



# States + Food Security

S.C. FOOD SECURITY COUNCIL | NOVEMBER 8, 2023

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# Today's Focus



**2022 USDA Report Overview**



**State Initiatives + Findings**

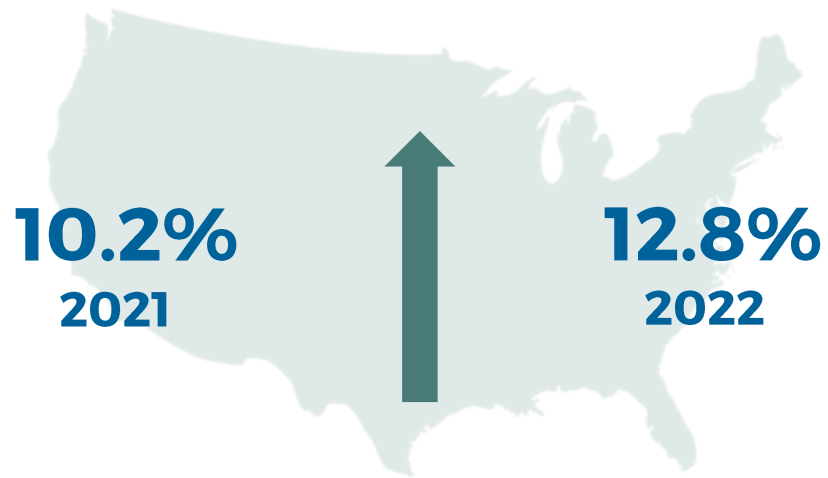


**BIPOC Populations + Initiatives**

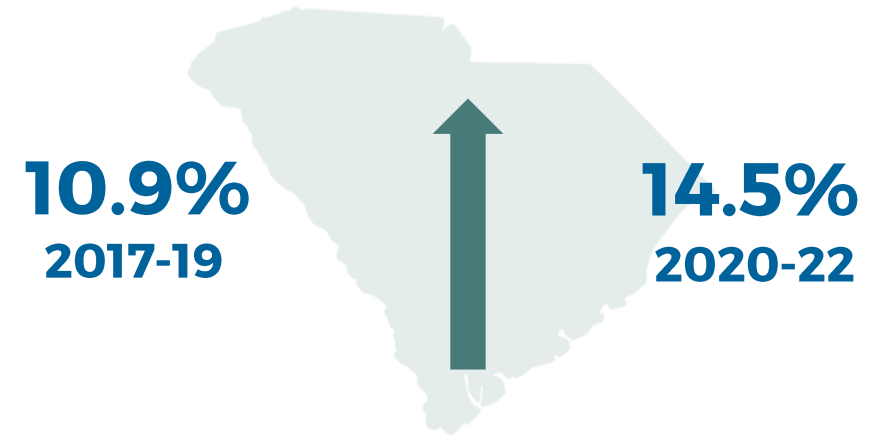
## Background<sup>1</sup>

- First published in 1995 to collect information on:
  - Food access
  - Food adequacy
  - Food spending
  - Sources of food assistance
- Collected as supplement to Current Population Survey (U.S. Census Bureau)
- Current report released October 25<sup>th</sup>
  - Updates/modifications from 2021 survey, but food security data remains comparable across years
  - Use of low and very low food security terminology

# USDA's Household Food Security in the United States in 2022



Prevalence of food insecurity in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>



