

Hunger in America 2010: San Antonio and Southwest Texas

A REPORT ON EMERGENCY FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN 2009





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A Report on Emergency Food Distribution in 2009

San Antonio Food Bank

www.safoodbank.org

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Hunger in America 2010 by

Feeding America – The Nation’s Food Bank Network

Hunger in America 2010 was developed by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. for

Feeding America – The Nation’s Food Bank Network.



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Fighting Hunger... Feeding Hope

ABOUT THE San Antonio Food Bank

The San Antonio Food Bank (SAFB) is a non-profit organization founded in 1980. Our mission is to fight hunger in Southwest Texas through food distribution, programs, education, and advocacy. The SAFB has grown from distributing 100,000 pounds of food to a handful of organizations to distributing 40 million pounds of food and grocery products.

We are able to do this through our network of more than 450 partner agencies, our programs, and the generous support of both financial and food donors. Our service area includes 16 counties: Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Edwards, Frio, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, La Salle, Medina, Real, Uvalde, Wilson, and Zavala.



The San Antonio Food Bank is a member of Feeding America, the largest domestic hunger-relief charity in the United States.

TERMS

AGENCY: A charitable organization that provides the food supplied by a food bank or food-rescue organization directly to clients in need, through various types of programs.

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE: Charitable feeding programs whose services are provided to clients who are typically in short-term need of emergency assistance. Hunger in America 2010 only measures emergency food assistance usage by client households of the Feeding America network. Emergency food programs include food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters.

FOOD BANK: A charitable organization that solicits, receives, inventories, and distributes donated food and grocery products pursuant to industry and appropriate regulatory standards. The products are distributed to charitable human-service agencies, which provide the products directly to clients through various programs.

FOOD INSECURITY: USDA's measure of lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members; limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods.

KITCHEN (SOUP KITCHEN, COMMUNITY DINING ROOM): A charitable program whose primary purpose is to provide prepared meals, served in the kitchen, to clients in need.

NON-EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE: Charitable feeding programs that have a primary purpose other than emergency food distribution, but also distribute food. Non-emergency food programs include after-school meals to low-income children, senior congregate-meal programs, child day care programs, Kids Cafe and Backpack programs, etc.

SHELTER (EMERGENCY SHELTER, HOMELESS SHELTER): A charitable program with a primary purpose to provide shelter or housing on a short-term or temporary basis to clients and typically serves one or more meals a day.

VERY LOW FOOD INSECURITY or FOOD INSECURITY WITH HUNGER: An involuntary state that results in eating patterns of one or more household members being disrupted and food intake reduced, because the household could not afford enough food.

ABOUT HUNGER IN AMERICA 2010

Purpose - In order to address the problem of hunger, first we must understand it. To that end, Hunger in America 2010, the largest study of domestic hunger ever conducted, provides an in-depth look at who is in need, how the need is met, and by whom.

The San Antonio Food Bank, as a part of the Feeding America Network, has been working to provide food to those in need throughout Southwest Texas for 30 years. In addition to food distribution, the San Antonio Food Bank provides numerous programs that not only solve the immediate problems of hunger, but help individuals and families gain long-term food security. The San Antonio Food Bank works to increase awareness among the community, connects clients seeking emergency food assistance with federal benefits, and advocates for changes to programs and policies that support low-income Southwest Texans and ultimately end hunger.

Nationally, the *Hunger in America* study is conducted by the Feeding America network every four years through member Food Banks. This is the fifth extensive study of hunger of its kind since 1993.

Locally, through 319 face-to-face client interviews and 231 surveys of local charitable agencies, *Hunger in America 2010: San Antonio and Southwest Texas* chronicles the nature and incidence of demand for emergency food assistance, which, in turn, helps charitable feeding organizations better address the burgeoning need through program development and refinement. The results also better inform the public policy discourse so that Federal nutrition programs can better serve those in need.

Hunger in America 2010, is the largest, most comprehensive study of its kind ever conducted. The study provides authoritative, comprehensive and statistically valuable data on the national charitable response to hunger and the people served by private hunger-relief agencies.



