

We Can't Food Bank Our Way Out of Hunger!



Alison M. Cohen

www.whyhunger.org

alison@whyhunger.org



“The right to food is the right of all people to be free from hunger and to have physical and economic access at all times to sufficient, nutritious and culturally acceptable food that is produced and consumed sustainably, preserving access to food for future generations.”

– Smita Narula, legal advisor to UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food (2008-2016)



**FOOD
JUSTICE
IS → → →
RACIAL
JUSTICE**



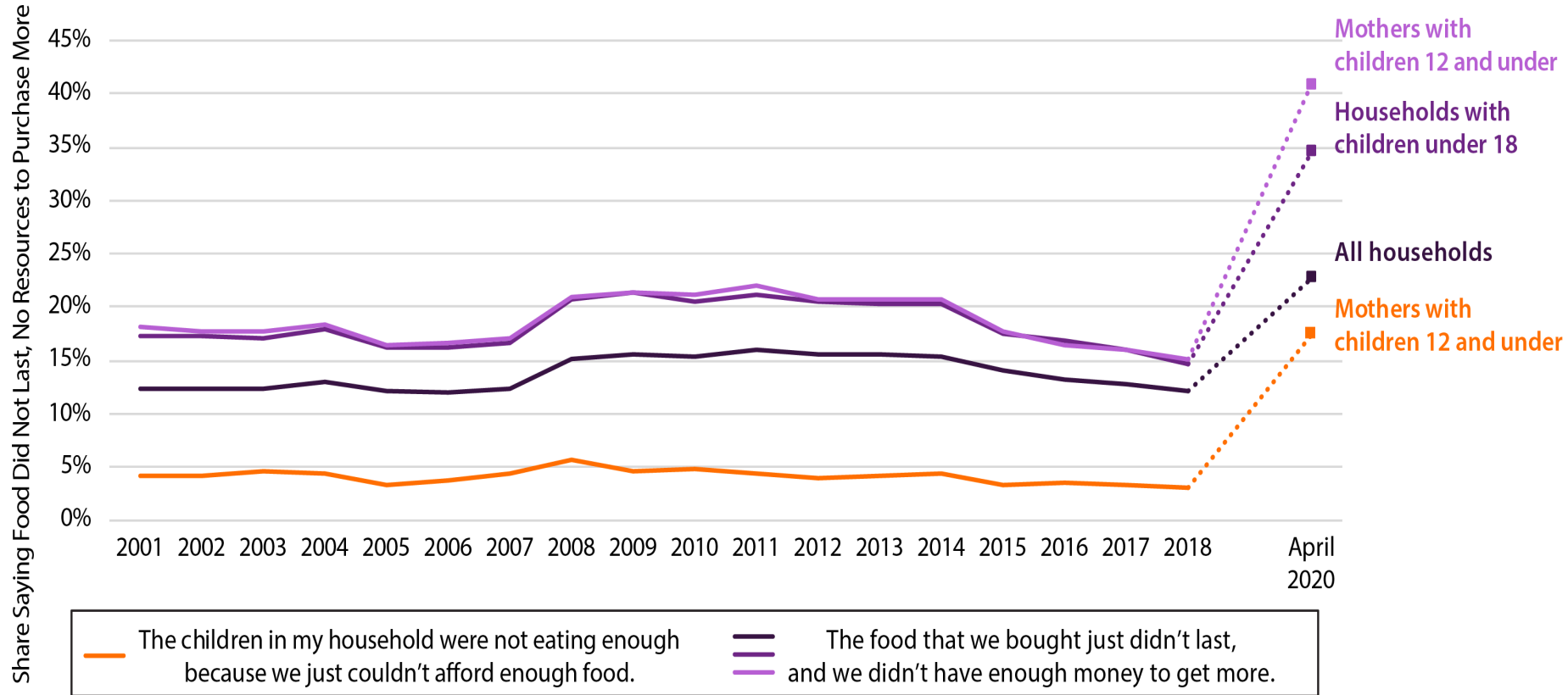


Rights or Charity?

Aid or Self-determination?
Security or Sovereignty?

FIGURE 2.

