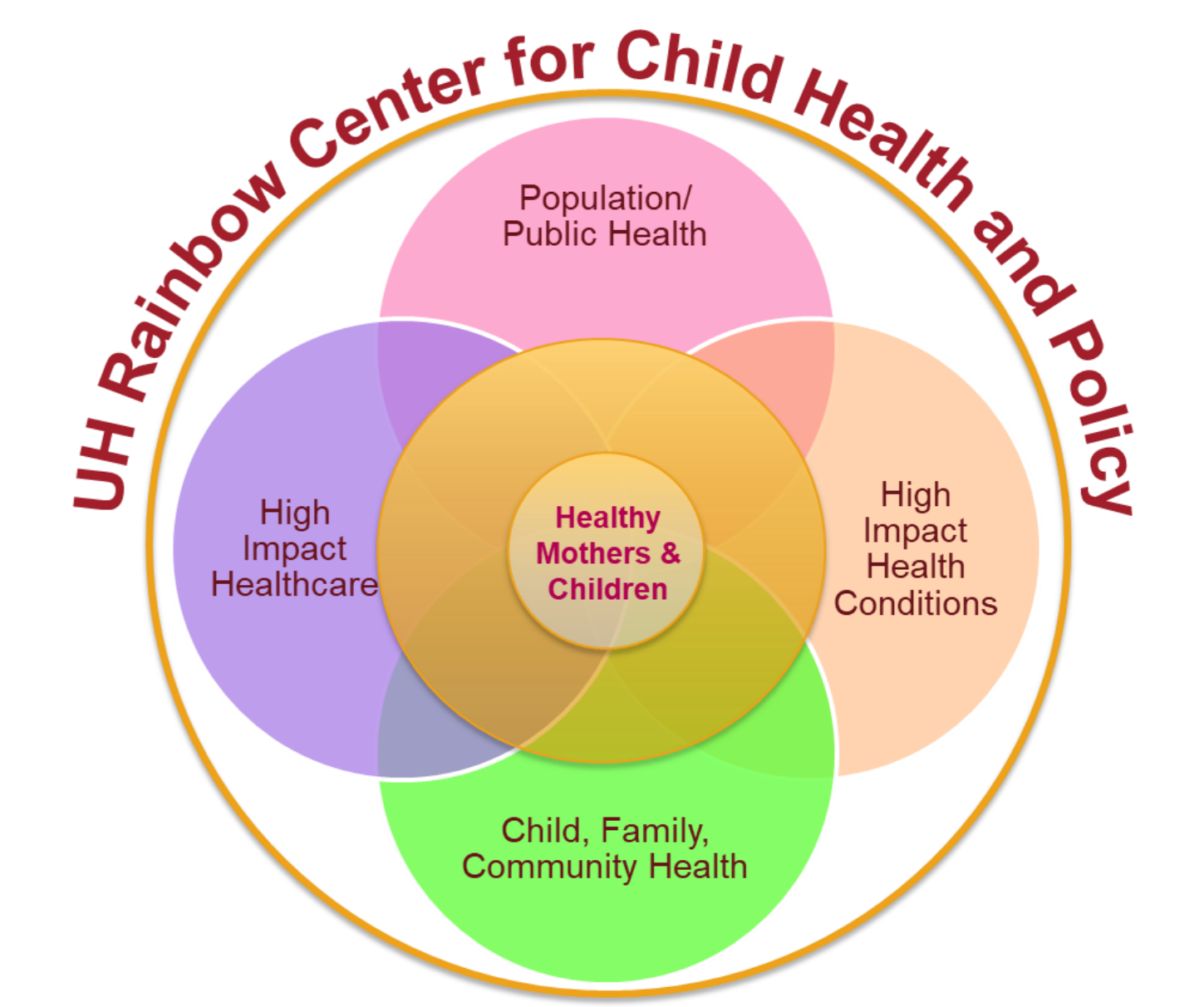


Families' priorities for social determinants of health during a global pandemic

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Objective

To explore the impact of the pandemic on experience of social determinants of health (SDoH) and related stressors among urban patients and families seen for pediatric and women's health care

Background

- There is growing evidence documenting the impact of social factors, such as income, educational attainment, access to food and housing, and employment status on health (Vasan & Solomon, 2015).
- On March 22nd, 2020, Cleveland, Ohio issued a stay-at-home order in effort to combat the spreading COVID-19 virus. This stay-at-home order caused many necessary tasks, including employment and schooling, to shift to remote work, causing many Ohioans to be out of work or forced to make difficult decisions due to the pressure of at-home schooling for children.
- Low-income households, especially Black and Hispanic families, are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 shut downs (AAP, 2020)