METHODOLOGY

Hunger in America 2010 is based on independent research conducted on behalf of Feeding America by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (MPR), a leading social policy research firm based in Princeton, NJ. MPR is widely recognized for its leading studies on some of society's most pressing social problems. Feeding America contracted with MPR to work with 185 network member participants, including the San Antonio Food Bank, who voluntarily agreed to collect data in their communities.

All aspects of the study were overseen by an independent Technical Advisory Group (TAG). The TAG was composed of noted social scientists, including demographers, economists, survey research specialists and statisticians, who reviewed survey instruments, the analysis plan, and the final results. The TAG members' impartiality, broad range of expertise and regular critical oversight of the project was vital to ensuring that the *Hunger in America 2010* project adhered to the highest standards in survey research.

There are two sources of data for *Hunger in America 2010: San Antonio and Southwest Texas*: client data and agency data, which were collected in early 2009. Both the client and agency data collection instruments mirror the questionnaires used in the 2006 Hunger Study, with a few additional questions that were developed for the 2009 data collection effort. The client data was amassed through face-to-face interviews with randomly-selected recipients at emergency feeding sites across our sixteen-county service area. Locally, 319 individuals offered to share their stories with us, including the circumstances of what led them to the pantry, kitchen or shelter at which they were interviewed. Their generosity makes it possible for us to better understand who seeks emergency food assistance and why. Secondly, we mailed surveys to each of our member agencies, yielding 231 responses. At the administration of the survey, the San Antonio Food Bank served 272 agencies. The agency surveys provide information on the services available

to low-income Americans, as well as information on the agency's needs and stability.

Each of the participating Food Banks provided MPR with the information needed to develop their sampling frame and were responsible for data collection within their service area. In order to ensure data collection standardization across the country, MPR conducted three regional, two-day in-depth training sessions for all participating members of the study. MPR also provided technical assistance with the implementation of the agency and client surveys. MPR was responsible for data analysis and the writing of the national and local reports, a process which occurred during summer and fall 2009.

The results of Hunger in America 2010: San Antonio and Southwest Texas tell the stories of more than 230,000 Southwest Texans in need.



WHO SEEKS EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE?

Hunger in America 2010: San Antonio and Southwest Texas shows that the San Antonio Food Bank serves some of the most vulnerable populations in our community. Based on the findings of this study, the 230,900 people served by our network of partner agencies do not meet the stereotypical profile of a hungry person. Hunger reaches into virtually all communities, affecting even the most unlikely of victims.

The Poor and the Needy

Low-Income

The majority of clients seeking emergency food assistance from the San Antonio Food Bank are part of households living below the federal poverty line and many are forced to make choices between food and everyday necessities. In fact, 67% of households served by the San Antonio Food Bank network had annual incomes below the federal poverty level, or less than \$17,163 a year for a household of three in 2008¹. The average monthly income for a household served was \$1,240 for the previous month and the average yearly household income was \$15,430 for 2008. Conversely, 4.9% of our clients had incomes above 185% of poverty in 2008, indicating that even individuals with higher incomes may be vulnerable to food insecurity at times.

Resource Poor

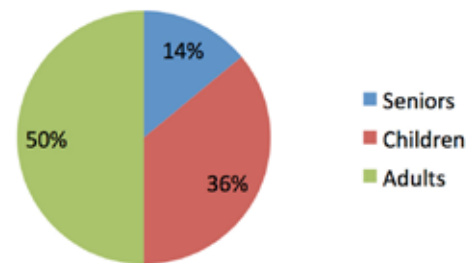
In addition to living in poverty, recipients of emergency food typically have limited resources that they can draw upon when struggling with financial difficulties. Eight percent of client households are homeless. Twenty-two percent do not have access to a working car. Additionally, San Antonio Food Bank network clients are often faced with choices between food and other basic needs. Many survey respondents indicated that they have been forced to choose between food and utilities (48%); food and rent or mortgage (47%); food or medicine or medical care (24%); food or transportation (22%); and food or gasoline (39%).

