

# Hunger and Poverty Statistics

## Poverty\*

- In 2008, 39.8 million people (13.2%) were in poverty.
- In 2008, 8.1 (10.3%) million families were in poverty.
- In 2008, 22.1 million (11.7%) of people aged 18-64 were in poverty.
- In 2008, 14 million (19%) children under the age of 18 were in poverty.
- In 2008, 3.6 million (9.7%) seniors 65 and older were in poverty.



## Food Insecurity and Very Low Food Security\*\*

- In 2008, 49.1 million Americans lived in food insecure households, 32.4 million adults and 16.7 million children.
- In 2008, 14.6% of households (17.1 million households) were food insecure, an increase from 11.1% (13.0 million households) in 2007.
- In 2008, 5.7% of households (6.7 million households) experienced very low food security, an increase from 4.1% in 2007.
- In 2008, households with children reported food insecurity at almost double the rate for those without children, 21.0% compared to 11.3%.
- In 2008, households that were more likely to experience food insecurity were households with children (21.0%), households with children headed by single women (37.2%) or single men (27.6%), households with incomes below the poverty line (42.2%), Black non-Hispanic households (25.7%) and Hispanic households (26.9%).
- In 2008, 8.1% of households with seniors (2.3 million households) were food insecure.

## Use of Emergency Food Assistance and Federal Food Assistance Programs

- In 2008, 4.1% of all U.S. households (4.8 million households) accessed emergency food from a food pantry one or more times. \*\*
- In 2008, food insecure (low food security or very low food security) households were 13 times more likely than food-secure households to have obtained food from a food pantry. \*\*
- In 2008, food insecure (low food security or very low food security) households were 14 times more likely than food-secure households to have eaten a meal at an emergency kitchen. \*\*
- In 2008, 55% of food-insecure households participated in at least one of the three major Federal food assistance programs – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly the Food Stamp Program), The National School Lunch Program, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. \*\*
- Feeding America provides emergency food assistance to an estimated 37 million low-income people annually, a 46% increase from 25 million since Hunger In America 2006 \*\*\*
- Feeding America provides emergency food assistance to approximately 5.7 million different people per week.\*\*\*
- Among members of Feeding America, 74% of pantries, 65% of kitchens, and 54% of shelters reported that there had been an increase since 2006 in the number of clients who come to their emergency food program sites.\*\*\*

**More information: [www.feedingamerica.org](http://www.feedingamerica.org)**

\*U.S. Census Bureau. Carmen DeNavas-Walt, B. Proctor, C. Lee. Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2007.

\*\*USDA. Mark Nord, M. Andrews, S. Carlson. Household Food Security in the United States, 2008.

\*\*\*Rhoda Cohen, J. Mabli, F. Potter, Z. Zhao. Hunger in America 2010. Feeding America



**Great Plains Food Bank**  
1720 3rd Ave N | Fargo, ND 58102 | 701.232.6219  
[www.lssnd.org/greatplainsfoodbank](http://www.lssnd.org/greatplainsfoodbank)

