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Analyzing the Impact of United Against Poverty Food Centers on Individuals Affected by Food Insecurity Throughout Florida

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Analyzing the Impact of United Against Poverty Food Centers on Individuals Affected by Food Insecurity Throughout Florida

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Questions of Interest

Question 1: Are qualified members of the "Membership Share Grocery Program" benefitting from visiting the UP Centers and utilizing the program?

Question 2: Does the availability of products found at the UP Center contribute to any dietary changes in the lives of current Members?

Methods

- 651 In-person surveys were administered at 4 different United Against Poverty locations throughout Florida from September 2023-January 2024.
- Surveys were conducted in-person on handheld tablets by ISBS Surveyors, utilizing Qualtrics.
- Participants were approached asking for participation, and were given a \$5 voucher as a thank you.
- Open-ended, qualitative questions were coded for themes by hand.
- Once surveying concluded, data for quantitative questions were analyzed separately by location.

Data Collection

Coding

Analysis



Introduction

Food Insecurity is often overlooked by those who are fortunate enough to afford and sustain an abundance of products for themselves and their family. Despite lack of awareness, there are programs such as the "Membership Share Grocery Program" by United Against Poverty that seek to alleviate this problem. The program utilizes donated goods and sells the products based only on their shipping costs. Program Membership requires a family income that is below the Area Median Income to gain access to the discounted prices. The current study utilized both quantitative and qualitative techniques to identify the impact this program has on low-income households throughout Florida.

Results / Conclusions

Results

Across all locations almost half of participants reported that they would have less food for themselves and their families if the United Against Poverty locations would shut down. (R1) (F.1) Given that over 75% members reported that products are more affordable at the UP Center when compared to retail (F.2), almost half of all participants per location contribute a healthier lifestyle to more access of organic foods, more lean proteins, and other healthier products. (R2) (F.3)

Conclusion

Examination of the data uncovered how vital the MSGP truly was to members, as many voiced the reality that they'd be unable to afford the cost of other essential expenses without it. The program evidently is relied on by many in fighting against the struggle of food insecurity, with the beneficial side effect of a healthier lifestyle.

