



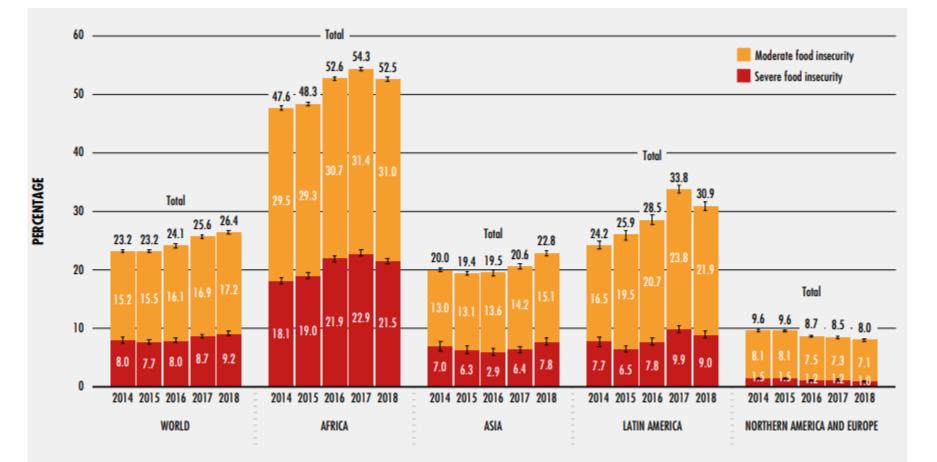




# Food insecurity in the UK

#### Jean Adams Centre for Diet & Activity Research, MRC Epidemiology Unit

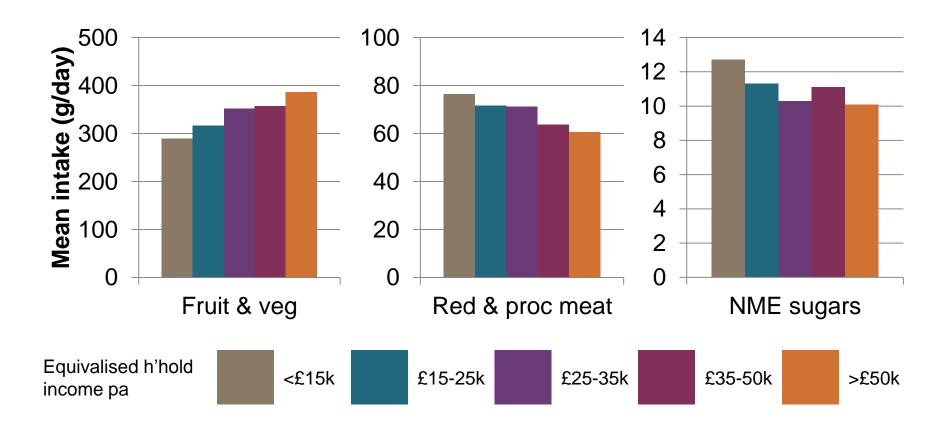
FAO food insecurity: "A situation that exists when people lack secure access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and an active and healthy life."



NOTES: Differences in total are due to rounding of figures to the nearest decimal point. SOURCE: FAO.

