



Portrait of a Food Pantry Visitor

Data, Demographics, and Disparities

FY2024

July 1 - June 30

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We are often asked what a “typical” visitor to a food pantry looks like. In truth, We assist people of all races, genders, ages, incomes, and educational attainment. While the number of individuals we are assisting now continues to grow, the answer to this questions remains largely the same. But if we look at the most common responses to the intake questions, we can say the most likely person to visit a food pantry is:

A White - Not Hispanic woman who graduated high school, has one child, is living below the poverty line, does not receive SNAP benefits, is in and out of employment, and only visits a food pantry once per year.

While half of everyone assisted by the DMARC Food Pantry Network is White - Not Hispanic, you will see that stark racial disparities exist in every part of our community. These inequities are not unintentional, but are by design as specific federal, state and local policies were created to advantage and disadvantage various populations in our society. **As the DMARC Food Pantry Network saw a 18 percent increase in the number of individuals assisted in FY24, many of the trends seen in previous reports remained and expanded** - With a huge increase in the number of individuals utilizing a DMARC Food Pantry for the first time .

Previous versions of this report have focused on providing an in-depth breakdown of examined racial disparities through the lense of each demographic and racial group. All the data used in this report is from DMARC’s fiscal year 2024 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024) where our food pantry network saw a record level of individuals assisted. While most of the disparities examined in previous reports remain consistent with the previous report, this version aims to break down and highlight those observed disparities with a special emphasis on those who have utilized this assistance for the first time in the past 12 months.

It is our hope that with this version of the report we will inform the public and policy makers about these disparities, why they exist, and potential ways we can remedy them in our community, as it is critical to understand the ways in which previous inequitable policies influence, and often negatively impact, people’s current realities today. If while reading this you are inspired to want to take action, please do not hesitate to reach out about partnering on finding solutions.

“TYPICAL” VISITOR TO A FOOD PANTRY

While there is no such thing as a “typical” food pantry visitor, these are the demographic trends that are most common throughout the individuals assisted by the DMARC Food Pantry Network.

**A White - Not Hispanic woman
who graduated high school,
does not receive SNAP benefits,
has one child,
is living below the poverty line,
...and only visits a food pantry
once per year.**



OVERALL DEMOGRAPHICS

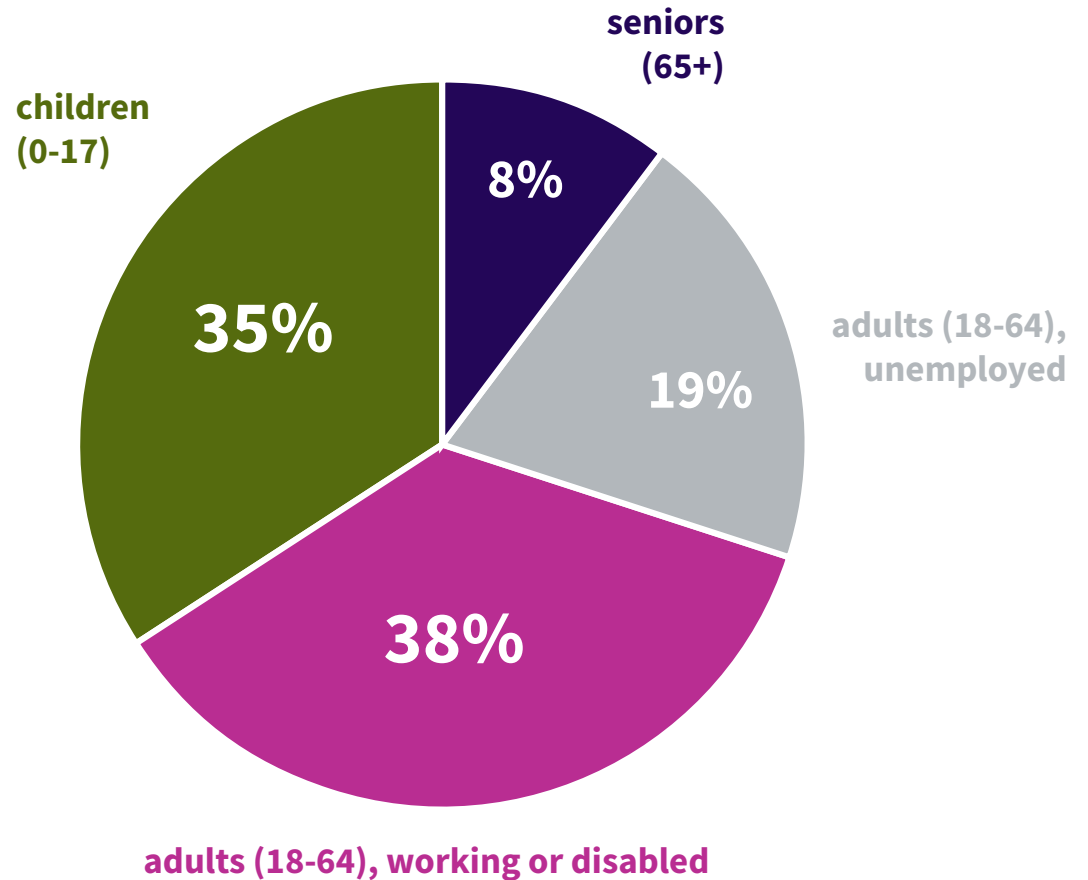
70,727
unique individuals assisted
16% increase from previous year

