

Childhood Hunger in Arkansas

1 in 4 children (25%) struggle with hunger in Arkansas - one of the highest rates in the nation.¹

Food Hardship in Arkansas is on the decline, but still above the national average.²

The Gallup organization asked the single question: "Have there been times in the past 12 months when you did not have enough money to buy food that you or your family needed?"

The percentage of respondents that answered "Yes" was:

Location	2014	2015	% Decline
United States	17.1%	15.8%	-1.3%
Arkansas	21.0%	17.8%	-3.2%

Class breakdown in Arkansas

Class	% of Population
Lower Class (Poverty)	9.2 %
Middle Class	74.8%
Upper Class (Affluent)	5.0 %

Low-Income Working Families With Children³

Location	Data	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
United States	Number	7,911,000	8,021,000	8,286,000	8,511,000	8,504,000
	Percent	20%	21%	22%	22%	22%
Arkansas	Number	103,000	99,000	99,000	102,000	100,000
	Percent	27%	27%	27%	28%	28%

Children in Poverty³

Location	Data	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
United States	Number	15,749,000	16,387,000	16,397,000	16,087,000	15,686,000
	Percent	22%	23%	23%	22%	22%
Arkansas	Number	193,000	197,000	200,000	202,000	184,000
	Percent	28%	28%	29%	29%	26%

¹ Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, Media Release: Summer Meals Kick off Event, June 12, 2015

² Gallup Healthways Well-Being, 2015

³ KidsCount.org

Childhood Hunger in Arkansas - 200,000 Reasons

Children in Poverty by Age Group⁴

Location	Age	Data	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
United States	0 to 5	Num.	5,909,000	6,090,000	6,052,000	5,829,000	5,593,000
		Pct.	25%	26%	26%	25%	24%
	6 to 17	Num.	9,840,000	10,296,000	10,345,000	10,258,000	10,093,000
		Pct.	20%	21%	21%	21%	21%
	< 18	Num.	15,749,000	16,387,000	16,397,000	16,087,000	15,686,000
		Pct.	22%	23%	23%	22%	22%
Arkansas	0 to 5	Num.	76,000	75,000	72,000	77,000	67,000
		Pct.	33%	32%	31%	33%	30%
	6 to 17	Num.	117,000	122,000	128,000	125,000	117,000
		Pct.	25%	26%	27%	27%	25%
	< 18	Num.	193,000	197,000	200,000	202,000	184,000
		Pct.	28%	28%	29%	29%	26%

Children in Extreme Poverty (50%) by Race and Ethnicity⁴

Location	Race Group	Data	2013
Arkansas	American Indian	Number	<500
		Percent	2%
	Asian and Pacific Islander	Number	0
		Percent	0
	Black or African American	Number	29,000
		Percent	22%
	Hispanic or Latino	Number	15,000
		Percent	19%
	Non-Hispanic White	Number	39,000
		Percent	9%
	Two or more races	Number	0
		Percent	0
	Total	Number	89,000
		Percent	13%

⁴ KidsCount.Org



Hunger Programs

Cooking Matters

The Cooking Matters Program reduces food insecurity by **50%**.

School Meal Programs

There are 2 programs that provide food to students. The **SBP** - School Breakfast Program and the **NSLP** - National School Lunch Program.

- In 2015, over **400 schools** in Arkansas were serving breakfast to students.
- **36%** of those children who are eligible do not take advantage of the breakfast program, or do not have access to it.
- School Breakfast programs result in  **LESS sick children** and  **GREATER test scores.**
- More than **60%** of Arkansas students depend on school breakfast and/or lunch during the school year.¹

Summer Meals

In the summer of **2010, 1.8 million meals** were served to children during the summer.

By the summer of **2014, 4.3 million meals** were served at over 1,200 sites in Arkansas.

THAT'S AN INCREASE OF 139%!

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Of the more than **250,000** Arkansas children who are eligible for the free or reduced school meal program, **85% do NOT receive summer meals.**⁶

⁵ Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, Media Release: Summer Meals Kick off Event, June 12, 2015

⁶ Source: Patty Barker, Arkansas No Kid Hungry

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SNAP Program

SNAP stands for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and took the place of the old "Food Stamps" program, but is still frequently referred to by that name.

Did you know that...

1200 SNAP Applications

= **1.2 million** meals

= **\$4 million** in benefits both to needy families and stores

Some SNAP (food stamps) Myths vs. Facts

Myth	Fact
The food stamp program is riddled with fraud and abuse.	Food stamp fraud is at a historic low; less than 1%.
Food stamp recipients don't want to work.	80% households work within 1 year of receiving benefits.
Food stamps create dependency.	The average person uses food stamps for only 8-10 months.
Food stamps are a waste of taxpayer money.	Food stamps are the most effective economic stimulus program available.

Participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)⁷

Location	Data	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
United States	Number	26,276,151	28,181,144	33,442,156	40,301,878	44,708,726
	Percent	66%	66%	72%	74%	79%
Arkansas	Number	379,768	377,883	411,153	466,598	486,451
	Percent	77%	71%	73%	71%	74%

Children Receiving Food Stamps⁷

Location	Data	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Arkansas	Number	271,931	270,647	303,655	283,760	281,737



⁷ Kidscount.org