

## Variable Definitions and Sources

This document describes the variables that are available via the Wisconsin Food Security Project website ([foodsecurity.wisc.edu](http://foodsecurity.wisc.edu)). It is current as of June 8, 2020.

Two types of data are available: local characteristics and local resources.

1. **Local characteristics:** *characteristics of a geographic area* – such as a congressional district, county, municipality, school district, census tract, zip code, or block group. Local characteristics are drawn from a wide range of sources, and are available in six categories: [food security](#), [health](#), [economic security](#), [federal food programs](#), [food environment](#), and [demographics](#). Some characteristics are available at multiple geographic levels; others are only available at the county level. Characteristics represent a particular time period – sometimes a single year, sometimes an average for a combined range of years, and occasionally a single month. For some characteristics, only the most recent information is available in the data; in other cases, past values are also available.
2. **Local resources:** *food outlets and other resources related to food security*. These currently include public schools that serve school meals, food retailers that accept FoodShare, and food pantries. *The local resource data have been compiled from multiple sources, are subject to frequent change, and may not be comprehensive. They are intended to illustrate how these food resources are distributed in relation to local characteristics, not as a guide for those looking to access food resources in the community.*

### Local Characteristics:

These data can be accessed in a variety of ways:

- All variables can be downloaded via the ‘download data’ tab;
- The most current year of most variables can be included in custom profiles, using the ‘profiles’ tab;
- The most current year of most variables can be displayed on a map, using the ‘mapping’ tab;
- Some variables with multiple years can be displayed as a time trend chart, using the ‘charts’ tab;
- The relationships among almost all of the variables can be explored as scatterplots, using the ‘charts’ tab.

**Note:** For variables from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) and Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE), the margins-of-error are also available via the ‘download data’ tab.

## Food Insecurity

*Estimated food insecurity rate (all persons), %* – an estimate of the food insecurity rate for the total population based on local economic and demographic characteristics such as the poverty rate, unemployment rate, disability rate, and race and ethnicity of the population

Geographic unit: Congressional District and County

Year coverage: 2018

Source: Map the Meal Gap

Source website: <http://feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hunger-studies/map-the-meal-gap.aspx>

Data description: [https://www.feedingamerica.org/research/map-the-meal-gap/how-we-got-the-map-data?s\\_src=W205DIRCT](https://www.feedingamerica.org/research/map-the-meal-gap/how-we-got-the-map-data?s_src=W205DIRCT)

Citation for 2018 data: Gundersen, C., A. Dewey, E. Engelhard, M. Strayer & L. Lapinski. *Map the Meal Gap 2020: A Report on County and Congressional District Food Insecurity and County Food Cost in the United States in 2018*. Feeding America, 2020.

Note: The estimated food insecurity rate is based on a model that uses specific risk factors for food insecurity—such as unemployment and poverty, among others-- to estimate the extent of food insecurity in an area. It is not based on actual measurement of food insecurity, and is thus different from survey-based estimates such as exist at the state and national level. It is most useful for identifying areas whose characteristics put them at higher or lower risk for food insecurity. *It will not, however, reflect the impact of local programs or circumstances beyond economic and demographic factors included in the underlying model.* Note, also, that the share of individuals in food insecure households (which this measure predicts) is typically higher than the share of households that are food insecure – because food insecurity is more common in larger households.

*Estimated food insecurity rate (children), %* – an estimate of the percent of children living in food insecure households, based on local economic and demographic characteristics such as the poverty rate, unemployment rate, disability rate, and race and ethnicity of the population

Geographic unit: Congressional District and County

Year coverage: 2018

Source: Map the Meal Gap

Source website: <http://feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hunger-studies/map-the-meal-gap.aspx>

Data description: [https://www.feedingamerica.org/research/map-the-meal-gap/how-we-got-the-map-data?s\\_src=W205DIRCT](https://www.feedingamerica.org/research/map-the-meal-gap/how-we-got-the-map-data?s_src=W205DIRCT)

Citations: see above, for *Estimated food insecurity rate (all persons)*.

Note: See note, above, for *Estimated food insecurity rate (all persons)*. Note also that this is an estimate of the percent of children who live in *households* that are food insecure, regardless of whether the children themselves experience disrupted eating.

