

Food Access Survey Report



Prepared for the
Manatee Food Policy Council
September, 2012

Health Council of West Central Florida



The health councils were created in 1983 by Florida Statute to identify, address and resolve health care issues of local concern. Each health council is a private, non-profit organization governed by a Board of Directors. The Board members are appointed by County Commissioners to represent the concerns of health care consumers, providers and purchasers.

The Health Council of West Central Florida, Inc. (HCWCF) serves Hardee, Highlands, Hillsborough, Manatee and Polk counties. The Council has extensive experience working with for-profit and non-profit agencies, public health organizations, consumers and professionals. Collaboration and cooperation are critical to the success of our mission.

We have three strategic goals: (1) influence the accessibility of health care and social support systems through *comprehensive health planning*; (2) provide *education* about essential community health challenges and solutions; and (3) participate as a collaborative partner to address current and emerging health issues to develop and sustain efficient and cost effective *service delivery* systems.

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Visit our website - www.healthcouncils.org

Or Contact Us:

Health Council of West Central Florida, Inc.

9600 Koger Blvd., Suite 221

St. Petersburg, FL 33702

727-217-7070

727-570-3033 (Fax)

Elizabeth Rugg, Executive Director

Kathey LaRoche, Business Development and Planning Director

Teresa Kelly, Special Projects Coordinator

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FOOD ACCESS SURVEY

I. BACKGROUND

The Manatee County Food Policy Council conducted a survey on food access from July 27 through August 24, 2012. The survey included questions related to hunger, ability to afford food, use of supplemental or emergency food providers, access to grocery stores or farm stands, and demographic information. The survey was based on a national survey conducted by the US Department of Agriculture, with specific modifications determined by the Food Policy Council members.

Surveys were available in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole and were available on-line and in hard copy form. Translations were provided by the Manatee County Health Department.

Food Policy Council members assisted in promoting the survey among their employees, volunteers, partner agencies and clients. Press releases were sent to major media outlets providing links to the on-line survey, and flyers were developed in all three languages and were shared throughout the County.

A total of 1,374 individuals responded to the survey.

A. Presentation of the Data

Not all respondents answered every question, and the number of responses by question is indicated in parenthesis as n= number of responses.

Data was reviewed for trends and differences between groups. In some cases there was little variation between sub-populations and all respondents, or the number of responses by group was too small to make a useful illustration.

A summary of all responses is provided by question, as are comparisons between race/ethnicity, language utilized in completing the survey, and employment status of respondents including disabled individuals.

It is important to note that this survey represents a snapshot at a point in time, and findings are specific to the respondents. Caution should be used in interpreting results over a larger population. Results can be used to identify potential issues for further study through other means such as focus groups and key informant interviews. A summary of findings provides highlights of the data presented.

B. Survey Limitations

The survey had some limitations that became apparent in the data entry phase.

Age of respondents did not include under age 18 as an option, however some respondents were under the age of 18 and have children for whom they were responsible (for example, Women, Infants and Children program participants.) For these entries no response was recorded.

Demographic questions were the most frequently skipped questions. On some hard copy forms the section may have been overlooked as it was at the end of the document, or individuals may have simply chosen not to answer any demographic questions. All forms were entered as completed and are included in the total response figures.

Some respondents may not be aware of the name of the services that they receive. For example, Question 9 lists a variety of supplemental food options, but respondents completing the survey during a WIC visit, did not list WIC as a source of food. The lack of this response may have been an error by the participant or the survey could have been completed by an individual accompanying a WIC participant who is not familiar with WIC.

A few responses may have been from other counties, specifically Sarasota. These responses were included because of frequent travel between Manatee and Sarasota clients, especially for residents living near the border of the two counties.

A few respondents wrote in answers that weren't listed as options. The most common was people filling in the job question as "full-time - husband" or "full-time - mom and housewife", which might indicate that a spouse was working. For those entries, no response was recorded, unless it was clear that the respondent did NOT have a job. In that case the response was entered it as "no job."

II. DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

Manatee County has an estimated population of 322,833 as of the 2010 census. Female, Black and Hispanic/Latino populations were over-represented among respondents when compared to the general population. Whites and Asian/Pacific Islanders were underrepresented.

