



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT:**  
Nicole Aber, (646) 627-7741  
Naber@hungerfreeamerica.org

## **Bronx One of Nation's Hungriest Counties**

### **82 Percent of Bronx Emergency Food Programs Report Increase in People Served in 2018**

#### **Area Hunger Falls Over Last Six Years but Still Far Higher than 2005-07**

#### **Advocates Decry Acceptance of Mass Deprivation as "New Normal"**

The Bronx remains New York City's hungriest borough in every category, with more than one in four (26 percent) Bronx residents experiencing food insecurity. This includes more than 20 percent of all children, nearly 17 percent of working adults, and almost 24 percent of seniors, according to federal data analyzed by Hunger Free America.

While the number of people in New York City who are food insecure decreased over the last six years, the number remains higher than the recession at a whopping 1 million New Yorkers. The number of Bronx residents who experienced food insecurity in 2015-2017 totals 290,469.

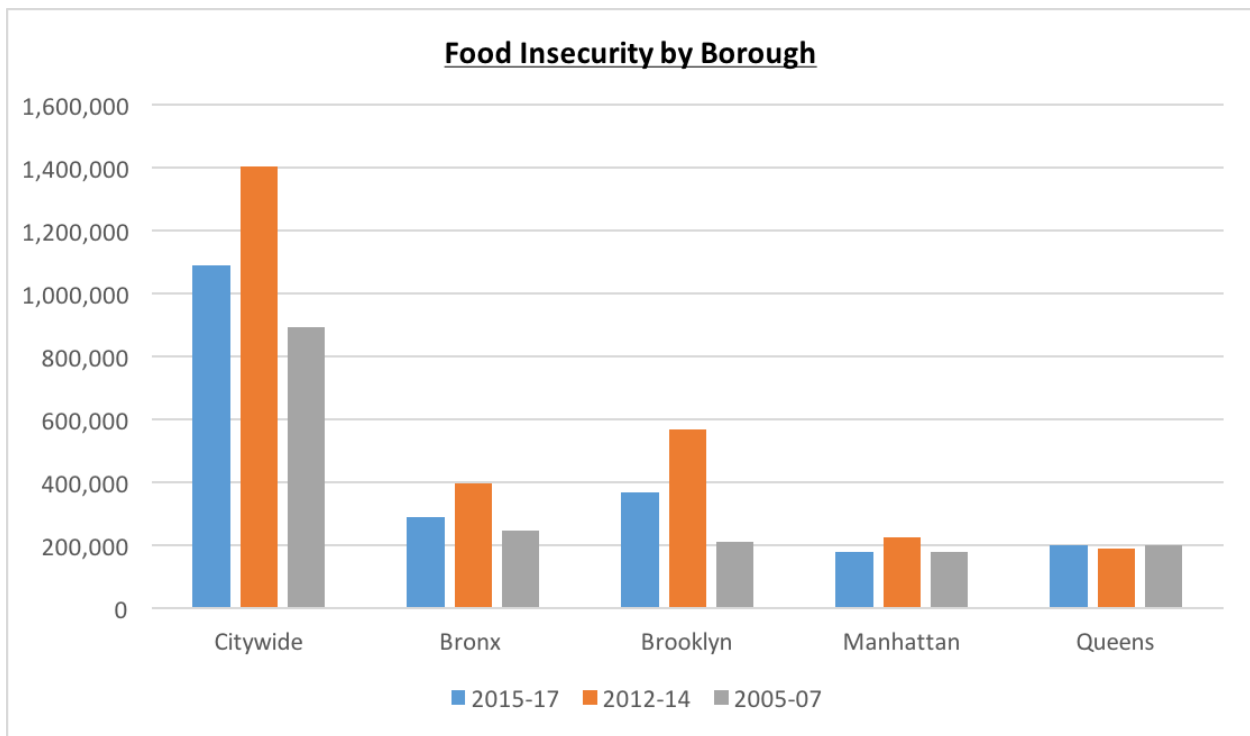
"While we are certainly pleased that job creation and wage growth over the last six years contributed to a significant decrease in hunger in and around New York, it is scandalous that the number of hungry residents is still far higher than before the recession," said Joel Berg, CEO of Hunger Free America. "We simply must not accept mass deprivation as any sort of 'new normal.'"

City Council Member Andy King — who represents District 12 in the Bronx — commented, "Yesterday, I hosted a Thanksgiving turkey giveaway and well over 100 people of all ages, income brackets and family status, including working parents, stood in line because there is a

real financial need when it comes to feeding a family and picking up a free turkey helps supplement that need. More and more working families are becoming more dependent on supplemental sources for food, such as food pantries, EBT, SNAP and community centers. In addition, as our society grows older, food programs are more important than ever. It's unfortunate but it's the state of our economy today. ”

According to Hunger Free America’s annual survey of Emergency Food Programs, 82 percent of organizations reported an increase in the total number of people served during the last year. Additionally, nearly 42 percent of respondents reported having to turn people away, reduce the amount of food distributed per person, or limit their hours of operation in 2018 due to a lack of resources. Berg announced the findings of the new survey Wednesday morning at Part of the Solution, a leading social services center in the Bronx that houses a food pantry and soup kitchen.

"POTS has remained true to its founders’ vision of creating a community of support for people in need,” said Part of the Solution Executive Director Alicia Guevara. “Located in an area overwhelmed by poverty, POTS makes it a priority to provide comprehensive care and access to nutritious food in order to help our neighbors on their journey to greater stability and self-sufficiency. We are grateful to call Hunger Free America a partner in the fight to end food insecurity in our community."



The study, “The Uneaten Big Apple: Hunger’s High Cost in NYC,” is available on Hunger Free America’s website: [hungerfreeamerica.org/media-research/research](http://hungerfreeamerica.org/media-research/research)