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Food Insecurity in Uganda: A perception based analysis

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Perceptions

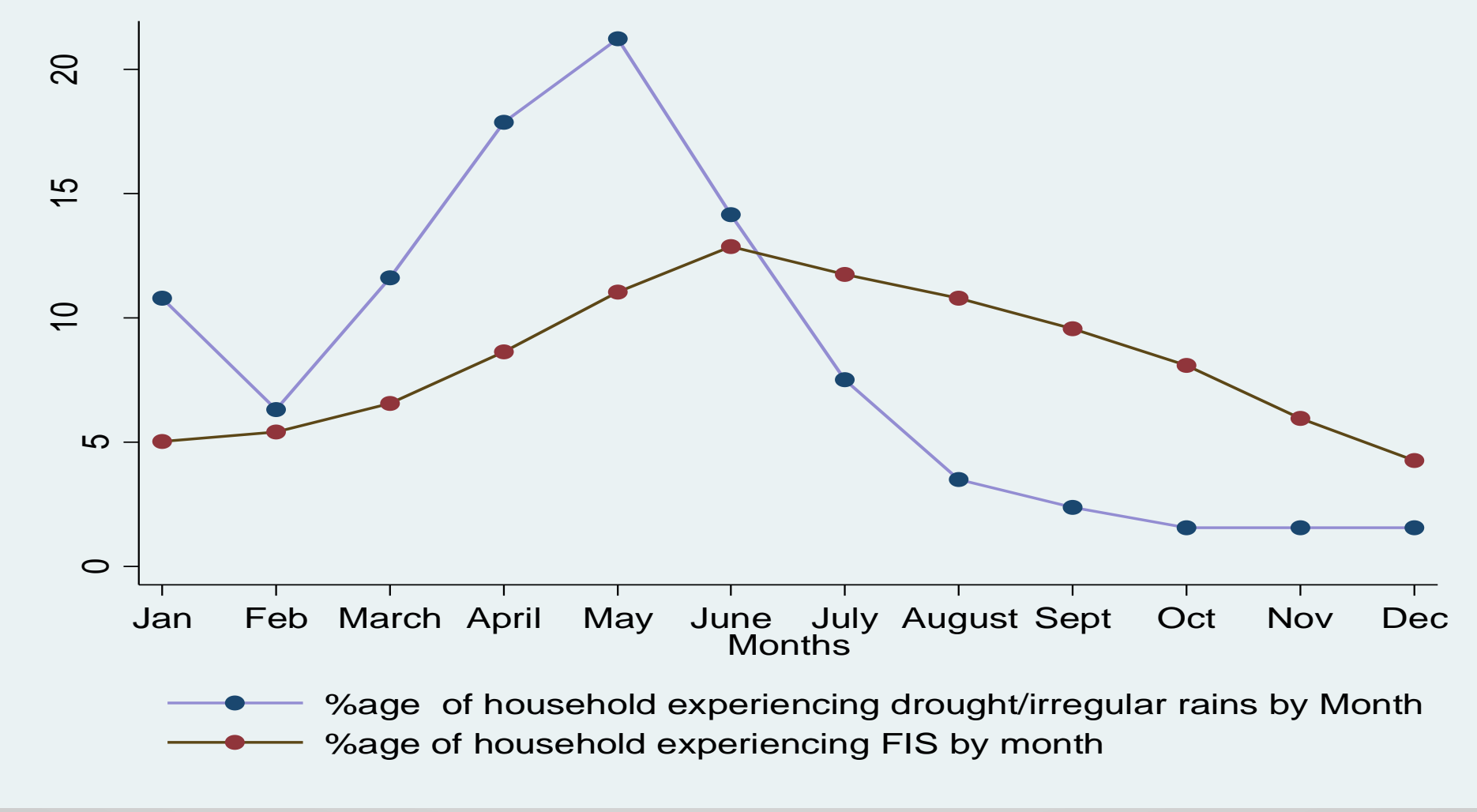
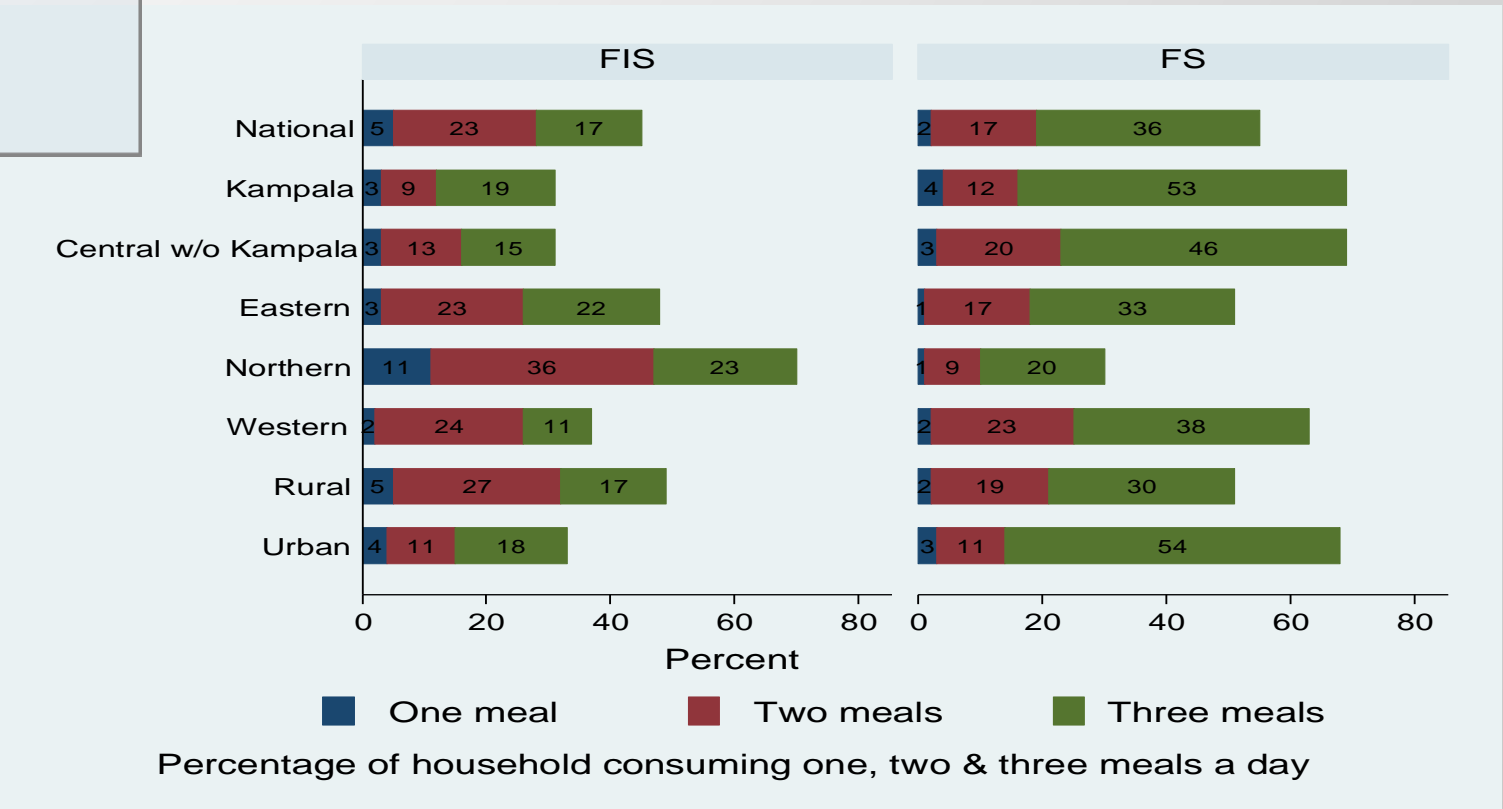
