



Hunger Facts

- Every year, at least nine million people die of hunger. That's approximately 30,000 deaths every day, or one life unnecessarily lost every 3.5 seconds. Three-fourths of the deaths are children under the age of five.
- Out of the six billion people living on Earth, two billion of these people have diets deficient in iron.
- One-third of all children in developing countries suffer from malnutrition as a result of hunger. Their height is below what it should be for their age. Their weight is less than normal. Their muscles are much weaker. Their vision is impaired.
- Approximately eight-hundred million people in the developing world are undernourished.
- More than 153 million of the world's malnourished people are children under the age of five.
- Six million children under the age of five die every year as a result of hunger.
- Undernutrition, measles, diarrhea and dehydration remain the four leading causes of death of children under the age of five each year.
- Not only does malnutrition kill and stunt children, but it also tragically results in a potentially permanent low-level of cognitive development and resistance to common illnesses.
- The primary victims of hunger are the world's poor. The richest twenty percent eat eleven times as much meat and seven times as much fish as the poorest twenty percent.
- While every country in the world has the potential of growing enough food to feed itself, fifty-four nations currently do not produce enough food to feed their populations, nor can they afford to import the necessary commodities to fill in the gap. Most of these countries are in sub-Saharan Africa.

In the U.S.

- On average, 11.2 percent of U.S. households (12.6 million people) were food insecure (based upon a survey in 2003). This means that 3.5 percent of U.S. households experience hunger.
- Almost 35 million Americans don't know where their next meal is coming from, according to USDA's latest report on food security.

Resources

- Black and Hispanic U.S. households had food insecurity prevalence that was nearly three times those of white (non-Hispanic) households (2004).
- Female-headed U.S. households show the highest levels of food insecurity and hunger.
- Preschool and school-aged children who experience severe hunger have higher levels of chronic illness, anxiety and depression, and behavior problems than children who do not experience hunger.



Poverty Facts

- There are 2.2 billion children in the world. One billion of them are living in poverty. Poverty deprives them of basic services, like education and health care.
 - One in three children in developing countries lives without adequate shelter.
 - One in five has no access to safe water.
 - One in seven has no access to health services.
- Twelve million people die each year from lack of safe drinking water, including more than three million who die of waterborne illness.
- Twenty percent of the population in the developed nations uses eighty-six percent of the world's goods.
- Forty million people are living with AIDS, ninety percent of them in developing countries and seventy-five percent of them in sub-Saharan Africa where 2.9 million are under the age of fourteen. By 2001, over twenty-two million people had died from AIDS.
- The GDP (Gross National Product) of the poorest forty-eight nations (a quarter of the world's countries) is less than the wealth of the world's three richest people combined.
- Less than one percent of what the world spends each year on weapons could put every child in school.
- For the price of one missile, a school full of hungry children could eat lunch every day for five years.

(Sources: www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/foodsecurity; Bread for the World, Hunger Basics, 2005; Care.org; UNICEF Voices of Youth; Food Security Institute; Princeton.edu, Hearts and Minds—Information for a Change; Thinkquest.org—An End to World Hunger)