

Food Security

Meaning and Measures for Canada and First Nations

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Main Point # 1: Economic Growth,

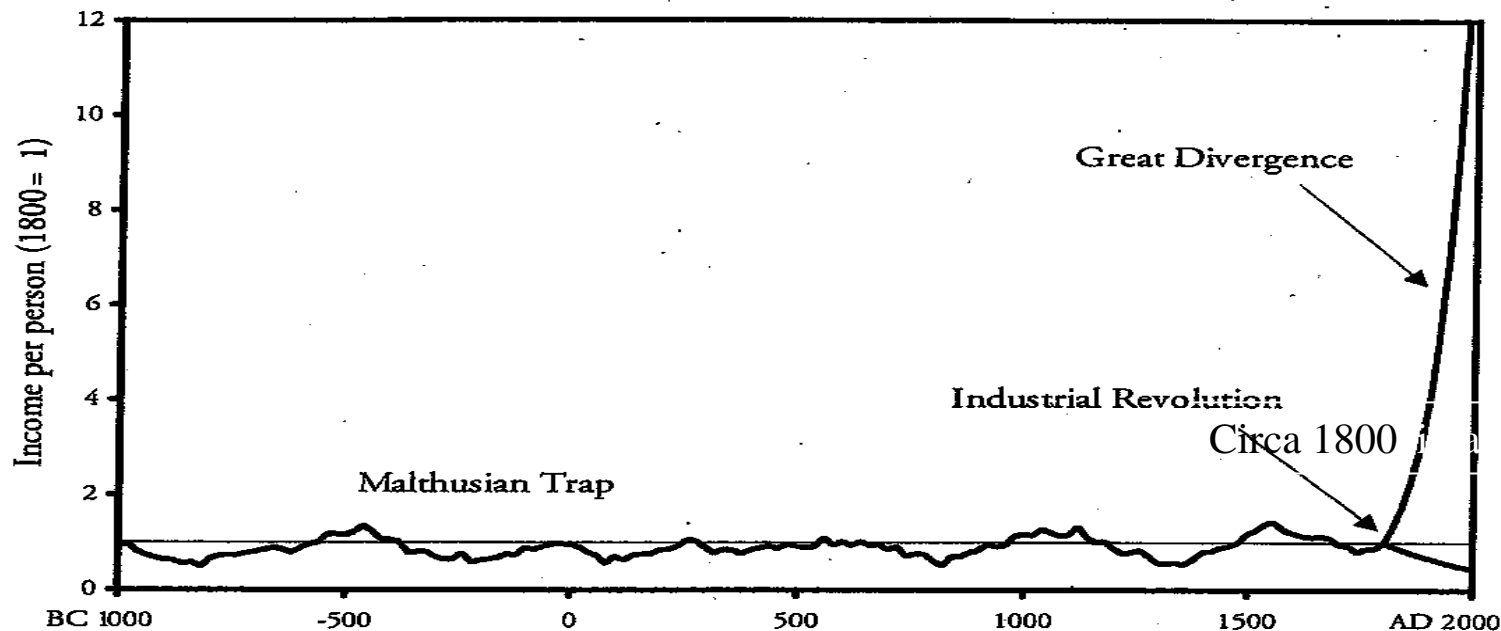


Figure 1.1 World economic history in one picture. Incomes rose sharply in many countries after 1800 but declined in others.

