

A rustic wooden surface, possibly a cutting board or table, is the background. On the left, three wooden spoons of different sizes are arranged vertically. The right side is filled with fresh vegetables: a large red bell pepper, a whole red tomato, a sliced mushroom, a whole onion, a radish, a cucumber, and some green onions. There are also some small red seeds or spices scattered on the wood. The overall scene is bright and fresh, suggesting healthy food.

# FOOD POLICY

*In*  
Howard County

# WHAT IS FOOD POLICY?

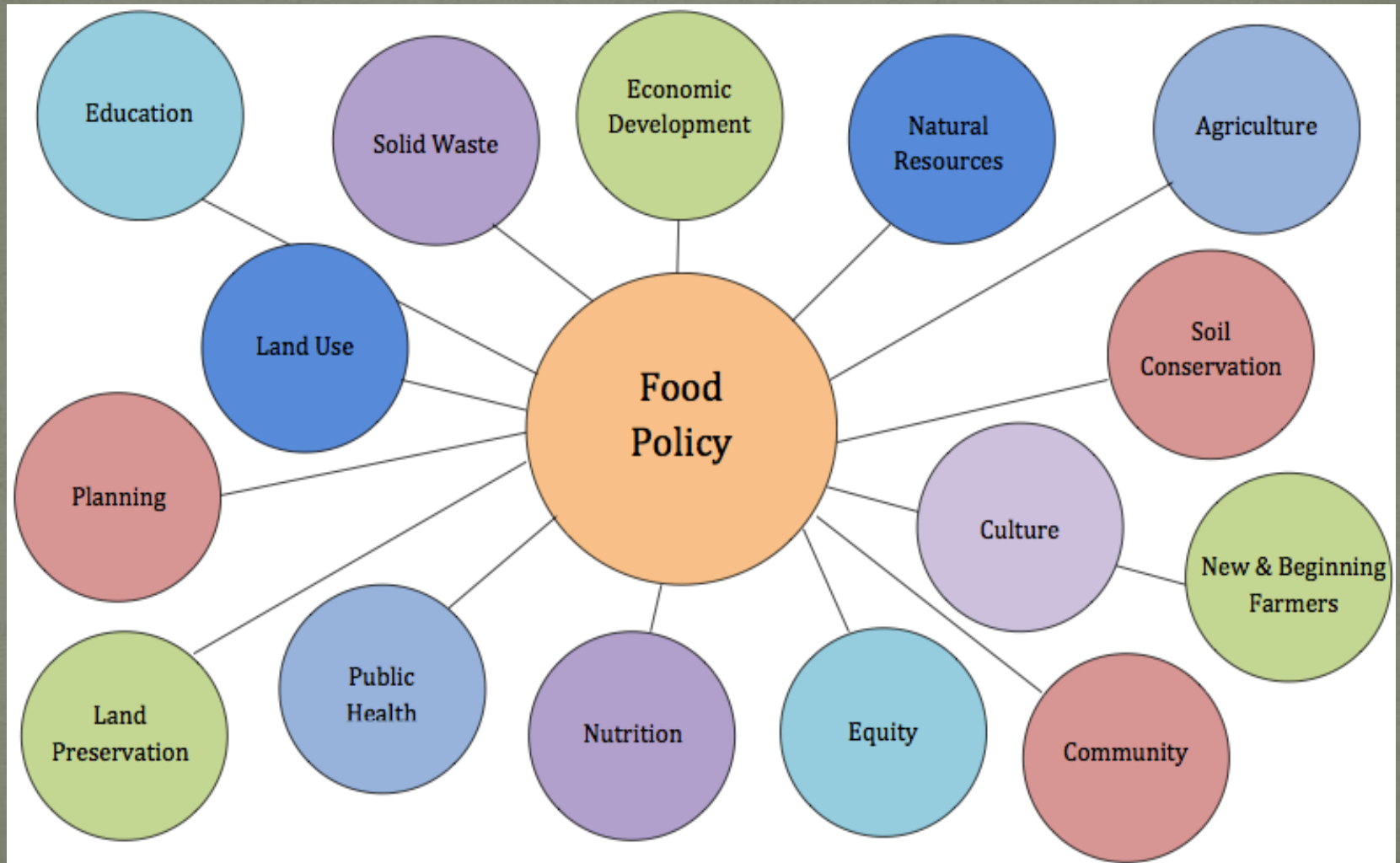
*“To be interested in food but not in food production is clearly absurd”*

