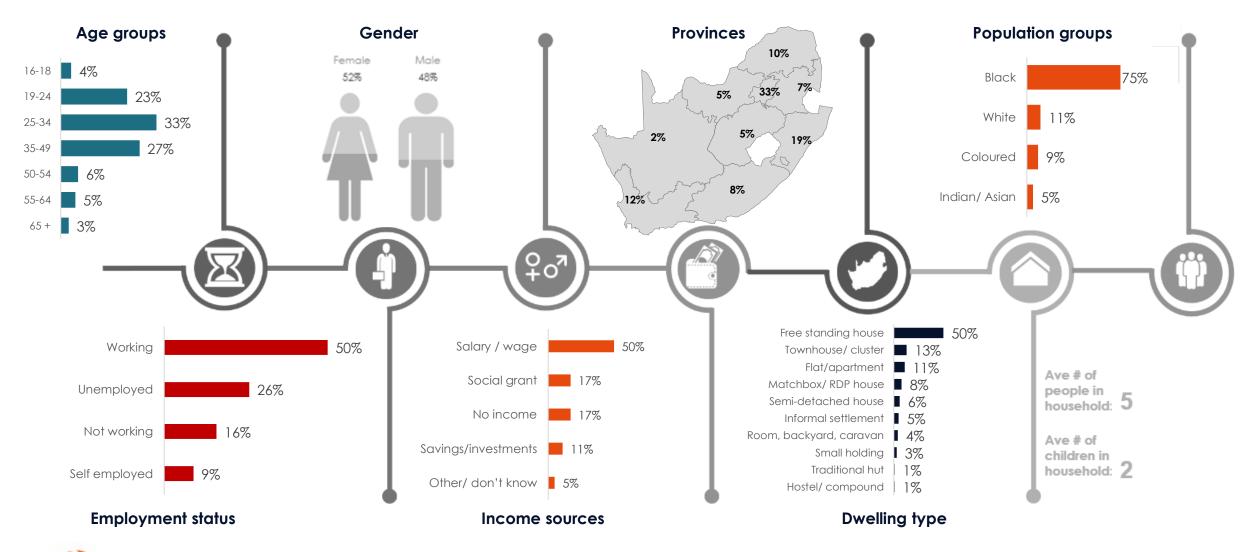


n=5088

Total interviews conducted to date: n = 8 324 Week 17 n=614



Respondent profile





Single mention n=8324

Ask Afrika Covid-19 Tracker through the levels of lockdown

Level 5	Level 4	Level 3	Level 3 advanced	Changes during advanced L3
26 March – 30 April	1 May – 31 May	1 June – 21 June	22 June – onwards	13 July - onwards
36 days	31 days	21 days	21 days (ongoing)	Ongoing
High virus spread. And /or low health system readiness	Moderate to high virus spread, with moderate readiness	Moderate virus spread, with moderate readiness	Moderate virus spread, with moderate readiness (gradual level reduction)	Increased infection rate
Hard lockdown with most restrictive rules to contain the spread of the virus to save lives Only essential services permitted to work. Only allowed to leave place of residence for buying essential goods or medical emergency. No inter-provincial movement	Some activity beyond essential services allowed to resume, subject to extreme precautions required to limit community transmission and outbreaks. Restrictive movement with curfew hours (6am – 7pm). Exercise within 5km of residence allowed between 6am – 9am) No inter-provincial movement	Take-away restaurants, clothing retail, e-commerce, books & education product sale, etc. allowed. Liquor sales permitted within restricted hours. No tobacco sales. Free movement without curfew. No inter-provincial movement, except for exceptional circumstances	Restaurants, fast food outlets, coffee shops, casinos, lodges, B&B, timeshare facilities, resorts and quest houses open. Conference and meeting venues allowed. Liquor sales permitted within restricted hours. No tobacco sales. Free movement without curfew. Inter-provincial movement for work and school, as well as other exceptional circumstances	Ban on liquor and tobacco sales. Restrictive movement with curfew hours (5am – 8pm). School closures
Ask Afrika Covid-19 tracker Week 1 – Week 5	Ask Afrika Covid-19 tracker Week 6 – Week 9	Ask Afrika Covid-19 tracker Week 10 – Week 12	Ask Afrika Covid-19 tracker Week 13 – Week 15	Ask Afrika Covid-19 tracker Week 16 / 17



Executive summary

Executive Summary: Financial security and Stokvels

During advanced level 3 of the lockdown, citizens have been mindful of their spending, with half having to borrow money to cope with the lockdown.

24% of respondents are currently or were previously a member of an informal savings club or stokvel. A quarter of respondents became a stokvel member during the lockdown period, while half of those who cancelled their membership did so during this year. Those who belong to a stokvel mainly live in Gauteng, work full-time and are between the ages of 25 – 35 years. 85% also have children living in their household.

They typically belong to a general savings club or a grocery stokvel to which they contribute between R150 –R300 a month or more than R500. The stokvel or informal savings club is typically their primary means of saving. 44% claimed or requested financial assistance from their stokvel during the lockdown, of which only 69% were paid the full amount they requested a 31% were paid less.



Executive Summary

Is Government doing enough?

One in three citizens think that the Government can do more to support its citizens. The belief that the citizenry does not receive sufficient support from the Government during the lockdown has throughout advanced level 3 been significantly more prevalent amongst females. Residents of the Western Cape and Gauteng also especially hold this sentiment, compared to those living in the North West, Mpumalanga, Limpopo and KZN. The need for government intervention to reduce poverty is also increasing throughout Level-3 advanced, as more is needed to improve the quality of life of citizens. This sentiment has especially been true in advanced level 3 for females and those living in the Western Cape and Gauteng.

As we progress through Level-3 advanced, fewer citizens also believe that the Government is doing enough to support businesses during the lockdown. This sentiment is mainly voiced by females on a national level.

Consistently since level 4, less respondents believe that the Government is doing a good job in informing and educating South Africans about the spread of the virus, indicating a continuous need for educational drives to prevent the spread of the virus.

National Government is however performing better than Provincial government in citizens' perceptions of their support for their communities and businesses.

Executive Summary: Healthcare System

As the lockdown progresses, South Africa has made great strides in increasing testing initiatives. Although the recovery rate is notable at 63%, the country is still showing high levels of fear of contracting the virus.

More people are aware of testing facilities in their communities and also know others who have been tested for Covid-19. As the number of people who test for the virus increases, so do fears that South Africa will run out of test kits, that the healthcare system will not be able to cope and South African hospitals will not have enough. There is also extreme concern amongst citizens that our country might run out of ventilators to treat patients when the peak hits the country.

Awareness of COVID-19 corruption remains high amongst respondents. This is especially true in the healthcare system, as citizens believe this corruption has increased during the Covid-19 pandemic. Two in five respondents are extremely concerned about this corruption in the Healthcare system.



Executive Summary: Healthcare

Throughout advanced level 3, half of citizens have been concerned that they are at higher risk due to underlying conditions, which has especially been elevated amongst older citizens and South African men.

Most respondents are committed to preventative measures and believe that they are playing their part to prevent the spread of the virus. Many believe that they should take personal responsibility for their health and not rely on the government when they contract the virus. Staying at home and social distancing are aspects people try to take seriously and as the virus continues to spread is becoming more of a serious issue for people. Similarly, frequent hand washing practices have increased and sanitising has become habitual for many respondents

Mask wearing, social distancing and staying at home seem to be the most prevalent methods employed to prevent the spread of the virus. The ability to maintain sanitising practices is high, with an index score of 79/100. The Northern Cape seems to have the highest difficulty adhering to hygiene practices such as regularly washing hands, sanitising, wearing PPE and self-isolation.

Although conventional/ Western medicine is preferred, one in two respondents believe that Natural/ Herbal medicine can treat Covid-19, while a third believe ritual healing can do the same.



Summary: The ban on the sale of alcohol

Although most respondents believe that the ban on the sale of alcohol and tobacco increases the illegal trade in their communities, they welcome the President's new regulations, with three in five respondents indicating it is a good thing.

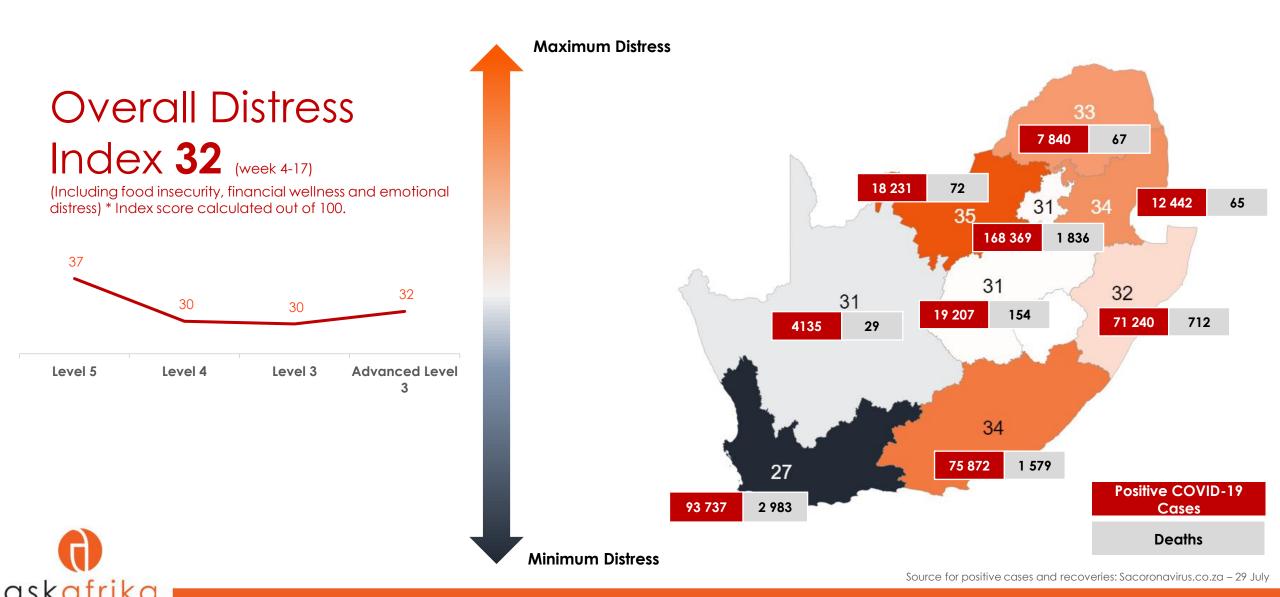
If respondents illegally bought cigarettes, they mainly bought cartons, while 62% of smokers tried to quit during lockdown. The alcohol ban mostly caught citizens by surprise as half of respondents noted that they were not able to stock up on alcohol before the ban was reinstated.

Almost half of respondent indicated that they are saving money due to not being allowed to buy alcohol, although, 43% noted that if the ban on alcohol is partially lifted, they would go to a sitdown restaurant to consume an alcoholic beverage.



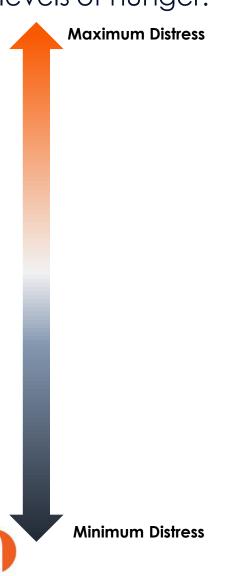


Overall Distress is the highest in the North West, lowest in the Western Cape

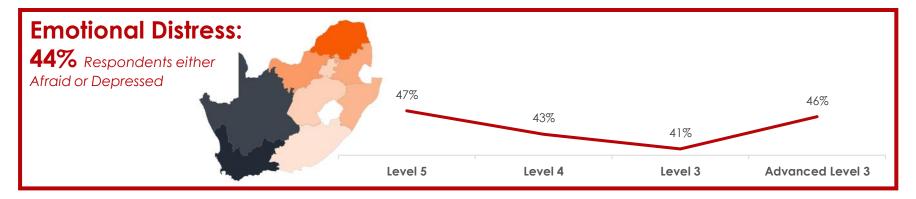


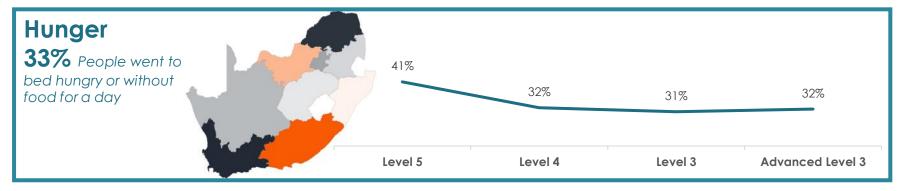
Financial distress has increased in the North West province. Limpopo has the highest indicators of emotional distress, while the Eastern Cape continues to show

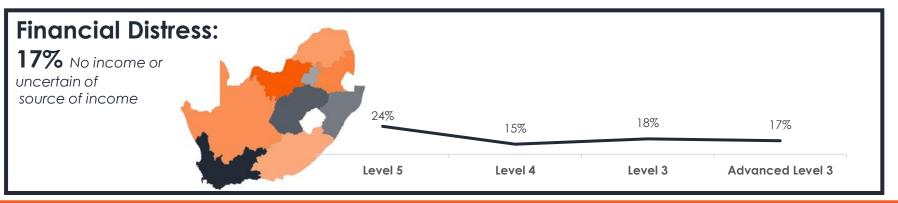
high levels of hunger.



