



2018 Who's Hungry Report Key Findings

What

Who's Hungry is an annual report that provides a profile of food insecurity in Toronto and the inner suburbs. The data is collected over the course of a year by Daily Bread and North York Harvest, through client visit numbers and an in-person survey of 1400 food bank clients.

Who's Hungry is provided to the public, the policy community and government leaders to keep them informed as they shape and form new social policy around hunger and poverty.

2018 Findings

- The number of client visits between April 2017 and March 2018 was 914,000; it is a **14% increase from a decade ago**
- 2.7 millions clients served through meal programs over the course of a year
- Food bank visits have remained near the **1 million mark** for the past five years
- A majority of food bank clients (37%) are working age adults/seniors (45+); the majority a decade ago were 19 – 44 year olds
- Over two-thirds of food bank clients rely on provincial social assistance as their primary source of income
 - The most significant reason that people on social assistance depend on food banks is the amount of assistance they receive is inadequate
- Demand is moving to areas with fewer food banks – particularly, Scarborough and the inner suburbs
- The area of the city experiencing the highest increase since 2008 is Etobicoke (219%)
- Since 2008, there has been a 13% increase in food bank use by people who have lived in Canada for 10+ years
- Overall, 62% of food bank clients report to having a disability or a serious illness
- Single parents families experience poverty at nearly three times the rate of the average Canadian
- Top three reasons respondents missed a meal were to pay for rent (29%), phone bills (20%) and transportation (17%)
- Roughly 19% of adult survey respondents say they go hungry at least one day a week

Concerns

- Certain regions are more likely to be impacted then others – i.e Toronto's inner suburbs, such as Scarborough and the northern reaches of this city – are disproportionately impacted by food insecurity then those living in the core.

- These areas have few food banks, making it harder to respond to growth in demand
- As food insecurity begins to grow, as does the need to address it by policy makers. Yet recent changes to income supplements – such as OW and ODSP – have the potential to aggravate the concerns

According to our research, food insecurity disproportionately impacts:

- Newcomers
- Working age adults (45-64)
- Seniors
- People with disabilities
- Single parents
- Indigenous peoples

Where Do We Go From Here

To end hunger we need long-standing, sustained efforts by the community and government.

What's clear is that Toronto's social geography has changed. Hunger lives in new places, and in new numbers, but our services haven't been able to keep pace with these new pressures.

Visit www.dailybread.ca/whoshungry for the full report.