Many Working Families with Children Rely on Food Pantries

Nonelderly Low-Income Families that Used a Food Pantry in the Past 12 Months, by Earnings and Presence of Children

- With children, with earnings: 46%
- Without children, with earnings: 22%
- Without children, without earnings: 23%
- With children, without earnings: 9%

4.1 million families

Source: 2002 National Survey of America’s Families
Note: Families include all persons related by blood, marriage, adoption, or partnership and single adults living alone.
1 "With earnings" indicates that family had some income from earnings in past year.

Fast Facts

Food pantries help to reduce hunger and hardship in the United States. The vast majority of families that turn to food pantries to supplement their income are working or have children. Seven in ten nonelderly families that used food pantries had earned income in the past year. Nearly half the families that turned to food pantries consisted of working parents with children. Fewer than one-quarter of nonnelderly families reporting use of food pantries had no children or employment.

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