



Universidad de
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Colombia

Escuela de Gobierno
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Social protection responses to forced displacement in Colombia

- Andrés Ham

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Acknowledgements – Project team

Report authors

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Survey data collection

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The problem

- People leave their place of origin for two reasons:
 - Some think they'll be better off elsewhere (migration)
 - Others are basically forced to leave due to conflict, political crisis or other factors that make it difficult to stay where they were born
- Figuring out how to help the second group – referred to as **forcibly displaced people** - is a global public policy problem

Questions under this broad scope

- We tried to break the large question down into several smaller ones:
 1. What is the current state of access to social protection and humanitarian assistance for displaced people?
 2. To what extent and in what ways has humanitarian assistance been linked with social protection in different displacement contexts?
 3. What factors and processes led to the adoption of these approaches?
 4. What have been the benefits and drawbacks of these approaches for different stakeholders (including the displaced and host populations) and what is perceived to have driven these impacts?
 5. What are the key insights for linking social protection and humanitarian assistance in different displacement contexts?

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How did we explore these research questions?

- We had three approaches:
 1. We completed a survey of the population in stratas 1-3 in different groups: host population, people internally displaced by the conflict (IDPs) and Venezuelans; N = 1,532. We collected new data that didn't previously exist for these populations, which will soon be publicly available.
 2. We did semi-structured interviews and focus groups with these same populations, to give the 'numbers' a voice. Because of Covid-19, the focus groups were done by Whatsapp, a methodological innovation of the project.
 3. We did semi-structured interviews with key informants from governmental institutions, international agencies, NGOs and civil society to have a complete vision of key decision-makers.

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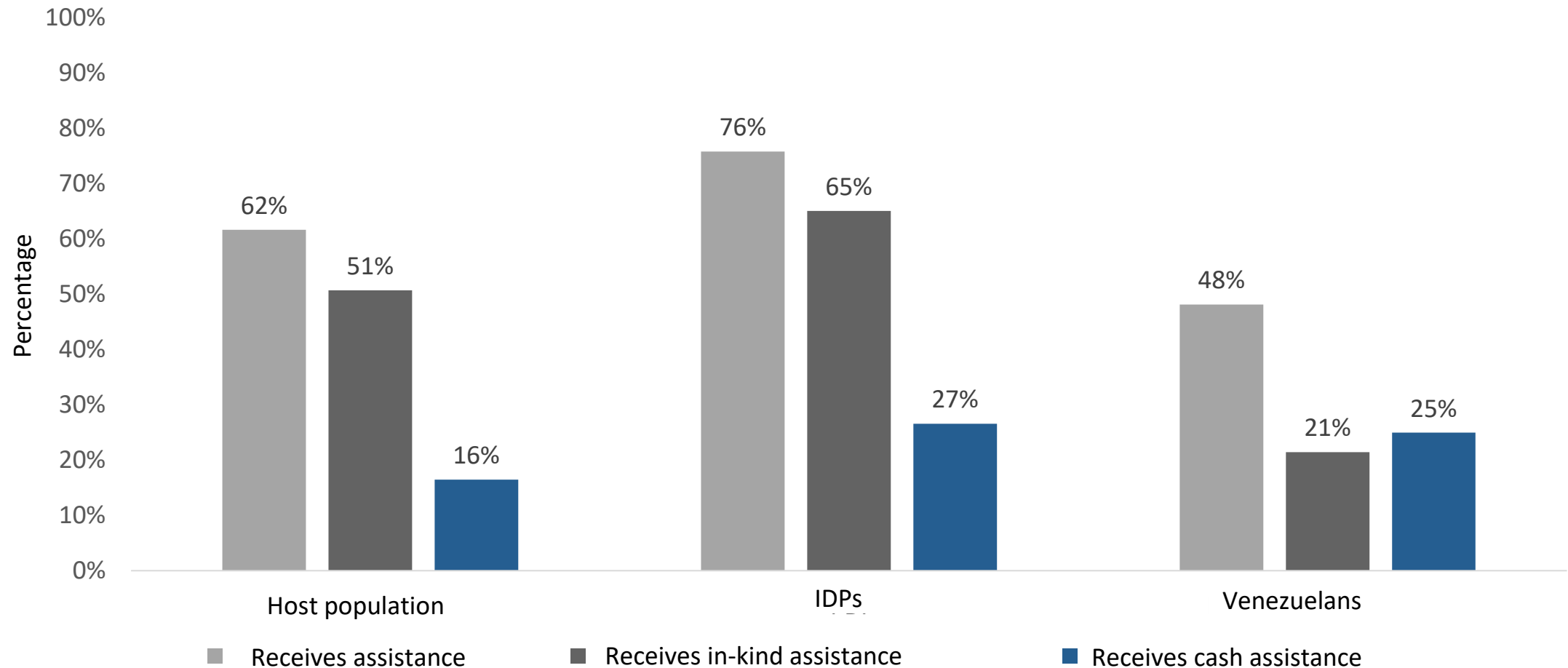
Survey sample and comparison with national data