A. Gender (n=1,287)

Table 1: Gender of Respondents

Response	Percent Manatee County Population	Percent of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Male	48.4	21.4	275
Female	51.6	75.5	972
Choose not to answer	n/a	3.1	40

Source: US Census, 2010 Interactive Population Search

Note: "Choose not to answer" was a response selection. An additional 87 respondents skipped the question entirely.

B. Race/ Ethnicity (n=1,286)

Table 2: Race/ Ethnicity of Respondents

Response	Percent Manatee County Population	Percent of Respondents	Number of Respondents
American Indian	0.3	0.4	6
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.7	0.8	11
Black	8.7	13.5	174
White	81.8	59.9	771
Hispanic/Latino	14.8	21.1	271
Haitian	<1	0.7	9
More than one	2.0	1.9	25
Choose not to answer	n/a	4.1	53

Source: US Census, 2010 Interactive Population Search

Note: "Choose not to answer" was a response selection. An additional 88 respondents skipped the question entirely.

C. Age (n= 1,273)

Table 3: Age of Respondents

Age Range	Percent Manatee Population	Percent of Respondents	Number of Respondents
18-24	4.8	17.2	219
25-34	9.9	25.7	327
35-44	11.5	17.2	219
45-54	25.1	15.0	191
55-64	14.0	21.1	269
65+	23.4	3.8	48

Source: American Community Survey, 2010 Age and Sex Estimates

Note: Some respondents were under 18 years of age.

D. Employment Status of Respondents (n=1,279)

Table 4: Employment Status of Respondents

Response	Percent of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Full-time	64.2%	821
Part-time only	9.5%	121
No job	23.0%	295
Disabled	1.5%	19
Retired	1.8%	23

E. Children under Age 18 in the Household

760 respondents reported having children under age 18 in their household. Percent of responses by race/ethnicity and employment status are shown in Figure 8 on page 12.

E. Zip Code of Respondents (n=1,285)

Table 5: Zip Code of Respondents

Response	Percent	Number
34201 (Bradenton)	0.5%	6
34202 (Bradenton)	2.4%	31
34203 (Bradenton)	11.7%	150
34205 (Bradenton)	11.7%	150
34207 (Bradenton)	9.4%	121
34208 (Bradenton)	12.4%	159
34209 (Bradenton)	9.4%	121
34210 (Bradenton)	3.4%	44
34211 (Bradenton)	0.7%	9
34212 (Bradenton)	3.5%	45
34215 (Cortez)	0.0%	0
34217 (Bradenton Beach)	0.6%	8
34219 (Parrish)	7.2%	93
34221 (Palmetto)	12.7%	163
34222 (Ellenton)	3.5%	45
34243 (Sarasota)	2.7%	35
34251 (Myakka City)	3.0%	38
33834 (Bowling Green)	0.0%	0
other	4.7%	60
Homeless-no zip code	0.5%	7

Respondents were predominately from the cities of Bradenton and Palmetto, but the unincorporated portions of the County were also represented in the survey with approximately 18% of respondents.

Within Bradenton, zip codes 34205 and 34207 have the two lowest median household incomes in the City and 33834 has the lowest median household income in the County. (Source: ESRI Business Solutions, 2010)

The 34215 zip code is predominately commercial. Two zip codes cross county lines, 33834(Hardee County) and 34222 (Sarasota County), with 33834 representing one of the more rural portions of the county.

III. FOOD ACCESS SURVEY RESPONSES

Each question related to food access includes total responses, responses answered in Spanish, and responses by White, Black and Hispanic race/and ethnicity. Hispanics answered the survey in both English and Spanish. Although the survey was available in Haitian Creole, only one respondent filled out the survey in that language. Other Haitian respondents used the English version of the survey. Given the small number of overall responses from Haitians, that population was not included in the charts, except as part of the total responses.

In addition, responses were filtered by respondents with children, and by employment status including disability. Retired individuals (n=23) did not report any issues with access to food so they have not been included in the tables below. It should also be noted there were only 19 respondents who referred to themselves as disabled. The data has been presented for this category as it indicates the possibility of greater food insecurity for this population.

