

HUNGER IN POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA: AN AARP SURVEY OF OKLAHOMA ADULTS



FOOD BANK



MAY 2015

BACKGROUND

Nearly 50 million Americans (children and adults) are *food insecure* or at risk for hunger – facing the uncertainty of having enough food because of insufficient money or other resources to buy food.^{1,2} And in 2011, nearly 9 million Americans age 60 and older were at risk for hunger.³ Among states, Oklahoma ranks among the top five in the number of people who are hungry or food insecure – 653,820 or 17.2 percent of the population. This includes one in four children and one in sixteen seniors ages 60 and older living in Oklahoma.^{4,5} In Pottawatomie county, 15.7 percent or one in seven residents are food insecure.⁶

In their continued efforts to be an advocate and resource for all, in particular those ages 50 and older, AARP in Oklahoma commissioned this survey to gauge Pottawatomie county residents' experience with hunger and their opinions about state support for food banks. This random digit dial and cell phone survey among 900 adults age 18 and older residing in Pottawatomie County shows most (80%) think the state government, local community organizations, and individuals should work to reduce the number of families at risk for hunger in the state.

FULL METHODOLOGY

The AARP 2014 Oklahoma Hunger Survey was conducted as a telephone survey targeted to Oklahoma adults age 18 and older living in Pottawatomie county. The questionnaire was developed by AARP staff and averaged 17 minutes in length. The interviews were conducted in English by Precision Opinion from November 25th to December 13th, 2014. The margin of sampling error for 900 completed interviews is $\pm 3.27\%$. The margin of sampling error for 604 interviews completed by Pottawatomie county residents is $\pm 4.0\%$.

The sample utilized on this project was RDD landline and Enhanced Wireless cell phone records. RDD sample was pulled with virtual Genesys system from Marketing Systems Group (MSG), and the Enhanced Wireless sample was obtained from Scientific Telephone Samples.

AARP in Oklahoma targeted Pottawatomie County where 55 percent of the population is below threshold of 130% poverty and about one in six is food insecure.⁷ The data were weighted by age and gender to reflect the population of residents in Pottawatomie County. A separate weighting scheme was also used for full statewide sample. Age and income differences are reported where author felt most relevant to overall findings. Please contact Jennifer Sauer at 202-434-6207 for additional information on the weighting, data analysis, survey design, or the Pottawatomie County survey data.

The response rate for this study was measured using the American Association for Public Opinion Research's (AAPOR) response rate 3 method. The cooperation rate was measured using AAPOR's cooperation rate 3 method. The refusal rate was measured using AAPOR's refusal rate 3 method. The table below contains these rates.

Response Rate	Cooperation Rate	Refusal Rate
37%	90%	8%

Source: AAPOR Outcome Rate Calculator Version 2.1 May 2003

This report will describe the weighted data from the 601 Pottawatomie County respondents ages 18 and older.

¹ Food Insecurity Among Older Adults. A report submitted to AARP Foundation August 2011 by James P. Ziliak, Ph.D. University of Kentucky and Craig Gundersen, Ph.D. University of Illinois http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/aarp_foundation/pdf_2011/AARPFoundation_HungerReport_2011.pdf

² Feeding America, Hunger in America, Hunger Facts, <http://feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hunger-facts/hunger-and-poverty-statistics.aspx>

³ Ziliak, J.P., Gundersen, C. State of Hunger in American 2011: An Annual Report; Supplement, September 1, 2013 http://www.nfesh.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/NFESH-2013-Report-Supplement_041113_Final.pdf

⁴ Pottawatomie County Food Bank Association, <http://PottawatomieCountyfba.org/AboutHunger/Hunger101.aspx>

⁵ Ibid. James P. Ziliak, Ph.D. and Craig Gundersen, Ph.D., Page 70.

http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/aarp_foundation/pdf_2011/AARPFoundation_HungerReport_2011.pdf

⁶ Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap, <http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/our-research/map-the-meal-gap/>.

⁷ Ibid. footnote 6

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

- 📍 Nearly half (47%) say they or someone in their household has experienced food insecurity, and two-thirds (66%) say someone close to them like a neighbor or friend has ever experienced this problem.
- 📍 Over one-third (35%) say there has been a time in the past two years when they worried their food would run out before they obtained the money to buy more.
- 📍 One third (33%) indicate they have taken at least three of the six measures tested in the survey to obtain food such as accepted financial help, groceries, or food from family or friends, avoided filling a prescription, or skipped payment on a utility/home bill.
- 📍 At least one-quarter say they skipped filling a prescription or seeing a doctor (29%) or skipped paying a utility or other home bill (25%) to have money for food.
- 📍 About one in six (15%) Pottawatomie adults say that in the past two years, they have received food or ate a meal at a local food pantry or soup kitchen
- 📍 Pottawatomie County adults (57%) believe the number of people or families at risk for hunger in their community has increased since 2012.
- 📍 Four in ten (41%) say the need for more organizations or agencies such as food pantries or soup kitchens has increased in the past two years and another four in ten (39%) believe the need has stayed the same.
- 📍 Just over one-quarter (27%) say they are *very* familiar with SNAP – the Oklahoma Food Assistance Program – and another thirty-one percent say they are somewhat familiar. And one in five (20%) of Pottawatomie County adults say they or anyone living in their household is currently participating in this program.
- 📍 Few (12%) respondents know SNAP benefits can be used to purchase plants and seeds for their own garden and less than a third (31%) are aware these benefits can be used to purchase food at most local farmers markets.
- 📍 Most (80%) say both the state government *and* public or private organizations such as churches or non-profit organizations, and individuals should help reduce the number of families at risk for hunger in Pottawatomie County.

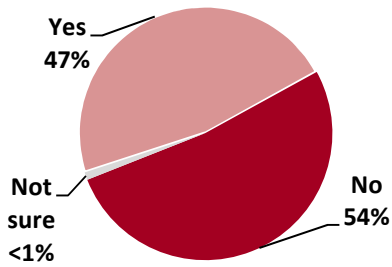
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

AARP staff that contributed to the design and implementation of this study includes AARP state office staff in Oklahoma: Mashell Sourjohn, Sean Voskuhl, and Craig Davis; Maggie Biscarr of the AARP Foundation; Rachelle Cummins, Darlene Matthews, and Eowna Young Harrison of the Research Center. Precision Opinion fielded, entered, tabulated, and weighted the data. For more information about this survey, the methodology or the dispositions, please contact Jennifer H. Sauer at jsauer@aarp.org or at (202) 434-6207.

