

~~HUNGER~~
FREE
AMERICA



Surging Pandemic Hunger Stemmed by Government Safety Net Boost



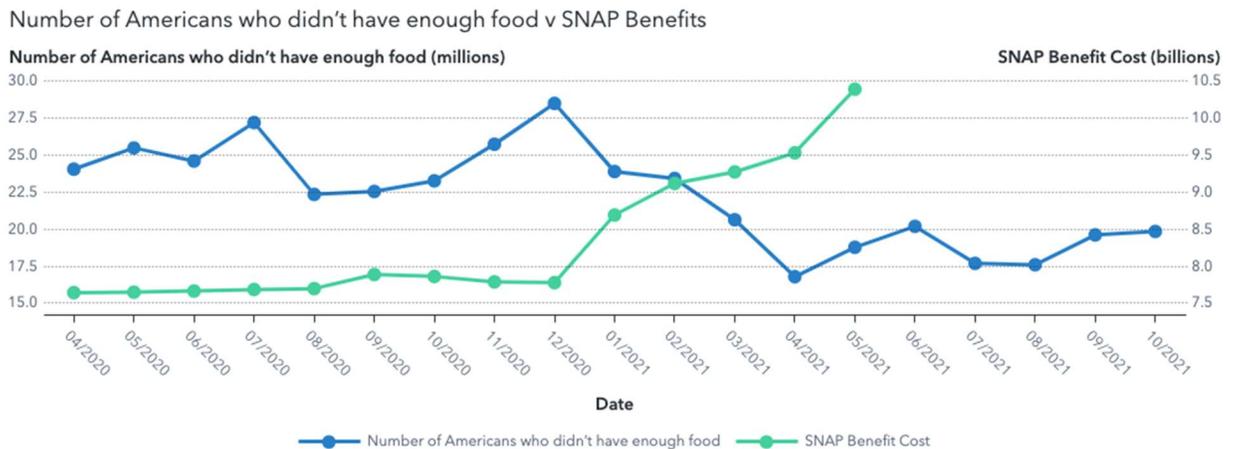
Table of Contents

- Executive Summary..... 3**
- I. A Message from Hunger Free America CEO Joel Berg..... 5**
- II. Methodology..... 7**
- III. Food Insecurity During the COVID-19 Pandemic..... 8**
- IV. Overall Food Insecurity..... 10**
- V. Food Insecurity Among Children..... 12**
- VI. Food Insecurity Among Employed Adults..... 13**
- VII. Food Insecurity Among Older Americans..... 15**
- VIII. National Survey of Emergency Feeding Programs..... 17**
- IX. Federal Policy Recommendations 17**
- X. References and Acknowledgments 19**
- Appendix..... 20**

Executive Summary

Key Findings:

- Nationwide during the pandemic, the number of people who “didn’t have enough to eat” over just one week soared to 24.1 million in April of 2020, then skyrocketed to 28.5 million in one week in December 2020 but dropped to about 17.6 million in one week in August 2021, before increasing slightly to 19.9 million in one week of September 2021, according to U.S. Census Household Pulse data analyzed by the report.
- The 38 percent drop in food insufficiency nationwide between December of 2020 coincided with a massive boost in federal food and cash aid. As just one example, federal spending on just the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – which was called the Food Stamp Program before 2009 – increased from \$7.6 billion in June of 2020 to \$10.4 billion in August 2021, a 37 percent increase. While USDA has not yet released SNAP spending data for September 2021, it is likely that it stayed at an elevated level. The slight increase in food hardship in October likely reflects that some pandemic-related boosts in benefits expired. The strong correlation between increased food benefits and decreased hunger is demonstrated by the chart below, which was created for Hunger Free America, pro-bono, by SAS, one of the nation’s leading data analytics firms.



Other findings of the study:

- Nationally, 11.4% of Americans were found to live in food insecure households between 2018 and 2020, according to USDA food insecurity data analyzed by Hunger Free America. The states with the highest rates of food insecure

individuals from 2018-20 were Mississippi (16.3%), Oklahoma (16.2%), West Virginia (15.6%), Louisiana (15.2%), and Kentucky (14.9%).

- 15.3% (nearly one in six) of all children in the U.S. lived in food insecure households. The states with the highest rates of food insecure children were Kentucky (21.0%), West Virginia (20.7%), Mississippi (20.2%), Oklahoma (20.2%), and North Carolina (19.6%).
- 9.7% of employed adults in the U.S. lived in food insecure households. That means that one in ten working adults in the country could not afford to fully fill their grocery carts all year.
- The states with the highest rates of food insecurity among employed adults were Oklahoma (14.8%), Mississippi (13.4%), Louisiana (12.7%), Alabama (12.6%), and West Virginia (12.6%).
- In the U.S., 7.1% of older Americans (one in 14), defined as people 60 years and older, lived in food insecure households. The District of Columbia had the highest rate of food insecurity among older Americans at 13.7%, followed by Mississippi (11.8%), Louisiana (11.3%), West Virginia (10.0%), and Kentucky (9.9%).
- Mississippi, Oklahoma, West Virginia, Louisiana, and Alabama were consistently on the lists of the top ten states with the highest rates of food insecurity for overall individuals, children, employed adults, and older Americans.
- 50 percent of food pantries and soup kitchens that responded to a nationwide survey by Hunger Free Americas reported that they served more people in 2021 than 2020.

I. A Message from Hunger Free America CEO Joel Berg

This summer, to mark my 20th year as leader of a national anti-hunger nonprofit group, I drove myself 15,397 miles from coast-to-coast, making more than 80 hunger-related site visits and stops in 37 states.

So, what did I learn?

Thankfully, for those (like me) with enough money to buy food, some highly local food traditions are still thriving and delicious: lobster rolls in Maine, BBQ (pork in North Carolina, beef in Texas, of course), green chili enchiladas in New Mexico, and deep-dish pizza in Chicago.

Yet the increasing diversity of America has resulted in a preponderance of excellent, authentic ethnic specialties in surprising places: Jamaican Jerk Chicken in Roanoke, Virginia; Thai Pad See Ew in Dothan, Alabama; Vietnamese Pho in Bentonville, Arkansas; and Salvadorean Pupusas in Webb City, Missouri. There are now top-notch tacos served in practically everywhere in the U.S. where Mexican-Americans live.

Unfortunately, I also found persistent, systemic, food insecurity – with large numbers of people struggling to afford food – in virtually every rural area, city, and suburb I visited. While some Americans thought hunger was a brand-new phenomenon during the pandemic, that's far from the truth. In 2019, when the economy was still theoretically strong and COVID-19 had yet to hit the U.S., 35 million Americans were food insecure, according to [USDA](#). Most were in working families, earning paltry incomes that didn't fully cover their costs of housing, health care, transportation, utilities, childcare, prescription drugs, and yes, food.

Then the pandemic hit, and things went from worse to worser. Tens of millions lost their jobs or had further reductions in their paltry incomes, leaving them with even less money for food. The 29 million U.S. children who relied on school lunches and breakfasts lost them virtually overnight and thousands of senior meals programs nationwide shuttered their doors.

As I visited food charities from coast to coast this summer, I learned that two things that were true before the pandemic became truer than ever: one, that while nonprofit groups perform heroic work filling in gaps in the safety net, they can never do anything more than make a dent in the hunger problem and; two, that the most impactful measures to reduce hunger in America, by far, are those funded by the federal government.

Even before the pandemic, I calculated that the dollar amount of paid food provided to low-income Americans by the federal government safety net (SNAP, formerly called Food Stamps; WIC, for pregnant women and infants; school meals; commodities for food banks, meals for older Americans, etc.) equaled about 15 times the dollar amount of food provided by every food charity in America.

Over the last year and a half – due to the insistence of Democratic leaders in Congress, and since January, of the leadership of the Biden Administration – the domestic nutrition safety net

was dramatically expanded. USDA SNAP spending alone more than doubled between February 2020 and May 2021, eventually giving out \$10 billion worth of food in May alone. The government made it easier for schools to distribute meals to kids, temporarily waiving archaic rules that previously prevented free meals for all kids from being distributed in areas that were only somewhat impoverished and that forced summer meals to be eaten by children on site, even in locales with soaring temperatures and high crime rates. Congress created the Pandemic-EBT Program, which is giving out tens of billions of dollars' worth of food to the families of tens of millions of children who attended schools that were closed due to the pandemic.

The most iconic hunger-related image of the pandemic was that of [thousands of cars lined up at a San Antonio food bank](#), but that overshadowed the reality that, [in that same month in that same county](#), 294,512 local residents received \$33.6 million in SNAP benefits, absolutely dwarfing the charitable distributions.

While tens of millions of Americans faced food hardships during the pandemic, the nation avoided mass starvation (such as in Ethiopia and North Korea) precisely because this massive federal support for food – combined with large infusions of federal cash into struggling households – enabled families to obtain and afford more food.

According to the [Census Bureau](#), the number of Americans who didn't have enough food in a seven-day period dropped from 24 million this January to 17 million this August. The [Hamilton Project found](#) that food hardship in children was reduced by 30%

This ground-breaking report further verifies all those other previous sources of data – and further proves that the federal government's expanded food and cash aid was the key factor in preventing mass starvation during the height of the pandemic.

It also proves that hunger, food insecurity, and nutritional insecurity are still rampant in every borough of New York City and every county of New York State, and that improved public policies are, by far, the most effective way to end hunger.

That's why both the direct programming work of Hunger Free America – and the detailed public policy proposals included in this report – are more important than ever.

With your donations and policy support, we **can** end hunger in America.

Sincerely,



Joel Berg

CEO, Hunger Free America

II. Methodology

Data from this report was gathered from the USDA's Food Security Supplement to the December 2020 Current Population Survey (CPS). In total, 34,330 households completed the Food Security Supplement in 2020, which is nationally representative after applying the Food Security Supplement weights.

All analyses used the 12 Month Food Security Summary variable, HRFS12M1, which is the same variable used by the USDA to analyze overall household food insecurity. Data on employed adults was obtained by layering those classified as "employed" in the PREXPLF demographic variable. Calculations for food insecure older Americans used the PRTAGE variable, restricted to those 60+ years old. The analysis on food insecurity among children used the PRTAGE variable as well, restricted to those 17 years and younger.

Numbers were calculated as three-year averages to increase statistical accuracy due to the relatively small sample size in some states. In order to obtain food insecurity data at the individual level as opposed to the household level, person-level weighting was used in this analysis. One should note that in general, data on the proportion of people is more accurate than the data on the total number of people who are food insecure due to sample size.

It is important to note that the statistics on food insecurity from the USDA should be interpreted as "individuals living in food insecure households" as opposed to "food insecure individuals." This is due to the fact that the food security survey measures food security status at the household level. Because household members experience food insecurity differently, with some members being more affected than others, this distinction is necessary.

For the Household Pulse Survey, Hunger Free America's analysis identifies responses of "often not enough to eat" and "sometimes not enough to eat" as food insufficient, and "enough of the kinds of food (I/we) wanted to eat" as food sufficient. In order to compare the irregular weekly pulse survey dates with monthly SNAP data, weekly food insufficiency figures were averaged out in accordance with the month they most closely aligned.

Our 2021 survey of food pantries and soup kitchens was sent to a list of agencies in the U.S. that were believed to operate food pantries, soup kitchens, and/or some variety of emergency food program (EFP). This list of agencies was extracted from Hunger Free America's national database of feeding programs, which is regularly updated and

maintained. In total, 212 responses were collected. New York City EFPs were excluded from this list, as a separate study focusing on NYC was simultaneously conducted with the same survey.

III. Food Insecurity During the COVID-19 Pandemic

According to the USDA’s 2020 Household Food Security data, the number of food insecure individuals in the U.S. increased by over 3 million from 2019 to 2020. The majority of this report utilizes 3-year averages at the state level to increase accuracy due to the small sample size of some states, however, a 2019 to 2020 comparison is possible for the larger states where the sample size is adequate. Table 1 shows the top ten most populous states along with the national figures for food insecure individuals.

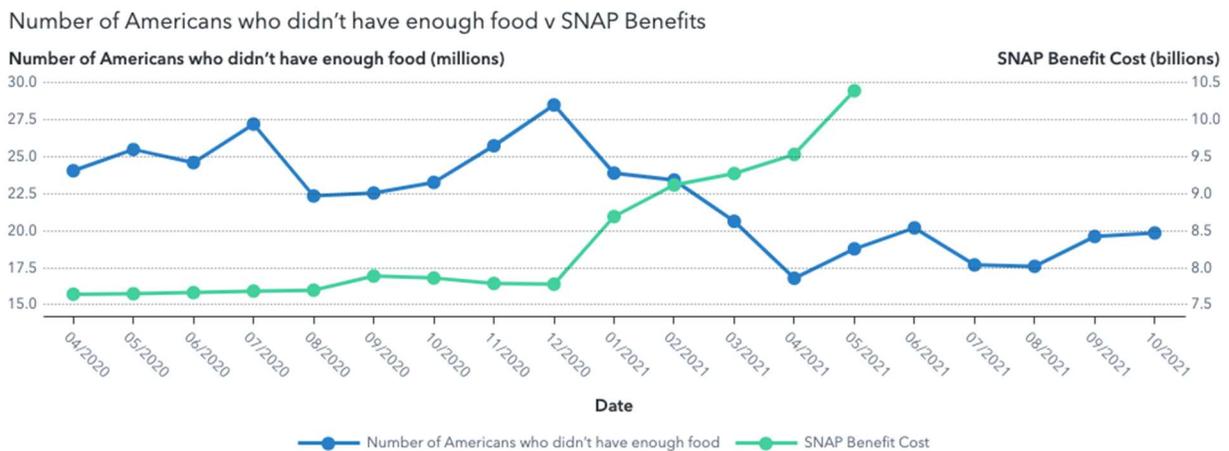
Table 1- Changes in Food Insecure Individuals from 2019 to 2020 in the Ten Most Populous States

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| National | 35,206,852 (10.9%) | 38,286,433 (11.8%) |
| California | 3,872,450 (9.9%) | 4,500,159 (11.6%) |
| Florida | 1,877,802 (8.8%) | 2,462,282 (11.4%) |
| Georgia | 1,196,807 (11.5%) | 1,501,232 (14.2%) |
| Illinois | 1,220,508 (9.8%) | 1,389,470 (11.2%) |
| Michigan | 1,256,535 (12.7%) | 1,239,880 (12.7%) |
| New York | 2,229,028 (11.6%) | 2,199,833 (11.5%) |
| North Carolina | 1,303,428 (12.6%) | 1,365,973 (13.1%) |
| Ohio | 1,035,441 (9.0%) | 1,376,662 (12.0%) |
| Pennsylvania | 1,273,906 (10.1%) | 1,228,997 (9.8%) |
| Texas | 3,690,458 (12.9%) | 4,714,662 (16.2%) |

The US Census Bureau’s Household Pulse Survey (HPS) that began on April 23rd, 2020 shows how hunger changed throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the USDA’s food security measures and the HPS’s food sufficiency measures are not directly comparable (due to different methodologies, response rates, and time periods covered), the pulse survey results fill a crucial gap in data covering each month of the pandemic and offer a helpful supplement to the USDA’s food security measure. The HPS measures food insufficiency over the last week, asking the degree to which the household had enough to eat.

By comparing the number of pulse survey respondents who faced food insufficiency and the number of SNAP dollars allocated nationally, we can begin to see the relationship between the SNAP program and food insufficiency. Although there is insufficient data to prove correlation or causation, figure 1 shows that food insufficiency tends to be lower when SNAP spending is higher. It should also be noted that the graph begins to inverse when the Biden administration took office in January, 2021, marking historic increases to the federal safety net. The 17.5 percent drop in food insufficiency nationwide coincided with a massive boost in federal food and cash aid. From May 2020 to August 2021 alone, federal spending on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – which was called the Food Stamp Program before 2009 – nearly doubled, from \$362 million to \$693 million, monthly. Similar graphs with state-level data are also available in the Appendix.

