



University of Central Florida

The Experience of Food Insecurity: An AARP/UCF Survey of Adult Floridians

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Introduction

Food insecurity is a pressing social and public health issue that varies in degree and in its effects across individuals, social groups, states, and other political jurisdictions. For this reason, it is critical to understand how patterns of food insecurity appear across differing demographics and different geo-political entities in order to meet specific needs through the implementation of appropriate policies.

Past literature on food insecurity in the United States has shown dramatic differences in the rate of food insecurity in the various states (Strickhouser, Wright and Donley, 2014). Among the national population aged 40 and older, the estimated rates vary from approximately six percent food insecure in North Dakota to about thirty percent food insecure in Mississippi. The Florida rate, about fifteen percent, is in the middle of this range. Still, with nearly one in six older adults food-insecure in the state, a closer look at food insecurity in Florida seemed appropriate. This report presents data from a state-wide survey of the issue.

Previous research has focused heavily on children and on single parent households, which is appropriate because research shows that young, low-income families with children are perhaps the most food-insecure population in America. Less is known, however, about food insecurity in other potentially vulnerable populations, for example, people age 50 and older, or racial and ethnic minorities. Here we present data from a relatively large statewide survey. Our questions: What are the absolute levels of food insecurity among the Florida population? How do those levels vary among different age groups? How do the levels of food insecurity vary by socio-economic and demographic factors other than age? And what does it matter whether people and families are food-insecure or not?

Methodology

The University of Central Florida's Institute for Social and Behavioral Sciences (ISBS) conducted a statewide telephone survey focusing on food security among Florida residents on behalf of AARP Foundation. The survey was a computer assisted statewide telephone survey conducted in the Survey Research Lab at the UCF ISBS between April 21 and July 25, 2014. A random sample of landline and cell phone numbers was purchased through the commercial sampling firm Survey Sampling, Inc. All surveys were conducted by trained telephone surveyors overseen by the ISBS Project Manager. All telephone numbers were called a minimum of five times. The majority of the study questionnaire was adapted from the USDA food insecurity surveys or other comparable surveys, but some items were custom-designed specifically for this survey. Questionnaires took approximately 15 minutes to complete.

Because of the known association of food insecurity and economic insecurity, low and moderate income families were intentionally over-sampled. Initial screening questions established household size and annual family incomes; all households at or below 120 percent of the state-wide median income were invited to participate; households above that threshold were asked to participate at the rate of one in three. For statewide estimates, then, survey weights had to be applied to correct the design disproportionality. All results in this report are based on these weighted data. Two other weights were also required. Telephone surveys routinely over-represent women and seniors, and weights must be applied post-survey to compensate for these representative samples. These weights were also applied to the data analyzed and presented here. Data were weighted by age, gender, and income using recent census figures for Florida.

In sum, surveys were completed with 894 respondents. People missing data on the variables used for weighting were deleted, leaving an effective weighted sample size of 823. The margin of sampling error for the weighted sample of 823 respondents is +/-3.42 percent. Some percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding. Also, some data analysis by age for the 50 and older segment yielded small cell numbers so caution should be used in generalizing to the population of Floridians ages 50 and older.

Survey Results

Respondents were asked about many issues as they relate to food insecurity including: affordability of food, quality of diet, health and activity levels, impact of food security on children, and participation and awareness of assistance programs. Regardless of an individual's food security level, over half (59.4%) of residents believe that hunger is one of the biggest issues or problems currently facing Floridians (Table 1). Another third (30.5%) believe that it is a somewhat important issue. This is consistent with statewide surveys conducted by AARP in Virginia and Iowa. Most people do understand that access to food is problematic for at least some families.

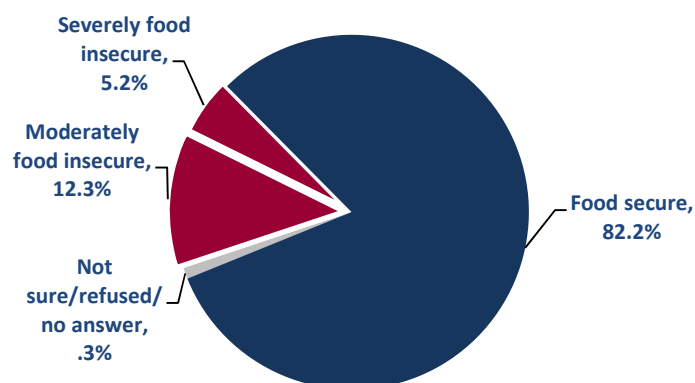
Table 1.
Hunger as a Social Issue in Florida

	Percentage
A very important issue or problem	59.4
A somewhat important issue or problem	30.5
Not an important issue or problem at all	7.9
No answer/ Not sure/ Refused	2.2

Food Insecurity of Entire Sample

The USDA and most other analysts distinguish between moderate and severe food insecurity, based on how respondents answer the 10 basic USDA food insecurity questions that are typically asked of all households. (Households with children are asked several supplementary questions.) Because of the redundancy of some of the questions and to lessen respondent burden, here we have used eight of the ten standard federal questions in our survey. The majority of respondents are food secure, but nearly one in five are not. When we look at different groups of people, it also becomes readily apparent that food insecurity is concentrated among certain groups. This report examines in detail the impact of two specific factors: age and income.

Figure 1.
Food Security and Insecurity Among Floridians Age 18+
(n=823)



Food security levels were calculated by combining responses to eight key questions (see Figure 2 below). People that are considered to be food secure answered affirmatively to none, one or two of these questions. In the overall sample, two-thirds (66.1%) of respondents did not answer affirmatively to any of the questions, which implies that about a third of Florida households are modestly food insecure by at least one measure. Another 15.7 percent answered affirmatively to 1-2 questions. As shown in Figure 1 on page 3, these groups combined constitute the food secure group (82.2%). People answering affirmatively to 3-5 of the questions are considered moderately food insecure (12.3%), while those answering affirmatively to six or more are considered to be severely food insecure (5.2%). For purposes of analysis, the two food insecure groups have been combined for the duration of this report.

Figure 2.
USDA Food Security Module Questions

1. **“We worried whether our food would run out before we got money to buy more.”**
Was that often, sometimes, or never true for you in the last 12 months?
2. **“The food that we bought just didn’t last and we didn’t have money to get more.”**
Was that often, sometimes, or never true for you in the last 12 months?
3. **“We couldn’t afford to eat balanced meals.”**
Was that often, sometimes, or never true for you in the last 12 months?
4. **In the last 12 months, did you or other adults in the household ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn’t enough money for food? Yes OR No?**
5. [If yes to question 4] **How often did this happen—**
almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?
6. **In the last 12 months, were you ever hungry, but didn’t eat, because there wasn’t enough money for food? Yes OR No?**
7. **In the last 12 months did you or other adults in your household ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn’t enough money for food? Yes OR No?**
8. [If yes to question 9] **How often did this happen—**
almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?

