

## HIGHLIGHTS OF FINDINGS

This report presents information on the clients and agencies in the state of Ohio. The information is drawn from a national study, Hunger in America 2006, conducted for America's Second Harvest (A2H), the nation's largest organization of emergency food providers. The national study is based on completed in-person interviews with more than 52,000 clients served by the A2H food bank network, as well as on completed questionnaires from more than 30,000 A2H agencies. The study summarized below focuses mainly on emergency food providers and their clients who are supplied with food by food banks in the A2H network. Here, emergency food providers are defined to include food pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency shelters serving short-term residents. It should be recognized that many other types of provider organizations served by food banks are, for the most part, *not* described in this study. These providers who are not covered included such services as Congregate Meals for seniors, day care facilities, and after school programs.

Key findings are summarized below:

### HOW MANY CLIENTS RECEIVE EMERGENCY FOOD FROM A2H FOOD BANKS IN OHIO?

- The A2H system in Ohio provides emergency food for an estimated 1,210,400 different people annually.
- Approximately 207,700 different people receive emergency food assistance in any given week.

### WHO RECEIVES EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE?

A2H agencies in Ohio provide food for a broad cross-section of households. Key characteristics include:

- 35% of the members of households in Ohio are children under 18 years old (Table 5.3.2).
- 10% of the members of households are children age 0 to 5 years (Table 5.3.2).
- 9% of the members of households are elderly (Table 5.3.2).
- About 54% of clients are non-Hispanic white, 41% are non-Hispanic black, 3% are Hispanic, and the rest are from other racial groups (Table 5.6.1).
- 33% of households include at least one employed adult (Table 5.7.1).
- 75% have incomes below the official federal poverty level (Table 5.8.2.1) during the previous month.
- 6% are homeless (Table 5.9.1.1).

### **MANY A2H CLIENTS ARE FOOD INSECURE OR ARE EXPERIENCING HUNGER**

- Among all client households served by emergency food programs in Ohio, 78% are food insecure, according to the U.S. government's official food security scale. This includes client households who are food insecure without hunger and those who are food insecure with hunger (Table 6.1.1).
- 37% of the clients are experiencing hunger (Table 6.1.1).
- Among households with children, 76% are food insecure and 31% are experiencing hunger (Table 6.1.1).

### **MANY CLIENTS REPORT HAVING TO CHOOSE BETWEEN FOOD AND OTHER NECESSITIES**

- 46% of clients in Ohio report having to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities or heating fuel (Table 6.5.1).
- 37% had to choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage (Table 6.5.1).
- 32% had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care (Table 6.5.1).

## **DO A2H CLIENTS ALSO RECEIVE FOOD ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT?**

- 43% of client households in Ohio are receiving Food Stamp Program benefits (Table 7.1.1); however, it is likely that many more are eligible (Table 7.3.2).
- Among households with children ages 0-3 years, 53% participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (Table 7.4.1).
- Among households with school-age children, 60% and 47%, respectively, participate in the federal school lunch and school breakfast programs (Table 7.4.1).

## **MANY A2H CLIENTS ARE IN POOR HEALTH**

- 27% of households in Ohio report having at least one household member in poor health (Table 8.1.1)

## **MOST CLIENTS ARE SATISFIED WITH THE SERVICES THEY RECEIVE FROM THE AGENCIES IN OHIO**

- 93% of adult clients said they were either “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with the amount of food they received from their A2H provider; 94% were satisfied with the quality of the food they received (Table 9.2.1).

## **HOW LARGE IS THE A2H SYSTEM IN OHIO?**

- At the administration of this survey, 13 food banks or FROs affiliated with A2H operated in Ohio. Of the agencies that were served by those organizations, 1,921 agencies that had their operation within the state responded to the agency survey. Of the responding agencies, 1,447 had at least one food pantry, soup kitchen, or shelter.

## **WHAT KINDS OF ORGANIZATIONS OPERATE EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAMS IN OHIO?**

- 81% of pantries, 78% of kitchens, and 43% of shelters are run by faith-based agencies affiliated with churches, mosques, synagogues, and other religious organizations (Table 10.6.1).
- At the agency level, 76% of agencies with at least one pantry, kitchen, or shelter and 64% of all agencies including those only with other types of programs are faith-based (Table 10.6.1).



- Private nonprofit organizations with no religious affiliation make up a large share of other types of agencies (Table 10.6.1).

