

Poverty.

Measuring poverty has been a problem that many researchers made their input to.

Peter Townsend was one of the sociologists who did not agree with the existing measures, so he created his own method in a study in 1979.

(Anthony Giddens, "Sociology" 6th edition, p.486)

Poverty line:

According to Rosstat, the median salary in Saint-Petersburg in 2020 is 35 581. A poverty line is calculated as 60% of the median income. Thus, the poverty line in Saint-Petersburg is 21 348.

List of necessary items and
activities:

- 1) Beds and bedding for everyone
- 2) Heating to warm living areas of the home
- 3) Damp-free home
- 4) Visiting friends or family in hospital
- 5) Two meals a day
- 6) Medicines prescribed by doctor
- 7) Refrigerator
- 8) Fresh fruit and vegetables daily
- 9) Warm, waterproof coat
- 10) Replace or repair broken electrical goods
- 11) Visits to friends or family
- 12) Celebrations on special occasions such as Christmas
- 13) Money to keep home in a decent state of decorations
- 14) Visits to school, e.g. sports everyday
- 15) Attending weddings, funerals
- 16) Meat, fish or vegetarian equivalent everyday
- 17) Insurance of contents of dwelling
- 18) Hobby or leisure activity
- 19) Washing machine
- 20) Collect children from school
- 21) Telephone
- 22) Appropriate clothes for job interview
- 23) Deep freezer/fridge freezer
- 24) Carpets in living rooms and bedrooms
- 25) Regular savings for rainy days and retirement
- 26) Two pairs of all-weather shoes
- 27) Friends or family round for a meal
- 28) A small amount of money to spend on self weekly, not family
- 29) Television
- 30) Roast joint/vegetarian equivalent once a week
- 31) Presents for friends/family once a year
- 32) A holiday away from home once a year
- 33) Replace worn-out furniture
- 34) Dictionary
- 35) An outfit for social occasions

Consequences:

1. Health issues (back problems, diseases/maladies and so on), permanent exhaustion and tiredness.
2. Severe fever, problems with health, death.
3. Pneumonia, asthma and heart diseases.
4. Frustration, breakdown, lack of communication.
5. Stomach issues, collapse from hunger, anorexia.
6. The appearance of chronic diseases, death.
7. Briskly spoiling food, lack of protein/dairy products.
8. Weak immunity.
9. Ability to catch a cold, get sick.
10. Inability to store groceries, cook food and keep it warm.
11. Lack of communication, depression, mental breakdown, lack of support, loneliness.
12. Dull schedule and permanent feeling of disappointment.
13. Jealousy, crime, depression.
14. Lack of communication and education, the absence to socialize.
15. Dull social life, lack of communication, inability to evoke feelings and appreciate a moment.
16. Weak immunity, lack of nutritious elements in the body.
17. Homelessness, depression, crime.
18. Dull schedule, devastation, lack of communication.
19. Unsanitary condition, hygiene issues, problems with help.
20. High risk of kidnapping or others types of crime while going home (for children).
21. The person can communicate only with people living around, inaccessibility to the media, social networks.
22. Difficulties while introducing yourself on a job interview as employers would treat you badly for your look; unemployment.
23. Bad quality of food.
24. Flu, kidney issues.
25. High risk of getting into poverty or others financial problems.
26. Lack of any shoes if yours are wet on a rainy day.
27. Breaking ties with the loved ones, loneliness.
28. Lack of possibility to buy any new clothes/medicine if they are needed.
29. Inaccessibility to the mass media.
30. Weak immunity, problems with stomach.
31. Jealousy, crime, apathy, emotionlessness.
32. Absence of bright memories, jealousy.
33. Inability to cook, heat the place, store products, crime.
34. A stingy vocabulary.
35. Jealousy, crime, frustration.

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Issues

Interview guide:

Focus group: jobless, live in a dormitory, studying for a bachelors degree.

Theoretical idea/ idea from mandatory reading	Common Questions	Prompts	Suggested Additional Questions
Block 1. Introduction and warm-up			
	Please, introduce yourself.	1. How old are you? 2. Employment 3. How much money do you get per month?	Please, tell us about the place where you live and your living conditions.
Block 2. Introduction to interview main subject			
	1. Is the money you have enough for livable life ¹ ? 2. Do you feel deprived of something?	1. Do you think that a minimal level of wage stated by 2021 Saint-Petersburg MPOT ² will be enough for an employed person who does not live in a dormitory of any kind? 2. If not, what minimal level of wage do you consider as giving an opportunity to live a liveable life without deprivations of any kind? 3. What are your thoughts on 2020 Потребительская корзина ³ ? Is this amount of goods enough for your level of consumption? What amount of this goods do you personally consume every month?	1. Please, name 15-20 goods and activities without which your life can not be considered as full and liveable. 2. Please, check out the list ⁴ of goods and activities provided by Peter Townsend and tell do you need mentioned things to live without any deprivation. 3. Which goods and activities would you like to add in such list? To remove? Why?

