



FOOD INSECURITY AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS DURING THE GREAT RECESSION AND COVID-19 CRISIS

FEBRUARY 3, 2021





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PRESENTED BY MICHAEL POLIZZOTTI, POLICY ANALYST

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OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

- Prior to the COVID-19 crisis:
 - Elevated levels of food insecurity during Great Recession and subsequent recovery
 - Relative declines slower in New Hampshire than in U.S. overall
 - Uneven recovery from the Great Recession and policy environments may have contributed
 - Nutritional aid programs helped recovery
- Impacts of the COVID-19 crisis:
 - Economic challenges most acute for vulnerable Granite Staters
 - Nutritional aid programs will continue to help support individuals and families and support a recovery

OVERVIEW OF FOOD INSECURITY

- Households are considered food insecure if they indicated that, at some point in the last year, they were unable to acquire adequate food for one or more household members because they had insufficient money and other resources for food
- Food insecurity has profound negative impacts on children and adults, including the risk of developmental impairments, worse performance at school, and behavioral and social problems

MEASUREMENT OF FOOD INSECURITY

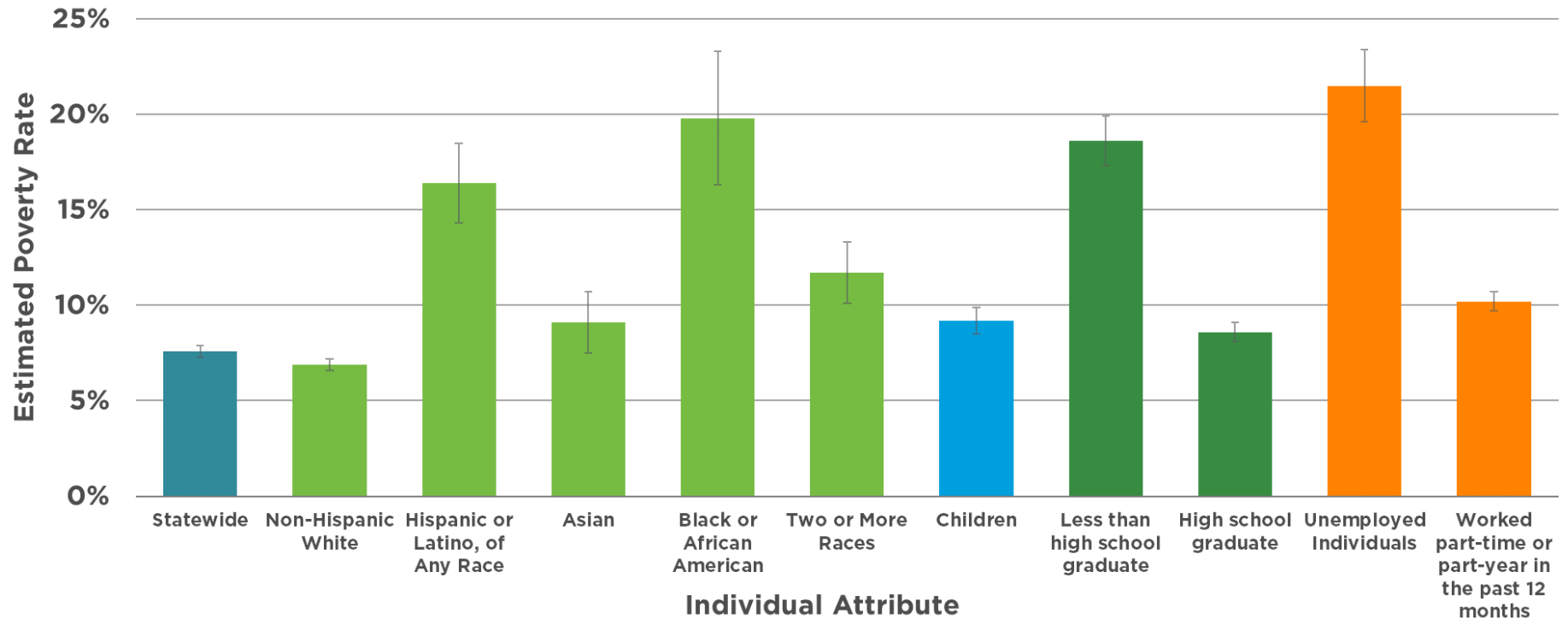
- Data is collected annually by the U.S. Census Bureau through the annual Food Security Supplement questionnaire within the Current Population Survey
- Official estimates calculated by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA)
- USDA calculates the average of the last three years' estimates to provide more reliable statistics at the state level; comparison over time of three-year estimates provides a rolling average
- Food insecurity levels vary based on household characteristics, composition, and geography

DISPARATE LEVELS OF FOOD SECURITY

- Households among certain groups and compositions face higher levels of food insecurity, including households:
 - With children
 - Headed by single parents
 - Headed by individuals identifying as Black or Hispanic
 - Living in poverty or near poverty (up to 185% Federal Poverty Thresholds)
- Households in principal cities and rural areas also face higher levels of food insecurity

POVERTY LEVELS FOR INDIVIDUALS

IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, 2015-2019 ESTIMATES

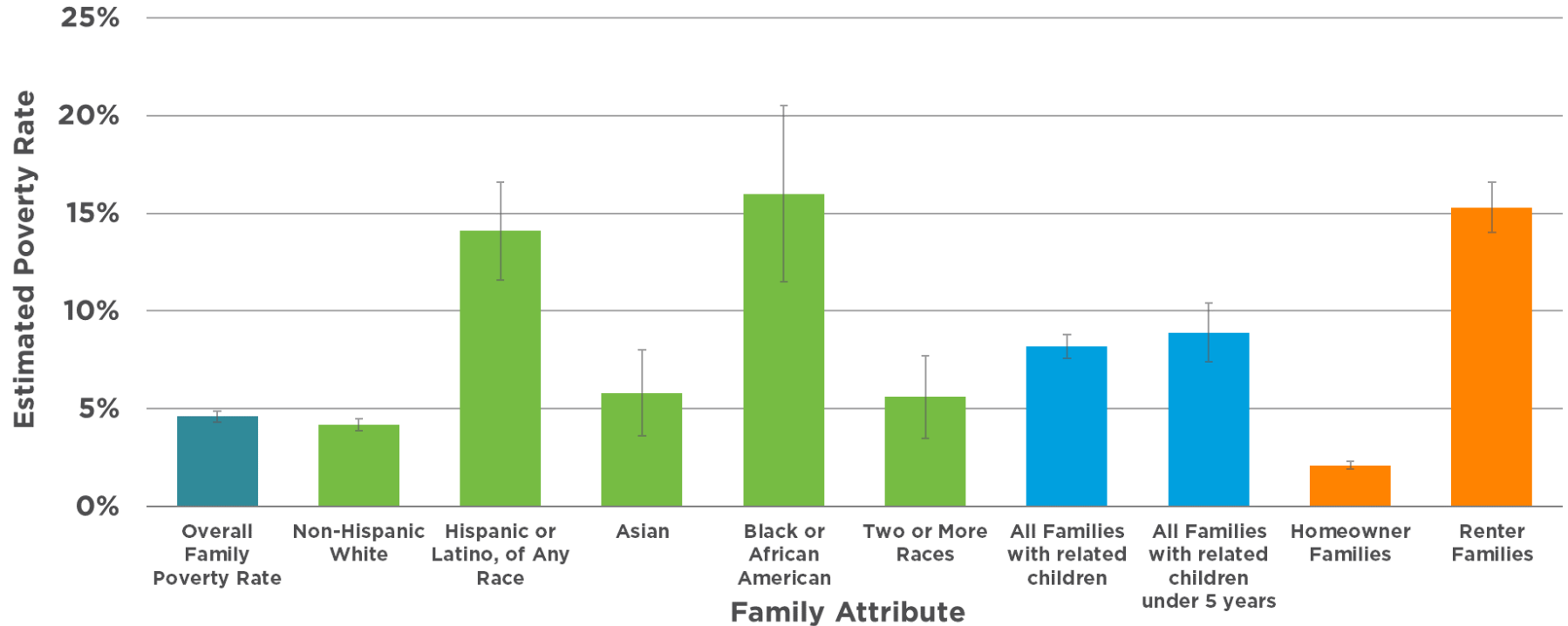


Notes: Margin of error bars represent 90 percent confidence intervals, Hispanic origin included in non-white races

