



2023
RHODE ISLAND
HUNGER SURVEY



School of
Public Health
BROWN UNIVERSITY

Rhode Island Community Food Bank

The Rhode Island Community Food Bank aims to improve the quality of life for all Rhode Islanders by advancing solutions to the problem of hunger. The Food Bank distributes food to people in need through a statewide network of 143 member agencies. These agencies include food pantries and meal sites.

Brown University School of Public Health Survey Research Center

The Brown University School of Public Health Survey Research Center is an academic survey research center located in Providence, Rhode Island. The mission of the Survey Research Center (SRC) is to provide survey research services and expertise to universities, hospitals, government agencies, and non-profit organizations; conduct methodological studies related to survey research in public health and medicine; and provide training opportunities in survey research design and data collection methods for members of the Rhode Island community.

Suggested citation

Michelle L. Rogers, Tamara A. Sequeira, and Melissa A. Clark. 2023 Rhode Island Hunger Survey, Providence, RI. 2023.

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank the following individuals: Andrew Schiff and staff at the Rhode Island Community Food Bank for their collaboration on this project; the guests at the Food Bank member agencies who participated in the interviews; the agency hosts who provided the opportunities and spaces for the site visits; the volunteers who conducted interviews with guests; staff at the Survey Research Center who recruited and interviewed guests including Angel Cajigas Arbelo, Hugh Ford, Joan Gorman, Angelina Linden, and Idalie (Michelle) Sierra Zayas; staff at Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island for their assistance with translation of the instrument; and the anonymous donor who provided the resources that made this project possible.

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INTRODUCTION

Many individuals and families in Rhode Island lack enough food to meet their nutritional needs. According to the most recent report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), 8 percent of households in Rhode Island are food insecure, meaning their access to adequate food is limited by a lack of money or other resources. Nearly one quarter of food insecure households in Rhode Island report the most severe conditions associated with hunger – what the USDA calls “very low food security.”

When they do not have adequate food for themselves or their family members, people sometimes turn to food pantries or meal programs for help. By providing food for home preparation (food pantries) or offering prepared meals on site (meal programs, also commonly called soup kitchens), these organizations are a safety net for households on the brink of hunger.

The Rhode Island Community Food Bank maintains a statewide network of 143 member agencies, including food pantries and meal programs. The Food Bank acquires donated food from retailers, farmers, manufacturers, distributors, and community members and then distributes this food to its member agencies. From July 2022 to June 2023, the Food Bank distributed 16 million pounds of food, with member agencies of the Food Bank serving 72,000 people each month on average.

The purpose of the 2023 Rhode Island Hunger Survey was to gain a comprehensive and up-to-date understanding of the population served by the Food Bank, including the most pressing needs of this population. Results from the survey will guide the Food Bank’s strategic planning and program development. Ultimately, information and data gleaned from the survey will help the Food Bank achieve its mission: Improving the quality of life for all Rhode Islanders by advancing solutions to the problem of hunger.

KEY FINDINGS

The Rhode Island Community Food Bank serves a subset of the population with its own distinctive characteristics and challenges. This survey aimed to identify the most pressing needs of the population served by the Food Bank and its agencies. Notable findings of the survey include:

DEMOGRAPHICS

People in Rhode Island who receive food assistance are some of the most vulnerable in the state. Fifty-three percent of all households who receive assistance include at least one individual under the age of 18 or someone age 65 or older.

LIVING SITUATION

One in four respondents (24%) live in temporary housing (e.g., shelter, boarding house, abandoned building, vehicle, treatment facility, or supervised housing). Just over 10% have experienced a foreclosure or eviction in the past five years. Approximately one in four (23%) have had to start living with another person or family because they have trouble paying for a place to live on their own.

HEALTH

Approximately half of all respondents (47%) rated their own health as fair or poor. Among all households, 35% have a resident who has been diagnosed with diabetes, 55% have a resident who has been diagnosed with high blood pressure, 32% have a resident who currently has asthma, 41% have ever had COVID-19, and 6% have or had Long Covid.

FINANCIAL SITUATION

Many households struggle with basic expenses. Over two in five (45%) households have had to choose between paying for rent and paying for food at least once in the past 12 months. Debt is also a challenge: 45% of households have borrowed money from a friend or family member in the past year and 35% have outstanding debt.

FOOD SECURITY

Two thirds (68%) of respondents said that they would have to spend more money weekly to meet their food needs. Of those who said they would have to spend more, the median amount of money estimated to be needed was \$98 per week.

USE OF OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

Most of the households seeking food assistance receive additional benefits elsewhere. Among all households, 67% receive SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits. For the majority (67%), SNAP benefits last two weeks or less. Two in five (42%) households receive disability benefits.

POVERTY

The vast majority (79%) of people using the services of the Food Bank and its member agencies have yearly incomes at or below the 2023 Federal Poverty Guidelines. Nine in ten (90%) households with children aged 0-17 are living at or below the poverty line.



SURVEY DESIGN

SURVEY DEVELOPMENT

The 2023 Rhode Island Hunger Survey was developed in part to replicate prior statewide food agency surveys so that data can be compared over time as desired. Many of the questions asked in the 2023 Rhode Island Hunger Survey were identical to questions in the 2019 Rhode Island Hunger Survey . In some instances, questions were modified to address redundancy, concerns about guest confusion, and survey length. Data collection was conducted through computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) using the survey program Qualtrics installed on iPads. Qualtrics allowed for interviews to be conducted in locations without adequate internet access.

The survey was designed in English and then translated into Spanish by bilingual speakers. The translation was reviewed by native Spanish speaking persons to ensure comprehension. Both English and Spanish versions of the survey were available at all times to participants, and the survey program allowed for the language to be changed at any time by interviewers.

STRATA AND SITE SELECTION

To provide for adequate representation of the population that uses Food Bank services, a random subset of affiliated agencies was selected at which interviews would take place. Agencies were categorized into 8 strata (**Table 1**) based on the type of services offered (food pantries versus meal programs), the average number of guests an agency serves (small versus large), and the geographic location of the agency (core city versus non-core city). The size of the agency was determined by how many guests an agency serves on average per day the site is open. Small pantries averaged less than 25 guests per day while small meal programs averaged less than 85 guests per day. Large pantries averaged 25 or more guests per day while large meal programs averaged 85 or more guests per day. Agencies were additionally classified based on whether the city or town in which they were located has 25% or more of all children living below the poverty threshold (“core city” – Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket) or less than 25% (“non-core city”).

Table 1: Classification of Agencies into Survey Strata

Stratum	Site Type	Size	Location
1	Meal Program	Small	Non-core
2	Meal Program	Large	Non-core
3	Meal Program	Small	Core
4	Meal Program	Large	Core
5	Food Pantry	Small	Non-core
6	Food Pantry	Large	Non-core
7	Food Pantry	Small	Core
8	Food Pantry	Large	Core

After grouping by strata, individual agencies were randomly selected to participate in the survey. The aim was to have an overall sample that was proportional-to-size of households served by all agencies. Four hundred completed surveys were deemed to provide adequate power to represent the population, with a target of 25% of the surveys from meal programs and 75% from food pantries.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

The data collection team consisted of at least one staff member from the Survey Research Center and 1 to 5 additional volunteers who were trained on basic structured interviewing skills. At almost all sites, at least one bilingual staff member or volunteer was available to communicate with Spanish-speaking guests. An invitation to volunteer was sent directly to Food Bank staff members, the Food Bank's Board Members and Development Committee Members, and volunteers who were interviewers for the previous survey in 2019. Additionally, a call for volunteers was placed in the Food Bank's e-news blast, which went out to 25,000 e-news subscribers.

Volunteer opportunities were available to anyone over the age of 18 and able to speak English and, if possible, Spanish. Volunteers were required to attend one 1.5-hour training session and to commit to interviewing at a minimum of 3 agency visits. In total, 61 community members and 25 Food Bank staff volunteered as interviewers. Nearly all volunteers participated in at least 3 agency visits. Volunteers who enjoyed interviewing were welcome to help at additional sites, and 17 volunteers participated in 5 or more different agency visits.

All persons interested in volunteering as an interviewer were asked to register their name, contact information and languages spoken in a computerized volunteer management system used by the Food Bank. From this registry, potential volunteers were asked to sign up for a training session. Volunteer trainings included an in-depth explanation of the survey design and goals, basic interviewing skills and practices, and a hands-on tutorial and practice of the actual survey in both paper and electronic form. After completion of training, the schedule of each agency visit was made

available to the volunteers so they could sign up for dates and locations that best suited their availability. This system also sent automatic confirmation and reminder emails to volunteers of their selected agency visits.

SITE VISITS AND SAMPLING INTERVALS

Visits to the 65 randomly selected Food Bank agencies occurred from early April 2023 through the end of June 2023 to minimize the effect of seasonal changes on agency use. Additionally, site visits were not scheduled over the Easter or Memorial Day weekends to prevent the expected increase in agency use during those times from skewing survey results.

Because the Rhode Island Community Food Bank maintains records of monthly visits to each affiliate agency, the survey team was able to anticipate approximately how many guests would frequent the site during the scheduled site visit to the agency. This worked to the survey team's advantage in two ways. First, based on the expected number of agency guests, the survey team could estimate how many volunteers were needed to prevent potential respondents from being missed due to lack of available volunteers or volunteers being underutilized at low volume sites. Second, knowing how many guests were expected to frequent the site on a given day allowed the survey team to establish a sampling rate for each site.

The sampling rate was the interval at which guests were approached and asked to participate in an interview. Because the survey was designed to be proportional-to-size, the number of interviews needed per stratum was known beforehand, and therefore the number of interviews that needed to be completed at a given site could be established. The sampling rate was computed by dividing the target number of completed interviews (based on an estimated response rate of 60%) by the average count of guests served per day the site was open. For instance, a sampling rate of 0.33 means that 1 out of every 3 guests to a specific site were approached for an interview. With a 0.33 sampling rate, the first person to visit a site on a given day was approached, and then the fourth, the seventh, and so on. The sampling rate was the same for all sites in a given stratum to minimize the risk of over-representing the guests served by a specific agency.

Table 2 shows the sampling rate and interval in each stratum.

Table 2: Stratum Sampling Rates

Stratum	Sampling Rate	Sampling Interval
1	0.42	3 of 7
2	0.17	1 of 6
3	0.44	3 of 7
4	0.10	1 of 10
5	0.59	3 of 5
6	0.26	1 of 4
7	0.96	9 of 10
8	0.12	1 of 8

PARTICIPANT RECRUITMENT

A staff member from the Survey Research Center was responsible for identifying which guest was to be selected for recruitment using the predetermined sampling rate of the stratum. Guests were approached at the interval determined, and the interval was not altered regardless of whether a guest participated in the survey or not. Every attempt was made to approach selected guests in isolation to explain the purpose and goal of the survey before asking them to participate. Guests who did not speak English or Spanish were excluded from participation, and if a guest declined to participate, the recruiter attempted to determine a reason for the refusal.

If a guest agreed to take part in the survey, they were given a large, numbered index card and the option of being interviewed immediately or after they were finished eating their meal (meal programs) or shopping for food (pantries). The index card served as a reminder to the selected guest that they were asked to participate in the interview and a visual cue for interviewers to track a selected guest as they received services. Recruitment attempts were logged by the number on the index card of the guest approached, whether they accepted or declined to participate in an interview, and if they declined, their reason (if a reason was given).

THE INTERVIEW

Before the beginning of each interview, recruited participants were individually consented to ensure they understood the types of questions that would be asked and had the opportunity to ask any questions. The interviewer read the questions aloud, although a participant was able to read along on the iPad as questions were asked if they wanted to do so. Interviewers and participants attempted to sit in a semi-private area to ensure confidentiality of the interview, though interviewers always deferred to a participant's preference on location. Participants could elect to skip any question that they were not comfortable answering, and they were free to stop the interview at any time. Interviews averaged 15 minutes in length, and participants were given a \$20 gift card for their time.

ANALYTICAL APPROACH

The data in this report include the complete results of the 2023 Rhode Island Hunger Survey as administered, plus additional stratifications by type of site (meal program versus pantry) and derived measures of interest. In total, 459 surveys were completed at 65 unique agency programs throughout Rhode Island. The data were analyzed using SAS 9.4.

WEIGHTING

The responses have been weighted to more adequately reflect the population the Food Bank serves at large. Survey weights are best visualized as the number of units in a population that the particular observation represents. Weights also account for the sampling plan used to select who would be asked to participate in the study, as well as non-response by those approached. In the data presented, counts are the unweighted totals of a selected response to a question, while the percentages and confidence intervals have been weighted to reflect the entire population of Food Bank guests.

RESPONSE RATES

Response rates reflect the number of approached guests who agreed to participate in the survey. In this survey, 735 participants were approached, of which 685 (93%) were eligible because they were able to complete the survey in English or Spanish and had not previously completed the survey. Of those eligible, 459 (67%) consented to participate in the survey. Response rates at the stratum-specific level were also calculated to ensure that there were no notable differences in rates by strata. Of the eight strata, only one stratum (Stratum 2) deviated greater than 15% from the overall response rate, and this deviation was in the positive direction (response rate of 88.0%). Further analysis to explore potential biases found nothing of concern.

CAVEATS

Members of the survey team encountered Food Bank guests who spoke other languages such as Portuguese or Haitian-Creole. These guests could not be interviewed because the team did not have translations of the survey in languages other than English and Spanish. The primary cause of non-participation in this survey was that the guest was not able to take the time to complete the survey. The most common reasons given were related to transportation (ride sharing with other guest or bus schedule) or other time commitments (need to pick up children or have an appointment).

RESULTS

This section describes the results of the 2023 Rhode Island Hunger Survey. Questions asked in the survey cover a broad range of topics of concern to the Food Bank and aim to understand more about the characteristics and circumstances of guests who frequent member agencies.

First, survey results were used to estimate counts of the total number of people served by the Food Bank on a monthly and yearly basis. Estimates of household size and the number of people served with differing demographic features are displayed in tables. After this, demographic information is presented as a percent of total households with a given characteristic. The report then describes housing characteristics, employment status and opportunity, household health and income, food security, involvement with other benefit programs, and frequency of using the Food Bank's programs. Finally, there is a section on poverty that explores how the characteristics of households at or below the poverty line differ from those above the poverty line.

In addition to overall characteristics, many measures presented in this report are stratified by food pantries and meal programs to highlight the differences in characteristics of guests attending the two types of programs. Furthermore, some sub-analyses explore only households containing children aged 0-17 or households containing adults aged 65 and older, providing insights into the needs of the most vulnerable groups in the population.

In addition to the highlighted measures provided in this section, results from the entire survey, with weighted and unweighted counts and percentages, are located in Appendix A. Measures stratified by food pantry and meal program, along with weighted percentages, are in Appendix B. An asterisk appears next to any data point where the unweighted response count was less than or equal to 5. This was done to protect the anonymity of the survey participants and because estimates drawn from low counts tend to come with a high degree of instability.

ESTIMATED COUNTS OF HOUSEHOLDS SERVED BY THE FOOD BANK

The counts listed below shows the number of unique households served in a month given the demographic characteristic listed. Participants were asked as part of the survey about the number of individuals in their current household and questions about the age, education, race/ethnicity, gender, and student status of household members. These data were gathered and used to generate households estimates of the population served by the Food Bank each month.

Table 3 shows estimated counts of the total monthly people served using weighted estimates for household size from the survey. Total household numbers are estimated monthly by the Food Bank and numbers from April to June 2023 were used to calculate the counts here. Approximately 24,100 households that use the Food Bank at least monthly have a size of one.

Household Size	Monthly Count (95% CI)
1 person	24,100 (18,000-30,200)
2 people	17,600 (11,800-23,400)
3 people	9,700 (4,900-14,400)
4 people	7,800 (4,100-11,400)
5 people	4,400 (1,700-7,100)
6 people	700 (200-1,100)
7 or more people	900 (300-1,500)

Table 4 shows estimated counts of households that that have at least one resident within a specific age range, overall and by site type. More than 17,000 households (17,400) served in a month have at least one individual who is aged 0-17 while a comparable number of households (17,800) have at least one individual who is aged 65 or older. More than half (53%) of all households have at least one resident who is a child or is an adult aged 65 or older. Of all individuals served, 21% were children aged 0-17 and 14% were adults aged 65 or older. Among those served at meal programs, 15% were children aged 0-17 and 11% were adults aged 65 or older, while at pantries, 27% were children aged 0-17 and 15% were adults aged 65 or older.

Table 4: Estimated Monthly Counts of Households Served with Residents of Specific Ages

	All Sites	Food Pantries	Meal Programs
Age of Resident	Monthly Count (95% CI)	Monthly Count (95% CI)	Monthly Count (95% CI)
0-17	17,400 (12,200-22,600)	10,700 (9,100-12,300)	6,700 (1,800-11,600)
18-64	52,000 (47,700-56,400)	21,900 (20,800-22,900)	30,200 (20,800-22,900)
65 and older	17,800 (12,800-22,700)	9,900 (9,400-11,500)	7,900 (3,200-12,500)
0-17 and/or 65+	33,300 (27,300-39,300)	18,800 (17,300-20,300)	14,500 (8,600-20,300)

Table 5 lists the estimated households served with a resident who identifies as one or more of the listed race/ethnicities. Monthly, about 36,600 households include residents that identify as white, about 21,500 households include residents that identify as Hispanic or Latinx, and about 8,400 households include residents who identify as Black, African American, or African.

Table 5: Estimated Monthly Counts of Households Served with Residents Identifying as One or More of the Following Races/Ethnicities

Race/Ethnicity of Resident	Monthly Count (95% CI)
Asian	1,400 (600-2,200)
Black, African American, or African	8,400 (4,100-12,700)
Hispanic or Latinx	21,500 (16,000-27,000)
Native American or Alaskan Native	5,000 (900-9,100)
White	36,600 (31,000-42,100)
Some Other Race or Origin	6,500 (1,900-11,100)

Table 6 shows the estimated count of households with individuals who identify as male, female, or some other way. About 49,000 households served in a month contain at least one person who identifies as female, while about 50,800 households served in a month contain at least one person who identifies as male.

Table 6: Estimated Monthly Counts of Households Served with Residents Identifying as a Specific Gender

Gender of Resident	Monthly Count (95% CI)
Male	50,800 (45,600-56,000)
Female	49,000 (43,500-54,500)
Some other way	*

*Data were suppressed due to a sample size less than or equal to 5

Table 7 lists counts of households with a current student aged 18 years or older. Only about 7,400 households served per month include a current student.

Table 7: Estimated Monthly Counts of Households Served with a Current Student

Student Status	Monthly Count (95% CI)
Current student	7,400 (4,400-10,300)

Table 8 shows the estimated counts of languages being spoken in households that are served monthly. English is the primary language spoken by the majority of households served (approximately 45,700 per month), followed by Spanish (20,500 households served per month), Portuguese (1,200 households served per month), and Haitian Creole (600 households served per month). Other languages that are spoken by Food Bank guest households include Cambodian, Cape Verdean Creole, Italian, K'iche', Lao, Polish, Twi, Wolof, and Yoruba.

Table 8: Estimated Monthly Counts of Households Served by Languages Spoken

Language Spoken in Household	Monthly Count (95% CI)
English	45,700 (40,100-51,200)
Spanish	20,500 (14,900-26,100)
Portuguese	1,200 (500-1,900)
Haitian Creole	600 (0-1,100)
Other Language	3,600 (900-6,300)

Table 9 shows counts of households with yearly household incomes at or below the poverty line. The Food Bank serves about 48,300 households each month with a yearly household income at or below the poverty line.

Table 9: Estimated Monthly Counts of Households Served with Yearly Incomes At or Below the Poverty Line

Income Level	Monthly Count (95% CI)
A yearly household income at or below the poverty line	48,300 (43,900-52,800)
Children age 0-17 living in households with a yearly household income at or below the poverty line	14,600 (9,500-19,700)
Adults age 65 and older living in households with a yearly household income at or below the poverty line	12,200 (7,500-17,000)
Households with one or more adults who worked for pay in the past 12 months and a yearly household income at or below the poverty line	24,300 (18,100-30,400)
Households with one or more members receiving disability benefits and a yearly household income at or below the poverty line	19,100 (13,200-25,100)

DEMOGRAPHICS OF RHODE ISLAND COMMUNITY FOOD BANK HOUSEHOLDS

Table 10 shows the size of households that use the Food Bank’s services overall and by site type. In total, the majority of all households that utilize the Food Bank’s services consist of only one or two people, with just over a third of all households consisting of only one person. This is especially pronounced among those who frequent meal programs, where the proportion of households consisting of only one person is 48% of all households.

Table 10: Household Size by Site Type

Household Size	All Sites		Food Pantries		Meal Programs	
	Count	Weighted Percent (95% CI)	Count	Weighted Percent (95% CI)	Count	Weighted Percent (95% CI)
1 person	164	37.0% (27.6-46.4)	99	20.9% (16.5-25.4)	65	47.9% (48.5-77.1)
2 people	117	27.0% (18.1-36.0)	92	25.8% (20.4-31.1)	25	27.9% (6.0-28.4)
3 people	62	14.8% (7.6-22.1)	53	15.9% (11.2-20.5)	9	14.1% (1.2-20.8)
4 people	58	11.9% (6.3-17.5)	*	*	*	*
5 people	34	6.8% (2.7-10.9)	*	*	*	*
6 people	11	1.0% (0.3-1.7)	*	*	*	*
7 or more people	13	1.4% (0.5-2.3)	*	*	*	*

*Data were suppressed due to a sample size less than or equal to 5

Figures 1A and 1B show the percentage of households frequenting member agencies with a resident within a specified age range. Figure 1A shows overall age breakdowns while Figure 1B shows differences between food pantries and meal programs. About 30% of all households include a resident aged 0-17 and about 30% of all households include an adult age 65 or older. It is notable that the age distribution varies greatly between those who frequent food pantries and those who frequent meal programs. At meal programs, guests are less likely to have children in their households.

