

RESEARCH REPORT
JUNE 2020

FIGHTING MORE THAN COVID-19

UNMASKING THE STATE OF HUNGER IN NYC
DURING A PANDEMIC

Acknowledgments

Food Bank For New York City thanks its members for the time and effort they devoted to participating in this research and for the work they do every day to meet New Yorkers' needs through the pandemic.

Prepared by

William-Guillaume Koible, Associate Director of Research, Evaluation and Impact

Insiah Figueroa, Digital & Publications Strategist

Acknowledgements:

Nicholas Buess, Associate Director, Mobilization & Policy

Lauren Phillips, Government Relations Manager

Nadia Darova, Research Data Coordinator

Risa Heller Communications

About Food Bank For New York City

For 36 years, Food Bank For New York City has been the city's major hunger-relief organization working to end hunger throughout the five boroughs. Nearly one in five New Yorkers relies on Food Bank for food and other resources. Food Bank takes a strategic, multifaceted approach that provides meals and builds capacity in the neediest communities, while raising awareness and engagement among all New Yorkers. Through its network of more than 1,000 charities and schools citywide, Food Bank provides food for more than 57 million free meals per year for New Yorkers in need. Food Bank For New York City's income support services, including food stamps (also known as SNAP) and free tax assistance for the working poor, put more than \$110 million each year into the pockets of New Yorkers, helping them to afford food and achieve greater dignity and independence. Food Bank's nutrition education programs and services empower more than 50,000 children, teens and adults to sustain a healthy diet and active lifestyle on a limited budget. Working toward long-term solutions to food poverty, Food Bank develops policy and conducts research to inform community and government efforts. To learn more about how you can help, please visit foodbanknyc.org. Follow us on Facebook ([FoodBank4NYC](https://www.facebook.com/FoodBank4NYC)), Twitter ([@FoodBank4NYC](https://twitter.com/FoodBank4NYC)) and Instagram ([@FoodBank4NYC](https://www.instagram.com/FoodBank4NYC)).



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INTRODUCTION

As New York City continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing economic shutdown, another crisis has unfolded: New Yorkers struggling to put food on the table for themselves and their families. As we continue to monitor the detrimental impact of COVID-19 on our city – and particularly on our low-income communities – the preliminary data are alarming. More than 500,000 New Yorkers are facing unemployment,¹ and are forced to make impossible choices between rent, utilities, medications, and food – while others face medical risks that require them to stay home and prevent them from acquiring groceries.

Despite growing enrollment in food assistance programs like Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), New Yorkers are increasingly turning to the city's emergency food network for help putting food on the table and making ends meet. **Even before COVID-19, the demand for food was already high. Nearly 1.2 million²** New Yorkers were already food insecure, which accounted for a Meal Gap of more than **201 million missing meals³** in across the five boroughs.

Food Bank For New York City's most recent research report, [New Yorkers Don't Live Single-Issue Lives](#), released in February 2020 before the COVID-19 outbreak, also revealed that a growing percentage of New Yorkers were already struggling to meet basic needs and relying more on emergency food programs due to the rising cost of living in New York City. **Nearly three-quarters (74 percent)⁴ of food pantries and soup kitchens have reported an increase in the overall number of visitors compared to the previous year.**

In this context of existing hunger in New York City, compounded by the economic pressures created by the pandemic and the need for social distancing to mitigate the spread of the virus, a number of food pantries and soup kitchens have been forced to close. **By Mid-April, closures peaked at more than one-third (39 percent) citywide.**

Facing growing food insecurity and a simultaneous need to reimagine how to distribute it in adherence to emerging health guidelines, Food Bank For New York City – whose network reaches 90% of the city's zip codes and includes nearly all of its soup kitchens and food pantries – has led the way in innovating and adapting rapidly to fight food poverty in struggling neighborhoods and across the city so that every New Yorker has enough to eat.

This report offers special insight on how food insecurity has changed citywide as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in communities hit hardest by closures of local emergency food providers.

¹ Bureau Labor Statistics (BLS) - Local Area Unemployment Statistics - New York City, April 2020

² Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2019

³ Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2019

⁴ [Food Bank For New York City, 2020 Report](#): New Yorkers Don't Live Single-Issue Lives: The Intersections of Hunger



IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON NYC

Statewide Shutdowns Impact the Hunger Landscape

As more New Yorkers turn to Food Bank and our emergency food network throughout the five boroughs, the pandemic has magnified the vulnerabilities and challenges being faced by low-income families, furloughed and displaced workers, and seniors whose increased risk for infection has left many of them unable to leave their homes to access food at all.

Unemployment at an All-Time High

Unemployment was one of the greatest barriers to food security in New York City before COVID-19.⁵ The rapid spread of the virus in March prompted leaders across the nation to put forth restrictions that led businesses to shut down and shed millions of workers, accelerating the increased need in New York City. Between March 2020 and April 2020, the unemployment rate in New York City has more than tripled, from 4.1 percent to 14.2%.⁶ This is comparable to the current national unemployment rate of 14.7 percent.⁷ With **20.5 million U.S. jobs lost in the month of April alone**, a record **23.1 million Americans were officially considered unemployed** by the month's end. With our nation's unemployment rate reaching levels not seen since the Great Depression, hundreds of thousands of furloughed and displaced workers in New York City are now trying to cope with lost wages and competing bills..

Cost of Food Is Rapidly Increasing

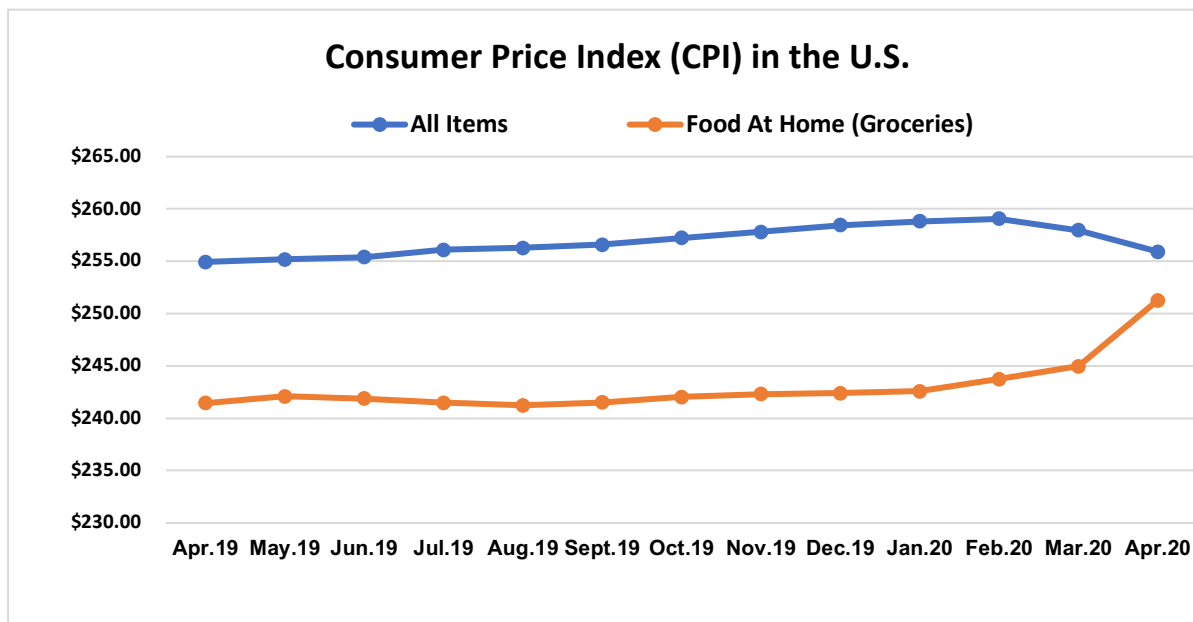
The cost of groceries in the US, as measured by the consumer price index,⁸ has significantly increased between February 2020 – before the start of the COVID-19 outbreak – and April 2020. **The cost of groceries increased by 3.1 percent**, while the cost of all items decreased by 1.2 percent. This is a rapid increase in the cost of groceries – which typically increases by 0.1 percent, on average, from month to month – sharply limiting the food purchasing power of households.