## **HAVE AGENCIES BEEN EXPERIENCING CHANGES IN THE NEED FOR THEIR SERVICES?**

- 71% of pantries, 65% of kitchens, and 60% of shelters in Ohio reported that there had been an increase since 2001 in the number of clients who come to their emergency food program sites (Table 10.8.1).

## **WHERE DO THESE AGENCIES OBTAIN THEIR FOOD?**

- Food banks are by far the single most important source of food for the agencies, accounting for 77% of the food used by pantries, 55% of kitchens' food, and 39% of shelters' food (Table 13.1.1).
- Other important sources of food include religious organizations, government, and direct purchases from wholesalers and retailers (Table 13.1.1).
- 86% of pantries, 67% of kitchens, and 59% of shelters in Ohio receive food from government commodity programs (Table 13.1.1).

## **VOLUNTEERS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN THE A2H NETWORK**

- In Ohio, 94% of pantries, 94% of kitchens, and 69% of shelters use volunteers (Table 13.2.1).
- Many programs rely *entirely* on volunteers; 71% of pantry programs and 52% of kitchens have no paid staff at all (Table 13.2.1).

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF FINDINGS

This report presents information on the clients and agencies served by the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank. The information is drawn from a national study, Hunger in America 2006, conducted for America's Second Harvest (A2H), the nation's largest organization of emergency food providers. The national study is based on completed in-person interviews with more than 52,000 clients served by the A2H food bank network, as well as on completed questionnaires from more than 30,000 A2H agencies. The study summarized below focuses mainly on emergency food providers and their clients who are supplied with food by food banks in the A2H network. Here, emergency food providers are defined to include food pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency shelters serving short-term residents. It should be recognized that many other types of provider organizations served by food banks are, for the most part, *not* described in this study. These providers who are not covered included such services as Congregate Meals for seniors, day care facilities, and after school programs.

Key findings are summarized below:

### **HOW MANY CLIENTS RECEIVE EMERGENCY FOOD FROM THE AKRON-CANTON REGIONAL FOODBANK?**

- The A2H system served by the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank provides food for an estimated 163,500 different people annually.
- Approximately 31,600 different people receive assistance in any given week.

### **WHO RECEIVES EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE?**

A2H agencies served by the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank provide food for a broad cross-section of households. Key characteristics include:

- 34% of the members of households served by the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank are children under 18 years old (Table 5.3.2).
- 13% of the members of households are children age 0 to 5 years (Table 5.3.2).
- 10% of the members of households are elderly (Table 5.3.2).
- About 69% of clients are non-Hispanic white, 25% are non-Hispanic black, 0% are Hispanic, and the rest are from other racial or ethnic groups (Table 5.6.1).
- 28% of households include at least one employed adult (Table 5.7.1).
- 78% have incomes below the official federal poverty level (Table 5.8.2.1) during the previous month.
- 2% are homeless (Table 5.9.1.1).

### **MANY A2H CLIENTS ARE FOOD INSECURE OR ARE EXPERIENCING HUNGER**

- Among all client households served by emergency food programs of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, 73% are food insecure, according to the U.S. government's official food security scale. This includes client households who are food insecure without hunger and those who are food insecure with hunger (Table 6.1.1).
- 42% of the clients are experiencing hunger (Table 6.1.1).
- Among households with children, 76% are food insecure and 49% are experiencing hunger (Table 6.1.1).

### **MANY CLIENTS REPORT HAVING TO CHOOSE BETWEEN FOOD AND OTHER NECESSITIES**

- 48% of clients served by the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank report having to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities or heating fuel (Table 6.5.1).
- 37% had to choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage (Table 6.5.1).
- 26% had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care (Table 6.5.1).



## **DO A2H CLIENTS ALSO RECEIVE FOOD ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT?**

- 44% of client households served by the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank are receiving Food Stamp Program benefits (Table 7.1.1); however, it is likely that many more are eligible (Table 7.2.1).
- Among households with preschool children, 51% participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (Table 7.4.1).
- Among households with school-age children, 51% and 40%, respectively, participate in the federal school lunch and school breakfast programs (Table 7.4.1).

## **MANY A2H CLIENTS ARE IN POOR HEALTH**

- 30% of households served by the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank report having at least one household member in poor health (Table 8.1.1)

## **MOST CLIENTS ARE SATISFIED WITH THE SERVICES THEY RECEIVE FROM THE AGENCIES OF THE AKRON-CANTON REGIONAL FOODBANK**

- 97% of adult clients said they were either “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with the amount of food they received from their A2H provider; 98% were satisfied with the quality of the food they received (Table 9.2.1).