	Our survey			DANE's nationwide household survey		
	Host population	IDPs	Venezuelans	Host population	IDPs	Venezuelans
Sex						
Male (%)	30	24	20	51	53	51
Female (%)	70	76	80	49	47	49
Age group						
18-29 (%)	17	17	42	33	22	51
30-49 (%)	33	47	47	39	36	41
50-64 (%)	34	28	9	19	24	7
65 o más (%)	16	9	2	10	18	1
Highest education level						
Primary or less (%)	36	45	12	3	3	3
Secondary (%)	42	41	52	64	65	72
Vocational or technical training (%)	14	10	12	18	18	11
University (%)	9	4	23	15	15	14
No. of observations	511	512	509	16,603,375	13,286,593	1,594,893

Source: authors' own elaboration

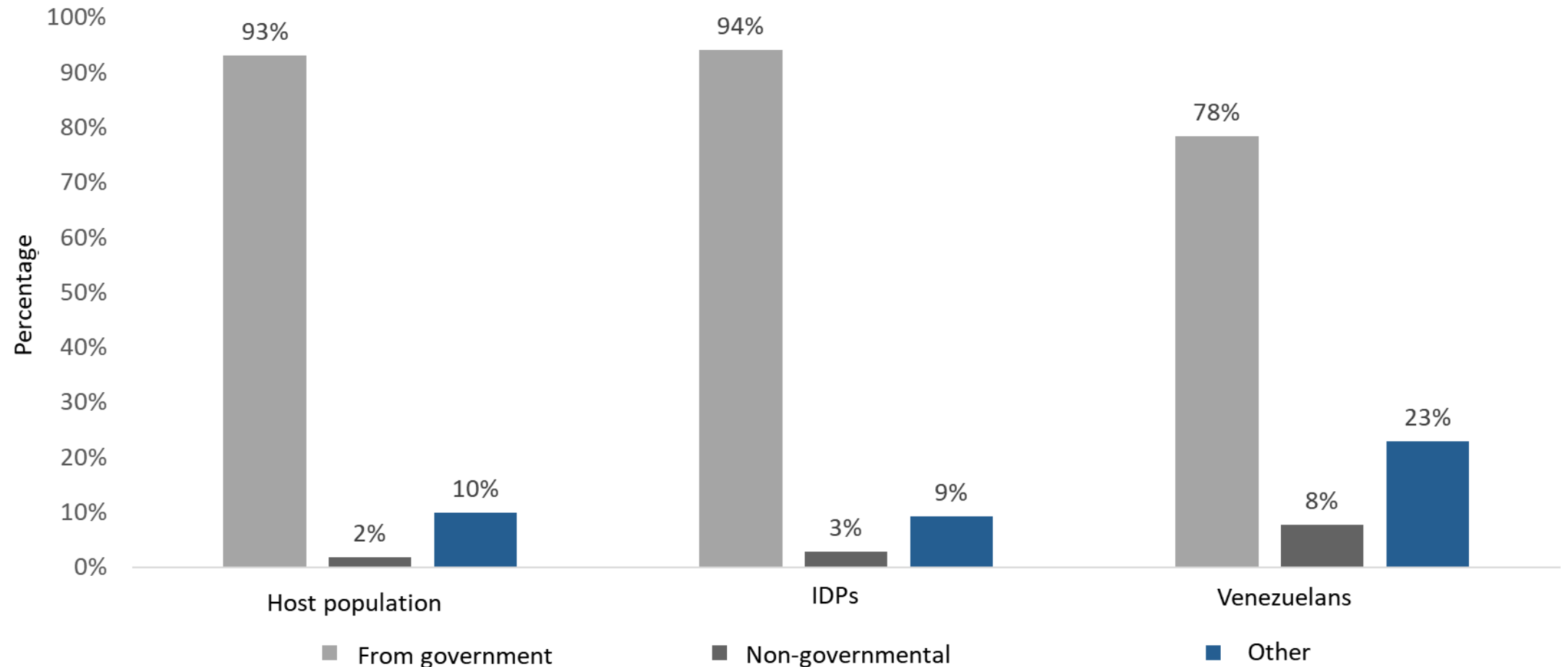
Access to social protection and assistance

