

COVID Command Center (CCC) Food Coordination Group

FOOD SUPPORT GAPS ANALYSIS | HIGH NEED POPULATIONS AND SYSTEMS LEVEL
GAPS

JANUARY 6TH 2020

Phase II of Food Support Gaps Analysis

- **Purpose**

- Inform ongoing COVID-19 situational awareness
- Demonstrate increasing food insecurity that has worsened during the pandemic
- Inform after action reports and future disaster response efforts
- Offer recommendations intended to improve coordination

- **Gaps Analysis Reports Completed to Date**

- Home Delivered Food Analysis (July, 2020)
- Site Based Gaps Analysis (August, 2020)
- High Need Populations and System Level Gaps (December, 2020)

Research Approach and Methods

- **Qualitative**

- Thematic coding of 10 interviews conducted with leadership from both large scale and small scale food distribution efforts across San Francisco
- Data collection at Human Rights Commission Community Round Table, community workgroups, Food Security Task Force, Food Coordination Group Task Force

- **Quantitative**

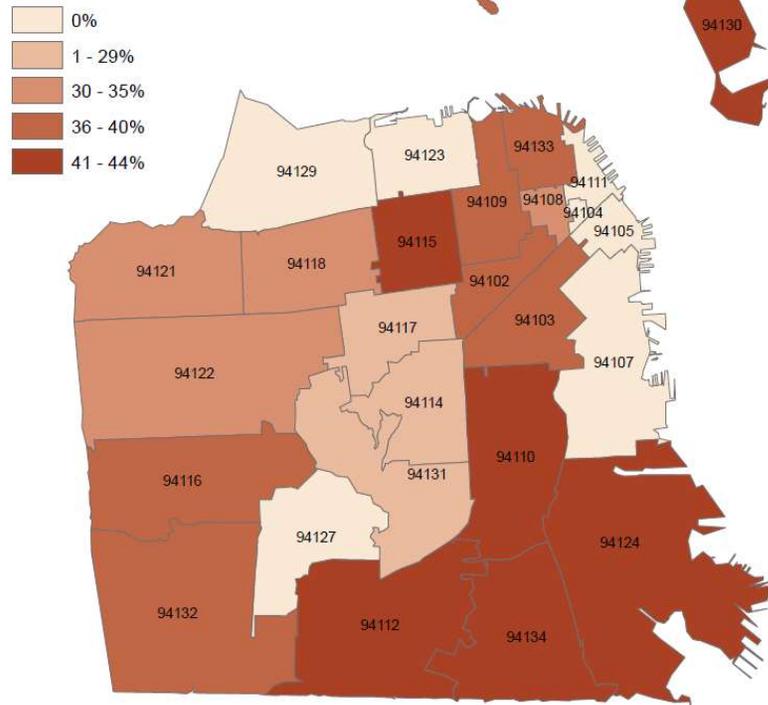
- San Francisco Human Services Agency (SF-HSA) Post Shelter-in-Place Client Survey (N=10,095 clients)
- Food distribution data obtained directly from partner organizations

COVID-19 and Food Insecurity

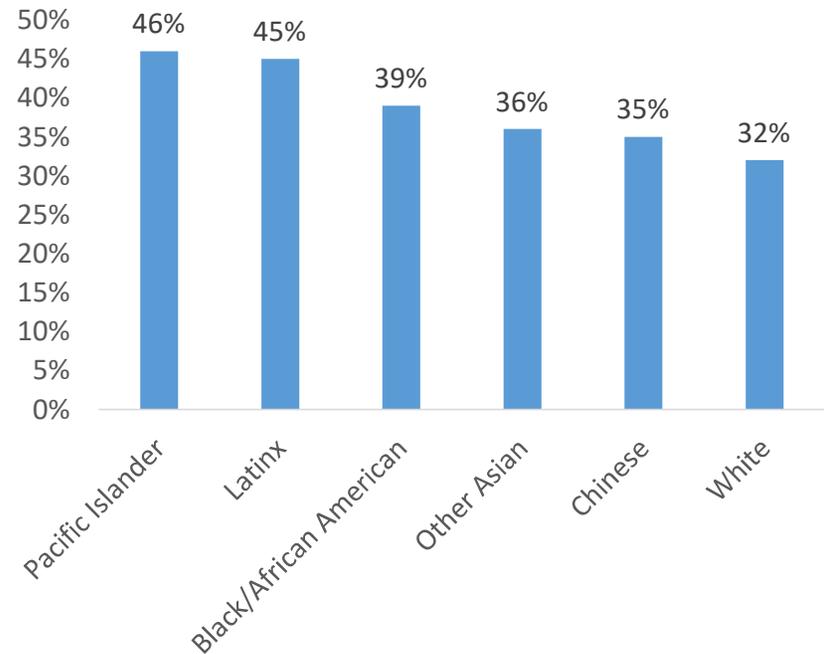
- COVID-19 and Factors Contributing to Increased Food Insecurity
 - High rates of unemployment, loss of income, physical school closures, and concerns related to COVID-19 exposure all contribute to rising food insecurity
- Dramatic Increase in Food Insecurity Locally and Nationally
 - Food insecurity has more than doubled overall, and tripled among households with children under age 18 (Schanzenbach and Pitts, 2020)
 - The number of Spanish Speaking Latinx families who are food insecure has more than doubled since the pandemic began (Wojcicki et al. 2020)
 - Of San Francisco Human Services Agency Clients surveyed 29% indicated support with food was their most pressing need post shelter-in-place