⁵ [Food Bank For New York City, 2020 Report](#): New Yorkers Don't Live Single-Issue Lives: The Intersections of Hunger

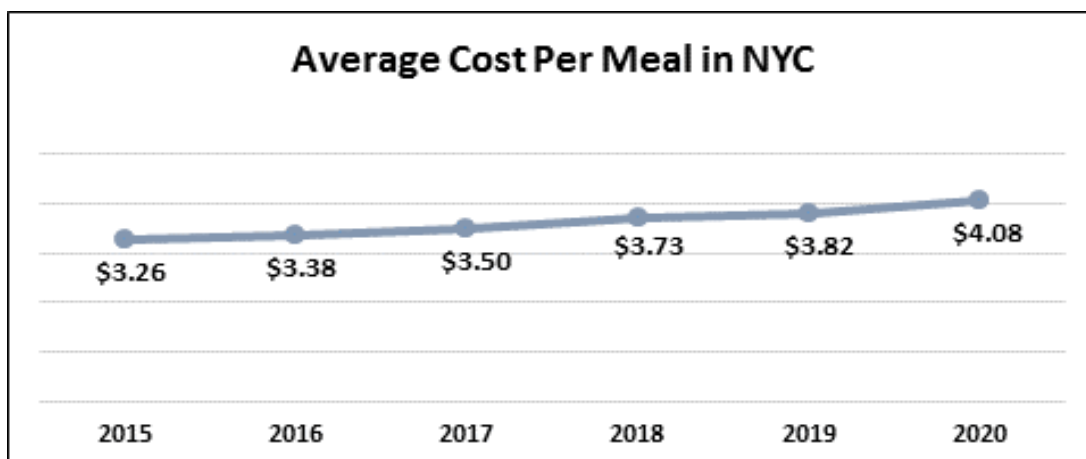
⁶ Bureau Labor Statistics (BLS) - Local Area Unemployment Statistics - New York City, April 2020

⁷ Bureau Labor Statistics (BLS)

⁸ Bureau Labor Statistics (BLS)



This unusual inflation in cost per meal related to COVID-19 is in addition to the already high cost of food experienced in New York City, with an average yearly increase of 5 percent. **Between 2019 and 2020, the cost of food increased by nearly 7 percent.**



What Protecting Students Means for Families

For food-insecure New York families with school-aged children, the closing of all K-12 schools to help stop the spread of COVID-19 presented an additional hardship. **Before the pandemic, universal free school meals were available to 1.1 million New York City public school children each day.** Universal access to meals has been shown to increase attendance rates,

reduce behavioral issues, and improve academic performance. However, as remote learning was quickly implemented in adherence to stay-at-home directives, students were suddenly missing these important meals. In the intervening weeks, the Department of Education implemented free grab-and-go meals at over 400 schools across the city, yet the program is not able to serve at the scale previously achieved before the outbreak. In the face of this loss of access to meals, many families turned to emergency food providers to fill in the gap.

Seniors Face a Special Set of Needs

Nearly one in five (18.7 percent, or more than 226,000)⁹ New York City residents over the age of 65 were living below the federal poverty level and likely to be facing food insecurity before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. With older adults and seniors identified as among the high-risk groups for serious infection,¹⁰ measures meant to help protect this vulnerable population – like closing senior centers throughout New York City – have also hindered their access to affordable food. Many homebound seniors living with fixed incomes – and already struggling with competing expenses like rent, utilities, and prescription medications – have now also found themselves struggling with the cost of stockpiling enough food and personal care products to safely shelter-in-place. These difficult circumstances serve as fertile ground for hunger to grow, quietly and out of sight, throughout our city's poorest communities.

The confluence of these immediate and ongoing COVID-19 impacts on our city, state and country has led to a sharp rise in the number of New York City residents facing hunger – and, consequently, a rise in the number of people served by an already-strained emergency food network.

Added Strain on the Emergency Food Network

A survey conducted by Food Bank for New York City among food pantries and soup kitchens in Mid-March 2020 to help assess the preparedness of emergency food programs amid the COVID-19 outbreak showed that **nearly half (46 percent) of food pantries and soup kitchens reported an increase in visitors within three weeks of the COVID-19 outbreak.** As the pandemic persists, a follow-up survey was conducted two months later, around mid-May, to gauge the impact of COVID-19 on food pantries and soup kitchens. The following survey results provide a more detailed view of the makeup of visitors served and the challenges these providers have faced in meeting the increased need.

⁹ 2018 American Community Survey. U.S. Census Bureau. 2019

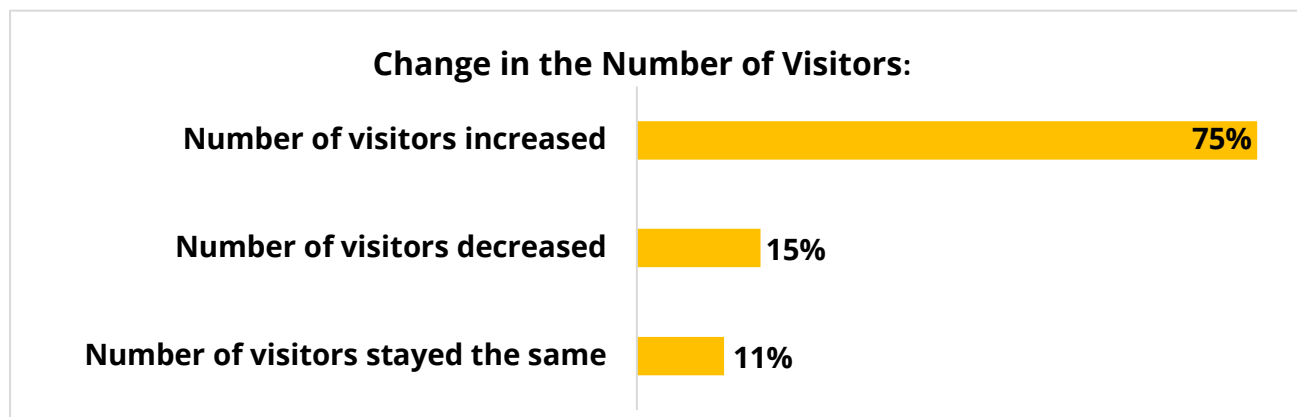
¹⁰ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/groups-at-higher-risk.html>



Emergency Food Network Survey Findings

Demand for Food Is Still Increasing

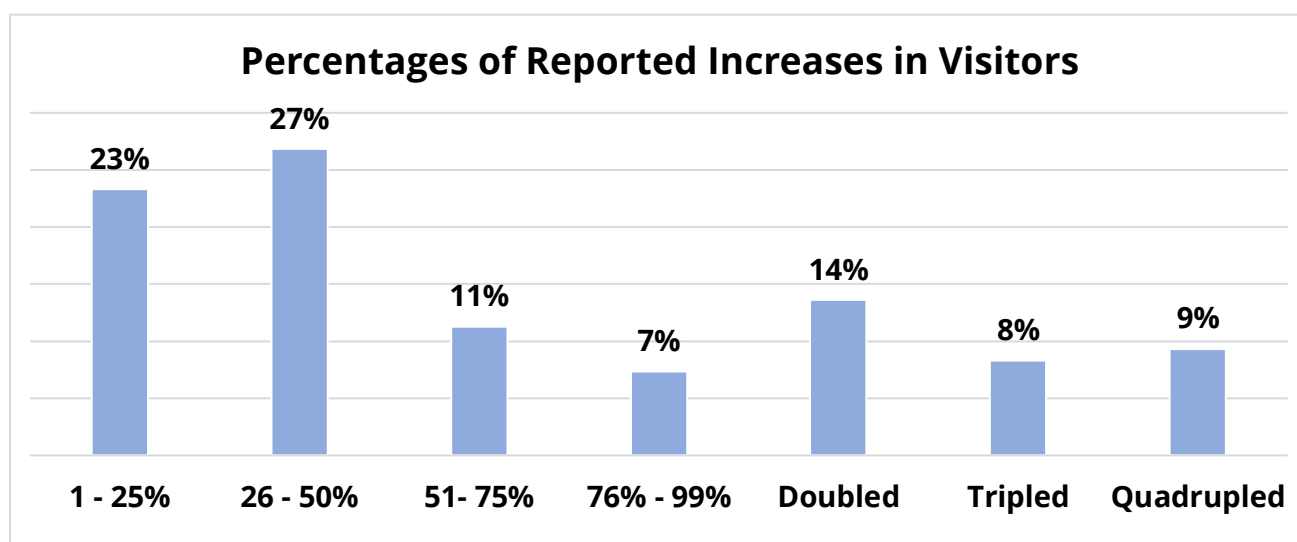
Approximately three-quarters (75 percent) of food pantries and soup kitchens surveyed reported that the number of visitors in April 2020 increased compared to January/February 2020, before the COVID-19 outbreak.



