

HUNGER *at Home*



HUNGER IN AMERICA 2010
The Local Report



HUNGER IN AMERICA 2010

Hunger in America 2010 (HIA) is the largest, most comprehensive study of its kind ever conducted. The study provides authoritative and statistically valid data on the national charitable response to hunger and the people served by food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters via Feeding America's national network of food banks. This report focuses on key local findings, providing valuable insights into who is in need and how that need is being met in communities throughout Central and Western New York.

Hunger in America 2010 is the fifth extensive study of hunger, which Feeding America and food banks have conducted quadrennially since 1993. Through more than 61,000 face-to-face client interviews and over 37,000 surveys of charitable agencies, HIA captures data that helps charitable feeding organizations develop programs that best support hungry Americans.

This report is based on independent research conducted on behalf of Feeding America by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (MPR), a widely respected social policy research firm. Feeding America contracted with MPR to work with Foodlink and 184 other network member food banks who voluntarily agreed to spend over 3 months collecting data in their communities.

Locally, Foodlink surveyed its approximately 450 member agencies and conducted nearly 500 face-to-face client interviews at emergency food assistance agencies throughout our ten county service area.

THE LOCAL FINDINGS

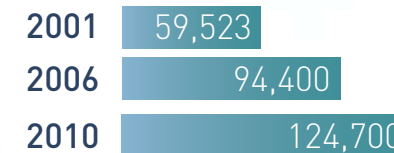
COUNTING THE HUNGRY

Foodlink provides emergency food for nearly **125,000** different people each year

Approximately **20,000** different people receive emergency food assistance in any given week

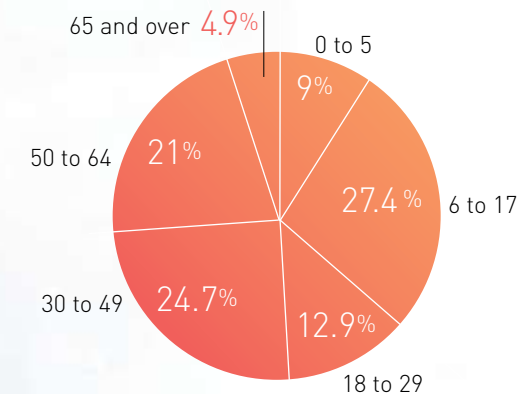
10% of the residents in Foodlink's ten county service area rely on emergency food assistance

People Served By Foodlink



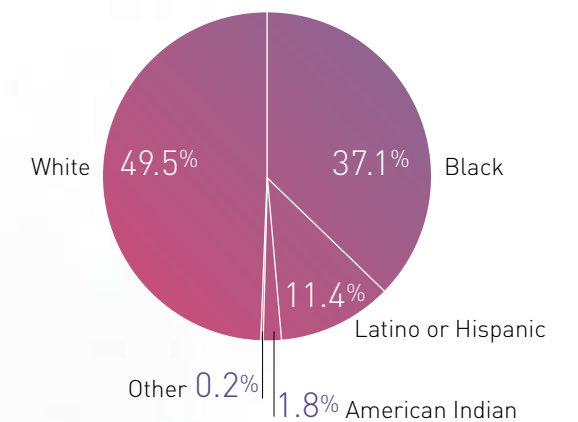
THE FACE OF HUNGER

Clients By AGE



36% of clients served by Foodlink are children under the age of 18

Clients By RACE



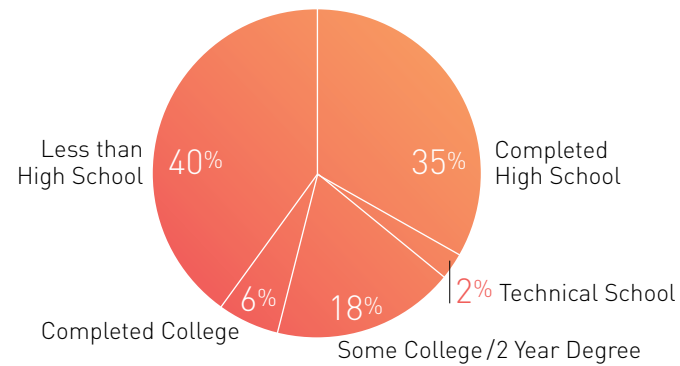
A smaller percentage of Foodlink's clients were homeowners in 2010, than in 2001

