



Hunger in America 2014

Report for Vermont Foodbank

Bennington County Data



A Report on Charitable Food Distribution in 2013

Table A1 Agency and Program Characteristics

Characteristic	Count	Estimate	Percentage Margin of Error (+/-)
Partner Agency by Type			
Faith-based or located in a religious institution	5	41.7%	26.1%
Not faith-based	7	58.3%	26.1%
Total excluding nonresponse	12	100.0%	.
Number of Programs by Type			
Meal	3	10.7%	10.1%
Grocery	10	35.7%	15.7%
Food-related benefits	0	0%	0%
Non-food	15	53.6%	16.3%
Total excluding nonresponse	28	100.0%	.

	Median	Sum	Margin of Error(+/-)
Agency Staffing			
Agency full-time equivalent staff at time of survey	5	126	132

	Count	Estimate	Margin Of Error(+/-)
Number of agencies with no full-time equivalent staff at time of survey	5	41.7%	26.1%

	Median	Sum	Margin of Error(+/-)
Program Volunteers			
Number of program volunteers (weekly)	13	410	223

	Min	Max	Median
Total volunteer hours per week per program	3	320	39

Average Percentage of Program Volunteers by Age			
18 and younger		10.6%	
19-59		31.5%	
60 and older		57.9%	
Total excluding nonresponse		100%	

	Count	Estimate	Percentage Margin of Error(+/-)
Program Challenges			
Difficulty obtaining volunteers (some or a lot of difficulty)	4	40.0%	29.9%
Difficulty retaining volunteers (some or a lot of difficulty)	2	18.2%	22.1%

Areas of volunteer/staff training needs

Table A1 Agency and Program Characteristics

Characteristic	Count	Percentage	
		Estimate	Margin of Error (+/-)
Accessing local food resources	5	38.5%	25.0%
Food safety and sanitation	4	30.8%	23.7%
Advocacy training	5	38.5%	25.0%
Client choice	3	23.1%	21.7%
Food Stamp (SNAP) application assistance and outreach	3	23.1%	21.7%
Fundraising/grant writing	7	53.8%	25.6%
Nonprofit management / board governance	4	30.8%	23.7%
Nutrition education	3	23.1%	21.7%
Social media	5	38.5%	25.0%
Summer feeding	2	15.4%	18.6%
Technology assistance	6	46.2%	25.6%
Volunteer recruitment/retention/staff succession planning	3	25.0%	23.4%

	Count		
	No Volunteers	Half of total volunteers or less	More than half of total volunteers
Source of Program Volunteers			
Connected to Agency	2	6	2
Religious groups	3	3	3
United Way	9	0	0
Other Civic/Nonprofit	5	4	0
Companies or business groups	5	3	0
Kindergarten through 12th grade school programs	3	6	0
Colleges/Universities	6	3	0
Court-ordered community service	7	2	0
Clients	5	4	0
Volunteers connected to food bank	7	1	0
Some Other Source	3	5	1

Average Percentage of Total Program Food Distributed

Bennington	64.1%
Other	0.8%
Donations	13.6%
Purchased	21.5%
Total excluding nonresponse	100.0%

Characteristic	Count	Percentage	
		Estimate	Margin of Error (+/-)
Program Access to Vehicles			
Owens truck(s), van(s), or car(s) for pickups	1	9.1%	16.5%
Rents/leases truck(s), van(s), or car(s) for pickups	1	9.1%	16.5%
Depends on personal truck(s), van(s), or car(s) of staff or volunteers for pickups	8	72.7%	25.5%
Works with other programs to share the responsibility for pickups	1	9.1%	16.5%
Food and groceries are delivered to program	9	75.0%	23.4%