1. In the last 12 months I/we worried that our food would run out before we got money to buy more. (n= 1,327)

Figure 1: Worried Food Would Run Out by Total Responses !

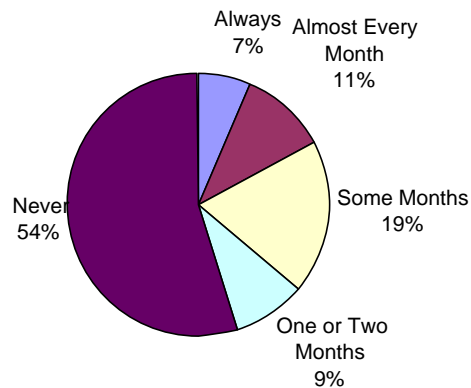


Table 6: Worried Food Would Run Out by Total Responses, Language, and Race/Ethnicity

Response	Total Responses (1,327)	Answered in Spanish (147)	White (769)	Black (174)	Hispanic (270)
Always	6.6%	17.0%	4.4%	4.6%	10.4%
Almost every month	10.7%	16.3%	9.6%	12.0%	13.3%
Some months but not every month	18.9%	33.3%	13.5%	25.9%	27.0%
One or two months	9.1%	4.8%	9.5%	9.2%	8.9%
Never	54.6%	28.6%	62.9%	47.7%	40.4%

Table 7: Worried Food Would Run Out by Those with Children and Employment Status

Response	With Children (760)	No Job (295)	Part-time Job (121)	Fulltime Job (821)	Disabled (19)
Always	6.2%	8.8%	11.7%	4.4%	15.8%
Almost every month	12.9%	14.9%	11.7%	8.4%	15.8%
Some months but not every month	22.4%	25.8%	20.8%	14.4%	31.6%
One or two months	9.3%	9.8%	9.2%	9.4%	5.3%
Never	49.2%	40.7%	46.7%	63.5%	31.6%

2. In the last 12 months how often were you hungry but not able to eat because there wasn't enough money for food? (n=1,346)

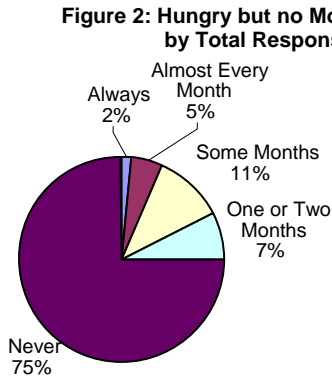


Table 8: Hungry but No Money for Food by Total Responses, Language, Race/Ethnicity

Response	Total Responses (1,346)	Answered in Spanish (141)	White (765)	Black (174)	Hispanic (264)
Always	1.7%	9.2%	0.5%	0.5%	5.3%
Almost every month	4.9%	14.9%	3.9%	5.7%	7.2%
Some months but not every month	11.2%	20.6%	8.8%	12.0%	15.2%
One or two months	7.3%	8.5%	5.9%	10.9%	8.3%
Never	74.9%	46.8%	80.9%	70.6%	64.0%

Table 9: Hungry but No Money for Food by Those with Children and Employment Status

Response	With Children (752)	No Job (294)	Part-time Job (120)	Fulltime Job (813)	Disabled (19)
Always	1.3%	2.4%	4.2%	0.9%	0.0%
Almost every month	6.0%	6.8%	5.0%	3.7%	15.8%
Some months but not every month	13.2%	15.3%	15.0%	9.0%	15.8%
One or two months	8.1%	9.9%	10.0%	5.8%	15.8%
Never	71.4%	65.6%	65.8%	80.7%	52.6%

3. In the last 12 months how often did you cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough food? (n= 1,368)

Figure 3: Cut Meal Size or Skipped Meal by Total Responses !