Among food pantries and soup kitchens that reported an increase in visitors:

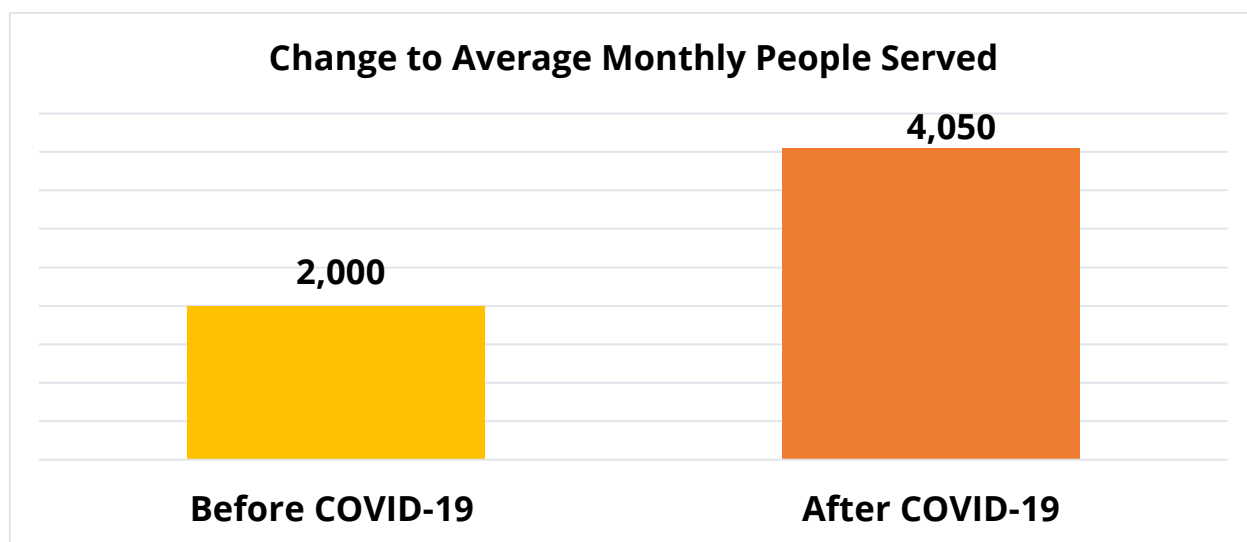
- Nearly one-third (31 percent) reported the number of visitors at their programs has more than doubled.

Nearly one in five (18 percent) reported their number of visitors increased by more than half.



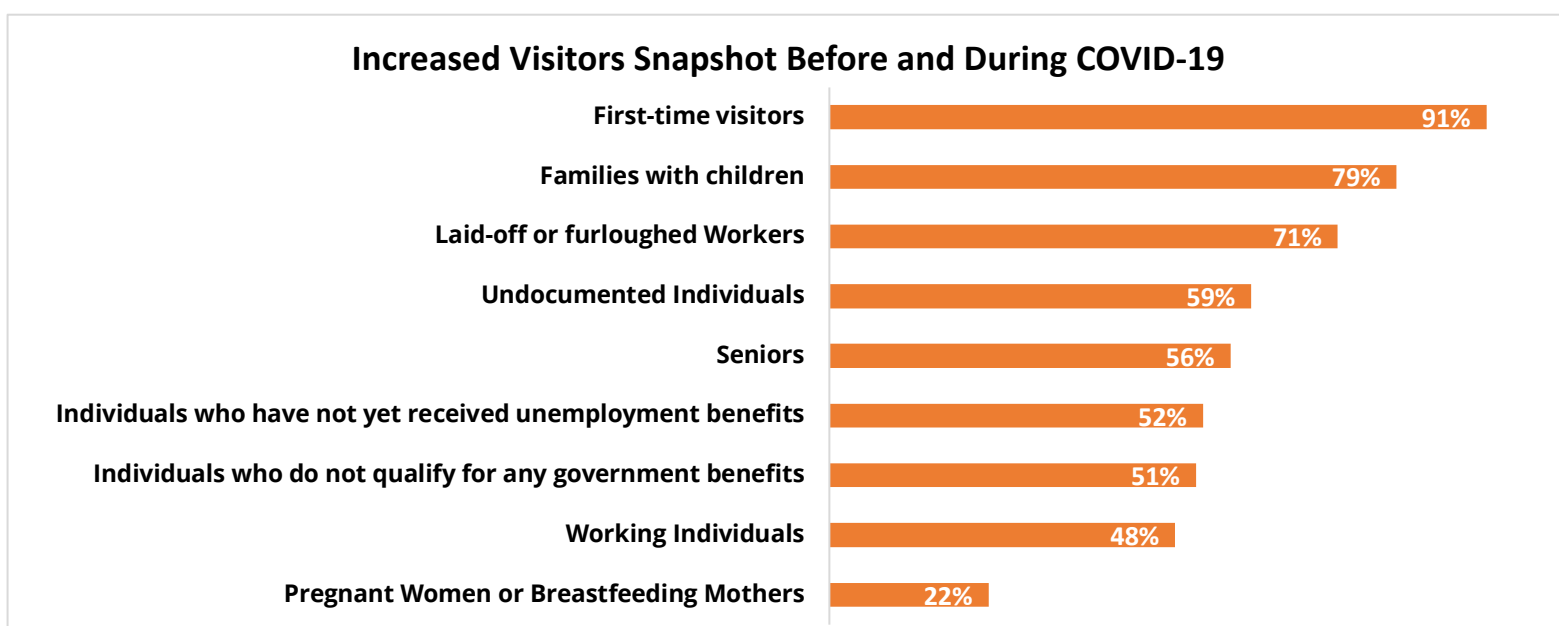
Average Monthly People Served Has Increased

Overall, **the average number of people served has doubled** in comparison to before COVID-19. During the month of April 2020, an average of 4,050 people had been served. Before COVID-19, the average monthly number of people served was 2,000.



Snapshot of Increased Visitors

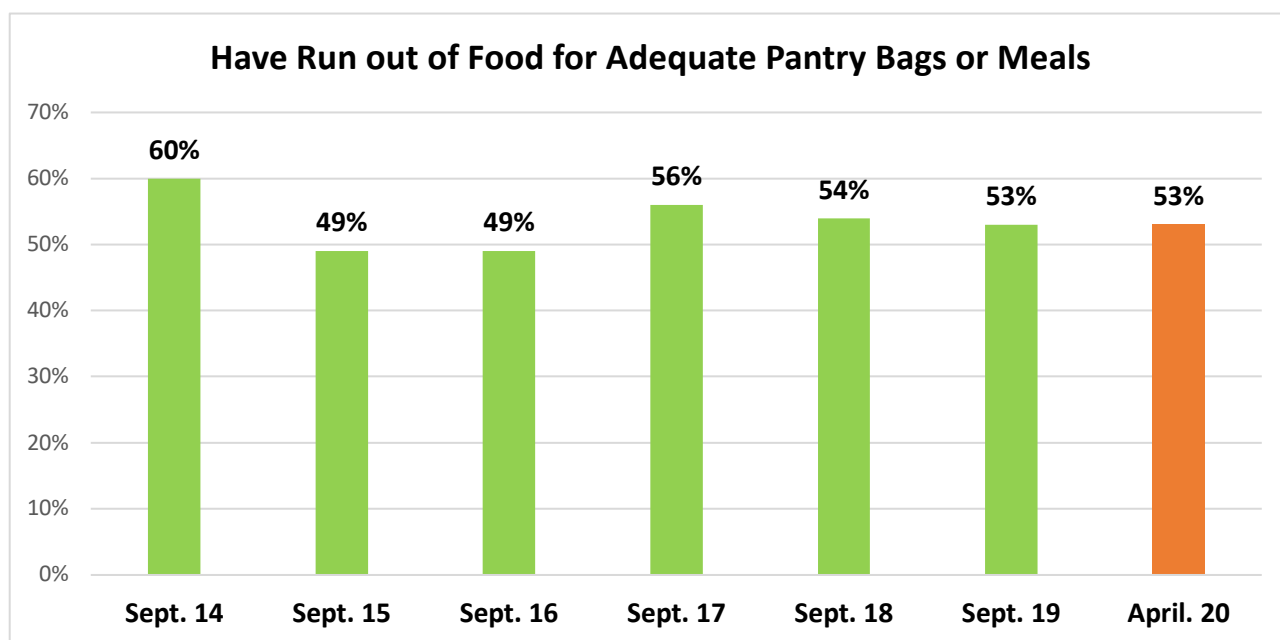
While the need for food was already present in many different social and demographic groups, there is a growing number of individuals who never relied on emergency food programs before.



The increase in visitors is driven primarily by first-time visitors (91 percent), followed by families with children (79 percent).

Food Supply Is Still Falling Short

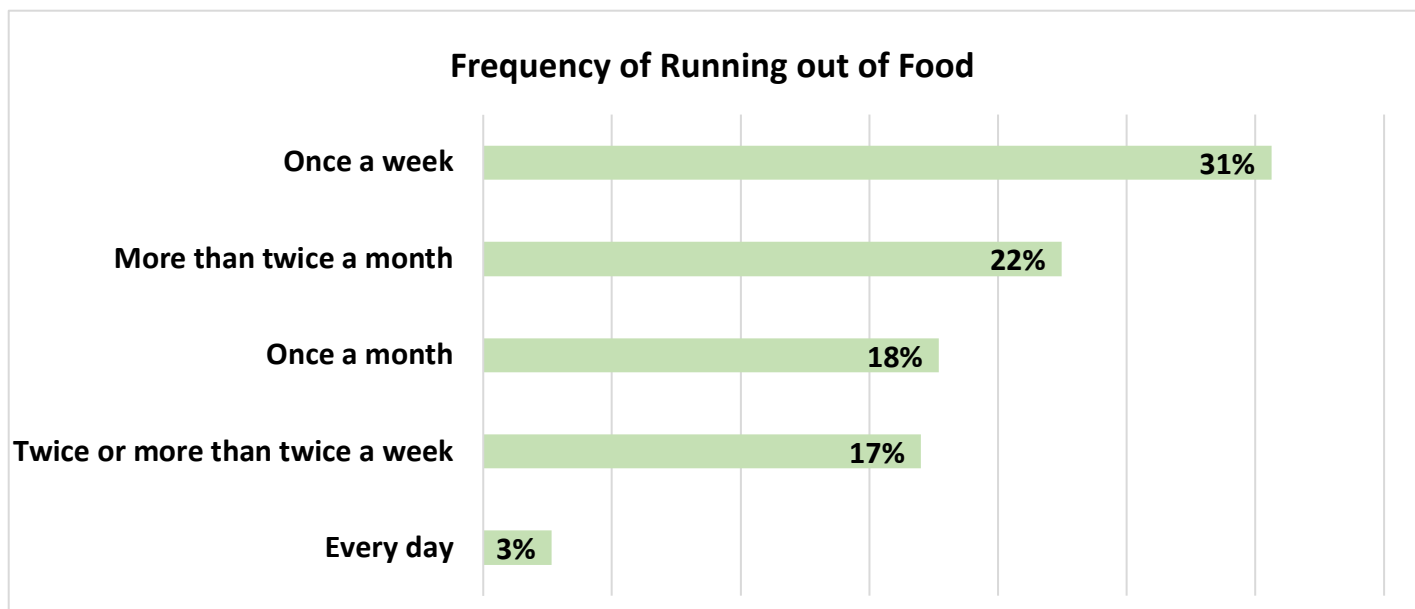
More than half (53 percent) of food pantries and soup kitchens surveyed reported running out of food during the month of April 2020. This is comparable to last year's figure, despite an increase in the overall food distributed.



