



MONITORING POVERTY AND WELL-BEING IN NYC

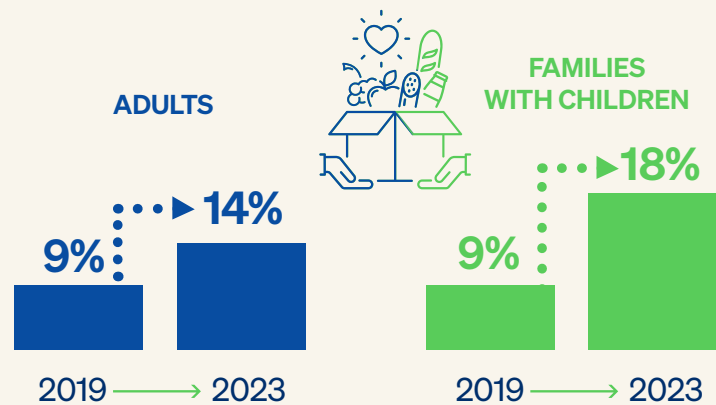
Spotlight on
**FOOD ASSISTANCE
FROM NEW YORK CITY'S
PANTRY SYSTEM**

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KEY FINDINGS

Annual statistics show that pantry use remains much more common than it was prior to the pandemic: **14% of adults and 18% of families with children reported using pantries in 2023, compared to 9% for each in 2019.**



Over a three-year period, an even larger share of New Yorkers relies on food pantries to meet their needs at some point, and these rates also remain higher than they were prior to the pandemic.

→ Before the pandemic, **1 in 5** (20%) adults and **1 in 4** (24%) families with children in New York City used a food pantry at least once in a typical three-year period.

→ These rates have increased since COVID-19's onset: nearly **1 in 3** (31%) adults and **2 in 5** (40%) families with children reported using a pantry at least once across a 3-year period.



1 in 4 families with children



2 in 5 families with children

Since the pandemic's onset, pantries served a large fraction of the city's population, and the population was quite diverse in its experiences:

→ Financial shocks were common among pantry users. Nearly **3 in 4** (72%) pantry users reported experiencing a financial shock in the period since the start of the pandemic.

→ Nearly **half of all pantry users** (48%) were dealing with a serious health problem.

→ **2 in 3 (67%)** New Yorkers who used pantries since 2020 were also working, and the majority of those working did so in all three years.

→ Not all pantry users benefited from government food assistance like SNAP. Since 2020, **less than half of pantry users reported receiving SNAP (44%).**

The share of New Yorkers utilizing pantries has grown and broadened since the beginning of 2020: on average, those using food pantries are more engaged in the labor market, healthier, and less likely to be connected to SNAP benefits than prior to the pandemic. This does not necessarily reflect an improvement in health and labor conditions citywide, but rather signals that, since 2020, a wider set of New Yorkers have been relying on the pantry system.

INTRODUCTION

Every year ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday, Robin Hood and researchers at Columbia University’s School of Social Work publish a spotlight on food assistance and food hardship in New York City. While many may take for granted access to healthy, nutritious food throughout the year and during the holidays, this is not a reality for many New Yorkers. The price of groceries has shot up in recent years, making it a lot more difficult for many New Yorkers to afford food. And as the COVID-19 pandemic receded, so did many of the policy supports that reduced poverty and material hardship in the city. Thankfully, New York City has a robust network of food providers that aim to make access to food easier for those who are struggling.

In 2023, nearly 230 million pounds of food were distributed across New York City’s five boroughs, according to City Harvest, based on data from FeedNYC.¹ For some, a one-time visit was all that was needed. For others, however, the need for food assistance was more persistent. Emergency food providers across the city know that the population they serve is not monolithic – it’s a diverse population with diverse needs, with some needing regular assistance and others needing it more sporadically. This report uses Poverty Tracker data to provide a portrait of New Yorkers who access the city’s strong network of food pantries and free food assistance – including both those who utilize these services frequently and those who do so less frequently. We also show how this profile has changed since the onset of the pandemic. We supplement some of our results with data provided to us by City Harvest, one of the major providers of free food in the city, who shared insights with us from ongoing surveys of community members who visit their partner food pantries and direct food distributions, or participate in other programming. Our hope is that a more in-depth understanding of this broader population will provide important insights about the diverse ways in which New Yorkers engage with and are supported by the city’s food pantries.

¹ FeedNYC is an alliance of government and not-for-profit organizations committed to alleviating hunger among New York City residents by supporting NYC’s network of Emergency Food Programs.

About the Poverty Tracker

Launched in 2012, the Poverty Tracker surveys a representative sample of New Yorkers several times a year, providing critical information on the dynamics of poverty and other forms of disadvantage in the city. Unlike other surveys, the Poverty Tracker explores how New Yorkers experience poverty and material hardship over time, rather than in a single day, month, or year. In addition, the Poverty Tracker focuses on more than just income poverty; we also collect data on other core measures of disadvantage, such as material hardships and health problems. We use these alternative measures to understand how certain disadvantages, or multiple, overlapping disadvantages, make it harder for New Yorkers to survive. The Poverty Tracker also collects data on other aspects related to New Yorkers' well-being, from asset and debt accumulation, to social service program utilization, to spending and consumption patterns, in order to form a better understanding of how New Yorkers make decisions about their own lives.

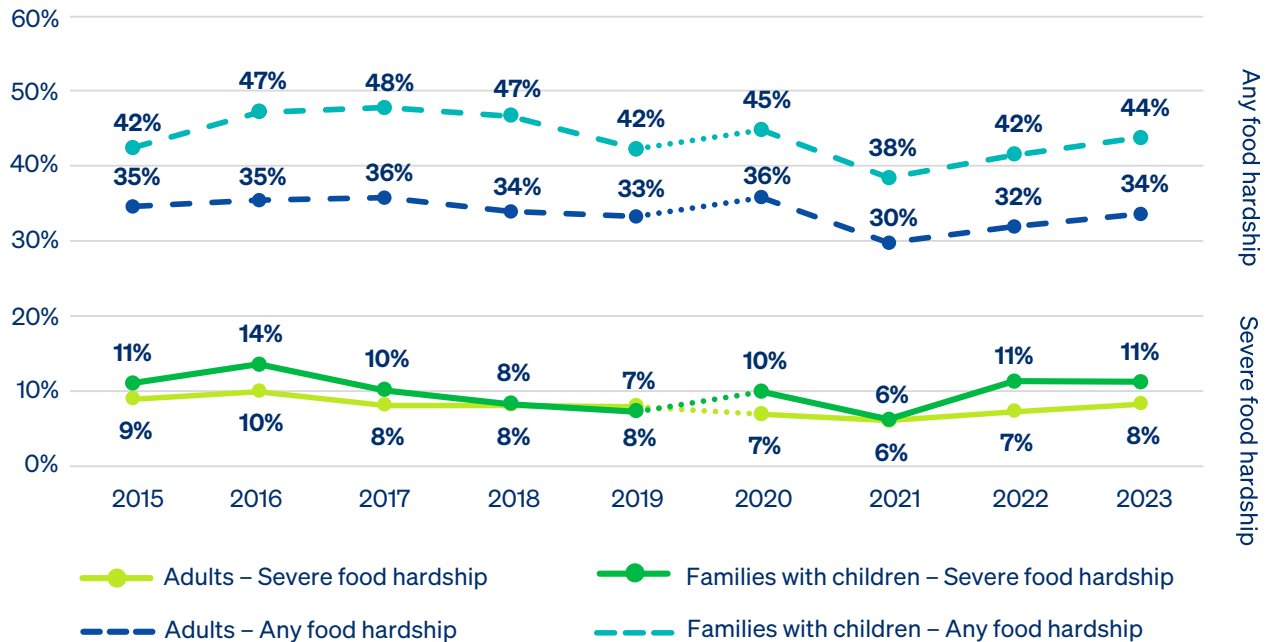
Recent Trends in Food Hardship and Food Pantry Use

