



Mid-Ohio Foodbank

HUNGER IN AMERICA, 2010

Mid-Ohio Foodbank Local Summary of Findings

Background:

Feeding America, the nation's network of more than 200 food banks and the largest hunger-relief charity in the United States conducted a study of domestic hunger in 2009, the largest study ever conducted. Mathematica Policy Research Inc., a national research company located in Princeton, New Jersey, guided the study and performed the data analysis activities. Questionnaires were completed by more than 37,000 agencies and face-to-face interviews were conducted with more than 61,000 clients across the country.

The study includes data collected from February through June, 2009. Mid-Ohio Foodbank conducted face-to-face interviews with 602 people seeking emergency food at food pantries, soup kitchens and other emergency feeding programs. MATHEMATICA Policy Research collected extensive data from 399 agencies in Mid-Ohio Foodbank's 20 county service territory.

LARGE INCREASE IN PEOPLE SEEKING EMERGENCY FOOD

More than 248,000 individuals, including 86,975 children and 17,395 seniors, receive emergency food each year through Mid-Ohio Foodbank. These findings represent a twenty-eight percent increase since the findings reported in *Hunger in America 2006*.

In any given week, more than 40,000 people receive emergency food assistance from a food pantry, soup kitchen, or emergency shelter served by the Mid-Ohio Foodbank.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THOSE RECEIVING FOOD

- Thirty-five percent of those served by Mid-Ohio Foodbank agencies are children under 18 years. Eight percent are five and under.
- Seven percent are 65 and over.
- Seventy-one percent of all clients finished high school and twenty-three percent have some college or a two-year degree. Five percent have completed college or beyond.
- One out of five clients are homeowners and only five percent are homeless.
- Average client household income during the previous month was \$1,000. Average client household size is 2.8. The 2009 poverty level for a family of 3 was \$1,526 per month.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Hunger in America 2010 shows the significant connection between the recession and the increased need for emergency food assistance. In Mid-Ohio Foodbank's service area, many people report they are struggling with unemployment.

- Seventy-six percent of adult clients under 65 years are currently unemployed. Eighteen percent of those seeking assistance have been in managerial or professional jobs telling us that hunger has spread across new demographic groups. Their hardship shows in difficult choices between food and other basic necessities and the pressure of healthcare costs.
- Forty-three percent of clients have had to decide whether to pay their rent or mortgage or buy food. Twenty percent reported they they'd been late paying their rent or mortgage last month.
- Fifty-seven percent of clients reported choosing between utilities and food.
- Forty-one percent of clients are forced to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care. In the same time period, there has been a thirty-three percent increase in the number of client households that include at least one person in ill health.
- Thirty-nine percent of clients who are senior citizens—eligible for Medicare—report having to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care, just to handle expenses not covered by Medicare.

MID-OHIO FOODBANK AGENCIES

Results from agency surveys indicate that there is a dedicated, passionate group of people who are highly invested in hunger relief in Mid-Ohio Foodbank's service area. Volunteers are the backbone of the emergency feeding our system. Without them the system would collapse.

- As many as ninety-seven percent of pantries, ninety-three percent of kitchens and seventy-nine percent of shelters depend of volunteers.
- Seventy-three percent of pantries and sixty percent of kitchens are operated entirely by volunteers.
- Sixty-four percent of agencies are run by faith-based agencies affiliated with churches, mosques, synagogues and other religious organizations.