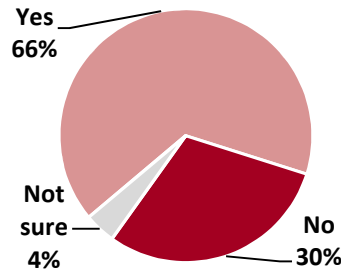
DETAILED FINDINGS

Many Pottawatomie County adults have experienced **food insecurity** – a period when access to adequate food on a regular basis has been limited by a lack of money or resources to buy food. In fact, nearly half say they or someone in their household has experienced food insecurity, and two-thirds say another family member, friend or neighbor has ever experienced this problem. Over one-third say there has been a time in the past two years when they worried their food would run out before they obtained the money to buy more.

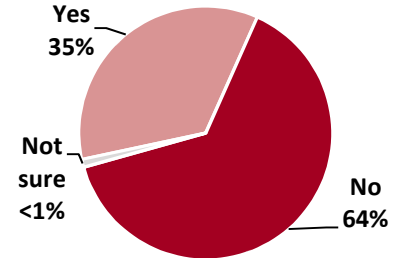
Anyone, Including Self, in Household Ever Been Food Insecure?
(n=608 Pottawatomie County Adults Age 18+)



Any Other Family, Neighbor, Friend Ever Been Food Insecure?
(n=608 Pottawatomie County Adults Age 18+)



Worried Would Run Out Of Food Before Able To Buy More In Past 2 Years
(n=608 Pottawatomie County Adults 18+)



Younger respondents are significantly more likely than those ages 50 and older to indicate they or someone living in their household has faced food insecurity and has been worried about running out of food in the past 2 years. In addition, they are also more likely than those older to say they know another family member, neighbor or friend that has been food insecure. Oklahoma adults who report an annual income less than \$45k are more likely than those with higher incomes to be, or know someone that has been, food insecure in the past 2 years or be worried they would run out of food before they could buy more.

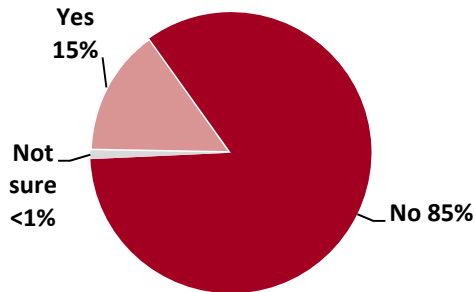
Question	Age		Self-Reported Annual Income		
	%YES 18-49 (n=332)	%YES 50+ (n=276)	%YES <\$45k (n=315)	%YES \$45-\$<75k (n=104)	%YES \$75k+ (n=88)
Anyone/self ever food insecure	54	40	60	34	32*
Any other family, neighbor, friend ever food insecure	72	59	73	60	60
Worried would run out of food before able to buy more	41	28	53	13*	11*

*indicates cell count is less than 30 and too small to generalize

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About one in six Pottawatomie adults say they have received food or eaten a meal at a local food pantry or soup kitchen in the past 2 years. Moreover, one third (33%) have taken at least three of the six measures tested in the survey to obtain food. In fact, one-third says that in the past two years, they have accepted financial help, groceries, or food from family or friends because there wasn't enough money to buy food. Not eating, avoiding filling a prescription, cutting the size of their meals, selling something, or skipping payment on a utility/home bill are measures taken by at least one-quarter of Pottawatomie adults in the past two years to have money for food.

Got Food or Ate Meal at Local Food Pantry or Soup Kitchen in Past 2 Years
(n=608 Pottawatomie County ns Age 18+)



Measures Taken in Past 2 Years Related to Food Insecurity
(n=608 Pottawatomie County Age 18+)

Organization	% Yes
Accepted financial help/groceries/food from family/friends because not enough money to buy food	33
Been hungry but didn't eat due to lack of money	29
Skipped filling Rx/seeing doctor to save money for food	29
Cut size of/skip meals due to lack of money	29
Had to sell something to have money for food	29
Skipped paying utility/home bill to have money for food	25

Looking at age and income variance, younger respondents and those who report annual incomes less than \$45,000 are significantly more likely than those ages 50 and older and those with higher incomes to say they have taken each of the six measures tested in the past 2 years to have money for food.

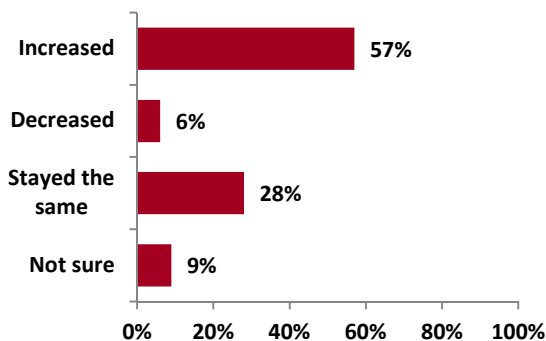
MEASURES	Age		Self-Reported Annual Income		
	%YES 18-49 (n=332)	%YES 50+ (n=276)	%YES <\$45k (n=315)	%YES \$45-\$75k (n=104)	%YES \$75k+ (n=88)
Ate food at local pantry	18	10	25	---	---
Accepted financial help/groceries/food	42	22	49	13*	14*
Cut size of/skip meals	33	25	42	15*	10*
Been hungry but didn't eat	36	22	41	14*	11*
Skipped filling Rx/seeing doctor	37	18	42	17*	9*
Had to sell something	37	19	43	8*	8*
Skipped paying utility/home bill	32	17	36	20*	10*

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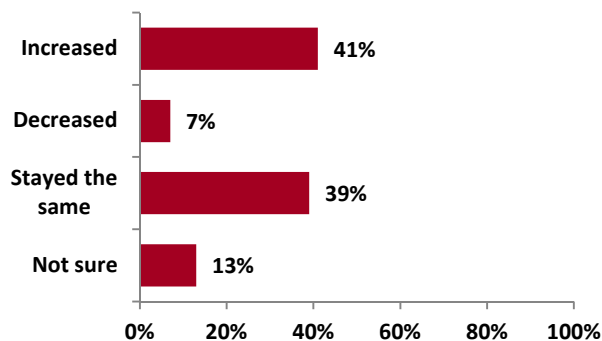
Personal Experience with Hunger

Pottawatomie County adults indicate the number of people or families at risk for hunger in their community has increased in the past two years – in fact, nearly six in ten say this is so while over a quarter believe the number has stayed the same. And even though most say their community has a food bank or pantry (61%) and places where people at risk for hunger can get free groceries or a free meal (79%), four in ten say *the need for more organizations* or agencies such as food pantries or soup kitchens has increased in the past two years. Another four in ten believe the need has stayed the same.

