



Children *and* Family
Research Center

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



Foster Families and Food Assistance: Results from a National Study

APSAC Colloquium

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Food Insecurity and SNAP

- How many children are food insecure?
- Negative child physical, cognitive, and behavioral results
- Responding to food insecurity
 - Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
 - Community food services
 - National School Lunch Programs
 - Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - Reasons for non-participation
- Why child welfare should be interested



Purpose

This presentation will:

1. Estimate the percentage of foster care households, both kinship and non-kinship, eligible for SNAP
2. Estimate rates of nonparticipation among placement types
3. Examine the sociodemographic characteristics associated with nonparticipation



Methods

National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II

- Baseline data: 2008
- N=2128 - Kin and Non-kin households
- Total family income <130% of federal poverty line

Outcome Variables:

Currently receiving food stamps

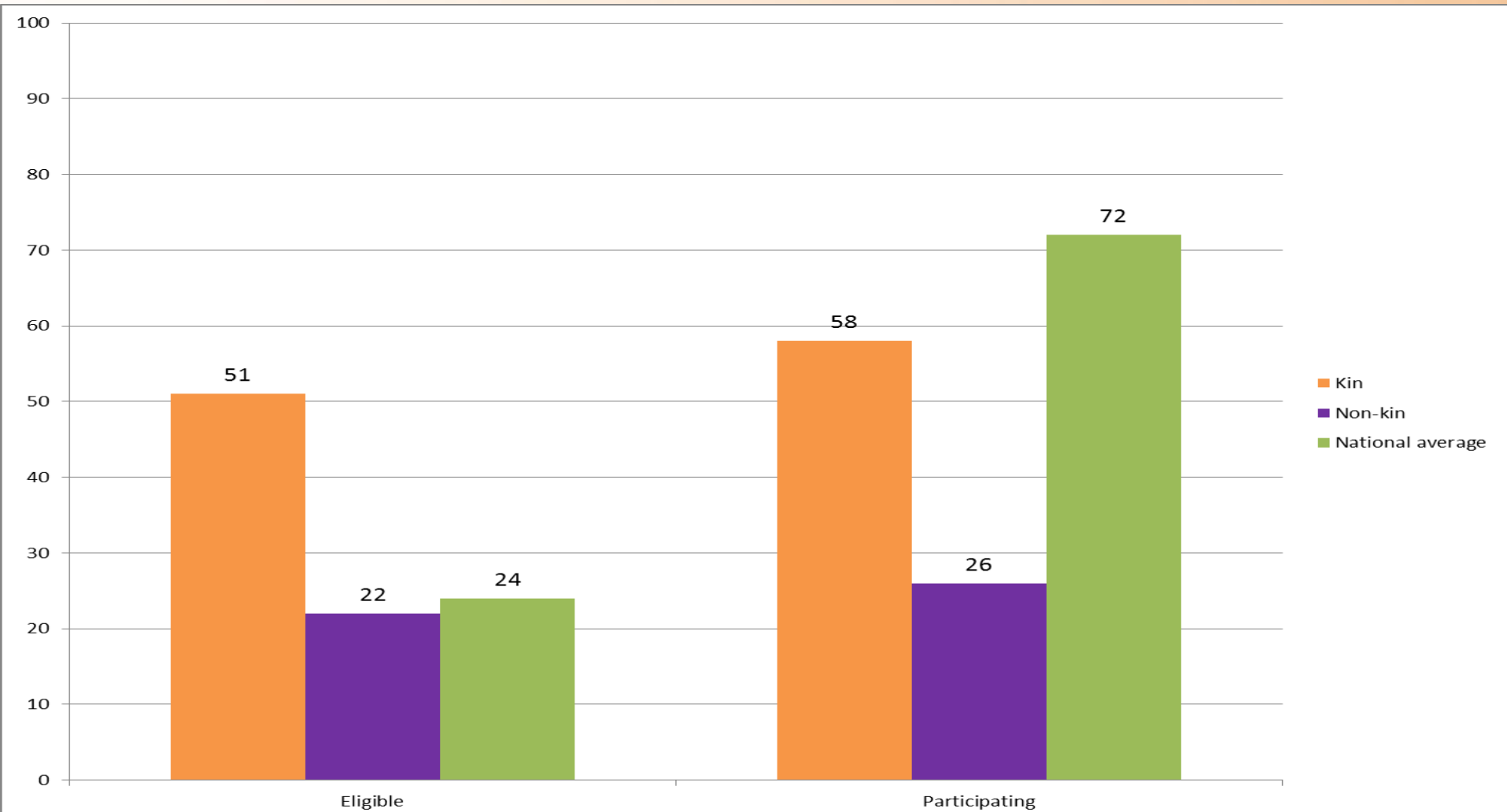
Independent Variables:

Placement type; household size; caregiver race, age, education, employment, marital status, physical health



Results

➤ 71% placed with kin, 29% placed with non-kin





Important differences between placements

	Kin	Non-kin
	< number of household members	
	> age older than 55	
	< education	
	> poor physical health	

Factors contributing to nonparticipation

- Non-kin household (3.3 greater odds)
- *For kinship households only*
 - Good caregiver health
- *For non-kinship households only*
 - Only a few household members
 - Caregiver age over 55
 - Less than a high school education
 - Being married



Conclusion

- ❑ Higher than expected nonparticipation rates
- ❑ Unexpected sociodemographic associations
- ❑ Policy implications
- ❑ Limitations
- ❑ Future research
 - ❑ Food insecurity of foster families
 - ❑ Use of other hunger services



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