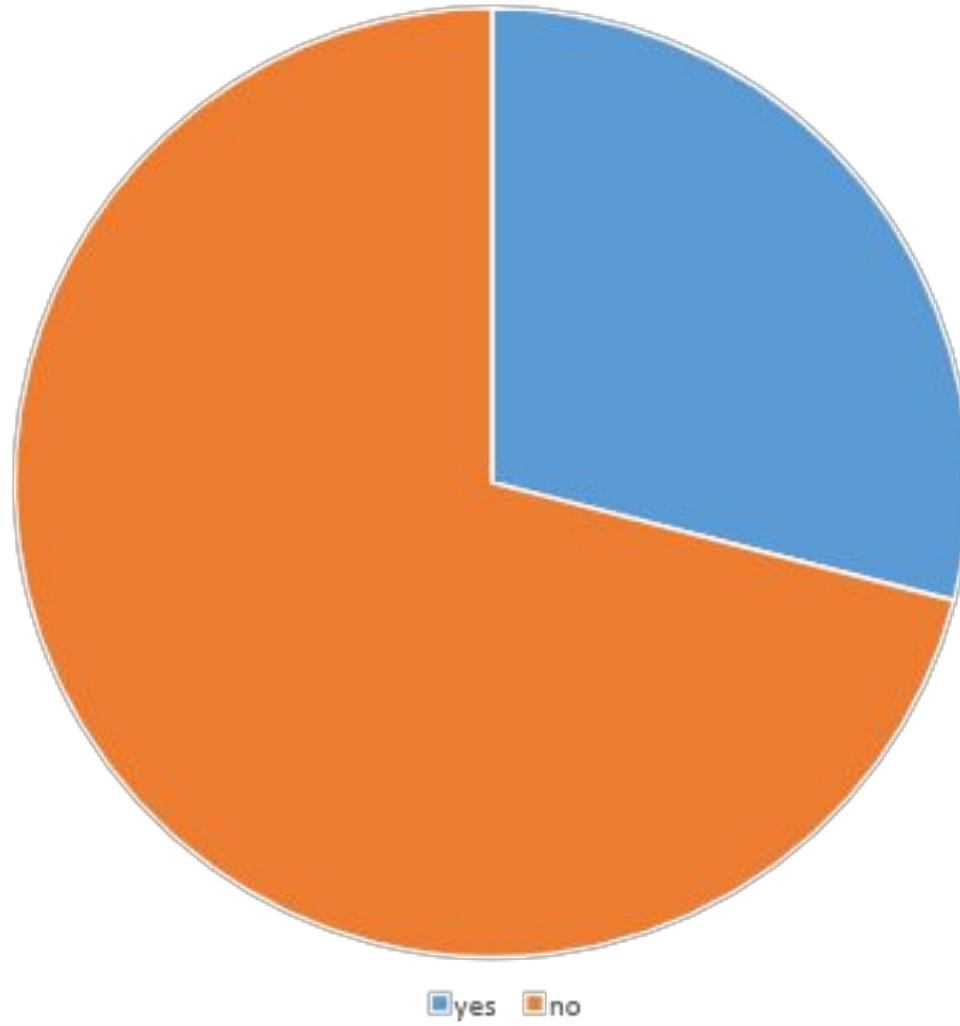
¹ Judith Butler “Notes Toward a Performative Theory of Assembly”, Harvard University Press, 2015

² <https://www.gov.spb.ru/press/governor/213136/>

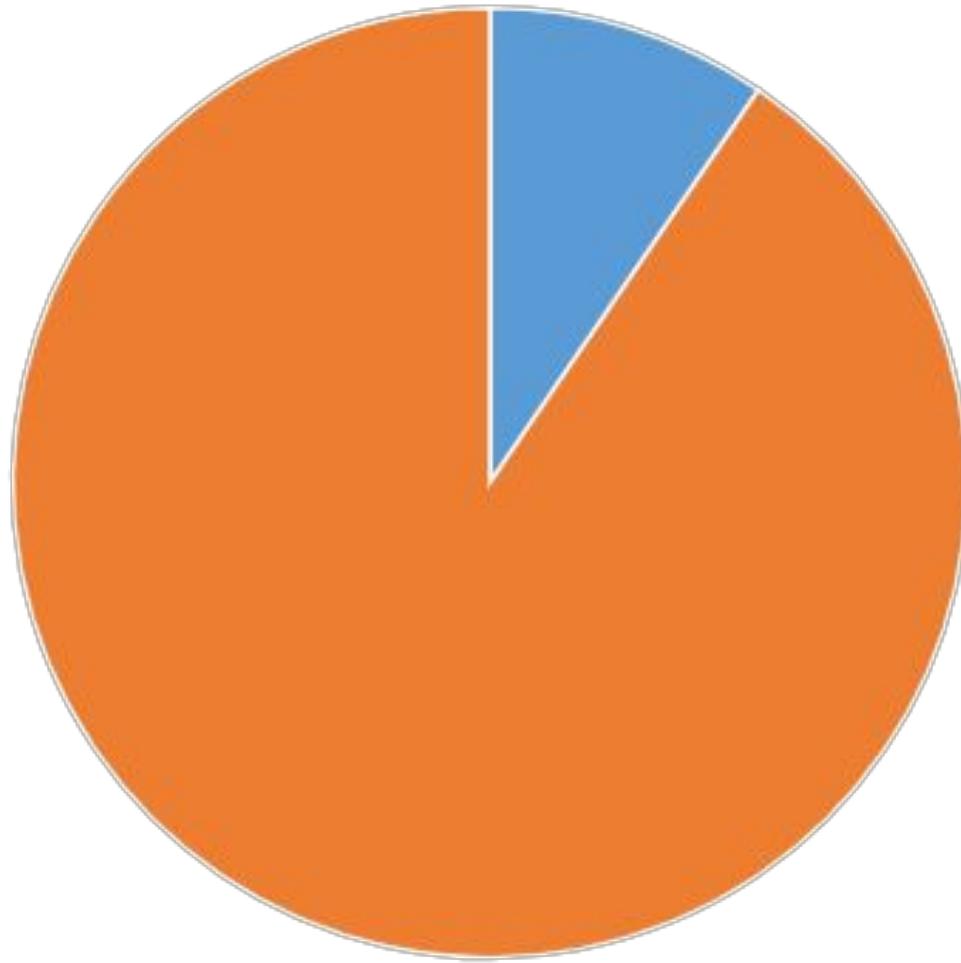
³ <https://gogov.ru/articles/consumer-basket>

