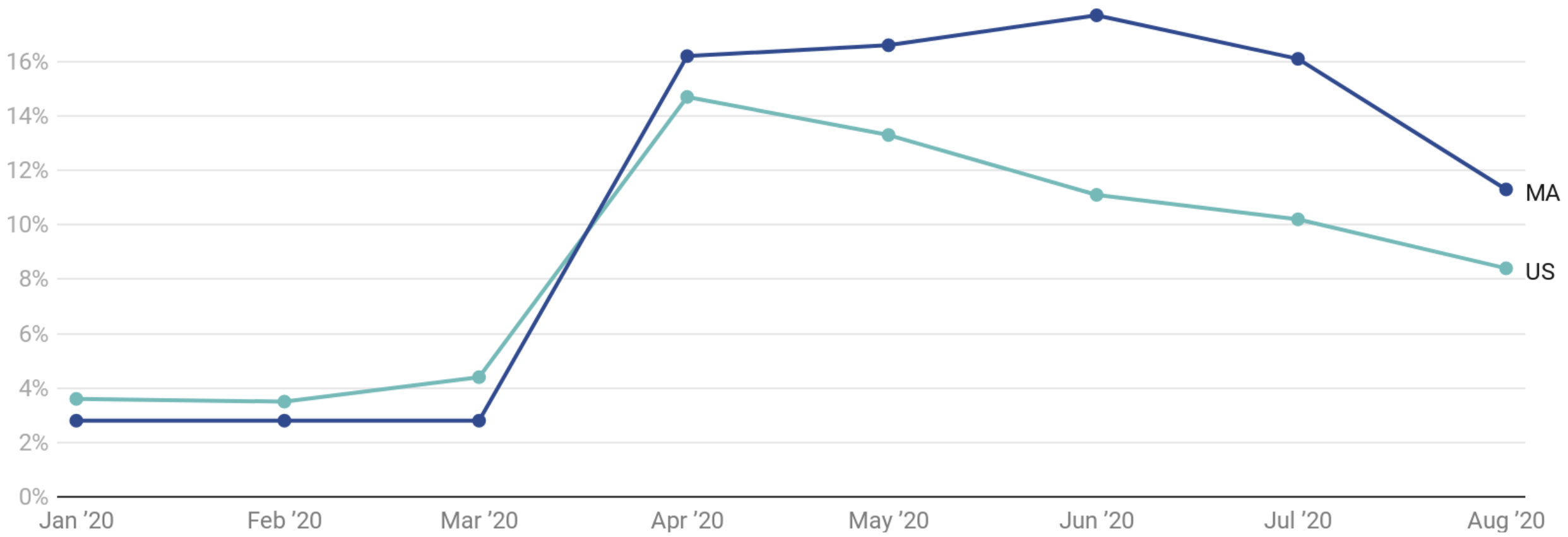


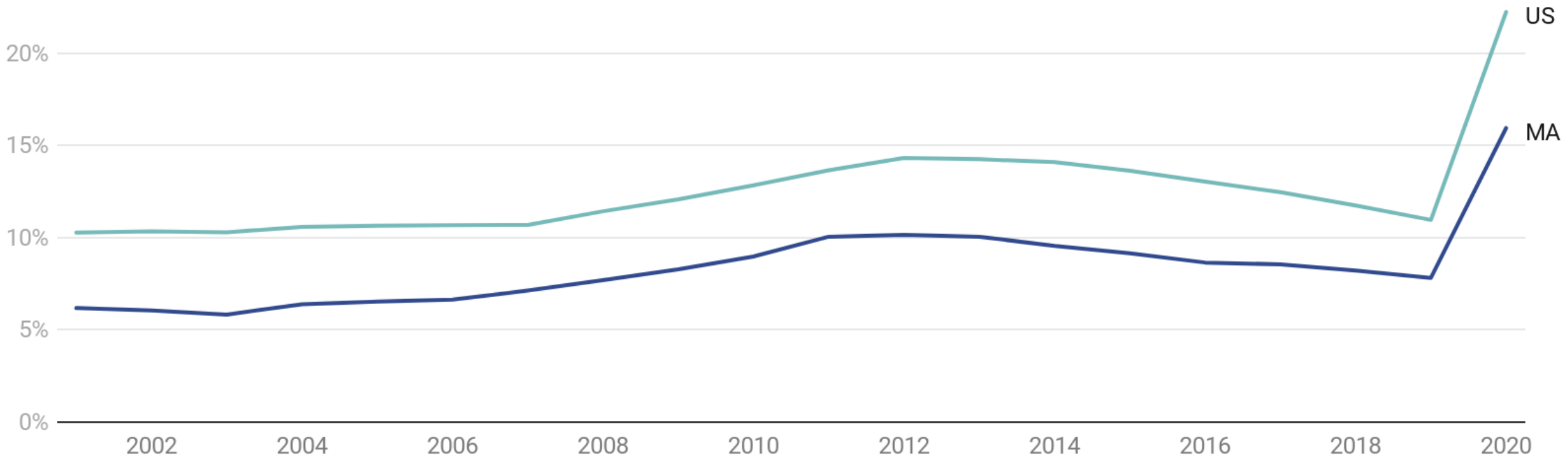
Massachusetts had the highest unemployment rate in the country in June 2020, before declining in later months.

Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted.



Food insecurity has doubled during the COVID-19 pandemic.

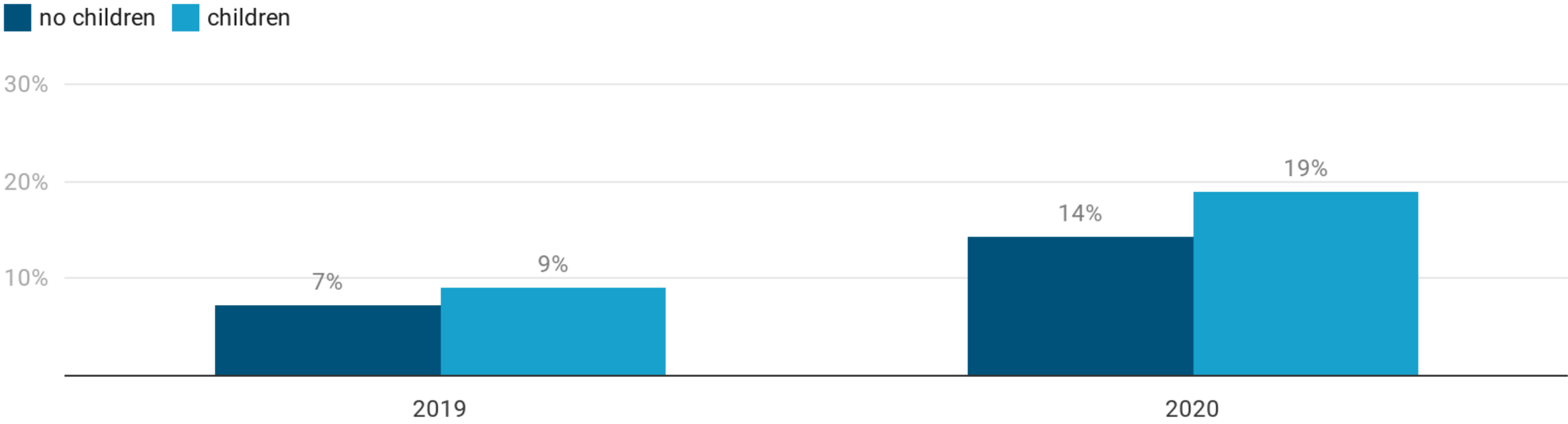
Share of the population 18+ indicating low or very low food security.



Data are sourced from the Current Population Survey (CPS) Food Security Supplement for years 2001-2019 and from the Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey for 2020. To increase sample size and reduce margins of error, CPS data are pooled to generate 5-year rolling averages (where 2001 denotes years 1997-2001). Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey data, used to produce 2020 data, represent the first 12 weeks of the survey data pooled together, or all of survey phase one.

Food insecurity is higher among households with children, a disparity worsened by the pandemic.