28,022
households assisted
22% increase from previous year

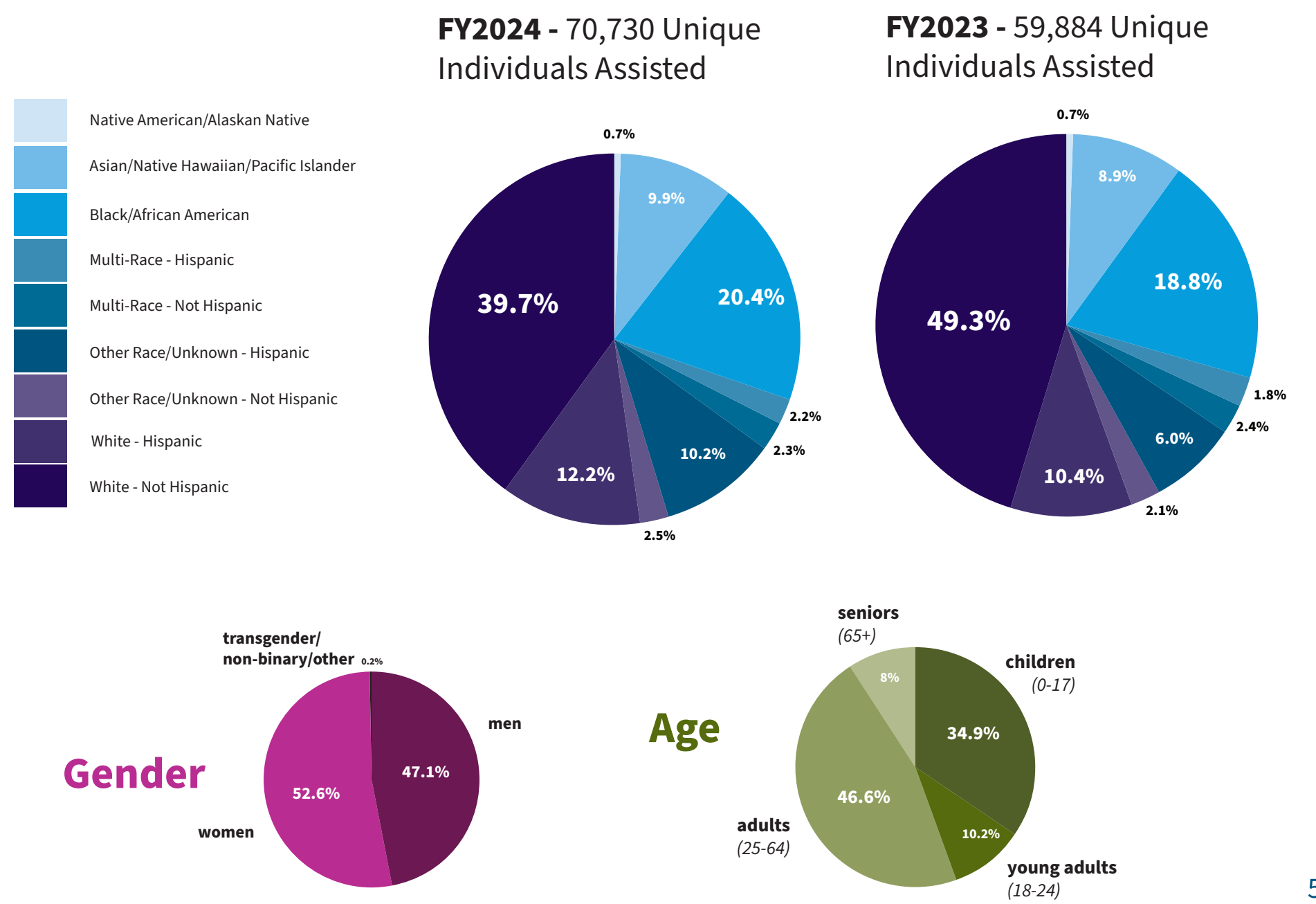
324,417
total pantry services

32.4%
first-time individuals

2.52
average household size

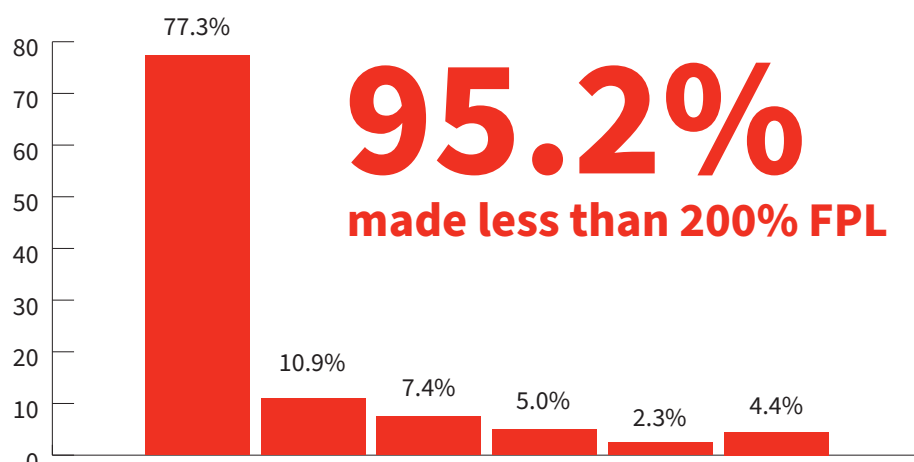


Racial disparities are growing for those visiting a food pantry



INCOME

Household income as a percentage of federal poverty level