Before examining the profile of pantry users in the city, we first provide an update on the state of food hardship and pantry use in the city in 2023, our most recent year of survey data. **In 2023, nearly 1 in 10 adult New Yorkers and more than 1 in 10 families with children experienced severe food hardship.**² This translates to more than 500,000 adults and nearly 90,000 families with children facing these severe forms of food hardship. Here, severe food hardship is defined as often running out of food or worrying food will run out before having money to buy more. Rates of severe food hardship have remained relatively consistent over the years, although there has been a slight uptick in the years since the height of the pandemic (see Figure 1). In nearly all years, families with children have also experienced higher rates of severe food hardship than the overall adult population. Figure 1 also shows the corresponding rates of any food hardship, defined as sometimes or often running out of food or worrying food will run out before having money to buy more. About 1 in 3 adult New Yorkers and nearly half of families with children reported at least some hardship, with these rates drifting upward since 2021. Our data shows that while the pandemic may have receded, New Yorkers are still struggling to afford food.

²The Poverty Tracker uses the American Community Survey (ACS) to produce weights which aim to make the study's sample representative of the New York City adult population. The data from the 2023 ACS needed to produce these weights are not yet publicly available, and we therefore use an alternative method to produce preliminary estimates of food hardship and food pantry use for 2023. The method requires that we estimate the change in food hardship and food pantry use between 2022 and 2023 using a regression model that controls for all of the variables used in the poststratification model for weighting. We then apply the estimated change in food hardship and food pantry use between 2022 and 2023 from our regression model to our weighted 2022 estimates to produce the preliminary rates for 2023.

Figure 1

Rates of food hardship among adults and families with children by year (2015-2023)

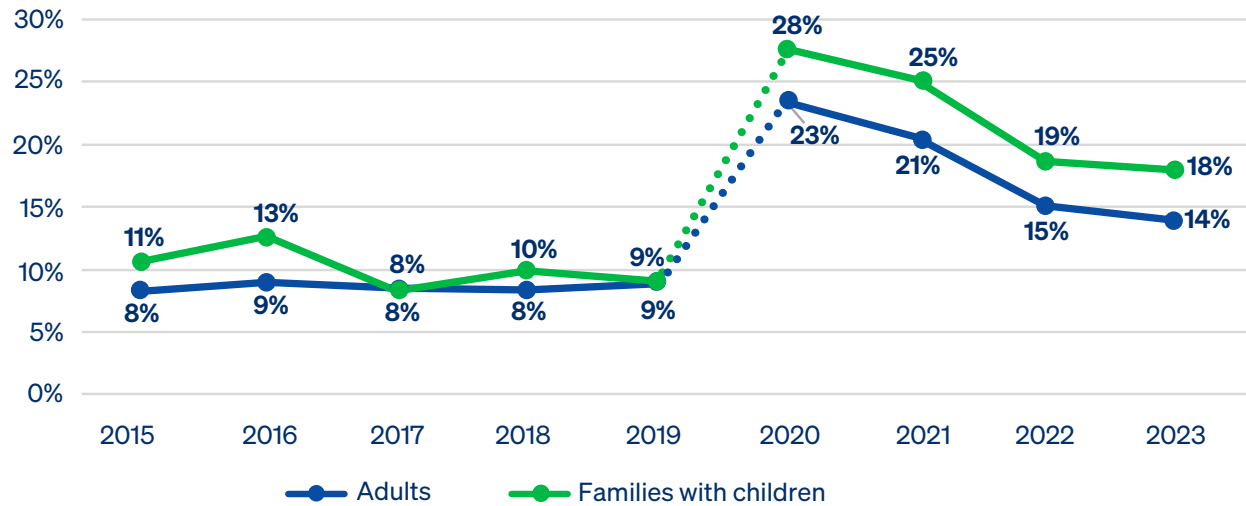


Source: Single year estimates are derived from Poverty Tracker annual survey data, 2015-2023. In 2020, the Poverty Tracker sampling design changed to include an oversample of New Yorkers of Chinese descent, including those who speak Mandarin or are able to complete surveys in simplified or traditional Chinese. Thus, pre-2020 results are not directly comparable to results from 2020 to the present, which we signify with a dotted line break in the New York City trend line.

Turning to use of food pantries, we see that pantry use peaked in 2020, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, with roughly 1 in 4 adult New Yorkers and families with children reporting food pantry use in the past 12 months. While food pantry use has declined since then, pantry use remains higher than it was prior to the pandemic: 14% of adults and 18% of families with children reported using pantries in 2023, compared to 9% for each in 2019 (see Figure 2a). In other words, pantry usage among families with children is still twice as high as pre-pandemic levels. We also observe a similar rise in pantry use among New York City’s working adults (see Figure 2b), with pantry use more than tripling in 2020 and still at twice its pre-pandemic level in 2023 (at 11%). The COVID-19 pandemic brought about a much more widespread use of pantries in the city, and though those levels have ticked downward, they are still well above historical averages. It remains to be seen whether pantry use rates will eventually return to pre-pandemic levels, or whether we are seeing a “new normal” of pantry utilization.

