

# 2014 Census Report

After-School All-Stars Sunrise Baptist Church Pahrump Valley United Methodist Church  
Grace Immanuel Missionary The Champion Center M.O.S.E.S.  
Safekey Boys & Girls Club Templo Macedonia ICIAR  
Israelite Church of God U.S. Vets Grace Baptist Church Boys Town  
Our Savior's Church First CME Williamson Temple Frontier Baptist Church Helping Hands of Vegas Valley  
The Shade Tree Progressive Pilgrims Fellowship  
Reconciliation Apostolic Ministries Las Vegas Rescue Mission  
NOW Food Pantry Silver State Housing C3 Church  
Nevada HAND Salvation Army Frontier Baptist  
S.A.F.E. House HELP of Southern Nevada  
Jewish Family Services Westminster Presbyterian Church Live Right Congregation Olive Crest  
St. John Neumann Catholic Church Catholic Charities  
Parks & Recreation Christian Center  
Transitional Living Communities My Father's House  
21st Century Sathya Sai Baba Center Truth Christian Ministries International  
International Church of Las Vegas South Gate Clark County School District



together, we can feed everyone

A member of  
FEEDING  
AMERICA

## About Three Square Food Bank

Three Square is Southern Nevada's only food bank that provides nutrition services to the residents of Lincoln, Nye, Esmeralda, and Clark Counties. Our mission is to provide wholesome food to hungry people, while passionately pursuing a hunger-free community.

We accomplish this mission by being an efficient resource for soliciting, collecting and sorting fresh and non-perishable products, which are then distributed to local non-profit organizations that feed the hungry. We also accomplish this mission by being a collaborative partner in federal childhood nutrition programs and by our SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) outreach efforts.

Recently, Three Square was named one of the most "connected organizations" by University of Nevada, Las Vegas' Lincy Institute (Monnat, Smedley, and Nasoz, 2013). We work with more than 1,100 community partners, including non-profit and faith-based organizations, schools, and feeding sites, to reach struggling individuals and families at risk for hunger. This includes approximately: 150 child meal sites, 270 schools, 440 SNAP sites, and 270 Agency Partner Programs. In calendar year 2013, we distributed more than 30 million pounds of food, the equivalent of more than 25 million meals, through our community partners.



## Special Acknowledgements

Three Square passionately ascribes to ten core values. Among these are innovation, collaboration, and stewardship, which aptly describe the 2014 Census in terms of project scope and process. Principal Investigators Jodi Tyson, Christian Murua and Jean Toth were awed and inspired by the level of partnership and collaboration by Agency Partners as well as the level of participation among clients accessing nutrition services in the Three Square network.

Many Three Square staff members balanced their heavy workloads to support the Census. We give special recognition to members of the Agency Services, Programs, SNAP Outreach and Government Affairs office for their superb efforts. In addition, volunteers contributed greatly to this process and deserve commendation. The Principal Investigators extend a sincere appreciation to the Chief Officers at Three Square for their support. In addition, the Principal Investigators thank Mark House from the City of Las Vegas (CLV), Department of Planning and Rachel Stevens from Applied Analysis for their technical assistance.

### Principal Investigators:



Jodi Tyson – Jodi, Three Square's Government Affairs Director, joined the team nearly five years ago. In addition to other research projects, she spearheaded the local food insecurity maps for Map the Meal Gap. Jodi currently serves on the Advisory Committee for Feeding America Hunger in America 2014 report and the Governor's Food Security Council. Jodi received her Master of Public Health degree from University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 2006.



Christian Murua – Christian joined the Three Square team in April of 2013 as the organization's Research Specialist. In addition to the 2014 Census, he supported other research efforts, including Feeding America's Hunger in America 2014 study. Christian is a member of the Nevada Public Health Association and will present the 2014 Census study results to other public health professionals in the state later this year. Christian is due to graduate from University of Nevada, Las Vegas with a Master of Public Health degree in 2015.



Jean Toth – Jean joined Three Square two and a half years ago as the Director of Agency Services. She has worked in hunger-relief for over 10 years and came to Three Square from a large, nationally recognized food bank. Over her career, she has helped start up over 200 food distribution programs, many which have gone on to become model programs in their respective communities. Jean holds a Master of Arts degree in Applied Sociology from Northern Arizona University.

# Table of Contents

<b>Executive Summary</b>	4
<b>About Food Insecurity</b>	5
<b>Map the Meal Gap</b>	5
Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap Study	5
Three Square's Map the Meal Gap Supplemental Study	7
<b>Three Square's Efforts to Address Food Insecurity</b>	9
Three Square's SNAP Outreach Program	11
<b>Research Scope</b>	12
What is missing from Three Square's Map the Gap Supplemental Study that inspired the Census?	12
Research Methods	13
Questions posed by the 2014 Census	15
<b>2014 Census Results</b>	16
Research Participation	16
Number of clients and households served	17
Frequency of pantry visits among unique households	19
Special Populations - Children	20
Special Populations - Seniors	22
Special Populations - Homeless	23
Special Populations - Veterans, Disabled, and the Uninsured	23
Pantry clients' household size and composition	24
Client travel, geography, and density	25
Targeting neighborhoods to increase impact	27
<b>Research Limitations</b>	28
<b>Conclusions</b>	29
<b>Glossary of Terms</b>	30
<b>References</b>	33



## Executive Summary

In the business community, “Profits are up 30%!” is big news and worth communicating to shareholders, employees and customers. Non-profit organizations feel the same way about community impact. So, it’s with great enthusiasm that Three Square announces “Impact is up 30%!”

Results of the 2014 Census demonstrate that Three Square’s network, more than 270 Agency Partner Programs strong, has been undercounting unique clients by about 30%. This translates to greater impact than previous Three Square estimates. Census counts from October 2013 indicate that:

- **Over 137,000 unique clients were served**
- **Over 371,000 units of service were provided**

Food insecurity knows no geographic boundaries. The face of poverty, and the circumstances of poverty, has changed in our country. To all our benefit, the stigma of accessing services appears to also be changing, at least to some extent. Feeding America’s Map the Meal Gap reports that more than 315,000 people throughout our service area struggled with food insecurity in 2012 (Gundersen, Engelhard, Satoh, and Waxman, 2014). The Census revealed that clients seeking nutrition services through Three Square’s network reside in every ZIP code in our service area with a population greater than 100 people.

Nearly two-thirds of households sought nutrition services from an Agency Partner Pantry Program just once during the month. Fortunately, clients accessing nutrition services reside relatively close to one of these programs, only two miles away on average (CLV, Department of Planning, 2014). However, the distance traveled by clients to the pantry of their choice is on average, eight miles away (CLV, Department of Planning, 2014). Three Square will need to develop strategies in collaboration with the network to overcome barriers such as awareness of pantry locations, distribution days and times at existing sites, and lack of services in identified ZIP codes.

The Census closely examines nutrition services benefiting seniors and children, both directly through Meal Programs, and indirectly through Pantry Programs that serve all household members. Special attention was paid to federal child nutrition programs and meal sites with corresponding numbers of children served and the ZIP code of the meal site. Upon examining all nutrition services,

**Three Square provided 43% of all services to children through programs like Backpack for Kids Program and Kids Cafe®.**

Three Square’s programs and network of Agency Partners are making a difference in our community!

Together, we can feed everyone!

## About Food Insecurity

Food insecurity, the result of an individual or family's insufficient supply of food needed to lead a healthy and active lifestyle (United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, 2014), is an increasing public health concern in the United States.

Hunger is a term that represents the acute condition of food insecurity and is often used by many food banks. Agency Partners receive food from us, which is then served to those that experience a level of food deprivation. This level of food deprivation leads clients to seek nutrition services through the governmental and charitable network.