Figure 1 – Nationwide Pulse Survey Respondents vs SNAP Benefit Cost



Data from the Census Bureau’s 2020 Supplemental Poverty Measure shows the profound impact government action and increases to the federal safety net can have. An estimated 11.7 million people were lifted out of poverty due to the first two rounds of stimulus payments. SNAP and school lunch programs combined lifted 3.2 million people from poverty, with the only programs that had a higher impact on poverty being social security, the stimulus payments, unemployment insurance, and refundable tax credits. In

the summer of 2021, the enhanced Child Tax Credit (CTC) had an immediate impact on hunger with food insufficiency decreasing by 5.1% in households with children after the first payment went out, while households without children experienced an 8% increase in food insufficiency during the same seven-week time period.

The impact of these programs illustrates the degree to which hunger and poverty in the U.S. is a policy choice. Strong action by the government has the power to end hunger far more effectively than the current reliance on charitable feeding programs. Increased efforts from food banks, food pantries, and community meals have played a vital role in meeting the immediate need posed by the pandemic (particularly for individuals who are ineligible for SNAP benefits), however, only the federal government has the power to enact the widespread changes necessary to end hunger.

IV. Overall Food Insecurity

Nationally, 11.4% of Americans were found to live in food insecure households between 2018 and 2020 (table 2). According to USDA data, the states with the highest rates of food insecure individuals from 2018-20 were Mississippi (16.3%), Oklahoma (16.2%), West Virginia (15.6%), Louisiana (15.2%), and Kentucky (14.9%). Mississippi, Oklahoma, West Virginia, Louisiana, and Alabama were consistently on the lists of the top ten states with the highest rates of food insecurity for individuals overall, children, employed adults, and older Americans.

The states with the lowest rates of food insecurity were New Hampshire (5.4%), Minnesota (7.0%), Iowa (7.5%), Rhode Island (7.7%), and Virginia (8.2%).

Table 2 – Number and Percent of Food Insecure Individuals by State, 2018-2020

| State | Number of Food Insecure Individuals | Percentage of Food Insecure Individuals |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| U.S. | 36,906,776 | 11.4% |
| Alabama | 699,320 | 14.5% |
| Alaska | 77,148 | 11.0% |
| Arizona | 859,851 | 11.9% |
| Arkansas | 383,519 | 12.9% |
| California | 4,132,405 | 10.6% |
| Colorado | 591,842 | 10.4% |
| Connecticut | 401,110 | 11.5% |
| Delaware | 105,996 | 11.0% |

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------|-------|
| District of Columbia | 73,802 | 10.7% |
| Florida | 2,242,001 | 10.5% |
| Georgia | 1,194,740 | 11.5% |
| Hawaii | 134,849 | 10.0% |
| Idaho | 178,122 | 10.0% |
| Illinois | 1,240,265 | 10.0% |
| Indiana | 828,807 | 12.5% |
| Iowa | 233,214 | 7.5% |
| Kansas | 346,700 | 12.2% |
| Kentucky | 655,892 | 14.9% |
| Louisiana | 689,170 | 15.2% |
| Maine | 295,034 | 9.3% |
| Maryland | 515,373 | 8.6% |
| Massachusetts | 582,231 | 8.5% |
| Michigan | 1,231,061 | 12.5% |
| Minnesota | 393,903 | 7.0% |
| Mississippi | 472,693 | 16.3% |
| Missouri | 778,540 | 12.9% |
| Montana | 125,660 | 11.9% |
| Nebraska | 206,088 | 10.9% |
| Nevada | 379,019 | 12.3% |
| New Hampshire | 72,981 | 5.4% |
| New Jersey | 768,288 | 8.7% |
| New Mexico | 291,489 | 14.2% |
| New York | 2,179,289 | 11.3% |
| North Carolina | 1,347,218 | 13.1% |
| North Dakota | 71,984 | 9.7% |
| Ohio | 1,383,118 | 12.0% |
| Oklahoma | 626,075 | 16.2% |
| Oregon | 378,349 | 9.0% |
| Pennsylvania | 1,289,110 | 10.2% |
| Rhode Island | 79,886 | 7.7% |
| South Carolina | 614,685 | 12.1% |
| South Dakota | 94,167 | 10.9% |
| Tennessee | 867,304 | 12.9% |
| Texas | 4,112,002 | 14.3% |
| Utah | 353,551 | 11.0% |
| Vermont | 54,097 | 8.8% |
| Virginia | 681,409 | 8.2% |
| Washington | 711,937 | 9.4% |
| West Virginia | 273,418 | 15.6% |

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|-----------|---------|-------|
| Wisconsin | 683,255 | 11.9% |
| Wyoming | 65,621 | 11.6% |

V. Food Insecurity Among Children

Hunger Free America found that 15.3% of children in the U.S. lived in food insecure households in the 2018-20 time period (table 3). The states with the highest rates of food insecure children were Kentucky (21.0%), West Virginia (20.7%), Mississippi (20.2%), Oklahoma (20.2%), and North Carolina (19.6%).

The states with the lowest rates of food insecurity among children were Rhode Island (7.2%), New Hampshire (8.2%), Minnesota (9.5%), Iowa (9.7%), and Virginia (10.1%).

Table 3 - Number and Percent of Food Insecure Children by State, 2018-2020

| State | Number of Children Living in Food Insecure Households (2016-18 Average) | Percentage of Children Living in Food Insecure Household |
|----------------------|---|--|
| U.S. | 11,243,554 | 15.3% |
| Alabama | 203,089 | 18.8% |
| Alaska | 19,553 | 10.8% |
| Arizona | 258,872 | 15.3% |
| Arkansas | 110,081 | 15.7% |
| California | 1,193,689 | 13.4% |
| Colorado | 215,468 | 16.9% |
| Connecticut | 95,938 | 13.6% |
| Delaware | 28,153 | 14.2% |
| District of Columbia | 19,875 | 15.6% |
| Florida | 600,426 | 14.0% |
| Georgia | 343,994 | 14.0% |
| Hawaii | 44,104 | 14.3% |
| Idaho | 55,533 | 12.4% |
| Illinois | 375,439 | 13.3% |
| Indiana | 271,882 | 17.2% |
| Iowa | 71,417 | 9.7% |
| Kansas | 111,804 | 16.0% |
| Kentucky | 214,084 | 21.0% |
| Louisiana | 213,851 | 19.5% |
| Maine | 49,496 | 19.2% |
| Maryland | 150,511 | 11.2% |
| Massachusetts | 174,549 | 12.5% |
| Michigan | 399,155 | 18.3% |

| | | |
|----------------|-----------|-------|
| Minnesota | 124,339 | 9.5% |
| Mississippi | 143,539 | 20.2% |
| Missouri | 252,603 | 18.2% |
| Montana | 40,724 | 17.6% |
| Nebraska | 63,965 | 13.3% |
| Nevada | 114,123 | 16.2% |
| New Hampshire | 20,877 | 8.2% |
| New Jersey | 200,916 | 10.2% |
| New Mexico | 84,783 | 18.2% |
| New York | 647,829 | 16.0% |
| North Carolina | 453,731 | 19.6% |
| North Dakota | 29,845 | 16.6% |
| Ohio | 443,246 | 17.2% |
| Oklahoma | 192,270 | 20.2% |
| Oregon | 101,132 | 11.5% |
| Pennsylvania | 392,501 | 14.8% |
| Rhode Island | 14,342 | 7.2% |
| South Carolina | 160,221 | 14.2% |
| South Dakota | 33,467 | 15.5% |
| Tennessee | 241,237 | 16.1% |
| Texas | 1,357,381 | 18.3% |
| Utah | 133,059 | 14.6% |
| Vermont | 15,682 | 13.9% |
| Virginia | 186,056 | 10.1% |
| Washington | 234,133 | 13.9% |
| West Virginia | 73,851 | 20.7% |
| Wisconsin | 244,174 | 18.7% |
| Wyoming | 22,565 | 16.7% |

VI. Food Insecurity Among Employed Adults

Nationally, 9.7% of employed adults in the U.S. lived in food insecure households during the three-year time period (table 4). The states with the highest rates of food insecurity among employed adults were Oklahoma (14.8%), Mississippi (13.4%), Louisiana (12.7%), Alabama (12.6%), and West Virginia (12.6%).

The least food insecure states among employed adults were New Hampshire (4.8%), District of Columbia (6.1%), Iowa (6.3%), Minnesota (6.5%), and Massachusetts (6.5%).

Table 4 – Number and Percent of Food Insecure Employed Adults by State, 2018-2020

| State | Number of Employed Adults Living in Food Insecure Households | Percentage of Employed Adults Living in Food Insecure Households |
|----------------------|---|---|
| U.S. | 14,926,694 | 9.7% |
| Alabama | 269,898 | 12.6% |
| Alaska | 31,127 | 9.5% |
| Arizona | 352,521 | 10.5% |
| Arkansas | 157,748 | 11.7% |
| California | 1,740,941 | 9.4% |
| Colorado | 242,456 | 8.2% |
| Connecticut | 174,594 | 10.2% |
| Delaware | 49,880 | 11.1% |
| District of Columbia | 24,094 | 6.1% |
| Florida | 908,499 | 9.1% |
| Georgia | 441,478 | 9.0% |
| Hawaii | 61,780 | 10.2% |
| Idaho | 81,850 | 9.6% |
| Illinois | 475,929 | 8.0% |
| Indiana | 337,870 | 10.5% |
| Iowa | 93,911 | 6.3% |
| Kansas | 150,755 | 10.9% |
| Kentucky | 208,641 | 10.5% |
| Louisiana | 259,354 | 12.7% |
| Maine | 64,712 | 10.5% |
| Maryland | 228,507 | 7.7% |
| Massachusetts | 225,713 | 6.5% |
| Michigan | 517,495 | 11.3% |
| Minnesota | 188,593 | 6.5% |
| Mississippi | 166,370 | 13.4% |
| Missouri | 332,324 | 11.4% |
| Montana | 58,904 | 12.0% |
| Nebraska | 97,618 | 10.2% |
| Nevada | 152,873 | 11.0% |
| New Hampshire | 33,875 | 4.8% |
| New Jersey | 323,854 | 7.7% |
| New Mexico | 108,725 | 12.0% |
| New York | 815,726 | 9.1% |
| North Carolina | 516,521 | 10.9% |
| North Dakota | 29,155 | 7.8% |
| Ohio | 557,387 | 10.4% |
| Oklahoma | 254,272 | 14.8% |

| | | |
|----------------|-----------|-------|
| Oregon | 181,605 | 8.8% |
| Pennsylvania | 528,053 | 8.8% |
| Rhode Island | 35,813 | 7.0% |
| South Carolina | 223,221 | 9.9% |
| South Dakota | 43,287 | 10.2% |
| Tennessee | 381,581 | 11.8% |
| Texas | 1,618,108 | 11.8% |
| Utah | 165,166 | 10.5% |
| Vermont | 24,109 | 7.9% |
| Virginia | 280,009 | 6.9% |
| Washington | 298,751 | 8.1% |
| West Virginia | 94,247 | 12.6% |
| Wisconsin | 291,251 | 10.2% |
| Wyoming | 25,539 | 9.7% |

VII. Food Insecurity Among Older Americans

In the U.S., 7.1% of older Americans, defined as people 60 years and older, lived in food insecure households (table 5). District of Columbia had the highest rate of food insecurity among older Americans at 13.7%, followed by Mississippi (11.8%), Louisiana (11.3%), West Virginia (10.0%), and Kentucky (9.9%).

The states with the lowest rates of food insecurity among seniors were North Dakota (2.8%), New Hampshire (3.2%), Minnesota (3.3%), Hawaii (3.7%), and Montana (4.0%)

Table 5 – Number and Percent of Food Insecure Older Americans by State, 2018-2020

| State | Number of Older Americans Living in Food Insecure Households (2016-18 Average) | Percentage of Older Americans Living in Food Insecure Households |
|-------------|--|--|
| U.S. | 5,247,633 | 7.1% |
| Alabama | 107,135 | 9.4% |
| Alaska | 8,913 | 6.9% |
| Arizona | 129,284 | 7.8% |
| Arkansas | 51,115 | 7.2% |
| California | 535,094 | 6.6% |
| Colorado | 92,520 | 7.8% |
| Connecticut | 65,450 | 7.3% |

| | | |
|----------------------|---------|-------|
| Delaware | 14,315 | 5.5% |
| District of Columbia | 16,317 | 13.7% |
| Florida | 429,927 | 7.4% |
| Georgia | 178,962 | 8.4% |
| Hawaii | 13,062 | 3.7% |
| Idaho | 16,525 | 4.2% |
| Illinois | 207,010 | 7.3% |
| Indiana | 106,517 | 7.3% |
| Iowa | 43,682 | 5.7% |
| Kansas | 47,383 | 7.3% |
| Kentucky | 101,150 | 9.9% |
| Louisiana | 118,591 | 11.3% |
| Maine | 23,567 | 5.8% |
| Maryland | 73,619 | 5.5% |
| Massachusetts | 90,645 | 5.6% |
| Michigan | 151,153 | 6.1% |
| Minnesota | 39,723 | 3.3% |
| Mississippi | 79,797 | 11.8% |
| Missouri | 94,199 | 6.9% |
| Montana | 11,397 | 4.0% |
| Nebraska | 20,985 | 5.0% |
| Nevada | 57,242 | 7.9% |
| New Hampshire | 10,416 | 3.2% |
| New Jersey | 131,871 | 6.4% |
| New Mexico | 51,746 | 9.9% |
| New York | 342,245 | 7.2% |
| North Carolina | 184,323 | 7.5% |
| North Dakota | 4,697 | 2.8% |
| Ohio | 178,923 | 6.3% |
| Oklahoma | 73,241 | 8.5% |
| Oregon | 43,598 | 4.3% |
| Pennsylvania | 183,135 | 5.6% |
| Rhode Island | 15,248 | 5.8% |
| South Carolina | 121,281 | 9.3% |
| South Dakota | 9,818 | 4.8% |
| Tennessee | 102,954 | 6.5% |
| Texas | 509,754 | 9.7% |
| Utah | 27,042 | 5.3% |
| Vermont | 8,500 | 4.7% |
| Virginia | 108,692 | 5.6% |
| Washington | 78,757 | 5.0% |

| | | |
|---------------|--------|-------|
| West Virginia | 49,874 | 10.0% |
| Wisconsin | 76,970 | 5.4% |
| Wyoming | 9,268 | 6.7% |

VIII. National Survey of Emergency Feeding Programs

Nationally, 50% of feeding programs reported that they served more people in 2021 than 2020, while 30% of the programs did not serve more people. The remaining 20% were unsure about their change in demand. Despite this overall increase in people served, 87% of feeding programs said they served enough food to meet demand, while 5% were unable to meet demand. Regarding the impact of increases in federal aid programs, 30% of all respondents said the boosts in federal aid reduced their demand, while 34% did not see increases to these programs affect their demand, with the remaining 36% unsure of the federal aid boost's impact. 87% of feeding programs reported that they provided their clients with the nutritional quality of food they wanted in 2021, while 9% said they did not. Quotes from survey respondents from across the country can be found in the Appendix.