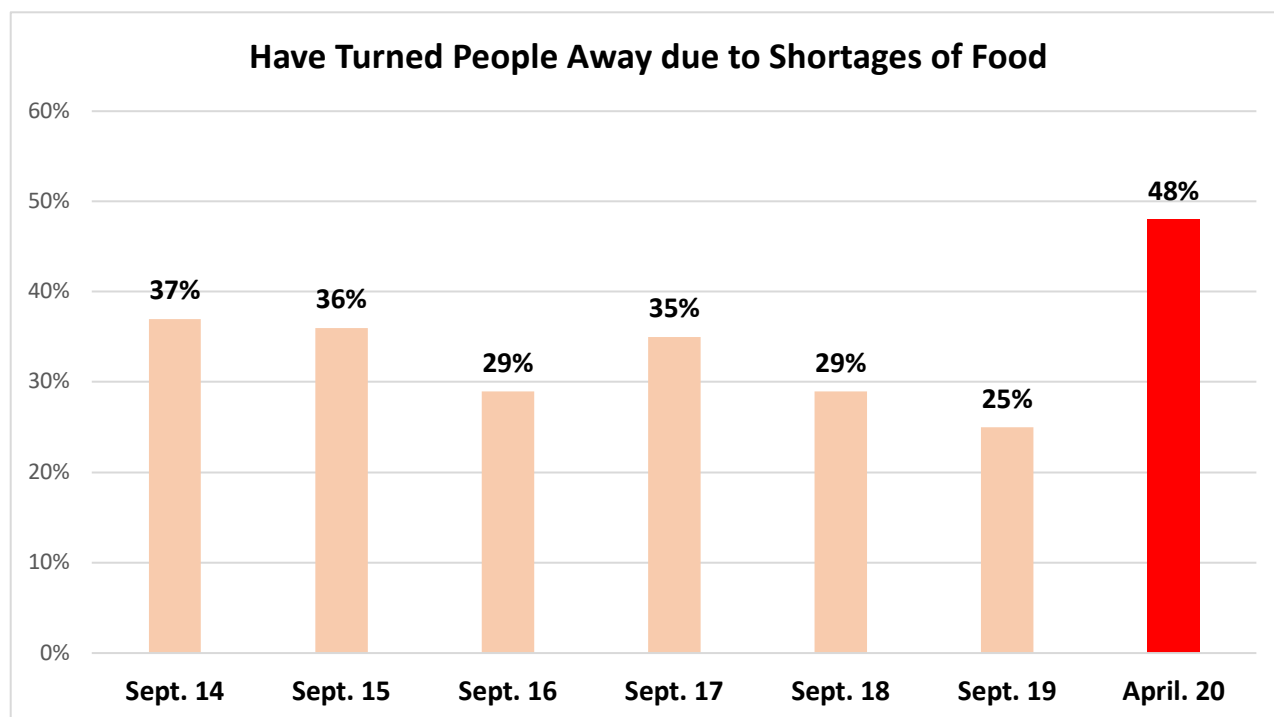
Nearly one-third (31 percent) reported running out of food at least once a week.

- Nearly one in five (17 percent) reported running out of food twice or more each week.





Among participants reporting running out of food during the month of April 2020, **48 percent reported turning people away due to lack of food**. This is a significant increase compared to just a few months ago when asked the same question, and **an all-time high** since we have been tracking this information.



THE COVID-19 EFFECT ON HUNGER AND POVERTY

Hunger and the Meal Gap Before COVID-19

Food security is an indicator of whether, within a household, all household members have access to adequate, healthy food at all times. Food insecurity indicates a lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members, and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. In the United States, food insecurity is primarily a function of insufficient financial resources for food.

The Meal Gap represents food insecurity as a number of missing meals that result from insufficient household resources to purchase food.¹¹ In short, the Meal Gap is the difference, measured in meals, between a household being food insecure and food secure. Because it accounts for variation in food costs across the country, it provides a clearer illustration of the effects of resource shortfalls in households experiencing food insecurity. As a metric, the Meal Gap is therefore highly useful to policymakers, advocates and service providers because it can estimate food insecurity at various geographies: from the state level down to the community district or neighborhood level (in New York City). Because the Meal Gap can be mapped (see Figure 1 below), it shows us where hunger lives, helping public and private anti-hunger efforts direct food and services to communities where need is highest. The City of New York adopted the Meal Gap as its official metric of food insecurity in 2014.¹²

¹¹ Gundersen, C., A. Dewey, A. Crumbaugh, M. Kato & E. Engelhard. *Map the Meal Gap 2017: Food Insecurity and Child Food Insecurity Estimates at the County Level*. Feeding America, 2017. Released in 2019

¹² *New York City Food Policy: [2014 Food Metrics Report](#)* (Accessed May 2020).

The Meal Gap also establishes the meal as a common metric, against which both food and non-food interventions can be measured. **New York City had a Meal Gap of more than 201 million in 2019** (based on data collected in 2017, the most recent year for which data is available), with 13.8 percent categorized as food insecure. **The food insecurity rate among New York City's children was even higher**, with nearly one in five children (18.7 percent, or approximately 335,820) experiencing food insecurity.¹³