## Map the Meal Gap

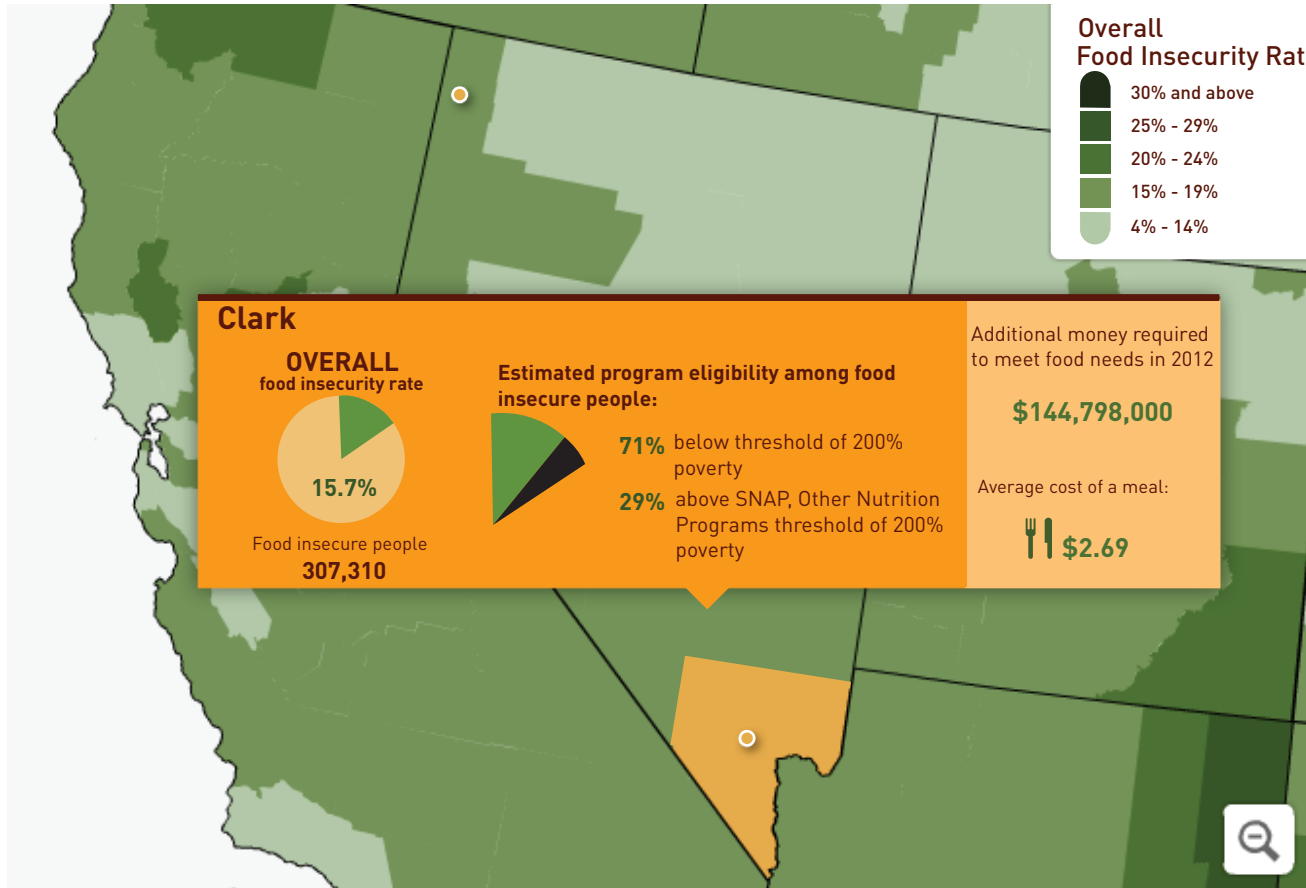
### Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap Study

Feeding America, the nation's leading domestic hunger-relief charity (Feeding America, 2014), publishes a Map the Meal Gap study, in the form of an interactive map on their website, on a yearly basis. This map aids in understanding food insecurity among adults and children. Specifically, Map the Meal Gap tells us, on national, state, and county levels, the following:

- The number and percentage of food insecure individuals
- How much additional money households needed to purchase their own food
- The average cost of a meal
- The percentage of residents above and below 200% of poverty

Map the Meal Gap tells a story of food insecurity using data. Its function is to demonstrate that a hunger gap still exists above and beyond current efforts. This gap is outside of Three Square's ability to cover alone, and instead highlights the need for other charitable and governmental systems to work together. For example, Map the Meal Gap in Clark County emphasizes that 71% of food insecure households are eligible for the SNAP benefit, as shown on Map 1 (Gundersen et al., 2014). The remaining 29% are not eligible for any government assistance programs and therefore, the charitable safety net is their only option within the network.

Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap illustrates the research needed to better understand food insecurity at the county level. Considering that Clark County contains 73% of the state's population (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014), Map the Meal Gap opened the opportunity to study food insecurity at the subcounty level. Three Square launched a Map the Meal Gap Supplemental study of Clark County ZIP codes in 2009. To date, five years of maps are available.



Map 1

Map the Meal Gap of Clark County, Nevada.  
Source: Gundersen et al., 2014

## Three Square's Map the Meal Gap Supplemental Study

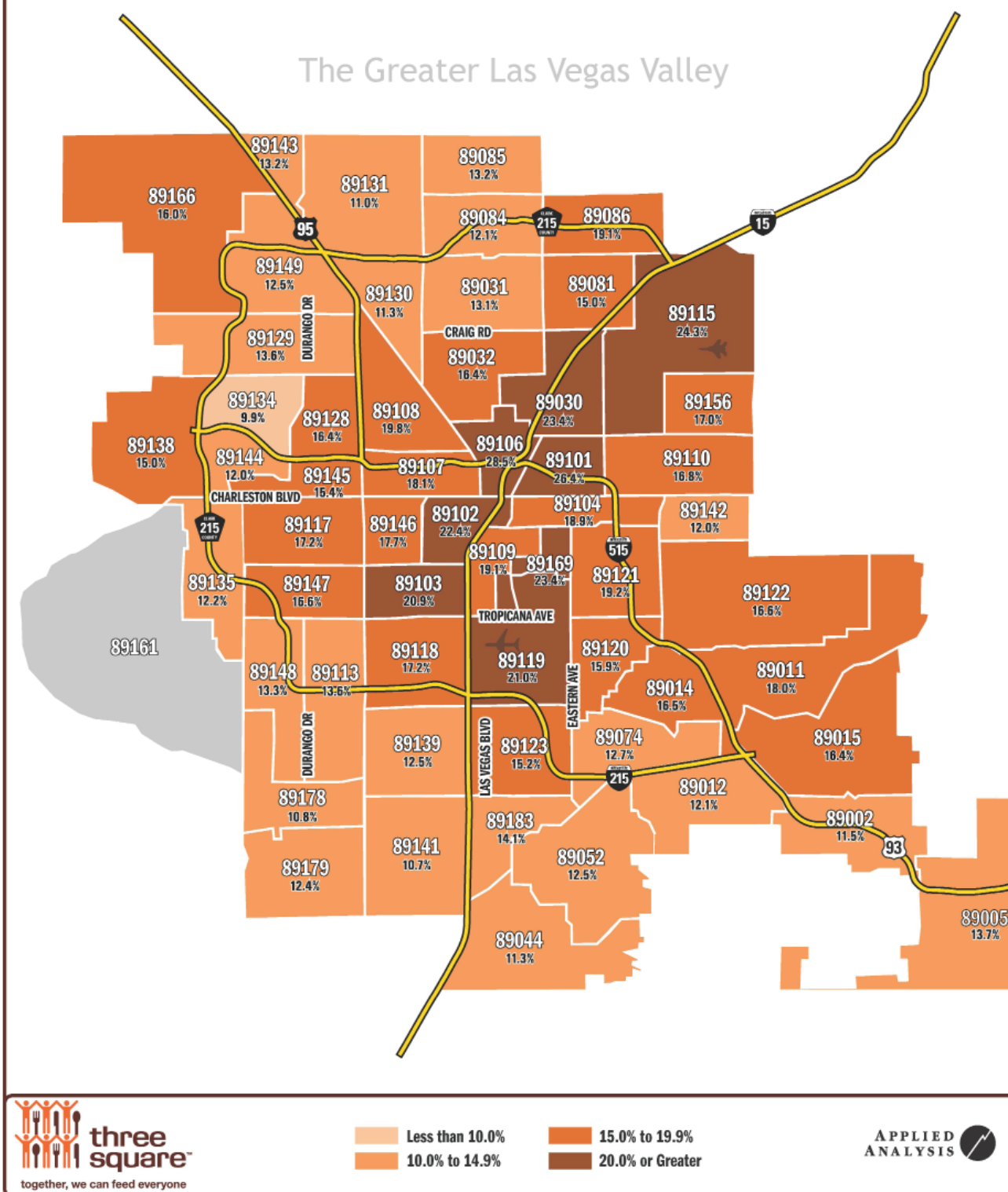
Although state and county level data is extremely important for understanding and addressing food insecurity, Three Square realizes the significance of drilling down further and examining food insecurity at the ZIP code level, and has released a supplemental subcounty Map the Meal Gap study every year since 2010. These findings, based on ZIP code level data, are released to the public in the form of a map. These maps reflect food insecurity rates based on data from the previous year. Three Square's first map release in 2010 was based on data from 2009. Map 2 is the most recent release for 2014, which depicts food insecurity rates based on 2013 data.

