



Creating an On-Campus Food Pantry: Evidence and Action

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Impetus and Objectives

- Ramapo College Student Relief Committee formed when faculty and staff became aware of students struggling with food and housing insecurity
- Assess RCNJ students' need of basic necessities, such as toiletries, food, access to housing, and access to transportation
- Establish an emergency aid fund and an on-campus food pantry

Key Stakeholders

- Student Government Association (SGA)
- Center for Student Involvement (CSI)
- Office of Equity and Diversity
- Civic and Community Engagement Center
- Financial Aid Office
- Office of Residence Life
- President's Committee on Campus Sustainability
- Ramapo College Foundation
- Institutional Advancement
- Public Sociologies Students

Defining Food Insecurity and Homelessness

Food Insecurity

- According to the United States Department of Agriculture,
 - Low Food Security: reports of reduced quality, variety, or desirability of diet. Little or no indication of reduced food intake
 - Very low food security: Reports of multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake

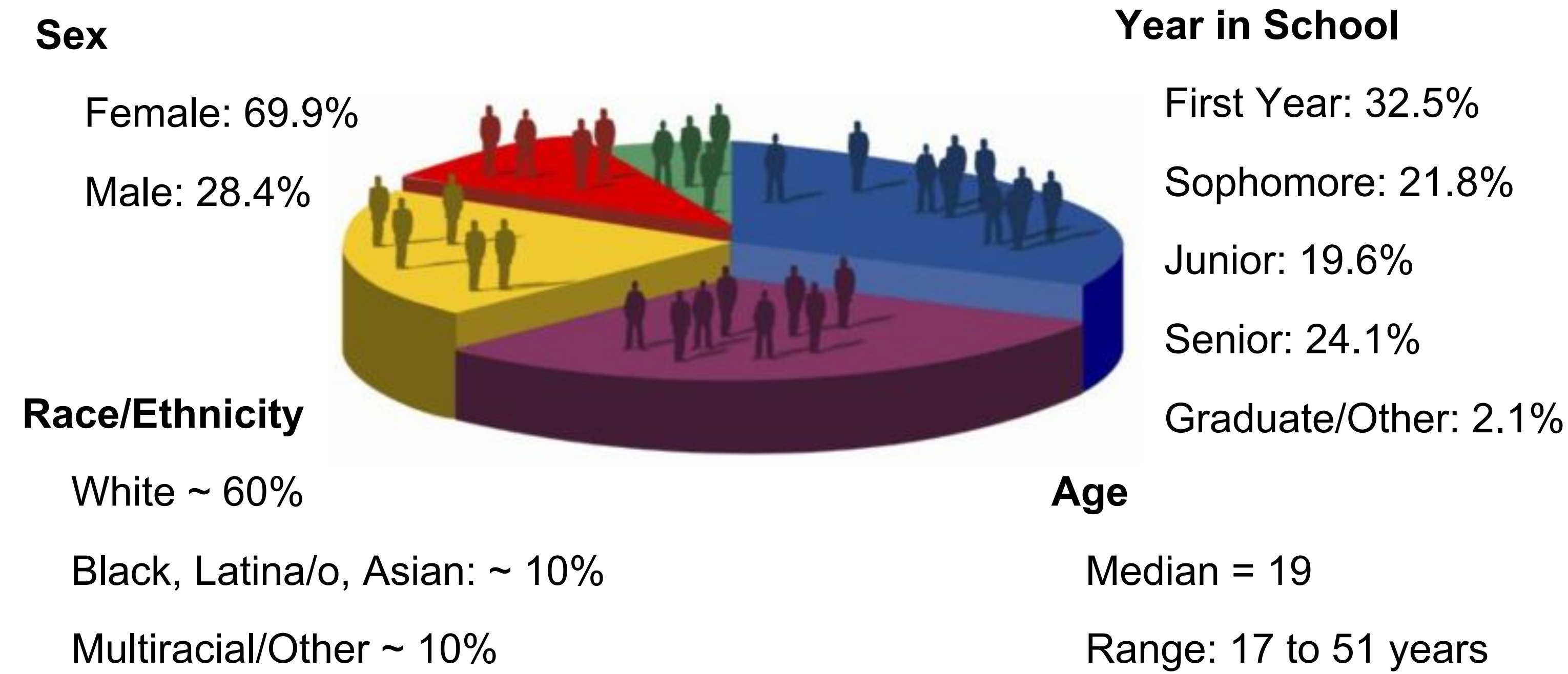
Homelessness

- According to the National Care for the Homeless Council,
 - An individual who lacks housing (without regard to whether the individual is a member of a family), including an individual whose primary residence during the night is a supervised public or private facility (e.g., shelters) that provides temporary living accommodations, and an individual who is a resident in transitional housing."

Survey Development and Data Collection

1. Institutional Investigation (Fall 2016): What were other campuses doing about food insecurity? How did they fund, stock, and run their pantries? Students interviewed stakeholders at other schools.
2. Survey Development (Spring 2017): Using MSU's food pantry survey as a start, students developed an online survey measuring students' need for food and necessities, housing, and transport
3. Survey Distribution (Fall 2017): Survey was sent out to all RCNJ students via President's Welcome Back email, August 2017.
4. Response Rate Increase (Fall 2017): Continuous sharing of the survey through email, social media, and word of mouth increased the number of participants; **680 students/faculty/staff responded**

Demographic Profile of the Sample



Percentages of Needs by Race and Gender

Race	Basic Necessities	Food	Housing	Transportation
White	13.6%	9.9%	2.8%	14.7%
Black	29.6%	20.9%	2.4%	47.6%
Asian	29.4%	18%	4.2%	28.6%
Latino/a	25.7	27.3%	8.6%	34.2%
Multi	25.5%	30%	2.2%	25.5%
Male	21.1%	17.8%	4.6%	17.2%
Female	16.4%	13.4%	2.8%	22.1%

Results

Necessities and Food

- 18.2% (N = 121)
 - Need basic supplies
 - Clothes, toiletries
- 9.5% (N = 63)
 - Know a student who struggles to obtain basic necessities
- 15.2% (N = 100)
 - Need food
 - Daily-monthly
- 5.5% (36)
 - Know a student who struggles to obtain food

Housing and Transportation

- 3.4% (21)
 - Need housing
 - Daily-monthly
- 6.8% (42)
 - Know a student who struggles to obtain housing
- 9.8% (63)
 - Need transportation
 - Weekly-monthly
- 11.7% (75)
 - Know a student who struggles to obtain transportation

Important Feedback

Food and Supply Pantry

- 73% of students who reported food insecurity would use an on campus pantry
- 62.8% preferred that it be staffed by undergraduate students
- Friday, Saturday, and Sunday are the easiest days to access pantry

Public Transport and Ride Sharing

- 53.8% (336) would take public transportation if it were available
- 34.1% (213) would use a ride-share program if it were available
 - Scheduling was the top concern, and location of pickups/drop offs was another concern
- Good incentives to participate would be gas money and discounted parking pass



Conclusions

- **A food pantry has been established in ASB 130**
- The Student Relief Committee is in the process of stocking up the food pantry through various efforts, such as food drives and donations.
- Further research should be conducted in order to fully assess the needs of Ramapo College students.
- Students are definitely in need, and faculty, staff, and other students should do everything in their power to help relieve the needs of others.

