

2024 Vermont Foodbank Briefing

John Sayles, CEO



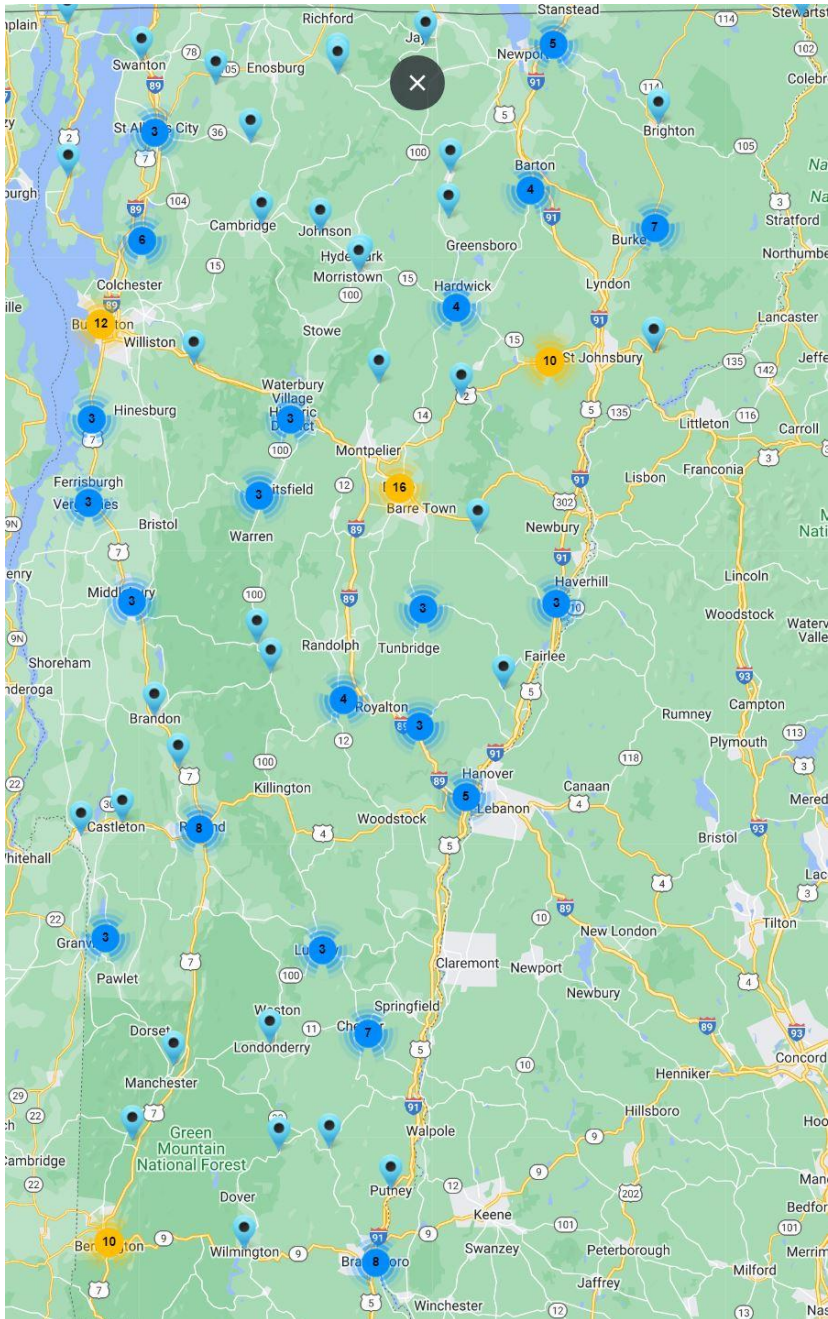
Vermont Foodbank



About Vermont Foodbank

- Vermont Foodbank is the largest and only statewide Food Bank serving all 14 counties in Vermont
- VF operate three distribution centers:
 - Barre - our largest distribution center serving northern and central Vermont (Washington north)
 - Brattleboro - serving southern and eastern VT (Windsor, Windham, Bennington)
 - Rutland - serving central and western VT (Rutland, Bennington, Addison)
- VF distribute food through our network and direct distributions
- VF also support your constituents through SNAP application assistance
- VF operates the State SNAP Education program VT Fresh providing fresh food recipes and cooking demos

SERVICE



We Work With
MORE THAN 320
Food Shelves, Meal Sites, Hospitals,
Schools, & Community Partners

Serving All
14 Counties
of Vermont

Where the Food Comes From

FEDERAL FOODS



Commodity Supplemental
Food Program (CSFP)
The Emergency Food
Assistance Program (TEFAP)

DONATED FOODS



Local Farm Gleaning
Corporate & Individual
Donations

PURCHASED FOODS




Vermont Farms &
Food Producers
Feeding America
Food Vendors





Where the Food Goes



CSFP provides food to income-eligible adults over age 60.

