



# York County Community Food Assessment



**SEPTEMBER  
2022**

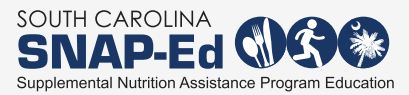
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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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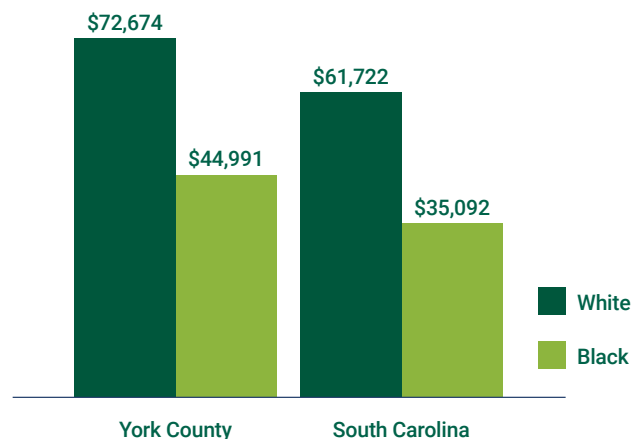
## Getting to Know York County

York County is in the upper midlands area of South Carolina, in the Charlotte Metropolitan region. In 2022, the land area was 681.03 square miles. There are **414.2** people per square mile, up from 332.2 people per square mile, in 2010 according to American Community Survey (ACS). York County is ranked number two in the state of overall health outcomes, according to [countyhealthrankings.org](https://www.countyhealthrankings.org). Within our county, we have 3 institutions of higher education, Clinton College, Winthrop University, and York Technical College. With multiple higher education institutions and our proximity to Charlotte, N.C., our average household income is **\$68,555** (ACS 2022). According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, York County's average weekly wage of **\$952** is higher than the S.C. average weekly wage of \$924. There are significant disparities in income across census tracts and racial groups, which affects residents' access to nutritious food. To address these issues, we will use this inaugural community food assessment to initiate conversations around creating equitable food systems in York County, S.C.



### MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME, BY RACE

Per the 2019 American Community Survey, the 5-year estimated median household income for white households in York County was **\$72,674**, and black households was **\$44,991**. In South Carolina, the median household income for white households was **\$61,722**, and black households was **\$35,092**.



## TOTAL POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

According to ACS, in 2022 the estimated population of York County, S.C. was 282,090. In 2021, the estimated population was 288,595. South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) vital statistics records show a 25.4% increase in York County's population from 2011–2022.

Race and Ethnicity	York County	South Carolina
Non-Hispanic White	70.1%	64.4%
Non-Hispanic Black	19.6%	27%
Hispanic/Latino	6.3%	6.1%

## TOTAL POPULATION BY AGE

Age Range	York County
0-9	14%
10-19	13%
20-29	11%
30-39	13%
40-49	14%
50-59	14%
60-69	11%
70-79	7%
80+	3%

In York County, the median age was 38.9 between 2016–2022 (ACS 2022).

## TOTAL POPULATION BY GENDER

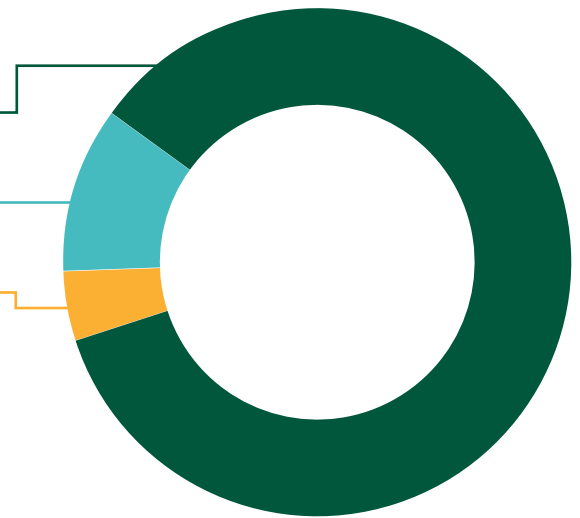
Gender	York County	South Carolina
Female	51.8%	51%
Male	48.2%	49%
Other	<1%	<1%



## TOTAL POPULATION EMPLOYMENT STATUS

In 2022, the annual unemployment rate for York County was 6.1%, which was lower than the S.C. average of 6.2% and the U.S. average of 8.1% (S.C. Department of Employment & Workforce 2021).

Class of Worker	Number	Percent
Private wage and salary workers	115,550	85.1%
Federal, state, and local government workers	14,220	10.5%
Self-employed workers	5,898	4.3%



## TOTAL POPULATION EDUCATION

Highest Level of Education, Age 25+ Years	York County	South Carolina
Less than high school	9.2%	12.5%
High school graduate/GED	25.1%	29.1%
Some college, no degree	21.9%	20.5%
Associate degree	10.4%	9.8%
Bachelor's degree or higher	22.4%	17.8%
Graduate or professional degree	10.9%	10.3%

## HOUSEHOLD INCOME

York County, S.C. 2016-2022 (ACS)

Income Range	Percent
Less than \$10,000	4.5%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	3.5%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	7.0%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	8.8%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	12.1%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	17.7%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	13.3%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	17.4%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	7.7%
\$200,000 or more	7.9%

## POVERTY RATES BY AGE GROUP

York County, S.C. 2016-2022 (ACS)

Age Range	Percent
People in poverty	9.5%
Children under 18 years below poverty	12.2%
People 65 years old and over below poverty	8.2%
People 18 to 64 years below poverty	8.8%



## YORK COUNTY HOUSING DATA 2016-2022

A SCDHEC analysis of court administration records, showed York County has **32.3%** eviction filings for renter households. According to the “Out of Reach Report” by the National Low Income Housing Coalition in 2022, there was a wage gap of **\$7.27** per hour preventing renters from allocating less than 30% of their income towards housing expenses.

Housing Data	Values
Owner-occupied housing unit rate	72.3%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units	\$218,400
Median selected monthly owner costs with a mortgage	\$1,404
Median selected monthly owner costs without a mortgage	\$374
Median gross rent	\$1,011



### RATE OF SEVERE RENTER COST BURDEN

**22.7%** in York County

**24.0%** in South Carolina

*Note: 5-year estimates, represents households spending at least 1/2 of income on rent and utilities or not having any income at all.*

### HOMELESS POPULATION

York County, S.C. 2022

In 2022, York County had a total homeless population of **209**. Of these:

**59** were **unsheltered**.

**103** were **sheltered**.

**13** were **veterans**.

**34** were **chronically homeless**.

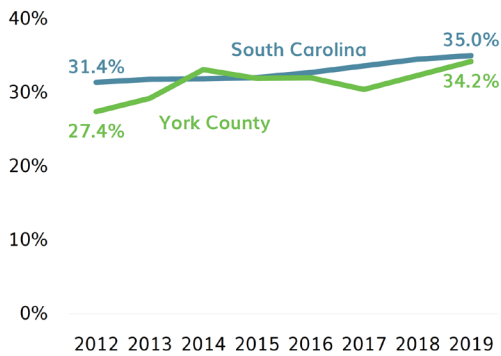
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# York County Health Indicators

York County's second ranking in the state concerning health outcomes does not eliminate disparities between populations. Our health is determined by 80% of societal factors and causes. Throughout the health indicators data section, we will explore some of those gaps and inequities.



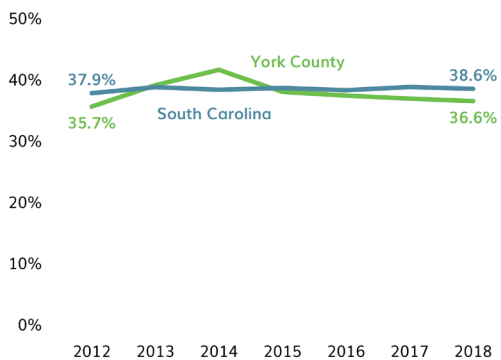
## Obesity



Source: SC BRFSS. Notes: 3-year rolling average, adults 18+.

