NFACT
National Food Access and COVID Research Team

FOOD INSECURITY AND FOOD ACCESS DURING COVID-19 AT THE NATIONAL & STATE LEVELS:

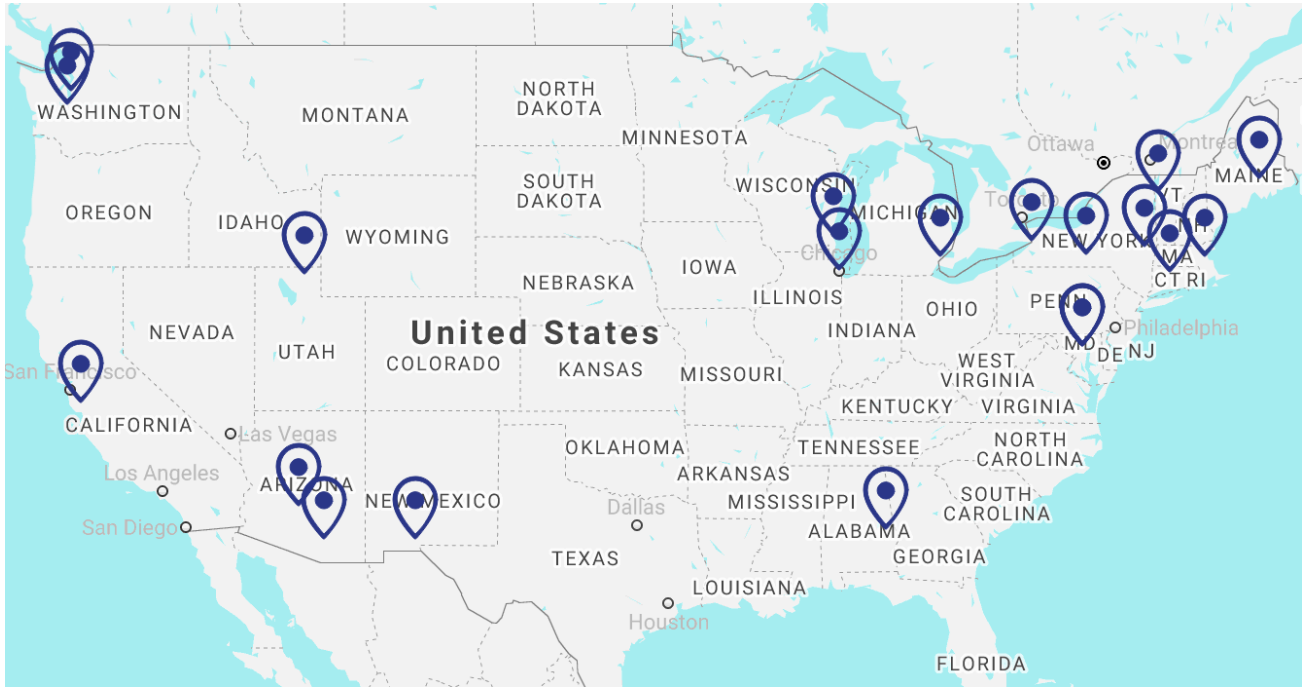
IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICYMAKING

WHAT IS NFACT?

- National Food Access and COVID Research Team (NFACT)
  - 15 states and 17 study locations, including national data collection
- A national effort founded to bring together existing and new opportunities to assess the impact of COVID-19 on food security and systems at state and national levels
- Use common survey instrument, replicated in whole or part across research teams
  - Many research teams also add additional questions of interest to them or their stakeholders
- NOPREN Survey sub-group is attended by many NFACT collaborators- many thanks to Lauren Clay (An NFACT collaborator) for her effort on this!

ANALYSIS ACROSS SCALES- NFACT

- Alabama (Auburn University, Auburn University at Montgomery)
- Arizona* (Arizona State, University of Arizona)
- California (San Jose State University)
- Connecticut (FoodShare)
- Illinois (DePaul University)
- Maine (University of Maine)
- Maryland* (Johns Hopkins University)
- Massachusetts (The Greater Boston Food Bank)
- Michigan (Wayne State University)
- New Mexico (New Mexico State University)
- New York (Cornell, D'Youville College, St. Johns University, SUNY Albany)
- Utah (Utah State University)
- Vermont* (University of Vermont)
- Washington (University of Washington, Washington State University)
- Wisconsin (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

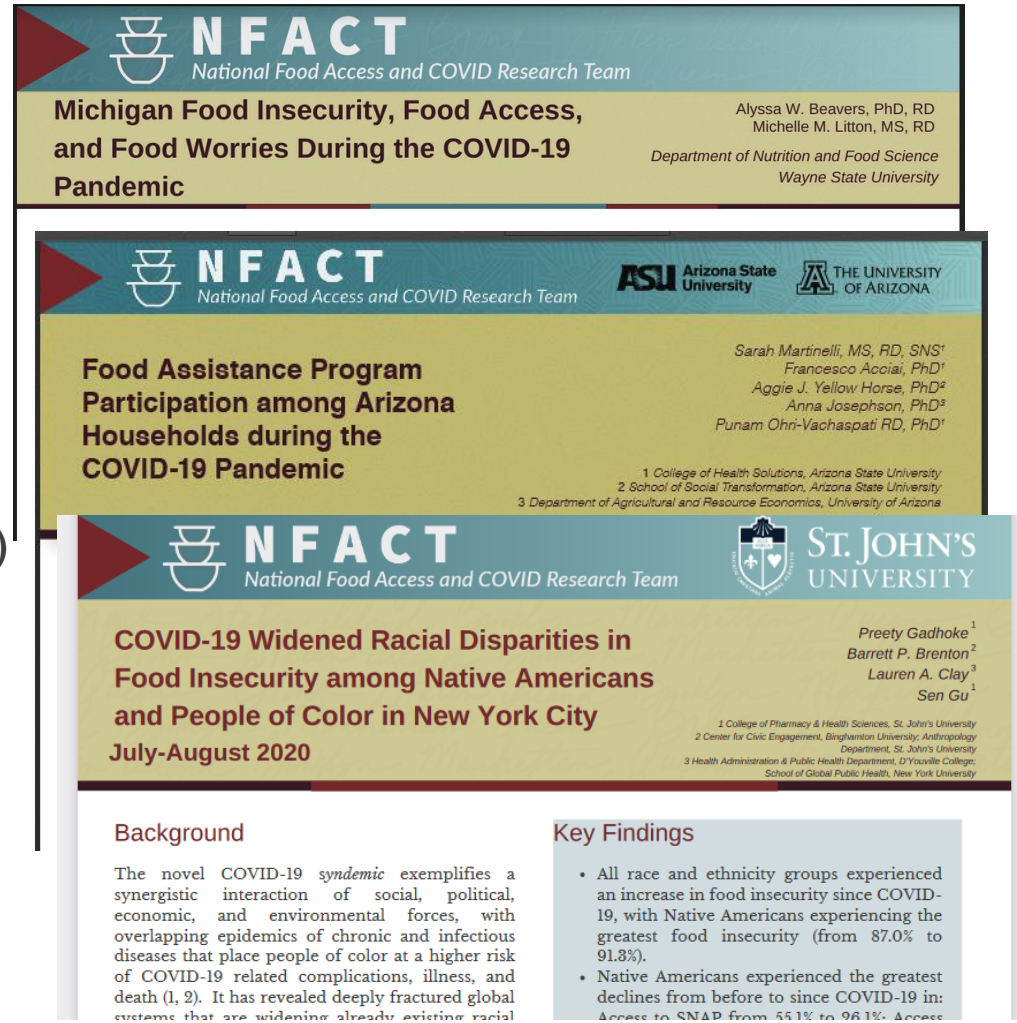


Location of NFACT collaborating institutions

*Leading national data collection efforts

THREE CORE PRINCIPLES

- **Work with stakeholders from the beginning**
  - Individual states identify key stakeholders, collaborate and adjust survey as needed
  - Congressional delegation, Foodbanks, non-profits, state agencies, restaurant and business sector, farmers, food serving institutions
- **Make the work open access to facilitate broader collaboration**
  - All surveys archived with DOIs on Harvard dataverse (https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/foodaccessandcoronavirus)
  - All survey cleaning code made available on GitHub
- **Make the work actionable by prioritizing public communication outputs**
  - Collectively NFACT has published 20 public briefs, with digestible information and key information for decision-making (https://www.nfactresearch.org/policy-briefs)


NFACT
National Food Access and COVID Research Team

Michigan Food Insecurity, Food Access, and Food Worries During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Food Assistance Program Participation among Arizona Households during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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NFACT
National Food Access and COVID Research Team
St. John's University

COVID-19 Widened Racial Disparities in Food Insecurity among Native Americans and People of Color in New York City
July-August 2020

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Background

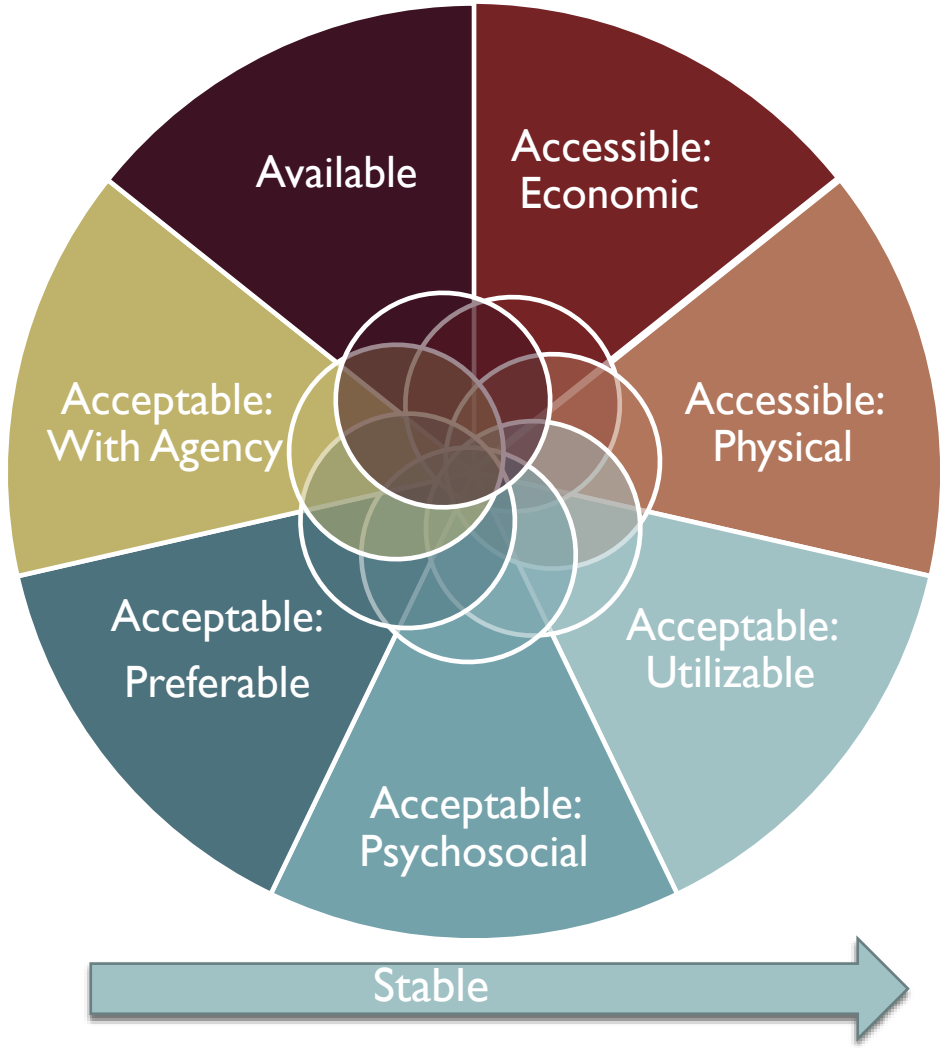
The novel COVID-19 *syndemic* exemplifies a synergistic interaction of social, political, economic, and environmental forces, with overlapping epidemics of chronic and infectious diseases that place people of color at a higher risk of COVID-19 related complications, illness, and death (1, 2). It has revealed deeply fractured global

Key Findings

- All race and ethnicity groups experienced an increase in food insecurity since COVID-19, with Native Americans experiencing the greatest food insecurity (from 87.0% to 91.3%).
- Native Americans experienced the greatest declines from before to since COVID-19 in: Access to SNAP from 55.1% to 26.1%; Access

COMPREHENSIVE FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT

- Comprehensive approach to understand food security through a systems framework
- Economic access has been a primary lens for understanding food insecurity in the US
- COVID-19 has highlighted many other aspects of food insecurity critical to understand
- Differs from US Census Household Pulse survey (measures food scarcity - not enough to eat)



DIFFERENT APPROACHES FOR INFORMING POLICY

- Policy significance:
  - Work that has implications for the policy world
  - This can be a low bar. E.g. Data split up by demographics is significant, but not actionable.