*Projected food insecurity rate (all persons), %* – a projection of the current-year food insecurity rate for the total population based on demographic characteristics and projected increases in poverty and unemployment associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Geographic unit: County

Year coverage: 2020

Source: Map the Meal Gap

Source website: <https://www.feedingamericaaction.org/the-impact-of-coronavirus-on-food-insecurity/>

Data description: Gundersen, C., M. Hake, A. Dewey, E. Engelhard (2020). The Impact of the Coronavirus on Food Insecurity v1 [Data file and FAQ]. Available from Feeding America: [research@feedingamerica.org](mailto:research@feedingamerica.org).

Brief series: Hake, M., E. Engelhard, A. Dewey, C. Gundersen (2020). The Impact of the Coronavirus on Food Insecurity [Brief series]. Available from Feeding America: <https://www.feedingamerica.org/research/coronavirus-hunger-research>

Note: The projected food insecurity rate is derived from a model that accounts for local demographic characteristics as well as projected increases in unemployment and poverty arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. The projected increases in unemployment that underlie these estimates are based in part on employment sector and occupation, and thus vary by location. It is important to be aware that this variable is not based on actual measurement of food insecurity, nor on actual unemployment and poverty – it is a prediction, and subject to change. When compared with the estimated food insecurity rate for 2018, it reveals how projected economic impacts are expected to impact food insecurity.

*Projected food insecurity rate (children), %* – a projection of the percent of children living in food insecure households in the current year, based on demographic characteristics and projected increases in poverty and unemployment associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Geographic unit: County

Year coverage: 2020

Source: Map the Meal Gap

Source website: <https://www.feedingamericaaction.org/the-impact-of-coronavirus-on-food-insecurity/>

Data description: Gundersen, C., M. Hake, A. Dewey, E. Engelhard (2020). The Impact of the Coronavirus on Food Insecurity v1 [Data file and FAQ]. Available from Feeding America: [research@feedingamerica.org](mailto:research@feedingamerica.org).

Brief series: Hake, M., E. Engelhard, A. Dewey, C. Gundersen (2020). The Impact of the Coronavirus on Food Insecurity [Brief series]. Available from Feeding America: <https://www.feedingamerica.org/research/coronavirus-hunger-research>

Note: See note above, for *Projected food insecurity rate (all persons)*.

## Health

*Adult diabetes, %* – the age-adjusted percentage of the population 20 years or older diagnosed with diabetes

Geographic unit: County

Year coverage: 2013, 2016

Source (2013, 2016): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: State and County Indicators

Source website (2013, 2016):

<http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/data/countydata/statecountyindicators.html>

*Adult obesity, %* – the percentage of the population 20 years or older with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30.0 or higher, where BMI = weight in kilograms divided by height in meters squared

Geographic unit: County

Year coverage: 2014, 2016

Source (2014, 2016): CDC Diabetes Interactive Atlas

Source website (2014, 2016):

<https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/diabetes/DiabetesAtlas.html>

*County Health Rankings, Health Factors* – a ranking of Wisconsin counties, where smaller values reflect a more positive health position; the ranking is a weighted average of a county's rank on health behaviors (30%), clinical care (20%), social and economic factors (40%), and physical environment (10%). See source for details.

Geographic unit: County

Year coverage: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

Source: County Health Rankings

Source website: <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings>

*County Health Rankings, Health Outcomes* – a ranking of Wisconsin counties, where smaller values reflect a more positive health position; the ranking is a weighted average of a county's rank on mortality (50%) and morbidity (50%). See source for details.

Geographic unit: County  
Year coverage: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020  
Source: County Health Rankings  
Source website: <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings>

*Low birth weight, %* – the percentage of live births with a weight less than 2,500 grams  
Geographic unit: County  
Year coverage: 2012-2018 (combined),  
Source: County Health Rankings, Vital Statistics  
Source website:  
<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings>

*Percent poor/fair health* – the percentage of the population 20 years or older that reported their general health status as “poor or fair”  
Geographic unit: County  
Year coverage: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017  
Source: County Health Rankings, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System  
Source website:  
<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings>

*Poor mental health days* – the average number of reported poor mental health days in the past 30 days for the population 20 years and older  
Geographic unit: County  
Year coverage: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017  
Source: County Health Rankings, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System  
Source website:  
<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings>

*Poor physical health days* – the average number of reported poor physical health days in the past 30 days for the population 20 years and older  
Geographic unit: County  
Year coverage: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017  
Source: County Health Rankings, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System  
Source website:  
<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings>

