



United States Department of Agriculture

Household Food Security in the United States in 2014

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www.ers.usda.gov



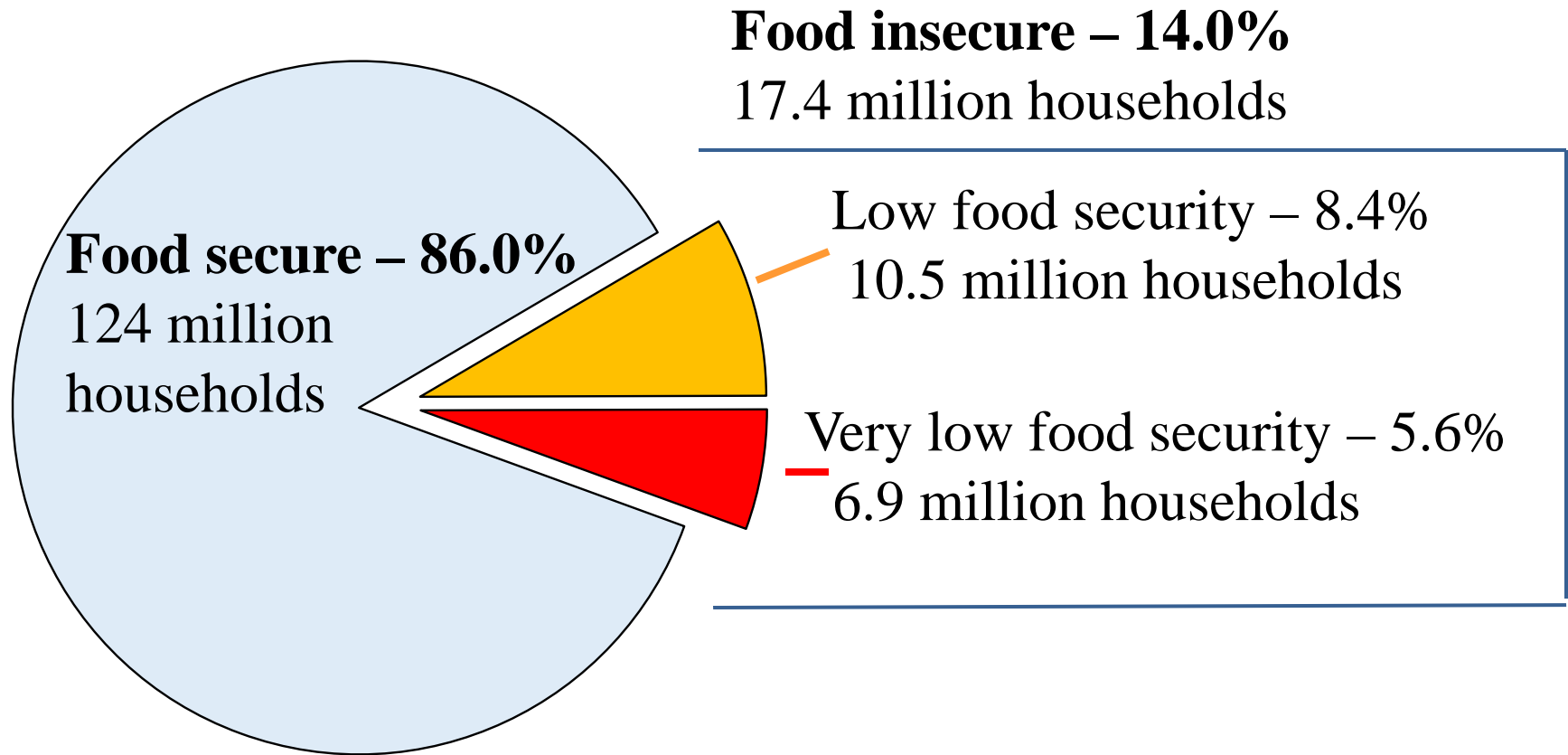
Outline of Webinar

“How many U.S. households were consistently able to put adequate food on the table?”

- How is food security measured?
- Main findings of annual food security report
- Food security survey
- Factors related to trends in food insecurity



U.S. households by food security status, 2014



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the December 2014 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.



Food security definitions

Food Security: Access at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members.

Food Insecurity: Unable, at some time during the year, to provide adequate food for one or more household members due to a lack of resources.

