nourish

ACTIVITY

Food Data

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How can we use data and numbers to better understand our community's food system?



food system

All the people, places, and steps involved in bringing food to our community.



survey question A question used to collect information or opinions from a group of people.

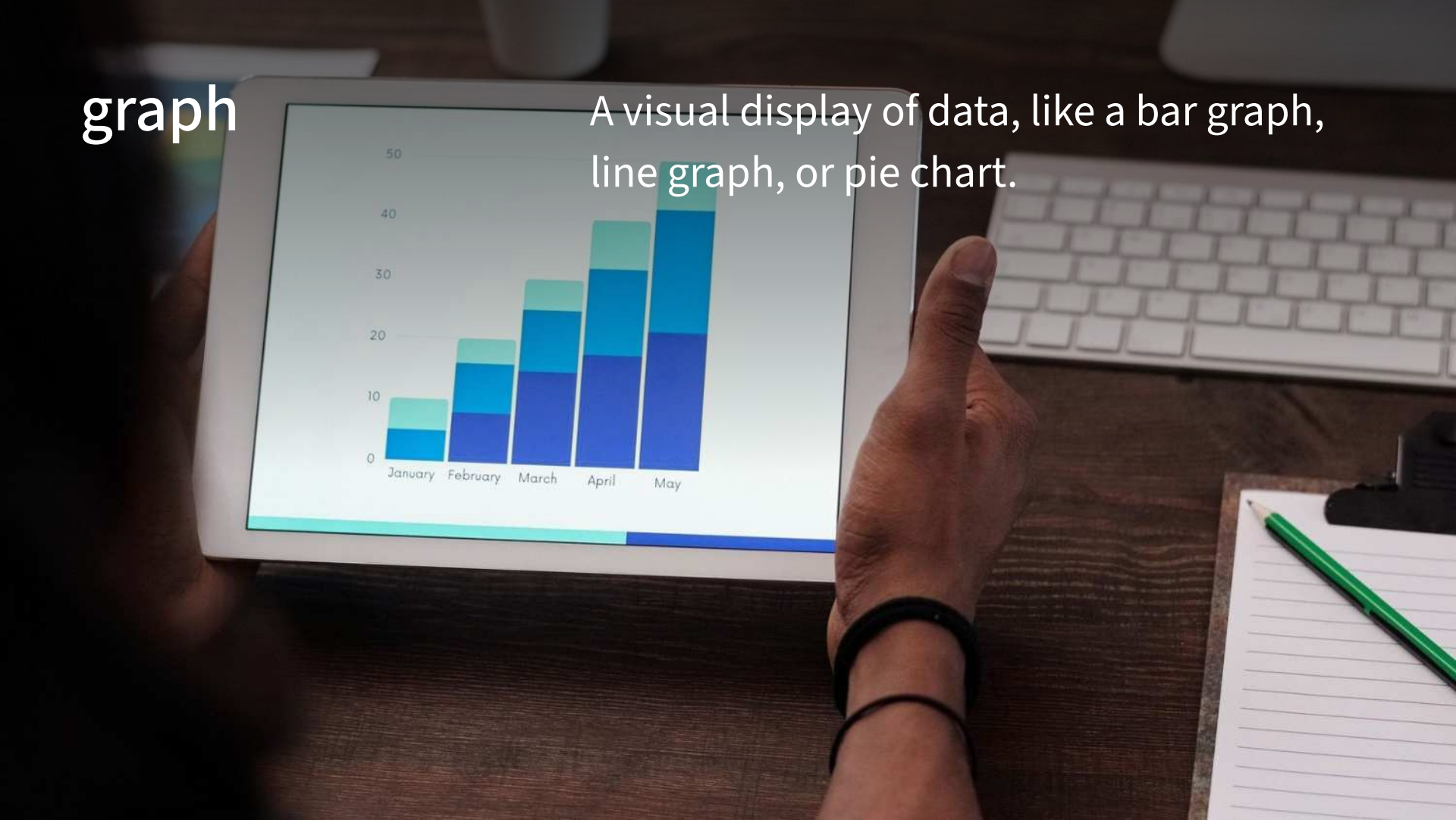
data

Facts or numbers collected to help us understand something.