*Disability, %*– The percentage of the population age 5 and up with a disability  
Geographic unit: Congressional District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District  
Year coverage: 2014-2018 (combined)  
Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates  
Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Uninsured, %*– The percentage of the population who are uninsured  
Geographic unit: Congr. District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District, Block  
Year coverage: 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

## Economic Security

*Poverty rate (all persons, one-year), %* – the estimated percentage of all individuals living in a household with an income below the official poverty threshold

Geographic unit: County

Year coverage: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

Source: Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)

Source website:

<https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/2018/demo/saipe/2018-school-districts.html>

Note: An alternative estimate of the poverty rate is available from the American Community Survey, for the combined 2014-2018 period. That estimate is available for county as well as sub-county geographic areas, but is less current in that it combines 5 years of data

*Poverty rate (age 5-17, one-year), %* – the estimated percentage of school-age (age 5-17) children living in a household with an income below the official poverty threshold

Geographic unit: School district, County

Year coverage: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

Source: Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)

Source website:

<https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/2018/demo/saipe/2018-school-districts.html>

Note: see note, above, for *Poverty rate (all persons, one-year), %*

*Poverty rate (all persons, 5-year), %* – the percentage of the population living in a household with an income below the poverty threshold

Geographic unit: Congressional district, County, Municipality, Tract, School District

Year coverage: 2000, 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: 2000 Census; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

Note: An alternative one-year estimate of the poverty rate, is available from the Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (see above).

That estimate is only available at the county level, but has the advantage of being more current than the multi-year estimate.

*Poverty rate (children, 5-year), %* – the percentage of children (<18) living in households with an income below the poverty threshold

Geographic unit: Congressional district, County, Municipality, Tract, School District

Year coverage: 2000, 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: 2000 Census; American Community Survey (ACS), 2009-2013 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

Note: An alternative one-year estimate of the child poverty rate is available from the Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (see above). That estimate is only available at the school district level, but has the advantage of being more current than the multi-year estimate.

*Persons below 185% poverty, %* – the estimated percentage of all individuals living in a household with an income below 185% of the official poverty threshold

Geographic unit: Congr. District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District, Block

Year coverage: 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Ratio of 95<sup>th</sup> income percentile to median income* – the ratio of the income level of a household at the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile in the area relative to the median income of the area

Geographic unit: County, Municipality, Tract, School District, Congressional District

Year coverage: 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

Note: A measure of income inequality, where a high ratio indicates more inequality.

For instance, a ratio of 3 means a household at the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile has 3 times the income of a household at the midpoint (median) of incomes in the area.

*Gini Index of Income Inequality* – a measure of income distribution used by researchers who study income inequality

Geographic unit: County, Municipality, Tract, School District, Congressional District

Year coverage: 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

Note: The gini index, or gini coefficient, is used by researchers to describe the distribution (as opposed to the level) of income in an area; it can range from 0 to 1, where higher numbers denote more income dispersion. While the number itself does not have an intuitive meaning, a score of 0 denotes complete income equality—where all households have the same income – while a score of 1 denotes the highest degree of inequality. The gini index for the United States is approximately .49; across Wisconsin counties it ranges from .39 to .51.

*Median household income (one-year)* – the estimated median household income in US dollars

Geographic unit: County

Year coverage: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

Source: Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)

Source website: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe.html>

Note: An alternative estimate of median income is available from the American Community Survey, for the combined 2014-2018 period. That estimate is available for county as well as sub-county geographic areas, but is less current in that it combines 5 years of data

*Median household income (5-year)* – the median household income in US dollars  
Geographic unit: Congressional District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District  
Year coverage: 2000, 2014-2018 (combined)  
Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates; 2000 Census

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

Note: An alternative one-year estimate of median household income is available from the Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (see above). That estimate is only available at the county level, but has the advantage of being more current than the multi-year estimate.