Table A1 Agency and Program Characteristics

Characteristic	Count	Estimate	Percentage Margin of Error (+/-)
Program Reported Changes in Demand and Supply in the Past 12 months			
Volume of clients compared to prior year			
Saw any increase	7	53.8%	25.6%
About the same	5	38.5%	25.0%
Saw any decrease	1	7.7%	13.7%
Total excluding nonresponse	13	100.0%	.
Food available to meet needs of clients			
More food than needed	0	0%	0%
Enough food to meet needs	8	61.5%	25.0%
Less food than needed	5	38.5%	25.0%
Total excluding nonresponse	13	100.0%	.
Programs Turning Clients Away in the Past 12 Months			
Programs turning clients away for any reason	3	23.1%	21.7%
Programs turning clients away frequently or occasionally due to			
Program ran out of food	0	0%	0%
Clients came more often than program rules allow	1	33.3%	66.7%
Client lived outside the program's service area	0	0%	0%
No ID	0	0%	0%
Income too high	0	0%	0%
Other	1	33.3%	66.7%
Program Restrictions			
Any Type Of Service Restriction	4	30.8%	23.7%
Daily	0	0%	0%
Weekly	2	15.4%	18.6%
Monthly	2	15.4%	18.6%
Quarterly/Seasonally	0	0%	0%
Annually	0	0%	0%
Agency Nutrition and Health Services			
Agencies that provide any type of nutrition services	11	91.7%	8.3%
Fliers or written materials	11	91.7%	8.3%
Cooking classes or demonstrations	6	50.0%	26.4%
Nutrition workshops or classes or meetings with dietitians	4	33.3%	24.9%
Referrals	7	58.3%	26.1%
Other	3	25.0%	22.9%
Agencies that do not provide any type of nutrition services	1	8.3%	14.6%
Total excluding nonresponse	12	100.0%	.
For those offering nutrition services how many led by:			
Agency Staff	7	70.0%	27.5%
Agency volunteers	5	50.0%	30.0%
Local nutritionists or other health professionals in partnership	4	40.0%	29.4%

Table A1 Agency and Program Characteristics

Characteristic	Count	Estimate	Percentage Margin of Error (+/-)
with agency			
Staff from food bank	0	0%	0%
Staff from Farm Bureau or Cooperative extension	0	0%	0%
Staff from local colleges/universities	0	0%	0%
Someone else	2	22.2%	26.9%
Agency Obstacles to Distribution of Healthier Foods			
Client reasons (unwillingness to eat, inability to store, etc.)	6	54.5%	27.9%
Too expensive to purchase healthier foods	8	66.7%	24.9%
Inability to store/handle healthier foods	2	18.2%	21.6%
Lack of knowledge about healthier foods	0	0%	0%
Healthier food not a priority	0	0%	0%
Inability to obtain healthier foods from other donors/food sources	4	33.3%	24.9%
Agency Services Related to Government Programs			
Agencies that provided any SNAP-related services	6	50.0%	26.4%
Screening for eligibility	4	36.4%	27.0%
Application assistance	4	36.4%	27.0%
Education about the program	6	50.0%	26.4%
Recertification for the program	3	27.3%	25.0%
Agencies that did not provide any SNAP-related services	6	50.0%	26.4%
Total excluding nonresponse	12	100.0%	.
Agency Reasons for Not Offering SNAP Services, Among Agencies Reporting Not Offering Them			
Staff-related issues	3	50.0%	44.5%
Not enough time	1	16.7%	33.2%
Lacking physical space or equipment	2	33.3%	42.0%
SNAP is not part of what this agency does	6	100.0%	0.0%
Other reason	1	16.7%	33.2%
Agency Services Related to Other Non-SNAP Programs			
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC)	5	41.7%	26.1%
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program	3	25.0%	22.9%
Medicaid or other health care programs	5	41.7%	26.1%
Supplemental Security income (SSI)	4	33.3%	24.9%
Tax preparation or Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) assistance	3	25.0%	22.9%
Housing assistance like Section 8	3	25.0%	22.9%
Agencies Providing Combinations of Other non-SNAP Program Services			
One non-food service	4	33.3%	24.9%
Two non-food services	1	8.3%	14.6%

