

TREND/ISSUE TEAM STATEMENT

ISSUE TEAM : Hunger

DESIRED OUTCOME – Fewer Oklahomans will experience hunger

TREND: Why is it an issue in Oklahoma?

In the United States, about 49 million people worry about not having enough food and 12 million of the hungry are children (The Cost of Hunger, retrieved 2011). According to a recent USDA annual report, for the 3 year period of 2007-2009 an average of 15.2% of Oklahoma's population was classified as food insecure, which is an increase from previous rates of 14.6% (2004-2006) and 13.1% (1996-1998). A Hunger in America 2010 report revealed Food Banks in Oklahoma serve 354,800 people annually, while serving an additional 72,000 Oklahomans each week through non-emergency food programs. Among people served by Oklahoma Food Banks 40% report having to choose between paying for food or paying their utilities or heating fuel, 31% report having to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care, and 26% report having to choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage. Among households with children served by Oklahoma Food Banks, 78% are food insecure. The Oklahoma Policy Institute reported that the number of Oklahomans receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program has reached an all-time high of 619,000 persons as of Jan 2013, which is roughly 16% of Oklahoma's adult population. Trending data indicate food insecurity & hunger are on the rise across Oklahoma, especially in families with children, with 1 in 5 children at risk of being hungry in Oklahoma.

INDIVIDUAL OUTCOMES [Value to Participants]:

Participants in extension programs will have potential to change behaviors in these areas:

- Increase food money management practices
- Increase money saving meal planning or food shopping practices
- Increase meals prepared at home
- Increase safe food handling and storage practices
- Increase safe and effective food preservation practices
- Reduce intake of foods high in fat, sugar and salt
- Increase growing, producing, hunting or fishing for some food

SOCIETAL OUTCOMES [Public Value]:

Positive behavior change related to meal planning, shopping, cooking, food preparation, food preservation, and food safety practices will positively impact Oklahoma's rates of food insecurity and hunger due to the increased ability of Oklahomans to manage their food resources. Addressing hunger will help improve physical, emotional and intellectual development of Oklahoma families, ensuring healthier and better prepared citizens.

Communities/Counties will have the potential to make changes in these areas:

- Partnership of agencies and organizations interested in reducing hunger