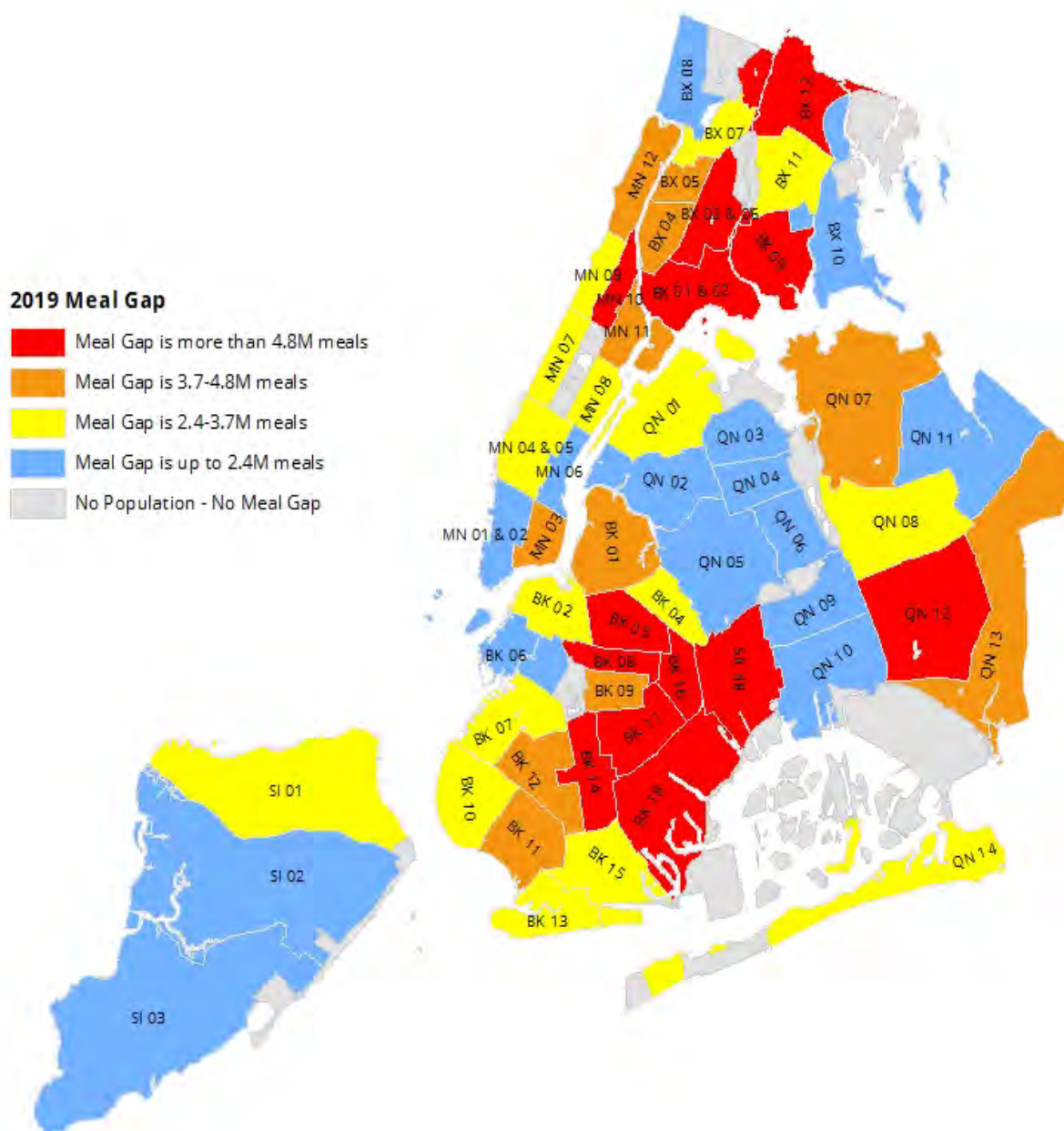


Figure 1: 2019 NYC Meal Gap Map

¹³ Gundersen, C., A. Dewey, A. Crumbaugh, M. Kato & E. Engelhard. *Map the Meal Gap 2017: Food Insecurity and Child Food Insecurity Estimates at the County Level*. Feeding America, 2017. Released in 2019

Hunger and the Meal Gap During COVID-19: Communities of Focus

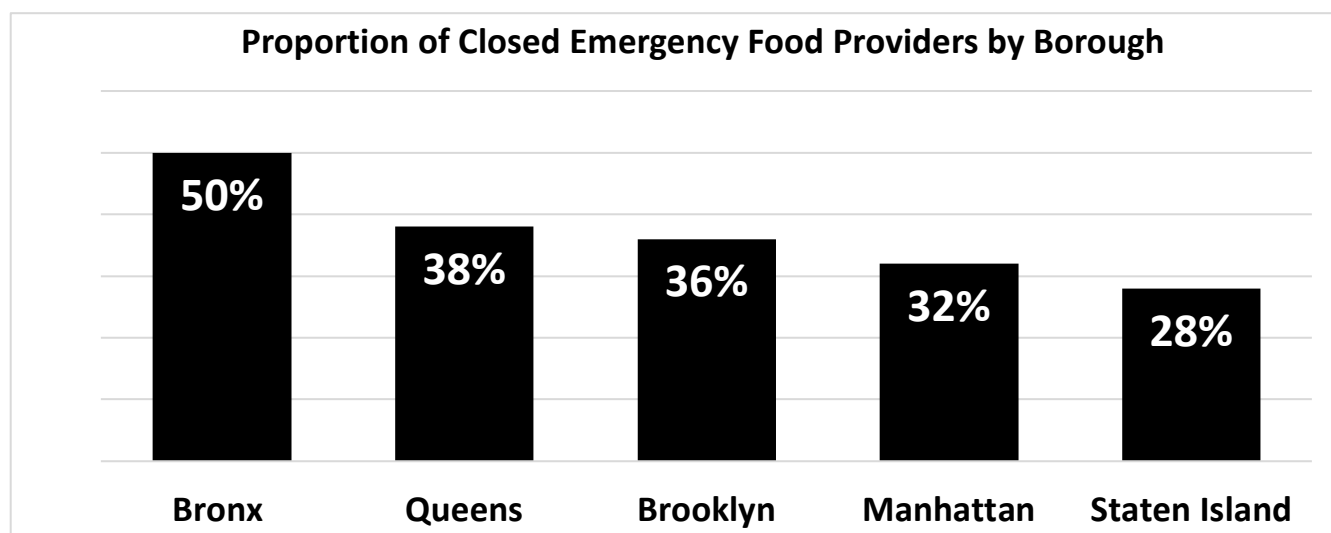
The challenge created by COVID-19 has two components. On one hand, the economic shutdown has put many people out of work and rapidly increased the need for food and other assistance. On the other hand, the need for social distancing and the risk of spreading the virus have led a number of emergency food providers (EFPs) across New York City to close.

- **More than one-third (38 percent) of soup kitchens and food pantries in Food Bank's citywide network had closed by Mid-April.**

The table below shows the number of closed emergency food providers (EFPs) by borough.

Borough	Total EFPs	Number of Closed EFPs	Percentage of Closed EFPs	Number of Open EFPs	Percentage of Open EFPs
Bronx	174	87	50%	87	50%
Brooklyn	257	93	36%	164	64%
Manhattan	159	51	32%	108	68%
Queens	170	65	38%	105	62%
Staten Island	36	10	28%	26	72%
Total	796	306	38%	490	62%

As New York City's poorest borough, the Bronx has seen the highest number of emergency food programs close, in proportion to other boroughs, as noted in the chart below.



What are Communities of Focus?

While hundreds of local soup kitchens and food pantries were forced to close due to COVID-19, **certain neighborhoods face the dual obstacles of significant closures and large Meal Gaps. We've identified these "hot spot" neighborhoods as Communities of Focus**, where many families are struggling with food insecurity, and yet the support network that would normally be there to help them is not operating at full strength.

Nearly 3 in 4 (73 percent) of closed emergency food providers (EFPs) are in communities with the largest Meal Gap.¹⁴

- Of all EFPs serving communities with the largest Meal Gap, nearly half (43 percent) had closed by mid-April.

The proportion of closed soup kitchens and food pantries in high-needs communities is even greater when looking at the borough level:

- **The Bronx:** of the 50 percent of closed EFPs, the vast majority (90 percent) are in the top largest Meal Gap communities.
- **Brooklyn:** of the 36 percent of closed EFPs, the vast majority (85 percent) are in the top largest Meal Gap communities.
- **Manhattan:** of the 32 percent of closed EFPs, more than half (59 percent) are in the top largest Meal Gap communities.
- **Queens:** of the 38 percent of closed EFPs, more than half (54 percent) are in the top largest Meal Gap communities.
- **Staten Island:** while 28 percent of EFPs had closed, no Staten Island neighborhood is part of the top largest Meal Gap communities of our city.

¹⁴ Communities with the largest Meal Gap are communities whose Meal Gap exceeds 3.7 million meals

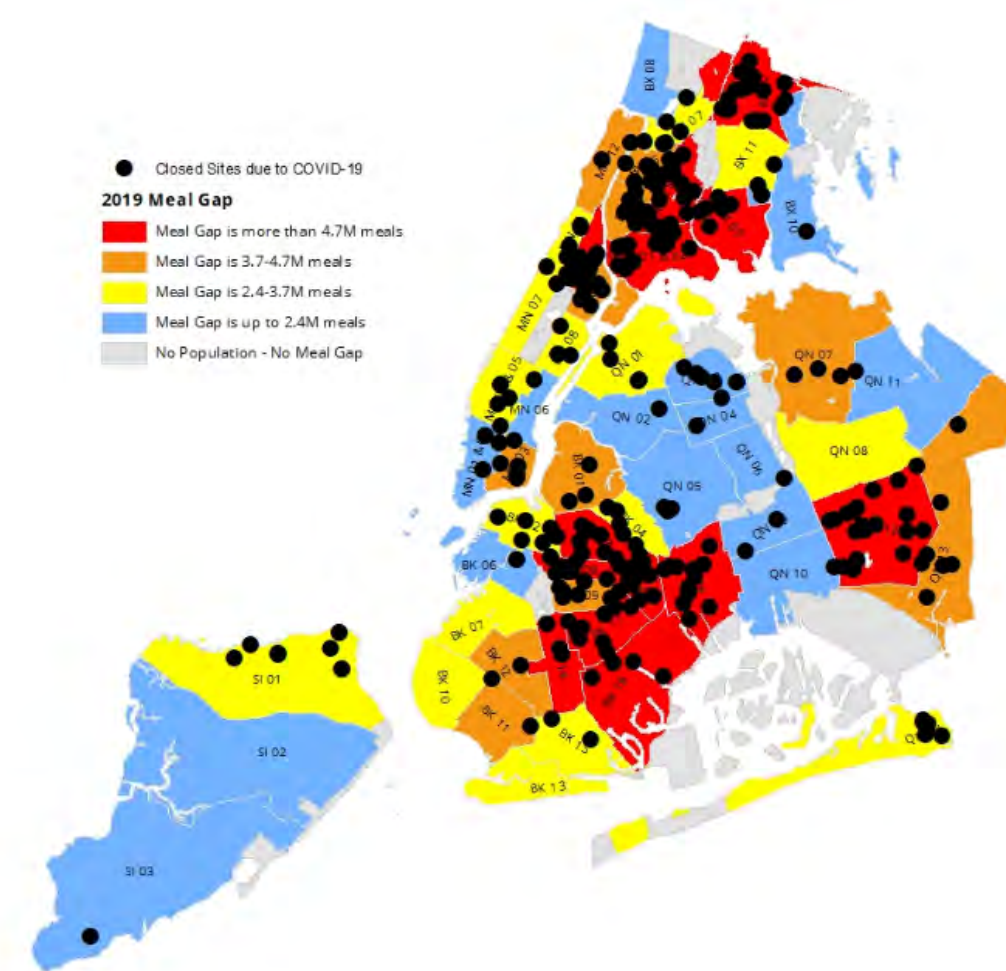


The table below shows the **top 10 Communities of Focus citywide**. Emergency food providers existed in these communities to meet the significant need that was already present before the pandemic, but as the need is exacerbated by COVID-19, many have been unable to safely continue operations and support their communities.

