



RIVER BEND FOODBANK
Feeding the Hungry Since 1982

A Member of **FEEDING™
AMERICA**

Highlights

2010 Local Hunger Study

EXERPTS OF THE FINDINGS

This report presents information on the clients and agencies served by The River Bend Food Bank. The information is drawn from a national study, Hunger in America 2010, conducted in 2009 for Feeding America (FA) (formerly America's Second Harvest), the nation's largest organization of emergency food providers. The national study is based on completed in-person interviews with more than 62,000 clients served by the FA national network, as well as uncompleted questionnaires from more than 37,000 FA agencies. The study summarized below focuses on emergency food providers and their clients who are supplied with food by food banks in the FA network. Emergency food programs are defined to include food pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency shelters serving short-term residents. It should be recognized that many other types of providers served by food banks are, for the most part, *not* described in this study, including such programs as Congregate Meals for seniors, day care facilities, and after school programs.

- The FA system served by The River Bend Food Bank provides emergency food for an estimated 84,100 different people annually.
- About 10,000 different people receive emergency food assistance in any given week.

A BROAD SECTION OF HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVES EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

OF THE HOUSEHOLDS SERVED BY THE FOODBANK

- 40% of households include at least one employed adult (Table 5.7.1).
- 39% are children under 18 years old (Table 5.3.2).
- 10% are children age 0 to 5 years (Table 5.3.2).
- 3% are elderly (Table 5.3.2).
- About 77% of clients are non-Hispanic white, 18% are non-Hispanic black, 4% are Hispanic, and the rest are from other racial groups (Table 5.6.1).
- 78% have incomes below the federal poverty level (Table 5.8.2.1)
- 13% are homeless (Table 5.9.1.1).

MANY CLIENTS ARE FOOD INSECURE WITH LOW OR VERY LOW FOOD SECURITY

- 76% are food insecure, according to the U.S. government's official food security scale. This includes client households who have low food security and those who have very low food security (Table 6.1.1.1).
- 42% of the clients have very low food security (Table 6.1.1.1). Among households with children,
- 82% are food insecure and
- 50% are food insecure with very low food security (Table 6.1.1.1).

MANY CLIENTS REPORT HAVING TO CHOOSE BETWEEN FOOD AND OTHER NECESSITIES

- 46% of clients served by The River Bend Food Bank report having to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities or heating fuel (Table 6.5.1).
- 38% had to choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage (Table 6.5.1).
- 34% had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care (Table 6.5.1).
- 40% had to choose between paying for food and paying for transportation (Table 6.5.1).
- 40% had to choose between paying for food and paying for gas for a car (Table 6.5.1).

MANY CLIENTS ARE IN POOR HEALTH

- 31% of households served by The River Bend Food Bank report having at least one household member in poor health (Table 8.1.1)

WHAT KINDS OF ORGANIZATIONS OPERATE EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAMS OF THE RIVER BEND FOOD BANK?

- 71% of pantries, 60% of kitchens, and 60% of shelters are run by faith-based agencies affiliated with churches, mosques, synagogues, and other religious organizations (Table 10.6.1).
- At the agency level, 68% of agencies with at least one pantry, kitchen, or shelter and 63% of all agencies including those with other types of programs are faithbased (Table 10.6.1).
- Private nonprofit organizations with no religious affiliation make up a large share of other types of agencies (Table 10.6.1).

HAVE AGENCIES WITH EMERGENCY FOOD PROVIDERS REPORTED CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF CLIENTS SEEKING SERVICES?

- Among programs that existed in 2006, 84% of pantries, 83% of kitchens, and 75% of shelters of The River Bend Food Bank reported that there had been an increase since 2006 in the number of clients who come to their emergency food program sites (Table 10.8.1).

WHERE DO AGENCIES WITH EMERGENCY FOOD PROVIDERS OBTAIN THEIR FOOD?

- Food banks are by far the single most important source of food for agencies with emergency food providers, accounting for 65% of the food distributed by pantries, 29% of the food distributed by kitchens, and 36% of the food distributed by shelters (Table 13.1.1).

- Other important sources of food include religious organizations, government, and direct purchases from wholesalers and retailers (Table 13.1.1).
- 50% of pantries, 13% of kitchens, and 17% of shelters receive food from The Emergency Food Assistance Program (Table 13.1.1).

VOLUNTEERS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN THE FA NETWORK

- As many as 94% of pantries, 82% of kitchens, and 78% of shelters in The River Bend Food Bank use volunteers (Table 13.2.1).
- Many programs rely *entirely* on volunteers; 72% of pantry programs and 25% of kitchens have no paid staff at all (Table 13.2.1).

