

CHAPTER 7

FOOD CONSUMPTION, ACCESS, AND SOURCES

Highlights: Homeless Clients¹

- In the 30 days prior to NSHAPC interview, 58 percent of homeless clients report one or more food problems, with 21 percent reporting more than three problems.
- 40 percent report they went a whole day in the last 30 days without anything at all to eat and 19 percent report this happened in the last seven days.
- Homeless clients in families are *less likely* than single homeless clients to report three or more food problems (13 versus 23 percent)
- 64 percent of those with past month alcohol, drug, or mental health problems have had food problems in the last 30 days compared to 46 percent of homeless clients without these problems.
- 83 percent of homeless clients who slept on the streets over the last week report having food problems compared to 50 percent of those who used a shelter program.
- Equal proportions of homeless clients report getting food over the last seven days from these four most common places: soup kitchens (31 percent), shelters where they live (29 percent), grocery stores (28 percent), and restaurants (27 percent). They also report non-traditional food sources such as handouts (10 percent) and trash cans (5 percent).

Highlights: Currently and Formerly Homeless Clients and Other Service Users Compared

- Currently and formerly homeless clients are equally likely to report at least one food problem in the last 30 days (58 and 53 percent, respectively). Other service users 64 and younger are less likely to do so (39 percent) and those 65 and older are the least likely of all groups to do so (18 percent).

¹ Unless noted specifically in the text, all comparisons are statistically significant at $p = .10$ or better, and all percentages presented by themselves have a 90 percent confidence interval no larger than ± 4 percentage points. A confidence interval of ± 4 percentage points means that if the reported percent is 60, 60 is the estimate of the value and the probability is 90 percent that the value falls between 56 and 64 percent. Confidence intervals greater than ± 4 percentage points will be noted in a footnote as: 90% C.I. = $\pm X$ percentage points.

- Currently homeless clients are more likely than formerly homeless clients and other service users 64 and younger to report going a whole day in the last week without food (19 percent, 12 percent, and 7 percent, respectively).

INTRODUCTION

The first, and until NSHAPC the only, study to examine food consumption and hunger issues among homeless people on a national basis was completed almost a decade ago (Burt and Cohen, 1989). It revealed significant limitations in access to food among its homeless sample, including the finding that as many as a third of the urban homeless had gone at least one whole day in the past week without eating anything. NSHAPC provides the opportunity to revisit food consumption and hunger issues of clients using 1996 NSHAPC homeless assistance programs in central cities, suburban and urban fringe areas, and rural areas, thereby extending past knowledge both to a more recent date and to more varied settings.

NSHAPC included an extensive section inquiring about clients' current food intake and other indicators of food deprivation, and sources of food. (Answers to similar questions with respect to a client's children are reported in Chapter 12.) After examining food consumption patterns, food problems, and access to food among homeless clients as a whole, this chapter looks at these same issues for specific subgroups among homeless clients, including: whether or not the client lives in a household with his or her own child(ren) under age 18; whether or not the client reports having alcohol, drug, or mental health problems in the past month; and the client's race/ethnicity. The chapter ends by comparing the situations of currently and formerly homeless clients and other service users.

HOMELESS CLIENTS

An extremely high proportion of homeless clients encounter food problems (table 7.1), and they are far more likely to encounter at least one food problem than the average American household living in poverty. This battle with hunger is not just a current problem; many homeless clients also report past difficulties in obtaining enough food. Also reported are the wide variety of sources from which homeless clients obtain food.

Overview of Food Problems and Sufficiency Levels

NSHAPC clients were asked a basic question about the sufficiency of the food they eat. Twenty-eight percent of homeless clients report that they sometimes or often do not get enough to eat. Only 39 percent get enough of the kinds of food they want to eat. Clearly, using only this traditional question without further probing produces considerably lower levels of food intake problems than the more extensive measure of food problems.

Table 7.1
Food Consumption and Hunger, by Homeless Status

	Homeless Status			Other Service Users, by Age Category	
	Currently Homeless Clients (N=2938)	Formerly Homeless Clients (N=677)	Other Service Users (N=518)	Other Service Users Under Age 65 (N=410)	Other Service Users 65 and Older (N=108)
Number of Food Problems, Past Month^a					
None	42(%)	48(%)	66(%)	60(%)	82(%)
One	20	22	21	25	10
Two	17	18	8	8	8
Three	13	8	4	5	*
Four	8	5	1	1	0
Best Description of Food Situation					
Gets enough of the kinds of food wants to eat	39	37	50	43	69
Gets enough, but not always what wants to eat	34	38	34	38	23
Sometimes not enough to eat	18	15	14	16	8
Often not enough to eat	10	10	2	3	0
Number of Times Usually Eats In a Day					
Less than one	2	1	1	1	0
One	18	16	9	11	2
Two	38	48	38	43	27
Three or more	42	36	53	45	72
Could Not Afford Enough Food, Ever	65	66	33	27	23
Not in last 30 days, but at some earlier time	26	40	22	25	16
Yes, on at least one of the last 30 days	39	26	11	12	7
One to three days	13	10	2	2	0
Four to seven days	11	8	7	7	7
Eight to fourteen days	5	3	1	2	*
Fifteen to thirty days	9	4	1	2	0
In the Last 30 Days, Went a Whole Day Without Anything at All to Eat	40	33	17	19	10
Not in last seven days but in last 30 days	21	21	11	12	8
Yes, on at least one of the last seven days	19	12	6	7	2
One to three days	16	12	5	7	2
Four or more days	3	1	1	*	0
Sources of Food in Last Seven Days					
Own house	18	52	56	50	70
Someone else's house	23	19	15	17	9
Shelter where you live (shelter provided)	29	1	0	0	0
Shelter where you live (you cooked)	8	1	0	0	0
Soup kitchen	31	35	19	23	8
Food pantry	5	10	6	8	2
Mobile food program	5	6	8	6	15
Street vendor (paid)	7	3	1	1	1
Grocery store	28	34	34	27	51
Restaurant	27	20	13	14	11
Handouts	10	3	*	1	0
Trash cans	5	*	0	0	0
Other	11	7	4	3	5

Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data. Note: Percentages do not sum to 100% or other total due to rounding. * Denotes a value that is greater than 0 but less than .5.