Food Insecurity in the United States, 2001 to April 2020



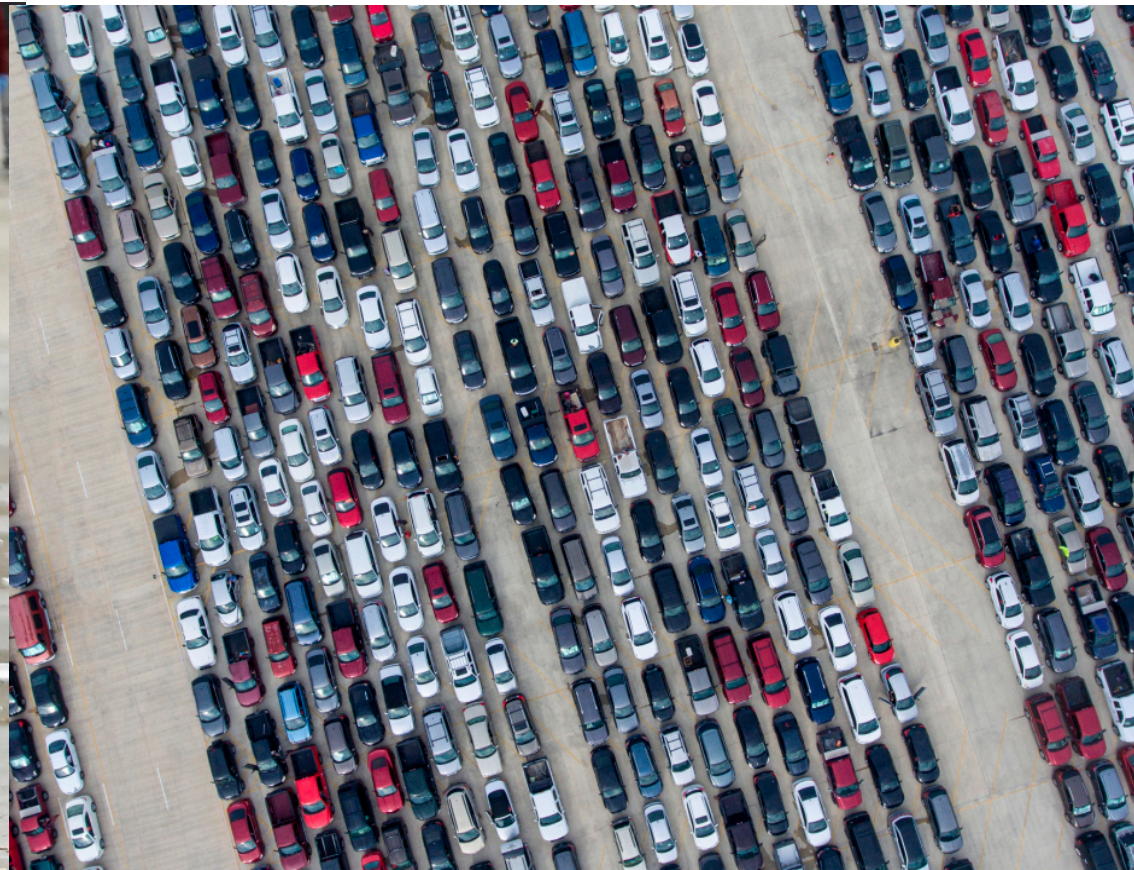
1 out of 3 adults



1 out of 2 children



Recently unemployed
workers lining up for
food in San Francisco



Cars line up at the San Antonio
Food Bank waiting to receive free
food. 10,000 people received food
on this day.



Deepening Fault Lines



shakara tyler
Board Chair
Detroit Black Community
Food Security Coalition



Joshua Lohnes
Food Policy
Research Director
Food Justice Lab
West Virginia University



Robert Ojeda
Community Food
Bank of Southern
Arizona

Philanthropy must go beyond charity to fund transformational food system change

*Commit to organizations in a spirit of **slow philanthropy** with the understanding that food system transformation is a **long-term commitment** to social change.*

*Commit to projects and policy that **shorten food bank lines** through emphasizing the **realization of the right to food**, income security and investing in community wealth building projects.*

*Commit to **grassroots organizations** working to address the root causes of food system inequity, especially projects led by people from **BIPOC communities**, that abide by democratic decision making, and that prioritize **agroecology and climate justice**, and the equitable redistribution of wealth.*

*Commit to **strengthening networks** that contribute to the **resilience of regional food systems**, and those that build power from the bottom up to reshape food policies that **serve people over profit**.*

*Commit to funding organizations that involve **experts-by-experience in decision making** and governance structures.*