Food Insecure

Utilizing the federal government's measure of food security, 51% of client households served by the San Antonio Food Bank were "food insecure" Since 1995, the U.S. Census Bureau and USDA Economic Research Service have collected information through the annual Current Population Survey on "food insecurity," defined

as "lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members; limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods." A six-item subset of the food insecurity survey questions are included in the hunger study client survey so that we can assess levels of food security based on federally established definitions. About 15% of our clients are experiencing very low food security, a more serious lack of access to food formerly labeled food insecurity with hunger by the USDA.

WHO SEEKS EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE?



Children

Children are especially vulnerable to issues of hunger and poverty. According to the USDA, 17 million, or nearly one in four children in the U.S. are food insecure.² Additionally, about one in five children under the age of 18 in the U.S. live in poverty.³ Hunger has long-lasting, devastating effects on the health and development of children. Failing to provide children with adequate nutrition in the first three to five years of life can have dire consequences.⁴

Thirty-six percent or approximately 83,000 of the people we serve are children under the age of 18. About 20,000 of children under age 5. In Southwest Texas, as in the rest of the nation, childhood poverty rates remain higher than rates for adults and seniors.

1 U.S. Census Bureau: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/threshld/thresh08.html>

2 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service. *Household Food Security in the United States, 2008*, November 2009.

3 U.S. Census Bureau: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/poverty08/pov08hi.html>

4 Feeding America. John Cook, K. Jeng. *Child Food Insecurity: The Economic Impact on our Nation*, May 2009.



Seniors

Scientific evidence supports good nutrition as critical to the health and life quality of America's seniors. Because of issues that relate specifically to age, including decreased mobility, limited outside assistance, and fixed incomes, the elderly can be especially vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition.⁵ Approximately 14% of San Antonio Food Bank network clients or 32,500 individuals are above the age of 65.

The Sick

Given the high costs of health care, it should come as no surprise that many of the people we serve live in poor health or without access to adequate medical care. One in three of the adults interviewed at emergency feeding sites (29%) state that someone in their household is in "poor" health. One in four adult clients (25%) report that they or another household member are without health insurance. And almost half of our adult clients (40%) report that they or a household member have unpaid medical or hospital bills.

The Working Poor

A common myth about emergency food recipients is that they are all unemployed. But in fact, in 2009, almost half (46%) of all households served by the San Antonio Food Bank network had one or more adults working. When considering the employment status of all adults in client households, 15% are employed full-time and 22% are employed part-time. Among

those adult clients who were interviewed and not employed, 8% reported having recently lost a job, having been unemployed for three months or less. The recession and rising unemployment rates have created new challenges for many households already living in vulnerable circumstances.

Approximately 39% of all client households served by the San Antonio Food Bank network indicate that a job was their primary source of household income for the previous month. Income from employment was the most often reported source of income for client households, followed by Social Security (30%). For 0% of all clients, welfare assistance from the government such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and/or General Assistance was the main source of household income.

For many working households who utilize our network's services, income from employment is too often not sufficient to make ends meet. About 26% of recipient households reported incomes of less than \$10,000 in the previous year. The average household income among all client households was \$15,430, with 84% of all client households reporting 2008 annual incomes at or below 130% of poverty and 66% of all households with incomes at or below the federal poverty level.

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau: http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstables/032009/pov/new01_100_01.html

Single-Female Headed Households

The majority of adults served by the San Antonio Food Bank are women (70%) and single-parent households represent over a third of all households with children (35%). The average household size served by the San Antonio Food Bank network is 2.7 persons, which is larger than the average size of households receiving SNAP (formerly the Food Stamp Program) at 2.2 persons.⁶

Whereas female-headed households with children are more prevalent at food pantry sites, single adult males without children are more prevalent at soup kitchen and shelter sites. The Hunger in America 2010 data are consistent with the USDA Food Security studies, which show that households with children were more affected by food insecurity than other households and that single mothers with children were especially vulnerable to food insecurity and hunger.