NETWORK PARTNERS represent 225 food shelves, meal sites, and community organizations across Vermont.

VEGGIEVANGO FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS are held at partner schools and hospitals to directly distribute fresh foods to people who need and want it.

SASH PRODUCE DROPS deliver fresh produce to people at SASH housing sites throughout Vermont.

BACKPACK PROGRAM provides kids in partner schools with food to bring home when school is not in session.

Learn More at vtfoodbank.org

VT Foodbank by the Numbers

IMPACT

More Than



12.6 Million Pounds
of Food Distributed
in 2023

More Than



300 Vermont Farms
Supported Through
Purchasing & Gleaning

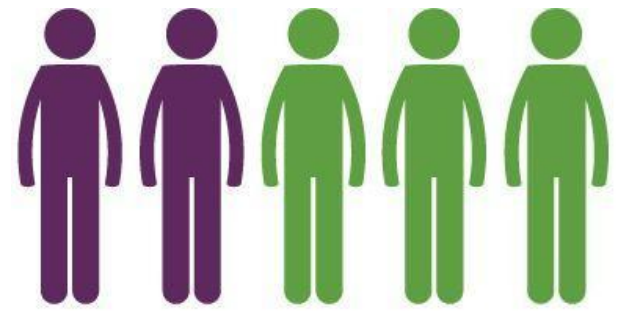
More Than



\$2.3 Million
Stayed in the Local
Economy in FY23

Hunger in Vermont





2 in 5

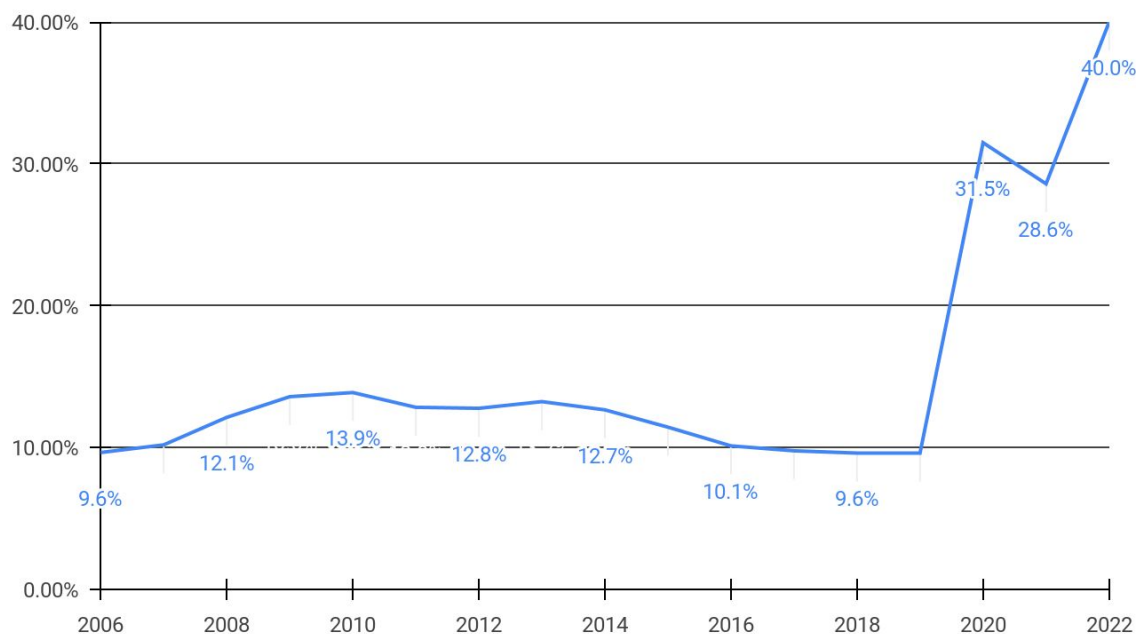
people in VT are
food insecure.

