



Hunger In America – 2014 Key Facts and Findings

Hunger in America 2014 is the most comprehensive examination of hunger in the United States. Conducted every four years since 1993, the Hunger in America study documents the critical role that Feeding America member food banks and their partner agencies play in supporting people facing hunger across the country, and the demographics and challenges of people using the charitable food assistance network.

Nationally, the study includes over 32,000 surveys of partner agencies that provide food assistance services and more than 60,000 surveys of clients served by these agencies and the food programs they operate. Data collection, which was completed between October 2012 and August 2013, occurred during historically high national demand for public and private food assistance. National unemployment and poverty rates remained high after 2008's Great Recession, and the number of households receiving nutrition assistance from the federal government's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program increased approximately 50 percent between 2009 and 2013. National demand for charitable food assistance also expanded during this time, though patterns differed greatly by local geographic area.

This report describes partner agencies and programs of Feeding America Tampa Bay, including the services they provide, how their staffing and funding operate, and the challenges they face. The report also details the number and characteristics of clients served by these agencies, including clients' demographic characteristics, housing circumstances, education status, employment, and household income.

The study tells the story of programs determined to help clients and their households meet their food needs, and of a population that critically needs this assistance. Across the nation, the weak economy with its historically low employment rate and high poverty rate has challenged system. Many agencies face a growing demand for help, and many struggle to meet these needs in the face of declining donations.

While recent declines in the national unemployment rate suggest that demand for food assistance may slow down, it is still too soon to know. In certain areas of the country, unemployment rates are down in part because many who have been looking for work for a long time have simply dropped out of the labor market. Many workers at the bottom of the labor market have not seen a real increase in wages for many years.

Background

- The national poverty rate has been 15.1% between 2010 and 2012
- Real household income dropped 8% between 2007 and 2012

The Food Bank's role in Feeding America's National Network – AGENCIES

- FATB
 - We reported 786 agencies with 1459 programs
 - 294 are meal programs, which provide prepared meals or snacks on site or in the client's home;
 - 704 are grocery programs, which distribute non-prepared foods, groceries, and other household supplies for off-site use;
 - 20 are food-related benefits programs, which typically involve outreach, education, information and referrals, and/or application assistance to obtain federal or state assistance benefits;
 - 441 are nonfood programs, which have a primary purpose other than meal programs, grocery programs, or food-related benefits programs,
 - Distribution programs
 - Meals
 - Soup Kitchen = 26%
 - Children's programs = 24%
 - Residential program = 14%
 - Shelter = 9%
 - Group home = 8%
 - Other = 19%
 - Grocery Programs
 - 'food bank' type programs = 77%
 - Other pantry programs = 6%
 - FATB pantry programs = 4%
 - Food Sources
 - From FATB = 55%
 - Other 'food banks' = 15%
 - Donations = 15%
 - Purchased = 16%
 - Vehicles
 - 56% own trucks, vans or pick-ups (no data on cooled or not)
 - 65% have volunteers use their own transportation for pick up
 - 8% work with other programs for pick ups
 - 22% have food delivered to them
 - Food Challenges
 - 47% have enough food to meet needs
 - 41% have Somewhat less or a lot less food than needed
 - 12% have somewhat more or a lot more food than needed

- 9% of the programs frequently or occasionally turned people away
 - Operation Challenges
 - 27% of agencies cut back on services
 - 15% have cut hours
 - 4% have laid off staff
 - 8% have limited the area they serve
 - Importance of FATB as food source
 - 79% said it would be a 'major' effect if they no longer had food from FATB
 - 11% said a 'minor' effect
 - 10% said no effect

Characteristics of Clients and their Households - CLIENTS

On a duplicated basis, we estimate that Feeding America Tampa Bay distributes food to (unduplicated) 107,338 individuals in a typical week, 313,249 individuals in a typical month and 841,674 individuals annually. Looking at the number of households in which at least one member is served; we find that this food bank distributes food to (unduplicated) 35,708 households in a typical week, 106,753 households in a typical month, and 282,404 households annually.

