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# Poverty and Hunger in Northern Region, Ghana

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## 2015 Survey Structure

- Reporting changes in the indicators from 2012 based on original 4,410 households
- These households were sampled using a 2-stage probability sampling approach
  - Stage 1: Probability proportional to size approach to select EAs
  - Stage 2: Systematic sampling approach to select 20 households per EA

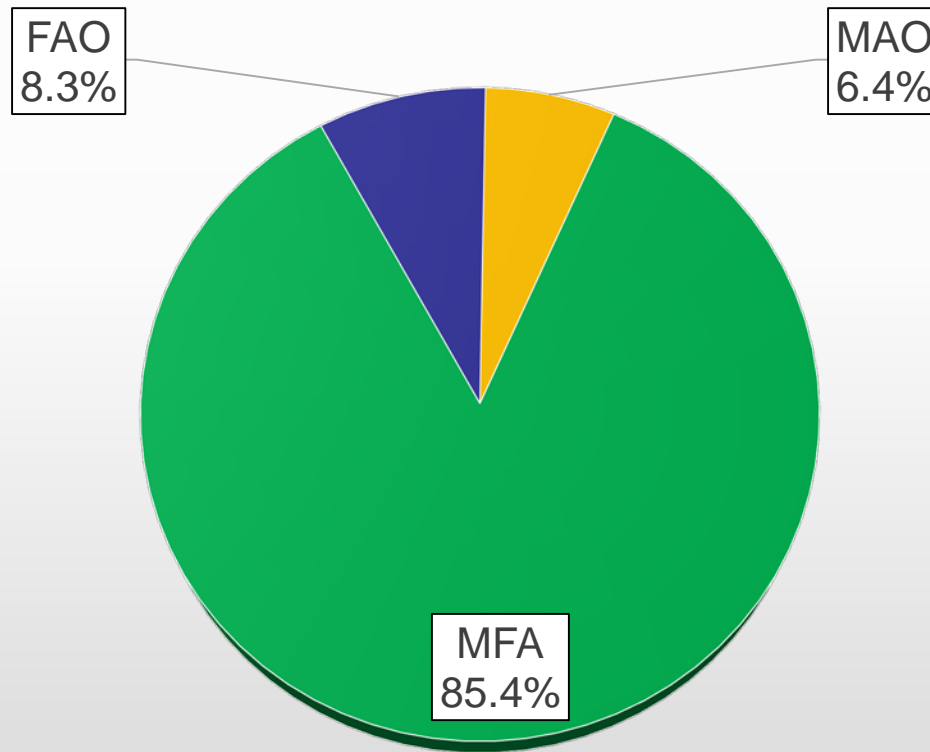


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# Demographics

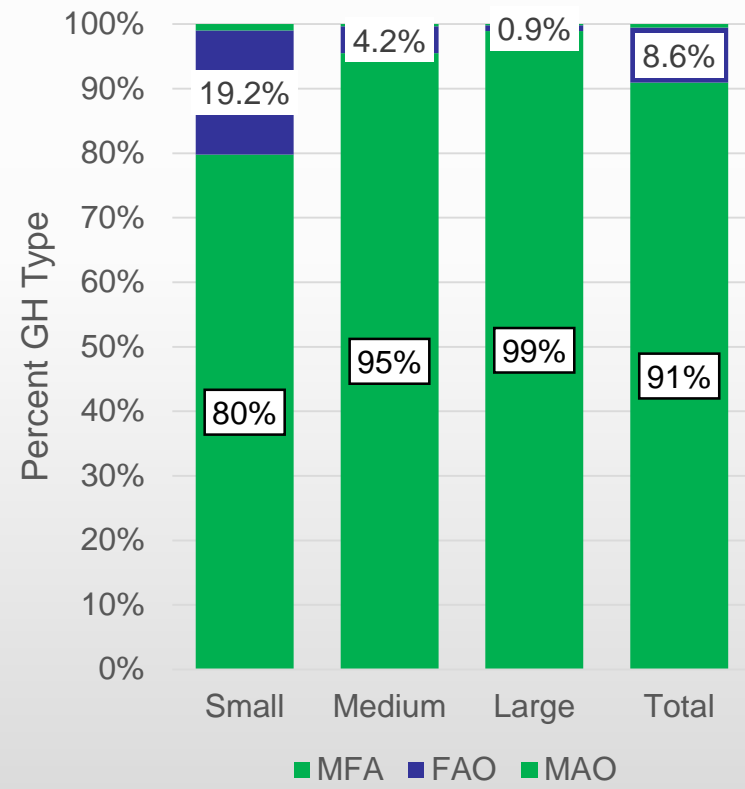
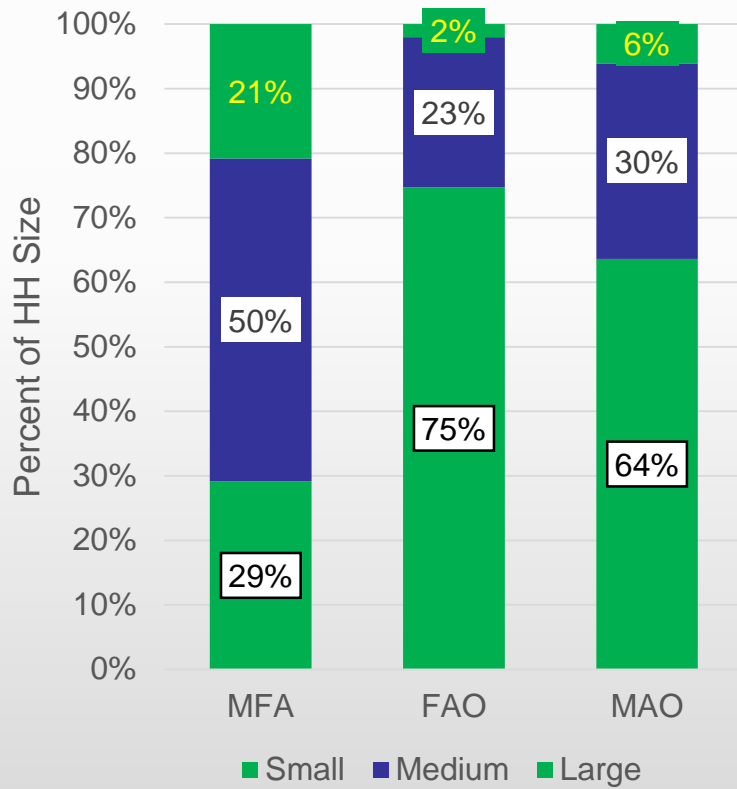


