

BSU Sociology Capstone Spring 2021

Immersive Learning Project with Community Partner: Second Harvest Food Bank

Partnering with Second Harvest Food Bank in Spring 2021, this Immersive Learning Project aimed to examine the needs of the community through application of sociological knowledge to synthesize research and literature. Students in this Immersive Learning Project completed all survey, interview, and informed consent documents, as well as compiling a literature review to aide in understanding sociological themes. They collected data from Second Harvest "Big Idea" Events by administering these surveys and interviews. They then synthesized their findings and presented the research to their community partner: Second Harvest Food Bank. Second Harvest will then use this research to earn grants and gain a better understanding of how COVID-19 impacted food insecurity in Indiana.

Sociology:

Sociology is the study of the development, structure, interaction, and collective behavior of organized groups of human beings. Through research, data analysis and study of conventional social standards and societal norms, sociology immerses you in a well-rounded program that prepares you for graduate study or for a career in fields that involve investigative skills and working with diverse groups.

[Department of Sociology | Ball State University \(bsu.edu\)](#)

Community Partner:

Second Harvest Food Bank is the region's largest hunger-relief organization with a network of 96 agency partners and 35 schools in Blackford, Delaware, Grant, Henry, Jay, Madison, Randolph and Wabash counties, with a goal, "to increase food availability to our communities in phases."

[Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana \(curehunger.org\)](#)

(See Survey and Interview below)

Recorder # _____

Site # _____

Date: _____

We are Ball State students helping Second Harvest learn how they can improve the experience here at this school’s event. We appreciate your time and willingness to complete our survey. We request that those filling out the survey be age 18 or older. None of your personal information will be shared with Second Harvest or the school. **You can stop or skip questions at any time.** Thank you!

1. How much has COVID-19 impacted your family’s need for food? (1 a little/being lowest impact, 5 a lot/being highest impact) [circle one]

1 (lowest) A little bit	2	3	4	5 (highest) A lot	Prefer to not respond 0
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2. **Before** COVID-19, how often did you attend these events at the school? [circle one]

Never 1 My first visit	Sometimes 2	Frequently 3	Every Month 4	Prefer to not respond 0
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3. **During** COVID-19, how often have you attended these events at the school? [circle one]

Never 1 My first visit	Sometimes 2	Frequently 3	Every Month 4	Prefer to not respond 0
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4. How likely is it that you will come to this food distribution **after** COVID-19? (1 being lowest likelihood, 5 being highest likelihood) [circle one]

1 (very unlikely to come again)	2	3	4	5 (very likely to come again)	Prefer to not respond 0
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5. To what degree do you feel the school staff has supported your student’s needs with these events? (1 being lowest likelihood, 5 being highest likelihood) [circle one]

1 (Not very much support)	2	3	4	5 (a great deal of support)	Prefer to not respond 0
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6. Do you use any other kinds of food assistance? (Yes / No) **If yes, which ones?**

SNAP 1	WIC 2	Other Food Pantries 3	Prefer to not respond 0
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Recorder # _____

Site # _____

Date: _____

QR Code for Survey



7. Would you be interested in answering more questions in a follow up interview? [circle one]

Yes 1	No 2
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If yes, please provide your name/email/phone number:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Thank you for your time and participation!

Recorder # _____

Site # _____

Date: _____

Interview

We are Ball State students helping Second Harvest learn how they can improve the experience here at this school's event. We appreciate your time and willingness to complete our interview. We request that those participating are over 18. None of your personal information will be shared with Second Harvest. **You can stop or skip questions at any time.** Thank you!

1. How did you learn about Second Harvest and its services?
2. What factors led you to participate in this program and attend this food distribution event?
3. What has your experience been like with the food distribution events and your child's school?
4. Is there an experience that you have had with school food distribution events that sticks out to you? How did that experience make you feel?
5. How has COVID-19 impacted your family's ability to get resources? What role has Second Harvest provided and what role have they played?
6. What do you wish other members of this school knew about these food pickup opportunities?