

HOUSEHOLD FOOD INSECURITY IS A BETTER METRIC THAN A POPULATION HEALTH POLICY PROBLEM

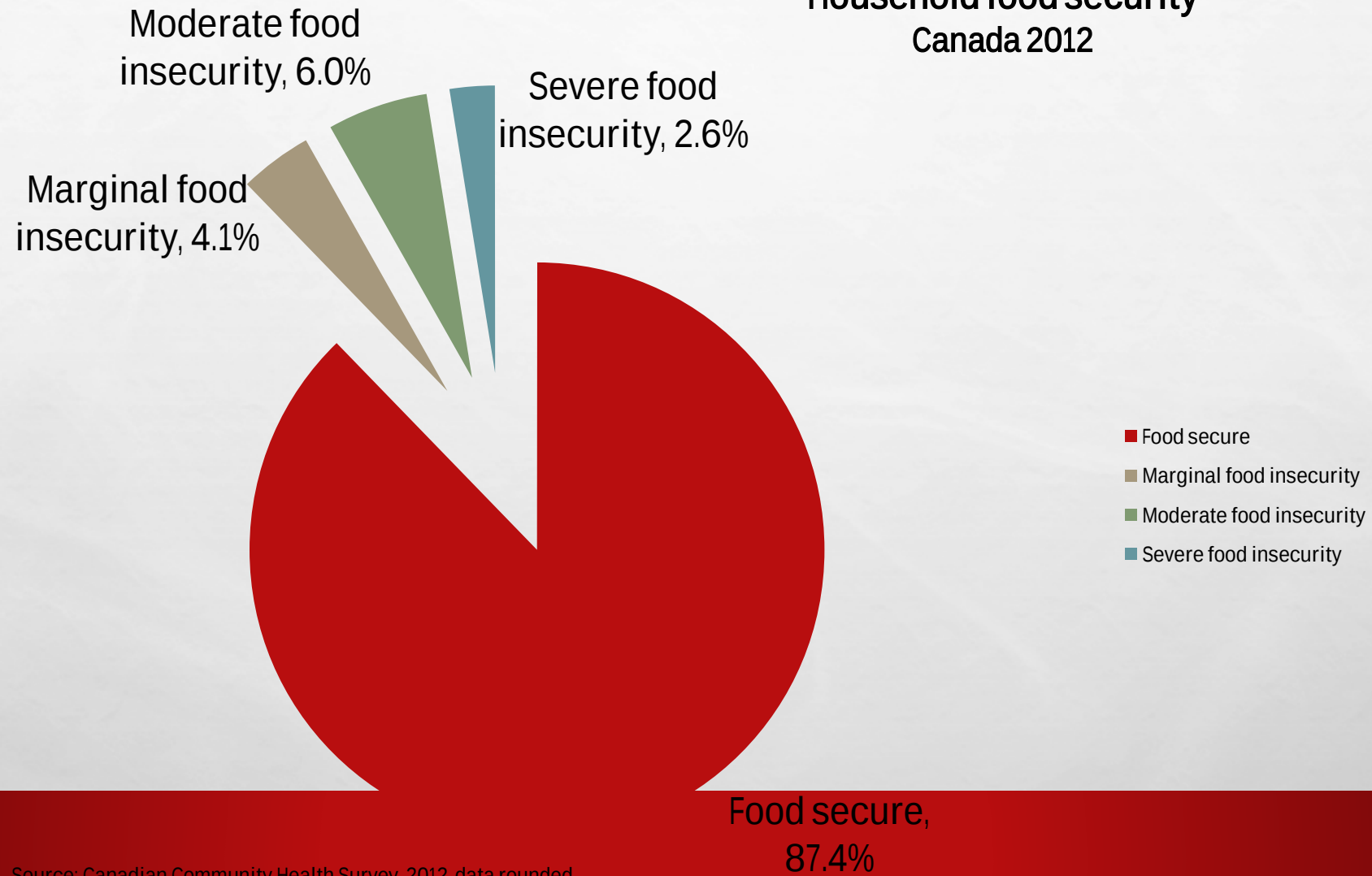
LYNN MCINTYRE: IN THE AFFIRMATIVE



ABOUT THE METRIC

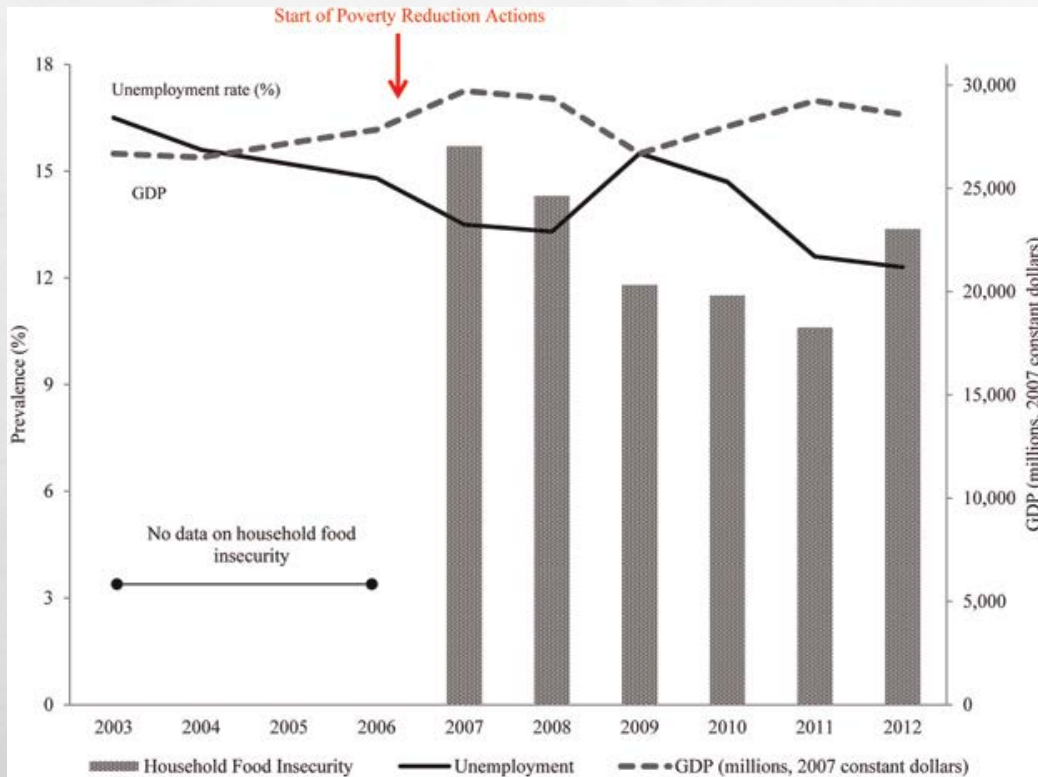
- *HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY SURVEY MODULE*
- INTERNATIONALLY VALIDATED & RELIABILITY TESTED
- USED FOR NATIONAL MONITORING IN CANADA AND US
- EMBEDS FOUR CONSTRUCTS AND PRODUCES FOUR CATEGORIES