Figure 2a

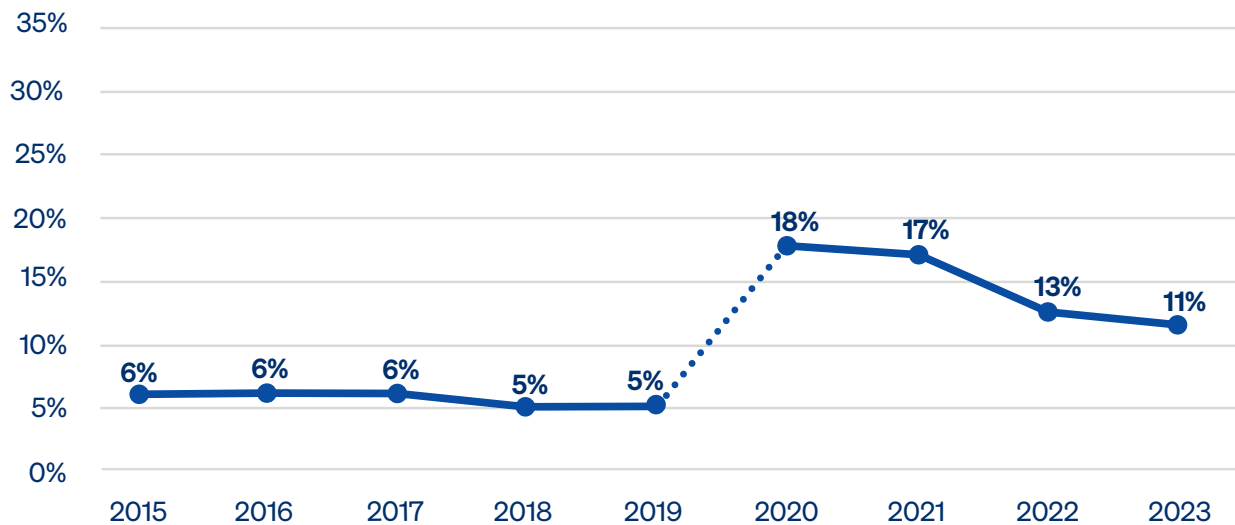
Rates of pantry use among adults and families with children by year (2015-2023)



Source: Single year estimates are derived from Poverty Tracker annual survey data, 2015-2023. In 2020, the Poverty Tracker sampling design changed to include an oversample of New Yorkers of Chinese descent, including those who speak Mandarin or are able to complete surveys in simplified or traditional Chinese. Thus, pre-2020 results are not directly comparable to results from 2020 to the present, which we signify with a dotted line break in the New York City trend line.

Figure 2b

Rates of food pantry usage among working adults by year (2015-2023)



Source: Single year estimates are derived from Poverty Tracker annual survey data, 2015-2023. In 2020, the Poverty Tracker sampling design changed to include an oversample of New Yorkers of Chinese descent, including those who speak Mandarin or are able to complete surveys in simplified or traditional Chinese. Thus, pre-2020 results are not directly comparable to results from 2020 to the present, which we signify with a dotted line break in the New York City trend line.

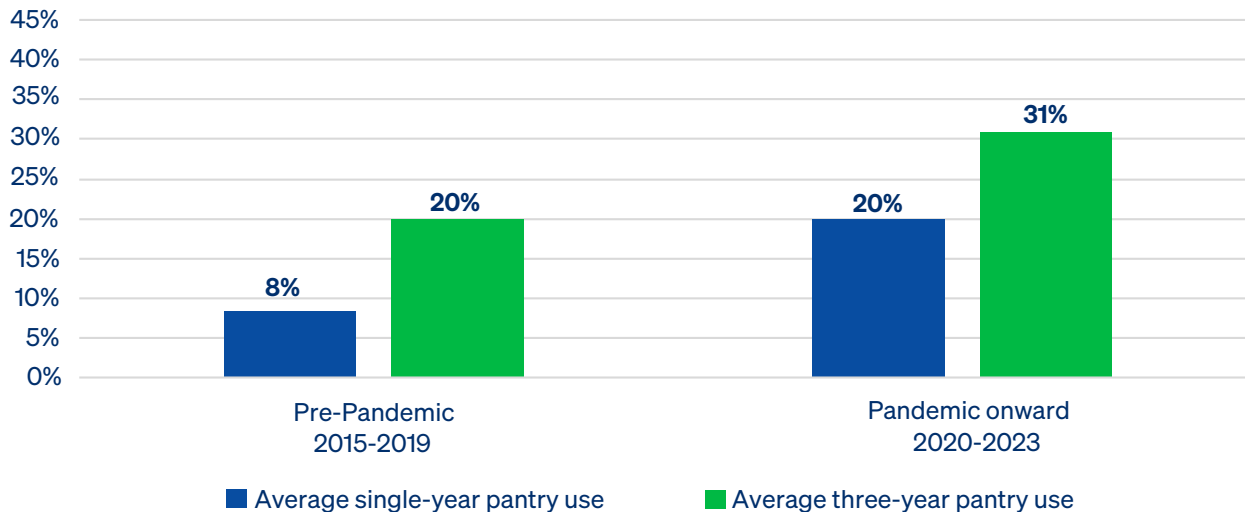
Also, as we will see, single-year estimates do not capture the full picture of food pantry use in New York City. Looking across a three-year period reveals that an even larger number of New Yorkers rely on food pantries to meet their needs at some point. This suggests that New York City’s pantry system is not just a resource of last resort, but rather a key lifeline for a surprisingly large number of New Yorkers who access its supports.

Food Pantry Use is More Prevalent in the City than is Commonly Understood

Most of our knowledge about pantry utilization comes from annual snapshots, which show how many New Yorkers use a pantry over a 12-month period. But one of the strengths of the Poverty Tracker is that it surveys New Yorkers over a multi-year period, (see About the Poverty Tracker) allowing us to look at pantry use over a longer time frame – in this case, over a three-year period. **Looking across this three-year period, we see that a much greater share of New Yorkers received free food assistance than single-year statistics suggest.** Poverty Tracker data shows that, prior to the pandemic, 1 in 5 (20%) adults and 1 in 4 (24%) families with children in New York City used a food pantry at least once in a typical three-year period (see Figures 3 and 4) – more than twice the share of adults and families with children reporting using pantries in a single year (8% and 10%, respectively). These shares grew even higher following the onset of the pandemic. **In the years since COVID-19’s onset, nearly 1 in 3 (31%) adults and 2 in 5 (40%) families with children reported using a pantry at least once across a 3-year period.** Notably, regardless of the measure, pantry use has substantially increased since the pandemic, with single-year pantry use more than doubling and use across three years increasing by more than 50% for both adults and families with children. Results by borough – for New Yorkers who did not move between boroughs across the period – can be found in Appendix Table B1.

