

2014 Student Food Insecurity Assessment Highlights

- Survey sent out in August 2014 to 19,555 PSU students who attended PSU at some point in the 2013-2014 academic year.
- 4,235 respondents for a 22% response rate.
- The majority of respondents were:
 - Female
 - Seniors
 - enrolled full-time
 - Caucasian
 - single
 - without dependents
 - domestic students
 - employed w/one job
 - earning less than \$10,000 in the last academic year
- 41% of respondents said that, over the last academic year, they had enough food to eat, but not always the kinds of food they wanted.
- 18% of respondents stated they sometimes did not have enough food to eat.
- 40% of respondents said they had enough of the kinds of food they wanted to eat.
- 59% of respondents stated that in the last academic year they sometimes or often were unable to consistently access (either by purchase or through charitable giving) sufficient quantities or quality of food and could not eat balanced meals (the USDA definition of being food insecure). Therefore, it can be determined 59% of respondents experienced food insecurity over the last academic year.
- PSU students report employing the following strategies to deal with aspects of food insecurity experienced over the last academic year:
 - Cut the size of their meals or skipping
 - Ate less than wanted (not satiated)
 - Withheld eating for an entire day at least once a month or more
 - Utilized other resources
- Majority of students who endorsed experiencing some food insecurity in the last academic year also report receiving SNAP benefits. However, an equal number of respondents indicate that did not apply for or access any services.
- Student's two highest concerns when accessing emergency food services are the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables and stigma.
- Students who endorsed experiencing some food insecurity in the last academic year experienced some disruption to academics and their personal relationships, as well as stress.
- The majority of student respondents did not know we have a food pantry on campus

Source: Cole, J. (2014). 2014 Portland State University Student Food Insecurity Assessment. (Unpublished Master's thesis). Mark O. Hatfield School, College of Urban and Public Affairs, Portland, State University; Portland, Oregon.