



**Feeding Florida:  
Responses to Hunger  
in the Sunshine State**

A Report from Florida Impact

2003

in partnership with  
Florida School Food Service Foundation



## Introduction

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In a period of economic decline, like the one currently underway in the United States, federal nutrition programs become increasingly important. Everyday, families are making choices between food and other necessities such as rent, electricity, or medical care. Utilization of federal programs can ensure that all Floridians, especially children, have access to nutritious foods. According to the Urban Institute, if every eligible family in the U.S. participated fully in existing federal safety net programs, nearly 4 million people could escape poverty.<sup>1</sup>

Food insecurity is the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, or the inability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways. Food insecure households do not have access to enough food to fully meet basic needs at all times. Adults in food insecure households are so limited in resources to buy food that they develop coping mechanisms when they run out. These include reducing the quality of food their family eats, feeding their children unbalanced diets, or skipping meals so their children can eat. There are estimated to be over 660,000 food insecure households in Florida.<sup>2</sup> Using the state's average of 2.46 individuals per household (Census 2000), it may be determined that there are potentially over 1.5 million Floridians facing food insecurity at some point during the year.

With food insecurity increasing in Florida households from 10.5 percent in 1999 to 12.2 percent in 2001, there comes a new urgency to the question of self-sufficiency. There are a growing number of families who are unable to stretch their incomes to meet the costs of basic necessities. Though many of these families are above the poverty line, their wages are inadequate. The national (and Florida's) minimum wage standard of \$5.15 an hour falls below the \$5.96 an hour needed to reach the federal poverty threshold for a family of two.<sup>3</sup> In an economy that is not providing enough year-round, full-time, living-wage jobs, a set of effective public supports for both unemployed and low-income working people and their families is essential.

An important opportunity for increasing participation in nutrition programs is immediately before us in the 2003 U.S. Congress: the reauthorization of child nutrition programs. Improvements to these programs can generate dramatic increases in participation, access, and food quality. For example, one streamlining proposal supports the use of comprehensive, uniform applications, so that one set of forms for program sponsors and one for applying families are designed to determine eligibility across multiple programs.

This report aims to assist Florida's communities in addressing the risks of hunger. An overview of the programs included in the reauthorization bill – School Breakfast, School Lunch, Summer Food, Child and Adult Care Food, and WIC – and of the state's Food Stamp Program are provided along with various proposed strategies for ensuring greater nutritional access. The report also provides estimates of household food insecurity and statistics on how well the federal nutrition programs address hunger in each of Florida's 67 counties.

Hunger and food insecurity can have irreversible consequences; and those consequences, directly or indirectly, impact everyone who lives and works in the State of Florida. It is, however, a problem not without resources. We entrust this report to you as a first resource in the efforts to secure the necessary response to hunger in your community.

**Florida Impact appreciates the support of the following funders:**

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Singing for Change (The Jimmy Buffet Foundation)

United Church of Christ Hunger Action

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## Food Insecurity in Florida Households

Since 1995, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has collected information on food spending, food access and adequacy, and sources of food assistance for the U.S. population. To measure the prevalence of food insecurity and hunger in U.S. households, information is collected on a yearly basis in food security surveys, conducted as a supplement to the nationally representative Current Population Survey. USDA reports in the series, *Measuring Food Security in the United States*, have summarized the findings of this research for each year from 1995 to 2001.

The Community Childhood Hunger Identification Project (CCHIP), one of the pioneer studies on hunger in America and forerunner to the USDA food security measure, used race, number of children, family income, and urban/rural residence as predictors of childhood hunger. Of the four, family income measured as a percentage of the poverty level was found to be the single most useful characteristic for predicting whether a family would be hungry or not. Likewise, this report uses poverty as a basis for measuring food insecurity. Using 1999 county poverty levels, we extrapolated county food insecurity rates in proportion to the ratio of the state poverty level to state food insecurity rate.<sup>4</sup>

County	Percent of Households Food Insecure	Rank	County	Percent of Households Food Insecure	Rank
Alachua	20.80%	3	Lee	7.73%	57
Baker	12.48%	32	Leon	16.82%	14
Bay	11.37%	34	Levy	16.14%	19
Bradford	13.63%	25	Liberty	17.13%	12
Brevard	8.15%	55	Madison	22.32%	2
Broward	9.67%	45	Manatee	8.18%	54
Calhoun	18.80%	4	Marion	10.95%	36
Charlotte	7.28%	61	Martin	6.77%	64
Citrus	10.13%	42	Miami-Dade	16.19%	17
Clay	5.51%	67	Monroe	9.03%	48
Collier	7.03%	62	Nassau	8.26%	52
Columbia	13.71%	23	Okaloosa	7.58%	59
DeSoto	14.56%	22	Okeechobee	13.53%	27
Dixie	17.94%	7	Orange	9.77%	44
Duval	10.36%	39	Osceola	9.48%	46
Escambia	13.05%	29	Palm Beach	8.02%	56
Flagler	6.93%	63	Pasco	9.28%	47
Franklin	16.24%	16	Pinellas	8.49%	51
Gadsden	17.06%	13	Polk	10.65%	38
Gilchrist	13.57%	26	Putnam	17.27%	10
Glades	12.73%	30	Saint Johns	7.33%	60
Gulf	16.05%	20	Saint Lucie	10.27%	41
Hamilton	23.04%	1	Santa Rosa	8.99%	49
Hardee	18.14%	6	Sarasota	6.38%	65
Hendry	17.28%	9	Seminole	6.36%	66
Hernando	8.76%	50	Sumter	11.24%	35
Highlands	12.11%	33	Suwannee	16.69%	15
Hillsborough	10.30%	40	Taylor	17.14%	11
Holmes	18.52%	5	Union	13.65%	24
Indian River	7.60%	58	Volusia	9.86%	43
Jackson	15.91%	21	Wakulla	10.73%	37
Jefferson	16.17%	18	Walton	12.59%	31
Lafayette	13.32%	28	Washington	17.59%	8
Lake	8.19%	53			

\* A rank of 1 indicates the highest percentage of food insecure households

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## The Food Stamp Program

The Food Stamp Program (FSP) is one of the most important national defenses against hunger. Food stamps provide benefits that can be used to buy food at authorized grocery stores and allow low-income households to obtain a nutritious diet. In addition, the benefits help hard-working people stretch their monthly income by freeing-up resources, so families do not have to make choices between buying food or paying rent and utilities, or between feeding their children and getting access to medical care.

While helping to combat food insecurity, food stamps can also bring in federal dollars to boost local and state economies. Data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) show that each \$5 in federally funded food stamp benefits generates approximately \$10 in economic activity.<sup>5</sup> In 2002 alone, \$912,802,741 was issued to Florida food stamp recipients. Like so many other states, Florida is facing severe revenue shortfalls; increasing participation in food stamps could provide an important economic stimulus to the state's economy.

In 1999 there were over 1 million people in Florida living under the federal poverty line who were not receiving food stamps.<sup>6</sup> This is actually a conservative estimate of non-participation given that individuals with gross incomes up to 130 percent of poverty are also eligible.<sup>7</sup> If 1 million more individuals were to begin receiving food stamps (using the average monthly per-person benefit in Florida of \$75 as the multiplier), an additional \$900 million in food stamp benefits would be introduced into the Florida economy over one year.

### Strategies to Ensure Greater Participation

#### State Responses:

- **Providing transitional food stamp benefits for TANF-leavers.**  
Regulatory changes generating from the 2002 FSP Reauthorization Bill provide states the option to allow families leaving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (for reasons other than sanctions) to continue receiving food stamps for up to five months, freezing the family's FSP benefit at the level the household was receiving before leaving TANF. Under this option, the state is not required to collect any information from the client to automatically extend FSP benefits, so there is no possibility for error on the state's part or loss of potentially eligible families from FSP roles. Food stamps are especially vital in this time of transition and provide families an important job support while making the shift from welfare to work. And yet in Florida, only 36 percent of TANF recipients who left the program between 1996 and 1998, remained on food stamps.<sup>8</sup>
- **Establishing semi-annual reporting.**  
Congressional reauthorization of the FSP also gave states the option to conduct semi-annual reporting for most categories of participants. Currently Florida employs a federal waiver that requires households to report changes in earned income if there is a change in a) source; b) hourly rate or salary; or c) employment status, i.e., part-time/full-time. Comparatively the semi-annual reporting option requires food stamp participants to only report if their gross income goes above 130 percent of poverty – nothing else. Under the semi-annual reporting option benefits are frozen for six months. Over half of the states (with more planning to implement) have picked up the semi-annual option, which is seen as a way to deal with FSP staff cutbacks because of reduced paperwork. This federal option is also one approach to reducing a state's error rate, which can result in federal penalties. Florida would only be required to act on one rather than three income reporting conditions, thereby reducing the potential for error. Additionally, with fewer reporting requirements food stamp households are more likely to remain on the program.

- **Expanding outreach strategies.**

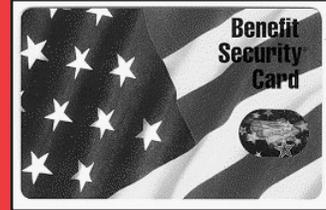
Statistics on food insecurity and poverty in Florida demonstrate the need for food stamps, yet not all of those that are eligible are participating. Reasons for non-participation include lack of information on the program, concerns about the process being too time-consuming, expectations that benefits will be too low, and issues of stigma. That is why the expansion of food stamp outreach activities to increase participation is vital. For example, automated food stamp prescreening software has been used effectively to bring into the program eligible households that were not formerly participating. Strategies for in-person as well as over-the-phone bi-lingual prescreening services have been piloted at Florida Impact with federal funding since 2000; the follow-up rate of those applying for food stamps was 1 in 3 with in-person prescreenings; and 1 in 4 with the toll-free helpline. The accuracy rate of the prescreening software was 97 percent, i.e., 97 percent of those with projected eligibility from the prescreening were certified eligible when they applied. Continued USDA funding for outreach could be used by the State of Florida to expand prescreening, bi-lingual services by piloting innovative strategies, like the electronic submission of Request for Assistance forms after callers have been prescreened through the statewide helpline and/or at local community-based organizations frequented by target populations. Effectively this strategy could reduce the number of client visits to the food stamp office required to complete the application process and alleviate pressure on food stamp workers.

**Federal Responses:**

- **Increasing the \$10 minimum benefit allowance and \$3,000 asset limit for seniors.**

Florida's senior population represents the nation's largest concentration of the per capita over-60 age group among the 50 states; and they face unique challenges in applying for food stamps. In two outreach strategies targeted to seniors, common issues around seniors' general resistance to the FSP were discovered. Many seniors, though income eligible, exceeded the \$3,000 asset limit due to a small savings, a modest IRA, or an account set up to cover their burial costs.

Additionally, many were not interested because the \$10 minimum benefit, which equates to only 30 cents per day, was perceived by seniors as too low for the barriers they encounter when applying. Lack of transportation is a key example; many elders without their own vehicles must rely on others to transport them to the food stamp office. In rural areas, where public transportation is not available, this is particularly common. Either way, it can entail a cost to fixed incomes. For example, one roundtrip taxicab fare from within one mile of a food stamp office in Miami-Dade County would cost a senior \$7. An additional hardship often comes when more than one trip to the food stamp office is required. Even though seniors may only qualify for the \$10 monthly minimum, they are still grappling with issues of food insecurity and poverty. Rather than fill out FSP paperwork, many turn to meals on wheels, private food pantries, or soup kitchens. During the 2002 congressional reauthorization of the FSP, a proposal for a \$25 hike to the minimum benefit level was proposed but failed to pass.



**Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) System – the Florida Benefit Security Card**

The Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) system automatically credits a client's account with the allotted monthly amount of food stamp and/or cash assistance benefits. The client is presented with a Benefit Security Card, which is designed to operate like a bank debit card. Cardholders can access their benefits at designated automated teller (ATM's) and point of sale (POS) machines at various stores and supermarkets. The EBT card replaces temporary cash assistance checks and food stamp coupons.

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## National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) provide cash reimbursements, as an entitlement, to schools that offer nutritious meals to children. Public and private schools as well as residential childcare agencies can participate in each of these programs, which together provide over half of a child's recommended daily allowance of nutrients. Children from low-income families are provided meals at a free or reduced rate depending on their income. To receive a reduced-price meal, household income must be below 185 percent of the federal poverty level [for a family of two: \$22,940 (2002)]. For free meals, household income must fall below 130 percent of poverty [\$16,120].

The National School Lunch Program, which began in 1946, is the oldest and largest of the child nutrition programs. According to the Food Research Action Center (FRAC), the NSLP serves lunch every day to more than half of America's school children, the majority of whom are low-income. In the 2001-2002 school year, over 1 million children in Florida received free or reduced-price lunches daily through the program.



Most schools have recognized for a long time the benefits of serving lunch to students but have been slower to realize the importance of serving breakfast. Created as a pilot in 1966 and first permanently authorized in 1975, the School Breakfast Program offers essential support to students. Today's long commuting patterns and varied work schedules mean that many children or parents leave home hours before school starts. A good breakfast is vital for these children to be alert and ready to learn. Anti-hunger groups, educators, nutritionists, and child advocates have worked hard to expand the reach of school breakfast, and Florida is above the national average in terms of schools participating in the SBP. Despite this, of the 744,706 schoolchildren who participated in free or reduced-price lunch during the 2001-2002 school year, only 313,591 (less than half) also participated in school breakfast.

