

Household Food Security in the United States

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“The findings and conclusions in this presentation are those of the author and should not be construed to represent any official USDA or U.S. Government determination or policy.”



Outline

What is food security?

- Background and definitions of food security
- How food security is measured
- Main findings of annual food security report

Where can I find food security information and data?

- Raw data
- Food security statistics, reports and visualizations
- Other federal agency efforts to monitor food security
- Q & A



Food Security - Definitions

- **Food Security:** Access at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members.
- **Food Insecurity:** Unable, at some time during the year, to provide adequate food for one or more household members because of a lack of resources.
 - **Very Low Food Security:** Normal eating patterns of some household members were disrupted at times during the year and their food intake reduced because they could not afford enough food.



How is Food Security Measured?

Worsening food insecurity

Can afford enough healthy food

Food secure

Worry, stretch, juggle

Food insecure

Reduce quality and variety of diet

Low food security

Reduce food intake of adults

Very low food security

Reduce food intake of children

Very low food security among children



Examples of Food Security Survey Module Questions

Worsening food insecurity

“We worried whether our food would run out before we got money to buy more.” Was that often, sometimes or never true for you in the last 12 months?

“We couldn’t afford to eat balanced meals.” Was that often, sometimes or never true for you in the last 12 months?

In the last 12 months, did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals **because there wasn’t enough money for food?**

In the last 12 months, did you ever not eat for a whole day **because there wasn’t enough money for food?**



Annual Food Security Supplement

- **Current Population Survey (CPS)**
 - Conducted by U.S. Census Bureau
 - About 40,000 households
 - Representative of U.S. civilian households
 - Source of employment and poverty statistics
 - High quality survey: sample, field staff, data management
- **Food Security Supplement of the CPS**
 - Sponsored by USDA, Economic Research Service
 - Conducted annually in December since 2001 (fielded in other months 1995–2000)
 - Revised in 2022 based on extensive cognitive testing and consultations with USDA, ERS stakeholders.



Annual Food Security Report

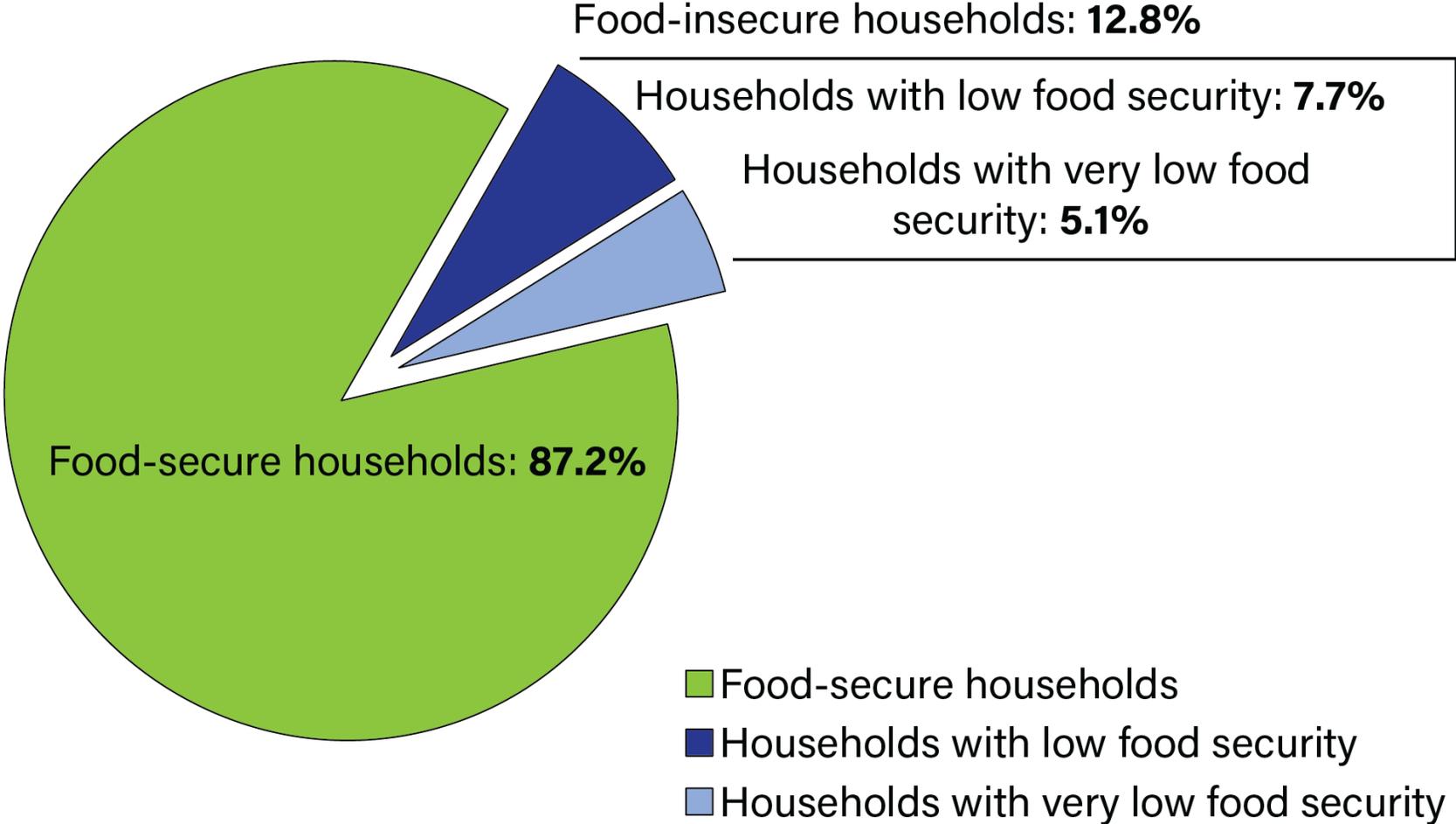
Key Finding:

