

UC ANR FOOD POLICY COUNCIL STUDY

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Background on FPCs

- Relatively new institutional form
- Aim to engage with city, county, state, and federal policies to promote the social, economic, and environmental health of local and regional food systems.
- Consist of representatives and stakeholders from many sectors of the food system.
- Work on a variety of issues that overlap with UC ANR, including access to healthy food and food production on farms, ranches and in urban areas.

Research Questions

How do CA FPCs use research and information in their policy work?

How can we cultivate dialog between researchers (particularly UC ANR) and CA FPCs to improve the ways research and policy are informed by one another?

Methodology – Comparative Case Study

10 cases across California

60+ Semi-structured interviews

Focus groups

Participant observation

Statewide survey

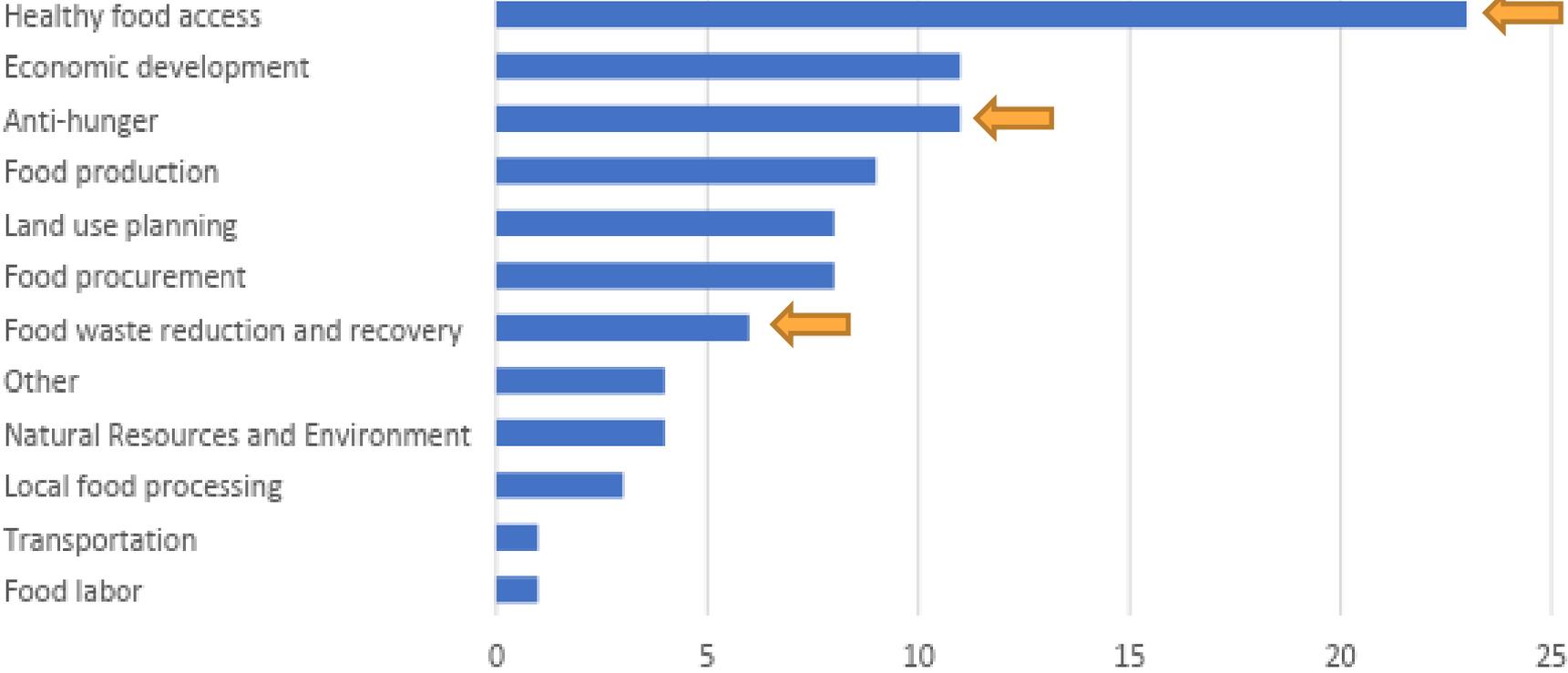


Kern
Los Angeles
Marin
Mendocino
Napa
Plumas-Sierra
Sacramento
San Mateo
Sonoma
Yolo