- Policy accessibility:
  - Work is readable for the policy world
  - Appears in venues where a policy audience sees it

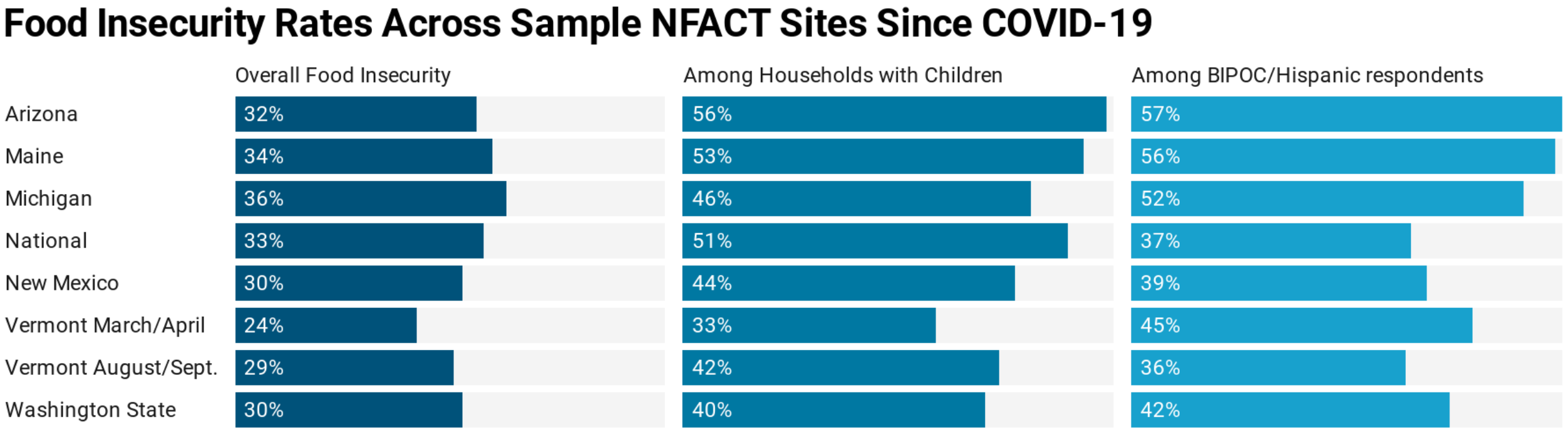
- Policy actionability:
  - Work that engages in the debate
  - Research that "takes a side" in ways that support or oppose an argument

- Public debate:
  - Helps to set the agenda and frame the debate – e.g., a book about the co-benefits and unintended consequences of reducing wasted food

https://warontherocks.com/2015/06/what-is-policy-relevance/ by Horowitz

POLICY SIGNIFICANCE: CONSISTENT TRENDS REGARDLESS OF APPROACH

- Food insecurity since COVID-19 is high universally, and worse for households with children and BIPOC/Hispanic respondents



US NATIONAL SURVEY RESULTS

First wave – July-August 2020

- **N=1510**
- **Nationally representative by race and income; oversample HH with income <$50,000; weighted analyses**
- **Online survey using Qualtrics**

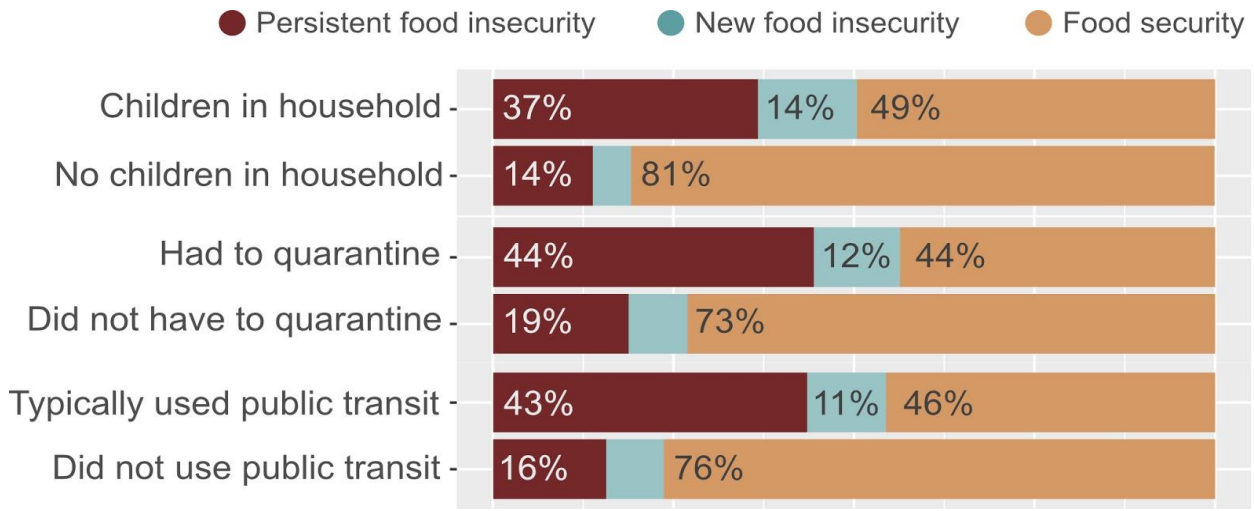
Second wave– January-February 2021

3 additional waves planned

NEW & PERSISTENT FOOD INSECURITY
(USDA HFSSM; year prior & since 3/11/20)

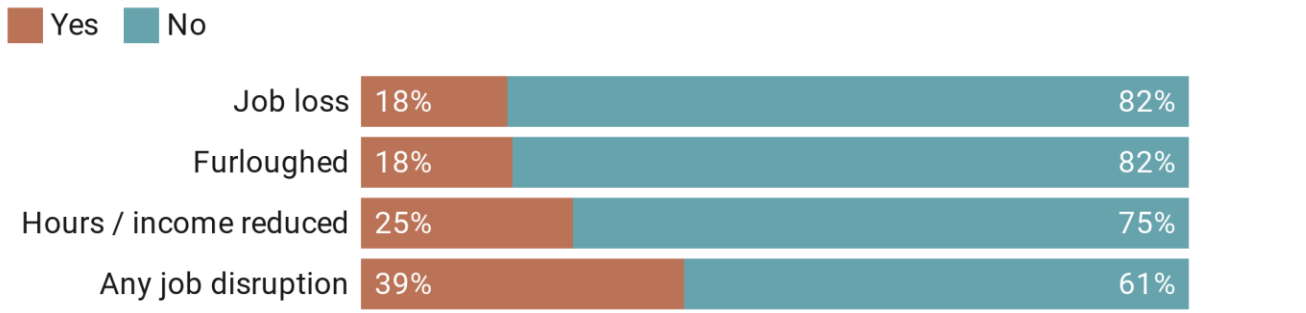
- **Household food insecurity increased by nearly one-third since COVID-19 (25% to 33%)**
- **24%** households persistently food insecure
- **9%** households newly food insecure
- Highest rates of overall + persistent food insecurity: Black
- Highest rates of new food insecurity: white

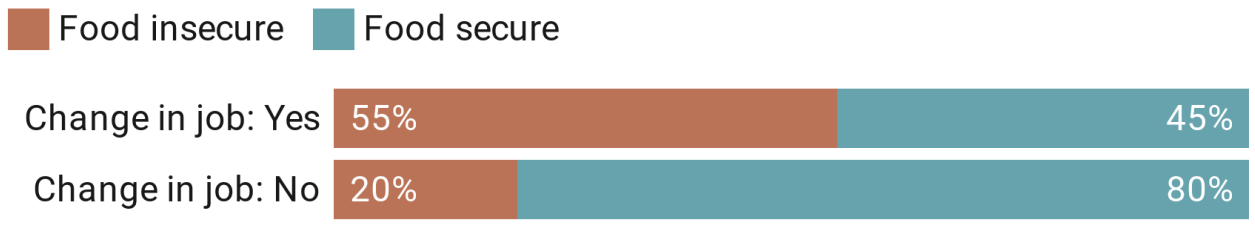
Food insecurity ***>2x*** *if children in hh, had to quarantine, or use public transit*

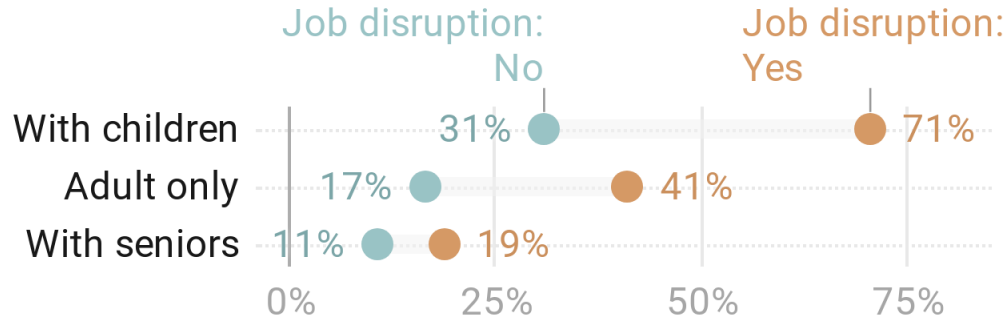


JOB DISRUPTIONS LINKED HEAVILY TO FOOD INSECURITY

- **39%** of participating households experienced some form of job disruption since March 2020
- **55%** of households with a job disruption were classified as food insecure
- **71%** of households with job disruption and children experienced food insecurity