Figure 3

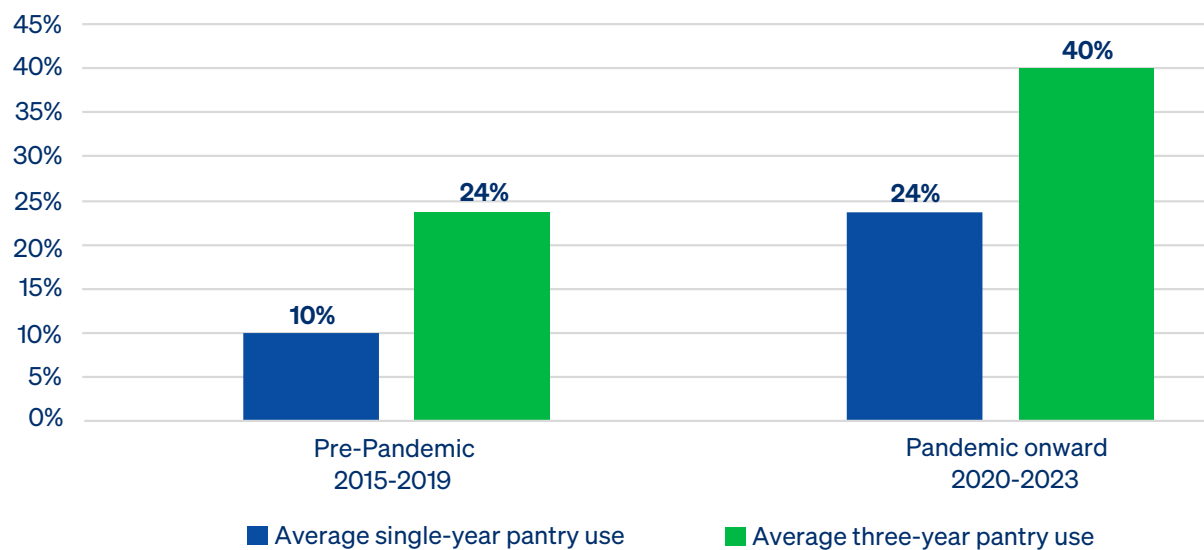
Rates of single-year and three-year pantry use among adults



Source: Single-year estimates are derived from Poverty Tracker annual survey data, 2015-2023; three-year estimates are derived from Poverty Tracker longitudinal survey data, cohorts two through five.

Figure 4

Rates of single-year and three-year pantry use among families with children



Source: Single-year estimates are derived from Poverty Tracker annual survey data, 2015-2023; three-year estimates are derived from Poverty Tracker longitudinal survey data, cohorts two through five.

Who are New York City’s Pantry Users?

Some may think that food pantries and other forms of free food assistance are a resource of last resort, tapped into only during an acute emergency or period of extreme need. While this is true for many, the numbers above reveal that a wider and broader array of New Yorkers rely on help for themselves or their loved ones when we look over a longer time period than point-in-time snapshots would suggest. **This begs the question, who are the 1 in 5 New Yorkers who typically access the city’s network of food assistance providers? And how has that changed after the onset of the pandemic, as this population grew to 1 in 3 New Yorkers?** In the remainder of this spotlight, we harness the rich longitudinal data from the Poverty Tracker to describe the diverse group of New Yorkers who have used pantries at least once over a three-year period. We also describe the smaller group of New Yorkers who utilize the pantry system more frequently (see Text Box). Our portrait of these New Yorkers focuses on four domains that highlight the diversity of the population relying on pantries at one point or another: (1) experiences of financial shocks; (2) engagement with work and the labor market; (3) prevalence of serious health challenges; and (4) utilization of government food benefits.

Defining “frequent” food pantry users

We use the distribution of the total number of weeks that respondents reported using a food pantry over a three-year period to identify the most frequent pantry users. We define frequent pantry users as those who reported using a food pantry more than twice a month over the three-year period examined (i.e., those in the top 10% of the distribution). Using these methods, we identify 171 respondents as frequent pantry users; 75 of whom visited food pantries prior to the pandemic and 96 visited food pantries after the pandemic hit. See Appendix A for a more in-depth overview our methodology.

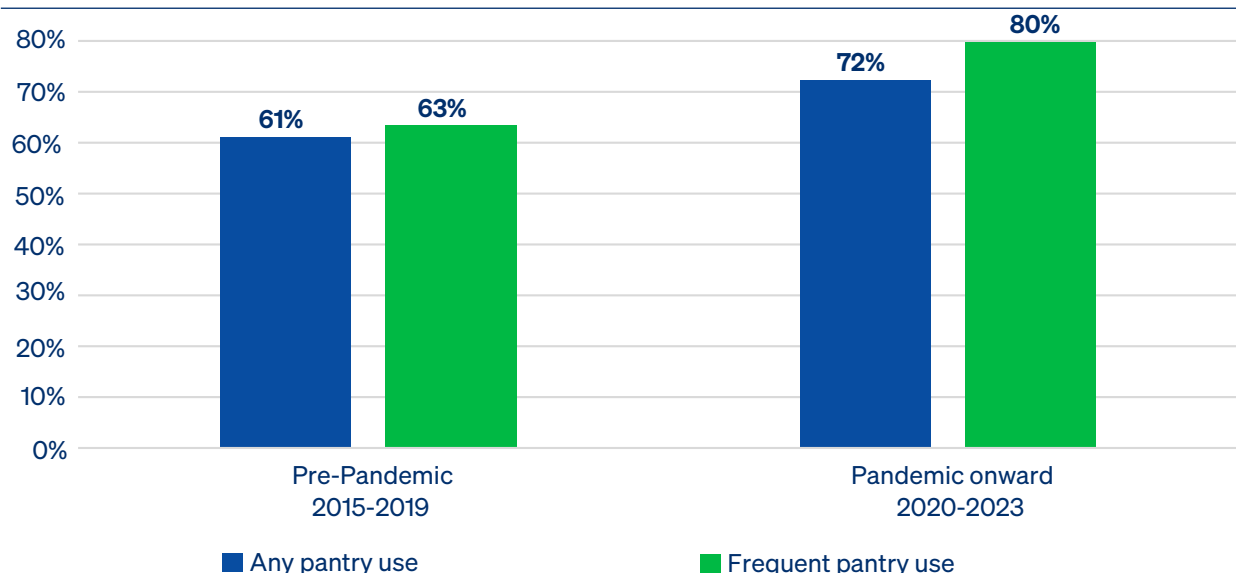
Financial Shocks

A popular conception is that pantries are turned to in an emergency, or following a major shock to one’s finances such as the loss of a job or a big drop in income. The Poverty Tracker is one of the only surveys in the country that collects data on experiences of shocks, allowing us to look at how many pantry users experience such events. We look at four financial shocks pantry users may have experienced over a three-year period: (1) a cut to public benefits; (2) a job loss; (3) a major decrease in income; and (4) an unanticipated major expense.

