



POVERTY HUNGER FACT SHEET

- Hunger hurts. It is known that hunger impacts children’s growth and development and can lead to social, emotional, and educational problems. Persons who are hungry suffer from more health related conditions and the elderly are particularly vulnerable to health issues resulting from hunger and poor nutrition.
- The recession has led to more people who are in need of food assistance. Local charities and food pantries have experienced an increased demand for their services. Food Stamps can prevent hunger for laid off persons or those now underemployed.
- The average monthly food stamp benefit is usually spent in local grocery outlets.
- USDA estimates that every \$1 in food stamp benefits generates \$1.84 in economic activity as people purchase food they otherwise would not be able to afford, thus increasing local demand for food related items and services.
- Food demand by food stamp recipients generates thousands of farm jobs.
- Food stamp benefits are Federal funds. By increasing the number of people using these benefits, communities can bring in more Federal money.
- Food Stamp benefit usage increases sales tax revenue for the state as well as local governments.
- California is the nation’s largest agricultural supplier and exporter yet persons residing in this same rich agricultural region experience food insecurity. Rural households suffer from food insecurity at greater rates than urban areas often a result of higher unemployment rates, transportation issues, a greater population of elderly, and the lack of grocery outlets located nearby.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA AREA SOCIAL SERVICES CONSORTIUM COUNTIES AT A GLANCE

Lost Dollars, Empty Plates Nov. 2009 Food Stamp Program

County	Income eligible Non participants	Lost Fed \$	Lost Economic Activity	Lost local sales tax
Calaveras	3,478	\$4,974,076	\$9,152,299	\$22,383
Fresno	67,645	\$76,962,110	\$141,610,282	\$597,418
Kern	75,707	\$86,204,070	\$158,615,489	\$387,918
Kings	11,742	\$14,509,522	\$26,697,521	\$65,293
Madera	9,077	\$10,741,516	\$19,764,389	\$72,505
Mariposa	1,827	\$2,576,879	\$4,741,457	\$17,394
Merced	19,596	\$22,156,779	\$40,768,473	\$99,706
San Joaquin	40,549	\$46,820,284	\$86,149,323	\$316,037
San Luis Obispo	25,259	\$36,739,133	\$67,600,004	\$165,326
Santa Barbara	44,315	\$58,735,137	\$108,072,653	\$396,462
Stanislaus	33,711	\$41,718,957	\$76,762,880	\$211,202
Tulare	50,453	\$60,284,656	\$110,923,767	\$406,921

In a Nov. 28, 2009 article by Jason DeParle and Robert Gabeloff using information from CDSS, The US Dept. of Agriculture and US Census bureau found the following:

	Increase in use of Food Stamps since 2007
Calaveras	67%
Fresno	35%
Kern	33%
Kings	24%
Madera	26%
Mariposa	38%
Merced	29%
San Joaquin	27%
San Luis Obispo	45%
Santa Barbara	29%
Stanislaus	45%
Tulare	32%

Overall in California the number of persons participating in Food Stamps from Jan. 2009-Jan. 2010 rose by 23.6%

OTHER LOCAL FACTS

Fresno's Community Food Bank which also serves Kings and Madera Counties gave out 6 million pounds of food in 2008, 14 million pounds last year and expects to distribute 30 million pounds in 2010. In Mendota, where unemployment is 41.5 percent, one recent morning 400 people lined up before dawn for food assistance. Kings County is ranked among the top ten agricultural counties in the state but per a recent study ranks worst in food insecurity. In 2009 Madera County Food Bank served 218,644 individuals which were 34,566 more than in 2008.

In Stockton, where 10 percent of the homes are in foreclosure, demand for free food has risen sharply since the recession began. The Emergency Food Bank of Stockton has served 1,500 to 1,800 persons a week. Second Harvest Foodbank serving San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Merced Counties saw a 30 percent increase in food requests in the past year.

The California Health Interview Survey results show that Calaveras and Mariposa counties rate of food insecurity with hunger was 10.3% in 2001 and rose to 17% in 2003.

Foodbank of Santa Barbara County provides emergency food for an estimated 88,900 different people annually.

In Kern County, the Partnership Food Bank distributes more than 4 million pounds of food annually and 58% of those served are children.

The Food Bank Coalition in San Luis Obispo County has had a 40 percent increase in the number of families served over last year.

Foodlink in Tulare County provided food for more than 100,000 persons last year.