Figure 1A: Percentage of Households with at Least One Person of a Specific Age

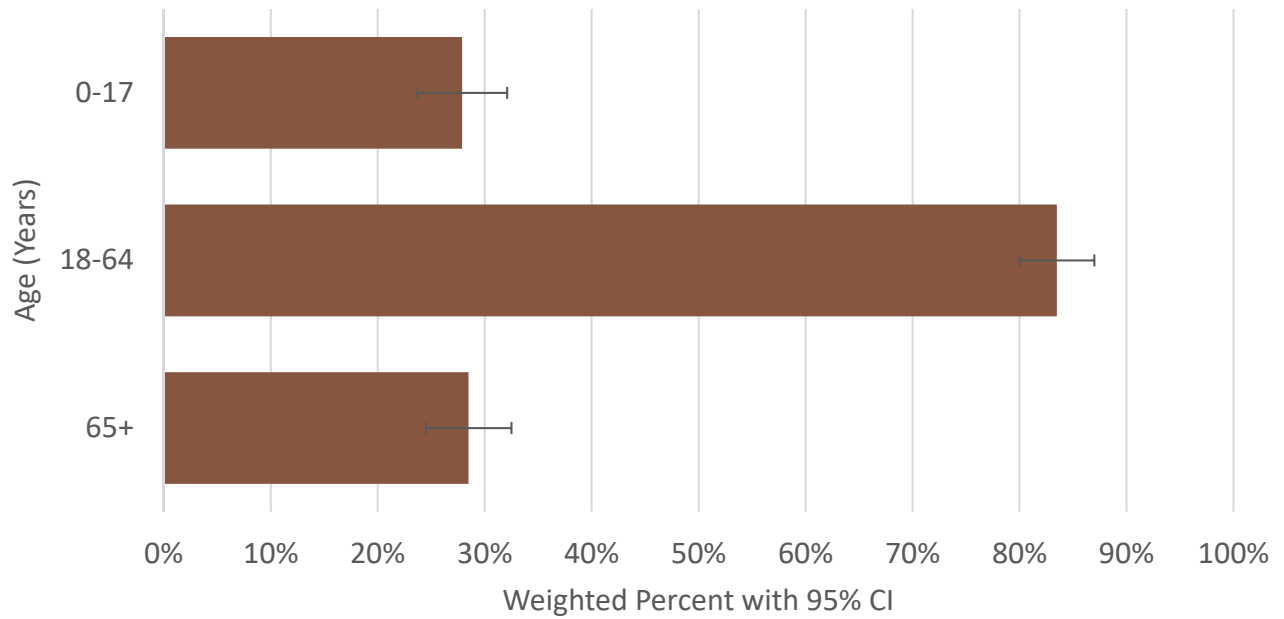
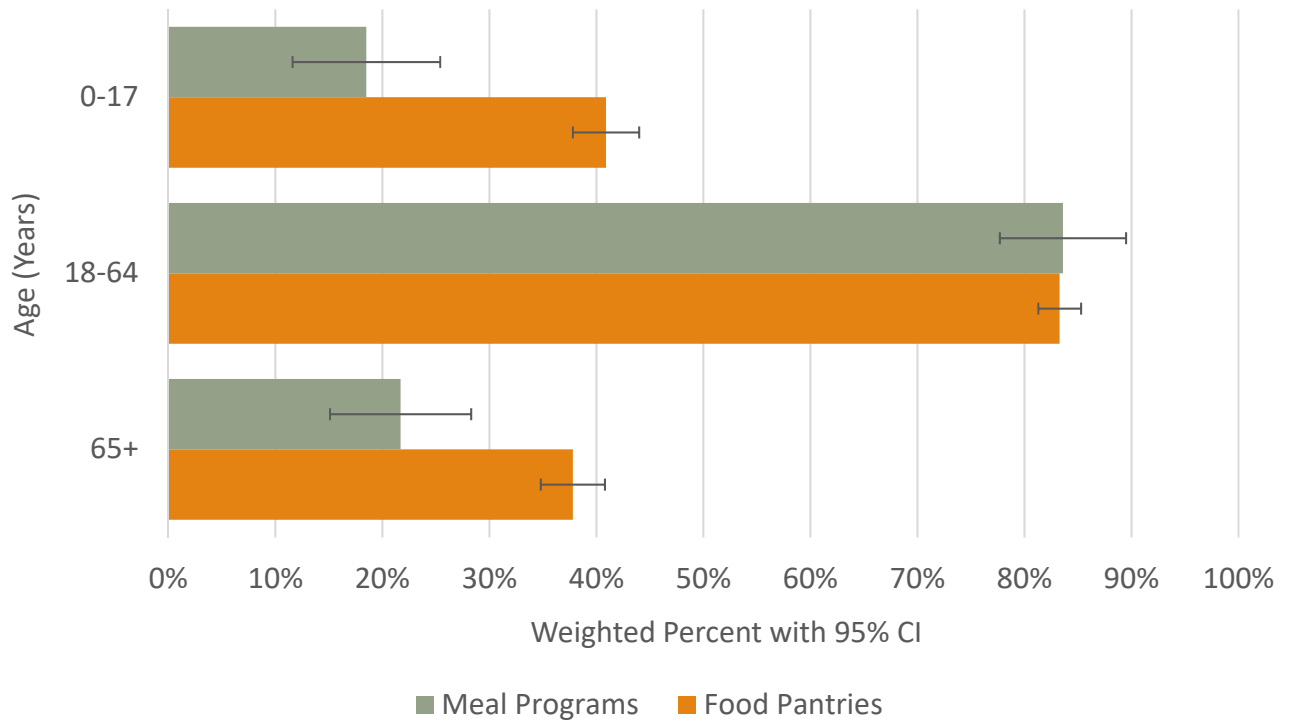


Figure 1B: Percentage of Households with at Least One Person of a Specific Age, Stratified by Site Type



Figures 2A, 2B, 2C, and 2D show the distribution of children (aged 0-17) and the elderly (aged 65+) among households that use the Food Bank's services. A little more than one quarter of all households (28%) contain at least one person aged 0-17, and approximately the same proportion of all households (29%) contain at least one person aged 65+. Just over half of all households (53%) have either a person aged 0-17 or a person aged 65+. The populations that use food pantries and meal programs are different with regard to age. At meal programs, only 19% of households have children, compared to 41% of households served by food pantries. Of households that frequent food pantries, 72% have either a child or at least one elderly resident compared to 40% for meal programs.

Figure 2A: Percentage of Total Households with Children and Elderly Residents

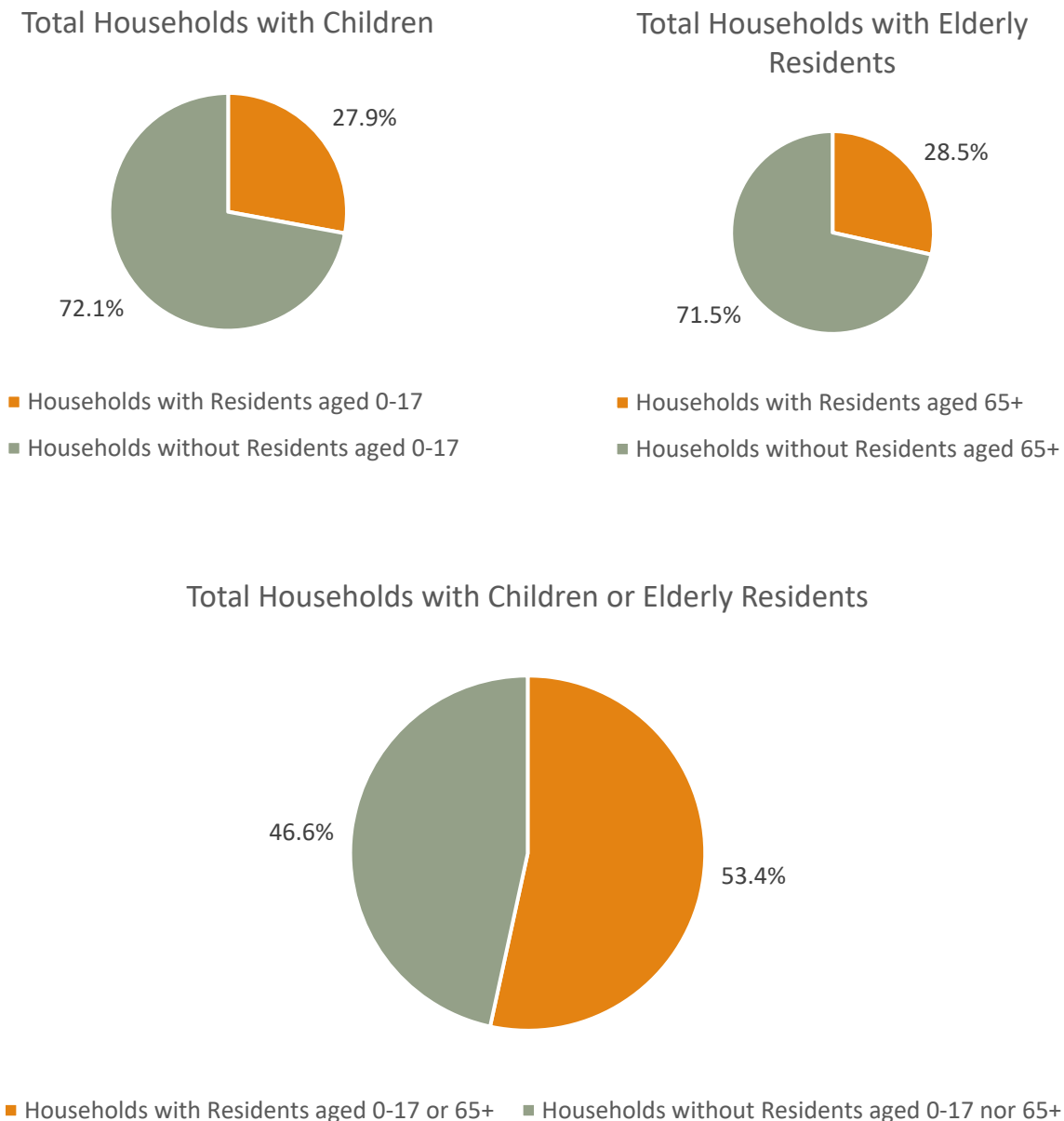


Figure 2B: Percentage of Households with Children, Stratified by Site Type

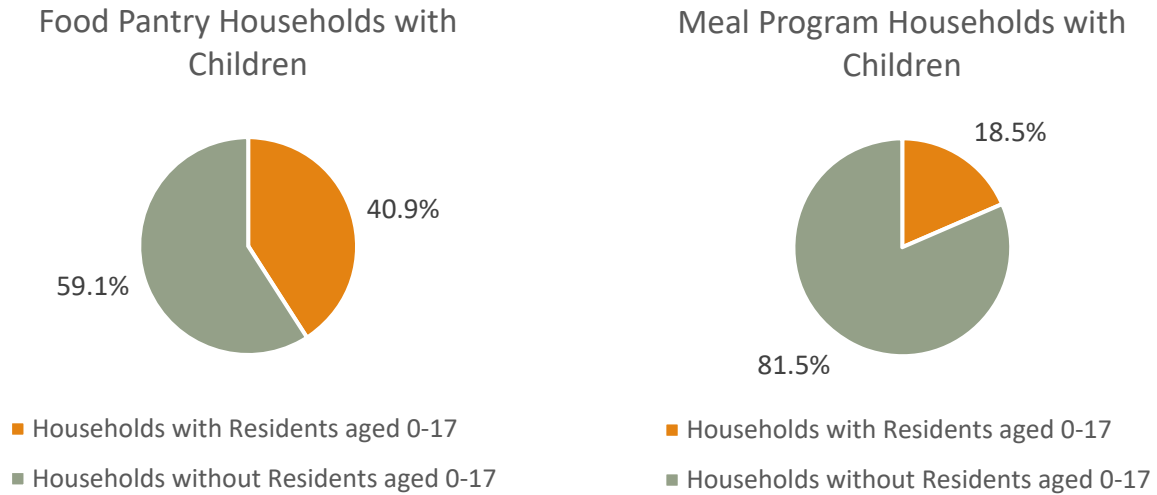


Figure 2C: Percentage of Households with Elderly Residents, Stratified by Site Type

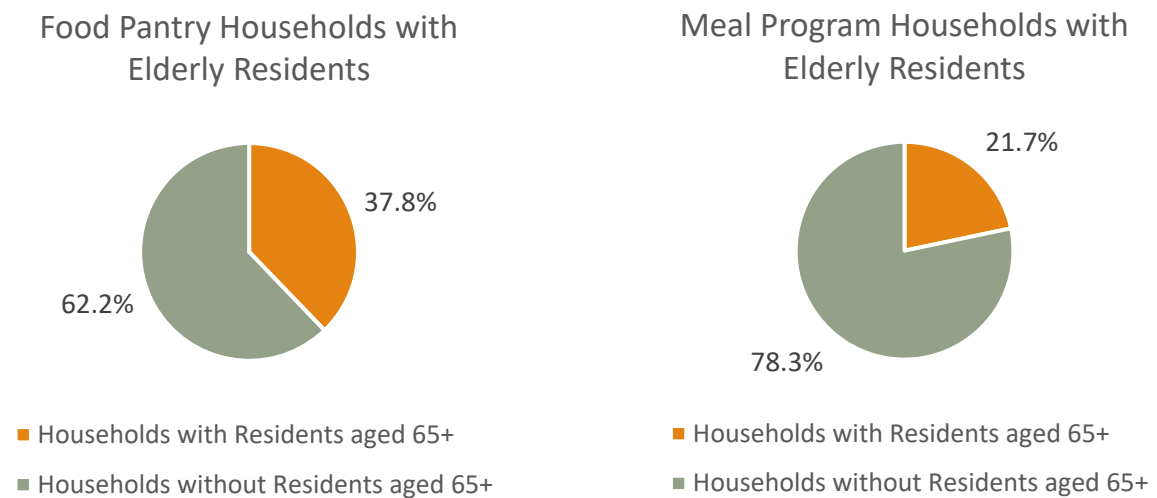
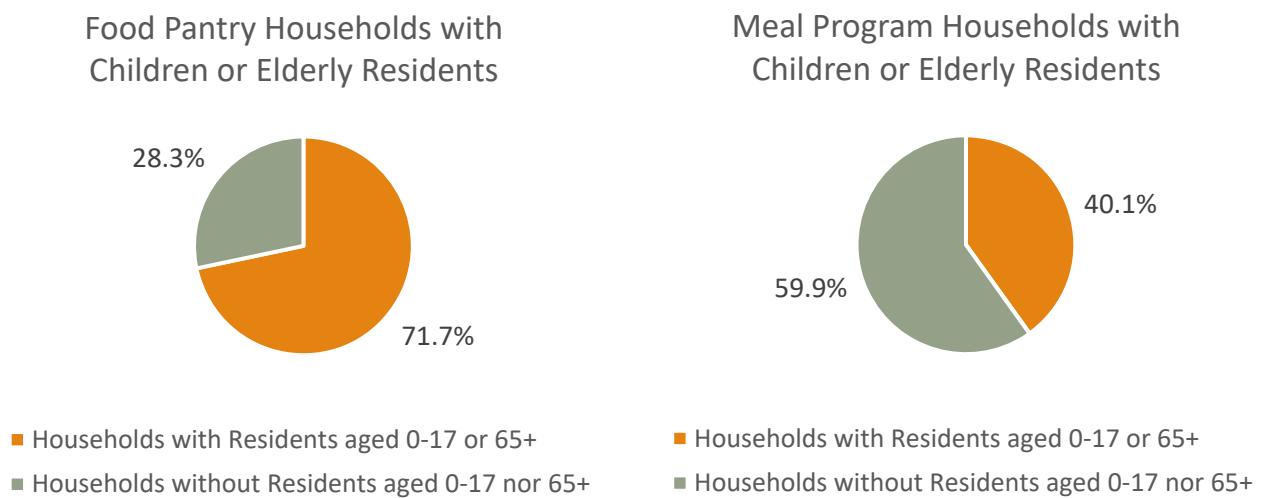


Figure 2D: Percentage of Households with Children and/or Elderly Residents, Stratified by Site Type



Figures 3A and 3B show self-identified race and ethnicity of survey participants and those in their households. Participants were allowed to identify as more than one category. The majority of all Food Bank households have residents who identify as white (60% of all households). There is a notable difference in the population of Hispanic/Latinx and white households when stratifying by site type; 71% of meal program households included a resident who identifies as white, compared to 38% of food pantry households. In contrast, 24% of meal program households include a resident who identifies as Hispanic/Latinx, compared to 47% of food pantry households.

Figure 3A: Percentage of Households with at Least One Person Identifying as a Particular Race or Ethnicity

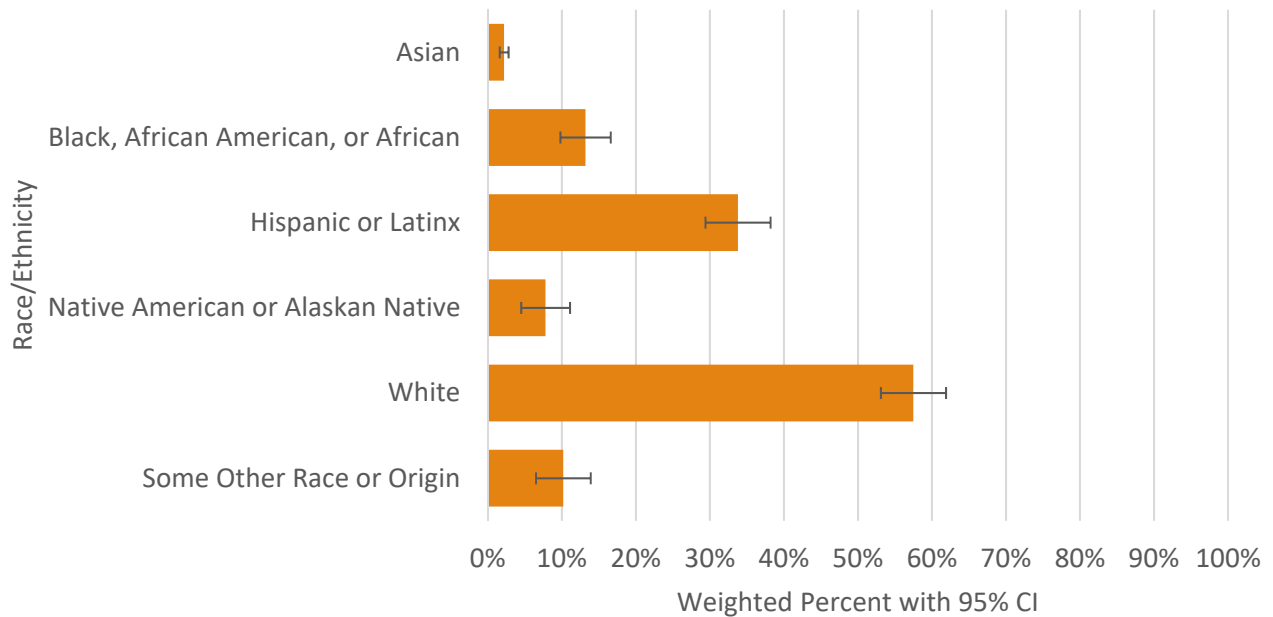
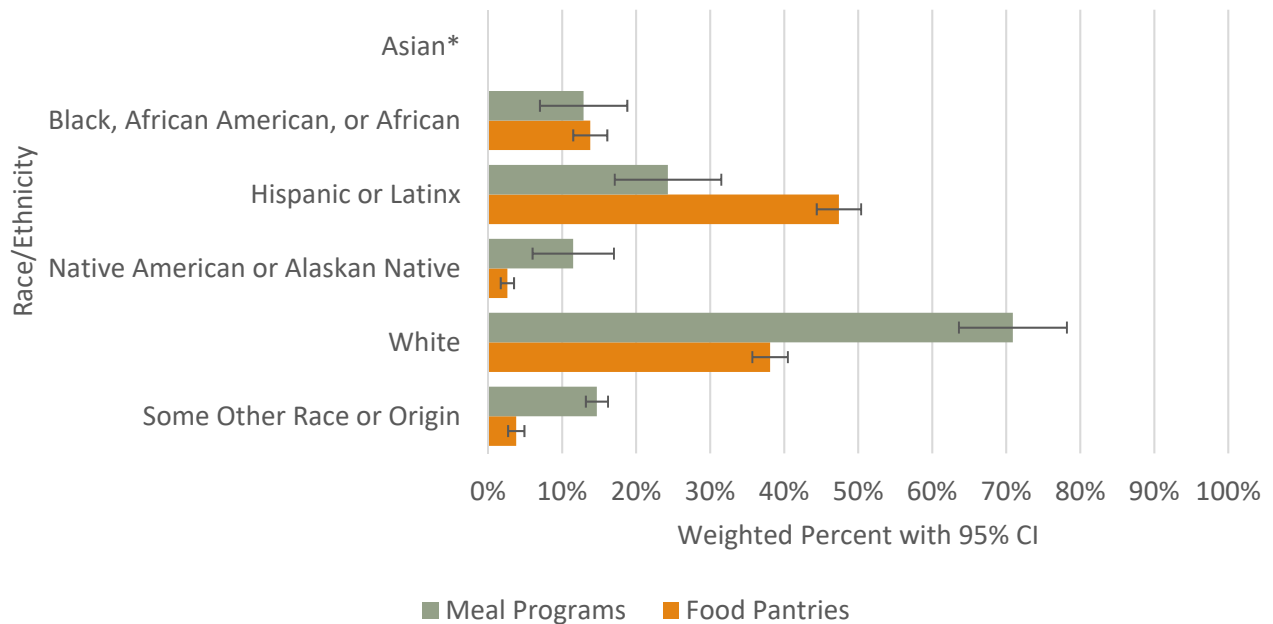


Figure 3B: Percentage of Households with at Least One Person Identifying as a Particular Race or Ethnicity, Stratified by Site Type



*Data were suppressed due to a sample size less than or equal to 5

Table 11 shows how the highest educational degree in the household differs between those visiting food pantries and meal programs. Fifteen percent of all households have the highest educational degree of less than a high school diploma and this percentage does not vary significantly between meal programs and food pantries.

