

PORTRAIT OF A FOOD PANTRY VISITOR

DATA DEMOGRAPHICS AND
DISPARITIES REPORT

FY2024 | July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024



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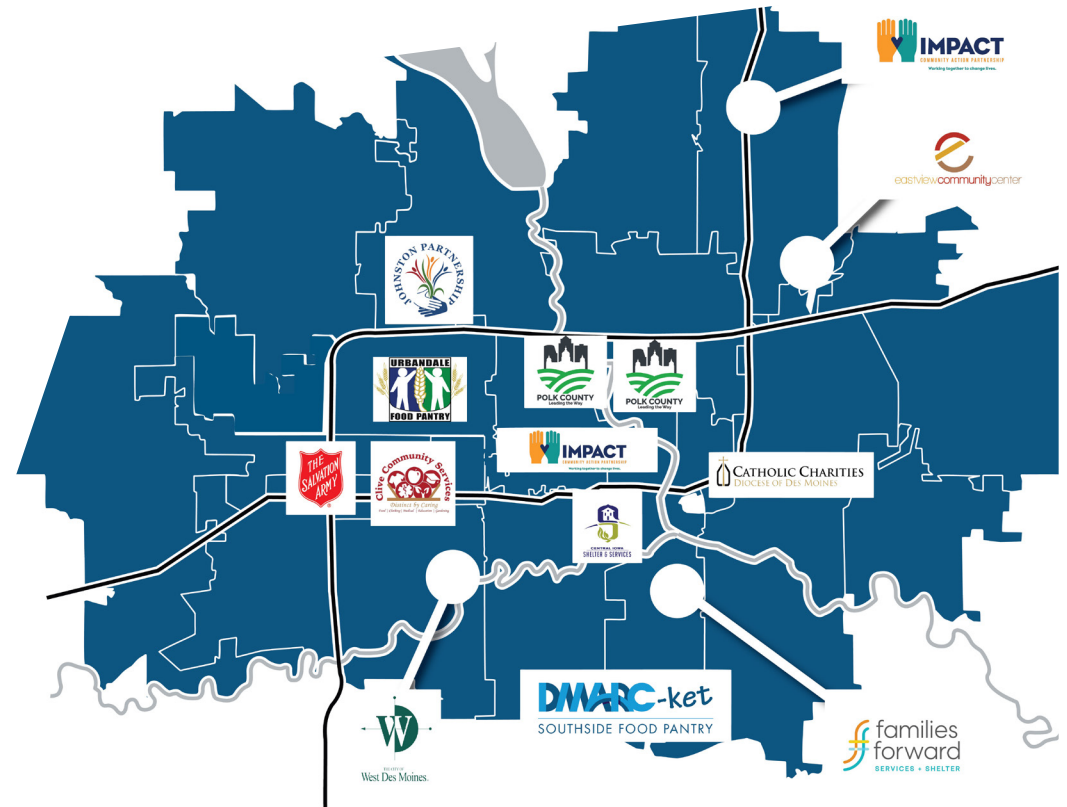
Land acknowledgment: We acknowledge that we are located on the ancestral land and territories of the Báxoje (bah-kho-dzhe) or Ioway, Sauk (Sac), and Meskwaki (Fox) Peoples. This land was taken by force and coercion of white colonizers and the government of the United States. We wish to pay respect to elders of the past, the over 1,000 Native Americans currently residing in our community, and future generations.

DMARC

FOOD PANTRY NETWORK

The Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) Food Pantry Network consists of 14 brick and mortar food pantries, numerous mobile food pantry locations, and a no-contact home delivery program.

The DMARC Food Pantry Network was founded in 1976. DMARC provides a nutritious 3-day supply of food once per calendar month, with additional items available on a daily basis.



DMARC operates a shared intake system and database. Food pantry visitors are asked a series of 12-14 questions about their household to help us understand the specific needs of the community.

This data is shared through a data visualization dashboard. Data is anonymized to protect the identities of the people we assist. In addition to using this data to educate the public, funders, and elected officials about the realities of hunger and food insecurity, DMARC also uses this data in a number of reports, including this one.

A LETTER FROM THE CEO



We are often asked what a “typical” visitor to a food pantry looks like. We assist people of all races, genders, ages, incomes, and education. This report aims to highlight the stark disparities that exist in every part of Greater Des Moines among people who use food pantries.

These disparities are the direct result of historical policies rooted in racism, sexism, and classism. They are not happenstance.

With this report, we hope to collaborate with other nonprofit organizations where there is shared mission and goal. We hope to create road maps that address barriers to receiving assistance in a different and more targeted way. We hope to improve our own services and shed light on the bad faith arguments we hear so often that aren’t based in fact. And most importantly, we hope to show the community the situations those in need of food assistance are really facing, with real data that we can back up with personal stories from many of those with and for whom we work.

If, in reading this, you see something that sparks your interest or inspires an idea.... let’s talk! Hopefully, in a year from now, we can look back on progress we made together after taking action today.

Matt Unger
Chief Executive Officer, DMARC

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Unger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

DATA COLLECTION

The DMARC Food Pantry Network operates a shared intake system and database. Food pantry visitors are asked a series of 12-14 questions about their household to help us understand the specific needs of our community.

So how are we collecting data in the least intrusive and most responsible way?

The process will look the same at every DMARC network food pantry. The first time you come, in addition to general contact information for the household, we ask five or six questions about your education, income, employment status, health & allergies, and whether you are a veteran. Other than household size, the answers to these questions **do not impact if or how much food someone can receive.**

No visitor has to answer any question they aren't comfortable answering and they will still get the same visit as any other household their size.

Coupled with demographic information—as this report will show—we can begin to see some patterns across different geographic areas and other key demographics. At subsequent visits, those doing intake will just quickly verify that none of their information has changed. While the questions are definitely different, the process is not too dissimilar than your first visit when getting a membership to a place like Sam's Club or Costco.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We are often asked what a “typical” visitor to a food pantry looks like. In truth, We assist people of all races, genders, ages, incomes, and educational attainment. While the number of individuals we are assisting now continues to grow, the answer to this questions remains largely the same. But if we look at the most common responses to the intake questions, we can say the most likely person to visit a food pantry is:

A White - Not Hispanic woman who graduated high school, has one child, is living below the poverty line, does not receive SNAP benefits, is in and out of employment, and only visits a food pantry once per year.

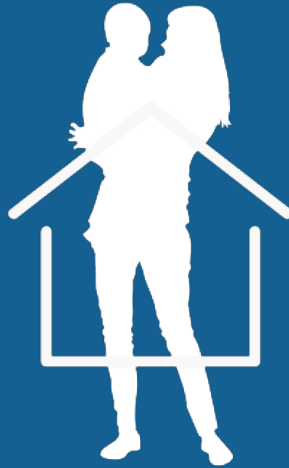
While half of everyone assisted by the DMARC Food Pantry Network is White - Not Hispanic, you will see that stark racial disparities exist in every part of our community. These inequities are not unintentional, but are by design as specific federal, state and local policies were created to advantage and disadvantage various populations in our society. **As the DMARC Food Pantry Network saw a 18 percent increase in the number of individuals assisted in FY24, many of the trends seen in previous reports remained and expanded** - With a huge increase in the number of individuals utilizing a DMARC Food Pantry for the first time .

Previous versions of this report have focused on providing an in-depth breakdown of examined racial disparities through the lense of each demographic and racial group. All the data used in this report is from DMARC’s fiscal year 2024 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024) where our food pantry network saw a record level of individuals assisted. While most of the disparities examined in previous reports remain consistent with the previous report, this version aims to break down and highlight those observed disparities with a special emphasis on those who have utilized this assistance for the first time in the past 12 months. This group is making up 1 in 3 pantry visitors during this time. Most of the observed disparities amongst new visitors echo the disparities observed across several version of this report - if not being more pronounced. However, some key demographic and patterns in pantry usage seem to suggest a greater need for low barrier options in light of the ‘new normal’ being faced around the cost of living.

It is our hope that with each version of the report we will inform the public and policy makers about these disparities, why they exist, and potential ways we can remedy them in our community, as it is critical to understand the ways in which previous inequitable policies influence, and often negatively impact, people’s current realities today. If while reading this you are inspired to want to take action, please do not hesitate to reach out about partnering on finding solutions.

"TYPICAL" VISITOR TO A FOOD PANTRY

While there is no such thing as a "typical" food pantry visitor, these are the demographic trends that are most common throughout the individuals assisted by the DMARC Food Pantry Network.



**A White - Not Hispanic woman
who graduated high school,
does not receive SNAP benefits,
has at least one child,
is living below the poverty line,
...and only visits a food pantry
once per year.**

MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS:

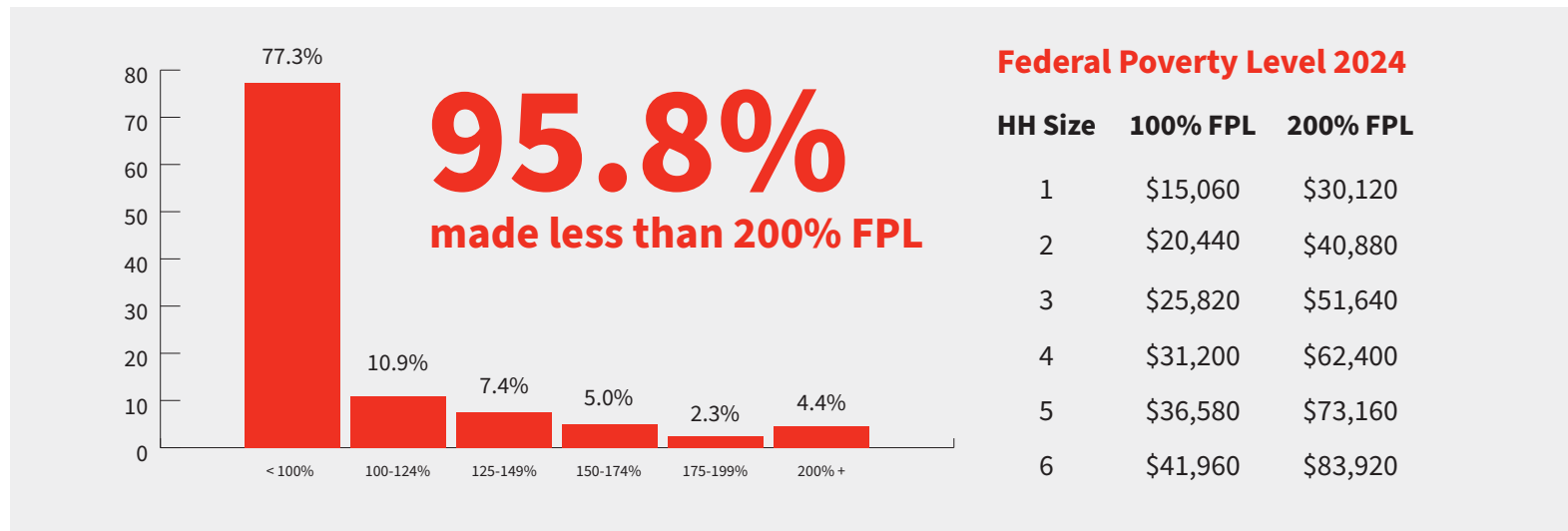
What does this mean...

- **40%** of all pantry visitors are white - non-hispanic and 53% of visitors assisted are women.
- **36%** of all individuals assisted were enrolled in SNAP (formerly food stamps) at some point.
- **46.3%** of all individuals assisted only utilized a food pantry 1-2 times/year.
- **57%** of adults (25 and up) assisted highest level of educational attainment held is a HS degree, HS & some college, HSED, or GED.

KEY FINDINGS

The ending of the pandemic declaration in the state of iowa was the beginning of an unprecedented rise in food insecurity in the state. While the number of people receiving food assistance from DMARC and beyond continues to reach record levels, many of the demographic disparities observed previously remain consistent, or in many cases, are more pronounced with the increased need.

Household income as a percentage of federal poverty level



Nearly 3 out of 4 food pantry visitors live below the federal poverty line.

White - Not Hispanic people who used a food pantry had higher incomes compared to other racial groups. This, too, illustrates the different financial realities between White - Not Hispanic people and people of color in Greater Des Moines. New pantry visitors were even more likely to live at or below the poverty line.

Race & Ethnicity

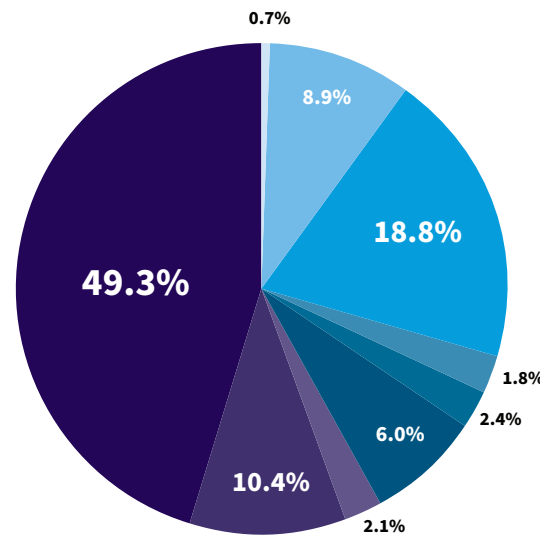
Racial disparities among food pantry visitors exist in all communities across Greater Des Moines, but are especially pronounced in suburban communities AND GROWING.

In some cities, certain racial groups are more than ten times as likely to use a food pantry compared with the general population (see *cities - starting pg. 36*). This points to significantly different financial realities between White - Not Hispanic people and people of color within suburban communities. Much of this reality can be traced back decades. Redlining policies of the 1930's shaped our neighborhoods and prevented people who were not white from building wealth through homeownership.

