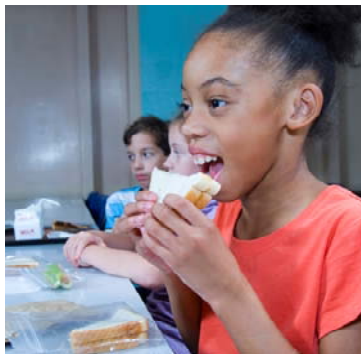




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REACHING GEORGIA TABLES

**ACCESS & OUTREACH VITAL
IN FACE OF FOOD
INSECURITY LEVELS**

BY SARAH BETH GEHL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was made possible by the generous support of the Mazon Foundation. We are very grateful to Robert Welsh, who researched this report while an analyst with GBPI, and to Dr. Joseph Smith and Dr. Salvador Lopez of the University of West Georgia, who provided statistical analysis. We would also like to acknowledge Florida Impact, whose *Feeding Florida* report provided guidance.

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The Georgia Budget and Policy Institute (GBPI) is the leading independent, nonprofit, non-partisan organization engaged in research and education regarding the fiscal and economic health of the state of Georgia. The GBPI provides reliable, accessible, and timely analyses to promote greater state government fiscal accountability as a way to improve services to Georgians in need and to promote an improved quality of life for all Georgians.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In 2005-2007, well before the economic crisis hit families across the nation, one out of eight Georgia households experienced food insecurity. In other words, 13 percent of Georgia households did not have enough resources to provide adequate food for all family members at some time, even during economic recovery years.² Levels of food insecurity varied greatly by county, ranging from 8.2 percent in Oconee County to a high of 19.5 percent in Hancock County.³

To help these families and their communities combat hunger, the federal government offers several nutrition assistance programs, including food stamps, school breakfasts and lunches, and summer programs. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP; formerly Food Stamps Program) provides the broadest reach, assisting approximately 450,000 Georgia households (more than 1 million individuals) in the fall of 2008.⁴ Other programs focus primarily on low-income children, ensuring they receive nutritious meals throughout the daytime.

While the federal resources and programs exist, they are not reaching all eligible Georgians. An estimated 30 to 34 percent of Georgians eligible for SNAP did not receive assistance between 2004 and 2006.⁵ An estimated 89 percent of students eligible for free summer meals do not receive them.⁶ In total, over \$500 million per year in federal funds for nutrition went unused in recent years. Federal stimulus funds for these programs will add even more available funds to Georgia's economy. In practical terms, Georgia is leaving federal dollars on the table rather than putting meals on family tables across the state.

Now more than ever, as thousands of Georgians experience job loss, food assistance availability is critical. In a significant step forward, the Georgia Department of Human Resources (DHR) launched an online eligibility guide and application in December 2008 to make the application process easier (www.compass.ga.gov). With unemployment exceeding eight percent and many families becoming eligible for the first time, Georgia must take even more aggressive steps to increase and encourage access to available nutrition assistance. Recommendations include:

- **Georgia should expand, rather than reduce, state eligibility personnel charged with connecting families to federal nutrition assistance services.** Under the current budget proposals, the Food Stamp Eligibility program will be reduced by \$1.1 million this fiscal year and \$3.2 million in FY 2010. As of late January, DHR planned to eliminate 232 staff positions among all eligibility assistance programs.⁷ The Governor, legislators, and DHR should use federal funds for food stamp administration to increase the number of food stamp eligibility assistance workers. Policymakers should not use these new federal funds to replace state funds.
- **State and local communities should aggressively register and outreach to families.** The influx of federal dollars through these assistance programs will be vital to families, but also to local economies across Georgia. The economic benefit for local communities will be even greater beginning in April as the maximum value of food stamps will increase by **13.6 percent** under the federal stimulus bill.⁸ Sample campaign materials for community groups, governments, retailers, and faith-based organizations can be found at www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/outreach/ideas.htm and www.frac.org/html/federal_food_programs/programs/fsoutreachprg.html.

