

Duval County Food Summit Fact Sheet

EATING ON A BUDGET: MAKING CENTS OUT OF MEAL TIME

- 3 million Floridians rely on public assistance. In Duval County alone, close to 175,000 people are receiving food stamps right now.¹
- The average food stamp weekly amount per individual in Northeast Florida is \$31.19. In Duval County alone, that's about \$5.5 million per week.¹
- In 2010, 4.8 percent of all U.S. households (5.6 million households) accessed emergency food from a food pantry one or more times.²
- Feeding America provides emergency food assistance to an estimated 37 million low-income people annually, a 46 percent increase from 25 million since *Hunger in America 2010*.³

CHILDREN'S NUTRITION: WHAT'S EATING OUR CHILDREN?

- In a study by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin, Duval County ranked 46th out of the 67 Florida counties for overall health and wellness. The same study also lists Duval County's obesity rate at 27 percent, higher than both the Florida and National averages.⁹
- One in three children or teenagers is overweight or obese, 33.1 percent of Florida's youth are overweight, and overweight and obesity among children aged 6 to 11 years increased from 6.5 percent in 1980 to 17 percent in 2006.⁴
- Approximately 17 percent (or 12.5 million) of children and adolescents aged two to 19 years are obese in the United States.⁸
- 24.2 percent of Jacksonville's school children and 34.5 percent of Florida's children are overweight or obese.⁸
- Nationally, an nearly \$150 billion per year is spent on childhood obesity-related conditions.
- In July 2011, Jacksonville was named the least walkable of the 50 largest cities in the U.S. by Walk Score.⁵

FOOD ACCESS: WHERE'S THE FOOD?

- In July 2011, Jacksonville was named the least walkable of the 50 largest cities in the U.S. by Walk Score.⁵

Nine states exhibited statistically significant higher household food insecurity rates than the U.S. National average 2008-2010:⁶

United States	14.6%
Mississippi	19.4%
Texas	18.8%
Arkansas	18.6%
Alabama	17.3%
Georgia	16.9%
Ohio	16.4%
Florida	16.1%
California	15.9%
North Carolina	15.7%

- Duval County residents are more likely than typical Americans to struggle with finding healthy food, according to a new nationwide analysis of places known as food deserts.⁷
- In Duval County, analysis shows that nearly two dozen neighborhoods, known as census tracts, qualify as food deserts. The largest food-deprived areas lie in Northwest Jacksonville, the Eastside and a sprawling section of land straddling Florida 9A east of Main Street.⁷

- Research suggests that people with no local choice except fast-food restaurants and convenience stores are likely to eat unhealthy foods and suffer the health consequences, such as obesity and diabetes.⁷
- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention defines a food desert as “areas that lack access to affordable fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low-fat milk, and other foods that make up the full range of a healthy diet.”⁷
- According to the Florida Times-Union, approximately seven percent (62,000) of Duval residents have inadequate access to healthy food. This is higher than the National average of five percent.⁷

FOOD POLICY COUNCIL AND ADVOCACY

- A Food Policy Council (FPC) brings together stakeholders from diverse food-related sectors to examine how the food system is operating and to develop recommendations on how to improve it. FPCs may take many forms, but are typically either commissioned by state or local government or are predominately a grassroots effort.¹⁰
- A food policy is any decision made by a government agency, business or organization that affects how food is produced, processed, distributed, purchased and protected. This includes the types of foods consumers have access to, information available pertaining to place of origin, and the rules and regulations which influence many aspects of farming. Examples of food policies include¹¹:
 - A decision by school officials whether to purchase foods raised by local farmers;
 - Regulations for selling raw milk to consumers;
 - The eligibility standards that allow low-income residents to participate in food assistance programs; and
 - The regulatory health and safety requirements for food-based businesses.
- The first Food Policy Council in the U.S. started in Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1982, and there are now nearly 100 FPCs throughout the country.¹²

Stats Organized by Locality

LOCAL

- The average food stamp weekly amount per individual in Northeast Florida is \$31.19. In Duval County alone, that's about \$5.5 million per week.¹
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STATE

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NATIONAL

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INFORMATIONAL

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ⁱ <http://www.firstcoastnews.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=242866>

² USDA. Coleman-Jensen, A., Nord, M., Andrews, M., & Carlson, S. *Household Food Security in the United States in 2010*.

³ Rhoda Cohen, J., Mabli, F., Potter, Z., Zhao. Mathematica Policy Research, Feeding America. *Hunger in America 2010*. February 2010.

⁴ [HTTP://JACKSONVILLE.COM/OPINION/BLOG/400721/BETH-CRAVEY/2012-02-21/CHILDRENS-HEART-HEALTH-FOCUS-PARTY-SUITE](http://jacksonville.com/opinion/blog/400721/beth-cravey/2012-02-21/childrens-heart-health-focus-party-suite)

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau. Carmen DeNavas-Walt, B. Proctor, C. Lee. *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2009*.

⁶ [HTTP://FEEDINGAMERICA.ORG/HUNGER-IN-AMERICA/HUNGER-FACTS/HUNGER-AND-POVERTY-STATISTICS.ASPX](http://feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hunger-facts/hunger-and-poverty-statistics.aspx)

⁷ Cox, Jeremy. “Healthy eats hard to find in Duval County, study shows.” Jacksonville.com. 27 June 2011. Florida Times Union. 17 February 2012.

<http://www.jacksonville.com/news/health-and-fitness/2011-06-27/>

⁸ <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/childhood/data.html>

⁹ Jenkins, Edward R. “USDA: Jacksonville full of ‘food deserts’; Duval not a healthy county.” About.com Jacksonville. 28 June 2011. About.com.

24 February 2012. <http://jacksonville.about.com/b/2011/06/28/usda-jacksonville-full-of-food-deserts-duval-not-a-healthy-county.htm>

¹⁰ <http://www.foodsecurity.org/FPC/index.html>

¹¹ <http://www.statefoodpolicy.org/?pageID=qanda>

¹² <http://aphg.jhsph.edu/?event=browse.subject&subjectID=48>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.firstcoastnews.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=242866>

² USDA. Coleman-Jensen, A., Nord, M., Andrews, M., & Carlson, S. *Household Food Security in the United States in 2010*.

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¹² <http://aphg.jhsph.edu/?event=browse.subject&subjectID=48>