*Households renting home, %* – the percentage of households that rent a place to live  
Geographic unit: Congr. District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District, Block  
Year coverage: 2000, 2014-2018 (combined)  
Source: 2000 Census; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Median rent* – the median amount of rent paid per month in US dollars  
Geographic unit: Congr. District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District, Block  
Year coverage: 2000, 2014-2018 (combined)  
Source: 2000 Census; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Renters paying >30% income, %* – the percentage of renters paying more than 30% of their monthly income for rent  
Geographic unit: Congressional District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District  
Year coverage: 2000, 2014-2018 (combined)  
Source: 2000 Census; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Households without vehicle, %* – the percentage of households that do not own at least one vehicle  
Geographic unit: County, Municipality, Tract, School District, Congressional District  
Year coverage: 2000, 2014-2018 (combined)  
Source: 2000 Census; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>



*Unemployment rate (annual), %* – the percentage of the civilian labor force that does not have a job and that has actively looked for work in the past four weeks; this is the average rate over the year

Geographic unit: County

Year coverage: 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

Source: Bureau of Workforce Information, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

Source website: <https://jobcenterofwisconsin.com/wisconomy/>

Note: This unemployment rate estimate is the average monthly unemployment rate over 12 months.

*Monthly unemployment rate, %* – the percentage of the civilian labor force that does not have a job and that has actively looked for work in the past four weeks; this is the rate for one month

Geographic unit: County

Year coverage: April 2020

Source: Bureau of Workforce Information, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

Source website: <https://jobcenterofwisconsin.com/wisconomy/>

## Federal Food Programs

*FoodShare participants, #* – the total number of individuals per year that receive FoodShare (also called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP)

Geographic unit: County

Year coverage: 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Source website: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/em/rsdata/index.htm>

Note: Because of the elimination of the Economic Service Center (ESC), which previously served certain FoodShare participants, persons counted in the county of the ESC in previous years are counted in their county of residence in 2012. This may affect the change in caseloads in 2012 in some counties.

*FoodShare participants, # adults* – the number of adults per year that receive FoodShare (also called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP)

Geographic unit: County

Year coverage: 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Source website: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/em/rsdata/index.htm>

Note: see note, above, for *FoodShare participants, #*.

*FoodShare participants, # kids* – the number of children per year that receive FoodShare (also called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP)

Geographic unit: County

Year coverage: 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Source website: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/em/rsdata/index.htm>

*FoodShare participants, % of population* – the percentage of the total population per year that receives FoodShare (also called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP)

Geographic unit: County

Year coverage: 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services & Census Bureau Population Estimates

Source website: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/em/rsdata/index.htm>

Note: see note, above, for *FoodShare participants, #*.

*FoodShare participants, % of adults* – the percentage of the adult population per year that receives FoodShare (also called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP)

Geographic unit: County

Year coverage: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services & Census Bureau Population Estimates

Source website: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/em/rsdata/index.htm>

Note: see note, above, for *FoodShare participants, #*.

*FoodShare participants, % of kids* – the percentage of the child population per year that receives FoodShare (also called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP)

Geographic unit: County

Year coverage: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services & Census Bureau Population Estimates

Source website: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/em/rsdata/index.htm>

*FoodShare participants per month, #* – the total number of individuals that receive FoodShare in a single month

Geographic unit: County

Year coverage: January 2020, April 2020

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Source website: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/em/rsdata/index.htm>

*FoodShare participants per month, % of population* – the percentage of the total population that receives FoodShare in a single month

Geographic unit: County

Year coverage: January 2020, April 2020  
Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services  
Source website: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/em/rsdata/index.htm>

*FoodShare monthly caseload change since January 2020, %* – the percentage change in total number of individuals that receive FoodShare between January 2020 and April 2020

Geographic unit: County

Year coverage: January 2020, April 2020

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Source website: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/em/rsdata/index.htm>

Note: this indicates changes during the initial months of the COVID-19 pandemic

*Free & reduced price breakfast, average daily participation, #* – the average daily number of students who eat a free or reduced-price breakfast provided by the School Breakfast Program

Geographic unit: County and School District

Year coverage: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Source website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/program-statistics>

Note: Not all schools participate in the School Breakfast Program; the average daily participation is based on children in schools that participate in the program.

*Free & reduced price breakfast, average daily participation rate, %* – the average daily number of students who eat a free or reduced-price breakfast provided by the School Breakfast Program, divided by the number of students certified to receive free or reduced price meals

Geographic unit: County and School District

Year coverage: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Source website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/program-statistics>

Note: Not all schools participate in the School Breakfast Program; the average daily participation rate is based on children in schools that participate in the program.

