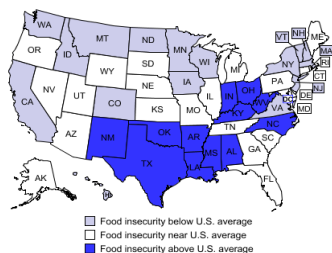


Background

- Food insecurity is defined as a lack of access to adequate and nutritious food, enough for an active, healthy life for all household members.
- The “meal gap” is the number of missing meals resulting from a household’s inability to purchase food. It is the difference between a household being food insecure and food secure, measured in meals.
- Food insecurity may be long term or temporary.

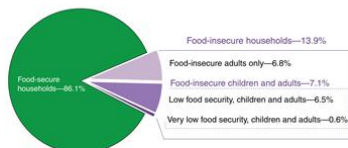
Prevalence of food insecurity, average 2016-18



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, using data from the December 2016, 2017, and 2018 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplements.

Statistics

U.S. households with children by food security status of adults and children, 2018



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the 2018 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement, U.S. Census Bureau.

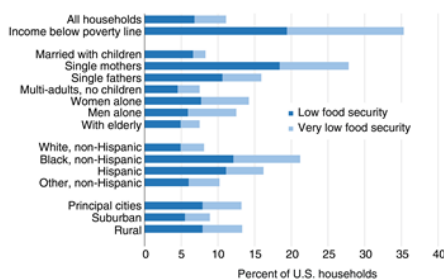
- 13.9 % of households with children, were food insecure.
- 1 in 7 households with children were affected.

Factors Affecting Food Security

- Unemployment
- Race/ethnicity
- Disabilities

- Neighborhood conditions
- Lack of access to transportation

Prevalence of food insecurity by selected household characteristics, 2018



Note: Food-insecure households include those with low food security and very low food security.
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the 2018 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement, U.S. Census Bureau.

What are the effects of Food Insecurity?

- Health complications, especially related to choosing between food and medical care.
- Damage to children’s ability to learn and grow, as well as self-esteem.
- Association between delayed development and risk of chronic illnesses in children.

Current Programs



NYS/NYC:

- Breakfast in the Classroom
- City meals on wheels
- Eat well, play hard program
- Farmer’s markets
- Food Retail Expansion to Support Health program (FRESH).
- Food Assistance Collaborative

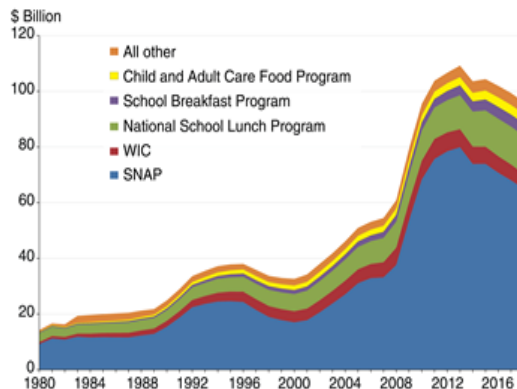
Federal:

- Emergency food assistance programs
- SNAP
- WIC
- National School Lunch Program
- School breakfast program

- Summer food service program
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Program
- Seniors Farmers market nutrition program

Program costs

USDA expenditures for food assistance, fiscal 1980-2018



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from USDA, Food and Nutrition Service.

Next Steps

- National strategy to implement the *right* to food.
- Identify those most at risk for food insecurity and develop target responses to such groups.
- Promote government accountability.
- Increase public participation through awareness.
- Focus on vulnerability and discrimination.
- Link state policies to outcomes.

Contact info

Josiane Joseph, BSN, RN-BC
Email:
Josiane.Joseph26@myhunter.cuny.edu