WHO: The state of food security and nutrition in the world 2019

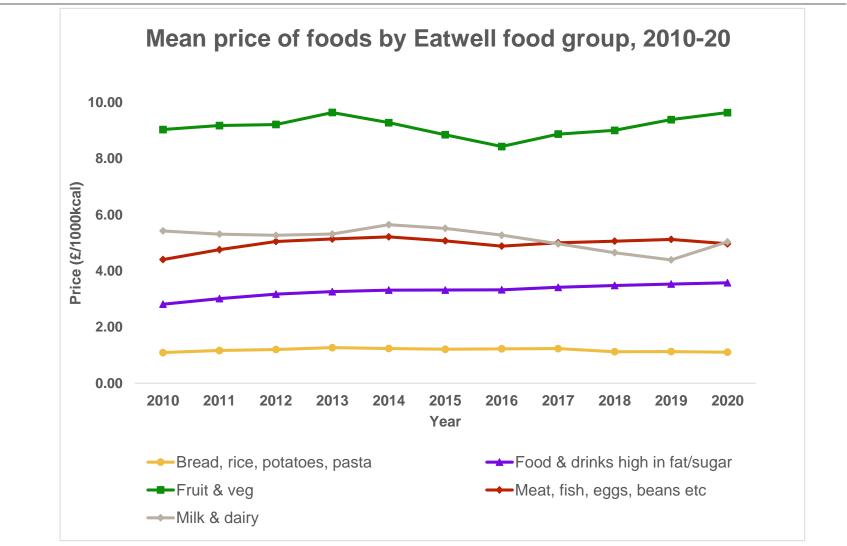
## **Diet & Socio-economic position**



MRC Epidemiology Unit

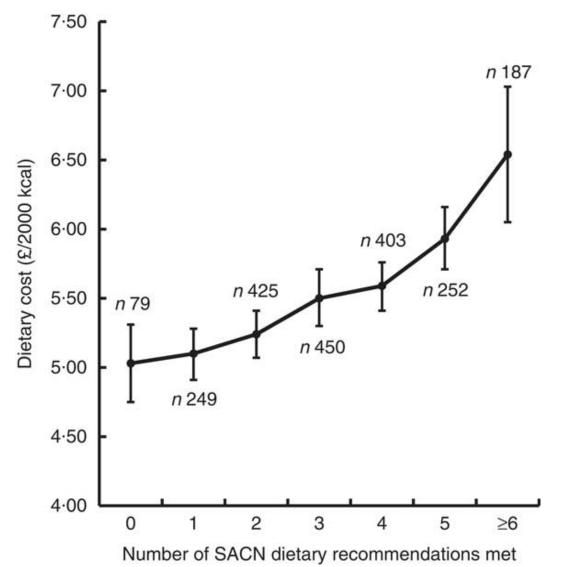
Maguire & Monsivais (2015) Br J Nutrition

#### Healthier foods are more expensive in the UK



#### Analysis by Kate Ellis for The Food Foundation (2020)

#### Healthier diets are more expensive in the UK



**Fig. 2** Mean diet cost (with 95 % CI) for diets in relation to the number of UK dietary recommendations met adjusted for age, sex and occupational social class. Dietary data from 2045 adults participating in Years 1–4 of the UK National Diet and Nutrition Survey Rolling Programme, 2008–2012 (1 kcal=4.184 kJ)

Jones et al (2018) Public Health Nutr

509 + 1501. Carpors Sep/19) 10p -Sp. 200g spagheth (20p/500g SB) ISP 300g ONON LSOP/kg S.GS 1255 mushooms (54p/250g A) 10057 Korspring grans (52050) 1 Mg Sty sauce Estip/150ml + - El 1 C - 29/568 ml 20. SHIP OIL garlic - NE 500gcher Mughs (EL-68/Kg T.F) { 6-8. Sausages - 30p - 40p Ex 40gbaked beans (25p/400g SB) - SOP. 1×400/kidney bons (3800/4009 - A/1 30 SOOg passara (32p/500g ASTT-GH) (32P Isq.d. Chocolate "Sea Biop/100g - A) (SP 2 Hop turn (EI. 15/100g EECT) 2 Hosp paen Ka - (El-15/100 Eler) 50 2009. leeks (E1.20/kg A) 5005 rice (4Sellikg S.B) - 23

# A GIRL CALLED JACK

100 DELICIOUS BUDGET RECIPES

JACK MONROE

# Household food insecurity in the UK

In the past 12 months:

- You and other household members worried that food would run out before you got money to buy more
- The food that you and other household members bought just didn't last, and there wasn't any money to get more.
- You & other household members couldn't afford to eat balanced meals.

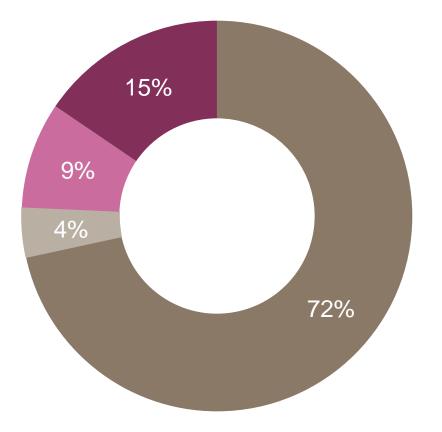
If often or sometimes true for any, continue to: In the last 12 months:

- did you or other adults in your household ever reduce the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?
- did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money for food?
- did you lose weight because there wasn't enough money for food?

