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## Food Accessibility Project

Sonya Maria Douglas  
*Worcester Polytechnic Institute*

Rebecca Lee  
*Worcester Polytechnic Institute*

Mollie Myers  
*Worcester Polytechnic Institute*

Kyle Wijtmans  
*Worcester Polytechnic Institute*

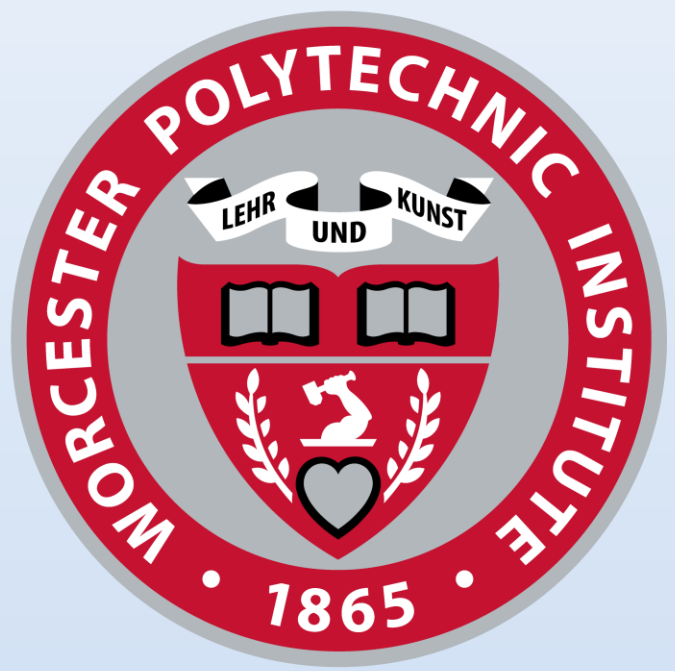
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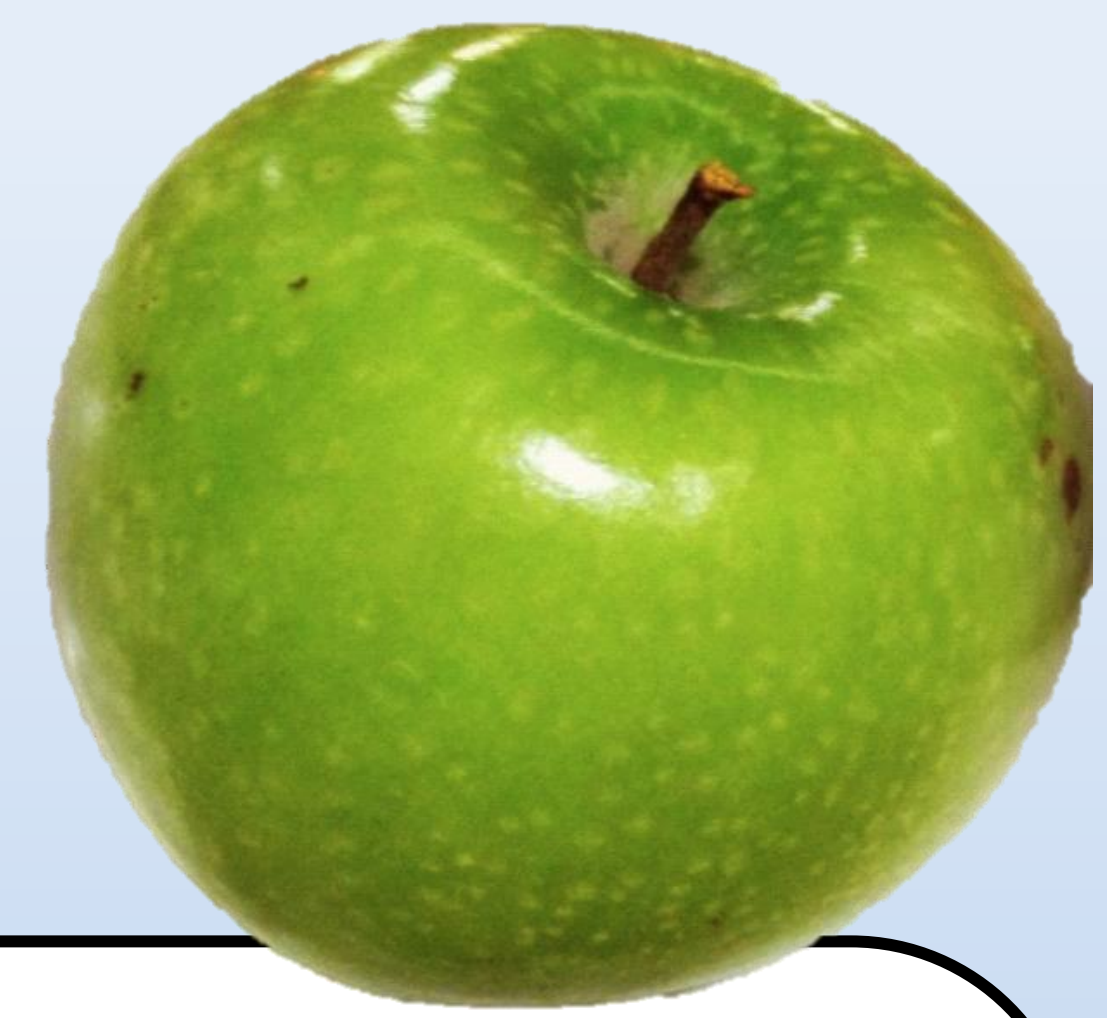
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# WPI

