Hunger in America 2014
Local Key Findings

Ashland, Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, and Richland Counties
Hunger in America 2014

- Largest study of domestic hunger ever conducted
- 196 Feeding America food banks participated
- 60,000 clients completed surveys at more than 12,500 different locations
- 32,000 agencies completed agency surveys
National Findings

• One in seven Americans (46.5 million) receives food assistance from the Feeding America network.

• More than 1 in 3 households (39%) have a child under 18.

• One in five households (20%) served by Feeding America has at least one member that is currently serving or has ever served in the military.
GCGB Implementation

- Between October 2012 and January 2013, 315 agencies (84%) completed extensive questionnaires online regarding their food programs.

- Between April and August 2013, 79 volunteers and food bank staff visited emergency feeding programs throughout our six counties, for a total of 579 volunteer hours.
Agency and Program Findings

- 66% of agencies saw an increase in the number of clients served compared to the year prior. Only 8% of agencies reported a decrease.

- More than one in four agencies (28%) experienced a strain on their resources in the past year, resulting in cutting hours of operation (13%), limiting the area they serve (13%), or laying off staff (9%).

- Clients reported fresh fruits and vegetables as the top product they wanted more of, surpassing both meat and dairy products.
Why is the Need Still Strong?

Figure 1. Net Change in Private Sector Employment (in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry Type</th>
<th>Jobs Lost</th>
<th>Jobs Gained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Higher-wage industries</td>
<td>-3,579</td>
<td>2,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-wage industries</td>
<td>-3,240</td>
<td>2,282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower-wage industries</td>
<td>-1,973</td>
<td>3,824</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*jobs lost: January 2008 to February 2010*
*jobs gained: February 2010 to February 2014*
Client Demographics

- Each year the Greater Cleveland Food Bank serves an estimated 247,000 people in our service area.
- More than 1 in 8 people (13%) in our service area turn to local hunger centers for food assistance.
Half of client households fell below 50% of the federal poverty line ($9,765 for a family of 3 in 2013).

Three in four client households (75%) fell below the federal poverty line ($19,530 for a family of 3 in 2013).

One in four client households (25%) live above the federal poverty line.
Difficult Choices

62% of households had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care.

64% of households had to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities.

54% of households had to choose between paying for food and paying for housing.

65% of households had to choose between paying for food and paying for transportation.
More than 1 in 5 households (23%) had a member in poor health.

Nearly 1 in 3 households (30%) had a member with diabetes.

More than half of households (61%) had a member with high blood pressure.

More than 3 in 4 households (78%) purchased inexpensive, unhealthy food as a way to keep food on the table.