



Food Box Preferences: Ukrainians vs. Non-Ukrainians

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Abstract

The Jewish Relief Agency of Philadelphia (JRA) is a non-profit organization that provides a monthly food box to those in need. In January of 2022, about 2,000 surveys were mailed to a sample of JRA clients. The survey collects demographic data, level of satisfaction, food preferences, and connection to the Jewish community. To date, over 800 surveys have been returned and entered into a database. In the survey, clients are asked to name the top 5 items they enjoy receiving in the food boxes. Given the recent Russian invasion of Ukraine, I chose to analyze Ukrainians versus non-Ukrainians in this topic area to determine if there is a cultural difference in item preferences. To show this possible cultural difference, I plan on utilizing bar graphs and analytical breakdowns of items per country. I hypothesize that there is a cultural difference in some items, as some countries use specific items in their dishes more than others.

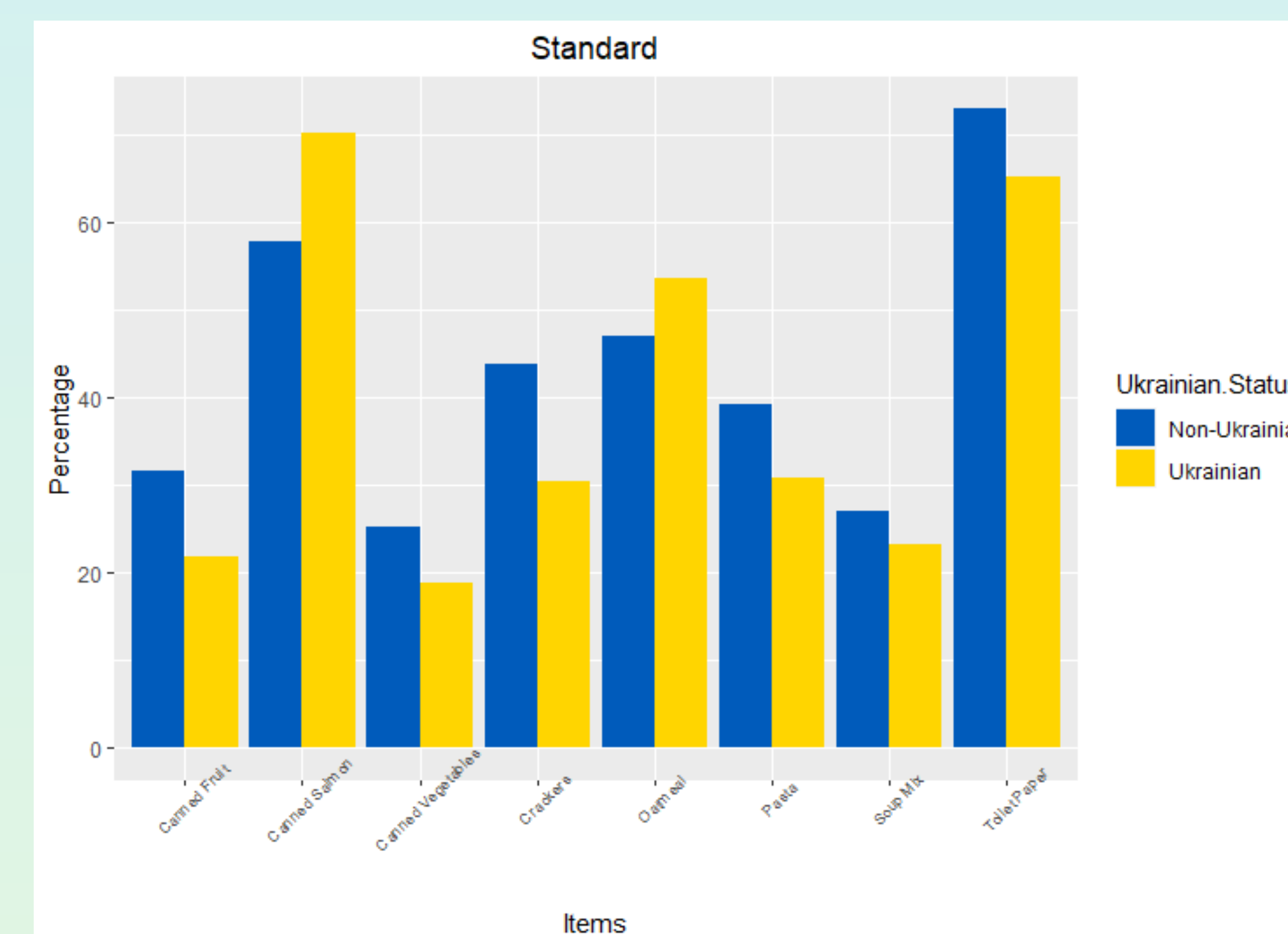
Methods

First, our team manually entered all paper copies of the surveys into a database, which was later imputed into R. Then, I used R to split the data set by Ukrainian origin, to obtain the counts for each food box item. Next, I manually calculated the percentages for the items to be used for the bar charts. Finally, I used R to generate the bar graphs for each food box type, omitting items without strong differences for ease of readability.

