

*Identifying and Responding to Food
Insecurity in College Students Through
Food Recovery Partnerships*

2018 Mid-Atlantic Food Recovery Summit

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Defining Food Insecurity



- “Limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, or the ability to acquire such foods in a socially acceptable manner” –USDA
- “Over 30% of college students surveyed stated that they have gone hungry due to a lack of funds during a college semester “ - WI Hope Lab Food Insecurity Study 2016
- College University Food Bank Alliance: Grown from 4 in 2008 to more than 641 college food pantries at colleges/universities nationwide as of July 2018
- “48% of college students reported food insecurity in the last 30 days”
-College University Food Bank Alliance (CUFBA) Hunger On Campus Report, 2016

The George Washington University & Financial Aid

- GW has very generous financial aid packages that come close to covering full need of its students
- On average, cover 89% of demonstrated need
- While packages are improving, and we are monitoring this closely, the gap that exists can indeed be a challenge for some students

What We Found at GW...



- GW student survey conducted
- 59% of undergraduates surveyed ate less than they felt they should at least once a month because there was not enough money for food
- 30% of graduate students ate less than they felt they should at least once a month because there was not enough money for food

The Store

GW'S FOOD PANTRY

The Store's Guiding Values



- **Education is a right** not a privilege, and it has the power to overcome any and all obstacles
- **Trust and believe in the students** who have requested access
- Have **faith** in these students to take what they need
- Students using The Store must be **respected and empowered** so that they can take control back in this aspect of their lives
- **Respect the anonymity** and privacy of all Shoppers
- Store is **providing a bridge** for students but is not a permanent solution to the issue of affordability
- **This effort cannot impact current donation programs** from GW to the community and we must not negatively impact existing community resources and programs