A 2022 study by UVM showed that 2 in 5 people had experienced food insecurity in the prior year.

*From University of Vermont NFACT research team at: ["A 2022 Assessment of Food Security and Health Outcomes during the COVI"](#) by Ashley C. McCarthy, Farryl Bertmann et al. (uvm.edu)

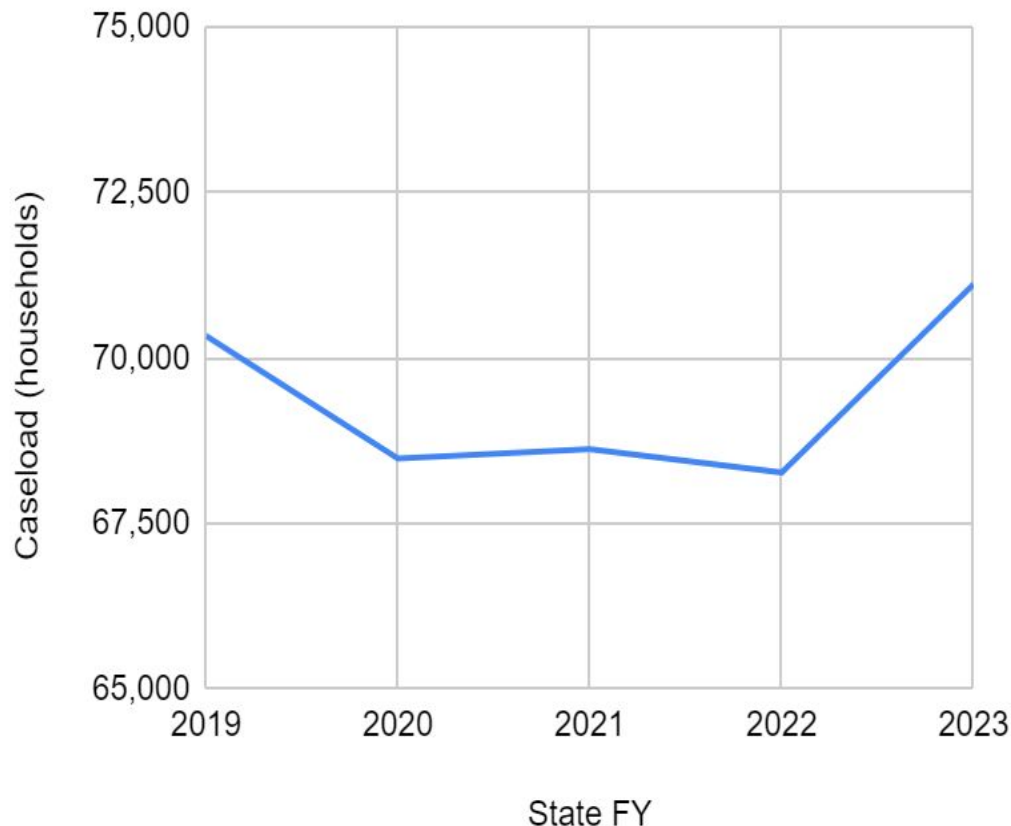
Hunger Rates Across Multiple Crises

- 2019 was our first year we reached pre-Great Recession food security levels (a 10-year effort)
- The Vermont Foodbank was serving 1 in 4 people annually
- There were not enough resources to meet that level of need
- 1 in 10 is an unacceptable level of hunger to return to as the 'status quo'



