Student Food Insecurity: Predictors and Solutions

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Purpose

Assess the prevalence of food insecurity among students at the University of Arkansas.

Identify factors that contribute to students being food insecure/secure.

Identify possible solutions for reducing food insecurity on campus.
Student Food Security

Food Security Levels among students - percent

- High food security: 39%
- Marginal food security: 22%
- Low food security: 20%
- Very low food security: 18%
Food Security Across Demographics

Food Security levels by Race - percent

Food Security by Race

- High food security
- Marginal food security
- Low food security
- Very low food security

White:
- High food security: 40%
- Marginal food security: 22%
- Low food security: 20%
- Very low food security: 17%

Non-white:
- High food security: 33%
- Marginal food security: 26%
- Low food security: 24%
- Very low food security: 17%
Food Security Across Demographics

Food Security levels by Academic Level - percent

- Graduate:
  - High food security: 28%
  - Low food security: 34%
  - Marginal food security: 13%
  - Very low food security: 15%

- Undergraduate:
  - High food security: 42%
  - Low food security: 21%
  - Marginal food security: 18%
  - Very low food security: 19%

Food Security by Academic Level
Student Living Arrangement

Student Living Arrangement - Count

- Roommates: 264
- Parents: 37
- Siblings: 21
- Others: 74
- Alone: 49
Student Living Arrangements - Where to sleep

Uncertainty regarding place to sleep in the past 12 months - Student percent

- 89%
- A couple of times: 9 students
- Sometimes: 1 student
- 1 student
Food Accessibility - Enough Money for Buying Food

Student Perception of Having Enough Money for Buying Food - percent

- More than enough: 21 percent
- Enough: 58 percent
- Not enough: 21 percent
Financial Resources Usage

Availability of Different Financial Resources for Food Purchases - count

- Parental Support: 232
- Own Job: 243
- SNAP/Food Stamps: 58
- WIG/Women with Infants & Children: 4
- Finaid/Student Loan: 2
- Other Sources: 5
Student Employment Status

Employment Status of Student - percent

- Yes: 57%
- No: 43%
Social Capital - Having meals with Friends

Frequency of Meals with Friends - percent

- **Every day**: 18%
- **Several times a week**: 28%
- **Once a week**: 17%
- **At least once a month**: 16%
- **Several times a year/less often**: 12%
- **Never or hardly ever**: 9%
Food Pantry Use

Use of Food Pantry Services by Students in The Past 12 Months - percent

- Yes: 2%
- No: 98%