

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF SECOND HARVEST FOODBANKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 27, 2012

Hunger on the Rise in Ohio

New figures show 2,083,240 Ohioans are at risk of hunger

COLUMBUS – In Ohio, 2,083,240 people—or 18.1 percent of the population—are food insecure, meaning that they don’t always know where they will find their next meal, according to new research released today by [Feeding America](#), the nation’s largest hunger-relief organization.

The findings result from Feeding America’s “[Map the Meal Gap](#)” study, which provides estimates on the rate of food insecurity at the county and congressional district level for the entire nation. The [Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks](#) is a Partner State Association of Feeding America.

“Food insecurity is one of the leading public health challenges in the United States due to the physical and mental damage and behavioral problems it may cause,” said Dr. Craig Gundersen, Associate Professor of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois, a member of Feeding America’s Technical Advisory Group, and the lead researcher of the “Map the Meal Gap” study. “By ascertaining the extent and distribution of food insecurity at the county and congressional district level, we can better direct our resources to alleviating this serious problem.”

Congressional District	Population	Food insecurity rate	Estimate number food insecure individuals (rounded)	% below SNAP ¹ threshold of 130% poverty ²	% between 130% and 185% poverty ²	% above nutrition program threshold of 185% poverty ²
1	599,929	22.1%	132,520	42%	4%	54%
2	670,493	14.5%	97,430	32%	8%	60%
3	640,037	18.8%	120,600	38%	7%	55%
4	632,540	17.0%	107,520	38%	9%	53%
5	621,278	16.4%	101,750	37%	12%	52%
6	623,484	17.1%	106,860	40%	10%	51%
7	680,177	17.1%	116,460	38%	10%	52%
8	664,904	16.7%	111,190	33%	10%	57%
9	617,749	20.0%	123,300	38%	9%	53%
10	597,493	17.3%	103,610	35%	11%	55%
11	545,253	28.8%	157,270	46%	4%	51%
12	764,452	18.0%	137,580	33%	6%	62%
13	638,510	17.4%	111,380	34%	8%	59%
14	651,868	13.6%	88,850	27%	11%	62%
15	679,785	17.3%	117,480	41%	9%	51%
16	649,981	16.3%	105,970	35%	10%	55%
17	602,981	21.1%	127,010	36%	9%	56%
18	655,268	17.8%	116,460	40%	13%	47%
Statewide	11,536,182	18.1%	2,083,240	37%	9%	54%

Map the Meal Gap 2012: Ohio Data, by Congressional District. View complete state and county data [here](#).

“We believe that no one in our state should go hungry or try to survive without access to adequate amounts of healthy, nutritious food,” said Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director at the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks. “The findings from the ‘Map the Meal Gap’ study demonstrate that more than two million people in our state are still faced with the real threat of hunger, despite claims that the economic recession has passed.”

The total number of food insecure people in Ohio has increased since last year, and the local trend in Ohio is higher than what is being seen at the national level. Overall, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported that the national food insecurity rate remained relatively unchanged from last year at 16.1 percent in 2010—or nearly 49 million people nationwide.

The findings also show:

- The cost of an average meal in Ohio is \$2.33—which is \$0.19 lower relative to the national average of \$2.52.
- In Ohio, food insecure individuals said they would need an additional \$13.22 per week to put enough food on the table for an adequate diet, representing an annual food budget shortfall of more than \$835.5 million.

This is the second year that Feeding America has conducted the “Map the Meal Gap” study. The findings of “Map the Meal Gap” are based on statistics collected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and food price data and analysis provided by The Nielsen Company (NYSE:[NLSN](#)), a global information and measurement company providing insights into what consumers watch and buy. The study was supported by the [Howard G. Buffett Foundation](#) and [Nielsen](#).

“Map the Meal Gap” provides critical information—food insecurity rates for each county and congressional district. Prior to the study’s first release in March 2011, food insecurity data was only available at the state level in the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s annual report. The study further analyzes each county’s food insecure population to determine their income eligibility for federal nutrition assistance and provides meal cost estimates for every county in the nation. This data has the potential to redefine the way service providers and policy makers address areas of need.

[View the interactive map](#) | [View detailed data at the local and congressional level in Ohio](#)

¹ SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formally known as food stamps

² Based on the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

About the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks

OASHF is Ohio’s largest charitable response to hunger, representing Ohio’s 12 Feeding America foodbanks and 3,300 member charities including food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters. In SFY 2011, OASHF and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute over 150 million pounds of food and grocery items. Follow [@OASHF](#) on Twitter, stay connected on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OASHF, and visit OASHF on the web at www.oashf.org.

About Feeding America

Feeding America provides low-income individuals and families with the fuel to survive and even thrive. As the nation’s leading domestic hunger-relief charity, our network members supply food to more than 37 million Americans each year, including 14 million children and 3 million seniors. Serving the entire United States, more than 200 member foodbanks support 61,000 agencies that address hunger in all of its forms.

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