



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Health & Human Services Agency

Emergency Food System Study

A user-centered study of
barriers to emergency food
access
in Napa County

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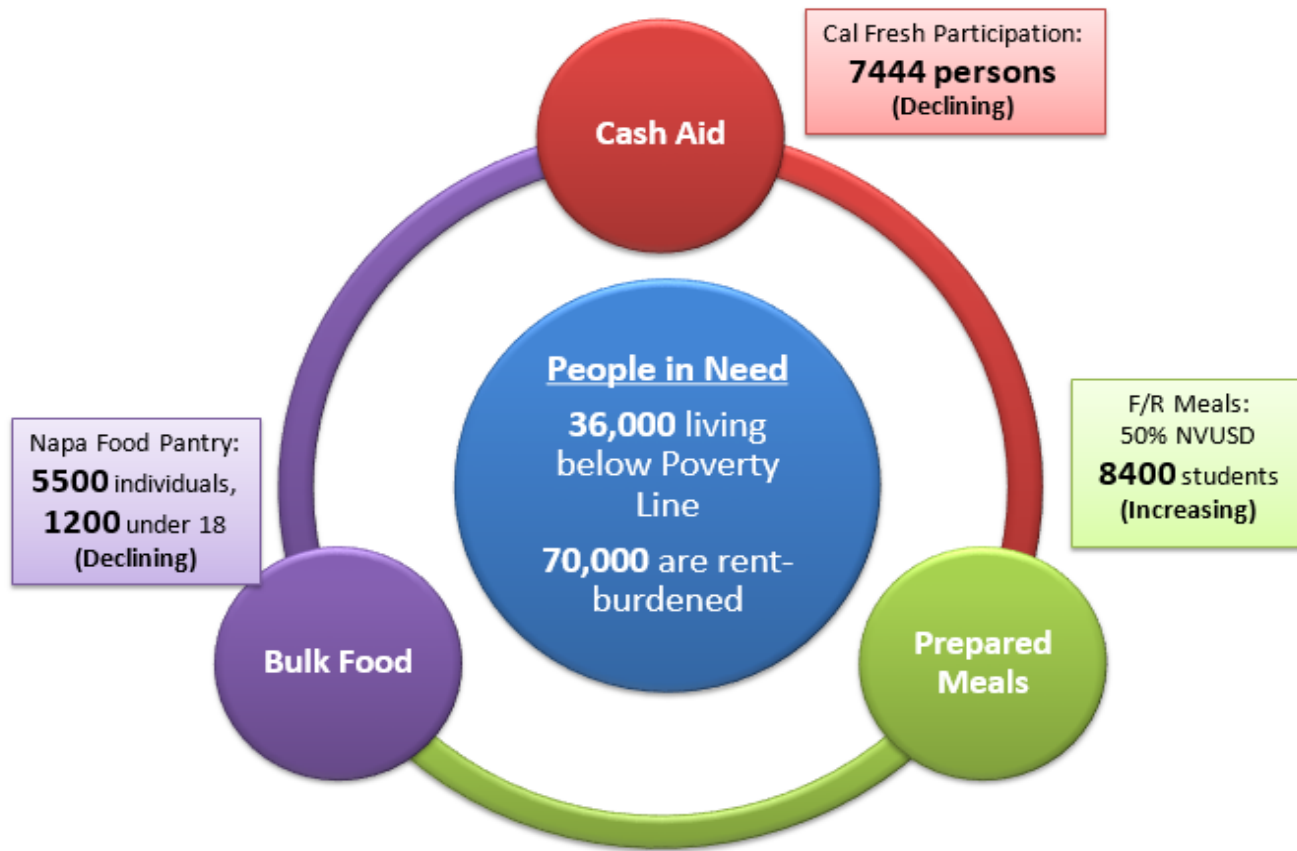
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Emergency Food System Study

Napa's Emergency Food System



The Peter A.
& Vernice H.
Gasser
FOUNDATION

St. Joseph Health 
Queen of the Valley





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Live Healthy Napa County & Public Health

Why is LHNC focused on food insecurity?

- Increases risk of adverse health outcomes
- Complicates ability to manage illness
- Is linked to higher health care costs
 - Food insecure households spend an average of 45% more on medical care

Reference: Carlson, S., Keith-Jennings, B. 2018. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: SNAP Is Linked with Improved Nutritional Outcomes and Lower Health Care Costs



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Study Vision and Timeline

January – June 2018

- 3 partner meetings:
- 33 community partner organizations
- 450 surveys collected
- 3 focus groups conducted:
 1. Older adults,
 2. Individuals experiencing homelessness, and
 3. Spanish-speaking, low-income families.