In 2012, the percent of adults over 18 years old with obesity was **31.4%** in South Carolina and **27.4%** in York County. In 2019, this percentage rose to **35.0%** in South Carolina and **34.2%** in York County.

## Hypertension



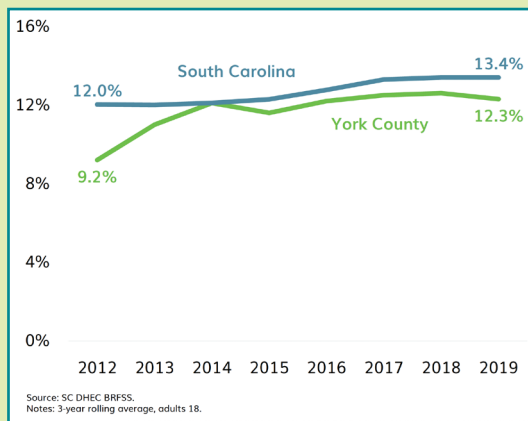
Source: SC DHEC BRFSS. Notes: 3-year rolling average, adults 18+.

In 2012, the percent of adults over 18 years old with hypertension was **37.9%** in South Carolina and **35.7%** in York County. In 2019, this percentage was **38.6%** in South Carolina and **36.6%** in York County.

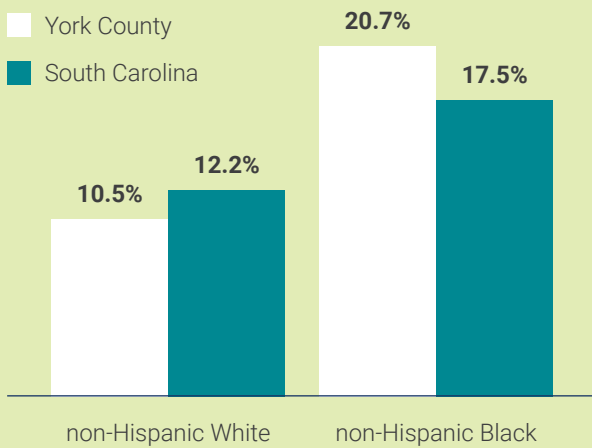


## Type-2 Diabetes

In 2012, the percent of adults over 18 years old with type-2 diabetes was **12.0%** in South Carolina and **9.2%** in York County. In 2019, it rose to **13.4%** in South Carolina and **12.3%** in York County.



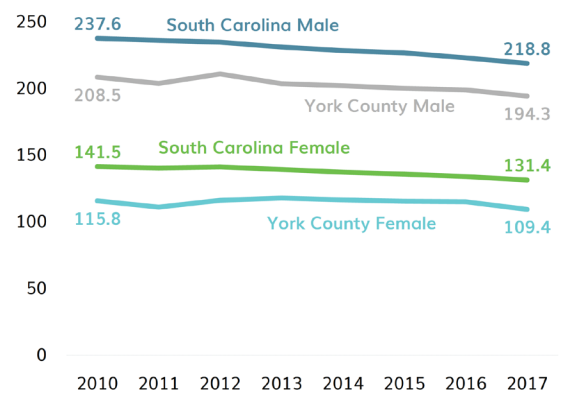
Between 2016–2020, the percent of non-Hispanic white adults with type-2 diabetes was **12.2%** in South Carolina and **10.5%** in York County. The percent of non-Hispanic Black adults with type-2 diabetes was **17.5%** in South Carolina and **20.7%** in York County.



## Heart Disease

In 2010, the rate of adult males with heart disease was **237.6** per 100,000 in South Carolina and **208.5** in York County. By 2017, these rates decreased to **218.8** in and **194.3** respectively.

For adult females, in 2010, the rate of heart disease per 100,000 was **141.5** in South Carolina and **115.8** in York County. By 2017, these rates reduced to **131.4** and **109.4** respectively.



Source: SC DHEC Vital Statistics. Notes: 5-year rolling average, age-adjusted.



## 3

## Food Access

Information provided by the S.C. Local Food System Roadmap (SCLFSR) has been used to identify food access points and view locations of food production throughout the county.



### Farmers' Markets and Agricultural Sites

York County provides about 3% of state agricultural sales. There are no packing or processing organizations indicated in the SCLFSR.