IX. Federal Policy Recommendations

- The U.S. Senate should rapidly pass President's Biden's Build Back better Bill, which has already passed the U.S. House. This historic bill overwhelmingly aids working Americans and would dramatically reduce child poverty and child hunger by: expanding free schools meals, giving low-income parents extra food money over summers, funding universal prekindergarten, raising living allowances and increasing the number of slots in the AmeriCorps national service program, extending the recent massive increase in the Child Tax Credit, helping families afford day care for their children and home health care for older Americans, and reducing the price of prescription drugs.
- Raise the minimum wage nationwide, in a manner that can pass the U.S Senate, by indexing state and local wages to state and local median household incomes.
- The Biden Administration should create a comprehensive, federal, cross-agency plan on hunger, food, and nutrition in 2021 and roll it out at a White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health in 2022.
- Pass and implement the HOPE Act of 2021 (H.R. 2336/S.1181) that would:

1. Authorize three federal agencies—HUD, USDA, and HHS—to enable select state, county, city, and tribal governments to create pilot programs in economically distressed rural, urban, and suburban areas as well as state-wide.
 2. Leverage client-facing technology to coordinate access to multiple government agencies that work on anti-poverty, health care, nutrition, housing, work support programs, and nonprofit aid for low-income Americans.
 3. Establish voluntary accounts that empower low-income families to easily access and monitor—within one central online account—the status, summary, and recertification deadlines for all their benefits and savings.
 4. Establish a merit-based competition to award HOPE Technology Innovation Contracts that help ensure client-facing technology apps, widgets, and templates are created for pilot entities to use to create meaningful HOPE Accounts.
 5. Make permanent a recent federal law change to make it easier for low-income college students to accept SNAP.
- Change military allowance and SNAP rules to reduce hunger among active-duty military families and veterans.
 - Accelerate and integrate SNAP and WIC online food ordering and home delivery and ensure better coordination to ease the burden for both consumers and retailers.
 - Rapidly speed up efforts to enable low-income Americans to use smart phones to make contactless purchases of food using SNAP, WIC, and Pandemic-EBT Benefits.
 - Pass a Child Nutrition Re-Authorization Bill that: makes nutritious school meals free and universal, boosts in-classroom school breakfasts, makes Summer EBT universal and permanent, strengthens nutritional standards, and makes WIC an entitlement.
 - Increase funding for the USDA Food and Nutrition Service National Hunger Clearinghouse/ National Hunger Hotline contract.
 - Enact a government-wide “Assets Empowerment/Middle Class Wealth Generation Agenda” to dramatically increase economic opportunity and mobility by enabling more families to transition from owing non-productive debt interest to owning assets such as first homes and small businesses.

X. References

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Acknowledgements

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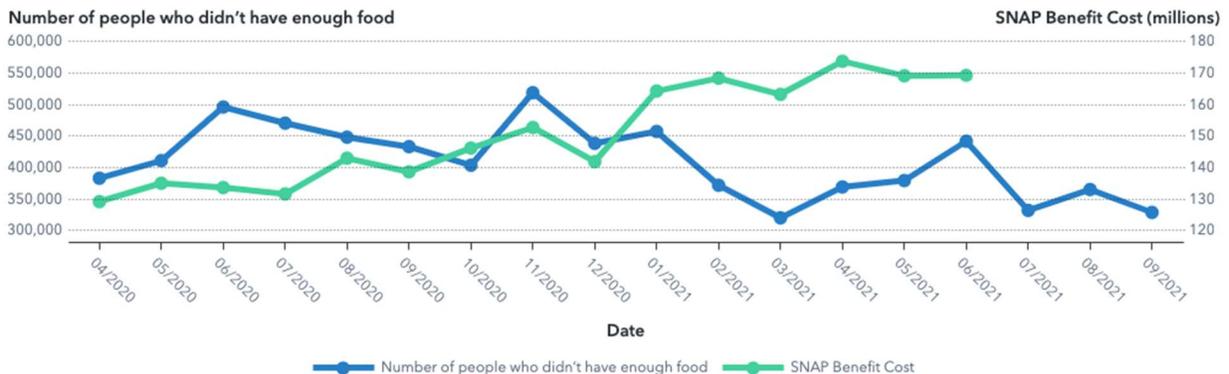
Appendix: State Profiles

Each state profile contains the USDA’s Household Food Security data at 3-year averages (2018-2020), select quotes from emergency feeding programs, and a graph comparing food insufficiency using pulse survey data with state SNAP spending.

Alabama

- Overall food insecurity – 14.5%
- Children – 18.8%
- Employed adults – 12.6%
- Seniors – 9.4%
- “We are a Soup kitchen and food pantry for 12 years, private donations, we have not reopened the hot meal side as of yet, we are in an impoverished neighborhood, no grocery store close to the people.” - Serving Our Unique People – SOUP, Mobile, AL
- “It has been a very challenging 2 years. We have increased our amount of aid by 900%. Everyone is struggling. They have lost jobs, family members, gained custody of grandchildren and are paying more for everything.” - The Food Pantry at Central, Mobile, AL

Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Alabama)



Alaska

- Overall food insecurity – 11.0%
- Children – 10.8%
- Employed adults – 9.5%
- Seniors – 6.9%
- “Hunger is in part due to the general high cost of living in Alaska.” - F.I.S.H. (Friends in Serving Humanity), Anchorage, AK

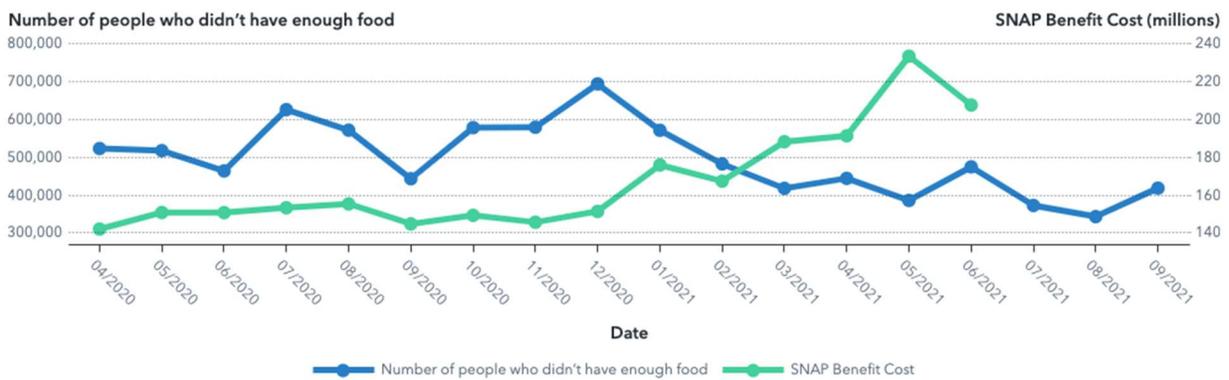
Pulse Survey Respondents vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Alaska)



Arizona

- Overall food insecurity – 11.9%
- Children – 15.3%
- Employed adults – 10.5%
- Seniors – 7.8%

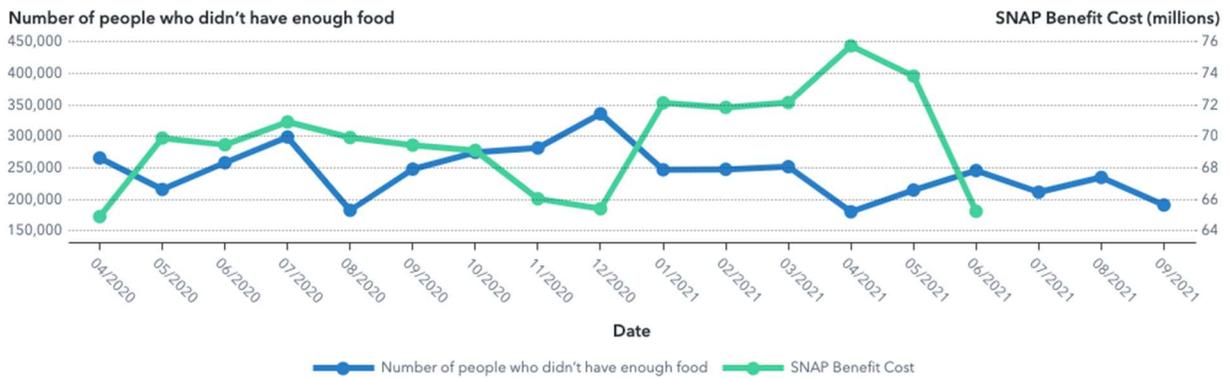
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Arizona)



Arkansas

- Overall food insecurity – 12.9%
- Children – 15.7%
- Employed adults – 11.7%
- Seniors – 7.2%
- “Those working do not bring home enough money to cover expenses.” - The Helping Hand Food Pantry, Little Rock, AR

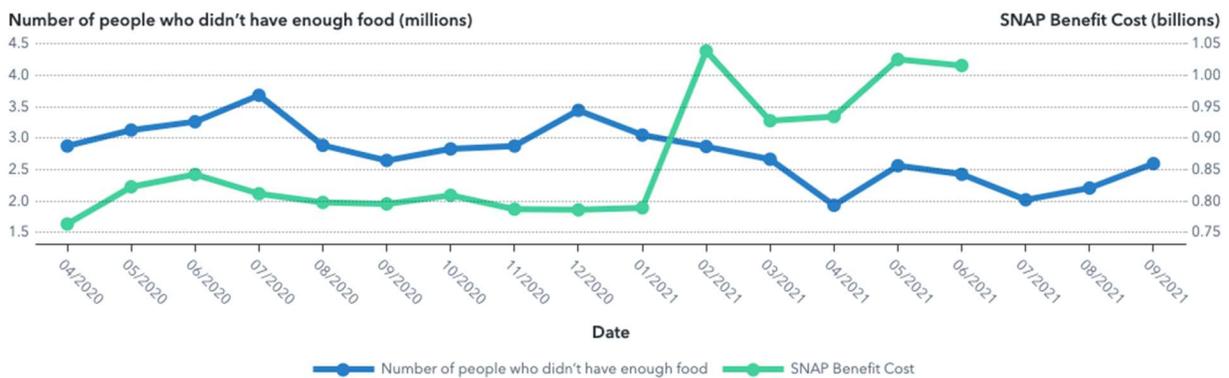
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Arkansas)



California

- Overall food insecurity – 10.3%
- Children – 13.4%
- Employed adults – 9.4%
- Seniors – 6.6%
- “We understand that individuals have a hard time coming to a food bank/pantry looking or asking for help. We have what we call, a "Wow" to wow each person to let them know we don't look down at them but to let them know that we are glad they are here.” - New Challenge Ministries, Torrance, CA
- “We have been doing this for over 20 years. You cannot end hunger until you eliminate poverty. That has not happened in over 2000 years. I do not think anyone can call their program a success while people line up for food. When that ceases then you can claim success.” - The Food Pantry at St. Gregory Episcopal Church, San Francisco, CA

Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (California)

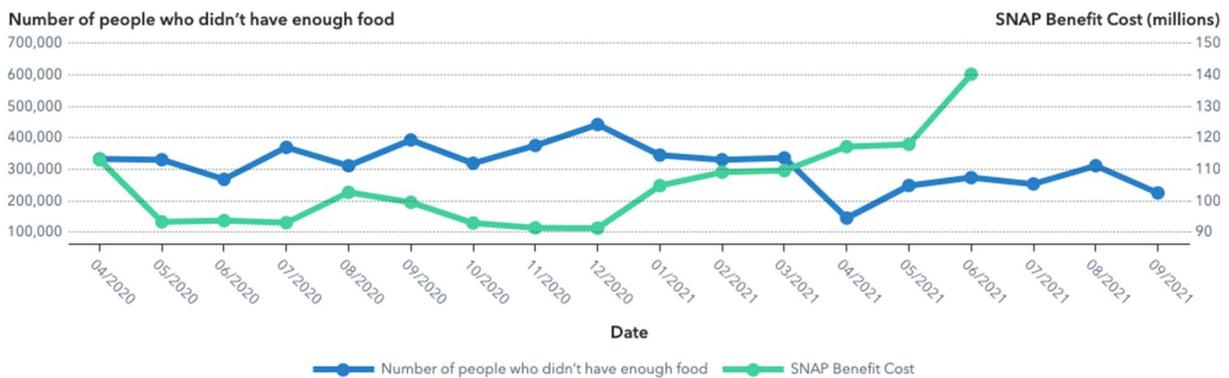


Colorado

- Overall food insecurity – 10.4%
- Children – 16.9%
- Employed adults – 8.2%
- Seniors – 7.8%

- “Most of my kids in the motel are always hungry, and this is ridiculous. Why you ask? They are caught in the motel trap. Their parents work only to pay rent daily. Sometimes weekly. They were faced with paying rent or feeding their children. That’s where we come in. We provide food so they can pay their rent. This is only the 16 motels I serve. There are numerous motels that we haven’t ever been to. What is happening behind their doors? How many kids are hungry and no one knows? Funding would help us help more. Our successes, we have placed 7 families in motels in apartments. One family now is in a house. We work with a property manager that takes chances on some of these families. The squeals from the kids when they realize they are no longer in a motel and have a home is priceless.” - Brown Bag Ministries Mobile Distribution, Lakewood, CO
- “In Routt County 11% of our neighbors live in poverty. That means over 2,600 neighbors in Routt County could go to bed hungry tonight. We live in a beautiful community but the cost of living, especially housing, has provided a significant challenge for service, hospitality, retail and nonprofit workers.” - LiftUp Steamboat Food Bank, Steamboat Springs, CO

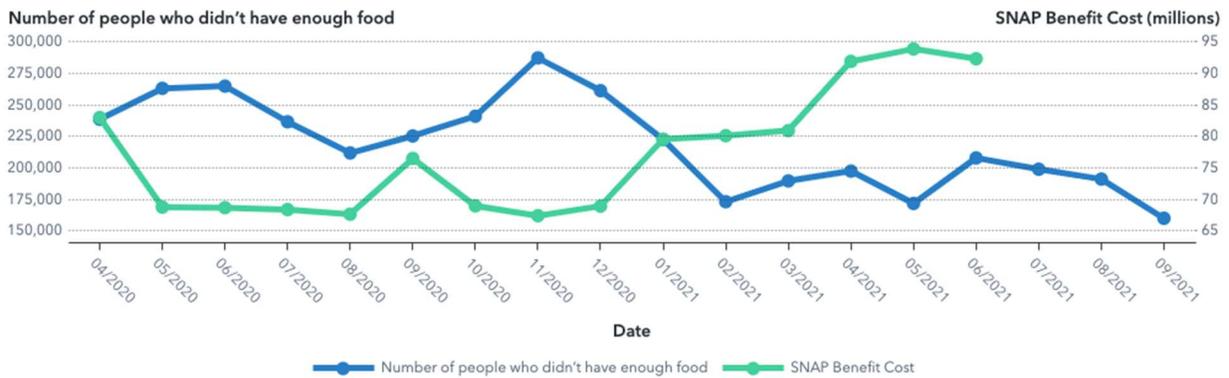
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Colorado)



Connecticut

- Overall food insecurity – 11.5%
- Children – 13.6%
- Employed adults – 10.2%
- Seniors – 7.3%
- “Our clients continue to face financial uncertainty as we have seen food prices and prices on most consumer goods increase. Demand for our food pantry is at an all-time high.” – Women’s Mentoring Network, Inc. Food Pantry, Stamford, CT

