

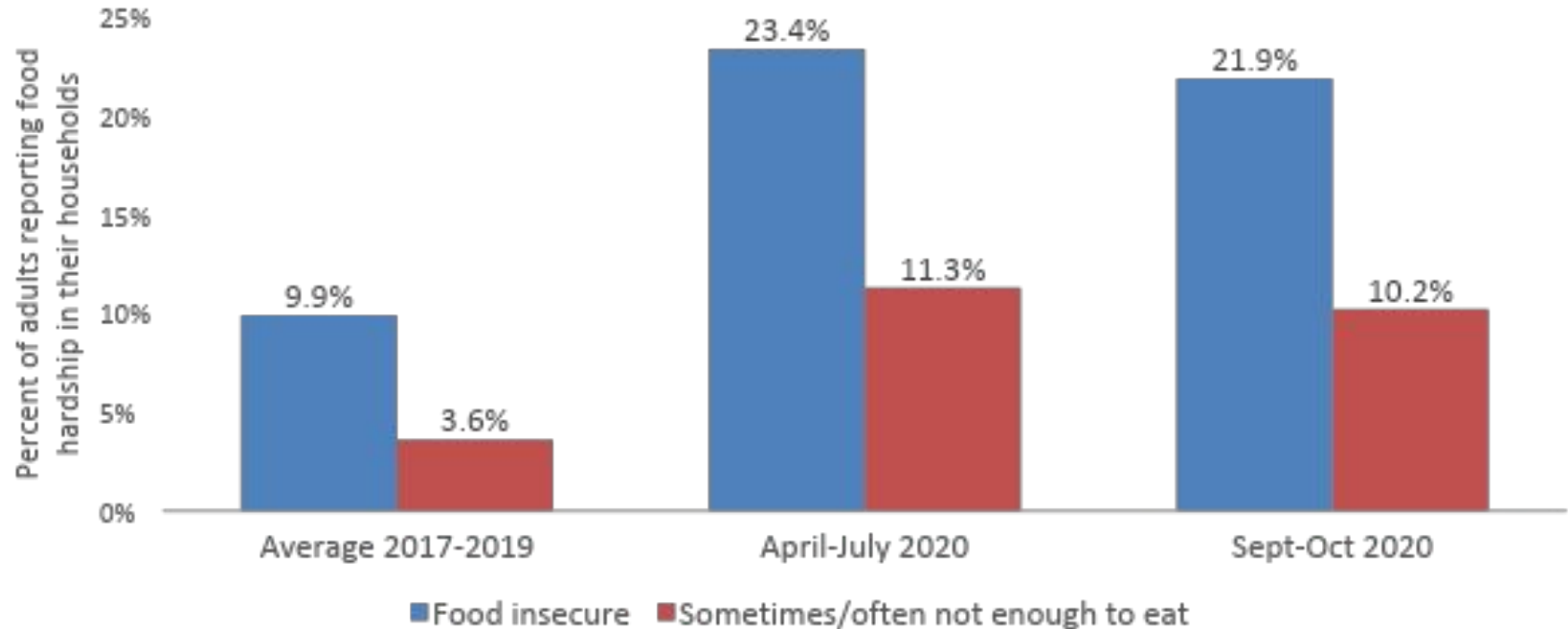
COVID-19 and Food Insecurity in California

Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach
Director, Institute for Policy Research
Northwestern University

