



A program of



The HungerCare Coalition:

Addressing Food Insecurity through Community and Clinic Collaboration

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HungerCare Video



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GtjXzdxxPJQ>

Food Insecurity in Wisconsin



- 1 in 8 individuals and 1 in 5 children southwestern WI face hunger
- 83% of FI families cope by buying inexpensive and unhealthy food
- **Food Insecurity \neq Poverty**
 - 57% of FI households have someone working at least 30 hours/week



Health Professionals are Trusted

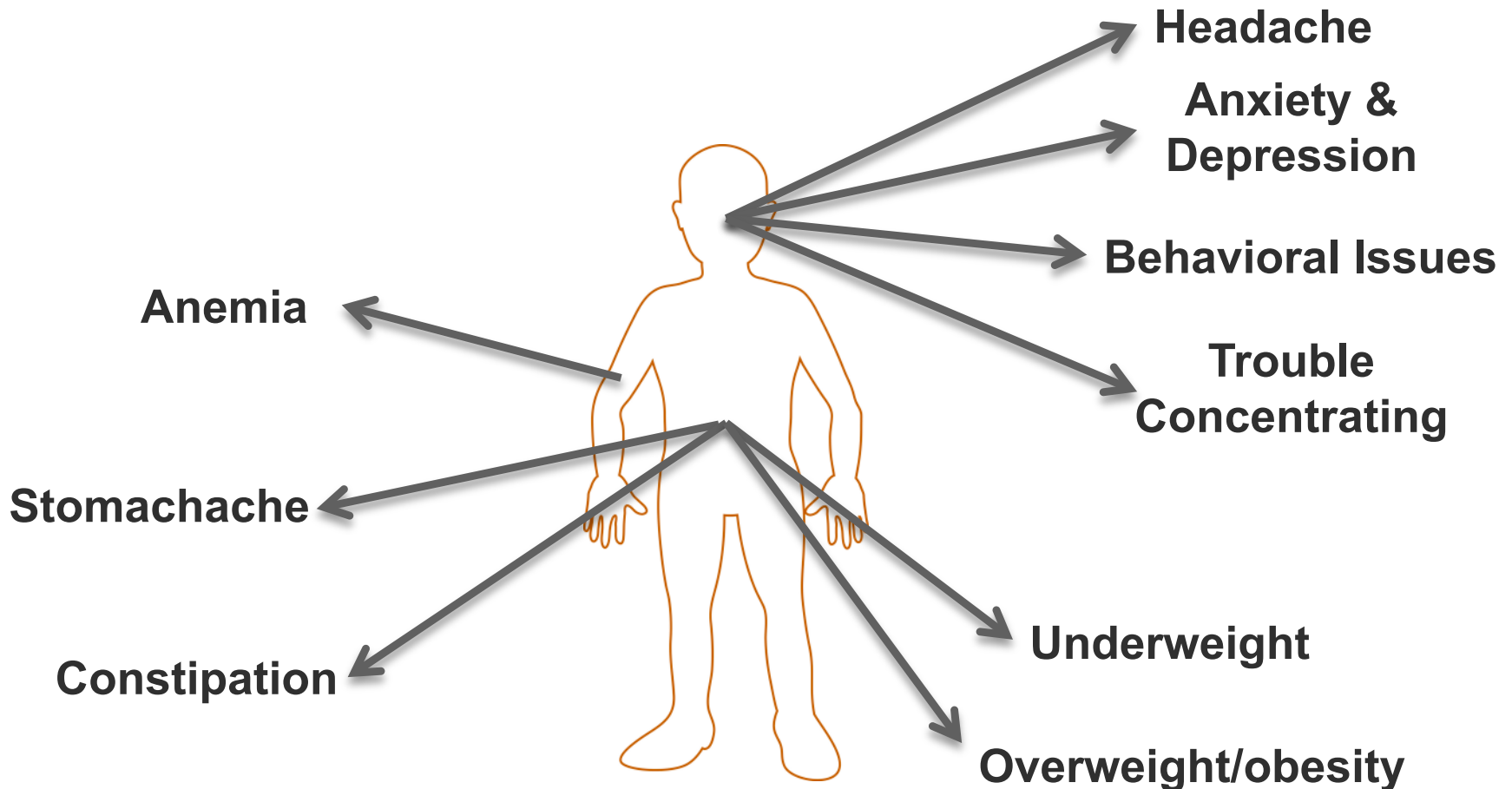


They can:

