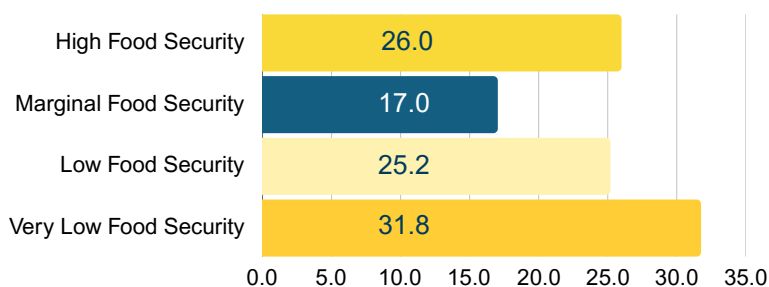


Food insecurity among Fresno State Students: Findings from the UCLA-CSUF Study

During Spring 2024, we invited all students of the Fresno State body to participate in a survey to learn more about their experiences with food insecurity and resources on campus. 1,413 students completed the survey. We provide the breakdown by socio-demographic characteristics for groups of students that had at least 10 respondents.

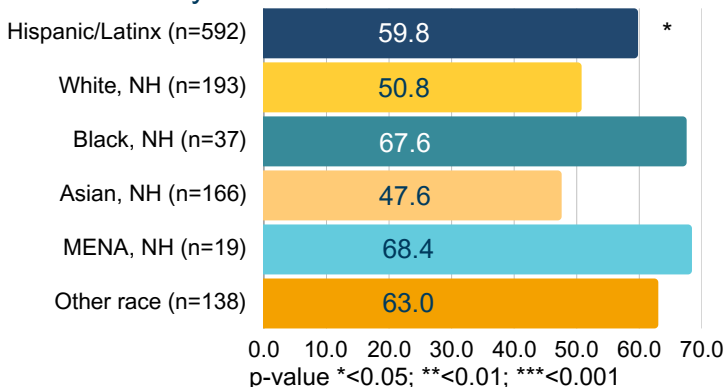
 **57% students were food insecure**

Figure 1. Food security levels reported by Fresno State student (n=1,250)



Using the validated USDA household measure, 26% had high food security (no difficulty accessing food nor experiencing limitations). 57% reported being food insecure; 25% had low food security (decreased the quality, variety or desirability of their diet) and 32% were very low food secure (changed their eating patterns and reduced their intake) (Figure 1). 17% were marginally food secure (anxious about having enough food but did not change their diet or the amount eaten).

Figure 2. Percentage of food insecure students by race/ethnicity



Other race includes American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and multiple race. NH = non-Hispanic; MENA = Middle Eastern & North African

Statistically significant differences in food insecurity existed by student race and ethnicity. Figure 2 shows that non-Hispanic Black students (67.6%) and Middle Eastern and North African students (68.4%) reported the highest rates of food insecurity.

Figure 3. Percentage of food insecure students by student sociodemographic characteristic