Hunger in America 2010 The River Bend Food Bank (1504)

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE HUNGER STUDY

HUNGER NATIONALLY

4.1 % of all U.S. households (4.7 million households) had very low food security characterized by disruptions in eating patterns and reductions in food intake of one or more household members, at least some time during the year from not being able to afford enough food. These disruptions are even more common among households w/children younger than 18.

SAMPLING

- River Bend food Bank served approximately 150 agencies at the time of the survey, of which 121 agencies responded to the agency survey. These responses contained usable information on 97 pantries, 16 kitchens, 10 shelters, and 103 other nonemergency food programs.
- Based on the results of this agency-level sampling process and of the random sampling of clients implemented at the sites, Mathematica developed survey weights that make the sample representative of all clients of the River Bend Foodbank.
- A total of 314 clients were interviewed at selected program sites of the River Bend Foodbank. The clients interviewed at the **pantry** programs (230 clients) account for 73.2% of all client respondents. Those interviewed at the **kitchen** programs (72 clients) make up 22.9% of the total, and those interviewed at the **shelter** programs (12 clients) account for the remaining 3.8%

DEMOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS

- 74.9% of adult clients who pick up food at a pantry are Non-Hispanic White.
- 50.4% of pantry clients has children under 18 in the household.
- 38% of all adult members of household who picked up food at a pantry have one or more adults employed.

EMPLOYMENT

- 7.2% of the adult clients at program sites are currently employed full time; 16.1% employed part time.
- 15.1% of the clients have recently lost their job, having been unemployed for three months or less.
- Among those who have worked before or are currently working, 22.8% either had or currently have managerial or professional jobs.

INCOME LEVELS

- 61.7% of all client households had monthly household income less than \$1,000.
- Average household income among all clients during the previous month was \$870 (median: \$750). By contrast, the mean for the u.s. population as a whole in 2008 was \$5,702 (median: \$4,192)
- Average monthly household income among the pantry clients was \$950 (median: \$800)
- Average household income among all clients in year 2008 was \$13,080.
- Average household income as percentage of the federal poverty level was 79% (median: 66%)
- Household annual income for Pantry Clients surveyed

No income	5.8%
\$1-\$4,999	6.0%
\$5,000-\$9,999	30.7%
\$10,000-\$14,999	21.5%
\$15,000-\$19,999	8.1%
\$20,000-\$24,999	10.8%

SOURCE OF INCOME

- When clients were asked about all sources of their household income for the previous month, 40.1% included a job as a source.
- For 43.8% of all clients, other government assistance such as Social Security or Unemployment Compensation was the main source of household income.
- 28.9% of all clients said they received Social Security benefits.
- 19.3% listed SSDI or Workers' Compensation as a source of household income.
- 4.9% of all clients listed TANF as a source of household income during the previous month
- 18.8% received SSI. .
- 0.2% of all clients receive, welfare assistance from the government such as TANF or GA was the main source of household income
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HOUSING

- 2.4% of pantry clients lived in a car, van or recreational vehicle
- 5.5% of pantry client households were without a place to live.
- 4.4% of kitchen clients were homeless living on the street
- 3.1 of the pantry clients and 15.8 were living in a shelter or mission
- Among all households in the survey, 12.7 were without a place to live.

FOOD INSECURITY

Definition of Food Insecurity: Previous Hunger in America studies further classified food-insecure individuals and households as food insecure w/o hunger: and food insecure w/hunger". Changes in these descriptions to "very low food security" and "low food security", respectively, were made in 2006 at the recommendation of the Committee on National Statistics in order to distinguish the physiological state of hunger from indicators of food availability.

- All Households with children under 18: 50.3% had very low food security.32.1% had low food security and
- Age 65 years or older: 26.8% had very low food security and 25.9% had low food security.
- 50.3% of client households with children under 18 and 46.4%with children ages 0 to 5 are classified as having very low food security.
- 32.1 % of client households with children under 18 and 30.3 % of those with children ages 0 to 5 are classified as having low food security.

MONEY FOR FOOD AND GOING WITHOUT

- Overall 81.8% of the client households reported that, during the previous 12 months, they had been in a situation where the food they bought “just didn’t last” and they did not have money to get more. In addition,
- 71.9% of the client households were, often or sometimes during the previous 12 month, in a situation where they “couldn’t afford to eat balanced meals.”
- 63.9% of the clients ate less than they felt they should because there was not enough money to buy food at least once during the previous 12 months.
- Adults in 44.5% of the client households were hungry but did not eat because they could not afford enough food at least once during the previous 12 months.
- Adults in 31.2% of the client households did not eat for a whole day at least once during the previous 12 months because there was not enough money for food.
- 8.6% of the clients with children said that their children skipped meals because there was not enough money for food during the previous 12 months.
- 15.3% of the client’s w/children said that their children were hungry at least once during the previous 12 months, but they could not afford more food.

