



O Z A R K S
Food Harvest

The Food Bank

Hunger in America 2010

Executive Summary
February 4, 2010

About Ozarks Food Harvest, The Food Bank

Since 1983, Ozarks Food Harvest has been the only food bank serving 29 counties in Southwest Missouri. Ozarks Food Harvest distributes more than 7 million pounds of food annually through its network of more than 350 different partner charities in hunger relief and through its signature direct service programs. Ozarks Food Harvest's direct service programs include The Mobile Food Pantry program, The Weekend Backpack Program, Kids Cafe®, and Club F.U.N. (Fitness, Understanding Health, and Nutrition). Ozarks Food Harvest is a member of Feeding America, the nation's network of more than 200 food banks across the United States.

Economic conditions in the 29 county service area that Ozarks Food Harvest serves have taken a dramatic decline. Thousands of working class families have been forced into unemployment due to layoffs and closings at local manufacturing plants. As unemployment rates soar more families are forced to go without one of the most essential necessities – food. The Food Bank has been working fervently to provide its network of more than 350 charitable partners with an ample supply of nutritious food.



The Food Bank's service area includes the counties of:
Barry, Barton, Cedar, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Dent, Douglas, Greene, Hickory, Howell, Jasper, McDonald, Newton, Oregon, Ozark, Phelps, Polk, Pulaski, Shannon, St. Clair, Stone, Taney, Texas, Vernon, Webster and Wright county.

How We Work

THE DONORS

Growers | Processors | Restaurants | Manufactures | Distributors | Retailers | Convenience Stores
Wholesalers | Food Industry Associations | Food Service Operators | Food Drives | USDA



OZARKS FOOD HARVEST

Using the latest technology, The Food Bank distributes and tracks donated food to more than 350 certified hunger relief organizations in southwest Missouri.



THE MEMBER AGENCIES

Food Pantries | Youth Programs | Community Kitchens | Soup Kitchens | Senior Centers | Day Care Centers
Rehabilitation Centers | Homeless Shelters | Kids Cafes | Residential Shelters | Other Charitable Organizations



THE CLIENTS

Victims of Disaster | Children | Working Poor | Single-Parent Families
Newly Unemployed | Mentally Ill | Homeless | Disabled | Elderly

ABOUT HUNGER IN AMERICA 2010

In order to address the problem of hunger, first we must understand it. To that end, Hunger in America 2010, the largest study of domestic hunger ever conducted, provides an in-depth look at who is in need, how the need is met, and by whom.

Feeding America, the nation's network of food banks, seeks not only to immediately alleviate hunger through distribution of food and grocery products to people in need, but also to address the problem of hunger in the long-term by increasing awareness among the public, connecting clients seeking emergency food assistance with federal benefits, and advocating for changes to programs and policies that support low-income Americans and ultimately end hunger.

Hunger in America 2010 captures detailed information about who is in need of emergency food assistance and their circumstances, which, in turn, helps charitable feeding organizations develop programs that best support hungry Americans. The results also better inform the public policy discourse so that federal nutrition programs can better serve those in need.

METHODOLOGY

Hunger in America 2010 is the largest, most comprehensive study of domestic emergency food assistance ever conducted. The study provides comprehensive and statistically valid data on the national charitable response to hunger and the people served by food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters in the Feeding America network.

On a local level, a total of 329 clients were interviewed at selected program sites of Ozarks Food Harvest. Client respondents provided information about various demographic characteristics of themselves and their households.