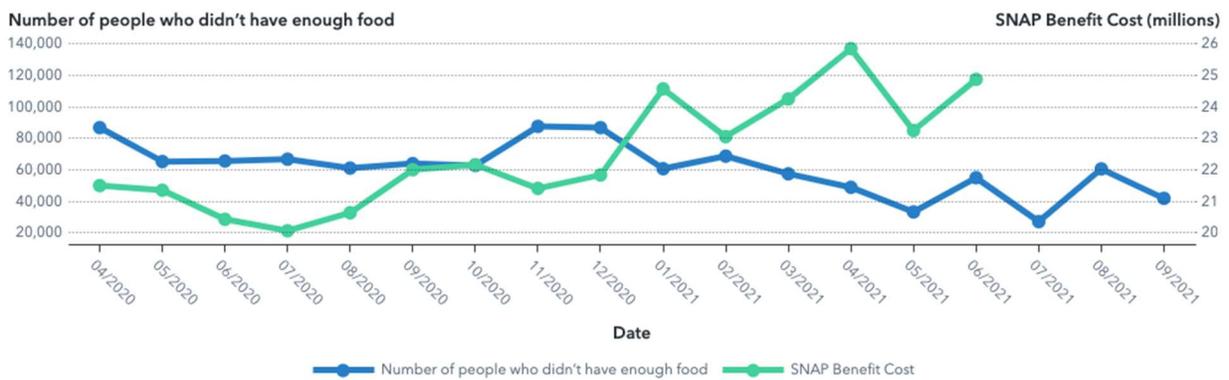
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Connecticut)



Delaware

- Overall food insecurity – 11.0%
- Children – 14.2%
- Employed adults – 11.1%
- Seniors – 5.5%

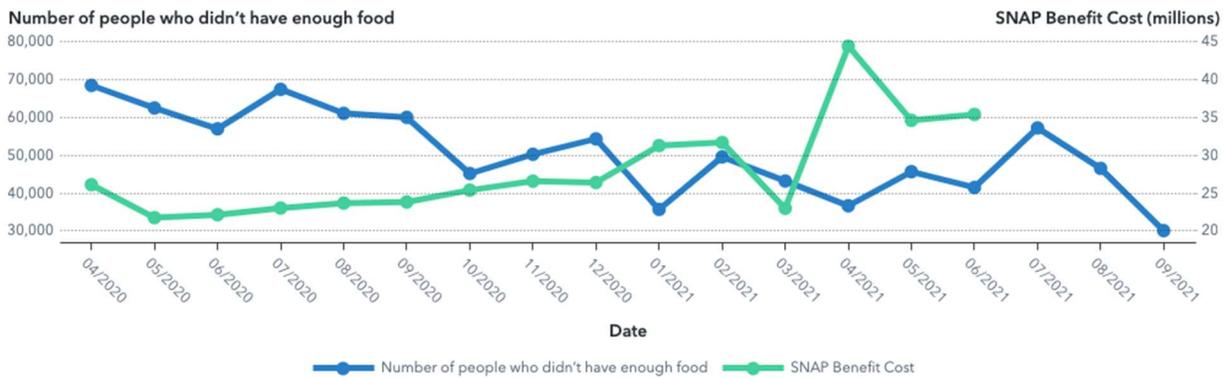
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Delaware)



District of Columbia

- Overall food insecurity – 10.7%
- Children – 15.6%
- Employed adults – 6.1%
- Seniors – 13.7%

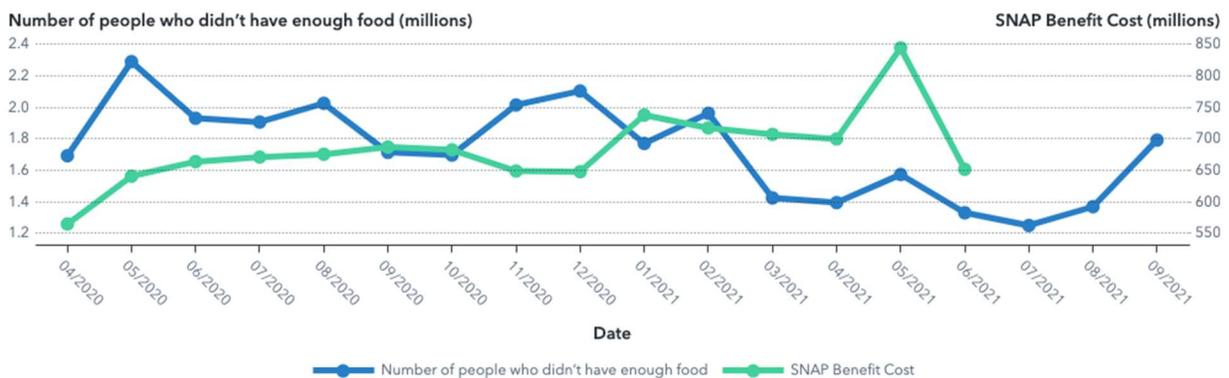
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (District of Columbia)



Florida

- Overall food insecurity – 10.5%
- Children – 14.0%
- Employed adults – 9.1%
- Seniors – 7.4%
- “We are the only Crisis Food Relief making deliveries in the NE Florida area. A Crisis is an unmet need for food not covered by government agencies. These are usually elderly between food stamps, young working families who suddenly lose employment, and those with no transportation. Our greatest challenge is for new refrigeration and transportation equipment and fuel. These situations are not going to decrease and we need to be ready to assist now and in the coming crisis.” - Global Capital Relief of NE Florida, Jacksonville, FL

Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Florida)

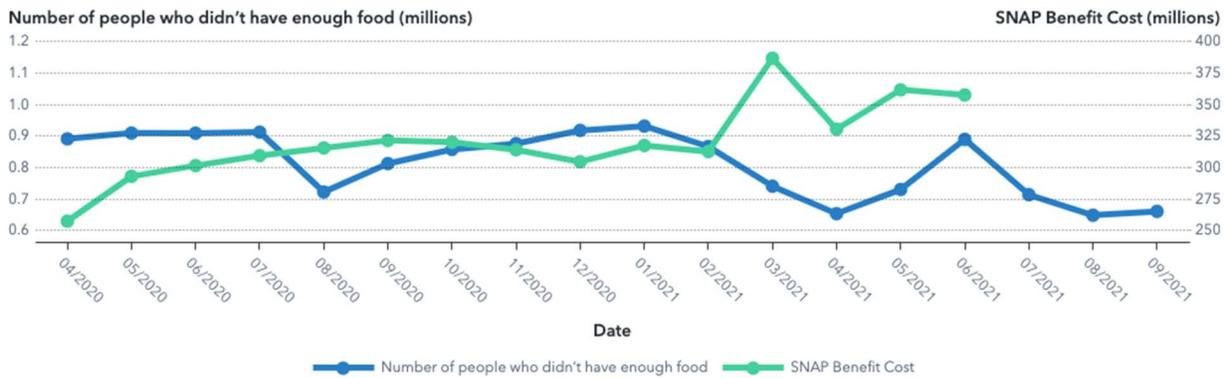


Georgia

- Overall food insecurity – 11.5%
- Children – 14.0%
- Employed adults – 9.0%
- Seniors – 8.4%

- “Our greatest challenge is getting fresh foods/produce for the pantry - and we would love to find more access to healthier foods.” Augusta Dream Center Food Pantry, Augusta, GA
- “Although we serve many people from diverse backgrounds, my impression is that the majority of people we serve are undocumented immigrants. Support for the undocumented is needed. We offered several vaccine clinics with mixed results. We have provided vaccines to about 100 people and while that seems underwhelming, we are proud of the fact that we successfully encouraged some people who were uncertain about vaccination to get the shot.” - Malachi's Storehouse, Dunwoody, GA

Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Georgia)



Hawaii

- Overall food insecurity – 10.0%
- Children – 14.3%
- Employed adults – 10.2%
- Seniors – 3.7%

Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Hawaii)

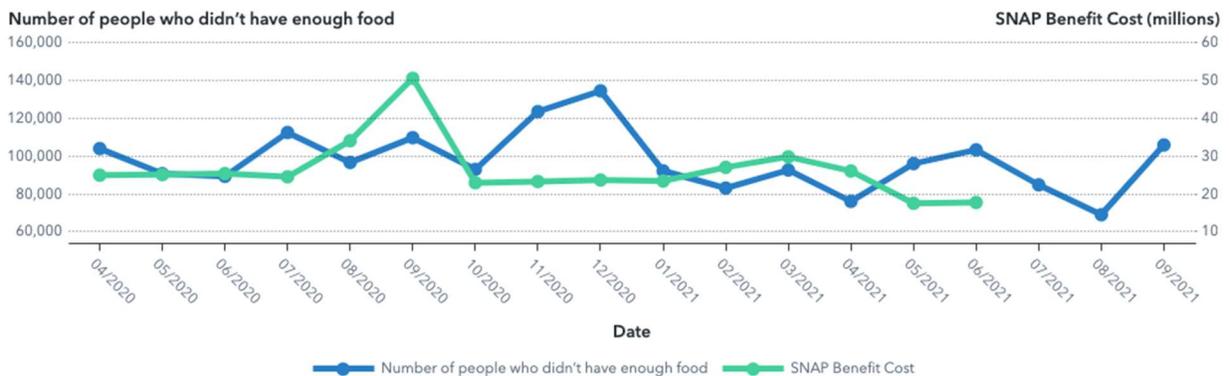


Idaho

- Overall food insecurity – 10.0%
- Children – 12.4%
- Employed adults – 9.6%

- Seniors – 4.2%
- “We are the only local food pantry currently operating M-F most of the day, so we typically receive a lot more people during the week than most food pantries. 2020 was a tough, slow year for us, like many. We saw a drastic decrease in visitors to our Food Pantry at the start of 2020, we were closed for about a month and a half. We were able to re-open the end of May 2020, and since then, slowly, we have started to see an increase in visitations again. We are almost back to where we were pre-pandemic/shut-down.” - Calvary Chapel Boise Food Pantry, Boise, ID
- “We are always looking for more nutritional food to serve our clients, however often what is available is high in sugar or tons of artificial ingredients. We serve a lot of immigrants who are looking for raw ingredients, and sometimes that's hard to acquire.” - Friendship Food Pantry, Boise, ID

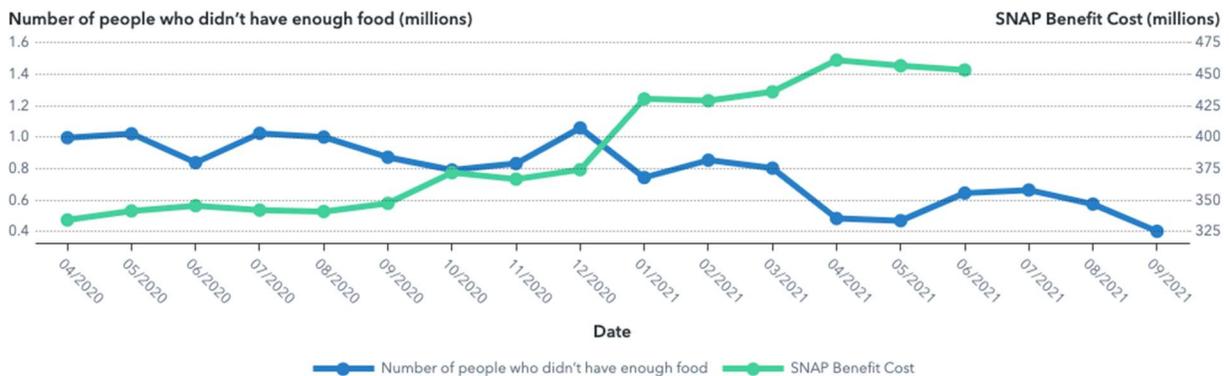
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Idaho)



Illinois

- Overall food insecurity – 10.0%
- Children – 13.3%
- Employed adults – 8.0%
- Seniors – 7.3%

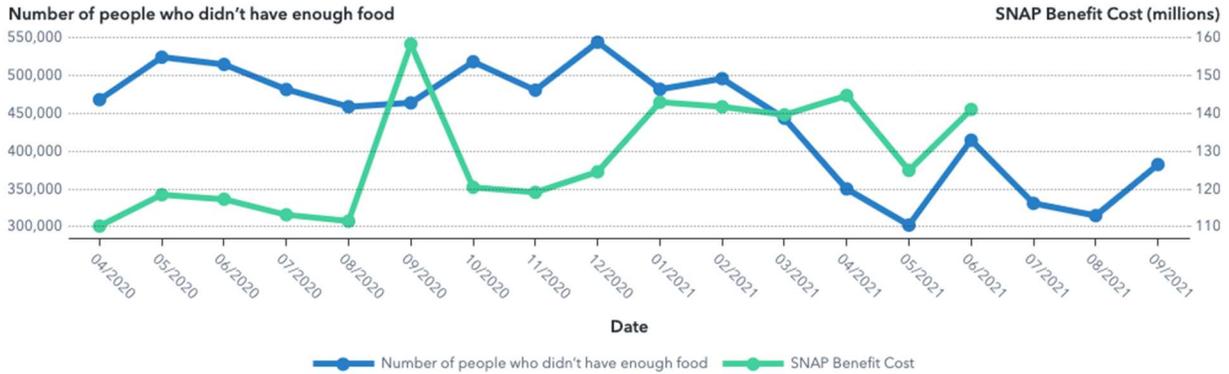
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Illinois)



Indiana

- Overall food insecurity – 12.5%
- Children – 17.2%
- Employed adults – 10.5%
- Seniors – 7.3%
- “We serve in a transient neighborhood. We are blessed to receive help through our congregation and two other Christian Churches as well as Gleaners and Midwest Food Banks.” - Linwood Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN

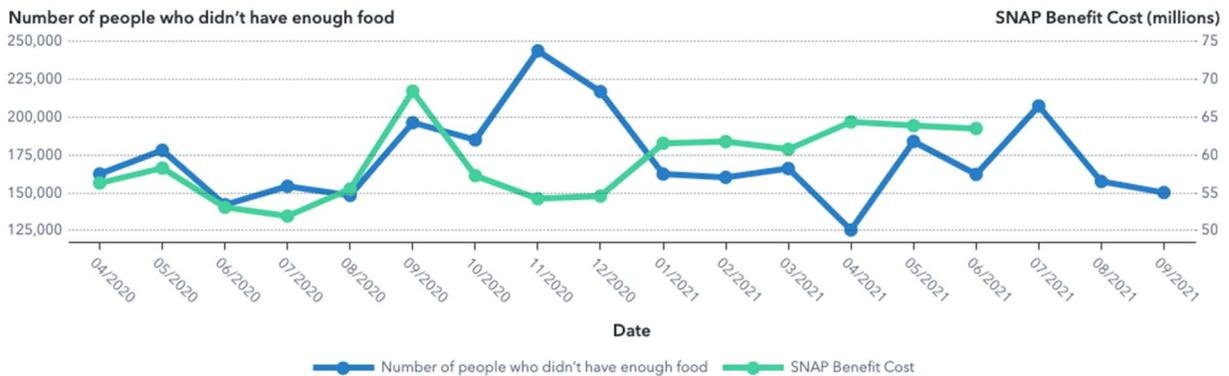
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Indiana)



Iowa

- Overall food insecurity – 7.5%
- Children – 9.7%
- Employed adults – 6.3%
- Seniors – 5.7%

Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Iowa)