There are gaps in the coverage of social assistance, which favours IDPs



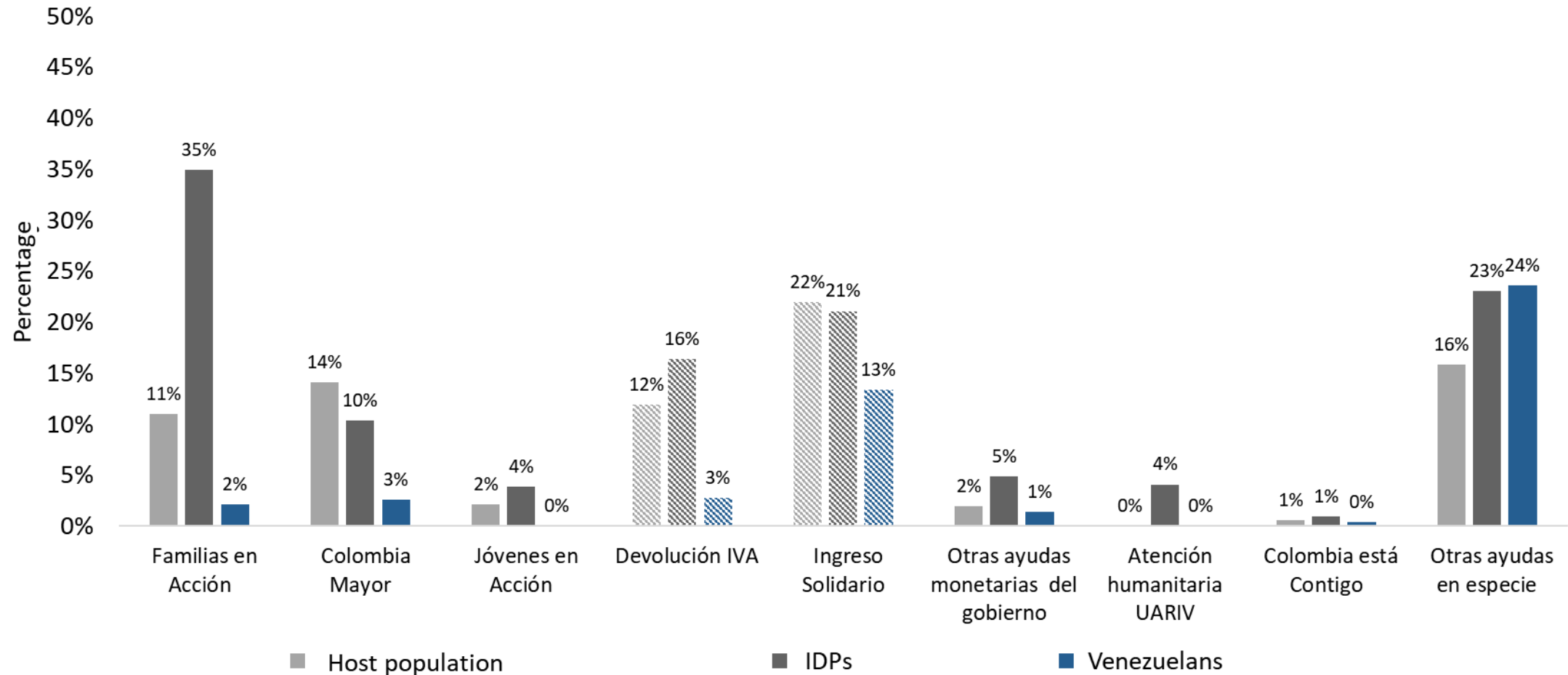
Source: authors' own elaboration