⁴ Giddens A. Sociology. 6th Edition. Polity Press. PP. 488-489

Visiting friends or family in hospital

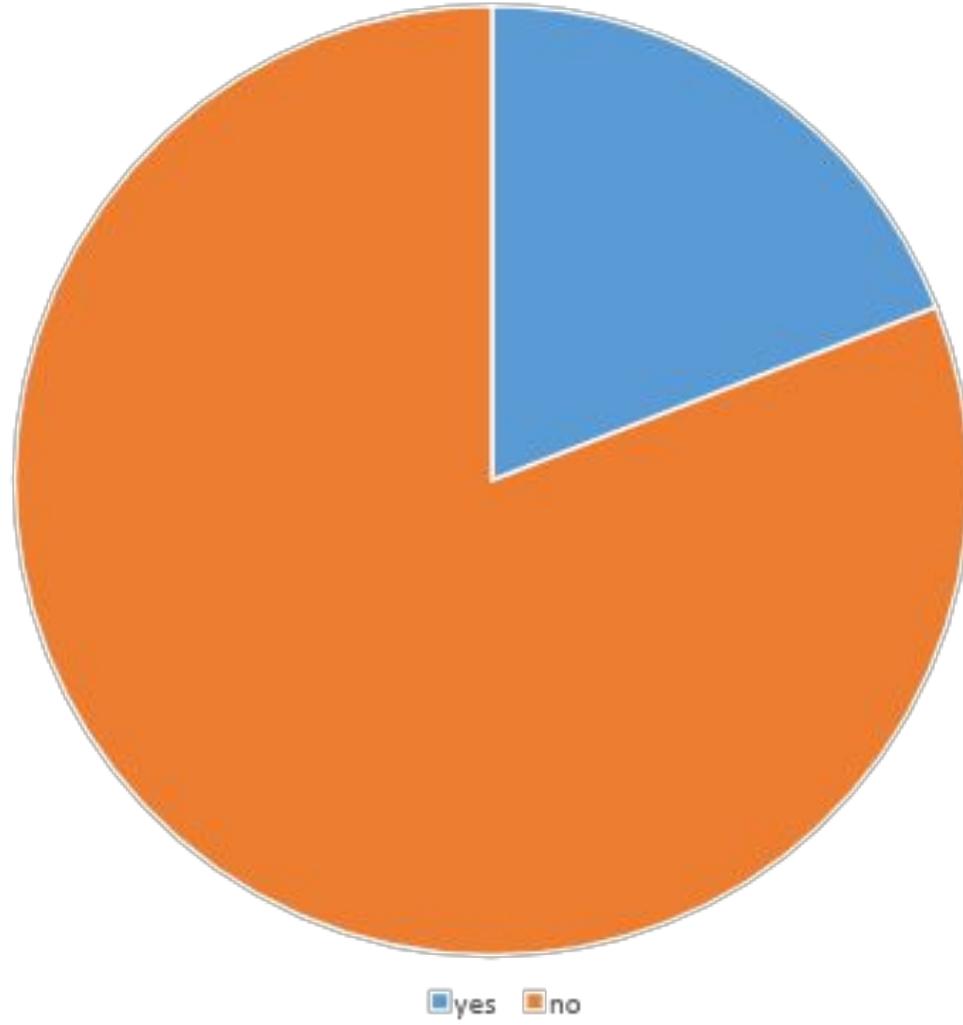