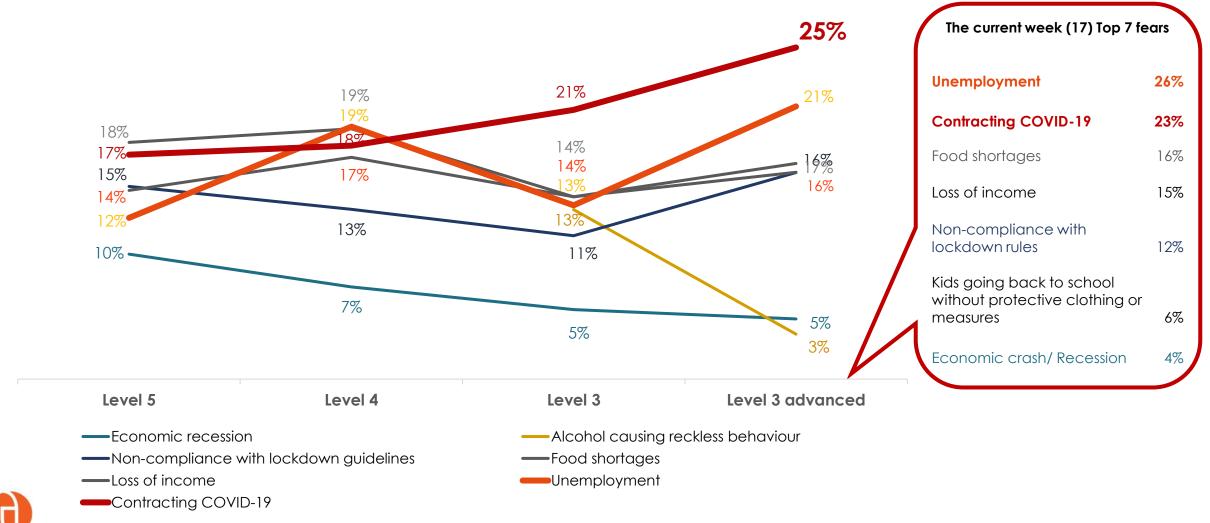
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Fears are dynamic. The fears of Covid19 and of Unemployment are the highest of all currently.



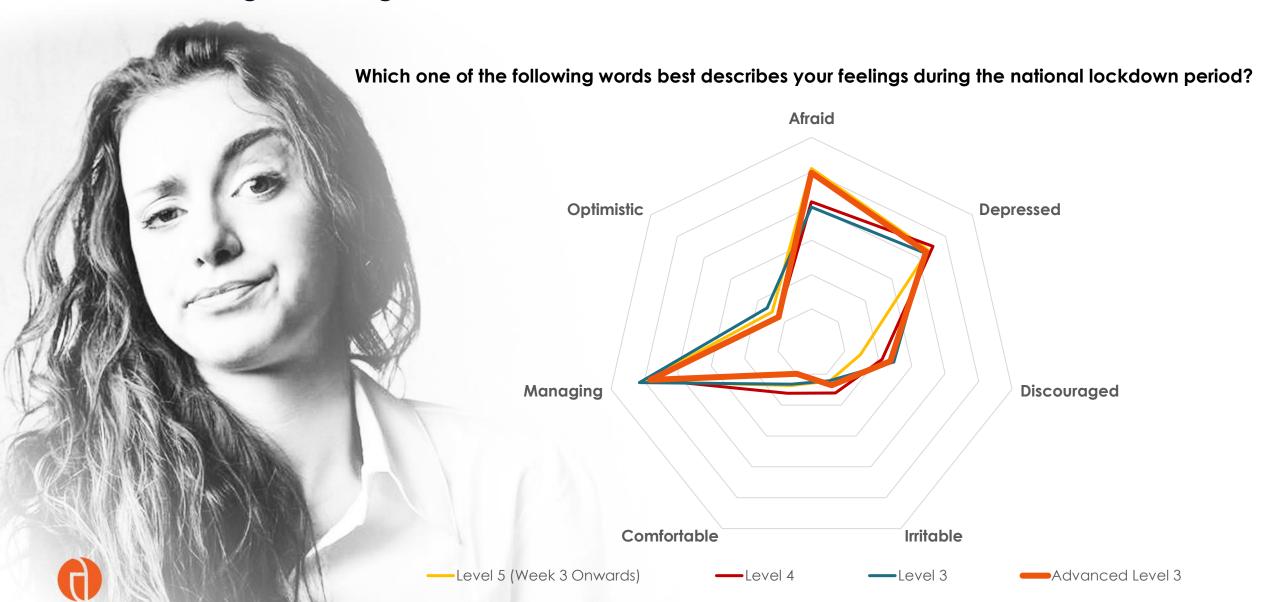
Showing top 7 responses for the weeks | Open ended responses

Emotional wellbeing



Fear levels are again as high as in level 5.

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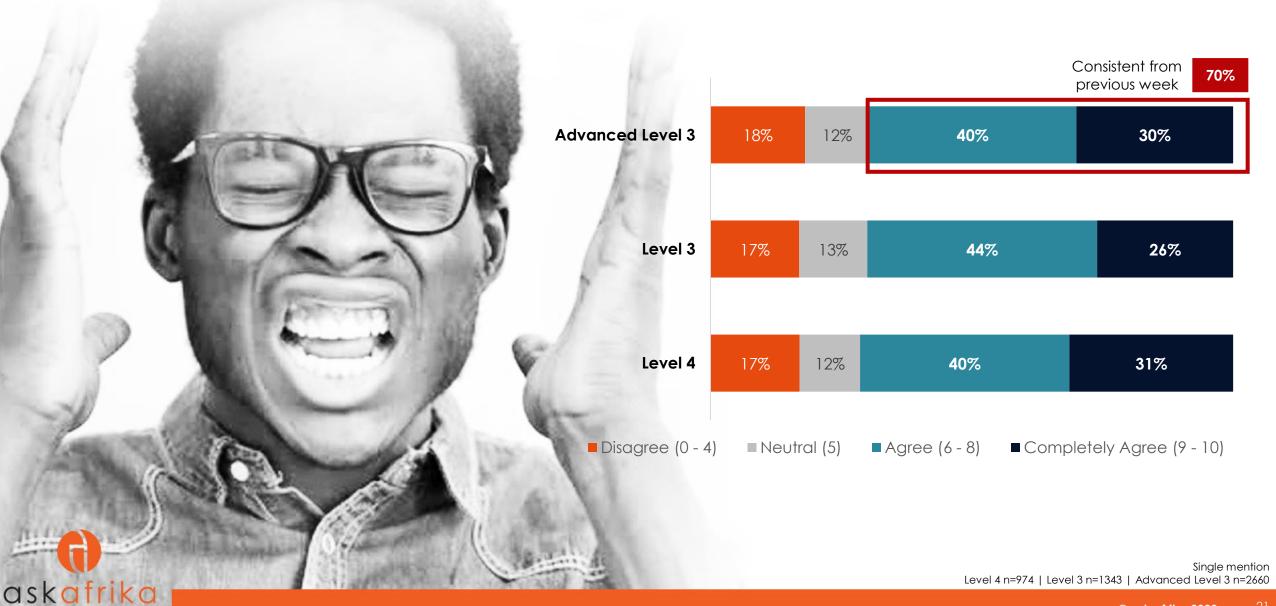
Most citizens are struggling to accept the Covid reality.

COVID-19 STAGES OF GRIEF

	DENIAL	ANGER	BARGAINING	SADNESS	ACCEPTANCE
	This virus won't affect me.	I'm being forced to stay at home and my activities have been taken away.	It's okay - if I social distance for a few weeks, everything will be better.	I don't know when this will end.	This is happening, I have to figure out how to proceed.
Start of lockdown	19%	16%	26%	24%	15%
Today	10%	11%	22%	36%	21%



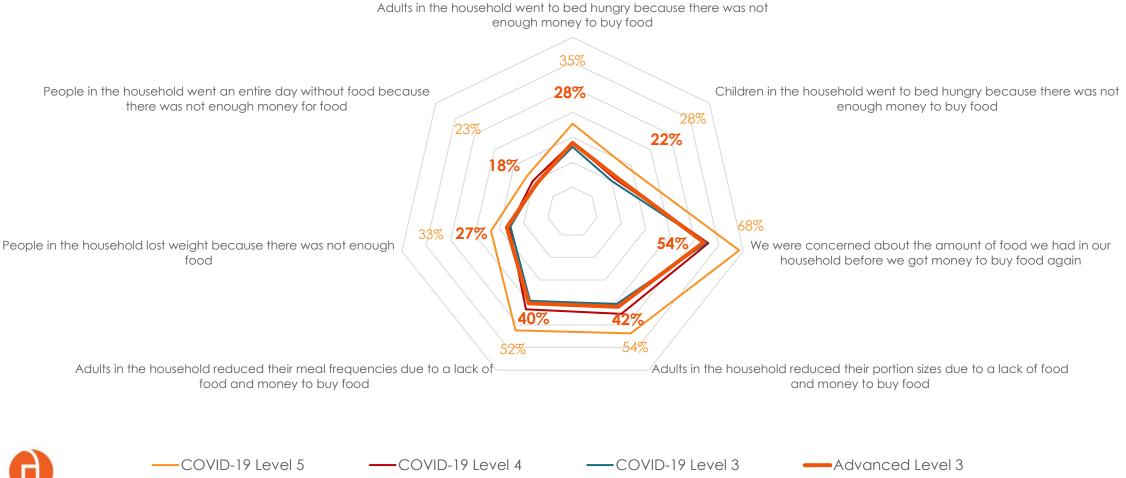
High frustration levels around the lockdown persist in communities.



Food Security and Financial wellbeing

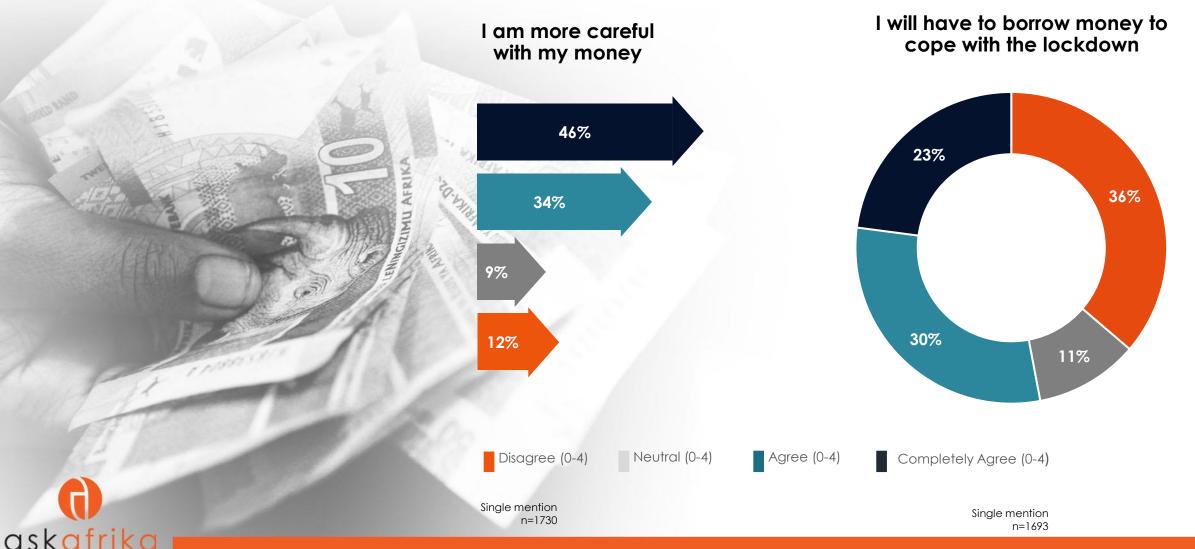
Although 54% of citizens are concerned about the amount of food in their homes, food security has improved since







Multiple mention n=2824 During advanced level 3 of the lockdown, citizens have been mindful of their spending, with half having to borrow money to cope with the lockdown.