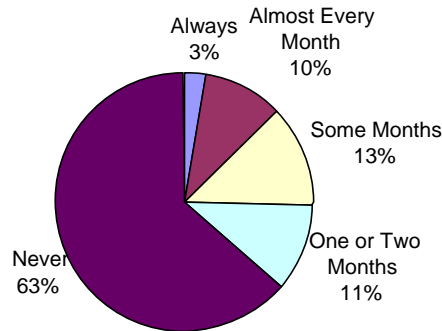


Table 10: Cut Meal Size or Skipped Meal by Total Responses, Language, Race/Ethnicity

Response	Total Responses (1,368)	Answered in Spanish (148)	White (767)	Black (174)	Hispanic (271)
Always	2.8%	6.1%	2.3%	1.1%	4.4%
Almost every month	10.4%	13.5%	6.6%	7.4%	8.1%
Some months but not every month	13.3%	23.6%	10.4%	16.1%	16.2%
One or two months	11.2%	9.5%	11.3%	12.6%	11.1%
Never	66.1%	47.3%	69.2%	62.6%	60.1%

Table 11: Cut Meal Size or Skipped Meal by Those with Children and Employment Status

Response	With Children (760)	No Job (295)	Part-time Job (120)	Fulltime Job (819)	Disabled (19)
Always	2.5%	3.1%	2.5%	2.7%	0.0%
Almost every month	6.7%	10.2%	4.2%	5.4%	21.1%
Some months but not every month	15.4%	15.6%	15.8%	11.2%	31.6%
One or two months	12.9%	13.2%	14.2%	10.9%	5.3%
Never	62.5%	58.0%	63.3%	69.8%	42.1%

4. In the last 12 months did you or anyone in your family go an entire day without eating because you could not afford food? (n= 1,365)

Figure 4: Went Entire Day without Eating by Total Responses

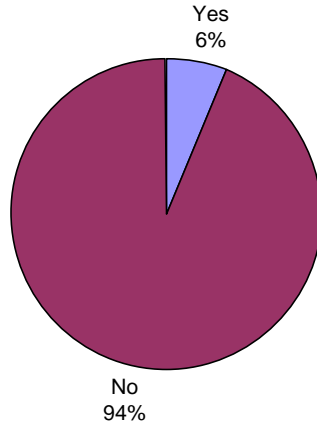


Table 12: Went Entire Day without Eating by Total Responses, Language, Race/Ethnicity

Response	Total Responses (1,365)	Answered in Spanish (147)	White (769)	Black (173)	Hispanic (270)
Yes	6.3%	8.8%	5.9%	5.8%	7.0%
No	93.7%	91.2%	94.1%	94.2%	93.0%

Table 13: Went Entire Day without Eating by Those with Children and Employment Status

Response	With Children (759)	No Job (293)	Part-time Job (120)	Fulltime Job (820)	Disabled (19)
Yes	6.3%	8.9%	5.8%	5.2%	15.8%
No	93.7%	91.1%	94.2%	94.8%	84.2%

5. Is there a store or farm stand where you can buy fresh fruits and vegetables that you can get to? (n=1,348)

Figure 5: Store or Farm stand Access by Total Responses

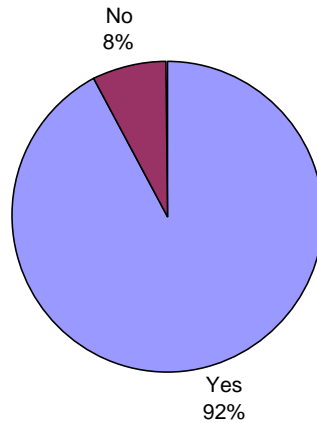


Table 14: Store or Farm Stand Access by Total Responses, Language, Race/Ethnicity

Response	Total Responses (1,348)	Answered in Spanish (140)	White (769)	Black (174)	Hispanic (265)
Yes	92.2%	87.1%	94.3%	87.9%	87.9%
No	7.8%	12.9%	5.7%	12.1%	12.1%

Table 15: Store or Farm Stand Access by Those with Children and Employment Status

Response	With Children (756)	No Job (290)	Part-time Job (120)	Fulltime Job (821)	Disabled (19)
Yes	91.0%	87.9%	89.2%	94.8%	84.2%
No	9.0%	12.1%	10.8%	5.2%	15.8%

