



FOOD SECURITY SURVEY PRELIMINARY RESULTS FALL 2016

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MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

(DATA SOURCE: "MONTGOMERY COLLEGE AT A GLANCE")

Montgomery College is a multi-campus, open-enrollment community college in suburban Maryland, outside Washington, D.C.

Montgomery College had 34,410 enrolled in credit courses during FY 2016.

Most (64.5%) of MC students are part-time with 35.5 percent fulltime.

Females make up 52.9% of our student population with males at 47.1%.

Forty-three percent of our students are 20 years or younger, 37.6% are 21-29 years old and 19.1% are 30 years and older.



MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

(SOURCE: MONTGOMERY COLLEGE AT A GLANCE

<https://www.google.com/search?q=montgomery+college+at+a+glance&oq=montgomery+college+at+a+glance&aqs=chrome..69l57j69l64l2.6758j0j1&sourceid=chrome&ie=utf-8>)

We are a majority-minority population:

--28.2% Black

--24.1% White

--23.6% Hispanic

--11.2% Asian

--2.9% Multi-Race

--0.5% Native American & Pacific Islanders

--9.6% Foreign Students (includes unknown)
Forty-three percent of our students are 20 years or younger, 37.6% are 21-29 years old and 19.1% are 30 years and older.

Percent



Black White Hispanic Asian Multi-Race Foreign Students

THE USDA SURVEY AND OUR ADMINISTRATION

- The survey was originally developed by researchers at the National Center for Health Statistics in collaboration with **Abt Associates, Inc.**
- During the fall 2016 semester, Montgomery College conducted the *US Household Food Security Survey Module: Six-Item Short Form* from the United States Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service.
- We asked students only about their own experiences and did not request information about their age, income, ethnicity or financial aid status.
- Our results are an indication of what students enrolled in this course, that participated in the survey are experiencing. We should not generalize to our wider MC population. It's important to note that the students who are at greatest food insecurity may select to not participate, may answer "don't know" when they in fact do know, or may have dropped the course before we administered the survey.

NUTR 101 faculty members sent the survey link to students in their own section(s).

At the beginning of the semester there were n=575 registered across the n=22 sections.

We closed the survey about after mid-terms, at a time when 5% or more of the students had stopped attending.

→The response rate is all those initially enrolled is:

$$276/575 = 48\%$$

→the response rate among those still in the class at time survey closed is:

$$276/(575 \times .095) = 50.5\%.$$

ABOUT THE COURSE

NUTR101 is a non-lab natural science (NSND) as a part of their General Education Program. This one hundred-level course fits flexibly in their course sequence, so they can take it as soon as they College math and English-ready or even as late as their last class before transfer.

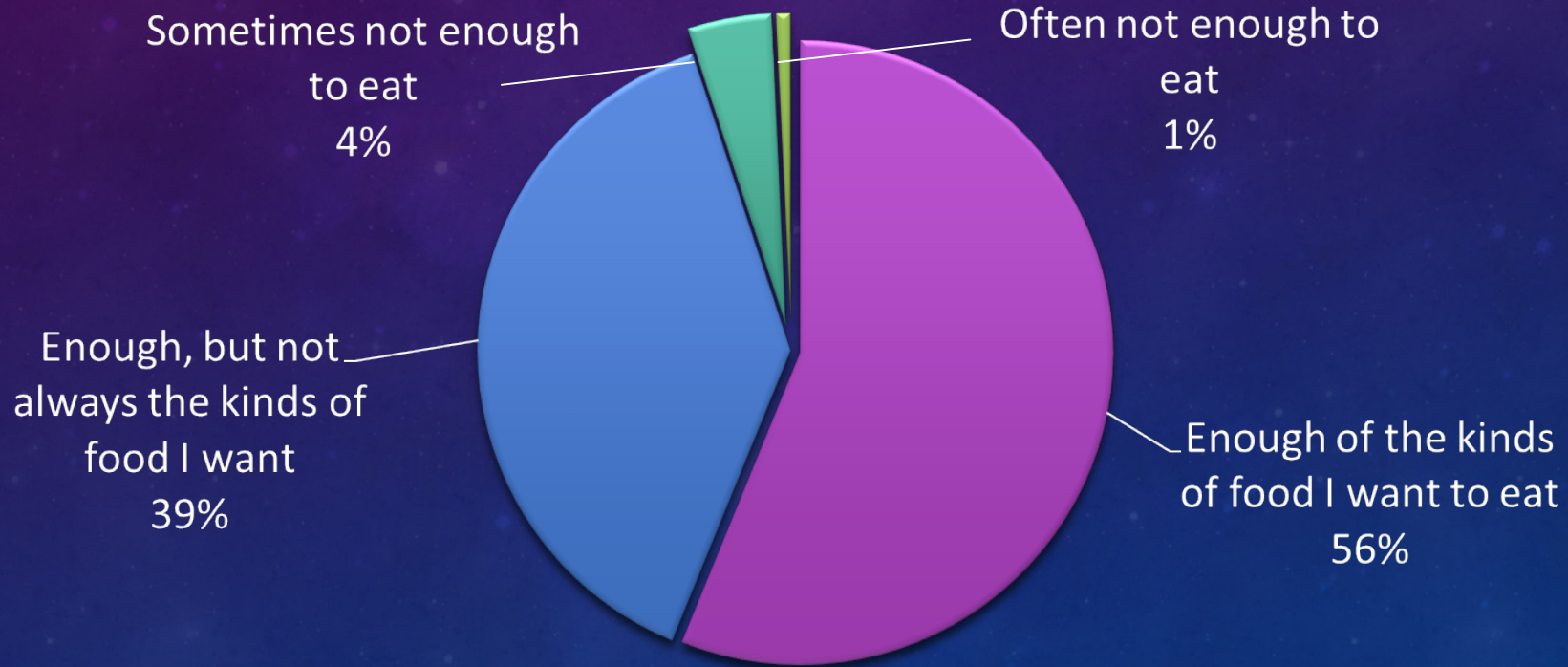
The course is offered at the Germantown and Rockville campuses as well as online. All students enrolled in this course, across the 22 sections, were invited to participate in the survey.

