



NEWS RELEASE

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November 21, 2006

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13.2 Percent of North Carolina Residents Lived in Food Insecure Households

North Carolina had 13.2 percent of people living in households that were considered to be food insecure from 2003-05, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) annual report released last week. Each year, the Census Bureau measures food insecurity through a series of household survey questions about the ability to obtain enough food for an active, healthy life for all members.

To report food insecurity in each state, USDA uses three-year averages to compensate for limited sample sizes and give a better estimate of the number of households experiencing hunger. In 2000-02, 12.3 percent in North Carolina were considered to be food insecure.

Among the 13.2 percent of North Carolina households considered to be food insecure, 4.5 percent were living in households that were considered to have "very low food security," a new USDA term that means one or more people in the household were hungry over the course of the year because they couldn't afford enough food.

"Now more than ever, the Food Bank is here to assist an unconscionable number of our neighbors who are hungry; this is what we do year round" said Jane Cox, President & CEO of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina.

Nationally, more than 35 million people live in households that are considered to be food insecure. "It is simply unacceptable that after years of economic growth, 35.1 million people in this country face a constant struggle against hunger," said Jim Weill, president of the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC). "We will be calling on Congress to attack this shameful, national condition with new commitment and new energy."

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About the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina

The Food Bank of Eastern & Central North Carolina is a nonprofit organization that provides food for people who are hungry in 34 counties in central and eastern North Carolina. The Food Bank serves a network of more than 890 partner agencies offering soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, and programs for children and adults. In fiscal year 2006, the Food Bank distributed more than 31.4 million pounds of food and non-food essentials to these agencies. Sadly, hunger remains a serious problem in central and eastern North Carolina. In these counties, more than 400,000 struggle each day to provide enough food for their families. www.foodbankcenc.org

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About the Food Research and Action Center

The Food Research and Action Center (www.frac.org) is the leading national organization working for more effective public and private policies to eradicate domestic hunger and undernutrition.