



Hunger in Kentucky

2010

A Report on Food Insecurity in Kentucky

Presented by:



About Hunger in Kentucky

2010

Hunger in Kentucky 2010 is a comprehensive look at who is hungry and who is serving the hungry in our state. This report is part of Hunger in America 2010, an independent, nationwide study conducted by Mathematica Policy Research for Feeding America.

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, the seven food banks which comprise The Kentucky Association of Food Banks gathered board members, volunteers and staff to travel throughout the Commonwealth to member agencies serving those in need. A total of 1,315 clients were interviewed at soup kitchens, shelters and pantries across the state. In addition, surveys were completed by 658 food bank member agencies and those results were compiled in this report as well.

This report is the culmination of these efforts, offering an in-depth look at hunger in the 120 counties of Kentucky. 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 end hunger by sharing your knowledge with others as we work to make a difference in the lives of thousands of Kentucky families each year.

The results of this study are alarming and discomfoting. It is hard to believe that hunger like this exists and persists in the richest country on earth. It is difficult to be confronted with the fact that our children and our senior citizens are the most affected by food insecurity in our neighborhoods and across our great country.

Hunger in Kentucky is meant to tell the story of the 684,000 people living in poverty in the Commonwealth. They are not all living on the streets - they are waiting on us in restaurants, driving our child's bus to school, living on fixed incomes in retirement. They are our neighbors, family, and friends and they need our help.

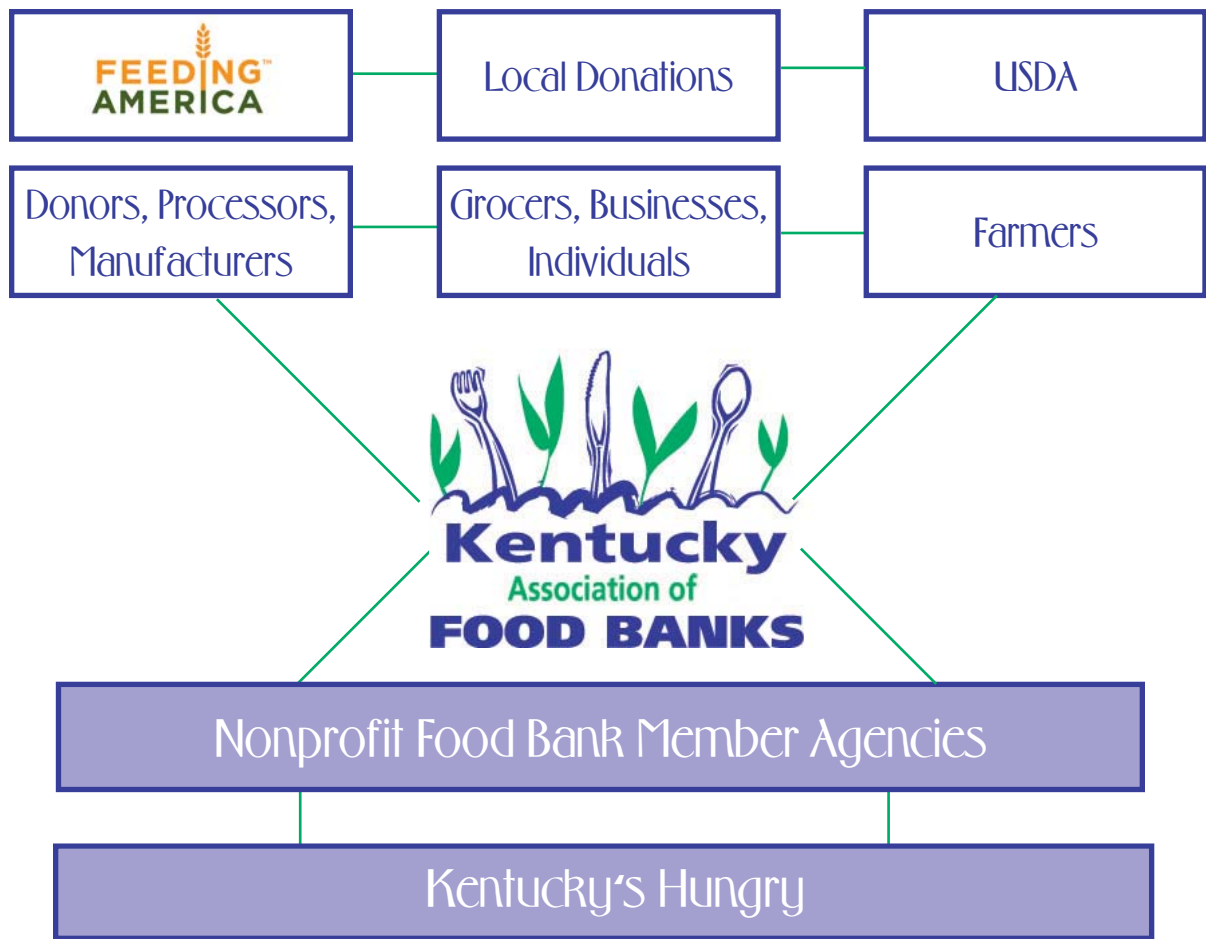
About the Kentucky Association of Food Banks

The mission of the Kentucky Association of Food Banks (KAFB) is to maximize the effectiveness of Feeding America food banks serving Kentucky by providing food to feed hungry people.

