



# OC Hunger Alliance

Community Convening

March 13, 2024



# Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Background
3. Findings
4. Discussion
5. Report Out



## OC Hunger Alliance Steering Committee:

- ❖ **Mark Lowry** – OC Food Bank
- ❖ **Claudia Keller** – Second Harvest Food Bank
- ❖ **Mike Learakos** – Abound Food Care



## **OCHA Vision**

A healthy Orange County community with equitable access to nutritious food.

## **Joint Mission**

Optimizing the emergency food system and leveraging food assistance to address root causes of poverty.



# OC Hunger Alliance Supporters:

- ❖ **Victoria Torres** – Samueli Foundation
- ❖ **Hieu Nguyen** – OC Health Care Agency
- ❖ **Carol Kim** – Orange County United Way





# Equity in OC Grant

# Purpose

Utilizing the OC Hunger Alliance and network partners to tackle food insecurity and social inequities while optimizing the food system.



# Food Systems Impact Plan

- Advocacy & Equitable Access to Nutrition
- Enhance Purchasing Opportunities
- Enhance Service Model
- Logistical Improvements & Shared Resources





# EiOC Work Plan

- Identify Long-term Strategy & Operating Model
- OCHA Expansion
- Technology
- Budget
- Impact Data





# Framing the Issue

# Background

## Orange County



- **8.3%** are considered food insecure
- **13.8%** are living  $\leq 100\%$  poverty and **32%** are living  $\leq 200\%$  poverty
- Over half of renters (**56.6%**) spend  $\geq 30\%$  of household income on housing
- While 81.5% of adults are always able to find fresh fruits and vegetables in their neighborhood, only **55.7% consider them affordable**

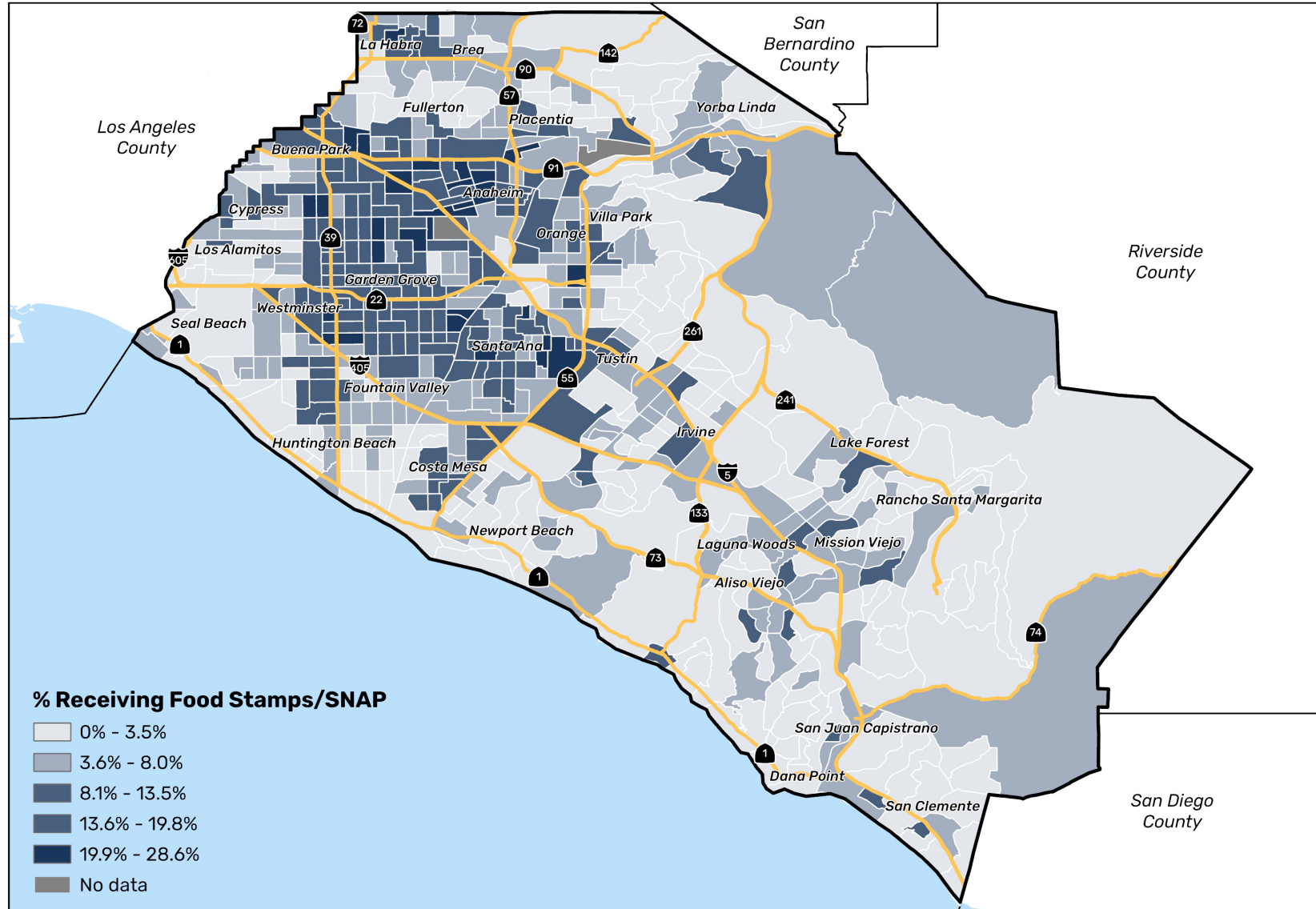
# Background (Continued)



