

NYC Hunger View 2004: Affording Food in a Year of Recovery



PREPARED BY:

Food Bank For New York City
Division of Government Relations,
Policy and Research

ABOUT THE FOOD BANK FOR NEW YORK CITY

The mission of the Food Bank For New York City is to end hunger by organizing food, information and support for community survival and dignity. The Food Bank collects, warehouses and distributes food to more than 1,200 nonprofit community food programs throughout the five boroughs. The organization also offers ongoing support to its network of food programs through nutrition and food safety workshops, networking sessions and education tools that help build capacity and improve efficiency. The Food Bank serves as a resource center for member agencies, legislators, the media and the public.

The Food Bank's Government Relations, Policy & Research division develops policy and conducts innovative research to ascertain trends regarding the degree of hunger throughout the city, socio-demographic profiles of programs and participants, changes in demand for food assistance and community needs assessments.

A member of America's Second Harvest, The Nation's Food Bank Network, the Food Bank provides 67 million pounds of food annually to our network of community food programs citywide including soup kitchens, food pantries, and shelters. The food provided helps programs to serve more than 240,000 meals each day to individuals and families seeking emergency food assistance to avoid going hungry.

© Copyright 2005 by the Food Bank For New York City

Main Office

90 John Street
Suite 702
New York, NY 10038-3239
Phone: 212-566-7855
Fax: 212-566-1463

Distribution Center

Hunts Point Cooperative Market
355 Food Center Drive
Bronx, NY 10474-7000
Phone: 718-991-4300
Fax: 718-893-3442

www.foodbanknyc.org

NYC Hunger View 2004:

Affording Food in a Year of Recovery

PREPARED BY:

Food Bank For New York City
Division of Government Relations,
Policy and Research

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carla Harris, Morgan Stanley and Company, Inc., Chair

Ralph L. Rogers, Jr., Altria Corporate Services, Inc., Executive Vice Chair

Jewel Jones, Love Kitchen, Inc., Vice Chair

Kathy Goldman, Secretary

Robert Weinmann, ACOSTA Sales & Marketing, Treasurer

Mario Batali

Chef

Reverend Henry Belin

Bethel AME Church

Peter L. Bloom

General Atlantic Partners

John F. Fritts, Esq.

Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLC

Eileen Scott

Pathmark Stores, Inc.

Nancy Seliger

Fleishman - Hillard, Inc.

PRESIDENT & CEO

Lucy Cabrera, Ph.D.

POLICY AND RESEARCH TEAM

Lucy Cabrera, Ph.D., President and CEO

Áine Duggan, Vice President of Government Relations, Policy & Research

Veronica Olazabal Hendrickson, Director of Policy and Research

Renee Razzano, Research Coordinator

Ashley Joy Baughman, JP Morgan Chase Hunger Policy and Research Intern

Loresa Wright, Administrative Assistant

SPECIAL THANKS TO

All New York City residents who gave of their time to participate in telephone surveys; Marist College Institute for Public Opinion; The Anti-Hunger Community; The Food Industry; America's Second Harvest, The Nation's Food Bank Network; New York City Human Resources Administration; Office of Domestic Violence and Emergency Intervention/EFAP; New York State Department of Health: Division of Nutrition/HPNAP; New York State Office of General Services: Division of Government Donated Foods/TEFAP; Staff of the Food Bank For New York City; Donors, Funders, and Friends of the Food Bank For New York City; JP Morgan Chase

Member of America's Second Harvest, The Nation's Food Bank Network



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
STUDY HIGHLIGHTS	4
METHODOLOGY	6
RESULTS	8
Analysis of New York City Residents	8
Analysis of Households with Children	9
Analysis by Borough	10
Analysis by Household Income	12
Analysis by Race/Ethnicity	14
Analysis by Gender	16
Analysis by Education Level	17
CONCLUSION	20
GLOSSARY OF TERMS	22
SOURCES	24
STUDY LIMITATIONS	25
NOTES	26

INTRODUCTION

Since the release of the Food Bank For New York City's first public opinion report in 2003,¹ the economy has shown signs of improvement, including decreasing unemployment and increasing consumer confidence.² In spite of the improving economic climate, research published by local and national organizations shows that many residents continue to have difficulty paying for basic necessities such as food, housing and healthcare.³

The impact and ill-effects of hunger and the inability to afford food are common knowledge and well documented. According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), consistent access to adequate amounts of nutritious food is one of the essential conditions for individuals and families to maintain health.⁴ Academic research further shows that hunger and malnutrition have numerous long-lasting and costly health consequences such as higher rates of chronic disease among adults⁵ and higher rates of anxiety and depression among children.⁶ Yet, recent research by the Food Bank shows that more than two million residents are at risk of going hungry — more than one-quarter who are not accessing food assistance from either a government or nonprofit community based program.⁷ To tackle this pervasive issue, it is critical to ensure proper food access and nutrition for all residents.

This study, *NYC Hunger View 2004: Affording Food in a Year of Recovery*, is part of the Food Bank's ongoing efforts to provide a comprehensive annual depiction of hunger throughout the five boroughs. The findings herein summarize how residents' ability to afford food,⁸ their awareness of nonprofit food assistance programs, and the extent to which they view hunger as a problem have changed since 2003, within the context of an improving economy. The specific questions addressed are:

- Have residents' views and perceptions of hunger changed since 2003? If so, how have they changed?
- Have residents' abilities to afford food for themselves and their families improved during the past year? Which groups have experienced the most changes? Are residents' perceptions of hunger similar to their experiences?
- Has public awareness of nonprofit community based food assistance programs (such as soup kitchens and food pantries) increased or decreased? Which areas of the city have seen the greatest changes? Is there a relationship between residents' difficulty affording food and their awareness of nonprofit food assistance programs?

This study evaluates changes and trends using the Food Bank's 2003 data as a baseline for comparison. Results organized by sociodemographic categories such as household income, race/ethnicity, gender and education level are also provided. These trends can be used to examine and address the challenges that lay ahead in ensuring that all residents have access to nutritious food at all times of the year.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2003 public opinion report, *Attitudes Towards Hunger in New York City*, conducted by the Food Bank For New York City showed that 10 percent of residents did not buy food needed by their household during the previous year with as many as 25 percent of residents experiencing difficulty affording food.⁹ The 2003 report further showed that despite this need, as little as one-third (38 percent) of residents were aware of a nonprofit community-based food assistance program such as a soup kitchens or a food pantry in their own neighborhood. This 2004 report presents the results of the Food Bank's second public opinion poll evaluating residents' views and experiences with hunger. The study analyzes whether residents' perceptions of hunger, ability to afford food, and public awareness of nonprofit food assistance programs have changed during the past year.

Since the release of last year's report, the New York City economy has improved, at times even outpacing the nation's growth. However, research published by the Community Service Society and the United States Census Bureau show that even in the face of economic growth, many residents continue to have difficulty affording basic necessities.¹⁰ In light of this information, *NYC Hunger View 2004* examines whether trends in food affordability are consistent with evidence that some residents have not benefited from the recent economic improvements.

This 2004 report shows that ability to afford food has not improved during the economic recovery period. The overall number of residents who did not buy food needed by their household at some time during the past year rose by 30 percent while the number who experienced difficulty affording food increased from one-quarter (25 percent) in 2003 to almost one-third (31 percent) in 2004. The situation has worsened for already vulnerable populations such as women, households with children, African American and Latino residents, residents with a household income less than \$25,000 and residents without a college degree. Notably, there was a near doubling of households with children that did not buy food needed by the household at some time during the past year which highlights their particular vulnerability to hunger.

Findings also show that residents most susceptible to poverty are among the populations that think hunger is a major problem and that there is a positive correlation between dif-

ficulty affording food and perceptions of hunger. It is important to note that, similar to 2003, the vast majority (82 percent) of residents think hunger is a problem.

Borough analysis of food affordability and perceptions of hunger reveals an interesting trend. Despite record increases in difficulty affording food among Staten Island residents, the number who think that hunger is not a problem almost doubled during the past year.

This increase in difficulty is not paralleled by an equal increase in public awareness of nonprofit community-based food assistance programs. Rather, awareness of these programs citywide has decreased slightly while awareness of neighborhood programs held at a low of 38 percent for both years. It is of particular concern that public awareness of these programs has decreased among the very groups experiencing the most difficulty affording food; thus, showing a negative correlation between difficulty affording food and public awareness of nonprofit food assistance programs.

The indirect relationship between difficulty affording food and public awareness of nonprofit food assistance programs is seen within all populations except women. Women are more aware of these programs than men even as women are more at risk of hunger. While the number of women who did not buy food in 2004 is double that of men, as many as two-thirds are aware of a nonprofit food assistance program anywhere in New York City compared to 55 percent among men.

In summary, despite recent economic improvements, New York City residents continue to experience increased difficulty affording food. At the same time, residents are not any more aware of nonprofit community-based food assistance programs than they were in 2003. These findings support recent reports showing similar trends and further elucidate the struggle that low-income New York City residents face meeting one of their most basic household needs — food.