*Wendell Berry*

*“If you eat, you’re involved in agriculture”*

*Orion Samuelson*

# WHO DOES FOOD POLICY AFFECT?



# HOWARD COUNTY FOOD POLICY TASK FORCE



# THE ROVING RADISH



# CHALLENGE

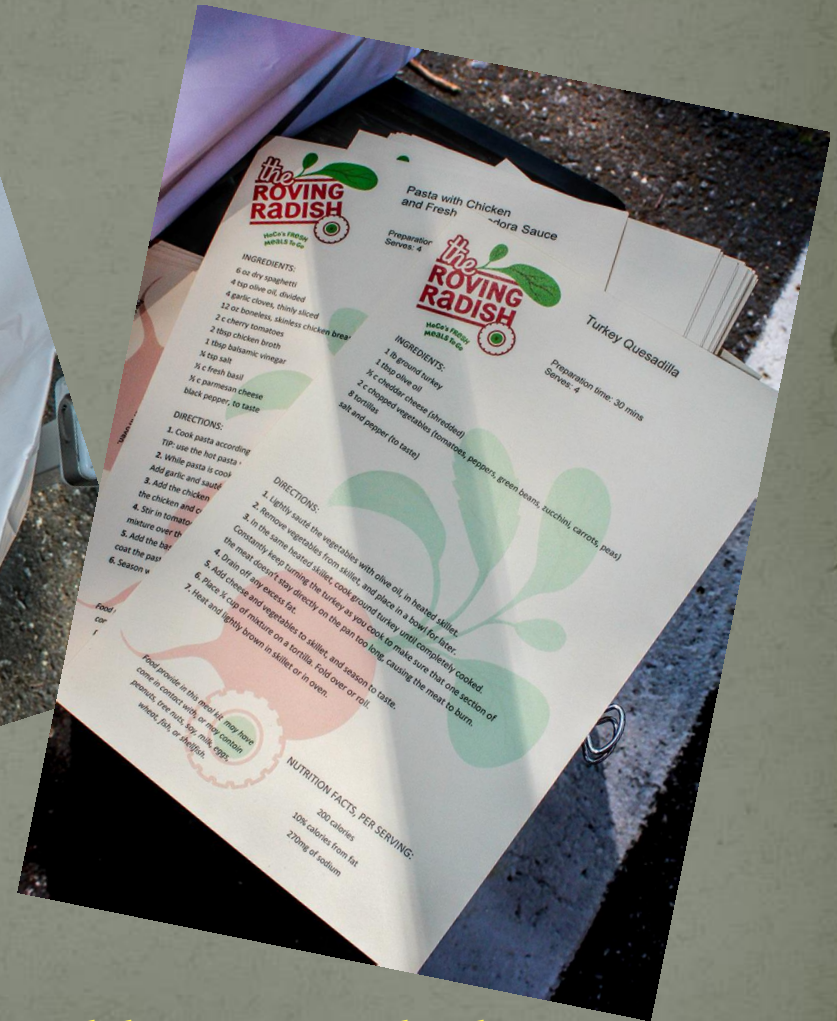
*Providing a convenient way for families to create  
fresh, healthful and affordable meals  
made from local food product.*



# MISSION

*...dedicated to promoting farm to table healthy eating habits to our community while creating sustainable markets for our local and regional farms and providing job training for inmates at the Howard County Detention Center.*

# ROVING RADISH GOAL #1



*Promote healthy farm to table eating habits*



## ROVING RADISH GOAL #2



*Support local farms*

# ROVING RADISH GOAL #3



*Provide job training for Howard County Detention Center*

# SO HOW DOES IT WORK?



*“We pride ourselves on developing personal relationships with our local and regional growers. We visit our farmers to gain an in-depth knowledge of their operations, growing practices, and history.”*

*Common Market purchases from approximately 75 growers and processors- the majority of which are within 200 miles of Philadelphia. The majority of our farmers grow produce averaging 125 acres in size.”*



# Introducing the Roving Radish!!

A pilot program offered by Howard County to bring fresh food to more people. The Roving Radish sells affordable healthy meal kits sourced from regional farms. The meal kit includes two recipes to prepare two meals for a family of four.

**Price - \$24.00/kit**  
**Subsidized Price - \$10.00/kit\***  
**(one meal kit per household)**

\*To qualify for subsidized price you must have participated in any of the following programs in the last 12 months: Food Stamps/ Food Supplement Program (FSP) or SNAP, Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA), Medical Assistance - Medicaid or Maryland Children's Health Program.