Table 11: Highest Educational Degree by Type of Service Offered						
	All Sites		Food Pantries		Meal Programs	
	Count	Weighted Percent (95% CI)	Count	Weighted Percent (95% CI)	Count	Weighted Percent (95% CI)
Highest Educational Degree						
Less than high school diploma	77	14.9% (8.1-21.7)	58	15.8% (11.2-20.3)	19	14.3% (3.2-25.4)
High school diploma	119	30.2% (20.9-39.6)	84	22.6% (17.4-27.7)	35	35.6% (20.1-51.1)
General equivalency diploma or GED	31	10.2% (3.6-16.8)	17	6.2% (3.0-9.4)	14	13.0% (2.0-24.0)
Business, trade, or technical license, certificate, or degree beyond high school	24	6.3% (0.9-11.7)	*	*	*	*
Some college beyond high school or a 2-year college degree	125	25.8% (17.5-34.2)	102	28.1% (22.6-33.6)	23	24.2% (10.6-37.9)
4-year college degree or higher	82	12.5% (7.9-17.1)	74	22.1% (16.8-27.3)	8	5.8% (0.0-12.7)

*Data were suppressed due to a sample size less than or equal to 5

Table 12 shows languages spoken in household, stratified by type of service offered (food pantries versus meal programs). Nearly one-third (32%) of all households speak Spanish as their primary language at home with a larger proportion of food pantry participants speaking Spanish at home (45%) compared to meal program participants (23%).

Table 12: Languages Spoken in Household by Type of Service Offered

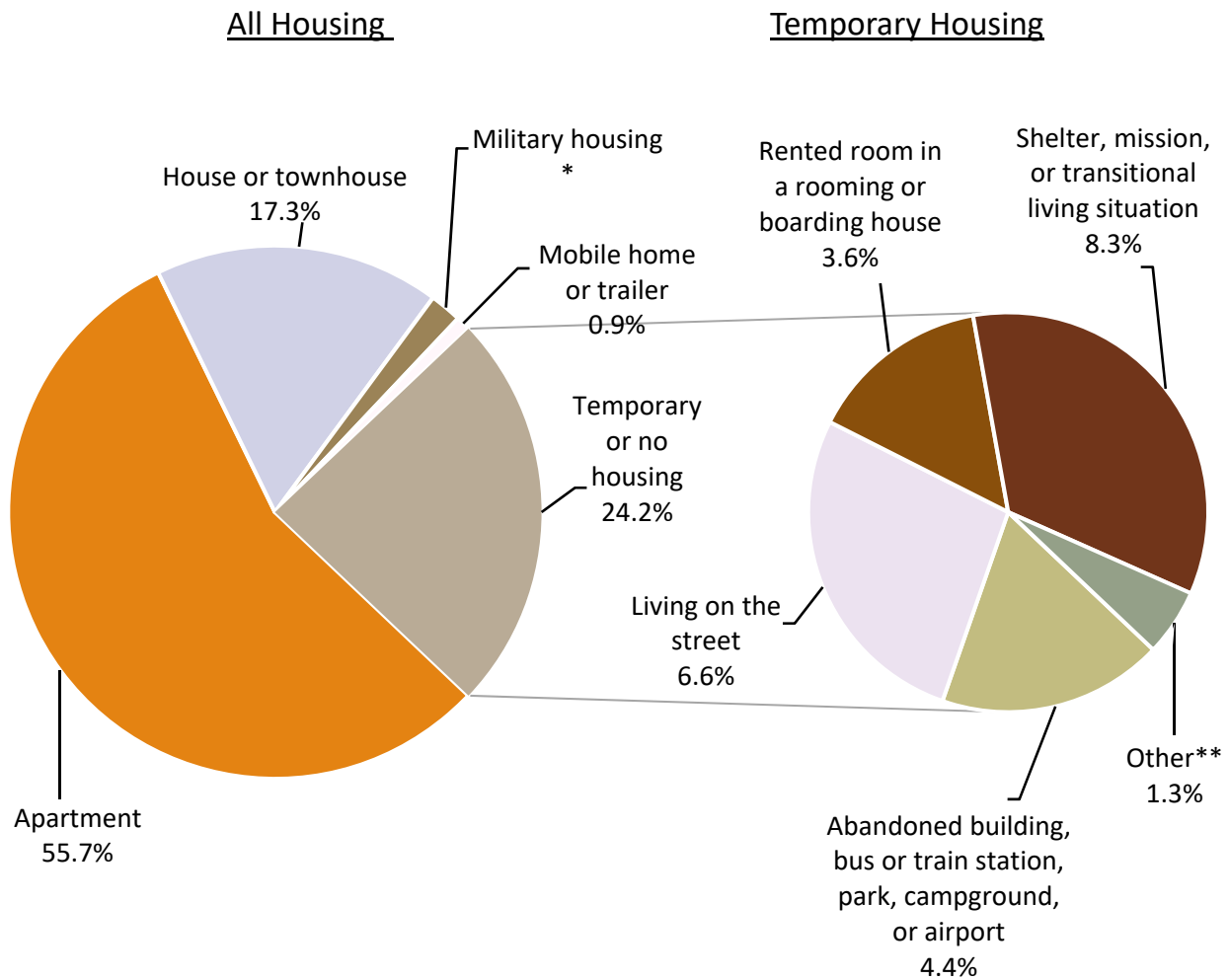
	All Sites		Food Pantries		Meal Programs	
	Count	Weighted Percent (95% CI)	Count	Weighted Percent (95% CI)	Count	Weighted Percent (95% CI)
English	325	70.4% (61.8-79.0)	235	59.9% (54.0-65.8)	90	77.5% (63.7-91.4)
Spanish	149	31.6% (23.0-40.2)	132	44.9% (39.0-50.8)	17	22.7% (8.9-36.5)
Portuguese	14	1.8% (0.7-2.9)	*	*	*	*
Haitian-Creole	6	0.8% (0.1-1.6)	*	*	*	*
Other languages	29	5.6% (1.4-9.7)	21	5.5% (2.7-8.3)	8	5.6% (0.0-12.3)

*Data were suppressed due to a sample size less than or equal to 5

HOUSING/LIVING SITUATION

Figure 4 provides information about the living situation of guests. The survey differentiated between temporary and non-temporary housing. Temporary housing includes living in a shelter, a rented room in a boarding house, an abandoned building, a car, van, boat, or recreational vehicle (RV), a residential treatment facility or supervised housing, or living on the street. In total, 76% of all households live in permanent housing, while 24% live in temporary housing or have no housing. The most prevalent type of housing among guests is an apartment, which accounts for 56% of all households. Overall, 12% of households have experienced a foreclosure or eviction in the past five years. A larger proportion of meal program participants (17%) have experienced foreclosure or eviction compared to food pantry participants (6%). Approximately one in four (23%) have had to start living with another person or family because they had trouble paying for a place to live on their own.

Figure 4: Living Situation



*Data were suppressed due to a sample size less than or equal to 5

**Other temporary housing includes car, van, boat, or recreational vehicle (RV) and residential treatment facility or supervised housing.

Table 13 shows how the living situation differs between those visiting food pantries and meal programs. The majority of households frequenting both sites live in apartments. Households frequenting meal programs are more likely to have temporary housing situations (39%) than those at food pantries (3%).

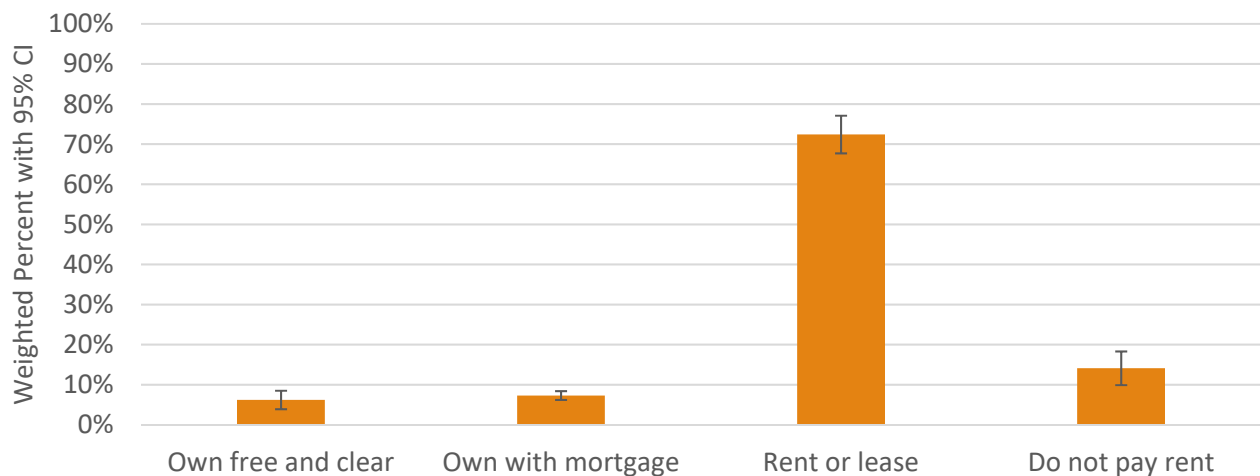
Table 13: Living Situation Among Those Frequenting Food Pantries and Meal Programs

Living Situation	All Sites		Food Pantries		Meal Programs	
	Count	Weighted Percent (95% CI)	Count	Weighted Percent (95% CI)	Count	Weighted Percent (95% CI)
Apartment	259	55.7% (45.8-65.6)	208	59.0% (52.9-66.2)	51	53.4% (37.4-69.5)
House or townhouse	128	17.3% (12.8-21.9)	118	36.0% (30.0-42.0)	10	4.7% (0.0-11.1)
Mobile home or trailer	12	0.9% (0.3-1.5)	12	2.2% (0.7-3.6)	0	--
Military housing	*	*	*	*	*	*
Temporary or no housing	50	24.2% (14.9-33.4)	10	2.8% (0.7-4.9)	40	38.6% (23.2-54.1)

*Data were suppressed due to a sample size less than or equal to 5

Figure 5 illustrates the way in which households pay for the place that they currently live. Over 70% of households live in situations where they rent or lease, 7% own their place of residence with a mortgage, 6% own their residence free and clear, and 14% do not pay rent (due to homelessness or temporary housing).

Figure 5: How a Household Pays for a Place to Live



HEALTH STATUS

Figures 6A and 6B show the proportion of respondents who report their own health as being “Excellent,” “Very Good,” “Good,” “Fair,” or “Poor”, overall and stratified by type of service. Overall, 47% of all respondents categorize their health as “Fair” or “Poor”. Respondents from meal programs rate their overall health as slightly better than those from food pantries.

Figure 6A: Self-rated Health Status, Overall

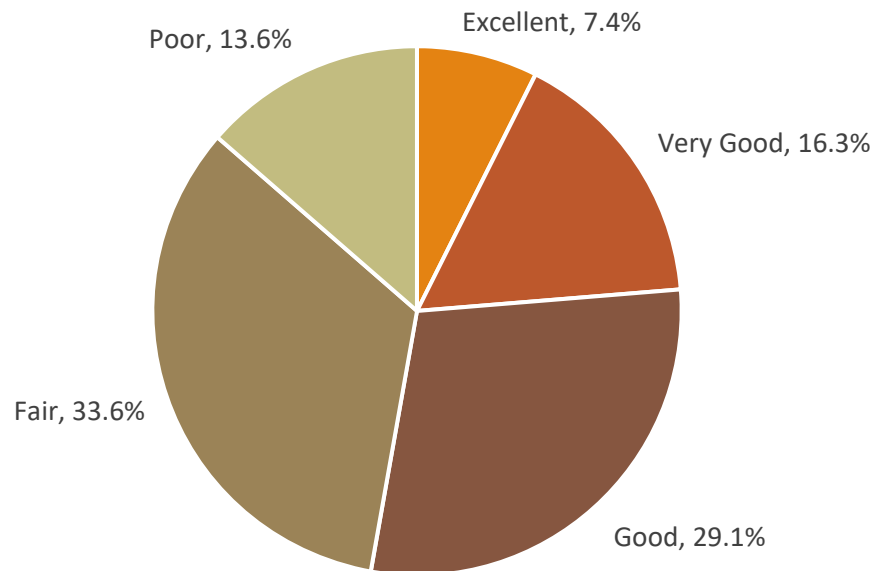


Figure 6B: Self-rated Health Status, Stratified by Site Type

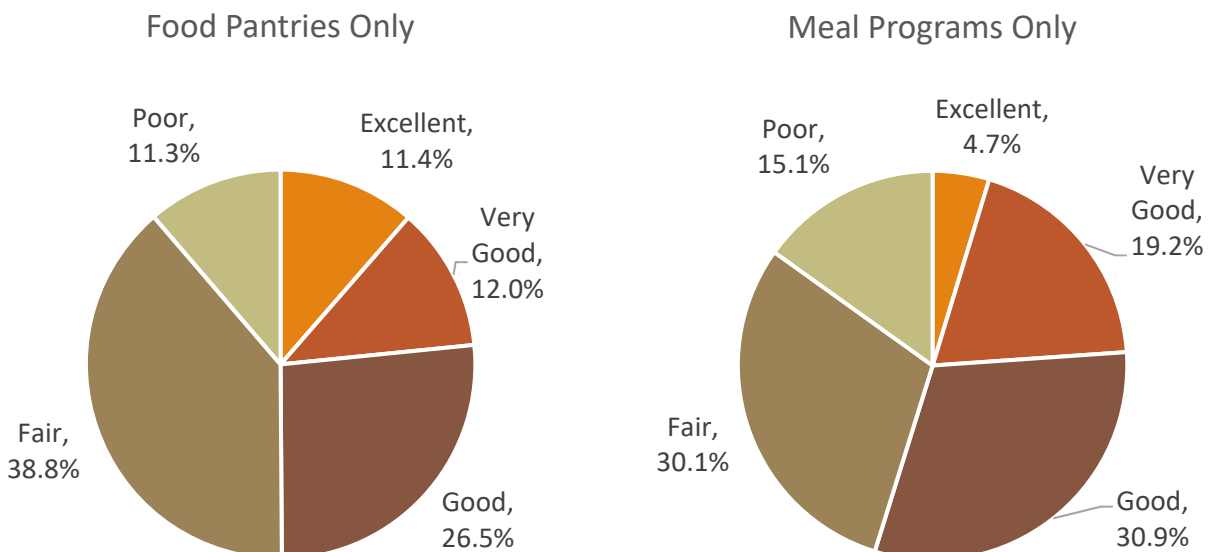


Table 14 shows the prevalence of someone in the household having ever been told they have diabetes or high blood pressure, currently having asthma, ever having COVID-19, and having or had Long Covid, overall and stratified by pantries and meal programs. Overall, 35% of households report someone living in the household as having diabetes, 57% of households report someone living in the household with high blood pressure, 33% currently have asthma, 41% have ever had COVID-19, and 6% have or had Long Covid. Households attending pantries are more likely than those attending meal programs to have someone with high blood pressure and/or someone who has ever had COVID-19.

Table 14: Self-Reported Health Conditions of Household Members by Site Type

Medical Concern	All Sites		Food Pantries		Meal Programs	
	Count	Weighted Percent (95% CI)	Count	Weighted Percent (95% CI)	Count	Weighted Percent (95% CI)
Ever told have diabetes	150	35.2% (25.6-44.8)	121	34.9% (28.9-40.9)	29	35.4% (19.8-50.9)
Ever told have high blood pressure	282	56.8% (46.9-66.7)	226	64.3% (58.3-70.4)	56	51.6% (35.3-67.8)
Currently have asthma	134	32.6% (23.0-42.1)	110	31.4% (25.6-37.3)	24	33.3% (17.9-48.8)
Ever had COVID-19	220	40.7% (31.6-49.8)	188	57.4% (51.3-63.5)	32	29.6% (15.0-44.2)
Have or had Long Covid	52	6.2% (4.3-8.2)	*	*	*	*

*Data were suppressed due to a sample size less than or equal to 5

EMPLOYMENT AND BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT

Respondents were asked about their current employment status. **Table 15** shows the distribution of employment over the past 12 months for respondents in each household. The majority (56%) of respondents did not work at all in the past 12 months, while 17% of respondents worked 10-12 months out of the year. There is little variation between meal program and pantry populations. Of those respondents who reported being employed, 46% reported having worked more than 30 hours per week over the last 12 months, while 54% worked 30 hours or less per week on average.

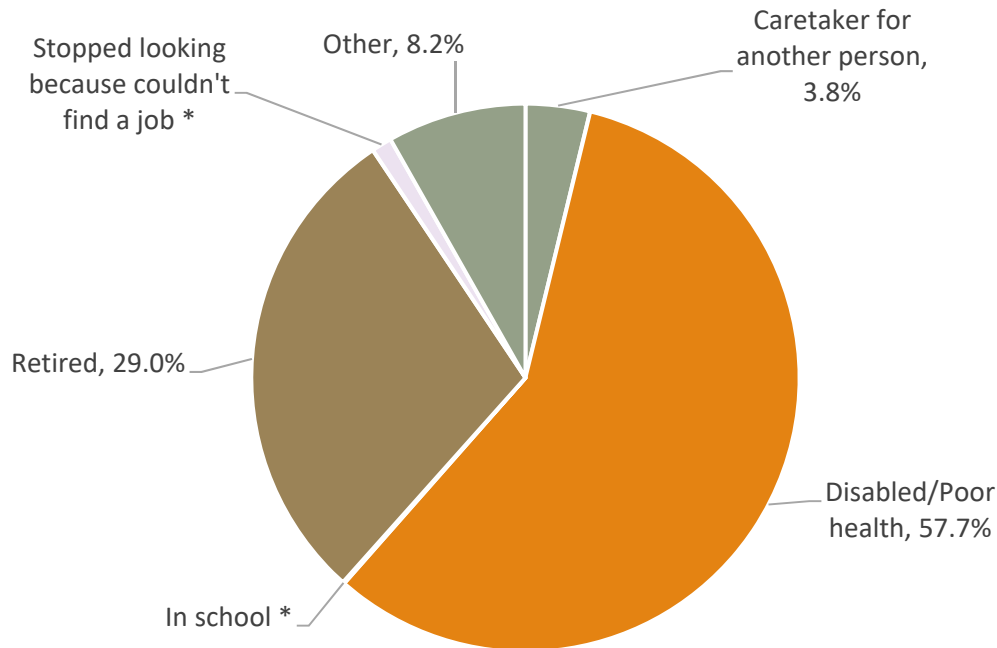
Table 15: Months Worked for Pay in the Last 12 Months

Months Working for Pay	All Sites		Food Pantries		Meal Programs	
	Count	Weighted Percent (95% CI)	Count	Weighted Percent (95% CI)	Count	Weighted Percent (95% CI)
None	270	55.8% (46.0-65.5)	206	55.4% (49.2-61.5)	64	56.1% (40.3-71.9)
Less than 1 month	12	6.1% (0.6-11.5)	*	*	*	*
1-3 months	20	5.9% (0.5-11.2)	13	3.0% (1.0-5.0)	7	7.8% (0.0-16.7)
4-6 months	37	6.9% (2.7-11.1)	31	10.3% (6.3-14.4)	6	4.6% (0.0-11.1)
7-9 months	27	8.3% (2.6-13.9)	16	3.9% (1.7-6.1)	11	11.3% (1.9-20.6)
10-12 months	92	17.1% (10.4-23.7)	83	25.9% (20.3-31.5)	9	11.1% (0.5-21.6)

*Data were suppressed due to a sample size less than or equal to 5

Among those who were currently unemployed, 36% were actively looking for work. Of those who were unemployed and not looking for work (**Figure 7**), 58% stated this was due to poor health or disability, 29% were retired, 4% were caretakers for another person, and 10% had other reasons.

Figure 7: Reason for Not Looking for Work (Among Those Unemployed and Not Actively Looking)



*Data were suppressed due to a sample size less than or equal to 5

In addition to their own employment status, if they lived with other people, respondents were asked about the employment status of the next most frequently employed person.

Figures 8 and 9 show measures of employment in the household. **Figure 8** shows the proportion of households with anyone working for pay in the past 12 months. About 54% of all households had someone with any form of employment in the past 12 months. Households with children are significantly more likely to have at least one person employed in the home (79% of all households with children). While a smaller percentage, more than one third of households with residents 65 and older (34.5%) have at least one person employed in the home.

