



Hunger in Kentucky



2014



A REPORT ON CHARITABLE FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN KENTUCKY

ABOUT HUNGER IN KENTUCKY 2014

HUNGER IN KENTUCKY 2014

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 2014, one of a series of quadrennial studies that provide comprehensive demographic profiles of people seeking food assistance through the charitable sector and an in-depth analysis of the partner agencies in the Feeding America network that provide this assistance.

As a result of the Hunger in Kentucky 2014 study, we have a more profound understanding of charitable food distribution in Kentucky:

- the 611,100 people who receive assistance through Kentucky's food bank network.
- the personal and economic circumstances of their households.
- the response of our 814 partner agencies that provide assistance.



OUR MEMBERS



ABOUT THE KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION OF FOOD BANKS

The Kentucky Association of Food Banks (KAFB) was formed in 2001 to



provide food and quality services to increase the capacity of Kentucky's Feeding America food banks to end hunger. KAFB is a Partner State Association of Feeding America. KAFB is comprised of seven food banks that serve all 120 counties of Kentucky. Our members feed an estimated 1 in 7 of all Kentuckians annually through a network of 814 charitable feeding agencies, including pantries, soup kitchens and shelters.

KAFB supports member food banks by:

- securing food and funds for food banks.
- building partnerships that benefit the food bank network.
- raising awareness about the problem of hunger.
- advocating on behalf of hungry Kentuckians.

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of Mightybytes, Inc. and Duane Knight Design to the report design.



HOW FOOD BANKING WORKS



GLOSSARY

AGENCY — A charitable social-service organization that operates a program(s) that provides food and grocery items supplied by a food bank directly to clients in need.

CHARITABLE FOOD ASSISTANCE — Food and grocery items that are provided to people in need through charitable feeding programs, including grocery programs and meal programs.

CLIENT — A client is an individual or a household member who receives food through the Feeding America network. Clients are counted differently depending on whether they visit meal or grocery programs. At meal programs, only individuals present are counted as clients since they typically consume the meal on-site. At grocery programs, all members of the household are counted as clients since they will likely benefit from the food distributed at the grocery program.

FOOD BANK — A non-profit organization that solicits, receives, inventories and distributes donated food and grocery products pursuant to industry and appropriate regulatory standards. Food banks are organizations that distribute donated food to charitable social-service agencies, which provide the products directly to clients through various programs. Some food banks also distribute food directly to clients in need.

FOOD SECURITY & FOOD INSECURITY — Food insecure households may not know how they will provide for their next meal. As defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), food security refers to the household-level economic and social condition of reliable access to an adequate amount of food for an active, healthy life for all household members. A household is

food insecure if, in the previous year, they experienced limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods.

GROCERY PROGRAM — A program that distributes non-prepared food and grocery items for off-site use, usually for preparation in the client's home. Grocery programs include all types of food pantries, home-delivered grocery programs, mobile pantries, Commodity Supplemental Food Programs (CSFP), Backpack Programs, and community gardens.

MEAL PROGRAM — A program that provides prepared meals or snacks to clients at the program site or in their homes. Meal programs include all congregate meal programs, as well as (soup) kitchens, shelters, group homes, rehabilitation programs, transitional housing programs, and community kitchens.

POVERTY/FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL — The minimum amount of income that a household needs to be able to afford housing, food and other basic necessities. During the survey period for Hunger in America 2014, the federal poverty level was \$23,550 for a family of four. If a family's total income is less than this threshold, then that family and every individual in it is considered in poverty. A household's percentage of the federal poverty level is used to set federal nutrition program thresholds for eligibility, such as the threshold for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly the Food Stamp Program).

SNAP — The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program. SNAP is the largest of the federal nutrition programs and provides recipients with resources to buy groceries with federal benefits.

WHO IS HUNGRY IN KENTUCKY?

Each week 53,400 Kentuckians receive food from a food bank.

