



Idaho KIDS COUNT: Small Faces in a BIG Recession Project Qualitative Report (2009)

Focus Group Research Question: *How is the recession affecting children's education, health, safety and employment opportunities and what is most needed from civic leaders to protect children and build better support systems?*

Food Insecurity/Nutrition Focus Group Responses:

"I can't afford as much food anymore. The grocery store is different place for me now." (Secondary student)

"Good nutritious food is harder to come by because of the expense, yet there are more flavors of chips available!" (Secondary student)

"We can only get things for the next few nights, yogurt, chips, and the same Ramen Noodles. We've learned to live off a little money because of moving around a lot." (Secondary Student)

"We need more school options to eat if we get let out early from school to help with kids that are hungry." (Secondary Student)

"Feed the kids." (Secondary Student)

"Let's get healthy snacks in vending machines." (Primary Student)

"Subsidize organic rather than unhealthy food." (Primary Student)

"Maybe once or twice a week schools could provide organic produce. You don't really know what food tastes like until you've had it organic." (Primary Student)

"School lunch hot dogs can bounce and are green. Kids are playing with them, but nobody eats them. It would be too unhealthy and I don't want to eat bad food." (Primary Student)

"There's not enough food and not healthy food at school lunches." (Primary Student)

*“I wish my friends and family had more food. We don’t have enough food sometimes.”
(Kindergartner)*

“We eat healthier here at the shelter.” (At risk youth)

“The foodbanks give out unhealthy food. It’s all about processed foods, by the way.”(Provider)

“Let’s have a BBQ breakfast—community oriented—a breakfast party on the street!” (Secondary Student)