

Characteristics of Households At-Risk for Food Insecurity in Green Bay, Wisconsin

Spring 1999

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Characteristics of Households At-Risk for Food Insecurity in Green Bay, Wisconsin Spring 1999 Executive Summary

This evaluation was an extension of the 1998 Food Security Research Project in Green Bay, conducted by the University of Wisconsin Cooperative-Extension (UWEX), Brown County office. There were several goals of the study, however, the purpose of this report is to examine in detail the characteristics of households at-risk for food insecurity (i.e., households using food assistance programs) in Green Bay. Findings pertaining to food security are reported in *Food Security Survey of At-Risk Households in Green Bay, Wisconsin, Spring 1999*.

The USDA Food Security Survey was used to measure respondents' food security status. The survey was modified to include questions pertaining to relevant demographic information, such as, household size, age, and employment status. Respondents were also asked about the reasons for their food insecurity and were asked to identify which initiatives would help them better access food. Eleven different sites—all serving households at risk for food insecurity—were included in this evaluation: two of the sites were meal sites, six were food pantries, two were WIC offices, and one was Head Start. The total number of individuals asked to participate in the study was 760. The total number who agreed to participate was 566, yielding an overall response rate of 74%.

Overall, most respondents were female (83%) and were young (60% were less than 30-years-old and 81% were younger than 40). Those older than 50 accounted for less than 10% of the sample. Most respondents were Caucasian (63%); 14% were Hispanic; and Hmong, Russian, Native American and African-American groups each represented less than 10% of the total sample. All of the minority groups were disproportionately over-represented in the population of individuals served at the food assistance programs compared to the percentage in the general population of Brown County.

Most respondents resided in households with children (78%). More than half (56%) lived in households with two or more adults and one or more children, 22% resided in single parent households, and 8% lived alone. Males were roughly three times more likely to live alone than females and females were more than twice as likely to head single parent households than males. Children accounted for about half (48%) of the individuals in the households interviewed and those age 65 or older accounted for 2%.

A sizable proportion of respondents did not complete high school (34%), however, 30% had some type of schooling beyond high school. Education varied with ethnicity: most Caucasian respondents completed high school and lower percentages of minorities reported graduating (just over half of Native-American and African-American respondents, and 35% of Hispanic respondents). Almost half (44%) of Hmong respondents did not answer this question, however, of those who did, 62% had completed high school.

Most respondents (72%) drove their own car to the food assistance site where they were interviewed, approximately 20% rode with someone else or borrowed a car, 7% walked or bicycled, and 4% rode the bus or took a taxi.

Large percentages of respondents received food assistance from a number of sources during the last year. More than three-fourths of respondents received WIC assistance (76%), 38% received assistance from food pantries, 45% received assistance from friends or relatives, 26% received free or reduced school meals, and 24% received food stamps.

Most respondents (83%) resided in households that had employment income during the last month and 75% of respondents had been employed some time during the last year. More than half

(57%) of respondents less than 65-years-old were currently employed and of those, 75% worked fulltime. Caucasians, Hispanics and African-American were more likely to be employed than Native-American, Hmong and Russian respondents. Native American households were also less likely to have had income from employment during the previous month compared to all other households.

The average wage was \$7.87 per hour (median = \$7.50 per hour). Hourly wages varied by respondents' gender, ethnicity, and education. Males earned more per hour than females (median wage = \$8.00 vs. \$7.50 per hour). Caucasians' and African Americans' median wage was \$8.00 per hour; Hmong and Hispanic respondents' median wage was \$7.00 per hour; and Native Americans' median wage was \$6.50 per hour. Respondents with more education earned more per hour: median hourly wage= \$8.00 for those with education beyond high school, \$7.27 per hour for high school graduates, and \$7.10 per hour for those without a high school diploma.

The most frequent source of income after employment was SSI (15%), 11% of households received child support, 10% social security, and less than 10% received income from unemployment, disability, pension, welfare or other sources. Households without employment income were more likely to receive social security, SSI, and disability.

Respondents in this study represent a diverse group, however, summaries for meal sites, food pantries, and WIC are included because of differences among the respondents at each type of site.

Meal Sites

In contrast to food pantries and WIC, male and female respondents were equally represented at meal sites. Meal site respondents tended to be older (67% were 40 or older and the median age was 42) and were predominantly Caucasian (73%), with 14% Native American, 8% African-American and less than 5% Hispanic. Meal site respondents were more likely to live alone (42%) and to reside in households without children (71%). Fewer respondents drove their own car (29%) and more either walked, bicycled or took the bus (61%) compared to food pantry and WIC respondents. Respondents were more likely to be unemployed (62%) and to earn less than WIC respondents (median wage = \$7.05 per hour). Respondents tended to seek assistance at shelters (66%) more than respondents at other sites and most received assistance at food pantries during the last year (71%).

Food Pantries

Most respondents were female (76%) and respondents' ages were more equally distributed across age groups compared to other sites (40% percent were 40 or older and the median age was 36). Respondents were more ethnically diverse (45% Caucasian, 16% Hmong, 16% Native American, 8% African American, and 9% Hispanic). Most lived in households with children (72%) and 36% had three or more children in their households. Half drove their own cars and more borrowed a car or rode with someone else to the site (29%) compared to other respondents. More than half were unemployed (53%) and individuals at food pantries were more likely to work part-time compared to other respondents. The median wage was \$7.05 per hour. Respondents were more likely to receive food stamps (36%) and free or reduced school meals (46%) compared to other sites' respondents.

WIC

Almost all respondents were female (86%) and were younger than other respondents at other sites (76% were less than 30-years-old and the median age was 24.5). Most respondents were Caucasian (66%) with a higher percentage of Hispanic (17%) than the other two sites. Eight percent were Hmong and other minorities each represented less than 5%. Almost all respondents had children and 29% had three or more children in their households. Most respondents at WIC drove their own cars (82%) and a small percentage rode with someone else or borrowed a car (14%). Fewer respondents were unemployed (37%), and those employed earned more than other respondents (median wage= \$8.05 per hour). Fewer received assistance at food pantries compared to other sites (21%).

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Salvation Army Meal Site and Pantry
Room at the Inn Meal Site
Resurrection Lutheran Pantry
Trinity Lutheran Pantry
St. Patrick's Church Pantry
Presbyterian Food Pantry
Paul's Pantry
WIC
Head Start

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Introduction

The mission of the University of Wisconsin-Extension (UWEX) is to provide, jointly with the University of Wisconsin institutions and the counties within the state, an extension program designed to apply University research, knowledge, and resources to meet the educational needs of Wisconsin residents, wherever they live and work. The mission includes a focus on developing partnerships and on conducting applied research to address locally identified issues relevant to specific needs of communities. Cooperative Extension faculty and staff work, both individually and as members of multidisciplinary teams, to design and deliver educational programs that focus university resources on local needs.

Brown County UWEX began a Food Security Initiative in 1995 in response to changes in the political climate regarding welfare and family support programs. A partnership was developed with the Brown County Hunger Task Force (BCHTF), an organization founded in 1982 to “alleviate and eliminate hunger in Brown County”. Through the efforts of this task force, the Brown County Food and Hunger Network, formerly BCHTF, expanded its mission: “To rally action, preventative and corrective, for the relief of hunger.” It has pursued this mission through four specific means:

- By providing support to local and world hunger agencies;
- By making visible to the community the extent of the hunger issue;
- By increasing the concern and participation in efforts to prevent and alleviate hunger;
- and
- By supporting, through participation and coordination, community and state efforts to deal with hunger.

The Food Security Initiative in Brown County first involved a shift in the mission of the Hunger Task Force from short-term emergency relief efforts to community food security, which in addition, embraces long term planning and multidisciplinary systems approach in addressing the problem of hunger. The anti-hunger approach focuses on supplying immediate food-related needs. In contrast, the food security approach utilizes strategies of building partnerships, developing a process, initiating successful projects, and affecting public policy to offer solutions to local hunger issues.

Food security initiatives are part of a national trend, generated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Community Food Security Initiative launched in 1995, to embrace a more holistic approach to addressing hunger needs. The USDA Community Food Security Initiative focuses on recognizing and emphasizing USDA’s partnerships with communities to help reduce hunger for the more than 10 million American families who are food insecure. The initiative, whose goal is cutting domestic hunger in half by the year 2015, focuses on seven major areas:

- Creating new, and expanding existing, local infrastructures that boost food security;
- Increasing economic and job security;
- Bolstering food and nutrition assistance;
- Improving community food production and marketing;

- Boosting education and awareness;
- Improving research, monitoring, and evaluation; and
- Bolstering federal nutrition assistance safety net.

A national USDA food security survey in 1998 showed about 10.5 million U.S. households (10.2 percent of all households) were food insecure, meaning that they did not have access to enough food to fully meet basic needs at all times. About 36 million persons lived in these food-insecure households, with children accounting for nearly 40 percent of this group.

Despite the strength of the U.S. economy, the nation's nutrition safety net and local grassroots efforts to reduce hunger, this survey documented that in 1998 many American families and individuals still struggled to meet basic needs. In response to this data, Brown County wanted to examine food security at a local level and determine what steps could be taken to improve it. In 1998, UWEX conducted a study to determine the extent and degree of hunger in Green Bay, using the USDA Household Food Security Survey developed by Tufts University. The results are being used to effectively plan projects and address policy issues which could result in local solutions to food insecurity.

What is Food Security?

Food security has been defined as “access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life. At a minimum, this includes: 1) the ready availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, and 2) the assured ability to acquire personally acceptable foods in a socially acceptable way.” In contrast, food insecurity has been defined as “limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways” (American Institute of Nutrition, 1990).

The concept of food security, then, involves four basic components of the food system: availability, accessibility, adequacy, and dependability of supply. Food secure communities have six characteristics:

- Availability of a variety of foods at reasonable costs;
- Ready access to grocery stores or other food sources;
- Sufficient personal income to purchase adequate food to meet the nutritional needs for each household member;
- Freedom to choose personally acceptable foods;
- Legitimate confidence in the quality and safety of food available; and
- Easy access to understandable and accurate information about food and nutrition (Wagner, Butkus, & Wilken, 1990).

At the community level, food insecurity can be analyzed in terms of food supply and food accessibility. Unavailable food can be the result of having no grocery store within a reasonable distance for community residents and/or limited amounts and variety of foods at a relatively high cost. Lack of food accessibility refers to having inadequate personal or household financial resources, transportation barriers or physical limitations that interfere with food shopping or preparation.

Purpose of the Evaluation

The Brown County UWEX recognized the need to accurately determine the severity of food insecurity and hunger in Green Bay in order to assist planning efforts with the Food and Hunger Network and to develop effective programs to alleviate food insecurity. In Spring, 1998, (UWEX), in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Social Work Professional Program, conducted its first food security survey of government and community-based programs that serve low-income people in Green Bay. The sites included in the sample had low-income eligibility requirements (e.g., Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)), were located in low-income neighborhoods (e.g., family resource centers), and/or attracted individuals in need of food (e.g., food pantries). The primary purpose of the study was to determine the extent of food insecurity in at-risk households (i.e., households using food assistance programs) in Green Bay. At the same time, the study sought to provide information about the demographic characteristics of the population of individuals who are food insecure. Results of this study indicated that approximately 65% of the households of individuals surveyed at low-income assistance programs were food insecure. Nearly 40% were food insecure with hunger meaning either adults and/or children experienced hunger.

The 1999 study was an extension of the 1998 Food Security Research Project in Green Bay and the purpose of this evaluation was threefold: to determine the prevalence of food insecurity in at-risk households in Green Bay and examine how it compared with that of 1998; to better understand the reasons for food insecurity of at-risk households; and to determine what types of initiatives would increase the availability and accessibility of food. Consistent with the CFS approach to addressing hunger issues, the second and third goals of this evaluation sought to identify food availability and accessibility problems in the community.

This report examines in detail the characteristics of households at-risk for food insecurity in Green Bay. It also compares these characteristics to those of individuals included in the 1998 study. Findings pertaining to food security are reported in *Food Security Survey of At-Risk Households in Green Bay, Wisconsin, Spring 1999*.