DEFINING FOOD INSECURITY

Food security means “access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life.”¹

Food insecurity measures those households with low or very low food security.

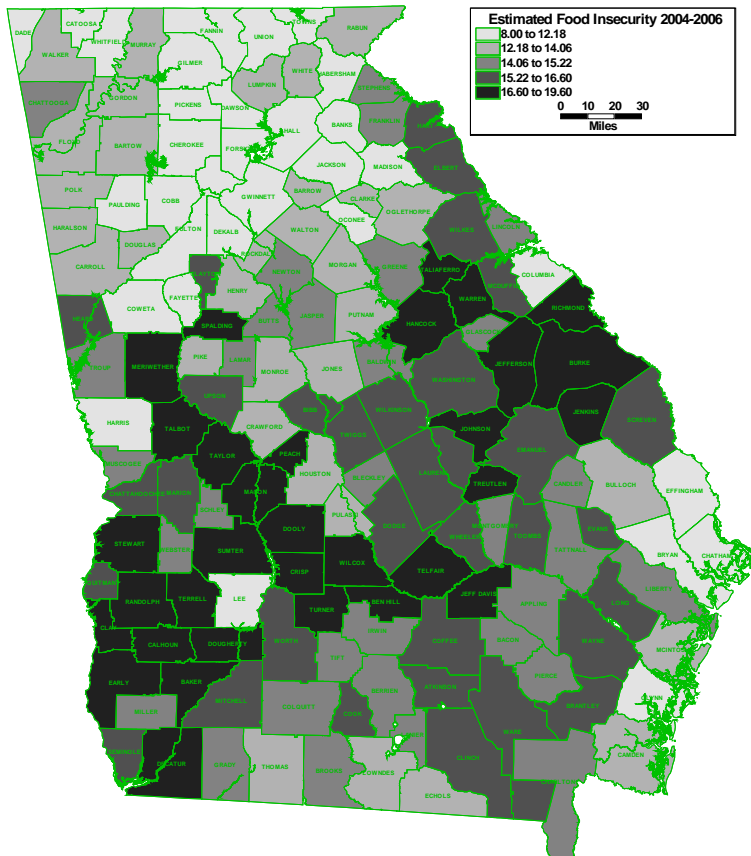
FOOD INSECURITY IN GEORGIA

In 2005-2007, well before the economic crisis hit families across the nation, one out of eight Georgia households experienced food insecurity. In other words, an astounding 13 percent of Georgia households did not have enough resources to provide adequate food for all family members at some time, even during economic recovery years.⁹

Georgia tied with Kansas and Oklahoma for 7th highest food insecurity among the states during these boon years, the last years that data is available. Nationally, 11 percent of households experienced food insecurity. These large numbers bode poorly for Georgians in the current economic situation. Poverty, health insurance coverage, and unemployment rates are already among the worst in the nation. Economic stress means even more families will not have nutritious meals in the next 2-3 years during the projected period of recovery. Lack of proper nutrition translates into more children born with cognitive and physical disabilities, more behavioral problems at schools, and chronic diseases taking a stronger foothold among an already unhealthy population, with long-term implications.¹⁰

Although 13 percent of all Georgia households were food insecure in 2005-2007, the levels of insecurity vary substantially by county, as illustrated in Figure 1 below and detailed in Table 1. Oconee, Forysth, and Fayette county households experience the lowest levels of food insecurity, with 8.2 to 8.5 percent of households food insecure during 2004-2006.¹¹ At the other end of the spectrum, Burke, Stewart, and Hancock hold the highest rates of food insecurity, with rates of 19.1 to 19.5 percent.