In addition to children losing access to an essential nutritional resource, local communities lose an opportunity to bring federal dollars into their economies. If every child qualifying for free or reduced-price school meals during the 2002-2003 school year participated in the SBP, the state would bring in an additional \$800,000 per day, which would come to a minimum of \$144 million for the 2002-2003 school year alone.<sup>9</sup>

Every child deserves an equal opportunity to succeed in school. Numerous studies document the positive effect school breakfast has on hunger, nutrition, classroom behavior, test scores, grades and school attendance.<sup>10</sup> This kind of dramatic evidence demonstrates the need for increased participation in the School Breakfast Program.

## Strategies to Ensure Greater Participation

### State Responses:

- **Participating in Provision 2 of the National School Lunch Act, allowing schools with high numbers of low-income children to provide meals free of charge to every child.**

When Provision 2 kicks in, schools collect and process applications for free and reduced-price school meals as they would normally. The percentages for reimbursement to the free, reduced, and paid categories collected in the first year establish the set rate of reimbursement for the subsequent three years. Participating schools pay the difference between the cost of serving meals at no charge and the federal reimbursement with non-federal dollars, generally from the significant administrative savings afforded by the program. The reduction of paperwork frees up employee hours to focus on nutritional meal preparation and service. Under this provision, all students are allowed to eat free without distinction or meal tickets, creating faster serving lines and decreasing the stigma of participation in what is perceived as a “poverty program.” Consequently, schools experience an increase in meal participation, particularly with breakfast, and a resulting decrease in food service costs per meal.

*We are offering Provision 2 breakfast in all 80 of our schools in Brevard. We feel that if offering breakfast every day during FCAT improves test scores, offering it every day of the school year will have a positive impact on overall student performance. The comments we have gotten back from students and parents have been overwhelmingly positive. We are also getting positive comments from teachers regarding improvements in student behavior. One of the school nurses told a cafeteria manager she has seen a decline in the number of students visiting the nurse's office since we started the free breakfast program.*

Dawn Houser  
School Food Service Director  
Brevard County Schools

### Federal Responses:

- **Retaining current system of certification.**

A USDA overcertification estimate is being cited in some quarters to justify sweeping income verification proposals for children in the free and reduced-price categories of the National School Lunch Program. One proposal to combat overcertification would require that 16 million U.S. school children submit proof of family income before being allowed to eat free or reduced-price school lunches. Income verification demonstration projects carried out by USDA found that far more eligible low-income children were diverted from free or reduced-price lunch than ineligible children were deterred; for every student found ineligible, as many as six abandoned the program. A follow-up study in 1990 showed that, of the children who left the program because their parents had not provided proof of income, 81 percent actually qualified.<sup>11</sup> Lost paperwork, language problems, and all the other complications of broad income verification make such an effort a very imprecise tool in school lunch, a generator of unnecessary paperwork and bureaucracy, and an impediment to the historical goals of the program.

- **Implementing universal meal policies.**

For American children to derive the benefits proven to come with nutritious school meals, we must remove barriers to their participation. The experience of the last several years has shown that offering breakfast free of charge to all children in a school pulls more hungry, low-income children into the program. Creating the federal budget authority to underwrite all NSLP and SBP meals would eliminate the need for school meal categories, thereby disposing of unnecessary paperwork, destigmatizing the subsidy-eligible children, and making the provision of nutritious meals on par with and as undiscriminating as the bus ride to school. Here are several proposals that begin to address this strategy:

- ◆ Eliminating the reduced-price category, thus allowing all children from families with incomes up to 185 percent of poverty [\$22,940 for a family of 2 (2002)] to eat free and for schools to be reimbursed for these meals at the “free” rate;
- ◆ Implementing a broad universal breakfast initiative for children in pre-K through grade 3;
- ◆ Providing grants to states with the lowest SBP participation among low-income children for universal breakfast pilot programs;
- ◆ Creating a competitive grants program for schools that want to provide breakfast through Provision 2 to offset the cost difference for the reduced-price and paid meals;
- ◆ Instituting universal breakfast in those schools with a high percentage of children receiving free or reduced-price lunch.

- **Making it easier for schools in low-income areas to get the higher “severe need” reimbursement.**

Federal law defines “severe need” schools as those where 40 percent or more of the lunches served two years prior were served at free or reduced price, and where the costs of the breakfast program exceed the standard federal per meal reimbursement rate. Removal of the cumbersome cost accounting requirement that schools with large numbers of low-income students must follow to obtain the “severe need” reimbursement would take a lot of the paperwork out of running a school breakfast program. The extra resources provided by the increased reimbursement and the reduction in paperwork costs could draw more schools into the program and allow schools to provide better breakfasts and enhanced services.

- **Providing facility grants that give schools the resources they need to start new breakfast programs.**

Schools with limited resources may want to start up a breakfast program, expand its reach among the student body, or operate breakfast-in-the-classroom to overcome logistical problems in getting children to school in time for breakfast, but may not have the resources they need to accomplish these goals. Facility grants could make the critical difference for many schools.

- **Implementing the process of direct certification.**

Direct certification is a strategy that allows children from households participating in the Food Stamp Program or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families to be certified for free school meals without filling out a separate application for the school. This greatly simplifies the process for both families and school officials and helps increase participation of low-income children.

## Summer Food Service Program

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides meals to low-income children during school vacations when they do not have access to school meals. Programs can be located at schools, parks, playgrounds, churches, community centers, or anywhere that children gather. A recent USDA study evaluating the SFSP shows that 95 percent of summer food sites provide educational or physical activities as well as nutritious meals.<sup>12</sup> The meals often act as a “magnet” to draw children into these summer activities and, when coupled with the important nutritional component, ensure that children are as ready to learn during the summer as they are during the school year. For years, researchers have been documenting setbacks in educational achievement experienced during summer vacation, pointing to an ever-increasing need for this program.<sup>13</sup> Good nutrition is essential for effective learning every day, all year long.

Despite the fact that schools, public agencies, and private nonprofit organizations may serve as sponsors or site hosts, the program only reaches one out of the seven children in Florida for whom it is intended. In 2002, over 900,000 low-income children who qualified for free or reduced-price meals during the school year did not participate in a summer feeding program.<sup>14</sup> In addition to children losing access to an important nutritional resource, local communities lose an opportunity to infuse their economies with federal dollars. If every child qualifying for free or reduced-price school meals during the 2002-2003 school year was fed one lunch a day for 40 days during the summer (using the 2003 reimbursement rate of \$2.55 per lunch for both the meal and administrative costs), an additional \$94 million in federal funds would enter the Florida economy during one summer.<sup>15</sup> This is actually a conservative estimate because sponsors are allowed to feed two meals a day, thereby increasing their reimbursements. The Summer Food Service Program feeds children, provides healthy activities, generates summer employment, and stimulates local economies.

### Strategies to Ensure Greater Participation

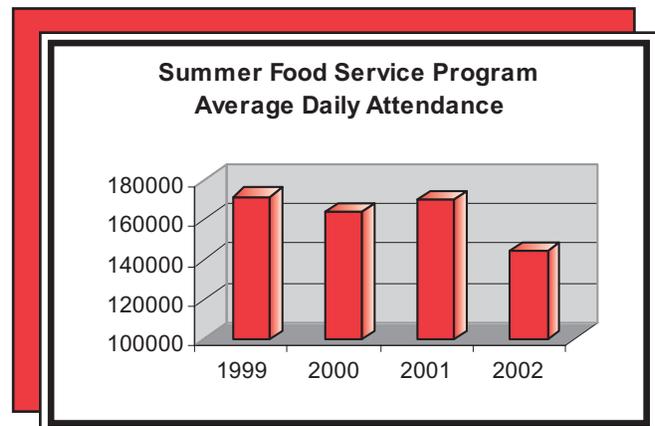
#### State Responses:

- **Creating more feeding sites.**

One proposal requires that each elementary school with over 50 percent of children qualifying for free or reduced-price school meals ensure that the SFSP is available for at least 40 days in the summer. This would guarantee that Florida’s eligible children, particularly in areas of concentrated need, have access.

- **Providing a full-time position to administer a comprehensive SFSP outreach plan.**

Low participation rates of both sponsors and children demonstrate the need for additional outreach. In the summer of 2002, the program was not offered in 14 Florida counties (Baker, Bradford, Calhoun, Clay, Colombia, Gulf, Hardee, Holmes, Jefferson, Lafayette, Liberty, Union, Wakulla, and Washington). In those counties alone, nearly 30,000 low-income, school children could benefit from this much-needed nutritional resource.<sup>16</sup> This position could assist these and many other counties in recruiting sponsors, advertising site locations, and conducting public education year-round.



Source: Florida Department of Education  
Dramatic cuts in the state's education budget and subsequent closings of summer schools in many school districts may have some bearing on the drops in 2002.

## Federal Responses:

- **Extending the “Lugar” SFSP pilot nationwide.**

In a recent FRAC survey, state officials reported burdensome paperwork as the number one obstacle to SFSP participation.<sup>17</sup> Current unnecessary paperwork and cost-accounting requirements keep potential sponsors, schools, and children from participating fully in the program. A SFSP pilot sponsored by Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN) in 2000 eases paperwork and provides the maximum reimbursement for all meals. The 13 states currently participating in the pilot showed an 8.9 percent increase in participation between July 2000 and July 2001 while the rest of the nation decreased by about 3.3 percent during the same time period.<sup>18</sup>

- **Changing the “seamless waiver” into law.**

Another option to reduce paperwork is the seamless waiver program, which is available only to school districts. The program was piloted in 2001 in three Florida counties and expanded nationwide in 2002. Under the seamless program, school districts operate the SFSP as an extension of the National School Lunch Program and are allowed to keep the reimbursement rates and paperwork from the school year. The advantage for schools is that they do not have to apply for and operate two different programs. Converting the waiver into law would make establish rules and authorize payment of rate reimbursements.

*If you want to get a good grasp of the program, to see the real impact, go to a feeding site on a Monday and you will know that the children haven't had a nutritious meal since Friday ... just go and you will see.*

Charles Mulvaney, Supervisor  
Summer Food Service Program  
Florida Department of Education

- **Reducing the area eligibility threshold from 50 to 40 percent.**

Currently, if 50 percent of children in an area qualify for free or reduced-price school meals, sponsors can operate open summer food sites at which all children under 18 can eat free. Operating an open site reduces paperwork and barriers for sponsors. Reducing the qualification to 40 percent would potentially generate more eligible sites around the state.

- **Increasing reimbursement rates and including start-up grants.**

A recent FRAC survey found that the low reimbursement rates, in relation to the costs of running the program, often act as barriers to operating the program. Since the 1996 welfare law cut reimbursement rates and ended SFSP start-up grants, program expansion has essentially stopped.<sup>19</sup>

- **Providing additional resources for underserved areas.**

Of the 14 Florida counties not offering the SFSP in the summer of 2002, all are rural and face difficult transportation issues for low-income children who are dispersed across the county. Additional funds could help pay for transportation as well as start-up and outreach costs some programs, especially those in rural areas, need to be successful.

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## Child and Adult Care Food Program

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) plays a vital role in improving the quality of day care and making it more affordable for many low-income families. Each day, over 2 million children across the country receive nutritious meals and snacks through child care centers, Head Start programs, family child care homes, homeless and domestic violence shelters, and afterschool programs. The CACFP also provides meals and snacks to 74,000 adults who receive care in nonresidential adult day care centers. Independent centers and sponsoring organizations receive cash reimbursements for serving meals that meet federal nutritional guidelines to enrolled children and adults. In Florida, the Child Care Food Program is administered by the Department of Health while the Department of Elder Affairs handles the Adult Care Food Program.

### In Florida during 2002:

- the Adult Care Food Program served over 1.7 million meals,
- the Child Care Food Program served over 78 million meals and
- over 129,000 children were fed per day.

Good nutrition and quality child care are essential for the healthy development of preschool children. The Child and Adult Care Food Program promotes both – allowing children to develop fully, preparing children to enter school ready to learn, and helping working families work. While Florida has seen participation in these programs rise steadily over the past few years, there are key changes that could greatly enhance the program's success.

### Strategies to Ensure Greater Participation

#### Federal Responses:

- **Continuing the extension of CACFP eligibility to children in for-profit child care centers serving 25 percent or more low-income children.**

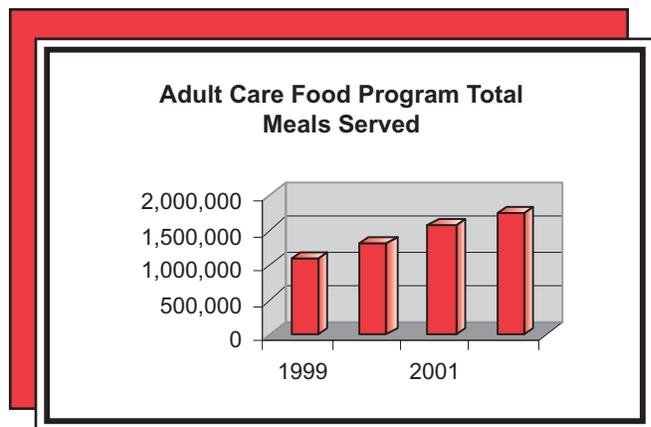
Starting as a pilot in Kentucky and Iowa in 1994, USDA allowed for-profit child care centers serving at least 25 percent low-income children to participate in the CACFP and receive cash reimbursements for meals served. In 2000, this option was temporarily extended to all states and was authorized through fiscal year 2002. Prior to 1994, for-profit child care centers could not participate. If made permanent, this option would help the CACFP continue to reach even more low-income children.

