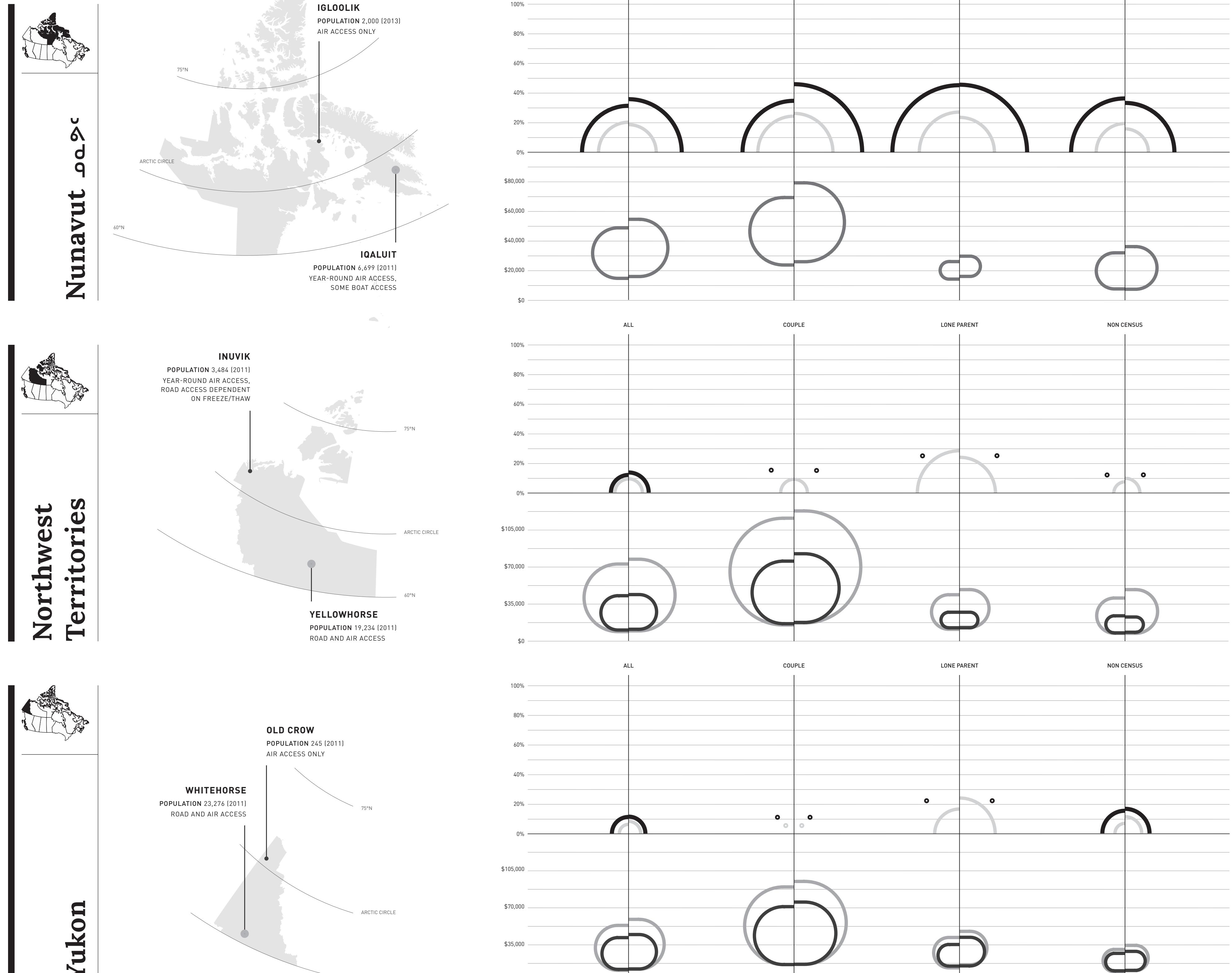
