



“In a country with an overabundance of food, no one should go hungry because of a lack of funds or technical and professional knowledge. We have the food, and we have the networks; we now need to support the providers.” - Jose Serrano

Hunger facts

There are many measures that reflect the impact of hunger and poverty in the state of Minnesota. Here are just a few:

- From 2008 to 2010, visits to food shelves increased by 62% statewide, according to Hunger Solutions. In the nine-county Twin Cities metropolitan area, the jump was an even more startling 97%.
- According to a September 2011 report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 10.3% of Minnesotans live in households that sometimes struggle to get enough food.
- Lack of proper nutrition often leads to a number of costly health issues. Hunger Free Minnesota reports poor health costs the state approximately \$2,329 more per person for medical expenses, about \$925 million annually in direct medical expenses.
- Since 2008, Second Harvest Heartland reports visits by seniors to Minnesota’s suburban emergency food programs increased more than 70%.
- During January-March 2011, Hunger Solutions reported food shelf visits increased 7.5% from 2010.
- According to the Minnesota Department of Human Services, there were 515,000 residents enrolled in food support in April 2011, an 18.8% increase in one year.
- In 2010, Hunger Solutions found that 39% of visits to food shelves were for children under 18 and another 9% were made by the elderly.
- In 2010, there were more than three million visits to Minnesota food shelves.
- Thirty-six percent of visitors to metro-area food shelves reported having at least one working adult in the household, according to Hunger Solutions.
- According to U.S. Census Bureau figures, 15% of Minnesota children, or about 190,000, were living in poverty last year, an increase of about 18,000 from 2009.
- Suburban poverty rates are outpacing those in the urban centers of the Twin Cities and as a result, suburban food shelves in Hennepin County reported a 64% increase in usage in 2009, according to the Minnesota Department of Human Services.
- In 2010, Hunger Solutions reported Minnesota seniors enrolled in food support at unprecedented numbers (29,586), an 18% increase over 2009.
- More than 35% of eligible Minnesotans were not enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in 2010, even though they qualified, according to the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Key hunger terms

Food Insecurity is limited or uncertain access to adequate food, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Hunger is the result of prolonged food insecurity.

Food Support is a county-run federal program that helps low-income Minnesotans get the food they need for sound nutrition and well-balanced meals, as defined by the Minnesota Department of Human Services.