# Basic Household Characteristics



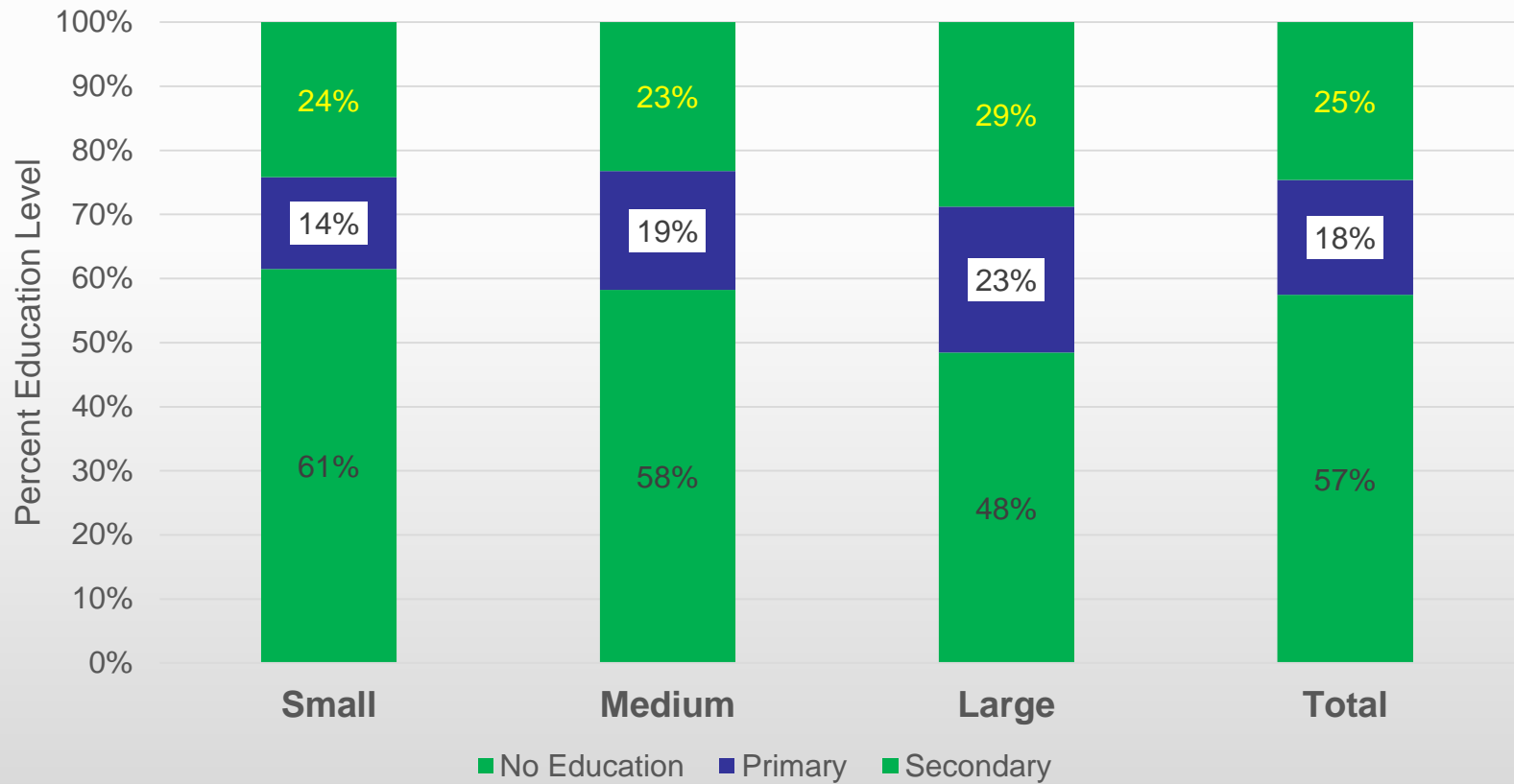


# Household Size and Gendered Household Type



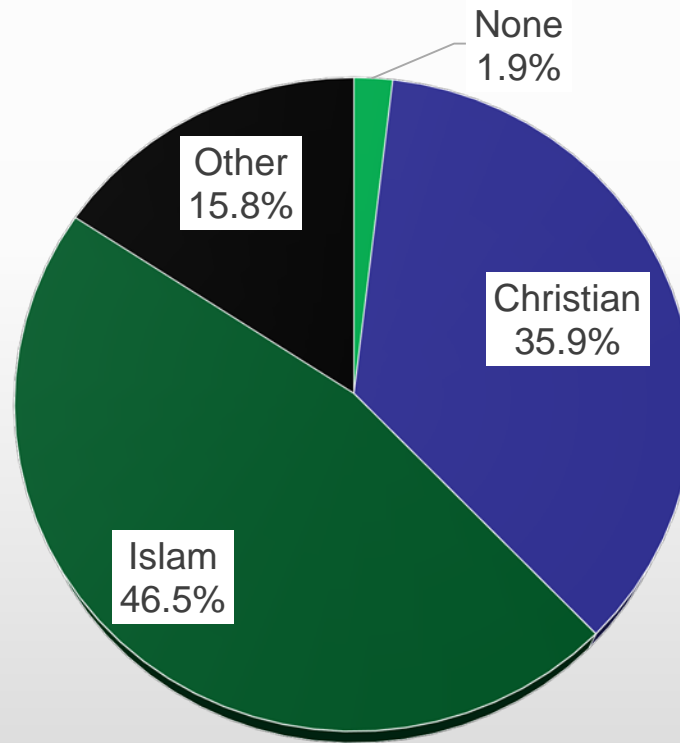


# Household Size and Education





# Religion





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## Poverty defined

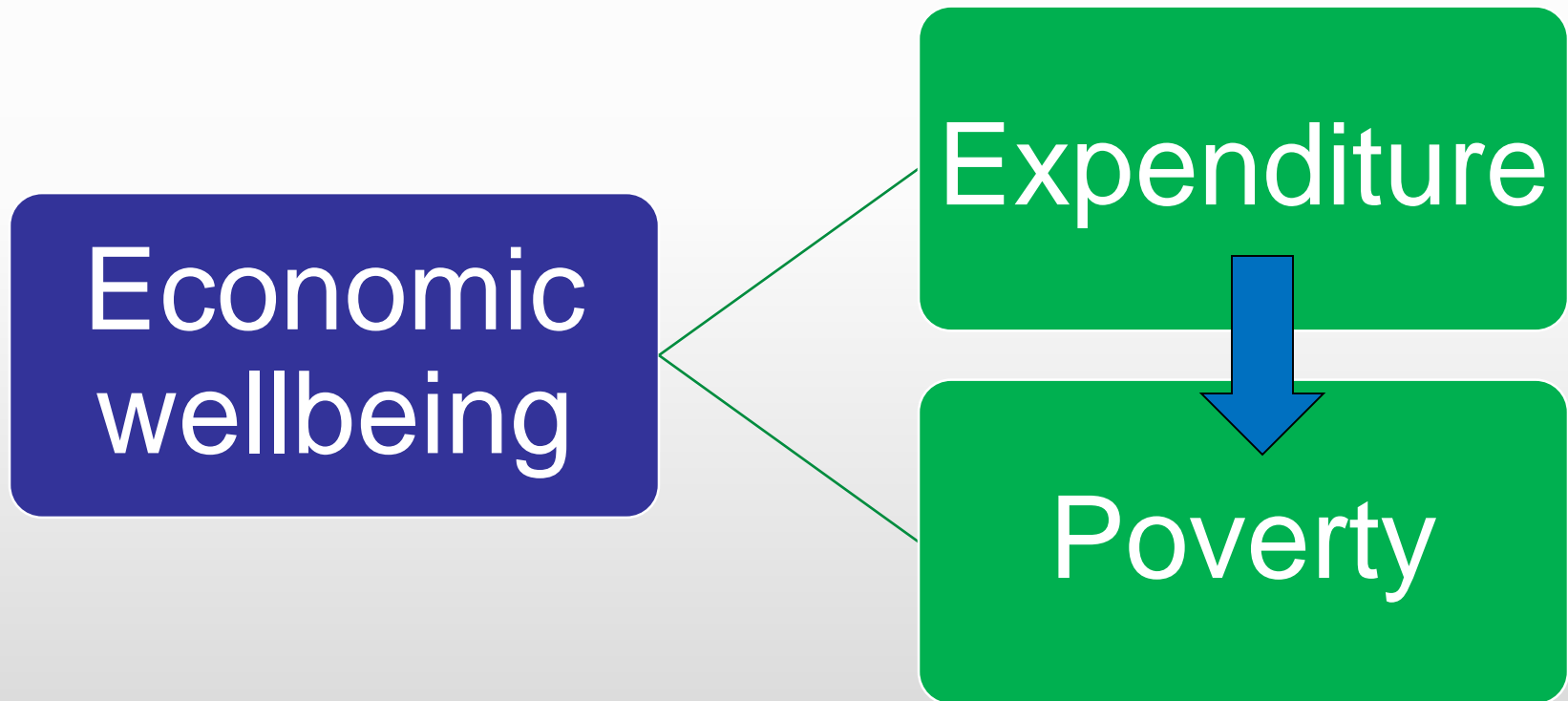
- Poverty is the lack of basic necessities that all human beings must have: food and water, shelter, education, medical care, security, etc. A multi-dimensional issue, poverty exceeds all social, economic, and political boundaries. As such, efforts to alleviate poverty must be informed of a variety of different factors.