## **HOW LARGE IS THE AKRON-CANTON REGIONAL FOODBANK?**

- The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank included approximately 315 agencies at the administration of this survey, of which 198 have responded to the agency survey. Of the responding agencies, 155 had at least one food pantry, soup kitchen, or shelter.

## **WHAT KINDS OF ORGANIZATIONS OPERATE EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAMS OF THE AKRON-CANTON REGIONAL FOODBANK?**

- 74% of pantries, 79% of kitchens, and 36% of shelters are run by faith-based agencies affiliated with churches, mosques, synagogues, and other religious organizations (Table 10.6.1).
- At the agency level, 70% of agencies with at least one pantry, kitchen, or shelter and 58% of all agencies including those only with other types of programs are faith-based (Table 10.6.1).



- Private nonprofit organizations with no religious affiliation make up a large share of other types of agencies (Table 10.6.1).

## **HAVE AGENCIES BEEN EXPERIENCING CHANGES IN THE NEED FOR THEIR SERVICES?**

- 69% of pantries, 62% of kitchens, and 46% of shelters of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank reported that there had been an increase since 2001 in the number of clients who come to their emergency food program sites (Table 10.8.1).

## **WHERE DO THESE AGENCIES OBTAIN THEIR FOOD?**

- Food banks are by far the single most important source of food for the agencies, accounting for 75% of the food used by pantries, 49% of kitchens' food, and 32% of shelters' food (Table 13.1.1).
- Other important sources of food include religious organizations, government, and direct purchases from wholesalers and retailers (Table 13.1.1).
- 96% of pantries, 64% of kitchens, and 70% of shelters of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank receive food from government commodity programs (Table 13.1.1).

## **VOLUNTEERS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN THE A2H NETWORK**

- For the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, 94% of pantries, 95% of kitchens, and 55% of shelters use volunteers (Table 13.2.1).
- Many programs rely *entirely* on volunteers; 68% of pantry programs and 48% of kitchens have no paid staff at all (Table 13.2.1).

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF FINDINGS

This report presents information on the clients and agencies served by the Mid-Ohio FoodBank. The information is drawn from a national study, Hunger in America 2006, conducted for America's Second Harvest (A2H), the nation's largest organization of emergency food providers. The national study is based on completed in-person interviews with more than 52,000 clients served by the A2H food bank network, as well as on completed questionnaires from more than 30,000 A2H agencies. The study summarized below focuses mainly on emergency food providers and their clients who are supplied with food by food banks in the A2H network. Here, emergency food providers are defined to include food pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency shelters serving short-term residents. It should be recognized that many other types of provider organizations served by food banks are, for the most part, *not* described in this study. These providers who are not covered included such services as Congregate Meals for seniors, day care facilities, and after school programs.

Key findings are summarized below:

### HOW MANY CLIENTS RECEIVE EMERGENCY FOOD FROM THE MID-OHIO FOODBANK?

- The A2H system served by the Mid-Ohio FoodBank provides food for an estimated 193,800 different people annually.
- Approximately 36,600 different people receive assistance in any given week.

### WHO RECEIVES EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE?

A2H agencies served by the Mid-Ohio FoodBank provide food for a broad cross-section of households. Key characteristics include:



- 38% of the members of households served by the Mid-Ohio FoodBank are children under 18 years old (Table 5.3.2).
- 10% of the members of households are children age 0 to 5 years (Table 5.3.2).
- 5% of the members of households are elderly (Table 5.3.2).
- About 51% of clients are non-Hispanic white, 47% are non-Hispanic black, 3% are Hispanic, and the rest are from other racial or ethnic groups (Table 5.6.1).
- 32% of households include at least one employed adult (Table 5.7.1).
- 80% have incomes below the official federal poverty level (Table 5.8.2.1) during the previous month.
- 11% are homeless (Table 5.9.1.1).

### **MANY A2H CLIENTS ARE FOOD INSECURE OR ARE EXPERIENCING HUNGER**

- Among all client households served by emergency food programs of the Mid-Ohio FoodBank, 80% are food insecure, according to the U.S. government's official food security scale. This includes client households who are food insecure without hunger and those who are food insecure with hunger (Table 6.1.1).
- 41% of the clients are experiencing hunger (Table 6.1.1).
- Among households with children, 74% are food insecure and 31% are experiencing hunger (Table 6.1.1).