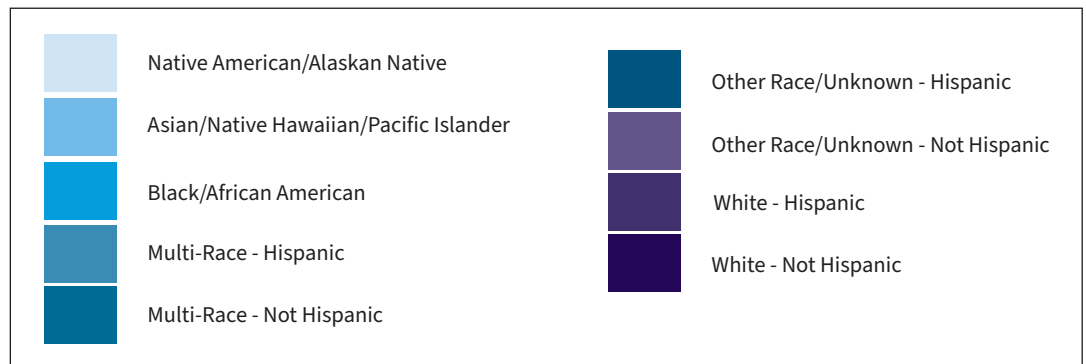
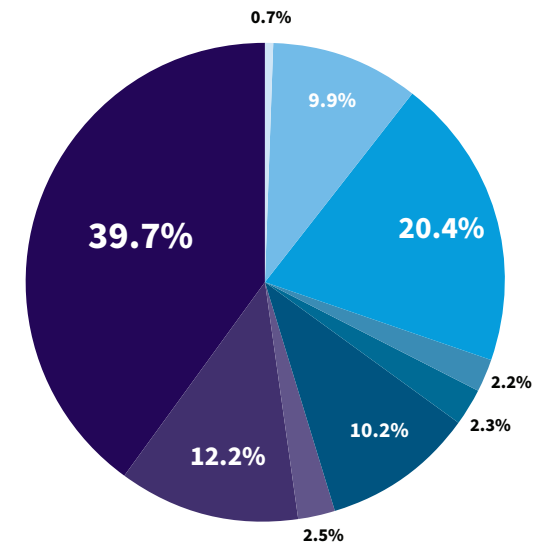
The same neighborhoods that were disengaged through racist policies nearly 100 years ago are still some of the areas of greatest need today. However, some disparities are more pronounced today based on new barriers to access.

The percent of white - not hispanic individuals decreased from 49.3% in FY23 to 39.7% and this shift is even more dramatic amongst those utilizing a pantry for the first time (32% new white - nonhispanic). However, the distribution amongst race in all categories continues to mirror the overall trends observed since the inception of this report.

FY2023 - 59,884 unique individuals assisted



FY2024 - 70,730 unique individuals assisted

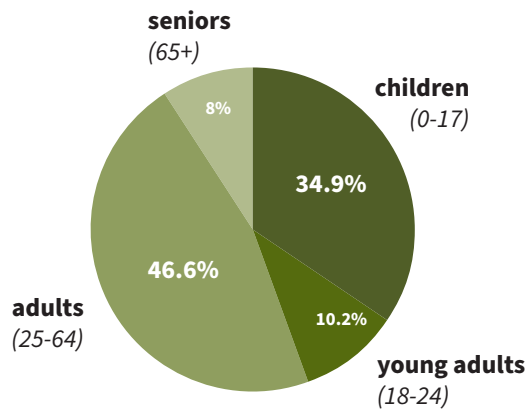


Childhood poverty remains a major concern as the number of children being assisted only continues to climb.

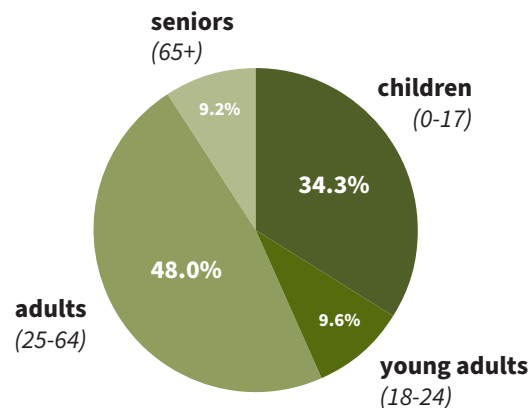
More than 1 in 3 people utilizing the DMARC Food Pantry Network are under the age of 18 (children) - including 38% of all new pantry visitors. In FY2022, 14,574 children were being assisted by the DMARC Food Pantry Network. In FY2023, that number grew to 20,529 children.

A record **24,664 children** were assisted in FY24, a trend that has been growing nationwide since the expiration of the Expanded Child Tax Credit in 2022 and has only expanded by a lack of action on federal nutrition programs like summer EBT in Iowa.

Age - FY2024



Age - FY2023



Nationwide disparities for households with children

The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) report released by the U.S. Census Bureau notes that nationwide 1 in 7 children (9.9 million) lived in poverty in 2023, 1 million more than in 2022.

Poverty was notably higher in 2023 for Black individuals (18.5 percent), Latinx individuals (20.9 percent), and Native American and Alaska Native individuals (19 percent) compared to White, non-Hispanic individuals, whose poverty rate fell to 8.8 percent.

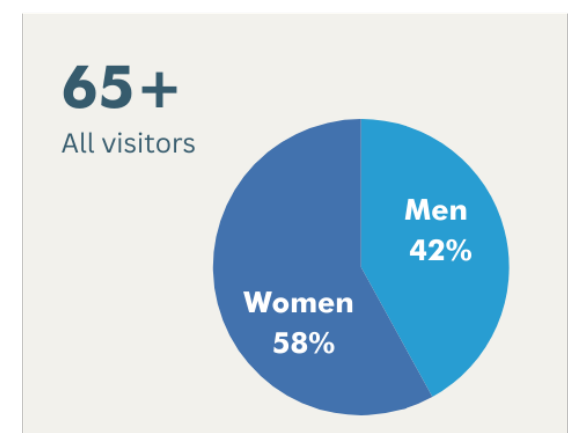
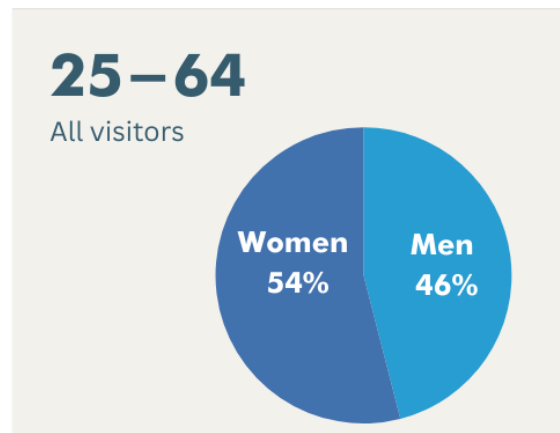
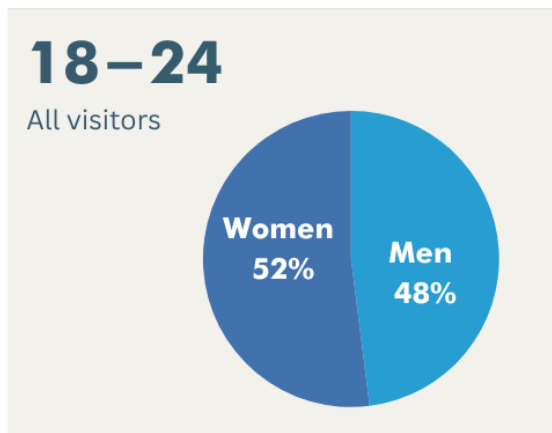
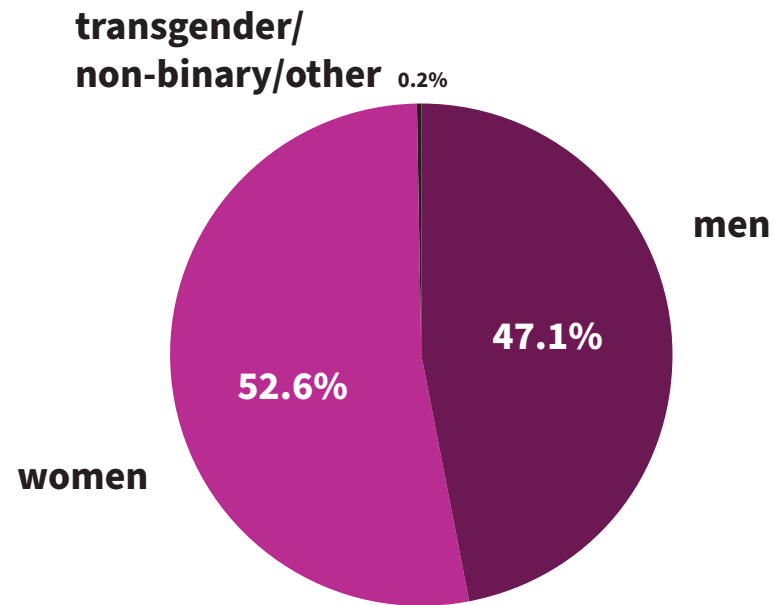
The latest Household Food Security report released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service confirms these trends through the lens of food insecurity.

- 13.8 million children lived in households that experienced food insecurity, up 3.2 percent from 2022
- Rates of food insecurity were higher for Black (23.3 percent) and Latinx (21.9 percent) households, both more than double the rate of White non-Latinx households (9.9 percent).
- 34.7 percent of single-parent households headed by women experienced food insecurity.

Women are more likely to use a food pantry than men. The Divide only increases with age.

Gender

Across nearly every category, women are more likely to use a food pantry than men. There is no gender disparity among children. The level of disparity increases with age, from a gap of 5 percentage points among young adults to a 16 point gap among seniors. This points to financial disparities between men and women, and suggests a greater reluctance for asking for help from men. However, this is not a consistent trend amongst new pantry visitors.



It's not just hunger...

According to Feeding America's nationally representative 2024 Elevating Voices: Insights Report, people facing hunger shared that rising food costs (81%), having a low income or no income (66%), and the high cost of rent or buying a home (63%) ranked as the top issues they say are the main drivers of food insecurity in the U.S.



Cost of living crisis

According to a Polk County Gap Analysis published by Homeward, the gap of assessable and affordable units is 11,250 units in Polk County. **46%** of Des Moines Metro renters are rent burdened.

According to Common Good Iowa, **1 in 6 Iowa Families** with at least one full-time worker, about 18%, earn too little to meet even a bare bones household budget on what they earn.

According to the USDA Consumer Price Index, **food prices rose by 25 percent** from 2019 to 2023. In 2022, food prices increased faster than any year since 1979, partly due to a highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak that affected egg and poultry prices and the conflict in Ukraine

Why doesn't DMARC doesn't restrict food based on income?

2022: Basic living expenses (housing, transportation, healthcare, food, child care, etc.) cost \$25,572 for a single person. For a family of 4, that cost was \$73,548.

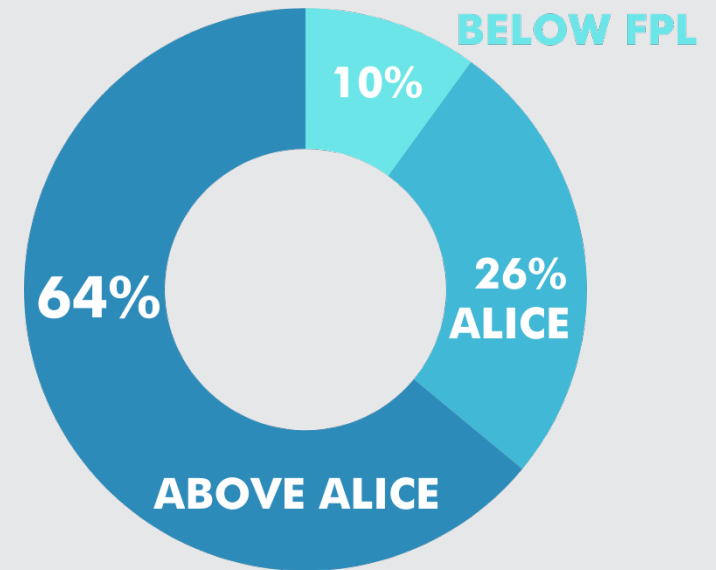
That means...

Full time Hourly wage needed:

- Single Person \$15.02
- Family of 2 adults and 2 kids \$36.23
- Of the 20 most common jobs in Iowa, 70% paid less than \$20/hr.

But to qualify for Federal Food Assistance (SNAP) in Iowa cannot make more than 160% Federal Poverty Level...while a survival wage was closer to 230% FPL. **There are many Iowans that don't make enough to get by, but still too much to qualify for help.**

Data compiled based on United Way Report - 2024 ALICE in the Crosscurrents: An Update on Financial Hardship in Iowa



Of the 207,290 households in Polk County in 2022...

10% earned below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

26% were ALICE, in households that earned above the FPL but not enough to afford the basics in Polk County

Together, 36% of households in Polk County were below the ALICE Threshold

Who is coming to a food pantry this year for the first time?

1 in 3 individuals utilizing the DMARC Food Pantry Network in FY24 had not previously utilized a DMARC Food Pantry. *While there is no such thing as a “typical” new pantry visitor, these are the demographic trends that are unique to new visitors this year compared to all food pantry visitors:*

Younger than all pantry visitors

Have a smaller household size

Are just as likely to be a man as a women

More likely to be hispanic

More likely to be living at/below the Federal Poverty Line

Less likely to utilize SNAP



Compared to everyone who utilized a DMARC food pantry, New pantry visitors are ...

- **are younger** - **50%** of new visitors were under 25 compared to **45%** overall.
- **have younger children** - 18.4% of new pantry visitors were in pre-k or younger.
- **Have smaller households** - average household size - 2 people compared to 2.5 people overall.
- **34%** of new pantry visitors are hispanic compared to **25%** overall.
- **22.7%** of all new pantry visitors live in Des Moines.

younger individuals

excluding white -non hispanic visitors, more than 40% of nearly every racial/demographic group receiving support from the DMARC Food Pantry for the first time were children.

This is even more pronounced among households with multi-racial children (70% of multi-race - Non-Hispanic).

