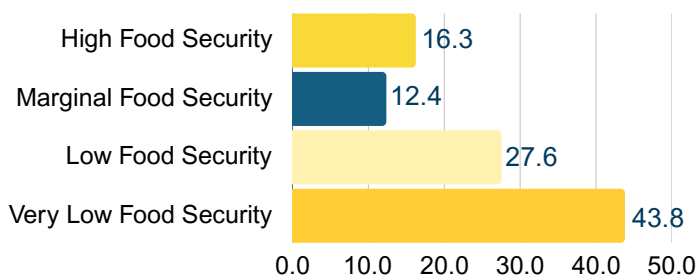


Food insecurity among LAMC Students: Findings from the UCLA-CSUF Study

During Spring 2024, we invited all students of the Los Angeles Mission College (LAMC) student body to participate in a survey to learn more about their experiences with food insecurity and resources on campus. 366 students completed the survey. We provide the breakdown by socio-demographic characteristics for groups of students that had at least 10 respondents.

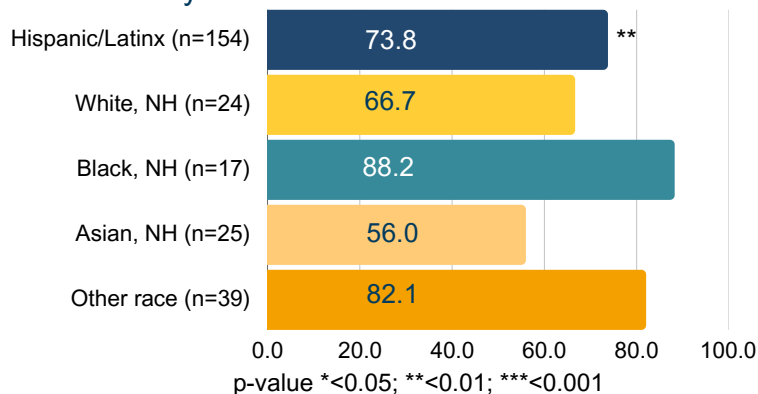
71% students were food insecure

Figure 1. Food security levels reported by LAMC students (n=283)



Using the validated USDA household measure, 16% reported having high food security (no difficulty accessing food nor experiencing limitations). 71% reported being food insecure; 28% had low food security (decreased the quality, variety or desirability of their diet) and 44% had very low food security (changed their eating patterns and reduced their intake (Figure 1).12% were marginally food secure (anxious about having enough food but did not change their diet or the amount eaten).

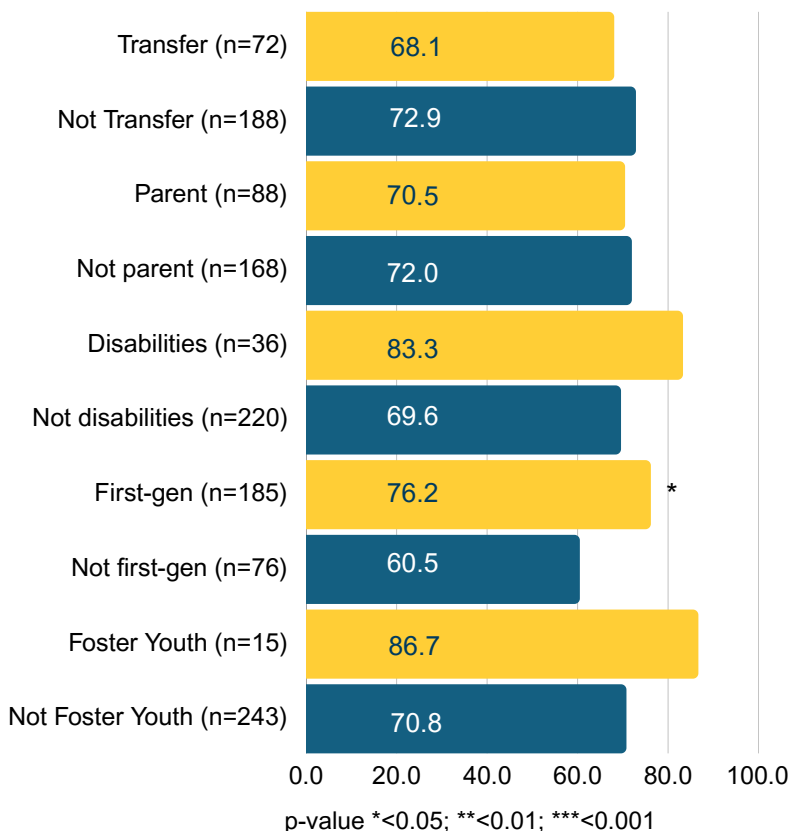
Figure 2. Percentage of food insecure students by race/ethnicity



