



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

During fiscal year 2009, the Worcester County Food Bank distributed 5,279,766 pounds of donated food and grocery product to its network of 178 partner agencies that have programs for feeding people, including food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters. These agencies served over 93,000 different people living in Central Massachusetts. Between 2008 and 2009, the number of people receiving emergency food assistance increased by 13%. The Food Bank is the primary source of donated food for its partner agencies.

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

39% - Food Retailers, Manufacturers and Local Farms	2% - Food Drives
30% - Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP)	1% - Co-op
28% - United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)	

Who Receives Food Assistance? (Statistics from the report, *Hunger in America 2006*)

31% are households with at least one employed adult	4% are senior citizens
39% are children under the age of 18	4% are people who are homeless

68% are households with incomes below the official federal poverty level of \$15,670 a year for a family of three. 29% are households with at least one person in poor health.

81% of households are food insecure; food insecurity is a term that applies to households that cannot afford to buy enough nutritious food for a healthy life. Of those, 38% are food insecure with hunger meaning that deprivation is so severe that food intake is reduced repeatedly to the point where family members go without eating or are frequently hungry.

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

56% choose between paying for food and paying for utilities or heating fuel
52% choose between paying for food and paying for rent or mortgage
31% choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care

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