KEY FINDINGS: NEW PANTRY VISITOR

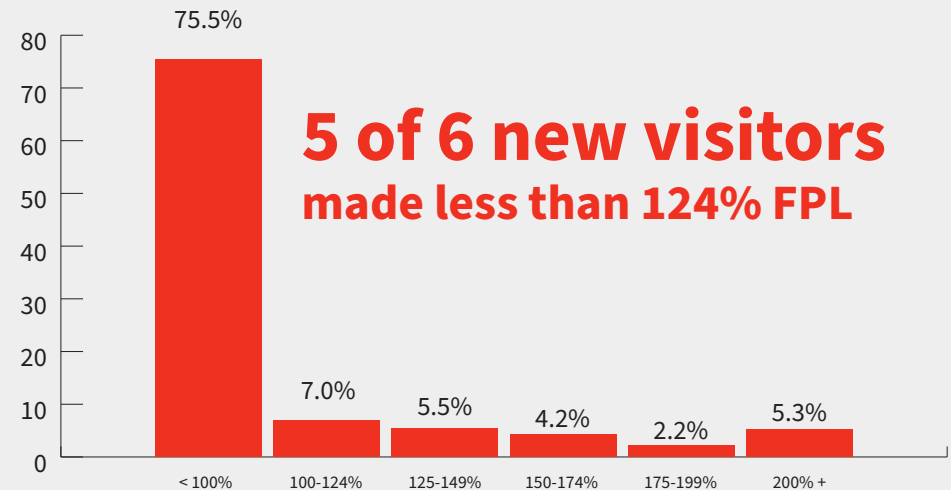
New pantry visitors are more likely to be living below the poverty line; They are significantly less likely to utilize SNAP.

17,444 unique individuals who utilized the DMARC Food Pantry Network in FY2024 reported being below 100% of the federal poverty line (FPL). This includes 3 out of 4 new pantry visitors in FY24.

Overall, **36.9% of food pantry visitors** are currently accessing SNAP benefits - despite virtually everyone visiting a DMARC pantry being income eligible. A mere **23% of new pantry visitors** were actively utilizing SNAP. This downward trend in SNAP continues despite record numbers at food pantries.

Pantry visitors living below the FPL visit a food pantry more times in the year than their peers and are nearly identical to the demographics of all food pantry visitors. As these visitors are struggling to navigate the additional cost of living burden of the past couple of years, this suggests that the low barrier of access that food pantries offer is more attractive than SNAP for a myriad of reasons (see snap; pg. 22).

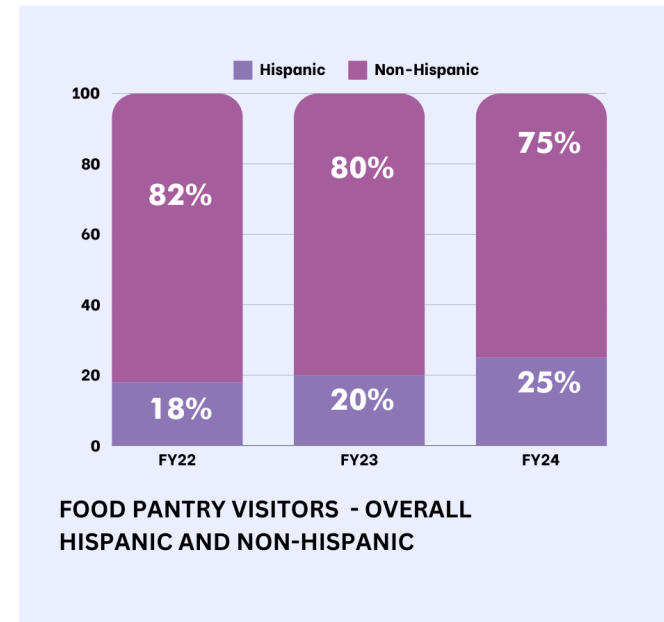
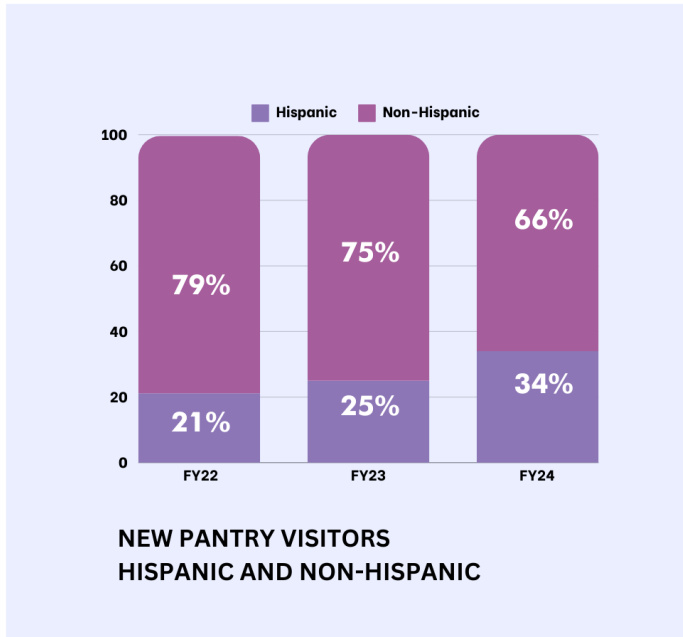
Household income for new pantry visitors as a percentage of federal poverty level



Federal Poverty Level 2024

HH Size	100% FPL	200% FPL	HH Size	100% FPL	200% FPL
1	\$15,060	\$30,120	4	\$31,200	\$62,400
2	\$20,440	\$40,880	5	\$36,580	\$73,160
3	\$25,820	\$51,640	6	\$41,960	\$83,920

The percentage of Hispanic pantry visitors is increasing - especially amongst those using a pantry for the first time.

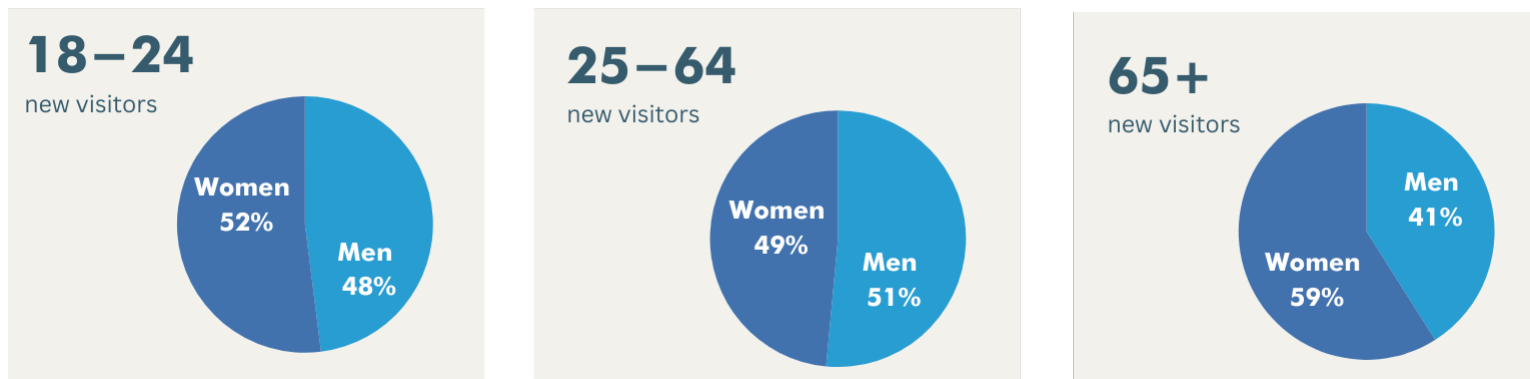


Hispanic people are less likely to receive disability benefits, social security, and SNAP. This can likely be attributed to documentation status limiting program eligibility and fear of repercussions for using programs even when eligible. This also highlights the higher level of need for non-governmental resources for Hispanic households.

In three zip codes, the percent of new pantry visitors that are hispanic is over half (50316 - 50.4%, 50320-51.8%, 50325- 74.7%). This points to areas of opportunity for targeted outreach.

Gender disparities still exist for certain age groups but, are less prominent compared to all pantry visitors.

In all adults utilizing a DMARC food pantry, women are more likely to use a food pantry than men across every category. However, in new pantry visitors this divide is almost non-existent, or in the case of working age adults, more likely to be men (ages 25-65; 2 point gap). This is likely pronounced by the larger age gap in new visitors compared to pantry visitors as a whole. The same gap is still existent amongst seniors.(65+: men - 41% ; women - 58.9%)



In summary, many of the overall disparities that exist amongst all pantry visitors exist in proportion, or are more pronounced in those utilizing a DMARC pantry for the first time this year. However, The points of difference for new visitors seem to suggest that in the absence of additional COVID support and increased cost of living, food pantries are providing a low barrier alternative to help supplement their food budget.

The expansion and creation of more low-barrier options for assistance that prioritize the time of individuals being assisted will make the greatest impact in the current economic climate as food pantry visitors adjust to the 'new normal' cost of living - especially at the grocery store.

OVERALL DEMOGRAPHICS

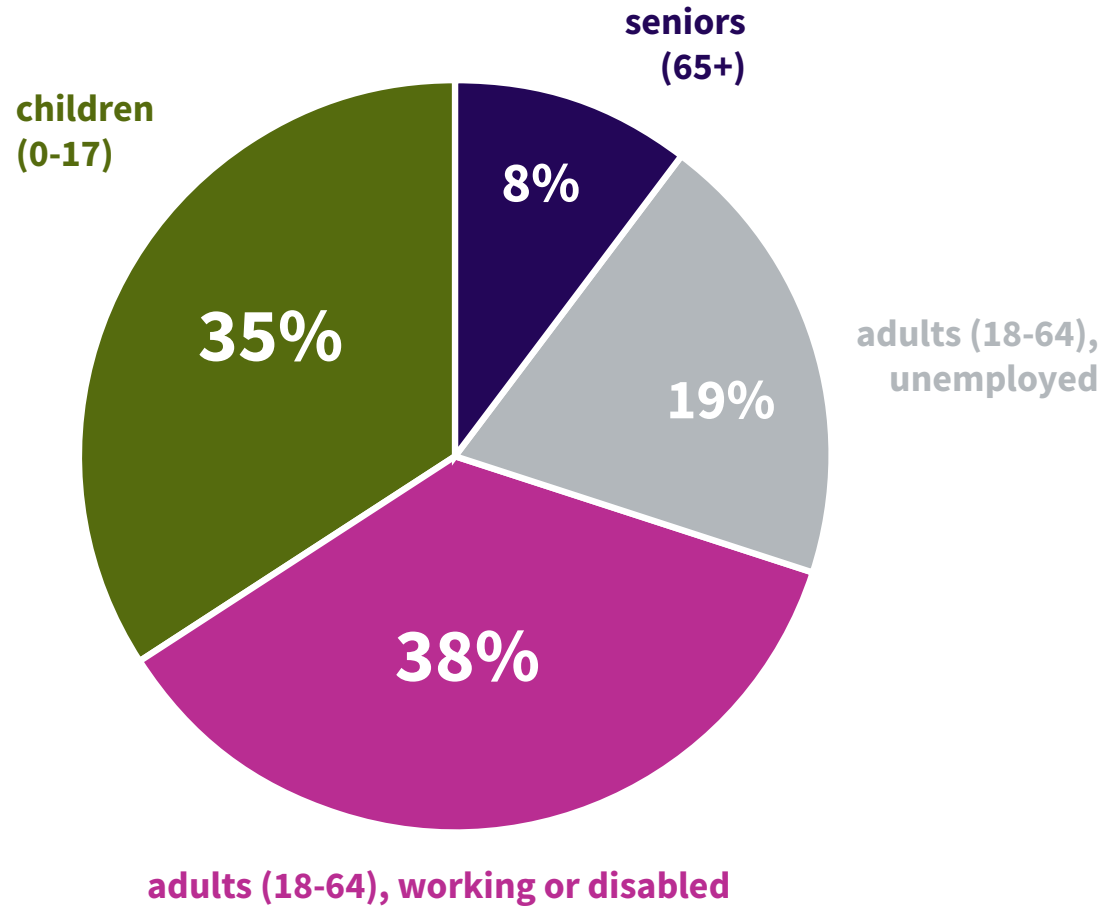
70,727
unique individuals assisted
16% increase from previous year

