Current Hunger Statistics

*Updated 9/2015*

Statistics on findings from Hunger in America Study 2014 for the State of Wisconsin
These statistics are based on clients or households who are receiving food from a Wisconsin Feeding America food bank agency partner. Feed My People and its agency partners are part of the WI Feeding America Network.

**Who’s Hungry**

- 32% of clients are children
- 12% of clients are seniors aged 60 and older
- 57% of clients are White, 23% are Black and 9% are Hispanic
- 92% of clients report that English is their primary language
- 30% of adult clients have completed at least some college. Nationally 1 in 10 adult clients is a student at some post-high school institution.
- 59% of households report at least one employed person at some point in the past year. 16% work more than 40 hours a week.
- 15% are responsible for grandchildren in the household.
- 94% of clients live in non-temporary housing such as a house, apartment or other accommodations.
- 76% report income house annual income of $20,000 or less.

**Health Challenges**

- 53% have a member with high blood pressure.
- 34% have a member with diabetes
- 59% have unpaid medical bills
- 82% report purchasing the cheapest food available, even if they knew it wasn’t the healthiest option, in an effort to provide enough food for their household
- 43% report fair or poor health.

**SNAP (Also known as Food Share or Food Stamps)**

- 61% of households currently receive SNAP benefits.
- An additional 68% of client households who are not currently receiving SNAP benefits are potentially income eligible to receive the benefit. Of those households, 56% don’t think they are eligible.
- Of households receiving SNAP benefits – 88% exhaust their benefits within 3 weeks or less.
Coping Strategies

Households have used these coping strategies in the past 12 months:

- 28% eat food grown in their garden
- 38% have sold or pawned personal property
- 53% have purchased food in dented or damaged packages
- 82% have purchased inexpensive, unhealthy food
- 53% have received help from family or friends
- 40% have watered down food or drinks

Household Spending Tradeoffs in the Past Year
% of client families making these spending tradeoffs in the past year:

- 70% Food and Utilities
- 71% Food and Transportation
- 64% Food and Medical Care
- 58% Food and Housing
- 31% Food and Education

Other statistics not based on findings from the Hunger in America Study 2014

- 12% or 1 in 9 people in west central Wisconsin are food insecure.
- 1 in 5 children in west central Wisconsin are food insecure.
- $2.68 billion is the cost of hunger in WI each year. Hunger costs each citizen an average of $542 annually. (This number is considers hunger-induced illnesses, including depression; poor educational outcomes and reduced lifetime earnings, and private charity to help feed families. "Hunger in America, Suffering we all pay for" Donald Shepherd, Brandeis University and team, October 2011.)
- A $1 donation to Feed My People provides $10 worth of food to our partner agencies.
- A $45 donation to Feed My People can feed a family of four for a month.
- A $100 donation to Feed My People can provide enough food for 500 meals.