

# Hunger in America 2010



**Northwest Pennsylvania Data  
Wednesday, February 3, 2010  
Second Harvest Food Bank of NW PA  
1507 Grimm Drive  
Erie, PA 16501**

**SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA**  
**SUMMARY**  
***HUNGER IN AMERICA 2009-2010***

*Hunger in America 2010* is a comprehensive research study that captures the connection between a weak economy and the increased need for emergency food assistance. During the first half of 2009, the Second Harvest Food Bank participated in this national study, which focused on surveying those who are hungry in our country. The study was conducted for Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization. Second Harvest is one of the more than 200 food banks in this network. The results of the study tell the story of people across the United States who receive food through three types of emergency food programs: food pantries, soup kitchens and short-term shelters. The national study is based on in-person interviews with more than 61,000 clients served by the Feeding America network as well as on questionnaires from more than 37,000 agencies affiliated with food banks in the Feeding America network. The study, for the most part, does not include other types of programs served by Feeding America's food banks, such as after school programs, day care facilities, congregate meals for seniors and mobile food pantries.

**NATIONAL STATISTICS/KEY MESSAGES**

- Feeding America, through its network of food banks and the agencies they serve, provides emergency food assistance to 37 million people each year, including nearly 14 million children and nearly 3 million seniors. This represents a 46 percent increase in the number of people receiving emergency food assistance compared to four years ago.
- Many people struggling with unemployment and difficult choices about food and basic necessities are in need of emergency food assistance.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA RESULTS**

Participating in the national study, Second Harvest Food Bank staff, Board members and volunteers interviewed clients at 30 member agencies that provide the following types of emergency food programs: food pantries, soup kitchens and short-term shelters. A few key findings and household characteristics of the *Hunger in America 2010* results for our 11-county service area follow:

- Second Harvest member agencies providing food pantries, soup kitchens or short-term shelters provide emergency food to an estimated 72,600 different people annually. Of this total, 30 percent are children under 18 years old, and 11 percent are seniors age 65 and older.
- About 20,700 different people receive emergency food assistance in any given week.
- A review of income and employment reveals that 69 percent of households have incomes below the federal poverty level and 23 percent of households include at least one employed adult.

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## Northwest Pennsylvania Findings

### *Housing and Health* *For Emergency Food Program Clients*

<b>Housing Status</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2010</b>
Homeless	12%	12%
Have own housing (house, apt., mobile home)	86%	85%
Own the place lived in	28%	29%
Rent	70%	66%
Late in rent/mortgage (those with own housing)	16%	12%
Living in section 8 or public housing	12%	16%
<b>Health Issues</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2010</b>
Poor health is a serious problem for at least one person in household	33%	28%
Households with unpaid medical bills	46%	49%
Clients with private health insurance	21%	12%
Clients who have been refused medical care because they could not pay	5%	10%
<b>Clients who DO NOT have:</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2010</b>
Automobiles	47%	41%
Telephone	13%	10%
Place to prepare a meal	10%	11%

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## Northwest Pennsylvania Findings

### *Demographics*

### *For Emergency Food Program Clients*

<b>Age Profile</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2010</b>
(U.S. 2008 Census) 304,059,724		
Children (0-17) 24%	30%	30%
Adults (18-59) 63%	59%	60%
Seniors (65+) 13%	11%	11%
Male	40%	46%
Female	60%	54%
<b>Ethnic Profile</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2010</b>
(U.S. 2008 Census) 304,059,724		
White 80%	70%	73%
African American 13%	24%	19%
Hispanic 15%	3%	6%
<b>Educational Level</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2010</b>
Completed less than high school	32%	34%
Completed high school or equivalent degree	51%	44%
Post high school education	18%	22%
<b>Other</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2010</b>
Married or living as married	27%	32%
Widowed, divorced or separated	42%	37%
Single parent households (with children younger than 18 years of age)	40%	38%
Households with at least one member age 65 years or older	11%	20.7%

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## Northwest Pennsylvania Findings

### *Food Choices and Government Food Assistance For Emergency Food Program Clients*

<b>Choice Between Food and Necessities</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2010</b>
Paying for food and paying for utilities or heating fuel	40%	34%
Paying for food and paying for rent or mortgage	32%	27%
Paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care	29%	29%
Paying for food and paying for gas or transportation	n/a	46%
<b>Primary Source for Grocery Shopping</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2010</b>
Supermarket	53%	33%
Discount Stores (Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Target)	32%	52%
Don't buy groceries - free food only	8%	2%
<b>Use of Food Assistance from the Government</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2010</b>
Receiving Food Stamps	53%	63%
Food Stamps last 3 weeks or less	70%	78%
Average number of weeks food stamps last	2.5	2.5
Households with children who participate in School Lunch Programs	73%	80%
Households with children who participate in School Breakfast Programs	55%	74%
Household with children who participate in the summer food Program	10%	24%
Households with Seniors age 65 or older who participate in Senior Nutrition Sites, Home delivered meals or Senior brown-bag	23%	33%
Households who have been receiving food stamps for less than one year	25%	32%

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## Northwest Pennsylvania Findings

### *Employment and Income For Emergency Food Program Clients*

<b>Employment Status</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2010</b>
Employed - in household	22%	17%
Full-time	13%	7%
Part-time	9%	10%
Clients who have been unemployed for two years or less	28%	30%
<b>Sources Providing Income to Clients</b>		
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2010</b>
Social Security	19%	29%
SSI	29%	19%
Job	22%	16%
Disability/Workers Comp - SSDI	6%	10%
Other (alimony, child support, church, relatives, pension, savings)	6%	9%
General Assistance and TANF	6%	7%
No income	5%	5%
Unemployment	3%	4%
<b>Annual Household Income</b>		
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2010</b>
Average Annual Income in 2009	\$11,620	\$12,730
Annual Income for full-time/minimum wage job	\$10,712	\$15,080
Annual Household income less than \$20,000	79%	77%
Households with an average monthly income less than \$1,000	67%	53%
Households with income below federal	75%	69%
No income in past month	5%	5%

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## Northwest Pennsylvania Findings

<b>Agency Program Data</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2010</b>
Agencies that experienced an increase in the number of clients served since 2006		
- food pantries	60%	73%
- soup kitchens	73%	43%
- shelters	40%	53%
Average percentage of food distributed by agency that is provided by Second Harvest Food Bank of NW PA		
- food pantries	82%	83%
- soup kitchens	56%	42%
- shelters	44%	52%
Agencies that needed to turn away clients in past year because of lack of food resources		
- food pantries	7%	10%
- soup kitchens	0%	0%
- shelters	20%	20%
Clients that are very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with amount of food provided	96%	95%
Agencies that rely entirely on volunteers		
- food pantries	75%	73%
- soup kitchens	30%	47%
- shelters	0%	7%
Average number of Volunteer Hours		
- food pantries	37	43
- soup kitchens	57	86
- shelters	30	31
Devastating or significant impact on agency if Second Harvest could not supply food		
- food pantries	88%	88%
- soup kitchens	73%	48%
- shelters	80%	87%

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## Northwest Pennsylvania Findings

### *Food Security Issues*

### *For Emergency Food Program Clients*

<b>Food Security</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2010</b>
Client households who often worry about source of next meal	64%	71%
Client households with children (younger than 18) who often worry about source of next meal	70%	81%
Client households using food stamps (SNAP) who often worry about source of next meal	62%	71%
Adult clients who cut the size of meals or skipped meals because there wasn't enough money for food	49%	47%
Children (18 or younger) skipping meals (in households with children)	7%	12%