## Orange County

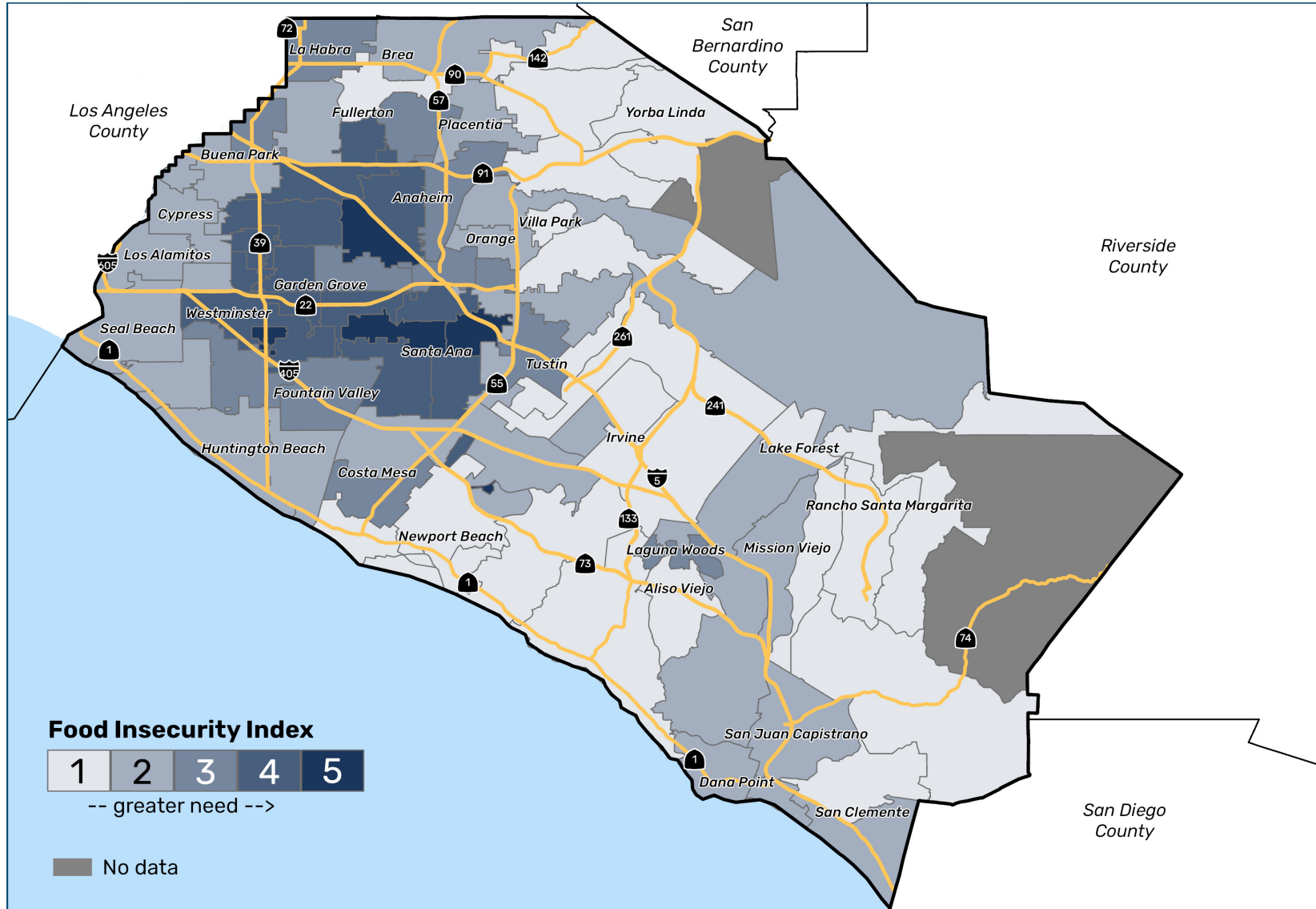
- **Undocumented immigrants** are hardest hit with food insecurity
- **Black** and **Hispanic** households have higher than average rates of food insecurity
- **Disabled adults** are at higher risk because of limited employment opportunities and high health care expenses

