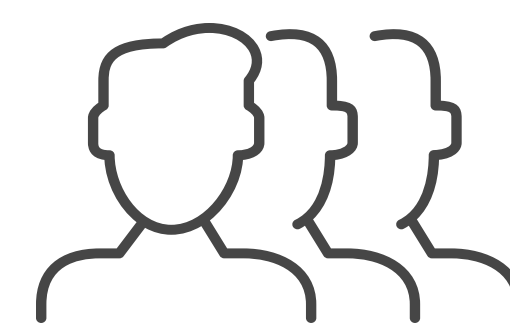


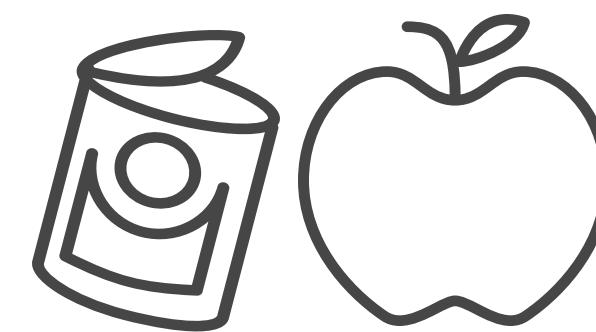


THE GREATER  
VANCOUVER  
FOOD BANK:  
BEST-BEFORE-DATE  
POLICY CHANGE

Currently, the food bank will distribute food up until 12 months past the best-before-date.<sup>1</sup> We explored if this policy should be reduced, how inventory would change, and subsequent product loss trends.



**27,500**  
PEOPLE HELPED  
BY THE GVFB WEEKLY<sup>2</sup>



**4.1 million**  
POUNDS OF FOOD  
DISTRIBUTED ANNUALLY<sup>2</sup>

CURRENT POLICY:

Distribute products if less than 12 months past the best-before-date<sup>1</sup>

BEST  
BEFORE  
DATE =

**QUALITY**

NOT  
FOOD  
SAFETY<sup>3</sup>

COLLECT PRODUCT DATA

Recorded the information of all products that arrived to the food bank in the month of February 2018

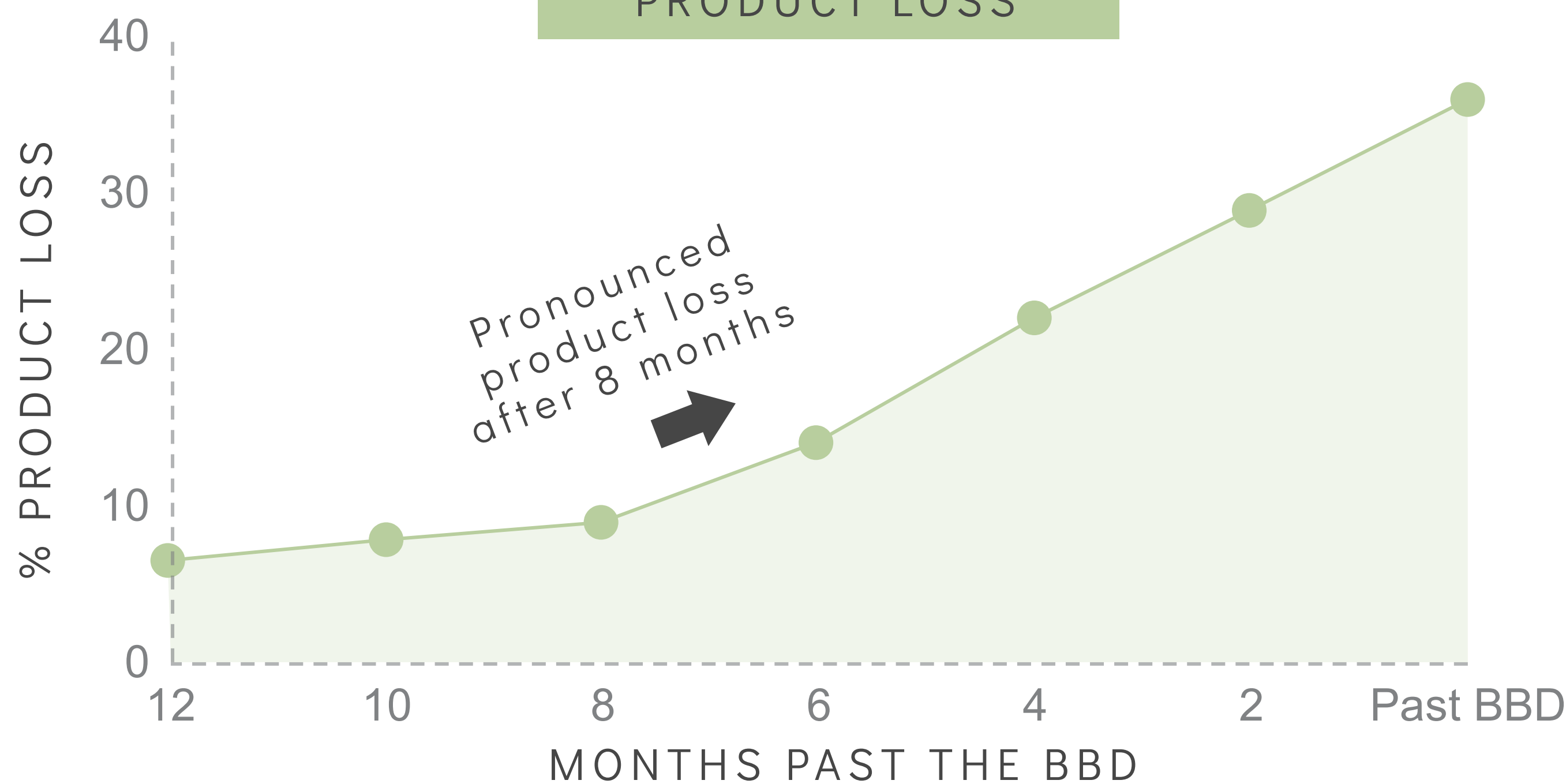
PRODUCT LOSS ANALYSIS

Used Excel to analyze the best-before-dates and how the inventory would be affected by each policy change

