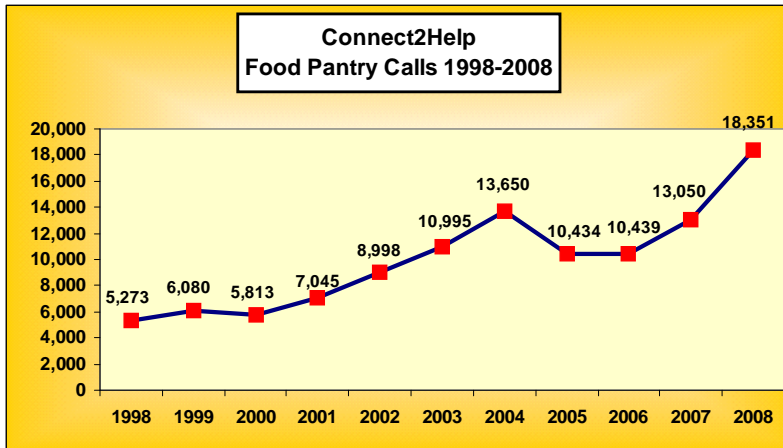


Connect2Help™

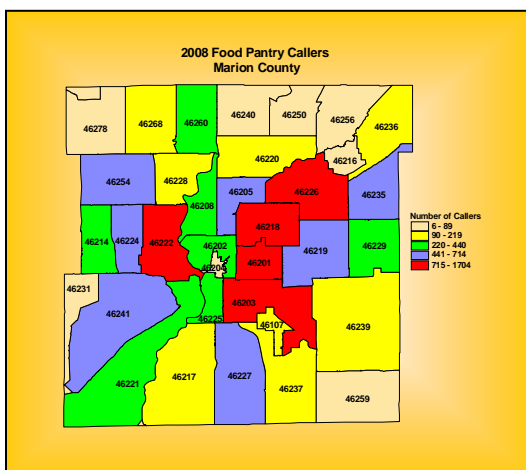
Serving as your 2-1-1 Center for Central Indiana

Emergency Food in High Demand As Economy Weakens



- Having enough food in the pantry to feed our families is something many of us take for granted. However, for thousands of people right here in our community, **feeding their families is a daily struggle.**
- During 2008, these families included *more than 21,300 children*; 18,351 individuals called Connect2Help™ (C2H) for help finding food during 2008. This is a **41% increase compared to 2007.**
- For many, the driving force for calling C2H is a job loss, which creates the need for help with all things financial, including food. During 2008, **30%** of those calling for emergency food help reported that at least one member of their household was **unemployed**. This is **45% increase** in the number of unemployed food callers compared to 2007.

- More than three-quarters (**78%**) of those calling for emergency food **did NOT receive Food Stamps**. Many were the “**newly poor**,” those who had been recently laid off, or the “**working poor**,” those who had an income, but did not qualify for Food Stamps. Oftentimes, these callers were trying to save any available cash resources for rent and utilities (for which there are few community resources) by using food pantries instead of buying groceries.
- While there ARE more food than financial resources, the **maps below** demonstrate that the demand for food outweighs the supply of food pantries. The map on the left shows the **location of pantries** by zip code in Marion County. The map on the right shows the **location of pantry callers** by zip code in Marion County.
- Currently, in the C2H resource database, there **are 64 food pantries located in Marion County**. (There are an additional 40 that serve the Central Indiana area). However, most of the food callers (80%) lived in Marion County. The maps suggest that there are not enough food pantries in some areas of the county where the need is greatest. In many cases, callers have to travel outside of their zip code to get food. For people with already limited resources, the cost of transportation adds another hardship.
- Those who are operating the food pantries also are struggling. A 41% increase in demand in a single year (which translates into thousands of extra people) is creating an enormous strain for existing pantries. Donations are down, due in large part to an ailing economy. It also has been very difficult to staff the pantries with volunteers, who once were in ample supply. In fact, **5 pantries in Central Indiana closed in 2008**, putting more pressure on those that remain.



For help finding emergency food or locating a pantry that needs donations or volunteers, dial 2-1-1.