# Households Receiving SNAP



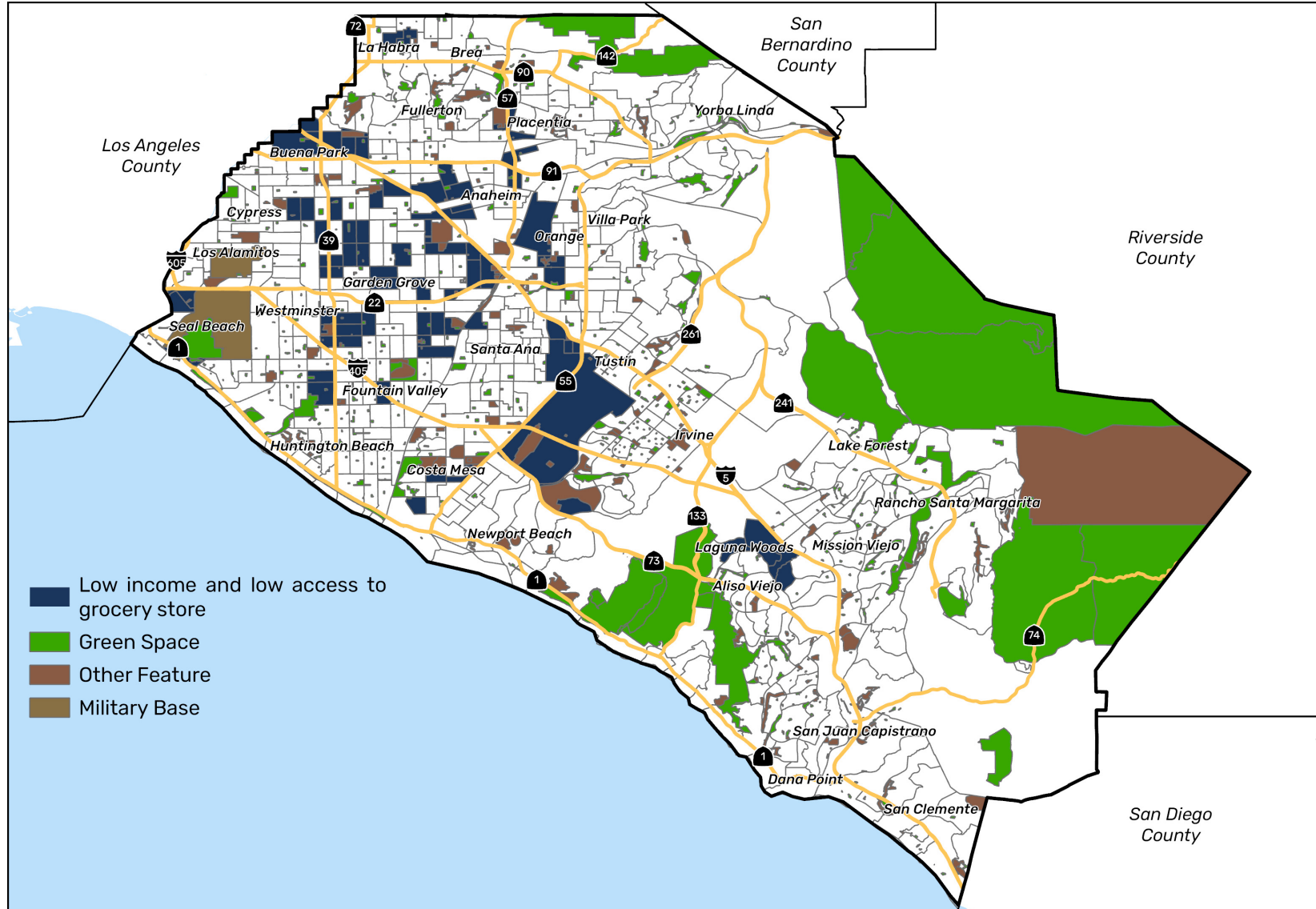
Source: US  
Census Bureau,  
ACS 2022

# Food Insecurity Index



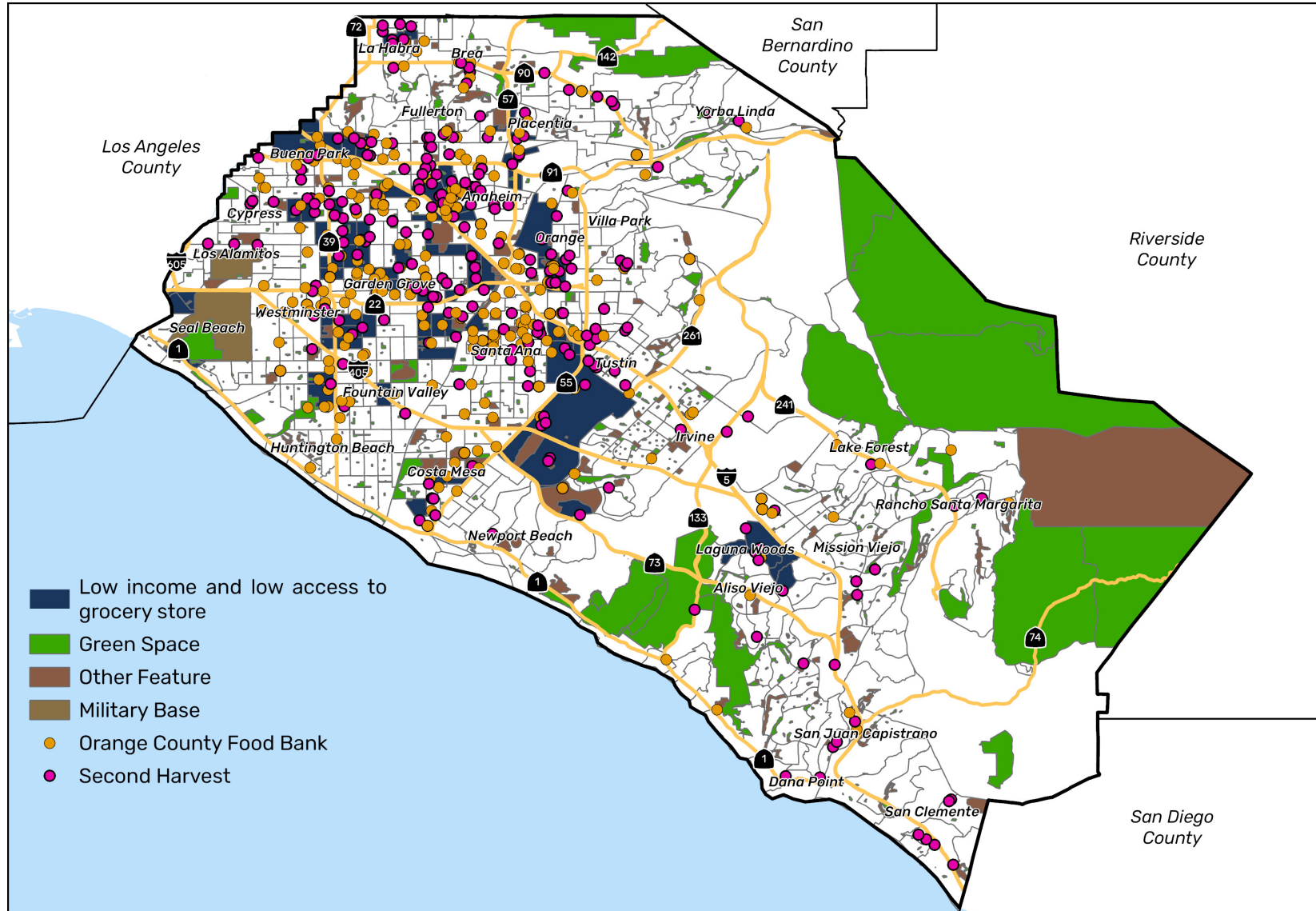
Source: The Food Insecurity Index is calculated by Conduent Healthy Communities Institute using data from Claritas, 2023.