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Among all respondents, in the past 12 months: About 5% of students enrolled in one of 22 sections of a 100-level nutrition class at a community college indicated that they *often or sometimes do not have enough to eat*.
- Among the 44% of students who say they *often or sometimes don't have enough to eat or the kinds of food they want in the past 12 months*:
 - 46% they often or sometimes are worried about food running out before they get money to buy more.
 - 41% said they often or sometimes run out of food and don't have money to buy more.
 - 42% say they often or sometimes could not afford to eat balanced meals.
- The survey was fielded October/November 2016 and used the *U.S. Household Food Security Survey Module: Six-Item Short Form* (USDA/ERS, 2012). We had n=276 completions (58% response rate).

Q1. WHICH OF THESE STATEMENTS BEST DESCRIBES THE FOOD EATEN IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS?

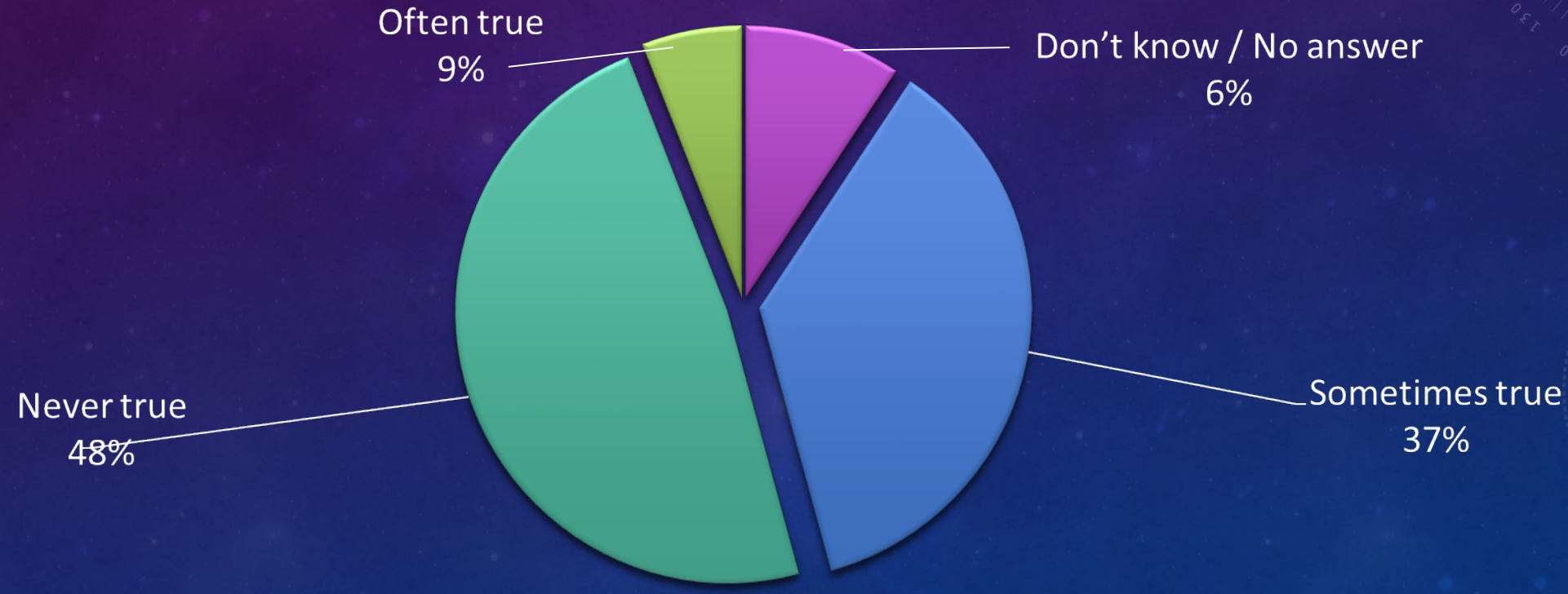
5% overall say it is “Often true” or “Sometimes true” that they do not have enough to eat.