To create these maps, Three Square partners with Applied Analysis, a local research firm, and Dr. Craig Gundersen, professor of Agricultural Strategy and Executive Director of the National Soybean Research Laboratory at the University of Illinois. Dr. Gundersen is on the Technical Advisory Committee for Feeding America and is one of the creators of Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap. Applied Analysis and Dr. Gundersen provide data in the following ways:

- Applied Analysis – Provides data by ZIP code through the publication of their annual, commissioned report “Las Vegas Perspective” which includes the overall population, population of Hispanics and African Americans, average number of people per household, median income per household, unemployment rate, house and apartment vacancy rates, percentage of home owners versus renters (Applied Analysis, 2014), as well as other unpublished data, including poverty rates.
- Dr. Gundersen – In addition to data supplied by Three Square and Applied Analysis, county level data is applied, such as median food prices. Dr. Gundersen calculates food insecurity rates for each ZIP code based on the Map the Meal Gap statistical formula.

Once these data are organized by Three Square, they are sent to Applied Analysis to generate the maps. More information on Map the Meal Gap and the formula to determine food insecurity rates can be found at <http://feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hunger-studies/map-the-meal-gap.aspx>. To view releases of Three Square's Map the Meal Gap Supplemental maps, visit [www.threesquare.org/learn-about-hunger/research](http://www.threesquare.org/learn-about-hunger/research).

## FOOD INSECURITY BY ZIP CODE 2014



## Map 2

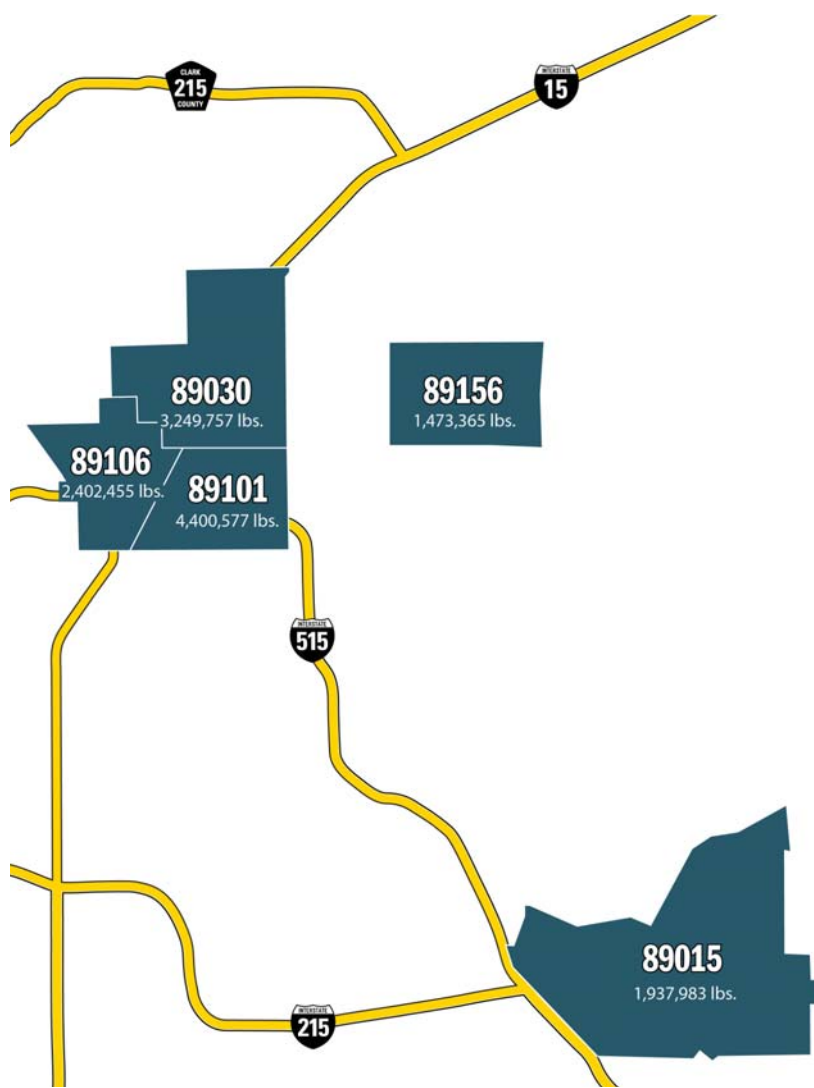
*Map the Meal Gap of the Greater Las Vegas Valley.*



## Three Square's Efforts to Address Food Insecurity

Three Square receives food through various channels, including donations by individuals and organizations, and by collecting unused food products from grocery stores. In addition, Three Square purchases food products from retailers. Three Square's Agency Partners can then order and pick up these products at the food bank to distribute to the community.

The majority of Agency Partners provide nutrition services at their faith-based location. It is Three Square's goal to establish a network that meets people in need in their own neighborhoods in order to overcome resource challenges. In addition to neighborhood access, Three Square also strives to direct food volume to neighborhoods with high concentrations of at-risk populations. Over 30 million pounds of food and meals were distributed, via Three Square's Agency Partners and Three Square Programs, to the community in calendar year 2013. The top five ZIP codes that distributed the most pounds of food and meals are shown in the Graphic 1. Map 3 was developed to better visualize where pounds of food and meals were distributed in the Greater Las Vegas Valley in 2013.



Graphic 1

*Pounds of food and meals distributed in 89101, 89030, 89106, 89015, and 89156 based on 2014 Census results.*

(2013 Data)



*Pounds of Food and Meals Distributed by Three Square in Calendar Year 2013.*

## Three Square's SNAP Outreach Program

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides nutrition assistance to people with a low income. This benefit contributes to households' monthly food budget, which allows families to purchase healthy foods.

Three Square provides SNAP application assistance through outreach efforts in the community. Applications are processed by state eligibility specialists at the Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services. Three Square does not make determinations on the benefit amount an applicant receives, nor does it know the date applications are approved and benefits become effective. Some applications are approved in a matter of days, while others may take longer than 30 days. Households with pending SNAP applications must seek other food resources until they are able to receive nutrition assistance through benefits.

SNAP clients, therefore, are considered in receipt of a food-related service, but not a nutrition service, for the purpose of the Census. Individuals and families that visited an Agency Partner, like a Meal or Pantry Program during the month of October, were given food the same day. Those who completed applications for SNAP in October may not have received the benefit of the program until the following month. For this reason, SNAP clients are not counted in the Census client counts and units of service counts in this report; counts reflect only nutrition services people received at Partner Sites during the month of October.

However, it is important to note SNAP and SNAP Outreach as vital to Three Square's network. More than 360,000 Nevadans benefited from SNAP in October 2013. SNAP is the largest nutrition assistance program, supplying millions of meals in Nevada through direct purchase from low-income consumers. The average meal cost purchased at a grocery store was \$2.69 in 2013.

During the month of October, Three Square's SNAP Outreach team provided application assistance at 127 community-based sites such as food pantries, unemployment offices, WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) clinics, elementary schools, and apartment complexes. More than 450 applications were submitted. Benefits were issued to at least 310 households, based on follow-up. The average amount of time Nevadans remain on SNAP is slightly more than seven months. Considering the average benefit issued in Nevada in October 2013, Three Square's SNAP Outreach helped families secure \$588,411 toward the purchase of an estimated 219,000 meals. A worthwhile endeavor for hunger-relief in our community!

## Research Scope

### What is Missing from Three Square's Map the Meal Gap Supplemental Study that Inspired the 2014 Census?

Although Three Square's Map the Meal Gap Supplemental study is a valuable tool to pinpoint food insecurity at the ZIP code level, it does not tell us if program locations are accessible to clients in their own neighborhoods. Map the Meal Gap tells us that food insecurity exists in all neighborhoods, as represented in Map the Meal Gap food insecurity maps. Map the Meal Gap does not tell us information about the penetration of nutrition services provided through the network in neighborhoods across the urban valley. Additional data, including demographics and units of service (all visits, including multiple visits, by all clients) among food insecure individuals and families seeking our services, are important to collect periodically because they help Three Square answer important questions, such as:

- What is the count of unique clients served in a single month?
- What is the total number of units of service provided in a single month?
- What age groups are we serving and to what extent?
- To what extent does the average household receive services in a single month?
- What is the average number of people in a household served through the network?
- On average, how far do families struggling with hunger travel to receive nutrition services from a Pantry Program?
- Based on data, what are the ZIP codes that should be prioritized for increased support and improved accessibility?