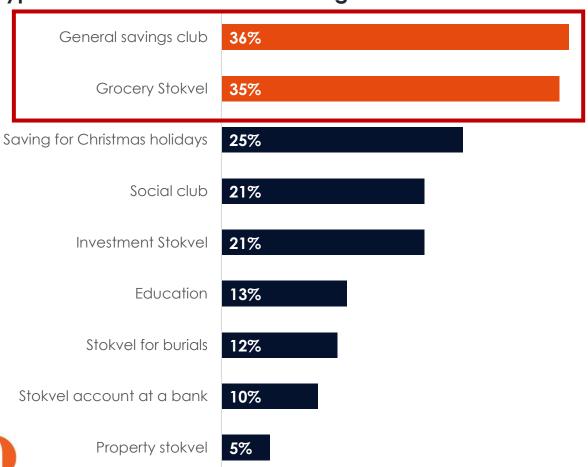




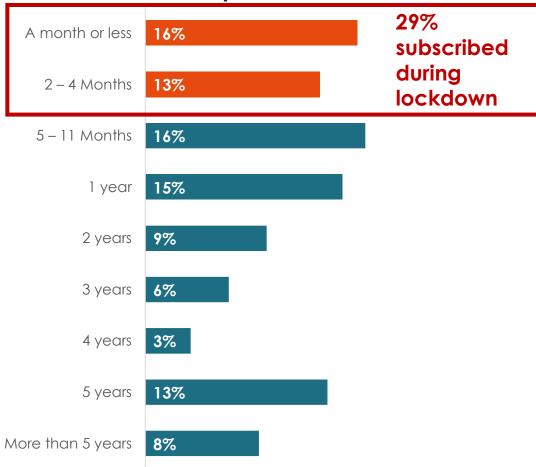
24% of respondents are, or have been in the past, a member of a stokvel or informal savings club

(16% currently subscribed) n=617

Types of stokvel or informal savings clubs subscribed to



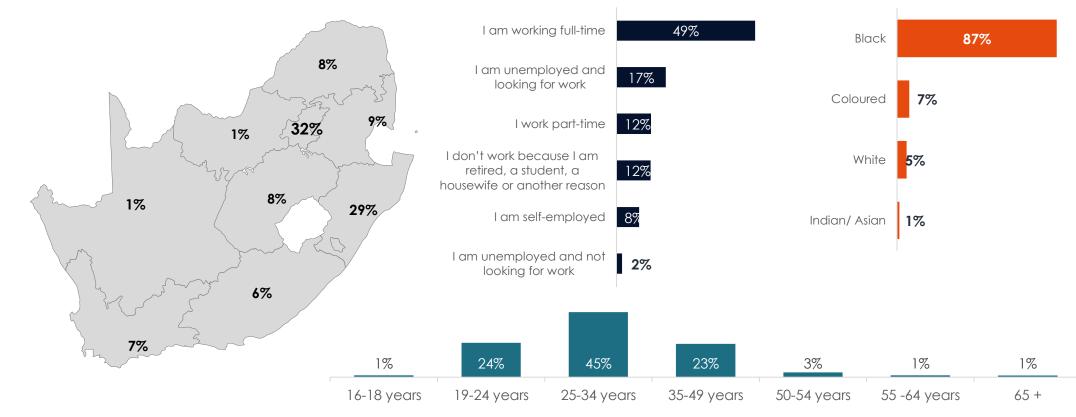
Subscription tenure:



Those who belong to a stokvel mainly live in Gauteng, work full-time and are between the ages of 25 – 35 years.

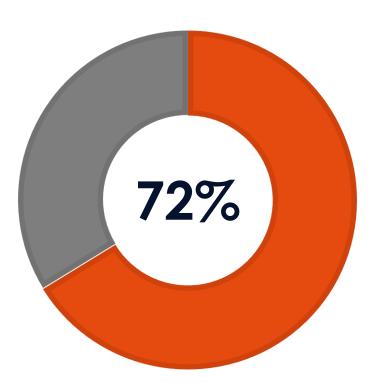
85% who belong to a stokvel or informal savings club have children in the household





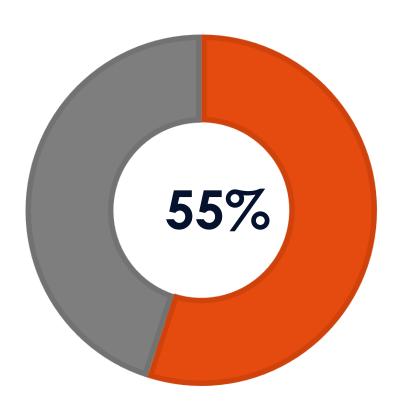


Stokvels - a primary means of saving



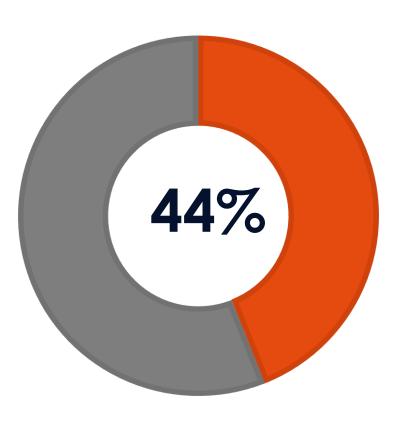
of those currently a stokvel/ informal savings club member, indicated that this is their primary means of saving.

n=101



of those that churned from an informal savings club/stokvel, have done so during this year.

n = 49



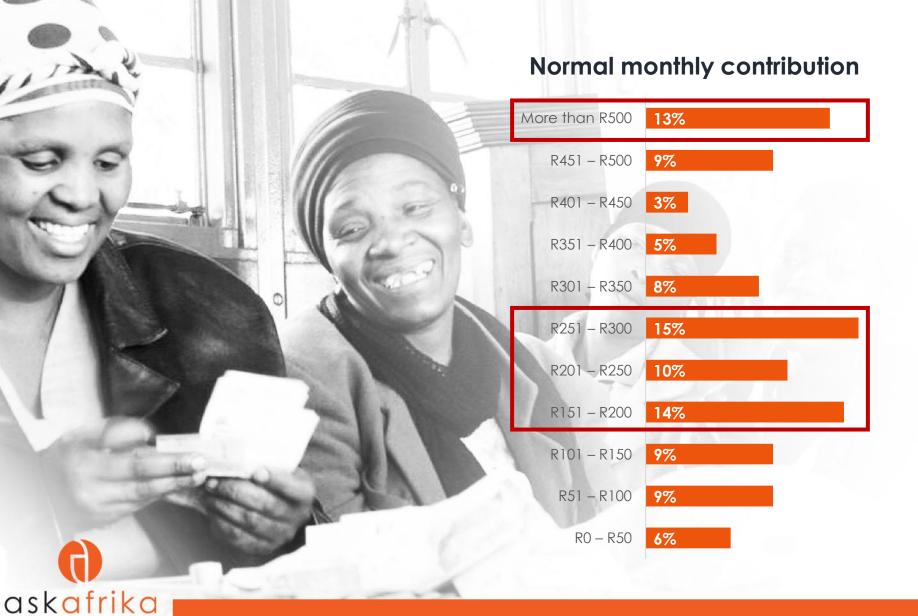
claimed or requested financial assistance from their stokvel during lockdown

Of which 69% were paid the agreed amount and 31% were paid less.

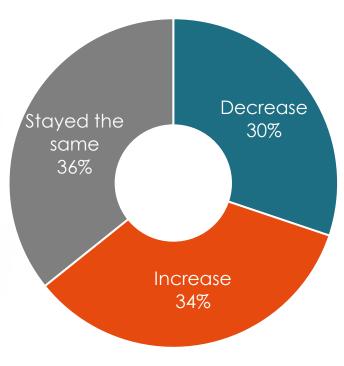
n=101



Monthly contributions to a stokvel ranges between R150 – R300 or more than R500.



Change in the membership numbers during lockdown



Traditional/ Natural medicine/ Homeopath



believe that Natural/ Herbal medicine can treat COVID-19

31% believe that Ritual healing can treat COVID-19

Single mention n=616

If having to choose between natural and conventional/western medicine, respondents will opt for conventional medicine. Ritual healing is not as common as herbal medicine. Respondents also prefer to consult with a General Practitioner to recommend a suitable remedy for ailments and illnesses.

> South Africans consult these advisors for ailments or illnesses for a suitable remedy

68% General Practitioner

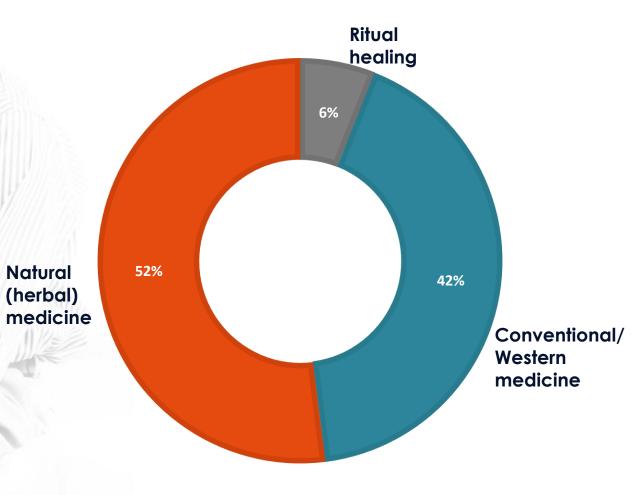
8% Inyanga (an indigenous South African herbalist)

7% Naturopath (holistic healer)

6% Sangoma (a diviner)

18% do not typically consult any type of advisor

Which of the following do you mostly use?

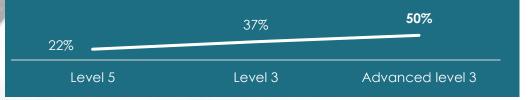


Single mention n=616

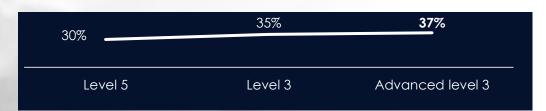
Healthcare experiences, concerns and corruption

An increase in COVID-19 testing is evident throughout the lockdown period and more people are aware of testing initiatives in their areas.





37% indicated that there are testing initiatives in their area



Single mention n=2856 Those who visited a pharmacy in the last 3 weeks were mostly satisfied with the hygiene practices and staff's PPE. Four in five believe that stock levels are sufficient, while waiting times seem to be a pain point.



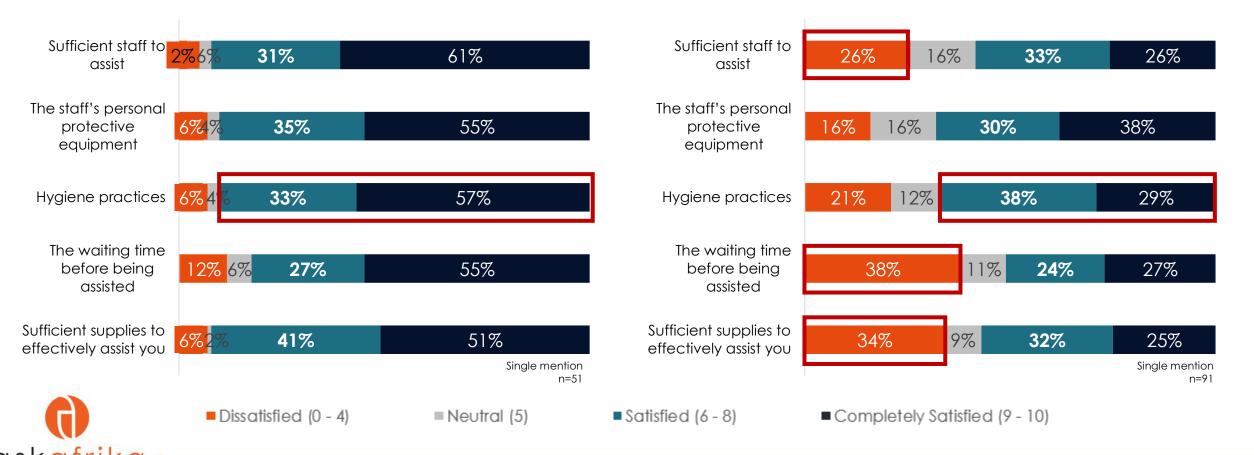
Dissatisfaction with public hospital waiting times, staff and supply availability is high. It is however even more disconcerting that satisfaction levels of hygiene practices in public hospitals are 23% less than in private hospitals.

5% visited a private hospital in the last 3 weeks

Please tell us how satisfied you were with the following at the **Private Hospital** you visited?

7% visited a public hospital in the last 3 weeks

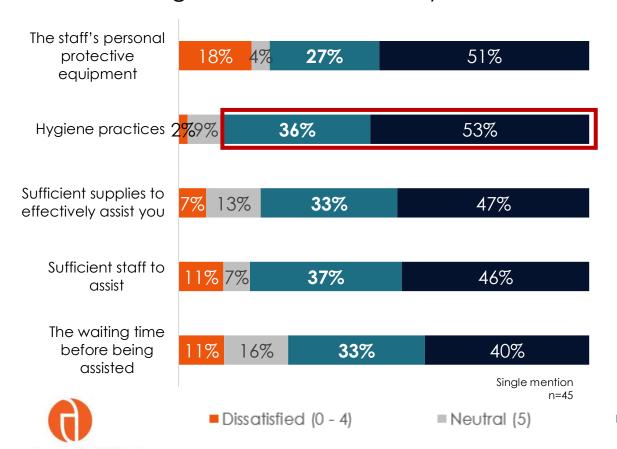
Please tell us how satisfied you were with the following at the **Public Hospital** you visited?



Dissatisfaction with the service delivery of public clinics, especially the waiting times, is apparent. Again, there is disparity in satisfaction levels of hygiene practices between private and public clinics, although less than with private and public hospitals.