Food insecurity in 2022 increased from 2021 and 2020 for most U.S. households

- Food insecurity affected 12.8 percent of U.S. households (17.0 million households) in 2022, an increase from 10.2 percent in 2021 and 10.5 percent in 2020.
- The prevalence of food insecurity and very low food security increased from 2021 to 2022 for nearly all subgroups of households.
- Children were food insecure at times during 2022 in 8.8 percent of U.S. households (3.3 million households), up from 6.2 percent in 2021 and 7.6 percent in 2020.



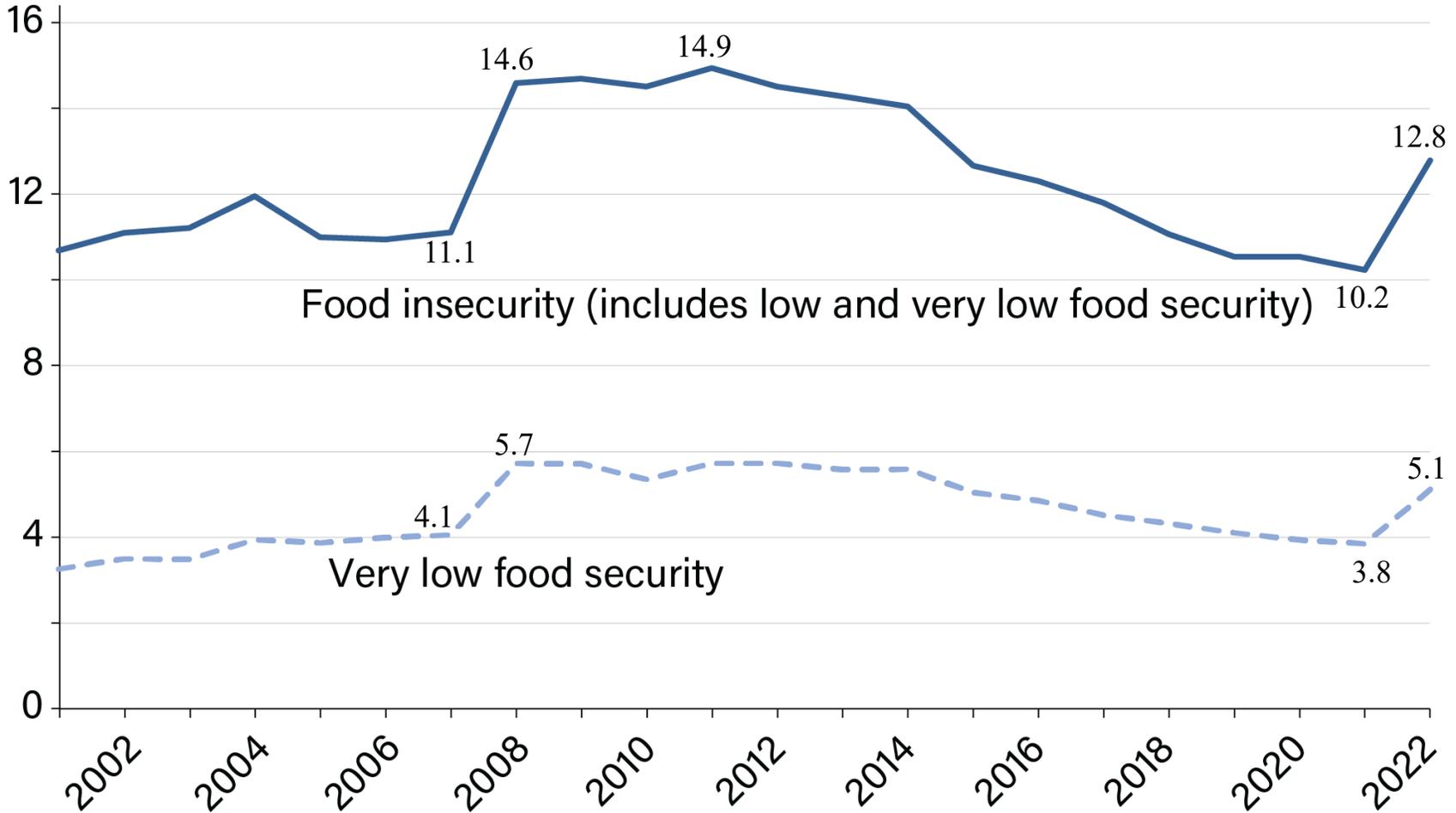
U.S. households by food security status, 2022