These questions, which have been answered in the following sections, will help Three Square and Agency Partners better understand the demographics and dynamics of clients receiving nutrition services in the network.

## **Research Methods**

The 2014 Census was conducted in four phases: planning, data collection, organization and data entry, and analysis. Each of these phases is described in detail below.

### **Planning**

Planning for the 2014 Census began in early 2013. All of Three Square's Agency Partners were notified first in May, and again in September, that the Census would be taking place during the month of October. Conference calls were held by Three Square that allowed Agency Partners to ask questions and receive clarification regarding the project. A video was created to provide support and training for the Census, and was available on the Three Square website. Three Square provided Agency Partners an opportunity to submit volunteer request forms to help relieve their increased workload resulting from the Census data collection process. This allowed Agency Partners to continue to serve clients quickly and efficiently. Copies of blank Census forms were printed and provided to Agency Partners in bulk. Forms were also made available on our website.

### **Data Collection**

Starting on October 1, 2013, Agency Partners began surveying all households and clients that arrived at their agency for nutrition services. Clients that applied for SNAP were also asked to fill out a form. To assess an accurate count of unique clients and units of service across the network, clients were asked to fill out a Census form every time they presented, regardless of the number of times served that month. Filling out a Census form was not required, and any client's request to not participate was honored. However, clients that chose not to participate were still counted in the number of clients served. This was done by drawing a line across the Census forms or writing "refused" and keeping these forms. Clients that refused were considered unique clients, as there was no method to match them in the database with previous visits.

Most Agency Partners were able to conduct the Census on their own. For Agency Partners that requested support, 24 volunteers assisted with data collection. Three Square staff members were also deployed to Meal and Pantry Programs as needed. The total number of hours provided by staff and volunteers, including data collection and data entry, was 505. The last day of the Census was October 31, 2013. Completed Census forms were returned to Three Square throughout October and November.

### **Organization and Data Entry**

Returned Census forms were entered into a dedicated database created in Microsoft Excel and then imported into SPSS, a commonly used statistics software package for the social sciences. Submitted forms were organized by date completed. After organization, Three Square staff and 38 volunteers manually entered data from each form into the database. Due to the volume of entries, more than 235,000, this process took approximately six months. After "cleaning the data" and accounting for errors, the data was ready for analysis.



## Analyses

Initial analyses were conducted to determine unique clients and units of service provided at Agency Partner Programs. In addition, units of service was calculated for clients that reported themselves as children, adults, seniors, veterans, disabled, homeless, and/or uninsured. Further analyses were conducted to determine other statistics, which are described later in this report. All analyses reflect results for Three Square Programs and Agency Partners collectively, unless otherwise indicated. Later this year, each Agency Partner will receive a custom report which will summarize statistics for each of their programs that participated in the 2014 Census.



*Agency Partners at a meeting where the 2014 Census was announced.*

## Questions Posed by the 2014 Census

Four variations of Census forms were created, and the number of questions for each ranged from five to fourteen. Each Agency Partner received at least one variation of the form, depending on the number of programs they had and population served by each program. The four variations of forms include:

- Pantry Program
- Community Meal Program
- Residential Meal Program
- Children's Meal Program

Pantry Program forms, which were the most comprehensive, asked the following questions:

- Name of the program the household received nutrition services from
- Client's last name, first name, and address
- Total number of people in the household
- Number of children, adults, and seniors in the household
- Number of veterans, disabled, and uninsured in the household
- Whether the client was homeless
- The client's preferred language

Variations were slight but necessary for specific populations. Homeless clients at Meal Programs provided ZIP codes where they spend most of their time. Children did not fill out the forms at Children's Programs. Rather, the forms were directed to program staff. For both Children's and Residential Meal Programs, the forms included a field that indicated the number of times each unique client was served for the month instead of having clients fill out a form at every visit. This was due to the fact that Children's and Residential Meal Programs served mostly the same clients during the month, which made them easier to track.

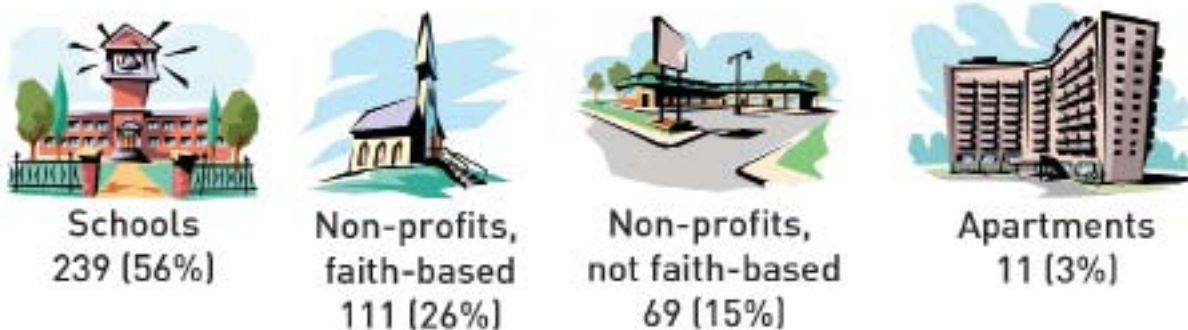
# 2014 Census Results

## Research Participation

High participation among programs was crucial for obtaining high confidence in the overall count of unique clients and units of service provided through the network.

- 334 Partner Sites participated
- 430 Pantry and Meal Programs participated, demonstrating a combined 97% participation rate. SNAP also participated, but is excluded in the results
- 151 out of 156 Pantry Programs participated
- 279 out of 286 Meal Programs participated

## Percentage of Program Participation



Graphic 2

All schools are Three Square Programs. All others are Agency Partner Programs.

Number of Programs That Participated in the 2014 Census by Program Type	
Program Type	Number
Pantry	139
Mobile Pantry	12
Community Meal	13
Residential Meal	21
Children's Meal	245
Total	430

Table 1

Breakdown of program participation by program type.

Number of Programs That Participated in the 2014 Census - Top 5 ZIP Codes	
ZIP Code	Number of Programs
89101	35
89106	32
89030	32
89108	25
89032	15
All Others	291
Total	430

Table 2

Number and ZIP codes of programs as of October 2013. Number of programs include Three Square Programs and Agency Partner Programs.

## Number of Clients and Households Served

More than 235,000 entries were typed into the database. **Results indicate that more than 137,000 unique clients were served and more than 371,000 units of service were provided during the month of October.** Table 3 summarizes the number of clients and households, based on units of service and unique clients, that received nutrition services weekly and for the entire month of October. These figures include both Agency Partner Programs and Three Square Programs.

Number of Clients and Households Served by Program Type Based on Units of Service and Unique Clients								
Weekly (Average Served)					Month of October			
	Units of Service		Unique Clients		Units of Service		Unique Clients	
	Pantry	Meal	Pantry	Meal	Pantry	Meal	Pantry	Meal
Number of clients	39,207	35,019	21,172	6,113	196,037	175,094	105,864	30,567
Number of households	12,051	n/a	6,491	n/a	60,255	n/a	32,454	n/a

Table 3

*Units of Service refers to all visits, including multiple visits, by all clients. Unique Clients refers to clients' first visit among all programs regardless of the number of future visits.*

*Pantry client numbers include all reported number of individuals in all households.*

*Number of households for Meal Programs are not applicable because Meal Programs serve individuals, not households.*

