

The State of Senior Hunger in America 2018: An Annual Report

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Dr. James P. Ziliak, University of Kentucky
Dr. Craig Gundersen, University of Illinois

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In this report, we provide a broad overview of the extent and distribution of food insecurity among seniors in the United States in 2018, along with trends over the past decade and a half using national, state-level, and metropolitan-level data from the December Supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS).

We concentrate on two measures of food insecurity: food insecurity and very low food security (VLFS). These are based on the full set of 18 questions in the Food Security Supplement (FSS), the module used by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to establish the official food insecurity rates of households in the United States. We define food insecurity by three or more affirmative responses and very low food security as eight or more affirmative responses in households with children and six or more in households without children.

Specifically, in 2018, we find that:

- 7.3% of seniors are food insecure and 2.7% are very low food secure (VLFS). This translates into 5.3 million and 2.0 million seniors, respectively.
- From 2017 to 2018, there was not a statistically significant change in food insecurity but there was a statistically significant decline in VLFS.
- Compared to 2001, the fraction of food insecure and VLFS seniors increased by 38% and 94%. The number of seniors in each group rose 129%, and 222%, which also reflects the growing population of seniors.
- Continuing with historic trends documented in prior reports, we find that food insecurity is greatest among those who are racial or ethnic minorities, those with lower incomes, those who are younger (ages 60-69), and those who are renters.
- State-level food insecurity rates range from a high of 14.3% (District of Columbia) to a low of 2.8% (Minnesota).
- Metro-level food insecurity rates range from a high of 15.6% (Memphis) to a low of 2.5% (Minneapolis/St. Paul).

Despite the strong economy and financial markets in 2018, millions of seniors in the United States went without enough food due to economic constraints. At this writing, the nation is in the midst of the COVID-19 health pandemic, with dire health and economic consequences. While this health shock is affecting all walks of life, based on the findings regarding food insecurity and health in Gundersen and Ziliak (2020), food-insecure seniors are a group of particular concern given their poor health outcomes put them at greater risk. This risk is particularly acute among those seniors experiencing VLFS, the ranks of which have especially swelled since 2001.

I. FOOD INSECURITY IN 2018

We document the state of hunger among senior Americans ages 60 and older in 2018 using data from the most recently available Current Population Survey (CPS). This is part of a series of reports on food insecurity among seniors, which began with Ziliak et al. (2008) and has been produced annually since 2012 with the most recent being Ziliak and Gundersen (2019). In December of each year, households respond to a series of 18 questions (10 questions if there are no children present) that make up the Food Security Supplement (FSS) in the CPS (see the Appendix for more details on the CPS and FSS). Each question is designed to capture some aspect of food insecurity and, for some questions, the frequency with which it manifests itself. Respondents are asked questions about their food security status in the last 30 days, as well as over the past 12 months. Following the standard approach used by the USDA, we focus on the questions referring to the past year.

Based on the full set of 18 questions in the FSS, the module used by the USDA to establish the official food insecurity rates of households in the United States, we concentrate on two measures: food insecurity (three or more affirmative responses) and very low food security (VLFS; eight or more affirmative responses in households with children; six or more in households without). One should note that all VLFS seniors are also included in the food insecure category. Another measure, marginal food insecurity (one or more affirmative responses), that was included in previous reports is now included in Appendix Tables 3a-f.

In Table 1, we present estimates of food insecurity among seniors in 2018. We find that 7.3% were food insecure (5.3 million seniors) and 2.7% were VLFS (2.0 million seniors). The table also presents estimates of food insecurity across selected socioeconomic categories. Here we see great heterogeneity across the senior population. For example, for those with incomes below the poverty line, 29.5% were food insecure and 14.2% were VLFS. In contrast, for seniors with incomes greater than twice the poverty line, these numbers fall dramatically to 2.7%, and 0.8%. Turning to race, White seniors have food insecurity rates that are less than half the rates for Black seniors, though, as shown below, because Whites are a much larger share of the population, there are more food insecure White seniors than Black seniors. Similarly, Hispanics (of any racial category) have food insecurity rates that are over twice the rates of non-Hispanics.

Table 1. The Extent of Senior Food Insecurity in 2018

	Food Insecure	Very Low Food Secure
Overall	7.3%	2.7%
By Income		
Below the Poverty Line	29.5	14.2
Between 100% and 200% of the Poverty Line	17.3	6.1
Above 200% of the Poverty Line	2.7	0.8
Income Not Reported	5.7	1.9
By Race		
White	6.2	2.3
Black	15.1	5.8

Other	8.4	3.2
By Hispanic Status		
Hispanic	14.8	4.5
Non-Hispanic	6.5	2.6
By Marital Status		
Married	4.3	1.3
Widowed	8.7	3.8
Divorced or Separated	14.3	6.0
Never Married	13.9	4.7
By Metropolitan Location		
Non-Metro	8.4	2.9
Metro	7.1	2.7
By Age		
60-64	9.6	4.4
65-69	8.2	2.7
70-74	6.5	2.1
75-79	5.8	2.1
80 and older	4.1	1.1
By Employment Status		
Employed	4.4	1.6
Unemployed	21.3	6.9
Retired	5.7	1.8
Disabled	25.5	12.1
By Gender		
Male	6.4	2.4
Female	8.1	3.1
By Grandchild Present		
No Grandchild Present	6.9	2.7
Grandchildren Present	16.2	3.3
By Homeownership Status		
Homeowner	4.9	1.7
Renter	18.1	7.5
By Veteran Status		
Veteran	5.1	1.8
Not a Veteran	7.7	2.9
By Disability Status		
Without a disability	5.1	1.6
With a disability	13.8	6.2

Source: Authors' calculations from 2018 December Current Population Survey. The numbers in the table show the rates of food insecurity under two measures for various groups. The category of "other race" includes American Indian, Asian, and Pacific Islander.