*Free & reduced price breakfast participation relative to lunch* – the ratio of free or reduced-price breakfast participants relative to free or reduced-price lunch participants, i.e. the number of breakfast participants divided by the number of lunch participants

Geographic unit: County and School District

Year coverage: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Source website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/program-statistics>

Note: This is an indicator of how common free and reduced-price breakfast receipt is, with the more uniformly utilized lunch program used as a reference point. The denominator includes children in schools with and without the School Breakfast Program. Thus, this ratio is influenced by the share of schools

that offer breakfast, as well as by the share of children who participate when the program is offered.

*Free & reduced price lunch, average daily participation, #* – the average daily number of students who eat a free or reduced-price lunch provided by the National School Lunch Program

Geographic unit: County and School District

Year coverage: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Source website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/program-statistics>

*Free & reduced price lunch, average daily participation rate, %* – the average daily number of students who eat a free or reduced-price lunch provided by the National School Lunch Program, divided by the number of students certified to receive free or reduced price meals

Geographic unit: County and School District

Year coverage: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Source website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/program-statistics>

*Free & reduced price school meal eligibility rate, %* – the percentage of students enrolled in public schools that are certified as eligible to receive free or reduced price school meals

Geographic unit: County and School District

Year coverage: 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Source website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/program-statistics>

Note: Students can be certified as eligible for free or reduced price meals by having income below 185% of the poverty line, or by participating in FoodShare (SNAP) or certain other programs. In addition, with the implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) in Wisconsin in 2015, qualifying schools that choose to participate are able to provide free meals to all children regardless of income; this resulted in an increase in the reported free and reduced price meal eligibility rates for some districts and counties.

*School breakfast, average daily participation, #* – the average daily number of students who eat a breakfast provided by the School Breakfast Program– including free, reduced-price, and full-price meals

Geographic unit: County and School District

Year coverage: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Source website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/program-statistics>

Note: Not all schools participate in the School Breakfast Program; the average daily participation is based on children in schools that participate.

*School breakfast, average daily participation rate, %* – the average daily number of students who eat a breakfast provided by the School Breakfast Program– including free, reduced-price, and full-price meals– divided by the number of enrolled students

Geographic unit: County and School District

Year coverage: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Source website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/program-statistics>

Note: Not all schools participate in the School Breakfast Program; the average daily participation rate is based on children in schools that participate in the program.

*School lunch, average daily participation, #* – the average daily number of students who eat a lunch provided by the National School Lunch Program—including free, reduced-price, and full-price meals

Geographic unit: County and School District

Year coverage: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Source website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/program-statistics>

*School lunch, average daily participation rate, %* – the average daily number of students who eat a lunch provided by the National School Lunch Program—including free, reduced-price, and full-price meals—divided by the number of enrolled students

Geographic unit: County and School District

Year coverage: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Source website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/program-statistics>

*Schools utilizing Community Eligibility Provision, %* – the % of schools utilizing the Community Eligibility Provision, which provides all students in qualifying schools with free meals

Geographic unit: County and School District

Year coverage: 2016, 2018

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Source website:

<https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/special-provision-options/community-eligibility-provision>

*Total students in schools serving lunch, #* – the number of students who attend a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program.

Geographic unit: County and School District

Year coverage: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Source website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/program-statistics>

*Total students certified for free or reduced-price lunch, in schools serving lunch, #* – the number of students certified for free or reduced-price meals, in schools serving lunch.

Geographic unit: County and School District

Year coverage: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018  
Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction  
Source website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/program-statistics>

*Total students in schools serving breakfast, #* – the number of students who attend a school that participates in the School Breakfast Program.

Geographic unit: County and School District  
Year coverage: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018  
Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction  
Source website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/program-statistics>

*Total students certified for free or reduced-price meals, in schools serving breakfast, #* – the number of students certified for free or reduced-price meals, in schools that participate in the School Breakfast Program.

Geographic unit: County and School District  
Year coverage: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018  
Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction  
Source website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/program-statistics>

*WIC participants, # of children* – the number of children who participate in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

Geographic unit: County  
Year coverage: 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018  
Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services

*WIC participants, # of women* – the number of women who participate in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

Geographic unit: County  
Year coverage: 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018  
Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services

*WIC participants, # total* – the total number of individuals who participate in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

Geographic unit: County  
Year coverage: 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018  
Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services

## Food Environment

*Supermarkets & groceries, #* – the total number of supermarkets and grocery stores in an area

Geographic unit: County, Zipcode  
Year coverage: 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016  
Source: Census Business Patterns  
Source website: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html>

*Large supermarkets & groceries, #* – the number of supermarkets and grocery stores in an area that have 100 or more employees

Geographic unit: County, Zipcode

Year coverage: 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016

Source: Census Business Patterns

Source website: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html>

Note: Large supermarkets are more likely to offer a full range of foods including fresh fruits and vegetables, and are often less expensive than small stores.