**19** Roadside stands and farmers' markets



**22** Animal production sites



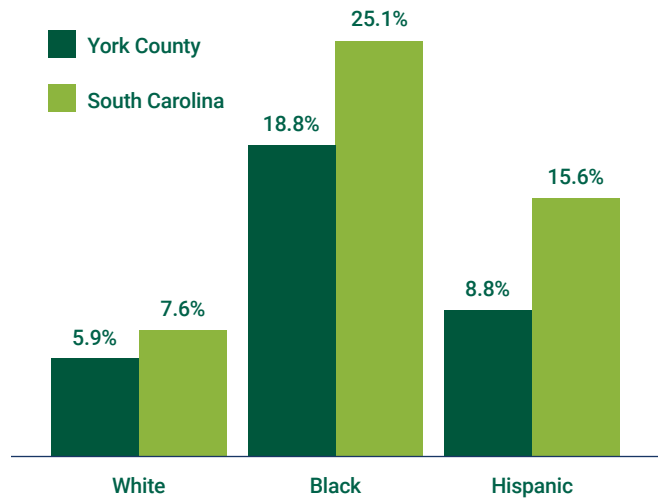
**20** Crop production sites



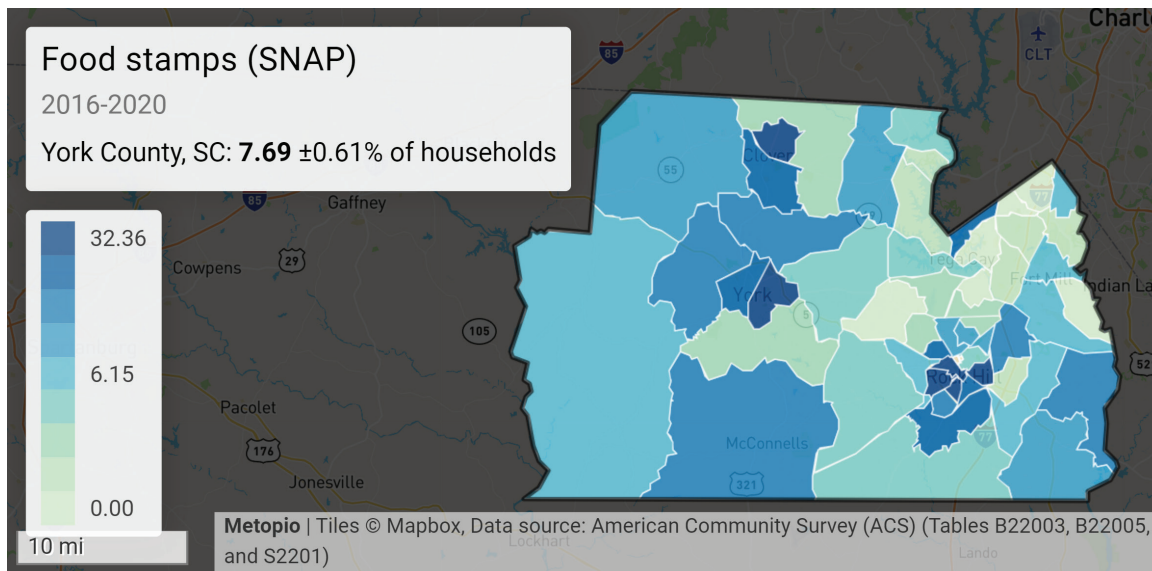
**26** Lawn, farm, and garden sites

### SNAP DATA FOR YORK COUNTY

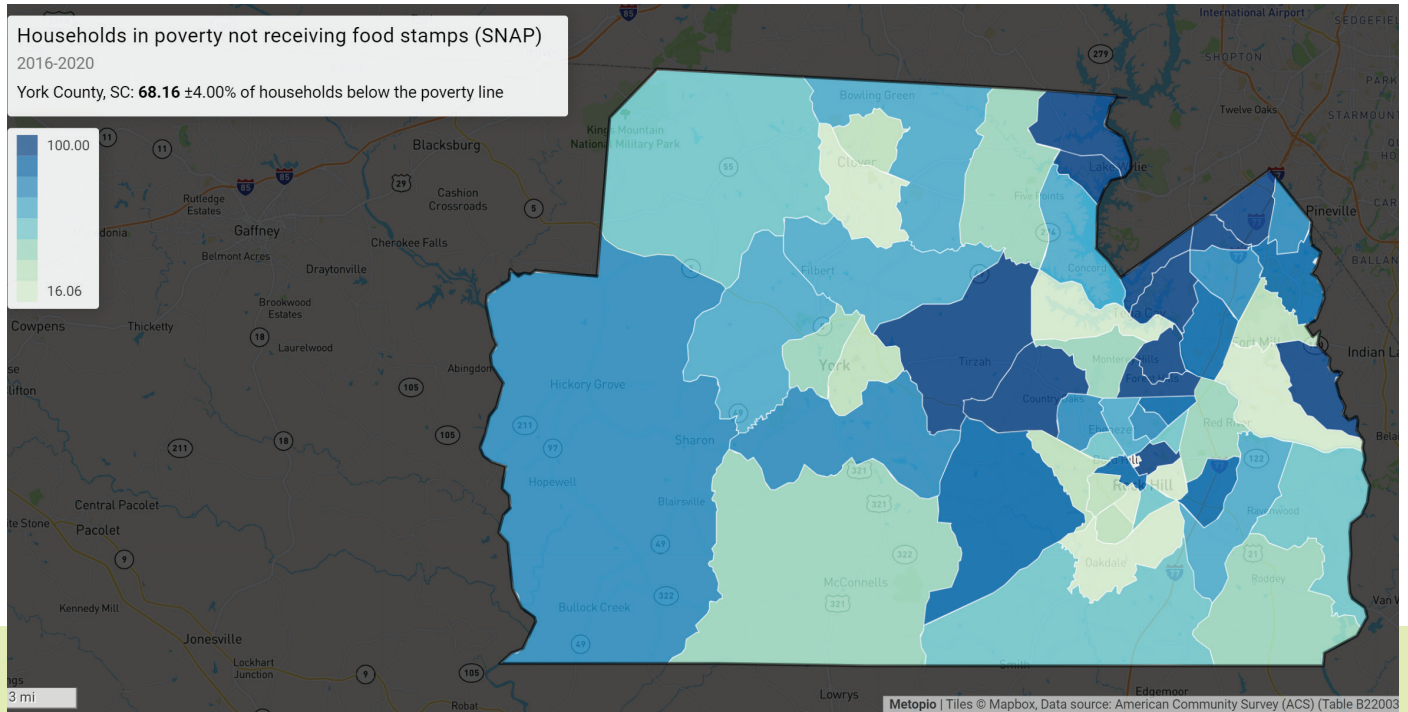
In 2019, the percent of households in York County receiving food stamps/SNAP was **5.9%** for white households, **18.8%** for Black households, and **8.8%** for Hispanic/Latino households. The percent of households in South Carolina receiving food stamps/SNAP was **7.6%** for white households, **25.1%** for Black households, and **15.6%** for Hispanic/Latino households. This information was pulled from the American Community Survey in 2019 based on 5-year estimates.



### Percent of households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps, benefits over the past 12 months:



## Households below poverty level that did not receive food stamps/snap in the past 12 months:



Reasons people in poverty might not receive SNAP benefits, aside from not being aware of their eligibility or failing to sign up:

- Having resources beyond a specified threshold, such as money in a bank account or vehicles, even if their income falls below the poverty line.
- Failing to meet necessary work requirements.
- Being undocumented immigrants or lacking legal status.
- Being engaged in a labor strike.
- Being eligible for limited periods, such as three months within a three year period, especially adults without dependent children.



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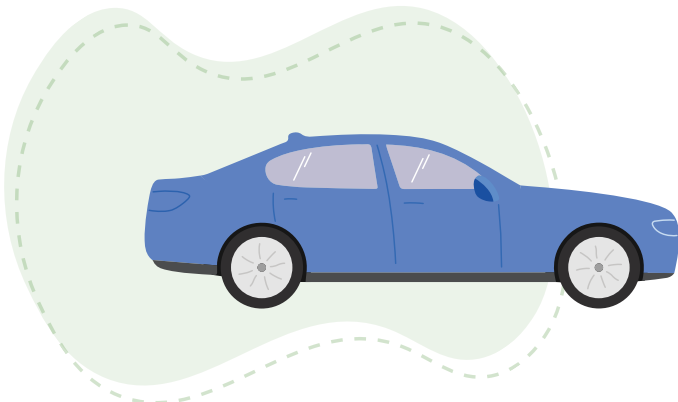
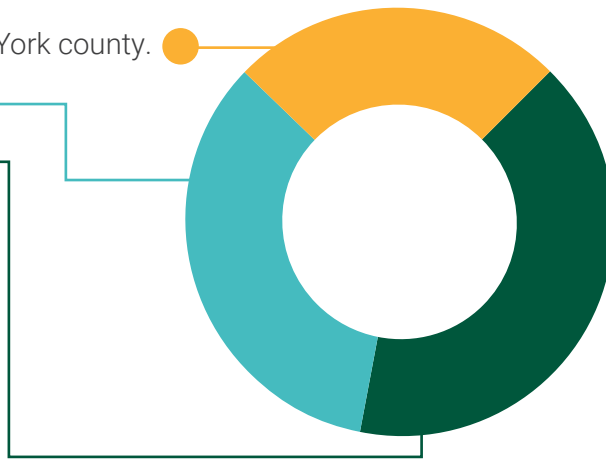
## Transportation

According to ACS between 2016–2022, the mean travel time to work was 27.8 minutes for workers over the age of sixteen.



According to a 2022 report from the SC Department of Employment and Workforce:

- **25.3%** of commuters work and live in York county.
- **34.2%** were in-commuters.
- **40.5%** were out-commuters.



## 5

## Talking to the Community

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The York County Food Policy Council (FPC) and Impact York County (IYC) conducted community food gatherings where healthy food choices were offered in Rock Hill's and Fort Mill's historically excluded communities. Residents were interested in becoming more involved and/or informed of initiatives and opportunities in York County. In Fort Mill we provided attending residents with \$25 gift cards. We look forward to building lasting relationships within these communities as well as supporting their grassroots efforts through evidence-based programming.



### The following common themes emerged from the community gatherings.

Attendees were:

- Thankful for having the opportunity to discuss issues and have an active seat at the table.
- Interested in creating and/or enhancing relationships with elected officials, community leaders, LEOs, churches, etc.
- Concerned with health issues such as hypertension, diabetes, behavioral health, and access to dental care.
- Concerned with barriers to healthy living, such as:
  - Safety,
  - Lack of transportation,
  - Location of grocery stores and healthcare facilities,
  - Distrust of systems,
  - Low income/affordability, and
  - Eroding or nonexistent infrastructure like sidewalks, better trails at parks to walk, livable wages and affordable housing.

## SURVEY DATA

In partnership with Dr. Duane Neff, an associate professor at Winthrop University, we created a survey to measure food security needs and access through the York County food system.

### Survey Questions and Responses

**1** Which of the following statements best describes the food eaten in your household in the past 12 months?

A. Enough of the kinds of food we want to eat

62%

B. Enough but not always the kinds of food we want to eat

32%

C. Sometimes not enough to eat

6%

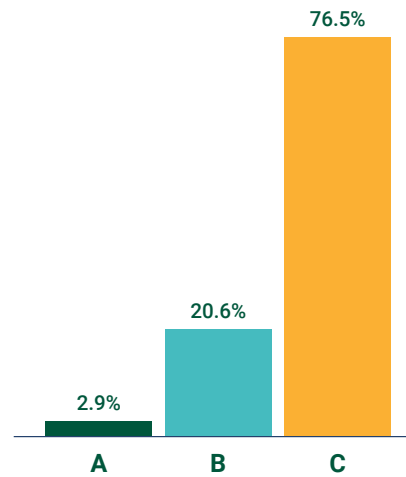


**2** Indicate whether the following statements were often true, sometimes true, or never true for your household in the last 12 months.