Food insecurity among divorced or separated seniors is more than three times greater than married seniors. As age increases, food insecurity rates fall. For example, seniors between the ages of 60 and 64 have food insecurity rates that are more than twice those 80 and older and VLFS rates that are four times higher. In terms of employment categories, food insecurity rates are four times higher among those who report being disabled as the reason for being out of the

labor force in comparison to the retired. For VLFS the difference is even more stark – it is more than six times higher. For seniors with a grandchild present, food insecurity rates for both measures are substantially higher than when no grandchildren are present. Seniors who are renters have substantially higher rates of both food insecurity and VLFS in comparison to non-renters. Non-Veteran seniors have slightly higher food insecurity and VLFS rates than seniors who are Veterans.

This year, we include a new measure of disability in addition to the one tied to labor force participation noted above. This measure defines an individual as having a disability if they report any of the following disabilities: hearing, visual, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, independent living. Seniors with disabilities have food insecurity rates more than twice as high and VLFS rates more than three times as high as those without a disability.

Table 1 allows us to see the proportions of persons within various categories who are food insecure and, with this information, we can make statements about who is most in danger of being food insecure. For example, those with lower incomes are substantially more likely to be food insecure than those with higher incomes. Also of interest is the distribution of senior hunger. In other words, out of those who are food insecure, what proportion fall into a particular category? We present these results in Table 2.

As seen in Table 2, the majority of seniors in either food insecurity category have incomes above the poverty line. For example, out of those reporting income, nearly two in three food-insecure seniors have incomes above the poverty line. A similar story holds for race—while Black seniors are at greater risk of food insecurity under either measure than White seniors, more than seven in ten food-insecure seniors are White. Despite the lower food insecurity rates among older seniors, 8.9% of food-insecure seniors are over the age of 80; the figure is 6.6% for VLFS. And while the rates of food insecurity are lowest for retired persons, they make up a substantial portion of both categories—47.4%, and 40.2%. However, one area where higher probabilities among a category also results in higher proportions in Table 2 is for VLFS renters— 50.1% of VLFS seniors are renters. Additionally, for the new variable included this year, whether a senior has a disability, 56.2% of VLFS seniors have a disability.

Table 2. The Distribution of Senior Food Insecurity in 2018

	Food Insecure	Very Low Food Secure
By Income		
Below the Poverty Line	27.8%	35.9%
Between 100% and 200% of the Poverty Line	30.1	28.3
Above 200% of the Poverty Line	19.2	14.9
Income Not Reported	22.9	21.0
By Race		
White	70.9	70.2
Black	21.7	22.3
Other	7.4	7.5
By Hispanic Status		
Hispanic	18.8	15.2
Non-Hispanic	81.2	84.8
By Marital Status		

Married	35.0	28.7
Widowed	21.0	24.7
Divorced or Separated	30.6	34.5
Never Married	13.3	12.1
By Metropolitan Location		
Non-Metro	18.9	17.4
Metro	81.1	82.6
By Age		
60-64	37.1	45.0
65-69	26.7	23.6
70-74	16.8	14.8
75-79	10.5	10.0
80 and older	8.9	6.6
By Employment Status		
Employed	17.9	17.1
Unemployed	2.7	2.3
Retired	47.4	40.2
Disabled	32.0	40.4
By Gender		
Male	39.9	39.2
Female	60.1	60.8
By Grandchild Present		
No Grandchild Present	90.6	94.8
Grandchildren Present	9.4	5.2
By Homeownership Status		
Homeowner	54.8	49.9
Renter	45.2	50.1
By Veteran Status		
Veteran	10.6	9.7
Not a Veteran	89.4	90.3
By Disability Status		
Without a disability	52.6	43.8
With a disability	47.4	56.2

In Table 3, we present state-level estimates of senior food insecurity for 2018 based on averages of 2017-2018 data. The range for food insecurity spans from 2.8% in Minnesota to 14.3% in the District of Columbia and, for VLFS, from 0.7% in Idaho to 6.2% in the District of Columbia.

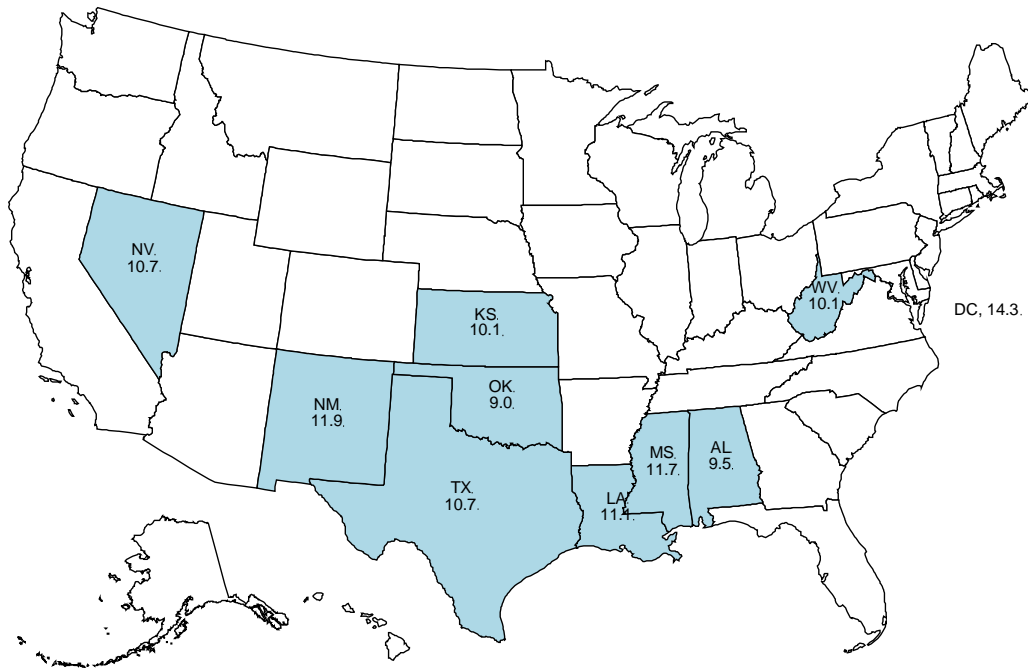
Table 3. State-Level Estimates of Senior Food Insecurity in 2018