Methods

Data collection:

- Annual telephone survey of women's health patients and parents of pediatrics patients at the Rainbow Center
- 2020 Inclusion: (a) had a visit (in-person or virtual) September 28-October 9, 2020 OR (b) participated in prior years' survey and agreed to be re-contacted
- Recruitment and Interviews completed October – November 2020
- Direct data entry by interviewer into secure database

Analysis:

- Descriptive statistics to summarize categorical survey
- Thematic analysis to characterize responses to open-ended prompts

All procedures reviewed and approved by UH Cleveland Medical Center IRB as minimal risk

Population and Participants

UH-Rainbow Center for Women & Children (Rainbow Center) – a place-based model for health care in Cleveland Ohio: ~40,000 visits per year since 2018, 85% insured by Medicaid

Rainbow Center Services:

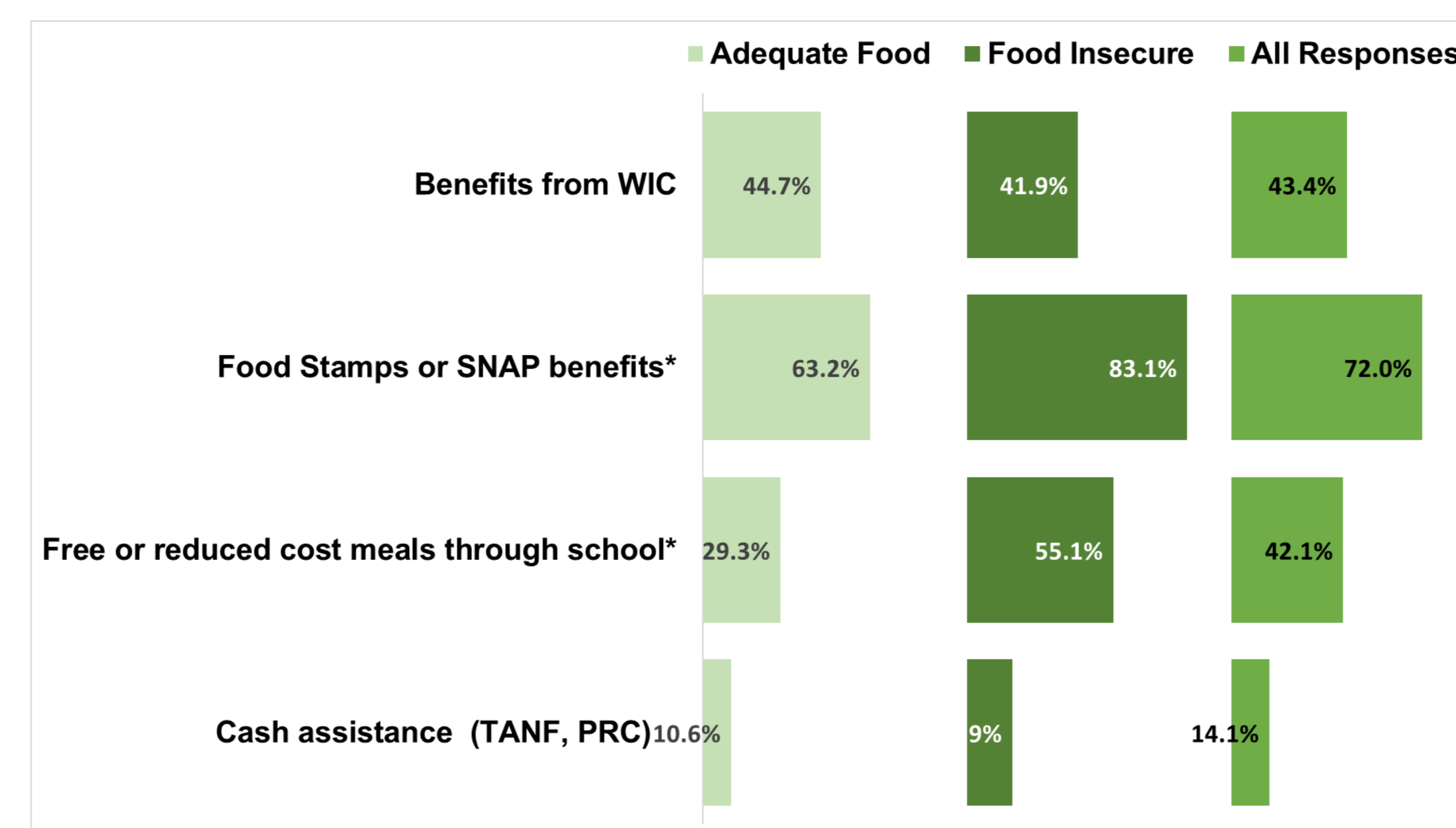
- Pediatric Primary Care
- Women's Health Care
- Dentistry, Optometry, Laboratory, Retail Pharmacy
- Integrated Behavioral and Mental Health
- On-site WIC, Legal Aid, Social Needs Navigation, Generalist SW