*Medium supermarkets & groceries, #* – the number of supermarkets and grocery stores in an area that have 20-99 employees

Geographic unit: County, Zipcode

Year coverage: 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016

Source: Census Business Patterns

Source website: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html>

*Small supermarkets & groceries, #* – the number of supermarkets and grocery stores in an area that have less than 20 employees

Geographic unit: County, Zipcode

Year coverage: 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016

Source: Census Business Patterns

Source website: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html>

*Supercenters & warehouse stores, #* – the number of supercenters and warehouse stores in an area

Geographic unit: County, Zipcode

Year coverage: 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016

Source: Census Business Patterns

Source website: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html>

*Supermarkets, groceries, and supercenters combined, #* – the number of supermarkets, grocery stores, and supercenters/warehouse stores in an area

Geographic unit: County, Zipcode

Year coverage: 2012, 2014, 2016

Source: Census Business Patterns

Source website: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html>

*Supermarkets, groceries, and supercenters per 10 square miles, #* – the number of supermarkets, groceries, and supercenters for every 10 square miles in a defined county

Geographic unit: County

Year coverage: 2014, 2016

Source: Census Business Patterns

Source website: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html>

*Supermarkets, groceries, and supercenters per 10,000 people, #* – the number of supermarkets, groceries, and supercenters for every 10,000 people in a defined county or zipcode tabulation area

Geographic unit: County, Zipcode

Year coverage: 2014, 2016

Source: Census Business Patterns

Source website: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html>

*Convenience stores, #* – the number of convenience stores in an area

Geographic unit: County, Zipcode

Year coverage: 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016

Source: Census Business Patterns

Source website: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html>

*Convenience stores per 10 square miles, #* – the number of convenience stores for every 10 square miles in a defined county

Geographic unit: County

Year coverage: 2014, 2016

Source: Census Business Patterns

Source website: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html>

*Convenience stores per 10,000 people, #* – the number of convenience stores for every 10,000 people in a defined county or zipcode tabulation area

Geographic unit: County, Zipcode

Year coverage: 2014, 2016

Source: Census Business Patterns

Source website: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html>

*Fast food restaurants, #* – the number of fast food restaurants in an area

Geographic unit: County, Zipcode

Year coverage: 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016

Source: Census Business Patterns

Source website: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html>

*Fast food restaurants per 10 square miles, #* – the number of fast food restaurants for every 10 square miles in a defined county

Geographic unit: County

Year coverage: 2014, 2016

Source: Census Business Patterns

Source website: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html>

*Fast food restaurants per 10,000 pop, #* – the number of fast food restaurants available for every 10,000 residents of an area

Geographic unit: County, Zipcode

Year coverage: 2014, 2016

Source: Census Business Patterns



Source website: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html>

*Full service restaurants, #* – the number of full service restaurants in an area

Geographic unit: County, Zipcode

Year coverage: 2012, 2014, 2016

Source: Census Business Patterns

Source website: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html>

*Beer/liquor stores, #* – the number of stores in an area dedicated to selling only beer and/or liquor

Geographic unit: County, Zipcode

Year coverage: 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016

Source: Census Business Patterns

Source website: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html>

*Bars, #* – the number of bars in an area

Geographic unit: County, Zipcode

Year coverage: 2012, 2014, 2016

Source: Census Business Patterns

Source website: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html>

*Stores accepting FoodShare, #* – the number of stores in an area that accept FoodShare as payment

Geographic unit: County, Zipcode

Year coverage: 2014, 2016, 2019

Source: SNAP Retailer Locator, USDA

Source website: <http://www.snapretailerlocator.com/>

*Stores accepting FoodShare per 10 square miles, #* – the number of stores that accept FoodShare as payment for every 10 square miles in a defined county