	Food Insecure	Very Low Food Secure		Food Insecure	Very Low Food Secure
AL	9.5%	5.1%	MT	4.4%	2.1%
AK	7.9	2.5	NE	5.2	2.0
AZ	8.0	3.2	NV	10.7	5.3
AR	8.8	4.4	NH	4.3	1.8
CA	7.5	2.6	NJ	4.8	1.9

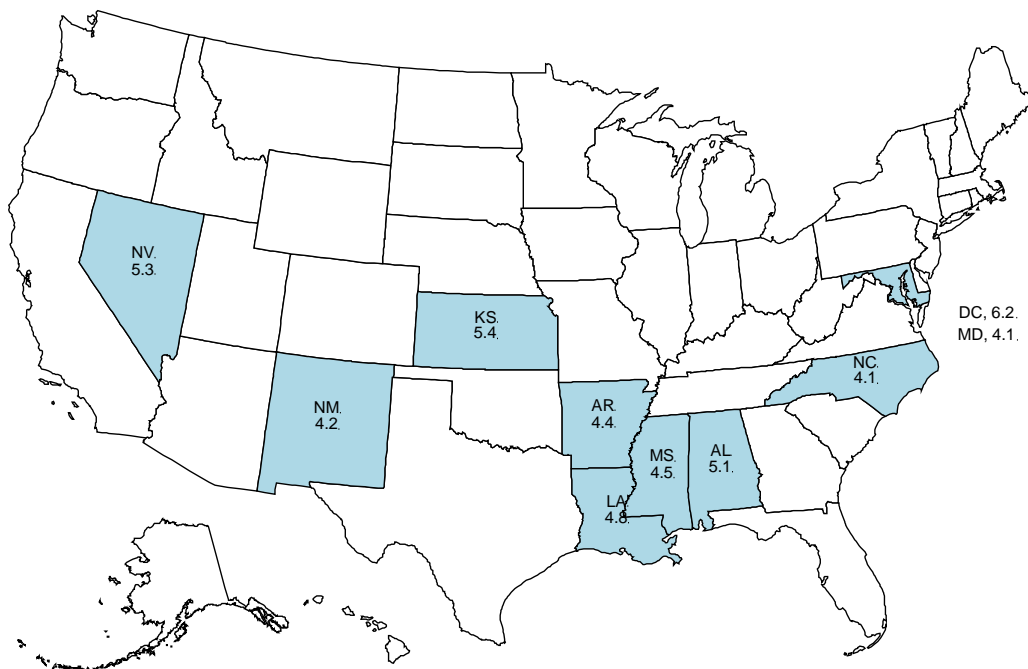
CO	6.0	2.2	NM	11.9	4.2
CT	8.4	2.0	NY	6.8	2.8
DE	5.0	2.2	NC	9.0	4.1
DC	14.3	6.2	ND	2.9	1.2
FL	8.2	2.8	OH	7.9	3.4
GA	7.6	2.6	OK	9.0	3.2
HI	4.5	2.2	OR	5.0	1.8
ID	3.2	0.7	PA	5.7	2.3
IL	8.6	4.0	RI	6.1	2.4
IN	7.9	2.4	SC	8.6	2.0
IA	5.6	3.2	SD	7.2	3.2
KS	10.1	5.4	TN	7.3	3.1
KY	6.9	2.3	TX	10.7	3.7
LA	11.1	4.8	UT	7.2	2.2
ME	7.8	3.8	VT	5.5	2.1
MD	7.0	4.1	VA	4.8	2.6
MA	6.7	2.2	WA	6.1	2.3
MI	7.8	2.4	WV	10.1	3.7
MN	2.8	1.3	WI	4.0	1.3
MS	11.7	4.5	WY	5.0	1.4
MO	6.5	2.4			

In the maps below we highlight the ten states with the highest rates of senior hunger in 2018. For food insecurity, all states but one (Kansas) are located in the South and West. For VFLS, except for Nevada and Kansas, all of the states are in the South. There is some movement in the top ten classifications from one year to the next both because of changes in economic circumstances within states and variation from survey sample sizes, but overall, many of the states consistently appear. For example, seven of the ten states with the highest rates of food insecurity were on the list last year and seven of the ten states with the highest rates of VLFS were on the list last year.

Top 10 States for Rates of Food Insecurity among Seniors



Top 10 States for Rates of Very Low Food Security among Seniors



In Table 5 are estimates of food insecurity and VLFS rates by large metropolitan areas (i.e., more than 1 million in total population). These are based on data from 2014 to 2018. Like with state rates, there is a wide range of estimates. For food insecurity, the highest rate, in the Memphis metro area, is more than six times higher than the lowest rate, in Minneapolis-St. Paul (15.6% versus 2.5%). The relevancy of looking at food insecurity for geographies below the state level is

demonstrated by that fact that Tennessee (home to Memphis) isn't even in the top 10 for food insecurity rates. For VLFS, the highest rate is in the Memphis metro area (5.3%) and the lowest, like last year, is in San Diego (1.0%).

