

HJR 8: Childhood Hunger

Summary of Gap Information Provided to Date

Nov. 4, 2011

The Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee has asked House Joint Resolution 8 stakeholders to identify the gap that exists between the food needs that are met by existing food-assistance programs and the needs that remain unmet.

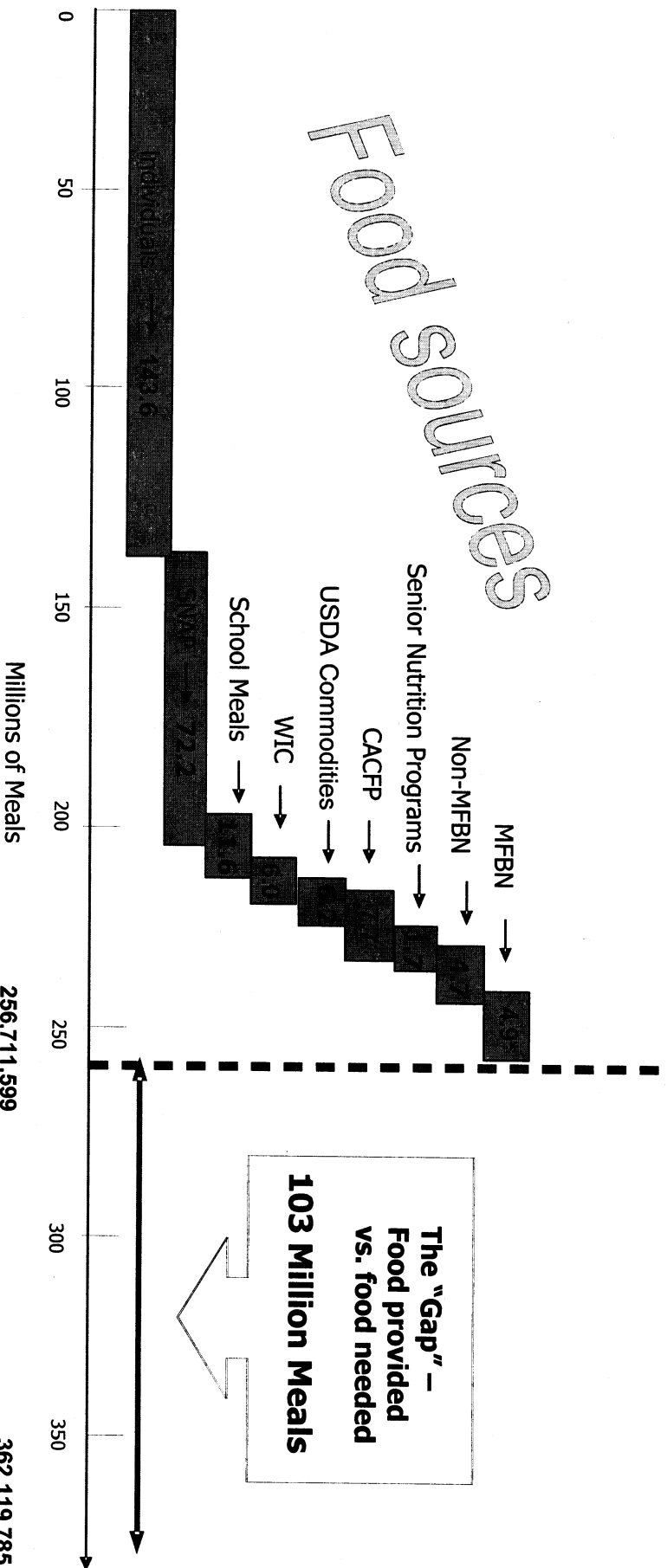
The committee has received four documents that either directly address or touch on this topic:

- Peggy Grimes, executive director of the Montana Food Bank Network, provided information at the Sept. 19 meeting estimating a gap of about 103 million meals per year. The estimate was calculated as follows:
 - ▶ U.S. Census Bureau data shows 132,281 Montana households at or below 185% of the federal poverty level, the standard set for several food-assistance programs;
 - ▶ each household was estimated to have 2.5 people, resulting in 330,703 people at or below 185% of poverty;
 - ▶ at three meals a day, those individuals would need 362.1 million meals a year; and
 - ▶ the individuals were able to provide 143.6 million meals themselves and to obtain about 115.1 million meals through public and private food-assistance programs, leaving a gap of 103.4 million meals.
- Kate Devino, chief policy officer of the Montana Food Bank Network, submitted as written public comment a document estimating the number of food insecure children, by county. The document estimates that 48,000 Montana children lacked enough food at some time during 2009.
- The Billings Area Food Policy Council provided information in its written public comment that identified certain gaps in the Billings area, as follow:
 - ▶ About 5,600 Billings Public School students are at or below 185% of poverty and thus eligible for free and reduced-price school meals. However, only 3,000 of them received those meals in 2007; about 2,200 have access to summer food programs.
 - ▶ School officials believe that 10% to 12% of the children eligible for free and reduced-price meals, or 500 to 600 students, have little or no food when not in school.
- Written public comment submitted by students in a Montana State University College of Nursing course identified gaps that occur primarily in services, including:
 - ▶ access problems created by the lack of uniformity in when food banks are open and the distance to grocery stores in some areas of the state;
 - ▶ insufficient SNAP benefits to cover food needs for an entire month; and
 - ▶ lack of food during periods when school-related food programs are not offered.

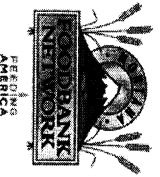
The documents submitted by Montana Food Bank Network representatives are attached. The gaps identified by the Billings Area Food Policy Council and the MSU College of Nursing students are contained in the packet of all public comment submitted to the committee, as those groups also provided comment on other issues related to the study. CI0425 1308soxa.

How big is the gap?

- 132,281 households live at or below 185% of Poverty in Montana. A Household is considered to be 2.5 persons
- Below 185% of poverty means < \$32,747 /year for a household of 2.5 individuals (2011)
- Total annual meals required for these children, families and seniors struggling with hunger is 362,119,785
- Meals currently provided through all programs listed below is 256,711,599.

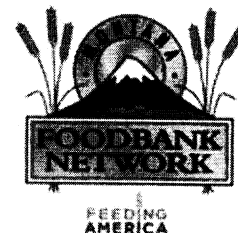


*MFBN meals do not include TEFAP distributed by MFBN
 Non-MFBN emergency food from local communities
 USDA Commodities includes TEFAP, CSFP, SIP, and FDPPIR
 School Meals include lunch, breakfast and summer for Free and Reduced Priced meals.



Unmet Food Need in Montana Supporting Documentation

Montana Food Bank Network, September 2011



Methods are based on Food Lifeline, Seattle *Missing Meals 2008* methodology.

Unit of Measurement: Meals. When the source data was available in pounds, pounds are converted to meals by dividing the pounds by 1.49. There are 1.49 pounds in a meal according to the average compiled from Thrifty Food Plan guidelines.

When source data was available in dollars, dollars are converted to meals by dividing the dollars by \$2.53. The Map the Meal Gap report by Feeding America shows data collected by The Neilson Company in Montana to reveal the average cost of a meal to be \$2.53 in the state.

The need is measured by the number of households in Montana at and below 185% of the Federal Poverty Guideline. 185% of the poverty level is used as the highest income bracket to determine the total number of people because:

- It is the maximum income level qualification for *most* of USDA's food programs (with the exception of SNAP; however it is unlikely that many people between 185% and 200% of FPL are actually eligible for SNAP)
- USDA research has shown that households with incomes at or below 185% of poverty are likely to be at risk of hunger.

Total Low Income Households:

1. Determine the income level for a household of 2.5 at 185% of poverty using 2011 Federal Poverty Guidelines. Income level cut off= \$32,747
2. Determine number of households below \$32,747 using 2009 US Census America Community Survey estimates for Montana. Data is available in income categories (e.g. \$20,000 to \$24,999; \$25,000 to \$29,999). The income category ceiling closest to \$32,747 is \$29,999. There are a total of 132,281 households below this \$29,999 income ceiling that is closest to 185% of poverty.