- **Lowering area eligibility guidelines from 50 to 40 percent.**

Area eligibility, currently at 50 percent, is used to qualify CACFP homes for Tier 1 status, which provides higher reimbursement rates for meals. A reduction in this guideline would allow homes located in school zones having 40 percent of children eligible for free or reduced-price meals to qualify for Tier 1 status, providing an incentive for more homes to participate.

- **Raising reimbursement rates for family child care homes in rural and low-income areas.**

Some areas require additional time and resources to better serve the target communities. Rural areas need more resources for transportation; certain low-income areas require two-person monitoring teams; other areas need additional assistance to help low-income families and providers overcome language and literacy barriers in order to participate.

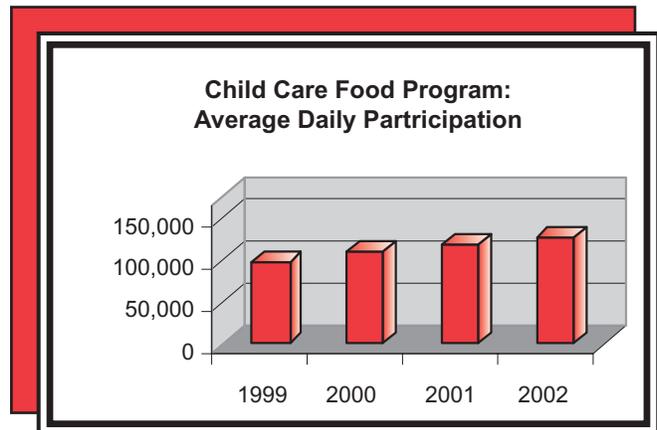


Source: Florida Department of Elder Affairs

- **Establishing an incentive grant program to encourage the use of the CACFP to improve children’s nutrition and child care quality.**

Sponsors need the resources that let them focus on important nutrition education and support services – services that have been pushed aside since paperwork increased in 1996.<sup>20</sup> The incentive grant program could be designed to:

- ◆ Enhance CACFP nutrition education, including obesity prevention, focusing on food and activity, anemia prevention, and food safety;
- ◆ Produce models and materials addressing language and cultural issues for serving special populations, including immigrant communities;
- ◆ Create outreach partnerships; and
- ◆ Make innovative use of technology to improve program access and nutrition education.



Source: Florida Department of Health

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## Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a federally funded preventive nutrition program that provides supplemental foods, nutrition counseling and education, and health care access to low-income pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and children under five at nutritional risk.

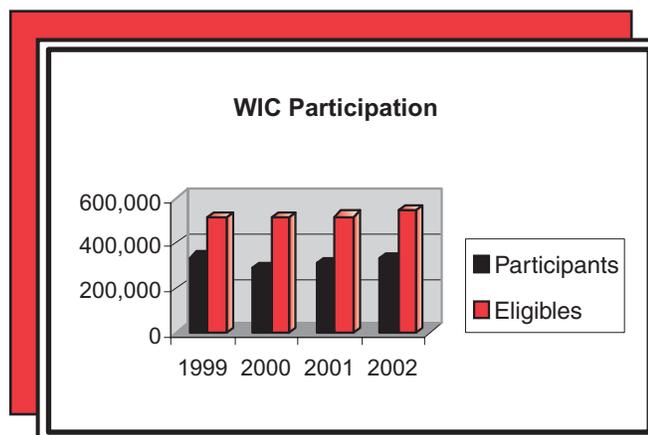
WIC provides vouchers to buy foods that are rich in protein, iron, calcium, vitamins A and C, and folic acid. These are all key nutrients for the health of women and children that are often lacking in the diets of low-income people. Along with providing the means to obtain these foods, WIC educates mothers about the relationship between nutrition and health. Research continually shows that good nutrition during pregnancy and early childhood, which WIC promotes and supports, has a positive impact on health and development. WIC children enter school ready to learn and have better cognitive performance. In addition WIC increases birth weight and decreases neonatal deaths and premature infants.<sup>21</sup> In Florida, every dollar spent on prenatal care saved the state \$1.77 in Medicaid costs in the first 60 days after birth.<sup>22</sup> In fact, for every dollar spent on the prenatal component of the WIC program, there is a savings of \$3.50 over the next 18 years in other costs (hospitalization, outpatient care, and special education).<sup>23</sup>

Despite these dramatic results, WIC currently operates with a limited amount of funding, which consequently makes the program unavailable to many who are eligible. Unlike all of the other programs in this report, WIC does not enjoy “entitlement” status; therefore funding levels are rarely enough to meet the needs of all who qualify for benefits.

### Strategies to Ensure Greater Participation

#### Federal Response:

- **Restructuring WIC such that all women, infants, and children who are eligible can participate.** Since WIC is not an entitlement program, funds have not been appropriated by Congress to assist every eligible individual. The Florida Department of Health, which administers the program, estimates that it will only serve 61 percent of the potentially eligible population in the federal fiscal year 2003. An additional 200,000 eligible women and children in Florida could be served if federal funds were available.

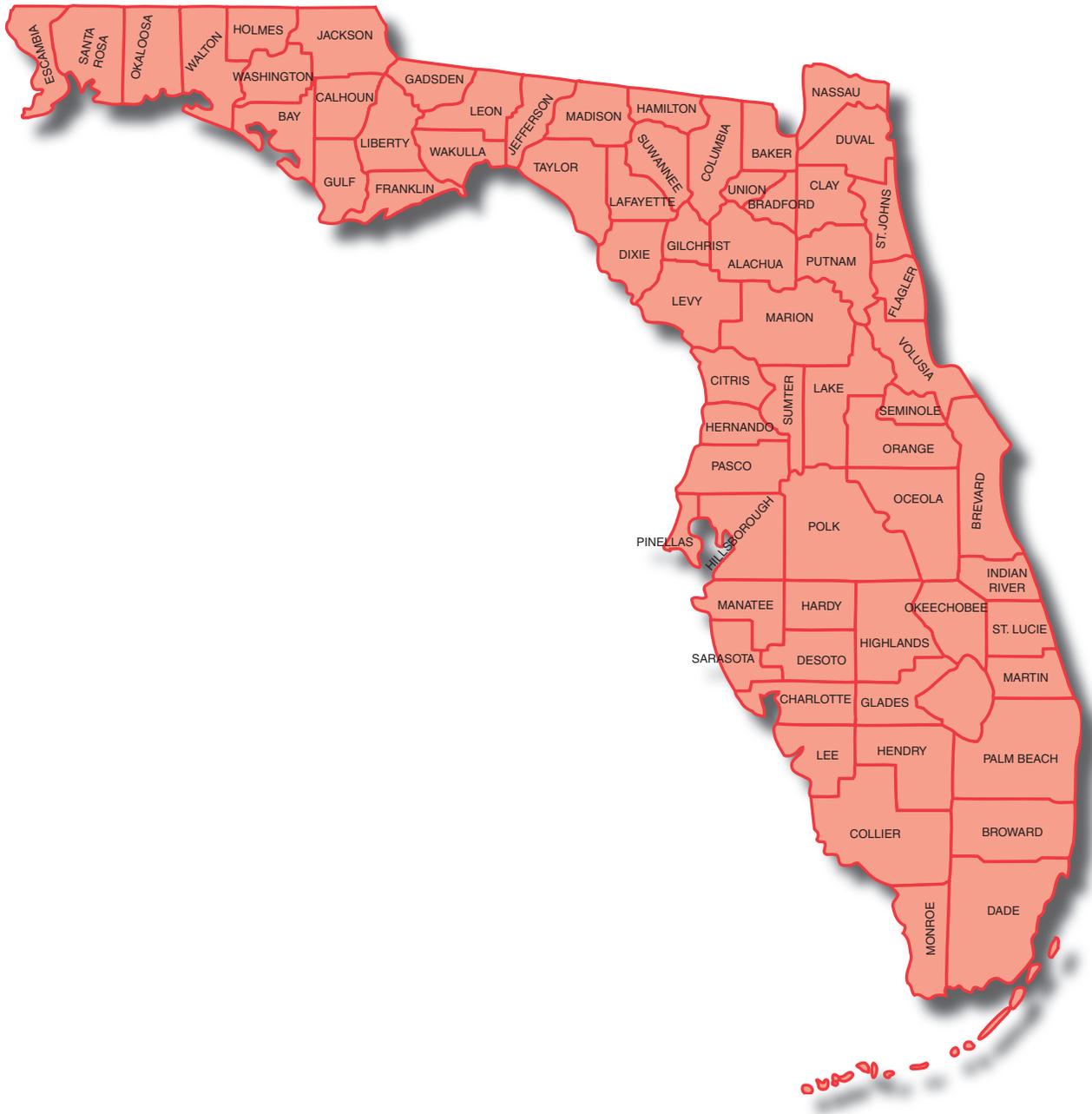


Source: Florida Department of Health

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## County Data

The following pages present data on the extent of hunger and the use of nutrition programs in the State of Florida as well as in each of the 67 counties. Through these data, a snapshot is provided of how well each county uses these available tools to meet the needs of hungry people and improve the health of low-income families. For detailed information about the following data, please refer to the Sources. Under the county rankings, a rank of ‘1’ indicates the county with the highest percentage of eligibles participating in each program; a ‘t’ indicates a tied ranking.



## Florida

### FOOD INSECURITY (2001)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 12.20%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$21,557  
 Poverty rate 12.5%  
 Number of persons in poverty 1,952,629  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 627,997  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 17.6%  
 Number of persons unemployed 412,411  
 Unemployment rate 5.6%

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 1,010,222  
 Average monthly number of households 484,561  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$912,802,741  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$75  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 48.3%

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 313,591  
 Paid 53,521  
 Total 367,112  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 28.4%

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 744,705  
 Paid 369,726  
 Total 1,114,430  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for free and reduced-price lunch 52.3%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 2,680  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 137  
 How many school boards served as a sponsor in 2002? 37  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 143,849  
 Change since 1999 -27,504  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food Service and summer School Lunch Program 156,185  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 14.2%

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 334,228  
 Percent change since 1999 -1.1%  
 Potentially eligible persons 550,426  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 60.7%

### CHILD CARE FOOD PROGRAM (2002)

Total meals served 78,427,205  
 Average daily participation 129,469  
 Percent change since 1999 23.1%

### ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (2002)

Total meals served 1,733,842  
 Percent change since 1999 37.1%

## Alachua County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 20.80%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$18,465  
 Poverty rate 22.8%  
 Number of persons in poverty 46,939  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 8,522  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 19.9%  
 Number of persons unemployed 7,902  
 Unemployment rate 7.0%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.99 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 17,434  
 Average monthly number of households 7,771  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$16,113,894  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$77  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 35.0%  
 County ranking 57

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 4,956  
 Paid 365  
 Total 5,321  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 38.1%  
 County ranking 15t

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 8,697  
 Paid 2,762  
 Total 11,460  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for free and reduced-price lunch 56.2%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 57  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 6  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? No  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 1,763  
 Change since 1999 -1,107  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food Service and summer School Lunch Program 1,813  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 13.9%  
 County ranking 15

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 4,493  
 Percent change since 1999 -1.7%  
 Potentially eligible persons 7,582  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 59.3%

## Baker County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 12.48%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$15,164  
Poverty rate 14.7%  
Number of persons in poverty 2961  
Number of children under 18 in poverty 1,399  
Poverty rate for children under 18 23.2%  
Number of persons unemployed 437  
Unemployment rate 4.5%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
(assuming two full-time adults) \$8.40 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 2,115  
Average monthly number of households 858  
Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$1,866,293  
Average monthly benefit per person \$74  
Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 58.5%  
County ranking 18

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
Free and reduced-price 703  
Paid 206  
Total 909  
Estimated percent of eligibles participating 38.1%  
County ranking 15t

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
Free and reduced-price 1,456  
Paid 1,125  
Total 2,581  
Percent elementary students qualifying for  
free and reduced-price lunch 53.4%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 0  
Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 0  
Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? No  
Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 0  
Change since 1999 0  
Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
Service and summer School Lunch Program 0  
Estimated percent of eligibles participating 0%  
County ranking 0

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 765  
Percent change since 1999 -2.2%  
Potentially eligible persons 1,156  
Percent of potentially eligible persons served 66.2%

## Bay County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 11.37%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$18,700  
Poverty rate 13.0%  
Number of persons in poverty 18,882  
Number of children under 18 in poverty 6,606  
Poverty rate for children under 18 18.8%  
Number of persons unemployed 3,360  
Unemployment rate 4.9%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
(assuming two full-time adults) \$8.42 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 12,189  
Average monthly number of households 5,459  
Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$10,627,314  
Average monthly benefit per person \$73  
Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 63.8%  
County ranking 13

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
Free and reduced-price 3,288  
Paid 477  
Total 3,765  
Estimated percent of eligibles participating 28.4%  
County ranking 46

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
Free and reduced-price 7,871  
Paid 4,885  
Total 12,756  
Percent elementary students qualifying for  
free and reduced-price lunch 56.2%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 34  
Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 2  
Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 1,092  
Change since 1999 -633  
Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
Service and summer School Lunch Program 1,122  
Estimated percent of eligibles participating 9.7%  
County ranking 33