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2022 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

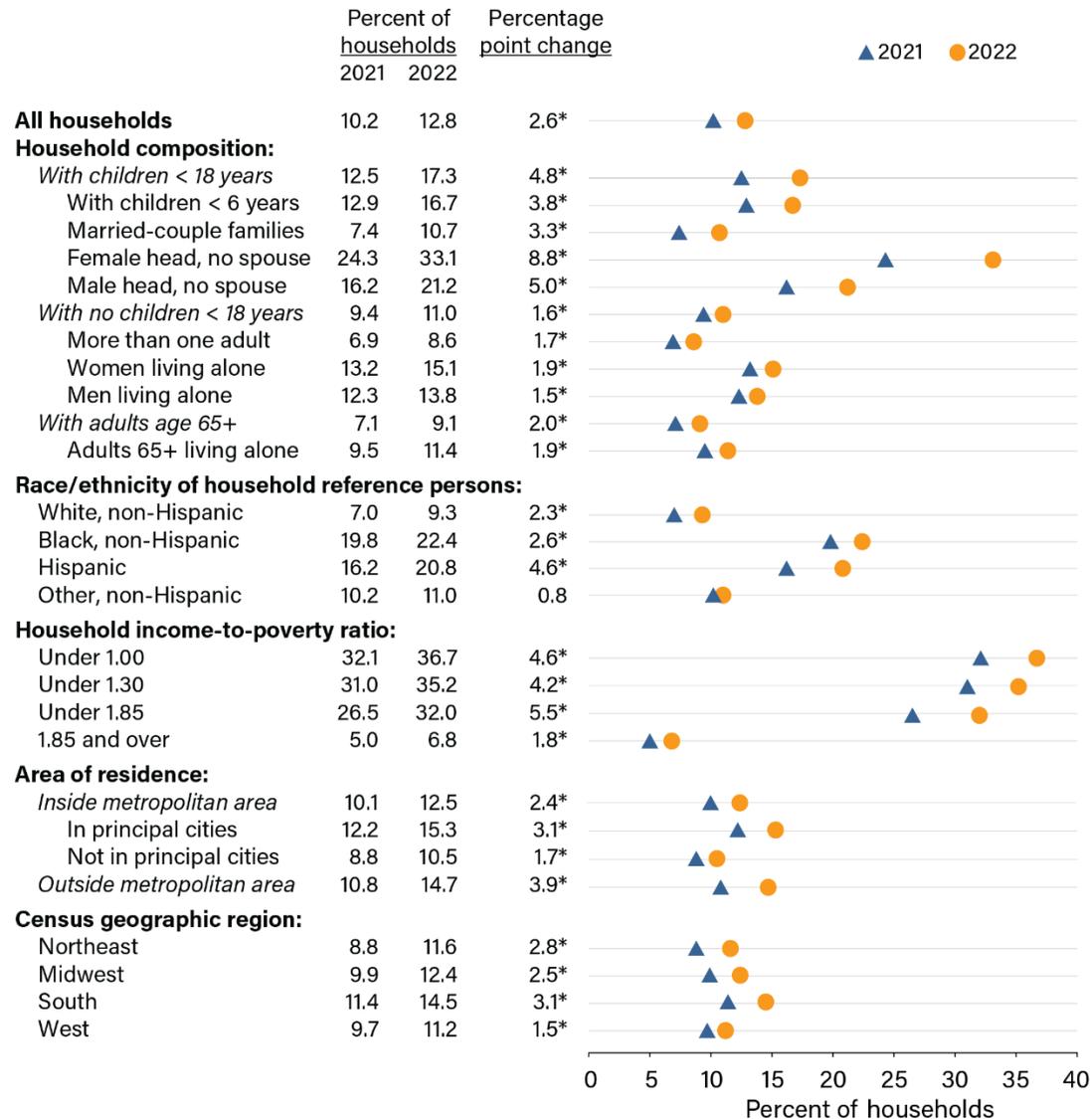
Trends in prevalence rates of food insecurity and very low food security in U.S. households, 2001-2022

Percent of U.S. households



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey Food Security Supplements.