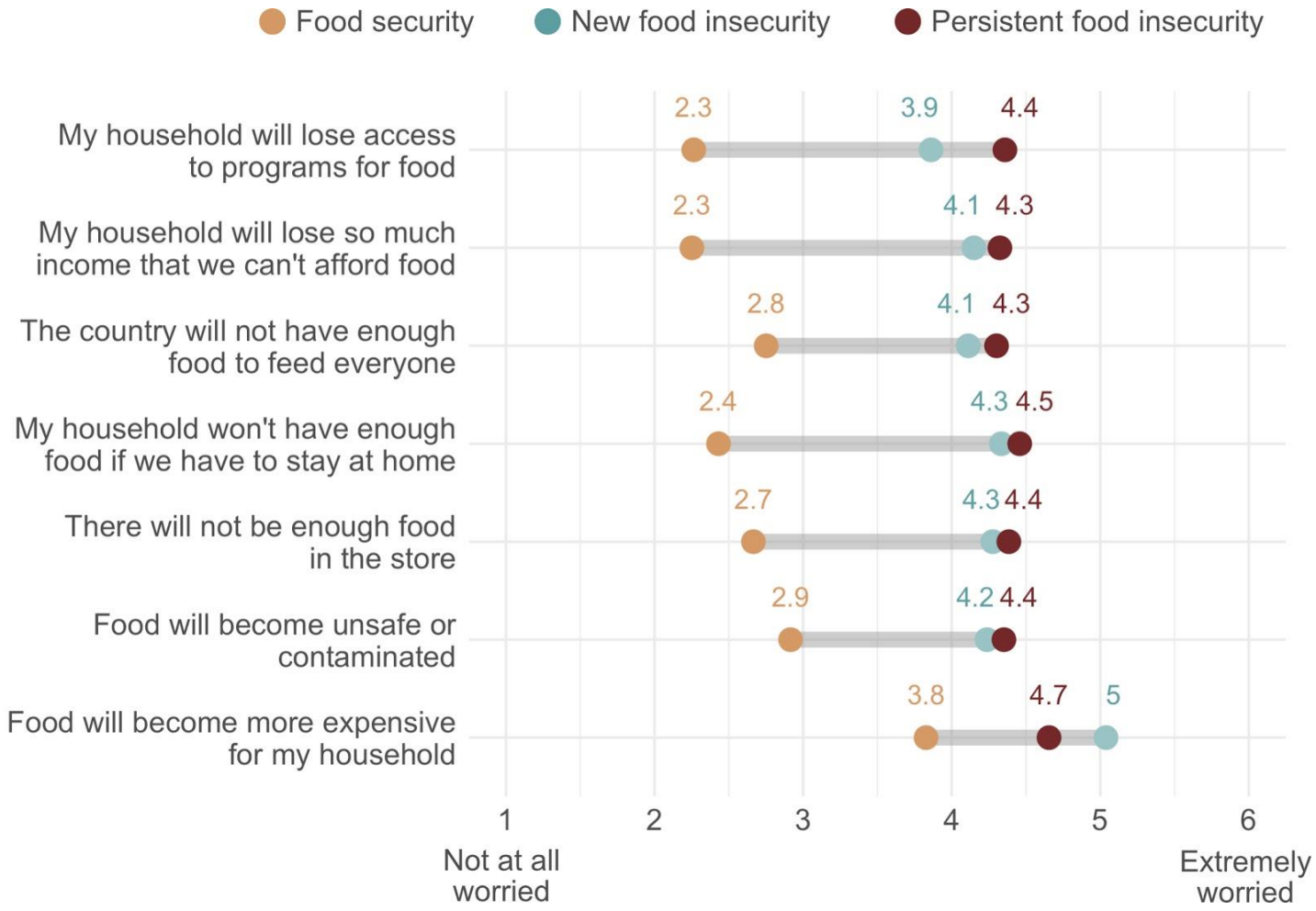






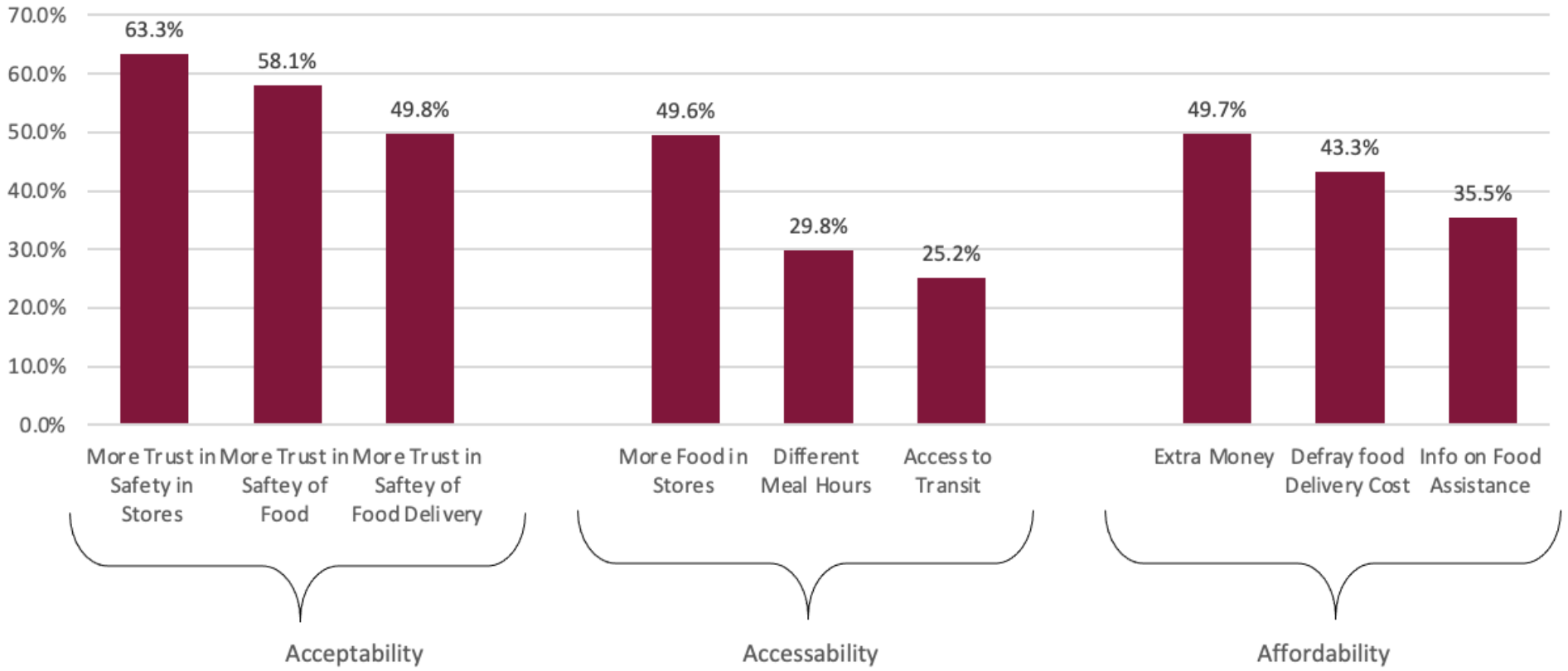
CONCERNS OVER FOOD AVAILABILITY, ACCESS AND SAFETY

- Concerns much higher if food insecurity
- **67%** of all respondents concerned about food becoming more expensive
- Households w/dietary restrictions **~2x** as likely to have challenges with food quantity, acceptability



STRATEGIES HELPFUL FOR MEETING FOOD NEEDS DURING COVID-19

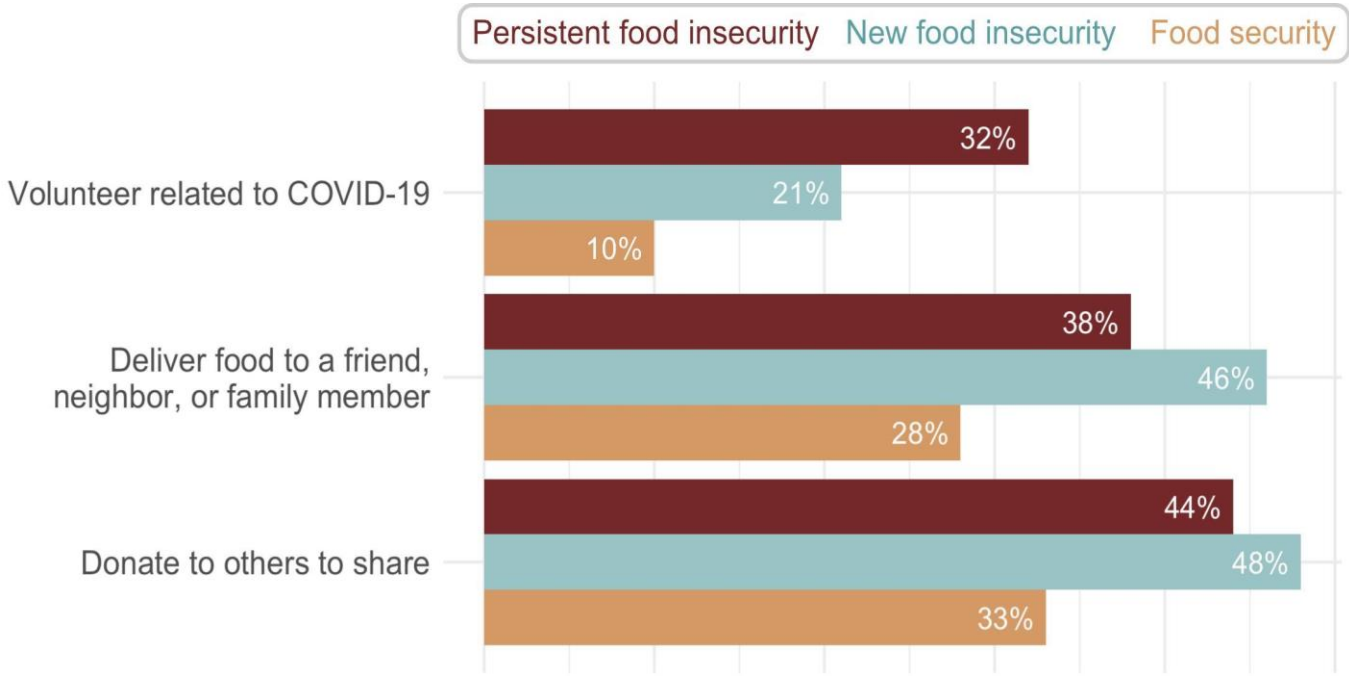
- Much higher percentages for *all* if food insecurity



MUTUAL AID

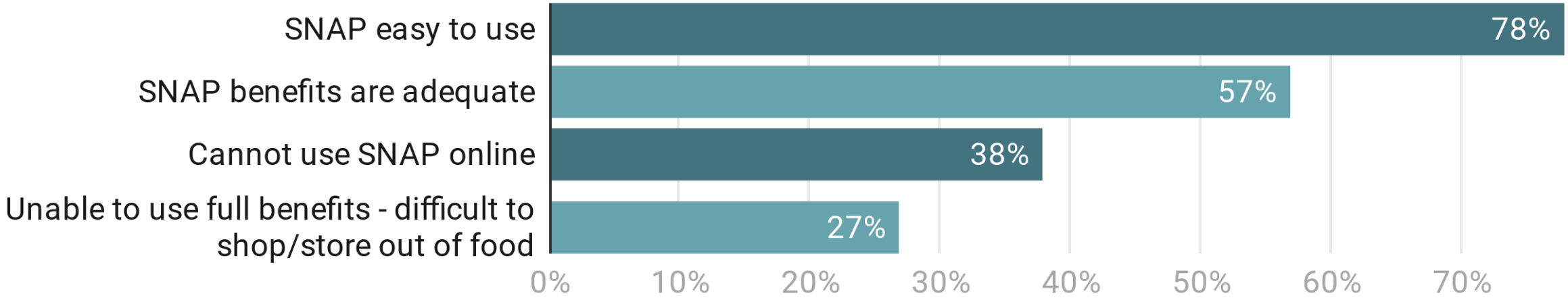
- Across the population many are engaged in volunteering, delivering food to others, and donating food

- Those with food insecurity especially likely to participate in these activities