^aPast month problems include: 1) sometimes or often not having enough to eat, 2) eating once or less per day, 3) hungry but did not eat because could not afford enough food, and 4) went at least one whole day without anything to eat.

An index of food consumption based on clients' reported hunger and difficulties obtaining adequate food was also calculated. This five-level classification reports the percentage of homeless clients reporting none, one, two, three, or four food problems (figure 7.1). Food problems included: sometimes or often not getting enough to eat (28 percent); usually eating one meal a day or less (20 percent); being hungry in the past 30 days but not eating because one could not afford enough food (39 percent); and going a whole day without eating anything at all in the last 30 days (21 percent). On the summary measure, 42 percent of homeless clients report no food problems. By contrast, 37 percent have two or more food problems.

Food Consumption and Access

Twenty percent of homeless clients report they usually eat less than twice a day. Another 38 percent of homeless clients report eating only twice per day. In addition, 19 percent of currently homeless clients report they went at least one whole day without anything at all to eat in the last seven days (figure 7.2). Sixteen percent of currently homeless clients report they ate nothing for between one and three days in the last week and 3 percent say they went four or more days without any food.

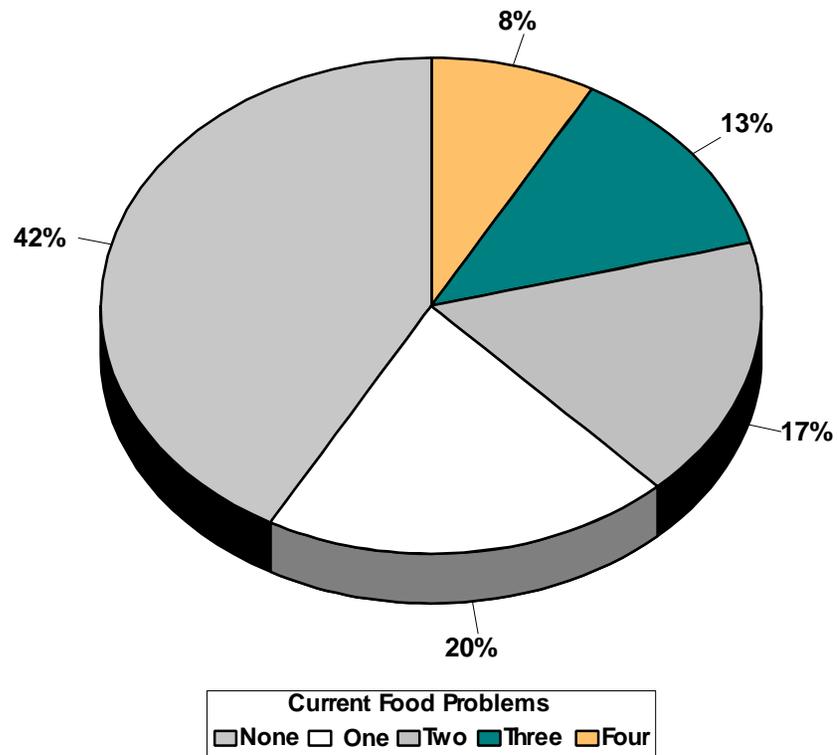
Expanding the time frame from one week to one month increases the proportion of homeless clients who report food problems (figure 7.2). Forty percent of all homeless clients report they went a whole day without anything at all to eat in the last 30 days, compared to 19 percent who say it happened in the last week. Also, 39 percent of all homeless clients report that in the last 30 days they have been hungry but did not eat because they could not afford enough to eat.

The survey also asked clients about food problems in their lifetime. Sixty-five percent of homeless clients report that in their lifetime they have been hungry but did not eat because they could not afford enough to eat.

Food Sources

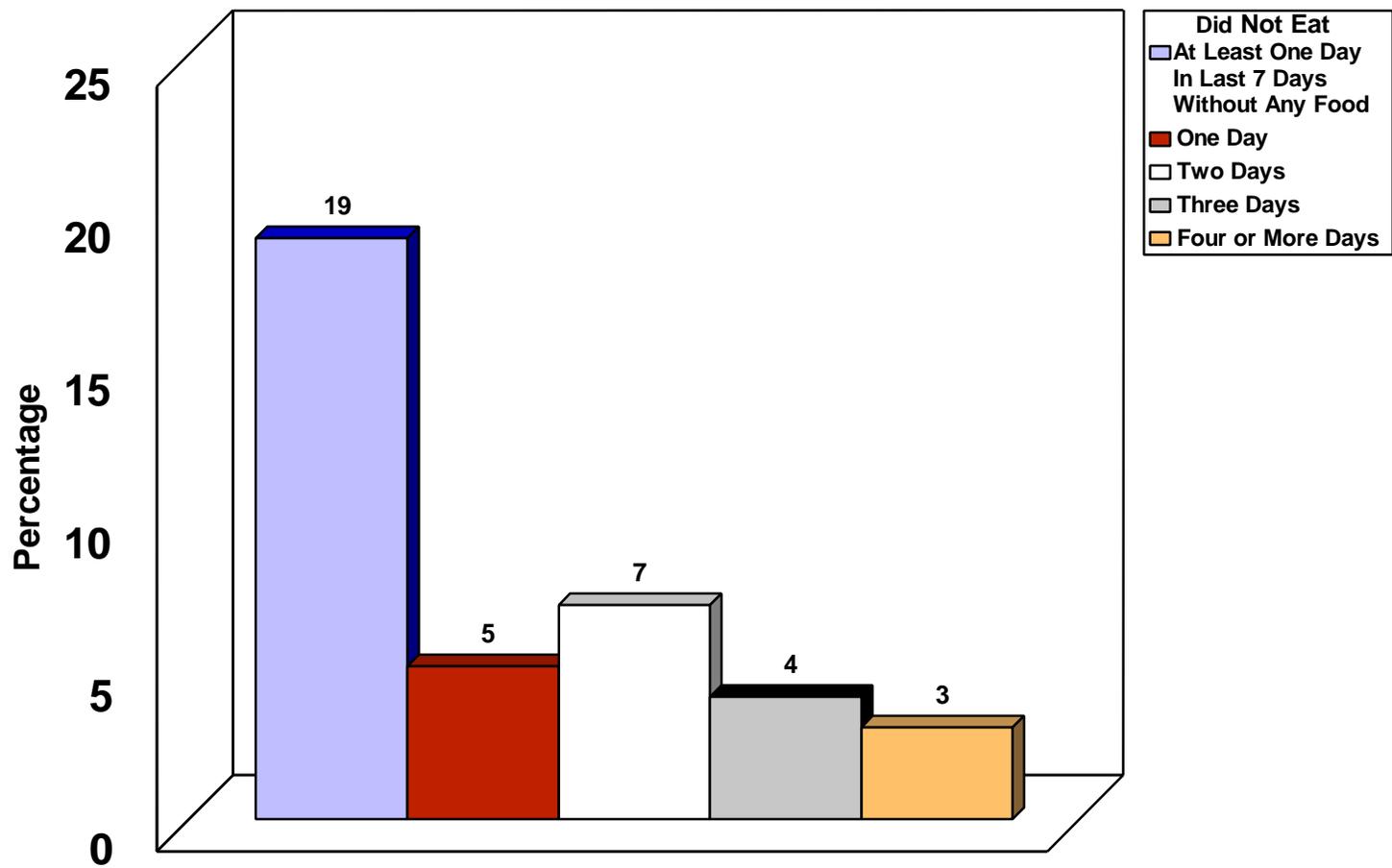
Homeless clients report getting food from many places (table 7.1). Twenty-eight percent got food from a grocery store, 27 percent received it from a restaurant, 23 percent obtained food at someone else's house, and 18 percent got food at their own house. Less conventional sources of food were also reported. Ten percent of homeless clients received food handouts and 5 percent obtained food from trash cans. In addition, clients report getting food over the last week from homeless assistance programs. Thirty-one percent of homeless got food from a soup kitchen, 29 percent from the shelter where they live (provided by the shelter), 5 percent from a food pantry, and 5 percent from a mobile food program.