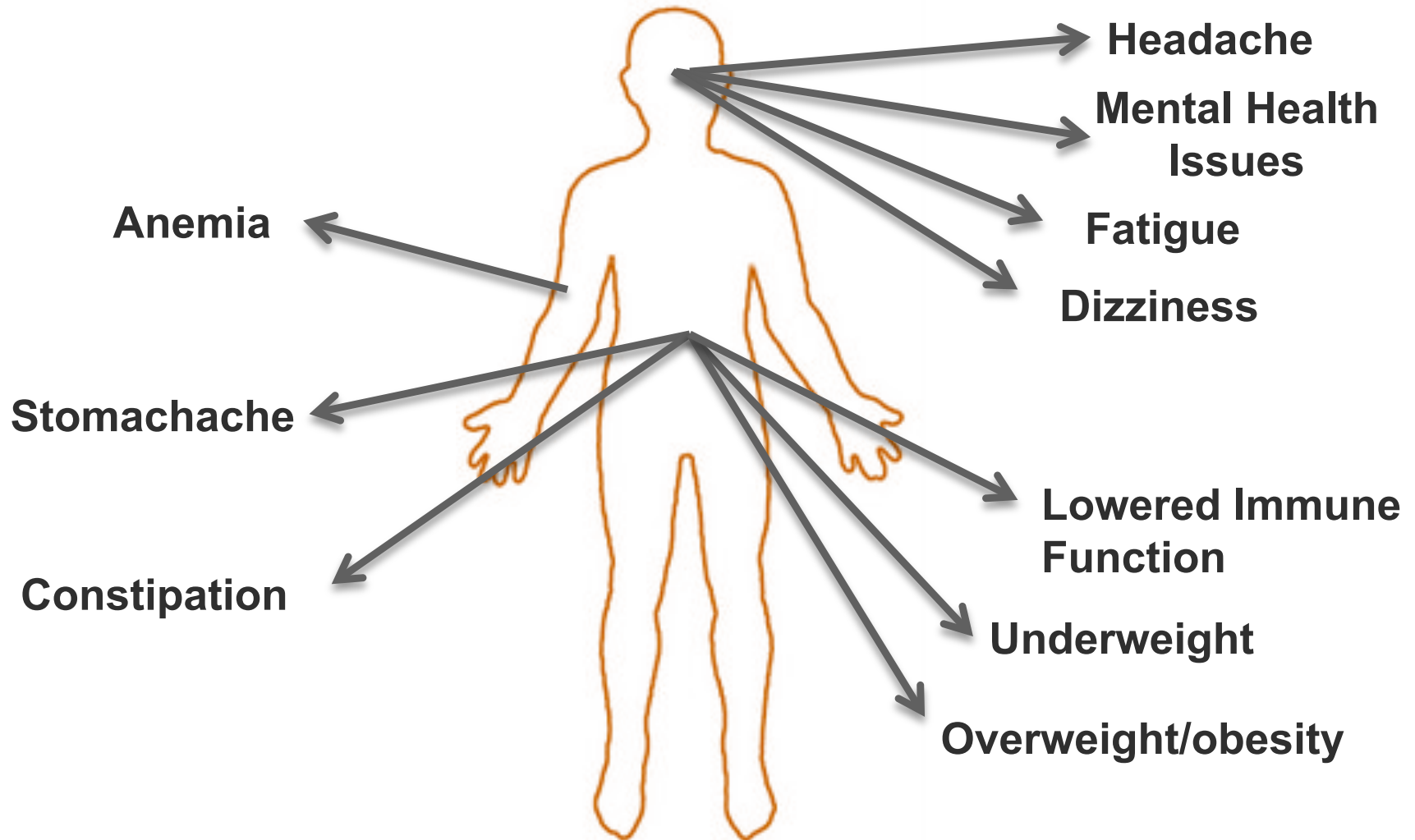
- Identify at-risk patients
- Discuss food insecurity
- Refer patients to resources



Signs & Symptoms of Food Insecurity in Children



Signs & Symptoms of Food Insecurity in Adults



Anemia

Stomachache

Constipation

Headache

**Mental Health
Issues**

Fatigue

Dizziness

**Lowered Immune
Function**

Underweight

Overweight/obesity

Who is Food Insecure?