Geographic unit: County

Year coverage: 2014, 2016, 2019

Source: SNAP Retailer Locator, USDA

Source website: <http://www.snapretailerlocator.com/>

*Stores accepting FoodShare per 10,000 people, #* – the number of stores that accept FoodShare as payment for every 10,000 people in a defined county or zipcode tabulation area

Geographic unit: County, Zipcode

Year coverage: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2019

Source: SNAP Retailer Locator, USDA

Source website: <http://www.snapretailerlocator.com/>

*Food costs relative to state average, ratio* – the cost of the USDA's Thrifty Food Plan in a county, relative to the average cost in the state

Geographic unit: County

Year coverage: 2018

Source: Map the Meal Gap

Source website: <http://feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hunger-studies/map-the-meal-gap.aspx>

Data description: <http://feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hunger-studies/map-the-meal-gap/how-we-got-map-data.aspx>

Citation for data: Gundersen, C., A. Dewey, E. Engelhard, M. Strayer & L. Lapinski.  
*Map the Meal Gap 2020: A Report on County and Congressional District Food Insecurity and County Food Cost in the United States in 2018.*  
Feeding America, 2020.

Note: Map the Meal Gap uses Nielsen data on food costs to estimate the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan in each county, from which they construct a relative food cost index that compares costs across counties. We use that information to construct a measure of county food costs relative to the state average.

*Food costs relative to national average, ratio* – the cost of the USDA’s Thrifty Food Plan in a county, relative to the average cost in the country

Geographic unit: County

Year coverage: 2018

Source: Map the Meal Gap

Source website: <http://feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hunger-studies/map-the-meal-gap.aspx>

Data description: [https://www.feedingamerica.org/research/map-the-meal-gap/how-we-got-the-map-data?s\\_src=W205DIRCT](https://www.feedingamerica.org/research/map-the-meal-gap/how-we-got-the-map-data?s_src=W205DIRCT)

Citation for data: see above, for *Food costs relative to state average*.

Note: See note, above, for *Food costs relative to state average*.

## Demographics

*African American, %* – the percentage of the total population that reported being non-Hispanic black/African American alone (i.e. not in combination with any other racial category)

Geographic unit: Congr. District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District, Block

Year coverage: 2000, 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*American Indian, %* – the percentage of the total population that reported being non-Hispanic American Indian alone (i.e. not in combination with any other racial category)

Geographic unit: Congr. District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District, Block

Year coverage: 2000, 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Asian, %* – the percentage of the total population that reported being non-Hispanic Asian alone (i.e. not in combination with any other racial category)

Geographic unit: Congr. District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District, Block  
Year coverage: 2000, 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Other or multiple race, %* – the percentage of the total population that checked the “Other” race category and/or reported more than one racial category and that did not indicate a Hispanic or Latino origin

Geographic unit: Congr. District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District, Block  
Year coverage: 2000, 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*White, %* – the percentage of the total population that reported being non-Hispanic white alone (i.e. not in combination with any other racial category)

Geographic unit: Congr. District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District, Block  
Year coverage: 2000, 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Hispanic or Latino, %* – the percentage of the total population that reported being of Hispanic or Latino origin (this variable includes all racial categories that checked the Hispanic/Latino category)

Geographic unit: Congr. District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District, Block  
Year coverage: 2000, 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Asian language spoken at home, %* – the percentage of the population 5 years and over that reported an Asian language as the primary language spoken at home

Geographic unit: Congr. District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District, Block  
Year coverage: 2000, 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*English spoken at home, %* – the percentage of the population 5 years and over that reported English as the primary language spoken at home

Geographic unit: Congr. District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District, Block  
Year coverage: 2000, 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Spanish spoken at home, %* – the percentage of the population 5 years and over that reported Spanish as the primary language spoken at home

Geographic unit: Congr. District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District, Block  
Year coverage: 2000, 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Other language spoken at home, %* – the percentage of the population 5 years and over that reported a language other than English, Spanish, or an Asian language as the primary language spoken at home

Geographic unit: Congr. District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District

Year coverage: 2000, 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Limited-English households, %*– The percentage of the population with limited English proficiency

Geographic unit: Congr. District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District, Block  
Year coverage: 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Noncitizens, %*– The percentage of the population who are not U.S. citizens

Geographic unit: Congressional District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District  
Year coverage: 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Education-less than high school, %* – the percentage of the population age 25 or over that has less than a high school education