Estimated Food Insecurity by County, 2004-2006



Source: Smith and Lopez

TABLE I

2004-2006 FOOD INSECURITY BY COUNTY¹²

COUNTY	FOOD INSECURITY	COUNTY	FOOD INSECURITY	COUNTY	FOOD INSECURITY
APPLING	14.7%	EVANS	15.3%	NEWTON	15.0%
ATKINSON	15.9%	FANNIN	11.9%	OCONEE	8.2%
BACON	14.1%	FAYETTE	8.5%	OGLETHORPE	12.3%
BAKER	17.3%	FLOYD	12.9%	PAULDING	11.4%
BALDWIN	14.1%	FORSYTH	8.4%	PEACH	16.7%
BANKS	11.1%	FRANKLIN	14.1%	PICKENS	10.6%
BARROW	12.4%	FULTON	9.7%	PIERCE	14.3%
BARTOW	13.4%	GILMER	11.5%	PIKE	12.5%
BEN HILL	16.7%	GLASCOCK	14.4%	POLK	13.8%
BERRIEN	14.4%	GLYNN	11.1%	PULASKI	13.7%
BIBB	15.5%	GORDON	13.1%	PUTNAM	12.7%
BLECKLEY	14.9%	GRADY	14.2%	QUITMAN	15.9%
BRANTLEY	15.2%	GREENE	14.7%	RABUN	12.8%
BROOKS	14.4%	GWINNETT	10.4%	RANDOLPH	17.7%
BRYAN	10.1%	HABERSHAM	11.9%	RICHMOND	16.7%
BULLOCH	14.0%	HALL	11.5%	ROCKDALE	13.5%
BURKE	19.1%	HANCOCK	19.5%	SCHLEY	15.1%
BUTTS	14.1%	HARALSON	13.5%	SCREVEN	16.1%
CALHOUN	17.1%	HARRIS	9.2%	SEMINOLE	16.4%
CAMDEN	12.3%	HART	15.5%	SPALDING	16.7%
CANDLER	15.1%	HEARD	15.3%	STEPHENS	14.3%
CARROLL	13.9%	HENRY	12.2%	STEWART	19.1%
CATOOSA	11.9%	HOUSTON	12.3%	SUMTER	18.3%
CHARLTON	15.2%	IRWIN	15.0%	TALBOT	17.5%
CHATHAM	11.6%	JACKSON	12.1%	TALIAFERRO	18.8%
CHATTAHOOCHEE	16.1%	JASPER	14.7%	TATTNALL	14.6%
CHATTOOGA	15.1%	JEFF DAVIS	17.1%	TAYLOR	17.9%
CHEROKEE	9.3%	JEFFERSON	17.6%	TELFAIR	18.0%
CLARKE	13.2%	JENKINS	17.7%	TERRELL	18.3%
CLAY	17.7%	JOHNSON	16.8%	THOMAS	13.1%
CLAYTON	15.5%	JONES	13.0%	TIFT	14.6%
CLINCH	16.4%	LAMAR	14.9%	TOOMBS	16.1%
COBB	9.1%	LANIER	14.8%	TOWNS	10.5%
COFFEE	15.4%	LAURENS	15.7%	TREUTLEN	17.3%
COLQUITT	14.8%	LEE	11.6%	TROUP	15.1%
COLUMBIA	9.7%	LIBERTY	14.6%	TURNER	18.0%
COOK	16.1%	LINCOLN	14.8%	TWIGGS	15.7%
COWETA	11.8%	LONG	15.6%	UNION	11.3%
CRAWFORD	14.0%	LOWNDES	13.2%	UPSON	16.6%
CRISP	18.2%	LUMPKIN	12.3%	WALKER	13.4%
DADE	12.1%	MCDUFFIE	16.1%	WALTON	12.6%
DAWSON	10.9%	MCINTOSH	14.1%	WARE	15.4%
DECATUR	17.4%	MACON	17.9%	WARREN	18.7%
DEKALB	12.0%	MADISON	12.2%	WASHINGTON	15.3%
DODGE	15.8%	MARION	16.0%	WAYNE	15.7%
DOOLY	16.7%	MERIWETHER	17.3%	WEBSTER	15.2%
DOUGHERTY	17.7%	MILLER	14.2%	WHEELER	15.8%
DOUGLAS	13.4%	MITCHELL	16.5%	WHITE	12.2%
EARLY	17.7%	MONROE	12.2%	WHITFIELD	11.8%
ECHOLS	13.5%	MONTGOMERY	14.9%	WILCOX	16.6%
EFFINGHAM	11.0%	MORGAN	12.4%	WILKES	16.3%
ELBERT	15.7%	MURRAY	13.4%	WILKINSON	16.2%
EMANUEL	15.6%	MUSCOGEE	14.1%	WORTH	15.4%