# Food Access



Source: 2019 Food Access Research Atlas

# Food Access with Pantry Locations



Source: 2019  
Food Access  
Research Atlas

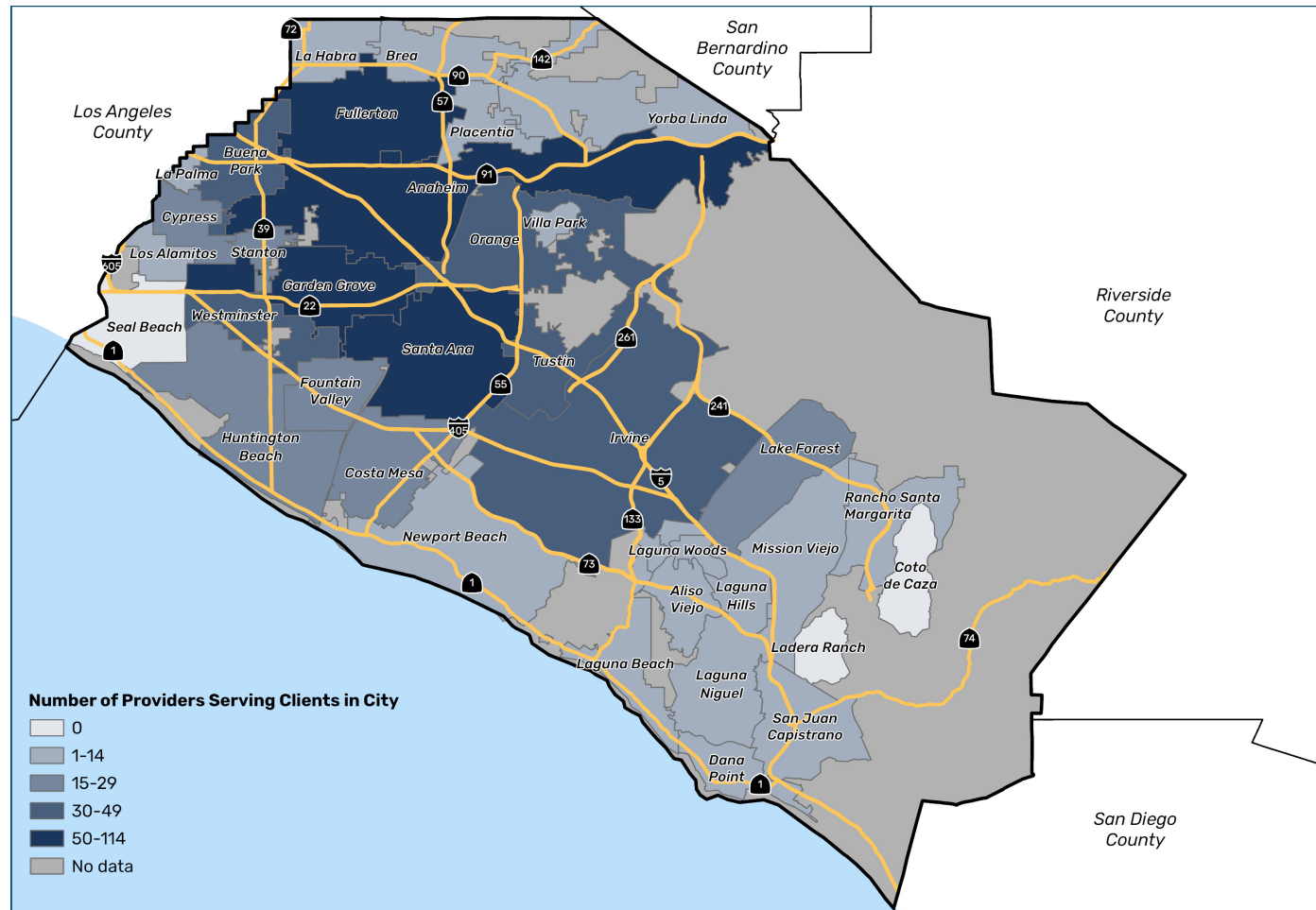




