

Hunger

in Central and Eastern Kentucky

2010



A Special Report

Introduction

Hunger in Central and Eastern Kentucky 2010 is a comprehensive look at who is hungry and who is serving the hungry in our communities, marking the third time data of this magnitude has been collected in the state of Kentucky. This report is part of Hunger in America 2010, an independent, nationwide study conducted by Mathematica Policy Research for Feeding America. God's Pantry Food Bank previously participated in this study in 2002 and 2006.

During the winter of 2009, more than 62,000 interviews were conducted with clients at pantries, shelters, and soup kitchens across the country. These interviews provide an up-close picture of the face of hunger in our nation today. As part of Hunger in America 2010, God's Pantry Food Bank gathered board members, volunteers and staff to travel throughout our service area to food bank member agencies serving those in need. At 40 locations, the survey team interviewed 427 individuals seeking food assistance. Additionally, 208 food bank member agencies completed questionnaires about their organizations and the services they provide.

This report is the culmination of these efforts, offering an in-depth look at hunger in the 50 counties of Kentucky served by God's Pantry Food Bank. Please take some time to read through the information offered within; get to know those who are in need in our communities; and become part of the solution to ending hunger by sharing your knowledge with others as we work to make a difference in the lives of thousands of Kentucky families each year.

This level of research could not have been done without the assistance of many caring individuals and entities. I would like to offer my sincere appreciation to the following for their support of this effort:

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Without the commitment of our Board of Directors, member agencies and the minimally resourced Kentuckians we serve, we would never have been successful. Thank you! It was an incredible experience for me personally and many of us involved, and it is impacting the decisions made at God's Pantry Food Bank every day.

Sincerely,

Marian F. Guinn

Marian F. Guinn
Chief Executive Officer, God's Pantry Food Bank

A special thank you to photographer Stephanie Lyell (www.stephanielyell.com) for the donation of her time and talent to this report.



The face of hunger

- 47% of clients have less than a high school education. That is down from 64% in 2006, but still three times the national average.
- 27% of households have one or more adults employed.
- 37% of adult clients are married.
- Nearly half of all client households have at least one member in poor health and 47% have unpaid medical or hospital bills.
- 16% of clients have no health insurance.

- 93% of clients are Caucasian, 4% are African American and 1% are Hispanic.
- 8% of clients are homeless; a number which doubled from the 2006 data.

According to the data, women are far more likely to seek emergency food assistance for their families. 72.2% of all adult clients were women.



Hunger disproportionately affects children and elderly ...

- 41.2% of all client households include children under the age of 18.
- One in every three households that have children are also single-parent households.
- 18% of all client households include someone age 65 or older.



Making a Difference



God's Pantry Food Bank works with a network of more than 380 nonprofit agencies and programs across 50 counties of central and eastern Kentucky. These agencies range from abuse shelters to soup kitchens, pantries to schools, senior citizen centers to children's homes.

- 74% of the pantry programs are operated by faith-based nonprofits and have no paid staff, relying completely on volunteers.
- 70% of pantries, 59% of shelters and 67% of soup kitchens have reported an increase in the number of clients served since 2006.

Other resources in the fight against hunger...

- 60% of client households are receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamp) benefits.
- Among households with small children, two-thirds participate in the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program.
- Two-thirds of households with school-age children participate in the federal school lunch program and 65% participate in the federal school breakfast program.



69% of food pantries believe the elimination of God's Pantry Food Bank would have a devastating impact on their program.

Tough Choices

- 38% of households had to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities and heating fuel
- 33% had to choose between paying for food and paying for gas for a car
- 27% had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care
- 18% had to choose between paying for food and paying rent or mortgage