Household food security Canada 2012

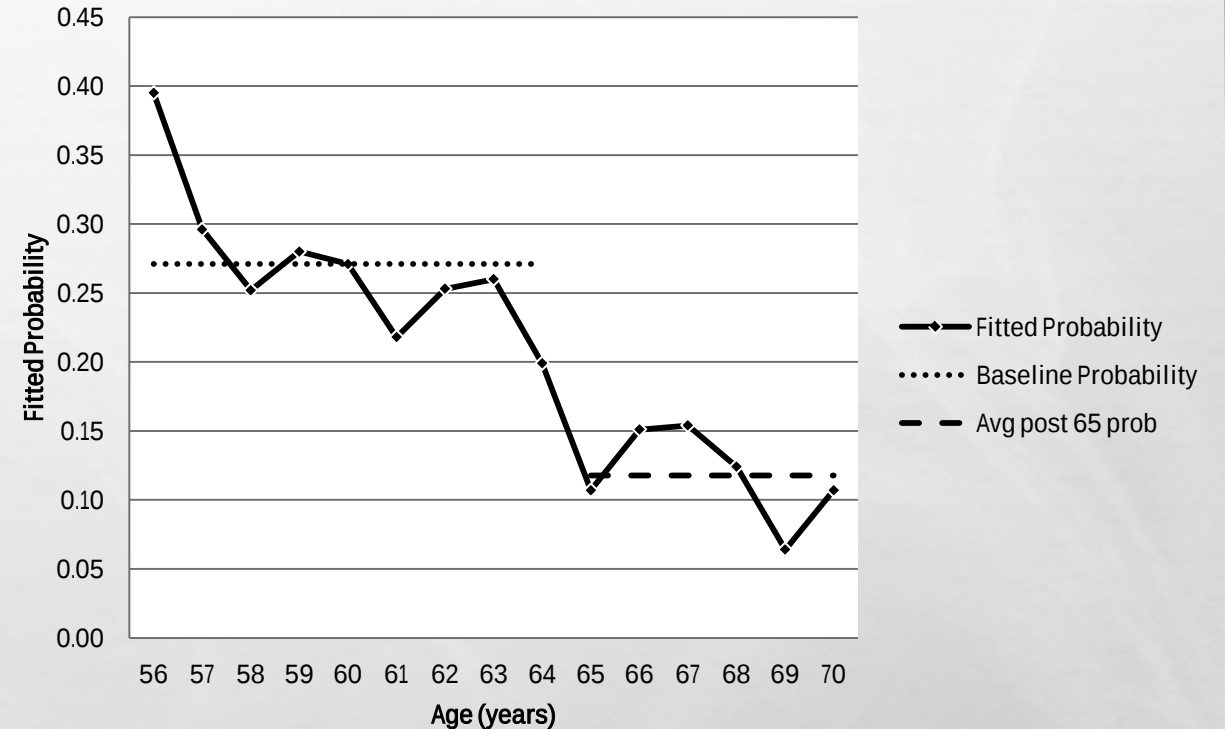


Source: Canadian Community Health Survey, 2012, data rounded

POLICY-SENSITIVITY OF THE METRIC

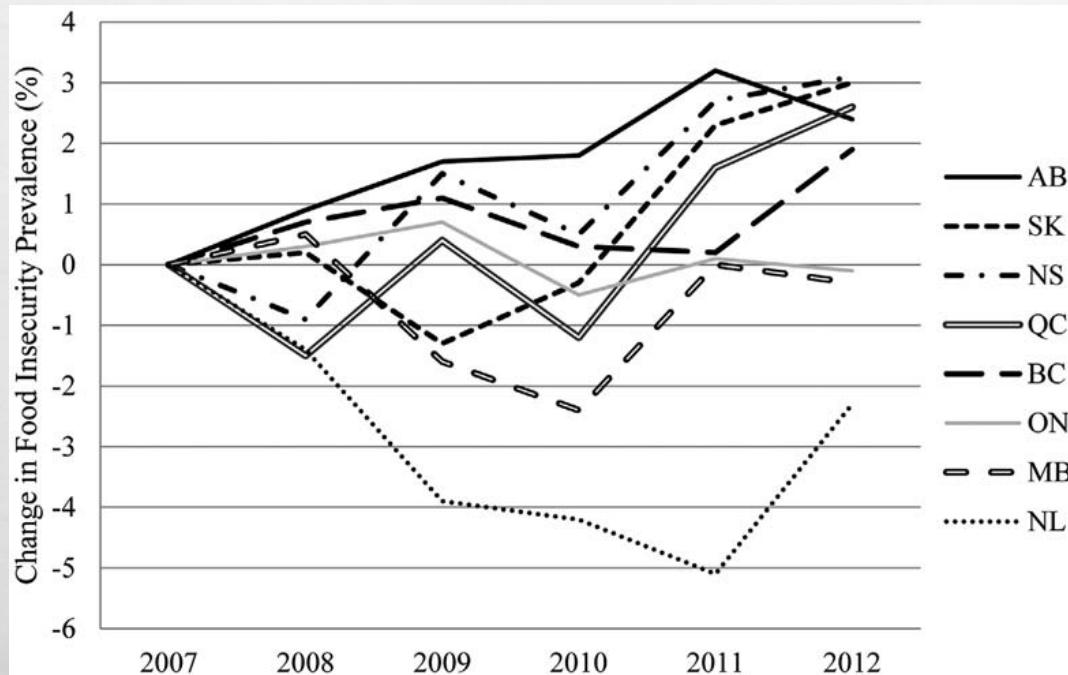


