

AGENDA

Special Telephone Meeting
TRUSTEE-ADMINISTRATION-FACULTY-STUDENT (TAFS) COMMITTEE
University of Connecticut
Tuesday, December 14, 2021
3:30 p.m.

Meeting held by Telephone

Public Call-In Number:
(415) 655-0002 US Toll
Access Code: 2621 903 1302

*(A recording of the meeting will be posted on the Board website
<https://boardoftrustees.uconn.edu/> within seven days of the meeting.)*

Call to order at **3:30 p.m.**

- 1) Welcome and Instructions
- 2) Election of Trustee-Administration-Faculty-Student (TAFS) Committee Chair
- 3) Report from previous Trustee-Administration-Faculty-Student (TAFS) Meeting
- 4) Food Insecurity Presentation
- 5) Open Discussion and Identification of Agenda Items for Next Meeting
- 6) Adjournment

PLEASE NOTE: If you are an individual with a disability and require accommodations, please call the Office of the Provost at (860) 486-4037 prior to the meeting.



UConn Regional Campus Food Insecurity Study Report

Research conducted by
Dr. Kristen Cooksey Stowers, Allied Health Sciences and Rudd Center



What Is Food Insecurity?

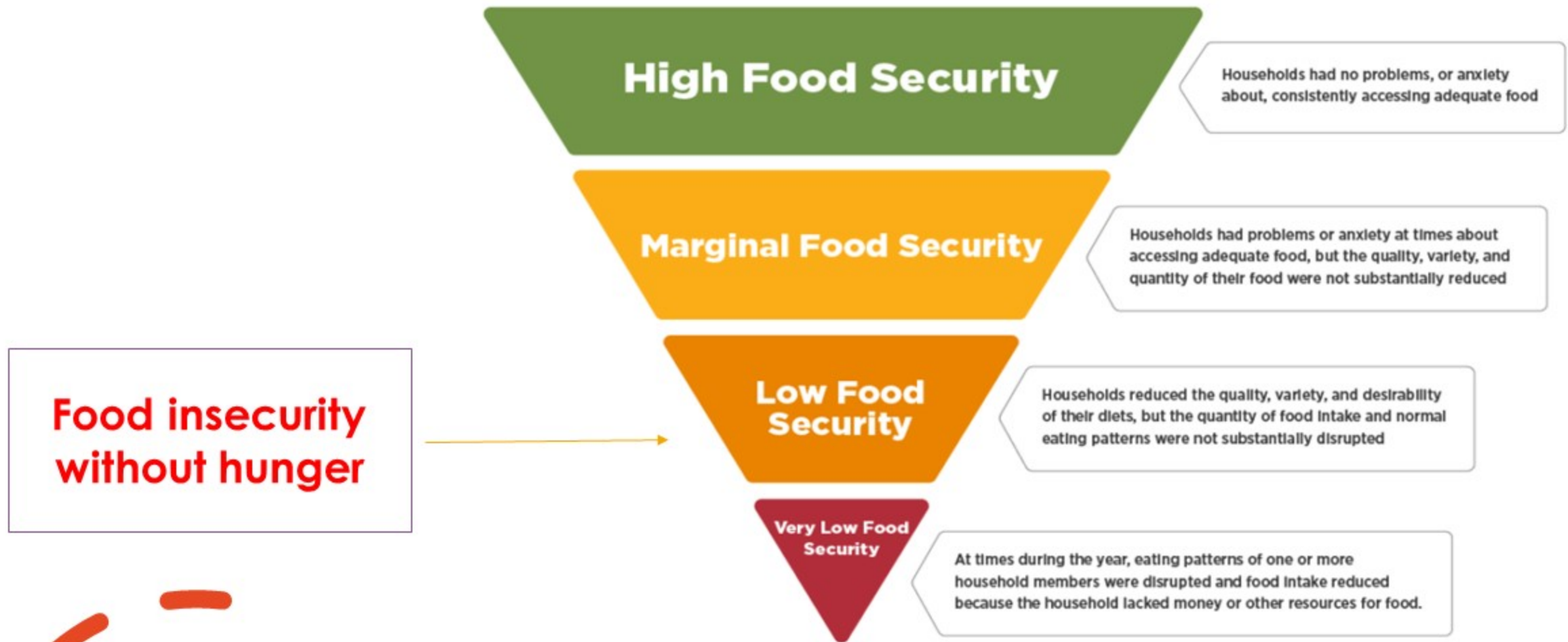
Food insecurity is the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.

Hunger is an individual-level physiological condition that may result from food insecurity.