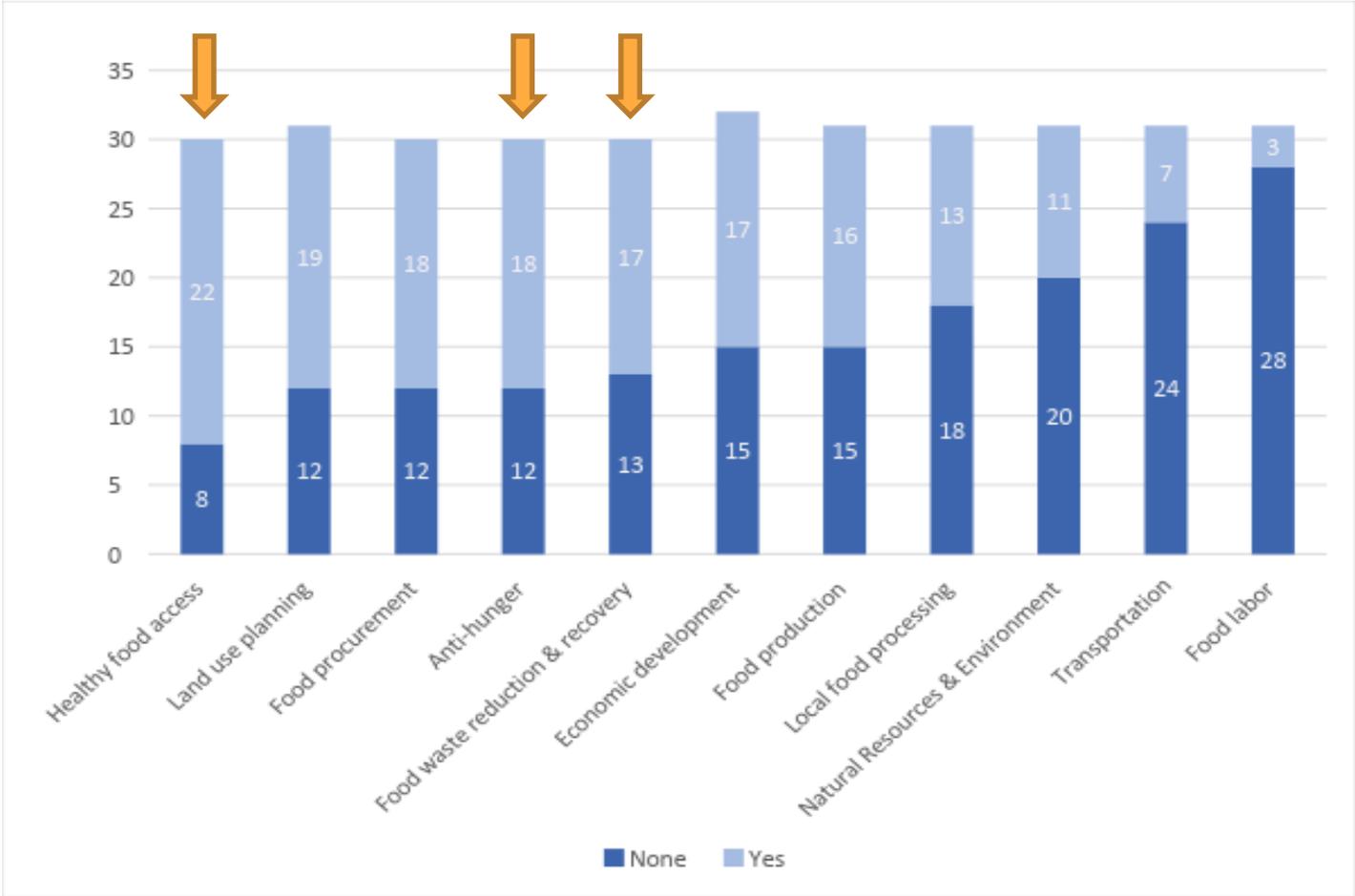
Membership composition of CA FPCs include a diversity of sectors related to the food system

- Food production (farming, ranching, aquaculture) (n=30; 97%)
- Community (n=29; 94%)
- Public health (n=29; 94%)
- **Anti-hunger/emergency food (n=29; 90%)** ←
- Government agency staff (n=22; 71%)
- College/university/community college (e.g. Extension) (n=22; 71%)
- Social justice (n=22; 71%)

Policy priorities of CA FPCs



Focus of Policy Work



Research Findings

- FPCs use both quantitative and qualitative data to inform their work.
- Key function = information sharing, local coordination and collaboration, and promotion of systems thinking.
- Each FPC is shaped by their context, and require local, community based information to inform their work.
- FPCs obtain outside information and research from members who are 'knowledge brokers,' individuals who are connected to many different knowledge sources and are able to draw on these myriad sources to serve their council's data and information needs.

