



JOHNSON CENTER

AT GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

VoiceKent 2017: Diving Into ENTF-Sponsored Questions

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An Introduction to VoiceKent

Community-wide survey in Kent County

- Convenience sample
- Summer 2017
- ~4,700 respondents

**Administered by the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy's
Community Research Institute at Grand Valley State University**

Previously VoiceGR

- Changed target area from Greater Grand Rapids to Kent County



ENTF-Sponsored Questions

Based on your current income, how well can you afford to meet your basic needs (food, including water; shelter; utilities; and clothing)?

(very well, fairly well, not very well, not at all)

Based on your current income, how well can you afford to meet your basic need of... *(not at all, not very well, fairly well, very well)*

- Food, including water?
- Shelter?
- Utilities?
- Clothing?
- Prescriptions?
- Health care?
- Transportation?

Do you know anyone or any place that could help with basic needs?

(yes, no)



ENTF-Sponsored Questions

I am currently able to buy or receive all the healthy food I need for my family.

(strongly disagree, disagree, not sure, agree, strongly agree)

It is easy to obtain fresh fruits and vegetables within your community or neighborhood.

(strongly disagree, disagree, not sure, agree, strongly agree)

In the past 6 months, how often did you experience the following:

(never, less than monthly, monthly, weekly, daily)

- I worried whether food would run out before I/we got money to buy more
- The food I bought just didn't last, and I/we didn't have money to get more
- Adults in my/our household cut the number of our meals or skipped meals because there wasn't enough money for food
- I was hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food

Which of these statements best describes the food eaten in your household in the last 12 months?

(enough of the kind of food we wanted to eat; enough food, but not always the kind of food we wanted; sometimes not enough food to eat; often not enough food to eat; don't know/can't say)



ENTF-Sponsored Questions

ONLY ASKED TO THOSE WHO SAID THEY HAVE CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18:

My family currently has access to enough fruits and vegetables.

(strongly disagree, disagree, not sure, agree, strongly agree)

My children (under age 18) are able to get enough fruits and vegetables.

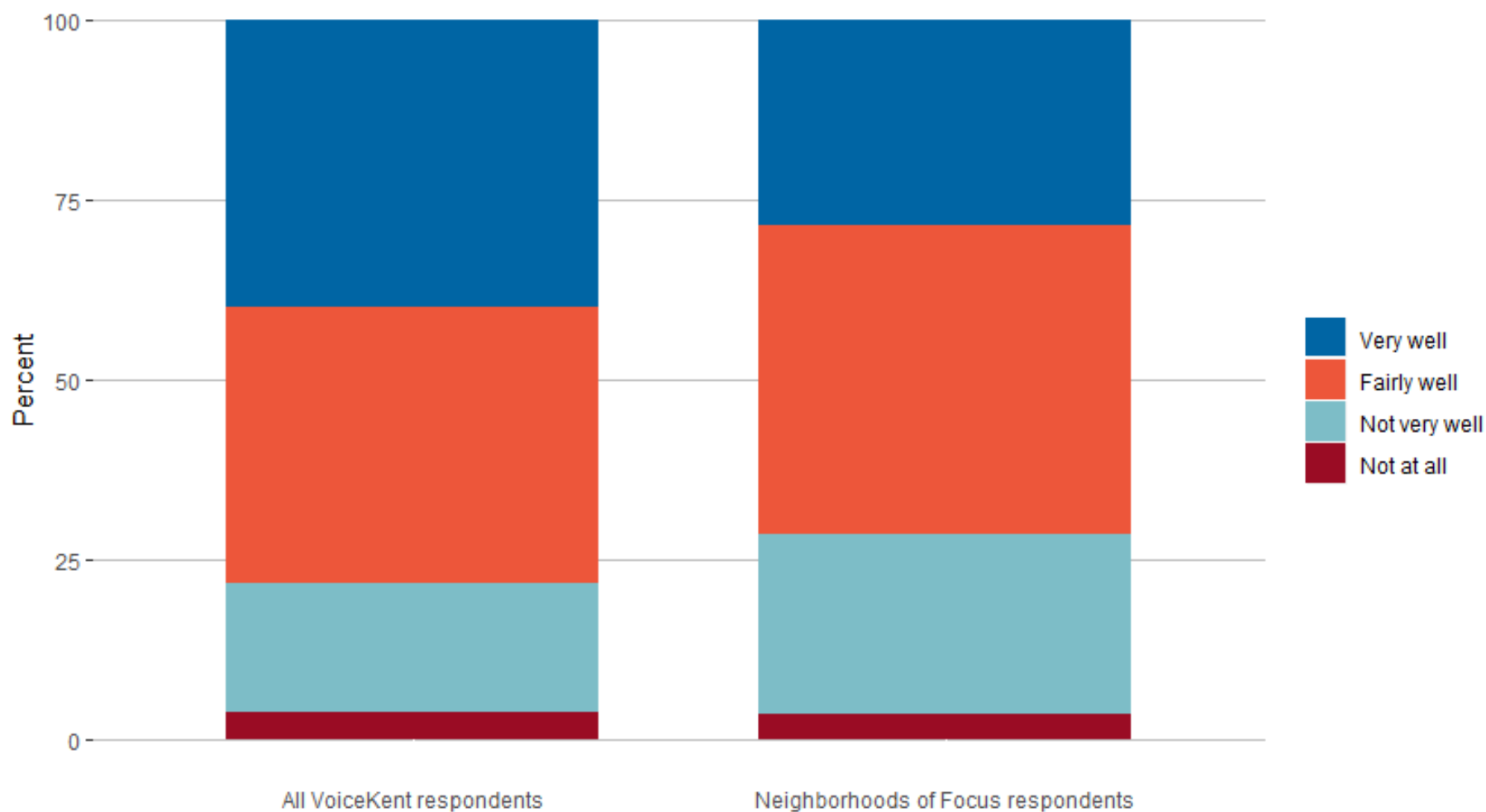
(strongly disagree, disagree, not sure, agree, strongly agree)

In the last 6 months, did any of the children (under age 18) in your household ever skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?

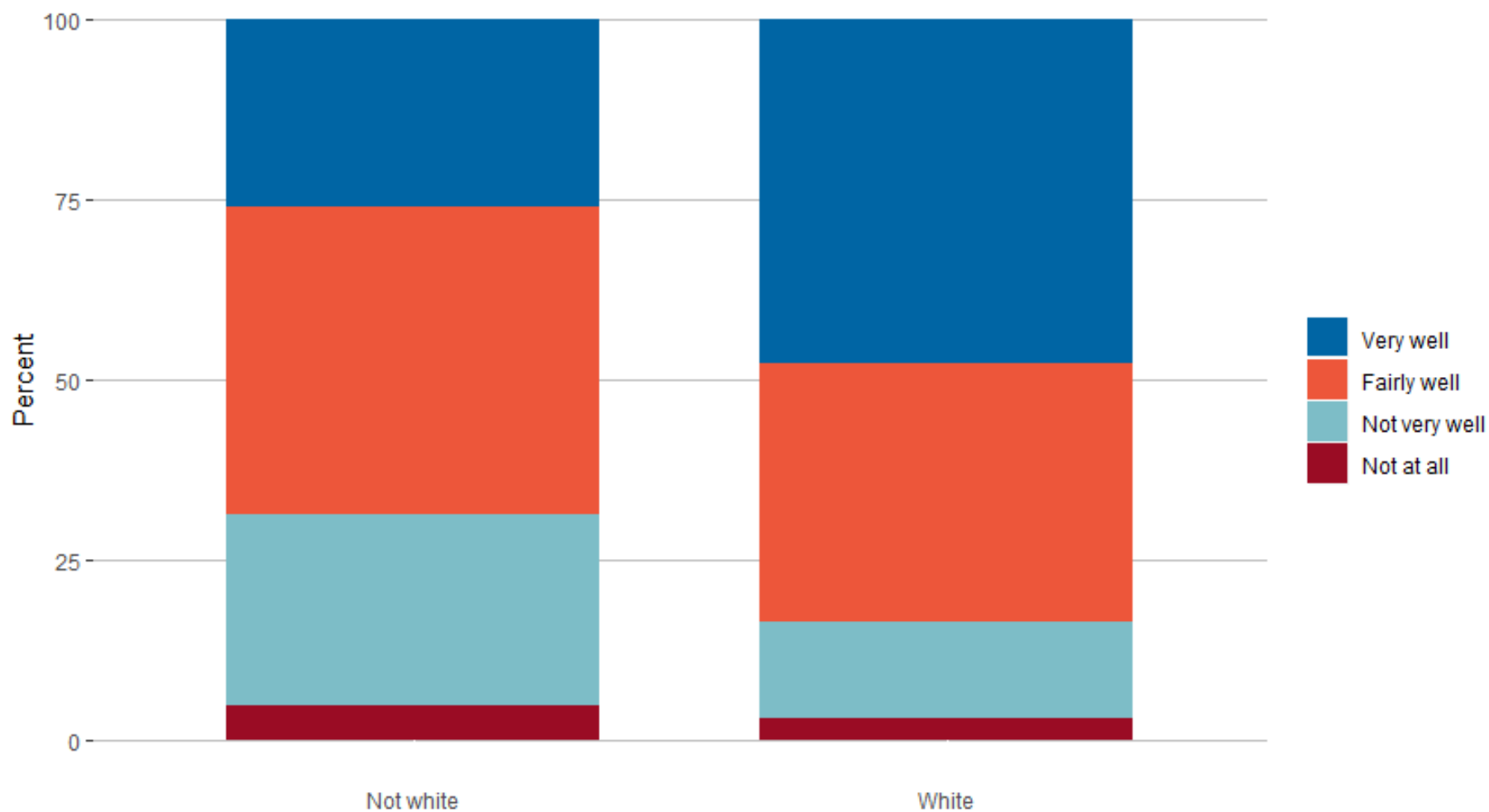
(daily, weekly, monthly, never, does not apply)

Overall Results

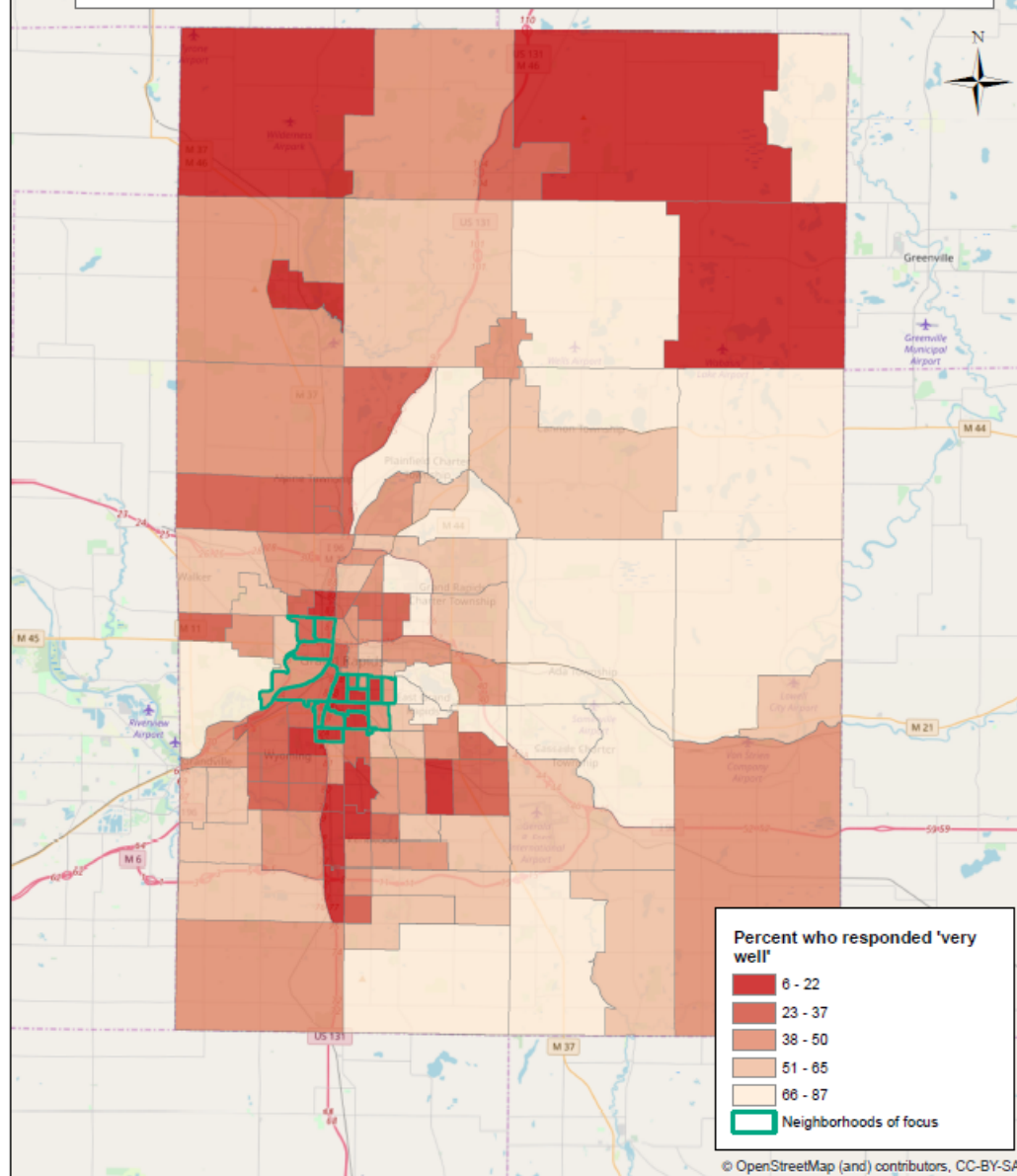
Based on your current income,
how well can you afford to meet your basic needs
(food, including water; shelter; utilities; and clothing)?



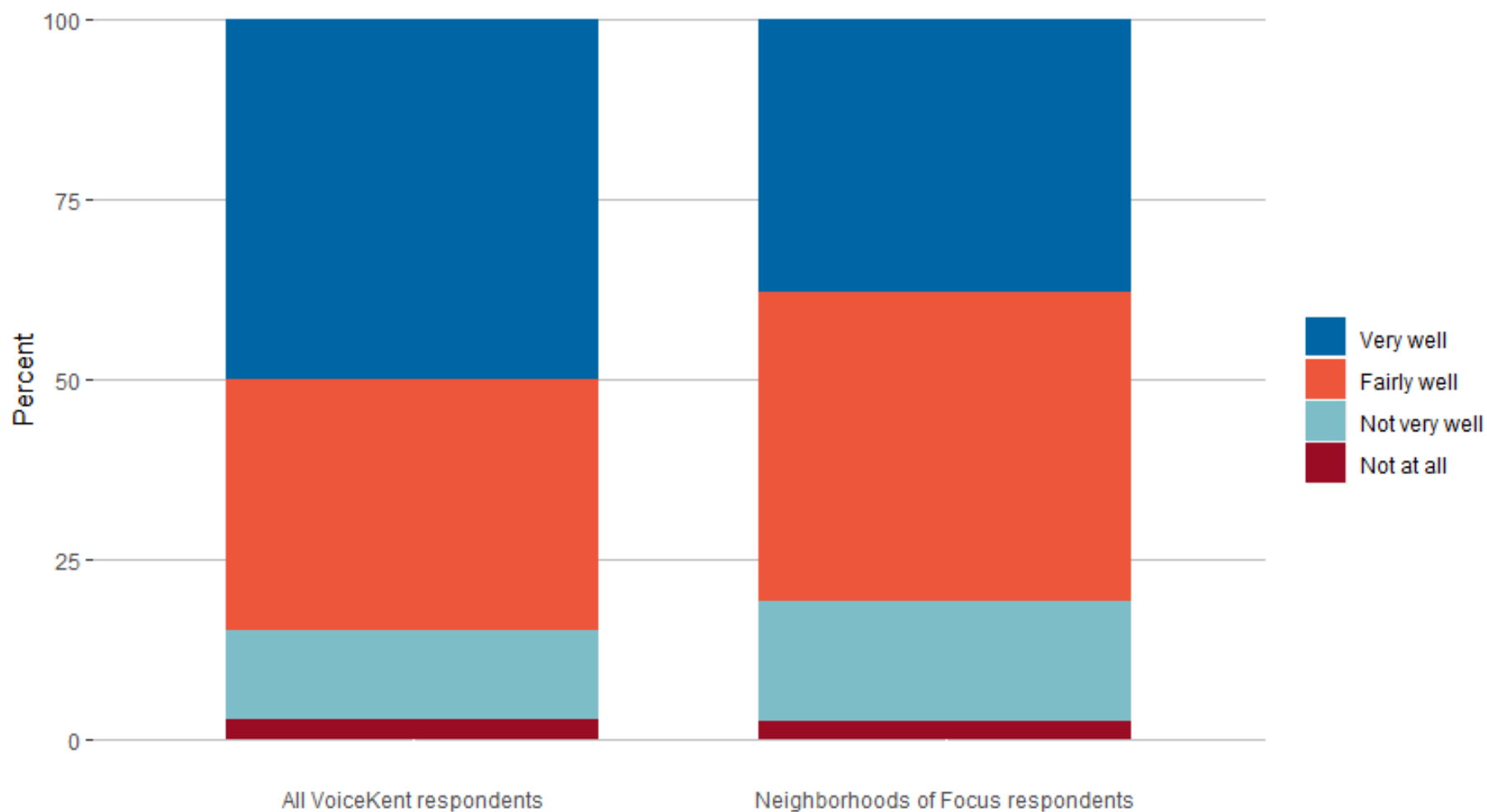
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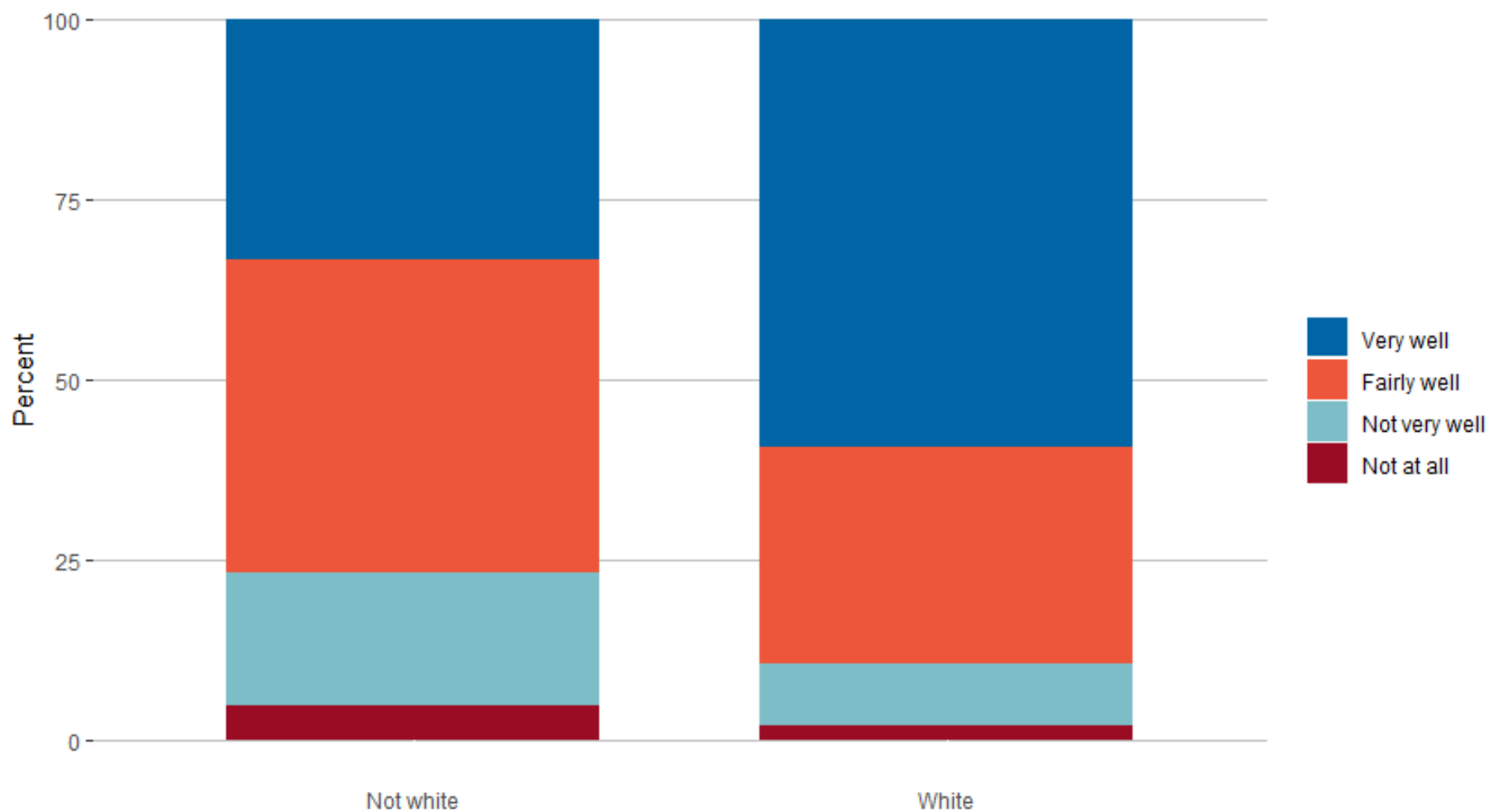
Based on your current income, how well can you afford to meet your basic needs (food, including water; shelter; utilities; and clothing)?



