
APRIL. 2021

US@MS

Newsletter



Dear Faculty and Staff,

US@MSU is glad to announce that we have distributed 8 newsletters thus far to underrepresented, first-generational, and low income college students at Michigan State University. Our newsletters are filled with valuable resources and information to provide our students with the assistance they may be in need of. In this news letter is statistics on food insecurity, mental health, and the impact of covid-19. As faculty and staff we understand you play a huge role in students' lives, we shared a variety of statistics below to help you better understand what your students are dealing with emotionally, financially, mentally, and physically. As faculty and staff, we would like to hear from you on ideas how we can better serve our underrepresented students.

Question: Would you encourage students to use your office hours more?
From your perspective why is office hours valuable?

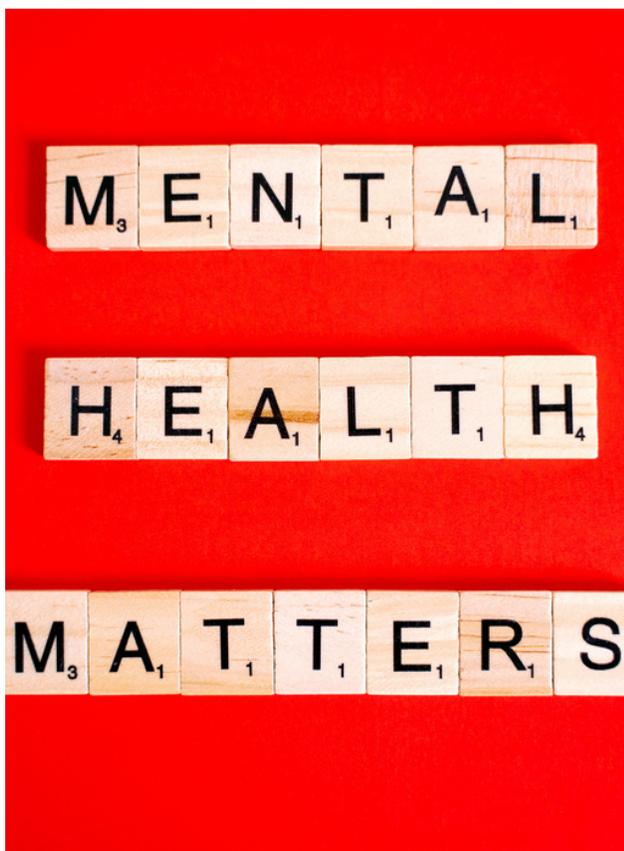
****Drop a line so that we can share this information with students.***

Facts on Food Insecurity

- In Michigan, 1,359,650 people are struggling with hunger - and of them 318,960 are children.
- **1 in 7 children** struggles with hunger.
- People facing hunger in Michigan are estimated to report needing \$653,547,000 more per year to meet their food needs.
- Food insecurity is a complex problem and does not exist in isolation for low-income families. Many of the same families also struggle with issues like affordable housing, medical costs and low wages. The prevalence of food insecurity is higher among:



- Of the 195 students, 138 (71%) indicated increased stress and anxiety due to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Multiple stressors were identified that contributed to the increased levels of stress, anxiety, and depressive thoughts among students.
- These included fear and worry about their own health and of their loved ones (177/195, 91% reported negative impacts of the pandemic)
- Difficulty in concentrating (173/195, 89%)
- Disruptions to sleeping patterns (168/195, 86%)
- Decreased social interactions due to physical distancing (167/195, 86%)
- Increased concerns on academic performance (159/195, 82%)
- To cope with stress and anxiety, participants have sought support from others and helped themselves by adopting either negative or positive coping mechanisms.



Effects of COVID-19 on College Students' Mental Health in the United States: Interview Survey Study
Journal of Medical Internet Research

Statistics On the Impact of Covid-19

- 3.01 million people have died from covid-19 worldwide
- Racial and ethnic minorities had relatively high unemployment rates in April (16.7% for Black workers compared to 14.2% for White workers, and 18.9% for Hispanic workers compared to 13.6% for non-Hispanic workers), and these gaps persisted in December.
- The unemployment rate peaked at an unprecedented level, not seen since data collection started in 1948, in April 2020 (14.8%) before declining to a still elevated level in December (6.7%).



Who We Are:

US@MSU is an information network system, to inform underrepresented, first generation, and/or low-income students at Michigan State University. US@MSU was constructed out of the Office of College Access Initiatives (CAI); which provides academic enrichment programs to high school students in Lansing and surrounding areas in order to increase the number of youth, from disadvantaged backgrounds who complete high school and enroll in post-secondary education. Programs also serve individuals who have dropped out of high school, to age 27, by encouraging them to re-enter the educational system and complete their education. In support of students we are asking for your feedback so that we can share this with our students.

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