Very Low Food Security: Normal eating patterns of some household members were disrupted at times during the year and their food intake reduced below levels they considered appropriate



How is food security measured?

Worry, stretch, juggle

Reduce quality and variety of diet

Reduce food intake (adults)

Reduce food intake of children

Food secure

Food insecure

**Low food
security**

**Very low
food security**



Examples of Food Security Survey Questions

“The food that we bought just didn’t last, and we didn’t have money to get more.” Was that often, sometimes or never true for you in the last 12 months?

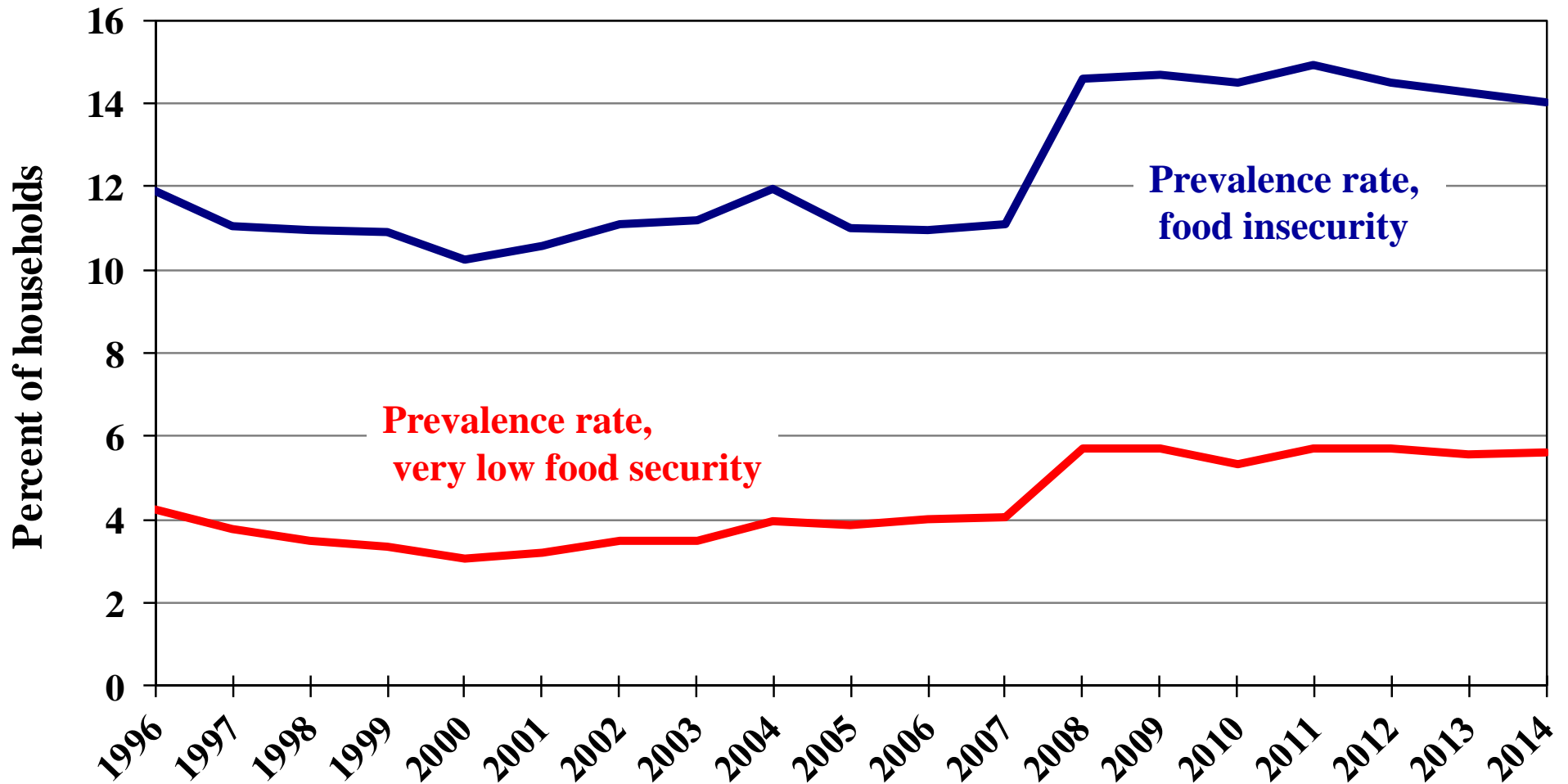
In the last 12 months, did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn’t enough money for food?