28,022
households assisted
22% increase from previous year

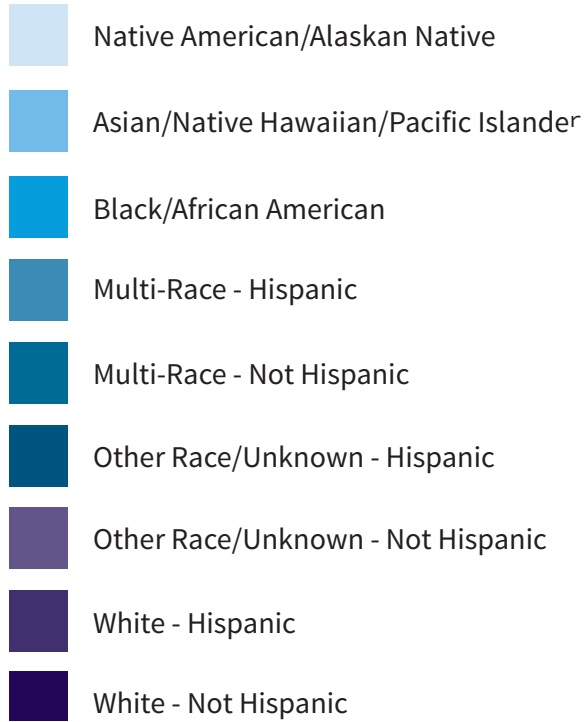
324,417
total pantry services

32.4%
first-time individuals

2.52
average household size

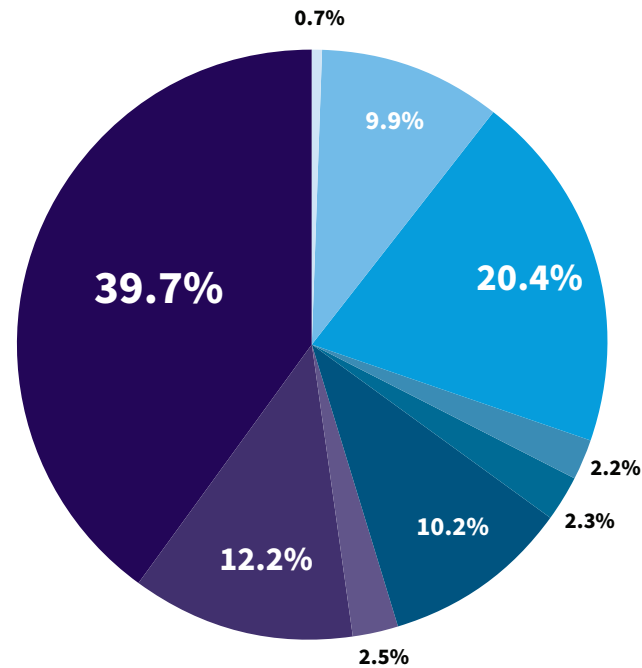


Race & Ethnicity

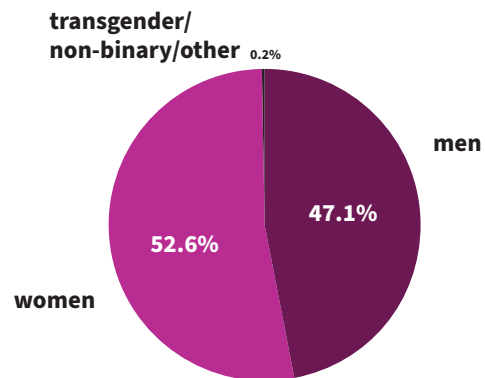


9.6% DECREASE

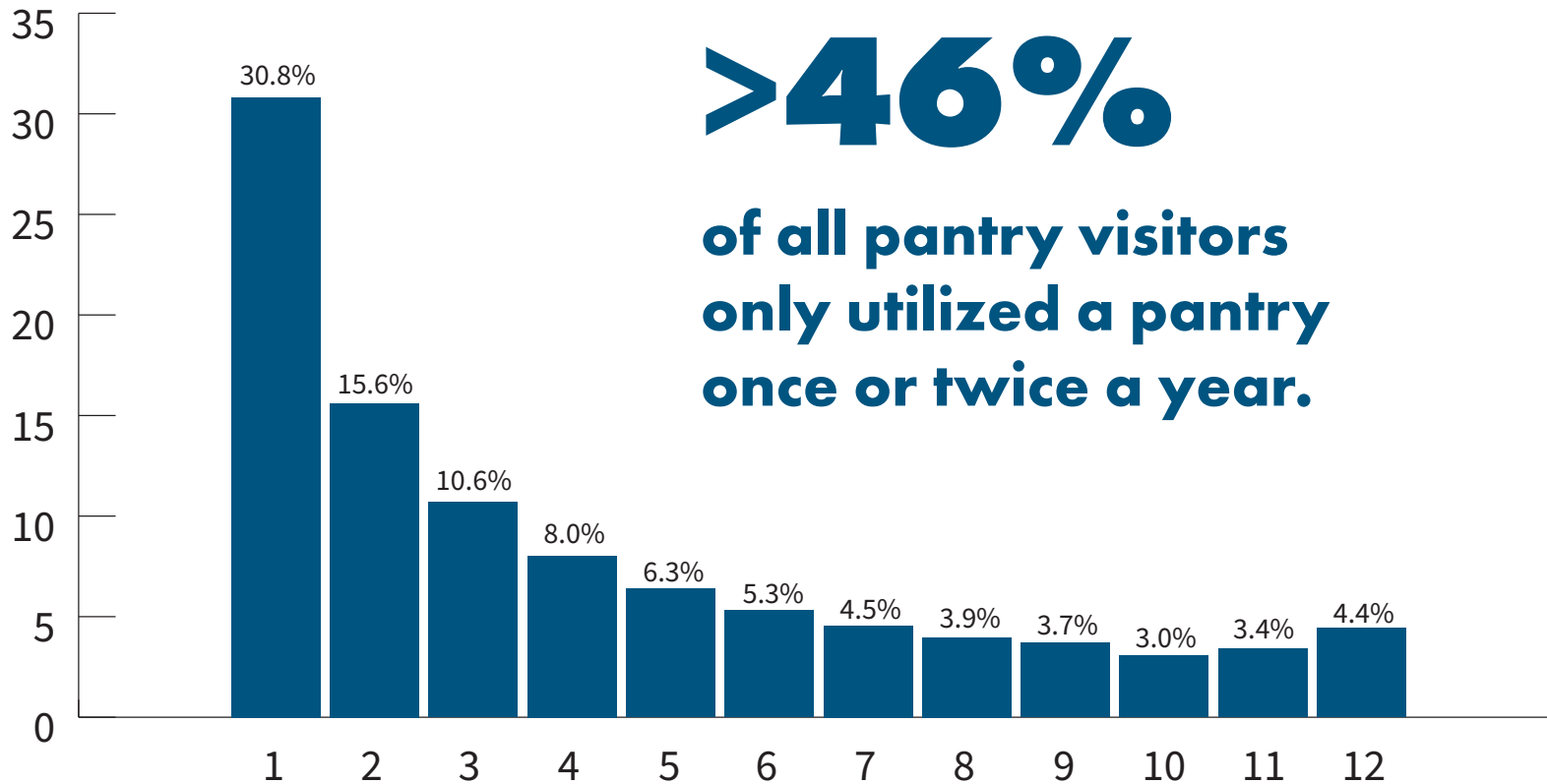
in the percent of white - not hispanic pantry visitors compared to last Fiscal Year.



Gender



PANTRY VISITS



>46%

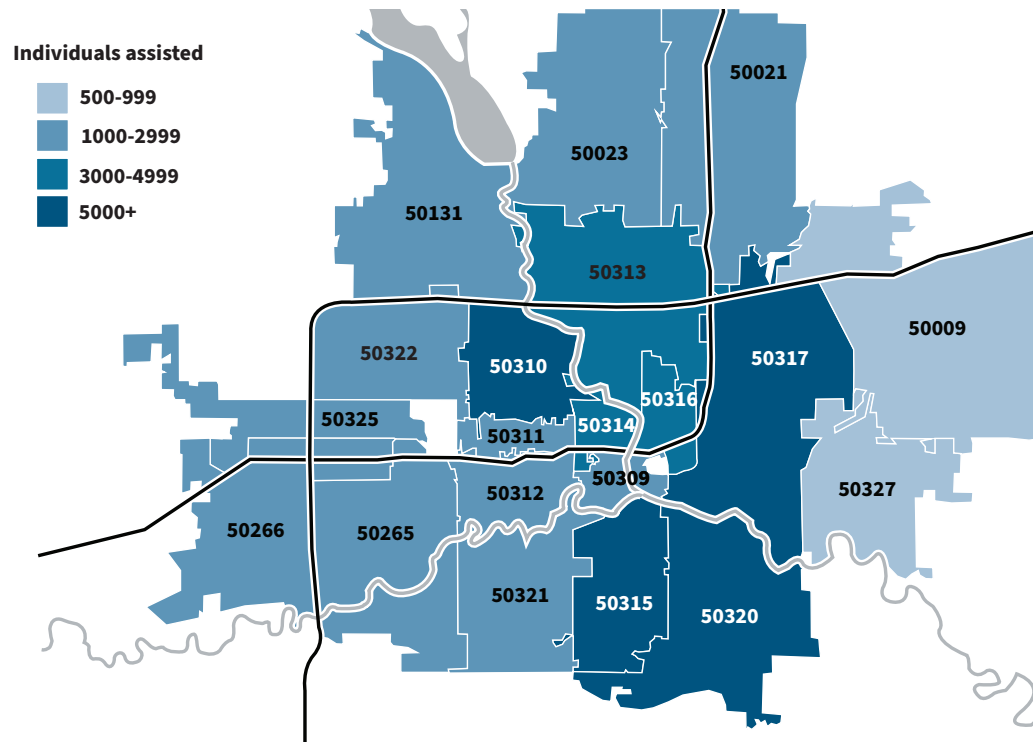
**of all pantry visitors
only utilized a pantry
once or twice a year.**

The average food pantry visitor uses a food pantry 3.9 times in a year - an increase from last fiscal year. Only 4.4% of everyone who used a food pantry did so for all twelve months of fiscal year 2024. This points to the fact that most people use a food pantry only as a last resort when other options are not available.

Number of unique individuals assisted FY24

54% of all food pantry visitors lived in the following six ZIP codes:

- 50310
- 50314
- 50315
- 50316
- 50317
- 50320

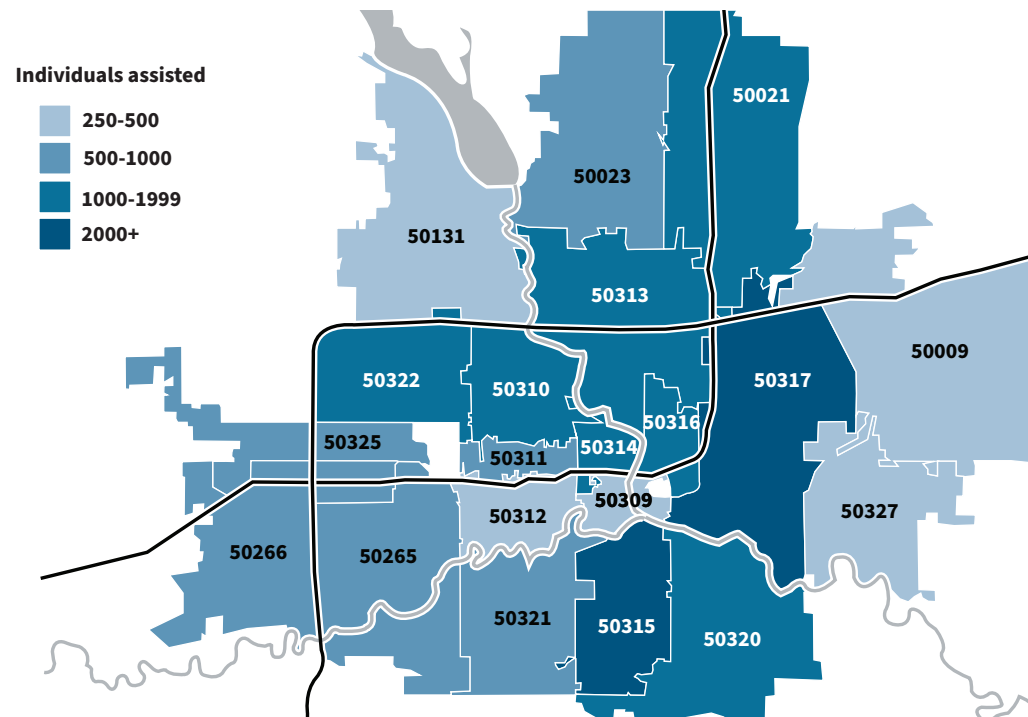


50314 had the greatest concentration of food pantry use, with 45.3% of residents using the DMARC Food Pantry Network in FY24.

Individuals utilizing a DMARC Food Pantry for the first time in FY24

48.4% of all new food pantry visitors lived in the following six ZIP codes:

- 50310
- 50314
- 50315
- 50316
- 50317
- 50320



Who is the 'typical person' enrolled in SNAP?

In Polk County, there were 131,161 individuals from 62,353 households who were enrolled in SNAP at some point in FY24.

Over half of them were children (44%) and seniors (7%)

Women (56%) relied on SNAP more than men (44%)

The average household size was 2.10



How much do people receive in SNAP benefits?

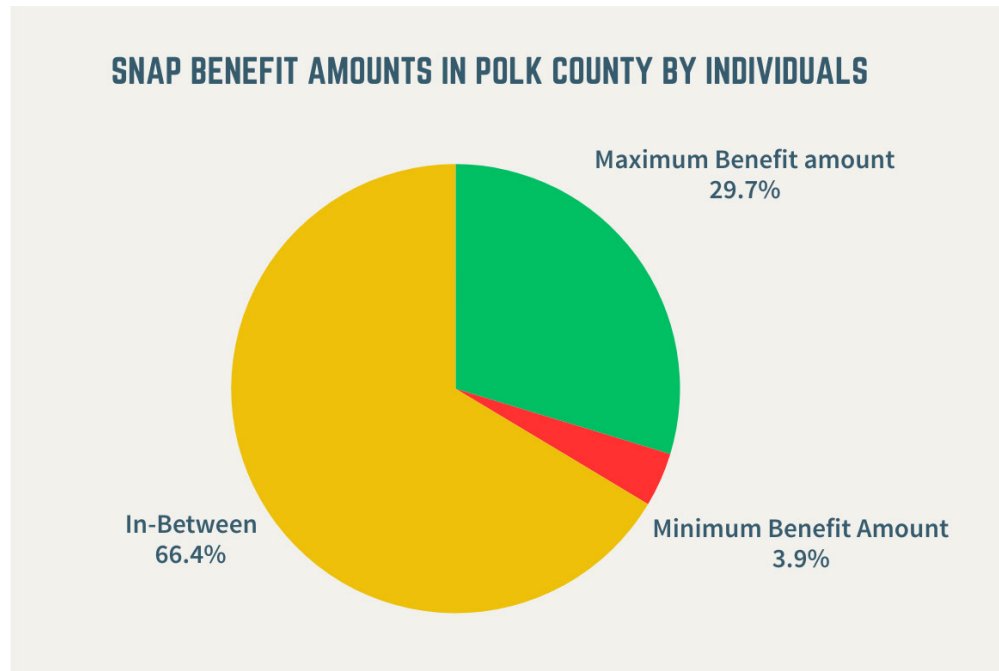
Among adults (age 18+)*:

- **26%** reported earned income
- **26%** received Social Security
- **17%** received Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- **10%** received child support payments
- **8%** received support through the Family Investment Program (FIP/TANF)
- **5%** reported they are self-employed
- **1%** received unemployment benefits
- **6%** reported some other source of income

*note: individuals can select more than one source of income

The amount households receive in SNAP benefits depends on a variety of factors including household income and deductions for medical, housing, and child care costs. Households can receive anywhere from the minimum benefit (\$23 per month) up to the maximum benefit (\$291/month for one person or \$973/month for a family of four).

SNAP BENEFIT AMOUNTS IN POLK COUNTY BY INDIVIDUALS



Two-thirds (66.4%) of all SNAP households in Polk County received a monthly benefit amount somewhere between the minimum and the maximum in FY24. In June 2024, the average monthly SNAP benefit for households in Polk County was \$323.96.

What about program fraud?

