# Supplement

# The State of Senior Hunger in America 2011: An Annual Report

Prepared for the National Foundation to End Senior Hunger

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# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In this supplement to our report (Ziliak and Gundersen 2013) we provide an overview of the extent and distribution of food insecurity in 2011, along with trends over the past decade using national and state-level data from the December Supplements to the Current Population Survey (CPS).

Based on the full set of 18 questions in the Core Food Security Module (CFSM), the module used by the USDA to establish the official food insecurity rates of households in the United States, in Ziliak and Gundersen (2013) we concentrate on the measure of the *threat of hunger* (i.e. marginally food insecure) if a household answered affirmatively to at least one question on the CFSM. In this supplement, we examine two other measures of food insecurity: facing the *risk of hunger* (i.e. food insecure) if a household answered affirmatively to at least 3 questions and as *facing hunger* (i.e. very low food secure) if a household answered affirmatively to at least 3 questions and as *facing hunger* (i.e. very low food secure) if a household answered affirmatively to at least 8 questions in households with children and at least 6 questions in households without children.

Based on the barometer of food insecurity, this report demonstrates that seniors continue to face increasing challenges despite the end of the Great Recession. For all three measures of food insecurity, there was an increase among those age 60 and older between 2010 and 2011, and the increase was statistically significant for the most severe *facing hunger* measure. Along with being statistically significant, the increase in the proportion of seniors facing hunger increased dramatically – by over 15%. Looking at subgroups, the following had statistically significant increases in food insecurity under at least one of the measures: poor persons, whites, African-Americans, married, those who are divorced or separated, those under 70 years of age and between 75 and 79, the unemployed, the disabled, and women.

Specifically, in 2011 we find that

- 15.2% of seniors face the threat of hunger, 8.4% face the risk of hunger, and 3.2% are facing hunger. This translates into 8.8 million, 4.8 million, and 1.9 million seniors, respectively.
- Those living in states in the South and Southwest, those who are racial or ethnic minorities, those with lower incomes, and those who are younger (ages 60-69) are most likely to be threatened by hunger.
- Out of those seniors who face the threat of hunger, the majority have incomes above the poverty line and are white.
- From 2001 to 2011, the number of seniors experiencing the threat of hunger, the risk of hunger, and hunger has increased by 88%, 109%, and 200%, respectively.
- Since the onset of the recession in 2007 to 2011, the number of seniors experiencing the threat of hunger, the risk of hunger, and hunger has increased by 42%, 49%, and 48%, respectively.

Increasing numbers of seniors in our country are going without enough food due to economic constraints. This poses a significant public health challenge, which in the absence of additional resources to feed seniors, will lead to worsening health and higher spending on medical care.

## I. FOOD INSECURITY IN 2011

We document the state of hunger among senior Americans ages 60 and older in 2011 using data from the Current Population Survey (CPS). In December of each year, households respond to a series of 18 questions (10 if there are no children present) that make up the Core Food Security Module (CFSM) in the CPS. Each question is designed to capture some aspect of food insecurity and, for some questions, the frequency with which it manifests itself.<sup>1</sup> Respondents are asked questions about their food security status in the last 30 days as well as over the past 12 months. We focus on the questions referring to the past year.

Consistent with the nomenclature and categorizations in, e.g., Ziliak and Gundersen (2012), we consider three characterizations of food insecurity: the *threat of hunger*, when a person is marginally food insecure by answering affirmatively to one or more questions on the CFSM; the *risk of hunger*, when a person is food insecure by answering affirmatively to three or more questions on the CFSM; and *facing hunger*, when a person is very low food secure by answering affirmatively to at least 8 questions in households with children and at least 6 questions in households without children. This means that the threat of hunger is the broadest category of food insecurity since it encompasses those responding to at least one question on the CFSM. The next broadest category is the risk of hunger since this group encompasses those who are either food insecure or very low food secure. This means that the most narrow, and in turn, most severe, category in our taxonomy is facing hunger. Box 1 summarizes the categories.

<b>BOX 1:</b> Categories of Food Insecurity		
	USDA Classification	Number of Affirmative Responses to CFSM
Fully Food Secure Threat of Hunger Risk of Hunger Facing Hunger	Fully Food Secure Marginally Food Insecure Food Insecure Very Low Food Secure	0 1 or more 3 or more 8 or more (households with children) 6 or more (households without children)

#### Box 1: Categories of Food Insecurity

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See the Data Appendix for details on the survey sample, including the full list of CFSM questions in Appendix Table 1.

