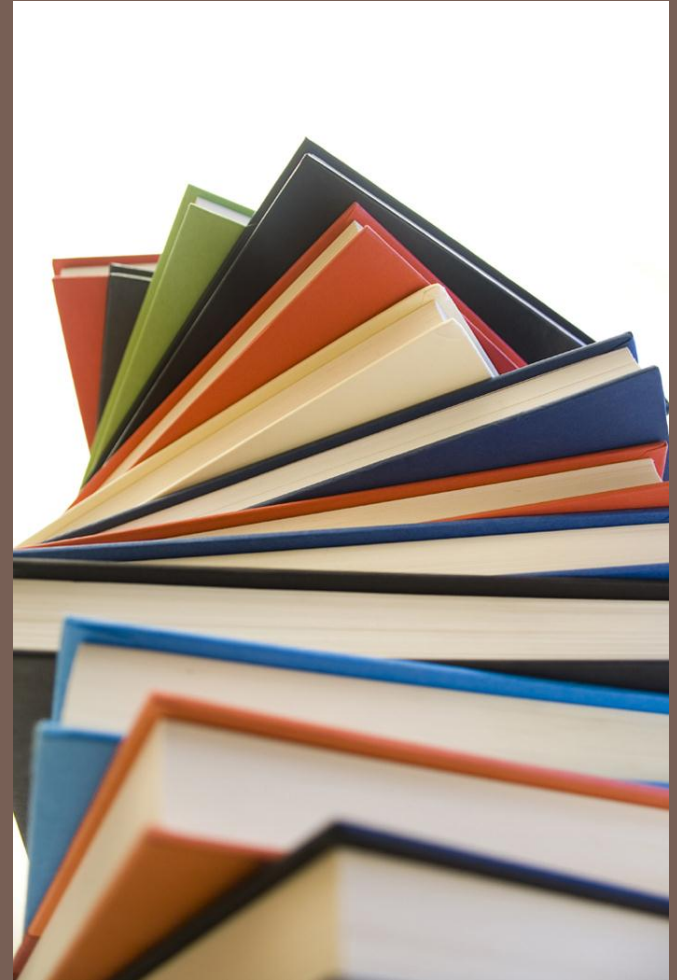


Anti-Hunger Advocacy & Food Insecurity Research

Food Insecurity Research Symposium
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www.frac.org

Heather Hartline-Grafton, Food Research & Action Center

FRAC Mission

- To improve public policies and public-private partnerships to eradicate hunger and undernutrition in the United States

FRAC Strategy

- Comprehensive national, state, and local strategy
 - Conduct research to document the extent of hunger, its impact, and effective solutions
 - Seek improved federal, state, and local public policies
 - Monitor the implementation of laws
 - Provide coordination, training, technical assistance, and support
 - Conduct public information campaigns

FRAC as Research Generator

- Food hardship reports
- Fresh fruit and vegetable affordability and access reports
- Federal nutrition program reports (e.g., School Breakfast Scorecard)
- Federal nutrition program tools (e.g., participation calculators)
- Polling data

Food Hardship

Data from Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

- 1,000 households interviewed per day since January 2, 2008
- Scheduled to run for 25 years

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?

Food Insecurity vs. Food Hardship

Food Insecurity	Food Hardship
USDA	FRAC
10 or 18 questions	1 question
National, state	National, state, Congressional district, MSA
3-year average for states	1-year for states
Lag in release	More current
14.9% of households were food insecure in 2011	18.6% of households reported food hardship in 2011

FRAC as Research User

Anti-hunger policy and program advocacy

- Policy and program creation
 - e.g., Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
- Policy and program implementation
 - e.g., Revised WIC food package

FRAC as Research User

- Policy and program monitoring
 - e.g., FRAC's School Breakfast Scorecard
 - e.g., Bridging the Gap school wellness policy studies
- Policy and program evaluation
 - e.g., School Nutrition and Dietary Assessment studies

Research Challenges & Opportunities

- Explaining food insecurity
- Generating more food insecurity analyses for local-level and by demographic characteristics
- Examining long-term impacts of food insecurity
- Monitoring research using food security questions in national surveys
- Defining federal nutrition program participation
- Showing federal nutrition program effects

Research Challenges & Opportunities

- Additional research questions that could help policy and advocacy efforts
 - What is the impact of marginal food security on health and well-being?
 - What is the relationship between food insecurity and obesity?
 - How does the local environment influence federal nutrition program participation and outcomes? (e.g., cost of living, food prices, food access)
 - What are the federal nutrition program policies and practices that improve outcomes?