Other race includes American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and multiple race. NH = non-Hispanic

Statistically significant differences in food insecurity existed by student race and ethnicity. Figure 2 shows that non-Hispanic Black students (88.2%) reported the highest rates of food security followed closely by students of Other race (82.1%).

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



High rates of food insecurity existed among various student groups. Figure 3 shows that students who were first-generation college students reported statistically significant higher rates of food insecurity than students who were not first-generation college students. There were no statistically significant differences by foster youth status, however, this could be due to few foster youth responding to the survey.

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

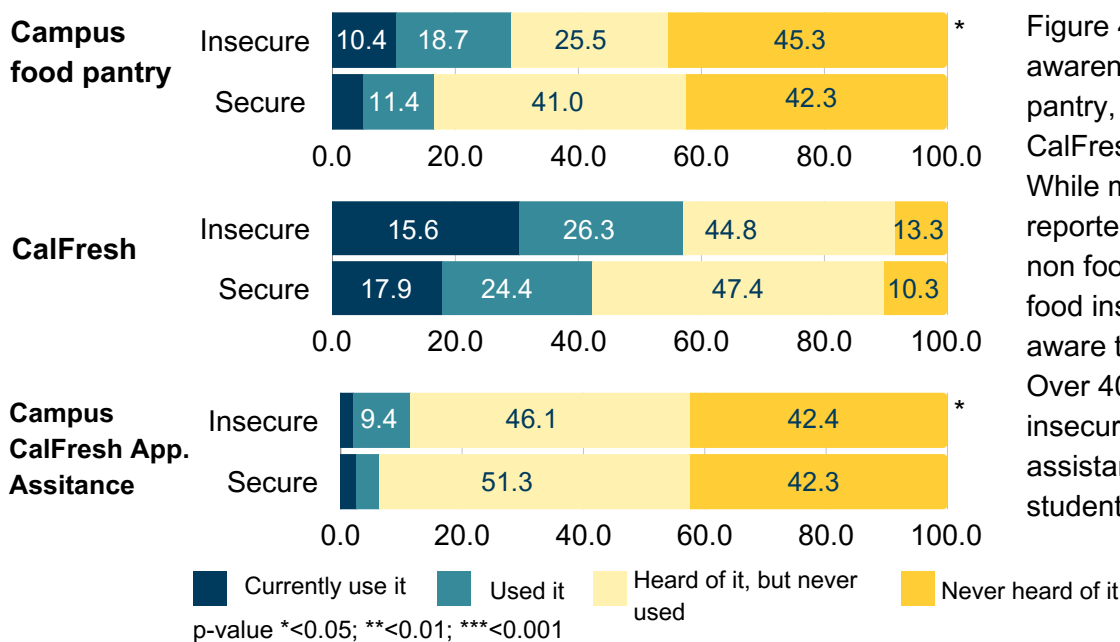
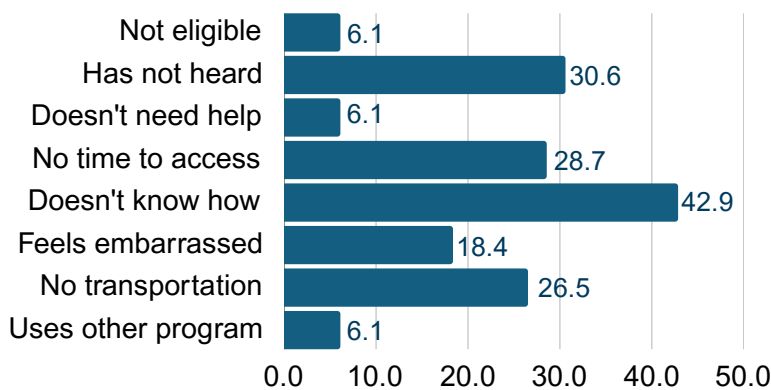