In Table 1 we present estimates of food insecurity among seniors in 2011. Overall, 15.2% faced the threat of hunger (8.8 million seniors). In the more severe food insecurity categories, we find that 8.4% faced the risk of hunger, (4.8 million seniors) and 3.2% faced hunger (1.9 million seniors). The table also presents estimates of food insecurity across selected socioeconomic categories. Here we see great heterogeneity across the senior population. For example, for those with incomes below the poverty line, 46.1% face the threat of hunger, 27.7% face the risk, and 13.7% face hunger. In contrast, seniors with incomes greater than twice the poverty line, these numbers fall dramatically to 6.6%, 3.1%, and 1.7%. Turning to race, white seniors have food insecurity rates that are dramatically lower than for African-American seniors. For the threat of hunger African-Americans have rates that are 135% higher; for the risk of hunger, 136% higher; and hunger, 147% higher. Similarly, Hispanics (who can be of any racial category) have food insecurity rates which are substantially higher than non-Hispanics. In increasing severity of food insecurity, Hispanics have rates that are 129%, 142%, and 140% higher than non-Hispanics.

<u></u>	Threat of	Risk of	Facing Hunger
	hunger	Hunger	
Overall	15.21%	8.35%	3.21%
By Income			
Below the Poverty Line	46.08	27.72	13.65
Between 100% and 200% of the Poverty Line	29.75	16.24	5.71
Above 200% of the Poverty Line	6.59	3.09	0.98
Income Not Reported	9.79	5.44	1.71
By Race and Ethnicity			
White	13.33	7.30	2.76
Black	31.20	17.22	6.83
Other	16.78	9.36	3.86
Hispanic	31.76	18.24	6.97
Non-Hispanic	13.87	7.54	2.90
By Marital Status			
Married	11.00	5.72	1.95
Widowed	18.55	9.73	3.66
Divorced or Separated	25.72	15.89	7.21
Never Married	22.57	13.14	5.22
By Metropolitan Location			
Non-Metro	15.65	8.59	3.24
Metro	15.11	8.29	3.20
By Age			
60-64	17.53	10.79	4.41
65-69	17.03	9.56	3.70
70-74	15.06	7.55	2.74
75-79	11.76	5.51	2.15
80 and older	11.66	5.51	1.75
By Employment Status			
Employed	11.17	5.76	1.96
Unemployed	37.03	24.70	12.65
Retired	12.72	6.24	2.18
Disabled	38.57	26.12	11.54
By Gender			
Male	13.51	7.41	2.83
Female	16.61	9.12	3.51
By Grandchild Present			
No Grandchild Present	14.26	7.80	3.09
Grandchildren Present	34.91	19.56	5.68

 Table 1. The Extent of Senior Hunger in 2011

Source: Authors' calculations from 2001-2011 December Current Population Survey. The numbers in the table show the rates of food insecurity for various groups.

Food insecurity among divorced or separated seniors is two to three times greater than married seniors, and younger seniors, especially those under 75, are at heightened risk in comparison to those over age 75. Likewise, the threat and risk of hunger is 3-4 times higher among the disabled in comparison to the retired, and if a grandchild is present, food insecurity is much more common than among households with no grandchildren present.

Table 1 allows us to see the proportions of persons within any category who are food insecure and, with this information, we can make statements about who is most in danger of being food insecure. For example, those with lower incomes are substantially more likely to be food insecure in any of our food insecurity categories than those with higher incomes. Also of interest, though, is the distribution of senior hunger. In other words, out of those who are food insecure, what proportion fall into a particular category? We present these results in Table 2.

As seen in Table 2, the majority of seniors in any food insecurity category have incomes above the poverty line. For example, out of those reporting income, nearly 2 in 3 seniors at risk of hunger have incomes above the poverty line. A similar story holds for race – while African-Americans are at greater risk of hunger than whites, almost 3 in 4 food insecure seniors are white. As discussed above, there is a decline in food insecurity rates for older seniors. It still remains, however, that 13.8% of seniors facing the threat of hunger are over age 80 and for the risk of hunger and facing hunger, the figures are 11.9% and 9.8%.