Now more than ever, it is critical for government and elected officials at the local, state, and federal levels to work with the anti-hunger network to maintain support for the nutrition programs. The commitment to these and other social welfare programs must also be strengthened in order to pre-

vent increasing numbers of people who experience hunger and lack of access to sufficient food. Moreover, outreach efforts of public and private food assistance programs must be strengthened. Raising the public's awareness of food assistance resources is critical to strengthening the social safety net for the millions of New York City residents who struggle to afford adequate and nutritious food for themselves and their families.

STUDY HIGHLIGHTS

STUDY HIGHLIGHTS

PERCEPTIONS OF HUNGER

- Similar to 2003, the vast majority (82 percent) of New York City residents think hunger is a problem.
- Fifty-nine percent of New York City residents think hunger has increased during the past year.

ABILITY TO AFFORD FOOD¹¹

NYC Residents

- Thirteen percent of New York City residents did not buy food needed by their household at some time during the past year, an increase of 30 percent since 2003.
- Thirty-nine percent of New York City residents would not be able to afford food within three months of a loss of household income.

Households with Children

- More than one-fifth (21 percent) of households with children did not buy food needed by the household at some time during the past year, almost double the number in 2003.
- Nearly half (48 percent) of households with children would not be able to afford food within three months of a loss of household income.

Gender

- Almost one-fifth (18 percent) of women did not buy food needed by their household at some time during the past year, an increase of 64 percent since 2003.
- Men who did not buy food needed by their household at some time during the past year held at eight percent for 2003 and 2004.
- The percentage (18 percent) of women that did not buy food needed by their household at some time in 2004 is more than twice that of men (eight percent).
- Almost half (46 percent) of women would not be able to afford food within three months of a loss of household income.

Education

- Nearly one-fifth (19 percent) of residents without a college degree did not buy food needed by their household at some time during the past year, an increase of 73 percent since 2003.
- The percentage (19 percent) of residents without a college degree who did not buy food needed by their household at some time during the past year is almost four times that of residents with a college degree (five percent).
- About half (43 percent) of residents without a college degree would not be able to afford food within three months of a loss of household income.

Race/Ethnicity

- Over one-quarter (26 percent) of Latino residents did not buy food needed by their household at some time during the past year, an increase of 44 percent since 2003.
- African American residents who did not buy food needed by their household at some time during the past year held at 15 percent for 2003 and 2004.
- The number of White residents who did not buy food needed by their household at some time during the past year doubled from three percent in 2003 to six percent in 2004.
- About half of Latino and African American residents and slightly more than one quarter of White residents would not be able to afford food within three months of a loss of household income (52 percent, 47 percent and 27 percent respectively).

Household Income

- More than one-quarter (29 percent) of residents with a household income less than \$25,000 did not buy food needed by their household at some time during the past year, an increase of 32 percent since 2003.

-
- One-tenth (10 percent) of residents with a household income between \$25,000 and \$49,999 did not buy food needed by their household at some time during the past year, an increase of 25 percent since 2003.
 - The number of residents with household incomes between \$50,000 and \$74,999 who did not buy food needed by their household at some time during the past year more than doubled from three percent in 2003 to seven percent in 2004.
 - More than half (57 percent) of residents with a household income less than \$25,000 would not be able to afford food within three months of a loss of household income.
 - Nearly one-fifth (19 percent) of residents in the Bronx did not buy food needed by their household at some time during the past year, an increase of almost half since 2003.
 - Residents in Brooklyn who did not buy food needed by their household at some time during the past year increased from 11 percent in 2003 to 12 percent in 2004.
 - Residents in Manhattan who did not buy food needed by their household at some time during the past year held at 10 percent for 2003 and 2004.

Borough Analysis

- On Staten Island, 13 percent of residents did not buy food needed by their household at some time during the past year, more than triple the number in 2003. Residents who found it "very difficult" to afford food skyrocketed from zero in 2003 to 13 percent in 2004.
- In Queens, 13 percent of residents did not buy food needed by their household at some time during the past year, an increase of almost 63 percent since 2003.

AWARENESS OF NONPROFIT FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

- Less than two-thirds (60 percent) of residents are aware of a nonprofit community-based food assistance program anywhere in New York City, a decrease of five percent since 2003.
- Only 38 percent of New York City residents are aware of a nonprofit neighborhood food assistance program, the same number as in 2003.

METHODOLOGY

METHODOLOGY

Survey Instrument

The survey was conducted for the Food Bank For New York City by Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. Data was collected by phone interviews, which consisted of eight questions developed by the Food Bank in collaboration with Marist College.

Sample Population

Telephone interviews were conducted using random digit dialing between July 8 and July 13 of 2004, with a total of 857 New York City residents ages 18 and older. Interviews were administered in English and Spanish by trained interviewers from a centralized location. Up to three attempts to establish contact were made per telephone number.

Data Analysis

A final weighted data set that reflects interview responses was provided to the Food Bank by Marist College. To ensure proportionality, borough statistics were weighted by population using data from the 2002 U.S. Census. In addition to statistics for the total population of New York City, the data set included cross-tabulations by variables such as borough, households with children, household income, education, race and gender. Results are significant at the $\pm 3.5\%$ level. Changes and trends in residents' views of hunger, their ability to buy food needed by their household, and their awareness of nonprofit community-based food assistance programs were determined by comparing this year's survey results to statistics obtained from identical questions asked by Marist College for the Food Bank in 2003.¹²

RESULTS RESULTS

This section presents New York City residents' perceptions of hunger, ability to afford food and awareness of non-profit community-based food assistance programs.¹³ The 2004 findings for the general New York City population are followed by analysis of specific demographic categories — households with children, borough, household income, race/ethnicity, gender, and education level. The 2003 Food Bank public opinion report, *Attitudes Towards Hunger in New York City*, provides the baseline data for year-to-year comparative analysis.

Analysis of New York City Residents

Perceptions of Hunger

To measure perceptions of hunger, polled residents were asked how large of a problem they think hunger is and whether they think the number of people who cannot afford food has changed during the past year.

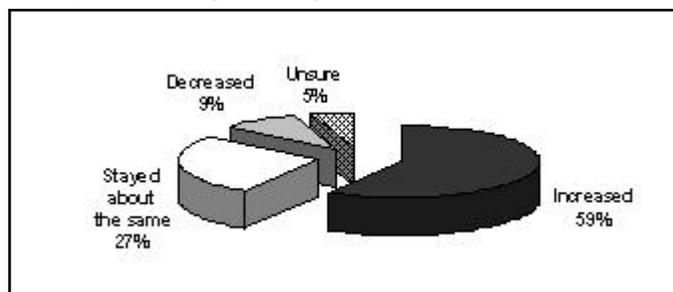
As indicated in Table 1.1, in both 2003 and 2004, the vast majority (82 percent) of residents think that hunger is a problem, which is unchanged since 2003. Almost half of this group think hunger is a major problem.

Table 1.1
View of Hunger — NYC Residents

Year	Major problem	Somewhat of a problem	Not a problem	Unsure
2003	40%	42%	13%	5%
2004	40%	42%	15%	3%

In addition, as shown by Figure 1.2, 59 percent of residents think that hunger has increased during the past year.

Figure 1.2
Perception of Hunger during the Past Year — NYC Residents



Ability to Afford Food

To measure ability to afford food, polled residents were asked how difficult it was to afford food during the past year, whether there was a time during the past year when they did not buy food needed by their household and how soon after the loss of a household income do they think they would not be able to afford food.

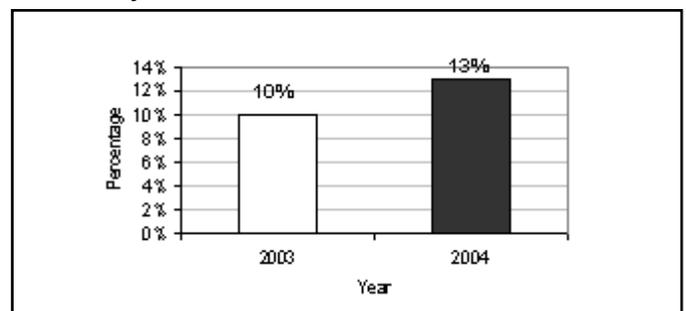
As illustrated in Table 1.3, almost one-third (31 percent) of residents experienced difficulty affording food in 2004, up from one-quarter (25 percent) in 2003. Among those who found it "not very difficult," there was a decrease from one-quarter (23 percent) in 2003 to less than one-fifth (18 percent) in 2004.

Table 1.3
Difficulty Affording Food — NYC Residents

Year	Very difficult	Somewhat difficult	Not very difficult	Unsure
2003	7%	18%	23%	52%
2004	9%	22%	18%	51%

Similarly, as shown in Graph 1.4, there was an increase in residents who did not buy food needed by their household at some time during the past year. Thirteen percent of residents did not buy food in 2004, up from 10 percent in 2003.