Table 5. Estimates of Senior Food Insecurity in Metropolitan Areas > 1,000,000 Persons in 2018

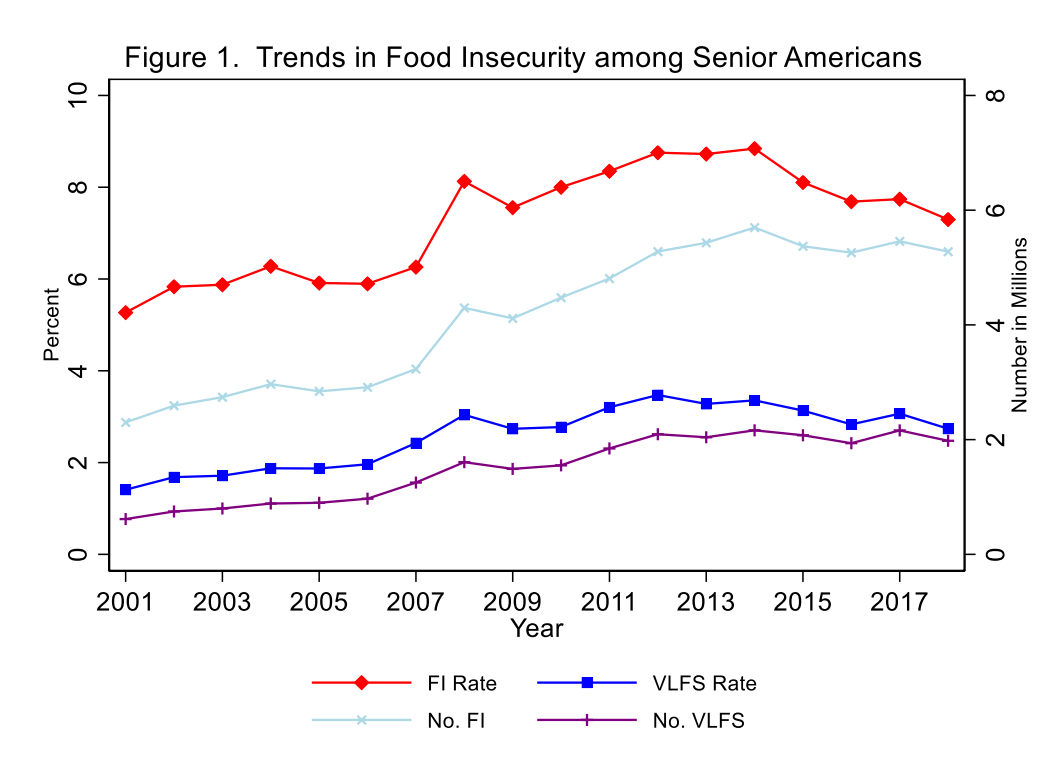
	Food Insecure	Very Low Food Secure
Atlanta-Sandy_Springs-Roswell_GA	7.2	2.4
Austin-Round_Rock_TX	8.0	3.2
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson_MD	8.6	4.5
Birmingham-Hoover_AL	8.9	4.6
Boston-Cambridge-Newton_MA-NH	6.9	2.7
Buffalo_Cheektowaga_Nia_Falls_NY	8.5	2.7
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia_NC-SC	7.5	3.4
Chicago-Naper-Elgin_IL-IN-WI	8.2	3.7
Cincinnati_OH-KY-IN	7.4	3.1
Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor_OH	9.5	4.3
Columbus_OH	6.6	3.1
Dallas-Fort_Worth-Arlington_TX	9.0	3.0
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood_CO	4.7	2.3
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn_MI	7.7	2.8
Hartford-W_Hford_E_Hford_CT	10.0	1.5
Houston-Baytown-Sugar_Land_TX	8.4	3.3
Indianapolis_IN	9.9	5.1
Jacksonville_FL	9.8	2.8
Kansas_City_MO-KS	7.8	3.0
Las_Vegas-Paradise_NM	7.3	3.0
Los_Ang-Long_Beach-Anaheim_CA	8.9	2.8
Louisville_KY-IN	10.3	4.3
Memphis_TN-MS-AR	15.6	5.3
Miami-F_Laud-W_Palm_Beach_FL	8.6	2.9
Milwaukee-Waukesha-West_Allis_WI	5.8	2.9
Minn-St_Paul-Bloom_MN-WI	2.5	1.4
Nville-Davidson-Murfreesboro_TN	4.8	2.4
New_Orleans-Metairie_LA	12.7	5.1
N_York-Newark-_J_City_NY-NJ-PA	7.8	2.6
Oklahoma_City_OK	7.0	3.0
Orlando_FL	9.5	2.9
Phila-Camden-Wmington_PA-NJ-DE	5.9	2.1
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale_AZ	7.5	2.6
Pittsburgh_PA	5.4	2.3
Pland-Vancouver-Hboro_OR-WA	6.1	2.7
Providence-Warwick_RI-MA	7.1	3.7
Raleigh_NC	9.7	3.3
Richmond_VA	5.2	2.4

Rside-San_Bernardino-Ontario_CA	9.3	4.4
Rochester_NY	5.6	3.1
Sacr-Arden-Arcade-Roseville_CA	6.4	3.7
St._Louis_MO-IL	9.5	4.2
Salt_Lake_City_UT	6.4	1.6
San_Antonio_TX	9.4	4.6
San_Diego-Carlsbad-San_Marcos_CA	4.2	1.0
San_Francisco-Oakland-Fremont_CA	6.1	1.4
S_Jose-Sunnyvale-S_Clara_CA	9.9	2.8
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue_WA	4.7	1.8
Tampa-St._Petersburg-Clearwater_FL	6.9	2.2
V_Beach-Norfolk-New_News_VA-NC	5.5	2.4
Wash-Aton-Alex_DC-VA-MD-WV	4.1	1.9

Source: Authors' calculations. The numbers are five-year averages found by summing the number of food-insecure seniors in each category by metro areas across the 2014-2018 December Current Population Surveys and dividing by the corresponding total number of seniors in each metro area across the five years.