			Facing Hunger
—	hunger	Hunger	
By Income			
Below the Poverty Line	29.14%	31.94%	40.97%
Between 100% and 200% of the Poverty Line	33.26	33.08	30.32
Above 200% of the Poverty Line	19.79	16.92	13.91
Income Not Reported	17.81	18.05	14.80
By Race			
White	74.65	74.45	73.38
Black	19.43	19.54	20.17
Other	5.91	6.01	6.45
By Ethnicity			
Non-Hispanic	84.29	83.56	83.84
Hispanic	15.71	16.44	16.36
By Marital Status			
Married	43.54	41.25	36.67
Widowed	25.20	24.08	23.61
Divorced or Separated	23.35	26.29	31.05
Never Married	7.90	8.38	8.67
By Metropolitan Location			
Non-Metro	19.90	19.90	19.53
Metro	80.10	80.10	80.47
By Age			
60-64	34.90	39.13	41.61
65-69	25.05	25.62	25.84
70-74	16.21	14.81	14.00
75-79	10.07	8.60	8.74
80 and older	13.78	11.85	9.80
By Employment Status			
Employed	20.20	18.99	16.85
Unemployed	4.26	5.18	6.91
Retired	51.09	45.67	41.52
Disabled	24.45	30.16	34.72
By Gender			
Male	40.18	40.14	39.96
Female	59.82	59.86	60.04
By Grandchild Present	07.02	27.00	00.01
No Grandchild Present	89.38	89.15	91.80
Grandchildren Present	10.62	10.85	8.20

 Table 2. The Distribution of Senior Hunger in 2011

Source: Authors' calculations from 2001-2011 December Current Population Survey. The numbers in the table sum to 100 percent within each subcategory.

In Table 3 we present state level estimates of senior hunger for 2011. The range for the threat of hunger spans from 8.4% in Virginia to 24.2% in Arkansas; the risk of hunger spans from 3.7% in Virginia to 12.9% in Arkansas; and the rate of those facing hunger spans from 0.9% in North Dakota to nearly 5.0% in Mississippi. In Table 4 we highlight the ten states with the highest rates of senior hunger in 2011. In each category, almost all of the states are located in the South and Southwest, and on average all the rates are higher than in 2010. However, we note that there is some churning among states from last year's report. For example, last year Mississippi had the highest rates for two of the three categories, whereas this year Arkansas is highest for two of the three.

	Threat of	Risk of	Facing		Threat of	Risk of	Facing
	Hunger	Hunger	Hunger		Hunger	Hunger	Hunger
AL	20.34	11.15	3.44	MT	13.67	7.26	2.20
AK	13.01	6.27	1.83	NE	11.17	6.42	2.09
AZ	12.30	6.33	2.55	NV	18.80	10.36	3.01
AR	24.23	12.90	3.92	NH	9.98	5.06	1.73
CA	17.19	9.54	3.40	NJ	13.68	8.43	3.37
CO	10.87	5.98	1.86	NM	18.05	7.96	4.61
СТ	11.37	6.79	2.62	NY	14.78	7.23	3.02
DE	10.14	5.47	1.52	NC	16.90	9.54	2.35
DC	12.13	6.18	1.75	ND	9.30	4.11	0.87
FL	16.07	8.88	3.78	OH	13.83	7.05	3.26
GA	17.52	8.26	2.80	OK	14.16	6.79	3.87
HI	14.20	7.01	3.02	OR	14.80	7.90	3.64
ID	10.87	4.44	0.97	PA	15.27	8.69	3.11
IL	13.30	8.61	2.75	RI	16.78	10.36	3.78
IN	12.80	6.64	1.46	SC	17.38	9.29	3.14
IA	11.97	6.00	2.33	SD	11.67	5.41	1.57
KS	11.49	6.45	1.84	TN	18.79	11.82	3.81
KY	16.52	8.00	3.14	ΤX	18.35	10.36	3.60
LA	18.76	9.44	1.89	UT	14.05	6.32	1.66
ME	14.15	7.11	1.80	VT	10.77	4.79	2.74
MD	13.52	6.25	3.10	VA	8.41	3.71	1.45
MA	11.28	6.18	1.34	WA	14.46	7.58	4.03
MI	12.93	6.91	2.62	WV	16.33	7.62	2.41
MN	8.59	4.75	1.95	WI	11.01	6.19	2.87
MS	20.49	11.62	4.95	WY	13.82	6.76	2.50
MO	15.82	11.43	4.05				

 Table 3. State-Level Estimates of Senior Hunger in 2011

Source: Authors' calculations. The numbers are two-year averages found by summing the number of food insecure seniors in each category by state across the 2010-2011 December Current Population Surveys and dividing by the corresponding total number of seniors in each state across the two years.