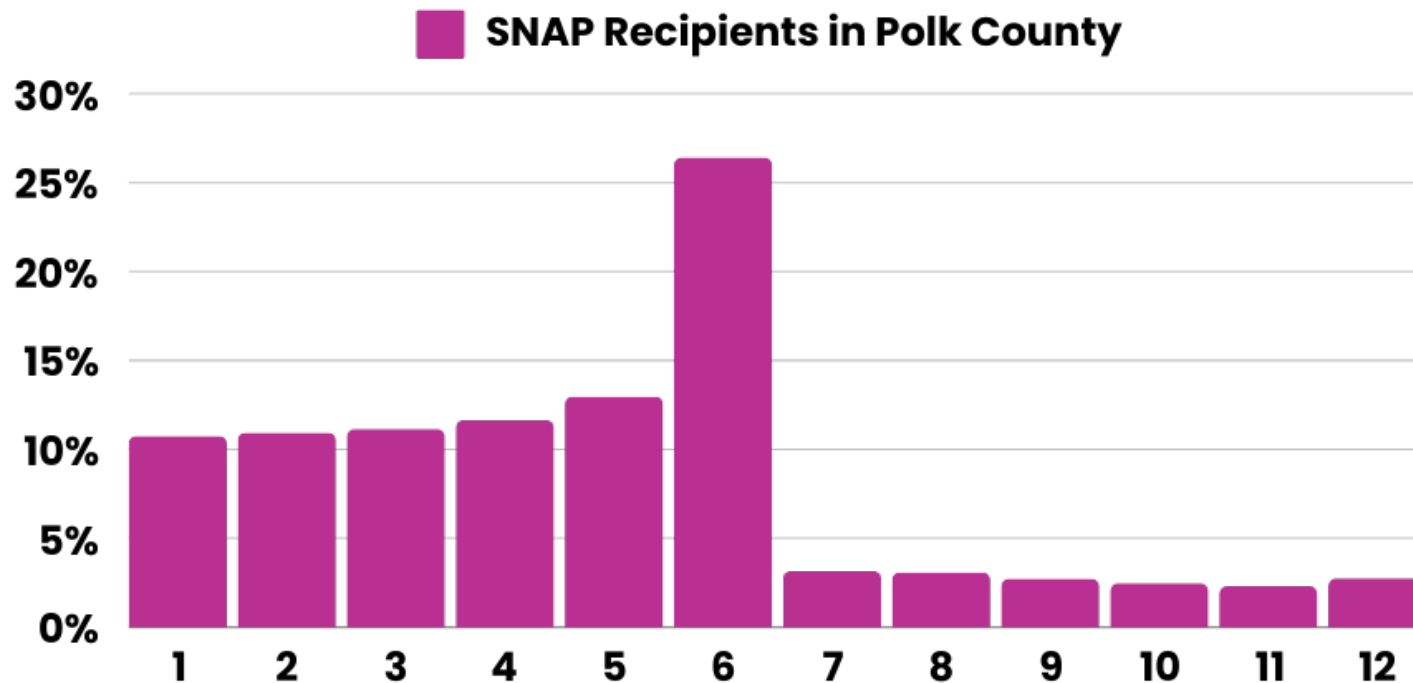
In FY24, there were 32 individuals in Polk County who had their SNAP benefits canceled because they were found to have committed an Intentional Program Violation (IPV).

Out of all 131,161 individuals who were enrolled in SNAP at any point in FY24, *that works out to a fraud rate of 0.02%*, or about one in 4,000.

HOW LONG DO PEOPLE STAY ON SNAP?

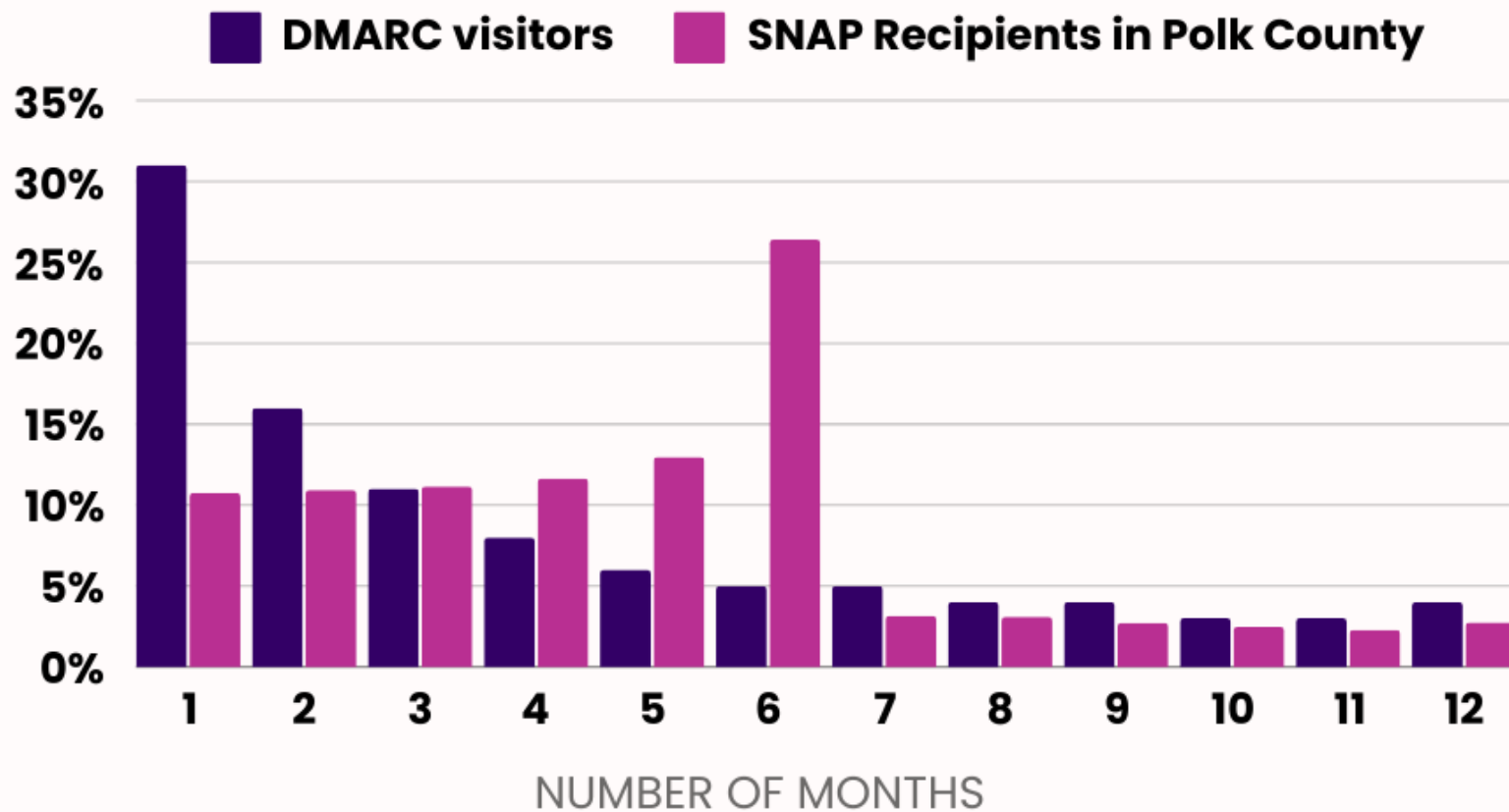
Of all SNAP households in Polk County in FY24:

- The average household received four months of benefits
- More than half (55.6%) of households received six months of benefits in FY24
- Only one-third (34.6%) of households received benefits for more than six months*



*In Iowa, most households' Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) certification period is 6–12 months.

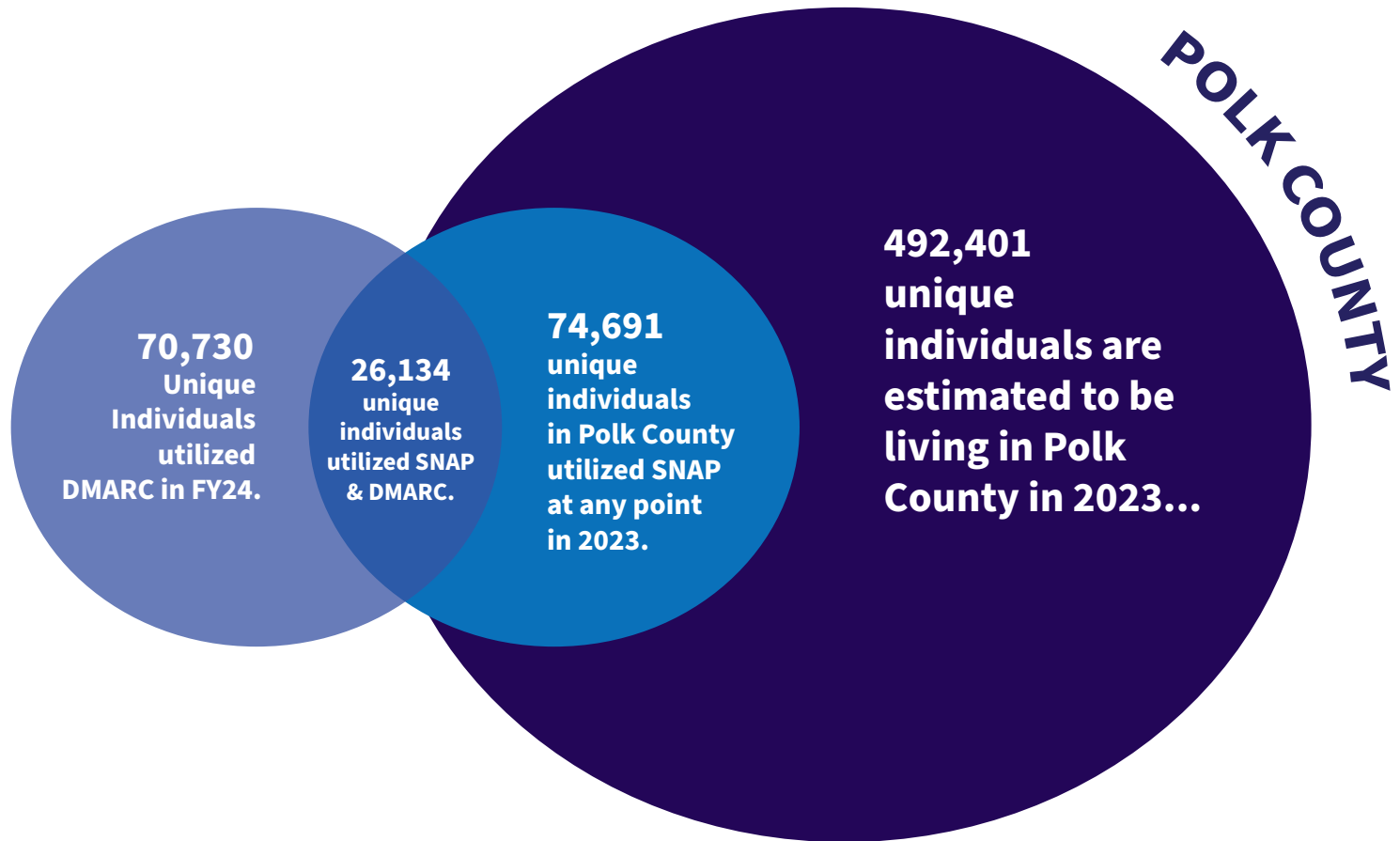
HOW LONG DO PEOPLE UTILIZE FOOD PANTRIES VS. SNAP?



4 months:
average household was
enrolled in SNAP.

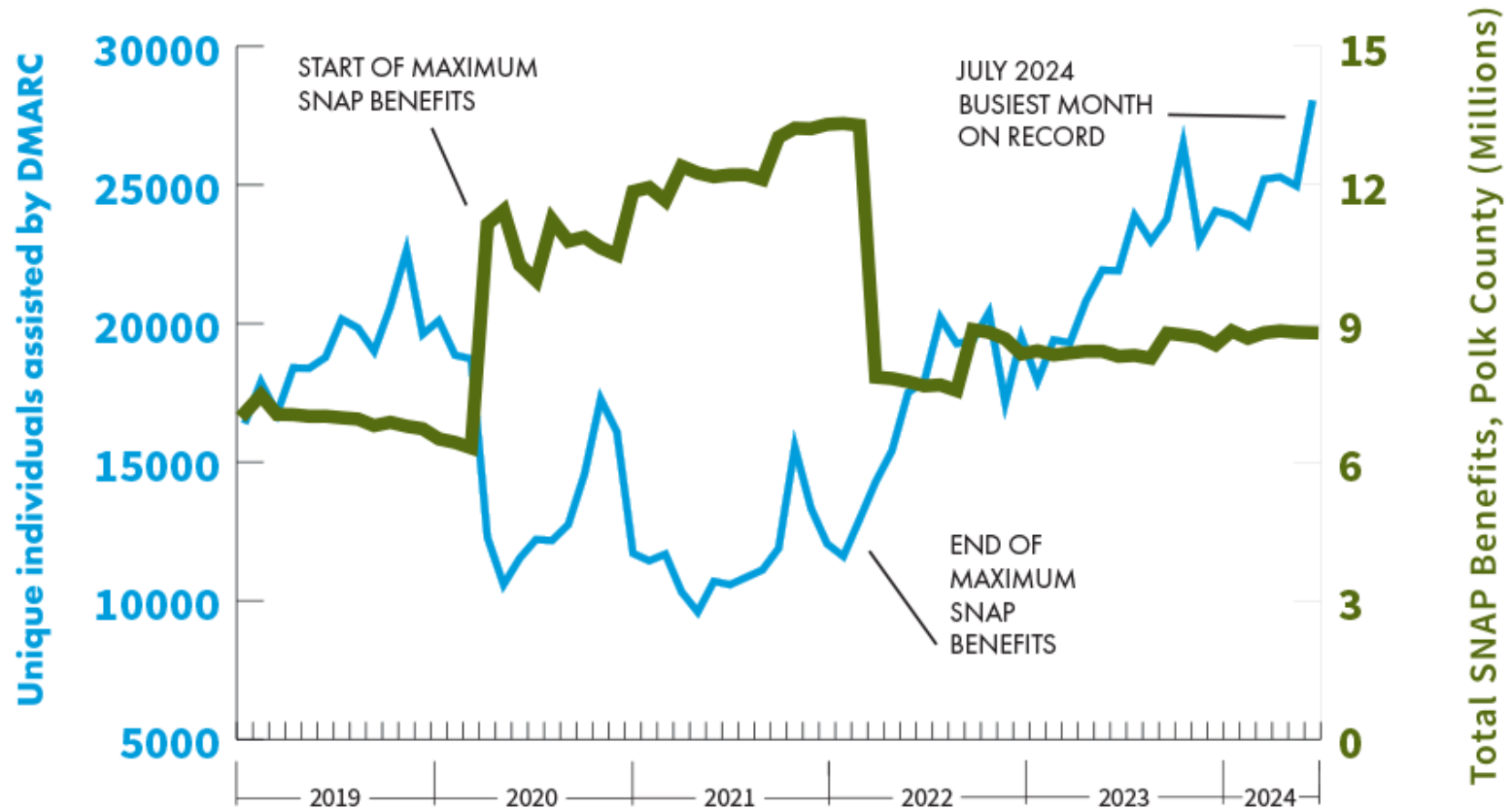
3.9 visits:
average number of monthly visits made
by pantry visitors in a year.