Community Districts	Neighborhoods Name	2019 Meal Gap	Total EFPs	Number of Closed EFPs	Percentage of Closed EFPs
BX 10	Co-op City, Pelham Bay & Schuylerville	2,136,987	5	5	100%
QN 11	Bayside, Douglaston & Little Neck	1,381,125	1	1	100%
BX 12	Wakefield, Williamsbridge & Woodlawn	4,798,038	24	17	71%
BX 11	Pelham Parkway, Morris Park & Laconia	2,842,681	3	2	67%
BK 11	Bensonhurst & Bath Beach	4,203,364	3	2	67%
QN 05	Ridgewood, Glendale & Middle Village	2,070,428	6	4	67%
QN 14	Far Rockaway, Breezy Point & Broad Channel	3,321,662	13	8	62%
BX 04	Concourse, Highbridge & Mount Eden	4,285,685	24	14	58%
BK 08	Crown Heights North & Prospect Heights	4,978,486	19	11	58%
BX 09	Castle Hill, Clason Point & Parkchester	5,045,901	9	5	56%

The Meal Gap Map below shows the location and concentration of closed emergency food providers by community district as of mid-April. **This visualization provided a snapshot of where the greatest spikes in need could be anticipated** in order to quickly mobilize and focus resources where they would be needed most during this pandemic.

Closed Emergency Food Providers by Community District and their Meal Gaps



With local soup kitchens and food pantries closing throughout the five boroughs, many new Yorkers have found themselves venturing farther from their own communities to access open emergency food providers.

Overall, 70 percent of food pantries and soup kitchens surveyed reported serving more than one borough since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- **66 percent of Bronx-based organizations** reported serving clients coming from Manhattan in addition to Bronx residents.
- **67 percent of Manhattan-based organizations** reported serving clients coming from the Bronx in addition to Manhattan residents.
- **59 percent of Brooklyn-based organizations** reported serving clients coming from queens in addition to Brooklyn residents.
- **48 percent of Queens-based organizations** reported serving clients coming from Brooklyn in addition to Queens residents.

Operational Changes within Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens

Food Bank's network of soup kitchens and food pantries have also worked to adapt new methods of serving New Yorkers while maintaining social distance and safe workplace environments:

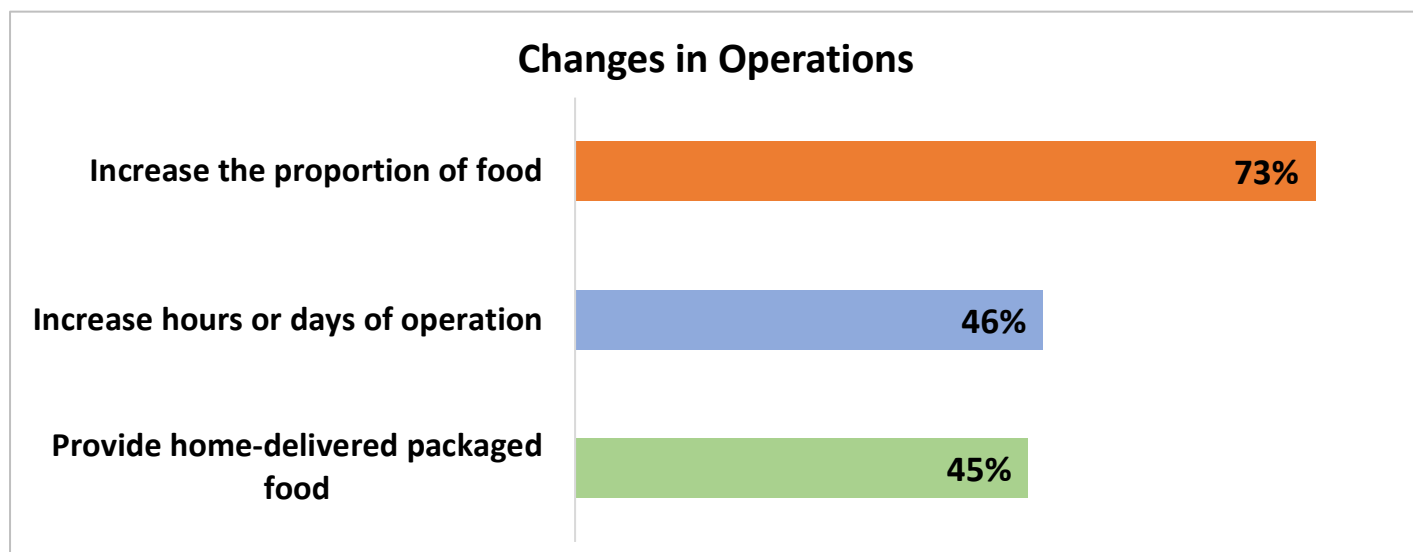
- **Nearly three-quarters (73 percent) of food pantries and soup kitchens surveyed reported increasing the proportion of food they serve.**

Prior to the outbreak, Food Bank recommended providing a pantry bag with nine meals per person, enough food for three meals for three days. Since COVID-19, we are seeing some members offer pantry bags that provide anywhere from two weeks to up to one month of food to further ensure that people leave their homes less frequently to pick up the food they need.

- **Nearly half (46 percent) have increased their hours or days of operation in order to meet the increasing needs.**

Emergency food providers in our network are also incorporating social distancing in distributions, instructing clients to wait in lines spaced out by cones or tape, offering drive-through pick-up options, and working to support home delivery for those who are homebound.

- **Nearly half (45percent) of food pantries and soup kitchens surveyed reported doing some form of home delivery of packaged food.**



POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF COVID-19 ON HUNGER

Policy choices by our elected officials will be critical in protecting New Yorkers from hunger and combating persistent economic injustice across our nation that has been amplified by the COVID-19 crisis.

Thanks to advocacy from community-based anti-hunger organizations, within the first weeks of the pandemic, leaders within City, State and Federal government took actions to make initial investments to support emergency food distribution. Even before the pandemic, New Yorkers relied on many nutrition-assistance programs, including meals at school, emergency food providers, and grocery-assistance programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Women Infant and Children program (WIC). Closing a widening Meal Gap will require the political will to target direct and ongoing relief to both impacted community members and the social service organizations within the emergency food network that have the experience and expertise in providing the assistance needed.

City-level Response

Led by Speaker Corey Johnson, New York City Council quickly identified \$25 million in emergency funding for social service agencies struggling to meet the increased community need for food created by COVID-19. Mayor Bill de Blasio established a “Food Czar” team tasked with coordinating the city’s planning and implementation for food assistance during the COVID-19 crisis. This includes delivery of meals to seniors who previously relied on services at senior centers, meal delivery to home-bound New Yorkers through the city’s GetFood Program, and collaboration with NYC’s Office of Food and Nutrition Services (OFNS, formerly SchoolFood) to pivot meal service to grab-and-go style meals at school sites across the city. As the Food Czar team works to coordinate ongoing relief efforts, **we urge our city to fund the collective impact work of social service stakeholders.**

State-level Response

New York State also responded to the call from advocates for hunger relief assistance in the face of COVID-19 and the economic impact to New York food producers. Governor Andrew Cuomo unveiled Nourish NY with an initial \$25 million investment to support in-state farmers and growers to distribute food to state-wide emergency food providers. **New York State has the opportunity to expand on this program by reversing underfunding to the State’s Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP).** Advocates have also worked with

state agencies to: 1) push for the agility needed to continue to administer Federal nutrition assistance programs; and 2) submit New York's Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) plan, which will provide additional grocery benefits to NYC families with children in public schools. The city and state must also continue to support community organizations that do direct outreach and provide benefit-access services to ensure New Yorkers connect to these federally funded food benefits.

