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Food Bank in School in England

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Abstract

This talk presents findings on the number and distribution of food banks in schools in England. Drawing on a novel source of nationally representative data, I show that there are over 4,000 school-based food banks across the country. This important finding shows that there are now more food banks inside schools than outside of them. Our analysis, using responses from representative Teacher Tapp data (n= 8,665 teachers) also shows that whilst food banks are found in primary and secondary schools across the whole of England, they are disproportionately found in schools with high numbers of socio-economically disadvantaged children. The large numbers of school-based food banks suggest they are rapidly becoming a commonplace response to how schools support families. The findings highlight the need for debate about the extent of child food insecurity in England and the development of effective policymaking with regard to charitable food aid in schools.

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