	weekly		monthly		yearly	
	duplic	unduplic	duplic	undupl	duplic	undupl
total # of individuals	168,742	107,338	733,226	313,249	8,798,708	841,674
total # of households	70,875	35,708	307,970	106,753	3,695,635	282,404
	weekly		monthly		yearly	
	duplic	unduplic	duplic	undupl	duplic	undupl
individual clients meal program	39,520	12,361	171,724	39,610	2,060,694	75,010
grocery program	129,222	100,731	561,501	291,700	6,738,014	804,840
	weekly		monthly		yearly	
	duplic	unduplic	duplic	undupl	duplic	undupl
clients / programs						
pantries	128,977	99,276	560,435	286,194	6,725,223	789,618
kitchens	7,716	1,742	33,527	4,926	402,327	9,198
shelters	662	495	2,874	1,606	34,494	4,475
seniors	1,935	1,284	8,406	4,188	100,877	11,744

Demographics

- Age
 - 24% are children under 18
 - 0-5 = 7%

- 6-17 = 17%
 - 57% are adults
 - 18-29 = 12%
 - 30-49 = 29%
 - 50-59 = 15%
 - 19% are seniors
 - 60-64 = 9%
 - 65+ = 10%
- Race
 - White = 44%
 - African American = 40%
 - Latino = 13%
 - Other = 4%
- Education
 - Less than HS = 28%
 - HS diploma/GED = 43%
 - College degree/some college/licensure = 29% (note that 9% of adults are full or p/t students)
- Household size
 - 1 member = 21%
 - 2-3 members = 45%
 - 4-6 members = 31%
 - More than 6 = 3%
- Housing
 - 95% live in non-temporary housing
 - 23% have their own mortgage or own their home outright
 - 71% lease or rent their home
 - 6% do not have to pay rent
 - Stability of housing
 - 30% have lived in at least two places in last 12 months
 - 29% have started to live with another person or family member
 - Facilities
 - 7% of the households do not have cooking capabilities
 - 4% of the households have no refrigerator
 - Armed Services
 - 19% of households have someone has or is serving and of those, 31% of households are active right now
 - 17% of households include grandparents who have responsibility for grandchildren
- Health

In addition to challenges related to employment and food, the households who rely on Feeding America Tampa Bay may face challenges to their well-being, including health status and health conditions, medical insurance status, and income and poverty. These challenges can keep people out of the workforce, increase expenses, and limit resources. Together, these challenges may increase the need for charitable food assistance.

- 24% of households have at least one member in poor health
 - 38% have a member with diabetes
 - 55% have a member with high blood pressure
- 27% lack health insurance of any kind
- 56% of households have a medical bill to pay
- Income
 - 14% reported \$0 income
 - 45% reported less than \$10,000 per year
 - 20% reported between \$10k and \$20k per year
 - 10% reported between \$20k and \$30k per year
 - 12% reported \$30k plus per year
- Percentage of Poverty Level
 - 75% fall at or BELOW 100% poverty level
- Household Food Security Status

The use of food programs and the difficulty getting food to feed one's household are likely deeply intertwined. Households that experience enough limitations in access to adequate food to cause changes in diet or reduced food intake are deemed food insecure. In this section, we examine the level of food insecurity of Feeding America Tampa Bay client households and the trade-offs they make to secure enough food.

 - Security
 - 85% of households are food insecure
 - 67% choose between paying for food and medicine
 - 63% choose between paying for food and rent/mortgage
 - 70% choose between paying for food and transportation
 - 75% choose between paying for food and utilities
 - Client participation in children's programs
 - 4% afterschool meal or snack program
 - 6% use backpack weekend program
 - 94% are on free and reduced lunch
 - 6% are in WIC
 - Coping Strategies
 - 59% eat expired food
 - 49% are receiving from friends
 - 36% have sold or pawned goods for food
 - 48% watered down food and beverages to stretch them

Summary

The narrative created by this survey helps us to understand what is occurring in households who are economically stressed, and as a result, food insecure. Typical studies indicate how many people are hungry, this study tells us why. It is also allows us to examine the coping strategies used and the very difficult choices being made in homes today. Along with an examination of the network in place to assist communities in supporting the hungry, this study allows us to create a better understanding of, and therefore support for those in need. Because no one should go hungry.