

# Grace Grows Community Food Project

Preliminary Survey Results

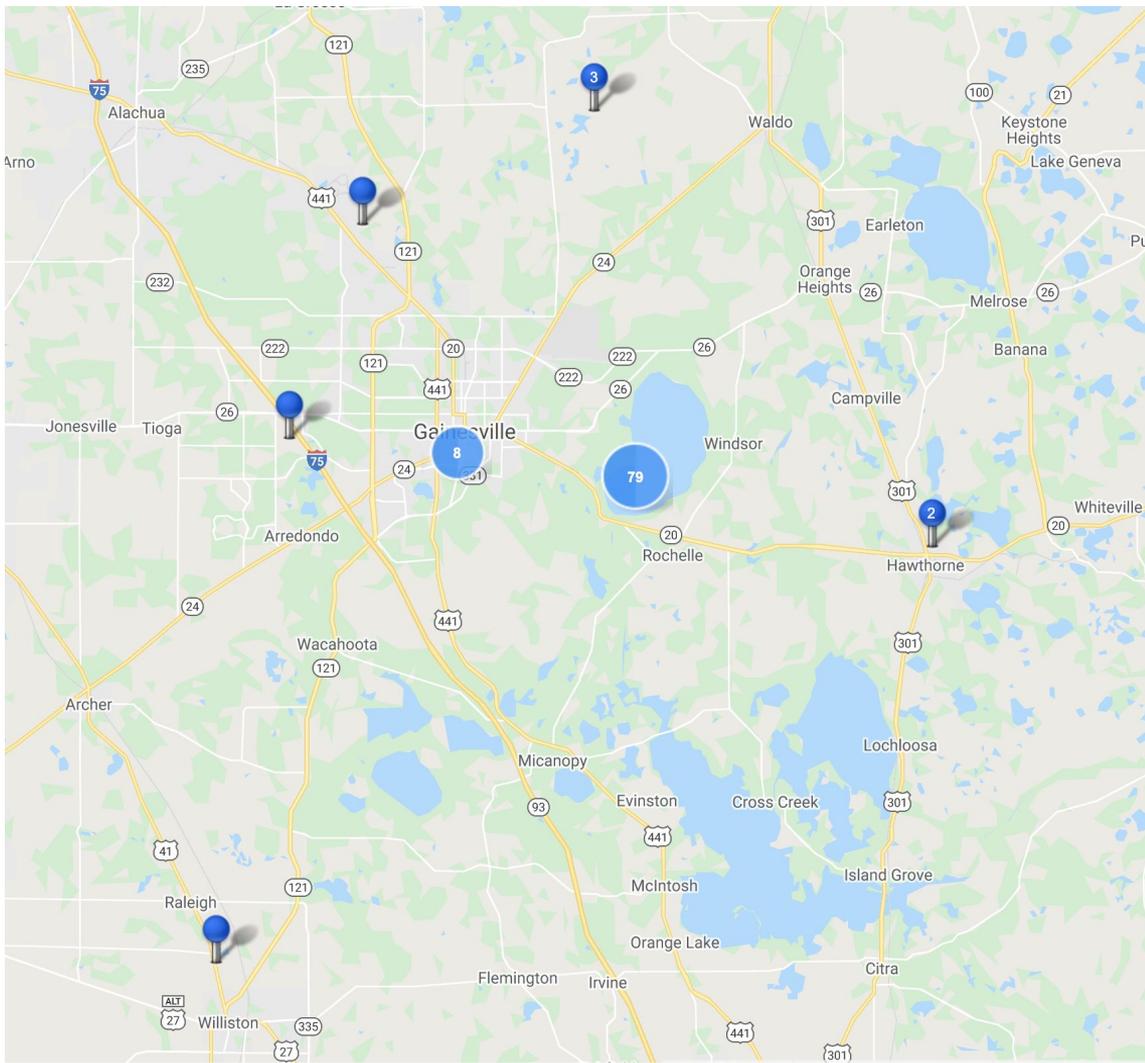


# Overview: Methods, Demographics, and More

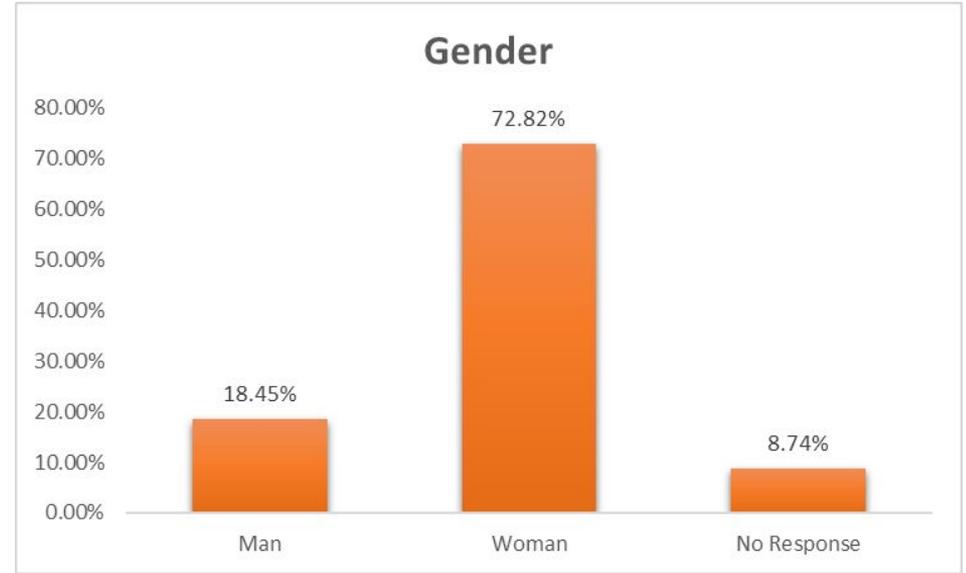
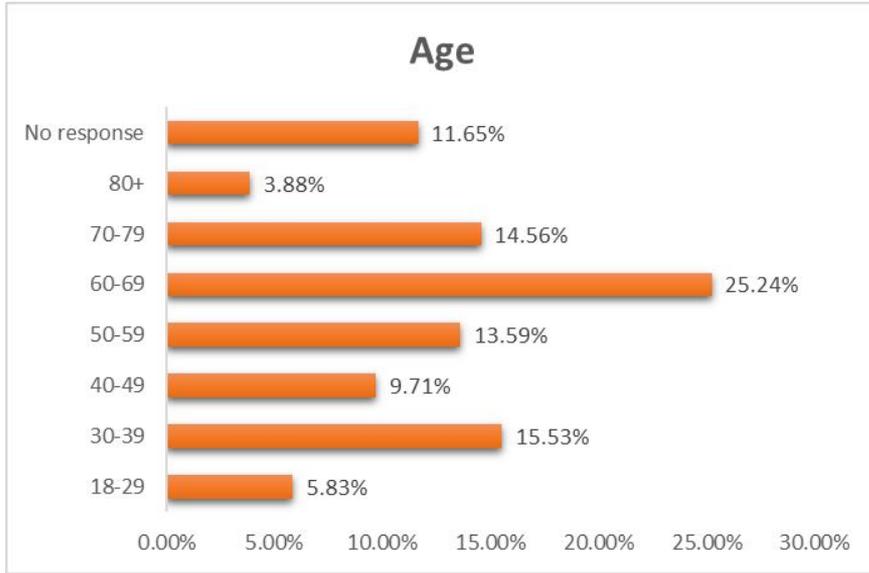
# Methods

