Poverty in North Carolina

Through the Lens of Hunger

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Why poverty through the lens of hunger?
If you can’t put enough food on the table, you can’t make ends meet.
How extensive is poverty?
How extensive is poverty?

Let’s look just at the 34 counties making up the service area for the Food Bank of Central and Eastern N.C.
How many pantries in this 34 county area?
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Approximately 475
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Approximately 475

How many total agencies?
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Approximately 475

How many total agencies?
Approximately 900
1.5 million people showed up at food pantries last year.
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This figure is from only the three largest of the six food banks we have in the state.
Demand more than doubles in the past 4 years
Demand more than doubles from 1997-2001
Average Number of Individuals Receiving Food Stamps (SNAP)
(in millions)
Pounds of Food Distributed by Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina (in millions)
Are there poor people in N.C.?

14.4 percent of the population, or 1.4 million, report having to skip meals to make ends meet.
Are there very poor people in N.C.?

4 percent of the population suffer from physical effects of hunger
Are there kids growing up in poverty in N.C.?

1 in 4 live in a household where you can’t count on if or how the next meal will be provided.
Poverty is temporary, right?

In North Carolina, people getting help from local food pantries stay an average of 4 years. People with jobs who use food pantries trade off food for other household necessities more than those without jobs.
Poverty in N.C. is vastly underestimated.
It has a direct, immediate impact on the ability of children to succeed in school.

Every day