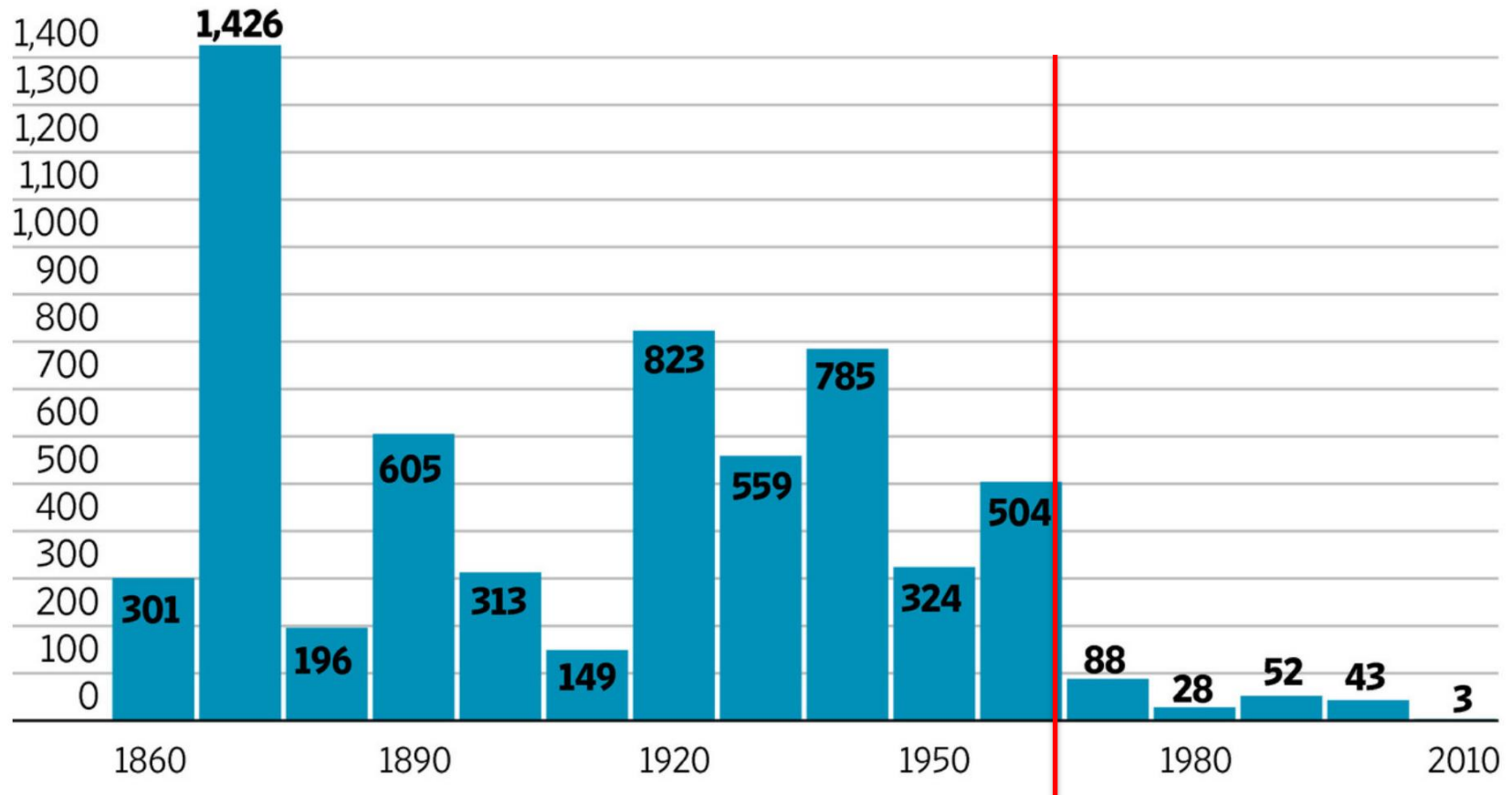
Source: Clark, G. 2007. *A Farewell to Alms: A Brief History of the World*. Princeton University Press (p.2).

See Also: McMillan, J. , J. Whalley and L. Zhu. 1989. "The Impact of China's Economic Reforms on Agricultural Productivity Growth." *Journal of Political Economy*. 