Hunger exists in every corner of the United States, but as Feeding America’s Map the Meal Gap study shows, food insecurity looks different from one county to the next. In addition to providing data about the prevalence of food insecurity at the local level, Map the Meal Gap estimates the share of food insecure individuals who are income-eligible for federal anti-hunger programs and provides local variations in food costs. The study finds that many food insecure individuals do not qualify for federal nutrition programs and must rely on charitable food assistance, suggesting that complementary programs and strategies are necessary to reach food insecure individuals at different income levels. By providing information about hunger at the local level, Map the Meal Gap can help policymakers and service providers identify strategies to best reach those in need of assistance.

Visit map.feedingamerica.org for more information.

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State (2017 State)
Idaho

Weekly food-budget shortfall is the national average amount of money food insecure people report needing to move to food secure, weighted by the cost of food in the area.


Map the Meal Gap’s food insecurity rates are determined using data from the 2001-2017 Current Population Survey on individuals in food insecure households; data from the 2017 American Community Survey on median household incomes, poverty rates, homeownership, and race and ethnic demographics; and 2017 data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics on unemployment rates.

Threshold numbers reflect percentage of food insecure individuals living in households with incomes within the income bands indicated. Eligibility for federal nutrition programs is determined in part by these income thresholds which can vary by state.

Weekly food-budget shortfall is the national average amount of money food insecure people report needing to move to food secure, weighted by the cost of food in the area.

Total food-budget shortfall for this year calculated using the following formula:

Annual dollars*weekly food budget shortfall * # food insecure persons * 52 weeks * Average months of the year a person is food insecure (7/12)

Weighted cost per meal is the national average cost spent on a meal by food secure persons weighted by the cost of food in the area.

For additional data and maps by county, state, and congressional district, please visit map.feedingamerica.org.


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Map the Meal Gap 2019:
State Overview

Select State
Idaho

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Population (13-17 ACS DP05)</th>
<th>1,657,375</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Insecurity Rate (2017 aggregate of Congressional Districts)</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Food Insecure Persons (2017 aggregate of Congressional Districts)</td>
<td>210,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weighted Index (2017 State)</td>
<td>0.9740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost Per Meal (2017 State)</td>
<td>$2.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meal Gap (2017 State)</td>
<td>35,908,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

State Overall Food Insecurity

- Food Insecurity Rate (2017 aggregate of Congressional Districts): 12.3%
- Food Security Rate (2017 State): 87.7%

State Child Food Insecurity

- Child Food Insecurity Rate (2017 aggregate of Congressional Districts): 15.8%
- Child Food Security Rate (2017 State): 84.2%

Eligibility for federal nutrition programs is determined in part by these income thresholds, which can vary by state.

For additional data and maps by county, state, and congressional district, please visit map.feedingamerica.org


A person is defined as being food insecure if he or she lives in a household experiencing food insecurity. The food insecurity measures here are derived from the measures of food insecurity found in the nationally representative Current Population Survey. Since 1995, those measures have been calculated from responses to a series of questions about conditions and behaviors known to characterize households having difficulty meeting basic food needs. For more details about how food insecurity is calculated, see Coleman-Jensen, Alisha, Matthew P. Rabbitt, Christian A. Gregory, and Anita Singh. Household Food Security in the United States in 2017, ERR-256, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, September 2018.

Food insecurity rates shown here may differ from the state-level prevalence rates of food insecurity presented in “Household Food Security in the United States in 2017” (ibid.). Among other factors, those rates are three-year average rates for the period 2015-2017; the rates presented above reflect one-year rates for 2017. For more information about these factors, please see the supplemental methodology information on HungerNet.

Pricing index created from actual cost of food relative to the cost of food in other states across the U.S.

Weighted cost per meal is the national average cost spent on a meal by food secure persons, weighted by the cost of food in the area.

Annual “meal gap” represents the following formula:
Annual dollars food insecure persons report needing to meet their food needs in this area / Average cost of a meal for food secure individuals in the U.S.