

Busting Myths about Hunger: Hunger in America 2010: Anchorage

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Myth #1

Only a few Anchorage households struggle with hunger.



41,200

Individual Anchorage residents receive food assistance **ANNUALLY** from a food pantry, soup kitchen or shelter



Myth #2

Hunger = Homelessness:

A typical hungry person is a homeless man,
standing on the street corner with a sign.

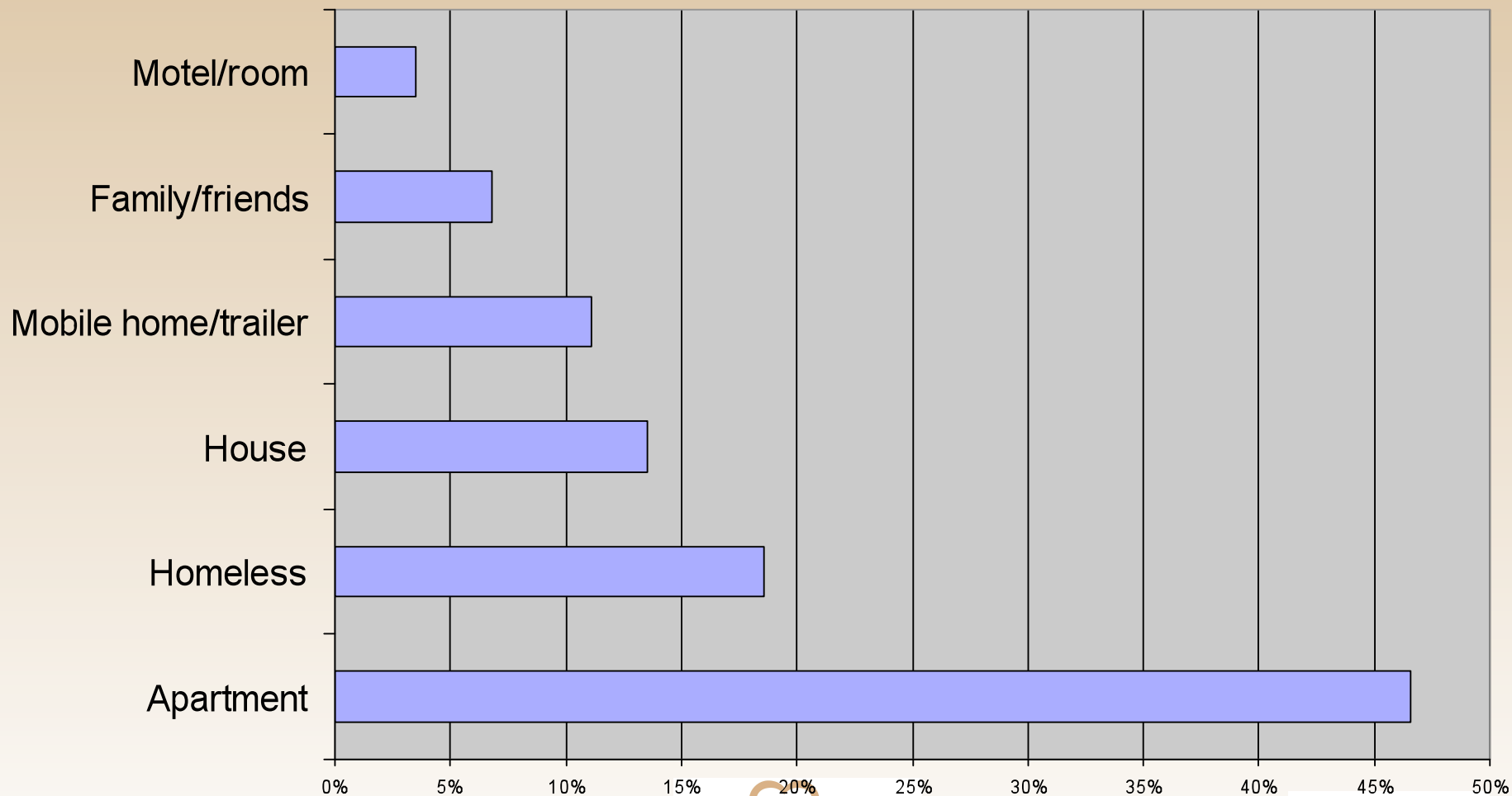


19%

Of hungry folks in Anchorage are homeless



Housing

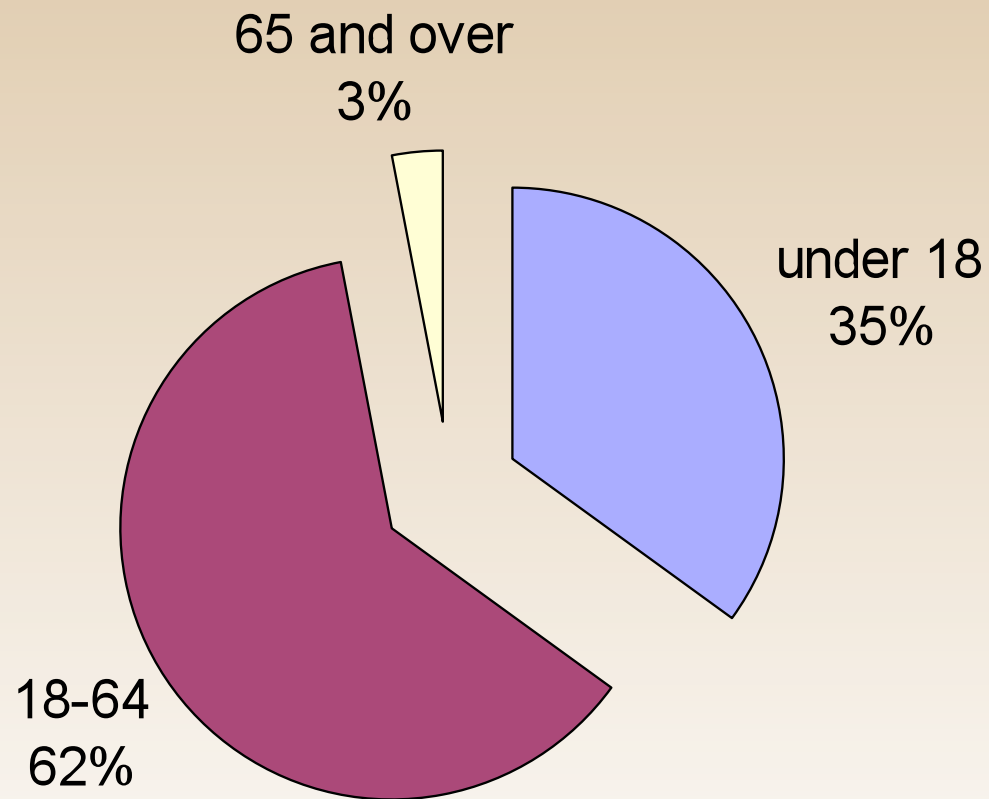


Myth #3

Hungry folks are adults -
who need to get a job.