Two meals a day

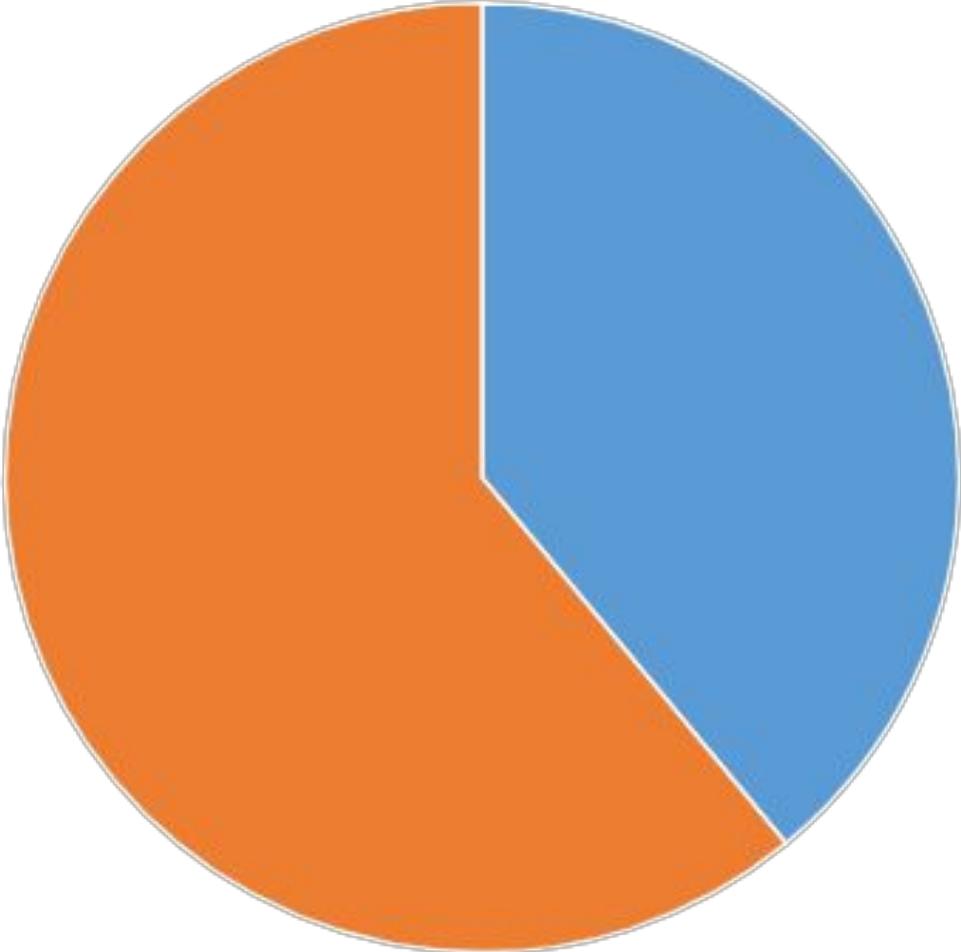


yes no

Attending weddings, funerals

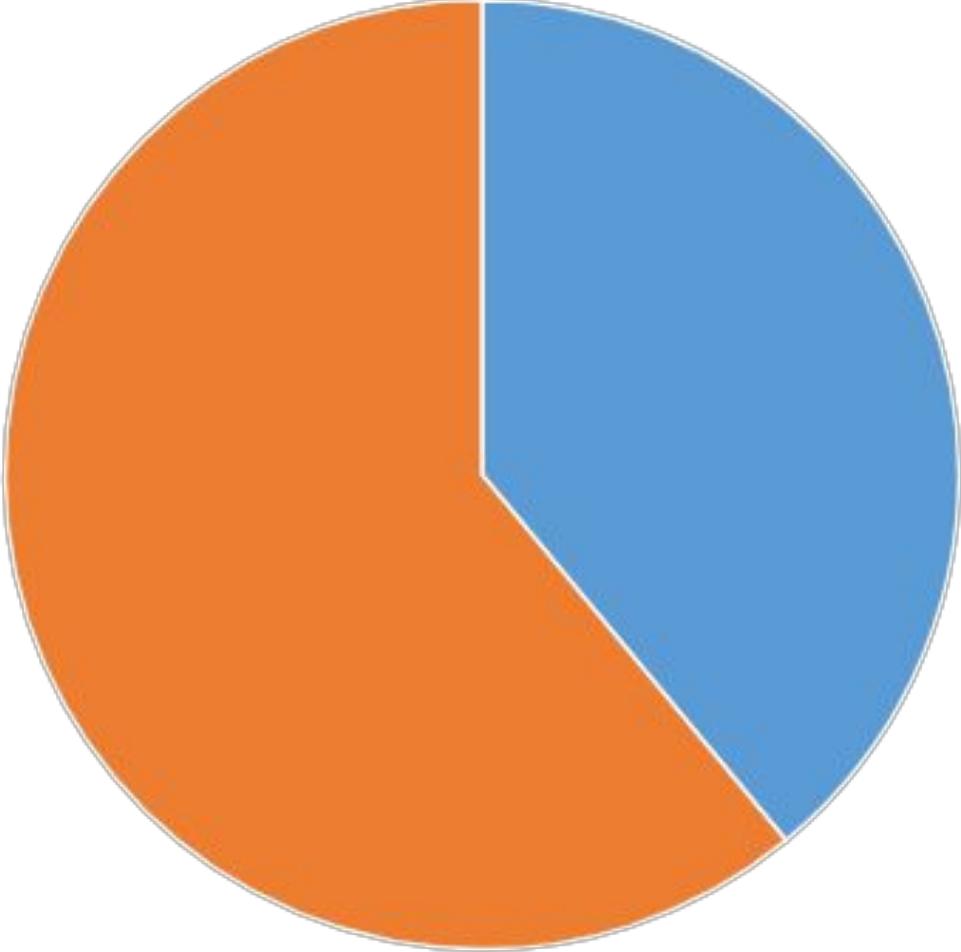