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 4,305  
Percent change since 1999 -8.4%  
Potentially eligible persons 6,127  
Percent of potentially eligible persons served 70.3%

## Bradford County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 13.63%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$14,226  
 Poverty rate 14.6%  
 Number of persons in poverty 3183  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 1,058  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 19.3%  
 Number of persons unemployed 485  
 Unemployment rate 4.8%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.67 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 2,744  
 Average monthly number of households 1,172  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$2,467,649  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$75  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 81.9%  
 County ranking 3

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 636  
 Paid 121  
 Total 757  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 30.0%  
 County ranking 39

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 1,412  
 Paid 723  
 Total 2,135  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 63.0%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 0  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 0  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? No  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 0  
 Change since 1999 -65  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 0  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 0%  
 County ranking 0

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 650  
 Percent change since 1999 5.5%  
 Potentially eligible persons 1,047  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 62.1%

## Brevard County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 8.15%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$21,484  
 Poverty rate 9.5%  
 Number of persons in poverty 44,218  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 13,753  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 13.5%  
 Number of persons unemployed 10,729  
 Unemployment rate 4.9%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$9.19 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 21,825  
 Average monthly number of households 10,037  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$18,961,015  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$72  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 49.3%  
 County ranking 34

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 3,649  
 Paid 1,613  
 Total 5,262  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 16.4%  
 County ranking 67

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 12,950  
 Paid 12,240  
 Total 25,190  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 33.7%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 10  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 2  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? No  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 461  
 Change since 1999 4  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 950  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 4.3%  
 County ranking 45

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 6,977  
 Percent change since 1999 0.1%  
 Potentially eligible persons 10,441  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 66.8%

## Broward County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 9.67%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$23,170  
 Poverty rate 11.5%  
 Number of persons in poverty 184,589  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 58,815  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 15.7%  
 Number of persons unemployed 42,833  
 Unemployment rate 5.3%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$11.14 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 66,733  
 Average monthly number of households 32,603  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$62,701,679  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$78  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 31.6%  
 County ranking 63

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 26,999  
 Paid 8,306  
 Total 35,305  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 27.5%  
 County ranking 48

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 60,763  
 Paid 44,642  
 Total 105,406  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 44.7%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 175  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 16  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 9,088  
 Change since 1999 -12,943  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 9,984  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 10.2%  
 County ranking 29

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 21,099  
 Percent change since 1999 2.9%  
 Potentially eligible persons 43,564  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 48.4%

## Calhoun County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 18.80%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$12,379  
 Poverty rate 20.0%  
 Number of persons in poverty 2252  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 693  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 23.6%  
 Number of persons unemployed 321  
 Unemployment rate 6.5%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.19 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 1,460  
 Average monthly number of households 694  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$1,158,089  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$66  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 70.5%  
 County ranking 9

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 520  
 Paid 81  
 Total 601  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 48.5%  
 County ranking 3

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 822  
 Paid 427  
 Total 1,249  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 60.4%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 0  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 0  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? No  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 0  
 Change since 1999 0  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 0  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 0%  
 County ranking 0

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 552  
 Percent change since 1999 8.7%  
 Potentially eligible persons 758  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 72.8%

## Charlotte County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 7.28%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income	\$21,806
Poverty rate	8.2%
Number of persons in poverty	11,419
Number of children under 18 in poverty	2,883
Poverty rate for children under 18	13.3%
Number of persons unemployed	1,822
Unemployment rate	3.5%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
(assuming two full-time adults) \$9.37 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation	4,577
Average monthly number of households	2,192
Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002)	\$3,930,866
Average monthly benefit per person	\$72
Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999)	33.1%
County ranking	60

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation	
Free and reduced-price	2,334
Paid	530
Total	2,864
Estimated percent of eligibles participating	32.5%
County ranking	33t

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation	
Free and reduced-price	5,861
Paid	5,276
Total	11,137
Percent elementary students qualifying for free and reduced-price lunch	48.6%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites	10
Number of Summer Food Service sponsors	1
Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002?	Yes
Average daily Summer Food Service attendance	968
Change since 1999	-334
Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food Service and summer School Lunch Program	968
Estimated percent of eligibles participating	13.5%
County ranking	16

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation	2,093
Percent change since 1999	-10.9%
Potentially eligible persons	2,948
Percent of potentially eligible persons served	71.0%

## Citrus County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 10.13%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income	\$18,585
Poverty rate	11.7%
Number of persons in poverty	13,541
Number of children under 18 in poverty	3,674
Poverty rate for children under 18	18.7%
Number of persons unemployed	2,775
Unemployment rate	6.7%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
(assuming two full-time adults) \$8.22 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation	6,821
Average monthly number of households	2,975
Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002)	\$5,722,021
Average monthly benefit per person	\$70
Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999)	48.8%
County ranking	35t

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation	
Free and reduced-price	1,230
Paid	278
Total	1,508
Estimated percent of eligibles participating	19.5%
County ranking	63

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation	
Free and reduced-price	4,161
Paid	2,615
Total	6,776
Percent elementary students qualifying for free and reduced-price lunch	49.9%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites	4
Number of Summer Food Service sponsors	1
Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002?	No
Average daily Summer Food Service attendance	147
Change since 1999	147
Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food Service and summer School Lunch Program	175
Estimated percent of eligibles participating	2.8%
County ranking	50

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation	1,924
Percent change since 1999	-7.5%
Potentially eligible persons	3,235
Percent of potentially eligible persons served	59.5%

## Clay County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 5.51%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$20,868  
Poverty rate 6.8%  
Number of persons in poverty 9,437  
Number of children under 18 in poverty 3,588  
Poverty rate for children under 18 9.3%  
Number of persons unemployed 3,227  
Unemployment rate 4.6%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
(assuming two full-time adults) \$9.53 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 3,781  
Average monthly number of households 1,696  
Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$3,223,633  
Average monthly benefit per person \$71  
Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 26.4%  
County ranking 66

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
Free and reduced-price 1,635  
Paid 775  
Total 2,410  
Estimated percent of eligibles participating 24.9%  
County ranking 55

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
Free and reduced-price 5,371  
Paid 10,354  
Total 15,725  
Percent elementary students qualifying for  
free and reduced-price lunch 27.5%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 0  
Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 0  
Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? No  
Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 0  
Change since 1999 0  
Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
Service and summer School Lunch Program 0  
Estimated percent of eligibles participating 0%  
County ranking 0

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 2,159  
Percent change since 1999 -24.1%  
Potentially eligible persons 4,077  
Percent of potentially eligible persons served 53.0%

## Collier County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 7.03%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$31,195  
Poverty rate 10.3%  
Number of persons in poverty 25,449  
Number of children under 18 in poverty 8,260  
Poverty rate for children under 18 17.0%  
Number of persons unemployed 4,004  
Unemployment rate 3.7%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
(assuming two full-time adults) \$10.14 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 6,558  
Average monthly number of households 3,169  
Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$5,907,300  
Average monthly benefit per person \$75  
Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 27.2%  
County ranking 65

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
Free and reduced-price 5,176  
Paid 941  
Total 6,117  
Estimated percent of eligibles participating 32.5%  
County ranking 33t

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
Free and reduced-price 11,726  
Paid 6,659  
Total 18,384  
Percent elementary students qualifying for  
free and reduced-price lunch 50.2%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 27  
Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? No  
Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 3,056  
Change since 1999 458  
Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
Service and summer School Lunch Program 3,056  
Estimated percent of eligibles participating 19.2%  
County ranking 10

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 6,904  
Percent change since 1999 11.9%  
Potentially eligible persons 9,774  
Percent of potentially eligible persons served 70.6%

## Columbia County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 13.71%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$14,598  
 Poverty rate 15.0%  
 Number of persons in poverty 8,027  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 2,468  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 17.6%  
 Number of persons unemployed 1,464  
 Unemployment rate 6.0%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.34 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 6,734  
 Average monthly number of households 2,745  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$5,685,815  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$70  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 74.8%  
 County ranking 7

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 1,310  
 Paid 155  
 Total 1,465  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 26.2%  
 County ranking 53

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 3,589  
 Paid 1,383  
 Total 4,972  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 61.3%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 0  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 0  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? No  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 0  
 Change since 1999 -510  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 49  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 1.0%  
 County ranking 52

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 1,594  
 Percent change since 1999 -1.9%  
 Potentially eligible persons 3,028  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 52.6%

## DeSoto County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 14.56%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$14,000  
 Poverty rate 23.6%  
 Number of persons in poverty 7,030  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 2,236  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 32.6%  
 Number of persons unemployed 708  
 Unemployment rate 5.3%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.52 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 2,495  
 Average monthly number of households 1,037  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$2,022,276  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$68  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 32.7%  
 County ranking 61

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 831  
 Paid 62  
 Total 893  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 28.8%  
 County ranking 42

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 2,377  
 Paid 762  
 Total 3,139  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 71.1%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)\*

Number of Summer Food Service sites 2  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 0  
 Change since 1999 0  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 0  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 0%  
 County ranking 0

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 1,487  
 Percent change since 1999 3.8%  
 Potentially eligible persons 2,277  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 65.3%

\* Neither DeSoto County sponsor operated in the month of July.

## Dixie County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 17.94%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$13,559  
 Poverty rate 19.1%  
 Number of persons in poverty 2428  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 725  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 24.1%  
 Number of persons unemployed 368  
 Unemployment rate 7.4%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.11 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 1,759  
 Average monthly number of households 747  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$1,377,758  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$65  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 72.6%  
 County ranking 8

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 592  
 Paid 79  
 Total 671  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 41.1%  
 County ranking 8

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 1,111  
 Paid 318  
 Total 1,429  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 71.3%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 12  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 541  
 Change since 1999 541  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 541  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 37.6%  
 County ranking 1

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 347  
 Percent change since 1999 -10.4%  
 Potentially eligible persons 700  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 49.6%

## Duval County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 10.36%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$20,753  
 Poverty rate 11.9%  
 Number of persons in poverty 90,828  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 33,807  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 16.8%  
 Number of persons unemployed 19,176  
 Unemployment rate 5.0%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$9.56 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 44,225  
 Average monthly number of households 18,735  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$41,036,669  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$77  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 43.1%  
 County ranking 45

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 17,275  
 Paid 2,960  
 Total 20,235  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 29.7%  
 County ranking 40

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 38,643  
 Paid 20,136  
 Total 58,778  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 54.6%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 315  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 7  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 13,144  
 Change since 1999 -2,114  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 13,144  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 22.6%  
 County ranking 4

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 15,694  
 Percent change since 1999 -4.8%  
 Potentially eligible persons 32,956  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 47.6%

## Escambia County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 13.05%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$18,641  
 Poverty rate 15.4%  
 Number of persons in poverty 41,978  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 16,340  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 24.1%  
 Number of persons unemployed 8,528  
 Unemployment rate 6.6%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.87 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 24,532  
 Average monthly number of households 9,684  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$21,021,747  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$71  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 57.8%  
 County ranking 19

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 8,155  
 Paid 537  
 Total 8,692  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 32.9%  
 County ranking 32

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 18,424  
 Paid 5,262  
 Total 23,686  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 65.6%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 48  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? No  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 1,214  
 Change since 1999 -69  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 1,214  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 4.9%  
 County ranking 42

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 7,479  
 Percent change since 1999 -7.9%  
 Potentially eligible persons 13,342  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 56.1%

## Flagler County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 6.93%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$21,879  
 Poverty rate 8.7%  
 Number of persons in poverty 4,287  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 1,426  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 16.2%  
 Number of persons unemployed 836  
 Unemployment rate 4.3%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$9.50 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 1,956  
 Average monthly number of households 888  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$1,685,407  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$72  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 44.3%  
 County ranking 40

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 879  
 Paid 530  
 Total 1,409  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 38.0%  
 County ranking 18

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 1,799  
 Paid 1,091  
 Total 2,890  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 34.3%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 4  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? No  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 104  
 Change since 1999 -13  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 104  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 4.5%  
 County ranking 44

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 805  
 Percent change since 1999 12.3%  
 Potentially eligible persons 1,102  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 73.0%

## Franklin County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 16.24%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$16,140  
 Poverty rate 17.7%  
 Number of persons in poverty 1654  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 456  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 23.1%  
 Number of persons unemployed 147  
 Unemployment rate 3.6%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.51 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 502  
 Average monthly number of households 225  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$437,345  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$73  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 36.3%  
 County ranking 55

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 210  
 Paid 18  
 Total 228  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 23.5%  
 County ranking 58

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 638  
 Paid 212  
 Total 849  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 67.2%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 4  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? No  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 155  
 Change since 1999 -155  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 155  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 17.4%  
 County ranking 12

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 226  
 Percent change since 1999 -52.2%  
 Potentially eligible persons 459  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 49.2%

## Gadsden County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 17.06%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$14,499  
 Poverty rate 19.9%  
 Number of persons in poverty 8,509  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 3,358  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 28.4%  
 Number of persons unemployed 1,476  
 Unemployment rate 7.6%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$9.43 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 5,765  
 Average monthly number of households 2,473  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$4,768,828  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$69  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 78.1%  
 County ranking 6

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 2,265  
 Paid 153  
 Total 2,418  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 39.8%  
 County ranking 11

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 4,410  
 Paid 589  
 Total 4,999  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 83.5%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 35  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 1,167  
 Change since 1999 508  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 1,167  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 20.5%  
 County ranking 6t

