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Economic Assessment of Morel (*Morchella* spp.) Foraging Activities in Michigan, USA

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Presenter- Aastha Pudasainee

BACKGROUND:

Morel foraging is a popular outdoor activity in the Great Lakes region, with places such as Mesick, MI even hosting an annual Morel Mushroom Festival every May.

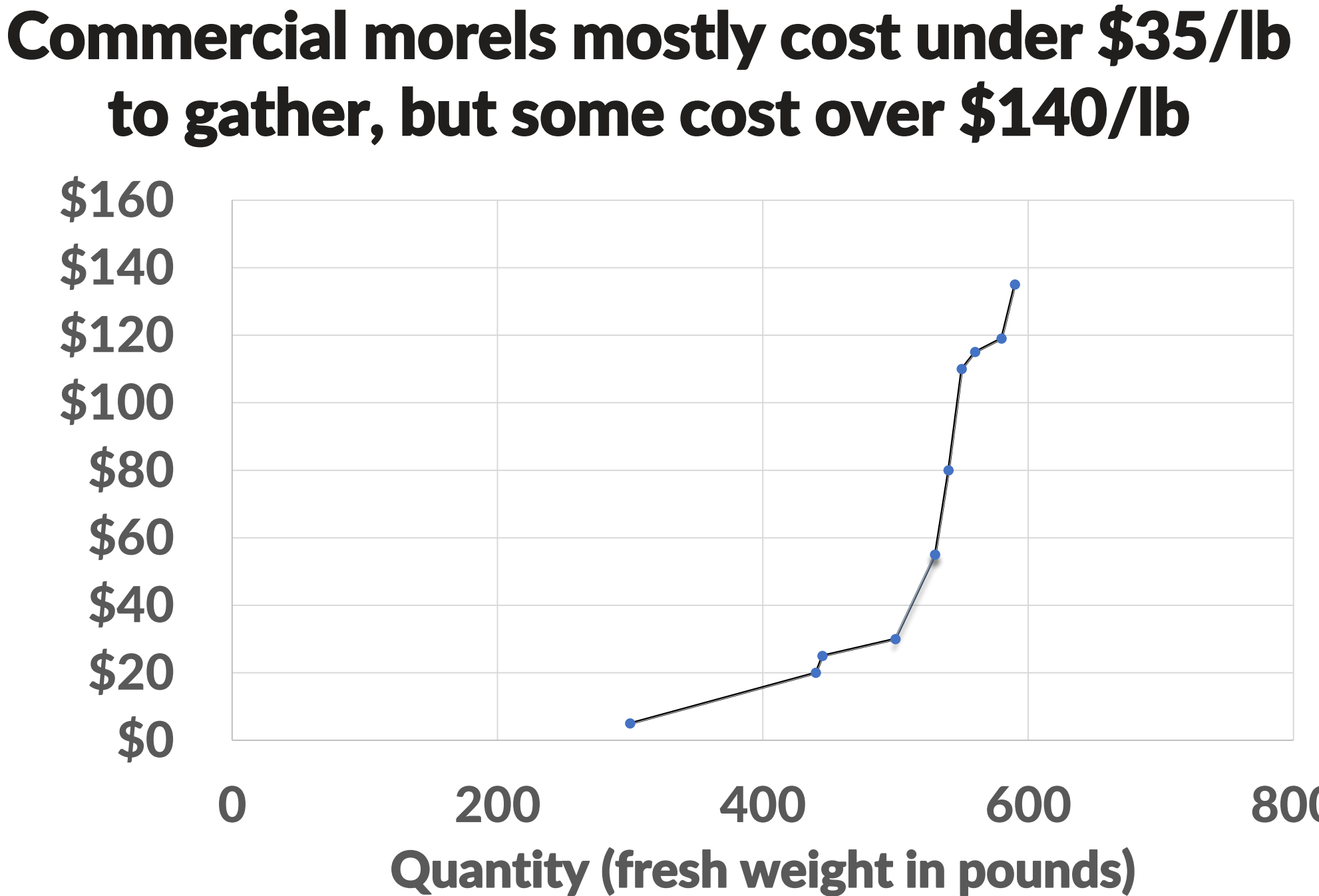
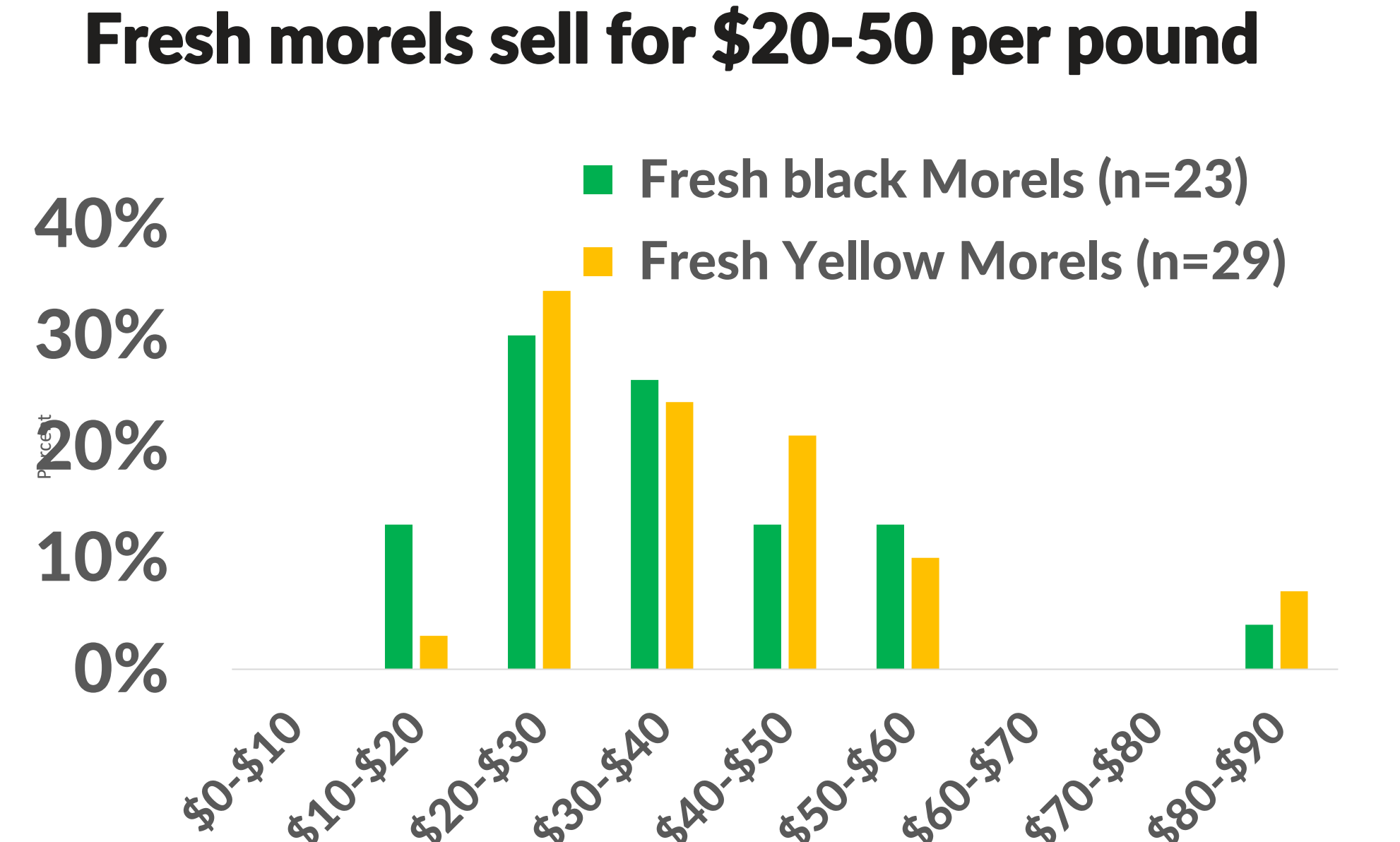