Household Food Insecurity in Newfoundland and Labrador, CCHS 2007–2012, Loopstra et al 2015

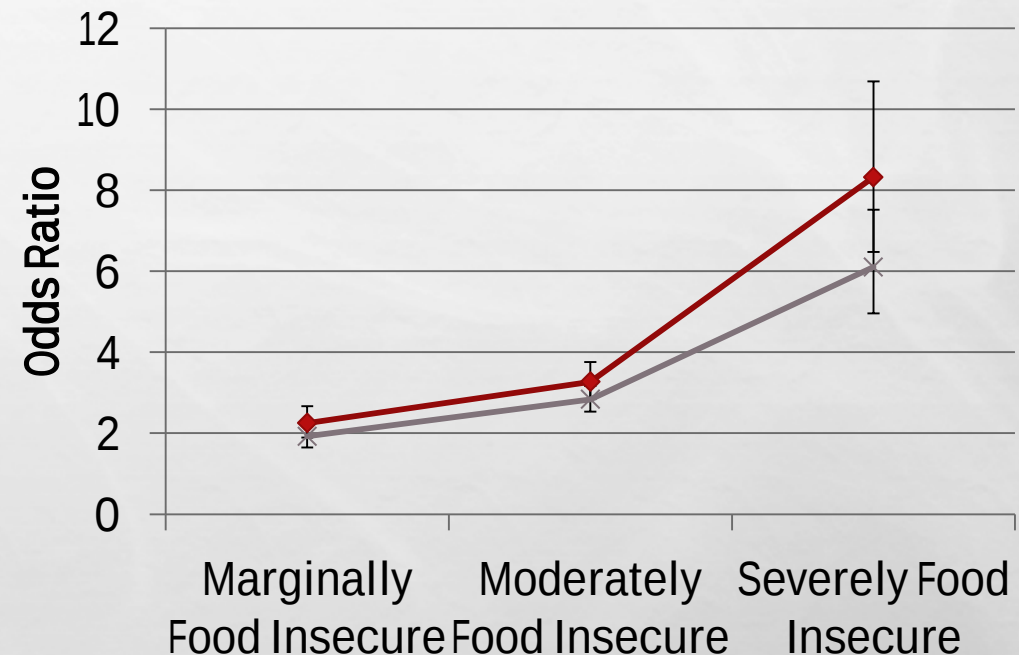


Fitted probability of food insecurity by age from probit regression, Canadian Community Health Survey pooled data, 2007-2013. (McIntyre et al, forthcoming)

