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**New Analysis: Over 20 Percent of California Respondents Unable to Afford Enough Food**  
Report Exposes Widespread Levels of Food Hardship in California and Nationwide

**Oakland, California - December 30, 2010** – New data shows that over 20 percent of respondents in California reported in the first half of 2010 that there were times during the prior twelve months that they did not have enough money to buy food that they needed for themselves or their family, according to the Food Research and Action Center's (FRAC) analysis of data from the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index.

The data was gathered as part of the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index project, which has been interviewing 1,000 households daily since January 2008. People were asked, "Have there been times in the past twelve months when you did not have enough money to buy food that you or your family needed?" The full analysis by FRAC of the Gallup data is available at [www.frac.org](http://www.frac.org).

For the months of January through June 2010, sixteen states, including California, had food hardship rates of 20 percent or higher – at least one in five persons contacted in those states answered that there had been times in the past twelve months when they did not have enough money to buy the food that they or their family needed.

The report also compares the rates for the twelve months from July 2008 through June 2009 to the twelve months from July 2009 through June 2010, and finds that food hardship in California increased over that time period. These twelve month periods were chosen in order to ascertain whether states saw a statistically significant change from the heart of the recession to the first year of the recovery, albeit a recovery that all agree has been very weak.

"The fact that our rate increased shows just how hard the struggle against hunger has become in California, and that the recovery has not reached those who need relief the most," said Sue Sigler, Executive Director of the California Association of Food Banks

"As we look to the start of a New Year, these numbers underscore that far too many people in California are experiencing hunger," said Sigler. "Unemployment, poverty and food hardship remain very, very high, and our incoming state leaders must make it a top priority to both protect programs for low-income families and to assure the state is taking every opportunity to access federal funds to stimulate our economy."

CAFB urges Governor-elect Brown and the legislature to end the ineffective practice of finger imaging CalFresh (formerly food stamp) applicants, and to move the state to simplified reporting, just like every other state in the country has already done. Increasing participation in CalFresh has the potential to bring billions of federal dollars to California, billions more in economic stimulus, and will help struggling families survive. The state can also make new choices to feed children in school and after school from the recently passed child nutrition reauthorization law, and continue its summer food outreach to raise awareness of the program.

The full report is available at [www.frac.org](http://www.frac.org)

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**About This Report**

This report is the third in the Food Research and Action Center's (FRAC) series of analyses of survey data on food hardship collected by Gallup as part of the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index. This particular analysis looks at the most recent available **food hardship rates by state** for the first half of 2010 – and how the late 2009/early 2010 rates by state compare to the prior twelve months (July 2008 - June 2009). The report thereby provides the most up-to-date examination yet at the state level of the struggle that very large numbers of American households are having affording enough food. This new analysis updates and builds on state data concerning food hardship in 2008-2009 that FRAC released in January 2010.

**About CAFB:**

The mission of California Association of Food Banks is to provide a unified voice among food banks to maximize their ability to build a well nourished California. For more information on the California Association of Food Banks please visit our website at [www.cafoodbanks.org](http://www.cafoodbanks.org).