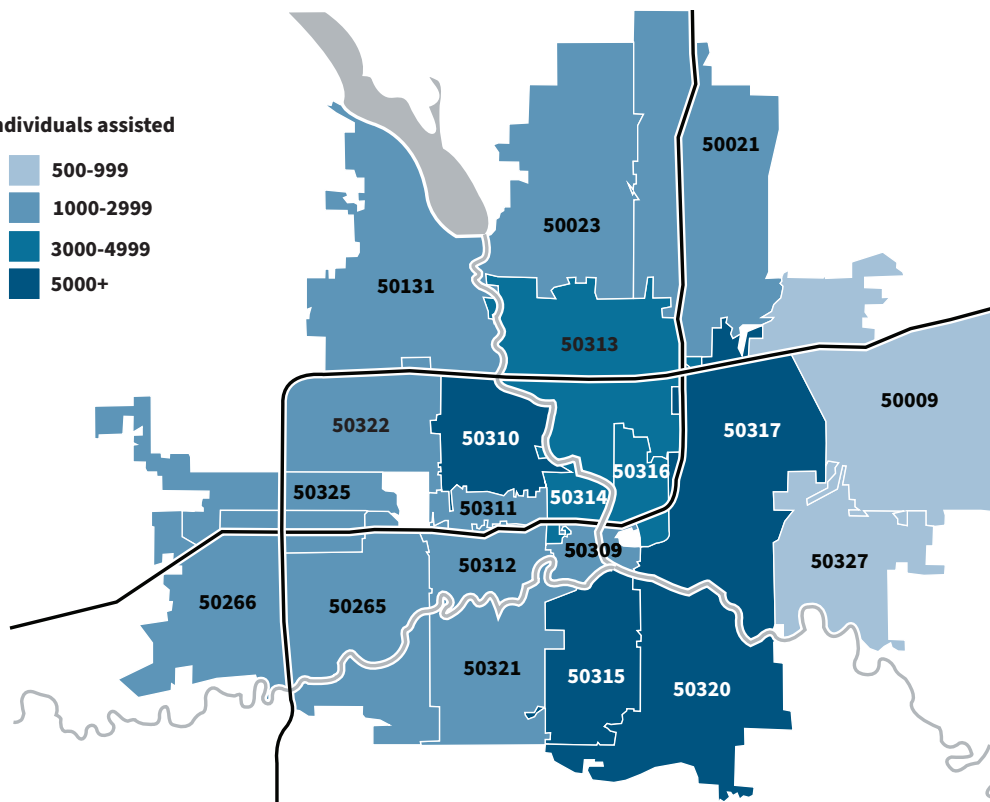
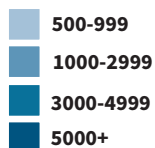
Federal Poverty Level 2024

HH Size	100% FPL	200% FPL
1	\$15,060	\$30,120
2	\$20,440	\$40,880
3	\$25,820	\$51,640
4	\$31,200	\$62,400
5	\$36,580	\$73,160
6	\$41,960	\$83,920

More than 3 out of 4 food pantry visitors live below the federal poverty line.

