

# Hunger Post-Sandy and Solutions

Presented to the Council of New Jersey Grantmakers



**Feeding Families, Improving Lives.**

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# Food Insecurity by the Numbers

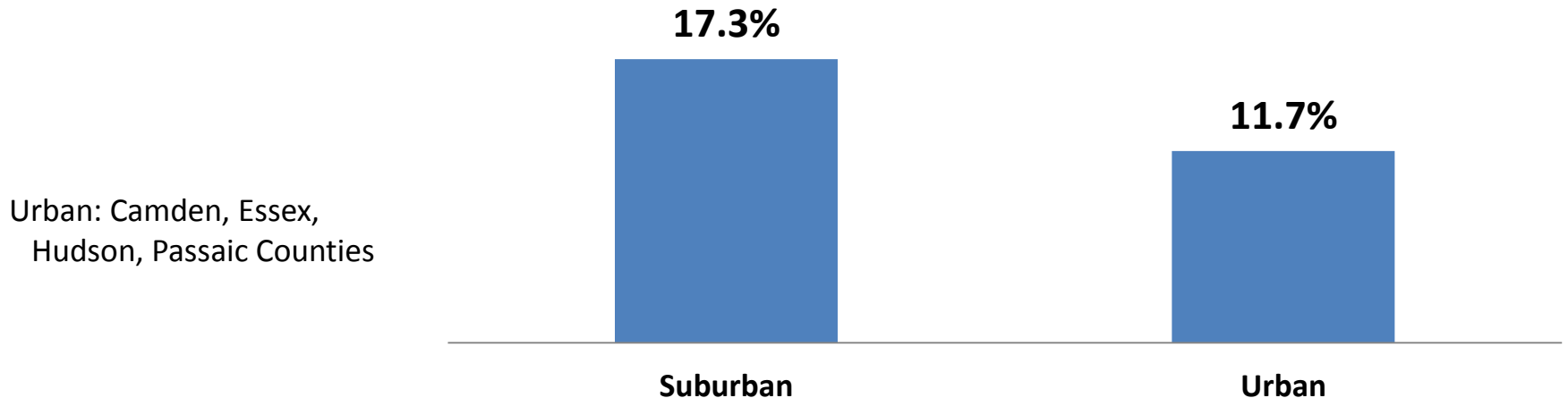
	Map the Meal Gap, 2014	2012 Data used for the calculation
<b><u>In the US:</u></b>	<b>1 in 6 people</b>	<b>48,966,000</b>
	<b>1 in 5 children</b>	<b>15,898,000</b>
<b><u>New Jersey:</u></b>	<b>1 in 8 people</b>	<b>1,151,890</b>
	<b>1 in 5 children</b>	<b>375,240</b>
<b><u>Monmouth:</u></b>	<b>1 in 10 people</b>	<b>64,180</b>
	<b>1 in 7 children</b>	<b>22,880</b>
<b><u>Ocean:</u></b>	<b>1 in 9 people</b>	<b>59,280</b>
	<b>1 in 5 children</b>	<b>27,510</b>

Source: Map the Meal data 2014, Feeding America.

# Urban and Suburban Hunger

## Poverty and Hunger shift to suburbs

### % Increase in Population below 200% of Poverty 2006-2011 by Urban/Suburban Counties



Urban: Camden, Essex,  
Hudson, Passaic Counties

- 55% of SNAP recipient households now live in suburbs (2011)
- 2007-2011 saw a 100% increase in SNAP recipients in suburbs (69% in urban areas)

Barriers to services are different than in urban areas:

- Less density of services available in suburbs than in urban areas
- Transportation (access) to services is more costly and difficult

# Impact of Hunger

## Children Who are Hungry

- Are sick more often, recover slowly, are hospitalized more often
- Get more headaches, stomachaches, colds, ear infections
- Are less likely to learn as much, as fast, or as well
- Have more behavioral, emotional, and academic problems
- Are more aggressive and anxious than adequately nourished children
- Teens are more likely to be suspended and have difficulty getting along with others.



## Adults and Children

- Are more susceptible to obesity, which is linked to diabetes, heart disease and cancers.

# Monmouth and Ocean Counties in Perspective

The FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties provides monthly food and resources to more than 127,500 individuals – including 51,000 children – through a network of 300 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other charities.

## Ocean County

- The fastest growing county in New Jersey
- **1 in 4** residents are low income (at or below 200% poverty)
- **80% increase in poverty** in last decade (6.7-11%)
- **Child poverty doubled** (10.4% – 19.2%)
- **2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of seniors** nationwide (21.4%)
- **13% of NJ's veterans**
- **Per capita income under state average** (\$30,000 vs \$35,000 for NJ)

Source: US Census, 2000 – 2010.