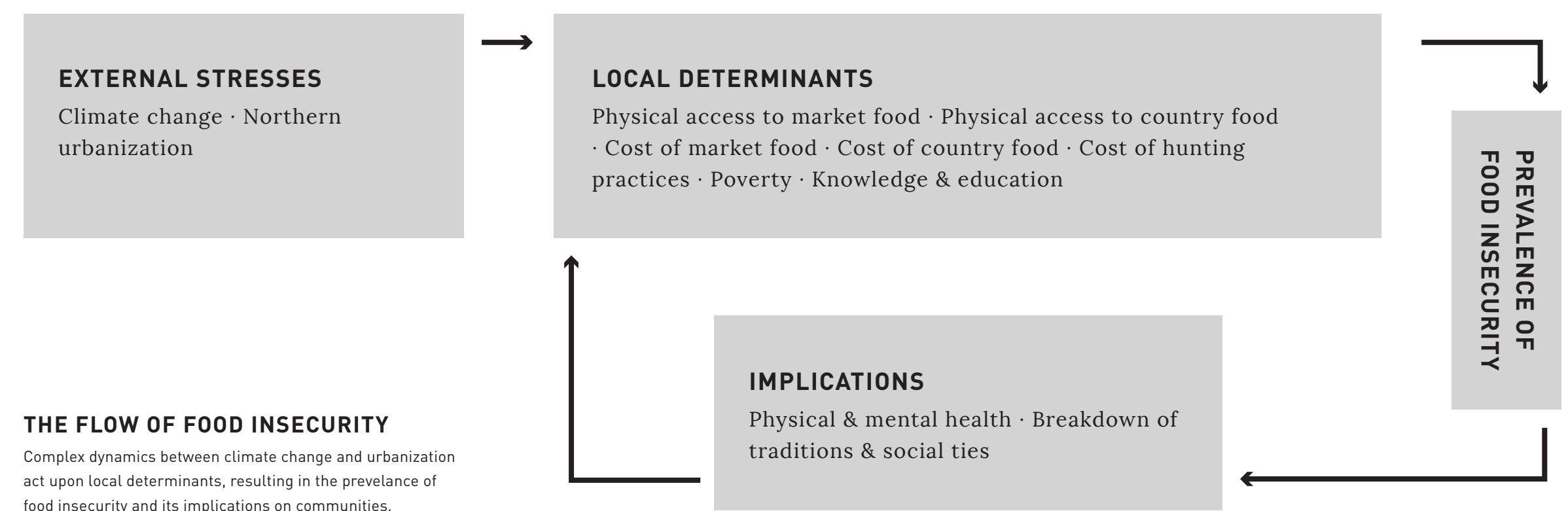


