



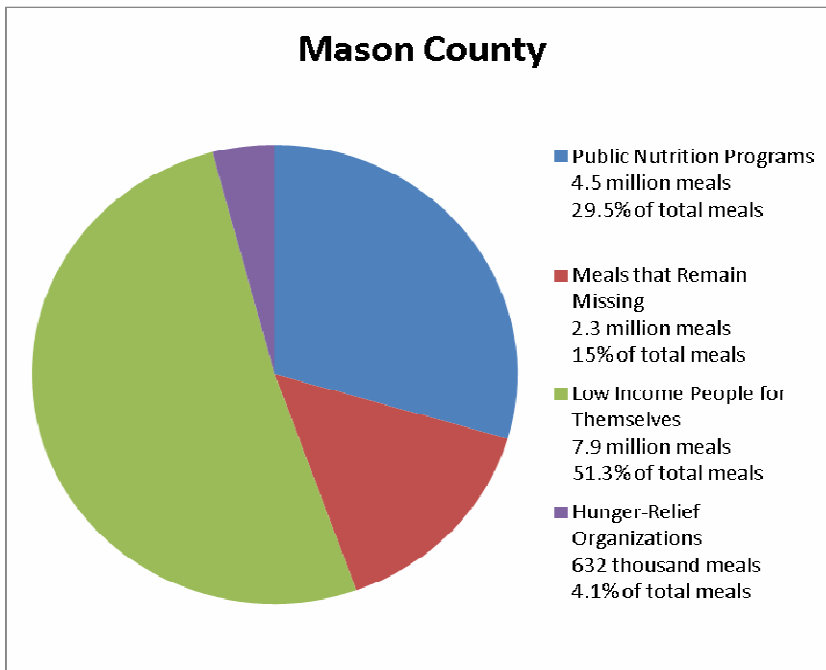
Hunger in Mason County

Food Insecurity

Washington State has a 10.1% food insecurity rate. This means that 255,000 households are financially stretched to the point where they cannot be certain that all of their household members will not go hungry. (USDA, *Household Food Security in the United States 2007*, November 2008)

Mason County has a 14% food insecurity rate, so 1 in 7 people in Mason County are unsure of the source of their next meal. (Children's Alliance, *Hungry in Washington*, November 2008)

Missing Meals



The Missing Meals Report shows that 2.3 million more meals are still needed each year in Mason County to ensure that all low income families and individuals have three nutritious meals a day. This means that these individuals utilize federal nutrition programs and nonprofit food banks and meal programs, as well as spend all that they can afford on food, 15% of the food they need is still missing. (Food Lifeline, *Missing Meals*, September 2008)

Local Food Bank Statistics

In October 2008 alone, 8,735 families in Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, and Thurston Counties received food through TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program, operated by General Administration). This is 46% more families than the same month last year.