In the last 12 months, did you ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn’t enough money for food?



Trends in food insecurity

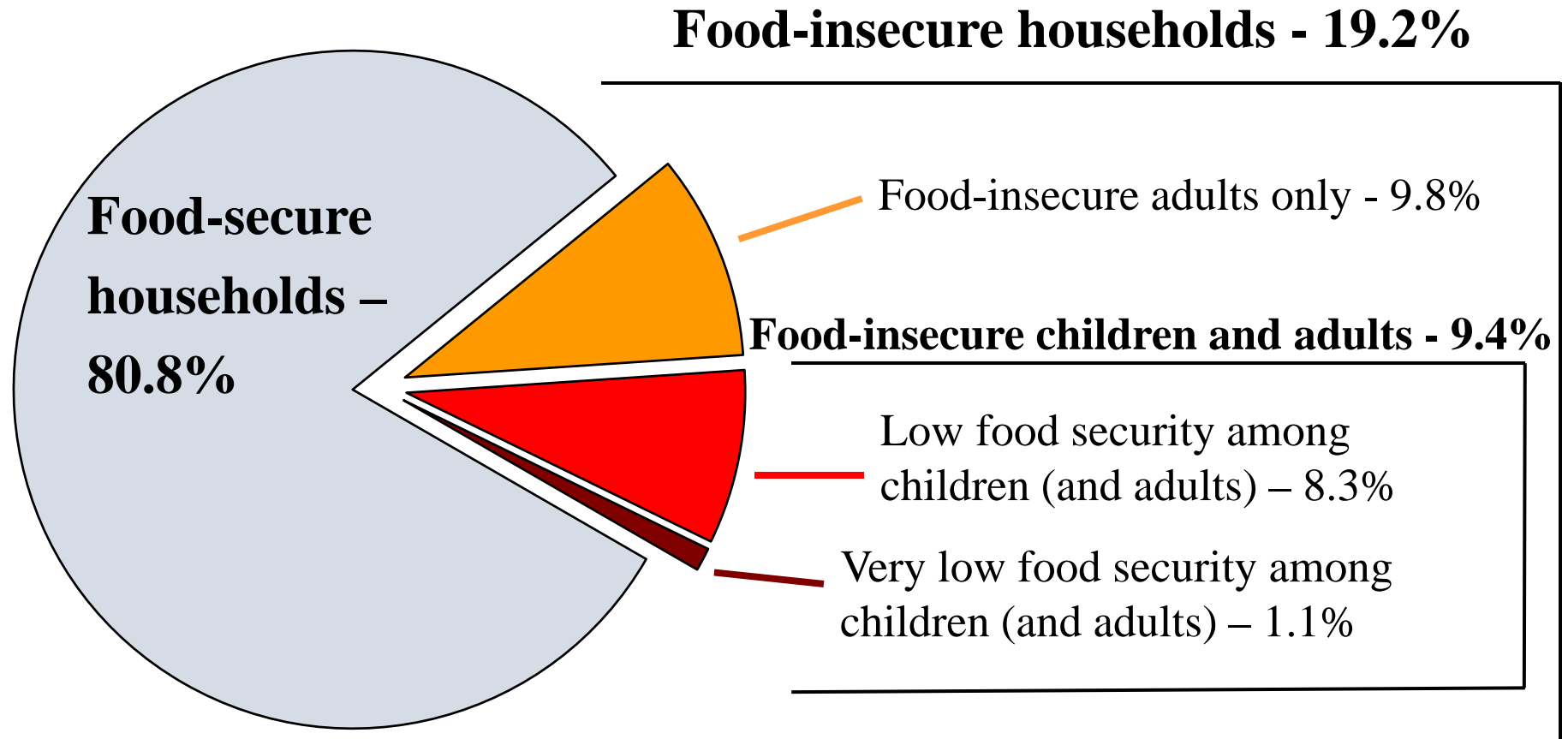
(2-year averages 1996-2001, single-year rates 2002-14)



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.