Description of the Food Security Scale

The Food Security Survey used in this study was developed by Tufts University Center on Hunger, Poverty, and Nutrition Policy for the United States Department of Agriculture. Its reliability and validity as a measure of food insecurity have been established and each of the 16 questions in the survey is concerned about hunger resulting from limited income. This survey was expanded to address issues of demographics, income, reasons for food insecurity and solutions to this problem.

Research has shown that four specific behaviors exist in households that are food insecure. The behaviors or conditions vary in the level of food insecurity that they indicate and households that are food insecure may exhibit any or all of these four behaviors:

- 1) Anxiety that the household food budget or food supply may be insufficient to meet basic needs
- 2) Perceptions by the respondent that the food eaten by household members was inadequate in quality or quantity
- 3) Instances of reduced food intake by adults in the household, or consequences of reduced intake such as the physical sensation of hunger or loss of weight; and
- 4) Instances of reduced food intake, or consequences of reduced intake, by children in the household.

The questions in the Food Security Scale follow the sequence of these behaviors and conditions thereby identifying the level of food insecurity that any given household is experiencing. First, households experience anxiety as they realize their food supply and financial resources are inadequate. Food budgets and food quality are altered. The next stage occurs as adults in the household reduce the amount of food they eat. Available food is for their children first while they go hungry. In the final stage, children eat less and may experience hunger and their caregivers' reduction of food intensifies.

Audiences for the Evaluation

The primary audiences for this evaluation of the food security of at-risk households include:

- University of Wisconsin Cooperative-Extension, Nutrition Education Program
- Brown County Food and Hunger Network
- Service providers at food pantries, meal sites, WIC, and Head Start in Green Bay
- Green Bay community
- Statewide and national groups working on hunger and nutrition

Evaluation Questions

The primary questions guiding this evaluation were:

- 1) What are the characteristics of households at-risk for food insecurity in Green Bay?
- 2) How do the characteristics of at-risk households in 1999 compare to those of 1998?

Limitations

First, though the sites include a diverse population of families and single adults, the sample does not include all sub-populations of at-risk households in Green Bay. For example, individuals living in homeless shelters were not formally sampled although they may have been interviewed at the meal sites or food pantries. Similarly, food stamp recipients as a group were not interviewed because of logistical problems. About one fourth of respondents in this sample, however, did receive food stamps during the last year.

Exact population sizes were unavailable for most of the sites and, consequently, estimates were used in determining sample sizes and analyzing the data. Because the results of this study are influenced by the population estimates at each site, the accuracy of the findings depend in part on the accuracy of the estimates.

The survey was translated into Hmong, Spanish and Russian and it is unknown whether the meanings of any of the questions were changed in the translation process. A small number of respondents completed the survey on their own when translators were unavailable and their understanding of the survey questions may have been different had they been directly interviewed. Additionally, several individuals were not sampled because of lack of interpreters or translated surveys. Most of these individuals (approximately 10) were Russian at Paul's Pantry.

While overall response rates were very high, Presbyterian and Resurrection Lutheran Food Pantries had response rates of less than 50%. Interviewers indicated that individuals at these sites declined to participate for a variety of reasons. At Presbyterian Food Pantry many respondents did not have time to complete the survey because they needed to return to work and

at Resurrection Lutheran Food Pantry a number of individuals had already completed the survey at other sites. A number of individuals at Paul's Pantry who declined were Hmong (approximately 8) or Russian (approximately 3) and interpreters indicated that some of these individuals feared losing their benefits or being identified from their responses in some way. As a result, these sub-populations of individuals may be slightly under-sampled.

Further, given the personal nature of some of the questions, response bias is likely in some cases. This is particularly of concern when specific ethnic groups view the interview process as threatening, as was the case with some of the older Russian and Hmong individuals at Paul's Pantry.

Lastly, although researchers made every effort to interview only one person per household, there is no assurance that this was accomplished given that multiple sites were sampled. Of the individuals sampled, 5.7% declined because they had already completed the interview at another site.

Methods

Sample

Eleven different sites were included in this evaluation. The sites, both governmental and private, were chosen because they met two main criteria:

- 1) They serve low-income individuals. They have either low-income eligibility requirements (WIC and Head Start), and/or primarily attract people in need of food (food pantries and meal sites).
- 2) The program participants were at the sites during the time period in which the survey was conducted.

As Table 1 on the following page indicates, two of the sites were meal sites, six were food pantries, and one was a WIC office (the data were gathered at two sites and combined). Because a representative sample from Head Start was unavailable to participate in the study, data gathered from this site was not included in the final analyses. All but one food pantry in Green Bay were included in this sample. Food stamp recipients as a group were not included in the sample because there was no feasible way of interviewing these individuals.

Exact population sizes were unavailable for most of the sites with the exception of Paul's Pantry and WIC. Consequently, estimates were used to determine appropriate sample sizes and to weight the data (see Analyses). For meal sites, the total number of individuals served during any given meal was used as the population estimate. Food pantry population estimates were based on the number of different households served during a one-month period. The population size of WIC was based on the total number of households registered. Sample sizes were based on these estimates although meal sites and food pantries were over-sampled to ensure a minimum sample size of 20 from each site for statistical purposes.

The total number of individuals asked to participate in the study was 760. The total number who agreed to participate was 566, yielding an overall response rate of 74%. The final data set consisted of 541 households (71% of those sampled). Individuals were omitted from the data set if they completed only the first five questions in the survey.

Population demographics were unavailable for several of the sites, however, comparisons between the sample and population characteristics were available for the two largest sites—Paul's Pantry and WIC. For Paul's Pantry, the sample and population were well matched in terms of household size and ethnicity with one exception. Caucasians are somewhat underrepresented in the sample compared to the population at Paul's Pantry (37% vs. 52%). At

WIC, the sample was also very similar to the population served in terms of household size and ethnicity. Finally, as discussed in the Limitations section, the Russian population is underrepresented primarily because of lack of interpreters at Paul's Pantry.

Table 1. Estimated number of households served, number interviewed and percent of households served at each site.

Site	Estimated Number of Households Served	Number Interviewed (% of households served)
Salvation Army Meal Site	150	39 (26%)
Room at the Inn Meal Site	70	30 (43%)
Total Meal Sites	220	69 (31%)
Trinity Lutheran Pantry	40	9 (23%)
St. Patrick's Church Pantry	215	42 (20%)
Resurrection Lutheran Pantry	130	35 (27%)
Presbyterian Food Pantry	50	8 (16%)
Salvation Army Pantry	200	42 (21%)
Paul's Pantry	670	196 (29%)
Total Pantries	1305	332 (25%)
WIC	2700	165 (6%)
TOTAL	4225	566 (13%)

A substantial percentage of respondents received food assistance from multiple sources, thereby increasing the probability that they would be interviewed. Overall, 81% of respondents received assistance at one type of site, 18% at two sites, and 2% at all three types of sites. Figure 1 shows the percent of respondents at each type of site who visited one, two or three sites. Seventy-three percent of meal site respondents, 51% of food pantry respondents, and 21% of WIC respondents visited more than one type of site. Because respondents who visited more than one type of site were more likely to be interviewed, the data were weighted or adjusted to reflect these differing probabilities (see Analyses section).

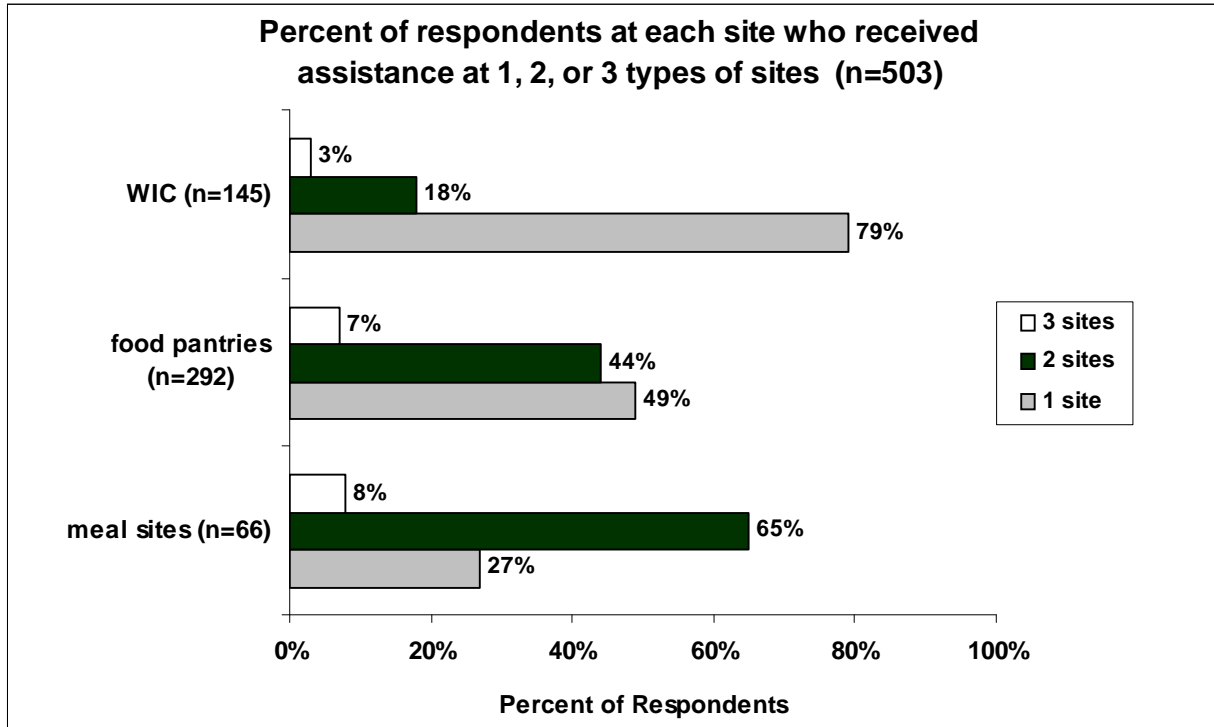


Figure 1.

Table 2 presents the number of individuals interviewed at each type of site. The final data set included information from 66 individuals at the meal sites, 315 at food pantries, and 160 at WIC. Female respondents far outnumbered males except at meal sites where they were equally represented. Table A1 in Appendix A shows the number of respondents by age group and Table A2 in Appendix A shows the number of respondents by ethnicity.

Table 2. Number of respondents interviewed at each site by gender.

Gender	Meal Sites	Food Pantries	WIC	Total
Males	34	73	22	129
Females	32	237	138	407
Total	66	315*	160	541

*5 interviews conducted at food pantries did not include information about the respondent's gender.

Survey Instrument

Respondents were first asked the series of questions which measured their food security status. To gain a more thorough understanding of the population at risk for food insecurity, respondents were then asked a number of questions pertaining to demographic information, such as, size of household, gender, ethnicity, educational background, age, sources of income, and sources of food assistance they have used during the last year. Finally, respondents were asked about the reasons for their food insecurity and whether a number of potential food assistance initiatives would be helpful to them. Questions pertaining to food assistance initiatives, income and, in part, reasons for food insecurity were developed jointly by the researchers and nutrition specialists at the Brown County UWEX office.

Procedure

Twenty-five upper level undergraduates in the Social Work Professional Program at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay conducted interviews at 11 sites during a four-week period in Spring, 1999. Hmong, Spanish and Russian interpreters were available at sites where non-English speakers were present. Students and interpreters were trained to conduct the interviews prior to data collection. Students interviewed respondents throughout each site's hours of operation to help ensure that a broad range of individuals was interviewed. Each interview lasted approximately 10-15 minutes and small incentives, such as, boxes of cereal bars, candy, and pen and paper sets were used to increase response rates.

At sites where individuals were able to visit everyday, such as meal sites, interviews were conducted during one meal period to reduce the possibility that individuals would be interviewed more than once. Interviews were conducted at Paul's Pantry everyday during the course of one week because most individuals served there visit the site once a week. At Paul's Pantry and the two meal sites students sampled every other household. At all other sites students asked every available person to participate in the study although only one person from each household was interviewed.