Table A1 Agency and Program Characteristics

Characteristic	Count	Percentage	
		Estimate	Margin of Error (+/-)
Three non-food services	0	0%	0%
Four or more non-food services	1	8.3%	14.6%
Agency Reductions in the past 12 Months			
Experienced Cutbacks	2	16.7%	19.7%
Cut hours of operation	1	8.3%	14.6%
Lay off staff	1	8.3%	14.6%
Limit the area served	0	0%	0%
Did not Experience Cutbacks	10	83.3%	16.7%
Total excluding nonresponse	12	100.0%	.
Agencies reporting challenges associated with continuing to provide services			
Not enough money	1	8.3%	14.6%
Not enough food supplies	1	8.3%	14.6%
Not enough paid staff or personnel	1	8.3%	14.6%
Not enough volunteers	1	8.3%	14.6%
Not enough money for transportation	1	8.3%	14.6%
Building or location problems	1	8.3%	14.6%
Not enough leadership	0	0%	0%
Not enough community support	1	8.3%	14.6%
Community doesn't need this program	0	0%	0%
Count			
	No Funding	Half of total	More than half
		funding or less	of total funding
Agency funding			
Government	5	1	3
Individuals	0	6	4
Corporations	4	5	0
Foundations	2	7	0
Religious institutions	3	6	0
Client fees	8	0	0
Other	6	2	0
Percentage			
	Count	Estimate	Margin of Error(+/-)
Program Reliance on Food Bank: Effect if program no longer received food from food bank			
Major effect	11	84.6%	15.4%
Minor effect	2	15.4%	18.6%
No effect at all	0	0%	0%
Total excluding nonresponse	13	100.0%	.

Table A2 Client Counts

	Weekly		Monthly		Annually	
	Duplicated counts	Unduplicated counts	Duplicated counts	Unduplicated counts	Duplicated counts	Unduplicated counts
Total number of individual clients, all programs	1,000 (+/-400)	800 (+/-400)	4,500 (+/-1,700)	1,700 (+/-900)	53,800 (+/-20,800)	4,600 (+/-2,300)
Total number of client households, all programs	400 (+/-100)	300 (+/-100)	1,900 (+/-400)	800 (+/-400)	23,300 (+/-5,000)	2,300 (+/-1,100)
Total number of individual clients by meal and grocery programs						
Meal programs	++	++	++	++	++	++
Grocery Programs	1,000 (+/-400)	800 (+/-400)	4,500 (+/-1,700)	1,700 (+/-900)	53,800 (+/-20,800)	4,600 (+/-2,300)
Total number of individual clients by selected program subtypes (not mutually exclusive)						
Pantries	1,000	800	4,500	1,700	53,800	4,600
Kitchens	++	++	++	++	++	++
Shelters	++	++	++	++	++	++

Table A3 Characteristics of Clients and their Households

Characteristic	Count	Estimate	Percentage Margin of Error (+/-)
Client Age			
0-5	++	++	++
6-17	++	++	++
18-29	++	++	++
30-49	++	++	++
50-59	++	++	++
60-64	++	++	++
65 or older	++	++	++
Total excluding nonresponse	++	++	++
Client Race/Ethnicity			
White Non-Hispanic	++	++	++
Black Non-Hispanic	++	++	++
Hispanic	++	++	++
Other	++	++	++
Total excluding nonresponse	++	++	++
Household Size			
1 member	++	++	++
2 to 3 members	++	++	++
4 to 6 members	++	++	++
More than 6 members	++	++	++
Total excluding nonresponse	++	++	++
Primary Language Spoken By Adults at Home			
English	++	++	++
Spanish	++	++	++
Other	++	++	++
Housing			
Non-temporary housing	++	++	++
House or townhouse	416	49.5%	25.1%
Apartment	306	36.4%	25.3%
Mobile home or house trailer	119	14.1%	10.7%
Other	++	++	++
Temporary housing	++	++	++
Total excluding nonresponse	++	++	++
Households without access to stove, microwave or hot plate	++	++	++
Households without access to refrigeration	++	++	++
Housing payment arrangements (non-temporary housing)			
Own with Mortgage	++	++	++