The association is made up of seven Feeding America food banks serving all 120 counties of Kentucky. In 2009, these food banks distributed more than 39.9 million pounds of food and grocery products to 1,068 charitable feeding agencies, including pantries, soup kitchens and shelters.



How Food Banking Works



Glossary

Agency: The charitable organization (typically a pantry, kitchen or shelter) that provides the food supplied by a food bank directly to clients in need through various types of programs.

Food Bank: A nonprofit food recovery and distribution program dedicated to reducing hunger and malnutrition by utilizing surplus products donated by the food industry to supplement the feeding programs of charitable agencies and churches; industry donations are supplemented by community food drives, purchases, etc.

Food Insecurity: The state of, or risk of, being unable to provide food to oneself, a family, a nation, etc.

Kitchen (Soup Kitchen): A charitable organization providing prepared meals at no cost, served in the agency, to clients in need.

Pantry (Food Pantry): A food distribution agency which provides its clients with bags or boxes of food for home preparation and consumption.

Shelter: A charitable program whose primary purpose is to provide shelter or housing on a short-term or temporary basis to needy clients and typically serves one or more meals per day.

Who is hungry in Kentucky?

- Food banks are serving an estimated 620,100 different people annually in Kentucky.
- About 67,300 different people receive emergency food assistance in any given week in our state.
- 35% of households served include children.
- 23% of households include at least one employed adult.
- 72% of households have incomes below the federal poverty level.



A Look at Poverty in Kentucky

- An estimated 684,000 people live in poverty in the Commonwealth.
- One in every four Kentucky children is living in poverty. In some counties, as many as 55% of children are living in poverty.
- Kentucky ranks fifth in the nation for percentage of residents living in poverty at 17%.

Food Insecurity - What is it and how is it affecting Kentuckians?

Food insecurity is the state of, or risk of, being unable to provide food to oneself, a family, a nation, etc.

- Among all clients served by emergency food programs in Kentucky, 71% are food insecure.
- An additional 29% of all clients have very low food security.
- Among households with children, 76% are food insecure and 34% are food insecure with very low food security.

The typical client household looks like this...

- The average household size is 2.4 people.
- 23% of client households have at least one adult employed.
- 39% of the client households are single-person households.
- Among households with children, 41% are single-parent households.
- Another 29% of households have at least one member age 65 years or older.
- 41% of all clients finished high school but received no further education.

In 2008, 47% of all clients had a household income of less than \$10,000.

The average household income during the previous month was \$880.

Who else is putting food on the table?

- 56% of client households in Kentucky are receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.
- Among households with children ages 0-3, 64% participate in the Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC).
- 64% of children are participating in the Federal School Lunch Program and 55% are participating in the Federal School Breakfast Program.



37% of households served report having at least one member in poor health.

Who is serving the hungry families of Kentucky?

Feeding America food banks serve 1,068 agencies which provide hunger relief to thousands of Kentuckians on a daily basis. These agencies range from abuse shelters to soup kitchens, after-school programs to adult day cares, pantries to homeless shelters.

- 67% of the pantries and kitchens and 46% of the shelters surveyed are run by faith-based or religion-affiliated nonprofit agencies.
- 74% of the pantries and kitchens and 57% of the shelters indicated that they are serving more clients now than they were in 2006.
- 64% of the pantries, 58% of the kitchens and 75% of the shelters believe they are facing one or more problems that threaten their continued operation. Chief among these was funding issues.



What would agencies do without the food bank's support?

65% of the pantries, 55% of the kitchens and 25% of the shelters believed the elimination of their local food bank would have a devastating impact on their program.

Who is operating these member agencies?

62% of pantries, 31% of kitchens and 13% of shelters had no paid staff in their workforce during the week prior to this study.

Clients are facing tough decisions...



- 34% of clients in Kentucky report having to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities or heating fuel.
- 31% had to choose between paying for food and paying for gas for a car.
- 29% had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care.
- 27% had to choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage.
- 25% had to choose between paying for food and paying for transportation.