CLIENT AGE



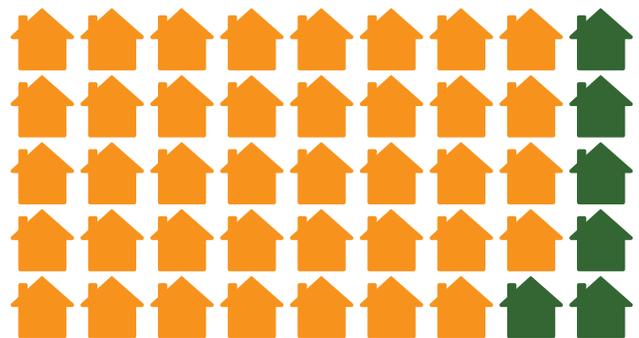
Household
Median
Annual
Income



HOUSEHOLD FOOD INSECURITY

85%
Food
Insecure

15%
Food
Secure



35% OF HOUSEHOLDS WERE EMPLOYED
IN THE PAST YEAR

75% OF HOUSEHOLDS
LIVE IN POVERTY

HOUSEHOLD COPING STRATEGIES



PURCHASED INEXPENSIVE,
UNHEALTHY FOOD TO FEED
THEIR FAMILY



37%

WATERED DOWN FOOD
OR DRINKS TO MAKE IT
STRETCH FARTHER



58%

ATE FOOD PAST THE
EXPIRATION DATE

HOUSEHOLD SPENDING TRADEOFFS



HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN FOOD AND MEDICAL CARE



HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN FOOD AND UTILITIES



HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN FOOD AND TRANSPORTATION

EDUCATION



NEARLY 33%

OF HOUSEHOLDS HAVE A MEMBER WITH AT LEAST SOME EDUCATION BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL

HOUSEHOLD HEALTH

65%

HAVE A MEMBER WITH HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

41%

HAVE A MEMBER WITH DIABETES

64%

HAVE UNPAID MEDICAL BILLS

WHO ELSE IS PUTTING FOOD ON THE TABLE



65%

OF HOUSEHOLDS CURRENTLY RECEIVE SNAP (FOOD STAMPS)

8%

PARTICIPATE IN WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN PROGRAM (WIC)

93%

PARTICIPATE IN THE FEDERAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

WHO IS SERVING HUNGRY FAMILIES IN KENTUCKY?

The Kentucky Association of Food Banks is a statewide network of **7 food banks** and **814 partner feeding agencies**.

52% of partner agencies rely entirely on volunteers.

66% are faith-based organizations.

78% provide groceries and **22%** serve meals.

46% provide nutrition services.

56% saw an increase in volume of clients served over the prior year.

39% did not have enough food to meet client needs.

OUR MEMBERS FEED

611,100

OR

1 in 7 

PEOPLE EACH YEAR

PEOPLE IN KENTUCKY





IMPLICATIONS

Our food banks and their partner feeding agencies regularly report that they are observing a high demand for charitable food assistance. Collecting data for the Hunger in America series once every four years allows Feeding America to quantify the breadth and intensity of this need. The results of this research illustrate that receiving support from hunger-relief charities is a growing and crucial component of the coping strategies that individuals in need turn to in order to secure food for themselves and their families. The charitable sector is critical to hunger-relief efforts, but charity alone cannot solve hunger.

The data also suggest that the recovery from the Great Recession in 2008 and 2009 has been slow to reach people in the most dire economic circumstances.

Many food bank clients:

- are working toward an education.
- are searching for work if they are not already employed.
- still experience challenges with food security, limited income, and poor health.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Food banks depend on the generosity and support of individuals, foundations, corporations, and manufacturers in order to provide charitable food relief to hundreds of thousands of Kentuckians each year. If you are interested in becoming a

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Food bank clients often survive on limited budgets and are confronted with choices between paying for food and paying for other essentials like rent or medicine. These dilemmas can put households in the position of choosing between competing necessities. Thus, many clients are relying on federal nutrition programs, as well as routinely turning to the food bank network, in order to meet their nutrition and food budget needs.

There are opportunities:

- for policymakers to strengthen federal anti-hunger programs and policies.
- for advocates to raise their voices.
- for all of us to take steps each day to contribute to the fight to end hunger.