Geographic unit: Congr. District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District, Block  
Year coverage: 2000, 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Education-high school, %* – the percentage of the population age 25 or over that has a high school education

Geographic unit: Congressional District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District

Year coverage: 2000, 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Education-some college, %* – the percentage of the population age 25 or over that has some college education

Geographic unit: Congressional District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District

Year coverage: 2000, 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Education-associates degree, %* – the percentage of the population age 25 or over that has an associates degree

Geographic unit: Congressional District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District

Year coverage: 2000, 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Education-college or higher, %* – the percentage of the population age 25 or over that has a bachelor's degree or higher level of educational attainment

Geographic unit: Congr. District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District, Block

Year coverage: 2000, 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Female-headed household with children, %* – the percentage of households that are headed by single females with children under the age of 18

Geographic unit: Congr. District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District, Block

Year coverage: 2000, 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Households with children, %* – the percentage of households that include children under the age of 18

Geographic unit: Congr. District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District, Block

Year coverage: 2000, 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Workers driving/carpooling to work, %* – the percentage of the employed population that drives or carools to get to work

Geographic unit: Congressional District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District  
Year coverage: 2000, 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Workers using public transportation, %* – the percentage of the employed population that takes public transportation to work

Geographic unit: Congressional District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District  
Year coverage: 2000, 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Workers walking or using other non-vehicle, %* – the percentage of the employed population that walks or uses alternative forms of transportation (e.g. bicycle) to get to work

Geographic unit: Congressional District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District  
Year coverage: 2000, 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Crowded housing units, %* – The percentage of occupied housing units with more than 1 person per room

Geographic unit: Congr. District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District, Block  
Year coverage: 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Total households, #* – the total number of households

Geographic unit: Congressional District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District  
Year coverage: 2014-2018 (combined)

Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates

Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Total persons, #* – the total number of persons

Geographic unit: Congressional District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District

Year coverage: 2014-2018 (combined)  
Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates  
Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Children, %*– The percentage of the population under age 18  
Geographic unit: Congr. District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District, Block  
Year coverage: 2014-2018 (combined)  
Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates  
Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Working-age adults, %*– The percentage of the population under age 18-64  
Geographic unit: Congr. District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District, Block  
Year coverage: 2014-2018 (combined)  
Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates  
Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

*Seniors, %*– The percentage of the population under age 65 or older  
Geographic unit: Congr. District, County, Municipality, Tract, School District, Block  
Year coverage: 2014-2018 (combined)  
Source: Census 2000; American Community Survey (ACS), 2014-2018 period estimates  
Source website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

### **Local Resource Variables:**

**Note:** Local resources can be selected on the mapping tab, and are usually mapped at their exact location. Occasionally, due to imprecise addresses, resources may appear on the map at the center of their zip code area rather than at their exact address. Local resource data are not always comprehensive, and in some cases have not been recently updated. *They are intended to illustrate differences in resource availability around the state, and are not intended as a guide to people looking to access local resources.* Please read the notes to understand what is available.

*Retail food outlets accepting FoodShare* – retailers accepting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, also known as FoodShare in Wisconsin) electronic benefits transfer (EBT) cards (also known as Quest Card in Wisconsin)

Year: Current as of April 2019  
Source: SNAP Retailer Locator, USDA  
Source website: <http://www.snapretailerlocator.com/>

*Food pantries* – food pantries, based on lists compiled from multiple sources.

Year: list compiled in fall 2015  
Source: numerous agencies, resource guides and local contacts  
Source website: N/A

Note: These data have not been updated since fall 2015. Because there is not a central source from which to obtain comprehensive food pantry lists, there may be pantries that are not in our records, or pantries listed that are no longer in operation.

*Public schools* – the location of public schools; schools can be further classified by whether they participate in the School Breakfast Program; whether they utilize the Community Eligibility Provision, which allows qualifying schools to provide all students with free meals; and by whether they have above a user-specified share of children who are certified as income-eligible to receive free or reduced-price school meals.

Year: 2018-19 school year

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Source website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/program-statistics>

Note: Data on school characteristics are for the 2018-19 school year;

*Summer meal programs* – sites that provide meals for children during the summer months

Year: 2020

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Source website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/community-nutrition/sfsp/find-summer-meals-site>

Note: Includes sites as of June 2020, and subject to change; The most up-to-date information, including hours of service, is available at the source website.