97(4): 781-807.; My comments here follow L. Summers see. Online Link to L. Summers ' comments to China:

<http://www.floatinguniversity.com/summers-transcript>

Feeding the Hungry

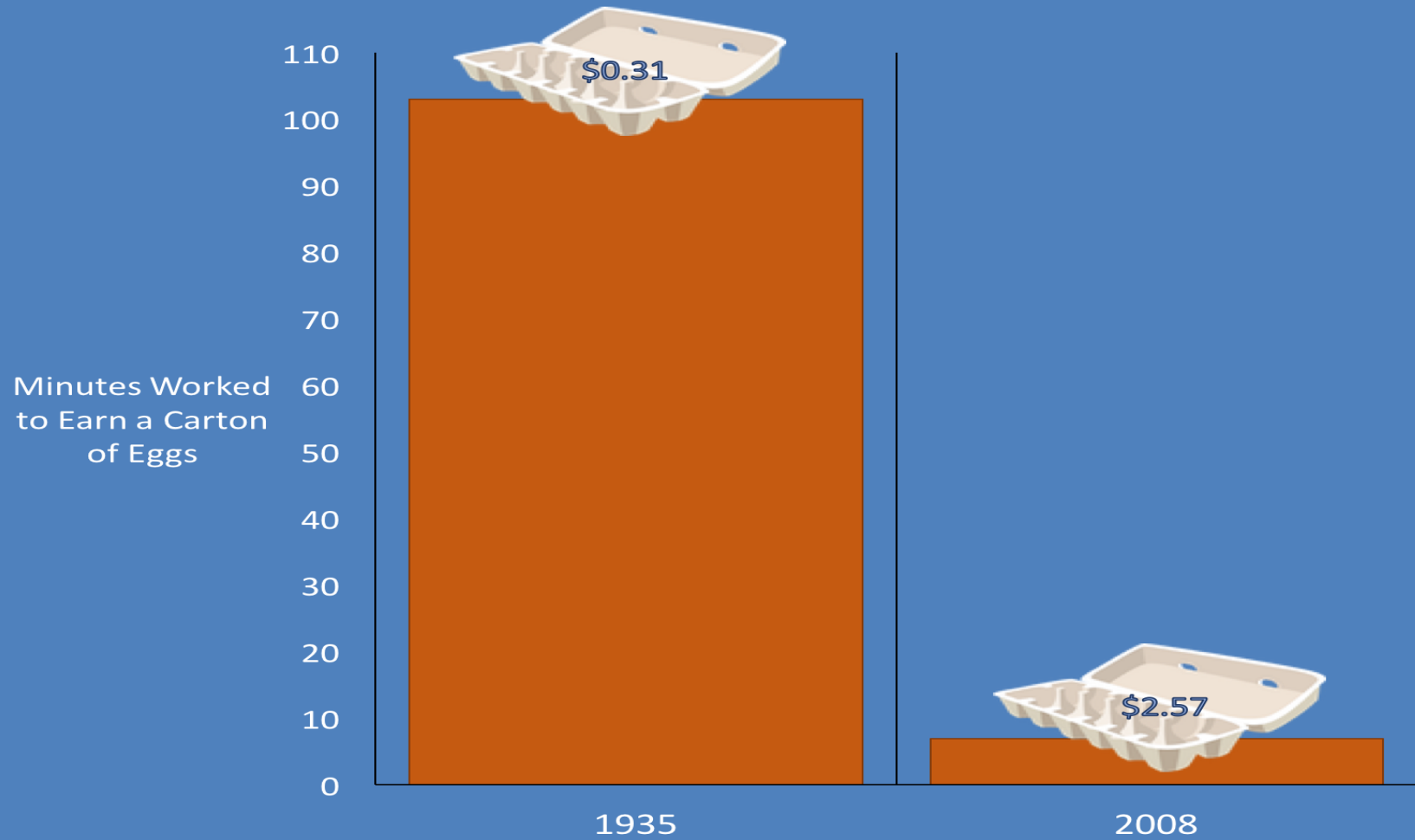
Number of people dying per decade due to famine (per 100,000)