Assistance comes mainly from government



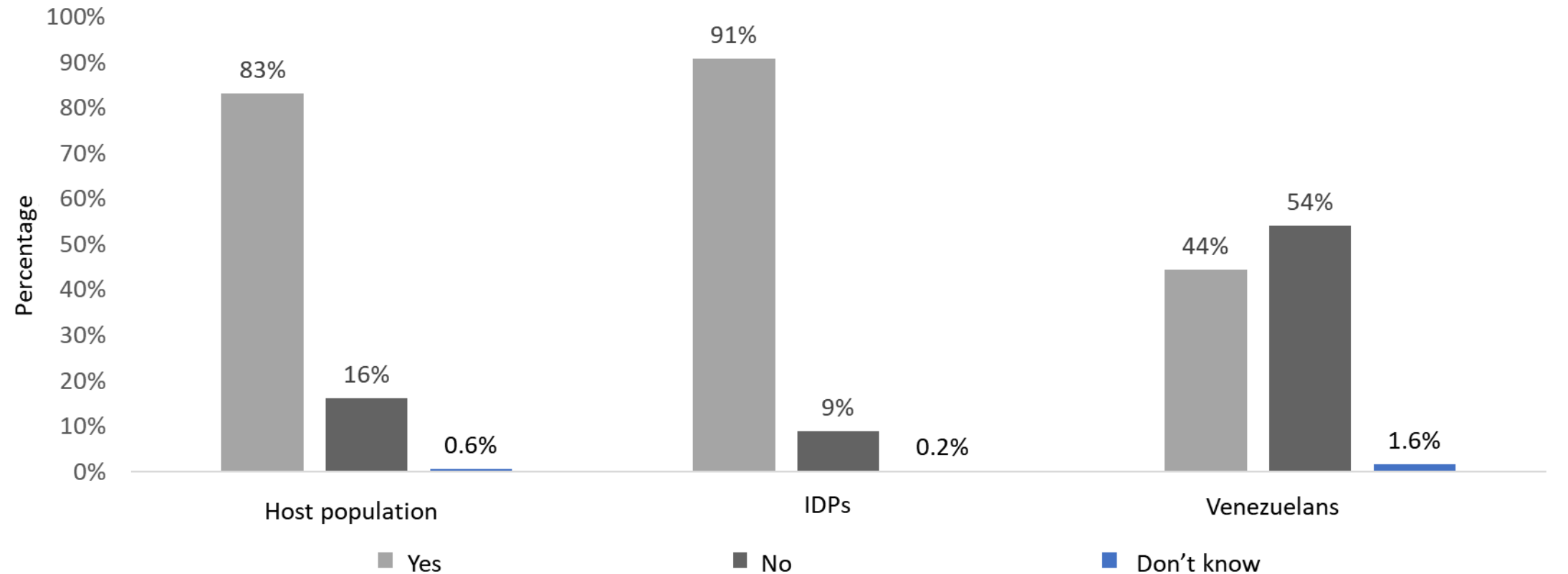
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The pandemic increased coverage for Venezuelans