Threat of Hunger		Risk	Risk of Hunger		Facing Hunger	
AR	24.23	AR	12.90	MS	4.95	
MS	20.49	TN	11.82	NM	4.61	
AL	20.34	MS	11.62	МО	4.05	
NV	18.80	МО	11.43	WA	4.03	
TN	18.79	AL	11.15	AR	3.92	
LA	18.76	TX	10.36	OK	3.87	
TX	18.35	NV	10.36	TN	3.81	
NM	18.05	RI	10.36	FL	3.78	
GA	17.52	CA	9.54	RI	3.78	
SC	17.38	NC	9.54	OR	3.64	

Table 4. Top Ten States in Terms of Senior Hunger in 2011

#### **II. FOOD INSECURITY OVER TIME**

To help place the 2011 estimates into perspective, we now examine trends in food insecurity over the past decade. We describe the trends for the full population of seniors along with select subgroups of seniors. In Figure 1 we display results for the full population in terms of the proportion (left-hand axis) and number (right-hand axis) of households in millions within each of our food insecurity categories. As seen there, across all categories there was substantial increase in food insecurity since the start of the recession in 2007. Indeed the fraction of seniors at risk of hunger or facing hunger increased by one-third from 2007-2011. And reflecting the fact that an increasing number of the U.S. population is over age 60, the numbers of seniors threatened or at risk of hunger has increased by over 40 percent since 2007.

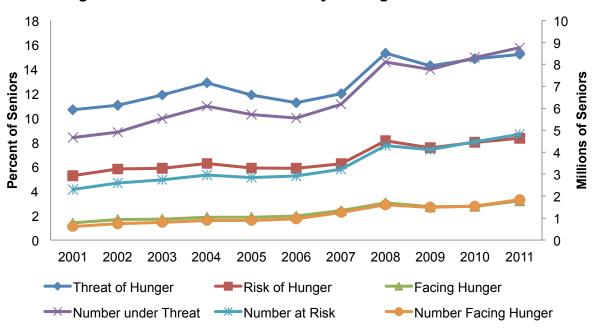


Figure 1. Trends in Food Insecurity Among Senior Americans

In Ziliak and Gundersen (2012), we showed that there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of seniors threatened by or at risk of hunger. This was in contrast to the general population which did not see statistically significant changes (Coleman-Jensen, et al., 2012; Table 1A) in those at risk of hunger (food insecurity). From 2010 to 2011, the general pattern for seniors continues – there was an increase in each of the three measures and a statistically significant increase in hunger. Like the comparison of 2009 to 2010, from 2010 to 2011 there were not statistically significant changes in either food insecurity or very low food security for the full population.

Overall, from 2001 to 2011, there was a 42% increase in the fraction under the threat of hunger, a 58% increase at risk of hunger, and a 128% increase facing hunger. In terms of the numbers of seniors affected, the corresponding increases are 88%, 109%, and 200%.

In Table 5 we take a deeper look into underlying changes in the composition of food insecure seniors from 2010 to 2011. The table presents percentage point changes in each of the three categories of food insecurity by the same set of socioeconomic characteristics in Table 1. In the first row, the results for the full population of seniors are reported and, as discussed above, the increases in food insecurity rates from 2010 to 2011 are evident there. As seen in the subsequent rows, there is a wide degree of variation in terms of changes that are masked by the overall changes. We consider five examples here of cases where there are marked changes from 2010 to 2011 in relevant categories – a 3.6 percentage point increase in hunger among seniors with incomes below the poverty line; a 4.2 percentage point increase in the threat of hunger

among African-American seniors; a 3.5 percentage point increase in the threat of hunger among those who have never been married; across all measures, substantial increases in food insecurity among the unemployed; and a 4.1 percentage point increase in the threat of hunger among seniors with a grandchild present.

