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Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

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FOR THE MEDIA

next meal is coming from.

Food insecure patients often have worse treatment outcomes and a poorer quality of life, compared to patients who have enough to eat. [_ \(1\)](#)

The Food to Overcome Outcome Disparities (FOOD) Program is working to alleviate food insecurity within this vulnerable population and increase awareness of how food insecurity impacts a patient's ability to fight cancer.

Food Pantries for People with Cancer

Since opening our first food pantry specifically for cancer patients in 2011, the FOOD Program has distributed more than 700,000 meals to 9,000 patients and their families. We now operate 16 pantries co-located in cancer clinics serving patients in Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Long Island.

Partnerships across different emergency food providers have allowed our program to continue to meet the

growing demand for food resources among cancer patients. We have also been able to expand our offerings to include fresh fruits and vegetables, and healthy, low-sodium, low-sugar options to help patients manage other chronic conditions.

FOOD is currently conducting a clinical trial to study the impact of different food insecurity interventions and how increasing access to food resources can affect cancer treatment, quality of life, food security, and nutritional status for underserved patients.

Food and Nutrition Resources

In addition to distributing free food to patients across 16 treatment sites, FOOD also connects patients with a variety of other food resources. Working closely with the Food Bank for New York City, New York Common Pantry, Green Bronx Machine, and others, FOOD refers high-needs patients for additional resources. Our partner organizations connect patients with other local food pantries and soup kitchens, help eligible patients apply for Supplemental Food and Nutrition Program benefits (food stamps), and provide high-quality nutrition workshops and educational materials.

Contact Us

For more information about FOOD program activities, please contact Ashley Phillips at phillia@mskcc.org and Daniel Moreira at moreird1@mskcc.org .

For more information about FOOD research, please contact Bharat Narang at narangb@mskcc.org .

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