

# Racial Inequalities and Food Insecurity

Ella Grady

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01

# The Argument





How do race and ethnicity contribute to disparities  
in food insecurity rates? What are the underlying  
social, economic, and systemic factors influencing  
these disparities?

## The Research Question





*Town of New Castle Colorado.*

# The Thesis

Food insecurity and its prevalence in minority communities is a symptom of the socio-political marginalization of minority groups in the US through a history of racial oppression and underlying racial biases. Current strategies for fighting food insecurity work as a band-aid solution, but further work should be focused on addressing the systemic roots of food insecurity.

02

# The Importance



# Identifying Racism in the Drivers of Food Insecurity



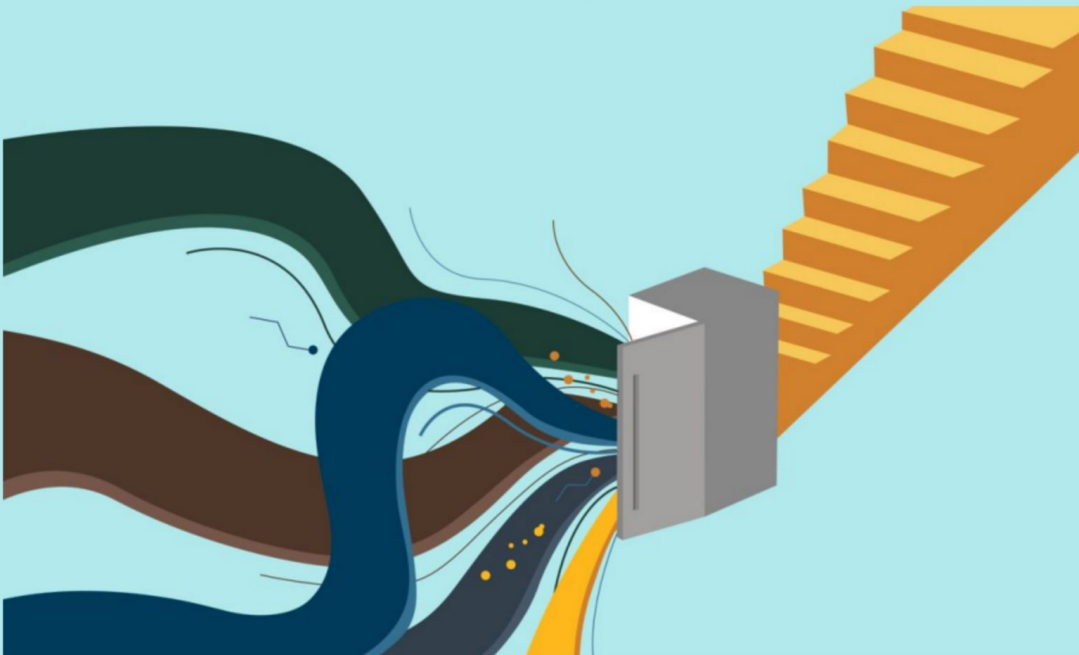
## Introduction

*Food insecurity exists in every county in the United States - as does systemic racism in its root causes.*

Individuals experience food insecurity within the context of their community and broader environment. Associations between household characteristics and increased risk of food insecurity often reflect underlying inequalities, such as longstanding economic and social disadvantage resulting from systemic racism.

Food insecurity is an economic condition, meaning it is driven primarily by lack of money and other critical resources. This tool outlines five drivers that have been directly linked to food insecurity.

**Click on one of the variables below to learn more.**



### NAVIGATE ELSEWHERE:

<b>Food Insecurity</b> (NEW)
<b>Disability</b>
<b>Homeownership</b>
<b>Median Income</b>
<b>Poverty</b>
<b>Unemployment</b>
About Data & Credits

National Food Insecurity Rates by Race or Ethnicity (2021)		Disability	Homeownership	Median Income	Poverty	Unemployment
Asian	6%	7%	61%	\$98,367	10%	5%
Black	20%	14%	43%	\$46,401	22%	9%
Latino	17%	9%	49%	\$58,791	18%	6%
Native American	20%	16%	55%	\$50,183	23%	9%
Pacific Islander	17%	12%	42%	\$71,029	17%	7%
White, non-Hispanic	7%	14%	73%	\$75,208	9%	5%



03

# The Evidence





# African Americans



Neighborhood segregation  
/ homeownership

(Zenk et al., 663)

Discrimination

(Burke et al., 283)

Disparities in income /  
economic resources

(Nam et al., 223)  
(Burke et al., 277)

Supermarket accessibility  
/ food deserts

(Walker, Keane, & Burke, 881)



