

Hunger in America 2006

Last year (2005) all of our agencies were sent the Hunger Study survey. The following information was compiled based on the answers to that survey provided by you – our member agencies.

Based on a sample size of 238 food pantries; 58 soup kitchens; and 63 shelters:

Agencies were asked how long their program has been operating:

Agency Type	2 years or less	3-4 years	5-6 years	7-10 years	11-20 years	21-30 years	More than 30 years
Food Pantry	9.5%	8.5%	8.8%	12.5%	30.8%	18.2%	11.6%
Soup Kitchen	10.8%	9.3%	20.9%	10.9%	40.7%	4.8%	2.6%
Shelter	7.7%	13.9%	13.4%	19.2%	14.4%	20.3%	11.0%

Agencies were asked what type of organization runs their program:

Agency Type	Faith Based or Religious	Other private Non-Profit	Governmental	Community Action Program	Other
Food Pantry	73.6%	19.5%	1.3%	2.4%	3.2%
Soup Kitchen	53.2%	42.8%	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%
Shelter	27.1%	69.1%	0.0%	0.0%	3.8%

Agencies were asked what other services they provide (in addition to food distribution):

Services Provided	Food Pantries	Soup Kitchens	Shelters
Nutrition Counseling	38.4%	33.0%	72.9%
Eligibility Counseling for WIC	31.6%	5.4%	33.5%
Eligibility Counseling for Food Stamps	37.2%	12.9%	49.3%
Eligibility Counseling for other government programs	16.9%	13.3%	32.5%
Employment Training	14.7%	25.1%	48.4%
Utility Bill Assistance	29.6%	1.8%	24.7%
Budget & Credit Counseling	19.7%	6.5%	54.0%
Information & Referral	57.0%	34.6%	79.9%
Health Services or clinics	15.9%	14.5%	31.0%
Transportation	27.4%	23.8%	78.0%
Clothing	70.5%	51.2%	80.9%
Furniture	36.3%	8.4%	41.3%

Agencies were asked whether they serve more or fewer clients in 2005 than in 2001:

Agency Type	More than 2001	Less than 2001	Same # of Clients
Food Pantry	67.3%	9.9%	18.0%
Soup Kitchen	53.7%	16.4%	24.0%
Shelter	31.7%	15.8%	51.2%

Agencies were asked whether their food programs are stable or facing problems that can threaten their continuing operations:

Agency Type	Funding Issues	Food Supplies	Personnel (paid)	Volunteers	Community Resistance	Other
Food Pantry	46.7%	45.0%	11.9%	20.5%	2.0%	2.4%
Soup Kitchen	47.2%	31.0%	14.4%	17.7%	4.1%	2.9%
Shelter	75.4%	9.5%	0.0%	6.4%	6.5%	1.4%

Agencies were asked whether their food programs ever had to ration or limit food in order to provide some food to all clients:

Agency Type	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Always
Food Pantry	28.6%	43.6%	26.0%	1.8%
Soup Kitchen	68.8%	19.5%	11.7%	0.07%
Shelter	74.1%	18.8%	7.1%	0.0%

Agencies were asked whether their food programs ever had to turn away clients within the past year, and if so, how many and for what reason:

Agency Type	Yes	No	Reasons for Turning Away Clients			
			Lack of Food	Services needed not provided by agency	Clients ineligible	Client abuse or came too often
Food Pantry	24.9%	75.1%	46.5%	26.9%	43.7%	42.6%
Soup Kitchen	10.3%	89.7%	32.0%	16.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Shelter	24.4%	75.6%	0.0%	77.6%	40.6%	0.0%

Agencies were asked how much additional food (if any) is needed during a typical week to adequately meet the demand for food:

Agency Type	None Needed	1- 10 meals or equivalents	11-49 meals or equivalents	50 – 149 meals or equivalents	150 meals or equivalents
Food Pantry	33.6%	2.1%	12.3%	15.6%	36.3%
Soup Kitchen	61.9%	4.4%	7.4%	11.2%	15.1%
Shelter	80.0%	4.9%	7.0%	6.5%	1.5%

Agencies were asked how much food came from food banks and other sources:

Agency Type	Food Bank	TEFAP or CSFP	Church or religious congregations	Local merchants or farmers	Local Food Drives	Purchased	Other
Food Pantry	64.9%	81.2%	79.6%	39.4%	73.0%	53.0%	25.2%
Soup Kitchen	38.8%	67.1%	68.5%	58.8%	51.9%	70.6%	26.0%
Shelter	39.8%	76.2%	44.0%	15.3%	70.8%	60.6%	26.3%

Agencies were asked to identify categories of products they need from the food bank:

Products Requested	Food Pantries	Soup Kitchens	Shelters
Bread, Cereal, Rice & Pasta	43.9%	26.0%	50.1%
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	39.1%	56.8%	59.8%
Can/Frozen Fruits & Vegetable	40.2%	50.5%	41.2%
Meat, Poultry, Fish, Beans, Eggs & Nuts	70.5%	64.9%	64.2%
Milk, Yogurt, & Cheese	49.5%	53.2%	62.5%
Fats, oils, condiments, sweets	26.3%	22.9%	37.6%
Cleaning or personal hygiene products, diapers, & toilet paper	59.9%	36.8%	61.4%
Other	9.6%	8.2%	43.3%

Agencies were asked how many paid staff & volunteers they had and how many volunteer hours they had received during the previous week:

Agency Type	Paid Staff								Number of Volunteers						Volunteer Hours (avg)
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6-10	10+	0	1	2-3	4-6	7-10	11-20	
Food Pantry	50.9	23.5	10.3	4.8	3.0	0.9	1.3	5.2	10.4	6.1	17.8	25.4	15.7	17.1	21
Soup Kitchen	59.0	16.2	5.3	8.6	0.0	4.1	4.9	1.8	12.5	3.7	10.3	15.1	9.8	21.0	67
Shelter	0	22.2	4.5	0.0	7.9	2.1	20.2	33.9	46.4	2.6	32.6	12.4	3.5	0.0	18
Other Programs	Not applicable								49.8	5.7	9.0	17.2	7.0	4.8	8

Agencies were asked how much of an impact eliminating the food bank would have on their food programs:

Agency Type	No Impact	Minimal Impact	Significant Impact	Devastating Impact	Unsure
Food Pantry	1.1%	5.9%	36.5%	54.6%	1.9%
Soup Kitchen	4.3%	25.2%	35.5%	32.9%	2.1%
Shelter	1.4%	15.6%	50.0%	33.1%	0.0%

Agencies were asked what kinds of additional assistance, in addition to food, that they need to better meet their clients needs:

Agency Type	Nutrition Education	Food Handling Training	Accessing Local Resources	Advocacy Training	Other
Food Pantry	27.4%	14.2%	47.6%	23.3%	2.8%
Soup Kitchen	26.1%	33.7%	46.8%	11.3%	4.2%
Shelter	37.5%	33.8%	36.2%	18.0%	2.0%

**For more information about the client responses, please check our website:
www.licares.org**