Statement	Often True	Sometimes True	Never True	Don't Know
I can't afford to eat balanced meals.	9%	30.3%	60.6%	0%
I worry that I will not eat the right food for my health because I can't get the food I need even though I have the money.	8.8%	23.5%	64.7%	2.9%
I worry that I will not eat the right food for my health because I am unable to prepare a meal even though I have food in the house.	0%	47.1%	52.9%	0%
I worry that our food will run out before I get money to buy more.	5.9%	26.5%	67.6%	0%
The food that I buy doesn't last, and I don't have money to get more.	5.9%	20.6%	73.5%	0%

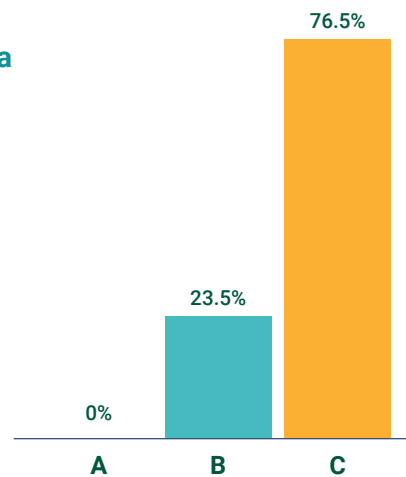
**3** In the last 12 months, did you ever eat less than you felt you needed because you couldn't get food even though you had money for food?

- A. Don't know **2.9%** ●
- B. Yes **20.6%** ●
- C. No **76.5%** ●



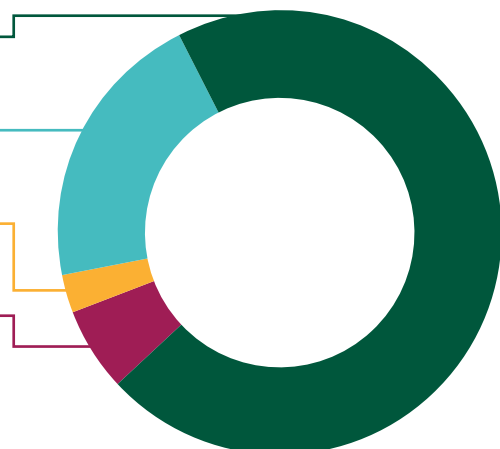
**4** In the last 12 months, did you ever eat less than you felt you needed because you were unable to prepare a meal even though you had food in the house?

- A. Don't know **0%** ●
- B. Yes **23.5%** ●
- C. No **76.5%** ●



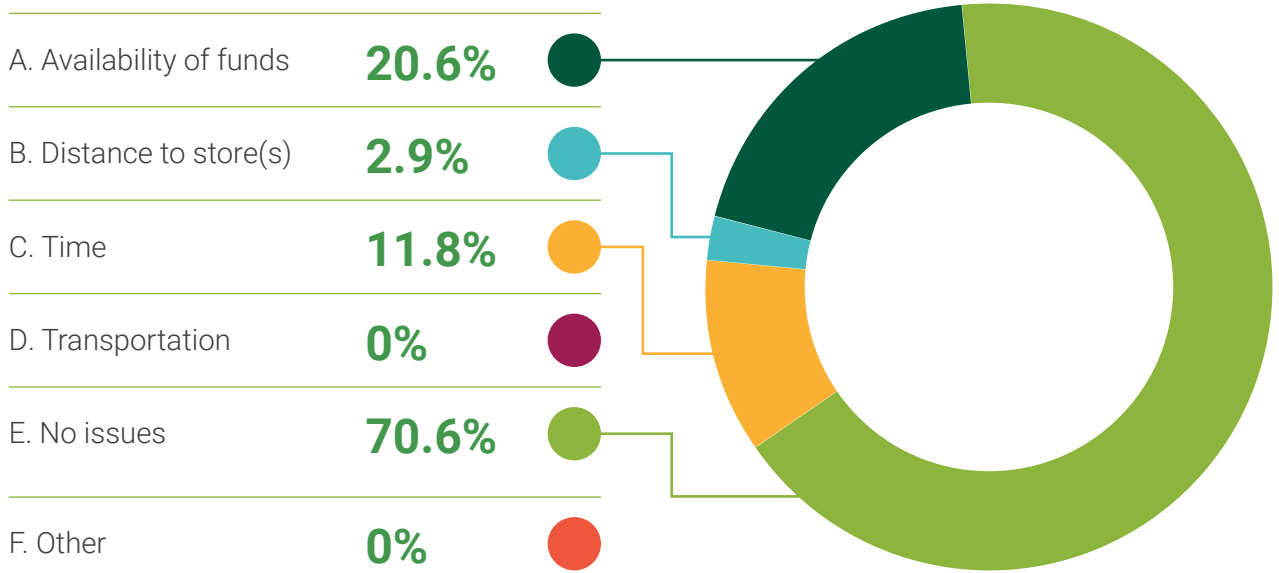
**5** Is it difficult or easy for you to get to a grocery store (i.e., lack of transportation, time, or location)?

- A. Easy **70.6%** ●
- B. Somewhat easy **20.6%** ●
- C. Neutral **2.9%** ●
- D. Somewhat difficult **5.9%** ●
- E. Difficult **0%** ●





**6** In the past 12 months were there times you or your household did not have access to nutritious and safe foods? If yes, identify the reasons below. Choose all that apply.

