

Hunger in America 2014

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The mission of the Food Bank is to nourish hungry people and lead the community in ending hunger.

Hunger in America

- The most comprehensive study of hunger in America
- Conducted by Feeding America via its 200 member food banks every four years
- Documents the demographics and size of the population turning to charity food assistance, as well as how charities are meeting the need

Hunger in America

- Surveyed Capital Area Food Bank's partner agencies and clients throughout our 21-county service area
- Surveys were electronic, anonymous, and self-administered
- Data compiled by Feeding America and Westat

Findings for CAFB

Client Demographics for *Travis County*

18,875 Travis County residents rely on food bank programs and services weekly, primarily through grocery/pantry programs

Findings for CAFB

- 38% are children
- 10% are 60 years old or older
- 84% are not homeless
- 78% have a high school diploma, GED or less
- 68% worked for pay in the last year

Findings for CAFB

- 44% have a household member with diabetes
- 62% have a household member with high blood pressure
- 77% have had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care in the past 12 months

Findings for CAFB

- 79% have had to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities in the past 12 months
- 37% have never applied for SNAP because they didn't think they were eligible
- 62% plan to use a food pantry or soup kitchen on a regular (non-emergency) basis

Findings for CAFB

- 92% of programs have seen either a constant level or increase in demand from clients compared to the prior year.
- 84% of programs said if the food bank no longer provided them food, it would have a major effect on their ability to continue operations.

Findings for CAFB

The top two reasons agencies reported as obstacles to distribution of healthier foods were:

- 1) too expensive to purchase healthier foods; and
- 2) inability to obtain healthier foods from other donors or food sources.

Findings for CAFB

- Fresh fruits and vegetables, followed by protein items, were the top products desired by clients from pantries.
- Clients report their most frequently-used coping strategy used in the past year was to purchase inexpensive, unhealthy food (72%), followed by purchasing food in dented or damaged cans (46%) or watering down food or drinks (46%)