



## Hunger in America 2014 Study

The Hunger in America 2014 study, conducted by Feeding America, is completed every four years, surveying the food pantries and feeding programs in the Northern Illinois Food Bank network and the people who seek food assistance from them.

### How many people are served by Northern Illinois Food Bank?

- 590,400 people are served annually
- 71,500 people are served weekly

### Here is a snapshot of who Northern Illinois Food Bank serves:

#### ETHNICITY

- 40% identify as white
- 33% identify as Hispanic or Latino
- 17% identify as black or African American

#### AGE

- 36% are children under age 18
- 15% are adults age 18-29
- 26% are adults from age 30-49
- 13% are adults age 50-59
- 9% are age 60 and older

#### POVERTY

- 66% of households have incomes that fall at or below the federal poverty level
- 45% of households have annual incomes of \$10,000 or less
- 28% have annual incomes of \$10,001 to \$20,000
- 13% have annual incomes higher than \$30,000

#### HEALTH

- 57% of households have unpaid medical bills
- 53% of households report at least one member with high blood pressure
- 26% of households report at least one member with diabetes

#### EMPLOYMENT

- 77% of households have a member that has worked for pay in the last 12 months
- 23% of households did not have employment in the past 12 months, but these households include those with members who are retired, disabled, in poor health or caretakers

### SPENDING TRADE-OFFS

- 77% of households reported they had to choose between paying for food and utilities in the past 12 months
- 69% of households chose between paying for food and transportation in the past 12 months.
- 62% of households chose between paying for food and paying for medicine at least once in the past 12 months
- 62% of households chose between paying for food and paying for housing at least once in the past 12 months

### HOUSING

- 96% of people who use the Food Bank's services live in non-temporary housing, such as a house or apartment. Of those:
  - 63% rent or lease
  - 21% own their own home with a mortgage
  - 23% of respondents have lived in at least two places in the past 12 months
  - 20% of respondents have experienced foreclosure or eviction in the past five years

### EDUCATION

- 78% of people who use the Food Bank's services have a high school diploma or general equivalency diploma
- 30% of people who use the Food Bank's services completed some college, earned a business, trade or technical degree or completed a four-year college degree or higher level of education

### SNAP PARTICIPATION

- 53% of households currently receive benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly the Food Stamp Program)
- 54% of households receiving SNAP benefits say they exhaust their monthly benefits in two weeks or less

### ADDITIONAL DATA

- 19% of respondents are grandparents who have responsibility for grandchildren who live with them
- 16% of households have at least one member that has served in the U.S. military

**Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors**

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