## How do I order?

Each week we take orders for the following week until Thursday at midnight or until we are sold out. You can order and pay for your kit online at [www.rovingradish.com](http://www.rovingradish.com). When ordering your meal kit you must specify your pick-up location. (Pick-up time and locations listed below). Recipes for the next week will be posted online on Friday. If you have trouble logging on, please feel free to call the number listed below and we'll do our best to walk you through it, or - if need be - take your order over the phone. We are limited on the number of kits at each location so order your kits early! ←

Pick Up Location	Day and Time
<b>The Bain Center</b> ..... 5470 Ruth Keeton Way, Columbia, 21044	<b>Tuesdays</b> <b>12:00 noon -</b> <b>1:30 pm</b>
<b>Monarch Mills</b> ..... 7600 Monarch Mills Way, Columbia 21046	<b>Tuesdays</b> <b>3:30 pm -</b> <b>5:00 pm</b>
<b>Bridgeway Community Church</b> ..... 9189 Red Branch Road, Columbia, 21045	<b>Tuesdays</b> <b>6:30 pm -</b> <b>8:00 pm</b>
<b>North Laurel Community Center</b> ..... 9411 Whiskey Bottom Road, Laurel, 20723	<b>Wednesdays</b> <b>4:30 pm -</b> <b>6:00 pm</b>
<b>Y of Central Maryland</b> ..... 4331 Montgomery Road, Ellicott City, 21043	<b>Wednesdays</b> <b>7:30 pm -</b> <b>9:00 pm</b>