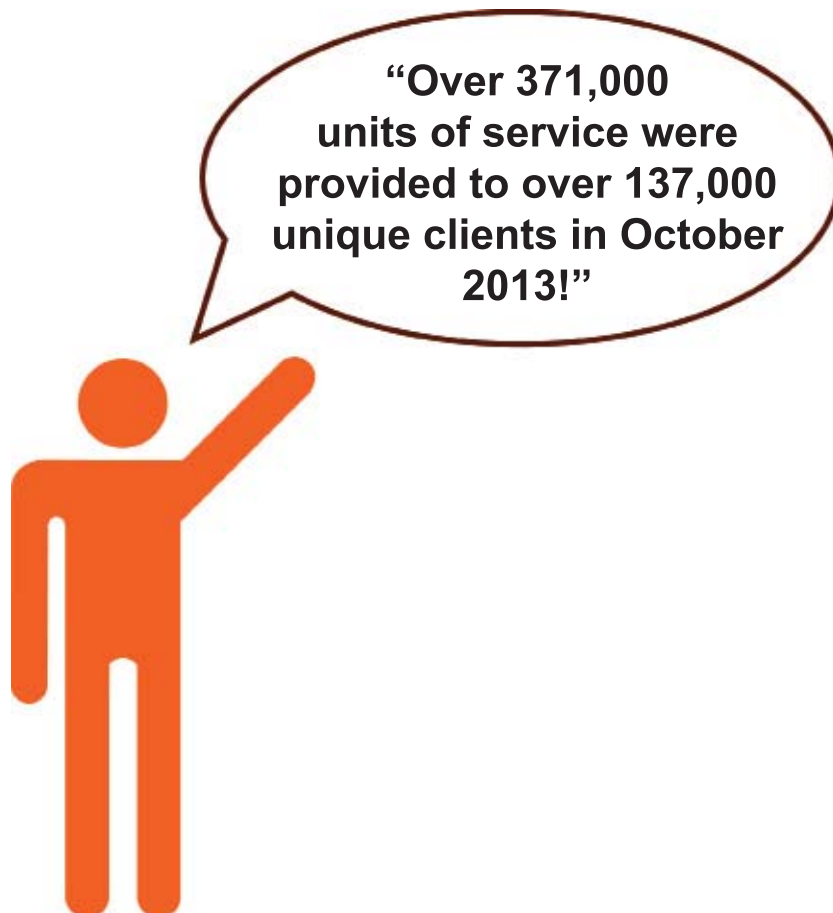


Chart 1 demonstrates that nearly the same number of clients were provided services in Pantry and Meal Programs. The distinction between both program types, however, is that the Census counted all members of a household at Pantry Programs because members take groceries to prepare meals at home, which benefit everyone in the household. Meal Programs only benefit the client at the site.

### Number of Clients Served in Pantry and Meal Programs Based on Units of Service

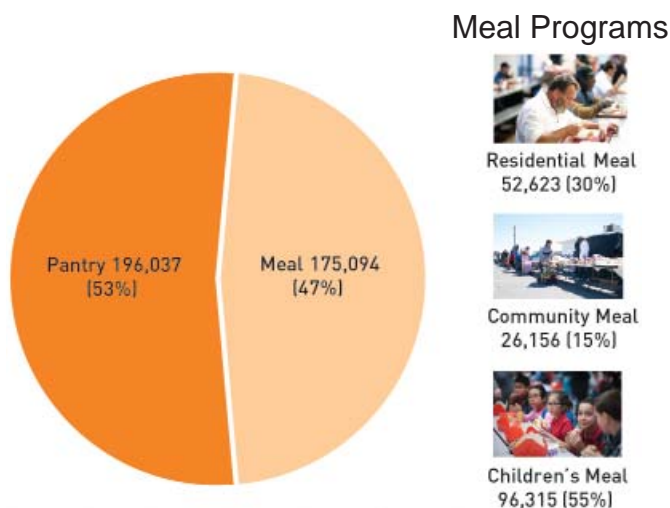


Chart 1

*Units of Service refers to all visits, including multiple visits, by all clients. Meal Programs include both Three Square Programs and Agency Programs.*

Chart 2, in contrast, shows the number of unique clients served. In this scenario, it is apparent that the majority of clients were served through pantries. This is because there are many more Pantry Programs than Meal Programs, and Pantry Programs serve entire households.

### Number of Unique Clients Served at Pantry and Meal Programs

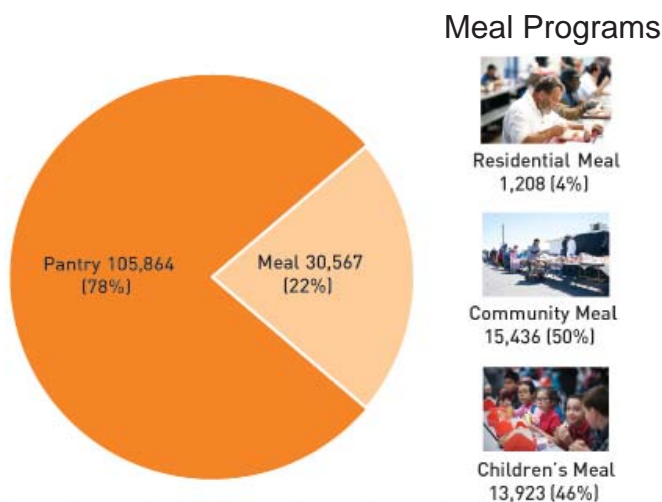


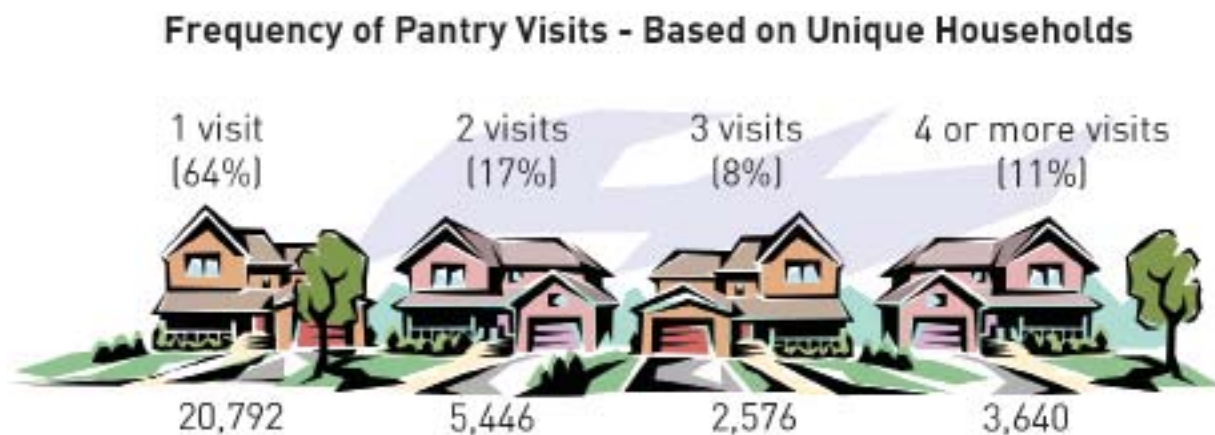
Chart 2

*Units of Service refers to all visits, including multiple visits, by all clients. Meal Programs include both Three Square Programs and Agency Programs.*



## Frequency of Pantry Visits Among Unique Households

Over 32,000 unique households visited a pantry during the month of October. Graphic 3 shows the number of unique households that visited a pantry once, twice, three times, and four or more times. As shown, almost two-thirds of households visited a pantry only once.



Graphic 3

*Unique households are counted only on their first visit among all programs regardless of the number of future visits.*



*Pantry staff restocking shelves at their organization.*

## Special Populations – Children

More than 171,000 units of service were provided to children by Three Square Programs and Agency Partner Programs collectively. Agency Partner Programs accounted for 57% of services provided while Three Square Programs accounted for 43%, as shown in Chart 3. Of the services provided by Three Square Programs, more than 58,000 (80%) of meals were provided through Kids Cafe® and more than 14,000 (20%) through the Backpack for Kids Program. Three Square Programs have grown substantially over the years. For example, over 133,000 more meals were provided through Kids Cafe® in calendar year 2013 compared to 2012, a 40% increase.