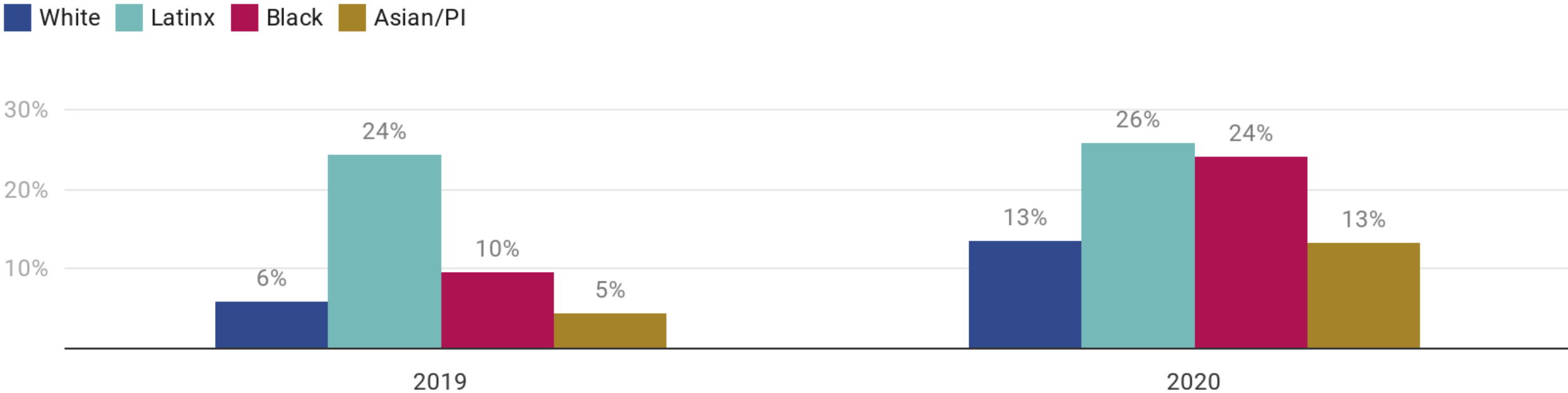
Share of the population 18+ with and without children in their home, indicating low or very low food security, Massachusetts.



Data are sourced from the Current Population Survey (CPS) Food Security Supplement for 2019 and from the Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey for 2020. To increase sample size and reduce margins of error, 5 years of CPS data are pooled, so that 2019 denotes years 2015-2019. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey data, used to produce 2020 data, represent the first 12 weeks of the survey data pooled together, or all of survey phase one.

Food insecurity has been concentrated in Latinx and Black communities, who have been hardest hit by the pandemic.

Share of the population 18+ indicating low or very low food security by race/ethnicity, Massachusetts.

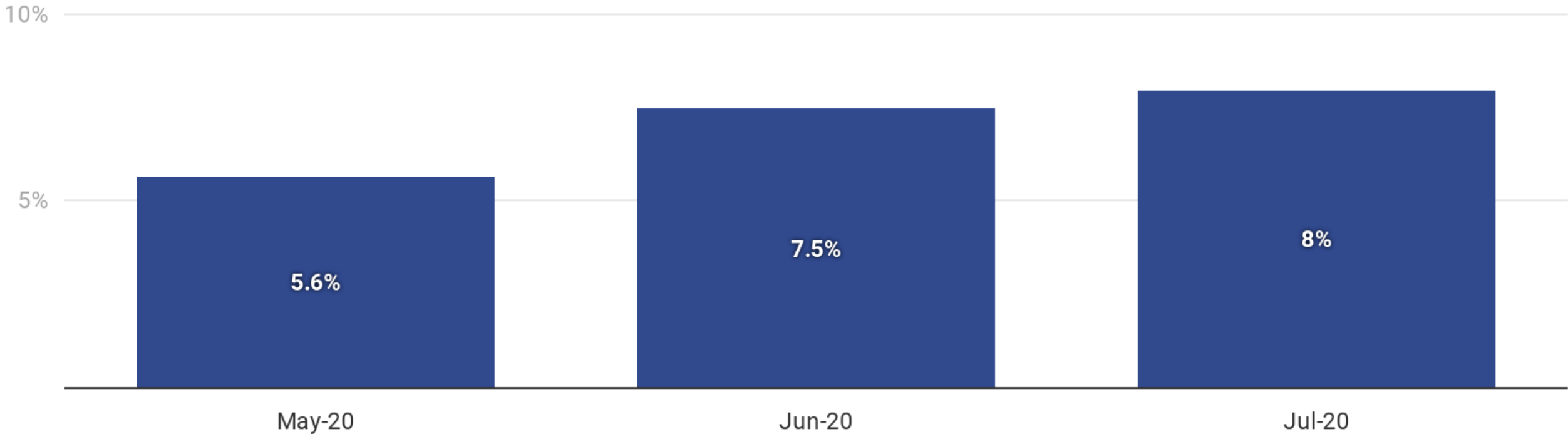


Data are sourced from the Current Population Survey (CPS) Food Security Supplement for 2019 and from the Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey for 2020. To increase sample size and reduce margins of error, 5 years of CPS data are pooled, so that 2019 denotes years 2015-2019. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey data, used to produce 2020 data, represent the first 12 weeks of the survey data pooled together, or all of survey phase one. Races/ethnicities not displayed (e.g. Native American) did not have sufficient data for analysis.