White - Not Hispanic people who used a food pantry had higher incomes compared to other racial groups. This, too, illustrates the different financial realities between White - Not Hispanic people and people of color in Greater Des Moines.

Individuals assisted



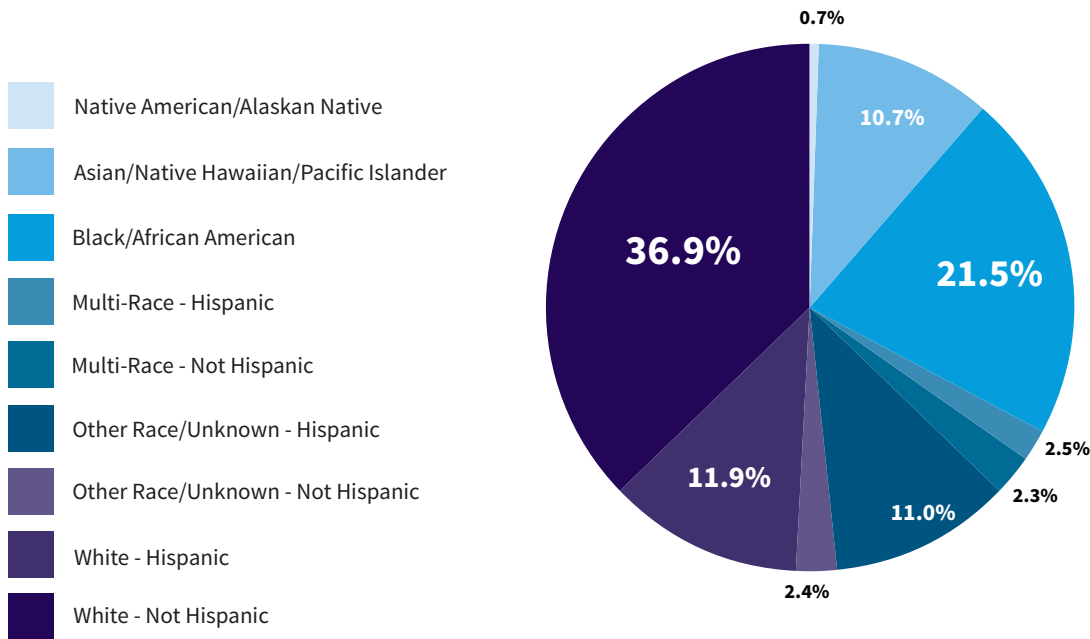
54% of all food pantry visitors lived in the following six ZIP codes:

- 50310
- 50314
- 50315
- 50316
- 50317
- 50320

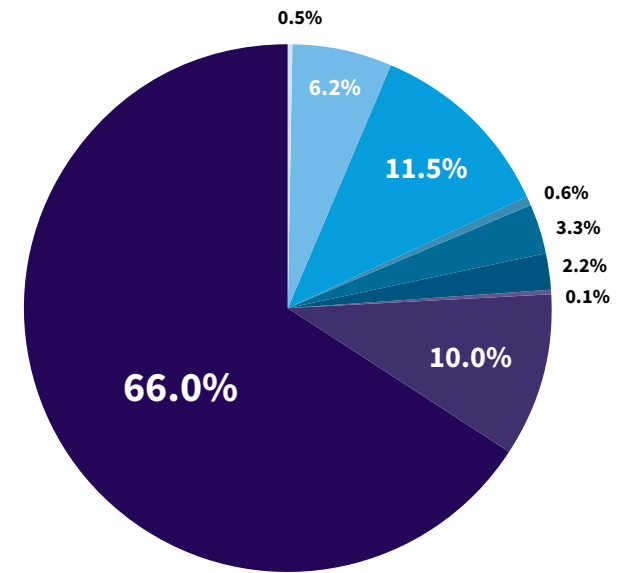
Busiest zip codes	50317 previous fiscal year	50317 current fiscal year	50315 previous fiscal year	50315 current fiscal year
All/Average	7520	7870	8103	9810
American Indian/Alaskan Native	51	44	37	46
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	300	358	712	929
Black/African American	1136	1188	1311	1818
Multi-Race - Hispanic	212	214	253	290
Multi-Race - Non-Hispanic	147	152	252	289
Other/Unknown - Hispanic	557	848	582	982
Other/Unknown - Non-Hispanic	121	145	142	191
White - Hispanic	748	947	836	1105
White - Non-Hispanic	4248	3952	3978	4141

50314 had the greatest concentration of food pantry use, with 45.3% of residents using the DMARC Food Pantry Network in FY24.

RACIAL DISPARITIES BY CITY OF RESIDENCE



FOOD PANTRY VISITORS



GENERAL POPULATION

DES MOINES

48,452

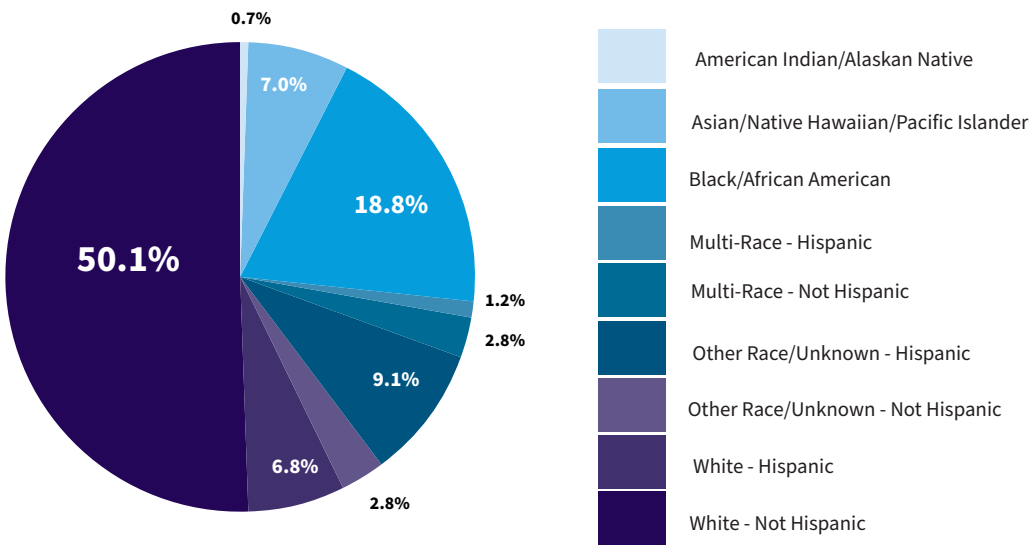
unique individuals assisted

14% FROM FY23

The DMARC Food Pantry Network assisted 48,452 residents of Des Moines in FY24, which is 22.9% of the total population of Des Moines.