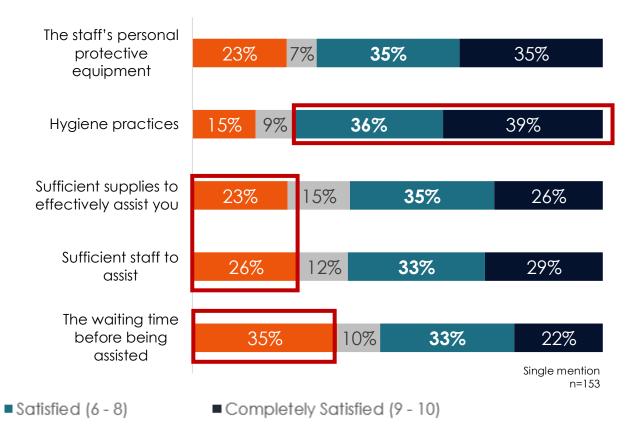
3% visited a private clinic in the last 3 weeks

Please tell us how satisfied you were with the following at the **Private Clinic** you visited?

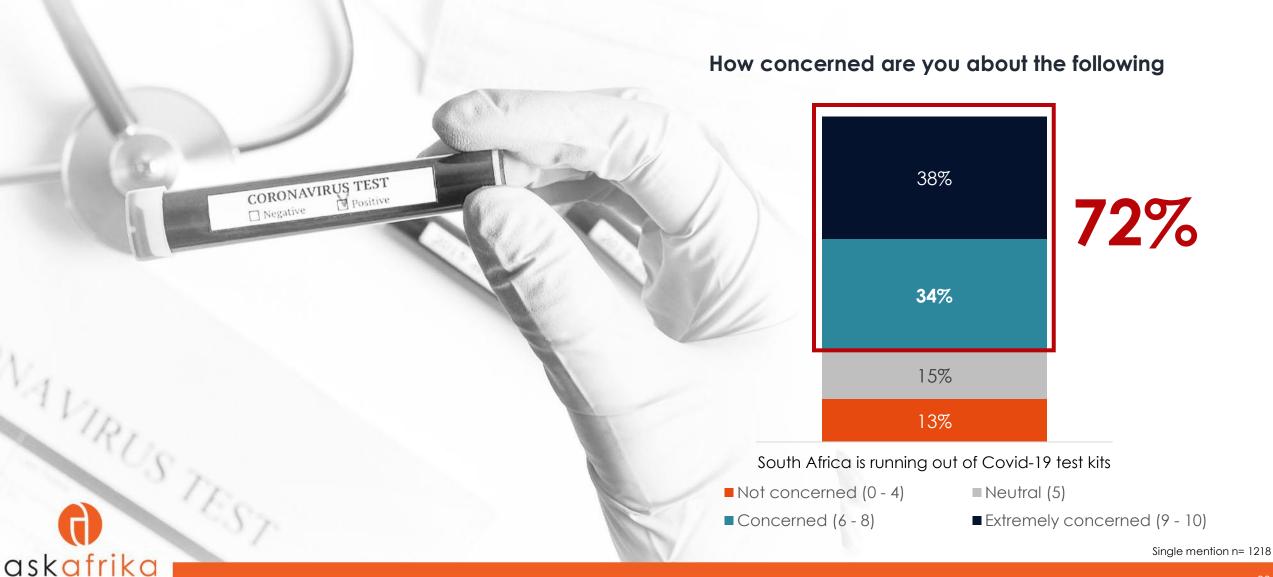


13% visited a public clinic in the last 3 weeks

Please tell us how satisfied you were with the following at the **Public Clinic** you visited?



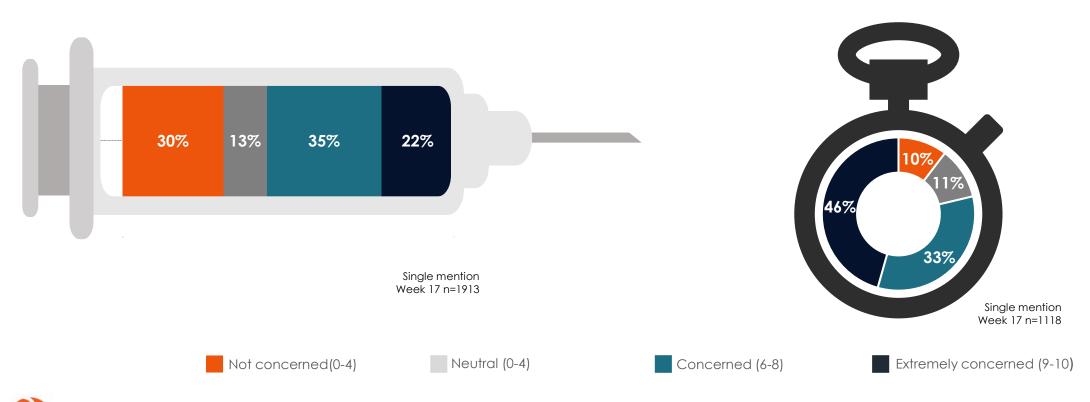
Only 13% of Citizens are not concerned about South Africa running out of Covid-19 test kits.



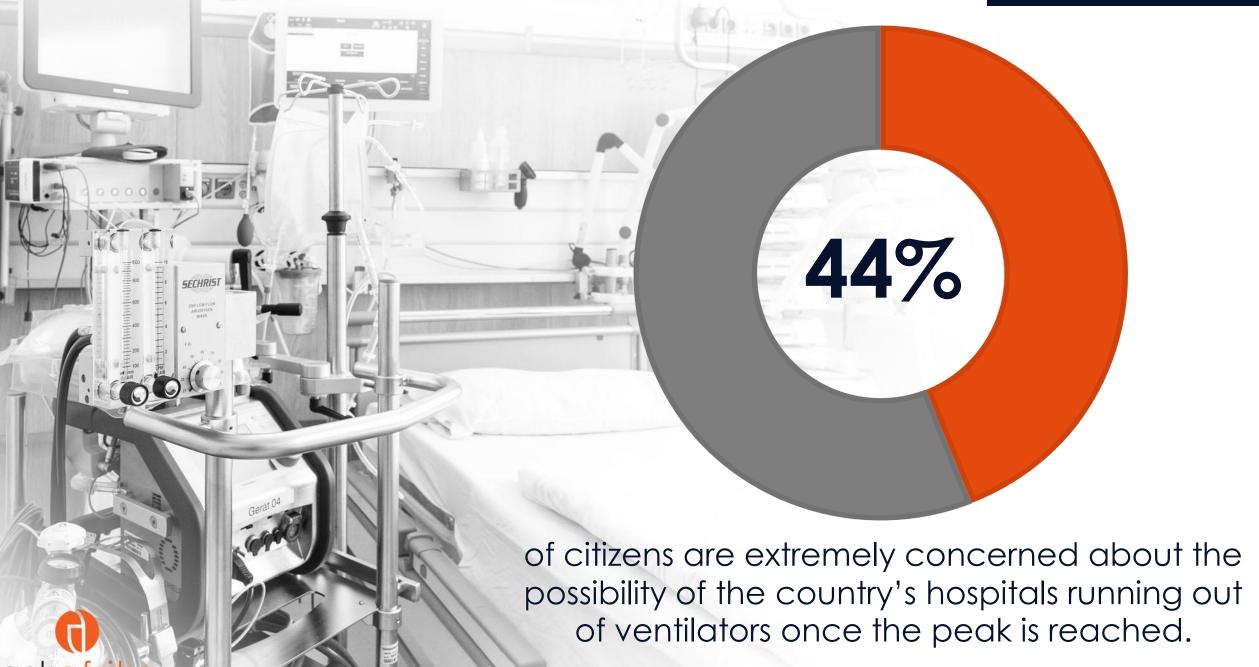
A quarter of citizens are showing extreme concern that the South African health care system will not be able to cope with the pandemic, with almost half of citizens also expressing extreme concern that hospitals will not have enough beds to deal with the pandemic.



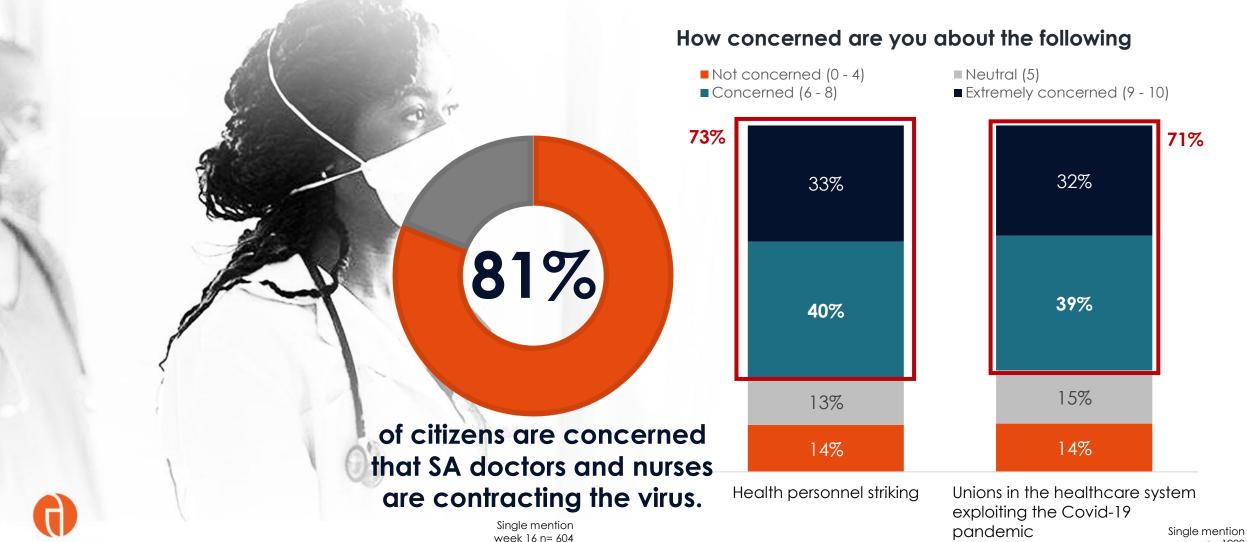
South African hospitals may not have enough beds to deal with the pandemic





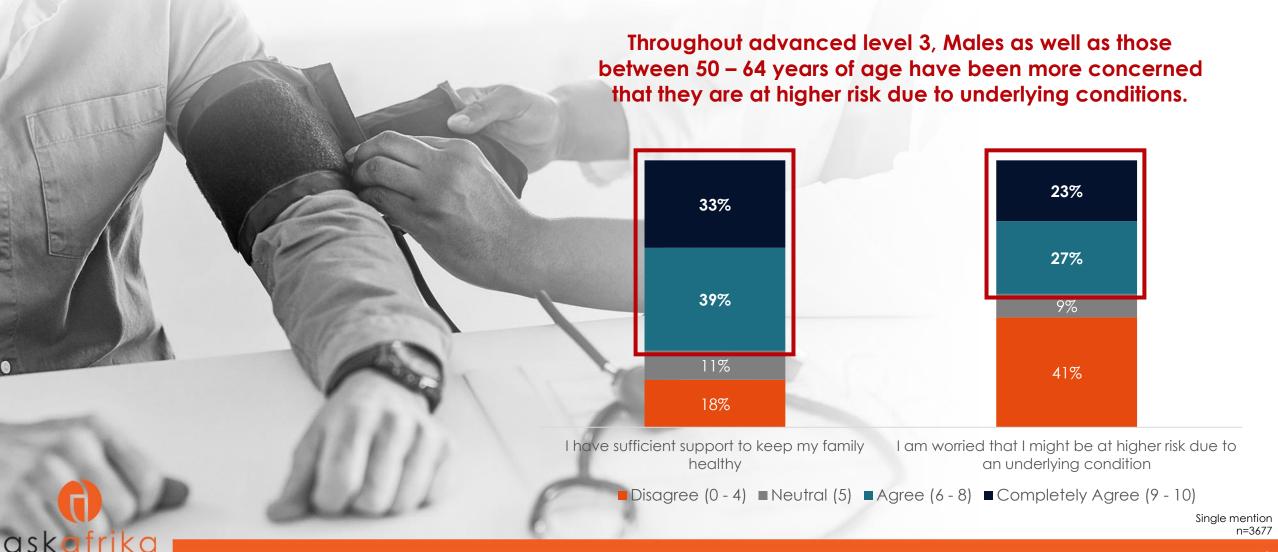


Citizens are showing higher levels of concern around doctors and nurses contracting the virus, than health personnel striking and unions exploiting the pandemic.

