



Hunger Report 2024

Unravelling at the Seams

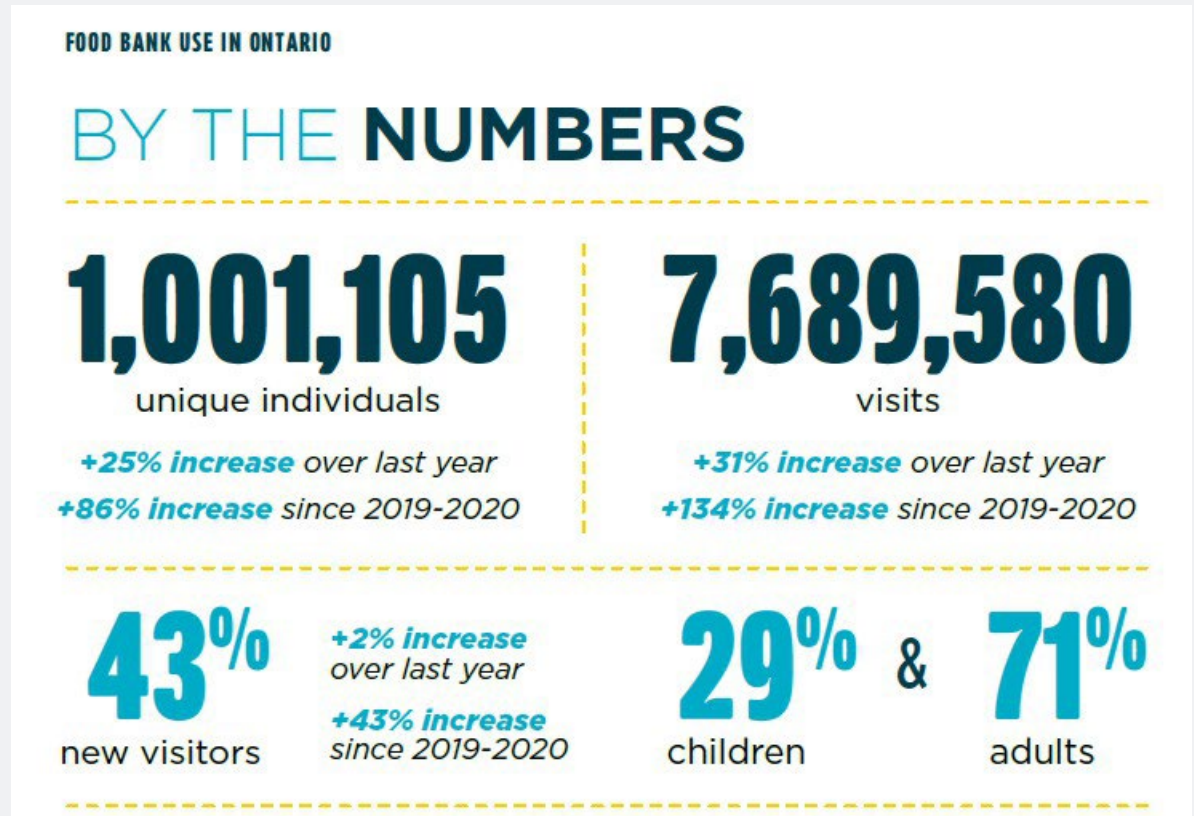




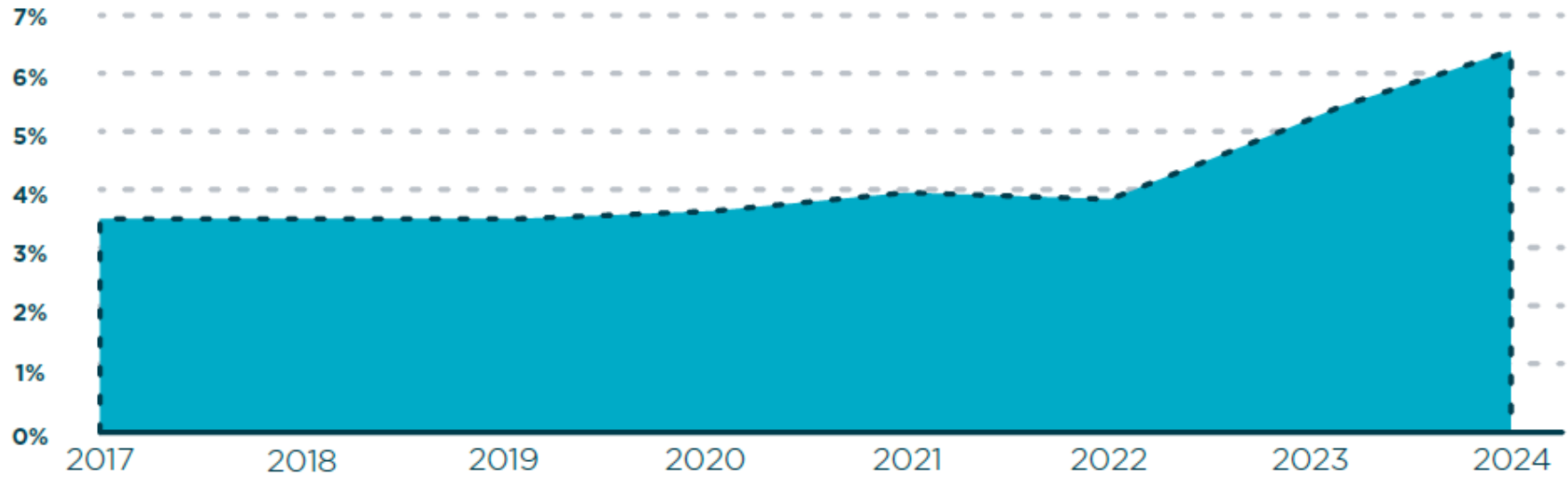
Food Bank Use in Ontario



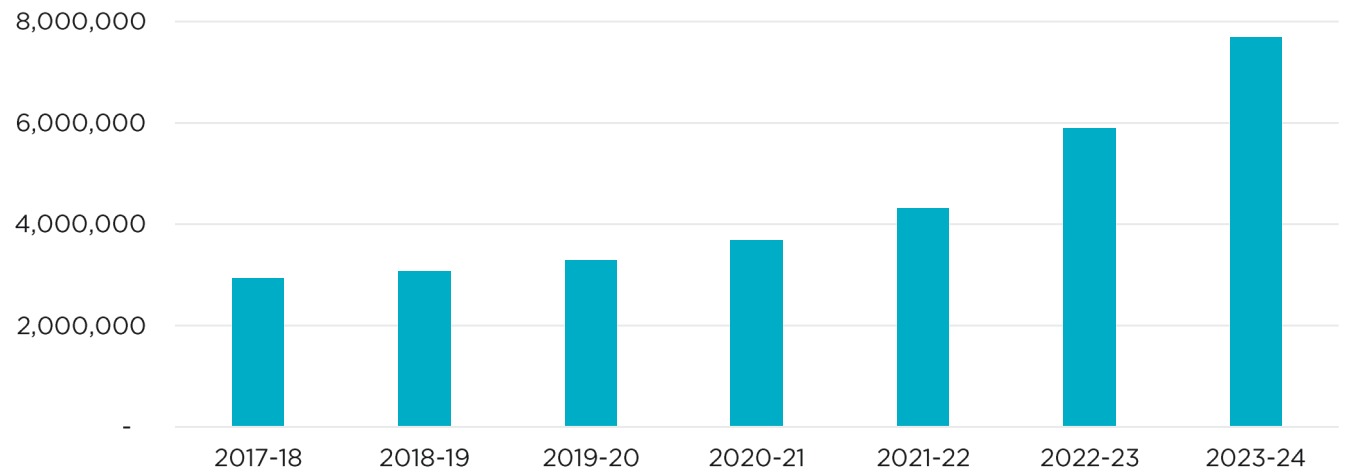
| 2017 vs 2024



THE PERCENTAGE OF ONTARIO'S POPULATION ACCESSING A FOOD BANK IS INCREASING



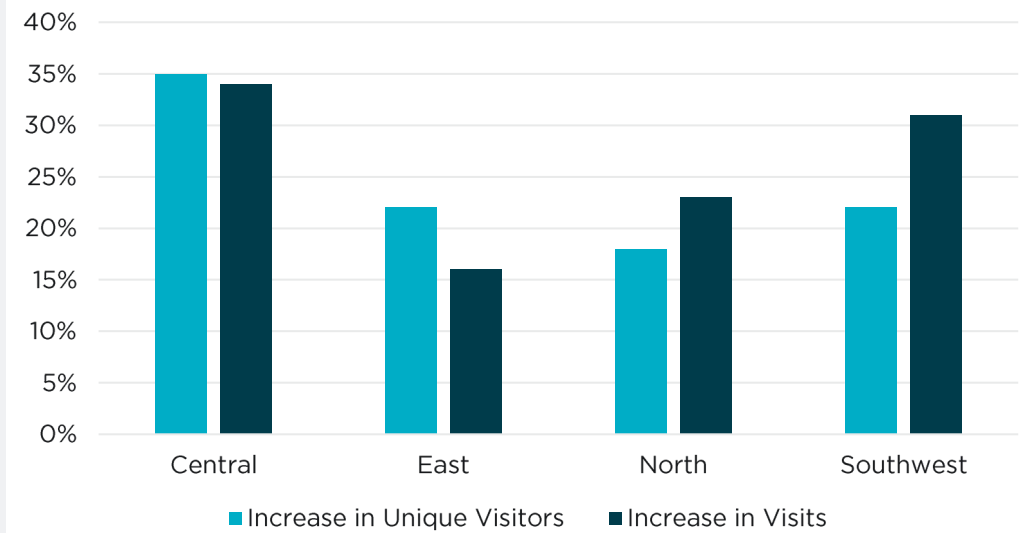
Visits



EVERY REGION
IN ONTARIO
HAS SEEN
**DOUBLE DIGIT
INCREASES
IN FOOD
BANK USE
OVER THE YEAR**

= % Increase in
unique visitors

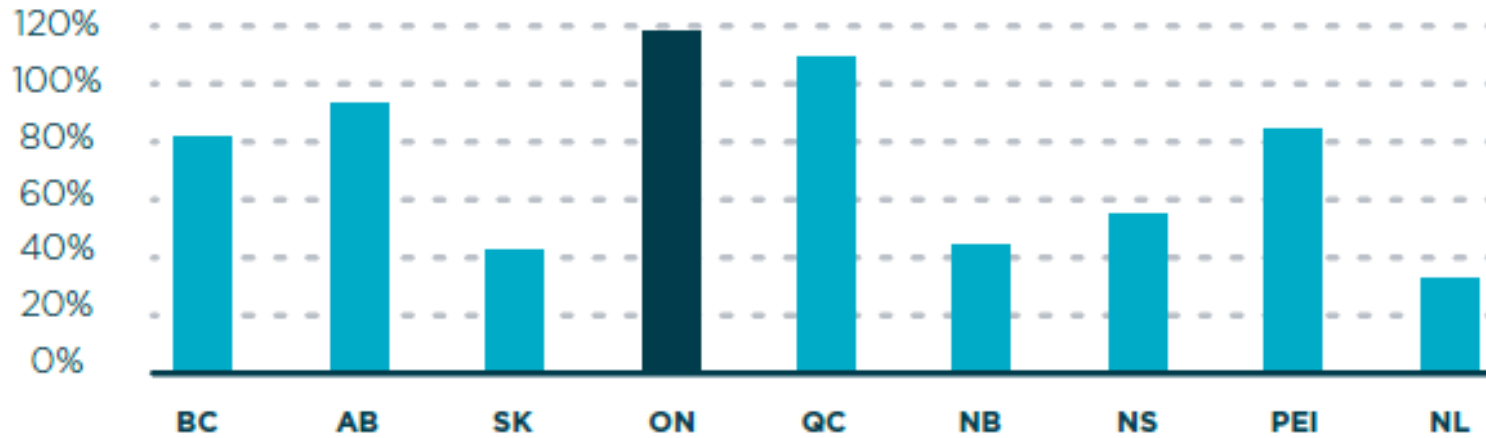
= % Increase in
visits



THE INCREASE IN FOOD BANK USE OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS IS TRIPLE THE INCREASE SEEN BETWEEN 2008 AND 2010



