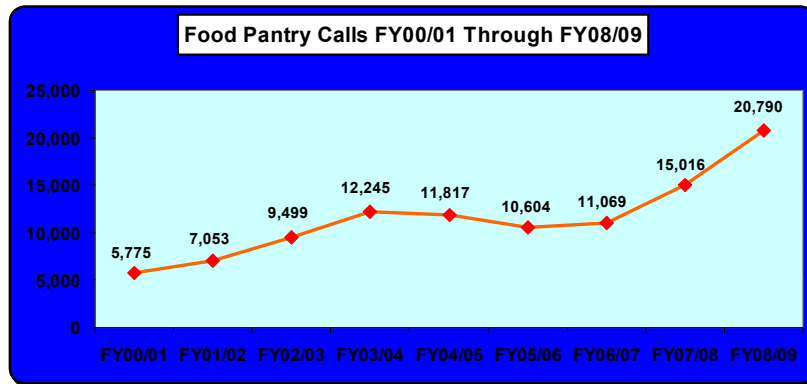


Hunger Hits Home

Stories of hunger in Third World countries are sadly all too common; however, distance can sometimes provide a buffer against such a harsh reality. What is more difficult to accept is hunger in our own community. Yet for thousands of people **right here in Central Indiana, feeding their families is a daily struggle.**

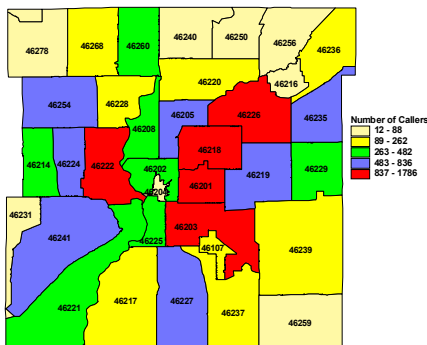
- During FY08/09, nearly 21,000 people with 23,000 children living in their homes called Connect2Help™ (C2H) for help finding food.
- This is a **38% spike compared to FY07/08, the largest fiscal year increase in the agency's history.**



- 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 FY08/09, **31%** of those calling for emergency food help reported that at least one member of their household was **unemployed**. This is a **40% increase** in the number of unemployed food callers compared to FY07/08.

- More than three-quarters (**79%**) 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 pantry callers** by zip code in Marion County. The map on the right shows the **location of pantries** by zip code in Marion County.
- Currently, in the C2H resource database, there **are 62 food pantries located in Marion County**. (There are an additional 48 that serve the Central Indiana area). However, most of the food callers (79%) 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 38% increase in demand in a single year (which translates into thousands of extra people) is creating an enormous strain for existing pantries. **Three pantries**, all in high-demand areas, **received 25% of all food pantry referrals**. They included: Client Choice Food Pantry, located in 46218 (13%); Catholic Charities Crisis Office Food Pantry, located in 46202 (6%); and New Birth Ministries – Agape Outreach Food Pantry, located in 46201 (6%).
- It also has been very difficult to staff the pantries with volunteers, who once were in ample supply. Another staffing challenge is keeping pantries open during hours when people who are working can get there.

Food Pantry Calls By Zip Code - FY08/09
Marion County



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

Food Pantry Locations
Marion County