Figure 7.1
Food Problems of Homeless Clients



Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data.

Figure 7.2
Homeless Client Did Not Eat For at Least One Day Out of the Last Seven



Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC Client

Differences by Family Status

The household composition of homeless clients is related to the array of food sources available to them over the last week. Homeless clients in families are more likely to obtain food (which they also cooked) from the shelter where they live, while single homeless clients are more likely to eat at a soup kitchen. Their level of access to food is aided by receipt of food stamps, which is greater among homeless clients who live with their minor children than among single homeless clients (71 versus 31 percent, as reported in Chapter 5).

Food Problems and Food Sufficiency Levels. One can see in Appendix table 7.A1 that regardless of family status, a similar proportion of homeless clients report one or more food problems (55² to 59 percent, Appendix table 7.A1).

Food Consumption and Access. In the last 30 days, homeless clients in families are far less likely than all single homeless clients to report they were hungry but did not eat because they could not afford enough food (24 percent versus 42 percent). However, this difference appears to be one of the moment. Figure 7.3 also shows no difference between homeless clients in the two family status groups in the share who report being hungry during earlier times but not eating because they could not afford enough food (29³ and 26 percent, respectively).

Food Sources. Homeless clients in families and single homeless clients report obtaining food from different sources during the seven days before the interview. Homeless clients in families are more likely than single homeless clients to report getting food from their own house (29 versus 17 percent) and the grocery store (41 versus 25 percent). By contrast, single homeless clients are far more likely to report obtaining food from a soup kitchen (35 versus 11 percent) or a restaurant (29 versus 13 percent).

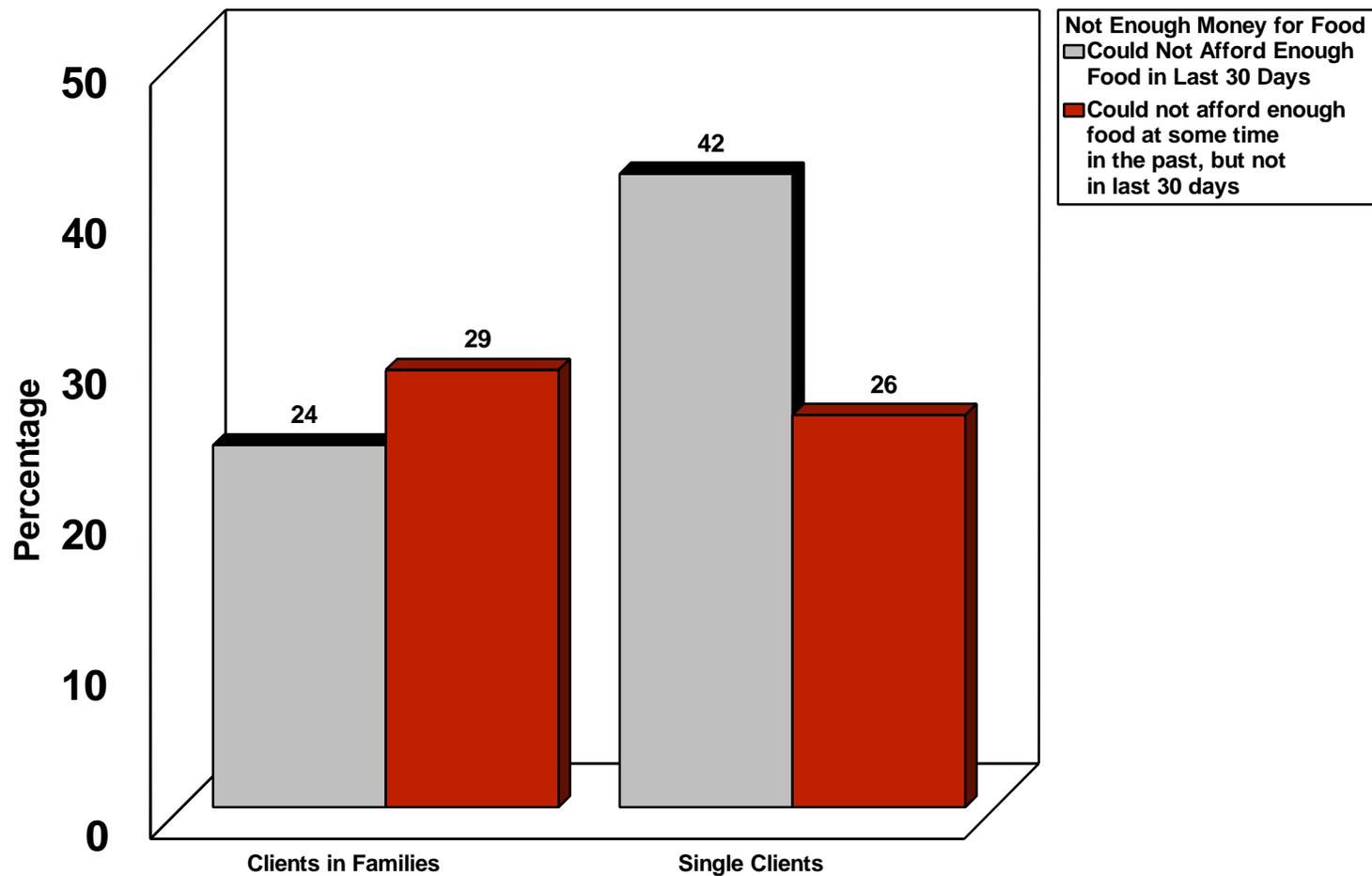
The share of clients obtaining food at the shelter where they live is about the same across the two family status groups (38⁴ percent of homeless clients in families and 36 percent of single homeless clients). However, homeless clients in families are more likely than single homeless clients to report that they got food that they cooked at the shelter (17 percent versus 6 percent) and less likely to report obtaining food prepared by the shelter in which they reside (21 percent versus 30 percent).