# Food Accessibility Project

Sonya Maria Douglas, Rebecca Lee, Mollie Myers, Kyle Wijtmans  
Advisors: Professors Jill Rulfs (Biology), Helen Vassallo (Management)



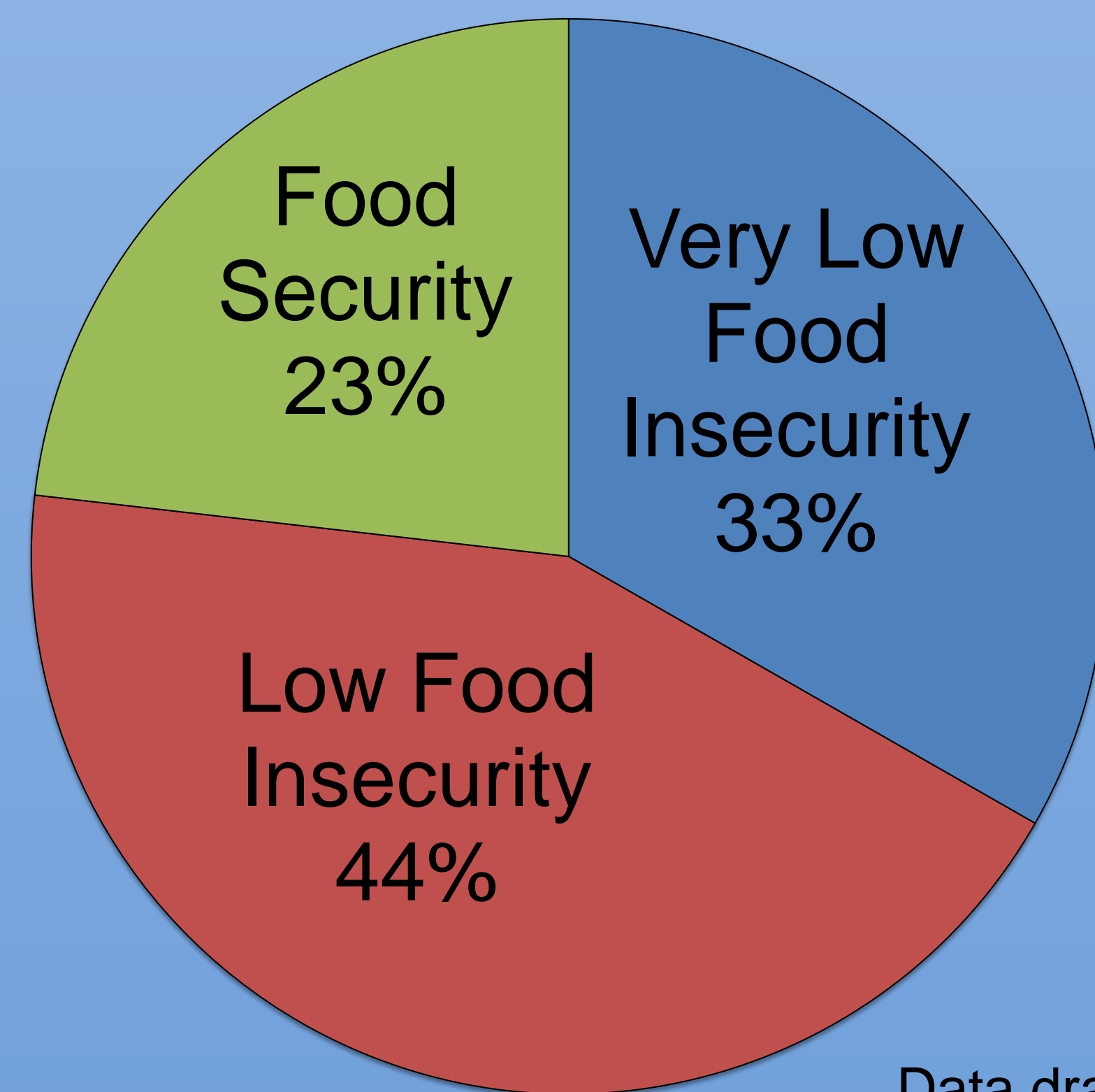
## Abstract

In Worcester, there is a high prevalence of food insecurity and many families obtain food from local food banks. The Food Accessibility Program arranges for unused food from the WPI food services to be donated to local food banks.

## Project Objectives

- Develop program to transport excess food from WPI to local food banks and distributors
- Determine feasibility of such a program
- Implement trial run

