



Hunger Factors 2015

Hunger and Poverty in Oregon and Clark County, WA

Executive Summary



and the Oregon Food Bank Network



The Hunger Factors Assessment Report is produced with the help of 155 partner agencies in Oregon and Clark County, Washington. Surveys were available in English, Spanish and Russian. Data was collected in April 2015 from clients representing 5,845 households.

The full report can be found online at oregonfoodbank.org/hungerfactors.

Introduction

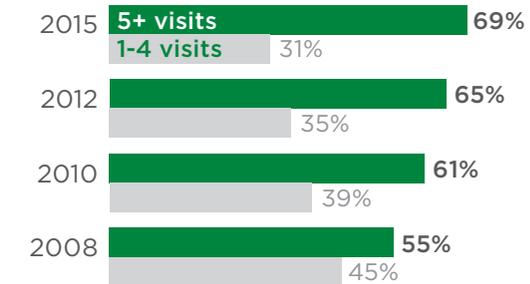
At Oregon Food Bank we care deeply about people facing hunger and hold them in the center of all we do. The Hunger Factors Assessment Report is just one tool we use to identify the economic, social, health and related factors that affect people seeking help from a food pantry.

Analysis of the data shows that many people are still suffering from the effects of the Great Recession. Fewer people are unemployed, but

respondents pointed to continued high costs of living and stagnant wages as reasons for family food insecurity. **In fact, more people are visiting a pantry with greater frequency, suggesting this predictable source of nutritious food is an important coping strategy.** Pantries are making a significant difference in lives. Many people say the high cost of fruits and vegetables keep them from the healthy diet they prefer. With access to fresh produce

and staples at a pantry they are able to prepare nutritious meals, resulting in increased energy and better health.

VISITS TO PANTRY PER YEAR:

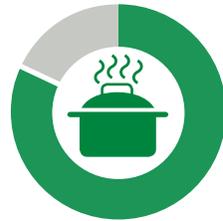


“I really appreciate being able to come [to the pantry]. I always do at the beginning of the month to help when we have little food from the end of the month.”

*“Our economy:
wage vs. living costs
just doesn’t match.
Wages need to
meet available
rent costs or we
need more public
housing.”*

Poverty

Strong social networks help families and individuals stay afloat. 58% said they often or sometimes got food from a neighbor, friend or family. The 2015 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for a household of four is \$24,250, 72% of survey respondents live in poverty.



82%
of households
say they
cook
at home daily

Unemployment

Fewer people report being unemployed but that does not mean fewer hungry people. 38% percent of households say at least one member is working, a figure that hasn’t changed since 2012. The number of households who say they have someone who is disabled and unable to work or is retired increased from 30% in 2012 to 36% in 2015.



16%
of households
reported having
someone who is
unemployed
**23% in 2012*





Health

Food pantry recipients suffer from diet-related diseases, such as high blood pressure and diabetes, at a higher rate than the general public. Aside from the increased costs related to poor health, the highest source of family debt continues to be medical bills (39%). However, 52% of households say they were able to prepare healthier meals because of food they received at a pantry.



48% of households have one or more member with **high blood pressure**



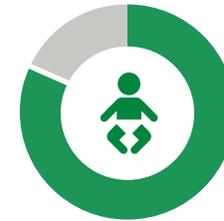
27% of households have one or more member with **diabetes**

Insurance

The survey showed that more individuals and children are covered by medical insurance. This year, 73% of households included at least one member receiving coverage under the Oregon Health Plan or Basic Health Washington, a 15% increase since the 2012 survey.

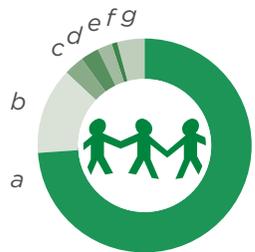


Adults with health insurance increased to 60% in 2015
**36% in 2012*



Households with **children** that have health insurance increased to 82% in 2015
**71% in 2012*

“Knowing that there is a place to help us get food takes away the stress of every day medical bills.”



