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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New national report: Food insecurity hits record high

USDA's Household Food Security Report for 2022 Shows People Living in Food Insecure Households Increased by 10 Million to 44 Million People

PITTSBURGH, PA (November 1, 2023) - The number of people living in food insecure households in the United States in 2022 increased to 44 million, including 13 million children, according to a report released this week by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

This is an increase of 31% for all individuals and 44% for children from the previous year, the highest rate and number of individuals and children since 2014 and the largest one-year increase in food insecurity since 2008.

The USDA report confirms what Feeding America heard from people facing hunger in its [2023 Elevating Voices: Insights Report](#), where people surveyed agreed that federal and local governments should treat food insecurity as an urgent crisis despite headlines asserting an improving economy and lower unemployment rates.

"The recent USDA report is heartbreaking, but unfortunately, not surprising," Lisa Scales, president and CEO of Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank said. "We've seen trends at the local level that support this data, including more than 1,800 calls to our call center for food assistance in September alone. We distributed six percent more food in the past three months than we did during the same time last year. We are operating under increasing pressure on multiple fronts: the growing number of people experiencing food insecurity and the increased cost of running our operations."

The Food Bank served more meals last fiscal year (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) than it did during the peak of the pandemic. During that time, more than 18,000 calls were fielded by the Food Bank, a 12 percent increase from the previous fiscal year.

According to the USDA report:

- Food insecurity among single mothers was nearly 34%, an increase of 37% compared to 2021.
- Notably, food insecurity among households receiving SNAP benefits also increased, with nearly 47% reporting they experienced food insecurity.

- Food insecurity increased for Black, white, and Latino individuals. However, food insecurity rates continue to be higher for and disproportionately impacts people of color, showing the effect of racial disparities on communities:
 - Black individuals saw a 15% increase in food insecurity and were nearly 2.4 times more likely to face hunger than white individuals.
 - Latino individuals saw a 29% increase in food insecurity and were 2.2 times more likely to face hunger than white individuals.
 - White individuals saw a 43% increase in food insecurity in 2022.

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About Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank is a nonprofit organization that distributes food for more than 42 million meals annually across 11 counties in southwestern Pennsylvania through a network of more than 1,000 agencies, partners and programs. The Food Bank was founded in 1980 and is a partner of Feeding America, the leading domestic hunger-relief charity in the U.S. For more information on hunger in our region or how to get involved, visit pittsburghfoodbank.org