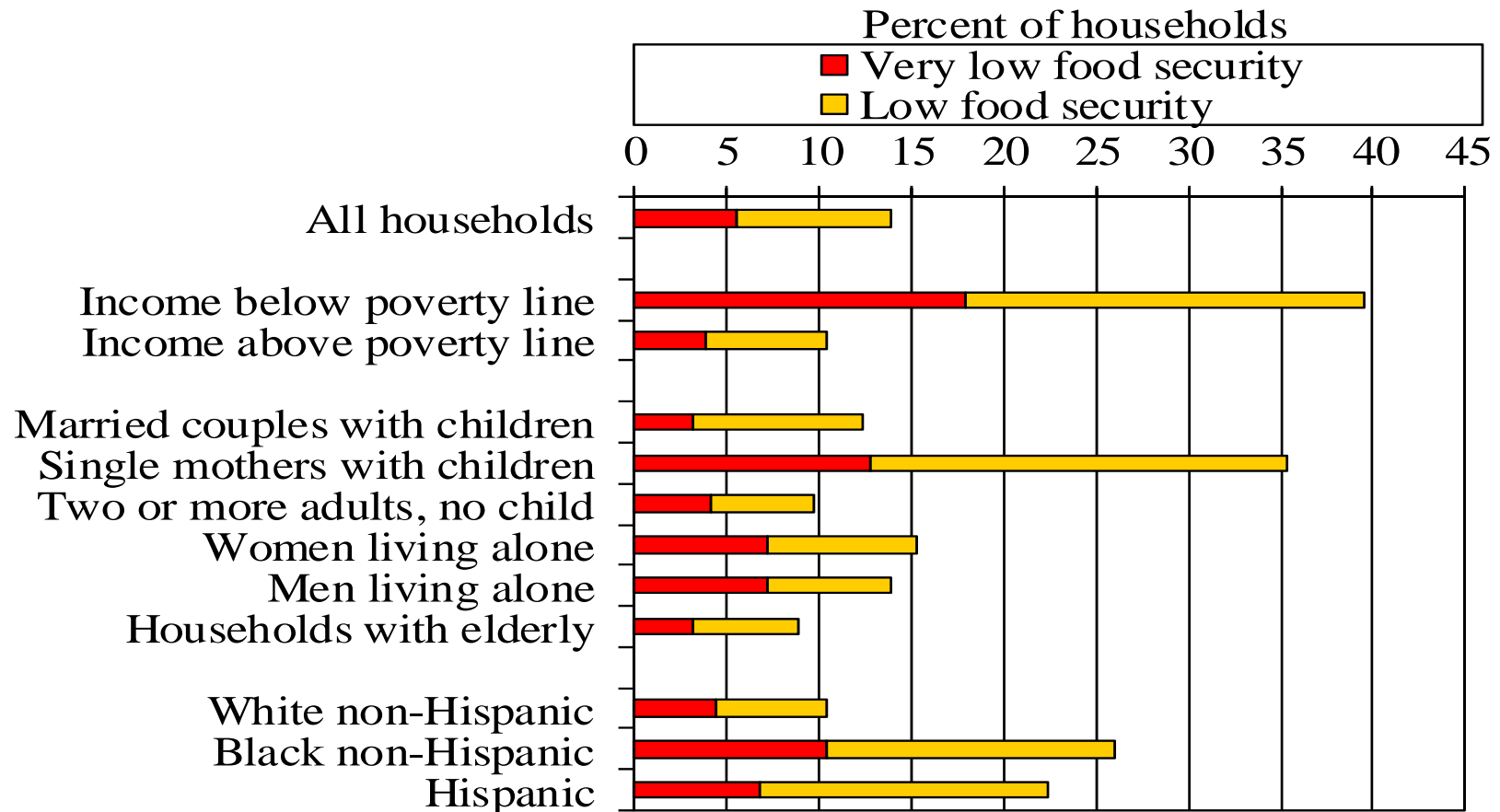
U.S. households with children by food security status, 2014



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the December 2014 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.