Figure 8: Households with Anyone Working for Pay in the Last 12 Months

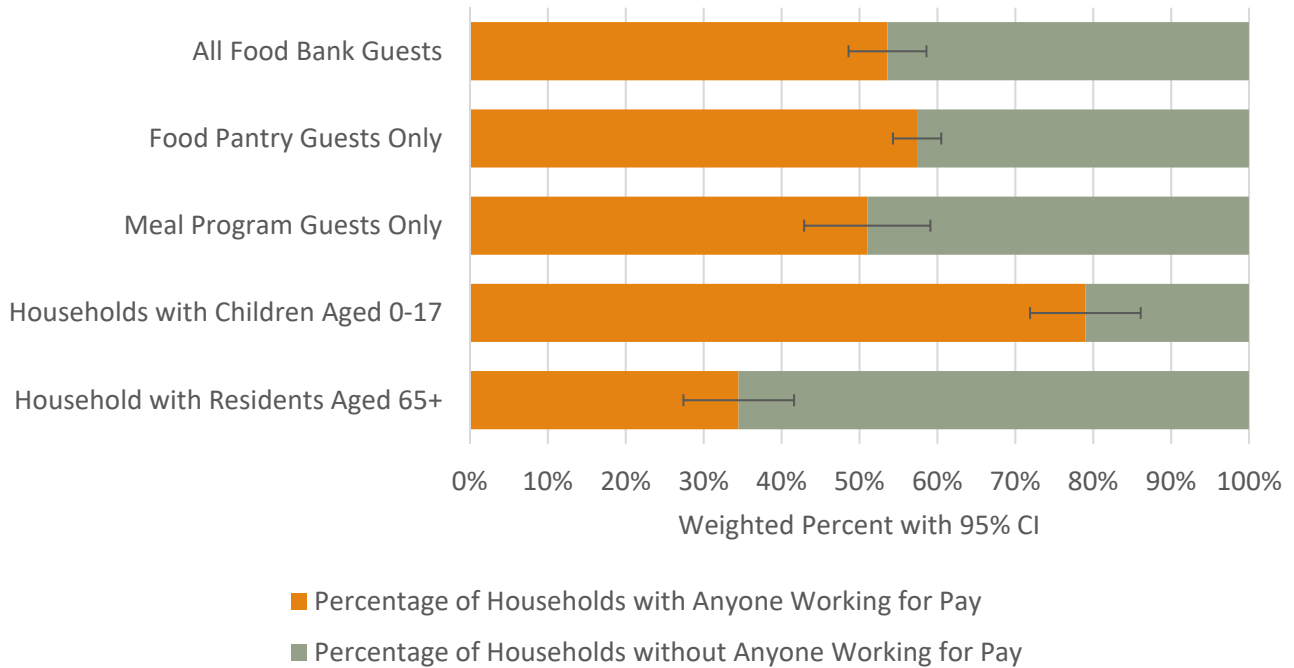
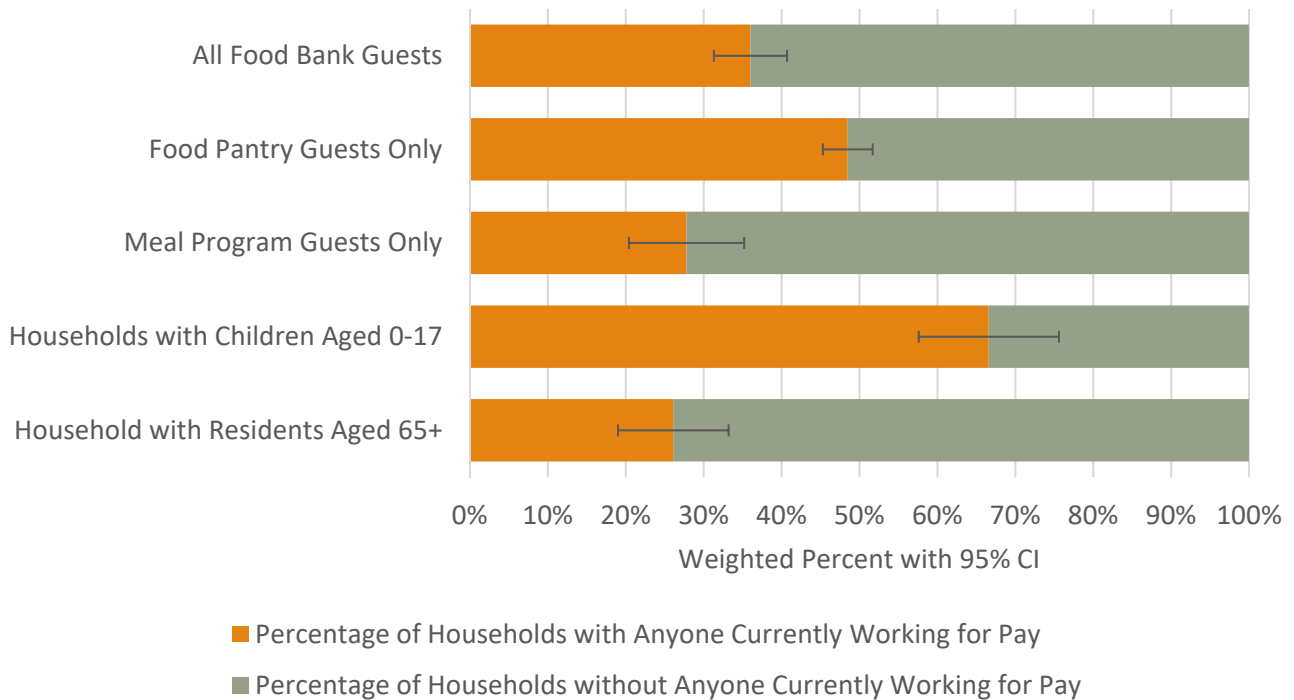


Figure 9 shows the percentage of households with anyone currently working for pay at the time of the survey. About 36% of households had someone working for pay at the time of the survey. Although the percentages of households with anyone currently working for pay were lower, the patterns were similar to those for employment in the past 12 months.

Figure 9: Households with Anyone Currently Working for Pay



FINANCIAL SITUATION

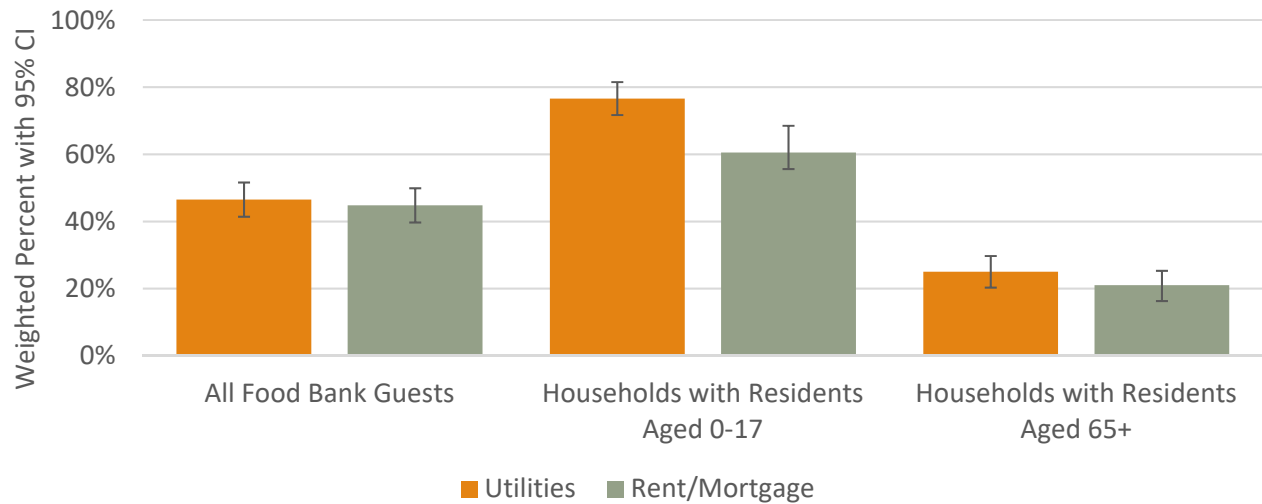
Participants were asked whether they had borrowed money from a family member or a bank/loan service in the past 12 months. As shown in **Table 16**, 45% of households stated that they had borrowed money from a friend or family member and 14% stated they had borrowed money from a bank or loan service.

Table 16: Households that Borrowed Money in the Past 12 Months, Stratified by Site Type

Source	All Sites		Food Pantries		Meal Programs	
	Count	Weighted Percent (95% CI)	Count	Weighted Percent (95% CI)	Count	Weighted Percent (95% CI)
From a friend or family member	168	45.0% (35.1-54.8)	131	37.9% (31.7-44.0)	37	49.7% (33.8-65.6)
From a bank or loan service	55	14.1% (7.4-20.9)	44	15.0% (10.4-19.7)	11	13.5% (2.7-24.4)

Figure 10 shows the frequency in which a household had to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities (such as gas and water) and rent or mortgage in the past 12 months. The full responses to the questions can be found in **Appendix A**. Overall, 47% of respondents reported having to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities at least once in the past 12 months and 45% reported having to choose between paying for food and paying for rent or mortgage. Households with children ages 0-17 were more likely to need to choose between food and utilities or housing payments.

Figure 10: Percent of Households Reporting Having Ever Had to Choose Between Food and Other Needs Every Month During the Past 12 Months

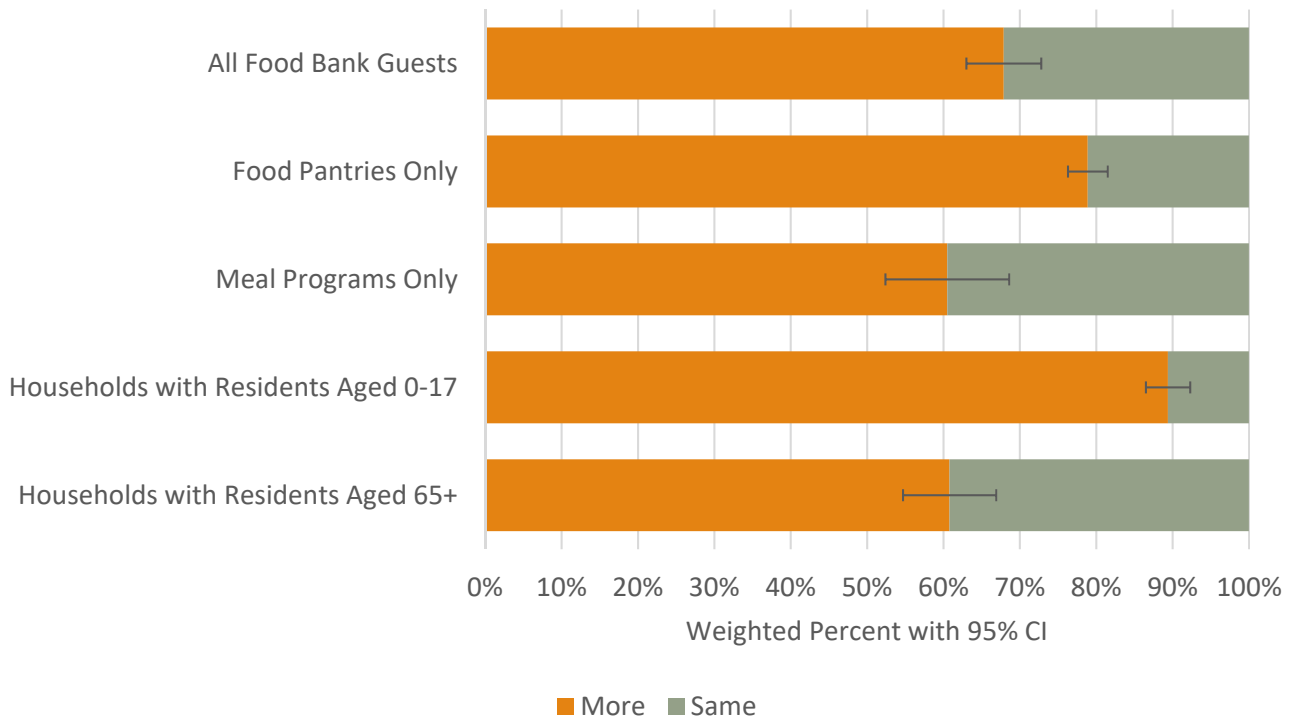


Respondents were also asked whether they had any outstanding debt on a credit card or a loan for another expense. Over one-third (35%) of respondents stated that this was true in their households. When stratifying by meal program and food pantry households, 47% of food pantry households stated they had debt on a credit card or a loan, while only 27% of meal program households stated the same.

FOOD SECURITY

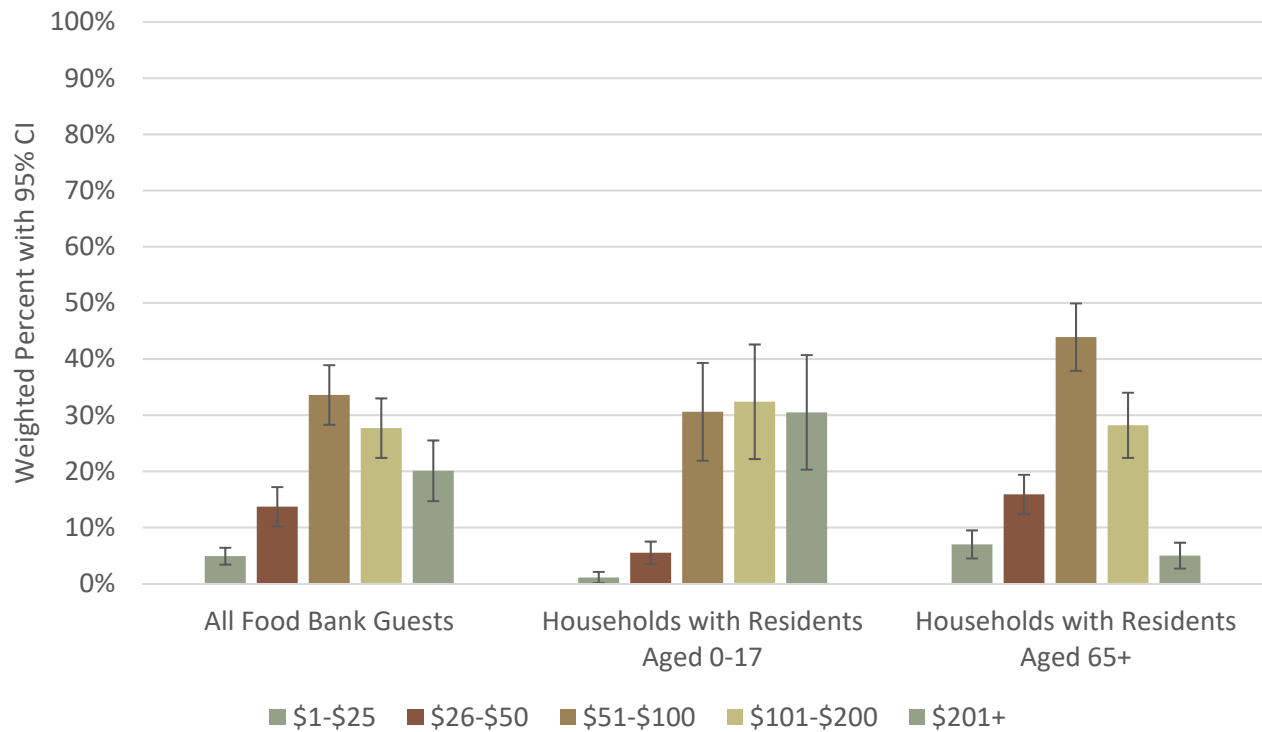
Figures 11 and 12 show the results for the amount of money a household has available for food. **Figure 11** shows the results about whether a household has enough money available to meet their food needs, or if a household needed more. Two-thirds (68%) of households stated they did in fact need more money than was available to meet their needs. This was higher for respondents at food pantries than meal programs (79% versus 61%). In particular, 89% of all household with residents aged 0-17 stated that more money was needed to meet their food needs.

Figure 11: Households That Would Have to Spend More Money to Meet Food Needs



Among those participants who stated that more money was needed to meet their food needs, **Figure 12** shows the resulting follow-up question about how much more money was needed per week. Nearly half (48%) of all households needed more than \$100 per week. Among those in households with children aged 0-17, the percentage that needed more than \$100 per week rose to 63%. Among those in households with residents aged 65 or older, 33% of households needed more than \$100 per week.

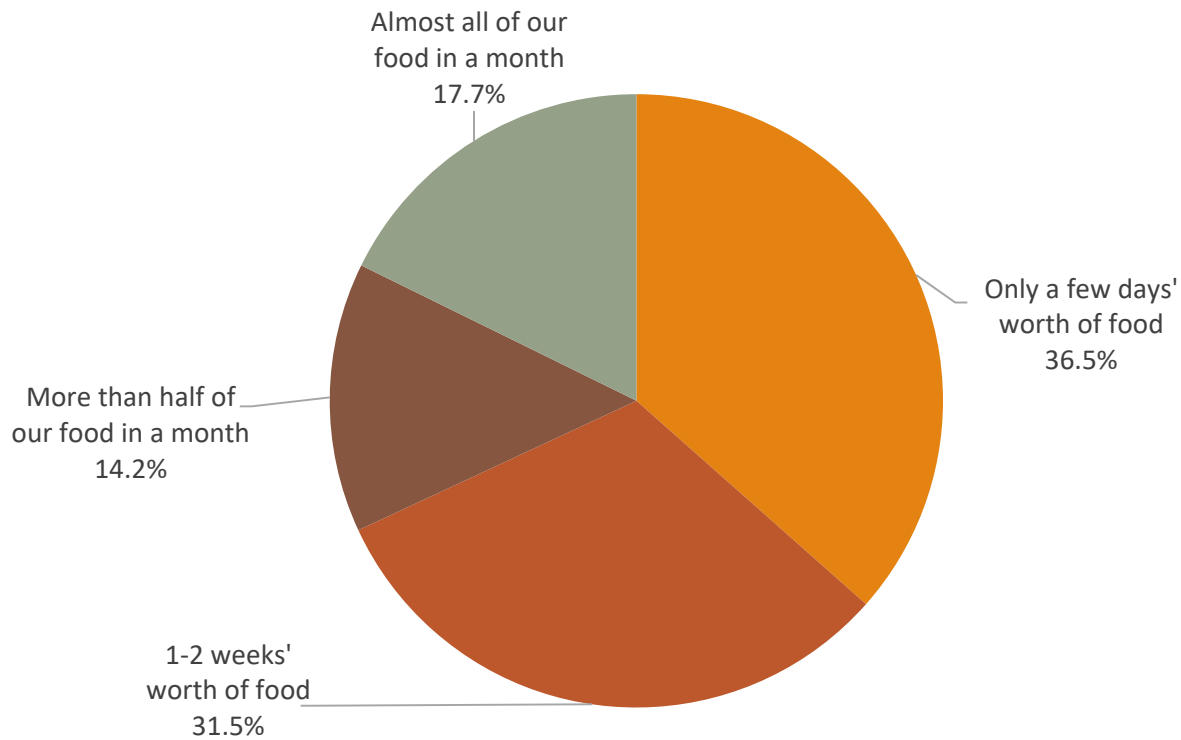
Figure 12: How Much More Would a Household Have to Spend Weekly to Meet Food Needs



Participants who indicated they would have to spend more money weekly to meet their food needs estimated they would need a mean of \$146/week (standard error (SE) = 10.0) and a median of \$98/week (min = \$10, max = \$1500). These figures did not vary dramatically between those who frequented food pantries and those who frequented meals programs. Food pantry participants estimated they would need a mean of \$139/week (SE = 6.7) and a median of \$95/week (min = \$20, max = \$800). Meal program participants estimated they would need a mean of \$153/week (SE = 18.4) and a median of \$130/week (min = \$10, max = \$1500). Participants with children aged 0-17 in the household indicated they would need a mean of \$173/week (SE = 16.3) and a median of \$146/week (min = \$25, max = \$800). Participants with residents aged 65 or older in the household indicated they would need a mean of \$120/week (SE = 9.1) and a median of \$90 (min = \$10, max = \$600).

Figures 13A and 13B show the results for how much support the Food Bank's programs provide to households receiving food from food pantries and meal programs. Food Bank programs supply a few days' worth of food for about 37% of all households and 1-2 weeks of food for another 32% of all households.

