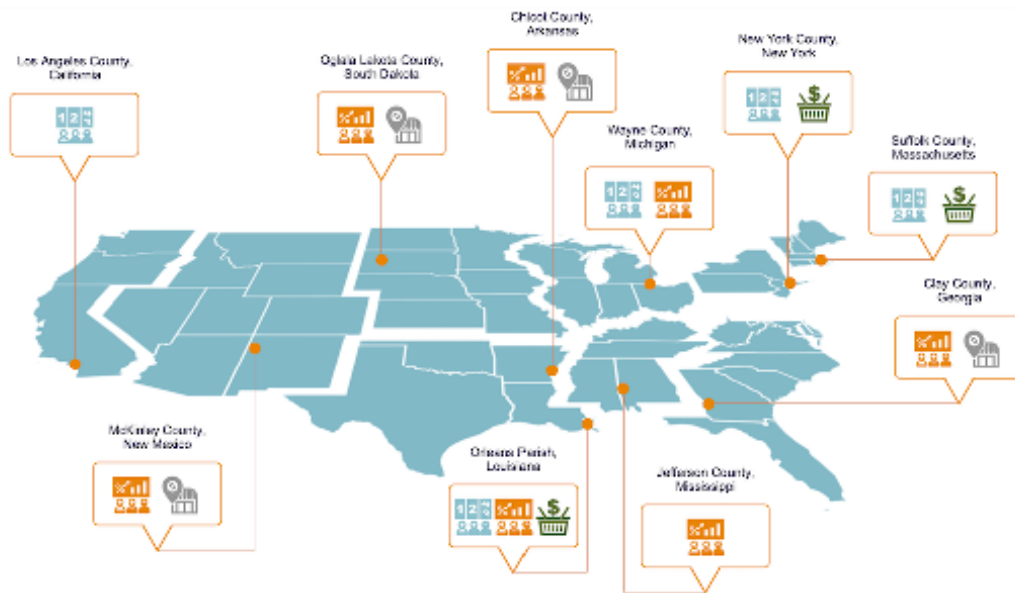


Dimensions of Food Insecurity in 10 Communities

Feeding America's 2019 release of *Map the Meal Gap* features an interactive data visualization that shows the complex contextual factors that contribute to hunger and food insecurity. This dashboard, available on Tableau Public, features ten counties that represent every geographic region in the country.¹ The map



identifies community demographics and local economic conditions, showcasing the varied and diverse experiences of need throughout the U.S. The four dimensions highlighted below are local level indicators directly linked to the need for food and barriers to access.

Four Dimensions of Food Insecurity

NATIONAL STATISTICS

HIGH NUMBER OF FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE

Annual *Map the Meal Gap* measure that estimates the number of individuals who experience food insecurity at the local level.²



40,044,000 people

HIGH PERCENT OF FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE

Annual *Map the Meal Gap* measure that estimates the share of a county's population who experience food insecurity at the local level.² Also known as the food insecurity rate.

12.5%



LOW ACCESS TO A GROCERY STORE

Annual US Department of Agriculture measure that estimates the number and percentage of people in a county living more than 1 mile from a supermarket or large grocery store if in an urban area, or more than 10 miles if in a rural area.³



23.0%

HIGH FOOD PRICES

Includes two *Map the Meal Gap* measures: localized **average meal cost** (average amount that someone who is food secure is likely to spend on a single meal) and **food budget shortfall** (average additional amount that someone who is food insecure is likely to report needing to meet their needs).



\$3.02 per meal
\$16.99 per week

COMPARE LOCAL DATA TO NATIONAL STATISTICS



UGLALA LAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA

- 79% of residents have low access to a grocery store (in the top 5% of counties in the country with lowest access)
- 27% of residents are food insecure (in the top 1% of counties with highest food insecurity rates)
- Largest Native American population in the country (90%)

JEFFERSON, MISSISSIPPI

- One of the largest African American populations (86%)
- 36% of residents are food insecure (highest food insecurity rate in the country)



NEW YORK, NEW YORK

- 208,590 residents are food insecure (in the top 10% of counties with highest food insecurity rates)
- High average meal cost (\$5.85) requires an additional \$32.88 to be food secure for a week

Food insecurity affects people differently depending on where they live. Many rural communities have not yet fully recovered from the socioeconomic impacts of the Great Recession, while other urban areas are experiencing sustained economic growth and rising costs of living. Charitable food assistance continues to play a significant role for millions of families around the country.

Notes and Sources:

- ¹ Local-level data on food insecurity come from Feeding America's *Map the Meal Gap* study. National-level data are from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).
- ² ERS USDA (2018). Household Food Security in the United States in 2017. US Department of Agriculture Economic Research Report No. ERR-356
- ³ ERS USDA (2017). Documentation. Food Access Research Atlas. Available online at: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/documentation/>

Feeding America® is the largest hunger-relief organization in the United States. Through a network of 200 food banks and 60,000 food pantries and meal programs, we provide meals to more than 40 million people each year. Feeding America also supports programs that prevent food waste and improve food security among the people we serve; educates the public about the problem of hunger; and advocates for legislation that protects people from going hungry.