A SUPERB POPULATION HEALTH INDICATOR

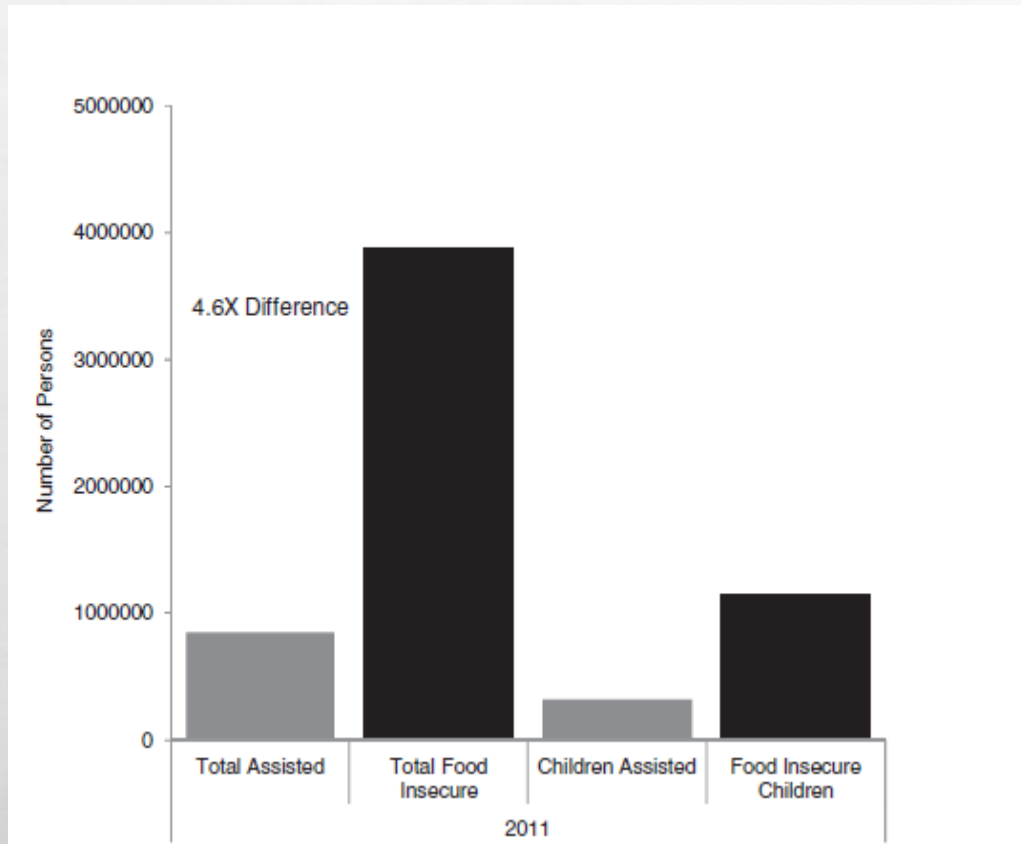


Change in Prevalence of Household Food Insecurity across Canadian Provinces from 2007-2012, Loopstra et al, 2015