You'll never know unless you ask



2 USDA-Validated Questions



1) “Within the past 12 months we worried whether our food would run out before we got money to buy more.”

2) “Within the past 12 months the food we bought just didn't last and we didn't have money to get more.”

- a) Often True
- b) Sometimes True
- c) Never True

Published in: [Hagar ER, et al. \(2010\). Development and Validity of a 2-Item Screen to Identify Families at Risk for Food Insecurity. *Pediatrics*, 126: e26-e32](#)

Supported by the AAP



American Academy
of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

Policy Statement - October 2015

Promoting Food Security for All Children

“Pediatricians can play a central role in screening and identifying children at risk for food insecurity and in connecting families with needed community resources.”

The Role of HungerCare



- Partner with health care providers
- Provide tools to screen
- Connect patients with resources
- Improve health outcomes



Current Coalition Participants



Representatives from :

- Access Community Health
- American Family Children's Hospital
- Associated Physicians
- Dean & St. Mary's
- Group Health Cooperative
- Healthy Kids Collaborative of Dane County
- HealthTIDE
- Madison Metropolitan School District
- Public Health Madison & Dane County
- Memorial Hospital of Lafayette County
- Meriter-Unity Point
- Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative
- Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program
- Tomah Memorial Hospital
- Upland Hills Health
- UW Extension
- UW Health
- WI Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (WIAAP)
- Wildwood Family Clinic

Dane County Provider Survey



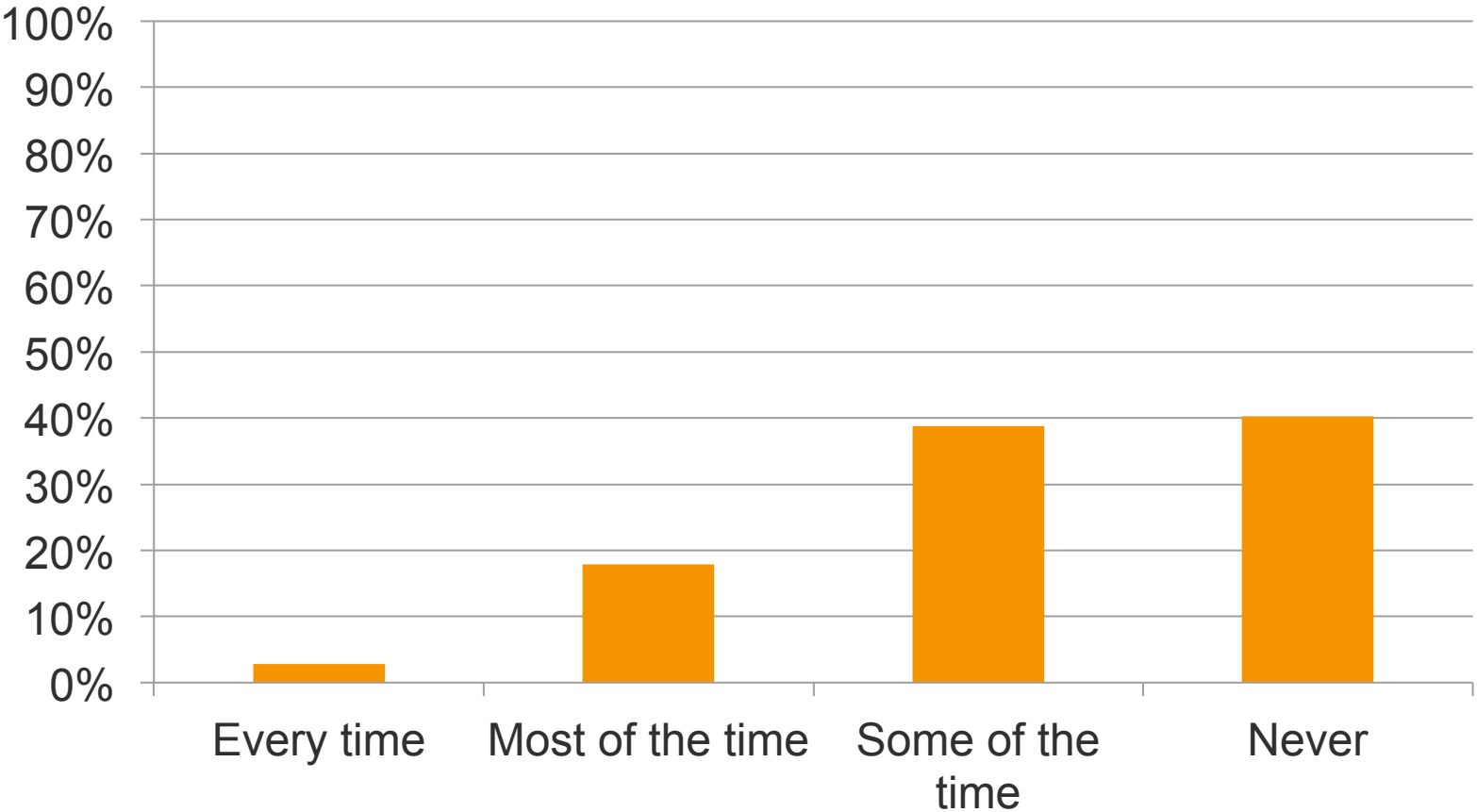
- Conducted Dec. 2014 – Feb. 2015
- All health care systems participated
- 459 surveys completed