CHOICES

- Among pantry client households, 48.3% had to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities or heating fuel; 36.6% had to choose between food and rent or mortgage; 37.7% had to choose between food and medicine or medical care; 43.1% to choose between food and paying for transportation; and 45.7% had to choose between food and paying for gas for a car.

SNAP

- 86.0% of the clients have ever applied for, and 52% are currently receiving SNAP benefits.
- 67% of clients living in households with seniors have ever applied to SNAP. This compares to 88.7% of households with children younger than 18 and 86.4% of households with children ages 0 to 5.
- 43.2% of clients living in households with seniors are currently receiving SNAP benefits. This compares to 51.3% of households with children younger than 18 and 61.7% of households with children ages 0 to 5.
- 24.8% of the pantries, 33.6% of the shelters provide eligibility counseling for SNAP benefits.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL BILLS

- 20.1% of the clients are in poor health, and 31.1% of the client households gave one or more members in poor health.
- 19.9% of the pantry, 28.0% of the kitchen clients or their households are without health insurance. This accounts for 20.5% of all clients.
- 56.5% of the clients have unpaid medical or hospital bills.
- Only 4% of the food pantry clients considered themselves to be in excellent health
- 11.0% of the clients report that they have been refused medical care because they could not pay or because they had a Medicaid or Medical Assistance card during the previous 12 months.

ALTERNATIVES TO A FOOD PANTRY OR MEAL SITE

- In the absence of the agency helping the clients, 46.1% of them said that they would go to another agency, 17% said that they would get by somehow, 15.7% said that they would eat less, skip meals, or reduce the size of the meals.

AGENCIES

- Average length of operation among the pantry programs is 22 years. 19 years for the kitchens and 35 years for the shelter programs.
- 70.5% of the pantries, 60% of the kitchens and 59.9% of the shelters are run by faith-based nonprofit agencies.

INCREASE IN DEMAND

- 81% of the pantries, 77.6% of the kitchens and 75.1% of the shelters indicate that they serve more clients now than they did in 2006.
- 55.9% of pantries, 58.5% of kitchens and 66.9% of the shelters believe they are facing one or more problems that threaten their continued operation:

THREATS TO SUSTAINABILITY OF THE AGENCIES

- 40.3% of pantries, 58.5% of kitchens and 66.9% of shelters referred to funding issues as a threat; 32.7% of the pantries, 8.3% of kitchens and 11% of shelters indicated food supplies as a threat to their continued operation.
- 24.5% of kitchens and 11% of shelters identified issues related to paid staff or personnel as a threat; 15.1% of pantries and 8.3% of kitchens stated that volunteer related problems posed a threat.

TURNING AWAY CLIENTS

- Among programs turning away clients, 10.6% of the pantries, 0.0% of the kitchens, and 33.1% of the shelters turned away clients at least once due to lack of food resources.
- Among programs turning away clients, 14.0% of the pantries, 0.0% of the kitchens, and 33.1% of the shelters turned away clients at least once because the services needed were not provided by the program.
- Among programs turning away clients, 53.2% of the pantries, 100.0% of the kitchens, and 33.1% of the shelters turned away clients at least once because the clients were ineligible and could not prove eligibility.
- Among programs turning away clients, 65.6% of the pantries, 0.0% of the kitchens, and 33.1% of the shelters turned away clients at least once because the clients abused the program or because they came too often.

IMPACT OF THE FOODBANK

- 64.7% of the food the pantries distribute, 28.8% of the food the kitchens serve and 35.6% of the food the shelters serve are provided by the food bank.
- Pantry programs who report stretching food resources either “sometimes” or “always” receive 72.9% of their food from the program’s food bank.
- 93.5% of the pantries, 64.3% of the kitchens and 75.1% of the shelters said that the elimination of support from their food bank would have a significant or devastating impact on their operation.

NEEDS OF THE PANTRIES OTHER THAN FOOD

- 25.1% of the pantries, 28.4% of the kitchens, and 75.0% of the shelters said that they needed additional assistance in nutrition education.
- 2.4% of the pantries, 28.4% of the kitchens, and 100.0% of the shelters said that they needed additional assistance in training in food handling.
- 16.9% of the pantries, 0.0% of the kitchens, and 49.8% of the shelters said that they needed additional assistance in accessing local resources.
- 4.0% of the pantries, 11.5% of the kitchens, and 66.3% of the shelters said that they needed additional assistance in advocacy training.
- 16.2% of the pantries, 0.0% of the kitchens, and 33.1% of the shelters said that they needed additional assistance in SNAP benefits and outreach.
- 4.4% of the pantries, 0.0% of the kitchens, and 33.1% of the shelters said that they needed additional assistance in summer feeding programs.