ONTARIO HAS EXPERIENCED THE **HIGHEST INCREASE IN FOOD BANK USE IN CANADA** COMPARED TO 2019



MORE THAN A THIRD OF FOOD BANKS
IN OUR NETWORK **REPORTED HAVING TO REDUCE**
THE AMOUNT OF FOOD THEY CAN PROVIDE DURING A VISIT

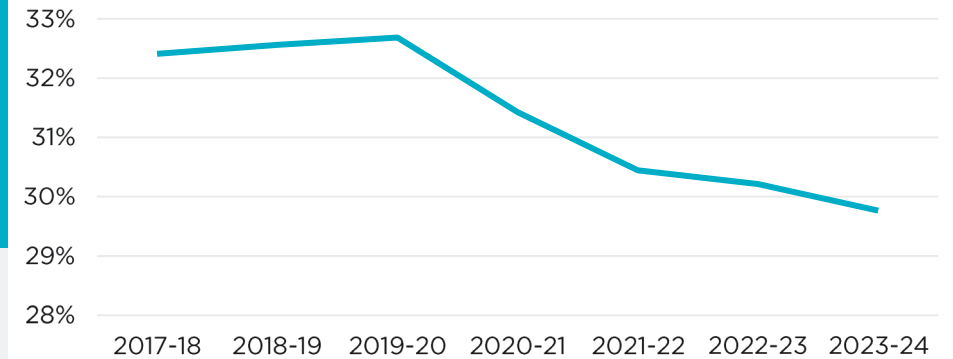


Age groups

IMPROVEMENTS TO INCOME SECURITY PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS MAY HAVE HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THEIR RISK OF ACCESSING A FOOD BANK

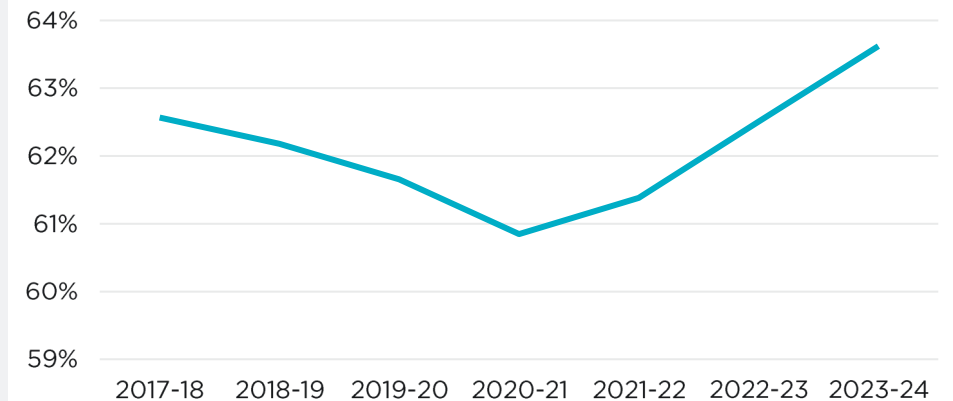


Children



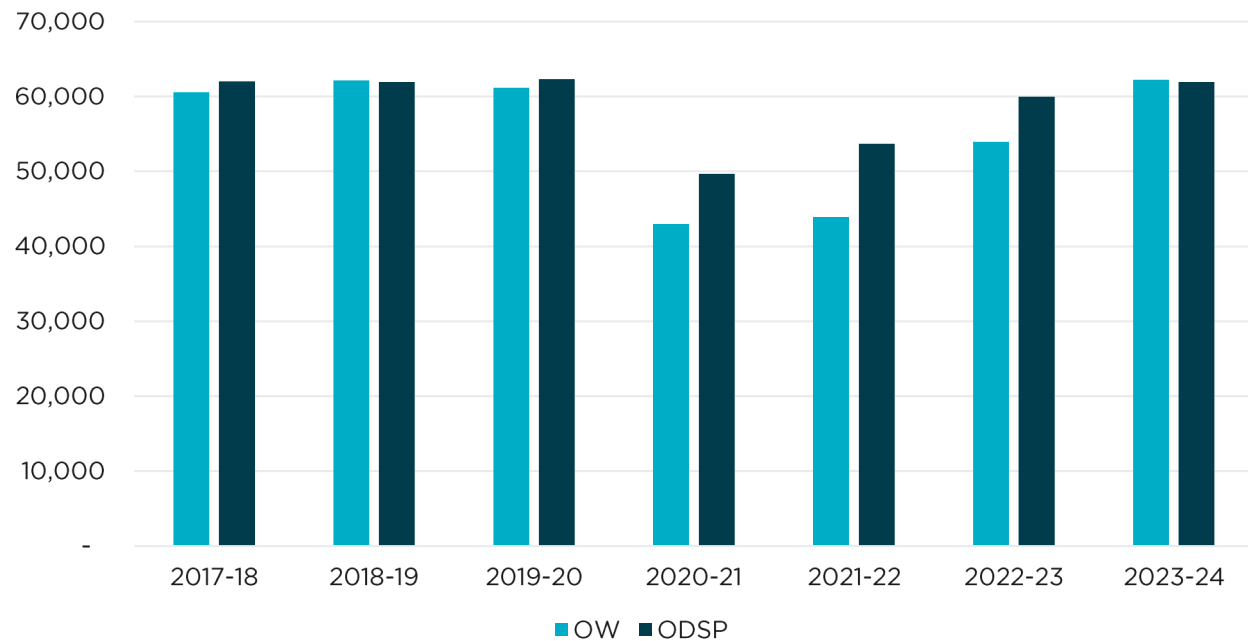
Children were 43% of food bank visitors in 2005