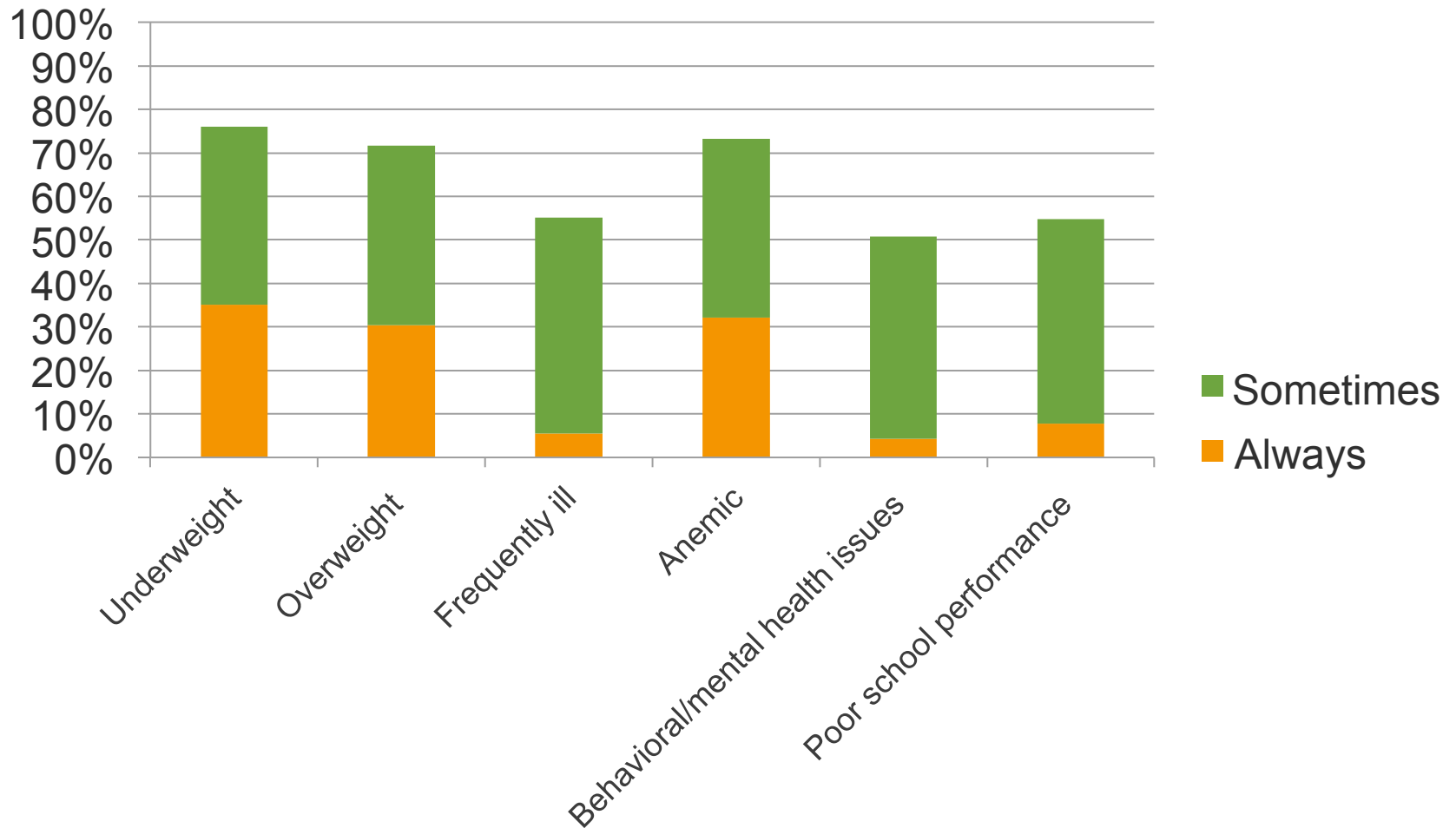
PROVIDER TYPE	% RESPONDING
MD/DO	34%
RN	24%
MA	22%
LPN	8%
PA	6%
NP/DNP	1%
<i>Did not specify</i>	5%