Federal-level Response

Enacted Federal COVID relief legislation has included support for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the pausing of new restrictions the Administration has imposed on SNAP food assistance. **But the federal legislative response has yet to address benefit sufficiency and the need to fully fund the storage and distribution of expanding services at food banks, food pantries and soup kitchens across the country.** In May, the House passed the HEROES Act, which included additional operational funding for TEFAP and boosts SNAP benefits for all recipients. **We strongly urge the Senate and White House to pass the HEROES Act, then work to target substantial ongoing relief for low-income people in our country.**

CONCLUSION

Before becoming the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic, the demand for food in New York City was already high, with more than **201 million meals** for New Yorkers in need across all five boroughs. However, health and economic factors created by COVID-19 – including record-high unemployment, lost wages, closed schools, and shelter-in-place directives – have conspired to quickly exacerbate hunger throughout our city, especially in our poorest communities. As the pandemic persists, **31 percent** of soup kitchens and food pantries recently reported their clients doubling. **These New Yorkers are our neighbors: furloughed employees, homebound seniors, essential workers, and single parents – all trying to stay healthy and safe while staving off hunger.**

Unfortunately, our communities in greatest need, and often with the largest Meal Gaps, were some of the hardest hit by this pandemic. While this is not a new narrative for our city, we must all work together to continue innovating strategies to fight hunger in our city's new normal. The various challenges created by COVID-19 have pushed Food Bank For New York City to find new ways to support New Yorkers facing food insecurity while prioritizing the health and safety of everyone involved in our mission. Chief among our objectives was finding ways to provide food without requiring groups of people to gather.

Food Bank deployed a multi-faceted emergency response that safely distributed more food more quickly than ever before, in collaboration with partners in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. This included the identification of **Community Response Partners**¹⁵ – emergency food providers within our member network with the capacity to serve as resource hubs in communities experiencing high closures of local soup kitchens and food pantries. We began fast-tracking deliveries of food and other essentials to these hubs and collaborating with them to implement new distribution methods like **drive-thru pantry bag pick-ups, seniors-only distribution hours, and home deliveries.**

For those unable to access our Community Response Partners, Food Bank began conducting mobile pantry pop-up food distributions throughout the city in collaboration with partners such as the **New York City Housing Authority, Barclays Center, and The Francine A. LeFrak Foundation.** We also partnered with **Uber Eats** and other volunteer drivers to secure an average of 735 household meal deliveries to homebound New Yorkers each week.

¹⁵ See Community Response Partners Map on Appendix page 29

From the start of Food Bank's Covid-19 response on March 7, 2020 to the time of this reporting, **nearly 21 million¹⁶ meals have been provided to New Yorkers in need, an increase of 20 percent in overall food distribution** when compared to the same period last year (17.5 million meals).

Eliminating food insecurity requires strong advocacy efforts to effect policy changes on the federal, state, and local levels. **Alongside many of our partners and allies, Food Bank is urging policymakers at all levels of government to focus COVID-19 relief and stimulus resources on those most in need of financial support: low-income families and communities.** Lawmakers must also insist on investing federal and local resources in anti-hunger initiatives, including additional funding for operational support desperately needed by the emergency food network struggling to scale its services to meet the growing need.

Addressing hunger in the wake of COVID-19 will be a marathon, not a sprint. For New Yorkers already relying on Food Bank and our network of soup kitchens and pantries, their struggles were compounded by this deadly outbreak that has ravaged both lives and livelihoods throughout our city. **Hunger is often a bystander to crisis – and will pervade and persist if resources and support are not focused to defeat it.** However, the charitable network of emergency food providers and community-based organizations cannot replace government assistance. Public and private efforts must together invest in helping the most vulnerable New Yorkers fight more than COVID-19, but also the devastating hunger in its aftermath.

¹⁶ Food Bank For New York City overall food distribution from 03/07/20 through 05/31/20

METHODOLOGY

To generate survey results, an online survey was sent to all open food pantries and soup kitchens for which Food Bank For New York City has an active email address on file, followed by phone call interviews to non-respondents. To allow for the timeliness and relevance of the response, the survey was open for just one week, from May 07, 2020 to May 13, 2020. There were 439 responses collected in total for a response rate of approximately 80 percent. After rejecting outliers, incomplete responses and duplicated answers, 276 responses comprised the final sample size for analysis.

The confidence level for all top-line survey results is at 95 percent, with a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percentage points.

Findings for subsets of the data have a wider margin of error and should not be assumed to have the same significance.

APPENDIX

The next several pages show the Meal Gap across New York City at the Public Use Micro Data Area (PUMA) level¹⁷, the Census units that approximate the Community Districts into which New York City and the addition of community response partners to serve as resource hubs in communities experiencing high closures. For each borough, the Meal Gap is listed by PUMA/Community District for the most recent year for which data is available, along with the number of closed agencies and Covid-19 cases and each district's rank (highest to lowest) within that borough for the given year.

¹⁷ Food Bank For New York City analysis based on Gundersen, C., A. Dewey, A. Crumbaugh, M. Kato & E. Engelhard. *Map the Meal Gap 2017: Food Insecurity and Child Food Insecurity Estimates at the County Level*. Feeding America, 2017. Released in 2019.

In cases where an individual Community District's populations is relatively sparse (such as Manhattan's midtown business district), the PUMA will combine that district with an adjacent one, in order to ensure PUMAs represent areas of comparable population.



Meal Gap, Food Insecure Individuals, COVID-19 Cases and Closed Agencies by Community Districts

The Bronx

Community District(s)	2019 Meal Gap Number/Rank	2019 Number of Food Insecure Individuals (Percent)	% COVID-19 Positive Number (Percent)/Rank As of 4/21/2020	Closed Agencies Number (Percent)/Rank
Bronx Community Districts 1 & 2: Hunts Point, Longwood & Melrose	4,983,056 3	34,302 (21%)	2,196 (6%) 7	18 (43%) 7
Bronx Community Districts 3 & 6: Belmont, Crotona Park East & East Tremont	5,995,418 1	41,271 (24%)	9,070 (25%) 2	15 (38%) 8
Bronx Community District 4: Concourse, Highbridge & Mount Eden	4,285,685 6	29,501 (20%)	1852 (5%) 8	14 (58%) 4
Bronx Community District 5: Morris Heights, Fordham South & Mount Hope	4,403,170 5	30,310 (22%)	0 (0%) 0	7 (54%) 6
Bronx Community District 7: Bedford Park, Fordham North & Norwood	3,409,177 7	23,468 (18%)	10,175 (28%) 1	4 (29%) 9
Bronx Community District 8: Riverdale, Fieldston & Kingsbridge	1,938,186 10	13,342 (12%)	0 (0%) 0	0 (0%) 0
Bronx Community District 9: Castle Hill, Clason Point & Parkchester	5,045,901 2	34,734 (18%)	5,035 (14%) 3	5 (56%) 5
Bronx Community District 10: Co-op City, Pelham Bay & Schuylerville	2,136,987 9	14,710 (12%)	2,876 (8%) 4	5 (100%) 1
Bronx Community District 11: Pelham Parkway, Morris Park & Laconia	2,842,681 8	19,568 (15%)	2,455 (7%) 5	2 (67%) 3
Bronx Community District 12: Wakefield, Williamsbridge & Woodlawn	4,798,038 4	33,028 (22%)	2,390 (7%) 6	17 (71%) 2
Totals	39,838,300	274,234 (16.0%)	36,049	87 (50%)

Brooklyn

Community District(s)	2019 Meal Gap Number/Rank	2019 Number of Food Insecure Individuals (Percent)	% COVID-19 Positive Number Rank/(Percent)	Closed Agencies Number Rank/(Percent)
Brooklyn Community District 1: Greenpoint & Williamsburg	3,920,231 11	25,245 (16%)	365 (1%) 12	3 (27%) 11
Brooklyn Community District 2: Brooklyn Heights & Fort Greene	3,609,888 12	23,247 (17%)	968 (3%) 10	7 (50%) 3
Brooklyn Community District 3: Bedford-Stuyvesant	5,797,020 3	37,332 (26%)	7,784 (21%) 2	11 (28%) 10
Brooklyn Community District 4: Bushwick	3,598,422 13	23,173 (17%)	0 (0%) 0	4 (36%) 9
Brooklyn Community District 5: East New York & Starrett City	5,424,479 4	34,932 (22%)	3,988 (11%) 4	12 (44%) 6
Brooklyn Community District 6: Park Slope, Carroll Gardens & Red Hook	1,791,547 18	11,537 (10%)	506 (1%) 11	2 (25%) 13
Brooklyn Community District 7: Sunset Park & Windsor Terrace	3,120,390 16	20,095 (13%)	1,780 (5%) 7	0 (0%) 16
Brooklyn Community District 8: Crown Heights North & Prospect Heights	4,978,486 6	32,060 (24%)	972 (3%) 9	11 (58%) 2
Brooklyn Community District 9: Crown Heights South, Prospect Lefferts & Wingate	4,481,652 9	28,861 (26%)	0 (0%) 0	6 (43%) 7
Brooklyn Community District 10: Bay Ridge & Dyker Heights	2,500,981 17	16,106 (13%)	1,188 (3%) 8	0 (0%) 16
Brooklyn Community District 11: Bensonhurst & Bath Beach	4,203,364 10	27,069 (14%)	9,791 (26%) 1	2 (67%) 1
Brooklyn Community District 12: Borough Park, Kensington & Ocean Parkway	4,596,890 8	29,603 (18%)	0 (0%) 0	1 (10%) 15
Brooklyn Community District 13: Brighton Beach & Coney Island	3,440,512 14	22,156 (19%)	2,485 (7%) 6	0 (0%) 16

Brooklyn (continued)