Study sample: 196 parents with 1+ children in home, drawn from 232 survey participants, including:

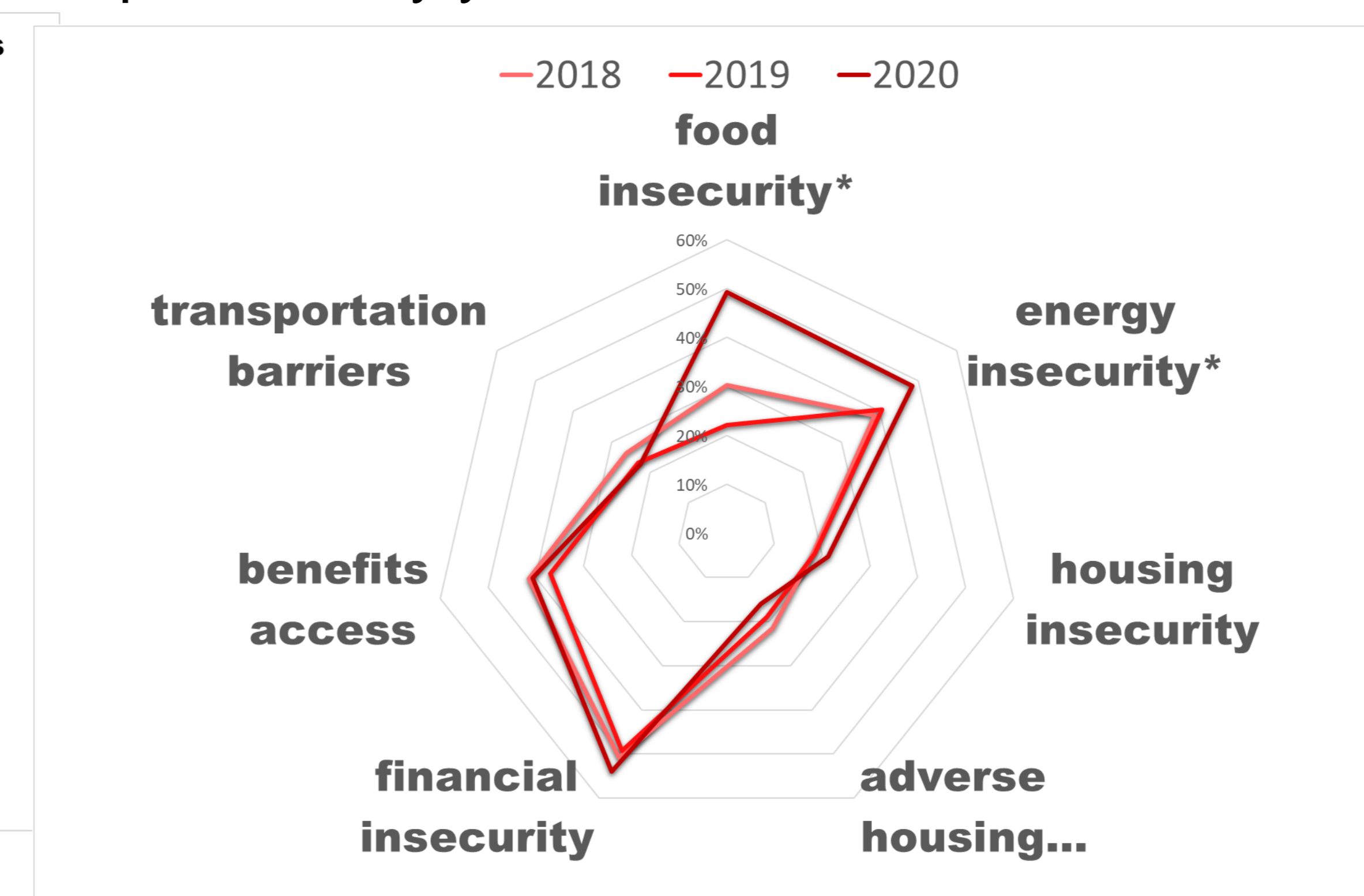
- 90 women's health patients (ages 18-60), plus
- 142 families from the pediatric practice (60% <5 years, 23% 6-11 years, 17% 12+ years)