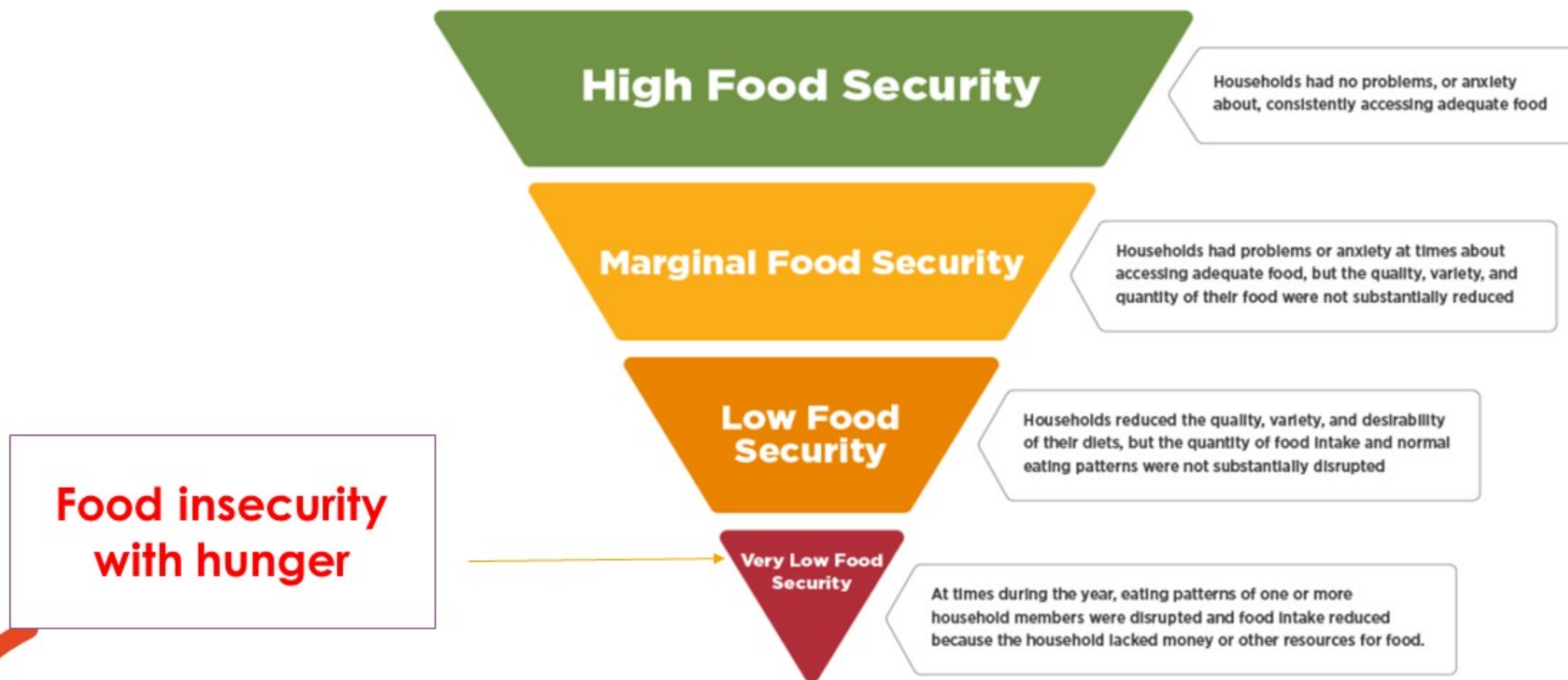


Sources: USDA ERS 2021; Life Sciences Research Office, S.A. Andersen, ed., "Core Indicators of Nutritional State for Difficult to Sample Populations," *The Journal of Nutrition* 120:1557S-1600S, 19

USDA Ranges of Food Security



USDA Ranges of Food Security




Initial Information on Food Insecurity at UConn

- Survey in 2019 indicated food insecurity issues among students at UConn
- Several strategies in place to combat food insecurity
 - Students First Fund
 - Swipes Program

Campus	% reporting "Low" or "Very Low" Food Security	Respondents	Total Population	Response Rate
Storrs	35%	2,045	18,585	11%
Hartford	47%	168	1,531	11%
Stamford	67%	177	2,012	9%
Avery Point	46%	59	526	11%
Waterbury	62%	43	776	6%



Next Steps: Focus on Regional Campuses

- Data concerning regional campus students from the 2019 survey raised further questions particularly regarding regional campuses
 - The Rudd Center for Food Policy and Health led a second survey in 2021 focused exclusively on regional students ("Rudd")
 - Data presented here are from that follow-up survey
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Regional Campus Demographics

Campus	Students	Female	White	Asian	Black	Latinx	International
Hartford	1659	54%	42%	18%	14%	18%	2%
Stamford	2255	52%	32%	10%	15%	32%	3%
Avery Point	545	53%	63%	8%	3%	16%	2%
Waterbury	835	57%	50%	11%	8%	25%	1%

Campus	Pell Grant (%)	EFC=0 (%)
Avery Point	33	31
Hartford	40	26
Stamford	45	38
Waterbury	44	36

Rudd Study Aims

- Primary Aim
 - Assess the prevalence of food insecurity among students at each of UConn's regional campuses
- Additional Aims:
 - Examine the relationship between current food insecurity and academic performance (self-reported and GPA)
 - Assess student perceptions of food environment on each campus
 - Evaluate students' level of support for potential improvements to address food insecurity at each campus

Rudd Study Response Rates and Demographics

Sample	Responses	Response rate	Male	Female	White	Asian	Black	Latinx	Intern'l
Hartford	196	12%	31%	69%	30%	23%	16%	21%	6%
Stamford	252	11%	35%	65%	27%	10%	16%	38%	6%
Avery Point	83	15%	28%	72%	54%	10%	6%	23%	0
Waterbury	111	13%	29%	71%	33%	14%	14%	30%	4%