FOOD PANTRY USAGE VS. SNAP IN POLK COUNTY



Even though virtually everyone utilizing the DMARC Food Pantry Network is income eligible for SNAP, only 36% of food pantry visitors we're actively enrolled at some point. For people utilizing a DMARC for the first time this year, that margin reduces to only 23%

Policy's impact at the pantry level



During the pandemic, the relationship between what people are able to receive in SNAP benefits and how often people are utilizing DMARC pantries has become increasingly clear. Since the end of the federal declaration of emergency in Iowa (April 2022), we have seen a continuous climb in visits across the DMARC Food Pantry Network with no relief in sight at your local grocery store.

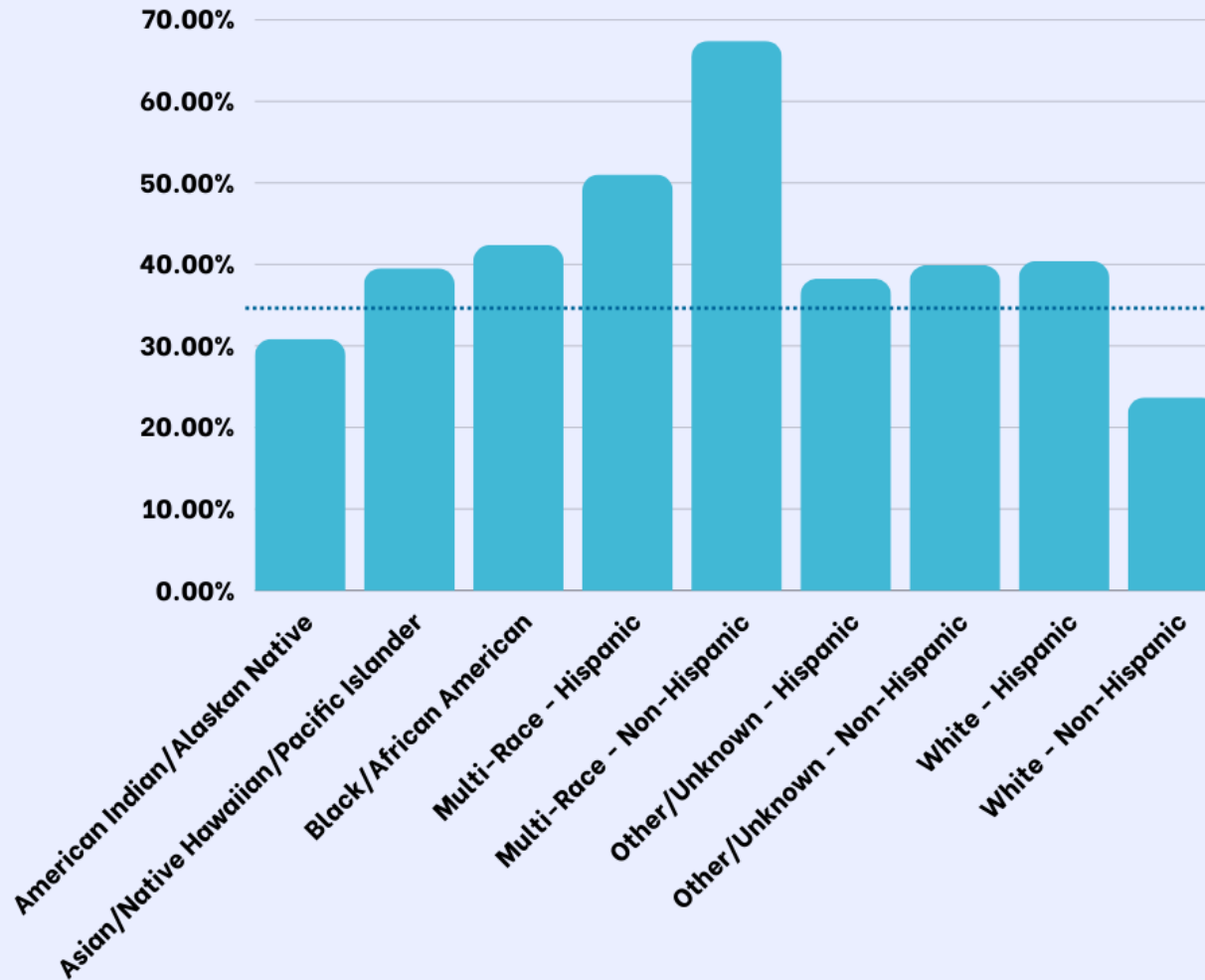
CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS

Observed Disparities -

Specific findings based on the age of respondents include:

- Food pantry visitors who identified with the following demographic groups were much younger than the ‘typical food pantry visitor’.
 - Black or African American and Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander were more likely to be children (0-17) and less likely to be a senior. 42% of Black/African American food pantry visitors were children.
 - Food pantry visitors who identified as Multi-Race and Hispanic were nearly twice as likely to be a child and one-third as likely to be a senior. Over half of multi-racial new pantry visitors are ages 0-17 .
 - Food pantry visitors who identified as White and Hispanic were more likely to be a child and less likely to be a senior.
- Food pantry visitors who identified as White and not Hispanic were less likely to be a child or young adult, and more likely to be an adult or senior. 23.6% were children and 68.5% were 25 years of age or older (14% were 65+). This group was also more likely to receive disability benefits and social security benefits pointing to the opportunity for increased outreach among seniors who identify as white - not Hispanic.

PANTRY USERS: 0-17 YEARS OLD COMPARED TO RACE/ETHNICITY OVERALL



**35% of all
pantry visitors
were 0–17
years old.**

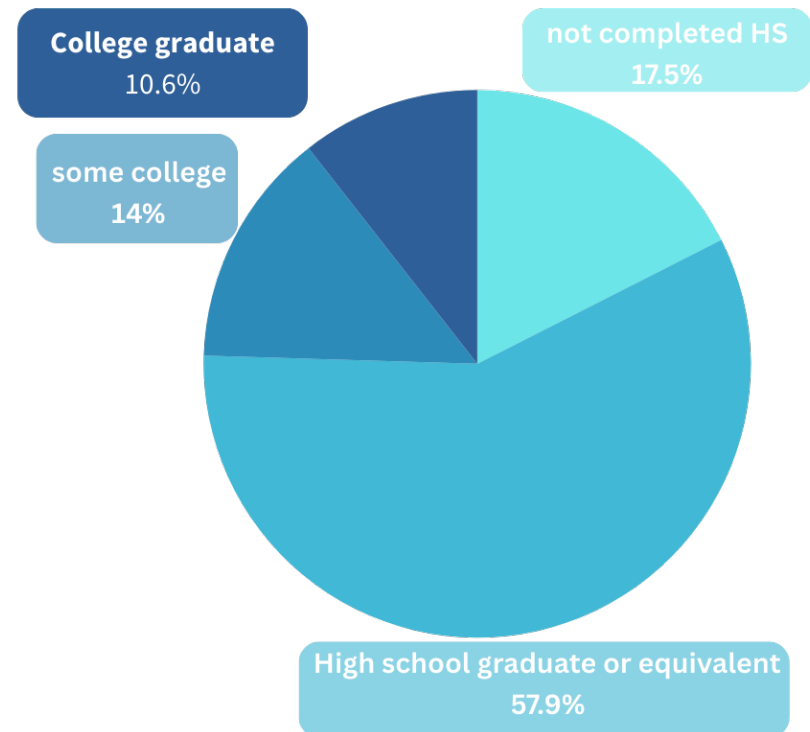
WORKING AGE ADULTS

Observed Disparities -

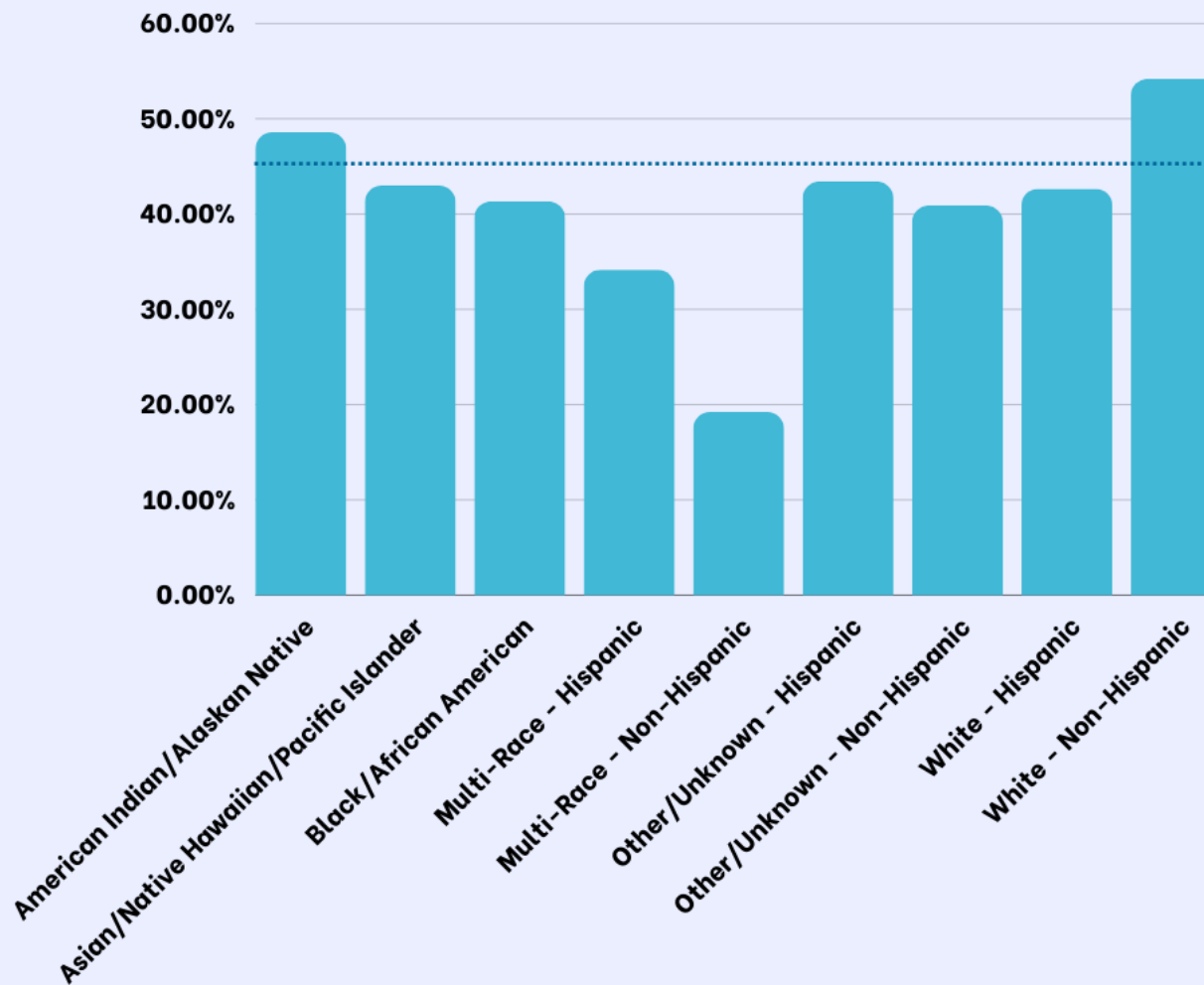
Specific findings based on the age of respondents include:

- More than 3 of 4 adults (ages 25+) is a high school graduate/ equivalent or attained a higher educational attainment.
- Working age adults that were white - non-hispanic and American Indian/Alaskan Native were more likely to use a food pantry than their peers.
- While working age adults overall are more likely to be women (8 point gap) more likely to be men (2 point gap).
- Working age adults were just as likely to enroll in SNAP compared to all food pantry visitors.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN ADULTS (25+)



PANTRY USERS: 25-64 YEARS OLD COMPARED TO RACE/ETHNICITY OVERALL



**46.7% of all
pantry visitors
were 25–64
years old.**

Observed Disparities -

Specific findings based on the age of respondents include:

The DMARC Food Pantry Network assisted 5,698 seniors (65+) in FY24. Seniors were much more likely to be White - Non-Hispanic than their younger peers.