Although current convention calls for people that answer up to two questions affirmatively to be considered food secure, as these data show, this convention masks the true levels of experiences of food insecurity (Table 2). When ignoring this convention, we see that over one in three people have experienced some level of food insecurity in the past 12 months (33.6%).

Table 2.
Questions Answered Affirmatively Among Floridians age 18 and Older
(n=823)

# of Questions	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	No answer/ not sure /refused
% of Respondents	66.1	8.7	7.0	5.5	3.5	3.5	2.9	.3	2.1	.3

Among these various indicators of food insecurity, the most common experience is worrying about running out of food and not being able to afford more (Table 3). Nearly a quarter of respondents (24.9%) reported having experienced this at least once in the past twelve months. Over one in five report not being able to afford to eat balanced meals (21.3%) and running out of food and not having money to purchase more (20.8%).

Table 3.
USDA Food Security Module Questions Used in Index

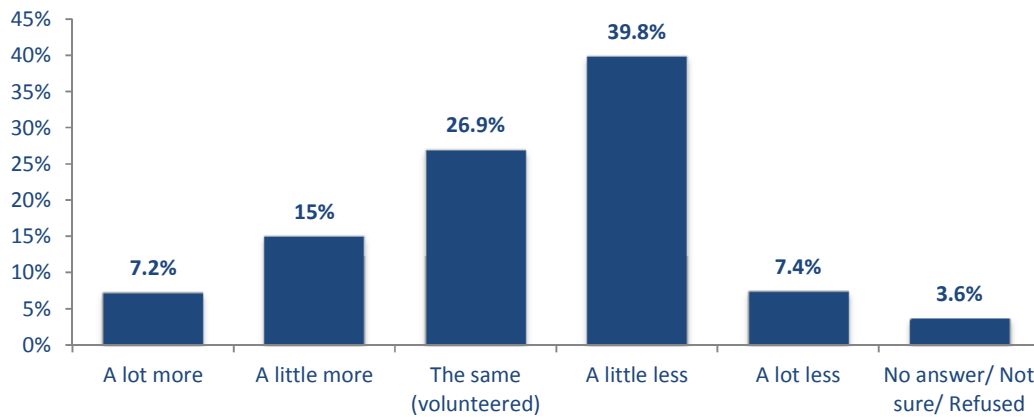
	Affirmative Percentage
1. “We worried whether our food would run out before we got money to buy more.” <i>Was that often, sometimes, or never true for you in the last 12 months?</i>	24.9
2. “The food that we bought just didn’t last and we didn’t have money to get more.” <i>Was that often, sometimes, or never true for you in the last 12 months?</i>	20.8
3. “We couldn’t afford to eat balanced meals.” <i>Was that often, sometimes, or never true for you in the last 12 months?</i>	21.3
4. In the last 12 months, did you or other adults in the household ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn’t enough money for food? Yes OR No?	15.0
5. [If yes to question 4] How often did this happen— <i>almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?</i>	63.5
6. In the last 12 months, were you ever hungry, but didn’t eat, because there wasn’t enough money for food? Yes OR No?	9.6
7. In the last 12 months did you or other adults in your household ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn’t enough money for food? Yes OR No?	3.7
8. [If yes to question 9] How often did this happen— <i>almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?</i>	71.6

While a small percentage of people report going an entire day without eating because there was no money for food (3.7%), over four times as many people state that they have skipped meals or cut the size of meals because they could not afford more food (15.0%). Thus while a small percentage of people report going an entire day without eating because they cannot afford to buy food, one in six states that they have skipped meals or cut the size of meals because they could not afford more food.

In addition to USDA food insecurity questions, we asked additional questions to better understand how Floridians are eating. Nearly a quarter of respondents state that while they have enough food to eat, it is not always the kind of food they want to eat (24.3%). Five percent state they sometimes do not have enough to eat and an additional 2 percent state that they **often** do not have enough to eat.

When asked how much additional food would be needed in order to have “just enough food” to meet the needs of respondents and their households, 15 percent of all respondents said that they would need to buy a little more while an additional 7.2 percent said they would need to buy a lot more (Figure 3). So by all available measures, the overall rate of food insecurity in the state of Florida is on the order of one in five, or somewhat higher than the national average.

Figure 3.
How Much More Food Floridians Think They Need to Purchase to Have Enough
 (n=823 Floridians age 18+)

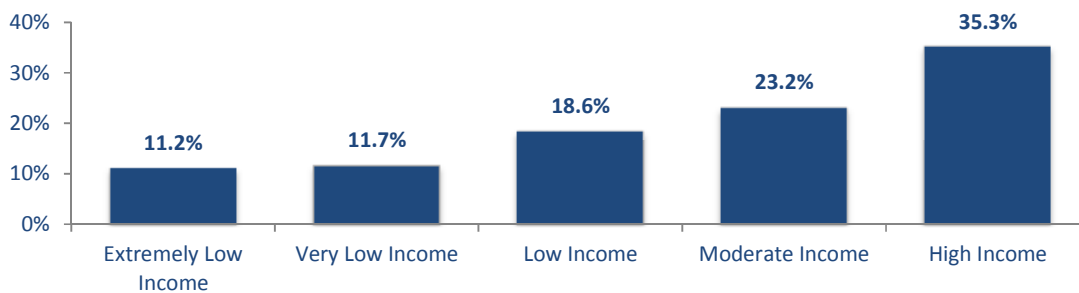


Food Insecurity by Income Levels

Not surprisingly, the most salient factor when examining food insecurity is income. Extremely low income is defined as 30 percent or less of the Area Median Income (AMI), very low income is 30 -50 percent of AMI, and low income is 50 – 80 percent of AMI. Moderate income includes those making 80-120 percent of AMI and high income is everyone with incomes above 120 percent AMI. For the duration of the report the three lowest income levels have been combined to ease comparisons (See Appendix A for income thresholds by household size).

As shown in Figure 4, the plurality of the sample is considered high income and an additional quarter are considered moderate income. Nearly one in five is low income (11.7%: very low income; 11.2%: extremely low income). Combined this group constitutes the “low income” group.

Figure 4.
Income Level Distribution of Survey Sample
 (n=823 Floridians age 18+)



As will become obvious later, the data show that income is the leading contributor to food security. As income decreases, food insecurity increases. Nearly one-third of people in the low income group report being food insecure (32.6%). As further shown in Table 4 below, among those in the moderate income group, over 1 in 8 report being food insecure.

