

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF FOODBANKS

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More Than One in Four Households with Children in Ohio and More Than One in Six Households without Children in Ohio Report Inability to Afford Enough Food
Data Also Show Widespread Struggle in Every Metropolitan Area, Underscoring Need to Protect Nutrition Safety Net

COLUMBUS, OHIO – According to a [new national report released today](#) by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), more than one in four households with children in Ohio (26.1 percent) said they couldn't consistently afford food, even as the House Majority Leadership is proposing to cut the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) by a staggering \$40 billion.

The report, called *Food Hardship 2008-2012: Geography and Household Structure*, found that in surveys from 2008-2012, nearly one in four households nationally said there were times in the prior year when they did not have enough money to buy food that they needed for themselves or their family.

"Food hardship is far too high for households in Ohio, and the situation for households with children is far worse," said Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks. "Congress needs to act on what's going to help struggling families, and the first step is to pass a Farm Bill that doesn't cut SNAP."

All of Ohio's seven large Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) had food hardship rates of 22 percent or higher among households with children, ranking them high among the nation's 100 largest MSAs:

- **Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, OH-PA**— 28.0 percent food hardship for households with children— National Rank: 10th
- **Dayton, OH**— 26.9 percent food hardship for households with children— National Rank: 15th
- **Toledo, OH**— 25.7 percent food hardship for households with children— National Rank: 26th
- **Columbus, OH**— 24.1 percent food hardship for households with children— National Rank: 32nd
- **Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor, OH**— 23.0 percent food hardship for households with children— National Rank: 46th
- **Akron, OH**— 22.2 percent food hardship for households with children— National Rank: 55th
- **Cincinnati, Middletown, OH-KY-IN**— 22.0 percent food hardship for households with children— National Rank: 57th

This report is consistent with data released by the federal government this month which show how many Americans continue to struggle. Food insecurity data, released by the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), show that 16.1 percent of Ohio households experienced low food security during the 2010 to 2012 period. And national poverty data released yesterday by the U.S. Census Bureau showed that the national poverty rate has remained at elevated rates since the recession began.

The FRAC analysis examines food hardship rates—the inability to afford enough food—for households with and without children. Data are available for the nation, every state and region, and 100 of the country's largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). Findings for food hardship from surveys from 2008-2012 include:

- 26.1 percent of households with children in Ohio said they were unable to afford enough food, ranking Ohio 20th nationally. The food hardship rate for households without children was 17.2 percent, ranking Ohio 14th nationally.
- Regionally, the Midwest region had a food hardship rate of 23.2 percent among households with children and 15.1 percent among households without children, meaning Ohio's food hardship rates were higher than the regional average.

The full analysis is available on FRAC's website (www.frac.org).

About the Ohio Association of Foodbanks

The Ohio Association of Foodbanks is Ohio's largest charitable response to hunger, representing Ohio's 12 Feeding America foodbanks and 3,300 member charities including food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters. In SFY 2011, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute over 150 million pounds of food and grocery items. Follow the association on [Twitter](#), stay connected on [Facebook](#), and visit them on the web at www.ohiofoodbanks.org.

About the Food Research and Action Center

FRAC is the leading national nonprofit organization working to improve public policies and public-private partnerships to end hunger and undernutrition in the United States. Visit FRAC online at www.frac.org.

About the data

FRAC's Food Hardship in America series analyzes data that were collected by Gallup and provided to FRAC. The data were gathered as part of the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index project, which has interviewed nearly 1.8 million households between 2008 and 2012. FRAC has analyzed responses to the question: "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?"

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