

In the 13 north central Texas counties served by Tarrant Area Food Bank

- 1 in 6 children in this region are food insecure.¹ They live in households that do not consistently have the resources to access adequate amounts of nutritious food.
- Children are one-third of all individuals living below the lowest federal Poverty Threshold.² For a family of three that is an income from \$0 to less than \$18,000 a year.
- 1 in 4 people live in households with incomes below 185 percent of federal Poverty Thresholds. For a family of three that is an income from less than \$32,000 a year.³

In Tarrant County:

- 1 in 6 children live in extreme poverty, that is, below the lowest federal Poverty Thresholds.³
- 1 in 8 individuals of all ages live in extreme poverty.³
- Nearly half (48 percent) of all school children qualified for the free and reduced-cost school meals program during the 2008-09 academic year.⁴

Among individual recipients of emergency food aid from the Tarrant Area Food Bank network's pantries, soup kitchens and shelters (not including non-emergency feeding programs):⁵

- 43 percent are children younger than 18;
- 52 percent of the adult recipients are female;
- 5 percent of all recipients are 65 or older;
- 30 percent of adults younger than 65 are employed.

Among households served by Tarrant Area Food Bank's network of emergency pantries, kitchens and shelters:⁵

- Most do not have great numbers of children—63 percent of households have three or fewer members and many households consist of one elderly person;
- 30 percent of families with children younger than 18 are headed by single parents;
- 65 percent of households have a total annual income of less than \$15,000 from employment, pensions, or some form of Social Security;
- 52 percent of families have to choose whether to buy food or pay for utilities;
- 39 percent must choose whether to pay for medicine or groceries.

¹ U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Economic Research Service, *Household Food Security in the United States, 2008*.

² U.S. Census Bureau Poverty Thresholds are similar to U.S. Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines.

³ U.S. Census Bureau *American Community Survey 2006-2008: "Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months."*

⁴ Texas Education Agency, "2008-2009 Students Economically Disadvantaged County Totals."

⁵ Regional report for Tarrant Area Food Bank from *Hunger in America 2010*, a nationwide survey in 2009 of Americans who seek emergency food assistance. The national survey was sponsored by the national network of regional food banks, Feeding America.