Food Insecurity

According to the USDA, food insecurity is a household-level economic and social condition of having limited or uncertain access to adequate, healthy food (United States Department of Agriculture, 2022). Food insecurity is a main social determinant of health and is associated with various adverse physical and mental health outcomes, such as type 2 diabetes, hypertension, depression, and anxiety (Hazzard et al., 2022). An emerging body of evidence suggests that food insecurity may be associated with eating disorders, which are highly concurrent with mood and anxiety disorders (Hazzard et al., 2022). The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the U.S. is a leader in reducing food insecurity. SNAP offers benefits to eligible low-income people and families. Compared to eligible non-participants, SNAP participants are 45% less likely to experience food insecurity (Gundersen, 2022).

The USDA reported the following groups throughout the U.S. as having higher percentages of food insecurity than the national average (10.5%): households with children; household with children with a single parent; individuals living alone; Black, non-Hispanic households; Hispanic households; and low-income households living below 185% of the federal poverty level (Proto, 2020). A survey of Connecticut residents by DataHaven and Siena College Research Institute in 2022 showed that the food insecurity rate of 17% throughout the state as a whole masks large differences by race, gender, age, income, disability, and other factors. For example, approximately 11% of white, 25% of Black, and 34% of Latino adults reported food insecurity in the past year (Abraham, 2022). Rates varied from 13% among men to 20% among women, and from 14% among adults living without children to 23% among adults living with children. More than a quarter of young adults aged 18 to 34 reported food insecurity. DataHaven's analysis indicates that food insecurity in the state has nearly doubled in 2022 (Abraham et al., 2022).

Indicator   This indicator represents the tracts ranked by their percentile level of percentage of households that use Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Data Source   2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Method   The 2015-2019 ACS 5-year estimates "ACS DEMOGRAPHIC AND HOUSING ESTIMATES" from U.S. Census in tract resolution is geocoded. The total number of households on the tract level is found in S2201_C01_001E (Estimate!!Total!!Households). The households on SNAP is found in Table S2201_C03_001E (Estimate!!Households receiving food stamps/ SNAP!!Households). The household population on SNAP is divided by the total household population to find the percentage of people on SNAP.

A percentile calculated for each census tract is determined by the percentage of the households with SNAP. The percentiles are normalized into impact rank scores between 0 (least impacted) to 10 (most impacted). The map was segmented into ten equally-sized sections between the 0 and 10. In addition, an 11th category was established for instances where data was not available or the total population is given

as zero. The value in the table below represents the percentage of the indicator in each census tract.

Min Value	Max Value	Min Percentile	Max Percentile	Min Rank	Max
0	0.86	0	9.4	0	
0.87	1.87	9.52	19.38	1	
1.89	3.14	19.5	29.36	2	
3.15	4.62	29.47	39.45	3	
4.64	6.56	39.56	49.43	4	
6.57	8.94	49.77	59.4	5	
8.99	13.02	59.52	69.38	6	
13.05	20.11	69.5	79.36	7	
20.12	32.65	79.47	89.33	8	
32.88	80.87	89.45	99.89	9	

Works Cited

Abraham, M., 2022. DataHaven survey finds food insecurity nearly doubled in Connecticut in 2022. DataHaven.

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