



Creating a hunger-free community

The Worcester County Food Bank is a community-based non-profit organization whose mission is:
To Engage, Educate and Lead Worcester County in Creating a Hunger-Free Community

RECENT DATA (Statistics from 2011 WCFB Network Data Collection System)

During fiscal year 2011, the Worcester County Food Bank distributed 5,846,773 pounds of donated food and grocery product to its network of 150 partner agencies that have programs for feeding people including food pantries, community meal sites, and shelters. These agencies provided food to 83,145 different people living in Central Massachusetts.

Food distributed by the Worcester County Food Bank comes from the following sources:

38% - Food Retailers, Manufacturers and Local Farms	2% - Food Drives
31% - Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP)	1% - Co-op
28% - United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)	

Additional data from the National Study, *Hunger in America 2010*:

Who Receives Food Assistance in Worcester County?

25% are households with at least one employed adult	6% are senior citizens
39% are children under the age of 18	8% are people who are homeless

66% are households with incomes at or below the federal poverty level, which for a family of three in 2009 was \$18,312 a year. Average household income among all clients was \$13,250. 28% are households with at least one person in poor health.

77% of households are food insecure. Food insecure is a term that applies to households that cannot afford to buy enough nutritious food for a healthy life. Families in these households eat smaller meals, skip meals, and sometimes run out of food altogether. These families use a variety of coping strategies, such as eating less varied diets, participating in federal food and nutrition assistance programs, e.g. food stamps; or obtaining emergency food from the Food Bank Network of food pantries and community meal sites.

Of food insecure households assisted by the Food Bank Network, 33% are food insecure with hunger. These households experience deprivation so severe that food intake is reduced repeatedly. These families are forced to decrease the quality and quantity of food to the point that household members go without eating and are frequently hungry.

Among households with children, 91% are food insecure and 33% are food insecure with hunger.

Many people face difficult choices between food and other basic needs:

47% of clients choose between paying for food and paying for utilities or heating fuel

35% choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage

34% choose between paying for food and paying for transportation

28% choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care

19% choose between paying for food and paying for gas for a car

Federal Nutrition Programs are resources for families moving towards self-sufficiency:

56% participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps. Of households with school-age children:

69% participate in the federal school lunch programs

65% participate in the federal school breakfast programs

17% participate in the Summer Food Service Program

Client Satisfaction

96% of adult clients said they were either “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with the amount of food they received from a Partner Agency of the Food Bank

93% were satisfied with the quality of the food they received

If you need food assistance, contact us – we can connect you with an agency in your community.

Call us or look us up online at www.foodbank.org. Find out more about what we do. Download our newsletter, Food For Thought to see the work we are doing with our partner agencies. Become an advocate at www.hungeractioncenter.org.

Thank you for being a part of the Food Bank community!

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