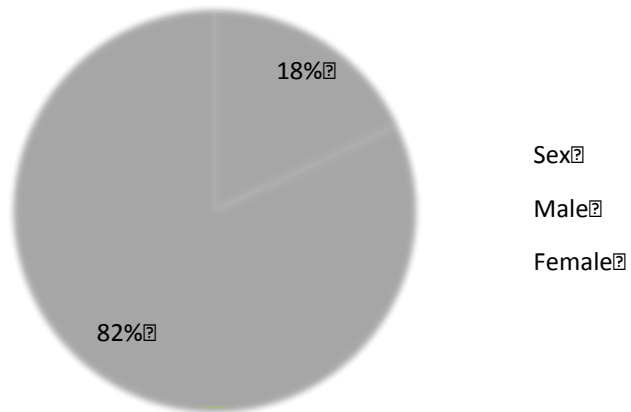
# PARTNERS



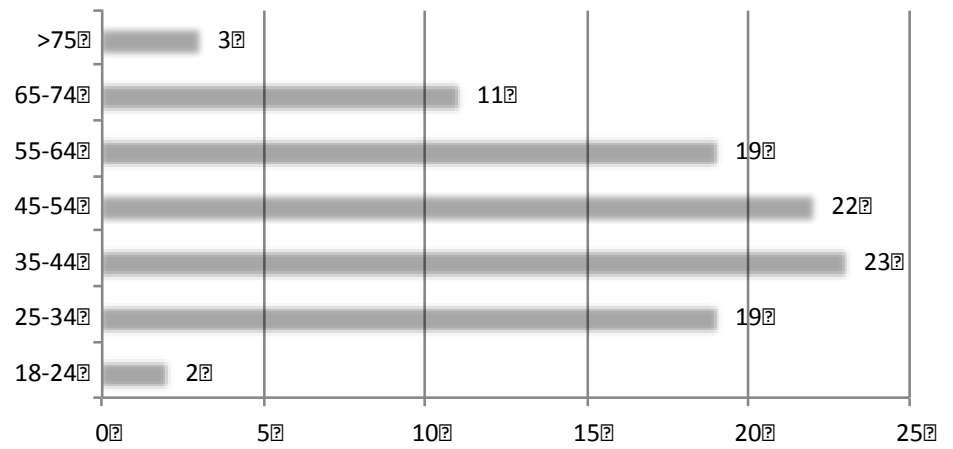


# Demographics

## Participant Sex

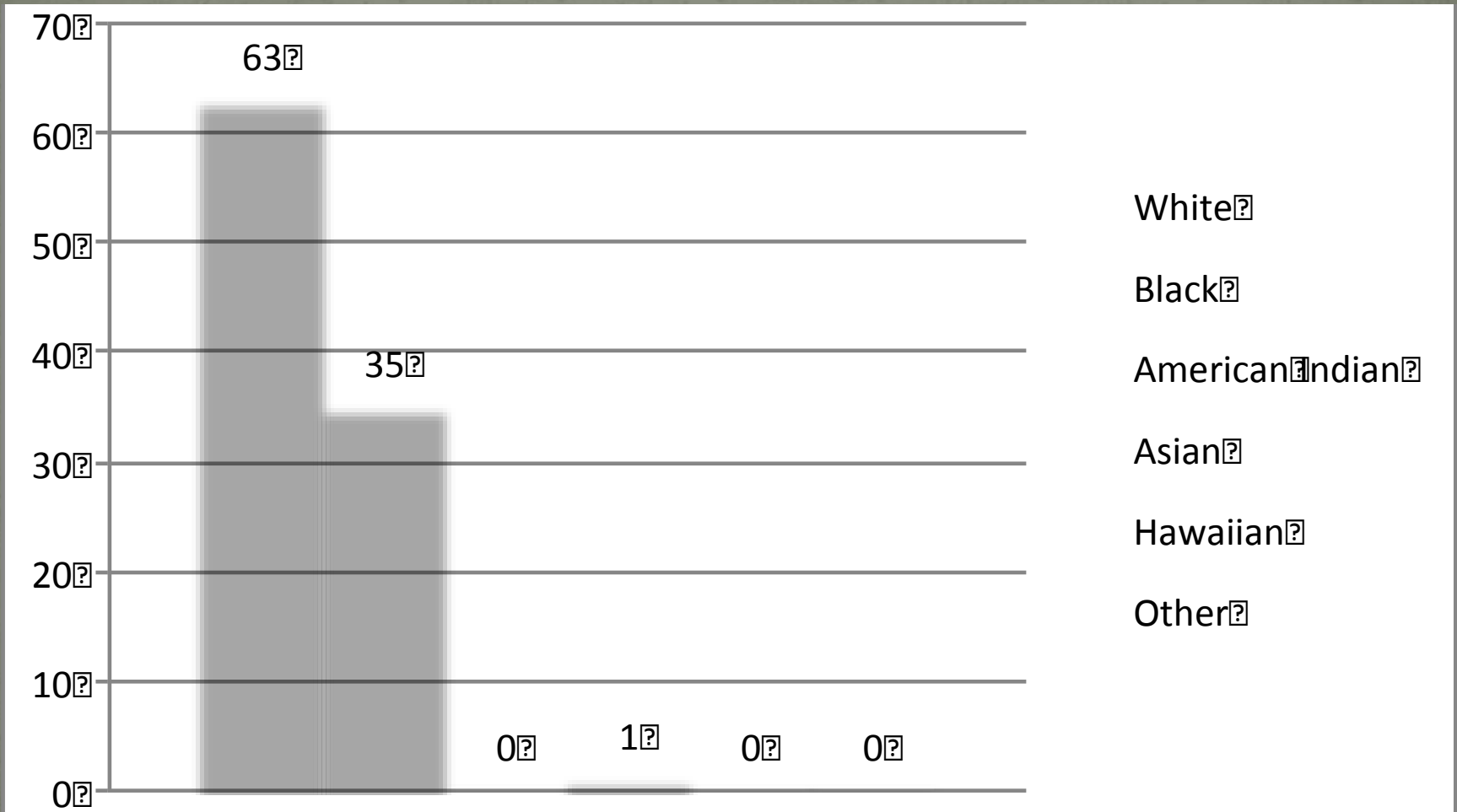


## Participant Age

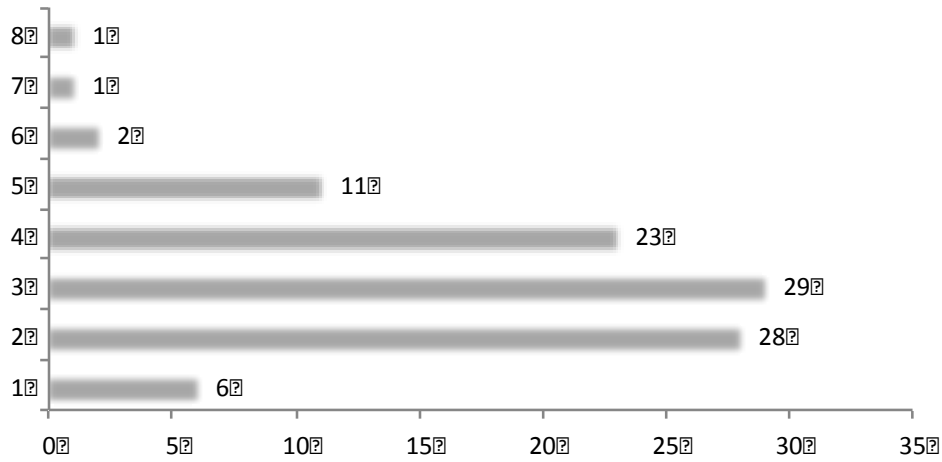