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## Our Focus = Households





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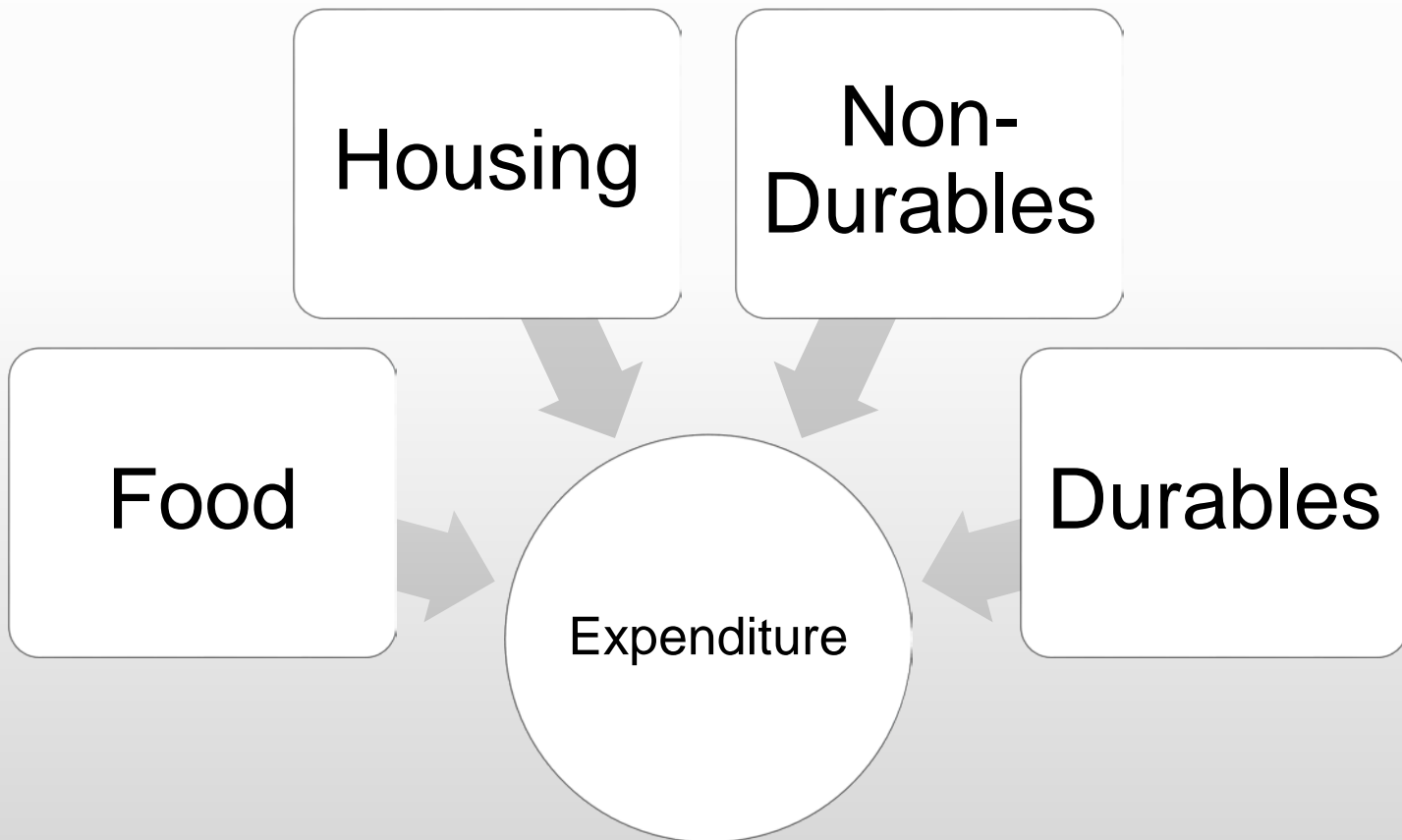
# Basic Assumption





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# Components of Expenditure = 256 items with different recall times





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# Expenditure

Total  
Annual  
Aggregate  
Expenditure / 365  
days

=

Daily  
Aggregate  
Expenditure



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## Establishing the Poverty Threshold

