

HungerCount 2018 Survey

Thank you for participating in the 2018 HungerCount survey!

This year's HungerCount survey is a bit different.

In 2017, Food Banks Canada decided not to publish a HungerCount report, because of concerns that some of the data collected was not comparable to previous years.

We also took the opportunity to create the HungerCount Working Group, which has been tasked with developing a smarter and more sustainable way of collecting and reporting information on the use of charitable food programs. We expect a final report from the working group in September of this year.

Despite these unusual circumstances, we do not want to miss the opportunity to collect information on charitable food program use in 2018 – **your work is too important to go unmeasured**. To this end, we have created a shortened HungerCount survey for 2018 that focuses on a few core questions.

As you answer the questions in this year's survey, please keep the following in mind:

1. We have changed some of the questions slightly this year. Carefully read the questions, as well as the instructions, and contact your provincial association or Food Banks Canada if you are unclear about anything.
2. Count hamper and meal/snack programs separately, and keep them separate. **Never combine numbers from hamper and meal programs.**
3. As in every other HungerCount survey, we are asking you to provide information for the month of March only.

Let's get started!

SURVEY INSTRUCTIONS

Please complete this questionnaire by MAY 5, 2018 and return to your *HungerCount* Provincial Coordinator (see contact information below). **And please keep a copy for your records!** We may have follow-up questions for you, and it helps to have a copy at hand.

For additional help answering the questions, you can use the **HungerCount 2018 Worksheet** to keep track of the people you help in March. The worksheet, as well as electronic copies of this survey, is available at <https://foodbankscanada.ca/HungerCount-2018-Survey> .

Your HungerCount Provincial Coordinator is:

As we noted above, this year's HungerCount survey is a bit different.

We would like to introduce you to 'Abigail' and 'Jon,' two fictional food bank users. **We know that some of the questions in the HungerCount survey can be confusing,** and we are going to use Abigail and Jon as examples to help explain some of the questions.

'Jon' is single and has no kids; he gets by on disability benefits. He accessed his local food bank four times in March.

'Abigail' is also single, and she has two kids; she makes a living keeping the books for several small businesses. She used her town's food bank twice in March.

Abigail and Jon will appear in different sections of the survey – we hope they will be helpful!

SECTION A

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INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION

A1/ Please tell us about your organization:

Organization name: _____

Mailing address: _____

City/Town: _____ Phone # : _____

Province: _____ Email : _____

Postal Code : _____

Survey contact person: _____

A2/ Does your organization operate a hamper program that provides multiple days' worth of food for people to take home?

Yes No

A3/ Does your organization operate a meal or snack program, where people eat food on-site?

Yes No

A4/ Do you distribute food to other organizations?

Yes No

A5/ If yes, to how many organizations do you distribute food? _____

A6/ Please tell us, in about 50 words or so, about the work of your organization.

SECTION B

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INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY HAMPER PROGRAMS

* Only complete this section if your organization operates a hamper program – in other words, a program that provides multiple days’ worth of food for people to take home.

Please provide information for the month of March only.

If you only operate a meal or snack program, please go directly to SECTION D.

SURVEY NOTE

Some people will have used your hamper program only once in March. Other people may have used your hamper program more than once during the month.

The following questions ask about the number of “unique individuals” who used your hamper program in March (Question 1), and the number of visits those individuals made to the program (Question 2).

We will use Abigail and Jon as examples to help explain each question.

B1/ UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY YOUR HAMPER PROGRAM

IN THE MONTH OF MARCH 2018 ONLY, how many unique individuals received a food hamper (i.e. multiple days' worth of food) from your organization?

For this question, **PLEASE COUNT EACH PERSON ONLY ONCE**, regardless of the number of times they received food in March. Include the people who came to your organization for food, and all of the people in their families at home.

Here is how we would count Jon and Abigail (who we introduced above):

Jon used the food bank four times in March. For Question 1, we would count Jon just once – he is one “unique individual.”

Abigail used the food bank twice in March. For this question, we would count Abigail and her two kids just once each – making up 3 “unique individuals.”

[** For additional examples, please see page 15.]

Please provide as much information as you are able in the following categories:

CHILDREN

0-2 years of age: _____

3-5 years of age: _____

6-11 years of age: _____

12-17 years of age: _____

Total children: _____

ADULTS

18-30 years of age: _____

31-44 years of age: _____

45-64 years of age: _____

65+ years of age: _____

Total adults: _____

AGE UNDISCLOSED: _____

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS (adults + children + undisclosed): _____

B2/ VISITS TO YOUR HAMPER PROGRAM

IN THE MONTH OF MARCH 2018 ONLY, how many visits were made to your organization’s hamper program?

For this question, count each person once for each time they received food in March. Include the people who came to your organization for food, and all of the people in their families at home.

Here is how we would count Jon and Abigail:

Jon used the food bank four times in March. For this question, we would count Jon four times – making up 4 visits.

Abigail and her two children used the food bank twice in March. For this question, we would count Abigail and each of her kids twice – making up 6 visits.

[** For additional examples, please see page 15.]

Please provide as much information as you are able in the following categories:

Children (under 18 years old): _____

Adults (18 years or older): _____

Age undisclosed: _____

Total (adults + children + undisclosed): _____

SECTION C

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HOUSEHOLD TYPE AND PRIMARY SOURCE OF INCOME OF HOUSEHOLDS SERVED BY HAMPER PROGRAMS

* Only complete this section if your organization operates a hamper program, providing multiple days' worth of food for people to take home.

Please provide information for the month of March only.

If you only operate a meal or snack program, please go directly to SECTION D.

SURVEY NOTE

Some households will have used your hamper program only once in March. Other households may have used your hamper program more than once during the month.