² 90% C.I.= ± 8 percentage points.

³ 90% C.I.= ± 7 percentage points.

⁴ 90% C.I.= ± 8 percentage points.

Figure 7.3
Homeless Client Could Not Afford Enough Food, by Family Status



Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC Client

Differences by Alcohol, Drug, or Mental Health Problems in the Past Month

Relative to homeless clients not experiencing mental health problems, a higher proportion of homeless clients with such difficulties report food problems. This is true for both past month and lifetime measures. In addition, the presence of current alcohol, drug, or mental health (ADM) problems affects the array of food sources used by homeless clients. Homeless clients with such problems are far more likely than homeless clients without ADM problems to report obtaining food from non-traditional food sources such as trash cans or handouts.

Food Problems and Food Sufficiency Levels. Clients with ADM problems in the past month are more likely to experience current food problems and food insufficiency compared to homeless clients without these problems. Sixty-four percent of homeless clients with past month ADM problems have one or more current food problems compared to 46 percent of homeless clients without ADM problems (figure 7.4). In addition, 33 percent of homeless clients with past month ADM problems report not getting enough food to eat “sometimes or often,” compared to 18 percent of those without ADM problems.

Food Consumption and Access. Besides having higher numbers of current food problems, a larger proportion of homeless clients with ADM problems than those without them have encountered food problems in their lifetime. Seventy-four percent of homeless clients with past month ADM problems report being hungry at some point in their life but not having enough money to buy food, compared to 49 percent of clients without ADM problems.

Food Sources. There are also differences in where a client got food over the last seven days by the presence or absence of an ADM problem. Homeless clients without ADM problems are more likely than currently homeless clients with these problems to have eaten food in their own house (27 percent versus 14 percent). By contrast, 7 percent of homeless clients with such problems report getting food from trash cans compared to 1 percent of clients without such problems.

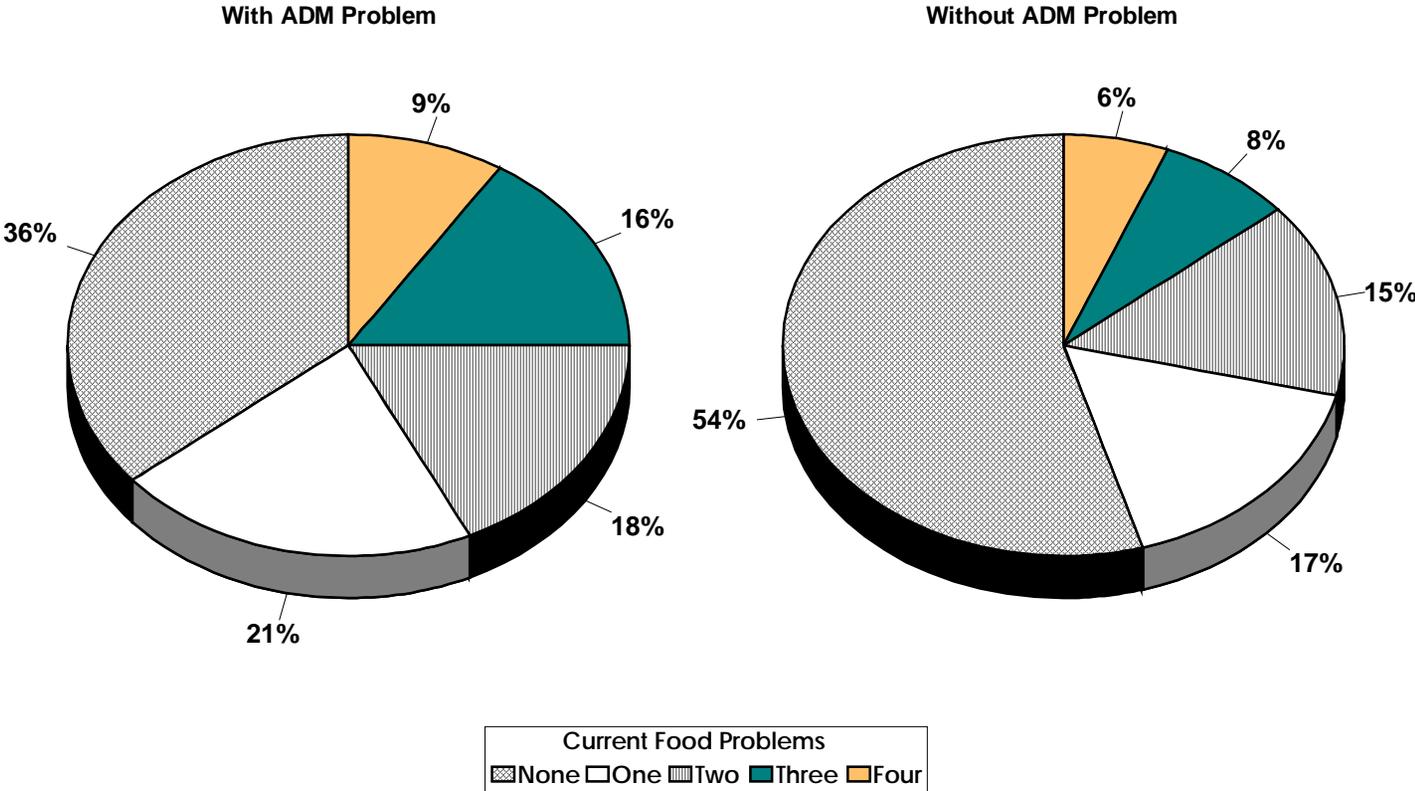
Differences by Race/Ethnicity

As with many other subjects explored by NSHAPC, food consumption, food problems, and food sources vary by the race and ethnicity of homeless clients.