Personal Opinion: People/Families At Risk For Hunger Over Past 2 Years
(n=608 Pottawatomie County Adults Age 18+)



Personal Opinion: Need For Organizations/ Agencies Where People At Risk For Hunger Can Get Free Groceries or Meal
(n=608 Pottawatomie County Adults Age 18+)



Knowledge of the Hunger Issue in the U.S. and in Pottawatomie County

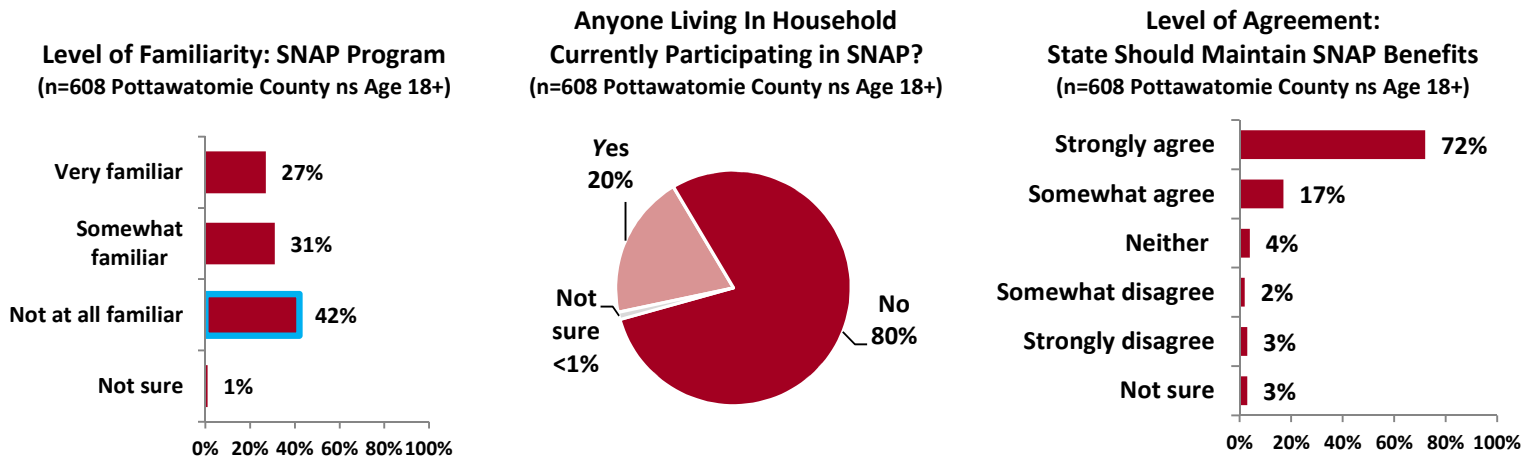
Adults in Pottawatomie County are not aware of the number of people in the U.S. or in their state that face the risk of hunger each day. While many might correctly estimate the number of Americans and Oklahomans experiencing hunger each day, well over half say the statistics stated in the survey were either higher or lower than they thought, or they were not sure. Likewise, less than half say the number of *those ages 60 and older* who face the risk of hunger each day is about what they thought, while over half indicate they misjudge the correct proportion or they are just not sure.

Hunger Statistics Tested
(n=608 Pottawatomie County Adults Age 18+)

Hunger Statistic	Higher than thought %	Lower than thought %	About what thought %	Not sure %
49 million people in the U.S. face risk of hunger each day	39	12	43	6
About 9 million people in U.S. age 60+ face risk of hunger each day	39	13	41	6
About 1 in 6 Oklahoma adults face risk of hunger each day	34	15	45	6
About 1 in 8 Oklahoma adults 60+ face risk of hunger each day	30	20	46	4

Familiarity with and Participation in SNAP – Pottawatomie County Food Assistance Program

While many Pottawatomie County adults are not familiar with the Pottawatomie County Food Assistance Program, over four in ten indicate they are not at all familiar with the local program. Additionally, few (12%) say they know SNAP benefits can be used to purchase plants and seeds for their own garden and less than a third (31%) are aware these benefits can be used to purchase food at most local farmers markets. Still, most strongly agree the state should maintain SNAP benefits for the Pottawatomie County Food Assistance Program.



Reported age and income differ significantly with respect to familiarity and participation in SNAP. Those ages 50 and older are significantly more likely than those younger to say they are not familiar with the SNAP program. Perhaps more interesting are the proportion of adults in Pottawatomie County who report annual incomes less than \$45,000 and indicate they are not all familiar with the SNAP program and are not participating in SNAP – over one third and over two-thirds respectively. There could be many people in this income range eligible for the program and not taking advantage of it.

Question	Age		Self-Reported Annual Income		
	%Not 18-49 (n=332)	%Not 50+ (n=276)	%Not <\$45k (n=315)	%Not \$45-\$<75k (n=104)	%Not \$75k+ (n=88)
NOT at all familiar with SNAP	35	50	35	47	47
Anyone living in household NOT currently participating in SNAP	77	83	69	94	98

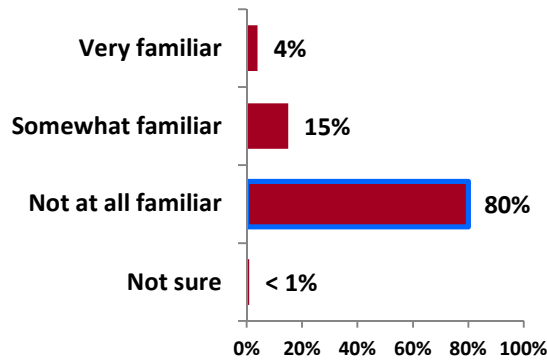
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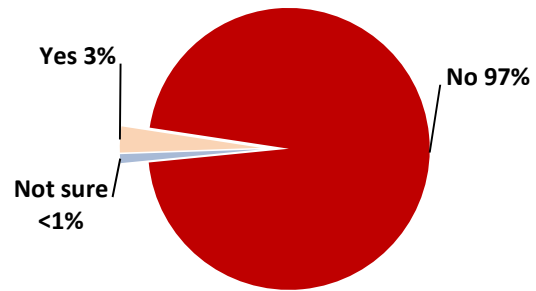
Familiarity with and Participation in Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program

The Pottawatomie County Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program provides low-income seniors age 60 and older with vouchers they can exchange at farmers markets, roadside stands, and community agricultural programs for fruits, vegetables, honey and fresh-cut herbs. Data from this survey show that very few adults in Pottawatomie County are familiar with the program and most indicate that *no one* in their household has ever used the voucher.