Race and Ethnicity

Racial and ethnic background was obtained from adult clients interviewed at emergency feeding sites. The face of hunger in Southwest Texas reflects a diverse cross-section of individuals. Among clients at all program sites, 22% are non-Hispanic white; 7% non-Hispanic black; and 2% are American Indian or Alaskan Native. A total of 69% of the clients indicate they are Spanish, Latino, or of Hispanic descent or origin.

Housing Status

An estimated 8% of client households served by the San Antonio Food Bank network are homeless or without a place to live. As would be expected, the overwhelming majority of shelter client households have no other place to live, (62%),⁷ followed by 44% of soup kitchen client households. Almost all pantry client households report that they have a place to live (99.9%). Overall, about 92% of all emergency food recipient households do have a place to live, and of those, 45% rent their homes and 4% live free with someone else. Half of client households with a residence own their homes (51%). Approximately 5% of client households receive Section 8 or other public housing assistance. Of those emergency food recipient households with a place to live (either rent or own), 28% reported that they were late in paying the previous month's rent or mortgage.

Education, Poverty, and Hunger

Not surprisingly, education status is highly correlated with income. Ninety-three percent of the clients who had not completed high school had either no income or an income less than 130% of the federal poverty level. More than one-third of adult clients finished high school (39%) of adult clients (over the age of 18) completed high school or attained the equivalent. Approximately 17% of all adult clients have completed at least some college, up from 13% in 2005.

⁶ U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Nutrition Service. Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2008, Oct. 2009.

⁷ Although follow-up questions were not asked of shelter clients who responded that they had a place to live, a number of reasons may exist for why someone staying in a shelter reports having another residence. The shelter may operate day services, and the percentage may also include shelter clients who left their homes because of domestic situations (a father in a shelter and a mother and child still at home), legal issues (recent foreclosure of home/apartment or landlord issues), or even mental health problems.



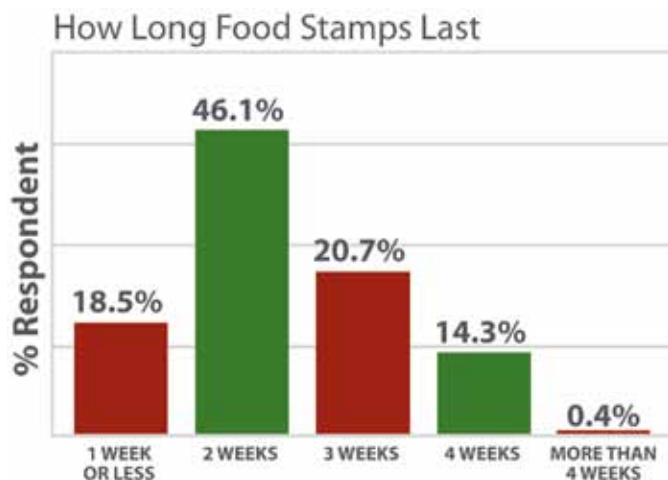
FEDERAL ASSISTANCE AND HUNGER RELIEF

Federal Nutrition Programs: SNAP

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program) is the nation's true first line of defense against hunger and the largest non-categorical entitlement program for low-income people. Participating in SNAP can offer a critical resource for helping low-income and food insecure families to attain a nutritionally adequate diet. Individuals with incomes at or below 130% of the federal poverty threshold are eligible to participate in SNAP.

In 2009, approximately 33% of all client households seeking emergency food assistance from the San Antonio Food Bank network reported that any individual in the household was receiving SNAP benefits at the time of the interview, although 74% reported having ever applied for SNAP benefits.

