

Data Brief 432. Children Living in Households That Experienced Food Insecurity: United States, 2019–2020

Data table for Figure 1. Percentage of children aged 0–17 years who lived in households that experienced food insecurity, by sex and age: United States, 2019–2020

Characteristic	Percent	Standard error	95% confidence interval
Total	10.8	0.4	10.0–11.6
Sex			
Girls	11.0	0.5	9.9–12.0
Boys	10.6	0.5	9.6–11.6
Age (years)			
0–5	10.9	0.7	9.6–12.1
6–11	10.3	0.6	9.1–11.6
12–17	11.2	0.6	10.0–12.4

NOTES: Household food insecurity status was determined by responses to 10 questions: whether the respondent 1) worried that food would run out before there was money to buy more; 2) found food that was purchased didn't last and did not have money to get more; 3) couldn't afford to eat balanced meals; 4) had to cut the size of meals or skip meals because there was not enough money for food, and 5) the number of days this happened; 6) ate less than they should because there was not enough money for food; 7) was hungry but didn't eat because there was not enough money for food; 8) lost weight because there was not enough money for food; 9) did not eat for a whole day because there was not enough money for food, and 10) the number of days this happened. The questions measured the households' food situation based on the past 30 days. Based on the responses to these questions, households are categorized as being food secure, low food secure, or very low food secure. For this analysis, households that are categorized as low food secure or very low food secure are considered to be food insecure. Estimates are based on household interviews of a sample of the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey, 2019–2020.

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Data table for Figure 2. Percentage of children aged 0–17 years who lived in households that experienced food insecurity, by race and Hispanic origin and disability status: United States, 2019–2020

Characteristic	Percent	Standard error	95% confidence interval
Race and Hispanic origin			
Hispanic.	15.7	0.9	13.9–17.4
Non-Hispanic White.	6.5	0.4	5.7–7.4
Non-Hispanic Black.	18.8	1.3	16.3–21.4
Disability status			
With disability.	19.3	1.5	16.4–22.2
Without disability.	9.8	0.4	9.0–10.6

NOTES: Household food insecurity status was determined by responses to 10 questions: whether the respondent 1) worried that food would run out before there was money to buy more; 2) found food that was purchased didn't last and did not have money to get more; 3) couldn't afford to eat balanced meals; 4) had to cut the size of meals or skip meals because there was not enough money for food, and 5) the number of days this happened; 6) ate less than they should because there was not enough money for food; 7) was hungry but didn't eat because there was not enough money for food; 8) lost weight because there was not enough money for food; 9) did not eat for a whole day because there was not enough money for food, and 10) the number of days this happened. The questions measured the households' food situation based on the past 30 days. Based on the responses to these questions, households are categorized as being food secure, low food secure, or very low food secure. For this analysis, households that are categorized as low food secure or very low food secure are considered to be food insecure. The disability indicator is only calculated for children aged 2–17 years. Estimates are based on household interviews of a sample of the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey, 2019–2020.

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Data table for Figure 3. Percentage of children aged 0–17 years who lived in households that experienced food insecurity, by urbanicity: United States, 2019–2020

Characteristic	Percent	Standard error	95% confidence interval
Large central metro	13.2	0.8	11.6–14.7
Large fringe metro	7.4	0.7	6.0–8.8
Medium and small metro	10.5	0.8	9.0–12.0
Nonmetropolitan	12.9	1.1	10.7–15.1

NOTES: Household food insecurity status was determined by responses to 10 questions: whether the respondent 1) worried that food would run out before there was money to buy more; 2) found food that was purchased didn't last and did not have money to get more; 3) couldn't afford to eat balanced meals; 4) had to cut the size of meals or skip meals because there was not enough money for food, and 5) the number of days this happened; 6) ate less than they should because there was not enough money for food; 7) was hungry but didn't eat because there was not enough money for food; 8) lost weight because there was not enough money for food; 9) did not eat for a whole day because there was not enough money for food, and 10) the number of days this happened. The questions measured the households' food situation based on the past 30 days. Based on the responses to these questions, households are categorized as being food secure, low food secure, or very low food secure. For this analysis, households that are categorized as low food secure or very low food secure are considered to be food insecure. Estimates are based on household interviews of a sample of the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey, 2019–2020.

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Data table for Figure 4. Percentage of children aged 0–17 years who lived in households that experienced food insecurity, by family characteristics: United States, 2019–2020

Characteristic	Percent	Standard error	95% confidence interval
Family structure			
Only one parent, no other adults	19.9	0.9	18.1–21.8
Other family structures	7.7	0.4	6.9–8.5
Number of children in household			
Fewer than three	9.4	0.4	8.6–10.1
Three or more	13.0	0.8	11.5–14.6

NOTES: Household food insecurity status was determined by responses to 10 questions: whether the respondent 1) worried that food would run out before there was money to buy more; 2) found food that was purchased didn't last and did not have money to get more; 3) couldn't afford to eat balanced meals; 4) had to cut the size of meals or skip meals because there was not enough money for food, and 5) the number of days this happened; 6) ate less than they should because there was not enough money for food; 7) was hungry but didn't eat because there was not enough money for food; 8) lost weight because there was not enough money for food; 9) did not eat for a whole day because there was not enough money for food, and 10) the number of days this happened. The questions measured the households' food situation based on the past 30 days. Based on the responses to these questions, households are categorized as being food secure, low food secure, or very low food secure. For this analysis, households that are categorized as low food secure or very low food secure are considered to be food insecure. Estimates are based on household interviews of a sample of the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey, 2019–2020.