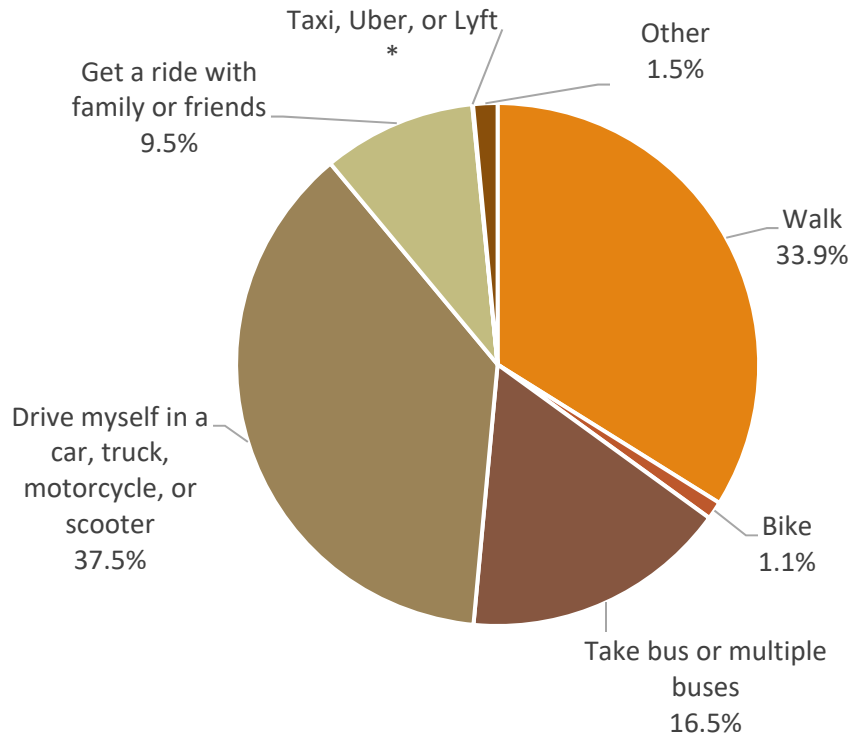
Figure 13: Food in the Past 4 Weeks That Came from Food Bank Programs



TRANSPORTATION

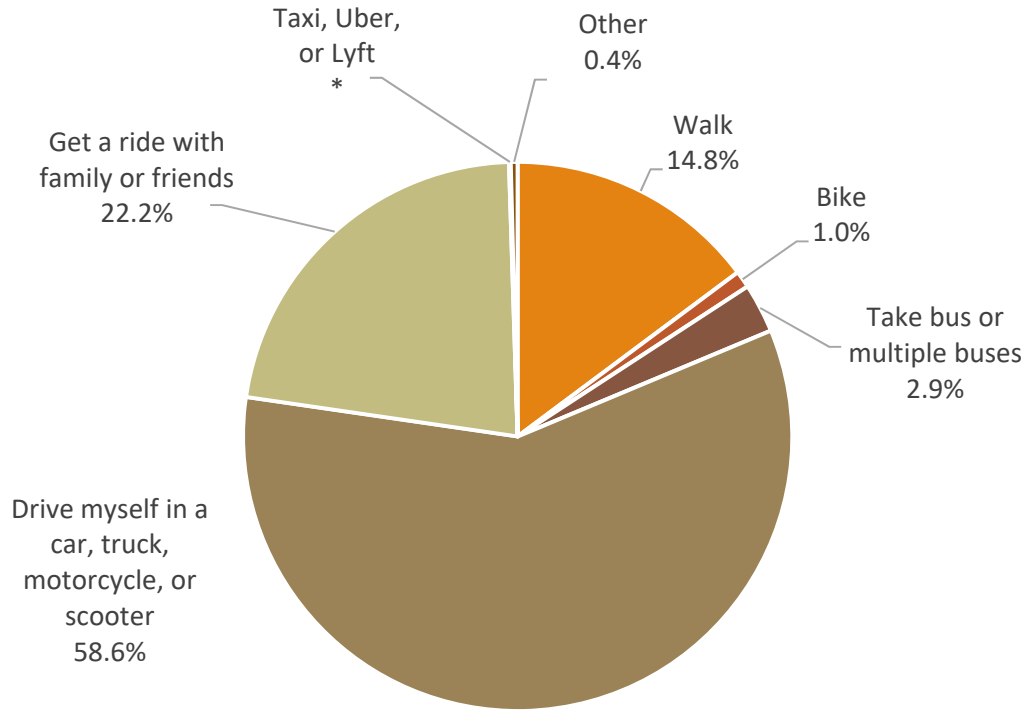
Figure 14A, 14B, and 14C show how a respondent arrived at the site on the day of the survey. The largest percentage (38%) of all households drove themselves to the program, while 34% of all households walked to the program, 10% rode with family or friends, and 17% took one or more buses. There is a notable difference in distribution in the type of transportation utilized between meal program and food pantry households. In pantries, the highest proportion of households (59%) drove to their program, while in meal programs the highest proportion walked (46%).

Figure 14A: Mode of Transportation to Site, Overall



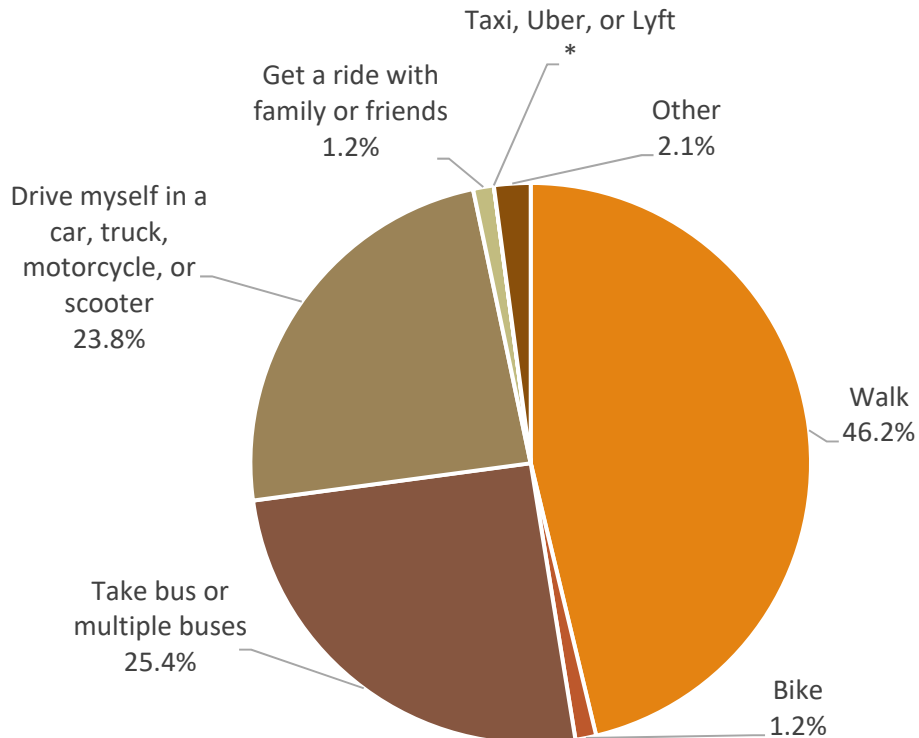
*Data were suppressed due to a sample size less than or equal to 5

Figure 14B: Mode of Transportation to Site, Food Pantries



*Data were suppressed due to a sample size less than or equal to 5

Figure 14C: Mode of Transportation to Site, Meal Programs

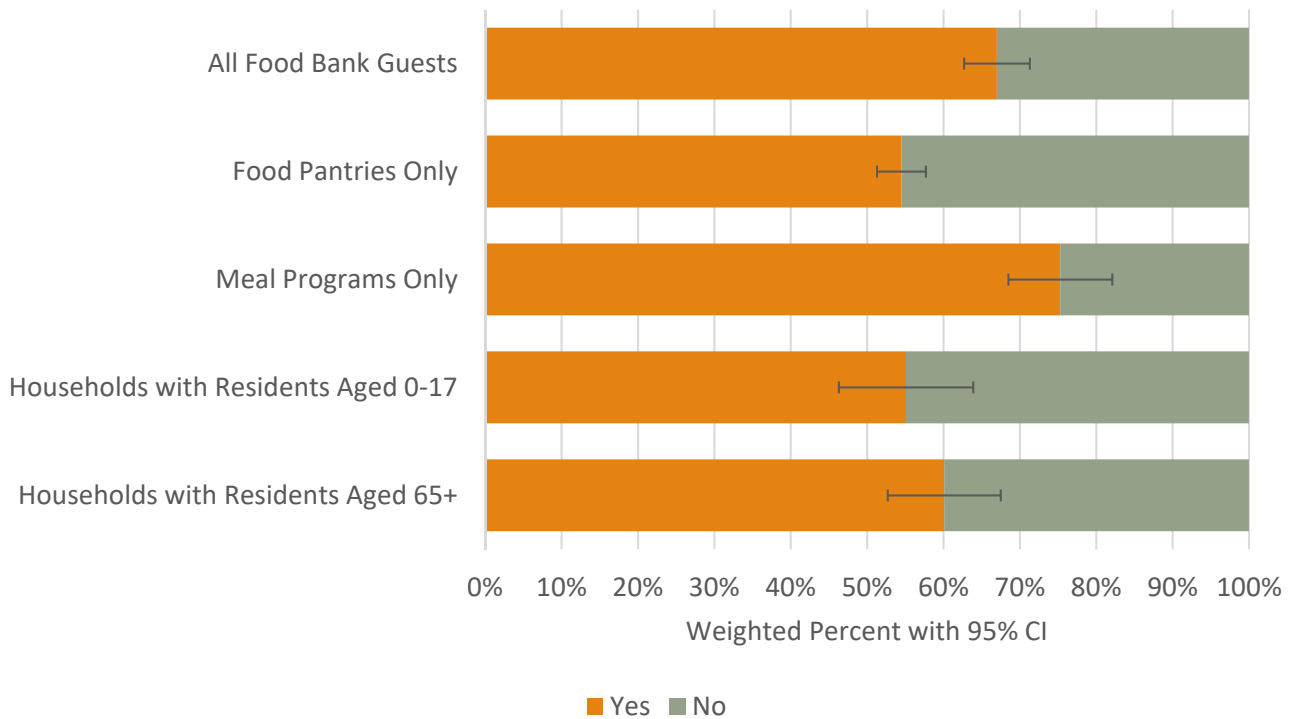


*Data were suppressed due to a sample size less than or equal to 5

USE OF OTHER SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS

Figure 15 shows results about whether there is anyone in a respondent's household who is currently receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Responses are stratified by site type and by households with children and the elderly. Among all households, 67% currently receive SNAP benefits. Households with children aged 0-17 and households with the elderly were less likely to receive SNAP (55% and 60% respectively).

Figure 15: Households with Someone Receiving SNAP Benefits



Of those households that currently receive SNAP, **Figure 16** shows how many weeks those SNAP benefits last. Among all households, 18% say their SNAP benefits last one week or less, 52% say their SNAP benefits last two weeks, 19% three weeks, and 11% four weeks or longer.

Figure 16: Period of Time that SNAP Benefits Last

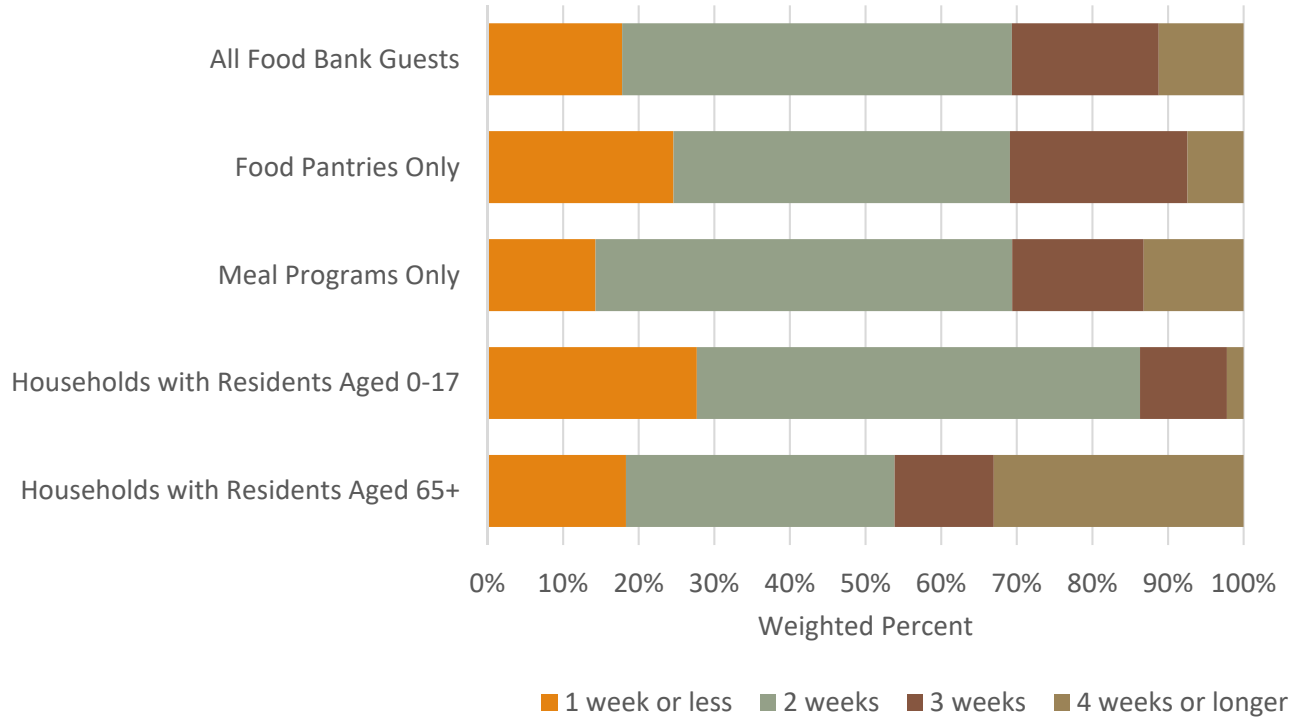


Figure 17 shows the percentage of participants whose SNAP benefits were stopped at some point in the past, overall and stratified by pantries and meal programs. Of all people currently on SNAP, 33% at some time had their benefits stopped. This proportion is higher in meal programs (37%) than in pantries (26%).

Figure 17: Percentage of Participants Whose SNAP Benefits Were Ever Stopped

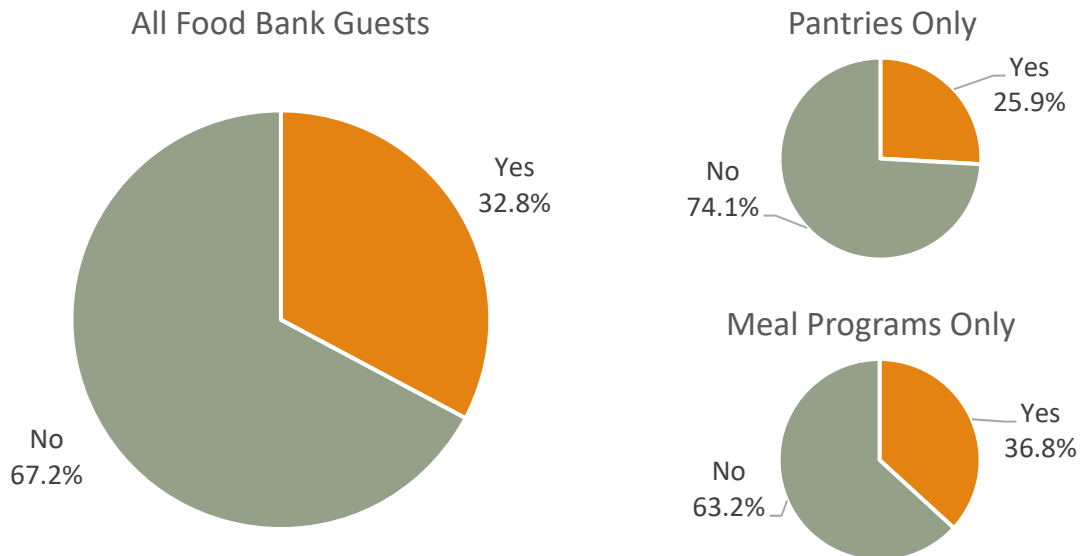


Figure 18 shows the reasons why a participant's SNAP benefits were stopped. For 25% of households, SNAP benefits were stopped due to an income that was too high, while 52% were stopped due to missing a recertification deadline. Responses grouped into the "other" category include problems with paperwork, lack of a permanent address, immigration status, and not knowing why.

Figure 18: Reasons Why a Participant's SNAP Benefits Were Ever Stopped

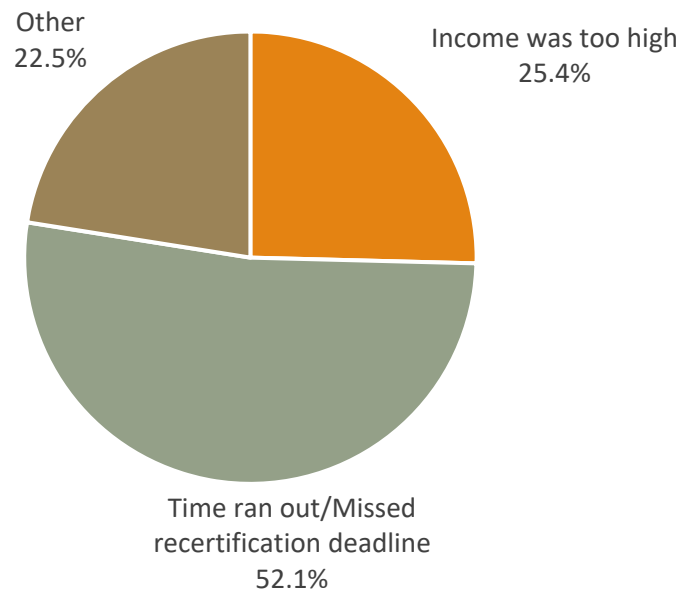


Table 17 lists results for questions about receiving other government benefits, including disability; RI Works (a state program that provides cash assistance); Women, Infants, and Children (WIC; a special supplemental nutrition program); and subsidized school lunch (for households with children less than 18 years of age). Overall, 42% of all households have a resident currently receiving disability benefits, 6% currently receive RI Works cash assistance, 3% receive benefits through WIC, and 15% have children who participate in free or reduced-price lunch programs. Of those with children between the ages of 0-17 in the household, 11% currently receive WIC and 57% have a child who participates in free or reduced-price school lunch programs.

	All Households		Households with Children Aged 0-17		Households with Adults Aged 65+	
	Count	Weighted Percent (95% CI)	Count	Weighted Percent (95% CI)	Count	Weighted Percent (95% CI)
Do you or anyone in your household receive disability benefits from the government?	178	41.8% (32.0-51.6)	38	31.4% (14.2-48.6)	63	29.8% (16.0-43.6)
Is anyone in your household currently receiving RI Works cash assistance?	14	6.3% (0.8-11.8)	9	6.0% (1.6-10.3)	*	*
Do you or anyone in your household currently receive benefits through WIC?	27	3.3% (1.9-4.7)	23	10.7% (5.0-16.4)	*	*
Do any children in your household currently participate in free or reduced-price school lunch?	82	15.3% (9.3-21.4)	82	56.5% (38.4-74.7)	11	5.5% (1.6-9.4)

*Data were suppressed due to a sample size less than or equal to 5

USE OF FOOD BANK PROGRAMS

Questions about a participant's use of the Food Bank's programs were contingent on whether they were interviewed at a food pantry or meal program. **Figures 19** and **20** show the results of questions asking how frequently during the past 4 weeks households had visited the food pantry (**Figure 19**) or meal program (**Figure 20**) at which they were surveyed. The majority (55%) of all food pantry households had visited the site two or more times, while 45% visited only once. Just under half (45%) of all meal program households visited their site 11 or more times, while only 18% visited only one time.

Figure 19: Frequency of Visiting Current Food Pantry in the Past 4 Weeks

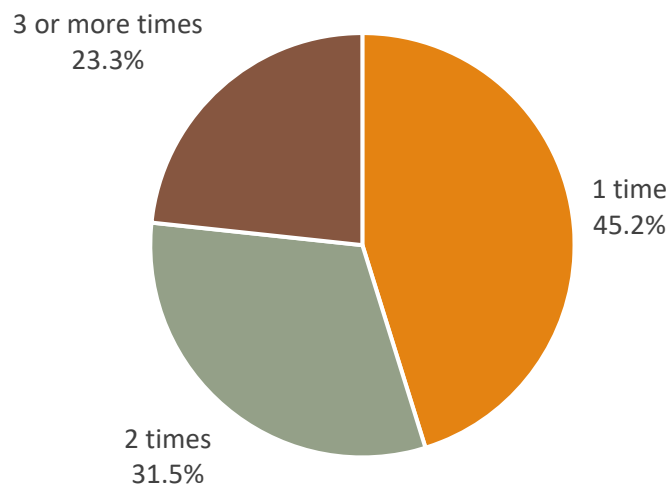
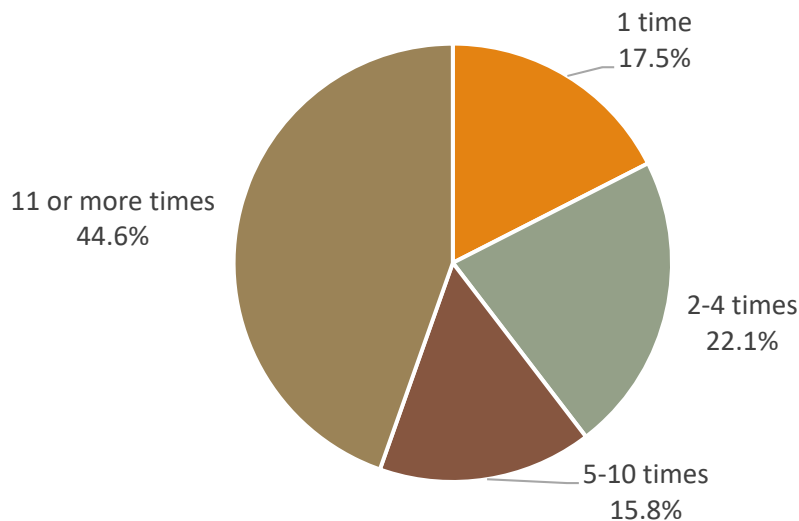


Figure 20: Frequency of Visiting Current Meal Program in the Past 4 Weeks



Figures 21 and 22 show the percentage of households that had visited multiple food pantries or meal programs in the past 4 weeks. The majority of households (59%) at food pantries had only visited the one at which they were interviewed, while 30% had been to two and 7% had been to three. Less than half (43%) of households interviewed at meal programs had only been to that meal program, while 30% had been to two, 13% had been to three, and 14% had been to four or more.