Of those client households who had never applied for SNAP, 44% believed they were ineligible for the program, mostly because they thought their income or assets were too high (34%). However, an analysis of reported income showed that more than two-thirds of these households (69%) would have been eligible for SNAP benefits, suggesting that there are a large number of individuals who could benefit from additional education and outreach on eligibility.⁸



Other Federal Nutrition Programs: WIC and School Meals

The study also asked clients interviewed if anyone in their household received benefits from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (commonly referred to as WIC). This program provides food, nutrition education and access to health care services for low-income pregnant women, mothers, infants and young children to age 5 (through age 4). Households with incomes at 185% of poverty or below are eligible for WIC. Of households with at least one child between 0-3, 69% reported participating in WIC.⁹

Key nutrition programs for older children include the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP). Among client households with at least one child under age 18, 57% reported participating in NSLP and 42% reported participating in SBP. A much smaller percentage of households – 15% – reported that a child participated in the Summer Food Program.¹⁰



⁸ Generally, individuals are eligible for benefits if they have a household income of 130 percent or less of the poverty level, but there are some other criteria, such as asset levels, which were not considered in this analysis. Households with incomes at or below 130 percent of poverty are eligible for free lunches and breakfasts, while those between 130 and 185 percent of poverty are eligible for reduced price meals.

⁹ A base of children ages 0 to 3 years is utilized (rather than 0-4) to better approximate the main population of children who actually use WIC.

¹⁰ Program participation may be underreported somewhat if the adult participating in the survey is not aware of the child's participation status.

THE STATE OF THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE SYSTEM

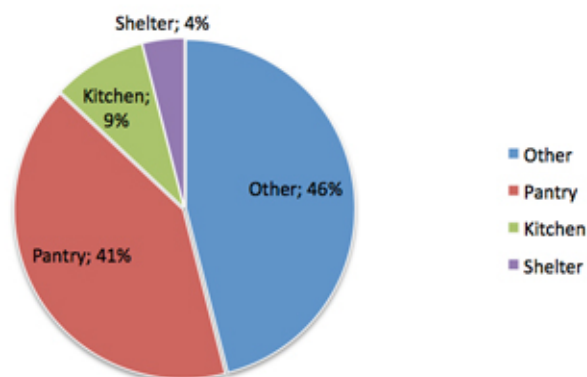
Hunger in America 2010: San Antonio and Southwest Texas examines the emergency food assistance system provided by agencies within a sixteen-county service area, including food pantries, community kitchens and shelters supported by the San Antonio Food Bank.

The study does not examine the full array of food-related programs that the SAFB supports, such as afterschool meals to low-income children, senior congregate meal sites, child day care, Kids Cafe and Backpack programs. Instead, the primary focus is on emergency food distribution programs only. Approximately 57,800 people receive emergency food services in any given week across the San Antonio Food Bank network.

Feeding America, of which the San Antonio Food Bank is a member of, is the largest private charitable system of hunger relief in the United States. In Southwest Texas, the San Antonio Food Bank provides food and other services to more than 450 different partner agencies. In 2009, a total of 231 agencies participated in the Hunger Study, and these agencies operated 373 programs.¹¹ Of these programs, approximately 54% represent a pantry, kitchen or shelter program.¹² The majority of these emergency feeding programs are pantries (76%), with kitchens making up about 17% and shelters 8%, respectively.

Nineteen percent of the agencies with Pantry, Kitchen, or Shelter have been operating for 2 years or less, with pantries being the largest “new” group at 20.7%.

PERCENTAGE OF PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS



Growth in Demand for Agency Services

Just as the client survey indicates that more individuals are seeking help from the emergency food assistance system than in 2005, the majority of agencies also report an increase in the number of clients that come to their sites. Approximately 78% of pantries, 62% of kitchens, and 46% of shelters reported an increase in service demand since the last Hunger Study. One quarter (24%) of food pantries, 8% of kitchens and 0% of shelters also indicated that they sometimes or always had to stretch food resources by reducing meal size or food package portions to meet client demand. Some agencies reported that they had to turn clients away during the past year. Approximately 29% of pantries, 7% of kitchens and 25% of shelters reported they had done so in the past year. Although agencies cited many reasons why clients might be turned away, including individuals needing services not offered by the agency, clients residing out of service area or exceeding program service limits, almost half of pantries (43%) reported that a lack of adequate food resources was a factor in being unable to serve individuals who presented themselves at their agencies.

On average, pantries provide 4 additional services, while kitchens and shelters provide 4 and 8, respectively. These services may include eligibility counseling for WIC and SNAP, utility bill assistance, clothing, and information and referral services.