Notes: For famines spanning two decades, the total is split by decade on a year-by-year basis. For famines with different published estimates, the midpoint was chosen. The bar for 2010 spans from 2000 to 2016.

Source: Joe Hasell and Max Roser, OurWorldinData.org

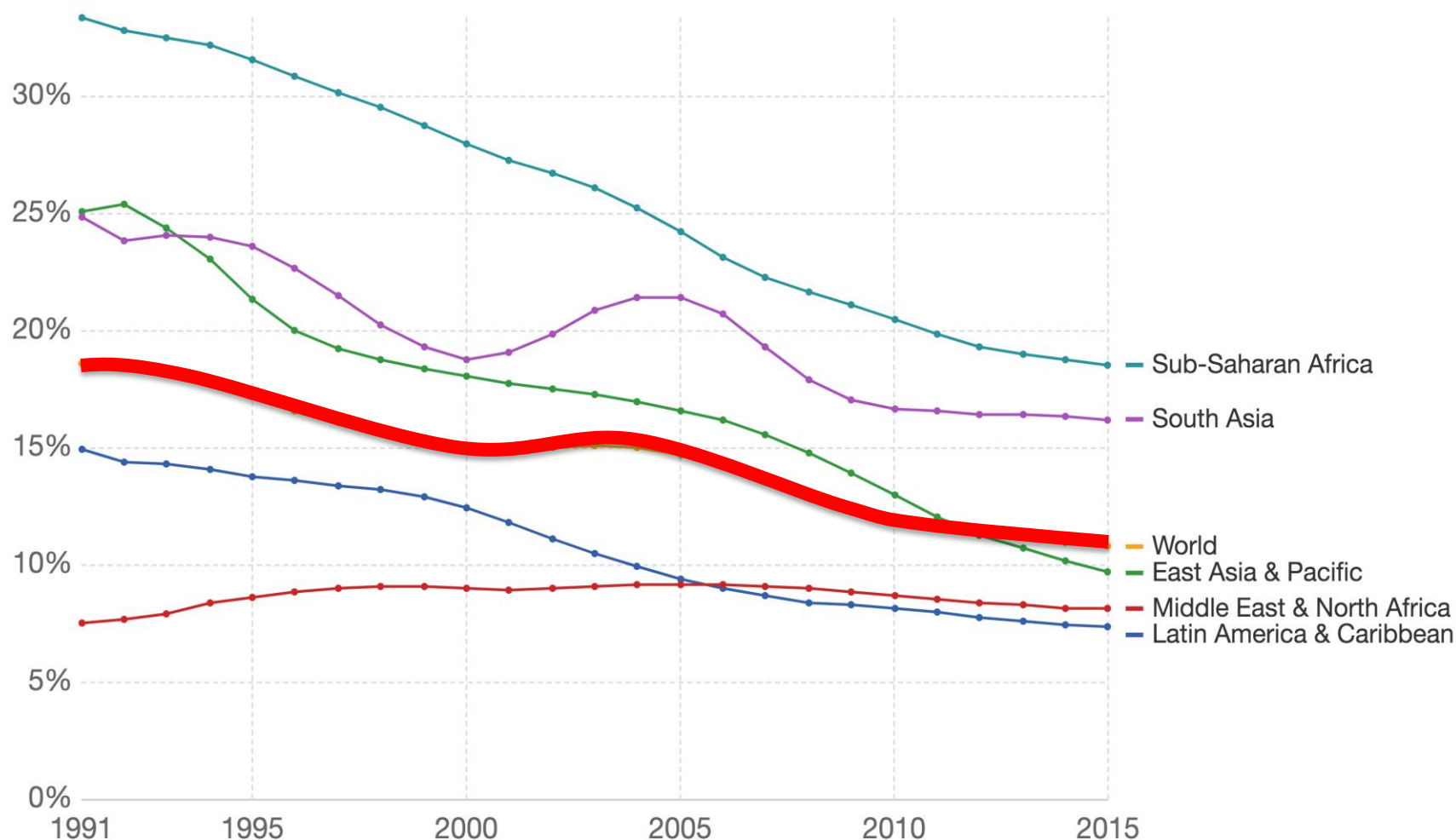
Time Cost of a Carton of Eggs for Canadian laborer earning avg. income



