

Hunger is big and mostly hidden in Sacramento.

Having a job doesn't mean you can feed your family.

- 50% of the families using emergency food services have someone who works (or receives job-related assistance).
- 80% of all families surveyed lived below the federal poverty level (income of \$18,000 for a family of four).
- 73% of families surveyed with at least one member working lived below the federal poverty level.
- 84% of families surveyed considered themselves "food insecure" (defined as, "when you are uncertain about having access to food").

Children are at risk.

- 82% of the families surveyed with children considered themselves "food insecure."
- Over 50% of eligible children did *not* participate in the National School Breakfast Program in 2002.
- 72% of eligible children did *not* participate in the 2002 free Summer Food program.
- 60% of the families surveyed potentially eligible for the Women, Infant & Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program do *not* participate. (WIC is a food and nutrition program for low-income at-risk pregnant, breastfeeding, and post-partum women, and for children under age five.)

Access to food is a problem for people in need.

- 79% of families surveyed cited inadequate transportation as a barrier to receiving emergency food; nearly 70% were in households without a car.
- Only 30% of families surveyed receive food stamps, which lasted an average of only 2.5 weeks per month.
- 650 frail senior citizens were on the waiting list in the summer of 2003 for Home Delivered Meals.
- There is a severe shortage of major chain supermarkets and other large grocery stores in low-income areas.
- Nearly 50% of families surveyed wanted access to a community garden. There are currently only 14 community gardens in the county; most are full, with waiting lists of up to two years.

***About the survey:* 338 people were surveyed at seven food closets and five soup kitchens in June 2003. The findings cannot be generalized to the entire food insecure population since many of the most vulnerable individuals may not be able to access emergency food services.**