



No Progress Against Hunger

In 2007 Food Insecurity figures remain essentially unchanged

Food insecurity dropped for the second straight year, but by a negligible amount:

- Overall, food insecurity among all households fell by 0.1 percent in 2006.
- The number of families suffering “very low food security,” or what is commonly understood as hunger, increased by 0.1 percent.¹

Still, hunger remains widespread:

- In 2006, 35.5 million people faced the threat of hunger.
- People in 4.6 million households reported going hungry at some point during the year.
- More than 12 million children were food insecure.

Food insecurity and hunger remains most prevalent among African-American and Hispanic households and in female-headed households where children are present:

- 21.8 percent of African American and 19.5 percent of Hispanic households were food insecure at some point during 2006.
- The rate of food insecurity among white households was much lower at 7.8 percent.
- 30.4 percent of families comprised of single mothers and their children were food insecure.

Hunger and poverty coexist. States with the highest levels of hunger and food insecurity also have poverty rates above the national average:

- The national poverty rate in 2006 was 12.3 percent. 12.1 percent of individuals were food insecure.
- In 2006, 18.1 percent of households in Mississippi were food insecure and 6.4 percent went hungry. The state also has the highest percentage of people living in poverty, 20.6 percent.

Despite America’s agricultural abundance, hunger persists in rural communities:

- In 2006 more than 1 1.5 million non-metropolitan households were food insecure and 852,000 households experienced hunger.
- The number of households experiencing hunger increased by 9 percent in 2006.

¹ In 2005, the USDA relabeled households and individuals that were “food insecure” or “food insecure with hunger” as being “low food secure” or “very low food secure.” This did not correspond with a change in the Food Security Survey Questionnaire, or changes in the methodology for determining food security status. For simplicity, we retain the word hunger to describe individuals and households categorized as being “very low food secure.”