



# Portrait of a Food Pantry Visitor

**Data, Demographics, and Disparities**

***FY2022***

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# A LETTER FROM THE CEO

Thank you for your interest in a better understanding of those who visited our Food Pantry Network over this past fiscal year. I am often asked about why DMARC pantries have an intake process or why we ask people any questions beyond their simple contact information. Some people believe that presents a barrier for people from receiving assistance. While I acknowledge being asked questions about a situation you are in can sometimes be difficult, I think this report shows exactly why it is critical we collect and review such information. As I've said many times, food insecurity cannot and will not be solved simply by providing food to people. We need to get at the root causes driving people into food insecurity and by collecting a bit of anonymized data, we can illuminate some of these things and refute other, often stereotypical, false information.

I'd like to share some things you should know about the way we collect data. 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. 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 we ask are definitely different, it is not too dissimilar than getting a membership to a place like Sam's Club or Costco where the first time you come you fill out some paperwork, but it is different at future visits.

A part of our equity journey as an organization is better understanding those who seek assistance from the DMARC Food Pantry Network so we can provide that assistance in a way that is more helpful and better aligns with the needs of those visitors. This report is one way we strive to do so. With this information, we can work with and learn from other nonprofit organizations who work with some of these groups that

are facing the largest disparities. It allows us to think through barriers to receiving assistance in a different and more targeted way. And most importantly, it helps us 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 an idea in you or an area that you think we may want to collaborate on, please get in touch! Breaking down these barriers and changing systems will take a lot of collaborative work and we want to be a helpful partner in doing so. Again, thank you for your interest and anything you are doing to help in the fight against poverty and its many symptoms.

**Matt Unger**

*Chief Executive Officer, DMARC*

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) Food Pantry Network consists of 14 partner food pantries, 20+ mobile food pantry locations, and a no-contact home delivery service. 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.

We are often asked what a “typical” visitor to a food pantry looks like. In truth, there is no such thing as a “typical” food pantry visitor. We assist people of all races, genders, ages, incomes, and educational attainment. 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. For example, one such policy is “redlining” which created inequitable mortgage lending between White and Black communities in our country, including Des Moines, which limited home ownership and multi-generational wealth development in the Black community.

Our first racial disparities report in 2020 examined racial disparities by geographic areas. In this next installment, we expanded the scope of the examined disparities to include gender, age, SNAP participation, income and source of income, frequency of visits, first-time visitors, veteran status, and educational attainment. All the data used in this report is from DMARC’s fiscal year 2022 (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022).

It is our hope that this report 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.

## ***Land Acknowledgement***

*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.*

# KEY FINDINGS

**Racial disparities among food pantry visitors exist in all communities across Greater Des Moines, but are especially pronounced in suburban communities.** In some cities, certain racial groups are more than ten times as likely to use a food pantry compared with the general population. This points to significantly different financial realities between White - Not Hispanic people and people of color within suburban communities.

**Children assisted by the DMARC Food Pantry Network are more racially diverse, and seniors are much more likely to be White - Not Hispanic.** One in three of all people assisted were children, and one in ten were seniors. For White - Not Hispanic people, less than one in four assisted were children while one in seven were seniors. This points to how our communities are becoming more racially diverse.

**Gender disparities exist across all races and ethnicities.** 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.

**One in three households assisted used the DMARC Food Pantry Network for the first time ever.**

Households that were first-time food pantry visitors were smaller on average. One in four individuals was a first-time food pantry visitor. This points to the high level of need in our community right now, with many people turning to a food pantry for the first time ever.

**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.

**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, such as the 2020 “Public Charge” rule. This also highlights the higher level of need for non-governmental resources for Hispanic people in our community.

**More than half of all pantry visitors use a food pantry just once or twice a year.** The average food pantry visitor uses a food pantry 3.6 times in a year. Only 4% of everyone who used a food pantry did so for all twelve months of fiscal year 2022. This points to the fact that most people use a food pantry only as a last resort when other options are not available.

**Seniors and people who identify as Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander use food pantries at a higher frequency than others.** While the average food pantry visitor used a food pantry 3.6 times a year, seniors visited food pantries 5.1 times a year on average, and people who identify as Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander visited food pantries 5.0 times a year on average. Asian seniors visited an average of 6.9 times a year. Among adult visitors who identify as Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander, this average is being driven by people who are employed or act as a stay at home parent or caregiver, who use food pantries at a higher rate than others.

**Racist housing policies of the past have lasting impacts to this day.** 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 redlined nearly 100 years ago are still some of the areas of greatest need today. This points to the lasting impact long-held racist policies of the past still hold today and a need to do more to change those impacts and create equity across our community.

# AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

We envision a community where everyone has access to the food they want and need at all times. 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, including, but not limited to:

## **Policy Advocacy:**

- Increasing access to SNAP benefits and SNAP benefit amounts
- Eliminating barriers to federal assistance for certain groups
- Increasing disability and social security benefit amounts
- Requiring “minority impact statements” on proposed pieces of legislation

## **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
- Referrals to job training and placement programs

## **Our Services:**

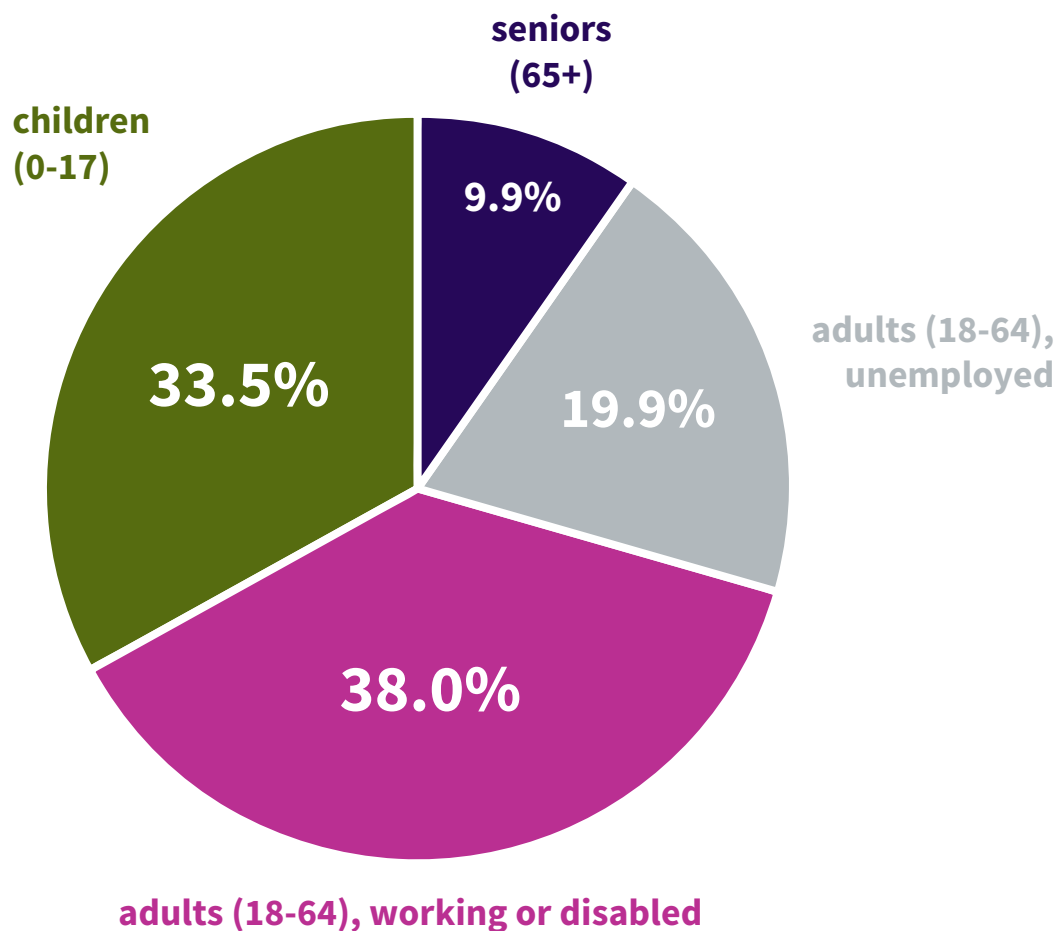
- Expanding food selections at food pantries to address the wants and needs of a diverse set of food pantry visitors
- Targeting outreach to Hispanic communities to build trust and correct misperceptions

## **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

# **DEMOGRAPHICS AND DISPARITIES**

# OVERALL DEMOGRAPHICS



**43,576**

unique individuals assisted

**18,656**

households assisted

**2.34**

average household size

**25.4%**

first-time individuals

**32.5%**

first-time households

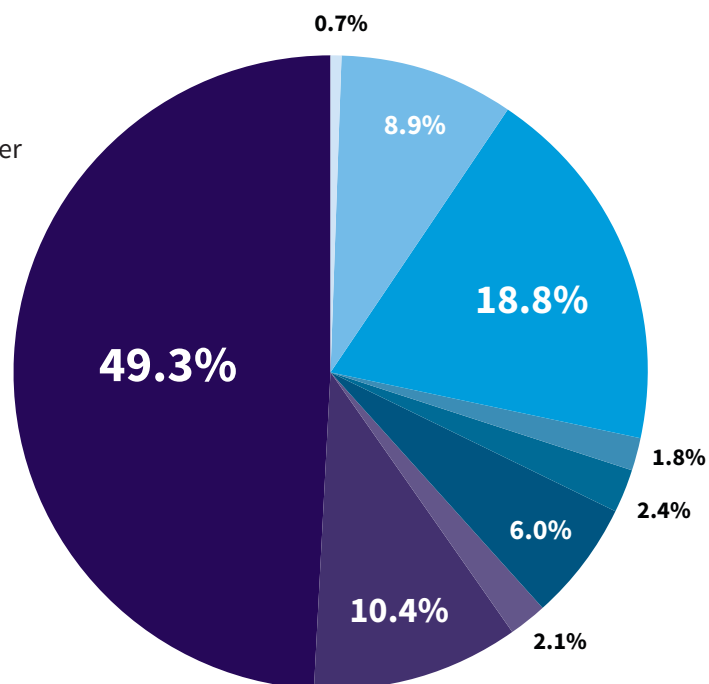
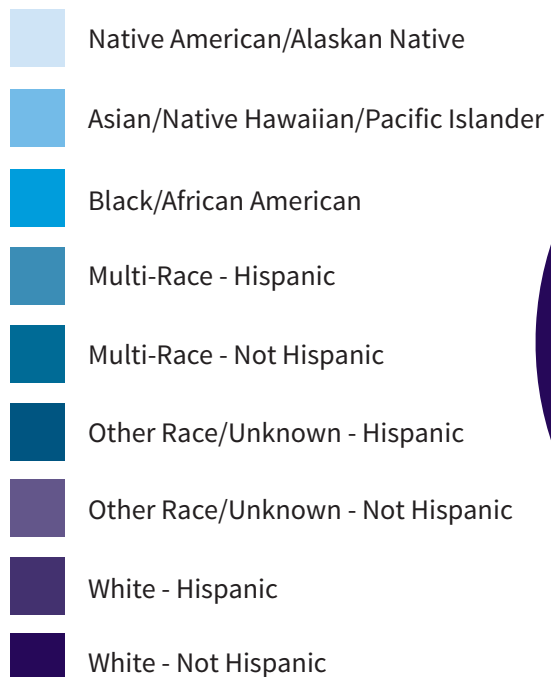
**4.3%**

were veterans  
(among those age 18+)

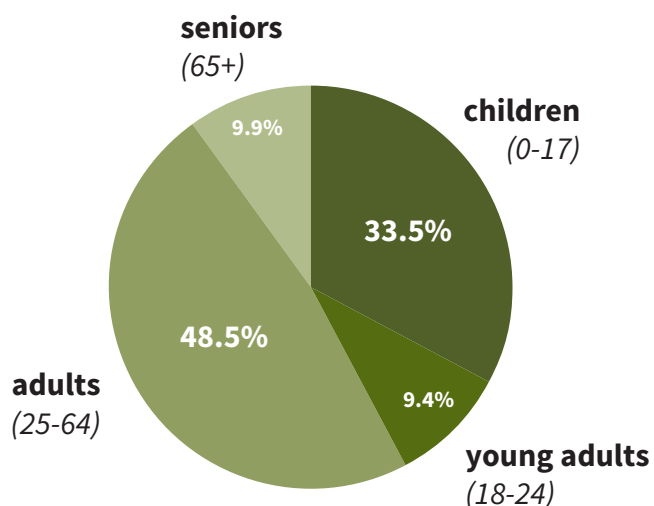


# OVERALL DEMOGRAPHICS

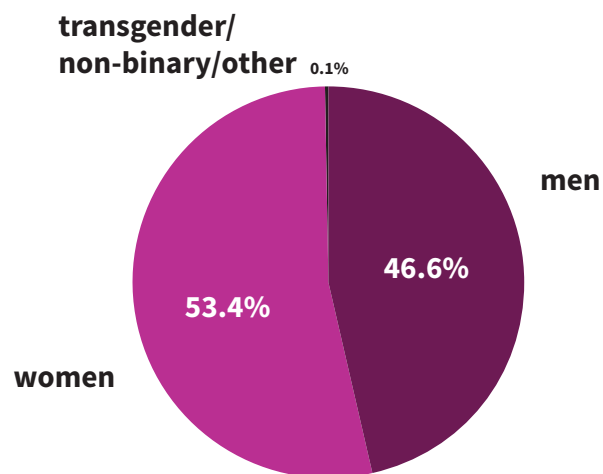
## Race & Ethnicity



## Age

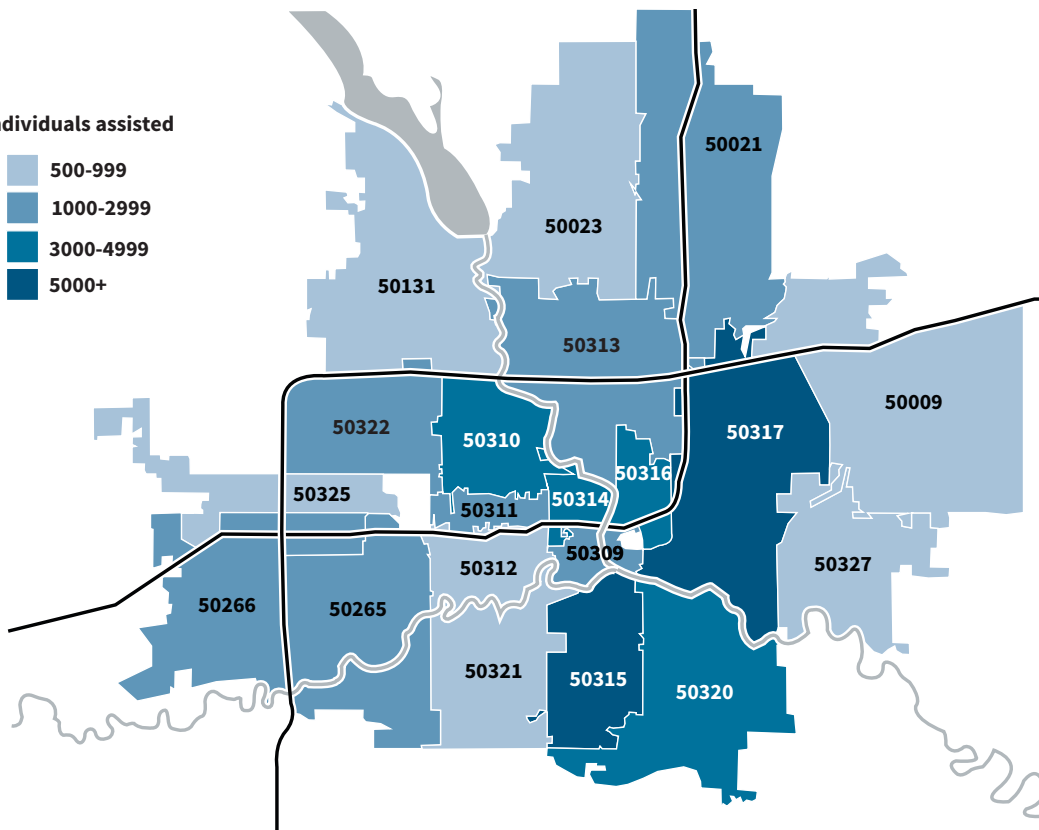
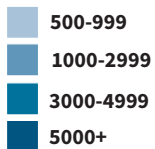


## Gender



# OVERALL DEMOGRAPHICS

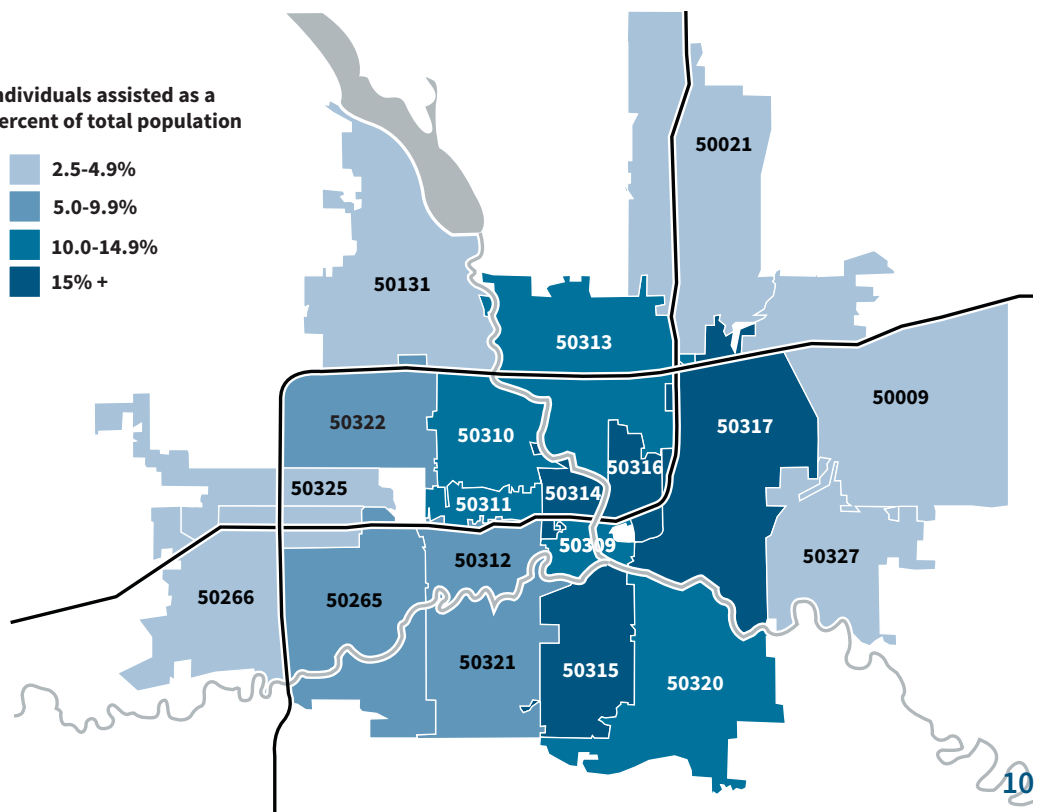
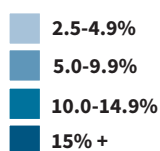
Individuals assisted



**57%** of all food pantry visitors lived in the following six ZIP codes:

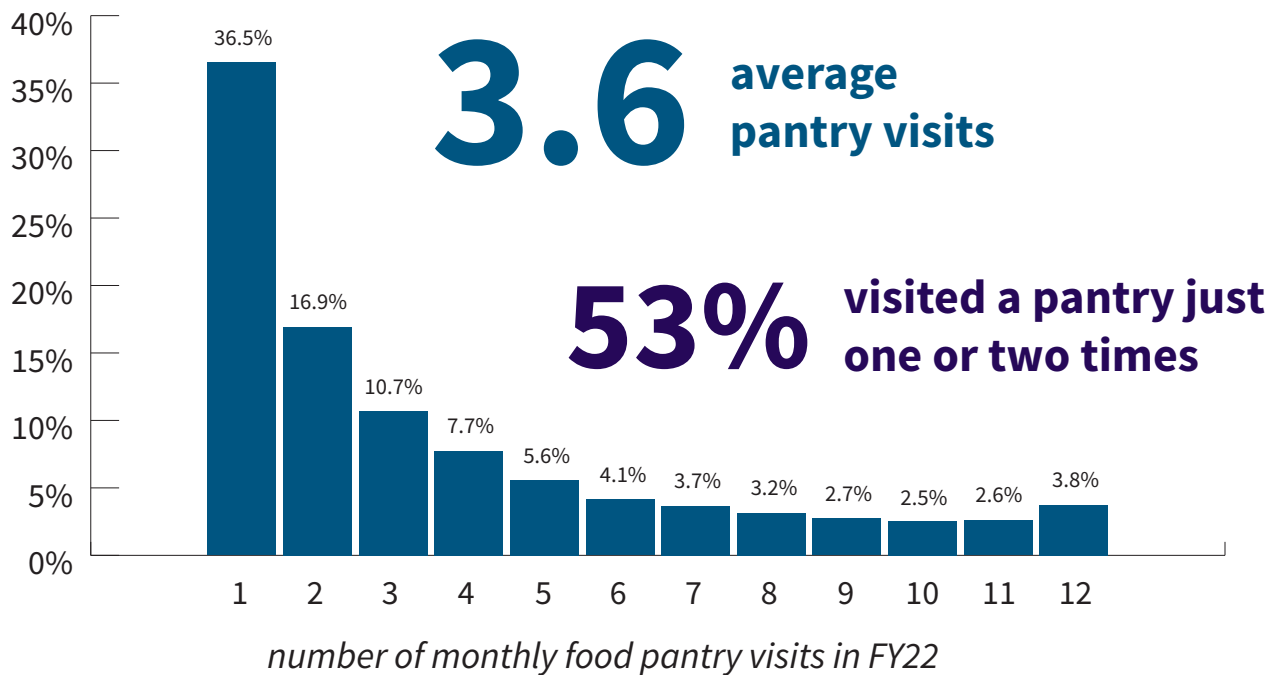
- 50310
- 50314
- 50315
- 50316
- 50317
- 50320

Individuals assisted as a percent of total population



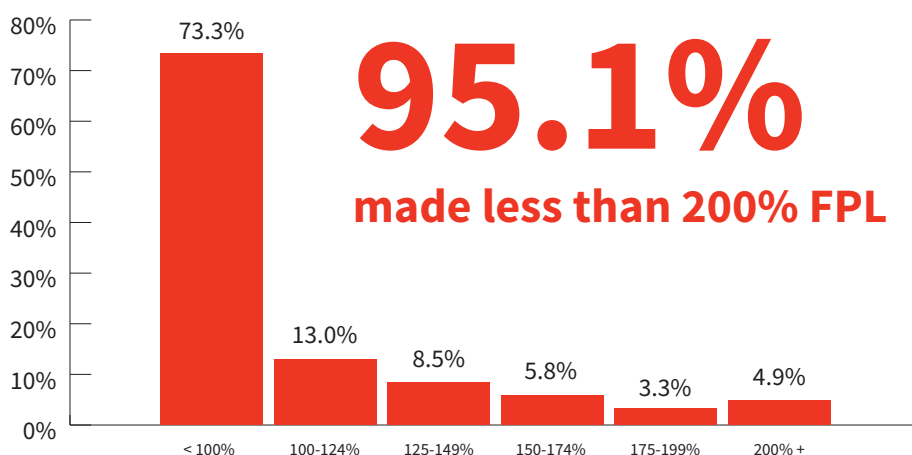
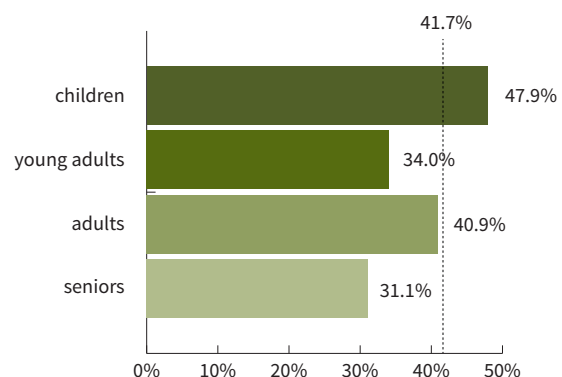
**50314** had the greatest concentration of food pantry use, with **26.9%** of residents using the DMARC Food Pantry Network in FY22.

# OVERALL DEMOGRAPHICS



**41.7%**

received SNAP benefits at some point in FY22



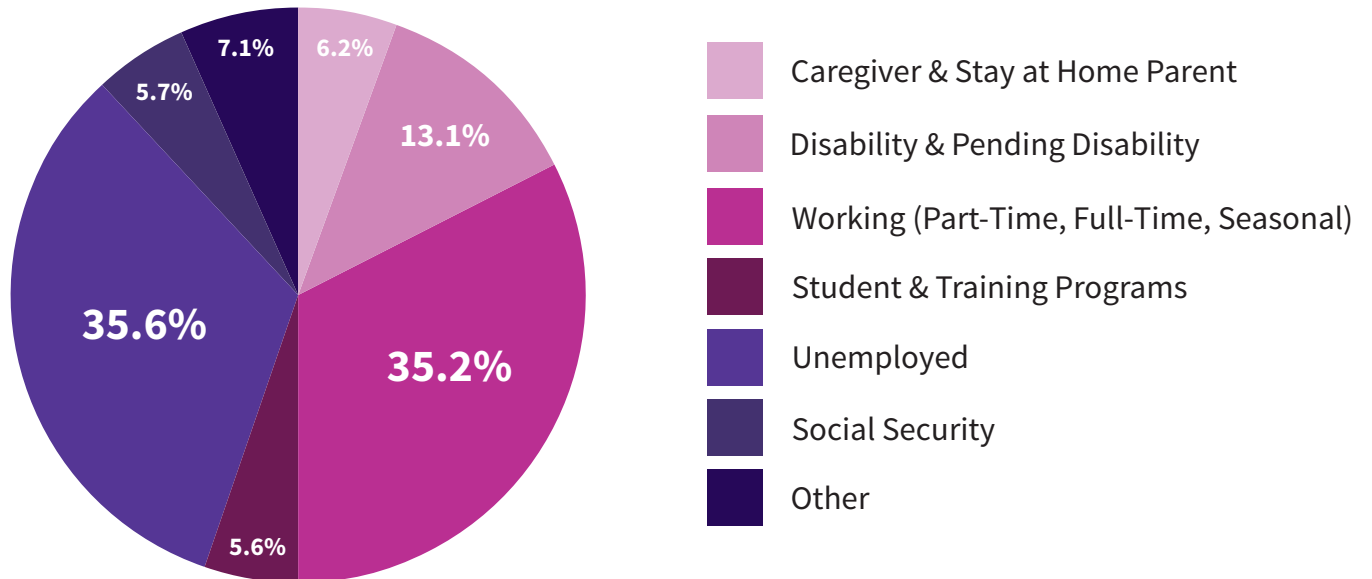
## Federal Poverty Level 2022

HH Size	100% FPL	200% FPL
1	\$13,950	\$27,900
2	\$18,310	\$36,620
3	\$23,030	\$46,060
4	\$27,750	\$55,500
5	\$32,470	\$64,940
6	\$37,190	\$74,380

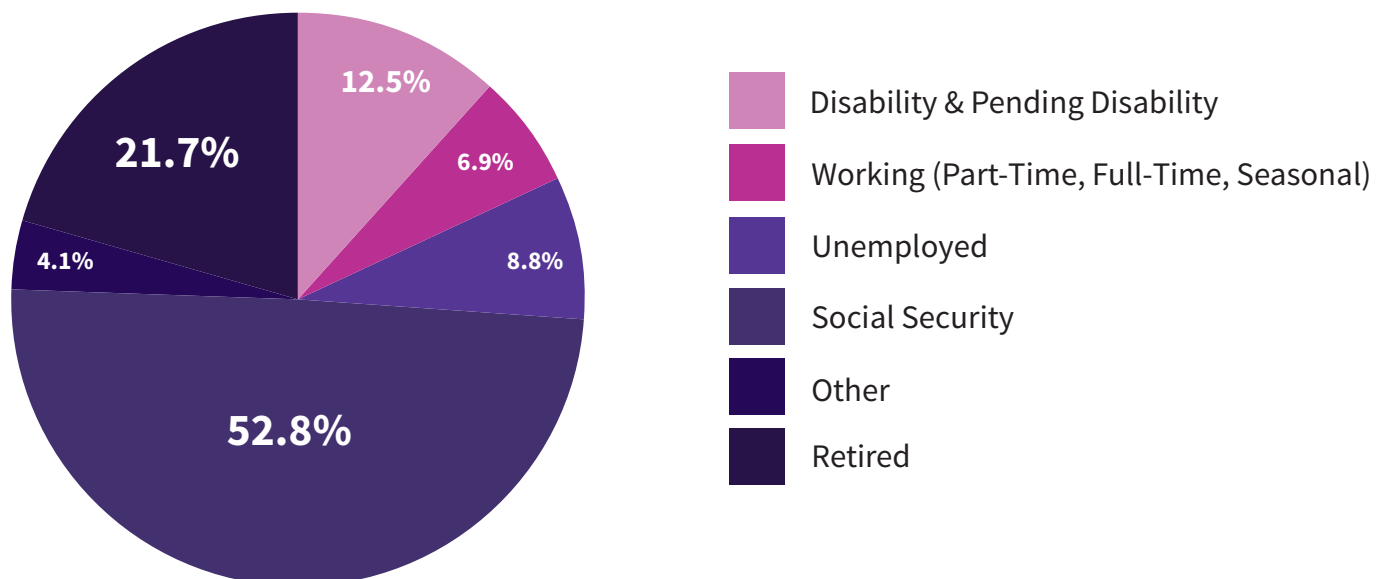
household income as a percentage of federal poverty level

# OVERALL DEMOGRAPHICS

## Source of Income, Ages 18-64

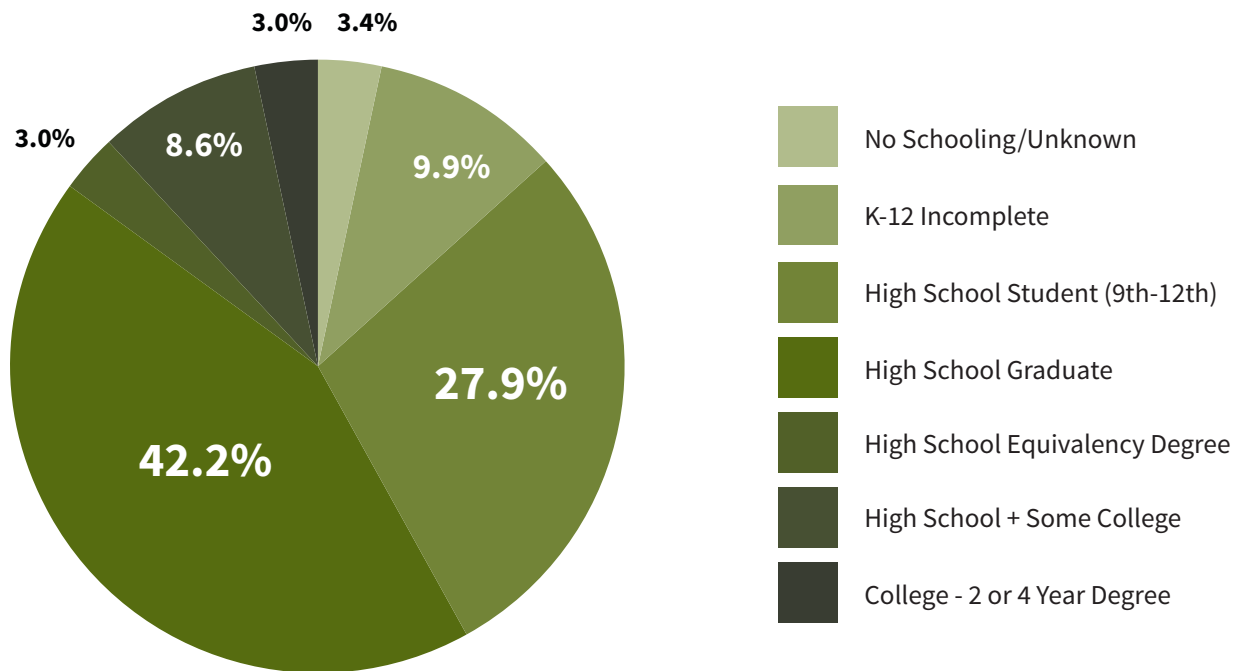


## Source of Income, Ages 65+

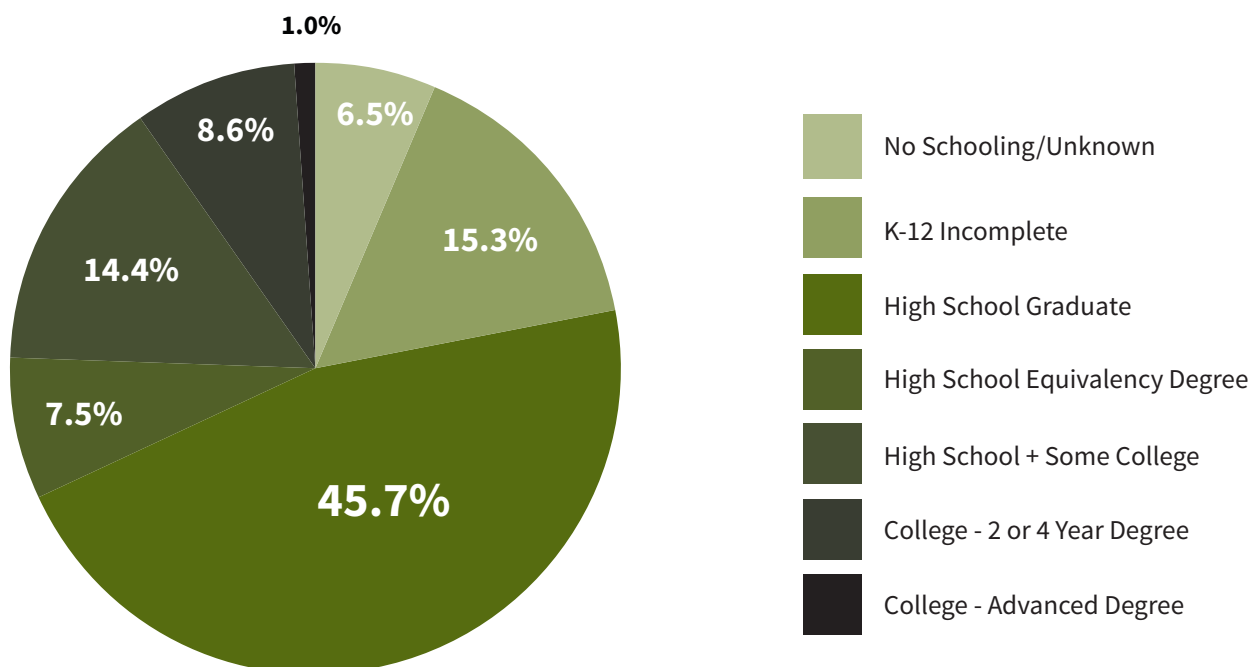


# OVERALL DEMOGRAPHICS

## Education, Ages 18-24



## Education, Ages 25+



**NATIVE AMERICAN/  
ALASKAN NATIVE**

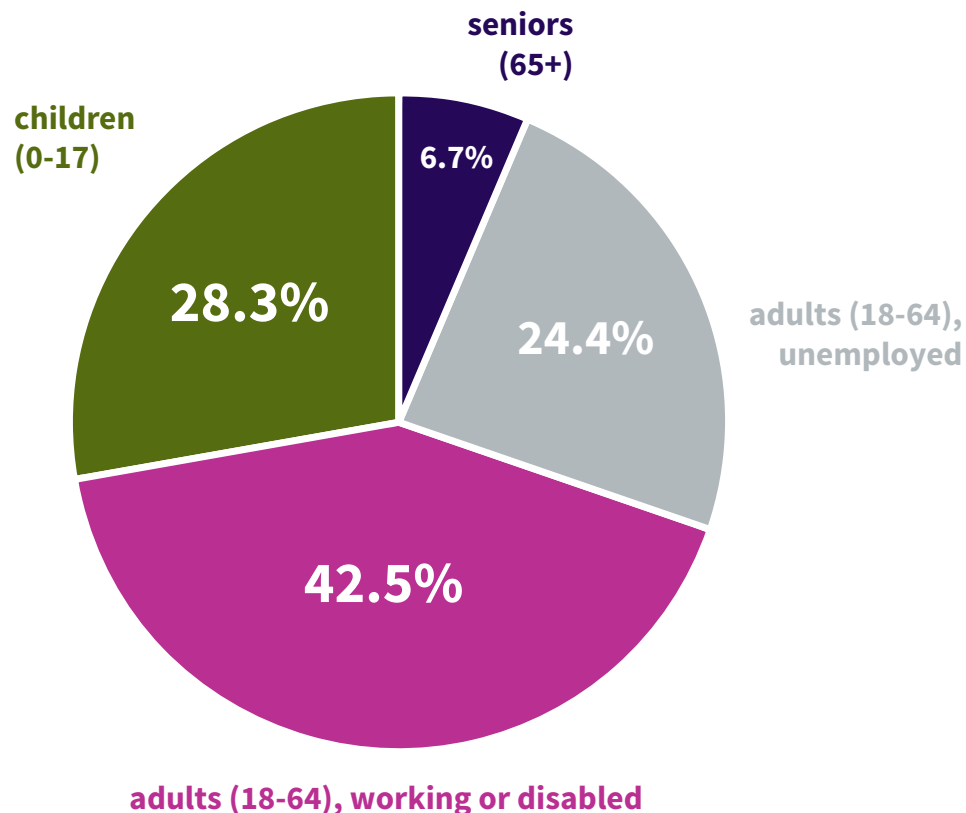
# NATIVE AMERICAN/ALASKAN NATIVE

## Observed Disparities

**Compared to all food pantry visitors, those who identified as Native American or Alaskan Native were...**

- **Diverse in their educational attainment.** Food pantry visitors who identified as Native American or Alaskan Native were less likely to have graduated from high school and more likely to have their high school equivalency degree. However, they were also more likely to have completed high school and some college or have a 2 or 4 year college degree.
- **More likely to be a veteran.** Food pantry visitors age 18 or above who identified as Native American or Alaskan Native were more likely to be a veteran.
- **More likely to receive SNAP benefits, disability benefits, and social security benefits.** Food pantry visitors who identified as Native American or Alaskan Native were more likely to receive SNAP benefits, disability benefits, and social security benefits. Native American or Alaskan Native seniors were twice as likely to receive disability benefits as all seniors.
- **Smaller in household size.** Food pantry visitors who identified as Native American or Alaskan Native had an average household size of 1.53, compared to an average household size of 2.34 for all food pantry visitors.
- **Adults.** Food pantry visitors who identified as Native American or Alaskan Native were more likely to be age 18-64 and less likely to be a child or senior.

# NATIVE AMERICAN/ALASKAN NATIVE



**315**

unique individuals assisted

**206**

households assisted

**1.53**

average household size

**21.3%**

first-time individuals

**25.7%**

first-time households

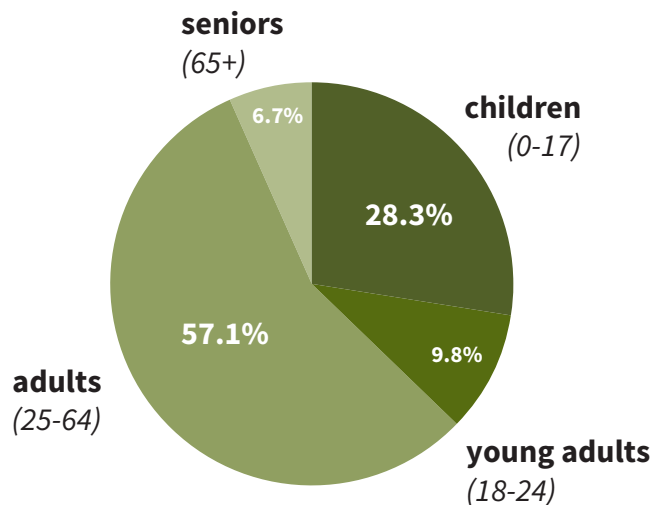
**5.6%**

were veterans  
(among those age 18+)

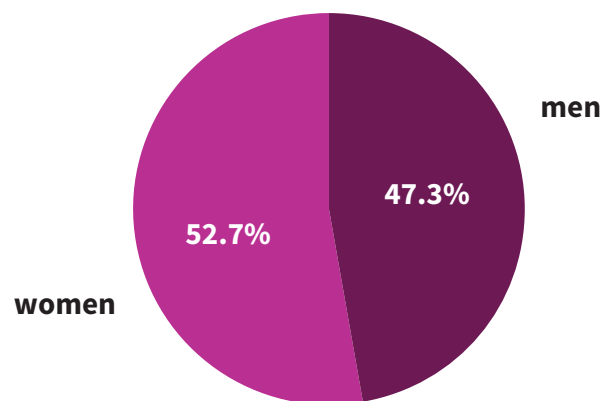


# NATIVE AMERICAN/ALASKAN NATIVE

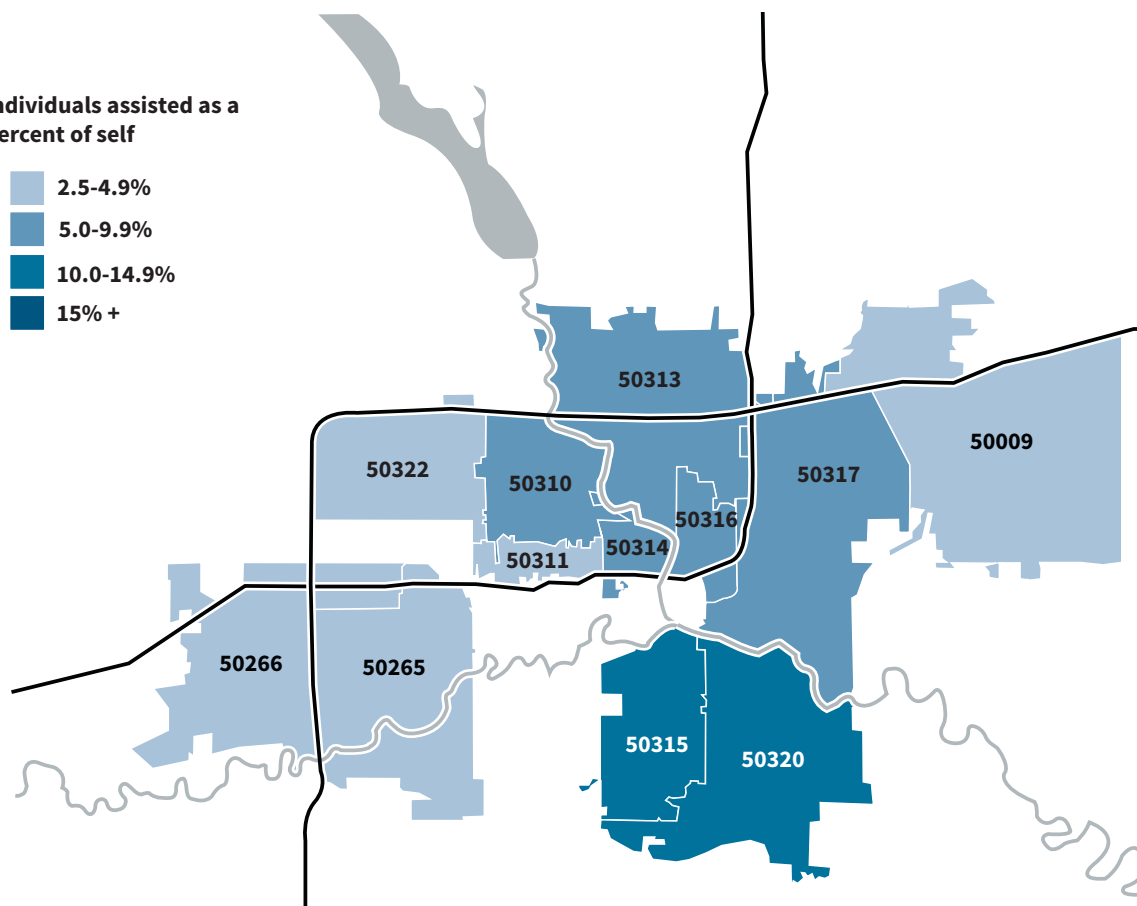
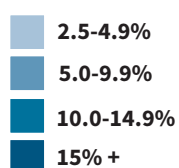
## Age



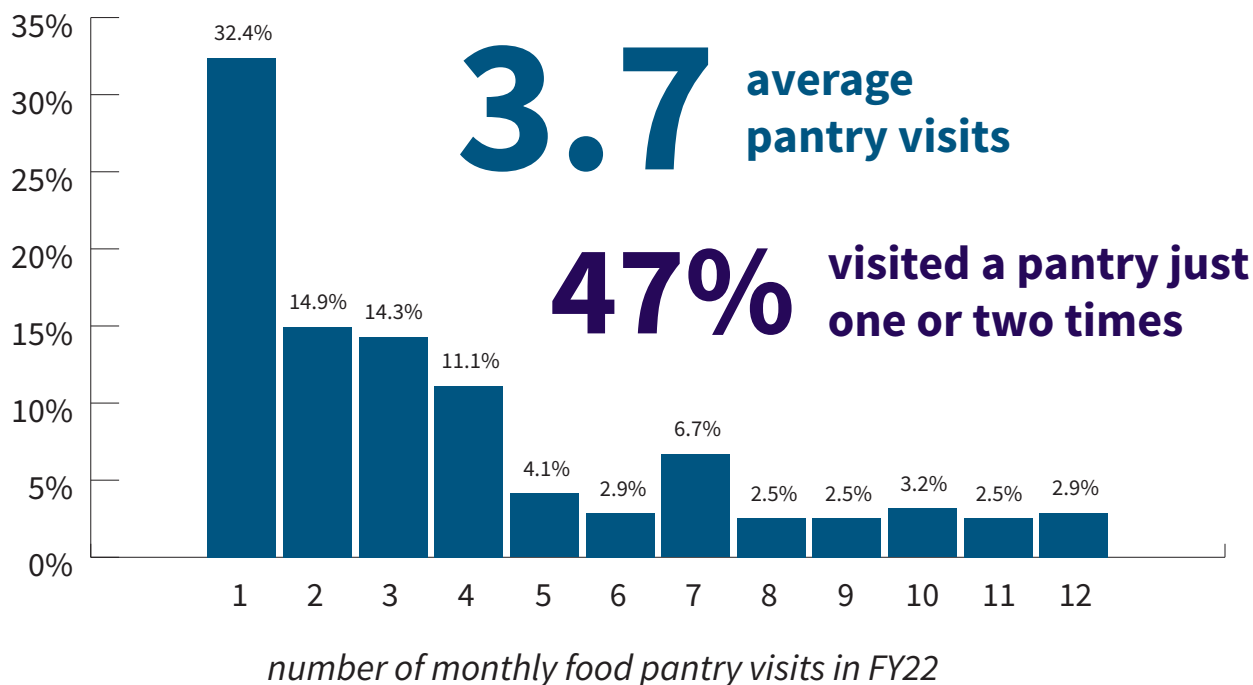
## Gender



Individuals assisted as a percent of self

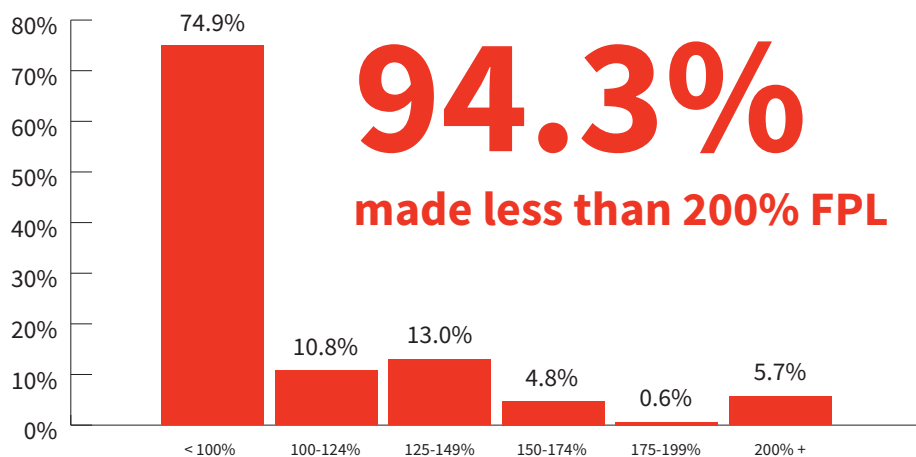
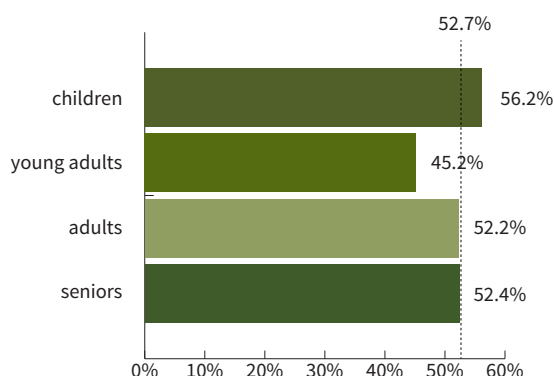


# NATIVE AMERICAN/ALASKAN NATIVE



**52.7%**

**received SNAP benefits at some point in FY22**



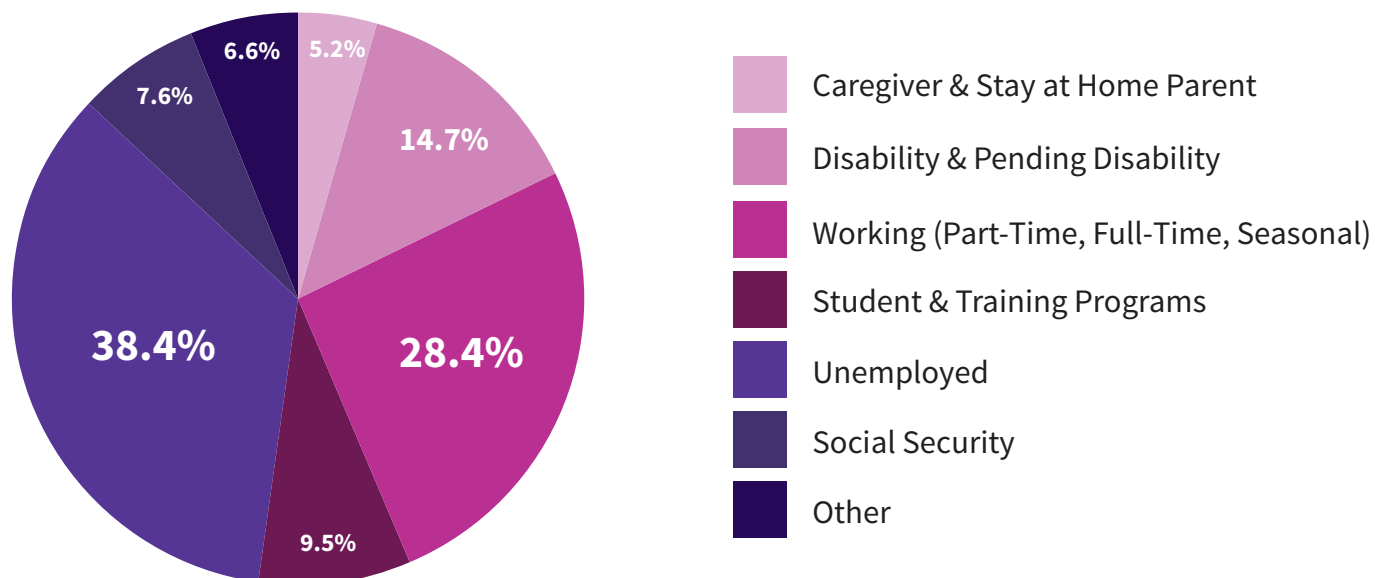
## Federal Poverty Level 2022

HH Size	100% FPL	200% FPL
1	\$13,950	\$27,900
2	\$18,310	\$36,620
3	\$23,030	\$46,060
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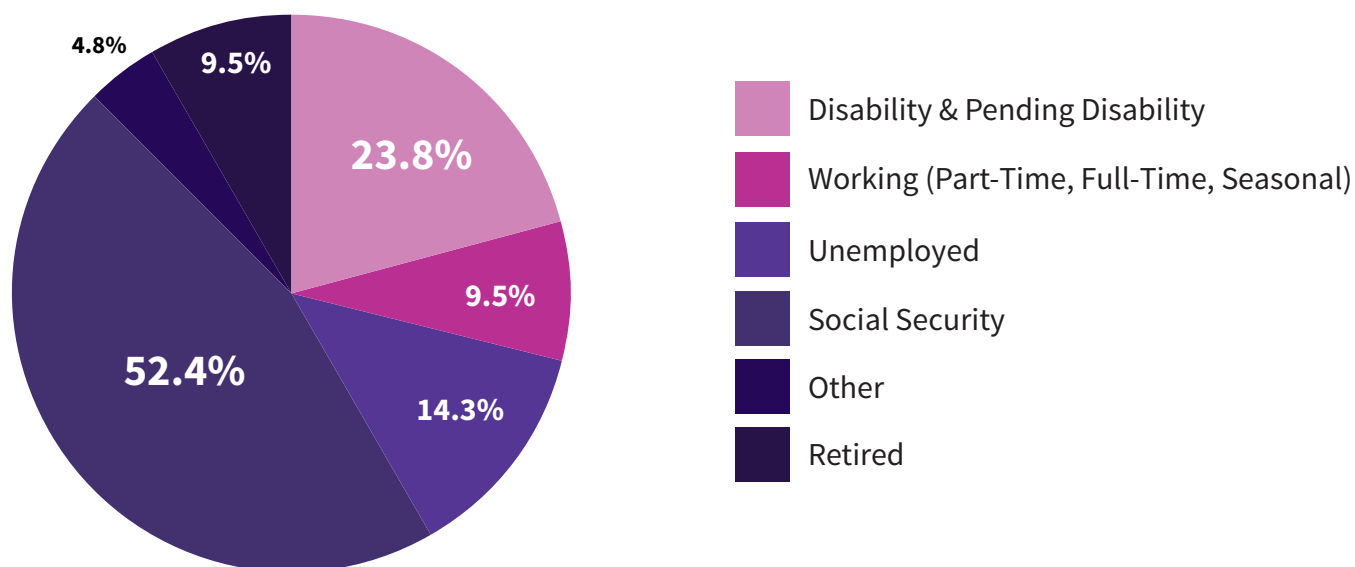
*household income as a percentage of federal poverty level*