graph

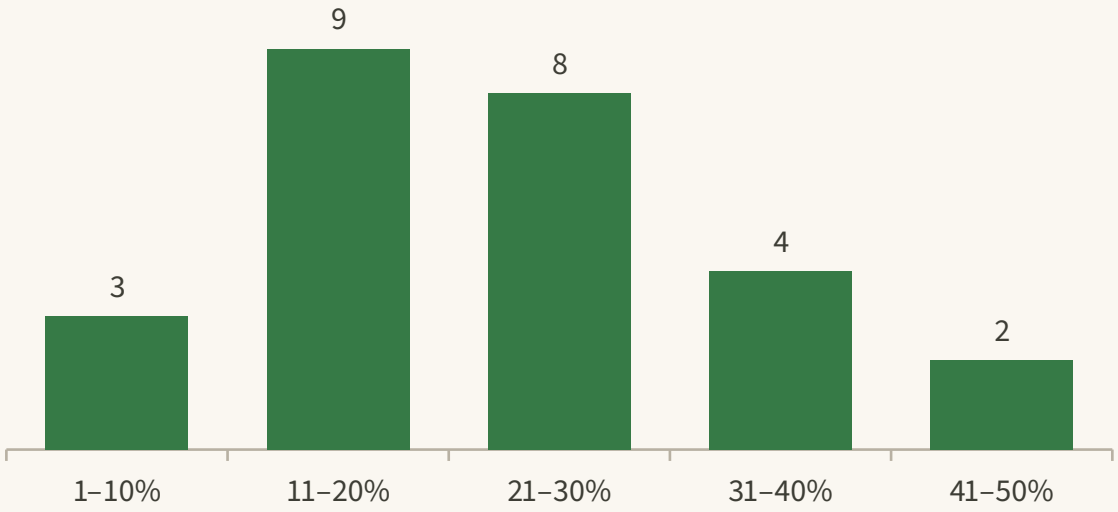
A visual display of data, like a bar graph, line graph, or pie chart.



TWO GRAPHS, TWO STORIES

How much food do you think gets wasted?

Guesses from a sample class of 26 students



Each bar: how many students chose that guess

THINK ABOUT IT

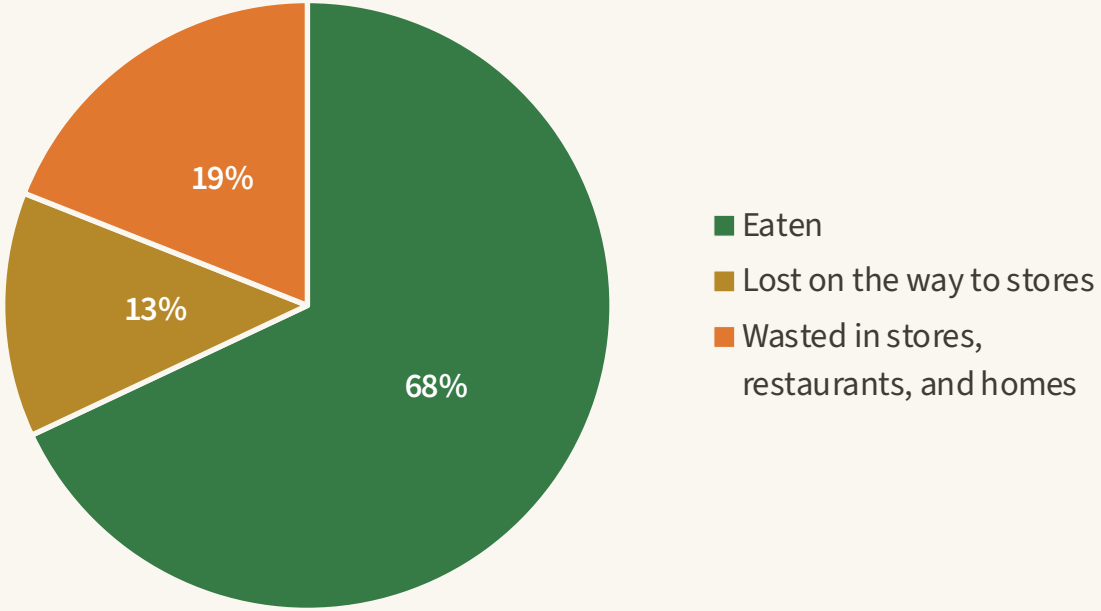
What do you notice?

