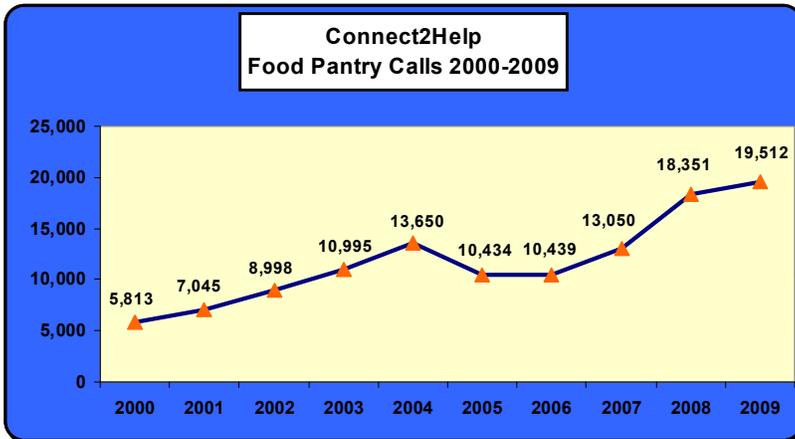


Connect2Help™

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

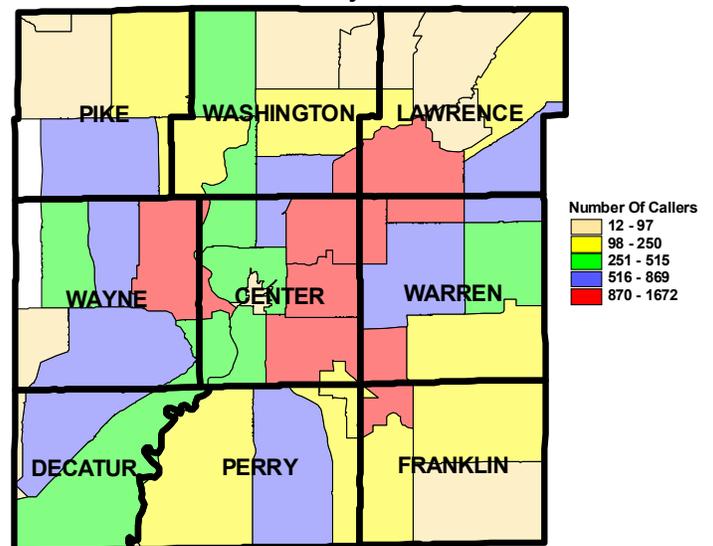
Hunger Is Very Real In Our Community



- Maria*, a 29-year old Hispanic mother, called for help finding food for her family. Her husband's hours had been reduced at work, and they were having trouble making ends meet.
- Sara*, a 40-year old single mother of 2, called for food help. She had recently lost her job because her car had broken down and she had no transportation to work.
- Jim*, a 45-year old single man on disability, needed emergency food, but had no transportation and was too ill to walk.
- Lois*, a 77-year old woman couldn't afford to buy groceries because her prescription bills were so high. (* Names have been changed.)

- These are just a few of the nearly **20,000** calls for emergency food assistance during 2009; *tens of thousands of children also lived in these homes.*
- The chart above provides a look at food needs in our community for the last decade. The single largest increase (**41%**) occurred during 2008, when the country was in the throes of the worst economic recession since the Great Depression. In **2009**, calls for food help surpassed even these 2008 totals.
- **Hunger in America 2010**, a recently released study from [Feeding America](#), reported a **46% increase** in emergency food needs between 2006 and 2009; **C2H data** for the same time period reveal an **87% increase** in our community, indicating that the need for emergency food is growing more urgent.
- **High unemployment** contributed to the increased demand for food; **29%** of people calling for food in 2009 had at least one unemployed member in their household.
- Another factor contributing to these food needs was the presence of a **serious illness or disability**, which limited earnings potential, and therefore the ability to purchase food; **11%** of food callers reported that someone in their household was ill or disabled.
- **The Indianapolis Food Resource Network (IFRN)** was created to address this growing community need, and includes members from the Mayor's Office, Second Helpings, Meals on Wheels, CICOA, Interfaith Hunger Initiative, Gleaners, Midwest Food Bank, C2H and several other community organizations.
- **Its goals** are to increase the amount of food and resources, provide a forum to help providers work together and give feedback to the network, and improve the ability to get the food, volunteers and funding needed to make certain that no one in this community has to go hungry.
- IFRN is beginning to look at food needs from a **township perspective**, with an eye toward creating a more "centralized" food pantry system.
- The **map** to the right shows food needs by township for **Marion County**, which accounted for **80%** of all C2H reported food needs.

2009 Food Pantry Callers
Marion County



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



Community Partner