6. Do you think it costs more to eat healthy, balanced meals? (n=1,344)

**Figure 6: Cost More to Eat Healthy Meals
By Total Responses**

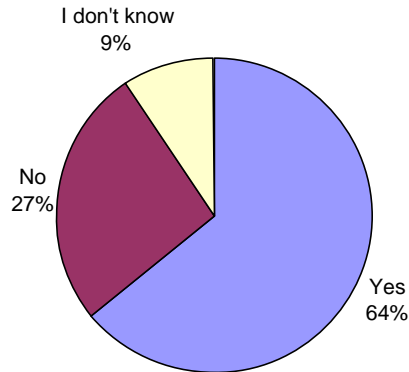


Table 16: Cost More to Eat Healthy Meals by Total Responses, Language, and Race/Ethnicity

Response	Total Responses (1,344)	Answered in Spanish (142)	White (768)	Black (171)	Hispanic (268)
Yes	64.1%	45.1%	70.4%	59.6%	48.5%
No	26.6%	33.1%	25.1%	26.9%	31.0%
Don't know	9.4%	21.8%	4.4%	13.5%	20.5%

Table 17: Cost More to Eat Healthy Meals by Those with Children and Employment Status

Response	With Children (757)	No Job (292)	Part-time Job (120)	Fulltime Job (819)	Disabled (19)
Yes	63.9%	51.0%	45.8%	72.4%	68.4%
No	23.6%	28.4%	35.0%	23.9%	26.3%
Don't know	12.4%	20.5%	19.2%	3.7%	5.3%

7. Are there children under the age of 18 in your household? (n=1,321)

Figure 7: Children in the Household by Total Responses

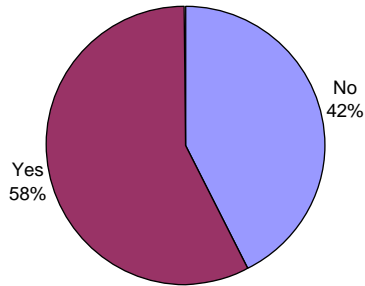
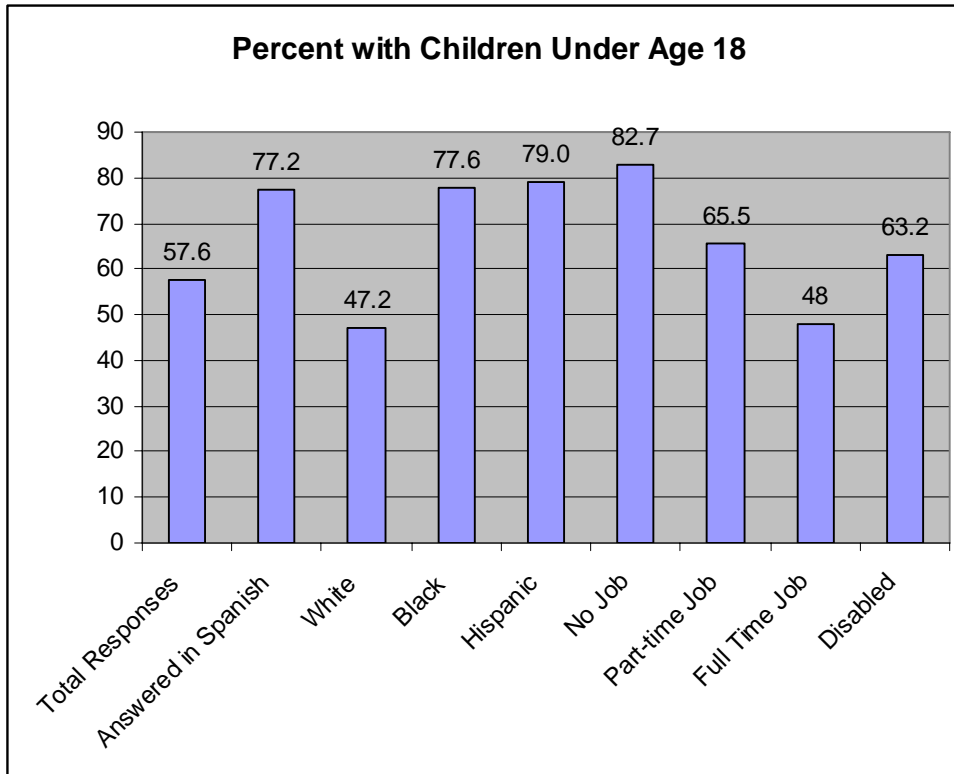


