

Data 101



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What Do You Mean by Poverty?

- Income thresholds that vary by family size to detect who is poor. If a family's total income is less than that family's threshold, then that family, and every individual in it, is considered poor.
- Do not vary geographically
- Updated annually for inflation
- Income before taxes and excludes noncash benefits

The 2009 Poverty Guidelines for the 48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia

Persons in family	Poverty guideline
1	\$10,830
2	14,570
3	18,310
4	22,050
5	25,790
6	29,530
7	33,270
8	37,010

For families with more than 8 persons, add \$3,740 for each additional person.

Talking About Poverty

- Powerful number, but has limits
 - Data is old – doesn't include recession
 - Levels are low- undercounts need
- Eligibility based on a poverty multiplier
 - 130% SNAP, Free school meals
 - 185% WIC, Reduced-Price school meals
- Try to talk in dollar amounts

What Does Food Security Mean?

- ❑ **Food Security** - Access by all members of a household at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life. Food security includes at a minimum:
 - ❑ The ready availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods.
 - ❑ Assured ability to acquire acceptable foods, without resorting to emergency food supplies, scavenging, stealing, or other coping strategies.

Food Insecurity???

- **Food Insecurity** - Limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.
 - Very low food security- at times during the year, the food intake of household members is reduced and their normal eating patterns are disrupted because the household lacks money and other resources for food.

General categories (old and new labels are the same)	Detailed categories		
	Old label	New label	Description of conditions in the household
Food security	Food security	High food security	No reported indications of food-access problems or limitations
		Marginal food security	One or two reported indications—typically of anxiety over food sufficiency or shortage of food in the house. Little or no indication of changes in diets or food intake
Food insecurity	Food insecurity without hunger	Low food security	Reports of reduced quality, variety, or desirability of diet. Little or no indication of reduced food intake
	Food insecurity with hunger	Very low food security	Reports of multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake

Talking about Food Security

- Useful number but has limits
 - Data is old –3-yr averages for states
 - Survey focuses on households
- Can be difficult to represent accurately
 - Food insecure “at least some time during the year” – not everyday
 - Children may not be food insecure themselves
- Use a more relatable phrase –struggle against hunger

Where To Find the Data

- Number of people in poverty counted by Census Bureau
 - Updated annually -August
 - Available for states, counties, and areas above 20,000 people
- Household Food Insecurity issued by ERS
 - Updated annually –November
 - Available for states
- FRAC Data Center

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Data Center

Hunger

National:

In 2006, more than 35.5 million Americans lived in food insecure households.

State Data:

2005-07 Food Insecurity Rates | Food Insecurity Rates for 2005-07 and 2002-04

Participation in Federal Nutrition Programs by State

Poverty

2007 State Data:

American Community Survey: 2007 State Poverty Estimates (pdf)

2007 County Data (files will open in an Excel format):

Choose a Destination...

Food Stamps

Participation Trends

Summer Food Program

Participation by State | Additional Children Served if States Met FRAC's Participation Goal



Using Data Well

- Keep it simple
- Keep it local
- Keep it current
- Keep it relatable