

Food insecurity can harm individuals of any age, but it can be especially devastating to children

1 in 6 children in Hawai'i are food insecure¹



HI 2019

Food insecurity means limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

The child food insecurity rate in Hawai'i is above the US Average (15.2%)

Children in Hawai'i experiencing food insecurity

18.4% **55,710**

HI 2019, Feeding America²

Rural counties are much more likely to have high rates of food insecurity⁴

HI communities with food insecurity levels exceeding thirty percent⁵

Waimānalo
Wai'ānae Coast
Puna
Ka'a'awa
Wailua
Moloka'i

IMPACTS

- Food-insecure women are more likely to experience birth complications give birth to low birthweight babies⁶
- Food insecurity in early childhood can have a long-term negative impact on the cognitive and socio-emotional development of a child, ultimately impairing his or her productivity and potential. Children who enter school without proper nourishment and support are at an early disadvantage and struggle to keep up with their more advantaged peers.⁷
- Data from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study showed that by the third grade, children who had been food insecure in kindergarten had lower reading and mathematics scores than their peers. These children are also more likely to have social, emotional and behavioral problems, including anxiety, psychological distress and substance use.⁷



The coronavirus is leading to a rise in unemployment, poverty, and more food insecure households.

2020

Households in HI experiencing food insecurity in the last 7 days

8.8%

HI, US Census Household Pulse Survey, Oct 12, 2020⁹

Households in HI finding it difficult to pay for usual household expenses

37.8%

HI, US Census Household Pulse Survey, Oct 12, 2020⁹

Federal Aid programs are not reaching eligible families in Hawai'i.



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
SNAP reaches 77% of the eligible* population⁹



Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children
WIC reaches 52% of the eligible* population⁹



Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
TANF reaches 11% of the eligible* population⁹

*Statewide estimate based solely on income

Endnotes

- www.feedingamerica.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/Map%20the%20Meal%20Gap%202020%20Child%20Food%20Insecurity%20Module.pdf
- www.feedingamerica.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/Map%20the%20Meal%20Gap%202020%20Child%20Food%20Insecurity%20Module.pdf
- Long et al., 2020
- www.feedingamerica.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/Map%20the%20Meal%20Gap%202020%20Child%20Food%20Insecurity%20Module.pdf
- Baker, K.K., Derrickson, J.P., Derrickson, S.A.K., Reyes-Salvati, F., Onaka, A.T., Horiuchi, B., Yu, M.Q., & Dannemiller, J. (2001). Hunger and food insecurity in Hawaii: baseline estimates 1999–2000, Hawaii Health Survey. Hawaii Department of Health. <https://health.hawaii.gov/hhs/files/2013/04/specfood.pdf>
- www.feedingamerica.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/Map%20the%20Meal%20Gap%202020%20Child%20Food%20Insecurity%20Module.pdf
- www.nokidhungry.org/sites/default/files/child-economy-study.pdf
- www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/hhp/#/?measures=FIR&mapPeriodSelector=16&barChartPeriodSelector=16
- HI Preschool Development Grant, Birth Through Five Early Childhood Comprehensive Needs Assessment (Final Report 2020)

Donate for Today, Advocate for Tomorrow

www.moveforhunger.org/take-action/advocate

Support a food resource in your community

www.feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank
www.covid19.hawaii-can.org
www.ainapono.org/grabandgo

- Find out if the program is in need of donations
- Share program info widely
- Help eligible families to sign up

Support legislation

- Update the amount of Hawai'i's refundable food/excise tax credit and raise the income threshold
- Support state funding for the continuation of the *DA BUX Double Up Food Bucks* program
- Support a sugary sweetened beverage tax
- Support access to SNAP, WIC, and TANF
- Support the local agriculture industry to help increase the availability and affordability of local food sources
- Support farm to pre/school initiatives and the CACFP to ensure keiki of all ages have access to nutritious meals



earlychildhood
ACTION STRATEGY