



Infant Food Security During COVID-19

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Motivation

The goal of this survey was to look at whether families had low food security or high food security during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Introduction

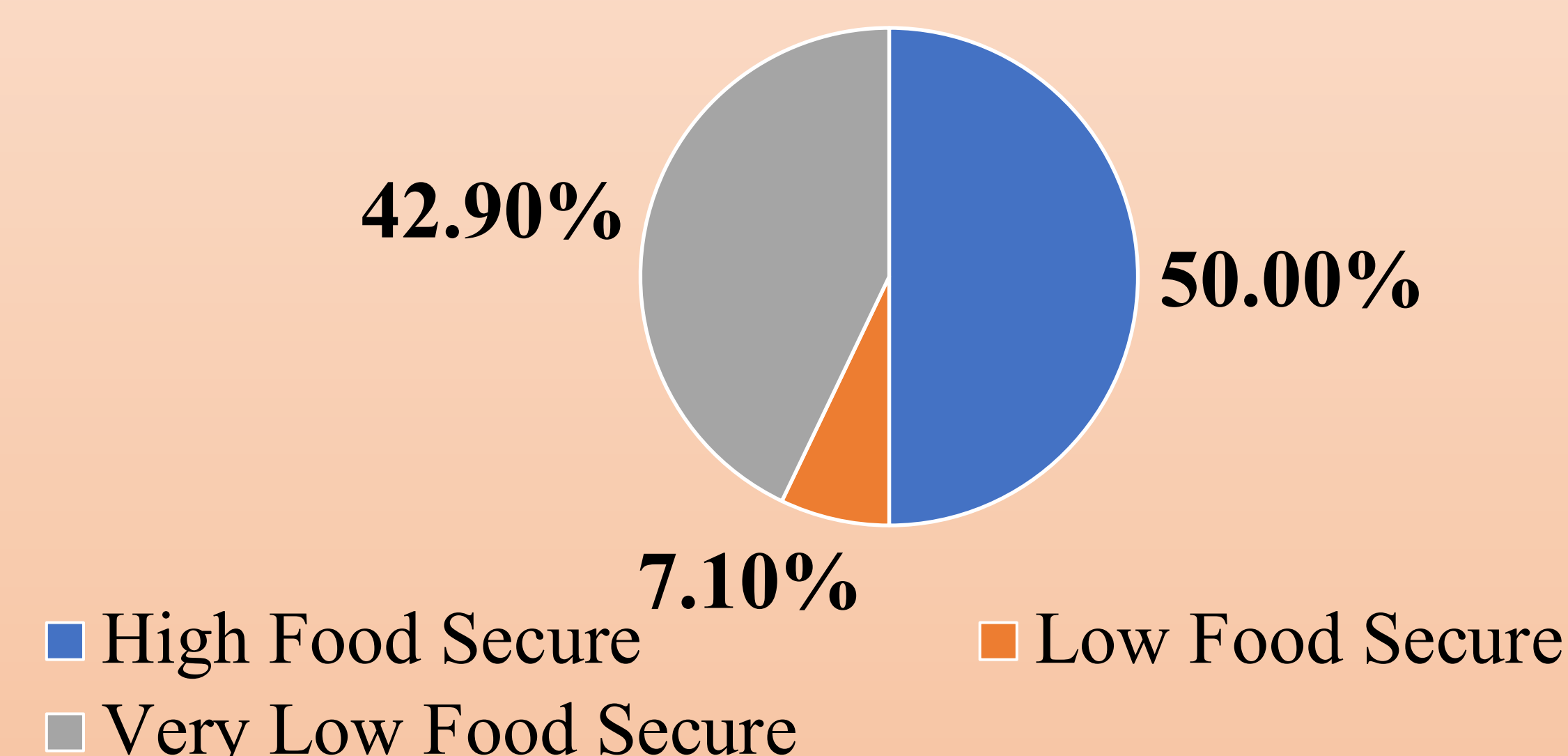
- There is 21.3% of people in the US that get government aid for food or other infant necessities.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic there was an increase of people buying in bulks in order to avoid going outside.
- We wanted to know if those on government aid experienced challenges accessing food and infant care supplies during the pandemic.