Figure 21: Count of Different Food Pantries Visited in the Past 4 Weeks

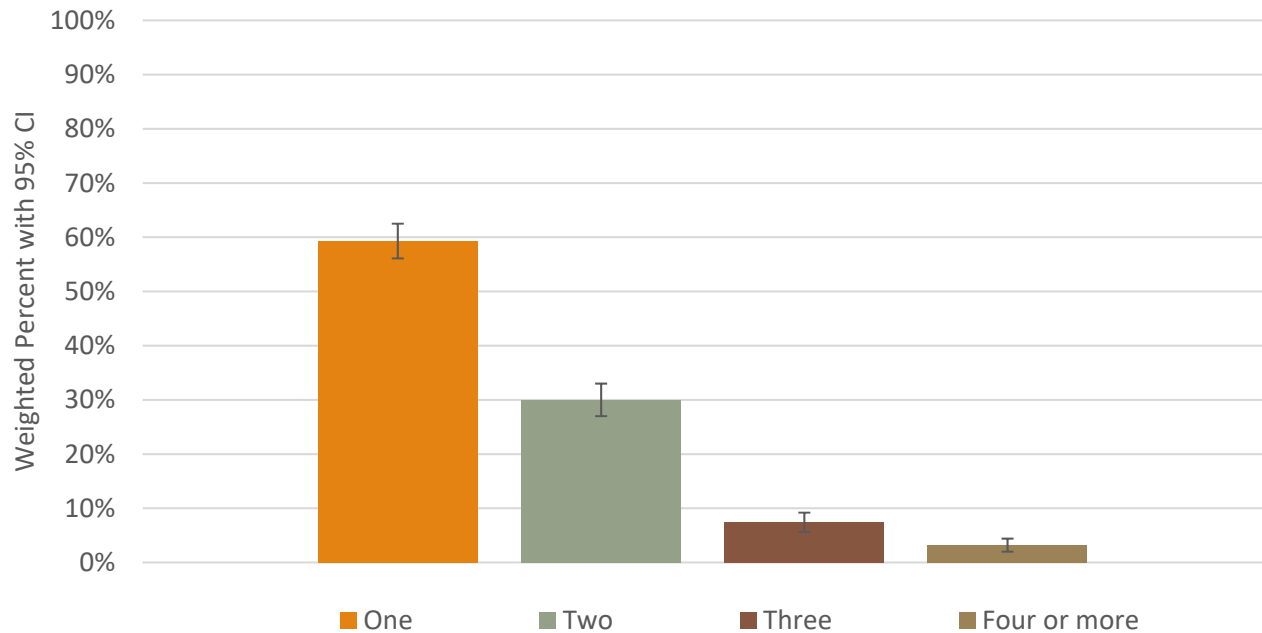
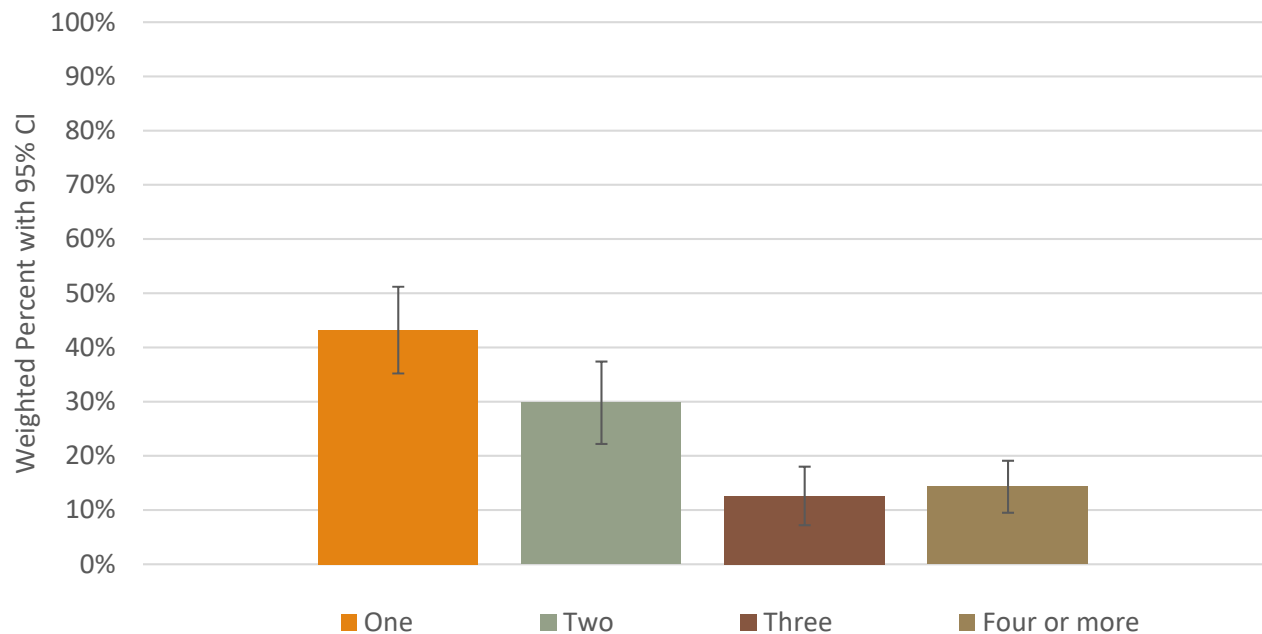


Figure 22: Count of Different Meal Programs Visited in the Past 4 Weeks



New for 2023, guests were asked whether they receive the types of food they enjoy eating at the food pantry or meal program at which they were surveyed (**Figure 23**). Pantry guests were also asked if they receive the types of food they need (**Figure 24**). Overall, the vast majority (90%) of pantry and meal programs guests indicate they receive the types of food they enjoy eating. A slightly smaller proportion (86%) of pantry guests indicate they receive the types of food they need. Households with children were less likely to indicate they receive the types of food they need.

Figure 23: Receipt of Types of Food They Enjoy Eating at Current Food Pantry or Meal Program

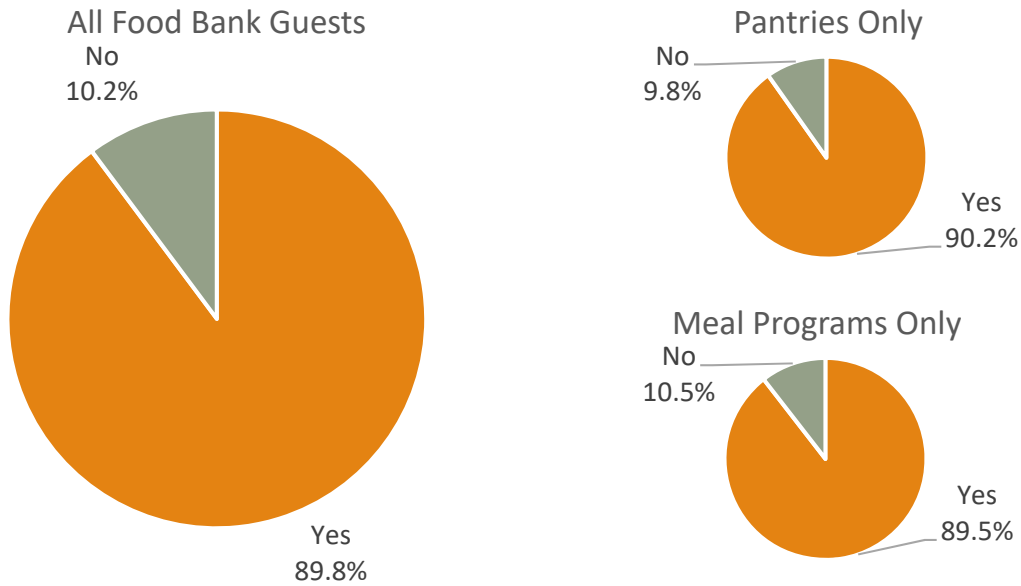
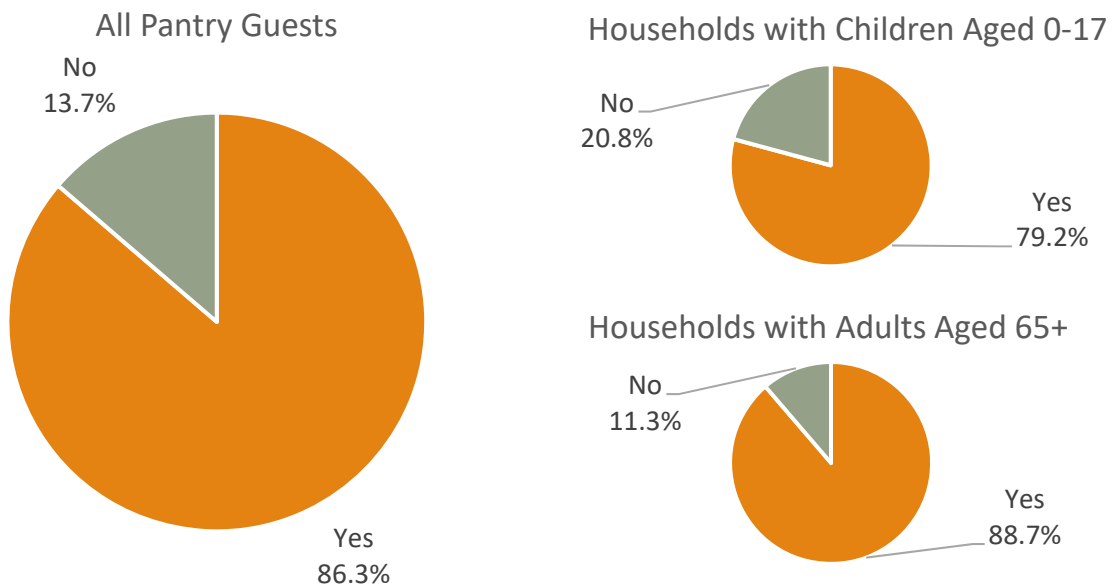


Figure 24: Receipt of Types of Food They Need at Current Food Pantry



POVERTY AMONG FOOD BANK GUESTS

Thresholds for determining poverty are established annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. These thresholds are based on household size. To simplify the question, values were rounded to the nearest \$500 and respondents were asked to indicate if their income was less than the amount for their household size. For example, the federal poverty line for a household of five is \$35,140 per year, which was rounded to \$35,000. Respondents living with four other people were asked, “During the past 12 months, was the total combined income of all members of your household less than \$35,000? This is equal to about \$2,900 per month.”

Figure 23 shows the overall estimated proportion of households using Food Bank services that are living at or below the poverty line. Overall, 79% of all households are at or below the poverty line with 75% of those surveyed at food pantries and 82% of those at meal programs being at or below the poverty line. Overall, 90% of households with children ages 0-17 are living at or below the poverty line, while 74% of households with residents aged 65 and older are at or below the poverty line.

Figure 23: Percentage of Food Bank Guests At or Below the Poverty Line

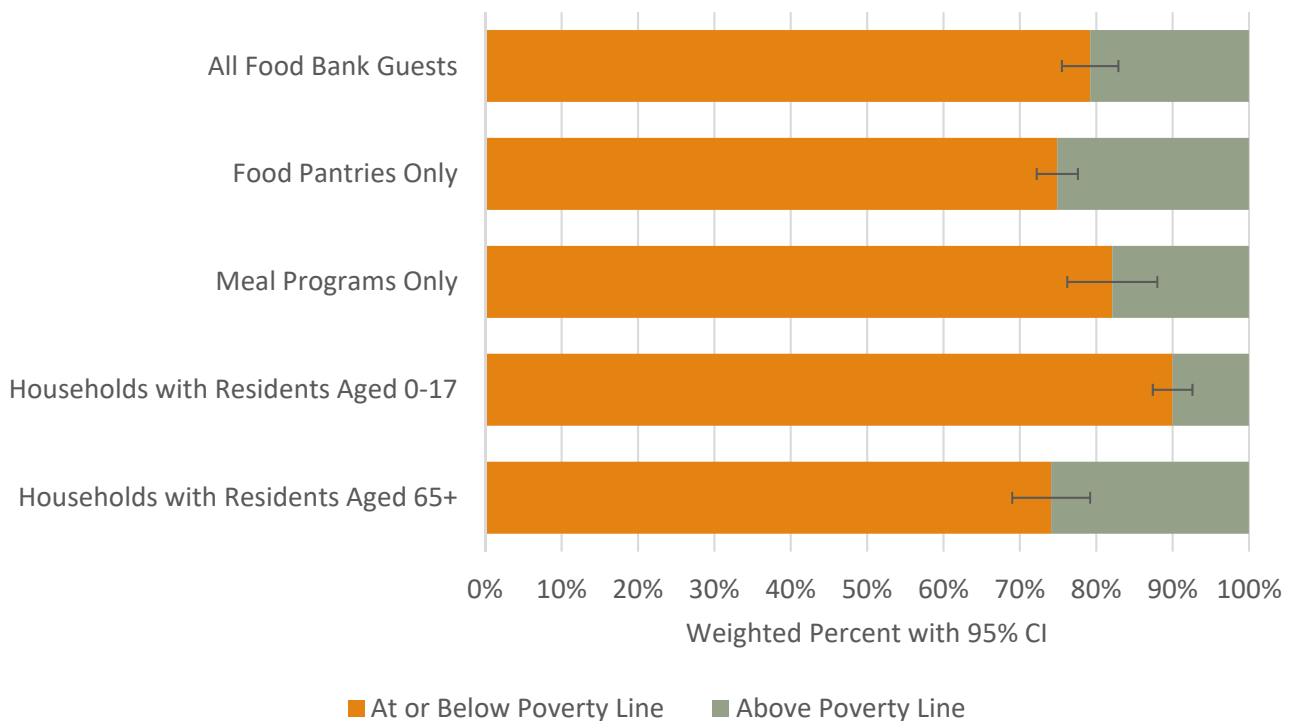


Figure 24 shows the proportion of households below the poverty line where someone in the household has worked for pay either currently or in the past 12 months. More than one-third (36%) of households living at or below the poverty line have someone currently working for pay (compared to 34% in the total sample), and 52% of households living at or below the poverty line had someone working for pay in the past 12 months (compared to 50% in the total sample).

Figure 24: Percentage of Households with Someone Working for Pay

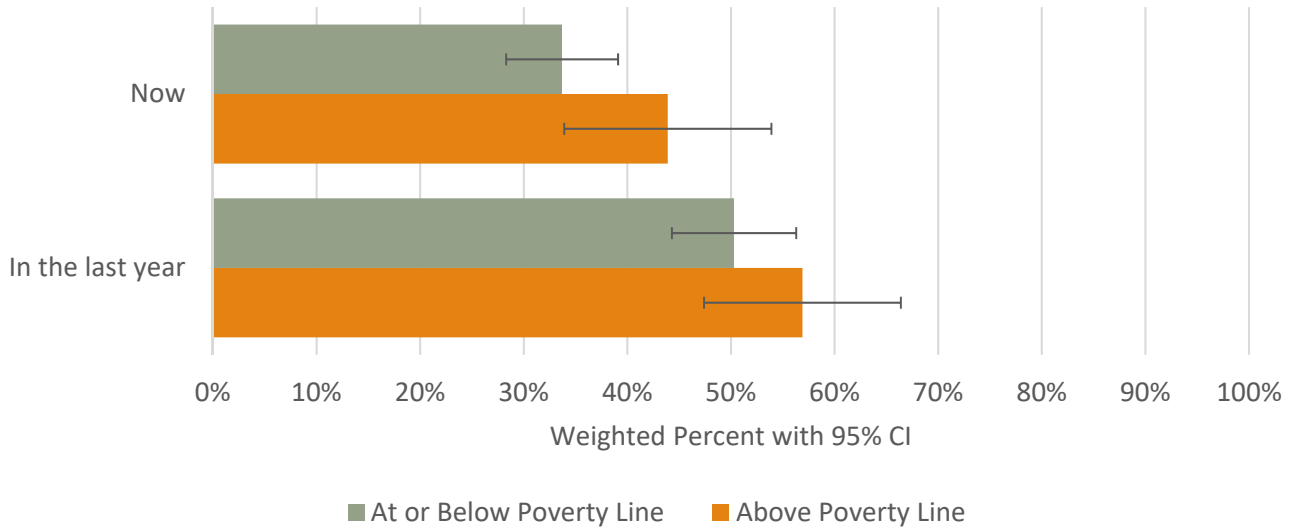
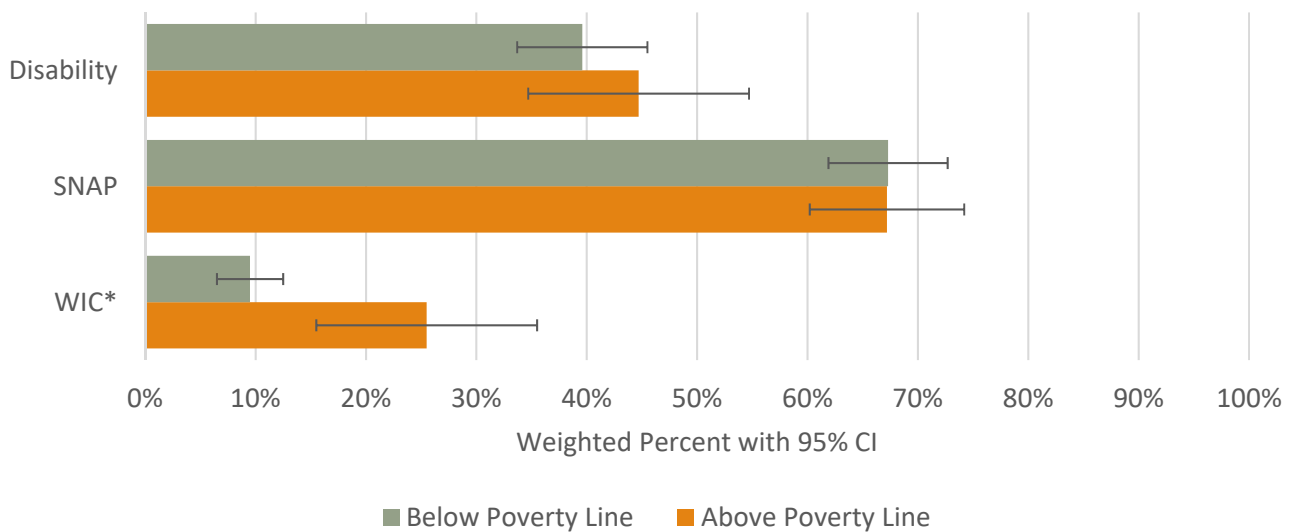


Figure 25 shows the percentage of households at or below the poverty line that receive other benefits in addition to Food Bank services. Two in five households (40%) living at or below the poverty line currently receive disability benefits, 67% receive SNAP benefits, and 10% of households with children aged 0-17 receive WIC benefits.

Figure 25: Percentage of Households Currently Receiving Additional Benefits



*Among households with children aged 0-17

CONCLUSIONS

Results from the 2023 Rhode Island Hunger Survey provide a portrait of the people who are served by the Food Bank and its statewide network of member agencies. They are children, seniors, and working families. They are people living in poverty, facing many hardships, making difficult financial choices, and suffering from poor health. Many participate in SNAP, but they also rely on food pantries and meal programs for assistance because SNAP benefits alone are not adequate.