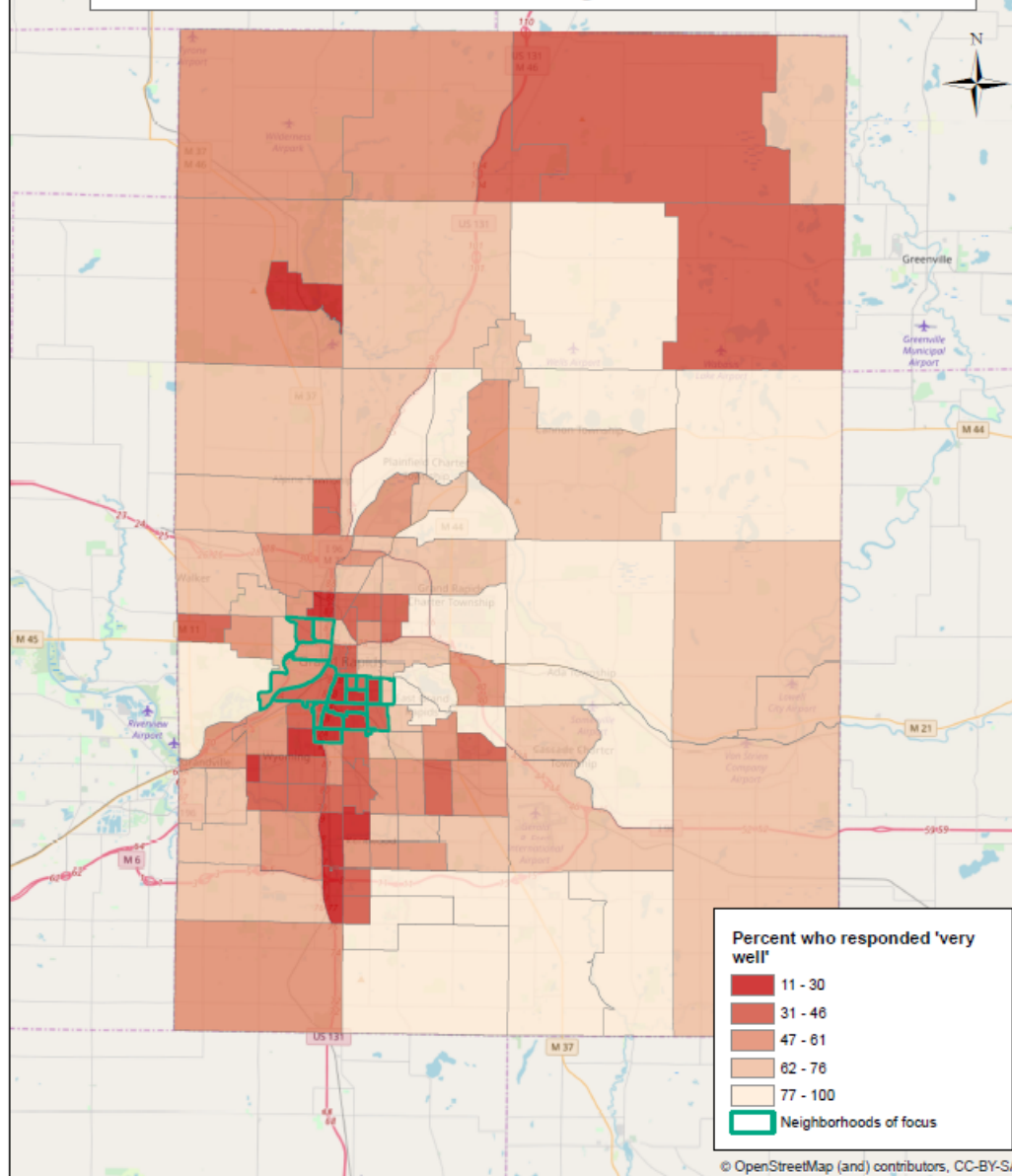
Based on your current income,
how well can you afford to meet the following basic needs:
Food, including water



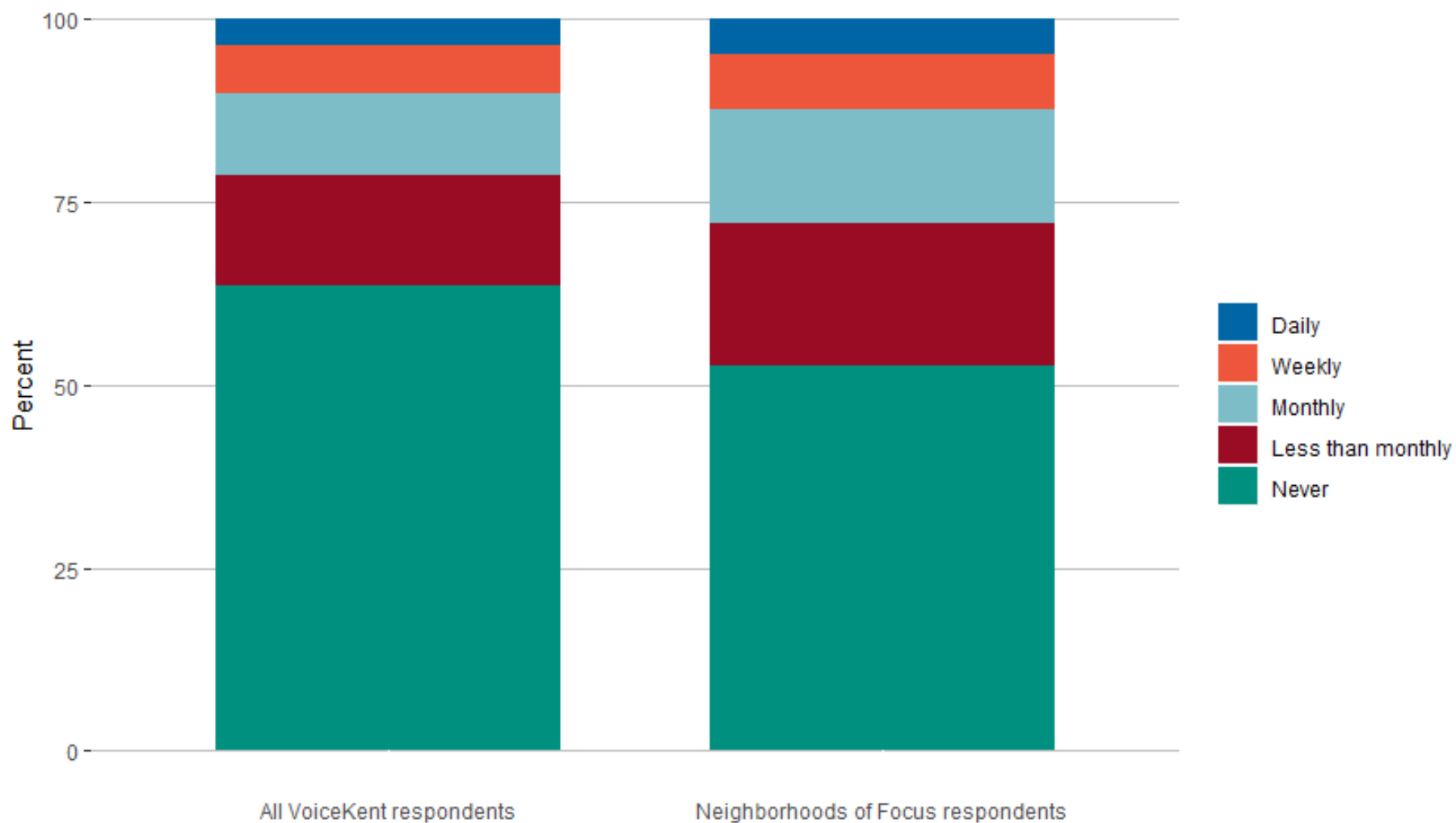
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Food, including water



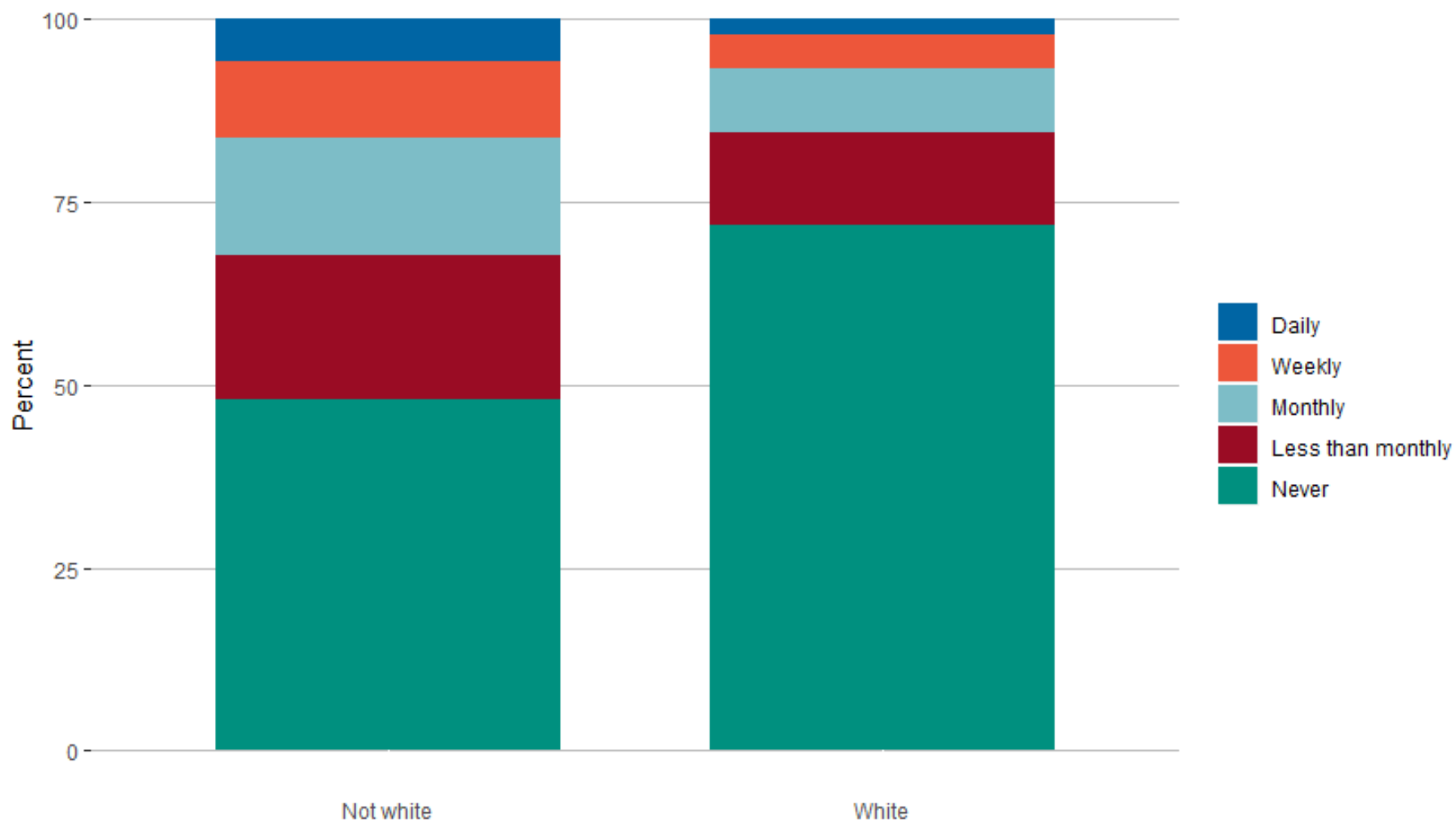
Based on your current income,
how well can you afford to meet your basic need of...
Food, including water?



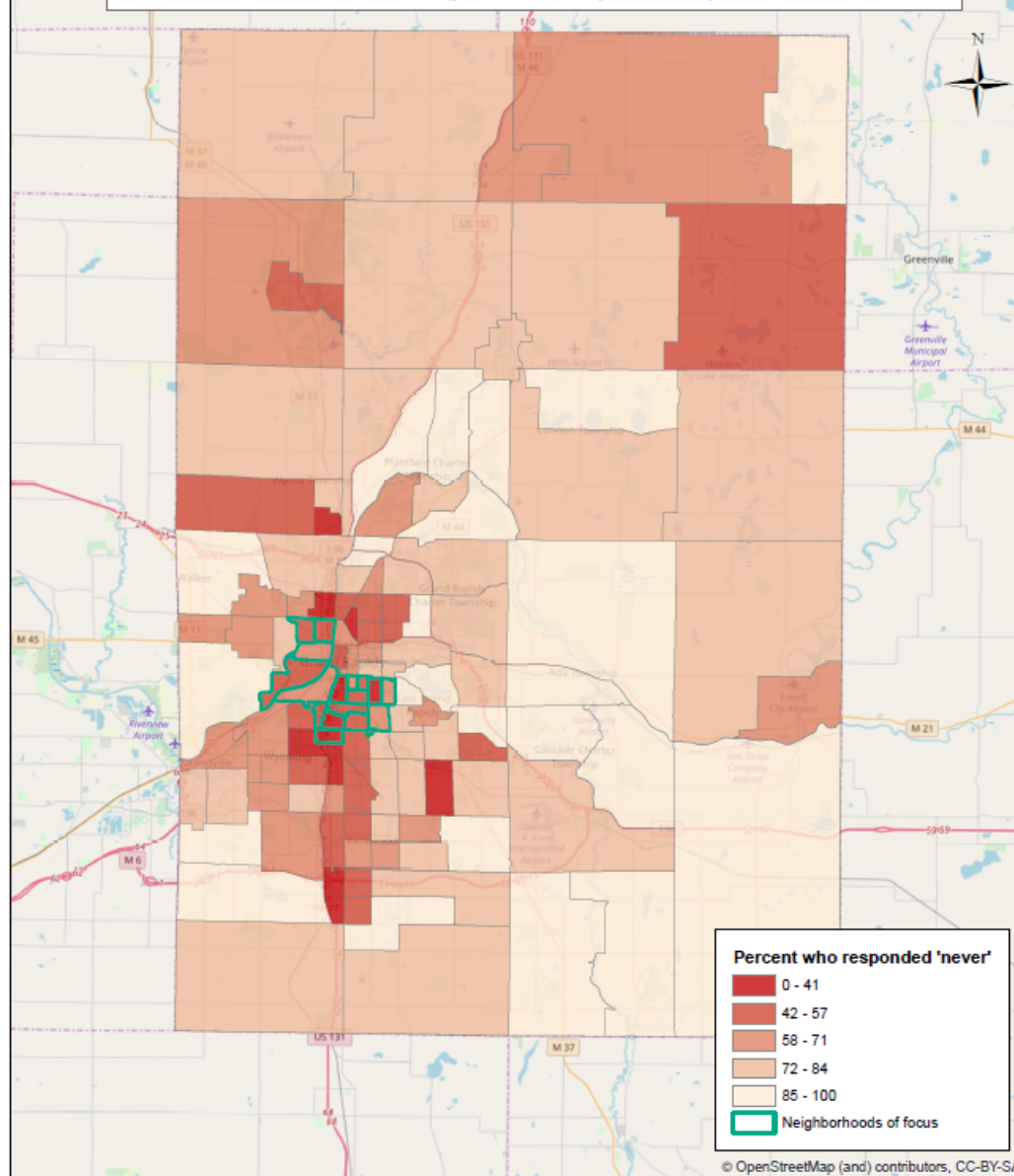
I worried whether food would run out
before I/we got money to buy more



