Poverty & Food Insecurity in East-Central Illinois

Michael D. Gillespie, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Sociology
Eastern Illinois University
217-581-7107
mgillespie@eiu.edu

Weblog:
http://colescountypovertydataproject.wordpress.com/
Twitter: @ccpdp
Gmail: ccpovertydata@gmail.com
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 Poverty?

• Formal, Applied Definition:

**Absolute poverty:**

• a true, basic (absolute) standard of needs
  – remains constant over time.

• There is a real level of minimum needs in order to survive
Understanding Poverty Measurement

- Official Poverty Definition
  (U.S. Census Bureau):
  - Family Income:
    - Gross Family Pre-Tax Annual Cash Income:
      - Earnings
      - Pensions
      - Interest income
      - Rental income
      - and Cash Welfare
      - Added together, if the family income is below the relevant threshold, then the family is considered poor.
### 2013 Poverty Thresholds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of family unit</th>
<th>Thresholds</th>
<th>Related children under 18 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One person (unrelated individual)</td>
<td><strong>11,888</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 65 years</td>
<td>12,119</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 years +</td>
<td>11,173</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two people</td>
<td>15,142</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Householder under 65</td>
<td>15,679</td>
<td>15,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Householder 65+</td>
<td>14,095</td>
<td>14,081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three people</td>
<td>18,552</td>
<td>18,222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four people</td>
<td>23,834</td>
<td>24,028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five people</td>
<td>28,265</td>
<td>28,977</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.
The Federal Poverty Thresholds

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.
Introduction to the Data

- **U.S. Census Bureau**
  - American Community Survey (ACS)
    - 5-Year Averages
      - Only estimates that include Census Tracts
      - More specific and reliable

- **Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)**
  - Administrative Records Combined with Census and ACS Estimates
  - Annual updated estimates of income and poverty statistics
    - Administration of federal programs
    - Allocation of federal funds to local jurisdictions
Figure 1: Percent of Total Population in Poverty
Coles County, Illinois, & U.S.
SAIPE, Selected Years

Poverty Percent All Ages: Coles Co.  
Poverty Percent All Ages: United States  
Poverty Percent All Ages: Illinois

11.4%  11.9%  12%  12.3%  13.3%  13%  13.2%  13.3%  13%  14.7%
12.3%  12.7%  13.3%  13%  12.2%  12.3%  13.8%  14.9%  15.9%
13.2%  14.4%  18.8%  20%  19.2%  19.1%  18.7%  21.8%  22.9%
11.4%  11.9%  12%  12.3%  13.3%  13%  13.2%  13.3%  13%  14.7%
12.3%  12.7%  13.3%  13%  12.2%  12.3%  13.8%  14.9%  15.9%
13.2%  14.4%  18.8%  20%  19.2%  19.1%  18.7%  21.8%  22.9%
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
2006-2012 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
2006-2012 5-Year Estimates
Table C17022

Michael D. Gillespie, Ph.D.
Eastern Illinois University
Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Poor Households in East Central Illinois

Households with incomes at or below 100% of Poverty as a Percent of All Households

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

Legend

- Blue: 5.00% or less
- Light Blue: 5.01% - 15.00%
- Light Yellow: 15.01% - 25.00%
- Yellow: 25.01% - 35.00%
- Orange: 35.01% and greater

Data: U.S. Census Bureau
American Fact Finder
2008-2012 5-Year Estimates
Table S2201

Michael D. Gillespie, Ph.D.
Eastern Illinois University
Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Poor Families in East Central Illinois

Families with Incomes at or below 100% of Poverty as a Percent of All Families

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 DP03

Michael D. Gillespie, Ph.D.
Eastern Illinois University
Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Levels of Poverty (2013)

200% of poverty
185% of poverty
Food Insecurity
$21,993
$43,704
(Family of 4 with 2 children)

100% of poverty
$11,888
$23,624
(Family of 4 with 2 children)

50% of poverty
Extreme Poverty
$5,944
$11,812
(Family of 4 with 2 children)
185%: Food Insecurity

- Food insecurity level of income above poverty line
- 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.
Why 185% Matters

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

• A gap in How the general public can access food assistance
  - Hunger is an individual condition impacted by the scarcity of resources to obtain nutritious food.
Food Insecurity in East Central Illinois

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%
- 15.01% - 25.00%
- 25.01% - 35.00%
- 35.01% and greater

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

Data: U.S. Census Bureau
American Fact Finder
2008-2012 5-Year Estimates
Table C17022
Food Insecure Individuals in Coles County, Illinois

Individuals Living Below 185% of Poverty as a Percent of All Individuals

Food insecurity is the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.


