



Hunger in America 2010 Local Findings

- The 2010 Hunger Study showed a very dramatic increase in the number of children that are hungry in our region. 49,665 children in northern Nevada have needed emergency food assistance during the last year. This number has grown over 38,230 children (334%) during the last four years. Of these children, 34.5% are living in households with very low food security/ hunger.
- 30.7% of households served are receiving SNAP (formerly food stamps) benefits while 90% may qualify for benefits. The average family benefit is approximately \$200 to \$250 per month.
- 124,200 people have needed to seek emergency food during the last year in northern Nevada. This is 93,000 more people than 4 years ago.
- One in four people that need emergency food in northern Nevada are considered very low food insecure or experience hunger on a regular basis.
- Client households reported that they frequently need to choose between food and other essentials:

Local emergency food clients forced to choose between paying for food and paying for:

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|--------------------------|-----|
| • Utilities/heating fuel | 44% |
| • Rent/mortgage | 44% |
| • Medicine/medical care | 31% |
| • Transportation | 34% |
| • Gas | 43% |

- 53.9% of the people needing emergency food have at least one person in the household that is currently working.
- The percentage of clients that report that they or someone in their household do not have health insurance is 32.5%. The number reporting that at least one person in the household was in poor health is 22.1%.
- 40.8 % of those needing emergency food service have unpaid medical or hospital bills.
- 68.7% of client households had income below 100% of the poverty the month previous to the interview. 90.5% had income below 185% of poverty. (In 2009, the Federal Poverty level for a family of three was \$1,526 per month, or \$18,312 per year.) 8.5% had no income at all.
- Hunger has long been a problem in northern Nevada, but it has become infinitely worse during this economic downturn and therefore much more visible in the public eye. The important thing to remember is that we have the solutions to end hunger. There are short and long-term solutions offered by Food Bank programs, and by better utilization of federal nutrition programs. The community can play a vital role in addressing the daily tragedy of hunger; if each person did just one thing - volunteered, donated food, held a food drive, gave \$10 - it would go a long way toward keeping our neighbors from having to go hungry.

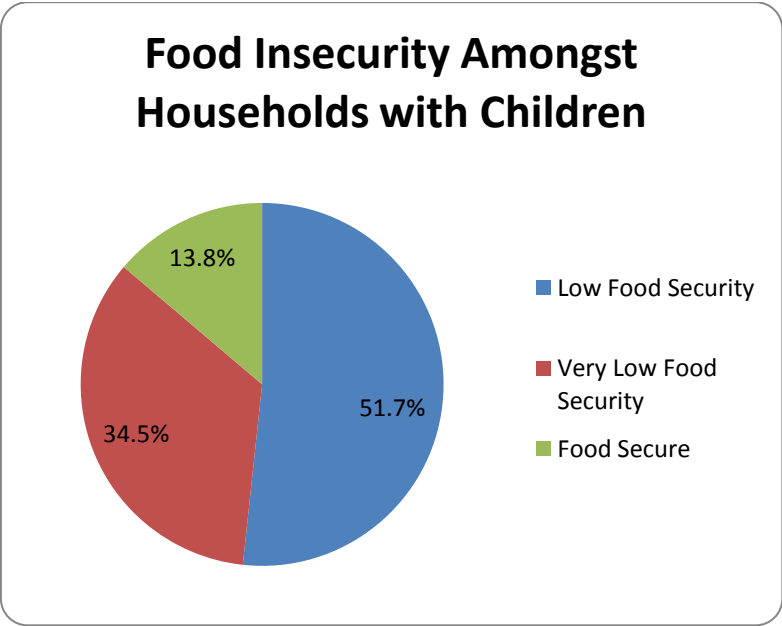
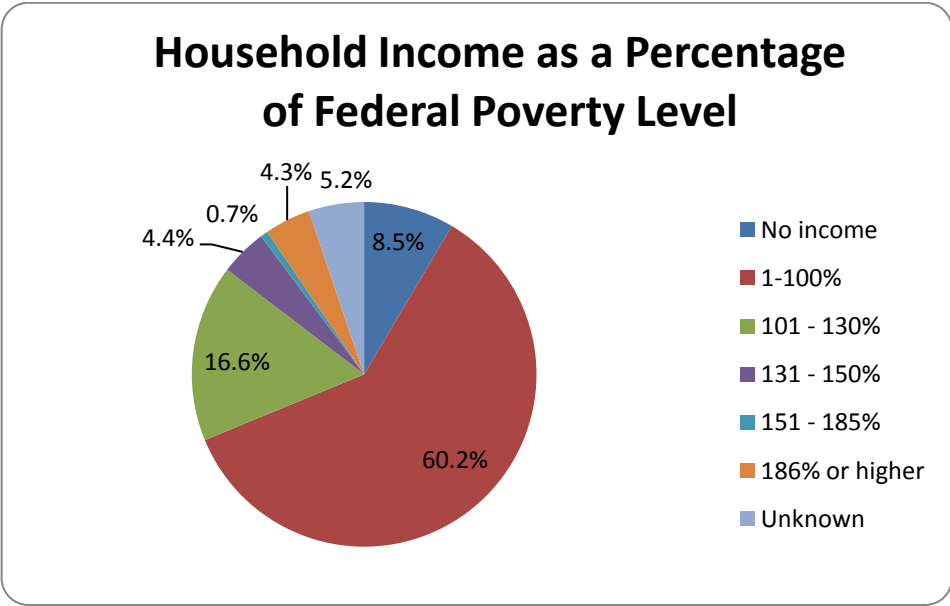
- Given the high level of need evidenced by many of our clients, it is important to assess whether they are receiving all of the government nutrition assistance for which they are eligible. Only 30.7% of households served are receiving SNAP (formerly food stamp) benefits. Yet 90% of surveyed households have incomes below 185% of poverty and are quite possibly eligible for SNAP. According to the Nevada Department of Welfare and Supportive Services, an estimated 254,374 individuals in the state were receiving SNAP benefits at the end of November 2009 – up 86,740 (52%) from November 2008. Yet many more could be receiving this basic nutrition support. The Food Bank's team of Outreach Workers helped more than 3500 households gain access to SNAP benefits last year.

Food Security Definitions:

Food Secure - Access to enough food for an active, healthy life

Low Food Security - limited or uncertain access to enough food for an active, healthy life

Very Low Food Security - food insecurity with hunger, skipped meals, reduced/disrupted food intake



Conditions Worsened Since *Hunger in America 2006*

