

HUNGER BY THE NUMBERS

PIERCE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

- ◆ There are **40,814** residents in Pierce County¹
 - ◆ **7.1%** receive FoodShare benefits²
 - ◆ **5.2%** use a Pierce County food pantry³
 - ◆ **1.2%** participate in the WIC program⁴
 - ◆ **33.3%** of Pierce County kids are eligible to receive free or reduced lunch and/or breakfast at school⁵
 - ◆ **55%** of WIC families are food insecure and **19%** have very low food security⁶



October 2013

FoodShare Participation

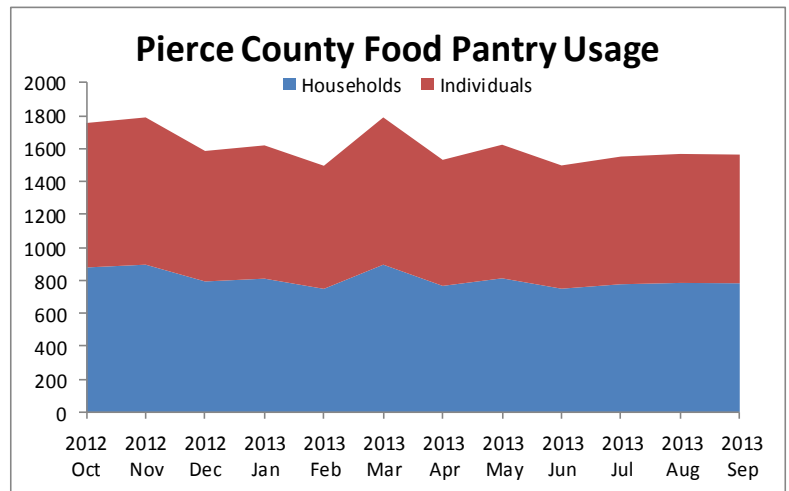
FoodShare (the program formerly known as Food Stamps) helps people with limited money buy the food they need for good health. The numbers in the table below show the number of FoodShare recipients and the dollar amount of the benefits received for selected months.²

	January 2007	January 2012	January 2013
Benefits			
Pierce County	\$71,660	\$314,408	\$323,201
Wisconsin	\$30,205,819	\$97,133,233	\$102,671,604
Recipients			
Pierce County	946	3,004	2,897
Wisconsin	380,482	831,414	854,692

Food Pantry Usage³

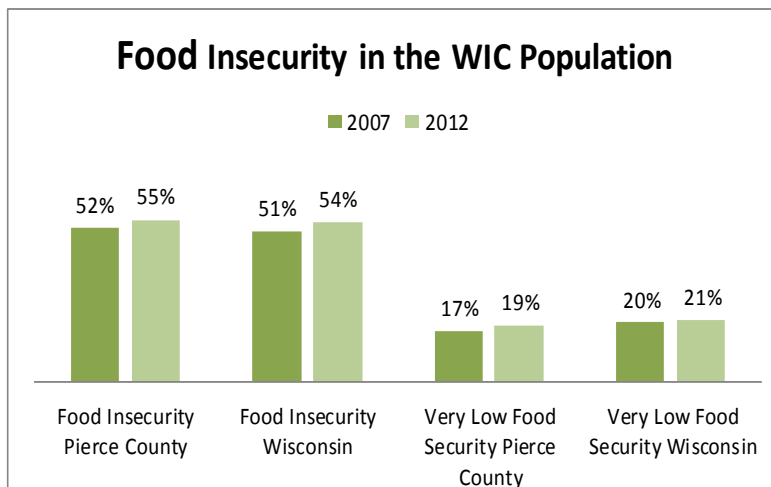
Six food pantries (staffed by volunteers) serve Pierce County residents with donated and purchased food products. The Hunger Prevention Council of Pierce County, Inc. provides support and coordination to pantries in Pierce County.

- ◆ In 2012, an average of 822 families with 2,110 individuals used Pierce County food pantries every month
- ◆ Approximately 60,000 pounds of food is distributed through Pierce County food pantries every month.



WIC Participation

The Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program provides nutrition education and supplemental foods to families who meet income guidelines.



- ◆ A monthly average of 563 Pierce County residents participated in the WIC program in 2012.⁴
- ◆ Over \$327,000 in WIC benefits were redeemed in Pierce County stores in 2012.⁴
- ◆ A survey of WIC participants shows that food security continues to be a big problem for this population.⁶

School Lunch

The six public schools in Pierce County vary in the percentage of kids who are eligible to receive free or reduced lunch from 22.4% (Ellsworth) to 50.5% (Elmwood).⁵ The state average is 43.3%.

¹United States Census Bureau <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/55/55093.html>

²Wisconsin Department of Health Services <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/em/rsdata/index.htm>

³Hunger Prevention Council of Pierce County, Inc.

⁴Wisconsin Department of Health Services WIC Program & Local Data

⁵Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction http://fns.dpi.wi.gov/fns_progstat

⁶Wisconsin Department of Health Services WIC Program, *Food Insecurity in the Wisconsin WIC Population*, January 2012