



# Poverty & Hunger Statistics

[www.firstfoodbank.org](http://www.firstfoodbank.org)

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## POVERTY, FOOD INSECURITY AND HUNGER DEFINED

- The Department of Health and Human Services defines **poverty** by setting a threshold of income based upon the size of a family. As of 2005, these are the federal poverty guidelines:
  - 1 person: \$9,570
  - Family of 2: \$12,830
  - Family of 3: \$16,090
  - Family of 4: \$19,350
  - Family of 5: \$22,610
  - Family of 6: \$25,870
  - Family of 7: \$29,130
  - Family of 8: \$32,390
  - (for each additional person, add \$3,260)
- The USDA defines **food insecurity** as, "Limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways."
- **Hunger** is defined by the USDA as, "The uneasy or painful sensation caused by a lack of food. The recurrent or involuntary lack of access to food."

## NATIONAL STATISTICS

- As of 2004, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates 37.0 million people live at or below the federal poverty line – an increase from 2003 of 1.1 million people.
- The current poverty rate in U.S. is 12.7 percent, or nearly 1 in 8 people.
- The number of children in poverty in 2004 was 13 million.
- The USDA deemed 36.3 million people food insecure in 2003.
- 9.63 million people were considered food insecure with hunger in 2003.

## ARIZONA STATISTICS

- Based on the 2004 Census Bureau American Community Survey **800,027 people in Arizona** live at or below the federal poverty line.
- Arizona's poverty rate is higher than the national average – **14.2 percent**, or 1 in every 7 people.
- 312,966 of Arizona's children – about 1 in 5 – live in poverty.
- 7.5 percent of those 65 and older live in poverty.
- 686,378 individuals in Arizona are considered food insecure; 3.7 percent of those who are food insecure also live with hunger.

## ARIZONA'S GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE LANDSCAPE

- As of December 2004, the State of Arizona provided cash assistance through **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families** for 111,046 individuals, on average.
- As of May 2005, an average of 547,671 individuals received **Food Stamps** each month. The average monthly benefit is \$90.94 per person.
- More than 574,000 low-income and poor children in Arizona participate in the **National School Lunch Program**, which provides free and reduced-price lunches.
- More than 190,000 children participate in the **School Breakfast Program**, which provides free and reduced-price breakfasts to low-income and poor children.
- As of June 2005, 177,199 women and young children received benefits from **WIC** (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children).
- More than 34,000 Arizona children receive nutritious food at daycare and after-school programs through the **Child and Adult Care Food Program**.