LIBERIA INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS AND GEO-INFORMATION SERVICES

(LISGIS)

Thematic Report on Household Characteristics and Housing Conditions

2022 Liberia Population and Housing Census

Dear Reader,

I am pleased to present this document as a highlight summary of the upcoming Thematic Report on Household Characteristics and Housing Conditions from the 2022 Liberia Population and Housing Census (LPHC). This summary offers a snapshot of the key findings and insights that will be detailed in the final report.

Please note that the full report is currently undergoing finalization, which includes comprehensive editing, formatting, graphic designing, and proofreading. The finalized version will replace this document once it is completed.

We appreciate your patience and look forward to sharing the complete report with you soon.

Best regards,

Johnson Q. Kei
Deputy Director General for Information and Coordination
Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)

Outline

⇨ Background and Context

⇨ Households' Utilities and Housing Conditions Policies

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❑ The population and housing census is the principal mechanism for collecting essential statistics on population dynamics and housing conditions that are required for socio-economic development and evidence-based decision making.

❑ Since the early 1960s, the need for socio-demographic indicators of the population in Liberia have been increasingly paramount for the Government development planning and policy formulation.

❑ The Liberia Population & Housing Census (LPHC) is the principal source of statistics on housing and human settlement of the population.

❑ The LPHC defined a household as a person or group of related or unrelated persons living together in the same dwelling unit(s), acknowledge one adult male or female as their head of the household, share the same housekeeping arrangements, and are considered a single unit.

❑ Statistics on households are important to determine the national economic priorities for policy decision making, given the demand for economic goods that are considered human basic needs.

❑ Without the needed statistics on households, planning, monitoring and evaluation of interventions cannot be realized.

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❑ The LPHC 2022 produces benchmark statistics on the current housing situation that is vital for developing national programs on housing and human settlements.

❑ The first Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS-1, 2008), and second PRS-2 known as the Agenda for Transformation (AfT, 2013) articulated the poor state of housing conditions in the country and emphasized the need for urgent action since it leads to homelessness and undermines government's efforts aimed at improving the quality of life of the population.

❑ In 2018, the Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) launched by the Government of Liberia (GoL) to improve the housing, water quality, accessibility and sanitation conditions of the population to achieve SDG 11.1 targets.

❑ **SDGs 11.1:** "Ensure access to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and upgraded slums by 2030. The Government of Liberia has a set of planned targets to improve human settlement by investing in the construction of affordable housing units and rural housing units.

❑ **SDGs 6.1:** By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

❑ The GoL 2023 targets were:

- 85% have access to basic water services;

- 85% have access to basic sanitation;

- 60% have access to safely managed sanitation;

- 75% of community open defecation free;

- 100% of district WASH plan approved;

- 100% of human capacity in WASH sector.

Methodology

❑ The analysis was anchored on the UN Habitat Agenda and the National Agenda of the Government using cross-sectional approach to the households' composition and indicators of housing characteristics of the population of Liberia.

❑ Generally, the analysis was based on gender dimensions and by residence in household, headship, ownership of households amenities, and other allied socio-economic issues.

❑ The main source of data is the 2022 LPHC

❑ Descriptive analysis was used to analyze the data

❑ Statistics on household characteristics are presented by tables, graphs and charts

❑ Comparisons are made between 2008 NPHC and 2022 LPHC

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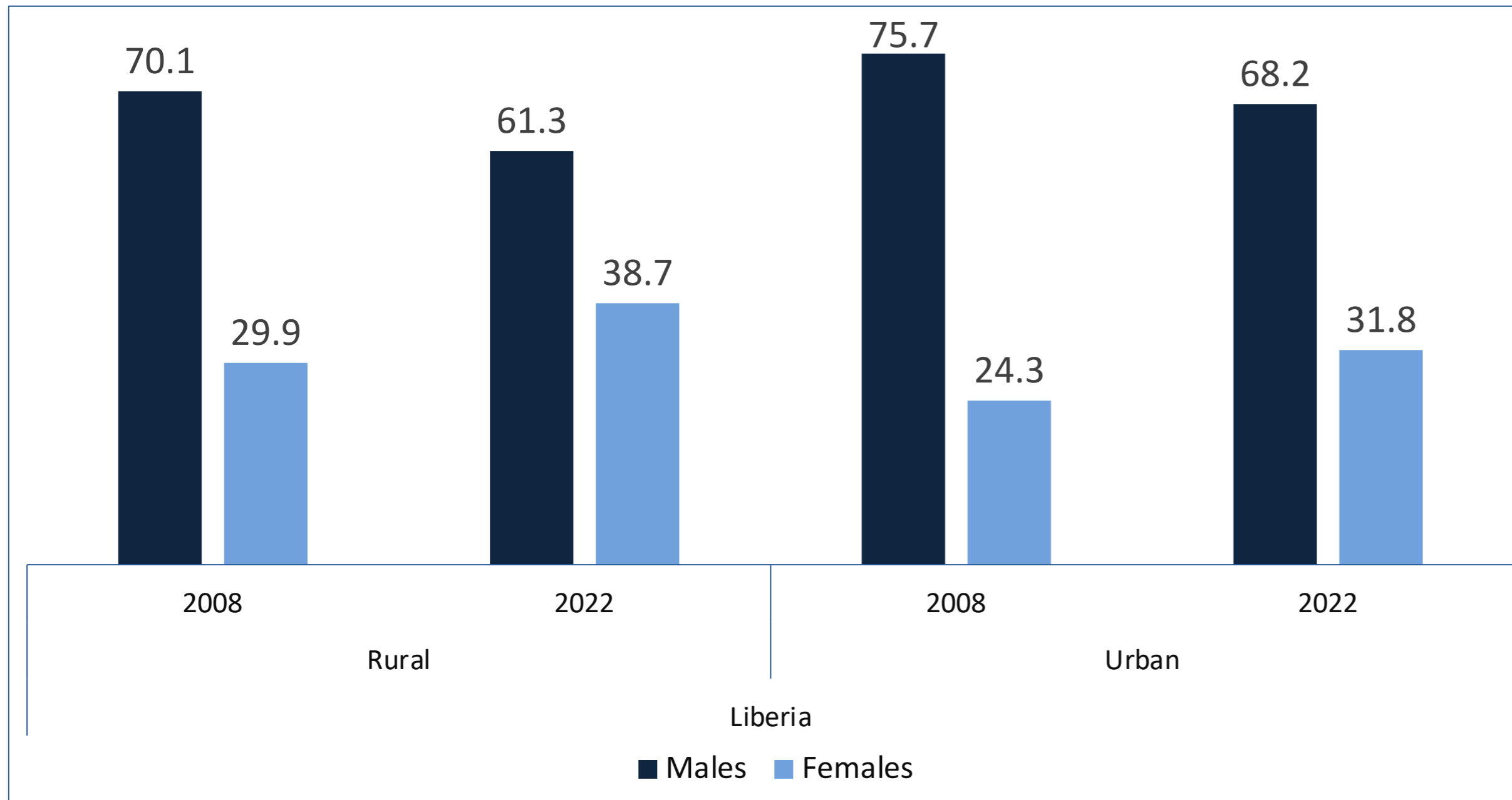# Percentage Distribution of Household headship by age group and sex
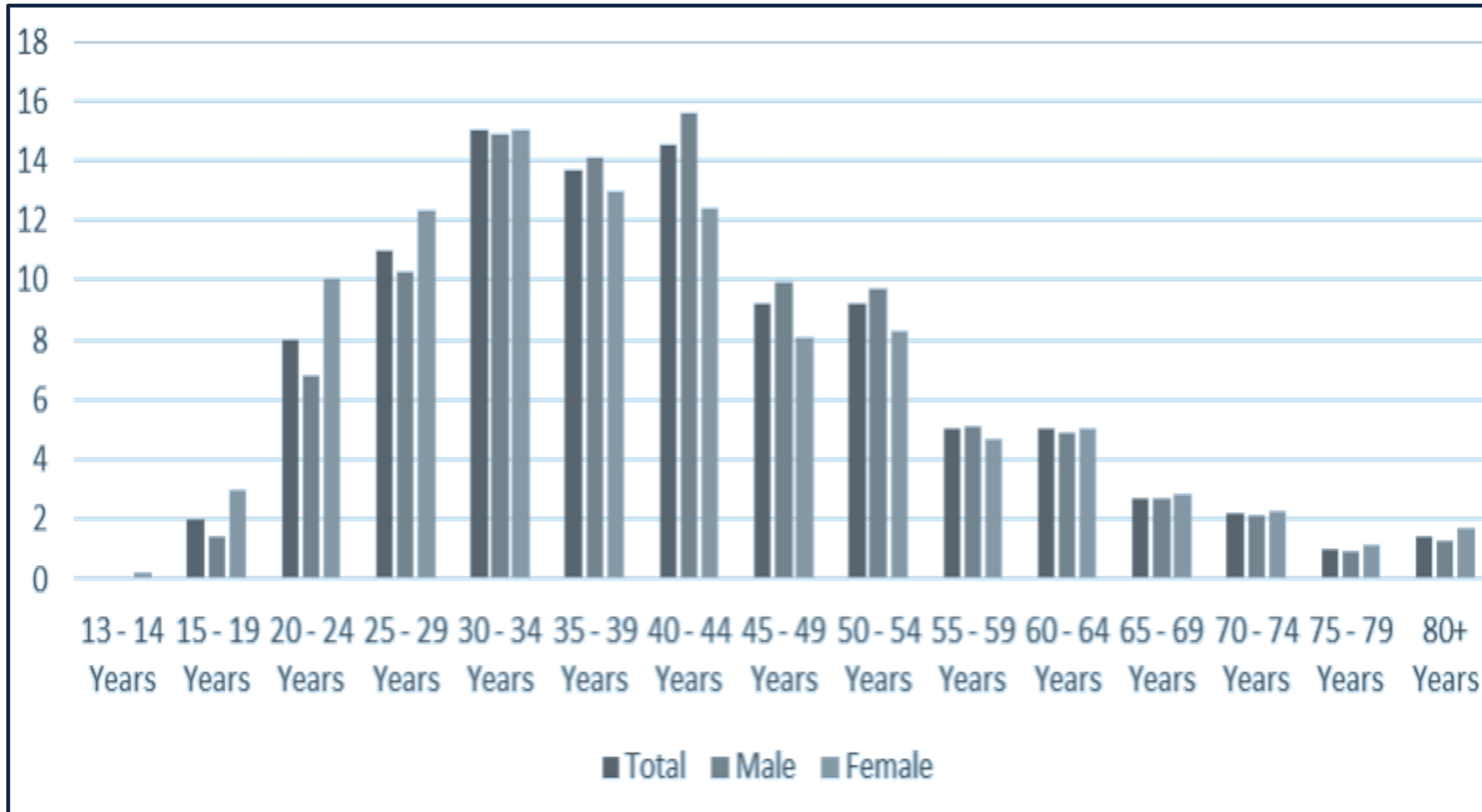
Household headship among both sexes is mainly concentrated in the combined age groups 25-44, accounting for about 54.2%.