For the following questions, we are interested in the number of "unique households" who used your hamper program. In other words, **please count each household only once, regardless of the number of times they received food in March.**

C1/ How many of the households assisted by your hamper program in March 2018 were in each of the following categories?

Here is how we would count Abigail and Jon for this question:

Abigail and her kids are a 'single parent family.' Even though Abigail used the food bank twice in March, for this question we would count Abigail's household just once.

Since Jon lives on his own, he is recorded as a single person. While Jon used the food bank four times in March, for this question, we would count Jon just once.

[** For additional examples – **including multi-generational households** – please see page 15.]

Single-parent / guardian families (with children under 18): _____

Two-parent / guardian families (with children under 18): _____

Couples with no children: _____

Single people: _____

Other: _____

TOTAL: _____

Don't know

C2/ How many of the households assisted by your hamper program reported that their PRIMARY SOURCE of income was from the following sources?

Here is how we would count Abigail and Jon for this question:

Abigail earns most of her income as a bookkeeper, which fits under “employment.” Even though Abigail used the food bank twice in March, for this question we would count her household just once.

Jon receives most of his income from the provincial disability support program, which fits under “disability related benefits.” Even though Jon used the food bank four times in March, for this question we would count him only once.

[** For additional examples, please see page 15.]

Employment: _____

Employment Insurance: _____

Social assistance (welfare): _____

Disability related benefits: _____

Old age pension: _____

Student loans/scholarships: _____

No income: _____

Other income: _____

TOTAL: _____

Don't know

SECTION D

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MEALS AND SNACKS

In this section, we are asking you to count the number of meals and snacks served by your organization.

* Please provide information on the number of meals and snacks served – NOT the number of people who were served.

SURVEY NOTE

What is a meal?

A meal could be a soup and sandwich, chicken and potatoes with dessert, beef stew and coffee – usually served during normal meal times.

What is a snack?

A snack could be a coffee and a muffin during off-hours at a soup kitchen, or a granola bar and box of juice provided to kids at an after-school program. These usually happen outside of normal meal times, but are often provided during breakfast time as well.

D1/ How many meals and/or snacks were served in March 2018 by your organization?

Here is how Abigail and Jon might fit into this question:

While Abigail has never used a meal program, Jon sometimes attends the six o'clock meal at the soup kitchen near his apartment. In March, Jon had dinner at the soup kitchen eight times – for a total of eight meals.

Meals: _____

Snacks: _____

D2/ Are you also reporting the number of meals and/or snacks served by other organizations in your region?

Yes No

If so, please provide information for each organization you are reporting for, using the following table.

Organization Name	Number of Meals	Number of Snacks

SECTION E

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POLL – POLICIES TO REDUCE HUNGER

Throughout the year, Food Banks Canada uses information gleaned from *HungerCount* to influence government policy affecting hunger in Canada.

Information from the following poll will help us choose our areas of policy focus in the coming year.

E1/ Please rank each of the following recommended government policy changes in terms of their importance in reducing hunger in your community. Give a ranking number to each statement.

**5 = Extremely Important; 4 = Very important; 3 = Moderately important;
2 = Of little importance; 1 = Not at all important**

- ___ Improve access to Employment Insurance
- ___ Increase access to affordable child care
- ___ Raise provincial minimum wage levels
- ___ Expand supports for new immigrants
- ___ Increase the stock of affordable housing
- ___ Increase addictions services and supports
- ___ Implement Guaranteed Annual Income/Basic Income
- ___ Raise pension levels for seniors
- ___ Increase social assistance benefit levels
- ___ Expand job training options for adults
- ___ Increase levels of provincial disability income supports
- ___ Increase mental health supports
- ___ Implement a National Poverty Reduction Strategy

Food Banks Canada *HungerCount* Data Use Policy

Food Banks Canada uses information from the *HungerCount* survey to provide government, academia, the media, the general public, current and prospective donors, and other audiences with information about food bank and other food program use in Canada.

Food Banks Canada reserves the right to use and disseminate national-, provincial-, regional-, and, when appropriate, community-level information provided in the *HungerCount* at its discretion. Food Banks Canada will not, however, release information respecting an individual organization to media, government, or the general public, without first consulting with that organization.

APPENDIX

Examples – How to record different types of households

This page presents four fictional households, and demonstrates how they would be reported.

Household 1 – Multi-generational family

Liz is 43, and Danny is 47. They are living together, and have a daughter named Maya, who is 14. Six months ago, Danny's mom Harriet, who is 84, moved in with them.

Liz works part-time for a before- and after-school child care provider. Danny is currently unemployed and has no income. They are having trouble making ends meet, and they visited their local food bank two times in March.

Question B1/number of people:	4 people
Question B2/number of visits:	8 visits
Question C1/household type:	Two-parent/guardian family
Question C2/income source:	Employment

Household 2 – Couple without children

Kathleen is 52, and Roger is 50. They rent a two-bedroom apartment together, and they sub-lease one of their bedrooms for some extra income. Kathleen and Roger operate a small antique business. They access the local food bank from time to time, including once in March.

Question B1/number of people:	2 people
Question B2/number of visits:	2 visits
Question C1/household type:	Couple without children
Question C2/income source:	Employment

Household 3 – Single person

Ahmed is 34, and he recently arrived in Canada from Syria. Ahmed is taking ESL classes and receives social assistance. He is subletting a room from Kathleen and Roger (Household 2, above). As part of their living arrangement, they keep their food separate. After being referred to the food bank by Roger, Ahmed received food three times in March.

Question B1/number of people:	1 person
Question B2/number of visits:	3 visits
Question C1/household type:	Single person
Question C2/income source:	Social assistance