

HUNGER FACTS

In 2007, 36.2 million Americans lived in food insecure households, 23.8 million adults and 12.4 million children. Food insecurity means not having dependable, consistent access to enough food due to limited money and resources.

In 2007, households that were more likely to experience food insecurity were households with children (15.8%). Households with children reported food insecurity at almost double the rate for those without children.

In 2007, 6.5% of households with seniors (1.7 million households) were food insecure.

One in eight Americans does not have access to enough food.

In 2006, 16.8 million people lived in working-poor families

31.6% of all clients served by the Feeding America Network (which includes IPM) have had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care.

Poor families below the federal poverty level spent about 25% of their income for child care compared to higher-income families who spent 7%. This leaves poor families with less income to pay for food.

In fiscal year 2007, 49% of food stamp recipients are children.

A record 32.2 million people, one in every 10 Americans, received food stamps at latest count according to the federal government.

Food stamps are the major U.S. antihunger program. The average benefit was \$113.00 per person in January 2009.

January 2009 marks the third time in five months that enrollment for food stamps set a record. Food stamp enrollment rose in all but four of the 50 states.

In comparison to food secure children, children from food insecure families are 90% more likely to be in fair or poor health and have 30% higher rates of hospitalization.

Children from food insecure, low-income households are more likely to experience irritability, fatigue, and difficulty concentrating compared to other children.

Research indicates that even mild undernutrition experienced by young children during critical periods of growth impacts the behavior of children, their school performance, and their overall cognitive development.

More than 9 million children are estimated to be served by Feeding America, over 2 million of which are ages 5 and under, representing nearly 13 percent of all children under age 18 in the United States and over 72% of all children in poverty.

The most prominent contributors to increases in demand for food at food banks are the rising cost of food, increasing unemployment and underemployment and high housing and medical costs.

In 2007, 3.4% of all U.S. households (3.9 million households) accessed emergency food from a food pantry one or more times.

99% of food banks are seeing more first-time users coming in for help.

In the United States most people's experience with hunger or food insecurity is sporadic and episodic as opposed to continuous or chronic.

Ohio Facts: 12.7% food insecure
12.8% living in poverty
19.1% children living in poverty
8.8% unemployed

[Statistics taken from the website of Feeding America]