The highest proportion for both sexes was in the age group 30-34 years with 15%.

Percentage Distribution of Household headship by Residence 2008 and 2022

Rural
- 2008: Males 70.1, Females 29.9
- 2022: Males 61.3, Females 38.7

Urban
- 2008: Males 75.7, Females 24.3
- 2022: Males 68.2, Females 31.8

Liberia

■ Males ■ Females

The percentage of male headed of households reduces both in urban and rural areas from 2008 to 2022, while female headed households are increases over the same period

Percentage Distribution by Household and Non-Household Population

99.1
98.3
97.4

0.9
1.7
2.6

Rural
Urban
Liberia

Non Household ■ Household

97.4% of the Liberian population lives in regular households, while 2.6% of the population lives in other living quarters or non household

98.3% of urban population lives in regular households

99.1% of rural population lived in regular households

Urban areas hold the highest proportion of non household population

Heads of household age 13 – 17 years
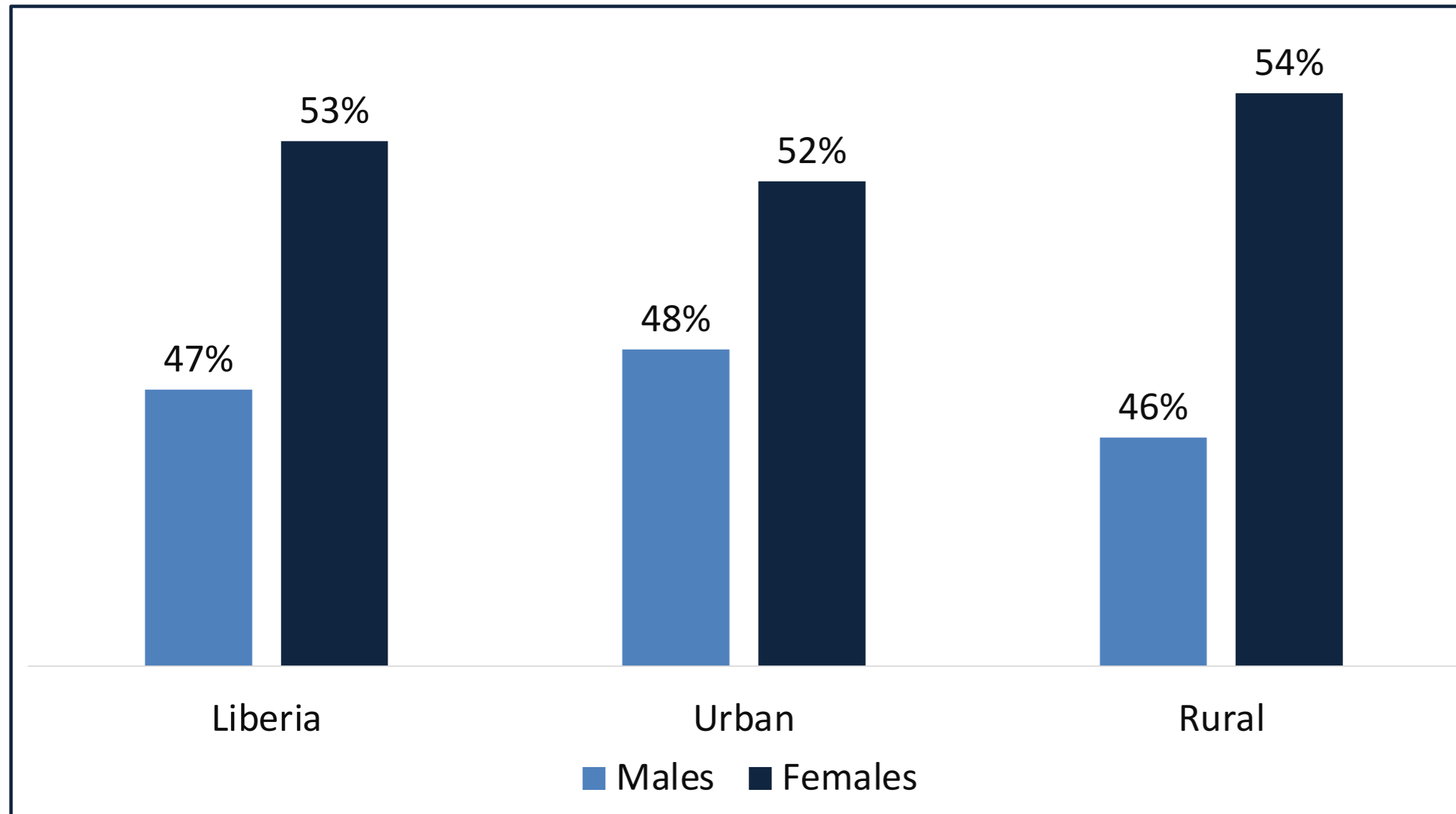
In Liberia, 53% of household heads aged 13-17 yrs are females with 52% in Urban and 54% in Rural areas

Households Size that live in a Single Room

64.7% | 55.6% | 46.1% | 21%

1 Person | 2 Persons | 3 Persons | 4 Persons
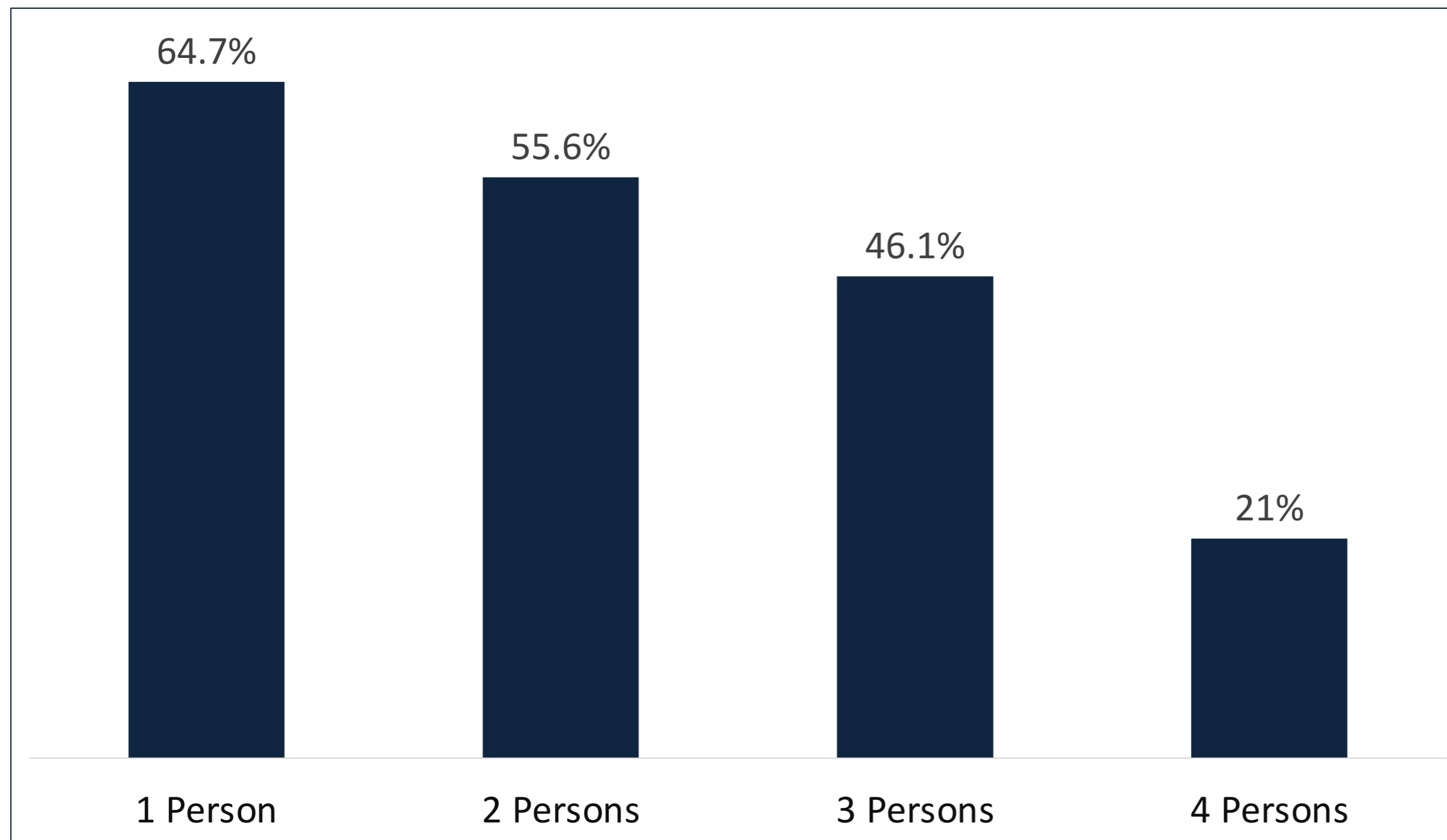
21% of all four (4) persons households in Liberia live in a single room while 46.1% of three persons households live in a single room