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2015-2019

POVERTY LEVELS FOR FAMILIES

IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, 2015-2019 ESTIMATES



Notes: Margin of error bars represent 90 percent confidence intervals, Hispanic origin included in non-white races, race and ethnicities represent the householder

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2015-2019

FOOD INSECURITY PRIOR TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS

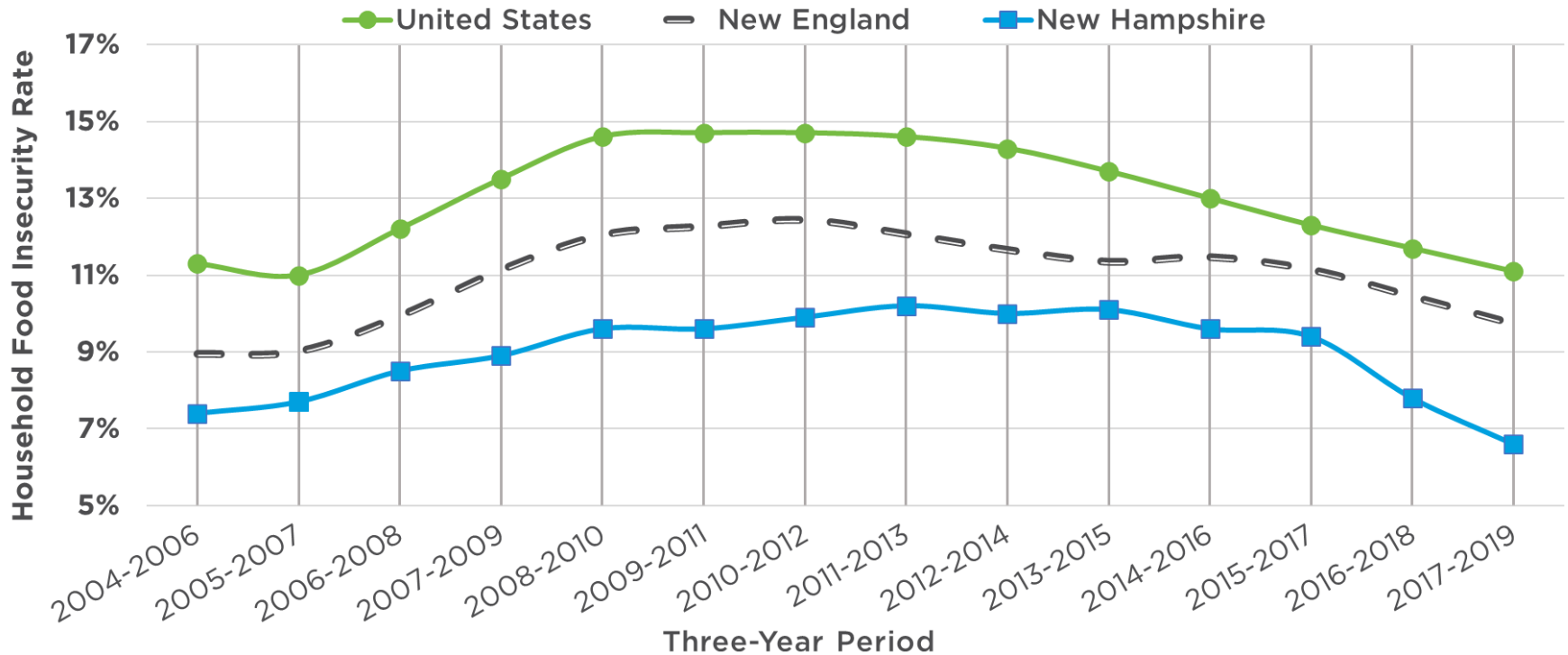
Review of NHFPI's December 2020 Issue Brief,
*Food Insecurity and Economic Conditions in
New Hampshire and the Nation*

FOOD INSECURITY TRENDS

- The Great Recession (Dec. 2007 – June 2009) resulted in large increases in food insecurity levels across the nation
- Nationally, food insecurity levels started a slow, steady, and statistically significant decline beginning in the 2011-2013 period
- Levels of relative food insecurity appeared to remain elevated for longer in New Hampshire
- In New Hampshire, food insecurity levels may not have begun to decline until the 2016-2018 period

ESTIMATED HOUSEHOLD FOOD INSECURITY

IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW ENGLAND, AND THE UNITED STATES

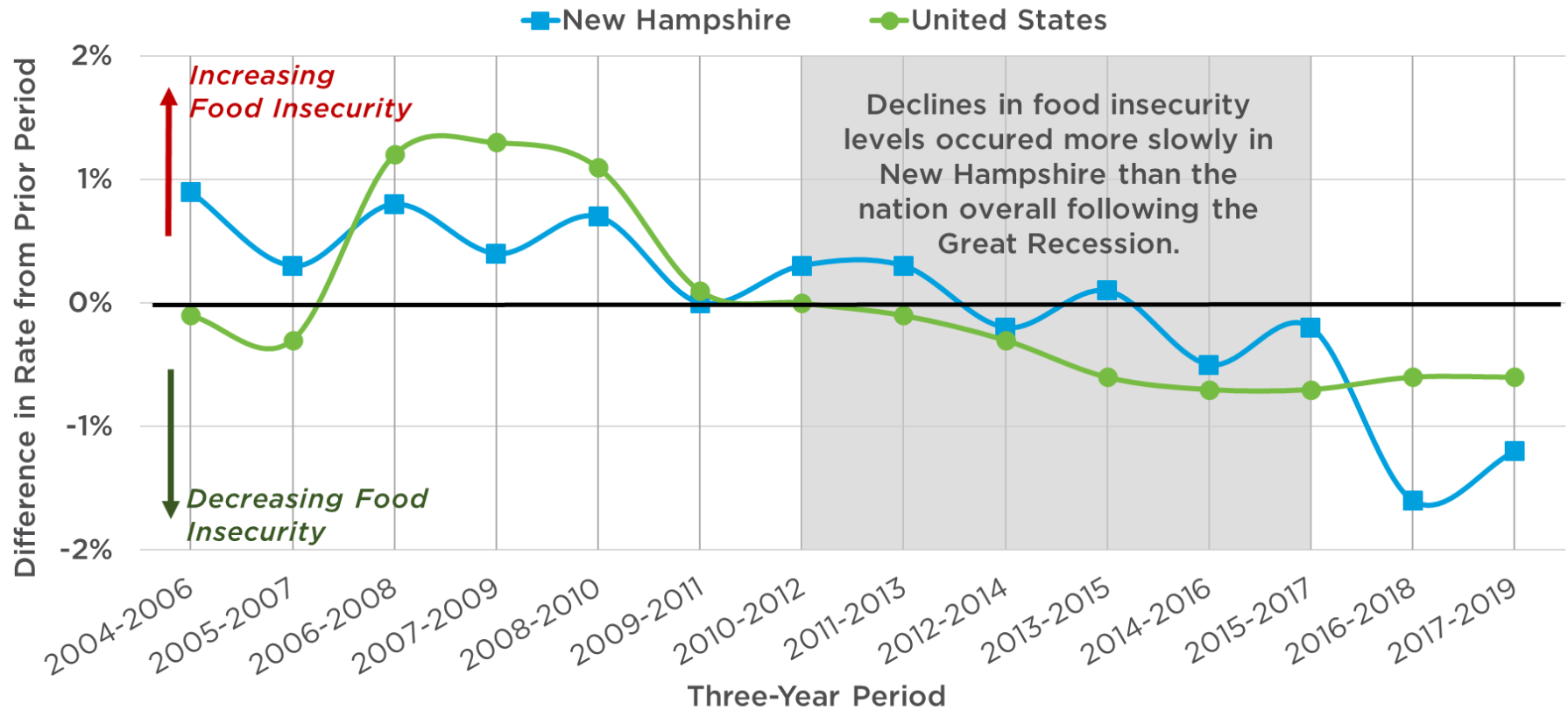


Notes: Each period of data represents an average of three years of data. Household food insecurity estimates for New England were calculated using weighted averages based on state level data provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service, *Household Food Insecurity in the United States*