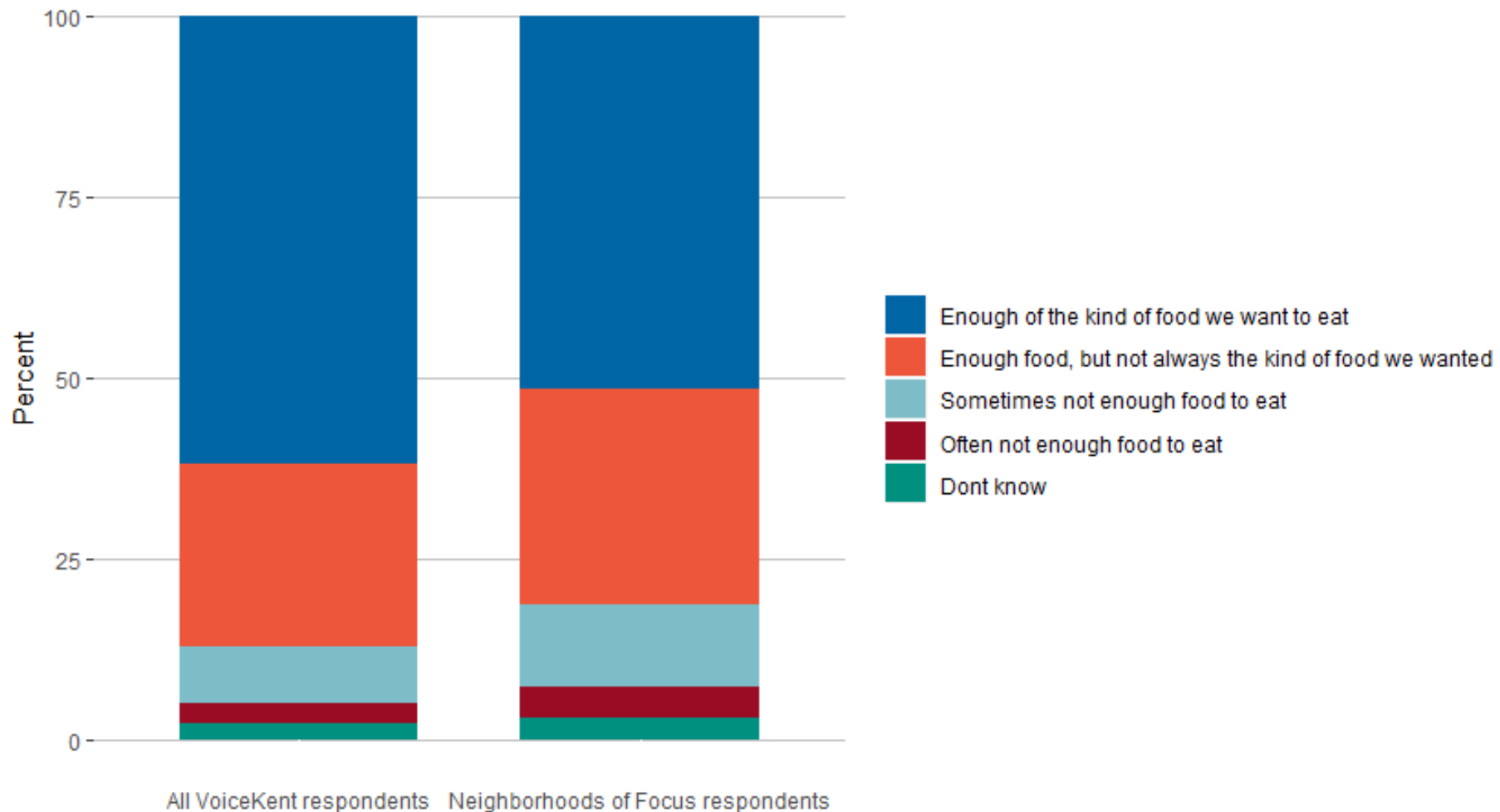
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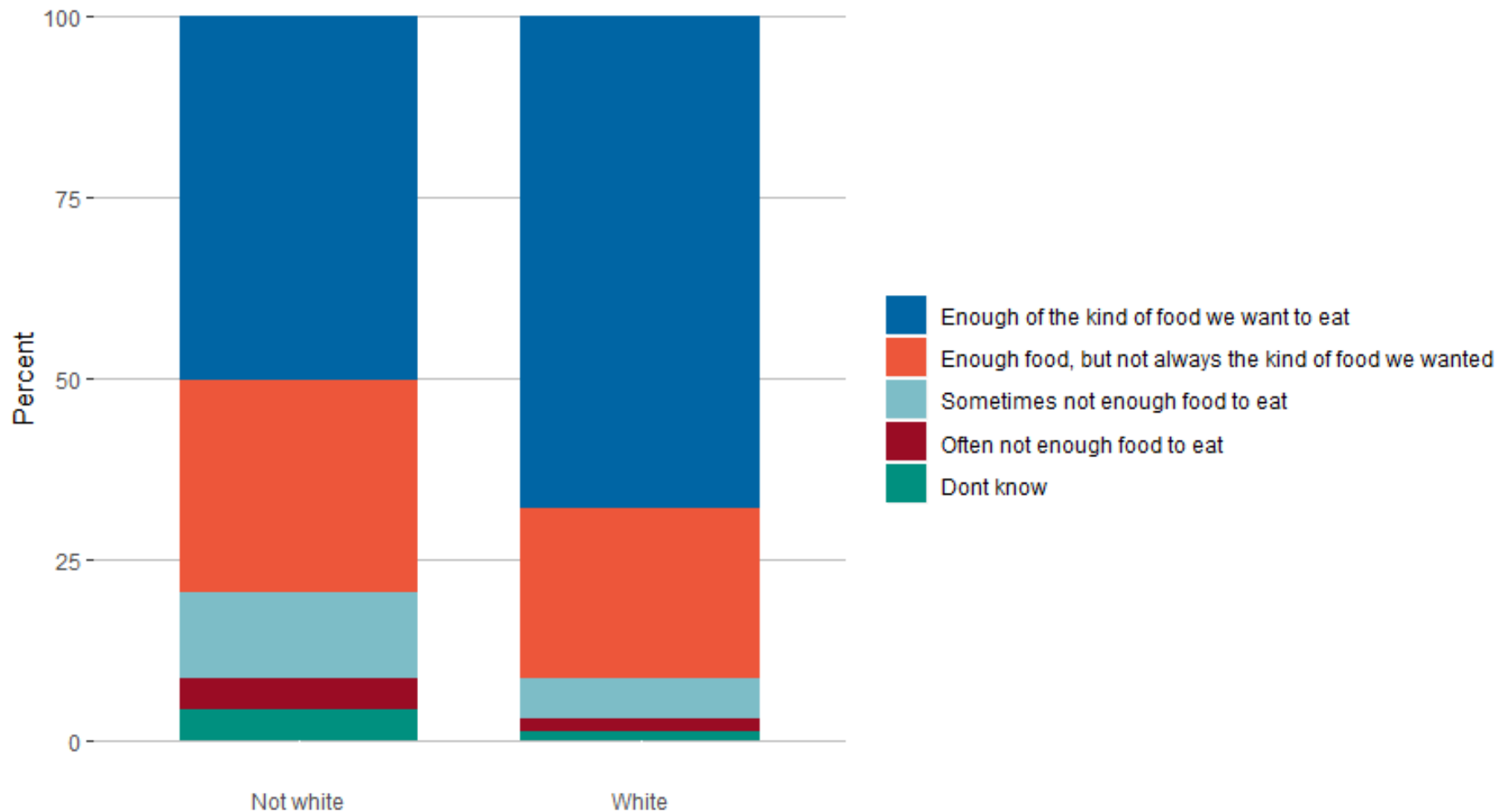
In the past 6 months, how often did you experience the following: I worried whether food would run out before I/we got money to buy more



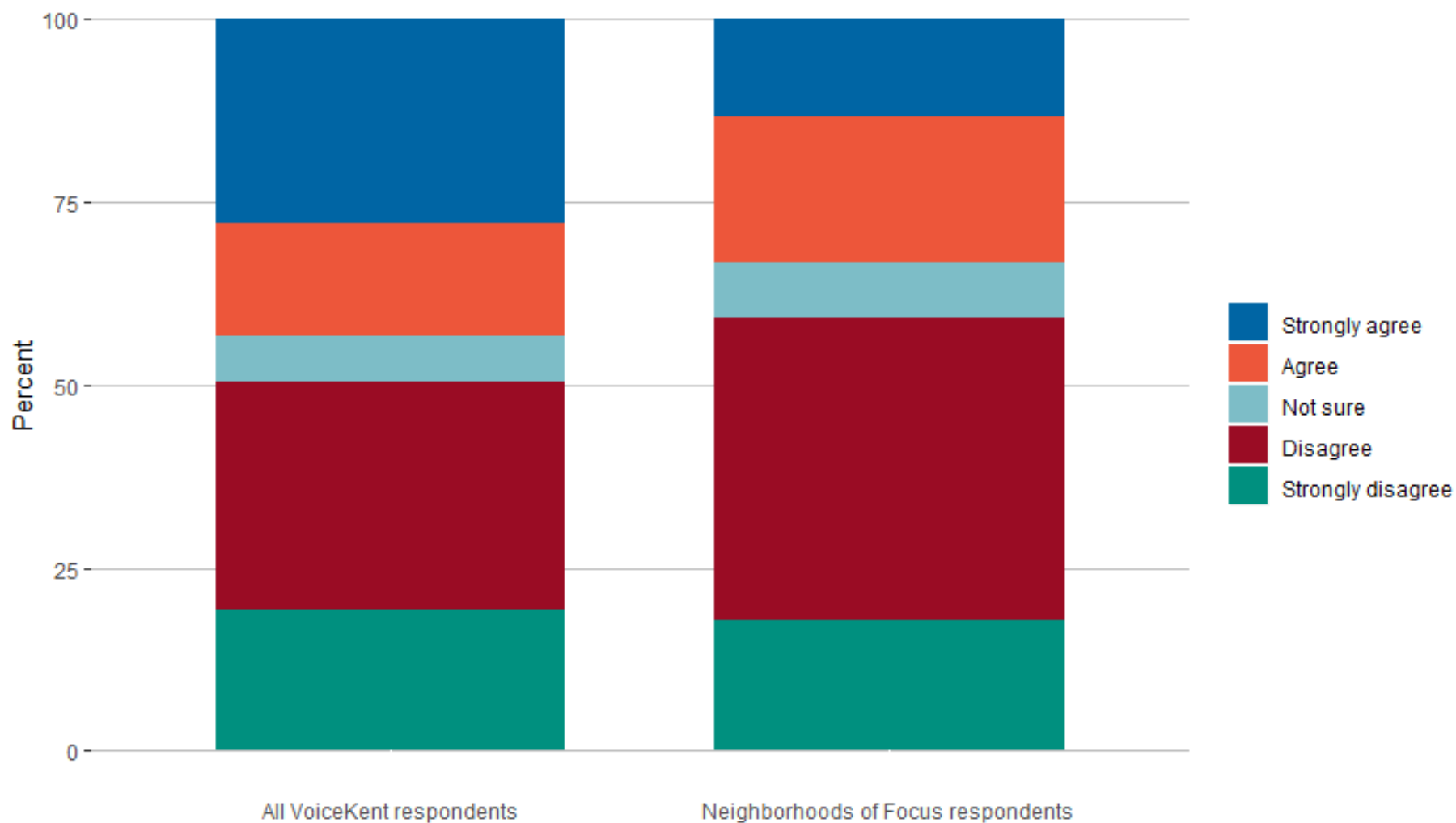
Which of these statements
best describes the food eaten
in your household in the last 12 months?



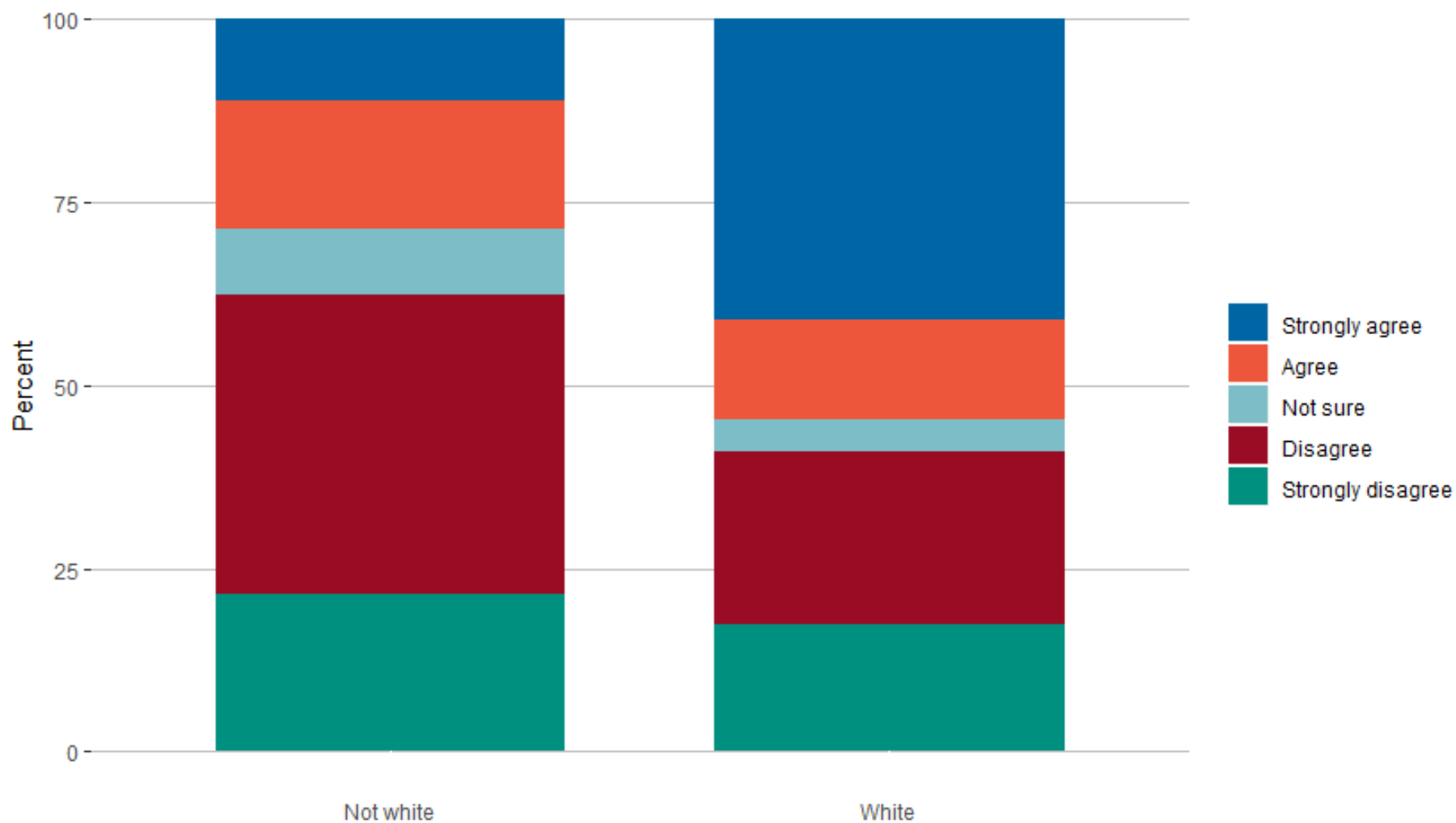
Which of these statements
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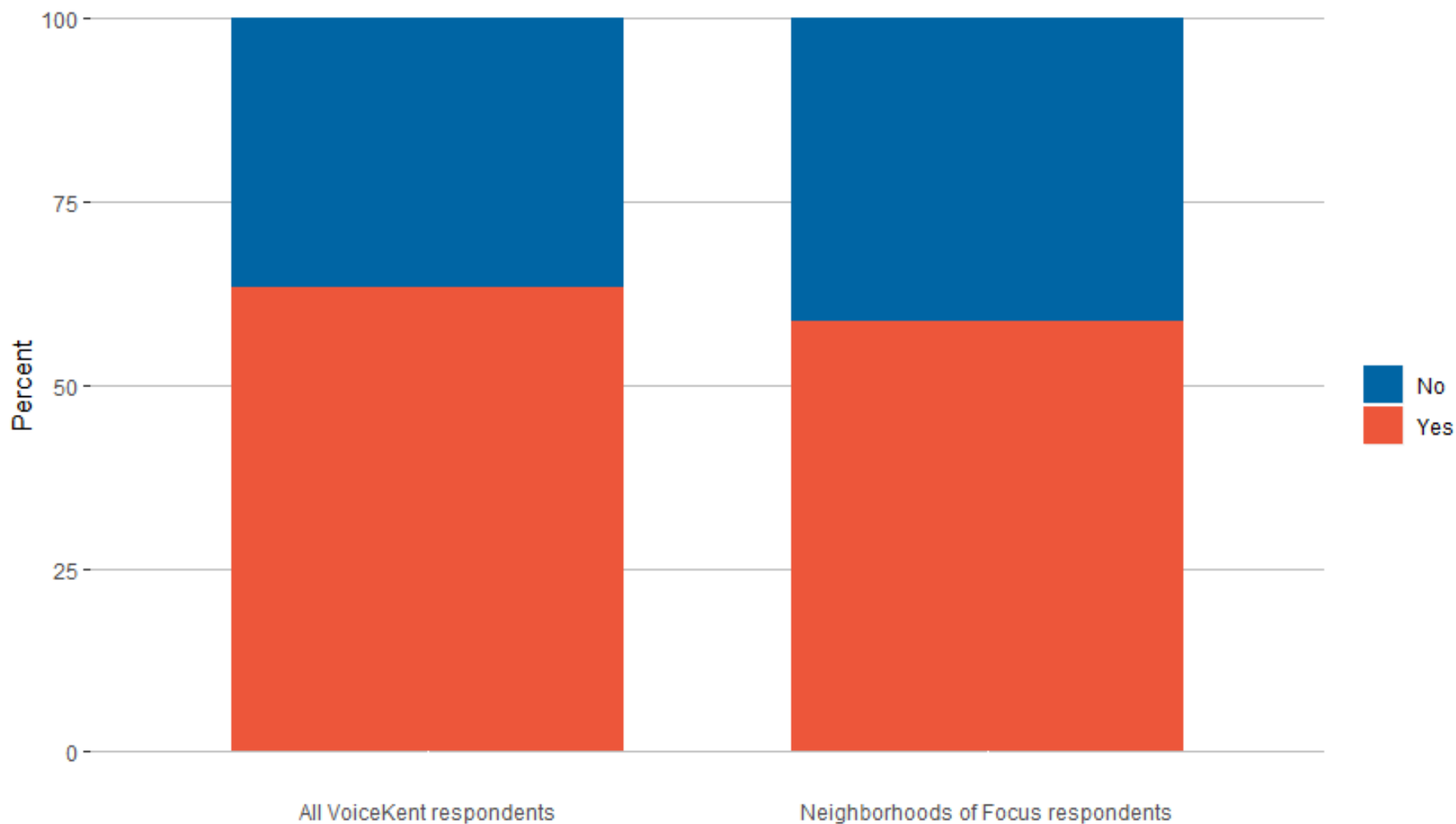
My family has access to
enough fruits and vegetables.



