

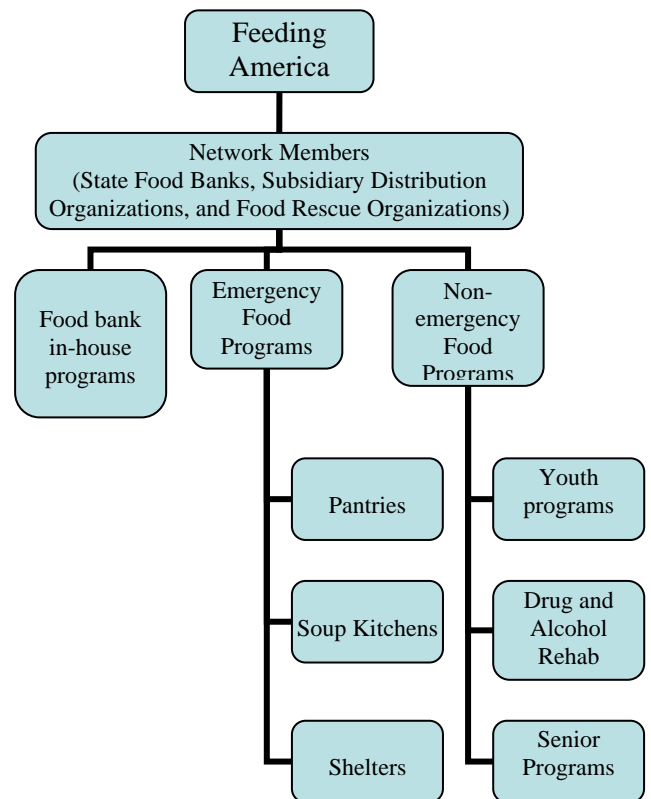
July 2010

Across the world each day, 1.02 billion people experience hunger and lack of nutrition is an indicator in more than 5 million child deaths around the globe (World Food Program, 2010). In the United States, 49.1 million people (15% of all households) qualified as food insecure in 2008 (Feeding America, 2010c). Increased costs for food, transportation, housing, health care, and energy are forcing many Americans to choose between food and other necessities. Food banks are important resources that provide both short-term and long-term assistance to those needing food across the country.

Food Banks

“A food bank is a charitable organization that solicits, receives, inventories, stores, and distributes donated food and grocery products to (other) charitable agencies that directly serve needy clients” (Mathematica Policy Research, 2010, pg.8-9).

Feeding America (formerly known as America’s Second Harvest) represents the United States national food bank network. This organization provided emergency food assistance to more than 37 million Americans in 2009. Those clients included 14 million children and almost 3 million senior citizens (Feeding America, 2010a). Feeding America provides food and monetary resources to its member agencies throughout the country, which in turn allocate those resources to agencies that directly help the hungry. The following organization chart portrays the relationship between Feeding America and its member agencies throughout the United States.



(Mathematica Policy Research, 2010)

Agencies who ultimately distribute the various food products operate emergency food programs (programs that provide short-term or emergency assistance including food pantries, soup kitchens, or shelters) and/or non-emergency programs (day and summer camps, senior congregate meals, and various other programs). In the “Hunger in America 2010” survey, Feeding America acquired statistical information about agencies that operated emergency food programs. Agency data from this survey appears in the following table.

Characteristics of Food Bank Agencies (2009)			
	<i>United States</i>	<i>Texas</i>	<i>San Antonio</i>
Unduplicated clients served per week	37,000,000	2,992,800	58,000
*Number of Member Agencies who received food bank products	37,212	2,704	231
Percentage of agencies with:			
Emergency food programs	54%	55%	54%
Pantry	71%	73%	76%
Soup kitchen	18%	16%	17%
Shelter	11%	11%	8%
*only includes agencies who responded to the survey (Feeding America, 2010a; Obledo & Medina, 2010; Mathematica Policy Research, 2010a)			

Clients of Food Banks

The “Hunger in America 2010” survey also gathered information about the clients who utilized food bank services. The table below presents demographic characteristics of emergency food bank clients in the United States, in Texas, and in the San Antonio area.

Demographic Data of Clients Using Emergency Food Programs (2009)			
	<i>United States</i>	<i>Texas</i>	<i>San Antonio</i>
Age (Years)			
0-17	38%	42%	36%
18-64	54%	49%	50%
65+	8%	9%	14%
Gender			
Male	39%	31%	30%
Female	61%	69%	70%
Ethnicity			
White	40%	26%	22%
Black	34%	28%	7%
Hispanic	21%	44%	69%
(Feeding America, 2010a; Obledo & Medina, 2010; Mathematica Policy Research, 2010)			

Many clients who use emergency food programs are classified as food insecure because of a continual lack of access to nutritionally adequate food. In 2008, Texas ranked second in the nation for percentage of food insecure persons and was sixth in the nation for people with the very highest amounts of food insecurity (Feeding America, 2010c). Food insecurity and other pertinent characteristics of food bank clients are provided in the following table.

Characteristics of Food Bank Clients (2009)			
	<i>United States</i>	<i>Texas</i>	<i>San Antonio</i>
Food insecure	75%	75%	66%
Homeless	10%	10%	8%
At least one employed member within household	36%	43%	46%
At least one household member in poor health	29%	29%	29%
(Feeding America, 2010a; Obledo & Medina, 2010; Mathematica Policy Research, 2010)			

The people who utilize food banks services often also access other government programs designed to help ease hunger, such as the Food Stamp program (now referred to as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-SNAP). Yet, only 65% of Americans currently eligible for the Food Stamp program actually receive its benefits (Food Research and Access Center, 2008). The following table provides statistics showing the use of various government food assistance programs by food bank clients.

