



National Report Prepared for Feeding America

January 2010



**Chapter 13.1 – Agencies and Programs:
Sources of Food Distributed by Programs
(Excerpted from Hunger in America 2010)
www.feedingamerica.org**

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Mathematica Reference No.: 06251-600

13. AGENCIES AND FOOD PROGRAMS: RESOURCES

Effective operation of emergency food programs requires substantial resources, including food, staffing, and physical space. This chapter reports on the types and sources of the resources used by providers of the FA National Network. We begin by examining the sources of food reported by the providers, then turn to the use of paid and unpaid staff, with a focus on the great importance of volunteers to the system.

13.1 SOURCES OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED BY PROGRAMS

The survey asked how much of the food distributed through the emergency food programs comes from food banks versus other sources. In particular, agencies were asked to state the percentage of food received from each of the sources shown in Table 13.1.1.

TABLE 13.1.1

SOURCES OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED BY PROGRAMS

| Sources of Food | Pantry Programs | Kitchen Programs | Shelter Programs |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Average percentage of food received from food bank(s) | 75.5% | 49.6% | 41.1% |
| Median percentage of food received from food bank(s) | 90.0% | 50.0% | 40.0% |
| Percentage of programs receiving food from ^a : | | | |
| Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) | 32.8% | 23.8% | 21.7% |
| The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP/EFAP) | 54.4% | 33.5% | 31.4% |
| Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) | 1.9% | 1.5% | 1.7% |
| Church or religious congregations | 80.6% | 64.4% | 58.1% |
| Local merchant or farmer donations | 46.3% | 48.2% | 49.0% |
| Local food drives (e.g., Boy Scouts) | 54.5% | 31.9% | 40.7% |
| Food purchased by agency | 58.0% | 75.1% | 81.4% |
| Other ^b | 21.1% | 18.7% | 21.1% |
| SAMPLE SIZE (N) | 23,842 | 6,064 | 3,728 |

SOURCE: This table was constructed based on usable responses to questions 8, 8a, and 8b of the agency survey.

TABLE 13.1.1 (*continued*)

NOTES: The percentages presented in this table are based only on usable responses, excluding missing, don't know, and refusal responses. All usable responses were weighted as described in Chapter 3 and in the Technical Appendix volume to represent all emergency food programs of the FA National Network. The sample sizes (N) also include missing data.

For the average percentage of food received from food bank, missing, don't know, and refusal responses combined are 8.5% for pantry programs, 16.8% for kitchen programs, and 24.3% for shelter programs.

For the percentage of programs that distribute government or USDA commodities received through CSFP, missing, don't know, and refusal responses are 36.1% for pantry programs, 38.1% for kitchen programs, and 39.6% for shelter programs.

For the percentage of programs that distribute government or USDA commodities received through TEFAP/EFAP, missing, don't know, and refusal responses are 28.1% for pantry programs, 33.5% for kitchen programs, and 35.7% for shelter programs.

For the percentage of programs that distribute government or USDA commodities received through FDPIR, missing, don't know, and refusal responses are 32.6% for pantry programs, 34.9% for kitchen programs, and 35.2% for shelter programs.

For the percentage of food from the other listed sources, missing, don't know, and refusal responses combined are 16.7% for pantry programs, 21.0% for kitchen programs, and 25.9% for shelter programs.

Due to possible nonresponse bias, estimates with missing, don't know, and refusal responses greater than 10% should be interpreted with caution.

^aMultiple responses were accepted.

^bThis includes individual donations, organization gardens, and donations from other volunteer or civic groups.

According to the agencies that operate the program, food banks are a major source of food, providing 75.5% of the food the pantries distribute, 49.6% of the food the kitchens serve, and 41.1% of the food the shelters serve. Programs also receive food from other sources:

- 32.8% of pantries, 23.8% of kitchens, and 21.7% of shelters receive food from CSFP.
- 54.4% of pantries, 33.5% of kitchens, and 31.4% of shelters receive food from TEFAP.
- 1.9% of pantries, 1.5% of kitchens, and 1.7% of shelters receive food from FDPIR.
- 80.6% of pantries, 64.4% of kitchens, and 58.1% of shelters receive food from churches or religious congregations.
- 46.3% of pantries, 48.2% of kitchens, and 49.0% of shelters receive food from local merchants or donations by farmer.