Prevalence of food insecurity, by selected household characteristics, 2021 and 2022



Notable large year-over-year increases in food insecurity:

Households with children (17.3 percent)

Single mother (33.1 percent) and single father households (21.2 percent)

Households with adults aged 65 and older (9.1 percent)

Nonmetropolitan (rural) households (14.7 percent)

*An asterisk indicates change is statistically different from zero at the 90-percent confidence level ($t > 1.645$).

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2021 and 2022 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplements.

Food Security Among Children - Definitions

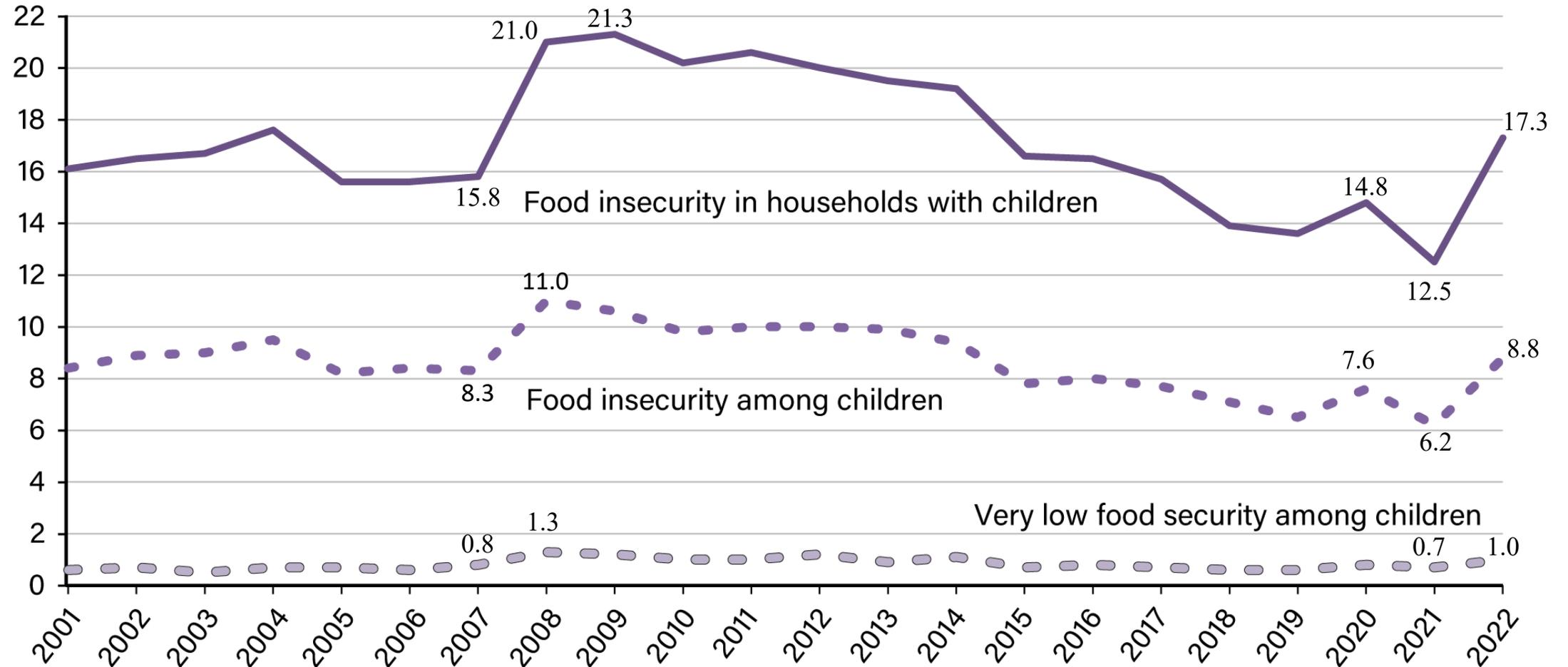
Parents often protect their children from food insecurity even when the parents themselves experience reduced dietary quality and intake. In some food-insecure households only adults are food insecure.