Insurance of contents of dwelling



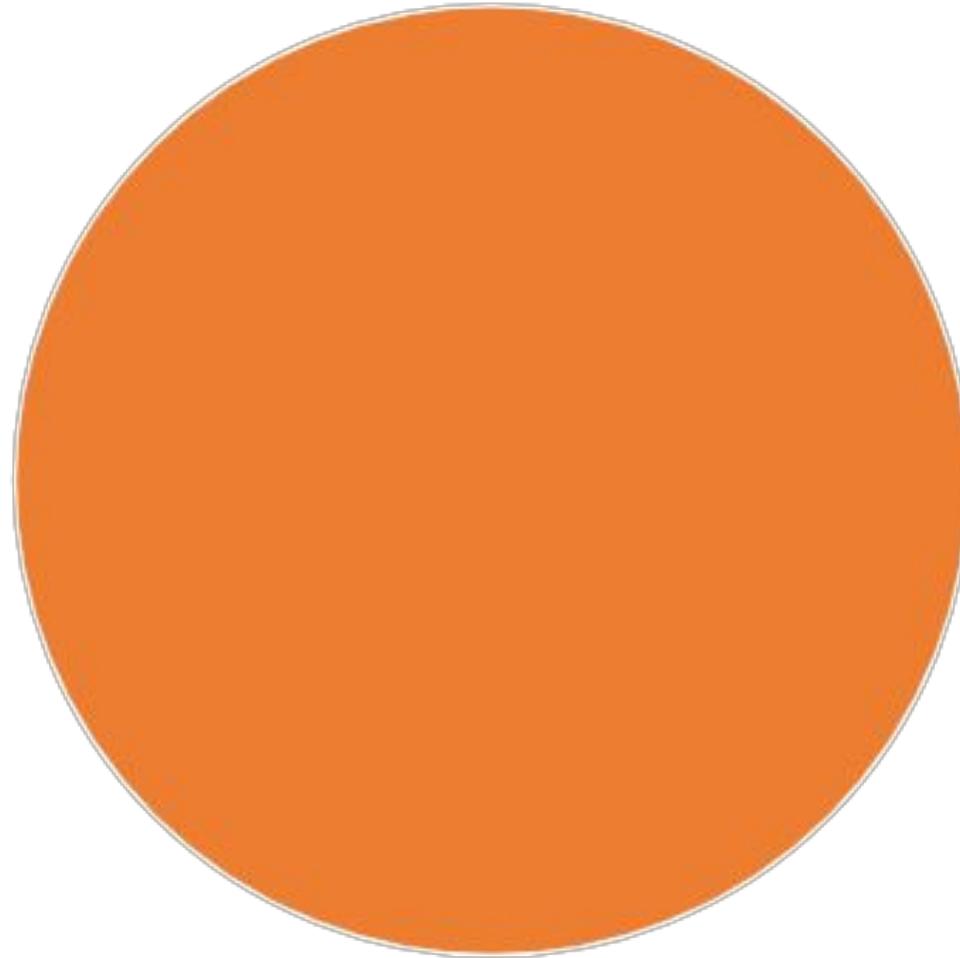
yes no

Washing machine



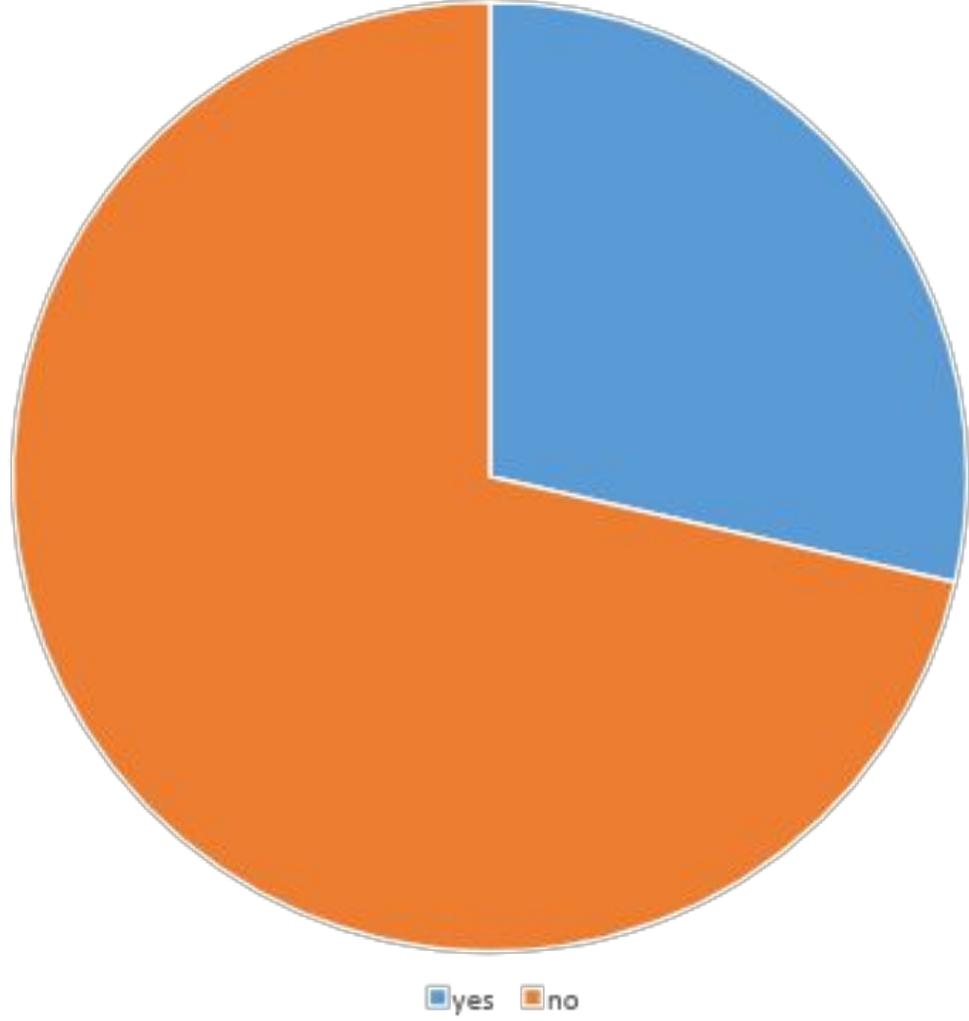
yes no

Collect children from school

