

Food Banks

Food banks are the “wholesalers” of the Emergency Food Assistance System (EFAS). They primarily distribute food to emergency kitchens and food pantries that provide meals and food packages to low-income individuals or households. In addition, they provide food for other charitable organizations with food service operations, such as day care centers and hospitals (which were not included in the current study).

In this chapter, we describe food banks and their operations. We begin with an estimate of the total number of food banks operating in the United States, and then discuss the basic characteristics of these organizations—in general, by size, by affiliation (or nonaffiliation) with America’s Second Harvest, and by regional location. Next, we describe distribution procedures and then examine sources of the food, types and amounts of food received, and the commodities distributed by food banks, including types of foods for which food banks have expressed an additional need. The chapter concludes with a discussion of food bank labor and capital resources.

Number of Food Banks

As noted in chapter 1, for purposes of this study, we attempted to conduct a nationwide census of food banks. In order to obtain a comprehensive list of the Nation’s food banks, we used a multifaceted approach. First, we requested from America’s Second Harvest the names of food banks in its network. We then used the *1998 International Food Bank Directory*,³⁷ together with phone calls to national organizations associated with the EFAS, to obtain the names of “independent” food banks (those not associated with America’s Second Harvest). In addition, as part of our survey, we

asked pantries and kitchens to provide us with the names of food banks that supplied them with food. By cross-checking these names with those on our lists, we were able to identify additional independent organizations. Finally, we obtained from State TEFAP administrators the names of emergency food organizations (EFOs). We had originally thought the organizations identified in this way distributed only USDA commodities, but we later learned that some distributed other groceries in addition to commodities. In general, we included EFOs that distributed commodities *and* other grocery items in the food bank sample as independent entities (although, in practice, the distinction sometimes blurred).

Using these sources, we compiled a list of 402 food banks. It is likely that the total number of food banks in the United States somewhat exceeds this figure, but we believe the actual difference is small. The list includes 320 food banks in the America’s Second Harvest network and 82 independent entities.³⁸ Second Harvest classifies its affiliates into two groups, Certified Affiliates and Subsidiary Distribution Organizations (SDOs). The Certified Affiliates are directly affiliated with Second Harvest, while the SDOs are affiliated with Second Harvest *through* a Certified Affiliate. For purposes of this study, Certified Affiliates and SDOs are treated alike.

The response rate among food banks was 98 percent: 395 of the 402 food banks we identified responded to our survey.³⁹

³⁸For purposes of this study, “independent” food banks or entities, or “independents,” are food banks that are not affiliated with America’s Second Harvest in any way. These food banks, however, may be affiliated with other organizations.

³⁹Because nearly all food banks were interviewed, sampling error for this survey is negligible.

³⁷International Food Banking Services, Inc. (1998).

Characteristics of Food Banks

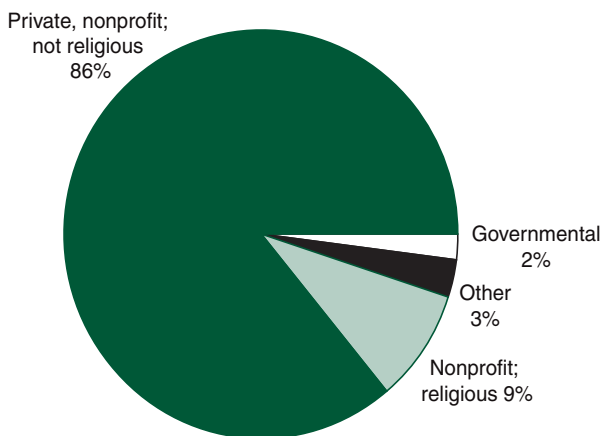
Basic Characteristics

Food banks are not evenly dispersed across regions of the country. There are substantially more food banks in the South than in the Northeast or Midwest. About one-third are located in the South, for instance, compared with only about 15 percent in the Northeast (table 4.1). This finding may be attributed in part to differences in the size of the areas served by individual food banks. However, it also reflects the relatively high proportion of low-income households in the South (see table 3.4 in chapter 3).

Most of the Nation’s food banks (86 percent) are operated by private nonprofit organizations (table 4.1 and fig. 4.1). However, in contrast to emergency kitchens and pantries, only 9 percent of food banks are operated by faith-based organizations; for kitchens and pantries, the percentages are 65 and 67, respectively. Many food banks reported affiliations with one or more national organizations. A substantial majority, about 82 percent, are affiliated with America’s Second Harvest. About half reported connections with United Way and approximately two-fifths with Foodchain.⁴⁰ However, as with emergency kitchen data (chapter 2), the precise nature of these affiliations is unknown. Interestingly, more than

⁴⁰Second Harvest and Foodchain merged their operations while the survey was being conducted.

Figure 4.1
Types of organizations operating food banks



Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

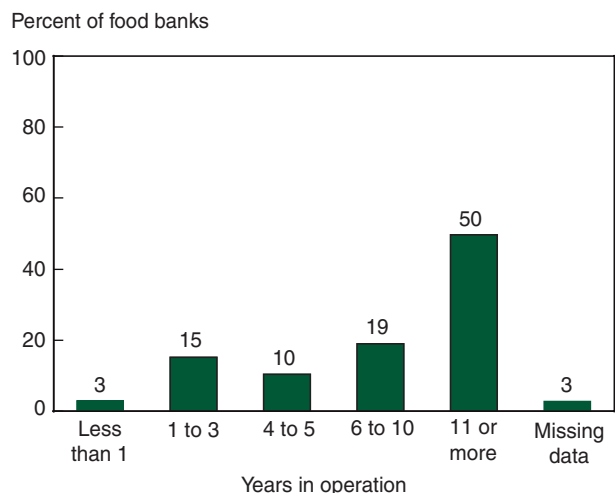
a third of the responding organizations indicated some connection with Catholic Charities or the Salvation Army, but most nevertheless described themselves as *not* being religious organizations. While the exact nature of the organizational relationships is not clear from the survey data, we have classified them as “nonreligious” in the “Type of Organization” panel of the table.

Food banks appear to be quite stable organizations; roughly 70 percent have been operating longer than 5 years and about half for longer than 10 years (fig. 4.2). While most food banks have been operating for a considerable time, a number of relatively new ones (about 18 percent) have been in operation for 3 years or less, and we focus on them in a later subsection. One-third of food banks are co-located with food rescue programs (organizations that focus primarily on distributing perishable food to EFAS providers).

In terms of schedules, most food banks appear to operate like businesses. Seventy-eight percent distribute food to client agencies 5 or more days per week, and about three-fourths are open for business 7 or more hours per day.

In addition to distributing food, food banks offer a variety of nonfood services to their client agencies. Many appear to place a high priority on safe food-handling practices, with roughly three-fourths providing training in food safety and sanitation (fig. 4.3). About 60 percent offer technical assistance and 30 percent provide training in fundraising. Food banks do not

Figure 4.2
Length of time operating as a food bank



Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Table 4.1—Selected characteristics of food banks by size of food bank

Characteristics	All	Size of food bank		
		Small	Medium	Large
		<i>Percent</i>		
Size of food bank	100.0	34.9	47.6	16.7
Region				
West	31.9	36.2	26.6	37.9
Midwest	20.8	18.1	23.9	18.2
South	32.2	26.8	36.2	30.3
Northeast	15.2	18.8	13.3	13.6
Type of organization				
Nonreligious private nonprofit	86.1	79.0	89.9	89.4
Nonprofit, associated with religious group	8.9	13.0	6.9	6.1
Governmental	2.0	5.1	0.5	0.0
Other	3.0	2.9	2.7	4.5
Selected organizational affiliations¹				
Second Harvest	82.3	71.0	86.7	93.9
United Way	51.6	49.3	53.7	53.0
Foodchain	41.3	21.0	48.9	60.6
Salvation Army	31.1	37.7	29.3	21.2
Red Cross	24.1	19.6	27.7	22.7
Catholic Charities	17.7	13.8	21.8	13.6
Other nonprofit organization	17.0	16.7	20.2	9.1
None	6.8	12.3	3.7	3.0
Missing data	1.3	3.6	0.0	0.0
Length of time surveyed location has been operating				
Less than 1 year	3.0	3.6	1.6	6.1
1 to 3 years	15.2	17.4	16.5	7.6
4 to 5 years	10.4	10.9	9.6	12.1
6 years or longer:				
6 to 10 years	19.0	23.2	16.0	19.7
11 to 15 years	14.9	12.3	15.4	19.7
16 to 20 years	29.9	19.6	37.8	25.8
21 to 25 years	2.5	2.9	1.6	4.5
Longer than 25 years	2.3	2.9	1.6	3.0
Not specified	2.5	7.2	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.3	0.0	0.0	1.5
Programs with which food bank is co-located²				
Food rescue program	33.2	28.3	36.7	33.3
Food pantry	10.1	15.9	8.5	3.0
Emergency kitchen	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Emergency shelter	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Frequency of food distribution				
7 days per week	2.3	4.3	0.5	3.0
5 or 6 days per week	75.7	54.3	86.2	89.4
3 or 4 days per week	11.6	15.9	10.6	6.1
1 or 2 days per week	6.8	17.4	1.1	1.5
2 or 3 days per month	1.3	2.2	1.1	0.0
Once a month	1.3	3.6	0.0	0.0
Missing data	1.0	2.2	0.5	0.0
Number of operating hours per day				
As many as 2 hours	1.3	3.6	0.0	0.0
3 or 4	8.4	18.8	3.2	1.5
5 or 6	14.2	23.9	10.1	4.5
7 or 8	61.0	45.7	70.7	65.2
More than 8	14.9	7.2	16.0	28.8
Missing data	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.0

See notes at end of table.

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Table 4.1—Selected characteristics of food banks by size of food bank—Continued

Characteristics	All	Size of food bank		
		Small	Medium	Large
		<i>Percent</i>		
Nonfood services offered¹				
Training in food safety and sanitation	72.7	51.4	84.0	83.3
Technical assistance	60.8	42.0	71.8	69.7
Training in fundraising	29.4	21.0	33.5	36.4
Employment training for agency staff	26.3	23.9	28.7	22.7
Other	25.1	13.8	34.6	19.7
Missing data	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.0
Number of nonfood services offered				
0	16.2	33.3	6.4	9.1
1	13.7	18.1	11.2	12.1
2	28.9	21.7	31.4	37.9
3	24.1	18.1	27.7	24.2
More than 3	16.5	8.0	22.9	16.7
Missing data	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.0
Does any other organization provide nonfood services at the site?				
Yes	4.3	2.9	5.9	3.0
No	95.7	97.1	94.1	97.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sample size (number)	395	138	188	66

¹Categories sum to more than 100 percent because some food banks provided more than one response.

²Categories do not sum to 100 percent because many food banks are not co-located with another provider.

Co-located = Two different organizations operating at the same location.

Notes: Size variable is defined based on amounts of food used and staffing. In general, "small" food banks received less than 600 tons of food in the past 12 months; "medium" food banks received 600 to 4,000 tons; and "large" food banks received more than 4,000 tons.

The sample numbers for food bank sizes do not sum to the total sample because some food banks did not provide answers and are not included.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

appear to rely on other organizations to offer these services. In fact, only four percent reported having outside organizations provide nonfood services onsite.

By Size of Food Bank

In order to determine whether basic characteristics vary by food bank size, we constructed a measure of size based primarily on the weight of food received during the preceding year. In general, "small" food banks receive less than 600 tons of food annually, "medium" food banks receive 600 to 4,000 tons, and "large" food banks receive more than 4,000 tons. When data on the number of tons of food received were not available, we used the number of full-time-equivalent staff as an alternative measure of size.

For the most part, food banks of different sizes exhibit similar characteristics. However, large ones are less likely than medium or small ones to be co-located with food pantries (table 4.1). In addition, larger food banks were much more likely than smaller ones to report offering their large food banks food safety training,

compared with 51 percent of small ones. Similarly, 70 percent of large food banks offer technical assistance, compared with 42 percent of small ones.

A possible explanation for these differences is that small food banks may not have the resources to provide nonfood services with the frequency reported by larger banks. These findings suggest a possible need for additional food safety training, as well as other technical assistance, for EFAS providers served by small food banks. The possibility that some of these providers do not have access to these nonfood services may warrant more research attention and, possibly, increased services from the USDA Extension Service or other agencies.

Smaller food banks tend to operate for fewer days per week and hours per day. About 40 percent of them are open for business less than 5 days a week, compared with approximately 8 percent of large food banks. Similarly, about 22 percent of small food banks, but only 2 percent of large ones, are open for business fewer than 5 hours a day.

By Affiliation

Most food banks in the country (about 80 percent) are affiliated with America's Second Harvest in some capacity (table 4.2). In order to examine possible differences in food banks according to Second Harvest affiliation, we tabulated characteristics for Second Harvest affiliates and independent entities separately.