Figure 1.4
Did Not Buy Food at Some Time — NYC Residents



As Table 1.5 shows, a high number of residents could quickly become at risk to hunger after the loss of their household income. Similar to 2003 findings, more than half (54 percent) of residents think they would not be able to

afford food within six months of a loss of household income. Further, almost one-fifth (17 percent) of residents think they would not be able to afford food immediately after a loss of household income.

Table 1.5
Impact of Loss of Household Income — NYC Residents

How soon after loss of household income resident would not be able to afford food

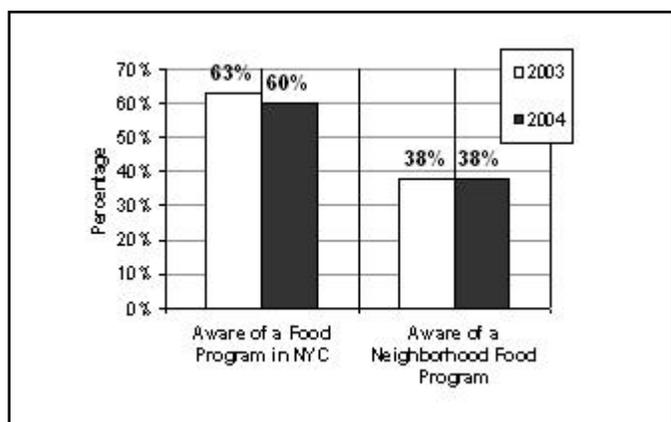
Year	Immediately	1 - 3 mo.	4 - 6 mo.	after 6 - 12 mo.	More than 1 yr.	Unsure
2003	17%	23%	14%	15%	23%	8%
2004	17%	22%	13%	15%	28%	5%

Awareness of Nonprofit Community-Based Food Assistance Programs

To measure awareness of nonprofit food assistance programs, polled residents were asked if they were aware of a community-based food assistance program in their neighborhood or anywhere in New York City.

Despite increased need, as Figure 1.6 shows, awareness of nonprofit food assistance programs anywhere in New York City has decreased from 63 percent in 2003 to 60 percent in 2004. Moreover, awareness of nonprofit neighborhood food assistance programs remains low. In 2003 and 2004, only 38 percent of residents were aware of a program in their own neighborhood.

Figure 1.6
Awareness of Nonprofit Food Assistance Programs — NYC Residents



Analysis of Households with Children

Perceptions of Hunger

As Table 1.7 shows, the perception of hunger as a problem remains particularly high among households with children. While 83 percent think hunger is a problem, similar to the general New York City population findings, nearly half (45 percent) of this group think hunger is a major problem.

Table 1.7
View of Hunger — Households with Children

Year	Major problem	Somewhat of a problem	Not a problem	Unsure
2003	43%	42%	11%	4%
2004	45%	38%	14%	3%

Similarly, as Table 1.8 shows, almost two-thirds (65 percent) of households with children think that hunger has increased during the past year.

Table 1.8
Perception of Hunger — Households with Children

Year	Increased	Stayed the same	Decreased	Unsure
2003	67%	19%	8%	6%
2004	65%	21%	12%	2%

*In 2003, this question asked about changes during the past three years while the 2004 version asked about changes during the past year.

Ability to Afford Food

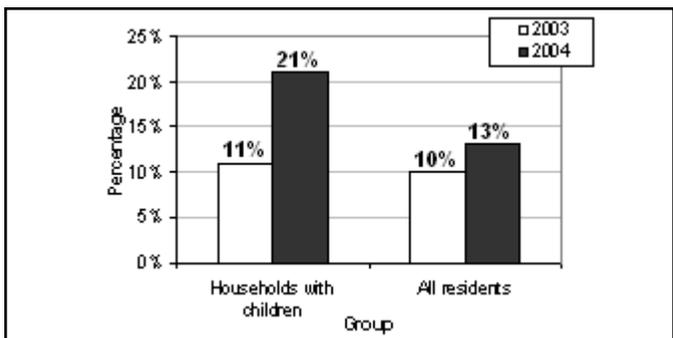
Analysis shows that households with children are experiencing increased difficulty affording food. As presented in Table 1.9, households with children that experienced difficulty affording food increased from a little less than one-third (32 percent) in 2003 to 41 percent in 2004, including an increase from nine percent to 12 percent of those who found it "very difficult" to afford food.

Table 1.9
Difficulty Affording Food — Households with Children

Year	Very difficult	Somewhat difficult	Not very difficult	Unsure
2003	9%	23%	26%	42%
2004	12%	29%	19%	40%

The particular vulnerability of households with children to hunger is further borne out by Graph 1.10 which shows a near doubling of households with children that did not buy food needed by the household at some time during the past year. The number of households with children that did not buy food some time during the year increased from 11 percent in 2003 to 21 percent in 2004, in contrast to an increase from 10 percent in 2003 to 13 percent in 2004 among the general New York City population.

Figure 1.10
Did Not Buy Food at Some Time — Households with Children



Further, Table 1.11 demonstrates that, similar to 2003, one-fifth (20 percent) of households with children think they would not be able to afford food immediately after the loss of a household income, while almost half (48 percent) would not be able to afford food within three months.

Table 1.11
Impact of Loss of Household Income — Households with Children

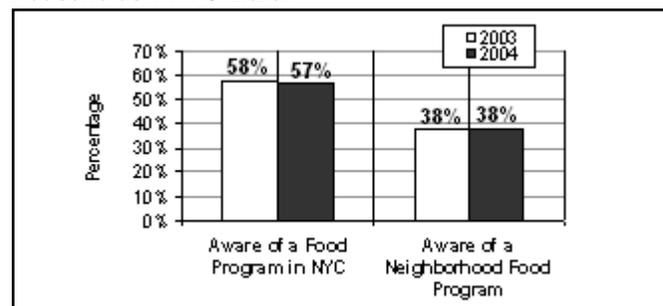
How soon after loss of household income resident would not be able to afford food

Year	Immediately	1-3 mo.	4-6 mo.	after 6-12 mo.	after 1yr.	Unsure
2003	20%	26%	13%	14%	23%	4%
2004	20%	28%	17%	12%	21%	2%

Awareness of Nonprofit Community-Based Food Assistance Programs

Despite increased need, Figure 1.12 demonstrates that awareness of nonprofit food assistance programs among households with children did not change much during the past year. There was only a slight decrease, from 58 percent in 2003 to 57 percent in 2004, among households with children who are aware of a nonprofit food assistance program anywhere in New York City. Further, in both 2003 and 2004, only 38 percent of households with children were aware of a program in their own neighborhood.

Figure 1.12
Awareness of Nonprofit Food Assistance Programs — Households with Children



Analysis by Borough

Perceptions of Hunger

As presented in Table 1.13, perceptions of hunger by borough are similar to 2003 findings. At 56 percent and 41 percent respectively, the Bronx and Brooklyn still have the highest proportion of residents who think that hunger is a major problem, compared to slightly more than one-third of residents in Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island.

Table 1.13
View of Hunger — by Borough

	Major problem		Somewhat of a problem		Not a problem		Unsure	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
NYC	40%	40%	42%	42%	13%	15%	5%	3%
Bronx	54%	56%	33%	34%	10%	8%	3%	2%
Brooklyn	43%	41%	41%	40%	12%	16%	4%	3%
Manhattan	35%	34%	48%	53%	13%	12%	4%	1%
Queens	34%	35%	43%	43%	17%	19%	6%	3%
Staten Island	39%	34%	48%	46%	6%	12%	7%	8%

As seen in Table 1.14, almost three-quarters (73 percent) of Bronx residents think hunger has increased during the past year. This figure is followed by 60 percent of Manhattan residents, 57 percent of Brooklyn residents, 53 percent of Queens residents, and 51 percent of Staten Island residents.

Interestingly, the perception of hunger on Staten Island differs somewhat from the rest of the city. While the vast majority (80 percent) of Staten Island residents think hunger is a problem (Table 1.13) and 68 percent think hunger has increased (Table 1.14), the minority of Island residents who think hunger is not a problem has doubled from six percent in 2003 to 12 percent in 2004 (Table 1.13), and similarly, those who think that hunger has decreased during the past year has almost tripled from five percent in 2003 to 14 percent in 2004 (Table 1.14).

Table 1.14
Perception of Hunger — by Borough

	Increased		Stayed the same		Decreased		Unsure	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
NYC	64%	59%	22%	27%	8%	9%	6%	5%
Bronx	71%	73%	20%	21%	5%	4%	4%	2%
Brooklyn	65%	57%	20%	29%	10%	10%	5%	4%
Manhattan	59%	60%	23%	26%	13%	9%	5%	5%
Queens	59%	53%	26%	28%	6%	11%	9%	8%
Staten Island	71%	51%	19%	25%	5%	14%	5%	10%

*In 2003, this question asked about changes during the past three years while the 2004 version asked about changes during the past year.