Family Needs and Stressors since COVID-19

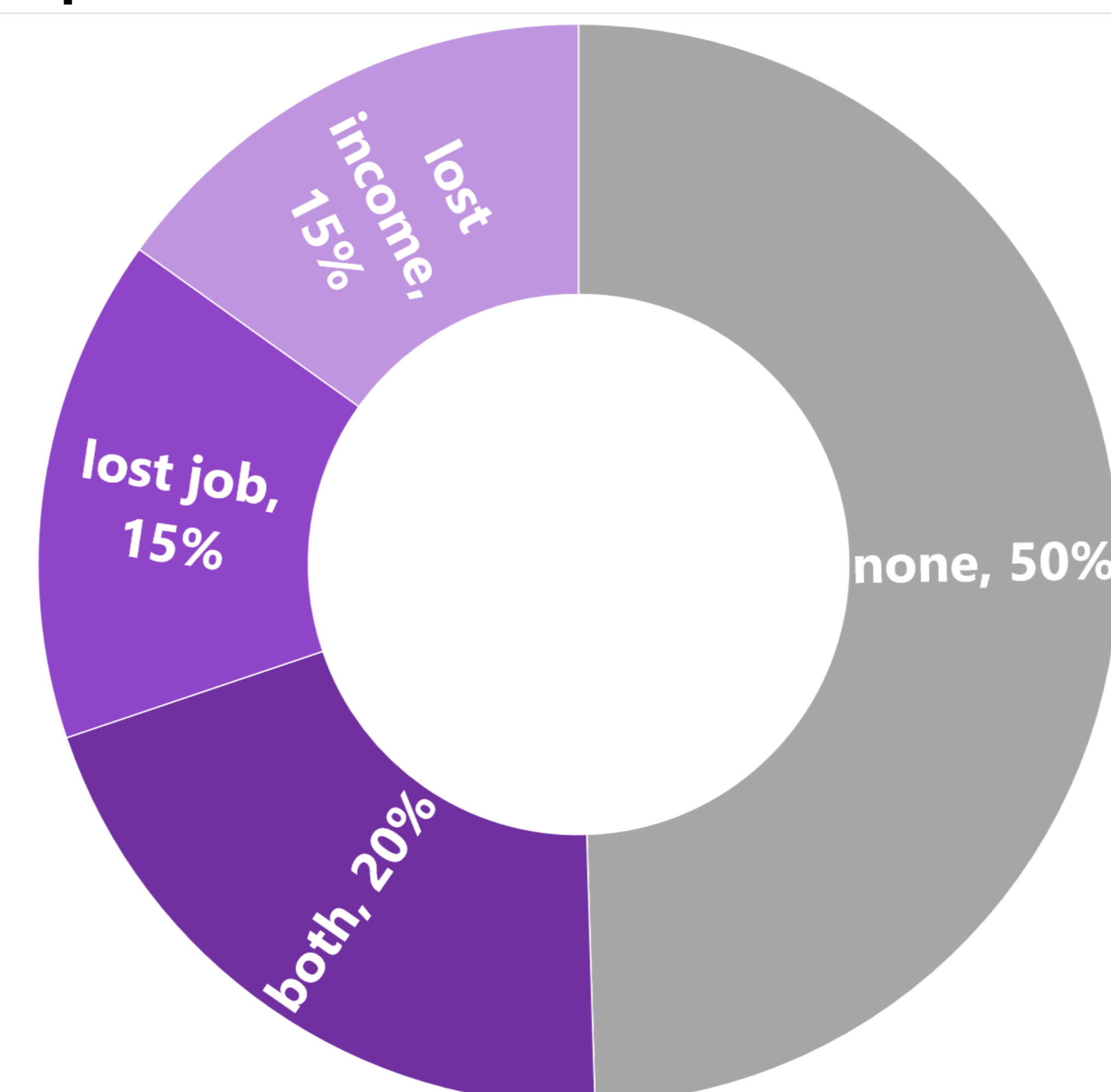
- 83% of families rely on one or more public benefits for food:**



