



## **ABOUT THE STUDY**

The Hunger in America 2006 study comprises a national survey of America's Second Harvest (A2H) emergency food providers and their clients. The study had the following primary objectives:

- To describe the national demographic characteristics, income levels, food stamp utilization, food security status, and service needs of low-income clients who access emergency food assistance from the A2H network at the national level
- To describe the demographic profiles of clients of local agencies and to examine the ability of local agencies to meet the food security needs of their clients
- To compare data, where possible, between the 2001 and 2005 A2H research studies, to identify trends in emergency food assistance demands, and to relate observed trends to welfare policies
- To compare local-level and national-level data on the characteristics of agencies in describing the charitable response to hunger throughout the nation

The Hunger in America 2006 study was designed to provide a comprehensive profile of the extent and nature of hunger and food insecurity as experienced by people who access America's Second Harvest's national network of charitable feeding agencies. Information was collected on clients' sociodemographic characteristics, including income and employment, benefits from food stamp and other federal or private programs, frequency of visits to emergency feeding sites, and satisfaction with local access to emergency food assistance. Information obtained from member agencies included size of programs, services provided, sources of food, adequacy of food supplies, and their ability to meet the client demand for assistance.

## **METHOD**

The study was conceived and coordinated by the national offices of A2H. Data were collected by more than 160 A2H network members or consortia around the country. A2H's research contractor, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (MPR), provided technical advice throughout the study and implemented the sampling and data analysis activities.

This study had two components: (1) an agency survey that collected information about the food programs operating in the America's Second Harvest network, and (2) a client survey that would characterize the people using food pantries, emergency kitchens, and shelters and provide a better understanding of their needs. Each of the participating food banks helped MPR with the development of the sampling frame and with the data collection. MPR provided technical assistance with the implementation of the agency and client surveys.



## HUNGER IN DELAWARE 2006

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In Delaware, the study consisted of over 300 client interviews and 174 member agency interviews. This study will work as a tool to understand food insecurity better and address it in our community.

### LOCAL FINDINGS

- Food Bank of Delaware is a Member of America's Second Harvest—The Nation's Food Bank Network, the largest emergency food distribution organization in the United States.
- Each year, America's Second Harvest—The Nation's Food Bank Network, the largest charitable hunger-relief organization in the United States, provides emergency food assistance to more than 25 million Americans—including nine million children and nearly three million seniors.
- Right here in Delaware, the Food Bank of Delaware provides emergency food assistance to 89,978 people in our community each year — including 26,094 children and 7,198 seniors.
- In a given week, approximately 16,400 different people receive emergency food assistance from one of the 245 of agencies the Food Bank of Delaware serves in New Castle, Kent and Sussex counties.
- Clients seeking emergency food assistance from the Food Bank of Delaware are typically part of hard working families living below the federal poverty line and forced to make choices between food and everyday necessities.
- Nearly 41 % of the people the Food Bank of Delaware serves have at least one adult working; and nearly 66% of them are living below the federal poverty line. As much as one third or more are forced to make choices between eating and basic necessities, like heat, rent or medical care.
- Forty-one percent of Food Bank of Delaware clients report they are enrolled in the Food Stamp Program and the majority of children in the households seeking emergency food assistance are enrolled in the National School Breakfast Program and School Lunch Program.
- Of all adult clients, 21% are reported as non-Hispanic white and 71% are reported as non-Hispanic black
- The Food Bank of Delaware is reliant upon volunteers and faith-based organizations. More than 60% of food pantries and 50% of soup kitchens rely entirely on volunteers and have no paid staff.

- The majority of pantries 60%, soup kitchens 57% and emergency shelters 38%, the Food Bank of Delaware serves are affiliated with churches, mosques, synagogues and other religious organizations.

## **HUNGER IN AMERICA 2006**

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The America's Second Harvest Network produced "Hunger in America 2006," a comprehensive profile of the incidence and nature of hunger and food insecurity in the U.S.

Our study provides extensive demographic profiles of emergency food clients at charitable feeding agencies and comprehensive information on the nature and efficacy of local agencies in meeting the food security needs of clients.

The study is the largest of its kind. More than 52,000 individuals agreed to share their personal stories with us through face-to-face interviews at charitable emergency hunger-relief agencies like pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters.

## **NATIONAL FINDINGS**

- Each year, America's Second Harvest — The Nation's Food Bank Network, the largest charitable hunger-relief organization in the United States, provides emergency food assistance to more than 25 million Americans—including 9 million children and nearly 3 million seniors.
- Through more than 200 Member food banks and food-rescue organizations, the America's Second Harvest Network secures and distributes food to nearly 50,000 local charitable agencies in all fifty states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.
- Each week, approximately 4 million people receive emergency food assistance from an agency in the America's Second Harvest Network.
- Clients seeking emergency food assistance from the America's Second Harvest Network are typically part of hard working families living below the federal poverty line and forced to make choices between food and everyday necessities.
- Nearly 40 percent of the people the America's Second Harvest Network serves have at least one adult working; and nearly 70 percent of them are living below the federal poverty line.
- The America's Second Harvest Network is reliant upon volunteers and faith-based organizations. More than 65 percent of food pantries and 40 percent of soup kitchens rely entirely on volunteers and have no paid staff.
- The majority of pantries (75 percent), soup kitchens (65 percent) and many emergency shelters (45 percent) in the America's Second Harvest Network are affiliated with churches, mosques, synagogues and other religious organizations.