Methods

- Using Qualtrics, we conducted an online survey with 53 caregivers of children one or younger.
- Survey participants were asked about access to:
 - Food-related resources
 - Clean water
 - Infant care supplies (i.e. diapers)
- Food necessity scale was based on the USDA scale
- Participants were recruited via social media: Twitter, Facebook and Instagram

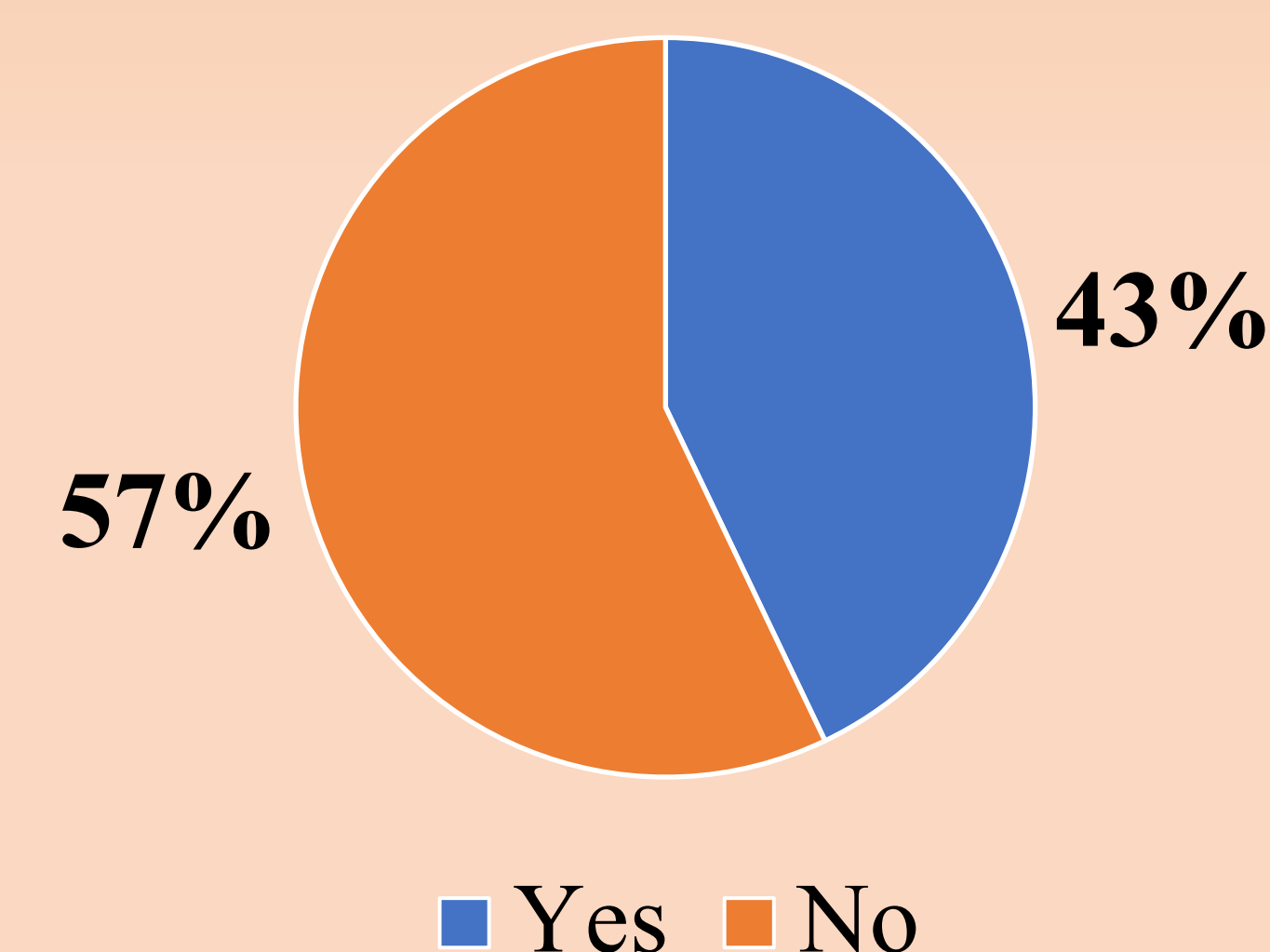
Results

Food Security



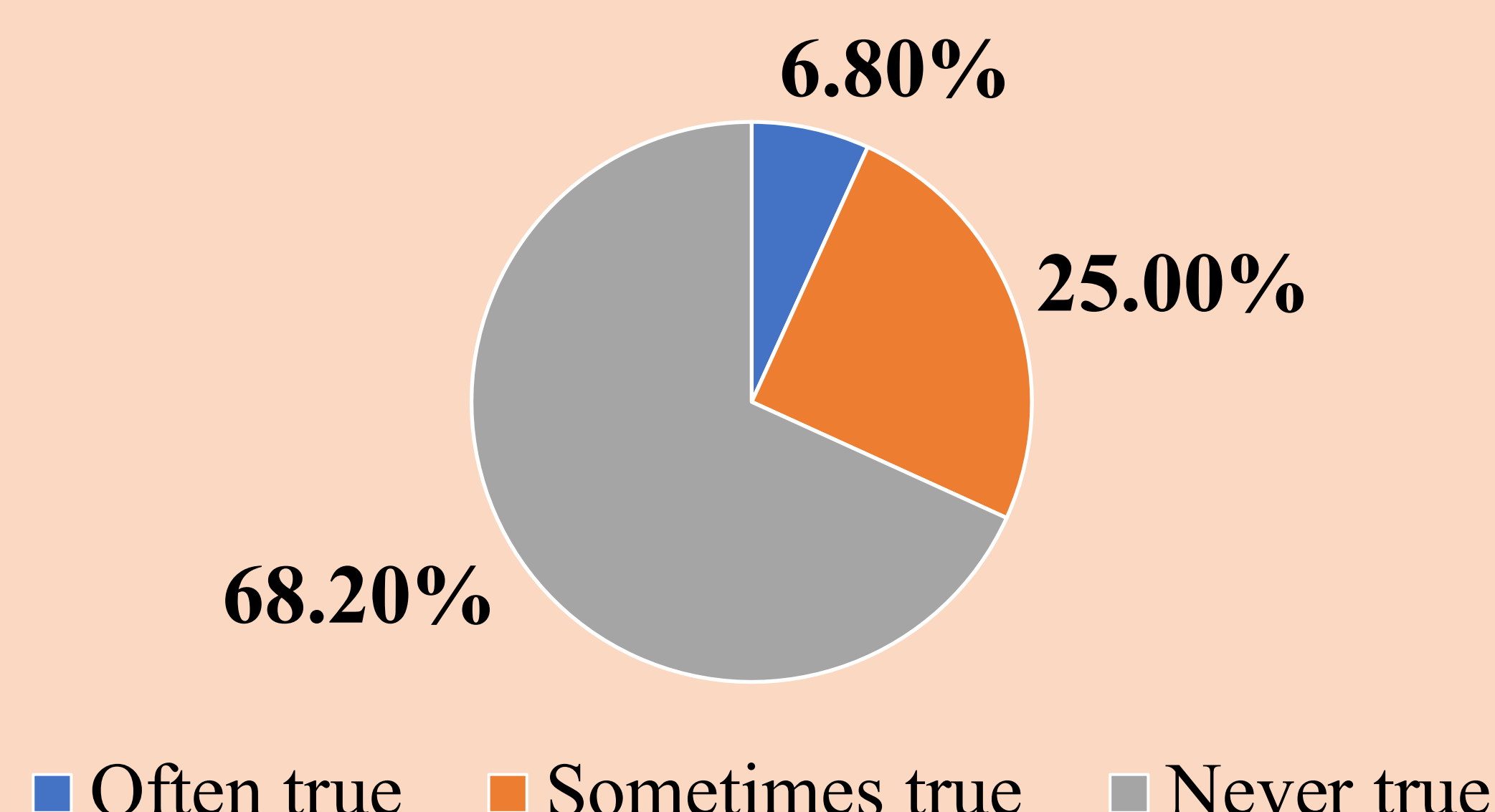
Graph 1. This table shows of those on government aid 50% of families have high food security, and 7.10% and 42.90% have very low food security.

Trouble getting formula



Graph 2. This table shows that 43% of families on government aid are having a difficulties finding formula for their infant.

Couldn't afford more food



Graph 3. This graph shows 6.8% are struggling to buy food, 25% are sometimes struggling and 68.2% aren't struggling.

Conclusion/Future Research

- Of those on government aid, our study suggests caregivers of one year old's are experiencing challenges getting food or other infant necessities like diapers, etc.
- People are having trouble getting food necessities like formula milk and baby hygiene necessities, suggesting there should be a rule implemented on how much people can buy with government aid.
- In further research, we should look at what the long term effect of the shortage of food and other necessities during COVID-19 will have on families and infants.
- Look at whether infants that were breastfed during the pandemic will be affected differently than infants who were formula fed.

References

1. Bauer, L. The COVID-19 crisis has already left too many children hungry in America. Brookings.
2. Burkhardt, Mary Carol, et al. "Are our babies hungry? Food insecurity among infants in urban clinics." *Clinical pediatrics* 51.3 (2012): 238-243.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Dr. Jennifer Hahn-Holbrook for helping me with this research . As well as, Jessica Marino for helping with the survey. Lastly, Tashelle Wright for helping with sharing survey link.