- **Food Insecurity Among Children:** Households that were unable, at some time during the year, to provide adequate, nutritious food for their children.
 - **Very Low Food Security Among Children:** Caregivers reported that children were hungry, skipped a meal, or did not eat for a whole day because there was not enough money for food.



Trends in Food Insecurity in U.S. Households with Children, 2001 – 22

Percent of households with children



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

Questions about food security?

How to Access Food Security Raw Data

1. Census Bureau

https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/time-series/demo/cps/cps-supp_cps-repwgt/cps-food-security.html

Within Data

Data Tools and Apps

Datasets

Developers

Errata Notes

News

Related Sites

Software

Tables

Visualizations

Food Security

Usage Instructions for Household Replicate Weights (MS Word)

Usage Instructions for Person Replicate Weights (MS Word)

2022 2021 2020 2019 2018 More ▾

2022

 [December 2022 Food Security Technical Documentation \[1.64 MB\]](#)

CPS Supplement

Data Files

 [DOS/Windows \[12 MB\]](#)

 [GNU gzip \[12 MB\]](#)

 [CSV \[173 MB\]](#)

Replicate Weight

 [SAS Input Statements \[<1.0 MB\]](#)

Data Files

 [DOS/Windows \[21 MB\]](#)

 [GNU gzip \[25 MB\]](#)

 [CSV \[173 MB\]](#)

Share:



Related Information

[CPS Supplement and Replicate Weights](#)

[Current Population Survey Datasets](#)



How to Access Food Security Raw Data

2. NBER

Note for all CPS supplements (may or may not apply to this specific supplement): For 2000-Census based weights, 2002 NAICS-based industry codes, 2000 SOC-based occupation codes, and revised class of worker and union variables for 2000-2002 the CPS files, please visit [CPS Extracts](#). Several major changes affected the 2003 CPS. For more information about the changes, please visit [CPS Extracts](#).

Key: [.zip = Data files] [.pdf, .doc, .txt = Documentation files] [.ddf = Catalogue files]

Year	Apr	Aug	Sep	Dec
1995	.zip .pdf	-	-	-
1996	-	-	.zip .pdf .ddf	-
1997	.zip .pdf .ddf	-	-	-

<https://www.nber.org/research/data/current-population-survey-cps-supplements-food-security>

2. IPUMS

The screenshot shows the IPUMS CPS website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the IPUMS CPS logo and links for HOME, SELECT DATA, MY DATA, and SUPPORT. A DATA CART summary shows 0 VARIABLES and 0 SAMPLES. Below the navigation bar, there are buttons for SELECT SAMPLES, SELECT VARIABLES (with dropdowns for HOUSEHOLD, PERSON, A-Z, and a SEARCH field), HARMONIZED VARIABLES (selected), UNHARMONIZED VARIABLES, and DISPLAY OPTIONS. A HELP link is also present. Below these buttons, a message states: "AN 'X' INDICATES THE VARIABLE IS AVAILABLE IN THAT DATASET." A pagination control shows page 1 of 4. The main content area displays a table of "FOOD SECURITY SUPPLEMENT VARIABLES -- HOUSEHOLD (GROUP CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...) [TOP]".