We find that most – but not all – pantry users have experienced some sort of financial shock over the period of their pantry use. **Financial shocks were common among pantry users – 3 in 5 (61%) pantry users reported a financial shock before the pandemic, and nearly 3 in 4 (72%) users reported a financial shock after its onset** (see Figure 5). Financial shocks were more, but not drastically more, common among frequent pantry users (63% prior to the pandemic, and 80% after its onset).

Figure 5

Prevalence of financial shocks among pantry users, pre-pandemic and pandemic onward

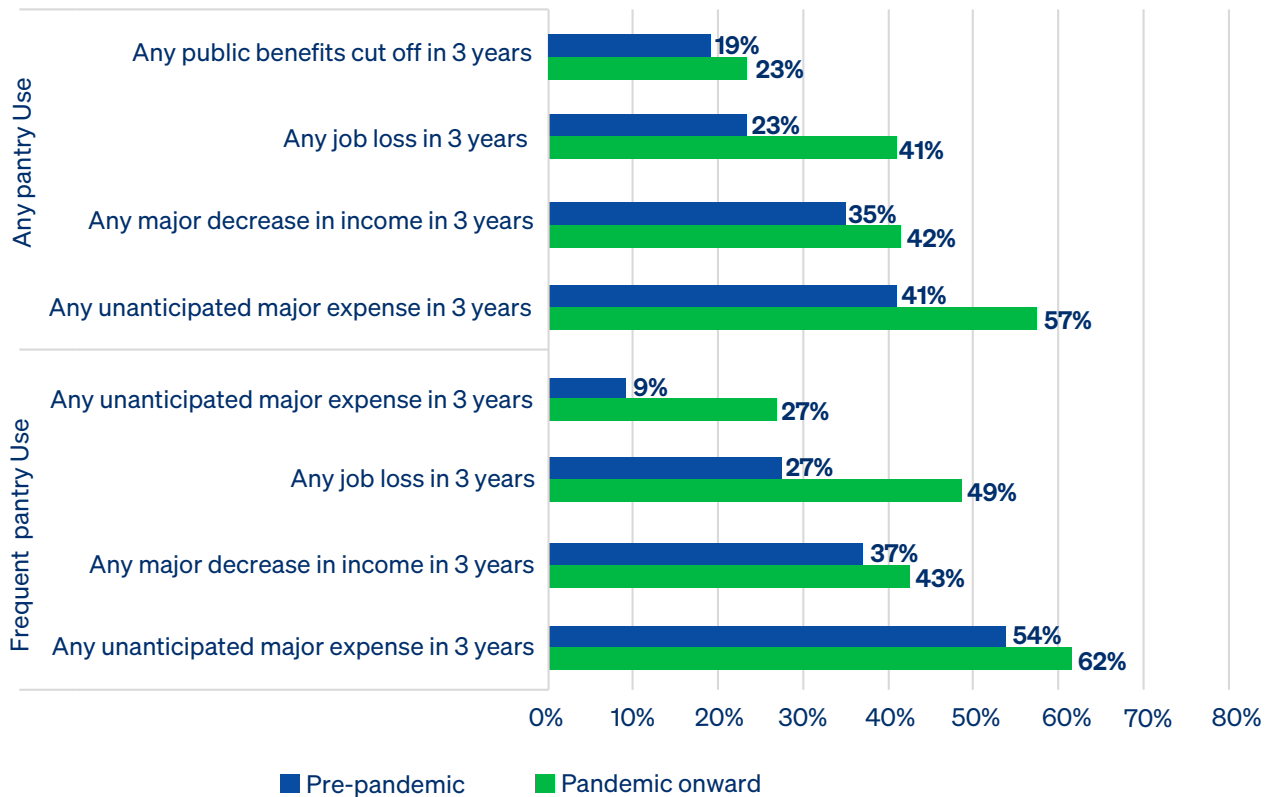


Source: Poverty Tracker longitudinal survey data, cohorts two through five.

Figure 6 shows the prevalence of each of the types of financial shocks that we examined. In the period following the pandemic's onset, more than half of pantry users (57%) faced a major unanticipated expense, more than 2 in 5 had a major drop in income or lost a job (42% and 41%, respectively), and around 1 in 5 (23%) had public benefits cut off (see Figure 6). Frequent pantry users experienced all the above shocks at slightly higher rates, pointing towards the additional burdens experienced by users with a more regular reliance on the pantry system. Despite the prevalence of these shocks, there was also a substantial minority of New Yorkers who used the pantry system but did not report experiencing such shocks. This group may be obtaining free food assistance as an essential strategy to help make ends meet, and they may also be tapping into assistance for their friends, families, and neighbors – not all pantry users are in an acute period of crisis.

Figure 6

Prevalence of financial shocks among pantry users, pre-pandemic and pandemic onward



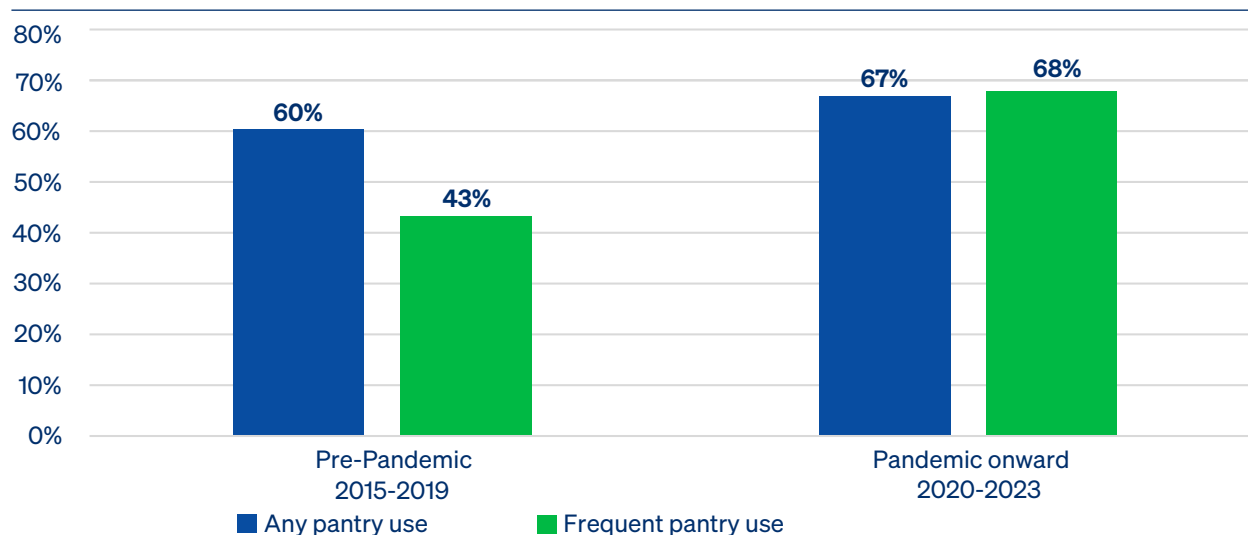
Source: Poverty Tracker longitudinal survey data, cohorts two through five.