# Provider Survey Preliminary Findings

# Findings

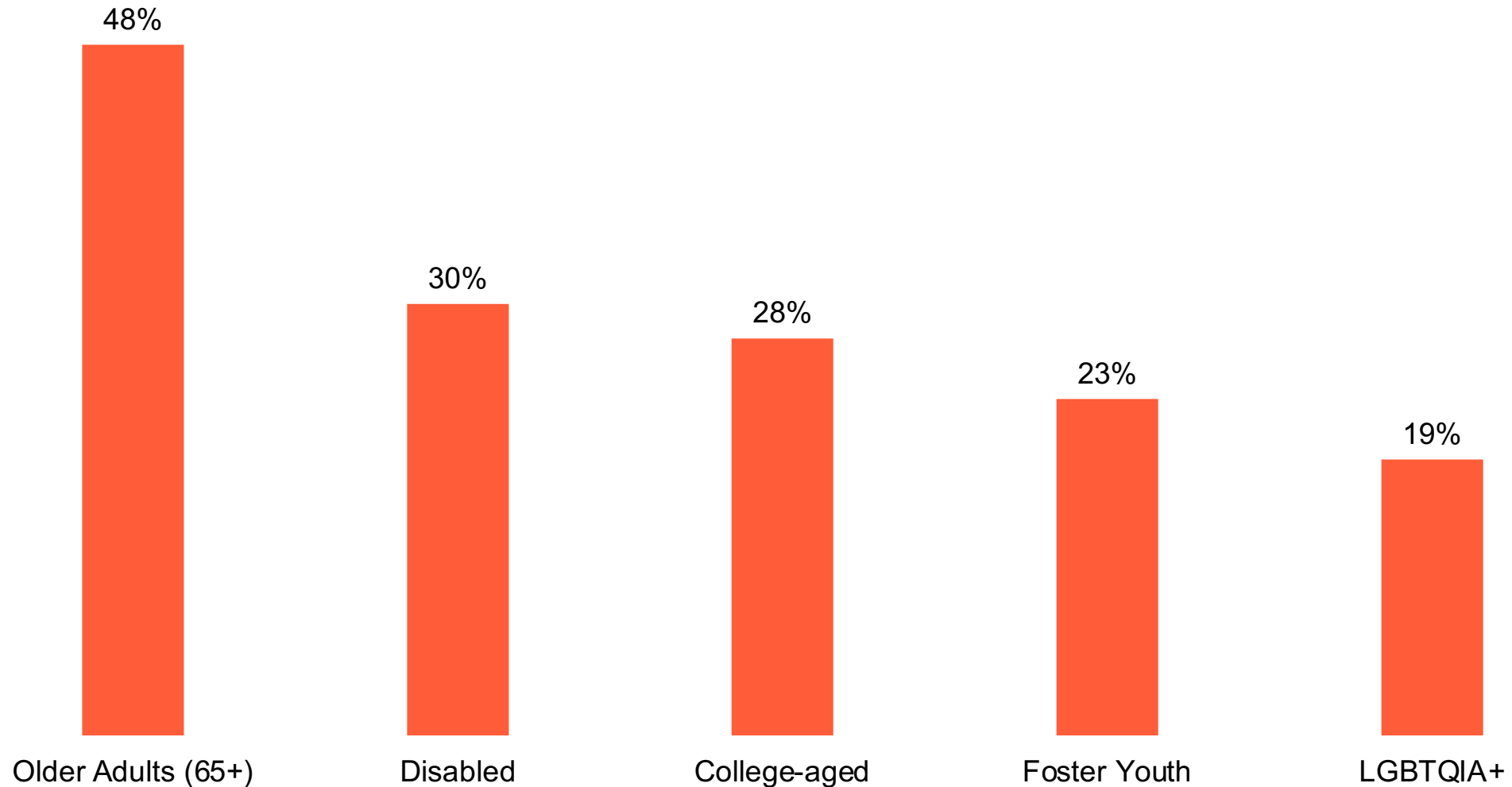
## Provider Survey – Areas Served



# Findings



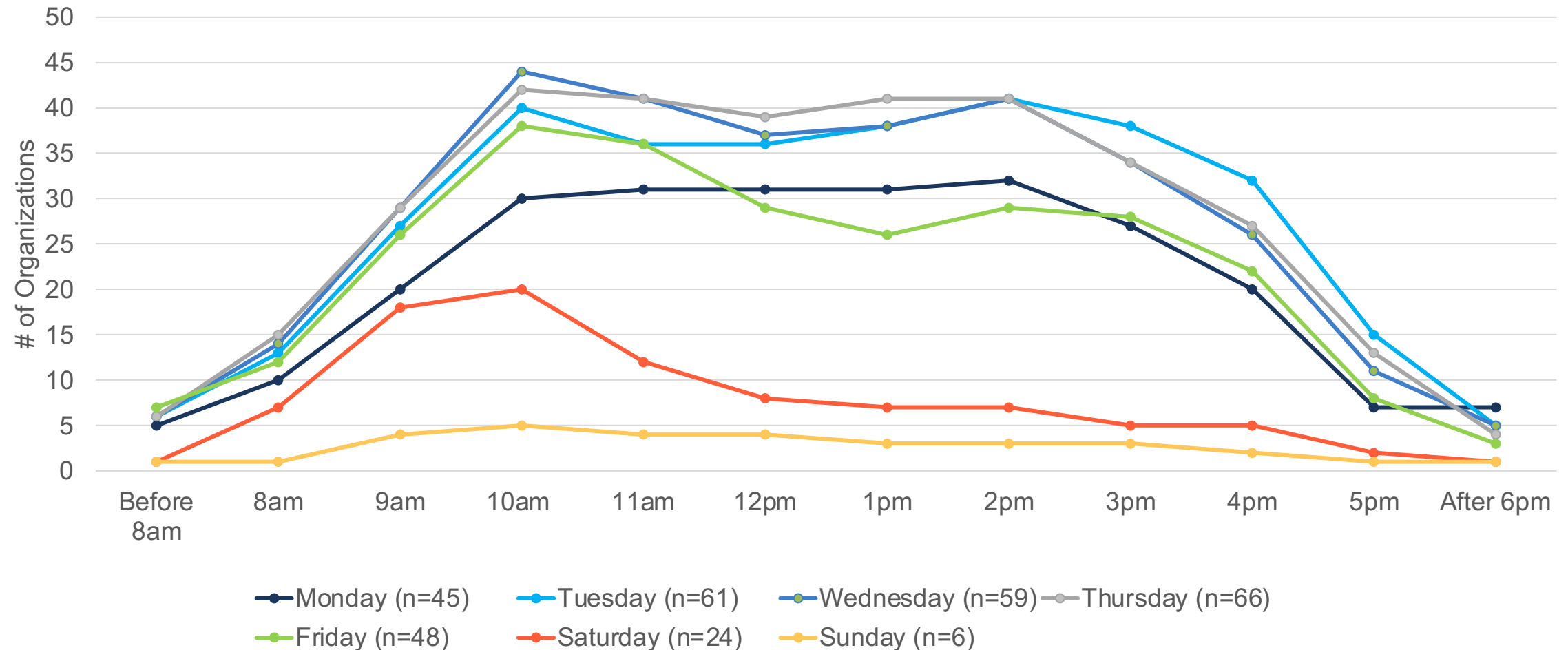
## Provider Survey – Types of Special Population Served



