

In Kentucky

One in four households with children struggle to purchase enough food

The recession has meant that high numbers of all types of households have been struggling to purchase adequate food, but households with children suffered extraordinarily high rates, according to a new national report released today. In surveys running for five years through 2012, nearly one in four households with children in the U.S. said they couldn't consistently afford food, even as the House Majority Leadership is proposing to cut the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) by a staggering \$40 billion.

Food Hardship 2008-2012: Geography and Household Structure, released by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), found that in surveys from 2008-2012, more than 26 percent of households with children in Kentucky said there were times in the prior year when they did not have enough money to buy food that they needed for themselves or their family. More than 19 percent of households without children in Kentucky said they faced the same struggle.

"What these data tell us is that there's a new reality

for too many Kentuckians. Hunger and poverty rates spiked at the beginning of the recession and have stayed high ever since," said Tamara Sandberg, Executive Director of the Kentucky Association of Food Banks. "And the food hardship data reveal the extraordinary frequency of the struggle to afford enough food for households with children. September is Hunger Action Month and these data should spur all of us to take action to solve hunger in Kentucky."

This report is consistent with data released by the federal government this month which show how many Americans continue to struggle. Food insecurity data, released by the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), show that 1 in 6 Kentuckians in state struggled with hunger during the 2010 to 2012 period. (Those data are not broken down by households with and without children.) And data released yesterday by the U.S. Census Bureau showed that the national poverty rate has remained at elevated rates since the recession began; Kentucky's poverty rate exceeds the na-

tional rate.

The FRAC analysis examines food hardship rates – the inability to afford enough food – for households with and without children. Data are available for the nation, every state and region, and 100 of the country's largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), including Louisville-Jefferson County. Findings for childhood food hardship for surveys from 2008-2012 in Kentucky include:

- 26.5 percent of households with children in Kentucky said they were unable to afford enough food. The food hardship rate for households without children was 19.5 percent.

- Kentucky has the sixth highest food hardship rate for households without children and the 16th highest rate for households with children.

- For the Louisville-Jefferson County MSA, the food hardship rate for households with children was 28 percent which is the tenth highest food hardship rate in the nation for households with children.

The full analysis is available on FRAC's website (www.frac.org).

“Smallmouth”

(Cont. from A10)

8-ounce white and silver spinnerbaits, floating/diving minnow-shaped jerkbaits in shad colors and smaller minnow-shaped crankbaits.

"The flat bedrock areas are holding fish," Baker said. "I don't usually fish flat, boring bedrock, but crayfish and minnows are holding on them right now."

He said the minnows he's witnessed in streams are roughly three to four inches long. Lures should match that size.

Stealth is important since streams are flowing at their lowest level since last winter. "The fish can see you coming," Baker said. "Make long casts and stay off the areas you plan to fish."

Under-utilized small-mouth streams course all across Kentucky. If a local flow has water at least waist deep and a rocky bottom along with pools and riffles, it likely holds smallmouth bass.

The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website at fw.ky.gov has two excellent resources for Kentucky anglers to locate and learn more about the smallmouth fishing streams in their area. Click on the "Fishing and Boating" tab, then on the "Where to Fish" tab and then on the printable "Kentucky Smallmouth Streams" bro-

chure.

You may also click on the Blue Water Trails tab on the same screen and locate two dozen streams profiled that provide public access points, floating mileages, printable maps and fishing information. Many of the streams featured in the series contain good small-mouth bass populations.

The great stream small-mouth fishing continues well into fall. Once water temperatures fall below 50 degrees, usually by mid-November, the fishing slows drastically.

There is long way to go before now and then. Get

out in the next few weeks and enjoy the best stream smallmouth fishing of the year.

Author Lee McClellan is an award-winning associate editor for Kentucky Afield magazine, the official publication of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. He is a lifelong hunter and angler, with a passion for smallmouth bass fishing.

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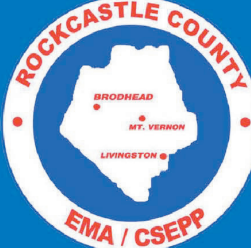
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