Addressing Poverty & Food Insecurity in East-Central Illinois

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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
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

Yearly Percentages:
- 2003: 11.4%
- 2004: 11.9%
- 2005: 12%
- 2006: 12.3%
- 2007: 13%
- 2008: 13.2%
- 2009: 13.3%
- 2010: 13.8%
- 2011: 14.9%
- 2012: 14.7%

Note: The graph shows an upward trend for all three regions, with Coles County showing the highest poverty rates compared to the United States and Illinois.
Levels of Poverty (2013)

- 50% of poverty
  - Extreme Poverty
  - $5,944
  - $11,812
  - (Family of 4 with 2 children)

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

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

- 200% of poverty
  - Absolute Poverty
  - $21,993
  - $43,704
  - (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 \( \rightarrow \) 130%

– Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) \( \rightarrow \) 185%

– School Food Programs \( \rightarrow \)
  • 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 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

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Data: U.S. Census Bureau
American Fact Finder
2008-2012 5-Year Estimates
Table B17005
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

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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

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Data: U.S. Census Bureau
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Table B19025A
Food Insecure Families with Children in Coles County, Illinois
Families with Children Living Below 185% of Poverty as a Percent of All Families with Children

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Levels of Social Welfare Programming

- Federal Government
- State Government
- Regional / Local Government
Most of Budget Goes Toward Defense, Social Security, and Major Health Programs

Defense and International Security Assistance: 19%

- Social Security: 24%
- Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP: 22%
- Safety Net Programs: 12%
- Interest on Debt: 6%

Remaining Program Areas

- Benefits for federal retirees and veterans: 8%
- Transportation infrastructure: 3%
- Education: 1%
- Science and medical research: 2%
- Non-security international: 1%
- All other: 3%

Source: 2013 figures from Office of Management and Budget, FY 2015 Historical Tables.

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities | cbpp.org
Figure 4

Federal Discretionary Grants to States and Localities Support Many Basic Services

Distribution of federal discretionary grants to states, President’s 2013 budget, by function

- Transportation: 28%
- Education: 25%
- Housing and Community Development: 20%
- Health and Environment: 15%
- Workforce: 5%
- Public Safety: 4%
- Other: 4%

Source: Office of Management and Budget.
Government $ is the Best Asset

• Stable Funding:
  – Federal
  – State
  – Local

• Delivery:
  – Local

• Whose interests do these funds serve?
Figure 4.
Difference in SPM Rates After Including Each Element: 2012 and 2013

- Social Security
- Refundable tax credits
- SNAP
- Unemployment insurance
- SSI
- Housing subsidies
- Child support received
- School lunch
- TANF/General Assistance
- WIC
- LIHEAP
- Workers' compensation
- Child support paid
- Federal income tax
- FICA
- Work expense
- MOOP

*Statistically significant change between 2012 and 2013.
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

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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

- **Blue**: 20.00% or less
- **Light Blue**: 20.01% - 40.00%
- **Yellow**: 40.01% - 60.00%
- **Orange**: 60.01% - 80.00%
- **Red**: 80.01% and greater

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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
- Light Blue: 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

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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
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Eastern Illinois Food Bank
Service Data

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Comparison of the Number of Food Pantries and Food Mobiles to the Monthly Average Number of Individuals and Households Served, by Quarter

Eastern Illinois Food Bank Service Region
How can we address these issues?

What do recipients have to say?
Recommendations *from* the Poor

- Don’t ignore the realities of poverty
  - Real life situations are most pressing

- Encourage Education
  - Access to financial aid

- Programs to meet *basic* needs
  - Let them focus on education and other possibilities

Donna M. Beegle, Ph.D.
“Communication Across Barriers” http://www.combarriers.com
Recommendations *from* the Poor

- Work to change negative perceptions
  - If you want to know them, ask them

- Rules based on *middle-class* values are misguided
  - *Understand* the world of poverty

- Be aggressive for outreach efforts focused on basic needs
  - Housing; health care; food assistance
  - Let them focus on education and other possibilities

Donna M. Beegle, Ph.D.

“Communication Across Barriers” http://www.combarriers.com
Recommendations *from* the Poor

• Appreciate past experiences within “the system”
  – Negative & positive interactions shape the likelihood of someone seeking future assistance
  • *R.E.S.P.E.C.T.*

• Collaborate with the poor:
  – As an advocate
  – As a provider
  – As an administrator

• There is a world of difference between mentoring and preaching, teaching, and legislating

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Our Ideas?