

Because food security with or without hunger is closely tied to income level, the researchers decided to weight the Vermonter poll data using the 2006 U.S. Census income estimates and the 2006 American Community Survey federal poverty level (FPL) estimates for the state of Vermont to make the database accurately representative of the Vermonter population, each the weights for in the database. Only American Community Survey data in quantitative format is weighted, as indicated in the narrative.

Table 1. Vermonter Poll Data Weight Figures Based on Income Categories
0.829

| | | | |
|-----------|-------|-------|----------|
| | | | |
| \$50,000+ | 54.5% | 47.9% | 0.878899 |

Table 2. Vermonter Poll Data Weight Figures Based on Percentage of Federal

| | VT Poll | 2006 American Community Survey | Weight |
|----------|---------|--------------------------------|----------|
| ≤200%FPL | 19.6 | 26.8 | 1.367347 |
| >200%FPL | 80.4 | 73.2 | 0.910448 |

Vermont Poll 2007

Hunger and Food Security in Vermont

Prepared by Michele C. Schmidt
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Demographics

The average age of respondents was 53.2 years (Std. = 14.9) with a median age of 53 years. The youngest was 18, and the oldest 93. Males comprised 49% (283) and females 51% (298). Education data was collapsed into three categories as follows: 30% (173) attained a high school diploma or GED certificate, 17% (97) completed some college but did not pursue a degree, and 53% (303) completed a degree from an associate's to a post graduate/professional degree. Examining household income by median income in Vermont (\$50,000), 46% (237) of respondents earn less than the median income in Vermont and 54% (283) earn at or above the median income. Respondents had a median household size of two, with a range of one to seven members in one's household. An analysis of family composition showed that 67% (385) of households had no children, while 34% (188) had children in their household. The number of children in households ranged from 1 to 5 with a median of two children and mode of one child. In looking at region of residence, 21% (122) live in Chittenden county (compared to 24% reported by the 2005 Census), 9.5% live in Washington county (compared to 9.5% reported by the 2005 Census) and the remaining 69.5% live throughout the rest of the state.

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Findings

Prevalence of Food Security and Hunger in Vermont

When the Vermont Poll data is weighted by the state Census data by income levels, Figure 1a shows that 63% (326) of Vermonters reported that they could always afford enough of the kinds of food they wanted to eat, indicating that they have no food insecurity issues. However, 37% of respondents in total indicated that they have some level of food insecurity. Specifically, 32% (168) could always afford enough food, but not always the kinds of food desired and 3% (15) could sometimes not afford enough to eat. Finally, almost 2% (9) of respondents reported having food insecurity with hunger or they could often not afford enough to eat. When the data are weighted by above 200% of the FPL and at or below 200% of FPL, Figure 1b demonstrates that 63% (323) of Vermonters could always afford enough of the kinds of foods they wanted to eat, or they are food secure. On the other hand, 37% (186) in aggregate noted that they have some level of food insecurity.

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Barriers to Providing Nutritious Food for Self or Family

In total, 38% (214) of respondents indicated that they did not face any barriers to providing nutritious food for themselves or their family members. While, 62% (344) indicated one or more barriers, as categorized in Table 2. This data is not weighted because it was collected and analyzed in an open-ended format. The most commonly

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