

Statistics on Old Age Hunger

Household Food Security in the United States for 2007

November 2008

Table 2
Households by food security status and selected household characteristics, 2007

Category	Total ¹	Food insecure							
		Food secure		All		With low food security		With very low food security	
	1,000	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent
All households	117,100	104,089	88.9	13,011	11.1	8,262	7.0	4,749	4.1
Household composition:									
With children < 18 yrs	39,390	33,160	84.2	6,230	15.8	4,376	11.1	1,854	4.7
With children < 6 yrs	17,549	14,550	82.9	2,999	17.1	2,251	12.8	748	4.3
Married-couple families	26,645	23,852	89.5	2,793	10.5	2,074	7.8	719	2.7
Female head, no spouse	9,458	6,600	69.8	2,858	30.2	1,882	19.9	976	10.3
Male head, no spouse	2,621	2,150	82.0	471	18.0	335	12.8	136	5.2
Other household with child ²	667	560	84.0	107	16.0	84	12.6	23	3.4
With no children < 18 yrs	77,710	70,928	91.3	6,782	8.7	3,887	5.0	2,895	3.7
More than one adult	45,350	42,291	93.3	3,059	6.7	1,851	4.1	1,208	2.7
Women living alone	18,395	16,242	88.3	2,153	11.7	1,179	6.4	974	5.3
Men living alone	13,966	12,396	88.8	1,570	11.2	856	6.1	714	5.1
With elderly	27,469	25,692	93.5	1,777	6.5	1,131	4.1	646	2.4
Elderly living alone	10,746	9,963	92.7	783	7.3	480	4.5	303	2.8
Race/ethnicity of households:									
White non-Hispanic	82,882	76,342	92.1	6,540	7.9	4,008	4.8	2,532	3.1
Black non-Hispanic	14,209	11,057	77.8	3,152	22.2	2,064	14.5	1,088	7.7
Hispanic ³	13,378	10,694	79.9	2,684	20.1	1,798	13.4	886	6.6
Other	6,632	5,996	90.4	636	9.6	392	5.9	244	3.7
Household income-to-poverty ratio:									
Under 1.00	11,688	7,282	62.3	4,406	37.7	2,669	22.8	1,737	14.9
Under 1.30	17,395	11,451	65.8	5,944	34.2	3,574	20.5	2,370	13.6
Under 1.85	27,378	19,534	71.3	7,844	28.7	4,780	17.5	3,064	11.2
1.85 and over	65,898	62,244	94.5	3,654	5.5	2,429	3.7	1,225	1.9
Income unknown	23,825	22,312	93.6	1,513	6.4	1,053	4.4	460	1.9
Area of residence: ⁴									
Inside metropolitan area	97,572	86,850	89.0	10,722	11.0	6,807	7.0	3,915	4.0
In principal cities ⁵	32,843	28,420	86.5	4,423	13.5	2,772	8.4	1,651	5.0
Not in principal cities	47,971	43,640	91.0	4,331	9.0	2,865	6.0	1,466	3.1
Outside metropolitan area	19,528	17,239	88.3	2,289	11.7	1,455	7.5	834	4.3
Census geographic region:									
Northeast	21,353	19,147	89.7	2,206	10.3	1,469	6.9	737	3.5
Midwest	26,506	23,658	89.3	2,848	10.7	1,741	6.6	1,107	4.2
South	43,246	38,145	88.2	5,101	11.8	3,262	7.5	1,839	4.3
West	25,995	23,139	89.0	2,856	11.0	1,790	6.9	1,066	4.1

¹Totals exclude households whose food security status is unknown because they did not give a valid response to any of the questions in the food security scale. In 2007, these represented 462,000 households (0.4 percent of all households).

²Households with children in complex living arrangements, e.g., children of other relatives or unrelated roommate or boarder.

³Hispanics may be of any race.

⁴Metropolitan area residence is based on 2003 Office of Management and Budget delineation. Prevalence rates by area of residence are comparable with those for 2004 and later years but are not precisely comparable with those of earlier years.

⁵Households within incorporated areas of the largest cities in each metropolitan area. Residence inside or outside of principal cities is not identified for about 17 percent of households in metropolitan statistical areas.

