



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

Emergency Food Assistance Program

Closeout Report for State Fiscal Year 2014

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (WSDA)

Food Safety and Consumer Services Division

Food Assistance Programs

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The WSDA Emergency Food Assistance Program

Closeout Report for State Fiscal Year 2014

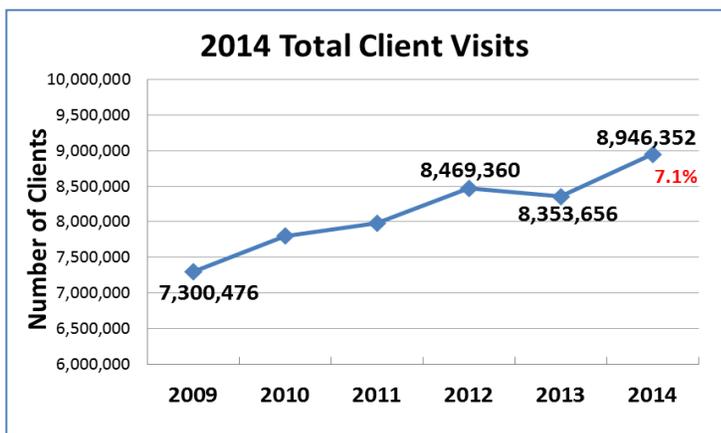
Food Assistance Programs Overview

The Washington State Department of Agriculture's (WSDA) Food Assistance Programs assist more than 500 local food banks, food pantries, meal programs, and tribes in providing emergency food to low-income and vulnerable individuals throughout Washington State. 1 in 5 Washingtonians received food from food pantries that were supported with resources from our programs. Our goals are to develop key partnerships and data-driven strategies to alleviate hunger and increase access to healthier food options available in the emergency food system while supporting the agricultural community.

Emergency Food Assistance Program Food Panty Closeout Results

Washington State food banks and pantries, including tribal food pantries, spent a total of \$4,239,874 in Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) state funding in Fiscal Year 2014. Of that total, they charged 10.4% to administrative costs compared to 10.8% in 2013. In 2014, they also spent \$1,799,372 on food purchases, approximately 42.4% of their EFAP funding, and \$22,238 on equipment purchases. The percentage of funding spent on food was up about 3% from Fiscal Year 2013. The balance of EFAP funding was spent on costs associated with operating their food programs such as storage, transportation, employees' salaries and benefits, supplies, and utilities.

The number of Washingtonians that received emergency food in Fiscal Year 2014 was the highest level ever recorded. The number of visits (new plus returning clients) in 2014 was just over 8.9 million, a 7.1% increase from 2013. This is nearly half a million more visits than the previous record in 2012.



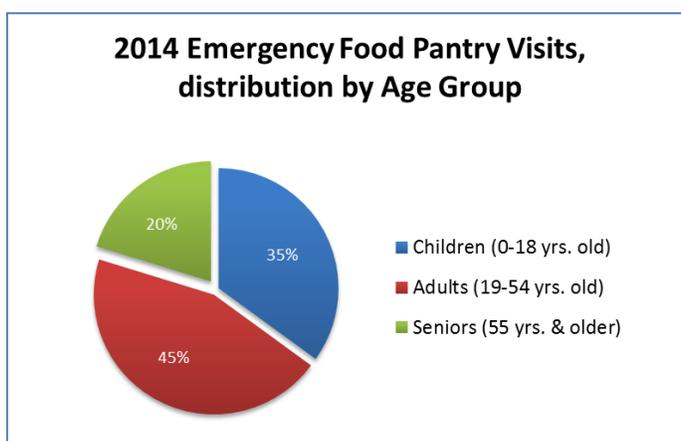
For the first time in 4 years the number of new clients (defined as the first time someone visits a food pantry in the fiscal year) went up from 1.29 million new clients in 2013 to 1.38 million new clients in 2014, a 6.97% increase. The current population of Washington State is 6.98 million, meaning that 1 in every 5 people in Washington found it necessary to use the services of their local food pantry.

The number of returning client visits in the fiscal year went up even sharper from 7.06 million visits to 7.56 million visits, a 7.12% increase. On average the number of times a person visited a food pantry in one year remained at about 6.5 visits, indicating that families continued to need food fairly often throughout the year. This suggests that although the economy was generally improving, there were more people than ever struggling to feed their families.

