



Facts on Hunger and Poverty in the United States

- More than 49 million Americans lived in households that struggled to put food on the table in 2013 (latest figures available).¹
- More than 45 million Americans live below the poverty line (\$23,624 for a family of four with two children).²
- More than 20 percent—1 in 5—children live at risk of hunger.³ Likewise, more than 1 in 5 children in America are living in poverty.⁴
- Since 2009, wages for the bottom 60 percent of workers have fallen 4 to 6 percent. Families on average are still earning \$4,500 less than before the recession.⁵
- In 2013, 21.5 million low-income children received a free or reduced-price lunch through the National School Lunch Program.⁶ About half of those, 11.2 million, received a free or reduced-price breakfast through the School Breakfast Program⁷, and only 2.4 million of those received Summer Food Service Program meals during the summer months.⁸
- More than 3.3 million children receive food at child care centers, day care homes, and at-risk after-school care centers through the federal Child and Adult Care Feeding Program.⁹
- More than 8.6 million low-income women, infants, and children received nutritious food, nutrition education, and health care referrals through the WIC program in 2013.¹⁰
- 1 in 7 Americans receives benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps).¹¹ SNAP moved 3.7 million Americans out of poverty in 2013.¹²
- 48.1 percent of SNAP households are employed¹³, and two-thirds of recipients are children, elderly, or disabled.¹⁴
- The earned income tax credit and child tax credit, which encourage and reward work by supplementing earnings, moved 9.4 million people out of poverty in 2013, including 5.0 million children.¹⁵
- 23.7 percent of Hispanic households and 26.1 percent of African-American households were food-insecure in 2013.¹⁶ Communities of color tend to experience higher levels of poverty and hunger than the general population.

Endnotes

¹ www.ers.usda.gov/media/1565415/err173.pdf (Table 1A; page 6; Individuals)

² www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/index.html (Poverty Thresholds by Size of Family and Number of Children; 2013)

³ www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/our-research/map-the-meal-gap/2012/2012-mapthemealgap-exec-summary.pdf (Table 09; page 30; Child Food Insecurity Rate, U.S.)

⁴ http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_13_1YR_S1701&prodType=table (Table S1701: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months; Population for Whom Poverty Status is Determined, Under 18 Years; 2013)

⁵ www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=4200 and www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=4203

⁶ www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/pd/slsummar.pdf

⁷ www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/pd/sbsummar.pdf

⁸ www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/child-nutrition-programs/summer-food-service-program.aspx

⁹ www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/child-and-adult-care-food-program

¹⁰ www.fns.usda.gov/wic/women-infants-and-children-wic

¹¹ http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_13_1YR_S2201&prodType=table (Table S2201: “Households Receiving Food Stamps” divided by “Total”; 2013)

¹² www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2014/demo/p60-249.pdf (page 20)

¹³ http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_13_1YR_S2201&prodType=table (Table S2201: Households Receiving Food Stamps, 1 worker in the past 12 months; 2013)

¹⁴ www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2012Characteristics.pdf

¹⁵ <http://apps.cbpp.org/3-5-14tax/?state=US>

¹⁶ USDA 2013 Household Food Security in the United States



Facts on International Hunger and Poverty

- Worldwide, 1.2 billion people still live in extreme poverty—on less than \$1.25 per day.¹
- The target of halving the percentage of people suffering from hunger by 2015 is within reach. Since 1990, global hunger has decreased by 39 percent², but undernutrition still affects 795 million³ people and causes 3 million child deaths annually.⁴
- Since the federal government's largest food-aid program, Food for Peace, began in 1954, more than 3 billion people in 150 countries have benefited directly from U.S. food aid.⁵
- Since their establishment in 2002, McGovern-Dole International Food for Education programs have boosted school attendance and provided meals to approximately 28 million children in 37 countries.⁶
- Global immunization programs supported by the United States save up to 3 million children every year. Nutrition programs boost the effectiveness of immunizations by strengthening immune systems, making children less susceptible to diseases, and accelerating recovery rates.⁷
- As of September 2014, more than 6.7 million people received treatment for HIV, and 780,000 HIV-positive pregnant women received antiretroviral medications, resulting in 95 percent of these babies born HIV-free.⁸
- A population too malnourished to work suffers long-term economic consequences. A malnourished person can suffer a 10 percent reduction in lifetime earnings, while countries can see 2 to 3 percent annual reductions in their GDPs.⁹
- By providing people with the tools they need to move themselves out of poverty, we create a more stable world. For every 5 percent drop in income growth in a developing country, the likelihood of violent conflict or war within the next year increases by 10 percent.¹⁰
- 43 of the top 50 consumer nations of U.S. agricultural products were once U.S. foreign aid recipients.¹¹
- In 2013, Feed the Future's agriculture and food-security investments directly helped more than 9 million households transform their farms and fields, which, in turn, has helped reached 12 million children with nutrition programs that prevent and treat undernutrition, saving children's lives.

Endnotes

¹ United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report*, 2014.

² International Food Policy Research Institute, *2014 Global Hunger Index*, 2014.

³ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World*, 2015.

⁴ United Nations Children's Fund, *Levels and Trends in Child Malnutrition*, 2014.

⁵ U.S. Food Aid and Security Coalition, "Food for Peace," available at <http://foodaid.org/food-aid-programs/food-for-peace/>.

⁶ United States Department of Agriculture Foreign Agriculture Service, 2014. Available at: www.fas.usda.gov/newsroom/new-mcgovern-dole-projects-benefit-27-million-children-worldwide.

⁷ UNICEF. Global Immunization Data: October 2012.

⁸ U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, *Tenth Annual Report to Congress*, 2014.

⁹ USAID, "The True Yields of Food Security," remarks by Dr. Raj Shah, USAID Administrator, May 24, 2011.

¹⁰ World Food Program USA, "Monday September 26 is National Action Day," September 2011.

¹¹ USAID, *The Power of 1% and Global Health: Saving Lives, Improving Economic Opportunity, Promoting Security*. February 2012.