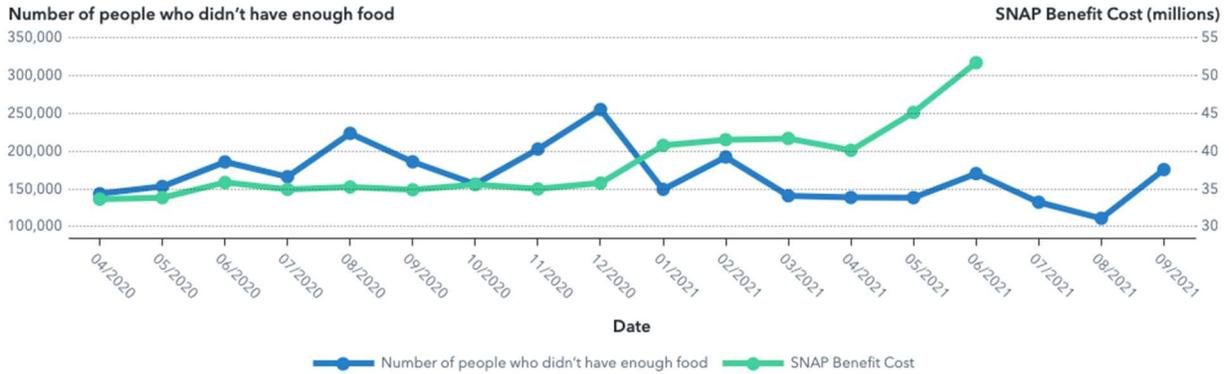


Kansas

- Overall food insecurity – 12.2%
- Children – 16.0%
- Employed adults – 10.9%
- Seniors – 7.3%

- “Hunger relief programs support healthy people, healthy communities, and contribute to a favorable economic environment.” - ReNewed Hope Food Pantry, Overland Park, KS

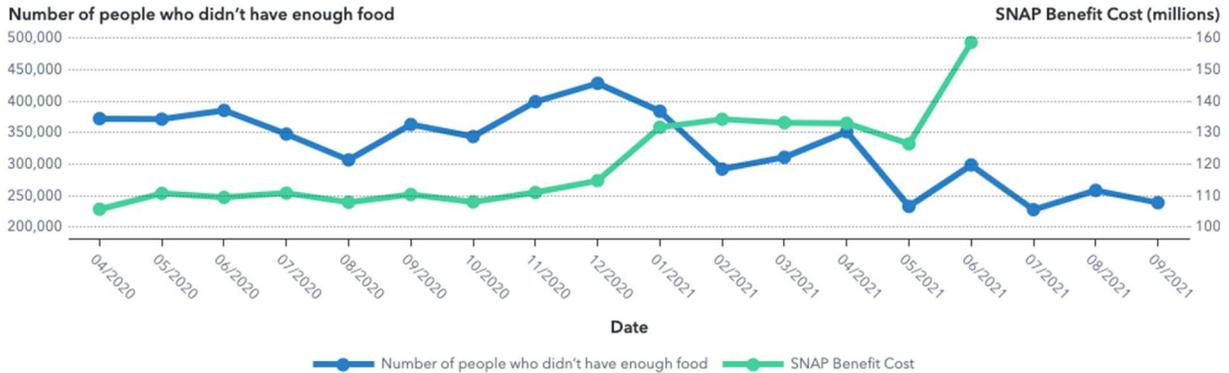
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Kansas)



Kentucky

- Overall food insecurity – 14.9%
- Children – 21.0%
- Employed adults – 10.5%
- Seniors – 9.9%

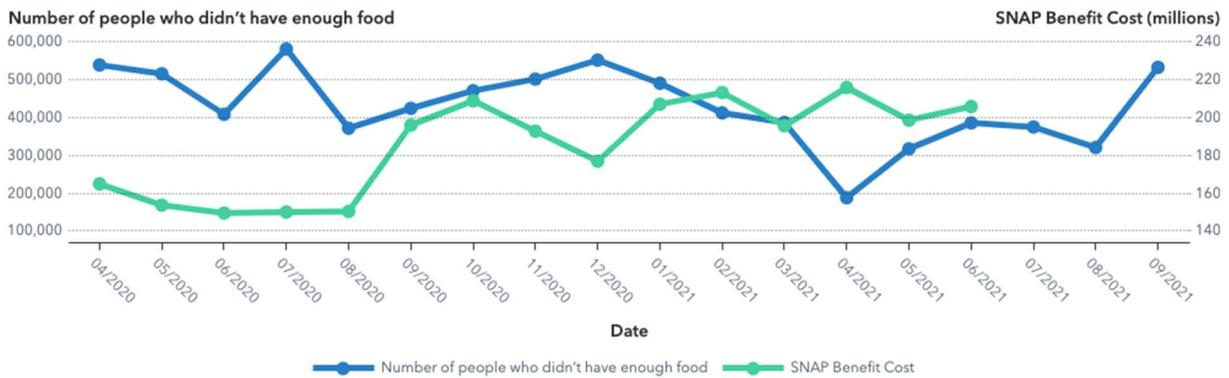
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Kentucky)



Louisiana

- Overall food insecurity – 15.2%
- Children – 19.5%
- Employed adults – 12.7%
- Seniors – 11.3%

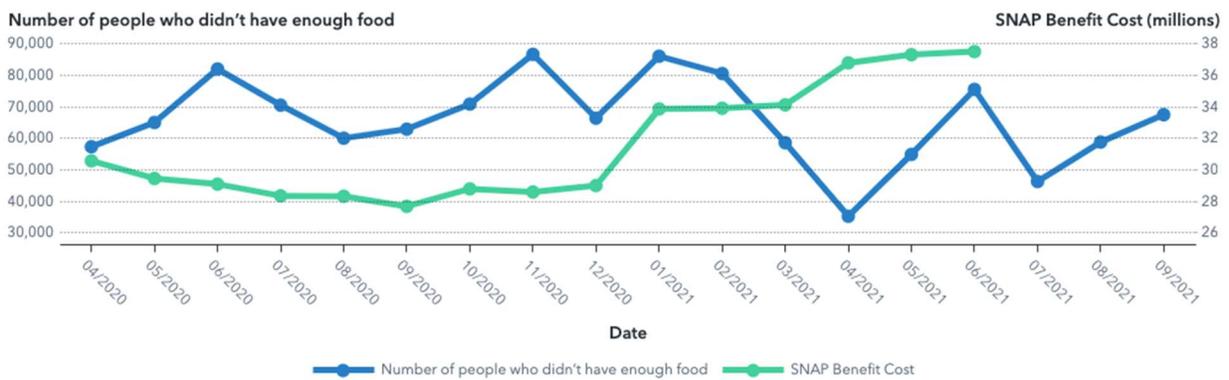
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Louisiana)



Maine

- Overall food insecurity – 9.3%
- Children – 19.2%
- Employed adults – 10.5%
- Seniors – 5.8%

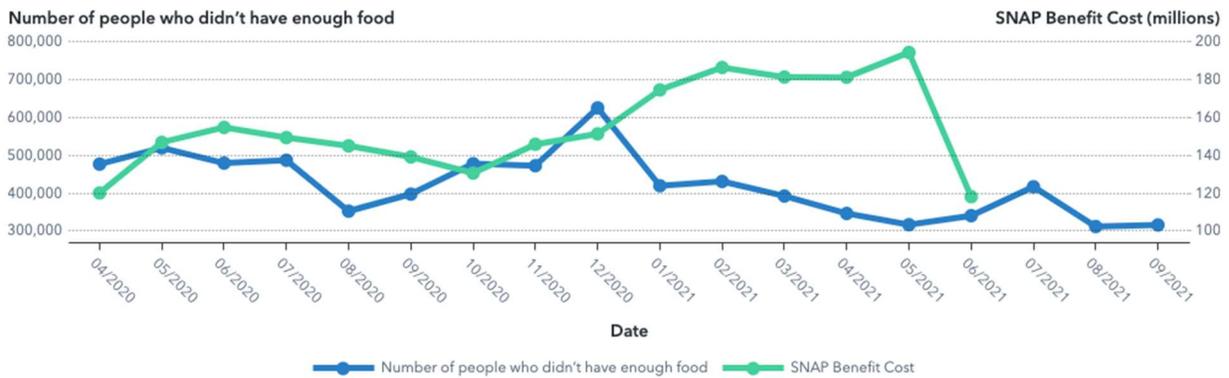
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Maine)



Maryland

- Overall food insecurity – 8.6%
- Children – 11.2%
- Employed adults – 7.7%
- Seniors – 5.5%

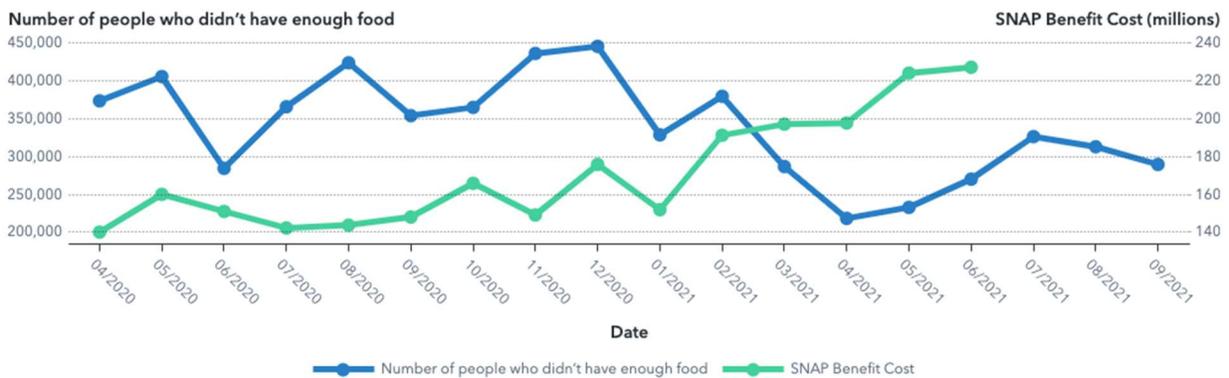
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Maryland)



Massachusetts

- Overall food insecurity – 8.5%
- Children – 12.5%
- Employed adults – 6.5%
- Seniors – 5.6%
- “Women’s Lunch Place is committed to finding permanent solutions to hunger through nutrition programs, advocacy, housing, and economic empowerment.” – Women’s Lunch Place, Boston, MA

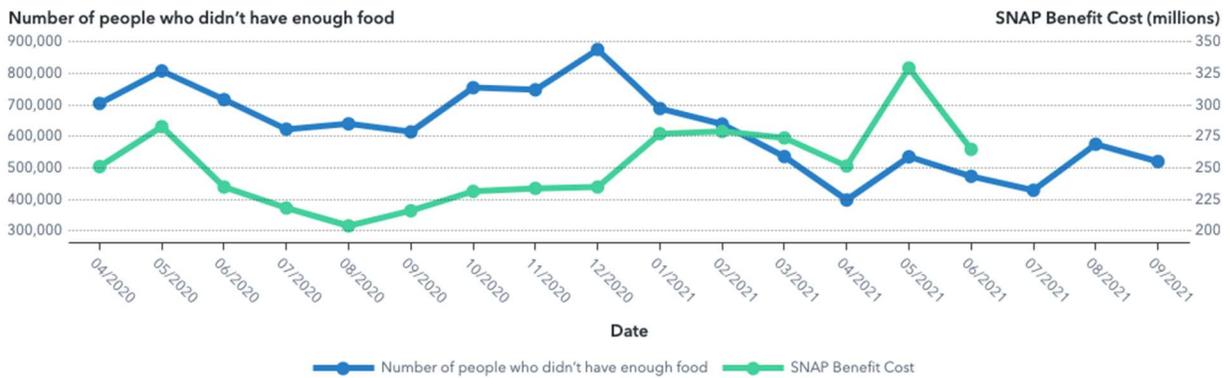
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Massachusetts)



Michigan

- Overall food insecurity – 12.5%
- Children – 18.3%
- Employed adults – 11.3%
- Seniors – 6.1%

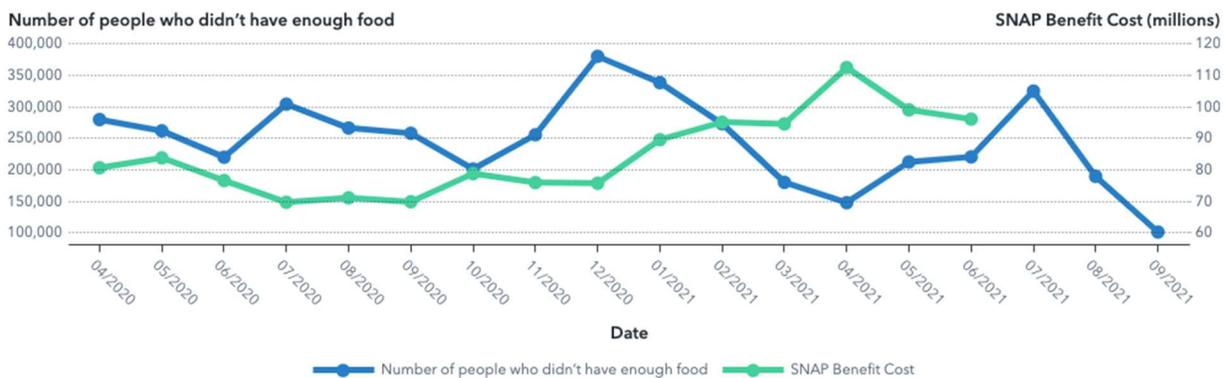
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Michigan)



Minnesota

- Overall food insecurity – 7.0%
- Children – 9.5%
- Employed adults – 6.5%
- Seniors – 3.3%

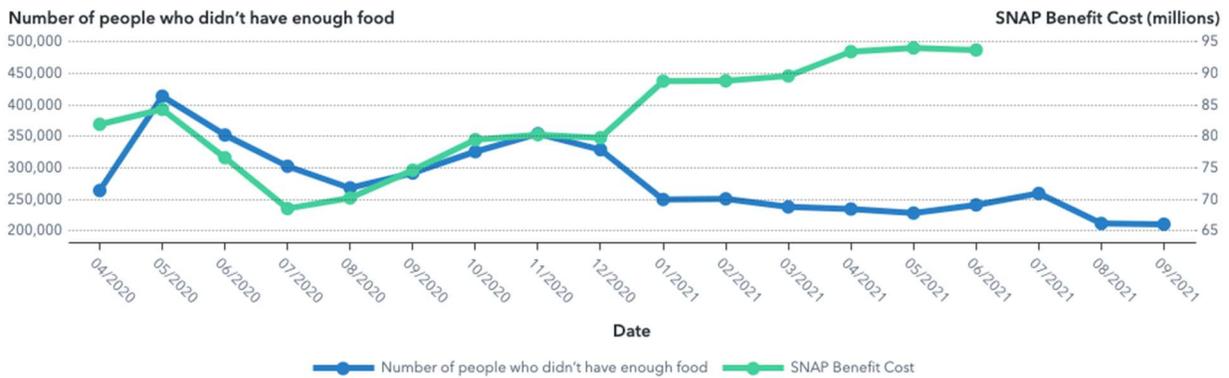
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Minnesota)



Mississippi

- Overall food insecurity – 16.3%
- Children – 20.2%
- Employed adults – 13.4%
- Seniors – 11.8%
- “Having more than we normally would have, and ordering the food has been much less so it very hard to keep things in stock.” - Panola County Food Pantry, Batesville, MS