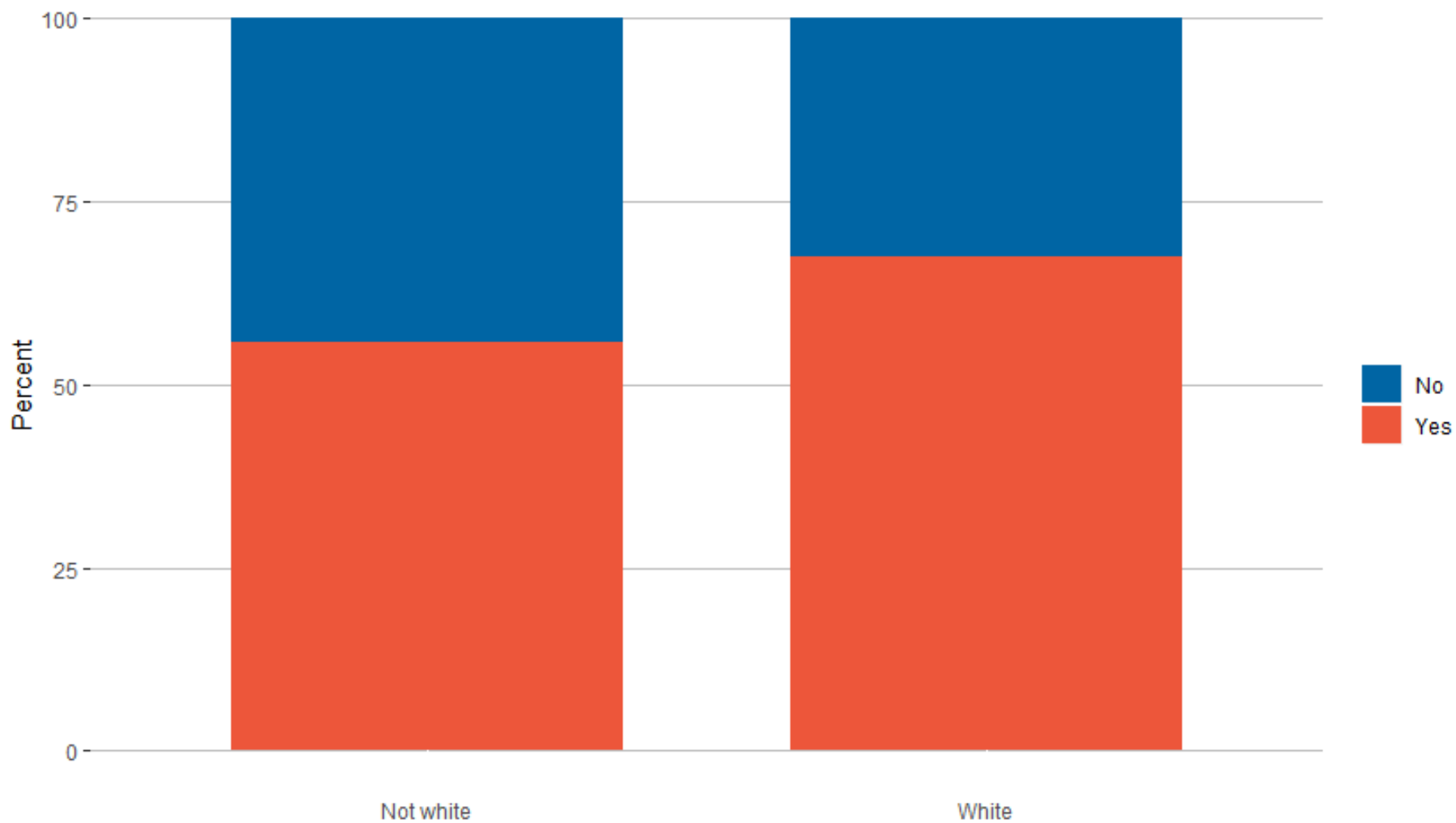
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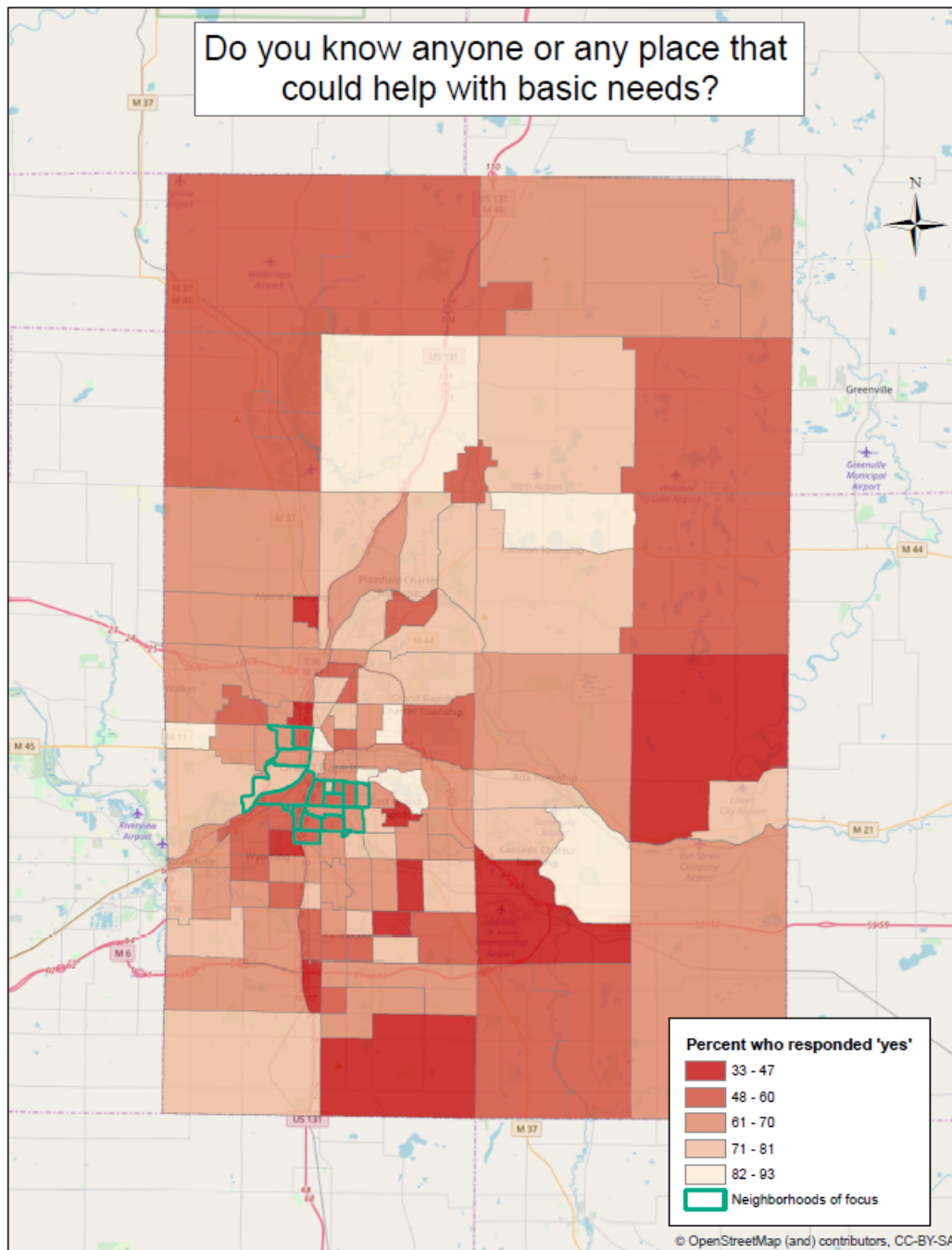
Do you know anyone or any place
that could help with basic needs?



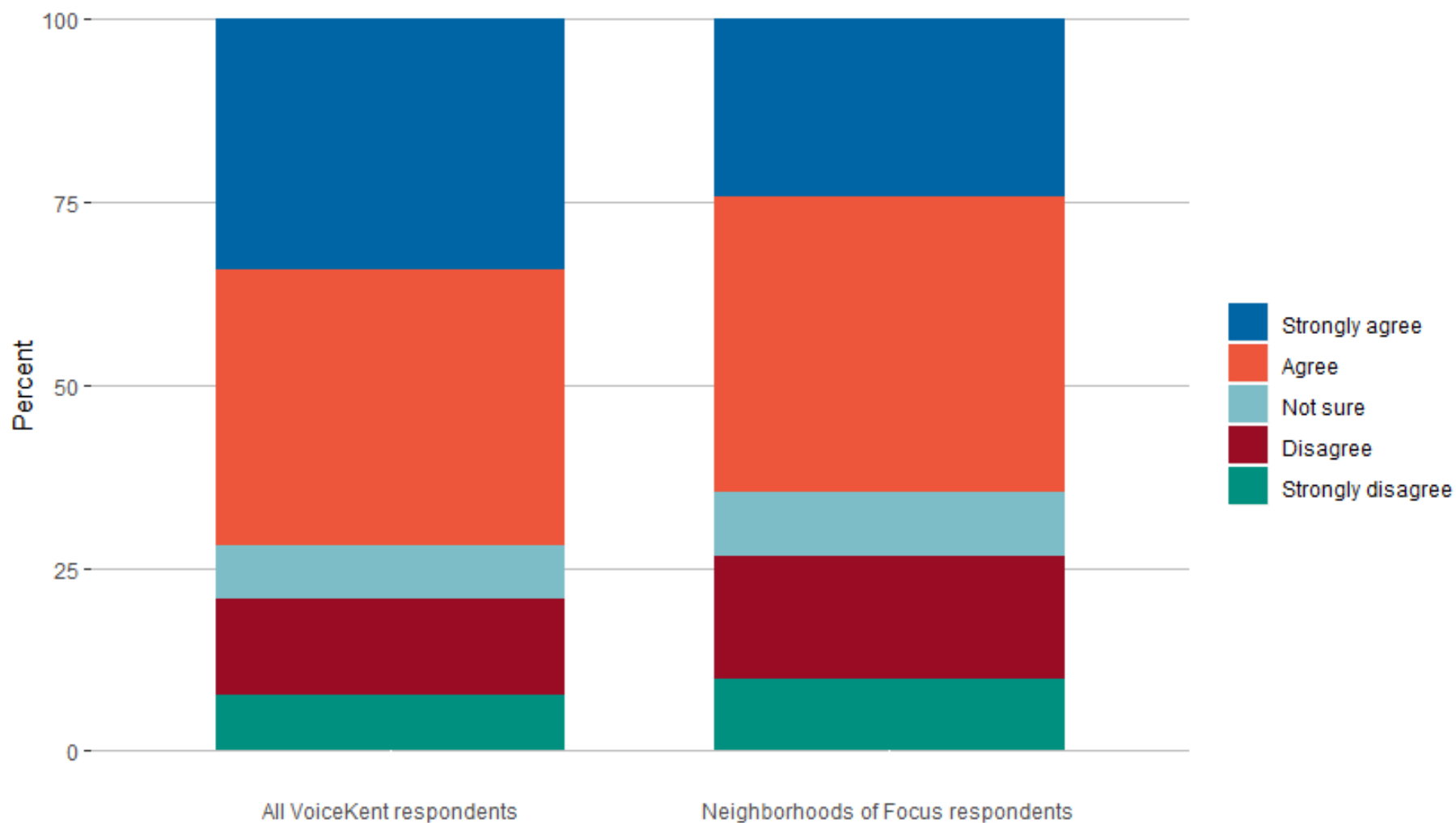
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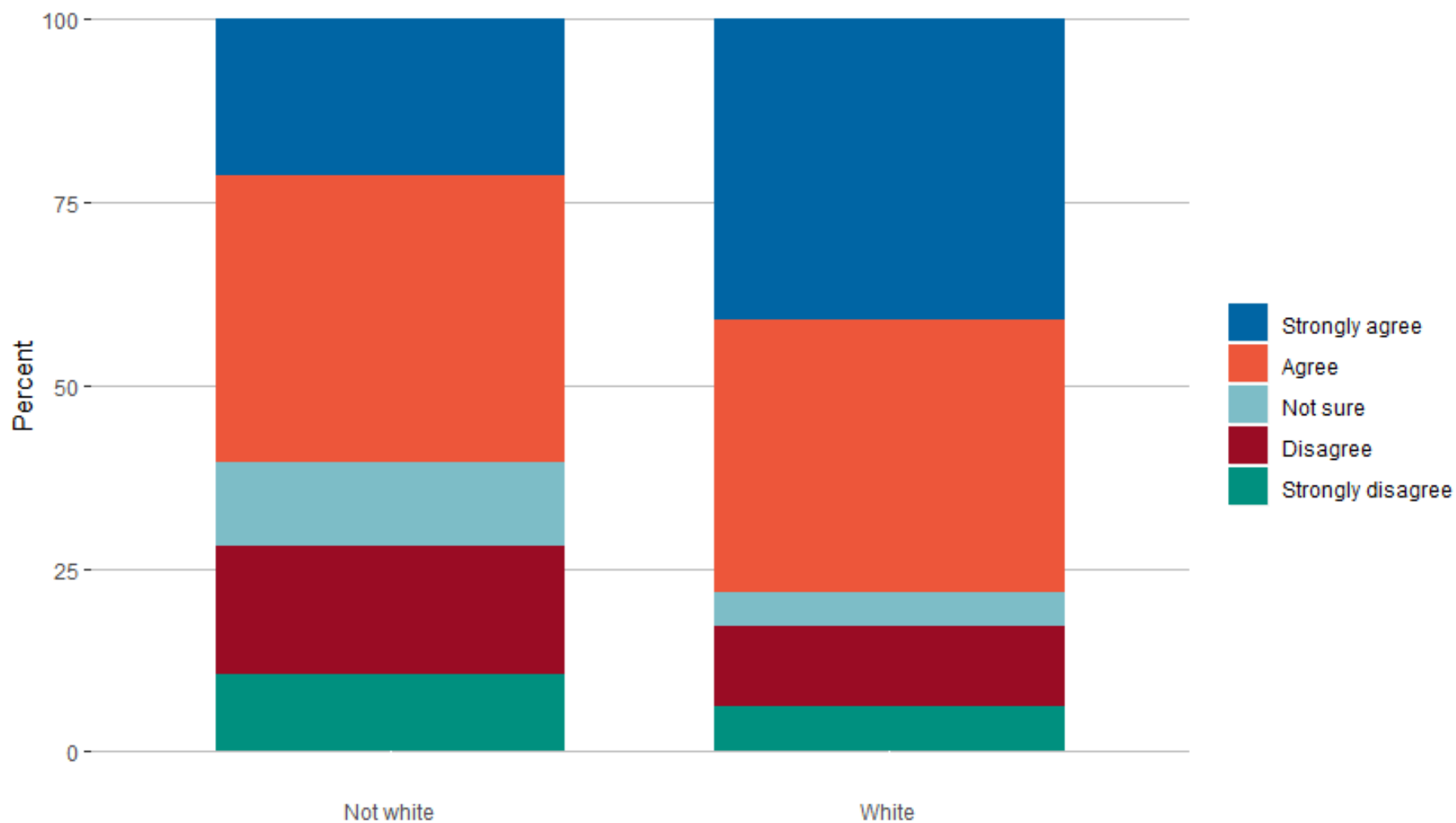
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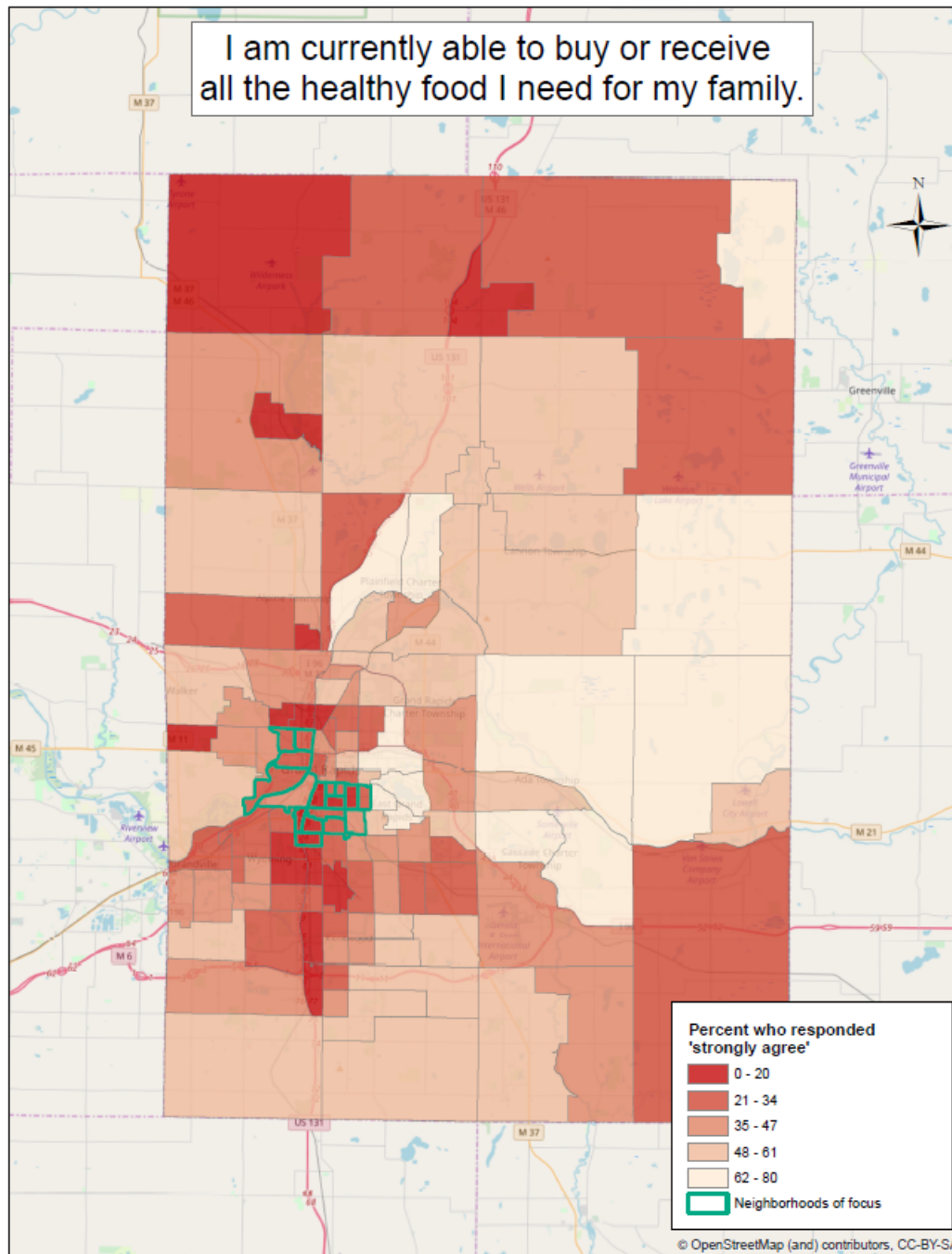
I am currently able to buy or receive
all the healthy food I need for my family