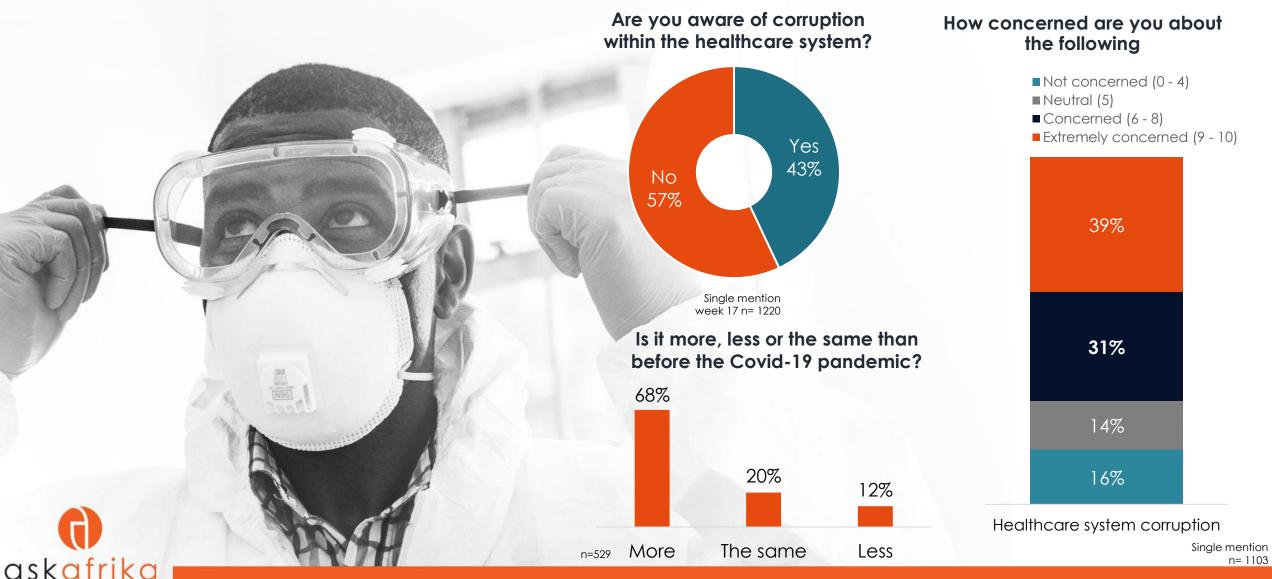


n= 1220

50% of citizens are concerned that they are at higher risk of due to underlying conditions. During lockdown advanced level 3, this concern has been significantly less amongst Gauteng residents compared to those living in the Free State, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West and KZN.



Awareness of corruption in the healthcare system is high and perceived to have increased drastically during the lockdown.



Sanitation index

Executive Summary: Sanitation behaviour

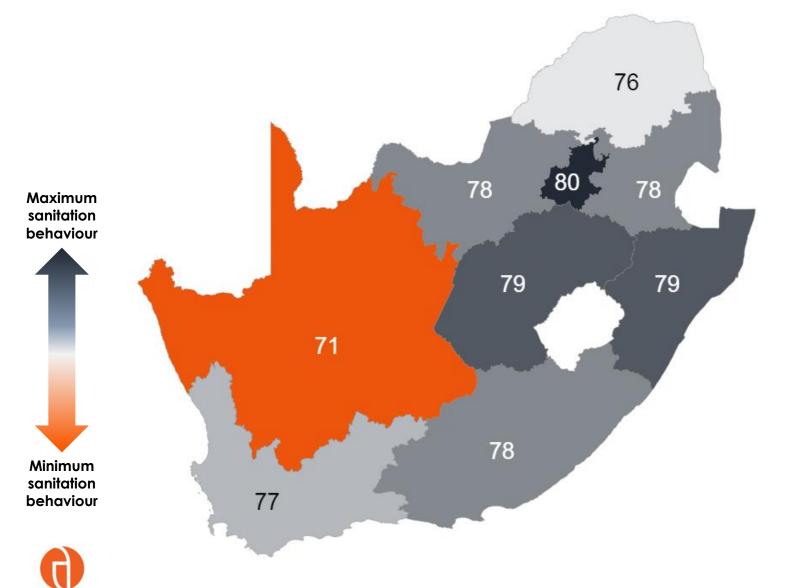
The National Sanitation Index is relatively high, which is driven by increased mask-wearing and handwashing behaviours as well as citizens' commitment to hand sanitizing outside their homes, especially at the store. As these behaviours increased over the lockdown period, it indicates greater awareness of how the virus spreads and how to prevent it, as well as citizens' desires to protect themselves and others from contracting the virus. The main detractor of the Index score is the **inability of citizens to self-isolate**, although self-isolation has become more prevalent since level 3 and advanced level 3 of lockdown.

The Northern Cape is showing the lowest sanitation score, which is driven by the **inability to self-isolate**, the non-compliance of **wearing masks and gloves** when leaving one's home as well as the **lack of washing and sanitizing one's hands**. Interestingly, the Northern Cape has the lowest infection and death rates of Covid-19, which might be what is driving the lower compliance. With the province being the largest and most sparsely populated in South Africa, citizens within this province might not be able to self-isolate from their immediate community, however, they may come into less contact with other communities throughout the province. Citizens of the Northern Cape do however acknowledge that they haven't reduced social interaction (77%), nor listened to the government's call to try to stay home (75%), which might be further drivers of lower Covid-19 sanitation behaviour, as they also indicate lower understanding of having to play their individual part in beating the virus (77%).

Gauteng is showing the highest Sanitation Index Score, followed by KwaZulu-Natal and Free State. **Gauteng's higher scores** are driven by **handwashing and mask-wearing compliance**, although they are **slightly less able to self-isolate**. The lack of self-isolation might also be a driving factor of the province being a big Covid-19 hotspot.

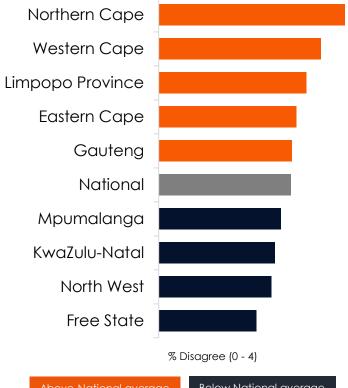


National Sanitation Index - 79



Provinces ranked by those who struggle to adhere to sanitizing

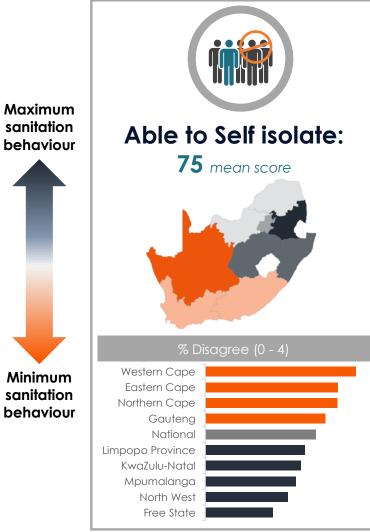
(Self isolating, Wearing PPE in public, Sanitizing hands, and Washing hands more frequently)



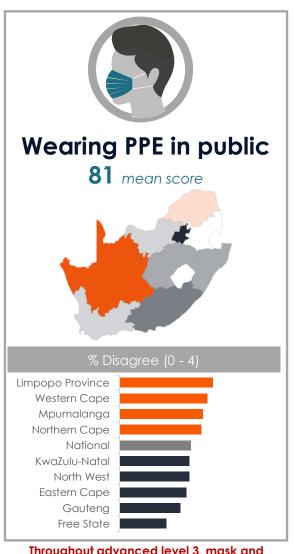
Above National average

Below National average

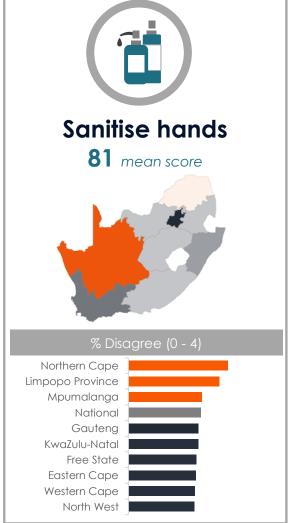
National Sanitation Index = 79







Throughout advanced level 3, mask and glove wearing compliance has been highest in the FS (90%) and GP (86%).



The commitment to hand sanitizing is less prevalent in NC (80%)



Citizens of the NC (69%) are significantly less likely to indicate they wash their hands more frequently than in the past, especially compared to KZN residents (87%).

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There is a link between citizens' trust in the President and Min Mkhize and their willingness to practice sanitation behaviours.

Those who would like to receive communication from **Minister Mkhize** more than once a week are significantly more likely to **wash their hands more frequently** and comply to **wearing personal protective equipment** outside their homes.

Those who would like to receive communication from the **President** more than once a week are also significantly more likely to **wash their hands more frequently**. **PPE compliance** is significantly higher amongst those who would like to hear from the president at least once a week.

The **inability to self-isolate**, which is the main detractor from the national sanitation index, is linked to those who would never want to receive communication from the President.

Interestingly, those who never want communication from the President nor Minister Mkhize are significantly less like to wash their hands more frequently. This is also true for lower compliance to PPE and handwashing behaviour for those who never want to receive communication from the President.

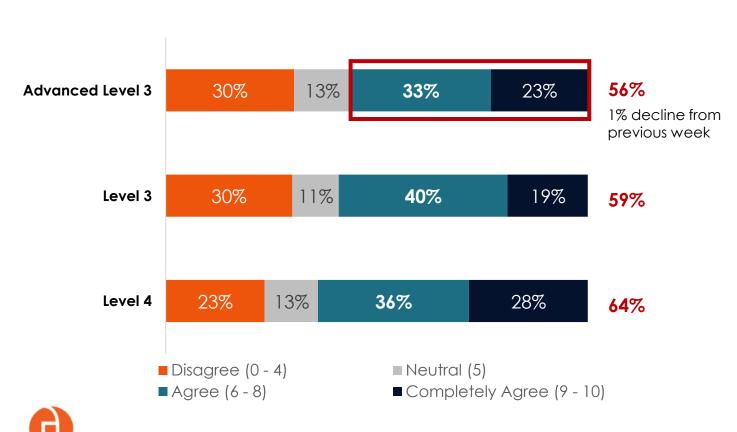


Awareness of funding/ aid and corruption

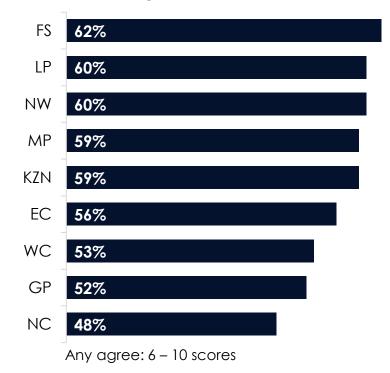
Awareness of the Solidarity Fund has decreased slightly from level 3 (4% decline) and has shown further decrease from last week.

Awareness levels around the Solidarity Fund is also higher amongst males than females.

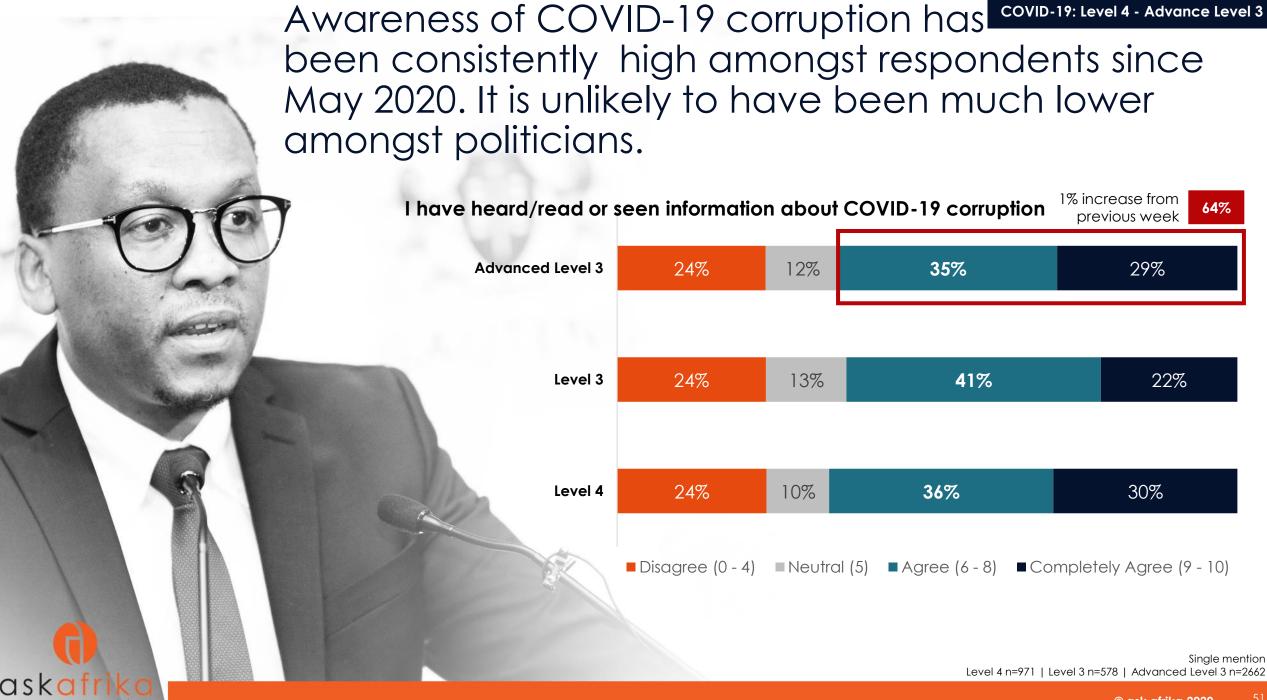
I have heard/read or seen information about the Solidarity Fund