Household Main Source of Drinking Water in 2008 & 2022
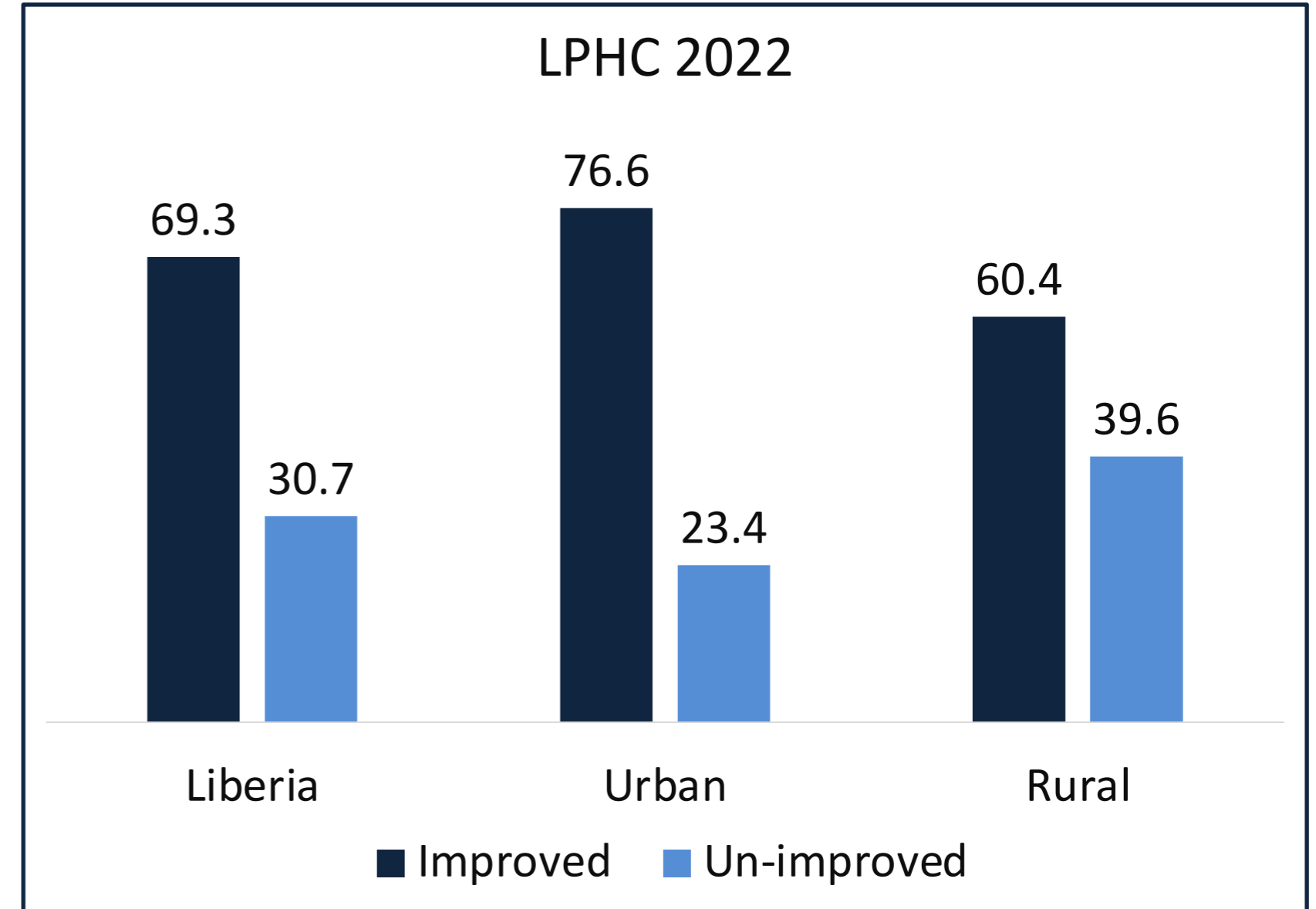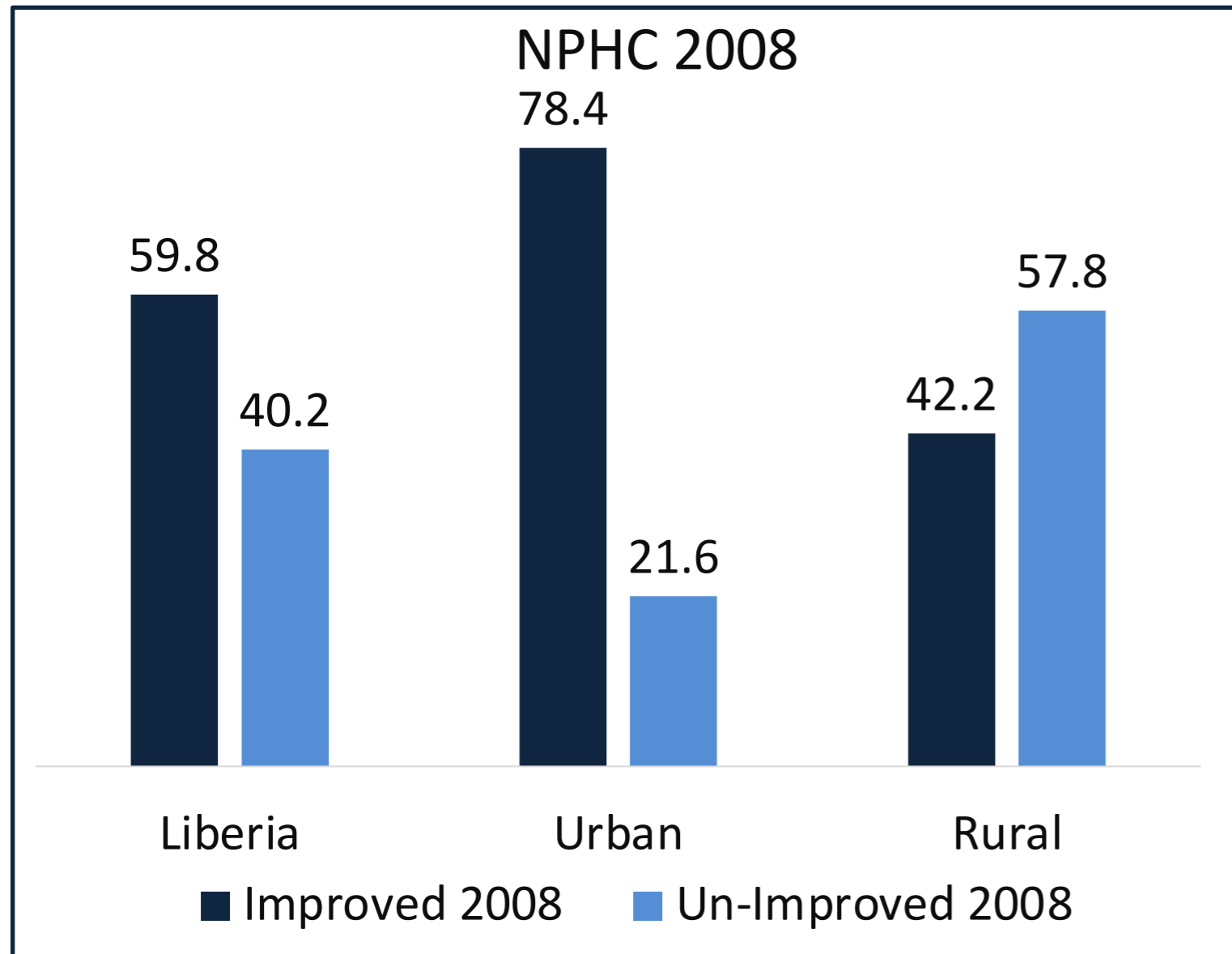
69.3% of household drinks water from an improved sources (pipe, borehole, bottle water, sachet water) and **30.7%** drink from un-improved sources including rivers, lake & spring-**12.3%.** In 2008, **59.8%** of population had access to improved source of drinking water.