Substantial resources are required to operate emergency food programs effectively, including community support, food, staff and physical space. The San Antonio Food Bank provides most of the food delivered by the emergency food system, including 84% of food distributed by pantries, 59% of food prepared and served by kitchens and 39% provided by shelters. The SAFB is also the primary distributor of the Federal commodity

¹¹ There are a higher number of programs than agencies because agencies often run two or more types of programs in their communities.

¹² The remaining agencies operate other nonemergency food programs, as described in the glossary.

programs administered by the USDA, including The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP, also known as TEXCAP or the Texas Commodity Assistance Program in Texas).

Who Runs Emergency Food Programs?

Although the percentage of programs run by faith-based or religiously-affiliated programs has declined slightly since 2005 (from 67% to 63%), these organizations are still the primary sponsor of pantries, kitchens and shelters. About one-third (28%) are run by other private nonprofit agencies. Government-affiliated programs make up a small percentage of emergency food programs (about 3%).

“In San Antonio and Southwest Texas, 67% of pantries employ no paid staff and rely entirely on volunteers.”

The Role of Volunteers

Volunteers are a key component of the private emergency feeding system. As many as 91% of pantries, 77% of kitchens, and 85% of shelters in the San Antonio Food Bank network use volunteers. Moreover, many programs rely entirely on volunteers. Approximately 67% of pantry programs have no paid staff at all. Kitchens and shelters are more likely to rely on at least some paid staff; only 21% and 13%, respectively, reported that they have no paid employees.



Stability of Operations

Many emergency feeding programs report that they are facing at least one problem that may threaten their continued operation. About two thirds of pantries (62%) and kitchens (63%) and almost half of shelters (43%) report at least one threat to continuing operations. Problems related to funding were the most commonly cited problems among pantries, kitchens, and shelters – 51% of pantries, 38% of kitchens, and 36% of shelters stated that funding issues were a threat, while 31% of pantries and 40% of kitchens identified problems with food supplies. Pantries and kitchens programs report that problems related to volunteers are an operational threat (13% of pantries, 11% of kitchens).

Agencies were asked how much of an impact the elimination of the San Antonio Food Bank would have on their programs. The results show that 91% of the pantries, 85% of the kitchens, and 80% of the shelters said that elimination of support from the SAFB would have a “significant” or “devastating” impact on their operation.

“94% of clients are satisfied with the food they receive from the San Antonio Food Bank network.”

Client Satisfaction

Emergency food recipients were asked about how satisfied they were with the amount, variety and quality of food provided to them at local agencies. The level of satisfaction is high across all three types of emergency food providers (pantries, kitchens and shelters). Ninety-four percent of adult clients interviewed said they were either “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with the amount of food they received from their San Antonio Food Bank network agency and 91% reported they were “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with the quality of the food they received. About 80% of adult clients stated that they were “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with the variety of food they received. Ninety-four percent of the clients say that they are treated with respect by the San Antonio Food Bank agency staff and volunteers either all or most the time.



How You Can Help

The San Antonio Food Bank relies on the generosity and support of concerned individuals and organizations in order to successfully continue serving hungry Southwest Texans. If you're interested in becoming a volunteer, financial donor, and advocate, we welcome you to become a hunger fighter alongside the SAFB. Together we can Fight Hunger and Feed Hope!

Donate Food

If you are interested in participating in or organizing a food drive, please visit our website at www.safoodbank.org or call 210-337-FOOD.

Donate Time

Thousands of individuals volunteer with the SAFB each year to do everything from pack food boxes in our warehouse to staffing fundraising events to serving a hot meal at our Community Kitchen and planting crops in our community garden. To learn about opportunities to volunteer with the SAFB, please visit our website at www.safoodbank.org or call 210-337-FOOD.

Donate Money

Your donation goes a long way and is tax-deductible. To learn about your giving options, please visit our website at www.safoodbank.org or call 210-337-FOOD.

Advocate

Your voice can be a powerful force for long-term solutions to end hunger. To learn more about how you can help affect change through advocacy, visit our website at www.safoodbank.org or call 210-337-FOOD.