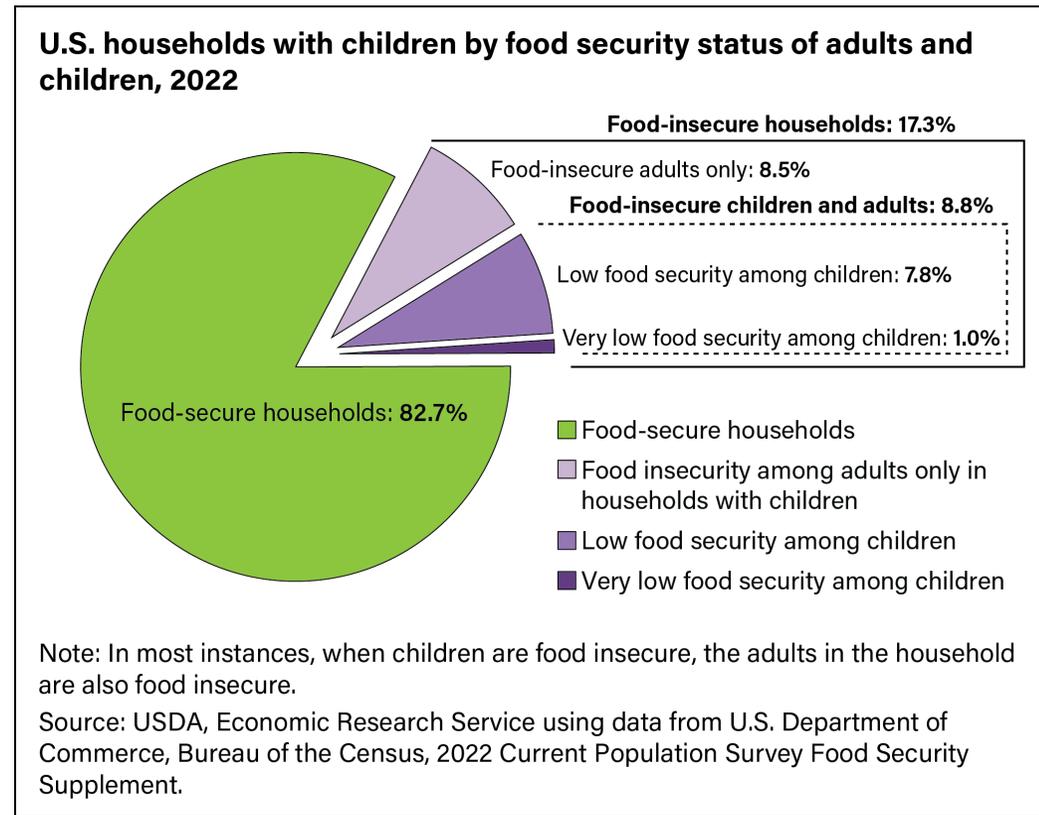
Add to cart	Variable	Variable Label	Type	Oct 23	Sep 23	Aug 23	Jul 23	Jun 23	May 23	Apr 23	ASEC 23	Mar 23	Feb 23	Jan 23	Dec 22	Nov 22	Oct 22	Sep 22
+	FSSUPINT	Household completed food security supplement	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
+	FSHWSCALE	Household food security status weight	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
+	FSSTATUS	Household food security scale	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
+	FSRAWSCR	Household raw food security score	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
+	FSSTATUSD	Detailed Household food security scale	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
+	FSSTATUSA	Adult food security status, 12-month	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
+	FSSTATUSC	Child food security status, 12-month	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
+	FSSTATUS95	Household food security common scale	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
+	FSRAWSC95	Household food security raw count (common)	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
+	FSRAWSCRA	Adult raw food security score	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
+	FSRAWSCRC	Child raw food security score, 12-month	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
+	FSRASCH	Household rasch food security score	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
+	FSRASCHA	Adult rasch food security score, 12-month	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

[https://cps.ipums.org/cps-action/variables/group?id=h-foodsec foodsec](https://cps.ipums.org/cps-action/variables/group?id=h-foodsec%20foodsec)

How to Access Food Security Statistics

ERS food security web pages:
static graphs

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-u-s/key-statistics-graphics/>



[Embed this chart](#)

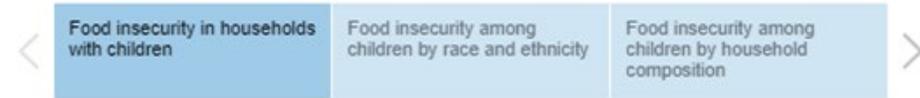
[Download larger size chart \(2048 pixels by 1618, 144 dpi\)](#)

[Download chart data](#)  in Excel format.



How to Access Food Security Statistics

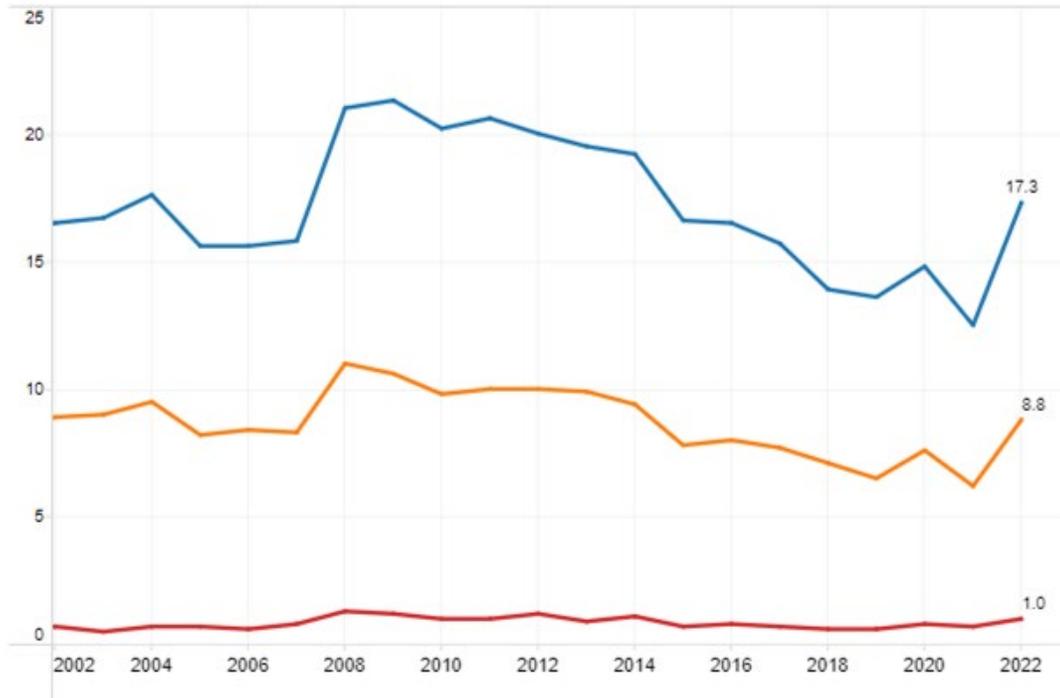
Trends in food insecurity in U.S. households with children



