



2020 Hunger Statistics Cleveland



What is Food **Insecurity**?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture classifies households as food insecure if they experience, at some times during the year, limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods which can provide an active, healthy life for all household members.

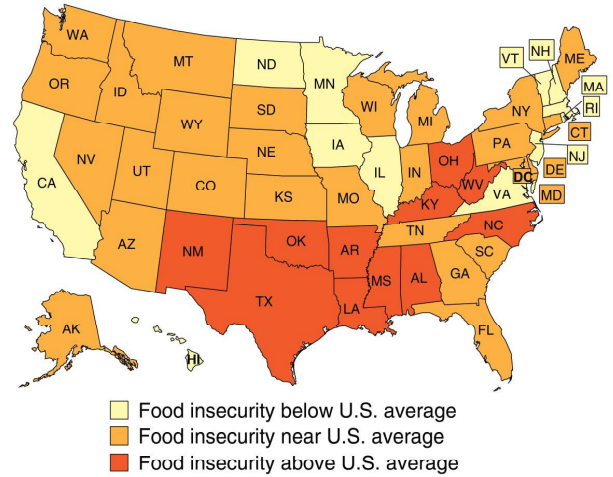
What Causes Food Insecurity?

Countless situations can result in food insecurity and hunger including: poverty, job lay-offs, food deserts, etc.

What are the **Consequences** of Food Insecurity?

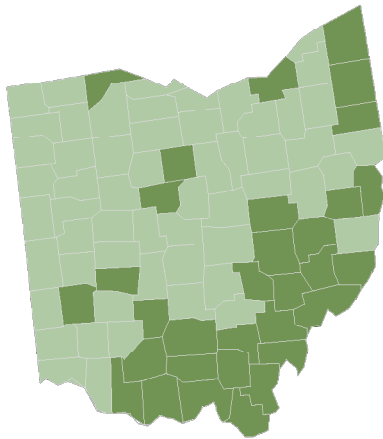
Food insecurity has many consequences including serious health complications and a weakened immune system that occurs when the body does not receive sufficient calories and nutrients. It can also negatively affect children's ability to learn and evolve, which is detrimental in the long-run.

Prevalence of food insecurity, average 2017-19



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the December 2017, 2018, and 2019 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplements.

Overall Food Insecurity Rates in Ohio in 2018



Key Statistics in Ohio:

- Ohio had the 13th highest average food insecurity rate between 2017-2019 in the U.S. at 12.6% with roughly 43% of that having very low food security.
- In 2018, the average cost of a meal in Ohio was \$2.79.
- In 2018, the food insecurity rate of Cuyahoga County was 15.9%.
- Between 2015 and 2019 in Cuyahoga County, 16.2% of residents lived in poverty.
- In 2016, 26% of Cuyahoga County children lived in poverty.

Source: [1](#), [2](#)

What is a Food **Desert**?

A food desert is an area in which someone does not have access to a food source, such as a supermarket or access to a food pantry or food-sharing program, nearby and are particularly problematic for lower-income neighborhoods. Living in a food desert can contribute to food insecurity.

Food Desert **Statistics**

- Over 262,500 (59.3%) of Cuyahoga County's residents live between 1/2 and 1 mile of their nearest supermarket.
- Over 165,000 residents (37.4%) live more than 1 mile from a supermarket.
- Nearly 14,500 residents (3.3%) live more than 2 miles away.

Distribution of supermarkets across Cuyahoga County

