THE EFFECT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON FOOD INSECURITY

Based on fall 2020 survey of 5,000 representative households

**Food secure** households had access, at all times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members.

**Food insecure** households are uncertain of having, or unable to acquire, at some time during the year, enough food to meet the needs of all their members because they had insufficient money or other resources for food.

26% of food insecure households spent at least 10% more time shopping for and cooking food at home than they did prior to the pandemic.

Food acquisition methods by food insecure households, Sept 2020

- School meal programs: 46%
- Food pantries/food banks: 58%
- Other food assistance programs: 45%
- SNAP: 59%
- WIC: 40%

Respondents classified as food insecure

- 46% secure
- 54% insecure

58% of food insecure households classified as low-income (annual income < $60k)

66% of food insecure households experienced a change of income or job after April 2020.

Of households that reported food insecurity, the majority being from urban areas,

80% reported being above the poverty level prior to the pandemic.

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