Food Problems and Food Sufficiency Levels. All currently homeless clients, regardless of their race/ethnicity, have similar numbers of food problems. Sixty-eight⁵ percent of homeless

⁵ 90% C.I.= ± 9 percentage points.

Figure 7.4
Food Problems of Homeless Clients, by ADM Status



Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data.

Hispanic clients, 56⁶ percent of homeless Native American clients, 59⁷ percent of homeless black clients, and 54⁸ percent of white homeless clients report moderate or severe food problems. Also, while a similar proportion of each homeless race/ethnic group reports not getting enough to eat “sometimes or often,” Native American homeless clients are far more likely than white and black non-Hispanic homeless clients to report that this food insufficiency happens “often” (22 percent compared to 6 and 11 percent, respectively).

Food Consumption and Access. Black and Hispanic homeless clients are more likely than whites to report going a whole day without food in the last 30 days but not the last seven days (24 and 29 percent compared to 18 percent).

Food Sources. Differences also exist in where a homeless client got food over the last seven days depending on his/her race/ethnicity. Thirty-one percent of homeless Native Americans received food over the last seven days from their own house, compared to 14 percent of black non-Hispanic and Hispanic homeless clients. Native Americans were also less likely than other homeless clients to have obtained food from a grocery store (15 percent), whereas Hispanic homeless clients were far more likely than other homeless clients to report a grocery store as a food source (43 percent).

Differences by Program Use Pattern

Many homeless assistance programs offer food to their clients in an effort to decrease the incidence of food problems and hunger. Consequently, it is important to understand how program use affects homeless clients’ food consumption, hunger, and food sources.

The survey provides the opportunity to understand how clients who use different types of homeless assistance programs may differ in the extent to which their nutritional needs are being met. This is important for several reasons. First, when studies look only at clients in shelters, they may be getting a biased picture of who homeless people are. Learning what the differences are between clients who use the most common types of homeless assistance programs, shelters and soup kitchens, can help policy makers plan programs and devise ways to reach particular segments of homeless clients at any given time. The analysis to follow examines the food problems and food sources of four groups of homeless clients (note that these are not mutually exclusive groups): homeless clients who reported staying in places not meant for human habitation (e.g., on a street, in an abandoned building, in a vehicle, etc.), those staying in emergency or transitional shelters, those using soup kitchens, and clients using other homeless

⁶ 90% C.I.= ± 11 percentage points.

⁷ 90% C.I.= ± 5 percentage points.

⁸ 90% C.I.= ± 5 percentage points.

assistance programs. The groups were identified based on where they had stayed or programs used during the seven days preceding the NSHAPC interview, on the actual day of the interview, or the program where they were identified for interview by NSHAPC (Appendix table 7.A2).

Food Problems and Food Sufficiency Levels. The level of food problems varies considerably by a homeless client's program use pattern. Eighty-four percent of homeless clients who report sleeping on the streets, 74 percent of homeless clients who used a soup kitchen, 65 percent of other program users and only 50 percent of those who used a shelter program over the past week report having food problems (figure 7.5). Also, homeless clients who used a shelter program over the last week are far less likely to report 3 or more food problems than are homeless clients who slept on the streets, used a soup kitchen, or used other types of programs (13 percent, 44 percent, 44 percent, and 25 percent, respectively).

Food Sources. Homeless clients' food sources over the last seven days vary by program use pattern. If the receipt of food from handouts by homeless clients is examined, this variation becomes quite apparent. Twenty-five percent of homeless clients who stayed on the street, 15 percent of homeless clients who used a soup kitchen, and 5 percent of homeless clients who used a shelter program report receiving food in the form of handouts in the last week. Almost two-fifths of homeless clients using shelters in the last week report receiving ready-to-eat food from the shelter where they live. Ten percent of homeless clients who used a shelter in the past week received food that they cooked from a shelter. These relatively high percentages illustrate the additional services shelter programs provide their client population and how they have decreased food problems among clients.

CURRENTLY AND FORMERLY HOMELESS CLIENTS AND OTHER SERVICE USERS COMPARED

One can also see large differences in food consumption, number of food problems, and food sources by homeless status (table 7.1).⁹