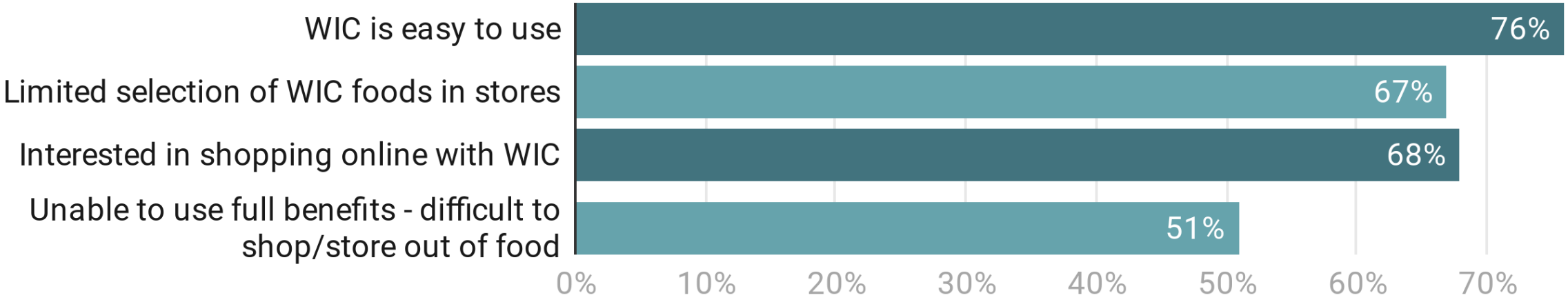
SNAP PARTICIPATION AND EXPERIENCE

- Majority think SNAP was easy to use, but nearly **40%** couldn't use benefits online
- **1 in 4** couldn't use full benefits since COVID



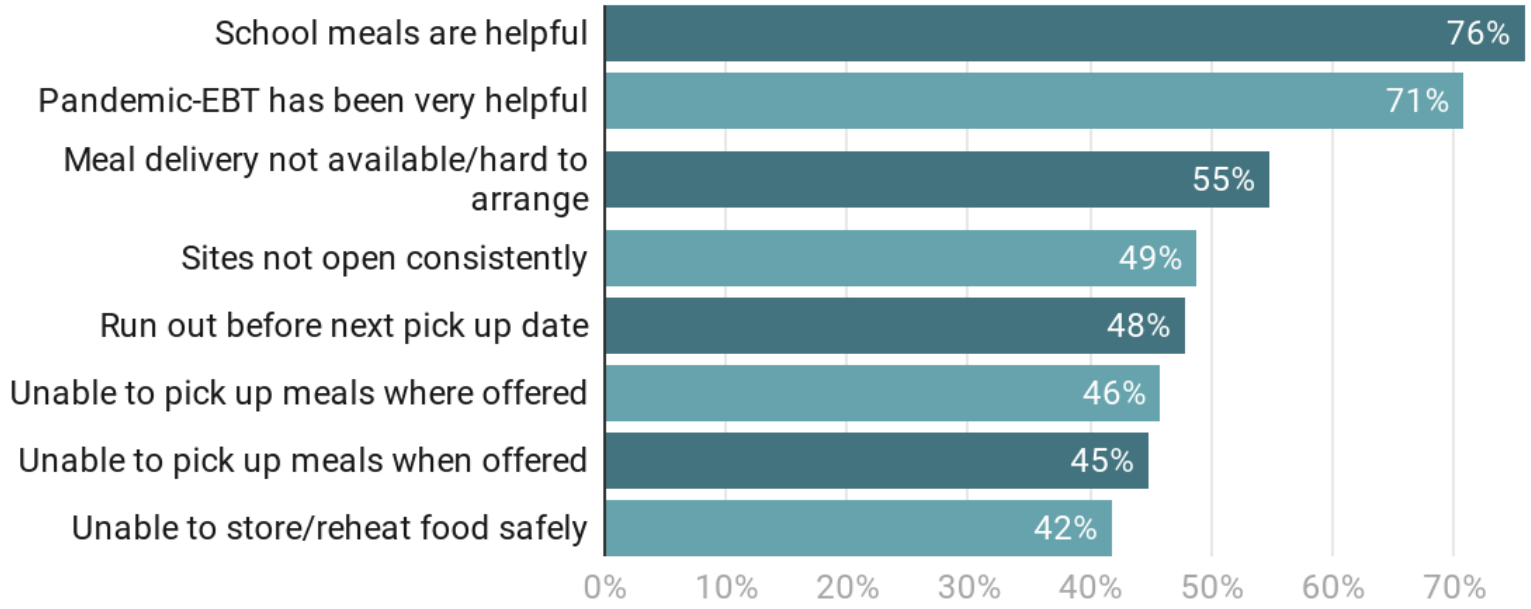
WIC PARTICIPATION INCREASES

- **50%** increase in participation among households with persistent food insecurity since COVID-19 (20% to 30%)
- Majority of WIC participants experienced limited selection, and inability to use full benefits since COVID-19
- Majority of WIC participants interested in online shopping for WIC



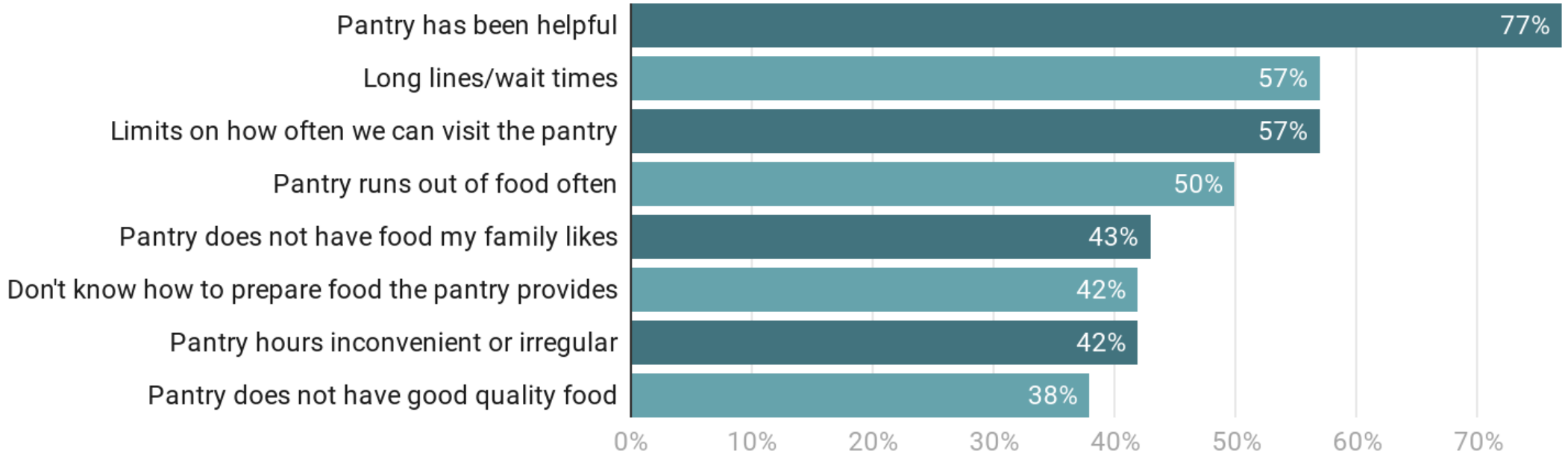
SCHOOL MEALS HELPFUL BUT WITH CHALLENGES

- Participation in school meals dropped from **29%** prior to COVID-19 to **25%** since COVID-19 among households with school-age children
- Between **40-50%** experienced challenges with meal pickup, delivery, quantity, and storage



FOOD PANTRY USE INCREASE AMONG NEWLY FOOD INSECURE

- **67%** increase in food pantry use by those who are newly food insecure (18% prior to COVID, 30% since pandemic)
- Approximately **40-50%** indicated challenges with food acceptability, quality, preparation, quantity and inconvenient pantry hours



FOUR POLICY BRIEFS

NFACT
National Food Access and COVID Research Team

Experiences of households with new and persistent food insecurity during the first four months of the COVID-19 pandemic

Kaitlyn Harper[1], Francesco Acciai[2], Anna Josephson[2], Farryl Bertmann[2], Punam Ohri-Vachaspati[3], Emily H. Belarmino[2], Meredith Niles[4], Joelle Robinson[2], Roni Neff[3]

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4 Dept. of Nutrition & Food Sciences, Food Systems Program, University of Vermont

Introduction

Beginning in March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic led to disruptions in domestic and international food systems and supply chains. In the US, some restaurants closed their doors, grocery stores struggled to maintain stocked shelves, and children no longer had access to regular in-school meals. Additionally, job disruption led to economic instability for many households, causing a rise in food insecurity, defined as having limited or inconsistent access to nutritious and affordable food.

This brief describes experiences of households with food insecurity and those with food security during the first four months of the pandemic. Food insecurity was measured in 1,510 households using the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) 6-item tool,[1] in which respondents who say "yes" to two or more of the six questions are categorized as experiencing food insecurity (see Approach below). This brief summarizes the survey results and groups them by type of household in three categories:

- **Households with food security** at the time of the survey, regardless of prior food insecurity status;
- **Households with persistent food insecurity**, both in the year before and since the pandemic began;
- **Households with new food insecurity**, classified as food secure in the year before the pandemic, but having food insecurity after the pandemic's start.

Additionally, this analysis highlights aspects of food insecurity beyond economic accessibility, including physical accessibility and availability of food, and acceptability of strategies to obtain food.

Key Findings

1. In this sample, household food insecurity increased by nearly one-third, from 25% in the year prior to the pandemic to 33% during the first five months of the pandemic. 24% of households experienced persistent food insecurity, while 9% experienced new food insecurity during the pandemic.
2. The majority of households that experienced food insecurity included children.
3. Households with food insecurity expressed that extra money (between $100-$150 per week) and a greater sense of trust in the safety of stores, food, and food delivery would help them meet their food needs.
4. Households with food insecurity more frequently reported using strategies to access food that may lead to increased emotional and psychological burden.
5. Overwhelmingly, households experiencing food insecurity more frequently volunteered, delivered food, and donated to others compared to those with food security.

Prevalence of food insecurity during the first four months of the COVID-19 pandemic

Overall, reported food insecurity increased from 25% in the year prior to the pandemic to 33% during the pandemic, a one-third increase in prevalence. 9% of respondents experienced new food insecurity at some point during the COVID-19 pandemic and 24% experienced persistent food insecurity. Those with persistent and new food insecurity had similar responses to the six USDA questions, and those with persistent food insecurity were most likely to report affirmative responses to four of them: being unable to afford balanced meals, eating less, skipping meals almost every week, and going hungry because they didn't have enough money since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic (Figure 1).

"[Currently, we are] not eating three square meals so that the one we have can last."

November 2020

NFACT
National Food Access and COVID Research Team

Food Assistance Program Participation among US Households during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Punam Ohri-Vachaspati[1], Francesco Acciai[2], Sarah Martinelli[3], Kaitlyn Harper[4], Farryl Bertmann[2], Emily H. Belarmino[2], Roni Neff[3], Meredith T. Niles[2]

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Survey Overview

In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, food assistance programs adapted quickly and in unprecedented ways to meet the challenges of high unemployment, disruptions in the food supply, and school closures. Supported by US Department of Agriculture's COVID-19 program-specific waivers, some programs relaxed their eligibility criteria, while others improvised on delivery modalities or temporarily increased benefits.[1] To examine food assistance program participation and participant experiences during the first few months of the pandemic, we collected online survey data in July-August 2020 from a sample of 1,510 adults, representative of the US population. This brief provides preliminary findings related to participation in key food assistance programs, namely, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Special Supplemental Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC), School Food Programs, as well as emergency food assistance provided through Food Pantries.

