

Quick Facts About Hunger in America

What is "food insecurity?"

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food insecurity as **a lack of access at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life.**

Who is food insecure in America?

42.2 million Americans struggle to put enough nutritious food on the table.

- that's 13.1 million children and 5.7 million seniors
- 12.7% of all American households - that's more than 1 in 8
- more food insecure Americans than the entire population of Canada (35.1 million)

What resources are available for food insecure people?

They rely on help, primarily from two sources:

Government Programs

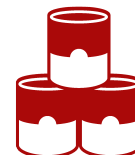
The USDA has 15 distinct food and nutrition assistance programs to combat domestic hunger.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the most widely used of these programs and has over 44 million participants.



Private Charity

Charitable organizations were not conceived to feed entire communities, but to help alleviate what was thought to be a temporary or emergency situation. While these organizations play a vital role in addressing hunger, they struggle to keep up with the need.



Why isn't private charity the answer?

The charitable response could never fill the gap if government programs continue to erode. The overwhelming majority of food assistance in this country comes from federal programs.

Only about 5% is provided by the charitable sector.