Analyses

First, for statistical purposes the data were weighted according to the procedure described in Lee, Forthofer, and Lorimor (1989)¹. This was done because the probability of any given household being selected varied by site. The probability also varied by individual because some respondents visited more than one type of site. The results reflect the weighted data although the reported "n's" are the total number of respondents interviewed. See Table A3 for the calculation of site weights and response rates for each site.

Where appropriate, statistical tests of significance were conducted. Most of the analyses consisted of two-tailed chi-square tests. A chi-square test assesses the likelihood that two variables are related to one another.

Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was used to examine mean differences. If a relationship is reported as significant, this means the probability of occurrence by chance is less than one in twenty, (symbolized as $p < .05$); less than one in 100, ($p < .01$); or less than one in 1000 ($p < .001$).

Respondents at the two meal sites were not significantly different from one another in their food security and similarly, respondents at the six food pantries did not differ from one another in this regard. Thus, for ease of interpretation data from the 10 individual sites were combined into three types of sites: meal sites, food pantries and WIC.

Results

Gender

Overall, 83% of the respondents were female. The percent of males and females varied significantly by type of site ($p < .001$). Male and female respondents were equally represented at meal sites whereas females far outnumbered males at food pantries and WIC offices. Figure 2 shows the total percent of males and females interviewed at each site. Fifty-six percent of respondents were female WIC participants while 23% were females at food pantries. Table C1 in Appendix C shows the percent of male and female respondents at each of the three types of sites.

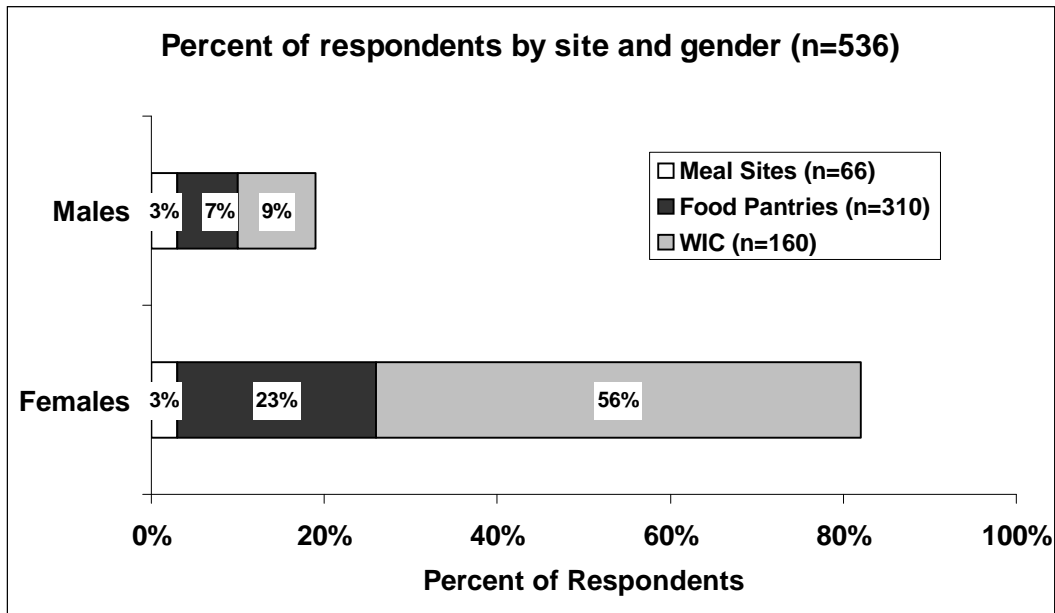


Figure 2.

Age

The mean age of respondents was 30.5 and the median was 27. More than half (60%) of the respondents were younger than 30 and 81% were younger than 40. Those older than 50 accounted for 8% of the sample. These overall findings were the result of a large population of WIC respondents most of whom were younger than 40.

As Table 3 shows, respondents' average age varied significantly by site ($p < .001$). The median ages for respondents at meal sites, food pantries, and WIC were 42, 36, and 24.5, respectively. Sixty-seven percent of meal site respondents were 40 or older compared to 40% of food pantry respondents and 6% of those interviewed at WIC. Meal site respondents tended to be older than the other types of sites whereas food pantry respondents represented a wide range of ages that were more equally distributed across age groups. WIC respondents tended to be younger with 76% of the respondents being less than 30 years old.

Males' average age was older than females' ($p < .001$). The median age of males was 30 years old compared to 26 years old for females. Table C2 in Appendix C shows the percent of respondents by gender in each age group.

Females at meal sites tended to be older than males (see Figure 3 on the following page) while at food pantries and WIC the ages of males and females were very similar.

Table 3. Percent of respondents at each site by age group.

Age	Meal Sites (n=64)	Food Pantries (n=308)	WIC (n=152)	Total (n=524)
19 or younger	0%	4%	15%	12%
20-29 years old	16%	21%	61%	48%
30-39 years old	18%	36%	18%	21%
40-49 years old	40%	22%	5%	11%
50-59 years old	16%	10%	1%	5%
60 or older	11%	8%	0%	3%

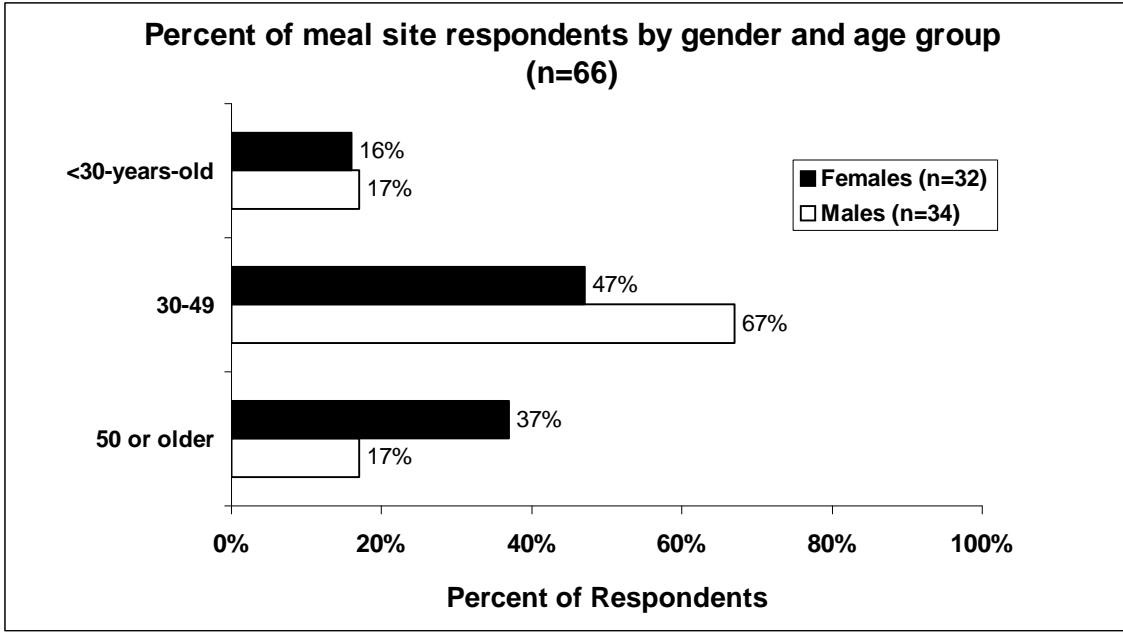


Figure 3.

Ethnicity

Caucasians accounted for 63% of those interviewed. Figure 4 shows that 14% of respondents were Hispanic, 8% were Hmong, 6% were Native American, and African-American, Russian, and Other ethnicities each represented less than 5% of the sample.

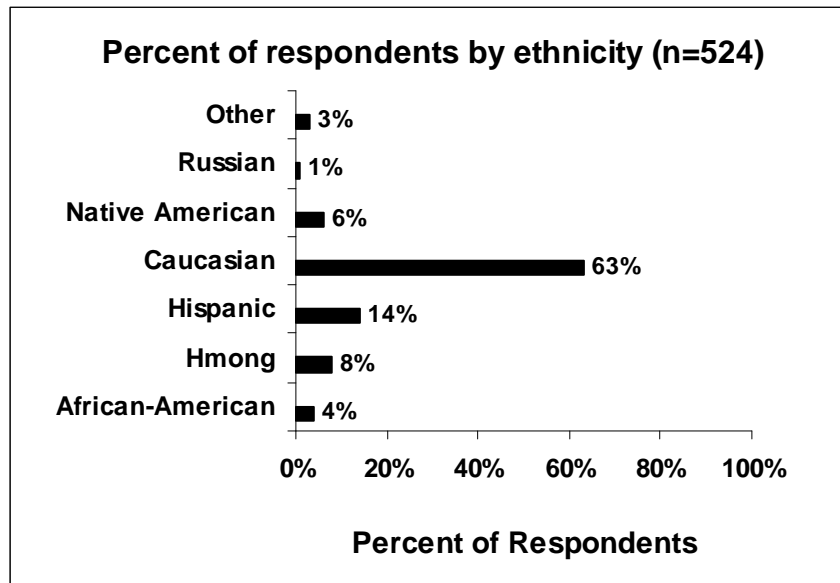


Figure 4.

Table C3 in Appendix C shows the percent of respondents at each site by ethnicity. Meal site respondents were predominantly Caucasian (73%), with 14% Native American, 8% African-American, and less than 5% Hispanic. Minorities were much more represented at food pantries with 45% of respondents being Caucasian, 16% Hmong, 16% Native American, 8% African

American, and 9% Hispanic. WIC was also predominantly Caucasian (66%) with a higher percentage of Hispanic respondents (17%) than the other two types of sites. Among respondents represented 8%, and African-American, Native American and Russian respondents represented a small percent (<5% each) of the WIC sample.

Comparison of Population and Sample Ethnicity

Figure 5 compares the percentage of individuals in the population of Brown County to the sample in this study by ethnicity. While ethnic diversity is more pronounced in Green Bay compared to Brown County, recent statistics were not available for this comparison. As is evident in Figure 5, all of the minority groups are disproportionately over-represented in the population of individuals served at the food assistance programs included in this sample. Conversely, the percentage of Caucasians in this sample is considerably less than the percentage of Caucasians in the general population. Again, it is important to note that the population percentages are derived from Brown County of which Green Bay is only a part. The population estimates may also not reflect the recent increases in the Hispanic population or the ethnic groups with smaller populations (Bureau of the Census, 1998).

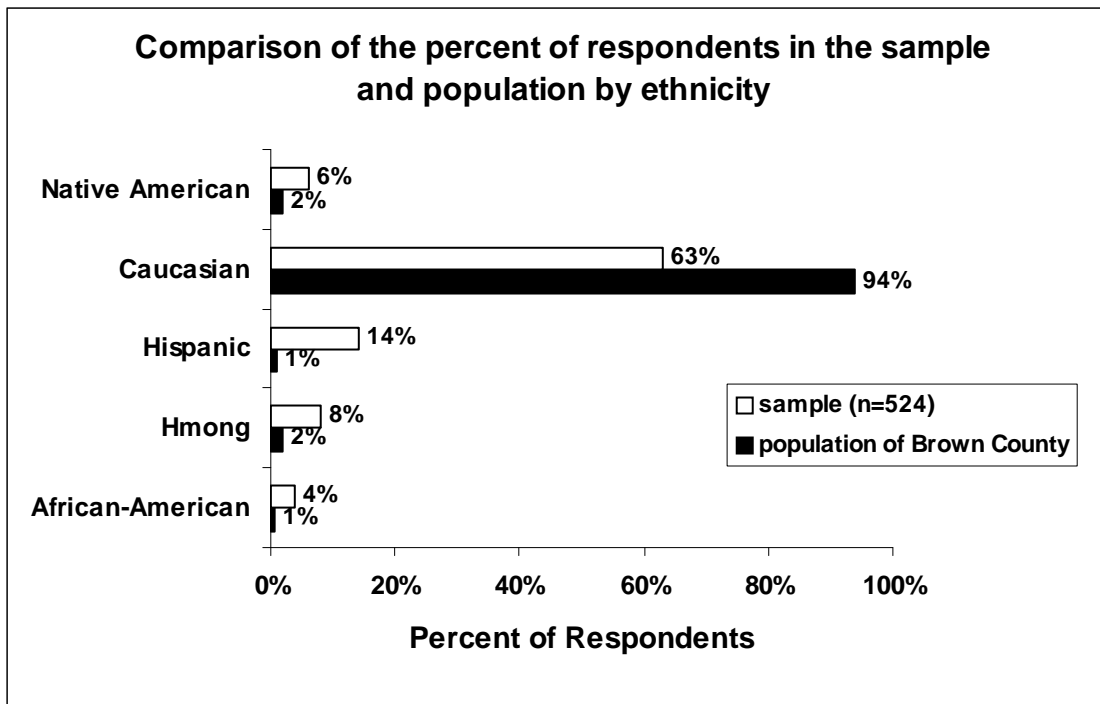


Figure 5.