Analysis

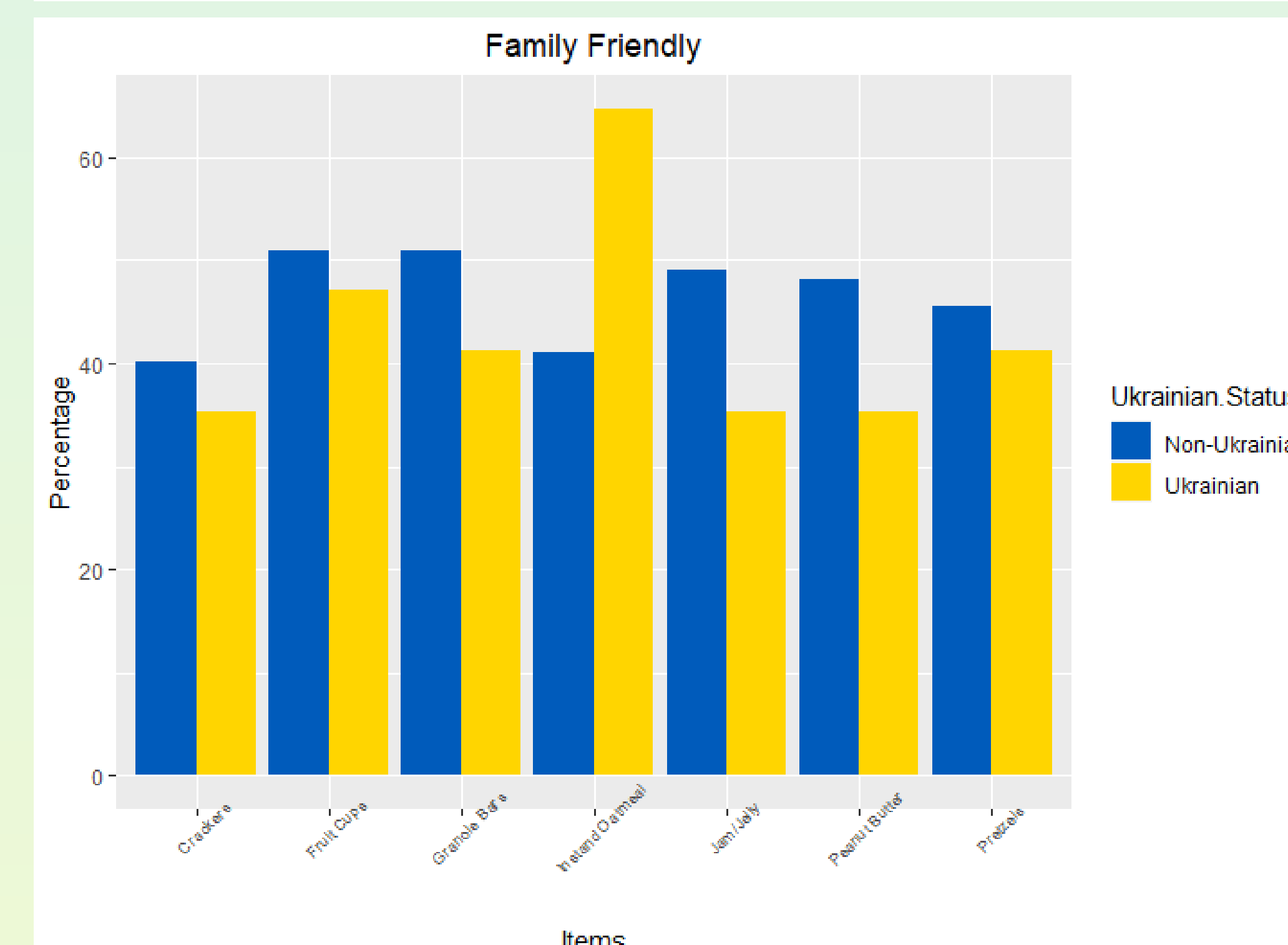
Standard

The Standard JRA Food Box consists of numerous food items to feed the general public. Within the Standard Box, recipients can receive Toilet Paper, Masks, Soap, Canned Tuna, Canned Salmon, Oatmeal, Pasta, Canned Beans, Canned Fruit, Canned Vegetables, Soup Mix, Cooking Oil, and Crackers. Of those who completed the feedback survey, 285 Ukrainians chose their favorite items, and 816 non-Ukrainians chose theirs. Shown in the graph to the right are the percentages of each item picked for both Ukrainians and Non-Ukrainians. Omitted from the graph for both lack of difference and for ease of reading are Masks, Soap, Canned Tuna, Canned Beans, and Oil. Ukrainians preferred Canned Salmon and Oatmeal, while Non-Ukrainians preferred all other shown items.