Level of Familiarity:
Pottawatomie County Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program
 (n=800 Pottawatomie County ns Age 18+)



Anyone Living In Household Ever Used Pottawatomie County Senior Farmers’ Market Voucher?
 (n=800 Pottawatomie County ns Age 18+)



While most Pottawatomie adults are not familiar with the state Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program, it is interesting to note the unfamiliarity among those who report annual incomes less than \$45,000 – most are unaware of the program or have not ever used the program’s voucher.

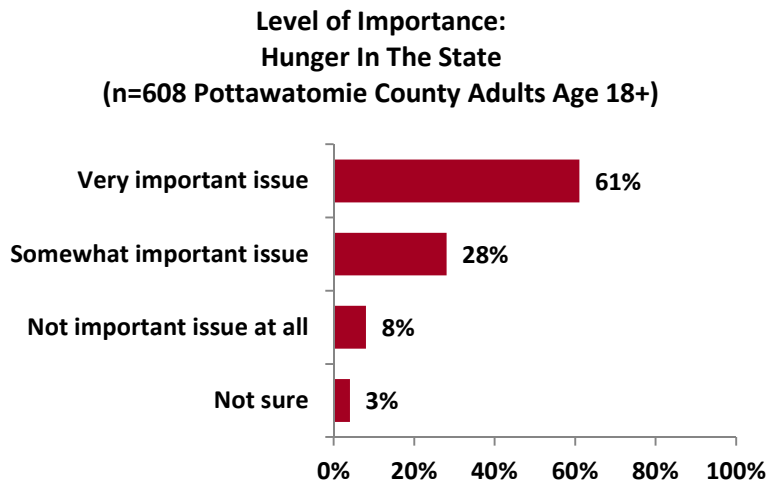
Question	Age		Self-Reported Annual Income		
	% Not 18-49 (n=332)	%Not 50+ (n=276)	%Not <\$45k (n=315)	%Not \$45-\$75k (n=104)	%Not \$75k+ (n=88)
NOT at all familiar with OK Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program	80	80	83	82	77
Anyone living in household NOT ever used OK Senior Farmers’ Market Voucher	98	95	97	98	100

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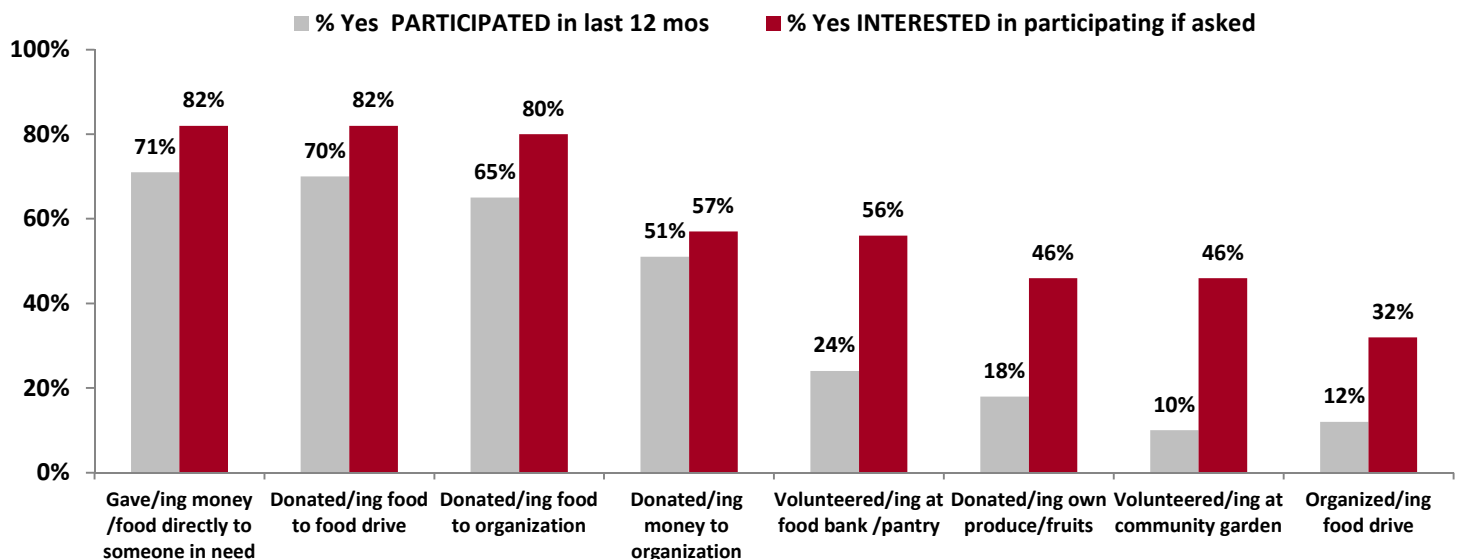
Importance of Hunger Issue and Action Taken to Fight Hunger in Pottawatomie County

Most adults in Pottawatomie County view hunger as an important issue in the state, with just under two-thirds saying it is a very important issue.



And Pottawatomie County adults are involved in the fight against hunger and many more would be interested in helping if asked. In the 12 months prior to taking this survey, at least half of all Pottawatomie County adults have donated money or food to an organization providing food to those in need, donated food to a food drive, or gave money directly to a person, family, or neighbor. But considerably more Pottawatomie County adults indicate they would give food and money in each of these ways *if asked*. Likewise, at least one in six has volunteered at a food bank or other organization providing food to those in need or donated their own produce or fruit to an organization providing food to the hungry, but more than twice as many say they would do these things *if asked*. While about one in ten organized a food drive or volunteered at a community garden in the last 12 months, at least three times as many Pottawatomie County adults say they would engage in each of these charitable activities *if asked*.

**Charitable Activities Providing Food To Those In Need
(n=608 Pottawatomie County Age 18+)**



Charitable Activities

Age Differences:

With regard to having participated in the charitable activities tested in the survey for providing food to those in need, age was not a determinant for all but one: Pottawatomie adults ages 50 and older are significantly more likely than those younger to say they have donated money to an organization providing food to those in need. However, younger respondents are more likely than those ages 50 and older to say they gave money or food directly to someone in need and to say they have volunteered time at a food bank or pantry.