# NATIVE AMERICAN/ALASKAN NATIVE

## Source of Income, Ages 18-64

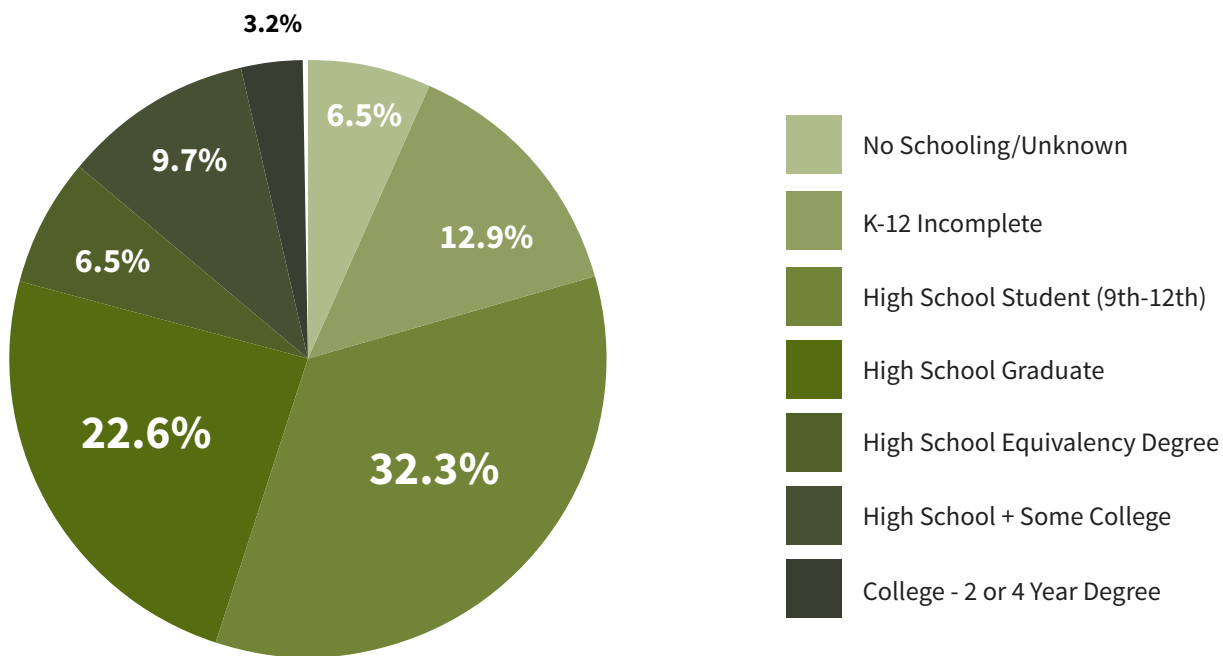


## Source of Income, Ages 65+

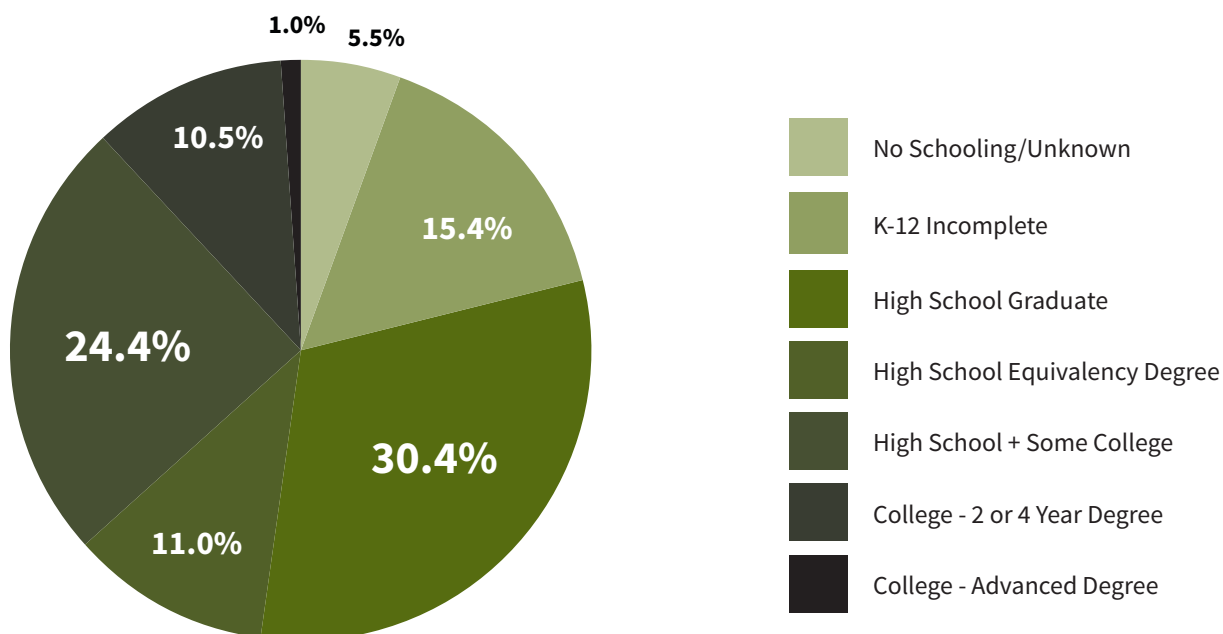


# NATIVE AMERICAN/ALASKAN NATIVE

## Education, Ages 18-24



## Education, Ages 25+



**ASIAN/  
NATIVE HAWAIIAN/  
PACIFIC ISLANDER**

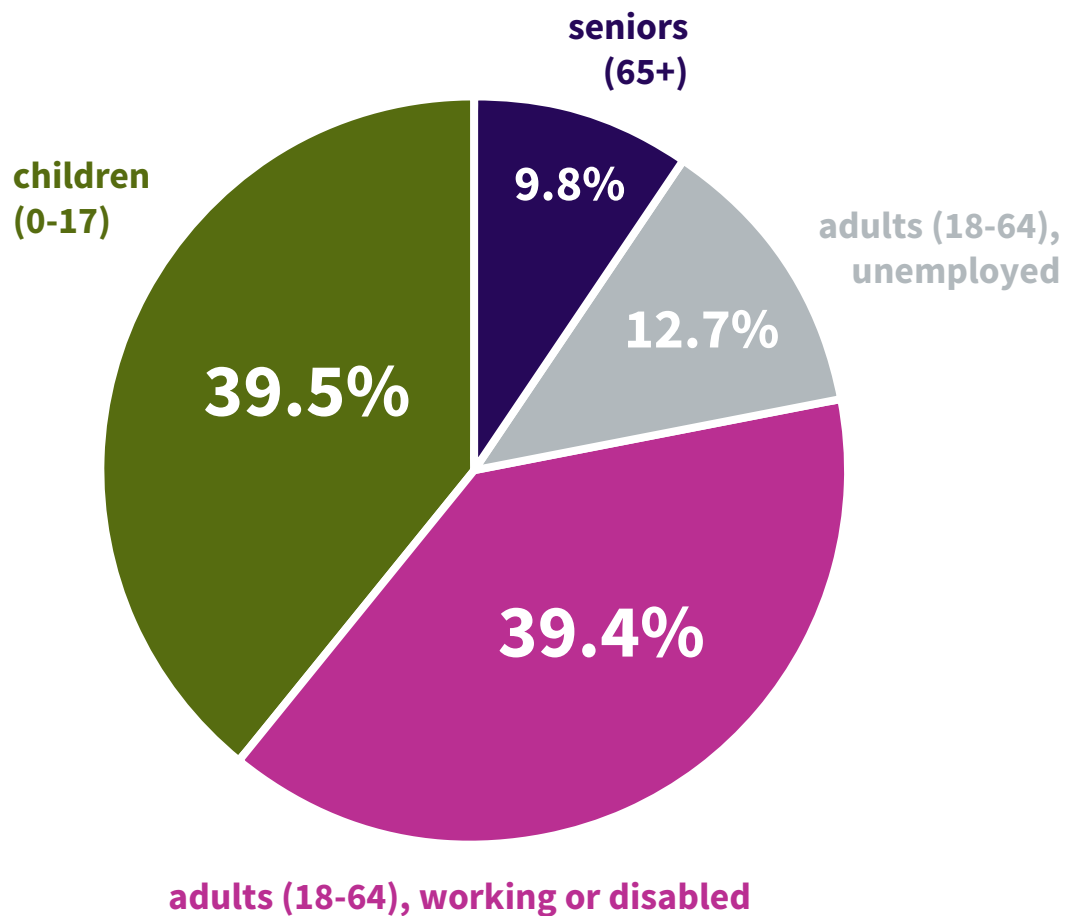
# ASIAN/NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER

## Observed Disparities

**Compared to all food pantry visitors, those who identified as Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander were...**

- **Younger.** Food pantry visitors who identified as Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander were more likely to be a child and less likely to be an adult between the ages of 18-64. They were just as likely to be a senior.
- **More frequent food pantry visitors.** Food pantry visitors who identified as Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander used the Food Pantry Network an average of 5.0 times in FY22, compared to 3.6 average visits for everyone assisted in FY22. Those who identify as seniors use the food pantry even more frequently - an average of 6.9 times in FY22.
- **Larger in their household size.** Food pantry visitors who identified as Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander had an average household size of 2.95, compared to an average household size of 2.34 for all pantry visitors.
- **Geographically concentrated.** Over 20% of all food pantry visitors who identified as Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander had a 50310 ZIP code. This was the greatest geographic concentration observed among any race or ethnicity. Another 23% lived at an address with a 50315 or 50320 ZIP code.
- **More likely to be employed or be a stay at home parent.** Food pantry visitors who identified as Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander were less likely to be unemployed, more likely to be working, and three times as likely to be a stay at home parent or caregiver. Those who were employed or were a stay at home parent or caregiver used food pantries at a higher frequency.
- **Less likely to receive disability or social security benefits, but more likely to receive SNAP benefits.** Food pantry visitors between the ages 18-64 who identified as Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander were five times less likely to receive disability benefits and three times less likely to receive social security benefits. Visitors age 65 and above were also less likely to receive social security or disability benefits, with a smaller disparity.
- **More educated the younger they were.** Young adults were more likely to have completed high school and some college, while those age 25 and above were more likely to have no schooling or to have dropped out of school.

# ASIAN/NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER



**3,877**

unique individuals assisted

**1,316**

households assisted

**2.95**

average household size

**17.1%**

first-time individuals

**28.1%**

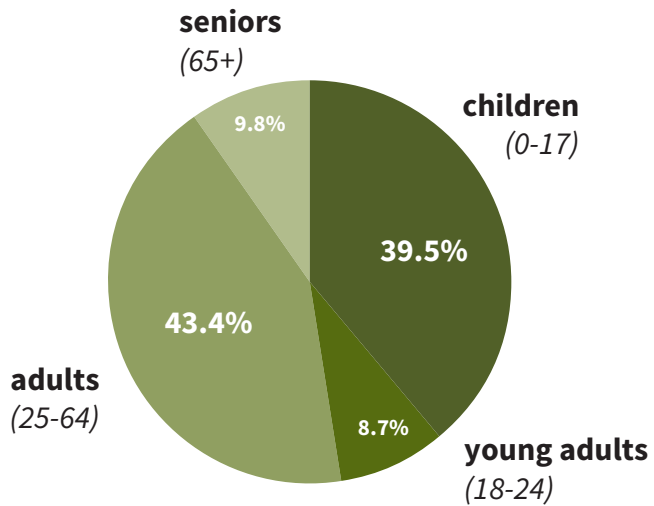
first-time households

**0.7%**

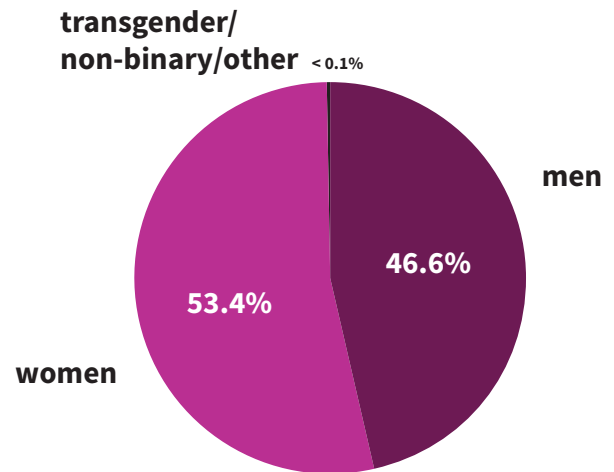
were veterans  
(among those age 18+)

# ASIAN/NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER

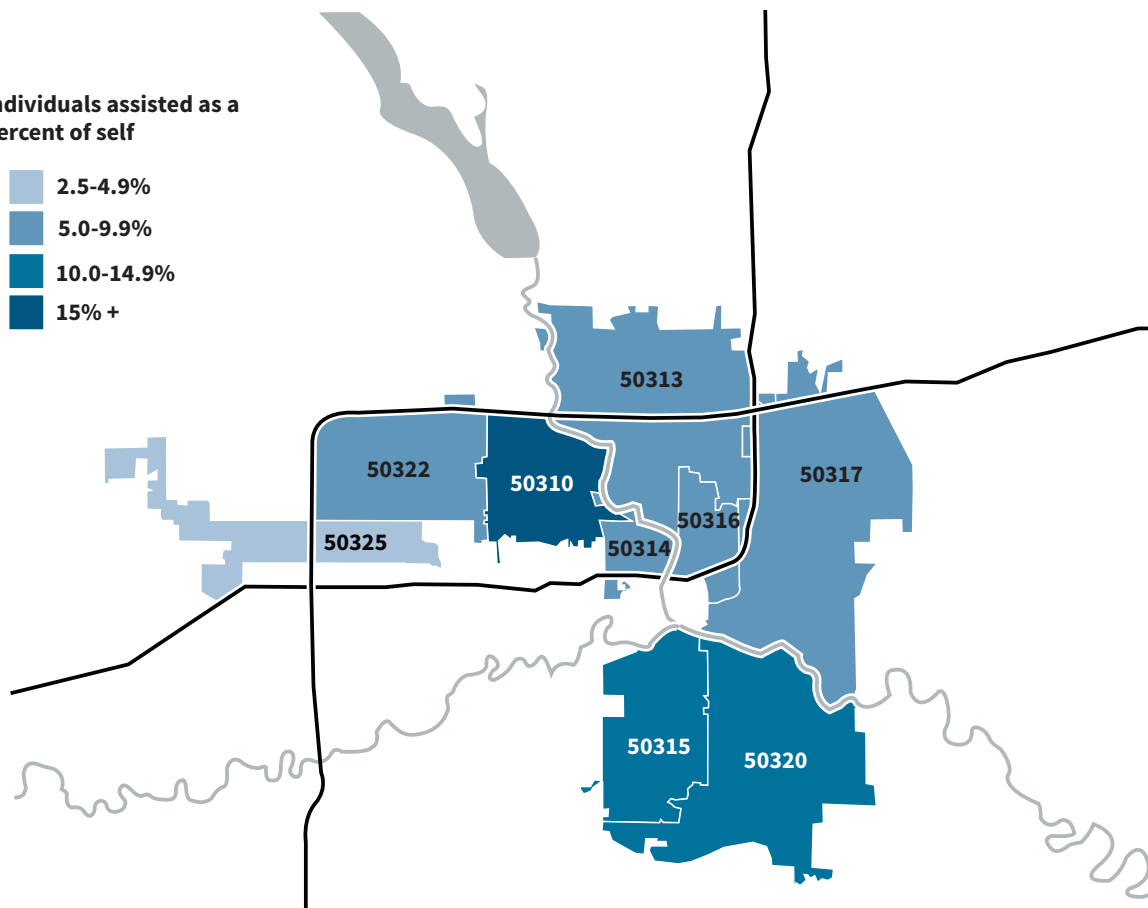
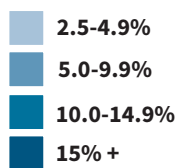
## Age



## Gender

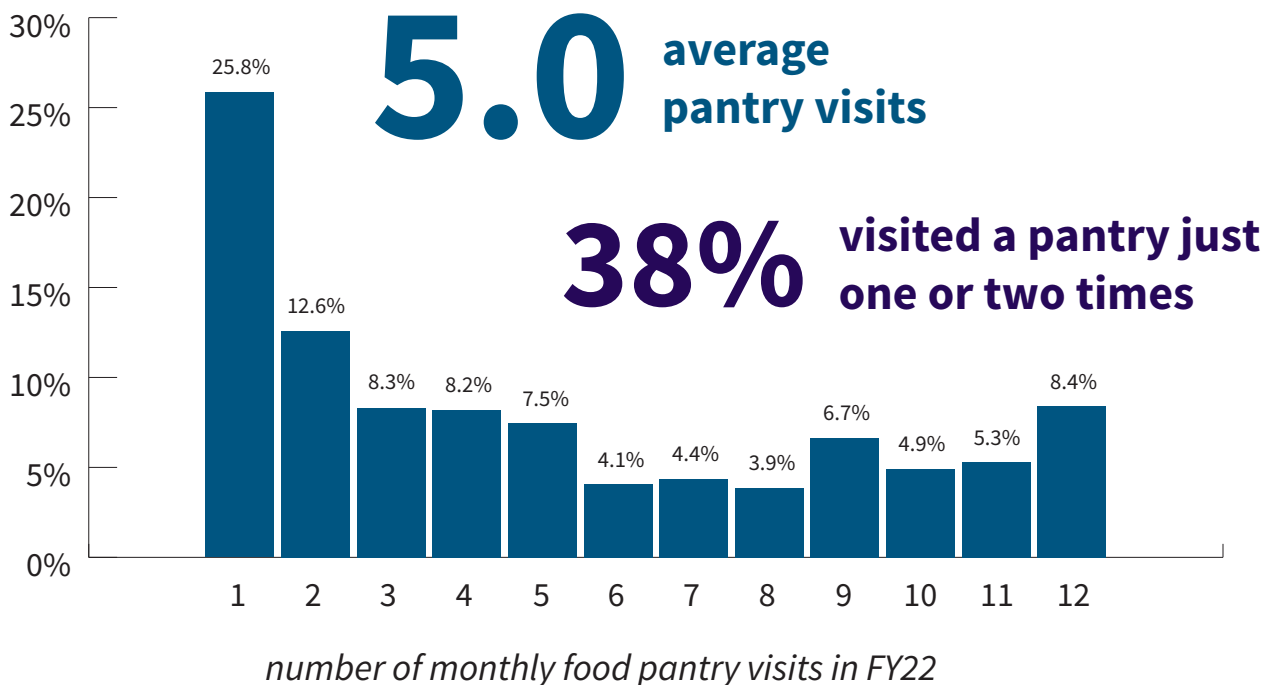


Individuals assisted as a percent of self



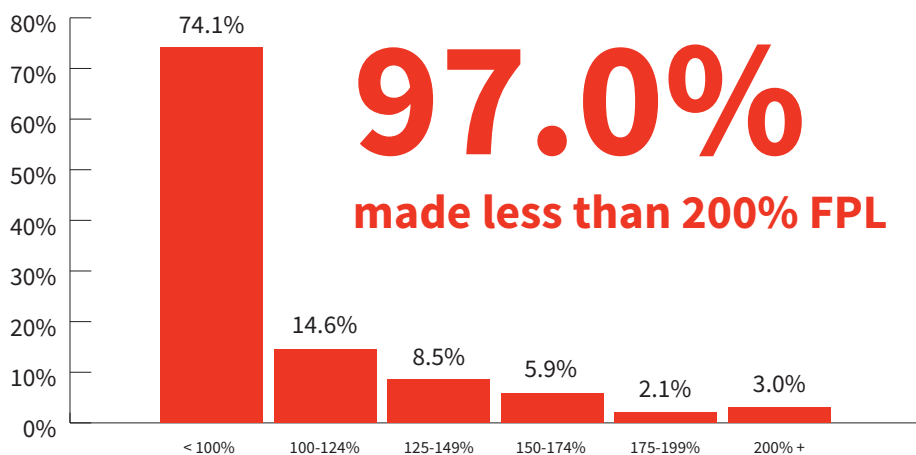
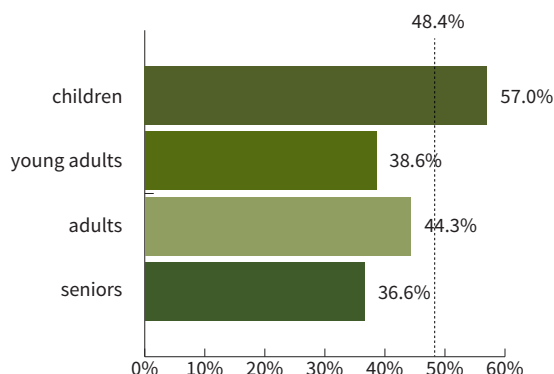


# ASIAN/NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER



**48.4%**

received SNAP benefits at some point in FY22



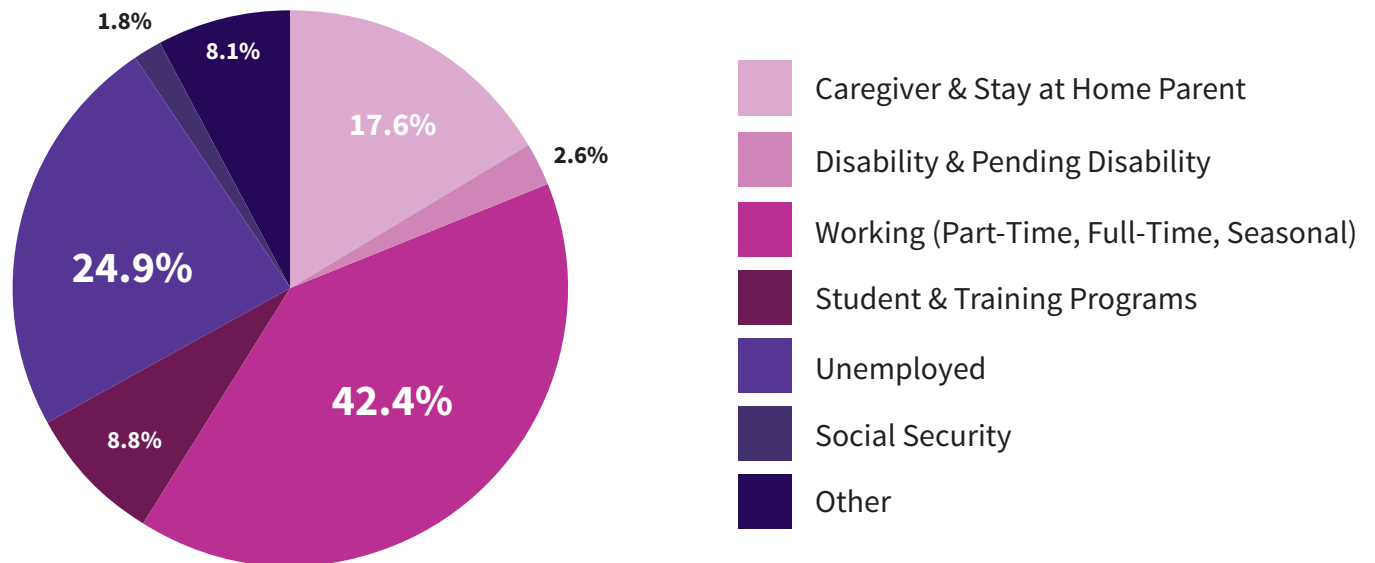
## Federal Poverty Level 2022

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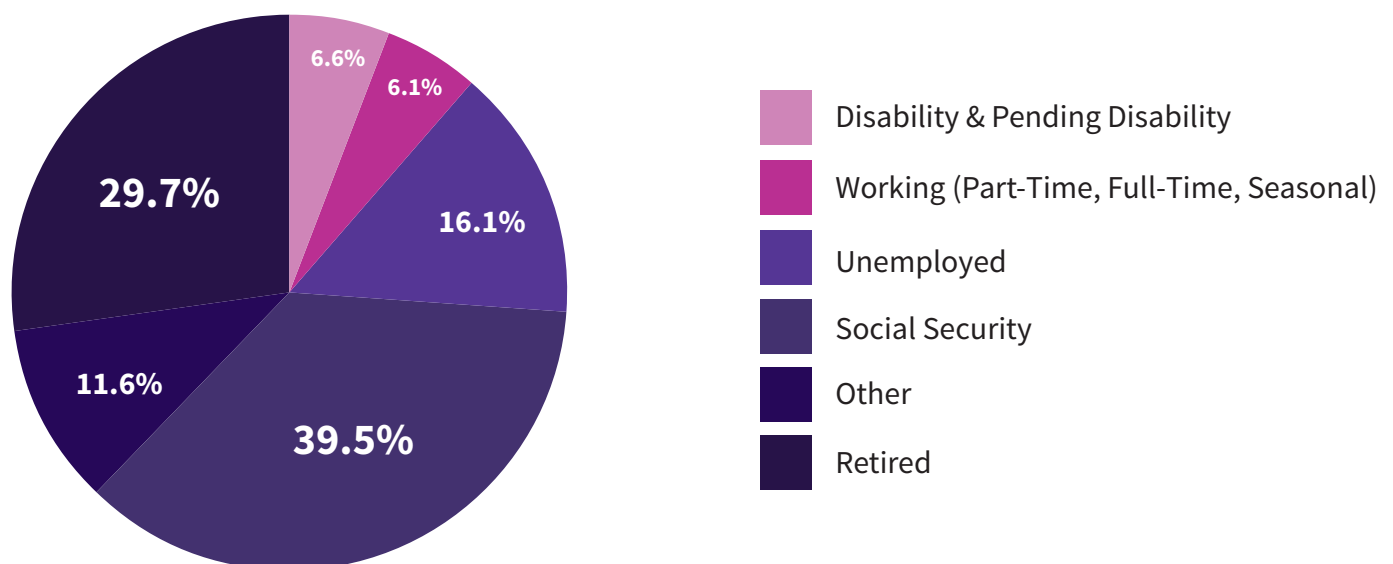
household income as a percentage of federal poverty level

# ASIAN/NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER

## Source of Income, Ages 18-64

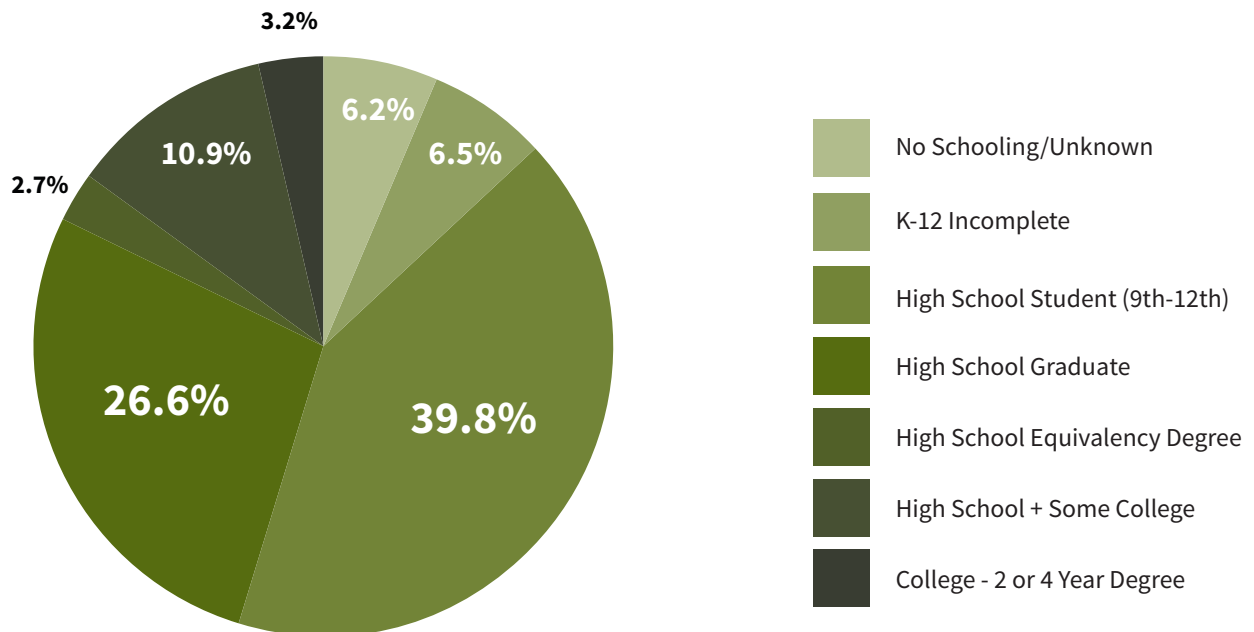


## Source of Income, Ages 65+

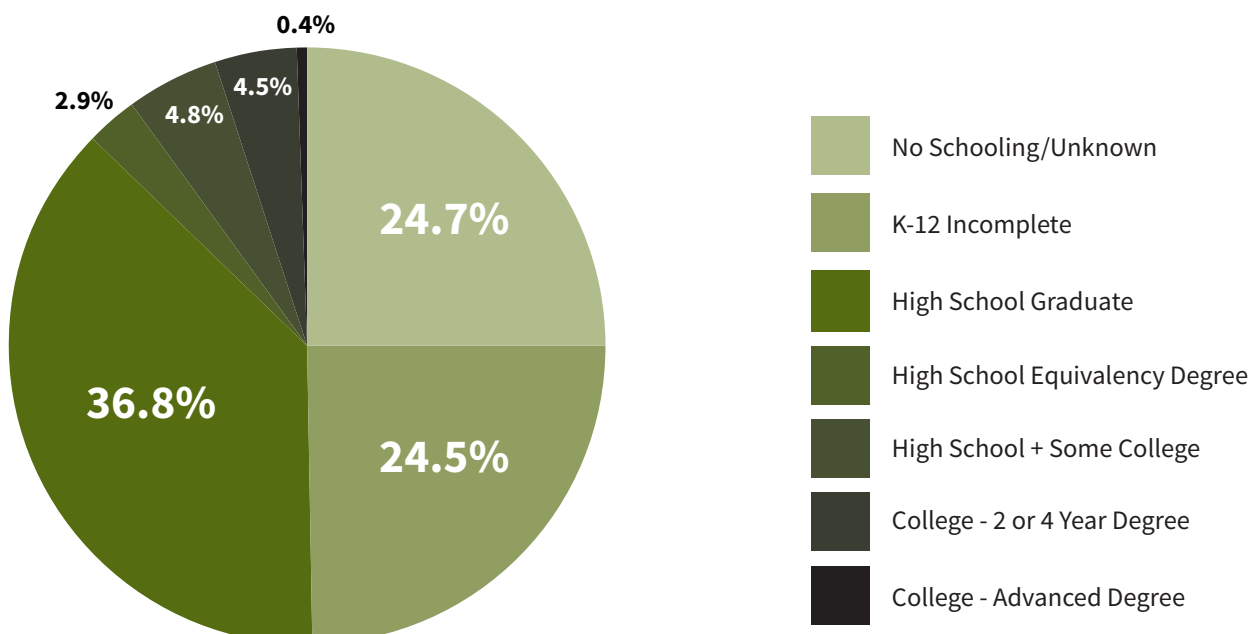


# ASIAN/NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER

## Education, Ages 18-24



## Education, Ages 25+



**BLACK/  
AFRICAN AMERICAN**

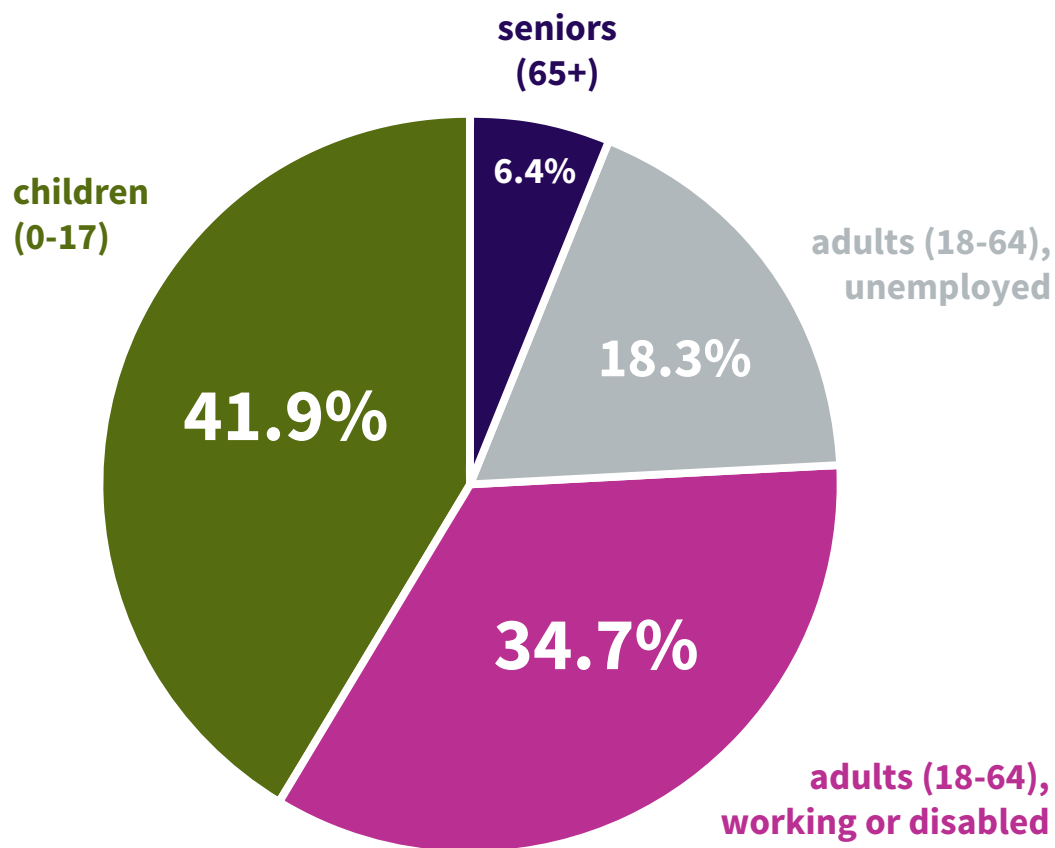
# BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN

## Observed Disparities

**Compared to all food pantry visitors, those who identified as Black or African American were...**

- **Younger.** Food pantry visitors who identified as Black or African American were more likely to be children and less likely to be a senior. 42% of Black/African American food pantry visitors were children.
- **Lower income.** Black/African American food pantry visitors were more likely to have a household income below the federal poverty line, and less likely to have an income above 200% of the federal poverty line. 82% of Black/African American food pantry visitors lived below the federal poverty line.
- **More likely to receive SNAP benefits and disability benefits.** Food pantry visitors who identified as Black or African American were more likely to receive SNAP benefits and seniors were more likely to receive disability benefits. 56% of all Black/African American children received SNAP benefits at some point in FY22. Seniors were less likely to receive social security benefits.
- **Less frequent food pantry visitors.** 59% of all Black/African American food pantry visitors came just once or twice in the year. Only 2.4% visited all twelve months of the year.
- **More highly educated.** Food pantry visitors who identified as Black or African American were less likely to have dropped out of school and more likely to have completed high school and some college.

# BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN



**8,201**

unique individuals assisted

**3,661**

households assisted

**2.24**

average household size

**24.1%**

first-time individuals

**30.5%**

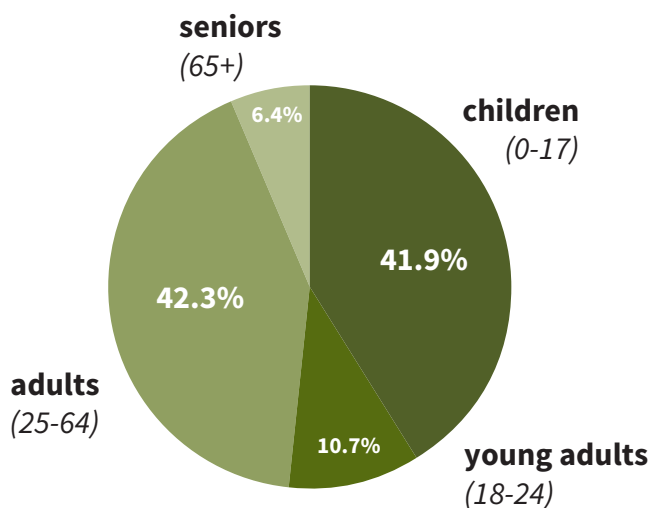
first-time households

**3.6%**

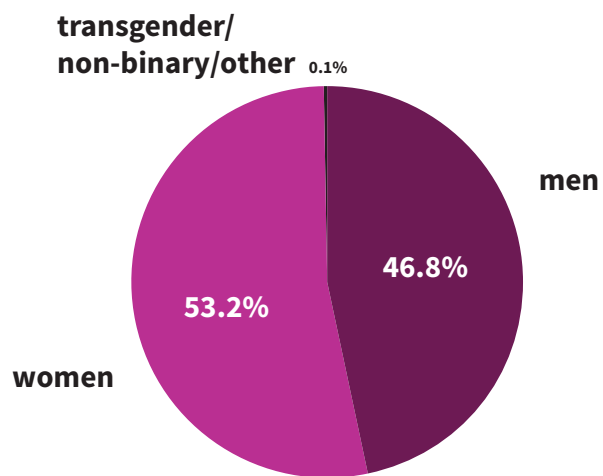
were veterans  
(among those age 18+)

# BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN

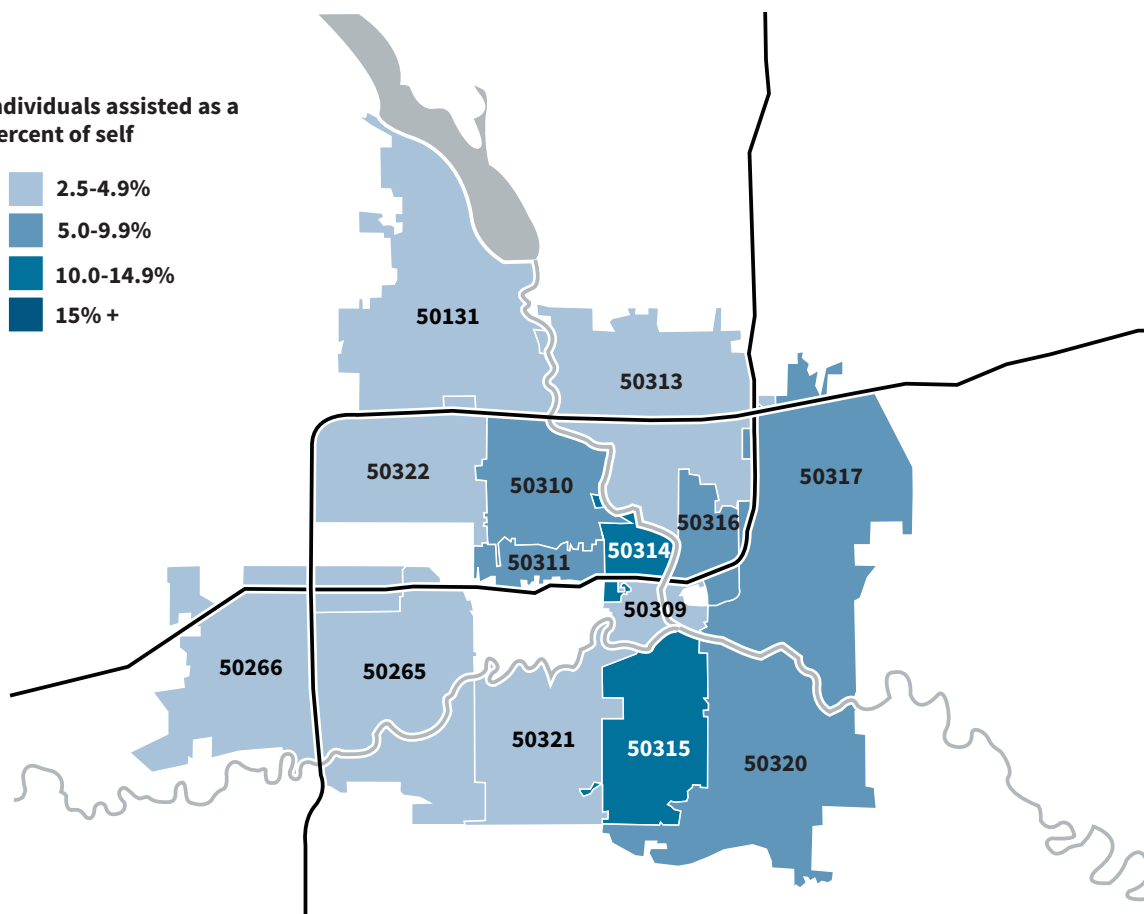
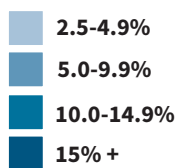
## Age



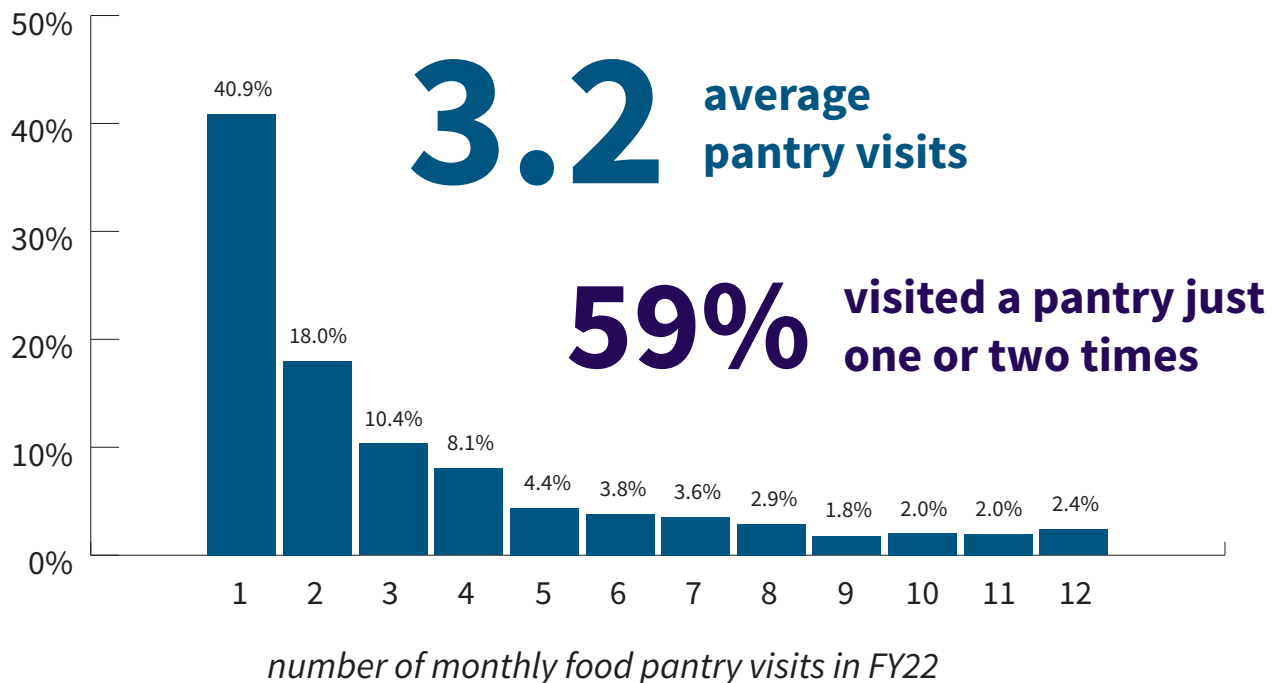
## Gender



Individuals assisted as a percent of self

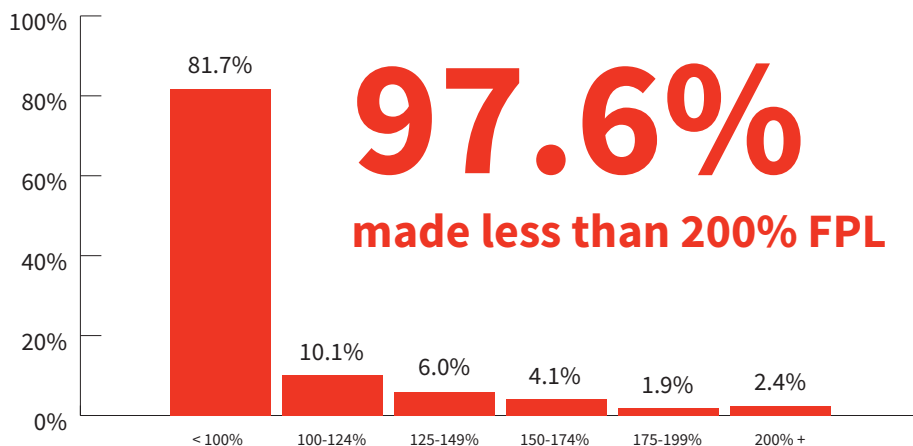
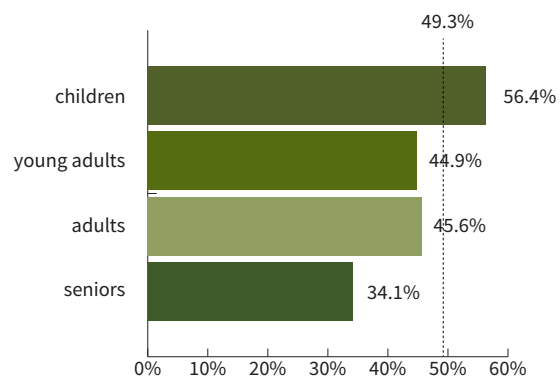


# BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN



**49.3%**

**received SNAP benefits at some point in FY22**



## Federal Poverty Level 2022

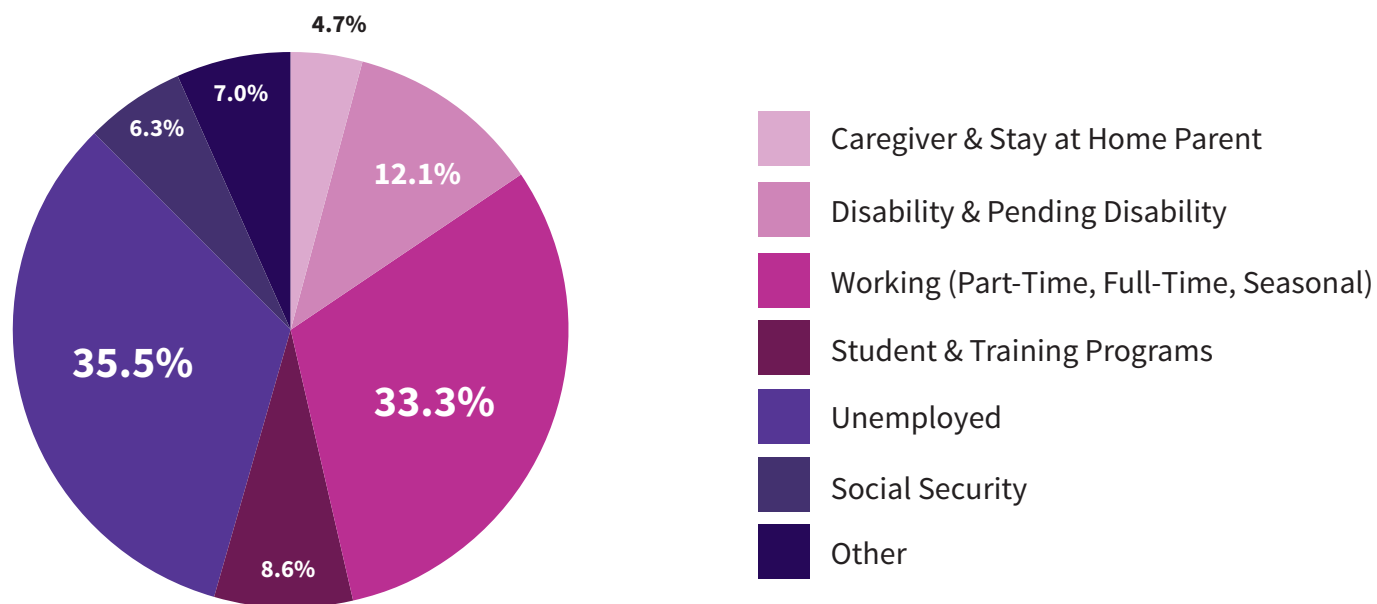
HH Size	100% FPL	200% FPL
1	\$13,950	\$27,900
2	\$18,310	\$36,620
3	\$23,030	\$46,060
4	\$27,750	\$55,500
5	\$32,470	\$64,940
6	\$37,190	\$74,380