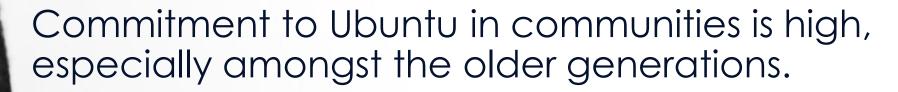
Awareness levels around Solidarity Fund information is lowest amongst residents of the Northern Cape



Single mention Level 4 n=959 | Level 3 n=571 | Advanced Level 3 n=2656

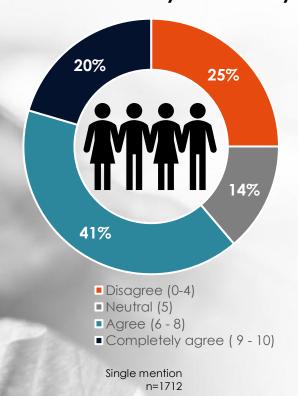


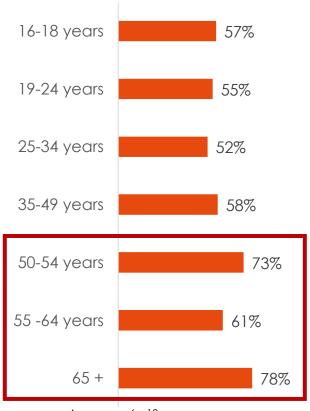
COVID-19 Behaviours & Perceptions



The sense of Ubuntu is driven by communities' willingness to give up on things like socializing (55%) and staying home (59%) to keep others safe. Communities' sharing resources like food and water so that others don't go hungry is also contributing, however, to a lesser extent (52% agree/ 35% disagree)

Despite the crisis there is a sense of ubuntu in my community



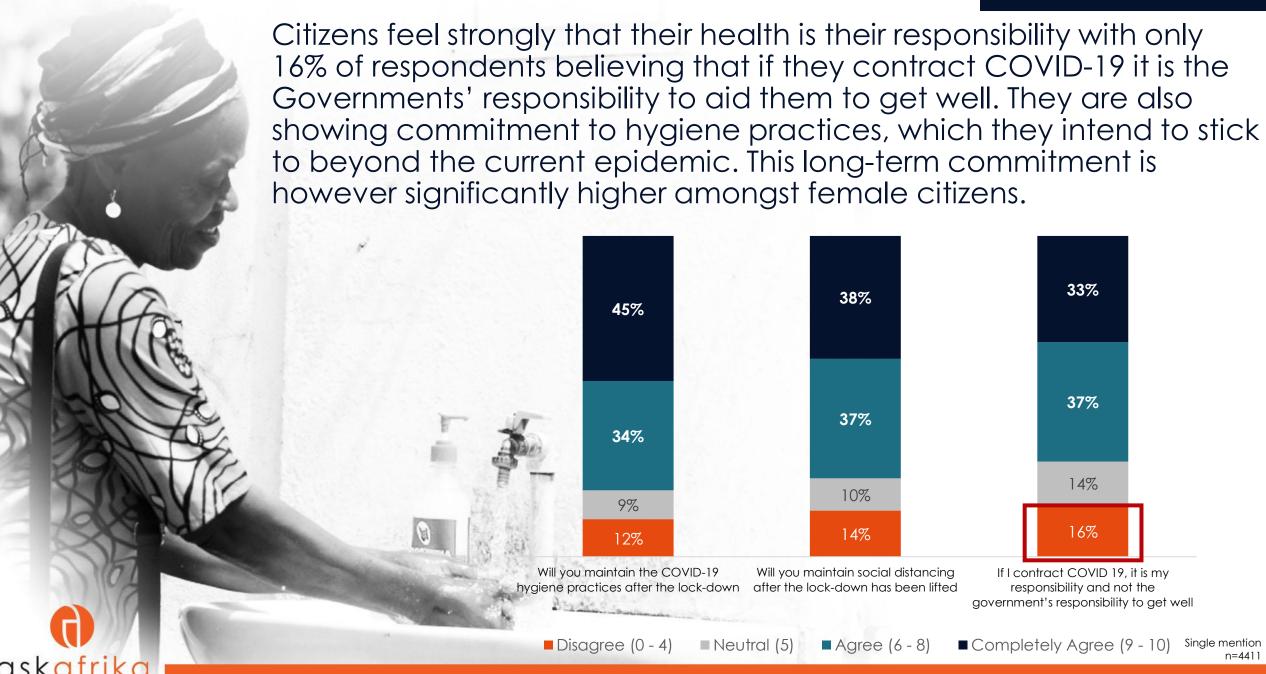




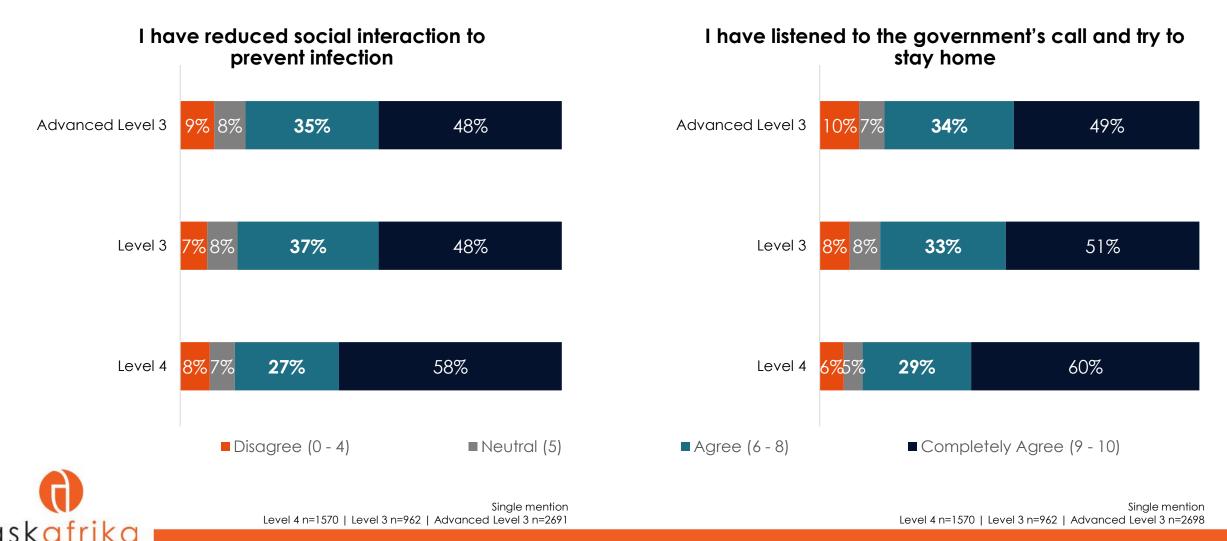
Single mention n=2297

Completely Agree (0-4)

38%



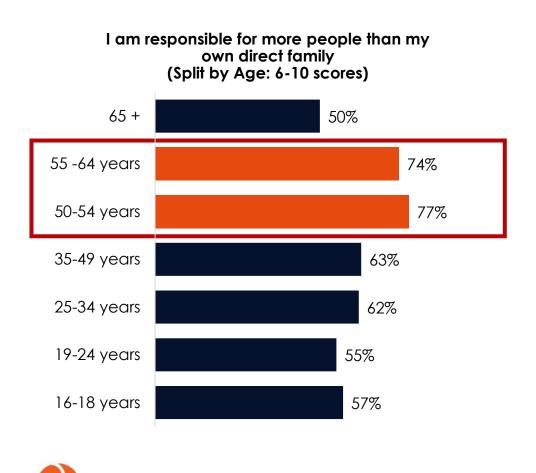
Most citizens believe that they are playing their part in curbing the spread of the virus. This belief is however lowest in the Northern Cape. During advanced level 3, females have been significantly more likely to reduce their social interactions as well as stay at home, when compared to males.

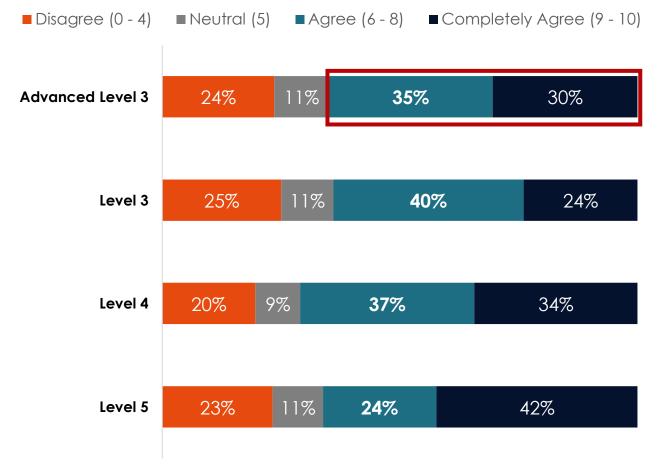


Social support obligations are slowly reducing through advanced level 3.

Giving social support to others outside direct family dependents is more prevalent amongst those between the ages of 50 to 64 years of age.

I am responsible for more people than my own direct family

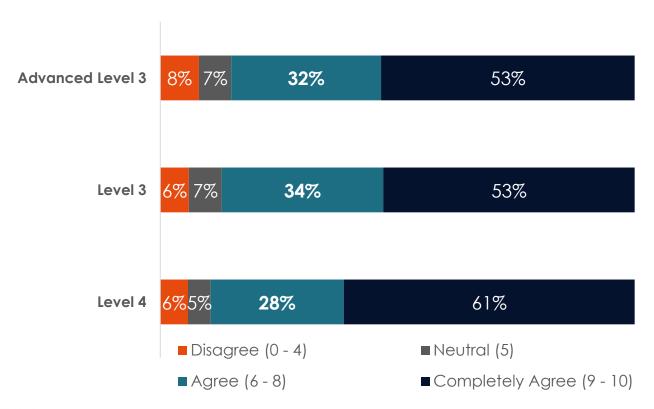


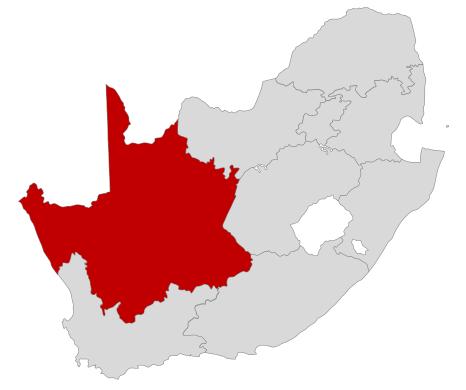


Level 5 n=340 | Level 4 n=1155 | Level 3 n=583 | Advanced Level 3 n=2687

Citizens tend to understand that they must play their individual role in beating the virus. Females are however significantly more likely to show this level of understanding.

I understand that I must play my part in beating this virus

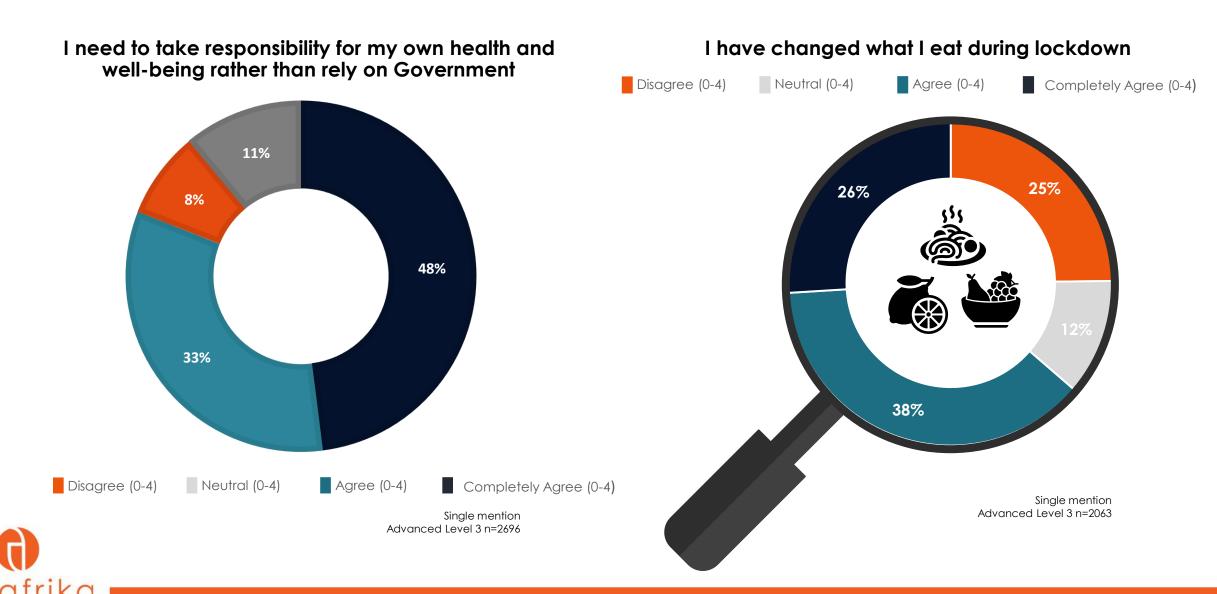




With the low hygiene compliance levels for the Northern Cape, it is unsurprising that the level of understanding of playing your individual part in beating the virus is lowest in this province as well (78%).