Household Size

Table C4 in Appendix C shows that 8% of the respondents lived alone and 44% resided in households with a total of two or three people. Few respondents (10%) lived in households with a total of seven or more people. Males and females differed significantly in the size of households in which they resided ($p < .001$). Males were three times more likely to live alone than females.

Respondents were also asked how many adults and children resided in their households. Overall, 48% of the individuals in the households interviewed were younger than 18-years-old

(28% less than 6-years-old and 20% between the ages of 6 and 17). Only two percent were 65 or older and 50% consisted of adults younger than 65.

Type of Household

Households were then categorized into one of four types: single adult, multiple adults without children, single adult with children or multiple adults with children. Most (78%) of respondents resided in households with children. Table C5 in Appendix C shows that overall, 56% of respondents reported living in households with two or more adults and one or more children. Almost a fourth (22%) live in single parent households and 8% live as single adults without children.

The percent of respondents in each type of household varied significantly across the three types of sites. Table C5 in Appendix C shows that meal site respondents were much more likely to live alone or in households without children compared to respondents at food pantries or WIC. In contrast, at food pantries 72% lived in households with children and at WIC 85% of the households had children. Fifteen percent of WIC respondents lived in households with no children and these individuals would have been pregnant during the interviews.

Figure 6 shows that the percent of respondents residing in each type of household varied significantly by gender (p<.001). More than a third (36%) of males lived in households without children compared to 20% of female respondents. Females were more than twice as likely to head single parent households compared to males (25% vs. 10%) and males were three times more likely to live as single adults without children (20% vs. 6%).

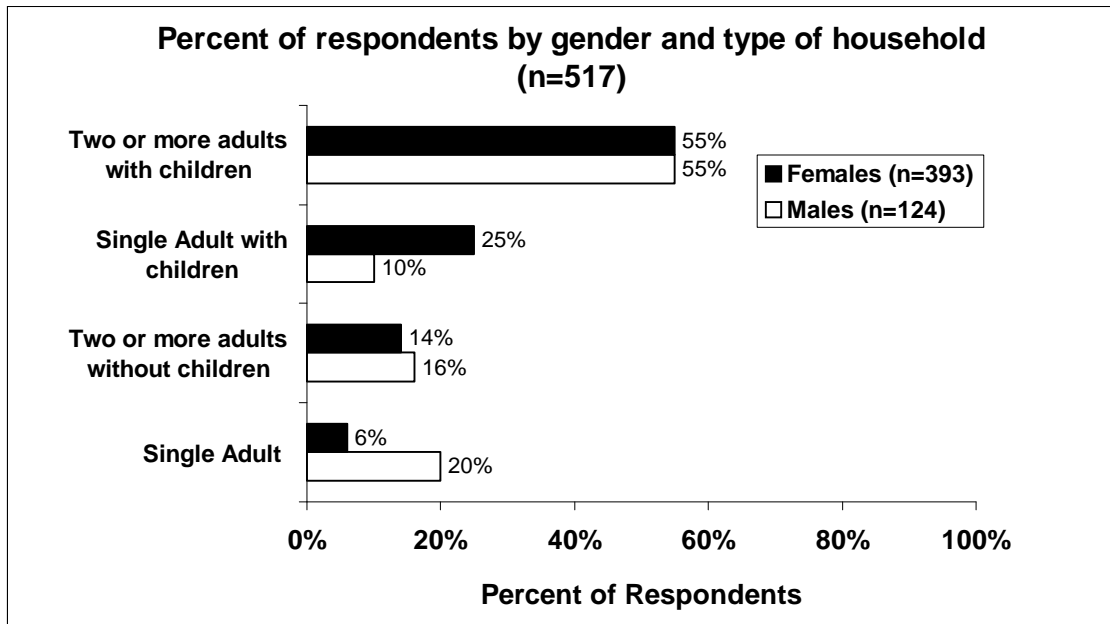


Figure 6.

The percent of males and females in each type of household also varied by site. Figures 7, 8, and 9 show the percent of respondents by gender and type of household at meal sites, food pantries, and WIC, respectively. At meal sites and food pantries, males were more likely to live alone than females. At all three sites, females were more likely to head single parent households. At meal sites, females were more likely to live in households with other adults and no children. At food pantries, a higher percentage of females lived in households with multiple adults and at least one child, whereas males were more likely to reside in households with multiple adults and no children. At WIC, a higher percentage of males resided in households with multiple adults and children, reflecting the fact that a higher percentage of females live in single parent households.

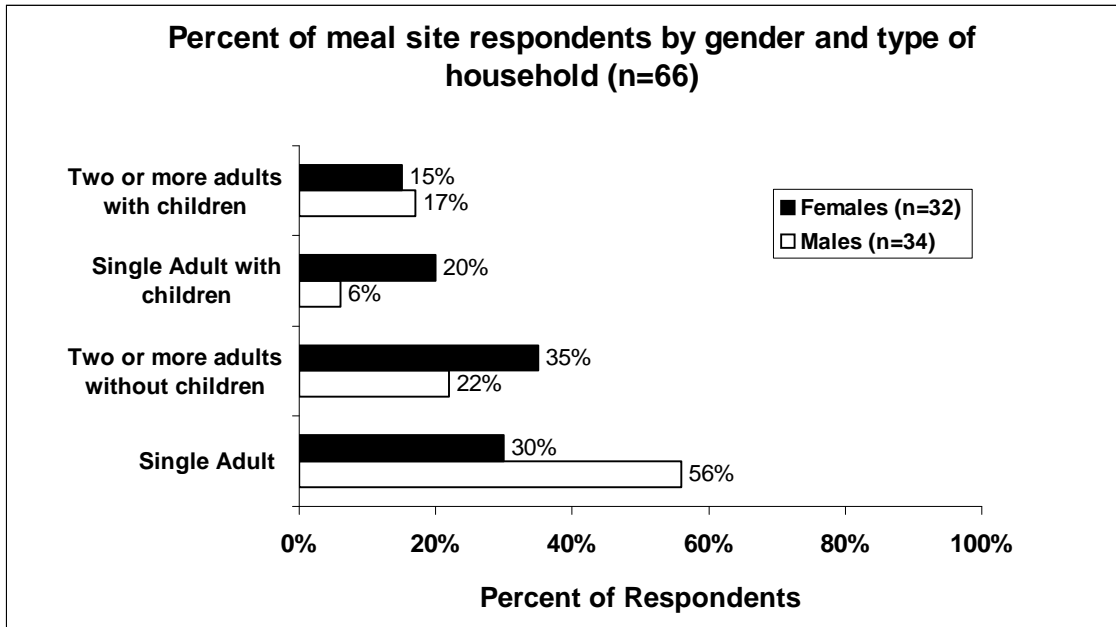


Figure 7.

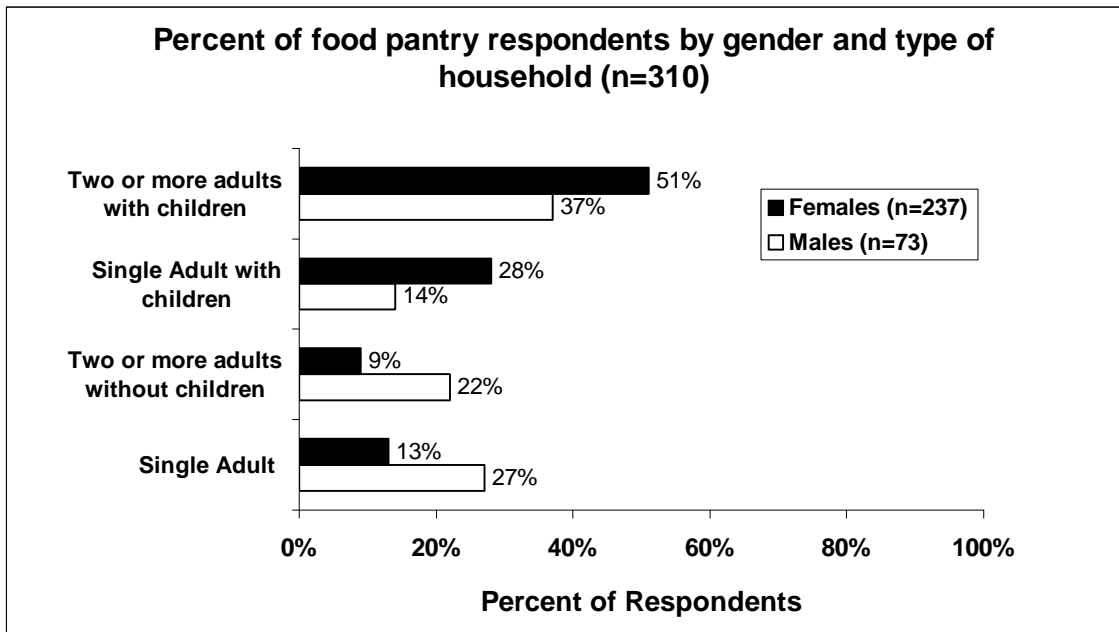


Figure 8.

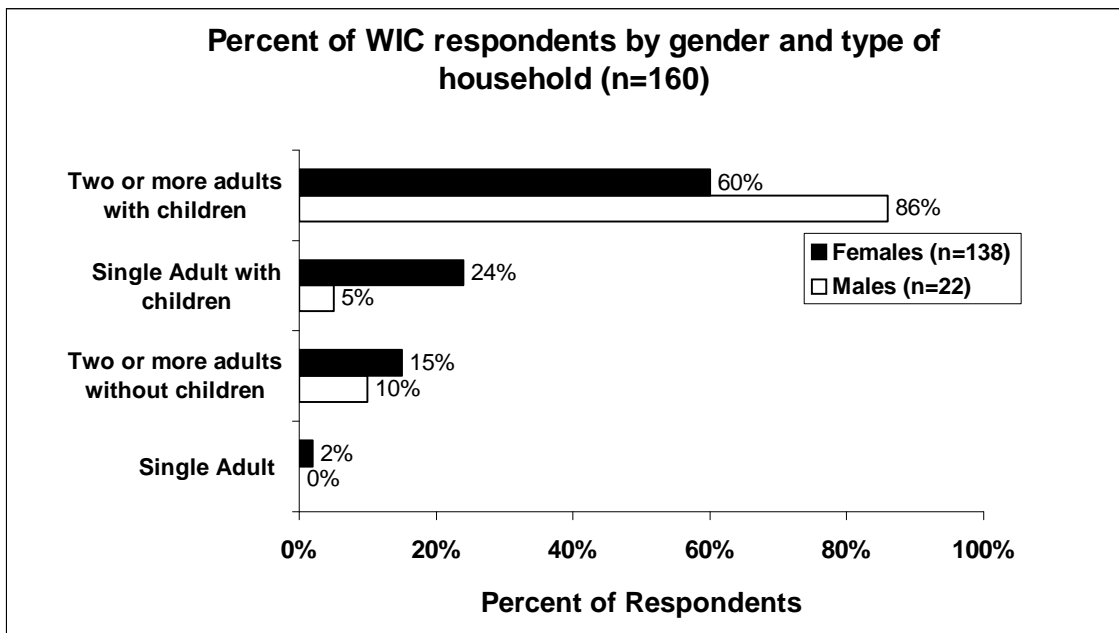


Figure 9.