Source: Calculated by ERS using data from the December 2007 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

Table 5

Number of individuals by food security status of households and selected household characteristics, 2007

Category	Total ¹	In food-insecure households							
		In food-secure households		All		In households with low food security		In households with very low food security	
		1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent
All individuals in households	297,042	260,813	87.8	36,229	12.2	24,287	8.2	11,942	4.0
Household composition:									
With children < 18 yrs	159,062	134,031	84.3	25,031	15.7	17,770	11.2	7,261	4.6
With children < 6 yrs	74,842	61,588	82.3	13,254	17.7	9,889	13.2	3,365	4.5
Married-couple families	115,230	102,212	88.7	13,018	11.3	9,573	8.3	3,445	3.0
Female head, no spouse	32,484	22,619	69.6	9,865	30.4	6,598	20.3	3,267	10.1
Male head, no spouse	8,809	7,098	80.6	1,711	19.4	1,251	14.2	460	5.2
Other household with child ²	2,539	2,102	82.8	437	17.2	348	13.7	89	3.5
With no children < 18 yrs	137,979	126,781	91.9	11,198	8.1	6,517	4.7	4,681	3.4
More than one adult	105,691	98,208	92.9	7,483	7.1	4,486	4.2	2,997	2.8
Women living alone	18,353	16,205	88.3	2,148	11.7	1,177	6.4	971	5.3
Men living alone	13,934	12,368	88.8	1,566	11.2	854	6.1	712	5.1
With elderly	52,933	49,082	92.7	3,851	7.3	2,585	4.9	1,266	2.4
Elderly living alone	10,722	9,941	92.7	781	7.3	479	4.5	302	2.8
Race/ethnicity of households:									
White non-Hispanic	198,599	181,936	91.6	16,663	8.4	10,768	5.4	5,895	3.0
Black non-Hispanic	35,901	27,990	78.0	7,911	22.0	5,400	15.0	2,511	7.0
Hispanic ³	44,077	34,242	77.7	9,835	22.3	6,898	15.6	2,937	6.7
Other	18,465	16,645	90.1	1,820	9.9	1,221	6.6	599	3.2
Household income-to-poverty ratio:									
Under 1.00	31,884	19,166	60.1	12,718	39.9	8,119	25.5	4,599	14.4
Under 1.30	45,432	28,604	63.0	16,828	37.0	10,773	23.7	6,055	13.3
Under 1.85	72,880	50,201	68.9	22,679	31.1	14,734	20.2	7,945	10.9
1.85 and over	166,467	157,037	94.3	9,430	5.7	6,600	4.0	2,830	1.7
Income unknown	57,694	53,574	92.9	4,120	7.1	2,953	5.1	1,167	2.0
Area of residence: ⁴									
Inside metropolitan area	248,390	218,353	87.9	30,037	12.1	20,117	8.1	9,920	4.0
In principal cities ⁵	80,359	68,353	85.1	12,006	14.9	7,860	9.8	4,146	5.2
Not in principal cities	127,204	114,185	89.8	13,019	10.2	9,141	7.2	3,878	3.0
Outside metropolitan area	48,651	42,459	87.3	6,192	12.7	4,170	8.6	2,022	4.2
Census geographic region:									
Northeast	53,727	47,986	89.3	5,741	10.7	3,900	7.3	1,841	3.4
Midwest	65,105	57,839	88.8	7,266	11.2	4,703	7.2	2,563	3.9
South	109,036	94,618	86.8	14,418	13.2	9,791	9.0	4,627	4.2
West	69,174	60,368	87.3	8,806	12.7	5,894	8.5	2,912	4.2

¹Totals exclude individuals in households whose food security status is unknown because they did not give a valid response to any of the questions in the food security scale. In 2007, these represented 1,233,000 individuals (0.4 percent of all individuals).

²Households with children in complex living arrangements, e.g., children of other relatives or unrelated roommate or boarder.