Rudd Survey Details

- 10-item USDA Questionnaire on Food Insecurity
 - 10-minute duration
 - Administered via Qualtrics from April–May 2021
- 7 questions on:
 - Academic Behaviors
 - Level of support for proposed solutions
 - Willingness to pay for food on campus (per meal and per day)
- 3 additional open-ended questions on:
 - Food insecurity and academic performance
 - Food insecurity and health
 - General comments and feedback

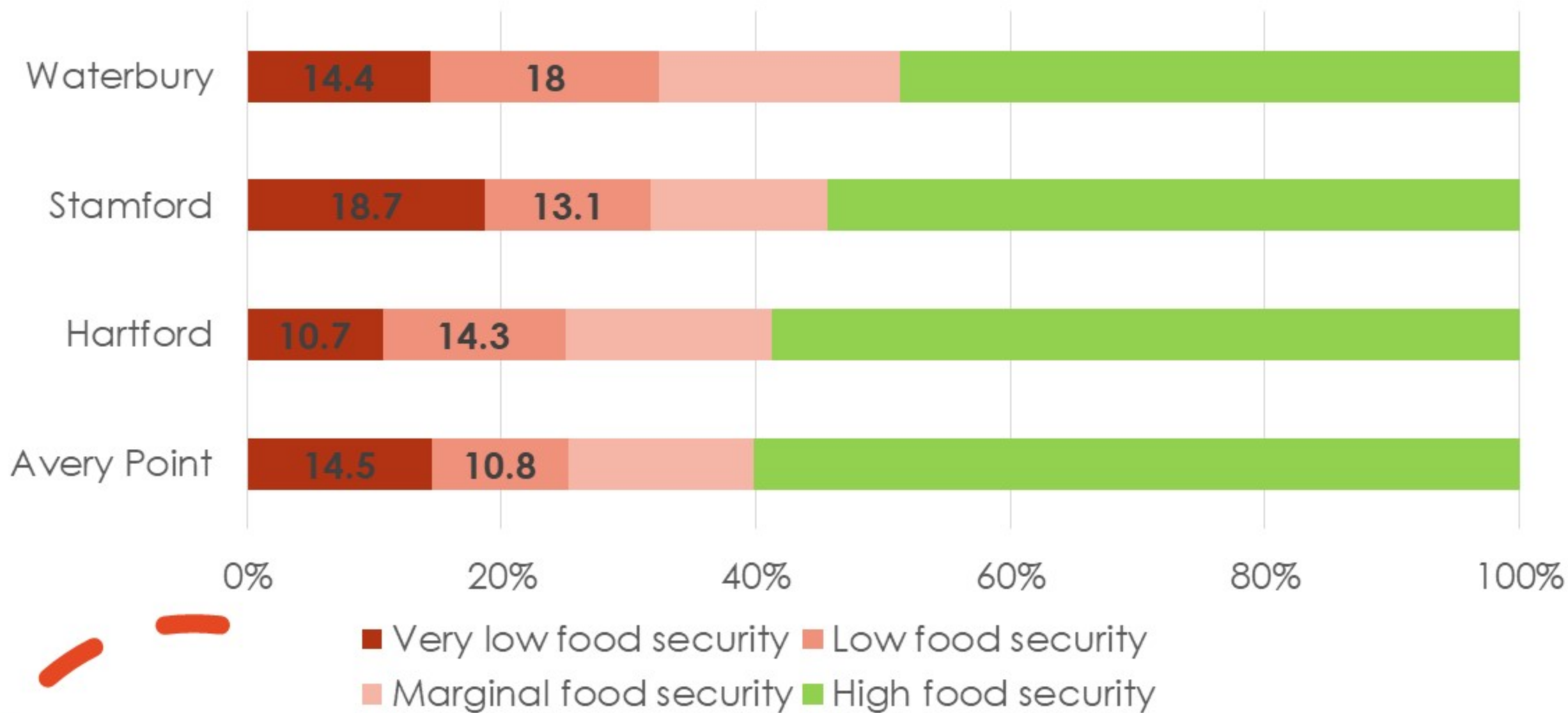
Rudd Study Demographics

- **642** students from four regional campuses participated
 - **33%** White, **30%** Latino, **15%** Asian, **14%** Black
 - **68%** female
 - **32%** have < 2 other people living in their household
 - **25%** regularly responsible for purchasing food for others
 - **59%** currently have a paid job
 - **10%** have a dependent