Demographics of Food Insecure Populations

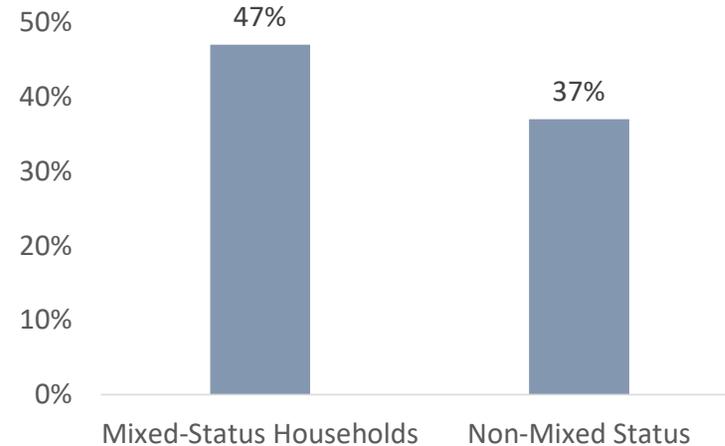
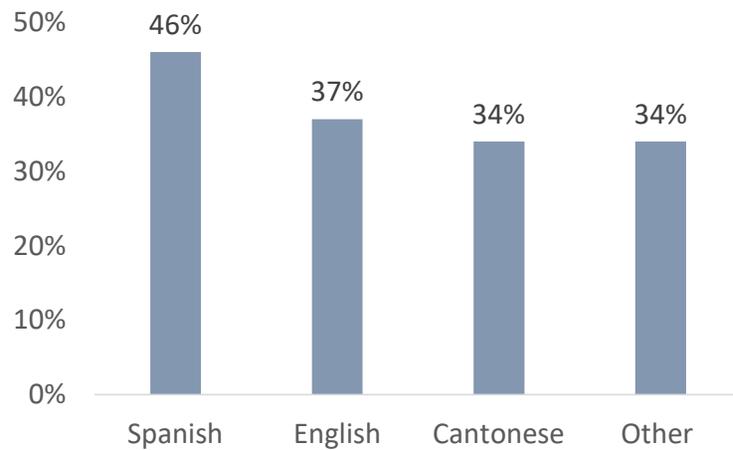
Clients Needing Food Support by Zip Code



Percent of Clients Indicating a Need for Food Support by Race/Ethnicity (N=7,328)