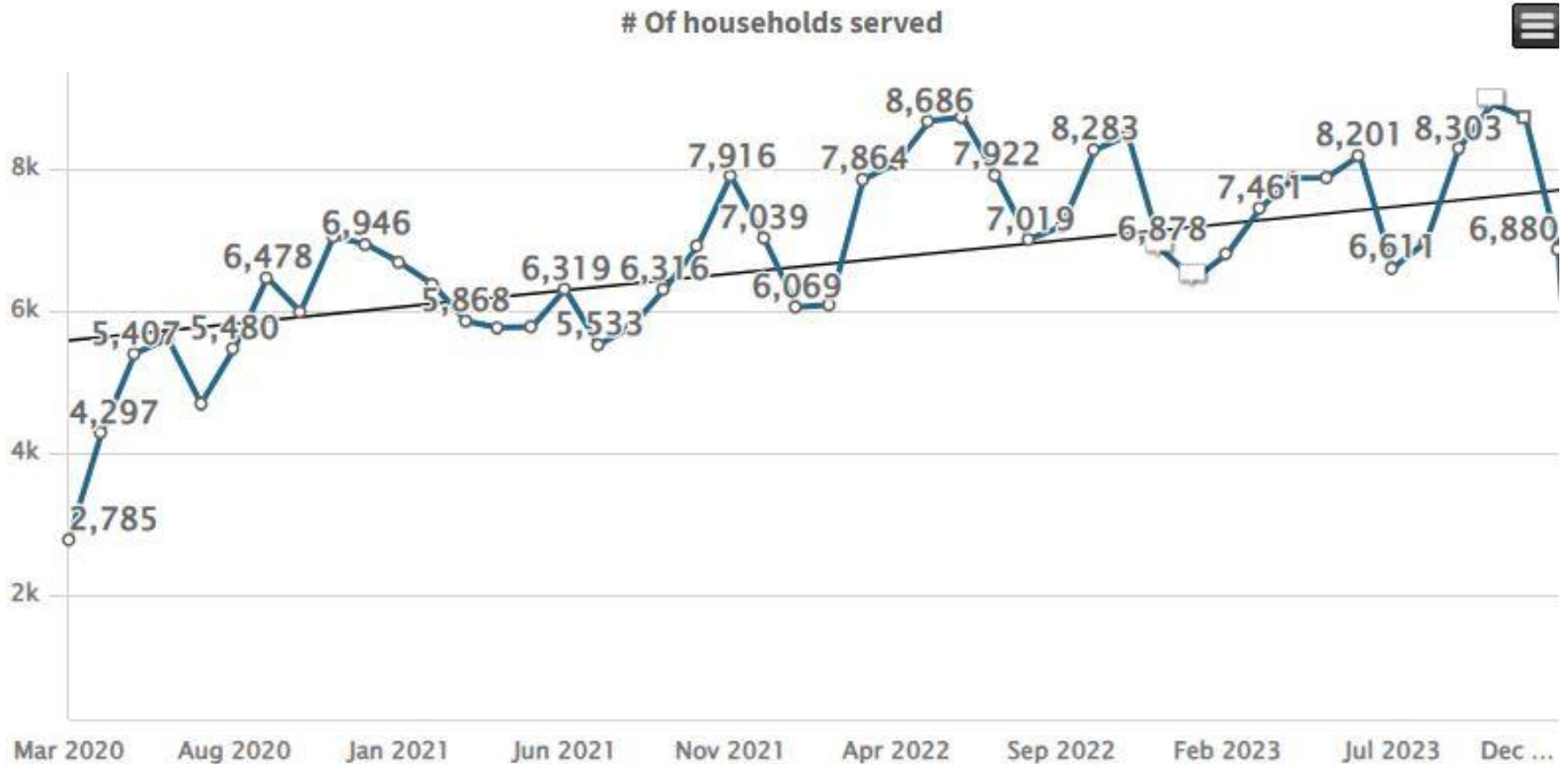
What we know - 3SquaresVT

3SVT Individuals Caseload 2019-2023



In 2023, **caseload numbers for 3SquaresVT rose** and are currently higher than they were in 2019 and significantly higher than in 2020, 2021, and 2022. These numbers are from June 2023, before any flooding occurred in Vermont.

