

## **3,554 HELPED BY SOUTH LIVERPOOL FOODBANK IN LAST YEAR**



- **3,554** people received three days' emergency food from South Liverpool foodbank in 2014-2015.
- **Over 1,000,000** people received three days' emergency food from Trussell Trust foodbanks nationwide in 2014-15, compared to 900,000 in 2013-14.
- Faculty of Public Health supports Trussell Trust's call to listen to the experiences of people in crisis in order to reduce poverty and hunger in the UK.

**Over 3,500 adults and children have received three days' emergency food and support from South Liverpool foodbank in the last 12 months. Of the 3,554 people given three days' emergency food, 1,486 were children.**

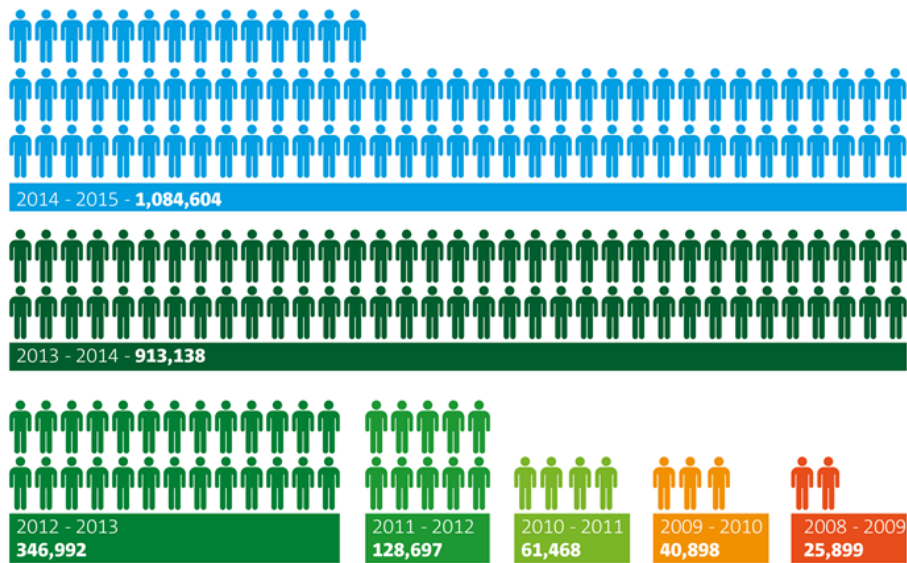
The latest figures published by the Trussell Trust nationally show that over 1,000,000 people have received at least three days' emergency food from the charity's foodbanks in the last twelve months, more than in any previous year. The data indicates that despite signs of economic recovery, the numbers of people turning to foodbanks continues to grow.

Last year local people donated 28 tonnes of food to South Liverpool foodbank, and over 100 volunteered. Local schools, businesses and faith groups have provided vital support to the foodbank, enabling us to give three days' nutritionally balanced food and support to people in crisis. As well as providing emergency food, South Liverpool foodbank provides essentials such as hygiene products to families who are struggling point, as well as signposting them to other services in the local area.

### What the figures show

1,084,604 people - including 396,997 children – received three days’ food from the Trussell Trust’s network of over 400 foodbanks in 2014/15, compared with 913,138 in the 2013/14 financial year. This is an increase of 19 percent.