REAL CHANGES IN HOUSEHOLD FOOD INSECURITY

IN NEW HAMPSHIRE AND THE UNITED STATES

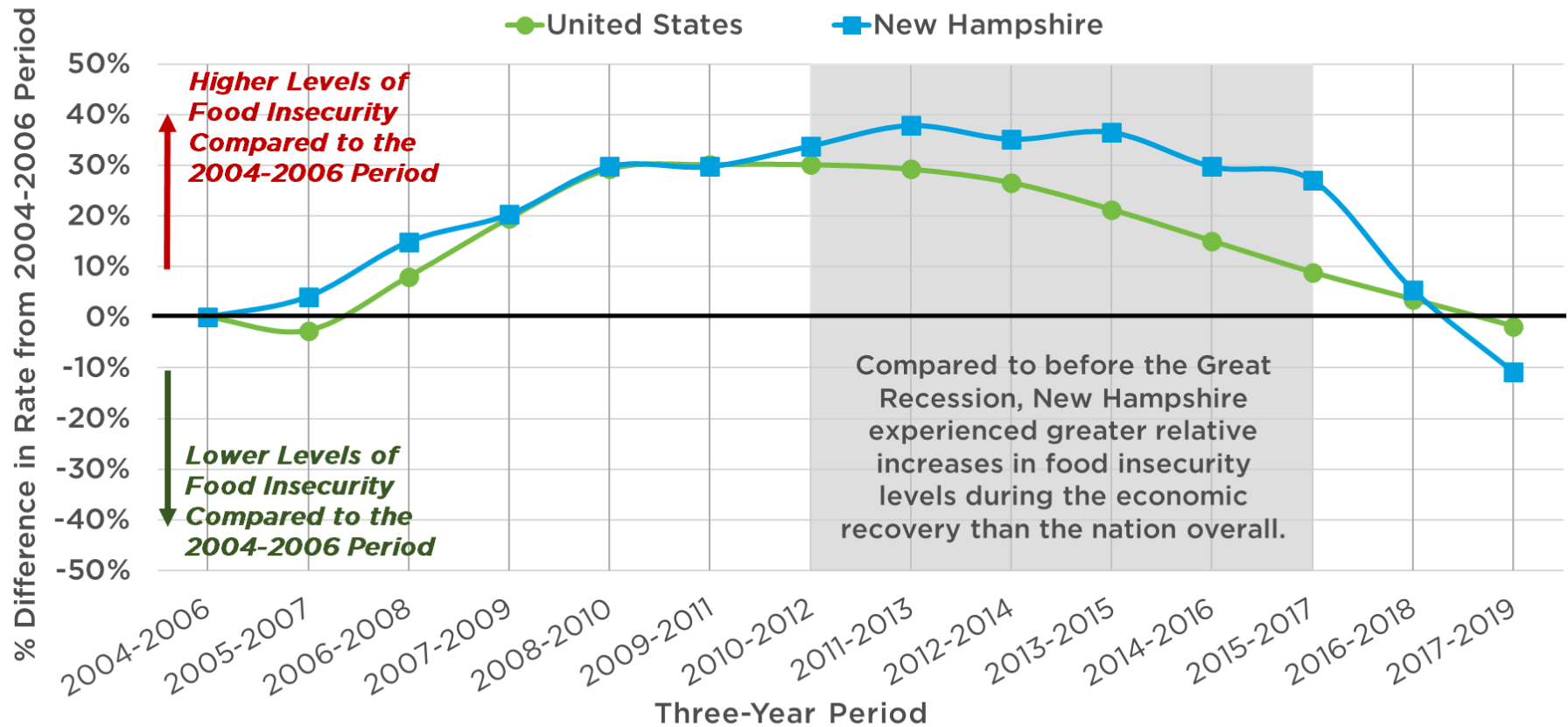


Note: Each period of data represents an average of three years of data.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service, *Household Food Insecurity in the United States*

RELATIVE CHANGES IN HOUSEHOLD FOOD INSECURITY

IN NEW HAMPSHIRE AND THE UNITED STATES, INDEXED TO THE 2004-2006 PERIOD



Note: Each period of data represents an average of three years of data.

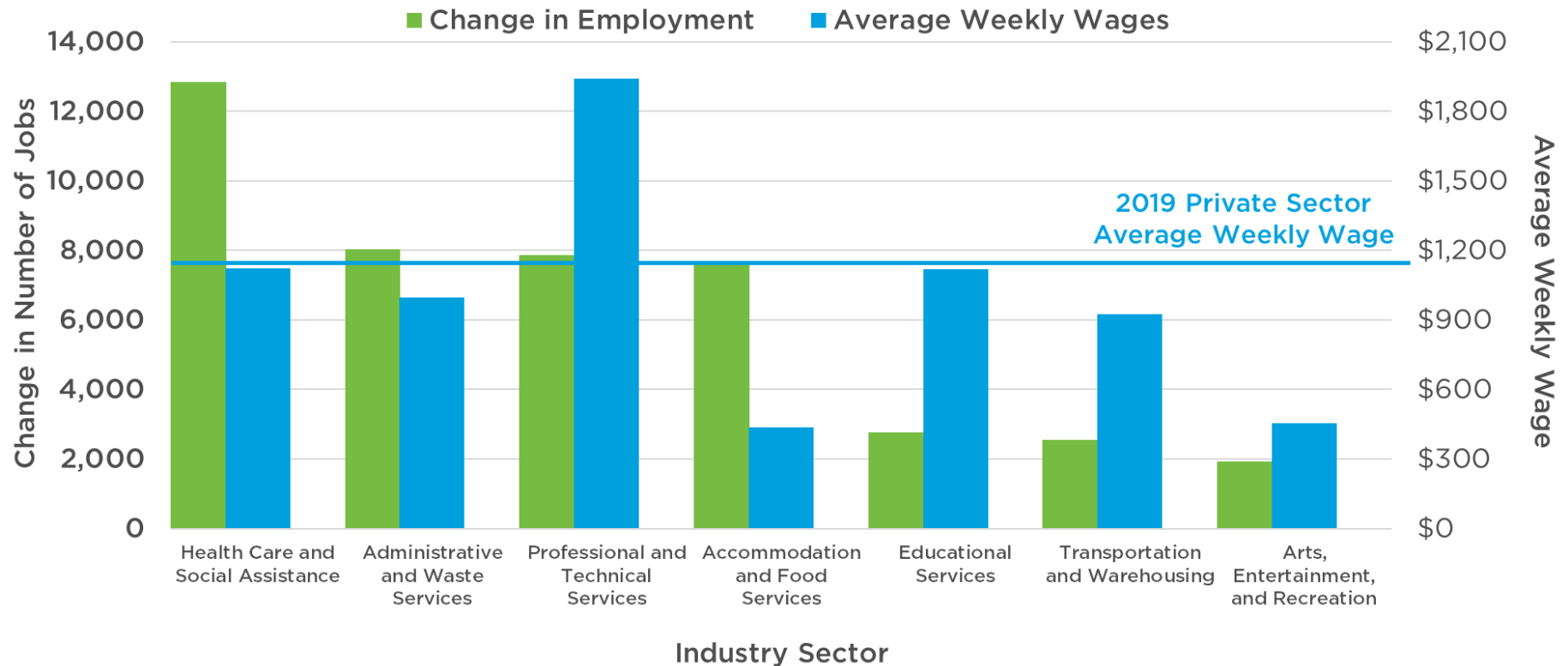
Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service, *Household Food Insecurity in the United States*

