



# Hunger in Eastern Wisconsin 2010

  
Eastern Wisconsin



## Feeding Wisconsin's Hungry

**Hunger in Wisconsin 2010** provides a snapshot of hunger in Wisconsin. The statistics presented in this report depict the face of hunger in our communities. It demonstrates that many people who rely on emergency food programs including the working poor, single mothers and senior citizens are truly struggling to make ends meet and that these programs are providing an essential need... food.

The major finding of this study indicates a 40% increase in the number of people relying on Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin for food. 329,400 people, including 105,400 children and 32,900 seniors, each year are at risk for hunger in Eastern Wisconsin. Other findings include:

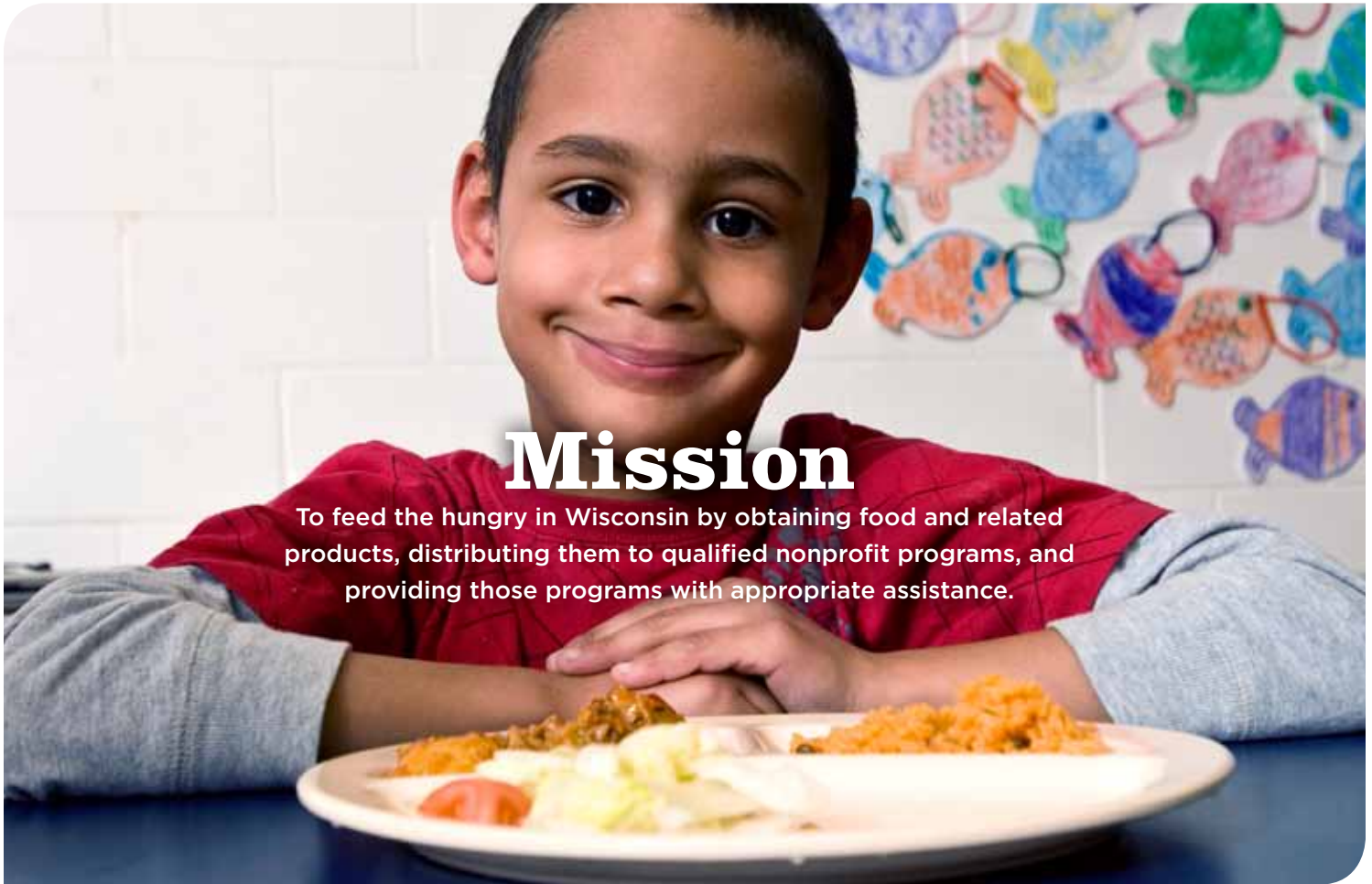
**54%** of adults have missed or cut back on meals in the past year because they didn't have enough money to buy food.