Prevalence of food insecurity in S.C.<sup>1</sup>

# USDA's Household Food Security in the United States in 2022

## 2020-2022 State Comparison

**U.S. = 11.2%**

### Statistically Significantly Lower<sup>1</sup>

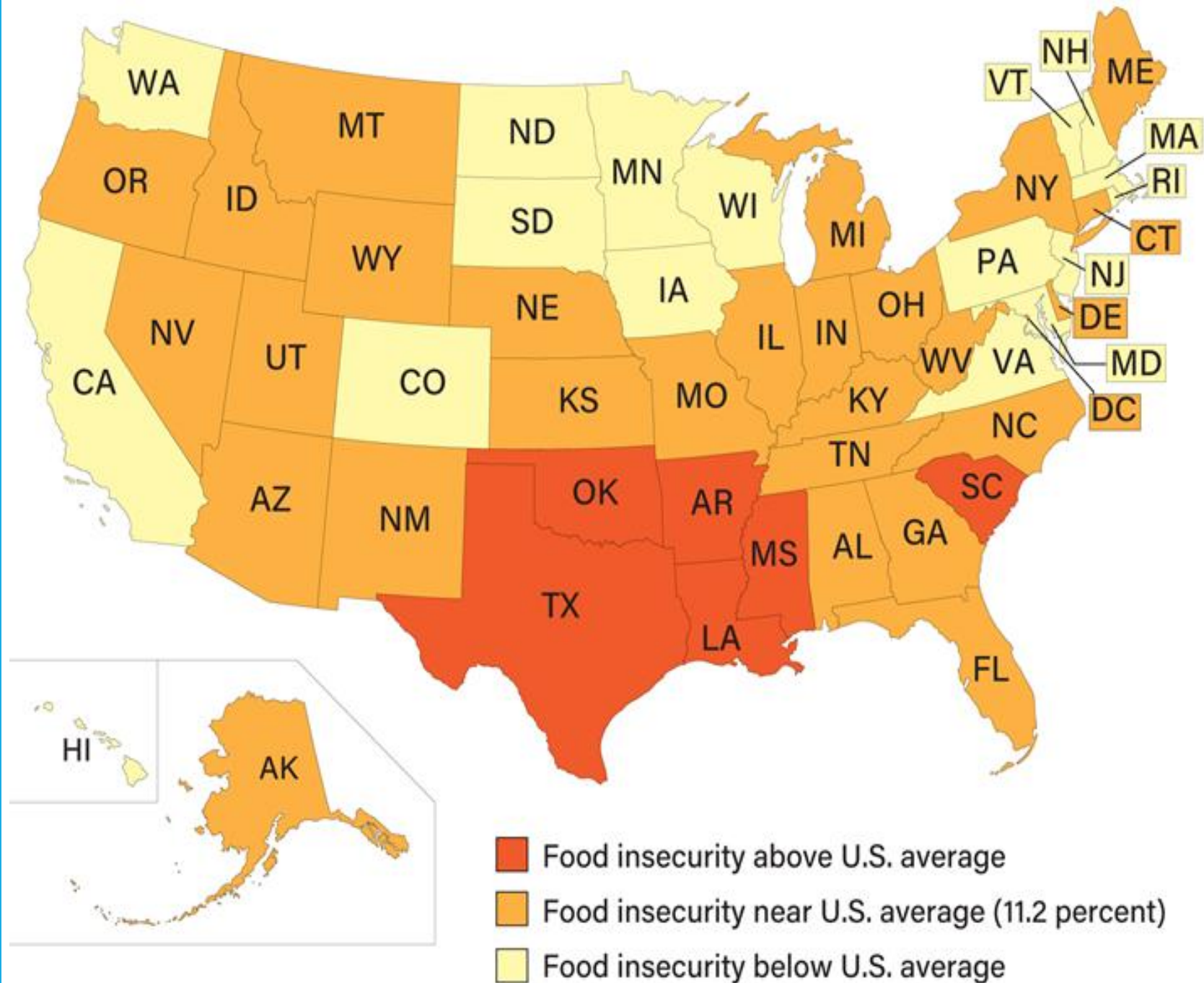
<b>New Hampshire</b>	6.2%	<b>Iowa</b>	8.9%
<b>Minnesota</b>	7.1%	<b>South Dakota</b>	8.9%
<b>North Dakota</b>	7.7%	<b>Hawaii</b>	9.1%
<b>Vermont</b>	8.0%	<b>Virginia</b>	9.3%
<b>Washington</b>	8.3%	<b>Maryland</b>	9.5%
<b>Massachusetts</b>	8.5%	<b>Wisconsin</b>	9.6%
<b>Rhode Island</b>	8.6%	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	10.1%
<b>New Jersey</b>	8.8%	<b>California</b>	10.3%
<b>Colorado</b>	8.9%		

### Statistically Significantly Higher<sup>1</sup>

<b>Oklahoma</b>	14.3%
<b>South Carolina</b>	14.5%
<b>Louisiana</b>	15.2%
<b>Mississippi</b>	15.3%
<b>Texas</b>	15.5%
<b>Arkansas</b>	16.6%

# USDA's Household Food Security in the United States in 2022

# USDA's Household Food Security in the United States in 2022<sup>2</sup>



## Key Findings<sup>1</sup>

- Prevalence statistically higher in all except one population subgroups  
Household composition    Ethnicity    Income    Residential area
- Prevalence statistically higher in the South for multiple household compositions
- Prevalence statistically higher in all households with children
- About 55% of households received assistance from one of three federal programs in month prior to survey
- Various factors affect state-level prevalence