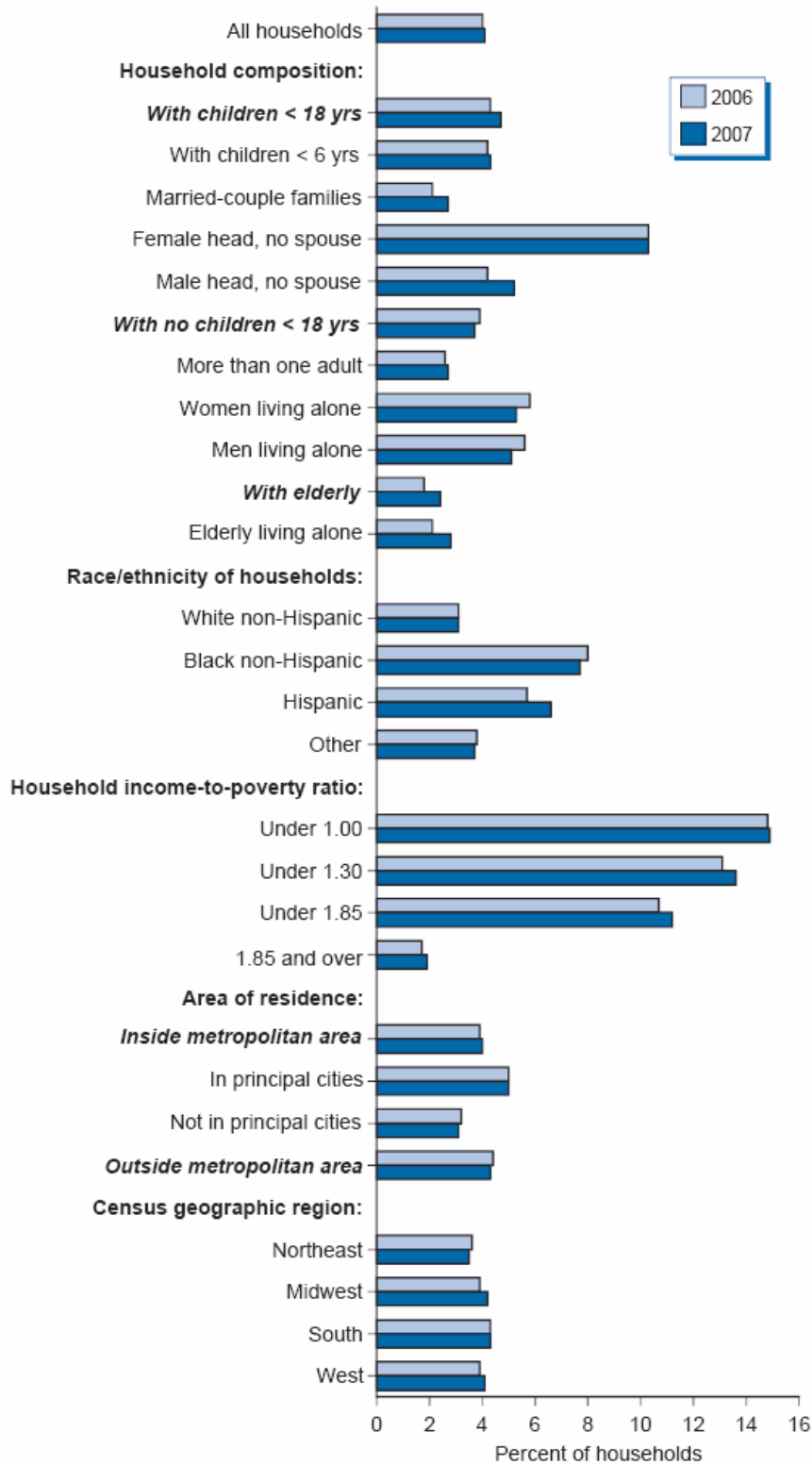
³Hispanics may be of any race.

⁴Metropolitan area residence is based on 2003 Office of Management and Budget delineation. Prevalence rates by area of residence are comparable with those for 2004 and later years but are not precisely comparable with those of earlier years.

⁵Households within incorporated areas of the largest cities in each metropolitan area. Residence inside or outside of principal cities is not identified for about 16 percent of individuals living in metropolitan statistical areas.

Source: Calculated by ERS using data from the December 2007 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

Figure 4
Prevalence of very low food security, 2006 and 2007



Source: Calculated by ERS based on Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement data, December 2006 and December 2007.

Table 9

Weekly household food spending per person and relative to the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP), 2007

Category	Number of households ¹	Median weekly food spending	
		Per person	Relative to cost of TFP
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Ratio</i>
All households	106,254	42.50	1.20
Household composition:			
With children < 18 yrs	36,533	33.33	1.06
At least one child < 6 yrs	16,342	30.00	1.06
Married-couple families	24,916	33.33	1.09
Female head, no spouse	8,687	31.50	.98
Male head, no spouse	2,353	33.33	1.00
Other household with child ²	577	33.33	1.08
With no children < 18 yrs	69,721	50.00	1.28
More than one adult	40,966	45.00	1.23
Women living alone	16,131	50.00	1.27
Men living alone	12,624	63.00	1.47
With elderly	24,099	41.67	1.13
Elderly living alone	9,115	50.00	1.23