Raise Awareness

Educate your neighbors about the problem of hunger in San Antonio and Southwest Texas. Visit www.safoodbank.org to get information that you can share with your community. For national information on hunger, visit the Feeding America website, www.feedingamerica.org.

HIGHLIGHTS OF FINDINGS

This report presents the results of a study conducted in 2009 for the San Antonio Food Bank and Feeding America. The study is based on completed in-person interviews with 319 clients served by the San Antonio Food Bank, as well as on completed questionnaires from 231 SAFB partnering agencies.

Approximately 58,000 different people receive emergency food assistance from the SAFB in any given week.

WHO RECEIVES EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE?

- 36% of the members of households served by the SAFB are children under 18 years old.
- 9% of the members of households are children age 0 to 5 years.
- 14% of the members of households are elderly.
- About 22% of clients are non-Hispanic white, 7% are non-Hispanic black, 69% are Hispanic, and the rest are from other racial groups.
- 46% of households include at least one employed adult.
- 67% have incomes below the federal poverty level during the previous month.
- 8% are homeless.

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

- Among all client households served by emergency food programs of the SAFB, 51% 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.
- 15% of the clients have very low food security.
- Among households with children, 57% are food insecure and 11% are food insecure with very low food security.

MANY CLIENTS REPORT HAVING TO CHOOSE BETWEEN FOOD AND OTHER NECESSITIES

- 48% of clients served by the SAFB report having to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities or heating fuel.
- 47% had to choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage.
- 24% had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care.
- 22% had to choose between paying for food and paying for transportation.
- 39% had to choose between paying for food and paying for gas for a car.

DO CLIENTS ALSO RECEIVE FOOD ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT?

- 33% of clients households served by the SAFB are receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.
- Among households with children ages 0-3 years, 69% participate in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).
- Among households with school-age children, 57% and 42%, respectively, participate in the federal school lunch and school breakfast programs.
- Among households with school-age children, 15% participate in the summer food program.

MANY CLIENTS ARE IN POOR HEALTH

- 29% of households served by the SAFB report having at least one household member in poor health.

MOST CLIENTS ARE SATISFIED WITH THE SERVICES THEY RECEIVE FROM THE AGENCIES OF THE SAFB

- 94% of adult clients said they were either "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied" with the amount of food they receive from their provider; 91% were satisfied with the quality of the food they received.
- The SAFB included approximately 272 agencies at the administration of this survey, of which 231 have responded to the agency survey. Of the responding agencies, 183 had at least one food pantry, soup kitchen, or shelter.

WHAT KINDS OF ORGANIZATIONS OPERATE EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAMS OF THE SAN ANTONIO FOOD BANK?

- 73% of pantries, 48% of kitchens, and 67% of shelters are run by faith-based agencies affiliated with churches, mosques, synagogues, and other religious organizations.
- At the agency level, 69% of agencies with at least one pantry, kitchen, or shelter and 63% of all agencies including those with other types of programs are faith-based.

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

- Among programs that existed in 2006, 91% of pantries, 72% of kitchens, and 50% of shelters of The San Antonio Food Bank reported that there had been an increase since 2006 in the number of clients who come to their emergency food program sites.

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 84% of the food distributed by pantries, 59% of the food distributed by kitchens, and 39% of the food distributed by shelters.
- Other important sources of food include religious organizations, government, and direct purchases from wholesalers and retailers.
- 44% of pantries, 5% of kitchens, and 33% of shelters receive food from government commodity programs.

VOLUNTEERS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN THE SAFB NETWORK

- As many as 91% of pantries, 77% of kitchens, and 85% of shelters in the SAFB network use volunteers.
- Many programs rely entirely on volunteers; 67% of pantry programs and 21% of kitchens have no paid staff at all.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Hunger in America 2010: San Antonio and Southwest Texas would not have been possible without the hard work of many people. Thanks to all who played a part in making this historic study a reality and for bringing this data to our local community.

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Fighting Hunger...Feeding Hope

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