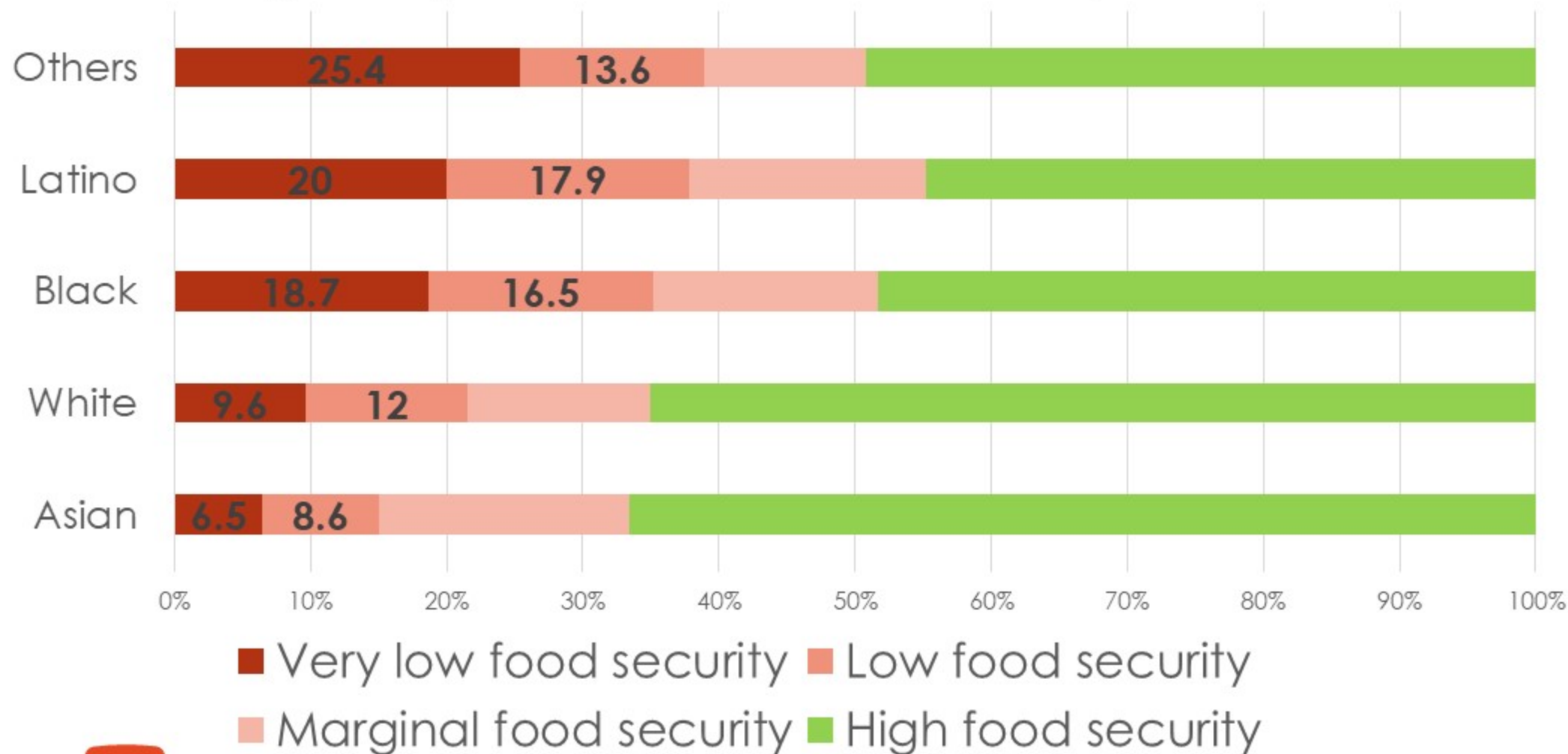
Rudd Findings: Prevalence of Food Insecurity

Food security status (N=642)	Number of students (%)
High food security	356 (55.4)
Marginal food security	100 (15.6)
Low food security	90 (14.0)
Very low food security	96 (15.0)