FEDERAL PROGRAMS AIMED AT FIGHTING HUNGER

In response to food insecurity across the nation, the federal government offers several assistance programs, including food stamps, school breakfasts and lunches, and summer nutrition programs. While these federal programs reach thousands of Georgia families, many more families remain eligible but not enrolled. As shown in Table 2, participation rates among eligible people vary from a high of 68 percent in the food stamp program to a low of 11 percent in the summer nutrition program.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formally Food Stamp Program)

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the new name for the Food Stamp Program. SNAP provides benefits to one million Georgians via electronic benefit transfer (EBT), thus freeing up limited financial resources for other purposes, such as medical care, rent, and utilities. Almost 60 percent of Georgia households receiving food stamps in 2007 included children.¹³

In addition to helping families, SNAP infuses over \$1 billion into the Georgia economy.¹⁴ When State Stabilization funds are added to this beginning in April, this infusion will increase by several millions. Although the food stamp program has a broad reach, between 30 and 34 percent of eligible Georgians did not participate between 2004 and 2006, leaving an estimated \$518 million in federal funds on the table.¹⁵

National School Lunch Program

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is a federally-assisted meal program operating in over 101,000 public and non-profit private schools and residential child care facilities nationwide. Children in families with incomes below 130 percent of federal poverty guidelines receive free meals, while those with incomes between 130 and 185 percent receive reduced-price meals. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) gives school districts and independent schools cash subsidies and donated commodities for each meal they serve. In return, participating schools must serve lunches that meet federal requirements, providing children with one-third or more of the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) for vital nutrients.¹⁶ USDA research indicates that children who participate in the program have superior nutritional intakes compared to children who do not participate in the program.¹⁷ NSLP provided free and reduced-price lunches to a daily average of 700,000 Georgia children in FY 2007.¹⁸

School Breakfast Program

The School Breakfast Program (SBP) is a federally-assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care facilities. The program is administered by the Food and Nutrition Service at the federal level and by the Georgia Department of Education at the state level. The SBP operates in the same manner as the NSLP: The U.S. Department of Agriculture gives cash subsidies to school districts and independent schools for each meal they serve. In return, they must serve breakfasts meeting applicable dietary guidelines and provide one-fourth of the RDA for protein, calcium, iron, vitamin A, vitamin C, and calories. Income requirements for SBP are identical to that of NSLP: Children in families with incomes below 130 percent of federal poverty guidelines receive free meals, while those with incomes between 130 and 185 percent receive reduced-price meals.¹⁹ SBP reached 379,000 Georgia children on a daily average through free and reduced-price breakfast in FY 2007.²⁰

Summer Food Service Program

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides nutritious meals to children in low-income areas throughout the summer months when school is out.²¹ The summer nutrition program can be operated by school districts, local governments, agencies, camps, parks, churches, community centers, and other nonprofit organizations. Program sponsors are approved by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), which gives federal reimbursement payments for meals served. Approved summer programs are designated as open, enrolled, or camp sites. Open sites serve communities where at least 50 percent of the children live in households with incomes at or below 185 percent of the poverty guidelines, making them eligible for free or reduced price meals. Open sites serve free meals to any child who shows up at the program. Enrolled sites offer free meals to all children participating in site activities where at least half of the children are eligible for free and reduced-price meals. Camps that participate in the program are reimbursed only for meals served to children who are eligible for free and reduced price meals. Georgia sites served over two million meals in 2007, reaching an estimated 11 percent of students potentially eligible for free summer meals.²²