Distribution of Households by Type of Toilet Facility in 2008 & 2022

Type of Toilet Facility 2008

Category	Value
Bush	49.7
Covered pit latrine outside building	21.0
Flush	13.5
Open pit latrine	8.4
Beach	4.4
Other	3.0

Type of Toilet Facility 2022

Category	Value
Flush toilet	40.2
Bush	29.6
Covered pit latrine outside building	16.4
Open pit latrine	11.2
Beach/River side	2.4
Other	0.2
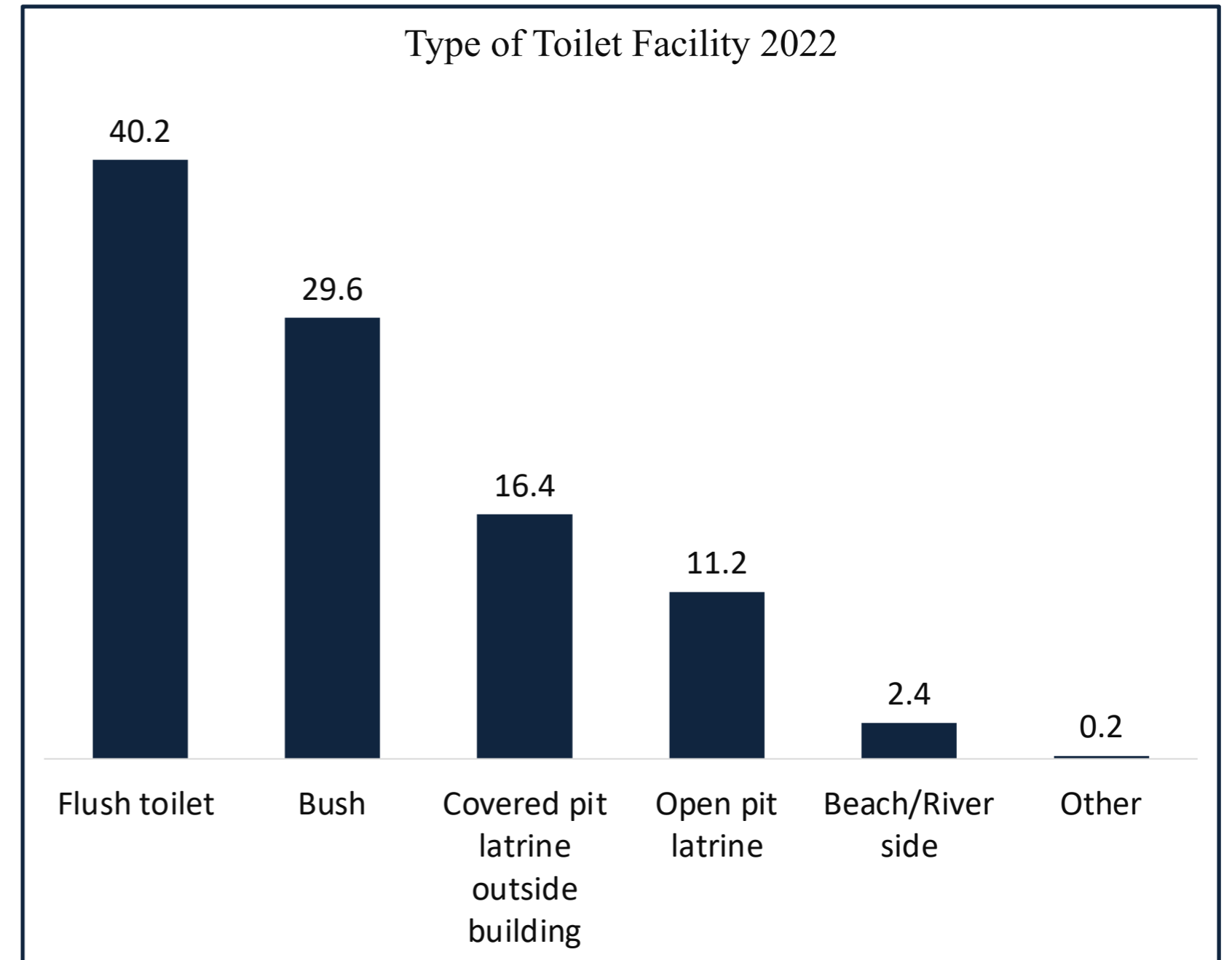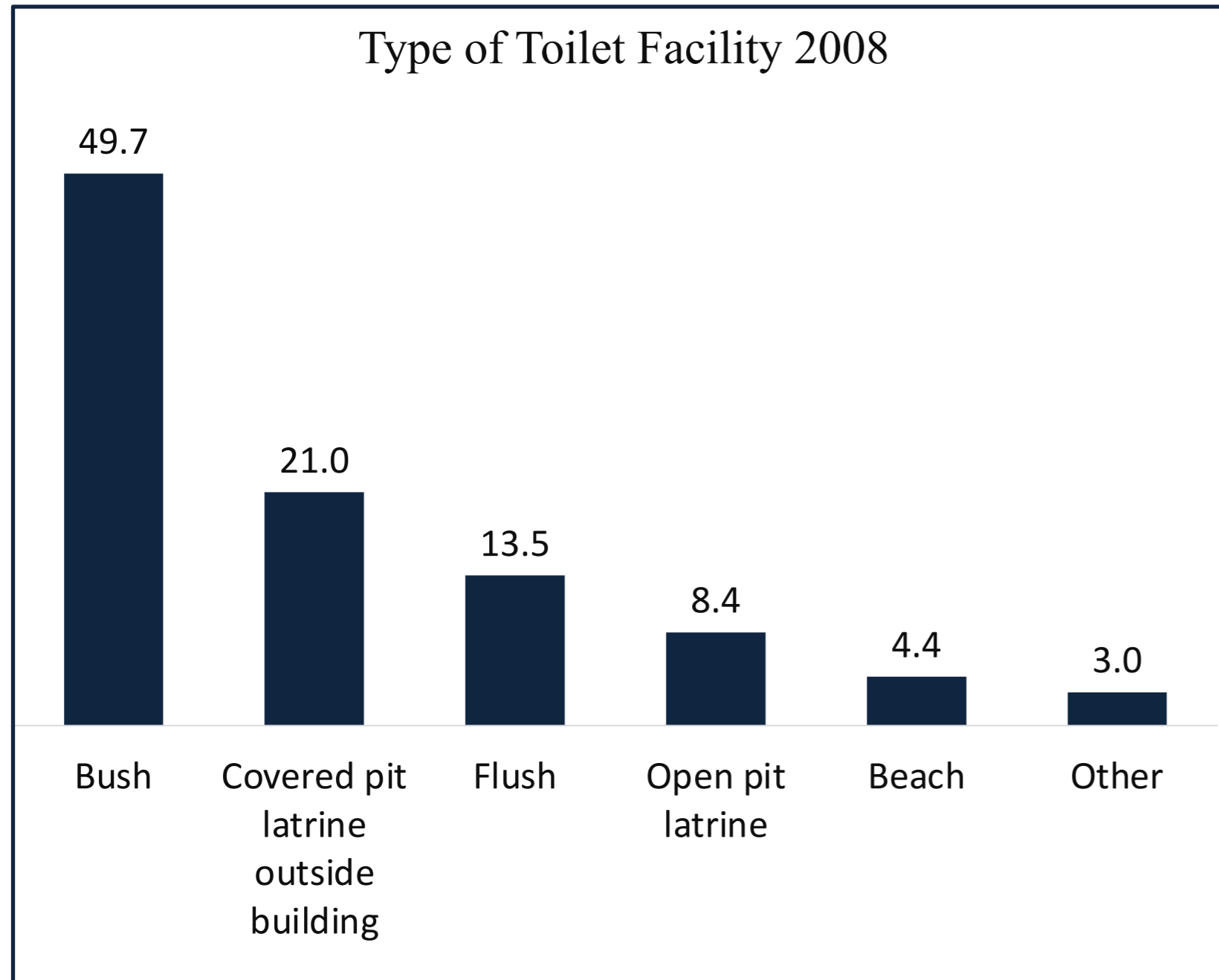
The practice of open defecation by household reduced from 57.1% in 2008 to 32.2% in 2022.

Households access to health facility (by walking)
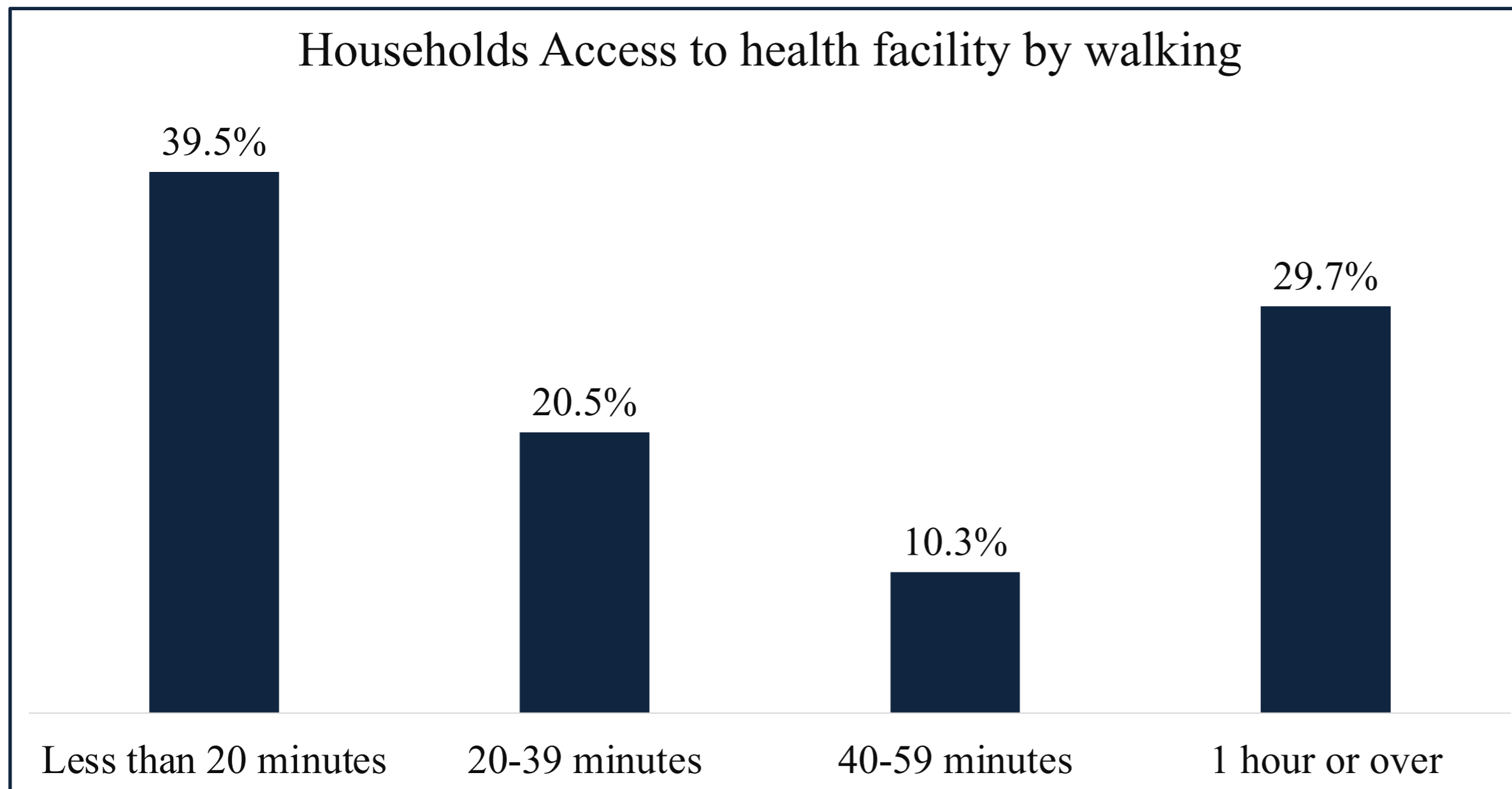
Households Access to health facility by walking