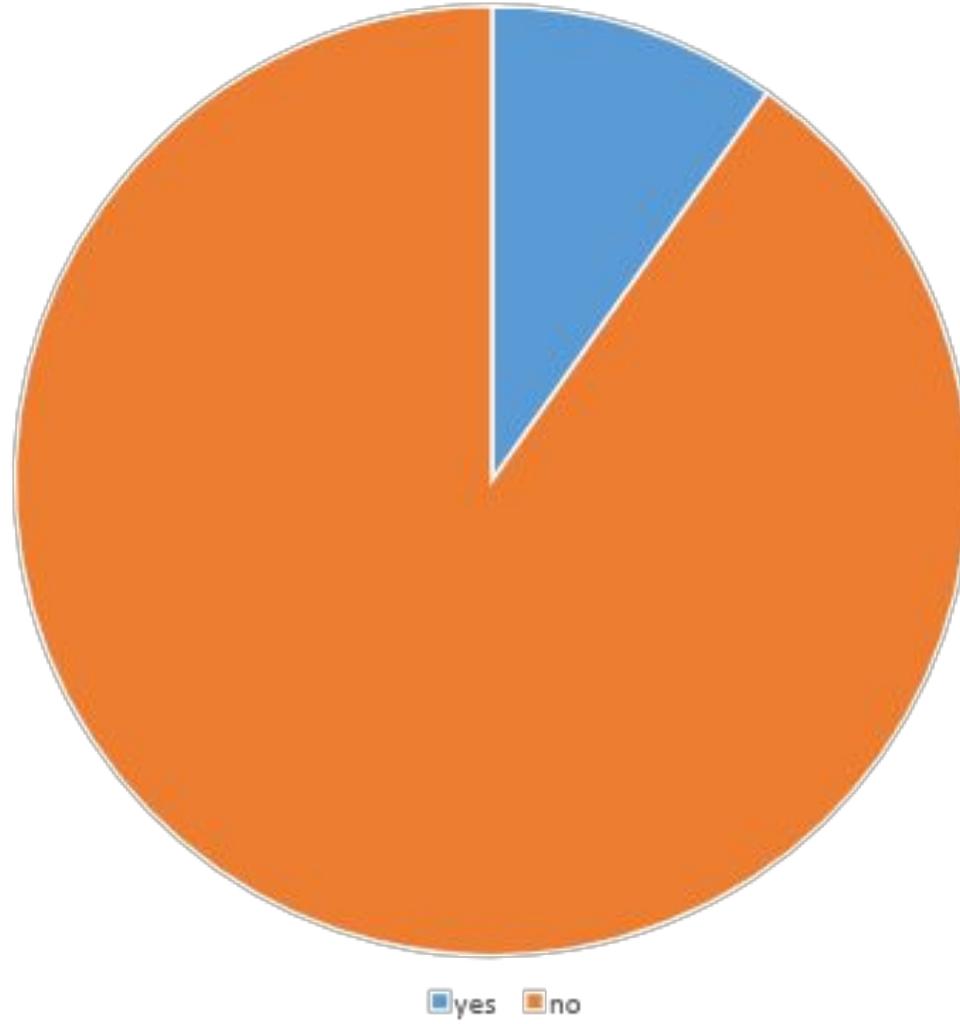


■ yes ■ no

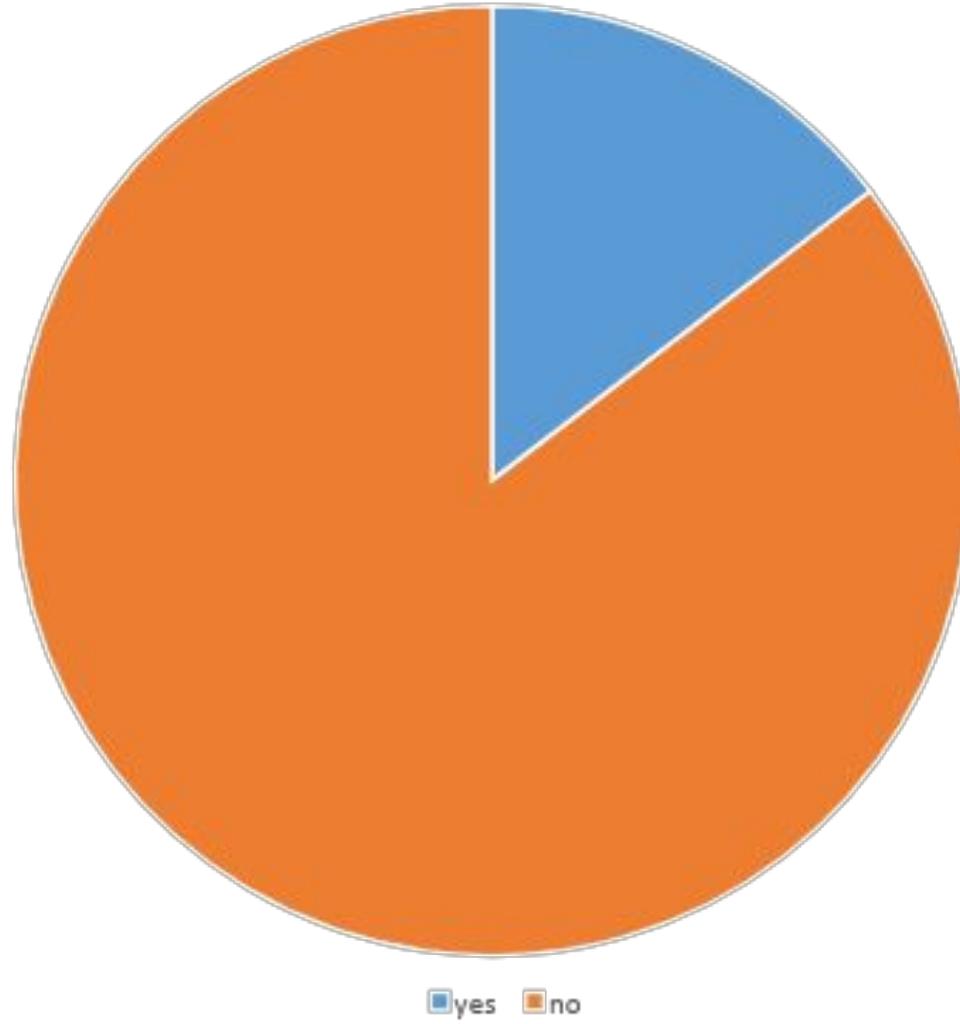
Carpets in living rooms and and bedrooms



