

Louisiana Hunger Facts

Poverty

According to our most recent hunger study, 73.4 percent of all Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana client households have annual household incomes at or beneath the poverty line. (*Hunger in America 2006*; Table 5.8.4.1)

5.5 percent of all client households have annual incomes between 100 percent and 185 percent of the federal poverty level. (*Hunger in America 2006*; Table 5.8.4.1)

7 percent have annual incomes of 186 percent of poverty or more. (*Hunger in America 2006*; Table 5.8.4.1)

In Second Harvest Food Bank's 23 parish service area the number of people below the poverty threshold numbered 409,000 in 2008, a rate of 18.7 percent of residents in Second Harvest Food Bank's Service Area.* (U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates)

The average annual income in 2004 among client households served by Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana was \$11,210. (*Hunger in America 2006*; Table 5.8.4.1)

27 percent of children in Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana's service area live in families with incomes below the federal poverty guidelines; Almost one-half (47 percent) live below 185% of the federal poverty guidelines. * (U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates)

In 2009, the federal poverty guideline for a single person household is \$10,830, for a family of four the poverty line is \$22,050.

*Estimates exclude Cameron and St. Bernard Parishes because of the dramatic impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Food Insecurity

An estimated, 181,000 households, or 11 percent, in Louisiana are food insecure; meaning their access to enough food is limited by a lack of money and other resources. (USDA/ERS, *Household Food Security in the United States: 2008*)

44 percent of all client households served by Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana reported having to choose between buying food and paying for utilities or heat within the previous 12 months. (*Hunger in America 2006*; Table 6.5.1)

More than one-third (34 percent) of client households reported having to choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage. (*Hunger in America 2006*; Table 6.5.1)

Almost one-half (47 percent) of client households reported having to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care. (*Hunger in America 2006*; Table 6.5.1)

The rate of food insecure households with children is 21 percent (8.3 million households with children), nearly double the rate for households without children. (USDA/ERS, *Household Food Security in the United States: 2008*)



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Children

Almost one-third (31 percent) of clients served by Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana are children under age 18. (*Hunger in America 2006*; Table 5.3.2)

205,723 (20 percent) children under 18 years of age in Louisiana are in food insecure households; one-quarter (24.2 percent) of children under 5 years of age live in food insecure households—the highest rate in the United States. (Child Food Insecurity in the United States: 2005 – 2007)

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Seniors

7.7 percent of clients served by Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana are 65 years or older (*Hunger in America 2006*; Table 5.3.2).

15 percent of the population over 65 years of age are living below the federal poverty line; 45 percent of this population live below double the federal poverty line. * (U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates)

Working Poor

35 percent of client households served by Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana include at least one employed adult. (*Hunger in America 2006*; Table 5.7.1)

66 percent of all client households served Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana have annual incomes below the federal poverty line for 2004.

62 percent of client households do not have access to a working car. (*Hunger in America 2006*; Table 5.9.2.1).

Rural Hunger

20 percent of adult clients served by programs in Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana reside in suburban or rural areas. (*Hunger in America 2006*; Table 5.2.1)