

Background on Food Insecurity and Food Access

Kathryn Janda – UTHealth School of Public Health





“A limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways”

Food Insecurity and Demographics in Austin



- **Prevalence of Food Insecurity Before COVID-19 Pandemic**
 - 11.8% of American households were food insecure in 2017
 - 14% of families in Texas identified as food insecure from 2015-2017
 - Over 15% of families in Austin experienced food insecurity in 2016
- **Various Health Conditions are Associated with Food Insecurity**
- **Austin/Travis County is a Diverse Area**
 - 48.3% White
 - 34.3% Hispanic/LatinX
 - 7.8% Black
 - 7.3% Asian

Food Insecurity and Food Access



Availability

Access

- Geographic Food Access
- Economic Food Access

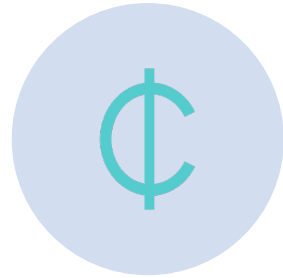
Utilization

Stability Over Time

Food Insecurity and Food Access Disparities



RACE/ETHNICITY



INCOME



URBAN/RURAL
STATUS



EMPLOYMENT



TRANSPORTATION

What about during COVID-19?



LIVE

CENTRAL TEXAS FOOD BANK DISTRIBUTION

HAPPENING NOW AT LBJ EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

Food Insecurity Data During COVID-19



- Federal unemployment rate was up to 14.7% in April 2020
- 17.1 million more Americans could become food insecure due to COVID-19
- From January to May 2020, there are 600,000 more Texans on SNAP
 - 20,000 more Travis County Residents are on SNAP

City of Austin – Food Access Response to COVID-19

SAM NIGHT, FOOD POLICY PLANNER

CITY OF AUSTIN



OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY

CITY OF AUSTIN

Background

- In partnership with Austin Public Health, city's Food Policy Manager (Edwin Marty) and Office of Sustainability Food Team to manage the city's food access response
- Emergency Operations Center – Social Services Branch
- Food Access Coordination group → Food Access Task Force
- Primary functions:
 - Coordination
 - Communications
 - Funding and Policy
- First priority (March 2020) – set up systems and lines of communication

Food Access and Emergency Food

- Existing barriers to food access exacerbated by pandemic response
- Identify and meet immediate needs → plan ahead for ongoing needs
- Examples:
 - Food distribution to populations experiencing homelessness (EAT Initiative)
 - PPE for organizations
 - Direct distribution to individuals (grocery boxes/prepared meals)
 - Food recovery
- Continue tracking emerging food access needs:
 - Caregiver meals at schools
 - WIC shopping pilot program

Communications

- Interagency Task Force communications
- EOC reporting structure
- United Way/2-1-1 + ConnectATX
 - Map of food resources
- Facilitate connections between organizations



Food Access/Food Distribution Models

- Keep Austin Together
- Neighborhood Pop-Up Grocery Model
- Good Apple



Policy and Funding

- State and federal policy tracking
 - Federal relief legislation
 - Changes to SNAP and other nutrition programs
 - P-EBT outreach
- Local funding – OOS, APH, Travis County HHS, All Together ATX
- Brief Council members, EOC Social Services Branch, City Management on critical food access needs, funding needs

Data Collection Project with UT-SPH



Anecdotal evidence/understanding of increases in food access needs



Purpose: Identify high-need populations (geographic areas, populations, specific barriers, etc.)



Planning currently informed by existing data and organizations participating in Food Access Task Force



Expanding network, but need to capture full scope of food access barriers and emerging needs



Conversations with UT-SPH and with Dell Med



Goal: Identify highest-need populations to inform resource allocation and ongoing food access planning

What's next?

- Planning for next steps
 - Extension of emergency feeding programs/funding
 - How long will the “official” pandemic response last?
- Food Policy Board recommendation
- Incorporate UT findings into policy and planning work
- Regional Food Systems Collaborative
- Food systems resilience planning

Identifying Areas with Unmet Food Needs Due to COVID-19 with 2-1-1 Call Data

Kathryn Janda, PhD, MPH

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UTHealth School of Public Health – National Cancer Institute Cancer
Control Research Training Program



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Background on Using 2-1-1 Call Data