Activity HAVE Done:	Age	
	%YES 18-49 (n=332)	%Yes 50+ (n=276)
Donated food to a food drive	68	74
Gave money/food directly to someone in need	78	62
Donated food to an organization	64	66
Donated money to an organization	47	57
Volunteered at food bank/pantry	30	17
Donated own produce/fruits	20	16
Organized a food drive	14	9*
Volunteered at community garden	11*	7*

*indicates cell count is less than 30 and too small to generalize

--- indicates cell count is 1 or 0

Interestingly, older Pottawatomie adults are significantly less likely than those younger to indicate interest in participating in most of the charitable activities tested if asked: give money/food directly to someone in need, volunteer at food bank/pantry, donate own produce/fruits, organize a food drive, and volunteering at community garden.

Activity Would Do IF Asked:	Age	
	%YES 18-49 (n=251)	%YES 50+ (n=357)
Donating food to a food drive	85	79
Giving money/food directly to someone in need	87	76
Donating food to an organization	83	76
Donating money to an organization	60	53
Volunteering at food bank/pantry	69	42
Donating own produce/fruits	56	33
Organizing a food drive	42	20
Volunteering at community garden	57	33

*indicates cell count is less than 30 and too small to generalize

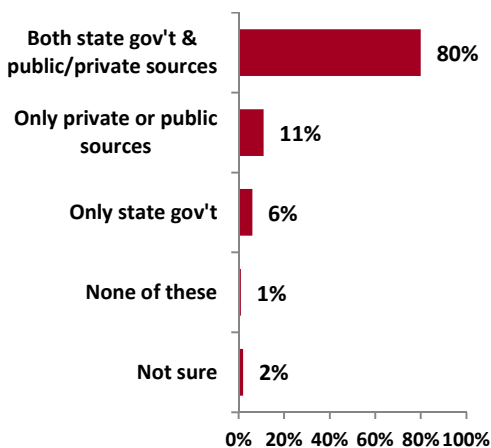
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Support For State Government & Local Community to Reduce Hunger in Pottawatomie County

Pottawatomie County adults think local government *and* organizations, including AARP, should help reduce hunger in the state. Most say the state government *and* public or private organizations, and individuals should help reduce the number of families at risk for hunger in Pottawatomie County. Among some organizations tested in the survey that might support the effort in the state, most Pottawatomie County adults rank churches or faith communities, non-profit organizations, the local business community, the local agricultural community and the state government as the top five that should. At least seven in ten think the state and city government and local educational institutions should help. Notably, Pottawatomie County adults would also like to see AARP work with the state to help improve access to adequate food for older residents who are at risk for hunger. In fact, over half (63%) strongly agree and over one-quarter (20%) somewhat agree with this idea.

Respondents were also informed about a recent bill passed by the state legislature allowing the state to match all donations made by individuals and public and private organizations to Pottawatomie County food banks. When asked whether they agree or disagree with the bill, six in ten say they strongly agree, with another one in five saying they somewhat agree with it.

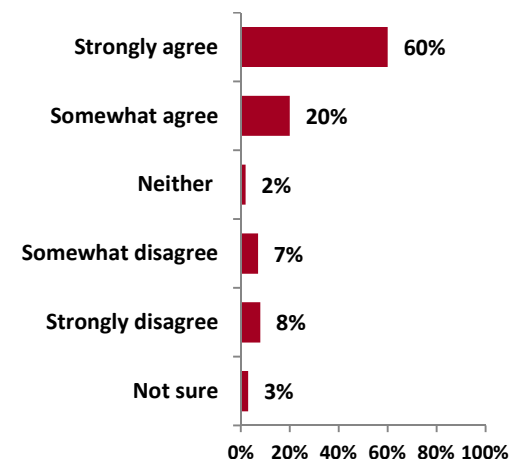
Who Should Help Reduce Number of Families At Risk For Hunger in Pottawatomie County?
(n=608 Pottawatomie County Age 18+)



Orgs. That Should Help Reduce Number Of Families At Risk For Hunger in Pottawatomie County
(n=608 Pottawatomie County Age 18+)

Organization	% Yes
Faith communities/churches	95
Nonprofit organizations w/ focus on family related issues	89
Local business community	85
State government	85
Local agricultural community	83
Local city government	82
Local school, colleges, universities	72
Hospitals or health centers	63
Some other organization	20

Level of Agreement: State Contributing Funds to Local Food Banks
(n=608 Pottawatomie County Age 18+)



Pottawatomie county adults do not differ by age with respect to their opinion that both state government and public and private organizations should help reduce the number of families at risk for hunger in the state nor in their level of strong agreement that the state should contribute funds to local food banks.

Question Response:	Age	
	% 18-49 (n=251)	% 50+ (n=357)
BOTH state government and public/private sources should help reduce number of families at risk for hunger	78	81
Strongly agree state should contribute funds to local food banks	64	56

SUMMARY OF TOP-LINE FINDINGS

Like many Americans, data from this survey show that few Pottawatomie County adults age 18 and older are largely unaware of the current statistics related to hunger in the U.S, in their state, or among various segments of the population such as older people. Still, most adults in Pottawatomie County view the problem of hunger in the state as an important issue and most strongly agree that Oklahoma should contribute funds to local food banks, and that both the state and public or private organizations should work together to reduce the number of families at risk for hunger. Religious organizations, non-profit organizations, local business community, and the state and the local city government are viewed by at least eight in ten respondents as entities that should work to help reduce the problem of hunger in the state. In addition, most Pottawatomie County adults strongly agree that AARP work with the state to help improve access to adequate food for older residents who are at risk for hunger.

Correspondingly, the data show that many respondents sense an increase in the number of people or families at risk for hunger as well as the need for a place where people at risk for hunger can get free groceries or a meal in their community or town. Many indicate personal experiences with hunger – almost half say they or someone in their household has been food insecure and two-thirds see the problem of hunger among other family members, friends, or neighbors. Over a third of adults in Pottawatomie County say they experienced a time in the past two years when they worried whether food would run out before having enough money to buy more, and at least one-quarter of all respondents indicate having taken a serious measure like skipping meals or skipping a utility or home payment in the past two years to have enough money for food.

