

# OHIO ASSOCIATION OF SECOND HARVEST FOODBANKS

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## NEARLY ONE IN FIVE OHIOANS EXPERIENCED FOOD HARDSHIP IN 2011 *Ohio Ranks 18<sup>th</sup> Nationally, an Increase from 23<sup>rd</sup> in 2010, According to a New Report*

**COLUMBUS** – “Have there been times in the past twelve months when you did not have enough money to buy food that you or your family needed?” New food hardship data from the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) shows the continuing prevalence of hunger among Ohioans, as 19.8 percent of Ohioans answered yes to that question in 2011.

FRAC’s food hardship report analyzes data collected by Gallup as part of the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index project, which has been interviewing almost 1,000 households daily since January 2008. The most recent results reflect the increasing need experienced by the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks (OASHF) and its network of 12 Feeding America foodbanks.

“Over the past three months, our greater network of more than 3,300 member food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters served more than 2.3 million Ohioans unable to obtain the basic necessity of food on their own,” said Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, OASHF Executive Director. “Our foodbanks are hard-pressed to fill the gaps between adequate nutrition and food hardship for Ohio’s families, especially as food prices increase while federal food assistance benefits remain stagnant. We urge policymakers and community stakeholders to engage in strategies to prevent local families and communities from experiencing the detrimental effects of hunger.”

Notably, there are metropolitan areas within Ohio where an even larger concentrated percentage of families experienced food hardship. Data aggregated by FRAC illustrates food hardship in the nation’s Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). In two Ohio MSAs, more than one in five Ohioans experienced food hardship from 2010 to 2011, including Dayton which ranked eighth nationally among all MSAs.

### **State Food Hardship:**

Ohio’s state ranking nationally in 2011: **18**

*(Ohio’s state ranking nationally in 2010: 23)*

Ohio’s rate of food hardship in 2011: **19.8 percent**

National rate of food hardship in 2011: **18.6 percent**

### **Ohio Metropolitan Statistical Area’s Food Hardship Rate**

<b>Ohio MSA</b>	<b>Food Hardship Rate</b>	<b>National Rank (out of 100)</b>
Dayton	22.4	8
Youngstown-Warren-Boardman	20.9	16
Toledo	19.5	30
Akron	18.4	45
Columbus	18.0	50

Cincinnati-Middletown	17.3	54
Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor	17.0	58

**2011 Food Hardship Data by Ohio Congressional District**

District	Representative	Food Hardship Rate
11	Marcia L. Fudge	22.2
3	Michael R. Turner	21.7
15	Steve Stivers	21.4
8	John A. Boehner	21.1
17	Tim Ryan	21.0
18	Bob Gibbs	20.7
1	Steve Chabot	20.6
7	Steve Austria	20.4
6	Bill Johnson	19.6
9	Marcy Kaptur	19.0
4	Jim Jordan	18.9
10	Dennis J. Kucinich	18.7
2	Jean Schmidt	16.7
13	Betty Sutton	16.7
5	Robert E. Latta	16.2
12	Patrick J. Tiberi	15.0
14	Steven C. LaTourette	14.9
16	James B. Renacci	13.7

To view the entire *Food Hardship in America 2011* report by FRAC, visit [www.frac.org](http://www.frac.org). To learn more about the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks, visit [www.oashf.org](http://www.oashf.org).

**About the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks**

*OASHF is Ohio's largest charitable response to hunger, representing Ohio's 12 Feeding America foodbanks and their more than 3,300 member charities including food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters. In SFY 2011, OASHF and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute more than 150 million pounds of food and grocery items. Follow @OASHF on Twitter and stay connected on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/oashf](http://www.facebook.com/oashf).*

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