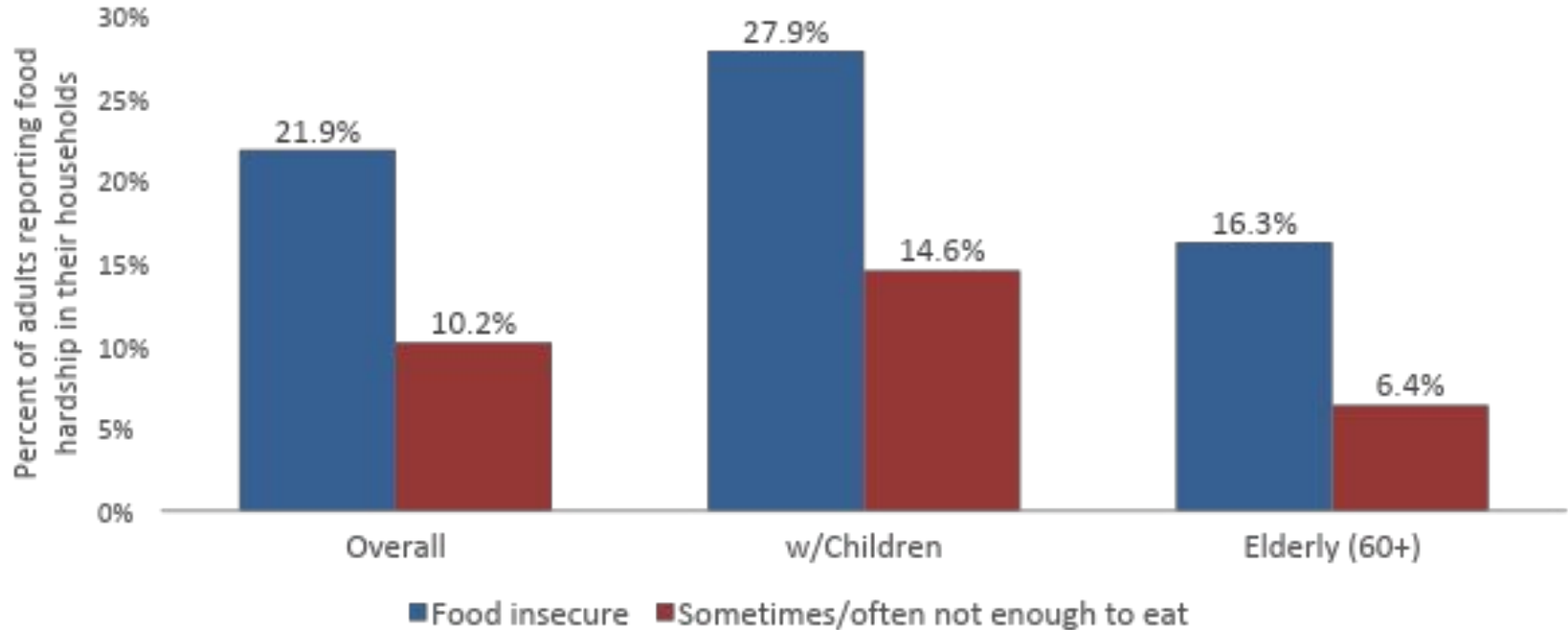
Northwestern

FOOD INSECURITY IS VERY HIGH DURING COVID-19

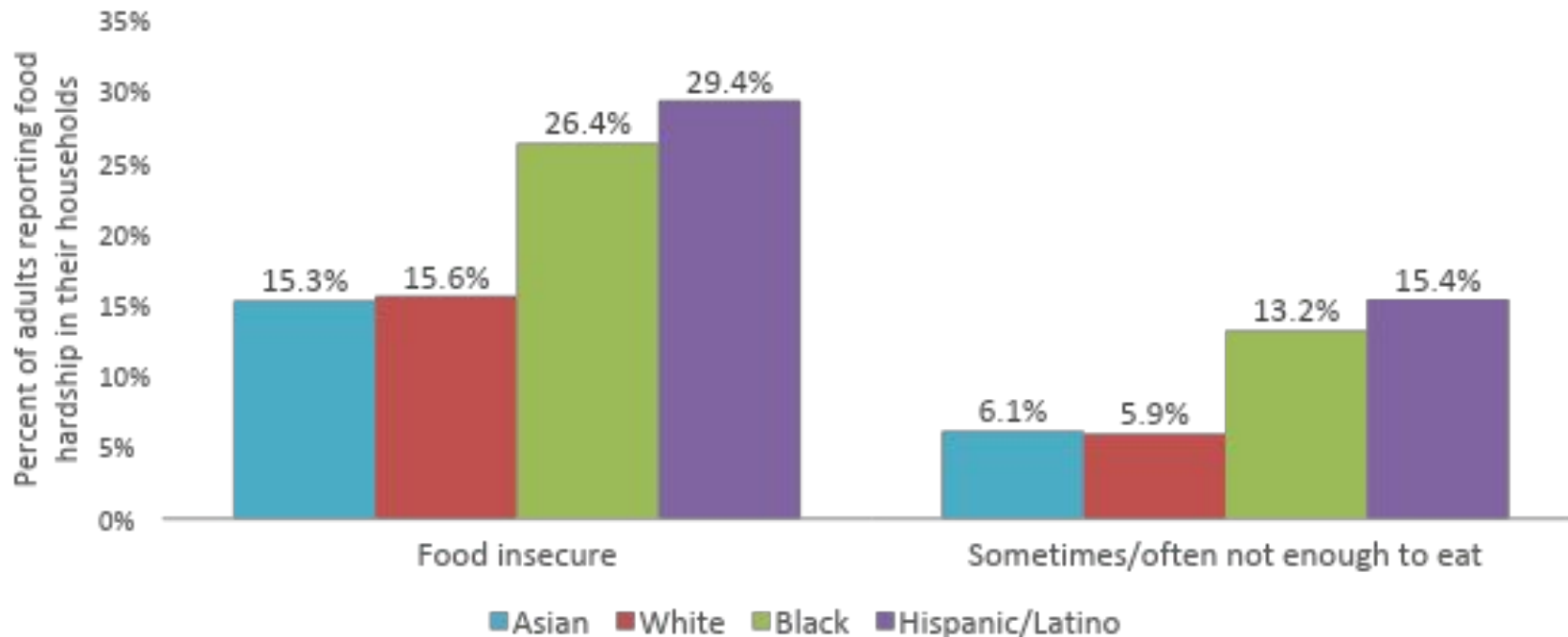
Overall Food Hardship in California, by Time Period



