



National Report Prepared for Feeding America

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Chapter 4.8 – Estimates of Different Clients Across the Whole Feeding America System

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4.8 ESTIMATES OF DIFFERENT CLIENTS ACROSS THE WHOLE FEEDING AMERICA SYSTEM

The estimates derived so far, along with additional data collected in the survey, make it possible to derive an estimate of the total number of different clients served by all three types of FA emergency food providers, taken together. Survey questions asked respondents whether they had used other types of providers (besides the one at which they were interviewed) during the week of the survey. Approximately 8% of pantry users said they had also used a kitchen or a shelter; approximately 51% of kitchen users said they had also used either a pantry or a shelter; and approximately 33% of shelter users said they had also used a pantry or a kitchen.¹ Using these data, together with the estimates of provider use derived earlier, the estimated number of annual system-level clients is 37.0 million in 2009 (Table 4.8.1). The corresponding 95-percent confidence interval extends from 33.8 million to 40.2 million clients.

¹ Because we have data on cross-agency use only in a single week (the period before the survey), the figures on multiple-agency use reported in the text may somewhat underestimate the full degree of this type of use when used to estimate different clients in the *annual* estimates. This is true because clients could have used other types of agencies in weeks other than the one asked about. However, because most of the annual counts are based on a single agency type—pantries—we do not believe that the underestimation is substantial. For instance, to establish a probable upper bound on the possible error, suppose the multiple-use factors reported in the text were doubled. The resulting change in the overall annual estimate of different clients would then be less than 7%.

TABLE 4.8.1

ESTIMATED ANNUAL CLIENTS, UNDUPLICATED ACROSS AGENCIES
(PERSONS)

	Each Agency Type Considered Separately	After Correcting for Overlap of Clients Across Agencies ^a
1. Estimated number of different pantry clients in a year	35.0 million	33.9 million
2. Estimated number of different kitchen clients in a year	2.1 million	1.8 million
3. Estimated number of different shelter clients in a year	1.6 million	1.3 million
4. Total different clients in system	n.a.	37.0 million
5. Total different clients in system (95-Percent Confidence Interval)	n.a.	33.8 to 40.2 million

^aAny client using a pantry is counted under pantries. Clients using only kitchens and shelters are counted under kitchens.

n.a. = not applicable.