



Hunger in America: 2010

Prepared for High Plains Food Bank
Executive Summary





- Study focuses on emergency food providers and clients of HPFB network
- Emergency food programs = food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters serving short-term residents
 - Network of 88 emergency food programs in HPFB network
- The High Plains Food Bank provides emergency food assistance for an estimated 42,000 different people annually
- About 9,600 different people receive emergency food assistance in any given week
- 40 percent of the members of households served by the High Plains Food Bank are children under 18 years old¹
- 6 percent of the members of households are elderly²
- 8 percent are homeless³
- 51 percent of households include at least one employed adult⁴
- About 51 percent of clients are non-Hispanic white⁵
- 16 percent of clients are non-Hispanic black⁶
- Approximately 29 percent are Hispanic⁷
- 63 percent have incomes below the federal poverty level during the previous month⁸
- Among all client households served by emergency food programs of the High Plains Food Bank, 87 percent are food insecure, according to the U.S. government's official food security scale. This includes client households who have low food security and those who have very low food security⁹
 - 31 percent of clients above have low food security
 - 56 percent of clients above have very low food security (or hungry)¹⁰
- Among households with children (that HPFB serves), 94 percent are food insecure¹¹
 - 27 percent of above have low food security
 - 67 percent of above have very low security (or hungry)¹²
- 56 percent of clients served by HPFB report having to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities¹³
- 43 percent had to choose between paying for food and paying rent or mortgage¹⁴



(Continued)

- 52 percent had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine¹⁵
- 53 percent had to choose between paying for food and paying for gas for a car
- 31 percent of households served by HPFB report having at least one household member in poor health
- An estimated 68,000 live on or below the poverty line in the Texas Panhandle
- 95 percent of adult clients said they were either “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with the amount of food they received from their provider
- 96 percent were satisfied with the quality of the food they received
- HPFB accounts for:
 - 88 percent of the food distributed by food pantries
 - 42 percent of the food distributed by kitchens
 - 58 percent of the food distributed by shelters



Results Comparison with 2005 Hunger Study

Please see superscript in above transcript

Results based on households that HPFB and member agencies serve

REFERENCE #	2009 STUDY	2005 STUDY
1	40% households with < 18 children	35% households with < 18 children
2	6% households are elderly	12% households are elderly
3	8% are homeless	12% are homeless
4	51% of households have 1 employed adult	36% of households have 1 employed adult
5	51% are non-Hispanic white	59% are non-Hispanic white
6	16% are non-Hispanic black	10% are non-Hispanic black
7	29% are Hispanic	29% are Hispanic
8	63% have incomes under poverty level	68% have incomes under poverty level
9	87% that HPFB serve are food insecure	83% that HPFB serve are food insecure
10	56% clients have very low food security	31% clients have very low food security
11	94% households with kids are food insecure	83% households with kids are food insecure
12	67% households with kids have very low food security	36% households with kids have very low food security
13	56% choose between food and utilities	48% choose between food and utilities
14	43% choose between food and rent/mortgage	36% choose between food and rent/mortgage
15	52% choose between food and medicine	33% choose between food and medicine



Definitions of Food Security¹

High food security	No reported indications of food-access problems or limitations
Marginal food security	One or two reported indications—typically of anxiety over food sufficiency or shortage of food in the house. Little or no indication of changes in diets or food intake

Definitions of Food Insecurity¹

Low food security	Reports of reduced quality, variety, or desirability of diet. Little or no indication of reduced food intake
Very low food security	Reports of multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake

Definition of Poverty²

Following the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive 14, the Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If a family's total income is less than the family's threshold, then that family and every individual in it is considered in poverty. The official poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated for inflation using Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). The official poverty definition uses money income before taxes and does not include capital gains or noncash benefits (such as public housing, Medicaid, and food stamps).

¹Economic Research Service / USDA
<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/FoodSecurity/labels.htm>

²United States Census Bureau
<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/definitions.html>