- Surveys: 103
  - 14% completed online (independently), 86% completed with an interviewer
  - Door-to-door in several neighborhoods:
    - Lincoln Estates
    - Carver Gardens
    - Woodland Park (Sugarhill)
    - Eastwood Meadows
    - Tiger Bay Apartments
- 3 Focus Groups and 1 in-depth interview conducted in February and November 2021 hosted by Howard Bishop Middle School: 16 participants

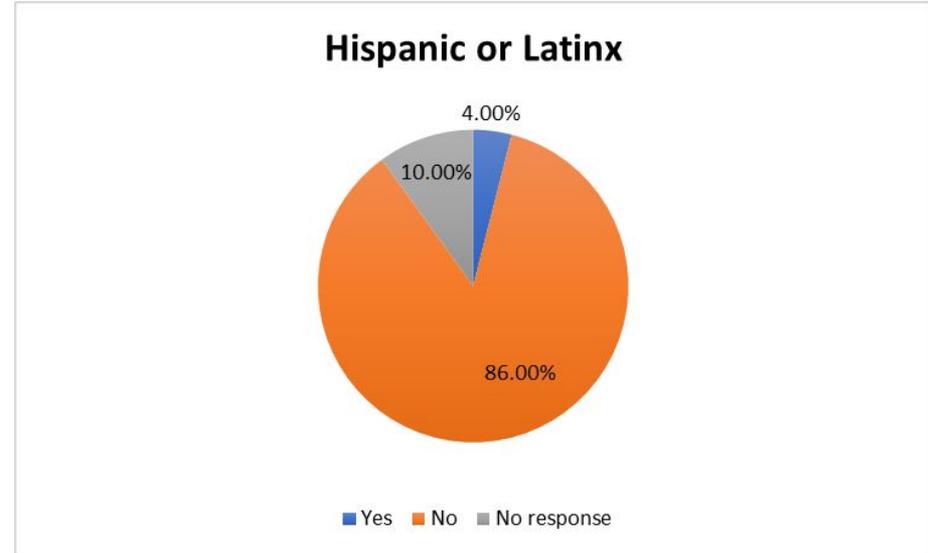
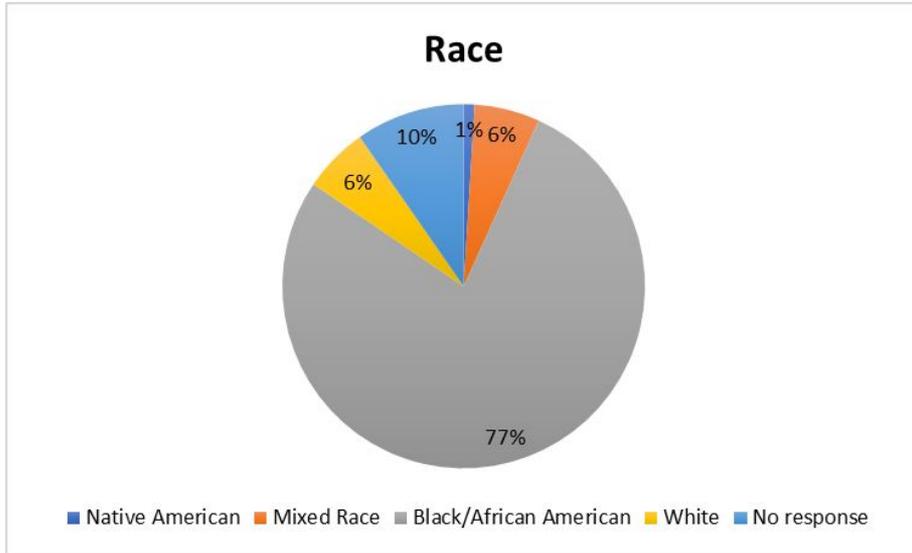
# Survey Respondent Zip Code Distribution