Adults 18-64

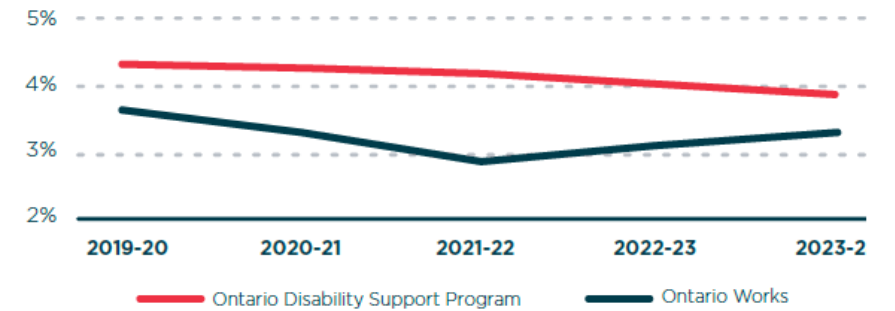


A social assistance mystery

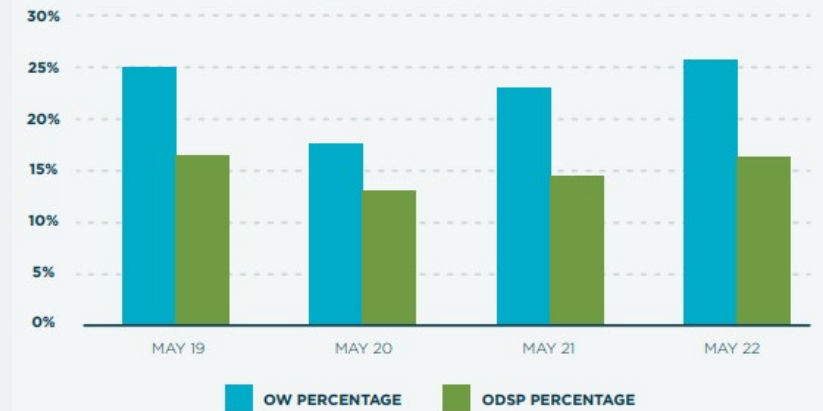
Social assistance households accessing a food bank



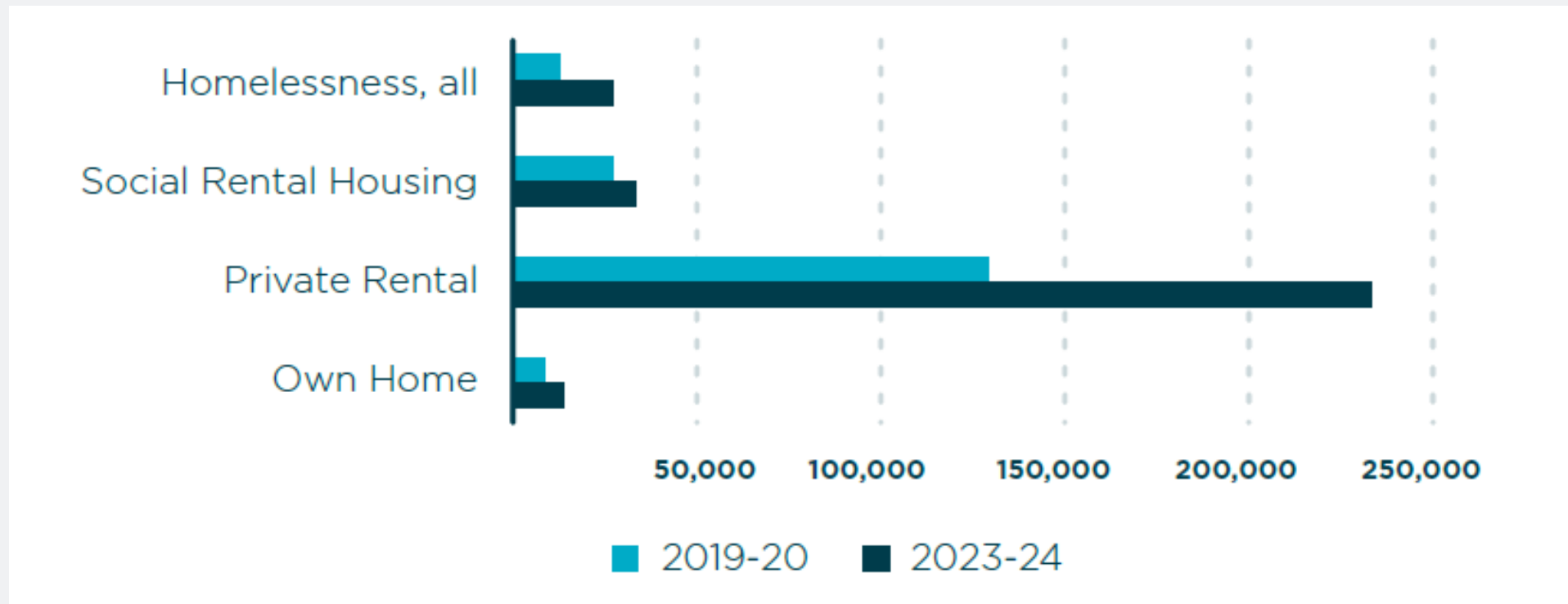
A SMALLER PERCENTAGE OF ONTARIANS ARE ACCESSING SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS



COVID-19 supports may have temporarily alleviated some OW & ODSP recipients' need for food banks