Category	Percentage
Less than 20 minutes	39.5%
20-39 minutes	20.5%
40-59 minutes	10.3%
1 hour or over	29.7%

About 40% of households in Liberia take less than 20 minutes to access the nearest health facility by walking while 29.7% takes an hour or more

Households access to health facility (by walking) according to County

About 40% of households in Liberia take less than 20 minutes to access the nearest health facility by walking while 29.7% takes an hour or more

Households access to health facility (by walking) according to County

Less than 20mins ■ **20 to 39mins** ■ **40 to 59 mins** ■ **1 hour or over**

	Less than 20mins	20 to 39mins	40 to 59 mins	1 hour or over
Liberia – Total	54.2	24.7	9.4	11.7
Liberia – Male	53.6	24.2	9.4	12.8
Liberia – Female	55.2	25.7	9.4	9.7
Urban – Total	59.5	27.1	8.9	4.5
Urban – Male	59.9	26.9	8.7	4.5
Urban – Female	58.9	27.4	9.1	4.6
Rural – Total	47.7	21.8	10	20.5
Rural – Male	46.7	21.2	10.1	22
Rural – Female	49.8	23.2	9.8	17.2
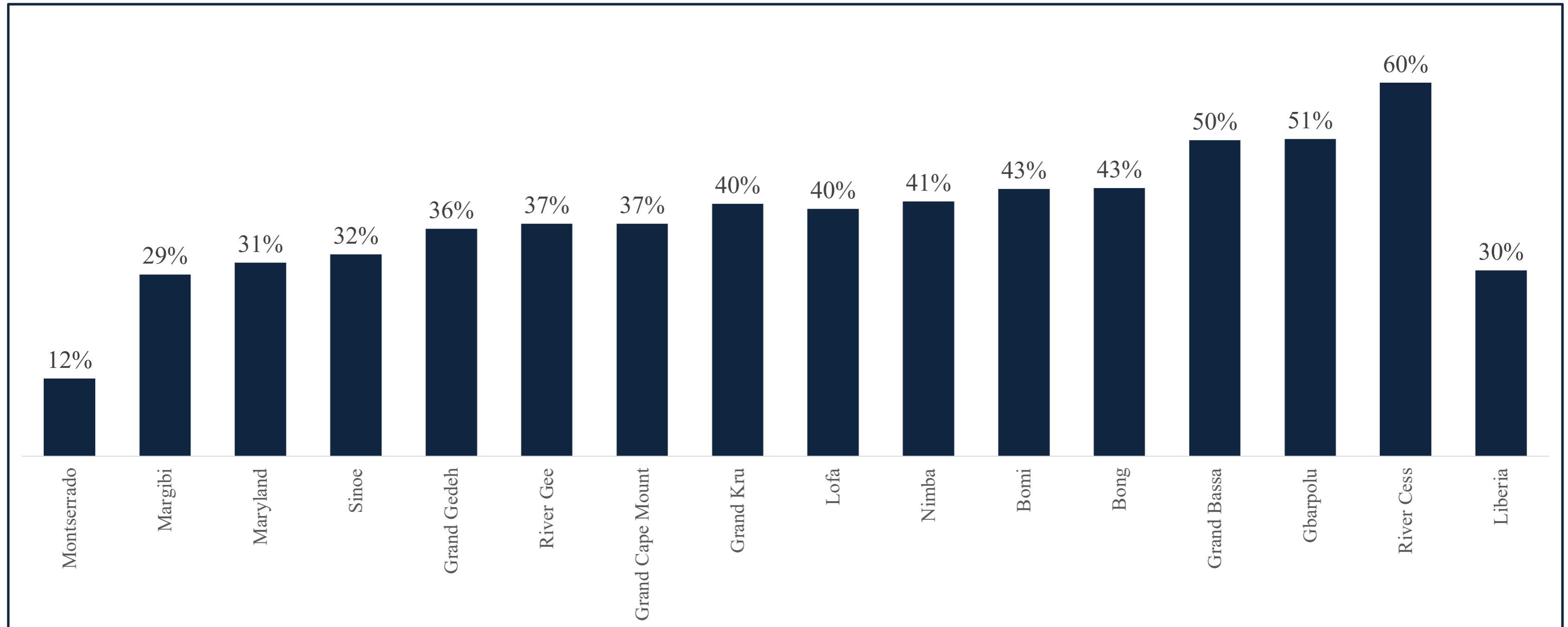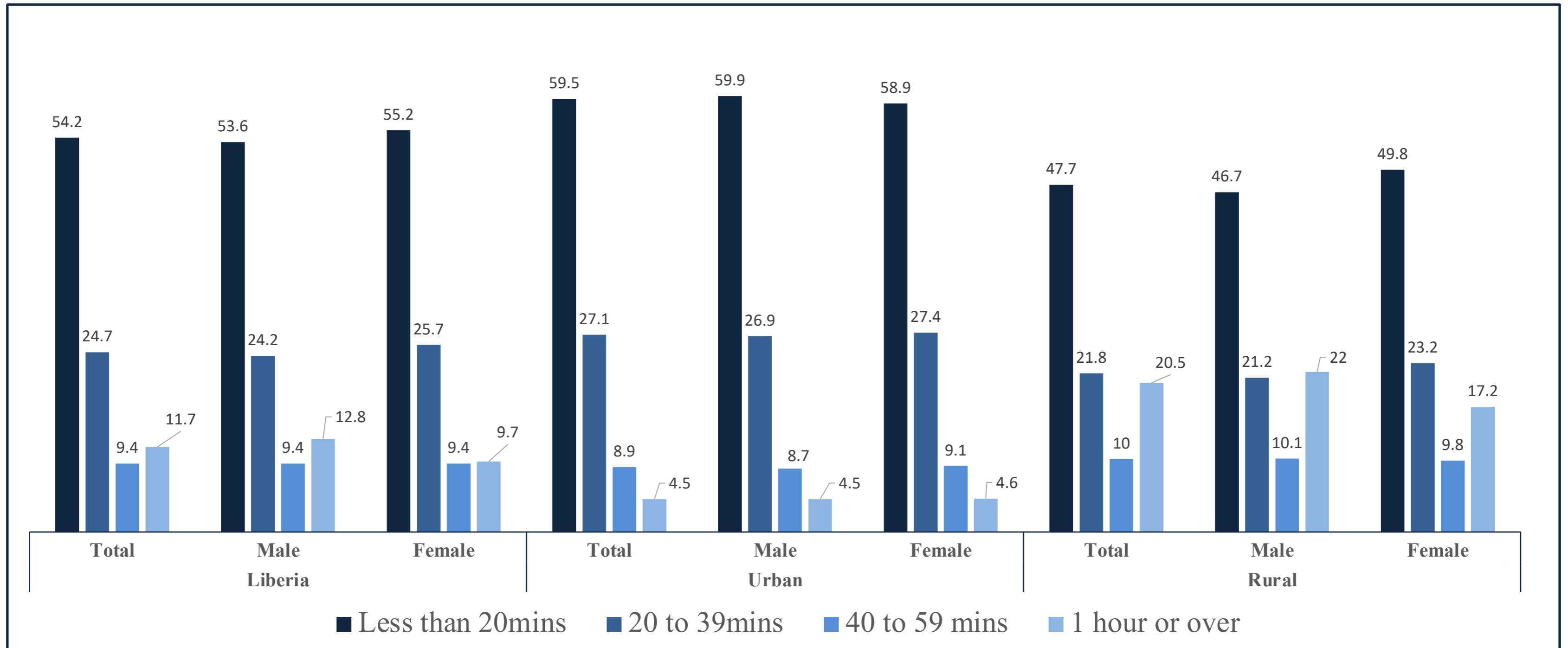
54% of the households take less than 20 minutes to reach the nearest primary school. In urban area, about 60% of households accessed the nearest primary school in less than 20 minutes against 48% in the rural

Household's Main Source of Fuel for Cooking

Fuel for Cooking	Liberia			Urban			Rural		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
Electricity	1.4	1.5	1.3	2.3	2.5	1.9	0.4	0.4	0.4
Cooking Gas	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.6	1.7	1.3	0.2	0.2	0.1
Kerosene	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2
Charcoal	**52.2**	50.3	55.5	83.3	83.4	83.2	14.3	14.2	14.5
Wood	**44.7**	46.3	41.7	11.7	11.1	12.8	84.7	84.8	84.6
Other	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.7	1.0	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2

Households in Liberia greatly depend on charcoal and wood for cooking fuel. Charcoal accounted for 52.2% and wood for about 45%. Rural areas mostly depend on firewood while the urban areas depend on charcoal.