Table A3 Characteristics of Clients and their Households

Characteristic	Count	Estimate	Percentage Margin of Error (+/-)
Own free and clear	++	++	++
Rent or Lease	++	++	++
Do not have to pay rent	++	++	++
Total excluding nonresponse	++	++	++
Respondents lived at least two places in the past 12 months	++	++	++
Respondents started living with another person or family	77	9.3%	9.3%
Respondents experienced foreclosure or eviction in the past five years	++	++	++
Education			
Household Highest Education Level			
Less than high school	++	++	++
High school diploma	++	++	++
General equivalency diploma or GED	++	++	++
Business, trade, or technical license, certificate, or degree beyond high school	++	++	++
Some college beyond high school or a 2-year college degree	++	++	++
Four-year college degree or higher	++	++	++
Total excluding nonresponse	++	++	++
Client Education level			
Less than high school	++	++	++
High school diploma	++	++	++
General equivalency diploma or GED	++	++	++
Business, trade, or technical license, certificate, or degree beyond high school	++	++	++
Some college beyond high school or a 2-year college degree	++	++	++
Four-year college degree or higher	++	++	++
Total excluding nonresponse	++	++	++
Military Service			
No household member has ever served	++	++	++
At least one household member has served	++	++	++
Not currently serving	++	++	++
Household member currently serving	++	++	++
Unknown if currently serving	++	++	++
Total excluding nonresponse	++	++	++
Household Employment (of the person who worked the most in the past 12 months; in some households, this person may not be working)			
Work Status			
Worked for pay in the last 4 weeks	261	31.0%	13.5%
Worked for pay in the last 12 months	393	46.8%	21.6%
Currently out of work	579	69.0%	13.5%
Currently out of work, but actively looking in the last 4 weeks	140	16.7%	17.2%

Table A3 Characteristics of Clients and their Households

Characteristic	Count	Estimate	Percentage Margin of Error (+/-)
Hours worked per week, among persons who worked the most in the household			
1-10 hours per week	++	++	++
11-20 hours per week	++	++	++
21-30 hours per week	++	++	++
31-40 hours per week	++	++	++
Over 40 hours per week	++	++	++
Total excluding nonresponse	++	++	++
Time out of work, among households where previously most employed person is not working			
Less than 1 month	++	++	++
1-6 months	++	++	++
7-12 months	++	++	++
More than 1 year	++	++	++
Total excluding nonresponse	++	++	++
Out of the workforce, in the past 4 weeks, and not looking for work because			
Retired	++	++	++
Disabled/poor health; caretaker for another person	++	++	++
Other	++	++	++
Total excluding nonresponse	++	++	++
Potential Barriers and Bridges to Employment			
Respondent responsible for grandchildren in household	++	++	++
Household member(s) released from prison in the past 12 months	++	++	++
Adult client student status			
Full-time student(s)	++	++	++
Part-time student(s)	++	++	++
Health, Health Insurance, and Medical Bills			
Household: Health status of respondent			
Excellent	++	++	++
Very good	++	++	++
Good	++	++	++
Fair	++	++	++
Poor	++	++	++
Total excluding nonresponse	++	++	++
Household member in poor health	129	15.8%	12.9%
Household member with diabetes	251	33.2%	19.5%
Household member with high blood pressure	430	52.1%	23.0%
Household: no member has health insurance	++	++	++
Household with unpaid medical bills	336	45.2%	21.2%

Table A3 Characteristics of Clients and their Households

Characteristic	Count	Estimate	Percentage Margin of Error (+/-)
Income			
Household Annual Income			
\$0	++	++	++
\$1 - \$10,000	++	++	++
\$10,001 - \$20,000	++	++	++
\$20,001 - \$30,000	++	++	++
More than \$30,000	++	++	++
Total excluding nonresponse	++	++	++
Household Annual Income as % of Poverty Level			
0% (no income)	++	++	++
1% - 50%	++	++	++
51% - 75%	++	++	++
76% - 100%	++	++	++
101% - 130%	++	++	++
131% - 150%	++	++	++
151% - 185%	++	++	++
186% or higher	++	++	++
Total excluding nonresponse	++	++	++
Household Monthly Income			
\$0	++	++	++
\$1 - \$1,000	++	++	++
\$1,001 - \$2,000	++	++	++
\$2,001 - \$3,000	++	++	++
More than \$3,000	++	++	++
Total excluding nonresponse	++	++	++
Households living in poverty	387	55.7%	32.2%