What we know - VVG households served

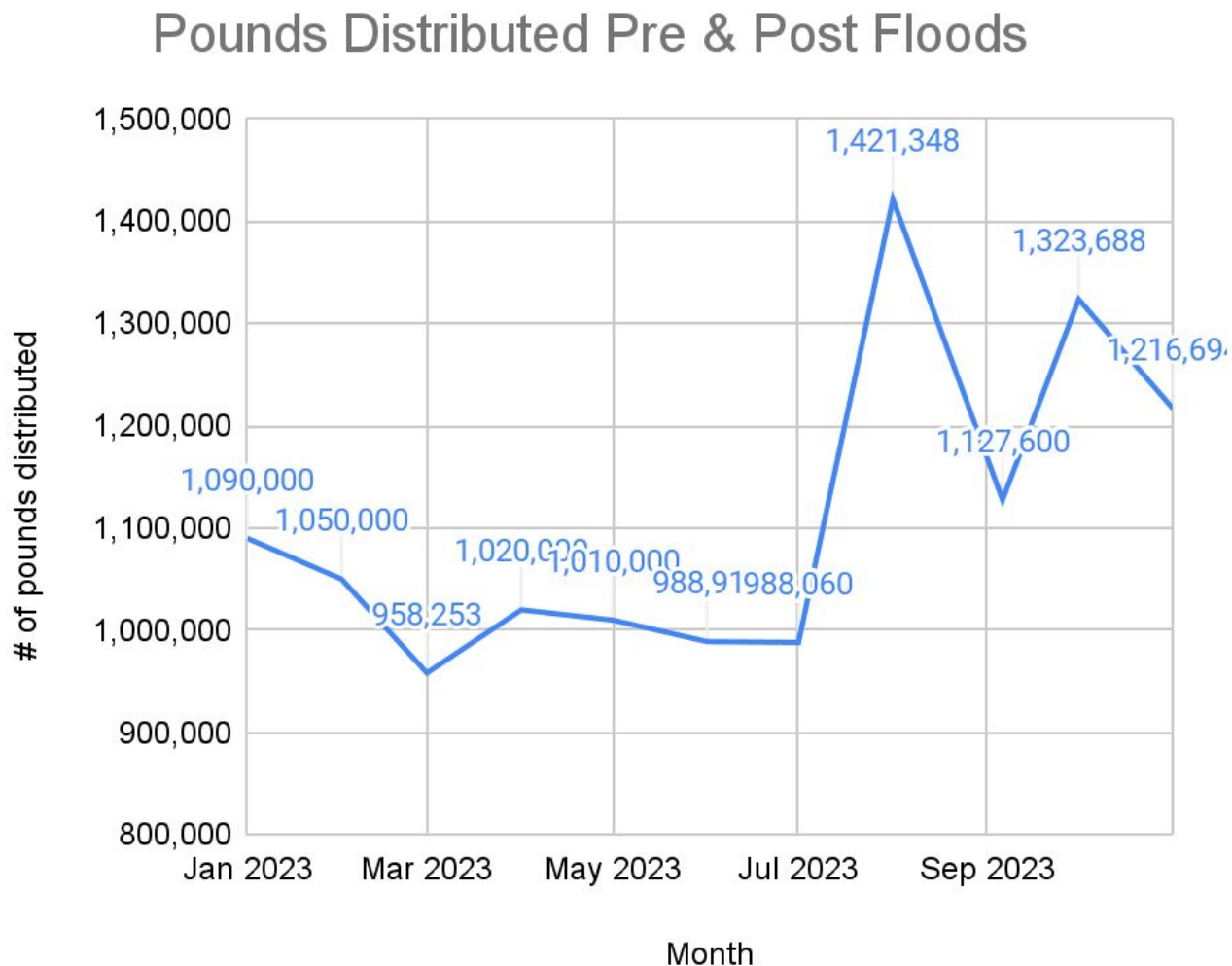


October of 2023 VF saw the highest overall monthly VVG attendance on record at 8930 households

What we know - pounds distributed

In August, The Vermont Foodbank distributed 1.42 million pounds of food - a 40% increase over the previous months.

Demand has stayed high, averaging 1.29 million pound a month since August. The last time monthly numbers were that high was in 2021.



The Impact of Floods on Hunger

- More food was distributed due to flood impacts. Vermont Foodbank saw a **40% increase in food distributed in the month after flood events**
- It is not just the impact of closed stores, food pantries, and washed out roads. **Housing, job loss, and families supporting additional family members stretches already stressed systems and households.**
- **Challenges are not localized to flooded towns** - people cross borders to access food and impacted farms are all over the state.
- These multiple, intersecting challenges on top of the pre-existing hunger crisis **create a long tail for recovery***.

**2022 Report: Social Vulnerability & Natural Disasters: 5 Years After Hurricane Harvey; Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston*

What you can do:

Fund the Vermont Foodbank & their network's flood recovery efforts with **\$2 million in base funding right now through the Budget Adjustment process** and an **additional \$3 million in base funding in the FY25 budget.**

This funding allows the Foodbank to continue its current level of effort in providing adequate food to people in Vermont during the long tail of this “crisis on top of a crisis.”

And fund the BAA request for \$2 million base funding for Meals on Wheels.

Thank you for your time.