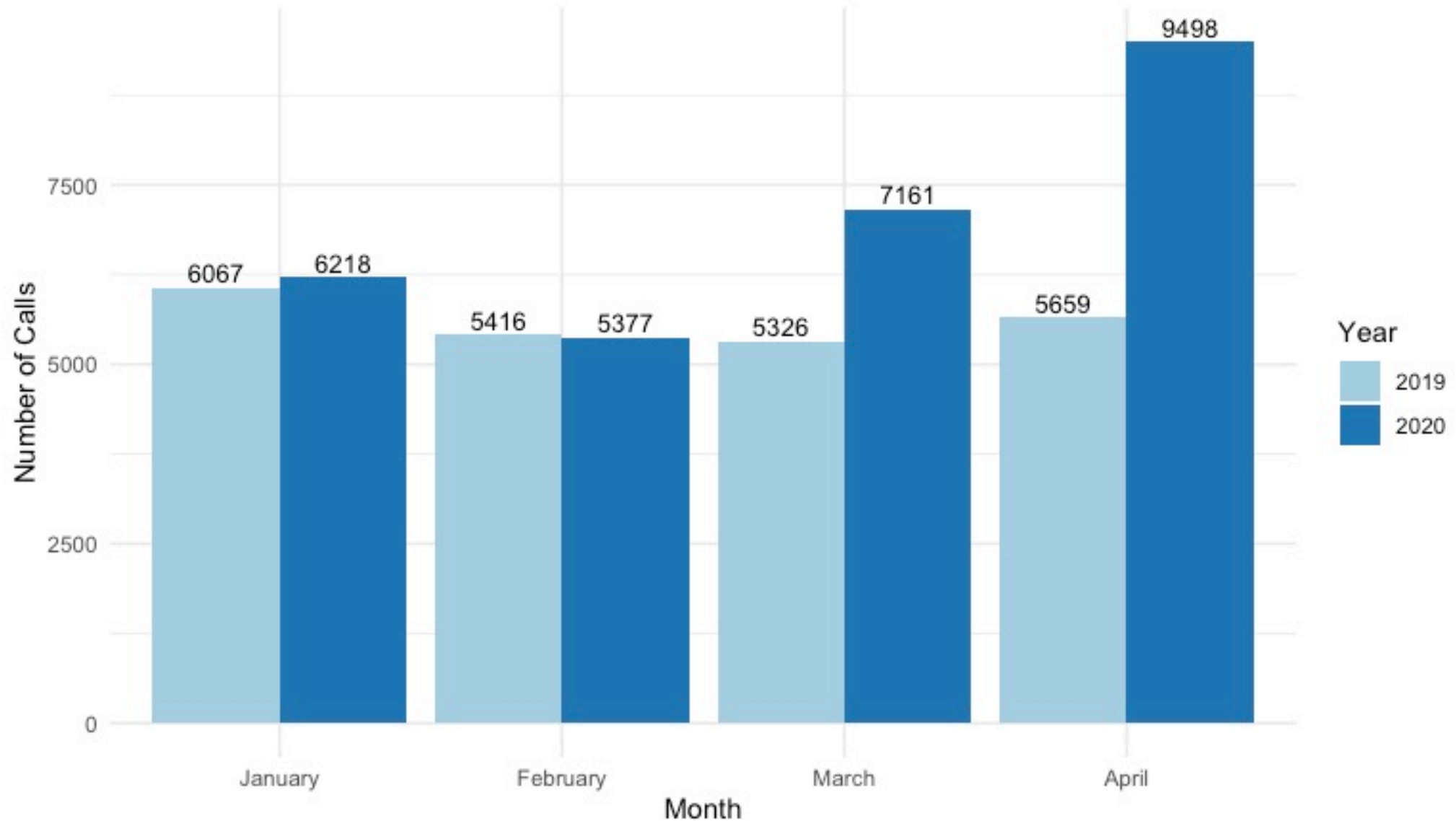
- Collaboration with United Way for Greater Austin and their 2-1-1 Call Navigation Program
- 2-1-1 connects callers to resources in their area
- Previous experience using 2018 2-1-1 call log data to identify areas with food needs and limited geographic food access

