



Hunger Facts 2016

- A grassroots food and fund drive, **Minnesota FoodShare's March Campaign** is the only statewide effort where every dollar donated goes directly to food shelves to purchase food for the hungry.
- **Food security** is "access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life." **Food insecurity** means that consistent access to adequate food is limited by a lack of money and other resources at times during the year.ⁱ
- **One in 10 Minnesotans**, or more than 500,000 state residents, are food insecure on a regular basis.ⁱⁱ That is more people than attended Minnesota Vikings home games during the 2015 regular season.
- Imagine the entire populations of Ohio and California going to bed hungry each night. Does that number sound too high? **49 million Americans, including more than 16 million children, which is the equivalent of the populations in those two states, live in households that do not have consistent access to nutritious food.**ⁱⁱⁱ
- In 2014, **11% of all Minnesotans and almost 15% of kids in Minnesota lived below the poverty line.**^{iv}
- In the summer of 2015, **45.5 million Americans utilized the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program^v** (SNAP, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program) to help feed their households. Of those nearly **one in two households has children and 75% households have children, an elderly family member or a family member with a disability.**^{vi}
- **Over 50% of SNAP households have some form of earned income.**^{vii} In Minnesota, **67% of households with children who are receiving SNAP reported having earnings from work.**^{viii} Often wages are too low and expenses such as child care, transportation and rent are too high, so working families must use SNAP to help keep their families fed.
- **8.3% of seniors** in Minnesota reported being threatened by hunger.^{ix} Senior hunger is expected to rise as more Baby Boomers reach age 60.^x
- For 34 years, Minnesota FoodShare has partnered with faith communities, schools, businesses and community groups to restock food shelves each March. In 2015, The March Campaign raised **\$8 million and 4.7 million pounds of food**, ensuring that thousands of Minnesotans were fed.
- There were more than **3 million visits to food Minnesota food shelves** in 2013. Almost half of these visits were made by children and seniors.^{xi}
- The Harvard School Breakfast Research Summary found that **lack of adequate nutrition can impair a child's ability to concentrate at school.** When kids eat a healthy breakfast there is an average increase of 17.5% on standardized math scores.^{xii}
- **Children who experience hunger get sick more often**, recover from illness slower and are hospitalized more frequently than children who do not. Children who experience hunger are more likely to experience headaches, stomachaches, colds, ear infections and fatigue.^{xiii}

ⁱ United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, 2013

ⁱⁱ United States Department of Agriculture, 2013

ⁱⁱⁱ Share Our Strength, 2013

^{iv} American Community Survey, US Census Bureau, 2015

^v FRAC, 2015

^{vi} Executive Office of the President of the United States, 2015

^{vii} Executive Office of the President of the United States, 2015

^{viii} Minnesota Department of Human Services 2015

^{ix} National Foundation to End Senior Hunger, 2015

^x Half in 10, 2014

^{xi} Hunger Solutions, 2014

^{xii} Share Our Strength, 2013

^{xiii} Share Our Strength 2013

Join us in a Different Kind of Food Fight at gmcc.org/mnfoodshare.