



GBFB Spring 2021 Impact Report

The Need Persists

As businesses reopen and unemployment rates improve, there have certainly been economic improvements since March 2020. However, this doesn't tell the whole pandemic recovery story, especially for those facing food insecurity. GBFB is still seeing elevated need for food across our network of 600 distribution sites and 190 towns and cities in Eastern Massachusetts. Thanks to the resiliency and innovation of our team, we continue to deliver food distributions at unprecedented levels.

- We increased our pre-pandemic weekly food distribution average of **1.3 million** pounds to **2.5 million** pounds; distribution remains at this heightened level today.
- In Spring 2021, monthly distributions exceeded 10 million pounds for the first time since June 2020.
- The monthly distribution average of 8.2 million meals remained steady from Quarter 2 to Quarter 3 this year.

Based on GBFB partner agency reporting, our network food pantries continue to serve an average of **600,000 people** per month. This is **more than twice the number** of clients our partner agencies reported serving pre-pandemic and is the most people GBFB has reached in our 40-year history.



GBFB Gaps in Food Access Study

GBFB conducted the first state-wide food insecurity study in Massachusetts during COVID-19, and the report, [Gaps in Food Access During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Massachusetts](#), was released on May 5th 2021. Findings showed food insecurity rates in Massachusetts had **increased 55%** from 2019 to 2020. Similar to national data, food insecurity rates in Massachusetts during the pandemic were highest among Latinx adults (58%), Black adults (45%), and adults with children (42%).

The survey revealed significant gaps in food access, with only 1 in 3 food insecure adults using a food pantry and only 1 in 2 food insecure adults enrolled in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, a federal food benefit). The most common barriers reported by adults experiencing food insecurity who did not access a food pantry during the pandemic are: self-reliance, lack of knowledge about pantry hours, stigma/embarrassment, and concern over having too many assets to be eligible.

The study was conducted in collaboration with the National Food Access and COVID Research Team and funded by the Hunger to Health Collaboratory (H2HC) and Stop & Shop, the founding member of H2HC.

“Food assistance has been enormously helpful, because one of my two part-time jobs was eliminated because of COVID. At first it felt strange to use, but it has made up the difference in my lost wages and we don’t have to compromise on what we feed our family. I’m enormously thankful.”

– Mother of four, Worcester



Quarter 3 Community Impact



Over the course of our third quarter (April-June 2021), we ensured more than **33,594 households**, comprised of 72,330 individuals, were able to receive healthy meals consistently through GBFB’s direct programs. This includes distributions at our mobile markets, school-based pantries, community health centers, and special programs serving seniors.

Maria (left) appreciates the nutritious food she receives from our partners at the YMCA Southcoast’s Full Plate Project. Jodilynn Machado (right) is the childcare director at the YMCA.

NOW MORE THAN EVER, BECOMING A PARTNER WILL HAVE AN IMMEDIATE AND LASTING IMPACT.

How you can help

- Volunteer at our facility in Boston.
- Share GBFB’s [Growing Healthy Futures](#) campaign with your networks.
- Make a [donation](#) today.

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Fuel growing minds with healthy food.

Now through September, your gift doubles!

Thank you for your commitment to our mission to end hunger here!