While the data from this survey indicate a need for statewide education and information about hunger in general, survey respondents also lack an awareness of programs or services available to help alleviate hunger. Many Pottawatomie County survey respondents say they are not familiar with SNAP – the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Given that over one-third of respondents (35%) report annual incomes less than \$30,000 (with 20% reporting annual incomes less than \$20,000) there could be opportunities to increase awareness about eligibility and hence enrollment in SNAP. Likewise, the data from this survey indicate a need for more information about the use of these benefits at local farmers markets and to buy plants and seeds for gardens. Even if many respondents are not enrolled in SNAP or other hunger programs, raised awareness among all county residents may help them help others in need.

Lastly, but not least interesting, are the data illustrating Pottawatomie adults' altruism – in the 12 months prior to completing this survey, at least two-thirds say they donated food to a food drive or organization or gave money or food directly to someone in need.

AARP SURVEY OF OKLAHOMA RESIDENTS ABOUT FOOD INSECURITY
n=608 Pottawatomie County Residents Age 18+

INTRODUCTION/SCREENER

Hello, this is _____ calling from Precision Research, a national opinion research firm. We are not telemarketers and are not trying to sell you anything. We are interested in your thoughts about an important issue facing many Oklahoman's - hunger. Your views are important and we would greatly appreciate your participation. This survey should only take about 12 minutes of your time. Your responses to this survey will be kept entirely confidential. Once many interviews are collected, a summary of the combined or aggregate responses will be produced and available to the public.

S1. Our study is interested in the opinions of certain age groups. Could you please tell me your age as of your last birthday? [IN YEARS] _____ [RECORD ACTUAL AGE AND USE THE AGE GROUPS BELOW TO KEEP TRACK OF HOW MANY RESPONDENTS WE ARE GETTING IN EACH GROUP]

608	N=
29.8%	18-34
24.8%	35-49
18.6%	50-59
26.8%	60 or older
-	[DO NOT READ] Under 18 [ASK TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE 18 OR OLDER AND REPEAT S1. IF NO ONE 18 OR OLDER, TERMINATE]
-	[DO NOT READ] Refused [TERMINATE]

S2. And just to confirm, are you a resident of **Oklahoma**?

608	N=
100.0%	Yes
-	No (ASK FOR RESIDENT IN HH) -- TERM IF NO ONE IN HH IS A RESIDENT OF Oklahoma

S3. And are you a resident of **Pottawatomie County**?

608	N=
100.0%	Yes
-	No
-	Don't know

S4. GENDER – RECORD BY OBSERVATION

608	N=
46.6%	Male
53.4%	Female

Community Information

1. How long have you lived at your current residence? AVERAGE # of Years: 14.36

Hunger Issue and Philanthropic Activity

2. Thinking about the biggest issues or problems currently facing *Oklahomans* how much of a problem is the issue of hunger, that is, the lack of access to adequate food on a regular basis due to lack of money or other resources? *Would you say it is.....* [INTERVIEWER: READ LIST. SELECT ONE RESPONSE]:

608	N=
61.0%	A very important issue or problem
27.8%	A somewhat important issue or problem
7.6%	Or, not an important issue or problem at all
3.4%	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
0.1%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

3. Thinking about your community over the past **2** years, or since 2012, would you say the number of people or families at risk for hunger has increased, decreased, or stayed the same? [DO NOT READ RESPONSES]

608	N=
57.2%	Increased
5.6%	Decreased
27.8%	Stayed the same
9.4%	Not sure
-	Refused

4. In the past 12 months, or since last September, have you: [PROGRAMMER: RANDOMIZE LIST. INTERVIEWER: READ LIST]

608	N=
70.3%	Donated food to a food drive?
9.6%	Volunteered time at a community garden that provides food to those in need?
51.4%	Donated <i>money</i> to an organization providing food to those in need?
64.7%	Donated <i>food</i> to an organization providing food to those in need?
24.2%	Volunteered time at a food bank or food pantry providing food to those in need?
70.8%	Given money or food directly to a person, family, or neighbor in need?
18.0%	Donated your own produce or fruit from your own garden or farm to an organization providing food to those in need?
12.2%	Organized a food drive for a local organization that provides food to those in need?

5. In which of the following activities would you be interested in participating if you were asked? Would you be interested in: **[PROGRAMMER RANDOMIZE AND INSERT a-h] [INTERVIEWER READ a-h]**

608	N=
81.9%	Donating food to a food drive?
46.4%	Volunteering time at a community garden that provides food to those in need?
56.8%	Donating <i>money</i> to an organization providing food to those in need?
79.7%	Donating <i>food</i> to an organization providing food to those in need?
56.4%	Volunteering time at a food bank or food pantry providing food to those in need?
81.9%	Giving money or food directly to a person, family, or neighbor in need?
46.0%	Donating your own produce or fruit from your own garden or farm to an organization providing food to those in need?
31.9%	Organizing a food drive for a local organization that provides food to those in need?

Test Questions

Now I'd like to ask you a few questions about hunger in general.

6. According to most recent statistics, 49 million people in the United States face the risk of hunger – also known as food insecurity – each day. That is, they have limited access to adequate food because they don't have enough money or other resources to buy food. Would you say this statistic is....

608	N=
39.4%	Higher than you thought
11.8%	Lower than you thought
42.8%	About what you thought
5.9%	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
0.1%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

7. Nearly 9 million people in the United States **age 60** and older face the risk of hunger or food insecurity each day. Is this statistic . . .

608	N=
39.1%	Higher than you thought
13.3%	Lower than you thought
41.1%	About what you thought
6.1%	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
0.4%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

8. About 1 in every 6 Oklahomans currently faces the risk of hunger or food insecurity. Is this statistic.....

608	N=
33.8%	Higher than you thought
15.1%	Lower than you thought
45.1%	About what you thought
5.7%	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
0.3%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

9. About 1 in 16 Oklahomans age 60 and older currently faces the risk of hunger or food insecurity. Is this statistic.....