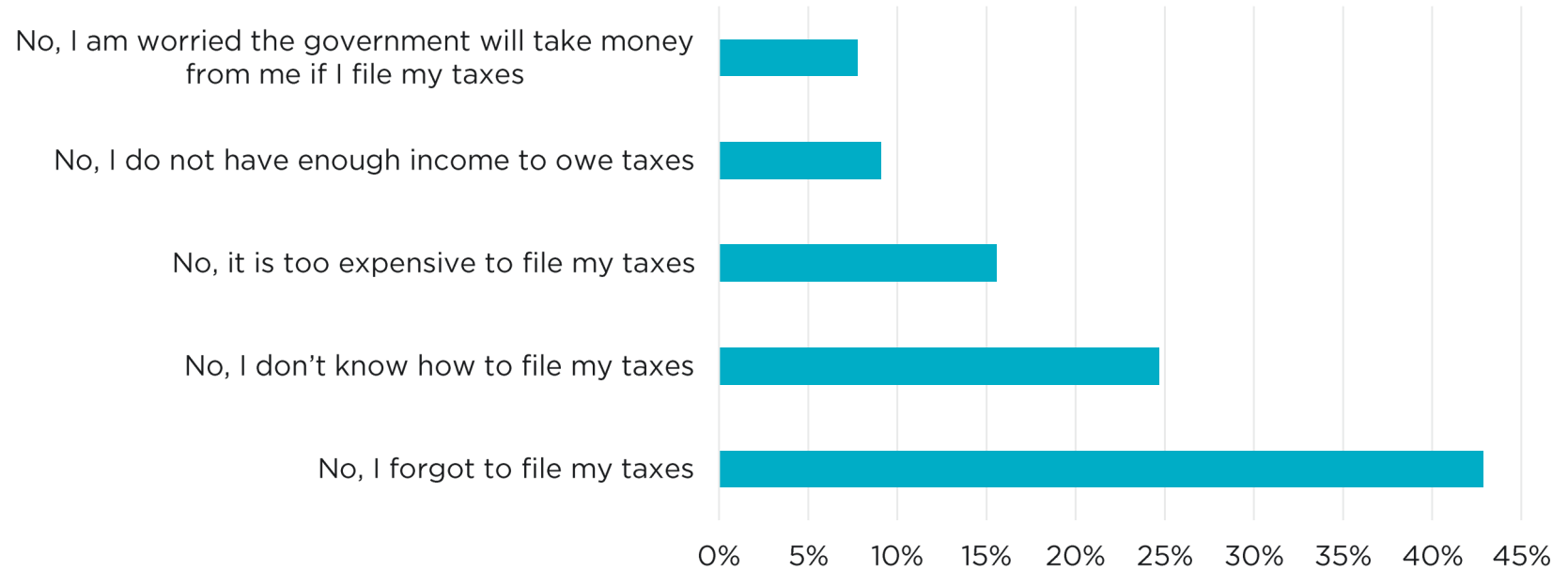


Renting & homelessness

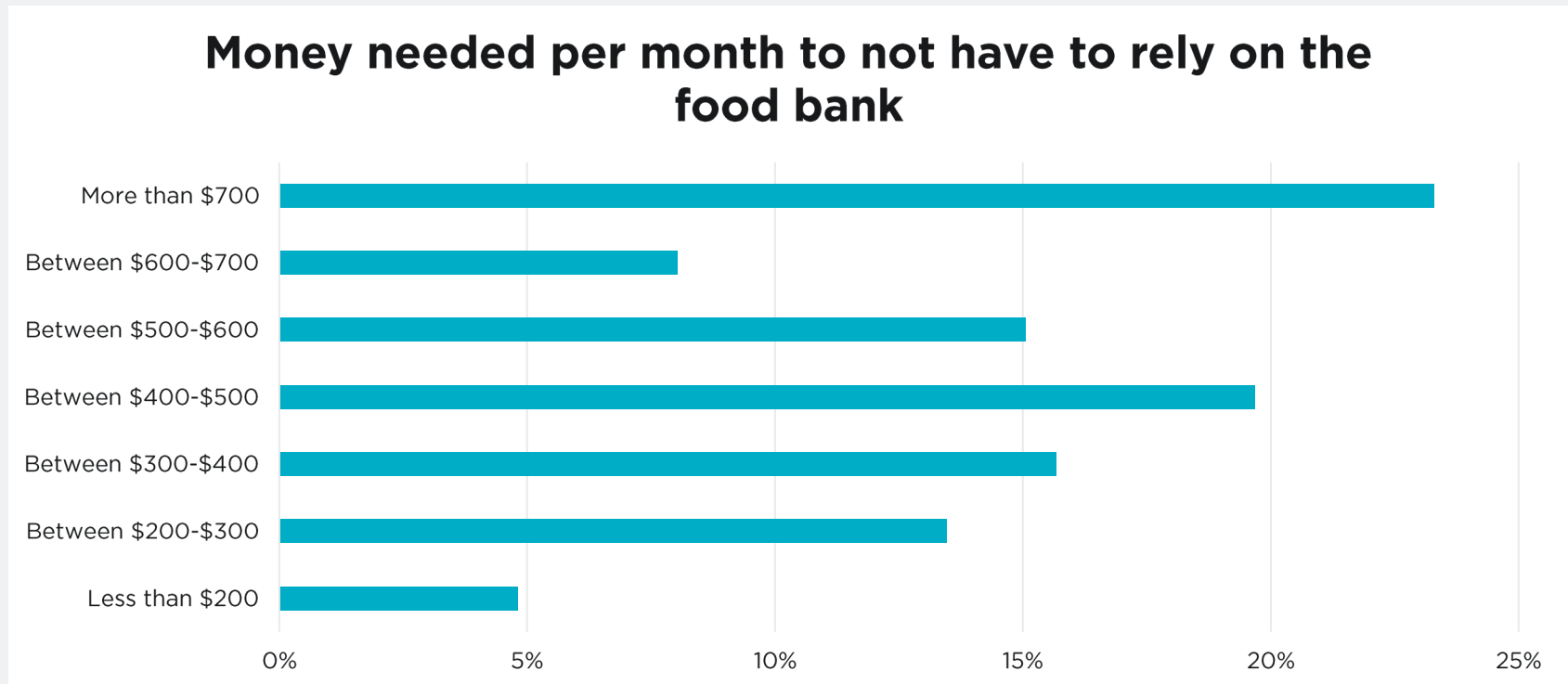


| 16% didn't file income taxes

Reasons cited for not filing taxes



| 23% needed more than \$700





Addressing Misconceptions





Most are immigrants or students because they lied on their application and are faking their needs.

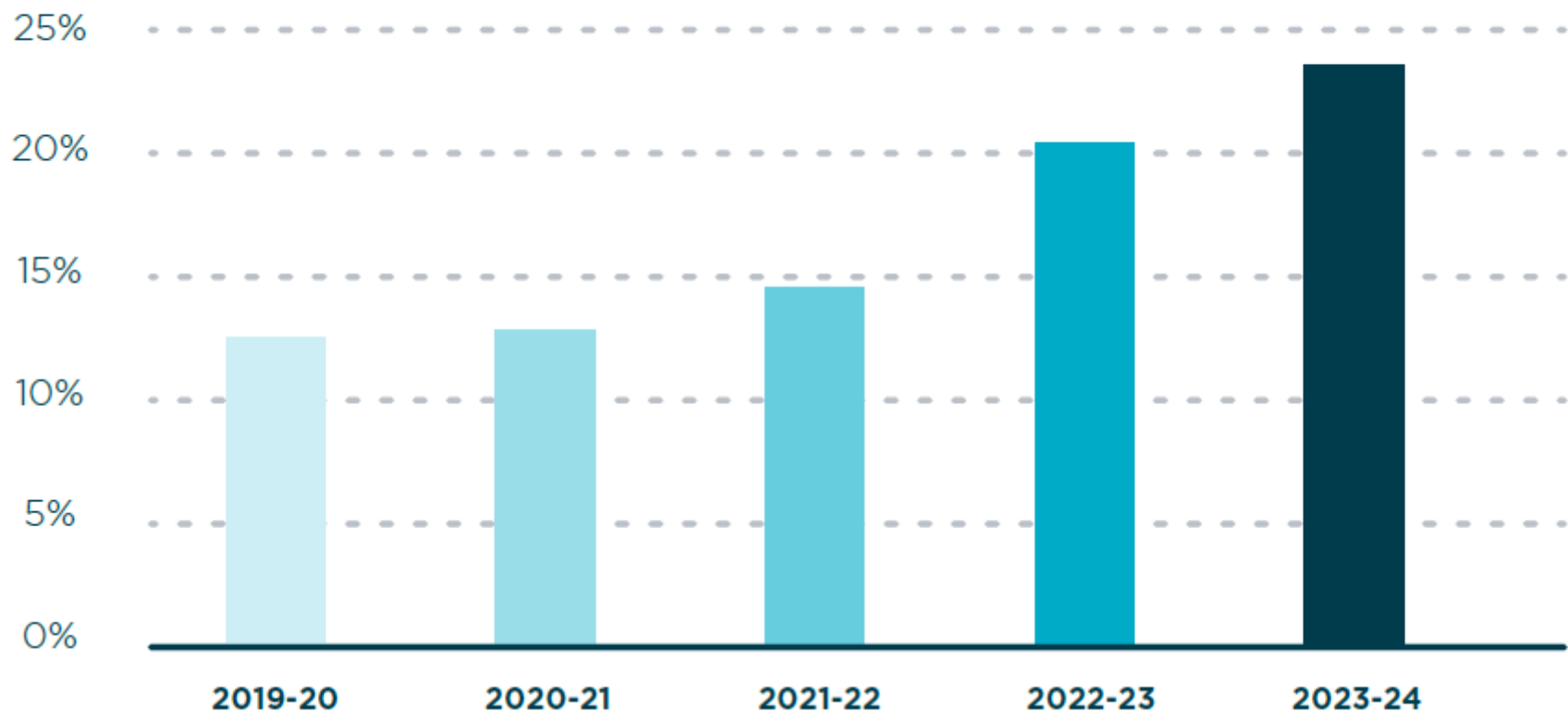
'Get off your A-S-S and start working,'

