

Jeremiah's Times

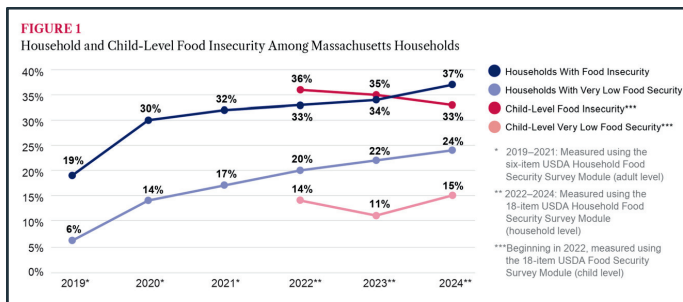


Summer 2025

Understanding Federal Budget Cuts

Food Insecurity: What We're Seeing in Massachusetts

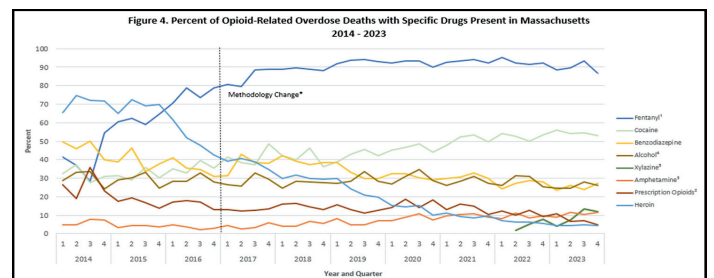
A 2024 study by Mass General Brigham and the Greater Boston Food Bank found that 37% of households in Massachusetts are now food insecure, a 3 percentage point increase in just one year and nearly double the rate from 2019. Axios reports that food banks are “literally stretched to the breaking point.” Recent federal rollbacks to SNAP, such as stricter work requirements and reduced eligibility, are expected to put serious strain on hunger-relief networks.



House-approved budget measures propose slashing nearly \$295 billion from SNAP over the next decade. A move local experts say will lead to rising food insecurity and overwhelmed support services in Worcester and beyond. City officials warn the combined impact of SNAP reductions and fuel assistance cuts could force vulnerable residents, especially seniors, to make impossible choices between food, heat, and medication. At the same time, cuts to USDA’s Local Food for Schools and Local Food Purchase programs are already reducing access to regionally sourced foods, jeopardizing relationships with local farmers and straining the supply chains that food pantries depend on.

Substance Use Disorder & Mental Health Treatment: Essential Services at Risk

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently canceled about \$12 billion in pandemic-era grants to state and local health departments. This funding had supported mental health services, addiction treatment, and harm reduction programs across Massachusetts, leaving a major void for Worcester-area clinics and prevention networks. Despite this setback, Massachusetts saw a remarkable 36% decline in opioid-related overdose deaths in 2024, the lowest rate since 2013. But providers are deeply concerned that federal cuts to naloxone distribution, treatment programs, and overdose prevention initiatives could reverse the progress these vital programs have achieved.



Proposed federal Medicaid (MassHealth) reductions pose a serious threat to thousands of Worcester County residents who depend on these services for mental health care, disability support, and community-based programs. Experts warn these cuts could dismantle essential local systems of care. At the same time, Massachusetts is laying off 170

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Department of Mental Health case managers statewide, even as inpatient facilities remain over capacity. Further straining already-limited resources and reducing the coordination of care throughout Central Massachusetts.

Federal funding cuts are already taking a toll on essential services, from food assistance to mental health and addiction treatment, and Worcester County is feeling the impact. As food insecurity rises and providers face shrinking budgets, many families are being forced to navigate critical needs with fewer resources. At the same time, local gains in overdose prevention and recovery support are at risk of being reversed. Your voice in advocacy and your support of local organizations like Jeremiah's Inn can help ensure that no one is left behind as these challenges grow.

Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors



Board of Directors May 2025

Our Annual Meeting was a special opportunity to reflect on the incredible progress we made in 2024. Progress made possible by your generosity and support. We highlighted the meaningful impact your contributions have had on our programs and the lives they have impacted. We also recognized a few remarkable individuals as 2024 "Golden Friends," honoring their outstanding commitment to our mission. Looking ahead, we shared our upcoming plans and initiatives, offering a glimpse into the exciting future we're building together. Thank you to everyone who helped plan and bring this event to life, and to all who attended for supporting the heart of our mission. Your involvement fuels the work we do every day!

Annual Food Drive Success

Thank you to everyone who supported this campaign! Whether you donated funds, food, volunteered or helped spread the word, you were essential to this effort. Special thanks to our Mirick Volunteer



Program MVPs - Margaret, Debra, Aliana, & Reid! To date, we have raised an impressive \$12,300 and collected nearly 2,300 pounds of food to support individuals and families in our community who face food insecurity. These contributions will go a long way in helping us meet the increase in demand for our emergency food services.

Thank You, Sponsors! Platinum: Clark University Division of Student Success, Herliby Insurance Group, POBCO, Inc. Gold: William F. Lynch Co., Inc. Silver: Bethel Lutheran Auburn Campus of Grace Ministries, IBEW Local 96, Teamsters Local 170 Bronze: Millbury Federal Credit Union, O'Connor Maloney P.C.



Jim & Patty Hurley of 4 Others Inc.



Trecie Wilsey of Shaw's Supermarket

2024 Golden Friends



Lori Arduini, Financial Manager



Anthony Bizzotto & Revive of the USA

Upcoming Events



Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD)

August 31 is recognized as **International Overdose Awareness Day**, the world's largest annual campaign to end overdose, remember those we have lost to an overdose, acknowledge the grief of the family and friends left behind, renew our commitment to end overdose and related harms.

We also celebrate recovery and lives saved through increased harm reduction and access to quality Substance Use Disorder (SUD) supports and services.

September: Recovery Month & Hunger Action Month

Two Causes at the heart of our mission.. At our organization, we believe that no one should have to choose between a full plate and a full life. September brings two national observances that are deeply connected to our work: **Hunger Action Month and Recovery Month.**



We know that recovery and nutrition go hand in hand. You can't heal without food security, and you can't thrive without support. That's why our programs address both substance use recovery and hunger relief.

This month, your gift to our **Annual Fall Appeal** supports both missions. Join us in honoring recovery, fighting hunger, and making lasting change in our community. **Every dollar counts. Every contribution shows you care.**

visit: www.jeremiahsinn.kindful.com or scan the QR code

Annual Fall Appeal - Donate Today to Help Local Families!



New Staff Spotlight

Katherine Barrera

Meet Katherine Barrera, our new Nutrition Coordinator! Katherine is a graduate of South High here in Worcester, and now she's studying Human Services at Quinsigamond Community College. Kat has always had a passion for helping others. Growing up in a Guatemalan household, Katherine was inspired by her mom's example of kindness and service. "She taught me everything I know about helping others and doing what I love."

Her background in retail taught her how to connect with people from all walks of life, a skill she carries into her current role. Outside of work, Katherine enjoys drawing, journaling, fitness, and long walks with friends.

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POBCO, Inc.
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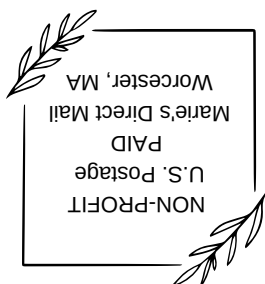
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