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

WIC is a federally-assisted program which provides nutritious food, nutrition education, and referrals to health and other social service benefits to participants at no cost. WIC serves nutritionally at-risk, low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, and infants and children up to age five. WIC vouchers are provided to participants to purchase foods rich in protein, calcium, iron, vitamins A and C, and folic acid.²³ To be eligible for WIC, applicants must meet income guidelines, be a state resident, and be individually confirmed as a “nutrition risk” by a health care professional. Nutrition risk is broken down into two types of categories: 1) women with medically-based risks such as anemia, underweight, overweight, history of pregnancy complications, or poor pregnancy outcomes; and 2) dietary risks, such as not meeting dietary guidelines or improper nutrition practices. Applicants’ income must not exceed 185 percent of the poverty income guidelines.²⁴ In 2007, 432,000 Georgians participated in the program, while an additional 220,000 Georgians were eligible but not enrolled.²⁵

Child and Adult Food Care Program

The Child and Adult Food Care Program (CACFP) makes quality day care for children and elderly adults more affordable to low-income families by providing nutritious meals and snacks to recipients everyday as part of their care. CACFP also provides meals and snacks to children residing in emergency shelters and youths participating in afterschool programs. CACFP was authorized as part of the National School Lunch Act and is administered by DECAL. Independent centers and sponsoring organizations receive cash reimbursements for serving meals that meet federal nutritional guidelines for adults and children. Participants from households with incomes below 130 percent of the poverty guidelines are eligible for free meals, while participants from households with income between 130 and 185 of the guidelines are eligible for reduced-price meals. Children whose families receive benefits from SNAP, the Food Distribution Program on Native American reservations, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Head Start, and Even Start are categorically eligible for CACFP. The average daily participation among Georgia children was 22,704 in family child care centers and 114,330 in child care centers in FY 2008.²⁶

Table 2

GEORGIA FOOD INSECURITY & THE REACH OF FEDERAL NUTRITIONAL PROGRAMS

FOOD INSECURITY (Average 2005-2007) Percent of All Georgia Households Food Insecure	13%
GEORGIA DEMOGRAPHICS (2007, unless otherwise noted)	
Median Household Income	\$ 49,136
Poverty Rate	14.3%
Number of Persons in Poverty	1,323,828
Poverty Rate for Related Children Under 18	19.4%
Number of Related Children Under 18 in Poverty	482,092
Number of Persons Unemployed (Dec. 2008)	378,491
Unemployment Rate (Dec. 2008)	7.8%
SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FORMERLY FOOD STAMP PROGRAM) (Fiscal Year 2006)	
Average Monthly Participation	946,812
Average Monthly Benefit Per Person	\$96.97
Issuance (Value of Benefits in FY 2006)	\$ 1,098,314,441
ESTIMATED PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE PERSONS PARTICIPATING	68%
ESTIMATED UNUSED FEDERAL DOLLARS	\$ 518,469,796
SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (Fiscal Year 2007)	
Average Daily Participation	
Free	590,287
Reduced-price	112,252
Paid	476,539
Total Free and Reduced-price	702,539
SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (Fiscal Year 2007)	
Average Daily Participation	
Free	333,352
Reduced-price	45,357
Paid	100,198
Total Free and Reduced-price	378,709
SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM (Lunch, June and July 2007)	
Number of Seamless Summer Food Sites	198
Number of School Systems Reporting Summer Lunches	104
Total Free and Reduced Price Lunches Served in Summer 2007	2,065,842
ESTIMATED PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE FREE LUNCH STUDENTS PARTICIPATING	11%
SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (Calendar Year 2007)	
Total WIC Participation	432,951
Potentially Eligible Persons	654,633
PERCENT OF POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE PERSONS SERVED	66.1%
Sources: See Appendix.	