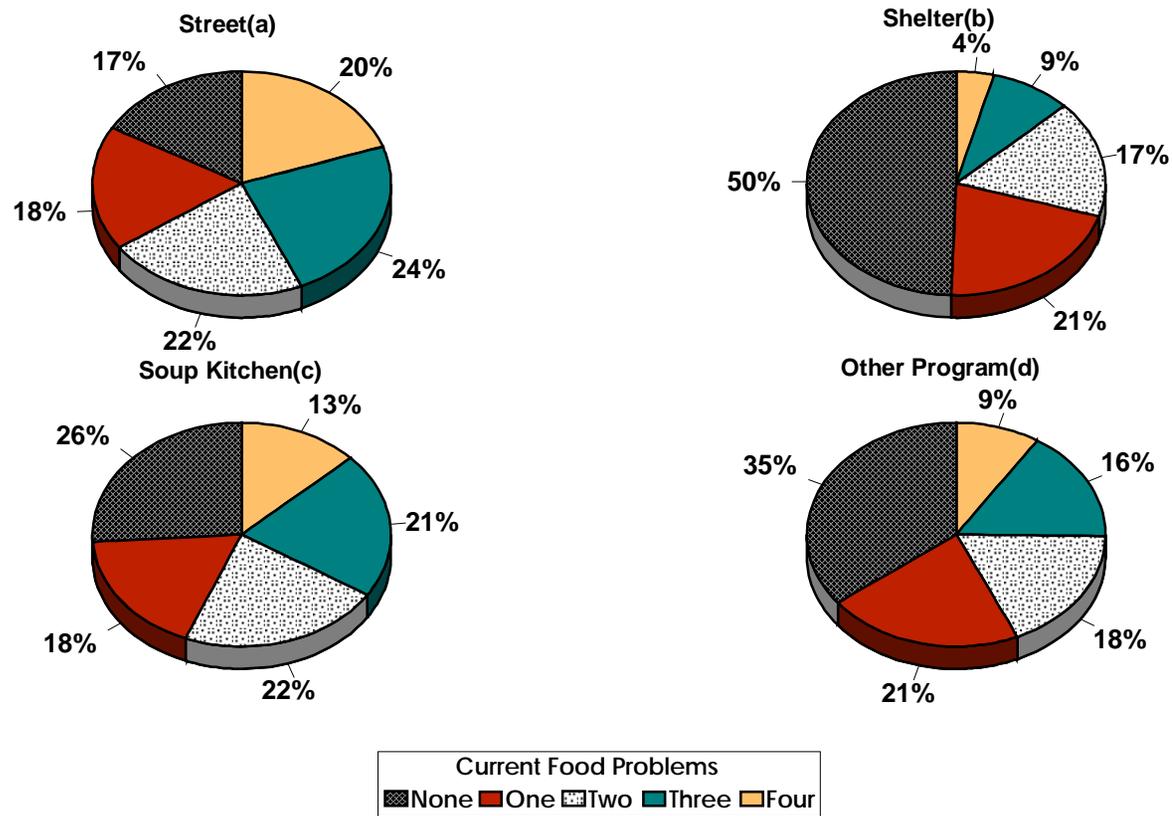
Food Problems and Food Sufficiency Levels

Currently and formerly homeless clients are more likely to encounter food problems than other service users. Fifty-eight percent of currently homeless and 53 percent of formerly homeless clients report one or more food problems in the last 30 days, compared to 39 percent of other service users under 65 and 18 percent of other service users 65 and older (although this is still high—figure 7.6). Additionally, twenty-one percent of currently homeless and 13 percent of formerly homeless clients report three or more food problems. By contrast, only 6 percent of

⁹ See page 2-6 for the reasons why the group of other service users is split into two groups by age for textual discussions.

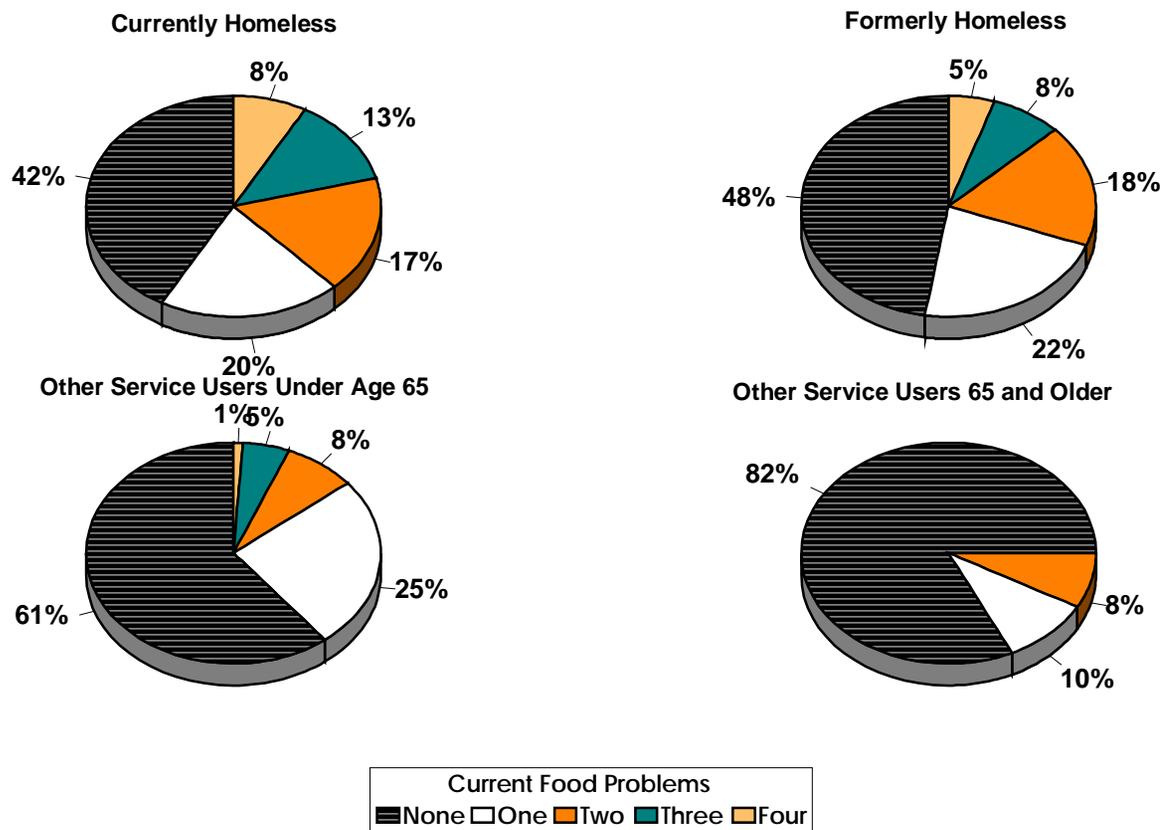
Figure 7.5

Food Problems of Homeless Clients, by Program Use Over the Past Week



Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data. Note: Numbers may not sum to 100% due to rounding. (a) This includes clients who reported staying in the streets on the day of the NSHAPC interview or during the seven days prior to the interview. (b) This includes clients who reported staying in a shelter on the day of the NSHAPC interview or during the seven days prior to the interview, or respondents who were found and interviewed at a shelter NSHAPC program type. (c) This includes clients who reported using a soup kitchen during the seven days prior to the interview, or respondents who were found and interviewed at a soup kitchen NSHAPC program type. (d) This includes clients who reported using an other program (food pantry, mobile food, outreach, drop-in center and/or permanent housing) during the seven days prior to the interview, or respondents who were found and interviewed at an other NSHAPC program type.