## Monmouth County

- An affluent, stable county with a growing number of low income residents
- **1 in 5** residents are low income (at or below 200% of poverty)
- **30% increase in poverty** (5.3% - 6.6%) in last decade
- **18% increase in child poverty** (6.8% – 8.7%)
- **Per capita income over state average** (\$43,000 vs. \$35,000 for New Jersey)

# Superstorm Sandy's Impact on Low Income Households

## ALICE HOUSEHOLDS

- ✓ “Asset-limited, income-constrained, employed”
- ✓ Above Federal Poverty but below financial stability
- ✓ 34 % of New Jersey's households

## SANDY'S DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT:

*ALICE Households incurred 53% of residential expenses but received only 27% of recovery resources.*

	<u>All Households</u>	<u>ALICE Households</u>
Expenses	\$ 7.84 billion	\$ 4.1 billion
Recovery Resources <i>(insurance public assistance non profits, loans)</i>	<u>\$ 6.95 billion</u>	<u>\$ 1.9 billion</u>
Unfunded	\$ 887 million	\$ 2.2 billion

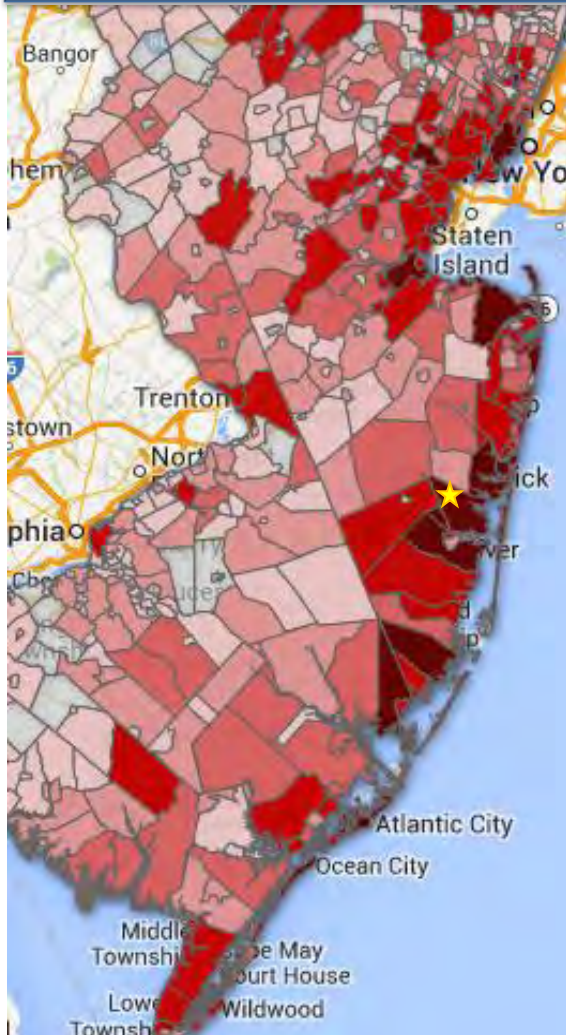
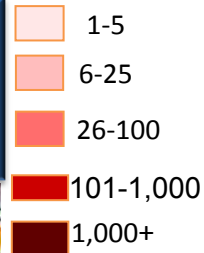
### WHY?

- 69% did not have insurance
- 90% did not have flood insurance
- No savings to cover lost wages or damages not covered by FEMA
- Likely to buy or rent in disaster-prone areas
- Work in service jobs essential to the State's economy and critical to the functioning of every community

Source: *The Impact of Superstorm Sandy on New Jersey Towns and Households*, Stephanie Hoopes Halpin, PhD, Rutgers – Newark, 2013

# Monmouth & Ocean Counties: Ground Zero for Superstorm Sandy

***New Jersey residences  
damaged during  
Superstorm Sandy***



***Over 40,000 structures in Ocean County and 10,000 in Monmouth County, were damaged or destroyed in the storm – 68% of the state’s total.***  
***(FEMA, 2012)***

**18 Months after Sandy,  
4,200 Monmouth and Ocean  
Sandy-impacted families  
still need emergency food  
each month.**

# Solutions to Hunger that Work

## Feed the Line

- Emergency Food Distribution (goal 10 million pounds 2015)
- Increase nutrition density
  - ✓ Fresh produce 20%
  - ✓ Low sugar, fat, sodium
  - ✓ High fiber, vitamins, minerals
- Target high needs areas



## Shorten the Line

Build Financial Security through Income Supports:

- ✓ SNAP (food stamps)
- ✓ EITC and other tax credits through VITA
- ✓ Health Insurance
- ✓ Others (utilities, disaster)

Employment opportunities

- ✓ Culinary Training Program

- *Savings and Asset Building*



# FoodBank Growth in Food Distribution



# Impact of Income Support

Household of 2 adults, 2 children, 1 wage earner with an income of 130% of poverty ,and a \$1500/month rental expense.

	<u>Without Income Support</u>	<u>With Income Support</u>
Monthly Income	\$ 2,643	\$ 2,643 <b>(130% poverty)</b>
Rent	(\$ 1,500)	(\$ 1,500)
Prescriptions	<u>(\$ 100)</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Available for other living expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,043</b>	<b>\$ 1,143</b>

## Income Support

Average monthly SNAP benefit	0	\$ 251.75
Average monthly tax benefit*	0	\$ 614.33
Average RX benefit (Medicaid)	<u>0</u>	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
Income Support additional income	0	<b>\$ 966.08</b>

## SUMMARY

<b>Total Monthly Income</b>	<b>\$ 2,643</b>	<b>\$ 3,609.08 (185% poverty)</b>
<b>Rent/Prescriptions</b>	<b><u>(1,600)</u></b>	<b><u>(1,500)</u></b>
<b>Available for other living expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,043</b>	<b>\$ 2,109.08</b>

*\* A qualifying household with 2 children can receive a \$5,372 EITC credit and \$1000 CTC/child for the year. Additional benefits can include child care assistance so a second parent can work, utilities assistance at \$475/year for heating and cooling.*