The two groups differ in a number of dimensions. Members or affiliates of America's Second Harvest are more likely than independent food banks to be located in the South and are less likely to be found in the Northeast. In general, the food banks not affiliated with Second Harvest are relatively small organizations. Based on our definition of size, about 60 percent of independent food banks, versus only 29 percent of those affiliated with Second Harvest, are small. A large majority of both types of food banks are nonreligious nonprofits. However, independent food banks are about twice as likely as Second Harvest affiliates to be faith-based organizations. Perhaps consistent with these findings are the comparisons on non-Second Harvest organizational affiliations. About 42 percent of independents

are affiliated with the Salvation Army compared with 28 percent of Second Harvest affiliates. Almost 50 percent of Second Harvest food banks, but only 13 percent of independent ones, were affiliated with Foodchain.

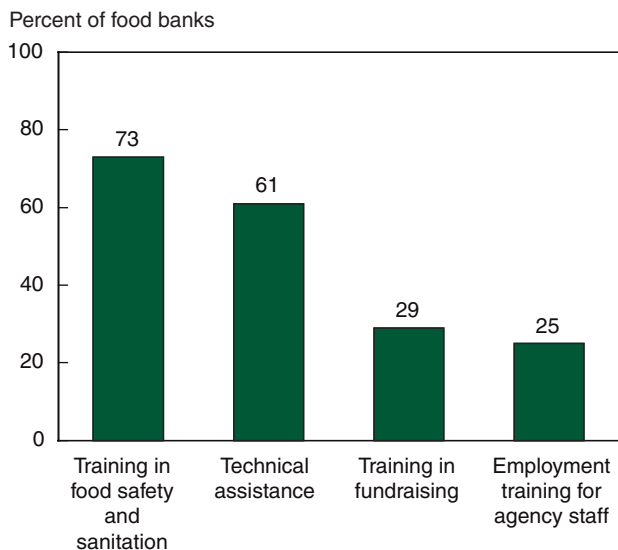
About 54 percent of Second Harvest affiliates have been operating for more than 10 years, compared with 31 percent of independent food banks. One-quarter of independent food banks, but only about 17 percent of Second Harvest affiliates, have come into existence within the past 3 years.

Because independents are smaller entities than Second Harvest affiliates and have shorter operating hours, they distribute food less frequently. About 20 percent of independent food banks are open 4 or fewer hours per day, and 28 percent are open fewer than 5 days a week. Comparative figures for Second Harvest affiliates are 7 and 19 percent, respectively.

In general, when compared with Second Harvest affiliates, independents are less likely to provide any type of nonfood service. Like Second Harvest affiliates, however, they rarely look to outside organizations to provide such services on their premises.

Figure 4.3

Nonfood services offered by food banks



Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

By Region

Food banks across regions are similar in many ways (table 4.3). However, they differ in their degree of co-location. Food banks in the Northeast are less likely than those in other regions to share facilities with food rescue programs and pantries. One-fourth of food banks in the Northeast are co-located with one of these EFAS providers, compared with more than one-third of those in the West and South

By Age of Organization

In order to examine whether organizations just beginning as food bank operations differ from those that have provided food for some time, it is of interest to examine tabulations based on when food banks started (table 4.4). Overall, those that began operating more than 3 years ago are quite similar to those established more recently, but they tend to be somewhat bigger.

Table 4.2—Selected characteristics of food banks by affiliation

Characteristics	All	Affiliation	
		Second Harvest	Independent
		<i>Percent</i>	
Affiliation	100.0	80.3	19.7
Size of food bank			
Small	34.9	28.7	60.3
Medium	47.6	52.1	29.5
Large	16.7	18.9	7.7
Missing data	0.8	0.3	2.6
Region			
West	31.9	30.9	35.9
Midwest	20.8	22.4	14.1
South	32.2	33.4	26.9
Northeast	15.2	13.2	23.1
Type of organization			
Nonreligious private nonprofit	86.1	87.7	79.5
Nonprofit, associated with religious group	8.9	7.3	15.4
Governmental	2.0	1.3	5.1
Informal group of people	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	3.0	3.8	0.0
Selected organizational affiliations¹			
United Way	51.6	53.3	44.9
Foodchain	41.3	48.3	12.8
Salvation Army	31.1	28.4	42.3
Red Cross	24.1	23.0	28.2
Catholic Charities	17.7	17.7	17.9
Other nonprofit organization	17.0	18.0	12.8
None	6.8	0.6	32.1
Missing data	1.3	1.6	0.0
Length of time surveyed location has been operating			
Less than 1 year	3.0	3.5	1.3
1 to 3 years	15.2	13.2	23.1
4 to 5 years	10.4	8.5	17.9
6 years or longer			
6 to 10 years	9.0	18.6	20.5
11 to 15 years	14.9	16.7	7.7
16 to 20 years	29.9	34.1	12.8
21 to 25 years	2.5	2.2	3.8
Longer than 25 years	2.3	1.3	6.4
Not specified	2.5	1.6	6.4
Missing data	0.3	0.3	0.0
Programs with which food bank is co-located²			
Food rescue program	33.2	34.1	29.5
Food pantry	10.1	7.6	20.5
Emergency kitchen	0.0	0.0	0.0
Emergency shelter	0.0	0.0	0.0
Frequency of food distribution			
7 days per week	2.3	1.9	3.8
5 or 6 days per week	75.7	78.2	65.4
3 or 4 days per week	11.6	10.7	15.4
1 or 2 days per week	6.8	6.3	9.0
2 or 3 days per month	1.3	0.6	3.8
Once per month	1.3	1.3	1.3
Missing data	1.0	0.9	1.3

See notes at end of table.

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Table 4.2—Selected characteristics of food banks by affiliation—Continued

Characteristics	All	Affiliation	
		Second Harvest	Independent
		<i>Percent</i>	
Operating hours per day			
As many as 2 hours	1.3	0.6	3.8
3 or 4	8.4	6.0	17.9
5 or 6	14.2	13.2	17.9
7 or 8	61.0	65.6	42.3
More than 8	14.9	14.5	16.7
Missing data	0.3	0.0	1.3
Nonfood services offered¹			
Training in food safety and sanitation	72.7	77.6	52.6
Technical assistance	60.8	64.4	46.2
Training in fundraising	29.4	31.2	21.8
Employment training for agency staff	26.3	25.2	30.8
Other	25.1	24.9	25.6
Missing data	0.8	0.6	1.3
Number of nonfood services offered			
0	16.2	13.2	18.2
1	13.7	12.9	16.7
2	28.9	31.5	17.9
3	24.1	24.0	24.4
More than 3	16.6	17.7	11.5
Missing data	0.8	0.6	1.3
Does any other organization provide nonfood services at the site?			
Yes	4.3	4.4	3.8
No	95.7	95.6	96.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sample size (number)	395	317	78

¹Categories sum to more than 100 percent because some food banks provided more than one response.

²Categories do not sum to 100 percent because many food banks are not co-located with another provider.

Co-located = Two different organizations operating at the same location.

Note: Size variable is defined based on amounts of food used and staffing. In general, "small" food banks received less than 600 tons of food in the past 12 months; "medium" food banks received 600 to 4,000 tons; and "large" food banks received more than 4,000 tons.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Table 4.3—Selected characteristics of food banks by region

Characteristics	All	Region			
		West	Midwest	South	Northeast
			<i>Percent</i>		
Region	100.0	31.9	20.8	32.2	15.2
Size of food bank					
Small	34.9	39.7	30.5	29.1	43.3
Medium	47.6	39.7	54.9	53.5	41.7
Large	16.7	19.8	14.6	15.7	15.0
Missing data	0.8	0.8	0.0	1.6	0.0
Type of organization					
Nonreligious private nonprofit	86.1	84.9	93.9	88.2	73.3
Nonprofit, associated with religious group	8.9	9.5	3.7	9.4	13.3
Governmental	2.0	2.4	0.0	0.0	8.3
Informal group of people	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	3.0	3.2	2.4	2.4	5.0
Selected organizational affiliations¹					
Second Harvest	82.3	80.2	85.4	85.0	76.7
United Way	51.6	52.4	50.0	54.3	46.7
Foodchain	41.3	33.3	47.6	44.9	41.7
Salvation Army	31.1	34.9	25.6	30.7	31.7
Red Cross	24.1	17.5	24.4	30.7	23.3
Catholic Charities	17.7	12.7	20.7	18.9	21.7
Other nonprofit organization	17.0	20.6	19.5	14.2	11.7
None	6.8	7.9	2.4	7.1	10.0
Missing data	1.3	1.6	0.0	1.6	1.7
Length of time surveyed location has been operating					
Less than 1 year	3.0	3.2	2.4	3.1	3.3
1 to 3 years	15.2	15.1	14.6	17.3	11.7
4 to 5 years	10.4	13.5	9.8	6.3	13.3
6 years or longer					
6 to 10 years	19.0	18.3	23.2	17.3	18.3
11 to 15 years	14.9	11.9	13.4	18.9	15.0
16 to 20 years	29.9	24.6	31.7	35.4	26.7
21 to 25 years	2.5	4.8	2.4	0.8	1.7
Longer than 25 years	2.3	4.8	1.2	0.8	1.7
Not specified	2.5	4.0	0.0	0.0	8.3
Missing data	0.3	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0
Programs with which food bank is co-located²					
Food rescue program	33.2	34.9	31.7	36.2	25.0
Food pantry	10.1	13.5	7.3	11.0	5.0
Frequency of food distribution					
7 days per week	2.3	3.2	2.4	0.8	3.3
5 or 6 days per week	75.7	68.3	86.6	81.9	63.3
3 or 4 days per week	11.6	14.3	4.9	13.4	11.7
1 or 2 days per week	6.8	10.3	4.9	1.6	13.3
2 or 3 days per month	1.3	0.8	0.0	2.4	1.7
Once a month	1.3	1.6	1.2	0.0	3.3
Missing data	1.0	1.6	0.0	0.0	3.3

See notes at end of table.

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Table 4.3—Selected characteristics of food banks by region—Continued

Characteristics	All	Region				
		West	Midwest	South	Northeast	
			<i>Percent</i>			
Operating hours per day						
As many as 2	1.3	2.4	0.0	0.0	3.3	
3 or 4	8.4	12.7	6.1	5.5	8.3	
5 or 6	14.2	16.7	8.5	14.2	16.7	
7 or 8	61.0	54.8	65.9	66.9	55.0	
More than 8	14.9	13.5	19.5	13.4	15.0	
Missing data	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	
Nonfood services offered¹						
Training in food safety and sanitation	72.7	71.4	76.8	73.2	68.3	
Technical assistance	60.8	60.3	74.4	50.4	65.0	
Training in fundraising	29.4	28.6	35.4	26.0	30.0	
Employment training for agency staff	26.3	27.0	31.7	22.0	26.7	
Other	25.1	28.6	20.7	24.4	25.0	
Missing data	0.8	0.8	0.0	1.6	0.0	
Number of nonfood services offered						
0	16.2	15.9	9.8	19.7	18.3	
1	13.7	11.9	11.0	17.3	13.3	
2	28.9	31.0	32.9	25.2	26.7	
3	24.1	26.2	26.8	20.5	23.3	
More than 3	16.5	14.3	19.5	15.7	18.3	
Missing data	0.8	0.8	0.0	1.6	0.0	
Does any other organization provide nonfood services at the site?²						
Yes	4.3	5.6	6.1	1.6	5.0	
No	95.7	94.4	93.9	98.4	95.0	
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Sample size (number)	395	126	82	127	60	

¹Categories sum to more than 100 percent because some food banks provided more than one response.

²Categories do not sum to 100 percent because many food banks are not co-located with another provider.

Co-located = Two different organizations operating at the same location.

Note: Size variable is defined based on amounts of food used and staffing. In general, "small" food banks received less than 600 tons of food in the past 12 months; "medium" food banks received 600 to 4,000 tons; and "large" food banks received more than 4,000 tons.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Table 4.4—Selected characteristics of food banks by age of food bank

Characteristics	All	Age of food bank	
		3 years or less	More than 3 years
<i>Percent</i>			
Size			
Small	34.9	40.3	33.9
Medium	47.6	47.2	47.8
Large	16.7	12.5	17.4
Missing data	0.8	0.0	0.9
Region			
West	31.9	31.9	32.0
Midwest	20.8	19.4	20.8
South	32.2	36.1	31.4
Northeast	15.2	12.5	15.8
Type of organization			
Nonreligious private nonprofit	86.1	93.1	84.5
Nonprofit, associated with religious group	8.9	6.9	9.3
Governmental	2.0	0.0	2.5
Informal group of people	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	3.0	0.0	3.7
Selected organizational affiliations¹			
Second Harvest	82.3	76.4	83.5
United Way	51.6	58.3	50.0
Food Chain	41.3	34.7	42.5
Salvation Army	31.1	23.6	32.6
Red Cross	24.1	20.8	24.5
Catholic Charities	17.7	13.9	18.3
Other nonprofit organization	17.0	19.4	16.5
None	6.8	8.3	6.5
Missing data	1.3	1.4	1.2
Programs with which food bank is co-located²			
Food rescue program	33.2	27.3	34.2
Food pantry	10.1	11.1	9.9
Emergency kitchen	0.0	0.0	0.0
Emergency shelter	0.0	0.0	0.0
Frequency of food distribution			
7 days per week	2.3	4.2	1.9
5 or 6 days per week	75.7	77.8	75.2
3 or 4 days per week	11.6	9.7	12.1
1 or 2 days per week	6.8	6.9	6.8
2 or 3 days per month	1.3	0.0	1.6
Once a month	1.3	1.4	1.2
Missing data	1.0	0.0	1.2
Operating hours per day			
As many as 2	1.3	0.0	1.6
3 or 4	8.4	9.7	8.1
5 or 6	14.2	9.7	15.2
7 or 8	61.0	75.0	58.1
More than 8	14.9	5.6	16.8
Missing data	0.3	0.0	0.3
Nonfood services offered¹			
Training on food safety and sanitation	72.7	69.4	73.3
Technical assistance	60.8	61.1	60.6
Training on fundraising	29.4	26.4	29.8
Employment training for agency staff	26.3	19.4	27.6
Other	25.1	34.7	23.0
Missing data	0.8	0.0	0.9

See notes at end of table.

