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# Food and Housing Insecurity Screening Practices among UNMH Pediatric Providers

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## Background

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends food insecurity (FI) screening at all pediatric visits. Studies have demonstrated that FI is associated with adverse health outcomes in children.<sup>1</sup> Based on the latest KIDS COUNT Profile, 26% of New Mexican children live in poverty, in comparison to the national average of 18%.<sup>2</sup> It is unknown how often our pediatric providers screen for FI and housing insecurity (HI) both in the inpatient and outpatient settings. Our UNMH EMR has an existing screening tool for FI and HI. Whether our providers use this tool and how they document screening results is also unclear.

## Objectives

To collect formative data on food (FI) and housing insecurity (HI) screening practices of UNMH pediatric providers to allow for the design of a quality improvement project

## Methods

We performed a baseline cross-sectional survey with UNMH pediatric residents and attendings in May 2020. Fifty-two individuals completed the survey (40.4% attendings, 59.6% residents).

## Results

Figure 1 displays the percentage of residents and attendings who screen for HI and FI occasionally or only if pertinent to the chief complaint in the inpatient and outpatient settings. When asked if respondents knew where to find the current EMR screening tool results, 61.3% of residents and 42.9% of attendings were unaware of the current screening tool. In terms of documentation, Figure 2 shows the percentage of residents and attendings who document FI and HI occasionally or only if pertinent. When asked where they document the screening, the “Social History” was the most commonly reported response for residents (83.3%) and “Assessment and Plan” for attendings (52.9%).