# Hispanics



## Limited Financial Resources

(Nam et al., 223)  
(Quandt et al., 2)

## Inaccessibility of Assistance

(Kasper et al., 1632)

## Nativity Status

(Nam et al., 215)



# Indigenous Peoples



## Reservation Residency

(Gundersen, 209)

## Welfare Assistance

(Jernigan et al., 5)

## Financial Resources

(Gundersen, 212)



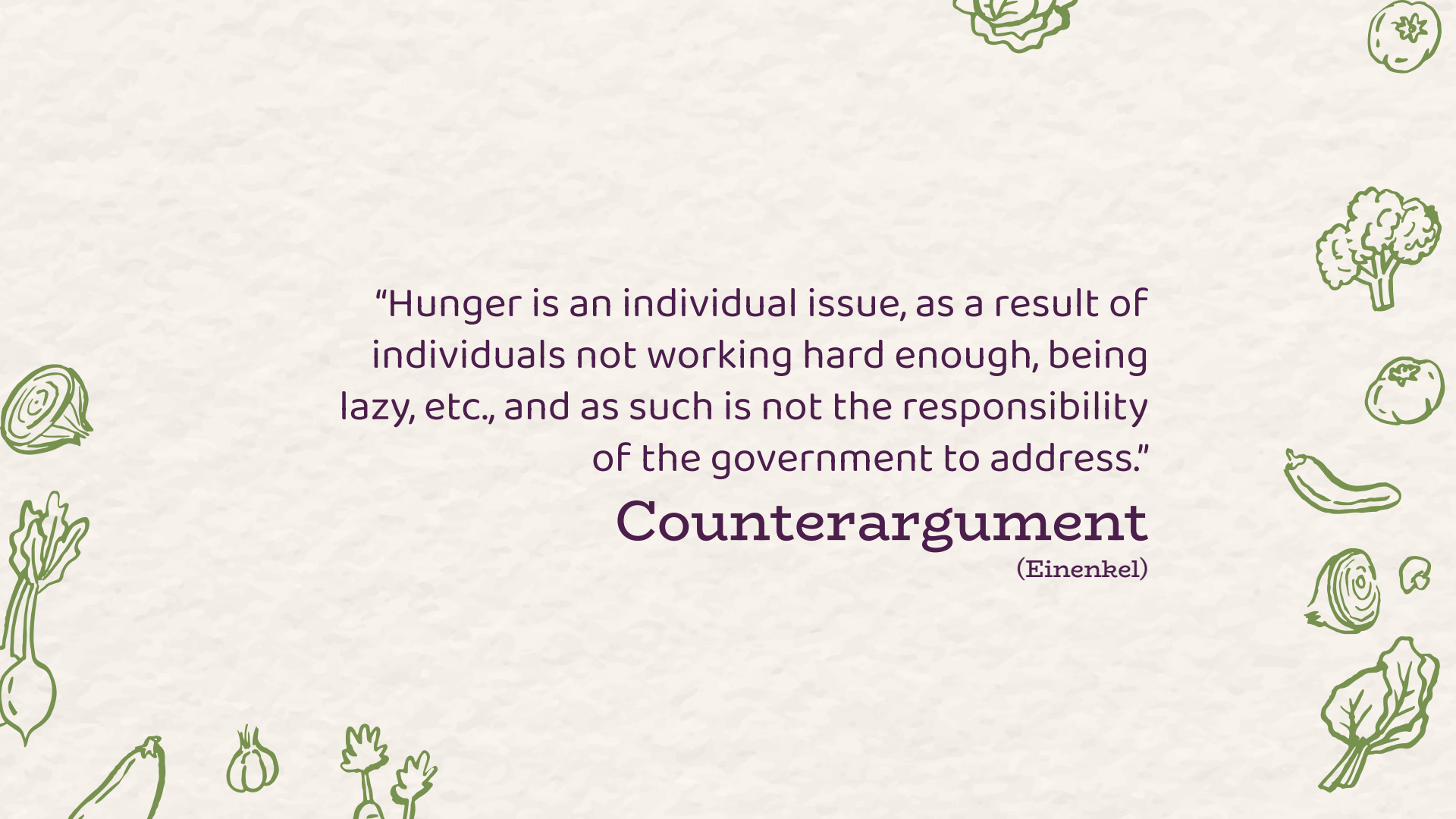


Leta, V Mashable

# General Factors

- Urban vs Rural (Hake et al., 9)
- Limitations of Government Programs (Nam et al., 210)
- Cyclical Impact on Children (Potorti, 46)





"Hunger is an individual issue, as a result of individuals not working hard enough, being lazy, etc., and as such is not the responsibility of the government to address."