Household's Main Source of Energy for Lighting

Source	Percentage
Kerosine	0.3
Electricity (West Africa)	0.4
Other	0.5
Palm oil lamp (lantern)	1.3
Candle	1.4
Electricity (Community)	2.2
Wood	3.3
Electricity (Owned generator)	4.8
Solar panel	5.7
Electricity (LEC)	25.3
Chinese/battery light	54.8
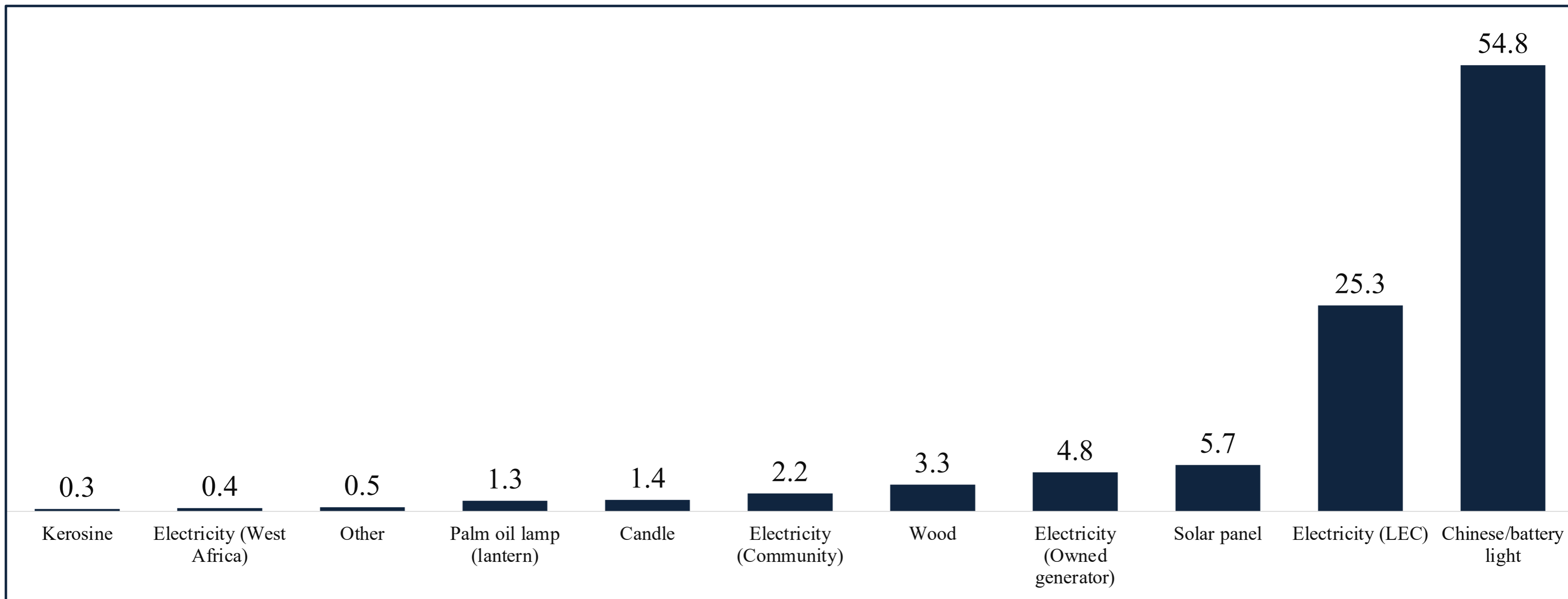
Only a quarter of Households use public grid (LEC) for lighting while 5% generate their own Electricity. In 2008, only 4.6% of households had electricity and 30% used Kerosene as their source of lighting.

Household's housing ownership status

Household Ownership Status	Liberia		Urban		Rural	
	2008	**2022**	**2008**	**2022**	**2008**	**2022**
Owned	70.2	63.3	55.4	46.7	84.5	81.1
Mortgaged/NHA	1.2	0.2	1.7	0.2	0.6	0.2
Rented	20.0	28.1	31.0	44.7	18	8
Government (Provided)	3.5	0.5	4.7	0.5	3.5	0.5
Private Company (Provided)	10.0	1.7	12.3	0.9	7.5	2.7
Private Individual (Provided)	6.5	2.6	13,8	2.2	9.0	3.1
Squatter	5.5	3.4	7.6	2.6	3.5	4.3
Other	3.0	0.3	4.2	0.3	1.9	0.2

More than half (63.3%) of the households were living in owned housing units. Note that owned housing units included purchased, self-constructed, inherited, and gifted housing units. There were urban-rural disparities in the ownership status. The proportions of owned housing units in rural and urban areas were 81.1% and 46.7% respectively, compared to 84.5 % and 55.4% in 2008.

Household's Repair needs of housing units

Current repair needs	HOUSEHOLDS BY RESIDENCE								
	Urban			Rural			Total (%)		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
No repairs	42.5	42.9	41.8	36	36.4	35	39.5	39.8	39.1
Minor repairs	42.3	42	42.8	45	44.5	46	43.5	43.2	44.1
Rehabilitation	9.5	9.4	9.6	11.9	11.9	12.1	10.6	10.6	10.6
Reconstruction	5.7	5.7	5.7	7.1	7.3	6.8	6.3	6.4	6.2

40% of households needed no housing repairs. About 44% had minor repair needs and 11% with rehabilitation needs. Only 6% required reconstruction. About 43% of the housing units in urban areas had no repair needs and 42% with minor repair needs compared to 36% with no repair needs and 45% with minor repair needs in the rural areas.

Materials Used for Housing Outer Walls by County

County	MAIN CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS OF HOUSING (OUTER WALLS)								
	Stone Concrete	Cement Blocks	Clay Bricks	Zinc or Iron	Wood or Board	Mud & Bricks	Mud & stakes	Reed Bamboo Grass or mat	Other
Liberia	9.9	31.8	5.2	5.5	0.7	19.2	27.1	0.5	0.1
Bomi	6.6	16.8	7.4	1.3	0.8	16.2	49.8	1.1	0
Bong	6.9	11.7	7.7	0.9	0.5	28.2	43.9	0.1	0.1
Gbarpolu	6.4	2.5	2.5	1.3	0.6	17.9	68.2	0.6	0
Grand Bassa	6.2	22.2	3.3	2.4	0.9	11.8	51.8	1.3	0.2
Grand Cape Mt	7.5	17.8	8.1	3.3	1.4	24.6	35.2	2	0.1
Grand Gedeh	6.1	9.9	4.7	1.2	1	19.8	56.3	0.8	0.3
Grand Kru	4.5	4.4	1.1	0.6	1.4	7.5	79.2	1.3	0.1
Lofa	5.9	7.5	5.3	0.8	1.4	63.7	15	0.3	0
Margibi	8.4	35.2	12.8	7.1	0.8	13.7	21	0.8	0.1
Maryland	6.8	11	1.2	1.5	1	8	70.1	0.2	0.1
Montserrado	14.9	60.8	2.8	11.5	0.3	5.2	4.1	0.1	0.2
Nimba	8.0	11.7	11.4	0.9	0.8	51.3	15.5	0.2	0.2
River Cess	2.8	3.7	1.1	0.7	1	9.4	79.7	1.2	0.6
River Gee	5.3	2.6	0.8	0.2	0.5	8.2	81.6	0.7	0.1
Sinoe	7.6	11.5	2.5	1.9	2.6	10.8	62.1	0.6	0.3

All the counties, except Montserrado, had substantial proportion of housing units constructed by mud, brick or woods for outer walls. Counties with the highest proportions of mud and woods were: River Gee with 81.6% followed by River Cess and Grand Kru with 79.7% and 79.2% respectively. 9.3% of the outer walls of the housing units in Montserrado were constructed from mud and bricks or sticks and 61% constructed were from cement blocks

Material Used for Housing Floor by County

County	Households type of floor for housing				
	Concrete or Cement	Tiles	Wood	Mud	Other
Liberia	**50.9**	**10.9**	**2.0**	**35.7**	**0.5**
Bomi	45.6	2.3	3.6	48.4	0.1
Bong	38.0	3.1	2.1	56.7	0.1
Gbarpolu	20.9	1.1	2.6	**75.4**	0.1
Grand Bassa	36.4	3.7	2.2	57.3	0.4
Grand Cape Mount	49.6	2.3	2.6	44.2	1.2
Grand Gedeh	36.2	2.8	2.7	57.9	0.4
Grand Kru	32.0	1.2	3.1	63.6	0.1
Lofa	31.2	1.5	3.9	63.2	0.2
Margibi	57.4	10.7	2.6	28.9	0.4
Maryland	56.9	3.8	2.1	36.7	0.5
Montserrado	**66.2**	23	1.2	8.8	0.8
Nimba	48.9	3.4	2.3	45.2	0.2
River Cess	22.2	0.9	1.2	**75.4**	0.3
River Gee	39.4	1	1.8	57.6	0.3
Sinoe	32.8	2.1	2.6	62	0.5

35.7% of housing units used mud floors. Over 75% of households in River Cess and Gbarpolu housing units floors were made of mud. In Montserrado County 66.2% of households housing units were made of cemented floors.