RECOMMENDATIONS

Participation levels in federal food aid programs range from only 11% to 68%, and hit children worst of all — the very people who need adequate nutrition in order to develop their brains and bodies. Now more than ever, as thousands of Georgians experience job loss, food assistance availability is critical. In a significant step forward, the Georgia Department of Human Resources (DHR) launched an online eligibility guide and application in December 2008 to make the application process easier (www.compass.ga.gov). With unemployment exceeding eight percent and many families becoming eligible for the first time, Georgia must take even more aggressive steps to increase and encourage access to available nutrition assistance. Recommendations include:

- **State and local communities should aggressively register and outreach to families.** The influx of federal dollars through these assistance programs will be vital to families, but also to local economies across Georgia. The economic benefit for local communities will be even greater beginning in April as the maximum value of food stamps will increase by **13.6 percent** under the federal stimulus bill.²⁷ Sample campaign materials for community groups, governments, retailers, and faith-based organizations can be found at www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/outreach/ideas.htm and www.frac.org/html/federal_food_programs/programs/fsoutreachprg.html.
- **Georgia should expand, rather than reduce, state eligibility personnel** charged with connecting families to federal nutrition assistance services. Under the current budget proposals, the Food Stamp Eligibility program will be reduced by \$1.1 million this fiscal year and \$3.2 million in FY 2010. As of late January, DHR planned to eliminate 232 staff positions among all eligibility assistance programs.
- The governor, legislators, and DHR should use federal funds for food stamp administration to increase the number of food stamp eligibility assistance workers. Policy makers should not use federal stimulus funds to replace state funds, only to augment the program.

APPENDIX : METHODOLOGY

Food Insecurity: Drs. Joseph Smith and Salvador Lopez of the University of West Georgia analyzed data to derive the statistics about county-level food insecurity for this report. They used data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which monitors the extent and severity of food insecurity in U.S. households through an annual, nationally representative survey and published statistical reports on household food security in the United States for each year since 1995. The prevalence of food insecurity is associated with both demographic and economic variables at the state level. Data, however, is not available at the sub-state or county level. The USDA has determined that participation in food assistance programs (like food stamps), average wages, housing costs, economic conditions such as unemployment rates, and tax policies all affect state-level food security. Unfortunately, current information on educational attainment and housing values at the county level are not available. In their analysis, Drs. Smith and Lopez attempted to use Georgia's percent of registered voters voting for a Republican candidate in the 2004 presidential election as a proxy for state tax policies, but the effect was insignificant.

Table I below presents the results of the final model Drs. Smith and Lopez used to estimate food security for the state of Georgia at the county level. They first estimated the state-level rate of food insecurity using state-level unemployment rates, food stamp participation rates, and per capita personal income by OLS regression. Using estimated coefficients from the state-level regression, along with data detailing the county-level per capita personal income (PCPI), unemployment rates, and rates of food stamp program participation, we calculated estimated values for the prevalence of food insecurity for each county in Georgia. Below are the results of the state-level OLS regression. More than 50 percent of the state-to-state variation is captured in the model below (adjusted R-square=.50008, R-square=.53008). In addition, the estimated state-level coefficients are statistically significant at the usual levels and exhibit the expected signs: Higher income (PCPI) results in a lower rate of food insecurity, whereas participation in food stamps programs and higher rates of unemployment are associated with higher rates of food insecurity.

Table I **Regression Results**

<i>Dependant Variable-Food insecurity</i>	<i>Coefficients</i>	<i>Standard Error</i>	<i>t Stat</i>
Intercept	0.114536369	0.020531482	5.578573
PCPI	-1.69074E-06	4.57872E-07	-3.69261
Pct food Stamps	0.225009311	0.092507835	2.432327
Unemployment Rate2006	0.008059604	0.003059681	2.634132
R Square	0.530082515		
Adjusted R Square	0.500087782		
Standard Error	0.018159677		
Observations	51		

Statewide food insecurity: Data from the Food Research Action Center (FRAC), www.frac.org.