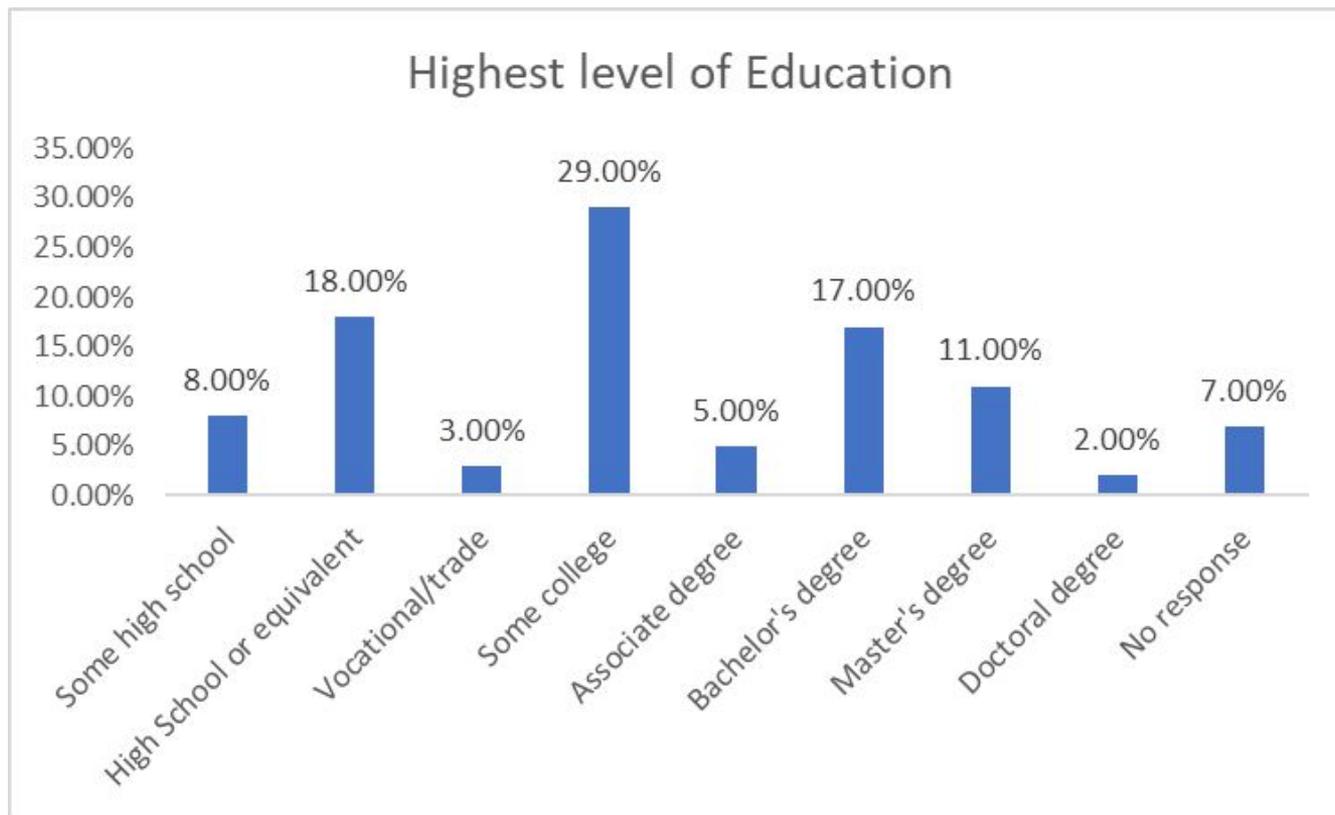
# Survey Participants



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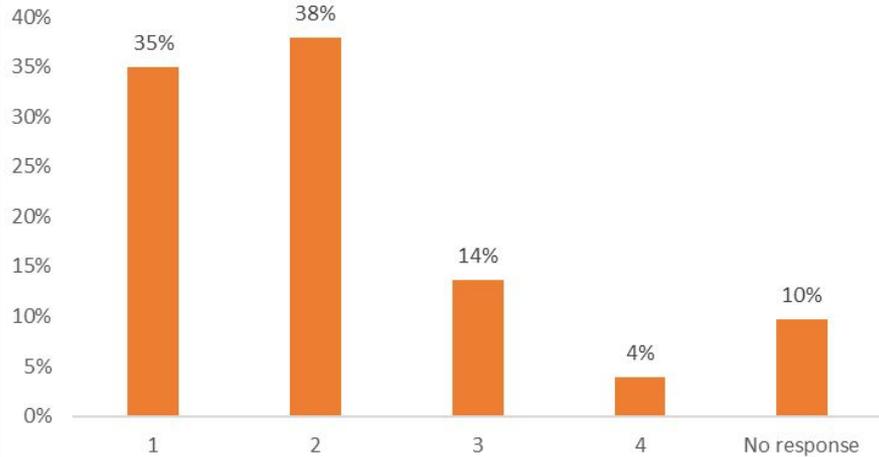


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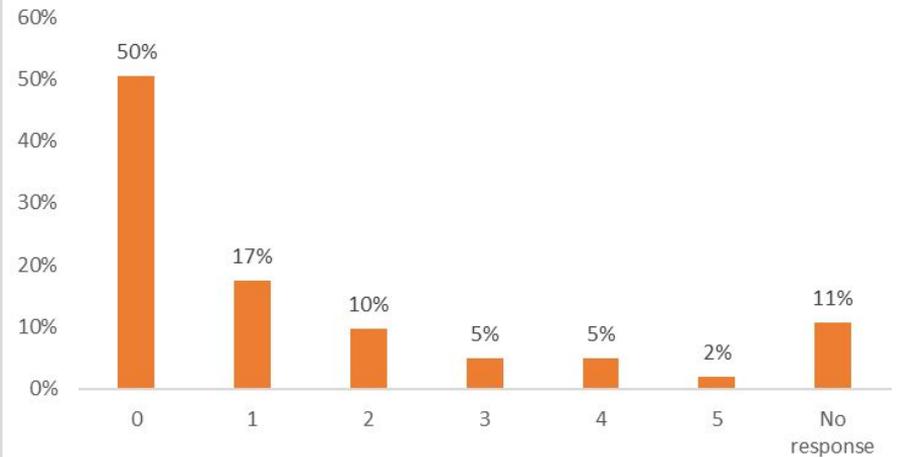