Figure 8: Percent with Children in Household by Total Responses, Language, Race/Ethnicity and Employment Status



8. If you have children did you or other adults ever eat less or not eat at all so that the children would have food? (n=747)

Figure 9: Adult Eats Less for Children to Have Food by Total Responses

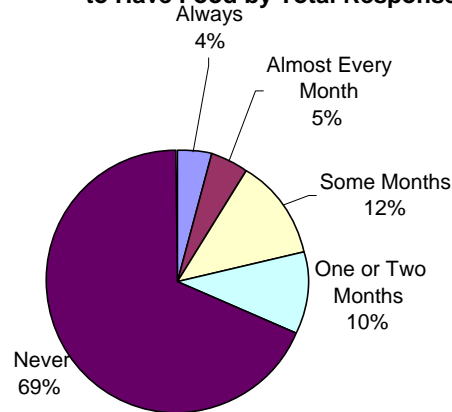


Table 18: Adult Eats Less for Children to Have Food by Total Responses, Language, and Race/Ethnicity

Response	Total Responses (747)	Answered in Spanish (95)	White (359)	Black (131)	Hispanic (197)
Always	4.3%	2.1%	5.3%	4.6%	2.0%
Almost every month	4.7%	9.5%	5.6%	5.3%	5.1%
Some months but not every month	12.5%	9.5%	13.1%	10.7%	9.6%
One or two months	10.2%	5.3%	12.3%	9.8%	7.1%
Never	68.4%	73.7%	63.8%	69.7%	76.1%

Table 19: Adult Eats Less for Children to Have Food by Employment Status

Response	No Job (239)	Part-time Job (80)	Fulltime Job (394)	Disabled (19)
Always	5.9%	2.5%	4.1%	0.0%
Almost every month	2.9%	2.5%	5.6%	25.0%
Some months but not every month	13.4%	13.8%	11.4%	16.7%
One or two months	7.5%	6.3%	13.2%	8.3%
Never	70.3%	75.0%	65.7%	50.0%

8. Have you or a family member received food from any of these sources in the past 12 months? Check all that apply. (n=1,319)

Table 20: Supplemental Food Sources Accessed by Total Responses

Response	Total Responses Percent	Total Responses Number
Food Bank	5.5%	73
WIC (Women, Infants and Children)	23.1%	305
SNAP (Food Stamps/EBT)	22.4%	296
Free or reduced price school breakfast or lunch	8.6%	114
Senior Dining	0.6%	8
Meals on Wheels	0.6%	9
Homeless Shelter	0.6%	9
Church or other group in the community	8.0%	106
Neighbors/Family	11.8%	155
None of the above	50.6%	667

Note: Respondents could pick more than one response so totals will not equal 100%.

Table 21: Supplemental Food Sources Accessed by Language and Race/Ethnicity

Response	Answered in Spanish	White	Black	Hispanic
Food Bank	5.3%	5.6%	8.9%	3.6%
WIC (Women, Infants and Children)	58.4%	12.2%	36.9%	33.6%
SNAP (Food Stamps/EBT)	10.6%	16.6%	48.8%	18.9%
Free or reduced price school breakfast or lunch	6.2%	7.0%	16.1%	8.3%
Senior Dining	0.0%	0.4%	1.8%	0.0%
Meals on Wheels	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	3.0%
Homeless Shelter	0.0%	0.8%	1.2%	3.0%
Church or other group in the community	17.7%	6.1%	13.7%	8.6%
Neighbors/Family	10.6%	13.3%	14.9%	6.9%
None of the above	26.5%	48.5%	26.2%	19.4%

Table 22: Supplemental Food Sources Accessed by Those with Children and Employment Status

Response	With Children	No Job	Part-time Job	Full time Job	Disabled
Food Bank	4.6%	6.0%	3.3%	2.8%	47.4%
WIC (Women, Infants and Children)	24.0%	30.4%	25.3%	9.7%	10.5%
SNAP (Food Stamps/EBT)	21.9%	28.4%	22.5%	9.8%	52.6%
Free or reduced price school breakfast or lunch	9.4%	0.0%	7.1%	5.8%	5.3%
Senior Dining	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%
Meals on Wheels	0.2%	0.0%	1.1%	0.7%	0.0%
Homeless Shelter	0.4%	0.6%	1.1%	0.2%	5.3%
Church or other group in the community	6.6%	8.4%	9.3%	4.4%	15.8%
Neighbors/Family	8.6%	7.4%	9.3%	9.9%	15.8%
None of the above	24.0%	10.4%	20.9%	55.9%	15.8%

10. Are you worried that you will not be able to afford food in the future?
(n=1,299)

Figure 10: Worried About Affording Food in the Future by Total Responses !