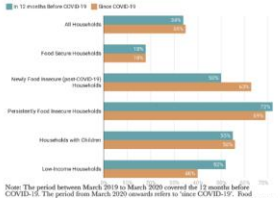
Key Findings

1. More than half of households with children, and those with job disruption, participated in food assistance programs.
2. Compared to the 12 months prior to COVID-19, SNAP participation increased by 31% in households that became newly food insecure. More than 40% of respondents from SNAP participating households indicated their benefits were inadequate to meet their household's food needs.
3. WIC participation increased by 50% in households with persistent food insecurity. More than half of WIC participants were not able to fully redeem their benefits due to lack of WIC approved foods during the pandemic. WIC participants would like to use their benefits for online purchases, an option currently not available to them.
4. Participation rates in school meals during the first four months of the pandemic slightly declined overall, but did not change in low-income households. Limited hours, inconvenient locations, as well as meals running out before the next pick up day were identified as major challenges.
5. Food pantry use increased by two-thirds among newly food insecure households and households with job disruptions during COVID-19. Long lines and limits on frequency of visits to the pantry were identified as challenges.

Increase in Food Assistance Program Use Among Newly Food Insecure Households

Compared to the overall sample, more than half of households with children under the age of 18 participated in food assistance programs at both time points, as did lower-income households (those making $50,000 or less in the previous year). Food assistance program participation was highest among households classified as persistently food insecure, with 72% participating in at least one program prior to the pandemic and 69% doing so in the four months since the pandemic. The greatest increase (26%) in food assistance program participation was observed for newly food insecure households (Figure 1). Further, food assistance program participation was higher in households that experienced job disruptions during the pandemic (52%) compared to those that did not experience such challenges during the pandemic (25%).

Figure 1. Households' Participation in Any Food Assistance Program by Food Security Status and Household Demographics Before and Since the Pandemic (%)



Note: The period between March 2019 to March 2020 covered the 12 months before COVID-19. The period from March 2020 onwards refers to 'since COVID-19'. Food assistance programs described here include government programs (SNAP, WIC, and National School Lunch Program) and emergency food assistance programs (i.e. food pantries).

December 2020

NFACT
National Food Access and COVID Research Team

US Consumer Experiences with Food Access During Covid-19

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Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted food access and food security around the world. In the United States the pandemic is exposing and exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities and disparities and affecting all aspects of the food system. The pandemic has compelled many to shelter at home at varying times, created anxieties about exposures outside the home, and forced many traditional food distribution programs to pause or shift operations. There is an urgent need for policies and programs that address gaps in food access and ensure that affordable, nutritious, and culturally-appropriate food is available to all US residents. As such, it is important to learn from and be responsive to what the public indicates they experience and need.

Key Findings

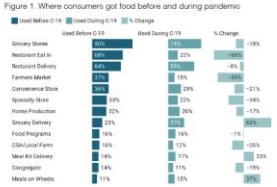
1. In addition to the existing food access issues of affordability and geographic proximity to retailers, consumers' food access concerns include safety of access, and availability of needed foods.
2. Two-thirds of households expressed concern about food becoming more expensive in the future, and nearly half of households expressed concern about eating contaminated food.
3. Many consumers indicated that improving trust in the safety of stores and the safety of food, and extra funds from food programs and stimulus packages, would be helpful for allowing their household to meet their food needs during the pandemic.
4. The majority of households reported experiencing challenges getting food. Three-quarters reported reducing the number of trips to the grocery store, and two-thirds reported not being able to find the types of food they needed or as much food as they wanted.
5. People in households with specific dietary requirements were nearly twice as likely to have challenges finding as much food or the kinds of foods they needed compared to those without dietary requirements.
6. Since the pandemic, the use of grocery delivery increased by 62%.

To better understand how food systems and food security are affected by the pandemic, we conducted a nationally representative survey of US adults in the summer of 2020. This brief summarizes preliminary survey findings about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on US food access, including **changes in where people acquired food, challenges and worries surrounding food access, and strategies to obtain food since the COVID-19 pandemic was declared a national emergency in the US (i.e., after March 11, 2020). Future peer reviewed manuscripts will share full, controlled analyses.**

Changes in Food Sources

How and where people obtain food is important because food sources often affect the quality and price of food, which are key components of food access. As shown in Figure 1, we found substantial changes in use of nearly every type of food source during the COVID-19 pandemic. Before the pandemic, the most frequently reported places consumers acquired food were grocery stores (90%), restaurants for eat-in (68%) and delivery (64%), farmers markets (37%), and convenience stores (36%). At the time of our survey, the top five places for food acquisition were **grocery stores (74%), restaurant delivery (59%), grocery delivery (37%), convenience stores (29%), and home food production (26%).** Consumers reported decreased use of the majority of food sources, with the greatest reductions in use of eat in restaurants (67% decrease) and farmers markets (59% decrease).

Figure 1. Where consumers got food before and during pandemic



December 2020

NFACT
National Food Access and COVID Research Team

Changes in Employment Status and Food Security among U.S. households during the first four months of the COVID-19 pandemic

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Emily H. Belarmino[2]
Anna L. Josephson[2]
Meredith T. Niles[2]

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2 Dept. of Nutrition & Food Sciences, Food Systems Program, University of Vermont
3 Dept. of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Arizona

Background

In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic triggered a sudden and severe economic downturn. Between February and May 2020, the number of unemployed individuals rose by more than 14 million, resulting in an unprecedented increase in the unemployment rate, which went from 3.8% in February to 14.4% in April.[1] Even though unemployment has declined in recent months, with some individuals returning to work, the rate is still much higher than it was one year ago (7.9% in September 2020 vs. 3.5% in September 2019).[2] Further, as of September 2020, there are 19.4 million persons unable to work due to the pandemic, as well as 6.3 million persons working only part time even though they would prefer to work more.[3] This brief shares preliminary findings from an online survey of 1,510 adults (18 years of age or older) living in the United States during summer, 2020.

Key Findings

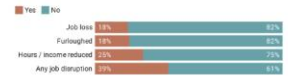
1. Nearly 40% of US households were impacted by job disruption between March and July 2020.
2. Food insecurity was considerably higher among households that experienced a job disruption (55%) compared to those that did not (20%).
3. Food insecurity in households with children was significantly higher among households with a job disruption (71%) compared to households without a job disruption (31%).
4. Since the beginning of the pandemic (March 2020), households often worried about the availability, cost, and safety of food, as well as access to nutrition assistance programs, which were heightened among households that had experienced a job disruption.
5. Households with a job disruption reported greater need for financial support for food, bills, or food delivery (on average $60 more per week), as well as the desire to learn more about food assistance programs.

Changes in Employment Status

Four out of ten US households experienced a job disruption during the first four months of the COVID pandemic.

- **Since the beginning of the pandemic (March 2020), 39% of US households experienced some form of job disruption (Figure 1).**
- **The most common change in employment status was having hours or income reduced, reported by 25% of households in our sample, followed by being furloughed (18%) and losing their job altogether (18%) (Figure 1).**

Figure 1. Changes in employment status since the outbreak.



- **The overall rate of job disruption in this sample was similar across all income brackets (from 36% among households whose 2019 income was less than $25,000, to 41% among households whose 2019 income was over $100,000). Similarly, job disruptions occurred at approximately the same rate across different levels of education.**
- **In our sample, the rate of job disruptions differed across household types. Over half of households with children (51%) experienced a job disruption, while households without children experienced a job disruption at lower rates: 35% for adult-only households (all members between 19 and 64 years of age), and 22% for households with at least one member 65 or older (seniors) (Figure 2).**

December 2020

SNEAK PEEK FOR ADVOCATES

- Presented results to small invited group, sought input
- Recommendations included:
  - Explain differences/unique contributions
  - Context is key (keep focus on longterm food insecurity while highlighting new needs; note connection to non-food needs)
  - Policy-relevance (Partners in policy-relevant locations; Aligning questions & data presented with policy priorities)
  - Sound bites
  - Engage partners
  - Now is a great time

WASHINGTON: CASE STUDY

First survey – June/July 2020

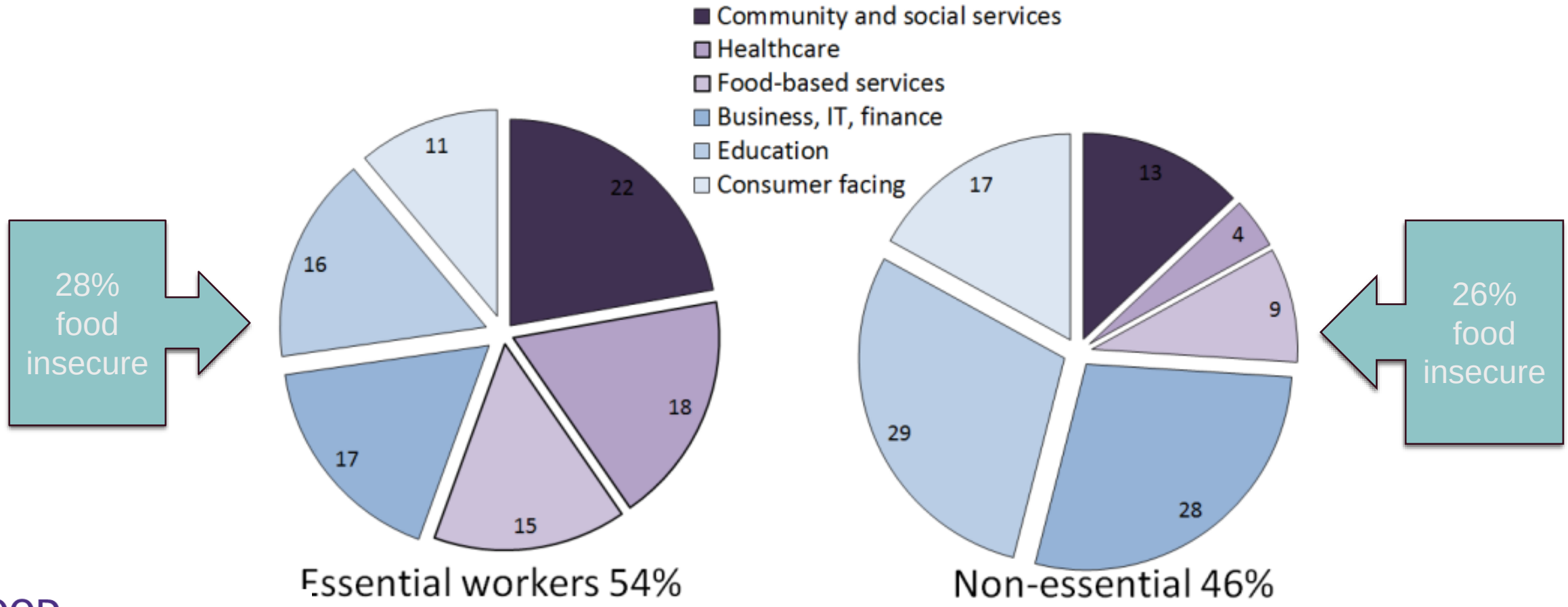
Second survey – December 2020/January 2021

Third survey – Funded and slated for spring 2021

WAFOOD SURVEY DEVELOPMENT: PARTNER INVOLVEMENT

- More than 60 hours of conversations with different partners, such as:
  - Agencies supporting food assistance programs: WSDA, SNAP-ed, WIC
  - Agencies tasked with response: EOCs, Governors task force, local health jurisdictions, county officials, extension agents
  - Organizations providing on-the-ground support: Anti-hunger organizations, food banks/pantries, United Way
- Asked about:
  - New services/Changed services/Planned changes
  - What they wanted to know about that they didn't have a data source for
  - Future worries