—Continued

Table 4.4—Selected characteristics of food banks by age of food bank—Continued

Characteristics	All	Age of food bank	
		3 years or less	More than 3 years
<i>Percent</i>			
Number of nonfood services offered			
0	16.2	18.1	15.8
1	13.7	9.7	14.6
2	28.9	33.3	28.0
3	24.1	25.0	23.9
More than 3	16.5	13.9	16.8
Missing data	0.8	0.0	0.9
Does any other organization provide nonfood services at the site?			
Yes	4.3	5.6	4.0
No	95.7	94.4	96.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sample size (number)	395	72	322

¹Categories sum to more than 100 percent because some food banks provided more than one response.

²Categories do not sum to 100 percent because many food banks are not co-located with another provider.

Co-located = Two different organizations operating at the same location.

Notes: Size variable is defined based on amounts of food used and staffing. In general, "small" food banks received less than 600 tons of food in the past 12 months; "medium" food banks received 600 to 4,000 tons; and "large" food banks received more than 4,000 tons.

The sample numbers for food bank ages do not sum to the total sample because some food banks did not provide answers and are not included.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Food Distribution Characteristics and Policies

To obtain more detailed information about food bank operations, we asked respondents to report on their food distribution practices and policies. We speculated that operations may vary according to particular food bank characteristics. To determine whether our assumption was correct, we cross-tabulated the data by size of food bank, affiliation, and region.

Food Distribution Characteristics

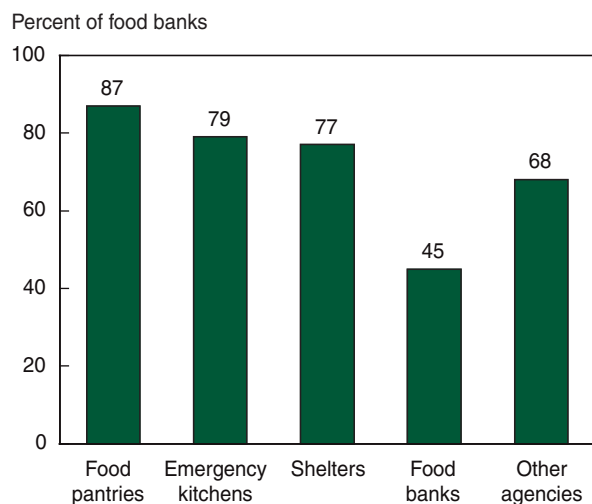
Most food banks distribute food to several types of client agencies (table 4.5 and fig. 4.4). About 87 percent of food banks serve pantries, 79 percent serve kitchens, and 77 percent serve shelters. Approximately 68 percent of food banks also distribute food to other nonprofit agencies, such as day care centers. About 45 percent of food banks serve other food banks. The median number of pantries served by food banks that serve pantries is 65. The corresponding figure for kitchens is 7, and for shelters, 4.

By Size of Food Bank

As expected, the number of agencies served by food banks varies by size (table 4.5). For example, the median large food bank serves 195 pantries and 25 kitchens on a regular basis. The respective numbers for the median small food bank are 19 and 3.

Figure 4.4

Types of agencies served by food banks



Note: "Other agencies" includes various charitable organizations that serve food, including day care centers, senior centers, and hospitals.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

By Affiliation

Independent food banks appear to serve a smaller variety of emergency food providers than those affiliated with America's Second Harvest (table 4.6). Pantries, kitchens, and shelters are served by more than 80 percent of Second Harvest affiliates. In contrast, smaller percentages of independent food banks serve each type of provider.

Consistent with our earlier finding that independent food banks are generally smaller than Second Harvest affiliates, they serve fewer client agencies. The median independent food bank serves 20 pantries, 4 kitchens, 3 food banks, 4 shelters, and 19 other providers. In contrast, the median Second Harvest affiliate serves 81 pantries, 8 kitchens, 4 food banks, 7 shelters, and 49 other providers.

By Region

The clientele of food banks is, in large part, similar across regions of the country (table 4.7). However, food banks located in the West tend to serve fewer clients than those in other regions. For example, the difference in number of pantries served by the median food bank in the West and the median food bank in the South is substantial: the former has 26 pantries as clients while the latter has almost 100.

By Market Areas Served

The geographic areas served by food banks vary substantially, from a single county to more than 50 counties (table 4.8). The median number of counties served is 5, while the average is nearly 11. The frequency distribution shows that about three-fourths of food banks serve fewer than 14 counties. However, because a few of the remaining food banks serve very large numbers of counties, the data are strongly skewed.

Reflecting these differences, the size of the areas served (measured by distance to farthest client agency) varies greatly as well. For a few food banks, this distance is less than 25 miles; more typically, it is about 80 miles.

Food Distribution Policies

Many food banks have implemented policies to limit the client agencies that may obtain food and the amount of food they may receive. Of the 61 percent of food banks that limit food, 58 percent do so by linking the amount of food they provide to the number of people the agency serves (table 4.9). About three-fourths

Table 4.5—Selected food distribution characteristics of food banks by size of food bank

Distribution characteristics	All	Size of food bank		
		Small	Medium	Large
<i>Percent</i>				
Types of agencies served				
Pantries	87.1	87.0	88.8	83.3
Kitchens	79.2	70.3	86.2	80.3
Shelters	77.2	65.9	86.2	75.8
Food banks	44.6	34.1	44.1	68.2
Other agencies	67.6	50.7	78.2	72.7
Missing data	5.8	3.6	5.3	10.6
Number of pantries served by food banks that serve pantries (N = 376)				
1 to 25	24.2	55.8	9.9	1.6
26 to 50	15.7	17.1	19.8	1.6
51 to 75	10.1	7.8	12.6	8.1
76 to 100	10.4	5.4	15.4	6.5
101 to 150	12.8	6.2	17.6	12.9
151 to 200	5.9	0.8	4.9	19.4
201 to 300	5.6	0.0	6.0	14.5
More than 300	6.9	0.0	5.5	24.2
Missing data	8.5	7.0	8.2	11.3
(Mean)	(101.4)	(32.5)	(106.4)	(227.2)
(Median)	(65.0)	(19.0)	(82.0)	(195.0)
Number of kitchens served by food banks that serve kitchens (N = 346)				
1 to 5	37.9	63.8	31.6	13.1
6 to 10	18.8	14.3	24.3	11.5
11 to 25	15.6	8.6	18.6	19.7
26 to 50	11.0	2.9	11.3	23.0
51 to 100	5.5	2.9	2.8	18.0
More than 100	1.7	0.0	2.8	1.6
Missing data	9.5	7.6	8.5	13.1
(Mean)	(19.1)	(8.3)	(20.0)	(36.1)
(Median)	(7.0)	(3.0)	(8.0)	(25.0)
Number of food banks served by food banks that serve food banks (N = 208)				
1 or 2	30.8	42.6	31.0	19.2
3 or 4	14.9	14.8	18.0	9.6
5 or 6	10.6	5.6	10.0	15.4
7 or 8	6.7	5.6	5.0	11.5
9 or 10	6.3	5.6	5.0	9.6
11 to 20	10.6	11.1	10.0	11.5
More than 20	4.8	1.9	4.0	9.6
Missing data	15.4	13.0	17.0	13.5
(Mean)	(7.0)	(4.7)	(6.4)	(10.7)
(Median)	(4.0)	(3.0)	(4.0)	(6.0)
Number of other agencies served by food banks that serve other agencies (N = 293)				
1 to 10	20.5	42.7	16.9	0.0
11 to 25	12.6	18.7	12.5	5.5
26 to 50	16.7	13.3	18.8	16.4
51 to 75	5.5	4.0	8.1	0.0
76 to 100	8.2	4.0	11.9	3.6
101 to 150	9.9	8.0	7.5	20.0
151 to 200	6.5	2.7	7.5	7.3
201 to 300	6.8	0.0	5.6	20.0
More than 300	4.4	0.0	3.1	14.5
Missing data	8.9	6.7	8.1	12.7
(Mean)	(95.2)	(32.3)	(84.4)	(218.6)
(Median)	(43.0)	(14.0)	(49.0)	(145.0)

See notes at end of table.

—Continued

Table 4.5—Selected food distribution characteristics of food banks by size of food bank—Continued

Distribution characteristics	All	Size of food bank		
		Small	Medium	Large
<i>Percent</i>				
Number of shelters served by food banks that serve shelters (N = 338)				
1 to 5	41.1	66.7	35.0	16.9
6 to 10	19.2	18.2	23.2	10.2
11 to 15	7.1	5.1	9.6	3.4
16 to 20	5.9	1.0	6.8	11.9
21 to 25	3.3	0.0	4.0	5.1
26 to 50	8.6	1.0	9.0	20.3
More than 50	5.0	0.0	4.0	16.9
Missing data	9.8	8.1	8.5	15.3
(Mean)	(13.8)	(4.8)	(13.7)	(30.7)
(Median)	(6.0)	(3.0)	(8.0)	(21.0)
Percent of food received that is distributed				
Less than 85	12.7	14.5	12.2	10.6
85 to 89	7.8	3.6	9.6	10.6
90 to 100	74.5	75.4	75.0	72.8
Missing data	5.1	6.5	3.2	6.1
(Mean)	(93.1)	(93.4)	(93.0)	(93.1)
(Median)	(97.0)	(100.0)	(95.0)	(95.0)
Sample size (number)	395	138	188	66

Notes: Size variable is defined based on amounts of food used and staffing. In general, "small" food banks received fewer than 600 tons of food in the past 12 months; "medium" food banks received 600 to 4,000 tons; and "large" food banks received more than 4,000 tons.

The sample numbers for food bank sizes do not sum to the total sample because some food banks did not provide answers and are not included.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

of food banks limit the kinds of agencies that may receive food. The criterion respondents use most frequently to make this determination is that the agency must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Just over 30 percent of food banks require agencies to complete a formal approval process.

In reviewing these data on agency requirements, it is important to note that the stated percentages may underestimate the true figures. The question was open-ended, with responses coded into prespecified categories. For any given category, the percentage responding may be low simply because some respondents did not think of their agency's policy when they were being interviewed, even though they had in fact used it. We suspect this underreporting may have occurred, for instance, for the 501(c)(3) tax status variable, since many food banks need this designation in their client agencies in order to protect their own tax-exempt status.

By Size of Food Bank

More large food banks reported policies that limit food distribution than small ones (table 4.9). Almost three-fourths of large food banks limit the amount of food an agency may obtain, compared with about half of small banks. At least some of these policies may reflect USDA guidelines concerning TEFAP commodities. It

is also possible that large food banks have more-formalized policies than small food banks and that this, in some instances, contributes to their distribution limits.

By Affiliation

Similar percentages of Second Harvest affiliates and independent food banks have policies that limit the amount of food client agencies may obtain (table 4.10). Food banks associated with America's Second Harvest, however, are more likely to impose restrictions on the types of agencies to which they distribute food; about 75 percent of Second Harvest affiliates do so, compared with 64 percent of independents. This finding may reflect, in part, guidelines specified by America's Second Harvest to its affiliates regarding food distribution.

For the most part, the criteria used to determine whether an agency is eligible to receive food are applied in similar proportions by Second Harvest affiliates and independent food banks. An interesting exception is that Second Harvest affiliates are about 50 percent more likely than independents to require agencies to complete an approval process before receiving food. This policy may be at least partly responsible for the difference in the percentages of Second Harvest affiliates and independent food banks that reported placing limits on whom they serve.

