In 2007, 417,000 Michigan households (10.6% of all Michigan households) had experienced food insecurity at some time during the previous year.

What is food security?
Food security refers to having access to enough food for an active, healthy life. Americans living with food insecurity are uncertain of having enough food for all household members because of insufficient money or other resources for food. According to definitions established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, very low food security is a form of food insecurity in which access to food is severely limited. Hunger, a description of physical discomfort from not eating, can be experienced episodically but can also result from severe or protracted food insecurity. Hunger in this sense is not directly assessed in national-level surveys.

How many people in Michigan are affected?
As of 2007—the most current year for which data are available:

- Very low food security affected 3.7% of Michigan households at some time during the previous year.
- Altogether, 1.0 million people in Michigan were in households that experienced food insecurity in the previous year.
- The risk of a Michigan household experiencing food insecurity in the previous month was 6.3%.
- The prevalence of very low food security is increasing (see side 2).
What are the trends?
Between 2000 and 2005, the number of Michigan households with food insecurity increased from approximately 286,000 to 509,000. The number declined to 417,000 between 2005 and 2007, but data for 2008 and later are not yet available.

Who is affected?
Children: In 2007, 186,000 (8.1%) children in Michigan experienced food insecurity at some time in the previous year (or lived with another child who did).

Minorities: In 2007, food insecurity was experienced by 8.1% of non-Hispanic white households in Michigan but by 25.8% of non-Hispanic black households.

The Poor: In 2007, among Michigan households with an income less than the Federal poverty threshold, about one out of three (34.5%) experienced food insecurity.

Households With Less Education: Whereas food insecurity existed in 25.5% of Michigan households in which no one had completed high school or its equivalent, food insecurity affected only 4.9% of households in which a member had obtained a college degree or higher.

Single-Parent Households: In 2007, among Michigan households with children, the risk of food insecurity was lower for families with married couples (9.3%) than for homes with a male head of household but no spouse (27.1%) or a female head of household and no spouse (35.4%).

SOURCES AND METHODS
The statistics reported here were obtained from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s most recent report on food security: Household Food Security in the United States, 2007. The data underwent statistical analysis by the research staff of the Virginia Commonwealth University Center on Human Needs. Due to small sample sizes in survey populations within Michigan, some values reported here have a large margin of error. The margin of error is reported in detail at www.humanneeds.vcu.edu where further details about analytic methods are available.