# Findings

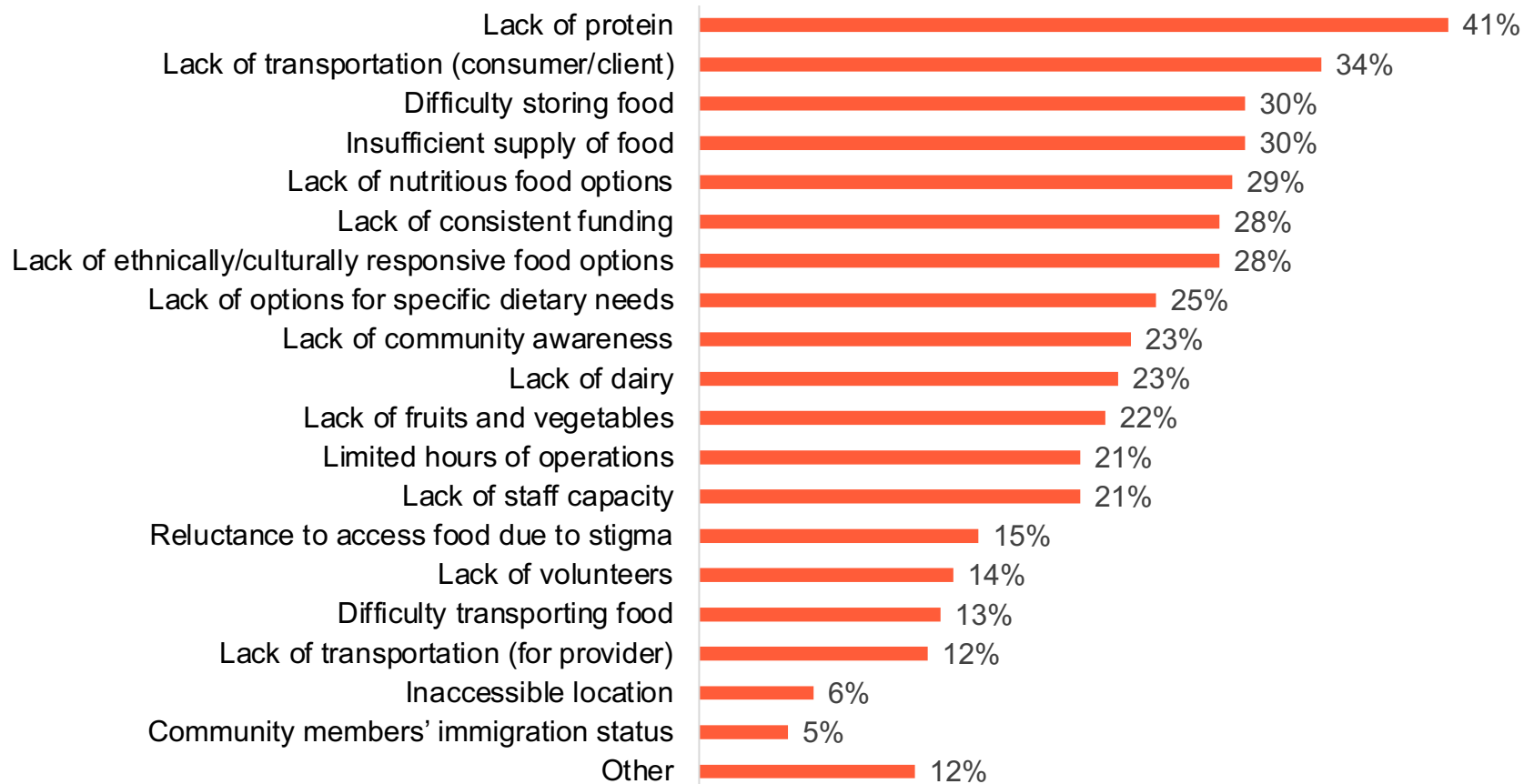


## Provider Survey – Hours of Operation



# Findings

## Provider Survey - Barriers



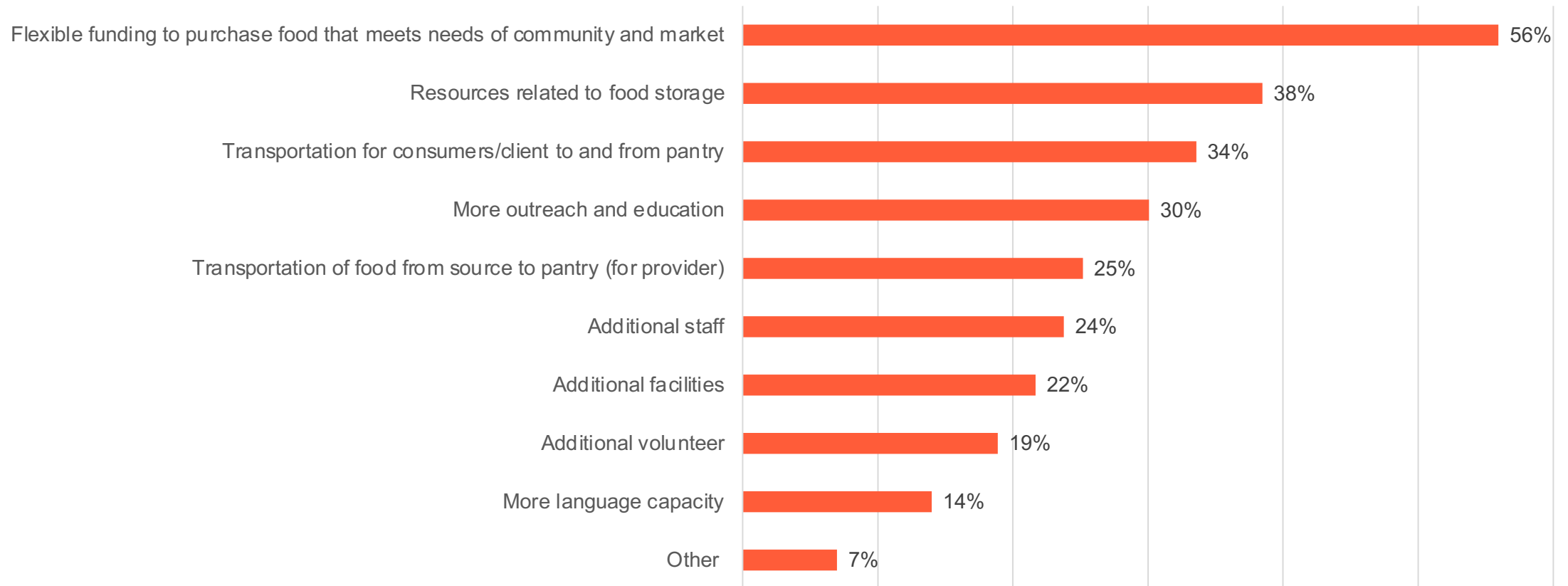
### Top 5 overall responses:

- Lack of protein in their pantry supply (41%)
- Lack of transportation for clients (34%)
- Difficulty storing food (30%)
- Insufficient supply of food (30%)
- Lack of nutritious food options (29%)