Not  
Poor

$$X \geq \$1.25$$

Poor

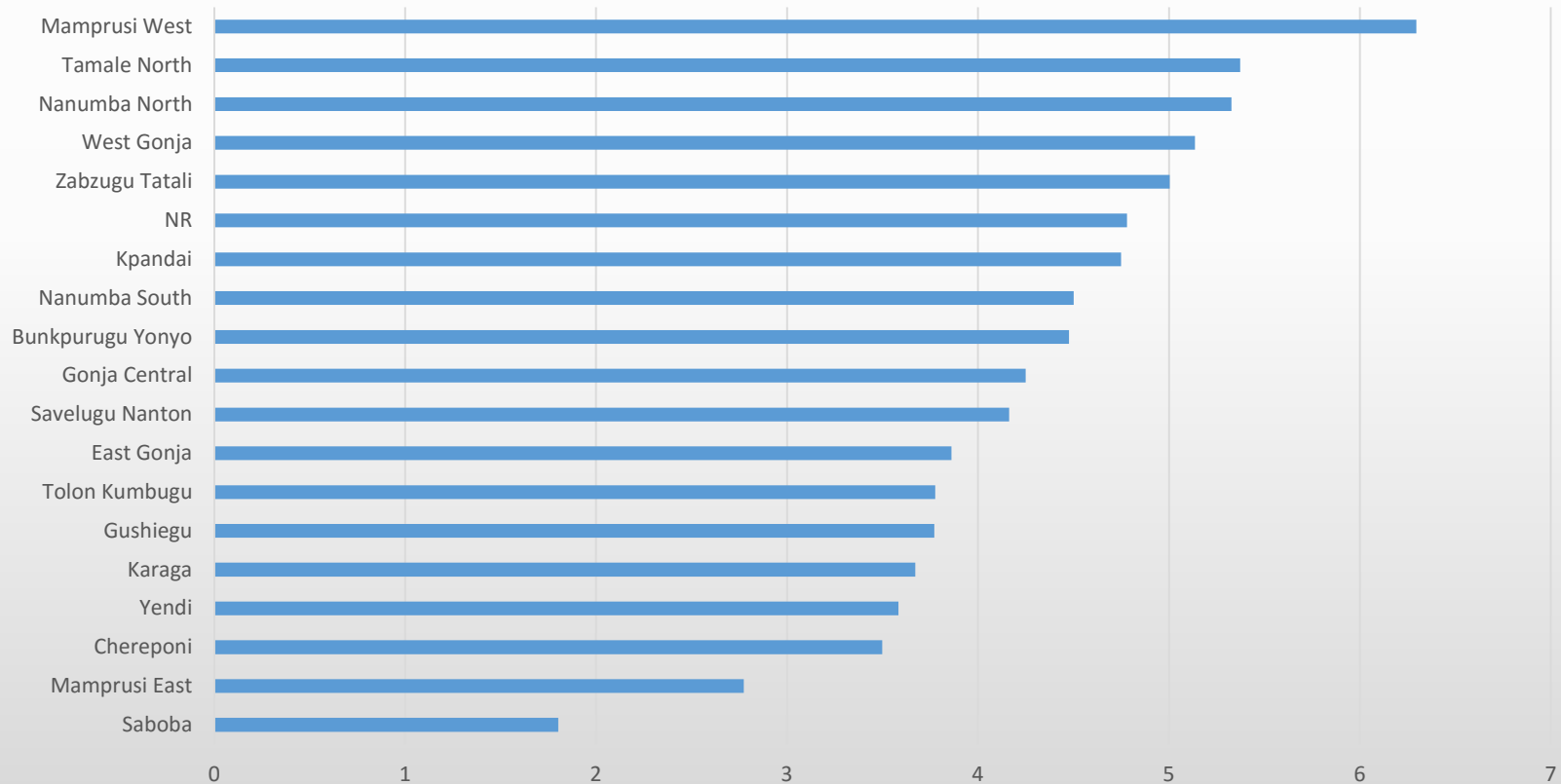
$$X < \$1.25$$

Poverty is determined by per capita expenditure, which is dependent on household size



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## Daily per capita expenditure (in 2010 USD) in ZOI





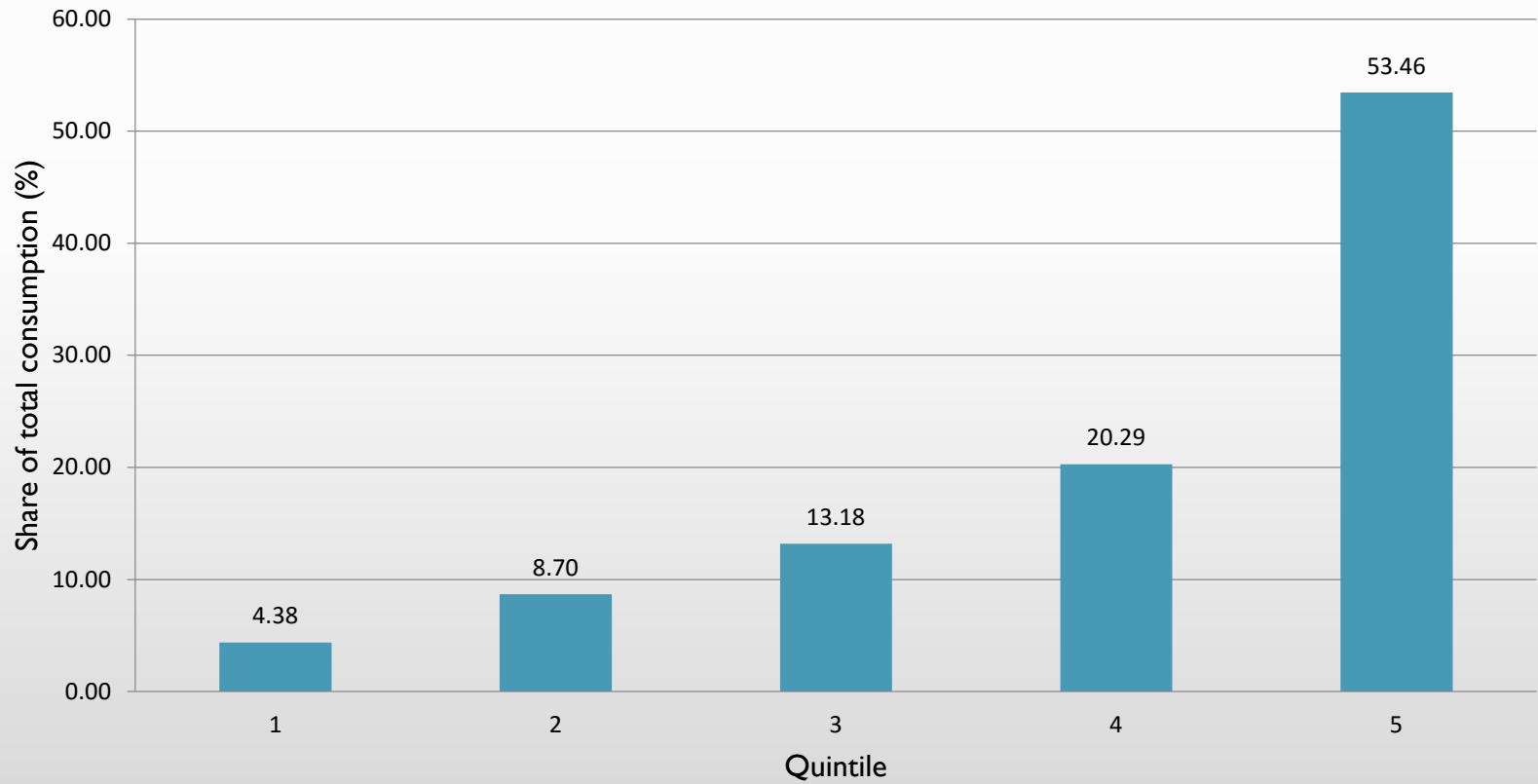
## Daily per capita expenditure (in 2010 USD) in ZOI

All households (3727)

- Mean 4.29
  - 10<sup>th</sup> percentile 0.65
  - 25<sup>th</sup> percentile 1.06
  - 50<sup>th</sup> percentile 2.20
  - 75<sup>th</sup> percentile 10.23
  - 90<sup>th</sup> percentile 16.19
  - Differences by household characteristics



## Share of consumption per quintile in ZOI







# Prevalence and depth of poverty

- The prevalence of poverty, (the poverty headcount ratio), is measured by determining the percent of individuals living below a poverty threshold.
- Whereas poverty prevalence indicates how *many* individuals are impacted by poverty, it does not address by how *much* people are *impacted* by poverty.
- The depth of poverty (the poverty gap), is a useful poverty estimate. It captures the extremity of poverty.
- This measure indicates the average gap between consumption levels and the poverty line, with the non-poor counted as having a gap of zero.