# USDA's Household Food Security in the United States in 2022

## Overarching Themes



**Data Maps**



**Universal Free School Meals**



**Use of Farmers Markets**



**Streamlining Processes**

# State Initiatives + Findings



## Community Food Strategies<sup>3</sup>

- Support of two marker bills as part of the 2023 Farm Bill renewal
- Subsidize water access for neighborhood community gardens
- Pilot diabetic nutrition program and sourcing of culturally appropriate foods
- Partnership with county health department + translated all SNAP Double Bucks promotional materials into Spanish
- Prepared food recovery SOPs
- Farmer Resource Kits

# State Initiatives + Findings



- 2023-2024 State Action Plan for Nutrition Security – Key Initiatives:
  - Unite major nutrition programs into one division
  - Increase cross-enrollment across FNS, WIC, and Medicaid programs through data matching
  - Improve participant and caseworker experience in FNS program through technology enhancements
  - Build connections between health care and nutrition supports
    - Strengthen the NCCARE360 network
    - Implement Healthy Opportunities Pilots within Medicaid Managed Care

# State Initiatives + Findings



- Builds on successes from past three years:
  - Online FNS application; also made available in Spanish
  - Increase in WIC participation during the pandemic
  - Curbside pick-up programs for senior lunch sites closed by the pandemic
  - Direct grants to food banks during the pandemic
  - USDA demonstration project to increase access to National School Lunch and Breakfast programs

# State Initiatives + Findings



- Statewide plan for addressing food security
- Key recommendations:
  - Update metrics used by the USDA to identify food deserts
  - Transportation – Expansion
    - Pilot home-delivered meals for school-aged children and families
    - Recurring funding stream for community-based food/meal delivery services
    - Advocate for policy flexibilities to provide assistance in non-congregate manners

# State Initiatives + Findings



Florida

## Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Food Security Advisory Committee<sup>5</sup>

- Access to Nutritious Food Options
  - Integrate food and nutrition into municipal planning policies
  - Encourage retail outlets open in communities where no food outlets exist
  - Encourage food outlets participate in federal nutrition assistance programs
- Child Hunger
  - Fund meal programs for children under school-age without requiring permanent residency
  - Remove barriers for undocumented households' participation in programs
  - Co-distribute meals for adults who accompany children for meal service
  - Establish minimum time for students to consume school meals
  - Expand nutrition and agriculture education for children (e.g., home economics)
  - Increase involvement in USDA's Beginning Farmers and Ranchers programs
  - Integrate experiential agriculture and agribusiness into the K-12 core curriculum

# State Initiatives + Findings



Florida

## Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Food Security Advisory Committee<sup>5</sup>

- Food as Medicine
  - Increase funding to create additional pilots of Produce Prescription Programs
  - Provide the resources for individuals to conduct medicinal gardening
- Federal Nutrition Assistance Programs
  - Department of Housing and Urban Development inspections include a check for resident food insecurity
  - Allow guardians of children to receive additional nutrition assistance
- Senior Hunger
  - Participation in the SNAP Elderly Simplified Application Project
  - Increased federal support to expand the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program
  - Implement malnutrition screening standards
- Food Waste
  - Limit liability and provide incentives for restaurants that leftover food to emergency feeding organizations
  - Support the redistribution of agricultural production waste

# State Initiatives + Findings



## Legislative Efforts

- 2021:
  - Creates and revises various DACS provisions relating to<sup>6</sup>:
    - tax credits for farmers
    - sponsor reimbursements for school breakfast meals and universal free school breakfast and lunch meals
    - Produce Prescription Pilot Program
  - State Nutrition Assistance Reimbursement Program<sup>7</sup>:
    - Requiring the Department of Children and Families to develop and implement a nutrition assistance reimbursement program to reimburse community-based nonprofit organizations and nonprofit religious organizations providing certain enrollment assistance services
- 2023:
  - Food Deserts<sup>8</sup>:
    - Allow a local government to enact land development regulations authorizing land use for a small-footprint grocery store located in a food insecure area.
  - Food is Medicine<sup>9</sup>:
    - Provide Medicaid Coverage of Prescribed-food Programs for Disease Treatment and Prevention

# State Initiatives + Findings



Florida

## Senate Improving Access to Healthy Foods and Ending Food Deserts Study Committee<sup>10</sup>

- Created by Senate Resolution in 2021 to:
  - determine how many Georgians live in food deserts
  - examine policies which address food deserts
  - examine economic impact
  - examine changes to Georgia's tax and economic policies
  - examine how Georgia can assist local governments
- Heard testimony from a number of stakeholders with recommendations to:
  - expedite permitting process for supermarkets and other healthy food vendors
  - update local land use policies to allow for community food systems
  - incentivize dedicated space in new housing developments for community gardens and mobile markets
  - loosen restrictions on urban agriculture to allow for small livestock
  - at colleges/universities, allow students to donate unused guest meal swipes on meal cards
  - remove additional, burdensome state requirements from federal requirements