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 2,158  
 Percent change since 1999 -5.3%  
 Potentially eligible persons 2,738  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 78.8%

## Gilchrist County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 13.57%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$13,985  
 Poverty rate 14.1%  
 Number of persons in poverty 1844  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 627  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 18.0%  
 Number of persons unemployed 267  
 Unemployment rate 4.4%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.14 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 1,181  
 Average monthly number of households 484  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$957,754  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$68  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 54.5%  
 County ranking 24

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 423  
 Paid 55  
 Total 478  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 28.7%  
 County ranking 43

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 1,064  
 Paid 474  
 Total 1,538  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 62.3%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 2  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 96  
 Change since 1999 96  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 96  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 6.5%  
 County ranking 37

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 427  
 Percent change since 1999 2.8%  
 Potentially eligible persons 868  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 49.2%

## Glades County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 12.73%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$15,338  
 Poverty rate 15.2%  
 Number of persons in poverty 1487  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 445  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 19.6%  
 Number of persons unemployed 357  
 Unemployment rate 8.8%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.63 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)\*

Average monthly participation N/A  
 Average monthly number of households N/A  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) N/A  
 Average monthly benefit per person N/A  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) N/A  
 County ranking N/A

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 195  
 Paid 18  
 Total 213  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 28.5%  
 County ranking 44t

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 537  
 Paid 130  
 Total 667  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 76.1%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 2  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 109  
 Change since 1999 -68  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 109  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 15.9%  
 County ranking 13

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 44  
 Percent change since 1999 -138.6%  
 Potentially eligible persons 546  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 8.1%

\* Glades County is served by the Hendry County Food Stamp  
 Offices

## Gulf County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 16.05%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$14,449  
 Poverty rate 16.7%  
 Number of persons in poverty 1988  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 601  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 21.3%  
 Number of persons unemployed 297  
 Unemployment rate 6.0%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.45 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 1,161  
 Average monthly number of households 555  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$949,776  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$68  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 69.5%  
 County ranking 10

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 221  
 Paid 8  
 Total 229  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 19.3%  
 County ranking 64

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 764  
 Paid 313  
 Total 1,078  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 59.6%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 0  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 0  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? No  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 0  
 Change since 1999 0  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 0  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 0%  
 County ranking 0

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 311  
 Percent change since 1999 -47.3%  
 Potentially eligible persons 449  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 69.2%

## Hamilton County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 23.04%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$10,562  
 Poverty rate 26.0%  
 Number of persons in poverty 2799  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 1,069  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 36.0%  
 Number of persons unemployed 314  
 Unemployment rate 7.1%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.03 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 1,417  
 Average monthly number of households 560  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$1,235,076  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$73  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 56.0%  
 County ranking 22t

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 575  
 Paid 43  
 Total 618  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 37.0%  
 County ranking 20

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 1,155  
 Paid 254  
 Total 1,410  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 79.3%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 5  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 173  
 Change since 1999 -20  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 173  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 11.1%  
 County ranking 25

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 318  
 Percent change since 1999 -14.5%  
 Potentially eligible persons 773  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 41.1%

## Hardee County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 18.14%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income	\$12,445
Poverty rate	24.6%
Number of persons in poverty	6,232
Number of children under 18 in poverty	2,248
Poverty rate for children under 18	31.1%
Number of persons unemployed	1,068
Unemployment rate	9.7%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
(assuming two full-time adults) \$8.72 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation	3,484
Average monthly number of households	1,368
Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002)	\$3,046,235
Average monthly benefit per person	\$73
Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999)	52.4%
County ranking	28

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation	
Free and reduced-price	967
Paid	105
Total	1,072
Estimated percent of eligibles participating	27.2%
County ranking	50

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation	
Free and reduced-price	2,857
Paid	891
Total	3,748
Percent elementary students qualifying for free and reduced-price lunch	76.8%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites	0
Number of Summer Food Service sponsors	0
Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002?	No
Average daily Summer Food Service attendance	0
Change since 1999	-345
Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food Service and summer School Lunch Program	0
Estimated percent of eligibles participating	0%
County ranking	0

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation	1,688
Percent change since 1999	-0.2%
Potentially eligible persons	2,231
Percent of potentially eligible persons served	75.7%

## Hendry County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 17.28%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income	\$13,663
Poverty rate	24.1%
Number of persons in poverty	8,373
Number of children under 18 in poverty	3,251
Poverty rate for children under 18	31.0%
Number of persons unemployed	1,235
Unemployment rate	7.8%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
(assuming two full-time adults) \$8.89 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)\*

Average monthly participation	3,968
Average monthly number of households	1,614
Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002)	\$3,561,484
Average monthly benefit per person	\$75
Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999)	39.1%
County ranking	51

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation	
Free and reduced-price	1,993
Paid	363
Total	2,356
Estimated percent of eligibles participating	40.2%
County ranking	10

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation	
Free and reduced-price	4,105
Paid	1,079
Total	5,185
Percent elementary students qualifying for free and reduced-price lunch	73.4%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites	21
Number of Summer Food Service sponsors	1
Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002?	Yes
Average daily Summer Food Service attendance	494
Change since 1999	-162
Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food Service and summer School Lunch Program	494
Estimated percent of eligibles participating	10.0%
County ranking	32

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation	1,875
Percent change since 1999	-16.2%
Potentially eligible persons	4,094
Percent of potentially eligible persons served	45.8%

\* The Hendry County Food Stamp Office also serves Glades County; food stamp totals include data for both counties.

## Hernando County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 8.76%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$18,321  
 Poverty rate 10.3%  
 Number of persons in poverty 13,307  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 3,961  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 16.4%  
 Number of persons unemployed 2,425  
 Unemployment rate 5.2%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$9.35 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 6,825  
 Average monthly number of households 2,910  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$5,942,721  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$73  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 50.4%  
 County ranking 30t

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 1,842  
 Paid 389  
 Total 2,231  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 25.6%  
 County ranking 54

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 5,013  
 Paid 2,943  
 Total 7,956  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 46.6%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 9  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? No  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 402  
 Change since 1999 -713  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 402  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 5.6%  
 County ranking 40t

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 2,779  
 Percent change since 1999 1.5%  
 Potentially eligible persons 3,855  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 72.1%

## Highlands County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 12.11%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$17,222  
 Poverty rate 15.2%  
 Number of persons in poverty 13,065  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 4,345  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 26.3%  
 Number of persons unemployed 1,386  
 Unemployment rate 4.4%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.68 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 6,018  
 Average monthly number of households 2,644  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$4,800,978  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$66  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 43.5%  
 County ranking 43t

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 2,348  
 Paid 239  
 Total 2,587  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 36.9%  
 County ranking 21

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 5,452  
 Paid 2,323  
 Total 7,776  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 63.0%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 30  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 644  
 Change since 1999 -289  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 644  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 10.1%  
 County ranking 30t

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 2,602  
 Percent change since 1999 -0.3%  
 Potentially eligible persons 3,759  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 69.2%

## Hillsborough County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 10.30%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income	\$21,812
Poverty rate	12.5%
Number of persons in poverty	122,872
Number of children under 18 in poverty	43,604
Poverty rate for children under 18	17.6%
Number of persons unemployed	28,546
Unemployment rate	5.7%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
(assuming two full-time adults) \$10.28 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation	73,019
Average monthly number of households	32,703
Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002)	\$67,597,536
Average monthly benefit per person	\$77
Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999)	53.3%
County ranking	25

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation	
Free and reduced-price	24,886
Paid	6,121
Total	31,007
Estimated percent of eligibles participating	31.1%
County ranking	36

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation	
Free and reduced-price	47,455
Paid	20,139
Total	67,594
Percent elementary students qualifying for free and reduced-price lunch	52.9%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites	199
Number of Summer Food Service sponsors	6
Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002?	Yes
Average daily Summer Food Service attendance	9,703
Change since 1999	-5,703
Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food Service and summer School Lunch Program	9,849
Estimated percent of eligibles participating	12.3%
County ranking	20

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation	22,244
Percent change since 1999	-5.9%
Potentially eligible persons	40,056
Percent of potentially eligible persons served	55.5%

## Holmes County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 18.52%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income	\$14,135
Poverty rate	19.1%
Number of persons in poverty	3,209
Number of children under 18 in poverty	1,087
Poverty rate for children under 18	25.9%
Number of persons unemployed	460
Unemployment rate	6.2%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
(assuming two full-time adults) \$8.01 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation	2,569
Average monthly number of households	1,088
Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002)	\$1,942,431
Average monthly benefit per person	\$63
Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999)	87.6%
County ranking	2

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation	
Free and reduced-price	733
Paid	113
Total	846
Estimated percent of eligibles participating	36.1%
County ranking	24

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation	
Free and reduced-price	1,636
Paid	891
Total	2,527
Percent elementary students qualifying for free and reduced-price lunch	64.7%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites	0
Number of Summer Food Service sponsors	0
Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002?	No
Average daily Summer Food Service attendance	0
Change since 1999	0
Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food Service and summer School Lunch Program	0
Estimated percent of eligibles participating	0%
County ranking	0

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation	635
Percent change since 1999	4.7%
Potentially eligible persons	955
Percent of potentially eligible persons served	66.5%

## Indian River County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 7.60%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$27,227  
 Poverty rate 9.3%  
 Number of persons in poverty 10,325  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 2,999  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 14.3%  
 Number of persons unemployed 2,133  
 Unemployment rate 4.5%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$9.30 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 4,149  
 Average monthly number of households 2,078  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$3,516,951  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$71  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 40.6%  
 County ranking 49t

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 6,045  
 Paid 1,358  
 Total 7,403  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 101.9%  
 County ranking 1

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 5,269  
 Paid 2,930  
 Total 8,199  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 45.6%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 9  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 1,105  
 Change since 1999 -41  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 1,105  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 18.6%  
 County ranking 11

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 1,902  
 Percent change since 1999 -21.3%  
 Potentially eligible persons 2,956  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 64.3%

## Jackson County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 15.91%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$13,905  
 Poverty rate 17.2%  
 Number of persons in poverty 6,998  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 2,403  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 23.8%  
 Number of persons unemployed 1,048  
 Unemployment rate 5.7%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.43 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 3,588  
 Average monthly number of households 1,569  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$2,832,299  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$66  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 56.9%  
 County ranking 21

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 1,579  
 Paid 190  
 Total 1,769  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 40.9%  
 County ranking 9

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 2,995  
 Paid 1,058  
 Total 4,053  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 61.3%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 4  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 217  
 Change since 1999 217  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 217  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 5.6%  
 County ranking 40t

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 1,437  
 Percent change since 1999 4.5%  
 Potentially eligible persons 2,138  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 67.2%

## Jefferson County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 16.17%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$17,006  
 Poverty rate 17.1%  
 Number of persons in poverty 2040  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 635  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 22.1%  
 Number of persons unemployed 279  
 Unemployment rate 4.8%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$7.48 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 1,683  
 Average monthly number of households 791  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$1,406,532  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$70  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 88.0%  
 County ranking 1

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 509  
 Paid 54  
 Total 563  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 41.8%  
 County ranking 6

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 946  
 Paid 211  
 Total 1,157  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 81.6%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002) \*

Number of Summer Food Service sites 1  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 0  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? No  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 0  
 Change since 1999 0  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 0  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 0%  
 County ranking 0

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 515  
 Percent change since 1999 15.3%  
 Potentially eligible persons 813  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 63.4%

\* Leon County sponsors a site.

## Lafayette County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 13.32%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$13,087  
 Poverty rate 17.5%  
 Number of persons in poverty 999  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 379  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 25.3%  
 Number of persons unemployed 120  
 Unemployment rate 4.5%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.06 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 814  
 Average monthly number of households 323  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$670,231  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$69  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 64.2%  
 County ranking 12

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 99  
 Paid 10  
 Total 109  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 18.8%  
 County ranking 65

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 414  
 Paid 196  
 Total 610  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 60.7%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 0  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 0  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? No  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 0  
 Change since 1999 0  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 0  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 0%  
 County ranking 0

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 200  
 Percent change since 1999 25.0%  
 Potentially eligible persons 384  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 52.0%

## Lake County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 8.19%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$20,199  
 Poverty rate 9.6%  
 Number of persons in poverty 19,907  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 6,820  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 16.3%  
 Number of persons unemployed 3,359  
 Unemployment rate 3.9%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$9.74 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 11,112  
 Average monthly number of households 4,978  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$9,397,588  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$70  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 52.9%  
 County ranking 27

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 2,556  
 Paid 407  
 Total 2,963  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 21.1%  
 County ranking 60

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 8,431  
 Paid 6,206  
 Total 14,637  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 49.7%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 23  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? No  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 864  
 Change since 1999 127  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 896  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 7.4%  
 County ranking 36

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 3,600  
 Percent change since 1999 -2.2%  
 Potentially eligible persons 7,809  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 46.1%

## Lee County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 7.73%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$24,542  
 Poverty rate 9.7%  
 Number of persons in poverty 42,316  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 13,356  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 15.7%  
 Number of persons unemployed 7,234  
 Unemployment rate 3.7%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$9.78 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 13,697  
 Average monthly number of households 6,334  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$11,845,775  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$72  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 33.8%  
 County ranking 59

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 7,443  
 Paid 1,482  
 Total 8,925  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 28.5%  
 County ranking 44t

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 21,006  
 Paid 11,061  
 Total 32,067  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 52.3%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 40  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 2  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 1,626  
 Change since 1999 1,075  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 1,626  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 6.2%  
 County ranking 38