II. FOOD INSECURITY OVER TIME

To place the 2018 estimates into perspective, we now examine trends in food insecurity since 2001. In Figure 1, we display results for the full population in terms of the percentage of seniors (left-hand axis) and number of seniors in millions (right-hand axis). From 2017 to 2018, there were decreases in the rates for both measures, with the VLFS measure being statistically significant. Despite these recent gains, the food insecurity rate is still higher than before the Great Recession that started in December 2007 (7.3% versus 6.3%), in contradistinction to the population overall whose food security rate fell below that at the start of the Great Recession (11.07% versus 11.11%) as reported in Coleman-Jensen et al. (2019). Likewise, the senior VLFS rate also exceeds its 2007 level (2.7% versus 2.4%). Both rates are far higher than in 2001—the fraction of seniors experiencing food insecurity and VLFS has increased by 38%, and 94%—and the number of seniors in each group rose 129%, and 222%, reflecting both the growing number of seniors and their rising food insecurity rates.



In Table 6, we take a deeper look into underlying changes in the composition of food-insecure seniors from 2017 to 2018. The table presents percentage point changes in both categories of food insecurity by the same set of socioeconomic characteristics in Table 1. Along with the statistically significant decline in VLFS noted above, only a few of these categories saw statistically significant changes in food insecurity. For food insecurity, there were statistically significant declines among seniors with incomes above 200% of the poverty line, living in metro areas, and without a disability. Worrisome, though, is the qualitative increase for seniors with incomes placing them below the poverty line and for the stability among those in near poverty. If in strong economic times like 2018 there is not progress against food insecurity, then this does not bode well for economic shocks such as the current coronavirus crisis. For VLFS, the variables with statistically significant declines were for seniors who are divorced or separated, in non-metro areas, from 65 to 74 years of age, retired, renting, and without a disability.

Table 6. Changes in the Composition of Senior Hunger from 2017 to 2018

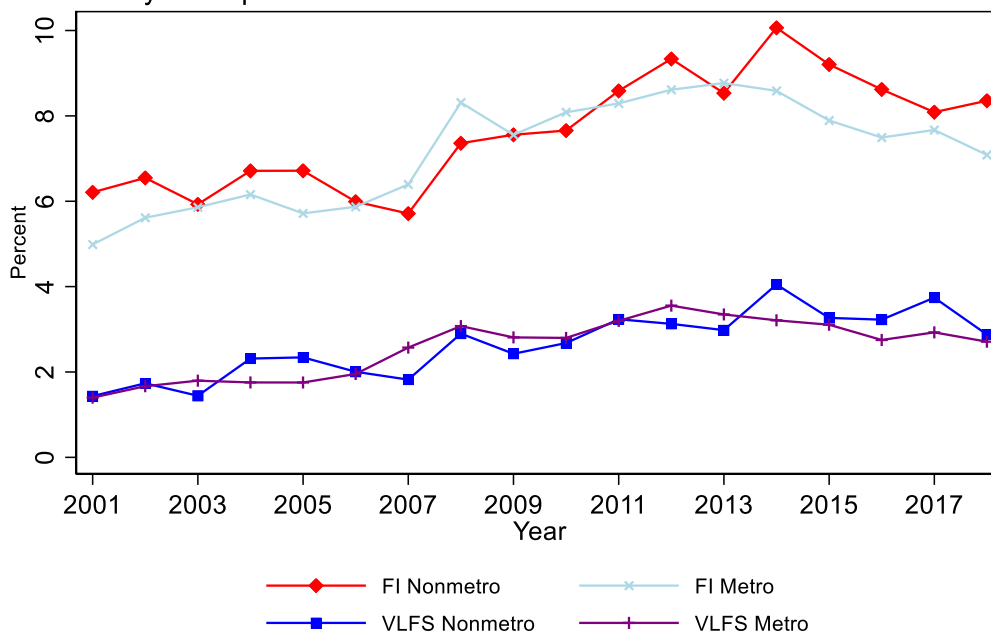
	Food Insecure	Very Low Food Secure
Overall	-0.44	-0.33*
By Income		
Below the Poverty Line	0.74	0.13
Between 100% and 200% of the Poverty Line	-0.25	-0.86
Above 200% of the Poverty Line	-0.63**	-0.05
Income Not Reported	-0.13	-0.51
By Race		
White	-0.24	-0.23

Black	-2.18	-1.01
Other	-0.19	-0.47
By Hispanic Status		
Hispanic	-1.42	-0.90
Non-Hispanic	-0.37	-0.28
By Marital Status		
Married	-0.47	-0.24
Widowed	-0.76	-0.06
Divorced or Separated	-0.80	-1.25*
Never Married	0.50	-0.09
By Metropolitan Location		
Non-Metro	0.27	-0.87**
Metro	-0.58*	-0.22
By Age		
60-64	-0.45	0.12
65-69	-0.14	-0.71*
70-74	-0.68	-0.69*
75-79	-0.27	0.01
80 and older	-0.61	-0.34
By Employment Status		
Employed	-0.66	0.03
Unemployed	-0.35	-2.38
Retired	-0.49	-0.56***
Disabled	0.45	0.19
By Gender		
Male	-0.31	-0.29
Female	-0.55	-0.36
By Grandchild Present		
No Grandchild Present	-0.43	-0.28
Grandchildren Present	0.42	-1.22
By Homeownership Status		
Homeowner	-0.29	-0.16
Renter	-1.53	-1.26*
By Veteran Status		
Veteran	-0.32	-0.43
Not a Veteran	-0.48	-0.31
By Disability Status		
Without a disability	-0.51*	-0.33*
With a disability	-0.19	-0.28