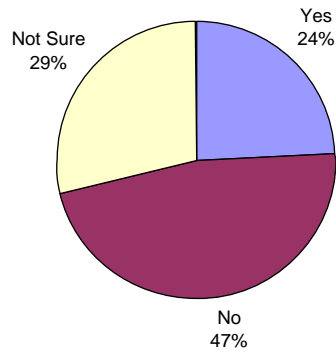


Table 23: Worried About Affording Food in the Future by Total Responses, Language and Race/Ethnicity

Response	Total Responses (1,299)	Answered in Spanish (125)	White (764)	Black (169)	Hispanic (249)
Yes	24.1%	27.2%	25.3%	17.7%	21.7%
No	47.0%	33.6%	48.0%	51.4%	40.6%
Not sure	28.9%	39.2%	26.7%	30.7%	37.8%

Table 24: Worried About Affording Food in the Future by Those with Children and Employment Status

Response	With Children (760)	No Job (292)	Part-time Job (122)	Fulltime Job (819)	Disabled (19)
Yes	24.5%	26.4%	22.1%	24.1%	26.3%
No	44.0%	42.8%	42.6%	48.5%	52.6%
Not sure	31.5%	30.8%	35.2%	27.5%	21.1%

IV. Summary of Findings

A. Manatee Survey

- When compared to other groups, whites and people with full-time jobs were less likely to be worried about running out of food before they had money to buy more. Groups most likely to worry about running out of food included Hispanics, respondents completing the survey in Spanish, the disabled, and people without jobs.
- Disabled respondents and respondents completing the survey in Spanish reported higher incidence of being hungry but not having money to buy food.
- Disabled respondents, respondents completing the survey in Spanish, and unemployed respondents reported a higher incidence of cutting the size of a meal or skipping a meal because there wasn't enough food.
- Six percent of all respondents reported going an entire day without eating because they could not afford food. Hispanics, respondents completing the survey in Spanish, and disabled respondents reported higher incidence when compared with other groups.
- Eight percent reported that there was no store or farm stand that they could get to. Highest rates were among Hispanics, respondents completing the survey in Spanish, Blacks, the unemployed and the disabled.
- Sixty-four percent (64%) felt it was more costly to eat healthy, balanced meals. Whites, those with fulltime jobs and the disabled were more likely to feel this way. An additional 27% were unsure if it was more expensive to eat healthy, balanced meals.
- "Never" was the most common response to whether a respondent reported eating less, or not at all, so that a child could eat during the last 12 months; however, all races and ethnicities reported eating less or not at all to accommodate the food needs of their children. Disabled respondents had the highest rate (50%) of adults eating less or not at all so that children could eat at least some time during the last 12 months.
- Fifty percent (50%) of respondents reported not using any supplemental or emergency food sources in the past year. Blacks, respondents completing the survey in Spanish, Hispanics, and families with children under 18, and part-time workers were more likely to report using these resources.
- WIC (Women, Infants and Children) and SNAP (food stamps) were the most commonly report resources accessed by respondents. Neighbors/family members were reported as the third most common resource used.
- Twenty-four percent (24%) of respondents worried about being able to afford food in the future; 29% were not sure they would be able to afford food in the future.

B. National Survey

At the time this report was being compiled the results from the 2011 food insecurity study by the USDA was released. Some of the findings were as follows:

- For households with incomes near or below the Federal poverty line, households with children headed by single women or single men, and Black and Hispanic households, rates of food insecurity were substantially higher than the national average. Food insecurity was more common in large cities and rural areas than in suburban areas and other outlying areas around large cities.
- Typically, households classified as having very low food security experienced the condition in 7 months of the year, for a few days in each of those months.
- The typical food-secure household spent 24% more for food than the typical food-insecure household of the same size and composition, including food purchased with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits (formerly called food stamps).
- Fifty-seven percent (57%) of food-insecure households in the survey reported that in the previous month, they had participated in one or more of the three largest Federal food and nutrition assistance programs.