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 7,800  
 Percent change since 1999 -2.9%  
 Potentially eligible persons 12,625  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 61.8%

## Leon County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 16.82%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$21,024  
 Poverty rate 18.2%  
 Number of persons in poverty 41,078  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 8,405  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 16.8%  
 Number of persons unemployed 11,133  
 Unemployment rate 8.3%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$9.38 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 14,295  
 Average monthly number of households 6,367  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$13,555,416  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$79  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 32.5%  
 County ranking 62

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 3,764  
 Paid 1,152  
 Total 4,916  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 39.6%  
 County ranking 12

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 6,031  
 Paid 4,492  
 Total 10,523  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 41.2%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 40  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 4  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 1,644  
 Change since 1999 -71  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 1,949  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 20.5%  
 County ranking 6t

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 4,409  
 Percent change since 1999 -10.3%  
 Potentially eligible persons 6,291  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 70.1%

## Levy County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 16.14%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$14,746  
 Poverty rate 18.6%  
 Number of persons in poverty 6,263  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 2,130  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 26.9%  
 Number of persons unemployed 843  
 Unemployment rate 6.1%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$7.97 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 3,453  
 Average monthly number of households 1,516  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$2,832,259  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$68  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 50.4%  
 County ranking 30t

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 1,215  
 Paid 119  
 Total 1,334  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 34.7%  
 County ranking 28

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 2,770  
 Paid 902  
 Total 3,672  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 62.9%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 23  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 386  
 Change since 1999 -13  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 386  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 11.0%  
 County ranking 26

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 943  
 Percent change since 1999 3.9%  
 Potentially eligible persons 1,750  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 53.9%

## Liberty County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 17.13%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$17,225  
 Poverty rate 19.9%  
   Number of persons in poverty 1114  
   Number of children under 18 in poverty 383  
   Poverty rate for children under 18 25.9%  
 Number of persons unemployed 124  
 Unemployment rate 5.0%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.47 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 669  
   Average monthly number of households 313  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$543,203  
   Average monthly benefit per person \$68  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 57.6%  
 County ranking 20

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
   Free and reduced-price 233  
   Paid 47  
   Total 280  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 39.0%  
 County ranking 13

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
   Free and reduced-price 419  
   Paid 181  
   Total 600  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 55.3%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 0  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 0  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? No  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 0  
   Change since 1999 -127  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 0  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 0%  
 County ranking 0

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 47  
   Percent change since 1999 -308.5%  
 Potentially eligible persons 232  
   Percent of potentially eligible persons served 20.3%

## Madison County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 22.32%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$12,511  
 Poverty rate 23.1%  
   Number of persons in poverty 3919  
   Number of children under 18 in poverty 1,376  
   Poverty rate for children under 18 30.2%  
 Number of persons unemployed 399  
 Unemployment rate 5.4%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.19 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 1,901  
   Average monthly number of households 889  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$1,520,545  
   Average monthly benefit per person \$67  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 47.6%  
 County ranking 39

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
   Free and reduced-price 794  
   Paid 51  
   Total 845  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 34.4%  
 County ranking 30

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
   Free and reduced-price 1,634  
   Paid 364  
   Total 1,998  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 79.2%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 1  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? No  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 9  
   Change since 1999 9  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 9  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 0.4%  
 County ranking 53

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 715  
   Percent change since 1999 -6.9%  
 Potentially eligible persons 988  
   Percent of potentially eligible persons served 72.4%

## Manatee County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 8.18%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$22,388  
 Poverty rate 10.1%  
     Number of persons in poverty 26,104  
     Number of children under 18 in poverty 8,389  
     Poverty rate for children under 18 15.9%  
 Number of persons unemployed 4,128  
 Unemployment rate 3.6%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$9.98 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 12,518  
     Average monthly number of households 5,643  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$11,195,557  
     Average monthly benefit per person \$75  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 42.6%  
 County ranking 47

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
     Free and reduced-price 4,475  
     Paid 813  
     Total 5,288  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 32.1%  
 County ranking 35

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
     Free and reduced-price 11,878  
     Paid 7,771  
     Total 19,648  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 43.4%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 34  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? No  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 1,223  
     Change since 1999 -87  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
     Service and summer School Lunch Program 1,223  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 8.8%  
 County ranking 34

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 5,152  
     Percent change since 1999 -6.4%  
 Potentially eligible persons 9,613  
     Percent of potentially eligible persons served 53.6%

## Marion County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 10.95%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$17,848  
 Poverty rate 13.1%  
     Number of persons in poverty 32,918  
     Number of children under 18 in poverty 11,103  
     Poverty rate for children under 18 20.7%  
 Number of persons unemployed 6,061  
 Unemployment rate 5.8%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.48 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 19,141  
     Average monthly number of households 8,335  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$15,982,160  
     Average monthly benefit per person \$70  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 56.0%  
 County ranking 22t

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
     Free and reduced-price 7,030  
     Paid 988  
     Total 8,018  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 34.8%  
 County ranking 27

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
     Free and reduced-price 15,326  
     Paid 5,428  
     Total 20,754  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 63.0%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 45  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 2  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 664  
     Change since 1999 -1,098  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
     Service and summer School Lunch Program 664  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 3.3%  
 County ranking 48

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 7,415  
     Percent change since 1999 4.0%  
 Potentially eligible persons 10,259  
     Percent of potentially eligible persons served 72.3%

## Martin County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 6.77%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$29,584  
 Poverty rate 8.8%  
 Number of persons in poverty 10,844  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 3,287  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 14.3%  
 Number of persons unemployed 2,247  
 Unemployment rate 4.2%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$10.11 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 3,742  
 Average monthly number of households 1,820  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$3,319,019  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$74  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 42.9%  
 County ranking 46

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 1,830  
 Paid 281  
 Total 2,111  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 35.2%  
 County ranking 26

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 3,829  
 Paid 2,836  
 Total 6,665  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 39.7%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 10  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? No  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 447  
 Change since 1999 140  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 606  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 11.6%  
 County ranking 23

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 2,532  
 Percent change since 1999 -3.1%  
 Potentially eligible persons 2,806  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 90.2%

## Miami-Dade County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 16.19%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$18,497  
 Poverty rate 18.0%  
 Number of persons in poverty 396,995  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 127,435  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 23.2%  
 Number of persons unemployed 88,248  
 Unemployment rate 8.7%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$10.67 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 263,949  
 Average monthly number of households 148,615  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$246,912,506  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$78  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 63.5%  
 County ranking 14

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 47,530  
 Paid 3,993  
 Total 51,523  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 21.3%  
 County ranking 59

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 132,824  
 Paid 28,227  
 Total 161,050  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 69.7%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 459  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 8  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 45,369  
 Change since 1999 -4,829  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 51,722  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 23.2%  
 County ranking 3

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 61,272  
 Percent change since 1999 -1.6%  
 Potentially eligible persons 94,674  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 64.7%

## Monroe County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 9.03%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$26,102  
 Poverty rate 10.2%  
 Number of persons in poverty 7,977  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 1,619  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 12.2%  
 Number of persons unemployed 1,364  
 Unemployment rate 3.2%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$11.04 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 3,207  
 Average monthly number of households 1,990  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$2,881,003  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$75  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 35.5%  
 County ranking 56

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 989  
 Paid 132  
 Total 1,121  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 31.1%  
 County ranking 36t

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 2,211  
 Paid 1,599  
 Total 3,810  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 38.2%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 13  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 2  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 701  
 Change since 1999 -498  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 744  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 23.4%  
 County ranking 2

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 1,003  
 Percent change since 1999 -24.6%  
 Potentially eligible persons 1,783  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 56.3%

## Nassau County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 8.26%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$22,836  
 Poverty rate 9.1%  
 Number of persons in poverty 5,192  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 1,622  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 11.5%  
 Number of persons unemployed 1,363  
 Unemployment rate 4.8%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$9.39 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 2,133  
 Average monthly number of households 1,016  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$1,798,446  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$70  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 34.9%  
 County ranking 58

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 1,221  
 Paid 520  
 Total 1,741  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 34.5%  
 County ranking 29

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 2,596  
 Paid 2,951  
 Total 5,547  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 44.2%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 2  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? No  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 103  
 Change since 1999 -51  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 103  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 2.9%  
 County ranking 49

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 1,135  
 Percent change since 1999 -2.5%  
 Potentially eligible persons 2,028  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 56.0%

## Okaloosa County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 7.58%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$20,918  
 Poverty rate 8.8%  
 Number of persons in poverty 14,562  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 5,350  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 13.0%  
 Number of persons unemployed 3,565  
 Unemployment rate 4.7%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.99 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 8,005  
 Average monthly number of households 3,254  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$6,582,293  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$69  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 48.2%  
 County ranking 38

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 2,319  
 Paid 835  
 Total 3,154  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 27.3%  
 County ranking 49

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 6,370  
 Paid 6,432  
 Total 12,802  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 38.6%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 31  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 929  
 Change since 1999 533  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 929  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 10.9%  
 County ranking 27

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 3,772  
 Percent change since 1999 -20.1%  
 Potentially eligible persons 7,503  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 50.3%

## Okeechobee County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 13.53%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$14,553  
 Poverty rate 16.0%  
 Number of persons in poverty 5,391  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 1,834  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 21.3%  
 Number of persons unemployed 694  
 Unemployment rate 4.7%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.50 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 2,135  
 Average monthly number of households 903  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$1,843,634  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$72  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 36.6%  
 County ranking 54

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 1,397  
 Paid 280  
 Total 1,677  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 38.1%  
 County ranking 15t

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 3,011  
 Paid 1,205  
 Total 4,216  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 64.7%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 6  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 2  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 144  
 Change since 1999 -10  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 144  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 3.9%  
 County ranking 46t

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 1,585  
 Percent change since 1999 -3.0%  
 Potentially eligible persons 2,023  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 78.4%

## Orange County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 9.77%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$20,916  
 Poverty rate 12.1%  
 Number of persons in poverty 106,233  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 37,144  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 16.8%  
 Number of persons unemployed 23,700  
 Unemployment rate 5.0%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$10.20 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 56,972  
 Average monthly number of households 24,333  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$50,907,575  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$74  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 40.6%  
 County ranking 49t

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 12,371  
 Paid 2,019  
 Total 14,390  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 18.1%  
 County ranking 66

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 40,245  
 Paid 18,338  
 Total 58,584  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 45.8%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 214  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 8  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? No  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 7,992  
 Change since 1999 3,405  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 8,681  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 12.7%  
 County ranking 18t

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 21,137  
 Percent change since 1999 10.2%  
 Potentially eligible persons 35,245  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 60.0%

## Osceola County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 9.48%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$17,022  
 Poverty rate 11.5%  
 Number of persons in poverty 19,532  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 6,906  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 15.3%  
 Number of persons unemployed 4,207  
 Unemployment rate 5.0%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$9.86 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 14,611  
 Average monthly number of households 6,040  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$13,596,997  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$78  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 50.3%  
 County ranking 32

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 4,247  
 Paid 842  
 Total 5,089  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 24.1%  
 County ranking 57

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 12,421  
 Paid 4,739  
 Total 17,161  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 53.2%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 54  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 2,011  
 Change since 1999 1,181  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 2,011  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 11.4%  
 County ranking 24

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 6,560  
 Percent change since 1999 13.8%  
 Potentially eligible persons 6,588  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 99.6%

## Palm Beach County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 8.02%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income	\$28,801
Poverty rate	9.9%
Number of persons in poverty	110,430
Number of children under 18 in poverty	34,513
Poverty rate for children under 18	14.6%
Number of persons unemployed	25,286
Unemployment rate	5.0%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
(assuming two full-time adults) \$11.32 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation	41,547
Average monthly number of households	19,542
Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002)	\$37,991,567
Average monthly benefit per person	\$76
Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999)	37.3%
County ranking	53

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation	
Free and reduced-price	15,536
Paid	1,377
Total	16,913
Estimated percent of eligibles participating	24.2%
County ranking	56

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation	
Free and reduced-price	39,551
Paid	16,287
Total	55,838
Percent elementary students qualifying for free and reduced-price lunch	50.3%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites	146
Number of Summer Food Service sponsors	10
Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002?	Yes
Average daily Summer Food Service attendance	11,984
Change since 1999	1,104
Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food Service and summer School Lunch Program	12,647
Estimated percent of eligibles participating	19.7%
County ranking	8

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation	18,195
Percent change since 1999	10.5%
Potentially eligible persons	30,521
Percent of potentially eligible persons served	59.6%

## Pasco County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 9.28%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income	\$18,439
Poverty rate	10.7%
Number of persons in poverty	36,201
Number of children under 18 in poverty	10,766
Poverty rate for children under 18	15.9%
Number of persons unemployed	6,548
Unemployment rate	4.7%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
(assuming two full-time adults) \$10.08 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation	20,747
Average monthly number of households	9,189
Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002)	\$18,275,169
Average monthly benefit per person	\$73
Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999)	48.8%
County ranking	35t

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation	
Free and reduced-price	6,498
Paid	1,085
Total	7,583
Estimated percent of eligibles participating	27.8%
County ranking	47

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation	
Free and reduced-price	16,077
Paid	9,101
Total	25,179
Percent elementary students qualifying for free and reduced-price lunch	51.6%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites	19
Number of Summer Food Service sponsors	3
Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002?	Yes
Average daily Summer Food Service attendance	385
Change since 1999	-3,390
Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food Service and summer School Lunch Program	431
Estimated percent of eligibles participating	1.8%
County ranking	51