Food Pantry Visit Age Distributions

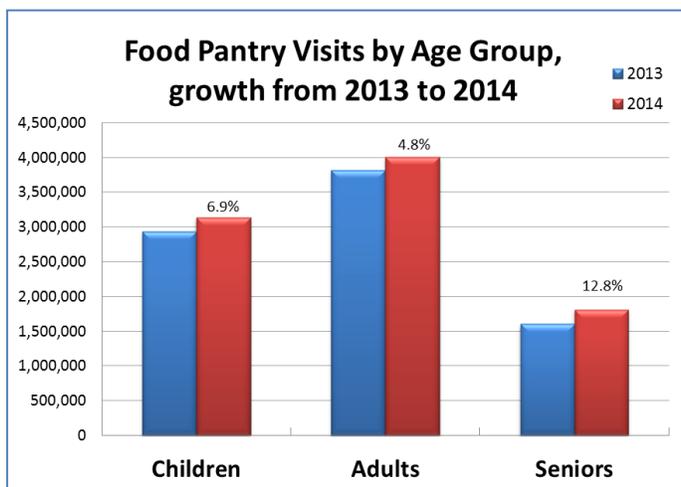
The percentage of visits by age group has remained fairly consistent over the last decade, fluctuating up or down 2 percent for every age category. In 2014, the percentages were as follows:

- Children = 3,133,706 visits (35%)
- Adults = 4,000,823 visits (45%)
- Seniors = 1,811,823 visits (20%)



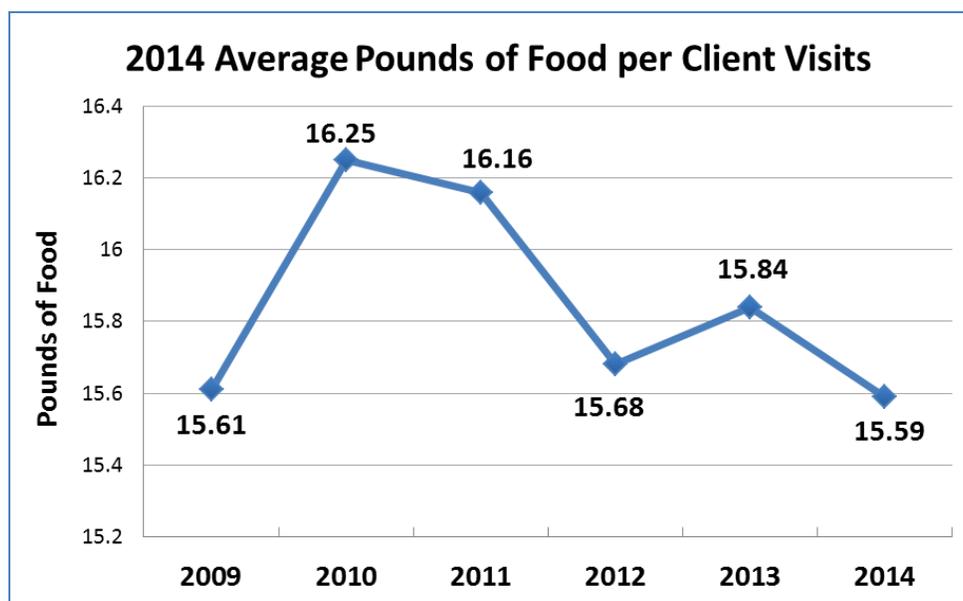
Although every age group category increased over the past year, the greatest increase in visits came from seniors with 12.8 percent increase. This is nearly a 6% greater increase than the general population increase for the same period.

It appears that in 2014, seniors were having a tougher time than the rest of the population meeting their nutritional needs.



Food Distributions

The total pounds of food distributed by food pantries to families increased by 7.1 million pounds, from 132.3 million pounds in 2013 to 139.4 million pounds in 2014. However, since the number of visits to food pantries went up by .59 million visits, a larger percentage of increase than the increase in pounds of food, the average pounds of food a client received with each visit actually decreased.



EFAP food pantries provide a typical meal for an average cost of \$.35 but its market value is closer to \$2.49. For every dollar going into the emergency food system, more than \$7 goes back to the community in the form of meals to low-income families. Another way to look at this is that the 139.4 million pounds of food cost the emergency food system about \$32.5 million whereas it would have cost upwards of \$ 231.5 million based on the donated value rate of \$1.66 per pound – a return rate valued at over 7 times the original investment.

The amount of match (cash and in-kind) supporting the emergency food system from other resources increased from \$287.3 million in 2013 to \$303.3 million in 2014, a 5.5 percent increase. This includes more than:

- \$242.9 million in additional donated food valued at \$1.66 per pound
- \$24.6 million in volunteer labor valued at \$10/hour
- \$7.5 million in other donated services such as transportation by volunteers
- \$28.3 million in other cash funding.