THESE CONVERSATIONS AFFECTED HOW WE COLLECTED AND PRESENTED THE DATA: ESSENTIAL VS. NON-ESSENTIAL



THESE CONVERSATIONS AFFECTED HOW WE COLLECTED AND PRESENTED THE DATA: MAPS BY ZIP CODE

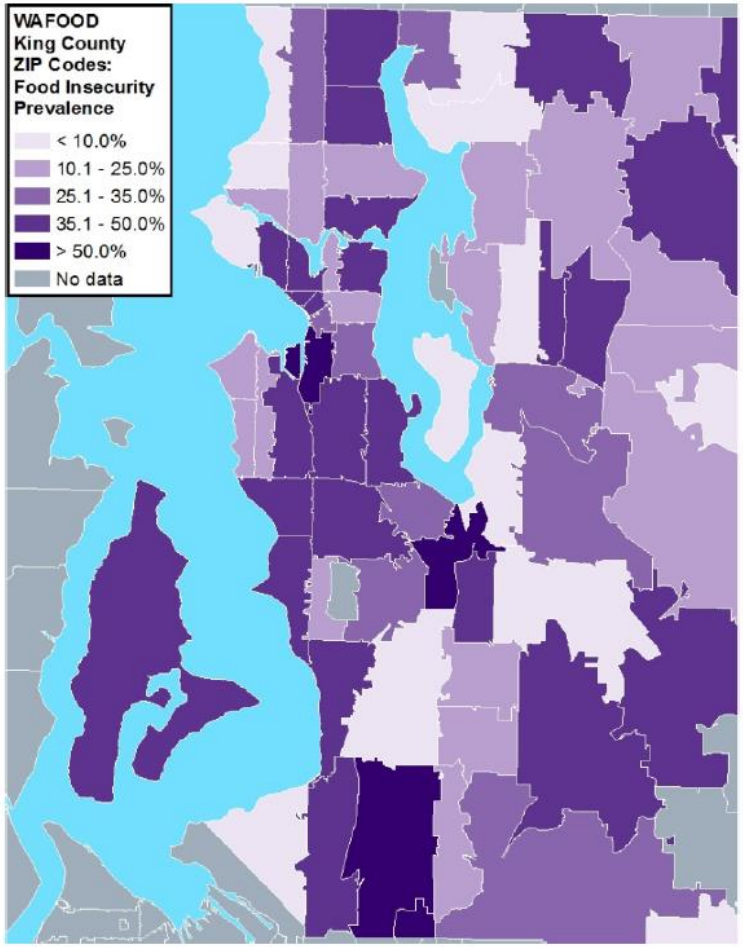
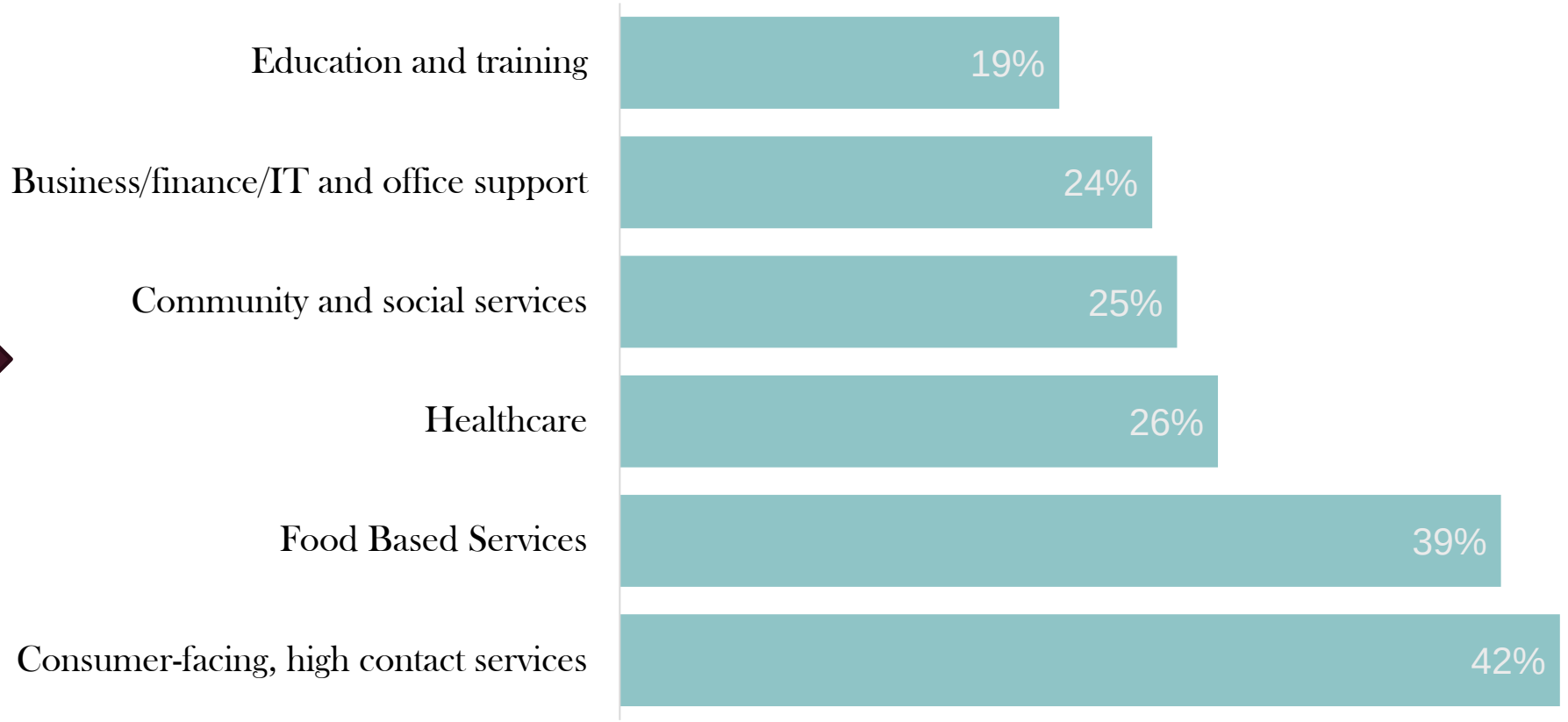


Figure 4. Food insecurity by King County ZIP code.

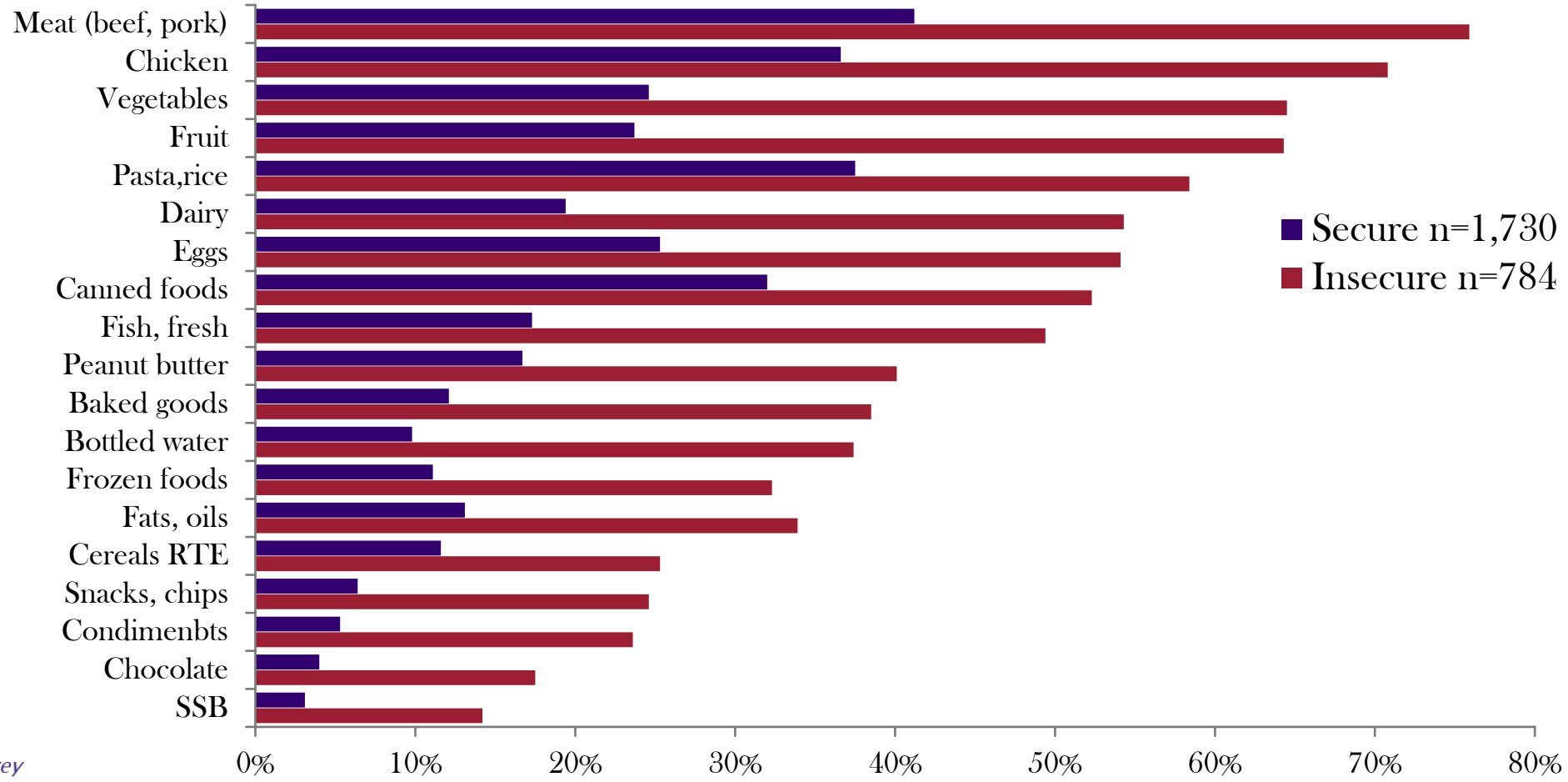
THESE CONVERSATIONS AFFECTED HOW WE COLLECTED AND PRESENTED THE DATA: BY INDUSTRY

Industries to Target



THESE CONVERSATIONS AFFECTED HOW WE COLLECTED AND PRESENTED THE DATA: MAKING KEY COMPARISONS

Experienced or concerned about low food access, by food insecurity



WAFOOD
Washington State Food Security Survey

OPEN-ACCESS REPORT BRIEFS (RESEARCHWORKS/WEB)


WAFOOD

Economic Security and Food Access During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Snohomish County

June to July 2020, Research Brief 5 (Snohomish County)

About the WAFOOD Survey

Critical Disparities in Food Insecurity

Key Findings: Snohomish County


WAFOOD

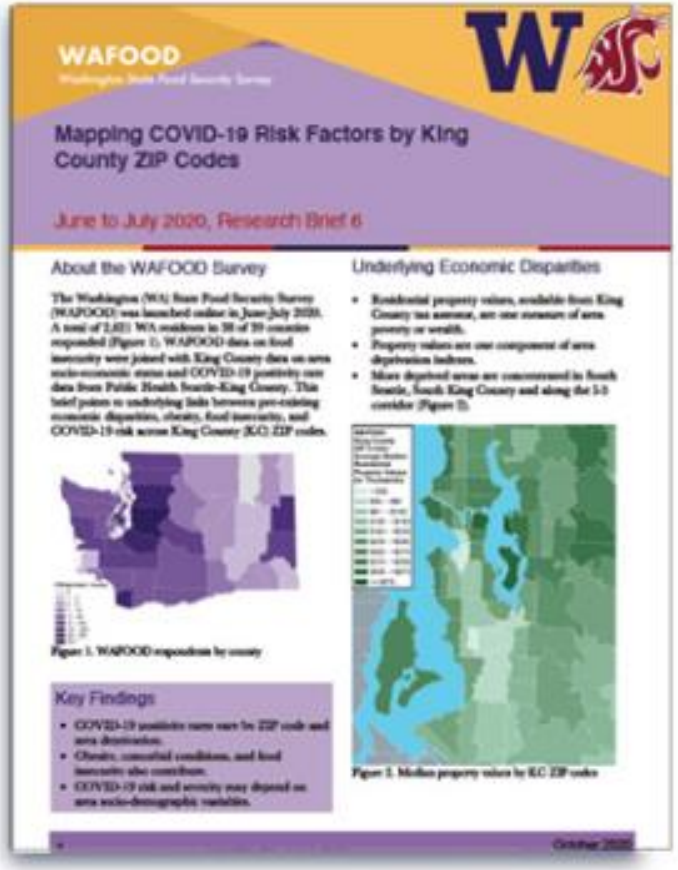
Economic Security and Food Access During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Clark County