- 54.5% of pantries, 31.9% of kitchens, and 40.7% of shelters receive food from local food drives.

Table 13.1.2 presents the percentage of food received from a program's food bank according to whether the program is located in a metropolitan or nonmetropolitan area.

TABLE 13.1.2
PERCENTAGE OF FOOD RECEIVED BY PROGRAMS FROM FOOD BANK,
BY URBAN/METROPOLITAN STATUS

| Sources of Food | Urban/Metropolitan Status | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| | Central city | Metro, Not Central city | Nonmetro |
| Pantry Programs | | | |
| Average percentage of food received from food bank(s) | 74.9% | 74.2% | 77.0% |
| SAMPLE SIZE (N) | 5,992 | 8,113 | 9,737 |
| Kitchen Programs | | | |
| Average percentage of food received from food bank(s) | 44.5% | 49.5% | 51.7% |
| SAMPLE SIZE (N) | 1,284 | 1,506 | 3,274 |
| Shelter Programs | | | |
| Average percentage of food received from food bank(s) | 41.3% | 40.2% | 41.6% |
| SAMPLE SIZE (N) | 754 | 973 | 2,001 |

SOURCE: This table was constructed based on usable responses to questions 2, 8, 8a, and 8b of the agency survey.

NOTES: The percentages presented in this table are based only on usable responses, excluding missing, don't know, and refusal responses. All usable responses were weighted as described in Chapter 3 and in the Technical Appendix volume to represent all emergency food programs of the FA National Network. The sample sizes (N) also include missing data.

For pantry programs, missing, don't know, and refusal responses combined are 7.9% for central city programs, 7.2% for metro area programs, and 9.9% for nonmetro programs.

For kitchen programs, missing, don't know, and refusal responses combined are 15.2% for central city programs, 18.7% for metro area programs, and 16.5% for nonmetro programs.

For shelter programs, missing, don't know, and refusal responses combined are 25.2% for central city programs, 24.2% for metro area programs, and 24.1% for nonmetro programs.

Due to possible nonresponse bias, estimates with missing, don't know, and refusal responses greater than 10% should be interpreted with caution.

The differences between estimates for programs operating in an urban area and programs operating in a nonmetropolitan area are statistically significant at the 0.05 level for kitchen programs. The differences between estimates for programs operating in a suburban area and programs operating in a nonmetropolitan area are statistically significant at the 0.05 level for pantry and kitchen programs.

We find that pantry programs in central cities receive 74.9% of their food from the program's food bank. Pantry programs in suburban areas (metropolitan areas outside central cities) and nonmetropolitan areas receive 74.2% and 77.0%, respectively.

Table 13.1.3 presents the percentage of food received from a program's food bank according to the type of agency that operates the program.

TABLE 13.1.3
PERCENTAGE OF FOOD RECEIVED BY PROGRAMS FROM FOOD BANK,
BY TYPE OF AGENCY THAT OPERATES THE PROGRAM

| Sources of Food | Agency Type | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------|
| | Faith-Based or Religion- Affiliated Nonprofit | Other Private Nonprofit | Governmental | Community Action Program (CAP) |
| Pantry Programs | | | | |
| Average percentage of food received from food bank(s) | 76.2% | 71.6% | 81.6% | 71.7% |
| SAMPLE SIZE (N) | 15,657 | 4,389 | 450 | 601 |
| Kitchen Programs | | | | |
| Average percentage of food received from food bank(s) | 53.1% | 42.1% | 45.1% | 38.0% |
| SAMPLE SIZE (N) | 3,395 | 1,597 | 131 | 102 |
| Shelter Programs | | | | |
| Average percentage of food received from food bank(s) | 40.3% | 40.5% | 41.5% | 42.8% |
| SAMPLE SIZE (N) | 1,334 | 1,749 | 79 | 80 |

SOURCE: This table was constructed based on usable responses to questions 8, 8a, 8b, and 27 of the agency survey.