Sources: This is a rough approximation. The data presented on this slide were derived from, and can be replicated using, the following sources: (1) Statistics Canada data on annual income and food prices (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-402-x/2011000/chap/prices-prix/prices-prix02-eng.htm>), and (2) OECD estimates of annual average hours worked by Canadian workers (an average of annual hours worked in the years 2000-2016 was used here) (<https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=ANHRS#>). Hours have declined over time.

Share of the population that is undernourished

This is the main FAO hunger indicator. It measures the share of the population that has a caloric intake which is insufficient to meet the minimum energy requirements necessary for a given individual.



Source: World Bank

OurWorldInData.org/hunger-and-undernourishment/ • CC BY-SA

Note: Developed countries are not included in the regional estimates since the prevalence is below 5%.

Main Point 2

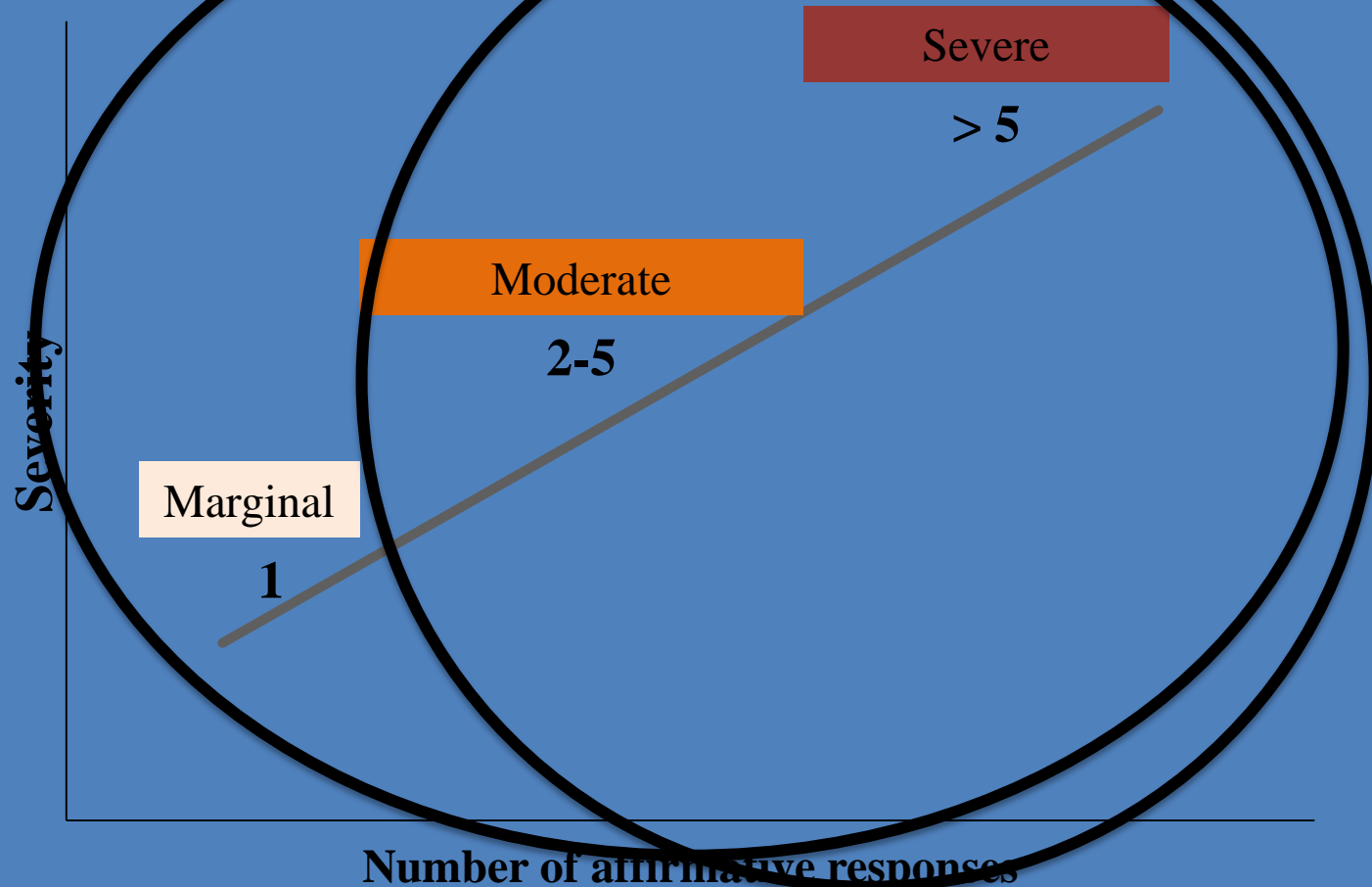
Measure of Food Insecurity in Canada

- Canadian Community Household Survey
 - Food Security Module
 - Survey of Canadian households: 18 questions
 - Adult & Children
- Range of questions (CCHS adult):
 - *You and other household members **worried** that food would run out before you got money to buy more?*
 - *In the past 12 months, did you or other adults in your household **ever not eat for a whole day** because there wasn't enough money?*

Question to Highlight Relevance of Severity

- Would a “Canadian Food Policy” be a “success” if the incidence of food insecurity in Canada remained unchanged?

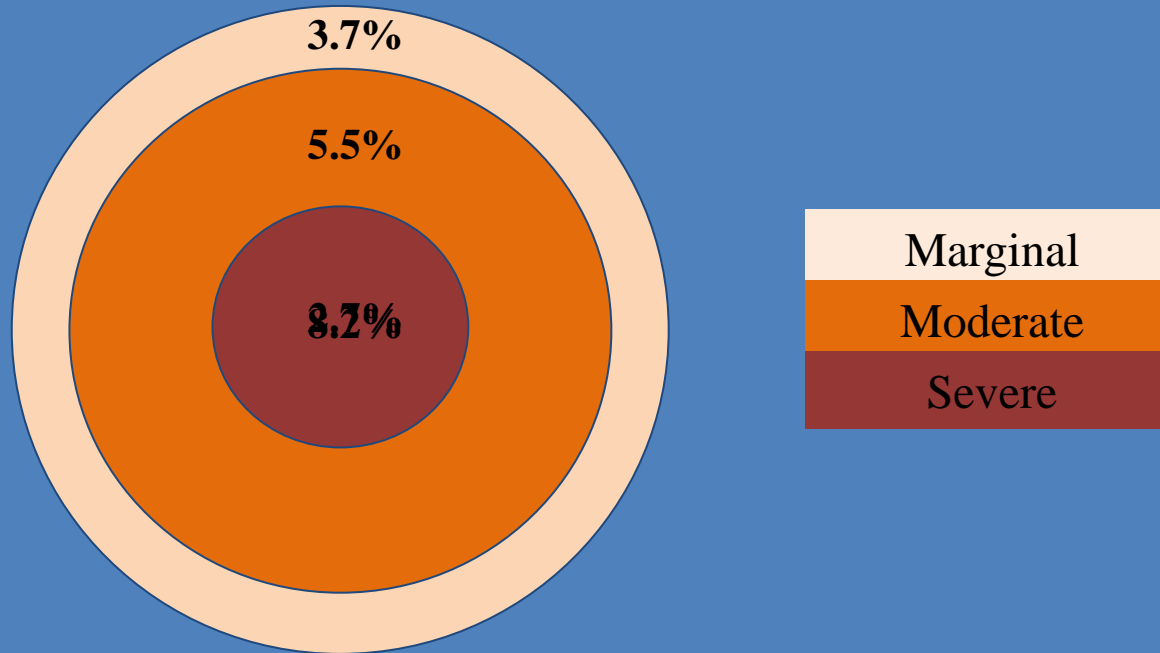
Severity of Food Insecurity



*This is not an exact characterization of the category; intended to illustrate substantive differences.

Applicable to 10-item adult scale. For children scale cut-offs are 1, 2-4, > 4, respectively.