Figure 1

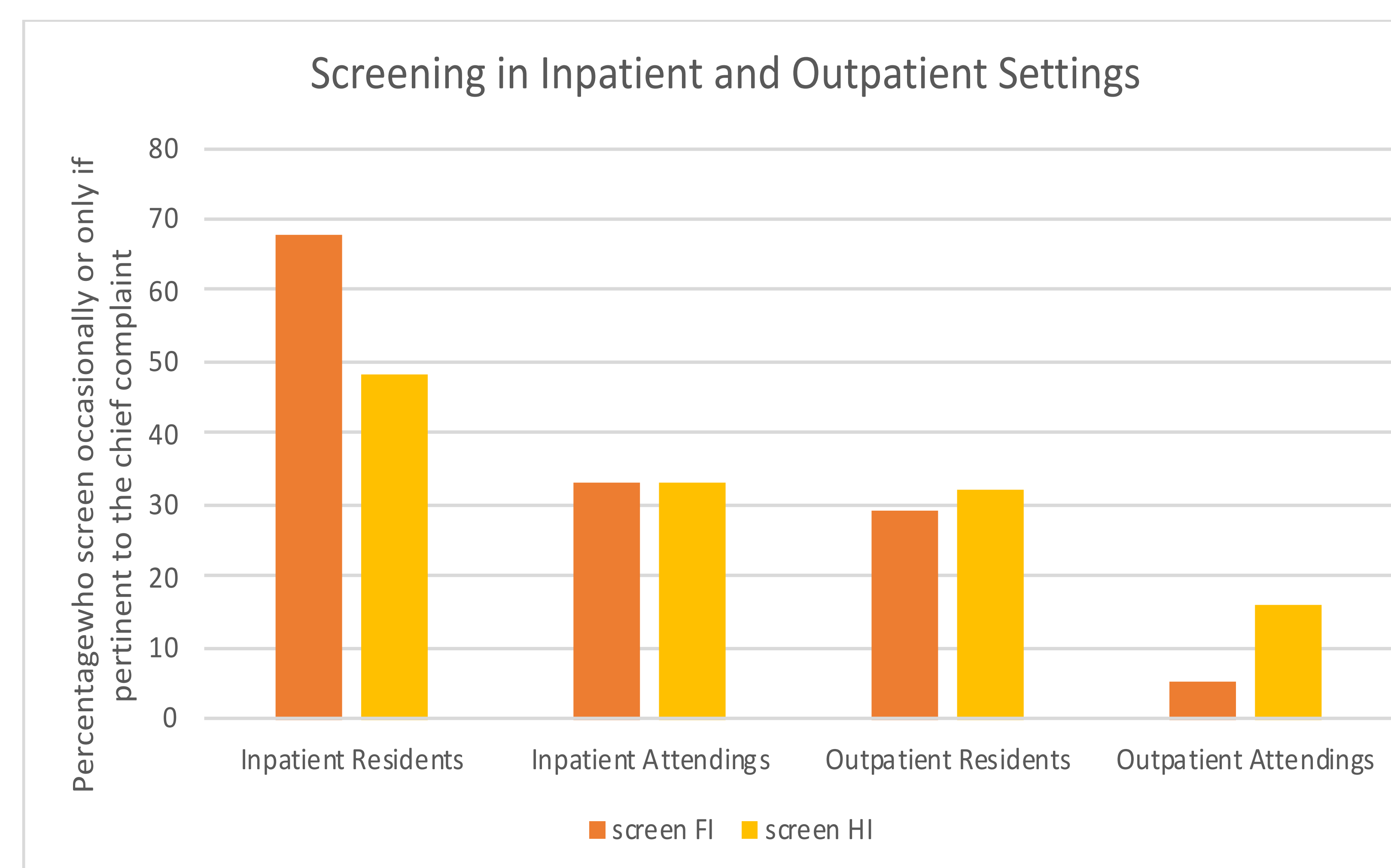
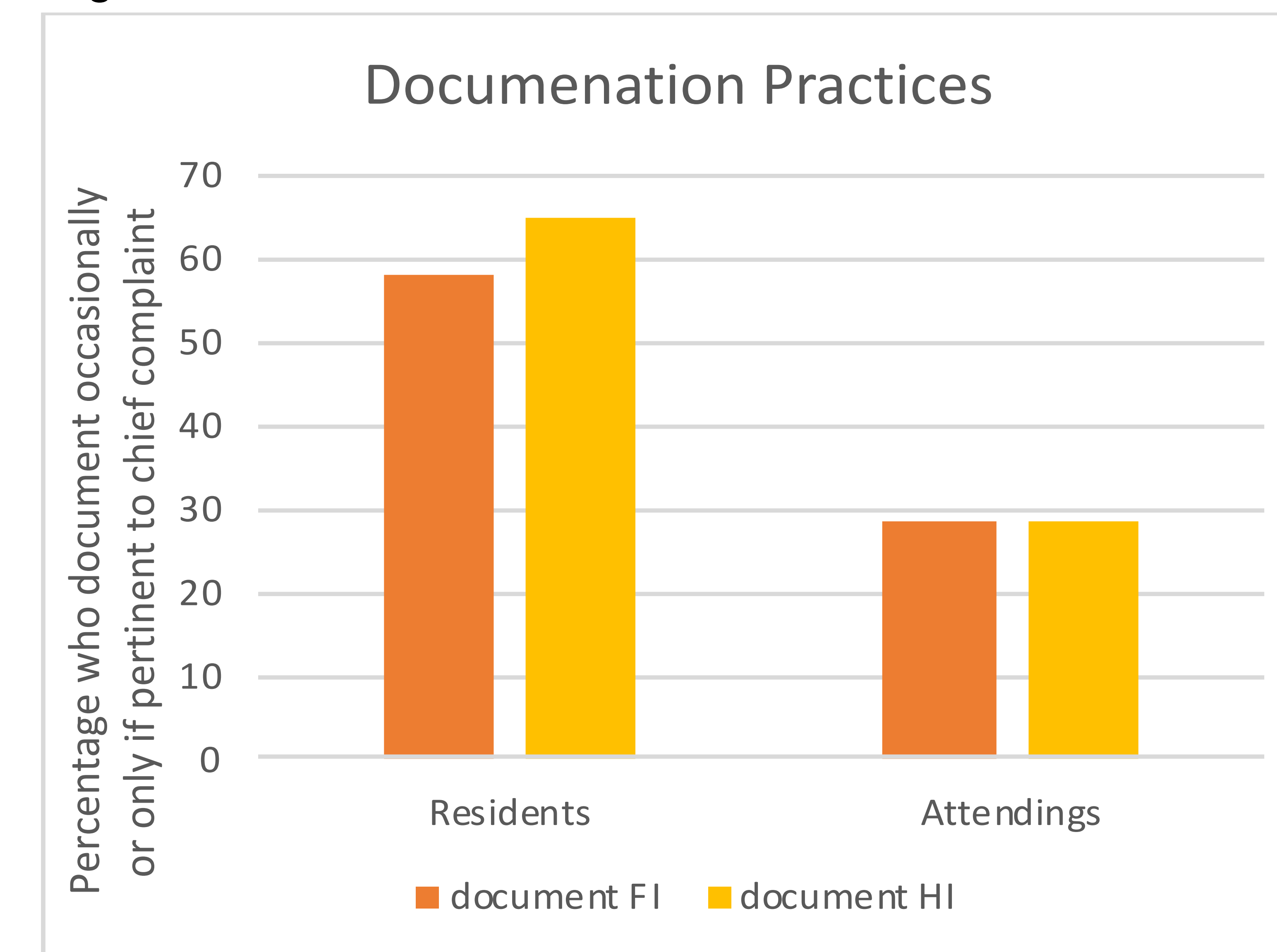


Figure 2



## Discussion

We found that providers are unaware of current screening tools. Documentation practices are inconsistent. Based on these baseline results, our QI project will standardize the FI and HI screening and documentation practices in pediatric inpatient and outpatient settings.

## References

- 1 John T. Cook, Deborah A. Frank, Carol Berkowitz, Maureen M. Black, Patrick H. Casey, Diana B. Cutts, Alan F. Meyers, Nieves Zaldivar, Anne Skalicky, Suzette Levenson, Tim Heeren, Mark Nord, Food Insecurity Is Associated with Adverse Health Outcomes among Human Infants and Toddlers, *The Journal of Nutrition*, Volume 134, Issue 6, June 2004, Pages 1432–1438, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jn/134.6.1432>
- 2 *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2019 and 2020.

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