Legend

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

Michael D. Gillespie, Ph.D.
Eastern Illinois University
Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Coles County Poverty Data Project

Data: U.S. Census Bureau American Fact Finder
2008-2012 5-Year Estimates Table C17022
Food Insecure Individuals in Charleston, Illinois

Individuals Living Below 185% of Poverty as a Percent of All Individuals

Food insecurity is the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.


Legend

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

Michael D. Gillespie, Ph.D.
Eastern Illinois University
Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Coles County Poverty Data Project

Charleston, Coles County, Illinois by Census Tract
2008-2012 Average

Data: U.S. Census Bureau American Fact Finder
2008-2012 5-Year Estimates Table C17022
Food Insecure Individuals in Mattoon, Illinois

Individuals Living Below 185% of Poverty as a Percent of All Individuals

Food insecurity is the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.

Life Sciences Research Office,
The Journal of Nutrition, Vol. 120 (1990)

Legend

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

Michael D. Gillespie, Ph.D.
Eastern Illinois University
Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Coles County Poverty Data Project

Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois by Census Tract
2008-2012 Average

Data: U.S. Census Bureau American Fact Finder
2008-2012 5-Year Estimates Table C17022
Food Insecure Families in East Central Illinois

Families Living Below 185% of Poverty as a Percent of All Families

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 B17022

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

Families Living Below 185% of Poverty as a Percent of All Families

Food insecurity is the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.


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

Michael D. Gillespie, Ph.D.  
Eastern Illinois University  
Department of Sociology/Anthropology  
Coles County Poverty Data Project

Data: U.S. Census Bureau American Fact Finder  
2008-2012 5-Year Estimates Table B17022
Food Insecure Families with Children in East Central Illinois
Families with Children Living below 185% of Poverty as a Percent of All Families with Children

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

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

Data: U.S. Census Bureau
American Fact Finder
2008-2012 5-Year Estimates
Table S05009
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

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

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

Data: U.S. Census Bureau
American Fact Finder
2008-2012 5-Year Estimates
Table B17022
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

- **20.00% or less**
- **20.01% - 40.00%**
- **40.01% - 60.00%**
- **60.01% - 80.00%**
- **80.01% and greater**

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

Data: U.S. Census Bureau American Fact Finder 2008-2012 5-Year Estimates Table B17022
Ratio of Food Insecure Individuals to the Average Number of Food Pantries per Quarter by County

East Central Illinois Counties
Eastern Illinois Food Bank Service Area

Individuals:
5-Year Average 2008-2012

Food Pantries:
FY 2008-2014 Quarterly Average

Legend

Ratio of Food Insecure Individuals to the Average Number of Food Pantries per Quarter

- Blue: Fewer than 750.0
- Gray: 750.1 - 1500
- Yellow: 1501 - 2250
- Orange: 2251 - 3000
- Red: 3001 or greater

Data: U.S. Census Bureau
American Fact Finder
2008-2012 5-Year Estimates
Table C17022
Eastern Illinois Food Bank Service Data

Michael D. Gillespie, Ph.D.
Eastern Illinois University
Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Ratio of Food Insecure Families to the Average Number of Food Pantries per Quarter by County

East Central Illinois Counties
Eastern Illinois Food Bank Service Area

Families:
5-Year Average 2008-2012

Food Pantries:
FY 2008-2014 Quarterly Average

Legend
Ratio of Food Insecure Families to the Average Number of Food Pantries per Quarter by County
- 125.00 or fewer
- 125.01 - 250.00
- 250.01 - 375.00
- 375.01 - 500.00
- 500.01 and greater

Data: U.S. Census Bureau
American Fact Finder
2008-2012 5-Year Estimates
Table B17022

Eastern Illinois Food Bank
Service Data

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

• Poverty *is* a reality in Coles County and East Central Illinois
• The *risk* of food insecurity and hunger is more pronounced than absolute poverty

Food Insecurity/Risk $\leftrightarrow$ Poverty

• Poverty and Food Insecurity depends on place - not just regional, state-wide or national, but between and within counties.
  – Better target areas based on needs and risks
    • Educate and Empower to Alleviate