Table 1 Percent survey respondents by title

In a clinic visit, how often do you ask a patient about having adequate nutritious/high quality foods in the house so that everyone is properly nourished?



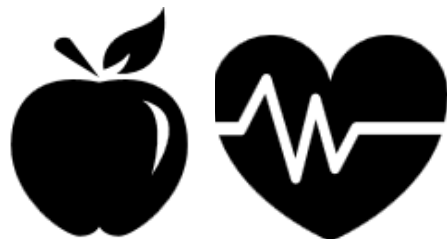
Do any of the following symptoms prompt you to ask questions about the household food status of your pediatric patients?



Education is Needed



Top 3 Preferred Topics for Provider Training



Health and
nutrition
implications
of food
insecurity

Resources
available for
households
experiencing
food insecurity



How to
incorporate food
insecurity topics
into your clinical
setting

Are providers willing to screen for food insecurity?



84%

— said —

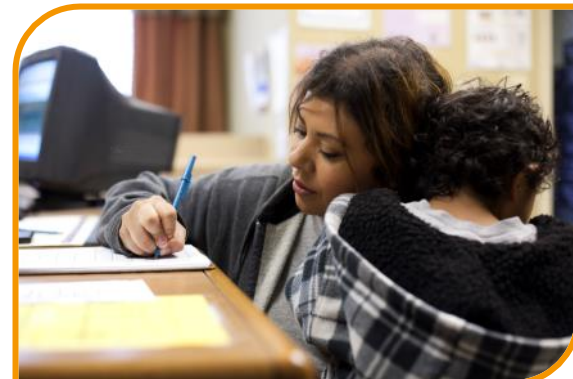
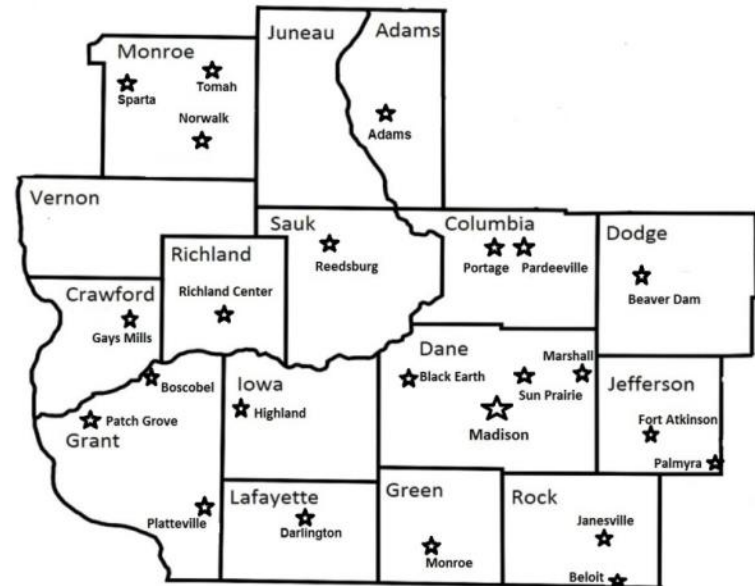
Yes!



