

ACFB

GEORGIA HUNGER POVERTY DATA 2008 MASTER FACT SHEET

Who We Are

The mission of the Atlanta Community Food Bank is to fight hunger by engaging, educating and empowering our community.

The Atlanta Community Food Bank is a network of people working together to fight hunger and build community. A member of the national Second Harvest Food Bank Network, the Atlanta Community Food Bank began serving the community in 1979. In 2006, the Food Bank distributed more than 20 million pounds of food to nearly 800 non-profit agencies, which assist hungry people in metro Atlanta and 38 North Georgia counties. For more information about the Atlanta Community Food Bank, and our projects, please visit www.acfb.org.

State Demographic Data¹

Population	9,363,941
% of children under 18	26%
% of population over 65	9.6%
Unemployment Rate	4.7%
Median Household Income	\$45,605

Poverty Data²

Current federal poverty guidelines are delineated by family size. The poverty guideline threshold for a family of three in FY 2007 is \$17,170. To learn more about Poverty Guidelines go to: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/index.shtml>. The methodology used to determine these guidelines has not been changed since they were developed in the 1950's. These guidelines were never meant to be the official measure of poverty but became just that in the late 1960's. In the 50's families spent about a 1/3 of their income on food, there were typically no childcare costs and families spent far less on housing. Some economists believe that if we changed the methodology to reflect current expenditures - many more people would be considered poor.

% of Georgians living in poverty	14.7%	1,376,499 people
% of children in poverty	20.2%	491,794 children
% of senior citizens in poverty	12.6%	113,266 seniors
% of Female headed households in poverty.	30.9%	
% with related children under 18 years	37.7%	
% with related children under 5 years	47.3%	

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Profile, 2006. U.S. Census, Quick Facts, <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/States/13000>

² Ibid.

Food Security³

Food security is *access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life. At a minimum, we feel, this includes the ready availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods and the assured ability to acquire personally acceptable foods in a socially acceptable way.* In 2006, the USDA introduced new labels for describing ranges of food insecurity in this country. **Low food security:** Reports of reduced quality, variety, or desirability of diet with little or no indication of reduced food intake. In other words, people who lack quality nutrition and have poor access to food. **Very low food security:** Reports of multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake.

% food <u>low</u> food security households in Georgia	12.6%
# of food <u>low</u> food security households in Georgia	393,286
% of households with <u>very low</u> food security	5.0%
# of households with <u>very low</u> food security	156,065

TANF⁴

In 1996, **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families** replaced welfare (Aid to Families with Dependent Children: AFDC) as we knew it in the United States. After decades it ceased to be an entitlement program. Now there is a 5 year lifetime maximum (**4 years in Georgia**) that a person can access temporary assistance. TANF benefits are not enough for a family to live on- it's about 22% of poverty. Many people eligible for TANF are not accessing it in Georgia. The numbers of Georgians accessing TANF have been going down each year even as the number of those in poverty is going up. To learn more about TANF go to:
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/opa/fact_sheets/tanf_factsheet.html

<u>Maximum monthly cash benefit for a family of 3</u>	\$280.00
Monthly average benefit per person	\$112.51
Monthly average families enrolled	82,370
Monthly average adults enrolled	3,425
Monthly average children enrolled	21,797
% of working families receiving TANF	57%

Food Stamps⁵

The Food Stamp Program is a federal nutrition program that provides monthly benefits to eligible low-income families that are used to purchase food. The Food Stamp Program was designed to supplement food income and was never intended to be a family's total budget for food. Unfortunately, for many who are eligible and accessing food stamps, it is their only budget for food, due to increased housing and childcare costs. To learn more about the FSP go to:
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/>

Average monthly participation, households	386,192
Average monthly participation, persons	946,812
Average monthly benefit per person	\$ 96. 67
Proportion of eligible persons participating	67%

³ USDA, 2007 <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/>

⁴ Georgia Dept. of Human Resources, Div. Of Family and Children Services, "Descriptive Data: FY 2007.

⁵ USDA, 2006. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd>.

School Meal Programs⁶

The School Breakfast program was started in the late 1960's as a pilot program. To learn more about the history of **SBP** go to:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/breakfast/AboutBFast/ProgramHistory.htm> .

These programs were developed to increase food security for low-income individuals and families. The School Lunch program was originally started in the 1940's. To learn about the background and history of the **SLP** go to:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/lunch/AboutLunch/ProgramHistory.htm> .

Average daily student participation, breakfast	498,575
Free & reduced price	395,422
Average daily student participation, lunch	1,249,174
Free & reduced price	741,916
Rank among states, service to low income students	9th
Average daily participation, Summer Meals	96,003
Free & reduced price	37,660

WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children)⁷

WIC is one of the Federal Nutrition Programs developed to help pregnant women and mothers with small children. For more information about WIC- <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/>

Total participants, avg. month	276,053
% change last 10 years	up 23.4%
Average monthly benefit per person	\$37.26

To learn more about ALL of the Federal Nutrition Programs including the school breakfast, school lunch, summer food programs and WIC, go to

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/services.htm> .

Working Poor Data⁸

Working poor is a term used to describe a large, and growing, group of Americans who are working, many of them full time and multiple jobs, but are still poor. The minimum wage was just raised, for the first time in ten years, to \$7.25. The change will occur gradually, reaching \$7.25 in 2009. For more information about the history of minimum wage go to:

<http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/chart.htm> .

Current State/Federal minimum wage	\$5.85
Income level at which families begin paying taxes:	
<i>For single parent families of 3-</i>	\$12,700
Full time minimum wage worker earns/year	\$11,232
A full time worker earning 8 dollars an hour earns/year	\$16,320
Poverty Threshold line for family of 3- 2007	\$17,170

⁶ USDA, 2006. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd>; Annie E. Casey Foundation, *Kids Count, 2007 Data Book*.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Georgia Department of Labor, 2007. US Census, *Poverty in America*, op. cit.

Housing Cost⁹

One of the biggest issues surrounding poverty is affordable housing. A minimum wage worker can not afford Fair Market Rent for a two bedroom apt. anywhere in the United States. According to HUD- more than 12 million renter and homeowner households, in the U.S., spend more than 50% of their income on housing.

Proposed FY 2008 Fair Market Rent in Atlanta area

For a 2 bedroom apt/ month

\$824

Hours minimum wage worker must work/week to afford FMR 140 Hours

Housing wage in Atlanta, GA for 2 bedroom \$20.60/hour/FTE

⁹ www.hud.gov, 2007; <http://www.huduser.org/datasets/fmr/fmrs/st.odb>