# Survey Participants

## Number of Adults in Household

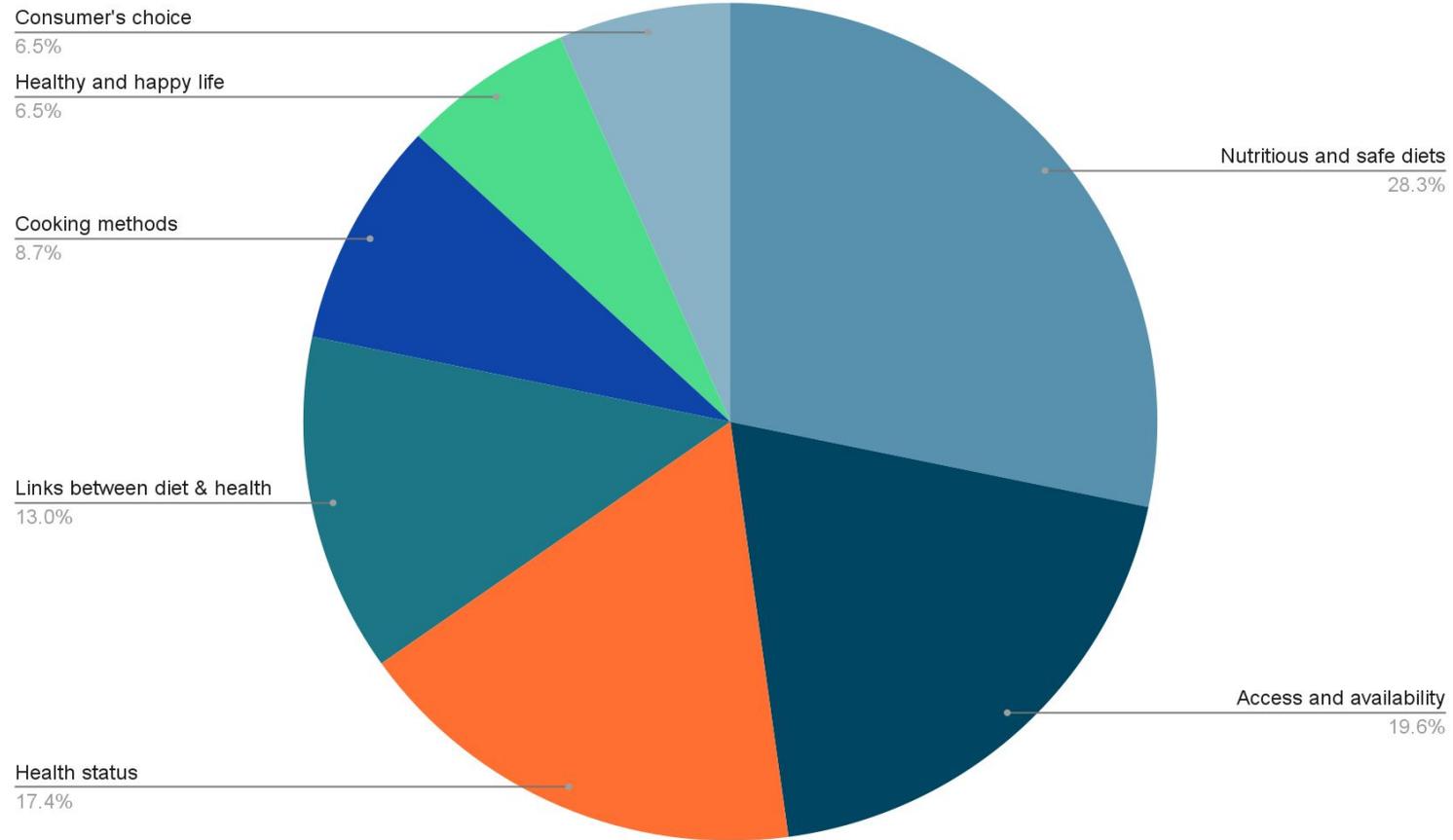


## Number of Children in Household

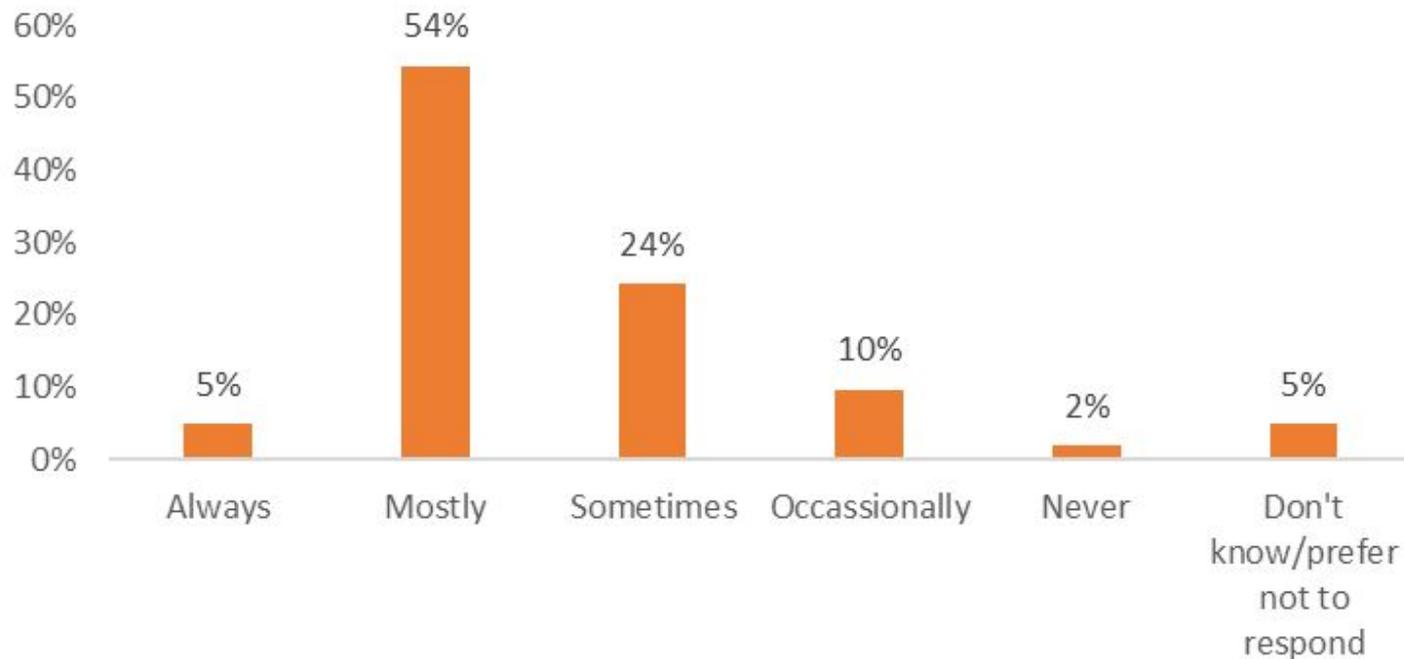


# Perceptions of Healthy Meals

# Community's perception of healthy food

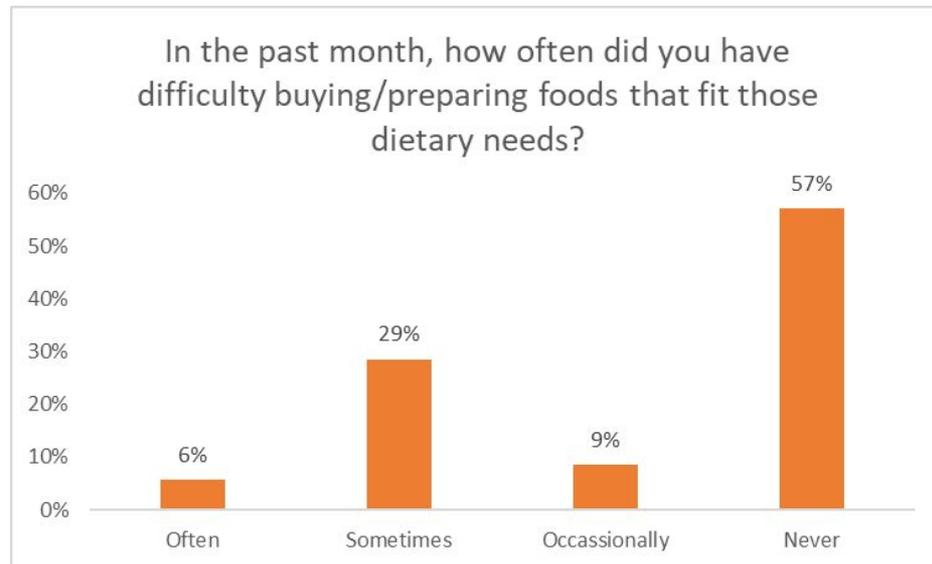
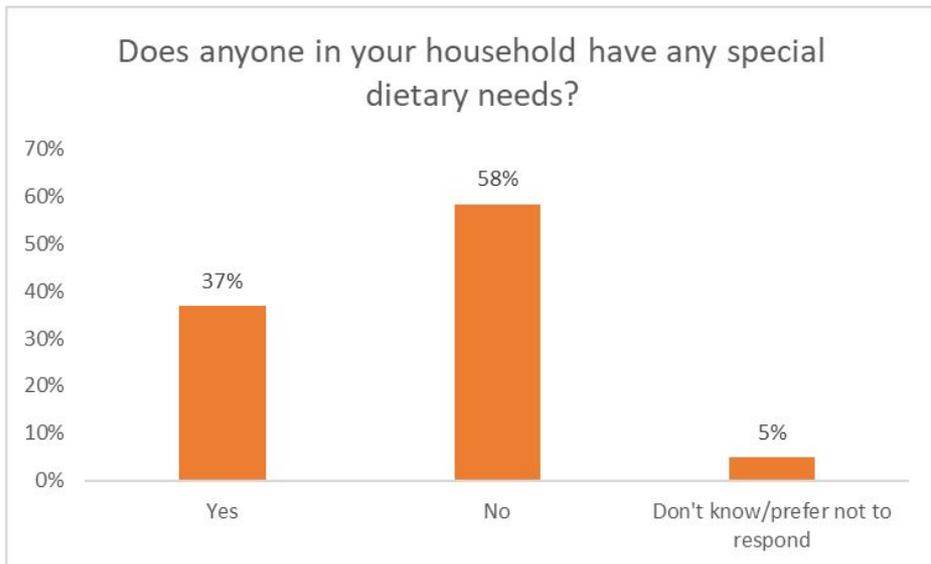


Based on your description of healthy food, how healthy or not healthy is your diet?