Trends in food insecurity in U.S. households with children, 2001–22

[Food Security Data file](#)  

Percent of households with children



ERS food security web pages:
interactive graphs

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-u-s/interactive-charts-and-highlights/>

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations using Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement data.

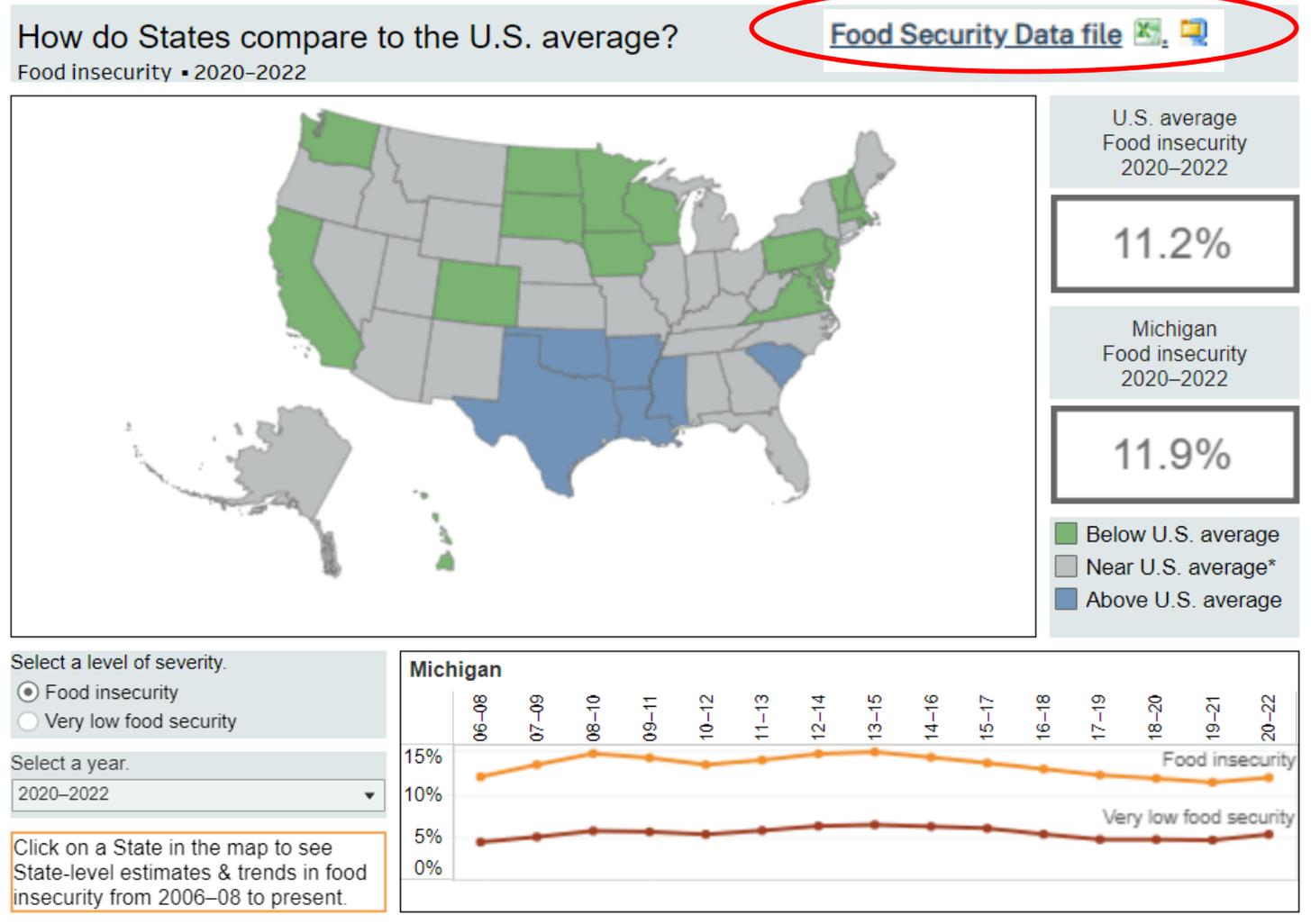
■ Food insecurity in households with children
■ Food insecurity among children
■ Very low food security among children