Rudd Findings: Disparities in Food Insecurity across Campuses

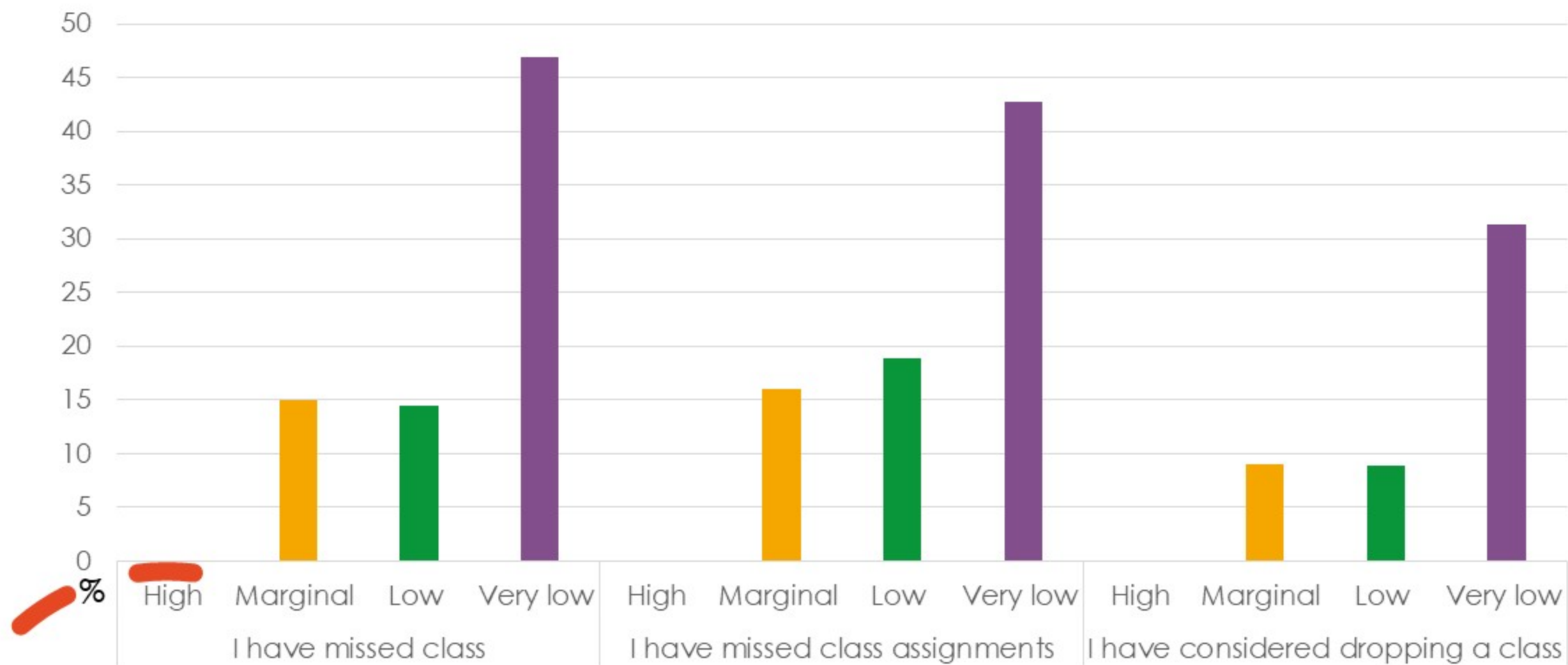


Rudd Findings: Disparities in Food Insecurity across Race/Ethnicity

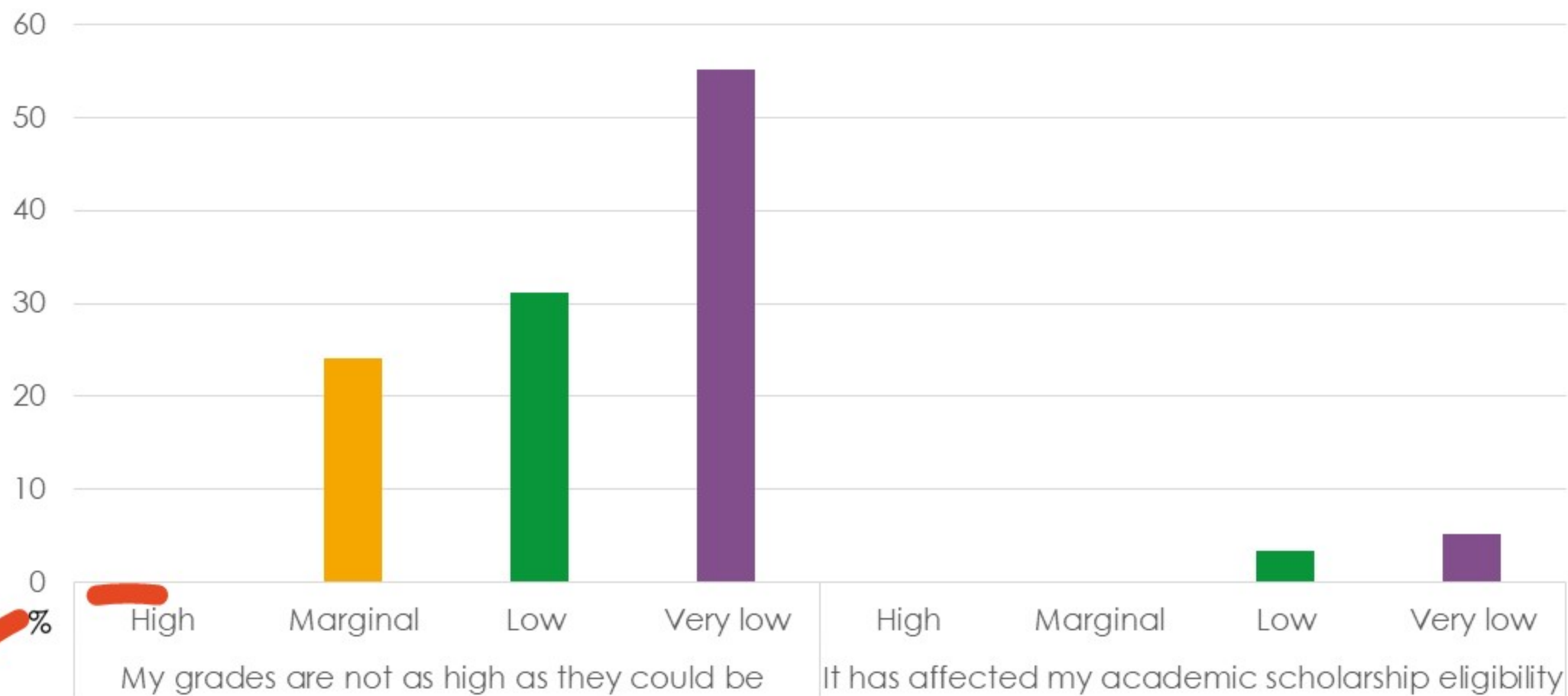


*Follow-up regression analyses indicate statistically significant differences in insecurity status of students identifying as White compared to a) Latino, b) Black, and c) Others