Clients By HOUSING

| | 2010 | 2006 | 2001 |
|----------|------------|------------|------------|
| Rent | 86% | 81% | 78% |
| Own | 10% | 14% | 15% |
| Homeless | 7% | 5% | 4% |

Clients By
EDUCATION

60% of Foodlink clients have at least a high school degree



Clients By
EMPLOYMENT

| | 2010 | 2006 | 2001 |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Employed (age 18 and over) | 21% | 30% | 24% |
| Unemployed | 79% | 70% | 76% |

7% of clients have been unemployed for three months or less

26% of households include at least one employed adult

7% of clients have been unemployed for two years or less

Among those clients who have worked before, or are currently working, **11%** either had or currently have managerial or professional jobs

HUNGER DEFINED

Food security: Access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life. Food security includes at a minimum: (1) the ready availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, and (2) an assured ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways (eg. without resorting to emergency food supplies, scavenging, stealing, or coping strategies).

Food insecurity: Limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.

Low food security: Households faced with food-access problems that typically do not experience incidents of reduced food intake.

Very low food security: Households that have had one or more members experience reductions in food intake or disruptions in eating patterns due to a lack of adequate resources for food.

FOOD INSECURITY

Food insecurity is a complex, multifaceted phenomenon that varies along a continuum of successive stages as it becomes more severe.

Many clients are food insecure with low or very low food security

69% Of all clients surveyed have some level of food **insecurity** **38%** Have **low** food security **31%** Have **very low** food security

41% of households with children age 0–5 have very low food security



Households with children younger than 18 years:

31% have low food security

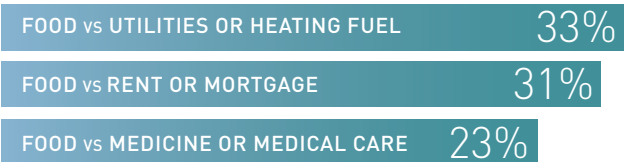
28% have very low food security

Households with seniors age 65 and above:

32% have low food security

Unwanted choices

Clients reported having to choose between paying for food and paying for other necessities.



HUNGER AND HEALTH

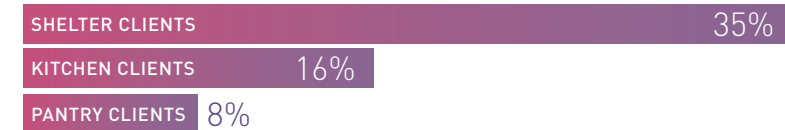
Health Insurance

44% of clients have unpaid medical or hospital bills

13% of clients reported that they had recently been refused medical care because they could not pay or because they had Medicaid or a Medical Assistance card

30% of households served by Foodlink report having at least one household member in poor health

Clients without health insurance



12% of Foodlink's total clients are without health insurance

Health Status

30% of households served by Foodlink reported having at least one household member in poor health

14% of clients at program sites are in poor health

Client households with one or more member in poor health

38% Pantry Clients

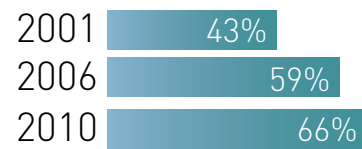
18% Soup Kitchen Clients

1% Shelter Clients

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE AND HUNGER RELIEF

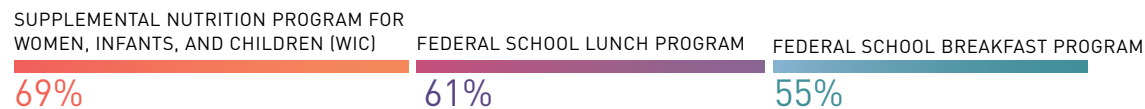
Given the high level of need in our community evidenced by this study, it is important to look at the use of governmental nutrition assistance available to clients. Many are receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits (SNAP – formerly Food Stamps).

Clients Receiving SNAP Benefits



23% increase since 2001

Participation in other Hunger Assistance Programs among households with children



STATE FINDINGS

In New York State, Feeding America's eight network member food banks joined forces to conduct research for HIA 2010. Collectively, these food banks serve every county in New York State; given the comprehensive data collection, a complete state report was compiled and analyzed.