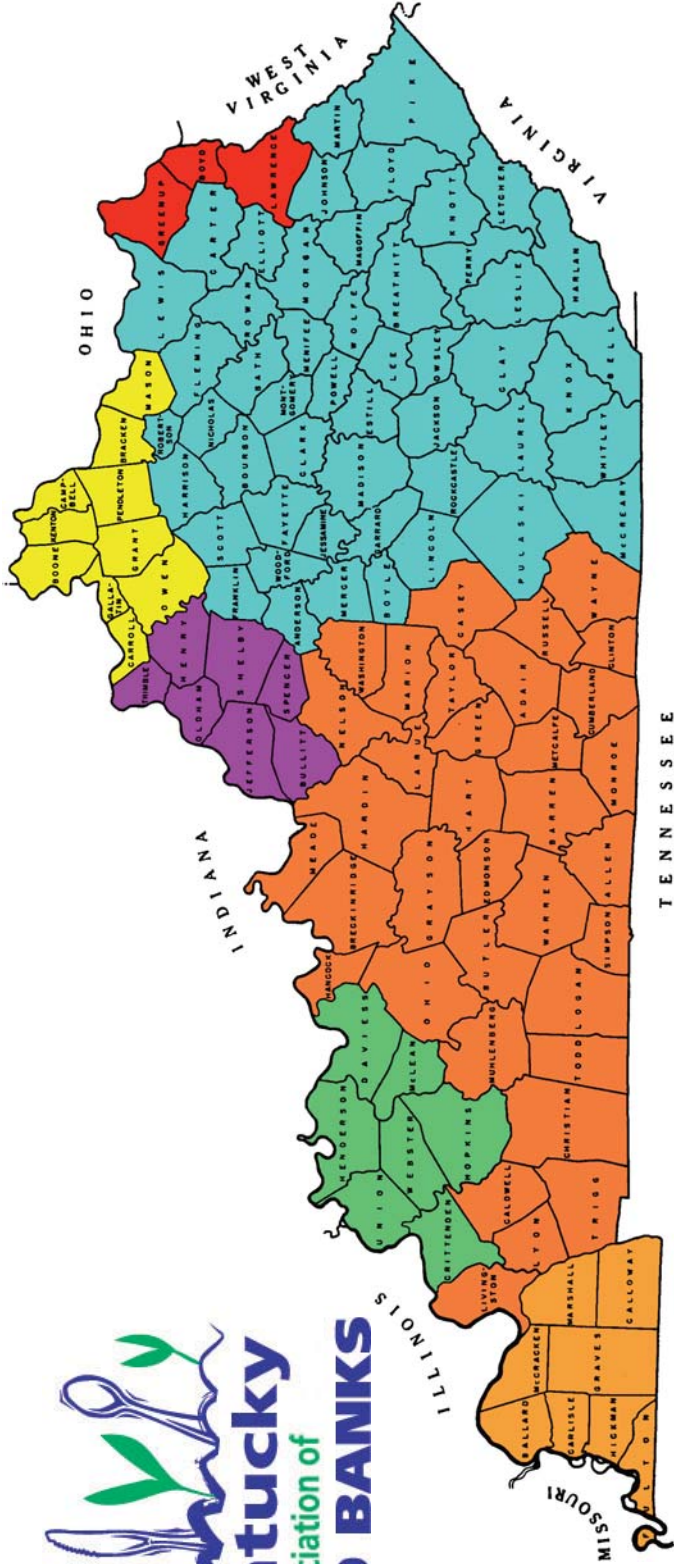
The need is increasing

- The food banks in Kentucky are reaching an estimated 620,100 clients annually, up from 338,000 in 2006.
- In 2006, 67% of clients were identified as being food insecure. That percentage rose to 71% in 2010.



The U.S. Census Bureau reports that the population of Kentucky is 4,269,245 people. The food banks serving the 120 counties of the Commonwealth are reaching an estimated 620,100 people - 1 in 7 Kentuckians.

For more information on how you can get involved in the fight against hunger, contact:



Feeding America
Kentucky's Heartland
 313 Peterson Drive
 Elizabethtown, KY 42701
www.feedingamericaky.org

Purchase Area Food Bank
 P.O. Box 588
 Mayfield, KY 42066
www.purchaseadd.org

Dare to Care Food Bank
 5803 Fern Valley Road
 Louisville, KY 40228
www.daretocare.org

FreeStore Food Bank
 1141 Central Parkway
 Cincinnati, OH 45202-1086
www.freestorefoodbank.org

Huntington Area Food Bank
 1327 7th Avenue
 Huntington, WV 25701
www.hafb.org

Tri-State Food Bank
 801 E. Michigan Street
 Evansville, IN 47711-5631
www.tristatefoodbank.org

God's Pantry Food Bank
 1685 Jaggie Fox Way
 Lexington, KY 40511
www.godspantry.org

Members of:
FEEDING AMERICA