Engagement with Work and the Labor Market

Some people think of pantry use as a strategy of last resort, utilized by those who are in dire economic straits or experiencing chronic and prolonged periods of poverty and joblessness. While such situations certainly exist, we also find that a majority of pantry users are engaged in the labor market over the period in which they used pantry assistance. Figure 7 shows that, **prior to the pandemic, 3 in 5 New York City pantry users worked in the three-year period examined, and this was also true of 2 in 5 of the most frequent pantry users.** The percentages of these populations engaged in the labor market increased following the onset of the pandemic, as a greater proportion of New Yorkers accessed the city’s pantry system. **After the pandemic hit, roughly 2 in 3 pantry users worked over a three-year period, and this was true even among the most frequent pantry users.**³

Figure 7

Percentage of pantry users who worked at one point in the three-year period, pre-pandemic and pandemic onward



Source: Poverty Tracker longitudinal survey data, cohorts two through five.

Among pantry users who worked, a majority worked in every year of the three-year period examined.

Nearly two-thirds (62%) of working pantry users worked in all three years and this rate only increased since the pandemic, when nearly three in four (71%) pantry users who worked did so for three consecutive years. Despite popular misconceptions, New York City’s pantry users are far from disengaged from work and the labor market. But when they were working, their jobs simply didn’t provide enough income to maintain an adequate standard of living. Before the pandemic, for instance, the typical pantry user who worked earned only about \$23,000 across the year, rising to just about \$34,000 in the period following the onset of the pandemic.⁴ In a high-cost city like New York, this level of earnings does not go very far, perhaps explaining why many workers in the city must balance low-wage work with utilization of free food assistance.

³ Figure C1 in Appendix C also shows how rates of pantry use among workers varied before and after the pandemic’s onset. Similar to the results previously shown in Figure 2b, we observe a large increase in pantry users among the city’s working population.

⁴ These numbers are inflation adjusted to 2023 dollars.

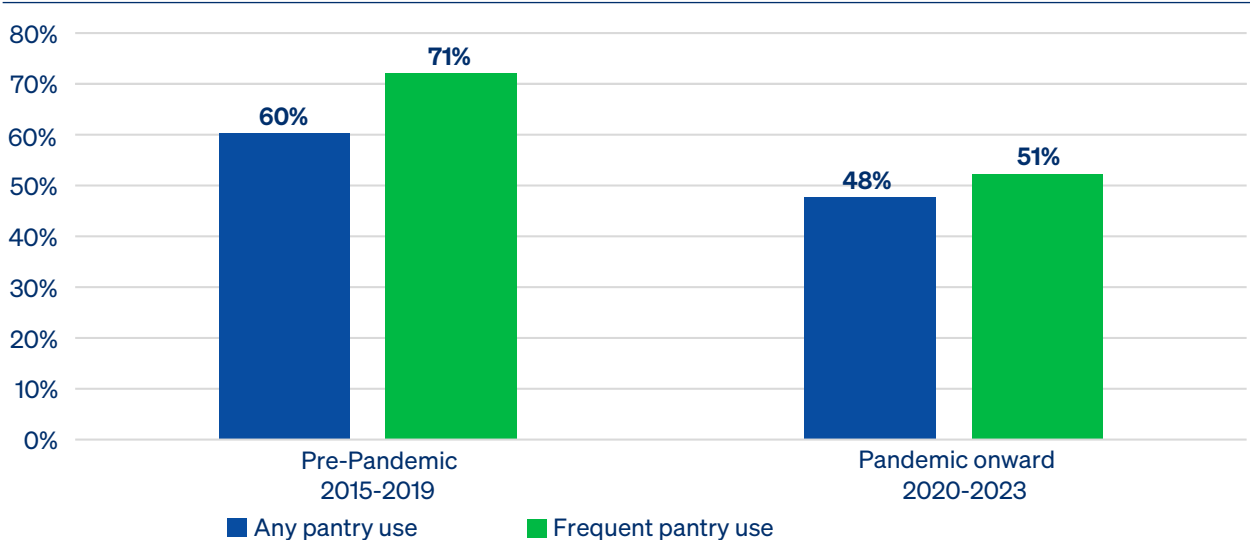
These findings on work and earnings are consistent with findings from City Harvest’s recent Annual Program Survey, which found that 87% of respondents felt that programs offered by City Harvest helped their overall budget, especially allowing them to save money on weekly grocery bills. The Poverty Tracker results find notably low earnings among pantry users both prior to the pandemic and after its onset, and these low levels of earnings may leave little room in people’s budgets for adequate and healthy food. Free food assistance can thus help pantry users save on essential expenses, lessening the burden of food costs on often already tight household budgets.

Prevalence of Serious Health Problems

Despite the relatively high levels of labor market engagement, we found many New Yorkers served by food pantries were also dealing with serious health problems. Figure 8 depicts the prevalence of health challenges among New York City’s pantry users. **Prior to the pandemic, a majority of pantry users (60%) dealt with a serious health problem, such as being in poor health or experiencing a work-limiting health condition.** This was especially true of more frequent pantry users, where 71% dealt with a major health challenge. This suggests that even though many pantry users are trying to maintain a connection to the labor market, many also may be coping with illness and disabilities, with food pantries being a source of essentials while managing these conditions.

Among the population who has used pantries since the pandemic hit – which we have noted is a much broader population than that which used pantries prior to the pandemic – we find lower, but still high, rates of serious health problems. Since the onset of the pandemic, 48% of the population who used pantries and 51% of the population who did so frequently also dealt with a severe health problem. This points to the fact that food pantries are not just an emergency resource for those with urgent health challenges: an increasing proportion of New Yorkers that are not experiencing severe health problems have begun utilizing food pantries since the onset of the pandemic.

Figure 8
Prevalence of serious health problems among pantry users, pre-pandemic and pandemic onward



Source: Poverty Tracker longitudinal survey data, cohorts two through five.