# State Initiatives + Findings

Georgia





## Senate Improving Access to Healthy Foods and Ending Food Deserts Study Committee<sup>10</sup>

- Recommendations from Study Committee:
  - Encourage legislature to designate a state agency to maintain a central website
  - Encourage legislature to establish a commission
  - Encourage the continued use of tax credits to support expansion of grocery industry into food deserts
  - Encourage the support and strengthening of food banks and food pantries through State funding
  - Increase the number of farmers markets that accept SNAP payment
  - Encourage collaboration among state entities, nonprofits, and private groups

# State Initiatives + Findings



## Georgia State Plan to Address Senior Hunger<sup>11</sup>

- Georgia has one of the largest and fastest growing populations of 60+ year olds in the nation
- Senior Hunger Summit was convened in 2016
- State Plan to Address Senior Hunger developed and implemented to:
  - Develop 12 regional coalitions
  - Establish a senior hunger position within DHS's Division of Aging
  - Establish a policy review council
  - Coordinate data collection and analysis
  - Develop and provide education and training for agencies, stakeholders and individuals
  - Continue and expand the What a Waste Program with the National Foundation to End Senior Hunger

# State Initiatives + Findings



## Legislative Efforts

- 2022:
  - Act 600<sup>12</sup>:
    - Renames SNAP to Georgia Grown Farm to Food Bank Program to require food procured pursuant to such program be Georgia grown
- 2022 and 2023:
  - Food Insecurity Eradication Act<sup>13</sup>:
    - Establish a food security advisory council to implement the recommendations from the 2021 Study Committee

State Initiatives + Findings



- Created by law in 2021
- Tasked with:
  - Providing annual reports on developing equity and sustainability policy recommendations to increase the long-term resiliency of the food system
  - Expanding impact of existing food council organizations
  - Developing a strategic plan to increase the production and procurement of Maryland certified food.
  - Providing recommendations on long-term Council structure

# State Initiatives + Findings



- Key Recommendations from 2021 and 2022:
  - Establish and maintain a statewide food system map
  - Establish and sustain Regional Agriculture Centers to rebuild local food infrastructure and strengthen Maryland's food system
  - Establish a state-grant funded program for food council start-up, sustainment, and expansion costs
  - Adopt legislation that incentivizes school districts to purchase locally grown or produced food
  - Fund pilot programs and analyze scalability and expansion for small- and medium-sized farms

# State Initiatives + Findings



## Legislative Efforts

- 2023:
  - SNAP Theft<sup>15</sup>:
    - Participants who were victims of benefit theft to be reimbursed. State agency must also prioritize EBT card security in selecting EBT vendor.
  - Maryland Meals for Achievement<sup>16</sup>:
    - Full funding allowing all eligible schools to serve breakfast in the classroom and after the bell at no cost to all students.

State Initiatives + Findings

Maryland

A teal-colored map of the state of Maryland is positioned behind the word "Maryland".

## Snapshot of Other States



### Nevada<sup>17</sup>

- Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase Program
- Remove restrictions for drug felons
- Inventory of land for use as community gardens and urban farms



### Virginia<sup>19</sup>

- In 2022, mandate in effect requiring at least one afterschool meals site in every locality where the eligibility for free and reduced priced meals is greater than 50%.



### Massachusetts<sup>21</sup>

- Improved budget line items, including Universal Free School meals, Emergency Food Assistance Program, local food policy councils, and farm to school program
- Established common application in law allowing individuals to apply simultaneously to a number of support programs



### Colorado<sup>18</sup>

- Healthy School Meals for All (Universal School Meals) were voter-approved in 2022



### New Hampshire<sup>20</sup>

- In 2021, legislation enacted to freeze leftover school food that was never served to send home with children who participate in a free or reduced-price meals program.

# State Initiatives + Findings

## Food Sovereignty + Opportunities

**Food Sovereignty:** The right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It puts the aspirations and needs of those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the demands of markets and corporations.<sup>22</sup>



### North Carolina<sup>23</sup>

- Provides Critical Actions to build long-term systems change for BIPOC populations



### Alaska<sup>24</sup>

- Indigenous Foods Committee to focus on support for food sovereignty



### Florida<sup>5</sup>

- Establish a State Farmworker Assistance Fund or Program
- Ensure culturally appropriate foods are available in all nutrition assistance programs



### Massachusetts<sup>25</sup>

- Farmland Action Plan

# BIPOC Populations + Initiatives



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# Sources

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