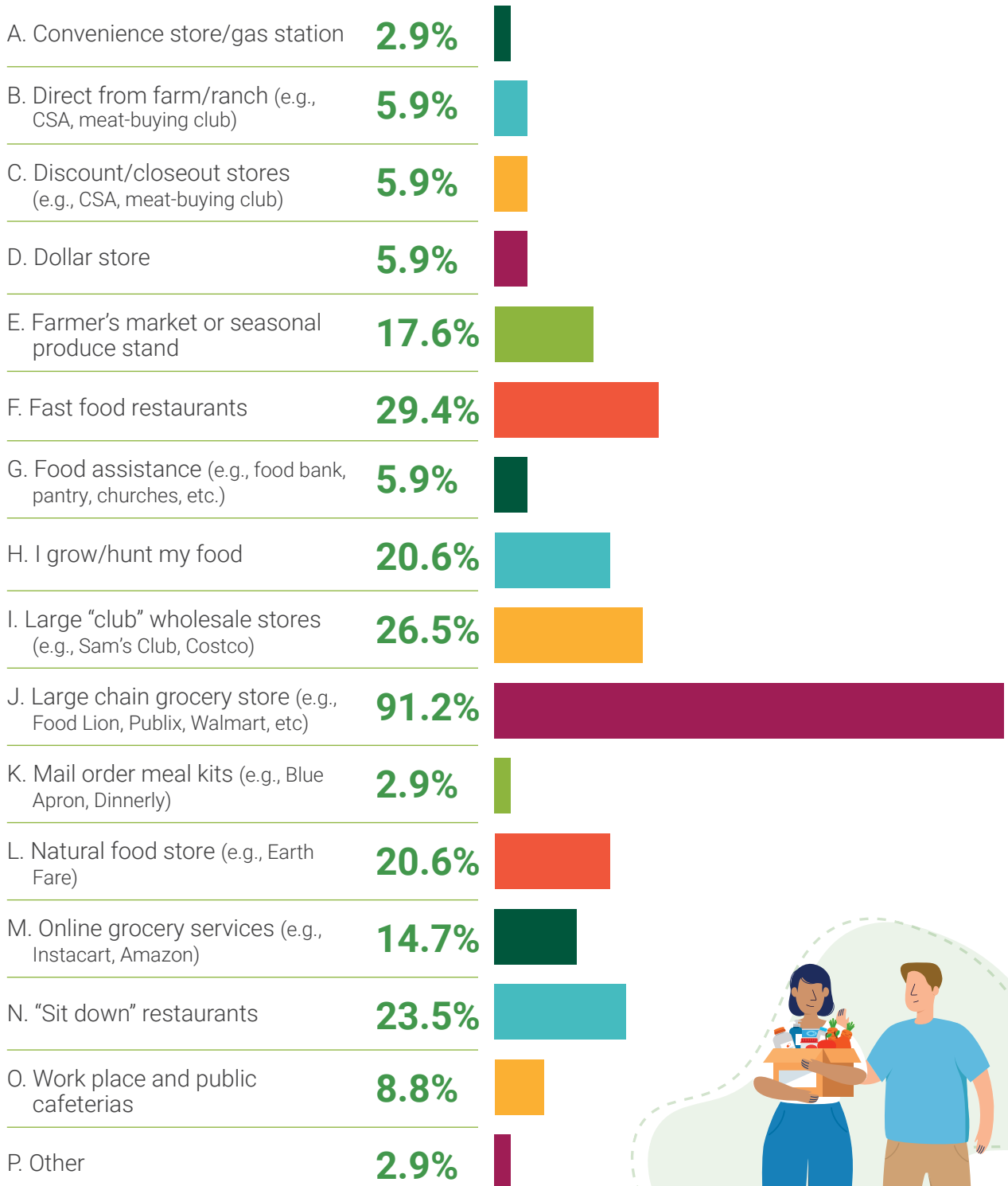


**7** On a scale of 1–7 where one is, “not at all important” and seven is, “extremely important,” how important is each of the following to your household?

Statement	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Eating a balanced meal (containing protein, vegetables, and fruit)	0%	0%	0%	5.9%	11.8%	23.5%	58.8%
Eating a healthy meal	0%	0%	2.9%	2.9%	5.9%	32.4%	55.9%
Eating together	5.9%	0%	2.9%	20.6%	17.6%	23.5%	29.4%
Making dinner at home	0%	0%	3.0%	12.1%	27.3%	33.3%	24.2%
Periodically including your favorite foods	0%	2.9%	0%	5.9%	8.8%	41.2%	41.2%

8

Where do you usually buy the food eaten in your household? Select all that apply with focus on places you buy from at least once per week.



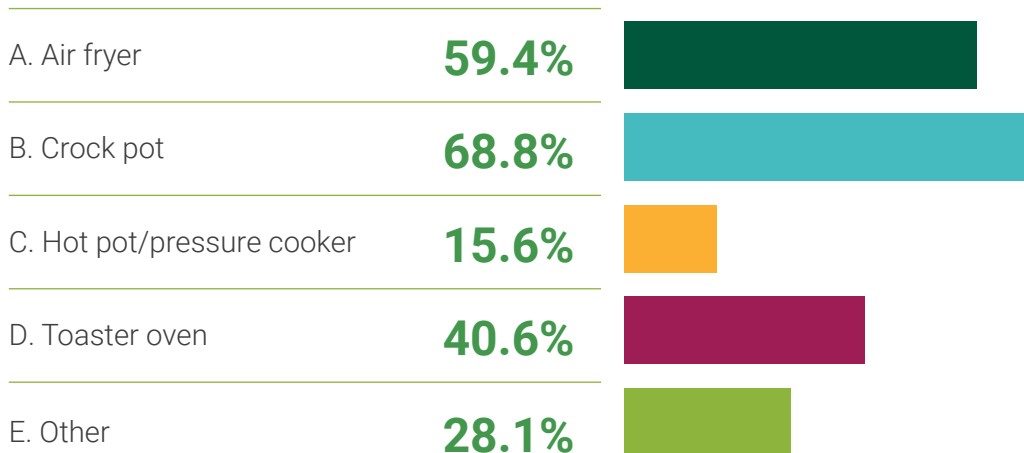
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On a scale of 1–7 where one is, “not at all important” and seven is, “extremely important,” how important are the following qualities when choosing where to purchase food?

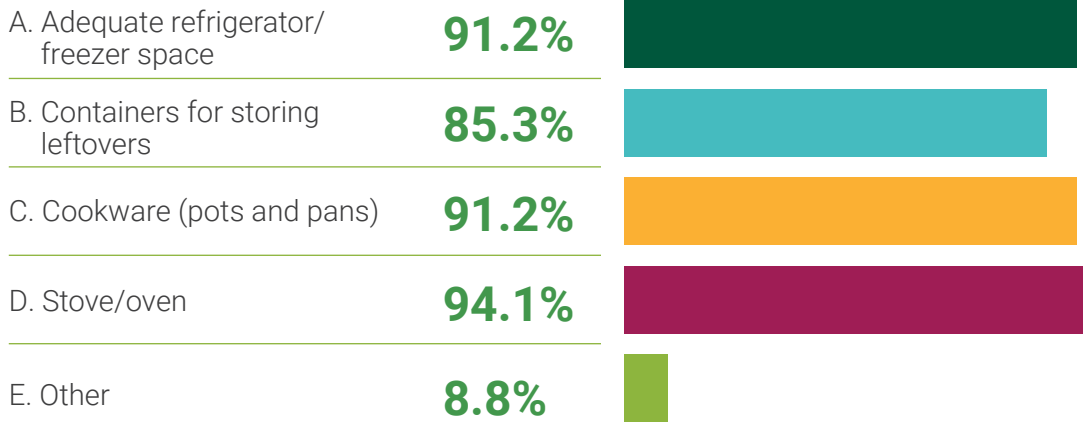
Statement	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Appearance of store	0%	5/9%	2.9%	20.6%	11.8%	26.5%	32.4%
Availability of foods specific to culture	5.9%	5.9%	5.9%	35.5%	17.6%	11.8%	17.6%
Availability of local brands or products	5.9%	2.9%	11.8%	17.6%	29.4%	17.6%	14.7%
Availability of organic	20.6%	8.8%	5.9%	20.6%	14.7%	11.8%	17.6%
Distance to my home/work/schools	0%	0%	5.9%	17.6%	14.7%	23.5%	38.2%
Diversity of options or brands	3.0%	0%	3.0%	27.3%	21.2%	15.2%	30.3%
Friendliness of staff	0%	0%	17.6%	17.6%	23.5%	20.6%	20.6%
Prices	0%	0%	2.9%	14.7%	8.8%	20.6%	52.9%
Quality of food	0%	0%	0%	8.8%	5.9%	17.6%	67.6%
That it is a locally owned store	0%	12.1%	15.2%	24.2%	9.1%	18.2%	21.2%
That it is a national brand store	23.5%	17.6%	5.9%	26.5%	2.9%	5.9%	17.6%

10

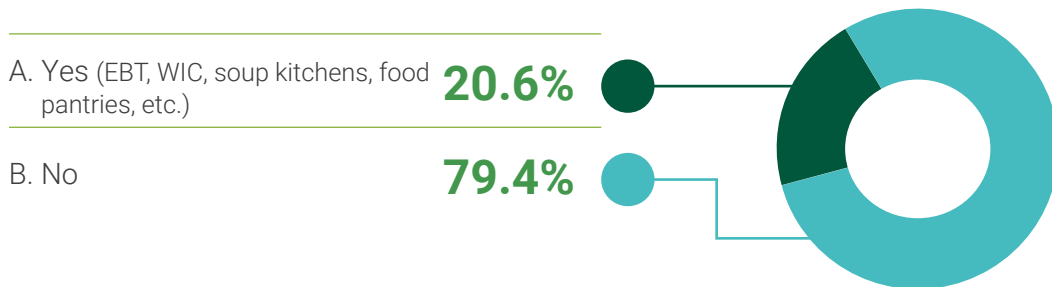
Do you use any of the following on a regular basis to prepare meals? Select all that apply.