Table 4.
Food Security by Income Group

	Low Income (n=341)	Moderate Income (n=191)	High Income (n=291)	Total (n=823)
Food Insecure	32.6	13.6	2.4	17.5
Food Secure	66.6	86.4	97.6	82.1
No answer/ Not sure/ Refused	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.4

Examining income groups by age of respondents show that overall, people aged 50 and older are financially better off than those under the age of 50 (Table 5). However, well over a third of people aged 50 and older in the survey are low income. Another one in five is moderate income. People aged 50 and older in these income groups suffer the same consequences of food security, and often must contend with additional consequences related to age and mobility issues.

Table 5.
Income Group by Age Categories

	Under 50 (n=423)	50+ (n=400)
Low Income	44.7	38.0
Moderate Income	26.2	20.0
High Income	29.1	42.0

Food Insecurity and Access

While the majority (95.5%) of high income respondents drive their own car to go grocery shopping, just over three quarters of low income respondents do (75.1%). In addition, while only 8.2 percent of high income respondents state that the closest full service grocery store is five or more miles away from their home, nearly a fifth (19.6%) of low income respondents state that this is the case. Among food insecure respondents, one in ten states that they have run short on food in the past year because there is not a grocery store near where they live (10.5%).

Food Insecurity by Age Groups

When examining food insecurity by age, common convention calls for an analysis of three groups: 18-34, 35-64 and 65 and older. When analyzing food insecurity levels by these three age categories, it is shown that people aged 65 and older have the *lowest* levels of food insecurity (Table 6). Nevertheless, nearly one in ten seniors is food insecure.

Table 6.
Food Insecurity by Age Groups

	Age 18-34 (n=258)	Age 35-64 (n=381)	Age 65+ (n=184)
Food Insecure	19.8	19.7	9.2
Food Secure	80.2	79.5	90.8
No answer/not sure/refused	0.0	0.8	0.0

AARP is an organization for people aged 50 and older. When looking at this age category compared to those younger we see that as a group those aged 50 and older report higher levels of food security (Table 7). Nevertheless, as is seen in people aged 65 and older, over 1 in 10 people aged 50 and older report being food insecure (12.0%).

Table 7.
Food Insecurity by Age 50+ and Younger

	Younger than 50 (n=423)	Age 50+ (n=400)
Food Insecure	22.6	12.0
Food Secure	76.7	88.0
No answer/not sure/refused	0.7	0.0

As shown earlier in Table 4, 38 percent of the survey respondents aged 50 and older are low income. While small sample sizes prevent us from conducting multivariate analysis examining the intersection between age, income, and food insecurity simultaneously, the interaction between these factors is readily apparent. Although a smaller percentage of people aged 50 and older is food insecure, a smaller percentage of people aged 50 and older is also in lower income groups. Therefore, low income people, regardless of age, are much more likely to be food insecure than those in higher income groups.

Physical and Mental Health

Food insecurity impacts more than just basic nutrition. Poor nutrition translates into poor health; healthy people need a diet containing sufficient calories and nutrients to sustain healthy body functioning. The impact of food insecurity on health is readily seen in our survey data. Respondents were asked to rate their physical health as well as their mental health and emotional well-being (Table 8). In terms of physical health, most (81.1%) report that their health was good, very good or excellent and just over one in ten (11.5%) say their health is fair while 4.6 percent say theirs is poor. Likewise, most (91.4%) say their mental health is good, very good, or excellent and just 6.3 percent report their mental health and emotional well-being to be fair or poor. To allow for further analysis, the categories of excellent, very good and good were combined, as were the categories of fair and poor.

Table 8.
Self-Reported Health Assessments
(n=823, Floridians age 18 and Older)

Assessment	Physical Health	Mental Health
Excellent	17.8	36.4
Very Good	29.9	34.4
Good	33.4	20.6
Fair	11.5	4.9
Poor	4.6	1.4
No answer/ Not sure/ Refused	2.8	2.3
Assessment: Collapsed Response Categories	Physical Health	Mental Health
Good- Excellent	81.1	91.4
Poor- Fair	16.1	6.3
No answer/ Not sure/ Refused	2.8	2.3

When physical and mental health and emotional well-being assessments are compared to food security status, a clear relationship between food insecurity and more negative assessments of health is apparent (Table 9). Food insecure respondents are significantly more likely to report lower levels of physical health (30.1% vs 13.1%) and mental health and emotional well-being (16.7% vs. 4.1%).

Table 9.
Percent Reporting Fair-Poor Health by Food Security Status

Assessment	Food Secure (n=677)	Food Insecure (n=143)
Physical Health	13.1	30.1
Mental Health	4.1	16.7

When examining health assessment by age, it is apparent that as people age, their assessment of both their physical health and their mental health and emotional well-being decline (Table 10). Over one in six people aged 50 and older report fair or poor physical health compared to just over one in ten people under the age of 50. With respect to mental health, more than double the number of people aged 50 and older report fair or poor mental health and emotional well-being as compared to those younger than 50.

Table 10.
Percent Reporting Fair-Poor Health by Age

Assessment	Under age 50 (n=423)	Age 50+ (n=399)
Physical Health	10.6	21.8
Mental Health	4.0	8.8

These declines in assessment of physical health and mental health and well-being that naturally occur to age for many, are exacerbated among those experiencing food insecurity (Table 11). While almost one in five (18.8%) of food secure people aged 50 and older state that their physical health is fair or poor, more than twice as many people in the food insecure category report the same level of health (44.7%). A similar pattern is seen in mental health and emotional well-being with food insecure respondents aged 50 and older being over four times as likely to report poor or fair mental health as compared to food secure respondents.

Table 11.
Percent Reporting Fair-Poor Health by Age Category and Food Security

Assessment	Food Secure (n=677)		Food Insecure (n=144)	
	Under 50 (n=325)	50+ (n=352)	Under 50 (n=96)	50+ (n=144??)
Physical Health	6.8	18.8	23.2	44.7
Mental Health	1.5	6.5	12.5	25.0

Households with Children

Of the 823 respondents, 217 (26.4%) have minor children in their homes (Table 12). These parents were asked specific questions about food security as it relates to the children. Overall, over a quarter of parents report relying on only a few kinds of food to feed their children due to the inability to afford food (27.0%) while about one in six (16.9%) states that they could not afford to feed their child or children a balanced meal.

Table 12.
Feeding Children
(n=217 Floridians with children under age 18)

	Often True	Sometimes True	Never True	*
Relied on only a few kinds of low-cost food to feed child(ren) because we were running out of money to buy more	7.3	19.7	63.2	9.8
Couldn't feed child(ren) a balanced meal, because we couldn't afford that	3.0	13.9	73.3	9.8

*indicates no answer/not sure/refused

When looking at these questions by income levels, it becomes quickly obvious that children's food insecurity is highly concentrated in the lowest income group (Table 13). Nearly half of low income parents report having to rely on just a few kinds of low-cost foods to feed their children and over one-quarter of them report they could not feed their children a balanced meal because they could not afford to do so.