If yes to any, continue to: In the last 12 months:

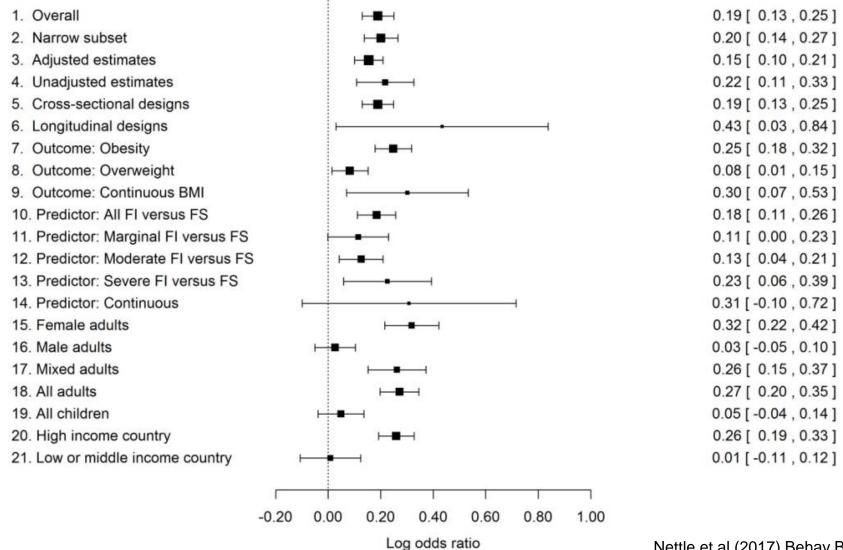
 did you or other adults in your household ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food?

# Food insecurity in the UK adults, aged 18-65y



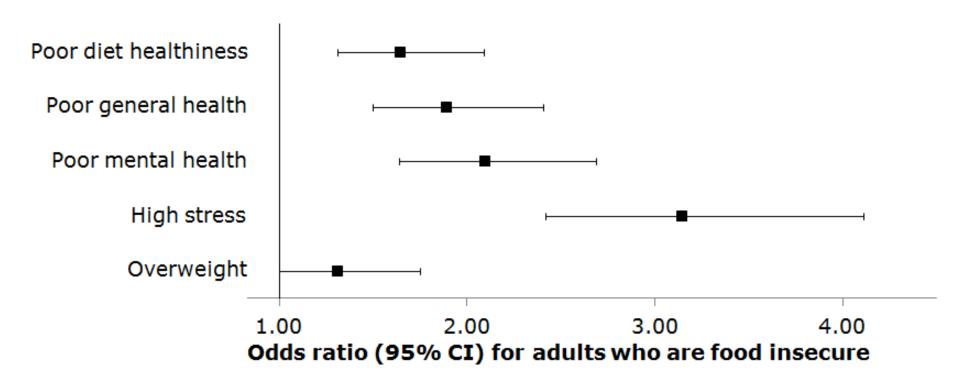
- High food security (0)
- Marginal food security (1-2)
- Low food security (3-5)
- Very low food security (6-10)

### Food insecurity and excess body weight



Nettle et al (2017) Behav Brain Sci

# Food insecurity is not a healthful experience

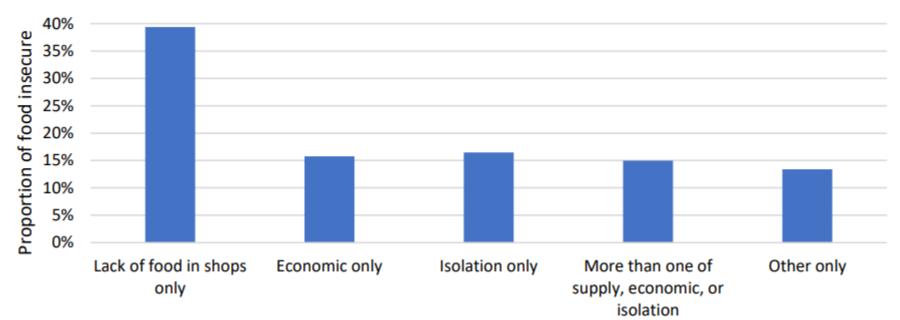


Yau et al (2020) Public Health Nutr

## **Recent Covid-related developments**

- 7-9 April 2020: 16% reported food insecurity in last 3 weeks
  - cf 8% in last 12 months from F&Y survey (assume ~4% in last month)

Figure 1 Proportion of adults experiencing food insecurity arising from a lack of food in shops alone or for other reasons.



# What should we do about FI in the UK?

- Emergency relief
  - Food banks and other food charity
- Increase lowest incomes
  - Abolish 5 week wait for Universal Credit
  - Increase minimum wage
  - National minimum income
- Reduce cost of food; and relative difference in cost of healthier vs less healthy food
  - Taxes and subsidies targeted at consumers, retailers, producers