

FACTS ON HUNGER AND POVERTY IN THE UNITED STATES

- More than 48 million Americans lived in households that struggled to put food on the table in 2014 (latest figures available).¹
- More than 48 million Americans live below the poverty line (\$24,008 for a family of 4 with 2 children).²
- More than 20 percent—1 in 5—children live at risk of hunger.³ Likewise, more than 1 in 5 children are living in poverty.⁴
- 3,939,067 more people are working full-time, year-round than in 2009, yet the poverty rate remains 2.5 percentage points higher than before the recession.⁵
- In 2014, 21.7 million low-income children received a free or reduced-price lunch through the National School Lunch Program.⁶ But only about half, 11.5 million, also received a free or reduced-price breakfast through the School Breakfast Program⁷, and only 2.6 million also 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 afterschool care centers through the federal Child and Adult Care Feeding Program.⁹
- More than 8.2 million low-income women, infants, and children received nutritious food, nutrition education, and health care referrals through the WIC program in 2014.¹⁰
- 1 in 8 American households receives benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps).¹¹ SNAP lifted at least 4.7 million Americans out of poverty in 2014—including 2.1 million children.¹²
- 47.9 percent of SNAP households are employed¹³, and nearly two-thirds (64 percent) 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, lifted 9.4 million people out of poverty in 2013, including 5.0 million children.¹⁵
- 22.4 percent of Hispanic households and 26.1 percent of African-American households were food-insecure in 2014.¹⁶ Communities of color tend to experience higher levels of poverty and hunger than the general population.

Endnotes

¹ www.ers.usda.gov/media/1896841/err194.pdf (Table 1A; page 6; Individuals)

² 2014 ACS data Table S1701; www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/index.html (Poverty Thresholds by Size of Family and Number of Children; 2014)

³ www.ers.usda.gov/media/1896841/err194.pdf (Table 1B; page 9; Children)

⁴ http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_14_1YR_S1701&prodType=table (Table S1701: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months; Population for Whom Poverty Status is Determined, Under 18 Years; 2014)

⁵ U.S. Census 2014 ACS data tables C23022 and S1701; U.S. Census 2009 ACS data table C23022; U.S. Census 2007 ACS data table S1701

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/sites/default/files/pd/wisummary.pdf

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 https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/documents/SNAP_report_final_nonembargo.pdf (page 3)

¹³ http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_14_1YR_S2201&prodType=table (Table S2201: Households Receiving Food Stamps, 1 worker in the past 12 months; 2014)

¹⁴ https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/documents/SNAP_report_final_nonembargo.pdf (page 10)

¹⁵ www.cbpp.org/research/federal-tax/chart-book-the-earned-income-tax-credit-and-child-tax-credit

¹⁶ www.ers.usda.gov/media/1896841/err194.pdf (Table 2; “Race/Ethnicity of Households”)



FACTS ON INTERNATIONAL HUNGER AND POVERTY

- Worldwide, 836 million people still live in extreme poverty—on less than \$1.25 per day.¹
- Since 1990, global hunger has decreased by nearly half², but undernutrition still affects 795 million³ people and causes 3.1 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.⁷ Nutrition programs boost the effectiveness of immunizations by strengthening immune systems, making children less susceptible to diseases, and accelerating recovery rates.⁸
- As of September 2015, more than 9.5 million people received treatment for HIV, and 831,500 HIV-positive pregnant women received antiretroviral medications, resulting in 267,000 babies born HIV-free in fiscal year 2015.⁹
- A population too malnourished to work suffers long-term economic consequences. A malnourished person can suffer a 10 percent reduction in his/her lifetime earnings, while countries can see 2 to 3 percent annual reductions in their GDPs.¹⁰
- By providing people with the tools they need to lift 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.¹¹
- 43 of the top 50 consumer nations of U.S. agricultural products were once U.S. foreign-aid recipients.¹²
- In 2014, Feed the Future's agriculture and food-security investments directly helped nearly 7 million farmers 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.¹³

Endnotes

¹ [www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf) (page 4)

² [www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf) (page 4)

³ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World, 2015*, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4646e.pdf>

⁴ Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), founded on December 16, 2015 at: www.gainhealth.org/about

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

⁶ The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, "Healthy Food for a Healthy World", April 2015.

⁷ www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs378/en

⁸ www.gavi.org/Library/GAVI-documents/Advocacy/Immunisation-and-Nutrition-Info-Note/

⁹ U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, *World AIDS Day 2015 Update*.

¹⁰ ONE foundation, "Food. Farming. Future: Breaking the Cycle of Malnutrition & Poverty". April 2013. Available here: <http://www.one.org/international/policy/food-farming-future-breaking-the-cycle-of-malnutrition-and-poverty/#ftn3>

¹¹ World Food Program USA, "Monday September 26 is National Action Day," September 2011.

¹² USAID, *Progress Report*. April 2015. Available at: <https://www.usaid.gov/results-and-data/progress>

¹³ Feed the Future Global Results 2015. Available at: http://feedthefuture.gov/progress2015/#modal_summary

