

Coordinator Catch-ups: Local responses to Covid-19

10:00 - 11:30 every Wednesday

Agenda

- **Welcome and programme updates**
- **School food trends, Fran Bernhardt, Sustain**
- **Food insecurity among the vulnerable, Zoe McIntyre, Food Foundation**
- **Local coordination in action: Liverpool, Lucy Antal, Feedback**
- **What should we cover in next week's catch up?**



The impact of Coronavirus on food

From an online survey of 4343 adults in Great Britain
conducted on 7th-9th April by YouGov Plc

(second in series)



Food, Farming
& Countryside
Commission



Measuring Food Insecurity

We asked adults 3 question to assess whether they were food secure:

Thinking about since the UK went into lockdown (i.e. since March 23rd), did you/anyone in your household:

- 1. Have smaller meals than usual or skip meals because you couldn't afford or get access to food?**
- 2. Been hungry but not eaten because you couldn't afford or get access to food?**
- 3. Not eaten for a whole day because you couldn't afford or get access to food?**

If anyone answered yes to any one of these three questions, they were classified as food insecure.

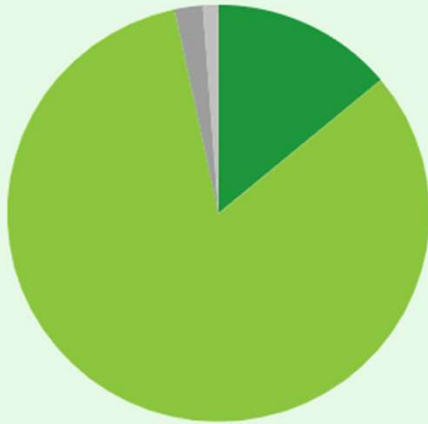
These questions are part of the United State Department of Agriculture Food Security Module to measure and monitor household food insecurity in many high-income countries, including the UK.

Experience of food insecurity

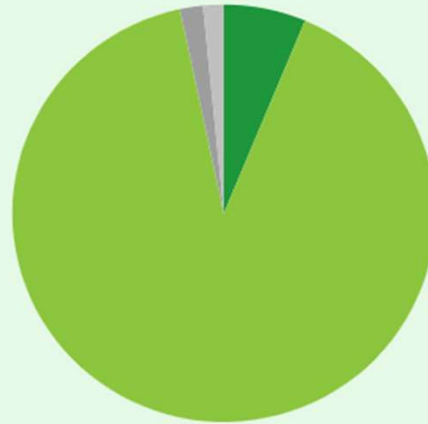
Number of adults who, due to not being able to afford or access food, have:

yes no don't know prefer not to say

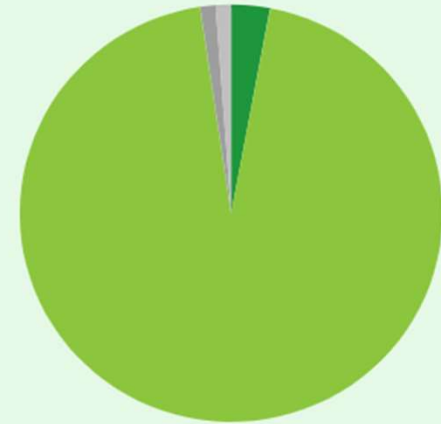
had smaller meals than usual or skipping meals



been hungry but not eaten



not eaten for a whole day

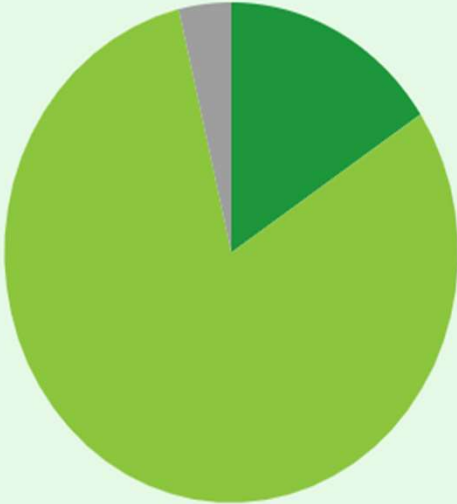


Hover over to see number of adults in millions who are affected • This does not include the total number of people in the household



8 million adults have experienced food insecurity since the start of the lockdown