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation	7,892
Percent change since 1999	-10.0%
Potentially eligible persons	11,488
Percent of potentially eligible persons served	68.7%

## Pinellas County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 8.49%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$23,497  
 Poverty rate 10.0%  
 Number of persons in poverty 90,059  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 24,939  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 14.4%  
 Number of persons unemployed 18,941  
 Unemployment rate 4.3%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$10.48 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 44,012  
 Average monthly number of households 22,400  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$40,806,610  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$77  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 44.0%  
 County ranking 42

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 10,483  
 Paid 2,074  
 Total 12,557  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 26.5%  
 County ranking 52

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 27,651  
 Paid 20,508  
 Total 48,159  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 44.8%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 96  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 5  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 8,478  
 Change since 1999 178  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 8,757  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 22.1%  
 County ranking 5

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 12,461  
 Percent change since 1999 -11.3%  
 Potentially eligible persons 21,420  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 58.2%

## Polk County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 10.65%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$18,302  
 Poverty rate 12.9%  
 Number of persons in poverty 60,953  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 22,606  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 19.6%  
 Number of persons unemployed 12,544  
 Unemployment rate 5.7%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.59 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 38,822  
 Average monthly number of households 16,732  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$33,740,099  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$72  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 61.8%  
 County ranking 15

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 13,019  
 Paid 1,637  
 Total 14,656  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 30.6%  
 County ranking 38

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 28,140  
 Paid 11,545  
 Total 39,685  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 64.1%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 105  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 4  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 3,613  
 Change since 1999 436  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 5,391  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 12.7%  
 County ranking 18t

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 15,763  
 Percent change since 1999 1.3%  
 Potentially eligible persons 20,792  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 75.8%

## Putnam County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 17.27%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$15,603  
 Poverty rate 20.9%  
 Number of persons in poverty 14,449  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 5,237  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 30.8%  
 Number of persons unemployed 1,595  
 Unemployment rate 5.7%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.02 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 8,450  
 Average monthly number of households 3,540  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$7,107,380  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$70  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 61.1%  
 County ranking 16

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 2,984  
 Paid 301  
 Total 3,285  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 38.5%  
 County ranking 14

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 6,127  
 Paid 1,778  
 Total 7,905  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 70.4%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 53  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 992  
 Change since 1999 -2,388  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 992  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 12.8%  
 County ranking 17

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 2,357  
 Percent change since 1999 -1.8%  
 Potentially eligible persons 3,291  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 71.6%

## Saint Johns County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 7.33%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$28,674  
 Poverty rate 8.0%  
 Number of persons in poverty 9,698  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 2,747  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 9.8%  
 Number of persons unemployed 2,013  
 Unemployment rate 3.3%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$9.55 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 4,179  
 Average monthly number of households 1,989  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$3,794,049  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$76  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 37.8%  
 County ranking 52

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 1,543  
 Paid 314  
 Total 1,857  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 35.6%  
 County ranking 25

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 3,245  
 Paid 3,578  
 Total 6,823  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 27.3%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 13  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 357  
 Change since 1999 -320  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 357  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 8.2%  
 County ranking 35

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 1,826  
 Percent change since 1999 -11.8%  
 Potentially eligible persons 3,399  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 53.7%

## Saint Lucie County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 10.27%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$18,790  
 Poverty rate 13.4%  
 Number of persons in poverty 25,464  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 8,955  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 21.2%  
 Number of persons unemployed 4,228  
 Unemployment rate 5.2%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$9.62 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 13,170  
 Average monthly number of households 5,965  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$11,433,239  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$72  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 53.2%  
 County ranking 26

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 6,493  
 Paid 844  
 Total 7,337  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 41.3%  
 County ranking 7

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 13,170  
 Paid 5,277  
 Total 18,448  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 60.3%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 38  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 6  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 1,584  
 Change since 1999 -646  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 1,584  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 10.1%  
 County ranking 30t

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 5,235  
 Percent change since 1999 4.1%  
 Potentially eligible persons 6,095  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 85.9%

## Santa Rosa County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 8.99%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$20,089  
 Poverty rate 9.8%  
 Number of persons in poverty 11,282  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 4,069  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 13.4%  
 Number of persons unemployed 2,790  
 Unemployment rate 5.3%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.91 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 6,780  
 Average monthly number of households 2,748  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$6,038,791  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$74  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 50.8%  
 County ranking 29

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 2,726  
 Paid 1,008  
 Total 3,734  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 37.1%  
 County ranking 19

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 5,516  
 Paid 4,610  
 Total 10,126  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 39.6%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 3  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 341  
 Change since 1999 15  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 341  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 4.6%  
 County ranking 43

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 2,107  
 Percent change since 1999 -7.9%  
 Potentially eligible persons 4,600  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 45.8%

## Sarasota County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 6.38%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$28,326  
 Poverty rate 7.8%  
 Number of persons in poverty 24,817  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 6,811  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 13.1%  
 Number of persons unemployed 5,203  
 Unemployment rate 3.7%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$10.04 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 7,311  
 Average monthly number of households 3,795  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$6,464,199  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$74  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 28.2%  
 County ranking 64

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 2,502  
 Paid 589  
 Total 3,091  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 19.7%  
 County ranking 62

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 7,514  
 Paid 6,546  
 Total 14,060  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 39.5%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 23  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 1,060  
 Change since 1999 115  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 1,361  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 10.7%  
 County ranking 28

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 3,386  
 Percent change since 1999 -13.9%  
 Potentially eligible persons 5,423  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 62.4%

## Seminole County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 6.36%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$24,591  
 Poverty rate 7.4%  
 Number of persons in poverty 26,804  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 8,207  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 9.0%  
 Number of persons unemployed 7,293  
 Unemployment rate 3.7%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$10.26 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 8,613  
 Average monthly number of households 3,733  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$7,828,544  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$76  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 41.7%  
 County ranking 48

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 3,407  
 Paid 715  
 Total 4,122  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 20.7%  
 County ranking 61

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 11,577  
 Paid 11,209  
 Total 22,786  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 32.4%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 34  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 2  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? No  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 637  
 Change since 1999 593  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 637  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 3.9%  
 County ranking 46t

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 5,241  
 Percent change since 1999 11.2%  
 Potentially eligible persons 8,720  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 60.1%

## Sumter County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 11.24%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$16,830  
 Poverty rate 13.7%  
 Number of persons in poverty 6,448  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 2,244  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 26.3%  
 Number of persons unemployed 760  
 Unemployment rate 4.8%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.20 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 3,554  
 Average monthly number of households 1,570  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$2,912,274  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$68  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 60.1%  
 County ranking 17

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 1,557  
 Paid 219  
 Total 1,776  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 41.9%  
 County ranking 5

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 3,036  
 Paid 1,354  
 Total 4,391  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 64.3%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 17  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 2  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 210  
 Change since 1999 210  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 210  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 5.7%  
 County ranking 39

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 1,218  
 Percent change since 1999 9.8%  
 Potentially eligible persons 2,220  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 54.9%

## Suwannee County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 16.69%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$14,678  
 Poverty rate 18.5%  
 Number of persons in poverty 6,325  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 1,859  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 22.4%  
 Number of persons unemployed 1,098  
 Unemployment rate 7.3%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.22 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 3,213  
 Average monthly number of households 1,452  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$2,514,810  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$65  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 43.5%  
 County ranking 43

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 961  
 Paid 108  
 Total 1,069  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 33.8%  
 County ranking 31

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 2,177  
 Paid 909  
 Total 3,085  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 64.0%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 7  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 346  
 Change since 1999 346  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 346  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 12.2%  
 County ranking 21

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 901  
 Percent change since 1999 -5.5%  
 Potentially eligible persons 1,876  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 48.0%

## Taylor County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 17.14%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$15,281  
 Poverty rate 18.0%  
 Number of persons in poverty 3,229  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 1,047  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 22.6%  
 Number of persons unemployed 431  
 Unemployment rate 5.5%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.36 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 2,288  
 Average monthly number of households 1,021  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$1,961,261  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$71  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 78.3%  
 County ranking 5

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 752  
 Paid 65  
 Total 817  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 56.9%  
 County ranking 2

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 1,342  
 Paid 408  
 Total 1,750  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 57.8%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 4  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 2  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? No  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 259  
 Change since 1999 1  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 259  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 19.6%  
 County ranking 9

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 736  
 Percent change since 1999 -1.9%  
 Potentially eligible persons 951  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 77.4%

## Union County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 13.65%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$12,333  
 Poverty rate 14.0%  
 Number of persons in poverty 1298  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 435  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 15.2%  
 Number of persons unemployed 169  
 Unemployment rate 4.0%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.06 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 1,243  
 Average monthly number of households 494  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$1,110,468  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$74  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 80.6%  
 County ranking 4

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 332  
 Paid 53  
 Total 385  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 36.6%  
 County ranking 22

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 613  
 Paid 255  
 Total 868  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 49.6%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 0  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 0  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? No  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 0  
 Change since 1999 0  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 0  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 0%  
 County ranking 0

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 221  
 Percent change since 1999 -23.1%  
 Potentially eligible persons 473  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 46.7%

## Volusia County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 9.86%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$19,664  
 Poverty rate 11.6%  
 Number of persons in poverty 49,907  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 14,642  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 16.8%  
 Number of persons unemployed 12,623  
 Unemployment rate 6.3%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$9.01 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 24,214  
 Average monthly number of households 11,371  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$21,829,070  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$75  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 48.8%  
 County ranking 35t

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 6,865  
 Paid 997  
 Total 7,862  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 29.4%  
 County ranking 41

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 18,180  
 Paid 9,693  
 Total 27,873  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 50.9%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 100  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 5  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 3,273  
 Change since 1999 160  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 3,273  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 14.0%  
 County ranking 14

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 6,960  
 Percent change since 1999 0.8%  
 Potentially eligible persons 11,954  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 58.2%

## Wakulla County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 10.73%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$17,678  
 Poverty rate 11.3%  
 Number of persons in poverty 2437  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 888  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 15.4%  
 Number of persons unemployed 427  
 Unemployment rate 3.9%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.55 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 1,291  
 Average monthly number of households 570  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$1,091,808  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$70  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 49.5%  
 County ranking 33

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 404  
 Paid 123  
 Total 527  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 27.0%  
 County ranking 51

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 1,010  
 Paid 841  
 Total 1,851  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 39.3%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 0  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 0  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? No  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 0  
 Change since 1999 0  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 0  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 0%  
 County ranking 0

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 399  
 Percent change since 1999 -5.8%  
 Potentially eligible persons 1,029  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 38.8%

## Walton County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 12.59%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$18,198  
 Poverty rate 14.4%  
 Number of persons in poverty 5,577  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 1,832  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 21.1%  
 Number of persons unemployed 787  
 Unemployment rate 4.4%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.99 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 3,041  
 Average monthly number of households 1,300  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$2,423,670  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$66  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 44.3%  
 County ranking 40t

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 1,333  
 Paid 295  
 Total 1,628  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 42.9%  
 County ranking 4

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 2,398  
 Paid 1,379  
 Total 3,777  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 58.3%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 9  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 1  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? Yes  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 376  
 Change since 1999 -159  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 376  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 12.1%  
 County ranking 22

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 1,113  
 Percent change since 1999 -0.1%  
 Potentially eligible persons 1,724  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 64.6%

## Washington County

### FOOD INSECURITY (1999)

Percent of all households potentially food insecure 17.59%

### DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

Per capita income \$14,980  
 Poverty rate 19.2%  
 Number of persons in poverty 3,757  
 Number of children under 18 in poverty 1,320  
 Poverty rate for children under 18 27.2%  
 Number of persons unemployed 473  
 Unemployment rate 5.5%

### LIVING WAGE (2002)

Hourly wage to maintain a family of four  
 (assuming two full-time adults) \$8.29 per adult

### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (2002)

Average monthly participation 2,129  
 Average monthly number of households 963  
 Issuance (value of benefits issued in 2002) \$1,590,155  
 Average monthly benefit per person \$62  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating (1999) 65.4%  
 County ranking 11

### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 652  
 Paid 79  
 Total 731  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 36.2%  
 County ranking 23

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (2001-2002)

Average daily participation  
 Free and reduced-price 1,484  
 Paid 563  
 Total 2,047  
 Percent elementary students qualifying for  
 free and reduced-price lunch 65.1%

### SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Lunch, July 2002)

Number of Summer Food Service sites 0  
 Number of Summer Food Service sponsors 0  
 Did the school board serve as a sponsor in 2002? No  
 Average daily Summer Food Service attendance 0  
 Change since 1999 -132  
 Average combined daily attendance in Summer Food  
 Service and summer School Lunch Program 0  
 Estimated percent of eligibles participating 0%  
 County ranking 0

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) (2002)

Average monthly participation 452  
 Percent change since 1999 -39.4%  
 Potentially eligible persons 1,049  
 Percent of potentially eligible persons served 43.1%