Compared with the general population, residents who used a food pantry were less likely to identify as White - Not Hispanic or Multi-Race - Not Hispanic, and more likely to identify as all other races and ethnicities.

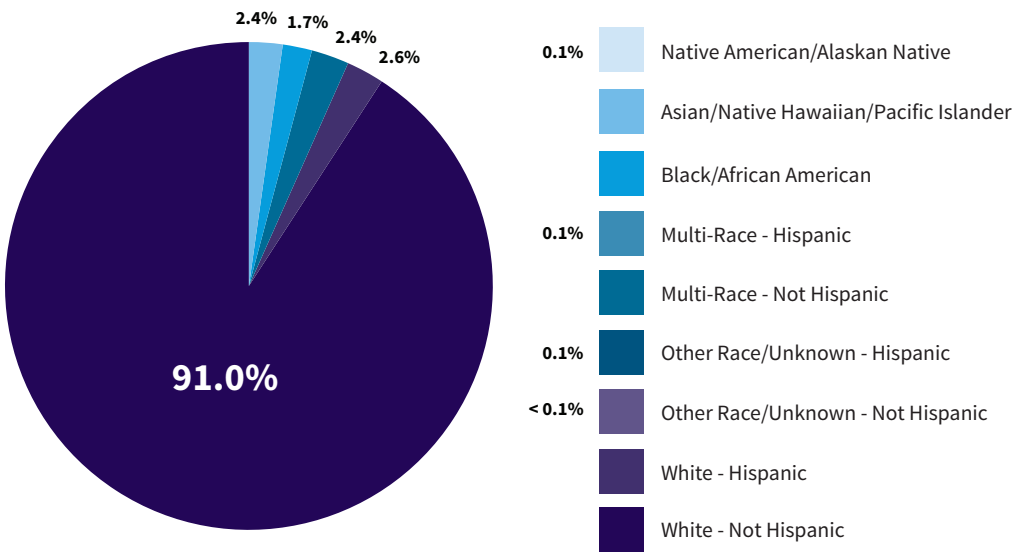
FOOD PANTRY VISITORS



QUICK FACT: VETERANS

The DMARC Food Pantry Network assisted 1,522 veterans in FY24. Compared to all food pantry visitors, those who identified as Veterans (18 years or older) visited a food pantry more frequently than their peers.

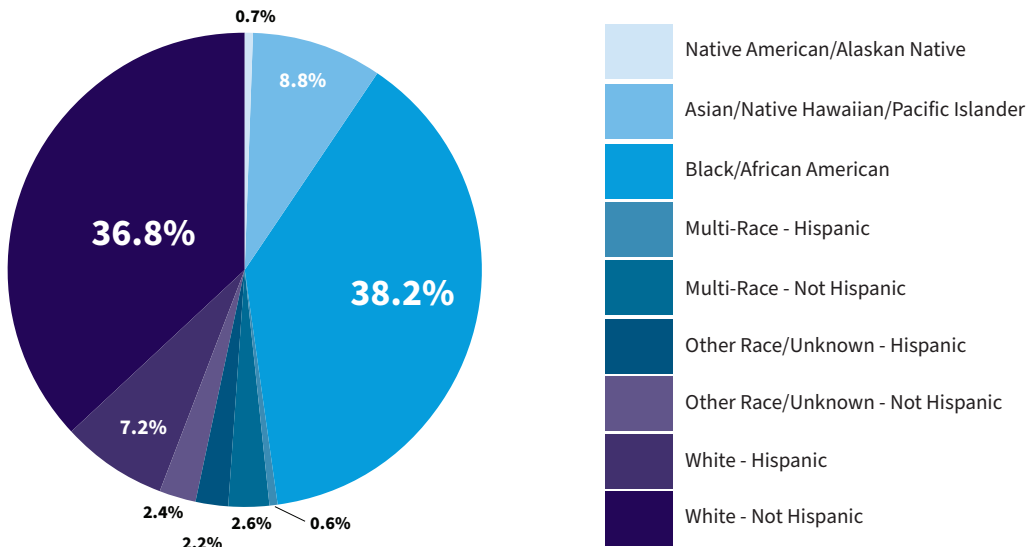
GENERAL POPULATION



ANKENY
3,705
unique individuals
assisted

5% of ANKENY Residents used a pantry in FY2024.