Client Ages

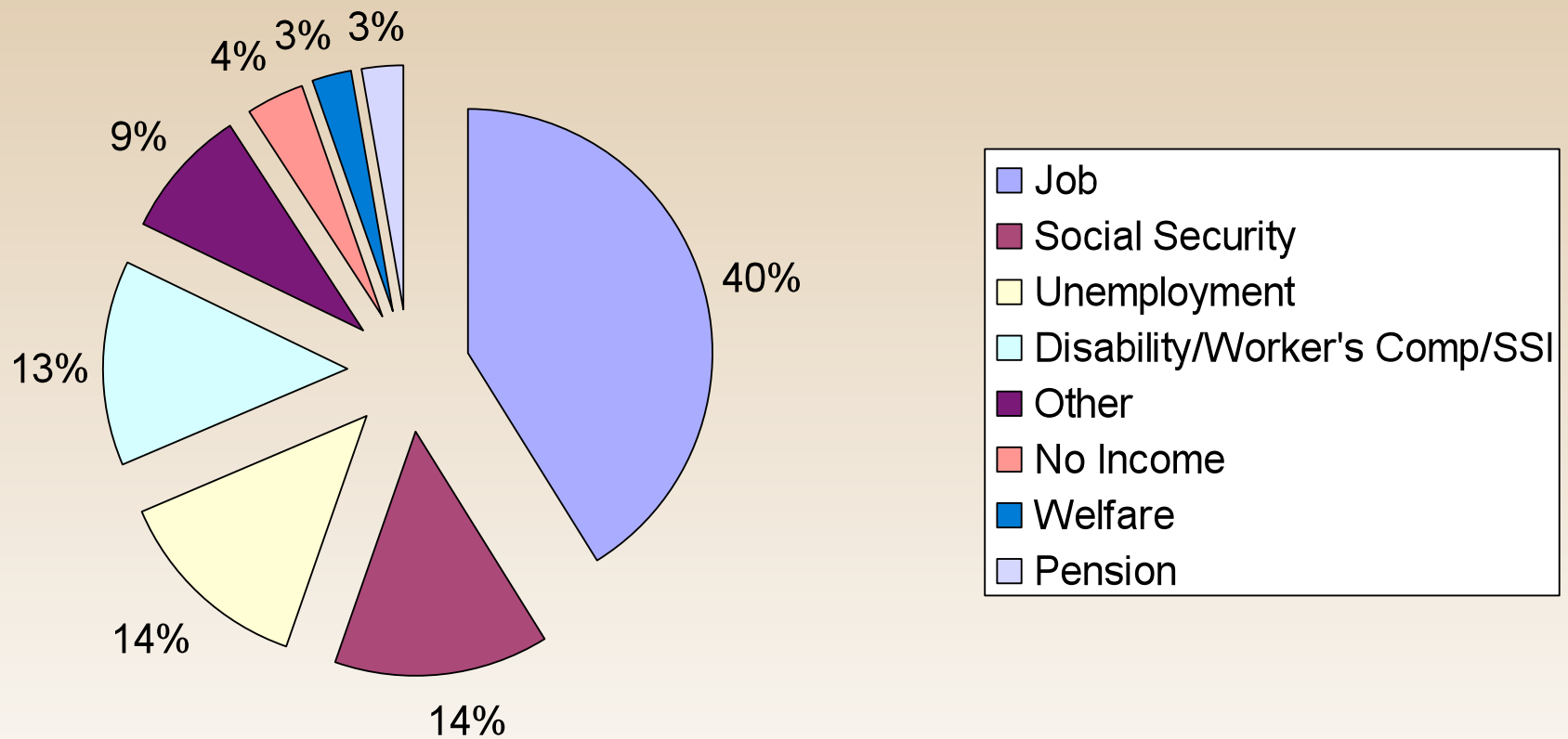


57%

Of food pantry households include one or more employed adults



Primary Source of Income



Clients' Income

- Average household income is \$13,840
- 83% of households live below 130% of poverty line



130% of Poverty Line

Family or Household	Alaska
1	\$17,597
2	23,681
3	29,765
4	35,849



Myth #4

People wouldn't be hungry if they managed their resources better.



Hard Choices

- 50% of clients choose between paying for food and paying for rent or mortgage
- 58% of clients choose between paying for food and paying for transportation
- 45% of clients choose between paying for food or paying for utilities or heating fuel



57%

Of hungry Anchorage residents have
unpaid medical bills.

