Poverty & Food Insecurity in Mattoon & Coles County

Michael D. Gillespie, Ph.D.
Eastern Illinois University
Coles County Poverty Data Project
What is Poverty?

• Economic and/or income deprivation
  – Lacking means of subsistence capable of providing a secure and adequate standard of living:
    • Absolute: constant level/threshold
    • Relative: comparative level of social, economic, and cultural development
What is Absolute Poverty?

• “Absolute” Poverty: Standard over time
  – Family Income:
    • One Person, Under 65: $11,945
    – Over 65: $11,011
    – Family of 4, Two Children: $23,283
    – Family of 3, Two Children: $18,498
The current federal poverty measure was developed in the 1960s and is based on taking the cost of an emergency food diet and multiplying it by three.

At the time, food constituted one-third of the average family’s budget.
Now it amounts to around one-seventh as the costs of housing, childcare, and health care have all risen disproportionately.
Percent of the Population, All Ages, living in Poverty: 2000-2012

SAIPE, Selected Years

Coles County, 22.9
United States, 15.9
Illinois, 14.7
Percent of the Children Under 18 Years of Age living in Poverty: 2000-2012

SAIPE, Selected Years

Coles County, 25.5
United States, 22.6
Illinois, 20.6
Percent of the Children Ages 5-17 in Poor Families: 2000-2012

SAIPE, Selected Years

Coles County, 24.9

United States, 21

Illinois, 19.3
Poverty is Local and Relative:

— “People are poverty-stricken when their income, even if adequate for survival, falls markedly behind that of the community. Then they cannot have what the larger community regards as the minimum necessary for decency, and they cannot wholly escape, therefore, the judgment of the larger community that they are indecent.”


• Relative” Poverty / Comparative
  – Changes over time
  – Levels of poverty
Relative Levels of Poverty (2012)

- **50% of poverty (Extreme Poverty)**
  - Family of 4 with 2 children
  - $5,851
  - $11,641

- **100% of poverty**
  - Family of 4 with 2 children
  - $11,702
  - $23,283

- **185% of poverty**
  - Food Insecurity
  - $21,650
  - $43,074
  - (Family of 4 with 2 children)

- **200% of poverty**
  - Poverty Threshold
  - Absolute Poverty
  - $21,650
  - $43,074
  - (Family of 4 with 2 children)
185%

- Food insecurity level of income above poverty line
  - Formerly “hunger risk”

- SNAP/Food Stamps → 130%
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) → 185%
- School Food Programs →
  - Free Meals: 130%
  - Reduced Price: 185%
What is Hunger?

• hunger [huhng-ger]
  – noun
1. a compelling need or desire for food.
2. state of weakness caused by the need of food.
3. a shortage of food; famine.
4. a strong or compelling desire or craving.

– verb (used without object)
5. to feel hunger; be hungry.
6. to have a strong desire.
What is Food Insecurity?

- Households that are unable to acquire adequate food for one or more household members:
  - Insufficient money / resources for food:
    - Worried food would run out before they got money to buy more.
    - Food they bought didn't last, and they didn't have money to get more.
    - They couldn't afford to eat balanced meals.
Food Insecure and Poor Individuals
by East Illinois County, 2012
ACS, 2008-2012 Average, Table S1701

- Percent Food Insecure (185%)
- Percent Poor (100%)

United States: 30.93%
Illinois (Statewide): 28.40%
Champaign Co.: 36.65%
Clark Co.: 11.53%
Clay Co.: 14.86%
Coles Co.: 40.49%
Crawford Co.: 31.29%
Cumberland Co.: 15.02%
Douglas Co.: 13.39%
Edgar Co.: 10.12%
Ford Co.: 28.65%
Iroquois Co.: 24.55%
Jasper Co.: 29.15%
Moultrie Co.: 29.78%
Piatt Co.: 18.53%
Vermilion Co.: 18.81%
Poor Individuals in East Central Illinois

Individuals of All Ages Living at or below 100% of Poverty as a Percent of All Individuals

East Central Illinois Counties by Census Tract
Eastern Illinois Food Bank Service Area 2008-2012 Average