Table 13.
Feeding Children by Income Groups

	Low Income (n=85)	Moderate Income (n=47)	High Income (n=88)
Relied on only a few kinds of low-cost food to feed child(ren) because we were running out of money to buy more	48.3	36.2	1.2
Couldn't feed child(ren) a balanced meal, because we couldn't afford that	27.1	30.5	0.0

Small percentages of parents report receiving aid in feeding their children: over one fifth (22.7%) report that a child in the household has received free or reduced cost lunch in the past 30 days while one-quarter (25.8%) have received free or reduced cost breakfast at school within the last 30 days. Among food insecure respondents, over half (55.7%) report that a child in their household has received a free or reduced cost lunch in the past 30 days and another half (54.1%) of food insecure respondents report that a child in their household has received a free or reduced cost lunch in the past 30 days. When we restrict this analysis to the lowest income group, the same pattern is evident.

Fruit and Vegetable Consumption

Overall, just under half (45.4%) of all respondents believe that they should eat more fresh fruits and vegetables (Table 14). With respect to income, about half of low and moderate income respondents, and over a third of high-income respondents, believe they should eat more fruits and vegetables. While there is consensus on the desire to increase levels of consumption, the reasons given as to why people are not eating more fruits and vegetables are revealing. Those stating that they should eat more fresh fruit and vegetables were asked about six reasons why they do not eat more even though they believe they should. For low income respondents, the most salient factor is cost, with over half (53.4%) stating that fresh fruits and vegetables are too expensive. For the moderate and high income groups, the main reason given for not eating more fruits and vegetables was that they spoil too easily.

Table 14.
Fruit and Vegetable Consumption
(n=823, Floridians age 18 and Older)

	Low Income (n=341)	Moderate Income (n=191)	High Income (n=291)	Total (n=823)
Believes they should eat more fruits and vegetables	47.6	52.6	37.9	45.4
Reasons people give for not eating more fruits and vegetables:				
They cost too much	53.4	34.0	8.2	34.8
Are not available where they shop	4.3	2.0	6.4	4.3
Spoil too easily	40.1	41.0	31.8	37.9
Not sure how to prepare or cook them	7.5	18.0	3.6	9.2
Take too much time to prepare	17.9	19.8	21.8	19.6
Just don't like them	27.8	30.7	19.1	26.0

When looking at the impact of age on fruit and vegetable consumption, there are only slight differences between those under the age of 50 and those aged 50 and older (Table 15). For both groups, the fact that fruits and vegetables spoil too easily is the main reason they do not eat more than they currently do.

Table 15.
Fruit and Vegetable Consumption by Age Categories

	Under Age 50 (n=423)	Age 50+ (n=399)
Believes they should eat more fruits and vegetables	47.9	42.6
Reasons people give for not eating more fruits and vegetables:		
They cost too much	37.4	31.8
Are not available where they shop	3.0	5.9
Spoil too easily	38.4	37.6
Not sure how to prepare or cook them	11.9	5.8
Take too much time to prepare	17.7	21.9
Just don't like them	29.2	22.4

Many people contend with spoiling produce by buying many items frozen. While overwhelming majorities across all income groups report owning a freezer, nearly one in three low income respondents, one in five moderate income, and one in ten high income respondents report that they would like a larger freezer. Having space to hold frozen foods is clearly a major problem among about a third of low income households.

Food Assistance Programs

Adult Floridians were asked about participation in many different food assistance programs. In general, the participation rates were low. Just over one in ten (13.0%) say they or someone in their household is participating in the SNAP, EBT, or Food Stamp program. Among food insecure low income respondents, less than half (39.9%) are participating.

Awareness

We asked respondents if they were aware of services in their community that could potentially provide them assistance if needed. First we asked them if they were familiar with the 2-1-1 system. 2-1-1 is a free, human services, information and referral service. In 2013, 2-1-1 services across the nation received over 15 million calls.

Just over one in ten (11.1%) Floridians were familiar with 2-1-1. People aged 50 and older were less likely to report knowing about the system as compared to people under age 50 (9.5% vs. 12.5%). In relation to income categories, the low income group is the least likely to know about 2-1-1 (10.0%), compared to the moderate income group (12.6%) and the high income group (11.3%).

A much larger percentage of people report knowing of a church, food pantry or food bank in their area where they could get emergency food if needed (55.1%); yet still, nearly half are not aware of such resources. When asked if they have family members that could provide assistance if needed, about four in ten (39.1%) say they have one or two family members in the area that could help if needed. However, over a quarter (29.4%) of respondents state they do not have any family members that could help them if needed. This is more of a concern among those aged 50 and older. About one third (34.3%) of Floridians age 50 and older say they have no family members in the area that could help them if needed while slightly more (41.5%) report having one or two family members who could help. This compares to one-quarter (24.8%) of Floridians under the age of 50 who have no family members in the area that could help if needed and over a third (36.8%) who say they have one or two family members who could help.

When looking at food security status, nearly equal numbers report being familiar with a church, food pantry or food bank in their area where they could get emergency food if needed (55.6% of food secure and 54.5% of food insecure). However, food insecure respondents were much more likely to say that they had no family in the area that could help them (37.8% compared to 27.8% of food secure respondents).

Conclusion

Our analysis of the food security situation in Florida shows an overall rate of food insecurity above 17%, about what other recent statewide estimates for Florida have found. Likewise, the correlates and consequences of food insecurity are largely the same in every state: those at greatest risk are the poor and near-poor; and the consequence is lessened physical and mental well-being.

The findings also show that younger households, especially younger low income households with children, are more food insecure than seniors. As we have shown elsewhere based on national survey data, among adults over 40, food insecurity declines with age. This is not to diminish the very real problem of senior hunger – after all, even in the least-disadvantaged group, food insecurity remains a daily reality for more than one in ten. In Florida, that translates into about 430,000 food insecure seniors, most certainly a problem. But it is important to place the problem in comparative context, and part of that context is that the most severe issues with access to food are faced by younger, low-income families with children, not by seniors.

A key concern with food insecurity as a general social problem is the likelihood that proper nutrient intake suffers when the food supply is insecure. There are well-known social class differences in food consumption patterns, the gist of which is that healthy food is expensive and affordable food is less healthy. Alas, the direct survey measurement of nutrient intake is fraught with methodological peril, so evidence for the link between food insecurity and poor nutrition is indirect and inferential. What we have shown here is that Florida's food insecure are more likely to report fair or poor physical and mental health than the food-secure, and it is hard to believe that there is no causal linkage in this equation.