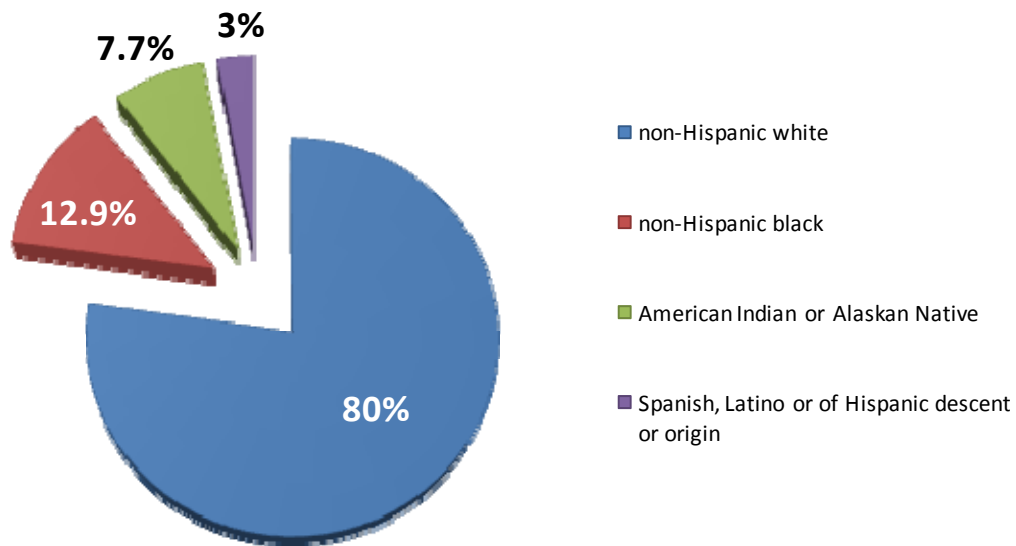
WHO SEEKS EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE?

The estimated number of different clients served per week by Ozarks Food Harvest is 14,000.

The estimate of different clients served annually is 155,000.

Ozarks Food Harvest Clients

- 36.3% of the client households have at least one member younger than age 18.
- 22.2% of the client households have one or more children ages 0 to 5 years.
- 13.3% of the households have at least one member age 65 years or older.
- Among the clients who come to all program sites,



80% are non-Hispanic white
12.9% non-Hispanic black
7.7% American Indian or Alaskan Native.
3% of the clients at all program sites indicate that they are Spanish, Latino, or of Hispanic descent or origin.

- 78% of all clients are at or below the federal poverty line.
- 12.7% of all clients have been unemployed for one to two years.
- 13.6 % of clients have recently lost their job, having been unemployed for three months or less.
- Among those who have worked before or are currently working, 22.3% either had or currently have managerial or professional jobs.

Client Income

- Average monthly household income among all client households was 62.6% of the federal poverty level.
- 60.2% of all client households had monthly household income less than \$1,000.
- Average annual household income among all clients is \$11,600; only 17% of the U.S. average annual household income of \$68,400.
- 43% of all clients have reported incomes from jobs.
- Less than 1% of all clients report welfare assistance as main source of income.
- 43.5% of clients report disability, SSI, worker's comp, or social security as main source of household income.

Highest Education Level Attained

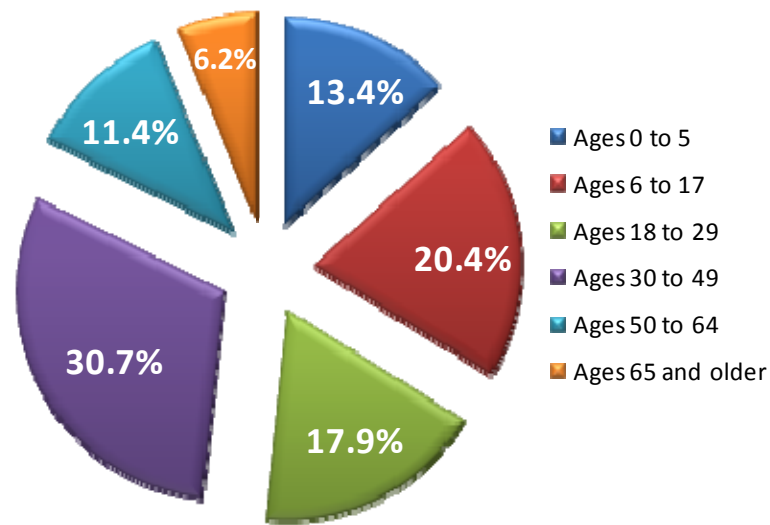
33.6% of all clients finished high school but received no further education beyond high school.