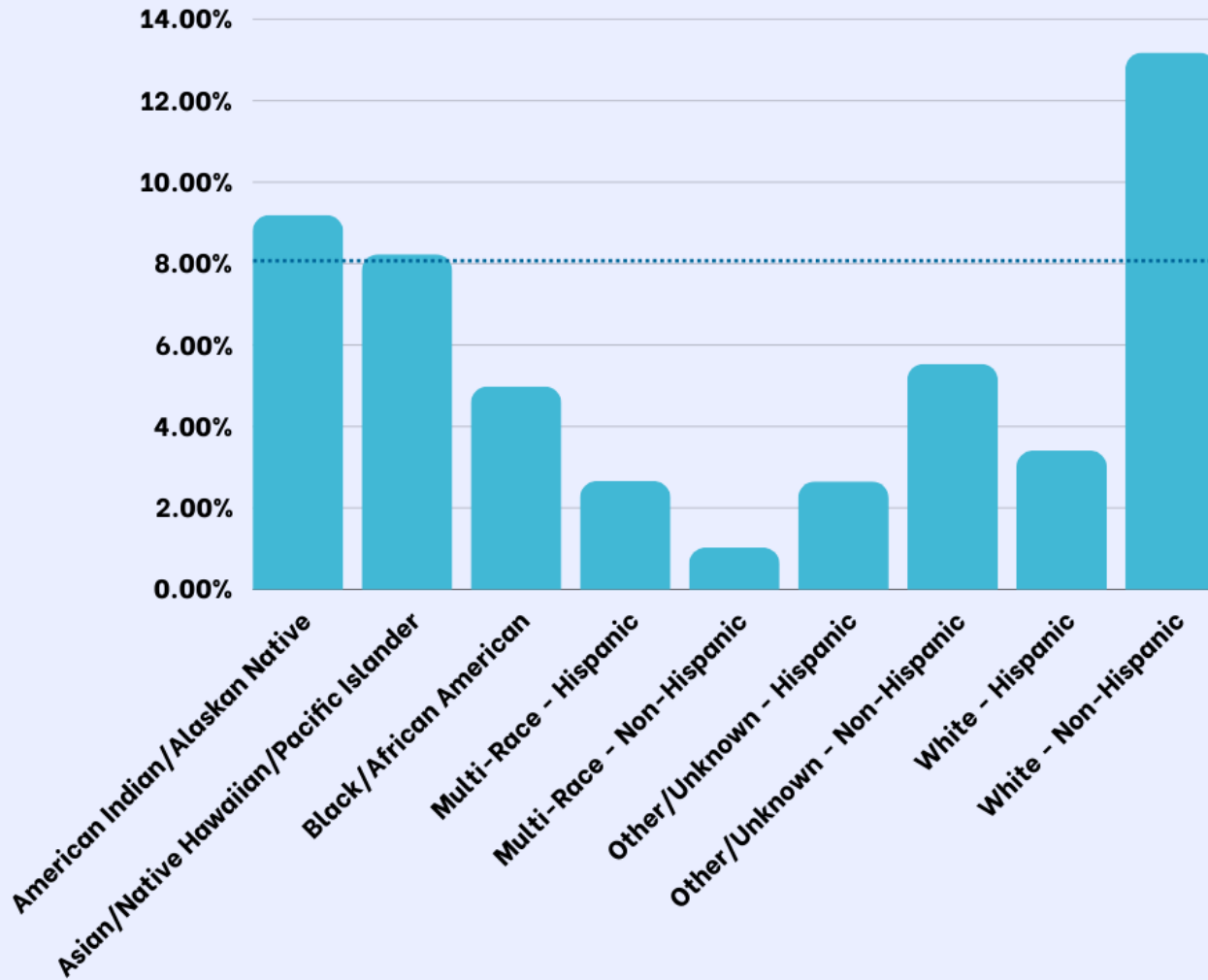
This group was also more likely to receive disability benefits and social security benefits pointing to the opportunity for increased outreach among seniors who identify as white - not Hispanic.

Seniors are also less likely to participate in SNAP. This points to areas of opportunity around SNAP outreach , especially with recent and impending changes at the state and national level around recertification, work requirements, and asset restrictions that could create additional barriers for seniors. Program stigma and political narratives can have a profound effect among aging adults and can contribute to the widening gender gap among aging adults. A 2020 study on food stamps and food insecurity among elderly adults found that SNAP enrollment is correlated with a decline in self-esteem and that stigma arising from welfare use may offset the mental health benefit of SNAP (*Pak & Kim, 2020*).

Further research is needed around populations living on disability or other fixed incomes of all ages to better understand the specific challenges being faced around the cost of food and food insecurity.

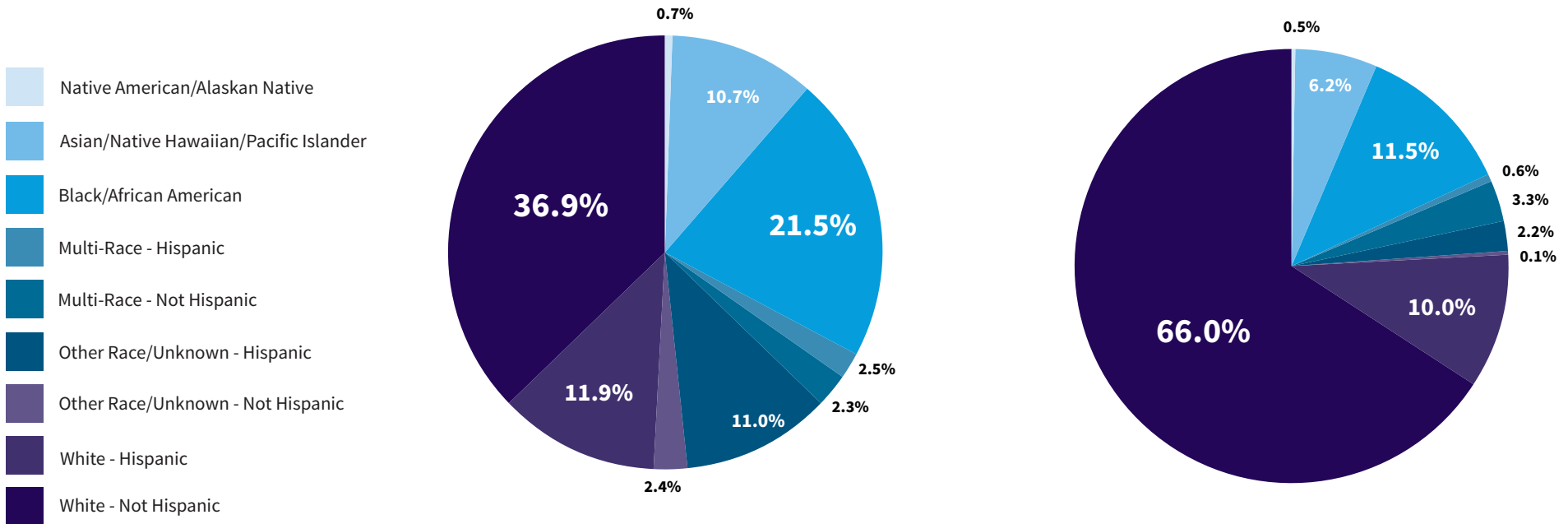
Tae-Young Pak, GwanSeon Kim, Food stamps, food insecurity, and health outcomes among elderly Americans, Preventive Medicine

PANTRY USERS: 65+ YEARS OLD COMPARED TO RACE/ETHNICITY OVERALL



**8.1% of all
pantry visitors
were 65+
years old.**

RACIAL DISPARITIES BY CITY OF RESIDENCE



FOOD PANTRY VISITORS

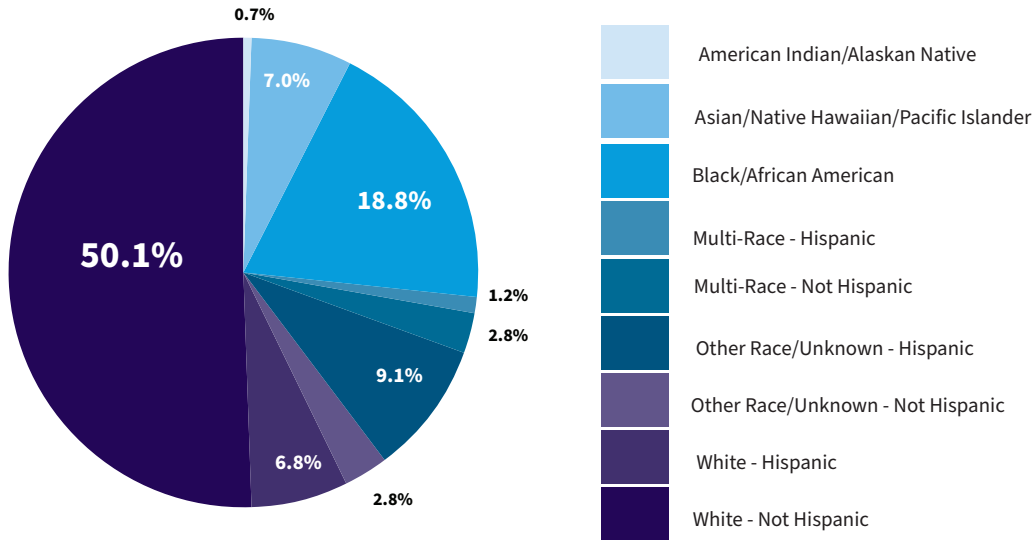
GENERAL POPULATION

DES MOINES
48,452
unique individuals assisted

The DMARC Food Pantry Network assisted 48,452 residents of Des Moines in FY24, which is 22.9% of the total population of Des Moines. 9.6% of those assisted were new to the DMARC network in FY24.

Compared with the general population, residents who used a food pantry were less likely to identify as White - Not Hispanic or Multi-Race - Not Hispanic, and more likely to identify as all other races and ethnicities.

FOOD PANTRY VISITORS



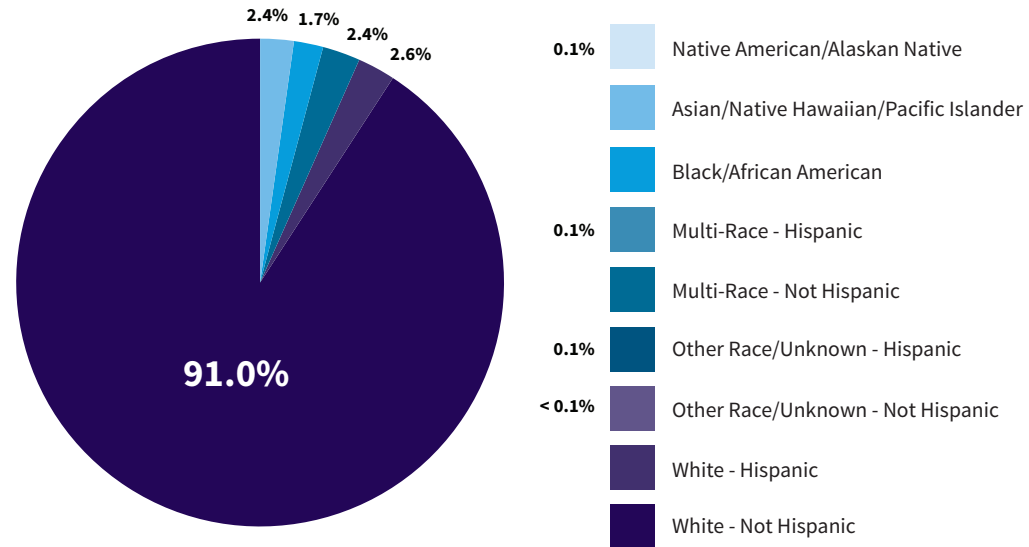
QUICK FACT:

VETERANS

The DMARC Food Pantry Network assisted 1,522 veterans in FY24. Compared to all food pantry visitors, those who identified as Veterans (18 years or older) visited a food pantry more frequently than their peers.

GENERAL POPULATION

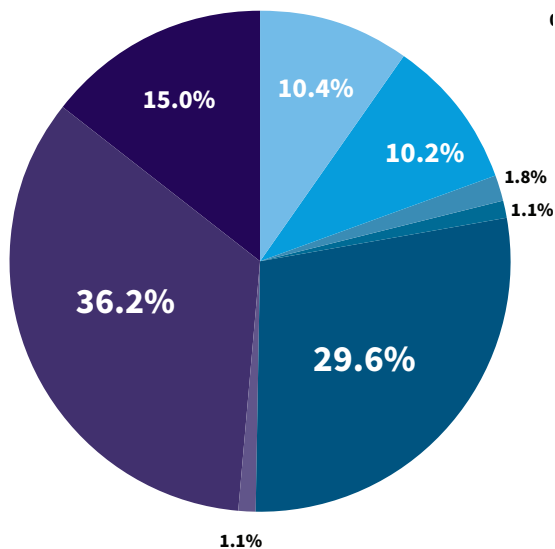
ANKENY
3,705
 unique individuals
 assisted



5% of ANKENY Residents used a pantry in FY2024.

FOOD PANTRY VISITORS

- Native American/Alaskan Native
- Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- Black/African American
- Multi-Race - Hispanic
- Multi-Race - Not Hispanic
- Other Race/Unknown - Hispanic
- Other Race/Unknown - Not Hispanic
- White - Hispanic
- White - Not Hispanic

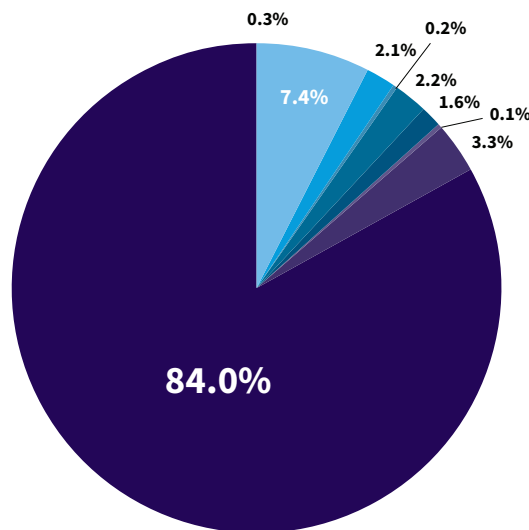


9% of CLIVE Residents used a pantry in FY2024.