ECONOMIC AND POLICY CONDITIONS

- Uneven economic recovery from the Great Recession
- Changes in employment opportunities
- Limited income growth for low-wage workers
- More significant declines in purchasing power of lower wages than the nation overall
- Different policies to support low-income individuals as compared to other states and the nation

SHIFTS IN JOB OPPORTUNITIES

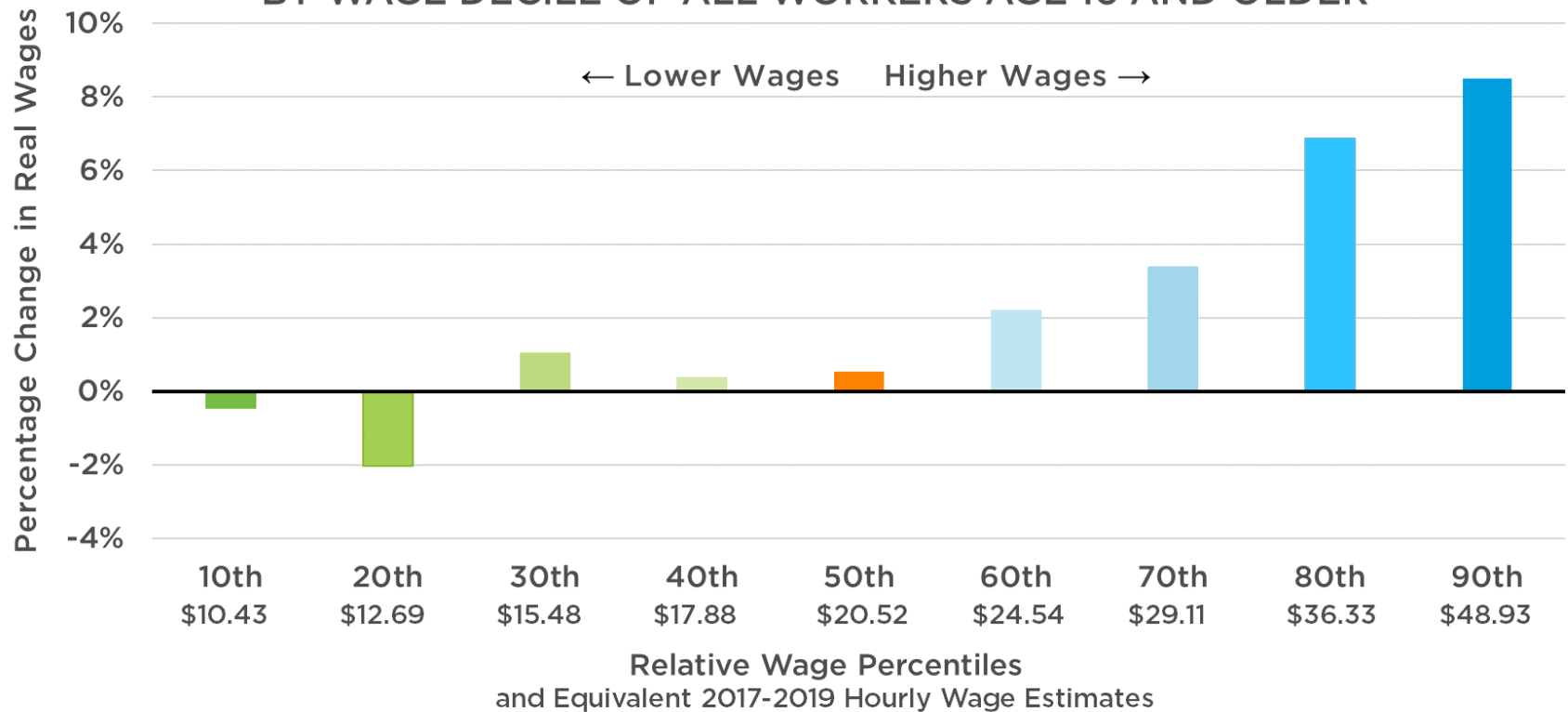
IN NEW HAMPSHIRE BY INDUSTRY, FROM 2008-2019
PRIVATE SECTOR INDUSTRIES, 2019 AVERAGE WAGES



Source: New Hampshire Employment Security, Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau, Covered Employment and Wages

CHANGES IN INFLATION-ADJUSTED NEW HAMPSHIRE WAGES

CHANGE FROM 2004-2006 AVERAGES TO 2017-2019 AVERAGES
BY WAGE DECILE OF ALL WORKERS AGE 16 AND OLDER

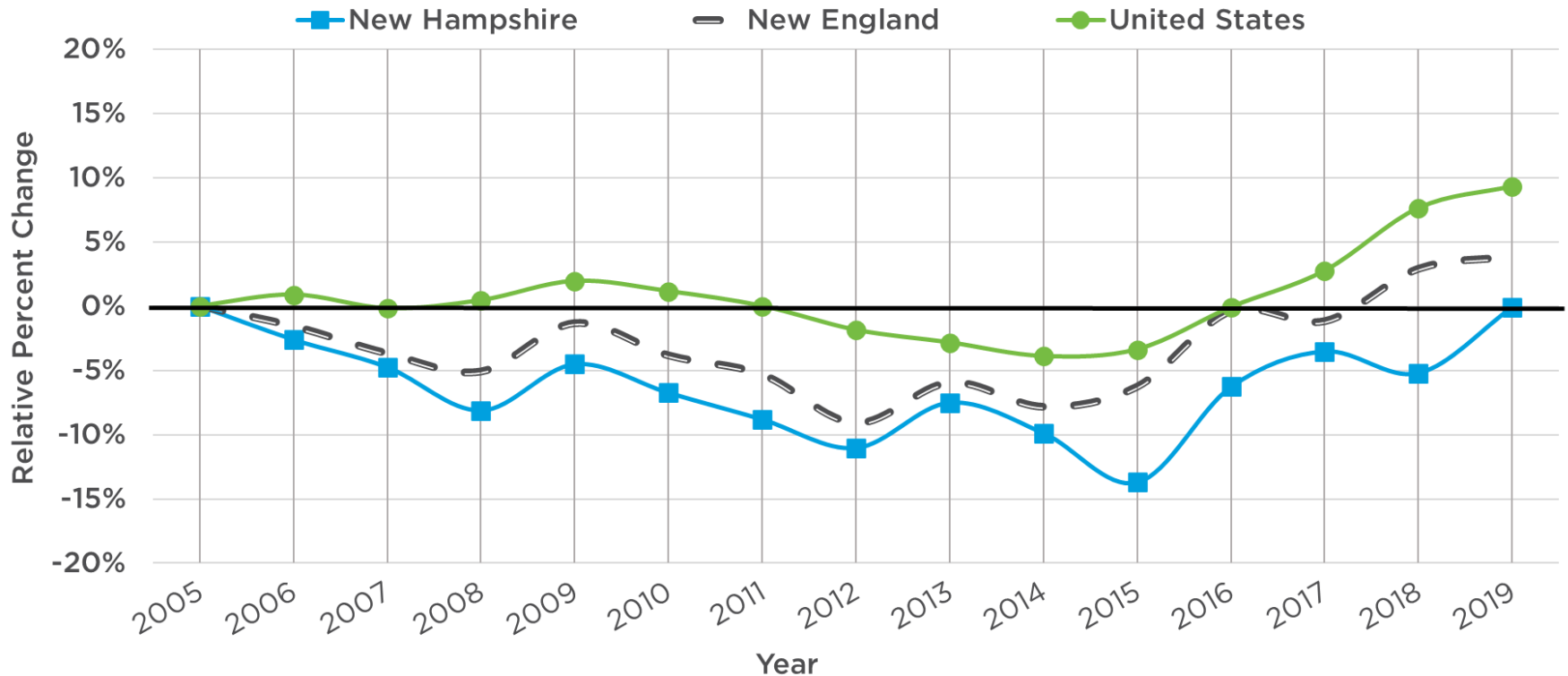


Note: Inflation adjustment using Consumer Price Index-Urban-Research Series (current methods). Includes workers aged 16 years and older, includes all income from work.

Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group data

UNEVEN RECOVERY OF WAGES

CHANGES IN 20TH PERCENTILE INFLATION-ADJUSTED WAGES



Note: Inflation adjustment using Consumer Price Index-Urban-Research Series (current methods). Includes workers aged 16 years and older, by relative income, indexed to 2005, includes all income from work.

Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group data

POLICY CONDITIONS IN OTHER STATES

Policy landscapes in other states may have aided in boosting the incomes and overall economic security of lower-wage individuals and families:

- Minimum wages
- State-level Earned Income Tax Credits
- Housing assistance
- Childcare assistance
- Other direct assistance and aid

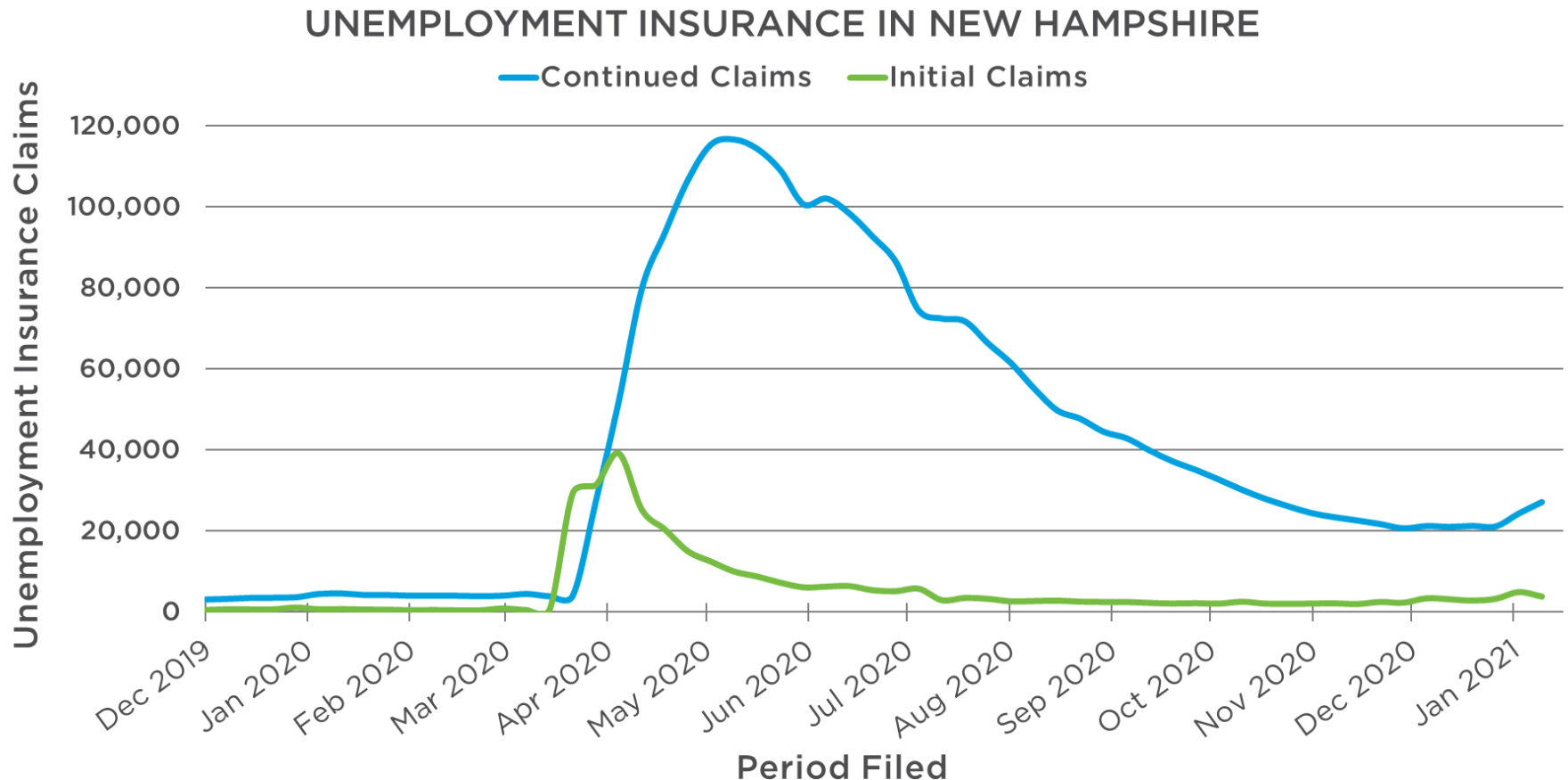
THE ROLE OF NUTRITIONAL AID PROGRAMS

- Key nutritional aid programs supported Granite Staters while stimulating the economy
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known as the Food Stamp Program in New Hampshire
 - Woman, Infants, and Children (WIC) program
 - Free and Reduced-Price School Meal programs
- Moody's Analytics and USDA estimated that every dollar invested into new SNAP benefits generated about \$1.50 in economic activity
- Programs directly aid individuals and families while stimulating a weak economy

RECENT AND CURRENT IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS

Research from NHFPI's December 2020 Issue Brief,
*Food Insecurity and Economic Conditions in
New Hampshire and the Nation*,
including updated and additional analysis

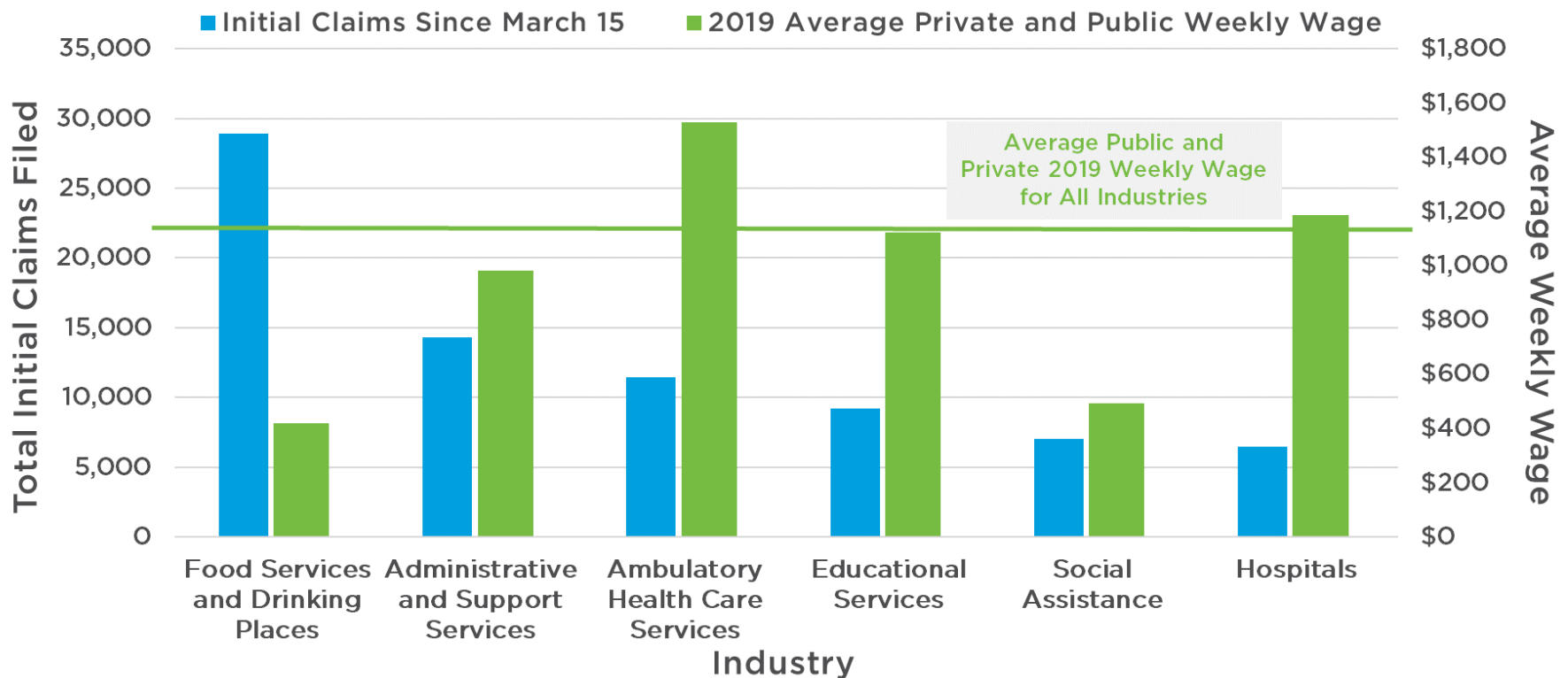
INITIAL AND CONTINUED UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS



Note: Not Seasonally-Adjusted
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration

INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY INDUSTRY

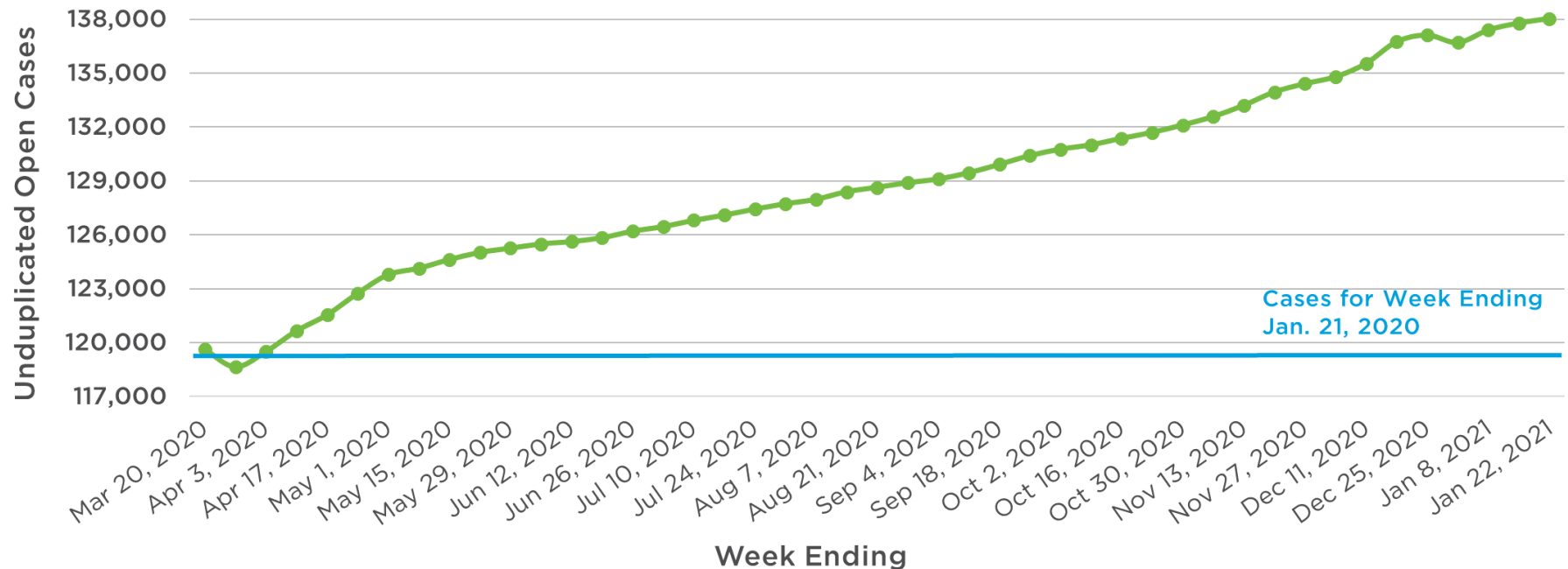
IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, FROM MARCH 16, 2020 TO JANUARY 16, 2021



Sources: New Hampshire Employment Security, *COVID-19 Unemployment Update*, January 28, 2021 and New Hampshire Employment Security, Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau, Covered Employment and Wages

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE CASES

UNDUPLICATED OPEN CASES FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE SINCE WEEK ENDING MARCH 20, 2020

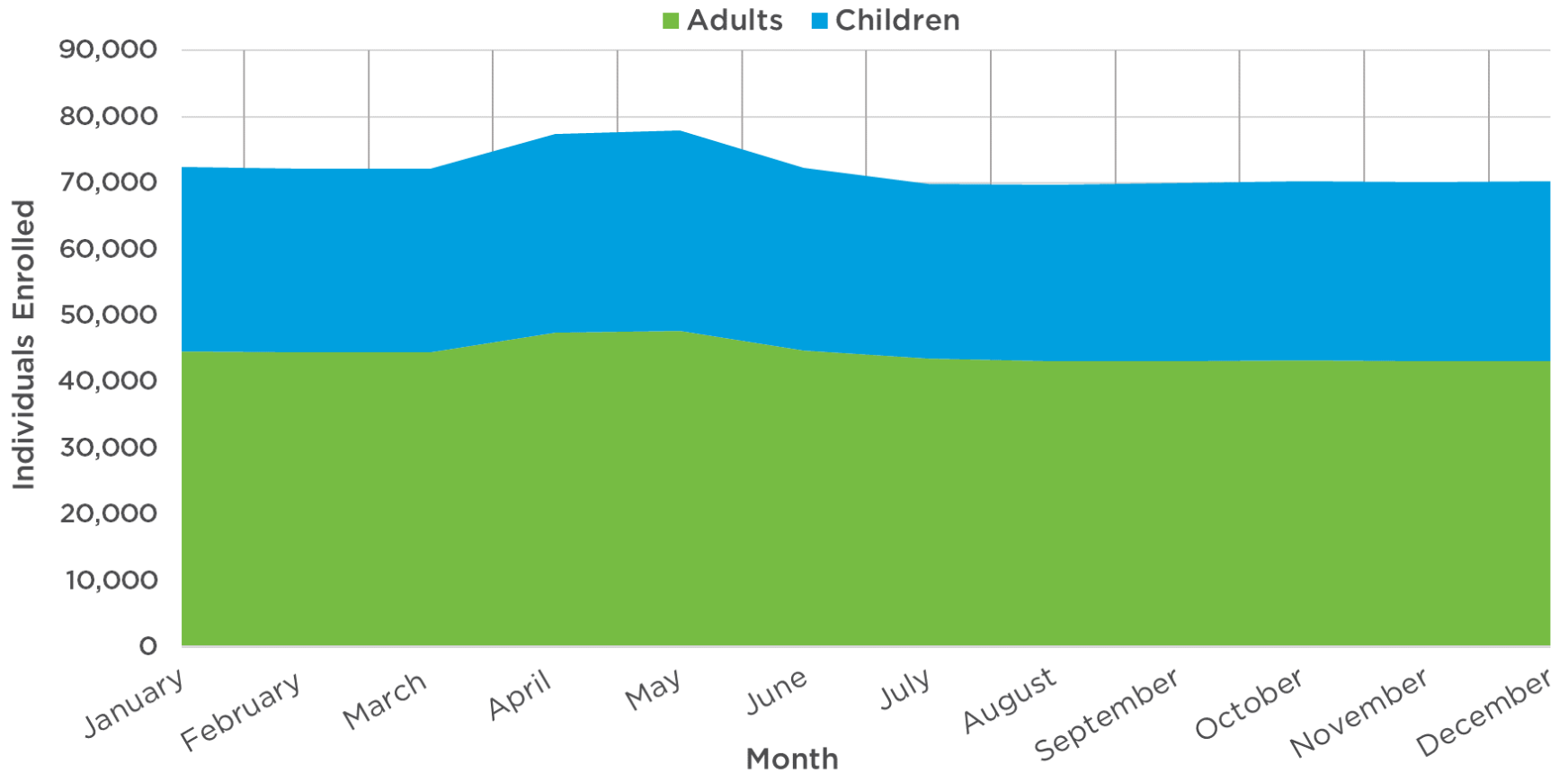


Cases for Week Ending
Jan. 21, 2020

Source: New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Economic and Housing Stability, Data Published January 25, 2021