Chart: Boston Indicators • Source: Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement and Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey • Created with Datawrapper

The share of households receiving free meals or free groceries has risen significantly during the pandemic.

Share of the population 18+ who themselves or their households have received free meals or groceries in the past 7 days, Massachusetts.

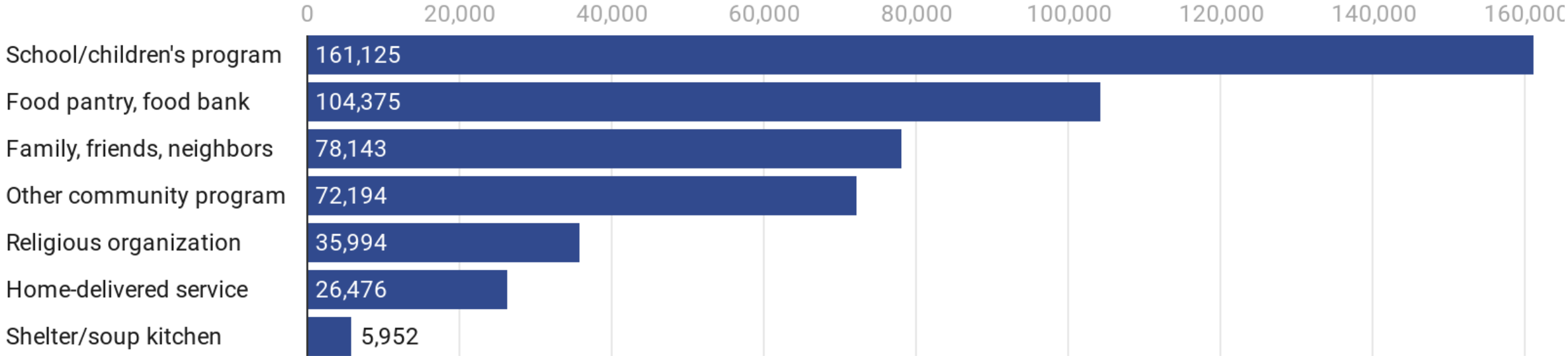


Data reflect phase one Household Pulse Survey data pooled across 4 weeks. The estimate for May is statistically different from June and July, but estimates for June and July are not statistically different from one another at the 90 percent confidence level.

Chart: Boston Indicators • Source: Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey • Created with Datawrapper

During the pandemic, many in Massachusetts have turned to free school-based programs, food banks, or family and friends to mitigate food insecurity.

Share of population 18+ who access free food and where they get it, Massachusetts, 2020