What do you wonder?

What story does this graph tell?

TWO GRAPHS, TWO STORIES

How much food is really lost or wasted?



THINK ABOUT IT

How close were the guesses?

Where is most food wasted?

Who are the people and places behind these numbers?

Worldwide. Sources: FAO (food lost); UN Environment Programme, Food Waste Index (food wasted).

Number and percentage questions

Count things or measure amounts.

EXAMPLE 1

“How many times per week do you cook dinner?”

Answer range: 0 to 7 times

EXAMPLE 2

“What percentage of the food you eat is grown locally?”

Answer range: 0 to 100%

Personal preference questions

Share your feelings or opinions.

EXAMPLE 1

“How important is it to buy organic food?”

Scale of 0 to 5, from “not very important” to “very important”

EXAMPLE 2

“How much do you like carrots?”

Scale of 0 to 10, where 10 means “I love carrots”

Test-your-knowledge questions

Make your best guess, then find out!

EXAMPLE 1

“About what percentage of food is never eaten?”

Answer: about 30%, roughly one-third

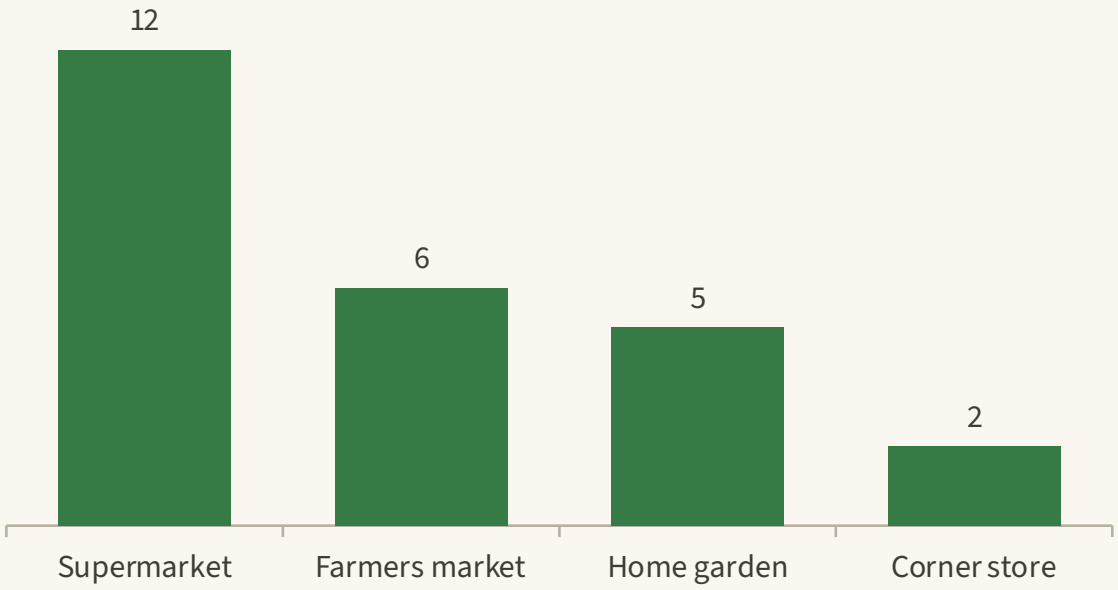
EXAMPLE 2

“About how many workers in the world have food or farming jobs?”

Answer: about 1 in 3

BAR GRAPH

Where does your family get most of its vegetables?