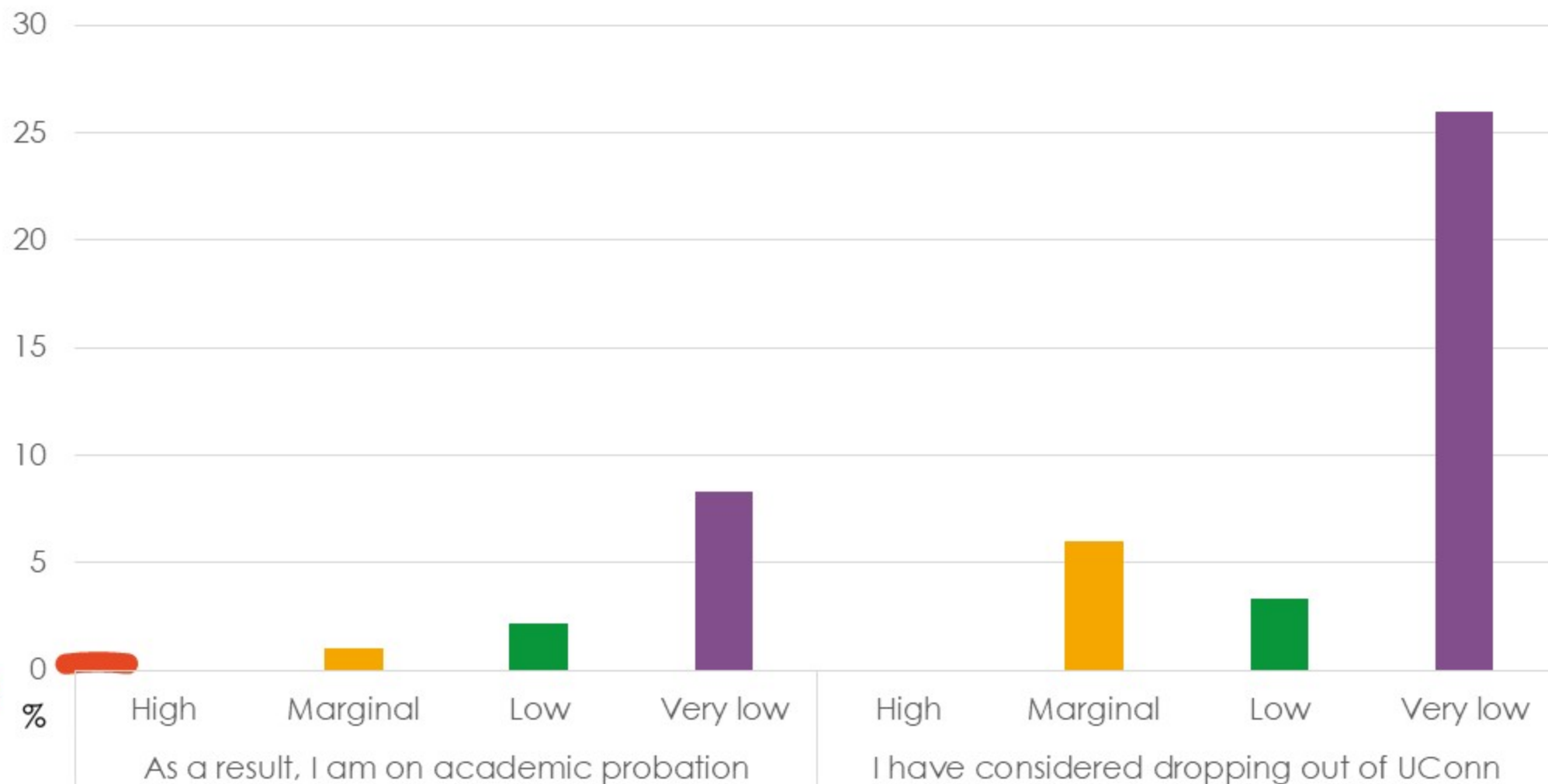
Rudd Findings: Student Self-reported Academic performance across Food Security Status