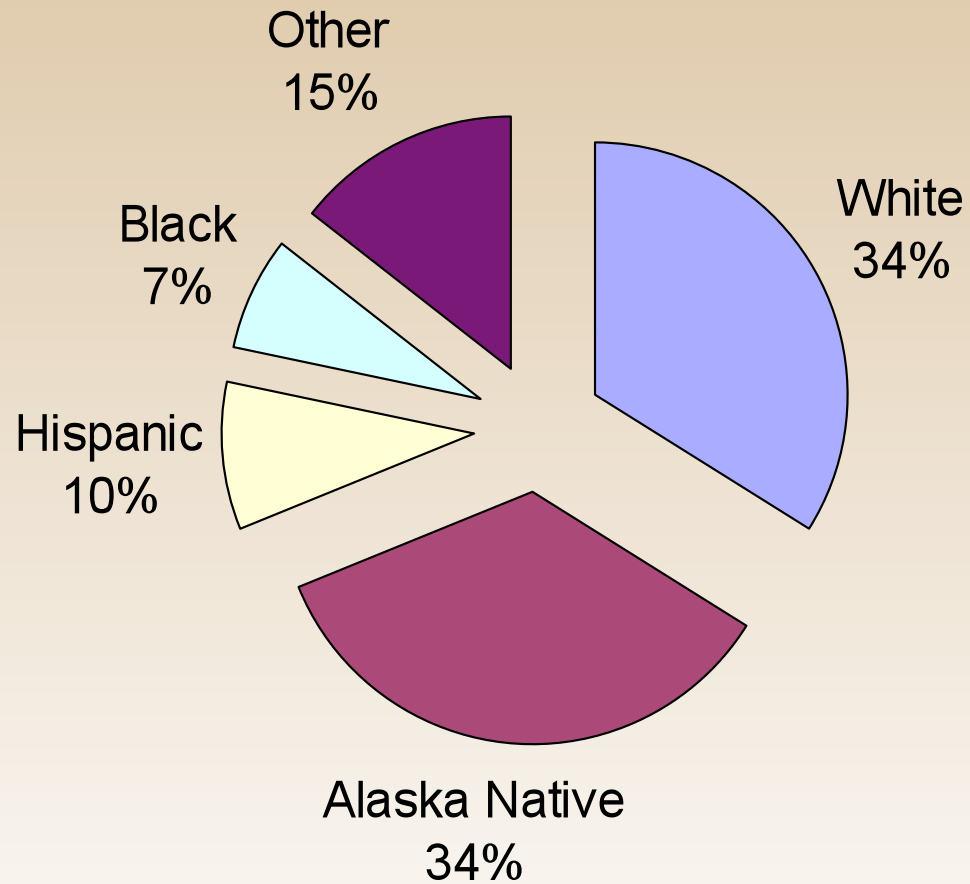


Myth #5

Most hungry folks are Alaska Natives with substance abuse problems.



Client Ethnicities



Myth #6

Many illegal immigrants use food pantries and soup kitchens.



99%

Of hungry Anchorage residents are U.S. citizens.

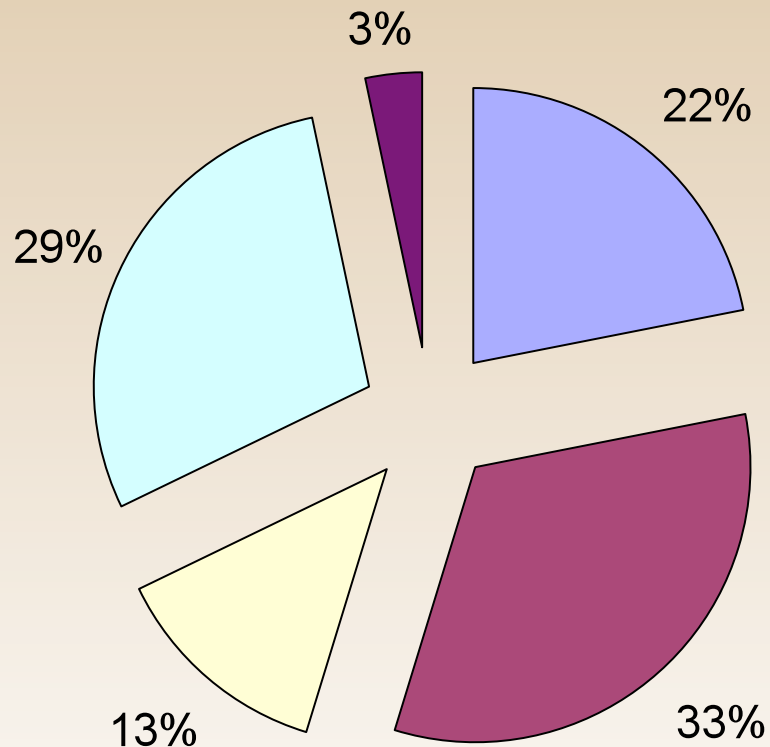


Myth #7

Most hungry adults are uneducated – they dropped out of school.



Educational Levels



- Less than High School
- Completed High School/GED
- Completed trade/technical school
- Some college/2 year degree
- Completed college or higher



Myth #8

Hungry people don't vote.



61%

Of hungry Anchorage adults are registered voters.



How Are We Doing?