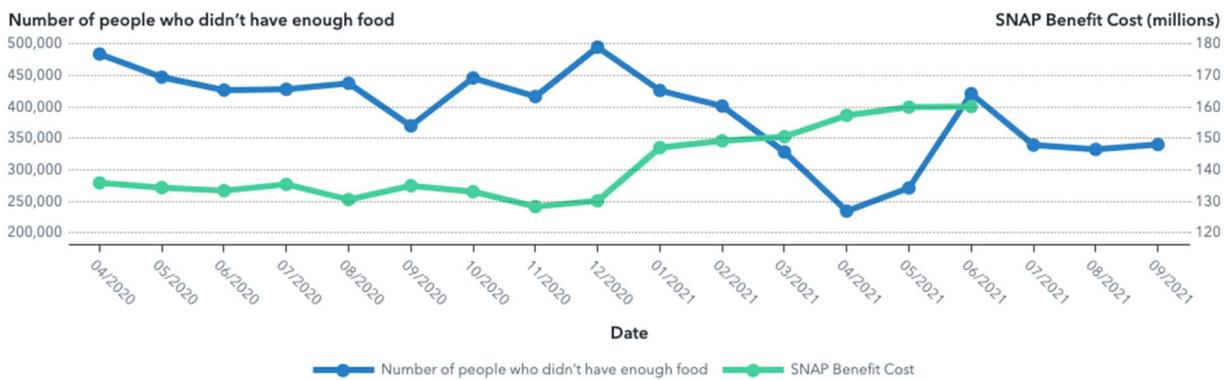
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Mississippi)



Missouri

- Overall food insecurity – 12.9%
- Children – 18.2%
- Employed adults – 11.4%
- Seniors – 6.9%

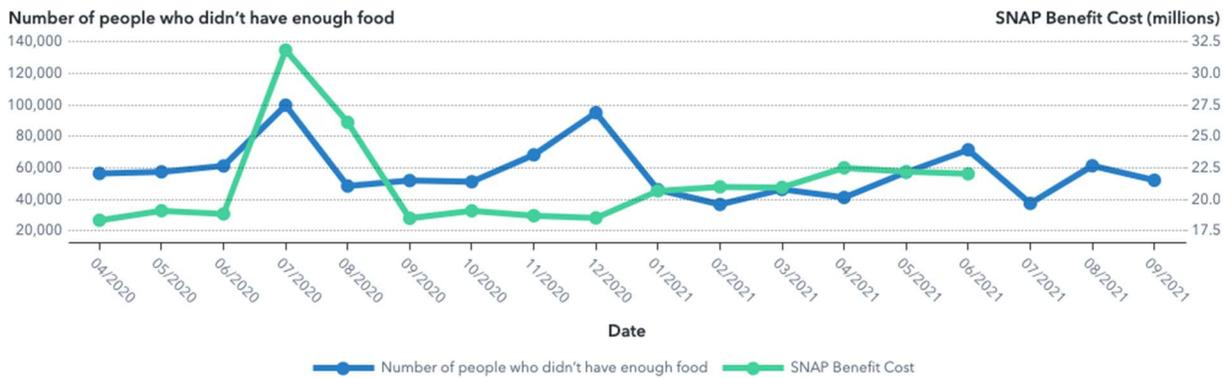
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Missouri)



Montana

- Overall food insecurity – 11.9%
- Children – 17.6%
- Employed adults – 12.0%
- Seniors – 4.0%
- “Demand for food is higher than anticipated this year. Despite low unemployment rates many people need food because the disparity between local wages and the actual cost of living. The situation has been made worse here in MT because low COVID vaccination rates mean infections cause school and work quarantines. Parents of young kids who need to quarantine often end up having to miss work.”
- Billings Schools Teen Pantry Program, Billings, MT

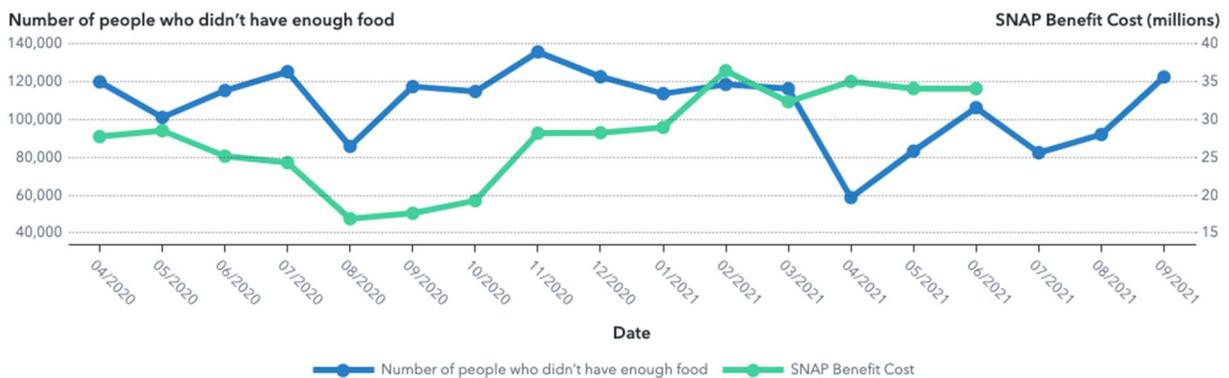
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Montana)



Nebraska

- Overall food insecurity – 10.9%
- Children – 13.3%
- Employed adults – 10.2%
- Seniors – 5.0%

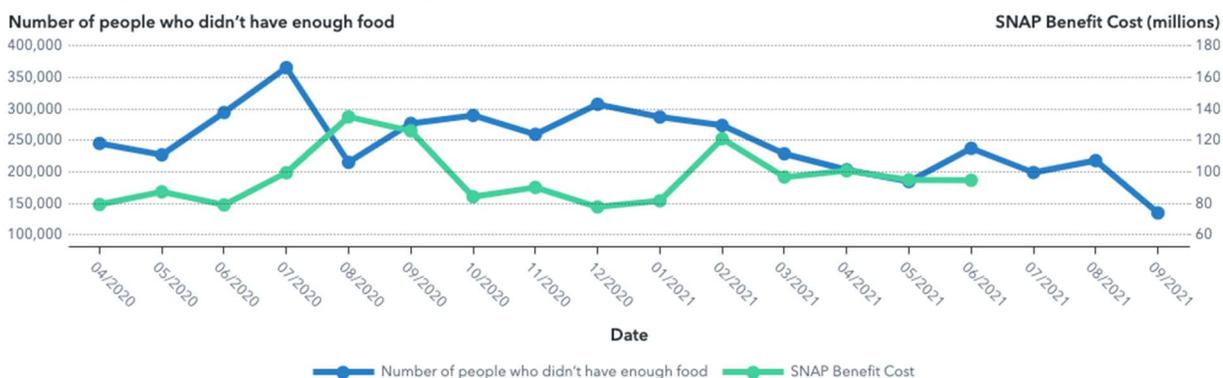
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Nebraska)



Nevada

- Overall food insecurity – 12.3%
- Children – 16.2%
- Employed adults – 11.0%
- Seniors – 7.9%

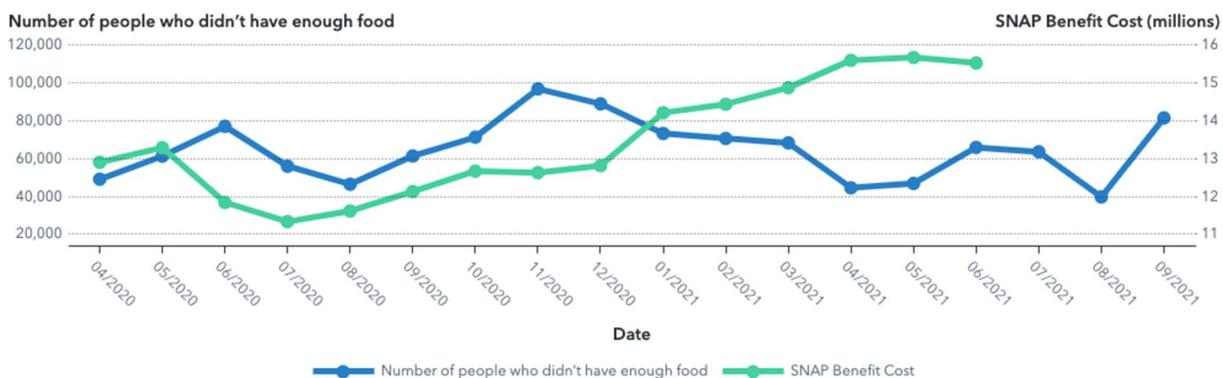
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Nevada)



New Hampshire

- Overall food insecurity – 5.4%
- Children – 8.2%
- Employed adults – 4.8%
- Seniors – 3.2%
- “Our demand for food has definitely gone up since the pandemic, but meanwhile the availability of volunteers has gone down, which is a major challenge for us.” - LISTEN Community Services Offices And Food Pantry, Lebanon, NH

Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (New Hampshire)

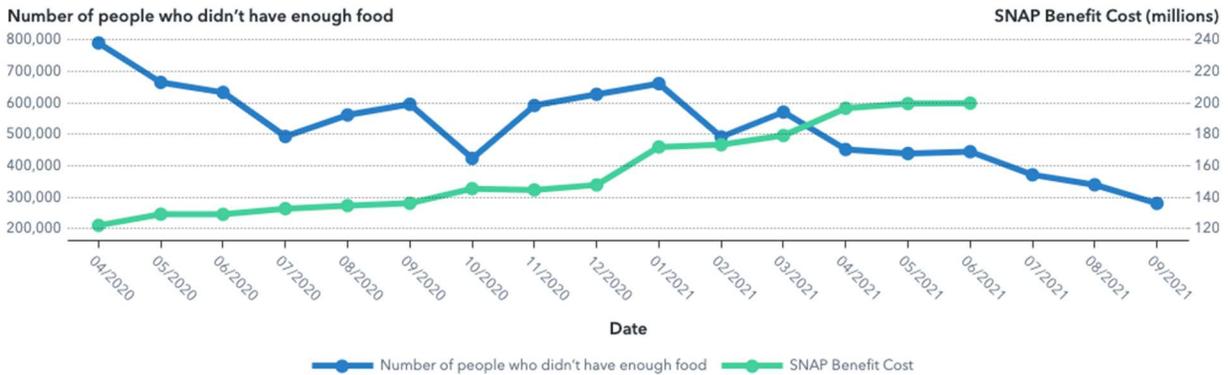


New Jersey

- Overall food insecurity – 8.7%
- Children – 10.2%
- Employed adults – 7.7%
- Seniors – 6.4%
- “Food insecurity was an issue before the pandemic and was exacerbated by the pandemic. I do believe the system of delivery to persons in need should change. Everyone is not able to come to the food pantry to pick up the food they need, especially seniors and disabled persons. People face hunger in America because our economic system on many levels does not support equal distribution of wealth. Healthy foods are expensive in urban communities, and systems of

transportation to get to where healthy food is are inadequate. As long as there is poverty, there will be hunger in America.” - Saint Matthew African Methodist Episcopal Church, Orange, NJ

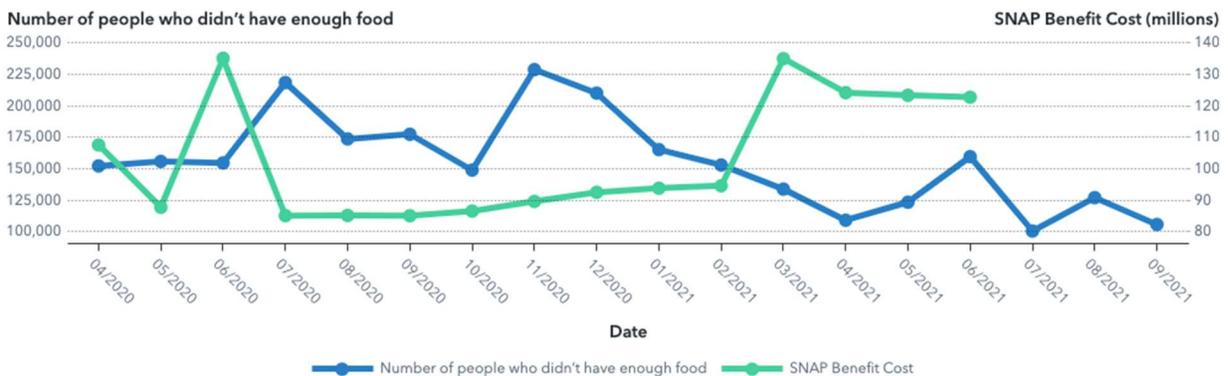
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (New Jersey)



New Mexico

- Overall food insecurity – 14.2%
- Children – 18.2%
- Employed adults – 12.0%
- Seniors – 9.9%

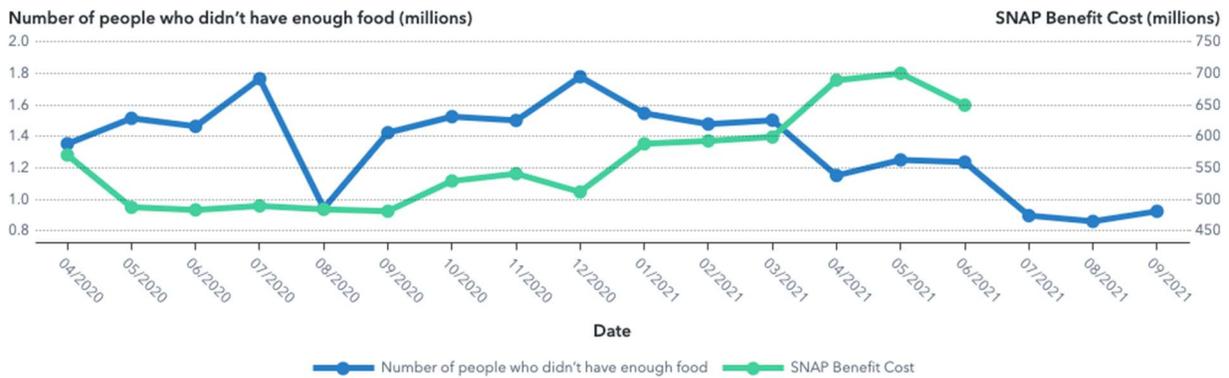
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (New Mexico)



New York

- Overall food insecurity – 11.3%
- Children – 16.0%
- Employed adults – 9.1%
- Seniors – 7.2%

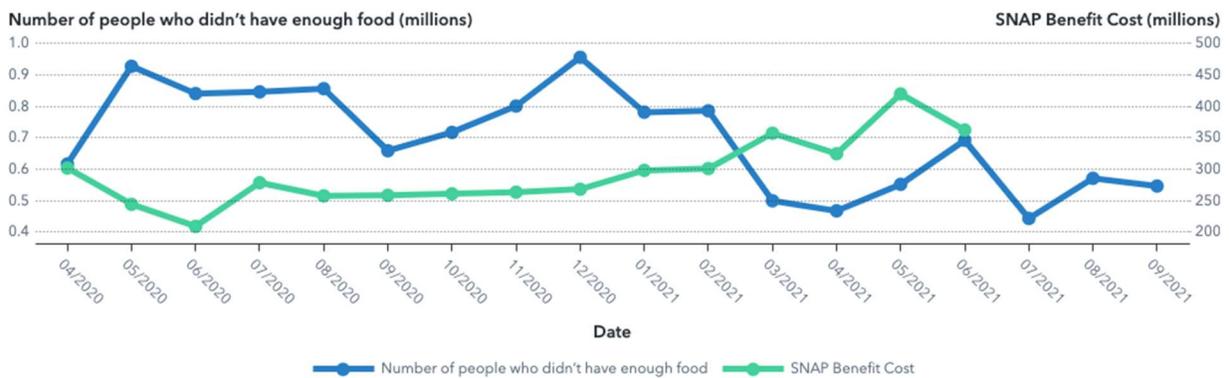
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (New York)



North Carolina

- Overall food insecurity – 13.1%
- Children – 19.6%
- Employed adults – 10.9%
- Seniors – 7.5%
- “We provide food for hunger but have seen an increase in homelessness.” - Oak Ridge Baptist Church, Connelly Springs, NC