Legend

- 5.00% or less
- 5.01% - 15.00%
- 15.01% - 25.00%
- 25.01% - 35.00%
- 35.01% and greater

Data: U.S. Census Bureau
American Fact Finder
2008-2012 5-Year Estimates
Table C170222

Michael D. Gillespie, Ph.D.
Eastern Illinois University
Department of Sociology/Anthropology
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Individuals of All Ages Living Below 185% of Poverty as a Percent of All Individuals

East Central Illinois Counties by Census Tract

Eastern Illinois Food Bank Service Area 2008-2012 Average

Legend

- 5.00% or less
- 5.01% - 15.00%
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Data: U.S. Census Bureau American Fact Finder 2008-2012 5-Year Estimates Table C17022

Michael D. Gillespie, Ph.D.
Eastern Illinois University
Department of Sociology/Anthropology
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Michael D. Gillespie, Ph.D.
Eastern Illinois University
Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Food Insecure Individuals in Coles County Illinois

Michael D. Gillespie, Ph.D.
Eastern Illinois University
Department of Sociology/Anthropology

Individuals Living Below 185% of Poverty as a Percent of All Persons
Poor Individuals in Mattoon, Illinois
Individuals Living Below 100% of Poverty as a Percent of All Persons

Michael D. Gillespie, Ph.D.
Eastern Illinois University
Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Food Insecure Individuals in Mattoon, Illinois
Individuals Living Below 185% of Poverty as a Percent of All Persons

Michael D. Gillespie, Ph.D.
Eastern Illinois University
Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Food Insecure Families in Coles County Illinois

Michael D. Gillespie, Ph.D.
Eastern Illinois University
Department of Sociology/Anthropology

Families Living Below
185% of Poverty as a Percent of All Families
Food Insecure Families in Mattoon, Illinois
Families Living Below 185% of Poverty as a Percent of All Families

Legend

5.00% or less
5.01% - 15.00%
15.01% - 25.00%
25.01% - 35.00%
35.01% and greater

Data: U.S. Census Bureau American Fact Finder 2008-2012 5-Year Estimates
Michael D. Gillespie, Ph.D.
Eastern Illinois University
Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Food Insecure Families with Children in Mattoon, Illinois
Families with Children Living Below 185% of Poverty as a Percent of All Families with Children

Michael D. Gillespie, Ph.D.
Eastern Illinois University
Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Food Insecure Families with Children in East Central Illinois Living in the Food Assistance Gap

Families with Children Living between 130% and 185% of Poverty as a Percent of All Families with Children with Incomes below 185% of Poverty

East Central Illinois Counties by Census Tract
Eastern Illinois Food Bank Service Area
2008-2012 Average

Legend

- 5.00% or less
- 5.01% - 15.00%
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Data: U.S. Census Bureau
American Fact Finder
2008-2012 5-Year Estimates
Table B17022

Michael D. Gillespie, Ph.D.
Eastern Illinois University
Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Food Insecure Families with Children Living in the Food Assistance Gap in Coles County Illinois

Families with Children Living Between 130% & 185% of Poverty as a Percent of All Families with Children Living below 185% of Poverty

Michael D. Gillespie, Ph.D.
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Food Insecure Families with Children Living in the Food Assistance Gap in Mattoon, Illinois

Families with Children Living Between 130% & 185% of Poverty as a Percent of All Families with Children Living at 185% of Poverty
Free and Reduced Meals Eligibility, County and District Comparison
SY 2013-14 and SY 2014-15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Coles Co.</th>
<th>Charleston</th>
<th>Mattoon</th>
<th>Oakland</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2013</strong></td>
<td>49.96%</td>
<td>44.13%</td>
<td>51.63%</td>
<td>55.47%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2014</strong></td>
<td>51.82%</td>
<td>44.04%</td>
<td>57.12%</td>
<td>57.66%</td>
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Closing Thoughts

• Focus on “How Much” and “Where”
  – Now ask:
    • “What can be done?
    • “What should be done?
    • “How should we help?”
      – Beware of moral judgments

• Poverty is a reality in Mattoon, Coles County and East Central Illinois

• There is an increased level of risk for hunger and food insecurity for individuals, families, and children.