■ food insecure ■ not food insecure ■ don't know/prefer not to say



*This does not include the total number of people in the household



Lack of food in shops is the largest reason for food insecurity

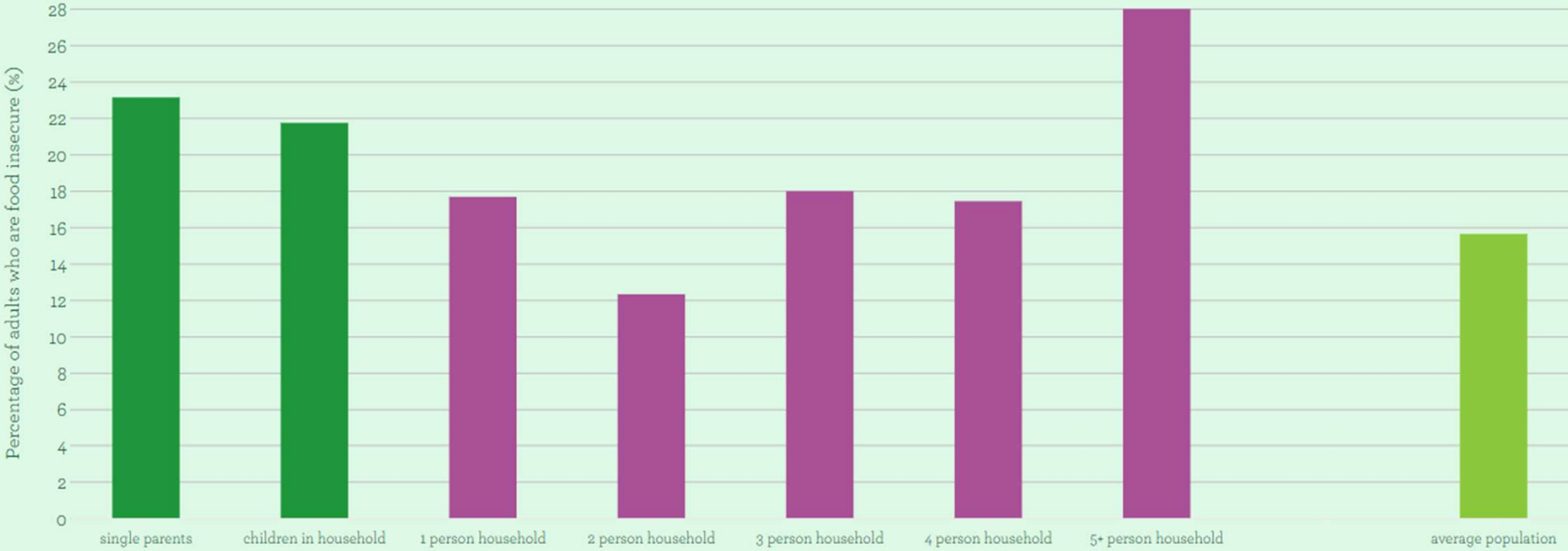
Amongst adults that are food insecure, the reasons are:



Multivariate analysis conducted by Dr Rachel Loopstra, King's College London (see report: https://foodfoundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Report_COVID19FoodInsecurity-final.pdf)



Households with 5 or more people are more likely to be food insecure



Recommendations to Government...

Scale up the national food response and establish a National Food Aid Task Force

- Support local authorities to scale up welfare assistance schemes and provide nutritious food parcels for people who are self-isolating, building on best practice emerging from local authorities and frontline charities
- Significantly scale up home delivery options for those who are self-isolating by working with supermarkets, small businesses and volunteer groups
- Do this by establishing a cross-department food task force that cuts across departments to fill critical gaps in capacity and supplies

Stop food insecurity driven by lack of money

- Ensure people can buy food they need to stay healthy at home by DWP abolishing five-week wait for Universal Credit
- Make child benefit a fortnightly payment (thereby doubling it) and simultaneously remove the benefit cap

Government Response and Next steps...

- In regular dialogue with Defra, CO, DWP officials as well as Shadow Ministers – trying to make polling Qs useful to inform their decisions
- Our webinar on polling results attended by a range of govt/parli contacts and have since received requests for the data from MP offices
- Good feedback on the impact of the data from Defra in particular - our figures now being quoted in govt docs as the definitive numbers for food insecure during crisis
- Have helped to push the case for govt action for 'non-shielded' vulnerable group within govt - including a new Ministerial-level taskforce (Defra, DWP, DfE, MHCLG)
- Focus of next polling (out this week) specifically on households with children – allow us to delve deeper into this group in danger of being overlooked
- Expectation is that issues on food availability will decrease whilst economic drivers for food insecurity will increase. Will also be able to see how households have been affected by change of income

**Find out more about the
impact of Covid-19 on
Food via our online Covid
Tracker**

www.foodfoundation.org.uk

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