Collaboratively, we can address the root causes of food insecurity so that every individual has the food and nutrition they need to build a stronger commonwealth. Together we can solve hunger in Kentucky!

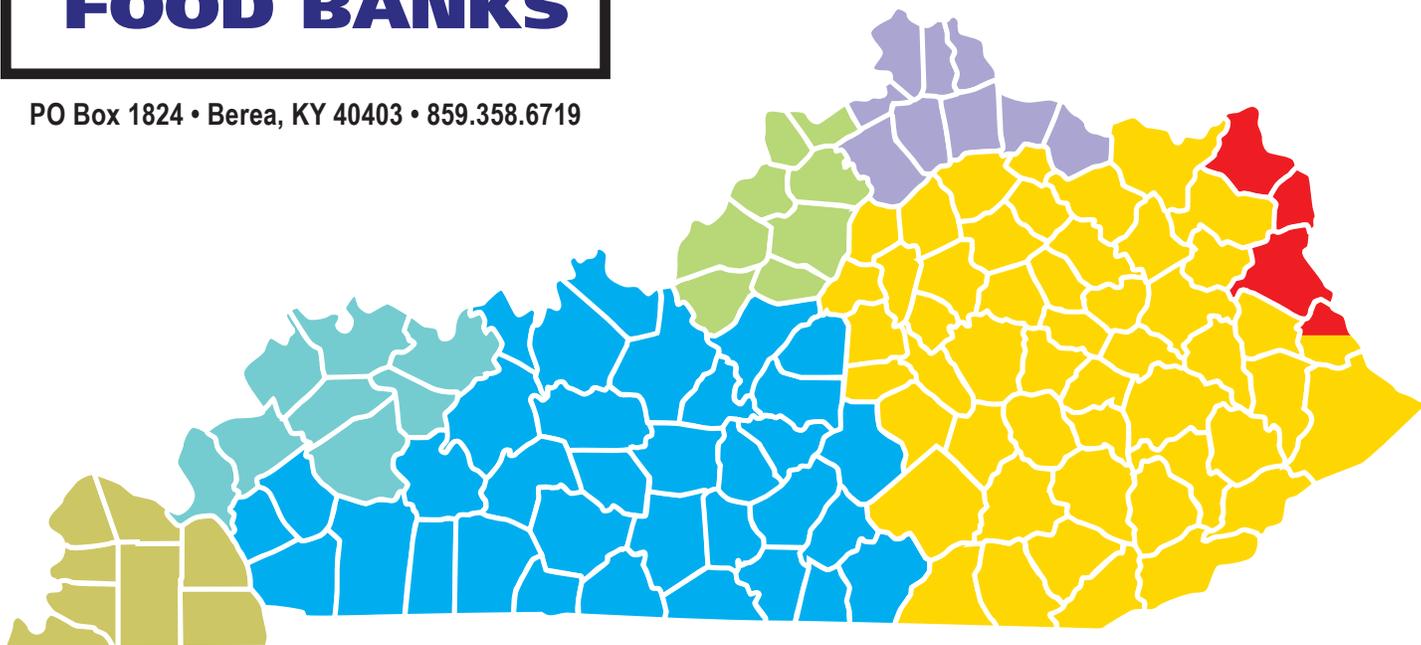
volunteer, financial donor or hunger advocate, or if you would like more information about the Kentucky Association of Food Banks, please visit www.kyfoodbanks.org.



Kentucky
Association of
FOOD BANKS

PO Box 1824 • Berea, KY 40403 • 859.358.6719

FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON HOW YOU CAN HELP
SOLVE HUNGER IN KENTUCKY,
VISIT KYFOODBANKS.ORG



**Purchase Area
Development District**
P.O. Box 588
Mayfield, KY 42066
www.purchaseadd.org

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

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

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

Freestore Foodbank
1141 Central Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45202-1086
www.freestorefoodbank.org

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

Facing Hunger Foodbank
1327 7th Avenue
Huntington, WV 25701
www.facinghunger.org

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