Number of Children

Half the respondents resided in households with one or two children (see Table 4). However, the number of children in each household varied significantly by site ($p < .001$). Most meal site respondents (73%) resided in households without children and very few (8%) resided in households with three or more children. In contrast, 36% of food pantry respondents and 29% of WIC respondents had three or more children in their households.

Table 4. Percent of respondents by site and number of children in household.

Number of children***	Meal Sites (n=66)	Food Pantries (n=306)	WIC (n=153)	Total (n=525)
0	73%	28%	15%	23%
1-2	19%	36%	56%	50%
3-4	8%	22%	20%	18%
5 or more	0%	14%	9%	9%

*** $p < .001$

Education

Respondents were also asked about their educational background. Figure 10 shows that 34% of respondents reported not finishing high school, 36% completed high school, and 30% said they had some type of schooling beyond high school. Men and women were closely matched in terms of level of education as were respondents across the three types of sites.

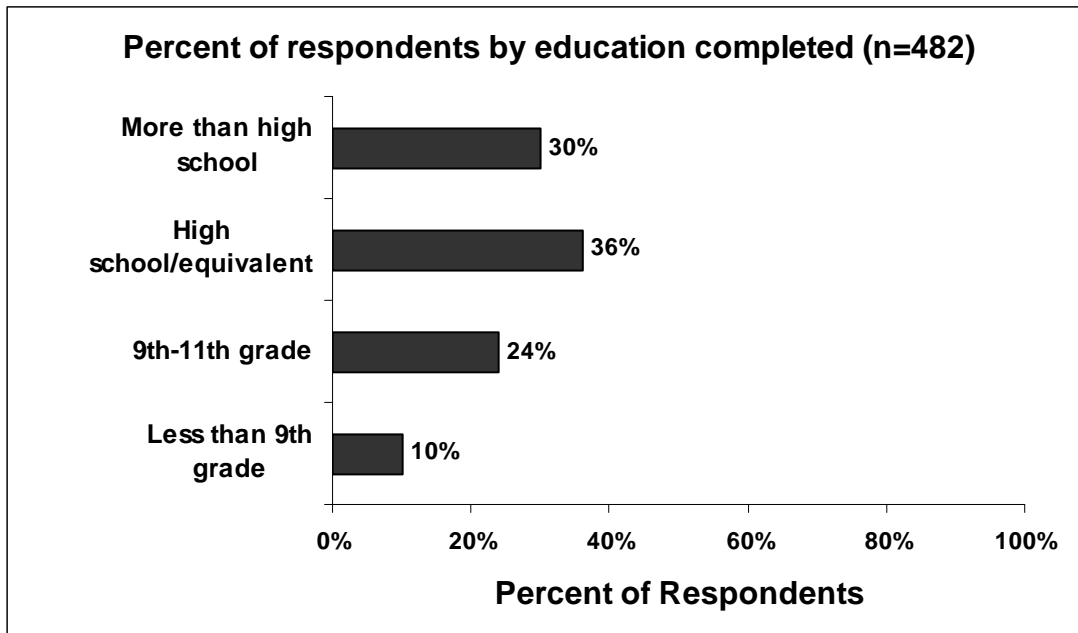
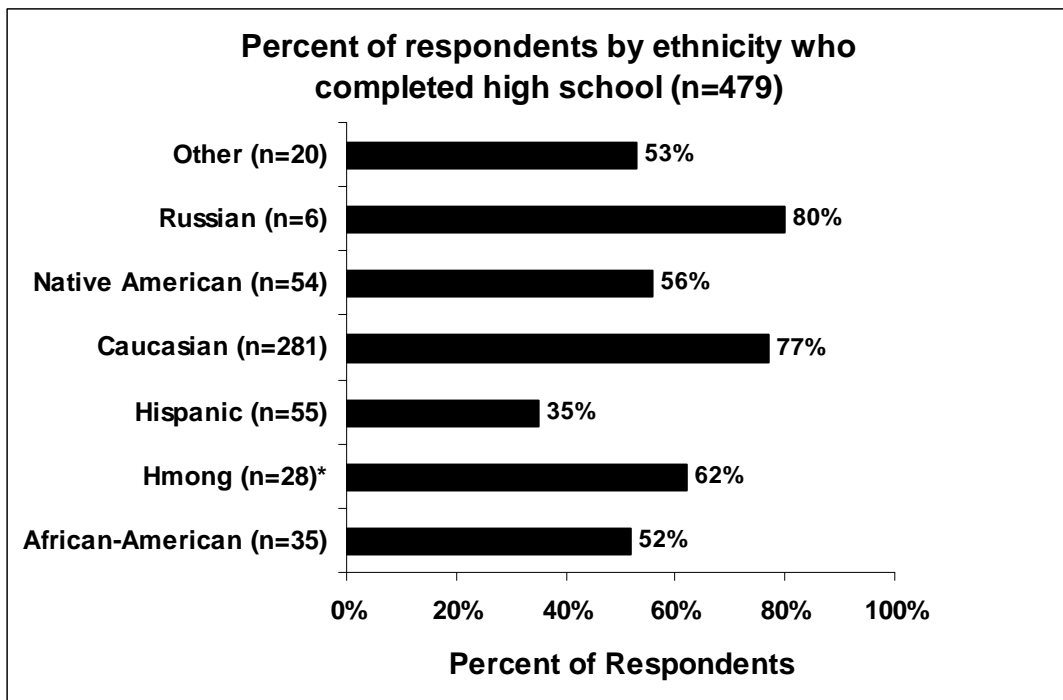


Figure 10.

Educational attainment, however, varied significantly by ethnicity ($p < .001$). Figure 11 shows the percent of respondents by ethnicity who completed high school. Most Caucasian and Russian respondents had high school diplomas (77% and 80%, respectively). In contrast, only 35% of Hispanic respondents, 56% of Native-American and 52% of African-American respondents reported having completed high school. Many (44%) of Hmong respondents did not answer this question but of those who did, 62% graduated high school. Of all 69 Hmong respondents, including those who did not answer this question, only 35% reported that they had graduated from high school. Almost two-thirds (64%) of Hmong respondents who did not answer this question were over the age of 40.



*Only 56% of Hmong respondents answered this question

Figure 11.

Type of Transportation Used

Respondents' use of various types of transportation was also examined. Table 5 shows that 72% of respondents drove their own car to the food assistance site where they were interviewed. Eighteen percent rode with someone else or borrowed a car, 7% walked or bicycled, and 4% rode the bus or took a taxi. Respondents' means of transportation varied significantly by site ($p < .001$). Most respondents at WIC (82%) drove their own cars compared to 51% of those at food pantries and 29% of those at meal sites. Meal site respondents were much more likely to walk, bicycle or take the bus to the food assistance program whereas respondents at food pantries were more likely to borrow a car or ride with someone else to the site.

Table 5. Percent of respondents by site and type of transportation used to get to food assistance program.

Type of Transportation***	Meal Sites (n=65)	Food Pantries (n=310)	WIC (n=153)	Total (n=528)
Walk/Bicycle	37%	11%	3%	7%
Bus, Taxi or Other	24%	9%	1%	4%
Drove own car	29%	51%	82%	72%
Rode with someone/borrowed car	11%	29%	14%	18%

*** $p < .001$

Types of Food Assistance Received

The percent of respondents who received each type of food assistance during the last year varied across the three types of sites (see Table 6). The differences across sites were significant in many cases. Overall, most respondents (76%) received WIC assistance during the last year, 38% received food assistance from food pantries, 43% received assistance from friends or relatives, 26% received free or reduced school meals, and 24% received food stamps.

Meal site respondents were more likely to receive assistance at shelters (66%) and 71% received assistance at food pantries during the last year. Food pantry respondents were more likely to receive assistance from free or reduced school meals (46%) and food stamps (36%) compared to respondents at the other two sites. More than a third (36%) of these individuals received assistance at WIC and 23% went to meal sites during the last year. WIC respondents were less likely to receive assistance at food pantries and meal sites.

Table 6. Percent of respondents at each site who received each type of food assistance during the last year.

Type of Food Assistance	Meal Sites (n=66)	Food Pantries (n=304)	WIC (n=160)	Total (n=530)+
WIC***	11%	36%	100%	76%
Friends/relatives	42%	42%	47%	43%
Meals on wheels	3%	3%	1%	2%
Free or reduced school meals***	24%	46%	22%	26%
Shelters***	66%	18%	1%	8%
Summer lunches in the park***	16%	19%	4%	8%
Summer breakfast at the Resource Centers**	8%	5%	1%	2%
Local meal sites***	100%	23%	4%	9%
Food Pantries***	71%	100%	21%	38%
Food Stamps**	24%	36%	23%	24%

p<.01; *p<.001

+ Total n varies from 510-530

Current Employment Status

Respondents were also asked about their current employment status. Overall, more than half (57%) of respondents less than 65-years-old were currently employed. Of those employed, 75% worked fulltime. Thus, overall, 43% of respondents were unemployed, 43% worked fulltime, and 14% worked part-time. Three-fourths of respondents also reported that they had been employed some time during the last year. Respondents were also asked how many employed adults resided in their household. Overall, 51% lived in households with one employed adult, 27% with two employed adults, and 8% with three or more employed adults.

Figure 12 shows that employment status varied significantly by site ($p < .001$). About 25% of respondents at the meal sites and food pantries were employed fulltime. More than half were unemployed at food pantries and meal sites (53% and 62%, respectively). In contrast, at WIC, 51% were employed fulltime and 37% were unemployed. Individuals at food pantries who were employed were more likely to work part-time compared to individuals at meal sites or WIC.