And there are some people using the food bank when they have big incomes

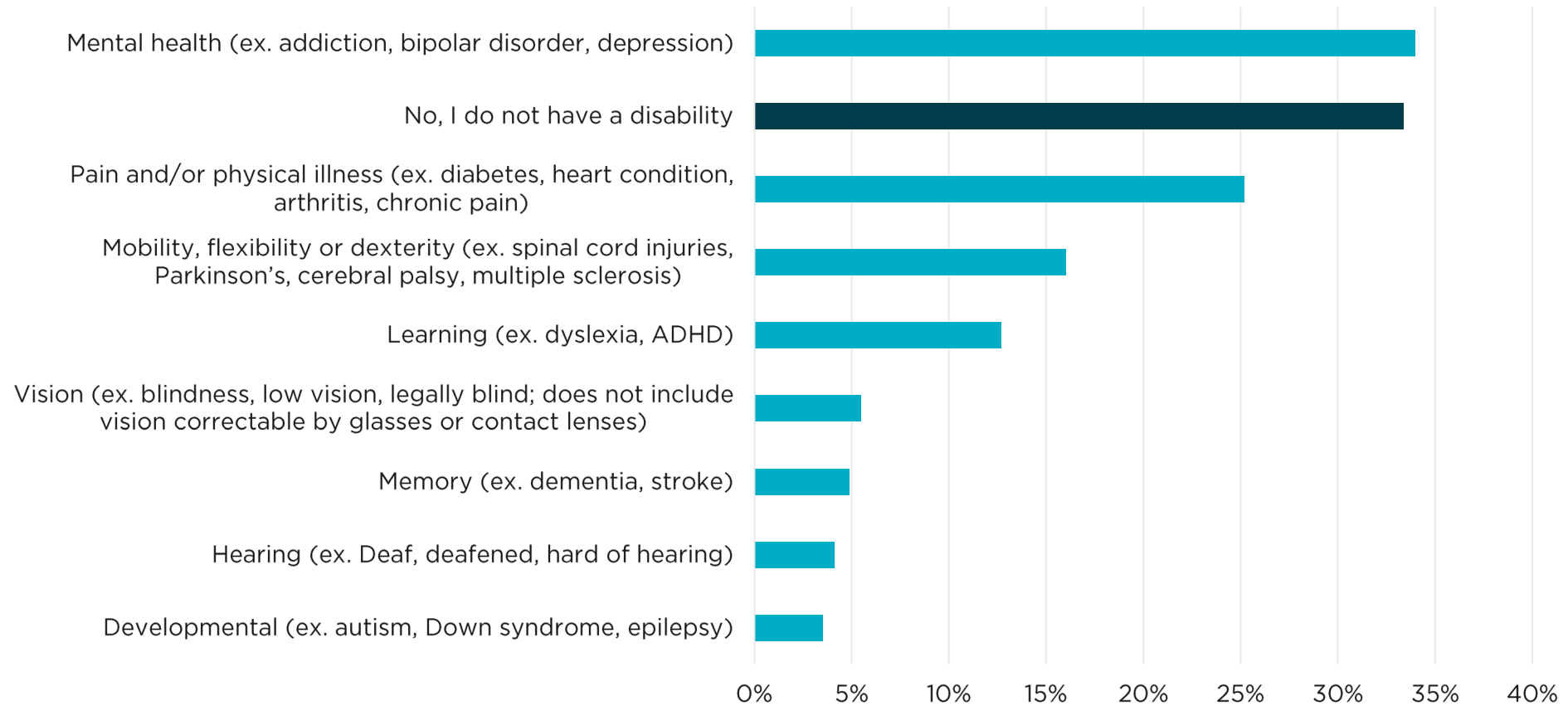


Please stop the scammers. Overheard on bus " everyone in my house has a card so I take all the cards and go to different food banks ". Food banks are designed to help people. Not be an alternative shopping experience.

MORE **WORKERS ARE ACCESSING** FOOD BANKS



Food bank visitors & disability





We can either focus on the 2 per cent of people who may be systemic users of social services and considered to be taking advantage of the system, or we can focus on the 98 per cent of people who want to get the help they need and get on with their lives.

Why would we making things harder for the vast majority of people who use our services when there are so few people who are taking advantage of it?"

— **Carole Fuhrer**

Community Care West Niagara, Beamsville

There was an immediate recognition by most of the students that they didn't need our services and in fact there was a sense of dishonour for trying to access it and take away from those who truly needed assistance. The number of international students trying to access the food bank fell tremendously. Really, we found the issue to be more about education rather than there being abuse of services.

- Myles Vanni

The Inn of the Good Shepherd, Sarnia

Livestreamed Event



presents

A FIRESIDE CHAT

MYTHS & MISCONCEPTIONS

on Food Bank Use in Ontario

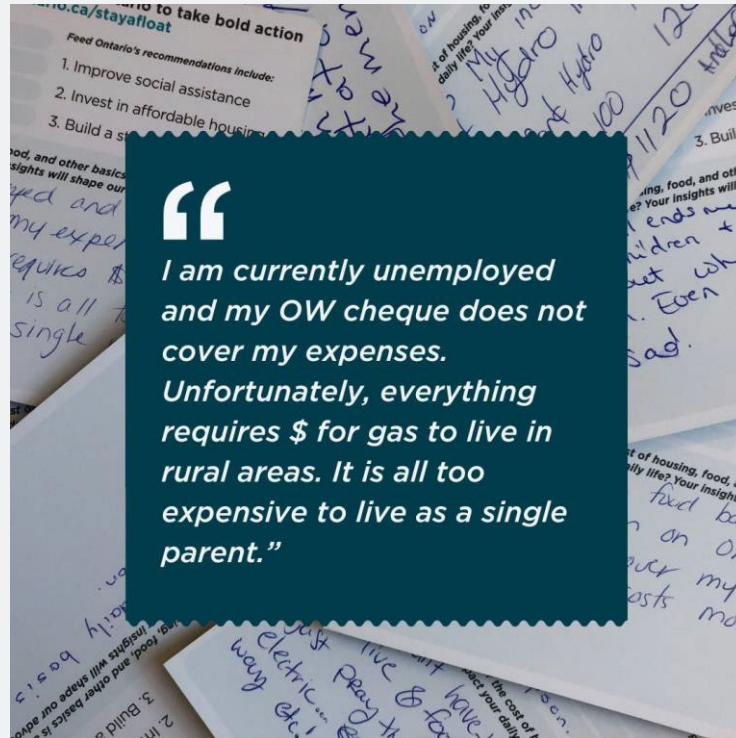
Dec 11, 7 PM

Register at

feedontario.ca/mythbusting



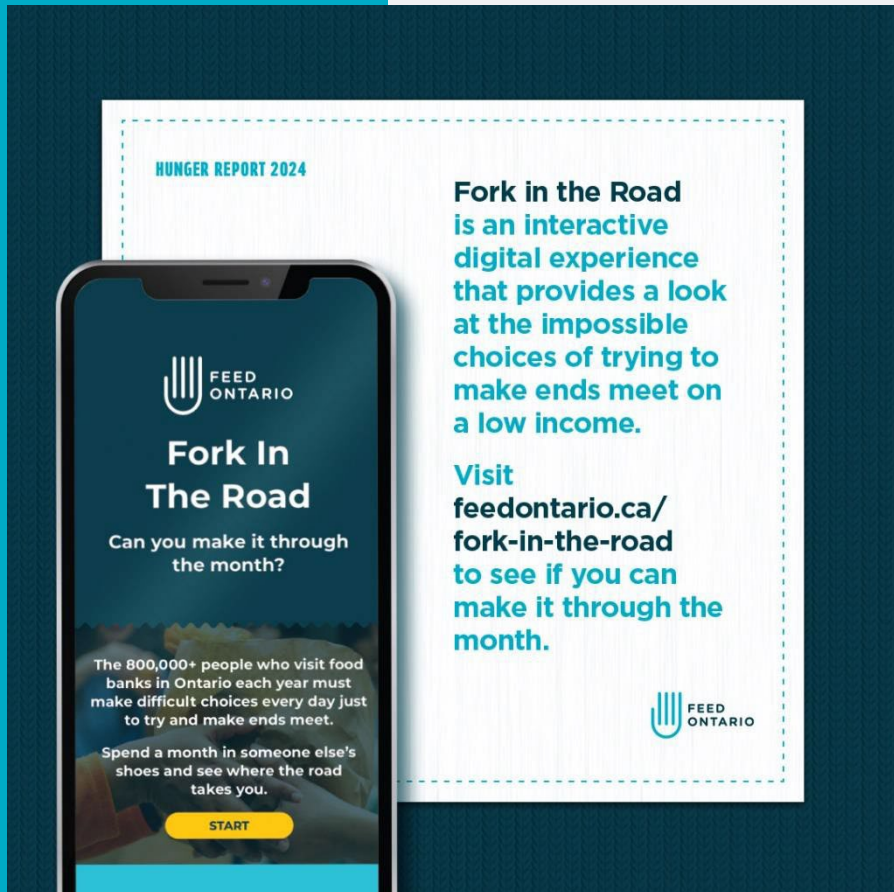
Postcard Campaign



“

This week I will have to take out a personal loan in order to afford rent and groceries. I can't afford to even feed my children. If I don't get this loan I will have to take my children to a shelter next month. Their first month back at school and I can't get them anything.”