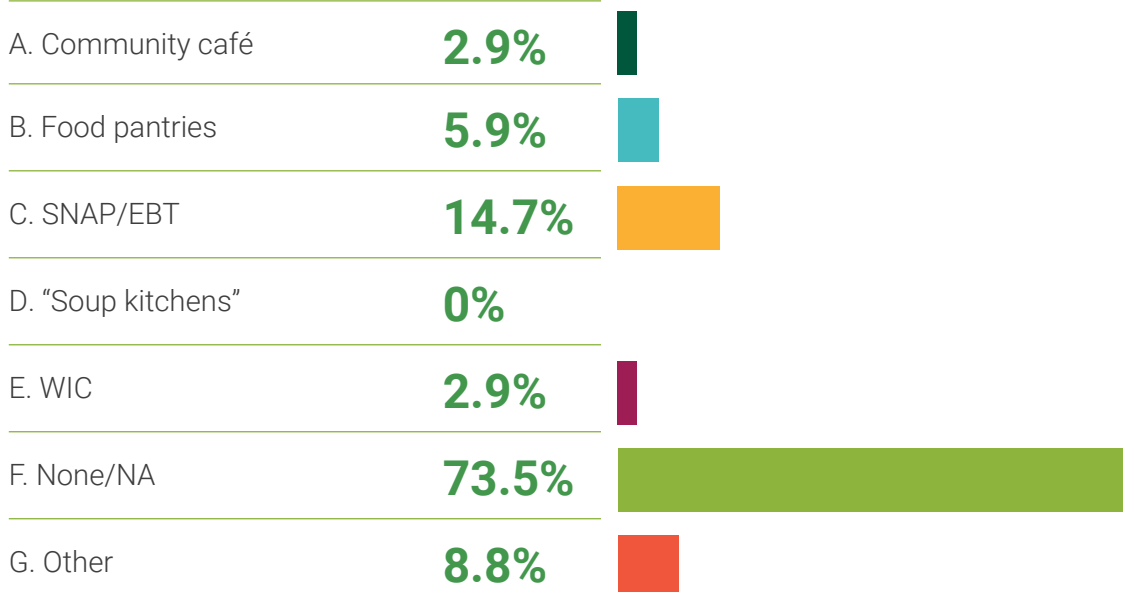
**11** Which of the following household items do you own? Select all that apply.



**12** In the past 12 months, have you utilized a food assistance program?

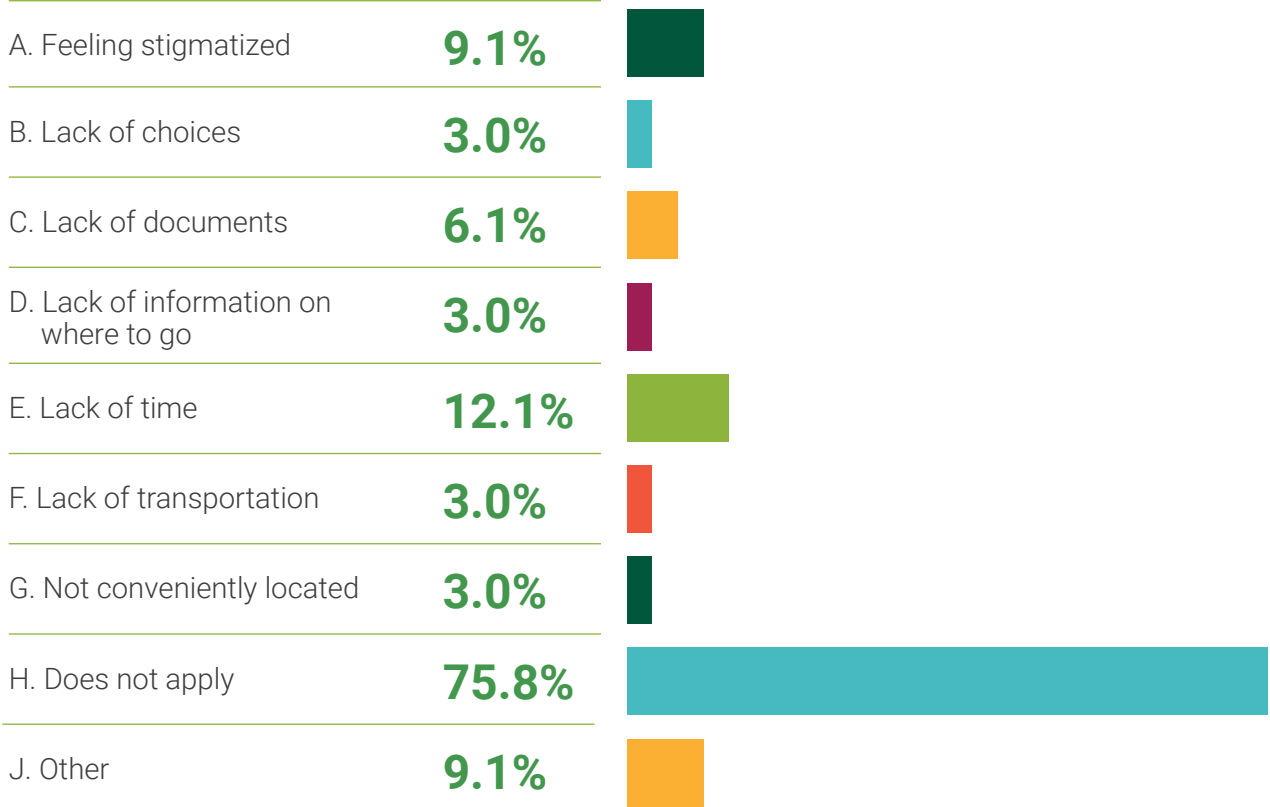


**13** In the past 12 months, which of the following programs did you utilize for food assistance? Select all that apply.



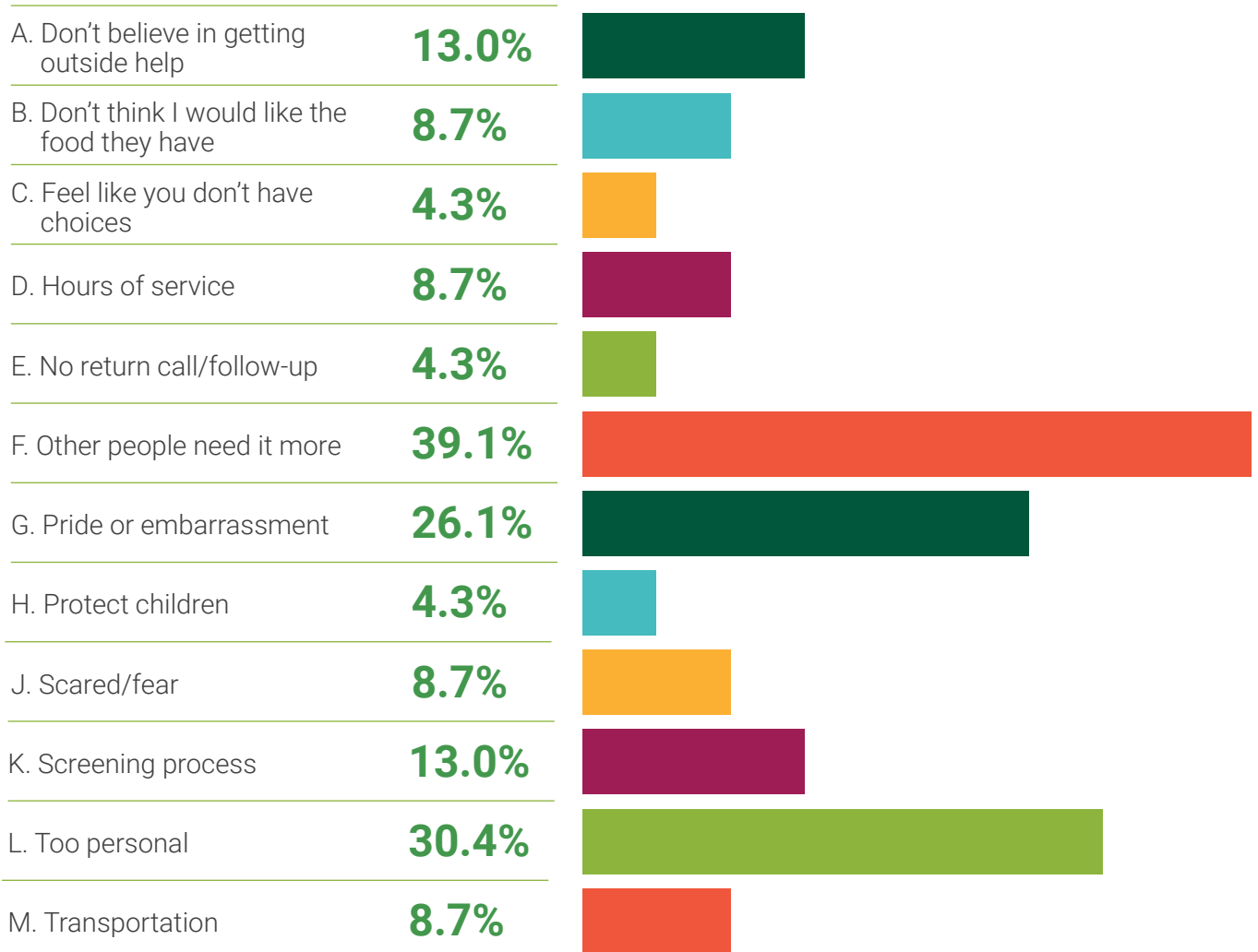
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For the food assistance programs you have used, have you faced any of the following barriers in getting assistance? Select all that apply.