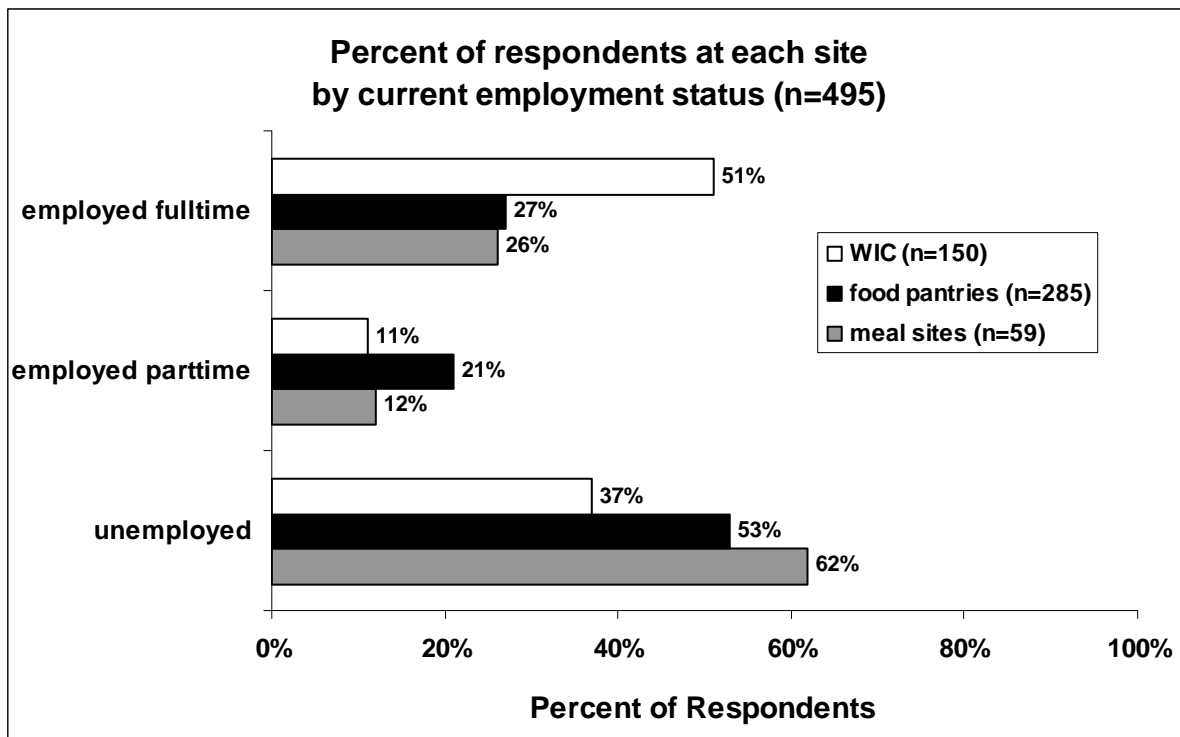
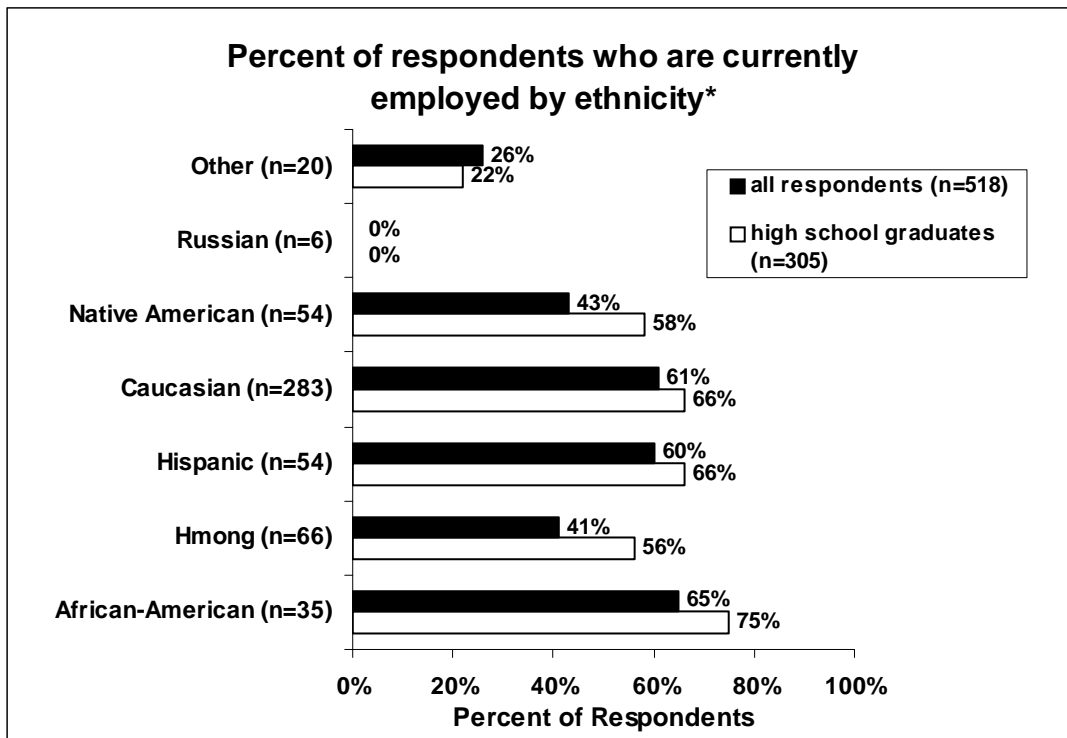


Figure 12.

Employment status also varied significantly by gender ($p < .05$) with males being more likely to be employed than females (68% vs. 56%). Females were also more likely to work part-time compared to males (27% vs. 16%) although this difference only approached statistical significance.

Lastly, employment status varied significantly by ethnicity ($p < .001$). Figure 13 shows that for respondents less than 65-years-old, higher percentages of Caucasians, Hispanics and African-Americans were employed compared to Native-American, Hmong, Russian and Other respondents.

Education was significantly and positively correlated with employment status. Of the individuals who graduated from high school, higher percentages were currently employed compared to the overall percent of respondents employed in each ethnic group. This was particularly true for Native American and Hmong high school graduates where employment rates were 15% above those of the overall sample for their ethnicity (see Figure 13). African-American high school graduates were more likely to be employed than the overall sample for their ethnicity (75% vs. 65%), and Caucasian and Hispanic graduates showed slightly higher employment rates (5% increase for each group).



*n's represent the total number of respondents for each ethnicity.

Figure 13.

Hourly Wage

If respondents were employed they were also asked how much they earned per hour. Data were included only from respondents who were less than 65-years-old and whose earnings did not depend on tips. The average wage was \$7.87 per hour (median = \$7.50 per hour). The average hourly wage varied significantly among the three sites ($p < .001$) with respondents at WIC earning more than those at meal sites and food pantries (median wage = \$8.05 vs. \$7.05 per hour). Hourly wage data were grouped into quartiles to establish the wage categories shown below. As Table 7 shows, males earned significantly more per hour than females (median wage = \$8.00 vs. \$7.50 per hour; $p < .05$). Thirty-four percent of males earned more than the median wage compared to 26% of females.

Table 7. Percent of respondents by gender and hourly wage.

Hourly Wage*	Males (n=111)	Females (n=359)	Total (n=470)
Unemployed	32%	44%	42%
\$4-6.75 per hour	11%	15%	14%
\$6.95-7.50 per hour	18%	13%	14%
\$7.52-8.76 per hour	9%	14%	13%
\$8.85-16.25 per hour	25%	12%	14%

**p<.055

Wages varied also by ethnicity with Caucasians earning significantly more per hour than Hispanics and Native Americans. Compared to the median wage of \$7.50 per hour, Caucasians and African Americans earned more (median = \$8.00 per hour); Hmong and Hispanic respondents earned less (median = \$7.00 per hour); and Native Americans earned the least (median = \$6.50 per hour). Table 8 shows the percent of respondents in each ethnic group who earn more or less than the overall median wage. Thirty-five percent of African-American and 33% of Caucasian respondents reported earning more than the median wage per hour. Conversely, 40% of Hispanic and 35% of Native American respondents earned less than the median wage.

Table 8. Percent of respondents by ethnicity and hourly wage.

Hourly Wage***	African-American (n=32)	Hmong (n=63)	Hispanic (n=52)	Caucasian (n=248)	Native American (n=52)
Unemployed	40%	59%	42%	42%	59%
\$4-7.50 per hour	25%	24%	40%	25%	35%
\$7.52-16.25 per hour	35%	17%	18%	33%	6%

***p<.001

Finally, results indicated that educational attainment was significantly and positively correlated with wages earned (p<.001). The average wage for individuals with more than a high school education (median = \$8.00 per hour) was significantly higher than wages for individuals with a high school diploma (median = \$7.27 per hour) or no high school diploma (median wage = \$7.10 per) (p<.001).

Sources of Income

Respondents were also asked about their household's sources of income during the last month. Overall, 83% said their household received employment income, 15% Supplemental Security Income (SSI), 11% child support, 10% social security, and less than 10% received income from unemployment, disability, pension, welfare or other sources (see Figure 14).

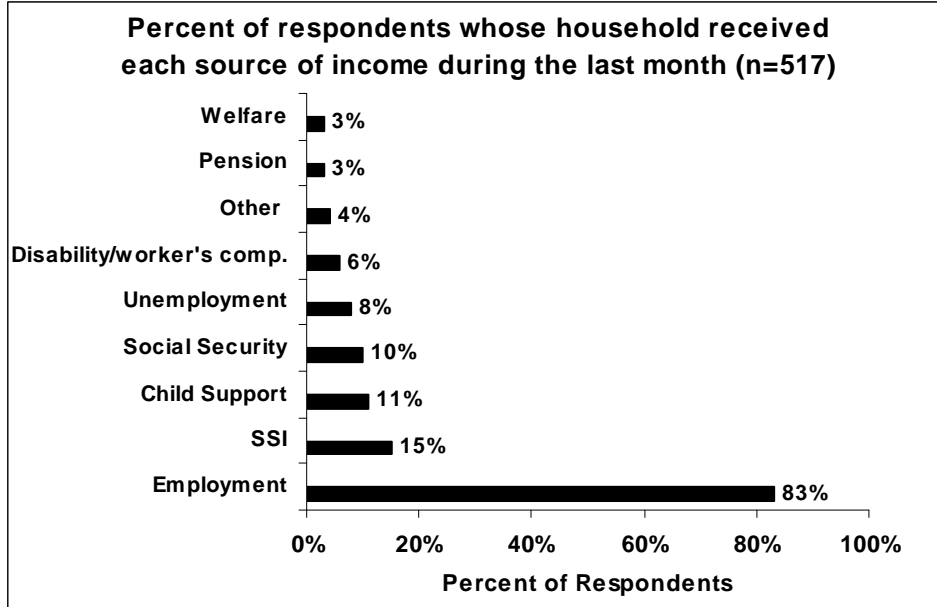


Figure 14.

Respondents whose household did not receive employment income during the last month were more likely to receive disability, social security, and/or SSI (see Figure 15).

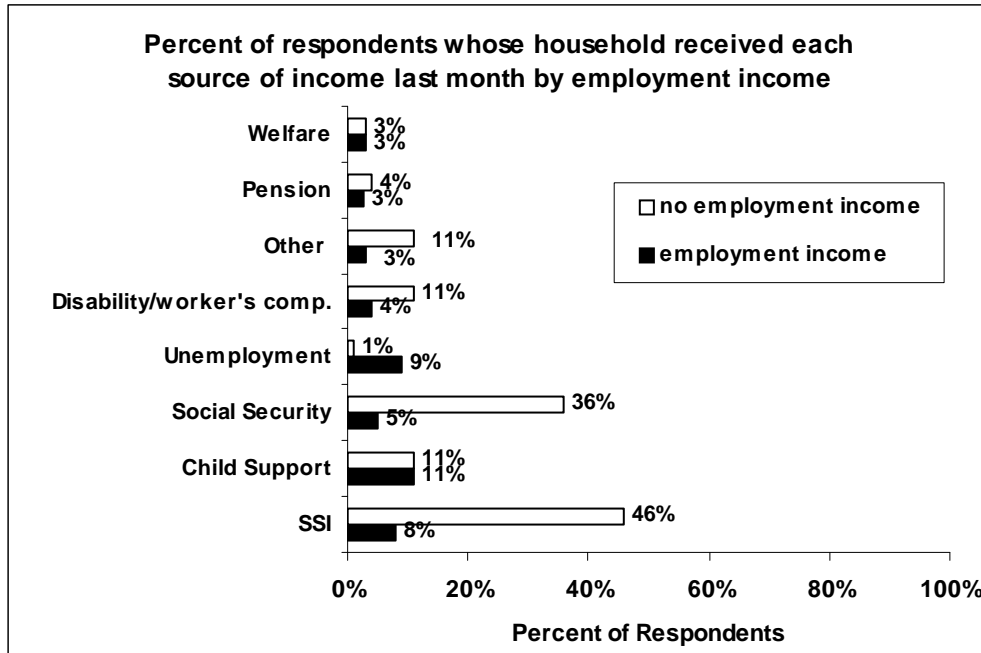
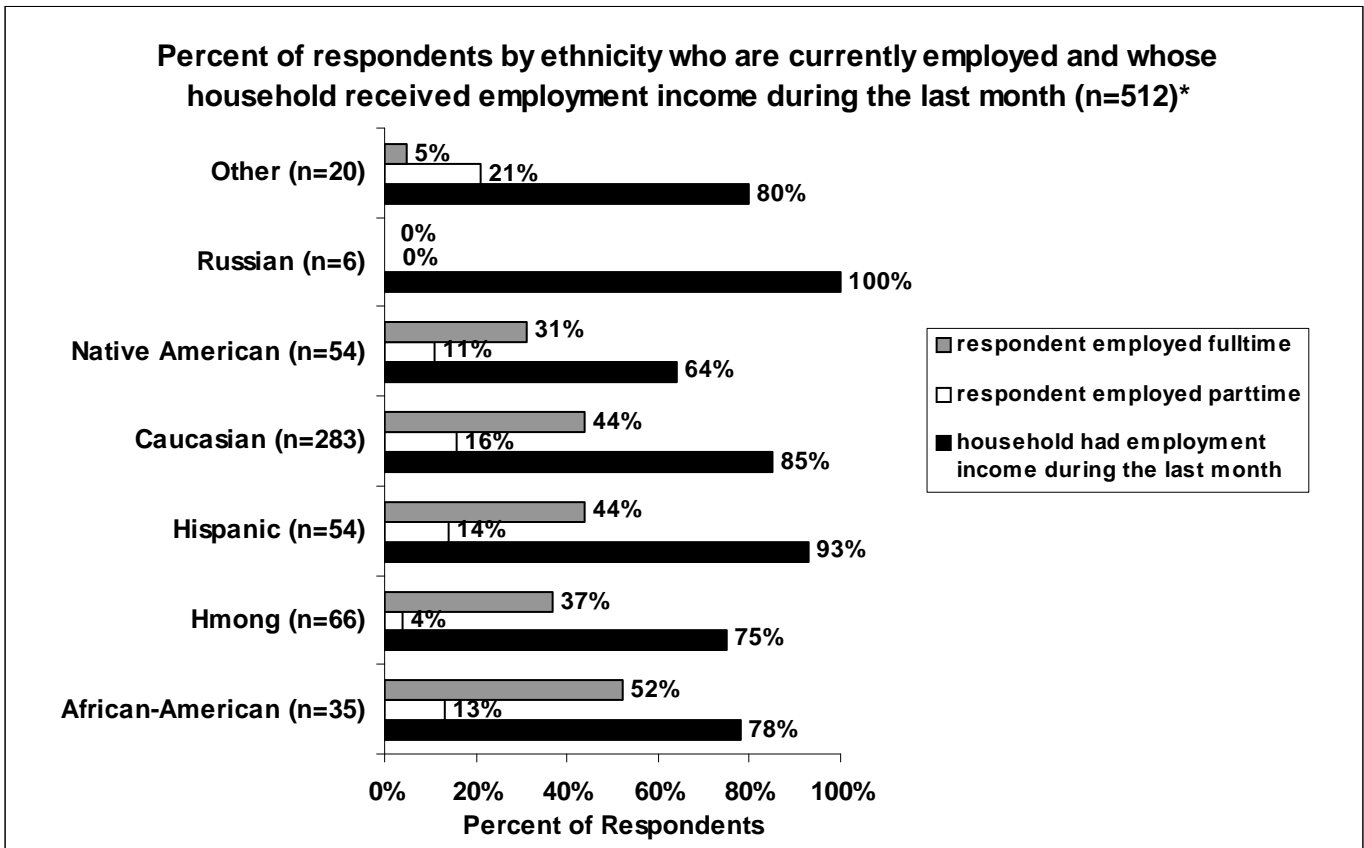