	Threat of	Risk of	Facing Hunger
	hunger	Hunger	
Overall	0.36%	0.35%	0.43%***
By Income			
Below the Poverty Line	-1.39	-0.83	3.64***
Between 100% and 200% of the Poverty Line	-1.01	0.16	0.26
Above 200% of the Poverty Line	-0.39	-0.36*	-0.16
Income Not Reported	0.14	0.21	-0.24
By Race and Ethnicity			
White	-0.06	0.36	0.35***
Black	4.19***	-0.05	1.21
Other	0.40	0.85	0.31
Hispanic	0.58	0.87	0.63
By Marital Status			
Married	0.40	0.46*	0.23*
Widowed	-0.28	-0.12	0.30
Divorced or Separated	0.31	0.24	1.11*
Never Married	3.15**	1.21	1.45*
By Metropolitan Location			
Non-Metro	-0.31	0.93**	0.56**
Metro	0.53	0.21	0.40**
By Age			
60-64	-0.04	0.77*	0.52*
65-69	1.88***	1.13**	0.59*
70-74	0.02	-0.83	0.05
75-79	-0.75	-0.59	0.55*
80 and older	0.28	0.41	0.33
By Employment Status			
Employed	0.28	0.21	0.09
Unemployed	6.51**	7.16***	6.28***
Retired	0.26	-0.07	0.11
Disabled	0.10	2.08	2.32***
By Gender			
Male	0.36	0.23	-0.01
Female	0.40	0.46	0.79***
By Grandchild Present			
No Grandchild Present	0.26	0.30	0.39***
Grandchildren Present	4.06**	2.12	1.44

Table 5. Changes in the Composition of Senior Hunger from 2010 to 2011

Source: Authors' calculations. The numbers in the table reflect percentage point changes from 2009-2010. The asterisks denote statistical significance at the following levels: \*\*\* p<0.01; \*\* p<0.05; \* p<0.1

In the next set of figures we examine trends in food insecurity over the past decade across a variety of subpopulations found in Tables 1 and 5. We begin in Figure 2 with trends in food insecurity for seniors living in metropolitan areas versus nonmetropolitan areas. The figure shows that, in most years, there were not important differences in food insecurity rates between seniors living in metro and non-metro areas.

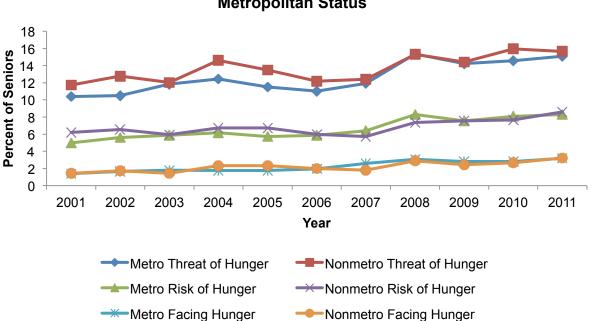




Figure 3a depicts trends in the threat of hunger across difference races, while 3b and 3c present similar trends for those at risk of hunger and for those facing hunger. As discussed above, the rates of food insecurity for blacks are substantially higher than whites. These figures reveal that these differences were present in each year from 2001 to 2011. In addition, for all years for the threat of hunger and the risk of hunger and all years except one for facing hunger, seniors of other races have higher rates of food insecurity than whites.<sup>2</sup>

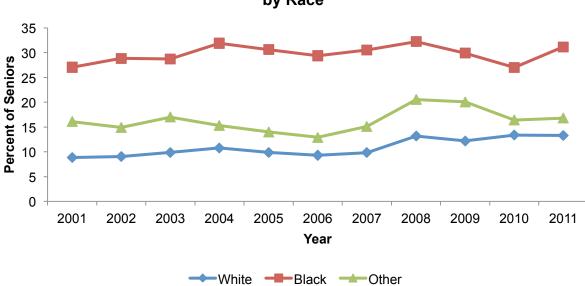
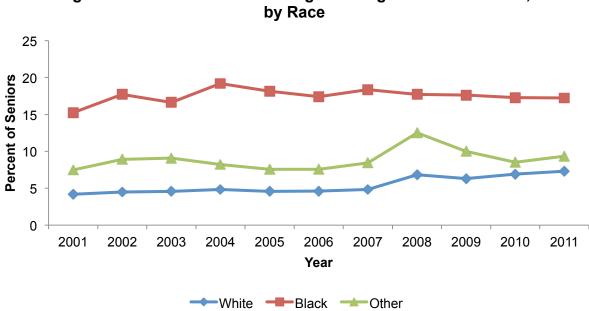


Figure 3a: Trends in Threat of Hunger among Senior Americans, by Race

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This category includes those American Indians, Asians, and Pacific Islanders.



