



PROFILE OF NEW USERS AMONG NEW YORK CITY'S FOOD RELIEF PROGRAMS POST SEPTEMBER 11

Food For Survival, Inc., New York City's only food bank serving more than 1,200 nonprofit community food programs throughout the five boroughs, conducted a survey among 185 soup kitchens, food pantries and senior centers to determine a profile of the new people turning to food assistance following the 9/11 tragedy, and what their needs are beyond food.

Among those food relief programs surveyed, 81 percent (150 programs) reported an increase in the number of new people since 9/11 that are coming to programs for free food. The following report highlights the survey's findings among programs experiencing a rise in new users:

- Seventy-one percent of those seeing a rise in new users report that the typical person at the program since 9-11 is a "first-time user" of the emergency food network. This means that they have *never* used a community food assistance program before.
- More than half of programs report that the typical new users are women (63 percent) of African American descent (74 percent) or Latina descent (64 percent).
- Fifty-eight percent of programs say the new users are single mothers with children.
- According to programs, top services that the new user is requesting are job placement (47 percent) and benefits counseling (39 percent), possibly indicating that this new user was previously employed i.e., not looking for training, but work, and is new to the system of public benefits.
- The recent Food For Survival, Inc. survey also showed that the new users among its food assistance programs need housing (40 percent).
- Other major needs of new users reported by programs include job training (36 percent); mental health counseling (24 percent); immigration counseling (26 percent); daycare (17 percent) and substance abuse counseling (16 percent).
- The top concerns among Food For Survival's soup kitchens, food pantries and senior centers are their ability to meet the needs of new users and their concerns for adequate food supply (71 percent for both).