Figure 15.

The percentage of households with income from employment during the last month varied significantly by ethnicity ($p < .01$). Figure 16 shows the percent of respondents currently employed and whose household had employment income during the last month by ethnicity. Less than two-thirds (64%) of Native American households had income from employment compared to at least 75% of all other households. Almost all Hispanic and Russian respondents reported that their households had employment income during the last month. Table C6 in Appendix C shows the percent of respondents by ethnicity whose household received each source of income during the last month.

Respondents' current employment status is also shown in Figure 16. Among the five largest ethnic groups in the sample, the percent employed fulltime ranged from 31% (Native Americans) to 52% (African-Americans) while smaller percentages were employed part-time (4% Hmong to 16% Caucasian).



*Overall n varied slightly between the two questions.

Figure 16.

Summary

Overall

Gender

- 83% of respondents were female

Age

- 48% of respondents were between the ages of 20 and 29
- 81% were younger than 40
- males were older than females (median age = 30-years-old vs. 26-years-old)
- age of respondents varied by site (median age at meal sites=42, food pantries=36, WIC=24.5)

Ethnicity

- 63% of respondents were Caucasian
- 14% of respondents were Hispanic
- Hmong, Russian, Native American, and African-American groups each represented less than 10% of the sample
- all minority groups were disproportionately over-represented in the sample compared to the population in Brown County

Household Size

- 44% of respondents resided in households with two or three people
- 38% of respondent resided in households with four to six people
- 48% of household members were less than 18-years-old
- 2% of household members were 65 or older

Type of Household

- 78% of respondents resided in households with children
- 56% respondents lived in households with two or more adults and one or more children
- 25% of female respondents resided in single parent households
- 8% lived as single adults (20% of males and 6% of females)

Education

- 34% of respondents had not completed high school
- education varied by ethnicity with higher percentages of Caucasian and Russian respondents graduating high school
- 56% of Native-American, 52% of African-American, and 35% of Hispanic respondents completed high school
- of the 56% of Hmong respondents who answered this question, 62% reported completing high school; of all Hmong respondents, even those who did not answer this question, 35% reported completing high school

Type of Transportation Used

- 72% of respondents drove their own car
- 18% rode with someone else or borrowed a car
- 7% walked or bicycled
- 4% rode the bus or took a taxi

Types of Food Assistance Received

- 76% of respondents received WIC assistance during the last year
- 45% received assistance from friends or relatives
- 38% received food assistance from food pantries
- 26% received free or reduced school meals
- 24% received food stamps

Current Employment Status

- 75% of respondents reported that they had been employed some time during the last year
- 57% of respondents less than 65-years-old were currently employed and of those, 75% worked fulltime
- males were more likely to be employed than females
- Caucasians, Hispanics and African-American were more likely to be employed than Native-American, Hmong and Russian respondents

Hourly Wage

- average wage was \$7.87 per hour (median = \$7.50 per hour)
- males earned more per hour than females (median wage = \$8.00 vs. \$7.50 per hour).
- median wage for Caucasians and African Americans was \$8.00 per hour; for Hmong and Hispanic respondents median wage was \$7.00 per hour; and Native Americans' median wage was \$6.50 per hour
- median wage for individuals with more than a high school education was \$8.00 per hour; for those with a high school diploma median wage was \$7.27 per hour; for respondents without a high school diploma median wage was \$7.10 per

Sources of Income

- 83% of respondents resided in households that received income from employment during the last month
- 51% of respondents resided in households with one employed adult, 27% in households with two employed adults and 8% with three or more employed adults
- overall, 15% respondents received Supplemental Security Income (SSI), 11% received child support, 10% social security, and less than 10% received income from unemployment, disability, pension, welfare or other sources
respondents whose household did not receive employment income during the last month were more likely to receive disability, social security, and/or SSI
- 64% of Native American households had income from employment compared to at least 75% of all other households

As is evident in the overall summary, respondents in this study represent a very diverse group of individuals. Brief summaries for meal sites, food pantries, and WIC are included below because of differences among the respondents at each type of site. It is important to remember that 73% of meal site respondents, 51% of food pantry respondents and 21% of WIC respondents reported receiving assistance at more than one type of site during the last year.

Meal Sites

- male and female respondents were equally represented
- 67% of meal site respondents were 40 or older
- respondents were predominantly Caucasian (73%), with 14% Native American, 8% African-American, and less than 5% Hispanic
- a large proportion of respondents lived alone (42%) and most respondents resided in households without children (71%)
- males were more likely to live alone while females were more likely to head single parent families or live with other adults and no children
- 29% drove their own car; 61% walked, bicycled or took the bus, and 11% rode with someone else or borrowed a car for transportation
- large percentages received food assistance from a variety of sources during the last year: shelters (66%), food pantries (71%), friends/relatives (42%), free or reduced school meals (24%), and food stamps (24%)
- 26% were employed fulltime and 62% were unemployed
- median wage was \$7.05 per hour

Food Pantries

- 76% of respondents were female
- 25% were less than 30-years-old, 40% were 40 or older, and 8% were 60 or older
- 45% of respondents were Caucasian, 16% were Hmong, 16% Native American, 8% African American, and 9% Hispanic
- 72% lived in households with children and 36% had three or more children in their households
- a higher percentage of females lived in households with multiple adults and at least one child or as single parents, whereas males were more likely to reside in households with multiple adults and no children or as single adults
- 51% drove their own car, while 29% borrowed a car or rode with someone else
- large percentages received food assistance from a variety of sources during the last year: friends/relatives (42%), free or reduced school meals (46%), WIC (36%), meal sites (23%), and food stamps (36%)
- 27% were employed fulltime, 21% part-time and 53% were unemployed
- median wage was \$7.05 per hour

WIC

- 86% of respondents were female
- 76% of respondents were less than 30-years-old and 6% were 40 or older
- 66% were Caucasian, 17% were Hispanic, 8% were Hmong, and other minorities each represented less than 5%
- 85% had children and 29% had three or more children in their households
- a higher percentage of males resided in households with multiple adults and children while a higher percentage of females resided in single parent households
- 82% of respondents drove their own car; 14% rode with someone else or borrowed a car
- respondents received food assistance from a variety of sources during the last year: friends/relatives (47%), free or reduced school meals (22%), food pantries (21%), and food stamps (23%)
- 51% were employed fulltime and 37% were unemployed
- median wage was \$8.05 per hour

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Notes

¹ For each site, the percent of total households served was calculated, the percent of total respondents sampled was calculated, and an adjustment factor or site weight was calculated. The site weight is the ratio of the population distribution (column 2) to the sample distribution (column 3). A second weight was calculated to adjust for differential response rates at the sites. This weight is the inverse of the response rate for each site. A third weight was calculated that reflected the number of different types of sites each respondent visited. This individual weight is the inverse of the probability of being selected. For respondents who visited one, two or three types of site, the weights were 1, .5, and .33, respectively. These three weights were multiplied together to create a composite weight for each case. When analyses are presented by type of site, the individual level weight is excluded from the analysis.

Appendix A

Table A1. Number of respondents interviewed at each site by age group.

Age	Meal Sites	Food Pantries	WIC	Total
19 or younger	0	13	22	35
20-29 years old	12	58	92	162
30-39 years old	12	110	28	150
40-49 years old	25	69	8	102
50-59 years old	9	31	2	42
60 or older	6	27	0	33
Total	64	308	152	524*

*Information regarding age was not available for all respondents.

Table A2. Number of respondents interviewed at each site by ethnicity.

Ethnicity	Meal Sites	Food Pantries	WIC	Total
African-American	5	25	5	35
Hmong	0	57	12	69
Hispanic	2	28	25	55
Caucasian	47	137	100	284
Native American	8	43	3	54
Russian	0	5	1	6
Other	1	14	6	21
Total	63	309	152	524*

*Information regarding ethnicity was not available for all respondents.

Table A3. Estimated number of households served, number sampled, site weight, and response rate at each site.

Site	Number of Households Served (% of total # of households served)	Number Sampled (% of total # sampled)	Site Weight	Response Rate
Salvation Army Meal Site	150 (0.0355)	55 (0.0724)	0.4901	71%
Room at the Inn Meal Site	70 (0.0166)	36 (0.0474)	0.3498	83%
Total Meal Sites	220 (0.0521)	91 (0.1197)	0.4349	76%
Trinity Lutheran Pantry	40 (0.0095)	11 (0.0145)	0.6541	82%
St. Patrick's Church Pantry	215 (0.0509)	49 (0.0645)	0.7893	86%
Resurrection Lutheran Pantry	130 (0.0308)	72 (0.0947)	0.3248	49%
Presbyterian Food Pantry	50 (0.0118)	21 (0.0276)	0.4283	38%
Salvation Army Pantry	200 (0.0473)	49 (0.0645)	0.7342	86%
Paul's Pantry	670 (0.1586)	249 (0.3276)	0.4840	79%
Total Pantries	1305 (0.3089)	451 (0.5934)	0.5205	74%
WIC	2700 (0.6391)	218 (0.2868)	2.2279	76%
TOTAL	4225	760		74%

Appendix B

Food Security Survey

These next questions are about the food eaten in your household.