Ability to Afford Food

Borough results regarding actual ability to afford food reflect some change and do not mirror perceptions of hunger. For instance, as illustrated in Table 1.15, the number of residents who found it "very difficult" to afford food during the past year increased dramatically on Staten Island from zero in 2003 to 13 percent in 2004.

Table 1.15
Difficulty Affording Food — by Borough

	Very difficult		Somewhat difficult		Not very difficult		Unsure	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
NYC	7%	9%	18%	22%	23%	18%	52%	51%
Bronx	11%	12%	26%	29%	19%	14%	44%	45%
Brooklyn	6%	10%	18%	21%	26%	18%	50%	51%
Manhattan	8%	5%	14%	16%	19%	19%	59%	60%
Queens	7%	6%	16%	26%	25%	19%	52%	49%
Staten Island	0%	13%	18%	15%	24%	19%	58%	53%

Further, Figure 1.16 reflects that the number of residents who did not buy food needed by their household at some time during the past year increased in all boroughs except Manhattan, which held at 10 percent in 2003 and 2004. There were big increases in Queens (from eight percent to 13 percent), and the Bronx (from 13 percent to 19 percent). Again, the largest increase was on Staten Island, where the number of residents who did not buy food needed by their household tripled from 4 percent in 2003 to 13 percent in 2004 - an interesting contrast to the near tripling of Island residents who think that hunger has decreased, as reflected in Table 1.14.

Figure 1.16
Did Not Buy Food at Some Time — by Borough

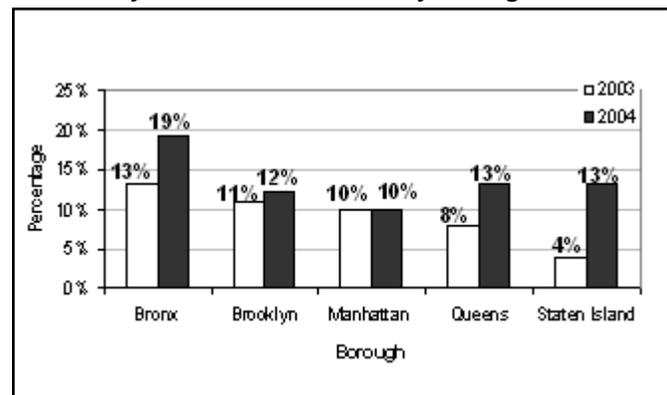
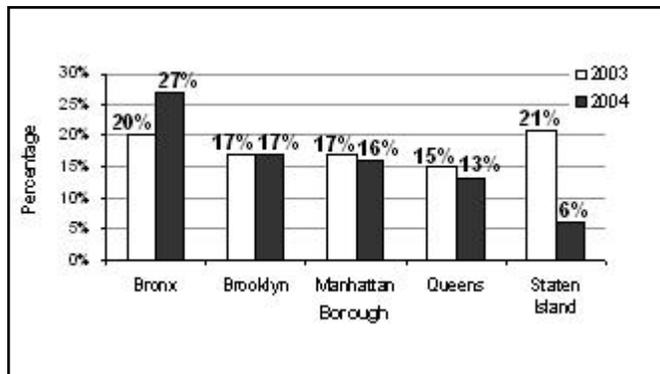


Figure 1.17 shows that at just over one-quarter (27 percent) the Bronx has the highest number of residents who think they would not be able to afford food immediately after a loss of household income, up from one-fifth (20 percent) in 2003. In contrast, the number of Staten Islanders who think they would not be able to afford food immediately after a loss of household income has dramatically dropped from 21 percent in 2003 to six percent in 2004.

Figure 1.17
Impact of Loss of Household Income — by Borough

Residents who would not be able to afford food immediately



Awareness of Nonprofit Community-Based Food Assistance Programs

Residents' awareness of nonprofit food assistance programs anywhere in New York City and in their own neighborhood vary from borough to borough. Notably, residents in Manhattan are the most aware of citywide and neighborhood programs while residents in Brooklyn are the least aware.

As seen in Table 1.18, awareness of nonprofit food assistance programs anywhere in New York City has decreased in all boroughs except Queens, where awareness increased from 53 percent to 60 percent.

Also illustrated in Table 1.18, awareness of nonprofit neighborhood food assistance programs increased among residents in Queens, the Bronx and Staten Island. Whereas, awareness decreased from 55 percent to 46 percent among residents in Manhattan, and from 37 percent to 35 percent among residents in Brooklyn.

Table 1.18
Awareness of Nonprofit Food Assistance Programs — by Borough

	Aware of a food assistance program anywhere in NYC		Aware of a neighborhood food assistance program	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
NYC	63%	60%	38%	38%
Bronx	64%	59%	35%	40%
Brooklyn	59%	58%	37%	35%
Manhattan	76%	66%	55%	46%
Queens	53%	60%	31%	36%
Staten Island	71%	62%	24%	38%

Analysis by Household Income

Perceptions of Hunger

Perceptions of hunger vary according to residents' household incomes, and residents with the smallest incomes are more likely to view hunger as a problem. As Figure 1.19 illustrates, similar to 2003, more than half (53 percent) of residents with a household income less than \$25,000 think hunger is a major problem, in contrast to one-quarter (24 percent) of those with incomes of \$75,000 or more. Figure 1.19 further shows that during the past year, the number of residents who think hunger is a major problem *increased* in both income categories less than \$50,000 in contrast to a *decrease* for residents within income categories above \$50,000.

Figure 1.19
View of Hunger as a Major Problem — by Income Category

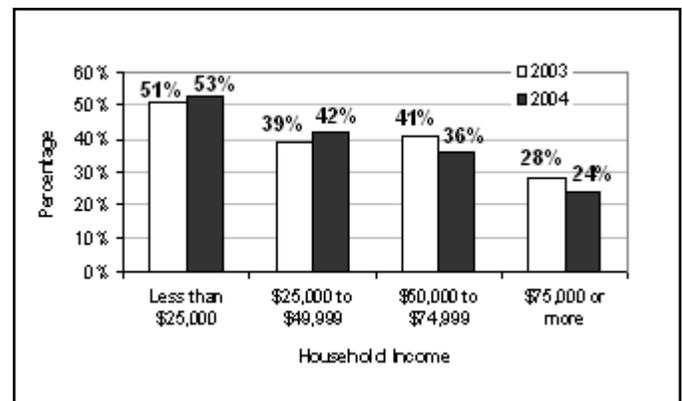


Table 1.20 shows that almost two-thirds of residents with a household income less than \$25,000, \$25,000 to \$49,999, and \$50,000 to \$74,999 think hunger has increased during the past year. Interestingly, over half (54 percent) of residents with household incomes over \$75,000 think hunger has increased.

Table 1.20
Perceptions of Hunger — by Income Category

	Increased		Stayed the same		Decreased		Unsure	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
Less than \$25,000	65%	60%	17%	23%	13%	12%	5%	5%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	65%	63%	26%	27%	5%	6%	4%	4%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	72%	63%	17%	25%	7%	6%	4%	6%
Over \$75,000	62%	54%	26%	32%	5%	10%	7%	4%

*In 2003, this question asked about changes during the past three years while the 2004 version asked about changes during the past year.

Ability to Afford Food

As illustrated in Table 1.21, 60 percent of residents with a household income less than \$25,000 experienced difficulty affording food during the past year, an increase from 49 percent in 2003.

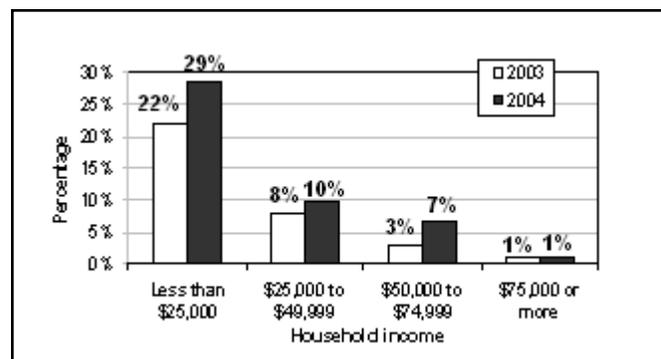
Notably, Table 1.21 also shows that residents in higher income categories also experienced difficulty affording food. In 2004, one-fifth (20 percent) of residents with a household income between \$50,000 and \$74,999 experienced difficulty affording food, up from 14 percent in 2003.