We have shown that the food-insecure are just as likely as their food-secure counterparts to know whether free food outlets exist in their communities. Overall, this awareness level is low. Since the first line of defense against food insecurity is, indeed, the vast network of food banks, food pantries and soup kitchens, and the second line of defense is made up of various food programs (SNAP, WIC, school lunch programs, etc.), lack of knowledge about and under-participation in these programs must be the principal reason why food insecurity continues to exist, and at record high levels, throughout the nation and certainly in Florida. Better, more aggressive and targeted outreach to those in need is the obvious solution, but this is easier to say than to accomplish. Outreach is costly and in our experience, most food banks, food pantries and other feeding programs already have more clients than they know what to do with and report, almost unanimously, that things are getting worse, not better. So there is no realistic expectation for an amelioration of the problem in the foreseeable future.

Appendix A

One person HH

- 1 12,000 or less
- 2 13,000 – 20,000
- 3 21,000 – 32,000
- 4 33,000 – 48,000
- 5 49,000 – 80,000
- 6 80,000 and up

Two person HH

- 1 14,000 or less
- 2 15,000 – 23,000
- 3 24,000 – 37,000
- 4 38,000 – 55,000
- 5 56,000 – 92,000
- 6 93,000 and up

Three person HH

- 1 16,000 or less
- 2 17,000 – 26,000
- 3 27,000 – 41,000
- 4 42,000 – 62,000
- 5 63,000 – 103,000
- 6 104,000

Four person HH

- 1 17,000 or less
- 2 18,000 – 29,000
- 3 30,000 – 46,000
- 4 47,000 – 69,000
- 5 70,000 – 115,000
- 6 116,000 and up

Five person HH

- 1 19,000 or less
- 2 20,000 – 31,000
- 3 32,000 – 50,000
- 4 51,000 – 74,000
- 5 75,000 – 124,000
- 6 125,000 and up

Six person HH or greater

- 1 20,000 or less
- 2 21,000 – 33,000
- 3 34,000 – 53,000
- 4 54,000 – 80,000
- 5 81,000 – 133,000
- 6 134,000 and up

**2014 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES
AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Persons in family/HH	Poverty line
1	11,670
2	15,730
3	19,790
4	23,850
5	27,910
6	31,970
7	36,030
8	40,090

ANNOTATED SURVEY

**Florida Food Security Survey 2014
(Survey Sample: Residents in Florida)
(N=823, sampling error = 3.42%)**

INTRODUCTION/SCREENER

Hello, my name is _____. I'm a researcher at UCF, a national opinion research firm. We are not telemarketers and are not trying to sell you anything. We're doing a survey of families in Florida that is focused on food and nutrition. The survey only takes about 12 minutes and asks questions about diets, access to foods of various sorts, and things like that.

[**INTERVIEWER:** Add **as necessary** to assure respondent: Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary and confidential. Do you have any questions you want to ask about the survey? Your phone number was chosen at random to participate in this survey. You will not be identified by name in any document we produce. We are interviewing approximately 2000 people and your answers will be combined with everyone else's. You have the right to refuse to answer any question you want. You may also terminate the interview at any time.]

S1. Are you age 18 or older?

N=	823
Yes	100.0%
No (ASK TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE IN THE HOUSEHOLD WHO IS AT LEAST 18)	-

S2. In order to make sure we have adequate geographical spread, what county do you live in?

N=	823
Alachua	1.8%
Bay	0.8%
Bradford	0.8%
Brevard	4.3%
Broward	5.5%
Charlotte	0.8%
Citrus	0.7%
Clay	1.4%
Collier	1.0%
Columbia	0.3%
Dixie	0.2%
Duval	4.6%
Escambia	2.3%
Flagler	0.4%
Gadsden	0.1%
Gilchrist	0.3%

Glades	0%
Gulf	0.1%
Hamilton	0.1%
Hendry	-
Hernando	0.9%
Highlands	0.7%
Hillsborough	5.8%
Indian River	1.8%
Jefferson	0.1%
Lafayette	0.1%
Lake	2.3%
Lee	2.5%
Leon	2.1%
Levy	0.2%
Madison	0.1%
Manatee	1.6%
Marion	2.3%
Martin	0.8%
Miami-Dade	7.9%
Monroe	0.1%
Nassau	0.1%
Okaloosa	1.3%
Okeechobee	0.1%
Orange	8.2%
Osceola	2.0%
Palm Beach	5.6%
Pasco	2.1%
Pinellas	5.7%
Polk	3.7%
Putnam	0.4%
Santa Rosa	0.9%
Sarasota	2.7%
Seminole	3.9%
St. Johns	1.4%
St. Lucie	1.5%
Sumter	0.8%
Suwannee	0.3%
Taylor	0.1%
Volusia	4.0%
Wakulla	0.1%
Walton	0.4%
Washington	0.2%

S2. And what is your Zip Code? [Enter five digit Zip Code] _____

S3 .OK, to begin with, I need to know the composition of your household, specifically, the number of related adults who live in the household, the number of children under age 18, and any unrelated householders. First, how many related adults live in the household?

N=	823
Number of adults	100%
0	0.6%
1	20.7%
2	49.4%
3	17.3%
4	8.7%
5	1.3%
6	0.4%
8	0.4%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	1.2%

S4 And how many children under 18 live in the household? Please include your own children, foster children, grandchildren, or any other child for whom you are responsible?

N=	823
Number of children	100%
0	73.0%
1	12.5%
2	8.5%
3	4.1%
4	0.6%
5	3.0%
6	0.1%
9	0.3%
No answer/Not sure/Refused -	0.6%

S5 [If number of children is greater than or equal to 1] Of the number you just told me, how many of those are grandchildren?

N=	222
Number of grandchildren	100%
0	81.9%
1	8.0%
2	3.1%
3	3.2%
4	0.3%
5	0.1%
6 or more	1.2%
No answer/Not sure/Refused -	2.2%

[Sum N of adults and N of children to get effective household size. Then ask the household income question using the categories appropriate to the calculated effective household size.]

Because some of the survey questions are designed for persons in different income categories, we need to have some idea what was your household income in 2013 before taxes. We realize this is a personal matter so I'm going to read a list of income ranges. Just stop me when I get to the range where your income falls.

Last year [2013], was your total household income before taxes...

