



Emergency Food Assistance Program

Closeout Report for State Fiscal Year 2014

· Executive Summary ·

Every year, the WSDA Food Assistance Programs staff collects information from food pantries, including tribal food pantries, to develop an overview of statewide trends in the emergency food system. This allows WSDA to develop key partnerships and data-driven strategies to reduce hunger in our state.

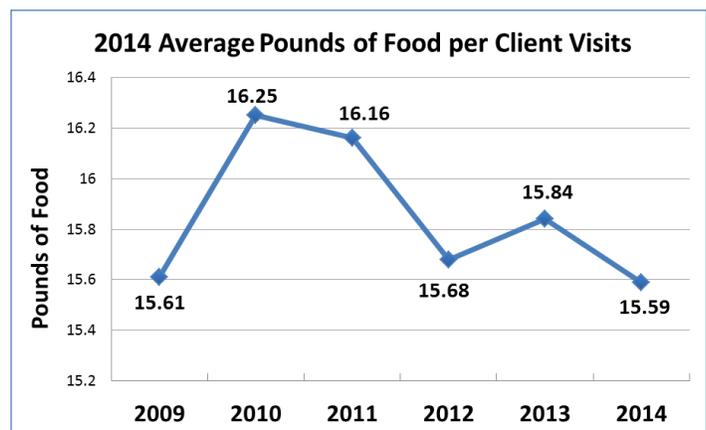
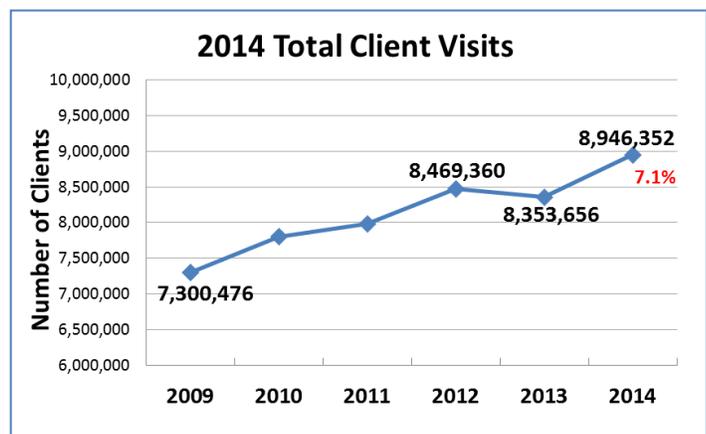
Almost 1 in every 5 Washingtonians used the services of their local food pantry in 2014.

Food pantries provide a typical meal for an average cost of \$0.35 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.

In Fiscal Year 2014, a record 8.9 million people received emergency food assistance, an increase of nearly half a million over the previous record in 2012.

In 2014, food pantries experienced an increase in returning clients (7.56 million) and new clients (1.38 million). The greatest increase in visits came from seniors with a 12.8 percent increase. The average client visited 6.5 times per year. This suggests that although the economy was generally improving, more people than ever were struggling to feed their families.

Food pantries are doing more but are struggling to meet demand. In Fiscal Year 2014, more than 139 million pounds of food was distributed compared to 132 million the previous year. However, the average number of pounds a client receives each visit decreased to 15.59 pounds from the 15.84 in Fiscal Year 2013 due to the increase in both returning and new clients in 2014.



To see the full report: <http://agr.wa.gov/FoodProg/>

Food Safety & Consumer Services Division

*Defending the safety, integrity,
and availability of our food system.*

For more information:

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