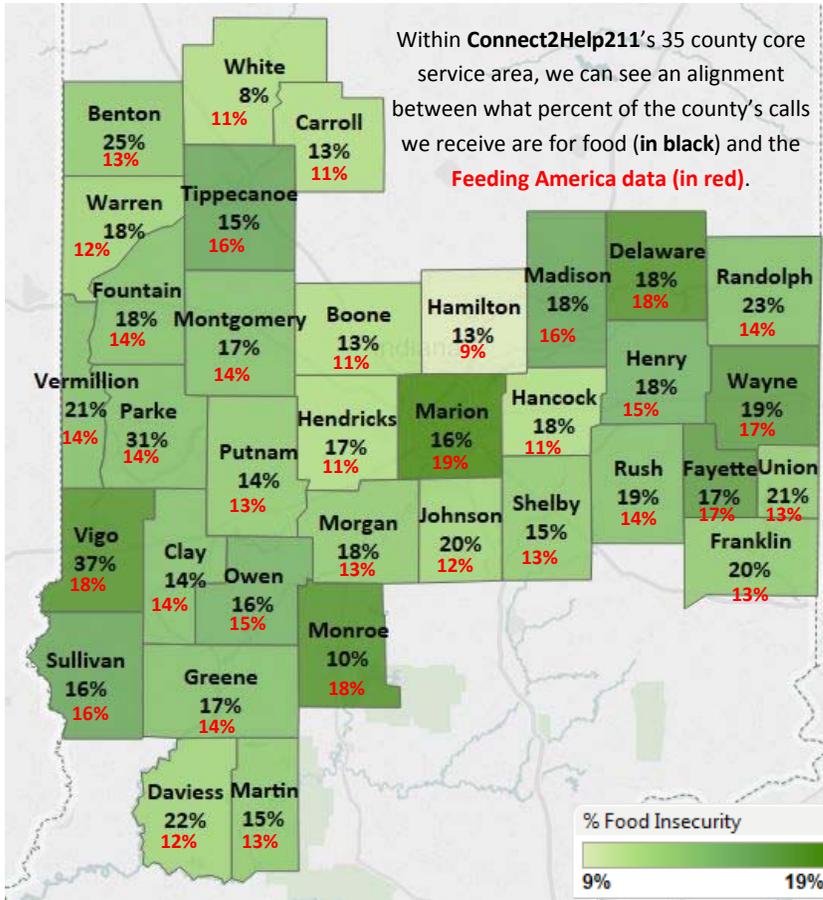




Help Fight Hunger in Indiana

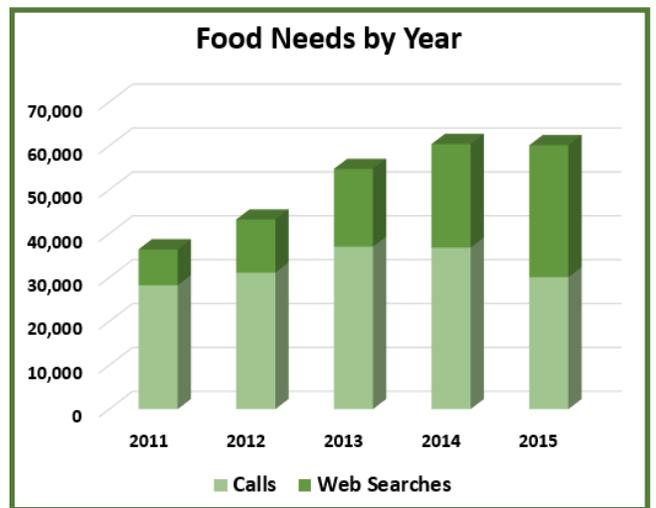
Connect2Help211 Community Report—June 2016

Feeding America recently released its **Map the Meal Gap** report about food insecurity in Indiana¹. Using **2014** data, the most recent data available to them, they determined that **15.3%**, or over *one million Hoosiers*, are food insecure. Here at **Connect2Help211**, this mirrors our **real time data (2015-2016)** where **14%** of calls are for food assistance. Food searches on **www.Connect2Help211.org** account for **31%** of all searches.



While our numbers may be higher in some areas than **Feeding America's**, our data also captures those Hoosiers suddenly facing a financial crisis who may not traditionally be considered "food insecure."

Having our searchable database on our website allows us to reach even more Hoosiers in need. In 2015, for the first time, the number of people using the website to search for food resources matched the number of people dialing 2-1-1 for food.



For many needs, like utility or housing assistance, there is often detailed documentation and a multiple step process required to get help. Many Hoosiers turn to food assistance, which is often easier and closer to home, to free up dollars to use towards those bills. Knowing where to go for food, what to bring, and what days the resources are open, can be confusing for someone who has never needed help before. **2-1-1 Specialists** are there to explain and prepare clients to get them connected to the help they need. Below are the number of food resources located in each of our 35 counties.

County	Number of Food Resources	County	Number of Food Resources	County	Number of Food Resources	County	Number of Food Resources	County	Number of Food Resources
Benton	19	Fountain	19	Johnson	35	Owen	25	Tippecanoe	49
Boone	19	Franklin	19	Madison	43	Parke	19	Union	7
Carroll	23	Greene	31	Marion	196	Putnam	24	Vermillion	17
Clay	22	Hamilton	43	Martin	13	Randolph	22	Vigo	35
Daviess	17	Hancock	22	Monroe	41	Rush	17	Warren	17
Delaware	42	Hendricks	39	Montgomery	24	Shelby	24	Wayne	38
Fayette	13	Henry	30	Morgan	25	Sullivan	18	White	19

Even with all these resources, not all needs are able to be met. Sometimes lack of funding, capacity, or eligibility means there is no help available. **6%** of food needs were marked as "unmet."

Often, callers have an underlying situation that can exacerbate their need or create a barrier to accessing help. For food callers, the 5 most common underlying situations are:

The 5 most common reasons a food need went unmet are:

- Client Ineligible for Service —37%
- Call Interrupted / Terminated / Incomplete —29%
- Refused Available Resources—26%
- Client asked for specific agency against advice—10%
- No Resource Available —10%

- Illness / Disability—16%
- Reduction in Hours / Income—13%
- Unemployed / Laid Off—13%
- Uninsured / Underinsured—6%
- Homeless / Doubled-Up—5%

What can you do to help?

1 Donate dollars directly to a food bank like Gleaners or Midwest Food Bank. Each dollar can provide the equivalent of **three meals**. A tax deduction for you can mean food on the table for a family in need.

2 Donate food to a local food pantry. Goods like **soap, toilet paper, and diapers** also are especially helpful because these items can't be purchased with SNAP benefits.

3 Donate your time at a food pantry. Working directly with those who need help makes abstract concepts like "hunger" and "poverty" real and personal.



Dial **2-1-1** or visit www.Connect2Help211.org for more information.

Available 24/7/365



¹<http://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2014/overall/indiana> ²http://www.nfesh.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/NFESH_2016_Report_Supplement_030816.pdf