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup>Sheila Zedlewski, Linda Giannarelli, Joyce Morton, and Linda Wheaton. "Extreme Poverty Rising, Existing Government Programs Could Do More." Urban Institute. October 2002.
- <sup>2</sup>This calculation is based on a three-year average (1997, 1998, 1999) of data reported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in its series, *Measuring Food Security in the United States*. This average provides a sample large enough to determine state-by-state household food security and hunger estimates with reasonable margins of error. This estimate found that 10.5% of Florida households suffer from food insecurity. According to the 2000 Census, there were 6,341,121 households in Florida.
- <sup>3</sup>Based on the U.S. Census Bureau 2002 poverty threshold of \$12,400 for a two-person family containing one child.
- <sup>4</sup>For more information on how the county estimates were calculated, refer to the Food Insecurity section of the Sources.
- <sup>5</sup>Kate Coler, USDA Deputy Administrator for the Food Stamp Program at a presentation at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. October 2002.
- <sup>6</sup>According to the 2000 Census, in 1999 1,952,629 individuals were below 100% of poverty. Average monthly participation in the food stamp program for the calendar year 1999 was 942,651.
- <sup>7</sup>Eligibility is also dependent upon an applicant's meeting certain asset limits
- <sup>8</sup>Robert Crew, Steve McDonald, and Johnny Johnson. *Following WAGES Clients Over Time*. September 2000.
- <sup>9</sup>Data was obtained from the Florida Department of Education. As of January 2003, data documented the number of children qualifying for free (907,633) or reduced-price (211,635) school meals. Using the 2002-2003 USDA non-severe need reimbursement rates for the School Breakfast Program [free= \$1.17; reduced= \$0.87], a conservative estimate given Florida's high percentage of low-income children, if all children participated the state would bring in over \$1.2 million per day. During the 2001-2002 school year, 313,591 children ate free or reduced-price breakfast daily; taking into account their participation in both severe-need and non-severe need SBP, the state brought in over \$390,000 per day. The state could bring in \$800,000 more per day. With an average of 180 school days per year, this would potentially translate into \$144 million in additional funds for the 2002-2003 school year.
- <sup>10</sup>For a summary of recent scientific research on the link between child nutrition and academic performance please see: Food Research and Action Center. "Breakfast for Learning: Recent Scientific Research on the Link Between Children's Nutrition and Academic Performance." Available at [http://www.frac.org/html\\_new/child\\_nutrition/breakfast\\_for\\_learning.PDF](http://www.frac.org/html_new/child_nutrition/breakfast_for_learning.PDF).
- <sup>11</sup>Prepared by Abt Associates Inc. for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. *Study of Income Verification in the National School Lunch Program: Final Report*. January 1990. Available at [www.fns.usda.gov/oane/MENU/Published/CNP/CNP.HTM](http://www.fns.usda.gov/oane/MENU/Published/CNP/CNP.HTM).
- <sup>12</sup>Food Research and Action Center. *Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation: Summer Nutrition Status Report*. June 2002. Available at [www.frac.org](http://www.frac.org)
- <sup>13</sup>For further information and studies on these effects please refer to: Food Research and Action Center. *Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation: Summer Nutrition Status Report*. June 2002. Available at [www.frac.org](http://www.frac.org).
- <sup>14</sup>According to the Florida Department of Education the number of children qualifying to free or reduced-price school meals in the 2001-2002 school year was 1,103,469. In July 2002, the average combined daily attendance in both SFSP and NSLP was 156,185.
- <sup>15</sup>Data obtained from the Florida Department of Education. Federal reimbursement for the summer of 2002 was close to \$20 million. The reimbursement rate for the summer of 2003 is \$2.35 per lunch plus \$.2050 for administrative costs per meal. The number of children qualifying for free or reduced-price school lunch in the 2002-2003 school year is 1,119,268 (as of January 2003).
- <sup>16</sup>This number is based on free and reduced-price school meal membership obtained from the Department of Education for the 2001-2002 school year.
- <sup>17</sup>Food Research and Action Center. *Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation: Summer Nutrition Status Report*. June 2002. Available at [www.frac.org](http://www.frac.org).
- <sup>18</sup>Ibid
- <sup>19</sup>Ibid
- <sup>20</sup>In 1996 Congress enacted substantial changes in the CACFP program for family child care homes. The most dramatic change was the institution of a means test which cut in half the federal reimbursement for meals and snacks if the provider's and the child's family incomes exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty level and the

home is not in a low-income area. These changes led to a steep increase in administrative paperwork and sharp decrease in the number of homes and children participating. Home sites went from 196,550 in 1996 to 171,607 in 2000; participating children dropped in number from 1,007,098 in 1996 to 976,055 in 2000.

<sup>21</sup> For a summary of research on WIC please refer to: Oliveira, Victor, Elizabeth Racine, Jennifer Olmsted, and Linda M. Ghelfi. *The WIC Program: Background, Trends, and Issue*. Economic Research Service (ERS) Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Report No. FANRR27. October 2002

<sup>22</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service. *The Savings in Medicaid Costs for Newborns and Their Mothers from Prenatal Participation in the WIC Program*, October 1990.

<sup>23</sup> United States General Accounting Office. *Early Intervention: Federal Investments Like WIC Produce Savings*. April 1992.

## **Sources**

**Food Insecurity Data:** Data obtained from *State-by-State Rates of Household Hunger and Food Insecurity, 1997-1999*, by the Food Research and Action Center, available at [www.frac.org/html/news/foodinsecurity.PDF](http://www.frac.org/html/news/foodinsecurity.PDF). Since 1995 the U.S. Census Bureau has conducted an annual survey of food security as part of its Current Population Survey (CPS). However, the CPS's national sample of 40,000 households is too small to provide a good measure of food security and hunger for each state for a single year. To surpass this barrier, the Food Research and Action Center calculated an average of three years of USDA survey data for the years spanning 1997-1999. This provided a sample large enough to determine state-by-state household food security and hunger estimates with reasonable margins of error. County estimates are based on 1999 data because the most current poverty data is for that same year (from Census 2000).

The Florida food insecurity data shown was obtained from *Household Food Security in the United States, 2001*, the most recent USDA food security publication, which found 12.2% of Florida households to be food insecure. Available at [www.ers.usda.gov/publications/fanrr29](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/fanrr29).

**Demographic Data:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. Data were obtained from the 2000 Census, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov). Note that in determining number of persons in poverty, the census excludes institutionalized people, people in military group quarters, people in college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years old. These groups also were excluded when calculating poverty rates.

**Living Wage Data:** Data obtained from *The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Florida* by Diana Pearce, PhD with Jennifer Brooks, a publication prepared for the Human Services Coalition of Miami-Dade County by Six Strategies for Family Economic Self-Sufficiency, a project of Wider Opportunities for Women, available at [www.sixstrategies.org/files/Florida%20Standard.pdf](http://www.sixstrategies.org/files/Florida%20Standard.pdf). The Self-Sufficiency Standard calculates the wage a working adult needs to meet their basic needs without subsidies of any kind. Unlike the federal poverty standard, the Self-Sufficiency Standard accounts for the costs of living and working as they vary by family size and composition and by geographic location. The family of four chosen includes two adults, one infant (0-23 months), and one preschooler (24-59 months).

**Food Stamps:** Florida Department of Children and Families, Economic Self-Sufficiency Technology Unit. Average monthly participation, number of households, issuance, and benefit per person was calculated for the 2002 calendar year. The estimated percent of eligibles participating is based on 2000 Census data of individuals below 100% of poverty. This is actually a conservative estimate of persons eligible because individuals with gross incomes up to 130% of poverty (as long as they meet certain asset limitations) are potentially eligible.

**School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program:** Florida Department of Education, Food and Nutrition Management. All data is reported for fiscal year 2002 (July 2001 – June 2002) and includes only data gathered during the school year, not including NSLP run in the summer months. County meal counts (Average Daily Participation) are based on data collected only from public schools; state totals include all sponsors, public and private. Additional information about school meals can be found in FRAC's report, *School Breakfast Scorecard: 2002*, available at [www.frac.org](http://www.frac.org).

The data showing the percent of elementary students qualifying for free and reduced-price lunch is often used in Florida to determine area eligibility for sites participating in the Summer Food Service Program. Currently, if 50 percent of children in an area qualify for free or reduced-price school meals, sponsors can operate open summer food sites, in which all children who come can eat free. Percentages are available at <http://info.doe.state.fl.us/fsir/>.

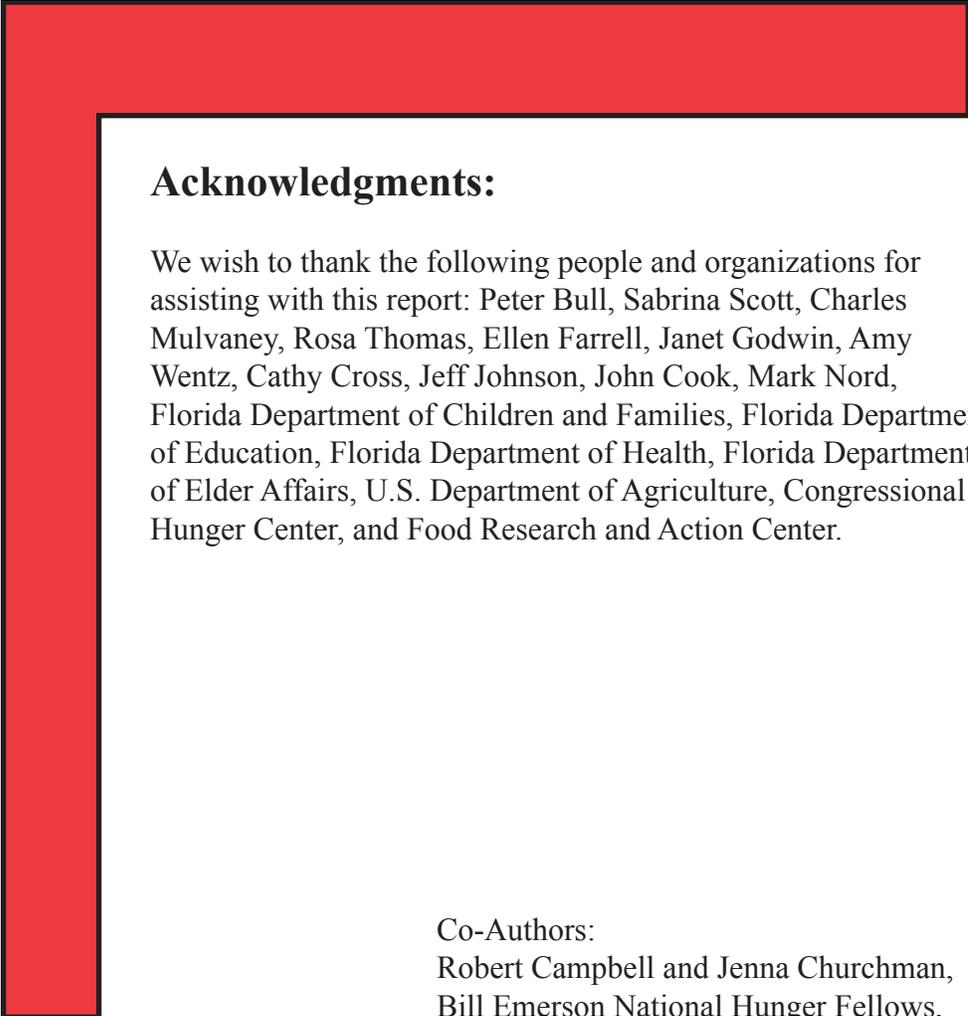
**Summer Nutrition Programs:** Florida Department of Education, Food and Nutrition Management, Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Participation numbers are reported for lunch in July 2002. The Department of Education calculates average daily attendance by dividing the number of meals served by the number of days the program operates. This is reported only for the month of July when the majority of sponsors operate the program. It should be noted, however, that this number does not include children who were fed at sites in June or August. Additionally, federal guidelines changed in 2002 to allow sponsors to not always offer lunch; so additional children who may have been fed a breakfast, snack, or supper are not captured in this data.

Average combined daily attendance of child participation in SFSP and in the National School Lunch during July gives a fuller picture of the number of children being fed in the summer. To calculate the number of eligibles served, we compared this combined average daily attendance to the number of children who qualified for free and reduced-price meals in the 2001-2002 school year.

**Special Supplemental Nutrition Programs For Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):** Florida Department of Health, WIC and Nutrition Services. Participation data reflects the number of women, infants, children, and migrants who were participating in the program (cashed a food voucher) in March 2002. This number was compared to the participation for the same period in 1999. The Department of Health calculates the number of potentially eligible WIC participants by reviewing live birth statistics and population projections for women, infants, children, and migrants per county and applying a county poverty factor to determine how many persons within each category in each county are eligible for WIC.

**Child Care Food Program:** Florida Department of Health, Child Nutrition Programs. Data is for the fiscal year 2002 (October 1, 2001 – September 30, 2002).

**Adult Care Food Program:** Florida Department of Elder Affairs, Adult Care Food Program. Meal counts are for the 2002 calendar year.

A large red L-shaped graphic is positioned on the left side of the page, partially overlapping the white content box. It consists of a horizontal bar at the top and a vertical bar on the left side, meeting at a corner.

## **Acknowledgments:**

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Florida Impact

Florida Impact offers two resources for those in need of food:

### The Florida Food Resource Directory

[www.flimpact.org](http://www.flimpact.org)

This is a searchable database, which contains information about public and private food resources in each of the state's 67 counties.

### The Food Stamp Helpline

1-800-224-3470.

This is a statewide toll-free line, through which callers can be prescreened for food stamp eligibility and projected benefit levels in English, Spanish, or (with prior arrangement) Creole.

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