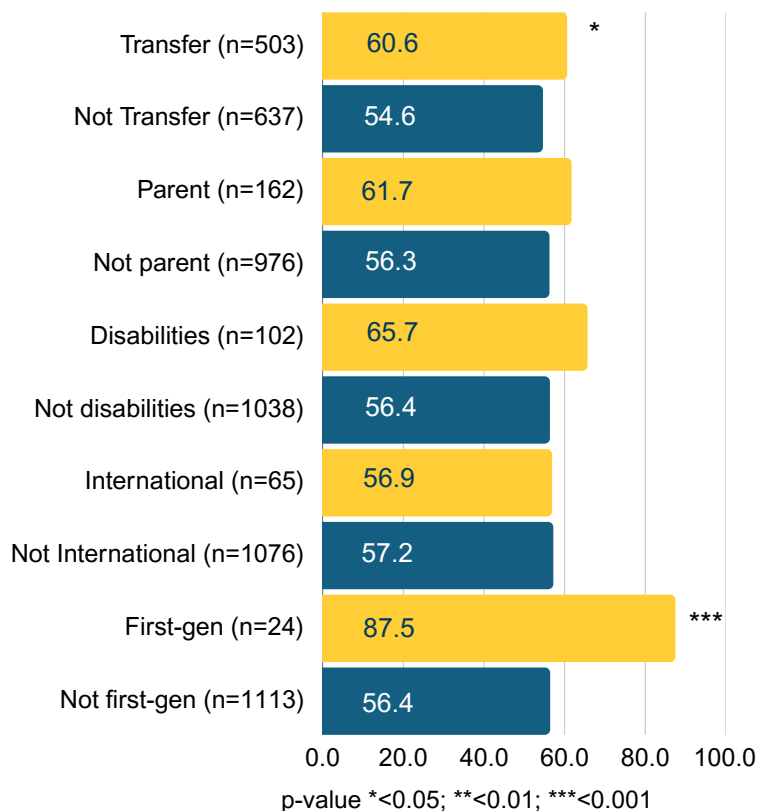


Figure 3 shows that students who were transfer students, first-generation college students and foster youth were significantly more likely to be food insecure than their counterparts. Nearly 90% of foster youth who participated in the survey reported being food insecure.

We thank ECMC Foundation for their support of this research.

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Figure 4. Use and awareness of food assistance programs by food insecurity status

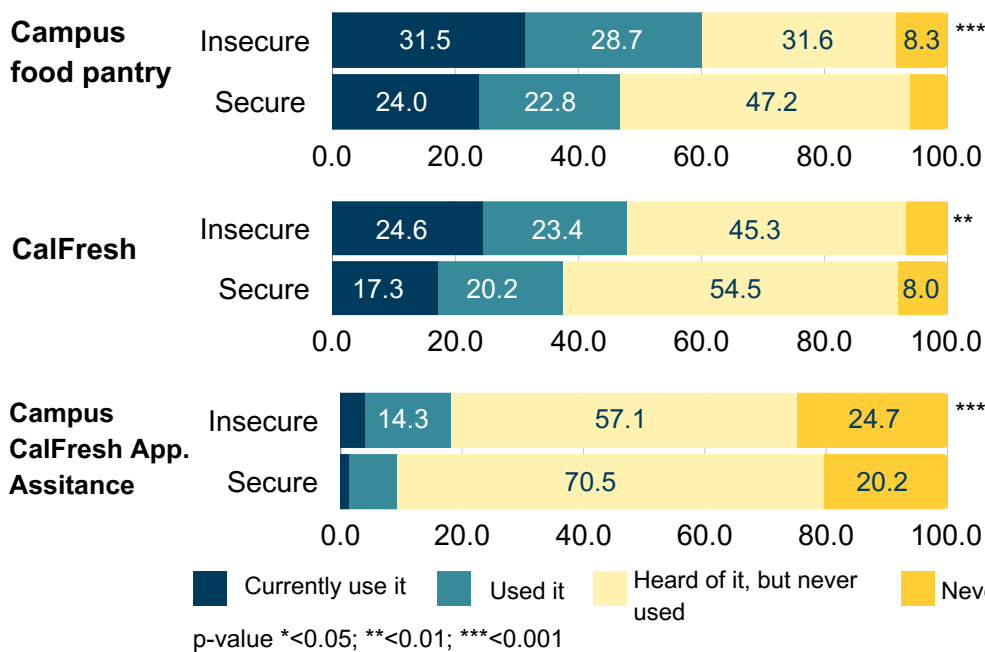
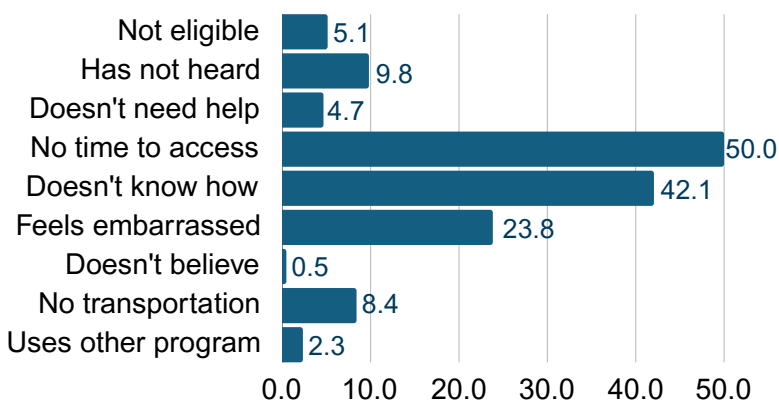