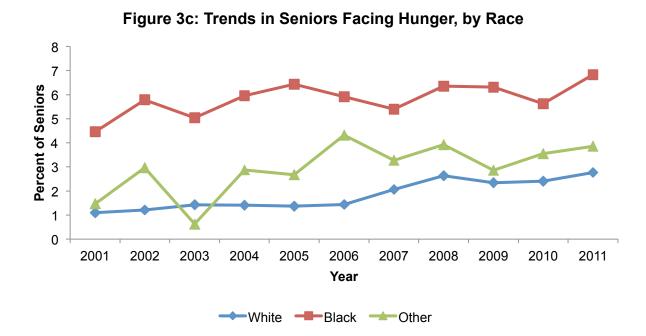


Figure 3b: Trends in Risk of Hunger among Senior Americans,

In Figures 4a-4c we present trends based on Hispanic ethnicity. In most years Hispanics face rates of food insecurity 2-3 times higher than non-Hispanics. One key difference in the trajectories over time is with respect to what occurred after the sharp increase in 2008 for the threat of hunger and risk of hunger. After this increase, in 2009 for Hispanics there was a fall to levels only slightly above 2007 in contrast to non-Hispanics who did not see such a sharp fall. Another key difference is for seniors facing hunger. For Hispanics, there was an increase in 2007 with a fall in 2008 whereas for non-Hispanics there was a sharp increase in 2008.

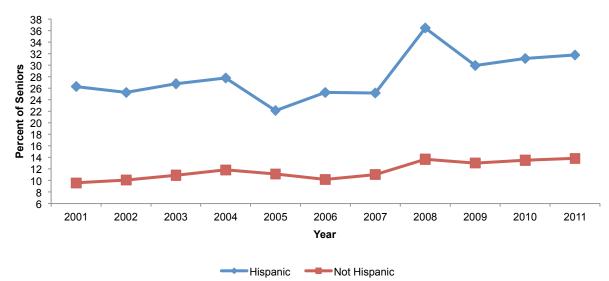


Figure 4a. Trends in Threat of Hunger among Senior Americans, by Hispanic Ethnicity

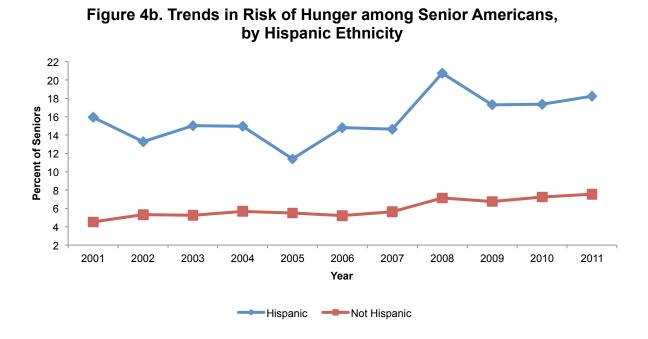
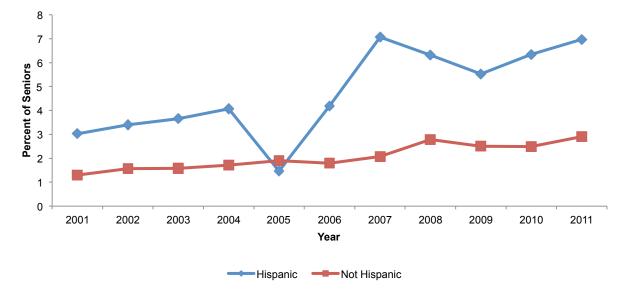
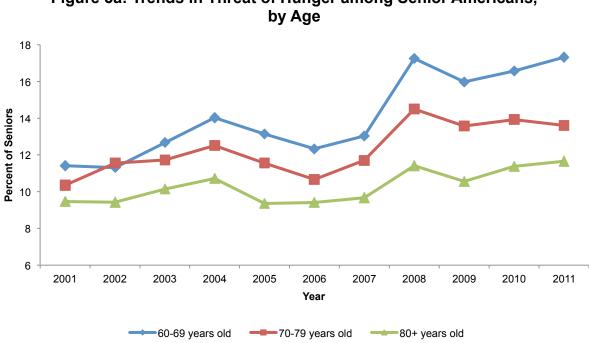