Total Low Income Individuals:

FORMULA: Multiply the number of households by 2.5 (The average household size in Montana is 2.5 people (US Census Bureau Fact Finder)). $132,281 \text{ households} \times 2.5 = 330,703 \text{ Individuals}$.

Annual Meals Needed to Feed all Low Income People:

FORMULA: Multiply the number of individuals by 3 (meals per day) by 365 (number of days per year). $330,703 \times 3 \times 365 = 362,119,785 \text{ total meals needed}$.

Total Meals Provided by Individuals:

Weighted average income per person is \$7,780.30 x 14.12% of income spent on food = \$1,098.58 spent on food per person x 330,703 individuals = \$363,303,702 divided by \$2.53 cost per meal – 143,598,301 meals provided by individuals.

To determine the number of meals low income people can provide for themselves, the average individual income and the percentage of income spent on food must be determined.

Average household income: We use a weighted average calculated by multiplying the number of households in each income category by the ceiling dollar amount for that category, summing these

categories, and dividing the sum by the total number of households in all categories. The average household income is: \$19,451.

Percent of income spent on food: US Bureau of Labor Statistics 2009 survey of consumer expenditures shows that households with incomes between \$15,000-\$19,999 spend 14.12% of their income on food. We use the income category which includes the average household income established for this report: \$19,451.

Food Program Meals calculations:

SNAP: FY 2010 average participation 117,035 individuals multiplied by the average benefit \$129.86 per month multiplied by 12 months= \$182,798,727 divided by \$2.53 average cost per meal = 72,252,461 meals.

School Meals: Average Daily Participation (ADP) for Free and Reduced Price (FRP) school lunch, breakfast and summer meals. **School Lunch:** 2010 FRP ADP students= 43,523 multiplied by 180 school days= 7,834,140 meals. **School Breakfast:** 2010 FRP ADP students= 18,523 multiplied by 180 school days = 3,334,140 meals. **Summer Food:** 2011 total lunches served 302,372 plus total breakfast served 105,533 = 407,905 meals.

WIC: Program dollar amount 2009 \$15,148,321 divided by \$2.53 = 5,987,478 meals.

USDA Commodities:

- **TEFAP** (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) TEFAP includes food distributed through MFBN, non-MFBN food banks and pantries, and soup kitchens and homeless shelters. Calculated using pounds: 2,560,982 pounds divided by 1.49 pounds per meal = 1,718,779 meals
- **CSFP** (Commodity Supplemental Food Program) calculated using pounds: 2,899,988 divided by 1.49 pounds per meal = 1,946,300 meals
- **FDPIR** (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations) calculated using pounds: 1,982,892 pounds divided by 1.49 pounds per meal = 1,330,800 meals)
- **NSIP** (Nutrition Services Incentive Program): data source is meals: 1,250,000 meals.

CACFP: Data source is meals: 2010 total meals 7,708,962.

Senior Nutrition Programs: Includes Home delivered Meals on Wheels (non-commodities) and Senior Congregate meals. Reported in meals: 630,371 home delivered meals + 1,108,184 congregate meals = 1,738,555 meals.

Non-MFBN: Emergency food from local communities not acquired and distributed by Montana Food Bank Network (MFBN). Calculated using pounds: 4,900,000 pounds divided by 1.49 pounds per meal= 3,288,590 meals. Non-TEFAP soup kitchen: 2,080,776 total meals minus 687,840 TEFAP meals=1,392,936 meals. Total 3,288,590 +1,392,936 = 4,681,526 meals.

MFBN: Calculated using pounds: 8.4 million pounds minus 1,044,881 pounds of TEFAP food distributed through MFBN = 7,355,119 pounds divided by 1.49 pounds per meal = 4,745,238 meals.

