Food Security of Primary Caregiver/Household

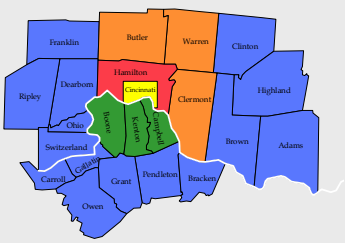
Results from the 2005 *Child Well Being Survey (CWB)*
Child Policy Research Center, The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati, and United Way of Greater Cincinnati

The Child Well Being Survey (CWB) is a project of the Child Policy Research Center, The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati and United Way of Greater Cincinnati. The University of Cincinnati's Institute for Policy Research administered the random telephone survey of caregivers of children in a 22-county area in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana from October through December 2005. The survey provides policy-makers, decision-makers, public agencies, and academicians with population-based information to describe and monitor the well being of children in the tri-state area.

Topics include: child health status, selected chronic conditions, medical home, injury requiring medical attention, health insurance, middle childhood activity, food security, child care arrangements, child's behavioral and emotional health, parent perception of substance use, caregiver's health status and selected adult health measures. Many questions were taken from the National Survey of American Families, the National Children's Health Survey, and the National Health Interview Survey. These questions provide national estimates to compare to CWB estimates.

The sample includes 1,559 completed interviews. The sampling area was grouped into five geographic regions: city of Cincinnati; Hamilton County outside the city, Ohio suburban counties (Butler/Clermont/ Warren); Northern Kentucky suburban counties (Boone/ Campbell/Kenton); and 15 rural counties in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. The 2005 sample data is weighted to provide accurate population estimates.

Five Geographic Regions

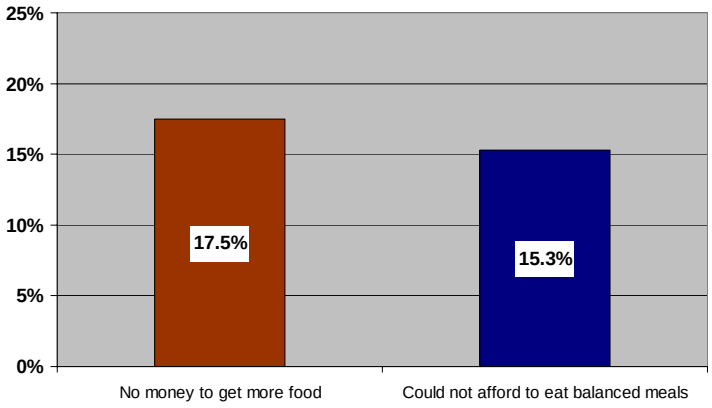


Selected Findings

Food security is a term that describes the ability of a person or household to obtain adequate, nutritious food. Food insecurity and hunger are often inextricably linked. Hungry children have a harder time learning, more disruptive behavior, school absences and lower achievement scores (Children's Hunger Alliance)
The 2005 CWB survey questions on food security were derived from the USDA food security subscale. Primary caregivers responded about food security in their households. According to the "Household Food Security in the US," in 2004,11.9% of American households reported food insecurity.

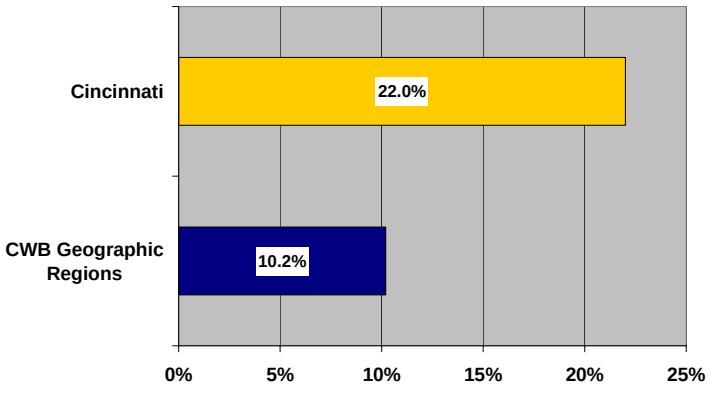
In the last 12 months, 17.5% of greater Cincinnati households felt that it was often or sometimes true that they did not have enough money to replenish their food supply. A similar percentage of households, 15.3%, believed it was often or sometimes true that they could not afford to eat balanced meals.

Food Security



Compared to the greater Cincinnati region, overall, twice as many city of Cincinnati households cut the size of their meals or skipped meals altogether because there was not enough money for food in 2005 (22% vs. 10.2%). Among the 10.2% of households that cut or skipped meals in the entire CWB area, 33% had to do this almost every month during the past year. One-quarter of households that skipped meals did so during some months out of the year. A slightly larger percentage, 42%, did so only 1 or 2 months out of the year.

Caregivers who have cut sizes or skipped meals because no money



For more information about this health topic and other child health issues or for a custom analysis of the data, please contact the Child Policy Research Center at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Phone (513) 636-0180; fax (513) 636-0171; or Email at ***www.cincinnatichildrens.org/cprc****.*

Child Policy Research Center
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center