

Hunger in Eastern Oklahoma 2010

According to the USDA, Oklahoma ranks fourth in the nation in the number of people who experience hunger and sixth in the nation in the number of people who are food insecure, which is defined by the USDA as being hungry at times during the year due to lack of money for food. Here is a brief snapshot of the hungry in Eastern Oklahoma:

The Faces of the Hungry in Eastern Oklahoma

- 22.2 percent of Oklahomans lack money to buy food needed for their families.
- 44 percent of household members served by emergency pantry programs in Eastern Oklahoma are children under the age of 18.
- More than 22 percent of our children live in food insecure households - that's more than one in five children at risk of going to bed hungry every night.
- Of households experiencing hunger, less than 20 percent are classified as unemployed. More than one-third are disabled and/or retired, while the remaining 46 percent have at least one working member.

Poverty in Eastern Oklahoma

- 16.2 percent of Oklahomans live in poverty, that's more than one in six. The poverty level in 2009 is \$22,050 for a family of four.
- Oklahoma's poverty rate is highest on children with 23.2 percent living in poverty.

Food Insecurity in Eastern Oklahoma

- More than 76 percent of households served at emergency food pantries in Eastern Oklahoma report that at one or more times during the previous 12 months the food they bought didn't last and they didn't have money to purchase more.
- Although more than 55 percent of adults reported that they sometimes skipped meals because there wasn't enough money for food, 19 percent reported that their children had to skip meals.

Tough Choices

- 48 percent of households served report having to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities; 36 percent had to choose between paying for food and paying rent or mortgage; 34 percent had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care; 44 percent had to choose between paying for food and paying for gas for their car.

Emergency Food Programs

- The Food Bank is by far the single most important source of food for emergency food programs, accounting for 70 percent of food used by pantries, 32 percent of food used by soup kitchens and 37 percent of food used by shelters.
- More than 60,000 people each week receive emergency food assistance in Eastern Oklahoma, an estimated 11 percent of our population each year.
- The number of people seeking food assistance at emergency food pantries in Eastern Oklahoma has risen 40 percent over the past year.

More information on hunger in Oklahoma and how you can help is available on our Web site or by calling (918) 585-2800.

Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope

FOOD BANK

Community **FOOD BANK** of Eastern Oklahoma

www.cfbeo.org



This information was drawn from these sources: *Hunger is Not OK*, a report by Oklahoma Task Force on Hunger; *Hunger in America 2010*, a national study conducted for Feeding America; *Household Food Security in the United States, 2008*, an annual report issued by the USDA; *Food Hardship: A Closer Look at Hunger*, a report issued by the Food Research and Action Center; the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, and reports by the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma.

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