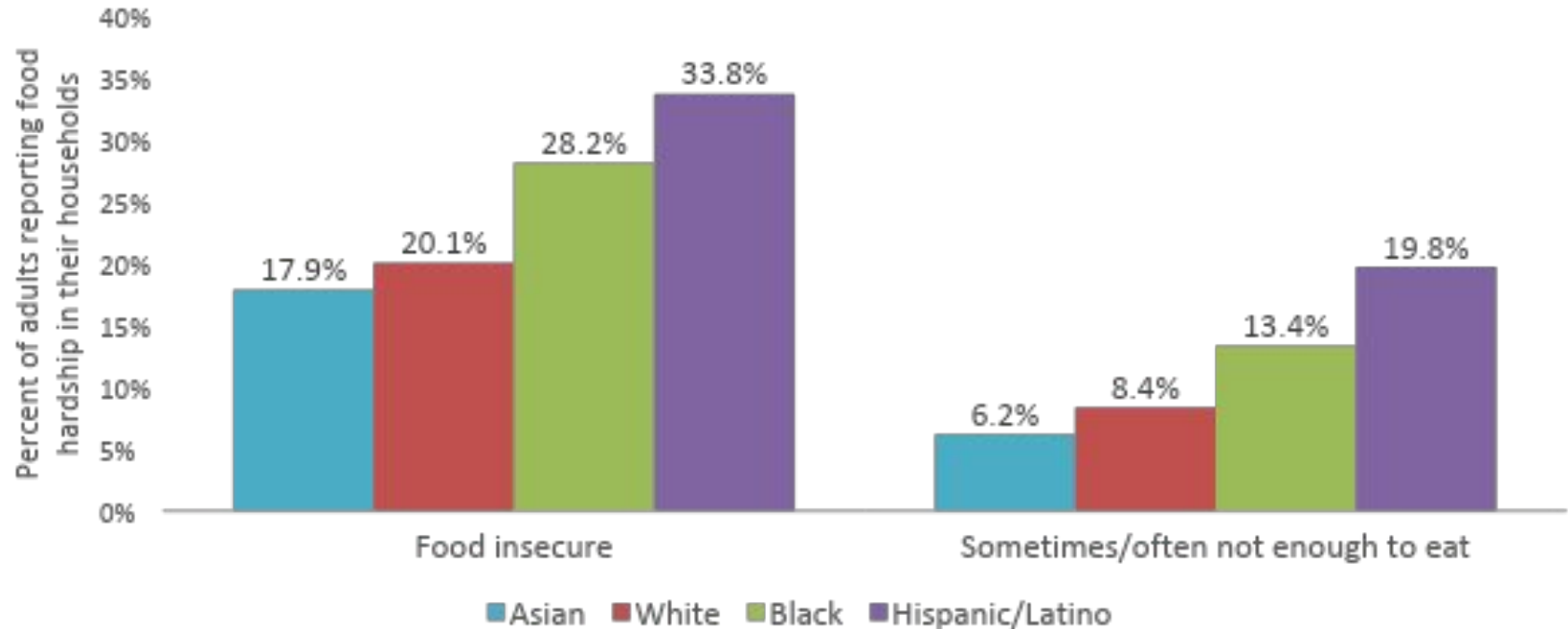
Food Hardship in California, by Group (Sept-Oct 2020)



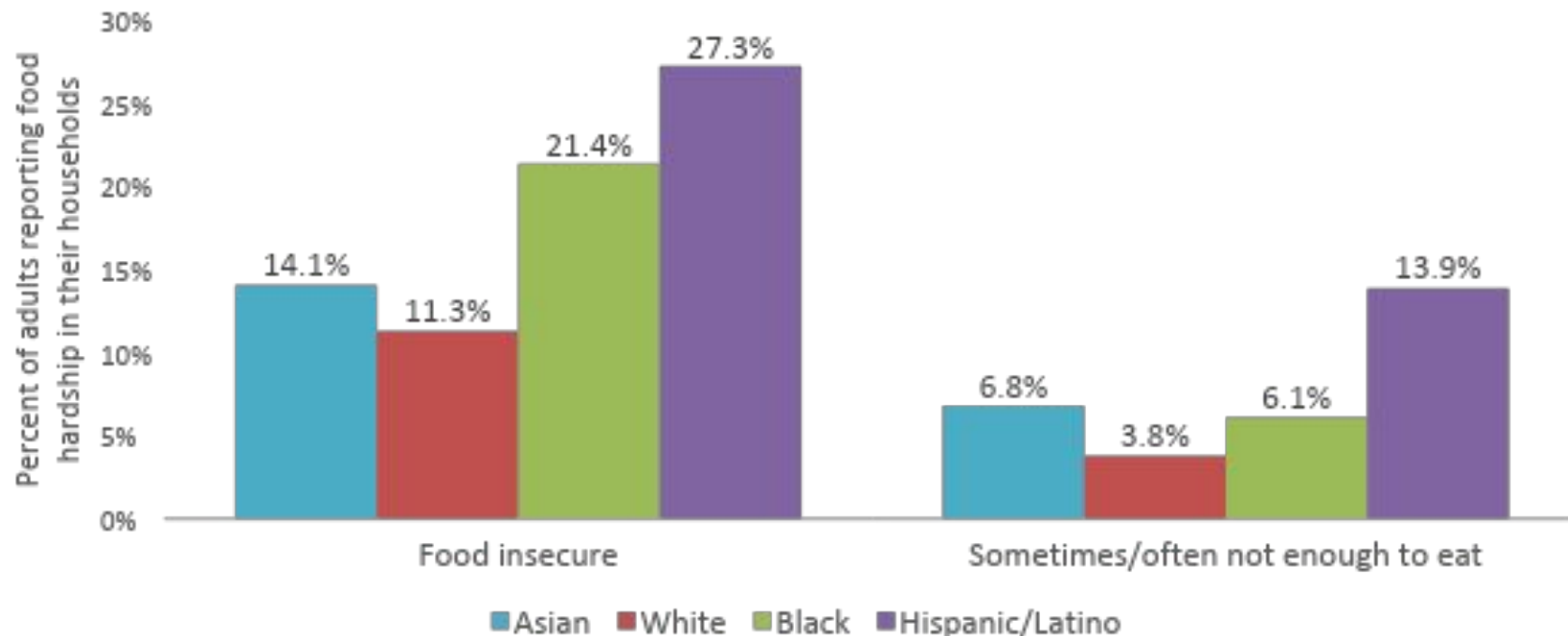
Food Hardship in California, All Adults by Race/Ethnicity (Sept-Oct 2020)



Food Hardship in California, Adults with Children by Race/Ethnicity (Sept-Oct 2020)