S6 (IF R ASKS: that is, the total before-tax income earned by everyone in the household combined):

One person HH

N=	140
12,000 or less	16.2%
13,000 – 20,000	20.4%
21,000 – 32,000	22.3%
33,000 – 48,000	19.3%
49,000 – 80,000.	16.4%
80,000 and up	5.3%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	-

Two person HH

N=	296
14,000 or less	11.8%
15,000 – 23,000	9.5%
24,000 – 37,000	13.9%
38,000 – 55,000	22.0%
56,000 – 92,000.	22.1%
93,000 and up	20.6%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	-

Three person HH

N=	144
16,000 or less	5.7%
17,000 – 26,000	10.3%
27,000 – 41,000	16.4%
42,000 – 62,000	24.9%
63,000 – 103,000.	20.8%
104,000	22.0%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	-

Four person HH

N=	142
17,000 or less	6.6%
18,000 – 29,000	6.4%
30,000 – 46,000	23.9%
47,000 – 69,000	27.3%
70,000 – 115,000.	22.9%
116,000 and up	12.9%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	-

Five person HH

N=	61
19,000 or less	10.0%
20,000 – 31,000	7.7%
32,000 – 50,000	33.6%
51,000 – 74,000	23.6%
75,000 – 124,000.	15.7%
125,000 and up	9.4%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	-

Six person HH

N=	39
20,000 or less	27.2%
21,000 – 33,000	28.2%
34,000 – 53,000	5.1%
54,000 – 80,000	24.6%
81,000 – 133,000.	9.3%
134,000 and up	5.7%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	-

[PROCEDURAL NOTE: We will interview ALL respondents income categories 1, 2, 3 and 4 but only a random third of those in 5 and 6. For those in 5 and 6 who are not randomly chosen to continue, THANK RESPONDENT AND TERMINATE INTERVIEW]

Main Questionnaire

1. Thinking now about your household's monthly income...is the household monthly income pretty much the same month after month, or does your monthly income fluctuate?

N=	823
Same month to month	73.7%
Fluctuating	1.4%
Don't know, can't say	24.6%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	0.4%

2. Thinking now about the biggest issues or problems currently facing Floridians, how much of a problem is the issue of hunger in the state, that is, the lack of access to adequate food on a regular basis due to lack of money or other resources? Would you say it is.....

N=	823
A very important issue or problem	59.4%
A somewhat important issue or problem	30.5%
Not an important issue or problem at all	7.9%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	2.2%

3. Which of the following statements best describes the food eaten in your household in the last 12 months —enough of the kinds of food (I/we) want to eat; enough, but not always the kinds of food (I/we) want; sometimes not enough to eat; or, often not enough to eat?

N=	823
Enough of the kinds of food we want to eat	68.2%
Enough but not always the kinds of food we want	24.3%
Sometimes not enough to eat	5.1%
Often not enough to eat	2.0%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	0.3%

4. Now I'm going to read you three brief statements that may or may not resemble the current situation in your household:

And I'd like you to tell me if it is often true, sometimes true, or never true for your household in the last 12 months?

	Often true	Sometimes true	Never true	No answer/ Not sure/ Refused
a. (I/We) worried whether (my/our) food would run out before (I/we) got money to buy more.....	6.4%	18.5%	74.7%	0.3%
b. The food that (I/we) bought just didn't last, and (I/we) didn't have money to get more.	5.1%	15.7%	78.9%	0.3%
c. (I/we) couldn't afford to eat balanced meals.....	6.2%	15.1%	78.0%	0.6%

5. In the last 12 months, did (you/you or other adults in your household) **ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals** because there wasn't enough money for food?

N=	823
Yes	15.0%
No	84.6%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	0.3%

6. **IF Q5=YES:** How often did this happen—almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?

N=	124
Almost every month	34.9%
Some months but not every month	28.6%
Only 1 or 2 months	35.0%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	1.5%

7. In the last 12 months, were you **ever hungry but didn't eat** because there wasn't enough money for food?

N=	823
Yes	9.6%
No	89.9%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	0.4%

8. In the last 12 months, did (you/you or other adults in your household) **ever not eat for a whole day** because there wasn't enough money for food?

N=	823
Yes	3.7%
No	95.8%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	0.4%

9. **[IF Q8= YES]** How often did this happen—almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?

N=	31
Almost every month	35.8%
Some months but not every month	35.8%
Only 1 or 2 months	24.8%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	3.6%

10. Still thinking about the last 12 months, did you or your family ever run short on food because you had no way to get to the grocery store?

N=	823
Yes	6.5%
No	92.7%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	0.8%

11. How often did this happen—almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?

N=	54
Almost every month	28.5%
Some months but not every month	34.3%
Only 1 or 2 months	35.8%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	1.3%

12. And how about running short on food because there is no grocery store near to where you live? Did that ever happen in the last year?

N=	823
Yes	3.5%
No	95.6%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	0.9%

13. (IF Q12=YES) And would you say this happened almost every month, some months, but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?

N=	29
Almost every month	44.5%
Only 1 or 2 months	21.5%
Some months but not every month	30.9%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	3.1%

14. Did you ever run short on food because the places where you shop just didn't have the food items you and your family like to eat?

N=	823
Yes	5.9%
No	93.0%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	1.1%

15. [IF Q14=YES] How often did this happen—almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?

N=	48
Almost every month	34.9%
Some months but not every month	21.3%
Only 1 or 2 months	43.8%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	-

16. Now I have some questions about the places where you bought food **LAST WEEK**. First, did (you/anyone in your household) shop for food at a **supermarket or grocery store** LAST WEEK?

N=	823
Yes	94.2%
No	4.6%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	1.2%

17. About how far is it from your residence to the nearest full-service supermarket or grocery store? CODE RESPONSE AS FOLLOWS:

N=	823
Quarter mile or less	8.1%
Quarter to a half mile	6.1%
Half mile to one mile	16.7%
One to two miles	29.1%
3-5 miles	24.7%
More than 5 miles	13.8%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	1.5%

18. How do you typically get to the store when you go shopping for food? ? [INTERVIEWER: Do not read – use for coding. ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE]

N=	823
Drive my own car	85.9%
Borrow someone else’s car	3.4%
Someone drives me	4.0%
Take the bus	1.5%
Walk	2.6%
Ride Bike	0.4%
Other	0.8%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	1.3%

19. Think now about other places where people buy food, such as meat markets, produce stands, bakeries, or warehouse clubs (like Costco).. Did (you/anyone in your household) buy food from any stores such as these LAST WEEK?

N=	823
Yes	38.9%
No	59.3%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	1.8%

20. Also, did you or anyone in your household buy food at a convenience store in the past seven days?

N=	823
Yes	26.2%
No	72.4%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	1.5%

21. And, did you or anyone in your household buy food at a farmer’s market in the past seven days?

N=	823
Yes	17.7%
No	80.5%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	1.9%

22. Do you have a freezer?

N=	823
Yes	89.9%
No	8.9%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	1.2%

23. IF Q22=YES: Did you or anyone in your household buy any frozen food items in the past seven days?

N=	750
Yes	78.3%
No	20.1%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	2%

24. IF Q22=YES And, is your freezer large enough for you to store all the frozen food you would like, or do you wish your freezer was bigger?

N=	750
Yes	77.8%
No	20.7%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	2%

25. Again thinking about the past seven days, about how much did you or your household spend on all the food you purchased from all places?