Although these numbers are quite impressive, some contractors choose not to report part of the match they and their subcontractors receive so this figure actually offers only the minimum of the actual contribution match.

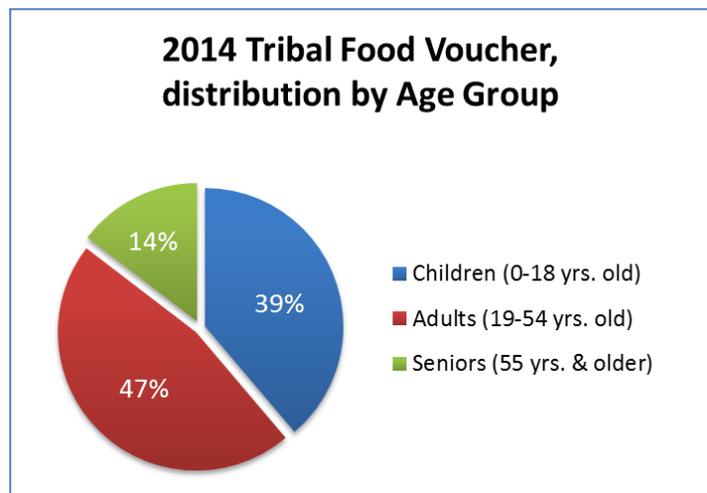
Tribal Food Voucher Program

In Fiscal Year 2014, tribes spent \$384,557 of EFAP funding on their food voucher programs. The 30 tribes¹ participating in the voucher program issued vouchers to 9,526 people who averaged a little less than two trips to their tribal offices for vouchers, for a total of 17,536 visits last year. A visit here is defined as the first time receiving a voucher, plus subsequent vouchers. Tribes reported a total of \$187,038 in match from other resources to support their voucher activities. Tribes are required to have a 35% match and generally report only the minimum in match each year.

Tribal Voucher Demographics

In Fiscal Year 2014, the distribution of tribal food voucher by age group percentages were as follows:

- Children: 6,805 visits (38.8%)
- Adults: 8,178 visits (46.6%)
- Seniors: 2,553 visits (14.6%)



Emergency Food Trends

Despite the large increases in Fiscal Year 2014, the number of new and returning clients for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2015 has thus far, leveled off. However, the first quarter results are historically not indicative of yearly client trends.

If the 2014 trend continues into 2015 at a 7.1 percent increase in annual client visits, EFAP would need an additional \$2,276,143 in funding to provide clients the same amount of food per visit.

The Food Assistance Programs continues to work in partnership to improve program operations, client service delivery methods and availability of healthier food options. Most importantly, we work with private and public sector partners across the emergency food system to develop collaborative approaches to reducing hunger in all of our communities.

¹ 18 tribes applied under two tribal nonprofit agency contractors. 1 tribe used EFAP funding for only a food pantry program.

**Food Assistance Programs
Comparison of EFAP Yearly Closeout Data for Food Pantries
State Fiscal Years 2004-2014**

	SFY04	SFY05	SFY06	SFY07	SFY08	SFY09	SFY10	SFY11	SFY12	SFY13	SFY14
Total Client Visits (New and Returning)	6,373,017	6,299,515	6,164,962	5,988,735	6,262,900	7,300,476	7,803,414	7,980,242	8,469,360	8,353,656	8,946,352
New Clients	1,251,719	1,233,886	1,225,020	1,198,026	1,252,800	1,461,116	1,576,894	1,433,580	1,371,661	1,294,363	1,384,608
Returning Clients	5,121,298	5,065,629	4,939,942	4,790,709	5,010,100	5,839,360	6,226,520	6,546,662	7,097,699	7,059,293	7,561,744
Total New Families Served	405,485	414,697	426,195	421,786	431,830	499,918	546,431	505,392	488,207	458,868	484,749
Average # of Visits Per Client per Year (Visits/New Clients)	5.09	5.11	5.03	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.95	5.57	6.17	6.45	6.46
Pounds of Food Distributed	87,912,414	90,868,168	91,194,079	91,112,694	97,622,472	113,952,122	126,781,520	128,951,893	132,724,168	132,303,513	139,495,803
Average # of lbs of Food/Client Visit/Yr (lbs/client visits)	13.80	14.43	14.80	15.21	15.59	15.61	16.25	16.16	15.68	15.84	15.59

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