- 840,000 children receive food from emergency food programs annually
- Each week, approximately 570,000 different people turn to New York food banks' network of agencies for food assistance
- Nearly 70% of clients served have incomes below the federal poverty level

2.3 MILLION NEW YORK STATE RESIDENTS RELY ON EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE EACH YEAR

NATIONAL FINDINGS

Feeding America is the nation's largest organization of emergency food providers, overseeing a network of over 200 food banks like Foodlink. The Hunger in America 2010 National Study is based on in-person interviews with 61,000 clients and surveys from over 37,000 agencies.

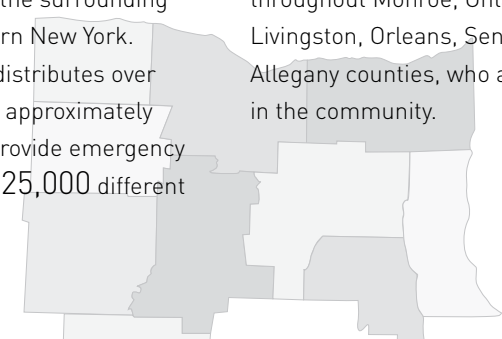
- 5.7 million different people receive emergency food assistance in any given week
- 38% of clients served by emergency food providers are children
- 80% of household served report incomes below the federal poverty level

37 MILLION DIFFERENT PEOPLE NATIONALLY RELY ON EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE EACH YEAR

FOODLINK KNOWS HUNGER

Foodlink is the regional food bank located in Rochester, New York and serving the surrounding ten counties in Central and Western New York. Each year, Foodlink secures and distributes over 10 million pounds of food to approximately 450 agencies, helping them provide emergency food assistance to an estimated 125,000 different people annually.

Our strength is derived from agencies spread throughout Monroe, Ontario, Wayne, Genesee, Livingston, Orleans, Seneca, Yates, Wyoming and Allegany counties, who act as our eyes and ears in the community.



AGENCIES

- 75% of the food at pantries is provided to them by Foodlink; 64% of the food distributed by kitchens and 52% of food distributed by shelters in our region is from Foodlink
- 63% of pantries, 70% of kitchen and 28% of shelters are run by faith-based agencies affiliated with churches, mosques, synagogues and other religious organizations'
- 85% of pantries, 74% of kitchens and 48% of shelters reported an increase since 2006 in the number of clients who come to their emergency food program sites
- 91% of clients of emergency food agencies said they were "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied" with the amount of food they received

VOLUNTEERS

As many as 90% of pantries, 94% of kitchens and 78% of shelters in the Foodlink network use volunteers

56% of pantry programs and 38% of kitchens rely solely on volunteers

92% of agencies are satisfied with the quality of food they receive from Foodlink



THE ROAD TO ENDING HUNGER

Foodlink and our network of agencies aim to be an engine for the alleviation of hunger and for the sustainable economic growth and vitality of our region. Foodlink's vision is to end hunger, build self-sufficiency and foster nutritional wellness. Our diverse and innovative collection of initiatives keep Foodlink's employees traveling over 400,000 miles annually; delivering more than 10 million pounds of food to member agencies each year; serving 220,000 nutritious meals to children through Kids Cafe and Summer Meal programs; bringing local farmers' product to market; gleaning donated excess produce from fields to distribute through the food bank; directly engaging in agriculture through traditional farming methods as well as the promotion of innovative, sustainable farming practices in urban spaces; providing on-site nutrition and food safety classes to

emergency food assistance agencies; setting up direct-serve mobile food markets in rural communities; conducting comprehensive studies of the causes and impacts of hunger in our community; and advocating throughout our region, Albany, and Washington, D.C. for key policies that help support our clients and create a hunger-free America.

Learn more about our work at
www.foodlinkny.org



HELP CHANGE THE NUMBERS

Behind the numbers and percentages are real Americans struggling to meet their most basic needs. In a country with abundant resources, it is reprehensible that 10% of people in our region, including children and seniors, should suffer the pains of hunger. Combating hunger requires commitment and partnership at all levels. Please help us change the statistics of future reports.

Become a financial donor, volunteer, or a hunger advocate today by emailing us at info@foodlinkny.org or calling us at **585.328.3380**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to Feeding America, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. Foodlink member agencies, survey volunteers, and Foodlink staff for making this study possible. We are especially grateful for the 61,000 individuals who had the courage to be interviewed and divulge their personal information for this study. May their stories serve as a catalyst for change.



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