MONTHLY SNAP ENROLLMENT

IN NEW HAMPSHIRE DURING 2020



Note: Enrollment represents end of month levels

Source: N.H. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Division of Family Assistance, Data Accessed January 29, 2021

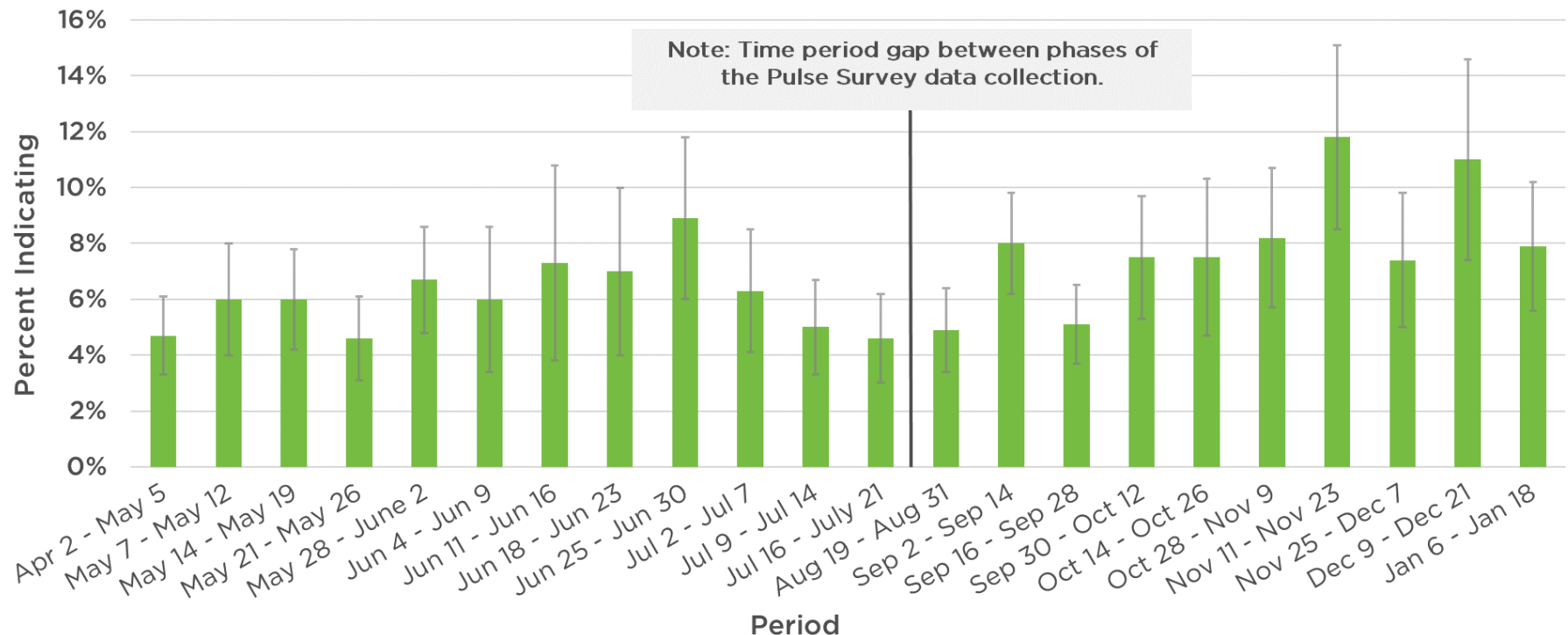
HARDSHIPS RESULTING FROM THE PANDEMIC

- Nearly half of New Hampshire adults reported a loss of household employment income between March and July 2020
- At the end of 2020, about 1 in 4 households expected future employment income losses and about 1 in 3 reported difficulty paying for usual expenses in New Hampshire
- From April 2020 to January 2021, between 4 percent and 12 percent of households in New Hampshire indicated there was either sometimes or often not enough to eat in the last 7 days

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey

FOOD SCARCITY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

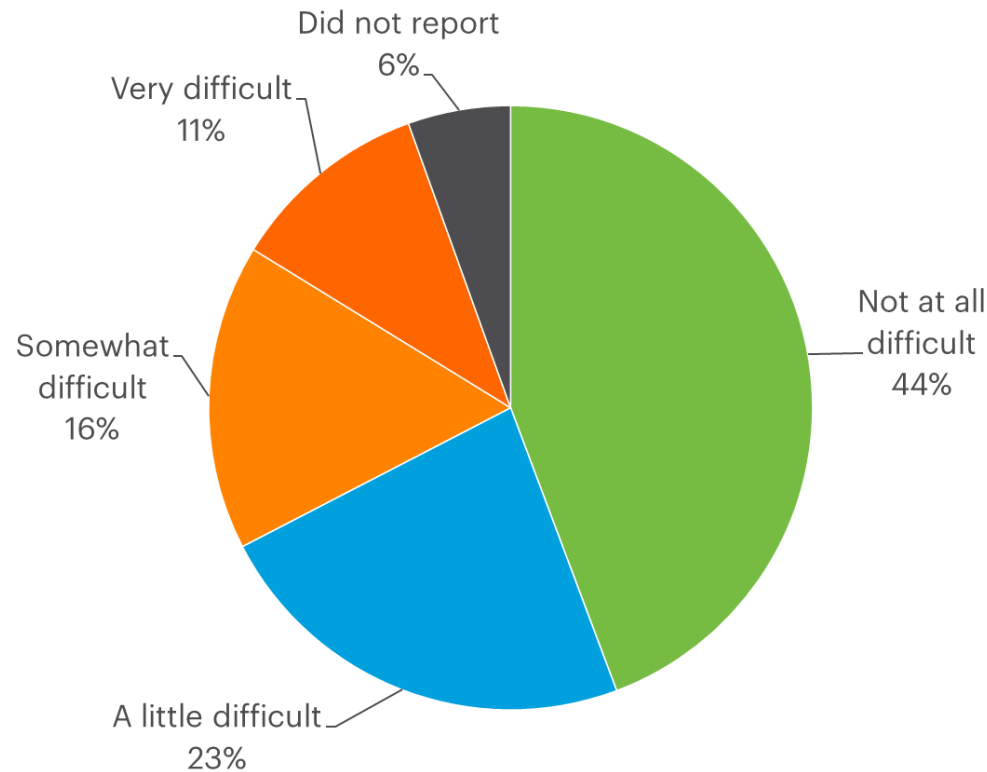
PERCENTAGE OF ADULTS IN HOUSEHOLDS SOMETIMES OR OFTEN LACKING ENOUGH TO EAT IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS



Note: Margin of error bars represent 90 percent confidence intervals
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Household Pulse Survey, accessed January 27, 2021

DIFFICULTY COVERING EXPENSES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