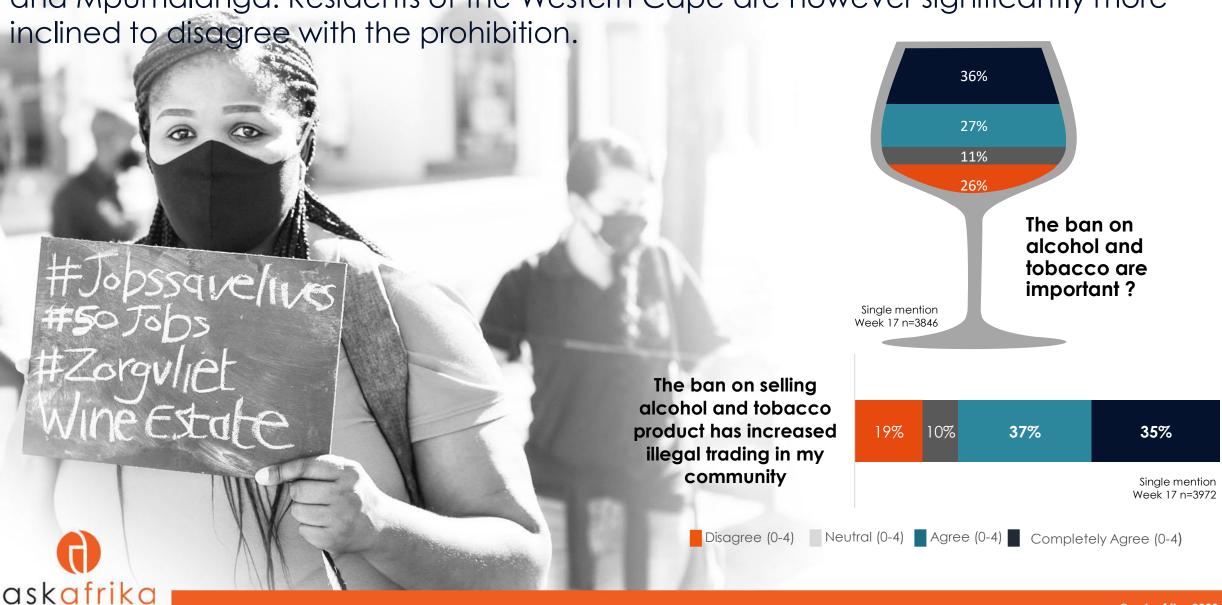


Citizens feel strongly that they need to take responsibility for their own health and well-being, rather than relying on the Government.



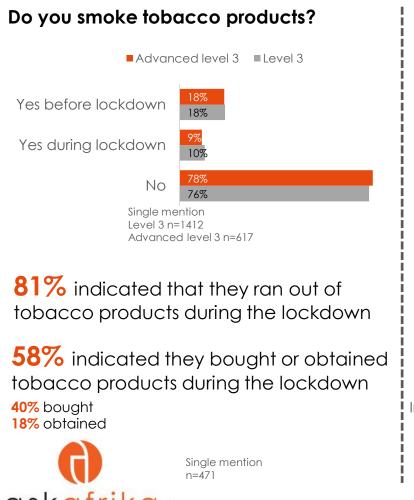


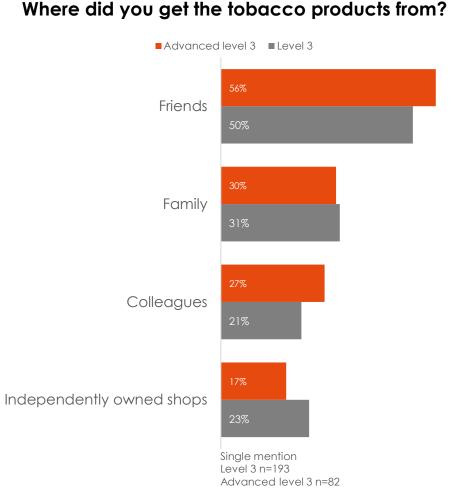
Although increasing illegal trade in communities, citizens tend to believe that the ban on alcohol and tobacco is important, especially those living in Gauteng and Mpumalanga. Residents of the Western Cape are however significantly more

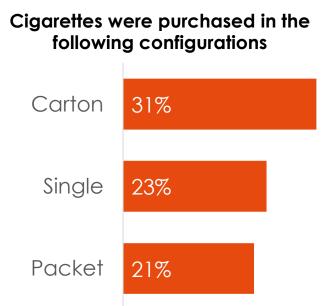


Half of those who ran out of tobacco products bought or obtained tobacco products during the lockdown, which they mainly sourced from friends and family.

62% of smokers tried to quit during the lockdown Advanced level 3 n=138



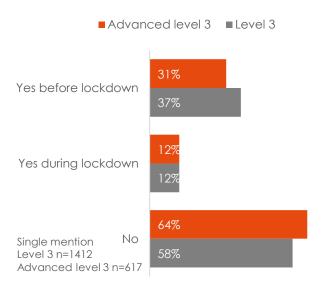




Those who purchased cigarettes during the lockdown, mainly purchased it in cartons.

Half of respondents could not stock up on alcohol before the new ban was instated. A quarter of those who ran out of alcoholic products bought or obtained these products during the lockdown, which they mainly sourced from friends.

Do you consume alcoholic products?



81% indicated they ran out of alcoholic products during the lockdown (73% in level 3)

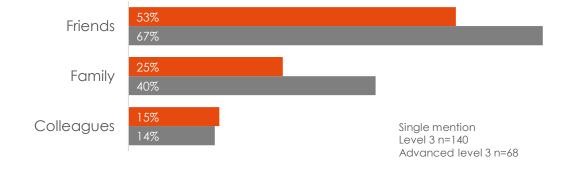
Single mention Level 3 n=587 Advanced level 3 n=222

38% indicated they bought or obtained alcoholic products during the lockdown (33% in level 3)

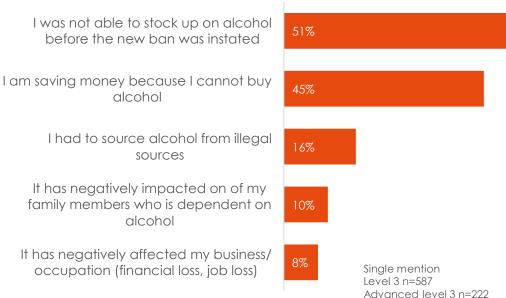
26% bought 12% obtained

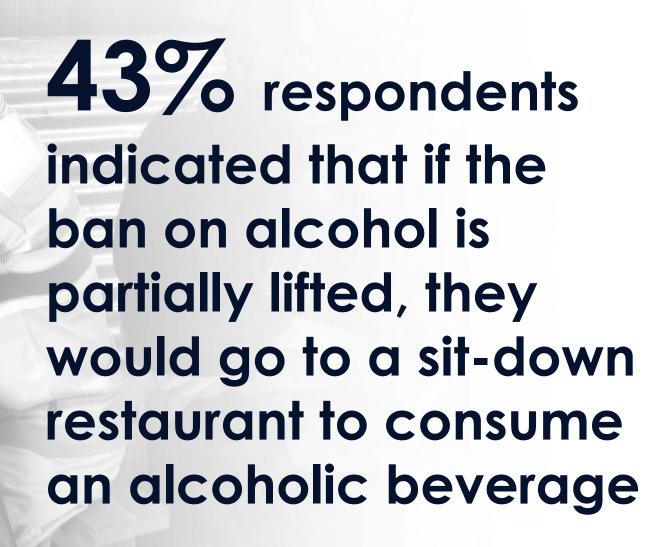
Single mention Level 3 n=426 Advanced level 3 n=180

Where did you get the alcoholic products from?



How has the alcohol ban affected you?



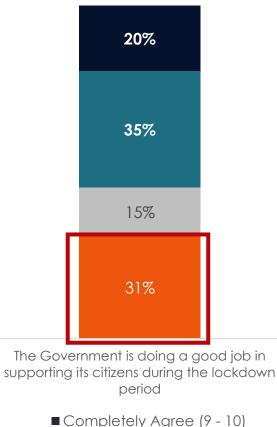




Residents of the Western Cape (41%) and Gauteng (43%) expect significantly more support from the Government, compared to those living in the North West, Mpumalanga, Limpopo and KZN.



The belief that the citizenry does not receive sufficient support from the Government during the lockdown has throughout advanced level 3 been significantly more prevalent under females.



Pre-COVID-19. 60% of South Africans in metro and urban areas agreed that the Government is responsive to the needs of its citizens

Source: TGISA n=25 067, weighted to N=26 980 000 South Africans

■ Agree (6 - 8)

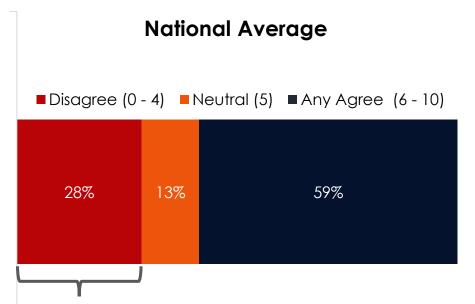
■ Neutral (5)

■ Disagree (0 - 4)

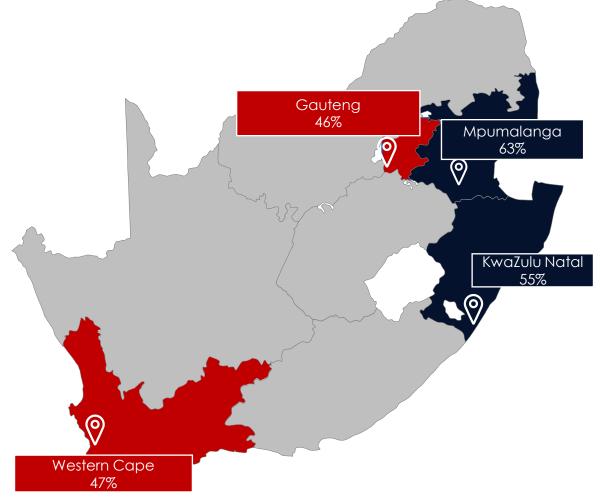
Single mention

28% of citizens believe that the Government is not taking the appropriate steps to prevent the spread of the outbreak. Citizens living in Mpumalanga show relatively more confidence in the steps the government has taken thus far to prevent the spread of the outbreak.

The
Government is
taking
appropriate
steps to
prevent the
spread of the
outbreak

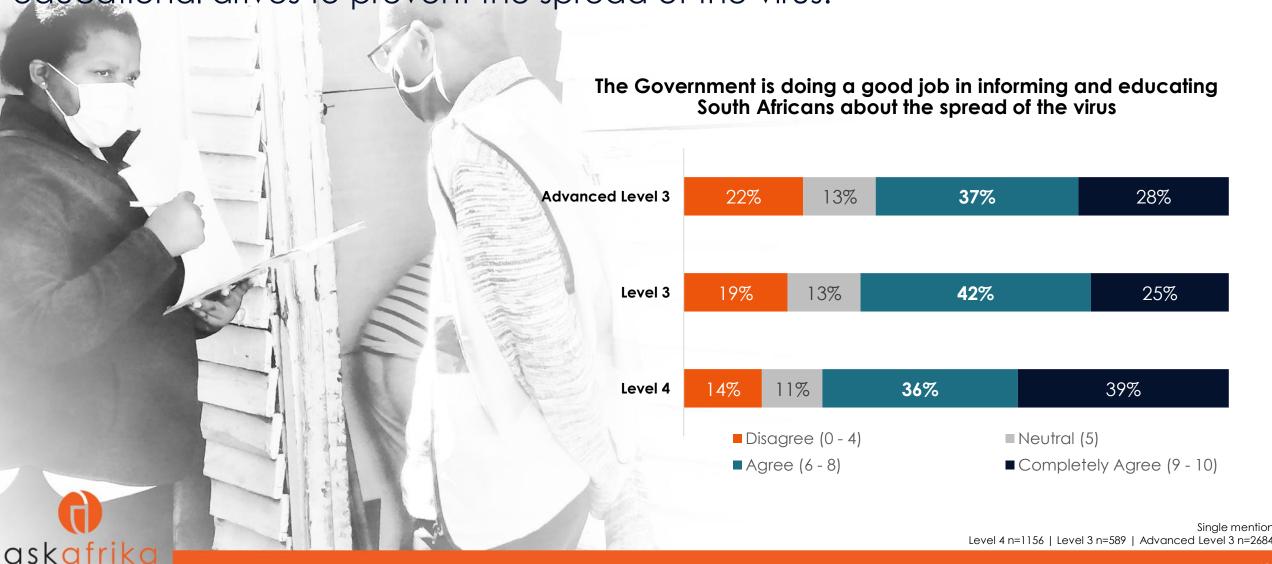


Throughout advance level 3, females (46%) are significantly more likely than males (31%) to believe that Government is not necessarily taking the appropriate steps to prevent the spread of the outbreak.