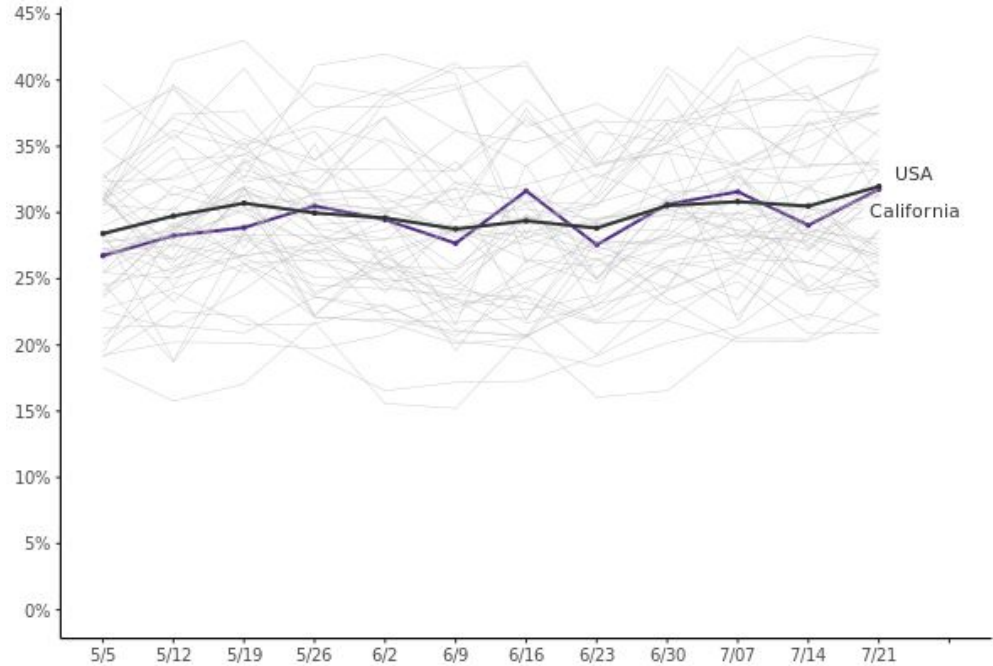


Food Hardship in California, Elderly (60+) Adults by Race/Ethnicity (Sept-Oct 2020)



Food insecurity for California tracks the national average closely

Food Insecurity Among Households with Children, May-July 2020

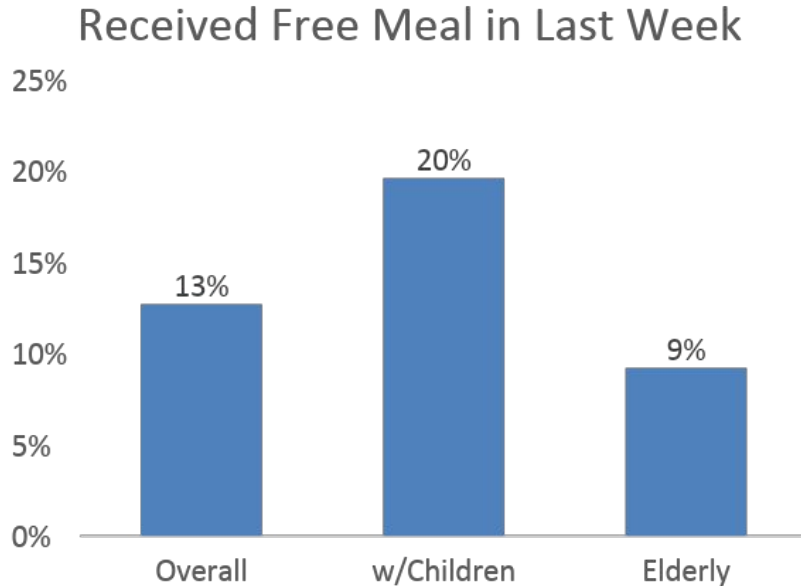


COVID-19: Census Pulse Survey, food insufficiency in last 7 days, mapped onto food insecurity