**Number and Percentage of Services Provided to Children at Agency Partner Programs and Three Square Programs**

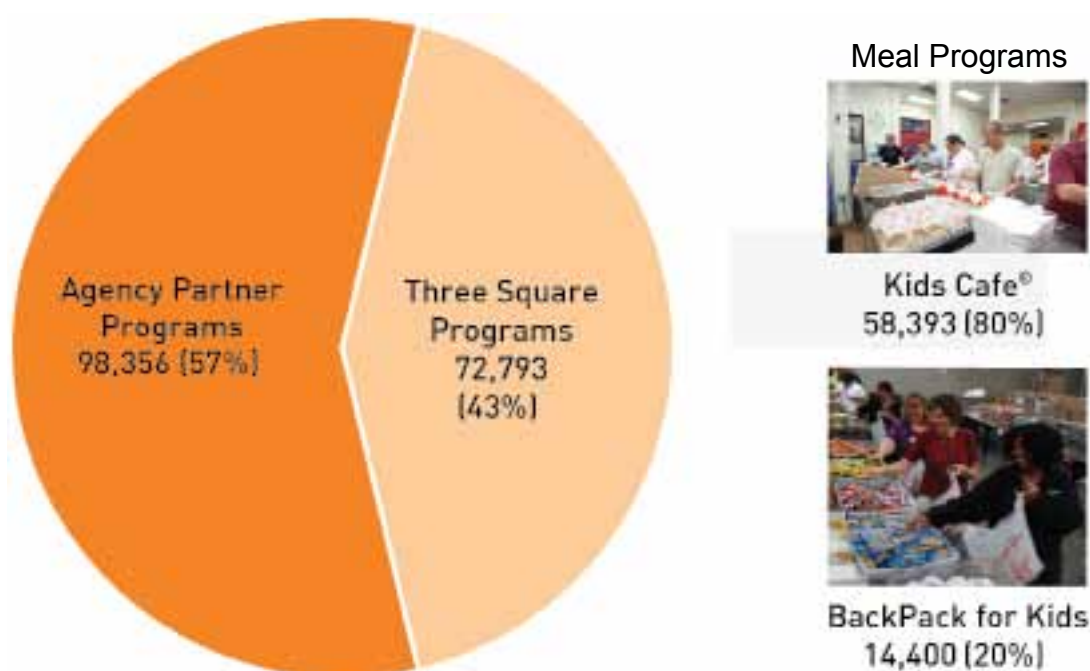


Chart 3

*Children are defined as individuals 17 years old and younger.*

Seventeen Agency Partner Programs provided 50% of services to children. Table 4 lists these programs in order of the number of services provided.

Agency Partner Programs That Provided 50% of Services to Children		
Agency Partner Program	Program Type	Number of Services
Mother Teresa's Pantry	Pantry	6,235
Boys & Girls Club - Southern Highlands	Children's	5,304
C3 Church	Pantry	4,297
Boys & Girls Club - Kish	Children's	3,767
Pahrump New Hope Fellowship	Pantry	3,584
Sunrise Baptist Church	Pantry	2,777
Vision de Dios	Pantry	2,742
Boys Town	Children's	2,461
First African Methodist Episcopal Church	Pantry	2,401
Our Savior's Church	Pantry	2,333
St. John Neumann Catholic Church	Pantry	2,153
Salvation Army - SAY Club	Children's	2,128
Catholic Charities	Pantry	2,080
Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church	Pantry	1,905
Greater New Jerusalem	Pantry	1,878
Boys & Girls Club - Montandon	Children's	1,639
HELP of Southern Nevada	Residential	1,585
All Other Programs	Various	49,087
<b>Total</b>		<b>98,356</b>

This represents 50% of services provided to children.

This represents the remaining 50% of services provided to children.

Table 4

*Children are defined as individuals 17 years old and younger.*

## Special Populations – Seniors

More than 46,000 seniors received nutrition services from Agency Partner Programs. Out of the 15 programs that provided 50% of services to seniors, as shown in Table 5, ten were food pantries. This demonstrates that pantries serve as a primary vehicle driving senior hunger relief efforts. During Census month, just fewer than 1,200 seniors received food from 21 pantries that participated in Senior Share, a Three Square Program that provides a healthy grocery box to seniors with chronic diseases.

Upon comparing Tables 4 and 5, we see that the following seven programs provided 50% of services to both children and seniors: Mother Teresa's Pantry, Pahrump New Hope Fellowship, Sunrise Baptist Church, First African Methodist Episcopal Church, Our Savior's Church, Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, and Greater New Jerusalem. Sunrise Baptist Church's pantry ceased operations at the end of October 2013. Unfortunately, when programs close, a gap is created and families needing food assistance may have to visit a different program that is farther from home.

Agency Partner Programs That Provided 50% of Services to Seniors		
Agency Partner Program	Program Type	Number of Services
Our Savior's Church*	Pantry	5,358
Catholic Charities	Community Meal	3,553
Las Vegas Rescue Mission	Community Meal	2,280
Pahrump New Hope Fellowship	Pantry	2,011
Helping Hands of N. Las Vegas	Pantry	1,320
Mother Teresa's Pantry	Pantry	1,295
Salvation Army	Community Meal	1,103
The Shade Tree	Residential	925
Greater New Jerusalem	Pantry	922
Colorado River Food Bank - Laughlin	Pantry	779
First African Methodist Episcopal Church	Pantry	778
Salvation Army ARC	Residential	744
Jude 22*	Pantry	691
Sunrise Baptist Church*	Pantry	679
Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church*	Pantry	678
All Other Programs	Various	23,293
<b>Total</b>		<b>46,409</b>

This represents 50% of services provided to seniors.

This represents the remaining 50% of services provided to seniors.

Table 5

Seniors are defined as individuals 60 years old and older.

Programs with an asterisk (\*) indicates that the Agency Partner that runs this program also runs a Senior Share program.

## Special Populations – Homeless

Agency Partner Meal Programs, which provide nutrition services to many more homeless individuals compared to pantries, provided over 102,000 units of service during Census month. Nearly 53,000 of these services were provided to homeless individuals. Agency Partner Meal Programs include Community, Residential and Children's Meal Programs.

Catholic Charities, Las Vegas Rescue Mission, and Salvation Army are the three largest Community Meal Programs. They each offer one community meal a day and serve a very high number of homeless individuals. Collectively, these programs provided over 17,000 units of service during Census month. Residential Meal Programs, which offer temporary or transitional living arrangements onsite, house many otherwise homeless individuals. Children's Agency Partner Meal Programs, such as Boys & Girls Club, provide meals exclusively to children. The reliance on Agency Partner Meal Programs by homeless clients is evident: over 50% of clients served at Agency Partner Meal Programs were homeless. This indicates the importance of these programs in addressing hunger among the homeless population.

## Special Populations – Veterans, Disabled, and the Uninsured

The Census also asked clients if they were veterans, disabled, and/or uninsured. The number of services provided to these groups is shown below in Table 6. The focus of some Agency Partners is to serve, primarily, at least one of these groups. These data can assist programs to better understand the number of clients they serve from each respective group, which allows Agency Partners to make changes to improve program delivery.

Number of Services Provided to Veterans, Disabled, and the Uninsured by Agency Partner Programs			
Program Type	Services to Veterans	Services to the Disabled	Services to the Uninsured
Pantry	13,153	28,054	53,954
Mobile Pantry	207	388	999
Community Meal	3,894	9,047	18,019
Residential Meal	6,352	8,621	34,247
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,606</b>	<b>46,110</b>	<b>107,219</b>

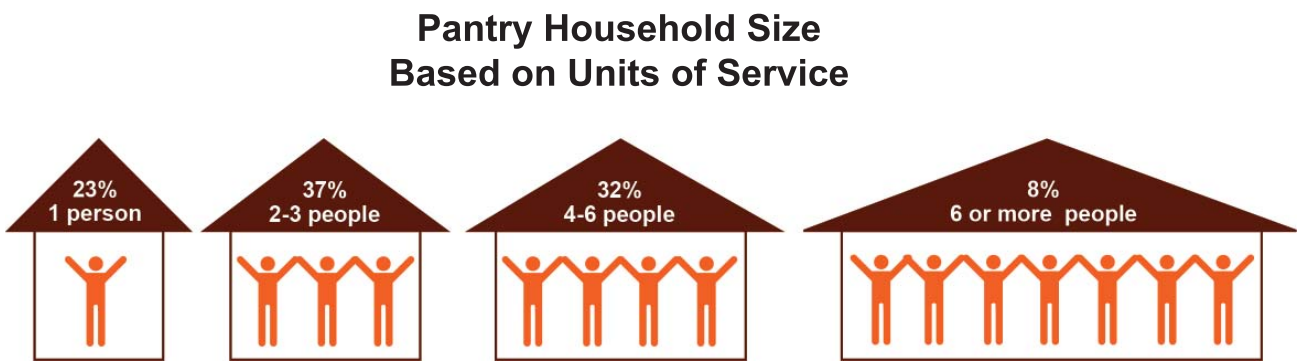
Table 6

*Children's Meal Programs are not included because these questions were not asked at those programs.*



## Pantry Clients' Household Size and Composition

The household size of pantry clients was analyzed to gain greater insight into the target demographic for our Agency Partners and to better inform Three Square's operational strategies in the coming years. The graphic below reflects household size served by pantries based on units of service. The average household size in the general population of Clark County is 2.71 people (Applied Analysis, 2014); the Census determined that the average household size for pantry clients is 3.29 regardless if we look at unique households or units of service. Three Square sees a greater number of larger families than are represented in the general population: 40% of pantry households have four or more members, and nearly 1 in 10 households have more than six. This is important information particularly for pantries that pre-bag groceries for pantry clients based on expected household size.