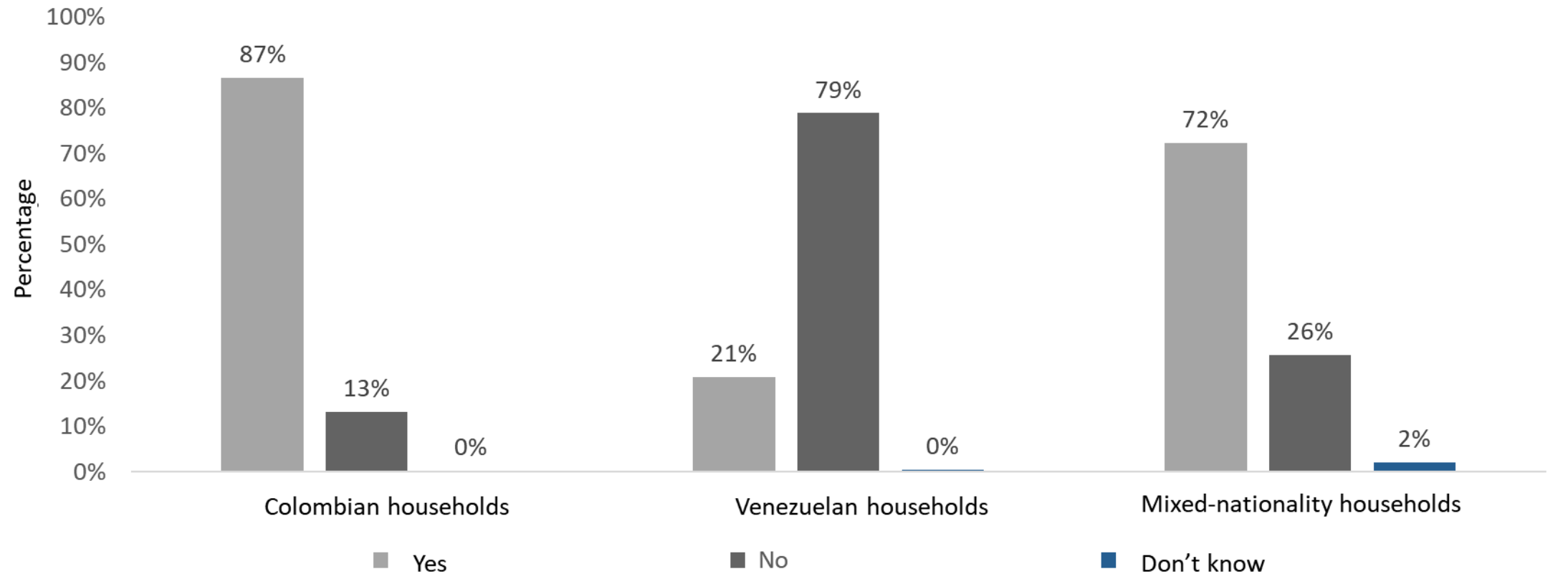
Source: authors' own elaboration

Registration in the Sisbén (social registry) is higher for Colombians than Venezuelans, although there are quite a few registered...