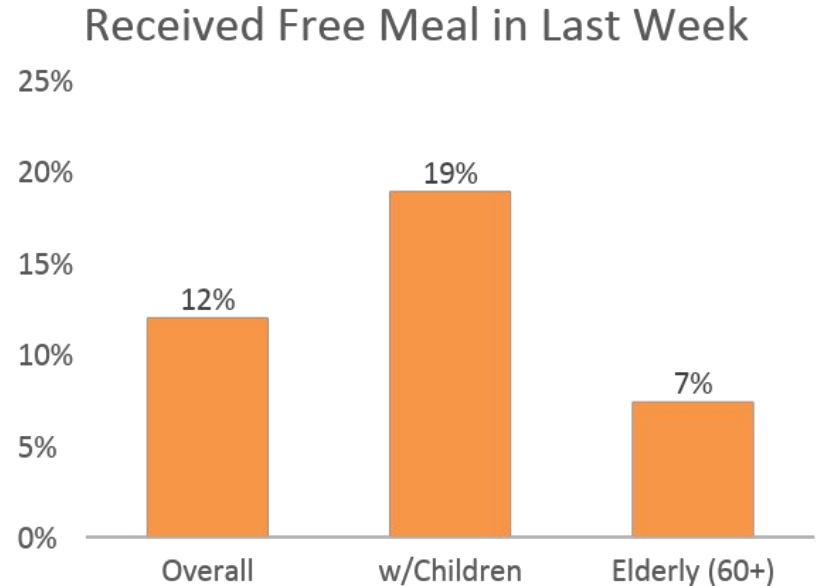
STRONG RELIANCE ON FREE MEALS

1 in 8 report receipt of free meal in past week

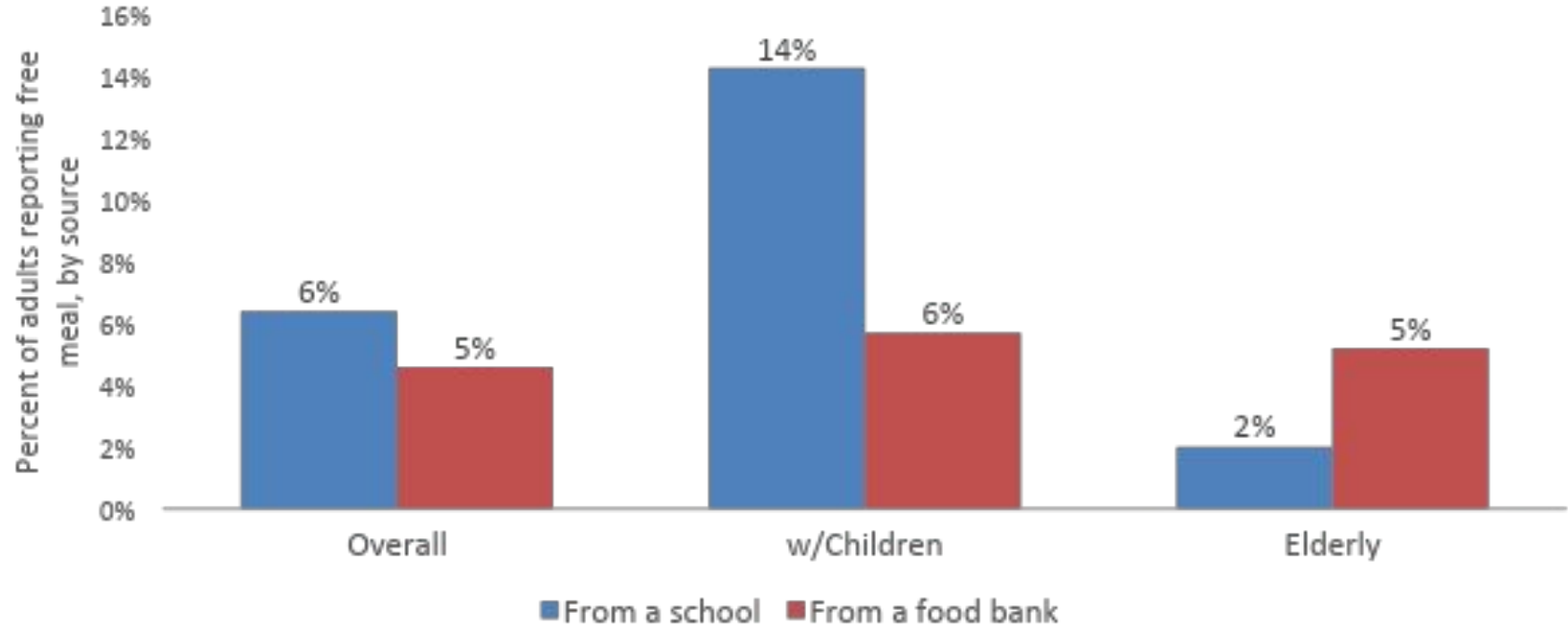
Sept-Oct 2020



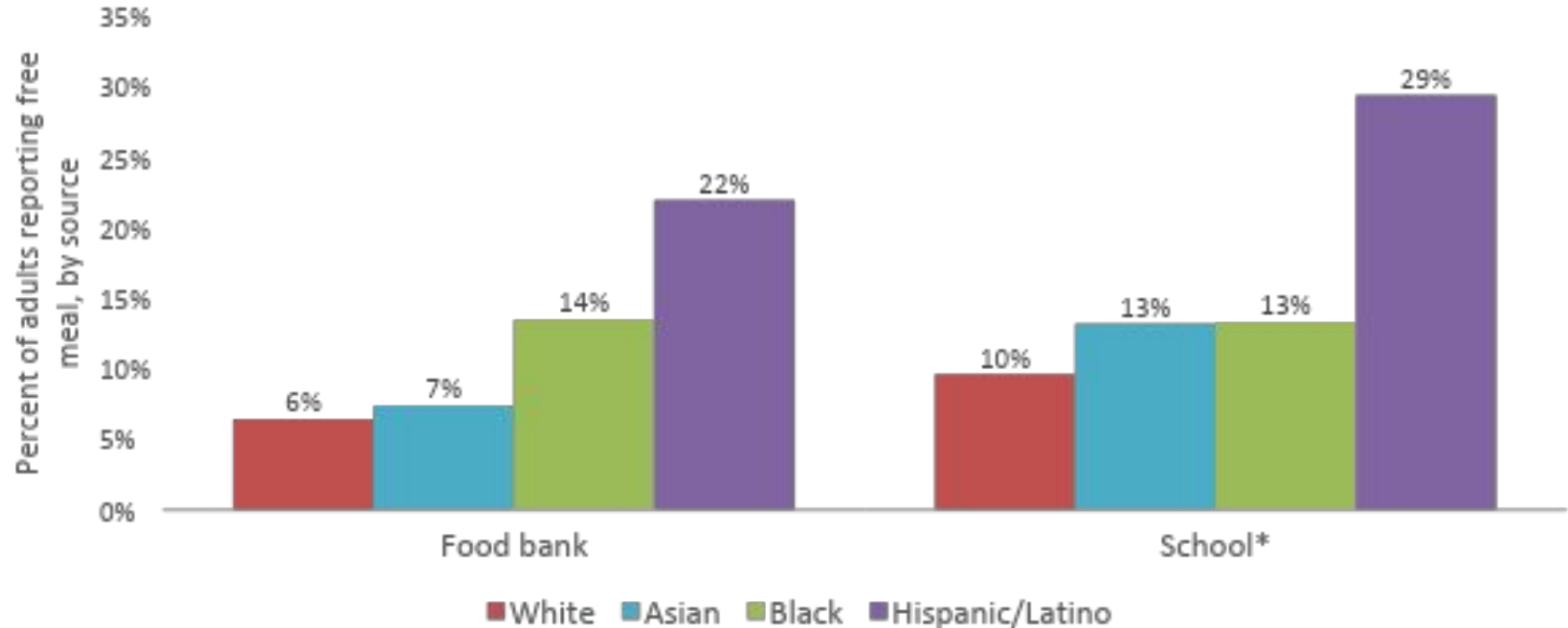