**34%** have had to choose between buying food and paying rent or mortgage.

**58%** ate less than they should have because they did not have enough money to buy food in the last year.

Data reported in Hunger in Wisconsin 2010 is the result of extensive research and is based on a mail survey of 846 active programs operating food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters in eastern Wisconsin, and 356 individual interviews with clients of emergency food programs.





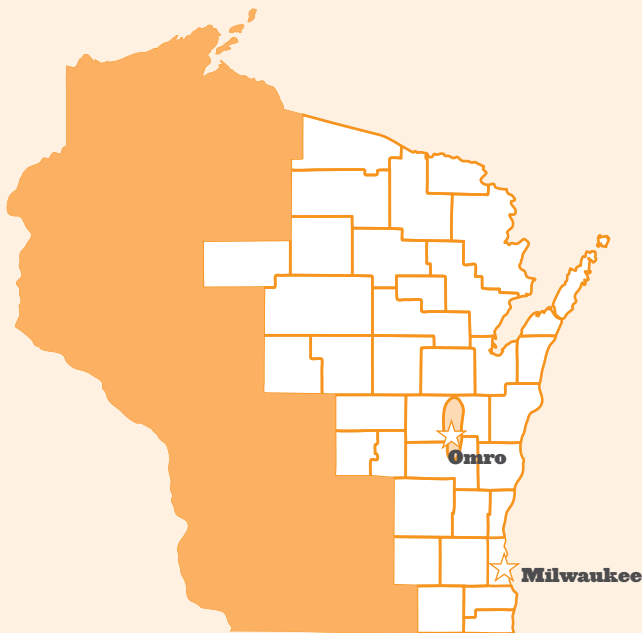
# Mission

To feed the hungry in Wisconsin by obtaining food and related products, distributing them to qualified nonprofit programs, and providing those programs with appropriate assistance.

## The Scope

### Entire Eastern Region

Our study involved two major research activities which were combined into this report.



### AGENCY RESEARCH

**846 surveys** were mailed to active agencies operating food programs through which the food bank currently distributes food.

