

# UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS' FOOD INSECURITY AT EIGHTEEN RESEARCH-INTENSIVE UNIVERSITIES

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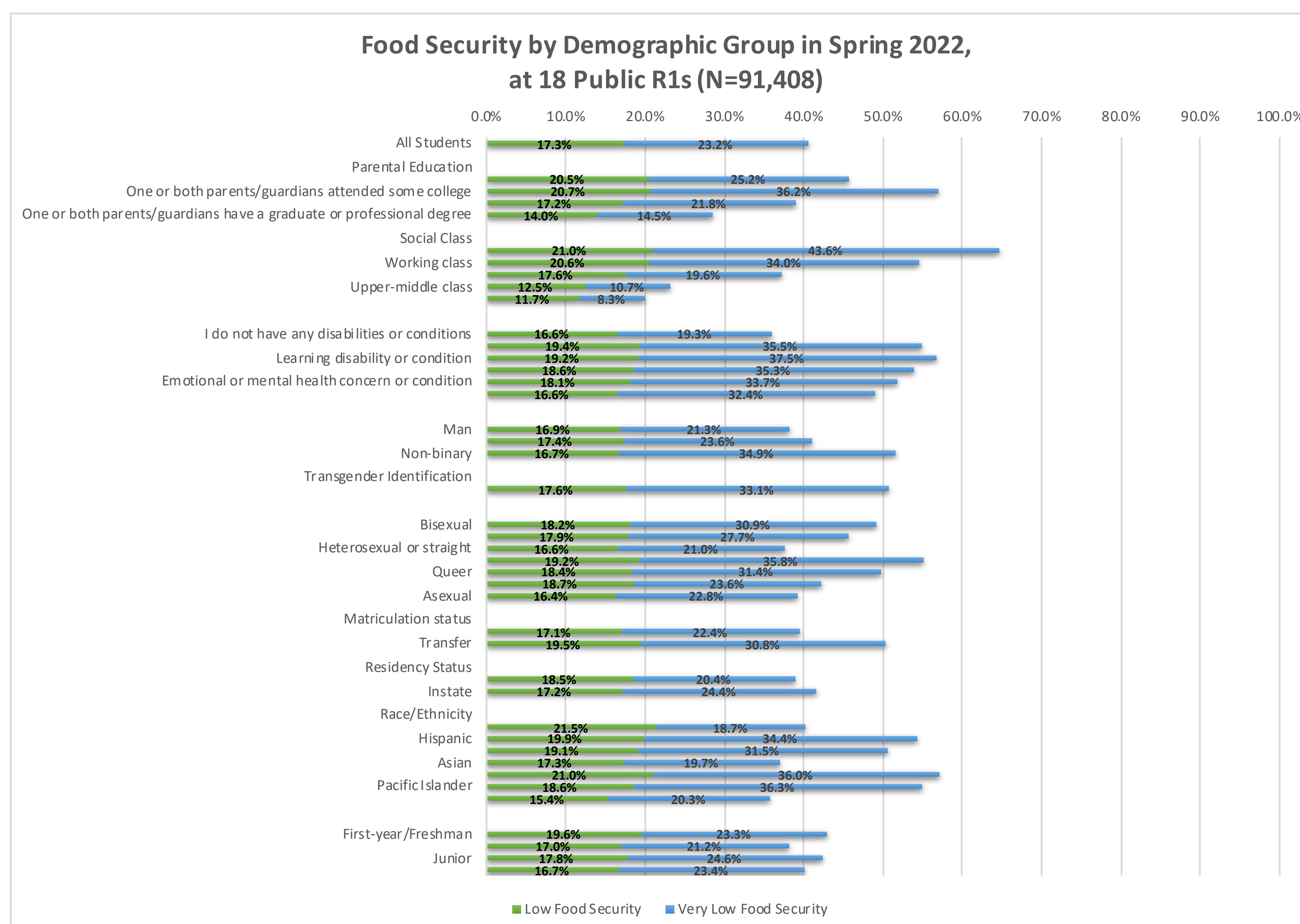
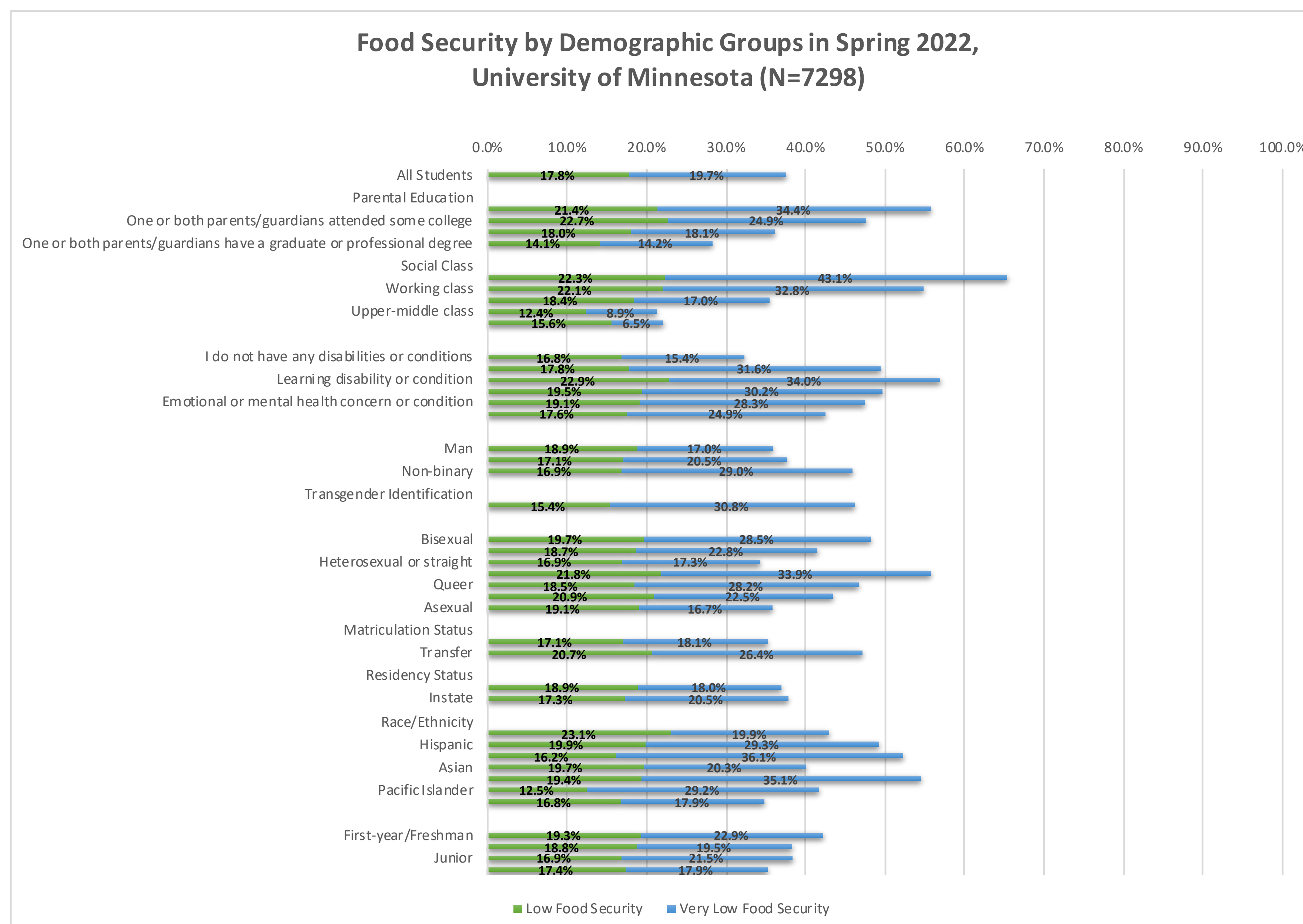
## INTRODUCTION

