

CROSS-CAMPUS FOOD ACCESS COALITION

2022 FOOD ACCESS SURVEY FINDINGS

Food insecurity is a significant issue for students at private colleges in the Twin Cities



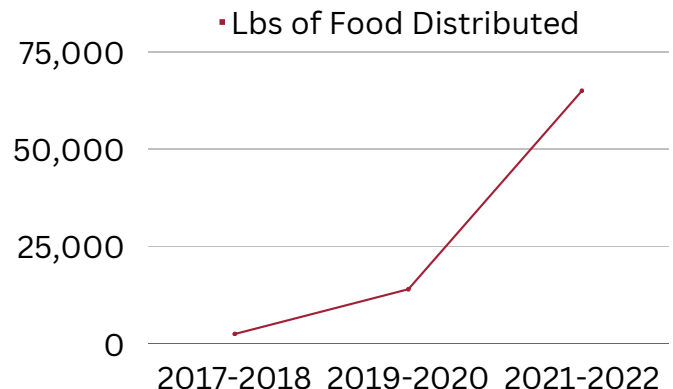
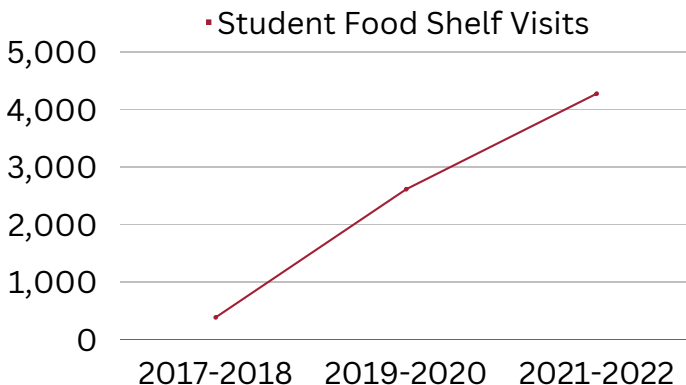
Spring of 2022 the Hamline Food Justice Research Team expanded their yearly Food Access Survey (FAS) to include Augsburg and St. Kate's as part of a National Institute for Food and Agriculture Community Planning Grant. For 6 years the Hamline FAS demonstrated food insecurity is a serious concern for students and is not just an issue facing students at 2 and 4 year state institutions. The results from our 2022 cross-campus FAS confirmed what our community engaged practices on each campuses know to be true: **Food insecurity is a concern at all universities. Advocacy and resources are needed for students at private universities, too.**

39% of students surveyed at our colleges are food insecure.

Students with marginalized identities are at increased risk for food insecurity.

- LGBTQIA+ students are 24% more likely to experience food insecurity
- BIPOC students are 21% more likely to experience food insecurity
- Pell Grant recipients are 51% more likely to experience food insecurity

The food shelves at all three campuses have all seen significant increase in use since opening and especially in the last few years. Below are data gathered from Augsburg's Student Food Shelf:



STUDENT VOICES

FROM THE 2022 CROSS-CAMPUS FOOD ACCESS SURVEY:



"Food insecurity is the worst. For my 4 years of college my family has dealt with financial burdens such as immigration/deportation finances, utility bills, rent, two funerals in Mexico, I also suffered a car accident which took all my savings for tuition and therefore I had to ask for school loans. I often ask myself **why it is so hard for a first generation student?** Why do we have to debate if we have to pay bills or food? I really wish that there was more support for first generation students on how to handle money, and how to ask for help. **Not having healthy food throughout my day** and living off of hot-cheetos and takis has probably been my go-to because it's affordable and has saved me time."

"Just with the recent rise of food prices I have been cutting back on purchases and **feeling pressure to work** more which **takes away from time dedicated to school.**"

"Housing is such a pressing issue that I feel guilty spending more money on healthy food if I can't guarantee I'll eat it all or can afford utilities."

"The food in the food pantry at school often isn't enough and I run out of food quick and it's mostly unhealthy unbalanced meals due to such few ingredients."

"I donated plasma to get money for food and rent while I was jobless."

"...I currently work full time trying to make ends meet to pay for my rent, and **I never have the luxury of having money leftover for food each month.**"

"I am usually the one to skip meals. I prioritize my brothers over me. My eldest brother usually is able to get some food here and there ... Instant noodles are a lifesaver and always will be."

"I will sometimes sneak into the cafeteria and eat a meal without paying if the person working is kind and understanding enough to turn a blind eye."

"The stress and lack of access to healthy food, skipping meals has had an important impact in my mental health, especially during winter in MN, my depression has gotten worse and I have limited access to counseling."

"Since starting university, I've had to go onto both anti-depressants and anti-anxiety meds because the struggle of paying for groceries, gas, insurance, shampoo, toilet paper, toothpaste ... has made life very difficult for me ... **I didn't think that I would have to go hungry some nights** or be worried where I'll live over the summer."

CFAC (Cross-Campus Food Access Coalition)

is a team of students, faculty, and staff from Augsburg, Hamline, and St. Kate's/CSJ using a justice and equity framework to address food insecurity on our campuses.

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