Data

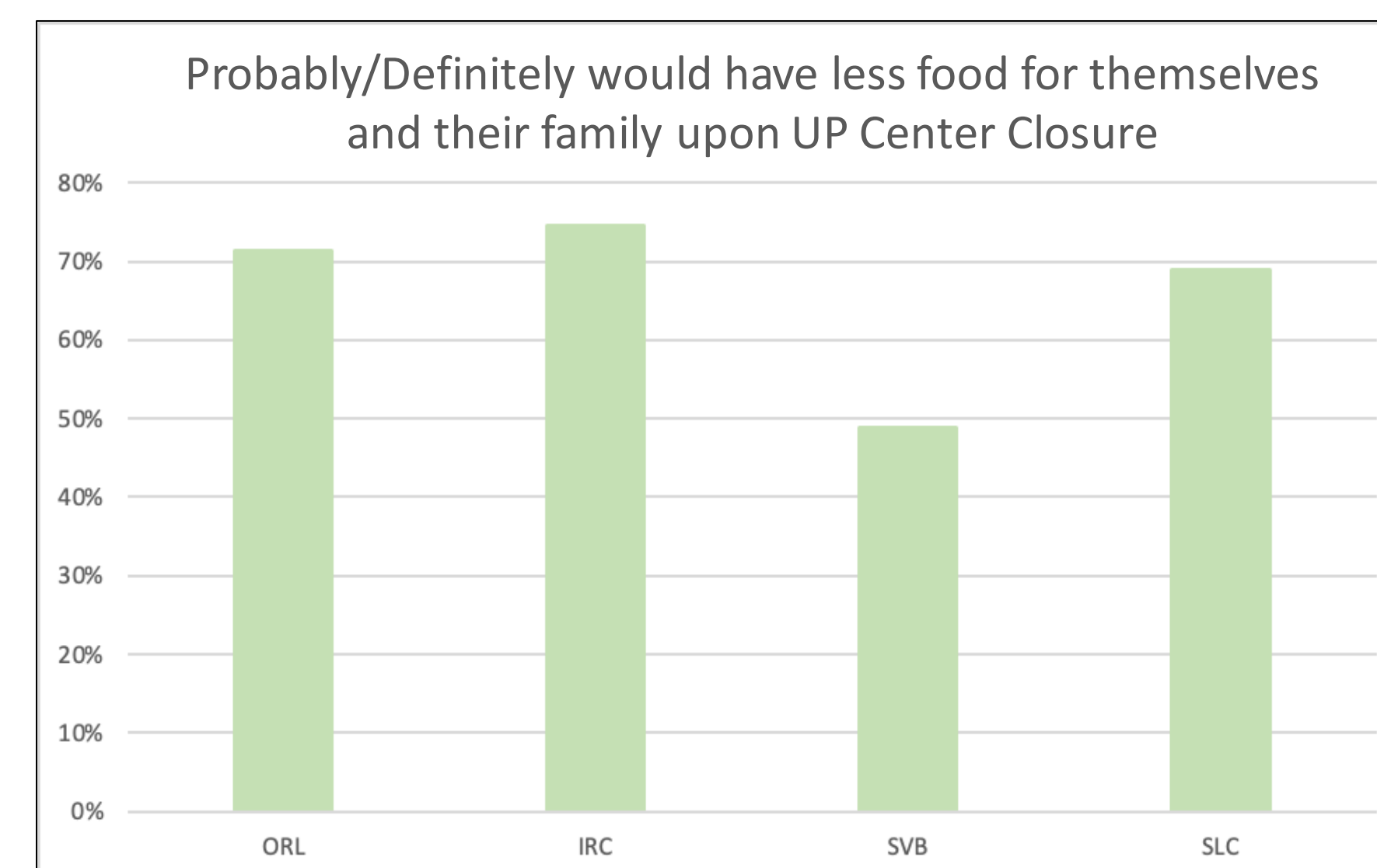


Figure 1.

UP Center Location	Participants Surveyed
Orlando (ORL)	201
St. Lucie County (SLC)	201
Indian River County (IRC)	199
South Vero Beach (SVB)	50

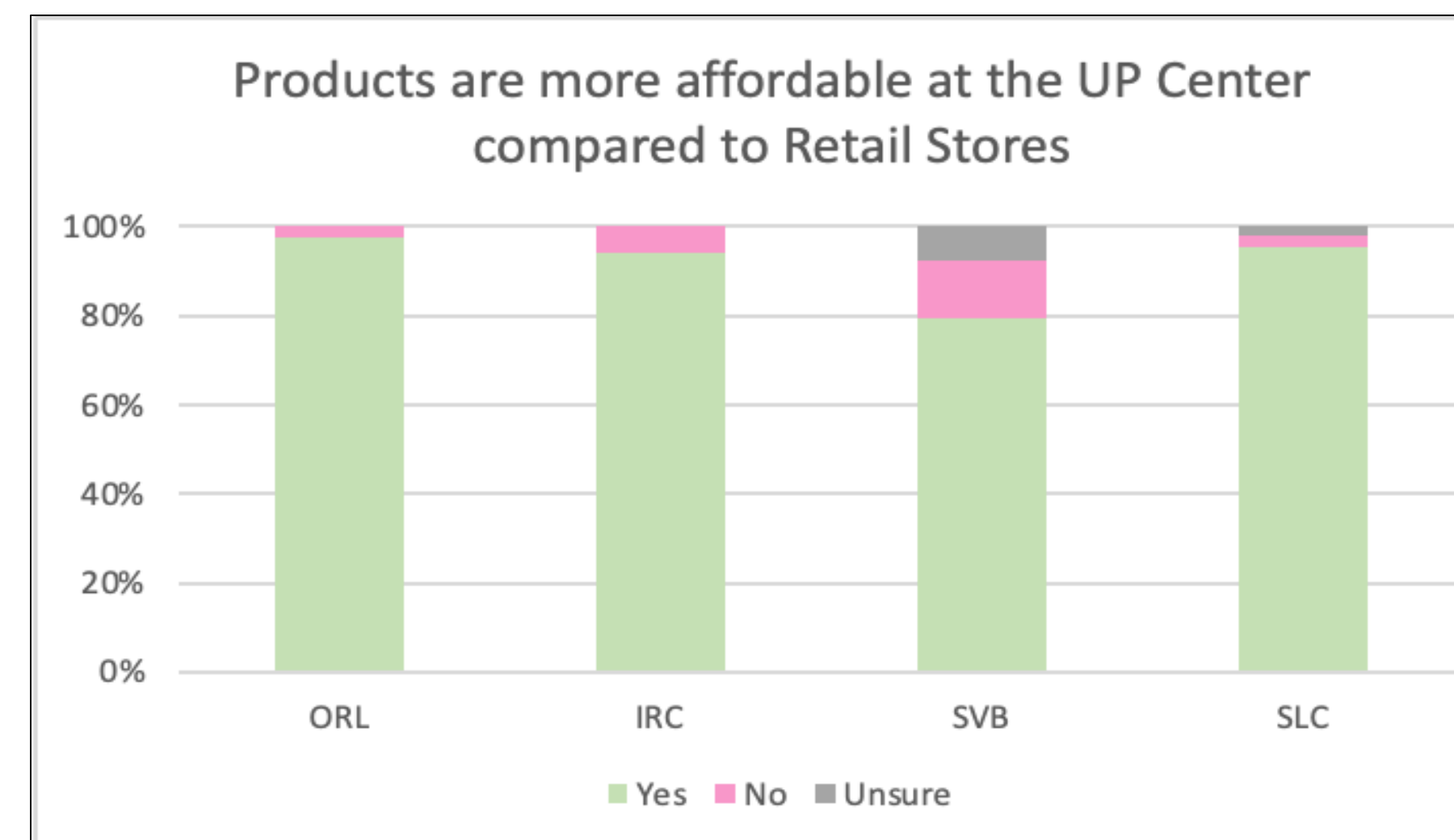


Figure 2.