June to July 2020, Research Brief 4 (Clark County)

About the WAFOOD Survey

Critical Disparities in Food Insecurity

Key Findings: Clark County


WAFOOD

Mapping COVID-19 Risk Factors by King County ZIP Codes

June to July 2020, Research Brief 6

About the WAFOOD Survey

Underlying Economic Disparities

Key Findings

WAFOOD SURVEY DEVELOPMENT: DISSEMINATION

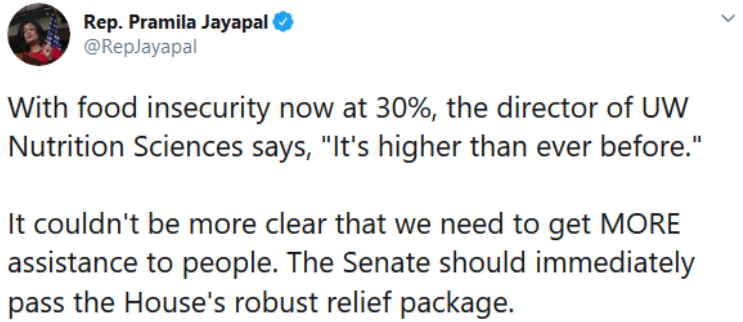
- More than 300 partners helped to deploy the survey and later, to disseminate survey results. Some new and wonderful partners:
  - Extension
  - United Way
  - University government and community relations teams (UW, WSU)
  - Tacoma Community College and community college network

WAFOOD IMPACTS: ANTI-HUNGER NETWORK

- For outreach and distribution:
  - Informed racial and geographic equity mapping for programming
  - Cited WAFOOD in on-air radio interviews
- For policy action:
  - Used as a resource in a case being built by their network calling for State and Congressional action on a COVID-19 relief package.

WAFOOD IMPACTS: POLICYMAKERS

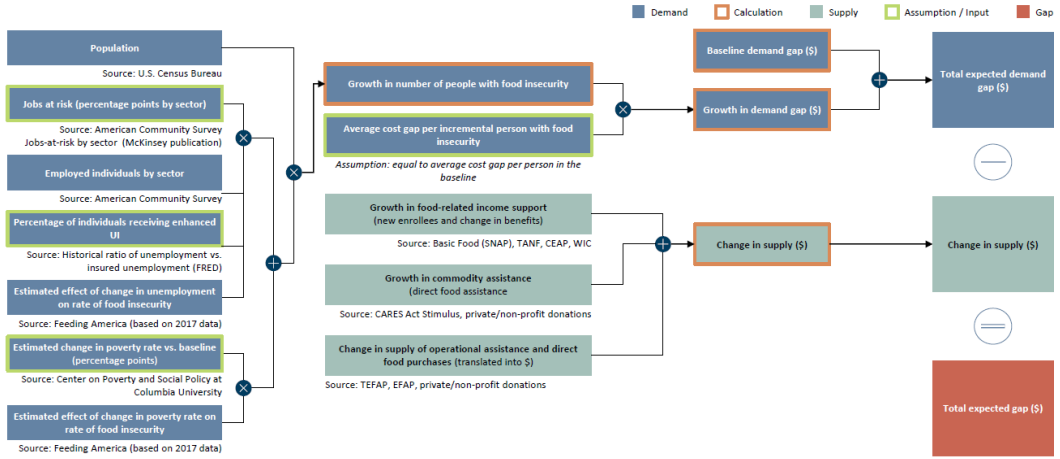
- City-level:
  - Seattle Mayor and emergency response task force
- County-level:
  - 4 county-level briefs used by EOCs, local health jurisdictions, extension to inform response
- State-level:
  - Requests for specific analyses to inform response! WSDA, OFM, OSPI, Governor's Task Force on Mental Health
  - Used to inform Food and Farm Resilience legislation → Governor's budget for 2021-2023



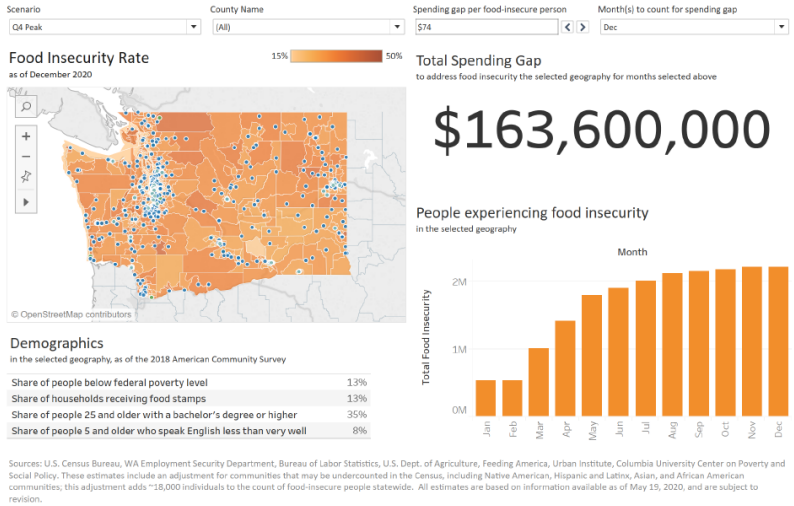
STATE FORECASTING MODEL

The Food Security model estimates scenarios for the level of food insecurity in Washington based on economic conditions

The model is designed to be flexible and can be updated based on new information and updated assumptions



The Food Security Dashboard displays various Census tract-level insights on the distribution of food insecurity in Washington



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, WA Employment Security Department, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Feeding America, Urban Institute, Columbia University Center on Poverty and Social Policy. These estimates include an adjustment for communities that may be undercounted in the Census, including Native American, Hispanic and Latinx, Asian, and African American communities; this adjustment adds ~18,000 individuals to the count of food-insecure people statewide. All estimates are based on information available as of May 19, 2020, and are subject to revision.

The dashboard updates automatically based on the selected economic scenario (Q2 or Q4 peak in unemployment)

This example shows the statewide funding gap in December 2020 under a "Q4 peak" scenario – these inputs can be changed using the selectors in the top row

LED TO PROJECTS TARGETING HARD TO REACH POPULATIONS

- COVID-19 Food Access among American Indian/Alaska Native Tribes in WA State: The value of food sovereignty
- Community-driven approaches to identify barriers to food security due to COVID-19 and solutions to improve food security and resilience in agricultural communities
- Assessing the Impact and Feasibility of WIC Remote Services and Expanded Food Options

For more information on WAFOOD and related studies: https://nutr.uw.edu/cphn/

VERMONT: CASE STUDY

Vermont

Meredith T. Niles, PhD

University of Vermont

Emily Belarmino (née Morgan), PhD, MPH

University of Vermont

Farryl Bertmann PhD, RDN, CD

University of Vermont

VERMONT: CASE STUDY

First survey – March/April 2020

Second survey – May/June 2020

Third survey – August/ September 2020

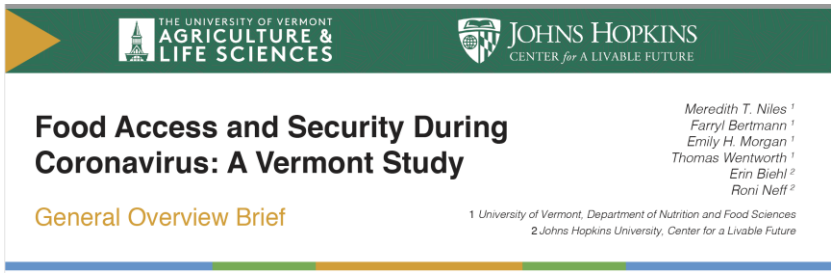
Fourth survey – Winter 2021 (funded)

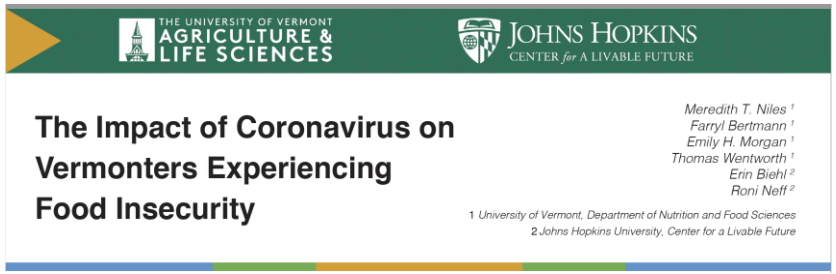
Fifth survey – Fall 2021 (funded)

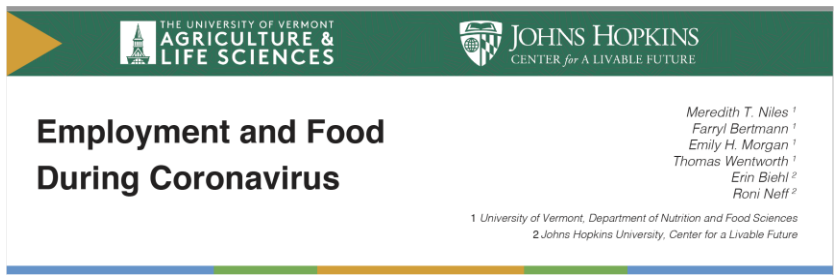
SURVEY DEVELOPMENT- KEY STAKEHOLDERS- INITIAL SURVEY

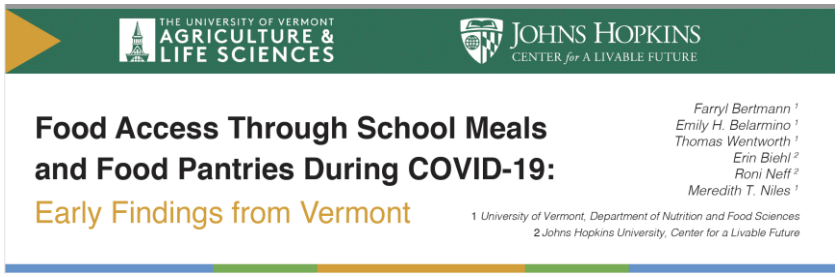
Non-Profit Organizations	Farm to Institution New England, Hunger Free Vermont, Rural Vermont, Salvation Farms, Support and Services at Home (SASH), VT Farm to Plate Network, VT Foodbank & VT Sustainable Jobs Fund
Professional Organizations	VT Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, & VT Retail and Grocers Association
State Government	VT Department of Agriculture, VT Department of Children and Families, & VT Department of Health
Congressional Delegation	Representative Welch's staff, Senator Sanders' staff, & Senator Leahy's staff