## Poverty at the \$1.25 (2005 PPP) per person per day threshold

- Prevalence of poverty
  - Percent of population 18.1
  - Sample size assessed 3836
- Depth of poverty
  - Percent of poverty line 6.6
  - Sample size assessed 3727
- Average consumption shortfall of the poor
  - In USD 2005 PPP 0.44
  - Percent of poverty line 35.3
  - Sample size assessed 695
- Differences are noted by household characteristics



## Poverty at the national absolute threshold of 1314GHS per adult 2012/13)

- Prevalence of poverty
  - Percent of population 43.4
  - Sample size assessed 3792
- Depth of poverty
  - Percent of poverty line 18.7
  - Sample size assessed 3792
- Average consumption shortfall of the poor
  - In GHS 2013 PPP 529.1
  - Percent of poverty line 40.3
  - Sample size assessed 1761
- Differences are noted by household characteristics

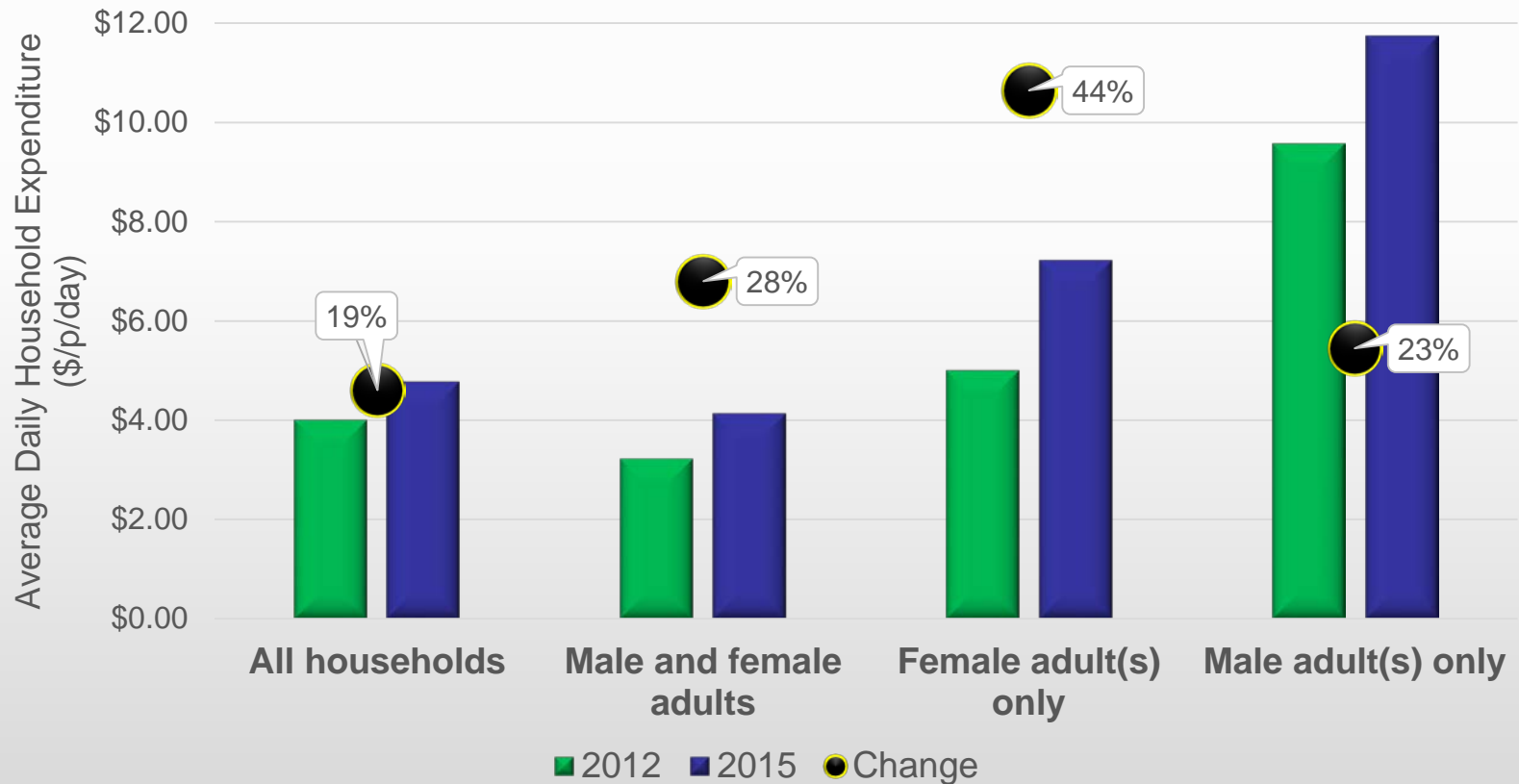


## Poverty at the national extreme threshold of 792.05GHS per adult 2012/13)

- Prevalence of poverty
  - Percent of population 21.1
  - Sample size assessed 4061
- Depth of poverty
  - Percent of poverty line 7.8
  - Sample size assessed 3792
- Average consumption shortfall of the poor
  - In GHS 2013 PPP 272.6
  - Percent of poverty line 34.4
  - Sample size assessed 856
- Differences are noted by household characteristics