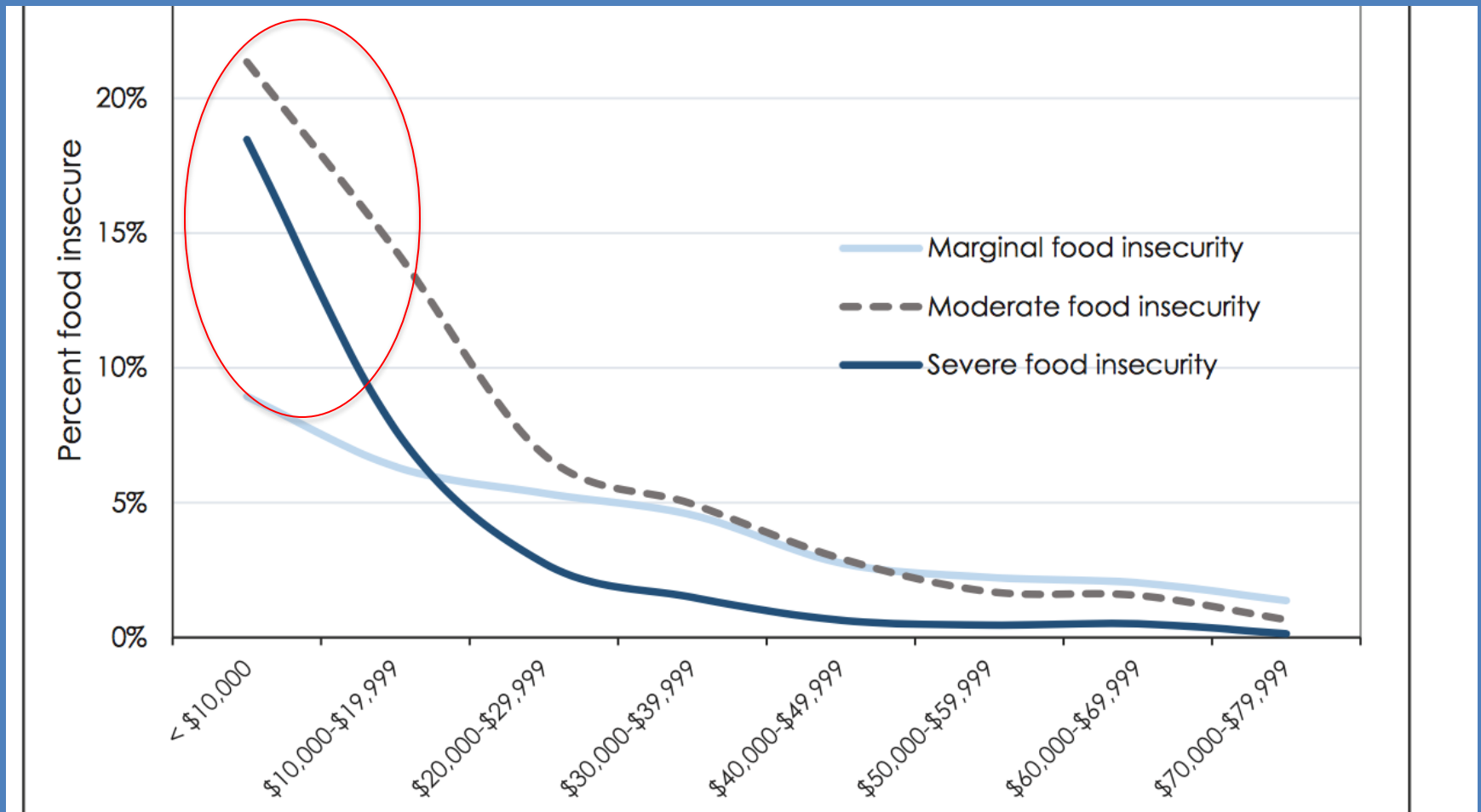
Severity of Food Insecurity in Canada



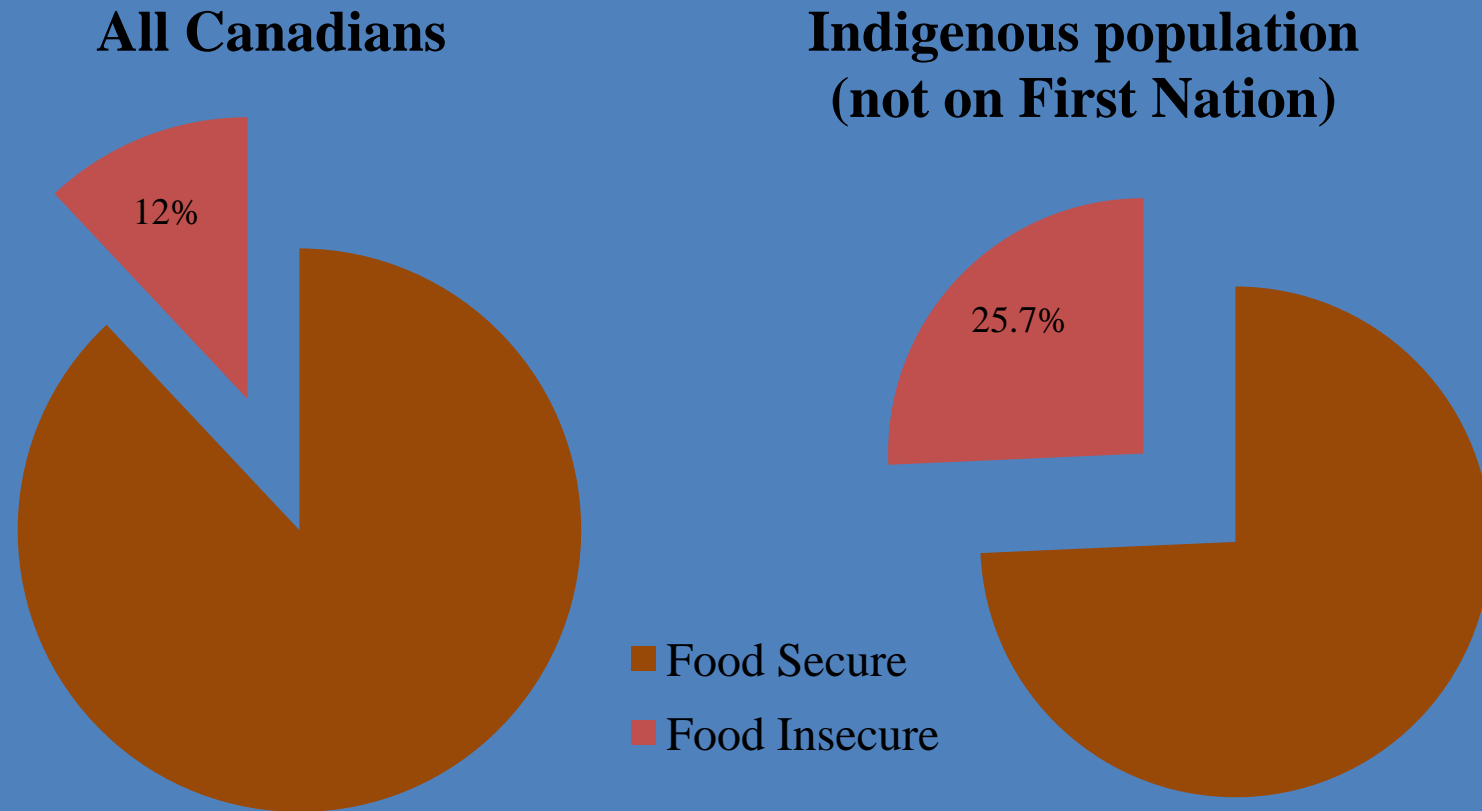
% of Canadian households, excluding Yukon, BC, Manitoba, and Newfoundland and Labrador.

