



**KATRINA AND RITA AFTERMATH:
THE IMPACT ON EMERGENCY FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND CLIENTS**
DECEMBER 15, 2005

FACT SHEET

Clients

- Demands for food assistance overall in the Gulf Coast States are 50% above pre-Katrina levels.
- 72% of clients seeking food assistance in the impacted states were first time clients, tripling the demands in the impacted states as a result of the hurricanes.
- One in nine households representing 6.4 million people in the impacted states received food assistance.
- Nearly 40% of the households requesting food assistance were African American.
- 31% of households requesting food assistance had a child 12 years of age or younger.
- Households seeking emergency food assistance had median incomes of \$26,000 compared to \$42,000 for the total area; 21% report having an income less below \$10,000—more than twice the percentage found throughout the area.
- 28% of the people seeking emergency food assistance immediately after Katrina were already receiving food assistance before the hurricane hit.
- 77% of the new food recipients no longer needed assistance following the “peak” period in October. Of the people still requesting food assistance, 65% were already receiving food assistance prior to Katrina.

Food Banks Respond

- America's Second Harvest—The Nation's Food Bank Network provided an unprecedented response to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma with more than 1,600 truckloads carrying 62 million pounds of food providing approximately 48 million meals valued at an estimated \$84 million.
- 39 of 210 (13%) of America's Second Harvest Members are located in the impacted states.
- Two food banks in the primary markets reported a three-fold increase in food distribution since Katrina. The Bay Area Food Bank in Mobile, AL reported a ten-fold increase at the peak of the relief effort, tapering off to 75 percent now.
- Secondary markets reported an average of 60% increase in food distribution.

Agency Infrastructure

- 41% of the people receiving food assistance prior to Katrina report that the agency where they received assistance is no longer in operation.
- The primary markets reported 86% of their agencies currently being served were temporary disaster-relief programs.
- 80% of clients receiving food assistance prior to Katrina reported food availability being the same or better following Katrina.