Emergency Food User Profile

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Objectives

Building on previous research into emergency food services in Guelph-Wellington, this project focused on the experiences of service users. One objective was to collect demographic information in order to better understand who is using emergency food services in Guelph-Wellington. A second objective was to gain a deeper understanding of service users’ experiences, including suggestions for how emergency food provision in the community could be improved.

Methods

1) A survey tool that provided primarily quantitative data about emergency food service users in Guelph-Wellington, and their experiences accessing emergency food

2) Focus groups with emergency food service users in Guelph-Wellington that provided qualitative information to complement the survey data and probed deeper into the experiences of emergency food service users

Currently, the research team is analyzing data from 80 surveys and 2 focus groups and drafting a report based on the findings. This report will eventually be presented to the Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination and will contribute to ongoing efforts to improve emergency food service in our community.

Survey Population

Figure 1: How were surveys conducted? In total, 80 surveys were completed by emergency food service users from the city of Guelph and Wellington County. Of these, 71 surveys (89.75%) were completed using in-person recruitment at various emergency food service centres and social service centres in Guelph and Wellington County. The remaining 9 surveys (11.25%) were completed utilizing an online version of the same survey.

Figure 2: Where do participants live? 76% of respondents identified that they reside in Guelph, and 24% in Wellington County.

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