Figure 4 highlights students' use and awareness of the campus food pantry, CalFresh and the campus CalFresh application assistance. While more food insecure students reported using the food pantry than non food-insecure students, 45% of food insecure students were not aware that this resource existed. Over 40% of students who were food insecure had not heard of the assistance the college provides students to apply for CalFresh.

Figure 5. Reasons why food insecure students do not use the campus food pantry (n=88)



Suggesting important avenues for interventions, Figure 5 shows reasons why food-insecure students, despite knowing about the campus food pantry, do not use it. Over 40% reported not knowing how, 31% had not heard of it, and 29% did not have time to access it.

Figure 6. Reasons why food insecure students do not use CalFresh (n=88)

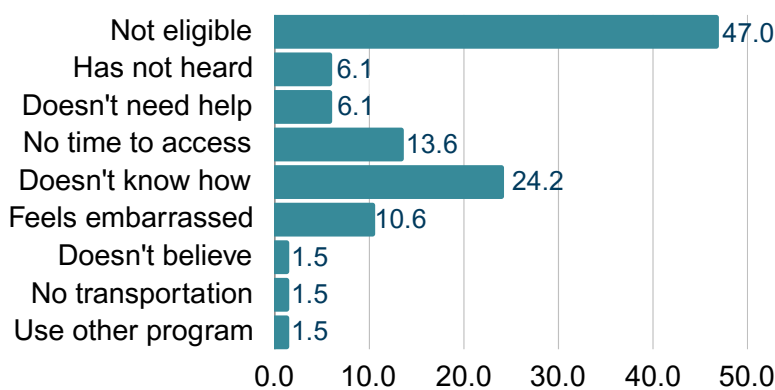


Figure 6 shows reasons why food-insecure students who have heard of CalFresh do not use it. Nearly half of students reported not being eligible, 24% did not know how apply for CalFresh, and 13% did not have time to access it.

Figure 7. Reasons why food insecure students do not use campus CalFresh application assistance (n=88)

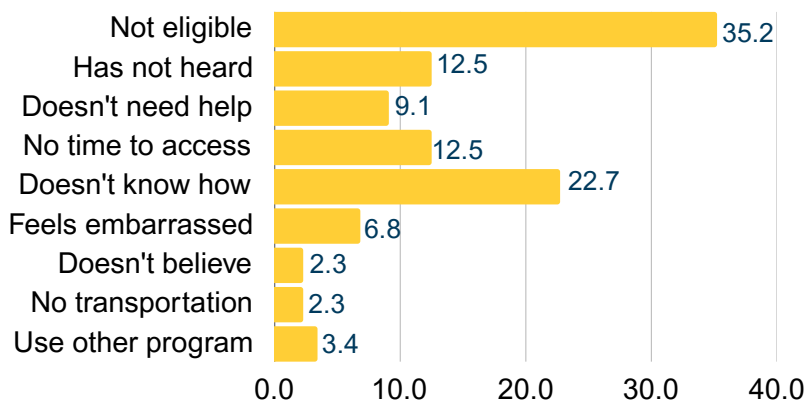


Figure 7 highlights reasons why LAMC students who have heard of the campus CalFresh application assistance do not use it, with 35% reporting that they were not eligible and 23% not knowing how to access the assistance program. These findings indicate opportunities to increase awareness of eligibility criteria and how students can access the assistance.