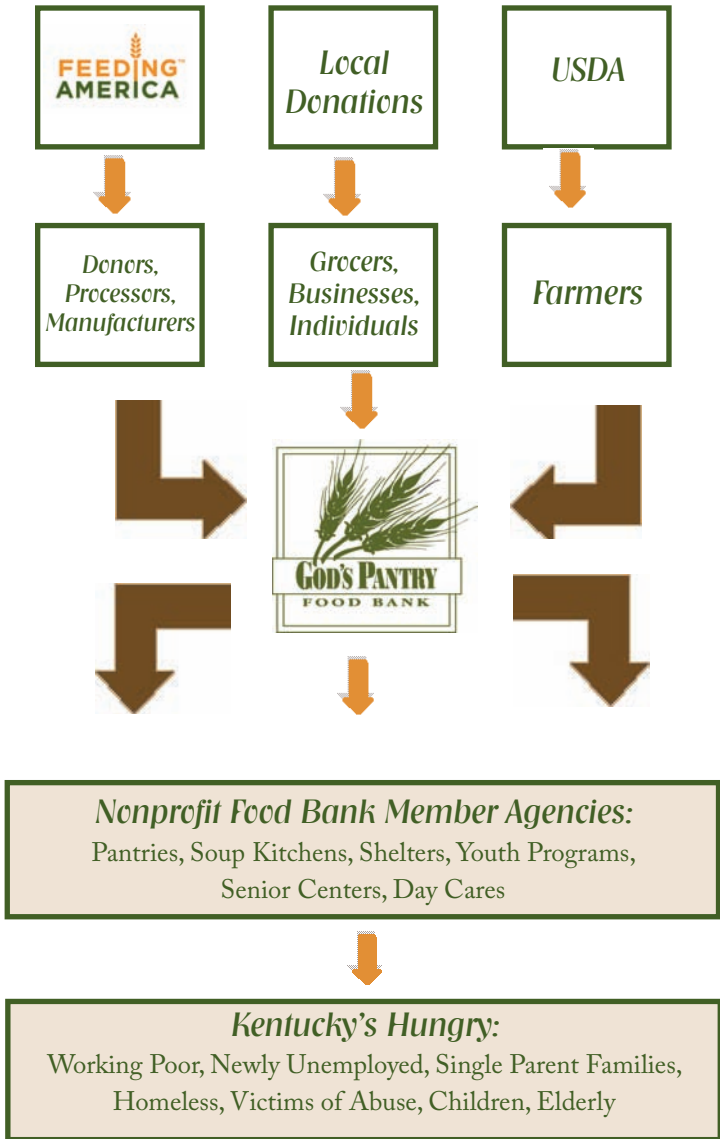


- More than half of clients said they ate less than they felt they should because there was not enough money to buy food.
- 1 in 5 adults had to cut the size of their meals or skip meals almost every month because there wasn't enough money for food.
- 1 in 4 adult clients did not eat for a whole day at least once because there was not enough money for food.

Comparing the Stats

	2002	2006	2010
People Served by GPFB	120,000	159,000	211,300
Pounds of Food Distributed by GPFB	6.4 million	12 million	17.1 million
Homeless Clients	6.2%	4.0%	8.0%
Households with one or more adult employed	21%	20%	27%
Average Annual Household Income	\$8,429	\$9,500	\$13,070
Households which include children	38%	36%	41.2%
Households which include senior citizens	21%	25%	18%

How Food Banking Works



Some figures from *Hunger in America 2010*:

- Feeding America food banks are providing food assistance to 37 million people annually, including 14 million children and 3 million seniors.
- This represents a 46% increase from the 2006 study.
- The Feeding America network is serving one million more people each week compared to 2006.
- Feeding America has seen a 50% increase in the number of children served through the network in the last four years.



The federal poverty level for a family of three is \$18,310 annually. 81% of clients have incomes below the federal poverty level.

God's Pantry Food Bank is serving 33% more people than it was four years ago and the total pounds of food distributed has increased by 42% in that time.

An Uphill Battle

Kentucky is the seventh poorest state in the nation, with a median household income of \$39,372. The median household income of God's Pantry Food Bank clients is \$13,110.



Kentucky is one of the most impoverished states in our country and God's Pantry Food Bank serves some of the poorest counties in the United States. In fact, 12 counties rank in the top 25 poorest in the nation*.

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 3. Owsley County | 14. Lee County | 21. Breathitt County |
| 4. Clay County | 15. Leslie County | 22. Wolfe County |
| 11. Martin County | 17. Harlan County | 23. McCreary County |
| 12. Knox County | 20. Bell County | 24. Magoffin County |

**Based on statistics derived from U.S. Census Bureau data.*

If you'd like to learn more about the information in this report or schedule a tour of God's Pantry Food Bank, please contact Mandy Brajuha at 859-288-5324 or mandy@godspantry.org.



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