

## **2010 HUNGER STUDY FACT SHEET**

Every week, nearly 40,000 New Mexicans seek food assistance. That's the equivalent of a city the size of Farmington needing emergency assistance.

40% of the members of households seeking food assistance are children under the age of 18. 7% of those children are under the age of 5.

13% of the people seeking food assistance in New Mexico are senior citizens.

41% of households needing food assistance report having at least one member in poor health.

70% of food pantry programs in New Mexico rely entirely on volunteers.

75% of the food pantries surveyed reported an increase in the number of people needing assistance.

20% of current food pantries in New Mexico were not in existence two years ago.

The average monthly income for a household seeking food assistance is \$900/month.

83% of the food distributed by food pantries in New Mexico is provided by food banks.

### **Myths About Hunger**

While many people believe that the only people needing food assistance are homeless or out of work, 32% of households seeking emergency food assistance include at least one employed adult, and only 8% of the people seeking assistance are homeless.

While thousands of New Mexicans receive assistance through SNAP (Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program), those funds only provide 2.3 weeks of groceries.

### **Difficult Choices Facing New Mexicans**

54% of surveyed clients report having to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities or heating fuel.

38% had to choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage.

45% had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care.

42% had to choose between paying for food and paying for transportation.

### **Resources**

Visit [www.nmfoodbanks.org](http://www.nmfoodbanks.org) for a listing of assistance agencies by county.