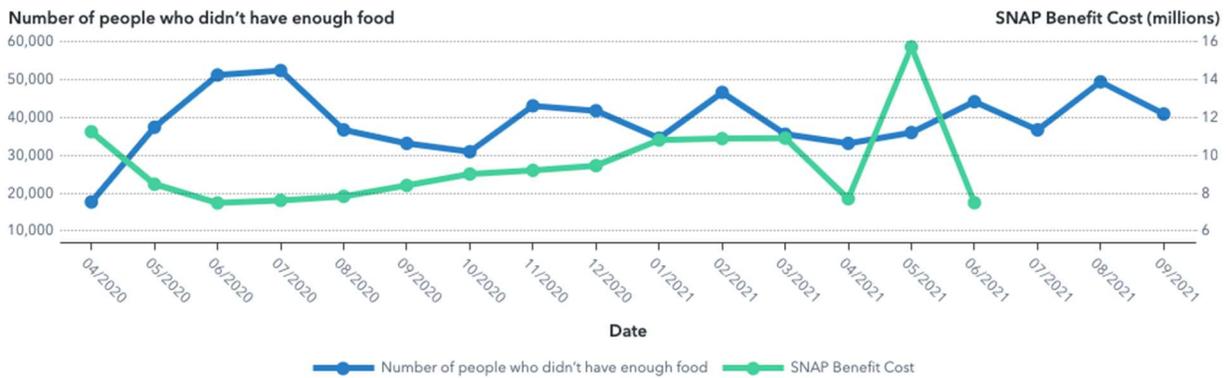
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (North Carolina)



North Dakota

- Overall food insecurity – 9.7%
- Children – 16.6%
- Employed adults – 7.8%
- Seniors – 2.8%

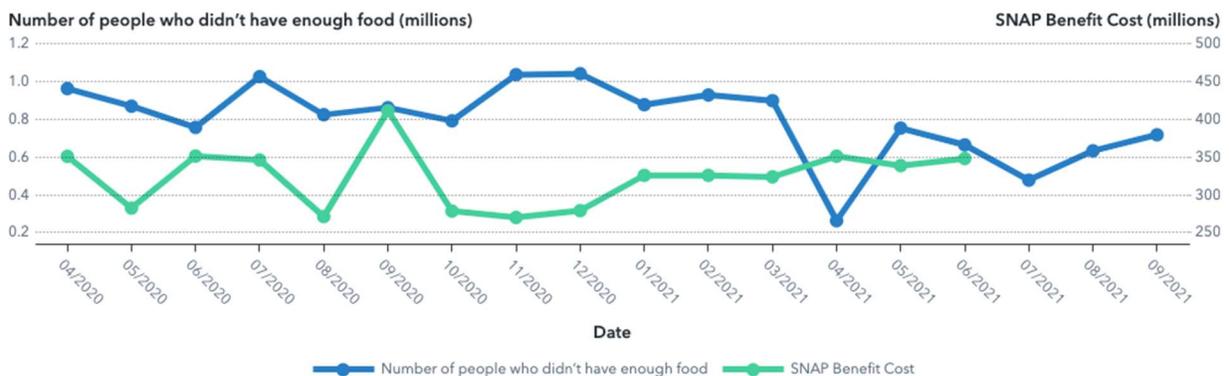
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (North Dakota)



Ohio

- Overall food insecurity – 12.0%
- Children – 17.2%
- Employed adults – 10.4%
- Seniors – 6.3%
- “Our numbers have been down so we feel the government programs are enough for many people and they don't feel the need for more.” - Woodsfield Manna, SOMA, Woodsfield, OH
- “Hunger is relentless and food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters are meeting this need daily with no end in sight. It is time to address this critical crisis in our communities across the country. Charities cannot defeat Hunger alone. During COVID our small pantry saw over a 50% increase across the board. We thought the numbers might slow down in 2020 and they have continued to grow.”- Dublin Food Pantry, Dublin, OH

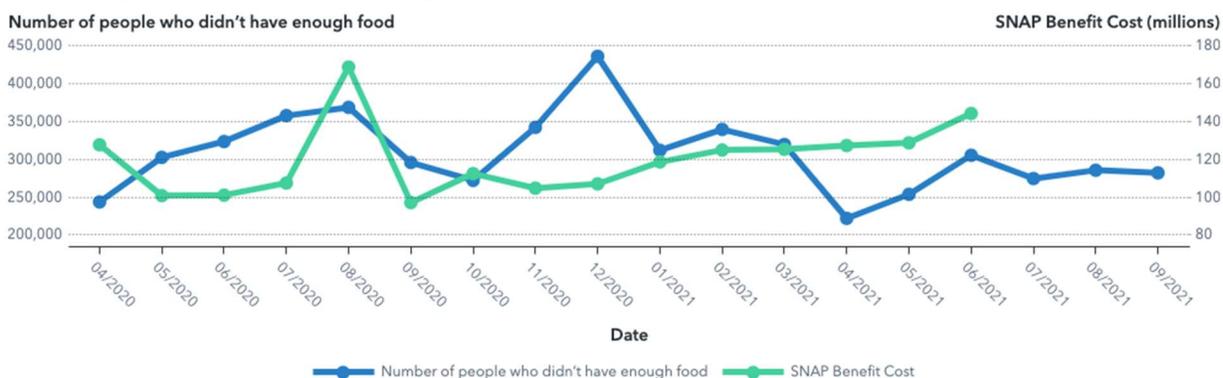
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Ohio)



Oklahoma

- Overall food insecurity – 16.2%
- Children – 20.2%
- Employed adults – 14.8%
- Seniors – 8.5%

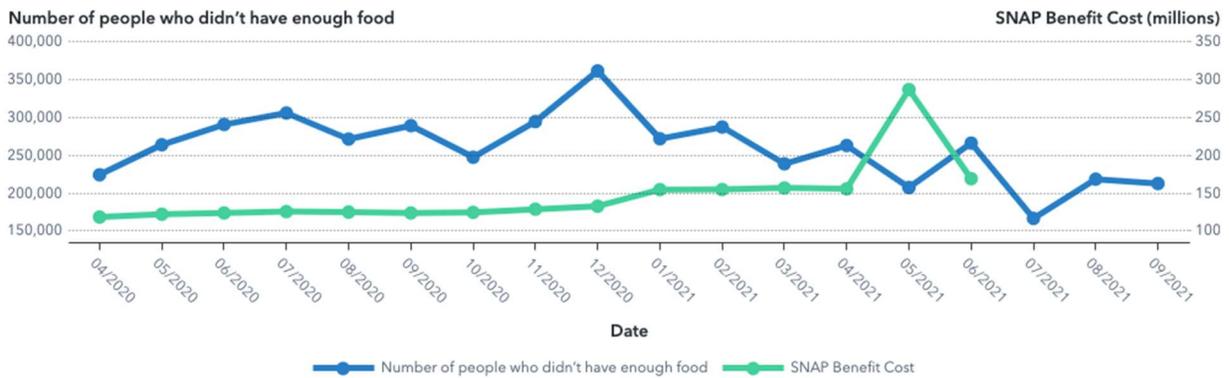
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Oklahoma)



Oregon

- Overall food insecurity – 9.0%
- Children – 11.5%
- Employed adults – 8.8%
- Seniors – 4.3%
- “The rising gas prices and inflation are hitting our folks pretty hard. Their budgets are so tight to begin with that these increases are significant for them. We have a segment of shoppers at our pantry who don't have access to food preparation tools--the homeless and those living in 'emergency' shelters--hotel rooms, panel houses, etc. We've responded by putting together go bags--an inexpensive can opener, plastic silverware, paper products, individual packets of salt, pepper, creamer, sugar, napkin, hand sanitizers, etc.” - Episcopal Church St. John, Springfield, OR
- “Food sourcing remains one of the biggest challenges for Lift UP. Disruptions in food supply chains have made sourcing from Oregon Food Bank less reliable. We have had to purchase more food than ever before in order to keep up with rising demand. We have also added two part-time staff to increase our capacity so we can diversify and expand our gleaning partnerships in order to source sufficient food. We saw a 21% increase in demand at Preston's Pantry last year, and we saw a 50% increase in first-time Pantry visitors. We did experience short-term drops when stimulus funding went out, so we assume that enabled our clients to purchase food rather than seek support from us.” - Preston's Pantry, Portland, OR

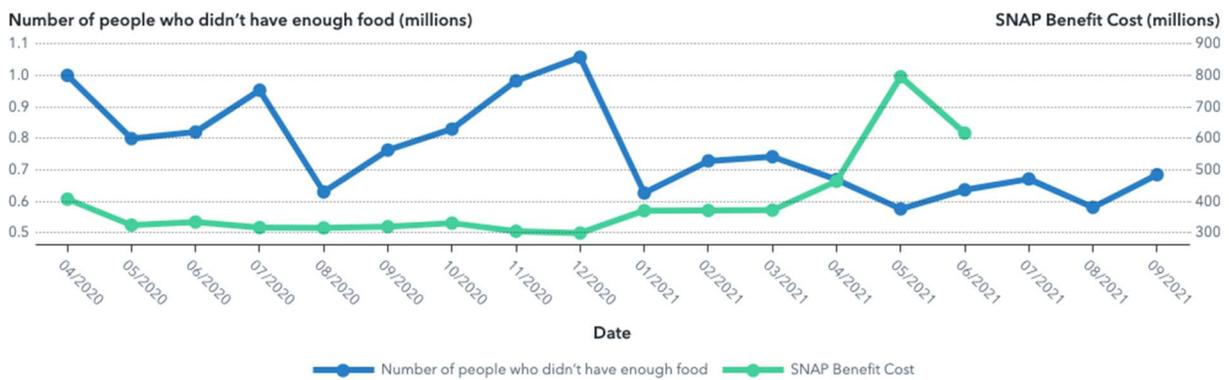
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Oregon)



Pennsylvania

- Overall food insecurity – 10.2%
- Children – 14.8%
- Employed adults – 8.8%
- Seniors – 5.6%

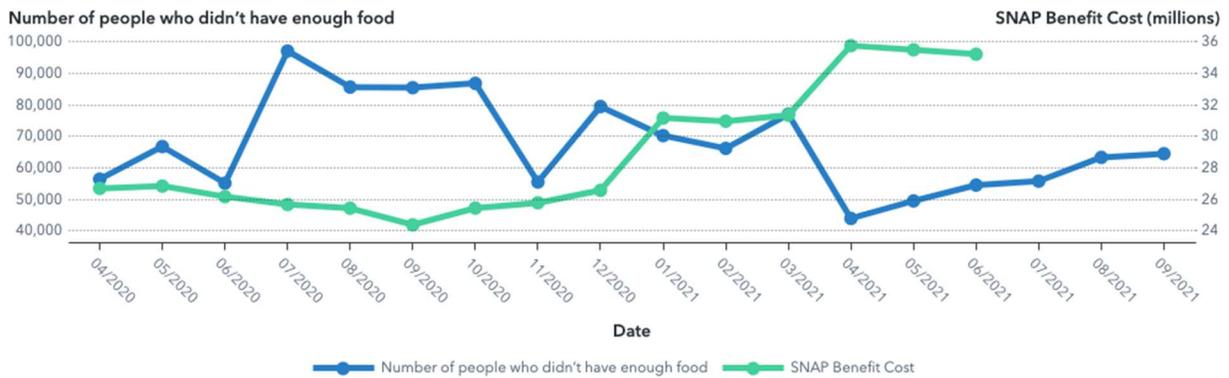
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Pennsylvania)



Rhode Island

- Overall food insecurity – 7.7%
- Children – 7.2%
- Employed adults – 7.0%
- Seniors – 5.8%

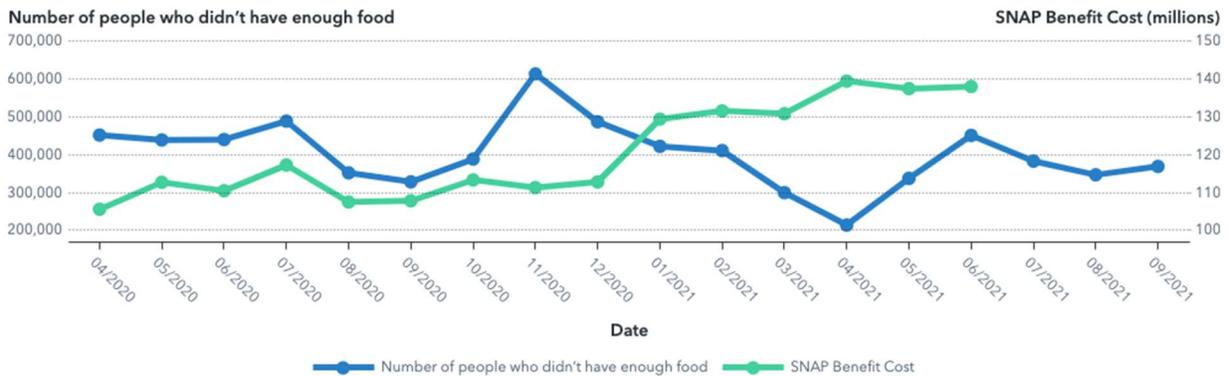
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Rhode Island)



South Carolina

- Overall food insecurity – 12.1%
- Children – 14.2%
- Employed adults – 9.9%
- Seniors – 9.3%
- “Some of our clients are on fixed incomes as seniors or on disability. Others have just moved to the area and need help till their first paycheck comes. Most of our clients state high medical and electric bills are a problem for them.” - Christian Life Church, Columbia, SC

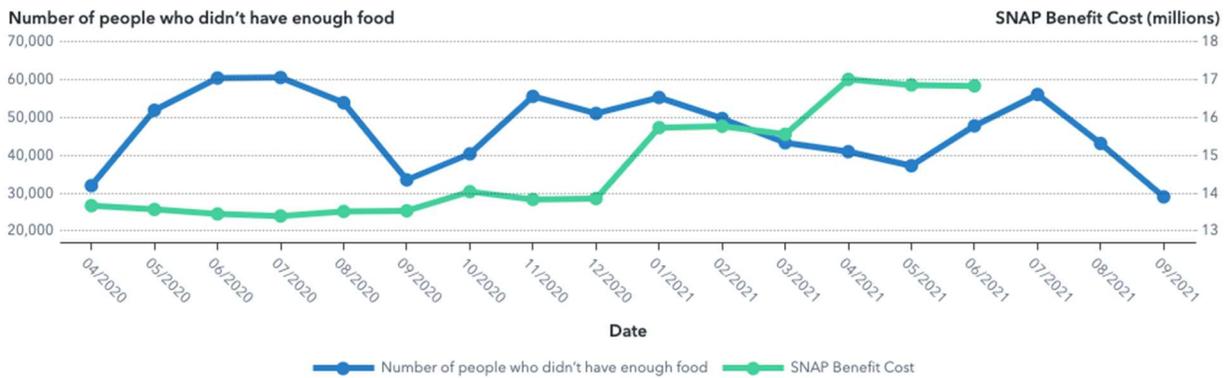
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (South Carolina)



South Dakota

- Overall food insecurity – 10.9%
- Children – 15.5%
- Employed adults – 10.2%
- Seniors – 4.8%
- “We have served many people this year from all demographics. We have a large native American population here and also retired people, with the economy as it is our elderly and native people need help from us and other organizations.” - Rapid City Seventh Day Adventist Church Food Pantry, Rapid City, SD