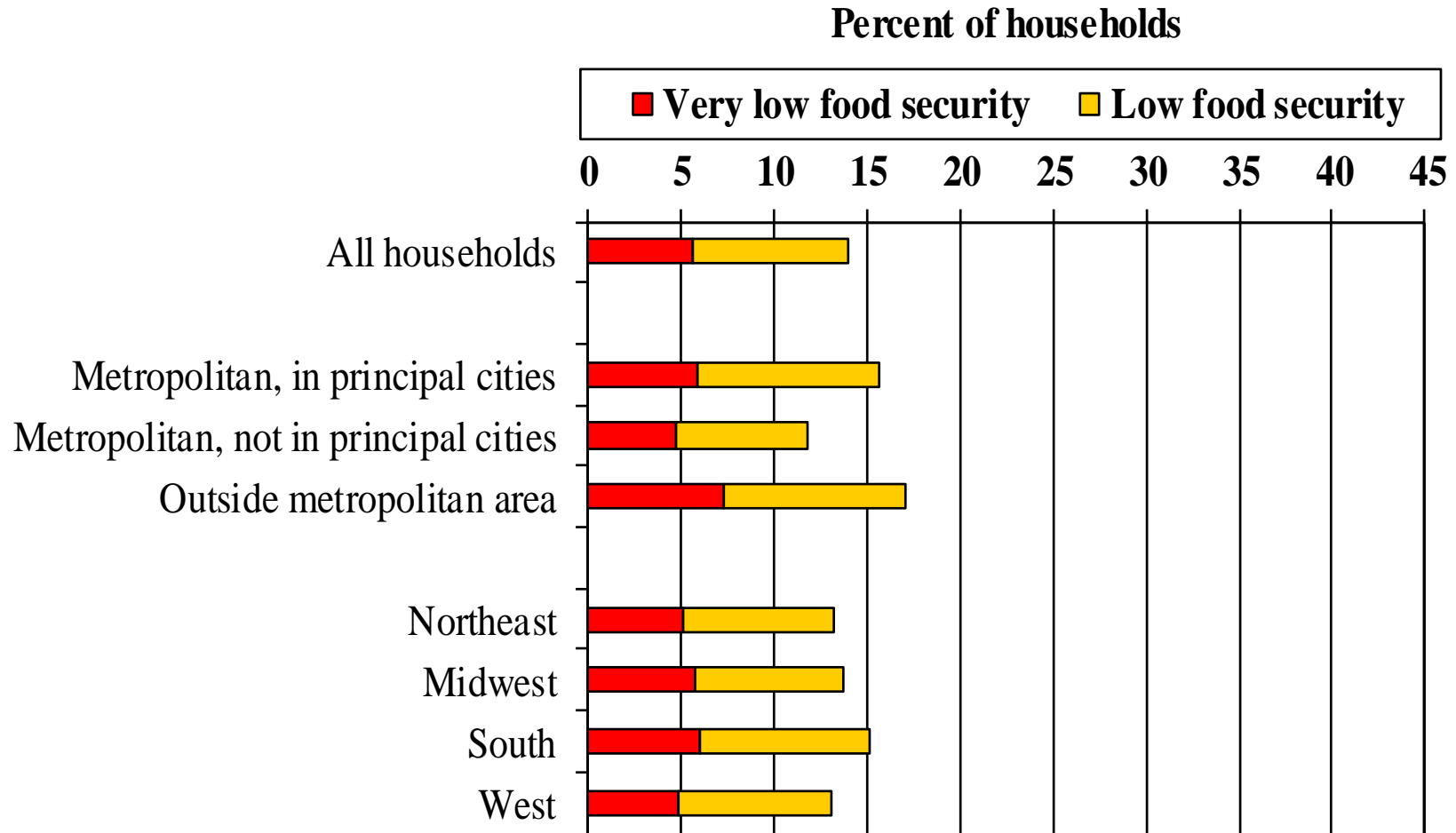
Food insecurity by household characteristics, 2014



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the December 2014 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.