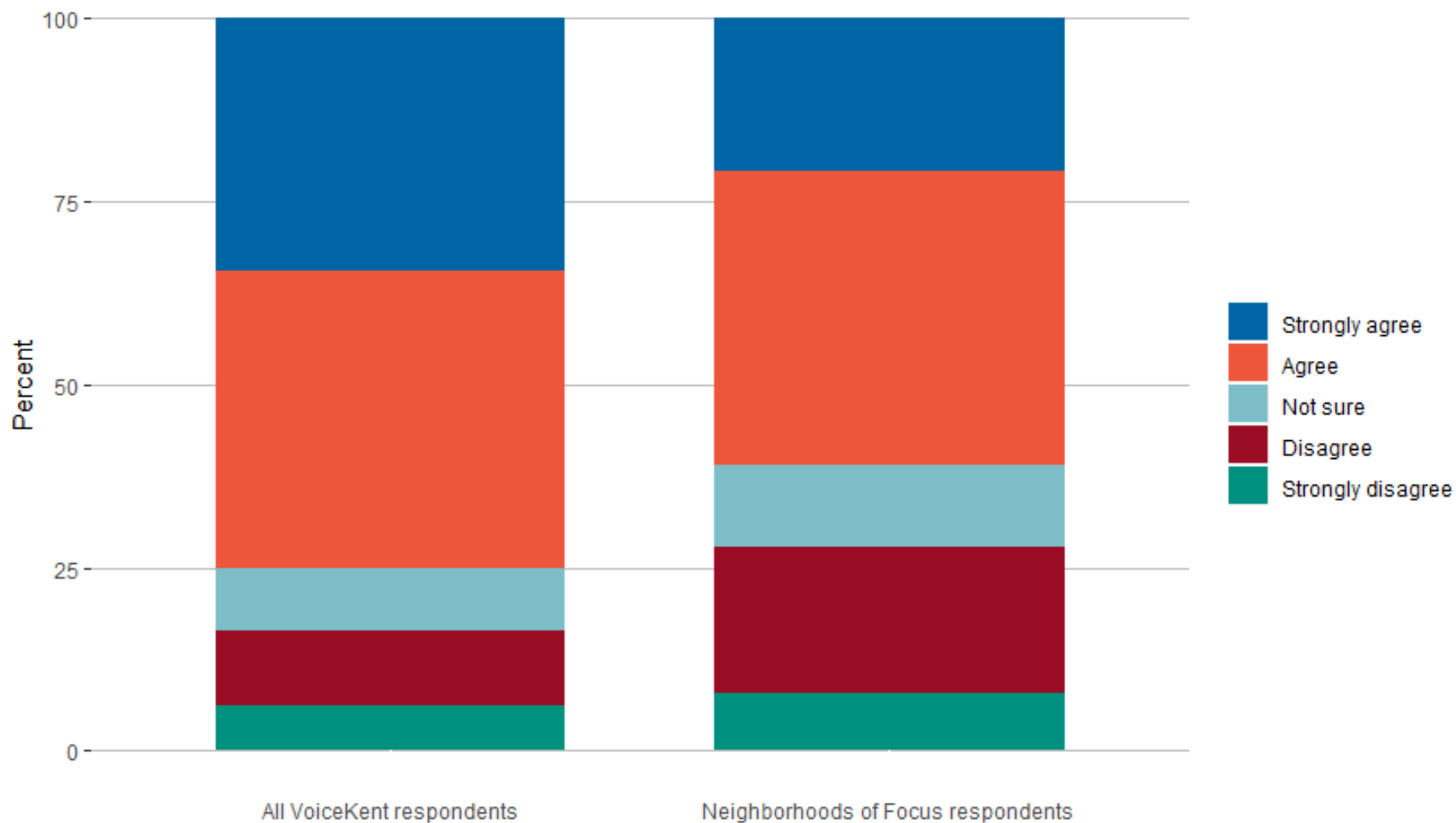
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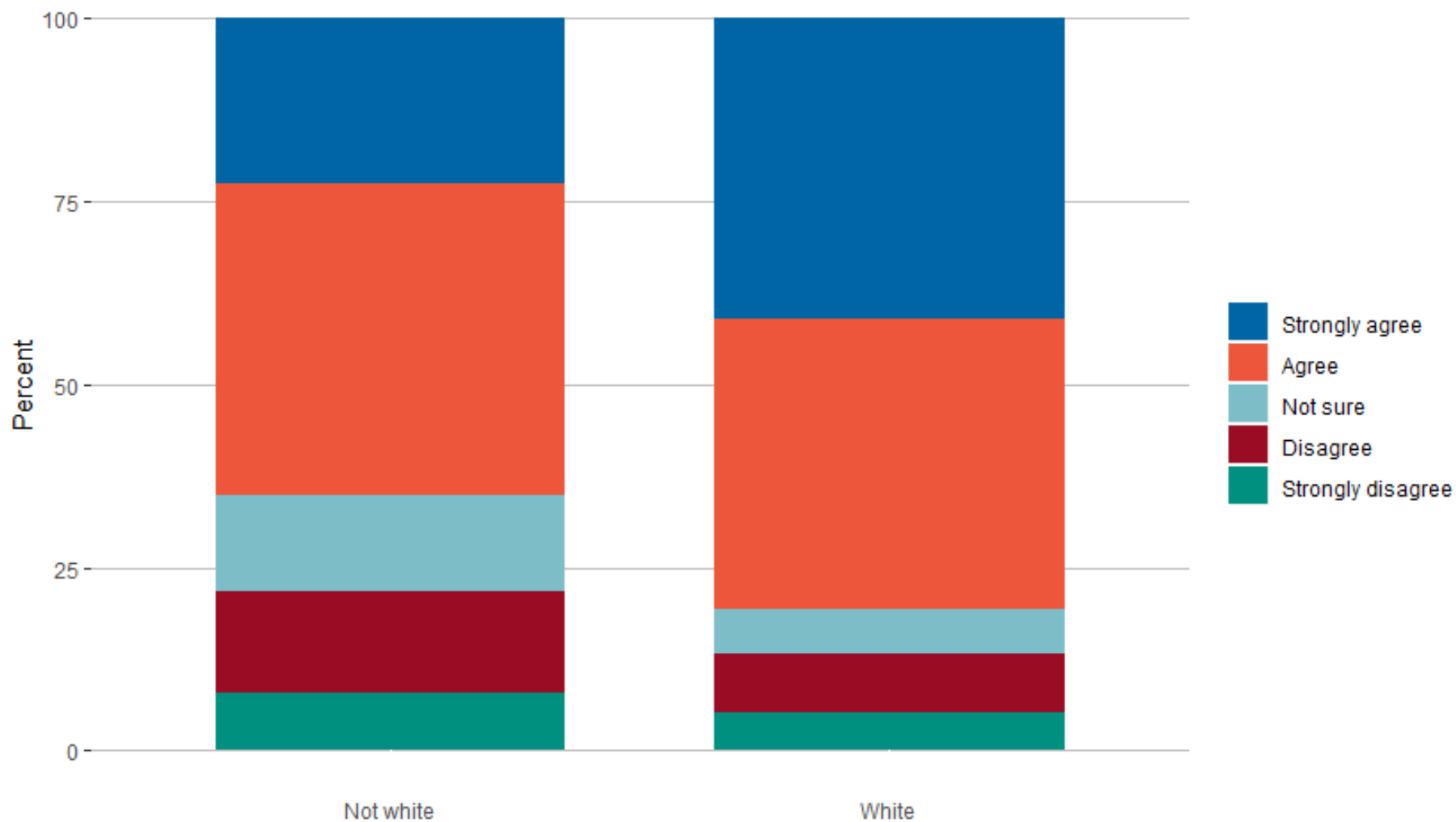
I am currently able to buy or receive
all the healthy food I need for my family.



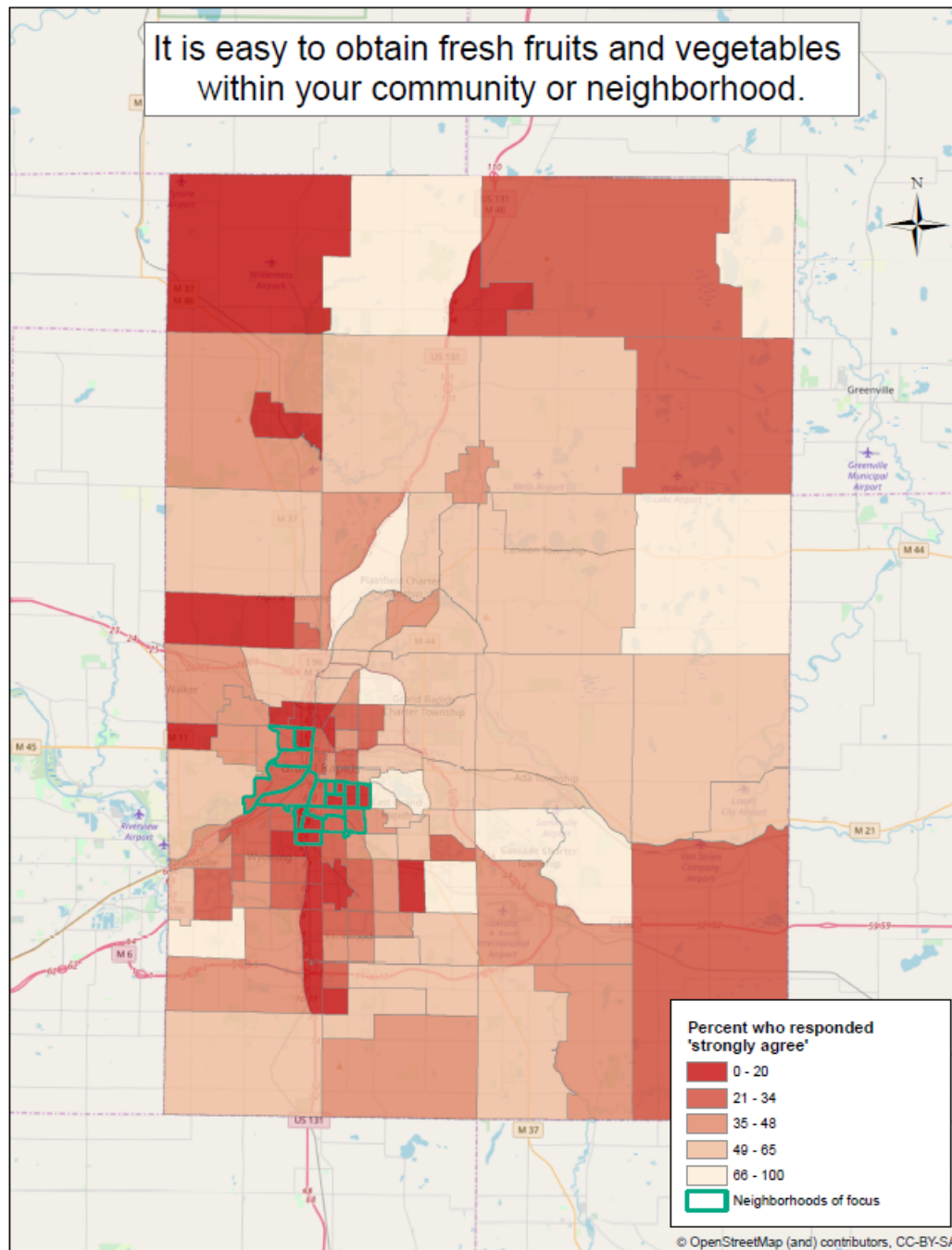
It is easy to obtain fresh fruits and vegetables
within my community or neighborhood