608	N=
30.2%	Higher than you thought
19.8%	Lower than you thought
45.7%	About what you thought
4.2%	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
0.1%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

Hunger Experience

10. As I've mentioned to you, someone at risk for hunger – or food insecurity – means their access to adequate food on a regular basis is limited by not having enough money and other resources to buy food. Has there ever been a time when *you* or anyone living in your household has been food insecure as I just described? **[DO NOT READ RESPONSES]**

608	N=
47.4%	Yes
52.3%	No
0.2%	Not sure
-	Refused

11. Has there ever been a time when someone close to you like a neighbor or friend or relative who does *not* live in your household was at risk for hunger – that is, they had limited access to adequate food on a regular basis due to not having enough money or other resources to buy food? **[DO NOT READ RESPONSES]**

608	N=
65.8%	Yes
30.0%	No
4.0%	Not sure
0.2%	Refused

12. Has there ever been a time in the past 2 years or since 2012 when you worried whether your food would run out before you obtained the money to buy more? **[DO NOT READ RESPONSES]**

608	N=
35.0%	Yes
64.4%	No
0.5%	Not sure
-	Refused

13. Has there ever been a time in the past 2 years or since 2012 that you've had to do any of the following?
 – have you: **[PROGRAMMER/INTERVIEWER – RANDOMIZE a – f]**

608	N=
29.2%	Had to cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?
29.2%	Ever been hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food?
28.6%	Ever skipped filling a prescription or seeing a doctor to save money for food?
25.1%	Ever skipped paying a utility or home related bill in order to have money to buy food?
33.2%	Ever accepted financial help or groceries or food from family or friends because there wasn't enough money to buy food?
29.1%	Had to sell something of yours or your family's in order to have money for food?

14. Are there places in your community or town where people who are at risk for hunger or homelessness can get free groceries or a free meal? **[DO NOT READ RESPONSES]**

608	N=
78.8%	Yes
11.2%	No
10.0%	Not sure
-	Refused

SNAP Program

15. Would you say you are very familiar, somewhat familiar, or not at all familiar with the Oklahoma Food Assistance Program – also called Oklahoma SNAP?

608	N=
26.8%	Very familiar
30.8%	Somewhat familiar
41.8%	Not at all familiar
0.5%	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
-	Refused [DO NOT READ]

16. [IF Q15=VERY OR SOMEWHAT, INSERT AND READ: *Then as you may know*] The Oklahoma Food Assistance Program is part of the federal nutritional program called S-N-A-P which stands for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as the food stamps program, which helps people with low or no income buy food. Recipients of the program apply for benefits through their local department of human services. Are you or is anyone living in your household currently participating in this program?

608	N=
19.7%	Yes
80.1%	No
0.1%	Not sure
-	Refused

17. Whether or not you or anyone in your household is participating in the Oklahoma Food Assistance Program, or SNAP, did you know before now that program participants can use these benefits to purchase plants and seeds for their own garden?

608	N=
12.2%	Yes
87.7%	No
0.1%	Not sure
-	Refused

18. And were you aware before now that the Oklahoma Food Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits can also be used to purchase food at most local farmers markets?

608	N=
30.6%	Yes
68.8%	No
0.6%	Not sure
-	Refused

19.. Do you agree or disagree that the state of Oklahoma should maintain the SNAP benefits for the Oklahoma Food Assistance program for those in need? [IF AGREE, READ: *And would you say you strongly agree or somewhat agree?* IF DISAGREE, READ: *And would you say you strongly disagree or somewhat disagree?*]

608	N=
72.2%	Strongly agree
16.7%	Somewhat agree
3.6%	Neither agree nor disagree [DO NOT READ]
1.5%	Somewhat disagree
3.1%	Strongly disagree
2.9%	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
-	Refused [DO NOT READ]

Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

20. And, did you or anyone in your household buy food at a farmer's market in the past 7 days?

608	N=
11.5%	Yes
88.0%	No
0.5%	Not sure
-	Refused

21. In Oklahoma, The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program provides low-income seniors age 60 and older with coupons, or vouchers, which can be exchanged for eligible foods like fruits, vegetables, honey, and fresh-cut herbs, at farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community agriculture programs. Would you say you are very familiar, somewhat familiar, or not at all familiar with this program?

608	N=
4.4%	Very familiar
15.1%	Somewhat familiar
80.1%	Not at all familiar
0.4%	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
-	Refused [DO NOT READ]

22. Have you or anyone in your household ever used a Senior Farmers' Voucher at a local farmers market?

608	N=
3.0%	Yes
96.8%	No
0.1%	Not sure
0.1%	Refused

Food Banks

23. A food bank is a distribution center that receives food donations from USDA commodities, Second Harvest, food manufacturers, processors, grocery chains, community organizations, farms, and individuals. Food banks then distribute food to agencies or organizations like food pantries, soup kitchens, child and senior care programs, or homeless shelters. Do you have a food bank or food pantry in your community or neighborhood?

608	N=
61.4%	Yes
21.9%	No
16.5%	Not sure
0.1%	Refused

24. And was there a time in the past 2 years that you got food or ate a meal at a local food pantry or soup kitchen?

608	N=
14.8%	Yes
85.0%	No
0.1%	Not sure
0.1%	Refused

25. In your opinion, would you say the need for more agencies or organizations such as food pantries or soup kitchens where people at risk for hunger can get food or eat a meal has increased, decreased or stayed about the same over the past 2 years?

608	N=
41.0%	Increased
7.4%	Decreased
39.0%	Stayed the same
12.6%	Not sure
-	Refused

26. Food banks rely on fund-raising and the monetary and food donations from companies and organizations, and members of the community. Which, if any, of the following organizations do you think should work towards helping *families in Oklahoma* at risk for hunger? *Do you think [RANDOMIZE, READ, AND INSERT a-h] should work towards helping families in Oklahoma at risk for hunger? [INTERVIEWER: READ should work towards helping families in Oklahoma at risk for hunger? FOR a-d or as prompt – not necessary to read for all items if respondent answers before prompt]*

608	N=
95.4%	Faith Communities/churches
84.9%	The local business community
82.8%	The local agricultural community
82.2%	Local city government
85.2%	State government
72.1%	Local schools, colleges or universities
89.2%	Nonprofit organizations that focus on issues related to families
62.5%	Hospitals or health centers
20.3%	Some other organization [INTERVIEWER: IF YES, ASK TO SPECIFY]

27. Do you agree or disagree that the state of Oklahoma should contribute funds to local food banks? *And would you say you strongly or somewhat agree/disagree?* **[IF AGREE, READ: *And would you say you strongly agree or somewhat agree?* IF DISAGREE, READ: *And would you say you strongly disagree or somewhat disagree?*]**

608	N=
60.3%	Strongly agree
19.8%	Somewhat agree
2.2%	Neither agree nor disagree [DO NOT READ]
7.2%	Somewhat disagree
7.6%	Strongly disagree
2.8%	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
0.1%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

State and Organization Support

28. Thinking about the issue of hunger in Oklahoma, which statement best represents your opinion: **[PROGRAMMER: ROTATE a-c; INTERVIEWER READ a-c]**