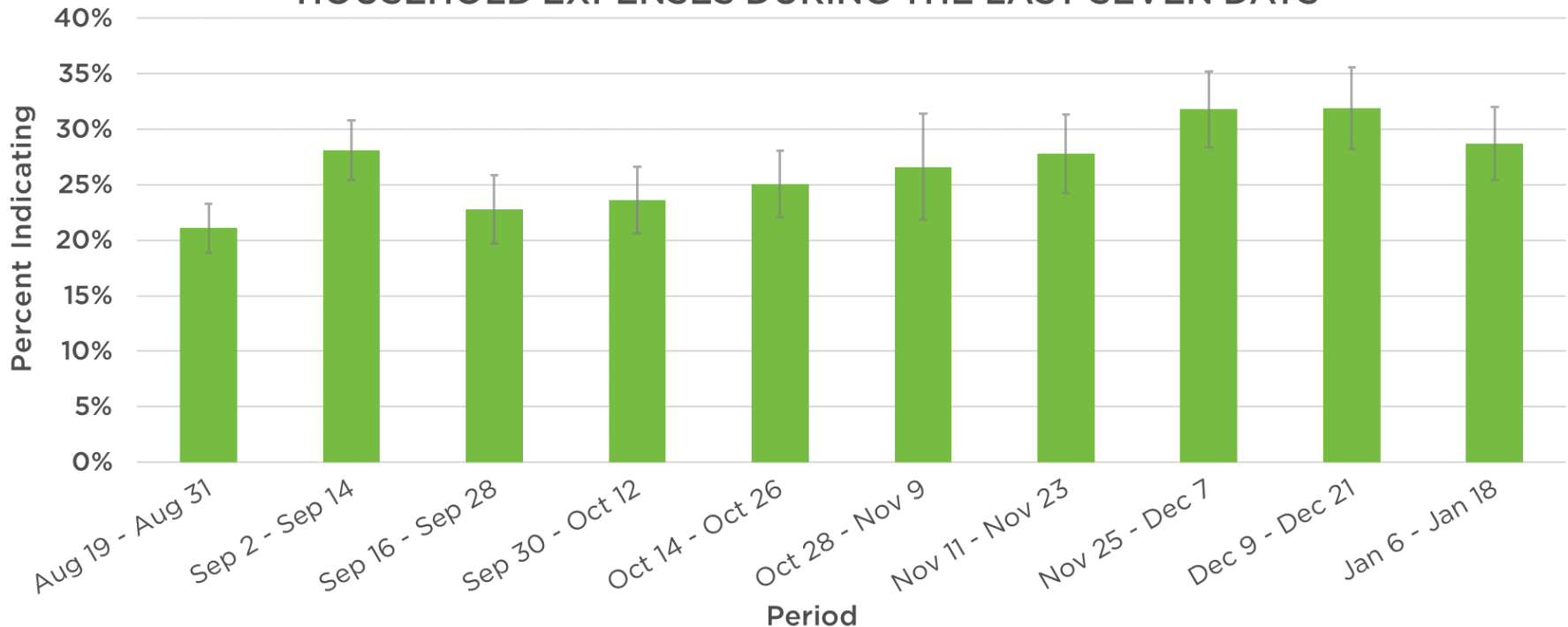
FROM JANUARY 6 TO JANUARY 18, 2021



Note: Estimates for Week 21 of the Household Pulse Survey representing the total population age 18 years and older in New Hampshire
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Household Pulse Survey, accessed January 27, 2021

DIFFICULTY COVERING EXPENSES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

PERCENTAGE OF ADULTS LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS WHERE IT HAS
BEEN SOMEWHAT OR VERY DIFFICULT TO PAY FOR USUAL
HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES DURING THE LAST SEVEN DAYS



Note: Margin of error bars represent 90 percent confidence intervals
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Household Pulse Survey, accessed January 22, 2021

RECENT POLICY CHANGES

- Expanded and extended unemployment compensation
- Economic Impact Payments
- Increase maximum Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Moratoria on certain evictions and foreclosures
- Rental assistance
- Changes and additions to other nutritional aid and safety net programs

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Food insecurity levels vary, are higher among households in poverty or near poverty, headed by single parents, headed by individuals identifying as Black or Hispanic, and that include families with children
- During the recovery from the Great Recession, levels of relative food insecurity appear to have remained elevated for longer in New Hampshire
- Changes in employment opportunities, limited income growth for low-wage earners, and differing policy landscapes may have affected levels of food insecurity

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The COVID-19 crisis has disproportionately impacted low-income Granite Staters, who had more limited wage growth following the Great Recession
- The COVID-19 crisis has led to increases in food insecurity
- Providing aid to individuals and families most impacted by the crisis is key to mitigating financial hardships and stimulating the economy
- Potential exists for short-term and long-term benefits of reducing food insecurity for adults and children



Issue Brief:
Food Insecurity and Economic Conditions
in New Hampshire and the Nation
December 1, 2020

Funding for this research, report, and presentation provided
by the New Hampshire Children's Health Foundation





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New Hampshire Food Bank

February 3, 2021



Overarching Strategy for the NHFB Team.....

Feed the hunger and nourish the health of New Hampshire's food insecure.

Distribution:

- Over 17 millions pounds of food distributed in 2020
- 400+ partner agencies throughout NH



Programming:

- Culinary job training
- Granite State Market Match
- SNAP Outreach
- Cooking Matters
- Production Garden
- USDA Summer Feeding



The State of Hunger in NH – Pre & Post COVID

	Food Insecurity 2018	Revised October 2020	% change
Total Population	9.3%	13.4%	+ 44%
1,356,458	125,590	181,090	55,500
Child Population	13.3%	21.2%	+ 60%
258,128	34,280	54,800	20,520



How we've met the 40% increase in demand.

Huge increase in food purchasing.
Bought more food in the month of March than we did in all of 2019

Agency orders are larger and more frequent.

- => Increased deliveries.
- => Increased partner agency access to bulk commodities.

Huge increase in Mobile Food Pantries.(MFP) Pre-COVID 5-10 MFP's year.

- 70 Drive Thru No Contact MFP's in 2020.
- Just under 30,000 families served 1.9 million pounds of food.



Bright Spots of Progress During COVID

NH Feeding NH

Secured \$100K of CARES Act to pilot NH Feeding NH where \$ is allocated to chosen agencies to purchase fresh product from local farmers.

Drive Thru Mobile Food Pantries

Direct interaction with the end clients at our drive thru mobile food pantries has given us the ability to communicate our other resources. We have seen participation in our online Cooking Matters classes increase as well as our SNAP applications triple.

Greater Empathy

With so many families negatively affected by COVID-19 there is greater empathy when so many are faced with dealing with food insecurity and needing social services for the first time. We hope with so many in need that we are able to reduce the shame and stigma associated with food insecurity.

Laura Milliken
Executive Director



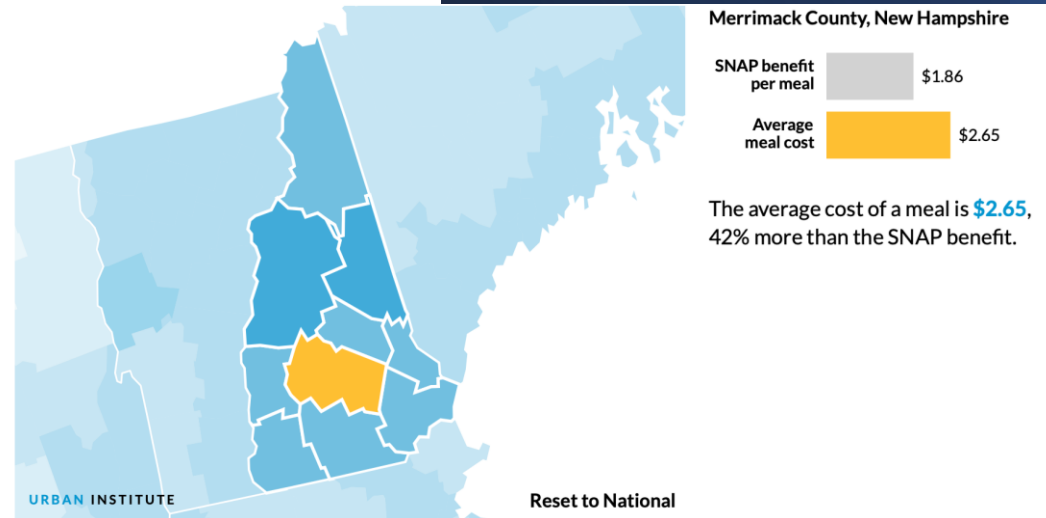
NH has low participation in federal nutrition programs

Nationally, we are:

- 47th in school breakfast
- 36th in SNAP
- 32nd in Child and Adult Care Food Program
- 25th in the summer meals programs
- ...and WIC serves only 37% of those eligible


Benefit v Actual Costs:

- In 2015 the Urban Institute compared the SNAP benefit - \$1.86 per meal- with actual meal costs in every county.
- In New Hampshire, meal costs ranged from \$2.43 in Cheshire and Sullivan counties to \$2.80 in Carroll county.



Our priorities

- Getting the word out about the programs that are available and how to apply is critical
- Reducing administrative barriers to both a) assist families in applying for federal nutrition programs, and b) ensure we are collecting data critical to evaluating eligibility and enrollment



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