*household income as a percentage of federal poverty level*

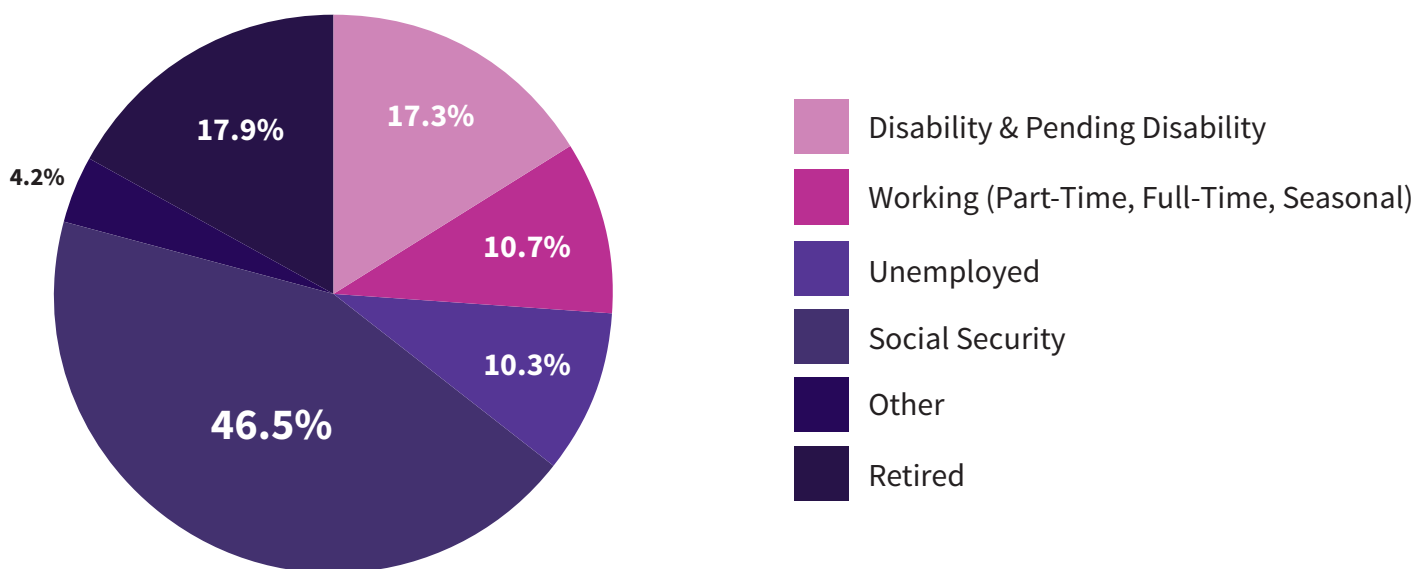


# BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN

## Source of Income, Ages 18-64

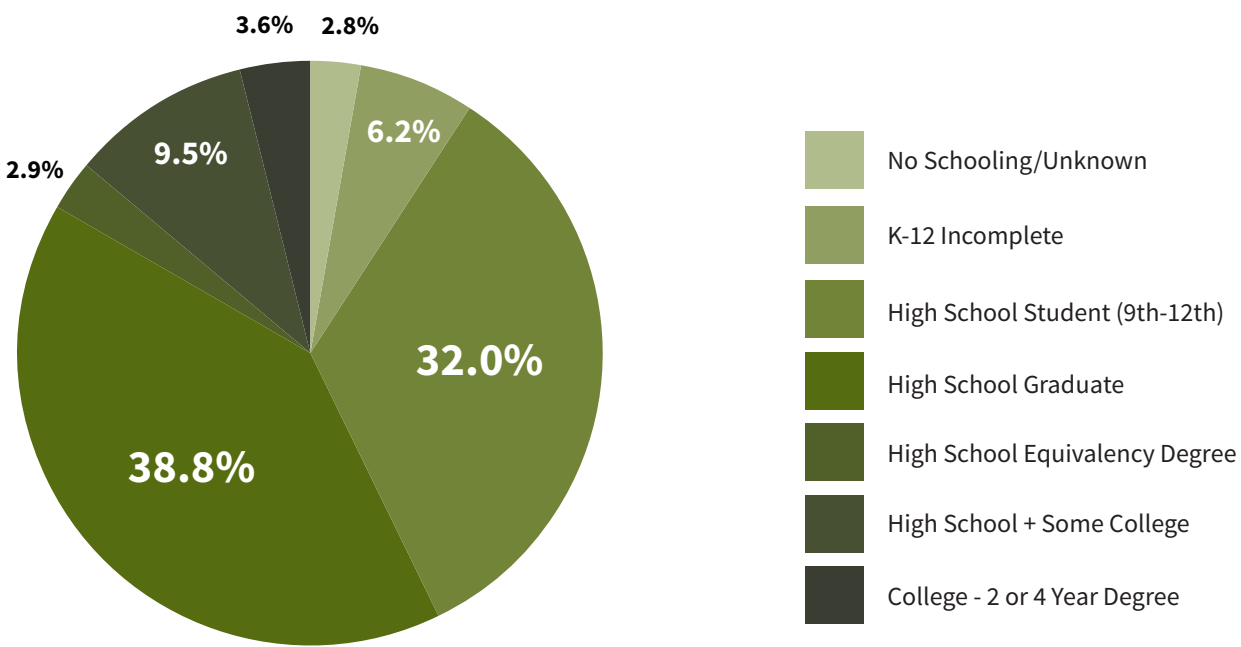


## Source of Income, Ages 65+

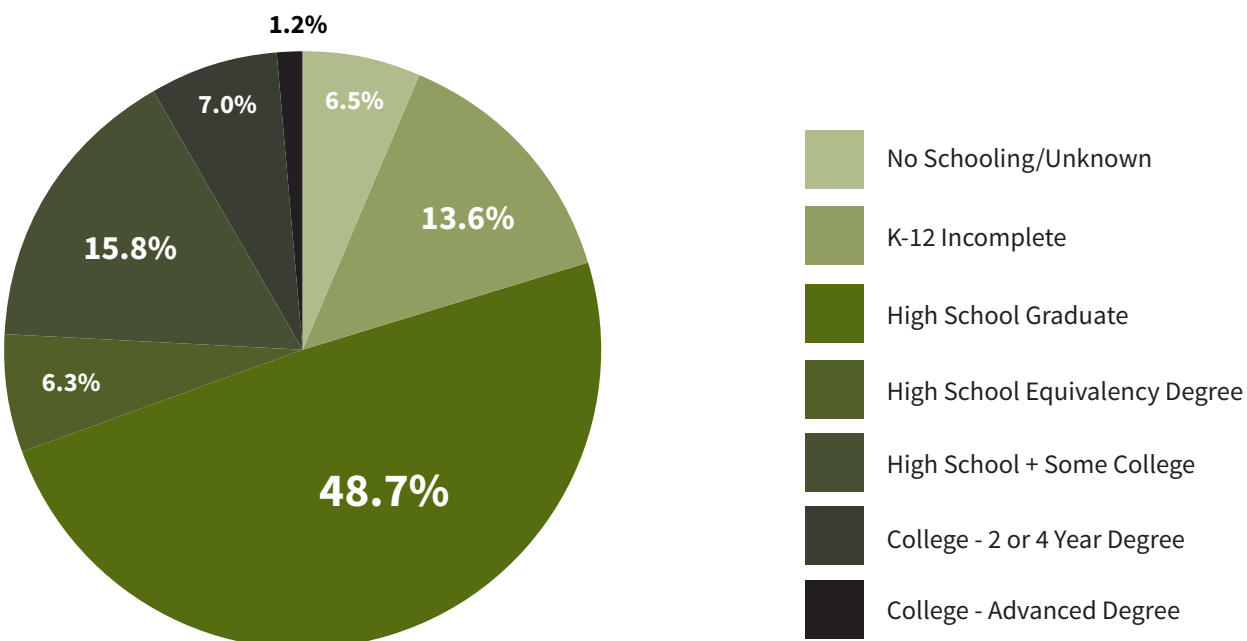


# BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN

## Education, Ages 18-24



## Education, Ages 25+



**MULTI-RACE - HISPANIC**

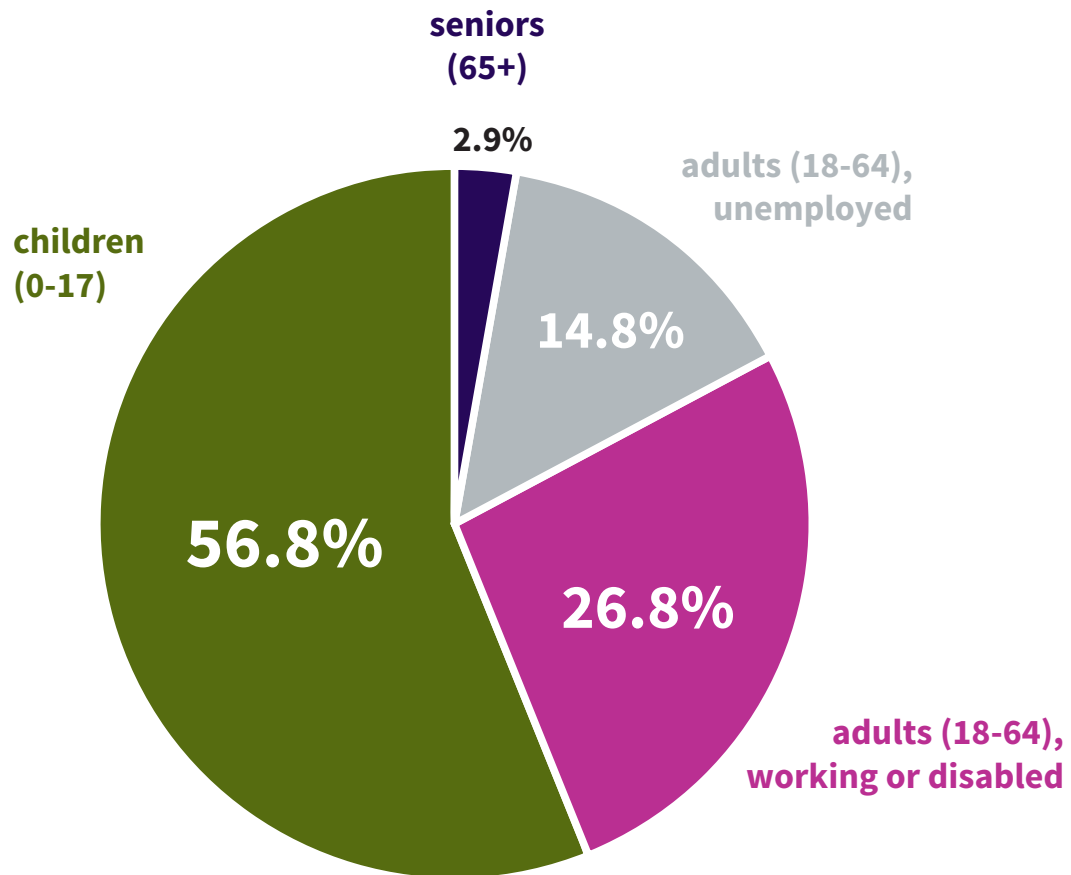
# MULTI-RACE - HISPANIC

## Observed Disparities

**Compared to all food pantry visitors, those who identified as Multi-Race and Hispanic were...**

- **Significantly younger.** 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.
- **Far less likely to receive SNAP, disability, and social security benefits.** Only one out of three people who used a food pantry and identified as Multi-Race and Hispanic received SNAP benefits at any point in the year. Only 23% of young adults received SNAP benefits. Only one in three seniors received social security benefits.
- **More likely to be working.** 42% of food pantry visitors between the ages of 18 and 64 who identified as Multi-Race and Hispanic were working, compared to 35% of all adults who used a food pantry.
- **Smaller in household size.** Food pantry visitors who identified as Multi-Race and Hispanic had an average household size of 1.82, compared to an average household size of 2.34 for all food pantry visitors.
- **Less frequent food pantry users.** 60% used a food pantry just once or twice in the year, and the average number of food pantry visits was 3.1.

# MULTI-RACE - HISPANIC



**762**

unique individuals assisted

**419**

households assisted

**1.82\***

average household size

**29.4%**

first-time individuals

**30.6%**

first-time households

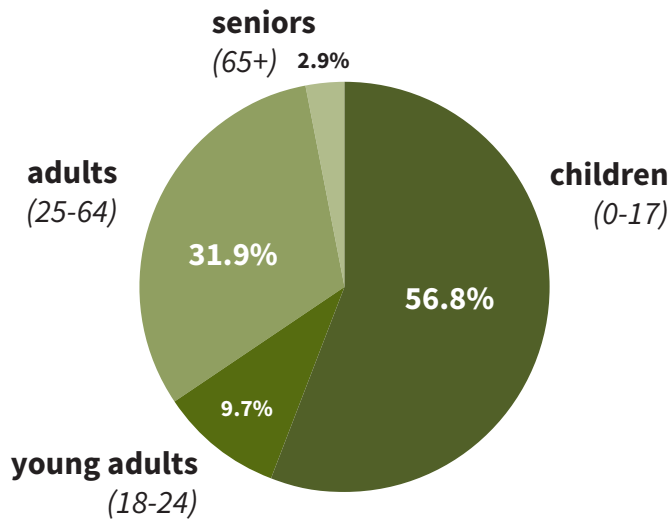
**0.6%**

were veterans  
(among those age 18+)

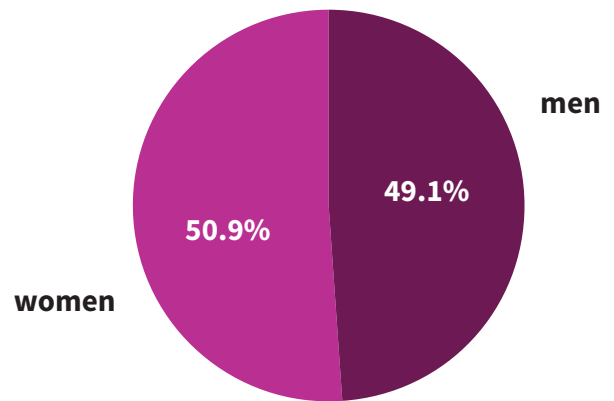
*\*average household size may be smaller due to households with multiple races and ethnicities represented*

# MULTI-RACE - HISPANIC

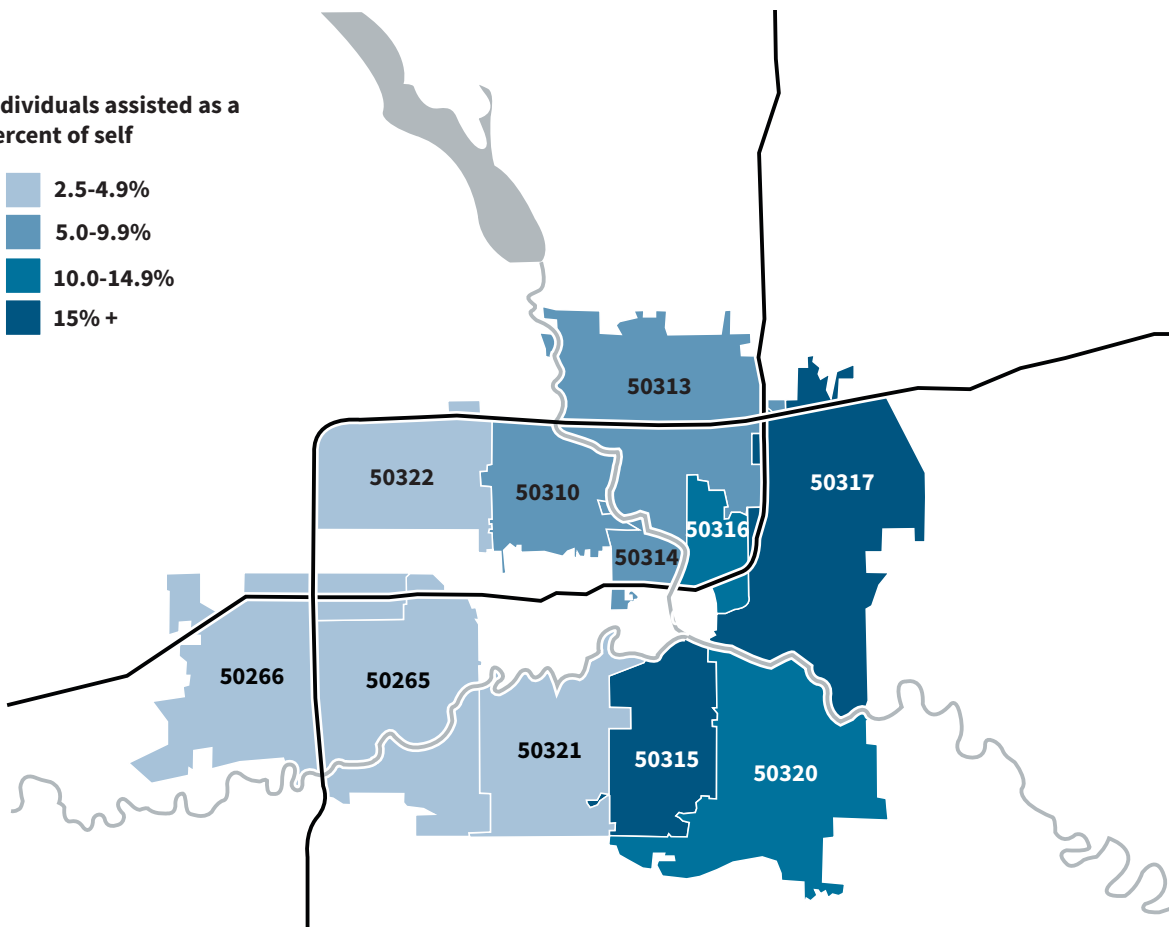
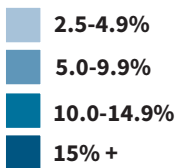
## Age



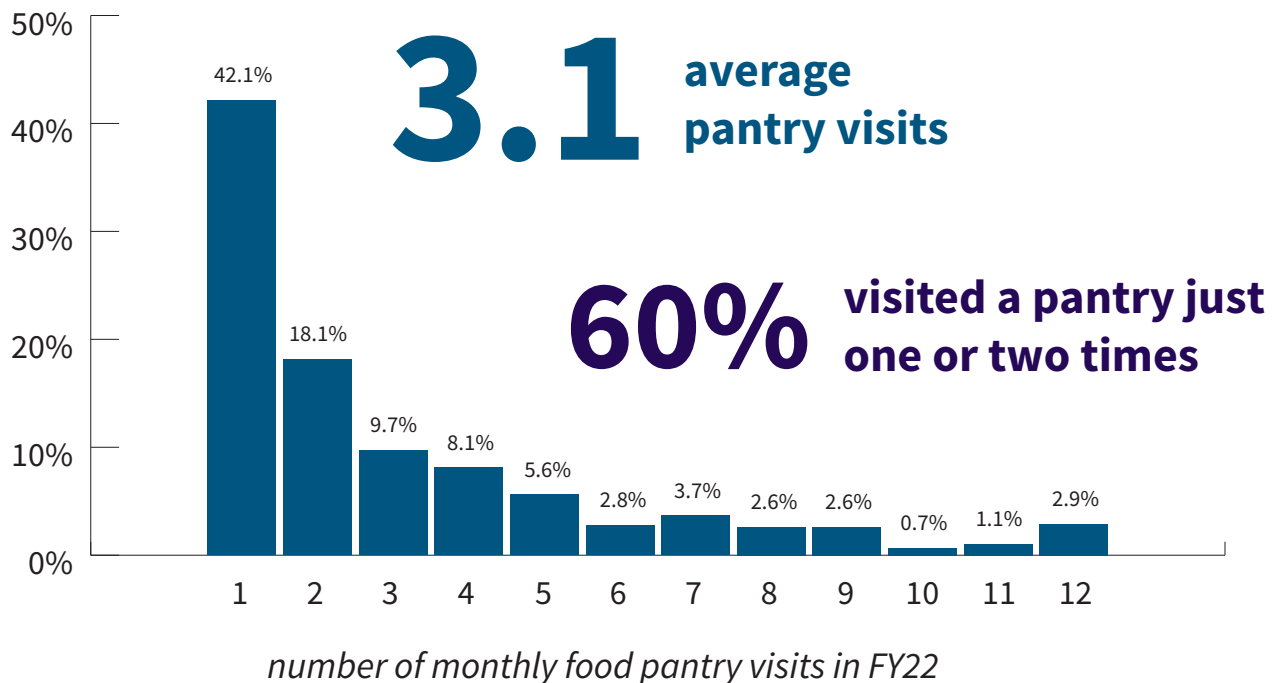
## Gender



Individuals assisted as a percent of self

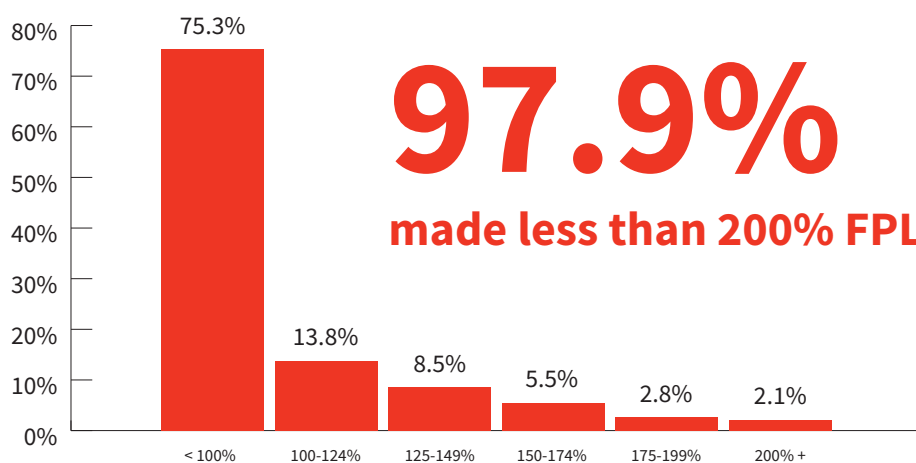
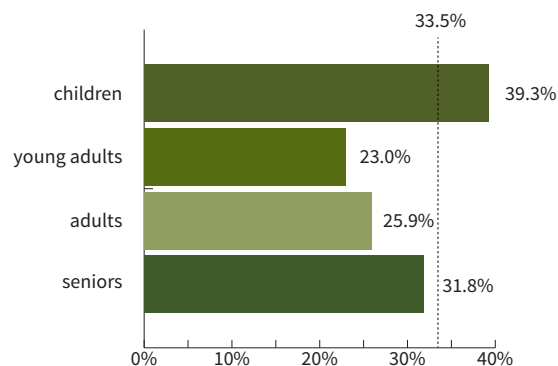


# MULTI-RACE - HISPANIC



**33.5%**

**received SNAP benefits at some point in FY22**



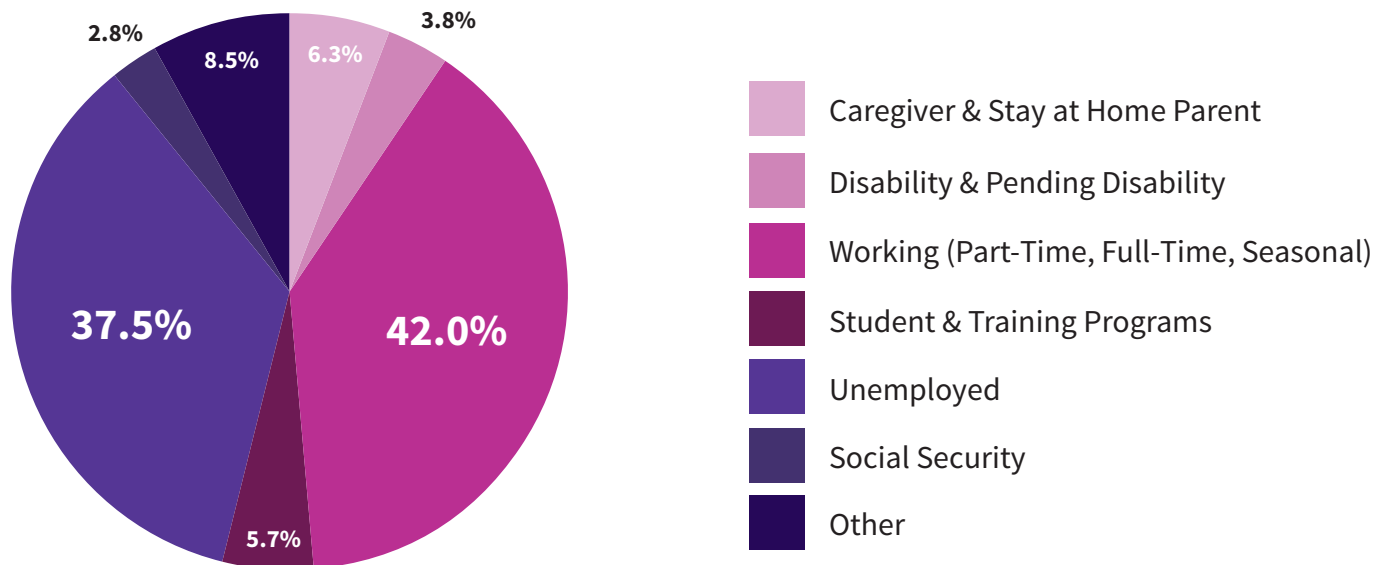
## Federal Poverty Level 2022

HH Size	100% FPL	200% FPL
1	\$13,950	\$27,900
2	\$18,310	\$36,620
3	\$23,030	\$46,060
4	\$27,750	\$55,500
5	\$32,470	\$64,940
6	\$37,190	\$74,380

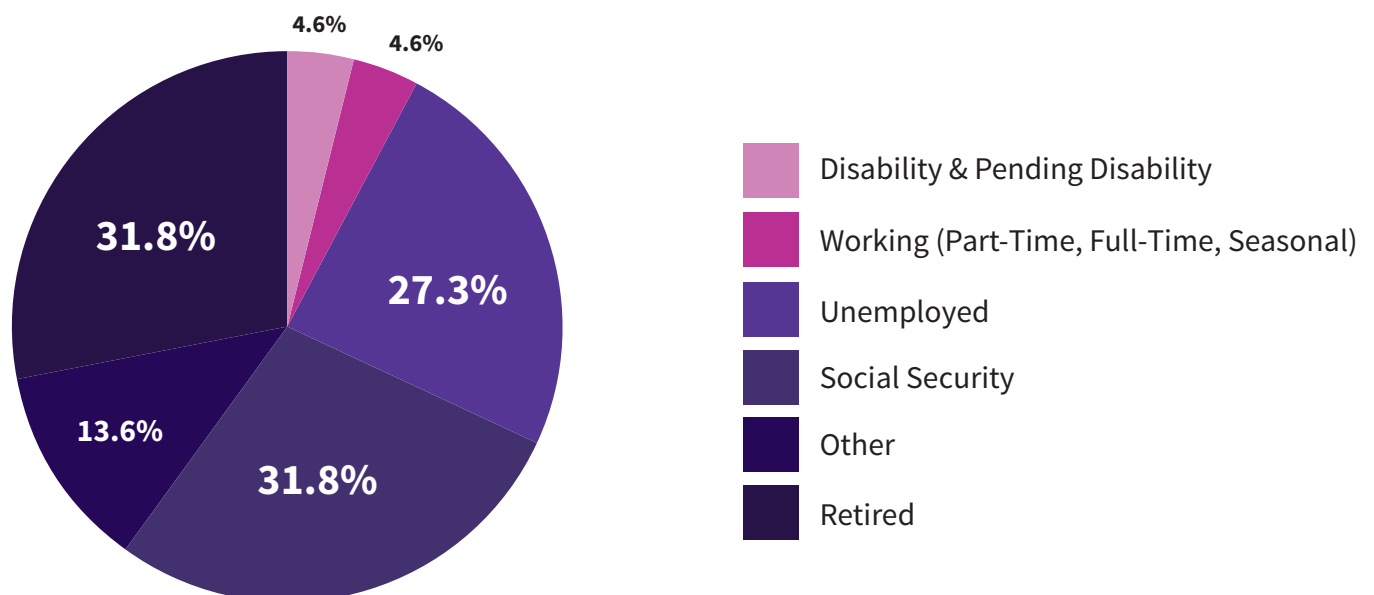
*household income as a percentage of federal poverty level*

# MULTI-RACE - HISPANIC

## Source of Income, Ages 18-64



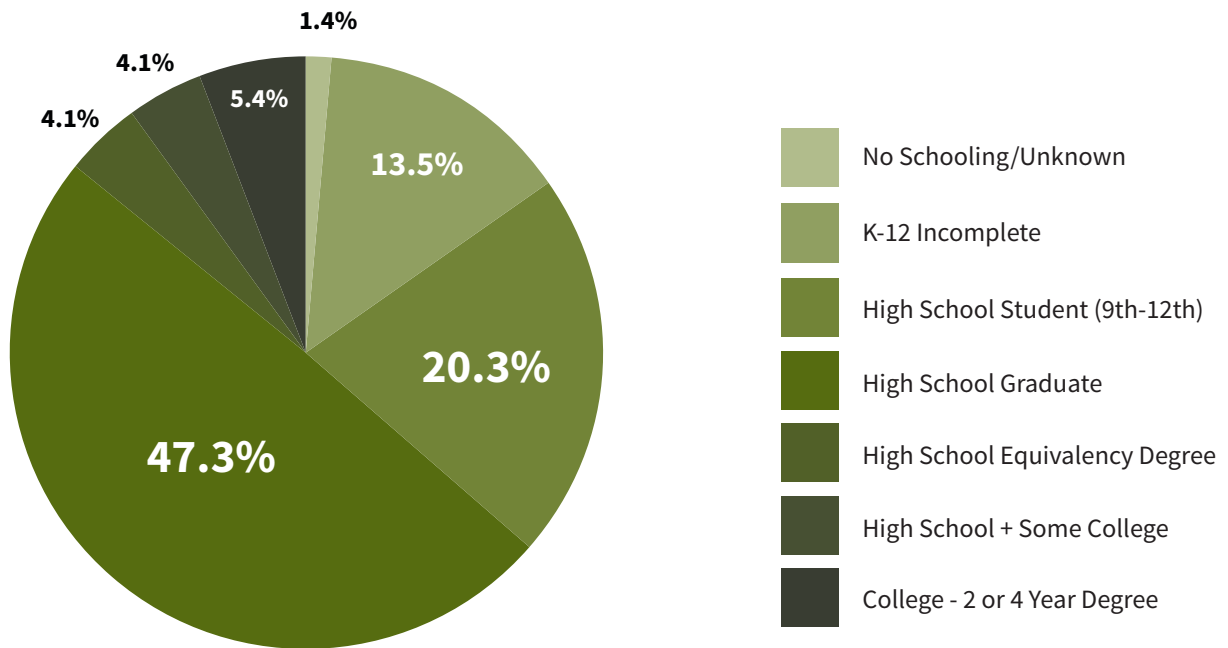
## Source of Income, Ages 65+



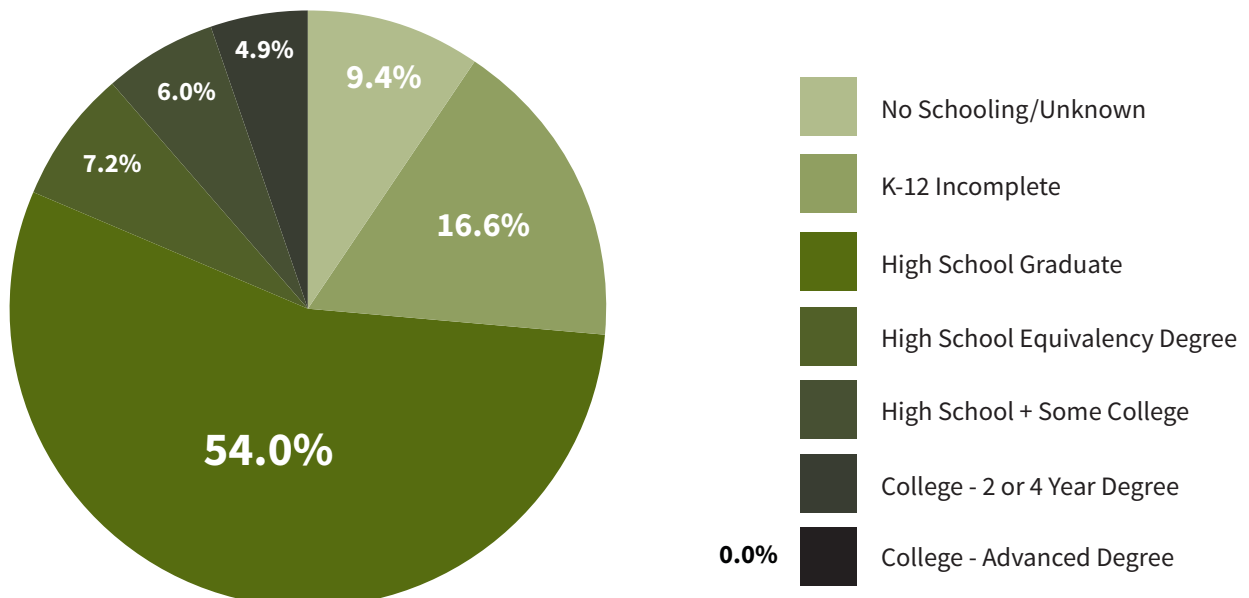


# MULTI-RACE - HISPANIC

## Education, Ages 18-24



## Education, Ages 25+



**MULTI-RACE -  
NOT HISPANIC**

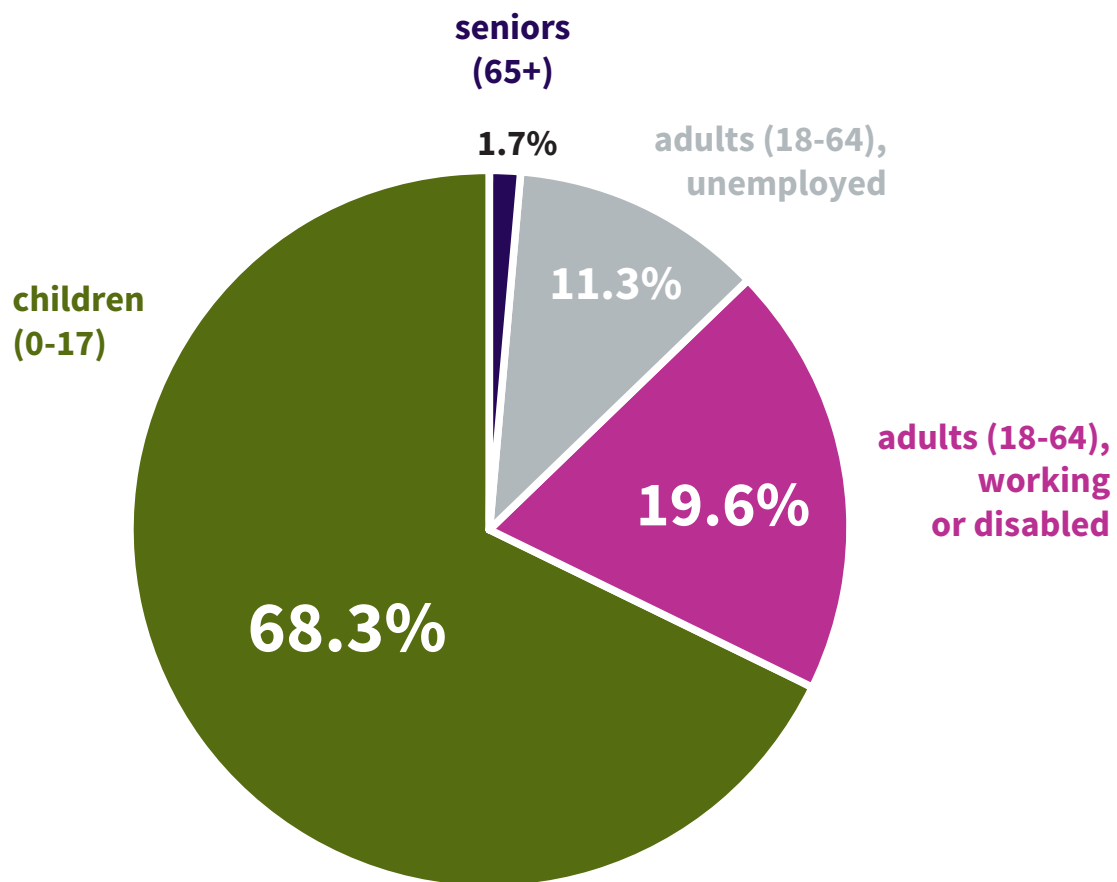
# MULTI-RACE - NOT HISPANIC

## Observed Disparities

**Compared to all food pantry visitors, those who identified as Multi-Race and Not Hispanic were...**

- **Significantly younger.** More than two-thirds of everyone who identified as Multi-Race and Not Hispanic were children. Seniors were only 1.7% of food pantry visitors in this category.
- **More likely to receive SNAP benefits.** Around half of food pantry visitors who identified as Multi-Race and Not Hispanic received SNAP benefits, including 55% of children.
- **Smaller in household size.** Food pantry visitors who identified as Multi-Race and Not Hispanic had an average household size of 1.64, compared to an average household size of 2.34 for all food pantry visitors.
- **Less frequent food pantry users.** 60% used a food pantry just once or twice in the year, and the average number of food pantry visits was 3.0. Only 2.4% used a food pantry all twelve months of the year.
- **Less likely to have completed high school.** Nearly one in three young adults (18-24) who identified as Multi-Race and Hispanic dropped out of high school.

# MULTI-RACE - NOT HISPANIC



**1,028**

unique individuals assisted

**625**

households assisted

**1.64\***

average household size

**31.7%**

first-time individuals

**35.0%**

first-time households

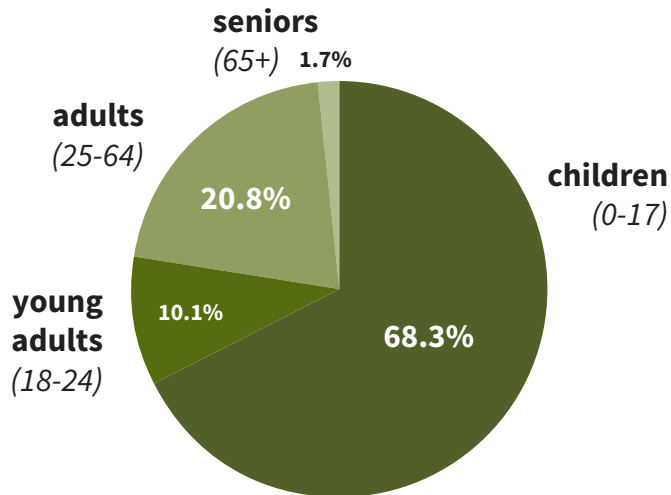
**2.7%**

were veterans  
(among those age 18+)

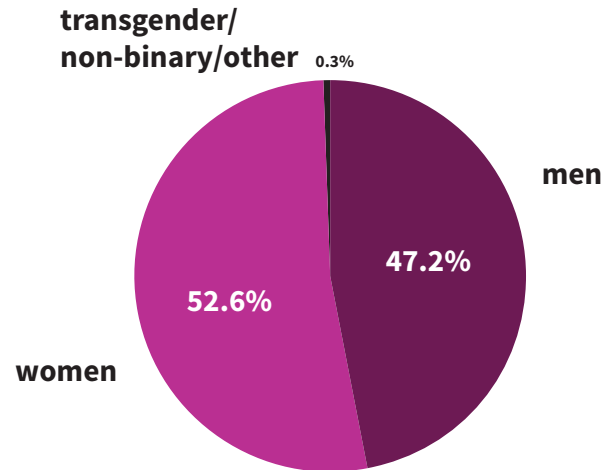
*\*average household size may be smaller due to households with multiple races and ethnicities represented*

# MULTI-RACE - NOT HISPANIC

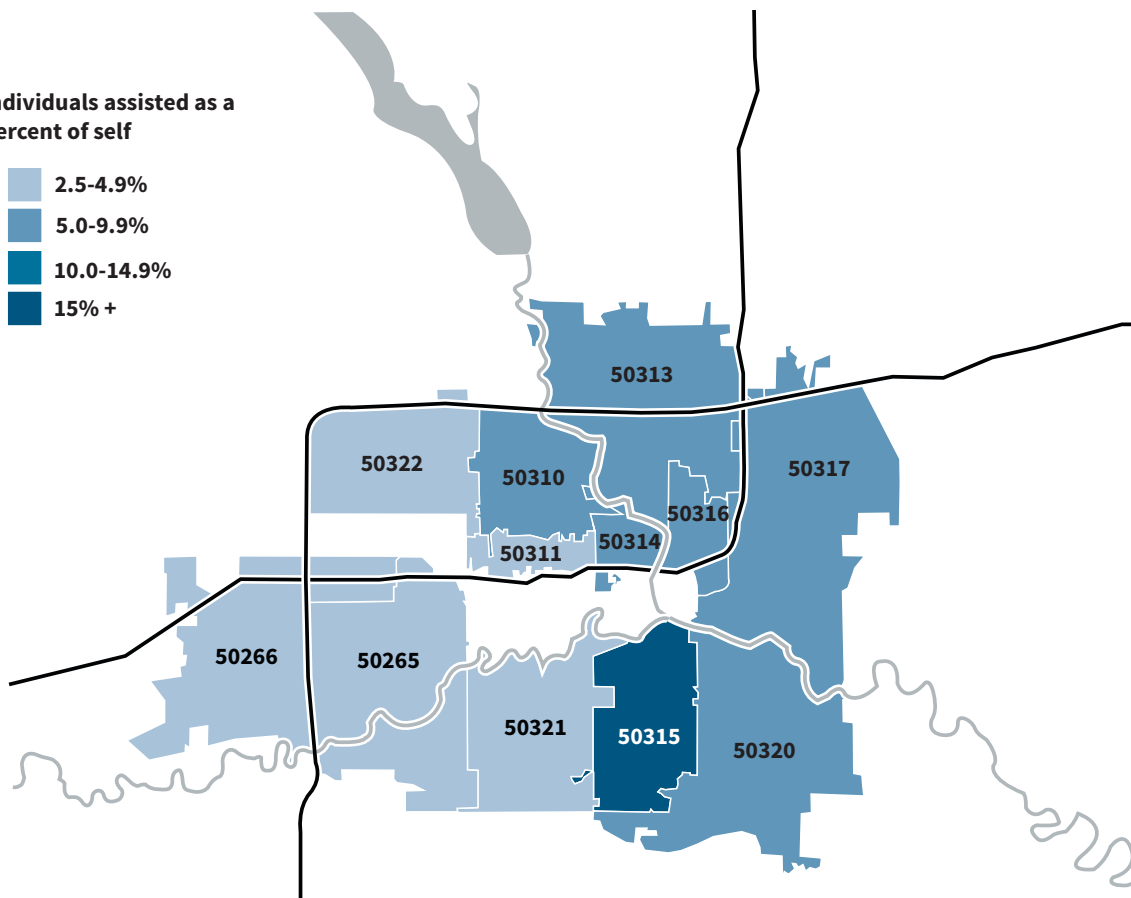
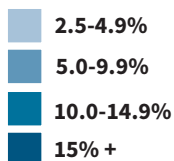
## Age



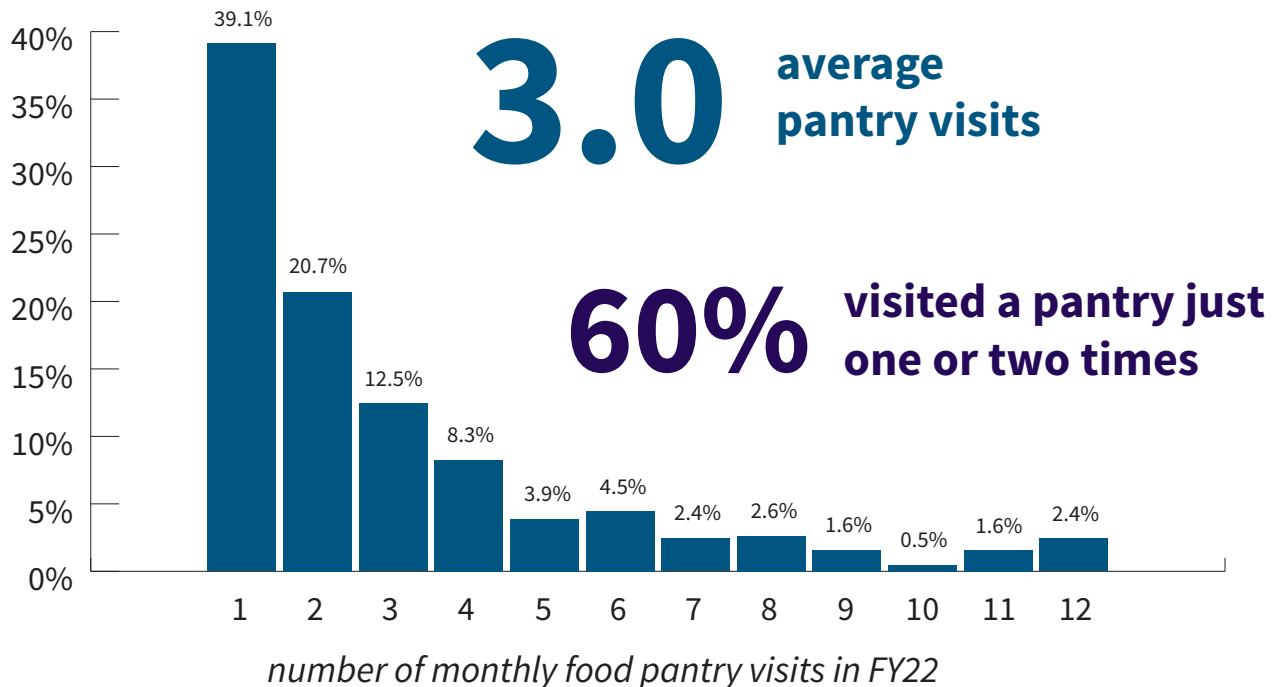
## Gender



Individuals assisted as a percent of self

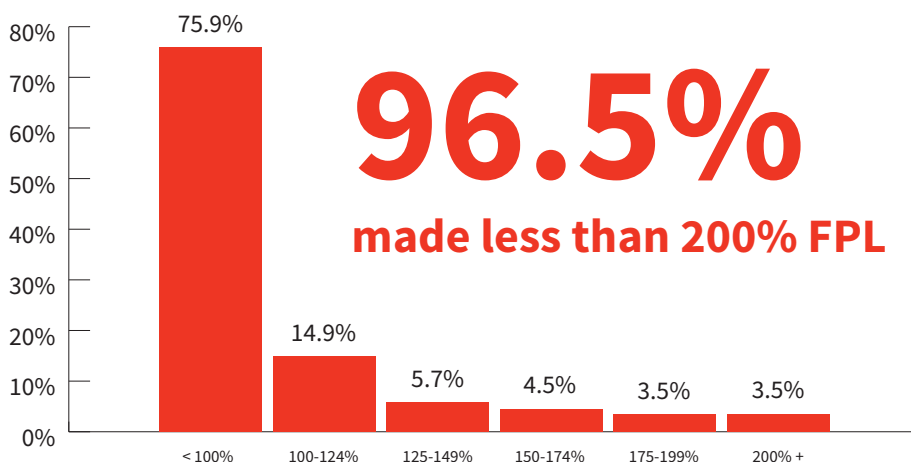
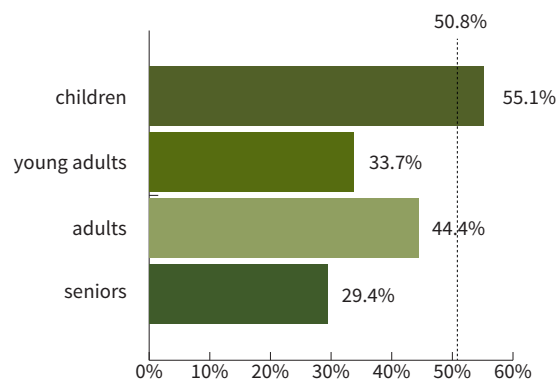


# MULTI-RACE - NOT HISPANIC



**50.8%**

received SNAP benefits at some point in FY22



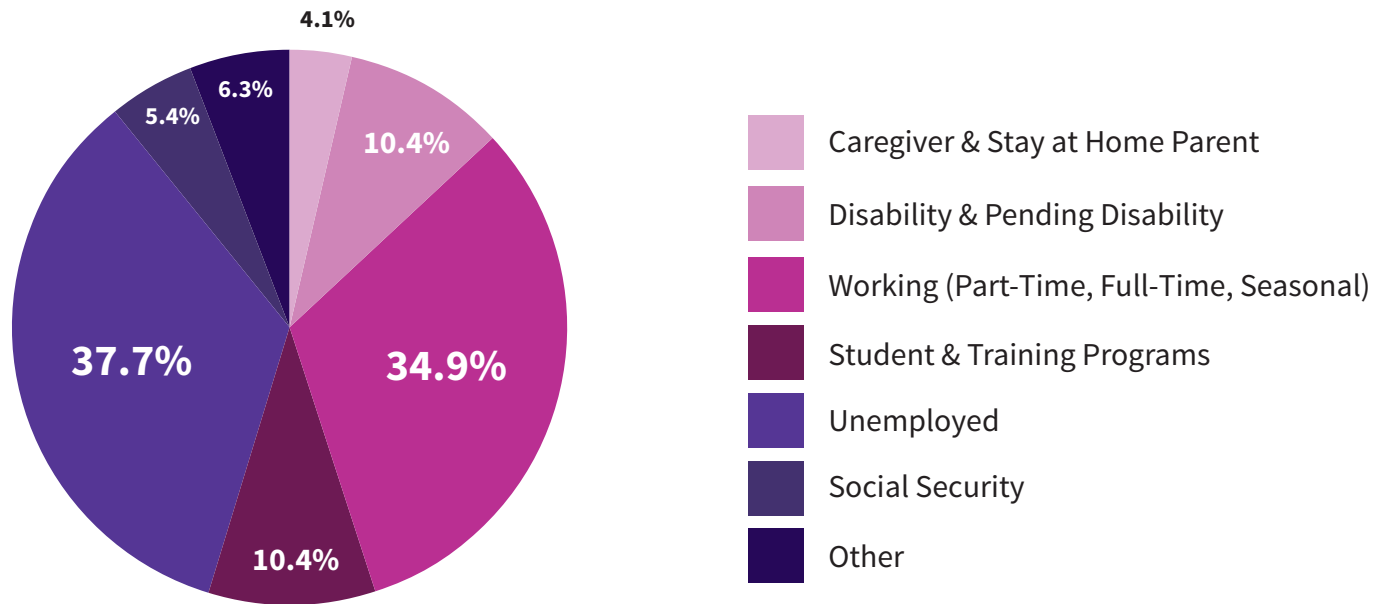
## Federal Poverty Level 2022

HH Size	100% FPL	200% FPL
1	\$13,950	\$27,900
2	\$18,310	\$36,620
3	\$23,030	\$46,060
4	\$27,750	\$55,500
5	\$32,470	\$64,940
6	\$37,190	\$74,380

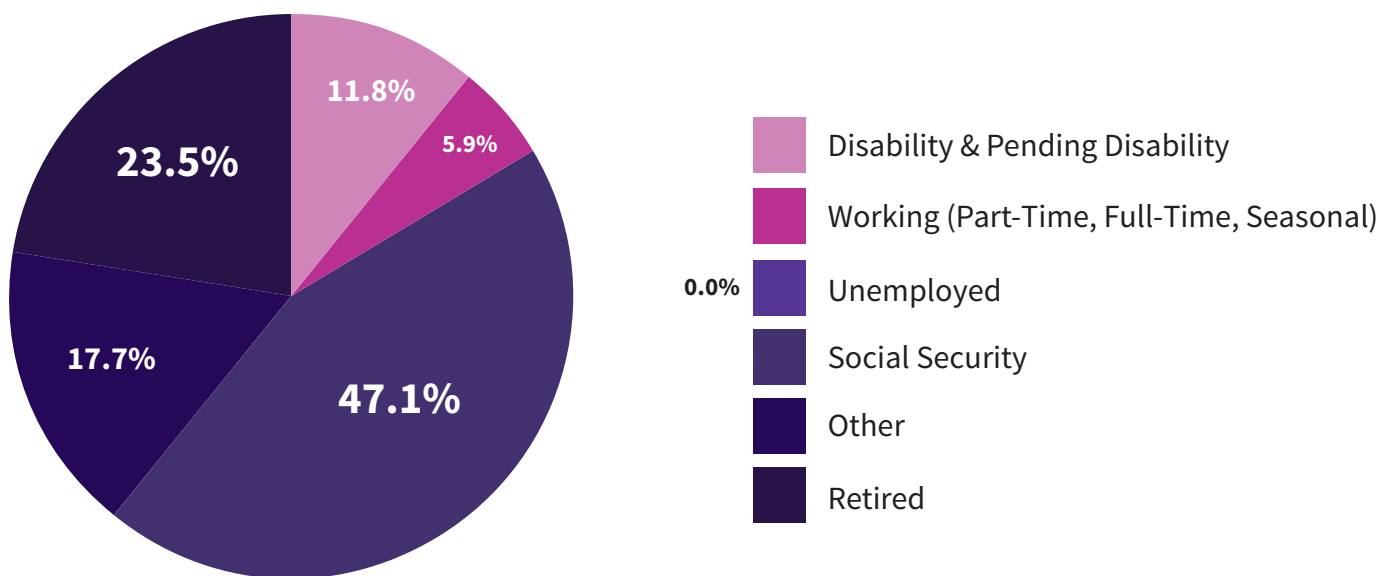
household income as a percentage of federal poverty level

# MULTI-RACE - NOT HISPANIC

## Source of Income, Ages 18-64

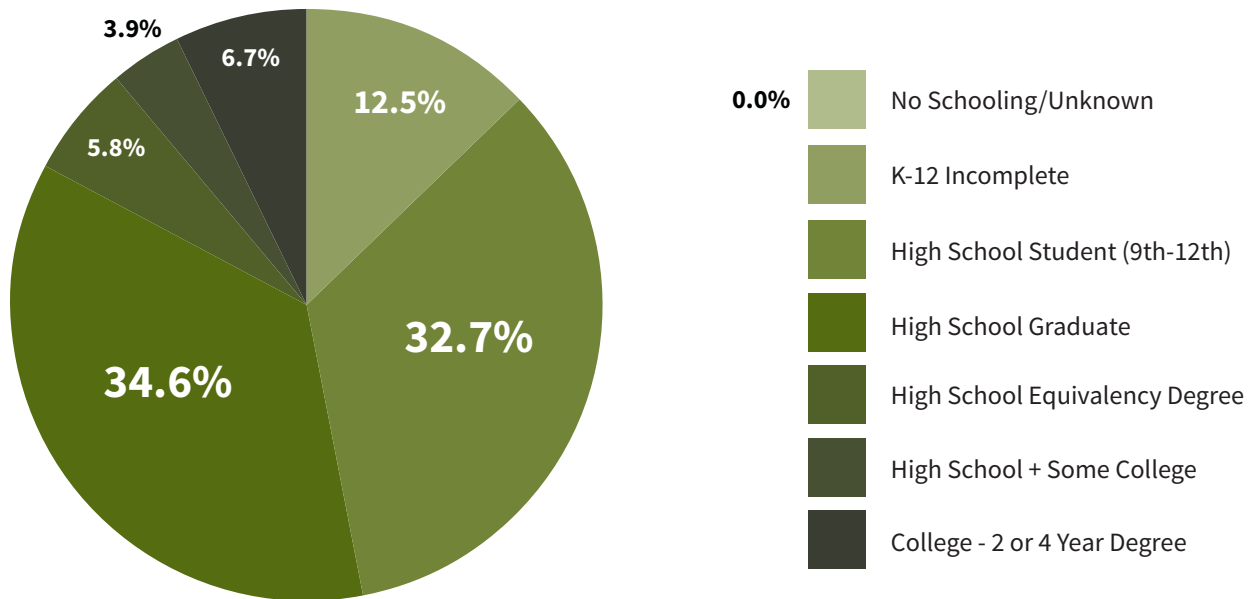


## Source of Income, Ages 65+

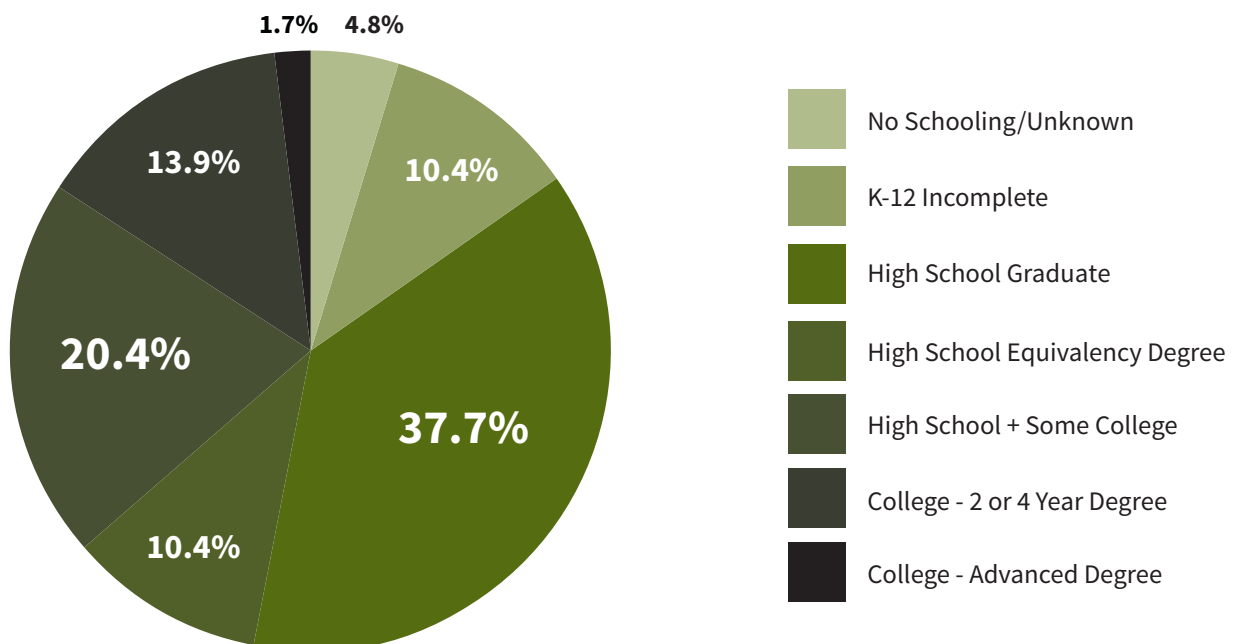


# MULTI-RACE - NOT HISPANIC

## Education, Ages 18-24



## Education, Ages 25+





**OTHER RACE/UNKNOWN -  
HISPANIC**

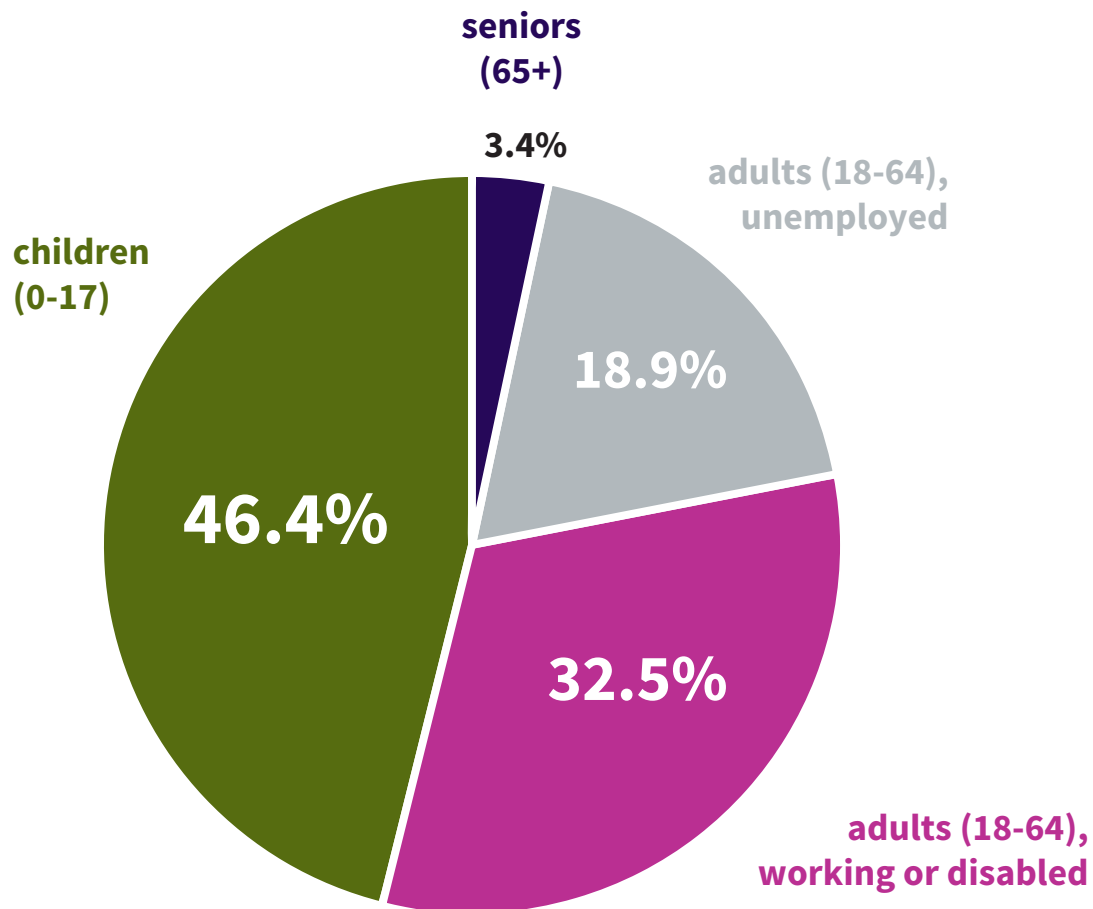
# OTHER RACE/UNKNOWN - HISPANIC

## Observed Disparities

**Compared to all food pantry visitors, those who identified as some other race and Hispanic were...**

- **First-time food pantry visitors.** A full half of all households who identified as some other race and Hispanic were first-time food pantry visitors, and 43% of individuals were first-time food pantry visitors.
- **Younger.** 46% were children, 11% were young adults, and only 3.4% were seniors.
- **Lower income.** Food pantry visitors were more likely to have a household income below the federal poverty line, and less likely to have an income above 200% of the federal poverty line. 83% lived below the federal poverty line, the highest amount of any group. Only 2.2% made above 200% FPL.
- **Less frequent food pantry users.** 60% used a food pantry just once or twice in the year, and the average number of food pantry visits was 3.0. Only 2.4% used a food pantry all twelve months of the year.
- **Far less likely to receive SNAP, disability, and social security benefits.** Only one out of four people who used a food pantry and identified as some other race and Hispanic received SNAP benefits at any point in the year, the lowest of any group. Only 2.1% of adults between the ages of 18 and 64 received disability benefits, and only 27% of seniors received social security benefits.
- **More likely to be working.** 40% of food pantry visitors between the ages of 18 and 64 who identified as some other race and Hispanic were working, compared to 35% of all adults who used a food pantry.