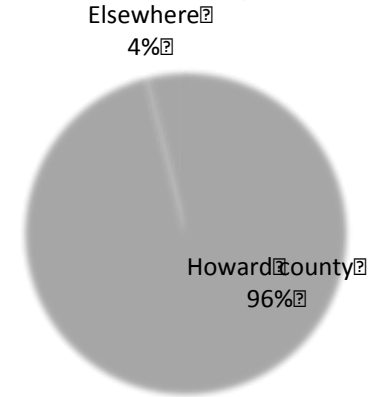
# Participant Race



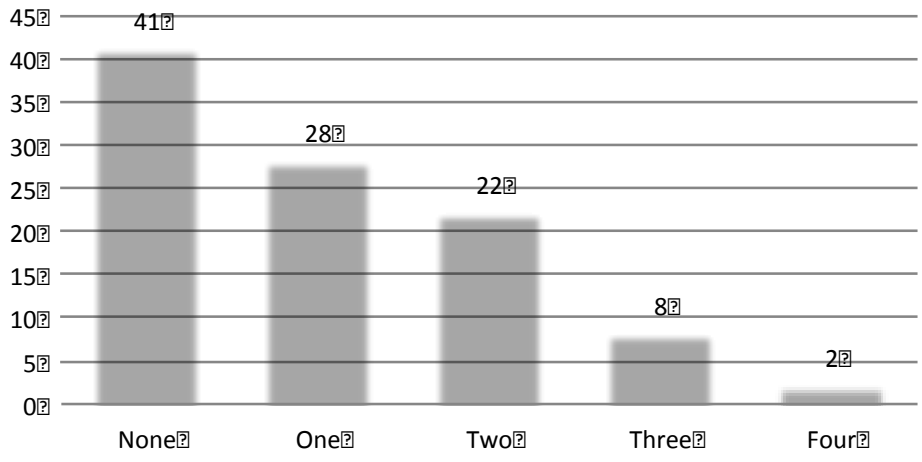
### Household size



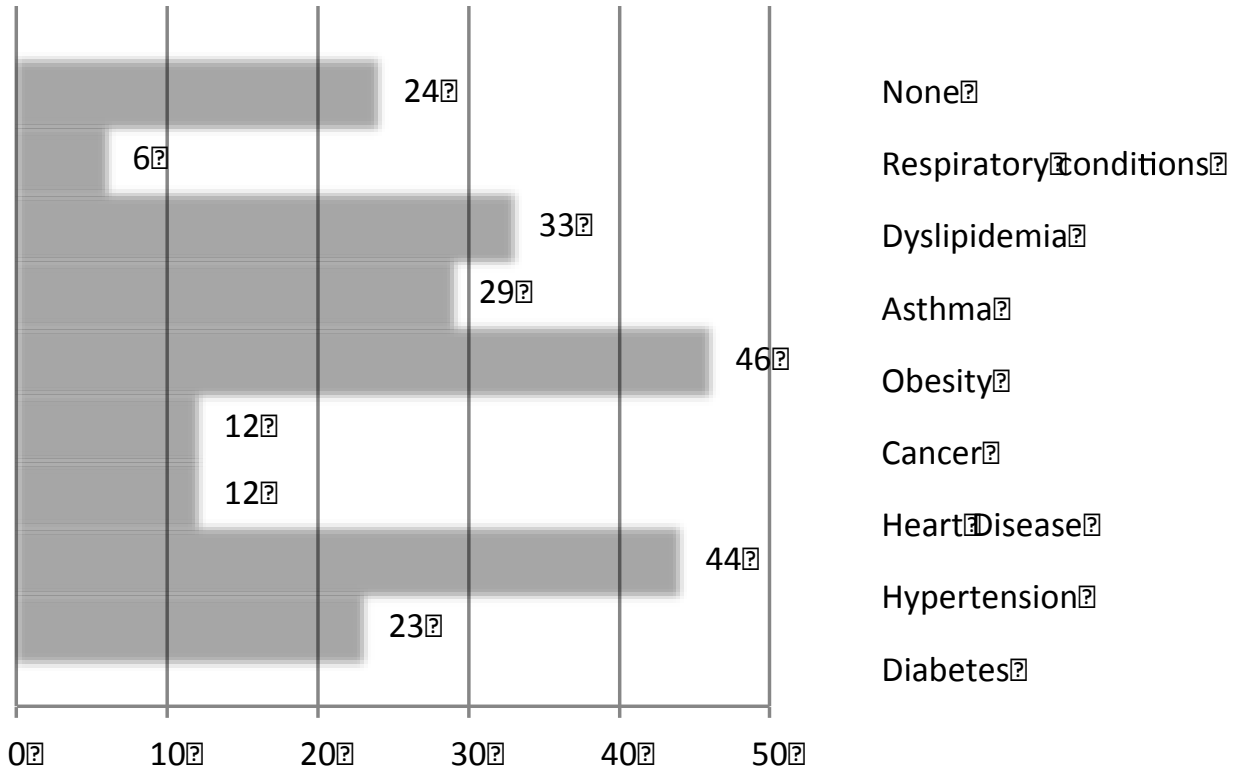
### % Living or working in Howard County