Fork in the Road



HUNGER REPORT 2024

Fork In The Road
Can you make it through the month?

The 800,000+ people who visit food banks in Ontario each year must make difficult choices every day just to try and make ends meet.

Spend a month in someone else's shoes and see where the road takes you.

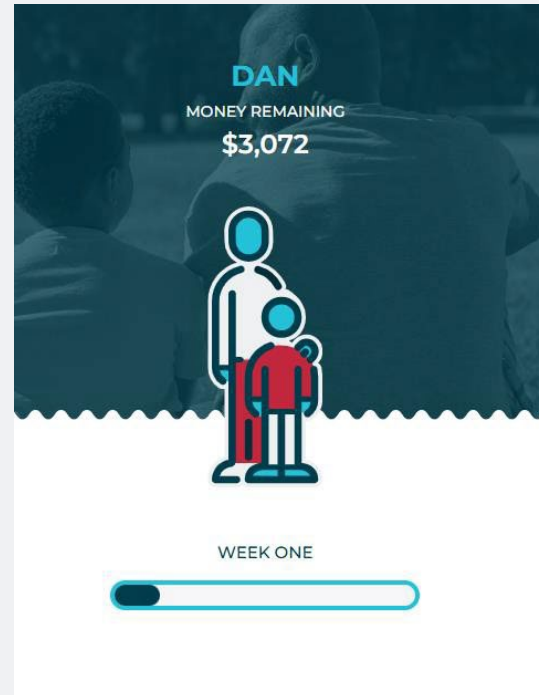
FEED ONTARIO

START

Fork in the Road is an interactive digital experience that provides a look at the impossible choices of trying to make ends meet on a low income.

Visit feedontario.ca/fork-in-the-road to see if you can make it through the month.

FEED ONTARIO



DAN
MONEY REMAINING
\$3,072

WEEK ONE

Progress bar: 10% complete

Dan has looked at apartment listings, but there's not much in his price range.

Note: This does not include moving expenses or first and last month's rent on a new lease.