## Counterargument

(Einenkel)

# Policy Recommendations

Transportation  
improvements

Education &  
job training

Equitable  
economic policies

Anti-discrimination  
legislation

Addressing racial gerrymandering  
& neighborhood segregation

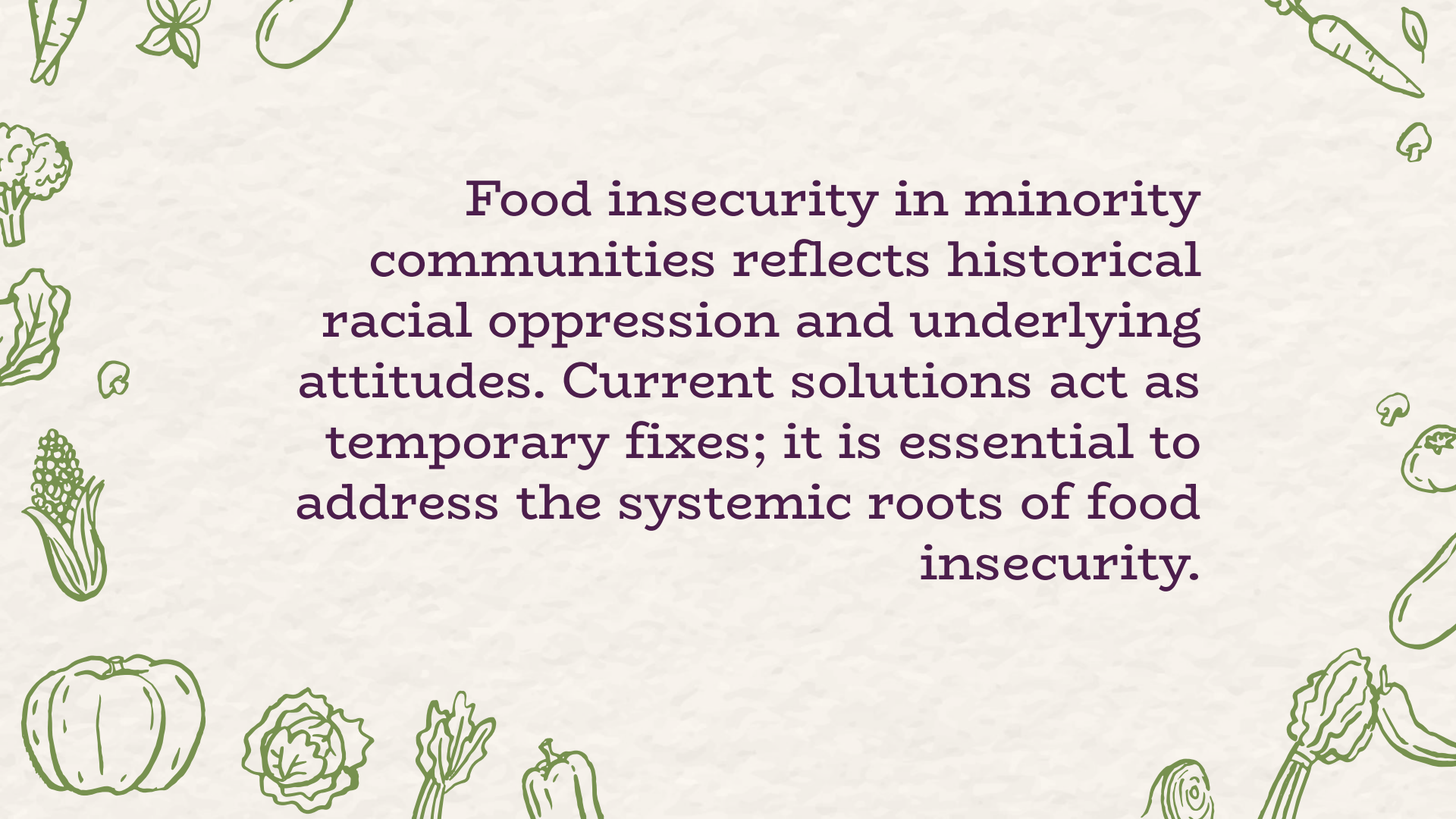




04

# The Conclusion





Food insecurity in minority communities reflects historical racial oppression and underlying attitudes. Current solutions act as temporary fixes; it is essential to address the systemic roots of food insecurity.



# Limitations



Complexity / intersection  
of factors

Data availability /  
quality

Inconsistencies in  
measurement / definitions

Policy variability /  
external factors





# Further Considerations

Environmental  
Justice

Mental Health  
Impacts

Role of the Food  
Industry

Global  
Comparisons





Thank you!  
Questions?





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