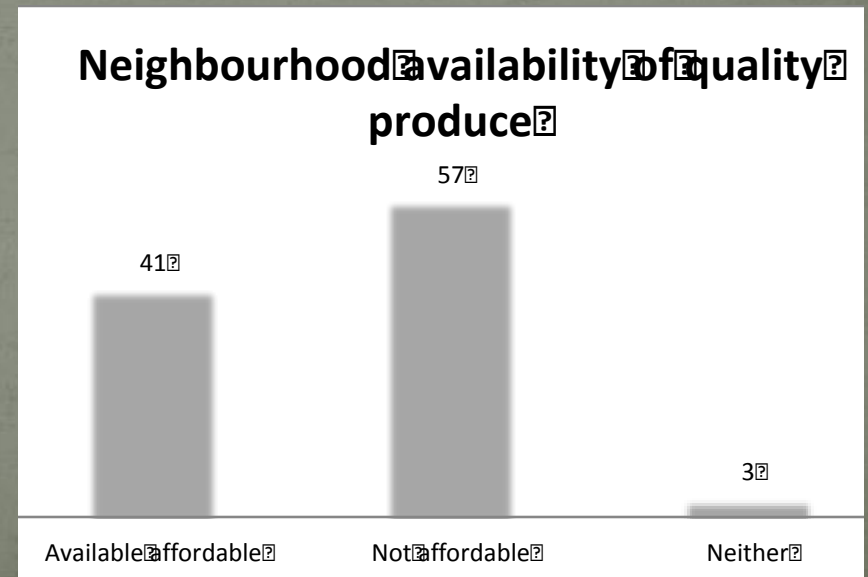
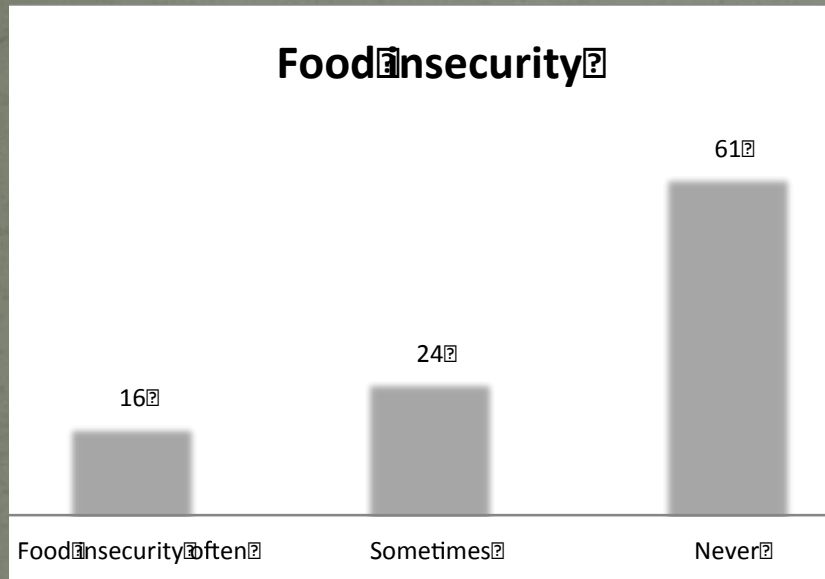
### Household children under 18