April-July 2020



Receipt of free meals in past week, by source (Sept-Oct 2020)



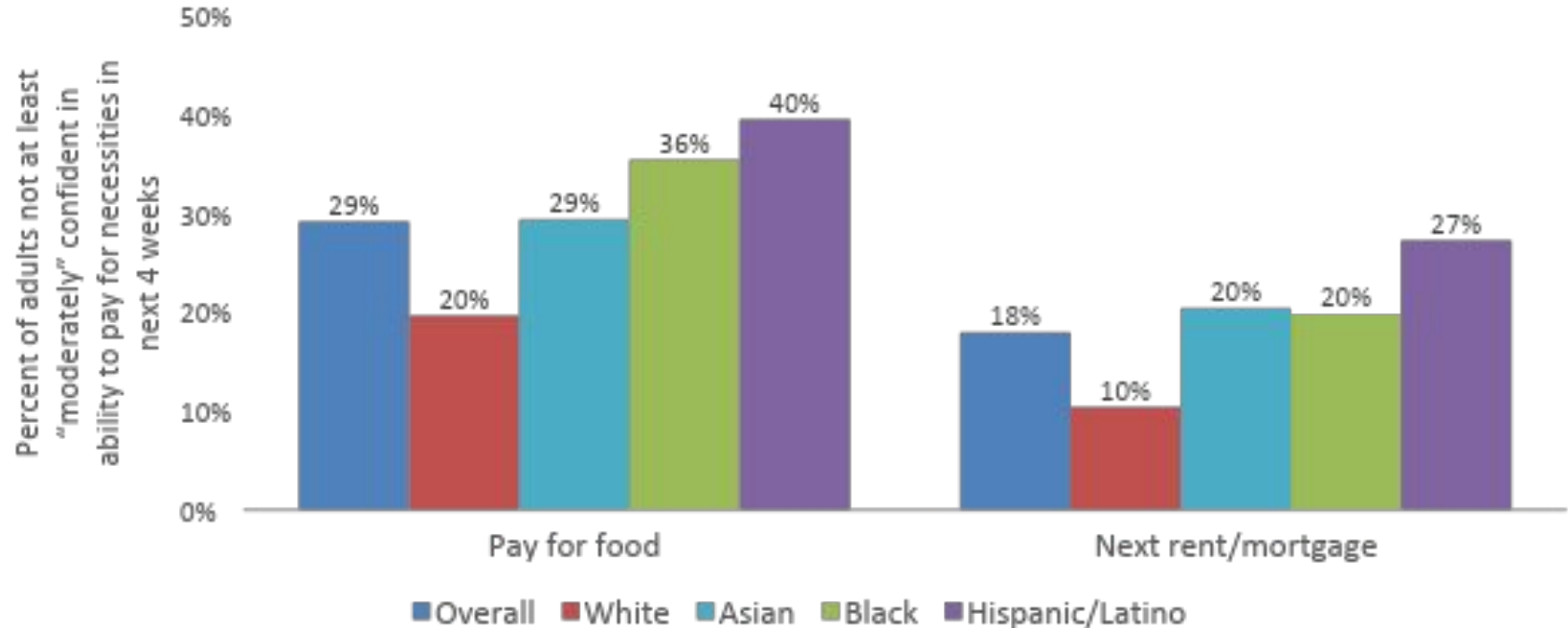
Source of free meals in past week, by race/ethnicity (Sept-Oct 2020)