### **MANY CLIENTS REPORT HAVING TO CHOOSE BETWEEN FOOD AND OTHER NECESSITIES**

- 44% of clients served by the Mid-Ohio FoodBank report having to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities or heating fuel (Table 6.5.1).
- 29% had to choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage (Table 6.5.1).
- 25% had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care (Table 6.5.1).



## **DO A2H CLIENTS ALSO RECEIVE FOOD ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT?**

- 49% of client households served by the Mid-Ohio FoodBank are receiving Food Stamp Program benefits (Table 7.1.1); however, it is likely that many more are eligible (Table 7.2.1).
- Among households with preschool children, 71% participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (Table 7.4.1).
- Among households with school-age children, 67% and 47%, respectively, participate in the federal school lunch and school breakfast programs (Table 7.4.1).

## **MANY A2H CLIENTS ARE IN POOR HEALTH**

- 24% of households served by the Mid-Ohio FoodBank report having at least one household member in poor health (Table 8.1.1)

## **MOST CLIENTS ARE SATISFIED WITH THE SERVICES THEY RECEIVE FROM THE AGENCIES OF THE MID-OHIO FOODBANK**

- 92% of adult clients said they were either “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with the amount of food they received from their A2H provider; 93% were satisfied with the quality of the food they received (Table 9.2.1).

## **HOW LARGE IS THE MID-OHIO FOODBANK?**

- The Mid-Ohio FoodBank included approximately 419 agencies at the administration of this survey, of which 400 have responded to the agency survey. Of the responding agencies, 285 had at least one food pantry, soup kitchen, or shelter.

## **WHAT KINDS OF ORGANIZATIONS OPERATE EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAMS OF THE MID-OHIO FOODBANK?**

- 86% of pantries, 78% of kitchens, and 46% of shelters are run by faith-based agencies affiliated with churches, mosques, synagogues, and other religious organizations (Table 10.6.1).
- At the agency level, 82% of agencies with at least one pantry, kitchen, or shelter and 69% of all agencies including those only with other types of programs are faith-based (Table 10.6.1).



- Private nonprofit organizations with no religious affiliation make up a large share of other types of agencies (Table 10.6.1).

### **HAVE AGENCIES BEEN EXPERIENCING CHANGES IN THE NEED FOR THEIR SERVICES?**

- 76% of pantries, 72% of kitchens, and 86% of shelters of the Mid-Ohio FoodBank reported that there had been an increase since 2001 in the number of clients who come to their emergency food program sites (Table 10.8.1).

### **WHERE DO THESE AGENCIES OBTAIN THEIR FOOD?**

- Food banks are by far the single most important source of food for the agencies, accounting for 80% of the food used by pantries, 48% of kitchens' food, and 53% of shelters' food (Table 13.1.1).
- Other important sources of food include religious organizations, government, and direct purchases from wholesalers and retailers (Table 13.1.1).
- 90% of pantries, 71% of kitchens, and 67% of shelters of the Mid-Ohio FoodBank receive food from government commodity programs (Table 13.1.1).

### **VOLUNTEERS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN THE A2H NETWORK**

- For the Mid-Ohio FoodBank, 93% of pantries, 97% of kitchens, and 67% of shelters use volunteers (Table 13.2.1).
- Many programs rely *entirely* on volunteers; 69% of pantry programs and 37% of kitchens have no paid staff at all (Table 13.2.1).

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF FINDINGS

This report presents information on the clients and agencies served by the Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeastern Ohio. The information is drawn from a national study, Hunger in America 2006, conducted for America's Second Harvest (A2H), the nation's largest organization of emergency food providers. The national study is based on completed in-person interviews with more than 52,000 clients served by the A2H food bank network, as well as on completed questionnaires from more than 30,000 A2H agencies. The study summarized below focuses mainly on emergency food providers and their clients who are supplied with food by food banks in the A2H network. Here, emergency food providers are defined to include food pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency shelters serving short-term residents. It should be recognized that many other types of provider organizations served by food banks are, for the most part, *not* described in this study. These providers who are not covered included such services as Congregate Meals for seniors, day care facilities, and after school programs.

Key findings are summarized below:

### **HOW MANY CLIENTS RECEIVE EMERGENCY FOOD FROM THE SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF SOUTHEASTERN OHIO?**

- The A2H system served by the Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeastern Ohio provides emergency food for an estimated 107,400 different people annually.
- Approximately 8,800 different people receive emergency food assistance in any given week.

