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## Hunger in America 2010 – Topline

- **Dramatic increase in hunger in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area – 25 percent vs. four years ago**

The CAFB serves 478,100 people each year through 700 nonprofit partners, an increase of 25 percent over 2006. (That's 10 percent of the population of the metro area. *2008 U.S. Census*)

  - 47 percent of all clients are children vs. 38 percent nationally; an increase of 28 percent vs. 2006
  - 5 percent of those served are senior citizens
  - Just 5 percent are homeless
  - 16 percent of those served own their homes, a decrease of 28 percent vs. 2006
- **The CAFB is serving 19,000 more people each week through nonprofit partners**

88,400 people are being served weekly through partner agencies, an increase of 27 percent vs. 2006.
- **Working people represent more than half of those struggling with hunger**

56 percent of households served have at least one employed adult. This is up from 47 percent in 2006.

  - 60 percent of households visiting a pantry have one or more employed adults; 15 percent visiting kitchens and 12 percent visiting shelters
- **The number of adults and children facing food insecurity\* is alarming**

70 percent of all households served are food insecure

  - Among households with children, 75 percent are food insecure
  - About 40 percent of households with seniors have low or very low food security
  - 1 in 3 households had a child/children did not eat enough because they just couldn't afford enough food
- **Many people have to make difficult choices between buying food and other necessities**

40 percent of clients served had to choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage

  - 42 percent had to choose between food and paying for utilities or heating fuel
  - 46 percent had to choose between food and medicine or medical care; an increase of 29 percent vs. 2006
  - 41 percent had to choose between food and paying for transportation
  - 27 percent had to choose between food and paying for gas for a car
  - *82 percent of all client households had 2 or more of these situations*
- **Half of people served are skipping meals altogether because they cannot afford food**
  - Average annual household income among all clients is \$16,960; the average household size is 3.3. persons. The 2009 official federal poverty level for a family of 3 is \$18,310. 185 percent of poverty is \$33,873 for a family a three; a threshold used for many federal programs.
  - 50 percent of all adult clients or other adults in the household frequently skipped meals or reduced the size of meals
- **Food Stamps and other government assistance programs are not enough to prevent families from going hungry**

- Food stamps last, on average 2 ½ weeks
  - 1 in 3 households served are receiving food stamps (now called SNAP)
  - Nearly half households with babies ages 0 – 3 participate in WIC
  - Among households with school-age children, 65 percent and 58 percent, respectively, participate in federal school lunch and breakfast programs
  - 68 percent of clients that receive Food Stamps have low or very low food security; and 70 percent report that the food doesn't last and they do not have money to buy more
- **The Capital Area Food Bank is the single most important source of food for partner agencies.**  
 Clients are satisfied with the quality of food and service they receive, but the need outpaces what the food bank is able to provide
    - 74 percent of the food pantries distribute is sourced from the CAFB
    - Half of the food kitchens distribute is sourced from the CAFB
    - 42 percent of the food shelters distribute is sourced from the CAFB
  - **Volunteers are a critical resource for CAFB partner agencies**
    - 65 percent of pantries, 29 percent of kitchens and 19 percent of shelters rely completely on volunteers and have no paid staff
    - 76 percent of CAFB partner agencies are faith-based organizations

**\* 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 insecurity:**

*Reductions in food intake or disruptions in eating patterns due to a lack of adequate resources for food.*