

FY2021 Statistics

October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021



TOPLINE STATISTICS

Meals provided | 107,267,115

Last year our work provided more than 107 million meals to 388 food shelves and nearly 1,000 partner programs serving 59 counties in Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

Breakdown of meals provided:

- 120,197,474* distributed lbs. = 100,164,562 meals
- 6,052,643 SNAP meals
- 1,049,910 MCK meals

*1.2 pounds of food equals 1 mealⁱ

The need | 1 in 12 Minnesotans, including 1 in 8 Minnesota kids

In 2019 prior to the pandemic, 7.7% of Minnesotans, or over 432,000 people experienced food insecurity.ⁱⁱ This included over 147,000 children.ⁱⁱⁱ In 2021, it is estimated that more than 483,000 people, including 163,000 of the youngest Minnesotans struggled with food insecurity.^{iv} This means one in twelve people in Minnesota, and one in eight Minnesota kids, did not know where their next meal was coming from, even though there is more than enough food to go around.^v

Throughout the pandemic, measurements and estimations of the number of people experiencing challenges having enough food fluctuated. Many initial projections, including Feeding America's, were higher than what was experienced. The emergency food system worked to meet increasing demand, while the federal government implemented changes to make food support more accessible. In addition, federal government support in the form of income support from Economic Impact Payments and expanded unemployment insurance provided additional cash for large numbers of eligible households. Evidence suggests that these efforts helped to reduce the number of people experiencing food insufficiency.^{vi}

The need | The Hunger Divide

Despite steady food insecurity rates from 2019 to 2020 for the overall US population, certain groups did experience significant changes.^{vii} Black, non-Hispanic households experienced a significant increase in food insecurity while White, non-Hispanic households experienced a decrease.^{viii} Black and Hispanic households experienced food insecurity at least twice the rate of White, non-Hispanic households.^{ix}

It's not surprising to see disparities in hunger levels when we've known for a long time that Minnesota has some of the worst racial disparities in many of the key economic drivers of food insecurity:

- Home ownership rates for Black residents is one third of that for Whites.^x
- The poverty rate for Black Minnesotans is four times that of White Minnesotans. Hispanics face poverty at twice the rate of White residents.^{xi}
- The unemployment rate for Black Minnesotans is almost two times that of the state as a whole.^{xii}

REACHING THOSE EXPERIENCING HUNGER

People served | 813,130 people supported

Second Harvest Heartland and our network of partners supported an estimated 813,130 unique individuals in 2021.

Minnesota Central Kitchen

Minnesota Central Kitchen (MCK) was born in the early days of the pandemic to rescue abandoned food, re-employing furloughed workers, and get urgently needed meals to people facing hunger. The initiative was approved as a permanent program of Second Harvest Heartland in June 2021. This fiscal year MCK provided 1,049,910 fully prepared meals at locations across the region, in partnership with more than 50 community organizations. On average more than 60% of the ingredients in each meal were sourced by Second Harvest Heartland. 17 kitchens participated in the collaborative, employing around 100 food service workers weekly.

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Outreach

The USDA shows that nearly 435,000 Minnesotans participate in SNAP.^{xiii} Last year our SNAP outreach specialists processed over 13,200 new client referrals and assisted over 8,800 households with SNAP applications and re-certifications. This added over 6 million meals to families.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

2.9% of seniors in Minnesota are hungry^{xiv} and 4.7% of Wisconsin seniors are hungry.^{xv} Second Harvest Heartland provided CSFP food to more than 230 different distribution sites in 41 counties in Minnesota, serving approximately 6,500 seniors monthly.

The largest site in our service area is Second Harvest Heartland East in Maplewood, distributing food to close to 1,500 clients each month.

Child Nutrition Programs

Last year, we provided over \$446,000 in grants to 24 education and nonprofit partners to help meet increased need and address food access challenges due to COVID-19. These grants supported the delivery of over 10.3 million meals to Minnesota kids.