Participation of Food Bank Clients in Government Food Assistance Programs (2009)			
	<i>United States</i>	<i>Texas</i>	<i>San Antonio</i>
Food stamp program (SNAP)	41%	31%	33%
Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	54%	45%	69%
School lunch program	62%	66%	57%
School breakfast program	54%	63%	42%
Summer Food Service Program	14%	12%	15%
(Feeding America, 2010a; Obledo & Medina, 2010; Mathematica Policy Research, 2010)			

Food Banks serving Texas

Seventeen food banks are members of the Texas Food Bank Network and service the state of Texas. The table at the end of this document provides general information about the various Texas food banks included within the current Feeding America Food Bank locator database.

San Antonio Food Bank

The San Antonio Food Bank serves nearly 501 agencies in 16 Texas counties, including Bandera, Bexar, Comal, and Kendall Counties. This organization manages a variety of in-house

programs, collaborative programs, and programs that directly support its member agencies. Current food bank programs include:

General Programs

Warehouse Program

Houses, inspects, and inventories unprepared food products. Allocates food products to member agencies for pick-up after receiving their food orders. Member agencies then provide the food directly to the hungry people in their programs.

Second Servings Program

Distributes pre-prepared food from restaurants, hotels, and other organizations to shelters and congregate feeding sites.

Community Kitchen

Teaches culinary skills to the homeless.

Food Fair

Along with the Texas Department of State Health Services, this program provides vouchers to the most needy in the San Antonio area. The participants receive 60 pounds of food at food fairs on the south, east, and west sides of the city.

In 2008, the San Antonio Food Bank became one of seven food banks nationwide to operate a mobile food pantry. Supported by Kraft Foods, the “pantry-on-wheels” will allow the food bank to bring food directly to its member agencies, especially those situated the furthest from the food bank. The San Antonio Food Bank plans to use the mobile food pantry to expand the Food Fair program (The Wall Street Journal Online, 2008).

Nutrition Education Programs

Offers classes throughout its service area on nutrition, food safety, food budgeting, obesity, and diabetes. This program also boasts the 5.5 acre Spurs Community Garden used to educate and provide food to member agencies.

Fresh Produce Program

Distributes 2 to 3 million pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables each year to member agencies.

Texas Second Chance Program

Provides work and training opportunities at the food bank for 22 inmates incarcerated at Dominguez State Jail.

Daisy Cares Pet Food Program

Seeks pet food donations to aid struggling families in providing food for their pets.

Food Stamp Education and Outreach Program

Educates and assists people through the Food Stamp application process. Also maintains a Food Stamp program that specifically targets seniors.

Youth Programs

Kids Cafe

Along with 19 local youth centers, this program provides after-school meals, tutoring, and mentoring to at-risk youth.

Summer Food Service Program

Provides meals to at-risk kids during the summer months in Bexar and Comal counties.

Back Pack Program

Provides needy children with food and other school supplies throughout the school year.

Senior Programs

Project H.O.P.E.

Called the “Healthy Options Program for the Elderly,” this program gives food to 71 senior nutrition sites in Bexar County. This food is distributed directly to the seniors, allowing them to use their extra money for other necessities. (San Antonio Food Bank, n.d.)

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Food Banks in Texas (data as of May 2010)						
<i>Location</i>	<i>Food Bank*</i>	<i># of Counties served</i>	<i>Pounds of food distributed annually</i>	<i>Number of Agencies who receive food from the bank</i>		
				<i>Emergency</i>	<i>Youth</i>	<i>Senior</i>
Abilene	Food Bank of West Central Texas	13	3,147,284	80	17	12
Amarillo	High Plains Food Bank	29	5,250,444	80	9	20
Austin	Capital Area Food Bank, Inc.	21	22,115,189	195	52	17
Beaumont	Southeast Texas Food Bank	8	6,634,258	70	8	5
Corpus Christi	Food Bank of Corpus Christi	11	5,482,050	77	16	12
Dallas	North Texas Food Bank	13	40,650,490	128	30	5
Ft. Worth	Tarrant Area Food Bank	13	21,035,631	160	28	24
Houston	Houston Food Bank	18	68,661,723	249	9	11
Lubbock	South Plains Food Bank	32	8,314,956	156	9	24
Laredo	South Texas Food Bank	8	2,239,468	61	7	0
McAllen	Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley, Inc.	3	25,113,906	151	17	1
Odessa	West Texas Food Bank	22	6,817,459	123	5	5
San Antonio	San Antonio Food Bank	16	35,084,682	227	31	113
Texarkana	Harvest Texarkana	10	2,128,355	83	8	9
Tyler	East Texas Food Bank	26	16,817,897	109	26	11
Victoria	Food Bank of the Golden Crescent	11	3,672,313	48	5	13
Wichita Falls	Wichita Falls Area Food Bank	12	2,652,844	47	46	16
*Brazos Valley Food Bank in Bryan/College Station (a subsidiary of the Houston Food Bank) and the Concho Valley Regional Food Bank in San Angelo also serve Texas, but their individual data was not included within this database (Feeding America, 2010b)						