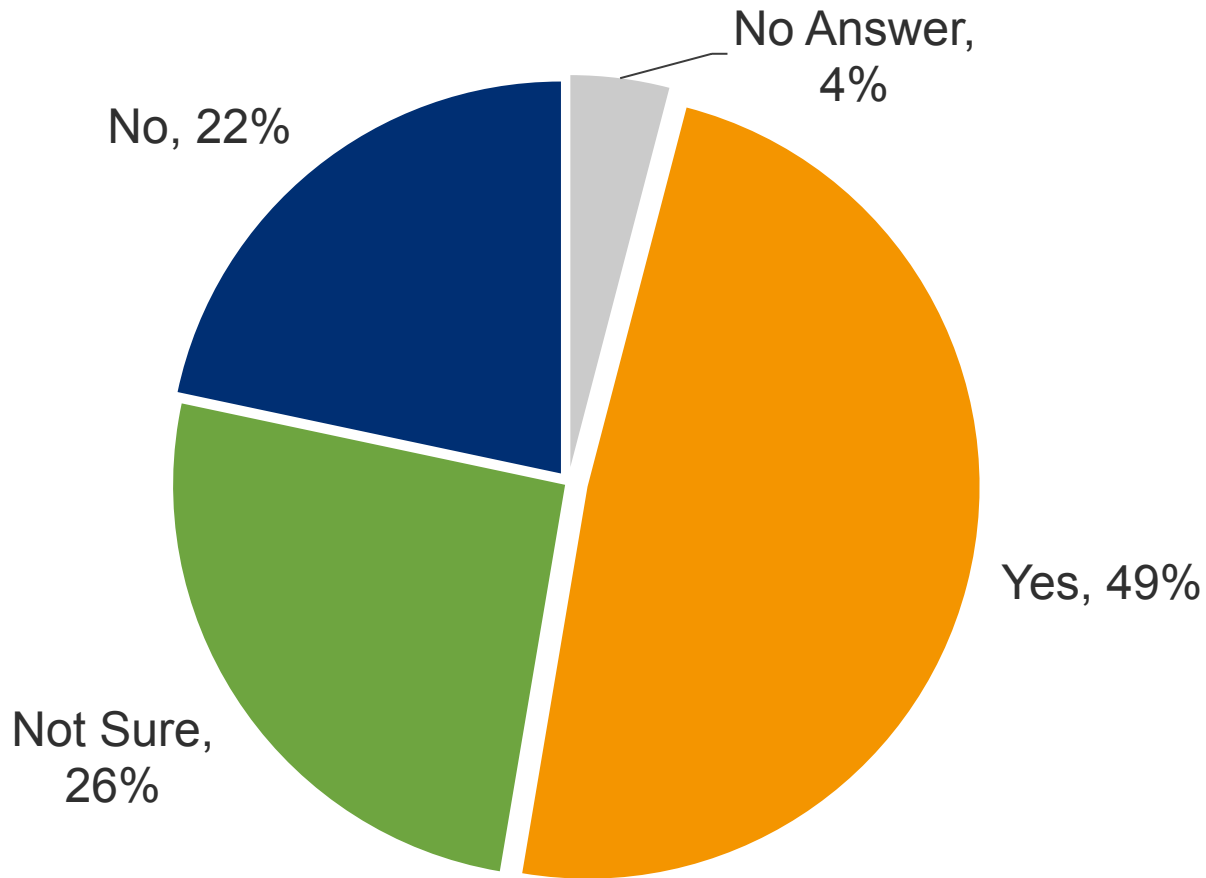
Patient Survey



- Survey conducted at 23 mobile pantry sites
- 1,426 responses received
- 85% of respondents screened positive for food insecurity
- 81% of respondents with children took them to the doctor in the past year



If you were concerned about your food running out and someone at the clinic asked you about having enough food, would you share your concerns with them?



(N=1,426)

Patient Feedback



“I talk about everything at my doctor’s office.”

“It would be nice for the doctor to ask.”

“I don’t think they really care.”

“Too embarrassing”

“I don’t want them to think I can’t take care of my kids or report me for neglect.”

If needed, what would be the best way(s) for the doctor's office to help you with food resources?

Please check all that apply.