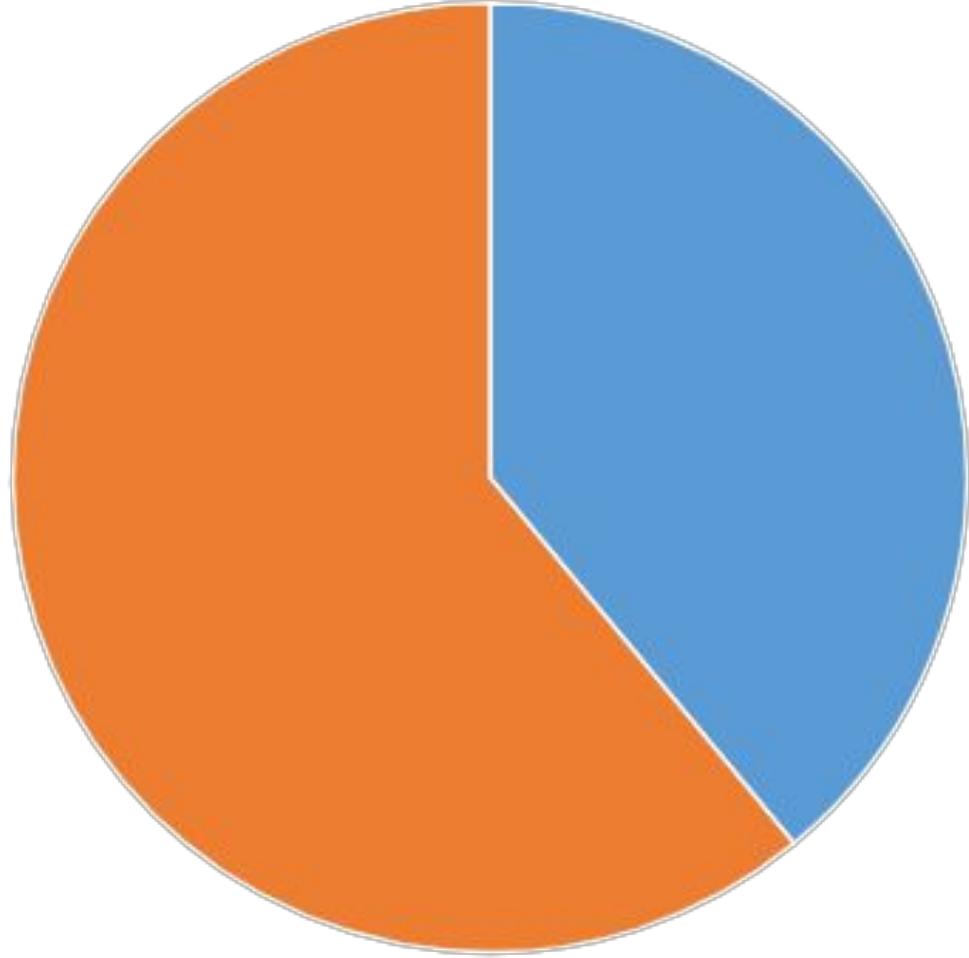
Two pairs of all-weather shoes



Friends or family round for a meal

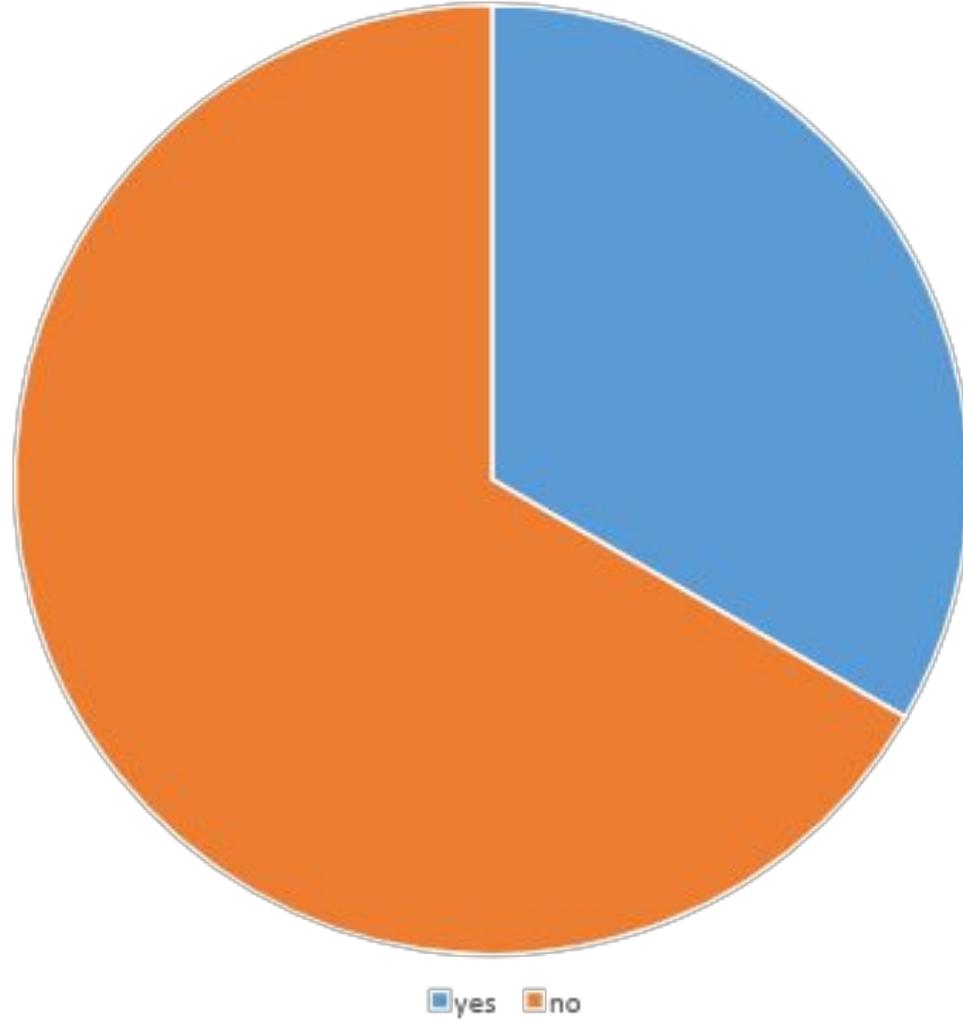


Television

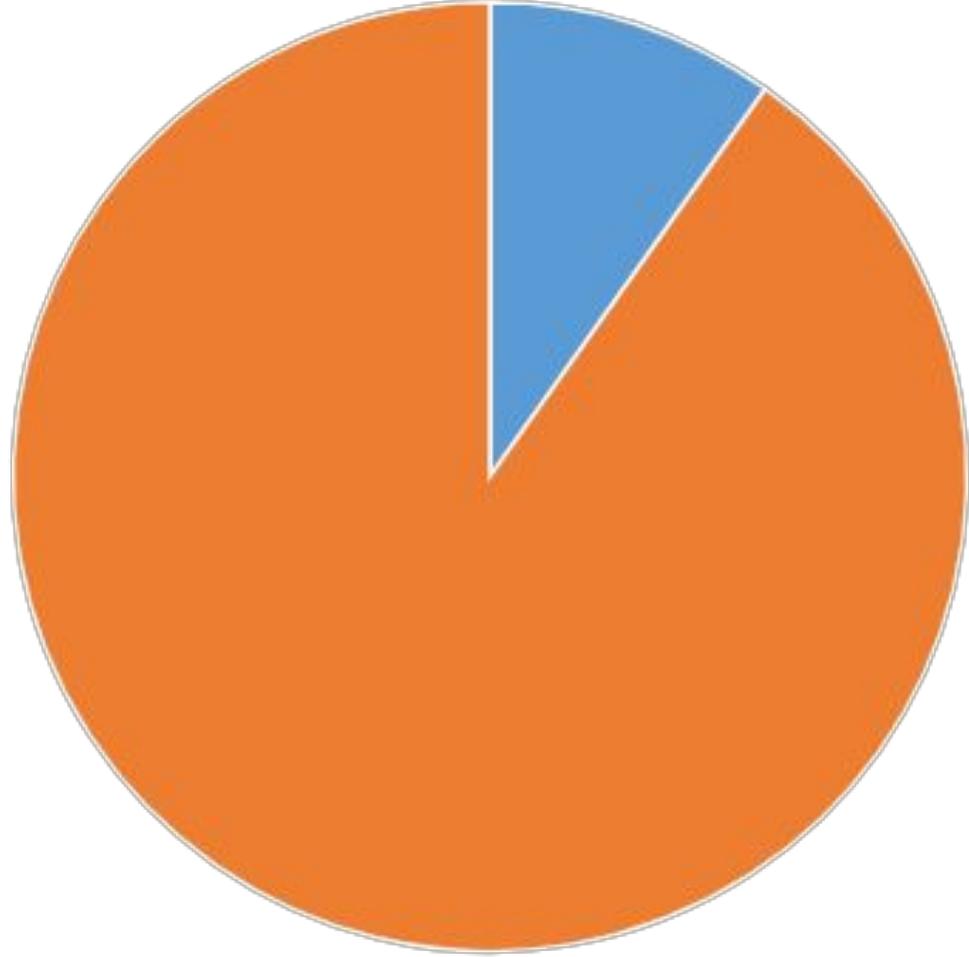


