

Hunger in New Mexico

LHHS Presentation – September 11, 2014

New Mexico Association of Food Banks

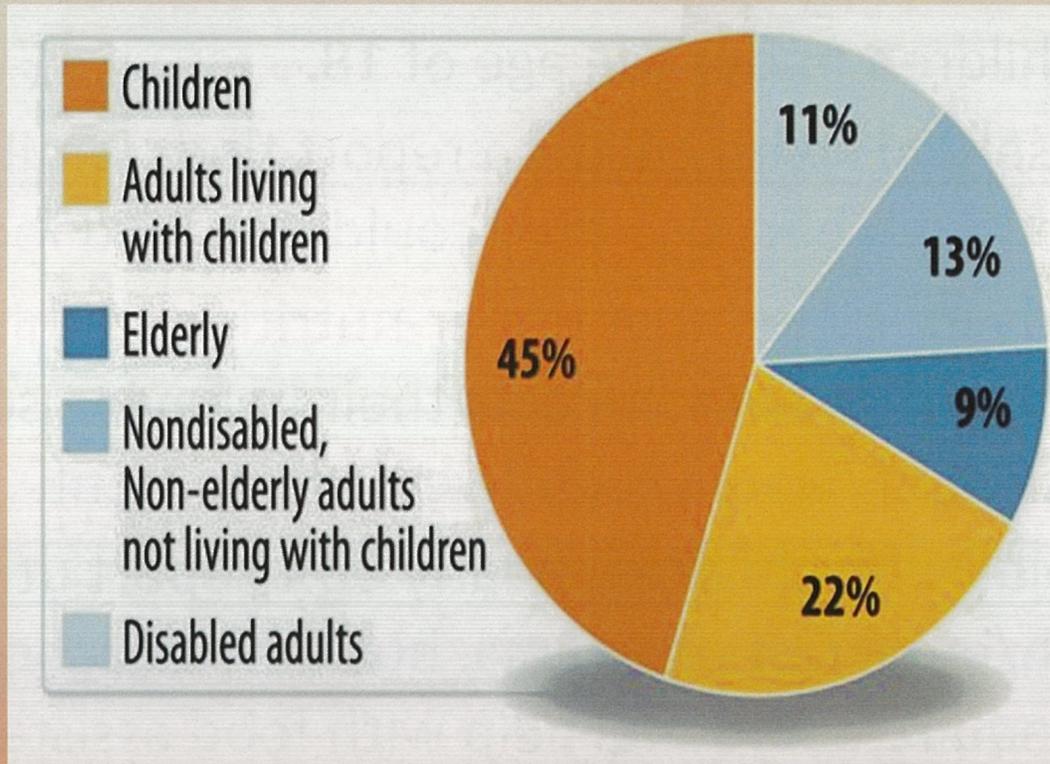
The face of hunger in New Mexico -

- ▶ Every week, more than **40,000** New Mexicans seek food assistance. That's the equivalent of a city the size of Farmington needing emergency assistance four times every month.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 21% of the people seeking food assistance in New Mexico are senior citizens. 16% are grandparents raising grandchildren.
- ▶ 61% of households report having to choose between paying utilities or buying food.
- ▶ 44% say they have medical bills to pay.
- ▶ 89% of households report an annual income of less than \$20,000 per year (\$384/week).

New Mexico is ranked #1 in Childhood Hunger

- ▶ More than 40% of people served by New Mexico food banks are children under the age of 18.
- ▶ 44% of households with children report their family was not eating enough because they couldn't afford food.
- ▶ A USDA study indicated that under-nutrition in children during periods of growth impacts their behavior, school performance, and overall cognitive development.
- ▶ Of households with children, nearly 60% report utilizing school lunch/breakfast programs, but the households they live in still require additional help with food assistance.

Who currently receives SNAP?



Facts about SNAP -

- ▶ **A large percentage of SNAP participants are children, elderly or disabled, people one would not expect to work. The majority of able-bodied adult SNAP participants are working or trying to work.**
- ▶ **SNAP program structure provides a strong incentive to work.**
- ▶ **SNAP program rules place strict time limits on those who are not working.**

Facts about SNAP (cont.)

- ▶ While we can all agree that jobs are the best solution to hunger and poverty, jobs remain elusive for many low income families.

For additional information on these points, or for a presentation on Hunger in New Mexico, please contact Kathy Komoll, New Mexico Association of Food Banks, nmafb@aol.com, 505-217-1066.

Every week, more than 40,000 New Mexicans are faced with the uncertainty of not knowing where their next meal is coming from. The challenge of meeting that need is more than the private sector can handle. The public and private sector must continue to work together to create solutions and build systems that put food on **every table**.