Table 1.21
Difficulty Affording Food — by Income Category

	Very difficult		Somewhat difficult		Not very difficult		Unsure	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
Less than \$25,000	19%	20%	30%	40%	24%	18%	27%	22%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	4%	6%	17%	22%	29%	21%	50%	51%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	1%	3%	13%	17%	24%	17%	62%	63%
Over \$75,000	1%	0%	3%	5%	14%	14%	82%	81%

Figure 1.22 reveals that among residents who experienced a time during the year when they did not buy food needed by their household, there was an increase from a little over one-fifth (22 percent) in 2003 to over one-quarter (29 percent) in 2004 among residents with a household income less than \$25,000. There were also increases among residents with higher household incomes. For example, among residents with a household income between \$25,000 and \$49,999, there was an increase from eight percent in 2003 to 10 percent in 2004. Similarly, there was an increase of more than double among residents with a household income between \$50,000 and \$74,999, from three percent in 2003 to seven percent in 2004.

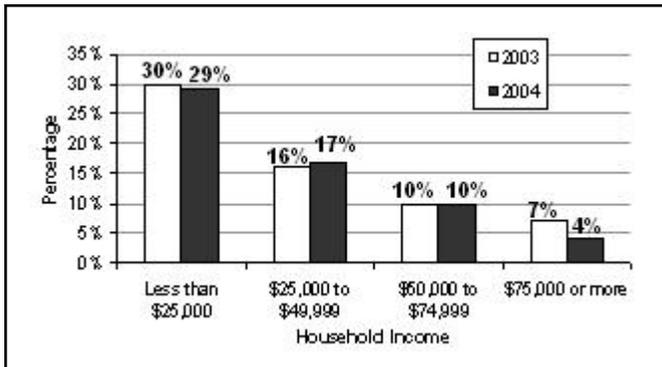
Figure 1.22
Did Not Buy Food at Some Time — by Income Category



Similar to 2003, residents with the lowest household incomes are more likely to think that they would not be able to afford food immediately after the loss of a household income. As illustrated in Figure 1.23, over one-quarter (29 percent) of residents with a household income below \$25,000 think they would not be able to afford food immediately after a loss of household income. This is compared to almost one-fifth (17 percent) of residents with a household income between \$25,000 and \$49,999, 10 percent of residents with a household income between \$50,000 and \$74,999, and four percent of residents with a household income above \$75,000.

Figure 1.23
Impact of Loss of Household Income — by Income Category

Residents who would not be able to afford food immediately



Awareness of Nonprofit Community-Based Food Assistance Programs

While residents within the lowest income range are experiencing the most difficulty affording food, their awareness of nonprofit food assistance programs has declined during the past year. For example, as Table 1.24 shows, awareness of a program anywhere in New York City has dropped from 61 percent in 2003 to 57 percent in 2004 among residents with a household income below \$25,000. Similarly, among this same group, the awareness of a neighborhood program dropped from 40 percent in 2003 to 37 percent in 2004.

Table 1.24
Awareness of Nonprofit Food Assistance Programs — by Income Category

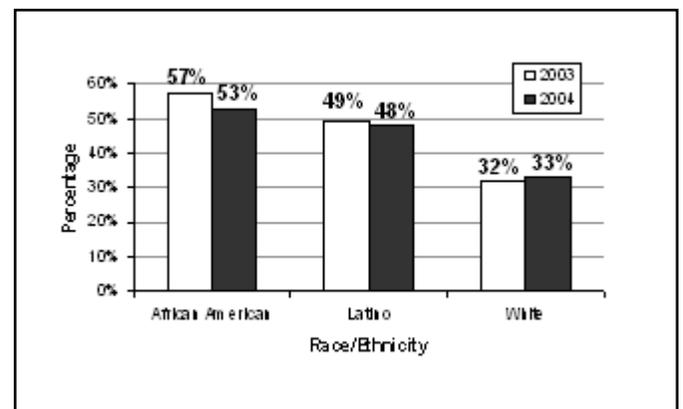
	Aware of a food assistance program anywhere in NYC		Aware of a neighborhood food assistance program	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
Less than \$25,000	61%	57%	40%	37%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	60%	58%	34%	40%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	70%	58%	39%	34%
Over \$75,000	71%	72%	41%	41%

Analysis by Race/Ethnicity

Perceptions of Hunger

Perceptions of hunger vary according to race/ethnicity. As Figure 1.25 shows, in 2004, about one-half of African American residents (53 percent) and Latino residents (48 percent) think hunger is a major problem in contrast to one-third (33 percent) of White residents.

Figure 1.25
View of Hunger as a Major Problem — by Race/Ethnicity



Further, as presented in Table 1.26, nearly three-quarters (71 percent) of African American residents and over two-thirds (68 percent) of Latino residents think hunger has increased during the past year, similar to 2003. In contrast, among White residents who think that hunger has increased, there has been a drop from 63 percent in 2003 to 52 percent in 2004.

Table 1.26
Perception of Hunger — by Race/Ethnicity

	Increased		Stayed the same		Decreased		Unsure	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
African American	68%	71%	19%	17%	9%	10%	4%	2%
Latino	69%	68%	23%	21%	6%	10%	2%	1%
White	63%	52%	24%	34%	7%	7%	6%	7%

*In 2003, this question asked about changes during the past three years while the 2004 version asked about changes during the past year.

Ability to Afford Food

As seen in Table 1.27, similar to 2003, nearly half (48 percent) of Latino residents experienced difficulty affording food during the past year. Among African American residents, those who experienced difficulty increased from 32 percent to 40 percent. Among White residents, there was an increase from 13 percent to 18 percent.

Table 1.27
Difficulty Affording Food — by Race/Ethnicity

	Very difficult		Somewhat difficult		Not very difficult		Unsure	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
African American	11%	10%	21%	30%	24%	17%	44%	43%
Latino	15%	17%	32%	31%	25%	18%	28%	34%
White	3%	4%	10%	14%	21%	18%	66%	64%

As illustrated in Figure 1.28, whereas there was no change among African American residents who experienced a time during the past year when they did not buy food, the number doubled among White residents from three percent in

2003 to six percent in 2004 and increased among Latino residents from close to one-fifth (18 percent) in 2003 to over one-quarter (26 percent) in 2004.

Figure 1.28
Did Not Buy Food at Some Time — by Race/Ethnicity

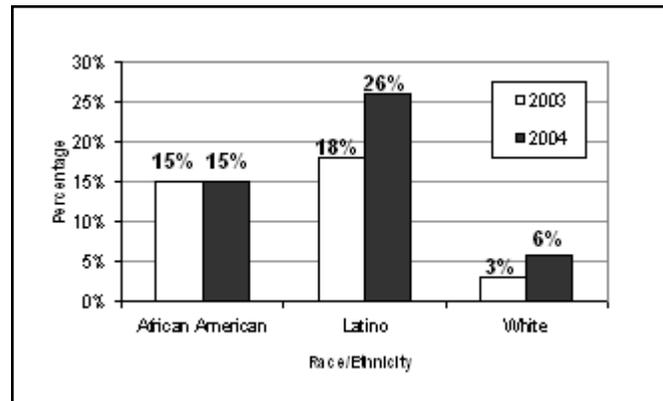


Table 1.29 shows that one-quarter (25 percent) of Latino residents think they would not be able to afford food immediately after losing their household income with over half (52 percent) not being able to afford food within three months. Similarly, a little over one-fifth (21 percent) of African American residents would be affected immediately after the loss of a household income with almost half (47 percent) not being able to afford food within three months.

Table 1.29
Impact of Loss of Household Income — by Race/Ethnicity

How soon after loss of household income resident would not be able to afford food

	Immediately		1 - 3 mo.		4 - 6 mo.		after 6 - 12 mo.	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
African American	19%	21%	28%	26%	16%	11%	15%	16%
Latino	20%	25%	33%	27%	14%	15%	18%	16%
White	14%	11%	16%	16%	14%	14%	15%	14%

Awareness of Nonprofit Community-Based Food Assistance Programs

As shown in Table 1.30, while 61 percent of Latino residents and 60 percent of African American residents knew of a nonprofit food assistance program anywhere in New York City in 2003, only 55 percent and 54 percent respectively

are aware of one in 2004. Also illustrated in the table, similar to 2003, 41 percent of Latino residents and 34 percent of African American residents knew of a nonprofit neighborhood food assistance program in 2004.

Table 1.30
Awareness of Nonprofit Food Assistance Programs — by Race/Ethnicity

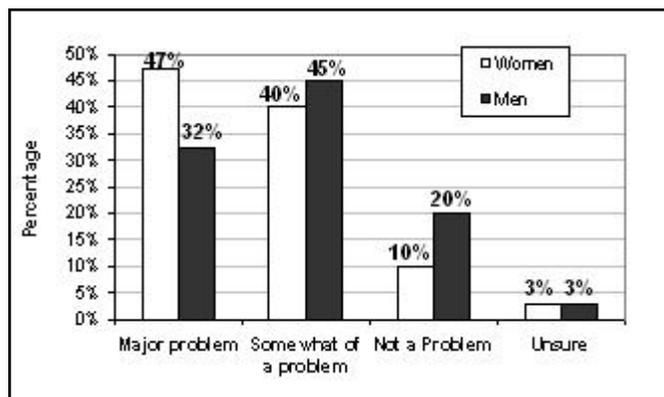
	Aware of a food assistance program anywhere in NYC		Aware of a neighborhood food assistance program	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
African American	60%	54%	36%	34%
Latino	61%	55%	41%	41%
White	70%	68%	42%	40%

Analysis by Gender

Perceptions of Hunger

As illustrated in Figure 1.31, about one-half (47 percent) of women think that hunger is a major problem compared to almost one-third (32 percent) of men. These numbers have not changed since 2003.