N=	823
\$0 - \$50.00	17.0%
\$51 - \$100.00	30.5%
\$103.00 - \$150.00	20.5%
\$160.00 - \$350.00	25.3%
\$375.00 - \$600.00	4.1%
\$600.00 or more	0.4%
No answer/ Not sure/Refused	2.4%

26. Now I'd like to ask about some programs in Florida that deal with hunger. Do you or anyone in your household participate in the SNAP, EBT, or Food Stamps program?

N=	823
Yes	13.0%
No	84.6%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	2.4%

27. How about WIC, the federal nutrition assistance program for Women, Infants and Children?

N=	823
Yes	4.1%
No	94.0%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	1.9%

28. In order to buy just enough food to meet the needs of you and your household, would you need to spend more than you do now, or could you spend less? A lot more (or less) or just a little more (or less)?

N=	823
A lot more	7.2%
A little more	15.0%
The same (volunteered)	26.9%
A little less	39.8%
A lot less	7.4%
No answer/Not sure/Refused.	3.6%

29. IF R HAS SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN: During the past 30 days, did any children in the household (between 5 and 18 years old) receive **free or reduced-cost lunches** at school?

N=	217
Yes	22.7%
No	61.1%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	16.2%

30. IF R HAS SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN During the past 30 days, did any children in the household (between 5 and 18 years old) receive **free or reduced-cost breakfasts** at school?

N=	217
Yes	25.8%
No	57.6%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	16.6%

Q31-34: IF R HAS ANY CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18: Now I'm going to read you two statements that people have made about the food situation of their children. For these statements, please tell me whether the statement was **OFTEN** true, **SOMETIMES** true, or **NEVER** true in the last 12 months for any child under 18 years old living in the household.

31. "(I/we) relied on only a few kinds of low-cost food to feed (the child in (my/our) household/the children) because (I was/we were) running out of money to buy food. Was that **OFTEN**, **SOMETIMES** or **NEVER** true for (you/ your household) in the last 12 months?"

N=	217
Often true	7.3%
Sometimes true	19.7%
Never true	63.2%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	9.8%

32. "(I/we) couldn't feed (the child in (my/our) household/the children) a balanced meal, because (I/we) couldn't afford that." Was that OFTEN, SOMETIMES or NEVER true for (you/your household) in the last 12 months?

N=	217
Often true	3.0%
Sometimes true	13.9%
Never true	73.3%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	9.8

33. In the last 12 months, did you ever cut the size of (the child's/any of the children's) meals because there wasn't enough money for food?

N=	217
Yes	3.1%
No	89.1%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	7.8%

34. In the last 12 months, (was the child/were the children) ever hungry but you just couldn't afford more food?

N=	217
Yes	3.8%
No	88.4%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	7.8%

35. During the past 30 days, did (you/anyone in this household) receive any free meals delivered to your home by any community food programs?

N=	823
Yes	2.1%
No	96.2%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	1.8%

36. During the past 30 days, did (you/anyone in this household) go to a community program or senior center to eat prepared meals?

N=	823
Yes	1.3%
No	96.9%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	1.8%

37. In the last 12 months, did (you/you or other adults in your household) ever get emergency food from a church, a food pantry, or food bank?

N=	823
Yes	5.4%
No	92.9%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	1.8%

38. **IF Q37=YES:** How often did this happen-almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?

N=	44
Almost every month	40.3%
Some months but not every month	20.3%
Only 1 or 2 months	39.5%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	-

39. To the best of your knowledge, is there a church, food pantry or food bank in your neighborhood where you could get emergency food if you needed it?

N=	823
Yes	55.1%
No	16.0%
I don't know	27.0
No answer/Not sure/Refused	1.9%

40. **Switching topics now...** In general, would you say that you are as physically active as you want to be, or would you like to be more active than you are?

N=	823
As active as I want to be	41.5%
Would like to be more active than I am	55.9%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	2.5%

41. Please tell me your height to the nearest inch: _____ INCHES

N=	822
4.0ft = 48 -49 inches	0.6%
5.0 – 5.9ft = 60 -71 inches	2.1%
6-0 - 6.9ft = 72 -83 inches	67.8%
7.0 -8.0.ft = 84 inches	26.3%
85 inches or more	0.1%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	3.1%

42. And your current weight to the nearest pound? _____ POUNDS

N=	823
80 -150lbs	36.7%
151—200lbs	39.4%
203 = 250lbs	14.9%
253-370lbs	2.2%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	6.8%

43. Thinking now about your MENTAL health and emotional well-being, would you say that, in general, your mental health is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?

N=	823
Excellent	36.4%
Very good	34.4%
Good	20.6%
Fair	4.9%
Poor	1.4%
No answer/Not sure/Refused.	2.3%

44. And how about your physical health? Would you say that in general your health is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?

N=	823
Excellent	17.8%
Very good	29.9%
Good	33.4%
Fair	11.5%
Poor	4.6%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	2.8%

45. Do you think you eat enough fruits and vegetables or do you think you should eat more?

N=	823
Eat enough	52.6%
Should eat more	45.3%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	2.1%

46. IF 'Q45: SHOULD EAT MORE': What would you say are the main reasons you don't eat more fruits and vegetables? (N=373)

Is it because:

	Yes	No	Not answer/ Not sure/ Refused
a. They cost too much	34.8%	63.7%	1.5%
b. Are not available where you shop	4.5%	94.5%	1.0%
c. Spoil too easily	38.0%	61.5%	0.5%
d. I am not sure how to prepare or cook them.....	9.2%	90.3%	0.5%
e. Take too much time to prepare.....	19.6%	79.7%	0.7%
f. You just don't like them	26.1%	73.4%	0.6%

47. Which of the following best describes the kind of **residence or dwelling unit** you and your family live in? Is it a...

N=	823
Single family detached home	73.8%
A single family home in a duplex unit	1.6%
A single family home in a triplex or quad-plex unit	0.1%
A mobile or manufactured home	4.8%
An apartment	8.6%
A town home	3.9%
A condominium	4.5%
Something else → _____	2.0%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	0.7%

48. Which of the following best describes the kind of residence or dwelling unit you and your family live in?

N=	823
Efficiency	99.4%
Elderly home	0.1%
Facility	-
Independent Living	0.1%
Ranch house	0.1%
Retirement Community	0.1%
Retirement home	-
Senior Citizen Home	0.1%
Villa	0.1%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	-

49. Do you own or rent your dwelling unit?

N=	823
Rent	21.2%
Own	75.8%
Some other arrangement (please specify)	0.7%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	2.3%

50. Do you own or rent your dwelling?

N=	823
	99.4%
Bank owned	0.1%
Buying	-
Elderly home	-
Father owns it	0.1%
Retirement home	-
Section 8 housing	0.1%
Sister owns it	0.1%
Son owns it	0.1%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	-

51. About how long have you lived in your current dwelling unit?

N=	823
1-5 years	32.2%
6-10 years	18.2%
11-20 years	30.2%
21-30 years	9.7%
31-40 years	2.5%
Over 40 years	7.6%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	3.0%

52. Are you currently married, separated, divorced, widowed, or have you never married?

N=	823
Currently married	48.0%
Separated	1.1%
Divorced	9.0%
Widowed	10.0%
Never Married	29.2%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	2.7%

53. Are you working now, temporarily laid off, unemployed, retired, permanently disabled, a homemaker, a student, or what?

