



The Texas Food Bank Network (TFBN) provides a unified voice among food banks in support of our common mission to end hunger in Texas.

Nineteen members of America's Second Harvest – the Nations Food Bank Network (A2H) throughout Texas make up the TFBN membership.

HUNGER IN AMERICA 2006

TEXAS STATE HIGHLIGHTS

Key findings are summarized below:

- * The Texas Food Bank Network member organizations provide emergency food for an estimated 2,064,300 different people annually in Texas.
- * Approximately 418,700 different people receive emergency food assistance in any given week.

AGENCIES

- * 65% of pantries, 60% of kitchens, and 63% of shelters in Texas reported that there had been an increase since 2001 in the number of clients who come to their emergency food program sites.
- * Food banks are by far the single most important source of food for the agencies accounting for 80% of the food used by pantries, 47% of kitchens' food, and 45% of shelters' food.
- * Other important sources of food include religious organizations, government, and direct purchases from wholesalers and retailers.
- * 84% of pantries, 56% of kitchens, and 58% of shelters in Texas receive food from government commodity programs.
- * 71% of agencies with at least one pantry, kitchen, or shelter and 61% of all agencies including those only with other types of programs are faith-based.
- * Private nonprofit organizations with no religious affiliation make up a large share of other types of agencies.

CLIENTS

TFBN agencies in Texas provide food for a broad cross-section of households. Key characteristics include:

- * 33% of the members of households in Texas are children under 18 years old.
- * 10% of the members of households are children age 0 to 5 years.
- * 14% of the members of households are elderly.
- * About 32% of clients are non-Hispanic white, 22% are non-Hispanic black, 45% are Hispanic, and the rest are from other racial groups.
- * 36% of households include at least one employed adult.
- * 74% have incomes below the official federal poverty level during the previous month.
- * 14% are homeless.
- * Among all client households served by emergency food programs in Texas, 68% are food insecure. This includes client households who are food insecure without hunger and those who are food insecure with hunger.
- * 41% of Texas clients report choosing between paying for food or paying for utilities or heating fuel.
- * 33% had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care.
- * 26% of client households in Texas are receiving Food Stamp Program benefits; however, it is likely that many more are eligible.
- * Among households with children ages 0-3 years, 54% participate in Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).
- * Among households with school-age children, 67% and 63%, respectively, participate in the federal school lunch and school breakfast programs.
- * 31% of Texas households report having at least one household member in poor health.

VOLUNTEERS

- * In Texas, 89% of pantries, 80% of kitchens, and 76% of shelters use volunteers.
- * 65% of pantry programs and 22% of kitchens have no paid staff at all.

METHODOLOGY

- * The Texas Hunger Study 2006 is a scientific study conducted through 5808 client interviews with people seeking emergency food assistance from one of the nearly 4,000 Texas agencies.
- * 2491 agencies responded to the agency survey, reporting on 4,549 programs.