



OREGON FOOD BANK NETWORK'S 10 HUNGER FACTS

OREGON
FOOD BANK
NETWORK

Hunger Fact #1

Prior to the pandemic, 1 in 11 Oregonians were food insecure. We had made real progress together in the fight to end hunger following the Great Recession. Today, 1 in 8 of our neighbors face hunger — a dramatic increase driven by the public health and economic fallout of COVID-19.

Hunger Fact #2

The Oregon Food Bank Network consists of 21 regional food banks partnering with over 1,400 food distribution programs like **food pantries, free markets, and meal sites**. A priority at many sites is fresh produce pantry staples in service of low-income individuals and families. Many are shopping style markets that allow neighbors to select the food they need and food items that better match their cultural and dietary needs.

Hunger Fact #3

Hunger is on the rise. Oregon's food insecurity rate rose 21% between 2019 and 2020, with the height of the pandemic resulting in nearly 1.7 million neighbors seeking food assistance through the Oregon Food Bank Network — double what we saw in the prior year.

Hunger Fact #4

Emergencies like Wildfires, Ice storms, Cyanotoxins and more, force thousands of our neighbors to leave their homes, shelter in place, or lose access to safe food or water and the impacts are often felt long after. As part of the disaster response network in our region, Oregon Food Bank and its Network provides emergency support — including water, food and other critical supplies — during times of crisis.

Hunger Fact #5

Ending hunger in Oregon and SW Washington will require the efforts of each and every one of us. For every \$10 dollars you donate, the Oregon Food Bank Network can support our community with as many as 30 meals.

Hunger Fact #6

The Oregon Food Bank Network organizes communities to implement long-lasting, systemic change. With countless Oregonians waiting for critical financial assistance in the pandemic's wake, advocacy makes a difference. In August, **the Oregon State Emergency Board earmarked more than \$200 million in immediate relief for hard-hit communities** — including \$62 million slated for the Oregon Cares Fund; \$35 million for emergency unemployment relief checks; and over \$3.5 million for emergency repairs to restore water service in Warm Springs.

Hunger Fact #7

Hunger affects health: almost half of respondent households have at least one person with high blood pressure, and almost one third have someone in the home with diabetes. We partner with 350 health care systems across the network to screen hundreds of thousands of Oregonians for food insecurity.

Hunger Fact #8

Your donation stays local. Funds raised during this campaign will remain in the community where they were collected or designated. Because the Oregon Food Bank Network distributes food to over 21 Regional Banks and 1,400 partner agency programs in Oregon and Clark County, Washington, ***your donation stays local to help end hunger and its root causes throughout the communities we serve, together!***

Hunger Fact #9

Historically, food insecurity has affected BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) individuals disproportionately. The pandemic has worsened these deep inequities, with Black individuals 3.2 times more likely, and Latinx individuals 2.5 times more likely, to live in food-insecure households as compared to white individuals.

Hunger Fact #10

Before the pandemic, 860,000 people accessed food assistance across the Oregon Food Bank Network every year – and we know that “normal” wasn’t working for our most vulnerable neighbors. Supporting the Oregon Food Bank Network helps provide culturally-relevant, healthy food to our communities and ushers in systems change that will ensure hunger is not a symptom of COVID-19. ***Together, we can create resilient communities that never go hungry.***