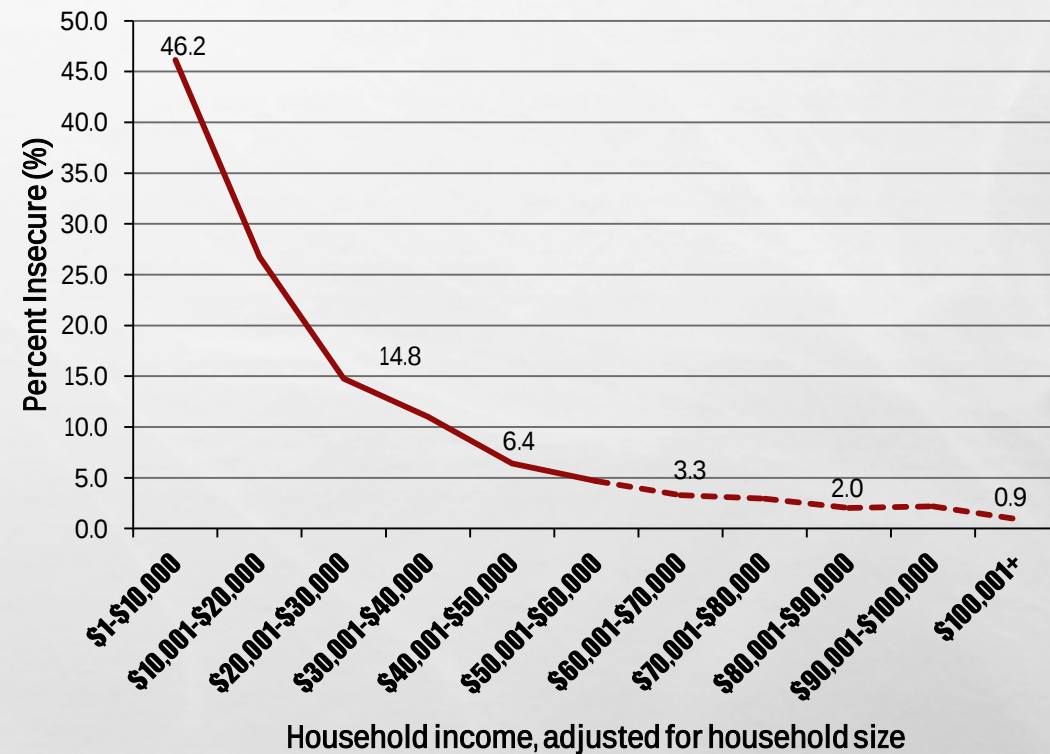


Sex-Stratified Model of Food Insecurity and Depressive Thoughts in the Past Month, CCHS 2005-2012, Jessiman-Perreault, 2016 thesis

