

FOOD INSECURITY IN SAN FRANCISCO DURING COVID-19

Presentation to the Health Commission / Community and Public Health Committee

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Veronica Shepard, Priti Rane, Erin Franey, Christina Goette and Paula Jones



Food insecurity and the impacts

FOOD INSECURITY = Inadequate access to food because of financial constraints

Health impacts of food insecurity



Inadequate intake of nutrients



Increase risk for various chronic diseases



Increased risk for negative pregnancy outcomes



Long-term deficits in children's socio-emotional, cognitive and motor functioning



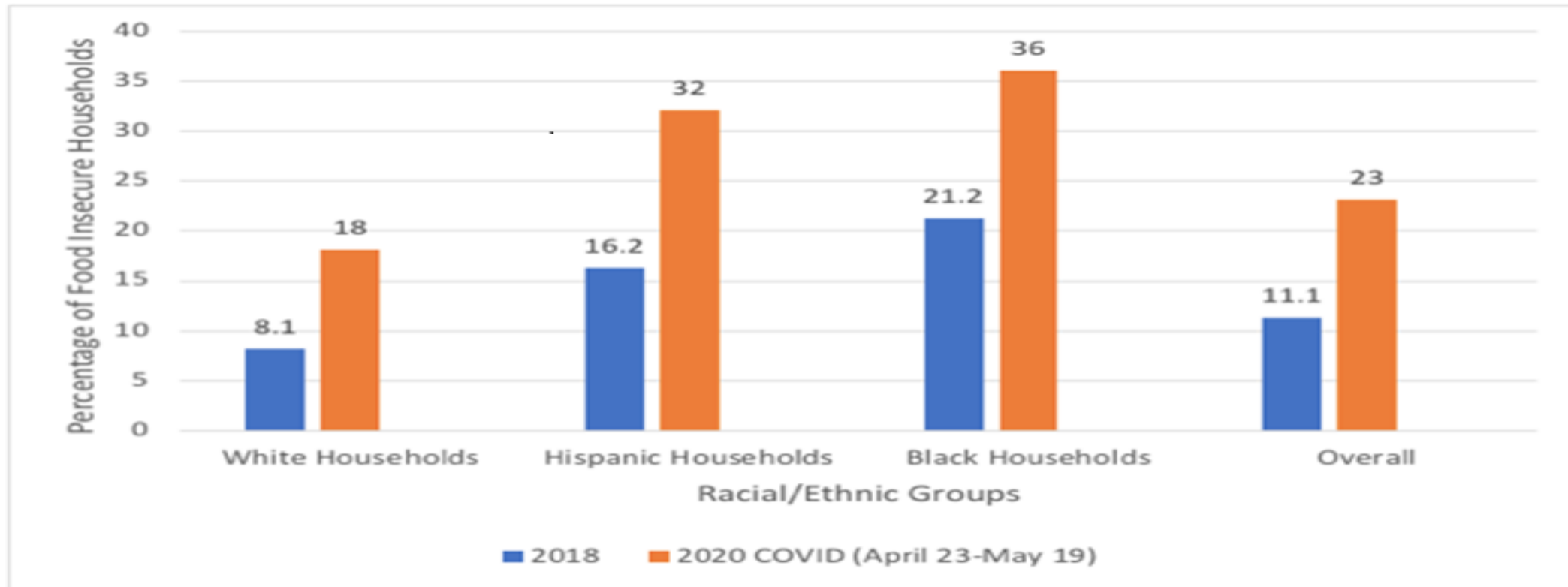
Increase risk for negative mental health impacts (including depression, suicide, substance misuse, etc)



Total healthcare costs increase steadily with increased severity of household food insecurity

<https://foodcommunitybenefit.noharm.org/resources/implementation-strategy/food-insecurity-screening>

Disproportionate burden of food insecurity



Source: Calculated by USDA, Economic Research Service, Using Current Population Food Security Supplement

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us>

Schanzenbach, Northwestern Institute for Policy Research, 9/2020

COVID-19 exacerbates food insecurity

- Economic impact
 - 262,500 San Franciscans have filed for unemployment since Feb. / 44% of city's labor force
 - 65,000 San Franciscans are currently looking for work or have left the labor force
- Food support needed urgently across San Francisco
 - Human Service Agency survey showed food needs are very high among:
 - Black/African American, Latinx, Pacific Islander, and Native American respondent
 - Families with children
 - Mixed immigration status households

SFDPH focus on food security

- Prioritized in the Community Health Needs Assessment; Community Health Improvement Plan; MCAH Strategic Plan
- Health Commission Resolution on Food Security (January 2019)
- Food Security focus during COVID 19
 - Healthy Food Purchasing Supplement
 - WIC / MCAH
 - African American Faith Based Coalition
 - Food as Medicine Collaborative
 - SDDTAC Emergency Food Security Grants
 - COVID Command Center Feeding Group