# OTHER RACE/UNKNOWN - HISPANIC



**2,608**

unique individuals assisted

**1,234**

households assisted

**2.11**

average household size

**42.9%**

first-time individuals

**50.0%**

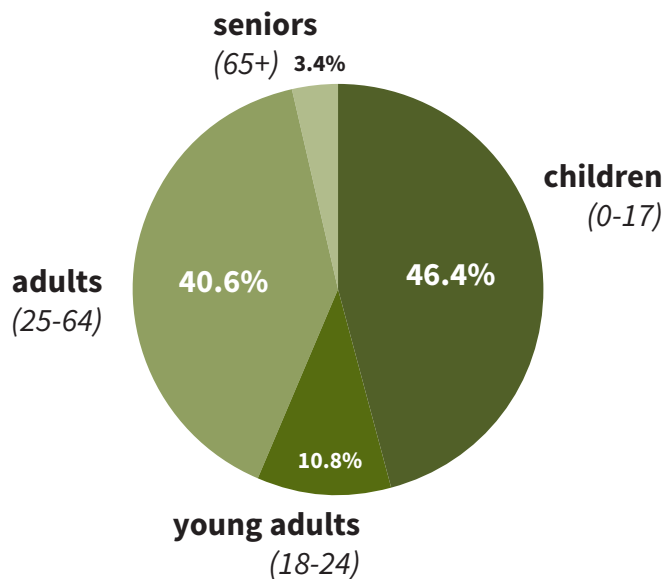
first-time households

**1.0%**

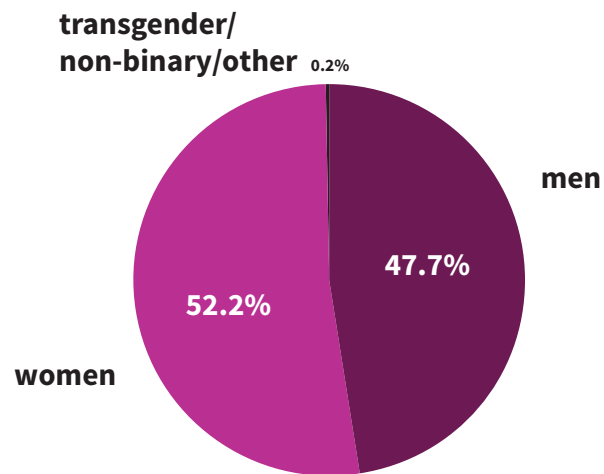
were veterans  
(among those age 18+)

# OTHER RACE/UNKNOWN - HISPANIC

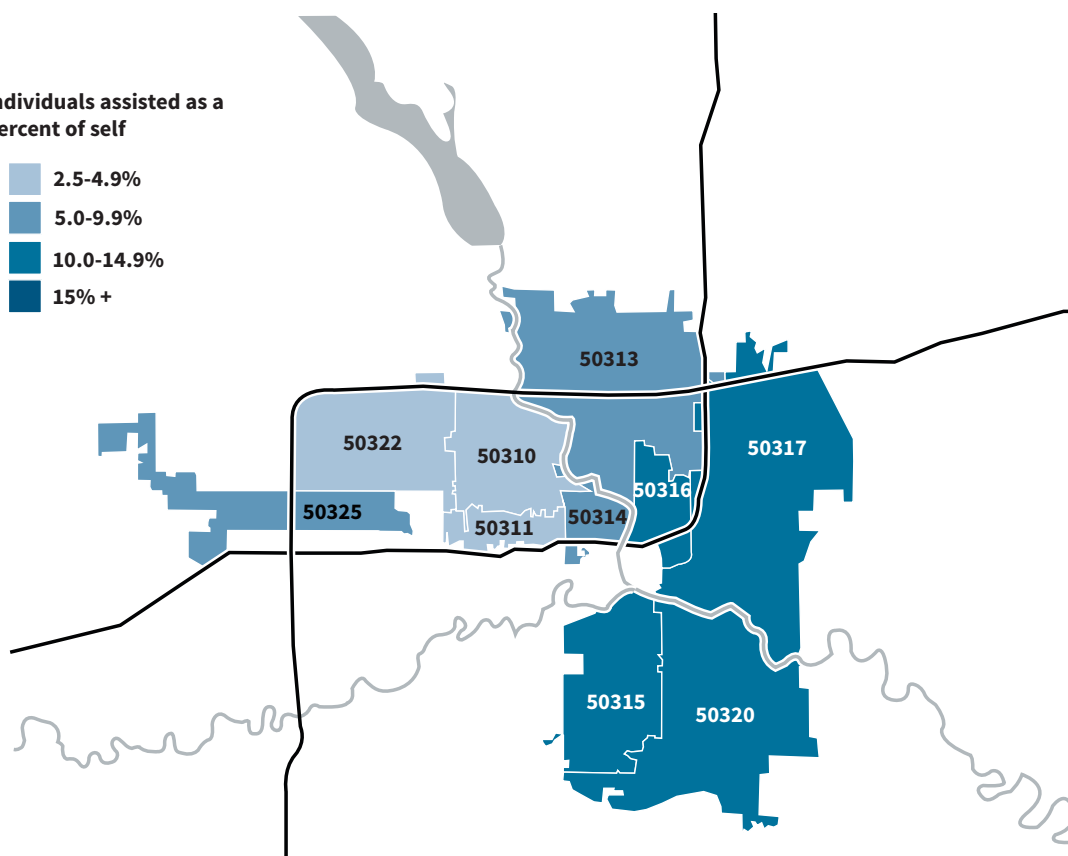
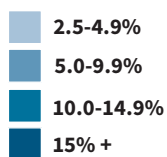
## Age



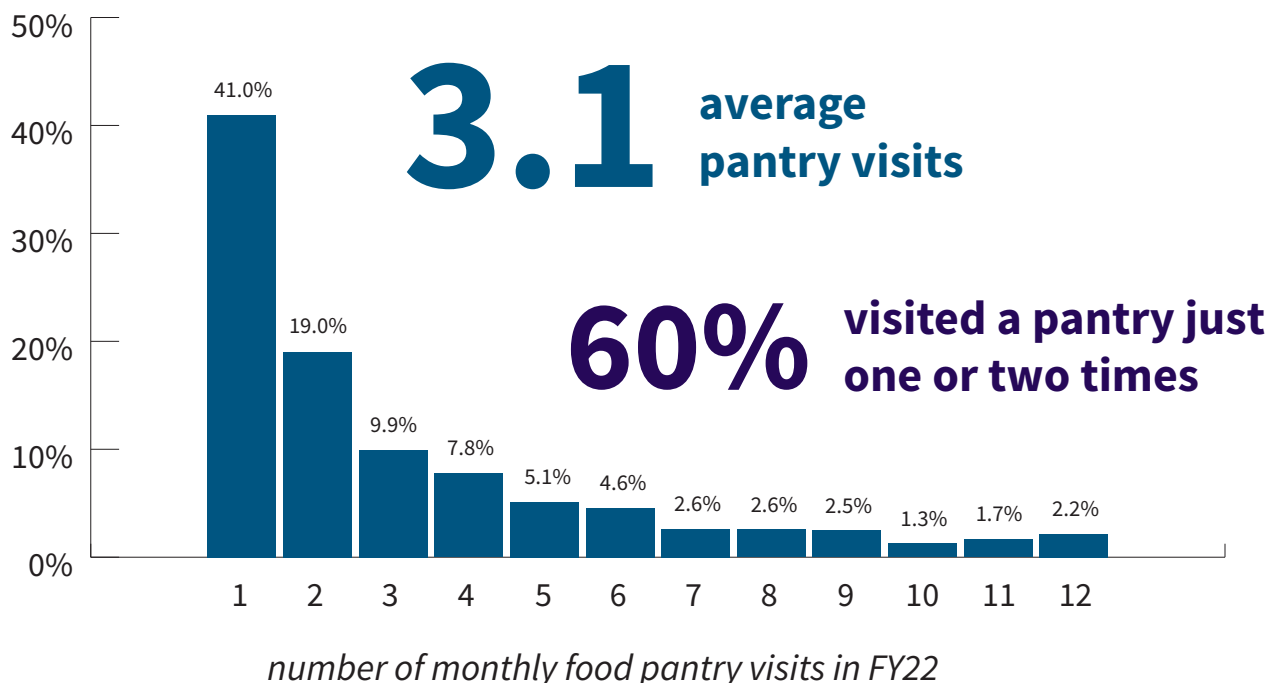
## Gender



Individuals assisted as a percent of self

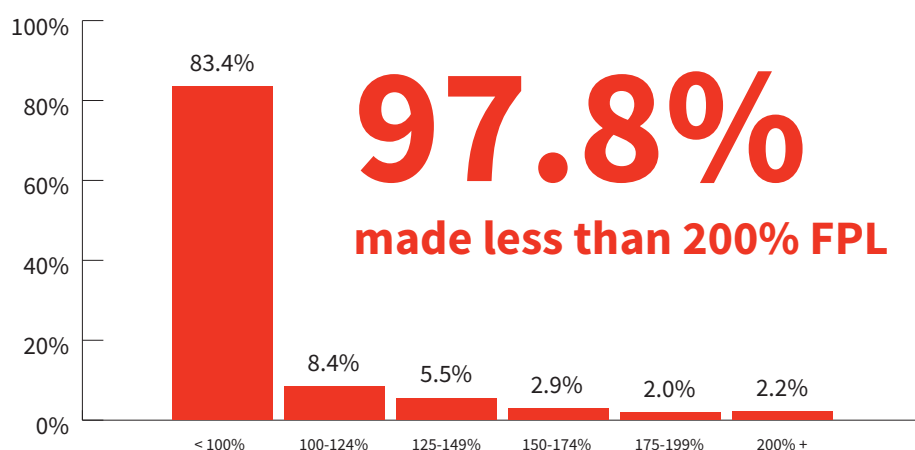
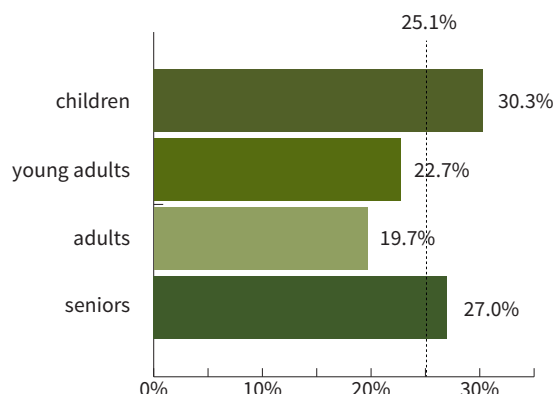


# OTHER RACE/UNKNOWN - HISPANIC



**25.1%**

received SNAP benefits at some point in FY22



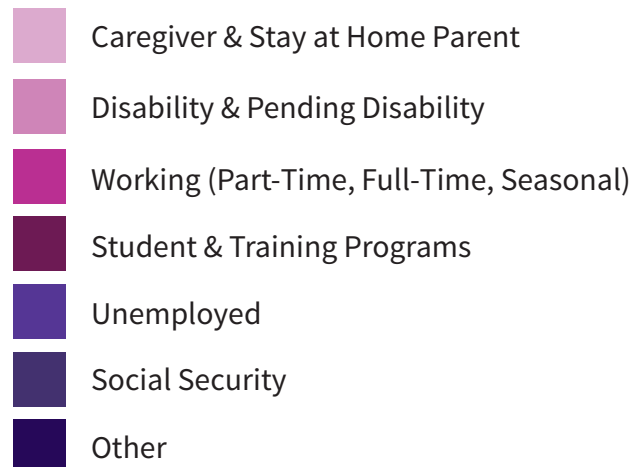
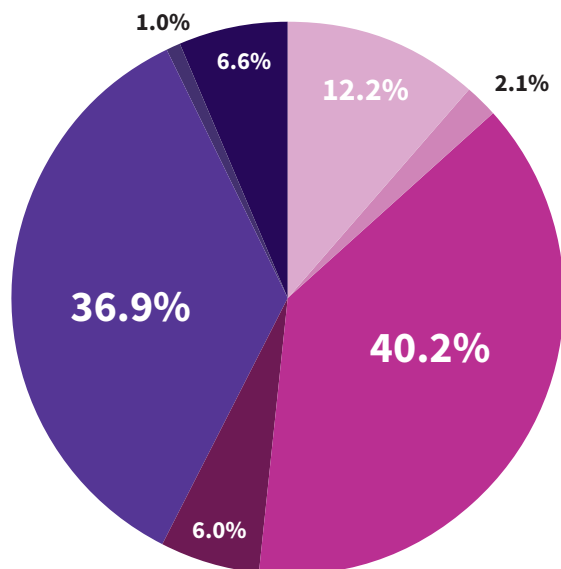
## Federal Poverty Level 2022

HH Size	100% FPL	200% FPL
1	\$13,950	\$27,900
2	\$18,310	\$36,620
3	\$23,030	\$46,060
4	\$27,750	\$55,500
5	\$32,470	\$64,940
6	\$37,190	\$74,380

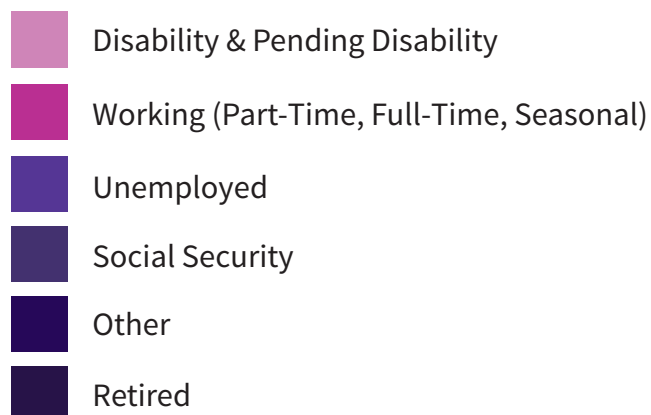
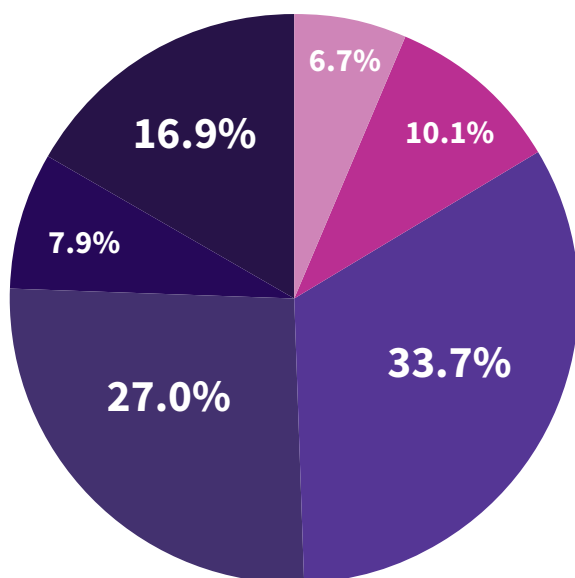
household income as a percentage of federal poverty level

# OTHER RACE/UNKNOWN - HISPANIC

## Source of Income, Ages 18-64

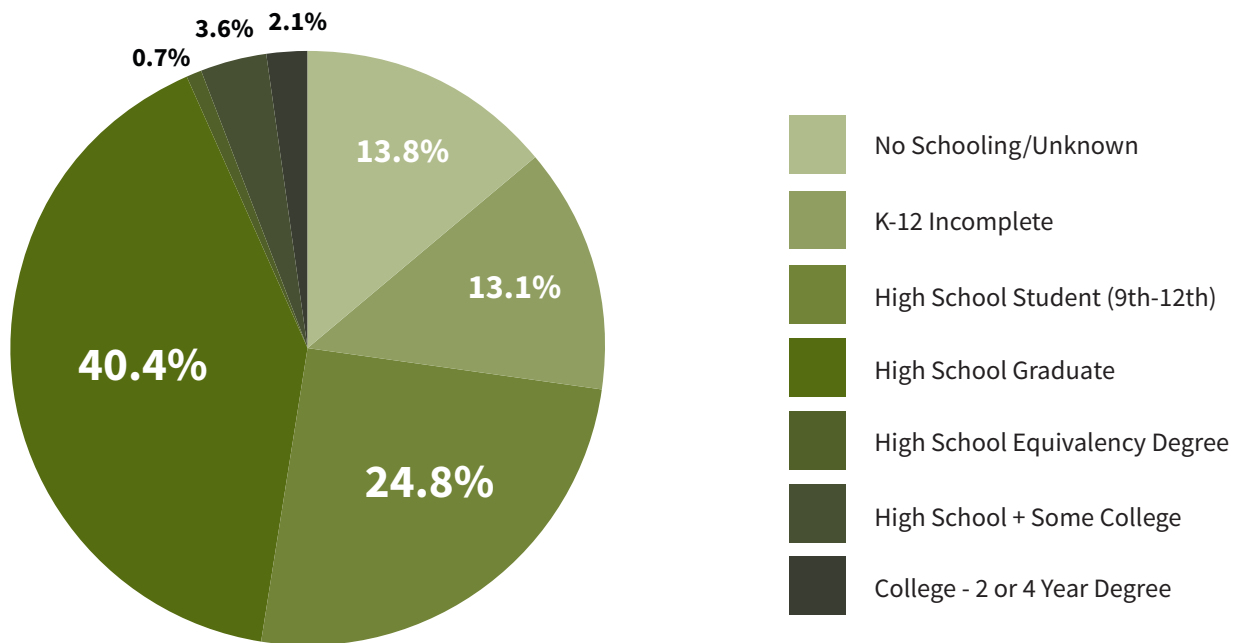


## Source of Income, Ages 65+

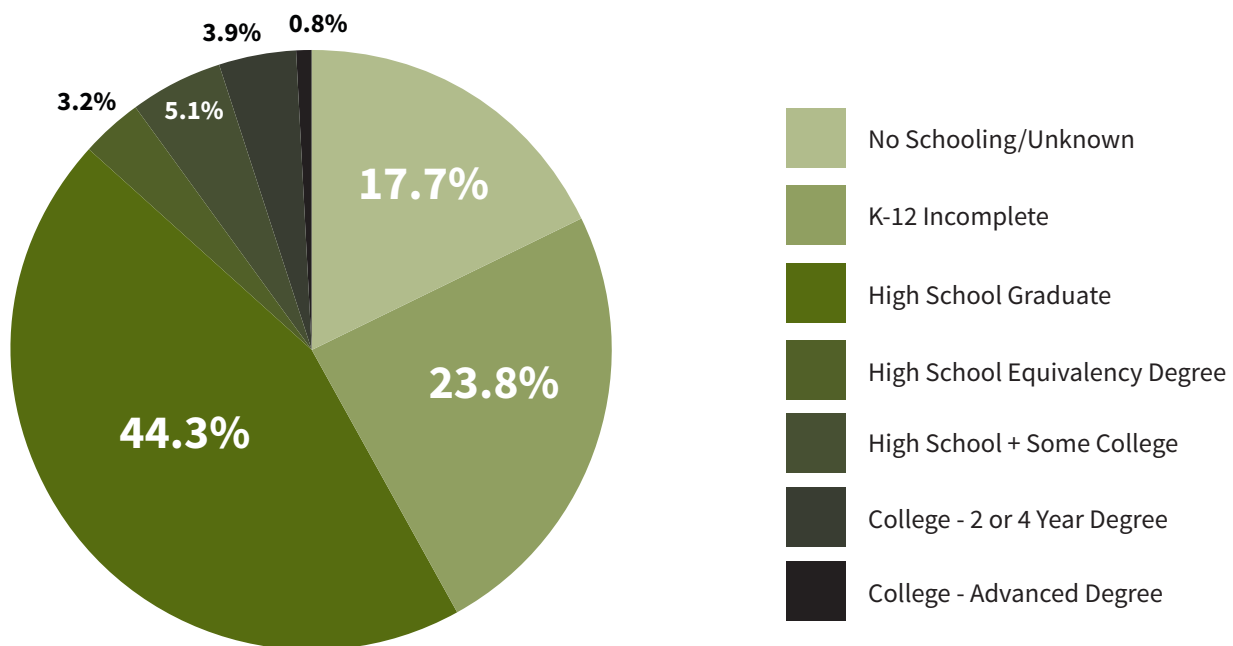


# OTHER RACE/UNKNOWN - HISPANIC

## Education, Ages 18-24



## Education, Ages 25+



**OTHER RACE/UNKNOWN -  
NOT HISPANIC**



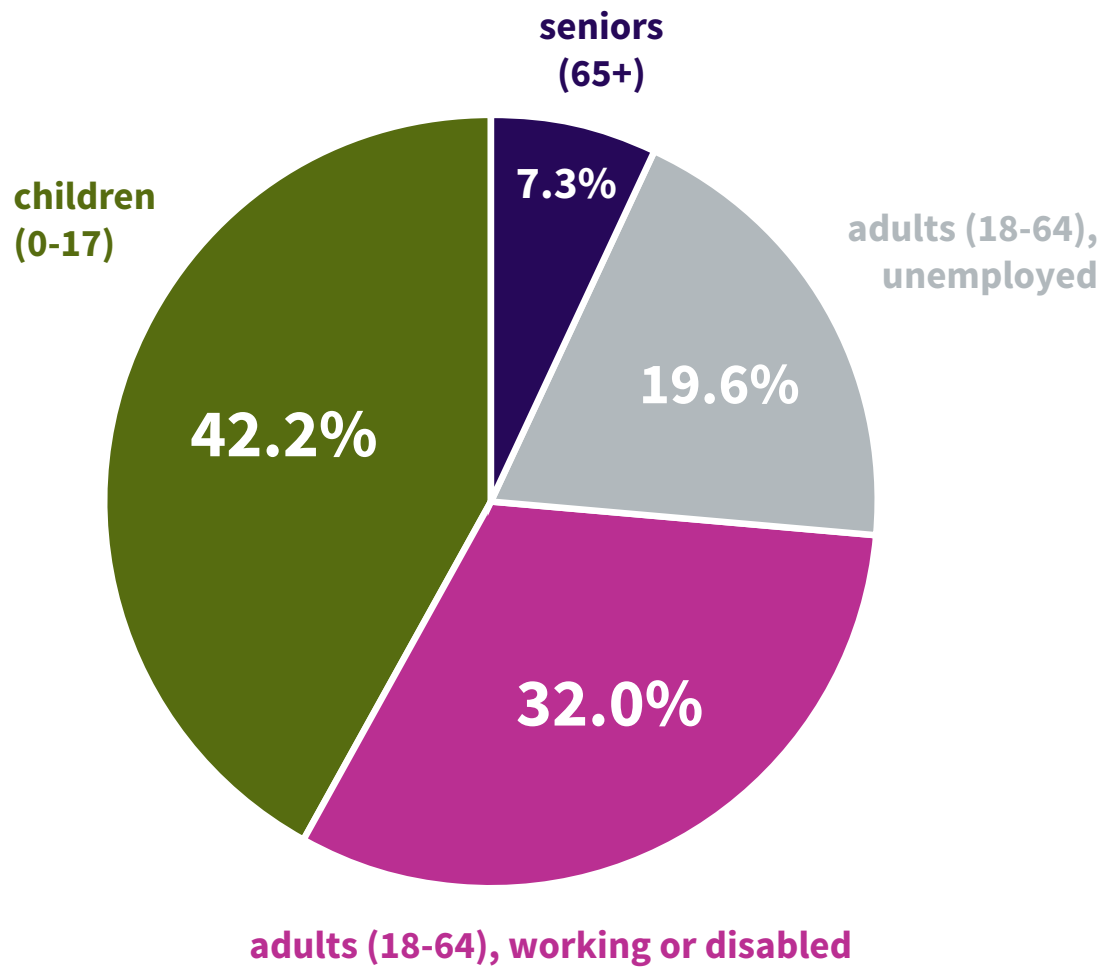
# OTHER RACE/UNKNOWN - NOT HISPANIC

## Observed Disparities

**Compared to all food pantry visitors, those who identified as some other race and not Hispanic were...**

- **Similar to the whole.** Aside from the disparities noted below, food pantry visitors who identified as some other race and not Hispanic had similar demographics to the entire population of food pantry visitors.
- **Smaller in household size.** Food pantry visitors who identified as some other race and not Hispanic had an average household size of 1.47, compared to an average household size of 2.34 for all food pantry visitors.
- **Close to gender parity.** 49.4% were women and 49.2% were men, the closest to gender parity of any racial and ethnic group observed.
- **Younger.** Food pantry visitors who identified as some other race and not Hispanic were more likely to be a child and less likely to be a senior.
- **More geographically diverse.** Food pantry visitors who identified as some other race and not Hispanic were less concentrated geographically.

# OTHER RACE/UNKNOWN - NOT HISPANIC



**920**

unique individuals assisted

**624**

households assisted

**1.47**

average household size

**35.9%**

first-time individuals

**36.5%**

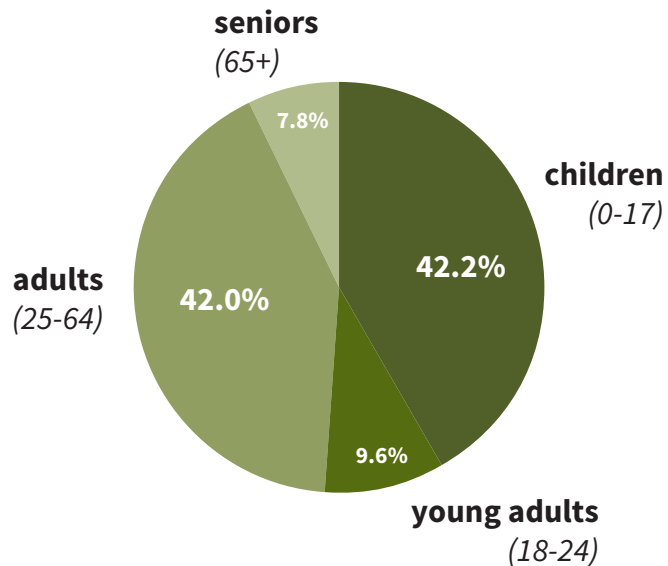
first-time households

**3.5%**

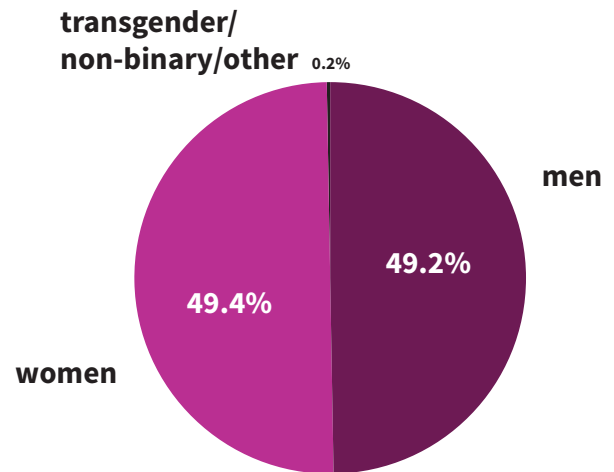
were veterans  
(among those age 18+)

# OTHER RACE/UNKNOWN - NOT HISPANIC

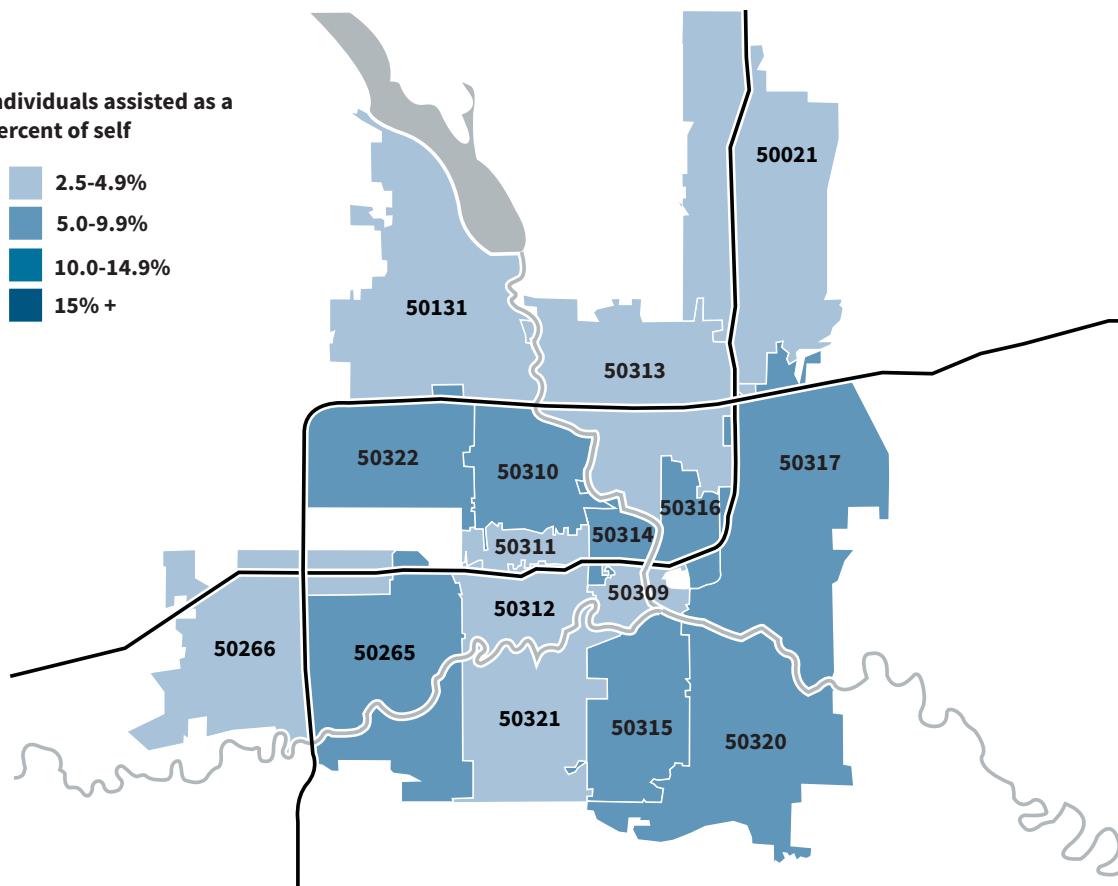
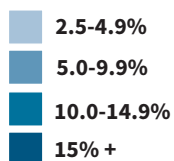
## Age



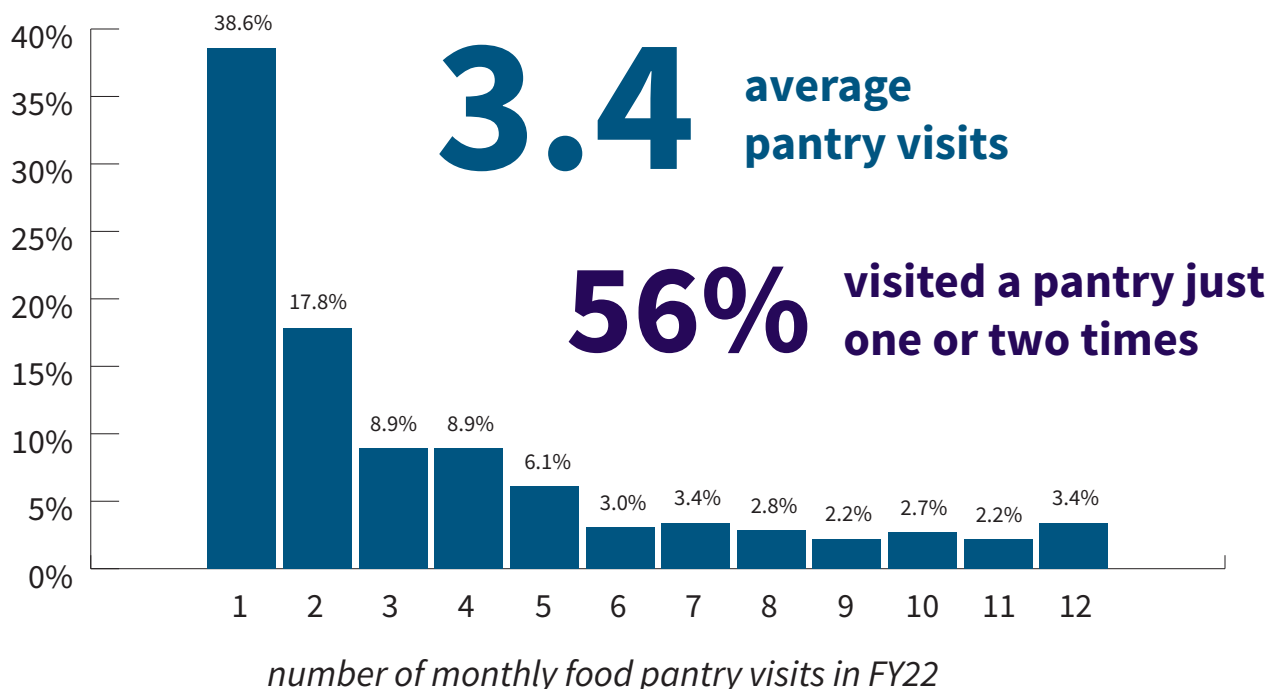
## Gender



Individuals assisted as a percent of self

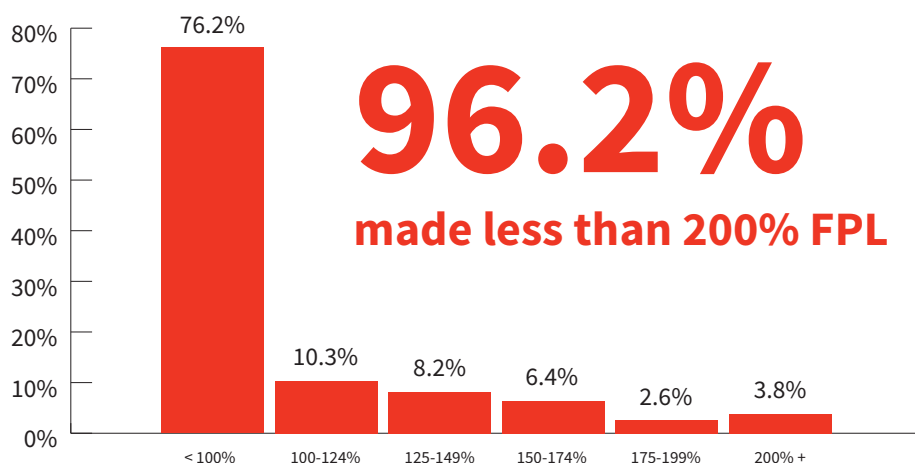
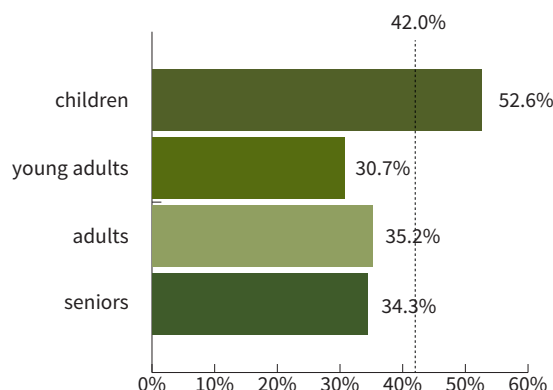


# OTHER RACE/UNKNOWN - NOT HISPANIC



**42.0%**

received SNAP benefits at some point in FY22



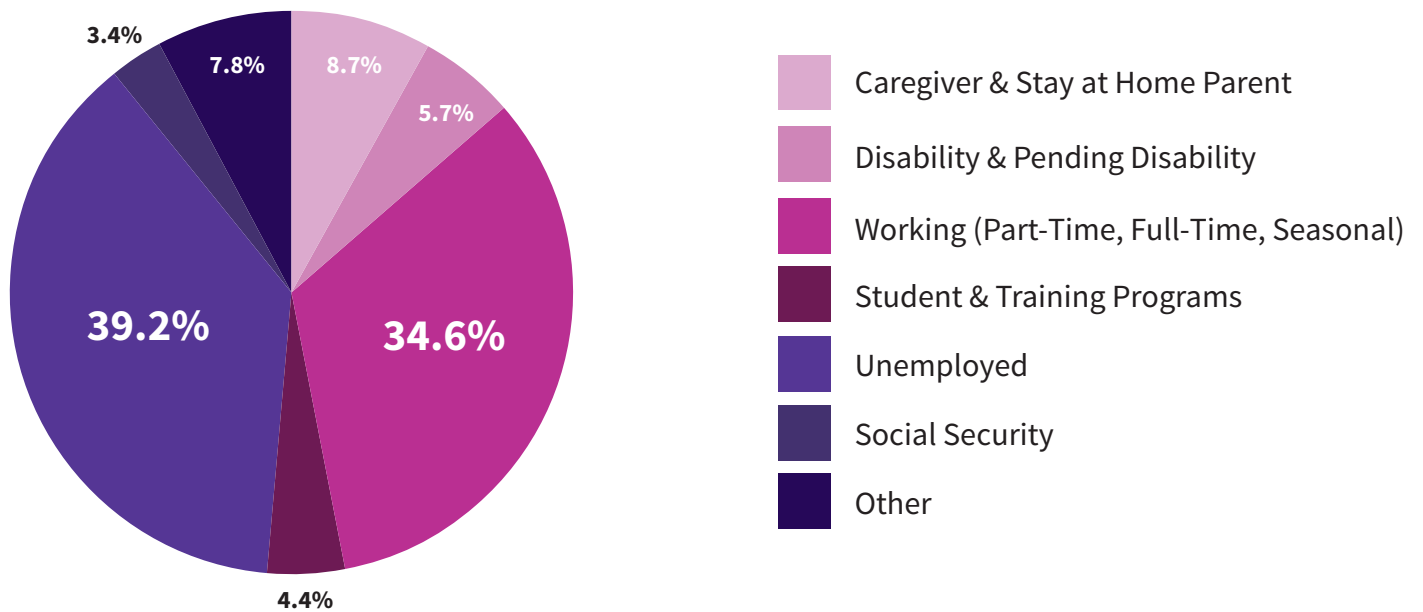
## Federal Poverty Level 2022

HH Size	100% FPL	200% FPL
1	\$13,950	\$27,900
2	\$18,310	\$36,620
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6	\$37,190	\$74,380

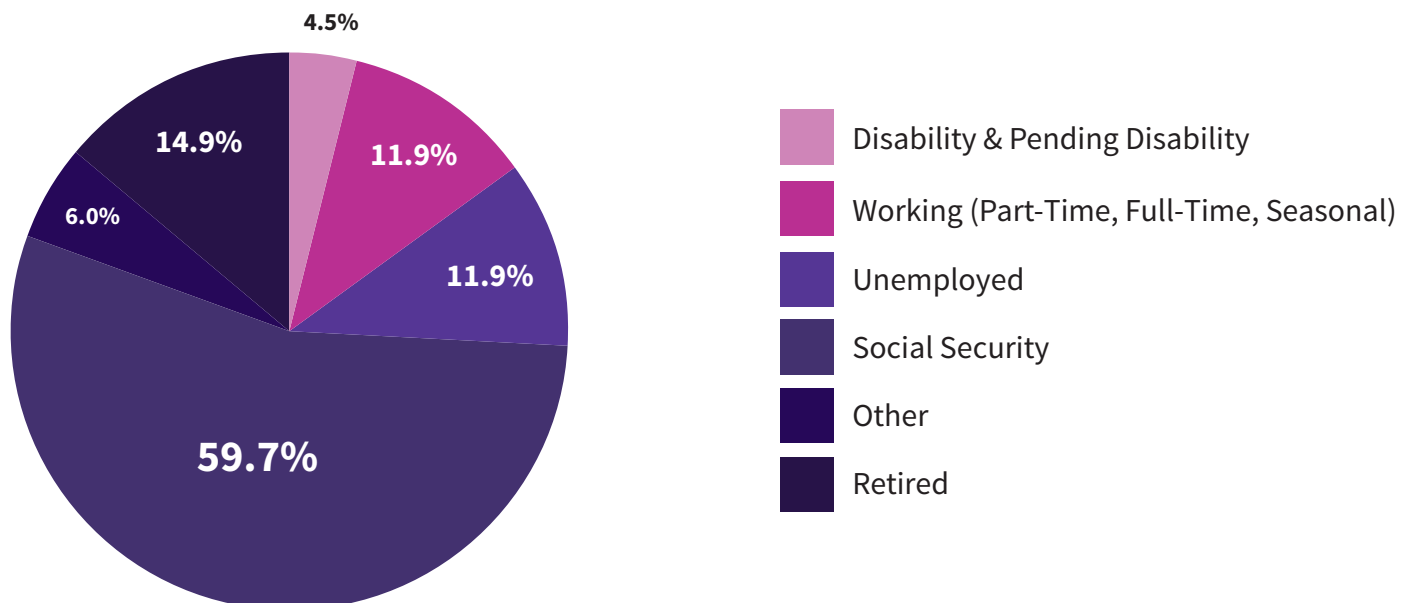
household income as a percentage of federal poverty level

# OTHER RACE/UNKNOWN - NOT HISPANIC

## Source of Income, Ages 18-64

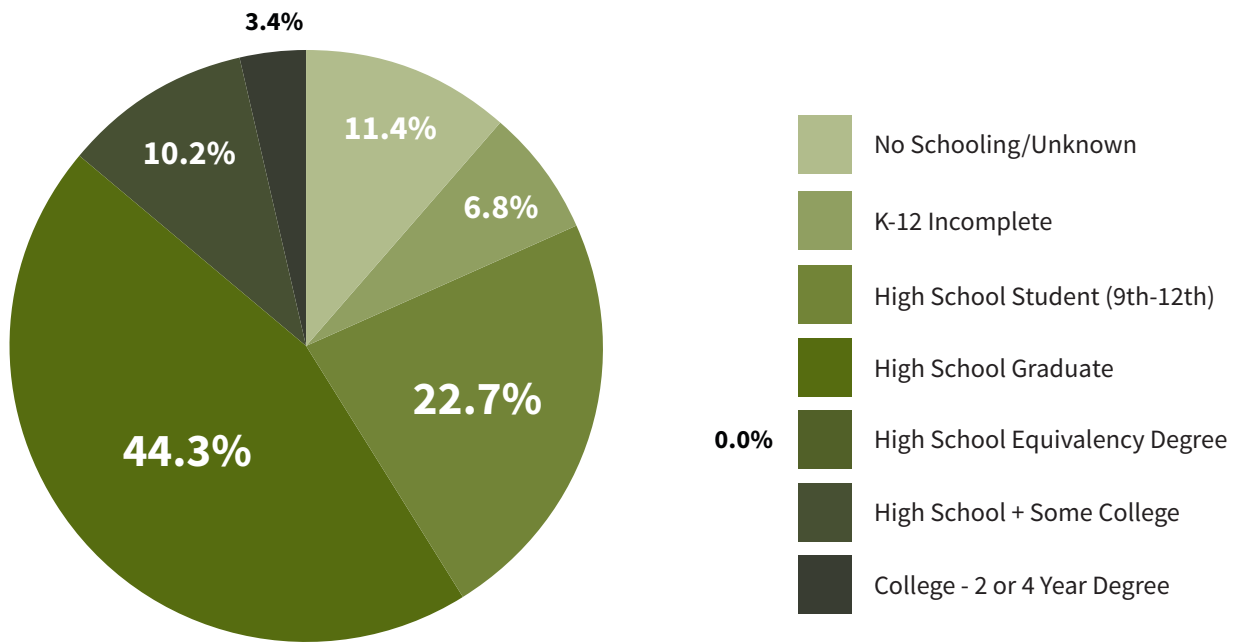


## Source of Income, Ages 65+

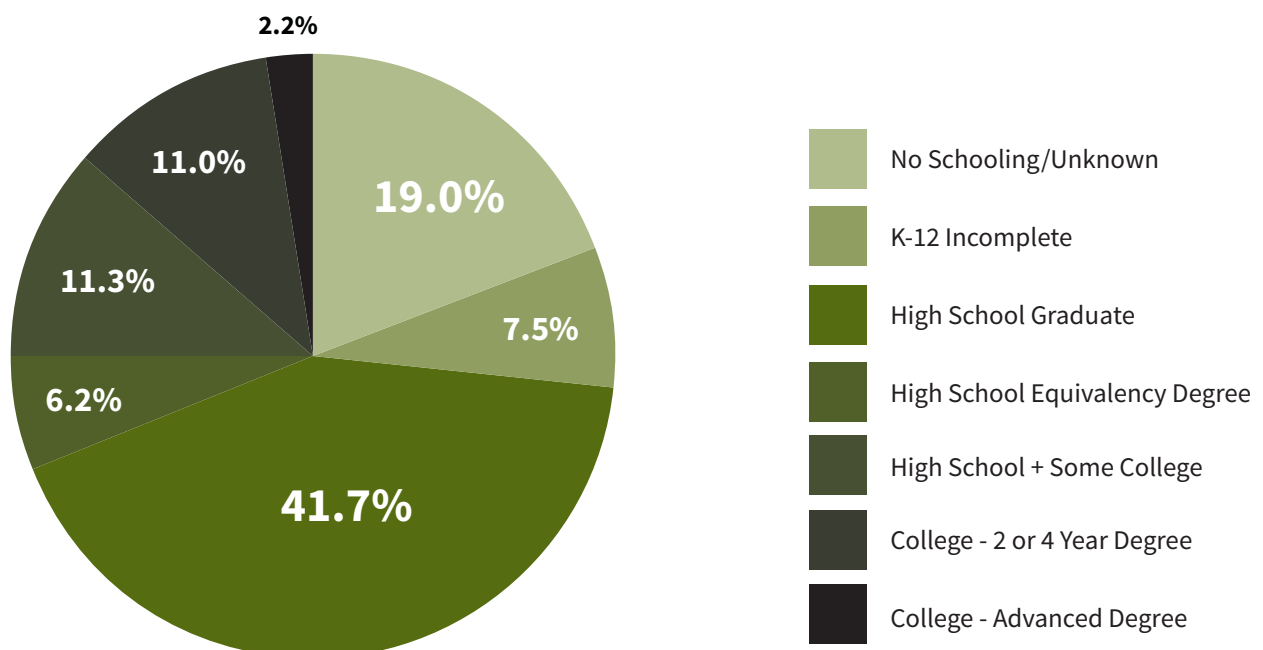


# OTHER RACE/UNKNOWN - NOT HISPANIC

## Education, Ages 18-24



## Education, Ages 25+



**WHITE - HISPANIC**

# WHITE - HISPANIC

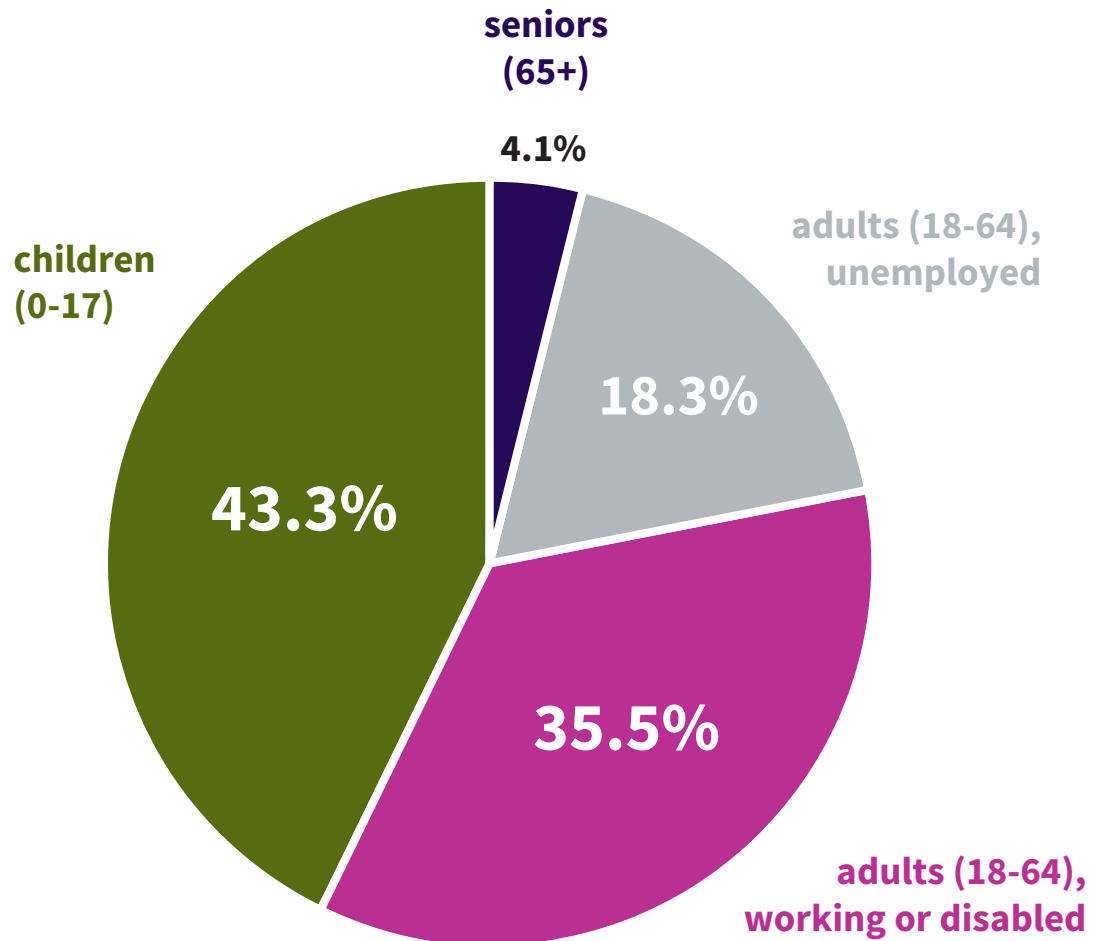
## Observed Disparities

**Compared to all food pantry visitors, those who identified as White and Hispanic were...**

- **Younger.** Food pantry visitors who identified as White and Hispanic were more likely to be a child and less likely to be a senior.
- **Slightly less likely to be a first-time food pantry visitor.** 29% of White - Hispanic households and 22.1% of individuals were first-time food pantry visitors, slightly less than the average food pantry visitor.
- **Less likely to receive SNAP benefits, disability benefits, and social security benefits.** Food pantry visitors who identified as White and Hispanic were much less likely to receive SNAP, disability, and social security benefits. For seniors this was especially true. Only 20.3% of White - Hispanic seniors received SNAP and only 32.6% received social security.
- **More likely to be working.** Among food pantry visitors between the ages of 18 and 64 who identified as White - Hispanic, 41.7% were working, compared to 35.2% for all pantry visitors between the ages of 18 and 64. Seniors were also more likely to be working.
- **More likely to be a stay at home parent or caregiver.** 10.5% of all food pantry visitors who identified as White and Hispanic between the ages of 18 and 64 were a stay at home parent or caregiver, compared to 6.2% of all food pantry visitors.