Figure 7.6
Food Problems, by Homeless Status



Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data. Note: Numbers may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

other service users under 65 and less than 1 percent of other service users 65 and older report encountering three or more food problems.

Currently and formerly homeless clients are more likely than other service users to report food insufficiency, defined as sometimes or often not getting enough to eat. Twenty-eight percent of currently and 25 percent of formerly homeless clients report food insufficiency, compared to 19 percent of other service users under 65 and 8 percent of other service users 65 and older.

Food Consumption and Access

Twelve to 20 percent of currently and formerly homeless clients and other service users under 65 report eating fewer than two meals a day, compared to only 2 percent of other services users 65 and older.

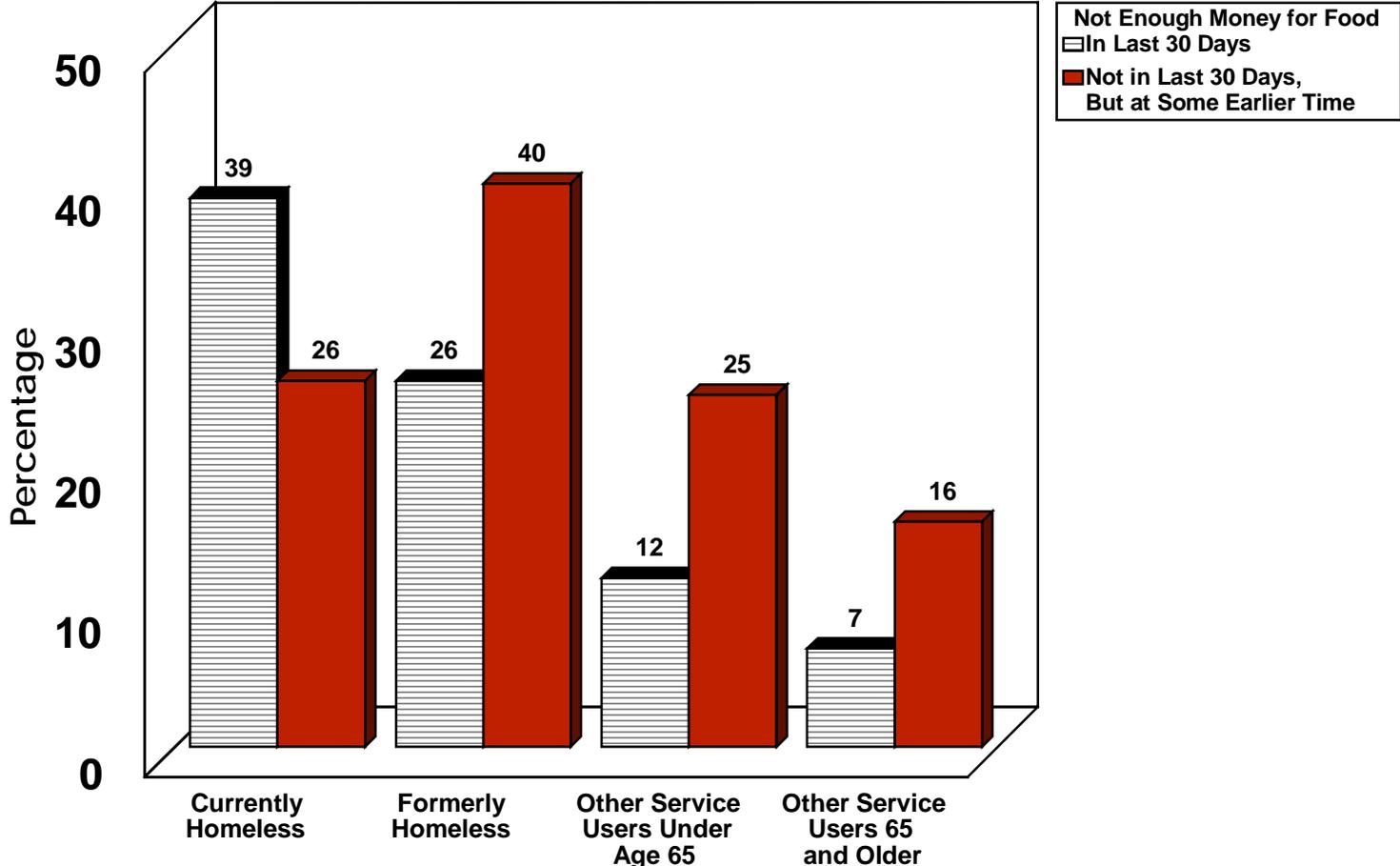
Differences also exist between currently and formerly homeless clients' current and past ability to afford food when they were hungry. Currently homeless clients are more likely to report high levels of food problems in the present, whereas formerly homeless clients are more likely to report severe problems in the past. For example, figure 7.7 shows that 39 percent of currently homeless say that in the last 30 days they were hungry but not able to eat because they could not afford enough food. An additional 26 percent of currently homeless clients report having this experience earlier in their lives but not in the last 30 days. By contrast, only 26 percent of formerly homeless clients' difficulties in obtaining enough food occurred over the last 30 days, while 40 percent have faced this situation more than 30 days ago. For other service users, the occurrence of this problem is quite low. Twelve percent of other service users under 65 and 7 percent of other service users 65 and older have not been able to afford food in the last 30 days, while 25 and 16 percent of these two groups have encountered this problem more than 30 days ago.

These differences in the ability of currently and formerly homeless clients and other service users to afford food are also apparent when looking at how often in the past week they have gone a whole day without eating. Nineteen percent of currently homeless clients report a whole day in the last week without food, compared to 12 percent of formerly homeless clients. However, only 6 percent of other service users under 65, and 2 percent of other services users 65 and older report going a whole day without food in the last week.

Food Sources

As one would expect, clients' homeless status is related to their food sources. Only 18 percent of currently homeless clients obtained food from their own house over the last seven days, compared to 50 to 70 percent of other clients. By contrast, 10 percent of currently homeless

Figure 7.7
Client Could Not Afford Enough Food, by Homeless Status



Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC Client Data.

clients obtained food in the form of handouts, compared to 3 percent of formerly homeless and 0 to 1 percent of other service users.