Base = 276 students

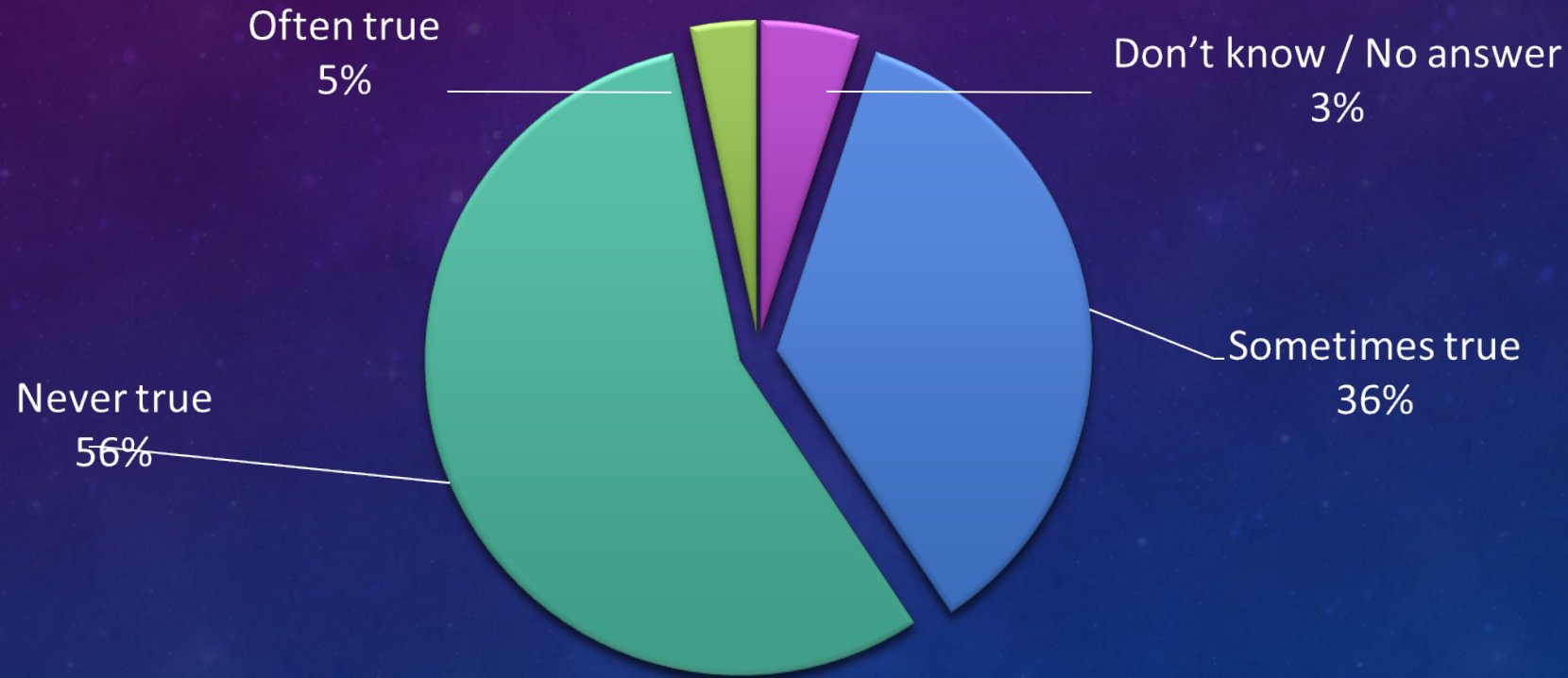
Q2. IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, I WORRIED WHETHER MY FOOD WOULD RUN OUT BEFORE I GOT MONEY TO BUY MORE.