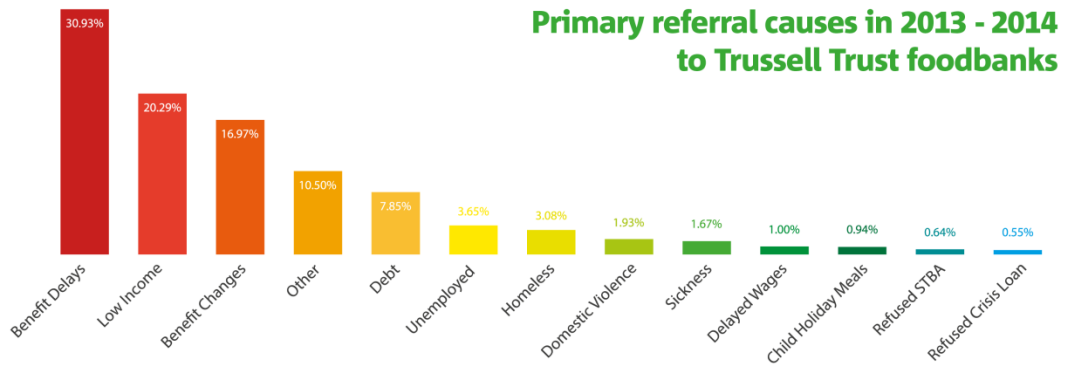
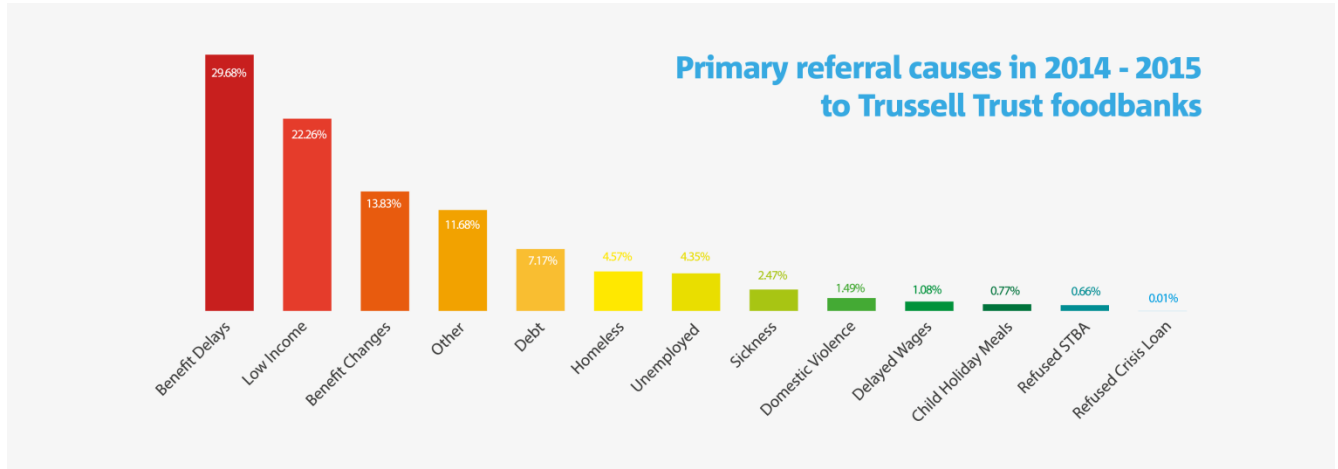
#### Numbers given 3 days’ emergency food by Trussell Trust foodbanks



Qualified teacher and mother of two, Susan, says: ‘I have an 18 month old son and an eight year old stepson, I work part time as a teacher and my husband has an insecure agency contract. There are times when he doesn’t get enough hours of work, and we really struggle to afford food and pay the bills. The foodbank meant we could put food on the table’.

At the South Liverpool foodbank, the top three reasons for foodbank referral were benefit delay 27 %; low income 26%; debt 13%.

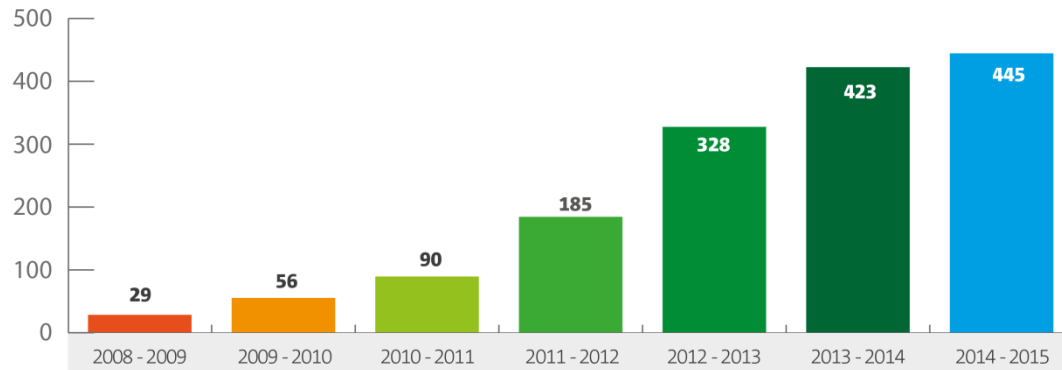
The top three primary referral causes at Trussell Trust foodbanks nationally were benefit delays, low income and benefit changes.



### **Foodbank growth:**

Nationally, in the last year total numbers of foodbanks launched rose by five percent, whilst numbers of people helped by foodbanks rose by 19 percent.