Distribution of households by Permanent, Semi-permanent and Temporary Housing Units
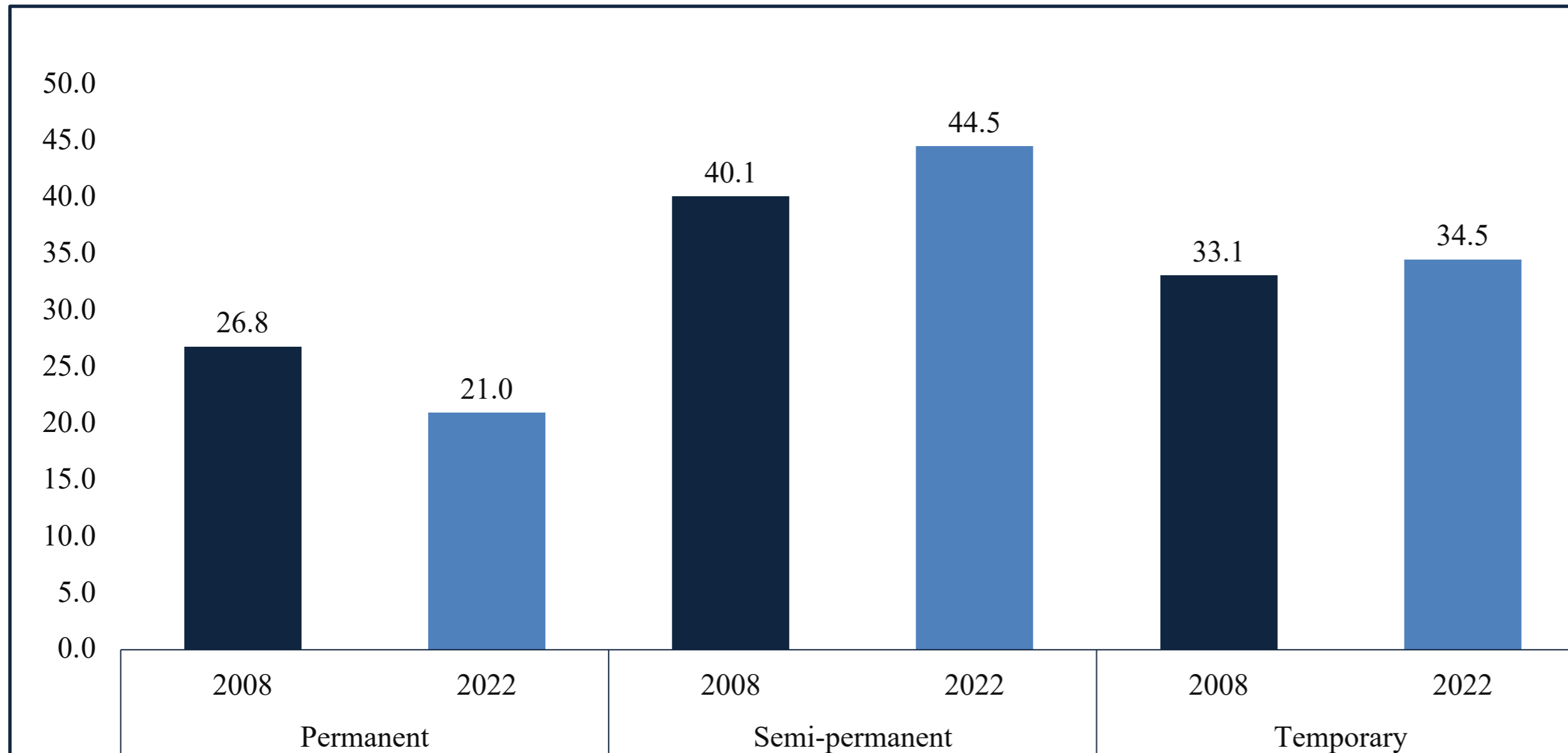
- 45% of households are semi-permanent housing units compared to 40.1% in 2008.
- 35% are temporary units compared to 33% in 2008
- 21% of households had permanent housing units compared to 27% in 2008.

Permanent dwelling unit were those dwellings constructed with durable materials such as concrete walls, cement floor, tile roof and floor, zinc roof, among others with a life span of at least fifteen years. Temporary structures were those built of inferior construction materials such as outer walls made of zinc or stakes and mud; roof with bamboo leaves; they often last for at most three years. Semi-permanent structures were those units that were built with a mixture of permanent and temporary materials.
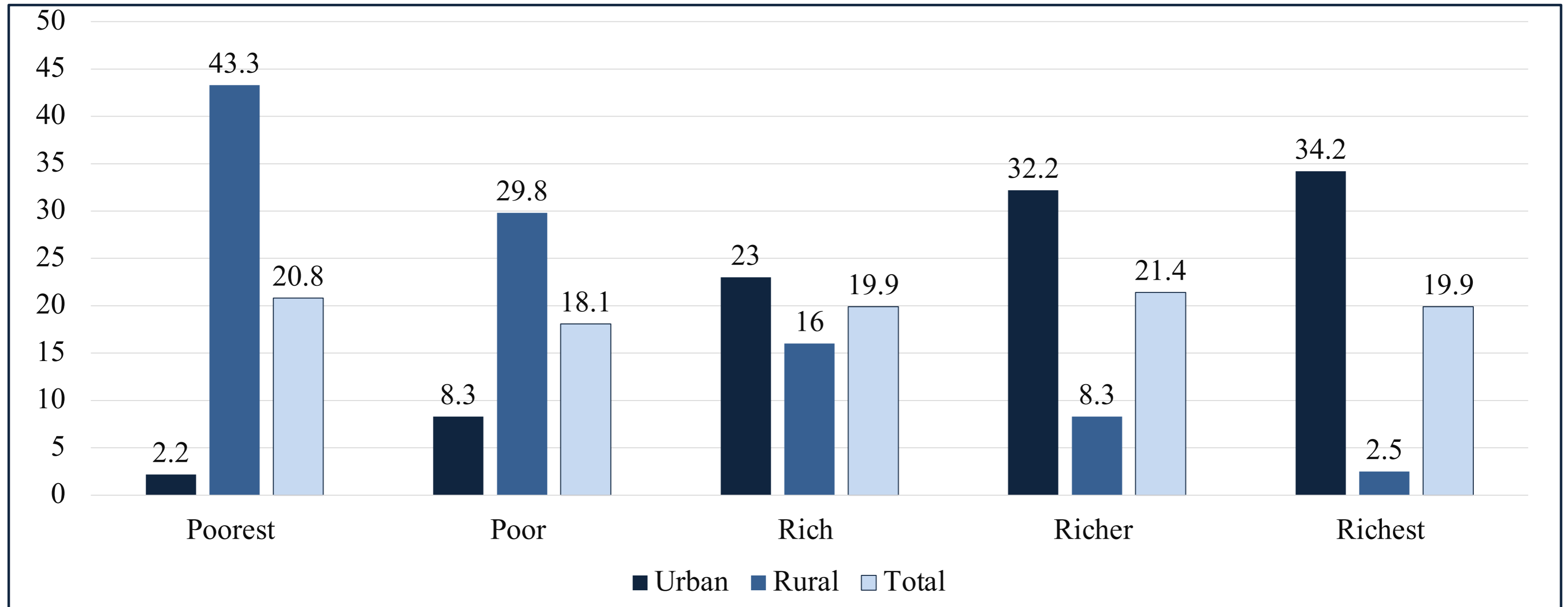
Households Employment Status

County	EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF HOUSEHOLDS MEMBERS				
	Paid Employee	Employer	Self Employed	Contributing family worker	Total (frequency)
Bomi	53.5	25.2	12.4	8.8	118,780
Bong	45.3	22.7	20.9	11.1	414,201
Gbarpolu	48.2	25.6	16.5	9.7	85,544
Grand Bassa	50.2	22.9	15.5	11.4	258,168
Grand Cape Mount	48.2	29.7	10.7	11.4	161,748
Grand Gedeh	44.9	27.4	11.1	16.6	199,106
Grand Kru	44.9	23.8	11	20.2	98,612
Lofa	39.9	18.6	20.4	21.1	330,431
Margibi	55.0	26.9	7.7	10.5	273,014
Maryland	53.6	26.5	9.1	10.7	156,198
Montserrado	52.2	27.5	8	12.4	1,737,390
Nimba	51.4	21.9	17.5	9.2	540,,223
River Cess	48.3	18.6	14.1	19	79,360
River Gee	48	25.8	8.7	17.4	112,369
Sinoe	51.2	28.3	7.8	12.8	85,544
Total(national)	49.9	25.2	12.2	12.7	4,700,235