Figure 4 highlights students' use and awareness of the campus food pantry, CalFresh and the campus CalFresh application assistance. While more food insecure students use the food pantry than food secure students, nearly a third of food insecure students are aware of the pantry but do not use it. A quarter of food insecure students reported receiving CalFresh. However, a quarter of food insecure students were not aware that Fresno State offers help applying for CalFresh.

Figure 5. Reasons why food insecure students do not use the campus food pantry (n=212)



Suggesting important avenues for interventions, Figure 5 shows reasons why food-insecure students who have heard of the campus food pantry do not use it, with 50% reporting not having the time to access it, 42% not knowing how, and 24% feeling embarrassed.

Figure 6. Reasons why food insecure students do not use CalFresh (n=306)

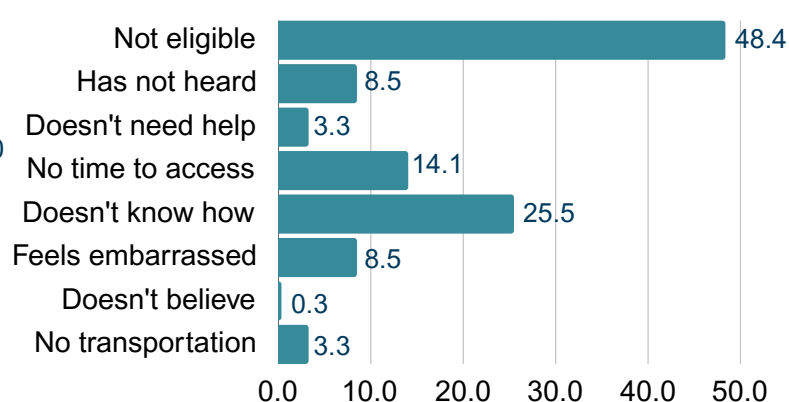


Figure 6 shows reasons why food-insecure students who have heard of CalFresh do not use it. 48% of students reported not being eligible, 26% didn't know how to apply, and 14% reported not having the time to apply for it.

Figure 7. Reasons why food insecure students do not use campus CalFresh application assistance (n=384)

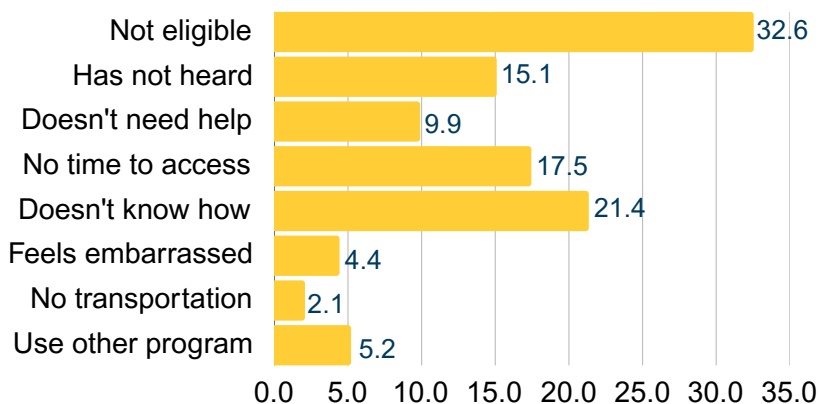


Figure 7 highlights reasons why Fresno State students who have heard of the campus CalFresh application assistance do not use it, with a third stating they were not eligible, 21% not knowing how and 18% not having the time to do so. These findings indicate opportunities to increase awareness of eligibility criteria and how students can access the assistance.