Purpose of the Analysis

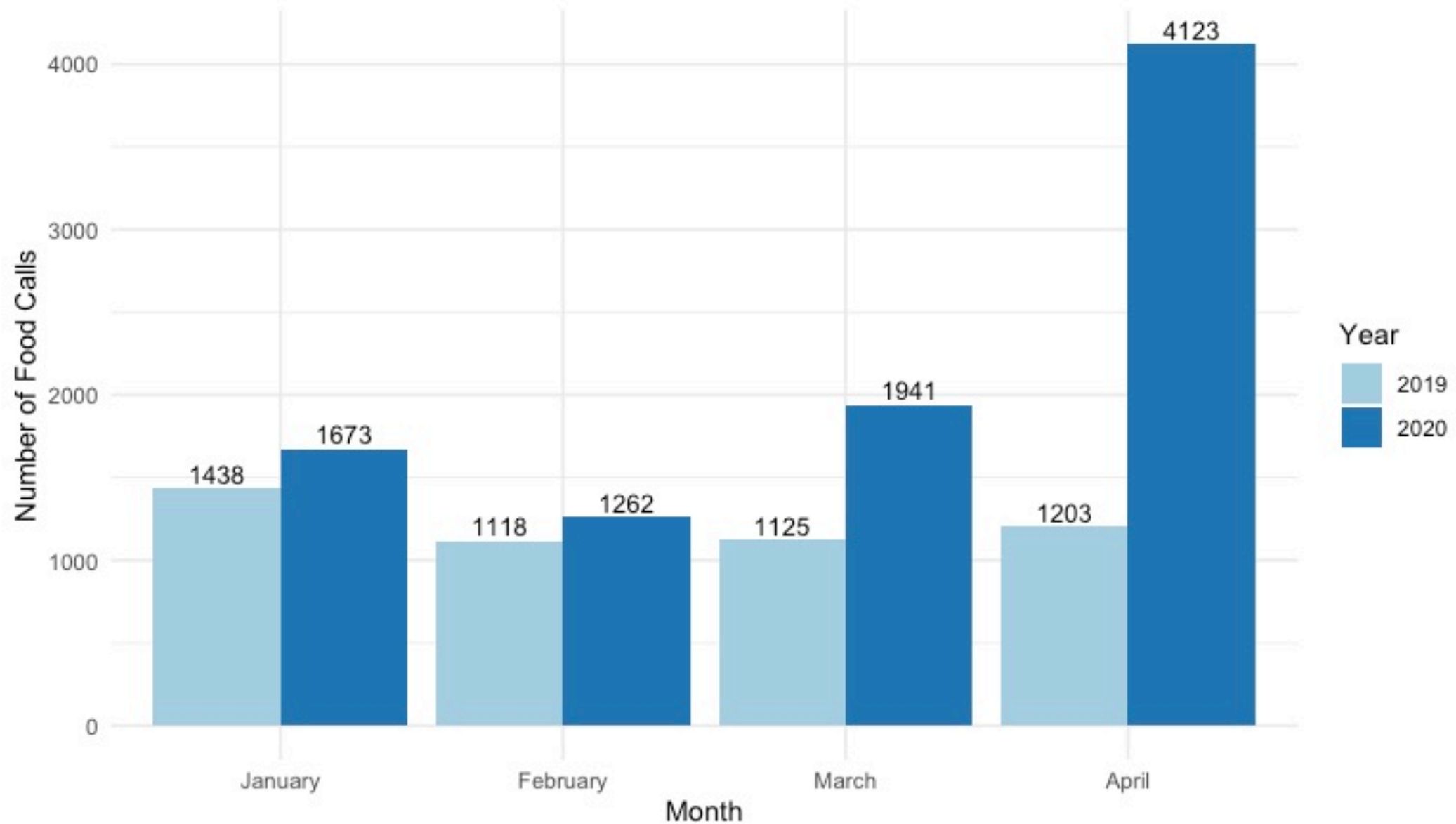


- Purpose of the analysis was to identify areas with unmet food needs due to COVID-19 in Travis County
- Analyze data by:
 - January – April 2020
 - January – April 2019
 - Call Reason
 - Zip Code
 - Food Access Locations during COVID-19