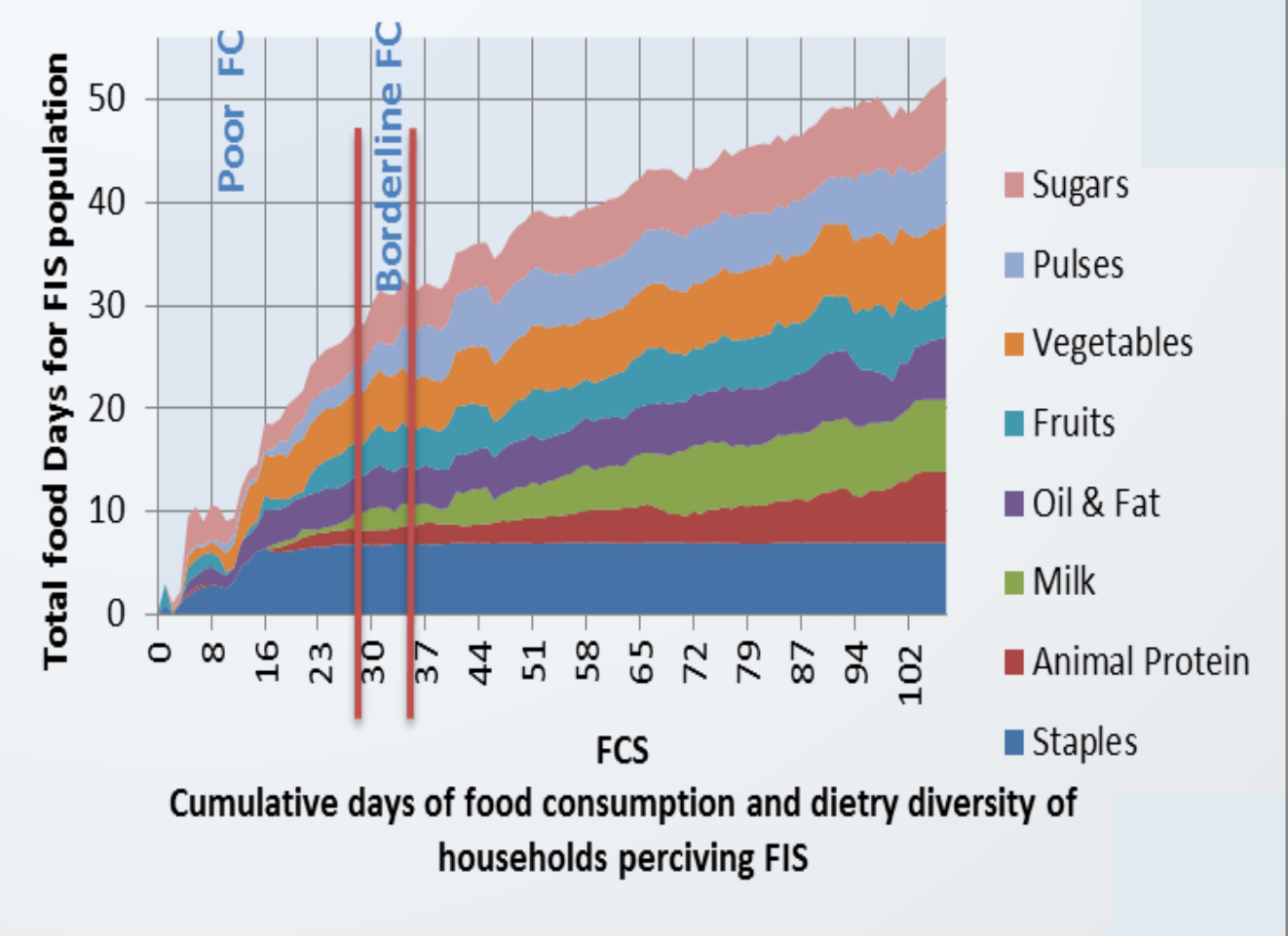
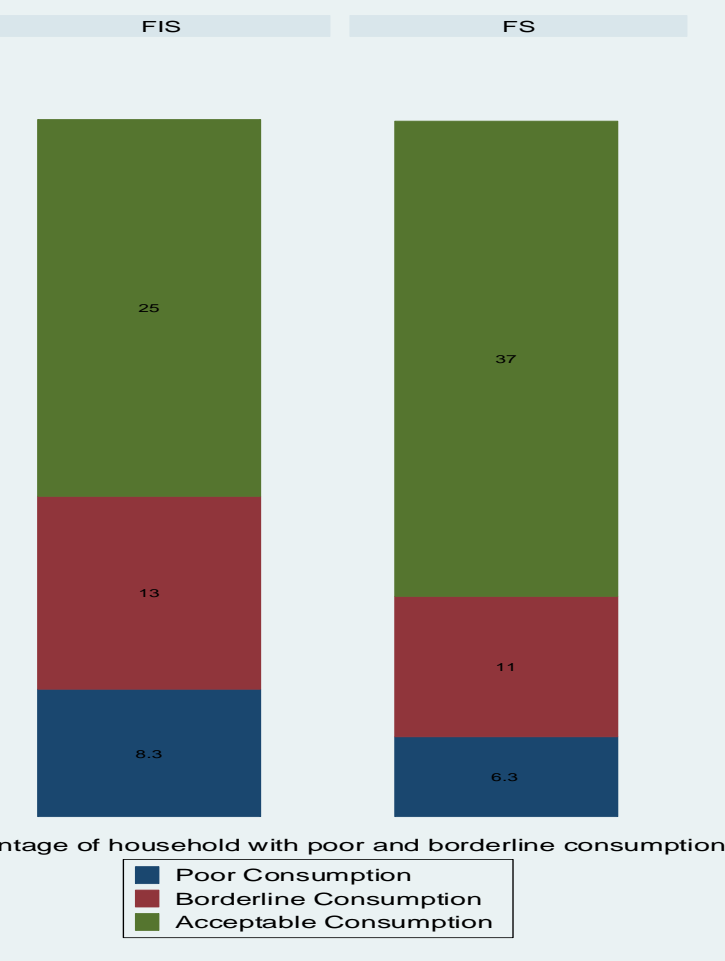