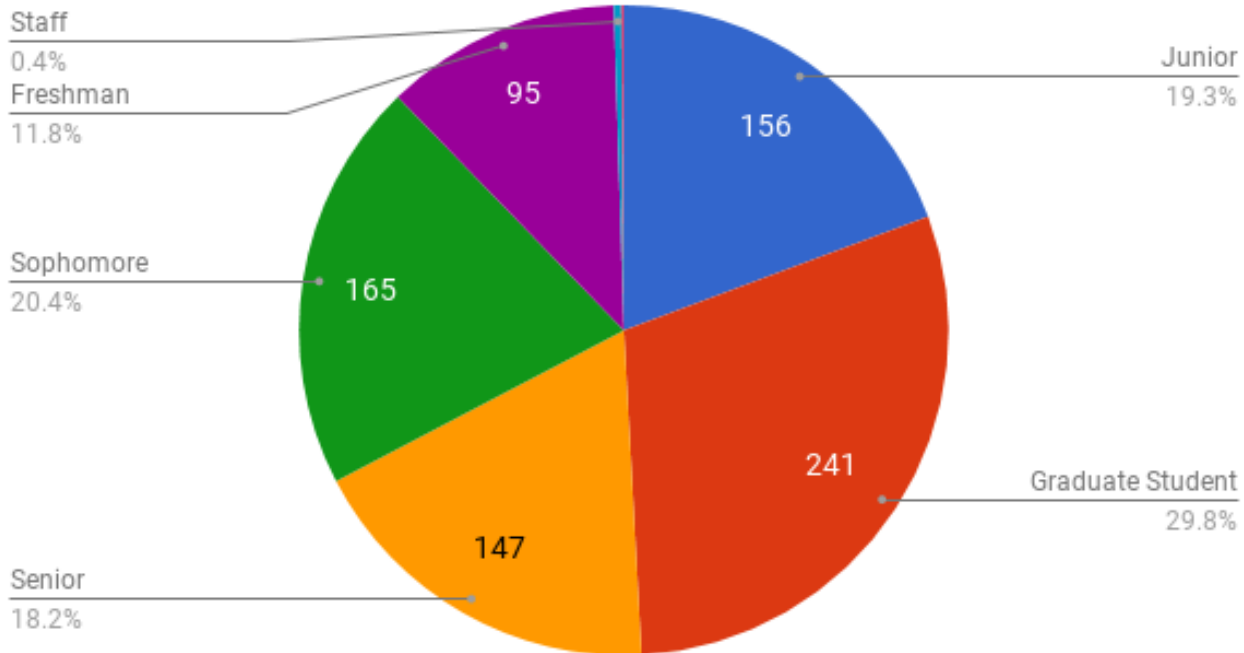
The Store: Quick Facts



- Student engagement model
- *Co-operated by staff from GW and students who've formed a student organization*
- 2016-2017
- *estimated that 250 students would use it – closed year with over 600 Shoppers*
- 2017-2018
- *academic year closed with over 800 Shoppers using the Store*
- Open every day 6am-2am
- Students are only required to disclose identities one time; given tap access with their student ID card
- Currently distributing over 26,000 pounds of food /year

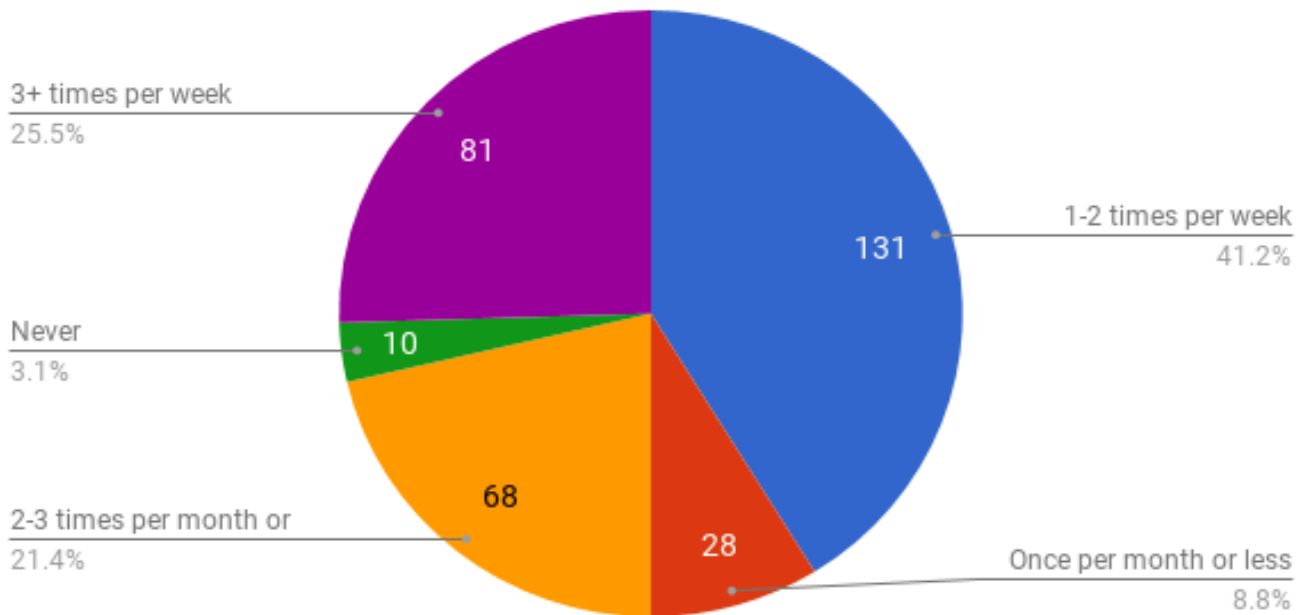
The Store Shopper Demographics 2017-18

Status



The Store Shopper Demographics 2017-18

How often do you eat less than you felt you should because there was not enough money for food?



Food Banks vs. Food Pantries

Grocery Stores and Manufacturers



Food Banks



Food Pantries

Why Campus- Based Food Pantries?

- Some students may not meet some community-based food bank requirements
- Student discomfort in seeking services off campus
- Location – limited transportation resources

Partnerships in Food Recovery



- Capitol Area Food Bank
- Panera
- Bread for Life
- Hungry Harvest
- Target
- Food Recovery Network
- Amazon/Whole Foods
- Various one-time partnerships
 - Sodexo
 - University events
- GW's Grow Garden**

Questions?



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