# WHITE - HISPANIC



**4,518**

unique individuals assisted

**2,010**

households assisted

**2.25**

average household size

**22.1%**

first-time individuals

**29.0%**

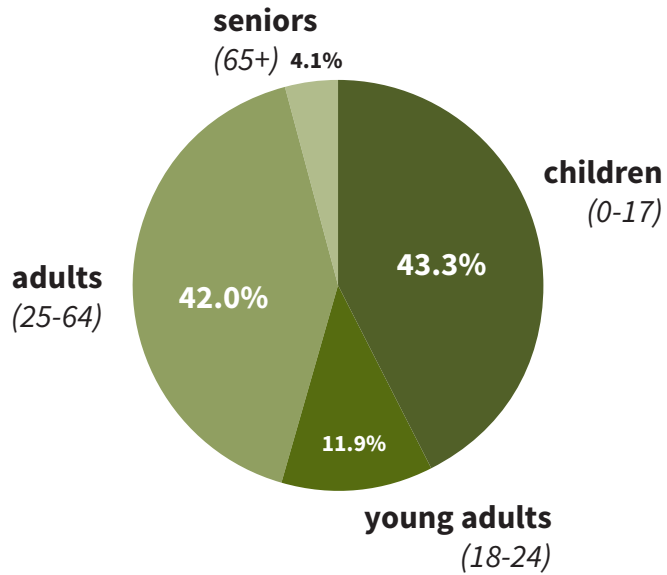
first-time households

**1.2%**

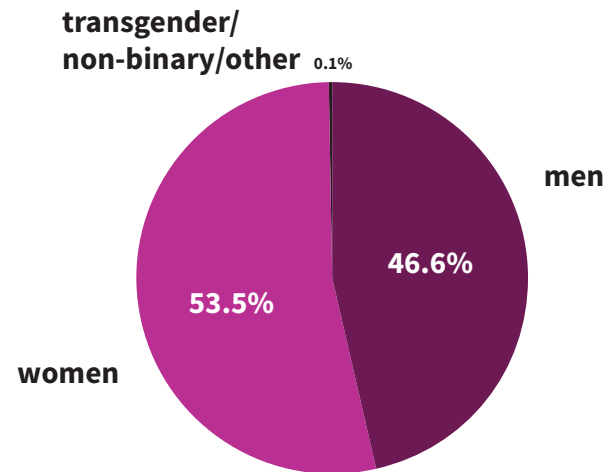
were veterans  
(among those age 18+)

# WHITE - HISPANIC

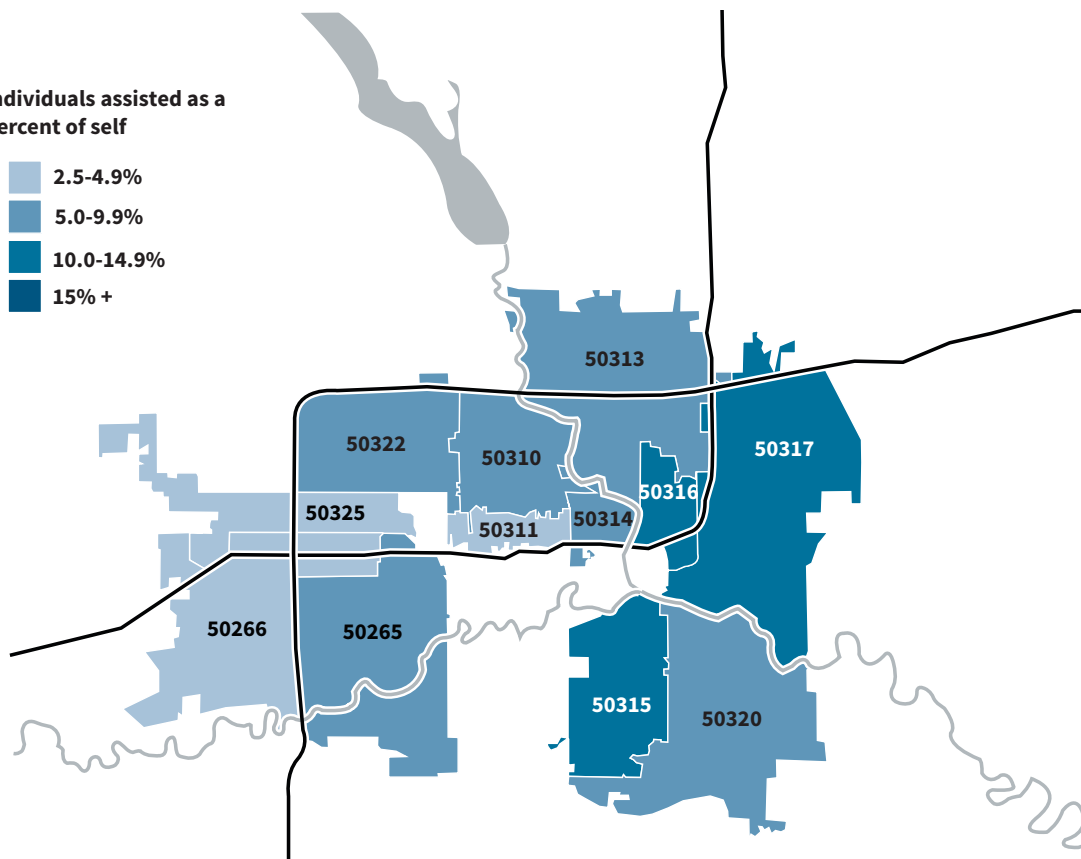
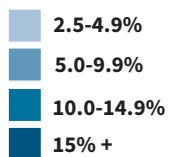
## Age



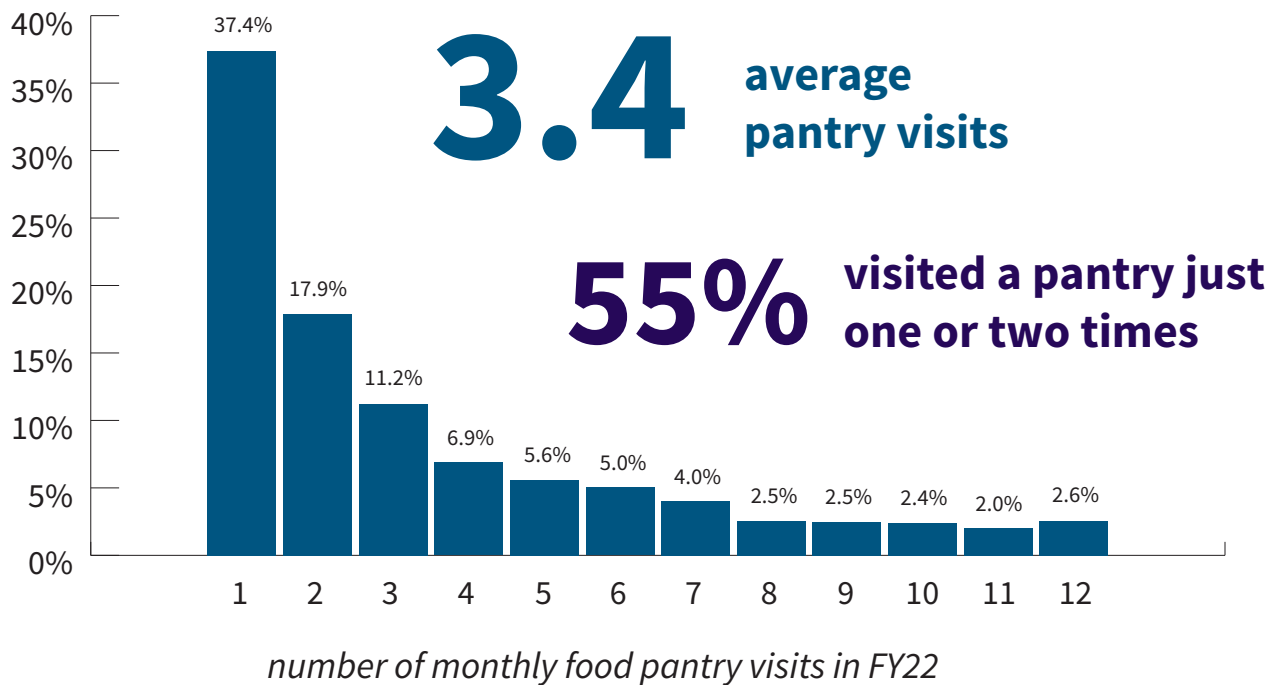
## Gender



Individuals assisted as a percent of self

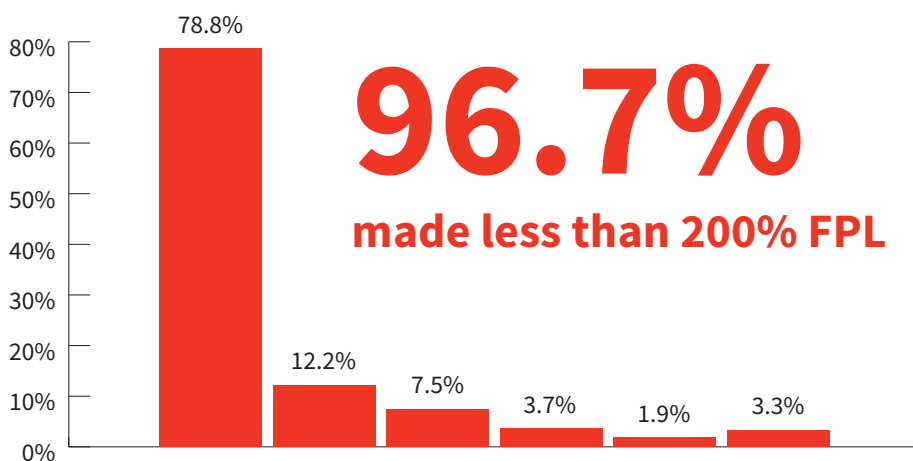
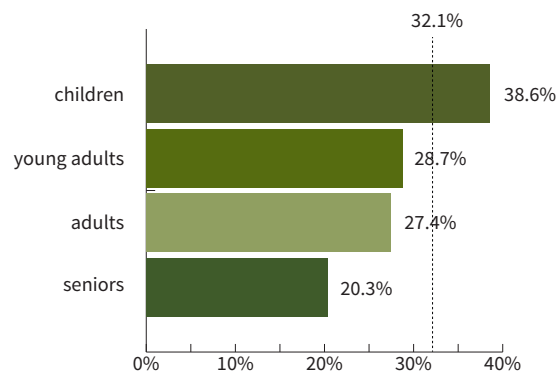


# WHITE - HISPANIC



**32.1%**

received SNAP benefits at some point in FY22



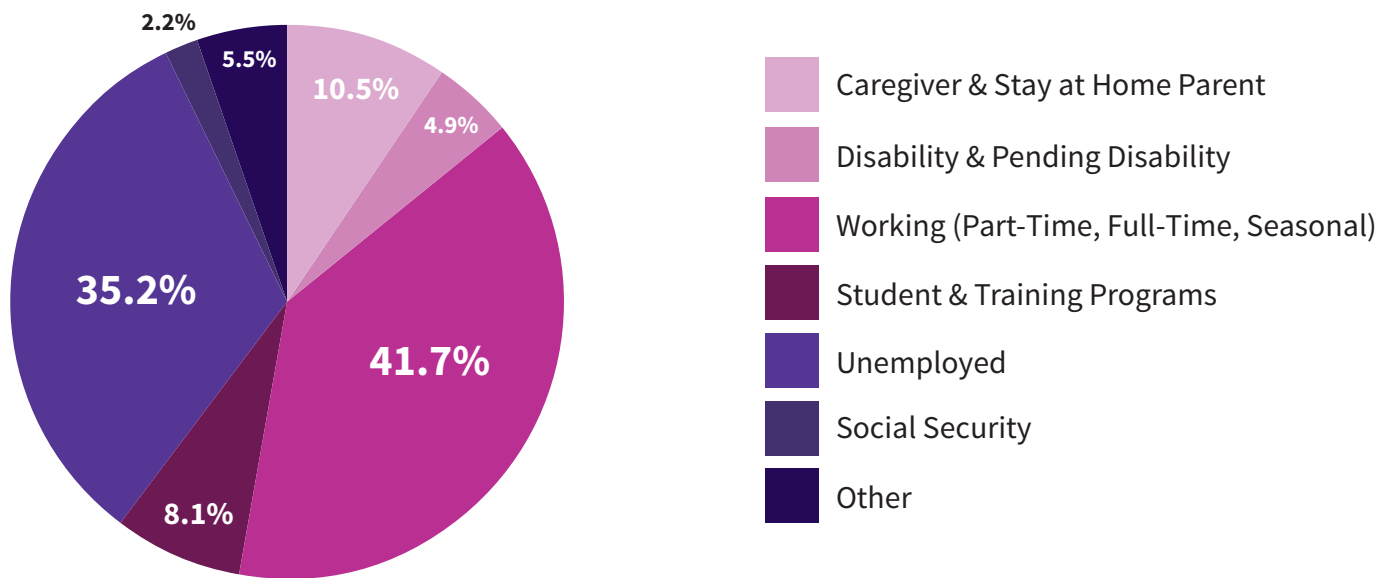
## Federal Poverty Level 2022

HH Size	100% FPL	200% FPL
1	\$13,950	\$27,900
2	\$18,310	\$36,620
3	\$23,030	\$46,060
4	\$27,750	\$55,500
5	\$32,470	\$64,940
6	\$37,190	\$74,380

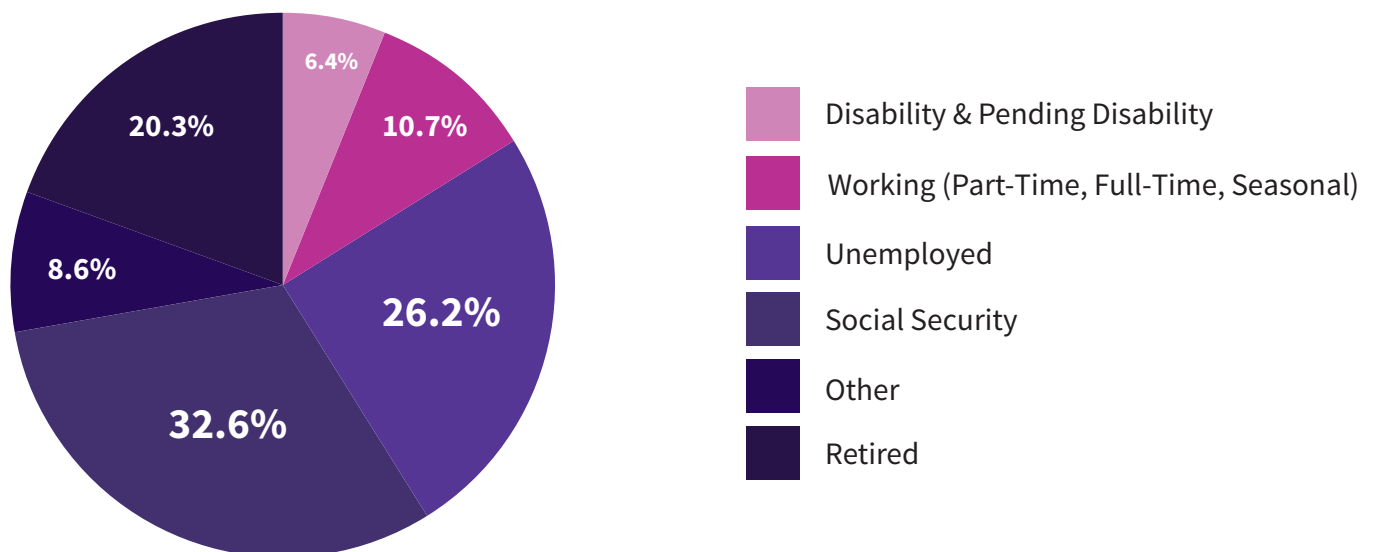
household income as a percentage of federal poverty level

# WHITE - HISPANIC

## Source of Income, Ages 18-64

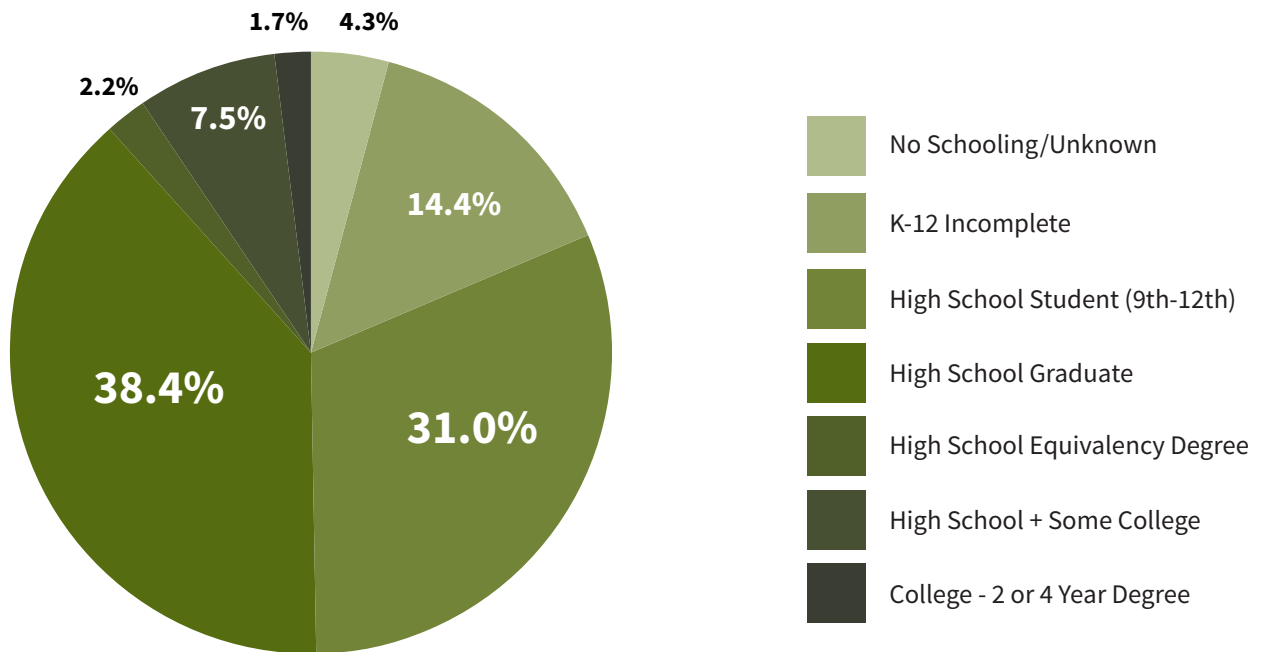


## Source of Income, Ages 65+

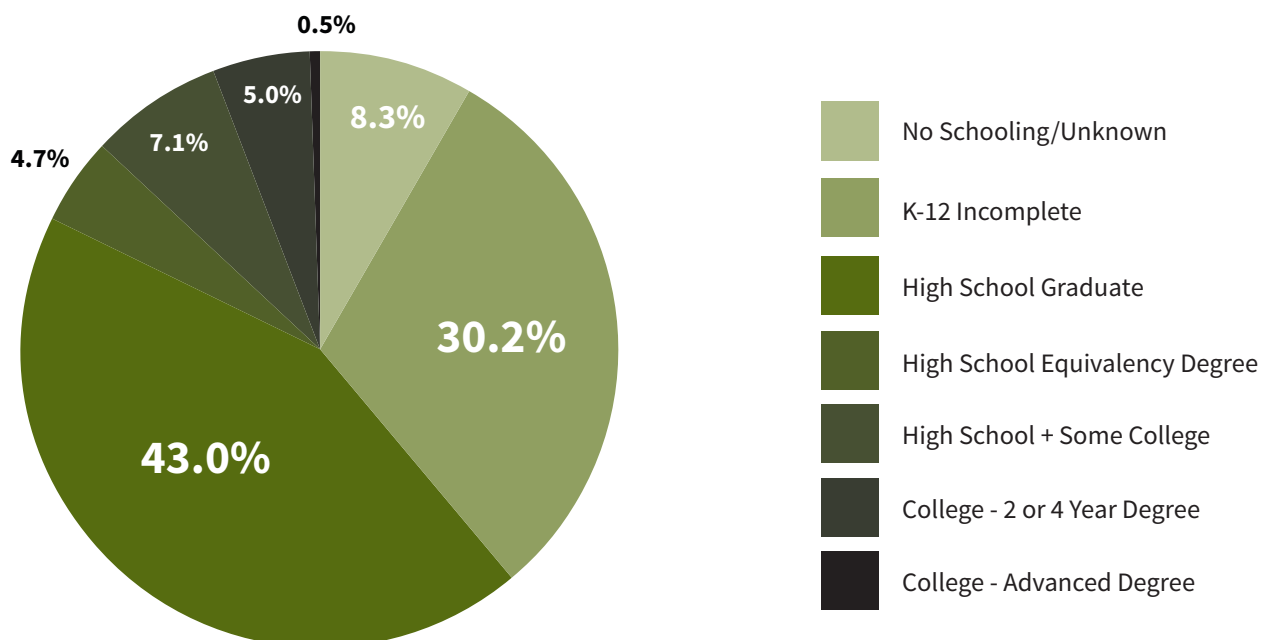


# WHITE - HISPANIC

## Education, Ages 18-24



## Education, Ages 25+



**WHITE - NOT HISPANIC**

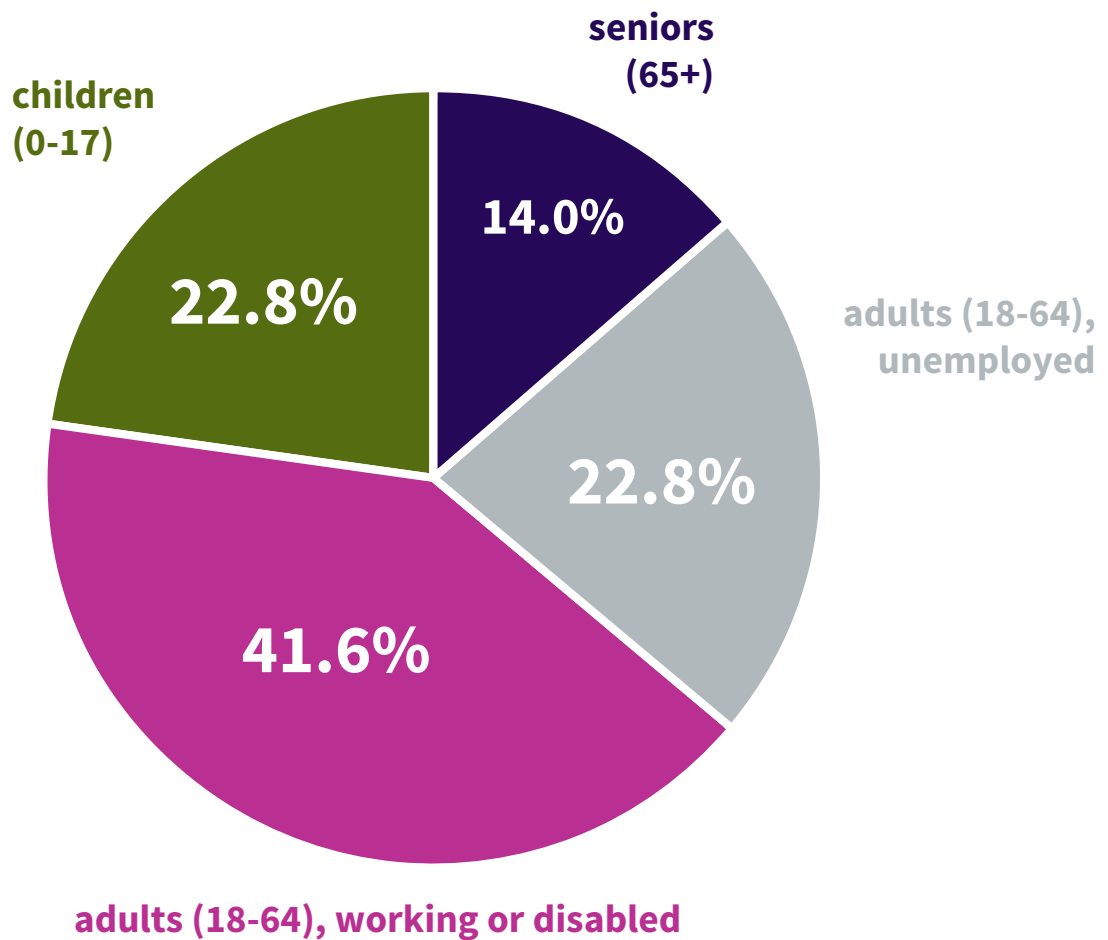
# WHITE - NOT HISPANIC

## Observed Disparities

**Compared to all food pantry visitors, those who identified as White and not Hispanic were...**

- **Older.** 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. 22.8% were children and 14.0% were seniors.
- **Less likely to be a first-time food pantry visitor.** 28.8% were first-time food pantry visitors, compared with 32.5% of all food pantry visitors.
- **More likely to be a veteran.** 5.9% of everyone assisted between age 18 and above who identified as White and not Hispanic were veterans.
- **Smaller in household size.** Food pantry visitors who identified as White and not Hispanic had an average household size of 1.83, compared to an average household size of 2.34 for all food pantry visitors.
- **More highly educated.** Young adults were more likely to have graduated high school and completed some college, and adults above the age of 25 were more likely to have graduated high school, completed some college, have a 2 or 4 year college degree, and have an advanced college degree.
- **More likely to live on a fixed income.** Food pantry visitors who identified as White and not Hispanic were more likely to receive disability benefits and social security benefits.
- **Less likely to live below the federal poverty line.** Food pantry visitors who identified as White and not Hispanic were less likely to live below the federal poverty level and more likely to have a relatively higher income. 67.3% lived below 100% FPL and 7.1% had household incomes above 200% FPL.

# WHITE - NOT HISPANIC



**21,471**

unique individuals assisted

**11,702**

households assisted

**1.83**

average household size

**25.0%**

first-time individuals

**28.8%**

first-time households

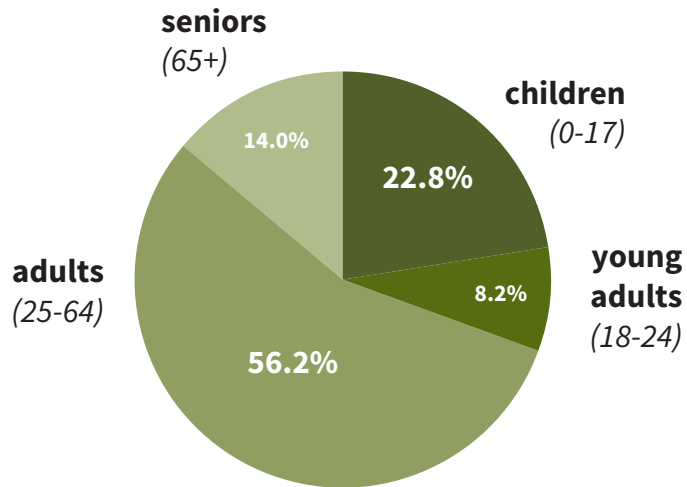
**5.9%**

were veterans  
(among those age 18+)

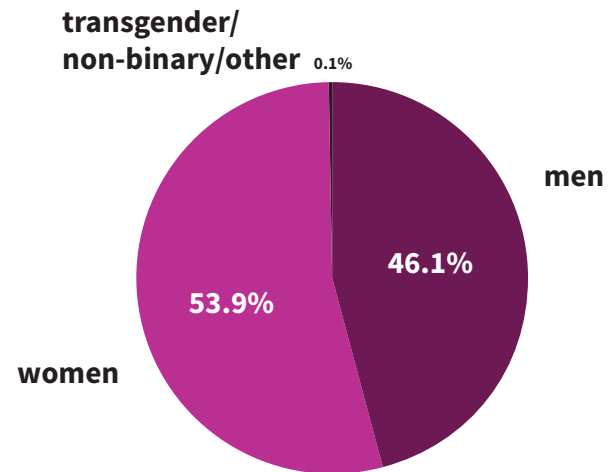


# WHITE - NOT HISPANIC

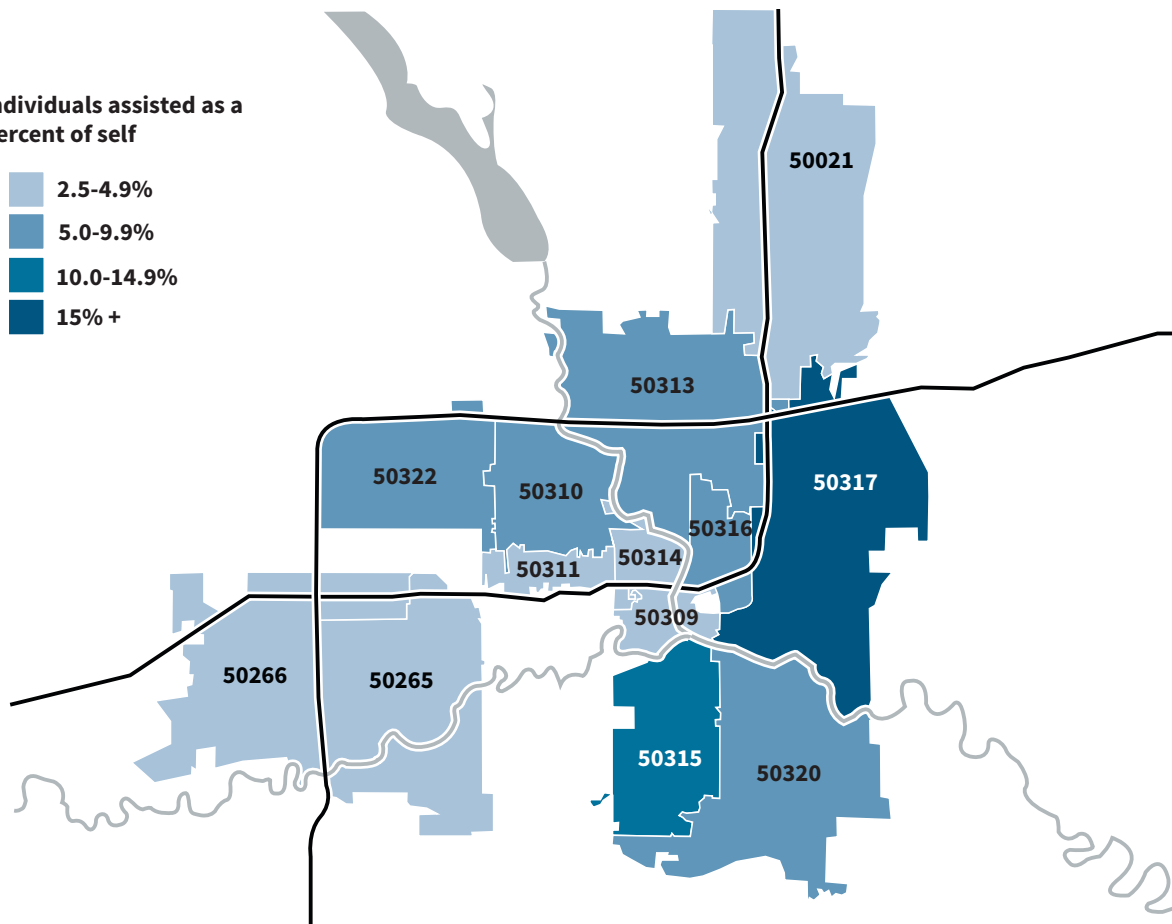
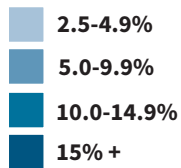
## Age



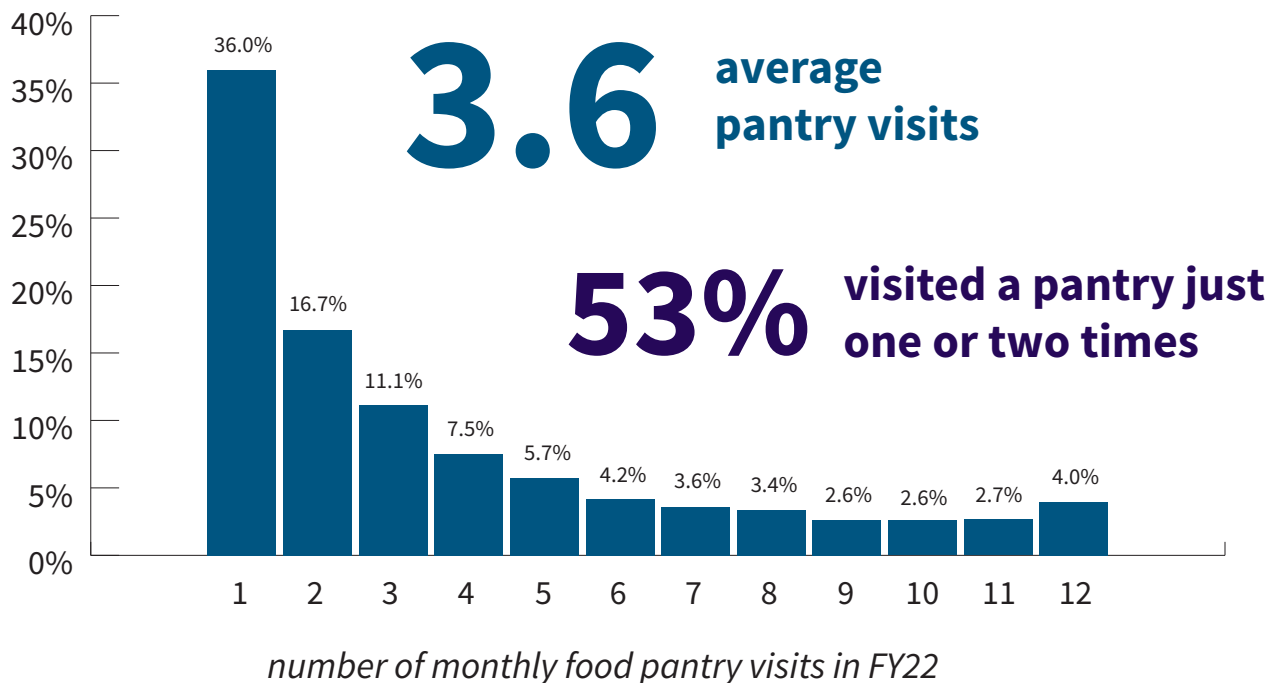
## Gender



Individuals assisted as a percent of self

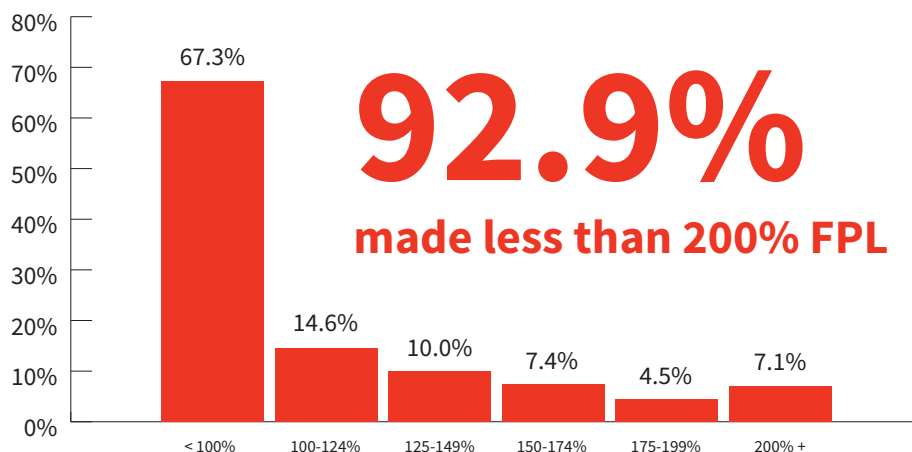
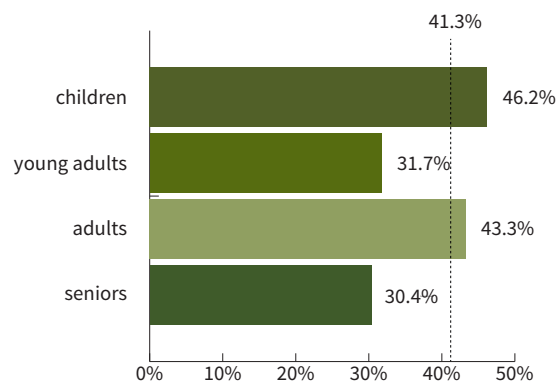


# WHITE - NOT HISPANIC



**41.3%**

**received SNAP benefits at some point in FY22**



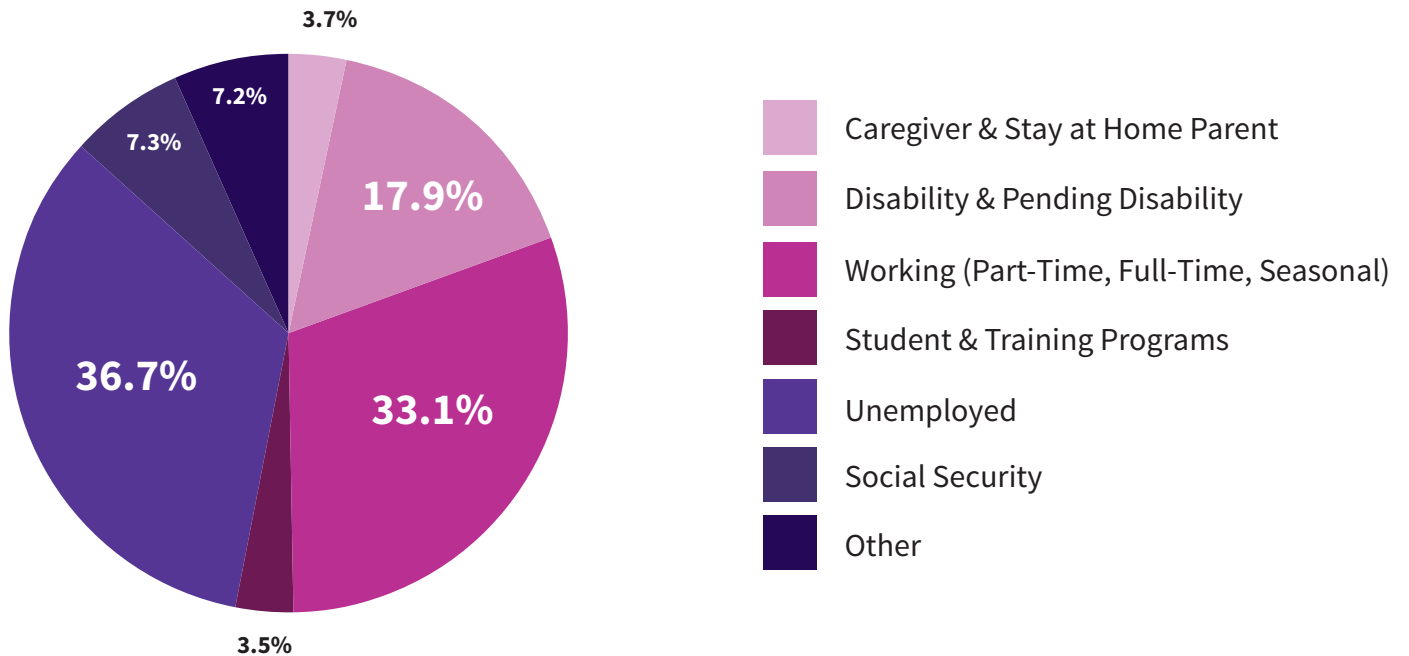
## Federal Poverty Level 2022

HH Size	100% FPL	200% FPL
1	\$13,950	\$27,900
2	\$18,310	\$36,620
3	\$23,030	\$46,060
4	\$27,750	\$55,500
5	\$32,470	\$64,940
6	\$37,190	\$74,380

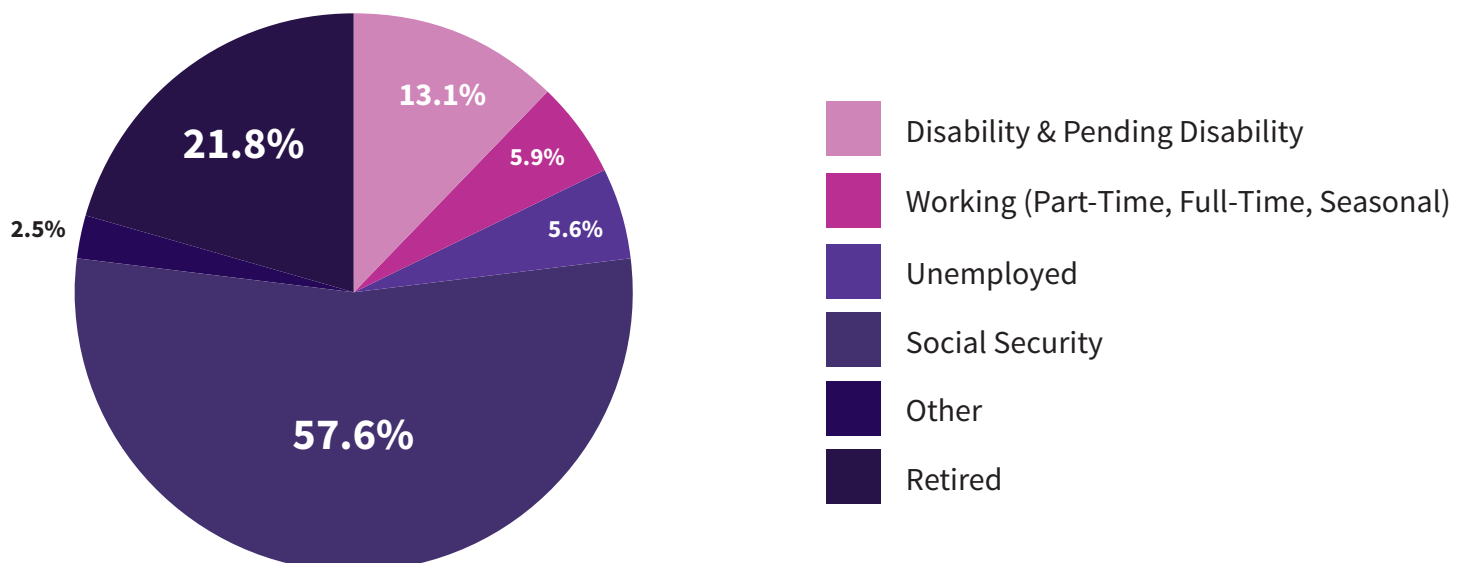
*household income as a percentage of federal poverty level*

# WHITE - NOT HISPANIC

## Source of Income, Ages 18-64

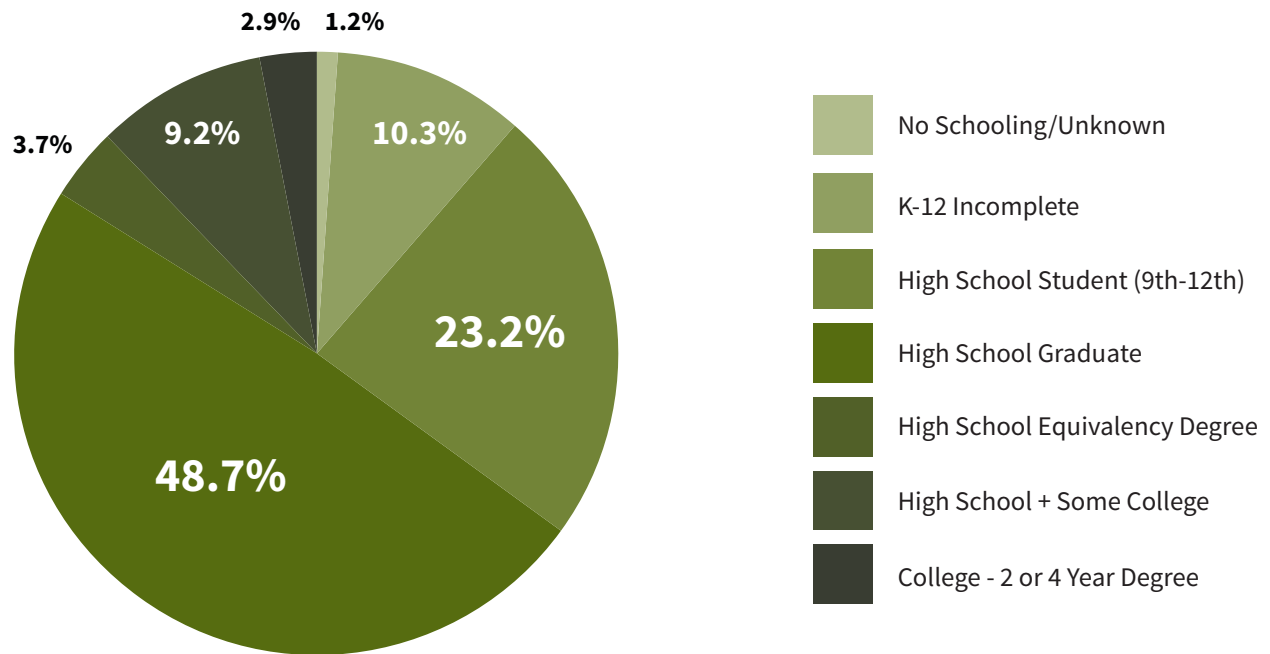


## Source of Income, Ages 65+

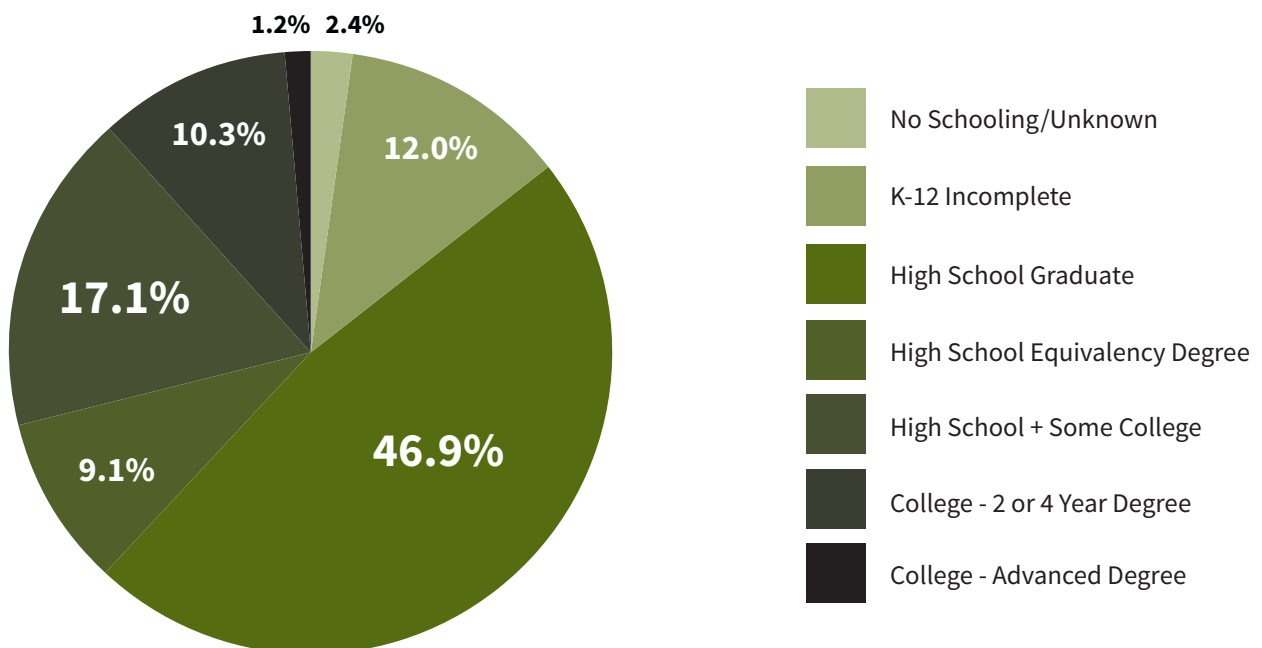


# WHITE - NOT HISPANIC

## Education, Ages 18-24



## Education, Ages 25+



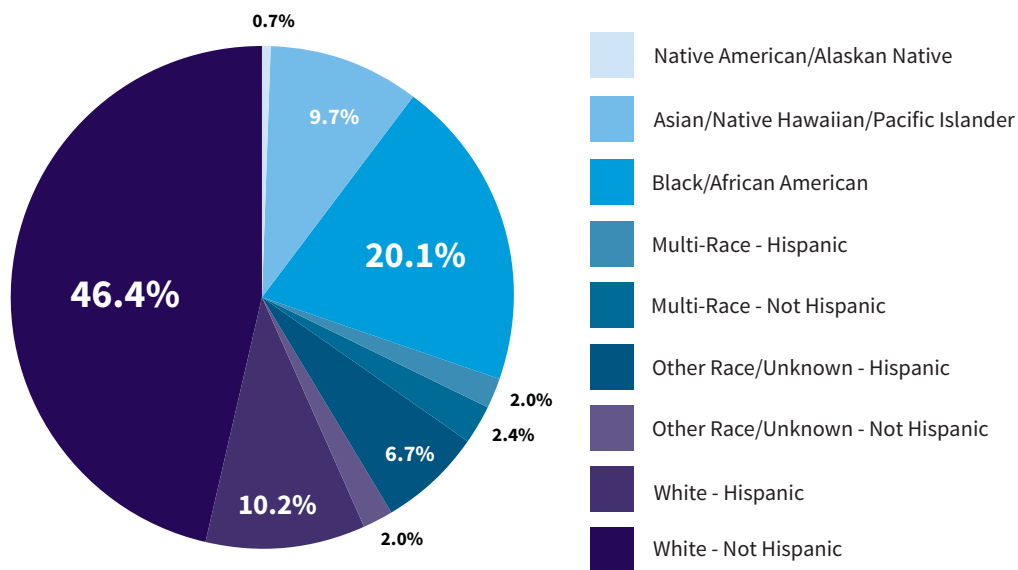
# **RACIAL DISPARITIES BY CITY OF RESIDENCE**

# DES MOINES RESIDENTS

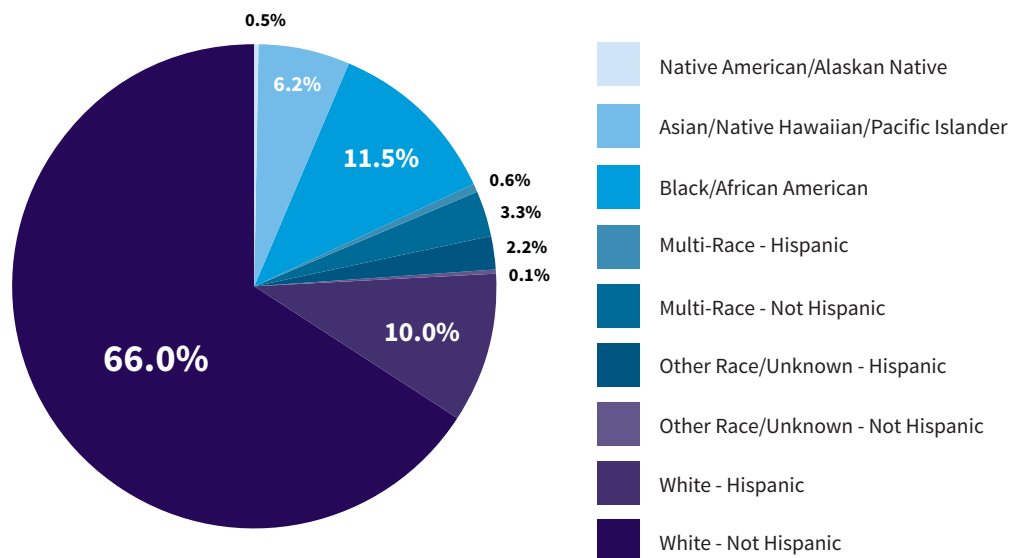
The DMARC Food Pantry Network assisted 30,862 residents of Des Moines in FY22, which is 14.3% of the total population of Des Moines.