- a. White: 74%
- b. Hispanic: 13%
- c. African American: 3%
- d. American Indian or Native Alaskan: 3%
- e. Asian: 2%
- f. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: 1%
- g. Mixed: 4%

Demographics

The average household size is 3.4 individuals. Of all individuals served, 32% are children aged 17 or younger. 46% of respondents report some kind of education beyond a high school diploma.



18% of survey respondents are **65 years old** or older
**15% in 2012*



19% of households have one or more member who is a **veteran**



(single parent, two-parent, multigenerational and including adult children)

“I have a master’s degree in counseling psychology. I work a salaried position as a clinical supervisor in my field. My pay is dreadfully low... I cannot afford to feed my family or pay student loans.”

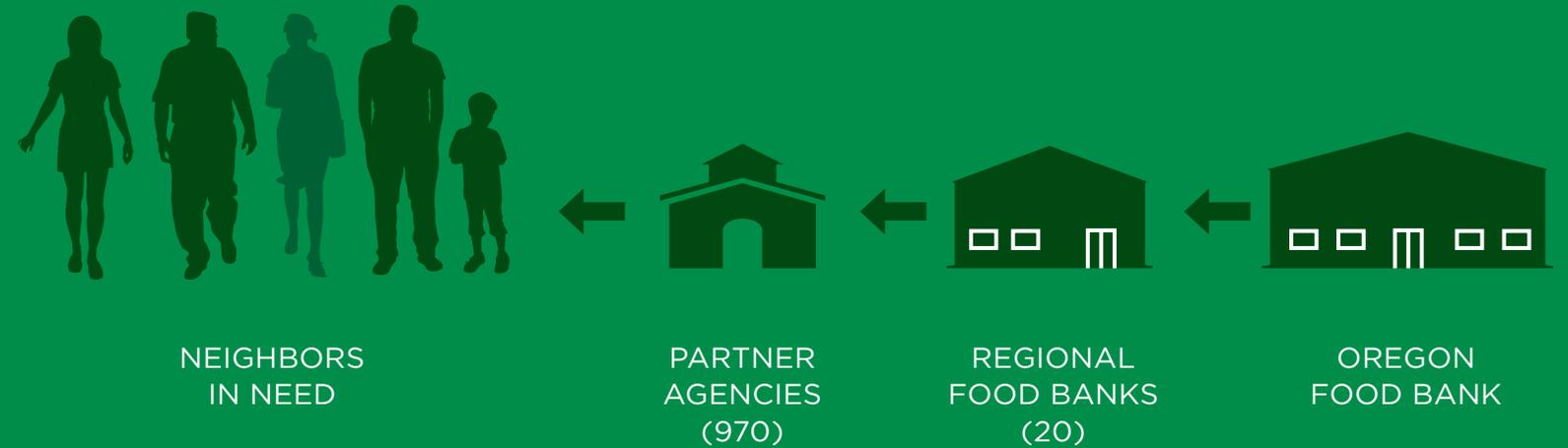
SNAP

Demand for food assistance remains at historically high levels. 28% of people indicated that they often worry about when and where they will get their next meal. Overall the share of households receiving SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) is steady, but 90% of people say SNAP doesn’t last the whole month.



58%
of households
are getting
benefits from
SNAP
**62% in 2012*

800,000 people are served by Oregon Food Bank each year. That is **1 in 5** people in Oregon and Clark County, WA.



For a complete picture of hunger in Oregon and Clark County, WA download the full report at oregonfoodbank.org/hungerfactors.

Please visit www.oregonfoodbank.org
or call 503-282-0555

Mission With sufficient will and support of the entire community, we believe it is possible to eliminate hunger and its root causes. Oregon Food Bank collects and distributes food through a network of four Oregon Food Bank branches and 16 independent regional food banks serving Oregon and Clark County, Washington. Along with 970 partner agencies, we help nearly one in five households fend off hunger. We work to strengthen local food economies, engage government, business and community organizations to collaborate in the fight against hunger, and coordinate private donations and federal programs that support hunger relief.



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