

Food Insecurity and Hunger

"The needs are just much greater," added Community Action director Elaine Miller. "Our volume in terms of the pantry has increased from 300 to 500 families per month over the same time last year. It's huge."

"We can't keep up with the need." Deb Smith, Pettengill House

Donna Sylvester, Salvation Army family development director for the Newburyport office, said, "During 2007, we served 24,816 people from eight communities with financial assistance and our food pantry. We also served 70,788 hot meals. 2008 is proving to be much busier."

Betty Leary, Community Service "Food goes out quicker than it comes in."

Rosemary Werner, Our Neighbor's Table "The need has never been greater."

- Children in marginally food secure households, who are traditionally counted by the government as food secure, are at serious risk of health and developmental problems.
- Many of the 2.6 million children under the age of five living in marginally food-secure households are not receiving needed nutritional support through WIC.
- Even in kindergarten, children in households with signs of marginal food security score lower and learn less during the school year.
- 21% of households with children experience food insecurity.
- The number of food stamp now feeds 1 in 8 Americans and nearly 1 in 4 children. This is 37 million Americans and 14 million children. Increased 46% since 2006. 10 million households are food insecure.
- In November 2009, SNAP/Food Stamp participation broke records with a record 38,183,668 people, an increase of 245,636 individuals from October 2009, the prior record level, and an increase of more than 7 million people compared with the prior November.
- The number of people participating in SNAP/Food Stamps in November 2009 was approximately 21.4 million more persons than in July 2000, when program participation nationally reached its lowest point in the last decade (16.8 million individuals).
- Research suggests that one in three eligible people are not receiving food stamp benefits.
- Of the people aged 60 plus who were eligible for food stamps in 2006, only 34.5% received them.
- A staggering 80 percent of schools still serve lunches with more than the recommended amount of saturated fat, and 42 percent don't offer kids fresh fruits and vegetables on a daily basis.
- 46% of food pantry users routinely chose between paying for food or paying for heat.

Poverty, Unemployment, and Food Stamp USA Data on Need that Tracks Poverty