Table 4.6—Selected food distribution characteristics of food banks by affiliation

Distribution characteristics	All	Affiliation	
		Second Harvest	Independent
		<i>Percent</i>	
Types of agencies served			
Pantries	87.1	88.6	80.8
Kitchens	79.2	81.4	70.5
Shelters	77.2	81.1	61.5
Food banks	44.6	47.0	34.6
Other agencies	67.6	71.6	51.3
Missing data	5.8	6.3	3.8
Number of pantries served by food banks that serve pantries			
1 to 25	24.2	17.9	52.2
26 to 50	15.7	16.3	13.0
51 to 75	10.1	10.1	10.1
76 to 100	10.4	11.7	4.3
101 to 150	12.8	15.0	2.9
151 to 200	5.9	7.2	0.0
201 to 300	5.6	5.9	4.3
More than 300	6.9	7.5	4.3
Missing data	8.5	8.5	8.7
(Mean)	(101.4)	(111.9)	(54.5)
(Median)	(65.0)	(81.0)	(20.0)
Number of kitchens served by food banks that serve kitchens			
1 to 5	37.9	35.7	48.3
6 to 10	18.8	18.9	18.3
11 to 25	15.6	16.1	13.3
26 to 50	11.0	11.5	8.3
51 to 100	5.5	5.9	3.3
More than 100	1.7	2.1	0.0
Missing data	9.5	9.8	8.3
(Mean)	(19.1)	(20.8)	(11.4)
(Median)	(7.0)	(8.0)	(4.0)
Number of food banks served by food banks that serve food banks			
1 or 2	30.8	30.1	34.4
3 or 4	14.9	14.8	15.6
5 or 6	10.6	12.5	0.0
7 or 8	6.7	6.3	9.4
9 or 10	6.3	6.8	3.1
11 to 20	10.6	9.1	18.8
More than 20	4.8	5.1	3.1
Missing data	15.4	15.3	15.6
(Mean)	(7.0)	(7.1)	(6.9)
(Median)	(4.0)	(4.0)	(3.0)
Number of shelters served by food banks that serve shelters			
1 to 5	41.1	38.9	52.8
6 to 10	19.2	18.6	22.6
11 to 15	7.1	7.0	7.5
16 to 20	5.9	6.7	1.9
21 to 25	3.3	3.5	1.9
26 to 50	8.6	10.2	0.0
More than 50	5.0	5.3	3.8
Missing data	9.8	9.8	9.4
(Mean)	(13.8)	(14.8)	(8.5)
(Median)	(6.0)	(7.0)	(4.0)

See note at end of table.

—Continued

Table 4.6—Selected food distribution characteristics of food banks by affiliation—Continued

Distribution characteristics	All	Affiliation	
		Second Harvest	Independent
		<i>Percent</i>	
Number of other agencies served by food banks that serve other agencies			
1 to 10	20.5	17.3	38.6
11 to 25	12.6	12.9	11.4
26 to 50	16.7	17.7	11.4
51 to 75	5.5	5.6	4.5
76 to 100	8.2	8.4	6.8
101 to 150	9.9	10.8	4.5
151 to 200	6.5	6.8	4.5
201 to 300	6.8	8.0	0.0
More than 300	4.4	3.6	9.1
Missing data	8.9	8.8	9.1
(Mean)	(95.2)	(90.1)	(123.8)
(Median)	(43.0)	(49.0)	(19.0)
Percent of food received that is distributed			
Less than 85	12.7	12.6	12.8
85 to 89	7.8	9.5	1.3
90 to 100	74.5	72.9	80.8
Missing data	5.1	5.1	5.1
(Mean)	(93.1)	(93.1)	(93.1)
(Median)	(97.0)	(97.0)	(97.0)
Sample size (number)	395	317	78

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Table 4.7—Selected food distribution characteristics of food banks by region

Distribution characteristics	All	Region			
		West	Midwest	South	Northeast
			<i>Percent</i>		
Types of agencies served					
Pantries	87.1	87.3	91.5	83.5	88.3
Kitchens	79.2	78.6	85.4	75.6	80.0
Shelters	77.2	76.2	82.9	75.6	75.0
Food banks	44.6	50.0	48.8	40.9	35.0
Other agencies	67.6	61.1	79.3	65.4	70.0
Missing data	5.8	4.0	4.9	9.4	3.3
Number of pantries served by food banks that serve pantries					
1 to 25	24.2	47.4	13.6	8.9	25.5
26 to 50	15.7	16.4	21.0	11.3	16.4
51 to 75	10.1	12.9	11.1	8.9	5.5
76 to 100	10.4	5.2	11.1	15.3	9.1
101 to 150	12.8	5.2	18.5	15.3	14.5
151 to 200	5.9	3.4	6.2	6.5	9.1
201 to 300	5.6	1.7	3.7	9.7	7.3
More than 300	6.9	2.6	7.4	9.7	9.1
Missing data	8.5	5.2	7.4	14.5	3.6
(Mean)	(101.4)	(54.1)	(104.8)	(139.2)	(118.9)
(Median)	(65.0)	(26.0)	(81.0)	(99.0)	(85.0)
Number of kitchens served by food banks that serve kitchens					
1 to 5	37.9	54.3	31.2	29.8	32.0
6 to 10	18.8	21.0	20.8	17.5	14.0
11 to 25	15.6	13.3	16.9	15.8	18.0
26 to 50	11.0	4.8	13.0	12.3	18.0
51 to 100	5.5	1.0	6.5	7.0	10.0
More than 100	1.7	0.0	2.6	1.8	4.0
Missing data	9.5	5.7	9.1	15.8	4.0
(Mean)	(19.1)	(8.7)	(23.6)	(20.6)	(31.2)
(Median)	(7.0)	(5.0)	(10.0)	(9.0)	(12.0)
Number of shelters served by food banks that serve shelters					
1 to 5	41.1	61.5	33.8	33.6	25.5
6 to 10	19.2	11.5	25.7	20.4	23.4
11 to 15	7.1	4.8	10.8	8.0	4.3
16 to 20	5.9	4.8	5.4	5.3	10.6
21 to 25	3.3	1.0	1.4	3.5	10.6
26 to 50	8.6	6.7	9.5	8.8	10.6
More than 50	5.0	1.9	5.4	5.3	10.6
Missing data	9.8	7.7	8.1	15.0	4.3
(Mean)	(13.8)	(8.5)	(15.0)	(14.7)	(21.5)
(Median)	(6.0)	(4.0)	(7.0)	(8.5)	(10.0)
Number of food banks served by food banks that serve food banks					
1 or 2	30.8	31.4	26.1	27.9	45.8
3 or 4	14.9	11.4	17.4	16.2	16.7
5 or 6	10.6	17.1	4.3	10.3	4.2
7 or 8	6.7	5.7	13.0	4.4	4.2
9 or 10	6.3	7.1	6.5	5.9	4.2
11 to 20	10.6	12.9	13.0	8.8	4.2
More than 20	4.8	4.3	6.5	2.9	8.3
Missing data	15.4	10.0	13.0	23.5	12.5
(Mean)	(7.0)	(7.8)	(7.0)	(6.8)	(5.6)
(Median)	(4.0)	(5.0)	(5.0)	(4.0)	(2.0)

See note at end of table.

—Continued

Table 4.7—Selected food distribution characteristics of food banks by region—Continued

Distribution characteristics	All	Region			
		West	Midwest	South	Northeast
		<i>Percent</i>			
Number of other agencies served by food banks that serve other agencies					
1 to 10	20.5	28.9	18.8	17.5	13.6
11 to 25	12.6	14.5	13.0	12.4	9.1
26 to 50	16.7	20.5	17.4	13.4	15.9
51 to 75	5.5	3.6	4.3	6.2	9.1
76 to 100	8.2	4.8	13.0	8.2	6.8
101 to 150	9.9	8.4	13.0	10.3	6.8
151 to 200	6.5	0.0	8.7	4.1	20.5
201 to 300	6.8	9.6	4.3	6.2	6.8
More than 300	4.4	2.4	1.4	7.2	6.8
Missing data	8.9	7.2	5.8	14.4	4.5
(Mean)	(95.2)	(72.4)	(76.1)	(120.8)	(115.9)
(Median)	(43.0)	(34.0)	(45.0)	(44.0)	(78.0)
Percent of food received that is distributed					
Less than 85	12.7	15.1	11.0	11.8	11.7
85 to 89	7.8	7.1	4.9	10.2	8.3
90 to 100	74.5	71.4	80.5	72.4	76.6
Missing data	5.1	6.4	3.6	5.5	3.3
(Mean)	(93.1)	(92.2)	(94.0)	(93.1)	(93.9)
(Median)	(97.0)	(97.0)	(97.0)	(95.0)	(98.0)
Sample size (number)	395	126	82	127	60

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Table 4.8—Service area characteristics of food banks

Size/distance	Food banks
	<i>Percent</i>
Number of counties in service area	
1	26.6
2 to 4	20.8
5 to 7	12.2
8 to 10	7.3
11 to 13	6.6
14 to 16	3.8
17 to 19	4.1
20 to 29	8.4
30 to 49	4.1
50 or more	4.1
Missing data	2.3
(Mean)	(10.7)
(Median)	(5.0)
Miles from furthest agency served	
1 to 24	7.8
25 to 49	18.7
50 to 99	29.6
100 to 199	24.3
200 to 299	9.1
300 to 399	4.3
400 or more	3.8
Missing data	2.3
(Means)	(116.8)
(Median)	(80.0)
Sample size (number)	395

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Table 4.9—Policies used by food banks to limit which agencies can receive food and how much food they can receive, by size of food bank

Policies and methods	All	Size of food bank		
		Small	Medium	Large
		<i>Percent</i>		
Have policies limiting amount of food an agency can obtain	60.8	51.4	63.3	74.2
Methods used to restrict the amount of food an agency can obtain^{1,2}				
Link amount provided to number of recipients served by agency	57.9	53.5	63.9	51.0
Set limits on amount provided per visit or shipment	26.7	28.2	22.7	34.7
Restrict number of visits or shipments	10.4	12.7	7.6	14.3
Link amount provided to storage capacity	3.3	0.0	3.4	8.2
Link amount provided to urgency of need of agency recipients	1.3	1.4	1.7	0.0
Link amount provided to amount previously provided	1.3	1.4	1.7	0.0
Restrict on a case-by-case basis	0.4	0.0	0.8	0.0
Other	22.1	15.5	24.4	24.5
Have policies limiting which agencies can receive food	73.2	65.9	77.1	78.8
Policies used to restrict which agencies can receive food^{2,3}				
Must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization	73.7	70.3	75.9	73.1
Must be certified or complete an approval process by food bank	31.8	27.5	30.3	44.2
Must serve low-income households	18.3	11.0	21.4	21.2
Must have appropriate storage facilities	13.8	11.0	13.8	19.2
Must be located in service area or in specific ZIP Code(s)	12.1	7.7	12.4	19.2
Must serve households with children	5.9	3.3	7.6	5.8
Must be able to pay fees	4.5	1.1	5.5	7.7
Must be affiliated with church or other agency	4.2	2.2	5.5	3.8
Must provide own transportation	2.1	2.2	2.1	1.9
Must be referred by church or other agency	1.0	0.0	2.1	0.0
Must follow USDA TEFAP guidelines	2.4	3.3	2.8	0.0
Must meet food safety and handling guidelines	0.7	0.0	0.0	3.8
Must not sell food	2.4	3.3	1.4	1.9
Must be an emergency food provider	1.4	1.1	2.1	0.0
Must follow Second Harvest guidelines	2.1	1.1	3.4	0.0
Must meet State and Federal guidelines	1.0	0.0	1.4	1.9
Agency cannot place restrictions on clients seeking food	2.1	3.3	2.1	0.0
Must meet donor restrictions	1.7	0.0	2.8	1.9
Must have been in operation a certain length of time	0.3	0.0	0.0	1.9
Must sign a contract or agreement	0.3	1.1	0.0	0.0
Must be a pantry	0.3	1.1	0.0	0.0
Must comply with reporting requirements	0.7	0.0	1.4	0.0
Other	11.8	5.5	12.4	21.2
Sample size (number)	395	138	188	66

¹Includes only food banks that have policies limiting the amount of food an agency can obtain.

²Categories sum to more than 100 percent because some food banks provided more than one response.

³Includes only food banks that have policies restricting which agencies can receive food.

Note: The sample numbers for food bank sizes do not sum to the total sample because some food banks did not provide answers and are not included.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Table 4.10—Policies used by food banks to limit agencies that can receive food and the amount they can receive by affiliation

Distribution characteristics	All	Affiliation	
		Second Harvest	Independent
		Percent	
Have policies limiting amount of food an agency can obtain	60.8	61.5	57.7
Methods used to restrict amount of food an agency can obtain^{1,2}			
Link amount provided to number of recipients served by agency	57.9	57.4	60.0
Set limits on amount provided per visit or shipment	24.2	25.1	33.3
Restrict number of visits or shipments	10.4	9.7	13.3
Link amount provided to storage capacity	3.3	3.6	2.2
Link amount provided to urgency of need of agency recipients	1.3	1.0	2.2
Link amount provided to amount previously provided	1.3	1.0	2.2
Restrict on a case-by-case basis	0.4	0.0	2.2
Other	22.1	22.6	20.0
Have policies limiting which agencies can receive food	73.2	75.4	64.1
Policies used to restrict which agencies can receive food^{2,3}			
Must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization	73.7	72.4	80.0
Must be certified or complete an approval process by food bank	31.8	33.9	22.0
Must serve low-income households	18.3	18.8	16.0
Must have appropriate storage facilities	13.8	13.4	16.0
Must be located in service area in specific ZIP Code(s)	12.1	13.0	8.0
Must serve households with children	5.9	5.9	6.0
Must be able to pay fees	4.5	5.0	2.0
Must be affiliated with church or other agency	4.2	4.6	2.0
Must provide own transportation	2.1	0.8	8.0
Must be referred by church or other agency	1.0	0.4	4.0
Must follow USDA TEFAP guidelines	2.4	2.1	4.0
Must meet food safety and handling guidelines	0.7	0.8	0.0
Must not sell food	2.4	0.8	10.0
Must be an emergency food provider	1.4	1.7	0.0
Must follow Second Harvest guidelines	2.1	2.5	0.0
Must meet State and Federal guidelines	1.0	1.3	0.0
Agency cannot place restrictions on clients seeking food	2.1	1.3	6.0
Must meet donor restrictions	1.7	2.1	0.0
Must have been in operation a certain length of time	0.3	0.4	0.0
Must sign a contract or agreement	0.3	0.4	0.0
Must be a pantry	0.3	0.4	0.0
Must comply with reporting requirements	0.7	0.0	4.0
Other	11.8	11.7	12.0
Sample size (number)	395	317	78

¹Includes only food banks that have policies limiting the amount of food an agency can obtain.