The Food Bank and its member agencies are a critical safety net for people living in poverty in Rhode Island. These results show that the Food Bank is reaching those most in need, but their needs go well beyond food assistance. At a time when the economy in the state is thriving, much more should be done to reduce poverty and hunger, to alleviate the hardships faced by low-income families, and to strengthen the safety net.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: OVERALL RHODE ISLAND HUNGER SURVEY RESULTS

Variable/Characteristic	Category	Count (N)	Weighted Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)
Survey Characteristics					
Survey Language	English	328	48,475	74.5	67.1-81.9
	Spanish	131	16,564	25.5	18.1-32.9
Program Type	Food Pantry	354	26,272	40.4	N/A
	Meal Program/Soup Kitchen	105	38,767	59.6	N/A
Respondent Demographics					
How old are you?	18-29	16	1,729	2.7	1.0-4.4
	30-44	80	15,259	23.6	14.7-32.6
	45-54	86	16,583	25.7	16.7-34.7
	55-64	114	12,847	19.9	13.0-26.8
	65+	157	18,145	28.1	19.4-36.8
	Refused/Missing	6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Are you male or female or do you identify some other way?	Male	151	27,121	41.8	32.1-51.5
	Female	303	37,600	57.9	48.3-67.6
	Identifies some other way	*	*	*	*
	Refused/Missing	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
What is your race or origin? You may choose multiple categories.	Asian	14	1,208	1.9	0.7-3.0
	Black, African American, or African	46	7,865	12.4	5.6-19.1
	Hispanic or Latinx	161	21,146	33.2	24.5-41.9
	Native American or Alaskan Native	19	4,892	7.7	1.3-14.1
	White	231	33,696	52.9	43.6-62.3
	Some Other Race or Origin	21	6,327	9.9	2.7-17.2
	Refused/Missing	4	N/A	N/A	N/A
	What is the highest level of education you have completed?	Less than high school	107	13,535	21.2
High school diploma	130	19,440	30.5	21.3-39.6	
General equivalency diploma or GED	30	6,305	9.9	3.3-16.5	
Business, trade, or technical license, certificate, or degree beyond high school	26	3,874	6.1	0.7-11.4	
Some college beyond high school or a 2-year degree	120	15,797	24.8	16.5-33.1	
4-year college degree or higher	45	4,849	7.6	3.2-12.0	
Refused/Missing	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Are you currently a student?	Yes	19	2,233	3.4	1.6-5.3
	No	440	62,807	96.6	94.7-98.4

Variable/Characteristic	Category	Count (N)	Weighted Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)
	Refused/Missing	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Household Demographics					
How many people total are in your household? By household, we mean people who live together and share living expenses.	1	164	24,084	37.0	27.6-46.4
	2	117	17,581	27.0	18.1-36.0
	3	62	9,650	14.8	7.6-22.1
	4	58	7,751	11.9	6.3-17.5
	5	34	4,421	6.8	2.7-10.9
	6	11	653	1.0	0.3-1.7
	7+	13	900	1.4	0.5-2.3
Percentage of households with at least 1 person living there from ages...	0-17	138	17,425	27.9	19.6-36.2
	18-64	347	52,048	83.5	76.5-90.4
	65+	182	17,775	28.5	20.6-36.4
	Refused/Missing	6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of households with at least 1 person identifying as...	Male	339	50,759	78.2	70.2-86.2
	Female	367	48,978	75.3	66.8-83.8
	Identifies some other way	*	*	*	*
	Refused/Missing	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of households with at least 1 person identifying as...	Asian	17	1,406	2.2	1.0-3.4
	Black, African American, or Black	52	8,429	13.2	6.5-20.0
	Hispanic or Latinx	168	21,517	33.8	25.1-42.5
	Native American or Alaskan Native	21	4,995	7.8	1.4-14.3
	White	237	36,576	57.5	48.8-66.2
	Some other race or origin	24	6,520	10.2	3.0-17.5
	Refused/Missing	4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of households with a resident whose highest education degree is...	Less than high school	77	9,516	14.9	8.1-21.7
	High school diploma	119	19,280	30.2	20.9-39.6
	General equivalency diploma or GED	31	6,519	10.2	3.6-16.8
	Business, trade, or technical license, certificate, or degree beyond high school	24	4,036	6.3	0.9-11.7
	Some college beyond high school or a 2-year degree	125	16,477	25.8	17.5-34.2
	4-year college degree or higher	82	7,972	12.5	7.9-17.1
	Refused/Missing	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of households with a current student aged 18+	Yes	60	7,363	11.3	6.8-15.8
	Refused/Missing	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
What is the primary language spoken by adults	English	325	45,677	70.4	61.8-79.0
	Spanish	149	20,494	31.6	23.0-40.2
	Portuguese	14	1,176	1.8	0.7-2.9

Variable/Characteristic	Category	Count (N)	Weighted Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)
in your home? You may choose more than one.	Haitian-Creole	6	550	0.8	0.1-1.6
	Other Languages	29	3,612	5.6	1.4-9.7
	Refused/Missing	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Working Status					
During the last 12 months, about how many months did you work for pay?	None	270	36,266	55.8	46.0-65.5
	Less than 1 month	12	3,948	6.1	0.6-11.5
	1-3 months	20	3,822	5.9	0.5-11.2
	4-6 months	37	4,501	6.9	2.7-11.1
	7-9 months	27	5,374	8.3	2.6-13.9
	10-12 months	92	11,084	17.1	10.4-23.7
	Refused/Missing	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
During the last 12 months, about how many hours per week did you typically work for pay? (among those who did work for pay)	Less than 10 per week	24	4,415	15.6	3.4-27.7
	11-20 per week	27	4,284	15.1	3.1-27.1
	21-30 per week	43	6,389	22.5	10.0-35.0
	31-40 per week	65	10,847	38.2	23.3-53.2
	Over 40 per week	25	2,428	8.6	4.2-12.9
	Refused/Missing	5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Have you worked for pay in the last 4 weeks? (among those who did work for pay)	Yes	118	15,870	55.4	40.3-70.5
	No	70	12,755	44.6	29.5-59.7
	Refused/Missing	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
How long have you been out of work? (among those who did not work for pay in the last 4 weeks)	Less than 1 month	10	799	1.6	0.1-3.2
	1-6 months	47	6,985	14.3	6.7-21.8
	7-12 months	15	3,586	7.3	0.3-14.4
	More than one year	268	37,650	76.8	67.1-86.5
	Refused/Missing	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
During the past 4 weeks, have you been actively looking for work? (among those who did not work for pay in the last 4 weeks)	Yes	77	17,546	35.9	24.4-47.3
	No	261	31,366	64.1	52.7-75.6
	Refused/Missing	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
What is your main reason for not looking for work? Would you say it is because you... (among those who are not currently actively looking for work)	Caretaker for another person	15	1,199	3.8	1.6-6.0
	Disabled/poor health	144	18,075	57.7	44.0-71.3
	In school	*	*	*	*
	Retired	84	9,092	29.0	16.5-41.6
	Stopped looking because unable to find a job	*	*	*	*
	Other	14	2,561	8.2	0.0-16.5
	Refused/Missing	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Is there anyone else in your household who worked for pay in the last 12 months? (among those	Yes	127	17,653	43.3	31.1-55.5
	No	166	23,114	56.7	44.5-68.9

Variable/Characteristic	Category	Count (N)	Weighted Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)
with >1 person in household)	Refused/Missing	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
During the past 12 months, about how many months was that person working for pay? (among those who did work for pay)	Less than 1 month	*	*	*	*
	1-3 months	10	656	3.8	1.0-6.6
	4-6 months	19	5,271	30.4	10.9-50.0
	7-9 months	7	1,735	10.0	0.0-24.5
	10-12 months	83	9,437	54.5	35.7-73.3
	Refused/Missing	5	N/A	N/A	N/A
During the past 12 months, about how many hours per week did that person typically work for pay? (among those who did work for pay)	Less than 10 per week	11	891	5.2	1.6-8.7
	11-20 per week	14	898	5.2	1.9-8.5
	21-30 per week	27	5,642	32.7	13.1-52.4
	31-40 per week	54	8,560	49.7	29.6-69.7
	Over 40 per week	17	1,244	7.2	3.4-11.1
	Refused/Missing	4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Has that person worked for pay in the last 4 weeks? (among those who did work for pay)	Yes	108	14,889	85.1	70.4-99.7
	No	18	2,615	14.9	0.3-29.6
	Refused/Missing	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
How long has that person been out of work? (among those who did not work for pay in the last 4 weeks)	Less than 1 month	*	*	*	*
	1-6 months	14	2,307	88.2	75.0-100.0
	7-12 months	*	*	*	*
	More than 1 year	*	*	*	*
	Refused/Missing	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
During the past 4 weeks, has that person been actively looking for work? (among those who did not work for pay in the last 4 weeks)	Yes	11	1,850	75.1	58.0-92.1
	No	6	615	24.9	7.9-42.0
	Refused/Missing	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
What was that person's main reason for not looking for work? (among those who are not currently actively looking for work)	Caretaker for another person	*	*	*	*
	Disabled/poor health	*	*	*	*
	In school	*	*	*	*
	Other	*	*	*	*
	Refused/Missing	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Military History					
Did you or anyone in your household ever serve in the U.S. military?	Yes	44	3,799	5.9	3.7-8.1
	No	412	60,962	94.1	91.9-96.3
	Don't Know/Refused/ Missing	3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Do you or anyone in your household currently serve full-time or part-time in the U.S. Armed Forces, or	Yes	*	*	*	*
	No	*	*	*	*

Variable/Characteristic	Category	Count (N)	Weighted Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)
as a member of the Reserve or National Guard?	Refused/Missing	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Health and Healthcare					
Thinking now about your health and healthcare, would you say that your own health is...	Excellent	41	4,745	7.4	3.1-11.7
	Very Good	65	10,482	16.3	8.8-23.8
	Good	129	18,728	29.1	20.0-38.2
	Fair	170	21,625	33.6	24.5-42.8
	Poor	48	8,712	13.6	6.2-20.9
	Don't Know/Refused/Missing	6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Thinking about the other people in your household, would you say that any of them are in poor health? (among those with >1 person in household)	Yes	94	10,848	26.8	16.5-37.2
	No	194	29,599	73.2	62.8-83.5
	Refused/Missing	7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Have you or anyone living in your household ever been told by a doctor or other health professional that they have diabetes?	Yes	150	22,595	35.2	25.6-44.8
	No	301	41,632	64.8	55.2-74.4
	Refused/Missing	8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Have you or anyone living in your household ever been told by a doctor or other health professional that they have high blood pressure?	Yes	282	35,742	56.8	46.9-66.7
	No	168	27,181	43.2	33.3-53.1
	Refused/Missing	9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Do you or anyone living in your household currently have asthma?	Yes	134	20,845	32.6	23.0-42.1
	No	317	43,153	67.4	57.9-77.0
	Don't know/Refused/Missing	8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Have you or anyone living in your household had COVID-19?	Yes	220	26,302	40.7	31.6-49.8
	No	233	38,279	59.3	50.2-68.4
	Don't know/Refused/Missing	6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Do you think you or anyone in your household has or had "long Covid"?	Yes	52	4,020	6.2	4.3-8.2
	No	399	60,433	93.8	91.8-95.7
	Don't know/Refused/Missing	8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Do you or does anyone in your household currently have any kind of health insurance?	Yes	423	60,101	93.8	89.5-98.1
	No	27	3,973	6.2	1.9-10.5
	Refused/Missing	9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Living Situation					
During the past 12 months, how many places have you lived?	1	374	44,032	70.0	60.4-79.7
	2	43	8,102	12.9	6.0-19.8
	3	19	5,425	8.6	2.0-15.3
	4	6	2,932	4.7	0.0-10.1

Variable/Characteristic	Category	Count (N)	Weighted Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)
	More than 4	7	2,382	3.8	0.0-8.0
	Refused/Missing	10	N/A	N/A	N/A
Please tell me the kind of place where you currently live.	Apartment	259	35,587	55.7	45.8-65.6
	House or townhouse	128	11,076	17.3	12.8-21.9
	Military housing	*	*	*	*
	Mobile home or house trailer	12	556	0.9	0.3-1.5
	Rented room in rooming or boarding house	16	2,644	4.1	0.0-8.3
	Temporary or no housing	34	12,792	20.0	11.1-29.0
	Refused/Missing	9	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Which best describes your current living situation? (of those who live in a rented room or have temporary or no housing)	Abandoned building, bus or train station, park, campground, or airport	6	2,821	18.3
Car, van, boat, or RV		*	*	*	*
Living on the street		13	4,187	27.1	4.7-49.6
Rented room in rooming or boarding house		14	2,272	14.7	0.0-31.7
Residential treatment facility or supervised housing		*	*	*	*
Shelter, mission, or transitional living situation		13	5,321	34.5	9.6-59.3
Refused/Missing		0	N/A	N/A	N/A
How do you pay for the place you currently live? (of those with housing)	Own free and clear	33	3,522	6.2	1.6-10.8
	Own with mortgage	54	4,117	7.3	5.2-9.4
	Rent or lease	307	40,860	72.4	63.2-81.5
	Do not pay rent	33	7,955	14.1	5.9-22.3
	Refused/Missing	5	N/A	N/A	N/A
In the past 12 months, did you start living with another person or family?	Yes	72	15,110	23.4	14.5-32.4
	No	379	49,418	76.6	67.6-85.5
	Refused/Missing	8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Have you experienced a foreclosure or eviction during the past 5 years?	Yes	29	7,995	12.4	5.0-19.7
	No	423	56,571	87.6	80.3-95.0
	Refused/Missing	7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Financial Situation					
Do you have any unpaid medical or hospital bills? <small>Note: Due to a survey administration error, this question was not asked of 59 participants.</small>	Yes	102	16,264	27.8	18.3-37.3
	No	287	42,295	72.2	62.7-81.7
	Refused/Missing	70	N/A	N/A	N/A
How often in past 12 months have you had to choose between food and utilities?	Every month	68	13,518	21.1	12.5-29.8
	Some months out of the year	91	9,761	15.3	8.6-22.0
	1 or 2 times a year	55	6,434	10.1	4.5-15.6
	Never	231	34,208	53.5	43.6-63.5

Variable/Characteristic	Category	Count (N)	Weighted Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)
	Refused/Missing	14	N/A	N/A	N/A
How often in past 12 months have you had to choose between food and rent/mortgage?	Every month	58	11,206	17.5	9.4-25.7
	Some months out of the year	73	11,483	18.0	9.9-26.0
	1 or 2 times a year	47	5,954	9.3	3.7-15.0
	Never	268	35,312	55.2	45.3-65.1
	Refused/Missing	13	N/A	N/A	N/A
In the past 12 months, did you borrow money from a friend or family member?	Yes	168	29,021	45.0	35.1-54.8
	No	283	35,516	55.0	45.2-64.9
	Refused/Missing	8	N/A	N/A	N/A
In the past 12 months, did you borrow money from a bank or loan service to pay your bills?	Yes	55	9,123	14.1	7.4-20.9
	No	396	55,414	85.9	79.1-92.6
	Refused/Missing	8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Do you currently have any outstanding debt on a credit card or loan for another expense?	Yes	191	22,580	35.0	26.2-43.8
	No	260	41,956	65.0	56.2-73.8
	Refused/Missing	8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Benefits					
Do you or anyone in your household receive disability benefits from the government?	Yes	178	26,969	41.8	32.0-51.6
	No	273	37,568	58.2	48.4-68.0
	Refused/Missing	8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Is anyone in your Household currently receiving SNAP benefits?	Yes	266	43,201	67.0	58.6-75.4
	No	184	21,291	33.0	24.6-41.4
	Refused/Missing	9	N/A	N/A	N/A
How many weeks do your SNAP benefits usually last? (among those with SNAP benefits)	1 week or less	58	7,352	17.8	8.9-26.6
	2 weeks	108	21,331	51.5	38.5-64.6
	3 weeks	65	8,031	19.4	9.4-29.4
	4 weeks	20	2,786	6.7	0.4-13.1
	More than 4 weeks	10	1,881	4.5	0.0-10.6
	Refused/Missing	5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Has anyone in your household ever applied for SNAP benefits? (of those without SNAP benefits)	Yes	96	10,449	49.9	34.3-65.6
	No	86	10,475	50.1	34.4-65.7
	Refused/Missing	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Why have you not applied for SNAP benefits? (of those without SNAP who have never applied)	Don't think I am eligible	31	3,683	35.2	10.3-60.0
	Never heard of SNAP before	7	626	6.0	0.9-11.0
	Personal reasons	14	2,382	22.7	0.0-47.1
	Too hard to apply	18	2,462	23.5	0.0-47.8
	Another reason	18	1,449	13.8	8.1-19.5

Variable/Characteristic	Category	Count (N)	Weighted Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)
	Refused/Missing	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Have you ever applied for SNAP but did not qualify? (among those with SNAP benefits or ever applied)	Yes	105	10,619	19.8	14.0-25.6
	No	257	43,032	80.2	74.4-86.0
	Refused/Missing	3	N/A	N/A	N/A
What was the main reason you did not qualify for SNAP? (among those who did not qualify)	Not a U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident	7	824	8.1	0.2-16.0
	Application too difficult	11	691	6.8	1.9-11.7
	Income too high	52	5,715	56.5	44.4-68.7
	Assets too high	7	661	6.5	1.2-11.9
	Other	23	2,220	22.0	11.0-32.9
	Refused/Missing	5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Has anyone in your household ever had your SNAP benefits stopped? (among those with SNAP benefits or ever applied)	Yes	89	17,620	32.8	22.0-43.6
	No	272	36,145	67.2	56.4-78.0
	Refused/Missing	4	N/A	N/A	N/A
What was the main reason your SNAP benefits were stopped? (among those whose benefits were stopped)	Income too high	25	4,424	25.4	5.9-44.9
	Time ran out or missed recertification deadline	36	9,069	52.1	29.0-75.2
	Other	25	3,919	22.5	3.4-41.6
	Refused/Missing	3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Is anyone in your household currently receiving RI Works cash assistance?	Yes	14	4,004	6.3	0.8-11.8
	No	431	59,919	93.7	88.2-99.2
	Refused/Missing	14	N/A	N/A	N/A
Do you or anyone in your household currently receive benefits through WIC? (among those with children ≤17)	Yes	23	1,805	10.7	5.0-16.4
	No	109	15,075	89.3	83.6-95.0
	Refused/Missing	6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Do any children in your household currently participate in free or reduced-price school lunch? (among those with children ≤17)	Yes	82	9,460	56.5	38.4-74.7
	No	49	7,270	43.5	25.3-61.6
	Refused/Missing	7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Food Security					
Would you need to spend more than you do now or about the same as you do now to buy just enough food to meet your needs or the needs of your household?	More	335	43,334	67.9	58.1-77.6
	Same	109	20,519	32.1	22.4-41.9
	Refused/Missing	15	N/A	N/A	N/A
	\$1-\$25	16	1,973	4.9	2.0-7.8

Variable/Characteristic	Category	Count (N)	Weighted Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)
How much more would you have to spend weekly to meet your food needs? (among those who stated they had to spend more to meet needs)	\$26-\$50	66	5,520	13.7	6.8-20.6
	\$51-\$100	115	13,470	33.6	23.0-44.1
	\$101-\$200	84	11,125	27.7	17.3-38.1
	\$201+	41	8,060	20.1	9.5-30.7
	Refused/Missing	13	N/A	N/A	N/A
Which statement best describes your decisions about coming to get food here?	I plan to get food here on a regular basis to help with monthly food budget	344	46,060	73.9	64.7-83.2
	I usually wait to come until I run out of food	96	16,265	26.1	16.8-35.3
	Refused/Missing	19	N/A	N/A	N/A
In the past week, did your household get food from a food pantry? (among meal program respondents)	Yes	44	21,493	57.8	42.0-73.6
	No	59	15,706	42.2	26.4-58.0
	Refused/Missing	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
In the past 4 weeks, did your household get food from a food pantry? (among meal program respondents not getting food from a food pantry in the past week)	Yes	15	2,056	13.1	0.0-29.1
	No	44	13,650	86.9	70.9-100.0
	Refused/Missing	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
In the past 12 months, did your household get food from a food pantry? (among meal program respondents not getting food from a food pantry in the past 4 weeks)	Yes	15	5,159	37.8	10.7-64.9
	No	29	8,492	62.2	35.1-89.3
	Refused/Missing	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
How many times in the past week have you visited THIS meal program? (among meal program respondents)	1 time	53	12,886	34.3	19.2-49.5
	2-4 times	37	18,693	49.8	33.6-66.0
	5-10 times	12	4,665	12.4	2.6-22.2
	11 or more times	*	*	*	*
	Refused/Missing	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
How many times in the past 4 weeks have you visited THIS meal program? (among meal program respondents)	1 time	18	6,526	17.5	4.9-30.2
	2-4 times	47	8,203	22.1	9.4-34.7
	5-10 times	12	5,882	15.8	4.3-27.3
	11 or more times	26	16,589	44.6	28.2-61.0
	Refused/Missing	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
In the past 4 weeks, how many different meal programs did you visit? (among meal program respondents)	1	36	16,624	43.2	27.2-59.3
	2	21	11,461	29.8	14.6-45.0
	3	16	4,856	12.6	1.8-23.5
	4 or more	31	5,497	14.3	4.8-23.8
	Refused/Missing	1	N/A	N/A	N/A

Variable/Characteristic	Category	Count (N)	Weighted Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)
At THIS meal program, do you get the types of food you enjoy eating? (among meal program respondents)	Yes	93	34,651	89.5	80.2-98.8
	No	11	4,073	10.5	1.2-19.8
	Refused/Missing	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
In the past week, did your household get food from a meal program? (among food pantry respondents)	Yes	29	2,067	8.2	4.6-11.8
	No	309	23,089	91.8	88.2-95.4
	Refused/Missing	16	N/A	N/A	N/A
In the past 4 weeks, did your household get food from a meal program? (among food pantry respondents not getting food from a meal program in the past week)	Yes	11	1,002	4.3	1.4-7.3
	No	298	22,087	95.7	92.7-98.6
	Refused/Missing	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
In the past 12 months, did your household get food from a meal program? (among food pantry respondents not getting food from a meal program in the past 4 weeks)	Yes	14	802	3.6	1.4-5.9
	No	284	21,286	96.4	94.1-98.6
	Refused/Missing	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
How many times in the past week have you visited THIS food pantry? (among food pantry respondents)	1 time	320	23,763	94.2	91.2-97.3
	2 times	16	1,195	4.7	2.0-7.5
	3 or more times	*	*	*	*
	Refused/Missing	14	N/A	N/A	N/A
How many times in the past 4 weeks have you visited THIS food pantry? (among food pantry respondents)	1 time	169	11,458	45.2	39.0-51.4
	2 times	103	7,985	31.5	25.6-37.4
	3 or more times	69	5,920	23.3	17.9-28.8
	Refused/Missing	13	N/A	N/A	N/A
In the past 4 weeks, how many different food pantries did you visit? (among food pantry respondents)	1	208	15,052	59.3	53.1-65.6
	2	100	7,615	30.0	24.1-35.9
	3	22	1,876	7.4	3.9-10.9
	4 or more	11	822	3.2	0.9-5.6
	Refused/Missing	13	N/A	N/A	N/A
At THIS food pantry, do you get the types of food you need? (among food pantry respondents)	Yes	286	21,433	86.3	81.9-90.7
	No	46	3,407	13.7	9.3-18.1
	Refused/Missing	22	N/A	N/A	N/A
At THIS food pantry, do you get the types of food you enjoy eating? (among food pantry respondents)	Yes	301	22,532	90.2	86.5-94.0
	No	35	2,436	9.8	6.0-13.5
	Refused/Missing	18	N/A	N/A	N/A

Variable/Characteristic	Category	Count (N)	Weighted Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)
How much of your household's food would you say was provided by all the food assistance programs you have visited in the past four weeks?	Only a few days' worth of food	123	22,397	36.5	26.5-46.6
	1-2 weeks' worth of food	191	19,309	31.5	23.4-39.6
	More than half of our food in a month	73	8,730	14.2	8.1-20.4
	Almost all of our food in a month	47	10,841	17.7	88.9-26.5
	Refused/Missing	25	N/A	N/A	N/A
How do you usually get to this program?	Walk	100	21,646	33.9	24.1-43.6
	Bike	6	699	1.1	0.0-2.3
	Take bus or multiple buses	32	10,573	16.5	7.8-25.3
	Drive myself in a car, truck, motorcycle, or scooter	223	23,973	37.5	28.7-46.3
	Get a ride with family or friends	73	6,067	9.5	7.1-11.8
	Take a taxi, Uber, or Lyft	*	*	*	*
	Other	8	936	1.5	0.0-2.9
	Refused/Missing	16	N/A	N/A	N/A
Income					
Would you say your household income is enough that you afford to pay for all of your usual expenses each month?	Yes	154	23,429	37.6	27.7-47.5
	No	286	38,836	62.4	52.5-72.3
	Refused/Missing	19	N/A	N/A	N/A
During the past 12 months, was your total income/the total combined income of all members less than \$poverty threshold for household size)?	Yes	315	48,308	79.2	71.9-86.5
	No	113	12,661	20.8	13.5-28.1
	Don't Know/Refused/Missing	31	N/A	N/A	N/A

