



# African American Hunger Facts

May 2018

While hunger has no boundaries, it does impact some communities more than others. African Americans are disproportionately affected by hunger and poverty.

Feeding America touches every county in the nation, and we work hard to help ensure that no American – no matter what community they belong to – goes without the food they need to feed their family.

## FOOD INSECURITY AMONG AFRICAN AMERICANS

- **The food insecurity rate among African-American, non-Hispanic households is more than double that of White, non-Hispanic households.**
- An estimated 1 in 4 (23%) African-American, non-Hispanic households is food insecure as compared to 1 in 11 (9%) White, non-Hispanic households and 1 in 8 (12%) households overall.<sup>1</sup>
- An estimated 1 in 4 (26%) African-American, non-Hispanic children live in food-insecure households as compared to 1 in 8 (13%) White, non-Hispanic children.<sup>2</sup>
- While the 94 counties in 2016 with a majority African-American, non-Hispanic population represent only 3% of all U.S. counties, 96% of African-American, non-Hispanic majority counties fall into the top 10% of counties with the highest rates of food insecurity. Majority African-American, non-Hispanic counties, however, have an average unemployment rate (8%) and poverty rate (29%) that, while substantially higher than the average of all counties (5% and 16%, respectively) are roughly the same as all high food-insecurity rate counties (7% and 28%, respectively).<sup>3</sup>
- Of the 10 counties with the highest food-insecurity rates in the nation, they are all at least 60% African-American, non-Hispanic. Seven of the 10 counties are located in Mississippi.<sup>4</sup>
- Thirty-six out of the 90 majority African-American, non-Hispanic counties that fall into the top 10% of counties with the highest rates of food insecurity also have food costs that are greater than the national average of \$3.00; the average cost per meal in these counties is \$3.14.<sup>5</sup>





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## CHARITABLE FOOD ASSISTANCE AMONG AFRICAN AMERICANS

- African-American, non-Hispanic households are disproportionately represented within the charitable food assistance client population.
- More than 1 in 4 (31%) African American, non-Hispanic individuals in the U.S. are served by the Feeding America network each year, totaling 12 million African American, non-Hispanic adults, seniors and children.<sup>6,7</sup>
- Ten percent of the White, non-Hispanic population in the U.S. are people Feeding America serves, meaning African American, non-Hispanics are three times as likely to receive assistance through the Feeding America network as compared to their White, non-Hispanic peers.

## POVERTY AMONG AFRICAN AMERICANS

- African-American households experience disproportionate levels of poverty and have lower household income than their White, non-Hispanic counterparts.

	African Americans*	non-Hispanic Whites
Median Income (households) <sup>8</sup>	\$39,490	\$65,041
Poverty Rate <sup>9</sup>	22%	9%
Deep Poverty (less than 50% of the federal poverty threshold) Rate <sup>10</sup>	11%	4%

\*These figures refer to the *total* African-American population, Hispanic and non-Hispanic.





## References

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9. Ibid.
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