Community District(s)	2019 Meal Gap Number/Rank	2019 Number of Food Insecure Individuals (Percent)	% COVID-19 Positive Number Rank/(Percent)	Closed Agencies Number Rank/(Percent)
Brooklyn Community District 14: Flatbush & Midwood	4,968,457 7	31,996 (20%)	0 (0%) 0	3 (27%) 11
Brooklyn Community District 15: Sheepshead Bay, Gerritsen Beach & Homecrest	3,205,225 15	20,641 (13%)	4,571 (12%) 3	1 (14%) 14
Brooklyn Community District 16: Brownsville & Ocean Hill	6,167,457 1	39,717 (33%)	0 (0%) 0	14 (48%) 4
Brooklyn Community District 17: East Flatbush, Farragut & Rugby	5,359,030 5	34,511 (25%)	3,379 (9%) 5	11 (41%) 8
Brooklyn Community District 18: Canarsie & Flatlands	5,925,468 2	38,159 (18%)	0 (0%) 0	5 (45%) 5
Totals	77,089,500	496,440 (17.1%)	76,971	93 (36%)

Manhattan

Community District(s)	2019 Meal Gap Number/Rank	2019 Number of Food Insecure Individuals (Percent)	% COVID-19 Positive Number Rank/(Percent)	Closed Agencies Number Rank/(Percent)
Manhattan Community Districts 1 & 2: Battery Park City, Greenwich Village & Soho	2,337,762 9	15,140 (10%)	1,135 (6%) 7	4 (29%) 6
Manhattan Community District 3: Chinatown & Lower East Side	4,338,618 4	28,099 (18%)	0 (0%) 0	4 (21%) 8
Manhattan Community Districts 4 & 5: Chelsea, Clinton & Midtown Business District	2,866,979 7	18,568 (12%)	3,124 (16%) 4	6 (25%) 7
Manhattan Community District 6: Murray Hill, Gramercy & Stuyvesant Town	2,228,665 10	14,434 (10%)	1,424 (7%) 6	0 (0%) 10
Manhattan Community District 7: Upper West Side & West Side	3,048,123 6	19,741 (10%)	3,131 (16%) 3	1 (10%) 9
Manhattan Community District 8: Upper East Side	2,817,354 8	18,246 (8%)	3,656 (19%) 2	4 (50%) 1
Manhattan Community District 9: Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville & West Harlem	3,573,411 5	23,143 (18%)	3,751 (19%) 1	6 (35%) 4
Manhattan Community District 10: Central Harlem	5,513,448 1	35,707 (26%)	345 (2%) 9	11 (34%) 5
Manhattan Community District 11: East Harlem	4,348,272 3	28,161 (22%)	762 (4%) 8	12 (46%) 2
Manhattan Community District 12: Washington Heights, Inwood & Marble Hill	4,523,268 2	29,295 (13%)	2,352 (12%) 5	3 (43%) 3
Totals	35,595,900	230,534 (12.6%)	19,680	51 (32%)

Queens

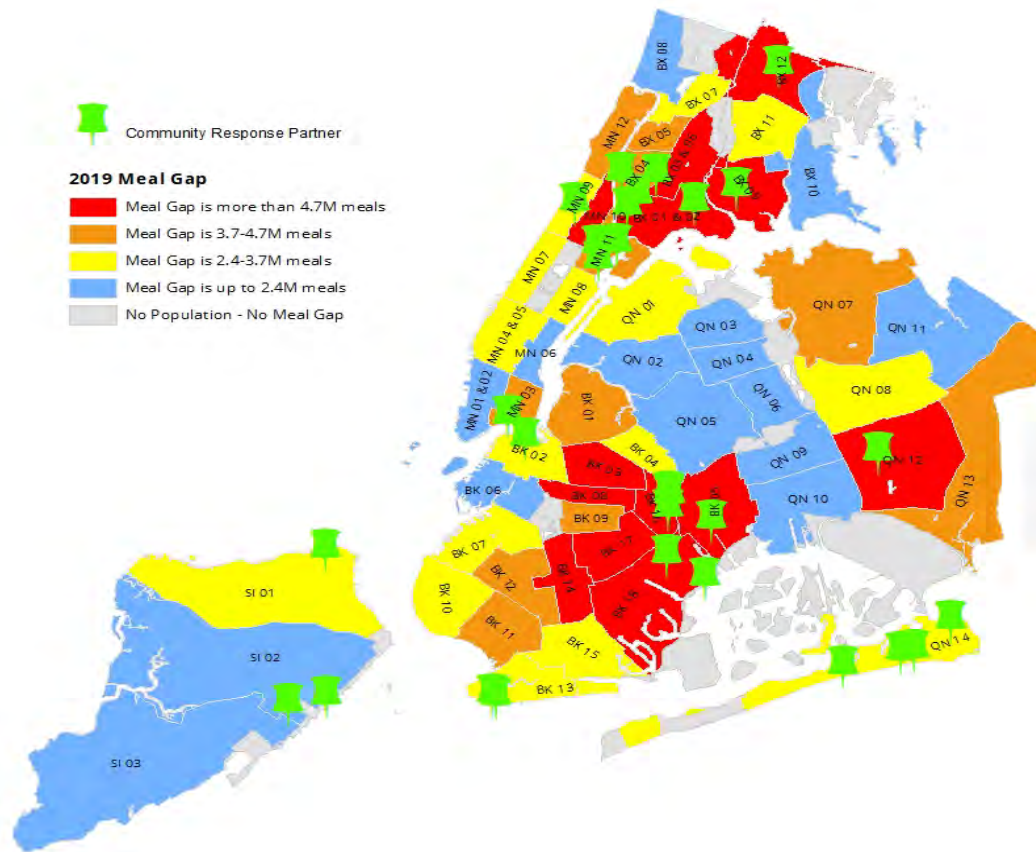
Community District(s)	2019 Meal Gap Number/Rank	2019 Number of Food Insecure Individuals (Percent)	% COVID-19 Positive Number Rank/(Percent)	Closed Agencies Number Rank/(Percent)
Queens Community District 1: Astoria & Long Island City	3,595,045 4	23,965 (14%)	2,757 (5%) 7	4 (33%) 9
Queens Community District 2: Sunnyside & Woodside	1,979,427 11	13,195 (10%)	44 (0%) 14	1 (11%) 12
Queens Community District 3: Jackson Heights & North Corona	1,648,879 13	10,991 (6%)	2,437 (5%) 9	6 (40%) 7
Queens Community District 4: Elmhurst & South Corona	2,213,098 8	14,752 (10%)	12,034 (22%) 1	2 (40%) 7
Queens Community District 5: Ridgewood, Glendale & Middle Village	2,070,428 9	13,801 (8%)	2,925 (5%) 6	4 (67%) 2
Queens Community District 6: Forest Hills & Rego Park	1,766,776 12	11,777 (10%)	665 (1%) 13	1 (20%) 11
Queens Community District 7: Flushing, Murray Hill & Whitestone	4,274,174 3	28,492 (11%)	2,341 (4%) 10	5 (56%) 4
Queens Community District 8: Briarwood, Fresh Meadows & Hillcrest	3,292,644 6	21,949 (13%)	2,591 (5%) 8	0 (0%) 14
Queens Community District 9: Richmond Hill & Woodhaven	2,023,374 10	13,488 (9%)	10,075 (19%) 2	1 (11%) 12
Queens Community District 10: Howard Beach & Ozone Park	2,312,388 7	15,414 (11%)	1,811 (3%) 12	2 (33%) 9
Queens Community District 11: Bayside, Douglaston & Little Neck	1,381,125 14	9,207 (8%)	3,217 (6%) 5	1 (100%) 1
Queens Community District 12: Jamaica, Hollis & St. Albans	7,336,456 1	49,105 (20%)	2,266 (4%) 11	22 (44%) 5
Queens Community District 13: Queens Village, Cambria Heights & Rosedale	4,534,824 2	30,229 (15%)	7,087 (13%) 3	8 (42%) 6
Queens Community District 14: Far Rockaway, Breezy Point & Broad Channel	3,321,662 5	22,142 (18)	3,264 (6%) 4	8 (62%) 3
Totals	41,780,300	278,507 (10.5%)	53,514	65 (38%)

Staten Island

Community District(s)	2019 Meal Gap Number/Rank	2019 Number of Food Insecure Individuals (Percent)	% COVID-19 Positive Number Rank/(Percent)	Closed Agencies Number Rank/(Percent)
Staten Island Community District 1: Port Richmond, Stapleton & Mariner's Harbor	3,473,887 1	21,513 (12%)	7,374 (63%) 1	9 (29%) 2
Staten Island Community District 2: New Springville & South Beach	1,878,492 2	11,633 (9%)	3,167 (27%) 2	0 (0%) 3
Staten Island Community District 3: Tottenville, Great Kills & Annadale	1,657,921 3	10,267 (6%)	1,102 (9%) 3	1 (50%) 1
Totals	7,010,300	43,413 (8.6%)	11,643	10 (28%)

Addition of Community Response Partners in Communities Experiencing High Closures of Local Agencies

Addition of Community Response Partners



Community Response Partners Vs. Closed Sites

