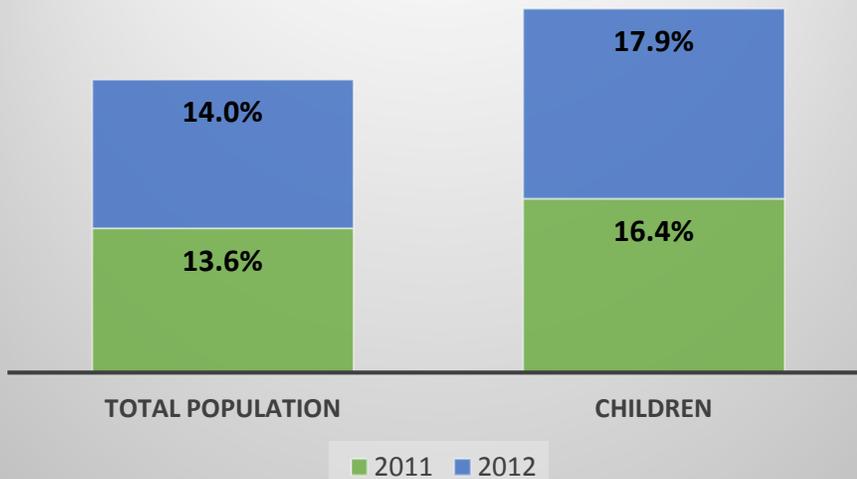


# Hunger in Allegheny County

## Food Insecurity



## FOOD INSECURITY:

People who are food insecure at times lack access to enough food for an active, healthy life.

As of 2012, there were **1.2 million people** living in Allegheny County.

- Nearly **1 in 7** (171,000 people) are facing food insecurity.
- Of these, **43,000** are children.

## Implications of Hunger

### Child Wellbeing

Hungry children cannot focus in school and are:

- ❖ 3x more likely to be **suspended** from school;
- ❖ 2x as likely to **repeat** a grade & need **special education**.



### Hunger & Health

Proper nutrition is essential to good health. Hunger:

- ❖ triples one's chances of suffering from **poor health**;
- ❖ more than triples the likelihood of **obesity among women**;
- ❖ doubles one's chances of developing **diabetes**.



### Economic Costs

Hunger hurts our economy by causing increased healthcare spending, increased costs to charities, lost productivity, and poor education outcomes that hurt not just the lifetime earnings of those who are hungry but society as a whole.

- ❖ As of 2011, hunger costs in PA had risen to more than \$6 billion dollars.

# Federal Nutrition Programs

Just Harvest helps people in Allegheny County access the public benefits that can help them keep food on the table. Unfortunately, many people who are eligible for these programs are not participating in them.

## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or “food stamps”)

Provides monthly benefits to eligible households to purchase food.

- ❖ There are more than **1.8 million** participants in **PA** alone.
- ❖ There are **160,032** participants in **Allegheny County**.
- ❖ Food stamps help **1 in 3 children** get enough to eat in the U.S.
- ❖ Food stamps help lift **families** out of poverty
- ❖ Food stamps help the local **economy**: every \$1 in food stamps generates almost \$2 in economic activity.

## WIC (Women, Infants and Children)

Provides vouchers for healthy foods, nutrition education and health care.

- ❖ There are **16,344** participants in Allegheny County.

## School Meals Program

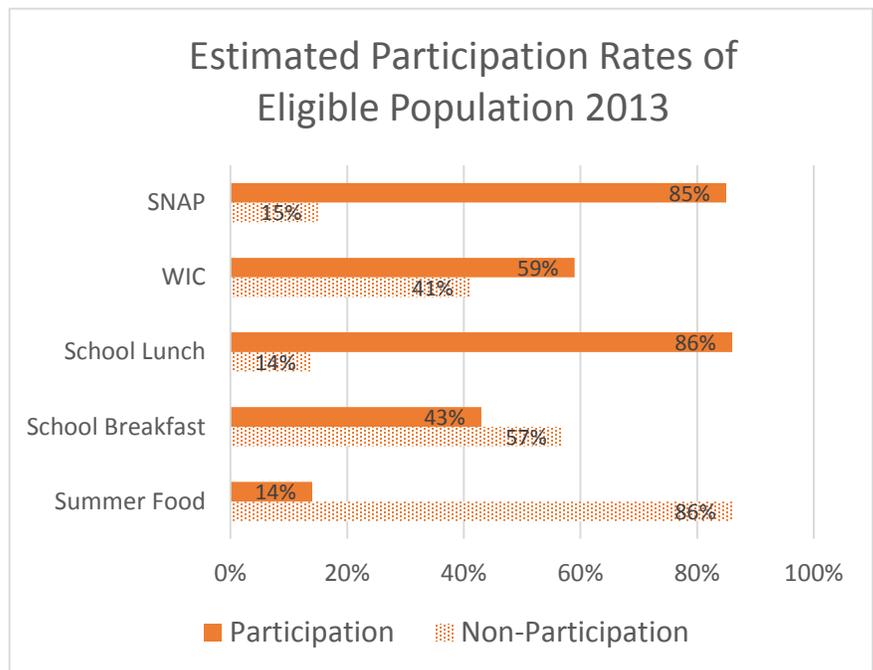
Provides free meals to low-income school children.

- ❖ **43,689** students in Allegheny County receive **free lunch**.
- ❖ **21,438** students in Allegheny County receive **free breakfast**.

## Summer Nutrition Program

Provides meals to low-income school age children during the summer months.

- ❖ On average **112,097 Pennsylvania children** were served meals each day in July 2014.



**Be a part of our efforts to end hunger in Allegheny County!**



ACTION AGAINST HUNGER

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SOURCES: No Kid Hungry, Pennsylvania Hunger Action Center, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, Third and State, Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger, Food and Research Action Center, United States Department of Agriculture, Pennsylvania Department of Education