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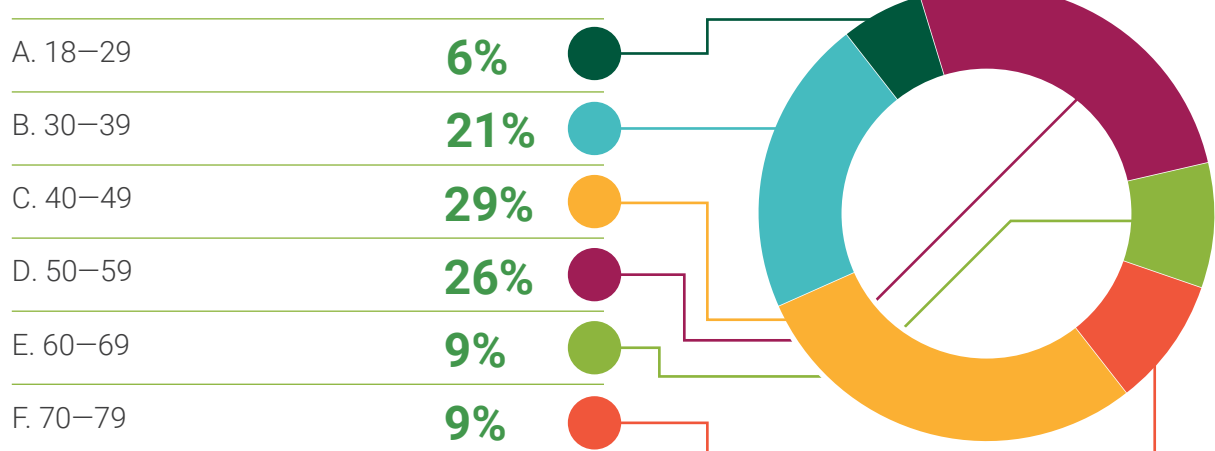
**If you have ever decided not to access resources when you needed them, can you tell us why? Choose all that apply.**



16

**What is your age?**

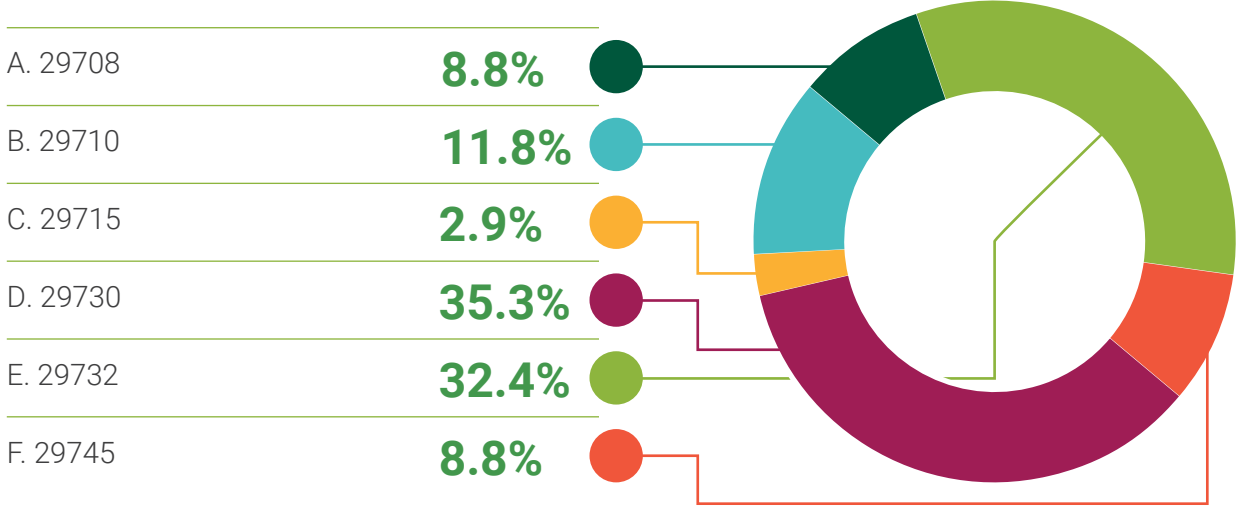
The mean age of respondents was 48 years old.



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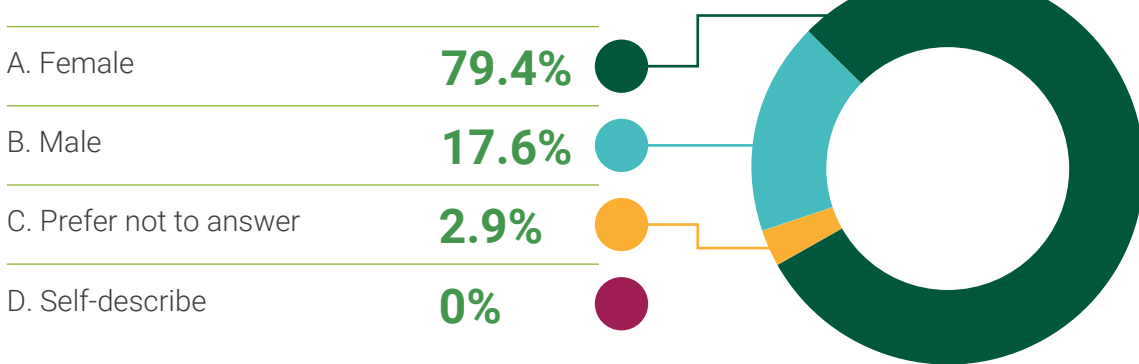
**What is the zip code where you usually reside?**

The Rock Hill zip codes 29730 and 29732 had the most respondents.