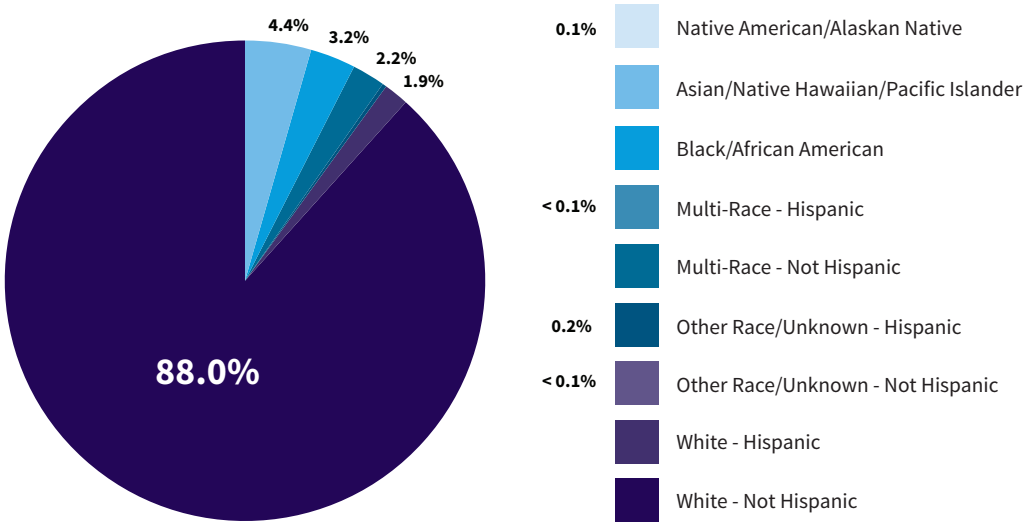
FOOD PANTRY VISITORS



**6% of
JOHNSTON
Residents used a
pantry in FY2024.**

GENERAL POPULATION

JOHNSTON
1,485
unique individuals assisted

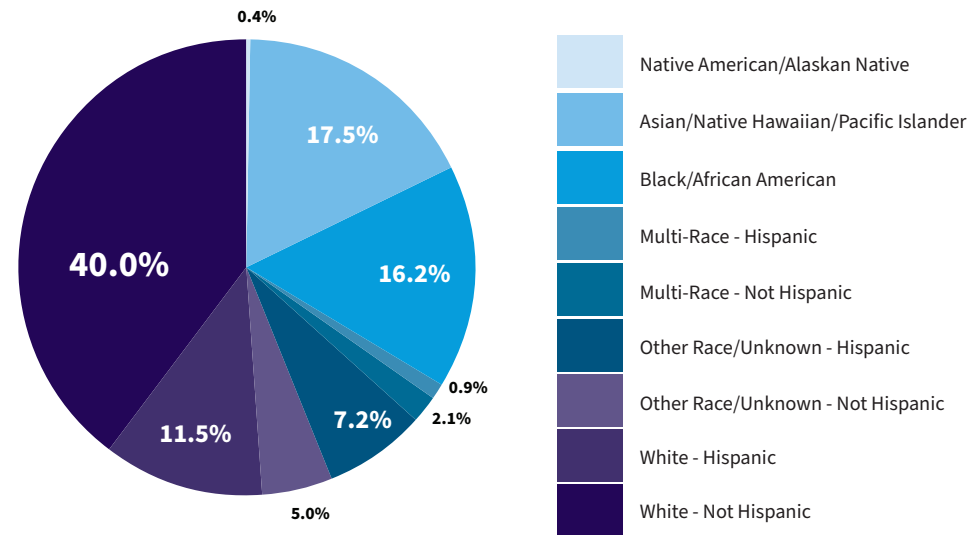


URBANDALE

3,412

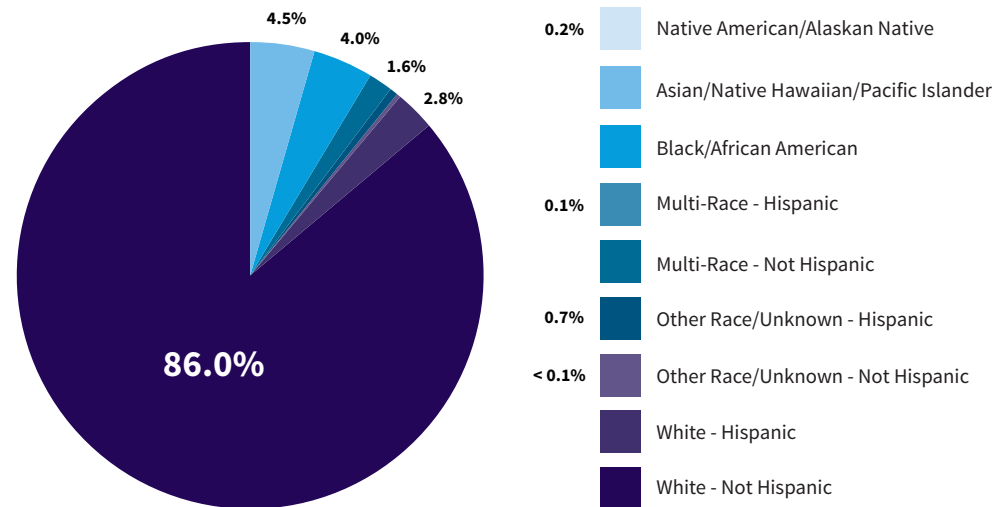
unique individuals assisted