### **WHO RECEIVES EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE?**

A2H agencies served by the Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeastern Ohio provide food for a broad cross-section of households. Key characteristics include:



- 33% of the members of households served by the Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeastern Ohio are children under 18 years old (Table 5.3.2).
- 8% of the members of households are children age 0 to 5 years (Table 5.3.2).
- 18% of the members of households are elderly (Table 5.3.2).
- About 90% of clients are non-Hispanic white, 7% are non-Hispanic black, 3% are Hispanic, and the rest are from other racial groups (Table 5.6.1).
- 51% of households include at least one employed adult (Table 5.7.1).
- 76% have incomes below the official federal poverty level (Table 5.8.2.1) during the previous month.
- 2% are homeless (Table 5.9.1.1).

### **MANY A2H CLIENTS ARE FOOD INSECURE OR ARE EXPERIENCING HUNGER**

- Among all client households served by emergency food programs of the Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeastern Ohio, 83% are food insecure, according to the U.S. government's official food security scale. This includes client households who are food insecure without hunger and those who are food insecure with hunger (Table 6.1.1).
- 32% of the clients are experiencing hunger (Table 6.1.1).
- Among households with children, 83% are food insecure and 33% are experiencing hunger (Table 6.1.1).

### **MANY CLIENTS REPORT HAVING TO CHOOSE BETWEEN FOOD AND OTHER NECESSITIES**

- 67% of clients served by the Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeastern Ohio report having to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities or heating fuel (Table 6.5.1).
- 55% had to choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage (Table 6.5.1).
- 73% had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care (Table 6.5.1).



## **DO A2H CLIENTS ALSO RECEIVE FOOD ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT?**

- 24% of client households served by the Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeastern Ohio are receiving Food Stamp Program benefits (Table 7.1.1); however, it is likely that many more are eligible (Table 7.3.2).
- Among households with children ages 0-3 years, n.p. participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (Table 7.4.1).
- Among households with school-age children, 61% and 48%, respectively, participate in the federal school lunch and school breakfast programs (Table 7.4.1).

## **MANY A2H CLIENTS ARE IN POOR HEALTH**

- 28% of households served by the Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeastern Ohio report having at least one household member in poor health (Table 8.1.1)

## **MOST CLIENTS ARE SATISFIED WITH THE SERVICES THEY RECEIVE FROM THE AGENCIES OF THE SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF SOUTHEASTERN OHIO**

- 69% of adult clients said they were either “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with the amount of food they received from their A2H provider; 84% were satisfied with the quality of the food they received (Table 9.2.1).

## **HOW LARGE IS THE SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF SOUTHEASTERN OHIO?**

- The Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeastern Ohio included approximately 155 agencies at the administration of this survey, of which 115 have responded to the agency survey. Of the responding agencies, 81 had at least one food pantry, soup kitchen, or shelter.

## **WHAT KINDS OF ORGANIZATIONS OPERATE EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAMS OF THE SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF SOUTHEASTERN OHIO?**

- 78% of pantries, 75% of kitchens, and 43% of shelters are run by faith-based agencies affiliated with churches, mosques, synagogues, and other religious organizations (Table 10.6.1).

- At the agency level, 76% of agencies with at least one pantry, kitchen, or shelter and 56% of all agencies including those only with other types of programs are faith-based (Table 10.6.1).
- Private nonprofit organizations with no religious affiliation make up a large share of other types of agencies (Table 10.6.1).

### **HAVE AGENCIES BEEN EXPERIENCING CHANGES IN THE NEED FOR THEIR SERVICES?**

- 64% of pantries, 53% of kitchens, and 43% of shelters of the Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeastern Ohio reported that there had been an increase since 2001 in the number of clients who come to their emergency food program sites (Table 10.8.1).

### **WHERE DO THESE AGENCIES OBTAIN THEIR FOOD?**

- Food banks are by far the single most important source of food for the agencies, accounting for 80% of the food used by pantries, 60% of kitchens' food, and 54% of shelters' food (Table 13.1.1).
- Other important sources of food include religious organizations, government, and direct purchases from wholesalers and retailers (Table 13.1.1).
- 94% of pantries, 91% of kitchens, and 83% of shelters of the Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeastern Ohio receive food from government commodity programs (Table 13.1.1).

### **VOLUNTEERS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN THE A2H NETWORK**

- For the Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeastern Ohio, 93% of pantries, 94% of kitchens, and 50% of shelters use volunteers (Table 13.2.1).
- Many programs rely *entirely* on volunteers; 81% of pantry programs and 72% of kitchens have no paid staff at all (Table 13.2.1).

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