19.7% of all clients have some college education or completed a two-year degree.



Pantry Clients

- Among all members of pantry client households,



13.4% are ages 0 to 5
20.4% ages 6 to 17
17.9% are ages 18 to 29
30.7% are ages 30 to 49
11.4% are ages 50 to 64
6.2% are ages 65 and older.

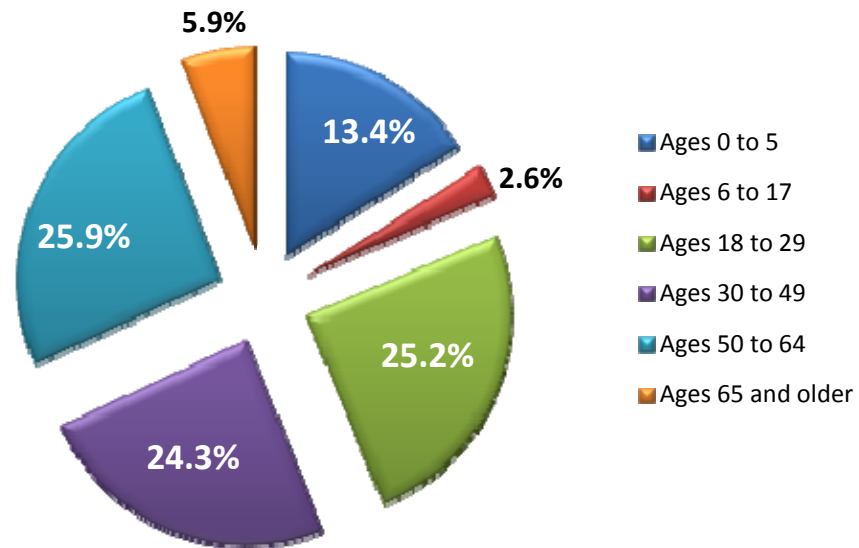
- 96.1% of all members of pantry client households are U.S. citizens.
- 30.6% of all adults who pick up food from a pantry are married.
- 41.1% of pantry client households have one or more adults currently employed.
- 42.6% of **pantry** client households have had to choose at least once between paying for food and paying for utilities or heating fuel.



Kitchen Clients

KITCHEN (SOUP KITCHEN, COMMUNITY DINING ROOM): A charitable program whose primary purpose is to provide prepared meals, served in the kitchen, to clients in need.

- Among all members of kitchen client households,



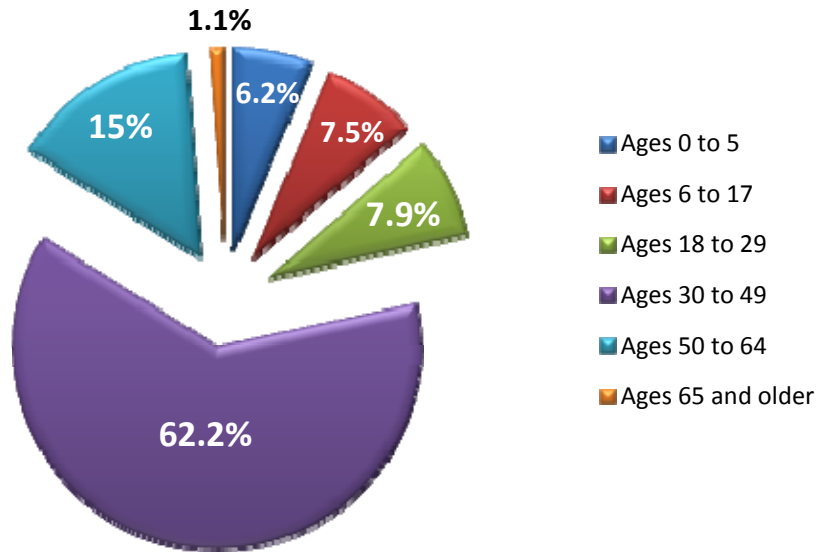
16.0% are ages 0 to 5
2.6% ages 6 to 17
25.2% are ages 18 to 29
24.3% are ages 30 to 49
25.9% are ages 50 to 64
5.9% are ages 65 and older.