Graphic 4

*Units of Service refers to all visits, including multiple visits, by all clients.*

Drilling down further to household composition as displayed in Table 7, we see that households with at least one child or at least one senior composed more than three-fourths of all client households in Southern Nevada. The majority of these households had either seniors or children; 47% of households had at least one child and 41% had at least one senior. The scenario of grandparents raising grandchildren, a small subset of households struggling with hunger, is likely to create a particularly high risk resulting in more frequent visits to pantries, and possibly Meal Programs.

Composition of Households Using Pantries - Children and Seniors Based on Units of Service	
Household Composition	Percentage
Households with at least one child	47%
Households with at least one child and senior	11%
Households with at least one senior	41%

Table 7

*Units of Service refers to all visits, including multiple visits, by all clients.*

## Client Travel, Geography, and Density

A goal of the Census was to compare areas of need, where services were provided, and geographic concentration of clients. Calculating distances between client residences and the Agency Partner Programs they visited provided, for the first time, a baseline for Three Square's assessment of geographic accessibility.

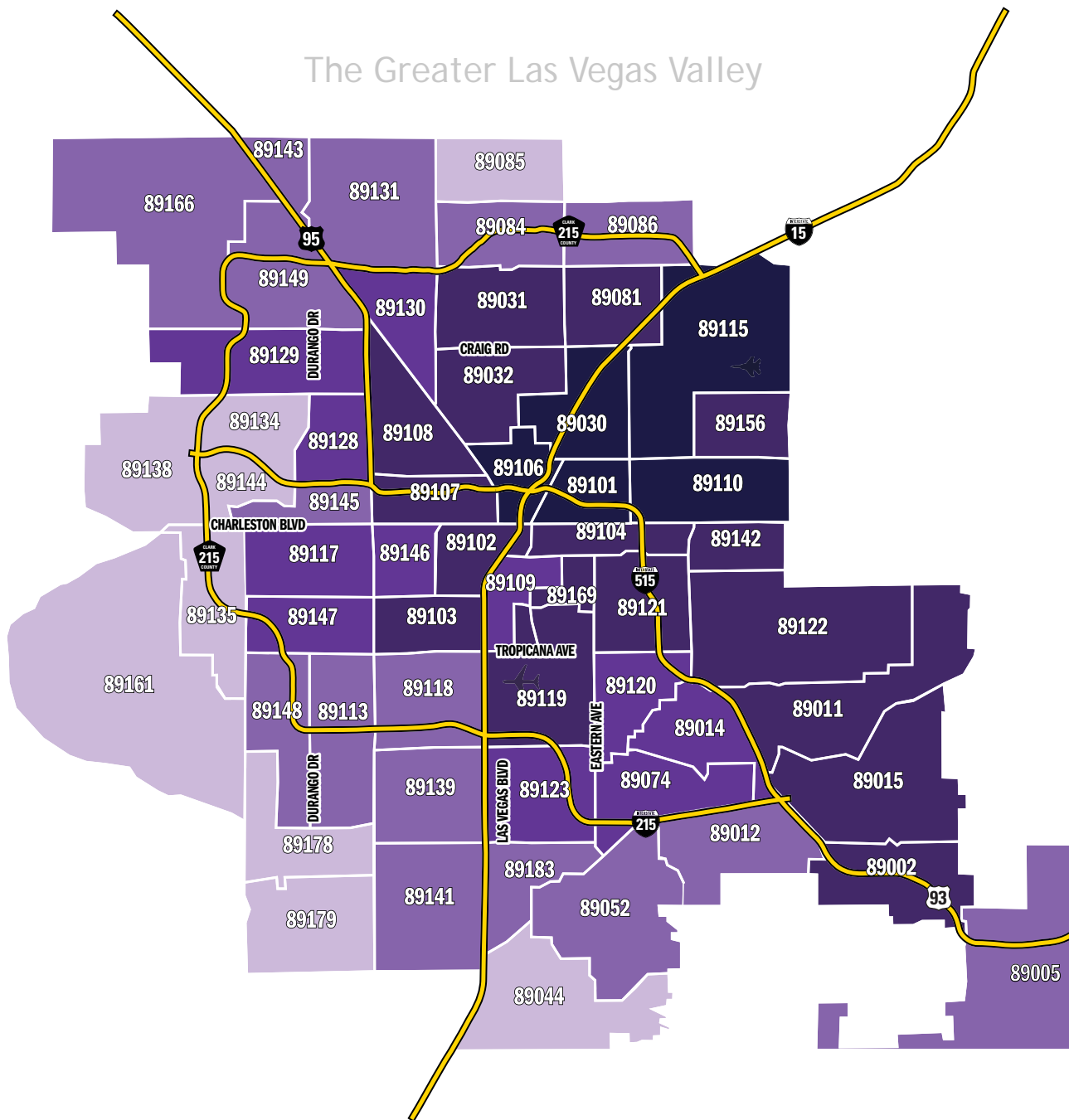
Census analyses revealed that the average distance traveled by pantry clients is about eight miles each way (CLV, Department of Planning, 2014). If all clients visited the pantry closest to their residence, the average distance traveled would be just two miles each way (CLV, Department of Planning, 2014). To add a perspective to the issue of distance, the average distance traveled for the purpose of getting to work is 11 miles each way (Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, n.d.).

Clients, especially pantry clients, make decisions on which Agency Partner to visit based on multiple factors. Anecdotally, we know that word of mouth is a primary factor in the decision to visit one pantry over another. The quantity and variety of foods provided, availability of cultural foods, and proximity to work and/or home are consistently cited as reasons given by pantry clients to visit one over another. Certainly, with this much variation in pantry styles and scope, it is not Three Square's recommendation to institute geographic service boundaries. It is the intent of this research though, to create a baseline for distance traveled and to work closely with Agency Partners on strategies that would encourage clients to visit their neighborhood pantry to reduce the average distance they travel over time.

Map 4 which, reveals concentrations of clients seeking nutrition services, continues the story of hunger and food insecurity in Southern Nevada. Hunger is not limited by geographic boundaries, and clients sought nutrition services from all geographic areas of the Greater Las Vegas Valley. Comparing this map with Map 3 on page 10 allows us to determine if clients traveled to other ZIP codes due to the lack of food distribution in their home ZIP code.

# NUMBER OF CLIENTS BY ZIP CODE BASED ON 2014 CENSUS RESULTS

(2013 Data)



APPLIED  
ANALYSIS

Map 4

Number of Unique Clients served by ZIP code, based on the 2014 Census.

## Targeting neighborhoods to increase impact

Information from the maps of need, food distribution and client density indicate geographic areas in which to explore opportunities for improvement or network expansion in collaboration with our Agency and Program Partners. Strategies for each ZIP code must be individually assessed, and may include placement of pantries, mobile pantries, SNAP outreach sites, or school partnerships for after-school and summer meal programs. Although more in-depth discussions are needed, Table 8 shows five ZIP codes Three Square has identified for potential improvement or network expansion.

Selected ZIP Codes for Possible Improvement or Network Expansion		
ZIP Code	Number of Clients	Food Insecurity Rate
89012	218	12.1%
89086	241	19.1%
89166	113	16.0%
89129	575	13.6%
89117	678	17.2%

Table 8

*Number of clients column represent unique clients.*

*Number of clients include Agency Partner Programs and exclude Three Square Programs.*

## Research Limitations

The data contained in this report was self-reported, and most clients filled out their own Census forms. Many limitations due to this design were able to be addressed by using various methods such as correcting client ZIP codes and addresses by comparing different forms by the same client, closely examining the database and correcting errors, and via technical assistance by Mark House at the CLV, Department of Planning. Limitations that were, at least in part, addressed by comparing multiple forms by the same client and/or examining the database and correcting errors include:

- Different clients in a particular household may have filled out a Census form on different visits
- A small percentage of Census forms were, at least in part, unreadable
- Errors during data entry and/or analysis may have occurred

Limitations that were beyond our control:

- Some clients may have preferred not to answer certain questions, or may have intentionally answered them incorrectly
- Some individuals or families may have refused to complete a Census form at all programs visited. This means that they would have been counted as unique households or clients at each program visit

Three Square is confident that Census results presented in this report are a product of sound research and analysis. Utmost attention has been paid to all aspects of the study. Three Square acknowledges that these research limitations did not have a significant impact on our results.