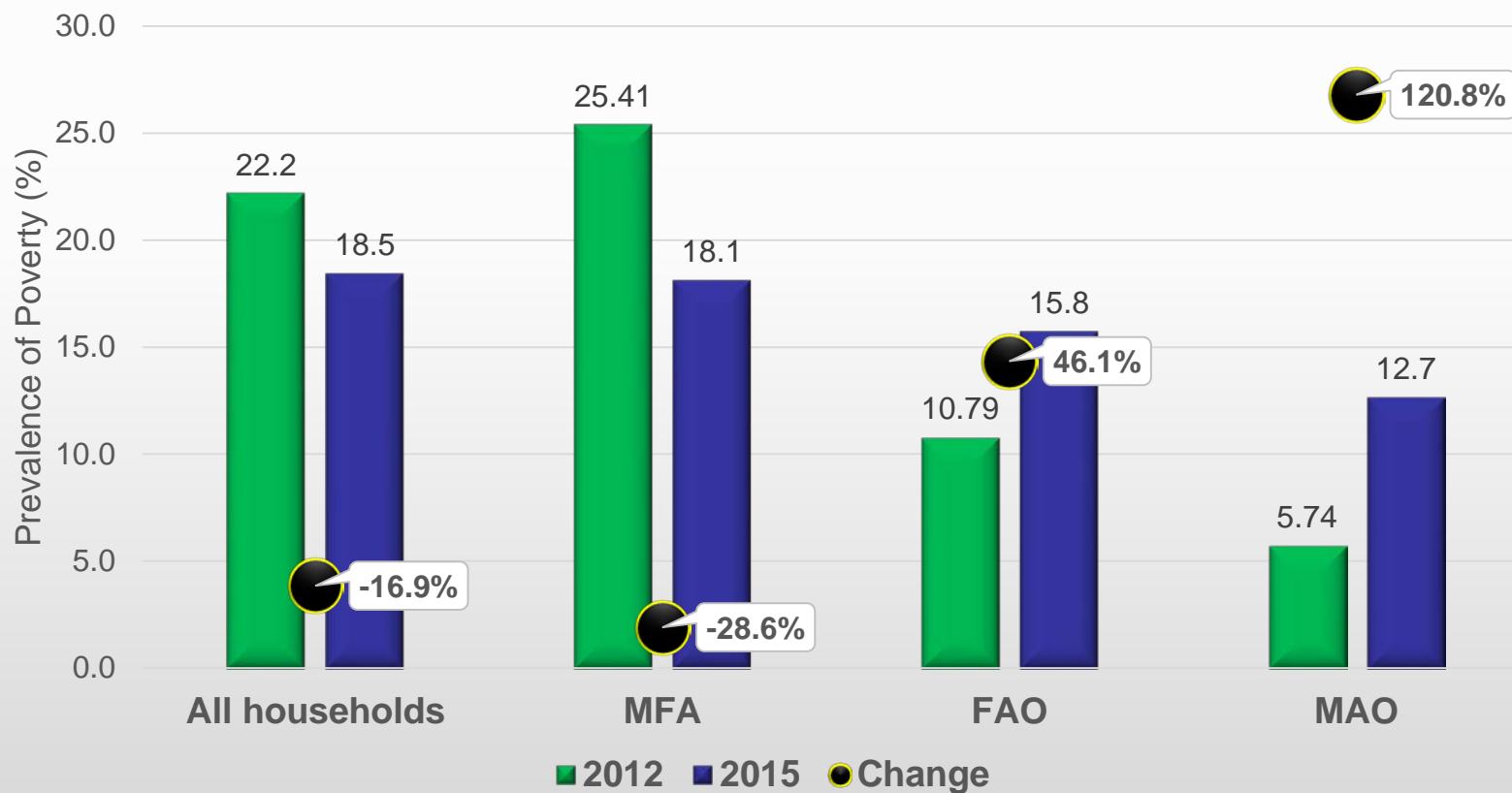


# Change in Expenditure by Gendered Household Types



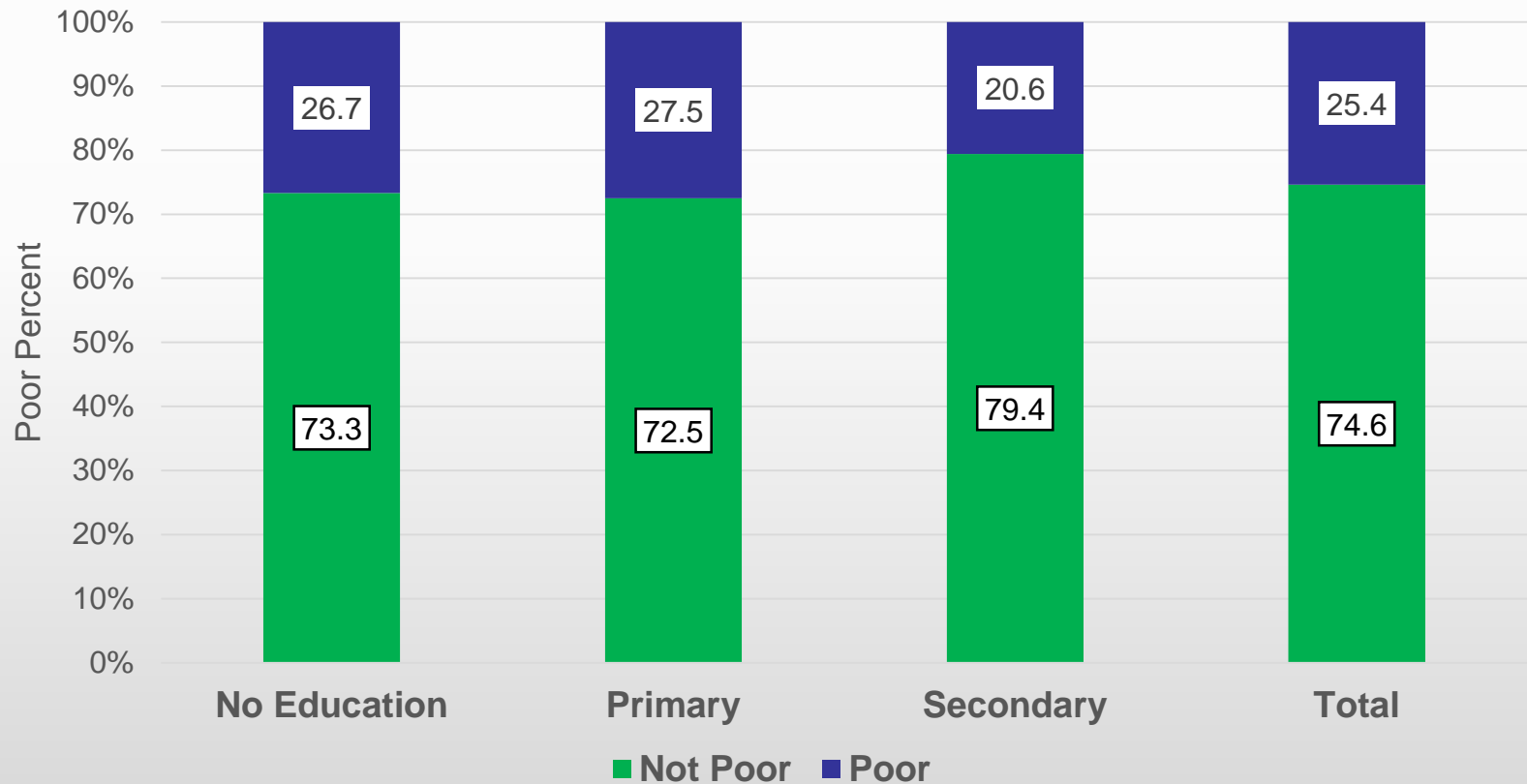


# Change in Poverty by Gendered Household Types