Figure 1.31
View of Hunger — by Gender in 2004



As Table 1.32 shows, 54 percent of men currently think that there has been an increase in the number of people who cannot afford food, down from 62 percent in 2003. In con-

trast, there was only a slight drop, from 65 percent in 2003 to 63 percent in 2004, among women who think that the number of people who cannot afford food has increased during the past year.

Table 1.32
Perception of Hunger — by Gender

	Men		Women	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
Increased	62%	54%	65%	63%
Stayed the same	23%	29%	21%	25%
Decreased	9%	12%	8%	7%
Unsure	6%	5%	6%	5%

* In 2003 this question asked about changes during the past three years while the 2004 version asked about changes during the past year.

Ability to Afford Food

Results also show gender disparity in residents' ability to afford food. Table 1.33 shows that among women who experienced difficulty affording food during the past year, there was an increase from over one-quarter (28 percent) in 2003 to over one-third (38 percent) in 2004. Comparatively, the number of men experiencing difficulty increased only slightly from 22 percent in 2003 to 24 percent in 2004.

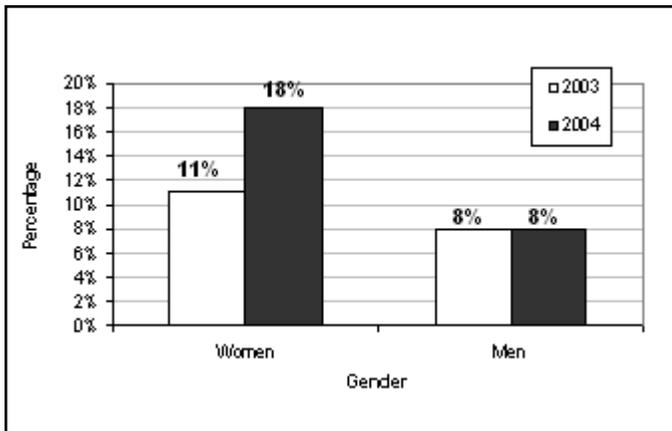
Table 1.33
Difficult Affording Food — by Gender

	Men		Women	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
Very difficult	6%	7%	9%	10%
Somewhat difficult	16%	17%	19%	28%
Not very difficult	23%	20%	23%	16%
Not difficult at all	55%	56%	49%	46%

Similarly, and as illustrated in Figure 1.34, among women who experienced a time during the past year when they did not buy food needed by their household, there was an

increase of more than half from 11 percent in 2003 to 18 percent in 2004. In contrast, the number of men remained at eight percent.

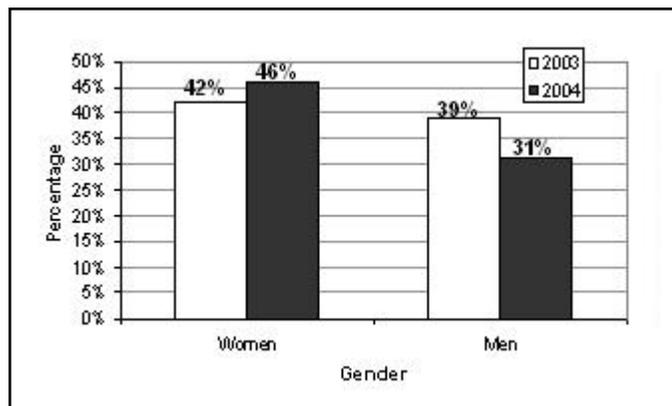
Figure 1.34
Did Not Buy Food at Some Time — by Gender



As seen in Figure 1.35, among women who think they would not be able to afford food within three months of a loss of household income, there was an *increase* from 42 percent to 46 percent. In contrast, there was a *decrease* from 39 percent in 2003 to 31 percent in 2004 among men.

Figure 1.35
Impact of Loss of Household Income — by Gender

Residents who would not be able to afford food within three months



Awareness of Nonprofit Community-Based Food Assistance Programs

While women in New York City experience more difficulty

affording food than men, women are also more aware of nonprofit food assistance programs. As presented in Table 1.36, similar to 2003, almost two-thirds (65 percent) of women are aware of a food assistance program anywhere in New York City, compared to over half (55 percent) of men. Further, 41 percent of women are aware of a nonprofit neighborhood food assistance, compared to 35 percent of men.

Table 1.36
Awareness of Nonprofit Food Assistance Programs — by Gender

Gender	Aware of a food assistance program anywhere in NYC		Aware of a neighborhood food assistance program	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
Men	64%	55%	35%	35%
Women	62%	65%	40%	41%

Analysis by Education Level

Perceptions of Hunger

Table 1.37 illustrates that almost half (47 percent) of residents without a college degree think hunger is a major problem, a slight increase from 45 percent in 2003. Whereas, among residents with a college degree, less than one-third (30 percent) think hunger is a major problem, which is similar to 2003 findings.

Table 1.37
View of Hunger — by Education Level

	Major problem		Somewhat of a problem		Not a problem		Unsure	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
Residents w/ a college degree	31%	30%	52%	54%	11%	14%	6%	2%
Residents w/o a college degree	45%	47%	39%	36%	12%	14%	4%	3%

As shown in Table 1.38, the number of residents with a college degree who think that hunger has increased dropped during the past year from 61 percent in 2003 to 56 percent in 2004. There was also a drop among residents without a college degree, although to a lesser extent, from 65 percent in 2003 to 62 percent in 2004.

Table 1.38
Perception of Hunger — Education Level

	Increased		Stayed the same		Decreased		Unsure	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
Residents w/ a college degree	61%	56%	24%	29%	7%	9%	8%	6%
Residents w/o a college degree	65%	62%	21%	25%	9%	9%	5%	4%

* In 2003 this question asked about changes during the past three years while the 2004 version asked about changes during the past year.

Ability to Afford Food

There are also disparities between the abilities of residents with and without college degrees to afford food. As illustrated by Table 1.39, 43 percent of residents without a college degree experienced difficulty affording food during the past year (in contrast to 14 percent of residents with a college degree) an increase from a little less than one-third (32 percent) in 2003.

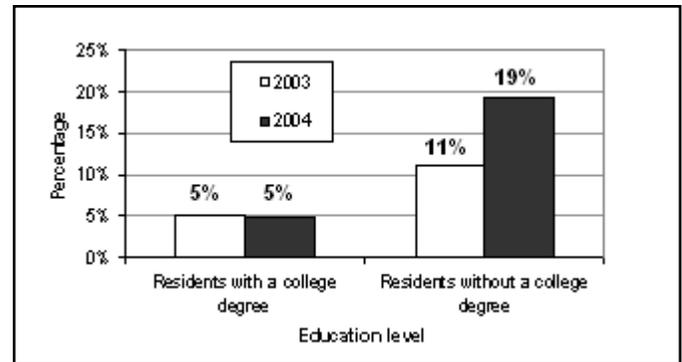
Table 1.39
Difficulty Affording Food — Education Level

	Very difficult		Somewhat difficult		Not very difficult		Unsure	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
Residents w/ a college degree	2%	4%	8%	10%	23%	17%	67%	69%
Residents w/o a college degree	10%	12%	22%	31%	24%	18%	44%	39%

Figure 1.40 further shows the degree of difficulty residents without a college degree have affording food. As shown, among residents without a college degree who experienced a time during the past year when they did not buy food

needed by their household, there was an increase from 11 percent in 2003 to 19 percent in 2004. In comparison, residents with a college degree held at 5 percent in 2003 and 2004.

Figure 1.40
Did Not Buy Food at Some Time — by Education Level



Similarly, Table 1.41 shows that almost one-quarter (23 percent) of residents without a college degree would not be able to afford food immediately after the loss of a household income, an increase from one-fifth (20 percent) in 2003. Among residents with a college degree, there was a decrease from 11 percent in 2003 to nine percent in 2004. Further, and similar to 2003, almost half (48 percent) of residents without a college degree would not be able to afford food within three months of a loss of household income compared to one-quarter (26 percent) of residents with a college degree.