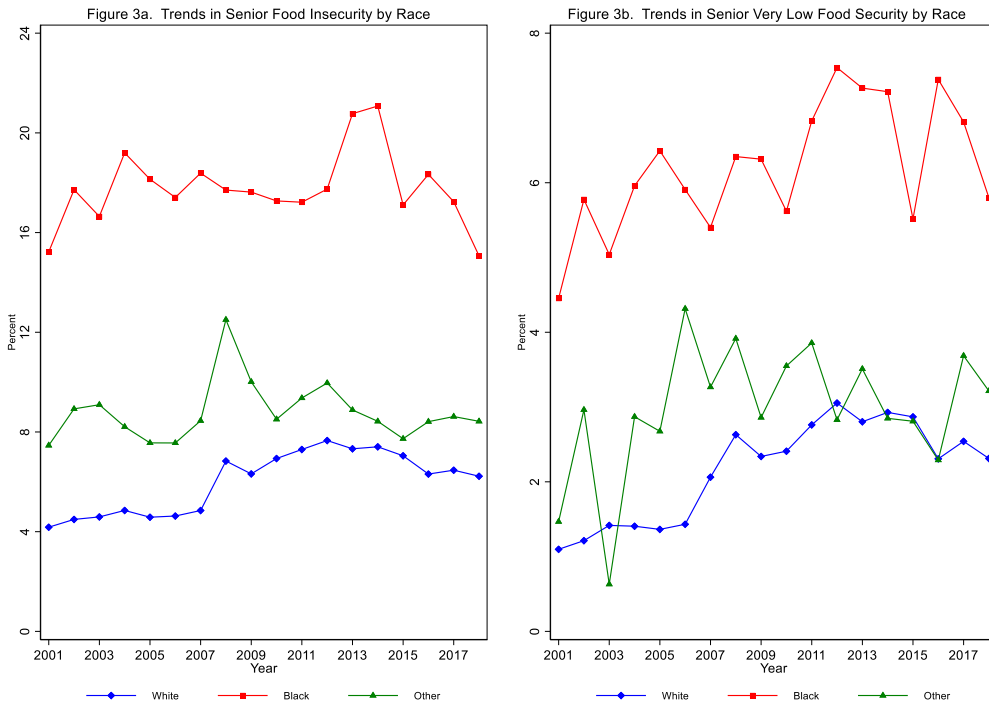
Source: Authors' calculations. The numbers in the table reflect percentage point changes from 2017-2018. The asterisks denote statistical significance at the following levels: *** p<0.01; ** p<0.05; * p<0.1 The category of "other race" includes American Indian, Asian, and Pacific Islander.

In the next set of figures, we examine trends in food insecurity since 2001 across a variety of subpopulations found in Tables 1 and 6. We begin in Figure 2 with trends in food insecurity for seniors living in metropolitan areas versus nonmetropolitan areas. The figure shows that, for most years, but not all, food insecurity rates were higher in nonmetro areas with an increase in that gap in 2018. For VLFS, though, whether the rates are higher or lower in nonmetro areas shows no clear pattern.

Figure 2. Trends in Food Insecurity among Senior Americans by Metropolitan Status



Panel a of Figure 3 depicts trends in food insecurity across different races and panel b is for VLFS. As discussed above, food insecurity and VLFS for Black seniors are substantially higher than for White seniors. These figures reveal that these differences were present in each year from 2001 to 2018. Of note, though, is that the rates are higher in 2018 than 2001 for both food insecurity and VLFS for Whites while, for Blacks, the value for both are lower in 2018 than in 2002. Comparing Whites and the other race category, rates are higher among the other category than among Whites in all years for all measures except four (2003, 2012, 2014, and 2015) for VLFS.



In Figure 4, we present trends broken down by Hispanic status. For food insecurity, the rates are higher among Hispanics than non-Hispanics in all years. The trends in VLFS are similar, with the exception of 2005, which saw higher rates among non-Hispanics. In 2007, interestingly, the VLFS of Hispanics was higher than the food insecurity rate of non-Hispanics, highlighting the depth of impact of the Great Recession on Hispanic seniors.