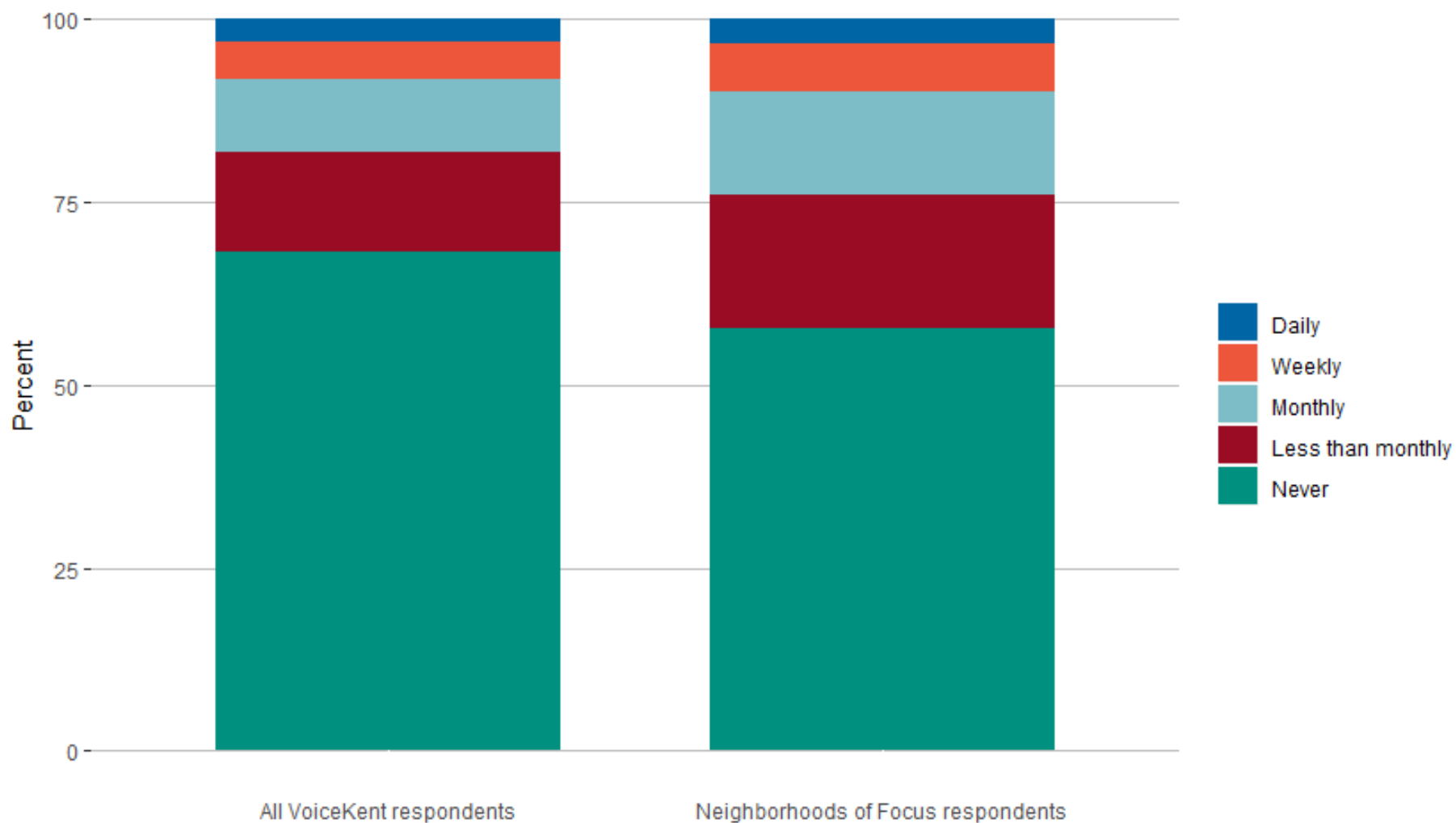
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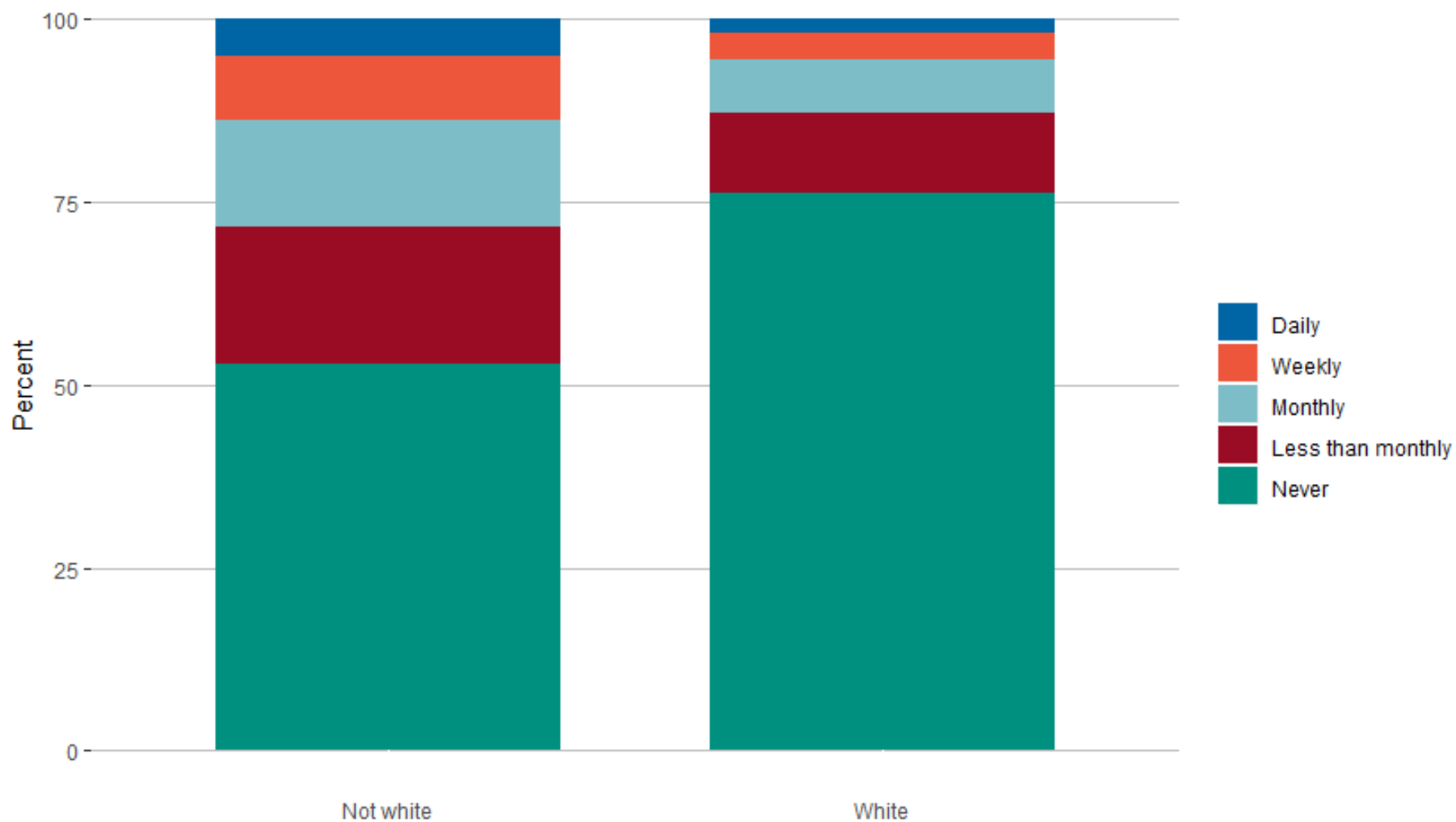
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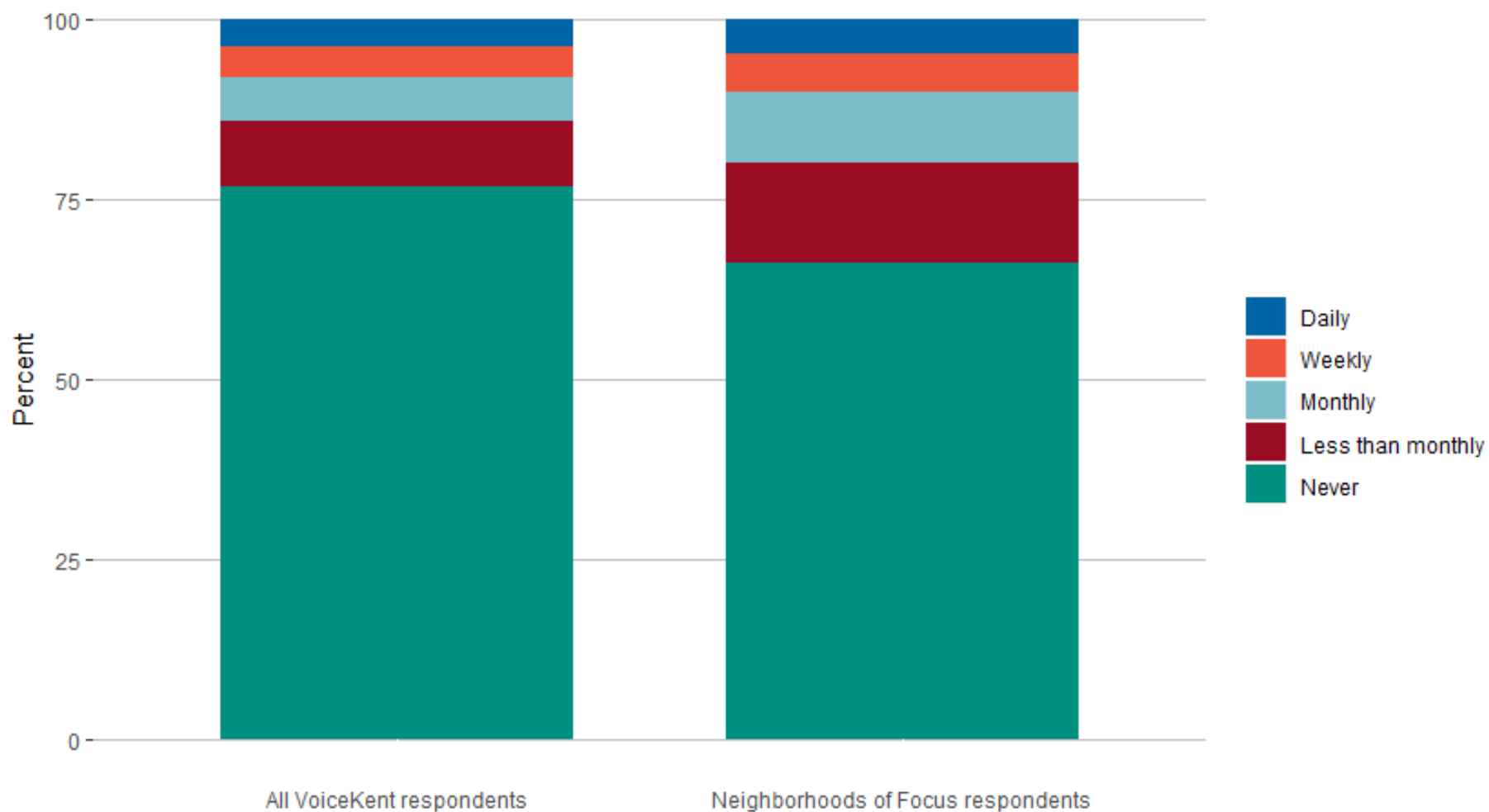
The food I bought just didn't last,
and I/we didn't have money to get more



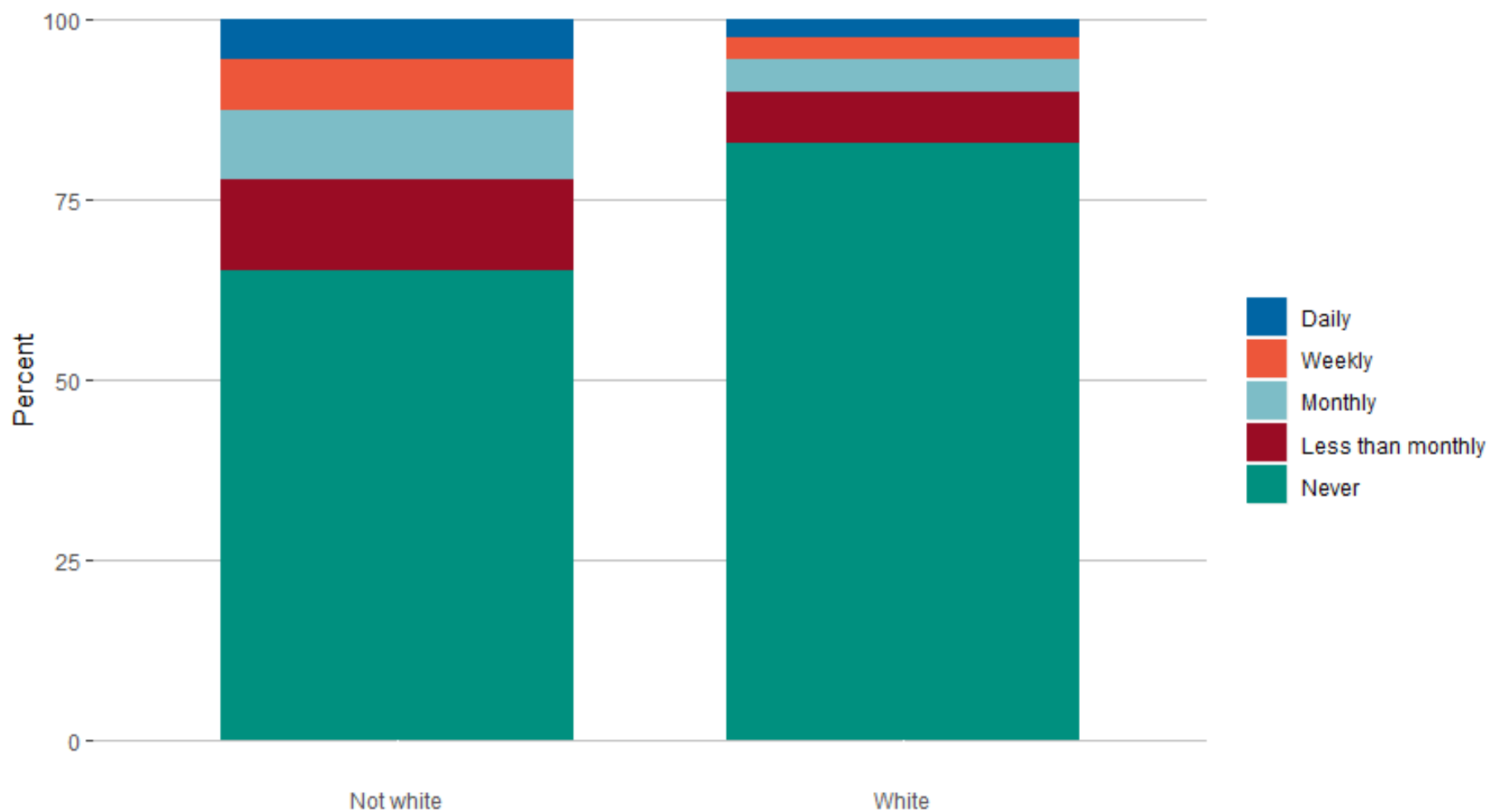
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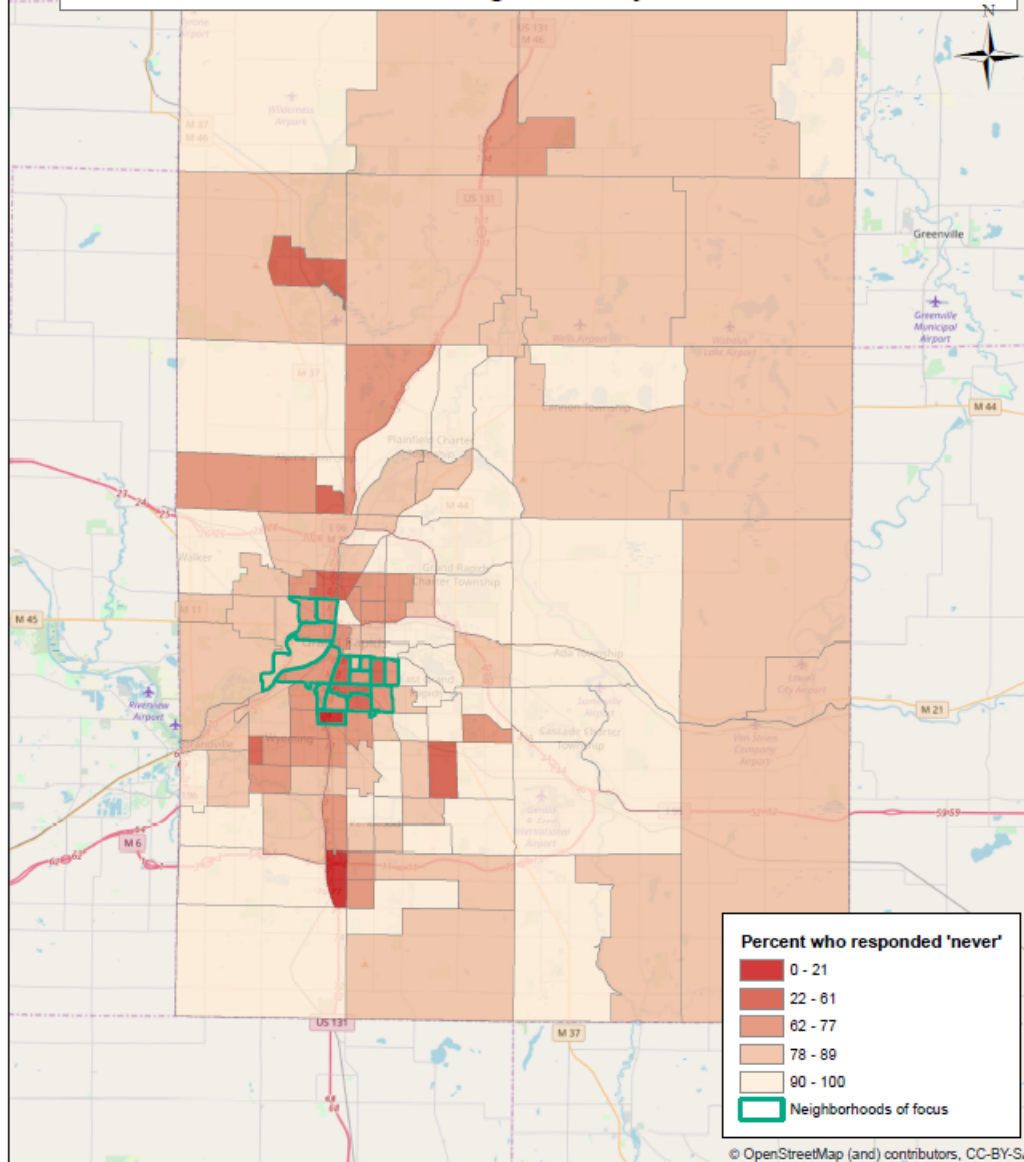
Adults in my/our household
cut the number of meals or skipped meals
because there wasn't enough money for food