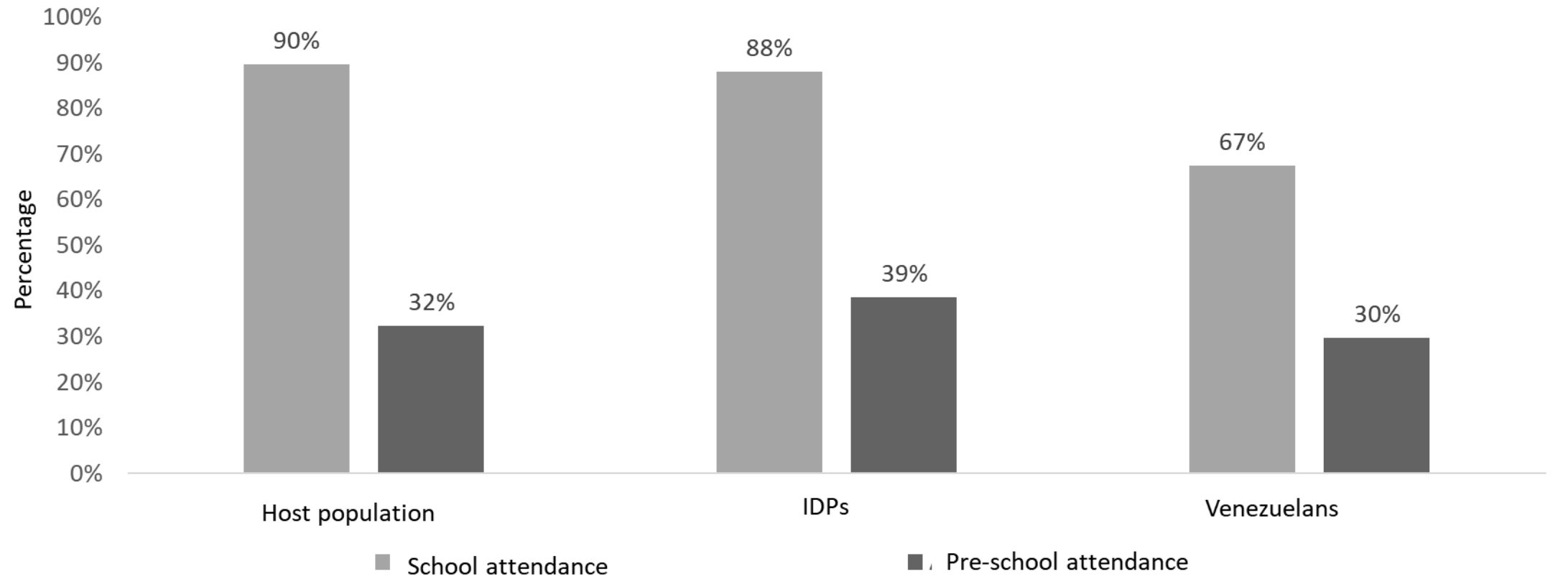
Source: authors' own elaboration

...because they live in mixed-nationality households.