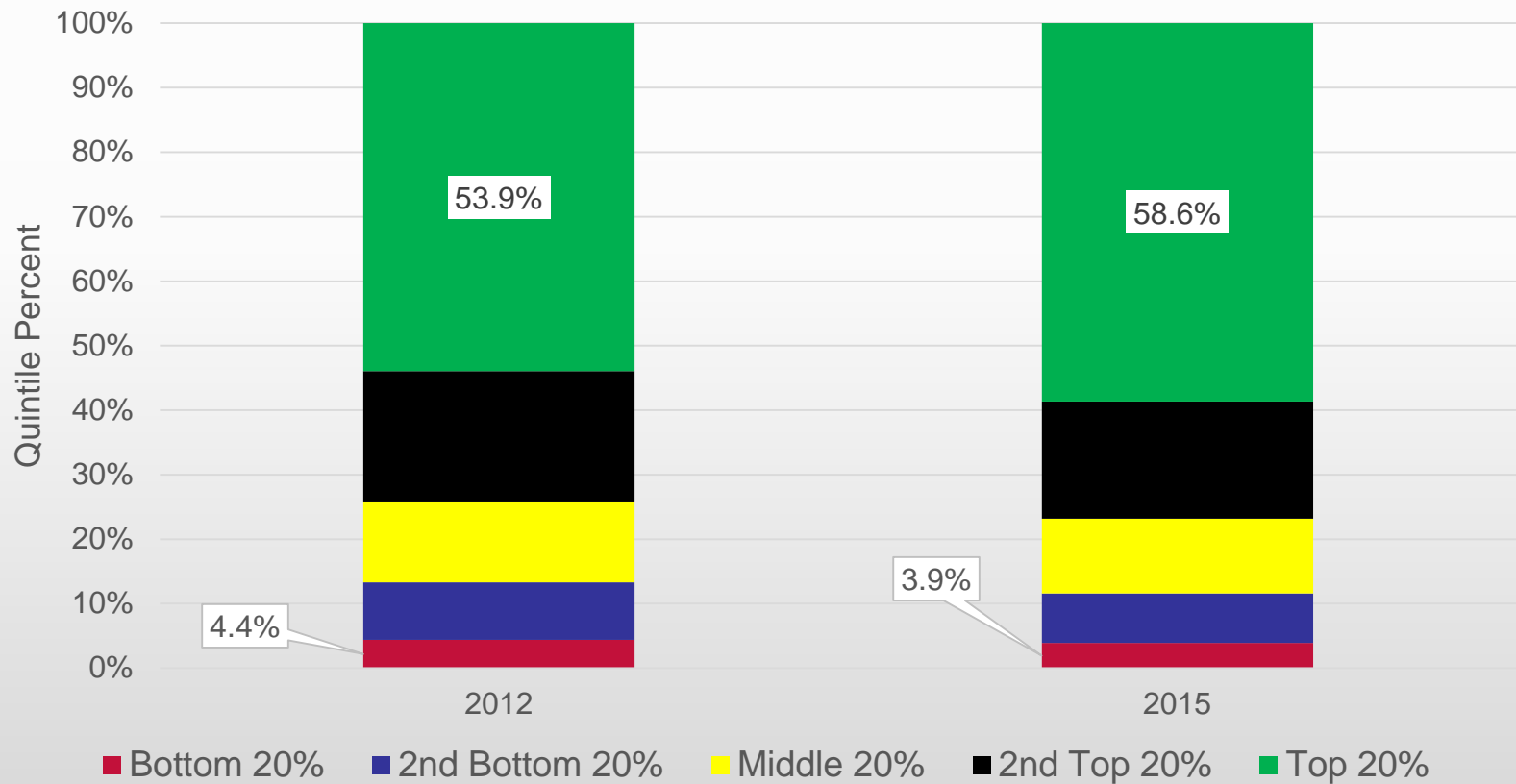


# Poverty & Education Level





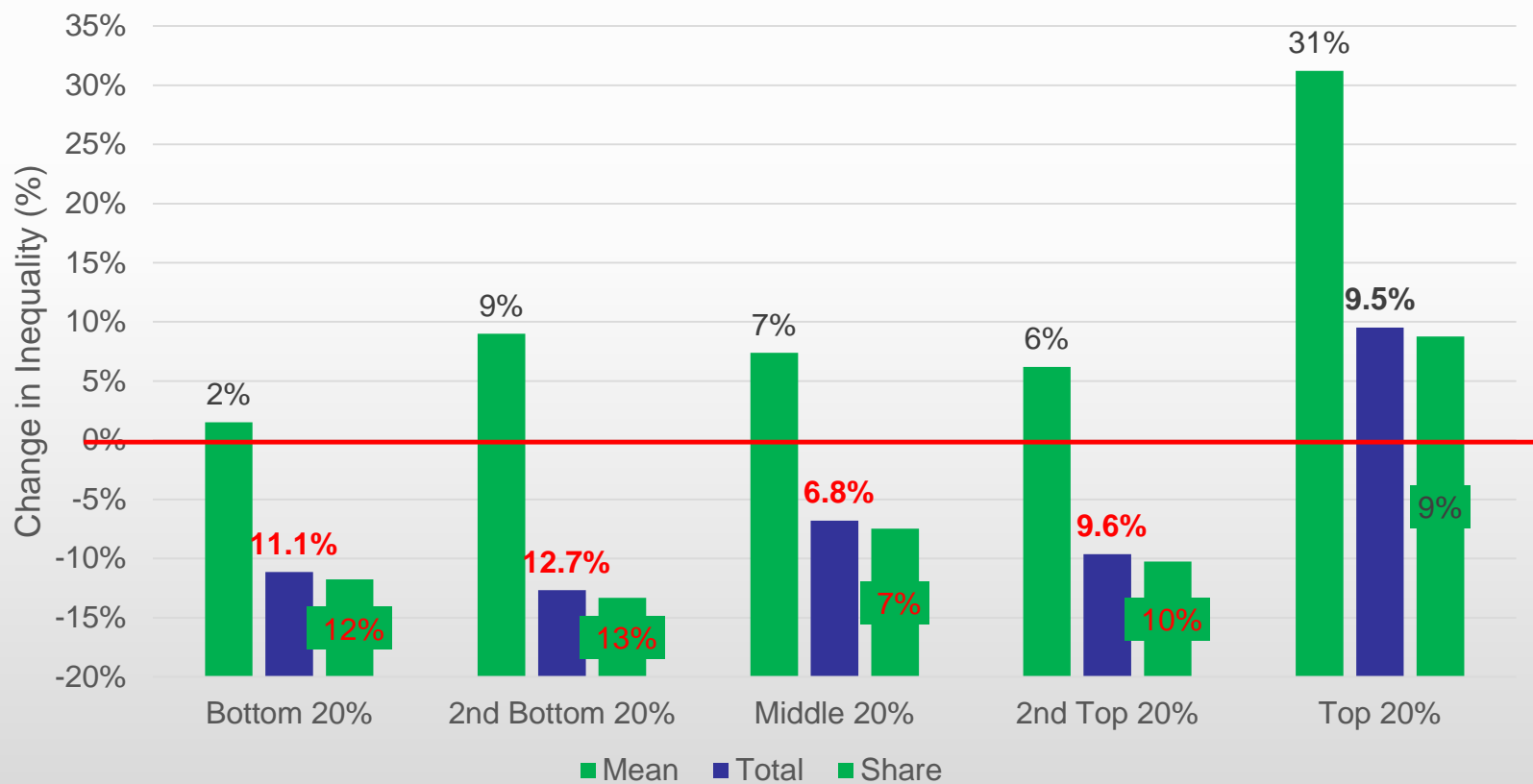
# Inequality Indicator: Distribution of Consumption by Quintiles





