



Fourth Quarter Fact Sheet

Healthier Food Options Report (HFOR) Data

July - September 2015

The WSDA's Food Assistance Programs collects information from 500 food pantries and meal programs to develop an overview of statewide trends in the emergency food system. Our goals are to develop key partnerships and data-driven strategies to alleviate hunger and increase access to healthier food options in the emergency food system while supporting the agricultural community. 1 in every 6 Washingtonians used the services of their local food pantry in 2015.

“Increase the percentage of healthier food options being offered to low-income children and families through food pantries, farmers markets, and meal programs by 5% from the 2014 baseline by 2017”

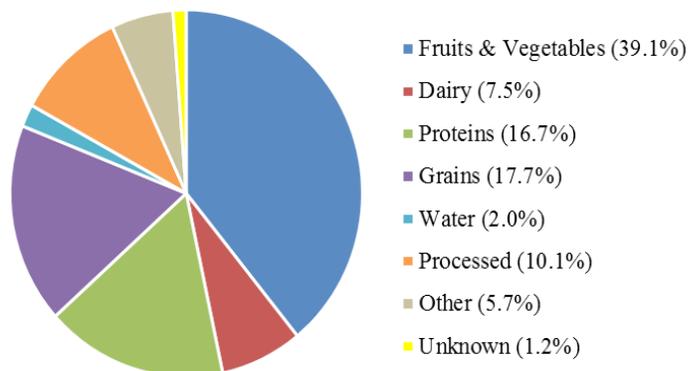
The Washington State Department of Agriculture and its' partners have included a metric to improve the healthier food options being made available to individuals requiring food assistance as part of the state's data-driven improvement system, Results Washington. Our focus is on Governor Goal 4 – Healthy and Safe Communities – Fostering the health of Washingtonians from a healthy start to a safe and supported future.

This informative data is continuing to reflect momentum as the first year of healthier food options reporting is finalized. Compared to the baseline, fourth quarter data for EFAP Food Pantries had positive fluctuations in several categories such as fruits and vegetables and grain options. Overall, healthier foods increased from 81.5% to 83.0% (+1.5) resulting in lower amounts of less healthy foods distributed from 18.5% to 17%. This imitates the same overall percentage from the third quarter EFAP totals.

Fourth quarter TEFAP Meal Program percentages have the largest increase recorded when compared to the baseline for the entire year. There was a 7.2% increase in healthier foods from 83.3% to 90.5%, which can be mostly attributed to the large increase in fruit and vegetable selections. This is an excellent example of how continued efforts and modifications have been made by emergency food providers to serve healthful, nutritious meals.

This data has also helped generate discussions that led to the development of a statewide storage capacity assessment. It will be able to identify areas that could present challenges going forward as we try to increase the amounts of fresh and frozen healthier food options for clients. These areas include infrastructure investments in fresh and cold storage at both the food bank and food pantry level.

EFAP Food Pantry HFOR Results



TEFAP Meal Program HFOR Results