²Categories may sum to more than 100 percent because some food banks provided more than one response.

³Includes only food banks that have policies restricting which agencies can receive food.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Sources and Types of Food Used by Food Banks

Sources of Food

Most food banks rely on a number of sources to obtain the food they distribute to other EFAS agencies. Six of the sources listed in the survey are used by at least 80 percent of food banks: wholesalers or retailers; allocations from other food banks and organizations, such as Second Harvest; State or Federal programs; direct donations from manufacturers; community donations; and farmers and growers (table 4.11 and fig. 4.5). Almost all food banks use the following three food sources: (1) wholesalers and retailers, (2) food banks and/or similar nonprofit organizations, and (3) community donations.

By Size of Food Bank

It is noteworthy that large food banks are much more likely than small ones to purchase food at market prices (table 4.12). One might think that large food banks could avoid this through their presumably more extensive donor relationships. However, these organizations may be eager to provide more comprehensive

services to their client agencies, and may thus be more willing than small ones to spend their own funds on food because they have greater financial resources.

It also appears that larger establishments use a greater variety of sources than smaller ones. As table 4.12 shows, the average food bank obtains food from seven sources, but the number of food sources varies considerably by food bank size. At the lower end of the spectrum, 40 percent of small food banks use two to five sources, compared with only about 9 percent of medium-size food banks and 5 percent of large ones. At the higher end, the percentages of small, medium, and large food banks that use 8 to 10 food sources are 21, 49, and 56 percent, respectively.

By Affiliation

Independent food banks are less likely than Second Harvest affiliates to use any given source of food supplies (table 4.13). As expected, the source most commonly reported by Second Harvest affiliates is other food banks or nonprofit organizations; many of them also receive food from wholesalers and retailers, State and Federal programs, farmers and growers, and manufacturers (through donations). The source reported most frequently by independents is community donations. These food banks are much less likely to obtain food from State and Federal programs than are Second Harvest affiliates.

The majority of both independents and Second Harvest food banks also use local sources, such as manufacturers and farmers in their service area, to acquire food supplies.

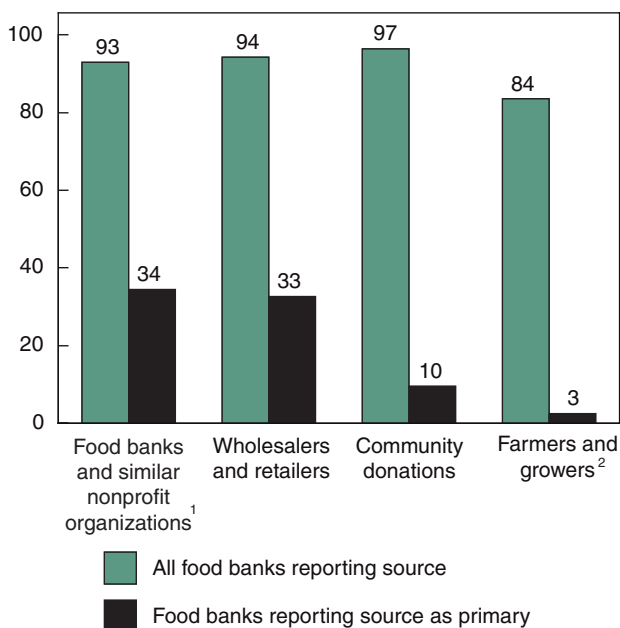
By Primary Source of Food

About one-third of food banks reported that wholesalers and retailers are their *primary* food source; another third mentioned food banks and similar nonprofit organizations (table 4.14). The primary food sources appear to vary according to the size of the food bank. Almost half the small food banks obtain their food primarily from other food banks and similar kinds of organizations (including America's Second Harvest). It is likely that this reflects, in part, SDOs in the Second Harvest network that receive food from the food banks with which they are affiliated. The primary food source reported most commonly by medium-size food banks (38 percent) was wholesalers and retailers. Like small food banks, however, many medium-size ones (31 percent) also rely heavily on other food banks. In contrast to their small- and medium-size counter-

Figure 4.5

Sources of food for food banks

Percent of food banks



¹Includes those mentioning America's Second Harvest.

²Includes food purchased at retail prices, gleaned, left over, and salvaged.

Note: Includes food purchased at retail prices, gleaned, left over, and salvaged.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Table 4.11—Sources of food supplies for food banks by size of food bank

Sources	All	Size of food bank		
		Small	Medium	Large
		<i>Percent</i>		
Community donations	96.5	92.0	98.4	100.0
Wholesalers or retailers	94.2	84.8	98.9	100.0
Received donation of a salable product ¹	78.0	60.9	87.8	86.4
Salvaged food ¹	75.2	55.1	84.0	90.9
Purchased food at market price ¹	52.2	43.5	55.9	60.6
Allocations from food banks and/or similar nonprofit organizations²	92.9	85.5	97.3	95.5
Direct donations from manufacturers	84.6	68.1	92.0	97.0
Farmers and growers	83.5	71.0	89.9	92.4
Received a direct donation ³	80.3	67.4	86.2	90.9
Received food from field-gleaning ³	49.4	36.2	53.7	65.2
Received leftovers from farmers' markets ³	39.2	27.5	44.7	48.5
Purchased food at market price ³	5.3	1.4	7.4	7.6
State or Federal programs	81.0	65.9	90.4	86.4
Leftovers from places that serve food	49.4	37.7	56.4	53.0
Food rescue programs	39.7	31.2	40.4	56.1
Other sources	10.9	3.6	12.8	19.7
Service area sources				
Manufacturers in food bank's service area	65.1	46.4	71.3	86.4
Farmers in food bank's service area	72.7	58.7	78.7	86.4
Sample size (number)	395	138	188	66

¹The subgroup percentages are based on all food banks in each size category, not just on those receiving food supplies from wholesalers and retailers.

²Includes those mentioning America's Second Harvest.

³The subgroup percentages are based on all food banks in each size category, not just those receiving food supplies from farmers and growers.

Notes: Total exceeds 100 percent because respondent food banks reported using multiple sources for food supplies.

Size variable is defined based on amounts of food used and staffing. In general, "small" food banks received less than 600 tons of food in the past 12 months; "medium" food banks received 600 to 4,000 tons; and "large" food banks received more than 4,000 tons.

The sample numbers for food bank sizes do not sum to the total sample because some food banks did not provide answers and are not included.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000)

Table 4.12—Number of known food sources used by food banks by size of food bank

Number of known food sources	All	Size of food bank		
		Small	Medium	Large
		<i>Percent</i>		
1	1.0	2.9	0.0	0.0
2 or 3	4.1	8.7	1.6	1.5
4 or 5	14.9	31.2	6.9	3.0
6 or 7	39.5	36.2	42.6	39.4
8 or more	40.5	21.0	48.9	56.1
(Mean)	(6.9)	(5.8)	(7.4)	(7.6)
(Median)	(7.0)	(6.0)	(7.0)	(8.0)
Sample size (number)	395	138	188	66

Notes: Size variable is defined based on amounts of food used and staffing. In general, "small" food banks received less than 600 tons of food in the past 12 months; "medium" food banks received 600 to 4,000 tons; and "large" food banks received more than 4,000 tons.

The sample numbers for food bank sizes do not sum to the total sample because some food banks did not provide answers and are not included.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

parts, large food banks are less dependent on other food banks as a primary source of food; instead, they rely primarily on wholesalers and retailers (42 percent) or on direct donations from manufacturers (33 percent).

As expected, the primary sources used by food banks, as well as the extent to which they are relied upon, differ based on whether the food banks are affiliated with America's Second Harvest (table 4.15). About 38 percent of Second Harvest affiliates rely on food banks and similar organizations as their primary suppliers of food, compared with 19 percent of independents.

In the previous section, we showed that a smaller percentage of independents, compared with Second Harvest affiliates, used State and Federal programs to obtain food. However, roughly one-quarter of independent food banks mentioned State and Federal programs as their primary source of food, compared with only 15 percent of Second Harvest affiliates.

By Amount of Food Received

There is considerable variation across food banks in the amount of food they reported receiving during the pre-

ceding year. About 21 percent received less than 1 million pounds, which translates into about one truckload every other week (table 4.16).⁴¹ About 14 percent received more than 8 million pounds, or about *four* truckloads of food per week. The median food bank received approximately 2.4 million pounds, enough to provide approximately 2 million meals to EFAS clients.

For the most part, the amount of food received is similar across food banks in different regions of the country. However, the median food bank in the West receives 18 to 34 percent fewer pounds of food than median food banks in other regions. The amounts received by Second Harvest affiliates are higher, on average, than those received by independents (table 4.17).

In order to determine whether food banks received consistent amounts and varieties of food throughout the year, they were asked if the type and quality of food they receive varies by season. Almost 85 percent

⁴¹A 48-foot tractor-truck can hold about 40,000 pounds (20 tons) of food. (Based on information supplied by Applegate Trucking Company, Cranbury, New Jersey.)

Table 4.13—Sources of food supplies for food banks by affiliation

Sources	All	Affiliation	
		Second Harvest	Independent
<i>Percent</i>			
Community donations	96.5	97.2	93.6
Wholesalers or retailers	94.2	95.3	89.7
Received donation of a salable product ¹	78.0	81.1	65.4
Salvaged food ¹	75.2	77.6	65.4
Purchased food at market price ¹	52.2	53.0	48.7
Allocations from food banks and similar nonprofit organizations²	92.9	98.4	70.5
Direct donations from manufacturers	84.6	87.7	71.8
Farmers and growers	83.5	84.9	78.2
Received a direct donation ³	80.3	82.0	73.1
Received food from field-gleaning ³	49.4	51.7	39.7
Received leftovers from farmers' markets ³	39.2	42.0	28.2
Purchased food at market price ³	5.3	6.0	2.6
State or Federal programs	81.0	85.2	64.1
Leftovers from places that serve food	49.4	51.1	42.3
Food rescue programs	39.7	40.7	35.9
Other sources	10.9	12.6	3.8
Service area sources			
Manufacturers in food bank's service area	65.1	65.6	62.8
Farmers in food bank's service area	72.7	73.2	70.5
Sample size (number)	395	317	78

¹The subgroup percentage are based on all food banks in each affiliation category, not just on those receiving food supplies from wholesalers and retailers.

²Includes those mentioning America's Second Harvest. ³The subgroup percentages are based on all food banks in each affiliation category, not just those receiving food supplies from farmers and growers.

Note: Total exceeds 100 percent because respondent food banks reported using multiple sources for food supplies.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

reported in the affirmative (table 4.18). For more than two-thirds of these food banks, this variability in supply posed a problem in meeting clients' needs.

The extent to which food banks have supply fluctuations appears not to vary by size of food bank. However, larger food banks are more negatively affected by such variations. About 80 percent of large food banks, compared with 60 percent of small ones, reported that variation in supply hindered their ability to meet clients' needs.

By Receipt of Unusable Food

Food banks were also asked a series of questions designed to obtain information on food spoilage and its effect on the EFAS. About 20 percent of food banks reported distributing less than 90 percent of the food they received (table 4.19).

We offer two possible explanations for the inability of some food banks to distribute all their food: (1) these food banks may receive more food than they can use or may find that some of the food spoils before they are able to distribute it, and (2) some of the food received may be old or spoiled from the outset and thus unfit for distribution.

More than three-fourths of food banks reported receiving food that could not be used, but we do not know the quantity of this. About half the food banks use more than 2 paid-staff or 2 volunteer hours per week to dispose of unusable food.

A greater percentage of large food banks report receiving unusable food than of smaller ones. Larger food banks also spend more hours of paid and volunteer time disposing of the food.

Types of Food

Most food banks receive a wide variety of food items, which are then distributed to their clients. At least eight types of foods are received by more than 90 percent of food banks (table 4.20). Although the percentage of banks using baby food and fats and oils was smaller, it was still substantial (82 percent for each of these items). We had planned to present data on the amounts of each food type received during the past year in order to examine those used most often.

However, though many respondents were able to provide this information, we decided not to present it here because it is unlikely to be representative of the food bank population as a whole.