# Special Dietary Needs

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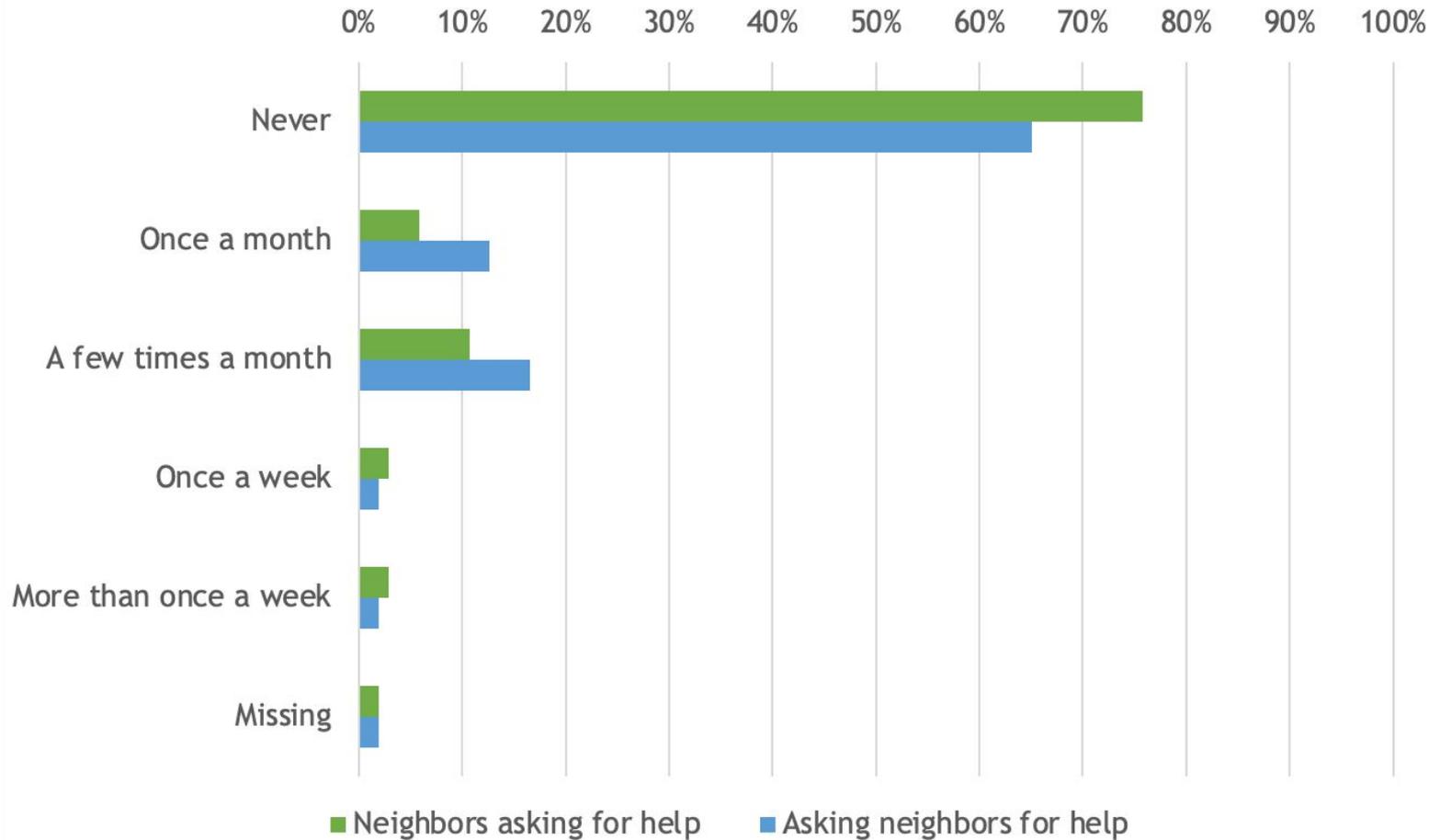


