

CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK

HUNGER REPORT 2025

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

This survey was conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago with funding from the Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB). Staff from NORC and CAFB collaborated on all aspects of the study.

Interviews were conducted with adults age 18 and older in the D.C. Metropolitan Area (this area includes the following counties: Montgomery Co, MD, Prince George's Co, MD, Fairfax Co, VA, Prince William Co, VA, Arlington Co, VA, Alexandria, VA, and Washington DC). Interviews were conducted 5/19-6/1/2025.

The probability-based sample was selected from the Address-Based Sampling (ABS) frame and stratified by geographic area and predicted response propensity quintile within geographic area. Addresses that were sampled for the 2024 CAFB Survey were removed from the sampling frame prior to sampling. Addresses were sampled from each stratum in inverse proportion to the average predicted response propensity for that stratum. Within each geographic area, addresses in the lowest response propensity quintile were sampled at twice the rate of addresses in the other quintiles. All sampled households were mailed a postcard inviting them to complete the survey either online using a unique PIN or via telephone by calling a toll-free number. Postcards were addressed to: [CITY] HOUSEHOLD. There was no within household selection for households with multiple adults.

The interviews were available in English and Spanish. Respondents were offered a monetary incentive (either \$10 or \$15) for completing the survey.

Quality assurance checks were conducted to ensure data quality. In total, 43 interviews were removed for nonresponse to at least 50% of the questions asked of them, for completing the survey in less than one-third the median interview time for the full sample, or for straight-lining all grid questions asked of them. These interviews were excluded from the data file prior to weighting.

Once the data were cleaned, a nonresponse adjustment and raking process were used to adjust for the sample design, differential survey nonresponse and noncoverage of the sampling frame along demographic and geographic dimensions. Raking variables included age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, number of adults in the household, and geographic

area. Population control totals for the raking variables were obtained from the 2023 Population Estimates reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, along with population estimates obtained from the 2019-2023 American Community Survey. The weighted data reflect the population of adults age 18 and over in the D.C. Metropolitan Area.

The overall margin of sampling error (MOE), including the design effect, among all adults age 18 and over for the overall D.C. Metropolitan Area and for each county are:

Area	n	Design effect	MOE (+/- percentage points)
Overall	3,712	2.9	2.7
Montgomery Co, MD	529	2.3	6.5
Prince George's Co, MD	546	2.4	6.5
Fairfax Co, VA	529	2.4	6.6
Prince William Co, VA	535	2.5	6.8
Arlington Co, VA	521	2.6	7.0
Alexandria, VA	527	1.8	5.7
Washington DC	525	1.6	5.4

Sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error and there may be other unmeasured error in this or any other survey.

For more information, email info@norc.org.