Table A4 Clients Use of Food Assistance

Characteristic	Count	Percentage	
		Estimate	Margin of Error (+/-)
Food Security			
Food secure	91	11.3%	15.7%
Food insecure	720	88.7%	11.3%
Total excluding nonresponse	812	100.0%	.
Spending Tradeoffs			
Choose between paying for food and paying for other expenses (ever in the past 12 months)			
Medicine/medical care	428	62.7%	20.9%
Utilities	503	65.8%	23.0%
Housing	382	50.4%	30.1%
Transportation	437	60.7%	24.7%
Education	++	++	++
Choice of food versus medical care			
Every month	175	25.6%	10.3%
Sometimes	253	37.1%	30.0%
Never	254	37.3%	20.9%
Total excluding nonresponse	682	100.0%	.
Choice of food versus utilities			
Every month	161	21.0%	17.4%
Sometimes	342	44.7%	25.9%
Never	262	34.2%	23.0%
Total excluding nonresponse	765	100.0%	.
Choice of food versus housing			
Every month	159	21.0%	10.7%
Sometimes	223	29.4%	23.4%
Never	376	49.6%	30.1%
Total excluding nonresponse	758	100.0%	.
Choice of food versus transportation			
Every month	172	23.8%	17.2%
Sometimes	266	36.9%	12.3%
Never	283	39.3%	24.7%
Total excluding nonresponse	721	100.0%	.
Choice of food versus education			
Every month	++	++	++
Sometimes	++	++	++
Never	++	++	++
Total excluding nonresponse	++	++	++

Table A4 Clients Use of Food Assistance

Characteristic	Count	Percentage	
		Estimate	Margin of Error (+/-)
Household SNAP Participation			
Currently receiving SNAP	392	51.9%	27.3%
Not currently receiving SNAP	363	48.1%	27.3%
Never Applied	++	++	++
Have Applied	++	++	++
Unknown	++	++	++
Total excluding nonresponse	755	100.0%	.
Time to exhaustion of benefits for households receiving SNAP			
1 Week or less	++	++	++
2 Weeks	++	++	++
3 Weeks	++	++	++
4 Weeks	++	++	++
More than 4 Weeks	++	++	++
Total excluding nonresponse	++	++	++
Potential SNAP income eligibility among client households not receiving SNAP			
Not income-eligible	++	++	++
Potentially income-eligible	185	65.9%	34.1%
At 130% threshold	88	31.3%	35.5%
At higher broad-based categorical eligibility (BBCE) threshold	++	++	++
Total excluding nonresponse	281	100.0%	.
Reasons for not Applying for SNAP, among households that have never applied			
Didn't think eligible	++	++	++
Personal reasons	++	++	++
Too difficult to apply	++	++	++
Never Heard of Program	++	++	++
Other	++	++	++
Other Program Participation			
Household participation in programs targeted at school-aged children (ages 5-18)			
Free or reduced-price school lunch programs	++	++	++
Free or reduced-price school breakfast programs	++	++	++
Afterschool snack or meal programs	++	++	++
BackPack weekend food programs	++	++	++
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) (among all households)	++	++	++

Table A4 Clients Use of Food Assistance

Characteristic	Count	Percentage	
		Estimate	Margin of Error (+/-)
Households participating in at least one child nutrition program			
One program	461	56.8%	19.7%
Two or more programs	++	++	++
Strategies for Food Assistance			
I usually wait to come to this program until I run out of food	67	8.5%	8.7%
I plan to get food here on a regular basis	729	91.5%	8.5%
Total excluding nonresponse	797	100.0%	.
Top Products Desired by Clients but Not Currently Receiving at Program			
Beverages such as water or juice	210	27.9%	12.2%
Dairy products such as milk, cheese or yogurt	575	76.5%	13.2%
Fresh fruits and vegetables	472	62.7%	27.0%
Grains such as bread or pasta	++	++	++
Non-food items like shampoo, soap, or diapers	132	17.6%	11.2%
Nothing	++	++	++
Other foods or products	++	++	++
Protein food items like meats	411	54.7%	16.2%
This is my first time coming to this program	++	++	++
Coping Strategies			
Types of household coping strategies used in the past 12 months			
Eaten food past expiration date	421	60.0%	18.3%
Grew food in garden	240	36.9%	20.4%
Sold or pawned personal property	287	40.0%	13.7%
Purchased food in dented or damaged packages	448	65.6%	34.4%
Purchased inexpensive, unhealthy food	506	76.8%	20.5%
Received help from family or friends	413	58.3%	26.6%
Watered down food or drinks	207	29.1%	19.4%
Number of household coping strategies used			
None	++	++	++
1	++	++	++
2	++	++	++
3 or more	++	++	++
Total excluding nonresponse	++	++	++