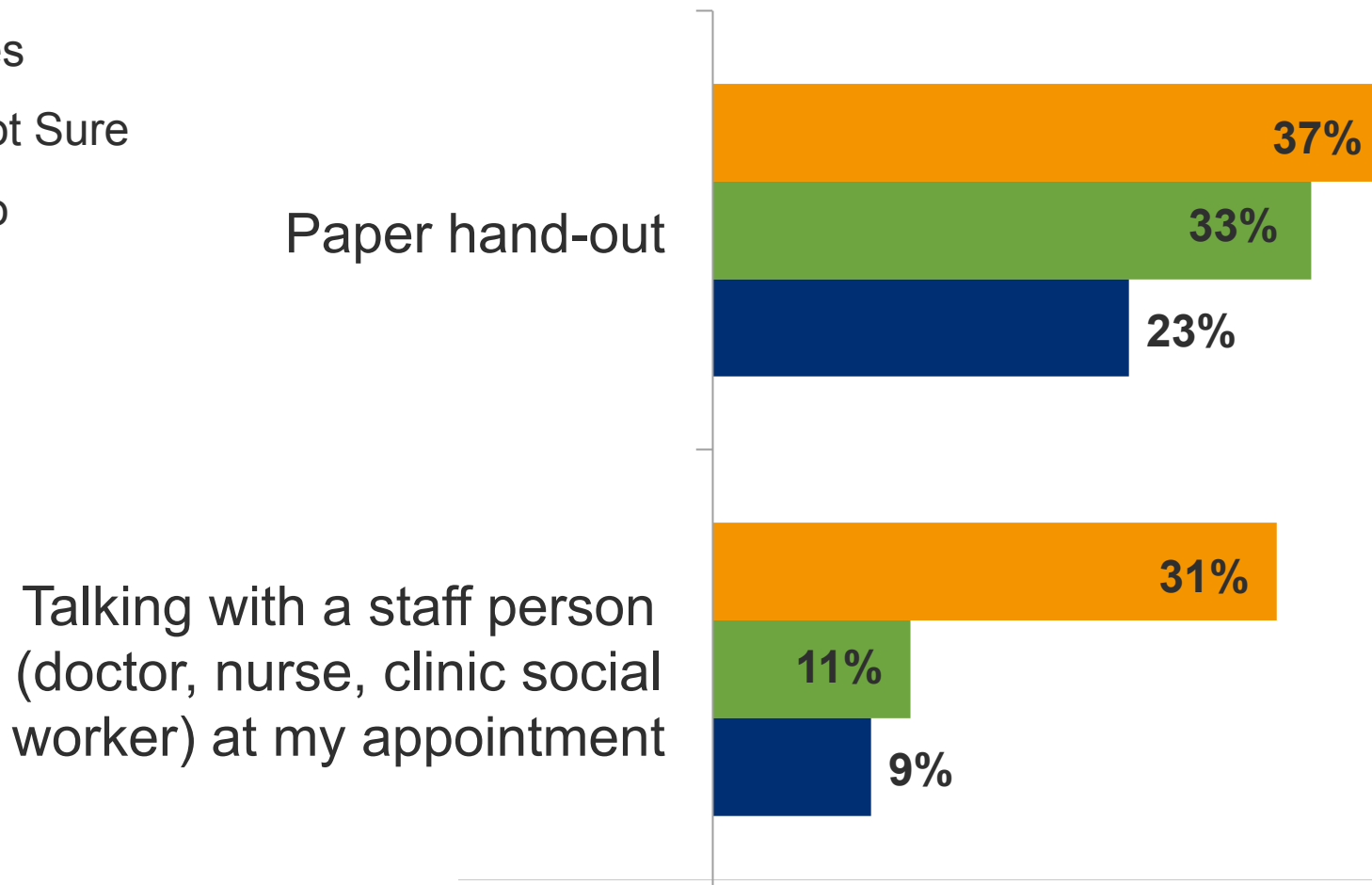


By willingness to share concerns about food with doctor:

■ Yes

■ Not Sure

■ No



Recommended Resources



You may be eligible for the QUEST card. Call now!

