

Hamilton

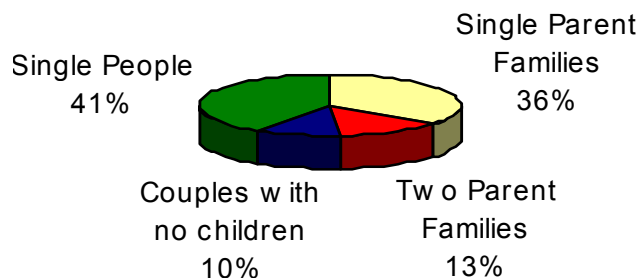
Hunger Count 2008

“On a typical day in Hamilton over 600 people will need the services of a local food bank.”

	March 2008	March 2007
Adults	9,284	9,434
Children	6,227	6,314
Total people	15,511	15,748
Total Households	6,324	6,388

Hunger is a symptom of poverty. The greatest single challenge in our community is the degree of poverty. Over 95,000 residents (one in four) in our community live far below the poverty-line. The need for emergency food services has never been greater. Food insecure households are low income households struggling every day to make ends meet.

Income Source and Family Profile



- ✦ 9.7% working
- ✦ 2.9% looking for work
- ✦ 54% Ontario Works (OW)
- ✦ 21% Ontario Disability (ODSP)
- ✦ 5% were seniors over the age of 65
- ✦ 4% people had no income at all
- ✦ 3% had other various forms of income

Over 6,300 households in Hamilton will reach out to their local food bank for help every month.

Children make up 40% of the total people who access a food bank.

49% of the people in need are families with children under the age of 18.

One in five children who use a food bank go without breakfast or a balanced meal at least once a week.

Eighty-one percent of parents who visit a food bank sacrifice their own food so their children can eat.

5,312 hours were logged by volunteers in the fight against hunger at our local food banks and hot meal programs. Volunteer hours given are equal to 29 full time positions.

51,276 individual meals were served up from people. The Hunger Count Survey is completed each year in the month of March.

Typically a food bank gives out 3 days worth of food.



Hunger. It's just unacceptable.

\$4.10 per day — The amount that a single parent with one child on Ontario Works has for food .

89% the increase to average heating costs over last five years

13.5% the portion of the budget spent on heating costs for a low income household (* national average is 4.5%)

14.5% the increase in the average single person's grocery bill since 2003.

Client Income

Source:

54% Ontario Works

21% ODSP

10% Job Income

5% Pension

4% No Income

3% Employment Ins.

40% of food bank users are children. Children in food insecure households experience a lack of focus and concentration in school.

HAMILTON FOOD SHARE

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HOUSEHOLD INCOMES

FALL FAR BELOW THE POVERTY LINE

Seventy-five percent (75%) of the households who relied on food banks to feed their families derive their income from social assistance benefits , Ontario Works (O.W. @ 54%) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP @ 21%). Where households derive their income from these sources, children are 13 times more likely to experience hunger than households with non-social assistance incomes. Household that had paid employment at minimum wage make up 10% or the second largest group of households in need.

\$ 14,000.00 the poverty gap between actual OW Benefit income and the poverty line for a single parent with one child.

\$ 3,300.00 the poverty gap between actual income before taxes and the poverty line for a single person earning minimum wage

\$ 13,000 the poverty gap between actual OW benefits income and the poverty line for a single person.

\$ 19,000.00 the poverty gap between actual OW benefits income and the poverty line for a couple with two children

\$ 12,000.00 the poverty gap between actual income from Ontario disability support program and the poverty line for a single person unable to work.

Agencies who participated in the survey:

Good Shepherd Centres
Living Rock Ministries
Mission Services of Hamilton
Neighbour to Neighbour Centre
St. Matthew's House (2 locations)
Stoney Creek Community Food Bank
The Salvation Army Hamilton
The Salvation Army Dundas
Welcome Inn Community Emergency Food Pantry
Wesley Urban Ministries
Hamilton Out of the Cold Program Coalition
Beasley Area Nutrition 4 Kids
North Hamilton Community Health Centre

Value added Services:

Emergency food programs also offer many other services such as:

- Nutrition education
- Budgeting information
- Business planning
- Tax workshops
- Employment services
- Tutoring
- Health bus and clinics
- Coats for kids
- Christmas Hamper Programs

The Hunger Count Survey is completed each year in the month of March. March was chosen as a typical month for access. The information in this hunger snapshot profiles 13 Hamilton agencies representing 10 food banks and 7 hot meal programs that constitute the major emergency food programs operating in the Hamilton area. Also represented in the meal statistics are 2 local child nutrition programs.