Soup kitchens are an important source of food for currently and formerly homeless clients. Similar proportions of currently (31 percent) and formerly homeless clients (35 percent) ate in a soup kitchen over the last seven days. Only 23 percent of other service users 64 and younger and 8 percent of other service users 65 and older report using a soup kitchen over the same time period. Additionally, 29 percent of currently homeless clients report receiving cooked or prepared food over the last week from the shelter where they live, compared to 1 percent of formerly homeless clients and no other service users. This pattern indicates that currently homeless clients do not need to rely on soup kitchens as much as do formerly homeless clients, because they have an alternative source (if they stay at a shelter) that is not available to formerly homeless clients.

Appendix Table 7.A1
Food Consumption and Hunger Among Homeless Clients, by Standard Groupings

	All Homeless Clients (N=2938)	Family Status		ADM, Past Month [ⓐ]		Race/Ethnicity				
		Clients in Families (N=465)	Single Clients (N=2473)	With ADM (N=1826)	Without ADM (N=1112)	White Non-Hispanic (N=1176)	Black Non-Hispanic (N=1275)	Hispanic (N=335)	Native American (N=106)	
Number of Food Problems, Past Month*										
None	42(%)	46(%)	41(%)	36(%)	55(%)	46(%)	41(%)	32(%)	44(%)	
One	20	24	19	21	17	18	20	20	27	
Two	17	18	17	18	15	16	17	30	4	
Three	13	8	14	16	8	13	15	10	14	
Four	8	5	9	9	6	8	7	8	12	
Best Description of Food Situation										
Gets enough of the kinds of food wants to eat	39	45	38	34	48	39	36	32	63	
Gets enough, but not always what wants to eat	34	33	34	34	34	35	36	39	10	
Sometimes not enough to eat	18	17	18	21	12	20	18	18	5	
Often not enough to eat	10	5	11	12	6	6	11	12	22	
Number of Times Usually Eats In a Day										
Less than one	2	*	2	2	1	1	2	0	7	
One	18	17	19	20	14	20	18	20	10	
Two	38	33	39	39	36	38	40	43	24	
Three or more	42	50	40	38	48	42	39	38	60	
Could Not Afford Enough Food, Ever										
Not in last 30 days, but at some earlier time	65	53	68	74	49	65	66	70	58	
Yes, on at least one of the last 30 days	26	29	26	29	20	30	27	21	12	
One to three days	39	24	42	43	28	35	39	49	46	
Four to seven days	13	12	14	14	12	11	15	12	19	
Eight to fourteen days	11	6	11	11	11	11	7	25	2	
Fifteen to thirty days	5	2	6	6	3	7	3	5	8	
	9	2	10	13	2	5	13	6	15	
In the Last 30 Days, Went a Whole Day Without Anything at All to Eat										
Not in last seven days but in last 30 days	40	40	40	44	31	37	41	45	36	
Yes, on at least one of the last seven days	21	25	21	22	19	18	24	29	12	
One to three days	19	15	19	22	12	19	17	16	24	
Four or more days	16	15	16	19	10	15	16	14	17	
	3	0	3	3	2	4	1	2	7	
Sources of Food in Last Seven Days										
Own house	18	29	17	14	27	22	14	14	31	
Someone else's house	23	22	23	25	19	19	25	32	25	
Shelter where you live (shelter provided)	29	21	30	29	28	30	28	25	34	
Shelter where you live (you cooked)	8	17	6	8	8	8	8	8	6	
Soup kitchen	31	11	35	31	31	30	30	26	50	
Food pantry	5	9	4	4	6	4	5	8	4	
Mobile food program	5	1	6	5	5	4	5	8	4	
Street vendor (paid)	7	1	8	8	4	7	6	15	2	
Grocery store	28	41	25	27	29	28	25	43	15	
Restaurant	27	13	29	26	28	26	30	22	18	
Handouts	10	5	11	12	5	9	11	9	8	
Trash cans	5	0	6	7	1	5	4	5	11	
Other	11	5	12	13	7	12	11	11	7	

Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data. Note: Percentages do not sum to 100% or other total due to rounding.

* Denotes a value that is greater than 0 but less than .5. [ⓐ]Past month problems include: 1) sometimes or often not having enough to eat, 2) eating once or less per day, 3) hungry but did not eat because could not afford enough food, and 4) went at least one whole day without anything to eat.

[ⓐ]ADM = Alcohol, drug, or mental health problem in the past month.

Appendix Table 7.A2
Overview of Food Consumption and Hunger Among Homeless Clients, by Program Use

	All Homeless Clients (N=2938)	Program Use Pattern Over the Past Week and Day of Interview			
		Street ^a (N=768)	Shelter ^b (N=2352)	Soup Kitchen ^c (N=1727)	Other Program ^d (N=909)
Number of Current Food Problems^e					
None	42(%)	17(%)	50(%)	26(%)	35(%)
One	20	18	21	18	21
Two	17	22	17	22	18
Three	13	24	9	21	16
Four	8	20	4	13	9
Sources of Food in Last Seven Days					
Shelter where you live (shelter provided)	29	15	38	23	18
Shelter where you live (you cooked)	8	1	10	2	4
Handouts	10	25	5	15	17
Trash cans	5	14	2	4	12
Other	11	18	10	14	11

Source: Urban Institute analysis of weighted 1996 NSHAPC client data. Note: Percentages do not sum to 100% due to rounding. ^aThis includes clients who reported staying in the streets or other places not meant for human habitation (e.g., abandoned buildings, vehicles) on the day of the NSHAPC interview or during the seven days prior to the interview. ^bThis includes clients who reported staying in an emergency shelter, transitional housing program or voucher program on the day of the NSHAPC interview or during the seven days prior to the interview, or clients who were selected for the study at one of these programs. ^cThis includes clients who reported using a soup kitchen during the seven days prior to the interview, or clients who were found and interviewed for NSHAPC at a soup kitchen. ^dThis includes clients who reported using an other program (food pantry, mobile food, outreach, drop-in center and/or permanent housing) during the seven days prior to the interview, or clients who were found and interviewed for NSHAPC at one of these programs. ^eProblems include: 1) sometimes or often not having enough to eat, 2) eating once or less per day, 3) in the last 30 days respondent was hungry but did not eat because could not afford enough food, and 4) in the last 30 days respondent went at least one whole day without anything to eat.