FOODRx

FOODRx provided services to support a healthy diet and improved health of 8,823 individuals through four service categories: FOODRx Chronic Disease Management Program (1,175), FOODRx Stability boxes (891), SNAP referrals (4,668), Community Resources (2,089). Participation in the FOODRx Chronic program is up over 300% from FY20.

FOODRx operates through a strong network of health care partnerships, including:

- Chronic Disease Management Program, Diabetic and Cardiovascular Patients: Essentia Health, UCare, Medica, North Care Collaborative, Winona Health

- Stability Box Program: Children’s West St. Paul/Dakota County, Children’s Minnesota, and Lakewood Health System
- FOODRx SNAP Enrollment and Resource Referrals: Hennepin Healthcare, UCare, Medica, North Care Collaborative, and Children’s West St. Paul/Dakota County
- Behavioral Health Management Program: MCHN in conjunction with UCare
- Through North Memorial, partnership with the North Care Collaborative as part of the Integrated Health Partnerships (IHP). There are 18 clinics in this partnership, including 13 North Memorial Health clinics

Agency Partners

We provided, on average, 86.1% of all food distributed by food shelf partners.

We work with 388 agency partners and nearly 1,000 active programs in 41 counties in Minnesota and 18 counties in western Wisconsin.

Our Agency Relations team helped ease pandemic-era pressures for our partners by making \$455,000 in grants available to help partners adjust to their local needs, absorbing increased costs and cancelling shared maintenance fees, and assisting in the development of crisis response and preparedness plans.

In collaboration with agency and community partners, we executed 329 emergency grocery distributions in response to COVID and the Twin Cities uprisings.

FOOD BANK OPERATIONS

Fresh and nutritious food | More than 62.4% of distributed food was fresh

As Second Harvest Heartland works to develop new and more efficient ways of sourcing and distribution, the food that we supply is increasingly fresh. More than 62.4% of the food we distributed last year was fresh — meats, produce, bakery and dairy.

Produce | 38.2% of distributed food was produce

Last year, 38.2% of the food we distributed was produce from all sources including: Retail Food Rescue, distributors and all Ag Surplus sources.

Local Sourcing

Produce – In 2021 we sourced 10 million pounds of produce from local Minnesota farmers and processors. This represents about 35% of the total amount of produce we sourced from farmer-grown/commercially grown sources. This includes a total of 40 varieties of produce from 60 different Minnesota growers, including 10 culturally connected varieties from 30 BIPOC growers.

Dairy – Last year, we sourced 5 million pounds of dairy from Minnesota processors, a majority of which were milk. This includes 534,000 gallons of milk.

Protein – Last year, we sourced 1.5 million pounds of meat from local producers or processors.

Culturally Connected

Last year we sourced 580,000 pounds of culturally connected food to provide food that is known and desired from the communities of color we support. This includes 30,000 pounds of locally grown fresh produce sourced from BIPOC growers and 550,000 pounds of dry goods and some meat.

Food Rescue | Retail and Prepared

Retail Food Rescue ‘rescues’ unsold but perfectly edible and nutritious produce, meat, bakery, dairy, shelf-stable and deli items, diverting it from landfills. Retail Food Rescue is our largest source of donated food.

- 39.7 million pounds of food collected from retail partners.
- Approximately 580 stores donate food through our Food Rescue Program.
- Our network of agency partners collects 60% of Food Rescue donations through local partnerships.

Prepared Food Rescue involves soliciting real-time donations of already-cooked food and safely and quickly connecting it with our meal program partners. As a network, we are providing nutritious meals to our hungry neighbors while reducing the environmental and financial impact of wasted food in our community.

- 284,000 pounds of prepared foods were donated by meal service partners.

ENDING HUNGER TOGETHER

Number of volunteers | 5,315 volunteers contributed 52,405 hours

5,315 unique volunteers donated time to Second Harvest Heartland – from food sorting and packing to client assistance to skill-based volunteer projects and more – contributing 52,405 total hours.