Rates of food insecurity were higher than the national average for the following groups:

- All households with children (20.6%)
- Households with children under age 6 (21.9%)
- Households with children headed by a single woman (36.8%) or a single man (24.9%)
- Black, non-Hispanic households (25.1%) and Hispanic households (26.2 %)
- Low-income households with incomes below 185% of the poverty threshold (34.5%)

APPENDIX Survey Instrument

Manatee County Food Access Survey

Many people go hungry in Manatee County every month. Some people are not hungry, but cannot afford to eat a healthy diet. Please select the answer that best describes you and/or your family over the last 12 months.

1. In the last 12 months I/we worried that our food would run out before we got money to buy more.

- Always
- Almost every month
- Some months, but not every month
- Only one or two months
- Never

2. In the last 12 months how often were you hungry but not able to eat because there wasn't enough money for food?

- Always
- Almost every month
- Some months, but not every month
- Only one or two months
- Never

3. In the last 12 months how often did you cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough food?

- Always
- Almost every month
- Some months, but not every month
- Only one or two months
- Never

4. In the last 12 months did you or anyone in your family go an entire day without eating because you could not afford food?

- Yes
- No

5. Is there a store or farm stand where you can buy fresh fruits and vegetables that you can get to?

- Yes
- No

6. Do you think it costs more to eat healthy, balanced meals?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

7. Are there children under the age of 18 in your household?

- Yes
- No

8. If you have children did you or other adults ever eat less or not eat at all so that the children would have food?

- Always
- Almost every month
- Some months, but not every month
- Only one or two months
- Never

9. Have you or a family member received food from any of these sources in the past 12 months? Check all that apply.

- Food Bank
- WIC (Women, Infants and Children)
- SNAP (food stamps, EBT)
- Free or reduced price school breakfast or lunch
- Senior Dining
- Meals on Wheels
- Homeless Shelter
- Church or other group in the community
- Neighbors/Family
- None of the above

10. Are you worried that you will not be able to afford food in the future?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

11. Do you have a job?

- Full-time
- Part-time only
- No job
- Disabled
- Retired

12. What is your zip code? _____

- Homeless/none

13. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Choose not to answer

14. What is your race/ethnicity?

- American Indian
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Black
- White
- Hispanic/Latino
- Haitian
- More than one
- Choose not to answer

15. What is your age?

- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+

Thank you

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Manatee County Food Policy Council consists of stakeholders from diverse food-related sectors and exists to examine the local food system and identify ideas and recommendations for improvement through changes in policy.

The Health Council of West Central Florida and our implementing partner, the Manatee County Health Department, invite interested parties to participate in the Council's activities. Stakeholders may include:

- Processors
- Distributors
- Retailers
- Health Providers
- Consumers
- Education
- Restaurants
- Institutional Food Services
- Hunger Prevention Advocates
- County/City/State Government
- Growers/Ranchers/Commercial Fishing
- Agriculture and Natural Resources

MEMBERS

Walt Anderson -Sysco, Inc.

Jody Baden - New Medicine Community at Health Park East

Dr. Jennifer Bencie - Manatee County Health Department

Chef Garry Colpitts C.E.C. - Manatee Technical Institute Culinary Arts Program

Dr. Marina D'Abreau - University of Florida IFAS Extension

Lilian Elliot - PepsiCo

Dr. Tom Felke - Florida Gulf Coast University Department of Social Work

Sandra Ford - Food and Nutrition Services, Manatee County Schools

Tim Henning - District Manager, Publix

Shelby King - King Family Farm and Market

Megan Jourdan - Manatee County Health Department

Steve Lezman - Government Affairs Manager, PepsiCo

Mary Murray -The Fresh Market

Marissa Sheldon - Manatee County Health Department

Blane Turpin - Meals on Wheels Plus

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Marissa Sheldon, Manatee County Health Department