COVID Command Feeding Group

- Established the Isolation/Quarantine Food Helpline
 - Referrals taken from clinics, contract investigators/tracers, self referral (311)
 - Provides groceries or meals for the household for duration of isolation/quarantine period
 - Served 300- 450 households monthly
- Established public website for food resources: <https://sf.gov/get-food-resources>
- Support for community food programs and coordination
- Helped secure private funding for community programs

Healthy Food Purchasing Supplement

- Expands ability to purchase healthy food
- Funded emergency grocery vouchers
 - Focused on African American and Latinx pregnant people and families with children, older adults
- Partnered with WIC, Black Infant Health, Sister Web doulas, Family Resource Centers, Clinics, housing sites
- 100,000 vouchers were provided to 2,800 households
- Supported purchase of produce boxes for WIC families

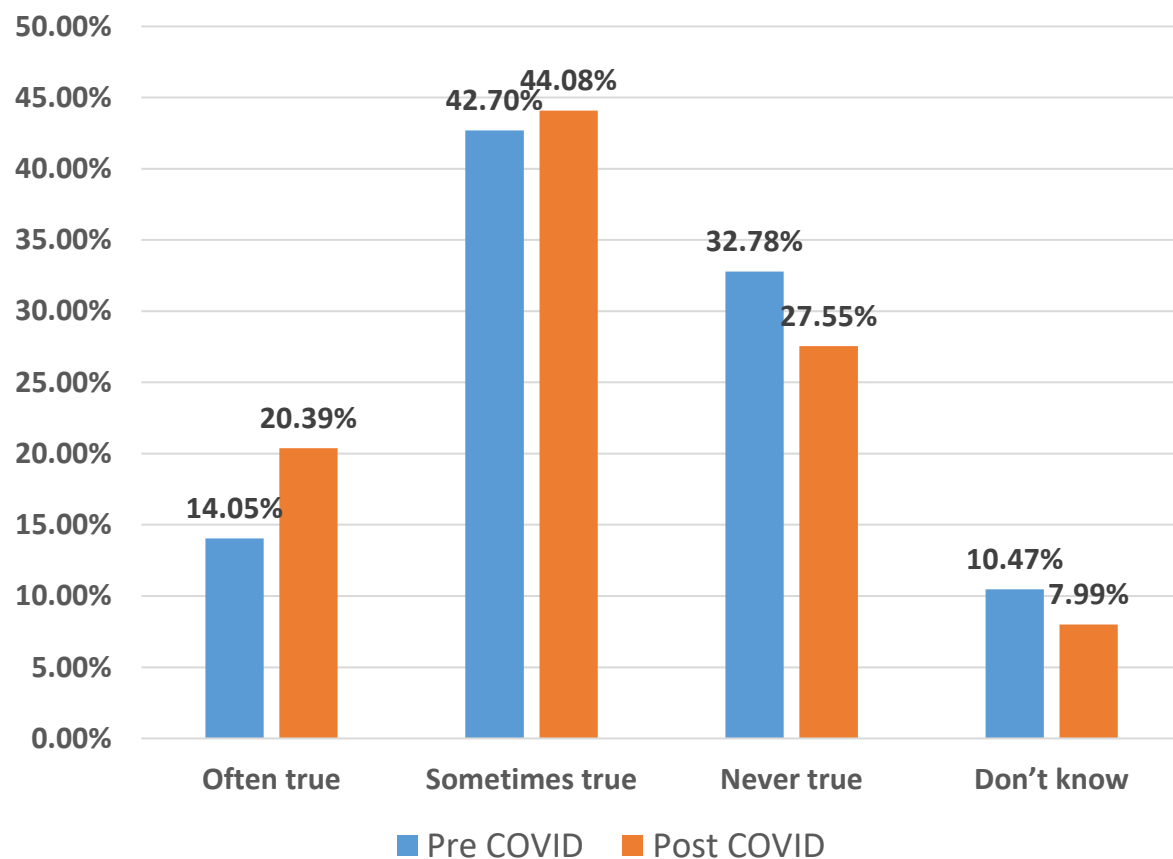




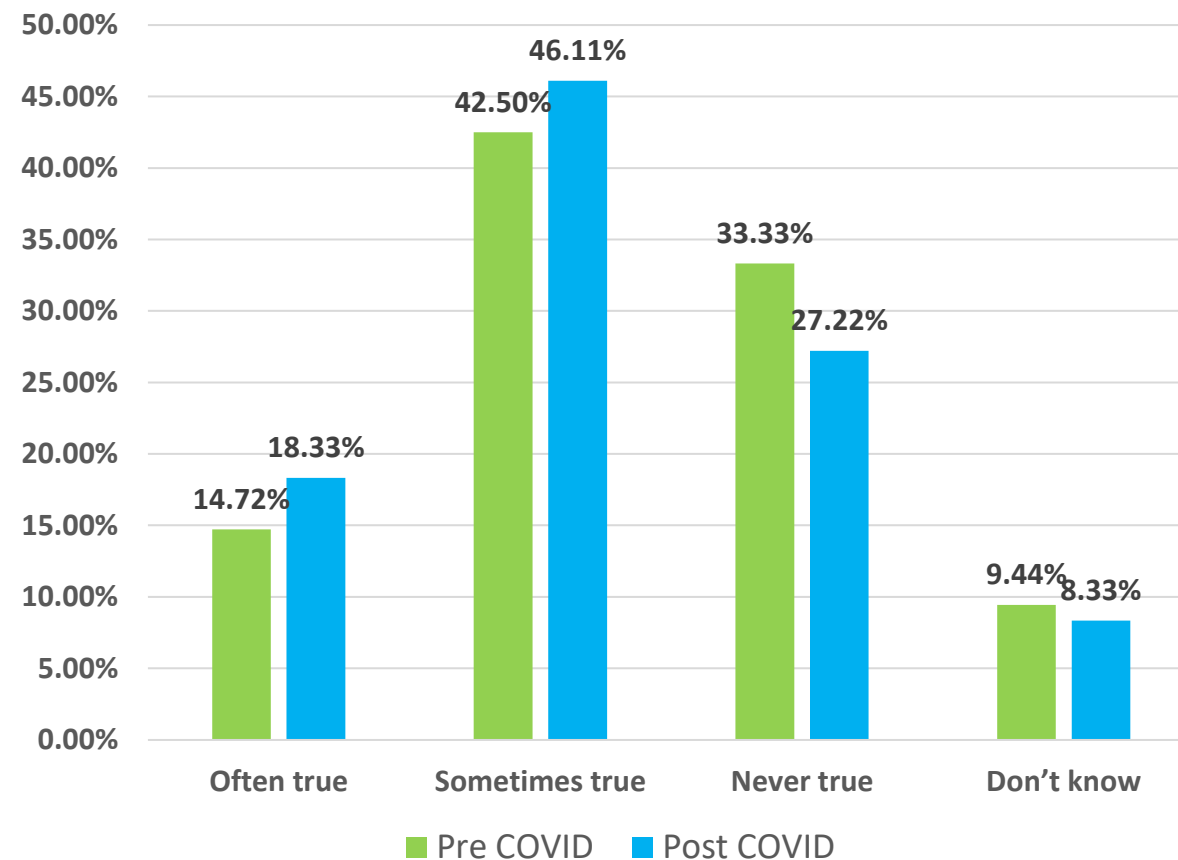
Food Support during COVID 19 – WIC / MCAH

- Served 3000 WIC families with organic produce boxes
- In partnership with Population Health, local farmers market (HOCFM, Alemany), SF Produce market, Care.org and DoorDash
- Over 60% of the produce boxes were delivered to the families in Zipcodes 94102 (Tenderloin), 94110,94112 (Inner and outer mission/Excelsior), 94134 (Vis Valley), 94127 (Bayview-Hunters point) - Those with highest food insecurity and most impacted by COVID
- Over 80% of families reported being satisfied or very satisfied variety of produce they received their boxes
- Funded through USDA Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, HFPS and SDDT

How true are these statements about your family's food situation in the year pre and post COVID-19 pandemic (before and after March 11)?



The food that my household bought just didn't last, and I/we didn't have money to get more



I/we couldn't afford to eat balanced meals

Food as Medicine Collaborative and COVID-19



Leveraging established partnerships