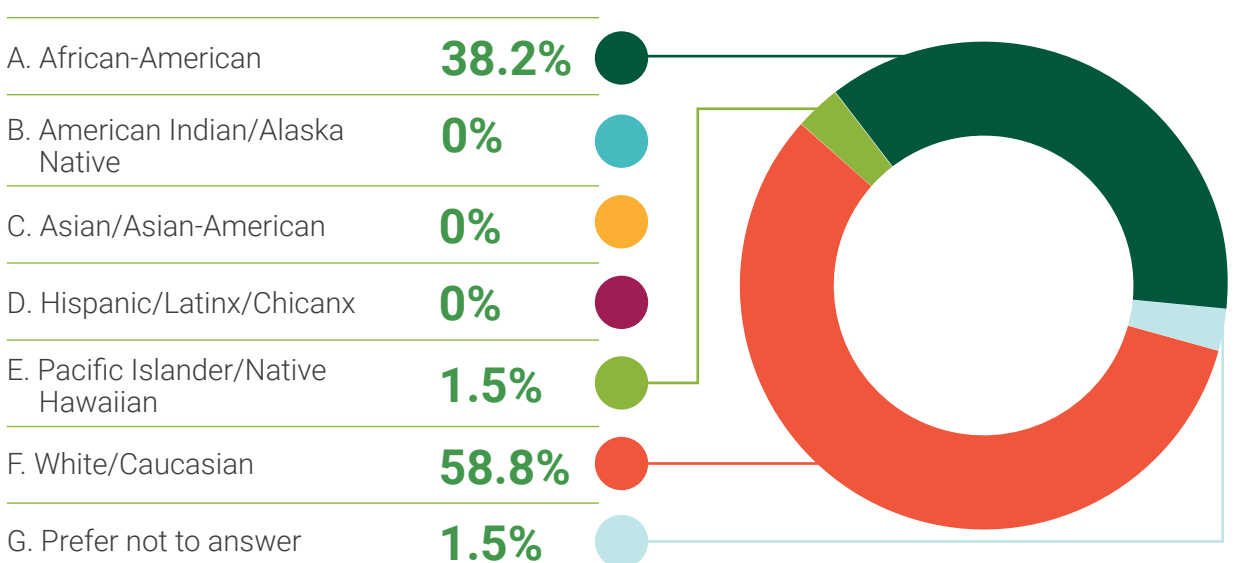
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**What is your gender?**

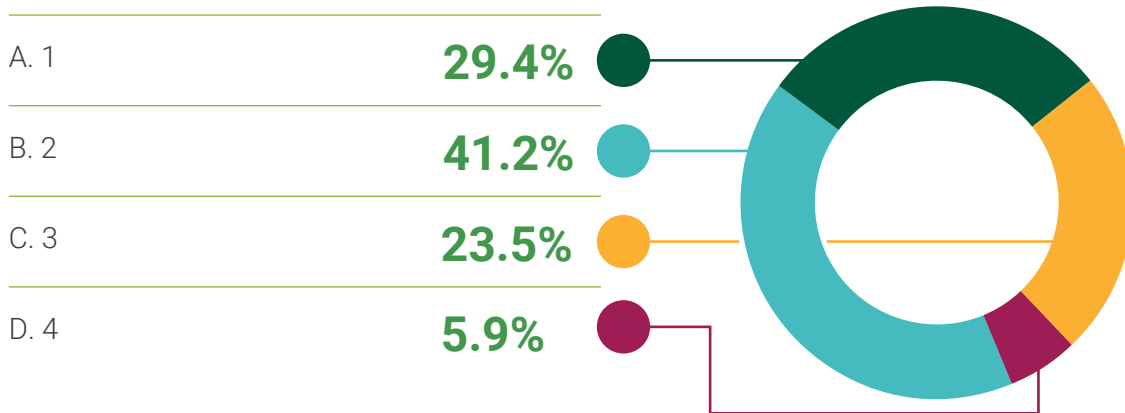


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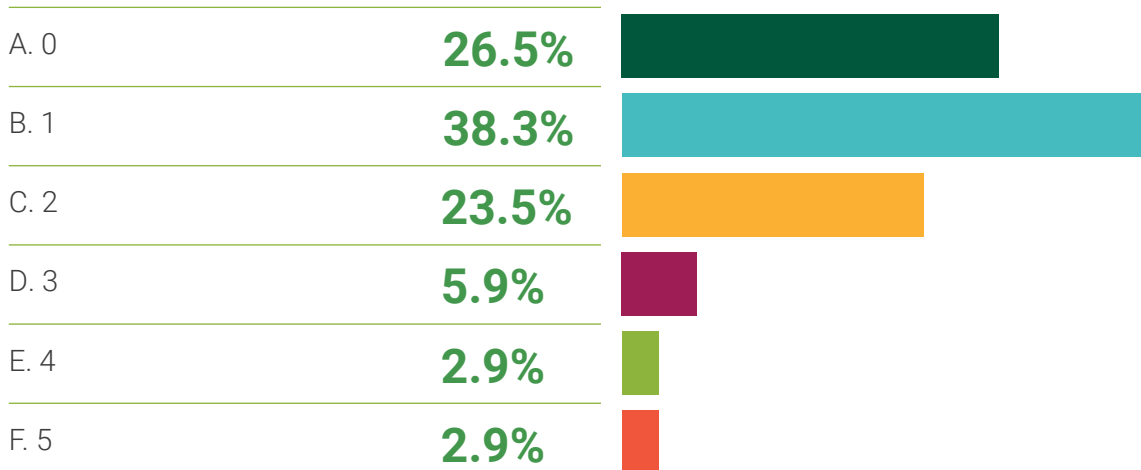
**How do you describe your race and/or ethnicity?**



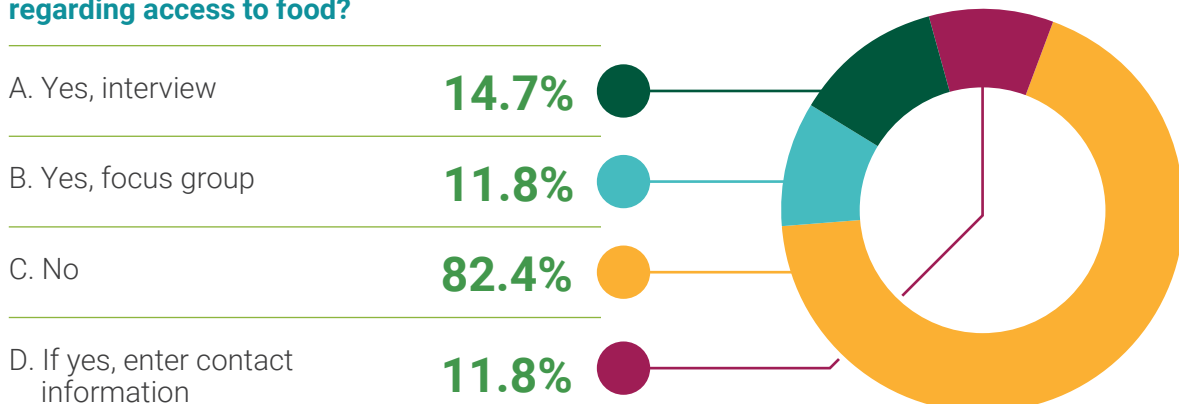
**20** How many adults 18 and older usually live in your household, including yourself?



**21** How many children under 18 usually live in your household?



**22** Would you be interested in participating in either a 1:1 interview and/or a focus group regarding access to food?





## 6

## Policy, Systems, and Environment (PSE) Strategy



### Current PSE Strategy

IYC and the York County Food Policy Council are currently collaborating and supporting the following local programs which implement policy, systems, and environmental changes:


- FoodShare York County administered by Helping Others Progress through Education (H.O.P.E.).
- Healthy Corner stores administered by Surefire Neighborhood Market.
- Community Gardens administered by Victory Gardens International.
- Mobile Food Markets administered by Victory Gardens International.
- Healthy Together, 5210 administered by Wholespire, York County.

## Future PSE Strategy

Data and findings from surveys and community food gatherings indicate that community members are interested in becoming more involved in decision-making activities. Therefore, our future PSE strategy includes:

- Working to align a community action board with IYC and the York County FPC.
- Working towards expanding efforts around healthier food options throughout the county.
- Educating communities on how to be better advocates related to food systems policy and healthcare.
- Researching and acquiring funding to support employees of partner organization from historically excluded communities such as social workers, community health workers, healthcare providers, etc.
- Partnering with organizations providing job readiness programs, to help increase household income.
- Researching interventions related to safety and aligning with the efforts of the HE/AL and Injury workgroups.

IYC is currently partnering with SCDHEC to create a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). We will have FPC goals and indicators within the HE/AL efforts of the CHIP.



**The completion of York County's inaugural community food assessment unveiled a sense of pride among underrepresented communities, accompanied by a strong desire to collaborate with organizations and leaders to enact meaningful and impactful changes.**