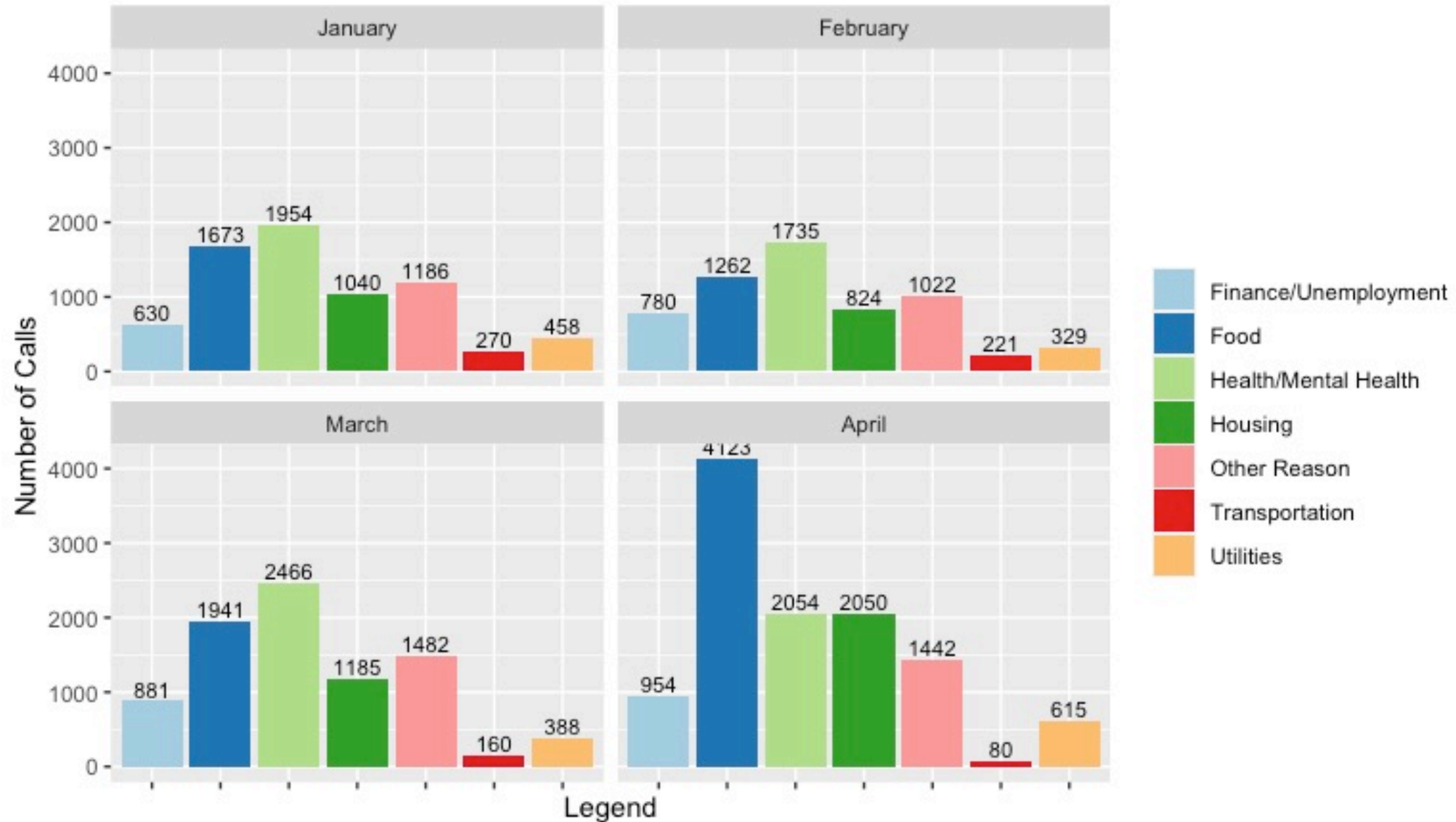
Total Calls to 2-1-1 by Month



Food Calls to 2-1-1 by Month



Categorization of 2-1-1 Calls by Month 2020



Continued Analyses



- Analyze call data by zip code
- Incorporate demographics of callers and zip codes
- Maps will also be presented to the city, identifying zip codes with high food call volume that do not have food access resources
- Continued analysis with May and June data

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Farmshare Austin Covid-19 Response: From Mobile Markets to Curbside Delivery





Dill / Aceite
• Olive / de Oliva \$4.50
• Canola / de Canola \$2.75













METROACCESS





Selected Information: Farmshare Austin Mobile Markets and Curbside Delivery Program

Mobile Markets

- Until mid-March 2020: 12 weekly markets throughout Eastern Travis County, including 2 in Del Valle, and 1 location in Bastrop County
- About 250 customers served weekly in Travis and Bastrop counties
- Average weekly sales: \$2,300
- Average sale/customer: \$9

Curbside Delivery Program

- Beginning end of March 2020: 1 weekly delivery day for North/East Austin, 1 weekly delivery day for South Austin/Del Valle, option for on-farm pickup and pickup site in Bastrop County (through June). Limited delivery zip codes.
- About 120-130 customers now served weekly in Travis and Bastrop counties
- Average weekly sales: \$2,000+
- Average sale/customer: \$15
- Digital divide-how to reach customers without internet? Without smart phones/computers?



Contact Information

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Thank you!