**177** agencies responded for **1,073** programs.

### CLIENT RESEARCH

**356 clients** were interviewed at emergency food programs that were randomly selected by type and geographic area.

#### EMERGENCY PANTRIES

**263** clients interviewed; **432** programs surveyed

#### EMERGENCY KITCHENS

**75** clients interviewed; **174** programs surveyed

#### EMERGENCY SHELTERS

**18** clients interviewed; **49** programs surveyed

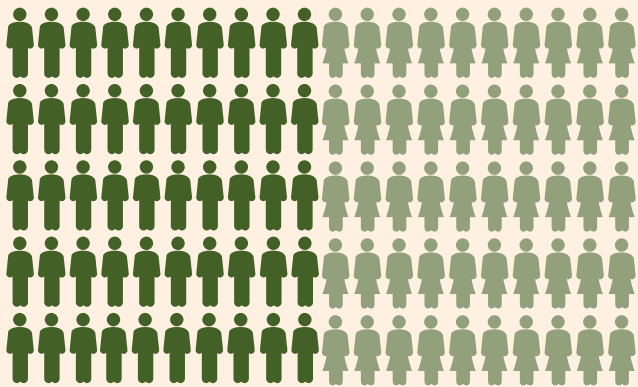
#### OTHER NON-EMERGENCY PROGRAMS

**418** programs surveyed



# Client Profile

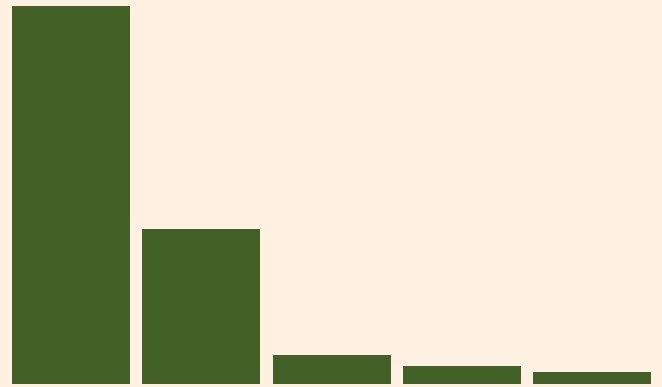
## GENDER



50% MALE

50% FEMALE

## RACE\*



66% WHITE

27% AFRICAN AMERICAN

5% HISPANIC

3% NATIVE AMERICAN

2% ASIAN

\*Multiple responses were accepted for race





**329,400**  
people are served each year.

**AGE**

**32%**  
UNDER 18

**58%**  
BETWEEN 18 AND 64

**10%** OVER 65

Inadequate food intake leads to poor growth and eventually affects the intellectual abilities of children.

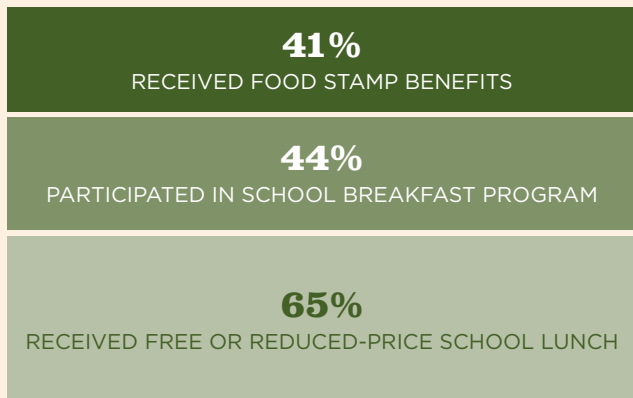
**Praveen Goday, MD**

Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition Center, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin

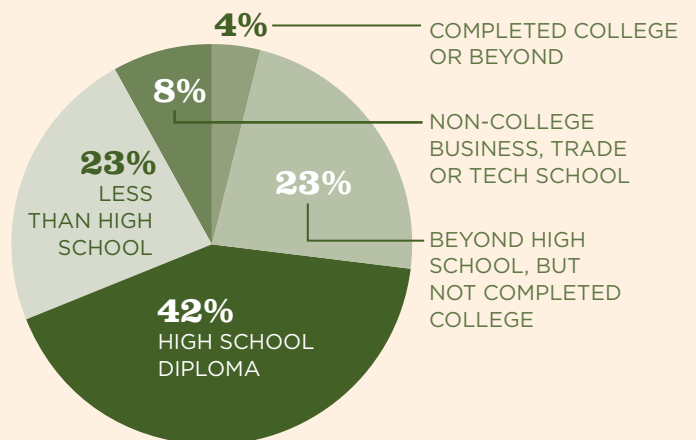


# Employment & Education

## GOVERNMENT FOOD ASSISTANCE



## EDUCATION





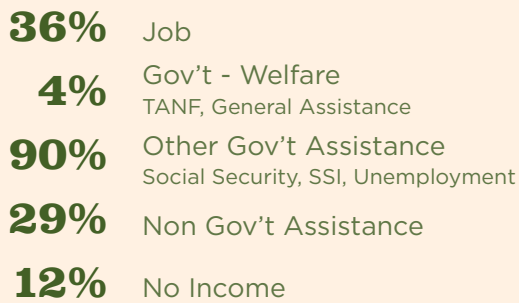
## MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME

FOR PREVIOUS MONTH



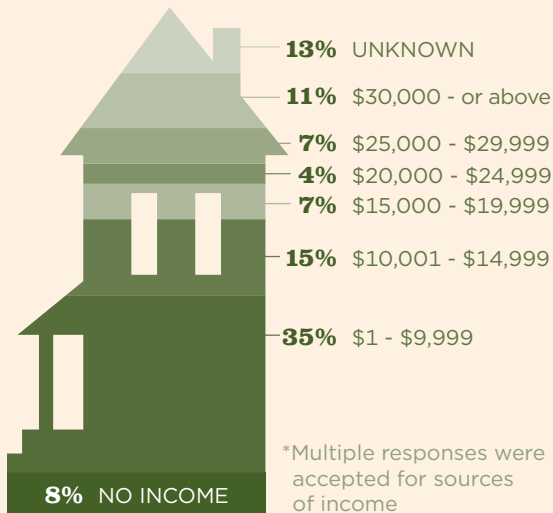
## ALL SOURCES OF INCOME\*

FOR PREVIOUS MONTH



\*Multiple responses were accepted.

## ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME\*



\*Multiple responses were accepted for sources of income



# \$22,050

Annual Income Federal Poverty Level for a 4 person house

## EMPLOYMENT STATUS



**18%**  
of employed clients are working in a managerial or professional job.



# Making Choices

## DURING THE PAST YEAR

- 58%** **Ate less than they should**  
because they did not have enough money to buy food
- 37%** **Were hungry but didn't eat**  
because they couldn't afford food
- 21%** **Didn't eat for the whole day**  
because they didn't have enough money for food

## TYPE OF AGENCY

- 66%** FAITH-BASED OR RELIGION AFFILIATED
- 26%** PRIVATE NONPROFIT
- 2%** GOVERNMENTAL
- 2%** COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM (CAP)
- 4%** OTHER



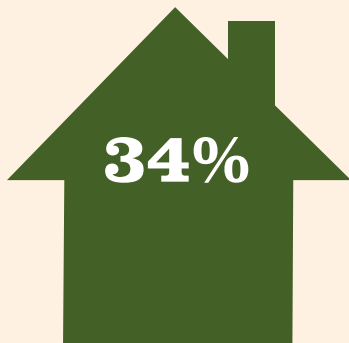


**54%** of adults have missed or cut back on meals in the past year because they did not have enough money to buy food.

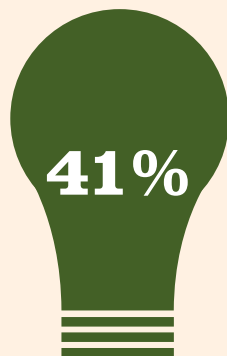
**18%** of children didn't eat enough in the past year because there was not enough money to buy food.

### FOOD VS. OTHER EXPENSES

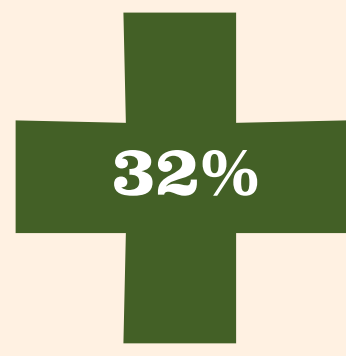
HOUSEHOLDS WHO HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN BUYING FOOD AND:



PAYING RENT OR MORTGAGE



PAYING FOR HEAT OR UTILITIES



PAYING FOR MEDICINE OR  
MEDICAL CARE

### **OUR MISSION**

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[feedingamericawi.org](http://feedingamericawi.org)