

Hunger, poverty and unemployment

Northern Illinois Food Bank officials have released the findings of a national Hunger in America 2010 study conducted by Feeding America. Some highlights:

Boone County

Population: 53,250 **Residents in poverty:** 5,213

Unemployment rate

December 2008: 15% December 2009: 17.3%

Food bank deliveries in the past six months

2008: 6,863 pounds 2009: 28,006 pounds

Ogle County

Population: 54,894 **Residents in poverty:** 4,313

Unemployment rate

December 2008: 10.4% December 2009: 14%

Food bank deliveries in the past six months

2008: 28,137 pounds 2009: 34,921 pounds

Winnebago County

Population: 298,010 **Residents in poverty:** 40,600

Unemployment rate

December 2008: 12.2% December 2009: 15.8%

Food bank deliveries in the past six months

2008: 167,567 pounds 2009: 229,471 pounds

At a glance: Northern Illinois Food Bank

Founded: 1983

What it does: The Northern Illinois Food Bank is a non-profit charitable organization and member of Feeding America.

Rising demand: The food bank distributed 7,000 pounds of food in its first month of existence. It distributed more than 27.2 million pounds of food in 2009 to more than 520 food assistance sites in 13 northern Illinois counties.

How to help: To learn how to donate or volunteer, log on to northernilfoodbank.org, or contact your preferred local food pantry.