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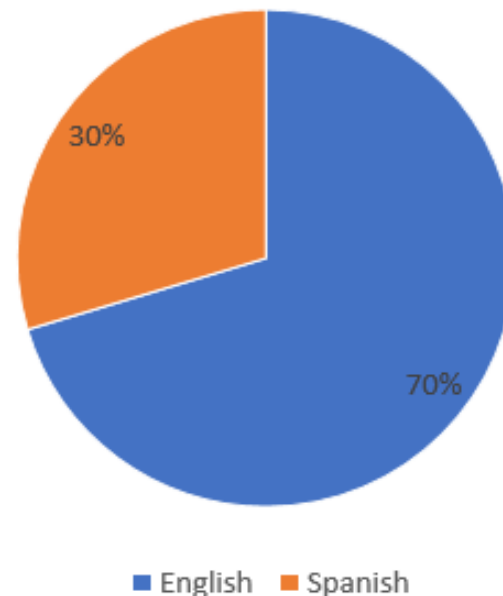
Participant Demographics

Age of Respondents



Language

Percentage of surveys completed in English and Spanish (n=351).

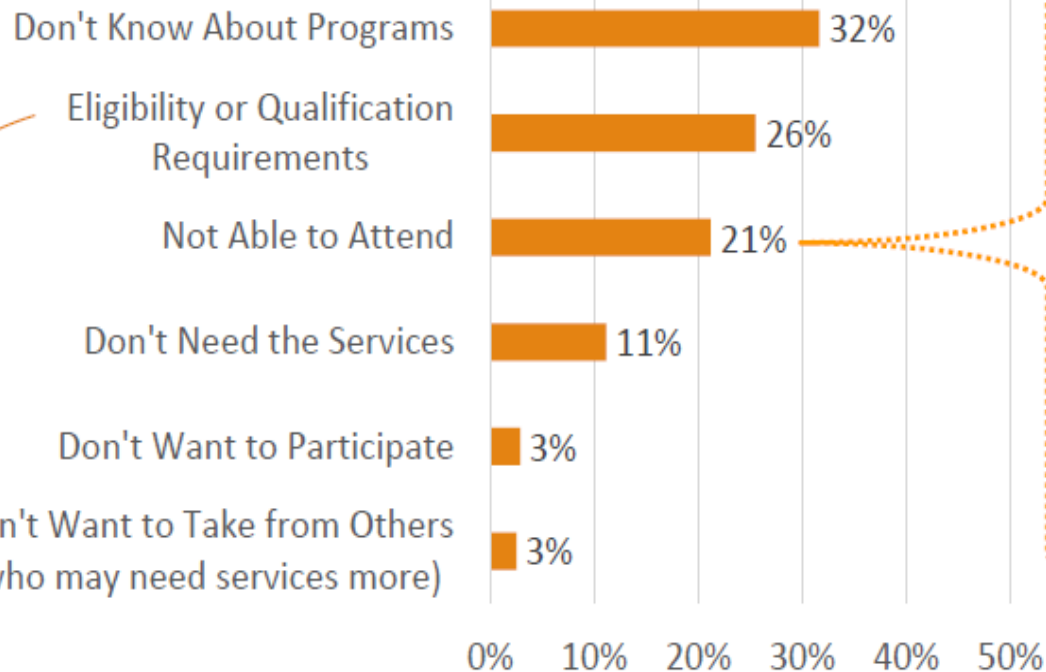




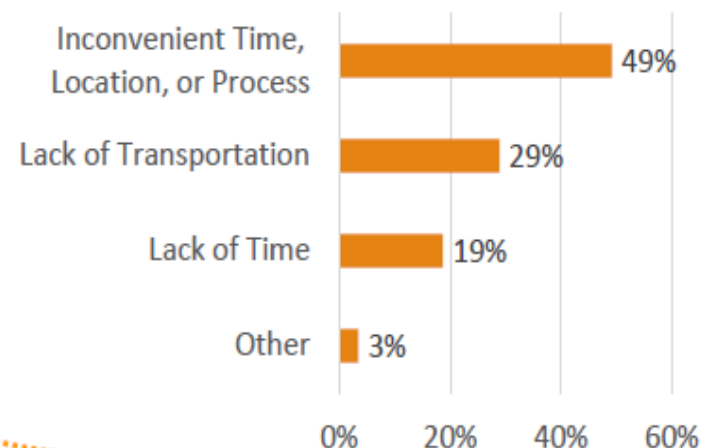
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Survey Responses

Top themes regarding why participants do not attend other programs, by percentage of survey participants (n=278).