Figure 4c. Trends in Senior Americans Facing Hunger, by Hispanic Ethnicity



Figures 5a-5c present a parallel set of charts for seniors of three broad age groups—60-69 years old, 70-79 years old, and age 80 and older. As seen in Figure 5a, there were sharp increases in the threat of hunger from 2007 to 2008 across all three age groups and these rates remain, in 2011, substantially above those found in 2007. For both the youngest and the oldest groups, the proportion facing the threat of hunger in 2011 is higher than in 2010. In Figure 5b the patterns by age for the risk of hunger are roughly the same as Figure a. In Figure 5c, the results for hunger are displayed. Here, all three age groups saw increases in hunger from 2010 to 2011.





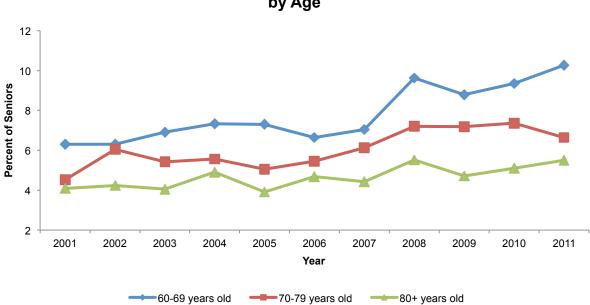
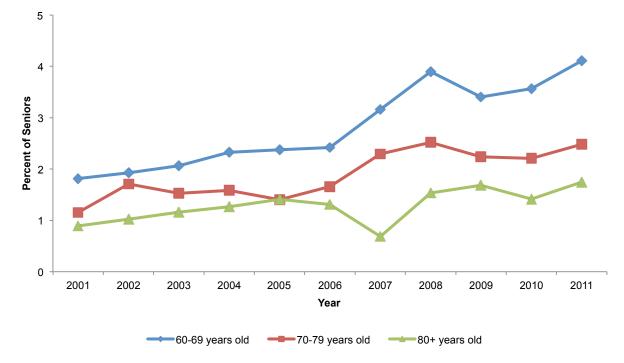


Figure 5c: Trends in Senior Americans Facing Hunger, by Age



## **III. CONCLUSION**

This report demonstrates that the threat of hunger and the risk of hunger among seniors in America is a continued crisis facing the nation. Despite the end of the Great Recession, as of 2011, nearly 1 in 6 seniors faced the threat of hunger. And, in 2011, there was a statistically significant increase in hunger among seniors in comparison to 2010. Given the compelling evidence that food insecurity is associated with a host of poor nutrition and health outcomes among seniors, this report implies that the these high rates of food insecurity among seniors will likely lead to additional public health challenges for our country. This suggests that a potential avenue to stem the growth of health care expenditures on older Americans is to ameliorate the problem of food insecurity.

#### DATA APPEXDIX

The CPS is a nationally representative survey conducted by the Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, providing employment, income and poverty statistics. Households are selected to be representative of civilian households at the state and national levels, using suitably appropriate sampling weights. The CPS does not include information on individuals living in group quarters including nursing homes or assisted living facilities. Given the rotating sequence of participation in the CPS, upwards of 50 percent of the sample is observed in two consecutive years. In past reports (e.g. Ziliak, Gundersen, and Haist 2008; Ziliak and Gundersen 2009, 2011) we have only utilized information from the second interview because many of our analyses involved pooling observations across many years and we did not want to use repeat households. For this report, however, our focus is on representative cross sections and thus we use the entire sample for each wave (whether the person is a first interview or a second interview). Because our focus is on hunger among seniors, our CPS sample is of persons age 60 and older. In 2011 this results in 22,220 sample observations. Appendix Table 2 presents selected summary statistics for the CPS sample.