Patterns of vulnerability

Visualizing Northern Canadian food insecurity

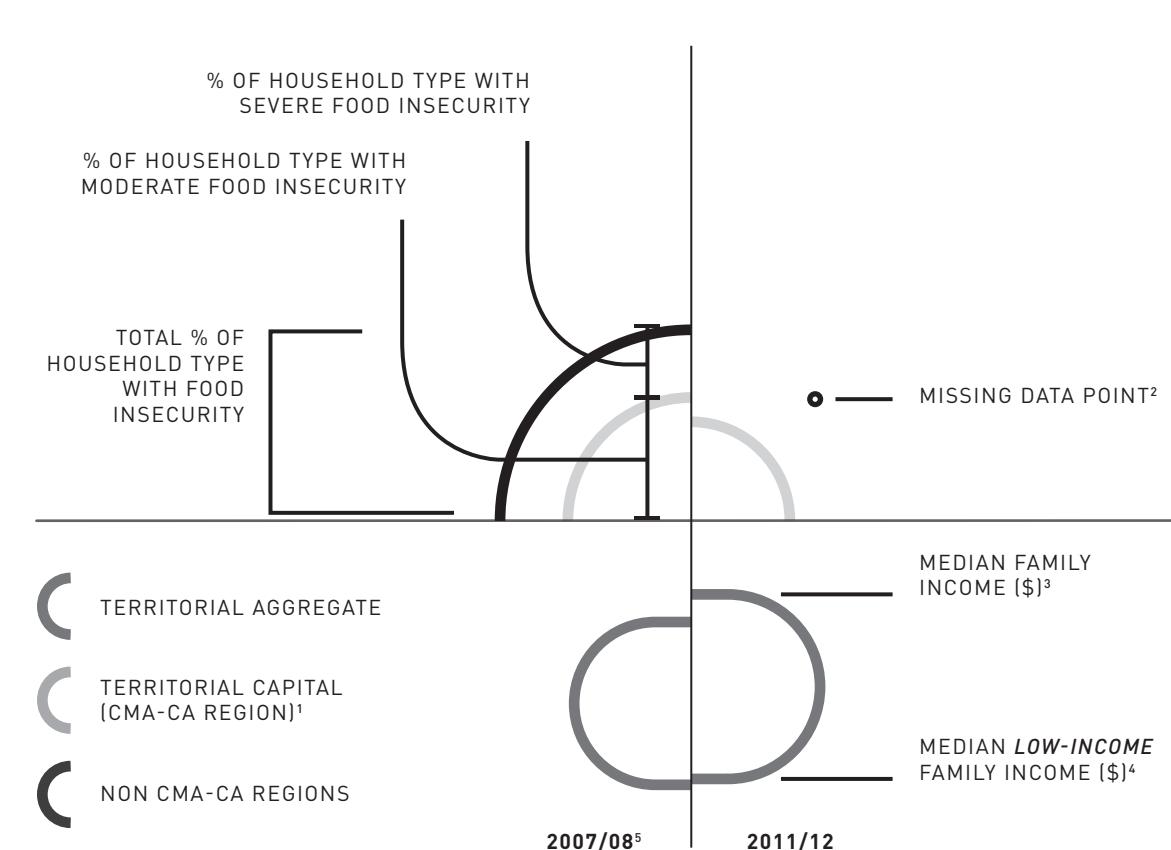
Although Canada has no official measure of poverty, food insecurity is present in households across the country. Food security exists when an entire population, at all times, has the physical and financial means to access adequate food. Food insecurity exists when these conditions are not met. Northern Canada's unique geographic and social landscape make its residents especially vulnerable to food insecurity. Extreme temperatures, low population density, isolated communities, inconsistent access and a higher Aboriginal population set the north apart from Canada's south. This visualization attempts to break down the complexity of food insecurity into an organized narrative, in order to establish a foundational knowledge on which to tackle food insecurity in Northern Canada.



HOW TO READ THIS VISUALIZATION

The division by family type reveals the vulnerability within certain household constructs. The vertical split along each family type shows the change in food insecurity and income between 2007/08 and 2011/12. Rings representing each data point grow, shrink or remain constant across years and between family types. Data was sourced from Statistics Canada CANSIM Tables 105-0545 and 111-0015.

The research and visualization process revealed the inconsistency and lack of granularity within publicly available data related to Northern Canadian food insecurity. Consistent and geographically granular data are essential for up-to-date knowledge of the vulnerabilities to food insecurity within Northern communities.



1
A census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA) is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/99-195-x/2011001/gec/cma-rrf/def-eng.htm>

2
Data with a coefficient of variation (CV) greater than 33.3% were suppressed due to extreme sampling variability and are too unreliable to be published.

3
Family income is the sum of the incomes of all members of the family. Median is the middle number in a group of numbers.

4
Data for low income families are based on the Low Income Measure (LIM). The LIM is a fixed percentage (50%) of adjusted family income where adjusted indicates a correction that family needs increase with family size. A family is considered to be low income when their income is below the LIM for their family type and size.

5
Data sourced from CANSIM Table 105-0545 includes two-year combined data for the periods of 2007/08 and 2011/12. The two-year combined data are less current than annual estimates, but have higher precision (less variability). Income data sourced from Table 111-0015 was adjusted to reflect the two-year period. Income data for the Yukon and Northwest Territories for the 2007/08 period is based off of only 2008 numbers due to availability.