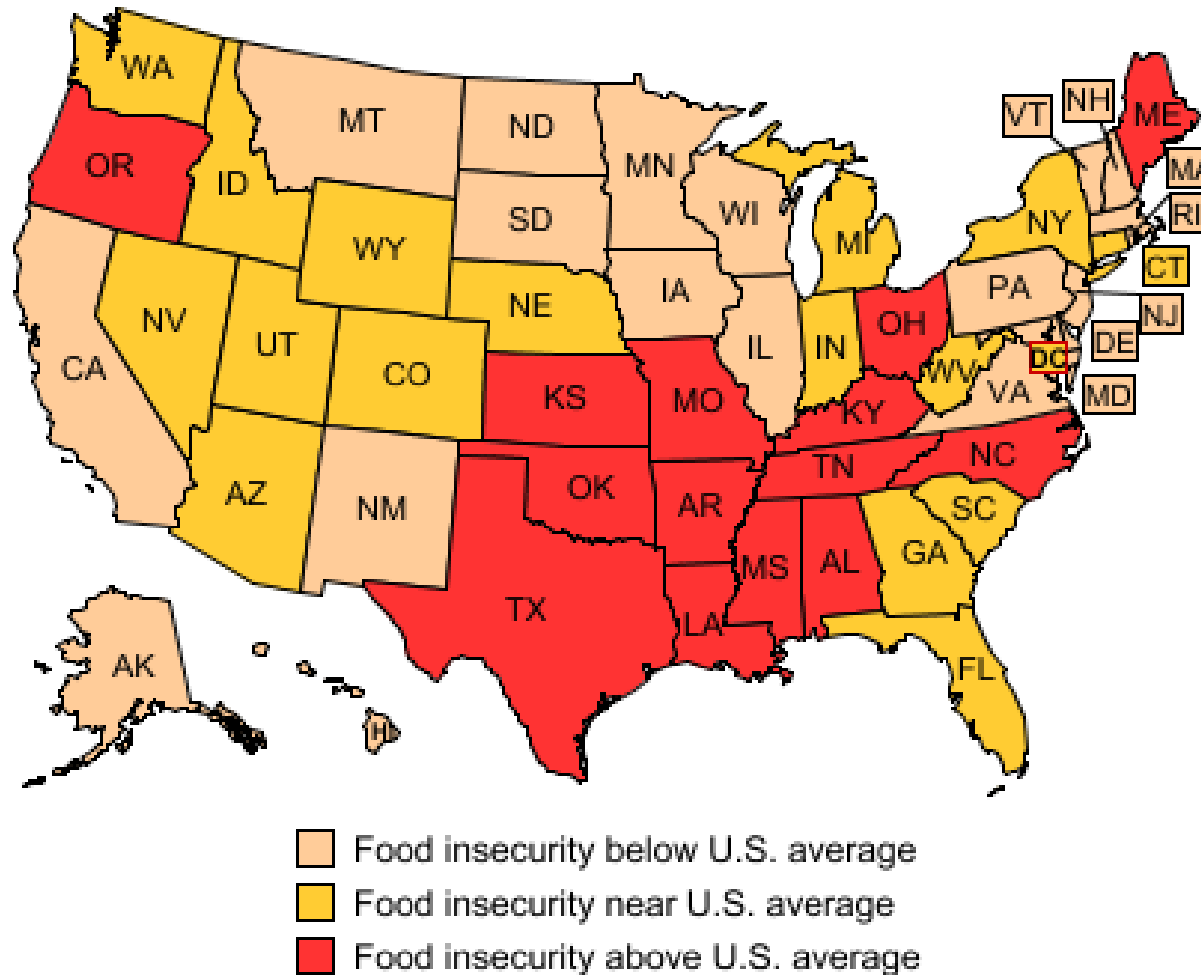
Food insecurity by metropolitan residence and region, 2014



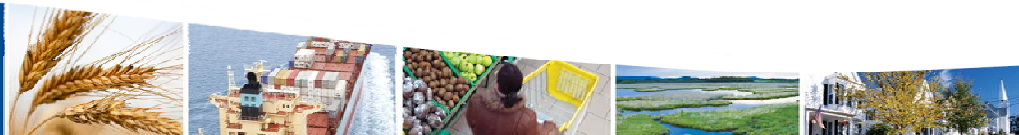
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the December 2014 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.



