

Long Island Findings

Hunger Action received 64 responses from surveys distributed throughout Long Island, with 43 from Suffolk and 21 from Nassau counties. The surveys included responses from food pantries, soup kitchens, programs that operate both a food pantry and a soup kitchen, and other programs that provide food, such as shelters, etc. The Hunger Impact Survey yielded the following results for Long Island:

I. The report found a 17.3% increase in the number of individuals fed in Long Island by EFPs comparing September of 2002 to September of 2003.

- Hunger Action asked all programs who completed the survey (food pantries, soup kitchens, etc) to provide data on the number of people they provided with food in September 2002 and September of 2003. 41 programs provided data for both of those months.

II. Comparing September of 2001 to September of 2003, programs reported the number of individuals they fed on Long Island had increased by 36.8%.

- Hunger Action asked soup kitchens only to provide data on the number of meals they served in September 2002 and September of 2003. 39 programs provided data for both of those months.

III. 31.7% of programs do not distribute enough food to meet their current demand. 63 programs responded to this question.

- 65.1% do distribute enough to meet their current demand.
- 3.1% are unsure if they distribute enough food to meet the current demand.

Of the programs that do not distribute enough to meet their current demand, 81.8% have enough capacity (storage space, refrigeration, staff and/or volunteers) to safely increase the amount of food they distribute. 22 programs responded to this question.

- 18.2% do not have enough capacity to safely increase the amount of food they distribute.
- 0% were unsure.

IV. 46.8% of programs reported that their food and money resources from the government decreased in the last year. 62 programs responded to this question.

- 14.5% of programs reported that their government resources decreased greatly.
- 32.3% of programs reported that their government resources decreased somewhat.
- 38.7% of programs reported that their government resources stayed about the same.
- 8.1% of programs reported that their government resources somewhat increased.
- 0% of programs reported that their government resources greatly increased
- 6.5% of programs were unsure.

V. 39.7% of programs reported that their food and money resources from the private sector decreased in the last year. 63 programs responded to this question.

- 6.3% of programs reported that their private resources decreased greatly.
- 33.3% of programs reported that their private resources decreased somewhat.

- 36.5% of programs reported that their private resources stayed about the same.
- 19.0% of programs reported that their private resources somewhat increased.
- 1.6% of programs reported that their private resources greatly increased
- 3.2% of programs were unsure.

VI. 46% of programs reported that their total food and money resources decreased in the last year. 63 programs responded to this question.

- 11.1% of programs reported that their total resources decreased greatly.
- 34.9% of programs reported that their total resources decreased somewhat.
- 33.3% of programs reported that their total resources stayed about the same.
- 12.7% of programs reported that their total resources somewhat increased.
- 1.6% of programs reported that their total resources greatly increased
- 6.3% of programs were unsure.

VII. 80.6% of programs reported that the overall number of customers needing food increased in the last year. 62 programs responded to this question.

- 32.3% reported that the overall number of customers greatly increased
- 48.4% reported that the overall number of customers somewhat increased.
- 14.5% reported that the overall number of customers stayed about the same.
- 1.6% reported that the overall number of customers decreased somewhat.
- 1.6% reported that the overall number of customers decreased greatly.
- 1.6% were unsure.

VIII. 30.5% of programs reported that the people with paid employment using their program increased in the last year. 59 programs responded to this question.

- 10.2% reported that this category of customers greatly increased
- 20.3% reported that this category of customers somewhat increased.
- 39.0% reported that this category of customers stayed about the same.
- 13.5% reported that this category of customers decreased somewhat.
- 5.1% reported that this category of customers decreased greatly.
- 11.9% were unsure.

IX. 29% of programs reported that the number of senior citizens using their program increased in the last year. 62 programs responded to this question.

- 1.6% reported that this category of customers greatly increased
- 27.4% reported that this category of customers somewhat increased.
- 59.7% reported that this category of customers stayed about the same.
- 6.5% reported that this category of customers decreased somewhat.
- 3.2% reported that this category of customers decreased greatly.
- 1.6% were unsure.

X. 70.5% of programs reported that the people who receive inadequate pay using their program increased in the last year. 61 programs responded to this question.

- 24.6% reported that this category of customers greatly increased
- 45.9% reported that this category of customers somewhat increased.

- 19.7% reported that this category of customers stayed about the same.
- 1.6% reported that this category of customers decreased somewhat.
- 0% reported that the overall number of customers decreased greatly.
- 8.2% were unsure.

XI. 49.2% of programs reported that number of children (under age 18) using their program increased in the last year. 63 programs responded to this question.

- 17.5% reported that this category of customers greatly increased
- 31.7% reported that this category of customers somewhat increased.
- 39.7% reported that this category of customers stayed about the same.
- 0% reported that this category of customers decreased somewhat.
- 4.8% reported that this category of customers decreased greatly.
- 6.3% were unsure.

XII. 46.0% of programs reported that they had to turn people away, reduce the amount of food distributed to each person, or limit their hours of operation in 2003 because they lacked enough resources. 63 programs responded to this question.

- 54.0% of programs reported that they did not have to turn people away, etc.
- 0% were unsure.

XIII. 80.9% of programs think that the demand for food will continue to increase over the next six months. 63 programs responded to this question.

- 23.8% think it will greatly increase.
- 57.1% think it will increase somewhat.
- 11.1% think it will stay about the same.
- 0% think it will decrease somewhat.
- 0% think it will greatly decrease.
- 7.9% are unsure.