THIS METRIC COMPARED WITH OTHERS



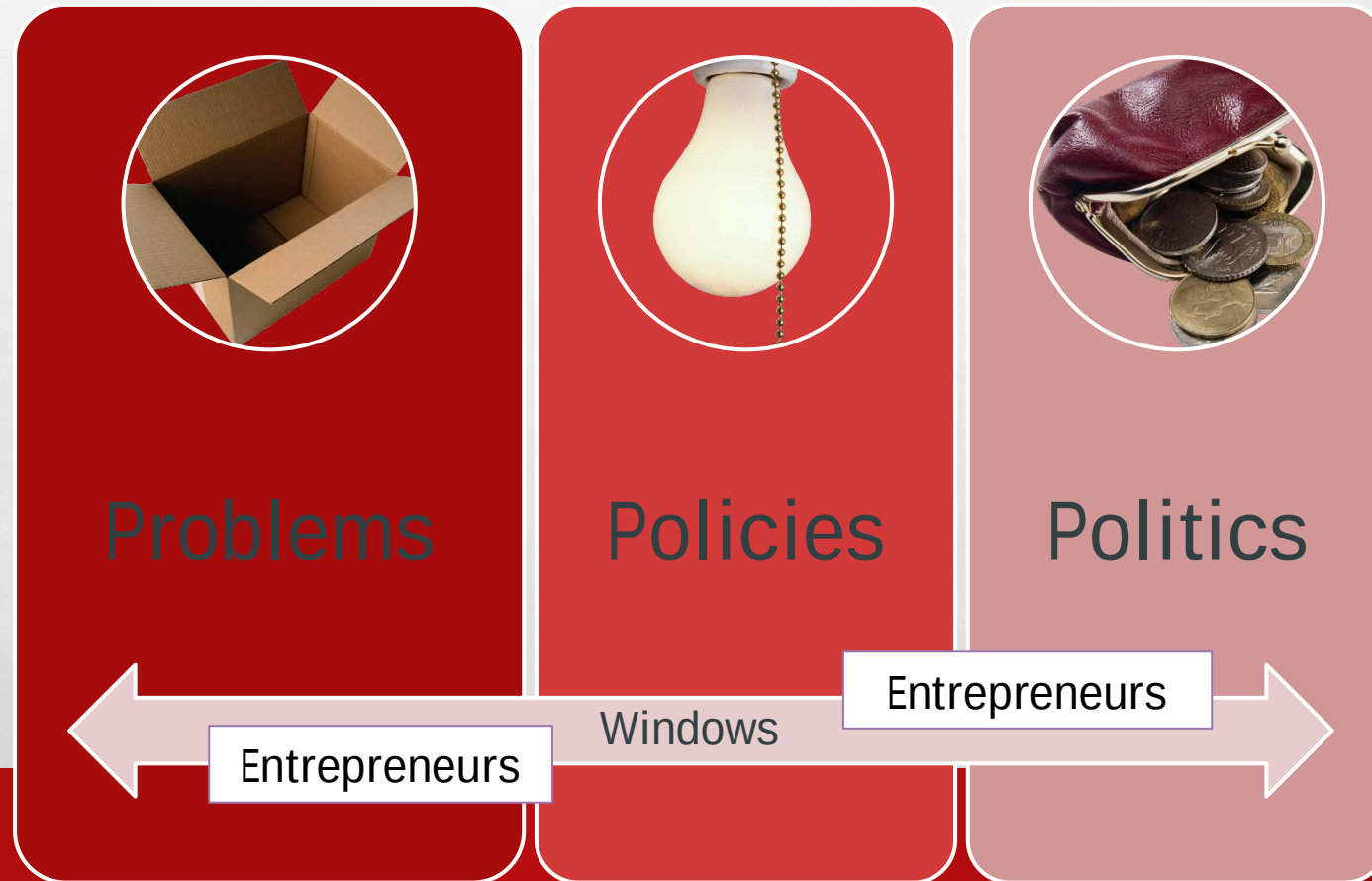
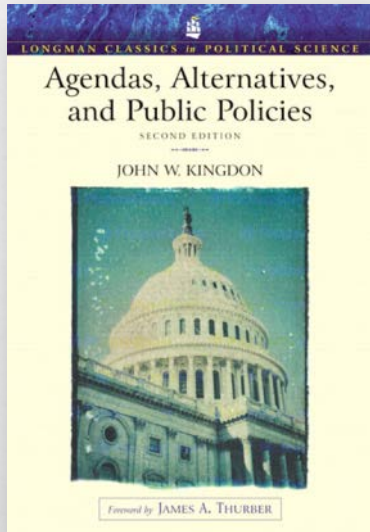
Magnitude of difference between reported number of individuals using food banks in 2011 and number of individuals living in food insecure homes in 2011. Loopstra and Tarasuk 2015



Prevalence of household food insecurity by income, 2011, CCHS, unpublished

**THEREFORE, THE HOUSEHOLD
FOOD INSECURITY METRIC IS AN
IDEAL INDICATOR FOR DEMONSTRATING
NEED FOR POLICY CHANGE AND
BENCHMARKING POLICY IMPACTS**

Moreover, household food insecurity is a poor policy problem



HOUSEHOLD FOOD INSECURITY IS A TOTALLY UNMANAGEABLE ISSUE

- THE PROBLEM IS POORLY DEFINED (VARIABLY FROM FOOD BANK USE TO HUNGRY CHILDREN OR SENIORS)
- THE PROBLEM IS POORLY UNDERSTOOD (RELATED TO OBESITY, POOR FOOD CHOICES, LACK OF BUDGETING)
- THE PROBLEM IS CONFLATED WITH FOOD (FOOD IS NEEDED TO BE FOOD SECURE)
- THE PROBLEM SERVES AS A RHETORICAL DEVICE TO CONVEY MORAL OUTRAGE
- THE PROBLEM HAS NETTED NO MEANINGFUL POLICY SOLUTIONS

IN SUM, A PROBLEM WITHOUT POLICY
SOLUTIONS

Embedded but apart from food
security policy and other
discussions, e.g., affordable housing

Why is this important?

If we abandoned work on
distinguishing the problem, we
might actually reduce the deep
poverty that characterizes it

If GAI is the solution, then food insecurity cannot be the problem but a reduction of HFI rates would be the test of its impact