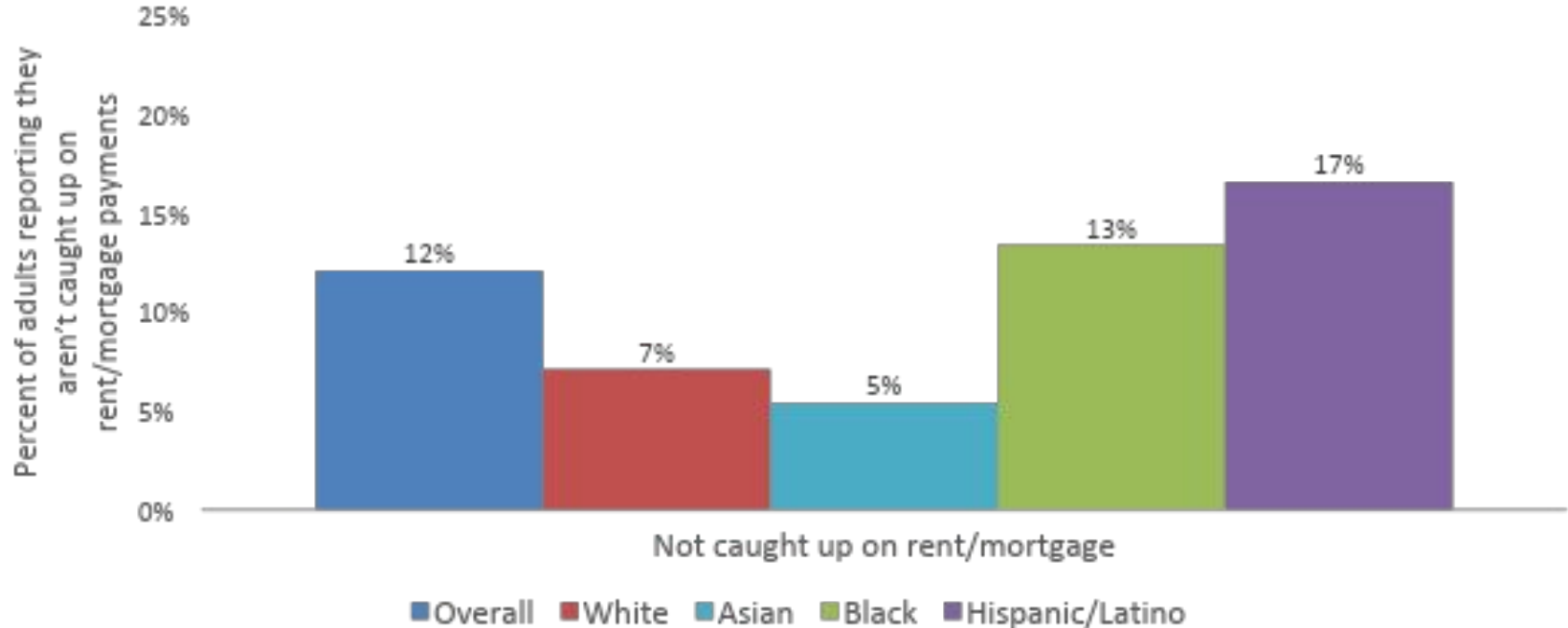
**Meals from school for households w/children only.*

OTHER MEASURES OF HARDSHIP

Many CA Families Lack Confidence in Ability to Finance Consumption in Next Month



Many CA Families Report Being Behind on Housing Payments (Sept-Oct 2020)