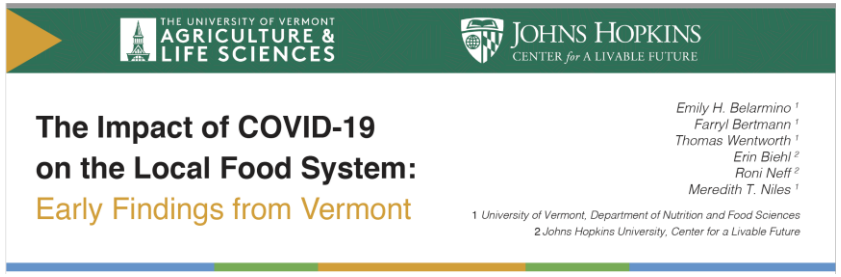
OPEN-ACCESS VERMONT BRIEFS

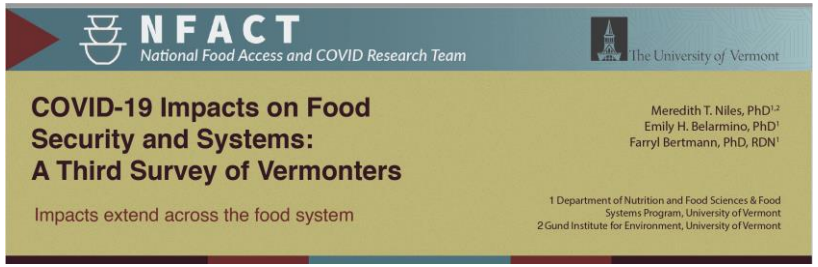


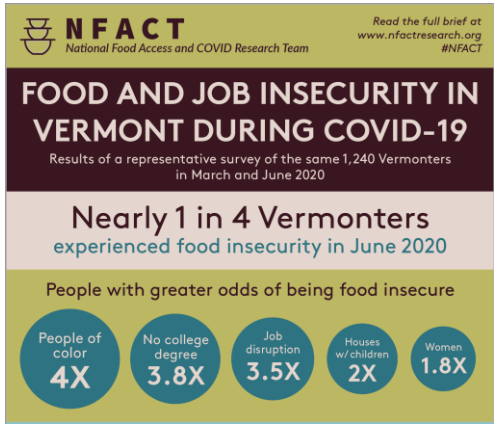












COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING ACROSS THE FOOD SYSTEM

College and University

- Email
- Listserv
- Social Media
- Webinars & Presentations

Informed community development questions & future funding

Non-Profit Organization

- Email
- Social Media
- Webinars & Presentations

Informed transportation & food pantry questions & future funding

Professional Organizations

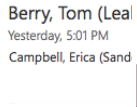
- Email
- Listserv
- Social Media
- Webinars & Presentations

Informed nutrition assistance questions & demographic categories

State Government & Agencies

- Email
- Social Media
- Conference Call
- Presentations

Informed food environment questions & Farmer Business Survey

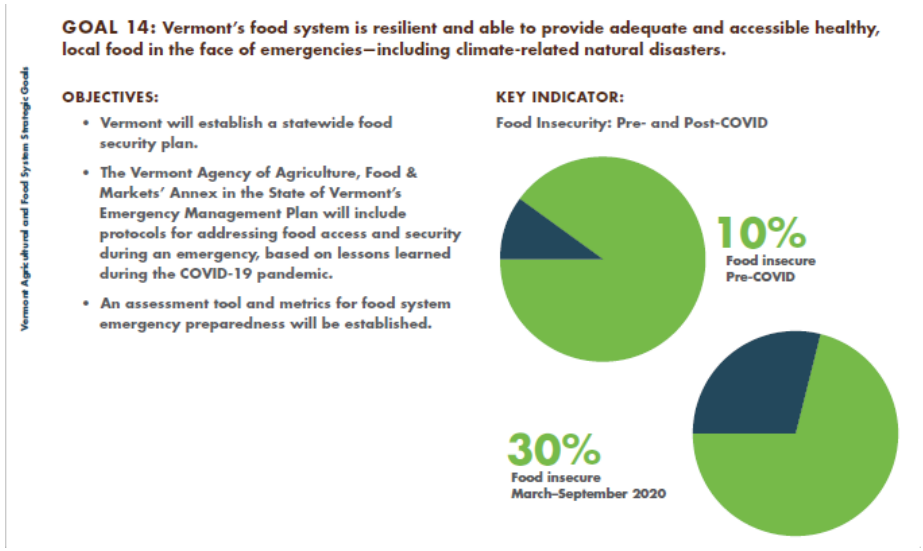


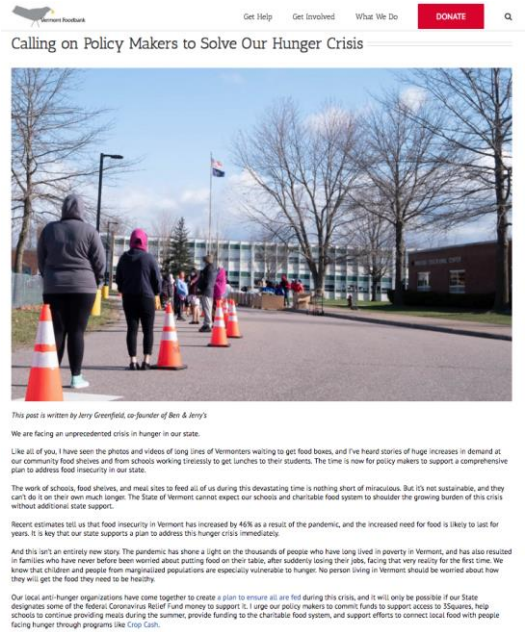
Congressional Delegation

- Email
- Social Media

Informed service & support organizations, use of existing programs, adaptions to programs, and challenges/barriers

ACTION WITH DATA- NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS





"Our soon to be released Vermont Agriculture & Food System Strategic Plan 2021-2030 (aka the VT Farm to Plate Strategic Plan 2.0) **we have included your stat of pre-COVID vs Sept COVID food insecurity rate** as an example indicator for one of the plan's 15 goals – *goal 14:Vermont's food system is resilient and able to provide adequate and accessible healthy, Local food in the face of emergencies—including climate-related natural disasters.*"

-Ellen Kahler – Executive Director, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Funds/ Farm to Plate Network

"This data has also been critical to our ability to tell the story of what is happening right now in our state, giving us data to back up what we are seeing on the ground. **We are all in this together, and this data really helps convey that point."**

- Nicole Whalen – Director of Communication and Public Affairs – Vermont Foodbank

ACTION WITH OUR DATA – PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Upcoming Webinar - Food Access and Security During Coronavirus: A Vermont Study

Coronavirus has hugely impacted the US food system. New purchasing behaviors and social distancing measures have led to empty grocery shelves, surging unemployment and an increase in food insecurity. The food system impacts of the coronavirus are myriad and span from agriculture to public health. Understanding how these aspects of our food system will continue to shift is critical to envisioning

Vermont Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
July 27, 2020 ·

Last week, a team of University of Vermont professors (including VAND Past-President, Farryl Bertmann, PhD, RD, CD) led the launch of NFACT, the National Food Access and COVID research Team. NFACT was founded by UVM, along with colleagues at Johns Hopkins University, University of Arizona, and Arizona State University.

Its goal is to produce rigorous, comparative and timely food access, security, and systems research during COVID-19 to inform policy and decision-making. It is built off of the

Hunger and Environmental Nutrition
a dietetic practice group of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

COVID-19 Working Resources

HEN Mission Statement: To empower members to be leaders in sustainable and accessible food and water systems.

COVID-19 Resource Document Vision: Providing timely resources that relate to hunger, sustainability, and COVID-19. Act as a clearing house for this kind of information.

THREE SECTIONS BELOW:

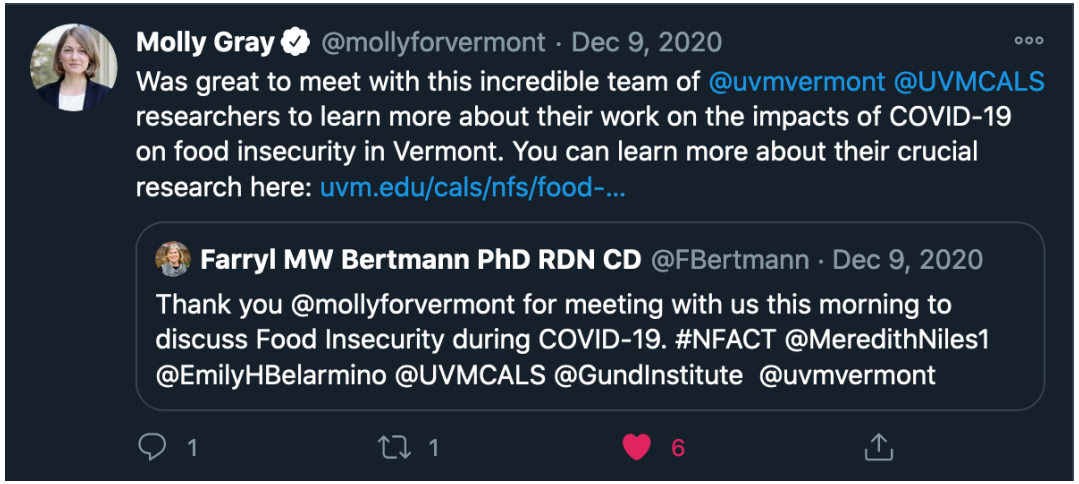
1. **Food and Water Access Resources for Individuals and Communities in Need:** Current resources nationally and state/city specific.
2. **Sustainability Resources:** Resources for farmers and farm to school programs, or ideas about responsible use for single use plastics & other issues around general sustainability as it relates to COVID 19 and beyond.
3. **HEN Member Showcase/Highlights:** Here's what HEN members are doing in their communities and/or places of work during the COVID Crisis.

If you have resources to add, please email them to henleaders@gmail.com

ACTION WITH DATA- STATE GOVERNMENT AND AGENCIES

"We have shared survey results outlining key industry trends, aggregate impact data, and future market and marketing projections to the following audiences: the Vermont legislature; Food and Agriculture-focused funders; TV, radio, and newspaper media channels; numerous agricultural industry groups; and state leadership looking to make program, policy, and funding recommendations. **The aggregate data is critical in its capturing industry impacts and opportunities for directing our ongoing pandemic response and recovery efforts."**

-Abbey Willard - Agricultural Development Division Director - Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets



ACTION WITH DATA- CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

"The research has been a valuable tool to our office in communicating the scope of the problem to the public through social media, and for making the case to increase federal funding for nutrition programs."

-Erica Campbell– Policy & Outreach Staff – Agriculture, Food, Rural Development & Transportation – Office of Senator Bernie Sanders

"…Senator Leahy and his staff have been so grateful for the research conducted by Dr. Niles and her team at UVM. **The hard data you have provided clearly points to the need for federal nutrition assistance to support our communities and has helped Senator Leahy successfully secure additional funding for Vermont families.** Thank you."

-Tom Berry and Pollaidh Major – Policy & Outreach Staff –Agriculture, Conservation, Energy and Natural Resource / Field Representative - Office of Senator Patrick Leahy

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS SLIDE

- All NFACT collaborators across states (more details here: https://www.nfactresearch.org/collaborators)
- National data: Punam Ohri-Vachaspati, Francesco Acciai, Anna Josephson, Kaitlyn Harper, Joelle Robinson, Erin Biehl, Thomas Wentworth. Funding: The College of Health Solutions, Arizona State University with support from the college's COVID-19 seed grant and the university's Investigator Research Funds; the University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Rapid COVID-19 seed grant; a Directed Research grant from the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future.
- Vermont data: Emily Belarmino, Scott Merrill, Eric Clark. Funding: College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Office of the Vice President of Research, Gund Institute for Environment, USDA ARS Center for Food Systems Research
- WAFOOD funding sources: UW Population Health Initiative, UW School of Public Health, UW Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, Ballmer group, and Paul G. Allen Foundation.