CHOOSE A LIVING SITUATION

- 1-bedroom apartment \$2088
- 2-bedroom apartment \$2590



feedontario.ca/forkintheroad

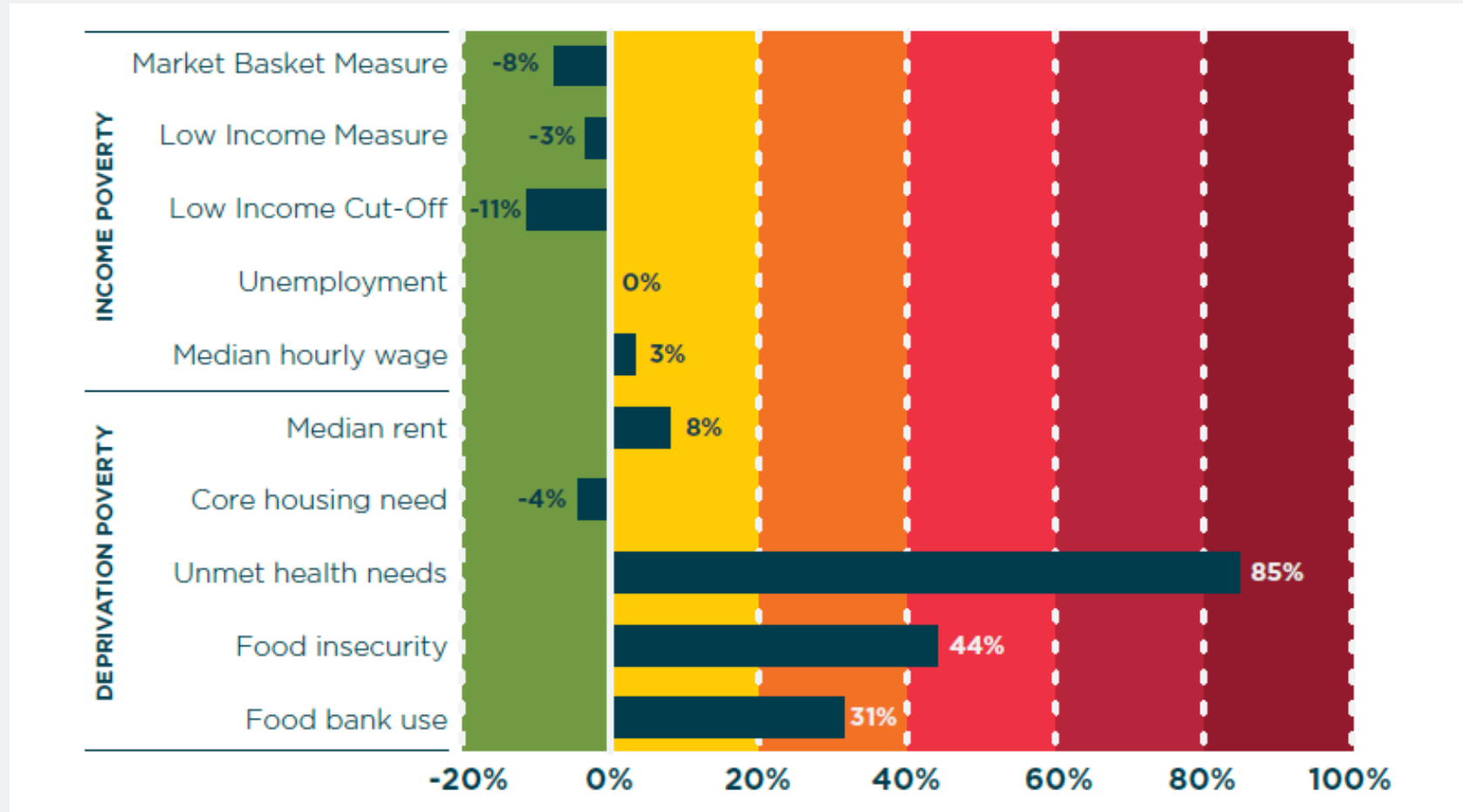


Measuring Poverty

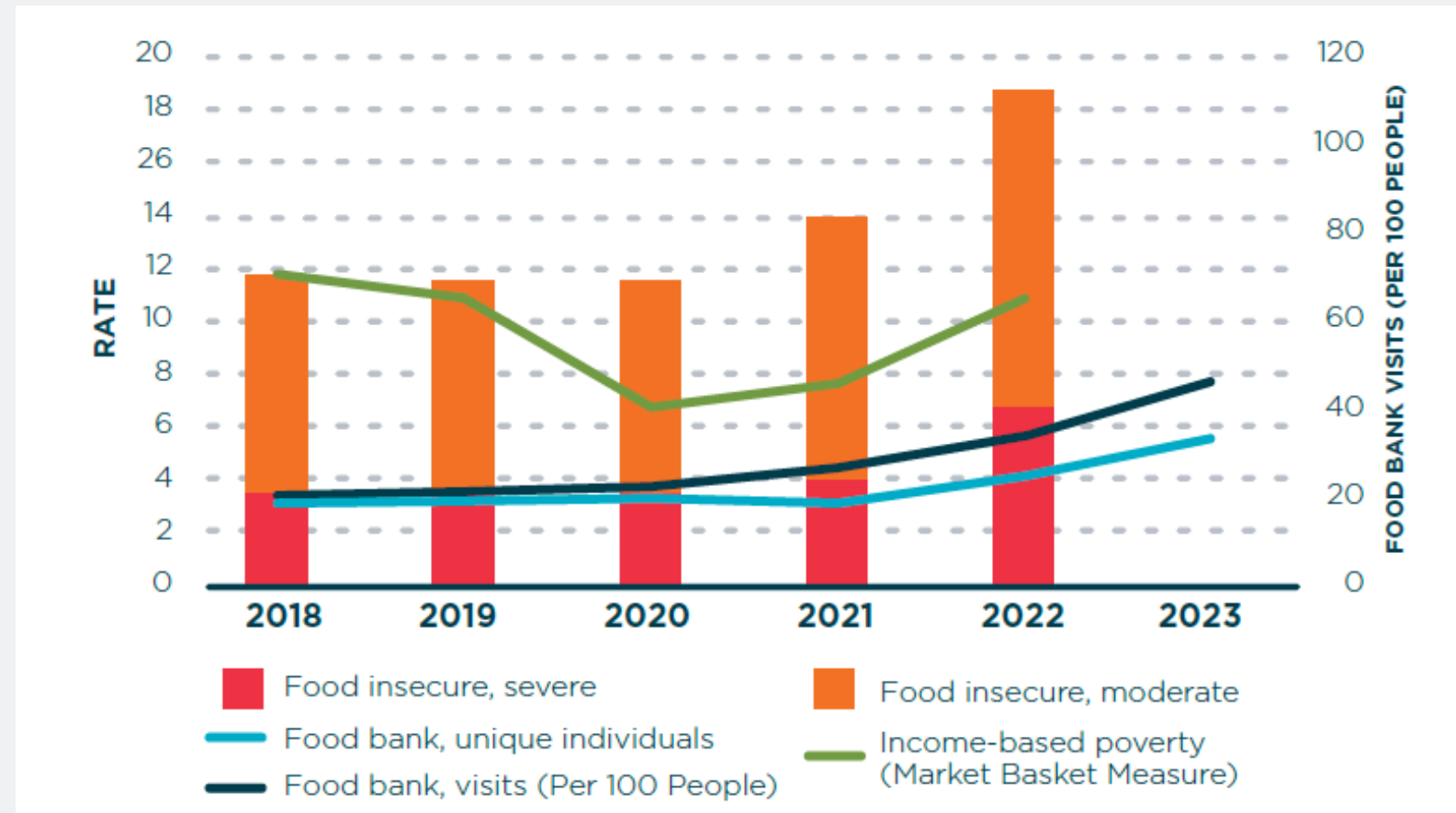


Income vs deprivation

2018 vs 2022



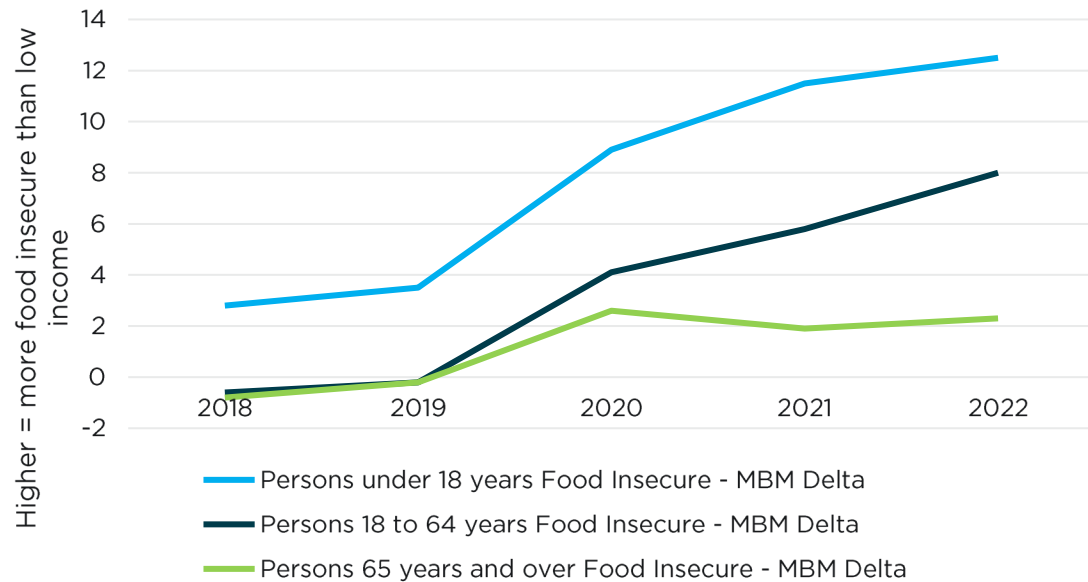
Why the disconnect?



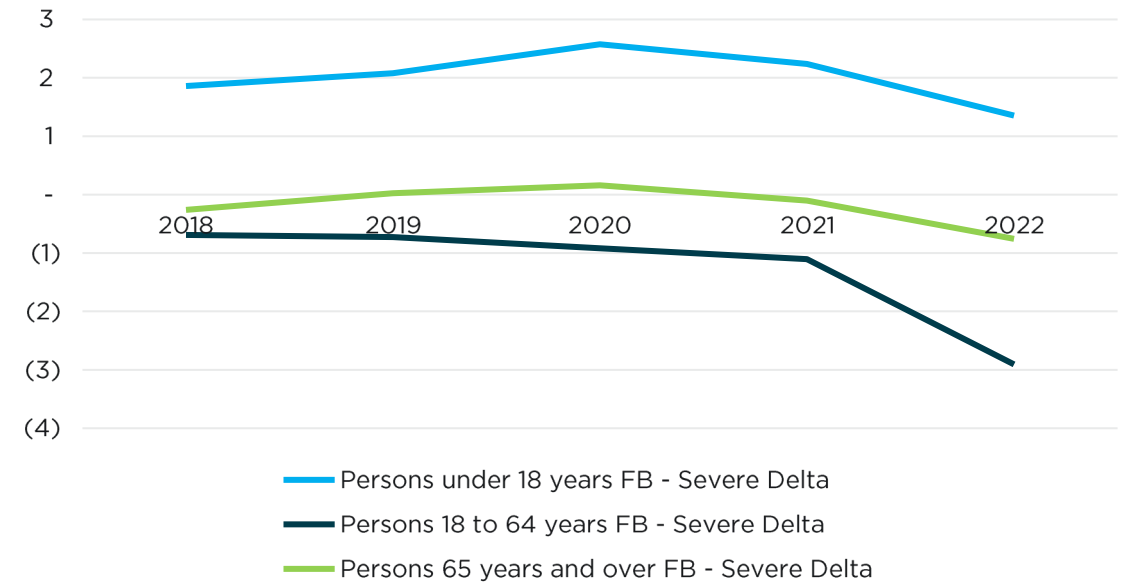
Age group differences



How much higher are rates of food insecurity than low-income, by age group?

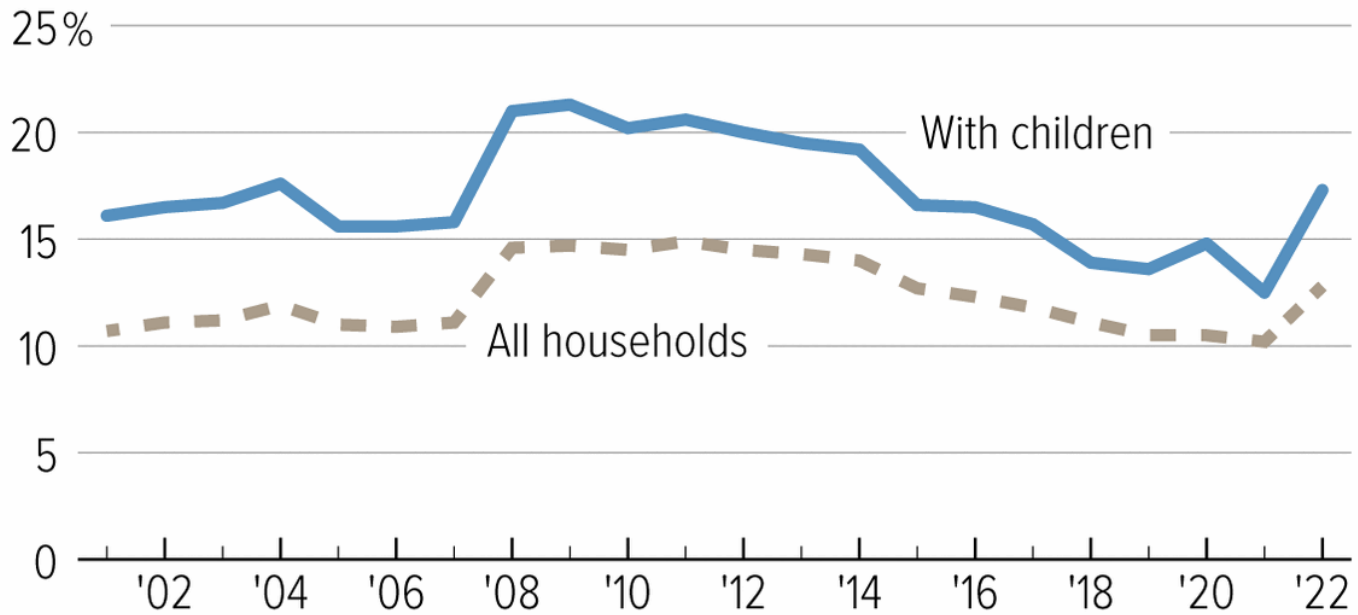


How much higher are rates of food bank use than severe food insecurity, by age group?