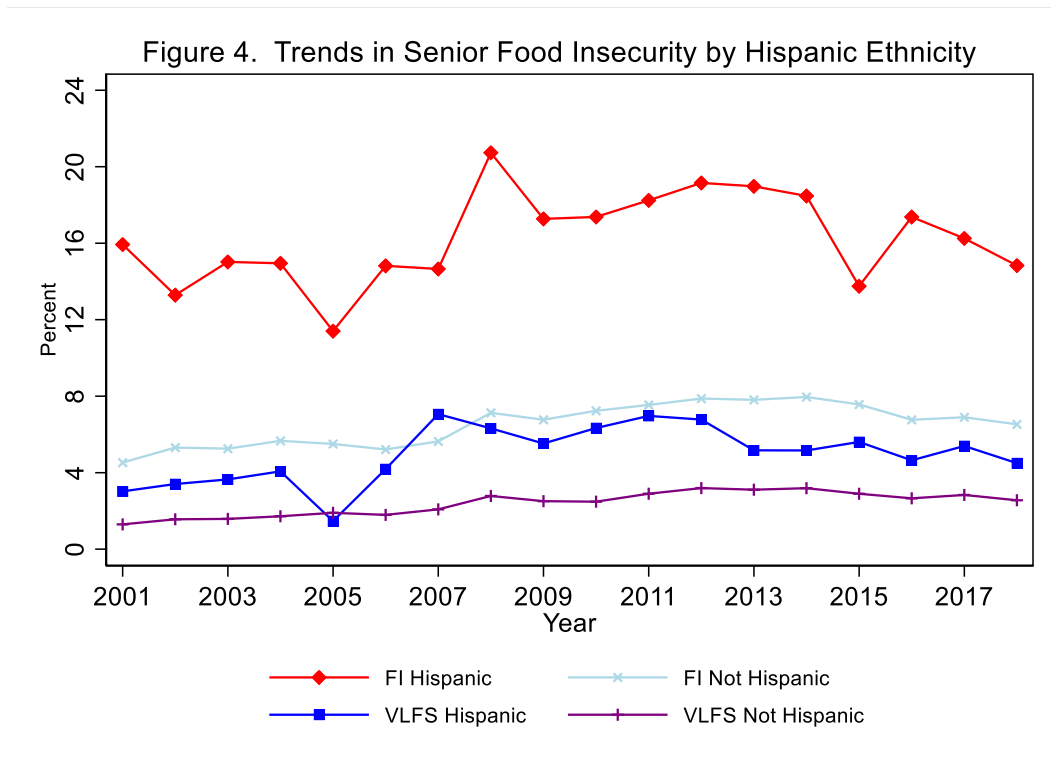
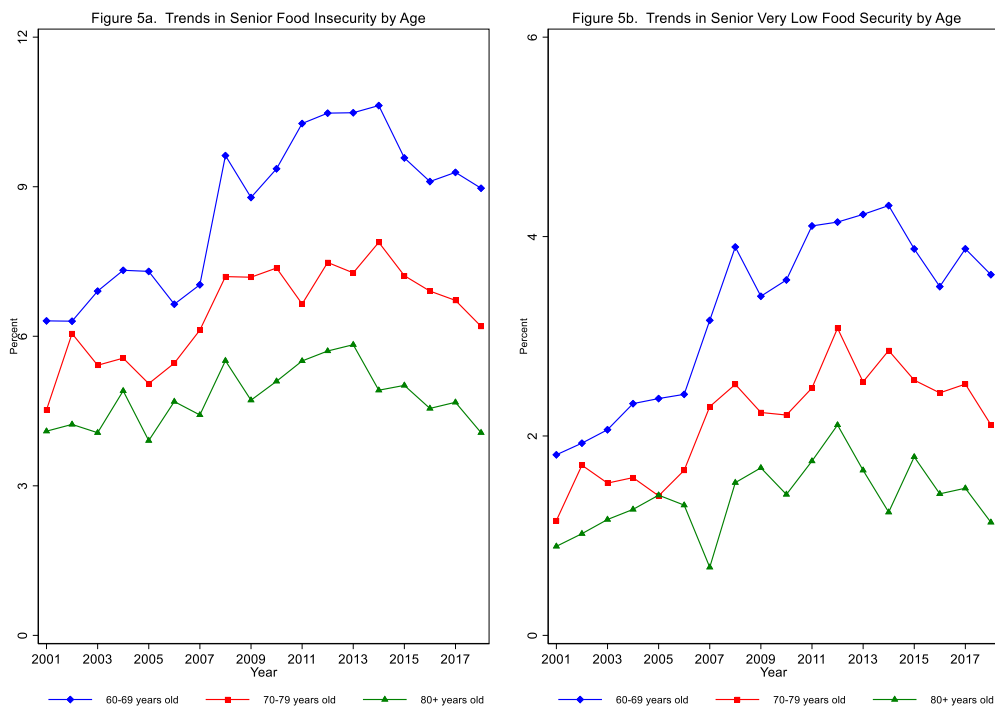


Figure 5 presents a parallel set of results for seniors broken down into three age groups—60-69-years-old, 70-79-years-old, and age 80 and older. In all years, the rates of food insecurity are highest for those between 60 and 69, followed by 70-79-year-olds, and 80+-year-olds. However, the patterns over time do show differences in trajectories and relative gaps between age categories. The figure makes clear that the persistence in food insecurity and VLFS rates above those from the Great Recession are driven by 60-69-year-olds. Although, for all three groups there were declines in food insecurity and VLFS from 2017 to 2018.



III. CONCLUSION

This report demonstrates that food insecurity among seniors in America is a continuing challenge facing the nation. Despite the end of the Great Recession in 2009, 1 in 14 seniors were food insecure in 2018. Even more troubling is the astonishing 222% increase in the number of VLFS seniors in 2018 compared to 2001. Given the compelling evidence in Gundersen and Ziliak (2020) that food insecurity is associated with a host of poor nutrition and health outcomes among seniors, this report implies that the high rates of food insecurity among seniors will likely lead to additional public health challenges and costs for our country (Berkowitz et al., 2017; Berkowitz et al., 2019).

A particular concern at this writing is the global pandemic brought about the novel coronavirus. This health crisis has brought about economic dislocation in the labor market the likes unseen since the Great Depression of the 1930s. The ramifications of the crisis for senior food insecurity are not known at this time, and the CPS data covering this period will not be available until late 2021. Because seniors are more likely to be retired and out of the labor force, the spike in unemployment is not likely to affect those 65 and older, though it could be a real concern for the under 65s, who as we show have the highest rates of food insecurity in this older population. At the same time, the shelter in place requirements, and acute health risk faced by seniors from the virus, mean that normal shopping activity is not possible. Moreover, SNAP does not generally permit home delivery of groceries, meaning many seniors on SNAP face a potentially dangerous health risk from shopping. Recently the USDA has granted some states waivers to permit seniors to use SNAP on home delivered goods, and this policy innovation should improve food security. Thus, there are countervailing forces at play that could lead to expansions or contractions of food

insecurity from COVID-19 among seniors, underscoring the need for ongoing monitoring of food insecurity among older Americans.

APPENDIX

The CPS is a nationally representative survey conducted by the Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, providing employment, income and poverty statistics. Households are selected to be representative of civilian households at the state and national levels, using suitably appropriate sampling weights. The CPS does not include information on individuals living in group quarters including nursing homes or assisted living facilities. For this report and previous reports, we use data from the December Supplement which contains the Food Security Supplement (FSS). The questions from the FSS are found in Appendix Table 1. Because our focus is on hunger among seniors, our CPS sample is of persons age 60 and older. In 2018, this results in 22,930 sample observations. Appendix Table 2 presents selected summary statistics for the CPS sample.