N=	823
Working	41.3%
Temporarily laid off	1.4%
Unemployed	5.2%
Retired	27.2%
Permanently Disabled	4.2%
Homemaker	5.0%
Student	13.3%
Other→ _____	0.7%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	2.0%

54. If for whatever reason you missed a month's worth of pay, would you still be able to pay your bills?

N=	823
No	27.8%
Yes	65.3%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	6.9%

55. Have you ever had the power, water, or telephone service shut off because you failed to pay the bill on time? IF YES: Just once, or more than once?

N=	823
No, never	80.2%
Yes, just once	2.5%
Yes, more than once	8.4%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	8.8%

56. Do you or anyone in your household receive any monthly income from:

	Yes	No	Not answer/ Not sure/ Refused
a. Social Security	39.6%	58.3%	2.1%
b. SSI (Supplemental Security Income)	7.0%	90.6%	2.4%
c. SSDI (disability income).....	11.1%	86.8%	2.1%
d. Veteran's Administration (VA pension)	6.1%	91.7%	2.1%
e. Child support payments from a previous spouse	1.8%	95.7%	2.5%
f. Alimony payments from a previous spouse	0.6%	97.2%	2.2%

57. Have you ever heard of the 2-1-1 system?

N=	823
Yes	11.1%
No	82.3%
Don't know, can't say	-
No answer/Not sure/Refused	6.6%

58. **IF Q47 = YES:** Have you ever used 2-1-1 to locate resources that you and your family needed?

N=	91
Yes	21.7%
No	76.9%
Don't know, can't remember	1.3%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	-

59. **IF Q48=YES:** And did you use it?

N=	20
Just once	47.1%
More than once	52.9%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	-

60. Do you ever use public transit (the bus) to get where you need to go? **IF YES:** Is this something you do all the time, most of the time, or just some of the time?

N=	823
No	79.5%
Yes, just some of the time	13.1%
Yes, most of the time	2.1%
Yes, all of the time	1.5%
No answer/Not sure/Refused	3.8%

61. Does anyone in your household own a car? If no, does anyone in your household lease a car?

N=	823
No, has no car	5.3%
Leases a car	1.6%
Owens a car	90.9%
No answer/ Not sure/Refused	2.2%

About You

Now just a few more questions for classification purposes and we'll be done.

D1. Please tell me about your living arrangements. Do you live [READ OPTIONS]:

N=	823
Alone	16.0%
With a spouse or partner	28.5%
With your children	2.9%
With a spouse or partner and children	20.2%
With other family members	26.6%
No answer/ Not sure/Refused	5.8%-

D2. Do you have family members in the area who can help you out if you run into troubles?

N=	823
No, no one	29.4%
Yes, one or two	39.1%
Yes, many	28.5%
No answer/ Not sure/Refused	3.0%

D3. What do you consider as your racial or ethnic background?

N=	823
White	70.5%
African American, Black	11.2%
Asian	3.6%
Multi-racial	3.8%
Other	7.0%
No answer/ Not sure/Refused	4.0%

D4. Do you consider yourself Hispanic or Latino?

N=	823
Yes	14.7%
No	82.4%
No answer/ Not sure/Refused	2.9%

D5. What is your level of educational attainment?

N=	823
High school graduate or less	26.9%
Some college, no degree	27.5%
Associate's degree	9.3%
Bachelor's degree	21.6%
Graduate or professional degree	10.8%
No answer/ Not sure/Refused	3.9%

D6. Record R's gender. Ask gender only if unsure.

N=	823
Male	45.8%
Female	53.2%
No answer/ Not sure/Refused	1.0%

Demographic variables for analysis:

Age recorded into three groups

N=	823
18-29 years	28.1%
30-64	49.6%
65 years and older	22.3%
No answer/ Not sure/Refused	-

Income Groups categorized after interviews

N=	823
Extremely Low Income (30% or less AMI)	11.2%
Very Low Income (31-50% AMI)	11.7%
Low Income (50-80% AMI)	18.6%
Moderate Income (80-120% AMI)	23.2%
High Mid/Affluent Income (120-200+% AMI)	35.3%
No answer/ Not sure/Refused	-

Food security severity (categorized after interviews)

N=	823
Food Secure	82.2%
Moderately Food Insecure	12.3%
Food insecure	5.2%
No answer/ Not sure/Refused	0.3%



AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with a membership of nearly 38 million, that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse. We advocate for individuals in the marketplace by selecting products and services of high quality and value to carry the AARP name as well as help our members obtain discounts on a wide range of products, travel, and services. A trusted source for lifestyle tips, news and educational information, AARP produces AARP The Magazine, the world's largest circulation magazine; AARP Bulletin; www.aarp.org; AARP TV & Radio; AARP Books; and AARP en Español, a Spanish-language website addressing the interests and needs of Hispanics. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to political campaigns or candidates. The AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. AARP has staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Learn more at www.aarp.org.



AARP Foundation is working to win back opportunity for struggling Americans 50+ by being a force for change on the most serious issues they face today: housing, hunger, income and isolation. By coordinating responses to these issues on all four fronts at once, and supporting them with vigorous legal advocacy, the Foundation serves the unique needs of those 50+ while working with local organizations nationwide to reach more people, work more efficiently and make resources go further. AARP Foundation is the charitable affiliate of AARP. Learn more at www.aarpfoundation.org



The UCF Department of Sociology provides the type of advanced learning community required to meet the challenges of the 21st century. We seek to educate global citizens who can access, evaluate, and analyze abundant information available through both electronic and more traditional forms of media. In addition, our department strives to foster tolerance and understanding of diverse peoples, cultures, and issues. Through research, teaching, and service, our faculty contributes to essential knowledge of social processes and informs policy decisions at the local, regional, and global levels. The Institute for Social and Behavioral Science (ISBS) is located in UCF's Department of Sociology and promotes community-oriented research throughout the social and behavioral science disciplines. The ISBS specializes in research relevant to public policy issues in the Orlando region. ISBS houses Survey Research Laboratory, Center for Qualitative Methodologies, and the Center for Outreach and Public Service.

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