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

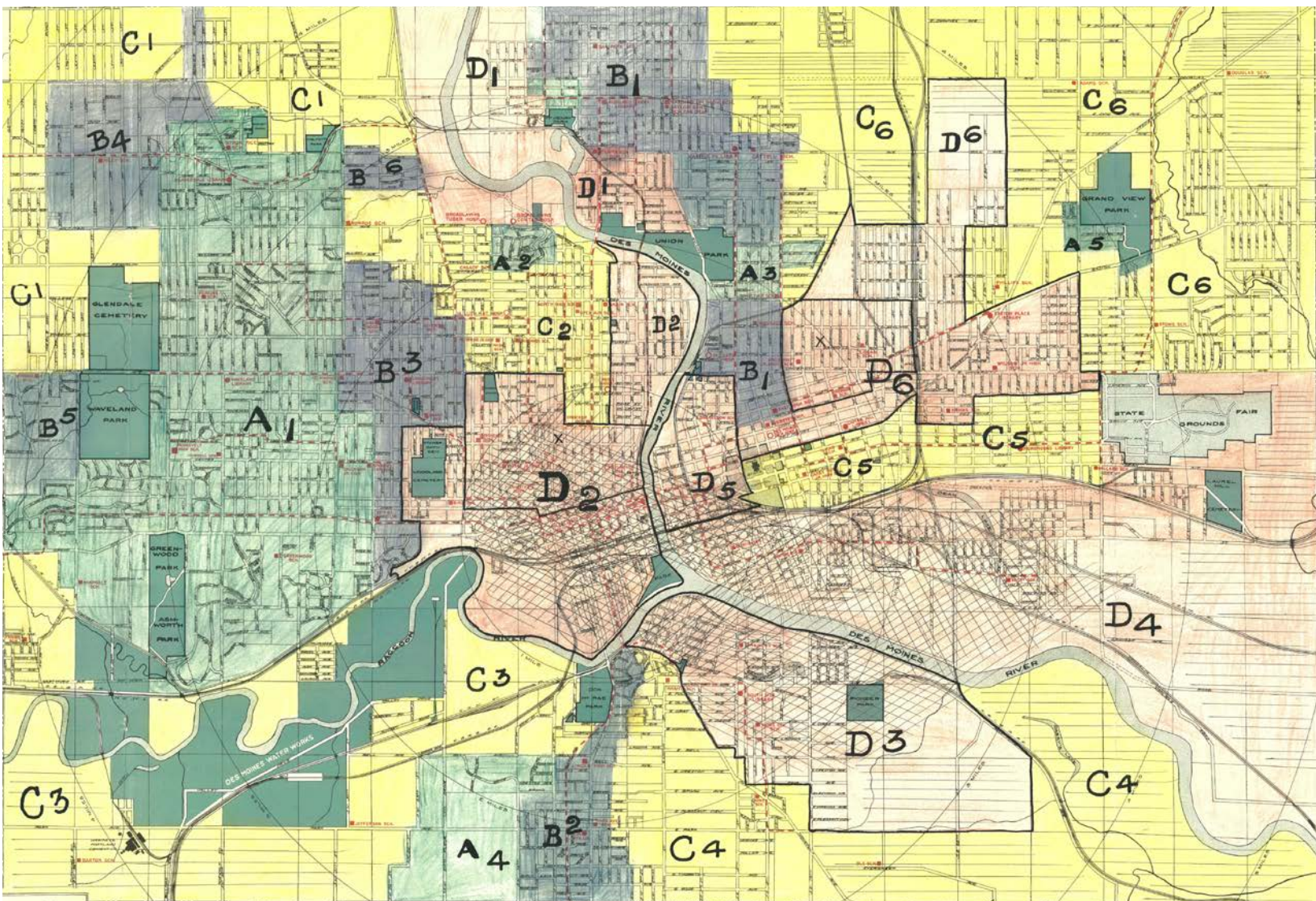


## GENERAL POPULATION





# DES MOINES - REDLINE MAP

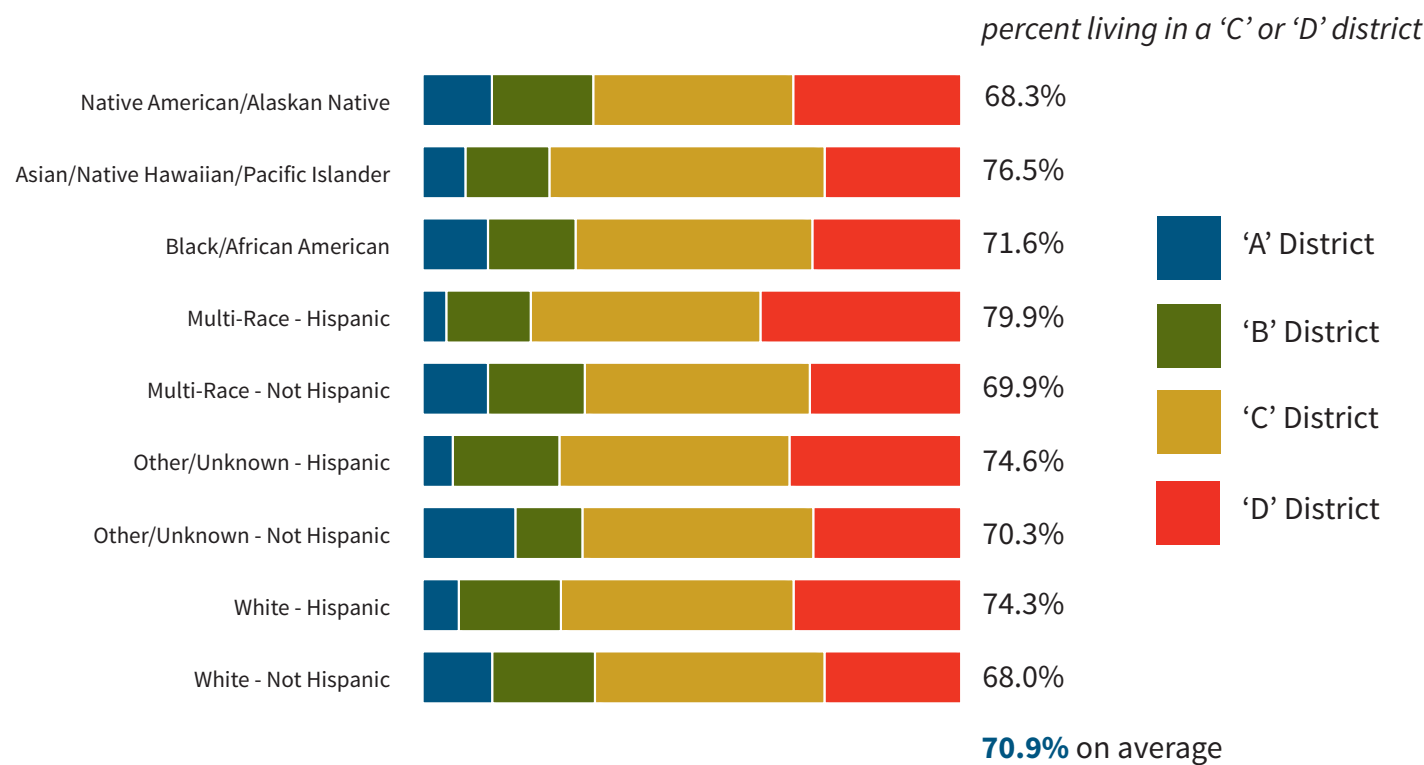


“Redlining” was a racist housing policy that led to segregated neighborhoods and prevented generations of Black families and other communities of color from building wealth through homeownership.

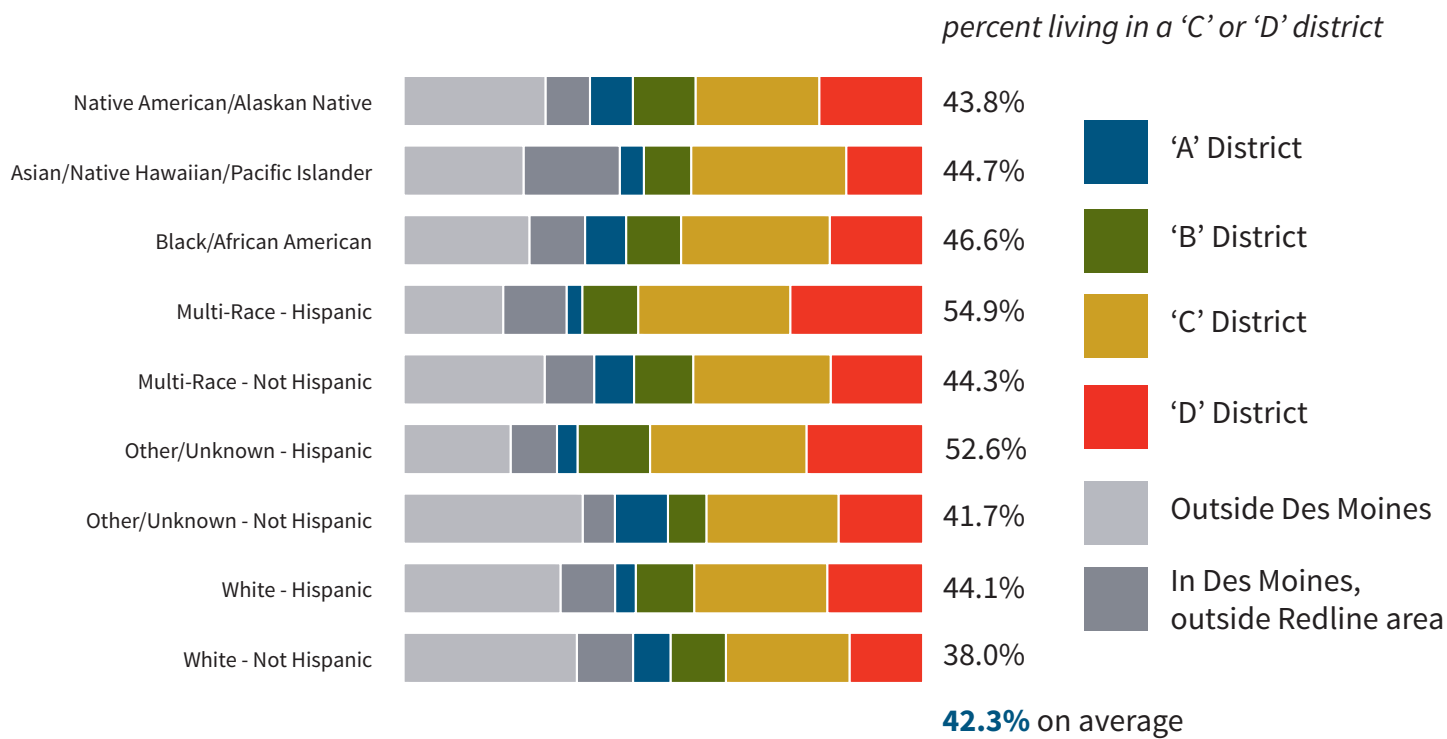
In the 1930’s, the United States government’s Home Owners Loan Corporation (HOLC) produced redline maps for cities across the country, including Des Moines. Areas rated ‘A’ or ‘B’ were considered the “best” neighborhoods, while ‘C’ and ‘D’ were deemed “risky” in-part due to “hazardous populations.” As little as a single Black family could downgrade a neighborhood to a risky rating, thereby cutting off the residents from receiving federal assistance with home loans. This policy helped white people purchase homes in white areas, and kept people of color and low-income people from accessing this same sort of assistance.

This racist policy of the past has implications for food pantry use in our community today. As you will see, historical areas of disinvestment continue to be areas of high-need today.

# FOOD PANTRY VISITORS WHO LIVE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE HISTORIC REDLINE MAP



## ALL FOOD PANTRY VISITORS



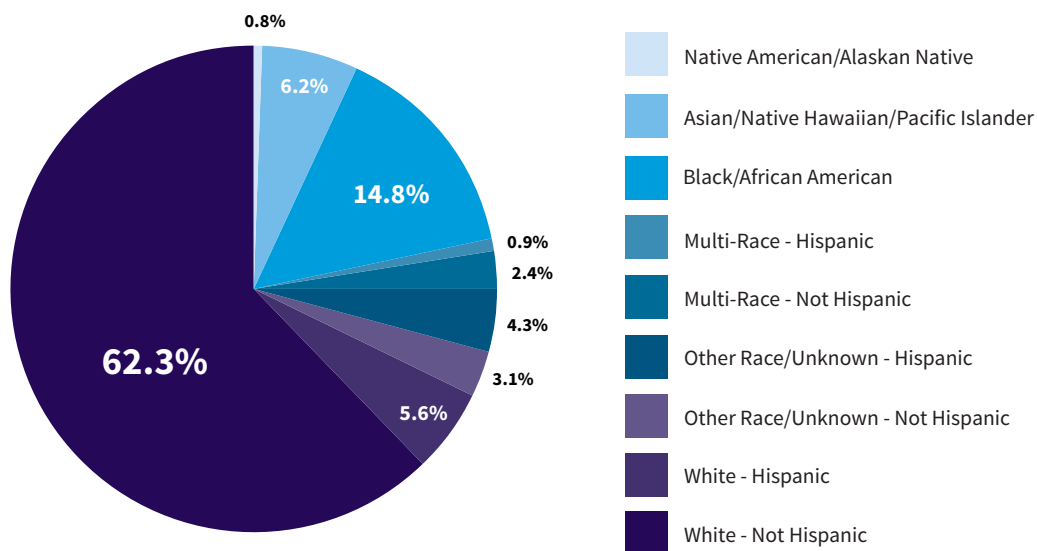


# ANKENY RESIDENTS

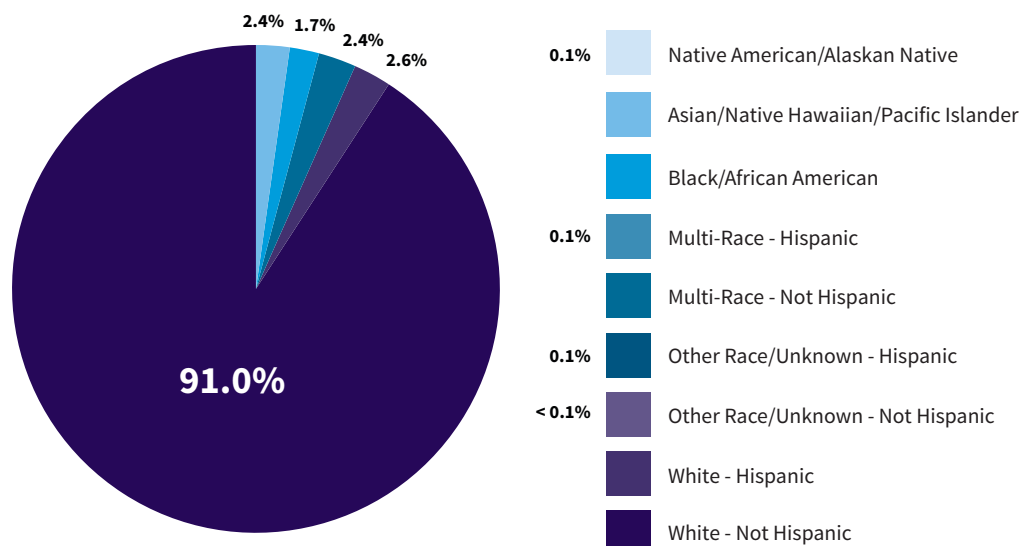
The DMARC Food Pantry Network assisted 1,567 residents of Ankeny in FY22, which is 2.4% of the total population of Ankeny.

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

## FOOD PANTRY VISITORS



## GENERAL POPULATION

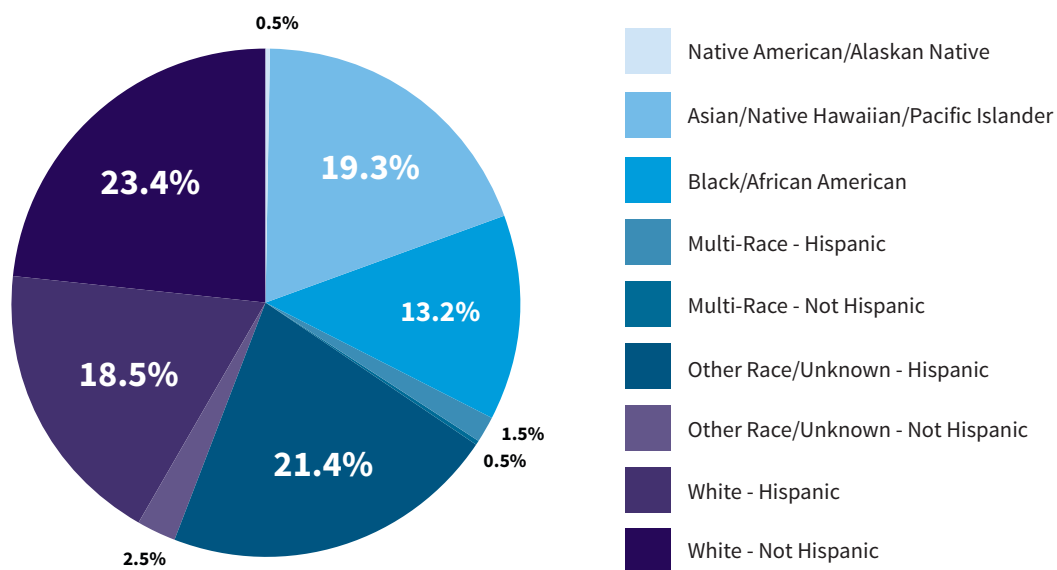


# CLIVE RESIDENTS

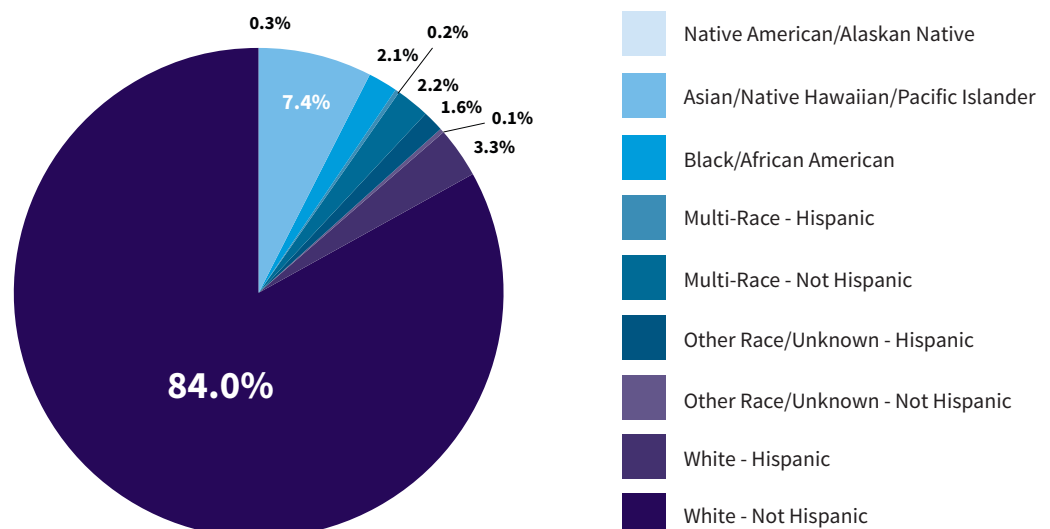
The DMARC Food Pantry Network assisted 812 residents of Clive in FY22, which is 4.7% of the total population of Clive.

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



## GENERAL POPULATION

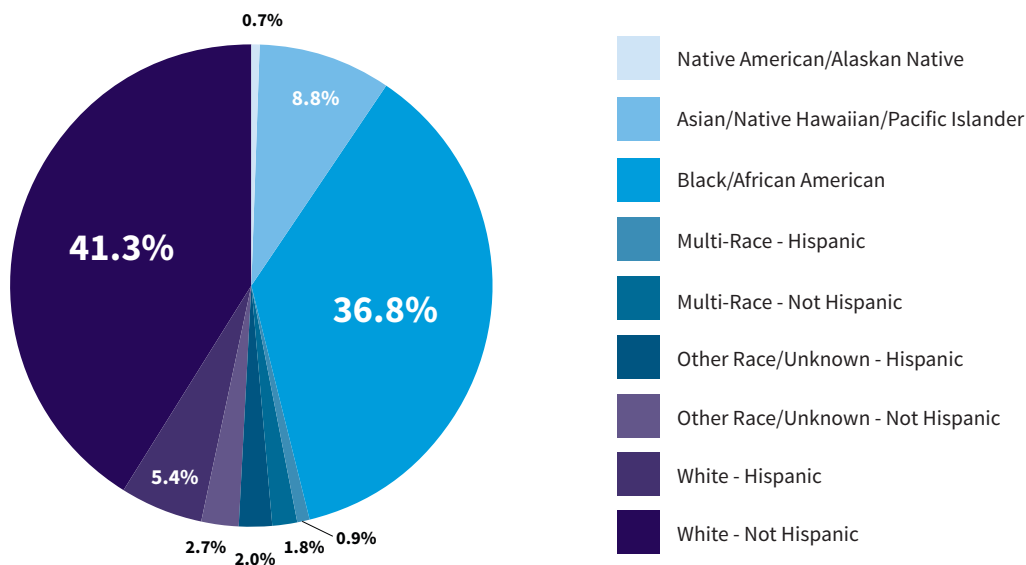


# JOHNSTON RESIDENTS

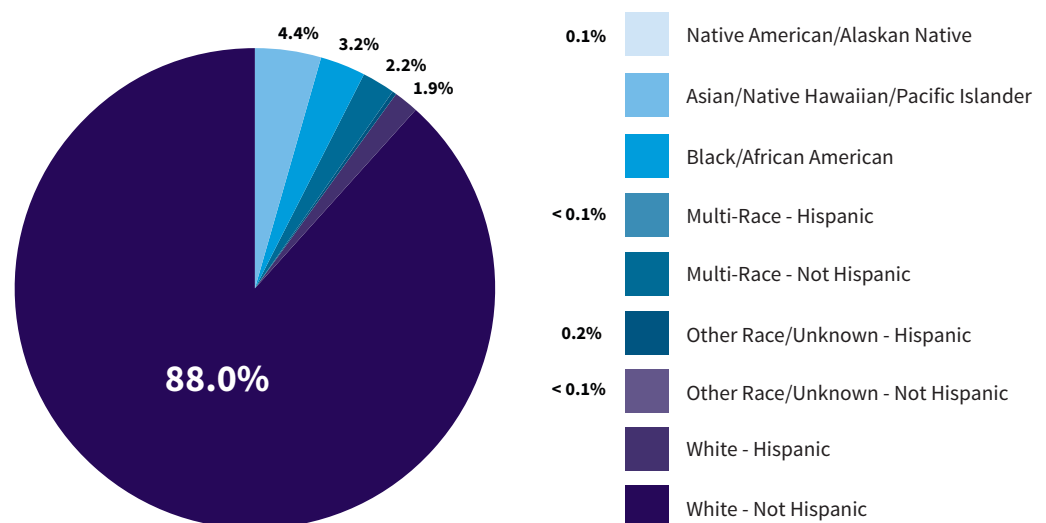
The DMARC Food Pantry Network assisted 940 residents of Johnston in FY22, which is 4.3% of the total population of Johnston.

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



## GENERAL POPULATION

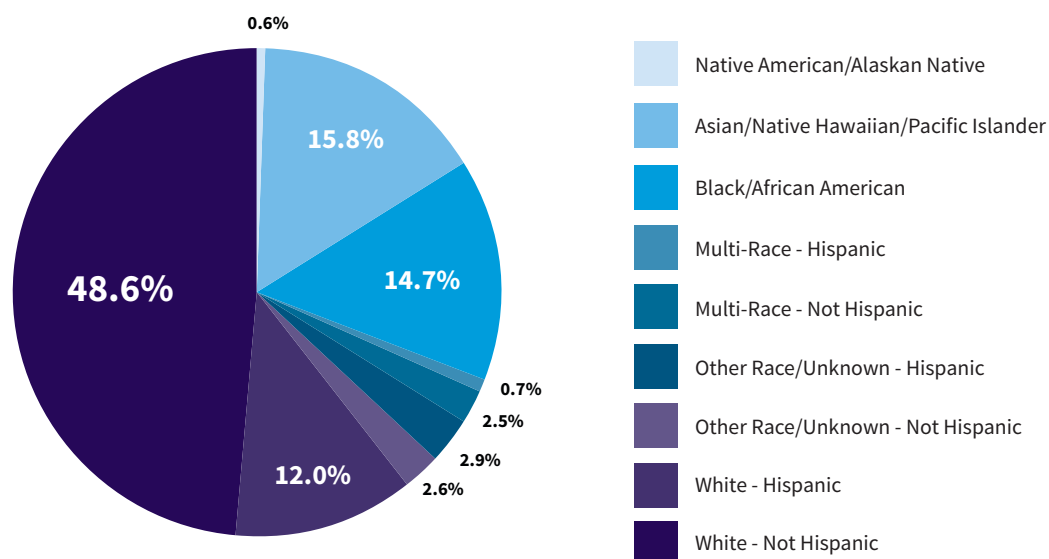


# URBANDALE RESIDENTS

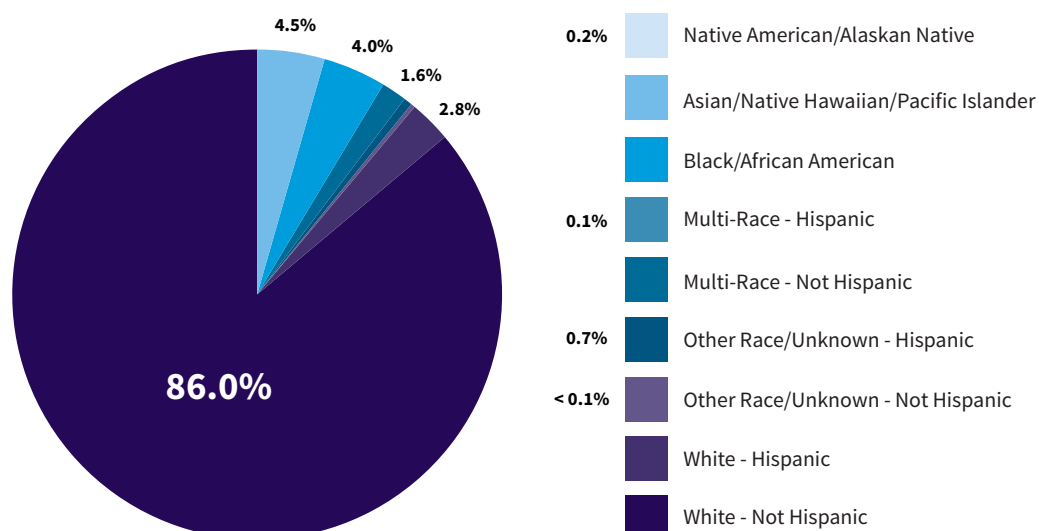
The DMARC Food Pantry Network assisted 2,176 residents of Urbandale in FY22, which is 5.0% of the total population of Urbandale.

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

## FOOD PANTRY VISITORS



## GENERAL POPULATION

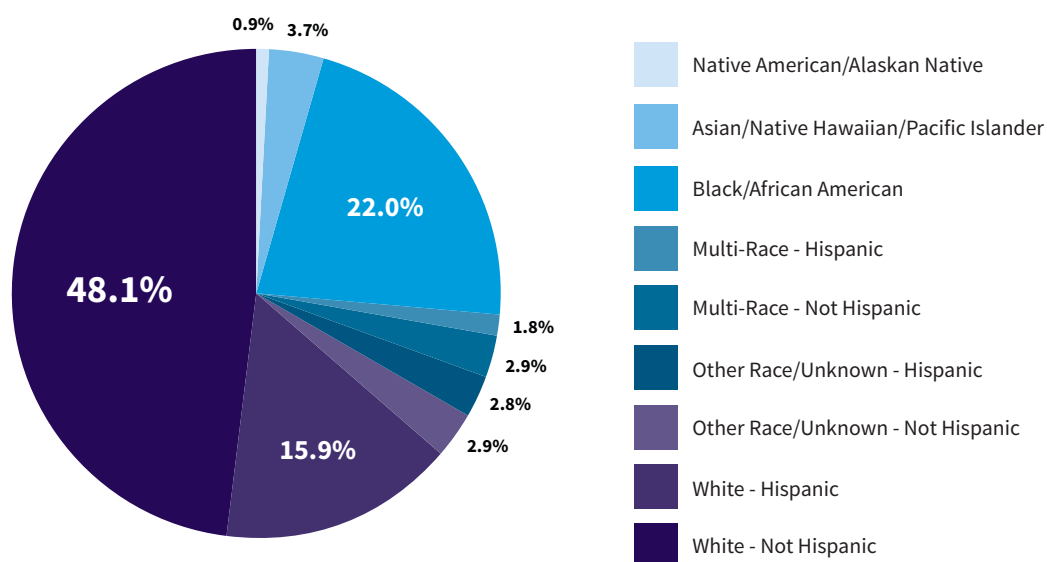


# WEST DES MOINES RESIDENTS

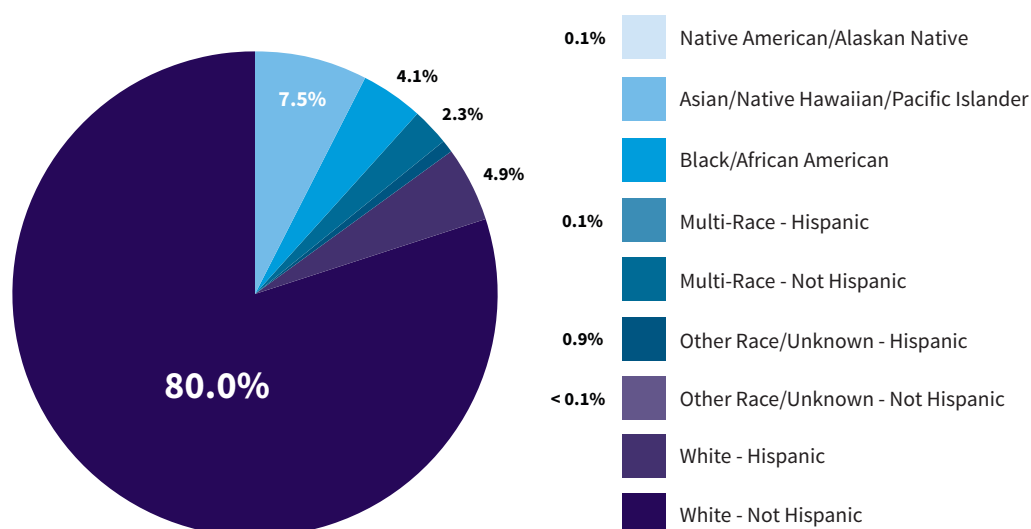
The DMARC Food Pantry Network assisted 3,055 residents of West Des Moines in FY22, which is 4.6% of the total population of West Des Moines.

Compared with the general population, residents who used a food pantry were less likely to identify as White - Not Hispanic or Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and more likely to identify as all other races and ethnicities.

## FOOD PANTRY VISITORS



## GENERAL POPULATION

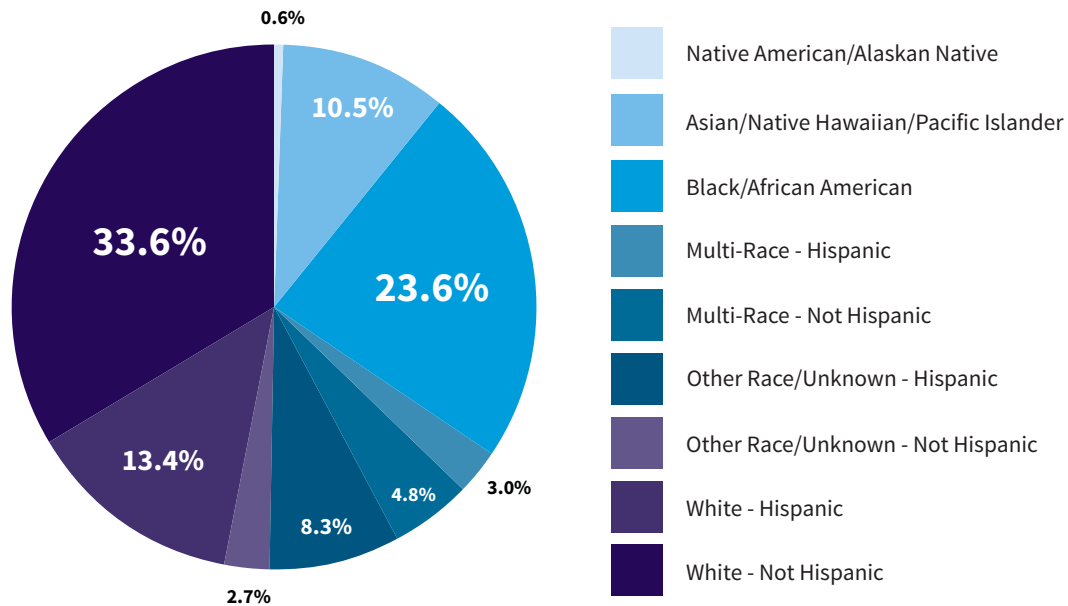


**APPENDIX:  
BREAKDOWNS OF  
RACIAL DISPARITIES**

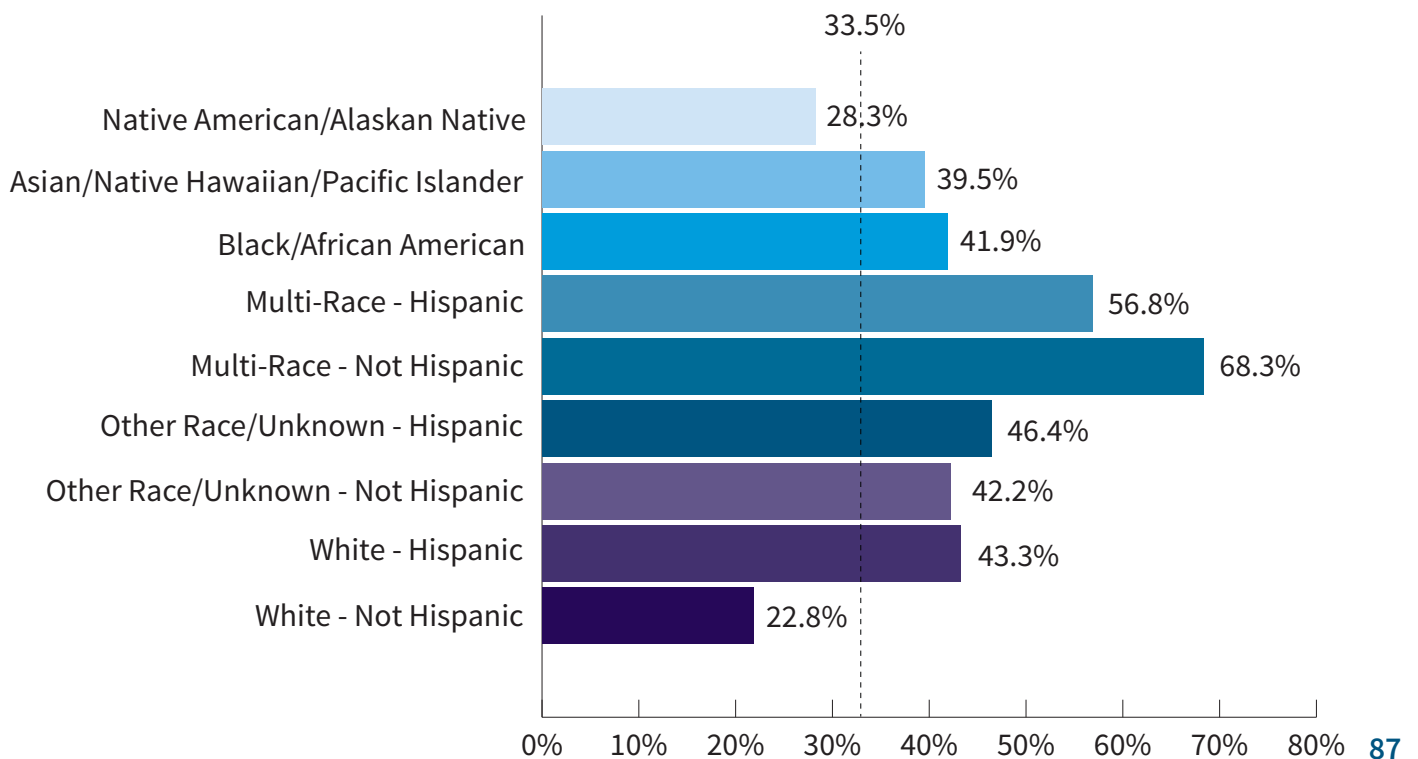
# CHILDREN

The DMARC Food Pantry Network assisted 14,574 children (0-17) in FY22.

*percent of all children assisted by race and ethnicity*



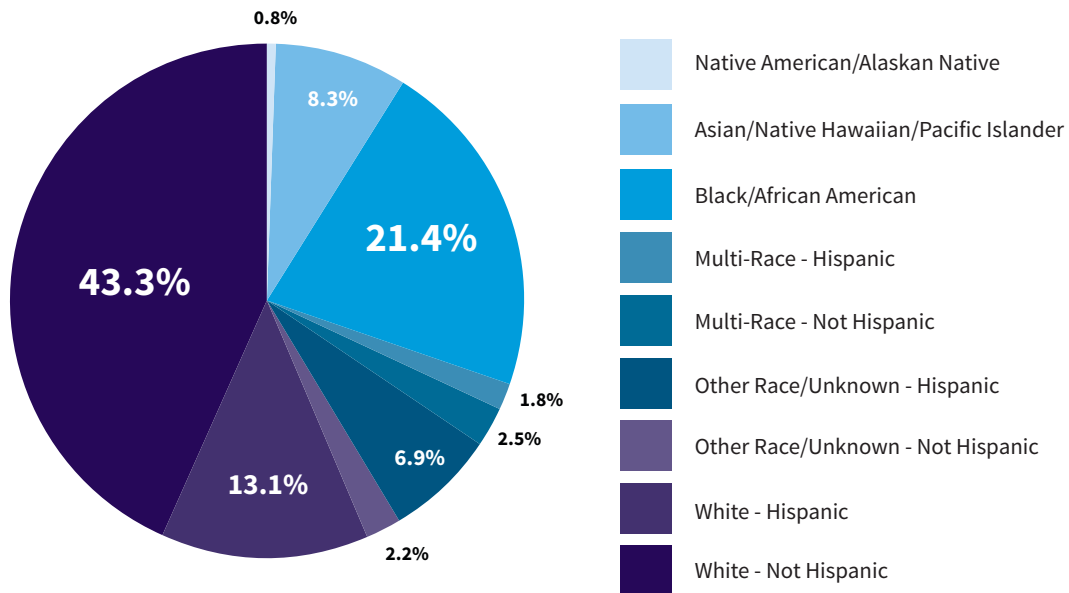
*children assisted as a percent of all individuals assisted by race and ethnicity*



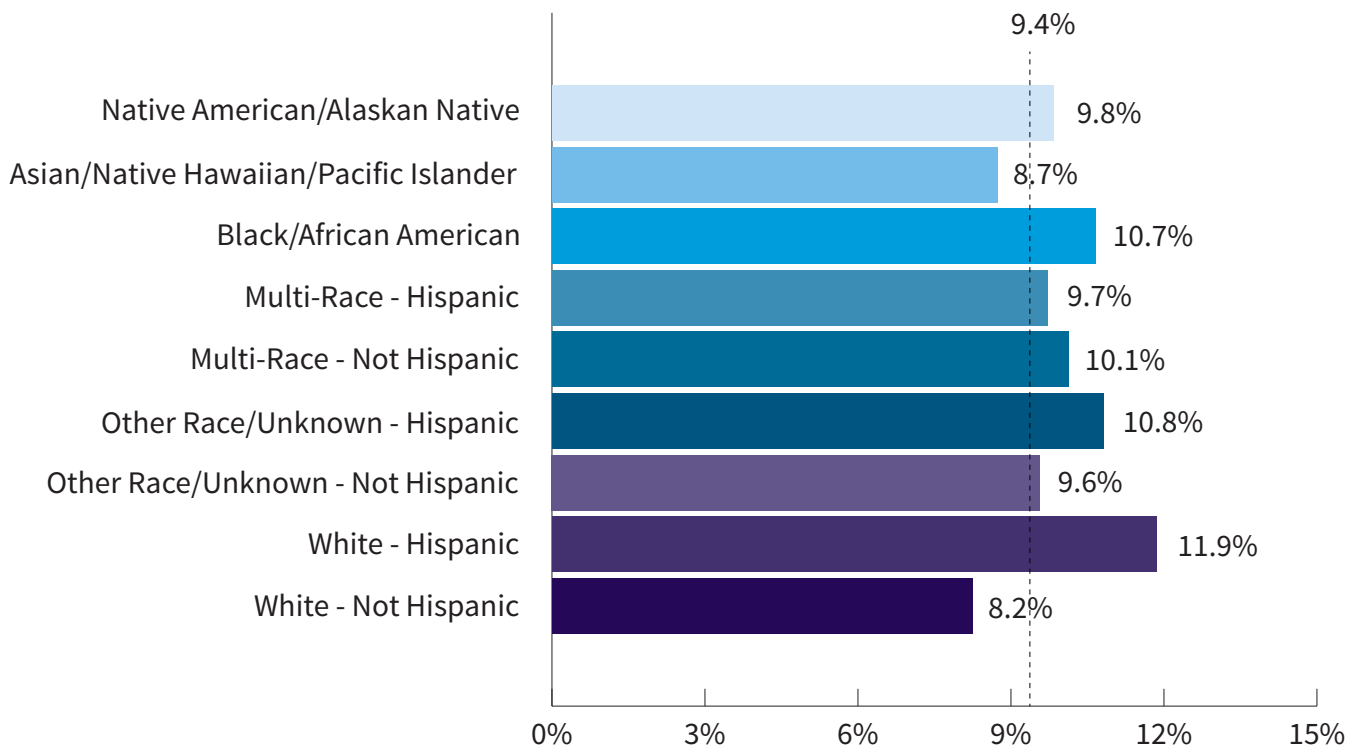
# YOUNG ADULTS

The DMARC Food Pantry Network assisted 4,088 young adults (18-24) in FY22.

*percent of all young adults assisted by race and ethnicity*



*young adults assisted as a percent of all individuals assisted by race and ethnicity*

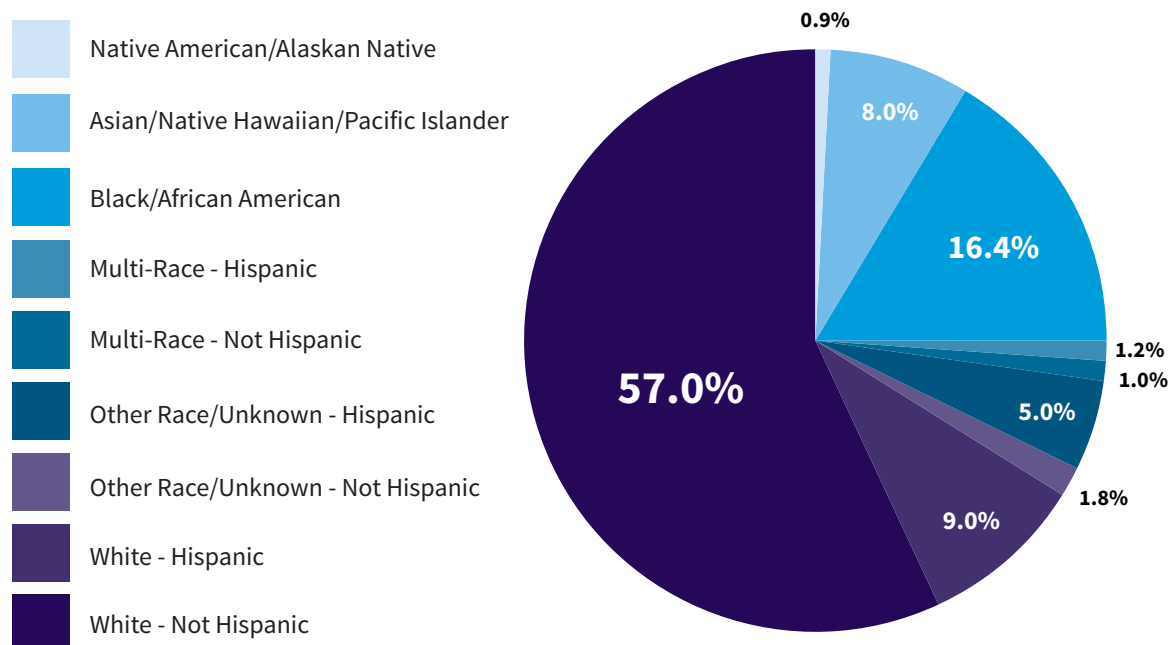




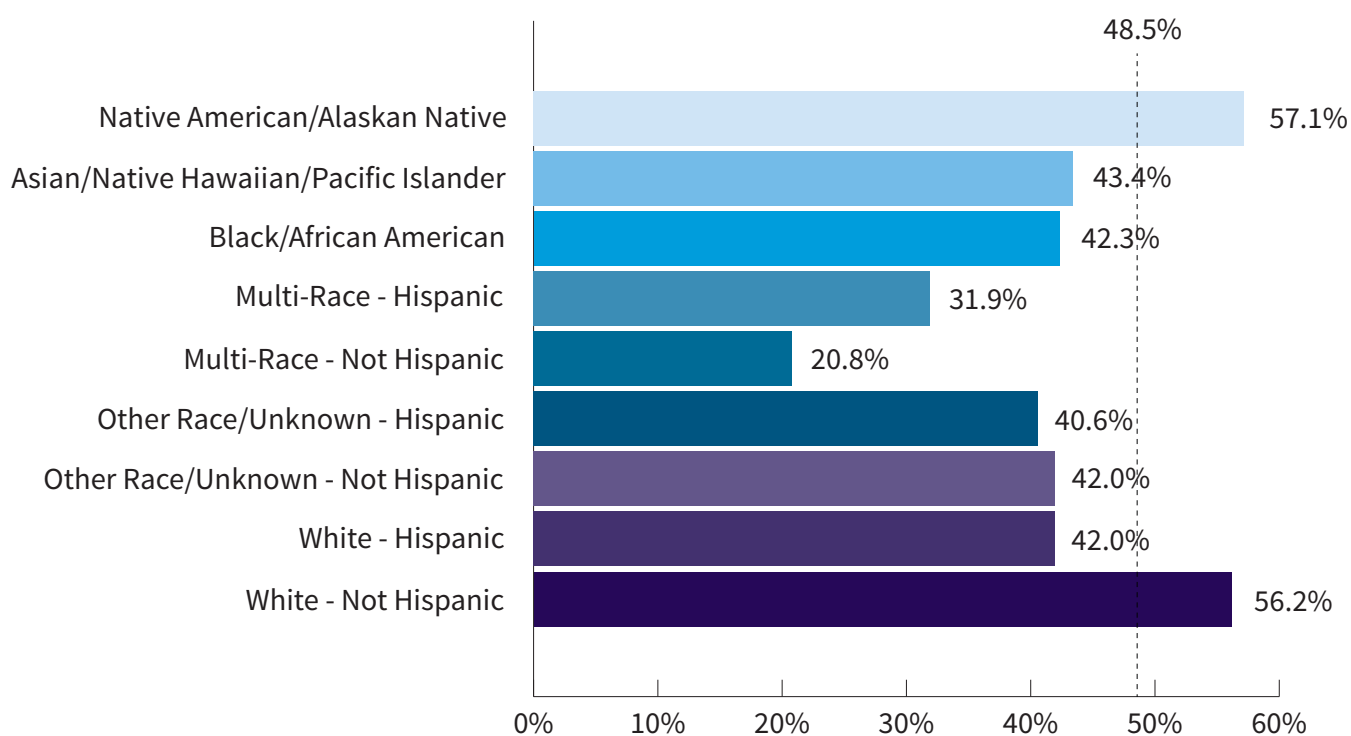
# ADULTS

The DMARC Food Pantry Network assisted 21,144 adults (25-64) in FY22.

