

Food waste from private households in Austria – status quo

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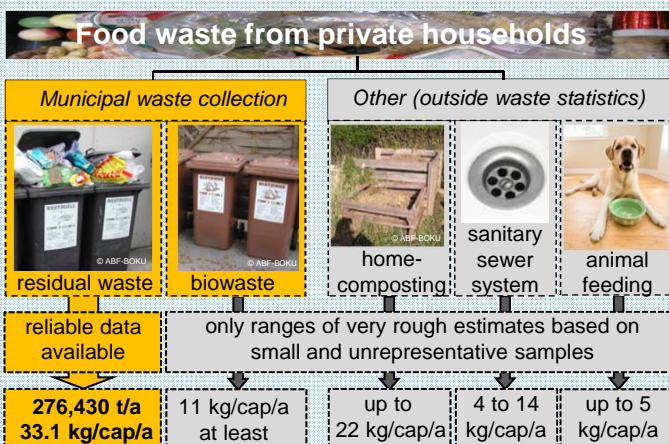
Aims

- provide an overview on current data and findings on quantities of food waste from private households in Austria
- identify data gaps

Methodology

This research is based on secondary data. Data from waste composition analyses, which were used for the calculation of food waste quantities, use different definitions and methodologies and had to be made comparable. The results also include food waste in the fine fraction.

Paths for the disposal of food waste



Classification of food waste

non avoidable

- Preparation residues
- Parts which are inedible or usually not consumed



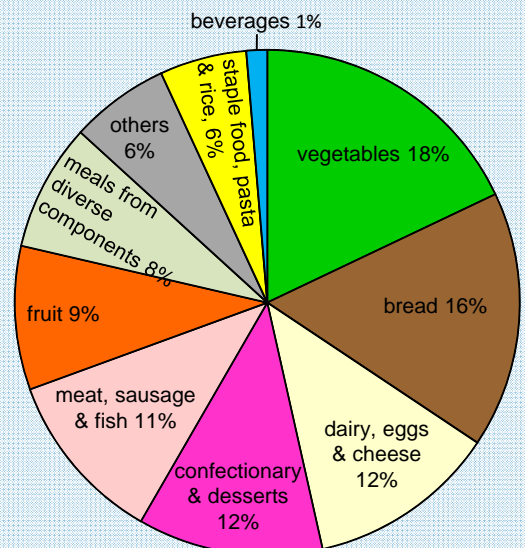
avoidable

- Leftovers (partly avoidable)
- Whole unused food or partly consumed food



Avoidable food waste in residual waste

- 14.5% of mass of residual waste is avoidable or partly avoidable food waste
- This amounts to 157,647 t/a or 18.9 kg/cap/a.
- Austrian households waste avoidable food valued at 1 billion Euro or 116 Euro/cap/a into residual waste.
- This sum equals 6.2% of the household expenses for nutrition and non-alcoholic beverages in Austria per year.



Composition of avoidable food waste in residual waste according to product group, in % by mass

Impacts on food waste in residual waste

- higher proportion of food waste in residual waste from urban areas and multi-family dwellings
- no consistent findings about the influence of socio-demographic factors
- no comparable longitudinal data on food waste. Available data indicate that there might be an increasing trend.

Conclusions

Except for residual waste, there are hardly any reliable data on food waste. As a first step, it is recommended to agree on a standardised methodology for composition analysis of residual waste in order to obtain comparable cross-sectional and longitudinal data. Further research is needed into the amount of food waste in bio-bins as well as food waste which is disposed of outside municipal waste collection schemes.