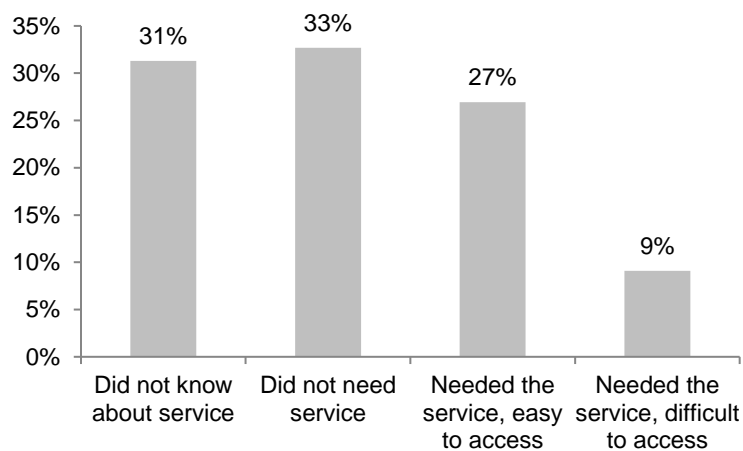


FOOD PANTRY

Food pantry is the provision of food and/or household items to persons living with HIV (PLWH). This service can be provided in the form of actual goods (such as through a food bank) or as vouchers for food. In the Houston Area, other non-Ryan White programs provide food bank services to PLWH.

(**Graph 1**) In the 2016 Houston HIV Care Services Needs Assessment, 36% of participants indicated a need for *food pantry* in the past 12 months. 27% reported the service was easy to access, and 9% reported difficulty. 31% stated that they did not know the service was available.

GRAPH 1-Food Pantry, 2016



(**Table 1**) When barriers to *food pantry* were reported, the most common barrier type was education and awareness (45%). Education and awareness barriers reported include lack of knowledge about service availability, location, staff contact.

TABLE 1-Top 5 Reported Barrier Types for Food Pantry, 2016

	No.	%
1. Education and Awareness (EA)	19	45%
2. Eligibility (EL)	5	12%
3. Interactions with Staff (S)	5	12%
4. Resource Availability (R)	3	7%
5. Transportation (T)	3	7%

(**Table 2 and Table 3**) Need and access to services can be analyzed for needs assessment participants according to demographic and other characteristics, revealing the presence of any potential disparities in access to services. For *food pantry*, this analysis shows the following:

- More females than males found the service accessible.
- More other/multiracial PLWH found the service accessible than other race/ethnicities.
- More PLWH age 25 to 49 found the service accessible than other age groups.
- In addition, more out of care, unstably housed, and MSM PLWH found the service difficult to access when compared to all participants.

TABLE 2-Food Pantry, by Demographic Categories, 2016

Experience with the Service	Sex		Race/ethnicity				Age		
	Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	18-24	25-49	50+
Did not know about service	32%	30%	33%	31%	31%	21%	48%	32%	28%
Did not need service	34%	27%	40%	28%	36%	36%	52%	31%	33%
Needed, easy to access	26%	31%	16%	33%	23%	43%	0%	30%	27%
Needed, difficult to access	8%	12%	10%	8%	10%	0%	0%	8%	12%

TABLE 3-Food Pantry, by Selected Special Populations, 2016

Experience with the Service	Unstably Housed ^a	MSM ^b	Out of Care ^c	Recently Released ^d	Rural ^e	Transgender ^f
Did not know about service	42%	31%	50%	28%	35%	29%
Did not need service	17%	36%	0%	28%	41%	19%
Needed, easy to access	31%	23%	0%	38%	15%	52%
Needed, difficult to access	11%	10%	50%	5%	9%	0%

^aPersons reporting housing instability ^bMen who have sex with men ^cPersons with no evidence of HIV care for 12 mo.

^dPersons released from incarceration in the past 12 mo. ^eNon-Houston/Harris County residents ^fPersons with discordant sex assigned at birth and current gender