About 50% of households members were paid employees. The highest paid employee households are found in Margibi (55%) followed by Bomi and Maryland with 54% each, and Montserrado (52%). Nimba and Sinoe Counties account for 51% each. The rest of the counties had less than 50% of household members that are employed.
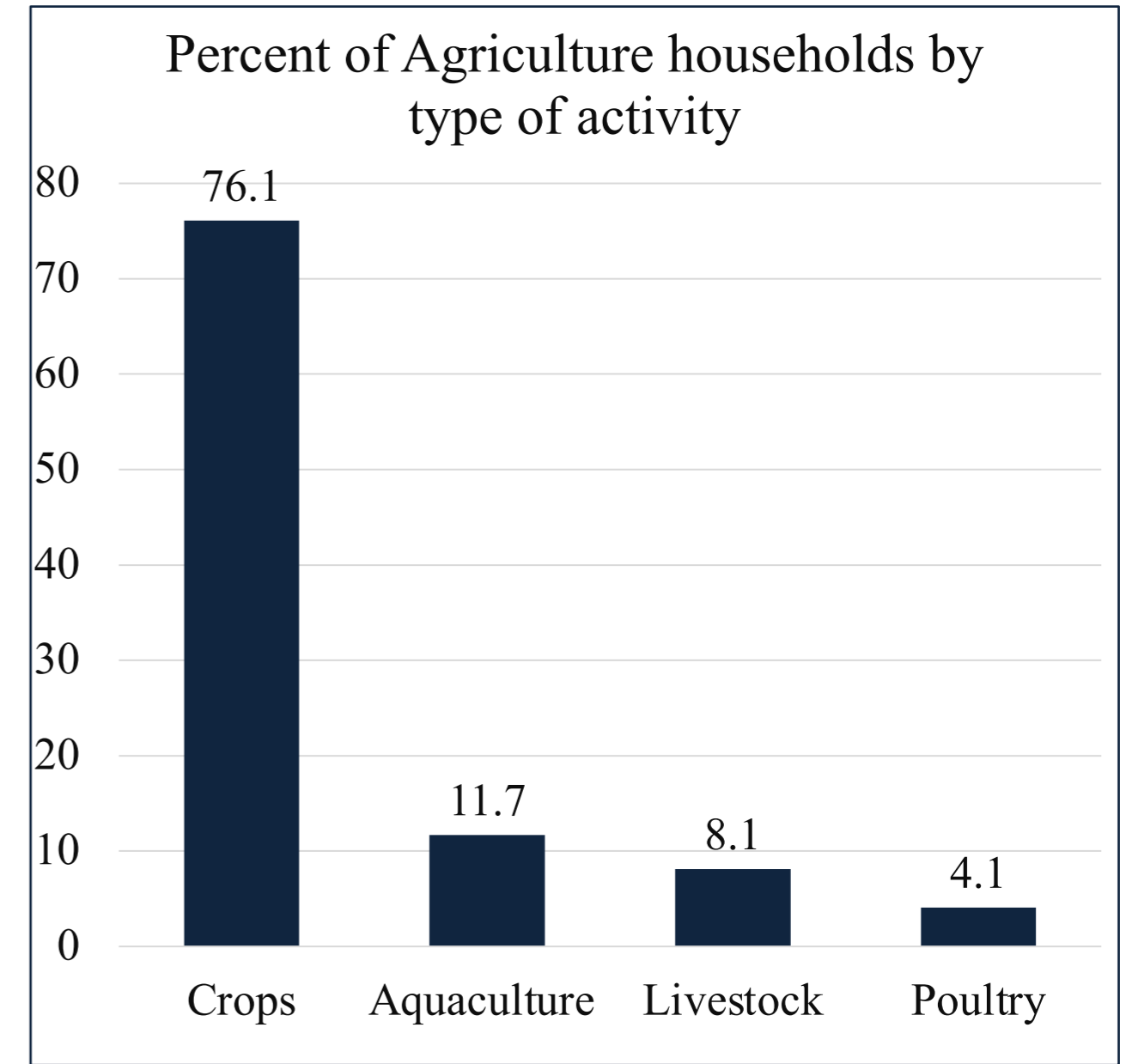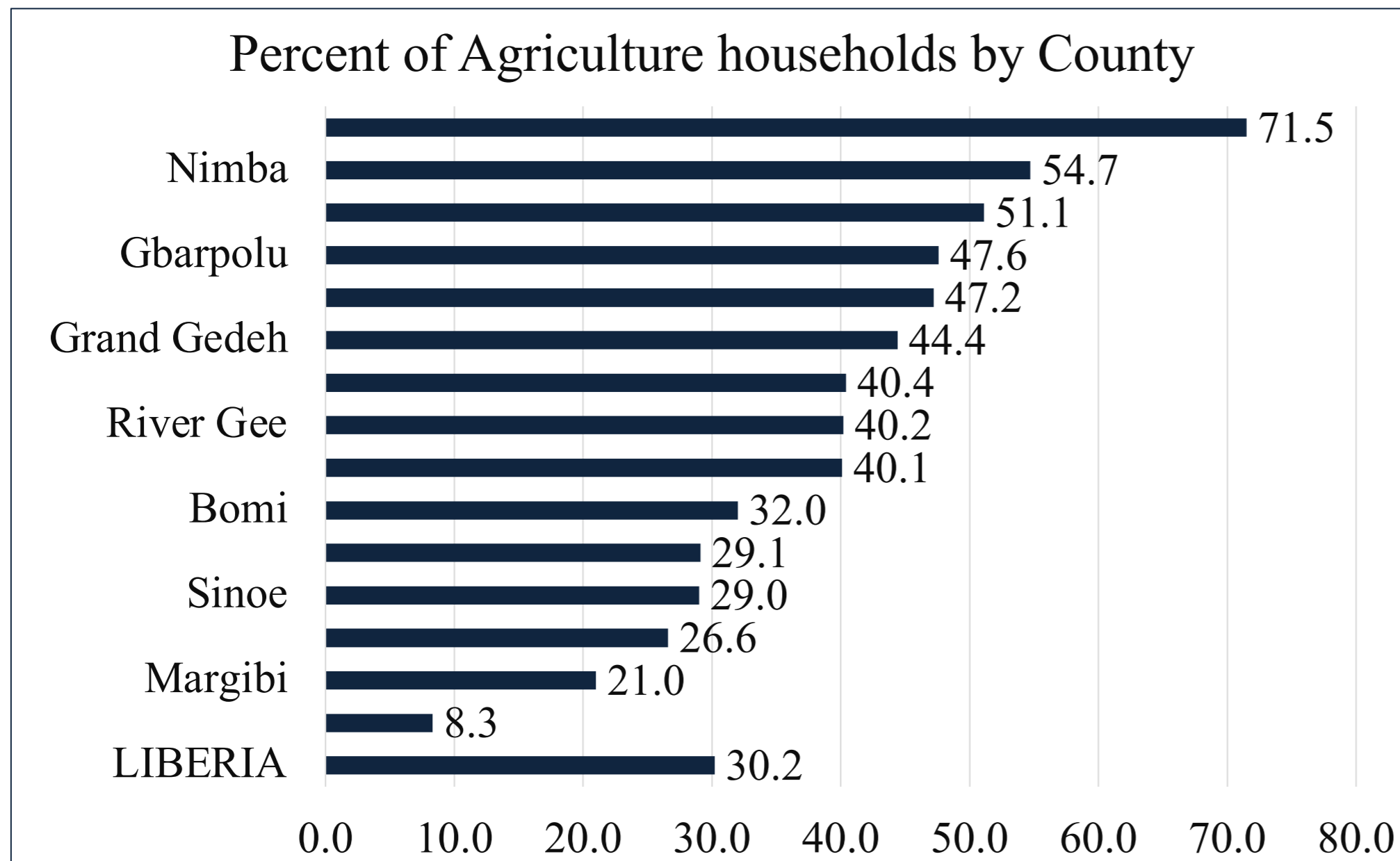
Household Wealth Index

Wealth	Urban	Rural	Total
Poorest	2.2	43.3	20.8
Poor	8.3	29.8	18.1
Rich	23	16	19.9
Richer	32.2	8.3	21.4
Richest	34.2	2.5	19.9

■ Urban ■ Rural □ Total

Nationally, about 39% of the population are found to be in the poorest households. The poor population is dominantly rural with 73%) compared to urban.

Agriculture Households and type of farming activity

Percent of Agriculture households by County

Nimba 71.5
54.7
Gbarpolu 51.1
47.6
Grand Gedeh 47.2
44.4
River Gee 40.4
40.2
Bomi 40.1
32.0
Sinoe 29.1
29.0
Margibi 26.6
21.0
LIBERIA 8.3
30.2

Percent of Agriculture households by type of activity

Crops 76.1
Aquaculture 11.7
Livestock 8.1
Poultry 4.1

In 2022, about 30% of households in Liberia are engaged in agriculture as compare to 49.5% in 2008. This shows a reduction in agriculture households between 2008 and 2022. Food crop households in Liberia accounted for 76.1% followed by fish farming (11.7%).

❑Female headed households have increased between 2008 and 2022 in the country. This situation puts female in a vulnerable position and calls for programs that may help them to be able to support their families, live a better life and contribute to nation building.

❑The high dependence on charcoal and wood for fuel will lead to deforestation, which will negatively affect the food production capability of those who rely on agriculture for their livelihood. It also has implication for climate change.

❑The high dependence on Bushes as places for human waste disposal is alarming and calls for programs that will help households. Open defecation has public health implication, especially during the raining season when human feces contaminate rivers and streams used by households.

❑3 out of 10 households drink from unimproved source of water. This has implication for their health and wellbeing.

❑Nearly one-third of households lack access to healthcare within one-hour of walk to the nearest health facility

❑The Government should formulate and implement a favorable private investment regulatory framework so that the private sector may invest in low cost housing for the benefit of the poor in the country.

❑Community sanitation and hygiene programs should be enhanced to encourage communities to construct covered pit latrines, protect their sources of drinking water, and to promote family hygiene.