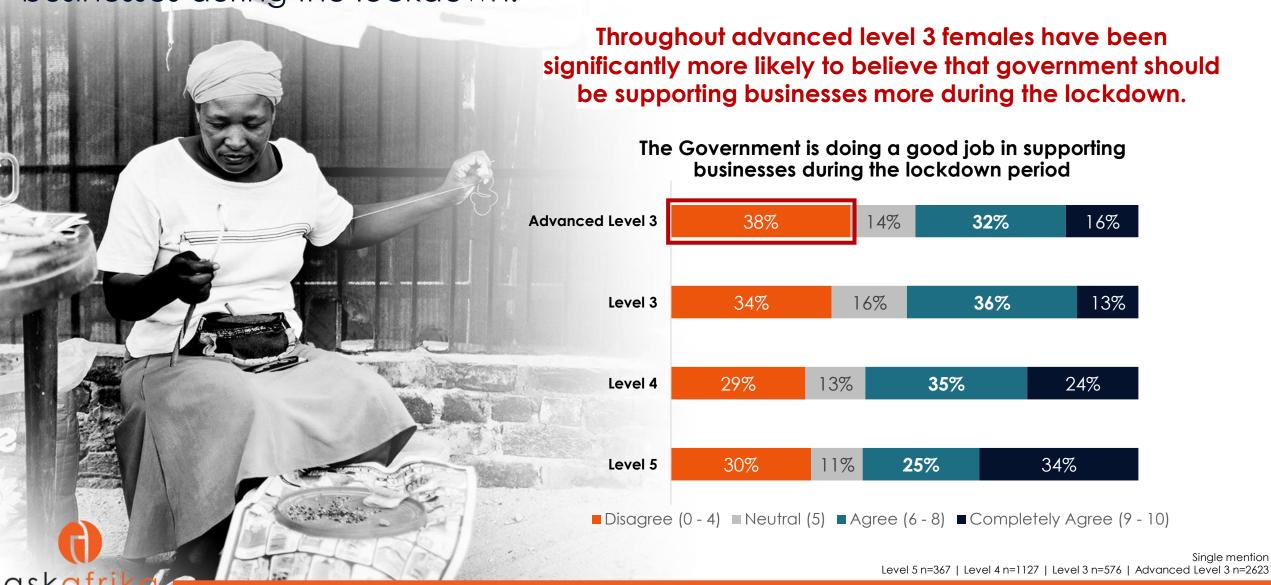




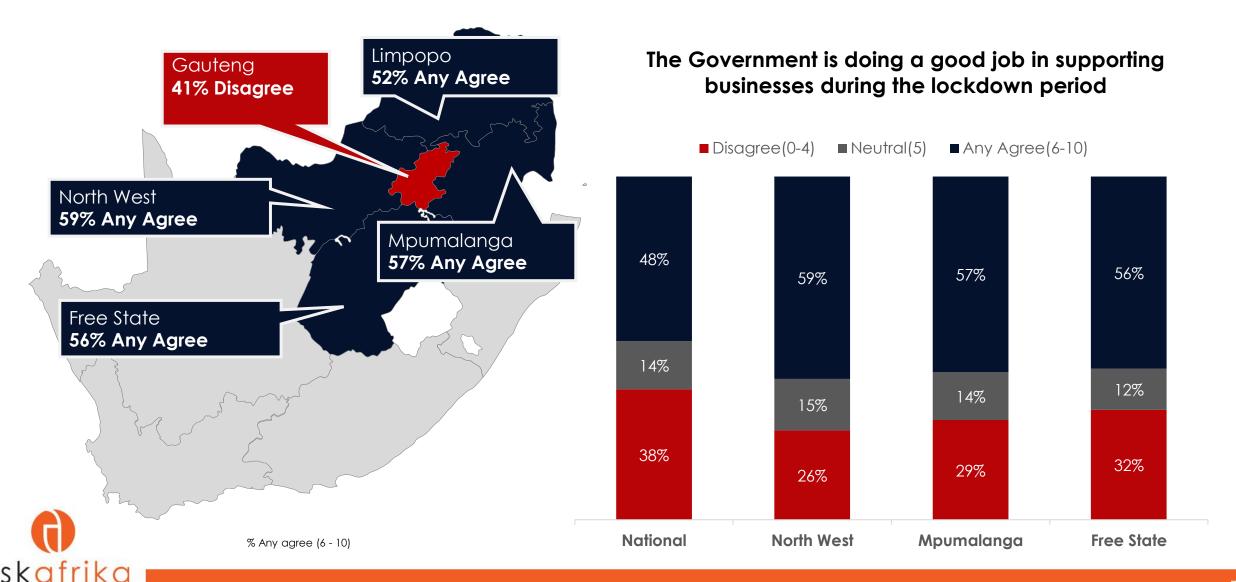
Consistently since level 4, less respondents (11% from level 4) believe that the Government is doing a good job in informing and educating South Africans about the spread of the virus, indicating a continuous need for educational drives to prevent the spread of the virus.

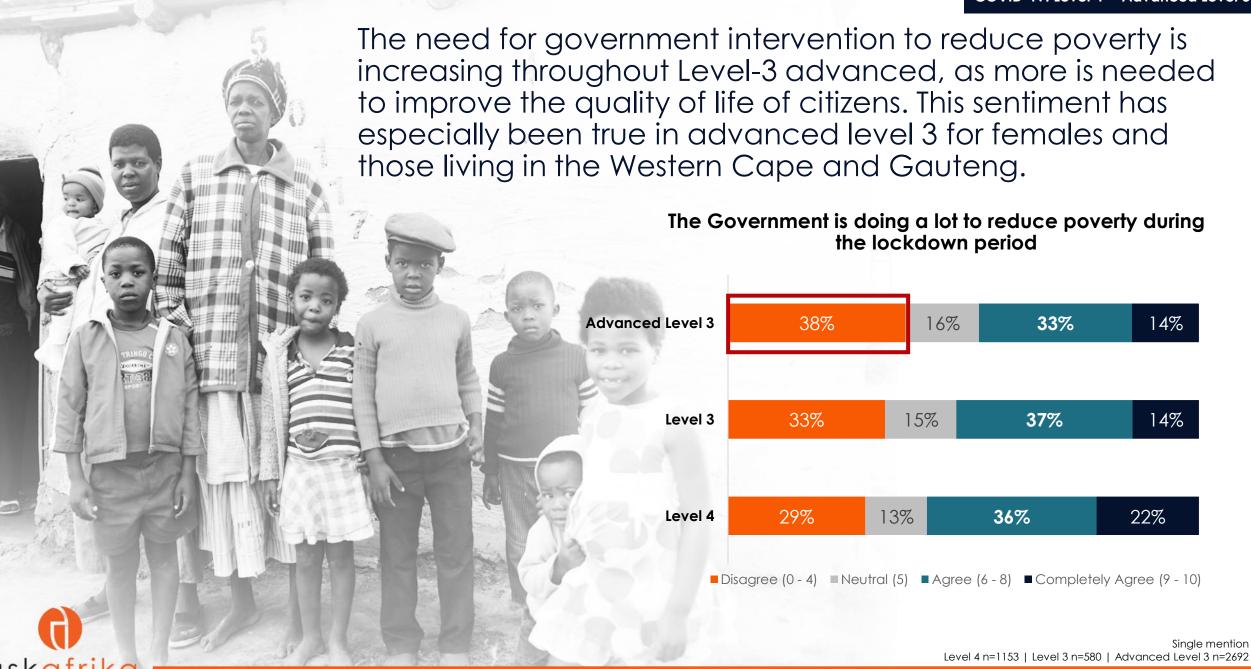


As we progress through Level-3 advanced, fewer citizens believe that the Government is doing enough to support businesses during the lockdown.



Gauteng Province believe the Government is not doing enough to support businesses during the lockdown period, which is echoed by female citizens on a national level.

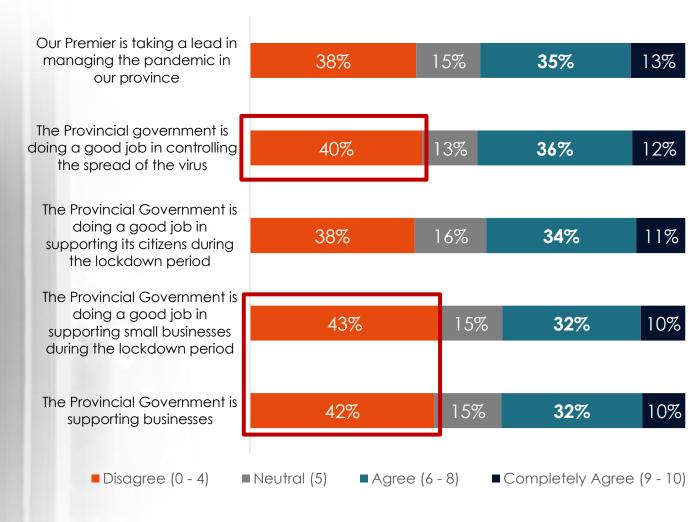




More can be done on a Provincial Government level to prevent the spread of the virus as well as support citizens and businesses during the pandemic.



askafrika



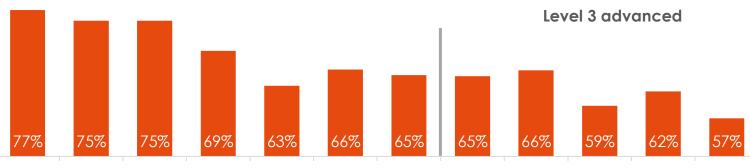
54% of people know who the Premier of their respective provinces are.

Single mention n= 1220

Trust in political leadership

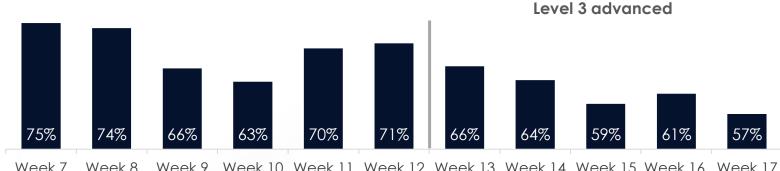
Public trust in President Rampahosa has waned as the country moves through the lockdown, although one in two still show high levels of trust in the President leading the country during this time.

I trust the President to lead the country during this time

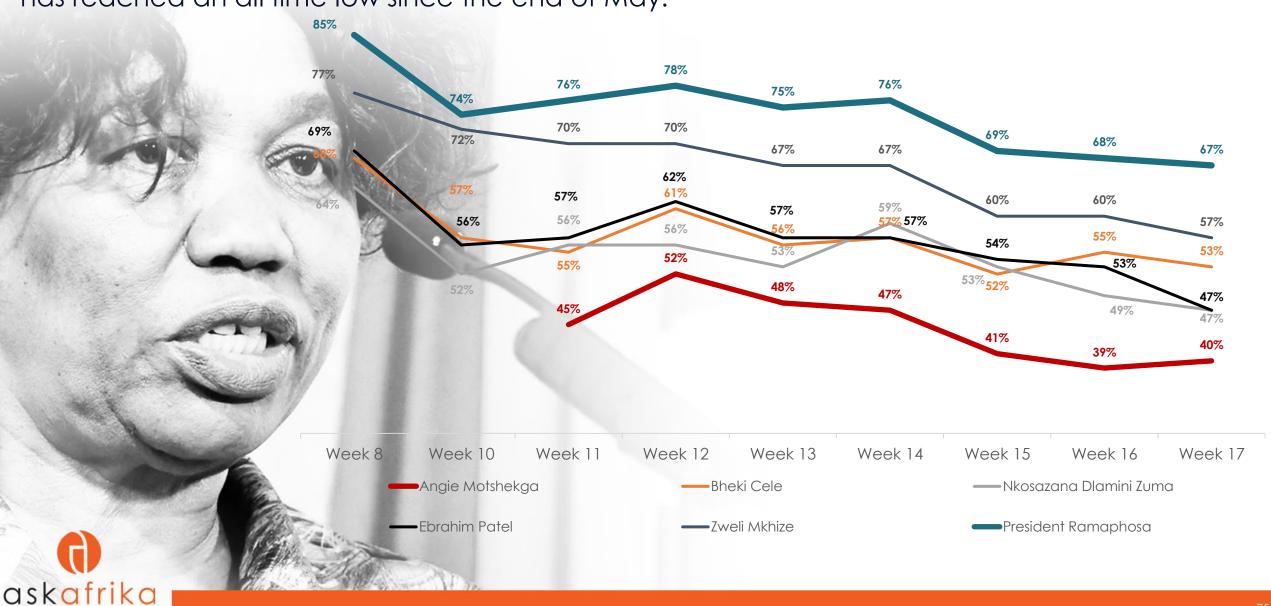


Week 8 Week 9 Week 10 Week 11 Week 12 Week 13 Week 14 Week 15 Week 16 Week 17

The President is taking lead in managing the pandemic in the country



Trust in South Africa's leadership is declining as we move through the lockdown, with continuously declining trust in the President. Trust in the leaders except Min. Motshekga has reached an all time low since the end of May.



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"You know you are truly alive when you're living among lions." — Isak Dinesen, Out of Africa.