FOOD PANTRY VISITORS



7% of
URBANDALE
Residents used a
pantry in FY2024.

GENERAL POPULATION

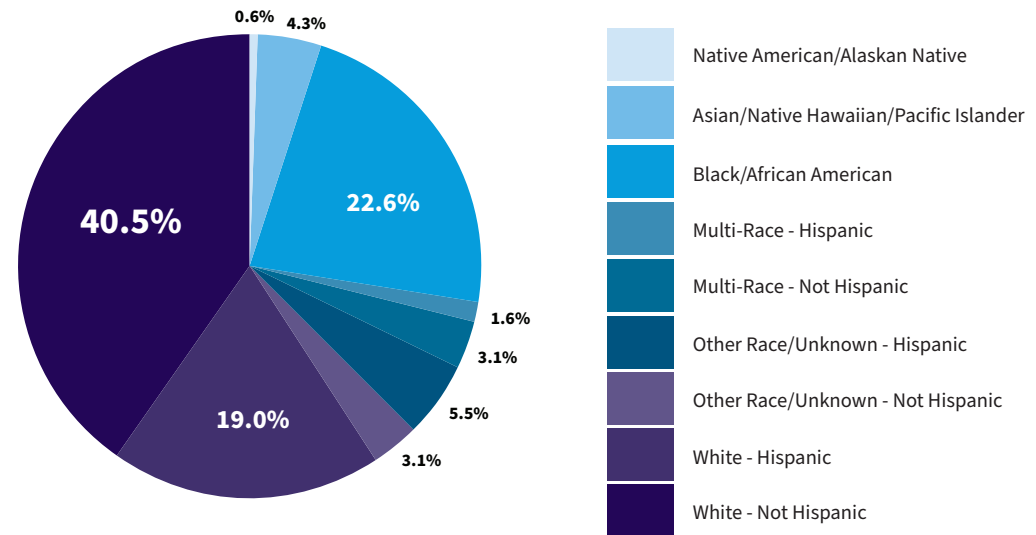


**WEST
DES MOINES**

5,159

unique individuals assisted

FOOD PANTRY VISITORS



**7% of WEST
DES MOINES**

**Residents used a
pantry in FY2024.**

GENERAL POPULATION

