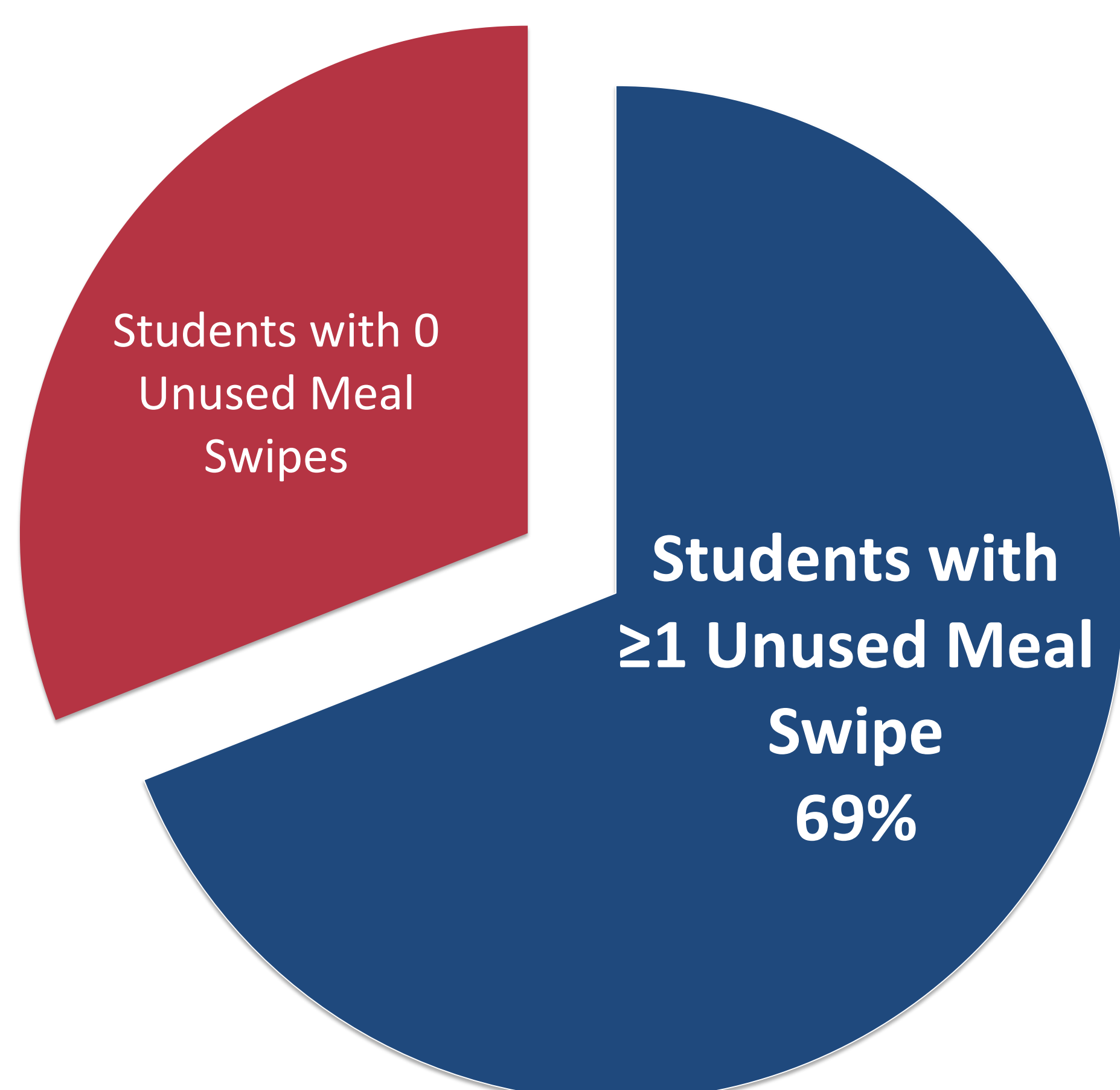


Goals

1. Enable WPI students to make a direct impact on the diverse Worcester community
2. Balance Worcester's food inaccessibility

Meal Swipe Usage at WPI³



Background

- Food insecurity in Worcester is 6 times greater than MA average⁴
- 73% of Worcester public school students qualified for free/reduced lunch²
- Government funding is inconsistent for soup kitchens and food pantries¹
- Only 66% of Worcester families receiving emergency food assistance are below the federal poverty line⁴

Methods

Develop the mechanism to use extra meal swipes in the form of On-The-Go meals

Identify Mustard Seed as local, viable soup kitchen

Create a website to organize student volunteers

Advertise opportunity to WPI students

Organize and execute weekly trips for shared lunches

Expected Results

- Student volunteer retention rate of 80%
- 5 student volunteers/week
- Upward trend in food donation at Mustard Seed

Moving Forward

- Incorporate Chartwells by donating unused meal swipes at the end of each month
 - Agreed upon food-swipe ratio
 - Monthly banquet at Mustard Seed
- Develop a process to gauge client satisfaction and impact with the project
- Collaborate with Worcester Interfaith and Swipe Out Hunger to expand project

Acknowledgments

Professors Boudreau and Krueger for their advice and encouragement. Rebecca Ziino for her research tips and assistance. The Swipe Out Hunger organization for their knowledge and counsel. The local soup kitchens the Mustard Seed and Rachael's Table for answering our many questions. Our PLAs for their valued suggestions. The Snow Family for their wisdom and experience with this issue.

Resources

- ¹The Emergency Food Assistance Program: Total Food Cost. (2015, November 6). Retrieved November 9, 2015
- ²Feeding the Hungry. *Rachel's Table*. (n.d.). Retrieved November 18, 2015
- ³Halfrey, S., Morissette, E., Neeld, C., Ortega, S., Snow, E., Tai, J.. "WPI Pulse on Dining Frequent Visitor Swipe Usage." Survey. 05 November 2015.
- Hansen, N. Wayne (Photographer). (2006 June 14). Worcester Massachusetts and the Surrounding Area [photograph]. Worcester, Massachusetts: Wikimedia
- ⁴Hardy, A., Flaherty, E., & Nemet, J. (2010, December 15). The Campus Kitchen Project. Retrieved November 1, 2015