Appendix Table 1: Questions on the Food Security Supplement

Food Insecurity Question	Asked of Households with Children	Asked of Households without Children
1. “We worried whether our food would run out before we got money to buy more.” Was that often, sometimes , or never true for you in the last 12 months?	x	x
2. “The food that we bought just didn’t last and we didn’t have money to get more.” Was that often, sometimes , or never true for you in the last 12 months?	x	x
3. “We couldn’t afford to eat balanced meals.” Was that often, sometimes , or never true for you in the last 12 months?	x	x
4. “We relied on only a few kinds of low-cost food to feed our children because we were running out of money to buy food.” Was that often, sometimes , or never true for you in the last 12 months?	x	
5. In the last 12 months, did you or other adults in the household ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn’t enough money for food? (Yes/No)	x	x
6. “We couldn’t feed our children a balanced meal, because we couldn’t afford that.” Was that often, sometimes , or never true for you in the last 12 months?	x	
7. In the last 12 months, did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn’t enough money for food? (Yes/No)	x	x
8. (If yes to Question 5) How often did this happen— almost every month, some months but not every month , or in only 1 or 2 months?	x	x
9. “The children were not eating enough because we just couldn’t afford enough food.” Was that often, sometimes , or never true for you in the last 12 months?	x	
10. In the last 12 months, were you ever hungry, but didn’t eat, because you couldn’t afford enough food? (Yes/No)	x	x
11. In the last 12 months, did you lose weight because you didn’t have enough money for food? (Yes/No)	x	x
12. In the last 12 months, did you ever cut the size of any of the children’s meals because there wasn’t enough money for food? (Yes/No)	x	
13. In the last 12 months did you or other adults in your household ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn’t enough money for food? (Yes/No)	x	x
14. In the last 12 months, were the children ever hungry but you just couldn’t afford more food? (Yes/No)	x	
15. (If yes to Question 13) How often did this happen— almost every month, some months but not every month , or in only 1 or 2 months?	x	x
16. In the last 12 months, did any of the children ever skip a meal because there wasn’t enough money for food? (Yes/No)	x	
17. (If yes to Question 16) How often did this happen— almost every month, some months but not every month , or in only 1 or 2 months?	x	
18. In the last 12 months did any of the children ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn’t enough money for food? (Yes/No)	x	

Notes: Responses in bold indicate an “affirmative” response.

Appendix Table 2: Selected Characteristics of Senior Americans Age 60 and older in 2018

Income Categories	
Below the Poverty Line	0.07
Between 100% and 200% of the Poverty Line	0.13
Above 200% of the Poverty Line	0.51
Missing Income	0.30
Racial Categories	
White	0.83
Black	0.11
Other	0.06
Hispanic Status	
Hispanic	0.09
Non-Hispanic	0.91
Marital Status	
Married	0.60
Widowed	0.18
Divorced or Separated	0.16
Never Married	0.07
Metropolitan Location	
Non-Metro	0.17
Metro	0.83
Age	
60 to 64	0.28
65 to 69	0.24
70 to 74	0.19
75 to 79	0.13
80 and older	0.16
Employment Status	
Employed	0.30
Unemployed	0.01
Retired	0.60
Disabled	0.09
By Gender	
Male	0.46
Female	0.54
Grandchild Present	
No Grandchild Present	0.96
Grandchild Present	0.04
By Homeownership Status	
Homeowner	0.82
Renter	0.18
By Veteran Status	
Veteran	0.15
Not a Veteran	0.85
By Disability Status	
Without a disability	0.75
With a disability	0.25

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

James P. Ziliak, Ph.D., holds the Carol Martin Gatton Endowed Chair in Microeconomics in the Department of Economics and is Founding Director of the Center for Poverty Research and of the Kentucky Federal Statistical Research Data Center at the University of Kentucky. He earned received his BA/BS degrees in economics and sociology from Purdue University, and his Ph.D. in Economics from Indiana University. He served as assistant and associate professor of economics at the University of Oregon, and has held visiting positions at the Brookings Institution, University College London, University of Michigan, and University of Wisconsin. His research expertise is in the areas of labor economics, poverty, food insecurity, and tax and transfer policy. Recent projects include the causes and consequences of hunger among older Americans; trends in earnings and income volatility in the U.S.; trends in the antipoverty effectiveness of the social safety net; the origins of persistent poverty in America; and regional wage differentials across the earnings distribution. He is editor of *Welfare Reform and its Long Term Consequences for America's Poor* published by Cambridge University Press (2009) and *Appalachian Legacy: Economic Opportunity after the War on Poverty* published by Brookings Institution Press (2012), and co-editor of *SNAP Matters: How Food Stamps Affect Health and Well Being* at Stanford University Press (2015).

Craig Gundersen, Ph.D., is the ACES Distinguished Professor in in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois, is on the Technical Advisory Group for Feeding America, is the lead researcher on Feeding America's *Map the Meal Gap* project, and is the Managing Editor for *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*. He is also a Round Table Member of the Farm Foundation, a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, and a Faculty Affiliate of the Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities (LEO) at the University of Notre Dame. His research concentrates on the causes and consequences of food insecurity and on the evaluation of food assistance programs, with an emphasis on SNAP.

Contact information:

Dr. James P. Ziliak
Center for Poverty Research, University of Kentucky
550 South Limestone St
Lexington, KY 40506-0034
Phone: (859) 257-6902
Email: jziliak@uky.edu

Dr. Craig Gundersen
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois
1301 W. Gregory Dr.
324 Mumford Hall
Urbana, IL 61801
Phone: (217) 333-2857
Email: cggunder@illinois.edu