Volunteers donated the time equivalent to 25 full-time employees, based on the average hours per year worked by a full-time employee: 2,080.

Number of donors | 81,000+ individuals and 1,300+ organizations

More than 81,000 individuals and more than 1,300 organizations generously contributed dollars and other resources to Second Harvest Heartland.

Donation efficiency | 94.1% of expenses go toward programs and services

Second Harvest Heartland is committed to being good stewards of funds, with 94.1% of every dollar spent on the programs and services we deliver to end hunger.

Fund drives | 196 unique drives

196 unique fund drives organized by individuals and organizations raised money for Second Harvest Heartland. In total, \$476,357 was collected through the program.

Donation conversions | \$1 can provide 3 meals

For every \$1 donated, Second Harvest Heartland can provide 3 meals.

New facility | 233,000 square feet of hunger-fighting excellence

Our new hunger-fighting facility in Brooklyn Park opened in spring of 2020 just as COVID took hold. It's 233,000 square feet, compared to Maplewood's 75,000 square feet.

- Warehouse space in Brooklyn Park is 177,000 square feet compared to Maplewood's 61,000.
- Temperature-controlled space is 30,000 square feet compared to Maplewood's 10,000.
- Volunteer packing center is 24,100 square feet compared to Maplewood's 1,700.
- Brooklyn Park offers 47% more shipping and receiving door usage at one time than Maplewood.

ⁱ USDA "What We Eat in America" study, 2007 – 2008, released in July 2012.

ⁱⁱ Feeding America, 2019 Map the Meal Gap, released May 19, 2021.

ⁱⁱⁱ Feeding America, 2019 Map the Meal Gap, released May 19, 2021.

^{iv} Feeding America, Revised 2021 Food Insecurity Projections, released March 31, 2021.

^v Feeding America, Revised 2021 Food Insecurity Projections, released March 31, 2021.

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- ^{vi} Cooney, P and Shaefer, H.L. University of Michigan Policy Solutions. May 2021. Material Hardship and Mental Health Following the COVID-19 Relief Bill and American Rescue Plan Act. Retrieved from <http://sites.fordschool.umich.edu/poverty2021/files/2021/05/PovertySolutions-Hardship-After-COVID-19-Relief-Bill-PolicyBrief-r1.pdf>
- ^{vii} Coleman-Jensen, A, Rabbitt, M.P., Gregory, C.A., Singh, A. USDA, Economic Research Service. September 2021. Household Food Security in the United States in 2020, ERR-298. Retrieved from <https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=102075>
- ^{viii} Household race is reported based on householders or reference persons (an adult household member in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented). Coleman-Jensen, A, Rabbitt, M.P., Gregory, C.A., Singh, A. USDA, Economic Research Service. September 2021. Household Food Security in the United States in 2020, ERR-298. Retrieved from <https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=102075>
- ^{ix} Coleman-Jensen, A, Rabbitt, M.P., Gregory, C.A., Singh, A. USDA, Economic Research Service. September 2021. Household Food Security in the United States in 2020, ERR-298. Retrieved from <https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=102075>
- ^x Minnesota Compass. Retrieved from <https://www.mncompass.org/topics/demographics/race-ethnicity?white-non-hispanic>
- ^{xi} Minnesota Compass. Retrieved from <https://www.mncompass.org/topics/demographics/race-ethnicity?white-non-hispanic>
- ^{xii} US Census. 2019 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates. Table S2301- Employment Status. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=unemployment&t=Owner%2FRenter%20%28Householder%29%20Characteristics&g=0400000US27&tid=ACSST1Y2019.S2301>
- ^{xiii} United States Department of Agriculture, State Level Participation & Benefits September 2021, retrieved from <https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>
- ^{xiv} Feeding America, State of Senior Hunger in America in 2019. Released August 2021.
- ^{xv} Feeding America, State of Senior Hunger in America in 2019. Released August 2021.