Table 1.41
Impact of Loss of Household Income — by Education Level

How soon after loss of household income would not be able to afford food

	Immediately		1-3 mo.		4-6 mo.		after 6-12 mo.	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
Residents w/ a college degree	11%	9%	20%	17%	14%	15%	18%	17%
Residents w/o a college degree	20%	23%	25%	25%	15%	11%	13%	14%

Awareness of Nonprofit Community-Based Food Assistance Programs

Similar to 2003, residents with a college degree are more aware of both a nonprofit food assistance program anywhere in New York City and in their neighborhood than residents without a college degree. As Table 1.42 shows, among residents with a college degree, awareness of a program anywhere in New York City increased from 68 percent in 2003 to 73 percent in 2004 while it decreased from 62 percent in 2003 to 52 percent in 2004 among those without a college degree. Further, among residents with a college degree, awareness of a neighborhood program increased from 40 percent in 2003 to 43 percent in 2004 whereas, among residents without a college degree, awareness decreased from 38 percent to 36 percent.

Table 1.42
Awareness of Nonprofit Food Assistance Programs —
by Education Level

	Aware of a food assistance program anywhere in NYC		Aware of a neighborhood food assistance program	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
Residents w/ a college degree	68%	73%	40%	43%
Residents w/o a college degree	62%	52%	38%	36%

CONCLUSION

NYC Hunger View 2004 presents the results of the Food Bank For New York City's second public opinion poll evaluating residents' views of hunger and experiences of food affordability. Within the context of an improved economy, this study focuses on changes during the past year in (1) residents' perceptions of hunger, (2) residents' ability to afford food, and (3) public awareness of nonprofit food assistance programs.

The research shows that the vast majority of residents, regardless of race, gender, household income or education level think hunger is a problem in New York City. Sociodemographic analysis reveals that almost one-half of all women, households with children, African American and Latino residents, households with incomes less than \$25,000, and residents without a college degree think hunger is a major problem. These views remain similar to those expressed one year ago.

There have been some unexpected shifts in residents' actual ability to buy food needed by their household during the past year. During times of economic growth, residents' ability to purchase food is expected to improve due to increased purchasing power. However, during the past year of economic recovery, New York City residents have found it more difficult to afford food. This trend is demonstrated by the respective 30 percent increase in both the number of residents who experienced a time when they did not buy food needed by their household and the number who found it "very difficult" to afford food during the past year. Notably, there was a near doubling of households with children that did not buy food needed by the household at some time during the past year which highlights their particular vulnerability to hunger. Further, about one-half of all women, households with children, African American and Latino residents, households with incomes less than \$25,000, and residents without a college degree would not be able to afford food within three months of a loss of household income.

Comparative analysis of the populations experiencing the most difficulty affording food and those that view hunger as a major problem (as outlined above) reveals that there is a positive correlation between difficulty affording food and

perceptions of hunger as a major problem.

While residents' perceptions of hunger by sociodemographic categories mirror their actual experiences affording food, borough analysis reveals a different trend. On Staten Island, residents who think that hunger is not a problem doubled from six percent in 2003 to twelve percent in 2004. Whereas, 13 percent of Staten Island residents did not buy food needed by their household at some time during the past year, triple the number in 2003. Further, the number of Staten Island residents who found it "very difficult" to afford food increased dramatically from zero to 13 percent. Similarly, in Queens, the number of residents who think hunger is not a problem increased by 20 percent while the number of Queens residents who did not buy food needed by their household at some time during the past year rose 63 percent, from eight percent in 2003 to 13 percent in 2004.

A summary analysis of sociodemographic and borough findings shows that the hunger problem has become more widespread since 2003. As outlined above, the number of women, residents without a college degree and Latino residents who did not buy food needed by their household at some time during the past year increased by more than half. Further, the number of households with incomes between \$50,000 and \$74,999 and the number of white residents who did not buy food needed by their household during the past year doubled. Finally, as outlined above, Staten Island residents who did not buy food needed by their household during the past year more than tripled.

Despite this increase in difficulty affording food, there have not been similar increases in awareness of nonprofit food assistance programs. Among the general population, awareness of nonprofit food assistance programs anywhere in New York City has decreased from 63 percent in 2003 to 60 percent in 2004, while awareness of nonprofit neighborhood food assistance programs held at a low of 38 percent for both years. Alarming, awareness of nonprofit food assistance programs among residents with the most difficulty affording food is low and has decreased during the past year. For example, while residents with a household income less than \$25,000 are the most at risk of hunger (compared to other income categories), they are the least

aware of nonprofit food assistance programs. Similarly, the number of residents without a college degree who did not buy food needed by their household at some time increased by 73 percent during the past year while their awareness of a nonprofit food assistance program anywhere in New York City dropped by almost 20 percent.

Interestingly, the opposite trend is true for women. Women are more aware of nonprofit food assistance programs than men even though women are more at risk of hunger. For example, the number of women who did not buy food needed by their household in 2004 is double that of men yet almost two-thirds (65 percent) are aware of a nonprofit food assistance program anywhere in New York City (compared to 55 percent of men) and 41 percent are aware of one in their own neighborhood (compared to 35 percent of men). As shown in the Food Bank's recent study, *Hunger Safety Net 2004: Measuring Gaps in Food Assistance in New York City*, women are more likely to access an emergency food program and therefore may be more aware of where to locate one than men.¹⁴ These findings could suggest that the burden is disproportionately heavy for women and points to the traditional nutrition and caregiver role and responsibility some women assume within their households.

In summary, despite improvements in the economy during the past year, New York City residents have continued to experience increased difficulty affording food. Surprisingly, a little more than one-third of residents are aware of a nonprofit neighborhood food assistance program and awareness is particularly low among populations most at risk. It is vital, in this time of increased need, that government maintain their commitment to support nutrition programs as well as other programs that impact low-income residents at the federal, state and city levels including the Food Stamps Program, the Special Supplemental Program for Women, Children and Infants (WIC), and the Community Food and Nutrition Program (CFNP). Additionally, federal, state, and city government should commit to increasing support to nutrition assistance programs to match increases in need. Decreased funding and increased restrictions to any programs that impact low-income residents such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and Medicaid, as well as the nutrition programs, would result in increasing numbers of people who need food assistance.

Further, to increase awareness of food assistance resources, residents who are having trouble meeting their households' food needs must be linked with public and private food assistance programs including benefits outreach and counseling. This study, coupled with the findings of a recent Food Bank report showing the low participation in government food assistance programs among at-risk residents, support this need.¹⁵ One way to increase awareness is to promote food assistance resources such as the Food Bank For New York City's 24-hour, toll-free phone service 1-866-NYC-FOOD (1-866-692-3663), which provides information of where to locate a local nonprofit food assistance program. The New York City Hunger Hotline (1-866-888-8777) also provides helpful information on where residents can go for emergency food assistance as well as Food Stamps and other government and emergency food assistance programs.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Agency: A nonprofit, community-based organization that packages or cooks food provided by a food bank for people seeking emergency food assistance, who would otherwise not get enough to eat or not eat well. An agency may operate one or more food programs, such as a pantry or soup kitchen, and may provide additional, non-food services.

America's Second Harvest, The Nation's Food Bank Network (ASH or A2H): The national anti-hunger nonprofit organization that organizes over 200 food banks and food rescue organizations, of which the Food Bank is a participating member.

Emergency Food Participant: Any individual — elderly, adult, or child — who receives food from a soup kitchen or food pantry, whether present at the food program or sharing the household of someone who has received a food package from a program.

Emergency Food Program (Also, Emergency Food Provider) (EFP): A soup kitchen or food pantry serving people seeking only food relief. The Food Bank provides food to its network of over 1,200 emergency food programs citywide.

Emergency Food Network: The community of food providers and the individuals that staff them including soup kitchens, food pantries and shelters. Note that for this study, shelters were not included.

Food Bank: A nonprofit organization that solicits, collects, purchases and stores food and related products from manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, and government agencies and distributes it to community and emergency food programs. The Food Bank For New York City is New York City's only food bank.

Food Bank For New York City: A food bank that distributes nonperishable foods, fresh produce and other perishable goods to its network of over 1,200 community food programs. The Food Bank 1) offers nutrition and food safety education training to its network of food assistance programs, 2) conducts awareness campaigns to educate the public about hunger issues, and 3) regularly conducts studies and surveys regarding hunger trends and issues in New York City.

Food Insecurity: The term used by the USDA to describe a person who does not have assured access at all times to enough nutritious food to lead a healthy, active life.

Food Pantry: An emergency food program that distributes food items to individuals and families. Food pantries typically provide three-to-five day food packages (groceries) for the preparation of nutritionally balanced meals and are a key source of emergency food for the working poor and for people whose food stamp benefits run out before month's end.

Food Security: A term developed by the USDA to describe someone who has access at all times to enough food to lead an active, healthy life. The term includes at a minimum: 1) the ready availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food, and 2) the assured ability to acquire nutritious and safe food in socially acceptable ways (e.g. without relying on emergency food supplies, scavenging, stealing or other coping strategies).

Food Stamp Program: The federal Food Stamp Program serves as the first line of defense against hunger. It enables low-income families to buy nutritious food with Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards. Food stamp recipients are able to buy eligible food items in authorized retail food stores.