Map the Meal Gap 2009: Child Food Insecurity*

County	Food Insecurity Rate (% of population)	Child Insecure 8 year old	Child Food Insecurity rate	Estimated number of Insecure children (rounded)
BEAVERHEAD	12.4%	1,864	17.6%	330
BIG HORN	18.0%	4,185	29.2%	1,220
BLAINE	16.1%	1,965	27.8%	550
BROADWATER	14.0%	1,190	21.9%	260
CARBON	11.3%	2,064	17.7%	360
CARTER	10.9%	197	17.9%	40
CASCADE	12.5%	19,246	20.4%	3,920
CHOUTEAU	12.8%	1,232	22.9%	280
CUSTER	12.7%	2,539	20.6%	520
DANIELS	12.3%	316	23.2%	70
DAWSON	10.7%	1,757	19.3%	340
DEER LODGE	16.4%	1,723	26.4%	450
FALLON	8.7%	612	16.0%	100
FERGUS	13.6%	2,413	22.3%	540
FLATHEAD	16.4%	20,765	25.2%	5,240
GALLATIN	13.5%	17,553	18.7%	3,290
GARFIELD	10.9%	234	17.4%	40
GLACIER	18.2%	4,348	28.7%	1,250
GOLDEN VALLEY	12.2%	234	21.6%	50
GRANITE	16.4%	532	20.6%	110
HILL	13.2%	4,237	21.8%	920
JEFFERSON	11.7%	2,773	16.2%	450
JUDITH BASIN	11.6%	289	18.3%	50
LAKE	17.3%	7,203	28.9%	2,080
LEWIS AND CLARK	11.0%	13,755	17.4%	2,390
LIBERTY	14.2%	564	26.7%	150
LINCOLN	20.3%	3,876	29.9%	1,160
MADISON	12.9%	1,367	20.6%	280
MCCONE	10.0%	415	15.8%	70
MEAGHER	15.6%	375	23.1%	90
MINERAL	17.1%	873	28.3%	250
MISSOULA	14.3%	21,170	20.0%	4,230
MUSSELSHELL	14.6%	908	28.2%	260
PARK	14.2%	3,241	22.7%	740
PETROLEUM	12.6%	119	21.9%	30
PHILLIPS	13.4%	932	26.0%	240
PONDERA	16.0%	1,594	27.6%	440
POWDER RIVER	10.6%	366	16.8%	60
POWELL	15.0%	1,219	26.4%	320
PRAIRIE	12.1%	136	21.3%	30
RAVALLI	15.4%	9,139	25.6%	2,340
RICHLAND	12.3%	2,173	22.2%	480
ROOSEVELT	17.4%	3,343	27.5%	920
ROSEBUD	15.9%	2,947	25.8%	760
SANDERS	22.4%	2,222	35.0%	780

County	Food Insecurity Rate (full population)	Population under 18 years old	Child food insecurity rate	Estimated number food insecure children (rounded)
SHERIDAN	12.0%	621	15.3%	100
SILVER BOW	13.7%	7,314	21.2%	1,550
STILLWATER	11.3%	1,996	19.9%	400
SWEET GRASS	12.1%	840	21.7%	180
TETON	12.0%	1,449	18.6%	270
TOOLE	12.1%	1,138	21.0%	240
TREASURE	10.6%	244	17.9%	40
VALLEY	12.4%	1,614	21.6%	350
WHEATLAND	14.2%	308	28.4%	90
WIBAUX	13.7%	180	23.8%	40
YELLOWSTONE	11.4%	33,790	18.5%	6,260
State Total	#REF!	219,699	21.8%	48,000

*Child food insecurity rates are determined using data from the 2009 Current Population Survey on the percent of children in food insecure households; data from the 2009 American Community Survey on median family incomes for households with children, child poverty rates, and race and ethnic demographics among children; and data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics on unemployment rates.

This research is generously supported by ConAgra Foods Foundation and is based on *Map the Meal Gap: Food Insecurity Estimates at the County Level*, supported by the Howard G. Buffett Foundation