Other data sources also demonstrate how pantries may help those with health challenges meet their needs. For example, the same recent survey of City Harvest program participants noted earlier asked about the quality and variety of food that their clients access. Over 4 in 5 (81%) felt that City Harvest helped them to access nutritious food options. Moreover, 78% felt that food received from City Harvest aligned with their personal health needs and 70% felt that it aligned with their dietary restrictions. As our data suggest that many food pantry users struggle with major health challenges, the city's food pantry system seems to help support the dietary and health needs of those that frequent them.

Use of government food benefits

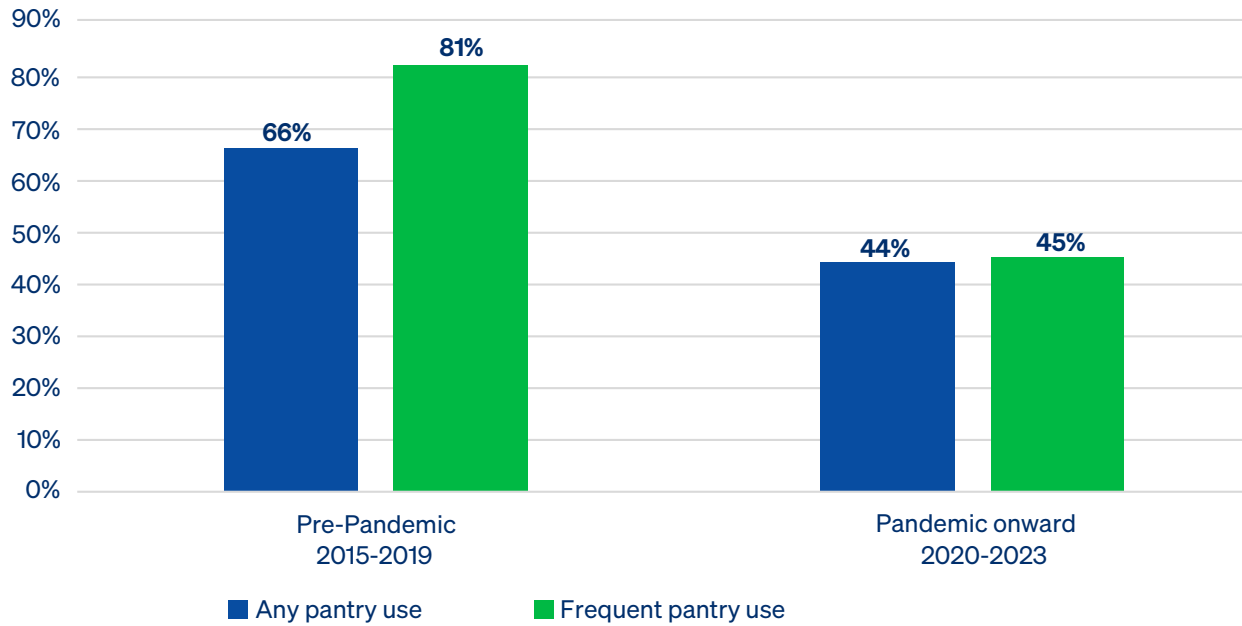
Pantries were not the only form of food assistance relied upon by New York City's pantry users. **For a majority – but not all – of pantry users before the pandemic, assistance from pantries supplemented government food benefits like the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP).** Prior to the pandemic, roughly 2 in 3 (66%) pantry users reported receiving SNAP benefits, as did about 4 in 5 (81%) frequent pantry users (see Figure 9). For these New Yorkers, we can think of pantry use as a supplement to government provided benefits. But for others, they may turn to the pantry system because they are either ineligible for SNAP benefits or they do not want to interact with government benefits systems – for example, because of stigma, administrative burdens, or fear.

Following the start of the pandemic, the share of pantry users and more frequent users who report SNAP receipt substantially decreased to less than half (44% and 45%, respectively) (see Figure 9).⁵ This is likely not a result of pantry users abandoning their SNAP benefits, but rather because a wider fraction of the city's population has been using the city's pantry system in the period since the pandemic hit. Nevertheless, it may seem surprising that a majority of New Yorkers who have used pantries since the pandemic are not receiving government SNAP benefits and are obtaining free food assistance only from the city's network of pantries and free food providers. We note, however, that SNAP receipt is often somewhat under-reported in household surveys, so the fraction actually using SNAP may be somewhat larger than the numbers in Figure 9 suggest.

⁵ We note that these figures are largely consistent with City Harvest's recent program survey data on its program participants, which found close to 40% reporting that they also used SNAP.

Figure 9

Share of pantry users who reported receiving SNAP benefits, pre-pandemic and pandemic onward



Source: Poverty Tracker longitudinal survey data, cohorts two through five.

CONCLUSION

Overall, we have found that the proportion of New Yorkers accessing the city's pantry assistance network is much larger than what may be commonly understood – especially when looking at use across three-year periods compared to single years – and it has grown since 2020. Prior to the pandemic, 1 in 5 New Yorkers obtained food from a pantry or free food provider over a three-year period, and this fraction has risen since the onset of the pandemic to nearly 1 in 3. As pantry use continues to decline toward pre-pandemic levels, we may also see the fraction utilizing pantries over such a period decline as well, but it is clear from these numbers alone that the city's pantries serve a broad cross-section of New Yorkers.

The population using New York City's pantries is diverse in many respects. While the experience of financial shocks and health challenges are common among pantry users, they are not ubiquitous. A perhaps surprising number of pantry users are balancing work and periods of economic need. And a majority of – but again, not all – pantry users are benefiting from government food assistance like SNAP. Taken together, these results paint a portrait of pantry use in the city that is far from just a lifeline of last resort serving a small minority of the city's population. Rather, the pantry system is a critical component of the food-based safety net in the city, one that nearly a third of New Yorkers utilize in some capacity when looking over a longer period than is typically studied.

The findings in this report support a range of policy interventions, many of which are related to SNAP, which Congress authorizes through the Farm Bill. The Farm Bill must be reauthorized every five years and Congress is overdue on reauthorization for the 2018 bill. Congress could choose to authorize a new Farm Bill during the lame duck session, but the November 2024 election results could also lead to further delays, punting reauthorization to 2025 and a new Congress.

Policymakers looking to reduce food hardship and reliance on pantries should focus on ensuring that New Yorkers are aware of and are connected to all benefits they are eligible for by streamlining benefits applications, investing more in benefits access outreach, and processing SNAP and other benefit applications more quickly. The fact that many SNAP recipients still rely on food pantries to feed their families demonstrates that SNAP benefits are too low to afford an adequate food budget and necessitates advocacy to ensure the next Farm Bill bolsters food assistance funding. The Farm Bill should also remove barriers that exclude college students from accessing SNAP benefits, as outlined in the Enhance Access to SNAP (EATS) Act. At the state level, policymakers could increase minimum SNAP benefits and create programs to provide food assistance to those that are ineligible for SNAP due to immigration status.

