

Widened Economic Fault Lines

While the pandemic shone a spotlight on food insecurity and the inequities that underpin it, these are not new issues. Even before COVID-19 drove record unemployment, 1 in 5 of our neighbors was at risk of hunger. The events of the past year were simply a catalyst that forced thousands more to turn to Food Banks and other forms of support for the first time. As entire industries eroded, we saw nearly twice as many families turn to us.

This pandemic exposed what we already knew — hunger does not affect us all equally. Systemic inequities, including poverty and racism, widened the fault lines of our economy. Black and Hispanic families disproportionately experienced food insecurity even before Covid-19, and evidence suggests the pandemic widened this chasm. Black and Hispanic families now experience twice the rates of food insecurity as white families.*

The Food Bank polled over 7,000 of our over 50,000 food pantry and home-delivered grocery participants to learn more about how food insecurity is impacting them and how we can better support them. Many respondents said they lost work or had their income reduced due to the pandemic, and 81% have yet to recover. One thing is abundantly clear: those who were already struggling to put food on the table experienced the greatest consequences from the pandemic.

Persisting Need

Though it is heartbreaking to learn the majority of the respondents used to run out of food before turning to us, we are heartened to see so many feeling less worried about getting enough to eat after turning to the Food Bank. Services like Food Banks, CalFresh (food stamps), and other social safety nets are working. Thanks to the collaboration with our partners and the massive response of the community during the crisis, it was possible to meet the exponentially growing need. But as we know, so many are still struggling to recover; continued support will be necessary for years to come to ensure our neighbors know where their next meal will come from.

Advocating for Change

To end hunger, we must address both the consequences and causes of hunger — which includes confronting its root causes that pre-date but were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. For the Food Bank, that means working to push for policy changes at the local, state, and federal levels. It also means looking at how we address hunger across San Francisco and Marin. We will prioritize access, dignity, and responsiveness in collaboration with our partners in the community.



Last year

Distributed close to **80M lbs of food**, the equivalent of **67,000,000 meals**, about **184,000 meals** per day

Facilitated **4,500 CalFresh** (food stamps) applications & recertifications, helping participants earn a total of about **\$9,000,000** in estimated CalFresh benefits

Partnered with **354 organizations** to provide food

Distributed food weekly to over **50,000 households** through **240 pantries** primarily run by partners

Home-delivered groceries to **8,000+ seniors and people with disabilities**

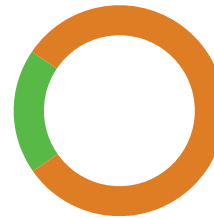
* <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/hsph-in-the-news/nearly-four-in-10-black-hispanic-families-facing-food-insecurity-during-pandemic/>

During the late spring of 2021, the Food Bank polled over 7,000 participants who are signed up to receive food through our pantry network and our home-delivered grocery service.

Pandemic Hit to Participants' Finances



61% of respondents have someone in their household who has **lost their job or is earning less** money because of the pandemic



81% of respondents have **NOT recovered financially**

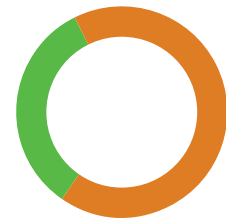
Wrestling With Hunger and Food Scarcity



Nearly **50%** did not receive **food from a pantry** before the pandemic

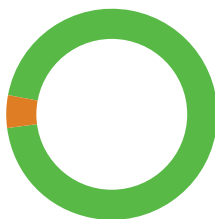


80% worried food **would run out** at some point last year

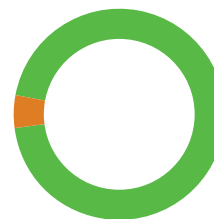


67% said the food they had **wouldn't last**, and they couldn't get more

Greater Food Security with the Food Bank[†]



95% said they feel **less worried** about getting enough food because of Food Bank programs



95% said they feel **healthier** because of Food Bank programs

[†] These questions were only offered to a subset of the respondents, our senior pantry participants and participants in the home-delivered grocery service