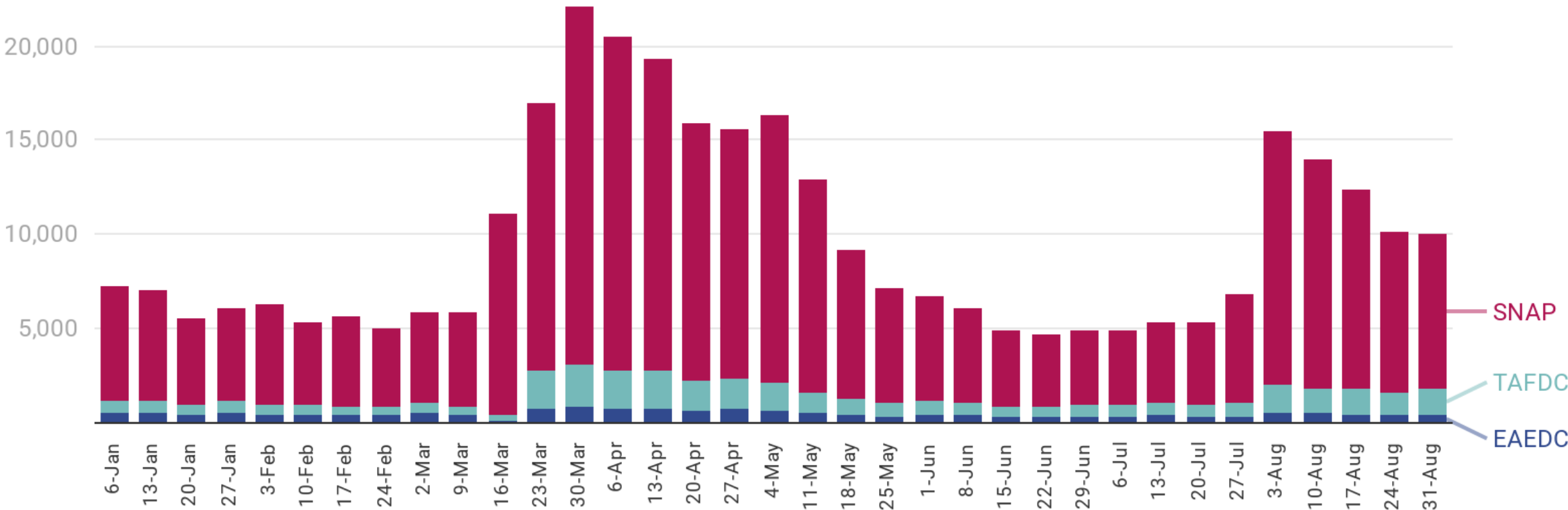


Data reflect average number of people who received free food each week from May through July, 2020.

Chart: Boston Indicators • Source: Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey • Created with Datawrapper

Social assistance applications, primarily for SNAP, jumped in late March and again in early August.

Each bar represents total new applications over the course of one week. Massachusetts.

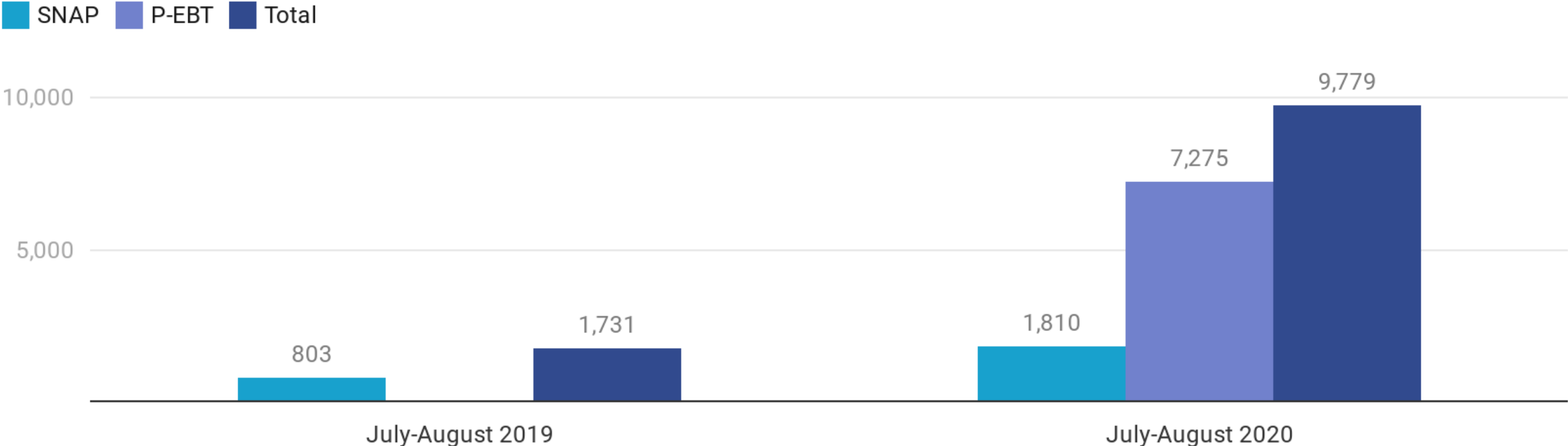


Data provided by Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance to Boston Indicators

Chart: Boston Indicators • Source: Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance • Created with Datawrapper

Calls to Project Bread's statewide FoodSource Hotline were high before the pandemic, and have since skyrocketed.

Total calls placed to the Project Bread FoodSource Hotline and selected reasons for calling, Massachusetts.



Callers frequently seek information related to multiple topics, so for example may be counted both in the SNAP pre-screening column and the P-EBT column. The total column sums total unique calls.



The State of Hunger Since the Pandemic

Trevor Mattos
Boston Indicators