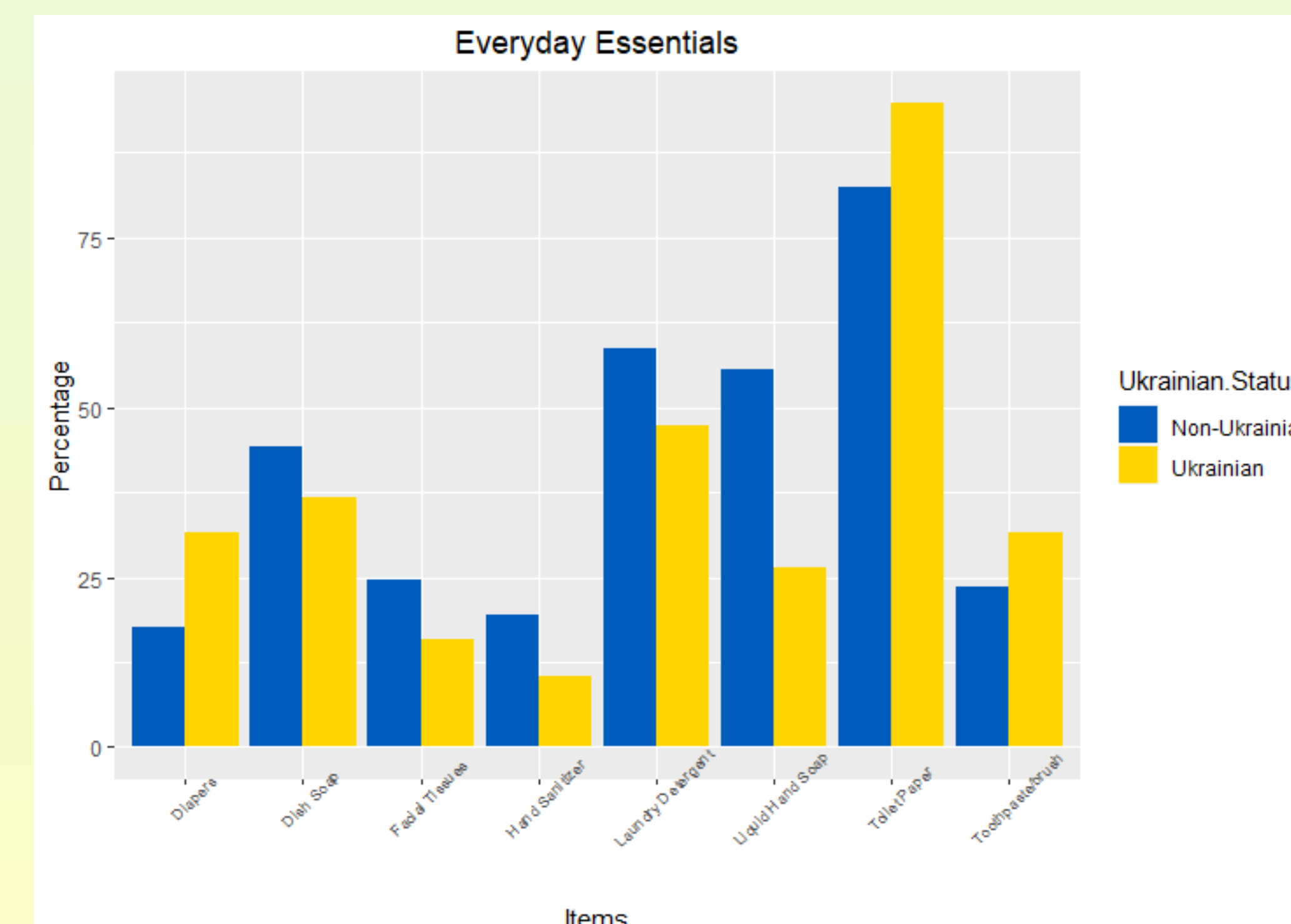
Family Friendly

The Family Friendly Food Box consists of food items that are made primarily for those with children to help fill their school lunchboxes. Within the Family Friendly Food Box, recipients can receive Peanut Butter, Jam/Jelly, Crackers, Pretzels, Fruit Cups, Granola Bars, and Instant Oatmeal. Of those who completed the feedback survey, 17 Ukrainians chose their favorite items, and 112 Non-Ukrainians chose theirs. Shown in the graph to the right are the percentages of each item picked for both Ukrainians and Non-Ukrainians. All items in the Family Friendly Food Box are shown on the graph. Overall, Ukrainians were not as fond of the items within the Family Friendly Food Box compared to Non-Ukrainians apart from Instant Oatmeal.



Everyday Essentials

The Everyday Essentials Bag consists of toiletries and household cleaning items that were particularly scarce during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Within the Everyday Essentials Bag, recipients can receive Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Bar Soap, Laundry Detergent, Dish Soap, Facial Tissues, Toothpaste/Toothbrush, Liquid Hand Soap, Hand Sanitizer, Incontinence Supplies, and Diapers. Of those who completed the feedback survey, 19 Ukrainians chose their favorite items, and 97 Non-Ukrainians chose theirs. Shown in the graph to the right are the percentages of each item picked for both Ukrainians and Non-Ukrainians. Omitted from the graph for both lack of difference and for ease of reading are Paper Towels, Bar Soap, and Incontinence Supplies. Ukrainians preferred Diapers, Toilet Paper, and Toothpaste/Toothbrushes when compared to Non-Ukrainians.



About the JRA

"Jewish Relief Agency (JRA) was founded in 2000 as a volunteer-led hunger-relief organization working to inspire volunteerism in Philadelphia, under the conviction that no member of our community should be hungry."

"Through a monthly Food Distribution Program, the JRA harnesses the power of hundreds of volunteers to deliver kosher, nutritious food assistance and essential home supplies to thousands of low-income households each month."

"Today, the JRA serves over 6,800 diverse, low-income individuals across Greater Philadelphia. The JRA continues to create positive change by bringing people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities together" (JRA)

Conclusions

In conclusion, most of the items except for Instant Oatmeal and Liquid Hand Soap, were similar in preference for both Ukrainians and Non-Ukrainians.

References

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Jewish Relief Agency, 2021,
<https://jewishrelief.org/about-us-1>.

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