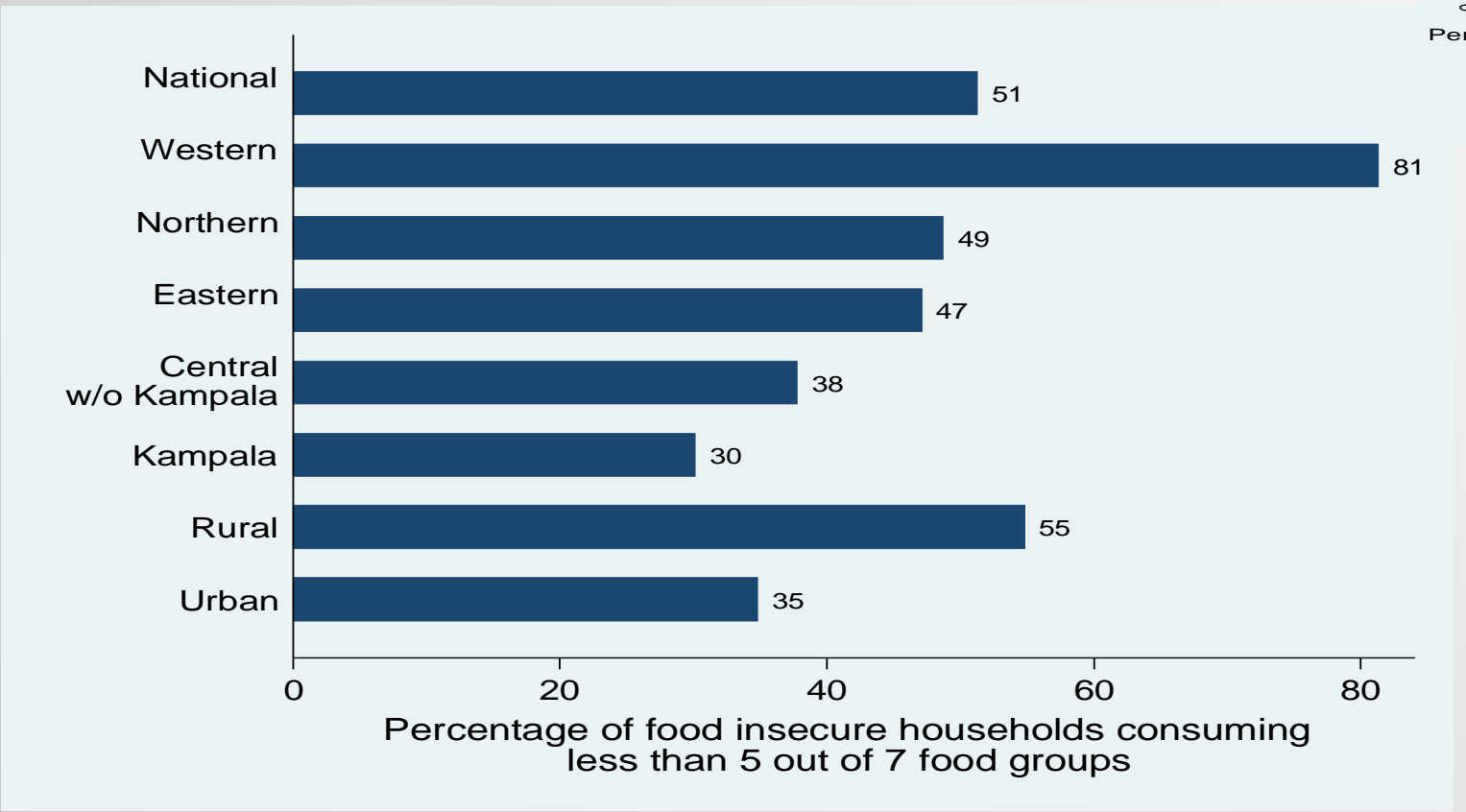
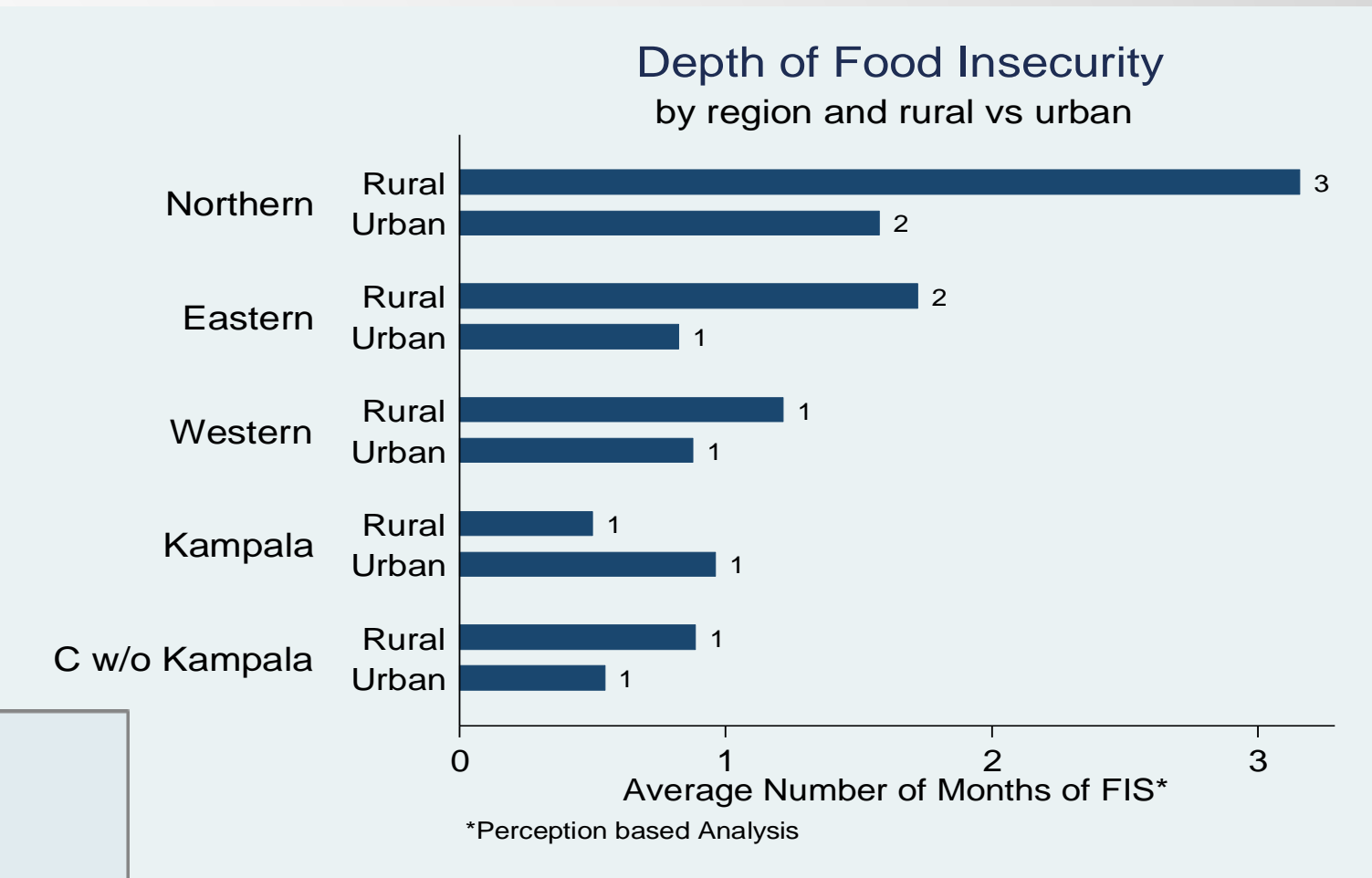