How to Access Food Security Statistics

ERS food security web pages:
interactive graphs

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-u-s/interactive-charts-and-highlights/>



Other Food Security Resources

1. America's Children



Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics

America's Children in Brief, 2022 highlights selected special feature indicators related to COVID-19 to address the impact of this pandemic on child and family well-being.

America's Children in Brief: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2022

COVID-19 Immunization ▶

Child Food Insecurity ▶

Housing Instability ▶

Pandemic Health Care ▶

School Response ▶

Summer Programs ▶

Child and Adolescent Mortality ▶

Mental Health ▶

[Read the Full Report ▶](#)

<https://www.childstats.gov/>

2. Healthy People 2030

Healthy People in Action

Data Chart | Data Table

[Download INWS-UZ data \[CSV\]](#)

[Add to Custom List](#)

Demographic Group

- Total
- Total
- Country of birth
- Disability status
- Educational attainment
- Family composition
- Family income
- Gender identity
- Geographic location
- Health insurance status
- Marital status
- Race/Ethnicity
- Sexual orientation
- Veteran status
- All groups

Show confidence interval (CI) Show standard error (SE)

[How to interact with this chart](#) ⓘ

Very low food security among children in the past 12 months, 2018-2021

Decrease desired

Total Target: 0.00

<https://health.gov/healthypeople>



Other Food Security Resources

3. Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap

Food Insecurity among Overall (all ages) Population in the United States

Click or touch on the map, or use the search bar to start exploring

Search

State, County, or Food Bank

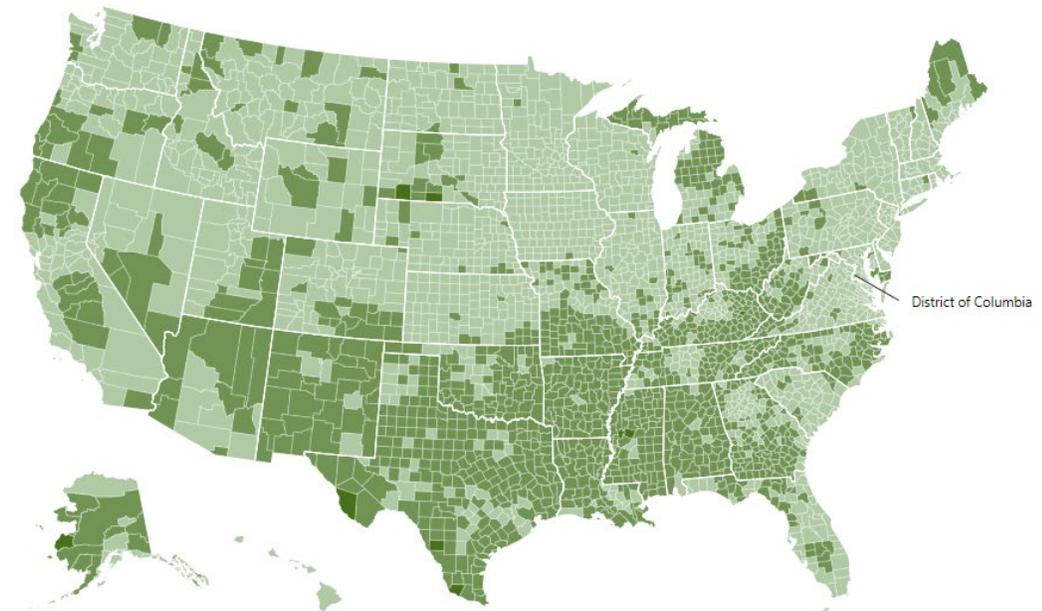
Demographic: Overall (all ages)

Map Type: County

Year: 2021

2020 2019 2018 2017

The United States



<https://map.feedingamerica.org/>



Questions about data access?



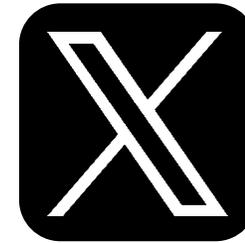
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data-products/charts-of-note](http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/charts-of-note)



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usda-economic-research-service](https://linkedin.com/company/usda-economic-research-service)

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