# Findings



## Provider Survey – Top Potential Solutions That Are Addressable





# Consumer Survey Preliminary Findings

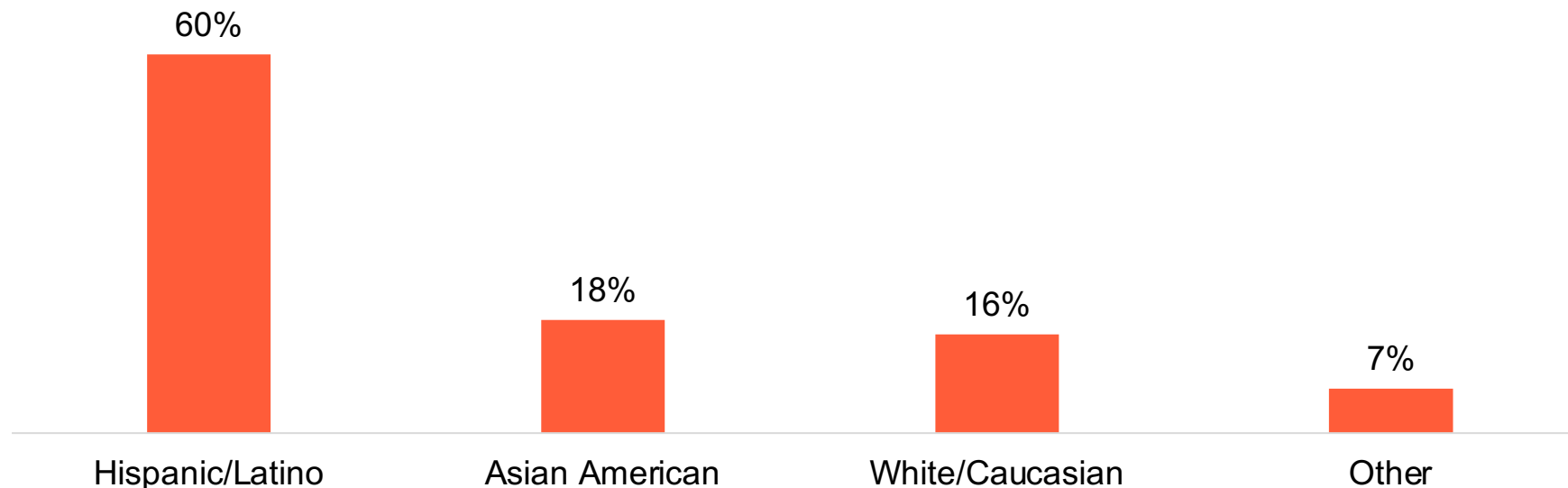
# Findings



## Consumer Survey - Demographics

- 811 responses gathered from consumers (online and paper versions)
- Respondents reside in **43** cities across OC and LA County.
- Top 5 cities: Santa Ana, Anaheim, Buena Park, Garden Grove, and Orange (70% of respondents)

### Race/Ethnicity

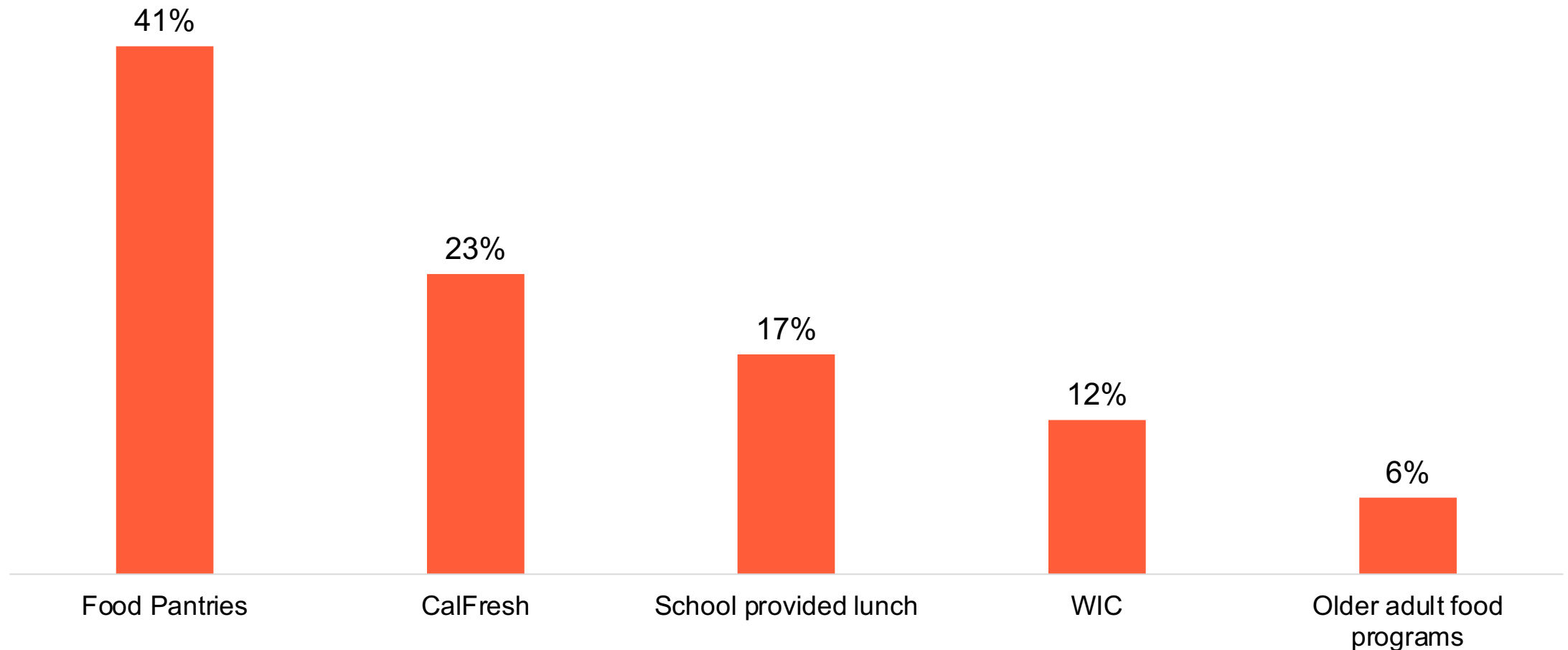




# Findings



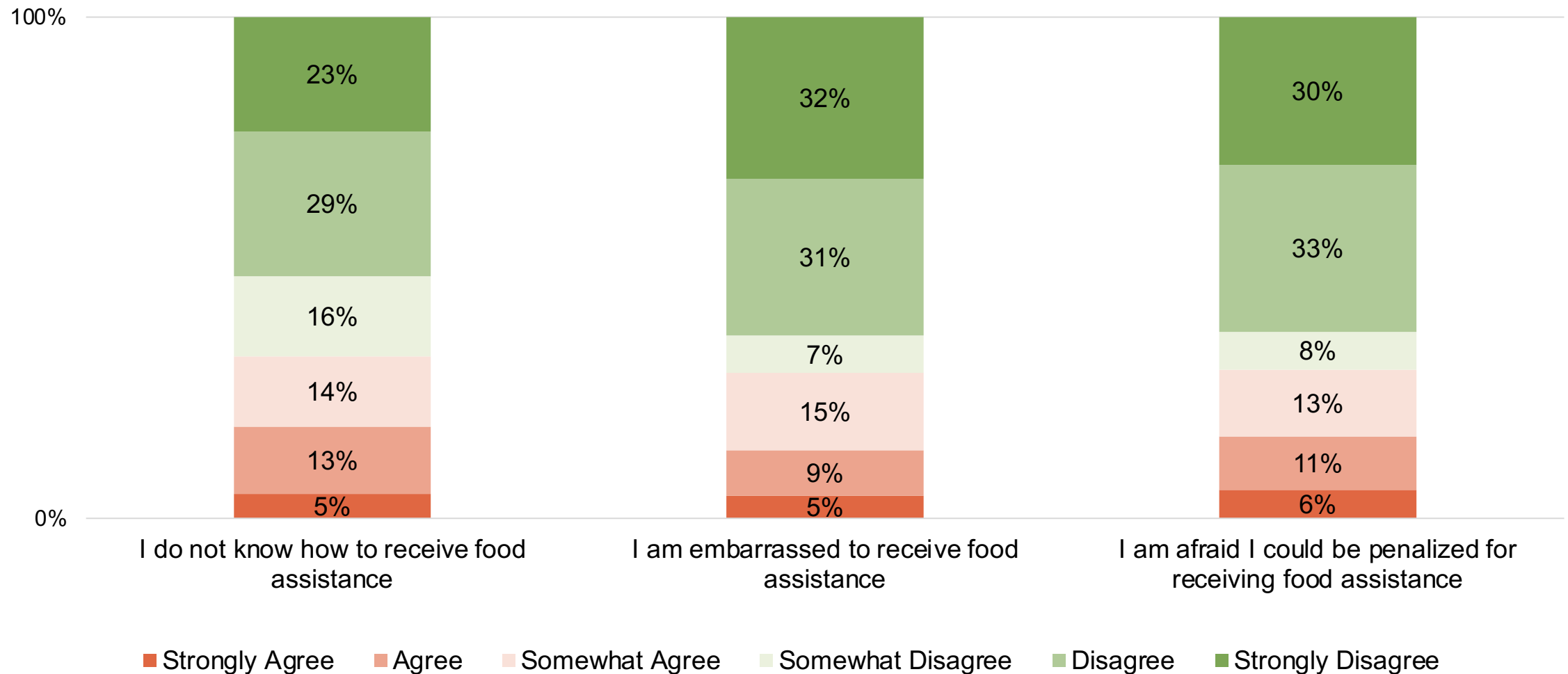
## Consumer Survey - Food Resources Used