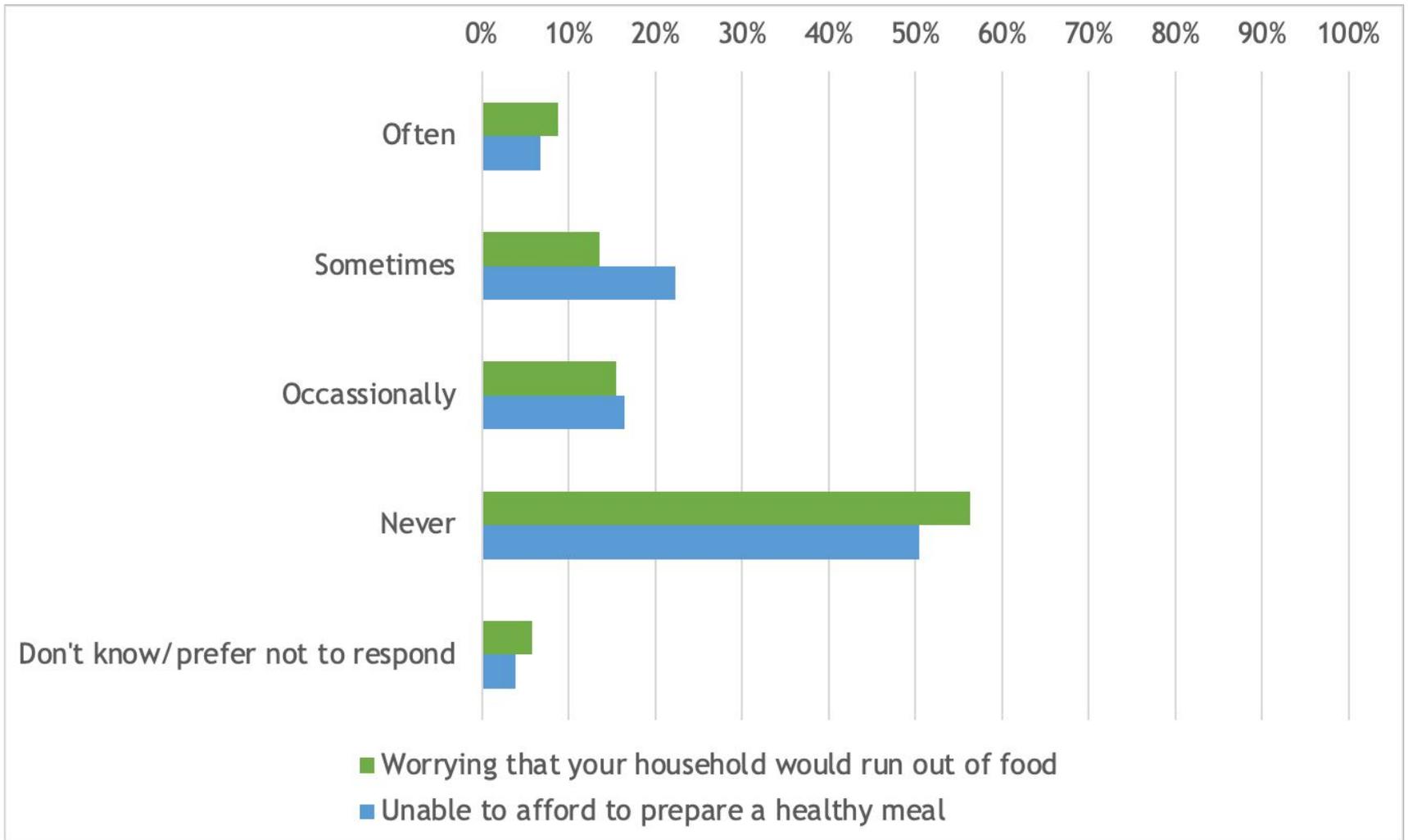
# Food Access

# Perception of the challenges to access healthy food

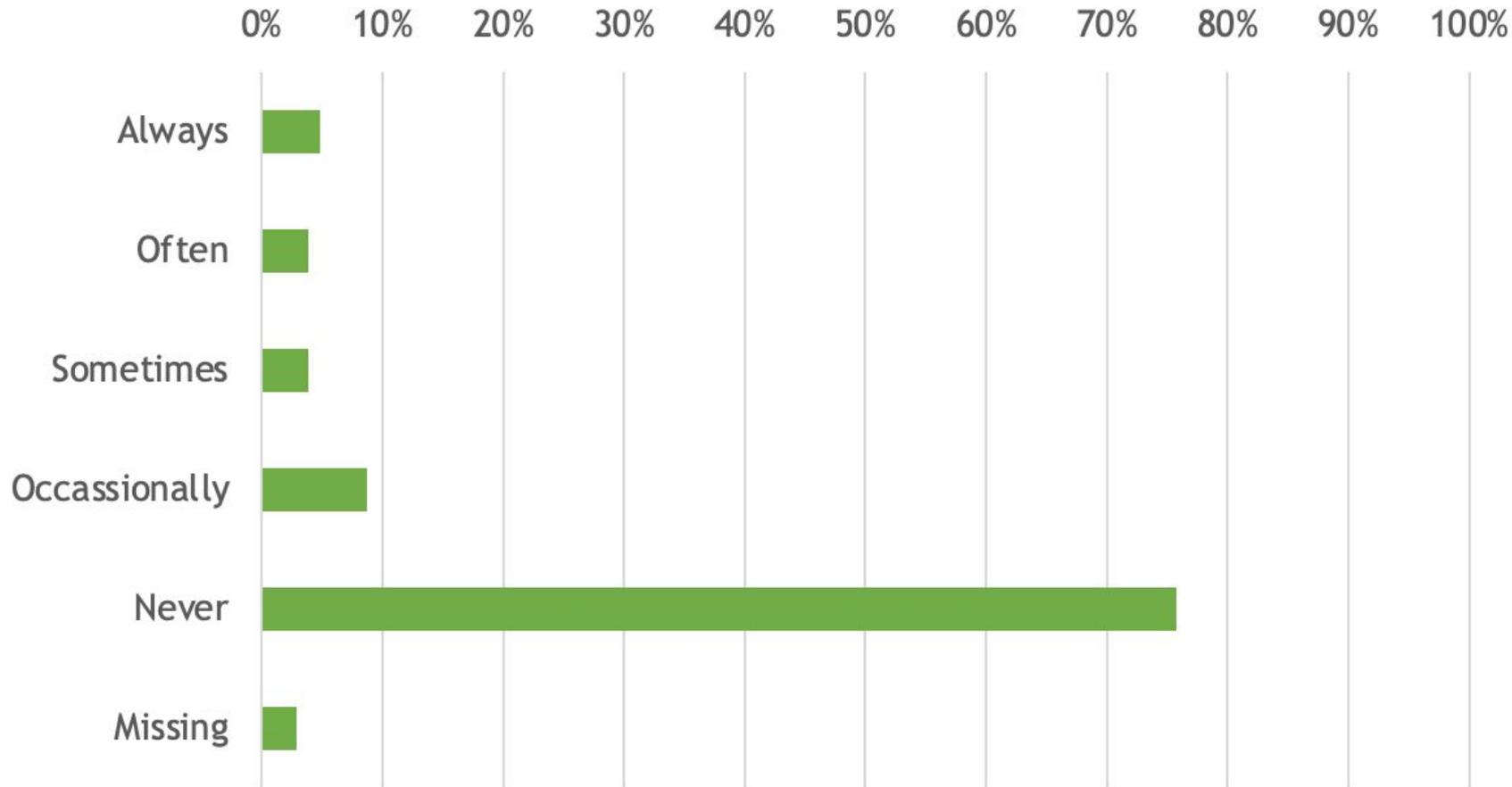
Challenges	Freq	Type of challenges (by category)	Focus groups findings
Affordability and cost	34	Affordability and cost (general), insufficiency of social services	<p><i>“The cost of food provides food insecurity... because if I don’t live close to a grocery store where I can get 3 for 10\$, and the only thing around me are dollar stores, and I have to go buy that one item for 5\$, then that's creating food insecurity.”</i></p> <p><i>“Out east everything is fried like just to go buy a salad you got to get at least to Main Street ... well I guess you got McDonalds if they have a salad when you go there, but there's not a lot, there’s more liquor stores on the east side of Gainesville, than places to get a meal.”</i></p>
Access and availability	30	Access and availability (general), transportation, lack of convenient access to grocery options, lack of access to produce, lack of quality ingredients, illness, unhealthy restaurants, COVID	
Not a challenge	21		
Lack of interest or motivation	21	Apathy, lack of interest by others in the home, not wanting to cook, wanting or buying unhealthy food	--
Lack of time	19	Lack of time (general), too busy to cook, cooking takes a long time, too busy to get to the stores	<p><i>“this week, can I feed my family? and though it may not be the healthiest, it may not be... the best quality.. is it good enough to feed my family today, and tomorrow, and the next day?”</i></p>
Lack of knowledge or Skill	12	Cooking knowledge, lack of education on healthy food	