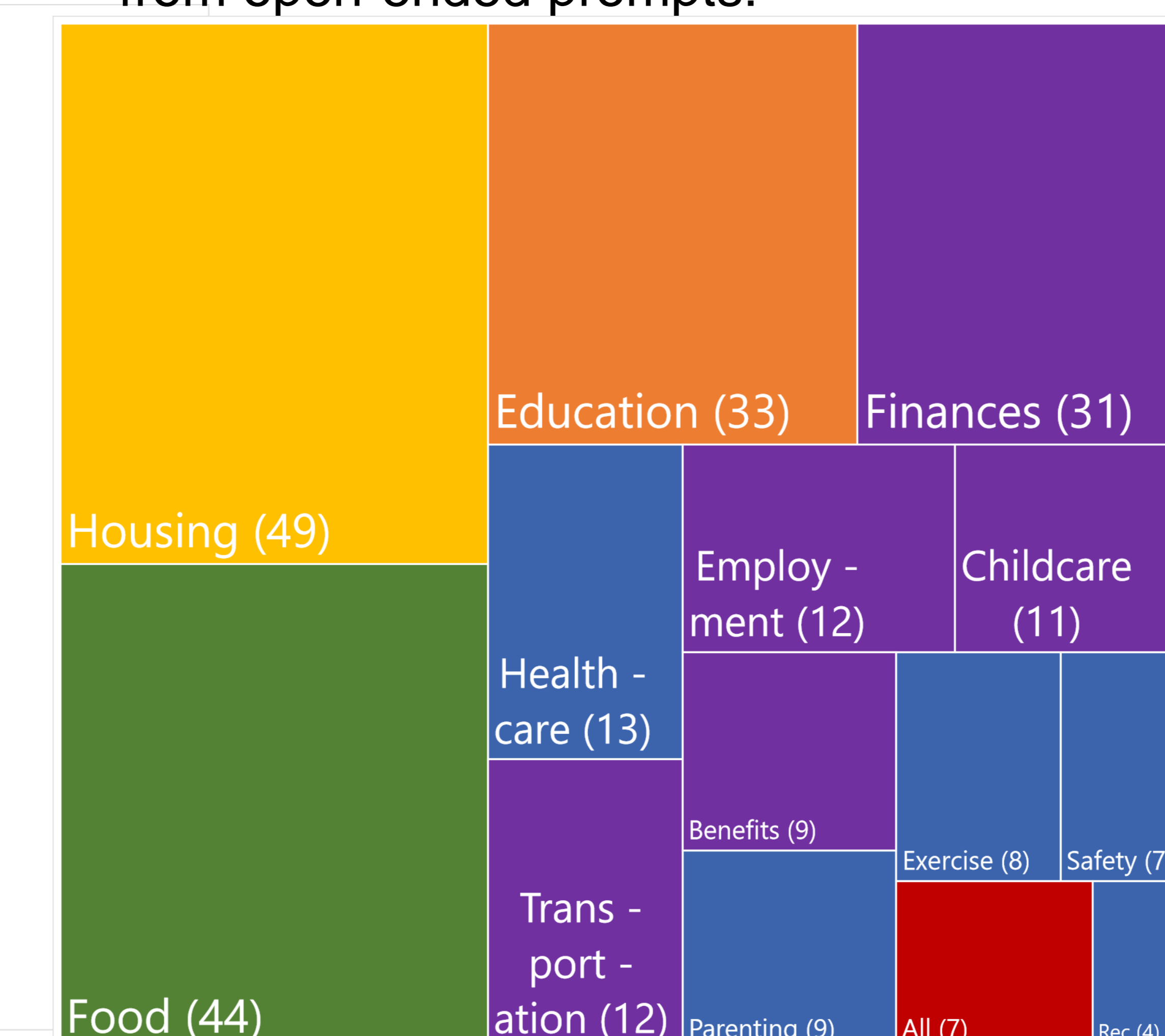
- Marked increase in food insecurity and energy (utility) insecurity as compared to prior survey years**



- Half of Rainbow Center families report lost income, lost employment, or both due to the pandemic**



- Most frequently-endorsed SDoH Concerns from open-ended prompts:**



School Concerns since COVID-19

- 1 in 8 parents reported problems accessing needed school supports.** Challenges include:

Communication with educators

sometimes it's hard to get in touch with the school -- I didn't get to have parent teacher conferences with any of them because I didn't know how to... they didn't send the link they were supposed to ~communication~ is an issue because of this corona virus thing. (181)

Digital Connectivity

with it being remote, they gave him a laptop it doesn't always work -- take a while to hear back from teacher, internet does not work -- difficulty with assignments. (36)

Attending to online learning, especially for children with special needs

I just have a hard time with getting my kid to do their school work like they should be. 2 of my kids are IEP and don't have enough support to support them with the needs that they need and they are falling behind and everything. (184)

Conclusions

Among a predominantly low-income population that is routinely challenged by a number of adverse SDoH, **education** and **schooling** were identified as main priorities and stressors for families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Child health professionals should be aware of this growing area of concern when assessing families' SDoH needs.

Contact Us!

We welcome comments, questions, and discussion. Please contact us by email at CCHP@UHhospitals.org or telephone at 216.844.5465