yes no

Roast joint/vegetarian equivalent once a week

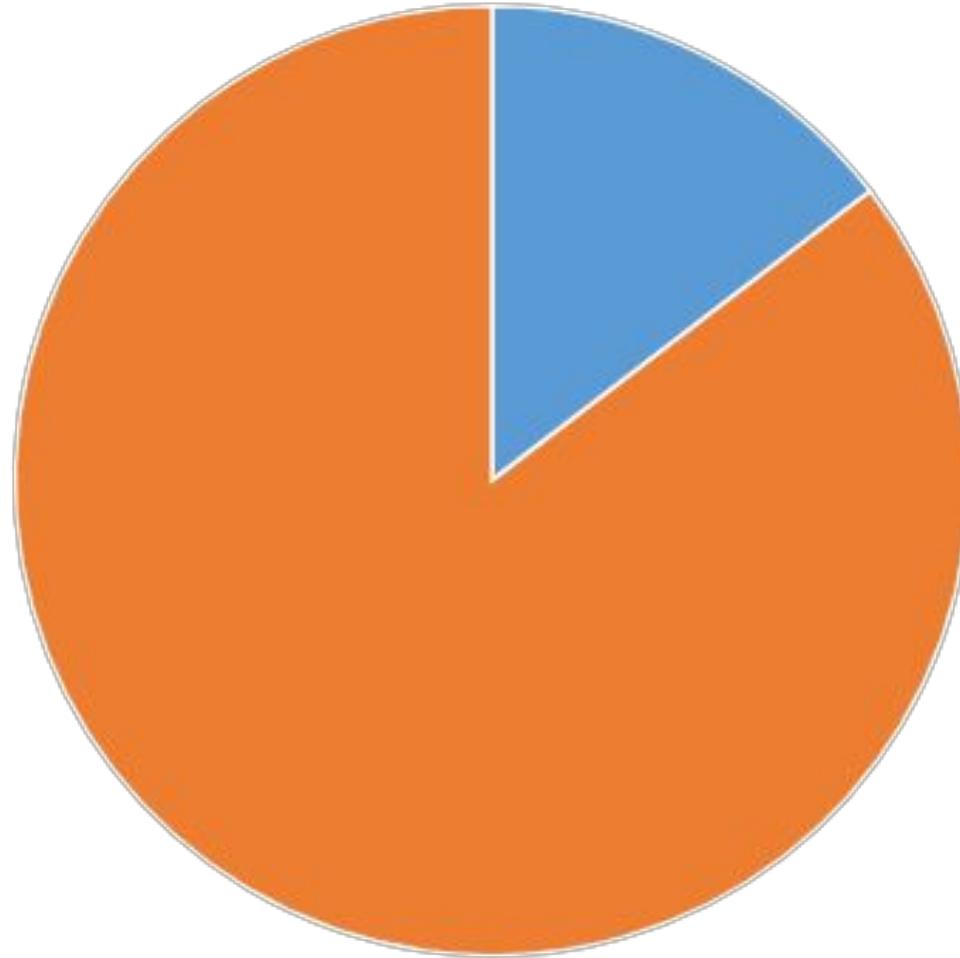


A holiday away from home once a year



yes no

Dictionary



yes no