### **Growth of The Trussell Trust Foodbank Network 2008 - 2015**



Trussell Trust UK foodbank director Adrian Curtis says:

*'Despite welcome signs of economic recovery, hunger continues to affect significant numbers of men, women and children in the UK today. It's difficult to be sure of the full extent of the problem as Trussell Trust figures don't include people who are helped by other food charities or those who feel too ashamed to seek help.'*

A mum at a children's holiday lunch club said that she was skipping meals to feed her children but couldn't bring herself to go to a foodbank, saying: *"There are people out there more desperate than me. I've got a sofa to sell before I'll go to the food bank,"* she replied. *"It's a pride thing. You don't want people to know you're on benefits."*

Adrian Curtis continues:

*'Trussell Trust foodbanks are increasingly hosting additional services like debt counselling and welfare advice at our foodbanks, which is helping more people out of crisis. The Trussell Trust's latest figures highlight how vital it is that we all work to prevent and relieve hunger in the UK. It's crucial that we listen to the experiences of people using foodbanks to truly understand the nature of the problems they face; what people who have gone hungry have to say holds the key to finding the solution'.*

Marcella, a former dental assistant who has chronic back pain and is recovering from a spinal operation, was helped by the foodbank recently and says: *'It's so hard to pay rent and survive at the moment. I have friends who are working minimum wage jobs who have had to go to foodbanks. People should not just be surviving, they should be able to live and have a life. I was less than surviving when I went to the foodbank. Going to a foodbank was very emotional for me, I felt a bit ashamed at not being able to support myself but they took the pressure off, they gave me advice and helped me to find a support*

*worker. The foodbank gave me faith that there are people who understand and who you can trust. We need to stop judging people and listen to every individual and understand how they got into the situation.'*

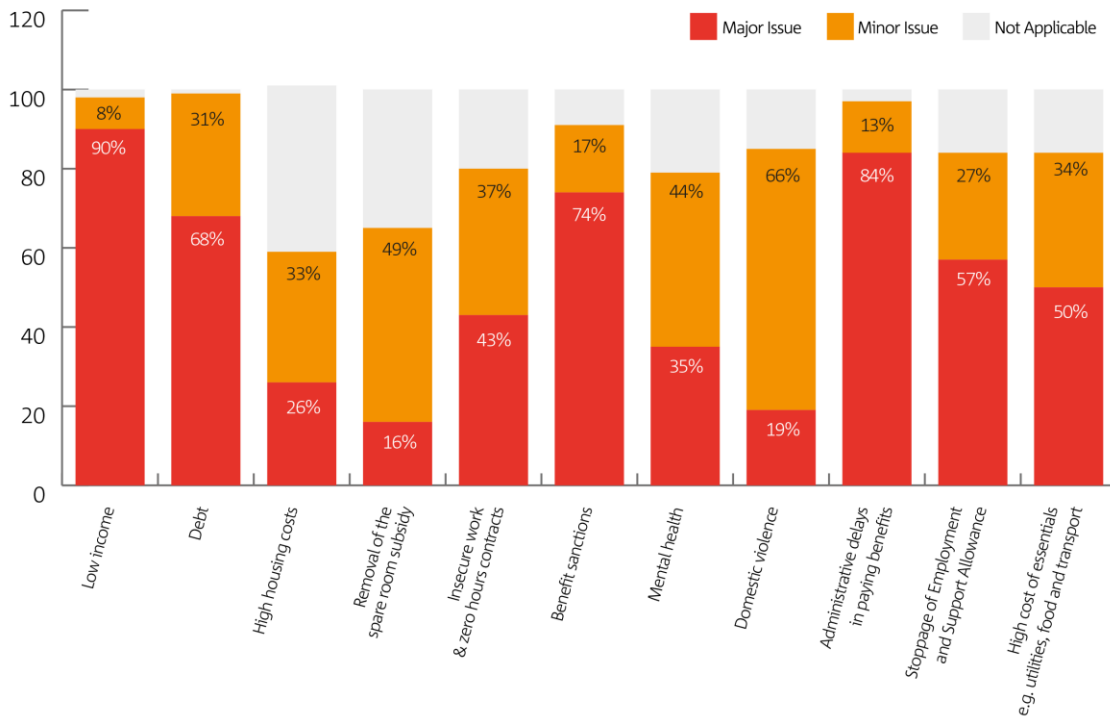
*Dr John Middleton, Vice President of Faculty of Public Health says: 'The rising number of families and individuals who cannot afford to buy sufficient food is a public health issue that we must not ignore. For many people, it is not a question of eating well and eating healthily, it is a question of not being able to afford to eat at all. UK poverty is already creating massive health issues for people today, and if we do not tackle the root causes of food poverty now we will see it affecting future generations too. The increased burden of managing people's health will only increase if we do not address the drivers of people to food banks.'*

## Survey of foodbanks

A recent survey of 86 foodbanks conducted in March-April 2015 gave greater depth of insight into foodbank use in the UK, some of which is included in this release. The following table gives further factors leading to foodbank use:

### Significant factors in driving demand at foodbanks over the last financial year 2014-2015

Results taken from survey of 86 foodbank managers across UK about what they believed were minor/major issues driving foodbank use



**Regional Breakdown:**