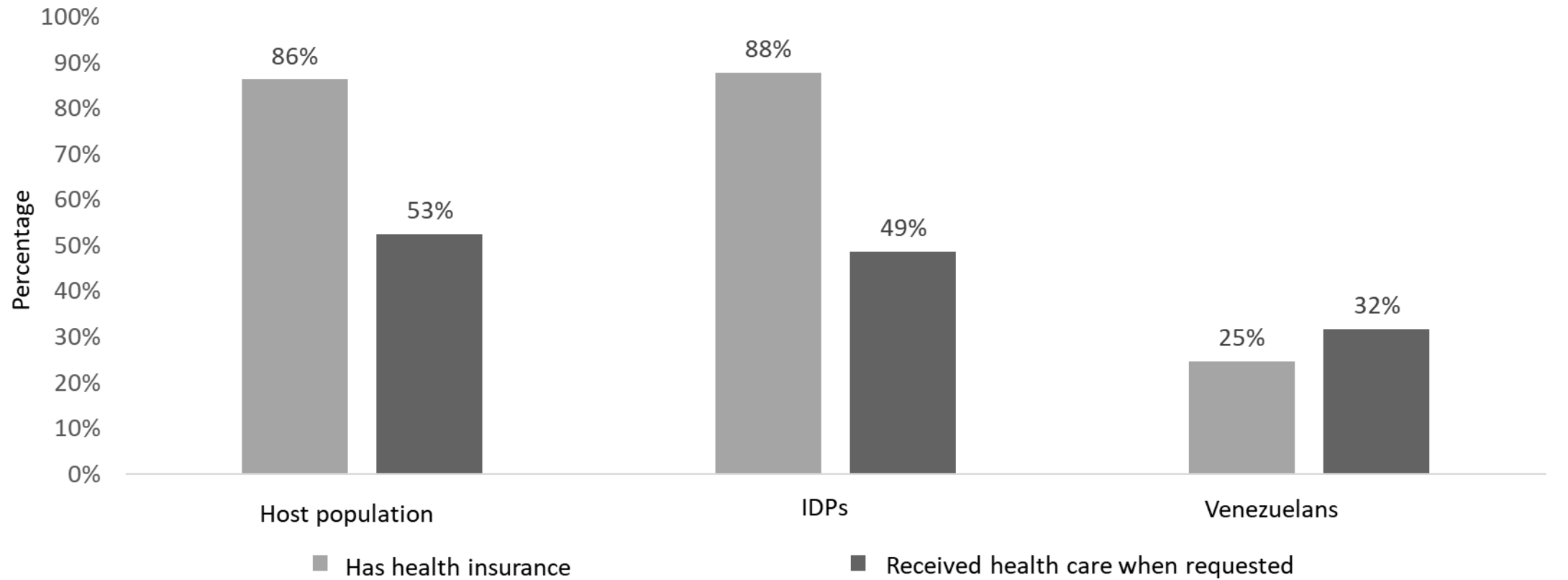
Source: authors' own elaboration

School enrolment is low for Venezuelans



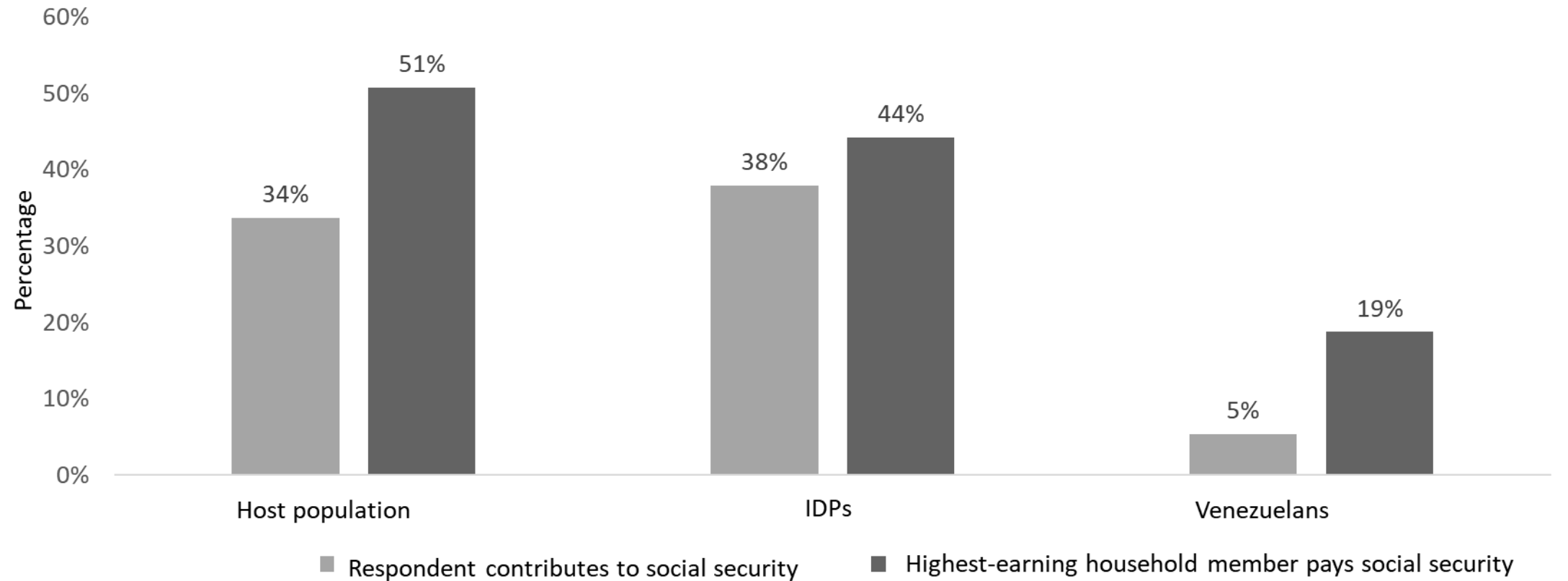
Source: authors' own elaboration

Access to health care is lower for Venezuelans



Source: authors' own elaboration

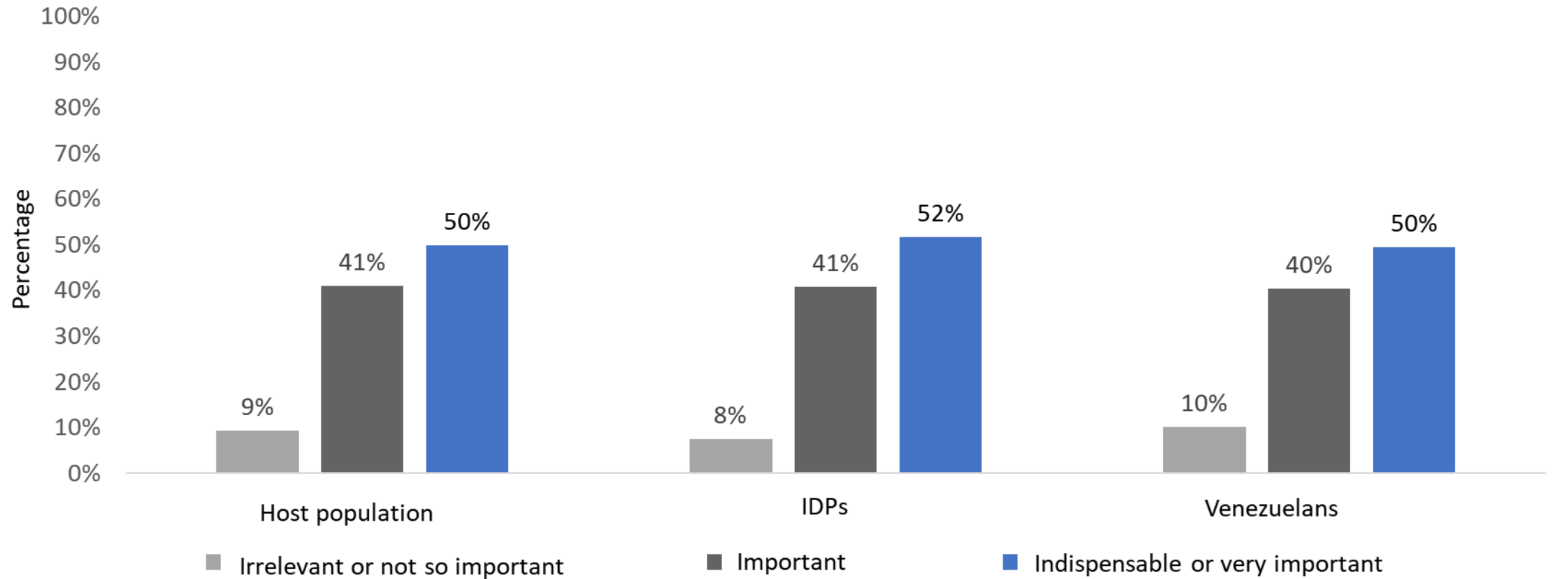
Displaced workers are informal



Source: authors' own elaboration

Relationship between assistance/social protection and household wellbeing

People consider the assistance they receive to be important



Source: authors' own elaboration

Association between social assistance and wellbeing

- However, we don't find a significant and systematic association between assistance receipt, the length of time assistance was received, or the amount received, with measures of various dimensions of wellbeing
- In part, this is due to limitations of the data, because we only compare those who receive with those who don't receive (not causality).
- In addition, we find evidence that people think that assistance gives them short-term relief, but doesn't allow them to have economic and social agency in the medium to long term.

In summary...

- This research provides **quantitative** evidence of current coverage of social protection and assistance of forcibly displaced people in Colombia (in low-income neighbourhoods in Bogotá and Cúcuta).
- We find the glass to be “half full” in the sense that IDPs receive more help than the non-displaced population, which is positive; but also “half empty” because the coverage of Venezuelans is low.
- A major part of the coverage comes from the Government, but international agencies and community organisations also contribute.
- Social protection and assistance show a weak correlation with quantitative measures of wellbeing, although as we will see in the next presentation, the voices of recipients show other nuances that the figures don't capture.

Check out the full report at:
<https://odi.org/en/publications/social-protection-responses-to-forced-displacement-in-colombia/>

Report

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May 2022



Reporte

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Junio del 2022



Social protection responses to forced displacement

This case study is part of a series of outputs studying forced displacement globally. Find out more about the larger project at:

<https://odi.org/en/about/our-work/social-protection-responses-to-forced-displacement/>



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THANK YOU