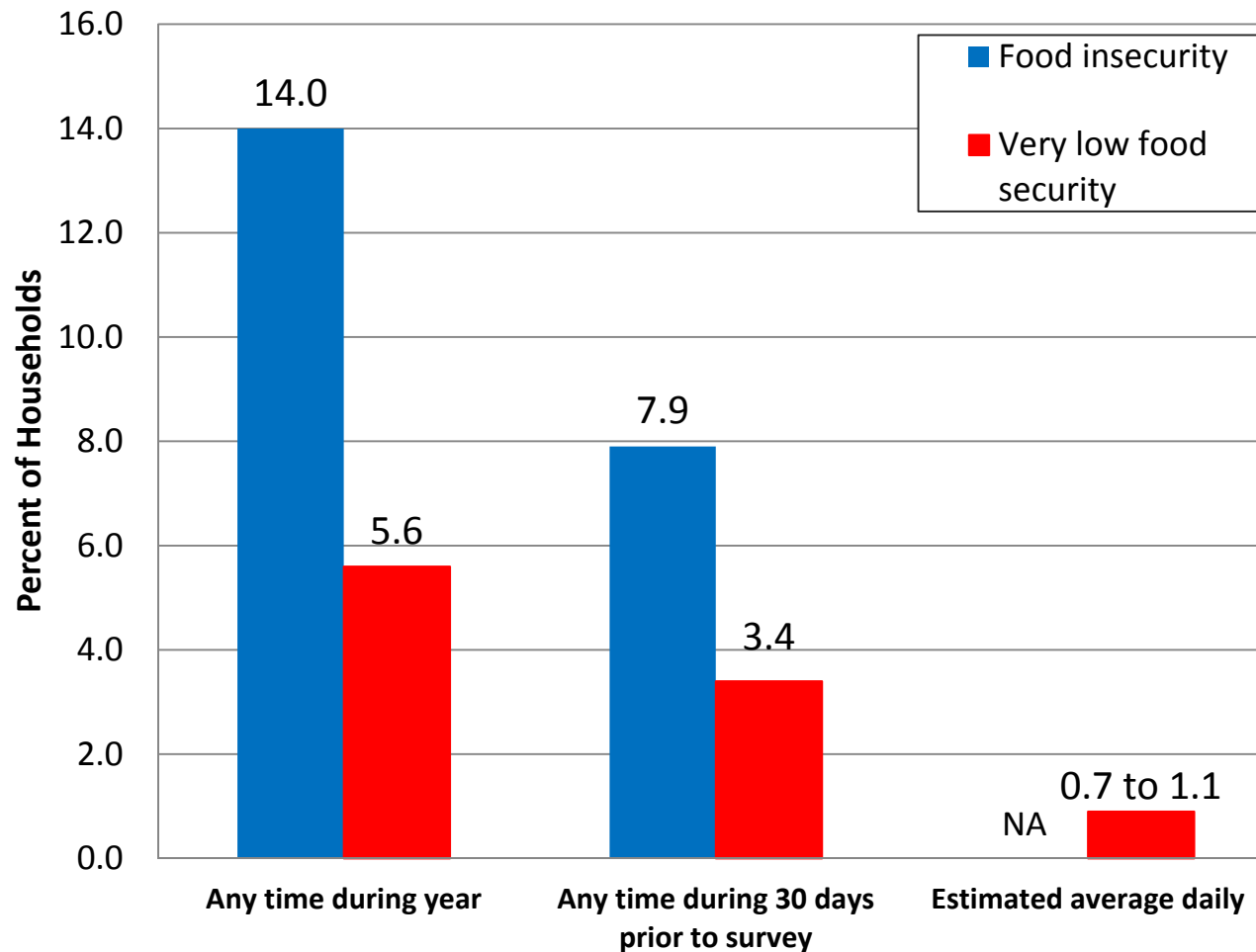
Prevalence of food insecurity, average 2012-14



Source: Calculated by ERS based on Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement data.



The prevalence of food insecurity depends on the length of time over which it is measured (2014)



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the December 2014 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.



Use of Federal food assistance programs by food-insecure households, 2014

Program	Share of food-insecure households that participated in the program during the previous 30 days
	Percent
One or more of the three largest Federal food assistance programs	60.5
SNAP (Food Stamps)	44.0
Free or reduced-price school lunch	32.2
WIC	10.4
None of the three programs	39.5

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the December 2014 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.



Percent of households using community food assistance programs, 2014

Category	Food pantries	Emergency Kitchens
	Percent	Percent
All households	5.5	0.6
Households by food security status:		
Food secure	2.0	0.2
Food insecure	27.1	3.0
Low food security	20.8	1.3
Very low food security	36.7	5.7

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the December 2014 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.



Median weekly food spending by food security status, 2014

Category	Median weekly food spending per person
	Dollars
All households	50.00
Food secure households	50.00
Food insecure households	37.50

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the December 2014 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

- Taking into account estimated food need, the typical food-secure households spent 26 percent more for food than the typical food-insecure household.