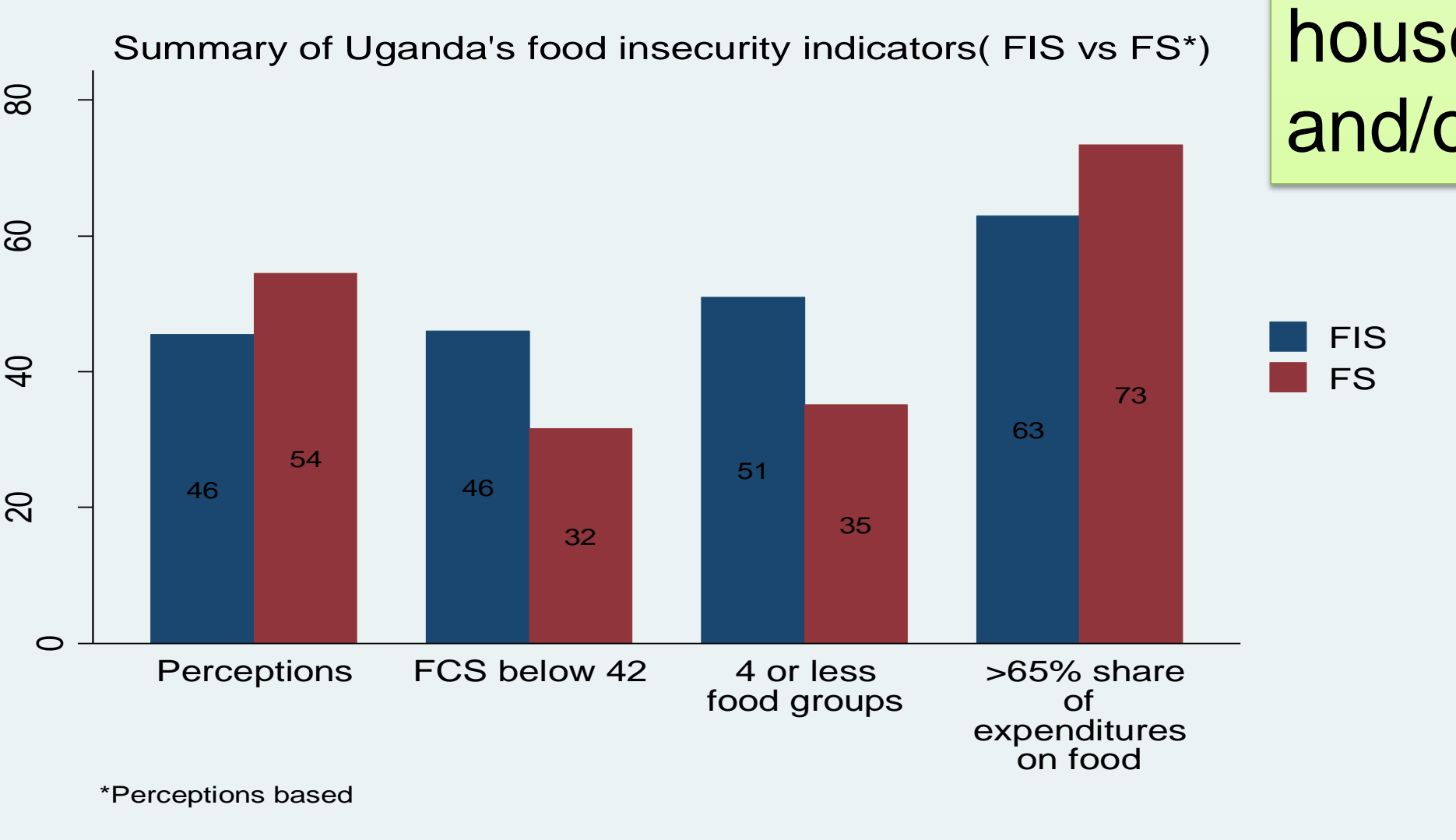
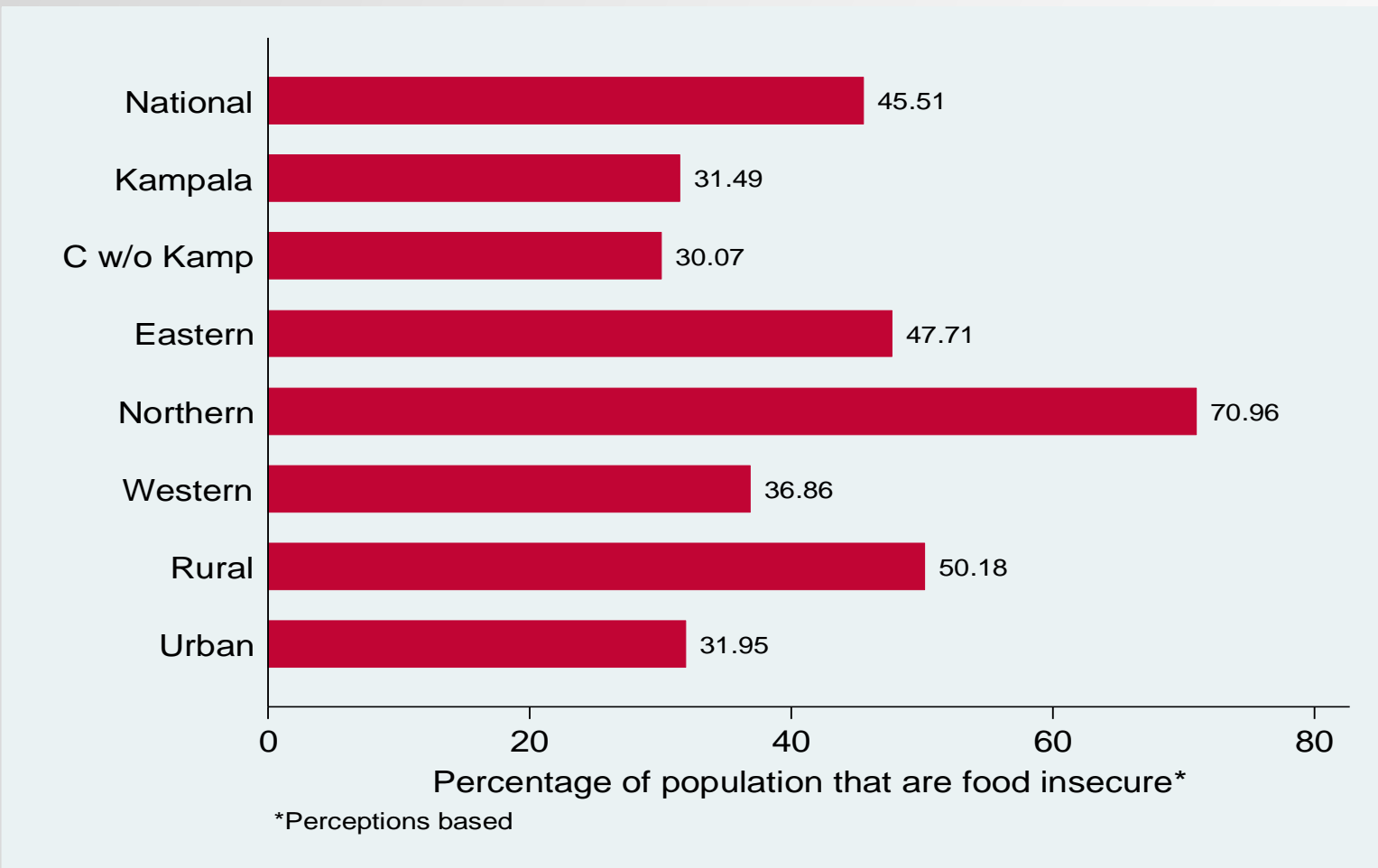
Households faced a situation when they did not have enough food to feed in the year before the survey.

