

REGIONAL HUNGER REPORT 2010 for TARRANT AREA FOOD BANK from *Hunger in America 2010*

In late winter/early spring 2009, Tarrant Area Food Bank staff and volunteers helped conduct the regional portion of a national hunger study sponsored by Feeding America. The national report, *HUNGER IN AMERICA 2010*, tells the overall story of hunger in our nation. The regional report for Tarrant Area Food Bank presents a picture of hunger for our 13-county service area as a whole. Information comes from interviews we conducted of clients and questionnaires answered by our partner agencies.

The local study for Tarrant Area Food Bank is summarized below and focuses on north Texas emergency food providers and their clients in our 13-county service region of Bosque, Cooke, Denton, Erath, Hamilton, Hill, Hood, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, Somervell, Tarrant and Wise counties.

For the purposes of this study, EMERGENCY FOOD PROVIDERS ARE DEFINED TO INCLUDE food pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency shelters serving short-term residents. It should be recognized that many other types of provider organizations served by Tarrant Area Food Bank are, for the most part, NOT described in this study. THE PROVIDERS WHO ARE **NOT COVERED** IN THIS STUDY INCLUDE such services as congregate meals for seniors, day care facilities, and after-school programs.

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

HOW MANY CLIENTS RECEIVE EMERGENCY FOOD FROM TARRANT AREA FOOD BANK?

The network of food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters served by Tarrant Area Food Bank provided food for an ESTIMATED 279,800 different people in 2009, compared to 158,000 in 2005 (*Hunger In America 2006*).

WHO RECEIVES EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE from PANTRIES, SOUP KITCHENS and SHELTERS?

- **More than one-third (43%) of the members of households** served by Tarrant Area Food Bank's pantries, soup kitchens and shelters **are children under 18 years old** (Table 5.3.2).
- **30% of families with children younger than 18 are headed by single parents.** (Table 5.2.1)
- **Of all households** that come to pantries, soup kitchens and shelters, **14% have members 65 or older.** (Table 5.2.1)
- Hunger does not discriminate. About 36% of clients are non-Hispanic white, 27% are non-Hispanic black, 36% are Hispanic, and the rest are from other racial or ethnic groups (Table 5.6.1).
- **Almost half (45%) of adults have not completed high school.** (Table 5.5.1)
- **43% of households** visiting pantries, kitchens or shelters **have at least one employed adult** (Table 5.7.1), with a job being the main source of income for 36 percent of all households (Table 5.8.3.1).
- For 27% of households served, the main source of income is some form of **Social Security**.
- **More than three-quarters (78%) of households had incomes** during the previous month **BELOW the official federal level of 100% of poverty** (Table 5.8.2.1). **Average household ANNUAL income** among all clients in 2008 was \$13,020. (Table 5.8.4.1)

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WHO RECEIVES EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE (continued)

- From February through April 2009 when the survey was conducted, 21% of all adult clients had been unemployed from less than one month up to 11 months; 13% had been unemployed for one to two years. (Table 5.7.2)
- 13% of all food aid clients are homeless (Table 5.9.1.1).

MANY CLIENTS ARE EXPERIENCING HUNGER (Very Low Food Security)

- **41% of client households reported very low food security (hunger)**, that is, food insecurity with one or more members experiencing reductions in food intake. (Table 6.1.1).
- **Among households with children**, 31% reported very low food security (hunger) (Table 6.1.1).
- **Among households with seniors age 65 or older**, 33 % reported very low food security (Table 6.1.1).

MANY CLIENTS REPORT HAVING TO CHOOSE BETWEEN FOOD AND OTHER NECESSITIES (Table 6.5.1).

- **More than half (52%) of clients** served by Tarrant Area Food Bank report **having to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities or heating fuel.**
- 39% had to choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage.
- 39% had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care.
- 40% had to choose whether to pay for food and pay for transportation.
- **Almost half (49%) had to choose whether to pay for food or pay for gas for a vehicle.**

MANY CLIENTS FIND IT DIFFICULT TO AFFORD MEDICAL CARE

- 28% of all client households have neither public nor private health insurance (Table 8.2.1).
- **More than half (54%) have unpaid medical or hospital bills** (Table 8.2.1).

WHERE DO EMERGENCY FOOD PROVIDERS OBTAIN FOOD? (Table 13.1.1)

Tarrant Area Food Bank is by far the single most important source of food for partner agencies. We provide 79% of the food distributed by pantries, 64% served by Kitchens and 52% served by shelters.

VOLUNTEERS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN THE TARRANT AREA FOOD BANK NETWORK

Many feeding programs depend ENTIRELY on volunteers: 51% of pantries and 18% of kitchens have no paid staff at all. (Table 13.2.1)

NOTE: Find more info and data tables in the full **Regional Report for Tarrant Area Food Bank** online at www.tafb.org.