BEST FOR

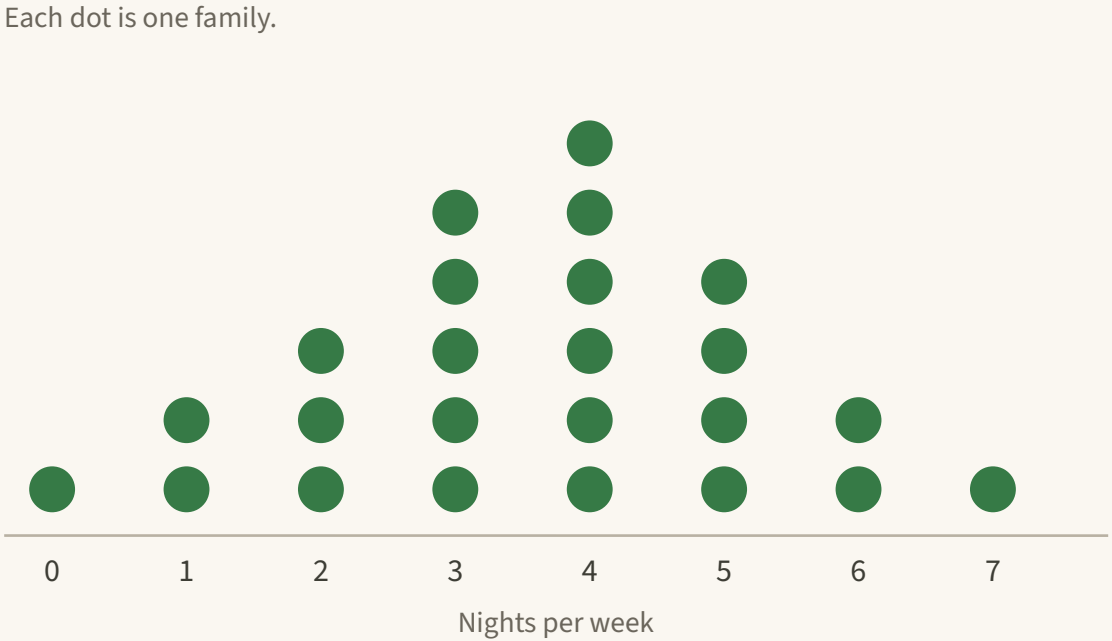
Comparing choices

Each bar is one choice.

Taller bar, more people chose it.

DOT PLOT

How many nights a week does your family cook dinner?



BEST FOR

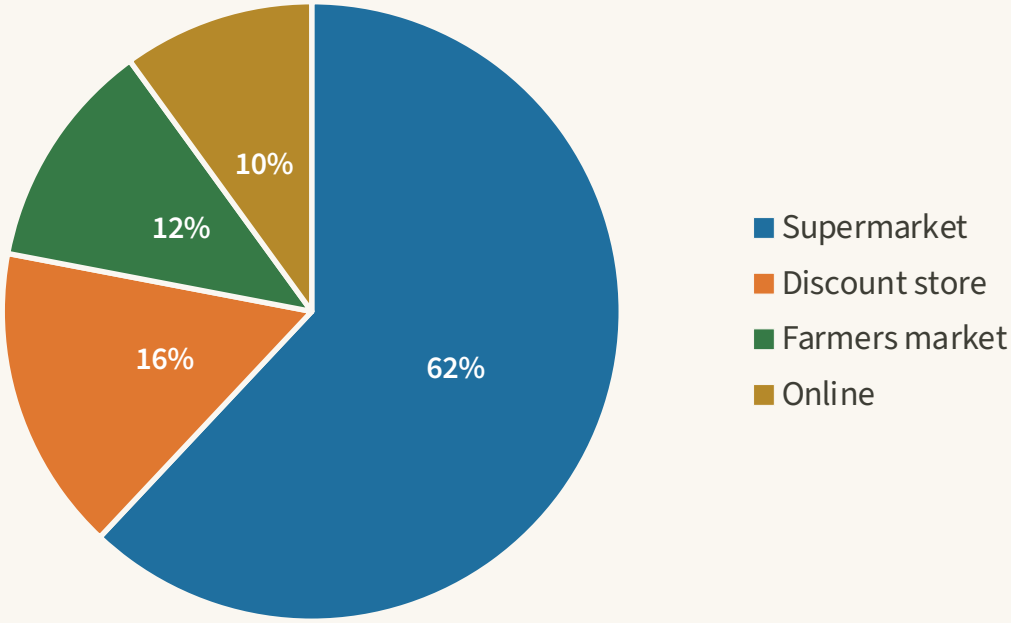
Seeing how number answers spread out

Each dot is one family's answer.

The tallest stack is the most common answer.

PIE CHART

Where do people shop for food?



BEST FOR

Showing parts of a whole

The whole pie is 100%.

Bigger slice, larger share.

GRAPH AND CHART EXAMPLES

Choosing the right graph

	Bar graph	Comparing choices Example: Where families get their vegetables
	Dot plot	Seeing how number answers spread out Example: Nights a week a family cooks dinner
	Pie chart	Showing parts of a whole Example: Where people shop for food