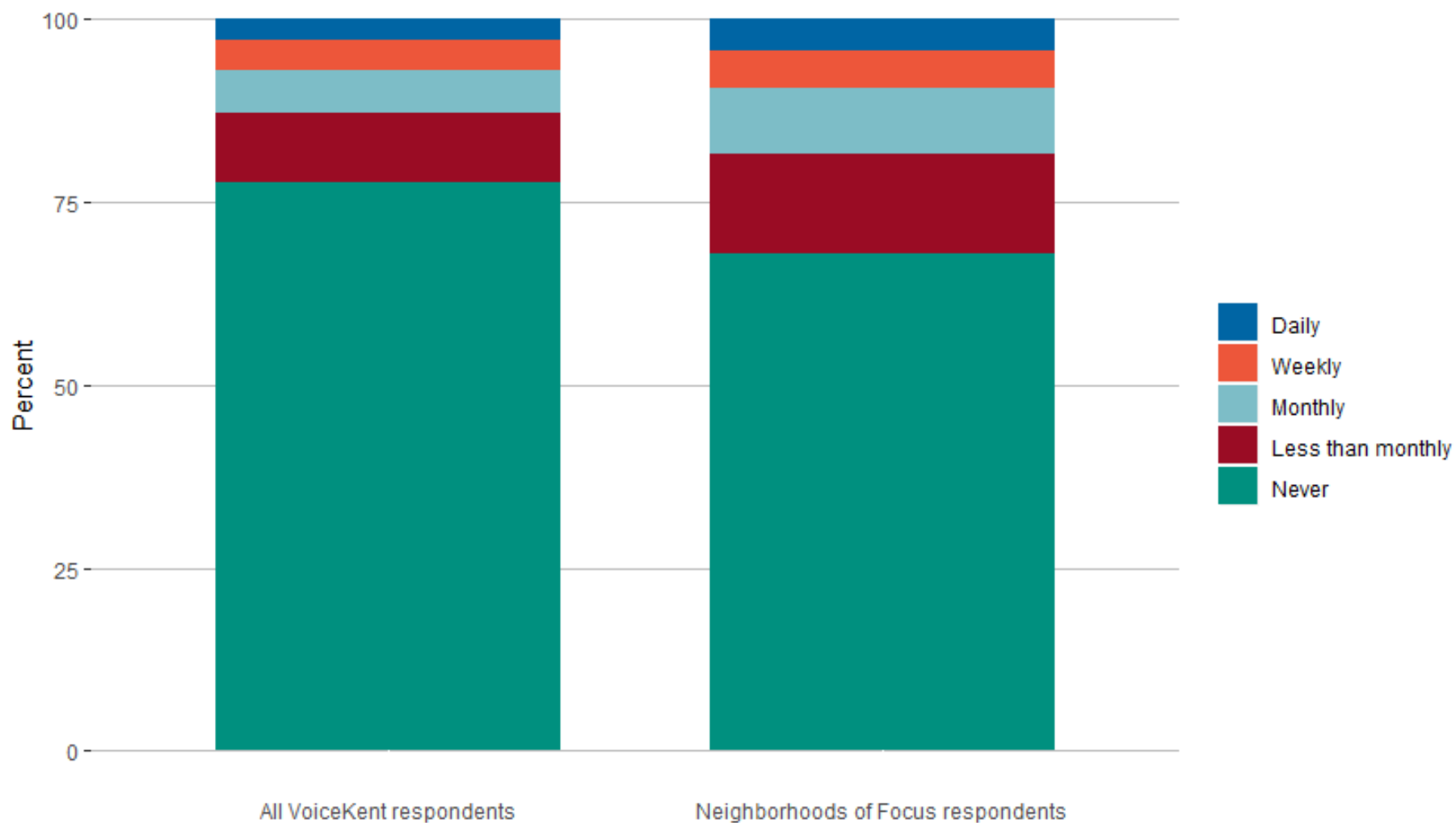
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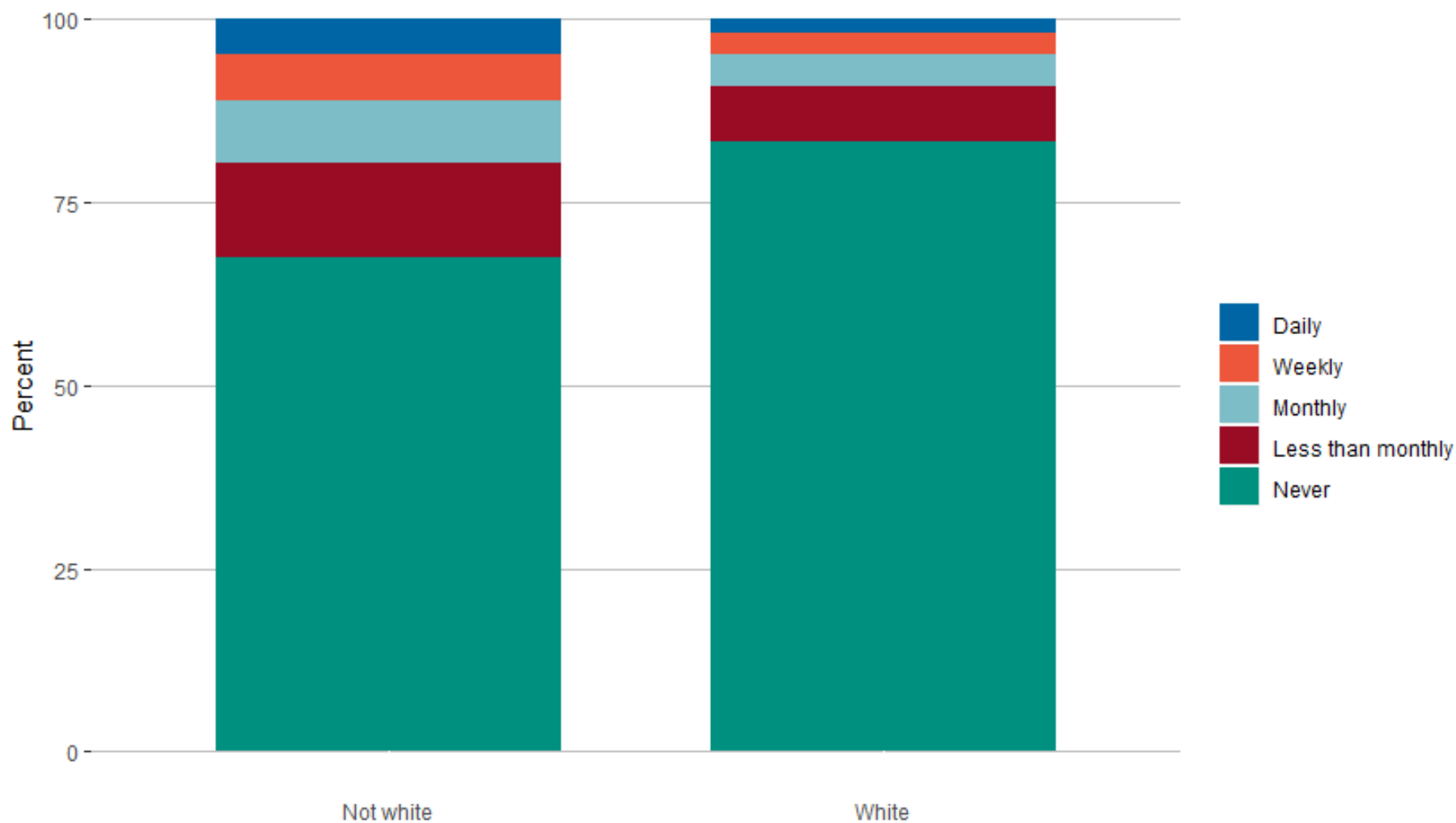
In the past 6 months, how often did you experience the following: Adults in my/our household cut the number of our meals or skipped meals because there wasn't enough money for food



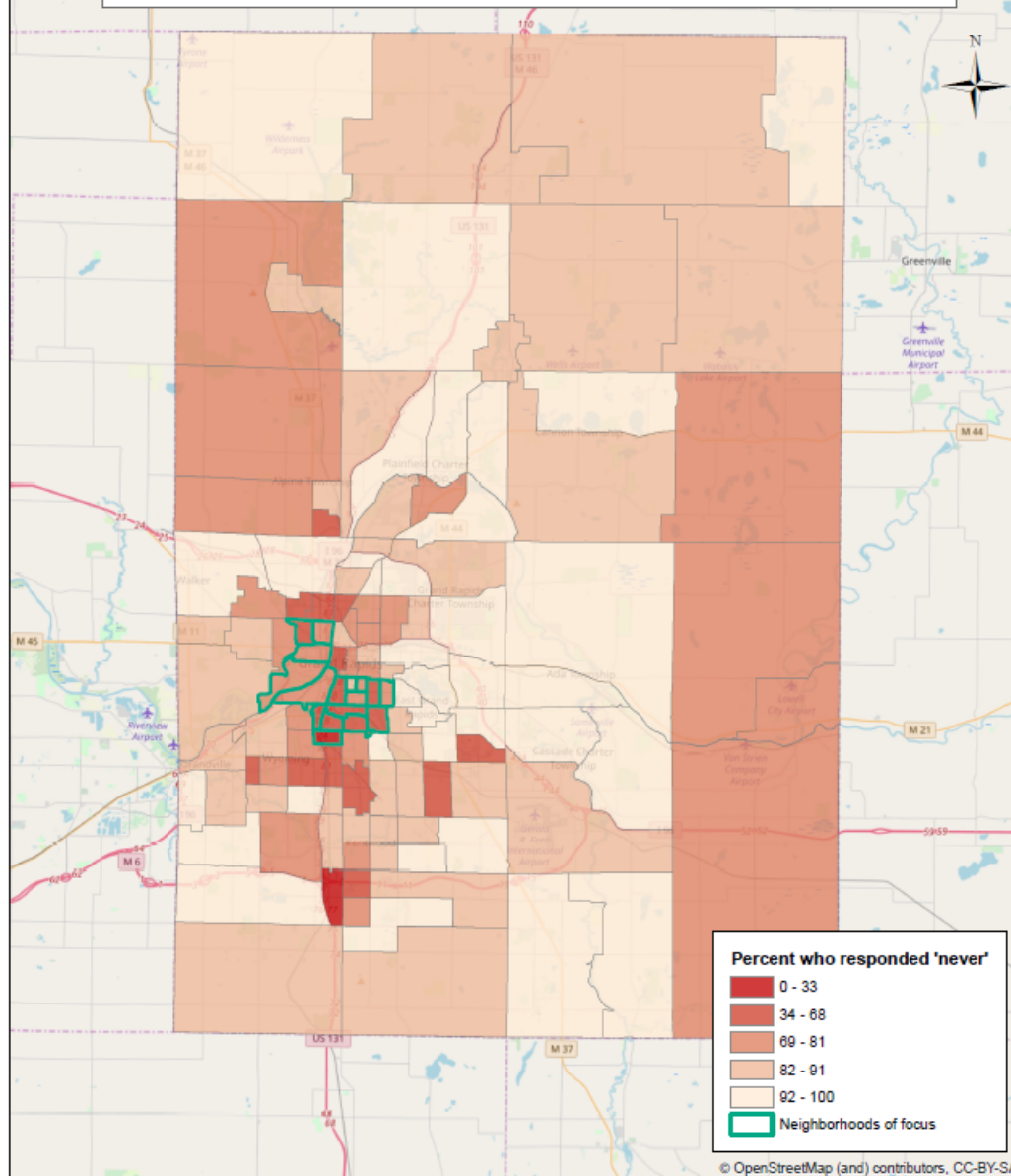
I was hungry but didn't eat because there
wasn't enough money for food



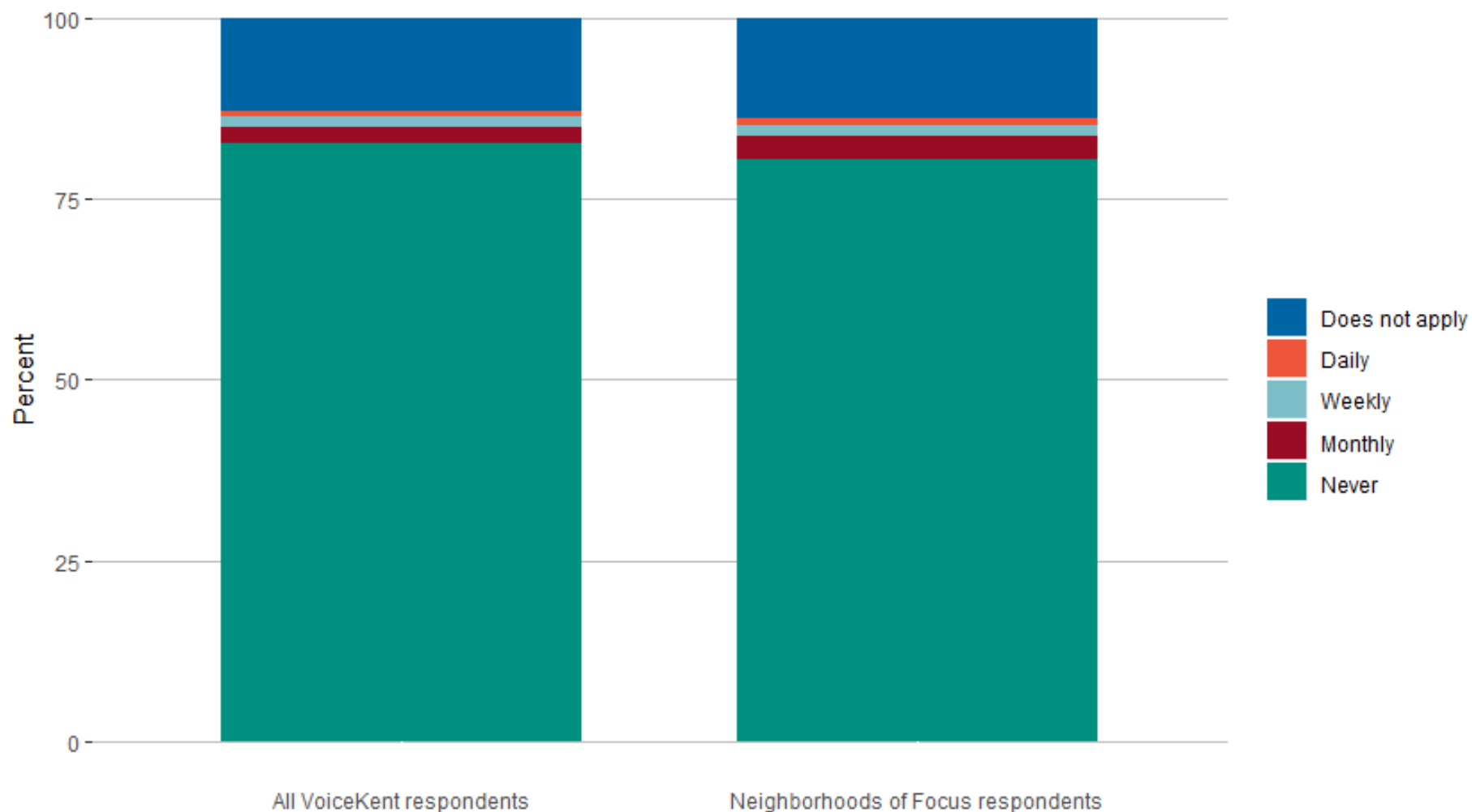
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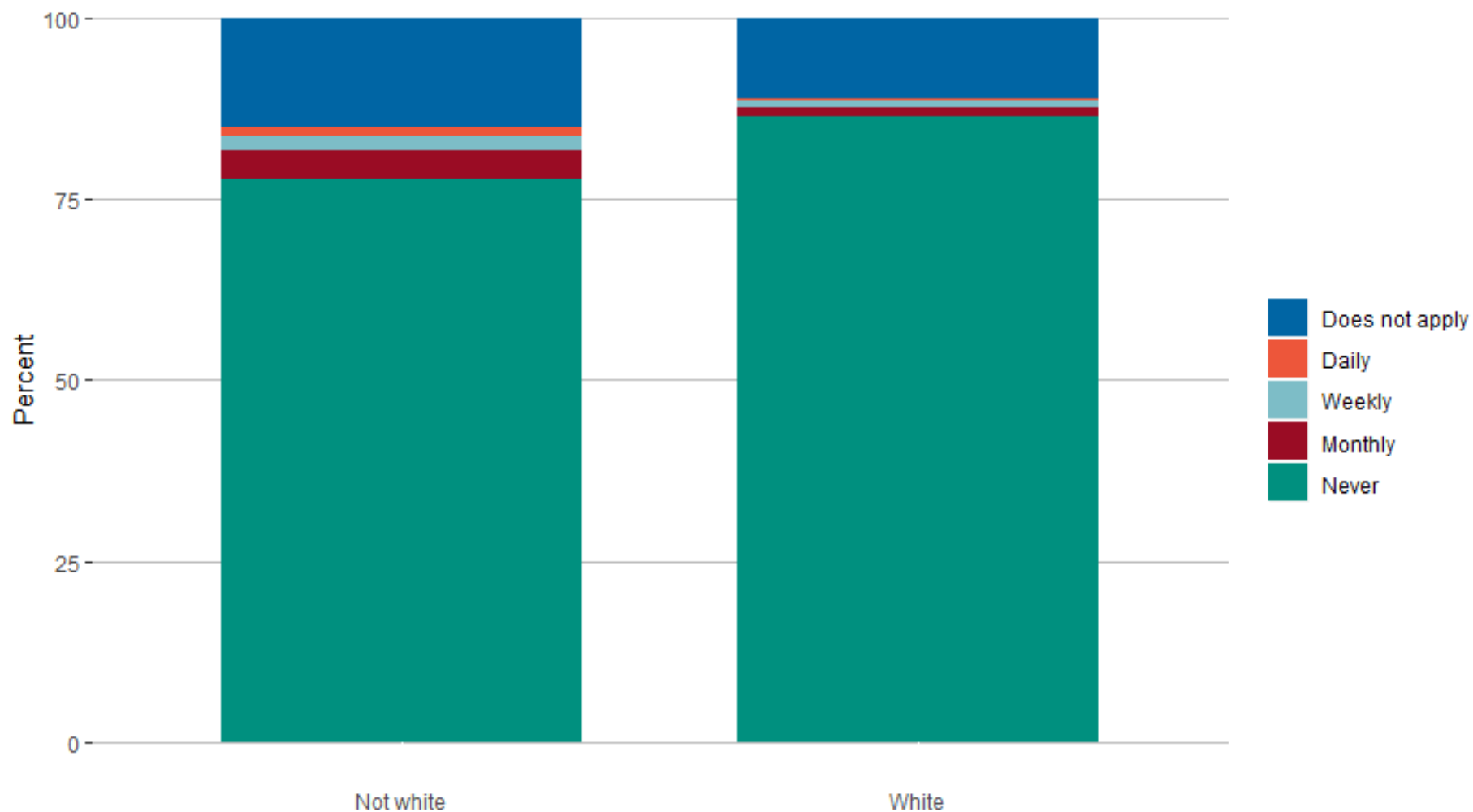
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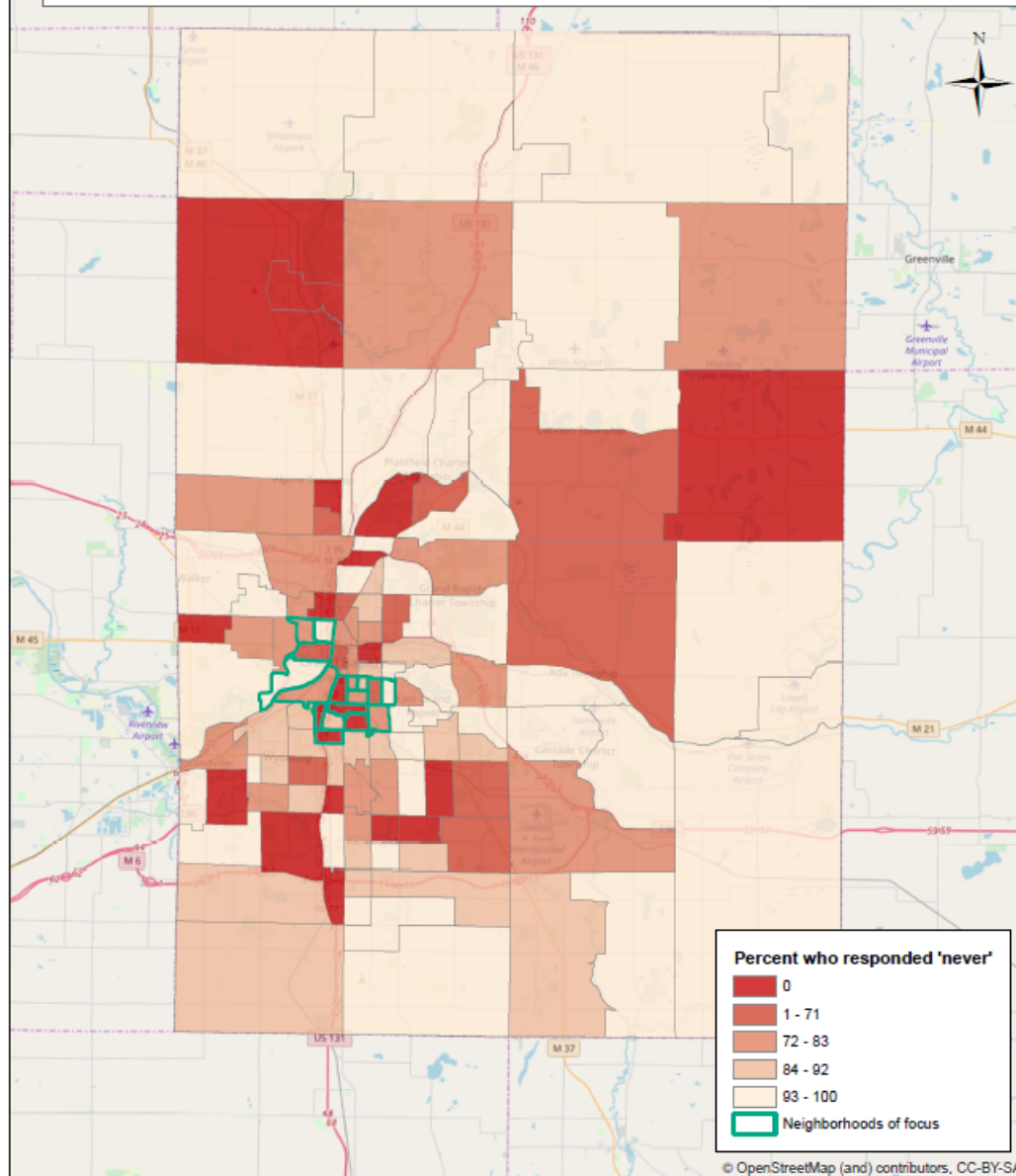
In the last 6 months, did any of the children (under age 18) in your household ever skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?