Table 4.14—Primary sources of food supplies for food banks by size of food bank

Sources	All	Size of food bank		
		Small	Medium	Large
<i>Percent</i>				
Allocations from food banks and similar nonprofit organizations¹	34.4	47.8	30.9	18.2
Wholesalers or retailers	32.7	20.3	37.8	42.4
Received donation of a salable product	18.0	8.7	21.3	27.3
Salvaged food	10.9	5.1	13.8	13.6
Purchased food at market price	3.8	6.5	2.7	1.5
State or Federal programs	17.2	21.0	16.5	12.1
Direct donations from manufacturers	15.2	5.8	15.4	33.3
Community donations	9.6	10.9	10.1	6.1
Farmers and growers	2.5	0.7	2.7	6.1
Received leftovers from farmers' markets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Received food from field-gleaning	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.0
Purchased food at market price	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Received a direct donation	2.0	0.0	2.1	6.1
Food rescue programs	0.8	0.7	0.5	1.5
Leftovers from places that serve food	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.0
Other sources	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sample size (number)	395	138	188	66

¹Includes those mentioning America's Second Harvest.

Notes: Totals add up to slightly more than 100 percent because a few respondents could not name a single primary source and gave two or three responses. Size variable is defined based on amounts of food used and staffing. In general, "small" food banks received less than 600 tons of food in the past 12 months; "medium" food banks received 600 to 4,000 tons; and "large" food banks received more than 4,000 tons.

The sample numbers for food bank sizes do not sum to the total sample because some food banks did not provide answers and are not included.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Table 4.15—Primary sources of food supplies for food banks by affiliation

Sources	All	Affiliation	
		Second Harvest	Independent
<i>Percent</i>			
Allocations from food banks and similar nonprofit organizations¹	34.4	38.2	19.2
Wholesalers or retailers	32.7	32.5	33.3
Received donation of a salable product	18.0	18.3	16.7
Salvaged food	10.9	10.7	11.5
Purchased food at market price	3.8	3.5	5.1
State or Federal programs	17.2	14.8	26.9
Direct donations from manufacturers	15.2	16.4	10.3
Community donations	9.6	7.9	16.7
Farmers and growers	2.5	1.9	5.1
Received leftovers from farmers' markets	0.0	0.0	0.0
Received food from field-gleaning	0.5	0.6	0.0
Purchased food at market price	0.0	0.0	0.0
Received a direct donation	2.0	1.3	5.1
Food rescue programs	0.8	0.6	1.3
Leftovers from places that serve food	0.3	0.3	0.0
Other sources	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sample size (number)	395	317	78

¹Includes those mentioning America's Second Harvest.

Note: Totals add up to slightly more than 100 percent because a few respondents could not name a single primary source and gave two or three responses.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Table 4.16—Amount of food received by food banks from all sources in the past 12 months by region

Total pounds of food received (millions)	All	Region			
		West	Midwest	South	Northeast
<i>Percent</i>					
Less than 1	20.8	27.8	18.3	16.5	18.3
1 to 1.99	13.2	11.1	18.3	14.2	8.3
2 to 3.99	15.7	13.5	17.1	15.7	18.3
4 to 5.99	11.4	5.6	15.9	15.7	8.3
6 to 7.99	5.1	2.4	7.3	5.5	6.7
8 to 9.99	7.8	10.3	6.1	7.9	5.0
10 or more	6.3	7.9	7.3	4.7	6.7
Missing data	19.7	22.2	9.8	19.7	28.3
(Mean, million pounds)	(4,040.1)	(4,204.9)	(4,059.2)	(3,931.9)	(3,888.7)
(Median, million pounds)	(2,367.7)	(1,934.5)	(2,928.4)	(2,372.5)	(2,645.7)
Sample size (number)	395	126	82	127	60

Note: The survey was administered between March 2000 and October 2000. The 12-month period was therefore based on when respondents took the survey. For example, if a respondent was surveyed in April 2000, the "past 12 months" refers to the period May 1999 through April 2000.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Food Needs

To gain perspective on the needs of food banks and the agencies they serve, we asked respondents to name the types of foods for which they could use additional quantities. Seventy percent expressed a need for more meat, poultry, or fish of any type (table 4.21). Despite the fact that many food banks receive this type of food through

the USDA commodity program, as well as through other sources, the amount received appears insufficient to meet their needs. After meat, poultry, and fish, the foods most frequently mentioned by food banks as in short supply were dry and canned beans, eggs, nuts, and peanut butter (35 percent); frozen, canned, and dried fruits and vegetables and fruit juices (36 percent); and fresh fruits and vegetables (31 percent).

Table 4.17—Amount of food received by food banks from all sources in the past 12 months by affiliation

Total pounds of food received (millions)	All	Affiliation	
		Second Harvest	Independent
<i>Percent</i>			
Allocations from food banks and similar nonprofit organizations¹	34.4	38.2	19.2
Less than 1	20.8	19.6	25.6
1 to 1.99	13.2	13.9	10.3
2 to 3.99	15.7	18.0	6.4
4 to 5.99	11.4	11.7	10.3
6 to 7.99	5.1	6.3	0.0
8 to 9.99	7.8	9.5	1.3
10 or more	6.3	7.3	2.6
Missing data	19.7	13.9	43.6
(Mean, million pounds)	(4,040.1)	(4,303.8)	(2,404.4)
(Median, million pounds)	(2,367.7)	(2,700.0)	(1,054.0)
Sample size (number)	395	317	78

Note: Size variable is defined based on amounts of food used and staffing. In general, "small" food banks received less than 600 tons of food in the past 12 months; "medium" food banks received 600 to 4,000 tons; and "large" food banks received more than 4,000 tons.

The survey was administered between March 2000 and October 2000. The 12-month period was therefore based on when respondents took the survey. For example, if a respondent was surveyed in April 2000, the "past 12 months" refers to the period May 1999 through April 2000.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Table 4.18—Variation in food supply available to food banks by size of food bank

Supply-related variables	All	Size of food bank		
		Small	Medium	Large
<i>Percent</i>				
Does type and quality of food obtained vary by time of year?				
Yes	84.8	78.3	89.9	84.8
No	14.2	20.3	9.0	15.2
Missing data	1.0	1.4	1.1	0.0
Is this a problem in meeting client needs?¹				
Yes	69.3	60.2	71.0	80.4
No	30.4	38.9	29.0	19.6
Missing data	0.3	0.9	0.0	0.0
Sample size (number)	395	138	188	66

¹Includes only those food banks that responded that type and quality of food obtained varies by time of year.

Notes: Size variable is defined based on amounts of food used and staffing. In general, "small" food banks received less than 600 tons of food in the past 12 months; "medium" food banks received 600 to 4,000 tons; and "large" food banks received more than 4,000 tons.

The sample numbers for food bank sizes do not sum to the total sample because some food banks did not provide answers and are not included.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Table 4.19—Spoilage of food by size of food bank

Food-spoilage variables	All	Size of food bank		
		Small	Medium	Large
		<i>Percent</i>		
Percent of food received that is used				
90 to 100	74.4	75.4	75.0	72.7
85 to 89	7.8	3.6	9.6	10.6
Less than 85	12.7	14.5	12.2	10.6
Missing data	5.1	6.5	3.2	6.1
Does food bank receive food that cannot be used, due to spoilage and other problems?				
Yes	78.2	71.0	81.9	83.3
No	21.5	29.0	17.6	16.7
Missing data	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.0
Estimated paid staff hours spent disposing of unusable food, per week¹				
0	19.7	31.6	16.9	5.5
1	12.0	16.3	12.3	3.6
2	11.7	16.3	7.1	16.4
More than 2	48.9	30.6	57.1	60.0
Missing data	7.8	5.1	6.5	14.5
Estimated volunteer hours spent disposing of unusable food, per week¹				
0	25.2	38.8	18.8	20.0
1	7.1	12.2	6.5	0.0
2	8.1	8.2	7.8	7.3
More than 2	51.8	34.7	61.0	58.2
Missing data	7.8	6.1	5.8	14.5
Sample size (number)	395	138	188	66

¹Includes only those food banks that reported receiving unusable food.

Notes: Size variable is defined based on amounts of food used and staffing. In general, "small" food banks received less than 600 tons of food in the past 12 months; "medium" food banks received 600 to 4,000 tons; and "large" food banks received more than 4,000 tons.

The sample numbers for food bank sizes do not sum to the total sample because some food banks did not provide answers and are not included.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Table 4.20—Types of food received by food banks during the past 12 months

Food type	Food banks that receive food type
	<i>Percent</i>
Cereal, pasta, and rice ¹	97.2
Frozen, canned, and dried fruits and vegetables and fruit juice	96.7
Desserts	93.7
Snack foods	92.7
Meat, poultry, fish	94.9
Soft drinks, coffee, tea, and other nonjuice beverages	92.2
Bread products	91.6
Dry and canned beans, eggs, nuts, peanut butter	93.4
Fresh fruit and vegetables	89.6
Spices and condiments	88.9
Dairy products	85.6
Baby food, formula, and nutritional supplements or aids	81.8
Fats and oils	82.0
Complete meals, entrees, and prepared foods ²	53.7
Sample size (number)	395

¹Includes nonbread grain products, such as barley and noodles.

²Includes packaged meals drawing on multiple food groups, such as canned meat and vegetable products or frozen lasagna dinners.

Note: The survey administered between March 2000 and October 2000. The 12-month period was therefore based on when respondents took the survey. For example, if a respondent was surveyed in April 2000, the "past 12 months" refers to the period May 1999 through April 2000.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Table 4.21—Types of foods of which food banks could use additional quantities

Food shortfalls	Food banks <i>Percent</i>
Types of food needed¹	
Meat, poultry, and fish	70.1
Dry and canned beans, eggs, nuts, peanut butter	34.6
Frozen, canned, and dried fruits and vegetables and fruit juices	35.5
Fresh fruits and vegetables	30.8
Dairy products	29.1
Cereals, pasta, and rice ²	20.3
Complete meals, entrees, and prepared foods ³	9.9
Baby food, formula, and nutritional supplements or aids	9.3
Fats and oils	5.8
Bread products	1.5
Spices and condiments	1.7
Soft drinks, coffee, tea, and other nonjuice beverages	1.5
Snack foods	1.2
Desserts	0.6
All food types	9.3
Sample size (number)	364

¹Percentage of food banks needing more food that could use additional quantities of the particular food type listed.

²Includes nonbread grain products, such as barley and noodles.

³Includes packaged meals drawing on multiple food groups, such as canned meat and vegetable products or frozen lasagna dinners.

Note: Due to an incorrect skip pattern in the survey, some food banks were not asked about their food needs. Hence, the sample size is smaller than the one listed in other tables.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Resources

In order to effectively carry out their mission, food banks must have adequate funding, labor, and other resources. In this section, we discuss the funding sources, staff, and facilities used by food banks.

Funding

Since most food banks operate like businesses, only a few (2 percent) reported no operating budget (table 4.22). About one-quarter have operating budgets that exceed \$1 million. Some food banks obtain most of their food at no cost but pay for other aspects of their operations. Thus, the percentage that has zero dollars allocated for food purchases (11 percent) is substantially higher than that with no operating budget. Roughly one-third of food banks have food-purchase budgets that are at least \$100,000.

Both the operating budget and the food-purchase budget are correlated with the size of the food bank. About 20 percent of small food banks have operating budgets under \$50,000, while only about 2 percent of medium and large food banks have budgets this low.

Food banks acquire funding to support their operations from a number of sources (table 4.23). The most frequently mentioned is fundraising, engaged in by three-fourths of the banks.⁴² Contributions from this source average about one-fifth of the operating budgets of banks that do fundraising. Fees from client agencies are another important source of monetary support, providing funding to about 70 percent of food banks and contributing, on average, one-third of their operating budgets. In general, food banks charge their client agencies a “shared maintenance fee” to help defray the cost of providing “wholesaler” operations. Fees will be discussed in greater detail in a later subsection.

By Affiliation

Tabulation of funding sources by affiliation suggests that Second Harvest affiliates and independent food

banks rely on different sources for financial support (table 4.24). The sources mentioned most often among Second Harvest affiliates are fundraising (82 percent) and fees from clients and agencies (80 percent). Contributions from these sources to the operating budgets of those who use them average about 19 percent and 34 percent, respectively. The funding source that received the most mention among independent food banks is donations from local individuals or groups (65 percent), which contributes an average of nearly 40 percent to the operating budgets of independents that receive donations.

Independent food banks appear to rely on only a few sources, while Second Harvest affiliates seem to rely on many. For independent food banks, there are three sources that each contribute about one-third of the operating budgets of banks that use them. However, for Second Harvest affiliates, only one source makes such a large contribution.

By Size of Food Bank

The funding sources used by food banks varied by size of the bank. The sources most commonly mentioned by larger food banks are fundraising and fees from client agencies (table 4.25). Local sources comprise the two sources most frequently reported among small food banks: donations from individuals or groups and fundraising activities.

The extent to which food banks depend on each funding source also appears to vary according to food bank size. For example, six sources are used by at least two-thirds of large food banks, while only one source is used by the same proportion of small ones, suggesting that small food banks obtain monetary support from only a few sources.

By Region

As with organization size, the combination of funding sources used by food banks varies across regions. For example, roughly 75 percent of food banks in the South and Midwest obtain funding via fees from client agencies, but only 59 percent of food banks in the West receive funding from this source (table 4.26). Food banks in the Northeast are more likely to obtain funds through TEFAP (72 percent) or other government sources (75 percent) than are their counterparts in other regions. More than half of food banks in the West, Midwest, and South, but only one-third of those in the Northeast, receive monetary support through United Way.