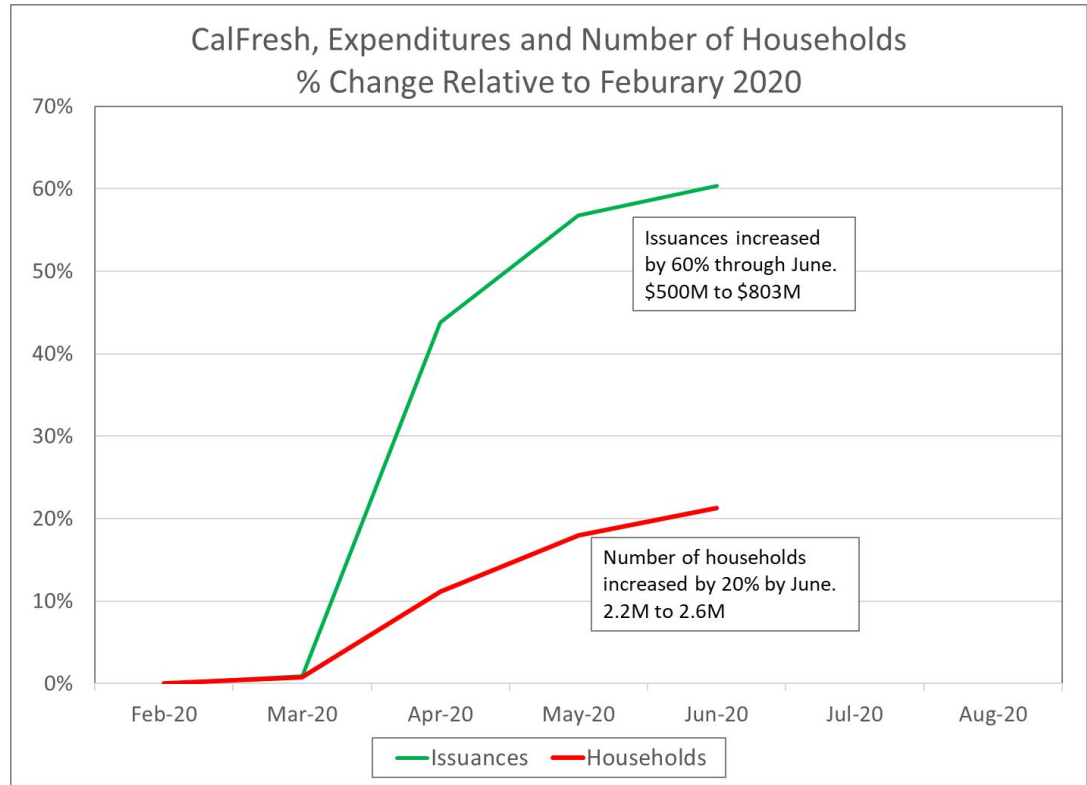


RELIEF PAYMENTS HAVE HELPED

California CalFresh response has been strong

SNAP participation declined modestly June – Sept

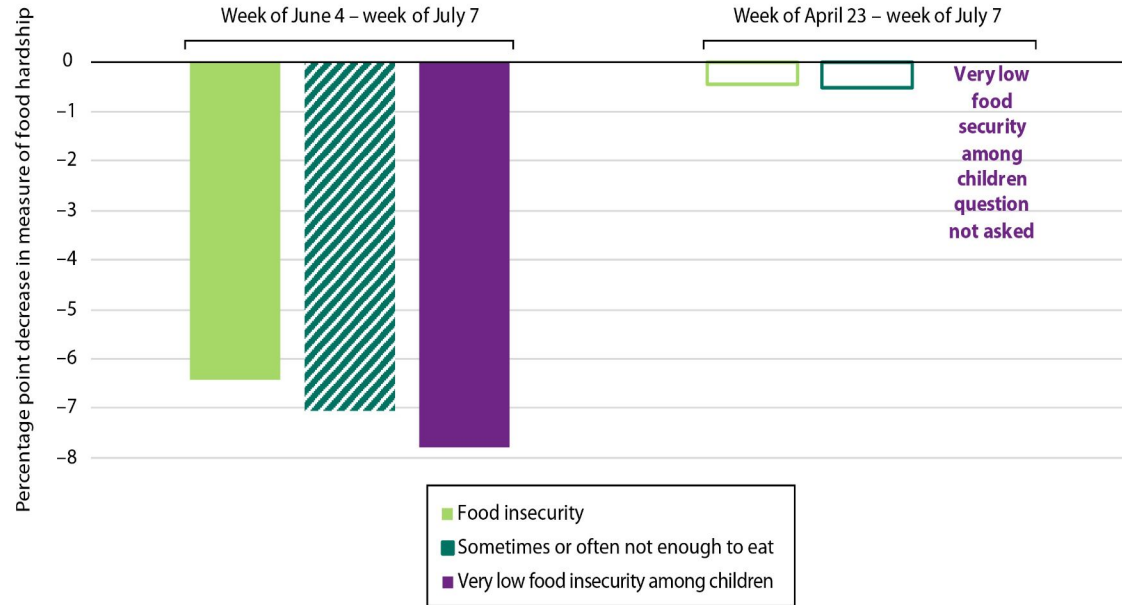
Still up 16% since February



Source: Bitler, Hoynes and Schanzenbach, BPEA forthcoming

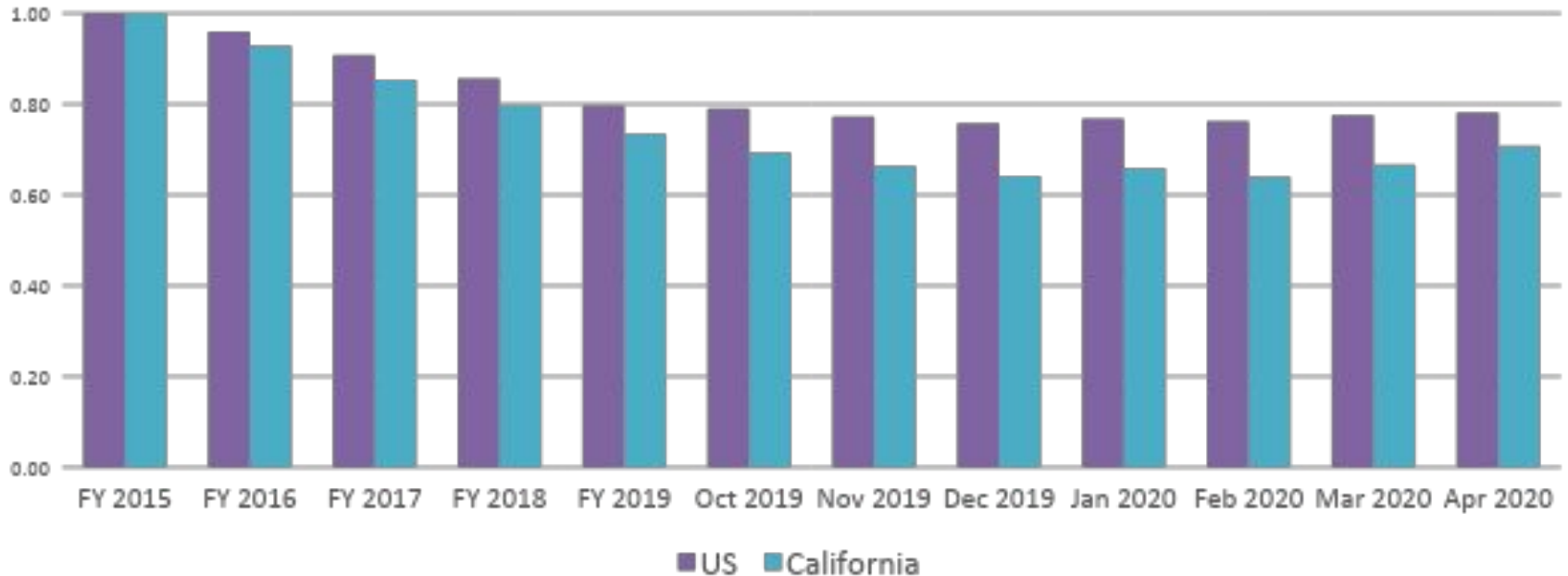
Pandemic
EBT
payments
help families,
bring \$ to
state

Effect of Pandemic EBT on Food Hardship



WIC Caseloads Rebounding, Up 11% in CA Feb-Apr

WIC Participation, Change Since FY2015



WHAT TO EXPECT

Expecting Prolonged Economic Slowdown

Much higher rates than during Great Recession

History: Unemp rates higher, recovery slower for Black, Hispanic & low-education groups

- > Increased need will be sustained for a long time
- > even without other factors