APPENDIX B: RHODE ISLAND HUNGER SURVEY RESULTS BY PROGRAM

Variable/ Characteristic	Category	Food Pantries			Meal Programs		
		Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)	Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)
Survey Characteristics							
Survey Language	English	235	58.3	52.6-64.0	93	85.5	73.7-97.3
	Spanish	119	41.7	36.0-47.4	12	14.5	2.7-26.3
Respondent Demographics							
How old are you?	18-29	*	*	*	*	*	*
	30-44	58	17.9	13.0-22.9	22	27.5	12.9-42.0
	45-54	66	22.4	17.0-27.9	20	27.9	13.2-42.5
	55-64	92	25.9	20.4-31.4	22	15.9	4.9-26.8
	65 and up	123	30.2	24.8-35.7	34	26.7	12.7-40.7
Are you male or female or do you identify some other way?	Male	86	23.6	18.3-28.9	65	54.1	38.3-69.9
	Female	266	76.3	71.0-81.6	37	45.6	29.8-61.4
	Identifies some other way	*	*	*	*	*	*
What is your race or origin? You may choose multiple categories.	Asian	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Black, African American, or African	33	11.6	7.4-15.9	13	12.9	1.9-23.8
	Hispanic or Latinx	139	46.2	40.3-52.2	22	24.2	10.0-38.4
	Native American or Alaskan Native	11	2.4	0.7-4.1	8	11.4	0.5-22.2
	White	165	36.8	32.4-41.2	66	64.2	48.7-79.7
	Some other race or origin	13	3.3	1.2-5.4	8	14.5	2.4-26.7
What is the highest level of education you have completed?	Less than high school	84	24.8	19.3-30.2	23	18.7	6.3-31.2
	High school diploma	98	29.3	23.5-35.0	32	31.3	16.3-46.3
	General equivalency diploma or GED	17	5.5	2.6-8.5	13	12.9	1.9-23.9
	Business, trade, or technical license, certificate, or degree beyond high school	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Some college beyond high school or a 2-year degree	95	25.1	19.9-30.3	25	24.5	10.9-38.2

Variable/ Characteristic	Category	Food Pantries			Meal Programs		
		Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)	Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)
	4-year college degree or higher	39	10.6	6.8-14.3	6	5.5	0.0-12.4
Are you currently a student?	Yes	*	*	*	*	*	*
	No	339	94.5	91.4-97.6	101	98.0	95.6-100.0
Household Demographics							
How many people total are in your household? By household, we mean people who live together and share living expenses.	1	99	20.9	16.4-25.4	65	47.9	32.5-63.4
	2	92	25.8	20.4-31.1	25	27.9	13.3-42.4
	3	53	15.9	11.2-20.5	9	14.1	2.3-25.9
	4	*	*	*	*	*	*
	5	*	*	*	*	*	*
	6	*	*	*	*	*	*
	7+	*	*	*	*	*	*
Percentage of households with at least 1 person living there from ages...	0-17	129	40.9	34.7-47.1	9	18.5	4.9-32.1
	18-64	271	83.3	79.4-87.1	76	83.6	72.0-95.2
	65 and up	150	37.8	32.0-43.7	32	21.7	8.7-34.7
Percentage of households with at least 1 person identifying as...	Male	257	75.4	70.2-80.7	82	80.1	67.1-93.0
	Female	317	91.7	88.5-95.0	50	64.2	50.1-78.2
	Identifies some other way	*	*	*	*	*	*
Percentage of households with at least 1 person identifying as...	Asian	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Black, African American, or African	39	13.8	9.2-18.4	13	12.9	1.9-23.8
	Hispanic or Latinx	145	47.4	41.4-53.3	23	24.3	10.2-38.5
	Native American or Alaskan Native	12	2.6	0.9-4.2	9	11.5	0.7-22.4
	White	168	38.1	33.5-42.7	69	70.9	56.5-85.4
	Some other race or origin	15	3.8	1.6-6.0	9	14.7	2.6-26.9
Percentage of households with a resident whose highest education degree is...	Less than high school	58	15.8	11.2-20.3	19	14.3	3.2-25.4
	High school diploma	84	22.6	17.4-27.7	35	35.6	20.1-51.1
	General equivalency diploma or GED	17	6.2	3.0-9.4	14	13.0	2.0-24.0
	Business, trade, or technical license, certificate, or	*	*	*	*	*	*

Variable/ Characteristic	Category	Food Pantries			Meal Programs		
		Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)	Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)
	degree beyond high school						
	Some college beyond high school or a 2-year degree	102	28.1	22.6-33.6	23	24.2	10.6-37.9
	4-year college degree or higher	74	22.1	16.8-27.3	8	5.8	0.0-12.7
Percentage of households with a current student	Yes	53	19.8	14.6-25.0	7	5.6	0.0-12.3
What is the primary language spoken by adults in your home? You may choose more than one.	English	235	59.9	54.0-65.8	90	77.5	63.7-91.4
	Spanish	132	44.9	39.0-50.8	17	22.7	8.9-36.5
	Portuguese	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Haitian-Creole	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Other Languages	21	5.5	2.7-8.3	8	5.6	0.0-12.3
Working Status							
During the last 12 months, about how many months did you work for pay?	None	206	55.4	49.2-61.5	64	56.1	40.3-71.9
	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	1-3 months	13	3.0	1.0-5.0	7	7.8	0.0-16.7
	4-6 months	31	10.3	6.3-14.4	6	4.6	0.0-11.1
	7-9 months	16	3.9	1.7-6.1	11	11.3	1.9-20.6
	10-12 months	83	25.9	20.3-31.5	9	11.1	0.5-21.6
During the last 12 months, about how many hours per week did you typically work for pay? (among those who did work for pay)	Less than 10 per week	15	9.0	3.6-14.3	9	20.0	0.1-39.9
	11-20 per week	20	11.3	5.4-17.1	7	17.7	0.0-37.3
	21-30 per week	35	24.2	15.7-32.7	8	21.4	1.3-41.5
	31-40 per week	56	44.7	34.9-54.5	9	33.9	9.8-58.0
	Over 40 per week	18	10.8	4.9-16.7	7	7.1	1.0-13.1
Have you worked for pay in the last 4 weeks? (among those who did work for pay)	Yes	102	71.6	63.0-80.3	16	44.4	19.8-69.1
	No	45	28.4	19.7-37.0	25	55.6	30.9-80.2
How long have you been out of work? (among those who did not work for pay in the last 4 weeks)	Less than 1 month	*	*	*	*	*	*
	1-6 months	34	15.6	10.0-21.2	13	13.5	2.1-24.9
	7-12 months	*	*	*	*	*	*
	More than one year	200	78.5	72.2-84.7	68	75.9	61.0-90.7

Variable/ Characteristic	Category	Food Pantries			Meal Programs		
		Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)	Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)
During the past 4 weeks, have you been actively looking for work? (among those who did not work for pay in the last 4 weeks)	Yes	43	20.9	14.6-27.2	34	44.5	26.8-62.1
	No	208	79.1	72.8-85.4	53	55.5	37.9-73.2
What is your main reason for not looking for work? Would you say it is because you... (among those who are not currently actively looking for work)	Caretaker for another person	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Disabled/poor health	116	55.1	46.8-63.3	28	59.8	36.0-83.7
	In school	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Retired	66	30.2	23.0-37.5	18	28.0	6.0-50.1
	Stopped looking because unable to find a job	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Other	*	*	*	*	*	*
Is there anyone else in your household who worked for pay in the last 12 months? (among those with >1 person in household)	Yes	110	45.4	38.2-52.6	17	41.2	17.7-64.6
	No	143	54.6	47.4-61.8	23	58.8	35.4-82.3
During the past 12 months, about how many months was that person working for pay? (among those who did work for pay)	Less than 1 month	*	*	*	*	*	*
	1-3 months	*	*	*	*	*	*
	4-6 months	*	*	*	*	*	*
	7-9 months	*	*	*	*	*	*
	10-12 months	74	69.8	59.3-80.2	9	37.9	0.5-75.4
During the past 12 months, about how many hours per week did that person	Less than 10 per week	*	*	*	*	*	*
	11-20 per week	*	*	*	*	*	*
	21-30 per week	*	*	*	*	*	*

Variable/ Characteristic	Category	Food Pantries			Meal Programs		
		Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)	Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)
typically work for pay? (among those who did work for pay)	31-40 per week	46	47.9	36.5-59.3	8	51.6	11.9-91.3
	Over 40 per week	*	*	*	*	*	*
Has that person worked for pay in the last 4 weeks? (among those who did work for pay)	Yes	94	86.2	78.4-94.0	14	83.8	54.2-100.0
	No	*	*	*	*	*	*
How long has that person been out of work? (among those who did not work for pay in the last 4 weeks)	Less than 1 month	*	*	*	*	*	*
	1-6 months	*	*	*	*	*	*
	7-12 months	*	*	*	*	*	*
During the past 4 weeks, has that person been actively looking for work? (among those who did not work for pay in the last 4 weeks)	Yes	*	*	*	*	*	*
	No	*	*	*	*	*	*
What was that person's main reason for not looking for work? (among those who are not currently actively looking for work)	Caretaker for another person	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Disabled/poor health	*	*	*	*	*	*
	In school	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Other	*	*	*	*	*	*
Military History							
Did you or anyone in your household ever serve in the U.S. military?	Yes	33	9.2	5.7-12.7	11	3.7	0.8-6.5
	No	318	90.8	87.3-94.3	94	96.3	93.5-99.2
Do you or anyone in your household currently serve	Yes	*	*	*	*	*	*

Variable/ Characteristic	Category	Food Pantries			Meal Programs		
		Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)	Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)
full-time or part-time in the U.S. Armed Forces, or as a member of the Reserve or National Guard?	No	*	*	*	*	*	*
Health and Healthcare							
Thinking now about your health and healthcare, would you say that your own health is...	Excellent	35	11.4	7.2-15.5	6	4.7	0.0-11.3
	Very Good	47	12.0	8.2-15.7	18	19.2	6.9-31.6
	Good	94	26.5	21.0-32.1	35	30.9	16.1-45.7
	Fair	135	38.8	32.7-45.0	35	30.1	15.4-44.9
	Poor	39	11.3	7.4-15.2	9	15.1	3.0-27.1
Thinking about the other people in your household, would you say that any of them are in poor health? (among those with >1 person in household)	Yes	87	32.6	25.8-39.4	7	21.0	1.4-40.6
	No	162	67.4	60.6-74.2	32	79.0	59.4-98.6
Have you or anyone living in your household ever been told by a doctor or other health professional that they have diabetes?	Yes	121	34.9	28.9-40.9	29	35.4	19.8-50.9
	No	226	65.1	59.1-71.1	75	64.6	49.1-80.2
Have you or anyone living in your household ever been told by a doctor or other health professional that they have high blood pressure?	Yes	226	64.3	58.3-70.4	56	51.6	35.3-67.8
	No	122	35.7	29.6-41.7	46	48.4	32.2-64.7
Do you or anyone living in your	Yes	110	31.4	25.6-37.3	24	33.3	17.9-48.8

Variable/ Characteristic	Category	Food Pantries			Meal Programs		
		Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)	Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)
household currently have asthma?	No	237	68.6	62.7-74.4	80	66.7	51.2-82.1
Have you or anyone living in your household had COVID-19?	Yes	188	57.4	51.3-63.5	32	29.6	15.0-44.2
	No	161	42.6	36.5-48.7	72	70.4	55.8-85.0
Do you think you or anyone in your household has or had "long Covid"?	Yes	*	*	*	*	*	*
	No	302	86.6	82.4-90.7	97	98.6	96.8-100.0
Do you or does anyone in your household currently have any kind of health insurance?	Yes	329	94.1	91.0-97.2	94	93.6	86.6-100.0
	No	18	5.9	2.8-9.0	9	6.4	0.0-13.4
Living Situation							
During the past 12 months, how many places have you lived?	1	308	87.6	83.3-91.9	66	57.9	41.8-73.9
	2	27	9.0	5.2-12.7	16	15.6	4.2-27.0
	3	8	1.8	0.3-3.3	11	13.4	2.2-24.6
	4	*	*	*	*	*	*
	More than 4	*	*	*	*	*	*
Please tell me the kind of place where you currently live.	Apartment	208	59.0	52.9-65.2	51	53.4	37.4-69.5
	House or Townhouse	118	36.0	30.0-42.0	10	4.7	0.0-11.1
	Mobile home or house trailer	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Rented room in rooming or boarding house	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Temporary or no housing	*	*	*	*	*	*
Which best describes your current living situation? (of those who live in a rented room or have temporary or no housing)	Car, van, boat, or RV	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Living on the street	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Rented room in rooming or boarding house	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Residential treatment facility or supervised housing	*	*	*	*	*	*

Variable/ Characteristic	Category	Food Pantries			Meal Programs		
		Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)	Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)
	Shelter, mission, or transitional living situation	*	*	*	*	*	*
How do you pay for the place you currently live? (of those with housing)	Own free and clear	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Own with mortgage	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Rent or lease	249	73.0	67.4-78.5	58	71.9	56.0-87.8
	Do not have to pay rent	14	3.1	1.1-5.2	19	23.0	8.1-37.8
In the past 12 months, did you start living with another person or family?	Yes	50	17.5	12.5-22.5	22	27.3	12.8-41.9
	No	296	82.5	77.5-87.5	83	72.7	58.1-87.2
Have you experienced a foreclosure or eviction during the past 5 years?	Yes	17	5.8	2.7-8.9	12	16.7	4.6-28.8
	No	330	94.2	91.1-97.3	93	83.3	71.2-95.4
Financial Situation							
Do you have any unpaid medical or hospital bills? <small>Note: Due to a survey administration error, this question was not asked of 59 participants.</small>	Yes	85	30.1	23.8-36.4	17	26.4	11.7-41.1
	No	205	69.9	63.6-76.2	82	73.6	58.9-88.3
How often in past 12 months have you had to choose between food and utilities?	Every month	48	14.4	10.0-18.9	20	25.6	11.5-39.7
	Some months out of the year	80	21.0	16.0-26.0	11	11.5	0.9-22.1
	1 or 2 times a year	45	13.8	9.4-18.3	10	7.6	0.0-16.4
	Never	168	50.8	44.4-57.1	63	55.3	39.4-71.3
How often in past 12 months have you had to choose between food and rent/mortgage?	Every month	42	12.0	7.9-16.0	16	21.2	7.9-34.5
	Some months out of the year	57	17.5	12.7-22.4	16	18.2	5.3-31.2
	1 or 2 times a year	38	9.9	6.3-13.6	9	8.9	0.0-18.0
	Never	206	60.6	54.4-66.7	62	51.7	35.6-67.7
In the past 12 months, have you borrowed money from a friend or family member?	Yes	131	37.9	31.7-44.0	37	49.7	33.8-65.6
	No	215	62.1	56.0-68.3	68	50.3	34.4-66.2

Variable/ Characteristic	Category	Food Pantries			Meal Programs		
		Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)	Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)
In the past 12 months, have you borrowed money from a bank or loan service to pay your bills?	Yes	44	15.0	10.4-19.7	11	13.5	2.7-24.4
	No	302	85.0	80.3-89.6	94	86.5	75.6-97.3
Do you currently have any outstanding debt on a credit card or loan for another expense?	Yes	160	47.0	40.8-53.3	31	27.0	13.0-41.0
	No	186	53.0	46.7-59.2	74	73.0	59.0-87.0
Other Benefits							
Do you or anyone in your household receive disability benefits from the government?	Yes	129	35.2	29.3-41.1	49	46.2	30.3-62.1
	No	217	64.8	58.9-70.7	56	53.8	37.9-69.7
Is anyone in your Household currently receiving SNAP benefits?	Yes	195	54.5	48.3-60.8	71	75.3	62.0-88.6
	No	151	45.5	39.2-51.7	33	24.7	11.4-38.0
How many weeks do your SNAP benefits usually last? (among those with SNAP benefits)	1 week or less	49	24.6	17.4-31.7	9	14.3	1.5-27.2
	2 weeks	78	44.5	36.0-53.0	30	55.1	36.0-74.2
	3 weeks	49	23.5	16.4-30.6	16	17.4	2.7-32.0
	4 weeks	10	3.6	0.8-6.4	10	8.3	0.0-17.8
	More than 4 weeks	*	*	*	*	*	*
Has anyone in your household ever applied for SNAP benefits? (of those without SNAP benefits)	Yes	79	49.6	40.1-59.0	17	50.4	17.1-83.6
	No	71	50.4	41.0-59.9	15	49.6	16.4-82.9
Why have you not applied for SNAP benefits? (of those without)	Don't think I am eligible	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Never heard of SNAP before	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Personal reasons	*	*	*	*	*	*

Variable/ Characteristic	Category	Food Pantries			Meal Programs		
		Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)	Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)
SNAP who have never applied)	Too hard to apply	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Another reason	12	14.6	5.0-24.3	6	12.8	8.9-16.7
Have you ever applied for SNAP but did not qualify? (among those with SNAP benefits or ever applied)	Yes	87	32.9	26.1-39.6	18	12.1	3.8-20.5
	No	187	67.1	60.4-73.9	70	87.9	79.5-96.2
What was the main reason you did not qualify for SNAP? (among those who did not qualify)	Not a U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Application too difficult	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Income too high	42	47.9	34.8-61.1	10	69.1	46.1-92.2
	Assets too high	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Other	*	*	*	*	*	*
Has anyone in your household ever had your SNAP benefits stopped? (among those with SNAP benefits or ever applied)	Yes	71	25.9	19.6-32.1	18	36.8	20.1-53.4
	No	202	74.1	67.9-80.4	70	63.2	46.6-79.9
What was the main reason your SNAP benefits were stopped? (among those whose benefits were stopped)	Income too high	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Time ran out or missed recertification deadline	28	44.0	29.4-58.6	8	55.2	23.6-86.8
	Other	19	24.2	12.0-36.4	6	21.8	0.0-47.9
Is anyone in your household currently receiving RI Works cash assistance?	Yes	8	4.0	1.2-6.9	6	7.8	0.0-16.7
	No	333	96.0	93.1-98.8	98	92.2	83.3-100.0
Do you or anyone in your household currently receive benefits through WIC? (among	Yes	*	*	*	*	*	*
	No	*	*	*	*	*	*

Variable/ Characteristic	Category	Food Pantries			Meal Programs		
		Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)	Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)
those with children ≤17)							
Do any children in your household currently participate in free or reduced price school lunch? (among those with children ≤17)	Yes	*	*	*	*	*	*
	No	*	*	*	*	*	*
Food Security							
In order to buy just enough food to meet your needs, would you need to spend more than you do now or about the same?	More	268	78.9	73.8-84.0	67	60.5	44.7-76.4
	Same	74	21.1	16.0-26.2	35	39.5	23.6-55.3
How much more would you have to spend weekly to meet your food needs? (among those who stated they had to spend more to meet needs)	\$1-\$25	10	4.1	1.4-6.7	6	5.7	0.6-10.9
	\$26-\$50	55	16.3	11.5-21.1	11	11.3	0.0-24.0
	\$51-\$100	96	38.3	31.2-45.5	19	29.0	9.6-48.4
	\$101-\$200	69	28.9	22.2-35.6	15	26.6	7.3-45.8
	\$201+	30	12.4	7.4-17.4	11	27.4	7.2-47.5
Which statement best describes your decisions about coming to get food here?	I plan to get food here on a regular basis to help with monthly food budget	73	20.2	15.2-25.2	23	30.1	15.0-45.3
	I usually wait to come until I run out of food	266	79.8	74.8-84.8	78	69.9	54.7-85.0
How much of your household's food would you say was provided by all the food assistance programs you have visited in	Only a few days' worth of food	86	28.8	22.9-34.8	37	41.8	25.4-58.2
	1-2 weeks' worth of food	159	45.1	38.7-51.4	32	22.3	9.4-35.2
	More than half of our food in a month	58	16.7	12.1-21.3	15	12.6	2.7-22.5
	Almost all of our food in a month	31	9.4	5.6-13.2	16	23.3	8.8-37.8

Variable/ Characteristic	Category	Food Pantries			Meal Programs		
		Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)	Count (N)	Weighted Percent (%)	Weighted 95% Confidence Interval (CI)
the past four weeks?							
How do you usually get to this program?	Walk	50	14.8	10.2-19.4	50	46.2	30.4-62.0
	Bike	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Take bus or multiple buses	8	2.9	0.6-5.2	24	25.4	11.1-39.7
	Drive myself in a car, truck, motorcycle, or scooter	205	58.6	52.4-64.9	18	23.8	9.9-37.7
	Get a ride with family or friends	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Take a taxi, Uber, or Lyft	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Other	*	*	*	*	*	*
Income							
Would you say your household income is enough that you afford to pay for all of your usual expenses each month?	Yes	118	32.7	26.9-38.5	36	41.0	24.9-57.0
	No	219	67.3	61.5-73.1	67	59.0	43.0-75.1
During the past 12 months, was your total income/the total combined income of all members less than \${poverty threshold for household size}?	Yes	235	74.9	69.6-80.1	80	82.1	70.5-93.8
	No	94	25.1	19.9-30.4	19	17.9	6.2-29.5