Top themes regarding why participants are not able to attend programs, by percentage of survey participants (n=59).





Survey Responses

Q: What do you like about these programs? (for programs respondent attends)



*"I get a meal 1x/day for sure. Sometimes its the only thing I eat."
At risk for food insecurity, Age 80-90*



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Survey Responses

Q: Why do you or your household NOT participate in these programs? (for programs not attended)



“Have no car to pick up food and don't have any idea where most of the programs are. I am completely homeless. Have nowhere to store food”



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Survey Responses

Q: Why do you or your household NOT participate in these programs? (for programs not attended)



*“Things are not set up for a working parent! I have a job & 4 kids. I don’t have time to wait for hours for services.
At risk of food insecurity, Age 40-50”*



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Study Findings

I. Key Populations:

- I. Adults experiencing homelessness
- II. Older Adults
- III. Spanish-speaking, low-income households

II. Findings:

- I. Cross-cutting themes
- II. Population-specific barriers
- III. Potential solutions



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Barriers and Solutions

NAPA COUNTY

FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Adults experiencing homelessness

STIGMA

Staring and Judging

People afraid to talk to us

Anxiety
Depression

Mental illness

We are not muggers

USING THE FOOD

No proof of residence to register

No place to store cold food

Food goes bad fast

No outside food in the shelter

Can't eat some of the food

Can't prepare nor store food

TRANSPORTATION

WELCOME TOURISTS

Public transportation less available when events in town

Substantially less public transportation available on Sundays

Difficult to carry food

May 10, 2018

SOLUTIONS



Educate the public about homelessness



Sponsor homeless person program

Include those who have experienced homelessness to be part of the solution



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Barriers and Solutions

NAPA COUNTY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS Older Adults

TRANSPORTATION



Mobility issues make it difficult to leave the house and go to distribution places

Can't drive



There is only so much that I can carry with me

My fridge is too small
Don't have a freezer



I don't know how to cook



I can't afford gas



Dietary restrictions are not taken care of



ANXIETY

Social anxiety won't let me get out of the house

USING & THE FOOD



Sometimes it is not the right combination for a meal



Too much time between bus schedule and not enough on Sundays

Can't have too much sodium or sugar



I can only store small amounts



AWARENESS



I'm VEGETARIAN



They don't advertise it

A lot of people don't know about the programs

Embarrassed to get help

May 9, 2018

SOLUTIONS



With a gas voucher I can car pool and go to distribution points

Decrease the waiting time for a bus to return



Make distributions weekly instead of monthly with smaller quantities than can easily be stored



Volunteers can help driving or delivering



Hotel chains donating food already prepared



Make vegetarian, low sodium and diabetic options available



Community bus to transport older adults to food assistance programs





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Barriers and Solutions

GRUPO de ENFOQUE CONDADO de NAPA

PROGRAMAS DE ASISTENCIA ALIMENTARIA
Personas de Habla Hispana

NIVELES de CALIFICACIÓN DE LOS INGRESOS

Asistencia Alimentaria

Si se ingresan \$3,000 pero después de renta cuanto queda?

HIPOTECA RENTA

FECHAS y HORARIOS

A veces el horario no es conveniente

ESTATUS MIGRATORIO

Si no tienes los papeles tienes miedo de involucrarte en los programas

SOLUCIONES

16 de Mayo de 2018

Repartir los sábados y en las escuelas

Flyers con los horarios

Correo electrónico

Asistencia Alimentaria

Cambiar el sistema de los requisitos y pruebas

Informar quien califica de acuerdo con su estatus migratorio



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Next Steps

- ❖ **JULY:** Study Findings & interactive online data indicators platform (LiveStories)
- ❖ **JULY 9th Meeting Outcomes:**
- ❖ **AUGUST/SEPTEMBER:** Share Findings with community stakeholders
- ❖ **Local Food Advisory Council** engagement