NOTES: The percentages presented in this table are based only on usable responses, excluding missing, don't know, and refusal responses. All usable responses were weighted as described in Chapter 3 and in the Technical Appendix volume to represent all emergency food programs of the FA National Network. The sample sizes (N) also include missing data.

For pantry programs, missing, don't know, and refusal responses combined are 4.0% for programs run by faith-based agencies, 12.1% for private nonprofit programs, 10.8% for governmental programs, and 8.9% for community action programs.

For kitchen programs, missing, don't know, and refusal responses combined are 10.7% for programs run by faith-based agencies, 16.1% for private nonprofit programs, 26.2% for governmental programs, and 27.3% for community action programs.

For shelter programs, missing, don't know, and refusal responses combined are 28.5% for programs run by faith-based agencies, 13.8% for private nonprofit programs, 38.3% for governmental programs, and 28.5% for community action programs.

Due to possible nonresponse bias, estimates with missing, don't know, and refusal responses greater than 10% should be interpreted with caution.

Key findings include:

- Pantry programs operated by government agencies receive 81.6% of their food from the program's food bank, compared with 71.7% for those operated by community action program agencies.
- Kitchen programs operated by faith-based or religion-affiliated nonprofit agencies receive 53.1% of their food from the program's food bank, compared with 42.1% for those operated by private nonprofit agencies that are neither faith-based nor religion-affiliated.
- Shelter programs operated by government agencies receive 41.5% of their food from the program's food bank. This compares to 40.3% for programs operated by a faith-based or religion-affiliated agency.

Table 13.1.4 presents the percentage of food received from a program's food bank according to the frequency with which the program stretched food resources.

TABLE 13.1.4
PERCENTAGE OF FOOD RECEIVED BY PROGRAMS FROM FOOD BANK,
BY FREQUENCY OF STRETCHING FOOD RESOURCES

| Sources of Food | Frequency of Stretching Food Resources | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| | Never | Rarely | Sometimes or Always |
| Pantry Programs | | | |
| Average percentage of food received from food bank(s) | 74.3% | 75.6% | 76.9% |
| SAMPLE SIZE (N) | 7,568 | 8,989 | 5,355 |
| Kitchen Programs | | | |
| Average percentage of food received from food bank(s) | 47.1% | 53.8% | 55.9% |
| SAMPLE SIZE (N) | 3,087 | 1,282 | 575 |
| Shelter Programs | | | |
| Average percentage of food received from food bank(s) | 39.6% | 44.1% | 50.8% |
| SAMPLE SIZE (N) | 1,949 | 600 | 283 |

SOURCE: This table was constructed based on usable responses to questions 8, 8a, 8b, and 13 of the agency survey.

NOTES: The estimates presented in this table are based only on usable responses, excluding missing, don't know, and refusal responses. All usable responses were weighted as described in Chapter 3 and in the Technical Appendix volume to represent all emergency food programs of the FA National Network. The sample sizes (N) also include missing data.

For pantry programs, missing, don't know, and refusal responses combined are 3.4% for programs which report never having to stretch food resources, 2.4% for programs which rarely have to stretch food resources, and 2.4% for programs which sometimes or always have to stretch food resources.

For kitchen programs, missing, don't know, and refusal responses combined are 5.2% for programs which report never having to stretch food resources, 3.1% for programs which rarely have to stretch food resources, and 3.0% for programs which sometimes or always have to stretch food resources.

For shelter programs, missing, don't know, and refusal responses combined are 6.7% for programs which report never having to stretch food resources, 3.8% for programs which rarely have to stretch food resources, and 3.8% for programs which sometimes or always have to stretch food resources.

We find that pantry programs that report either “sometimes” or “always” stretching food resources receive 76.9% of their food from the program’s food bank. The figure is 74.3% for pantry programs that report never having to stretch food resources. In addition:

- Kitchen programs that report either “sometimes” or “always” stretching food resources receive 55.9% of their food from the program’s food bank. The figure is 47.1% for kitchen programs that report never having to stretch food resources.
- Shelter programs who report either “sometimes” or “always” stretching food resources receive 50.8% of their food from the program’s food bank. The figure is 39.6% for shelter programs that report never having to stretch food resources.