⁴²In the question that asked about funding sources, individual possible funding sources were read to respondents and they were asked to indicate whether they used each source. Fundraising was read early in the list; “donations from other local individuals or groups” occurred near the end. It is possible there could have been some overlap between the groups in respondents’ minds. But we believe they probably interpreted “fundraising” to be relatively broad-based money-raising activities, while “local individuals or groups,” may have connoted specific negotiations with individual potential donors, particularly possible larger donors.

Fees and Contributions

Three-fourths of food banks obtain funds by charging their clients various types of fees (table 4.27). As mentioned, most food banks ask their clients to pay a shared-maintenance fee, which is assessed typically as a fee per pound of food received. In fact, 95 percent of food banks that charge a fee use this type; about 14 percent charge membership fees. The median shared-maintenance fee is 14 cents per pound.

One-fourth of food banks suggest or ask for voluntary contributions from their clients. Few client agencies make such contributions, possibly because many are already paying some type of fee.

By Size of Food Bank

The use of fees and the receipt of voluntary contributions vary based on food bank size. Almost 90 percent of large food banks, but only 60 percent of small ones, charge any type of fee (table 4.27). Regardless of size, almost all of those who request payment from their clients charge a fee per pound. The median fee per pound is the same for small, medium, and large food banks.

An inverse relationship appears to exist between charging fees and requesting voluntary contributions. Small food banks are less likely than large ones to charge a fee; consequently, they are more likely to suggest that their clients make some type of contribution. The percentage of client agencies making such contributions is much higher for small food banks than for larger ones.

By Affiliation

As noted earlier in this chapter, most affiliates of America's Second Harvest mention fees from client agencies as a funding source. Almost 88 percent of Second Harvest affiliates charge fees, compared with only 28 percent of independent food banks (table 4.28). Among those who charge fees, there is no difference in the fee per pound between the median Second Harvest affiliate and the median independent food bank.

Unlike the comparison between large and small banks in the previous subsection, however, charging fees does not seem to be inversely related to asking for contributions. In fact, although independents are less likely than their Second Harvest affiliates to charge fees, the percentage of independents that request such donations is only slightly higher than that of Second Harvest affiliates.

Donated and Reduced-Price Goods and Services

In addition to financial contributions, many food banks receive in-kind donations or reduced-price goods and services. Legal and accounting assistance and transport for food appear to be the most commonly received services, mentioned by about two-fifths of the food banks (table 4.29).

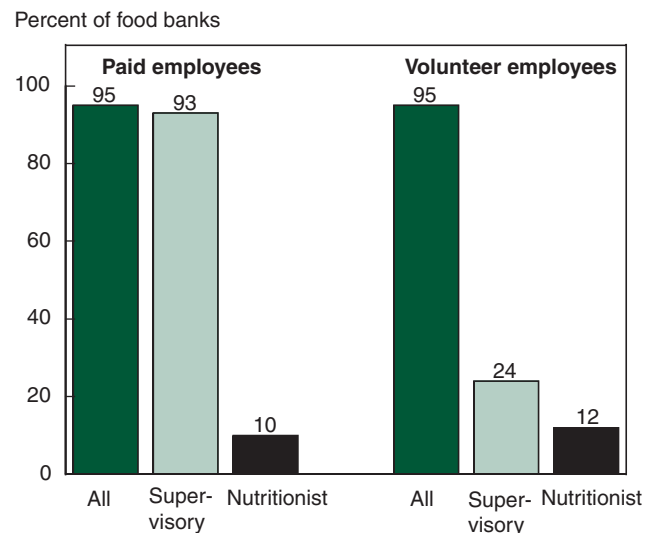
Staffing

Food banks use a variety of employees. Ninety-five percent have paid staff, and 95 percent have volunteers (table 4.30 and fig. 4.6). In addition, 77 percent of food banks have unpaid staff, such as people performing court-ordered community service work or complying with welfare work requirements. Food banks with paid employees use an average of 411 staff hours per week (or about 10 full-time equivalents (FTEs)). Those with volunteers use about 263 hours of volunteer labor (or seven FTEs).

Different types of employees were used by food banks to perform different functions. Almost all food banks with paid staff used them in supervisory positions. Many (80 percent) also reported hiring paid employees for clerical positions. Volunteers were used most commonly in nonskilled positions such as packaging food or loading trucks. In roughly half the food banks, however, volunteers also performed clerical duties. As with volunteers, unpaid staff was primarily employed to provide unskilled help.

Figure 4.6

Use of paid and volunteer staff for all staff and selected staff categories



Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

In general, food banks affiliated with America's Second Harvest have more employees of all types (paid, volunteer, unpaid) than do independent food banks (table 4.31). This finding may be attributed to the fact that Second Harvest affiliates are generally larger than independents and thus require more labor.

Physical Capacity

It is important to consider whether food banks have sufficient resources to meet the needs of the client agencies that rely on their services. More than half the food banks own the building in which they operate (table 4.32). Almost all food banks have refrigerators and freezers onsite, and most own the vehicles in which they transport food.

By Size of Food Bank

As expected, facilities and equipment available to food banks of different sizes vary considerably. Small food banks, having fewer resources, lack access to the kinds of facilities and equipment available to larger ones. For example, small food banks are much less likely than larger organizations to own the building in which they operate (table 4.32). Similarly, although most small

food banks have some type of refrigeration, the percentage of small food banks that do not far exceeds that of larger banks. Almost all large food banks have access to refrigerated vehicles to transport prepared or perishable foods, whereas only about one-third of small food banks do.

By Region

In general, food banks in the different regions of the country have similar facilities and equipment. They do exhibit some variation, however. Only about one-third of food banks in the West own the building in which they operate, compared with roughly two-thirds of those in the Midwest, South, and Northeast (table 4.33). Similarly, the square footage of the typical (median) food bank in the West is considerably smaller than that of the median food bank in each of the other regions. Food banks in the Northeast are less likely than those in the West and Midwest to possess or have access to any food storage facilities. Compared with food banks in other regions, those in the West are more likely to have access to facilities for preserving or processing perishable foods, but are less likely to have access to refrigerated vehicles to transport these foods.

Table 4.22—Operating budgets of food banks by size of food bank

Dollars amounts	All	Size of food bank		
		Small	Medium	Large
		<i>Percent</i>		
Total operating budget for past 12 months				
0	2.3	4.3	1.1	1.5
1 to 49,000	5.6	15.2	0.5	0.0
50,000 to 99,999	7.1	16.7	2.7	0.0
100,000 to 249,000	17.2	29.0	14.9	0.0
250,000 to 499,999	18.7	13.0	29.3	1.5
500,000 to 999,999	15.2	3.6	22.3	19.7
1,000,000 to 2,499,999	16.7	2.9	17.6	43.9
2,500,000 or more	8.6	1.4	6.4	30.3
Missing data	8.6	13.8	5.3	3.0
Budget for purchasing food for past 12 months				
0	10.9	10.1	12.2	9.1
1 to 9,999	5.1	10.1	3.2	0.0
10,000 to 24,999	13.2	21.0	11.2	3.0
25,000 to 49,999	15.7	19.6	16.0	7.6
50,000 to 99,999	15.4	11.6	20.2	10.6
100,000 to 199,999	11.9	9.4	10.6	21.2
200,000 to 499,999	9.6	4.3	12.8	12.1
500,000 or more	9.6	1.4	8.5	30.3
Missing data	8.6	12.3	5.3	6.1
Sample size (number)	395	138	188	66

Notes: The survey administered between March 2000 and October 2000. The 12-month period was therefore based on when respondents took the survey. For example, if a respondent was surveyed in April 2000, the "past 12 months" refers to the period May 1999 through April 2000.

The sample numbers for food bank sizes do not sum to the total sample because some food banks did not provide answers and are not included.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Table 4.23—Funding sources for food banks

Sources of funding	Food banks that use source	Operating budget that source contributes (mean %) ^{1,2}
		Percent
Government sources		
TEFAP administrative funds	64.3	11.8
FEMA funds	47.6	5.4
Other Government sources	49.9	19.4
Nongovernment sources		
Fundraising activities	75.4	18.6
Donations from local individuals or groups	71.1	20.7
Fees from client agencies	69.4	33.8
Grants from foundations	60.0	10.6
United Way	49.9	10.6
National organizations	8.4	5.6
Other sources	37.2	16.8
Missing data	3.3	NA
Sample size (number)	395	NA

¹When source is used. ²Many of the food banks that reported using a particular food source were unable to estimate its contribution to the operating budget. Thus, for most of the sources of funding, the percentage they contribute to the operating budget is calculated based on 87 to 95 percent of the number of food banks using the funding

FEMA = Federal Emergency Management Agency. TEFAP = The Emergency Food Assistance Program. NA = Not applicable.

Note: Total exceeds 100 percent because many respondent food banks reported having multiple funding sources.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Table 4.24—Funding sources for food banks by affiliation

Sources of funding	Affiliation					
	All		Second Harvest		Independent	
	Food banks using source	Operating budget from source (mean %) ^{1,2}	Food banks using source	Operating budget from source (mean %) ^{1,2}	Food banks using source	Operating budget from source (mean %) ^{1,2}
<i>Percent</i>						
Government sources						
TEFAP administrative funds	64.3	11.8	69.7	11.1	42.3	17.3
FEMA funds	47.6	5.4	51.7	5.0	30.8	6.3
Other Government sources	49.9	19.4	51.4	16.5	43.6	33.2
Nongovernment sources						
Fundraising activities	75.4	18.6	82.0	18.7	48.7	18.6
Donations from local individuals or groups	71.1	20.7	72.6	16.5	65.4	38.8
Fees from clients and agencies	69.4	33.8	79.8	33.9	26.9	32.9
Grants from foundations	60.0	10.6	63.4	10.7	46.2	10.2
United Way	49.9	10.6	55.5	10.3	26.9	13.4
National organizations	8.4	5.6	9.1	5.2	5.1	10.3
Other sources	37.2	16.8	39.4	14.3	28.2	31.0
Missing data	3.3	NA	2.5	NA	6.4	NA
Sample size (number)	395	NA	317	NA	78	NA

¹When source is used. ²Many of the food banks that reported using a particular food source were unable to estimate its contribution to the operating budget. Thus, for most of the sources of funding, the percentage they contribute to the operating budget is calculated based on less than 100 percent of the number of food banks using the funding source.

FEMA = Federal Emergency Management Agency. TEFAP = The Emergency Food Assistance Program. NA = Not applicable..

Note: Total exceeds 100 percent because many food banks reported having multiple funding sources.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Table 4.25—Funding sources for food banks by size of food bank

Sources of funding	All	Size of food bank		
		Small	Medium	Large
		<i>Percent</i>		
Government sources				
TEFAP administrative funds	64.3	50.7	72.9	69.7
FEMA funds	47.6	44.9	46.8	56.1
Other Government sources	49.9	42.8	55.3	51.5
Nongovernment sources				
Fundraising activities	75.4	55.8	83.0	93.9
Donations from local individuals or groups	71.1	65.9	75.0	71.2
Fees from clients and agencies	69.4	49.6	78.2	87.9
Grants from foundations	60.0	41.3	68.6	72.7
United Way	49.9	35.5	54.3	69.7
National organizations	8.4	5.8	10.6	0.6
Other sources	37.2	22.5	44.1	50.0
Missing data	3.3	5.1	2.1	3.0
Sample size (number)	395	138	188	66

FEMA = Federal Emergency Management Agency. TEFAP = The Emergency Food Assistance Program.

Notes: Total exceeds 100 percent because many food banks reported having multiple funding sources.

The sample numbers for food bank sizes do not sum to the total sample because some food banks did not provide answers and are not included.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Table 4.26—Funding sources for food banks by region

Sources of funding	All	Region			
		West	Midwest	South	Northeast
		<i>Percent</i>			
Government sources					
TEFAP administrative funds	64.3	65.1	62.2	61.4	71.7
FEMA funds	47.6	60.3	42.7	41.7	40.0
Other Government sources	49.9	57.9	45.1	33.1	75.0
Nongovernment sources					
Fundraising activities	75.4	75.4	80.5	77.2	65.0
Donations from local individuals or groups	71.1	70.6	72.0	74.8	63.3
Fees from clients and agencies	69.4	58.7	76.8	78.7	61.7
Grants from foundations	60.0	57.9	59.8	61.4	61.7
United Way	49.9	51.6	51.2	55.1	33.3
National organizations	8.4	4.8	14.6	7.9	8.3
Other sources	37.2	39.7	41.5	33.9	33.3
Missing data	3.3	4.8	1.2	3.1	3.3
Sample size (number)	395	126	82	127	60

FEMA = Federal Emergency Management Agency. TEFAP = The Emergency Food Assistance Program.

