



Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank Hunger Fact Sheet 2014

Hunger and poverty in San Diego County:

Of San Diego County's 3.1 million residents, 462,269 people live in poverty – that's 15.1% of the population of San Diego County.* Of this number, 137,084 are children. These individuals face "food insecurity" which means that little or no food is available at home and often they will not know how they will get their next meal.

(*U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 2011. Compiled by SANDAG, January 2013.)

About the Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank:

The Food Bank feeds 320,000 people per month in partnership with 350 nonprofit community partners including: food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, low-income daycare centers, senior centers, churches, schools, and day centers for the elderly and disabled.

The Food Bank's nonprofit partners collect food from its 80,000 sq. ft. warehouse in Miramar and distribute the food directly to people in need in their local communities. By acting as a central distribution point and through its own direct distributions the Food Bank and its nonprofit partners provide food to communities throughout the county's 4,200 square mile radius. In the fiscal year 2013 - 2014, the Food Bank distributed 22.3 million pounds of food – the equivalent of 18.6 million meals.

Demand for food assistance:

Due to a sustained high unemployment rate, rising food and gas prices and the region's high cost of living, tens of thousands of families and fixed-income seniors rely on the Food Bank to put food on the table.

Impact of the economic downturn:

As a barometer of the county's economic health, the Food Bank's distribution increases illustrate the impact of the economy on local families. In 2008 the Food Bank provided food to more than 200,000 people per month. This year the Food Bank is feeding 320,000 people every month.

How you can help:

There are many ways you can help the Food Bank.

- Donate food – Host a food drive at your school, business or religious organization.
- Donate time – The Food Bank relies on volunteers to sort and package tons of food every day. Visit our website and sign up to volunteer using our online registration system: www.sandiegofoodbank.org/volunteer
- Donate money – Monetary donations help supplement the "lottery" of food drive donations. For every \$1 donated, the Food Bank can provide five meals. \$1 = 5 meals. Visit www.sandiegofoodbank.org/donate

Most needed food items:

- canned meat & tuna
- canned soups
- canned fruits and vegetables
- canned beans
- dry cereal
- rice
- mac & cheese
- spaghetti