# Findings



## Consumer Survey - Utilization of Resources

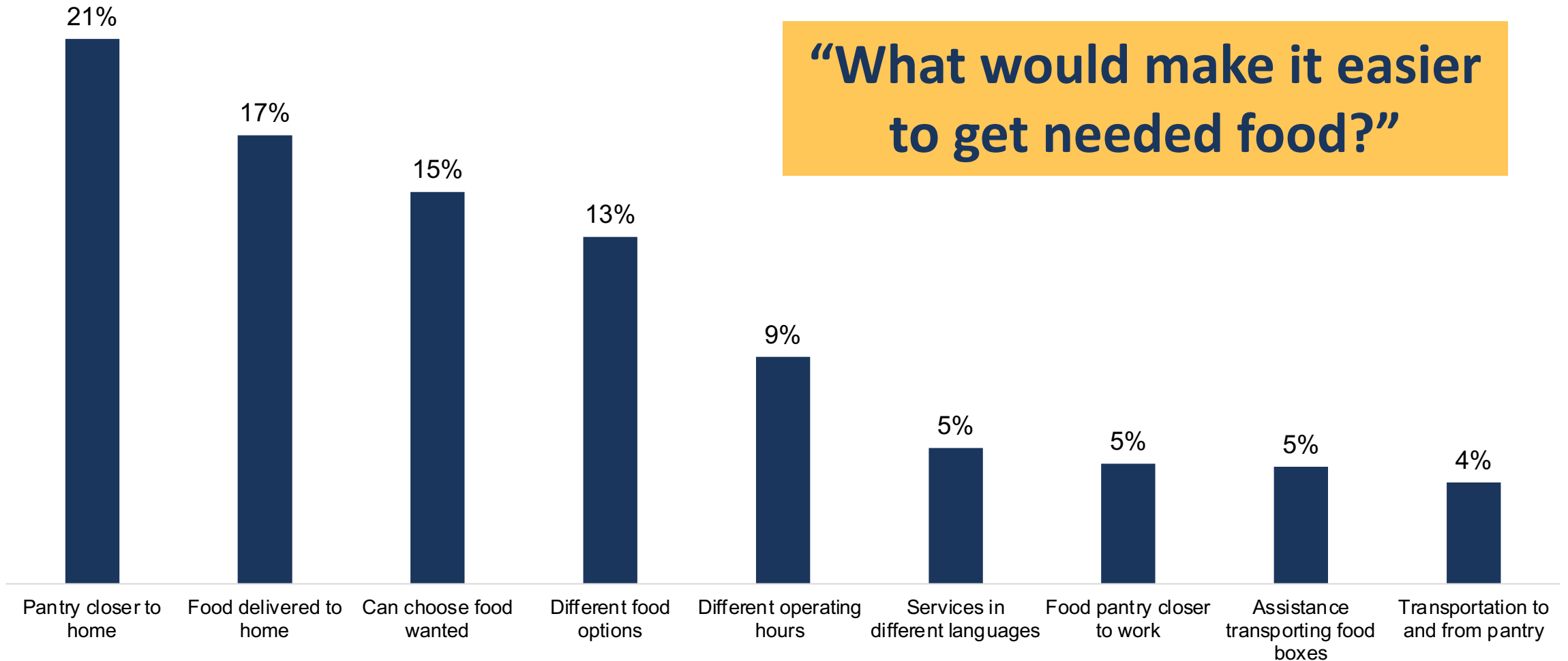


# Findings

## Focus Consumer Survey



**“What would make it easier to get needed food?”**



# Findings

## EiOC Focus Groups



Three focus groups were conducted with diverse stakeholders to understand the issues around hunger in Orange County.

High-level findings include:

1. **Transportation** issues to food resources
2. Enrollment in **CalFresh** (SNAP)
3. **Fear** of getting resources due to immigration status
4. Looking for **culturally familiar food**
5. **Language barrier** to get help



Q&A

# 5 Focus Areas Based On Data Findings

1. Consumers need help to enroll for benefits, keeping in mind **language barriers, immigration status**
2. Food distribution and **logistics** to deliver fresh food
3. **Awareness** related to food insecurity and nutrition in Orange County
4. **Access to nutritious food** such as fresh fruits, vegetables, protein, and dairy
5. **Increasing demand** and **decreasing access** to food supply



# Table Discussion

# Group Discussion Questions

- **Does the data presented align with your experience? What is missing?**
  - How, if at all, are you already addressing any of these issues?
- **What issues, as a community, should we focus on addressing?**
  - What is the role of philanthropy, public sector/government, business, etc.?
  - How should we address the current increased demand for food while supporting long-term systems work?
- **Recommendations for moving this work forward?**
  - What should be the role of OCHA?
  - How would your organization like to be engaged in this work?





# Report Back



# Next Steps