*percent of all adults assisted by race and ethnicity*



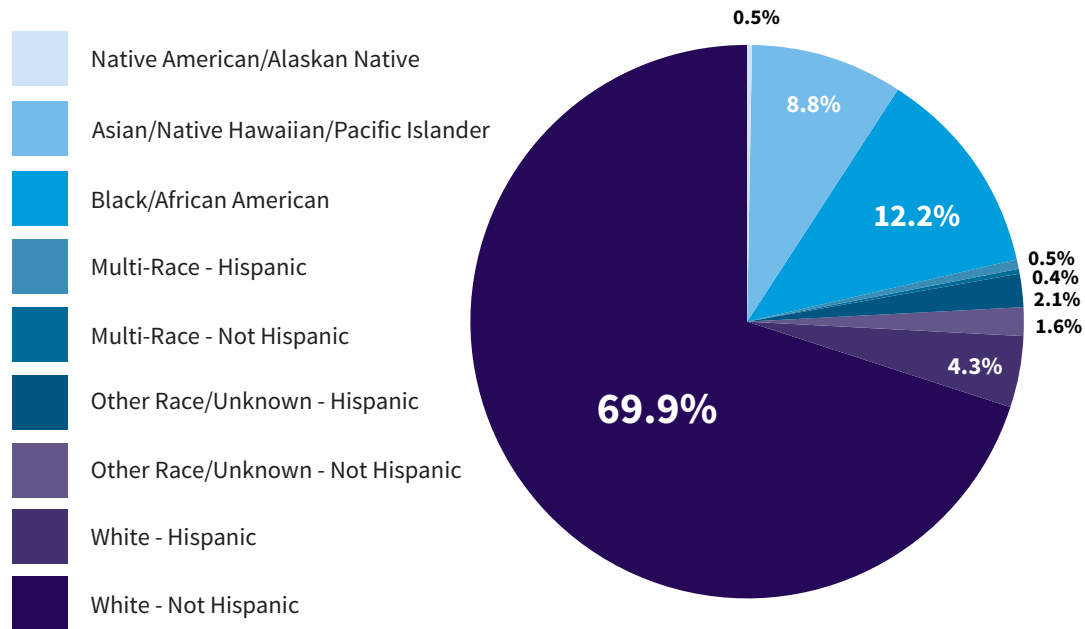
*adults assisted as a percent of all individuals assisted by race and ethnicity*



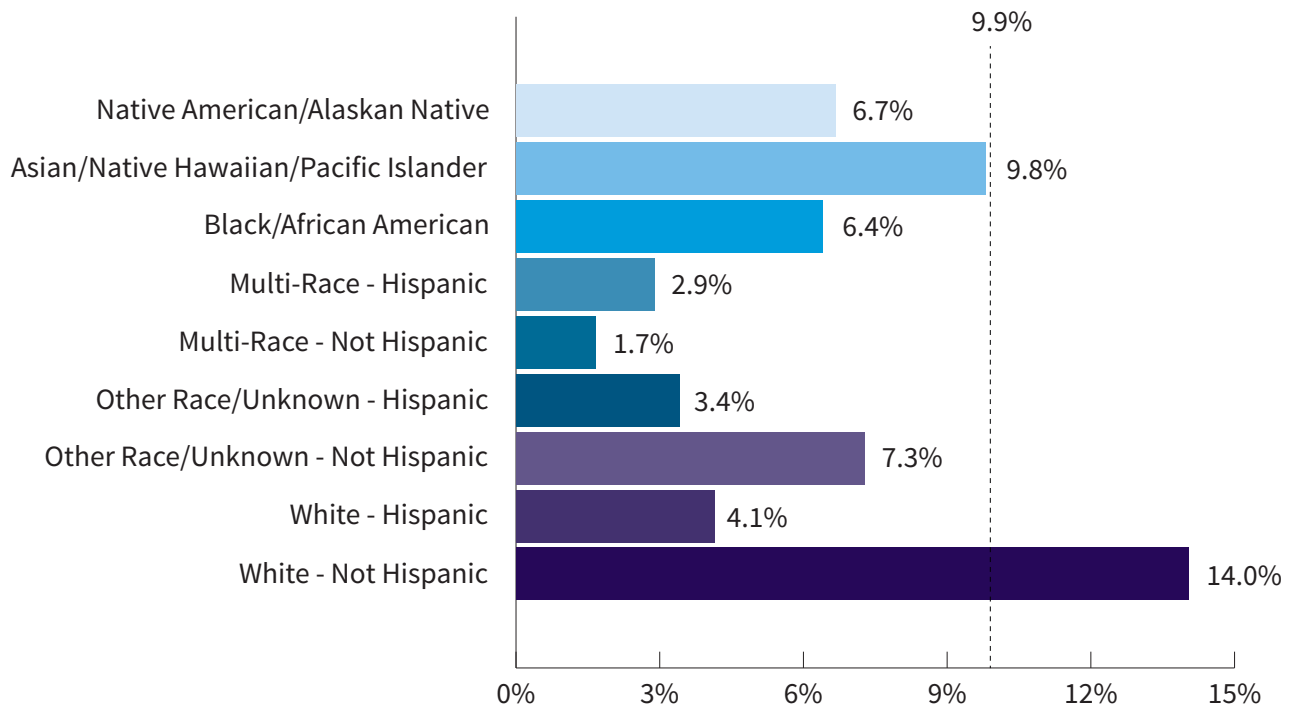
# SENIORS

The DMARC Food Pantry Network assisted 4,315 seniors (65+) in FY22.

*percent of all seniors assisted by race and ethnicity*



*seniors assisted as a percent of all individuals assisted by race and ethnicity*

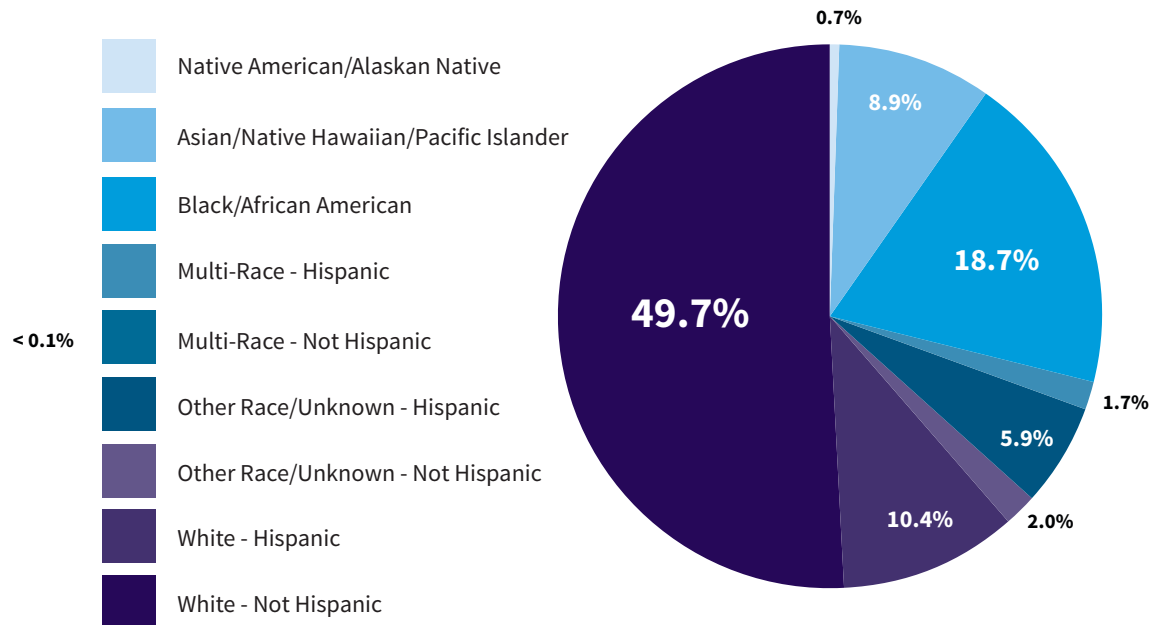


# GENDER

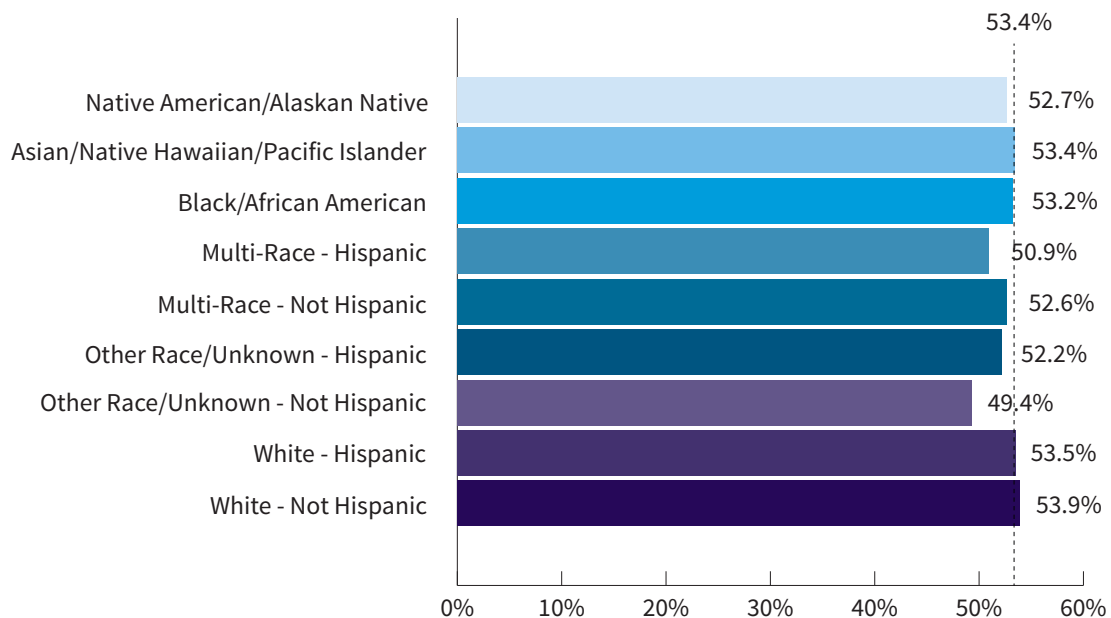
## WOMEN

The DMARC Food Pantry Network assisted 23,281 women in FY22.

*percent of all women assisted by race and ethnicity*



*women assisted as a percent of all individuals assisted by race and ethnicity*

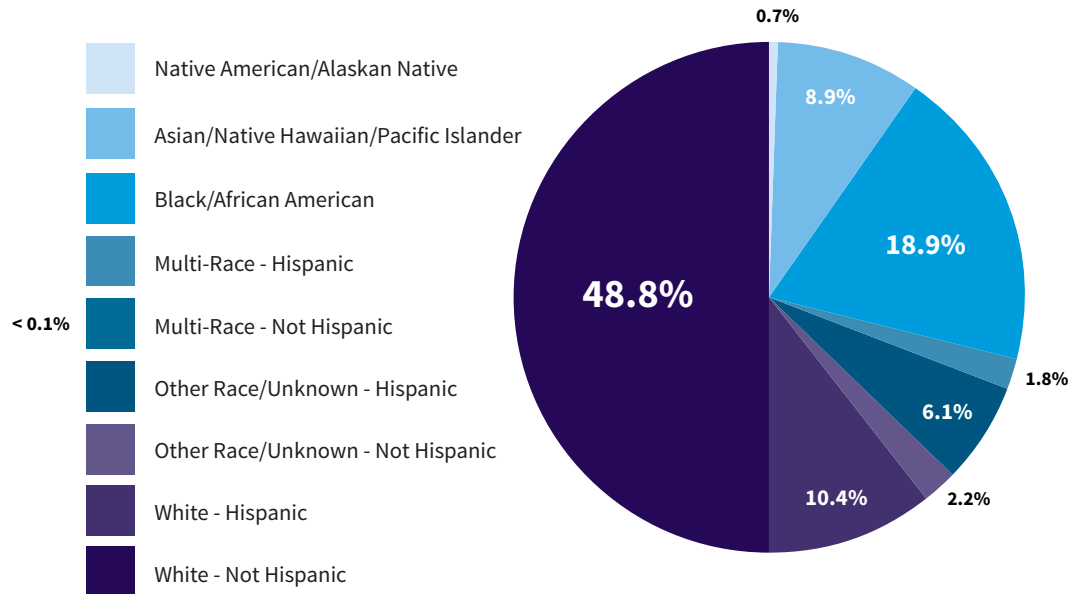


# GENDER

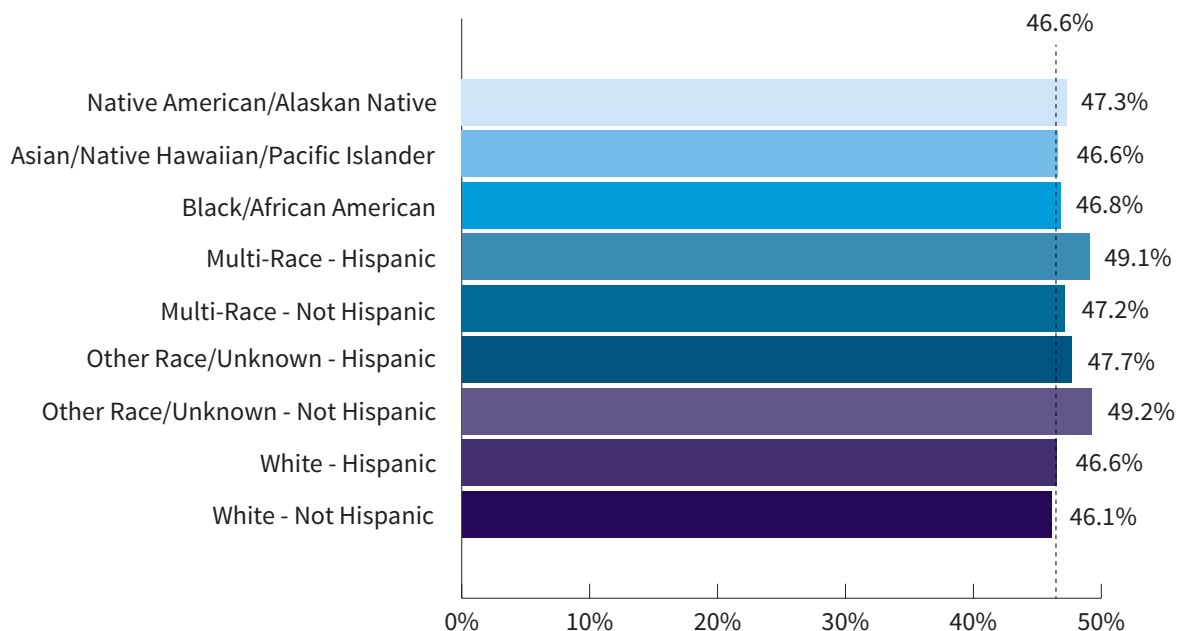
## MEN

The DMARC Food Pantry Network assisted 20,286 men in FY22.

*percent of all men assisted by race and ethnicity*



*men assisted as a percent of all individuals assisted by race and ethnicity*

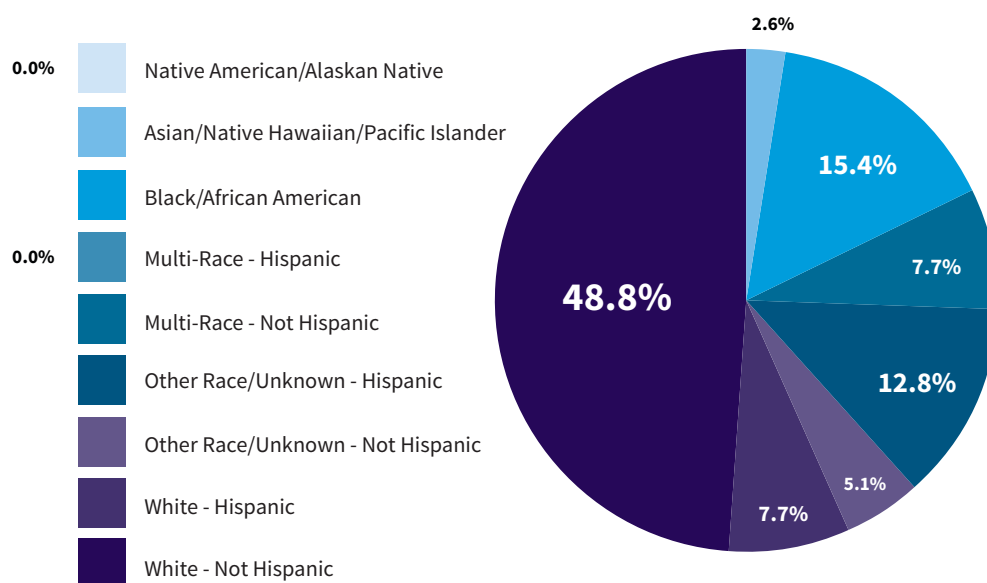


# GENDER

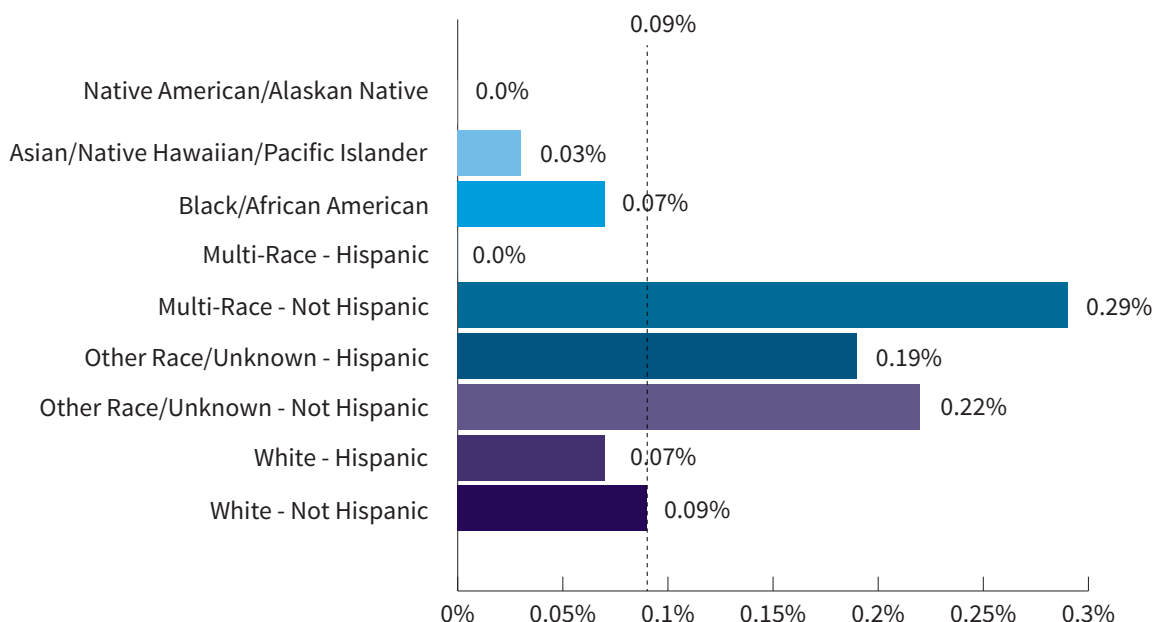
## TRANSGENDER/NON-BINARY/OTHER

The DMARC Food Pantry Network assisted 39 people who identified as transgender, non-binary, or some other gender in FY22.

*percent of all transgender/non-binary/other assisted by race and ethnicity*



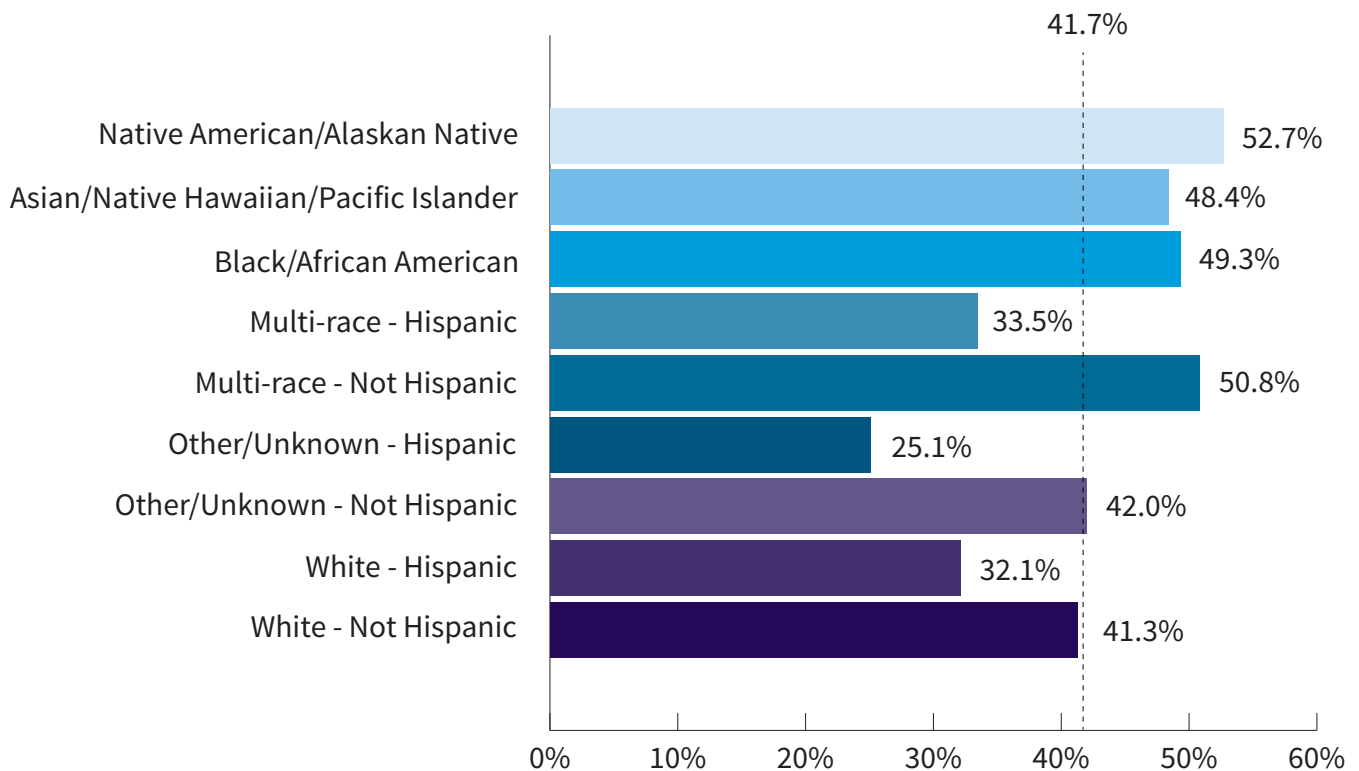
*transgender/non-binary/other assisted as a percent of all individuals assisted by race and ethnicity*



# SNAP PARTICIPATION

**The DMARC Food Pantry Network assisted 18,168 people who were enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in FY22.**

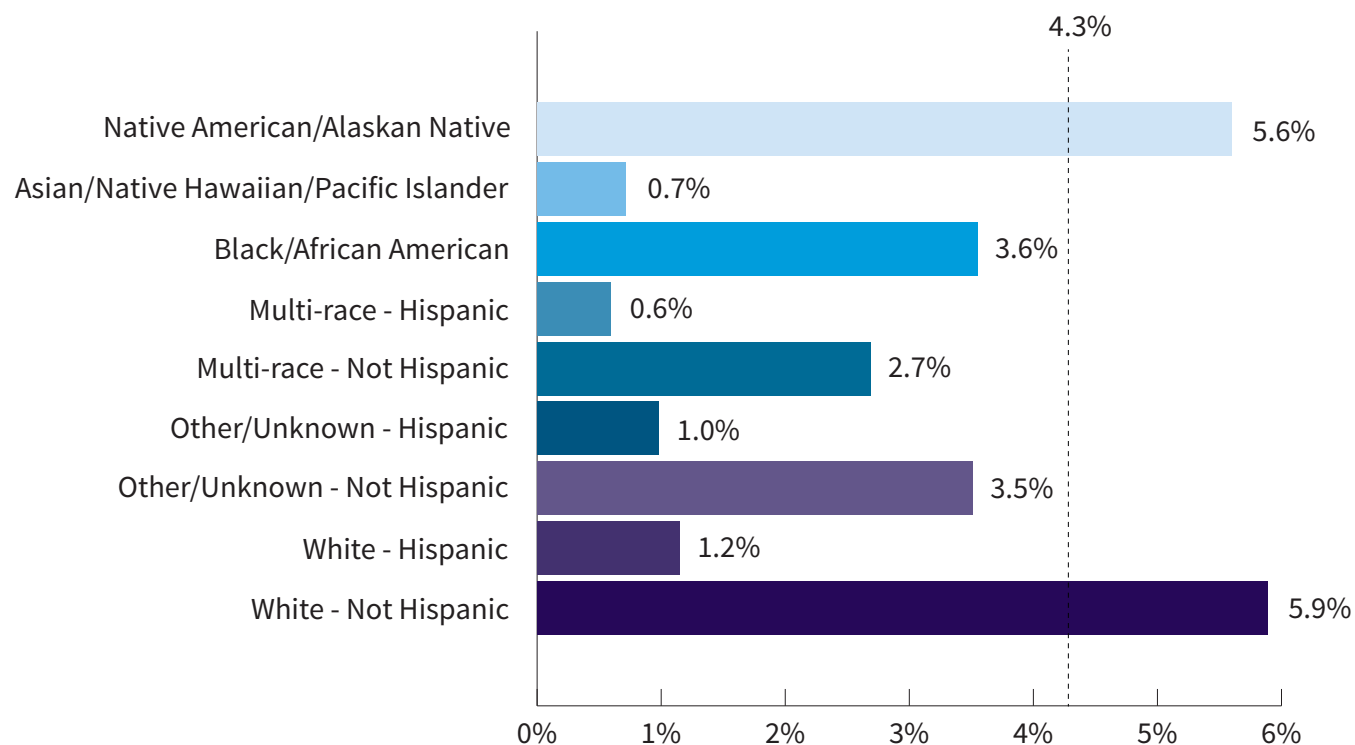
*percent of pantry visitors who were enrolled in SNAP at any point in FY22 by race and ethnicity*



# VETERANS

**The DMARC Food Pantry Network assisted 1,265 veterans in FY22.**

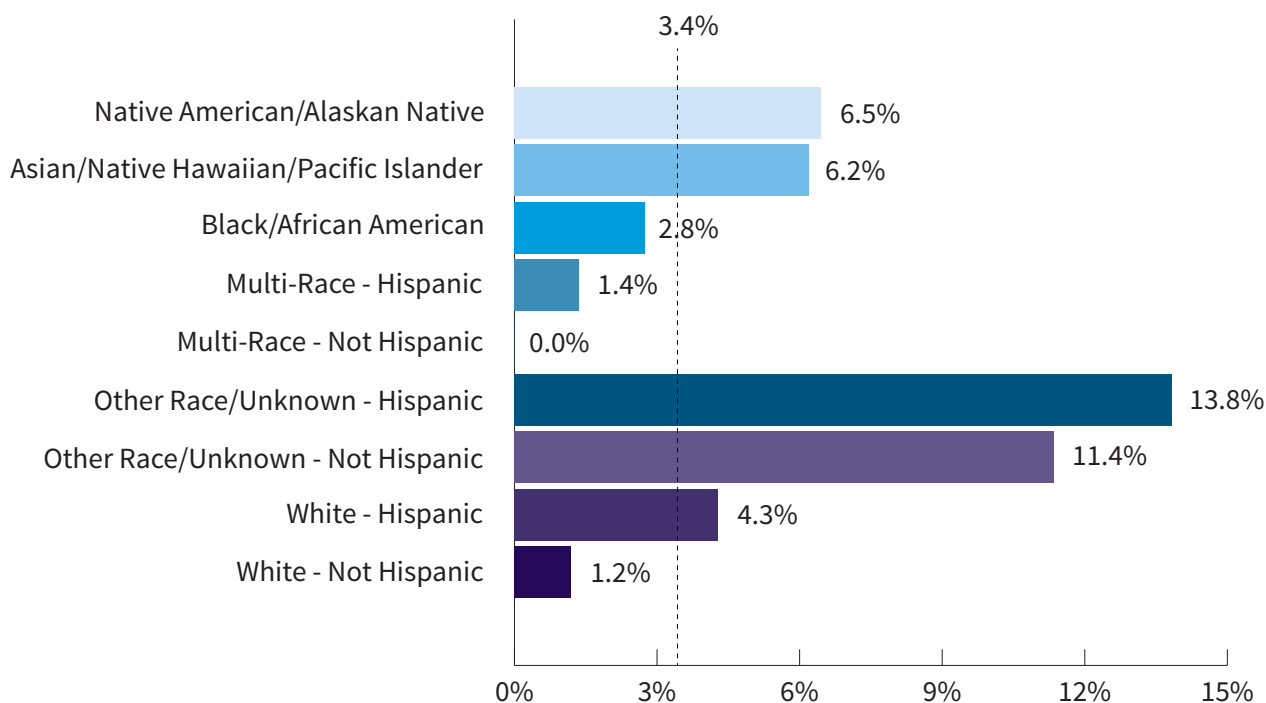
*percent of adult (18+) pantry visitors who are veterans by race and ethnicity*



# EDUCATION (18-24)

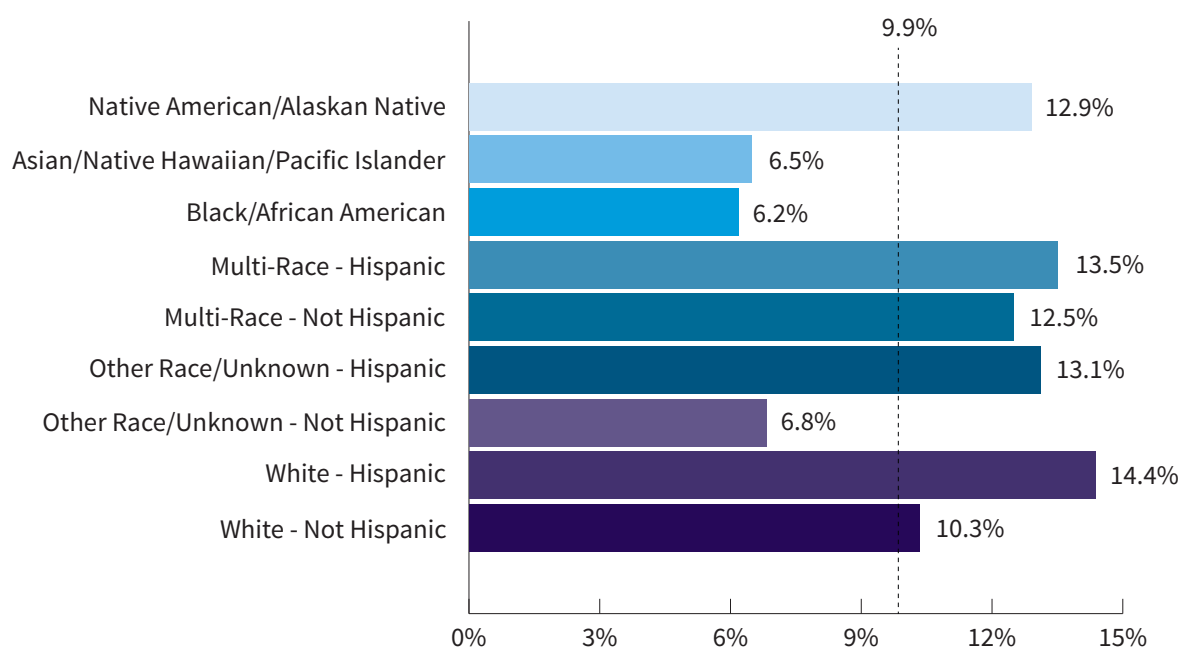
## NO SCHOOLING/UNKNOWN

percent of young adult (18-24) pantry visitors whose educational attainment is unknown or have no schooling



## K-12 INCOMPLETE

percent of young adult (18-24) pantry visitors whose highest educational attainment is below HS graduation

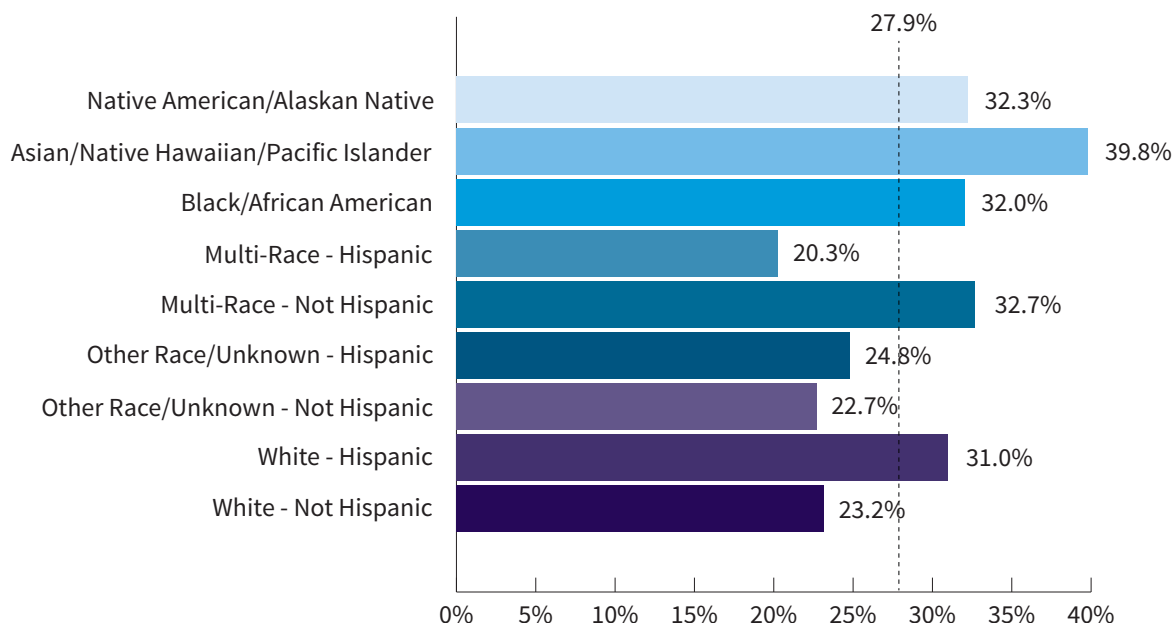




# EDUCATION (18-24)

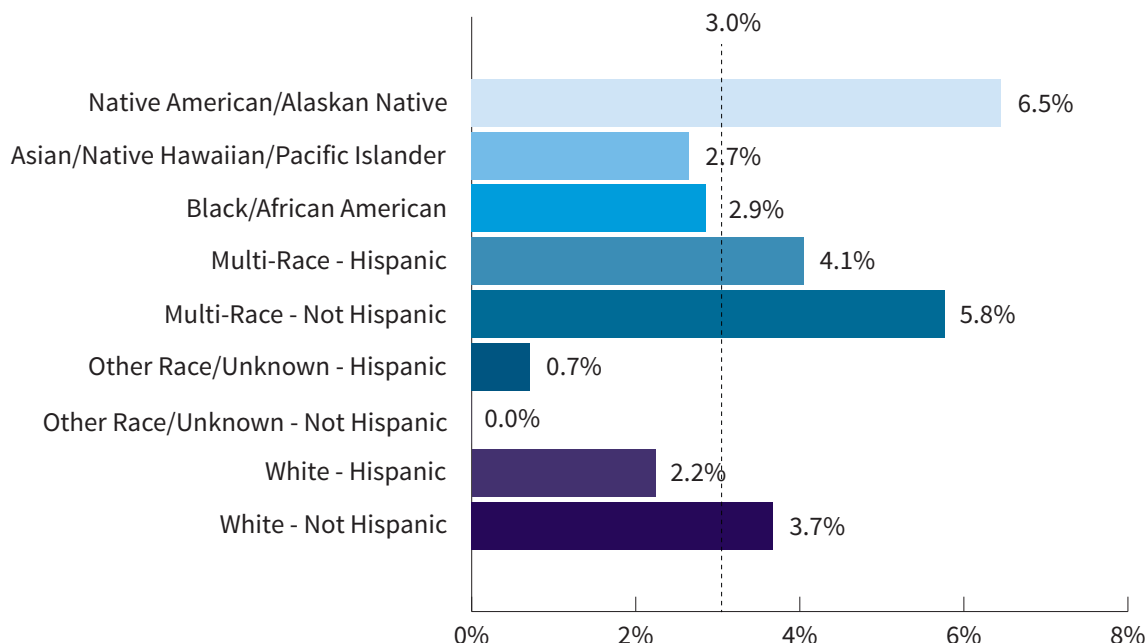
## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

*percent of young adult (18-24) pantry visitors who are currently attending high school*



## HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DEGREE

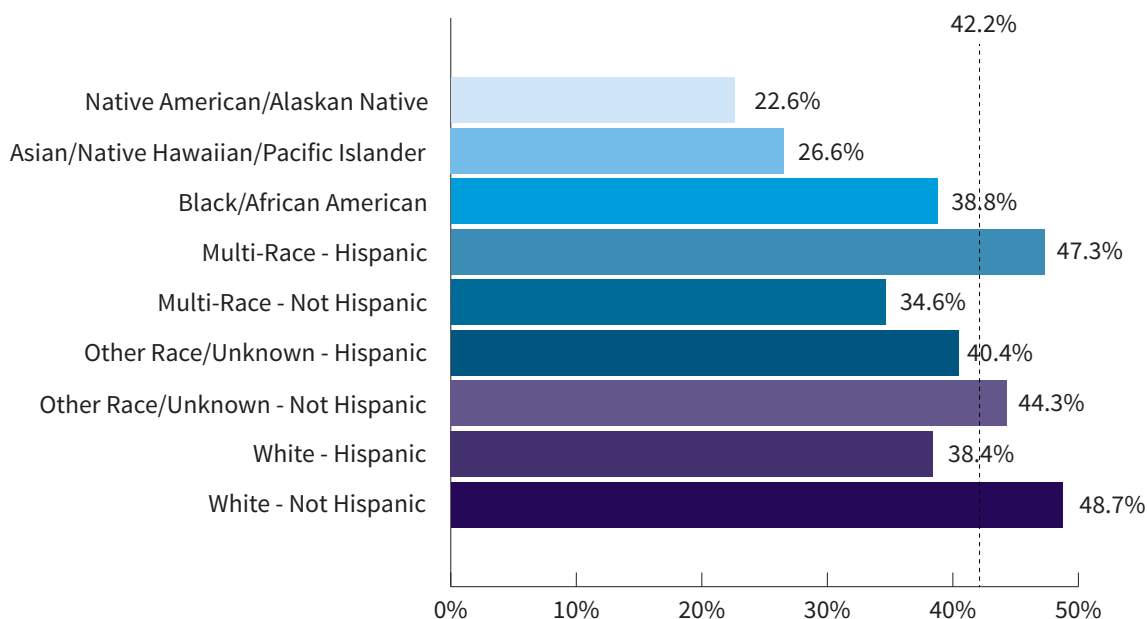
*percent of young adult (18-24) pantry visitors whose highest educational attainment is a high school equivalency degree*



# EDUCATION (18-24)

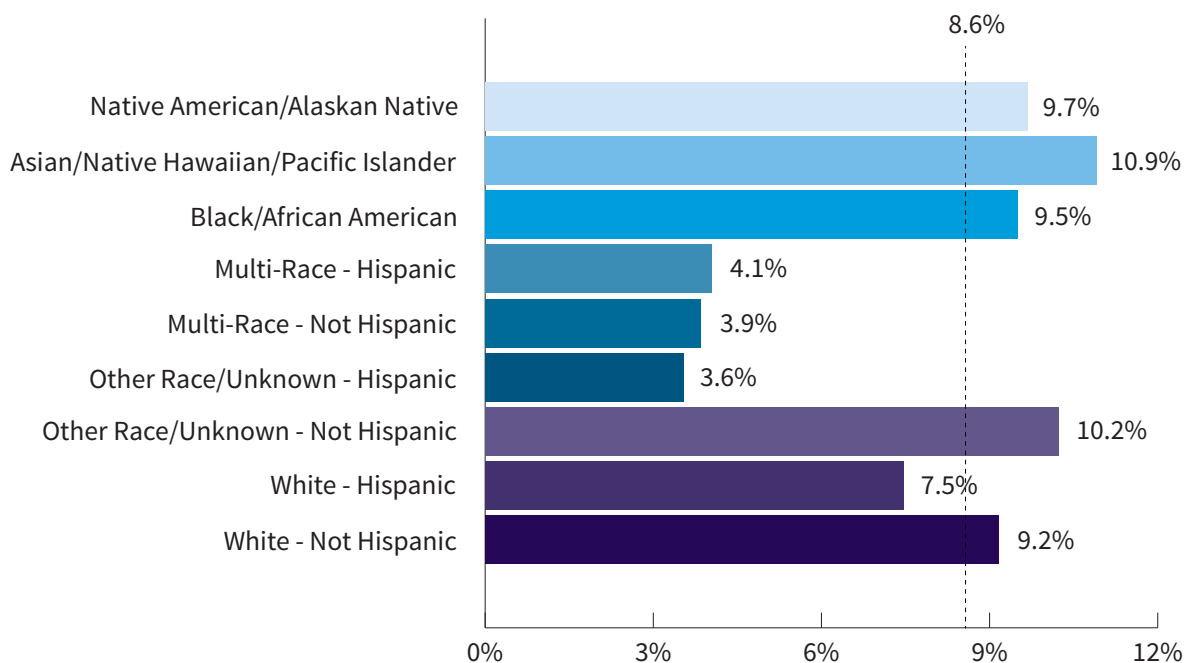
## GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL

percent of young adult (18-24) pantry visitors whose highest educational attainment is a high school diploma



## HIGH SCHOOL + SOME COLLEGE

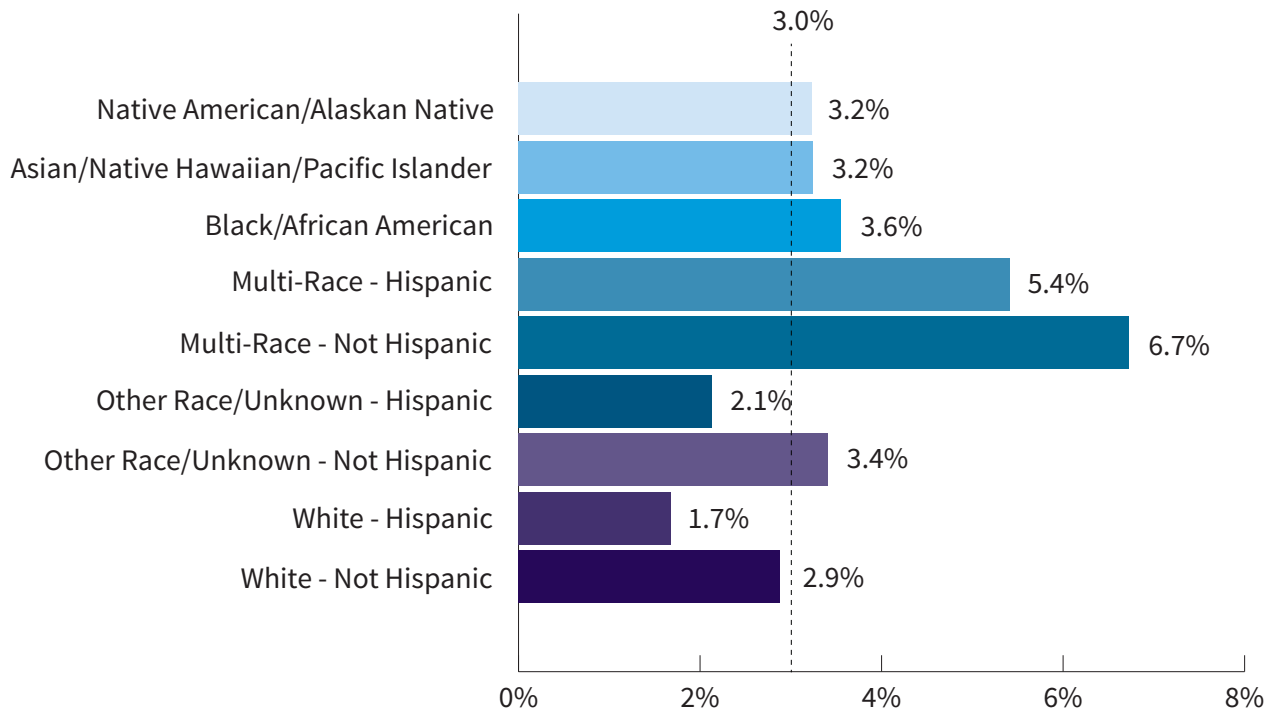
percent of young adult (18-24) pantry visitors whose highest educational attainment is some college



# EDUCATION (18-24)

## 2 OR 4 YEAR COLLEGE DEGREE

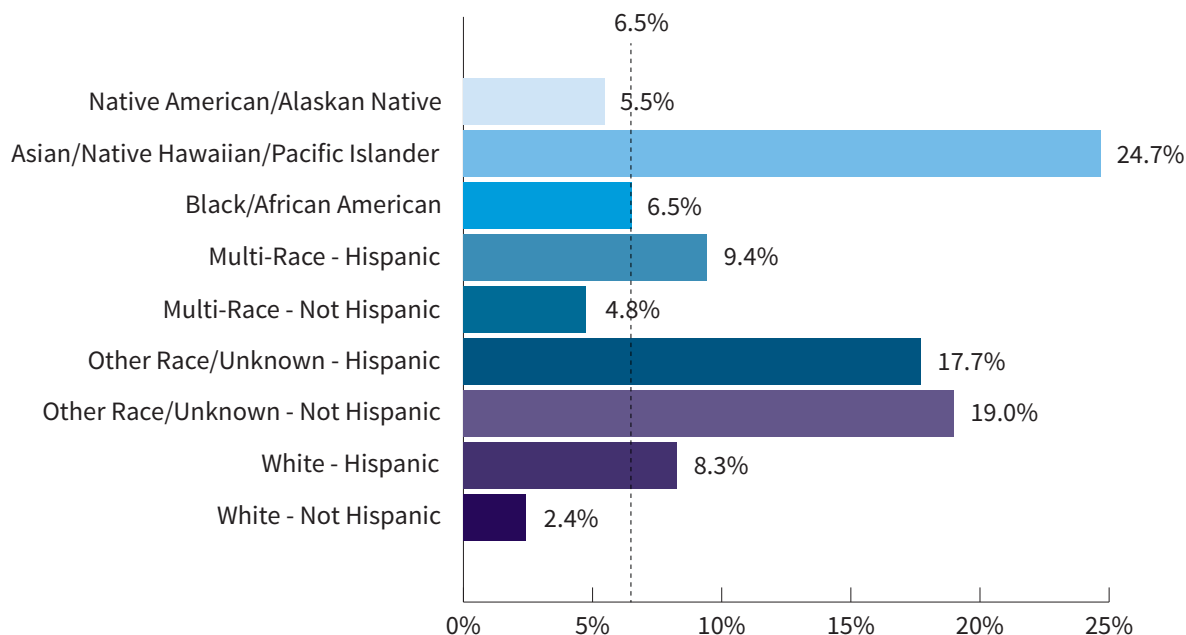
*percent of young adult (18-24) pantry visitors whose highest educational attainment is a 2 or 4 year college degree*



# EDUCATION (25+)

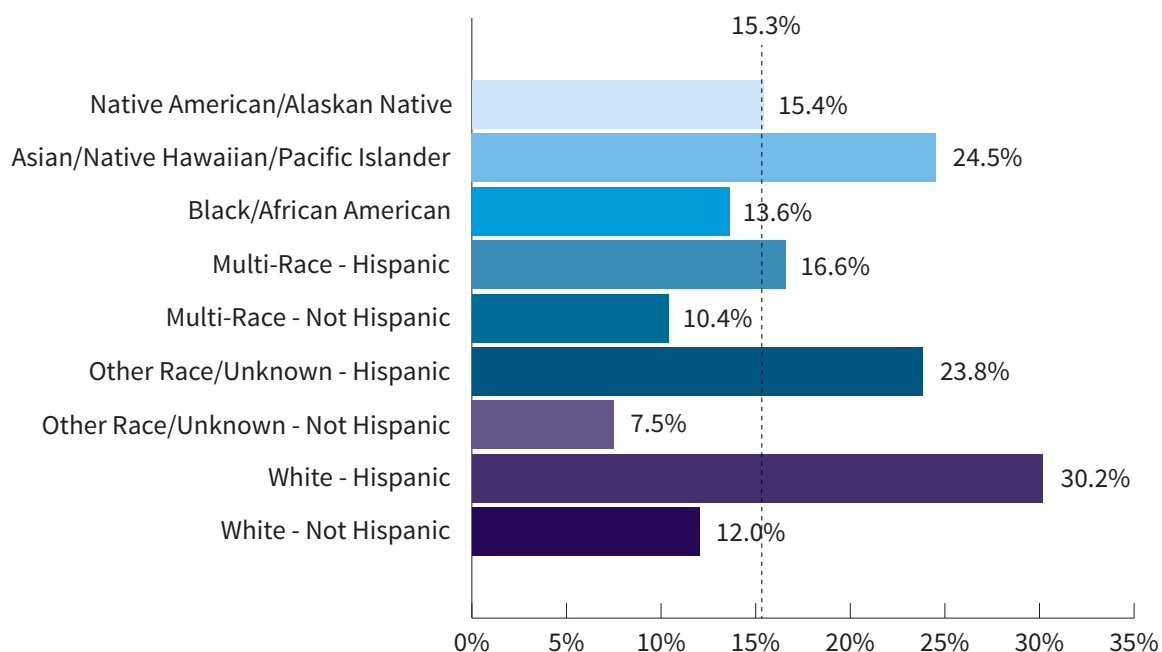
## NO SCHOOLING/UNKNOWN

*percent of adult (25+) pantry visitors whose educational attainment is unknown or have no schooling*



## K-12 INCOMPLETE

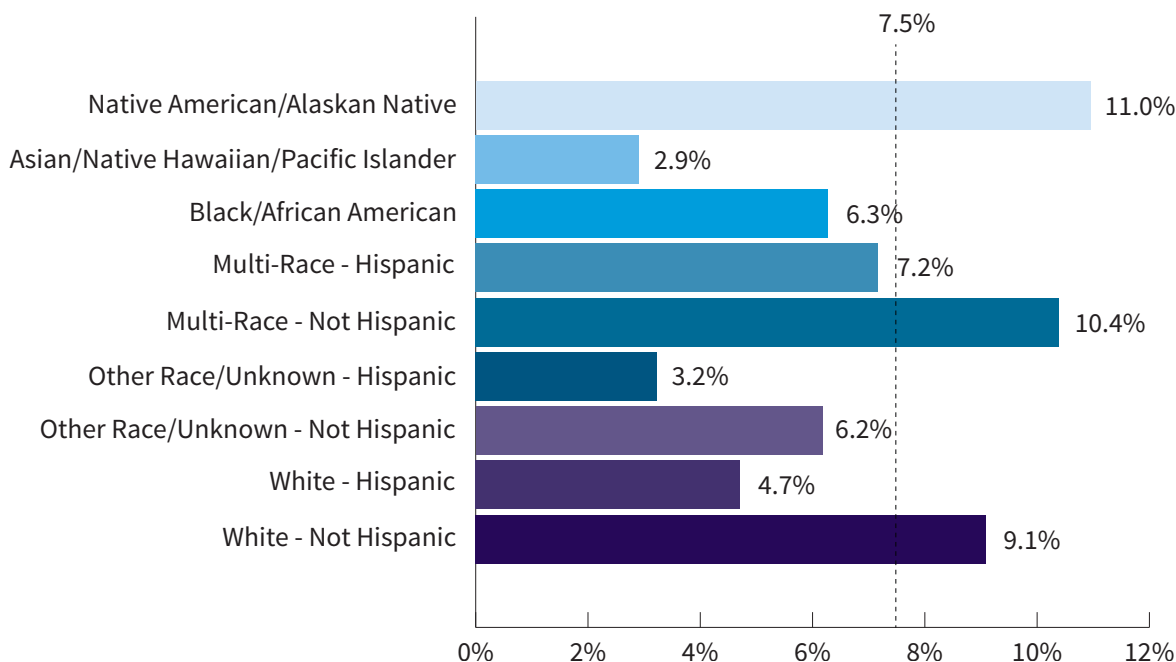
*percent of adult (25+) pantry visitors whose highest educational attainment is below HS graduation*



## EDUCATION (25+)

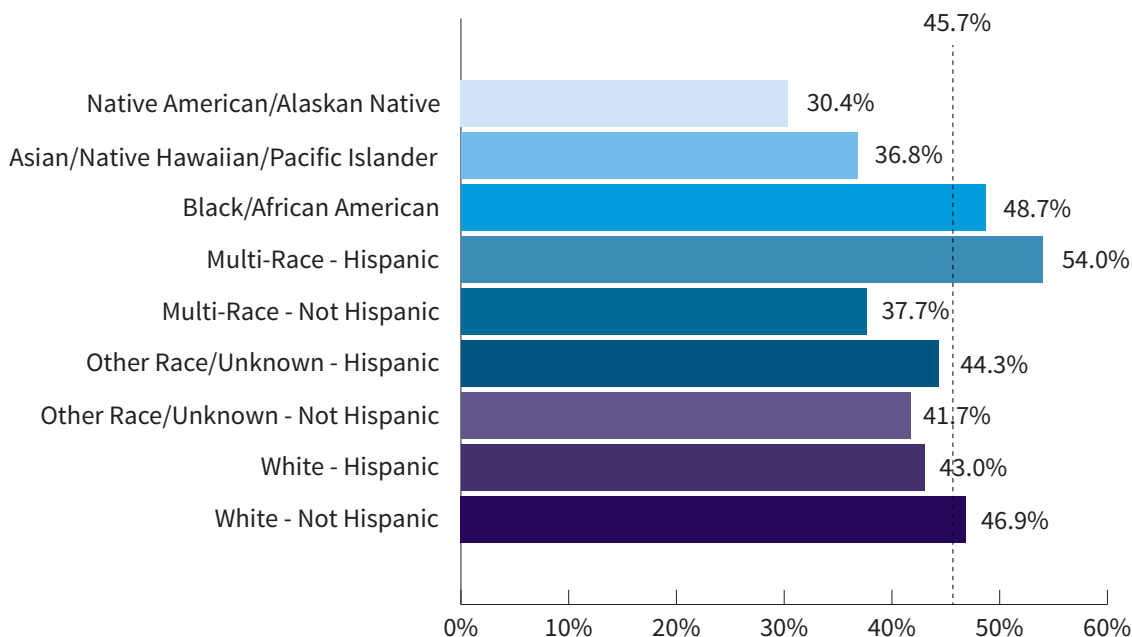
### HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DEGREE

*percent of adult (25+) pantry visitors whose highest educational attainment is a high school equivalency degree*



### GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL

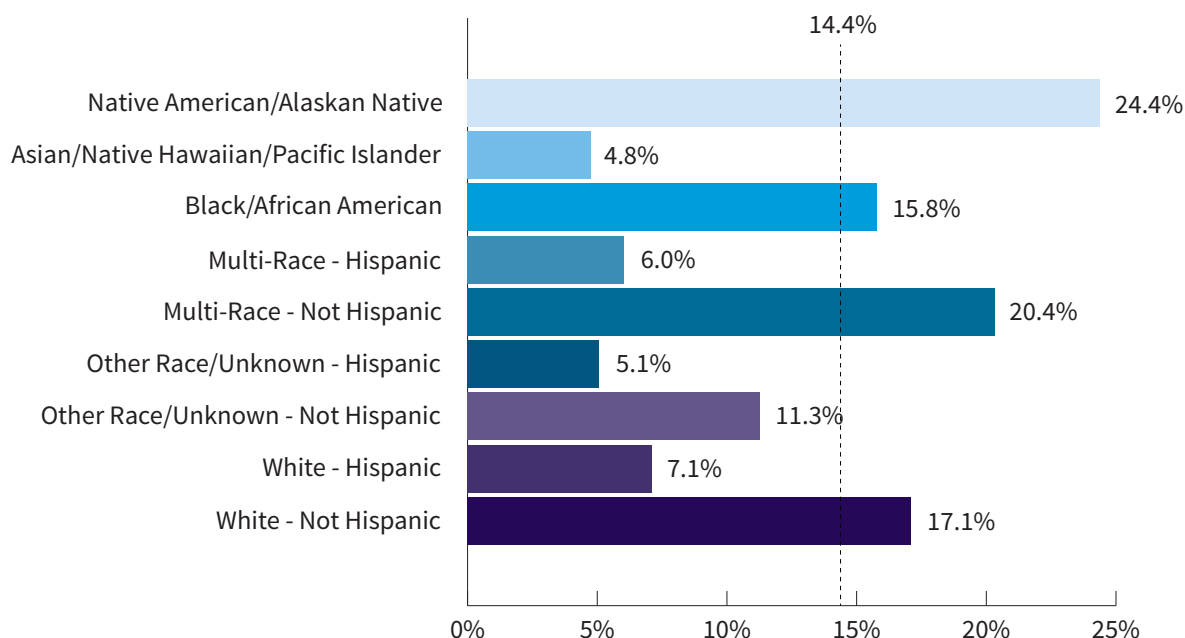
*percent of adult (25+) pantry visitors whose highest educational attainment is a high school diploma*



# EDUCATION (25+)

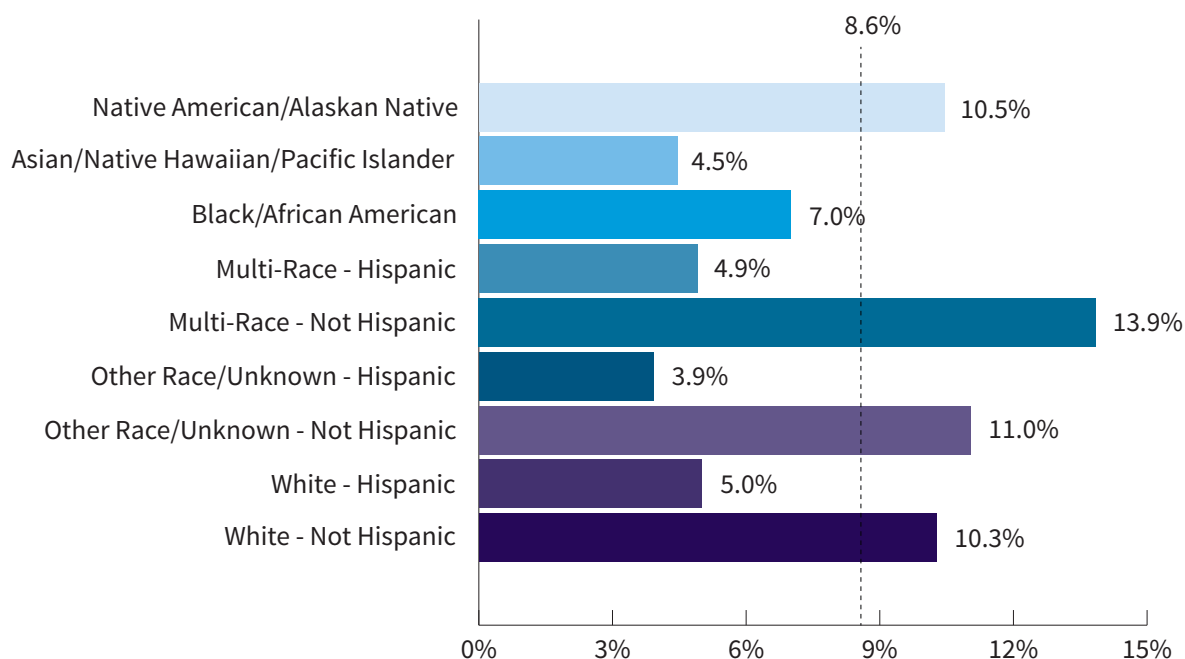
## HIGH SCHOOL + SOME COLLEGE

*percent of adult (25+) pantry visitors whose highest educational attainment is some college*



## 2 OR 4 YEAR COLLEGE DEGREE

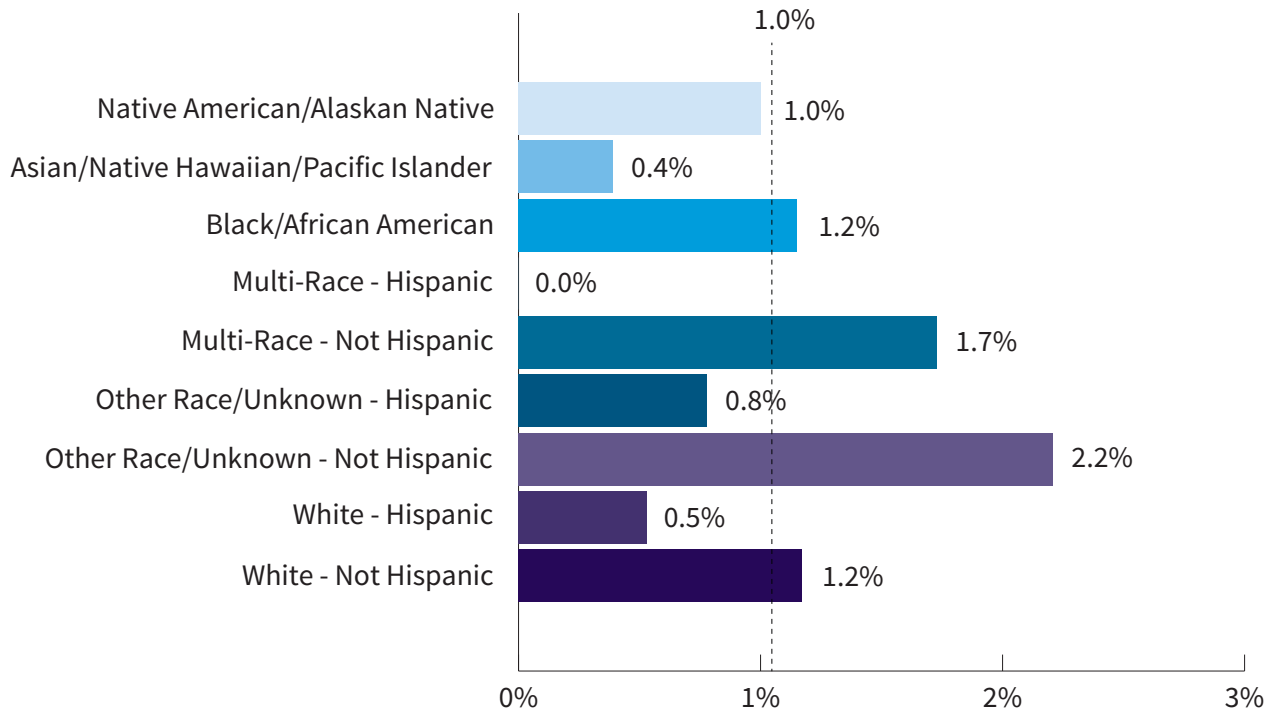
*percent of adult (25+) pantry visitors whose highest educational attainment is a 2 or 4 year college degree*



# EDUCATION (25+)

## ADVANCED COLLEGE DEGREE

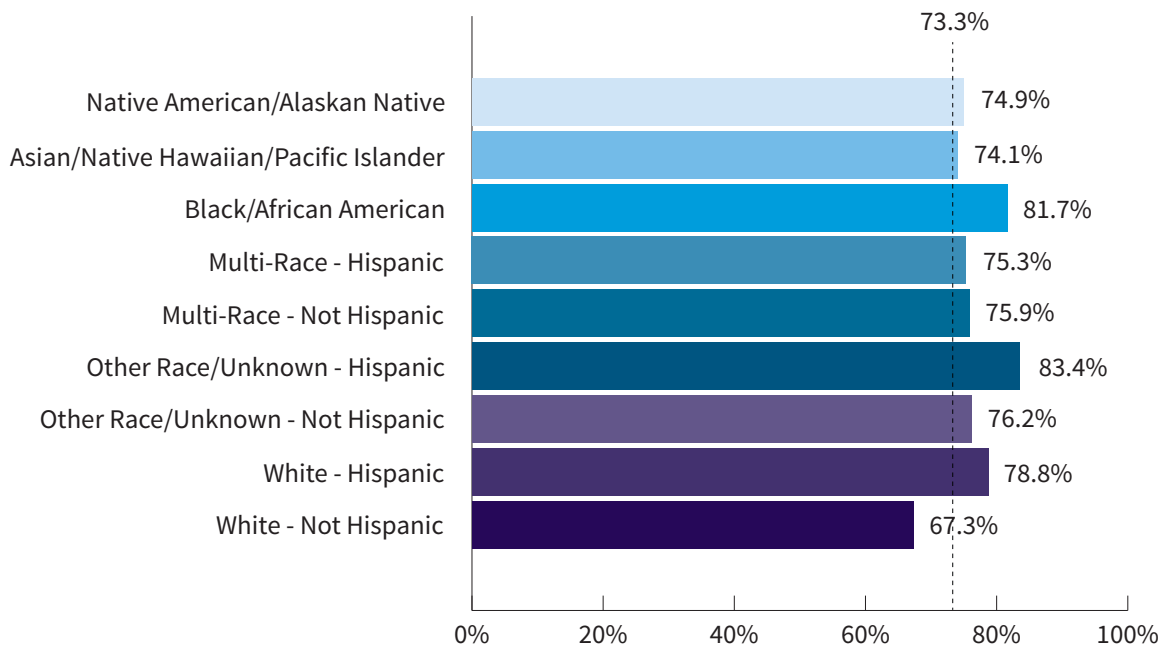
*percent of adult (25+) pantry visitors whose highest educational attainment is an advanced college degree*



# FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL

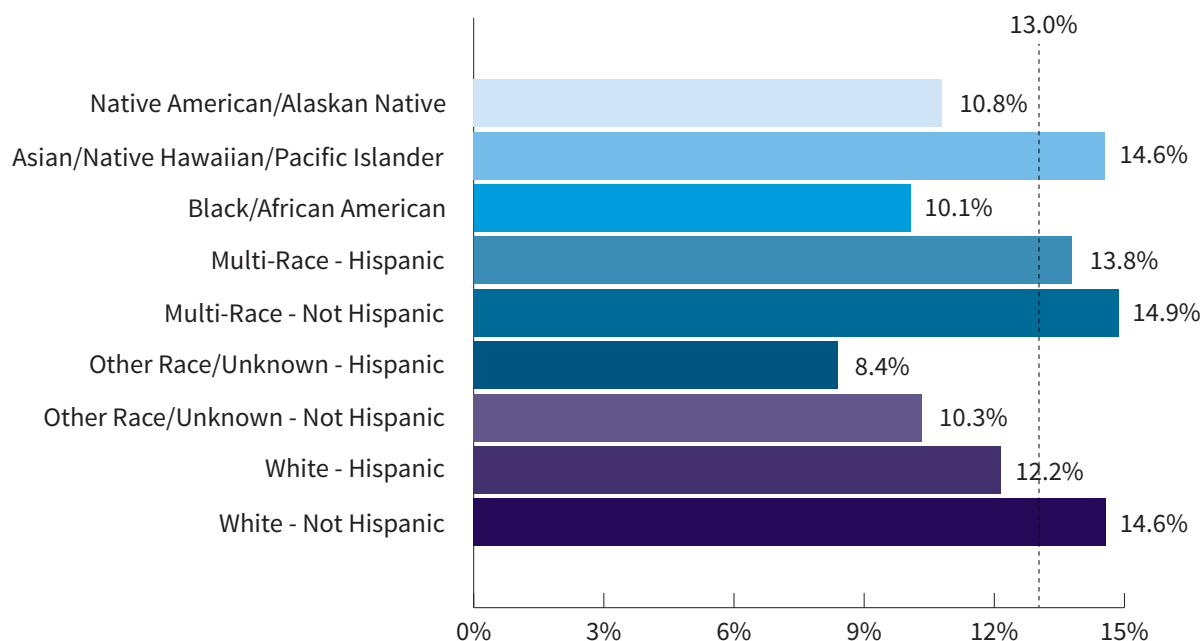
## BELOW 100% FPL

*percent of pantry visitors with a household income below 100% of the federal poverty level*



## 100-124% FPL

*percent of pantry visitors with a household income between 100-124% of the federal poverty level*

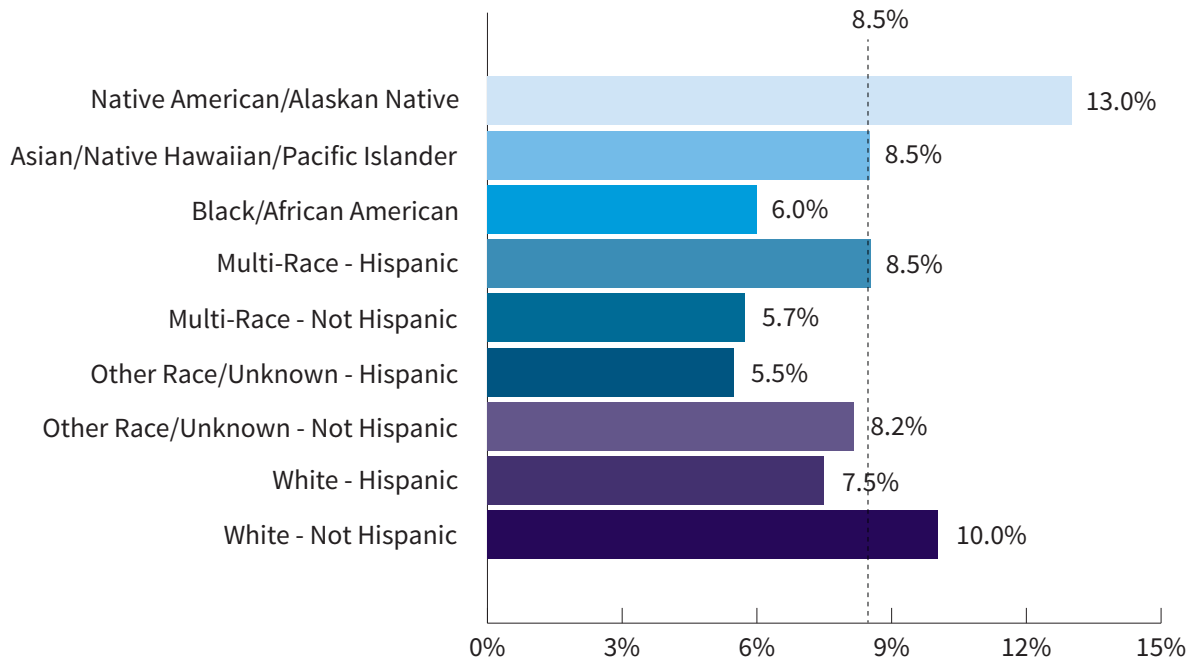




# FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL

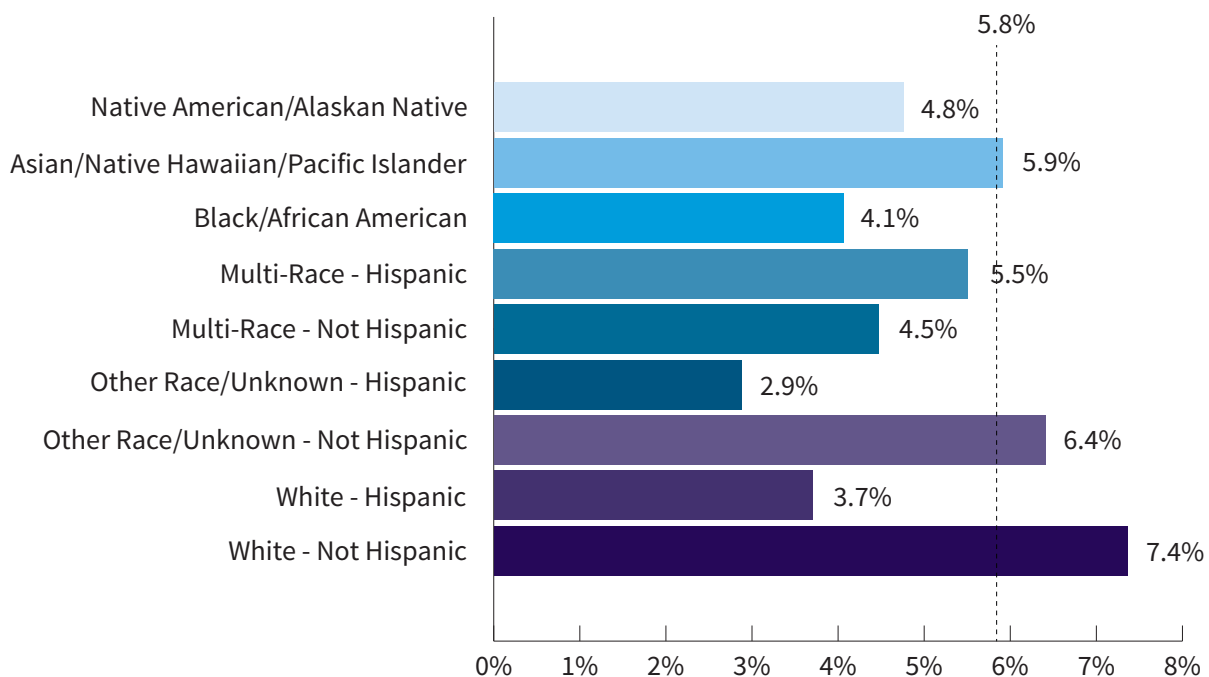
## 125-149% FPL

*percent of pantry visitors with a household income between 125-149% of the federal poverty level*



## 150-174% FPL

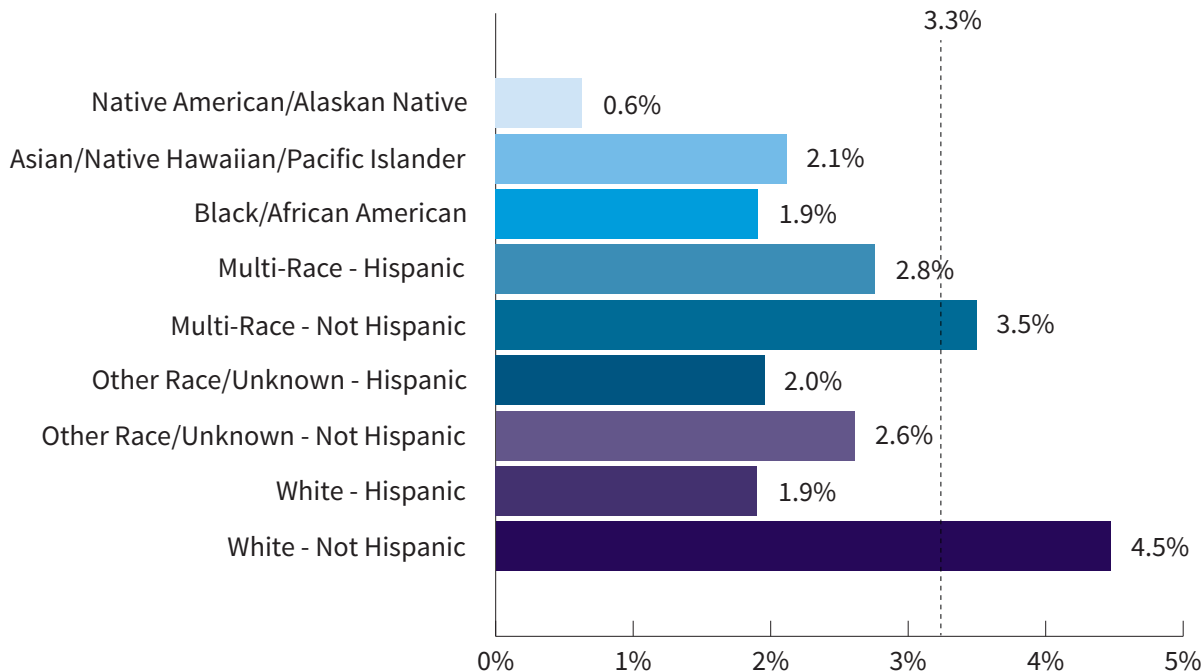
*percent of pantry visitors with a household income between 150-174% of the federal poverty level*



# FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL

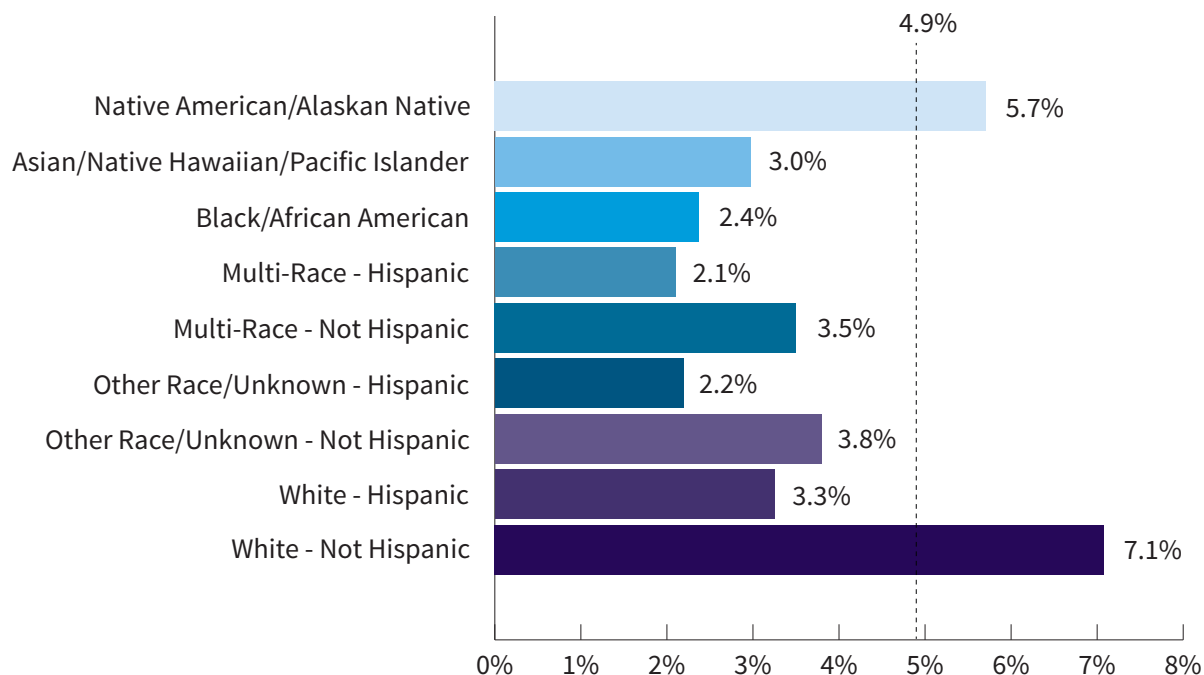
## 175-199% FPL

*percent of pantry visitors with a household income between 175-199% of the federal poverty level*



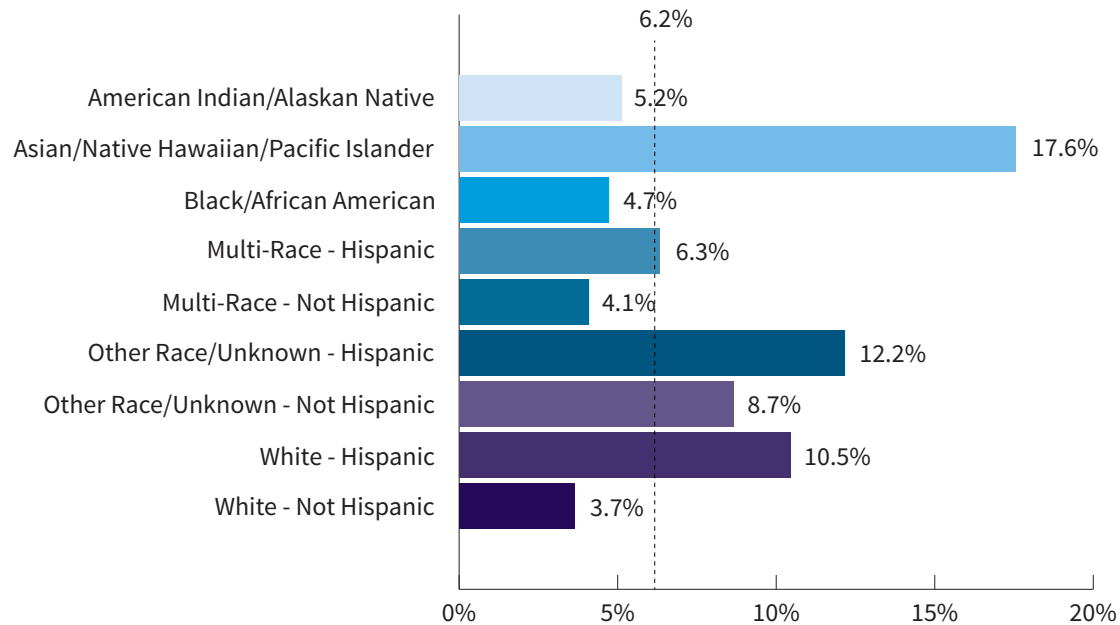
## 200%+ FPL

*percent of pantry visitors with a household income is 200% of the federal poverty level or above*

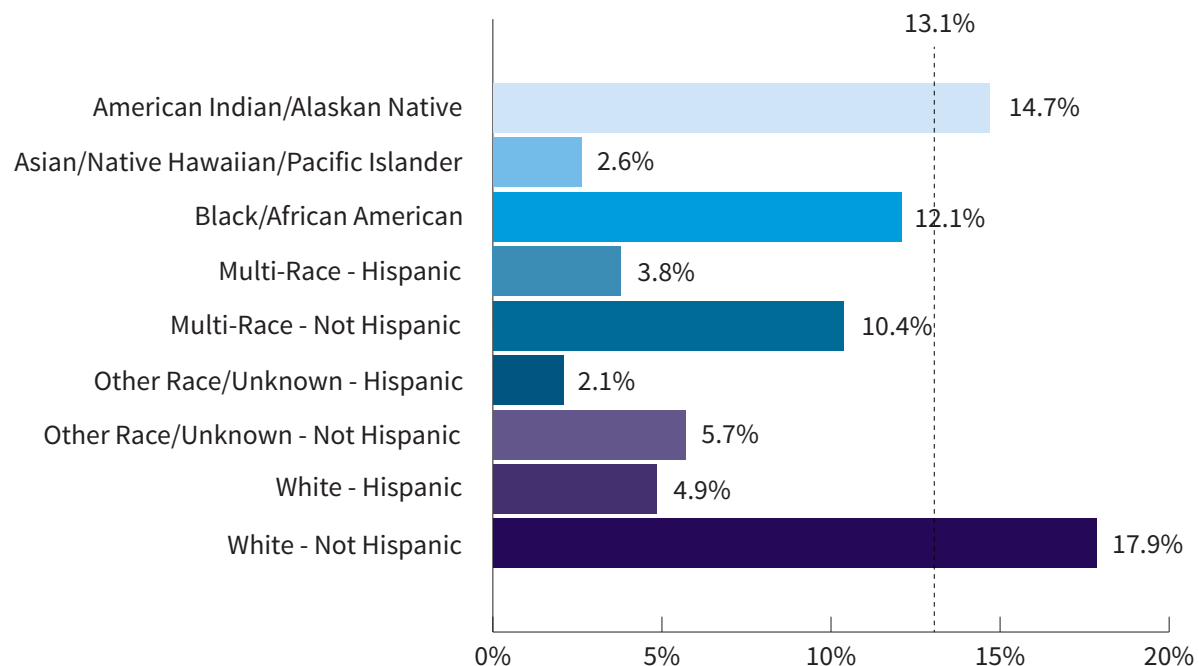


# SOURCE OF INCOME (18-64)

## CAREGIVER OR STAY AT HOME PARENT

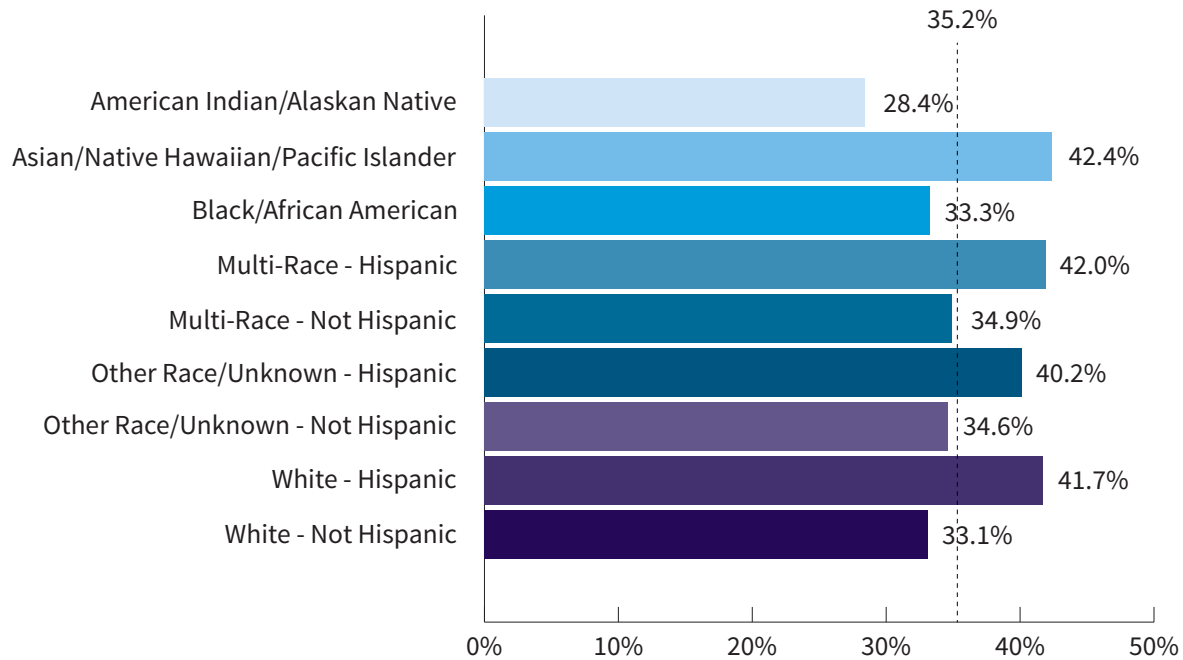


## DISABILITY OR PENDING DISABILITY

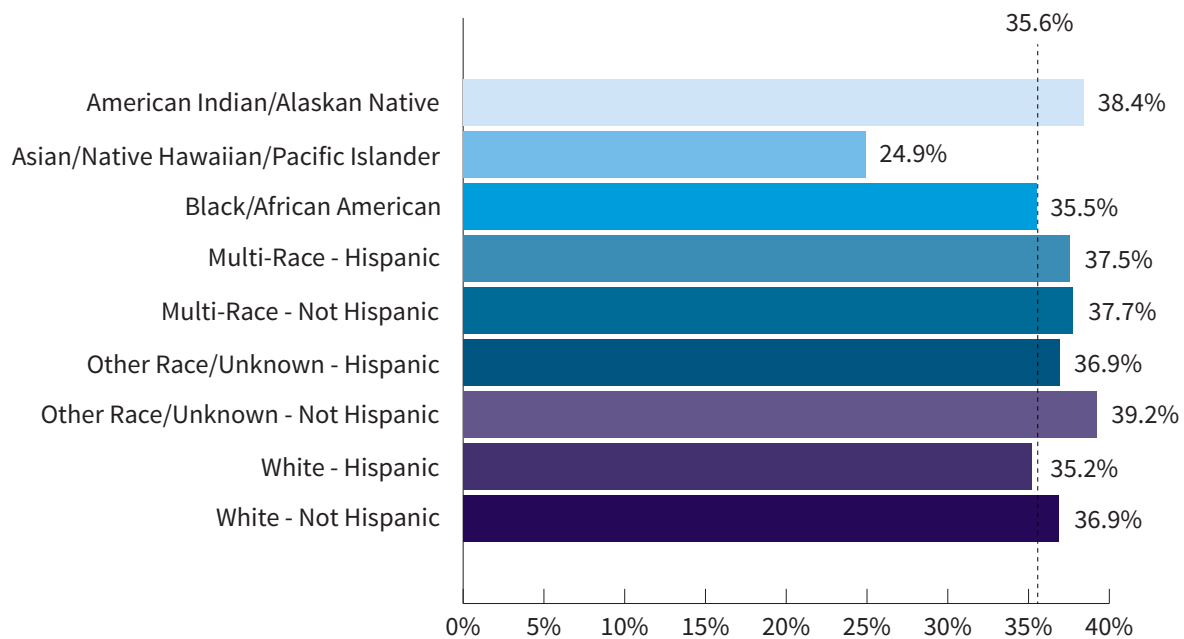


# SOURCE OF INCOME (18-64)

## WORKING FULL TIME, PART TIME, OR SEASONAL

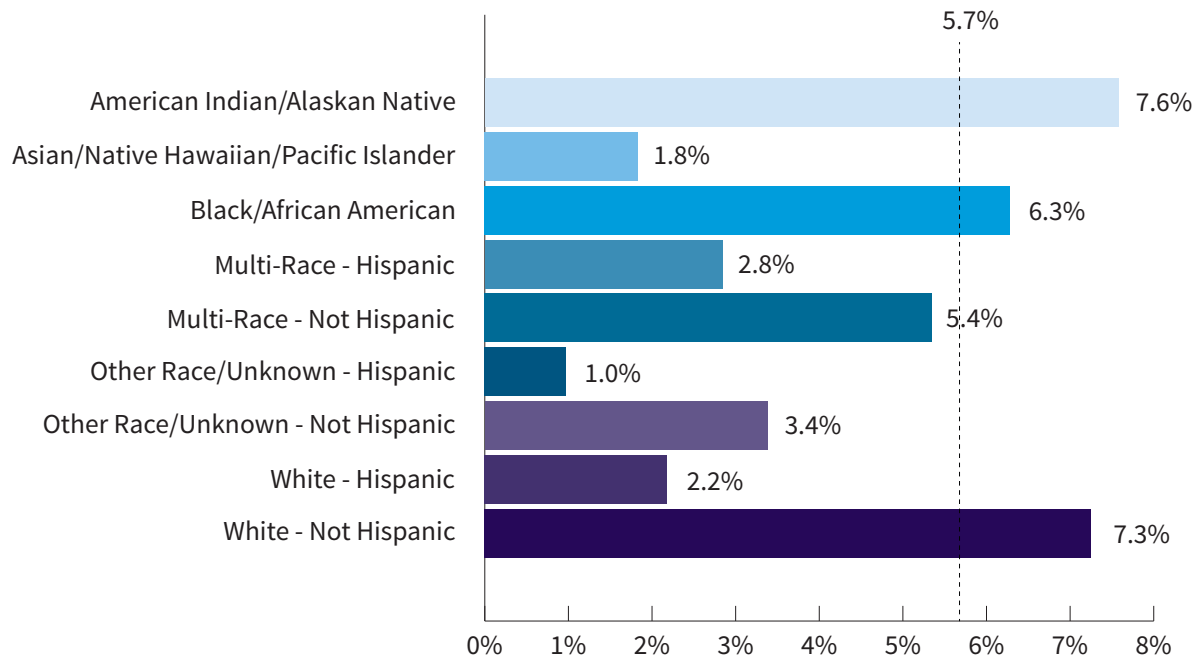


## UNEMPLOYED

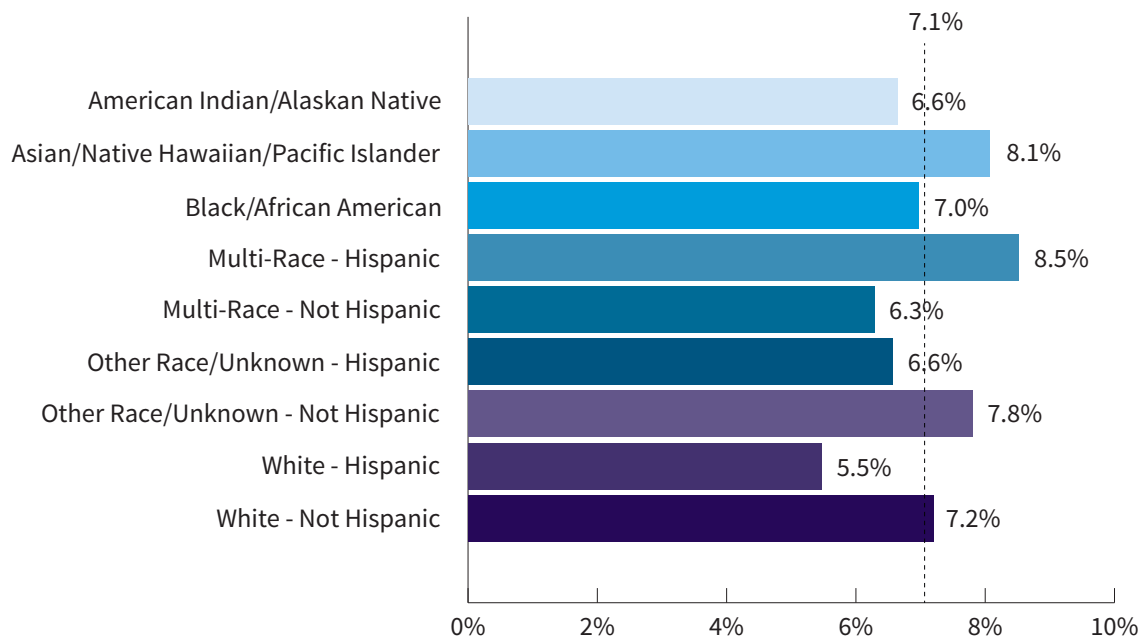


# SOURCE OF INCOME (18-64)

## SOCIAL SECURITY



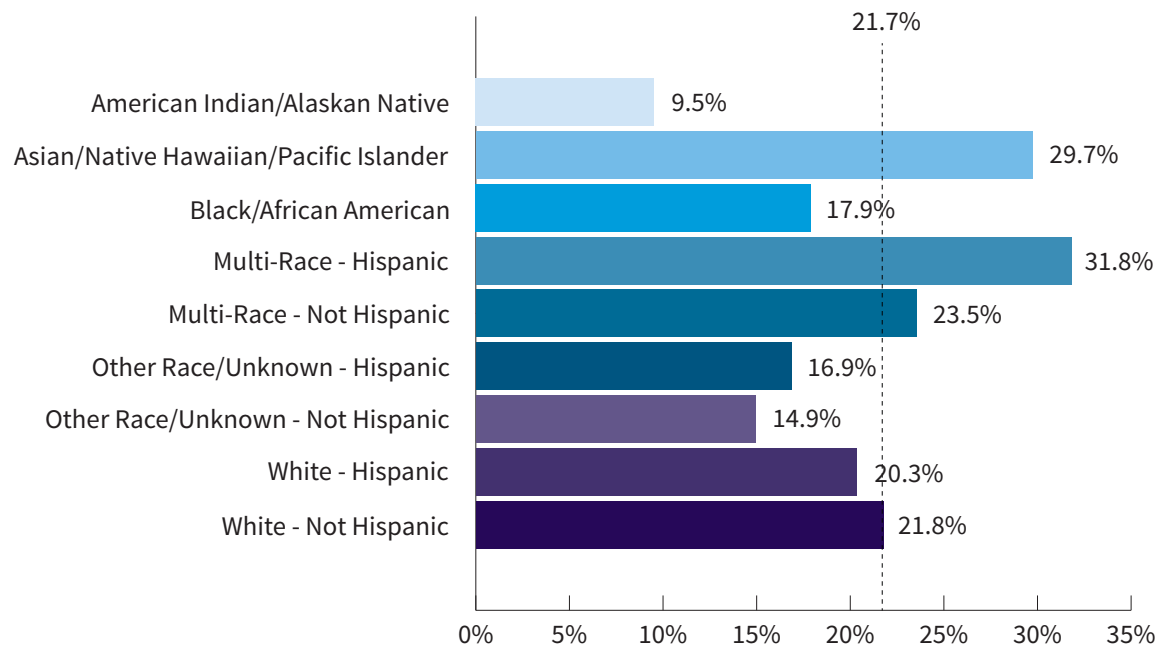
## OTHER



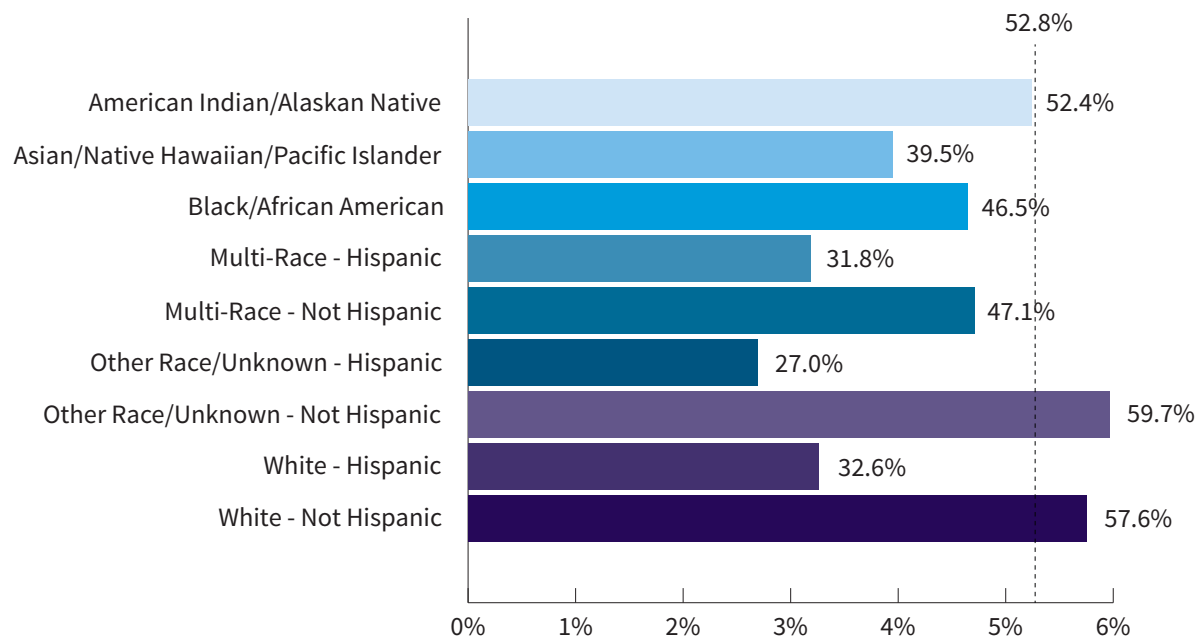
*“other” includes individuals age 18-64 whose primary source of income is child support, the family investment program (FIP), and early retirees*

# SOURCE OF INCOME (65+)

## RETIRED

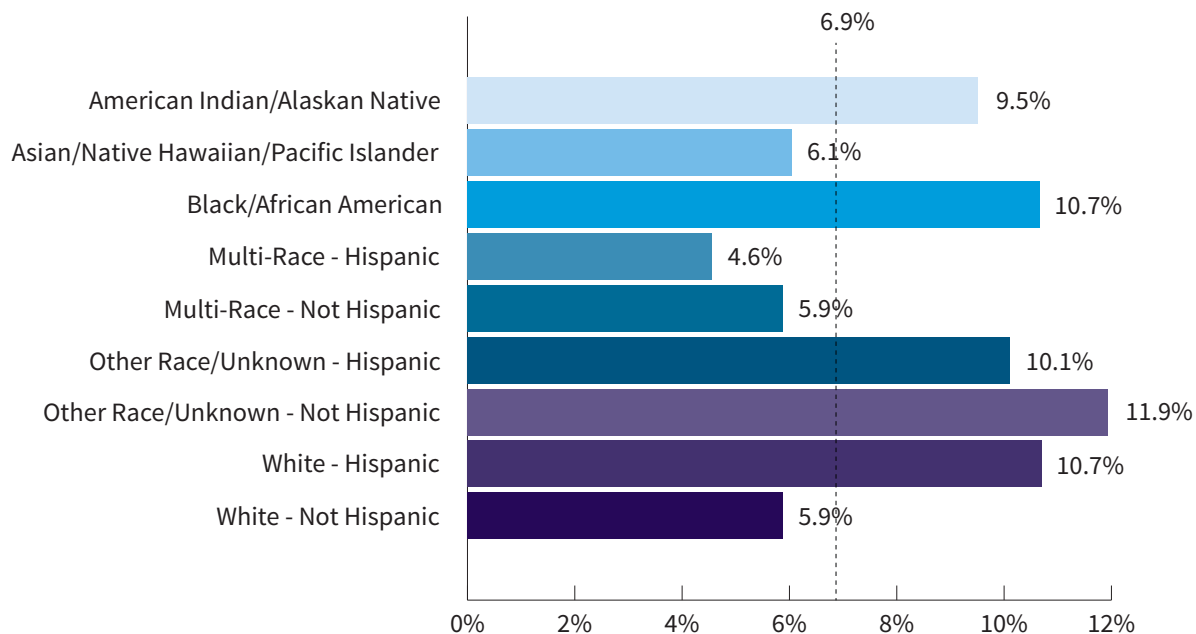


## SOCIAL SECURITY

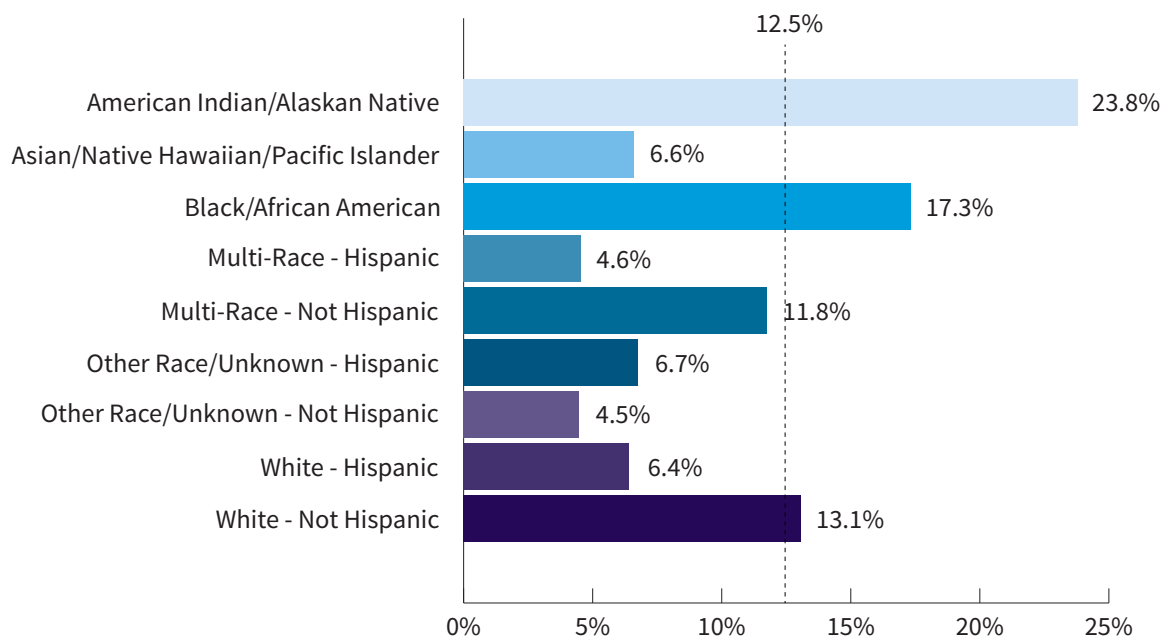


# SOURCE OF INCOME (65+)

## WORKING

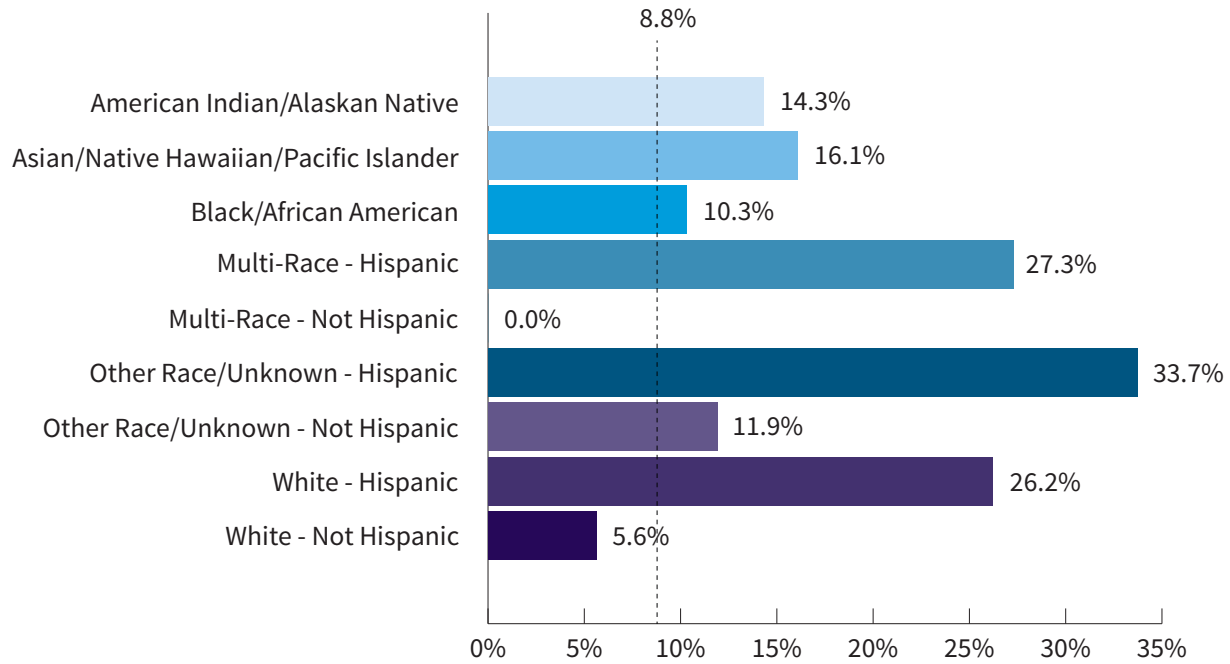


## DISABILITY BENEFITS

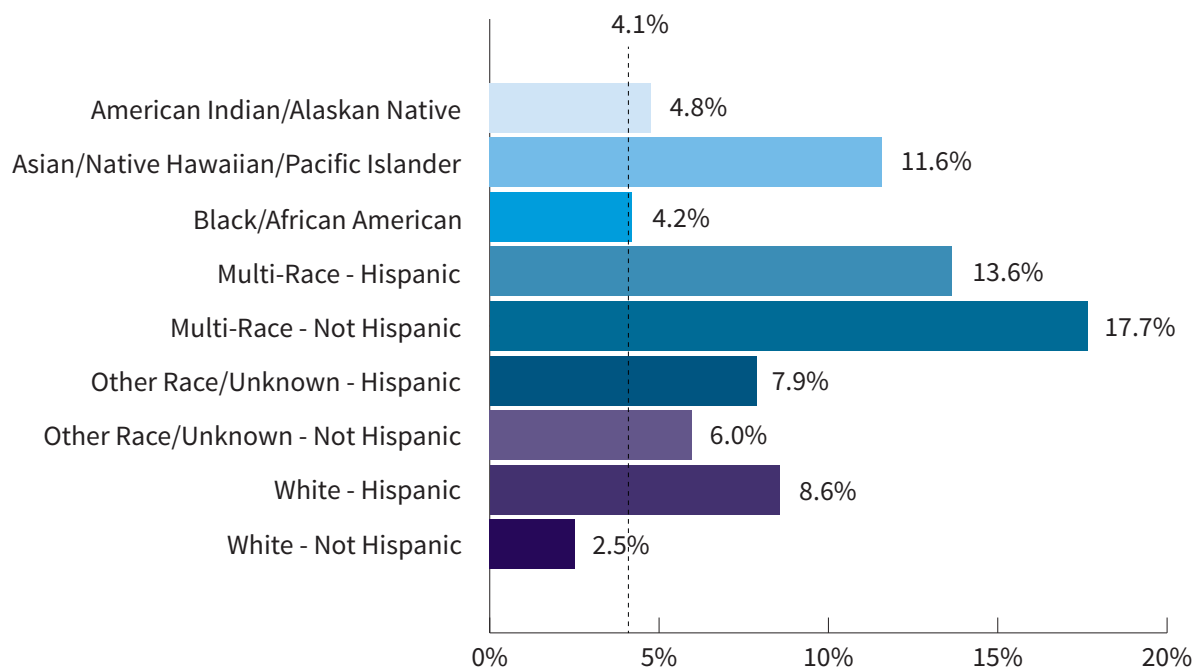


# SOURCE OF INCOME (65+)

## UNEMPLOYED



## OTHER



*“other” includes individuals age 65+ whose primary source of income is as a caregiver, the family investment program (FIP), or those participating in a workforce training program*



# **QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS REPORT?**

**Contact us at [info@dmarcunited.org](mailto:info@dmarcunited.org)**