- Access to healthy, nutritious food is vital for student wellbeing, yet food insecurity is a widespread issue across college campuses (Cady, 2014)
- In addition to impacting mental health (Martinez et al., 2020), academic performance and graduate retention rates (Weaver et al., 2019), food insecurity correlates with increased levels of housing insecurity (Paynes-Sturges et al., 2017)
- Undergraduate, graduate, and professional students from underrepresented and marginalized backgrounds experienced significantly higher rates of food insecurity compared to their peers (Soria et al., 2020)
- This poster uses data from the Student Experience in the Research University (SERU) survey administered during 2022 at eighteen R1 institutions including the University of Minnesota and addresses the following research question: How did the University of Minnesota's levels of undergraduate student food insecurity compare to other institutions in the SERU Consortium in 2022?

## METHOD

- We used a six-item food insecurity screen to identify undergraduate students' food insecurity (USDA, 2012)
- We asked students questions such as "For the following statements, please say whether the statement was never true, sometimes true, or often true for you in the last 12 months: 'The food that I bought just didn't last, and I didn't have money to get more.'"
- A response of "often true" or "sometimes true" to either statement indicates a positive screen for food insecurity
- We used the common probability level of  $p < .05$

## RESULTS



## SAMPLE

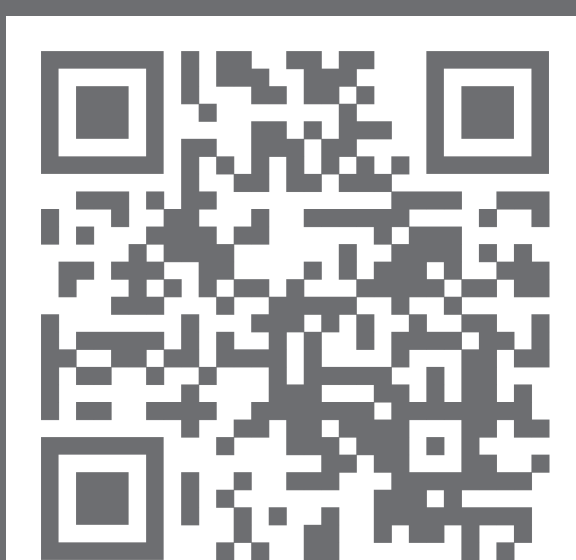
- The survey was a census survey administered to 114,947 undergraduate students from February 14 to August 8, 2022
- For more information on our sample, go to [www.seru.edu](http://www.seru.edu) or scan the QR code below

## DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

- University of Minnesota undergraduate students experienced less food insecurity (37.5%) versus all students at 17 other public R1s (more than 40%)
- First-year/freshman students experienced the highest level of food insecurity of all four undergraduate levels of education
- Social class was the greatest predictor of food insecurity
- Students from marginalized backgrounds (e.g., BIPOC, LGBTQ+, students with disabilities, or first-generation students) experienced even greater levels of food insecurity
- While results at all institutions were comparable, these data suggest that campuses must continue to address food insecurity, as it is correlated with other negative outcomes
- Suggested resources to address food insecurity include on-campus food pantries, emergency funding, and partnerships with restaurants or grocery stores to offer discounted items to students

## REFERENCES

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The Student Experience in the Research University (SERU) Consortium is an academic and policy research collaboration based at Center for Studies in Higher Education at the University of California, Berkeley working in partnership with the University of Minnesota and partner institutions. Learn more at [www.seru.edu](http://www.seru.edu) or scan the QR code.