## Asking for help getting groceries

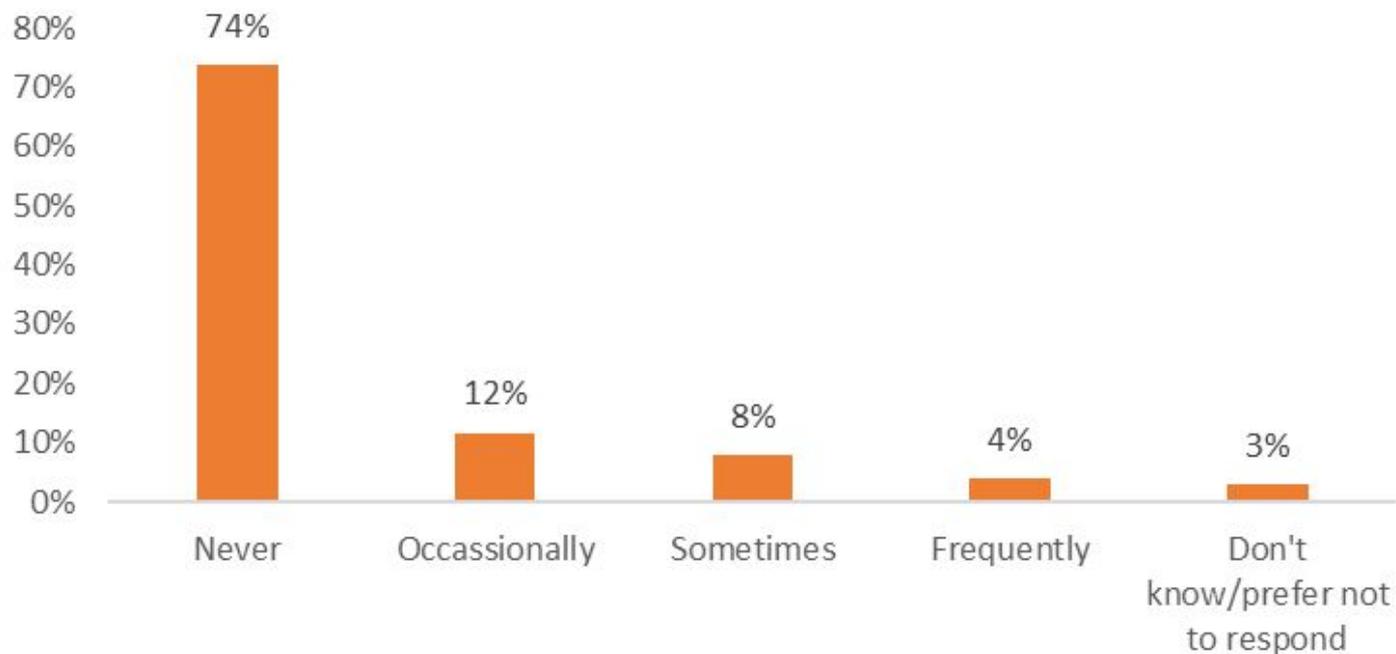




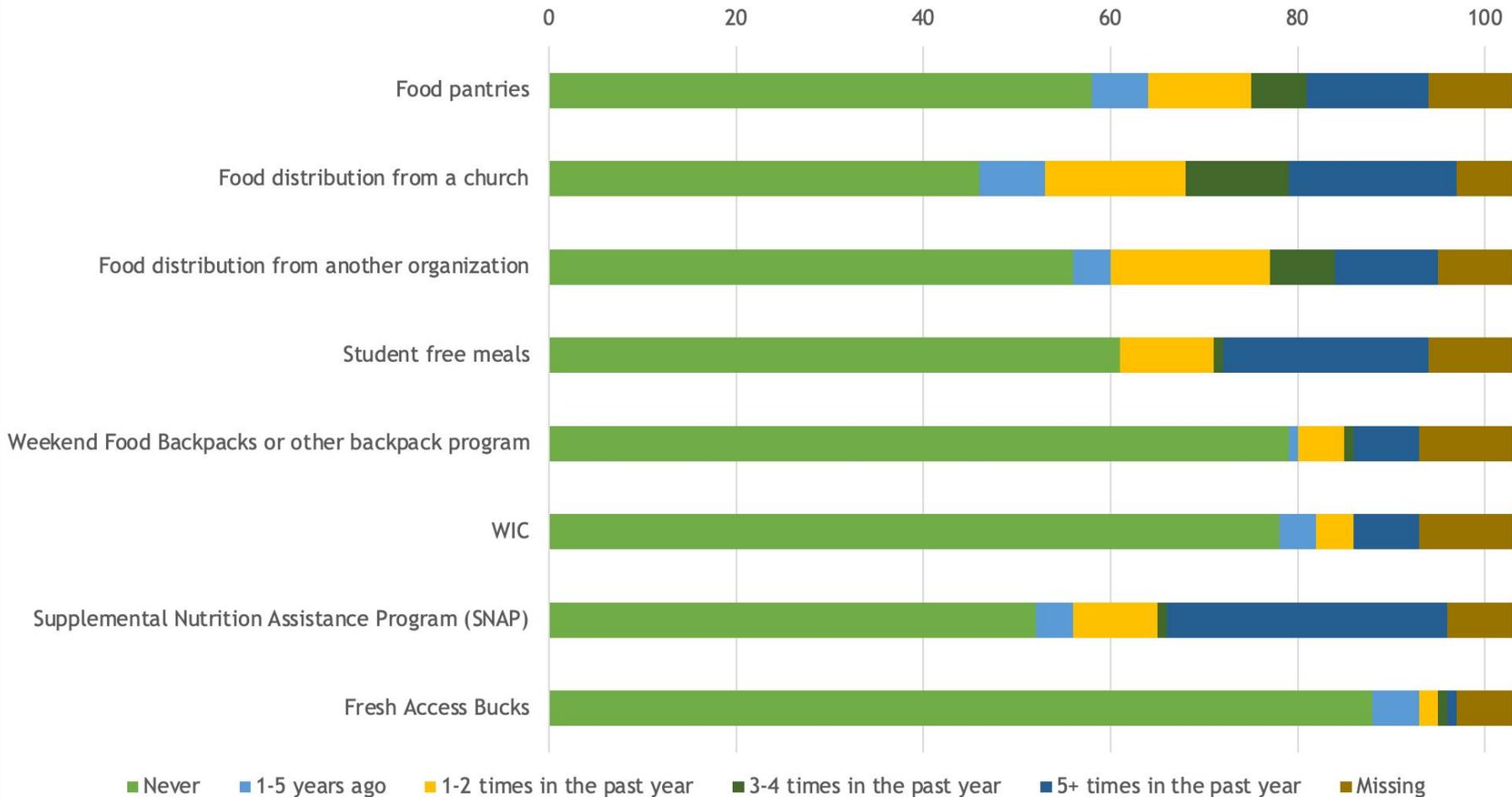
## How often do you use public transportation to get groceries?