1-877-FOOD-635



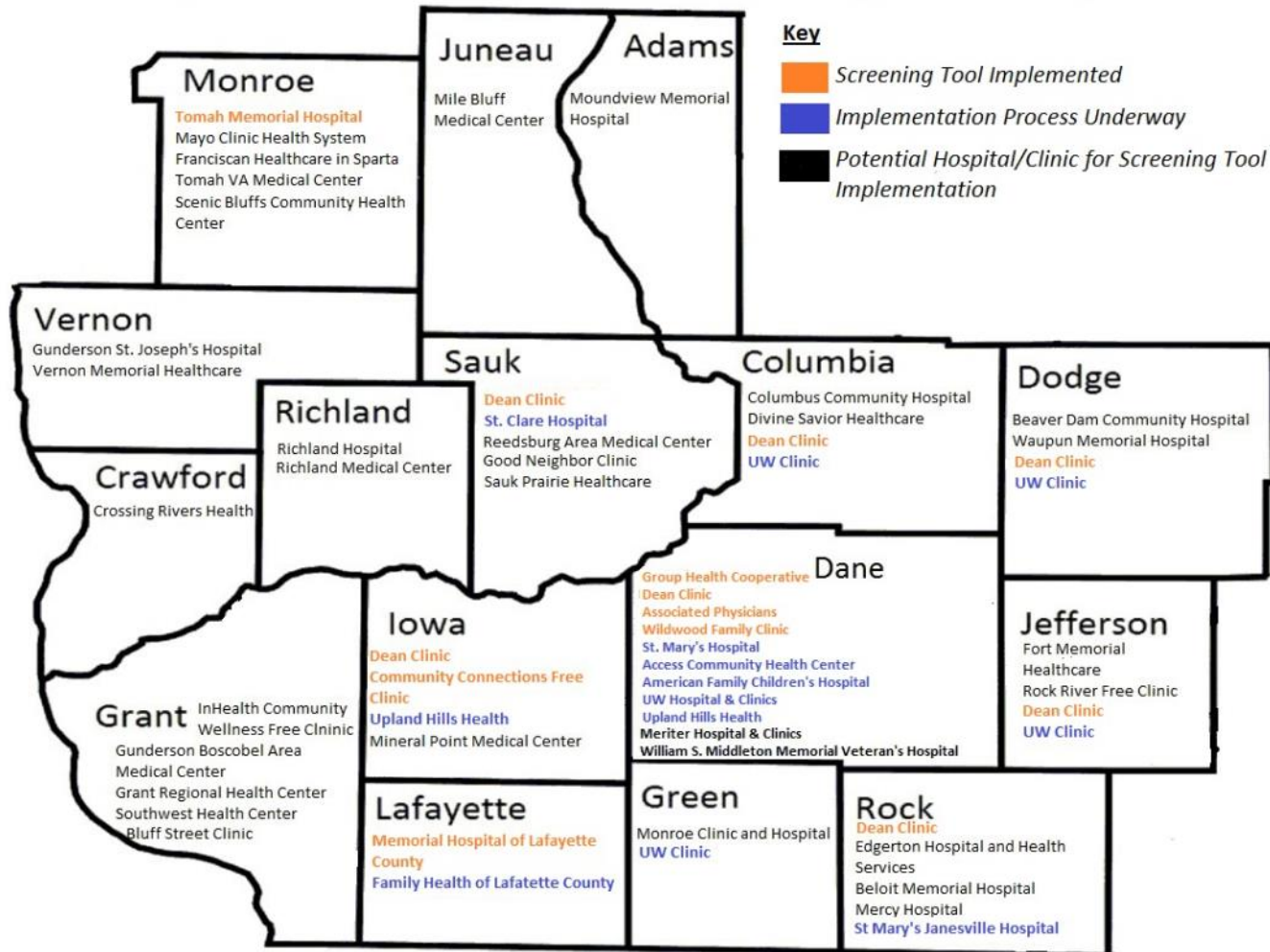
Early Adopters



Our progress so far



HungerCare Coalition Food Insecurity Screening Tool Implementation Map



Evaluation in a perfect world



- Questions built in EMR, quarterly reports on:
 - Number of screens performed
 - Number of FI patients identified
 - Number of patients referred to social worker
 - Number of patients reached by social worker
- Follow-up done by social worker, quarterly reports on:
 - Resources being used before referral
 - New resources patient has connected with



Evaluation in reality



- No EMR or inability to customize
- No incentive to share EMR data
- No social worker
- Lack of follow up by social work
- Inability to track social work interactions in EMR
- FI questions are not a good measure of improvement over time



Lessons Learned

- Relationships are key
- Survey can help set the stage
- Recruit your physician champions
- Each health care system is unique
- Education is needed
- Consider evaluation early



Together we can end hunger!



Thank You!



If you have any questions, please contact:

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Questions?