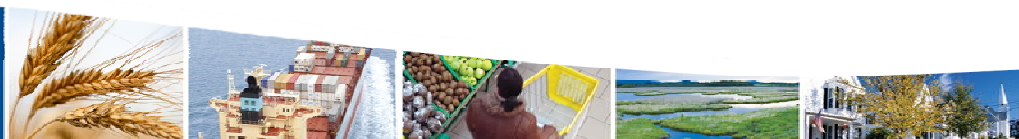
Annual food security survey

- **Current Population Survey (CPS)**
 - Conducted by Census Bureau
 - About 45,000 households
 - Representative of U.S. civilian households
 - Source of employment and poverty statistics
 - High quality sample
 - Well trained, well managed field staff
 - High response rate
 - High quality data management
 - Conducted annually in December

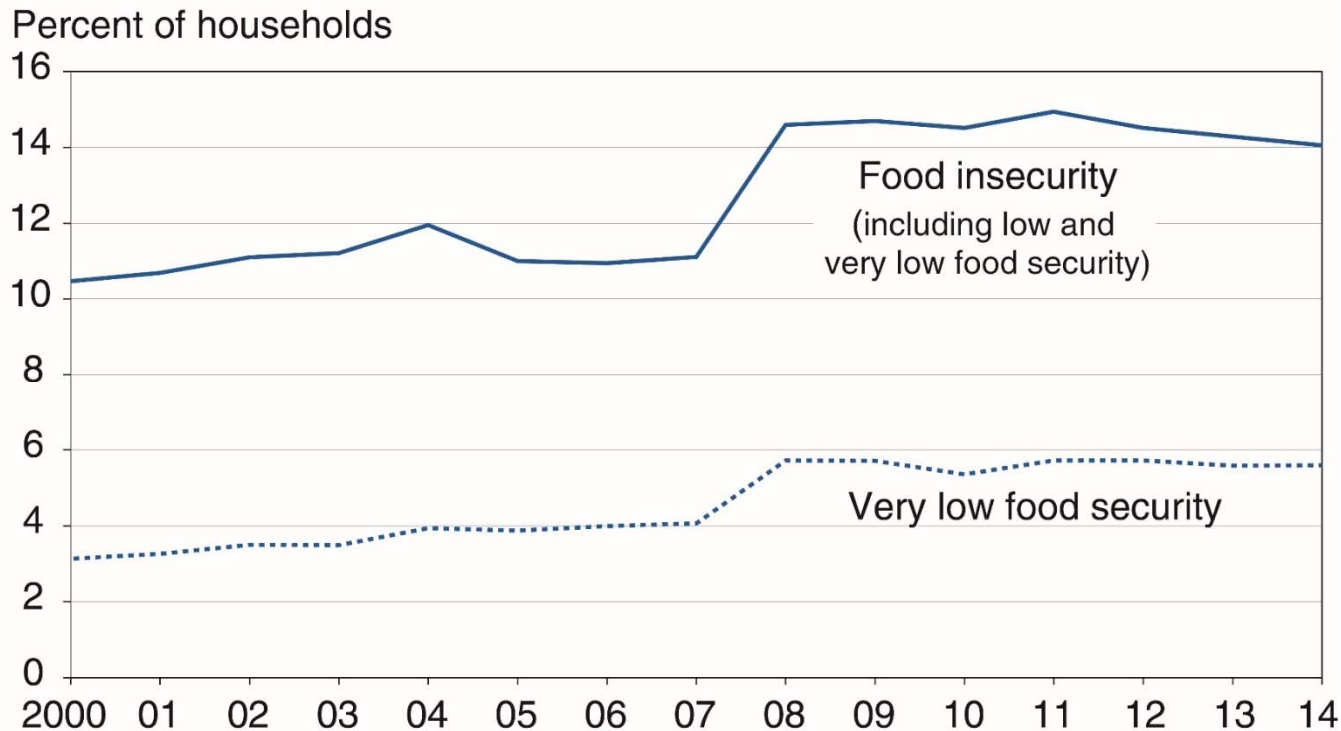


Economic conditions may explain recent trends in food insecurity

- Inflation was 8.6% from 2010 to 2014
- Food prices up 10.5% from 2010 to 2014
- Maximum SNAP allotments fell 5% in November 2013 due to expiration of the temporary increase in SNAP benefits from the stimulus bill
- See today's USDA Blog:
<http://blogs.usda.gov/tag/ers/>



Prevalence of food insecurity in 2014 was essentially unchanged from 2013 and 2012, down from 2011



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

Summary: Food insecurity rose substantially during the recession and has been recovering slowly



For more information....

<http://ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us.aspx>

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