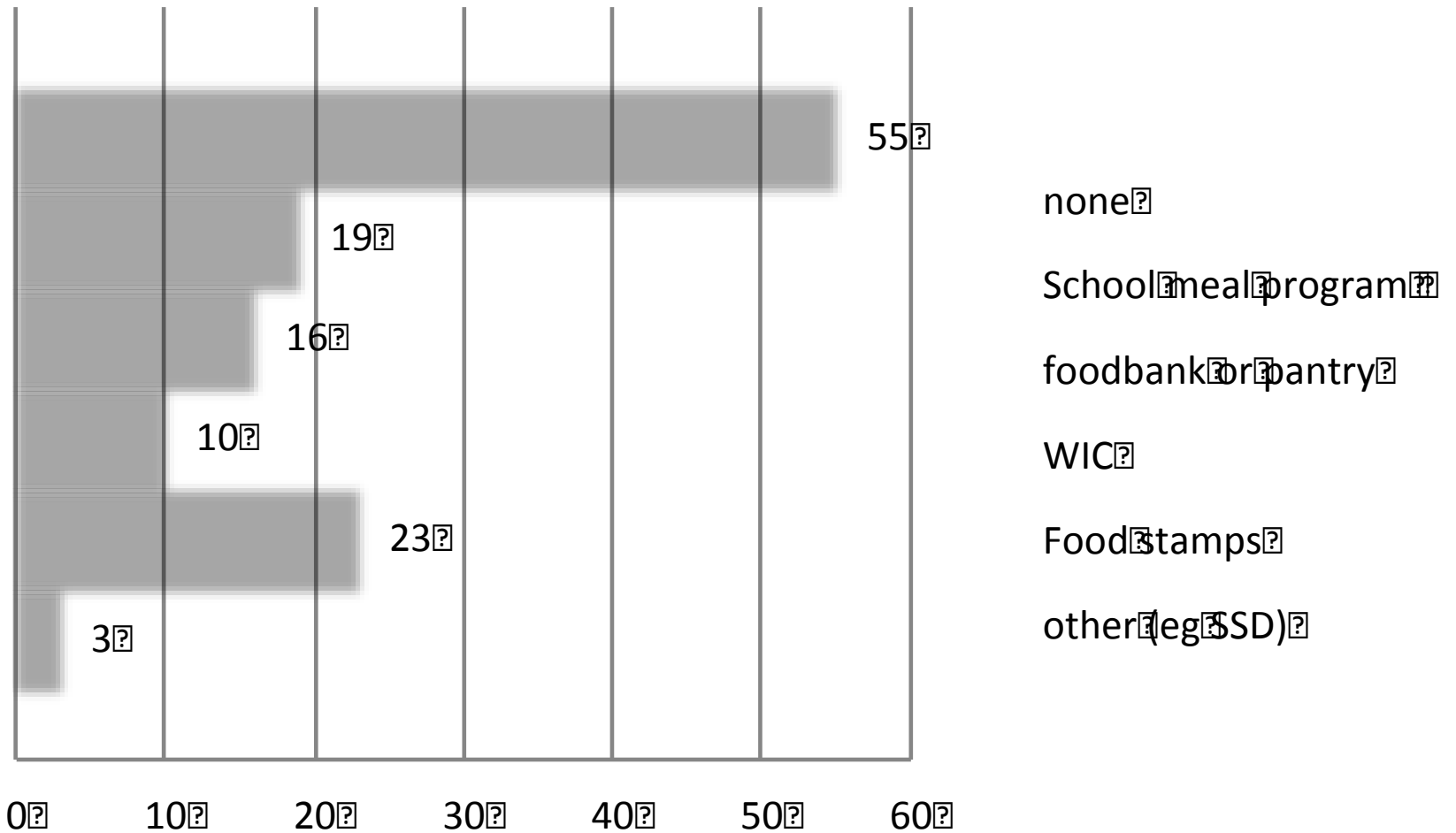
## Medical conditions (% of households)



# Food security



# Assistance program use



# COMMUNITY IMPACT

**496** total households served

**2481** total meal kits served

**51%** of kits sold were subsidized

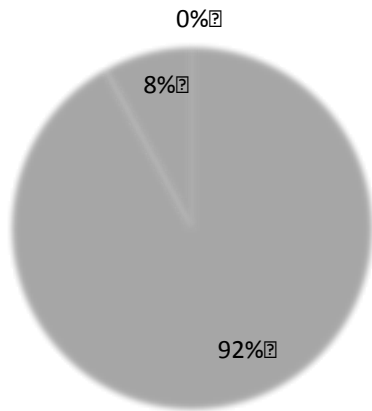
**154** total EBT sales

**\$48,890** of regional and local produce and proteins purchased

**162** donated kits

# Roving Radish experience

## Satisfaction with Roving Radish



Very Satisfied

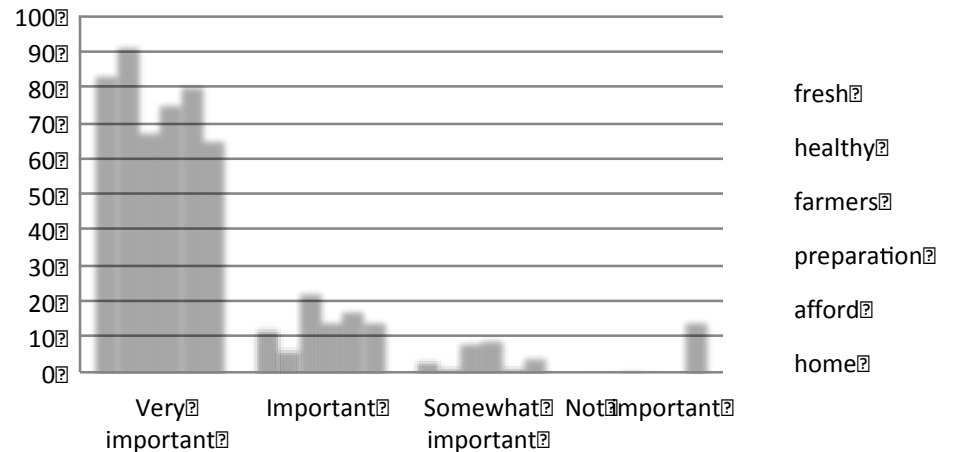
Somewhat Satisfied

Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied

“Wonderful program. I have bronchiectasis, and could not stand long enough to cook without this.”

