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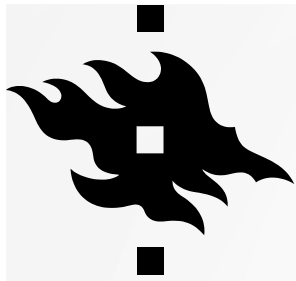
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Food insecurity among Finnish private sector service workers and food pantry clients





BACKGROUND

We aimed to

- provide comparable quantitative data on the prevalence and predictors of food insecurity in a high-income country
- assess criterion validity of the HFIAS-tool



Photo: Yle

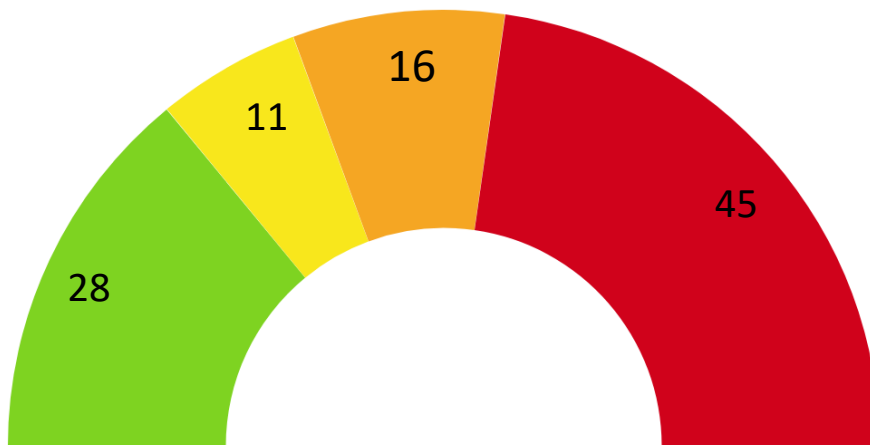
Household food insecurity access scale (HFIAS)

- 9 validated questions
- Food scarcity and behavioural responses to food insecurity due to lack of resources during the past month
- Respondent's perceptions

Ref. Coates et al. 2007

Food insecurity among Finnish food pantry clients* ($n = 121$)

Prevalence of food insecurity %



■ Food secure (28.1%) ■ Mildly food insecure (10.7%)
■ Moderately food insecure (15.7%) ■ Severely food insecure (45.5%)

Determinants of severe food insecurity:

➤ male gender

OR 1.60 (95% CI 1.09–4.80)

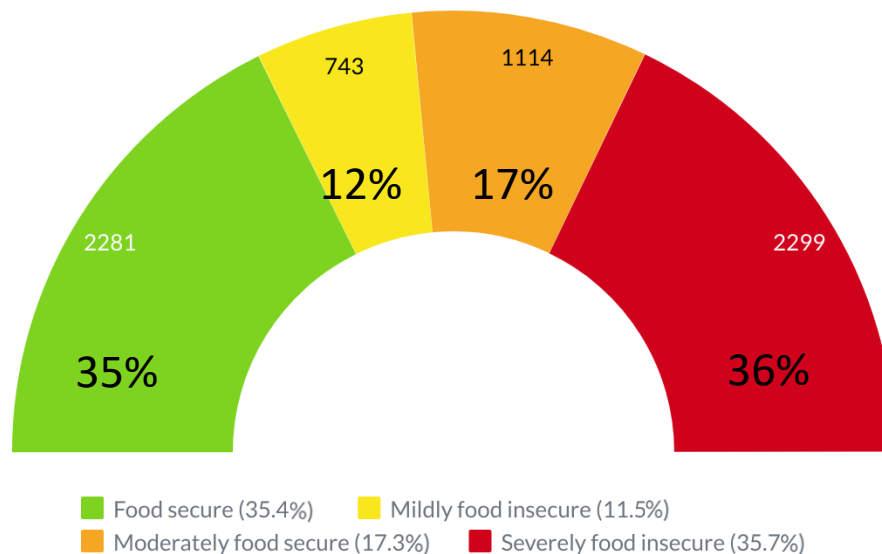
➤ housing: homeless/tenants in community rental units

OR 7.12 (95% CI 2.42–20.95)

*ROSA -study in 2018-19 in 6 food aid centres, a convenience sample of a hard-to-survey population, 57% women, 76% 55 years or older

Food insecurity among Finnish Private Sector Service workers* ($n = 6\,437$)

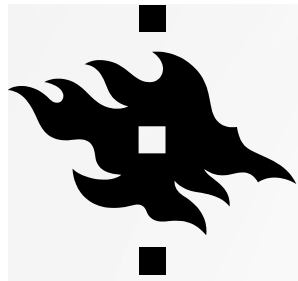
Prevalence of food insecurity $n, \%$



Determinants of severe food insecurity:

- **male gender**
OR 1.28 (95% CI 1.04-1.42)
- **younger age**
< 30 vs. < 60 yrs OR 3.76 (95% CI 2.89-4.90)
- **low education**
lowest vs. highest education
OR 1.92 (95% CI 1.20-3.06)
- **no registered partnership**
single vs. registered partnership or married
OR 2.48 (95% CI 2.17-2.85)
- **low net income**
lowest (< 1000 €/mo) vs. highest (\geq 2500 €/mo)
OR 2.58 (95% CI 1.50-4.43)
- **self-perceived health**
bad vs. good OR 2.01 (95% CI 1.25-3.23)

*PAMEL -study in 2019, 79% women, low-income employees working mainly on retail, hospitality, and property maintenance services, members of the Finnish Service Union United PAM



CONCLUSION

- Majority of food pantry clients demonstrated severe food insecurity.
 - Food insecurity was common among predominantly low-income private sector service workers, a group subject to rapid changes in the labour market (as COVID-19) and social security systems.
 - Food insecurity was linked to well-known SES indicators and self-perceived health
- good criterion validity of HFIAS.