## How often do you have issues with refrigeration or with storing food?



## Utilization of Food Access Programs



# Improving Food Access in SE Gainesville

# Ideas to Improve Food Access

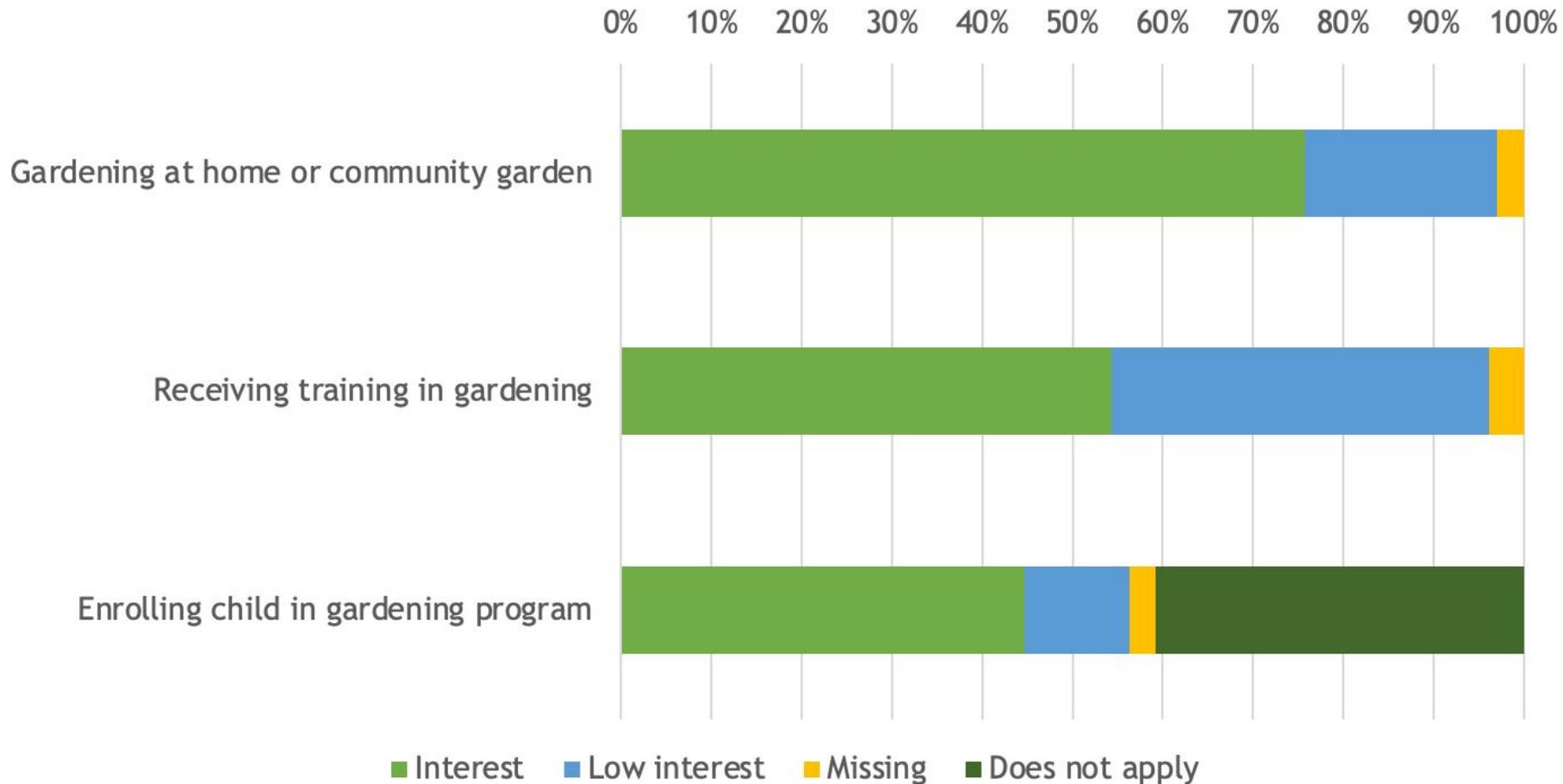
1. Economic development - grocery store, markets, farmers' markets/farm stands
2. Improvements to free food distribution programs
3. Transportation
4. Community education - shopping, cooking, preparing healthy meals; gardening. Focus groups findings: focus on children, any education campaign needs to be long-term, culturally relevant, engaging and trendy.
5. Community gardens
6. Increase awareness of assets, programs, and other resources available to community members

# Contributions Community Members are Willing to Make

1. Volunteering - 37
  - a. General/not specified - 15
  - b. Provide education services -13
  - c. Community garden - 6
  - d. Transportation services - 3
2. Assist neighbors (e.g., cooking, sharing food) - 12
3. Idea sharing, providing suggestions and feedback - 10
4. Community planning and/or organizing - 10
5. Collaboration and networking - 7

# Community Gardening

## Levels of interest in gardening opportunities



## Percent of respondents interested in community gardening tasks

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Gardening workshops



Plant food household



Collaborate to feed neighborhood households



Food waste for composting



Gardening events



Maintenance and upkeep



Other



# Focus Group Findings

Gardening is **unlikely to help families who are already in high stress**, face high demands, are overtired from 2-3 jobs, single parents and low income.

However, gardening **can be part of the solution** for those residents who can and want to be involved, but may lack training and resources.

# Additional Qualitative Findings

# Southeast Gainesville is wealthy with social capital.

“My neighborhood, **we look out for each other**. Whatever is going on, if it's food distribution or if it's a strange person in the neighborhood, we have each other's phone numbers and **we can call and tell them what the situation is.**”

“**Everyone knows everyone**, and even though I just moved here a month ago, everyone was so **welcoming and kind**. I feel like I am safe in this neighborhood. And **I plan on feeding everyone** in my neighborhood with food I am growing in my yard.”

“I try to stay in communication with the **people I know who are connected to the community**, so I often hear from people I know in social services **notifying me of what's needed**, so I always try to either volunteer or donate money.”

“[My child] fell off his bike and pierced his gum. The **dentist got a hose and washed him off**, said he didn't break a tooth, he's going to be okay. So I said, **thank goodness I don't have to go in** [to the doctor's office].”

However, a small number of respondents expressed a sense of disconnection from their neighbors.

“I have been here a while but **I do not communicate with neighbors**. I like that it's quiet most of the time.”

“**Everybody sticks to themselves**, almost like survival of the fittest.”

# The atmosphere, safety, & aesthetics of a neighborhood have a big impact on how people feel about it.

“I live in a complex of 10 or 12 apartments and it is **nice to have some privacy**. I also live in a **neighborhood tucked away** so people don't just come by without intention.”

“[We value] the **appearance** of the neighborhood, the **pride** members of the community have.”

“It sure it is not the same way it used to be. There is violence with guns. **I don't let my kids outside**; my kids cannot be kids like I grew up.”

“I don't like it. **Maintenance is wack**, roaches, A/C broke for a month, was out for a year.”

# Many residents care for their neighbors and community.

“I help take leftover food to people who need it, especially houseless people. I **find out what their needs are and try to help out.** I drop boxes off to the camps.”

“We work. But **would be willing to get involved in gardening** especially with young kids and how to break ground.”

“I think **we all look out for each other.** We help each other, we try to **give food to one another** and have enough to share. When we have cookouts, **we try to make sure our elderly neighbors are taken care of** and have a plate of food.”

“I never say no to anyone and I **am always giving people help.**”

At the same time, deep place-based memory is an important asset of Southeast Gainesville.

“[We value] the **traditions and history** of being one of the first in an all-black neighborhood; **living in a neighborhood for decades** with friends gives an added comfort.”

“They **been here all their lives** and raised families and **seen lots of changes** like stores coming to East Gainesville.”

And many expressed a lack of or need for a service or resource in their community.

### Grocery stores

Healthier choices

Activities for youth

Gardens

Better transportation

Police presence

A gym

Resource centers

A wider variety of stores

Specific community organizations

Fresh produce

Better education on specific topics

Economic development

Healthy restaurants

A swimming pool

A Starbucks

# Questions for Consideration

# Asset Mapping Questions

1. Who in the community would be most likely to **seek one out**?
2. Who would be most likely to **use it**? And for **what purpose**?
3. What **format(s)** would be most accessible to those audiences?
4. What **goal(s)** should the asset map prioritize?
5. What **kinds of assets** should we include and exclude?
6. What **characteristics** of assets would people most want to know?
7. Where should we draw **geographic boundaries**?
8. Should this be **different** from the resources included [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)? How?
9. How can we most effectively **disseminate** it to the community?