Finally, the report highlights that more than two-thirds of pantry users are also working, underscoring the pervasiveness of food insecurity and the extent to which employment, on its own, is not enough to meet basic needs for many New Yorkers. To boost incomes Congress could expand the federal Child Tax Credit, state lawmakers could increase the value of the Empire State Child Tax Credit, and city lawmakers could increase New York City's Earned Income Tax Credit.

APPENDIX A. About our Approach

These results rely on a pooled sample of longitudinal Poverty Tracker data from cohorts two through five, beginning in 2015. We restrict our sample to Poverty Tracker respondents present in three consecutive years of data and analyze their circumstances over this three-year period. Our sample consists of 1,449 New Yorkers who utilized a food pantry at least once over a three-year period, 739 prior to the pandemic and 710 after the pandemic hit.

With a baseline understanding of general pantry use in our sample, we set out to identify sporadic and frequent pantry users in the data. The Poverty Tracker collects information on how frequently pantry users visited a food pantry within a year. The following question is asked of food pantry users:

In the past 12 months, which best describes how often you [or another member of your household] received free food from a church, a food pantry or a food bank?

- 1. Weekly*
- 2. Several times a month*
- 3. About once a month*
- 4. Several times a year*
- 5. Or once or twice in the past year*

We translate this data into an estimate of the total number of weeks that respondents visited a food pantry over a three-year period. We find that, prior to the pandemic, pantry users visited a food pantry for about 35 weeks on average over the entire three-year period (i.e., roughly once a month). On the other hand, the median weeks of pantry use was lower, at 24 over the entire three-year period (i.e., more than once every other month). After the pandemic hit, not only did the amount of pantry users in New York City increase, but so did the frequency at which New Yorkers visited food pantries. On average, pantries were visited for about 43 weeks total in a three-year period (or between one and two times a month) and the median was 30 weeks total in a three-year period (or almost once a month).

We utilize the distribution of the total number of weeks that respondents reported using a food pantry over a three-year period to identify the most frequent pantry users. We define frequent pantry users as those who reported using a food pantry more than twice a month (i.e., those in the top 10% of the distribution). Using these methods, we identify 171 respondents as frequent pantry users; 75 of which visited food pantries prior to the pandemic and 96 visited food pantries after the pandemic hit.

We also selectively utilized data from the City Harvest Program Survey (CHPS). The CHPS engages participants across all City Harvest programmatic initiatives to hear their voices and to measure impact. City Harvest sent digital surveys to those who had visited an emergency food program and/or participated in a City Harvest program (such as a nutrition/culinary education activity or a direct community food distribution) within the previous twelve months. The target population of program participants was 16,735; and 2,668 responses were received.

APPENDIX B. Rates of pantry use by borough

Table B1

Rates of single-year vs. three-year pantry use by borough, pre-pandemic and pandemic onward

		Pre-pandemic (2015-2019)	Pandemic onward (2020-2023)
Bronx	Avg. single-year pantry use	30%	45%
	Avg. three-year pantry use	12%	27%
Brooklyn	Avg. single-year pantry use	20%	29%
	Avg. three-year pantry use	9%	22%
Manhattan	Avg. single-year pantry use	16%	32%
	Avg. three-year pantry use	6%	16%
Queens	Avg. single-year pantry use	20%	28%
	Avg. three-year pantry use	8%	18%
Staten Island	Avg. single-year pantry use	15%	20%
	Avg. three-year pantry use	6%	11%

■ Pre-pandemic (2015-2019)

■ Pandemic onward (2015-2019)



Bronx

Avg. three-year pantry use

30% 45%

Avg. single-year pantry use

12% 27%

Brooklyn

Avg. three-year pantry use

20% 29%

Avg. single-year pantry use

9% 22%

Manhattan

Avg. three-year pantry use

16% 32%

Avg. single-year pantry use

6% 16%

Queens

Avg. three-year pantry use

20% 28%

Avg. single-year pantry use

8% 18%

Staten Island

Avg. three-year pantry use

15% 20%

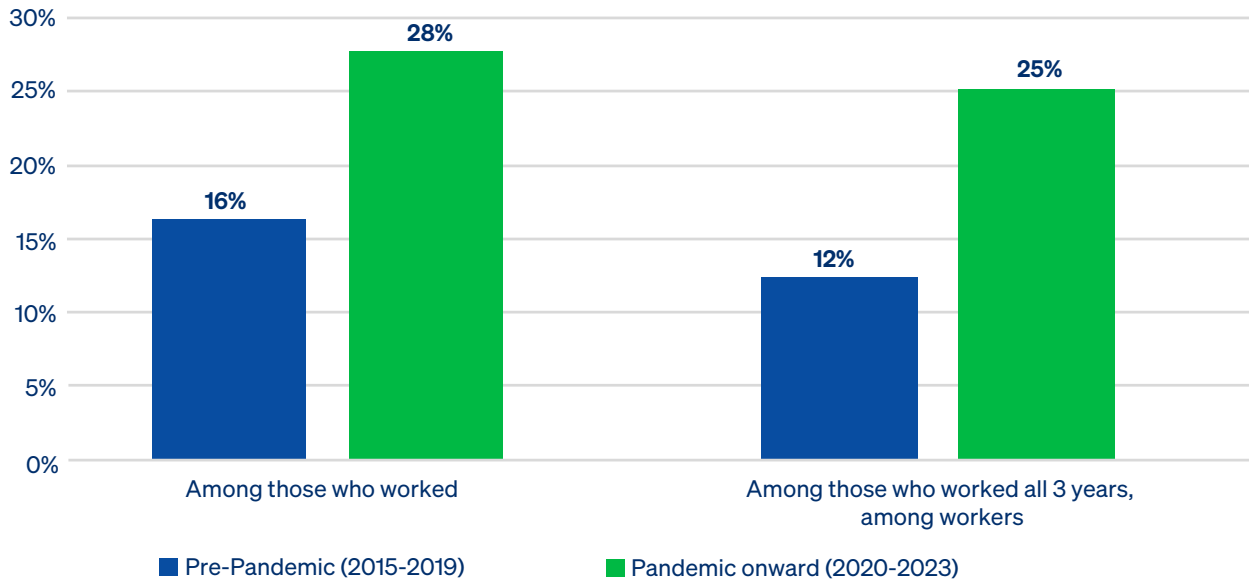
Avg. single-year pantry use

6% 11%

APPENDIX C. Rates of pantry use by employment

Figure C1

Rates of any food pantry use over a 3-year period among working New Yorkers



Source: Poverty Tracker longitudinal survey data, cohorts two through five.