POLICY SUGGESTION

Determined our suggestion based on the analysis of lost inventory and ethics

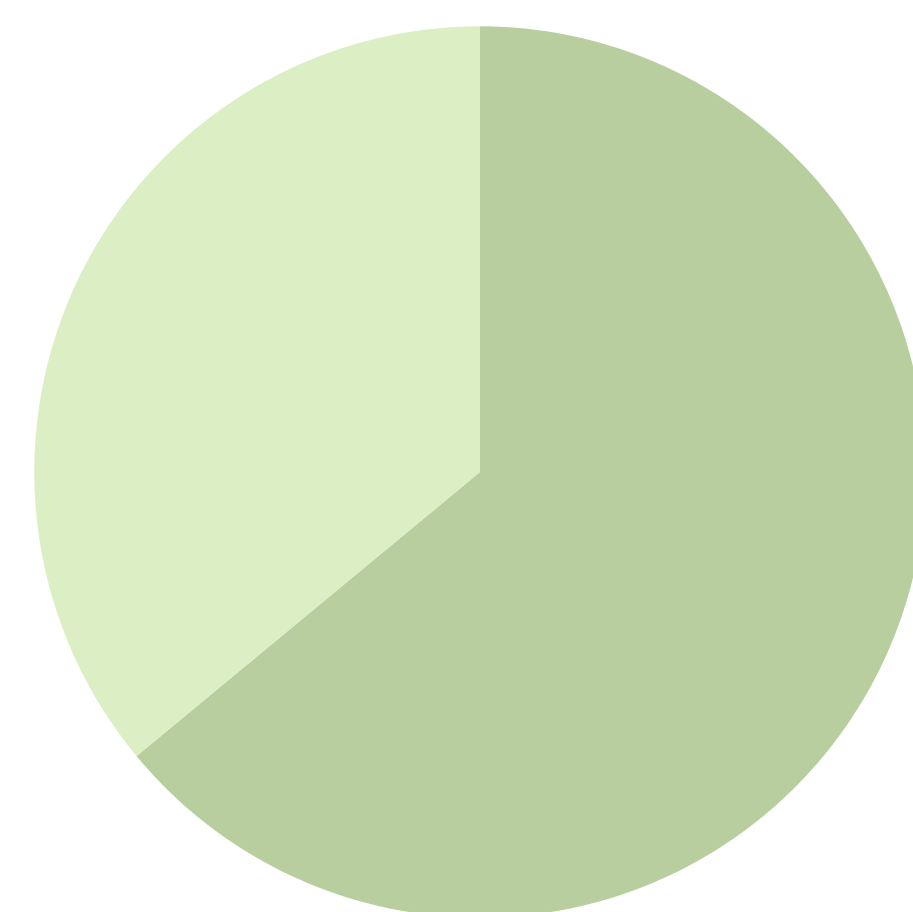
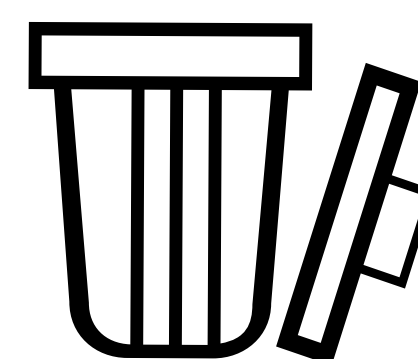
PRODUCT LOSS



**2272**  
PRODUCTS ANALYZED



**36%**  
OF PRODUCTS  
WERE PAST THE  
BEST-BEFORE-DATE



**8 months**

Suggested  
policy  
change

Based on product loss data analysis, we suggest a policy change of 8 months past the best-before-date.

**5%**



**8%**

12 MONTHS PAST THE  
BEST-BEFORE-DATE

8 MONTHS PAST THE  
BEST-BEFORE-DATE

The food bank has the responsibility of keeping members satisfied with what they receive, and catering to proper ethics in minimizing food disposal. A change in the distribution policy from 12 months past the best-before-date to 8 months has the potential to satisfy members while maintaining minimal food disposal.

References

1. Food Banks Canada. (2013). Guideline for Distributing Food-Past the Best Before Date. Retrieved from <http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Educational%20Materials/EH/FPS/Food/FoodBanksCanadaGuidelinesforFoodShelfLife2013.pdf>
2. The Greater Vancouver Food Bank. (2016). The Greater Vancouver Food Bank - at a glance. Retrieved from <https://www.foodbank.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Key-Facts-2016-FINAL.pdf>
3. Canadian Food Inspection Agency. (2017). Date labelling on pre-packaged foods. Retrieved from <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/information-for-consumers/fact-sheets-and-infographics/date-labelling/eng/1332357469487/1332357545633>



The Greater Vancouver Food Bank  
in collaboration with  
the University of British Columbia

For more information, please visit our  
blog: <https://blogs.ubc.ca/thegreatfoodbankers/>