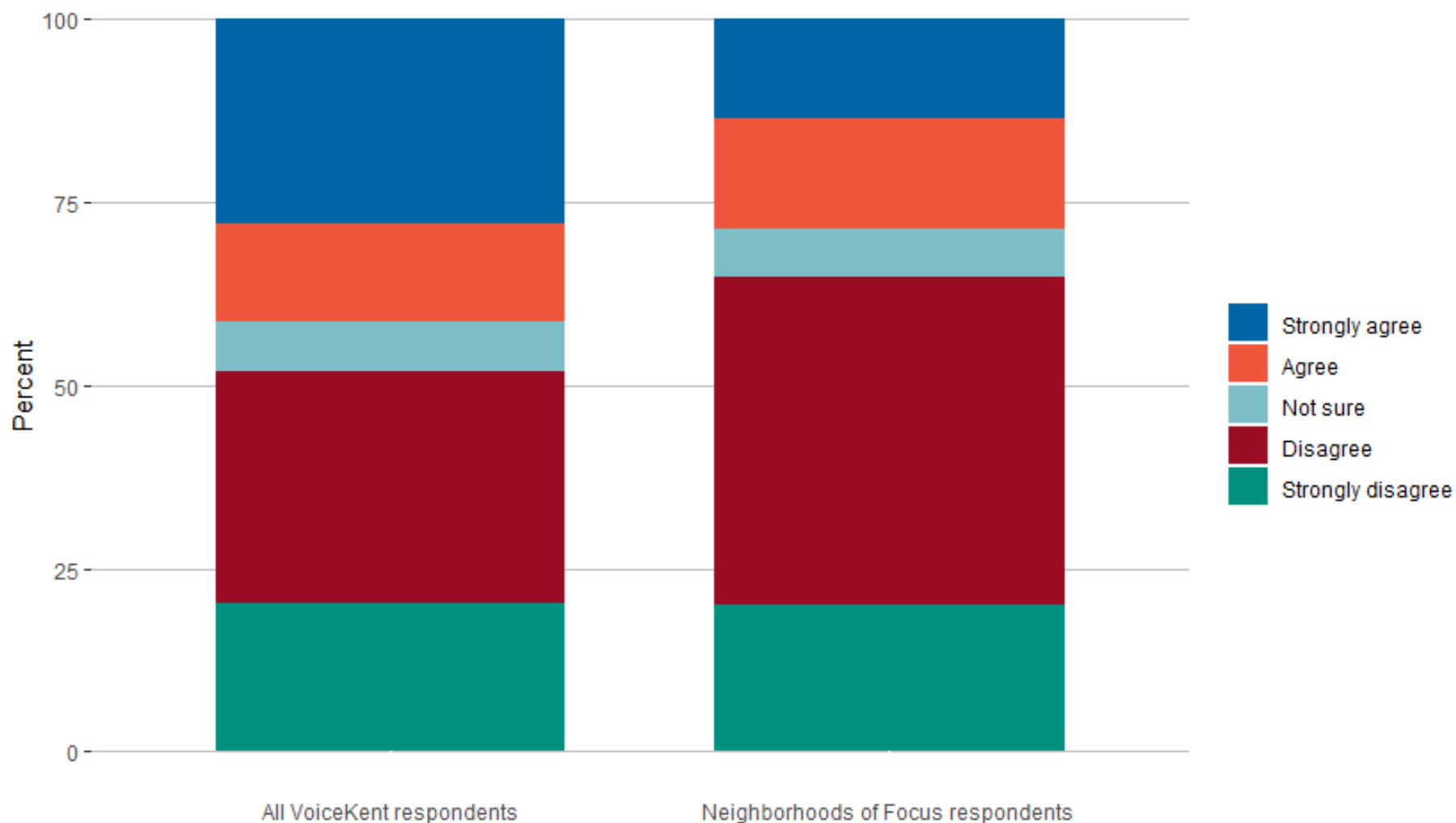
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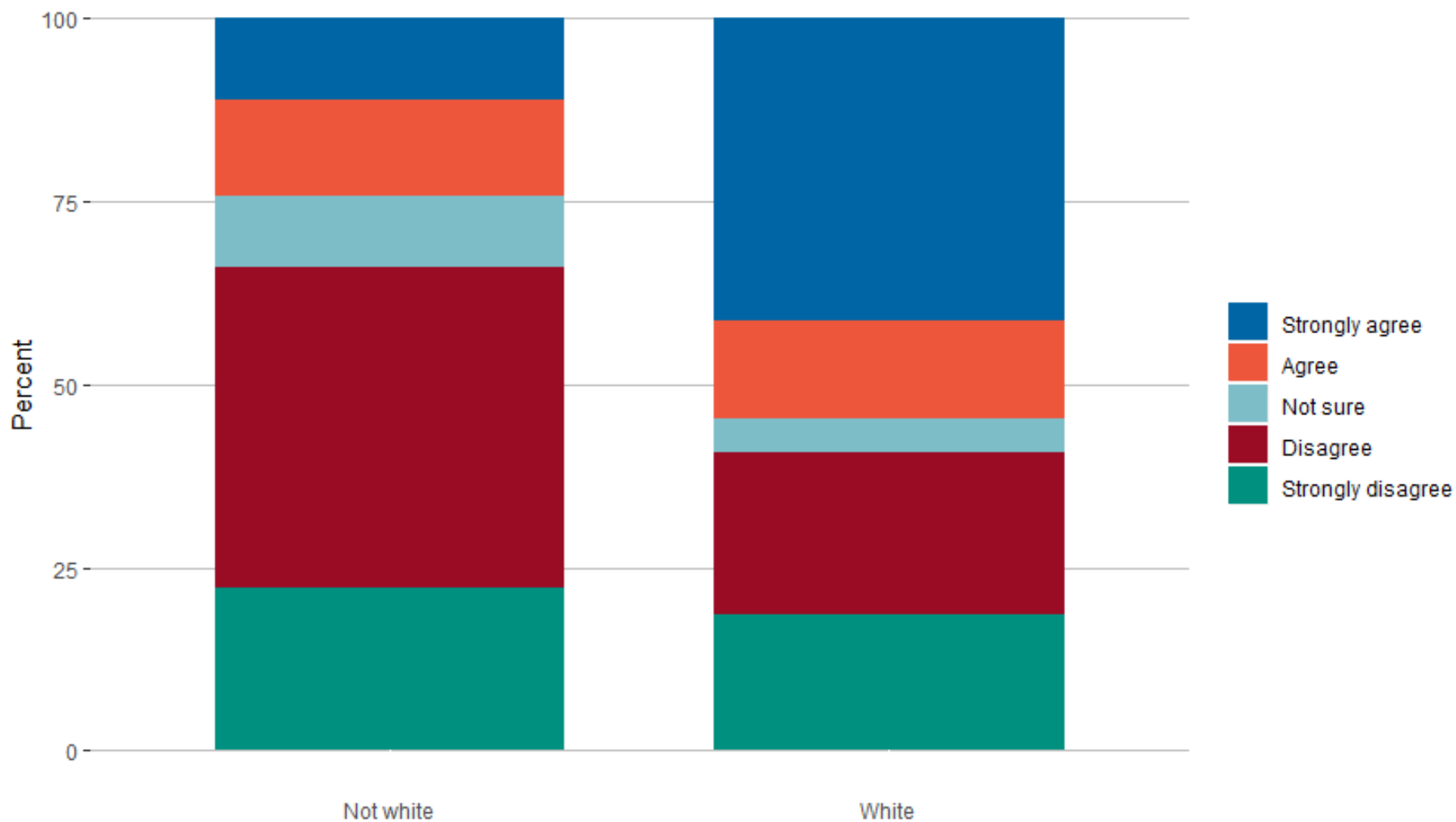
In the last 6 months, did any of the children (under age 18)
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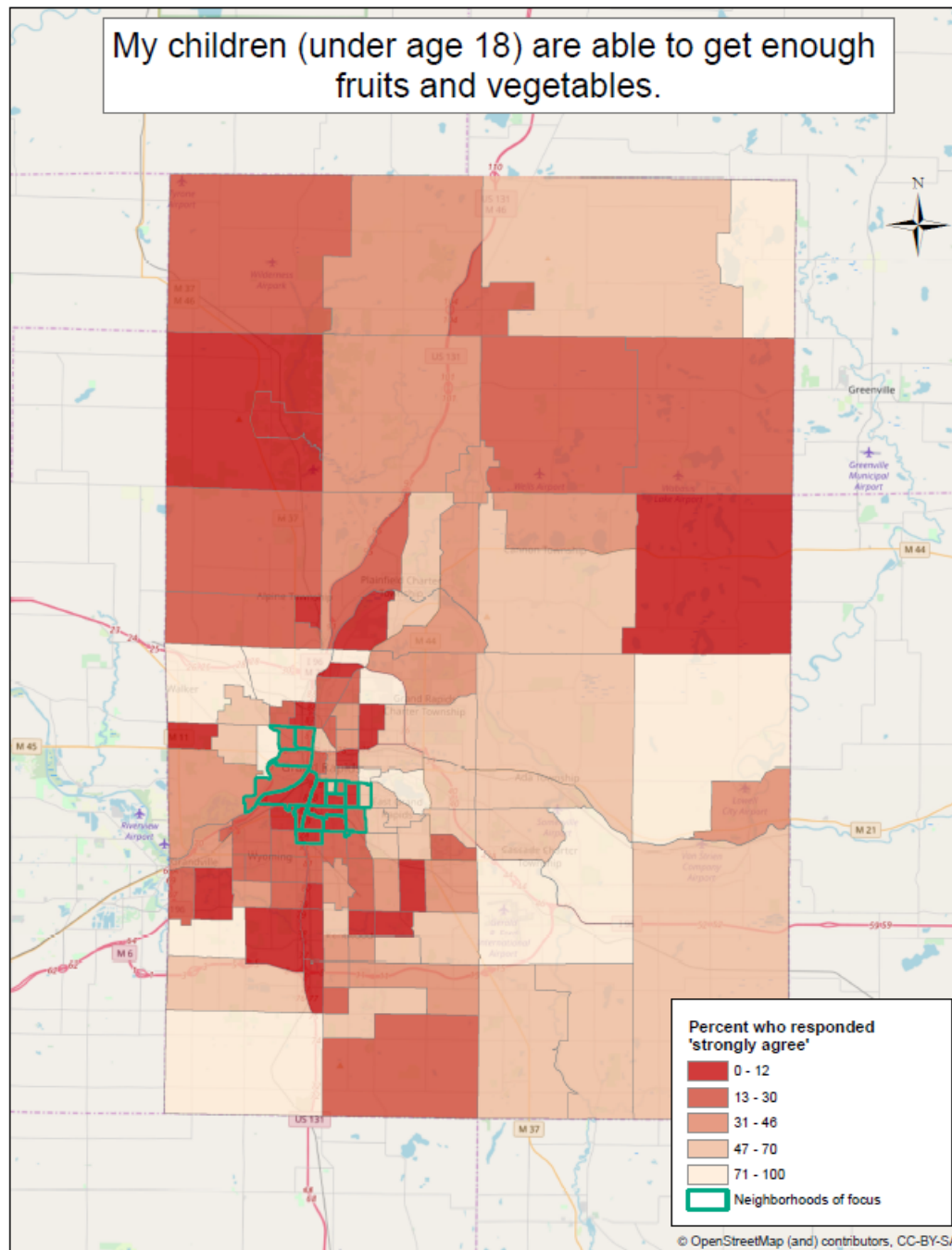
My children (under age 18) are able to get enough fruits and vegetables.



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My children (under age 18) are able to get enough fruits and vegetables.





Logistic Regression

- Starts with a wide selection of demographic variables
- Chooses those that are most relevant for prediction
- **What are we predicting?**
Whether or not someone can meet their basic needs 'very well'



“Based on your current income, how well can you afford to meet your basic needs (food, including water; shelter; utilities; and clothing)?”

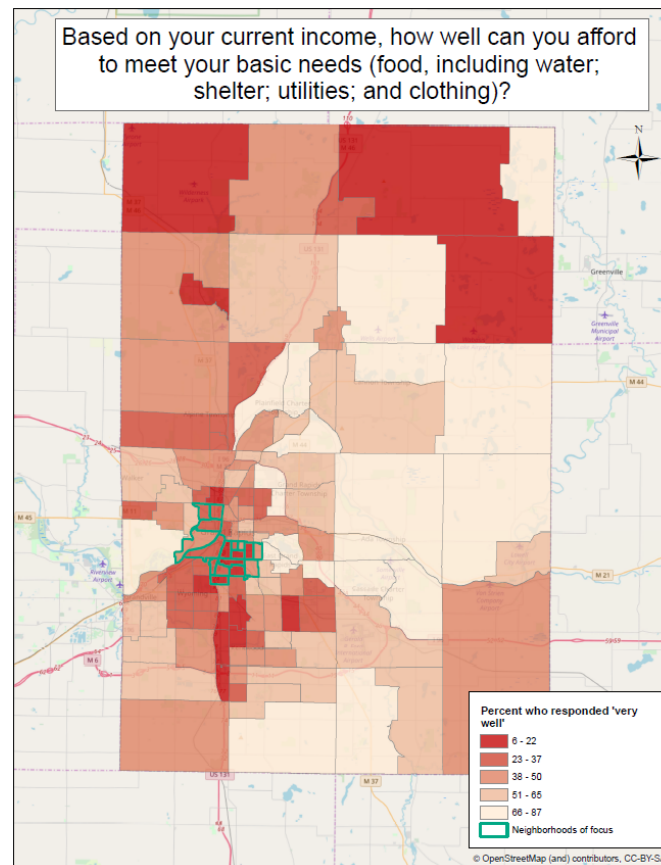
- Above or below 200% of the federal poverty level*
- Housing status
- Highest level of education
- Disability status
- Religion
- Zip code
- Primary language
- Race
- Employment status



Who needs help meeting their basic needs?

Respondents who:

- Do not speak English as their primary language
- Do not own a home
- Do not have a degree
- Have a disability
- Are not Christian
- Are people of color
- Are unable to work
- Are below 200% of the federal poverty level





Neighborhoods of Focus

Consistently have less favorable responses than overall VoiceKent respondents

- Harder time meeting each basic need
- Worry more about food running out
- Skip meals more often
- Find it more difficult to access fruits and vegetables
- Etc.



VoiceGR 2016 & VoiceKent 2017

Comparison of residents in Grand Rapids

- Because the target geography changed between these surveys, we used only the residents in Grand Rapids for a more accurate comparison

Changes of a few percent for the worse were common throughout:

- Percent responding they can meet their basic needs “very well” decreased from 42.5% to 39.5%
- Percent responding they can meet their basic need of food, including water “very well” decreased from 57.9% to 49.3%



VoiceGR 2016 & VoiceKent 2017

But these two questions showed a much larger decrease:

- Percent responding their family has access to enough fruits and vegetables decreased from 85.4% to 48.2%
- Percent responding their children have access to enough fruits and vegetables decreased from 84.2% to 46.2%

Is this a true decrease in access to fruits and vegetables or an increase in awareness of the need for fruits and vegetables?



Future Iterations of VoiceKent

Pilot in 2019 / Relaunch in 2020

New sampling methodology:

- More representative sample of the county
- Allowing us to draw conclusions about the population as a whole



Further Information

VoiceKent.org

2016 data available now

2017 data coming soon

Feel free to contact me:

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