<b>Appendix Table 1:</b>	Questions or	n the Core Foo	d Security Module
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Food Insecurity Question	Asked of Households with Children	Asked of Households without Children
1. "We worried whether our food would run out before we got money	X	X
to buy more." Was that <b>often, sometimes</b> , or never true for you in the last 12 months?		
2. "The food that we bought just didn't last and we didn't have money	Х	Х
to get more." Was that <b>often, sometimes</b> , or never true for you in the last 12 months?		
3. "We couldn't afford to eat balanced meals." Was that <b>often</b> , <b>sometimes</b> , or never true for you in the last 12 months?	Х	х
4. "We relied on only a few kinds of low-cost food to feed our	Х	
children because we were running out of money to buy food." Was that <b>often, sometimes</b> , or never true for you in the last 12 months?		
5. In the last 12 months, did you or other adults in the household ever	Х	Х
cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food? (Yes/No)		
6. "We couldn't feed our children a balanced meal, because we couldn't afford that." Was that often, sometimes, or never true for you in the last 12 months?	Х	
7. In the last 12 months, did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money for food? (Yes/No)	Х	Х
8. (If yes to Question 5) How often did this happen—almost every <b>month, some months but not every month</b> , or in only 1 or 2 months?	Х	Х
9. "The children were not eating enough because we just couldn't afford enough food." Was that often, sometimes, or never true for you in the last 12 months?	Х	
10. In the last 12 months, were you ever hungry, but didn't eat, because you couldn't afford enough food? (Yes/No)	х	Х
11. In the last 12 months, did you lose weight because you didn't have enough money for food? (Yes/No)	х	Х
<ul><li>12. In the last 12 months, did you ever cut the size of any of the children's meals because there wasn't enough money for food? (Yes/No)</li></ul>	Х	
13. In the last 12 months did you or other adults in your household ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food? (Yes/No)	Х	х
14. In the last 12 months, were the children ever hungry but you just couldn't afford more food? (Yes/No)	Х	
15. (If yes to Question 13) How often did this happen—almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?	Х	х
16. In the last 12 months, did any of the children ever skip a meal because there wasn't enough money for food? ( <b>Yes</b> /No)	x	
17. (If yes to Question 16) How often did this happen—almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?	Х	
<ol> <li>In the last 12 months did any of the children ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food? (Yes/No)</li> </ol>	Х	

Notes: Responses in bold indicate an "affirmative" response.

Appendix Table 2: Selected Characteristics of Senior Americans A	Percent
	Percent
Income Categories	2.11
Below 50% of the Poverty Line	2.11
Between 50% and 100% of the Poverty Line	7.51
Between 100% and 200% of the Poverty Line	17.00
Above 200% of the Poverty Line	45.68
Missing Income	27.69
Racial Categories	
White	85.17
African American	9.47
Other	5.36
Hispanic Ethnicity	7.52
Marital Status	
Married	60.20
Widowed	20.66
Divorced or Separated	13.81
Never Married	5.32
Homeowner	83.84
Non-Metro	19.35
Region	17.55
Northeast	19.22
Midwest	22.20
South	36.73
West	21.85
Age	
60 to 64	30.27
65 to 69	22.37
70 to 74	16.37
75 to 79	13.02
80 and older	17.96
Employment Status	
Employed	27.53
Unemployed	1.75
Retired	61.08
Disabled	9.64
Education Level	
Less Than High School	15.91
High School Diploma	33.77
Some College	23.56
College Degree	26.76
Food Stamp Recipient	6.02
Grandchild or Parent Present	0.02
No Grandchild and Parent Present	95.37
Grandchild and Parent Present	
	2.78
Grandchild Present	1.85
Female	54.77
Living Alone	25.67

Appendix Table 2: Selected	Characteristics of Senior Ar	mericans Age 60 and	older in 2011
ADDENUIX TADIE 2: SELECTED	Characteristics of Semon Al	HEIICalls Age ou and	

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**James P. Ziliak**, Ph.D., holds the Carol Martin Gatton Endowed Chair in Microeconomics in the Department of Economics and is Founding Director of the Center for Poverty Research at the University of Kentucky. He earned received his BA/BS degrees in economics and sociology from Purdue University, and his Ph.D. in Economics from Indiana University. He served as assistant and associate professor of economics at the University of Oregon, and has held visiting positions at the Brookings Institution, University College London, University of Michigan, and University of Wisconsin. His research expertise is in the areas of labor economics, poverty, food insecurity, and tax and transfer policy. Recent projects include the causes and consequences of hunger among older Americans; trends in earnings and income volatility in the U.S.; trends in the antipoverty effectiveness of the social safety net; the origins of persistent poverty in America; and regional wage differentials across the earnings distribution. He is editor of *Welfare Reform and its Long Term Consequences for America's Poor* published by Cambridge University Press (2009) and *Appalachian Legacy: Economic Opportunity after the War on Poverty* published by Brookings Institution Press (2012).

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