

STUDY ON  
***Collegiate Financial Wellness***

Cerro Coso College

**Food Security on Campus**



**THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION  
AND HUMAN ECOLOGY

## INTRODUCTION

As part of the Study on Collegiate Financial Wellness (SCFW), institutions could choose to participate in an optional module about food security on their campus. The SCFW food security module measures food security using the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Household Food Security six-item short form and one question developed by the Center for the Study of Student Life at The Ohio State University. This descriptive report details student responses to seven questions about their experiences around food security. The survey module was administered online during Spring 2017 to random samples of undergraduate students from 47 institutions that chose to participate in this module. This is not nationally representative data. More information on the study is available at [cfw.osu.edu](http://cfw.osu.edu) or by emailing the SCFW team at [scfw@osu.edu](mailto:scfw@osu.edu).

## PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

Forty-seven institutions participated in the module. The frequencies are presented for each institution type that participated in the optional food security module.

Institution Type	Number of Institutions Participating in Module	% of Total Food Security Sample
4-year public	25	53.2%
4-year private	3	6.4%
2-year	19	40.4%

## FOOD SECURITY STATUS

A measure of 'students' food security status' appears as the last item of the report and is calculated according to USDA guidelines. There are three categories for food security status: high or marginal food security, low food security, and very low food security. Details about this measurement can be found in Footnote 3.

Please note when reading and using results in the report:

- This is not nationally representative data and only includes descriptive statistics. Use caution in making comparisons and generalizations from the data
- Not every respondent responded to each question. Respondents were free to skip questions that they did not wish to answer.
- The survey included routing whereby not every respondent had the opportunity to answer every question; the routing is described in footnotes.
- *Your institution's data are excluded from the column presenting composite data for your institution type.*

## FOOD SECURITY ON CAMPUS

	Your Institution		2 Year Institutions		4 Year Public Institutions		4 Year Private Institutions	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
<b>1. I worried whether my food would run out before I got money to buy more.</b>								
Never true	41.3%	38	47.4%	2069	62.8%	7327	50.9%	873
Sometimes true	37.0%	34	31.4%	1373	25.2%	2942	29.3%	502
Often true	21.7%	20	18.1%	792	11.0%	1284	18.6%	320
Don't know/Prefer not to answer	0.0%	0	3.1%	135	1.0%	114	1.2%	21
Total Responses	100.0%	92	100.0%	4369	100.0%	11667	100.0%	1716
<b>2. The food that I bought just didn't last, and I didn't have money to get more.<sup>1</sup></b>								
Never true	53.3%	49	57.1%	2490	72.3%	8427	61.7%	1056
Sometimes true	30.4%	28	27.0%	1176	19.7%	2292	25.5%	436
Often true	15.2%	14	12.4%	539	6.9%	806	11.6%	199
Don't know/Prefer not to answer	1.1%	1	3.6%	155	1.1%	126	1.2%	20
Total Responses	100.0%	92	100.0%	4360	100.0%	11651	100.0%	1711
<b>3. I couldn't afford to eat balanced meals.<sup>1</sup></b>								
Never true	45.7%	42	47.1%	2052	60.8%	7084	48.4%	829
Sometimes true	34.8%	32	27.7%	1206	22.6%	2635	26.8%	459
Often true	18.5%	17	21.7%	944	15.4%	1791	23.2%	397
Don't know/Prefer not to answer	1.1%	1	3.5%	154	1.2%	145	1.6%	27
Total Responses	100.0%	92	100.0%	4356	100.0%	11655	100.0%	1712
<b>4. In the last 12 months, did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?<sup>1</sup></b>								
Yes	43.5%	40	39.8%	1744	32.5%	3795	45.1%	775
No	46.7%	43	52.7%	2307	63.7%	7437	50.7%	870
Don't know/Prefer not to answer	9.8%	9	7.4%	326	3.8%	438	4.2%	72
Total Responses	100.0%	92	100.0%	4377	100.0%	11670	100.0%	1717
<b>5. How often did this happen?<sup>1,2</sup></b>								
Almost every month	35.9%	14	34.9%	606	27.2%	1030	34.5%	267
Some months but not every month	43.6%	17	39.2%	681	37.4%	1415	38.6%	299
Only 1 or 2 months	10.3%	4	18.5%	321	28.3%	1070	20.8%	161
Don't know	10.3%	4	7.5%	130	7.2%	272	6.1%	47
Total Responses	100.0%	39	100.0%	1738	100.0%	3787	100.0%	774

<sup>1</sup> This question is part of the USDA U.S. Household Food Security Module six-item short form.

<sup>2</sup> Only students who answered 'Yes' to Question 4 saw this question.

	Your Institution		2 Year Institutions		4 Year Public Institutions		4 Year Private Institutions	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
<b>6. In the last 12 months, did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money for food?<sup>1</sup></b>								
Yes	37.0%	34	38.4%	1680	30.0%	3500	42.6%	731
No	52.2%	48	54.8%	2395	66.1%	7700	53.1%	912
Don't know/Prefer not to answer	10.9%	10	6.8%	295	3.9%	455	4.3%	73
Total Responses	100.0%	92	100.0%	4370	100.0%	11655	100.0%	1716
<b>7. In the last 12 months, were you ever hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food?<sup>1</sup></b>								
Yes	35.9%	33	32.2%	1408	24.0%	2796	34.3%	588
No	55.4%	51	60.9%	2660	72.4%	8436	61.2%	1050
Don't know/Prefer not to answer	8.7%	8	6.9%	302	3.6%	424	4.5%	78
Total Responses	100.0%	92	100.0%	4370	100.0%	11656	100.0%	1716
<b>Food security status<sup>3,4</sup></b>								
High or marginal food security	48.9%	45	50.7%	2206	62.4%	7275	49.1%	838
Low food security	18.5%	17	22.0%	956	18.8%	2188	21.7%	370
Very low food security	32.6%	30	27.3%	1188	18.8%	2198	29.3%	500
Total Responses	100.0%	92	100.0%	4350	100.0%	11661	100.0%	1708

<sup>3</sup>The food security status measure was created from a combined index based on guidelines from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). To determine food security status, respondents are first given a raw score from 0-6 based on how many questions to which they responded yes, or in the affirmative that they had that particular experience. Specifically, responses of "often" or "sometimes" on questions 2 and 3, and "yes" on questions 4, 6, and 7 are coded as affirmative and respondents receive a 1 for each affirmative response. Responses of "almost every month" and "some months but not every month" on question 5 are coded as affirmative and respondents receive a 1 for each affirmative response. The sum of affirmative (yes) responses to the six questions in the module is the household's raw score on the scale. A raw score of 0-1 is high or marginal food security. A raw score of 2-4 is low food security. A raw score of 5-6 is very low food security. Respondents in the low and very low food security categories are sometimes combined together and referred to as food insecure, though that is not done in this report. (Information from Economic Research Service of the USDA, which can be found here: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/media/8282/short2012.pdf>)

<sup>4</sup> Respondents who answered at least one question in the food security module are included in the food security status categories.