- Two components: charitable system and federal programs



Charitable Anti-Hunger System

- 86 food assistance agencies in Anchorage as of Hunger Study
- Collectively distributed over 3.5 million pounds of food last year – enough for 2.7 million meals
- 54% of food assistance agencies run by faith based organizations

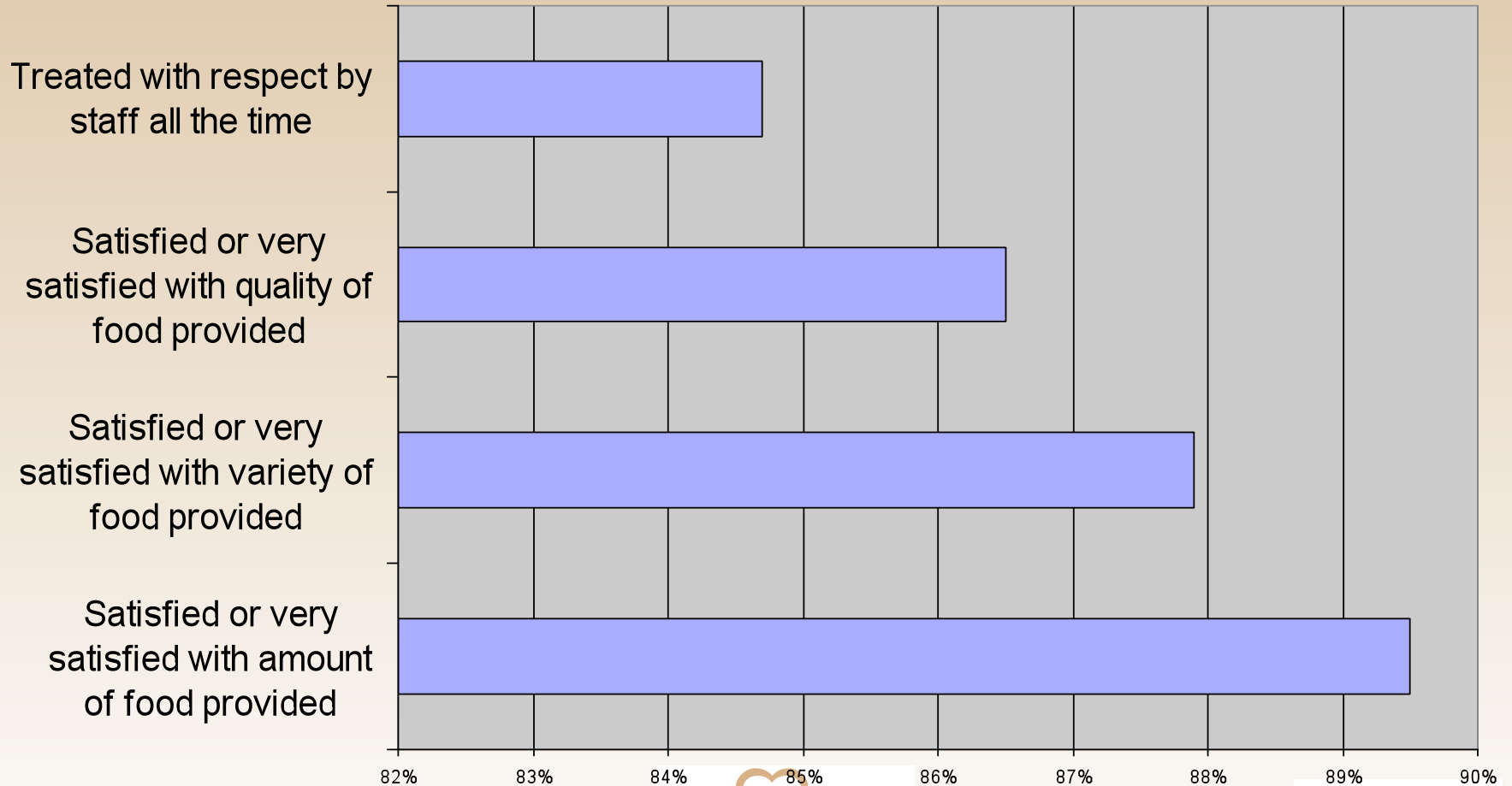


Charitable Anti-Hunger System

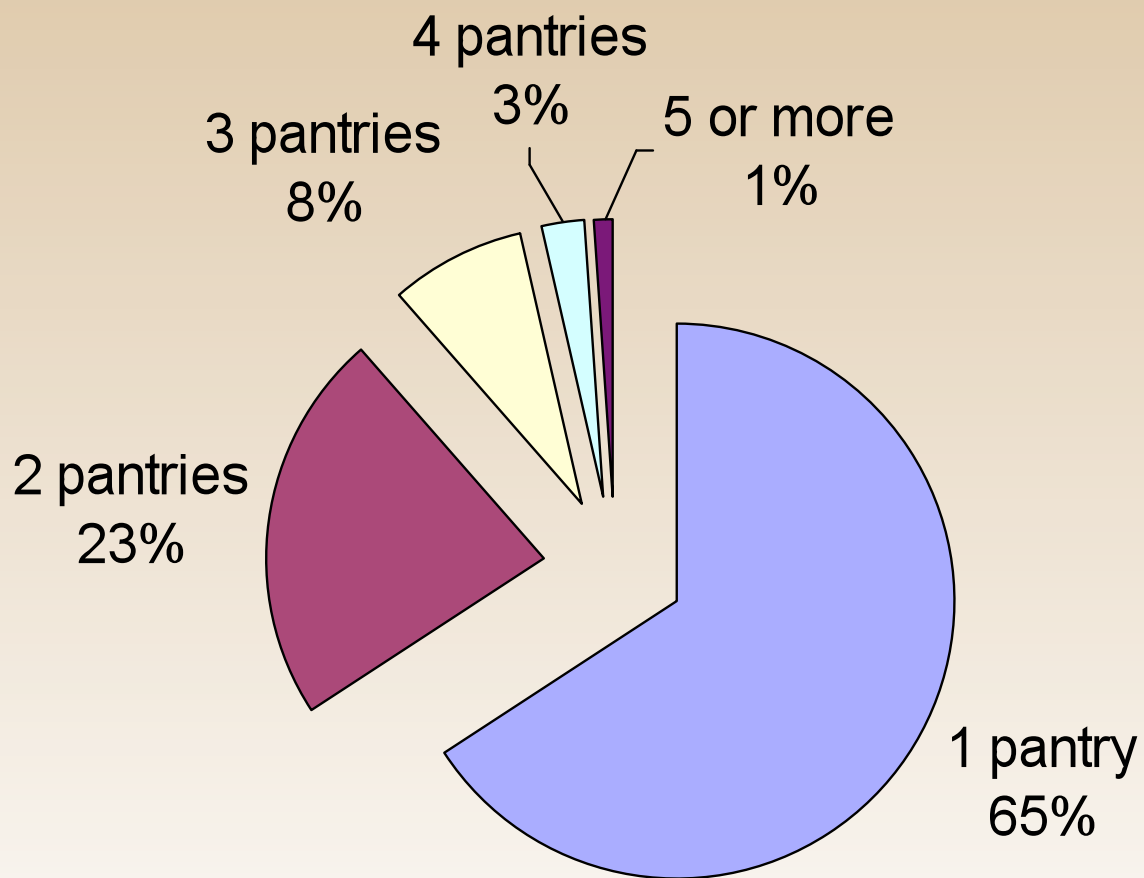
- 71% of soup kitchens and 59% of food pantries report serving more clients in 2009 than in 2006



Client Satisfaction



Pantry Usage



But It is Not Enough

- 43% of clients reported that an adult in their household didn't eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food in the past year
- 17% of clients reported that their children were hungry at least once in the past year but they couldn't afford more food



Food Stamps/SNAP

- Largest federal nutrition program
- 64,385 Alaskans participated in FFY2009
- Average benefit per person is \$167.77 per month



But It is Not Enough

- Only 39% of households seeking food assistance are currently receiving Food Stamps
- Food Stamp benefits last, on average, 2.4 weeks



Food Stamps/SNAP

- Top 3 reasons clients do not apply for Food Stamps/SNAP
 - (1) Don't think they are eligible
 - (2) Planning to apply but haven't yet
 - (3) Don't think they need Food Stamps