Note: Total exceeds 100 percent because many food banks reported having multiple funding sources.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Table 4.27—Fees and contributions received from client agencies of food banks by size of food bank

Client characteristics	All	Size of food bank		
		Small	Medium	Large
		<i>Percent</i>		
Food banks that charge a fee	75.9	60.1	82.4	89.4
Type of fee charged¹				
Membership fee	13.7	12.0	16.1	10.2
Fee per pound	95.3	92.8	95.5	98.3
Other	3.0	2.4	3.2	3.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Median fee per pound (in dollars)²	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14
Percent of client agencies that pay fees to the food bank²				
1 to 25	2.1	2.6	1.4	3.4
26 to 50	3.1	2.6	2.0	6.9
51 to 75	4.5	5.2	3.4	6.9
76 to 100	88.8	88.3	91.2	82.8
Missing data	1.4	1.3	2.0	0.0
Food banks that request voluntary contributions	25.1	29.7	24.5	18.2
Percent of client agencies that make voluntary contributions to the food bank³				
1 to 25	70.2	55.1	76.3	81.3
26 to 50	5.5	6.1	4.1	6.3
51 to 75	2.2	4.1	1.0	3.1
76 to 100	5.0	12.2	2.1	3.1
Missing data	17.1	22.4	16.5	6.3
Sample size (number)	395	138	188	66

¹For those food banks that charge fees. ²Based on responses of those food banks that charge a fee per pound. ³For those food banks that request a voluntary contribution. Notes: The sample numbers for food bank sizes do not sum to the total sample because some food banks did not provide answers and are not included. Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Table 4.28—Fees and contributions received from client agencies of food banks by affiliation

Type of fee/contribution	All	Affiliation	
		Second Harvest	Independent
		<i>Percent</i>	
Food banks that charge a fee	75.9	87.7	28.2
Type of fee charged¹			
Membership fee	13.7	13.3	18.2
Fee per pound	95.3	96.4	81.8
Other	3.0	2.9	4.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0
Median fee per pound (in dollars)²	0.14	0.14	0.14
Percent of client agencies that pay fees to the food bank²			
1 to 25	2.1	1.9	5.6
26 to 50	3.1	3.0	5.6
51 to 75	4.5	4.9	0.0
76 to 100	88.8	88.8	88.9
Missing data	1.4	1.5	0.0
Food banks that request voluntary contributions	25.1	24.3	28.2
Percent of client agencies that make voluntary contributions to the food bank³			
1 to 25	70.2	72.7	58.1
26 to 50	5.5	5.3	6.5
51 to 75	2.2	2.7	0.0
76 to 100	5.0	4.7	6.5
Missing data	17.1	14.7	29.0
Sample size (number)	395	317	78

¹For those food banks that charge fees. ²Based on responses of those food banks that charge a fee per pound. ³For those food banks that request a voluntary contribution. Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Table 4.29—Donated or reduced-price goods and services received by food banks by size of food bank

Goods and services	All	Size of food bank		
		Small	Medium	Large
<i>Percent</i>				
Facilities				
Transportation for food	43.3	39.9	46.3	43.9
Building maintenance	23.0	26.8	22.3	16.7
Facilities, including rent or other costs related to the				
Equipment maintenance, including equipment				
building or space in building	21.3	28.3	16.0	22.7
Utilities, including heating and air-conditioning	8.1	14.5	3.2	9.1
Other				
Legal and accounting services	42.5	33.3	44.7	56.1
Computer equipment or training	35.7	27.5	38.3	47.0
Materials for packaging food	32.2	30.4	30.3	40.9
Equipment maintenance, including equipment				
maintenance contracts	25.3	25.4	28.2	16.7
Other	12.9	8.0	14.4	18.2
Missing data	1.8	2.2	1.1	1.5
Sample size (number)	395	138	188	66

Note: Total exceeds 100 percent because many food banks reported receiving multiple donated or reduced-priced goods and services.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Table 4.30—Type of staff and number of staff hours used by food banks

Staff category	Food banks having staff type ¹	Average of staff hours used per week by food banks with staff type
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Hours</i>
Paid employees	94.9	410.5
Supervisory personnel	92.9	133.7
Clerical staff	79.7	86.8
Nonskilled help	57.0	180.3
Nutritionists	9.6	38.5
Skilled kitchen help	6.6	48.2
Other help for program	44.3	211.7
Volunteer employees	95.2	262.5
Nonskilled help	76.2	186.5
Clerical staff	44.3	45.8
Supervisory personnel	23.8	52.6
Nutritionists	12.4	7.0
Skilled kitchen help	7.1	42.9
Other help for program	38.2	189.4
Unpaid employees²	77.0	106.1
Nonskilled help	63.0	93.6
Clerical staff	9.9	28.9
Supervisory personnel	1.5	54.5
Skilled kitchen help	0.5	14.0
Nutritionists	0.0	0.0
Other help for program	14.4	108.3
All employees	99.7	691.0
Supervisory personnel	97.7	139.4
Nonskilled help	88.9	353.2
Clerical staff	87.6	104.4
Nutritionists	21.5	21.2
Skilled kitchen help	11.9	51.2
Other help for program	61.3	295.2
Sample size (number)	395	NA

¹The base for all percentages is all food banks. ²Includes workers performing court-ordered community service or welfare-related work. NA = Not applicable.

Note: Many of the food banks that reported having particular types of staff were unable to estimate the number of hours worked per week by staff type. Thus, the average number of full-time equivalent employees is calculated based on less than 100 percent of the number of food banks that reported having the staff type.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Table 4.31—Average staff hours used by food banks with staff type, by affiliation

Staff category	All	Affiliation	
		Second Harvest	Independent
		<i>Hours</i>	
Paid employees	410.5	454.1	215.7
Supervisory personnel	133.7	145.0	82.8
Nutritionists	38.5	41.5	20.6
Clerical staff	86.8	93.1	48.0
Skilled kitchen help	48.2	50.4	39.2
Nonskilled help	180.3	190.9	113.1
Other help for program	211.7	216.1	179.0
Volunteer employees	262.5	276.7	199.2
Supervisory personnel	52.6	52.8	52.1
Nutritionists	7.0	6.6	10.0
Clerical staff	45.8	47.6	37.0
Skilled kitchen help	42.9	47.0	21.0
Nonskilled help	186.5	190.3	169.2
Other help for program	189.4	203.2	99.3
Unpaid employees¹	106.1	113.0	70.0
Supervisory personnel	54.5	70.0	8.0
Nutritionists			
Clerical staff	28.9	31.2	14.2
Skilled kitchen help	14.0	20.0	8.0
Nonskilled help	93.6	97.9	69.2
Other help for program	108.3	116.8	63.4
All employees	691.0	766.0	388.2
Supervisory personnel	139.4	151.9	87.4
Nutritionists	21.2	22.0	15.3
Clerical staff	104.4	114.3	55.6
Skilled kitchen help	51.2	56.0	32.0
Nonskilled help	353.2	374.7	253.1
Other help for program	295.2	316.0	174.5
Sample size (number)	395	317	78

¹Includes workers performing court-ordered community service or welfare-related work.

Note: Many of the food banks that reported having particular types of staff were unable to estimate the number of hours worked per week by staff type. Thus, the average number of full-time equivalent employees is calculated based on less than 100 percent of the number of food banks that reported having the staff type.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Table 4.32—Physical capacity and facilities and equipment used by food banks by size of food bank

Capacity/equipment	All	Size of food bank		
		Small	Medium	Large
		<i>Percent</i>		
Square footage at site				
Less than 1,000	3.8	10.9	0.0	0.0
1,000 to 9,999	21.8	42.0	14.4	0.0
10,000 to 19,999	23.8	19.6	31.4	12.1
20,000 to 29,999	14.2	2.9	22.9	13.6
30,000 to 39,999	9.6	1.4	11.7	21.2
40,000 to 59,999	8.1	2.2	8.0	19.7
60,000 to 99,999	5.6	1.4	3.2	19.7
100,000 or more	2.5	0.0	2.7	7.6
Missing data	10.6	19.6	5.9	6.1
(Mean, square feet)	(27,933.7)	(9,328.9)	(26,645.6)	(64,045.3)
(Median, square feet)	(17,000.0)	(6,000.0)	(20,000.0)	(38,739.0)
Food bank owns building	55.4	38.4	61.7	72.7
Refrigeration capacity				
Have home refrigerator onsite	11.9	21.0	7.4	4.5
Have walk-in refrigerator onsite	76.5	66.7	84.0	75.8
Have other type of refrigerator onsite	17.5	12.3	16.5	30.3
No refrigeration capacity onsite	5.8	14.5	1.1	1.5
Freezer capacity				
Have home freezer onsite	13.4	13.0	5.9	4.5
Have walk-in freezer onsite	78.7	72.5	83.0	78.8
Have other type of freezer onsite	17.5	28.3	18.1	24.2
No freezer capacity onsite	2.8	6.5	1.1	1.5
Storage				
Have separate warehouse for food storage	25.8	21.7	25.5	36.4
Have other offsite storage	24.1	14.5	27.7	34.8
Food preparation equipment				
Own onsite food preparation equipment	12.4	9.4	13.8	13.6
Have onsite food preparation equipment but do not own it	2.0	3.6	1.6	0.0
Have access to equipment to prepare hot meals or components of meals	12.2	13.0	12.8	9.1
Do not have access to equipment to prepare hot meals or components of meals	72.9	73.9	70.7	77.3
Preservation or processing facilities				
Have access to facilities to preserve or process perishable foods	13.9	10.9	16.5	13.6
Have access to refrigerated vehicles to transport prepared or perishable foods	66.3	34.1	78.2	98.5
Repackaging equipment or facilities				
Have access to equipment or facilities to repackaging foods, such as rice or dry beans	48.9	38.4	51.6	60.6
Transportation for delivery or pickup of food				
Own vehicles	86.3	70.3	93.1	100.0
Have vehicles but do not own them	9.6	21.0	4.8	0.0
Do not have vehicles	3.3	8.0	1.1	0.0
Sample size (number)	395	138	188	66

Note: Size variable is defined based on amounts of food used and staffing. In general, "small" food banks received less than 600 tons of food in the past 12 months; "medium" food banks received 600 to 4,000 tons; and "large" food banks received more than 4,000 tons.

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).

Table 4.33—Physical capacity and facilities and equipment used by food banks, by region

Capacity/equipment	All	Region			
		West	Midwest	South	Northeast
			<i>Percent</i>		
Square footage at site					
Less than 1,000	3.8	4.8	0.0	4.7	5.0
1,000 to 9,999	21.8	30.2	22.0	15.7	16.7
10,000 to 19,999	23.8	19.0	23.2	29.1	23.3
20,000 to 29,999	14.2	13.5	18.3	13.4	11.7
30,000 to 39,999	9.6	7.9	4.9	15.0	8.3
40,000 to 59,999	8.1	4.8	8.5	9.4	11.7
60,000 to 99,999	5.6	3.2	8.5	5.5	6.7
100,000 or more	2.5	2.4	3.7	1.6	3.3
Missing data	10.6	14.3	11.0	5.5	13.3
(Mean, square feet)	(27,933.7)	(23,725.6)	(28,259.8)	(30,215.4)	(30,950.3)
(Median, square feet)	(17,000.0)	(10,250.0)	(18,000.0)	(19,000.0)	(18,500.0)
Food bank owns building	55.4	34.1	64.6	66.1	65.0
Refrigeration capacity					
Have home refrigerator onsite	11.9	18.3	8.5	9.4	11.7
Have walk-in refrigerator onsite	76.5	77.8	82.9	77.2	63.3
Have other type of refrigerator onsite	17.5	19.1	19.5	15.7	16.7
No refrigeration capacity onsite	5.8	4.0	1.2	6.3	15.0
Freezer capacity					
Have home freezer onsite	13.4	18.3	9.8	11.0	13.3
Have walk-in freezer onsite	78.7	77.8	81.7	79.5	75.0
Have other type of freezer onsite	17.5	16.7	17.1	19.7	15.0
No freezer capacity onsite	2.8	1.6	1.2	3.1	6.7
Storage					
Have separate warehouse for food storage	25.8	29.4	34.1	17.3	25.0
Have other offsite storage	24.1	29.4	25.6	23.6	11.7
Food preparation equipment					
Own onsite food preparation equipment	12.4	15.1	7.3	11.8	15.0
Have onsite food preparation equipment but do not own it	2.0	3.2	0.0	1.6	3.3
Have access to equipment to prepare hot meals or components of meals	12.2	11.1	12.2	12.6	13.3
Do not have access to equipment to prepare hot meals or components of meals	72.9	70.6	79.3	74.0	66.7
Preservation or processing facilities					
Have access to facilities to preserve or process perishable foods	13.9	23.0	13.4	10.2	3.3
Have access to refrigerated vehicles to transport prepared or perishable foods	66.3	57.1	73.2	74.8	58.3
Repackaging equipment or facilities					
Have access to equipment or facilities to repackage foods, such as rice or dry beans	48.9	57.9	54.9	43.3	33.3
Transportation for delivery or pickup of food					
Own vehicles	86.3	87.3	86.6	90.6	75.0
Have vehicles but do not own them	9.6	11.9	7.3	6.3	16.7
Do not have vehicles	3.3	0.8	4.9	3.1	6.7
Sample size	395	126	82	127	60

Source: National Emergency Food Assistance System Survey (2000).