## Food Insecurity Among Worcester County Food Bank Client Households

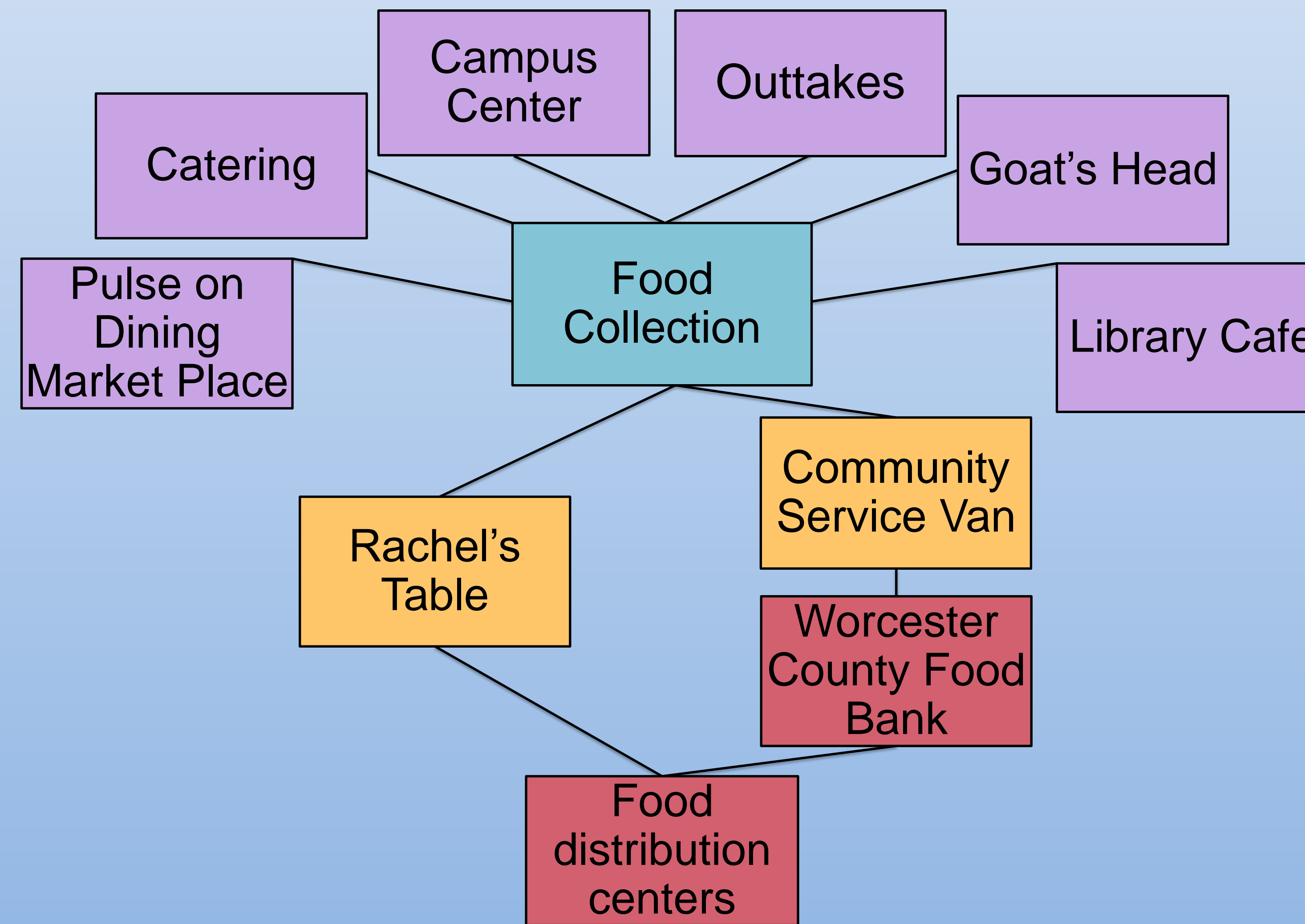


Data drawn from source 5

## Background

- In parts of Worcester, food insecurity is 6 times the national average, which is 11%<sup>1,6</sup>
- Worcester County Food Bank serves 86,600 people annually<sup>5</sup>
- 1 in 3 children in Worcester live in a food insecure household<sup>1</sup>
- Food insecurity has increased with food prices in the past few years<sup>2</sup>

## Flow of Excess Food from WPI



## Methods

1. Feasibility
  - Discussed program with Joe Kraskouskas
  - Talked with Alpha Phi Omega and Community Service Center
  - Contacted Worcester County Food Bank and Rachel's Table
2. Trial Run
  - Coordinated with the Community Service Center and student driver
  - Picked up food from Chartwells
  - Dropped off food at Worcester County Food Bank

## Results

1. Feasibility
  - Excess food when holidays begin
  - Food donated to local food banks<sup>3</sup>
  - No pre-existing organization to the donation effort<sup>3</sup>
  - Community service van available to transport food<sup>4</sup>
  - Worcester County Food Bank accepts donations from WPI<sup>3</sup>
2. Trial run
  - 13 bags of fruit and vegetables
  - 16 individual vegetable items
  - Box of deli meats
  - 2 bags of cookies



## Conclusions

- The trial run was successful
- Developing the program would be feasible and useful
- Donations before major breaks would be more substantial
- Could be a model program for other colleges

## Acknowledgments

We would like to acknowledge and thank Joe Kraskouskas, Jean G. McMurray, Lissa Kasakoff, Mallory Howard, and Armagan Sezer

## Selected References

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