Source: Tarasuk et al. 2016. *Household food insecurity in Canada, 2014*. Toronto: Research to identify policy options to reduce food insecurity (PROOF). 2016.

Food Insecurity & Household Income



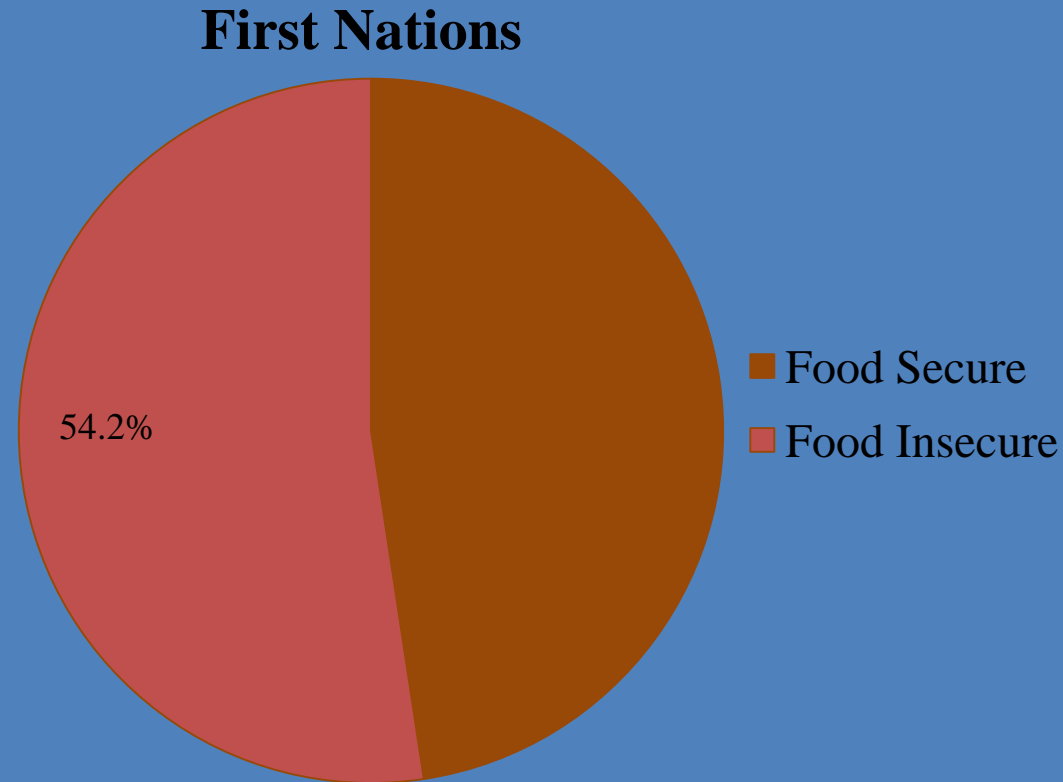
Food Insecurity (Households) 2014*



*excluding Yukon, BC, MB, NL; only off-reserve households

Source: Tarasuk, V., A. Mitchell and N. Dachner. 2016. *Household food insecurity in Canada, 2014*. Toronto: Research to identify policy options to reduce food insecurity (PROOF).

Food Insecurity on Households Living in First Nations 2008/2010



Source: First Nations Information Governance Center 2012. *First Nations Regional Health Survey 2008/10: National Report on Adults, Youth and Children Living in First Nations Communities*. Ottawa: FNIGC.