- 99.4% of all members of kitchen client households are U.S. citizens.
- 45.2% of all members of kitchen client households are male.
- 49.9% of the kitchen client households have one or more adults currently employed.

Shelter Clients

SHELTER (EMERGENCY SHELTER, HOMELESS SHELTER): A charitable program with a primary purpose to provide shelter or housing on a short-term or temporary basis to clients and typically serves one or more meals a day.

- Among all members of shelter client households,



6.2% are ages 0 and 5
7.5% are ages 6 and 17
7.9% are ages 18 to 29
62.2% are ages 30 to 49
15.0% are ages 50 to 64
1.1% are ages 65 and older.

- 100.0% of all members of shelter client households are U.S. citizens.
- 80.4% of all members of shelter client households are male.
- 30.4 % of the shelter client households have one or more adults currently employed.

Significant Findings

- **81.5%** of the client households reported that, during the previous 12 months, they had been in a situation where the food they bought, “just didn’t last” and [they] did not have money to get more.
- In addition, **69.1%** of the client households were, often or sometimes during the 12 previous months, in a situation where they, “couldn’t afford to eat balanced meals.”
- Adults in **38.0%** of the client households were hungry but did not eat because they could not afford enough food at least once during the previous 12 months.annually
- **50.5% of the clients** ate less than they felt they should because there was not enough money to purchase food at least once during the previous 12 months.
- Adults in **24.4%** of the client households had to cut the size of meals or skip meals because there was not enough money for food *almost every month* of the previous 12 months.
- Adults in **29.8%** of the client households did not eat **for a whole day** at least once during the previous 12 months because there was not enough money for food.
- **44.5%** of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefit recipients said that they or adults in the household skipped meals entirely some months or every month in the past year because there was not enough money for food.
- **33.5%** of SNAP benefit recipients did not eat for a whole day because there was not enough money for food.

CHOICE BETWEEN FOOD AND NECESSITIES

46.1% of **all** client households have had to choose at least once between paying for food and paying for utilities or heating fuel.

32.7% of **all** client households have had to choose at least once between paying for food and paying for rent or mortgage.

36.7% of **all** client households have had to choose at least once between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care.

How You Can Help

You can take the initiative to help fight hunger with Ozarks Food Harvest and the 350 hunger relief organizations that it serves in 29 counties across southwest Missouri.

Give Money

Every dollar donated to Ozarks Food Harvest provides \$10 worth of food and services. Your support will provide hope to people living in 29 counties across southwest Missouri.

Give Food

Fill the food bank by donating non-perishable food or hosting by your own food drive for The Food Bank. Call 417-865-3411 for details.

Give Time

Volunteer to sort and repackage food, help with professional services or with special events. Visit ozarksfoodharvest.org/volunteer.html to learn more!

Get Informed

Be an advocate for hunger relief in the Ozarks. Stay updated with current news and events at ozarksfoodharvest.org and sign up for our Harvest Time E-Newsletter.

For details on how you can Transform Hunger Into Hope™, visit www.ozarksfoodharvest.org or call (417) 865-3411 today.

Resources

[Ozarks Food Harvest – Complete Study](#)
[Missouri Food Bank Association – Full Missouri State Study Findings](#)
[Feeding America – Nationwide Study Results](#)