Demographics: Income and poverty data were obtained from the 2007 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, <http://www.factfinder.census.gov>. Unemployment data, not seasonally adjusted, were obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, March 4, 2009, <http://data.bls.cgi-bin/dsrv>.

Food Stamp Program: Number of persons receiving food stamp benefits and monthly and total fund amounts were obtained from Food Research Action Center, http://www.frac.org/State_Of_States/2007/states/GA.pdf. The percent of eligible persons participating in the Food Stamp Program is from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's "Characteristics of Food Stamp Households: Fiscal Year 2007," www.fns.usda.gov/ora/MENU/Published/snap/FILES/Participation/2007Characteristics.pdf. "Estimated Unused Federal Dollars" is author's calculation based on the annual issuance per recipient and the estimate of the number of eligible persons not participating in the food stamp program.

National School Lunch, Breakfast, and Summer Nutrition Programs: The Georgia Department of Education provided all National School Lunch, Breakfast and Summer Nutrition program data through an Open Public Records Act, received June 25, 2008. The author calculated the average daily participation rate by dividing the number of total lunches served by the average number of days in the school year.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): WIC data was provided by the Georgia Department of Human Resources, received August 5, 2008.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Nord, Mark et. al. *Household Food Security in the United States, 2007*. Food Assistance & Nutrition Research Program, United States Department of Agriculture. Economic Research Report No. 66. November 2008. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR66/ERR66.pdf>.
- ² Nord (2008)
- ³ County-level food insecurity analysis performed by Dr. Joseph Smith and Dr. Salvador Lopez of the University of West Georgia. See Appendix for methodology.
- ⁴ SNAP Current Participation – Households. www.fns.usda.gov/pd/30SNAPcurrHH.htm; SNAP Current Participation – Persons. www.fns.usda.gov/pd/29SNAPcurrPP.htm.
- ⁵ US Department of Agriculture. *Characteristics of Food Stamp Households: Fiscal Year 2007*. Report No. FSP-08-CHAR. November 2008.
- ⁶ Data from the Georgia Department of Education. Received June 2008.
- ⁷ Testimony by the Georgia Department of Human Resources. House Appropriations Human Resources Subcommittee Hearing, January 28, 2009.
- ⁸ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. *Food Stamp (or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance) Program*. <http://www.cbpp.org/1-22-09bud-fs.pdf>.
- ⁹ Nord (2008)
- ¹⁰ World Health Organization, <http://www.who.int/features/factfiles/nutrition/en/index.html>, retrieved 3/09.
- ¹¹ Smith and Lopez (2008). See Appendix for methodology.
- ¹² Ibid.
- ¹³ US Department of Agriculture. *Characteristics of Food Stamp Households: Fiscal Year 2007*. Report No. FSP-08-CHAR. November 2008.
- ¹⁴ Georgia Department of Human Resources. *Food Stamps in Georgia*. January 2008. http://dhr.georgia.gov/DHR/DHR_FactSheets/Food%20Stamps%20Fact%20Sheet%202008.pdf.
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- ¹⁶ Florida Impact. *Feeding Florida 2007: Responses to Hunger in the Sunshine State*. 2007.
- ¹⁷ Ibid.
- ¹⁸ Data from the Georgia Department of Education. Received June 2008.
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- ²² Data from the Georgia Department of Education. Received June 2008.
- ²³ USDA. *Nutrition Program Facts: Food and Nutrition Service*. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/aboutwic/wicataglance.htm>
- ²⁴ Ibid.
- ²⁵ Data from the Georgia Department of Human Resources. Received August 2008.
- ²⁶ Food Research Action Network. *State of the States 2008: Georgia*. Updated Feb. 2009.
- ²⁷ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. *Food Stamp (or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance) Program*. <http://www.cbpp.org/1-22-09bud-fs.pdf>.