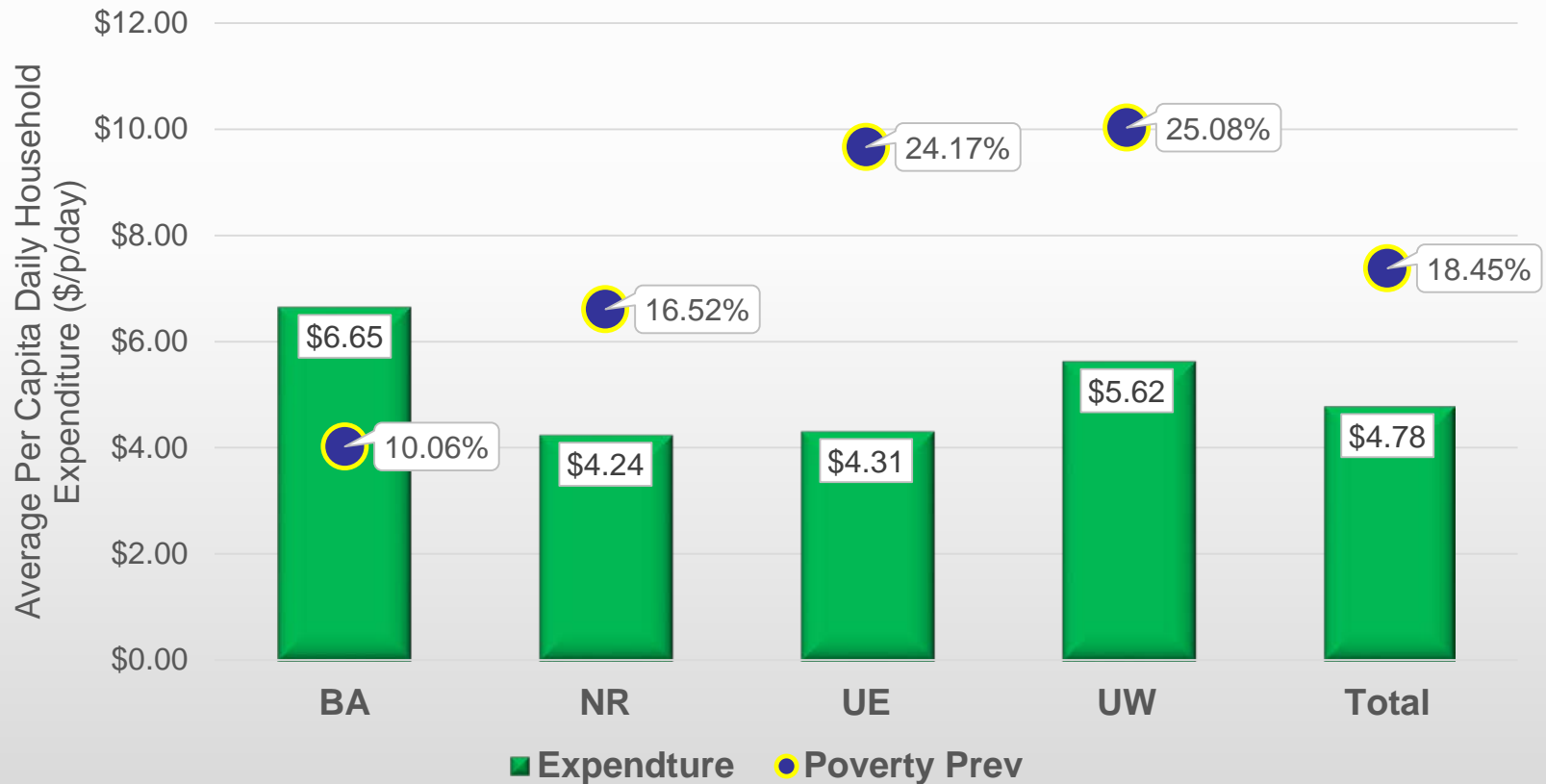


# Change in Inequality 2012-2015



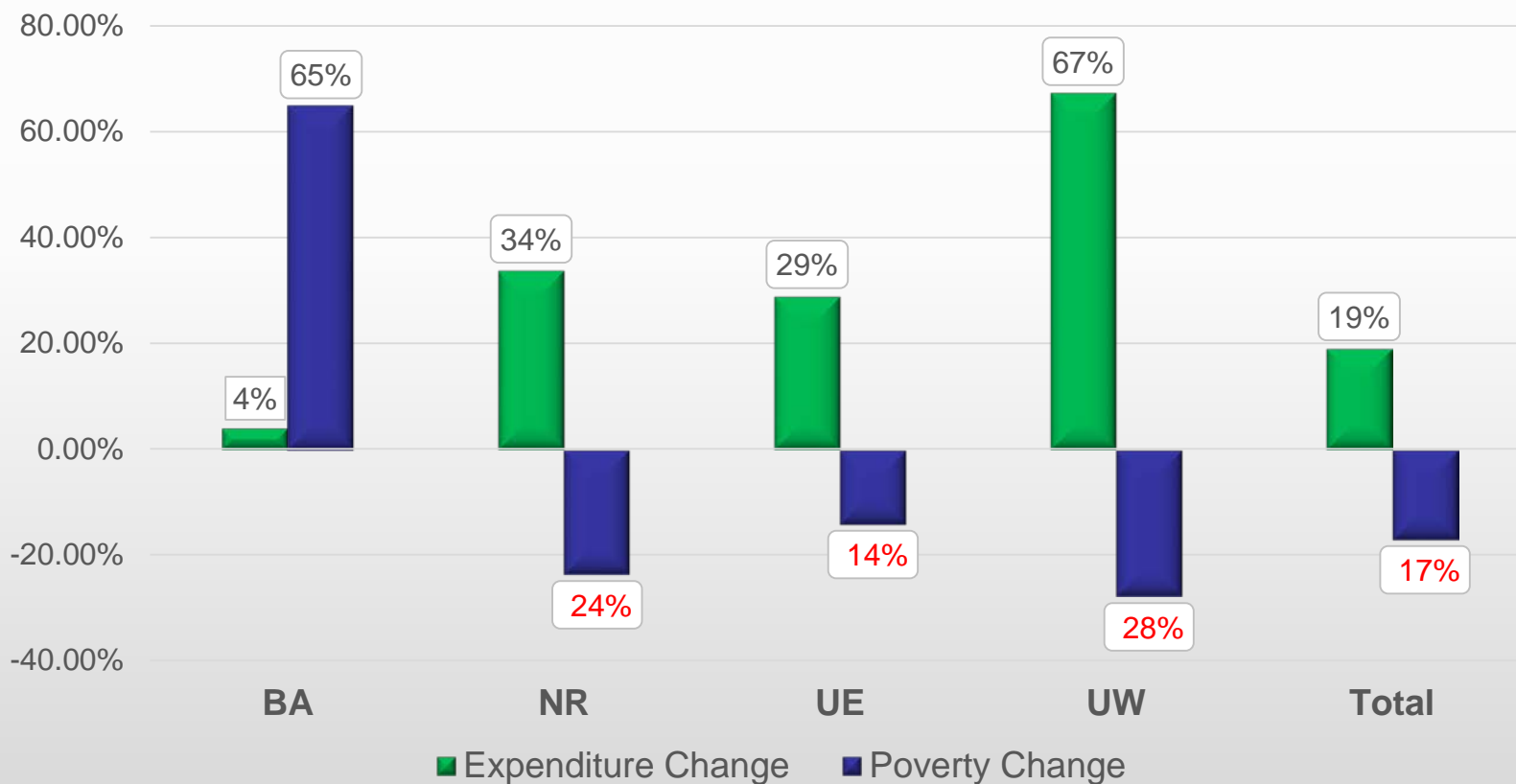


# Expenditure and Poverty by Region (2015)





# Expenditure and Poverty Change by Region (2015 v 2012)





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## What Can We Learn?

- How are those counted as poor differ from those who are not?
- The probability of being among poor households is determined by education, gendered household type, household size, location, and food share of total expenditure



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## What Can We Learn

- Compared to BA, the odds of being poor is 1.9 times higher in NR, 2.9 times higher in UE and 4.1 times higher in UW
- There is no statistically significant difference between MFA and the other gendered household types when it comes to the probability of being counted among the poor
  - FAO households differ but only at the 10% level, with a higher odds of about 1.5 times



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## What Can We Learn

- The odds of being poor with education is about 0.6 times the odds of being poor without education
- Every member increase in household size increased the odds of being poor by 23%
- Every increase in percent increase in food share of total expenditure reduces the odds of being poor 14%



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## What Can We Learn

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# Implications

The three northern regions are still vulnerable despite progress in poverty reduction

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Investments in education very important on reducing poverty risk

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## Take Aways

- Expenditures have increased
- Poverty prevalence has declined from the baseline
- However, the gap between the top and the bottom quintiles has increased
- Policymakers can help poverty alleviation by facilitating the enabling environment
- Individuals can do their part by enhancing their education and investing that of their kids





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**Thank you very much**