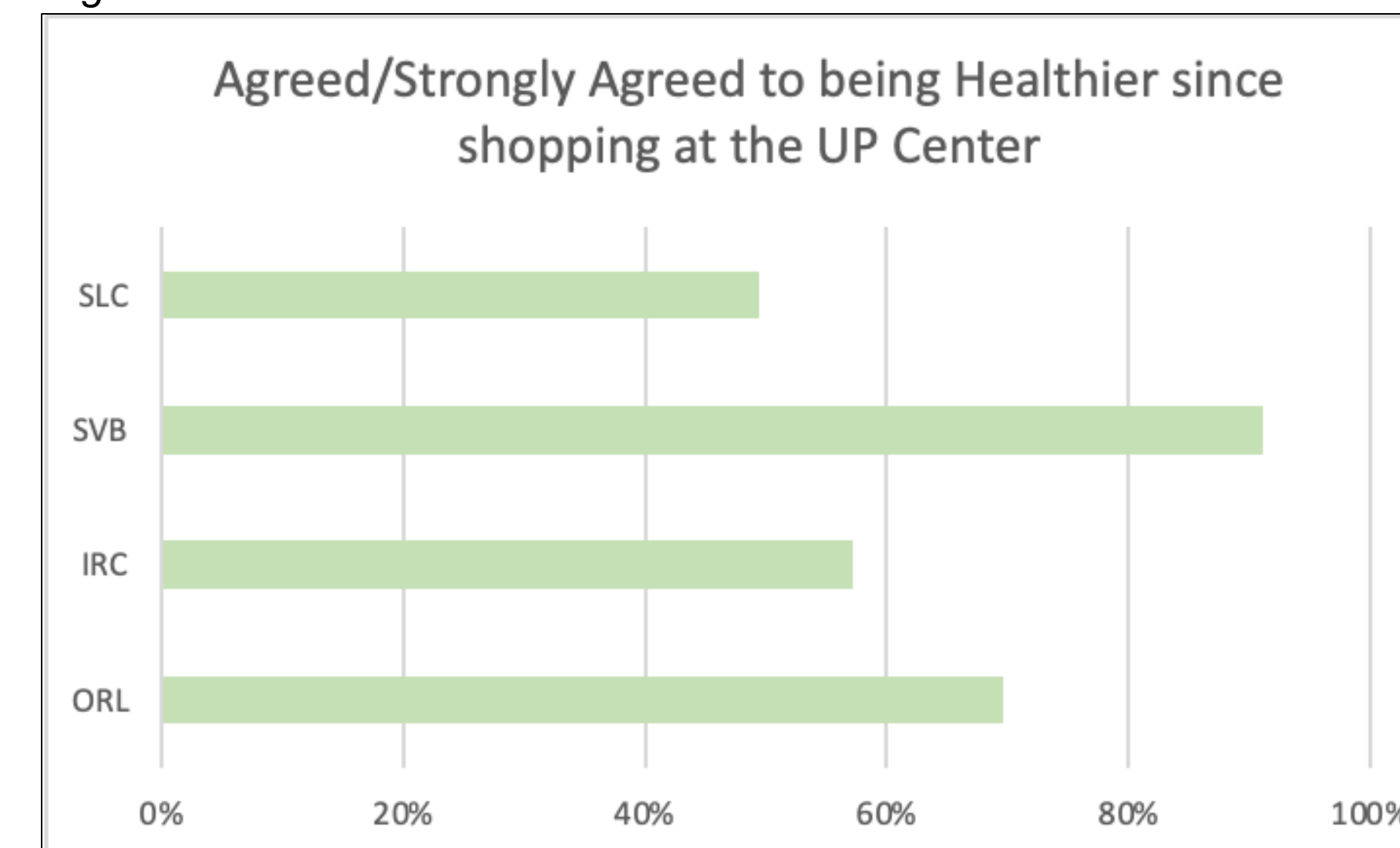


Figure 3.



Limitations

Although a total of 651 participants were surveyed throughout 5 months, time constraints were present, preventing full probing of specific areas. This limitation is evident for the South Vero Beach Location, where surveying was limited to one weekend, yielding a relatively small sample size.

Acknowledgements

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References

1. Donley, A. & Austin, C. (2024). *Member Share Grocery Program Survey Results: 2023*.