First Nations Regional Health Survey: Food Security on First Nations

Figure 7.9. Household Food Security Status, by Type of Community

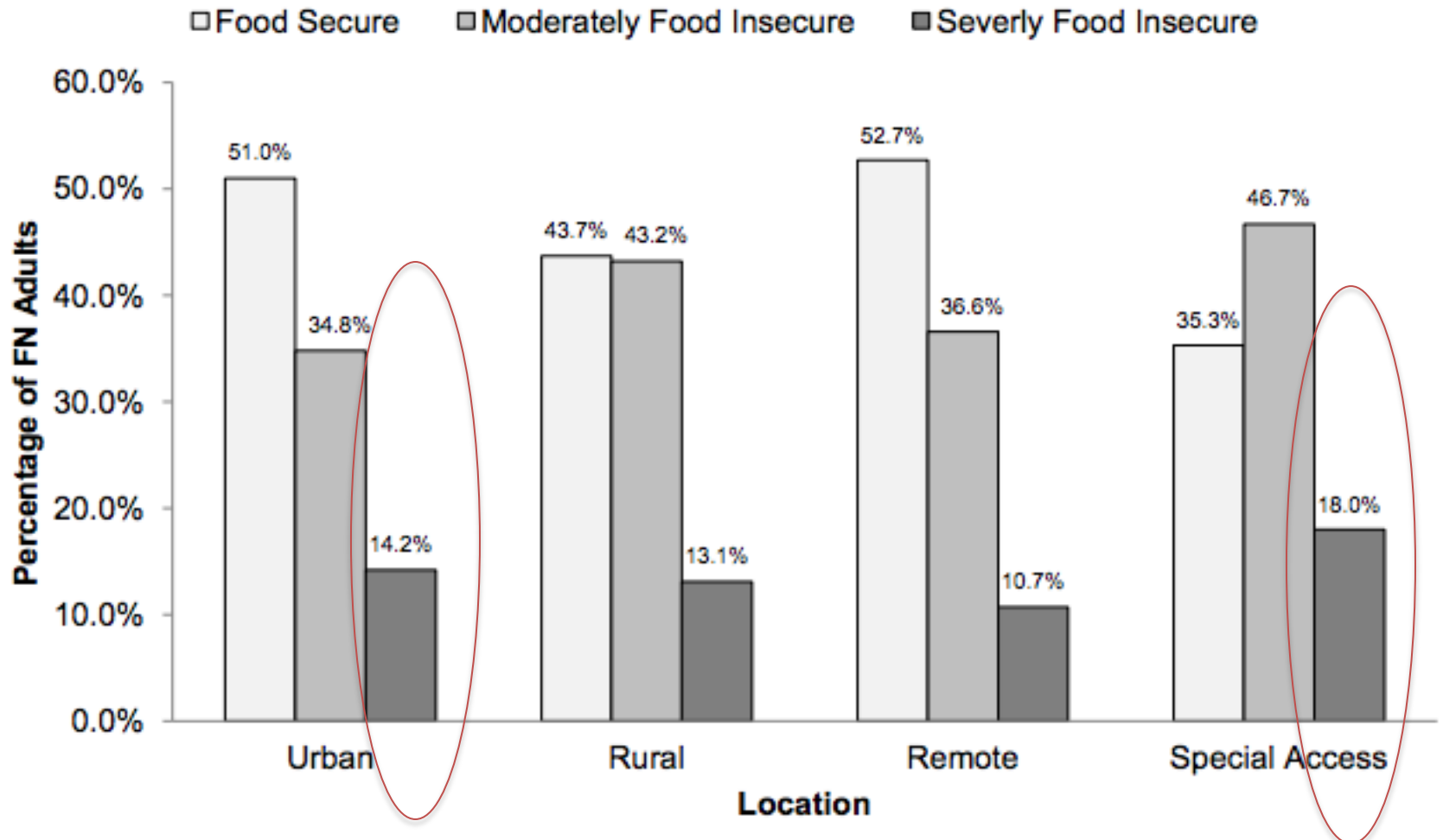


Figure copied from RHS:

https://fnigc.ca/sites/default/files/docs/first_nations_regional_health_survey_rhs_2008-10_-_national_report.pdf

Main Point # 3:

Policy Considerations

- National Food Policy
 - Emerging
 - Food security features prominently
 - House of Commons Standing Committee Report (21 recommendations)
 - Nutritional adequacy as a “right”
 - Nutrition North
 - Community level action in areas of ag. Initiatives, food security, etc.
 - Addressing this issue with recognition of Indigenous People

Policy Implication:

- Role of policies in addressing both incidence of food insecurity and severity.
 - Income-supplementation
 - Canadian Universal Child Care Benefit
 - Raluca et al. (2015)
 - Nutrition North*
 - Food subsidies versus guaranteed cash transfers
 - Community actions to address food security
 - Roncarolo et al. (2014): Traditional vs. Alternative
 - Minimum Wage
 - T. Macurdy (2015)

Summary

- Agricultural productivity and general economic growth remain important to food security.
- Food insecure households vary with respect to the severity of their experience.
- Policy and research focus

References

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