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- What percentage of students at your school are food insecure?

The percentage of the whole UVM community who was food insecure based on a survey in the spring '17 survey was 19.6% and 15% in the fall '17 survey. The students who were the most food insecure were 25.9% in the spring '17 survey of undergraduate students. 20% of fall '17 who were graduate and medical students. For the demographic students of color, first generation and LGBTQIA+ were more more likely to be food insecure. Students off campus were also more likely to be food insecure.

- What does your school currently do with its leftover food?

Instead of donating the leftover food on-campus often times the Sodexo workers get to take it home. But they often compost it in order to meet their sustainable food practices at UVM. It's to cultivate environmentally responsible food waste strategies. Which is great! But they should be able to hand it out to students and donate it to local shelters.

- Is there a food pantry on campus?

There are two food pantries on campus that are targeted for minorities and marginalized communities.

- Is your school part of the [Food Recovery Network](#) or any swipe sharing program (SwipeShare, Swipe Out Hunger, etc)?

Our school participates in a Swipe Out Hunger program which involves on students using their leftover guest swipes to donate towards hunger.

- Are there student organizations working to address food insecurity problem on campus?

The only student organization working to address the food insecurity problem on campus is the Campus Kitchens student club. But they work with community stakeholders, representatives of Hunger Free Vermont (non-profit organization), Student Financial Services and the Center for Health & Wellbeing to try to work together to make plans and put together action to address this problem better on campus.

- Is there is already a plan to address food insecurity? How can you get involved or partner to more effectively take on the issue?

There are multiple plans to address food insecurity around campus with long-term and short-term solutions. I could get involved by joining student government, emailing the Sodexo leaders of this initiative or joining the club that is working on this problem called Campus Kitchens. I plan on joining the club to take on this initiative.

- If there are no efforts to address this issue, what can you do to make change? Can you start a pantry, join the Food Recovery Network or create another solution?

I want to try to start a big pantry for ALL students not just one targeted towards minorities. I feel that this is a silent problem due to the fact that majority of the students that attend my school are wealthier. It should be a place where anyone no matter on-campus, off-campus, race or whatever to be able to go.

Make a plan and tell us about your next steps to combat this problem.

My plan to combat this problem is to take to the eco-reps club as well as campus kitchen. I want to see what I can do to make an impact through those clubs that already have a network with people who are working with this issue. My next plans are to talk to students around to see how they would feel about a food-pantry and who would be interested in starting one with me. They already have one available for students with clothes, why can't we do one with food? Then because I have a huge influence around UVM I think I am going to ask some of my wealthier connections who are passionate about this issue to try and get community support and money to raise one. Then if all works well, I want to be able to start one, to get a space for one and then get funding, food and people to help run it. People in my community love giving back so I feel that it won't be an issue. I want to see if local community restaurants and grocery stores will give to it because they already give to the food shelters as well. Then do an advertisement around the community so regular people can give to it as well to help.