Food Insecurity Increased Sharply for Households With Children in 2022

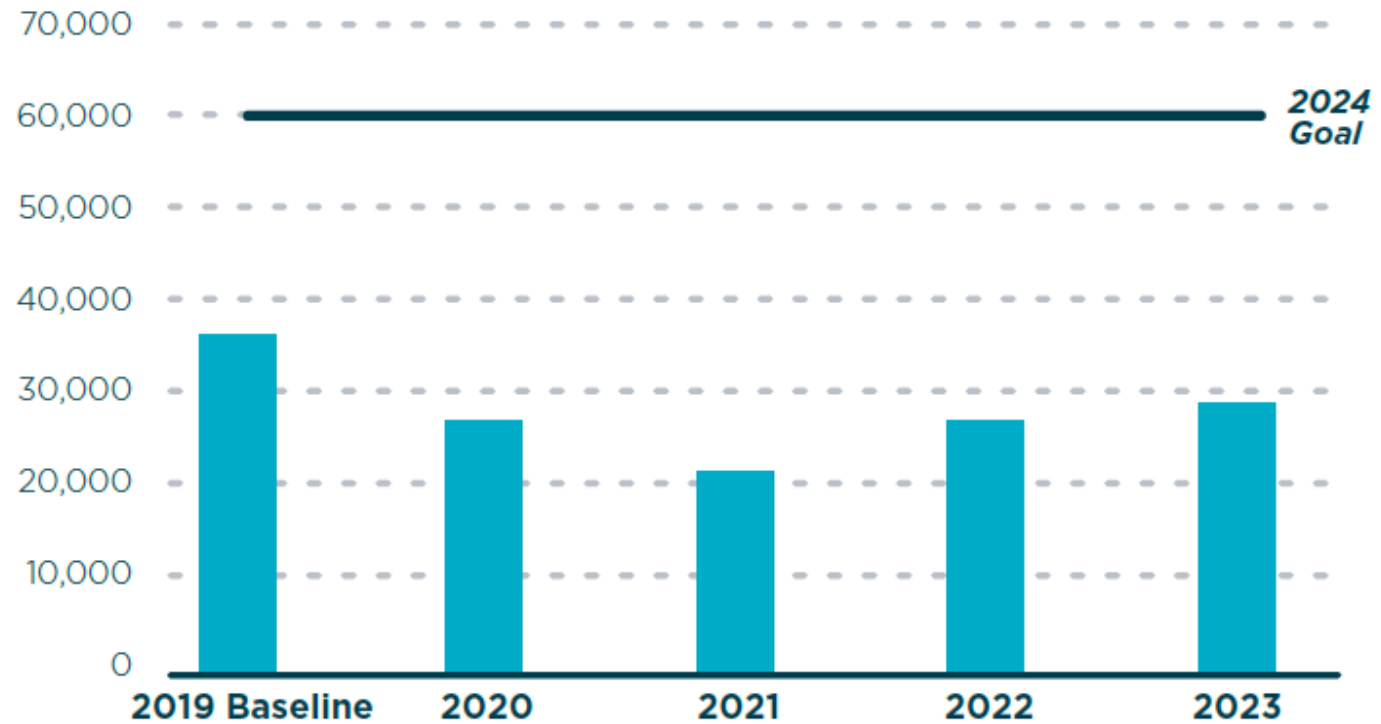
Share of households that lacked access to adequate food at some point in the year



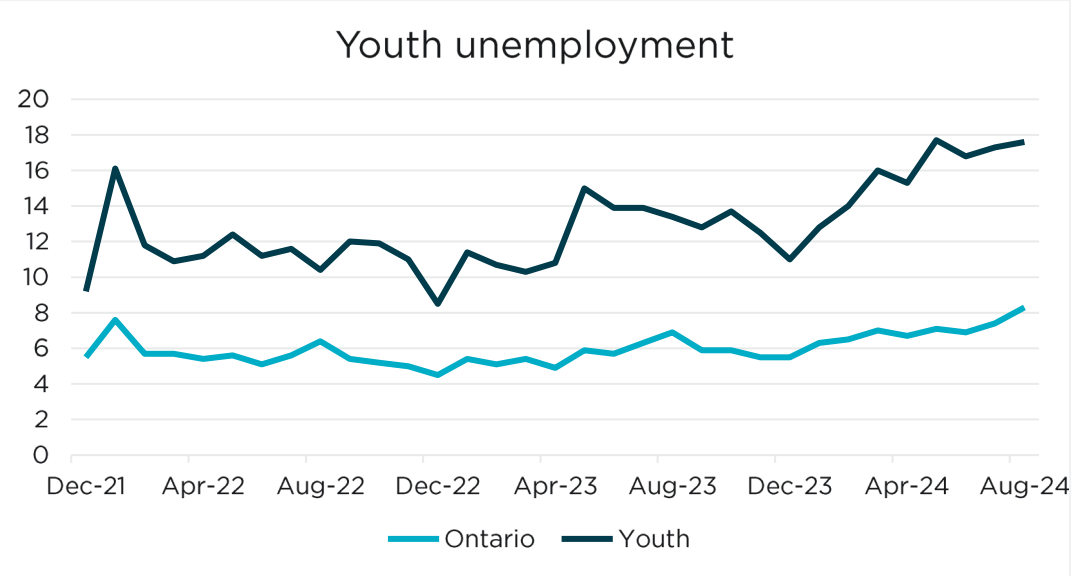
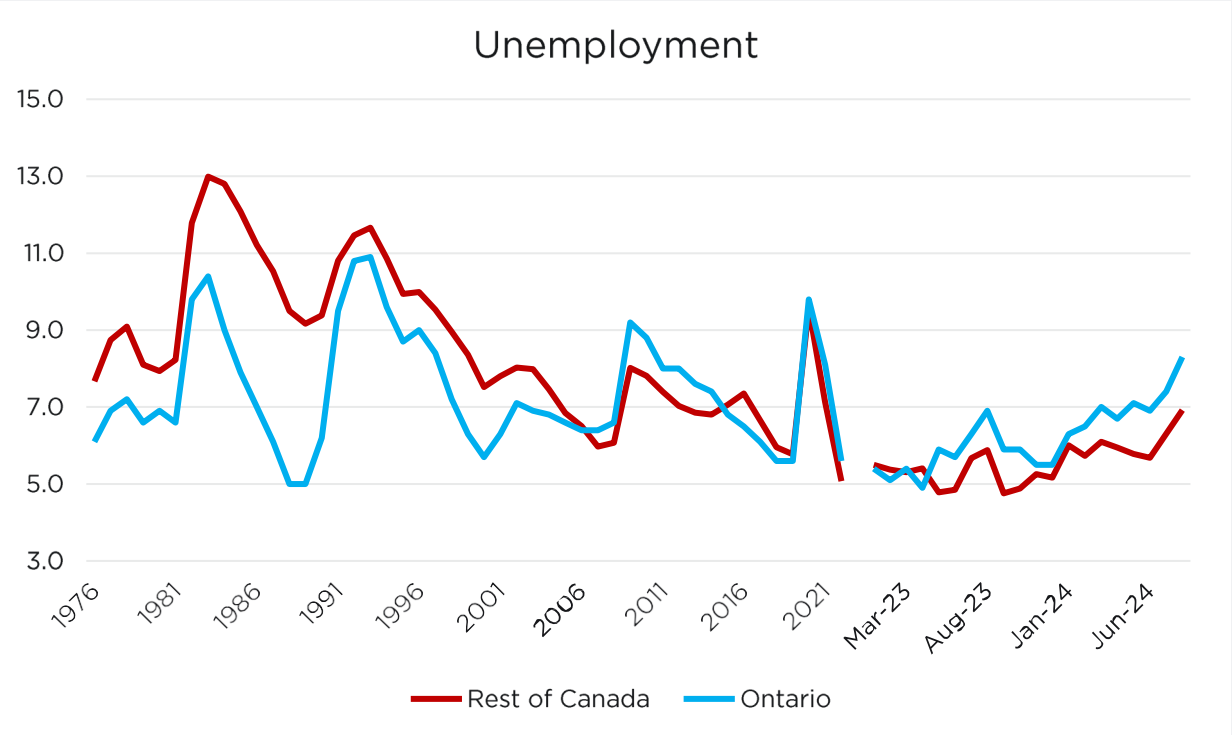
Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture food security estimates, 2001-2022

Poverty Reduction Strategy

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE EXITS TO EMPLOYMENT REMAIN
FAR BELOW THE GOAL SET BY
ONTARIO'S POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY



Unemployment



| Policy Recommendations

Social Assistance

- Increase rates
- Single flat rate
- Reduce clawbacks
- Spousal designation
- Automatic tax filing

Housing & Jobs

- Build more social housing
- Rent control
- Address wage theft
- Reduce barriers to unionization
- Classify gig workers as employees



Thank you!