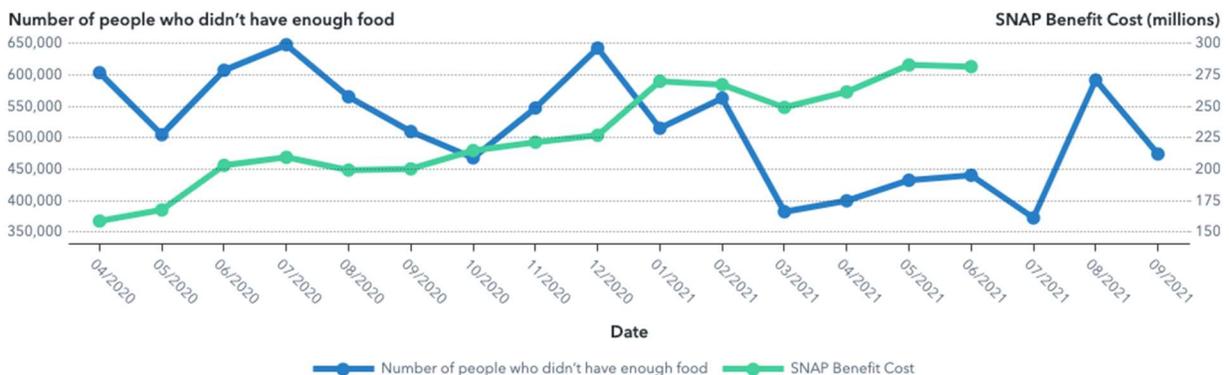
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (South Dakota)



Tennessee

- Overall food insecurity – 12.9%
- Children – 16.1%
- Employed adults – 11.8%
- Seniors – 6.5%
- “Groceries were provided to approximately 65 families prior to COVID and we now serve 275-300 families.” - St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Athens, TN

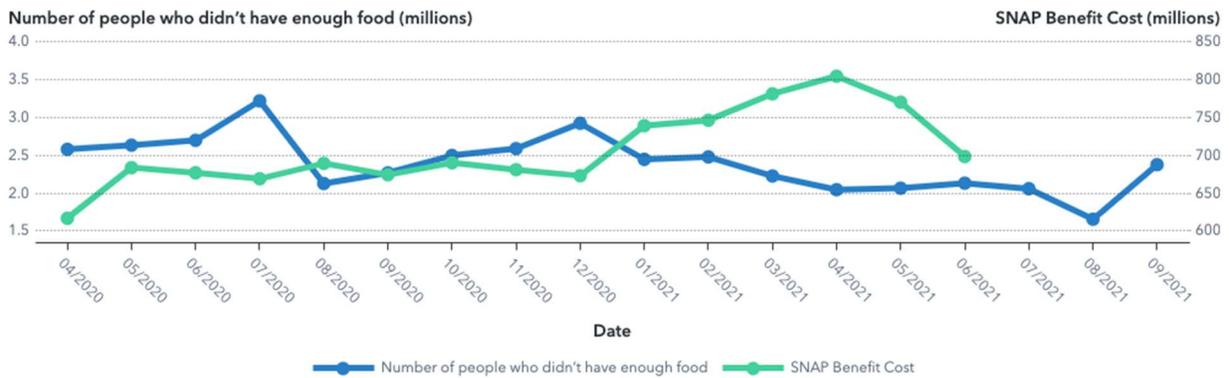
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Tennessee)



Texas

- Overall food insecurity – 14.3%
- Children – 18.3%
- Employed adults – 11.8%
- Seniors – 9.7%
- “We find it difficult to purchase healthier foods from the local food bank. It has that problem, too.” - 4Saints Episcopal Food Pantry, Fort Worth, TX

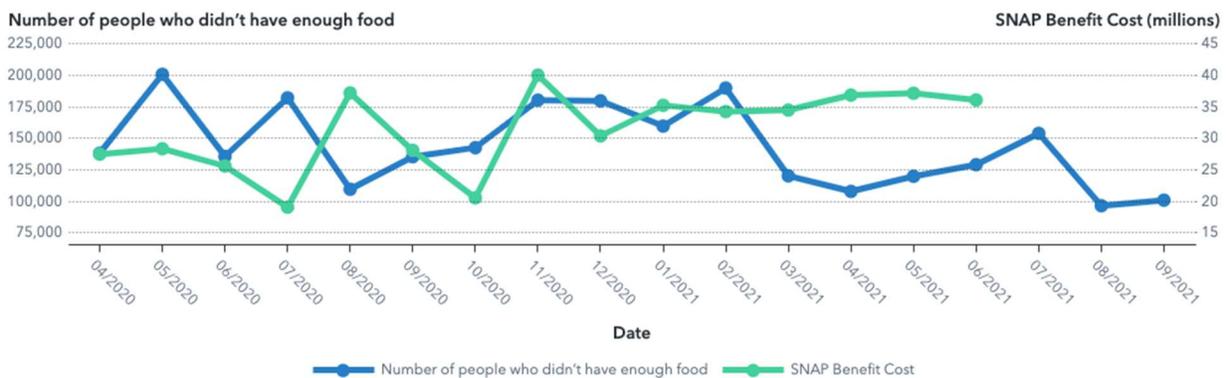
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Texas)



Utah

- Overall food insecurity – 11.0%
- Children – 14.6%
- Employed adults – 10.5%
- Seniors – 5.3%

Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Utah)

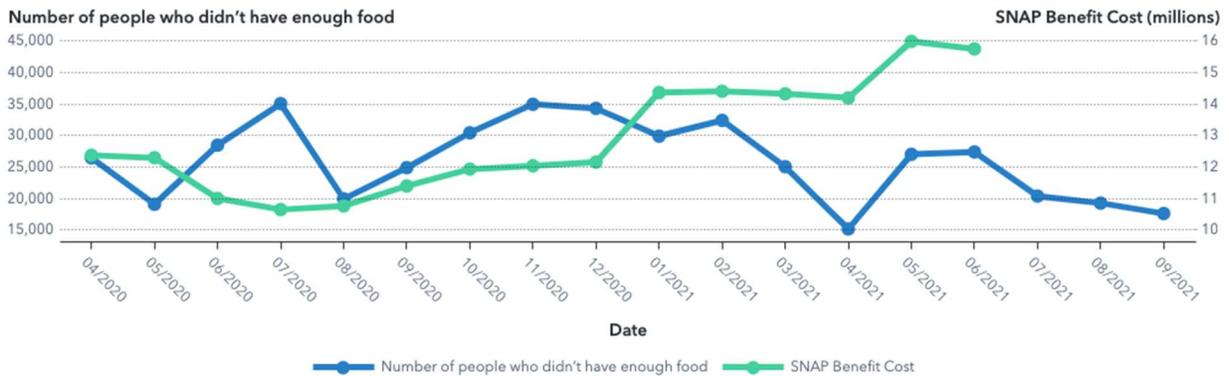


Vermont

- Overall food insecurity – 8.8%
- Children – 13.9%
- Employed adults – 7.9%
- Seniors – 4.7%
- “The increase in SNAP benefits is very important and will make a big difference going forward. Also, universal school meals - every kid, every meal -- should remain a priority for the federal government and all state governments.” - Upper Valley Haven Food Shelf, White River Junction, VT
- “Simply put, most clients are not making a living wage! We have a volunteer led community garden just for the food shelf. We are told many times throughout the summer: "we would not be able to afford these beautiful, organic (not certified) veggies, so thank you for providing this nutritious, fresh food!" Because our food shelf is sitting alongside a thrift store, where we sell good quality clothing, we

have money coming in which allows us to buy good, nutritious food. Our local Foodbank, the Vermont Foodbank is a source of inspiration and integrity, we are proud to be Network Resource Partners with them.” - Richmond Food Shelf & Thrift Store, Richmond, VT

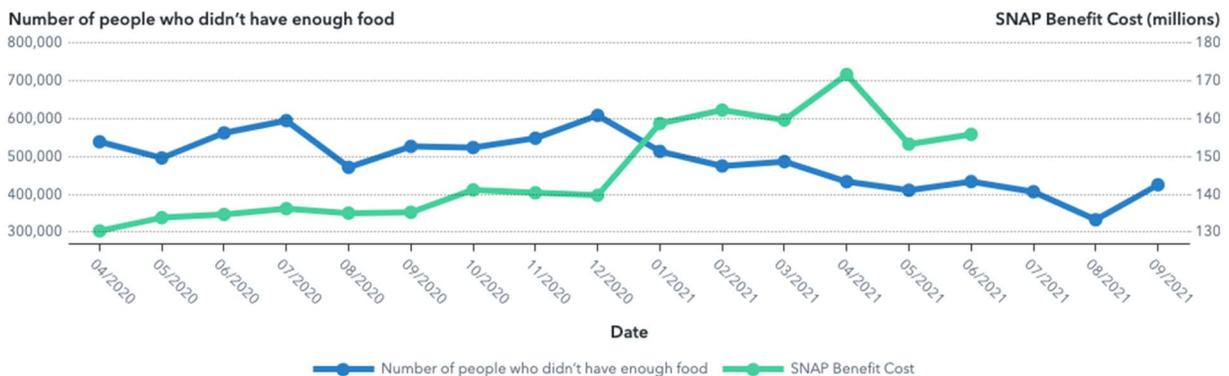
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Vermont)



Virginia

- Overall food insecurity – 8.2%
- Children – 10.1%
- Employed adults – 6.9%
- Seniors – 5.6%

Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Virginia)



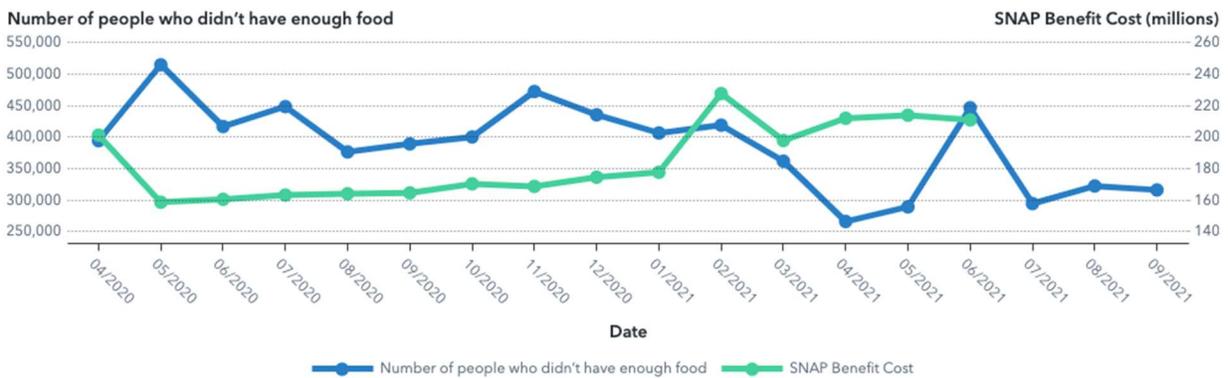
Washington

- Overall food insecurity – 9.4%
- Children – 13.9%
- Employed adults – 8.1%
- Seniors – 5.0%
- “Expanding federal aid programs that directly support low-income people is the most successful and dignified way to decrease food insecurity in America. In addition to this increase in federal aid that goes directly to people, I believe there should be grant support for food banks to hire case management support and grants to offer other services besides food. We see a lot of people who do not

know about the other services that are available to help them increase their economic and personal security, and these people are the people we see every week. Food pantries are a community institution that can use their deep trusting relationships with shoppers to help them connect to a web of other services that could help them become self-sufficient and live the lives that they want to live.” - Immanuel Community Services Food Bank, Seattle, WA

- “We are working to increase food access in our community and the availability of dietary/culturally appropriate foods. Going forward, we are looking at another demographics in our area. Rent hikes are displacing people rapidly. Spokane's houseless population is going to dramatically increase this winter. We are actively seeking individually portioned open-and-eat foods for people who will have limited cooking/storage capacity. We expect current meal programs that feed the houseless will not be able to keep up with demand and we want to supplement their services with grab and go options at our pantry and LFPs.” - Caritas Outreach Ministries, Spokane, WA

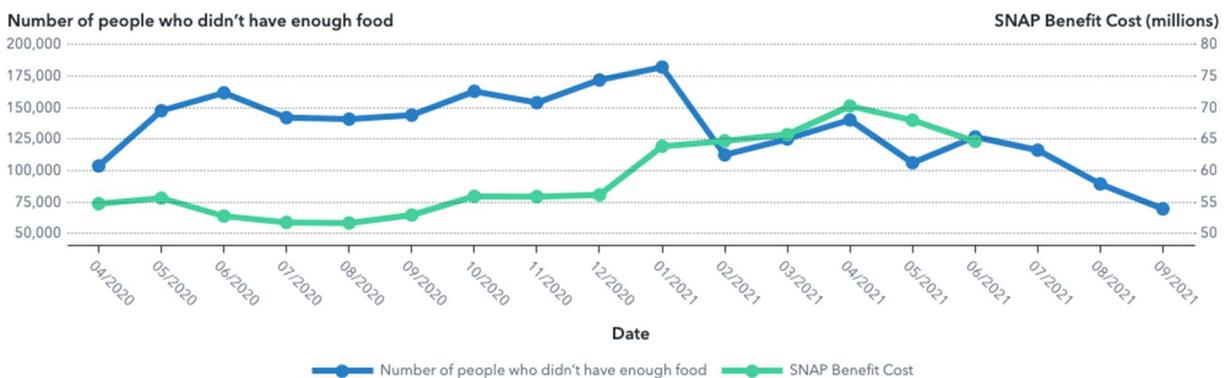
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Washington)



West Virginia

- Overall food insecurity – 15.6%
- Children – 20.7%
- Employed adults – 12.6%
- Seniors – 10.0%

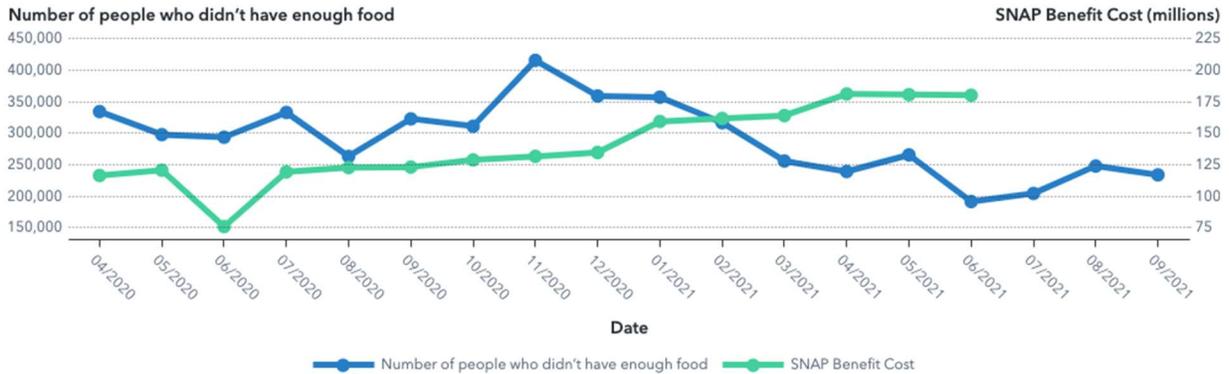
Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (West Virginia)



Wisconsin

- Overall food insecurity – 11.9%
- Children – 18.7%
- Employed adults – 10.2%
- Seniors – 5.4%

Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Wisconsin)



Wyoming

- Overall food insecurity – 11.6%
- Children – 16.7%
- Employed adults – 9.7%
- Seniors – 6.7%
- “2021 has been a year of ups and downs for everyone, Joshua's included. We saw a three time increase in participation in our programs from 2020, feeding nearly 12,000 individuals. We have seen an outpour of support from the community, and we couldn't serve a better place than Casper, Wyoming.” - Joshua's Storehouse & Distribution, Casper, WY

Number of people who didn't have enough food vs SNAP Benefits by Date (Wyoming)