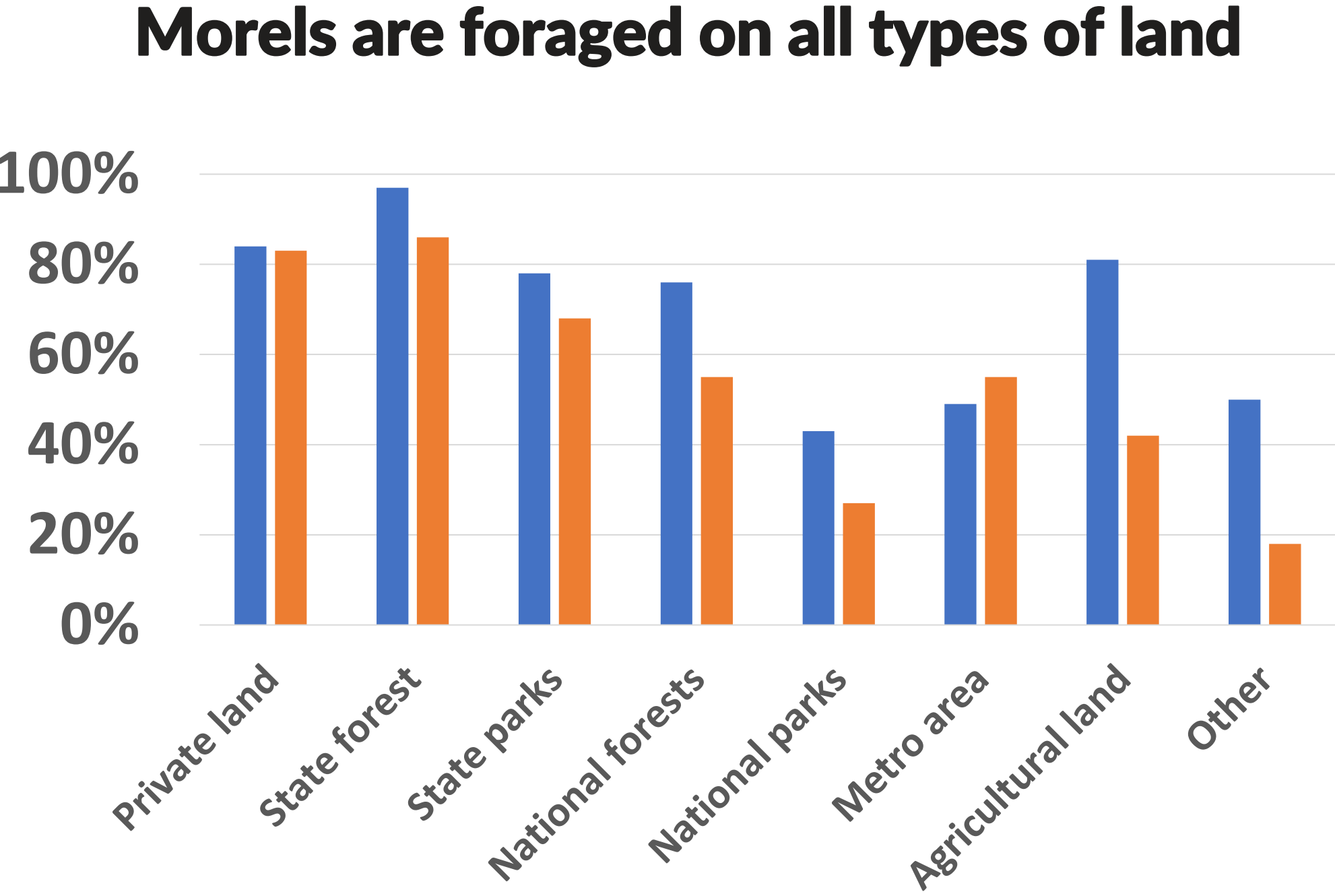
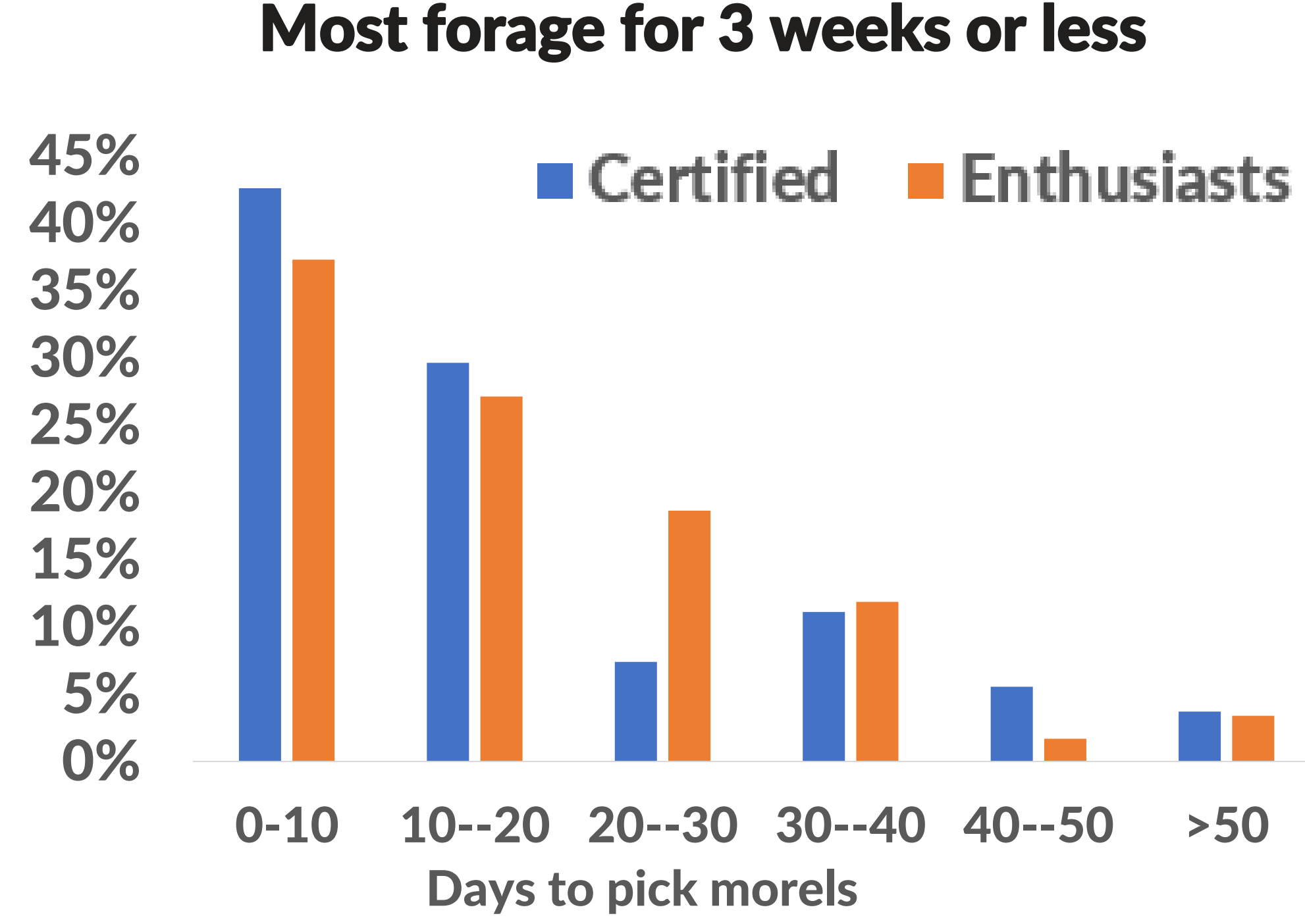
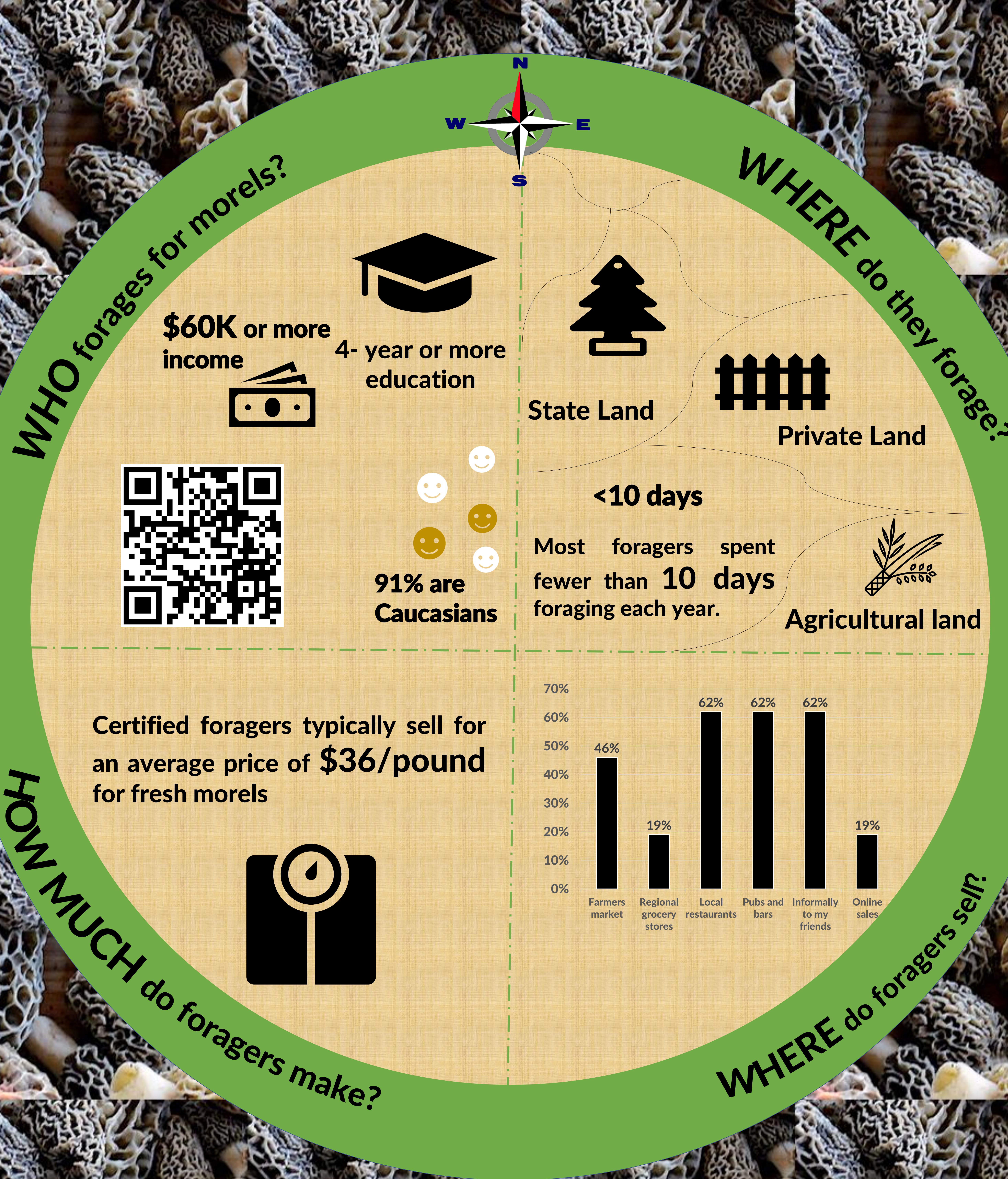
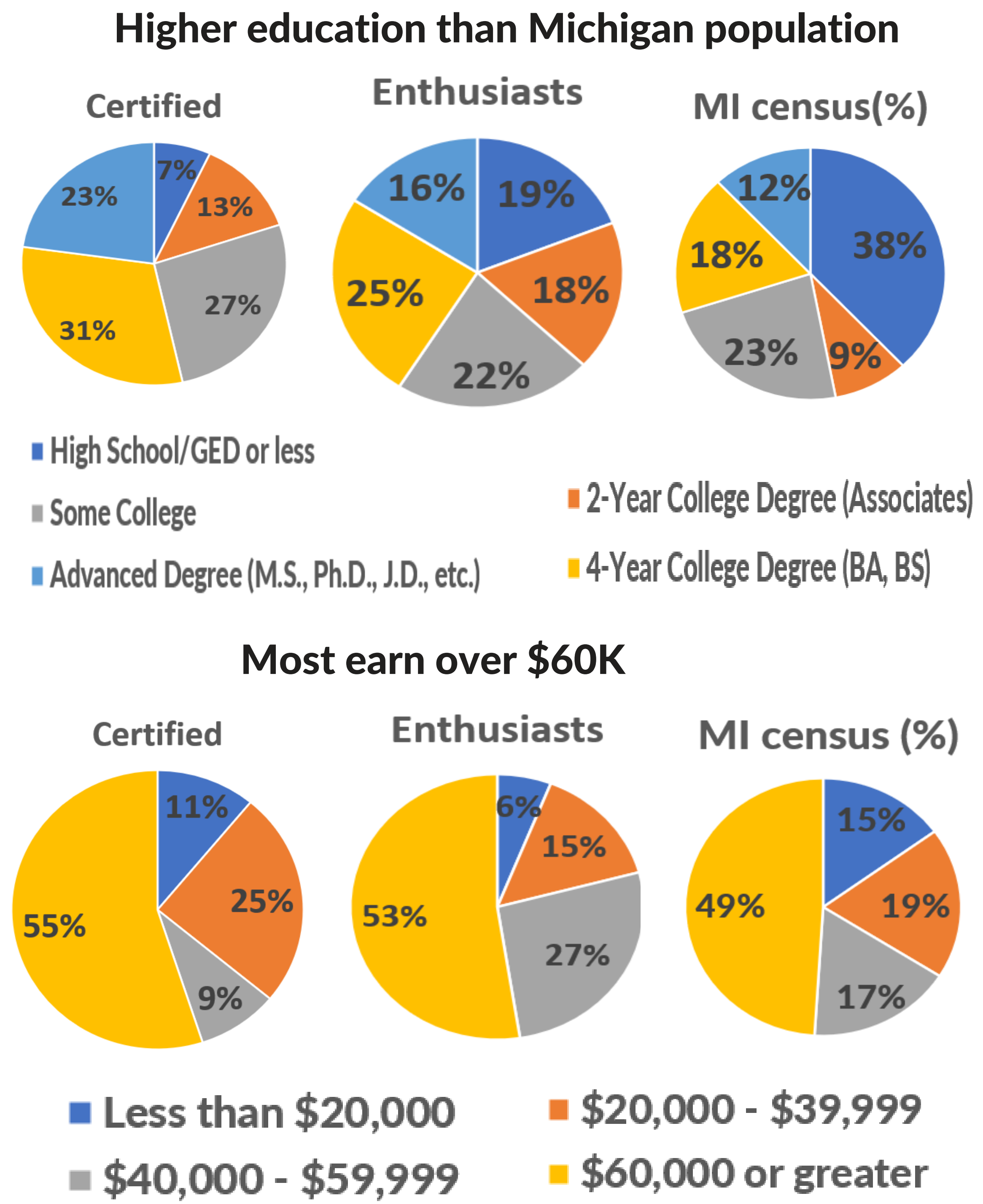
Morel foraging serves both as a form of recreation and a source of income in the Great Lakes region.

To understand the economic role and potential of morel foraging, we conducted a survey in 2020 of both Michigan-certified mushroom hunters and morel enthusiasts.

METHODS

1. The survey was conducted online in four major sections using the Qualtrics® platform
2. We surveyed 78 certified mushroom foragers and 85 snowball foraging enthusiasts.

RESULTS



DISCUSSION

Morel foragers also collect other mushrooms such as Oyster (*Pleurotus*), Hen of the Woods (*Grifola*), and Chicken of the Woods (*Laetiporus*).

Given the high prices for wild-foraged morels, is there potential for the development of a market for artificially cultivated morels?

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