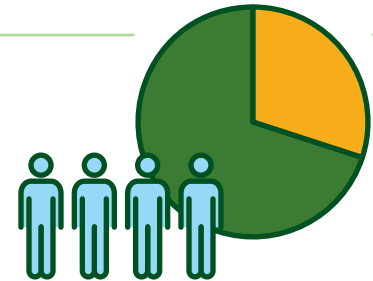


2023 Hunger Study

Indy Hunger Network's Hunger Study revealed that up to 25% of Indiana residents needed food assistance in 2023 (similar across rural, suburban, and urban counties). Hunger was at its highest level in the last decade.



up to 31%

of Marion County residents needed food assistance in 2023.

Food assistance provided



716 million meals statewide. Yet **92%**

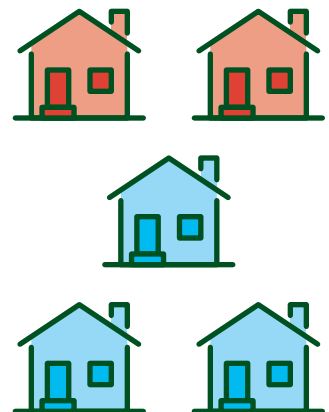
of Hoosiers using food assistance had low or very low food security.



of Hoosiers using food assistance had low or very low food security.

2 out of 5 Households

with food needs in any given week were unable to patch together enough food assistance resources to meet all their meal needs.



Half of survey respondents

reported feeling that they were looked down on or disrespected by those helping them apply for assistance and noted education and income level as cause for discrimination.



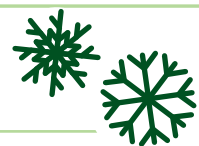
Only 6%

of households experiencing food insecurity always eat nutritious meals and 25% reported that they rarely or never eat nutritious meals.



Winter

is by far the most common season when families do not have all the food they need.



2024 Recommendations

for agencies and organizations providing food assistance in Indiana

- 1. Increase efforts to provide food assistance**, through both public and private sources.
- 2. Increase the availability of "one-stop shopping"** for multiple resources or programs at one location to reduce the time required to access food.
- 3. Advocate for significant improvements** to state and federal policy that will improve meal supply and food access.
- 4. Provide more food support during the winter** months to help address the increase in food needs.
- 5. Promote use of Community Compass** to help people find available sources of food assistance.
- 6. FSSA should increase efforts** to help eligible individuals successfully enroll in SNAP.
- 7.** Food insecurity will persist as long as working people are unable to pay for their basic needs. **Wages must be addressed to ensure working people make a living wage** that increases along with the cost of living.
- 8. Perceived discrimination by those providing food assistance should be addressed** through training to reduce the barrier of stigma for those seeking help.

Learn more about or get involved with Indy Hunger Network at IndyHunger.org