46% say it is “Often true or “Sometimes true” that they worried about food running out before I got money to buy more.”



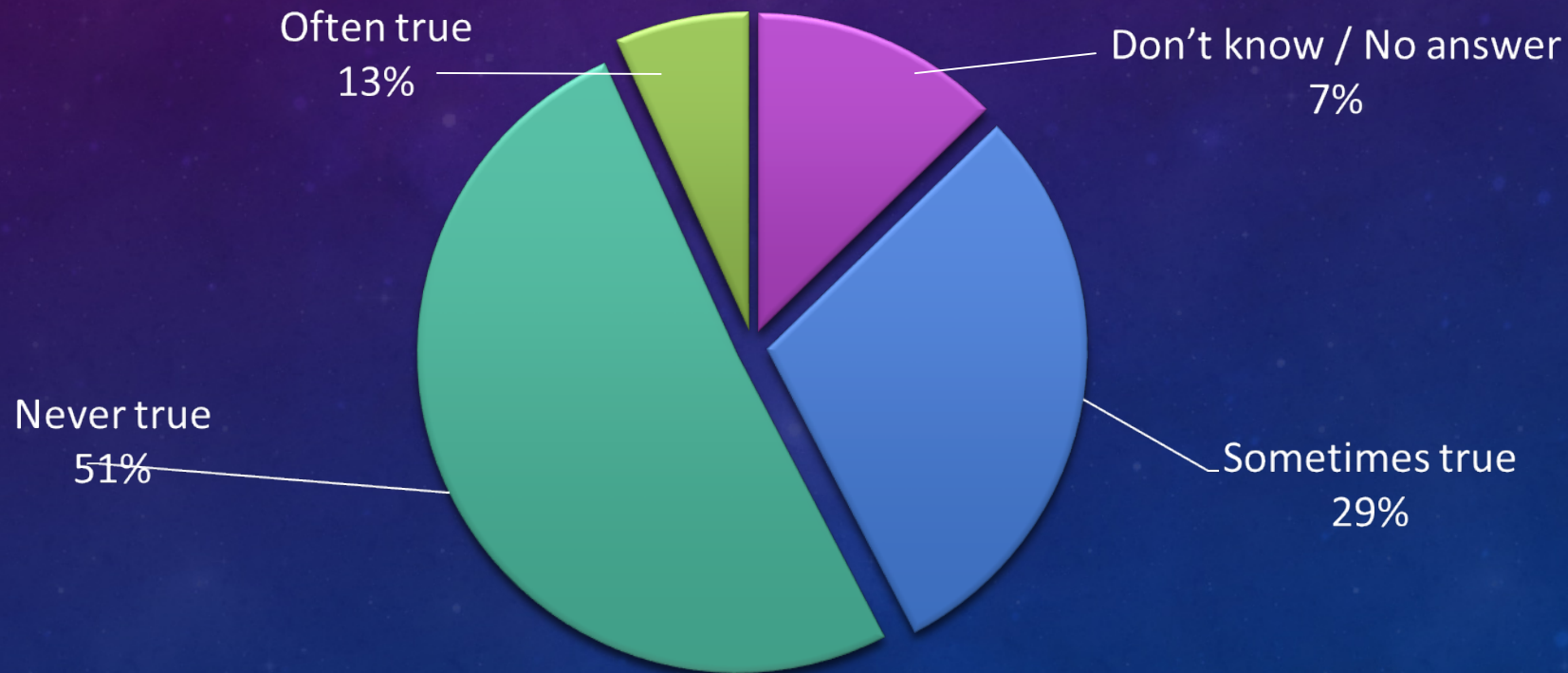
Q3. IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, THE FOOD THAT I BOUGHT JUST DID NOT LAST AND I DID NOT HAVE MONEY TO GET MORE.

41% say it is “Often true or “Sometimes true” that their food did not last and did not have money to buy more.”



Q4. IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, I COULD NOT AFFORD TO EAT BALANCED MEALS.

42% say it is “Often true or “Sometimes true” that in the last 12 months “I could not afford to eat balanced meals.”



Q4. IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, I COULD NOT AFFORD TO EAT BALANCED MEALS.

Of those 42% respondents who replied, “Often true” or “Sometimes true,” they also reported the following:

- 51% said they cut the size of meals or skip meals because there was not enough money for food.
 - 17% of this group said this happened every month.
- 46% said they would eat less than they felt they should because there was not enough money for food.
- 37% said they were hungry but did not eat because there was not enough money for food.
 - 18% of this group said they lost weight because there was not enough money for food.
- 24% said they did not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food.
 - 11% of this group said it happened almost every month.