“We want this to continue, we love having the prep done. We have more people interested in coming next year.”

## Motivation



# TESTIMONIALS

*“It is near impossible to find a meal solution for busy families that is reasonably priced, healthy, quick, and convenient, but the Roving Radish was exactly that. I already miss the Roving Radish and really hope it comes back next year, in fact, I wish we could have it year round!”*

*“I can say with 100% certainty that my family ate healthier and tried new foods (and enjoyed them!) as a result of the program.”*

*“To me, the main benefits of the program were:*

- Time savings*
- Support of local farms*
- Fresh food*
- Easy/convenient pickup of meals*
- Affordable cost*

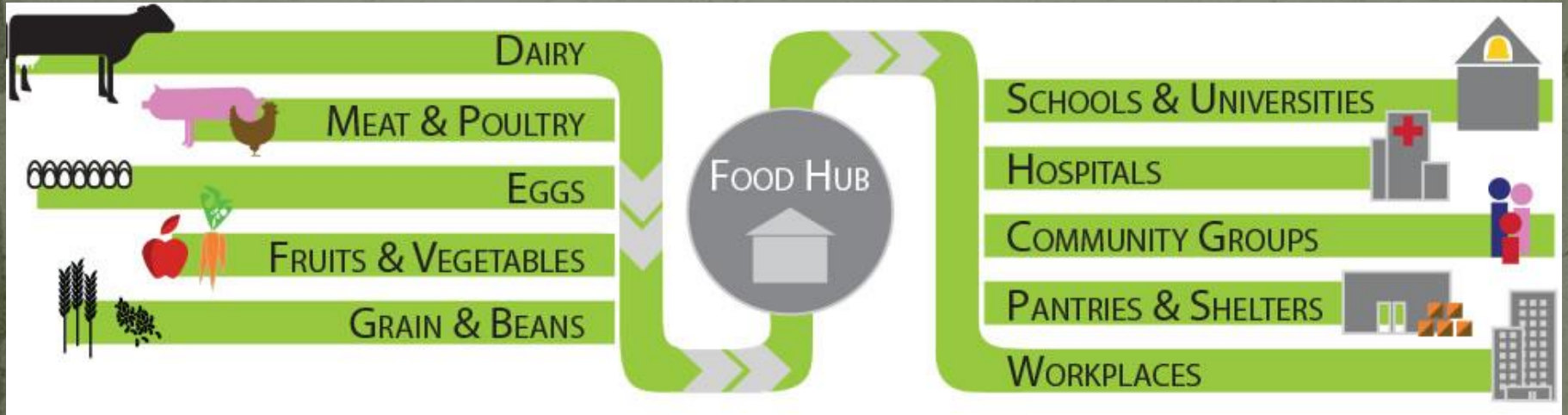






[Roving Radish Video](#)

# REGIONAL FOOD HUB



# KITCHEN INCUBATOR



# FOOD POLICY TASK FORCE Report and Recommendations



# RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Establish a food council of food system stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of these recommendations and have a leadership team that can develop new policies and procedures as needed.
2. Secure appropriate staffing to lead the food council, provide guidance and assistance to county government on food issues and other groups as needed.
3. Cultivate strategic partnerships with government, non-profit, health care, education and small businesses to leverage funds, knowledge, and efficiency to improve food access and farm viability.
4. Identify and connect to vulnerable populations to ensure that all eligible residents have access to nutrition and food programs.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

5. Determine where transportation barriers exist within current food access programs to better serve Howard County residents.
6. Develop a marketing and outreach strategy to increase public awareness of our regional food system to facilitate a return to conscious food consumption.
7. Explore opportunities to sustain and expand the Roving Radish program that brings fresh, regionally grown food to residents.
8. Support the development of a robust food industry by establishing a regional food hub and/or food incubator in Howard County to create a synergy between growers, restaurants, institutions and consumers, and to provide opportunities for new jobs and markets.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

9. Create new policies and legislation that encourage growth and expansion of food and agricultural business opportunities, increase markets, and create jobs.
10. Support agricultural and food entrepreneurial development to strengthen production and distribution and maximize county revenue and job retention.
11. Retain current agricultural infrastructure and develop needed framework to support new and emerging markets.
12. Develop educational programs for both farmers and entrepreneurs, to support the creation of niche products for new business development.
13. Provide tools and resources for farmers and consumers to expand local food infrastructure, and encourage, as well as promote, new business development.

Contact Info

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