Introduction

While food insecurity (FIS) is a widely used concept, its quantification remains controversial. Data on food insecurity perceptions has been collected in several recent national household surveys, in particular the World Bank's Living Standards Measurement Surveys–Integrated Surveys of Agriculture (LSMS-ISA), through modules are included which focus on respondents' perceived assessment of individual/household food security situation (Migotto et al., 2005). In this work, we use data on households' perceptions of food insecurity from the Ugandan LSMS to quantify both its extent and intensity (Kakwani, 1989).

Methodology

We quantify the extent and intensity of food insecurity by analyzing households' perceptions and duration of food insecurity, measuring quality/diversity of food that its members consumed, calculating the food consumption score and estimating the share of food expenditures. We also compare the perceptions based food insecure households with those unable to meet the other quantity and/or quality thresholds of food security.



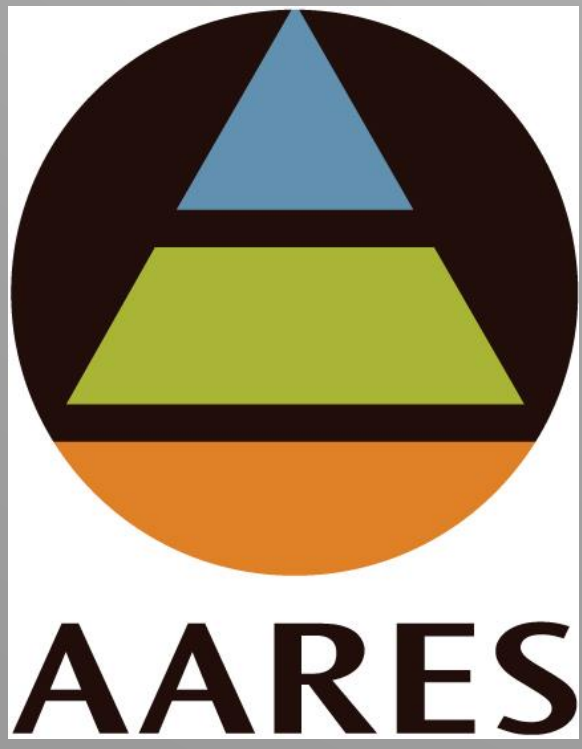
Results

Almost half (46%) of Ugandans perceived themselves as being food insecure in the period 2009-2010, with marked regional differences: in Northern Uganda, for example, this proportion spiked at 71% and FIS perceptions were more important in rural than urban areas. On average, households reported not having enough to eat for 3 months. These measures of FIS are highly correlated with other more common FIS measures.

Conclusion

Data on perceptions of food insecurity is highly correlated with other, objective, measures of food insecurity. One major advantage of this type of data is that it allows for the retrospective analysis of the extent and depth of food insecurity.

The next step of this analysis focuses on the determinants of food insecurity in Uganda.



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