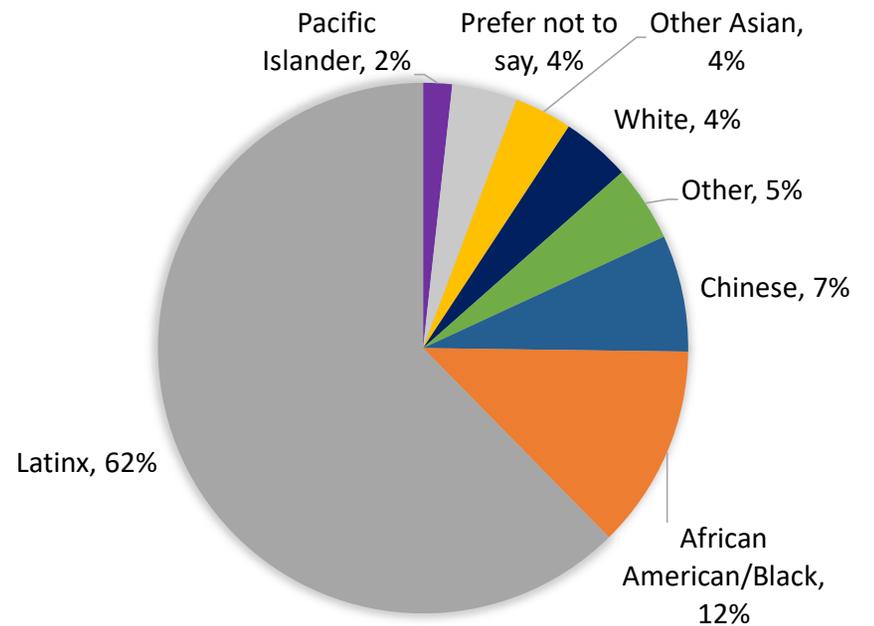
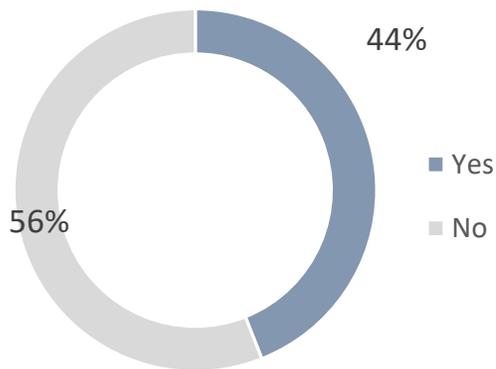
Need for Food Support by Primary Language and Immigration Status



“Undocumented residents or immigrants trying to obtain citizenship are especially vulnerable because they often won’t stand in line for food for themselves or their families, due to the perceived threat of Immigrations Customs Enforcement, or the fear that data collected on them by the program may impact their immigration status. Though most programs don’t collect that type of information, there is still a tremendous fear in the immigrant community that prevents them from seeking services”. - Food Distribution Program Director

Increasing Need for Food Support Among Families

Forty-four percent of clients with a child in the home indicated a need for food support as compared to 35% of households without a child



African American/Black & Latinx Seniors

- Nationally, African American/Black and Latinx seniors are over twice as likely to be food insecure as other seniors (Gunderson and Ziliak, 2020).
- *“The hilly topography of this city and reduced bus service has made it increasingly difficult for our seniors to access food at our sites. This was our primary method for serving meals to seniors that meet their nutritional needs. Because we didn’t want to put our seniors at risk of exposure to COVID-19, we had to move to a food delivery model, which is much more labor intensive, and this is at a time when we have declining staff capacity due to many of our volunteers returning to work or school”. - Senior Focused Food Program Executive Director*

The Food Support Landscape and Grassroots Feeding Efforts

- *“Some communities are less inclined to stand in line for food even if they are starving, because they feel like there is a loss of dignity in doing so, or feel the programs just aren’t for them. Also, there is a lack of trust among many groups for good historical reasons, and I think the smaller neighborhood programs often do a better job of establishing trust and providing culturally appropriate food to folks who wouldn’t otherwise seek food support”. - Family Focused Food Program Operator*
- *“What became crystal clear to me during this response, is that we need to be able to support grassroots neighborhood level efforts who have so few resources.” - Large Scale Food Program Director*
- *“I think we need to find the organizations in the community who are trusted so that we can partner with them. When we have long lines we have had icky racial tension going on, I think we need to work with trusted neighborhood groups to ensure people who need food can go to places where they feel comfortable getting it”. - Large Scale Food Program Director*

Increasing Need for Food Support and Strained Capacity

- *“Non-profit workers are burnt out and many are leaving because they simply can’t do it anymore. Their heart is in the right place, but they and their families are struggling too. I’m concerned it could cause a growing number of operations shut down and that would create more gaps”.* - Neighborhood Based Food Program Director

Recommendations

- **Support programs that serve African American/Black, Pacific Islander, and Latinx communities**
- **Consider innovative approaches to support immigrant communities in need of food support**
- **Help prepare and support organizations addressing food insecurity among families**
- **Address food insecurity among African American/Black and Latinx seniors**
- **Develop strategies that support greater coordination between large and small scale food distribution programs**
- **Maintain ongoing awareness of staff and volunteer capacity at organizations working on food security**