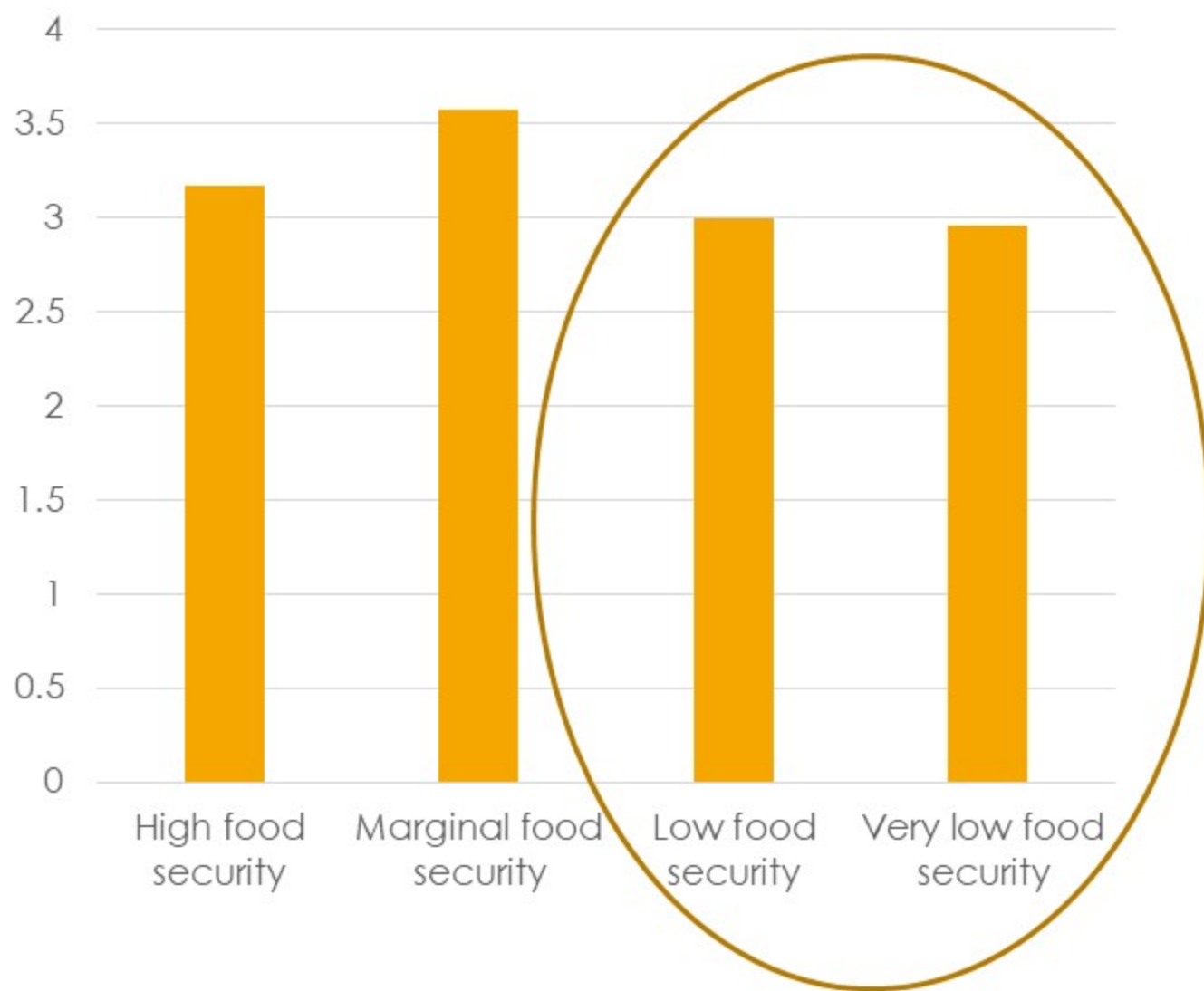
Rudd Findings: Student Self-reported Academic performance across Food Security Status



Rudd Findings: Student Self-reported Academic performance across Food Security Status




