



Press Release

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hunger study,
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**25 years of leading the effort to
end hunger in Idaho**



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Landmark Study Shows Dramatic Growth of Hunger in Idaho Nearly 1 in 10 Idahoans Receives Emergency Food

A landmark study released today by The Idaho Foodbank and Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization, reports that more than 142,200 people in Idaho received emergency food last year. The findings represent a 59% increase since the findings reported in *Hunger in Idaho 2006*.

Hunger in Idaho 2010 is the first research study to capture the significant connection between the recent economic downturn and an increased need for free emergency food assistance.

Nationally, Feeding America food banks, such as The Idaho Foodbank, provide free food assistance to 37 million people each year, including 14 million children and three million seniors. This is a 46% increase in the number of people who receive emergency food assistance compared to the 2006 study.

The Idaho study was built on 509 in-person interviews at more than 40 locations conducted over 12 weeks between February and April 2009, plus more than 180 written surveys filled out by our partner agencies. The questions, the sites and the people interviewed were determined by the nationally respected, independent research firm Mathematica. They also calculated the results and compiled the final reports.

USDA reported in November 2009 that an estimated 144,000 Idahoans, including 65,500 children, are at risk of hunger. *Hunger in Idaho 2010* reinforces the dramatically increased need for food assistance in Idaho.

Among the key findings in the Idaho report:

- 142,200 different people received emergency food in 2009
- 47% of clients in Idaho report having to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities or heating fuel
- 34% had to choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage
- 34% had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care
- 37% had to choose between paying for food and paying for transportation
- 49% had to choose between paying for food and paying for gas for a car
- Only 36% of Foodbank client households receive food stamps
- Among the programs that existed in 2006, 83% of pantries, 60% of kitchens and 64% of shelters in Idaho have seen an increase in the number of people who came to their emergency food program sites.

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