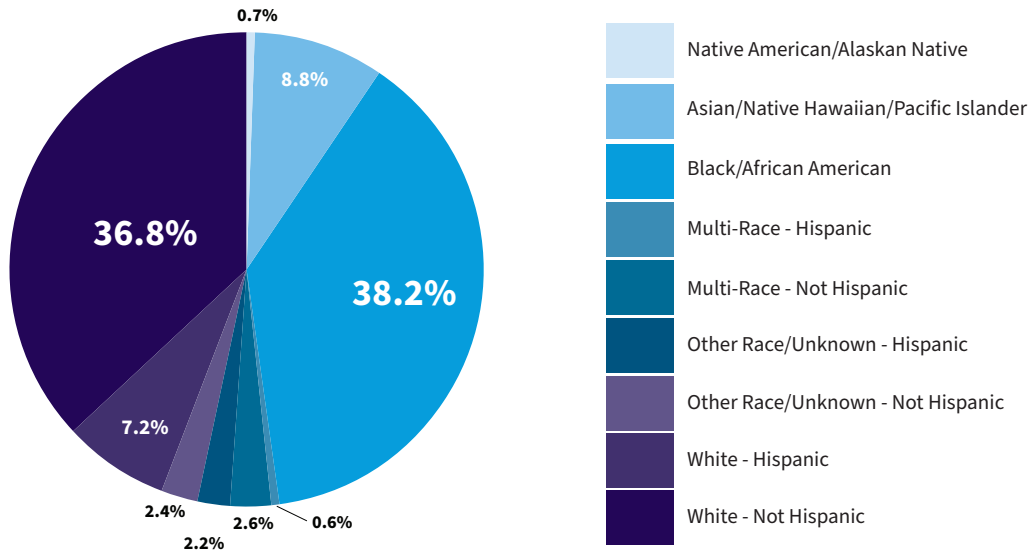
CLIVE
1,765
unique individuals assisted

GENERAL POPULATION

- Native American/Alaskan Native
- Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- Black/African American
- Multi-Race - Hispanic
- Multi-Race - Not Hispanic
- Other Race/Unknown - Hispanic
- Other Race/Unknown - Not Hispanic
- White - Hispanic
- White - Not Hispanic

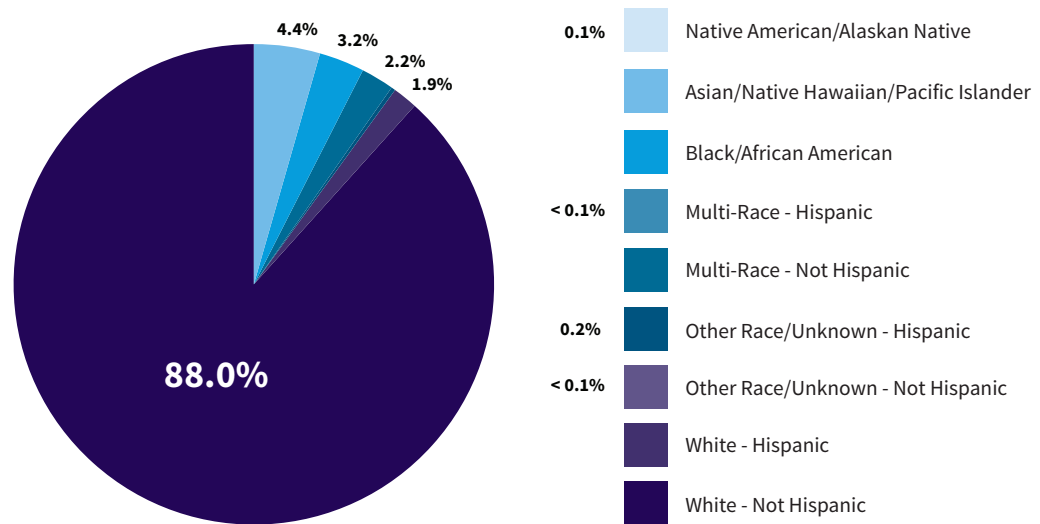


FOOD PANTRY VISITORS



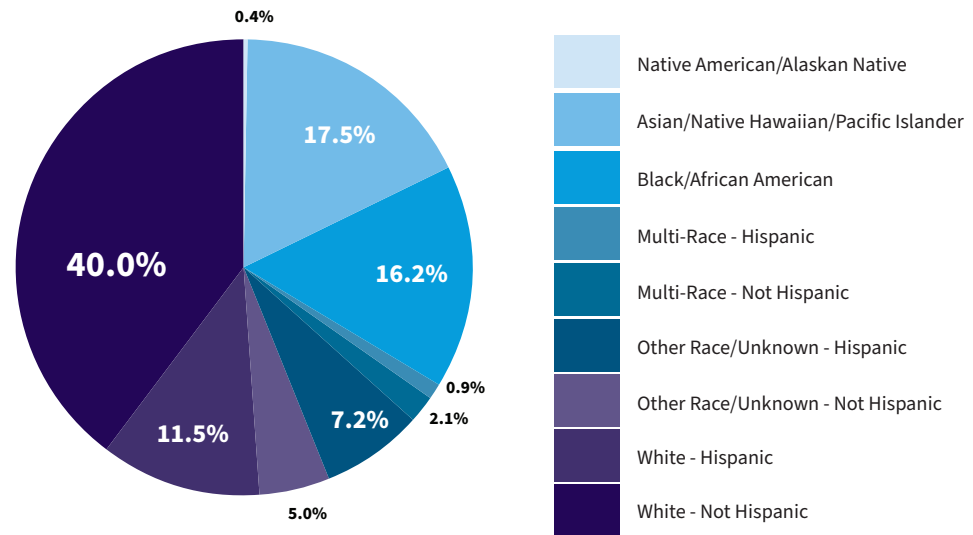
**6% of
JOHNSTON
Residents used a
pantry in FY2024.**

GENERAL POPULATION

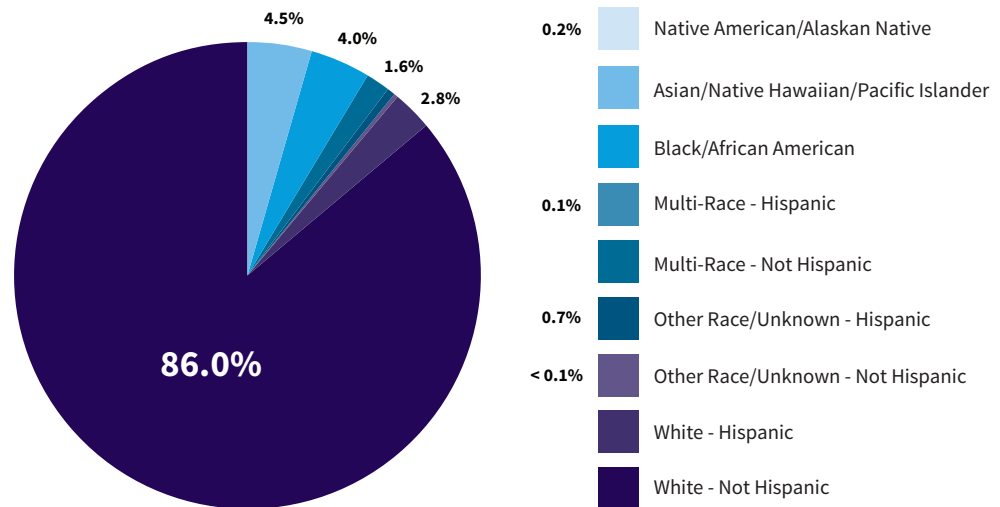


JOHNSTON
1,485
unique individuals assisted

FOOD PANTRY VISITORS



GENERAL POPULATION



URBANDALE
3,412
 unique individuals assisted

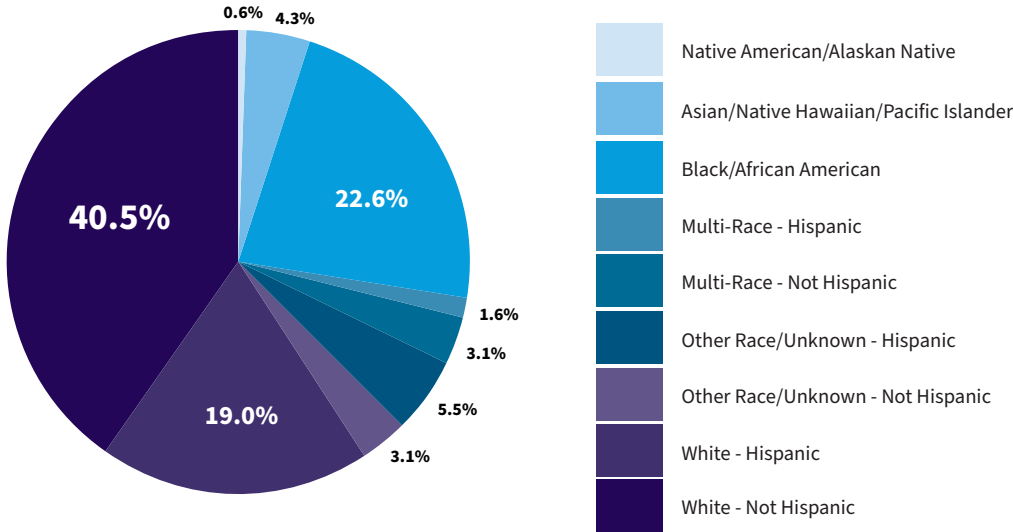
7% of
URBANDALE
 Residents used a
 pantry in FY2024.

**WEST
DES MOINES**

5,159

unique individuals assisted

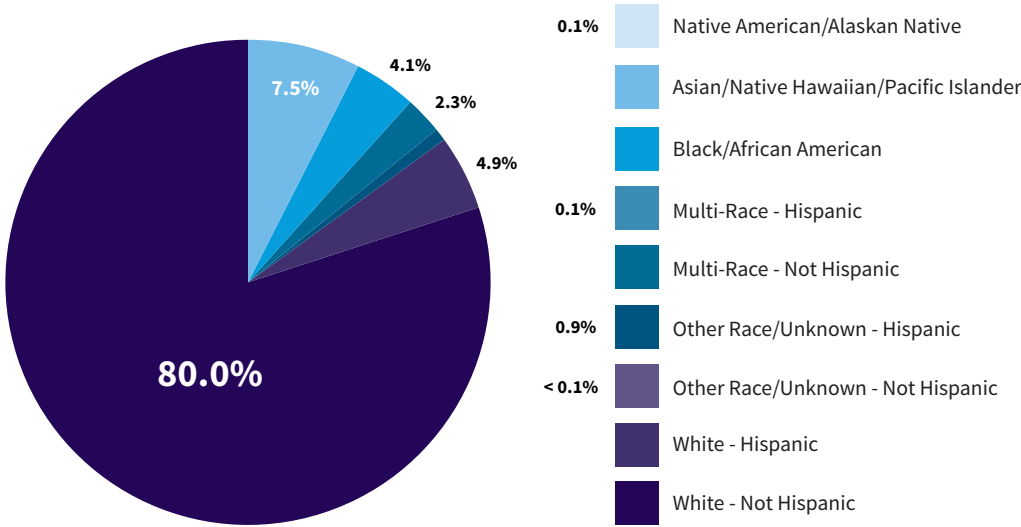
FOOD PANTRY VISITORS



**7% of WEST
DES MOINES**

Residents used a
pantry in FY2024.

GENERAL POPULATION



AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

We envision a community where everyone has access to the food they want and need at all times. As we look back at the past four years, there are many areas where this vision seemed more attainable than ever before. When people have access to nutritious food, it has a ripple effect on other areas of their life including education, employment, safety and wellbeing, physical and mental health, and so much more.

We can make this vision a reality when our leaders make intentional policy decisions and our community works together on solutions to remove barriers to people accessing their essential needs.

This report suggests a number of areas of opportunity for DMARC to begin addressing these disparities...



“When you come in here the people are so friendly. They don’t treat you like you are less than, they treat you like they’re glad you are here. It takes a lot of courage to ask for help and it takes courage to share your story. It is humbling to say I need your help and I can’t do this without you... but that’s what I’m saying. I couldn’t do it without you.”

- **Heather** and her husband have five children and seven grandchildren and has been utilizing a pantry in recent years.



Policy Advocacy:

- Increasing access to SNAP benefits and SNAP benefit amounts;
 - Raising the income eligibility to 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL).
- Eliminating barriers to federal assistance for certain groups
 - Advocating for the expanded child tax credit, Summer EBT, WIC, free and reduced lunch and other proven and low barrier assistance that alleviate child poverty
- Increasing disability and social security benefit amounts
- Requiring “minority impact statements” on proposed pieces of legislation

“I’ve had five major surgeries. I wasn’t supposed to take a step in my life. But guess what? By the grace of god I’m walking!”

- **DEBRA G.** is recently retired and lived in DSM for the last 13 years. She and her husband deal with multiple health difficulties including diabetes and severe arthritis. She was born prematurely in the 1960's and wasn't supposed to survive more than a couple weeks.



"We're stressed out and hungry. We're kind of getting what we can, where we can, without bothering anyone... because its real cold. I'm looking for a better brighter future and some sunshine."

- Rebeka S. appreciates the option for mobile and permanent pantries. She's used both as a resource to help handicapped relatives and grab food while being unhoused in the winter months.



Partnerships and Outreach:

- Promoting High School Equivalency Degree (HSED) programs for adults
- Providing additional outreach about SNAP and assistance with applying, especially targeted to seniors and those who are most susceptible to disenrollment in response to state and federal changes to SNAP.
- Expanding food pantry locations to multi-agency model
 - Inbedding social workers to help as program/service navigators for unique needs of each household
 - Creating regular opportunities for key service providers to 'root' into the food pantry ecosystem.





Our Services:

- Expanding food selections at food pantries to address the wants and needs of a diverse set of food pantry visitors.
- Targeting outreach to Hispanic communities to build trust and correct misconceptions; expand translation services and targeted outreach in areas of highest need.
- expanding communications footprint to better include regular pantry visitors; promoting wrap-around services available in community.



Further Research:

- Conducting a deeper dive to better understand barriers people are facing that are leading to disparities, such as conducting an annual survey to ask questions that are not included in the standard intake process.
- Collaborating with other community groups and organizations who work with and for groups facing the largest disparities to better understand why these disparities exist and how we can work together to improve, and eventually, eliminate them.



“I like the fact that they have options. I come here because of the variety.”

- **AL H.** is a lifetime Des Moines Resident (except for attending the U of I) and a regular pantry visitor. He is grateful for the opportunity he was given to work at the original DMARC Food Pantry Warehouse on Douglas when he was able to work.



UNITED TO MEET THE NEED

**VIEW A DIGITAL VERSION OF
THE REPORT ONLINE AT:
dmarcunited.org/disparities**

**VIEW THE COMPLETE DATA SET
AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:
bit.ly/3zqVepY**



QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS REPORT?

Contact us at info@dmarcunited.org