1. Which of these 4 statements best describes the food eaten in your household in the last 12 months, that is, since March of last year:

- (1) We **always** have **enough** to eat and the **kinds** of food we want; *(go to question 2)*
- (2) We have **enough** to eat **but not always the Kinds** of food we want; *(Skip 1b)*
- (3) **Sometimes** we **don't have enough** to eat; or *(Go to 1b)*
- (4) **Often** we don't have enough to eat *(Go to 1b)*
- (5) DK or refused *(go to question 2)*

1a. **(IF OPTION 2 SELECTED ABOVE, ASK)** Here are some reasons why people don't always have the kinds of food they want or need. For each one, please tell me if that is a reason why YOU don't always have the kinds of food you want or need. (READ LIST. MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

1	0	9	
Yes	No	DK	
()	()	()	1. Not enough money for food
()	()	()	2. On a diet
()	()	()	3. Kinds of food (I/we) want or need are not available
()	()	()	4. Good quality food is not available
()	()	()	5. Not enough time to purchase the food
()	()	()	6. Not enough time to prepare the food
()	()	()	7. Don't know how to prepare the available foods
()	()	()	8. Kids won't eat what I prepare
()	()	()	9. Don't like preparing the food
()	()	()	10. Too hard to get food (if <u>yes</u> , Why?) (Read list. Mark all that apply.)
()	()	()	a) no car
()	()	()	b) child care problems
()	()	()	c) bus driver won't allow you to ride on bus
()	()	()	d) work schedule
()	()	()	e) no grocery store in the area
()	()	()	f) Can't get to the pantry during open hours
()	()	()	g) other _____
()	()	()	11. Variety of good food not available here.

1b. (IF OPTION 3 OR 4 SELECTED ABOVE, ASK) Here are some reasons why people don't always have enough to eat. For each one, please tell me if that is a reason why YOU don't always have enough to eat. (READ LIST. MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

1	0	9	
Yes	No	DK	
()	()	()	1. Not enough money for food
()	()	()	2. On a diet
()	()	()	3. No working stove available
()	()	()	4. No working refrigerator available
()	()	()	5. Not able to cook or eat because of health problems
()	()	()	6. Not enough time to prepare the food
()	()	()	7. Don't know how to prepare the available foods
()	()	()	8. Too hard to get food (if <u>yes</u> , Why?) (Read list. Mark all that apply.)
()	()	()	a) no car
()	()	()	b) child care problems
()	()	()	c) bus driver won't allow you to ride on bus
()	()	()	d) work schedule
()	()	()	e) no grocery store in the area
()	()	()	f) Can't get to the pantry during open hours
()	()	()	g) other _____
()	()	()	9. Don't have my own apartment/house.

2. Now I'm going to read you several statements. For each statement, please tell me whether it was OFTEN true, SOMETIMES true, or NEVER true for your household in the last 12 months.

The first statement is "We worried whether our food would run out before we got money to buy more." Was that Often true, sometimes true, or never true for your household in the last 12 months?

- 2 () Often true
- 1 () Sometimes true
- 0 () Never true
- 9 () DK or Refused

3. "The food that we bought just didn't last, and we didn't have money to get more." Was that often, sometimes, or never true for your household in the last 12 months?

- 2 () Often true
- 1 () Sometimes true
- 0 () Never true
- 9 () DK or Refused

4. We couldn't afford to eat balanced meals. Was that often, sometimes, or never true for your household in the last 12 months?

- 2 () Often true
- 1 () Sometimes true
- 0 () Never true
- 9 () DK or Refused

5. I relied on only a few kinds of low cost food to feed my children because I was running out of money to buy food. Was that often, sometimes, or never true for your household in the last 12 months?

- 2 () Often true
- 1 () Sometimes true
- 0 () Never true
- 9 () DK or Refused

6. I couldn't feed my children a balanced meal, because I couldn't afford that." Was that often, sometimes, or never true for your household in the last 12 months?

- 2 () Often true
- 1 () Sometimes true
- 0 () Never true
- 9 () DK or Refused

If Question 1 was answered "Often or Sometimes not enough to eat", or answers to any of questions 2 – 6 were "Often or Sometimes true", continue with questionnaire; otherwise skip to demographic questions (Questions 17 to end).

7. The children were not eating enough because I just couldn't afford enough food. Was that often, sometimes, or never true for your household in the last 12 months?

- 2 () Often true
- 1 () Sometimes true
- 0 () Never true
- 9 () DK or Refused

8. In the last 12 months, since last March did you or other adults in your household ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?

- 1 () Yes
- 0 () No (Skip 8a)
- 9 () DK (Skip 8a)

8a. (IF YES ABOVE, ASK) How often did this happen – almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?

- 2 () Almost every month
- 1 () Some months but not every month
- 0 () Only 1 or 2 months
- 9 () DK

9. In the last 12 months, did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money to buy food?

- 1 () Yes
- 0 () No
- 9 () DK

10. In the last 12 months, were you ever hungry but didn't eat because you couldn't afford enough food?

- 1 () Yes
- 0 () No
- 9 () DK

11. In the last 12 months, did you lose weight because you didn't have enough money for food?

- 1 () Yes
- 0 () No
- 9 () DK

If YES to any of Questions 7 -- 11, then continue to Q12; otherwise, skip to question 17.

12. In the last 12 months, did you or other adults in your household ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food?

- 1 () Yes
- 0 () No (go to question 13)
- 9 () DK (go to question 13)

12a. (IF YES ABOVE, ASK) How often did this happen – almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?

- 2 () Almost every month
- 1 () Some months but not every month
- 0 () Only 1 or 2 months
- 9 () DK

13. In the last 12 months, since March of last year, did you ever cut the size of any of the children's meals because there wasn't enough money for food?

- 1 () Yes
- 0 () No
- 9 () DK

14. In the last 12 months, did any of the children ever skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?

- 1 () Yes
- 0 () No (go to question 15)
- 9 () DK (go to question 15)

14a. (IF YES ABOVE ASK) How often did this happen – almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?

- 2 () Almost every month
- 1 () Some months but not every month
- 0 () Only 1 or 2 months
- 9 () DK

15. In the last 12 months, were the children ever hungry but you just couldn't afford more food?

- 1 () Yes
- 0 () No
- 9 () DK

16. In the last 12 months, did any of the children ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food?

- 1 () Yes
- 0 () No
- 9 () DK

17. Which of the following have you or anyone in your household used for food assistance in the last year? (READ LIST. MARK ALL THAT APPLY.)

- | 1 | 0 | 9 | |
|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Yes | No | DK | |
| () | () | () | a. WIC |
| () | () | () | b. friends/relatives |
| () | () | () | c. meals on wheels |
| () | () | () | d. free or reduced school meals |
| () | () | () | e. shelters |
| () | () | () | f. summer lunches in the park |
| () | () | () | g. summer breakfast at the Resource Centers |
| () | () | () | h. local meal sites (If YES, ask 17a.) |
| () | () | () | i. food pantries (If YES, ask 17a. & 17b.) |
| () | () | () | j. food stamps (If YES, ask 17c.) |

17a. (Only for Food Pantries/Meal Sites) When was the first time you got food from a food pantry/meal site? (READ LIST.)

- 1 () Today is the first time
- 2 () sometime in the last 6 months
- 3 () 6 months to a year ago
- 4 () 1 to 2 years ago
- 6 () more than 2 years ago
- 9 () D/K

17b. (Only for Food Pantries) How much of your food can you get from food pantries? (READ LIST.)

- 1 () Less than 1/2
- 2 () About 1/2
- 3 () More than 1/2
- 9 () D/K

17c. (Only for Food Stamps) How much of your food are you usually able to buy with your food stamps? (READ LIST.)

- 1 () Less than 1/2
- 2 () About 1/2
- 3 () More than 1/2
- 9 () D/K

18. Of the food you eat, how much of it are you able to buy with your money? (READ LIST.)

- 1 () Less than 1/2
- 2 () About 1/2
- 3 () More than 1/2
- 9 () D/K

19. Which of the following would help you in getting enough food for you and your family? (READ LIST. MARK ALL THAT APPLY.)

- | 1 | 0 | 9 | |
|-----|-----|-----|----------------------------|
| Yes | No | DK | |
| () | () | () | a. Improved transportation |
| () | () | () | b. Different pantry hours |
| () | () | () | c. Different WIC hours |
| () | () | () | d. Community gardens |
| () | () | () | e. Traveling food pantry |
| () | () | () | f. Traveling grocery store |
| () | () | () | g. Grocery store downtown |
| () | () | () | h. Other _____ |

20. Do you know of anyone who would get food assistance here but are not able to?

- 1 () Yes
- 0 () No
- 9 () D/K

The next few questions have to do with the people in your household.

21. How did you get here today?

- 1 () walk
- 2 () bus
- 3 () drive own car
- 4 () rode with someone, borrowed car
- 5 () bicycle
- 6 () taxi
- 7 () other
- 9 () D/K

22. What is your age? _____

23. How much school have you completed?

- 1 () less than 9th grade
- 2 () 9th - 11th grade
- 3 () high school graduate or equivalent
- 4 () more than high school
- 9 () D/K

24. What is your ethnic background?

- 1 () African American
- 2 () Hmong
- 3 () Hispanic
- 4 () Caucasian
- 5 () Native American
- 6 () Russian
- 7 () Other
- 9 () D/K

25. In your household:

- 25a. How many children are under 6 years old? _____
- 25b. How many children are between age 6 and 17? _____
- 25c. Including you, how many adults are 65 or older? _____
- 25d. Including you, how many adults are less than age 65? _____

26. Have you been employed anytime during the last year?

- 1 () Yes
- 0 () No (If **NO**, go to q27)
- 9 () D/K

26a. If YES, are you currently employed?

- 1 () Yes
- 0 () No (If **NO**, go to q27)

26b. Do you work full or part-time?

- 1 () Part-time
- 2 () Full-time

26c. How much are you paid per hour? _____

27. Including you, how many adults in your household are employed? _____

28. Did you or anyone else in your household receive income last month from any of the following: (READ LIST. MARK ALL THAT APPLY.)

1	0	9	
Yes	No	DK	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a. Working
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	b. Pension
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	c. Unemployment
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	d. Disability/worker's compensation
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	e. Social Security
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	f. Child Support
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	g. W2
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	h. SSI
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i. Other _____

Thank you for taking the time to talk with me today. Do you have any questions about the survey?

Appendix C

Table C1. Percent of respondents at each site by gender.

Gender***	Meal Sites (n=66)	Food Pantries (n=332)	WIC (n=165)	Total (n=536)
Males	50%	24%	14%	17%
Females	50%	76%	86%	83%
Total	5%	30%	65%	100%

**p<.001

Table C2. Percent of respondents in each age group by gender.

Age	Males (n=125)	Females (n=394)
19 or younger	4%	14%
20-29 years old	45%	48%
30-39 years old	25%	21%
40-49 years old	16%	10%
50-59 years old	6%	4%
60 or older	4%	3%

Table C3. Percent of respondents at each site by ethnicity.

Ethnicity	Meal Sites (n=63)	Food Pantries (n=309)	WIC (n=152)	Total (n=524)
African-American	8%	8%	3%	4%
Hmong	0%	16%	8%	8%
Hispanic	3%	9%	17%	14%
Caucasian	73%	45%	66%	63%
Native American	14%	16%	2%	6%
Russian	0%	1%	1%	1%
Other	3%	4%	4%	3%

Table C4. Percent of respondents by household size and gender.

Size of Household**	Males (n=124)	Females (n=395)	Total (n=519)
1 person	20%	6%	8%
2-3 people	36%	45%	44%
4-6 people	30%	40%	38%
7 or more people	14%	9%	10%

**p<.001

Table C5. Percent of respondents at each site by type of household.

Type of Household***	Meal Sites (n=65)	Food Pantries (n=305)	WIC (n=152)	Total (n=522)
Single Adult	42%	16%	1%	8%
Two or more adults without children	29%	12%	14%	14%
Single Adult with children	13%	24%	22%	22%
Two or more adults with children	16%	48%	63%	56%

***p<.001

Table C6. Percent of respondents by ethnicity whose household received each source of income during the last month.

Sources of Income	African- American (n=35)	Hmong (n=63)	Hispanic (n=53)	Caucasian (n=286)	Native American (n=54)
Employment**	78%	75%	93%	85%	64%
Pension	0%	2%	0%	4%	3%
Unemployment	0%	7%	3%	9%	11%
Disability/worker's compensation	0%	5%	5%	5%	14%
Social Security	5%	11%	1%	11%	22%
Child Support	9%	0%	1%	14%	11%
Welfare	0%	16%	4%	1%	6%
SSI***	14%	22%	1%	14%	31%

p<.01; *p<.001