- **Home delivered groceries:**

- ~300 patients/week
- Began in April
- Food source: SF-Marin Food Bank

- **Modified Food Pharmacy:**

- 11 clinics reaching ~325 patients/week
- Began in June
- Food Source: SF Wholesale Produce Market

Centering equity

- Prioritized populations:
 - Black/African American patients with hypertension
 - HIV+
 - Pregnant and postpartum patients
 - Housing insecure patients
- Food security screening pilot during SFHN outreach calls



Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax (SDDT) Funded - COVID Emergency Food Grants

- \$1,650,000 to 8 organizations
- Nearly 200,000 meals, grocery bags provided of fresh healthy food (April – present)
- Serving primarily Black/African American, Latinx, Pacific Islander populations
 - As well as faith-based, families, undocumented, unhoused



San Francisco African American Faith-based Coalition

- Health-and-wellness collaborative of **21 San Francisco churches**
- Prior to COVID-19 the Coalition's major focus was on hunger

SFAAFBC: Food Security Survey, 2019

- 50.6% Worried food will run out before we have money to buy more
- 43.6% Can't afford to eat a balanced meal
- 29.8% Cut the size of meals or skipped meals



San Francisco African American Faith Based Coalition

COVID-19 Response

- An infrastructure in place to provide an immediate response to household food needs across the city of San Francisco
- In partnership with the SF-Marin Food Bank, SF New Deal and TogetherSF the Coalition provides prepared meals and groceries to ~3,000+ households weekly
- To date:
 - **170,000 prepared meals**
 - **12,000 grocery bags**



What we've learned

- Food insecurity crisis continues but funding is short term
- Focus on anti-racism with a health equity lens
- DPH working in collaboration with a collective impact is crucial
- Quality, choice, culturally-appropriate
- We must implement a "Household-level" response
- Health Commission has critical voice in amplifying values of the Department – Keeping Food Security in the forefront.



Questions?