How Extension Can Engage with FPCs

- Leverage FPCs' role as hubs for making community connections, building rapport, and establishing relationships with key leaders
- Help build visibility and community good will toward extension by providing relatively small levels of support (e.g. meeting space, facilitation)
- Provide content area expertise and local knowledge that can assist FPCs in their work
- Engage these groups to extend reach of UC ANR programming and to provide a venue for sharing research results with diverse stakeholders that may inform policy and program priorities

Example: Marin Food Policy Council

MFPC - Equitable Access to Healthy & Local Food

- Use the lens of **community food security**.
- Apply **Policy, Systems, and Environmental** approaches (PSE) to solving problems of food access and production.
- Work together to develop targeted policies and practical **solutions**.

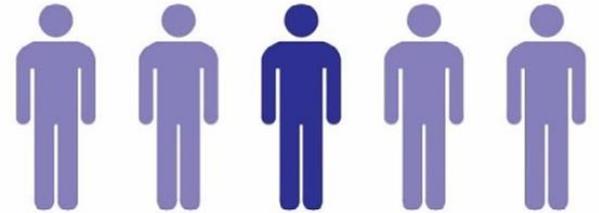


Equitable Access to Healthy & Local Food

Marin County is one of the **wealthiest counties** in the country...

Yet we are home to **50,000 people** living at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

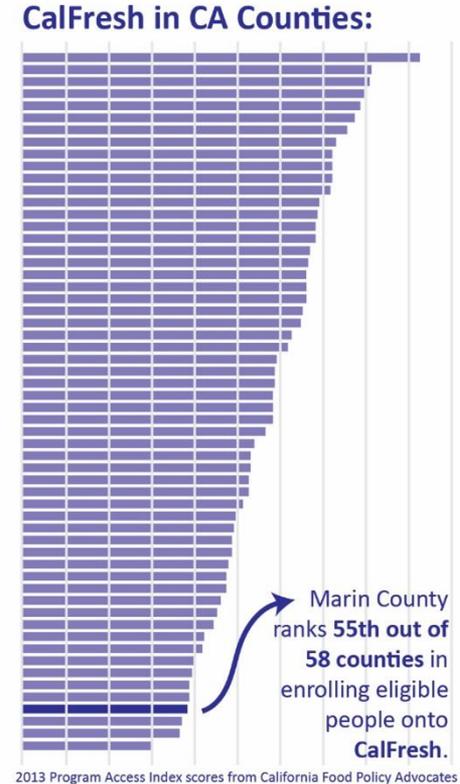
We know that people living below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level are at risk of **food insecurity**.



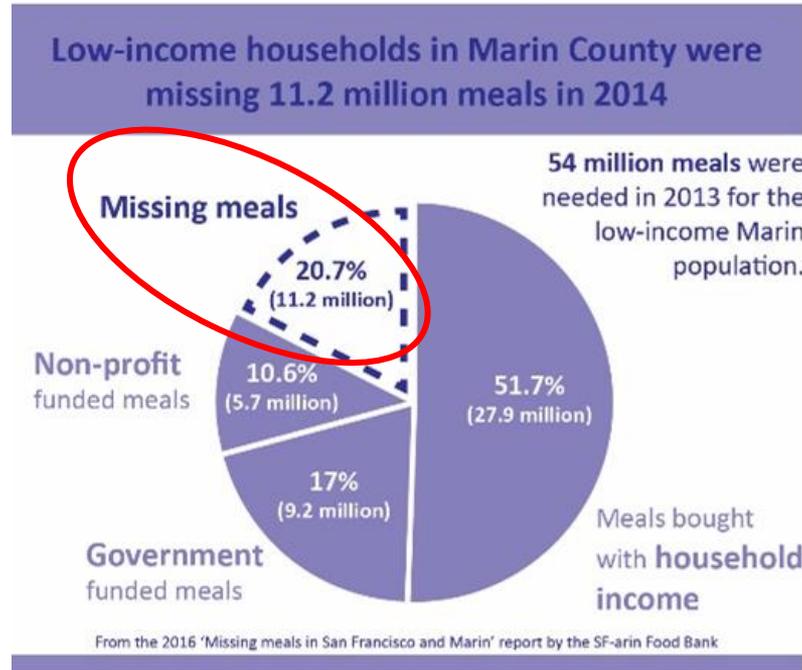
In Marin County, **1 in 5** residents is at risk of **food insecurity**.

Many services help people on a low-income access food but it isn't enough

Only about **half of eligible Marin residents** are enrolled in **CalFresh**.



Many services help people on a low-income access food but it isn't enough





Food insecurity isn't just about
money.

Geography matters, too.



ZERO
grocery stores in
Marin City.



Equitable Access to Healthy & Local Food



Food Access

Increase the ability of people in all areas of Marin County to be able to physically access stores that sell healthy and local food close to home.



Food Assistance

Increase the financial resources for families and individuals with a low-income to be able to purchase food.



Food Production

Increase our capacity for community food production and urban agriculture.

Working Together Towards Policy Solutions



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