## Conclusions

To Three Square's knowledge, we are the only food bank to undertake a month-long Census to determine an accurate, comprehensive snapshot of unique client counts, units of service provided, client density and average distances traveled to Pantry Programs. The 2014 Census was a large research endeavor for Three Square to undertake, yet it has produced volumes of useful data necessary to help make informed decisions on potential strategies. This information has been entrusted to us by clients for the purpose of making a difference in food security in our community, and already, steps are being taken at the highest levels at Three Square to address priorities, such as targeting ZIP codes where additional programs are necessary.

Key findings of this study include the following:

- Clients seeking nutrition services through Three Square's network reside in every ZIP code with a population greater than 100 people
- Counts for unique clients, which stand at over 137,000, was 30% higher than expected. The units of service provided are over 371,000
- Three Square Programs (Kids Cafe® and Backpack for Kids Program) accounted for 43% of all nutrition services provided to children
- Pantry visits are the primary mode of service, especially for seniors. The average household size for pantry clients was 3.29. Nearly two-thirds of households visited a pantry once, while about one-third of them needed more frequent services
- Nearly 50% of all pantry households included at least one senior or child
- The average distance traveled by clients to Pantry Programs was eight miles each way. If clients visited the program closest to their place of residence, the distance would have been two miles each way (CLV, Department of Planning, 2014)
- The ZIP codes identified for potential improvement or expansion are: 89012, 89086, 89117, 89129, and 89166

Agency Partners share Three Square's perspective on data as being critical to our ability to effectively steward volunteers, board members and donors. Key concepts of the Census may spark qualitative research in continued partnership with our Agency Partners, such as distance traveled for nutrition services. Insights from this effort will evolve into strategies, goals, and objectives as Three Square and the network move forward to close the meal gap in Southern Nevada!

## Glossary of Terms

**200% of Poverty** – Household incomes that earn twice as much as the government-defined federal poverty income. Household incomes below 200% of poverty mean that they are higher than the federal poverty income, but less than twice that amount. Household incomes above 200% of poverty mean that they are more than twice of the federal poverty income.

**2014 Census** – A study conducted by Three Square to better understand the demographics of individuals and families struggling with hunger and being served at Partner Sites.

**Agency Partner** – A specific type of Partner Site. An Agency Partner is a non-profit organization that receives food from Three Square to distribute to food insecure individuals and families at the organization's location. Agency Partners can have multiple programs and locations. These programs are referred to as "Agency Partner Programs" in this report.

**Agency Partner Program** – A program administered by an Agency Partner that distributes food and meals to food insecure individuals and families at the organization's location. Agency Partner Programs include Pantry Programs and Meal Programs.

**Applied Analysis** – A research firm based in Las Vegas, Nevada.

**Children's Meal Program** – A specific type of Meal Program that serves children. Most of Children's Meal Programs are located in schools and are Three Square Programs, but some are located within Agency Partner Sites.

**Client** – An individual receiving nutrition services at a Meal Program. Clients can also be referred to as individuals representing a household at a pantry, and include all individuals at home that will benefit from food taken home. This report uses both definitions, depending on the context.

**Community Meal Program** – A specific type of Meal Program that serves clients of all ages.

**Data Collection** – An organized process of collecting information about individuals and families.

**Feeding America** – The nation's leading domestic hunger-relief charity.

**Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap** – A study conducted by Feeding America on a yearly basis to understand food insecurity among children and adults at the national, state, and county levels.

**Food Insecurity** – A family's lack of access to adequate food to lead a healthy and active lifestyle (United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, 2014). When a family lacks money or other resources to secure enough food for all family members, it is food insecure.

**Food Pantry** – A program that distributes grocery products, including but not limited to fruits, vegetables, cereal, milk, pasta, and meat, to families struggling with hunger. These products are taken home by families to prepare. A food pantry may be referred to as a “pantry” in this report.

**Household** – A family that lives together and shares food resources. If two families live in one housing unit but do not share food resources, they are considered two separate households.

**House and Apartment Vacancy Rate** – The percentage of houses and apartments that are unoccupied relative to all houses and apartments in any given ZIP code.

**Hunger-relief Organization** – An organization whose primary purpose is to provide food and meals to individuals and families that lack money and other resources to provide on their own.

**Meal Program** – A program that distributes prepared meals at Agency Partner Program sites and schools. Most individuals that visit a Meal Program eat the meal onsite, as soon as it is given.

**Median Income Per Household** – The middle value of a list of annual household incomes when arranged from lowest to highest. For example, if five household annual incomes are \$25,000, \$30,000, \$35,000, \$40,000, and \$45,000, the median household income would be \$35,000.

**Mobile Pantry** – A specific type of food pantry. Three Square drivers take food to a specific location, such as a school, to distribute. Mobile pantries are held in areas where permanent food pantries are lacking.

**Partner Sites** – Organizations that Three Square works with, such as non-profit and faith-based organizations, schools, and feeding sites, to reach struggling individuals and families at risk for hunger. Partner Sites may also be called “community partners” in this report.

**Poverty Rate** – The percentage of individuals in poverty relative to the total population in any given ZIP code.

**Residential Meal Program** – A specific type of Meal Program that serves residents of their program. This type of Meal Program serves clients in homeless shelters, women’s shelters, rehabilitation homes, and in other similar settings.

**Senior Share** – A Three Square Program that provides a healthy food box to seniors with chronic diseases at select food pantries.

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** – An outreach program administered by Three Square on behalf of the Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services. SNAP provides benefits-based nutrition assistance to millions of low-income individuals and families (United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 2014).

**Three Square Program** – A program that is administered by Three Square rather than Agency Partners. Three Square has five programs: Kids Cafe®, Backpack for Kids Program, Summer Food Service Program, Senior Share, and SNAP. Kids Cafe®, Backpack for Kids Program, and Summer Food Service Program are Meal Programs. Meals for these three programs are prepared at Three Square and then distributed to schools, libraries, community centers, and other organizations.

**Three Square's Map the Meal Gap** – A supplemental study to Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap conducted by Three Square. Three Square's Map the Meal Gap is conducted on a yearly basis and aims to understand food insecurity among all age groups, at the ZIP code level, in the Greater Las Vegas Valley.

**Three Square's Network of Agency Partners** – The collection of Agency Partners that receive food from Three Square. Three Square's Network of Agency Partners may also be referred to as "Agency Partners" and "Three Square's network" in this report.

**Unemployment Rate** – The percentage of unemployed individuals relative to the total population in any given ZIP code.

**Unique Clients** – A household's or meal client's first visit to any program within a defined period of time. For example, if the same household or client visits two programs in a month, they would only be counted once as a unique client. Three Square refers unique clients as "unduplicated clients".

**Units of Service** – All visits, including multiple visits, by all clients within a defined period of time. For example, if the same household with two individuals visits a pantry two times in a month, this would be counted as four units of service. Units of Service may also be referred to as "number of services" in this report. Three Square refers units of service as "duplicated clients".

## References

- Applied Analysis.** (2014). Las Vegas perspective. Las Vegas, NV: Metropolitan Research Association.
- City of Las Vegas,** Department of Planning – Long Range Planning, Mark House – GIS Analyst II. (2014). [Data compiled specifically for Three Square]. Unpublished data.
- Feeding America.** (2014). About Us. Retrieved from: <http://feedingamerica.org/how-we-fight-hunger/about-us.aspx>
- Gundersen, C., Engelhard, E., Satoh, A., and Waxman, E.** (2014). Map the Meal Gap 2014: Food Insecurity Estimates at the County Level. Retrieved from: <http://feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hunger-studies/map-the-meal-gap.aspx>
- Monnat, S.M., Smedley, A., and Nasoz, F.** (2013). Identifying and describing the network of health, education, and social service non-profit organizations in southern Nevada. Retrieved from: <http://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/24/Lincy-NonProfitNetworkBrief.pdf>
- Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada.** (n.d.). Appendix 4. Travel demand model methodology and air quality conformity analysis. Retrieved from: <http://www.rtcnv.com/mpo/plansstudies/rtp0930/docs/Appendix4%20-%20Travel%20Demand%20Model%20Methodology%20and%20AQ%20Conformity%20Analysis.pdf>
- United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service.** (2014). Food Security in the U.S. Retrieved from: <http://ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us.aspx>
- United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service.** (2014). Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Retrieved from: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>
- U.S. Census Bureau.** (2014). State and County QuickFacts. Retrieved from: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/32/32003.html>







together, we can feed everyone

A member of **FEEDING  
AMERICA**

4190 N. Pecos Road  
Las Vegas, NV 89115

702-644-FOOD (3663)

[www.threesquare.org](http://www.threesquare.org)



ThreeSquareFoodBank



ThreeSquareLV



ThreeSquareLV



ThreeSquareLV