Rudd Findings: Student's GPA across Food Security Status

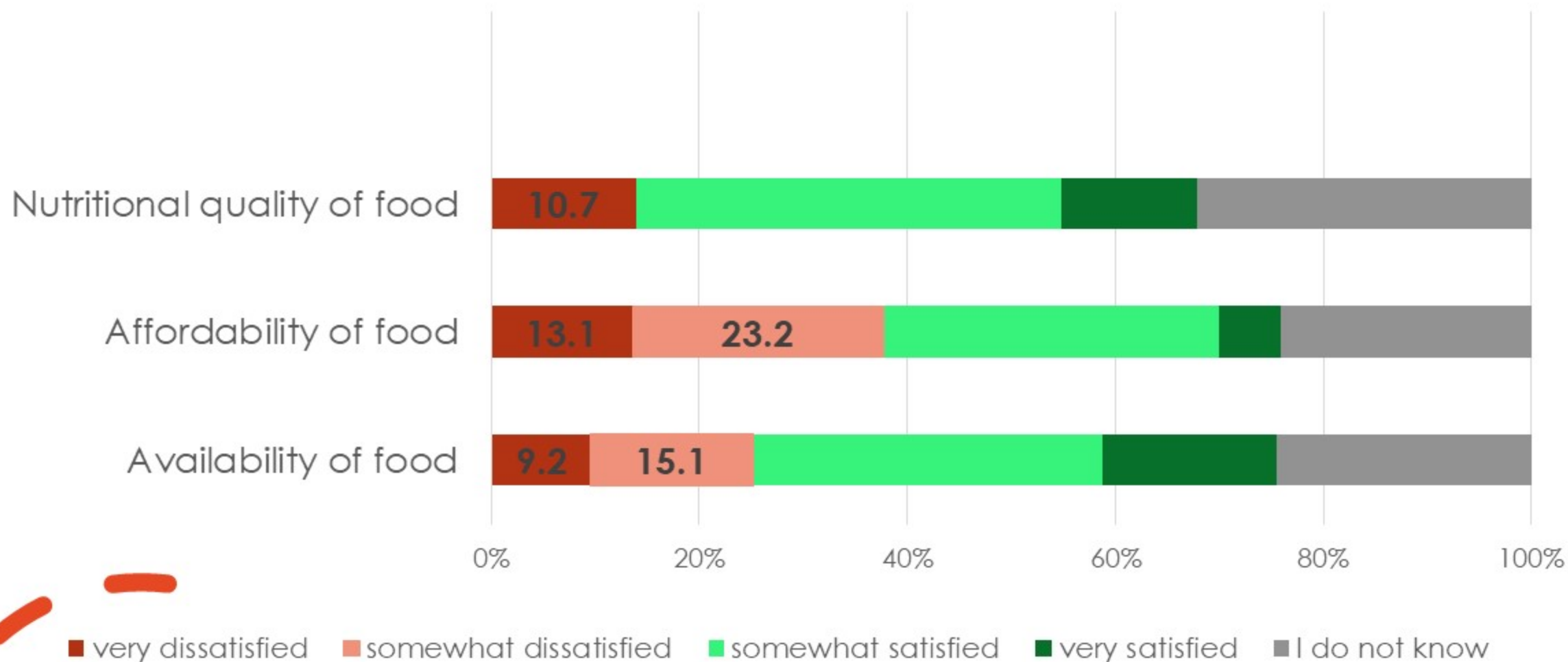




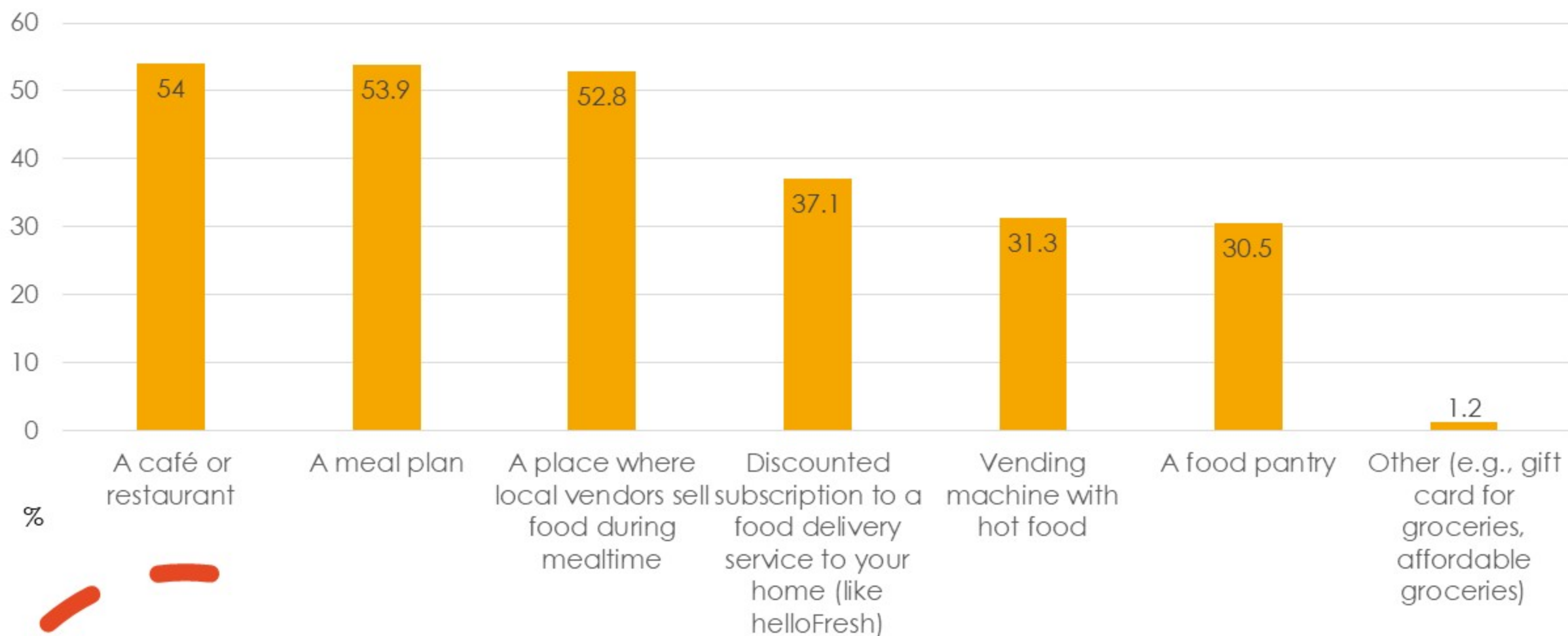
Rudd Study: Relationship between Food Insecurity Status and Academic Performance?

- Food insecure students reported more negative academic behaviors such as missing class, missing assignments, academic probation, considering dropping out
 - Food insecure students had lower GPAs
 - Follow-up regression analyses indicated important linkages across ethnicity, food insecurity, and academic performance
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Rudd Study: Student perception of the food environment on or near campus(full sample)



Rudd Study: Student Perspectives on Potential Improvements



Conclusions

1. 29% food insecurity among of regional campus students that took the survey
2. Disparities in food insecurity by regional campus
 - WTBY: 32%, STMFD: 31.8%, AVYPT: 25.3%, HRTFD: 25%
3. Disparities in food insecurity by race/ethnicity
 - Students who are Black, Latinx, & "other" are 2x more likely to be food insecure
4. Negative academic performance of food insecure students linked to food insecurity
5. Students dissatisfied with Affordability (36%) & Accessibility (24%) of food options
6. Students preferred structural, long-term solutions to provide an Affordable and Accessible food option on campus such as a meal plan and/or café/restaurant