

HUNGER IN VERMONT AND THE VERMONT FOODBANK – FACT SHEET

The mission of the Vermont Foodbank is to gather and share quality food and nurture partnerships so that no one in Vermont will go hungry

- The Vermont Foodbank began in 1986 and immediately went to work fighting hunger from a 1,800 square food warehouse in Barre, distributing food throughout the state.
- Today the Vermont Foodbank, Vermont's *largest* hunger relief organization, serves 270 food shelves, pantries, senior center, shelters, and after-school programs, from locations in Barre, Brattleboro, and Wolcott.
- In 2012, the Vermont Foodbank distributed more than 8 million pounds of food to its network partners around the state.
- The Foodbank is a member Feeding America – the national network of food banks and the country's largest charitable hunger-relief organization.

More than 88,000 Vermonters live in poverty (2010)

12.8% of Vermont households or 88,000 individuals are food insecure (2009-2011 average)

5.4% of Vermont households are food insecure with hunger (2009-2011 average)

HOW MANY CLIENTS RECEIVE EMERGENCY FOOD FROM THE VERMONT FOODBANK?

- The Vermont Foodbank provides food for as many as 86,000 different people annually.
- Approximately 8,200 different people receive assistance in any given week.

WHO RECEIVES EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE?

- 33% of the members of households served by the Vermont Foodbank are children under 18 years old
- 36% of households include at least one employed adult

MANY CLIENTS REPORT HAVING TO CHOOSE BETWEEN FOOD AND OTHER NECESSITIES

- 42% of clients served by the Vermont Foodbank report having to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities or heating fuel
- 34% had to choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage
- 23% had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care

DO VERMONT FOODBANK CLIENTS ALSO RECEIVE FOOD ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT?

- 61% of client households served by the Vermont Foodbank are receiving 3SquaresVT (formerly the Food Stamp Program) benefits; however, it is likely that many more are eligible
- Among households with school-age children, 66% and 63% respectively, participate in the federal school lunch and school breakfast programs.

VOLUNTEERS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN THE VERMONT FOODBANK NETWORK

- For the Vermont Foodbank, 91% of pantries, 91% of kitchens, and 59% of shelters use volunteers
- Many programs rely entirely on volunteers; 63% of pantry programs and 28% of kitchens have no paid staff at all

WHAT KINDS OF ORGANIZATIONS OPERATE EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAMS IN VERMONT?

- 40% of pantries, 30% of kitchens, and 11% of shelters are run by faith based agencies affiliated with churches, mosques, synagogues, and other religious organizations.