608	N=
6.0%	Only the state government should work to reduce the number of families at risk for hunger in Oklahoma.
10.8%	Only private or public organizations and individuals should work to reduce the number of families at risk for hunger in Oklahoma.
80.0%	Both the state government and public or private organizations and individuals should work to reduce the number of families at risk for hunger in Oklahoma.
1.0%	None of these represent my opinion [DO NOT READ]
1.8%	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
0.4%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

29. As you may know, AARP is a national non-profit organization that supports and advocates for people age 50 and older. Do you agree or disagree that AARP, should work with the state of Oklahoma to help improve access to adequate food for Oklahomans age 50 who are at risk for hunger? *And would you say you strongly or somewhat agree/disagree?* **[IF AGREE, READ: *And would you say you strongly agree or somewhat agree?* IF DISAGREE, READ: *And would you say you strongly disagree or somewhat disagree?*]**

608	N=
62.9%	Strongly agree
20.2%	Somewhat agree
1.8%	Neither agree nor disagree [DO NOT READ]
3.3%	Somewhat disagree
6.8%	Strongly disagree
4.8%	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
0.3%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

Demographics

Now we'd like to just ask you a few questions for classification purposes only and your answers will be kept entirely confidential.

D1. What is your current marital status? Are you.....[READ EACH ANSWER CATEGORY]?

608	N=
51.2%	Married
4.7%	Not married, living with your partner or significant other
1.0%	Separated
9.5%	Divorced
9.4%	Widowed
21.4%	Or are you currently single <u>and</u> never married
0.4%	Don't know [DO NOT READ]
2.4%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

D2. Which of the following best describes your current employment status? Are you.....
[READ EACH ANSWER CATEGORY]

608	N=
42.9%	Employed or self employed full-time
9.4%	Employed or self employed part-time
23.8%	Retired and not working at all
20.5%	Currently unemployed or not in labor force for other reasons such as attending classes
1.2%	Don't know [DO NOT READ]
2.3%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

D3. What is your race? Are you....[READ EACH ANSWER CATEGORY]?

608	N=
75.9%	White or Caucasian
2.5%	Black or African American
12.7%	Native American or Alaskan Native
0.5%	Asian
2.7%	Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino origin or descent
0.7%	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
1.9%	Or are you some other race?
0.3%	Don't know [DO NOT READ]
2.8%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

D4. What is the highest level of education that you completed? **[READ EACH ANSWER CATEGORY.]**

608	N=
10.8%	0 to 12 th grade, but with no diploma
28.7%	High school graduate or equivalent
17.8%	Post high school education, but with no degree
14.7%	2 year degree
10.9%	4 year degree
3.1%	Post graduate study, but with no degree
11.6%	Graduate or professional degree
0.1%	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
2.3%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

D5. Which of the following best describes the kind of **residence or dwelling unit** you and your family live in?
Is it a...

608	N=
69.9%	Single family detached home
3.2%	A single family home in a duplex unit
0.8%	A single family home in a triplex or quad-plex unit
13.6%	A mobile or manufactured home
5.0%	An apartment
1.2%	A town home
-	A condominium
3.4%	Something else (<i>could you please specify</i>):
0.4%	Don't know [DO NOT READ]
2.5%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

D6. Do you own or rent your dwelling unit?

608	N=
24.2%	Rent
70.2%	Own
2.8%	Some other arrangement (please specify)
0.1%	Don't know [DO NOT READ]
2.7%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

D7. How many people currently live in your household year round?

608	N=
2.81	AVERAGE
1.1%	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
4.1%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

D8. How many children under the age of 18 currently live in your household year round? _____

608	N=
0.81	AVERAGE
3.3%	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
4.0%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

IF '0'/NONE SKIP TO D10

D9. During the past 30 days, did any children in the household (between 5 and 18 years old) receive **free or reduced-cost breakfast or lunches** at school?

333	N=
30.8%	Yes
67.9%	No
1.0%	Don't know [DO NOT READ]
0.4%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

D10. How many people age 18 and older currently live in your household year round? _____

608	N=
2.03	AVERAGE
2.3%	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
4.3%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

D11. We realize income is a private matter and so rather than ask you anything specific about your income, I'd like to ask you to please stop me when I get to the category that your includes your household's income before taxes in 2013. Was it....[READ EACH ANSWER CATEGORY]?

608	N=
20.0%	Less than \$20,000
15.1%	\$20,000 to less than \$30,000
16.8%	\$30,000 to less than \$45,000
10.0%	\$45,000 to less than \$60,000
7.0%	\$60,000 to less than \$75,000
7.3%	\$75,000 to less than \$100,000
5.5%	\$100,000 to less than \$200,000
1.6%	\$200,000 or more
6.3%	Don't know [DO NOT READ]
10.3%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

D13. What is your 5-digit zip code? _____
 Not sure [DO NOT READ]
 Refused [DO NOT READ]

That was our last question for tonight. Thanks you very much for taking the time to help us out. Have a great day/night!

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with a membership of nearly 38 million, that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse. We advocate for individuals in the marketplace by selecting products and services of high quality and value to carry the AARP name as well as help our members obtain discounts on a wide range of products, travel, and services. A trusted source for lifestyle tips, news and educational information, AARP produces AARP The Magazine, the world's largest circulation magazine; AARP Bulletin; www.aarp.org; AARP TV & Radio; AARP Books; and AARP en Español, a Spanish-language website addressing the interests and needs of Hispanics. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to political campaigns or candidates. The AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. AARP has staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Learn more at www.aarp.org.

State Research brings the right knowledge at the right time to our state and national partners in support of their efforts to improve the lives of people age 50+. State Research consultants provide strategic insights and actionable research to attain measurable state and national outcomes. The views expressed herein are for information, debate, and discussion, and do not necessarily represent official policies of AARP.

AARP staff that contributed to the design and implementation of this study includes AARP state office staff is: Mashell Sourjohn, Sean Voskuhl, and Craig Davis; and Maggie Biscarr of the AARP Foundation; Rachelle Cummins, Darlene Matthews, and Eowna Young Harrison of the Research Center. Precision Opinion fielded, entered, tabulated, and weighted the data. Jennifer H. Sauer designed the survey and authored this report. For more information about this survey, the methodology or the dispositions, please contact Jennifer H. Sauer at jsauer@aarp.org or at (202) 434-6207.



AARP Research

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contact Jennifer Sauer at jsauer@aarp.org or 202.434.6207**