Hunger: There are a number of definitions for hunger, but the ones used in reference to this study include the following: the involuntary lack of access to food for an intermittent or extended period of time; the uneasy or painful sensation caused by lack of food. Hunger can be caused by external forces that limit someone's resources or ability to obtain sufficient food and may result in detrimental physical and psychological consequences. Many scientists consider hunger to be chronic inadequate nutritional intake due to low income (people do not have to experience pain to be considered hungry from a nutritional perspective).

Kitchen, see "Soup Kitchen"

Malnutrition: A serious health impairment resulting from substandard nutrient intake. Malnutrition may result from a lack of food, a chronic shortage of key nutrients, or impaired absorption or metabolism associated with chronic conditions or diseases.

Pantry, see “Food Pantry”

Program, see “Emergency Food Program”

Soup Kitchen: An emergency food program that serves prepared, nutritious meals to hungry individuals and families. Many soup kitchens also offer meals to the homebound.

Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC): WIC provides supplemental nutritious foods and nutrition counseling to low-income, nutritionally at-risk pregnant women, infants and children up to the age of five.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP): Under TEFAP, commodity foods are made available by the USDA to states. States provide the food to local agencies that are selected, usually food banks, which distribute the food to soup kitchens and food pantries that directly serve the public.

SOURCES

- Alliance to End Hunger. (2003) *National Survey of Likely General Election Voters*, Presented by McLaughlin & Associates. June 5.
- Bread for the World Institute. (2004) *Hunger Report 2004: Are We On the Track to End Hunger? 14th Annual Report on the State of World Hunger*. <http://www.bread.org/pdfs/Hunger-Report-2004/Entire%20Hunger%20Report%202004.pdf>
- City of New York. (2002) *Report on Social Indicators*. Retrieved 6/17/2004 from: www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/pdf/pub/socind02beg.pdf
- Cook, J. T., & Frank, D. A. (2004) "Hunger Filled With Dire Consequences." *The Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. March 21.
- Community Service Society. (2004) "The Unheard Third, 2004: Bringing the Voices of Low-Income New Yorkers to the Policy Debate," Findings from the Third Annual CSS Survey of New Yorkers, October.
- Community Service Society. (2003) *Poverty in New York, 2002: One-Fifth of the City Lives Below the Federal Poverty Line*. September.
- Federal Reserve Board. (2004) *The Beige Book: Federal Reserve Districts, Second District - New York*. June 16. <http://www.federalreserve.gov/fomc/beigebook/2004/20040616/2.htm>
- Food Bank For New York City/Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. (2003) *Attitudes Towards Hunger in New York City: How New Yorkers View Hunger*. Division of Government Relations, Policy and Research.
- Food Bank For New York City/Food Policy Institute. (2004) *Hunger Safety Net 2004: Measuring Gaps in Food Assistance in New York City*. Division of Government Relations, Policy and Research.
- Holben, D., & Myles, W. (2004) "Food Insecurity in the United States: Its Effect on Our Patients." *American Family Physician*. March 1. 69 (5) 1058-60.
- Nord, M., Andrews, M., & Carlson, S. (2002) *Household Food Insecurity in the United States, 2002*. United States Department of Agriculture. Economics Research Service. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/fanrr35/fanrr35.pdf>
- Siena Research Institute (2004) *Fourth Quarter Consumer Confidence for Major NYS Cities*. January 6. www.siena.edu/sri/results/2004/docs/040106_4th_Q_CC_NYS.doc
- United States Census Bureau. American Fact Finder. (2002) <http://www.census.gov/>
- United States Census Bureau. Office of Public Information. (2004) "Income Stable, Poverty Up, Number of Americans With and Without Health Insurance Rise, Census Bureau Report." http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/income_wealth/002484.html
- United States Conference of Mayors/SODEXHO. (2003) *Hunger and Homelessness Survey: A Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness in American Cities*. December.
- Weinreb, L., et. al. (2002) "Impact on Children's Health and Mental Health." *Pediatrics*. November. 110 (4), 41.

STUDY LIMITATIONS

While efforts were made to ensure sample randomness, proportionality, and consistency there are several limitations to this study.

First, as residents selected themselves to participate in the telephone survey, there is the potential for there to be a self-selection bias in the data.

Secondly, although the overall findings are statistically significant at the $\pm 3.5\%$ level, the margin of error increases for statistics obtained through cross-tabulation.

Third, the interviews administered by Marist College Institute for Public Opinion were conducted in English and Spanish. There are, however, considerable populations of New York City residents who speak languages other than those used for the interviews. Because English proficiency is likely to be correlated in important ways to issues surrounding hunger, limited access to residents whose primary language is not English may introduce bias. Additionally, the ability to poll Spanish speaking residents is a change from the 2003 poll. Therefore, the 2003 and 2004 interviewed populations may differ slightly.

Finally, two slight disparities exist between the 2004 and 2003 interview questions.

First, the time frame indicated in the question asking residents whether they believe that the number of people who cannot afford to feed themselves or their families in New York City has increased, decreased, or stayed the same of the 2004 poll differs from the time frame given in the 2003 interviews. In the 2003 poll, this question asked residents to indicate their perceptions of hunger over the past three years. The indicated time frame in 2004 was changed to "over the past year" to establish consistency with future Food Bank reports. Despite this inconsistency between the 2003 report and this year's study, changes in residents' perceptions over the past year can still be established and commented on.

Second, the questions regarding awareness of nonprofit food assistance programs anywhere in New York City and awareness of nonprofit neighborhood food assistance programs were asked in random sequence to decrease the likelihood that the overall results would be biased by individual answers being influenced by previous questions. None of the questions were rotated in 2003.

NOTES

- 1 See Food Bank For New York City/Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. (2003) *Attitudes Towards Hunger in New York City: How New Yorkers View Hunger*.
- 2 New York City's unemployment rate dropped from 7.9 percent in May 2003 to 6.9 percent in May 2004, consumer confidence rose by 9.1 points, and starting salaries have been on the rise. Information obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. For more information see www.bls.gov. Also see Siena Research Institute (2004, January 6) *Fourth Quarter Consumer Confidence for Major NYS Cities*. www.siena.edu/sri/results/2004/docs/040106_4th_Q_CC_NYS.doc and the Federal Reserve Board. (2004, June 16) *The Beige Book: Federal Reserve Districts, Second District - New York*. www.federalreserve.gov/fomc/beigebook/2004/20040616/2.htm
- 3 Community Service Society. (2004). "The Unheard Third, 2004: Bringing the Voices of Low-Income New Yorkers to the Policy Debate," Findings from the Third Annual CSS Survey of New Yorkers, October. See also the United States Census Bureau.
- 4 Nord, M., Andrews, M., & Carlson, S. (2002). *Household Food Insecurity in the United States*. United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service.
- 5 Holben, D., & Myles, W. (2004, March 1) "Food Insecurity in the United States: Its Effects on Our Patients." *The American Family Physician*. 69 (5) 1058-60.
- 6 Weinreb, L., Wehler, C., Perloff, J., Scott, R., Hosmer, D., Sagor, L., & Gunderson, C. (2002, October 4) "Hunger: Its Impact on Children's Health and Mental Health." *Pediatrics*. 110 (4) 41.
- 7 Food Bank For New York City/Food Policy Institute. (2004) *Hunger Safety Net 2004: Measuring Gaps in Food Assistance in New York City*.
- 8 For this report, affording food is synonymous with affording "needed" food.
- 9 See Food Bank For New York City/Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. (2003) *Attitudes Towards Hunger in New York City: How New Yorkers View Hunger*.
- 10 "The Unheard Third: Bringing the Voices of Low-Income New Yorkers to the Policy Debate" shows that the economic recovery has lagged for low-income New York City groups. Further, the U.S. Census Bureau's most recent data shows that during the past year, the number of hungry and food insecure Americans has risen for a fourth year in a row.
- 11 For this report, affording food is synonymous with affording "needed" food.
- 12 The 2003 data was also collected with the same interview methods used in this year's 2004 report. However, to provide consistency with future Food Bank reports, question 2 (regarding the number of residents who cannot afford to feed themselves or their families) in the 2004 poll asks about perceptions during the past year. This is a change from 2003 in which the same question was asked indicating a time frame of the past three years. Please see the limitations section for further clarification.
- 13 For this report, affording food is synonymous with affording "needed" food.
- 14 See Food Bank For New York City/Food Policy Institute. (2004) *Hunger Safety Net 2004: Measuring Gaps in Food Assistance in New York City*. The report shows that women comprise over 60 percent of residents accessing emergency food programs. Thus, perhaps one reason driving the high awareness of non-profit community-based food assistance programs is their actual use.
- 15 Ibid.



Main Office: 90 John Street, Suite 702
New York, NY 10038-3239
TEL: 212-566-7855 • FAX: 212-566-1463

Distribution Center: Hunts Point Co-op Market
355 Food Center Drive • Bronx, NY 10474
TEL: 718-991-4300 • FAX: 718-893-3442

www.foodbanknyc.org