

# Poverty, Hunger, Health, and the Federal Nutrition Programs:

A Profile of Florida



## HUNGER

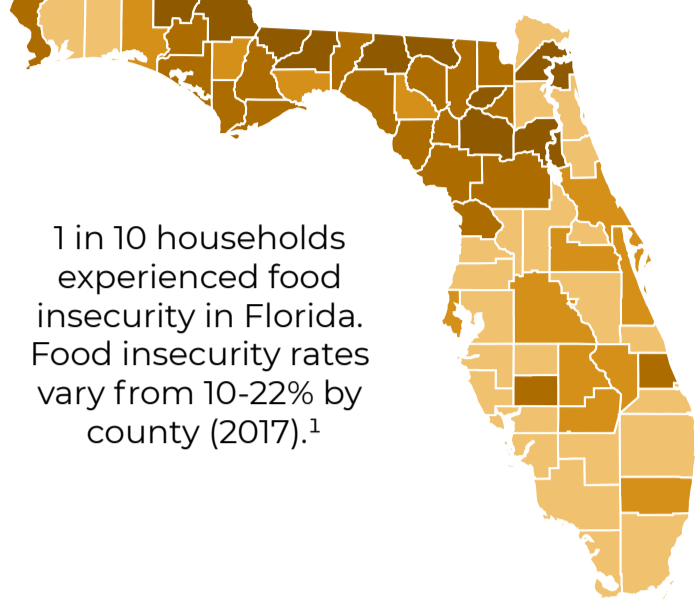


**1 Million** households experienced food insecurity in Florida on average from 2016-2018

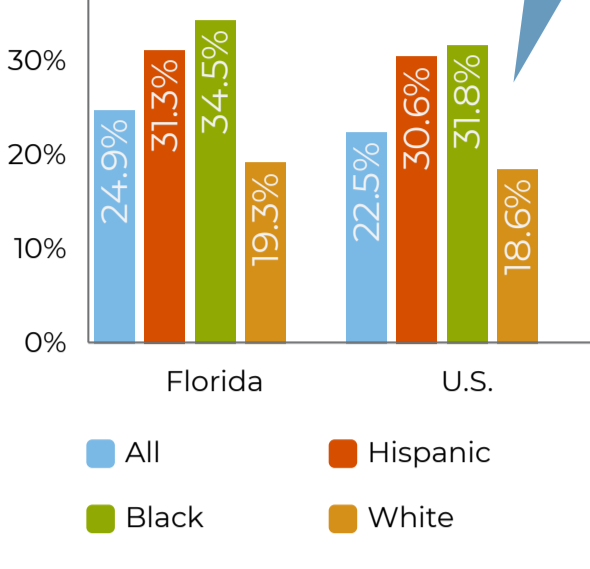
Food insecurity is increasing dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic, disproportionately affecting Black and Hispanic households that already experienced higher rates of food insecurity in Florida

Food Insecurity by County, 2017

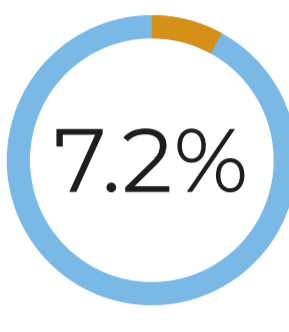
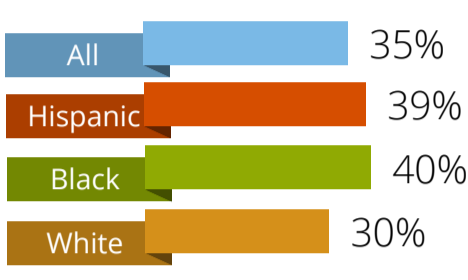
Legend: ≤13% (lightest), 13-15%, 15-17%, >17% (darkest)



Florida Food Insecurity Rates<sup>2</sup> (Avg May 5 - July 21, 2020)

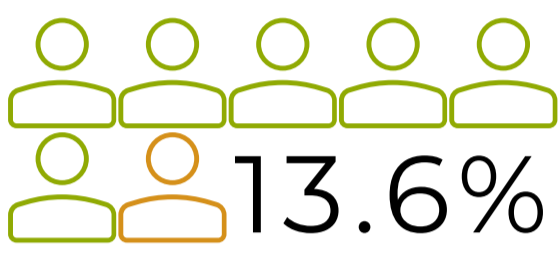


In Florida, food insecurity has increased to 35% for individuals with children during COVID-19. The burden is higher for Hispanic and Black individuals with children.<sup>2</sup>



## POVERTY

### Overall Poverty



or over 2.8 million people live below the poverty level in Florida, compared to 13.1% in the U.S. (2018)

### Child Poverty



or 1 in every 5 children live below the poverty level in Florida (2018)

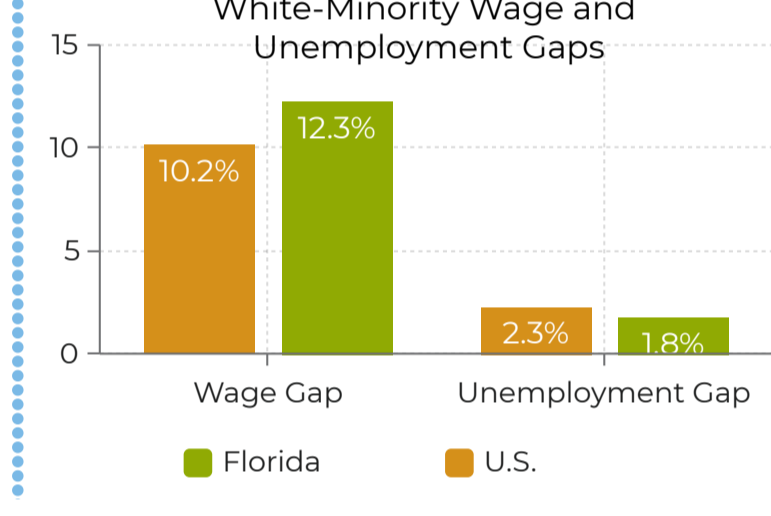


of children live below the poverty level nationally

Low wages and significant inequities in White-Minority wage and unemployment contribute to high poverty in Florida



In 2018, median household income was 10% lower in Florida (\$55,462) than in the U.S. (\$61,937)



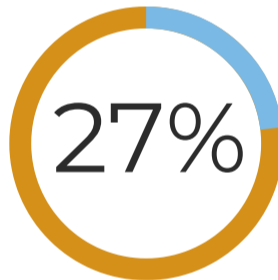
## HEALTH



Hunger and poverty contribute to poor health and disparities in Florida

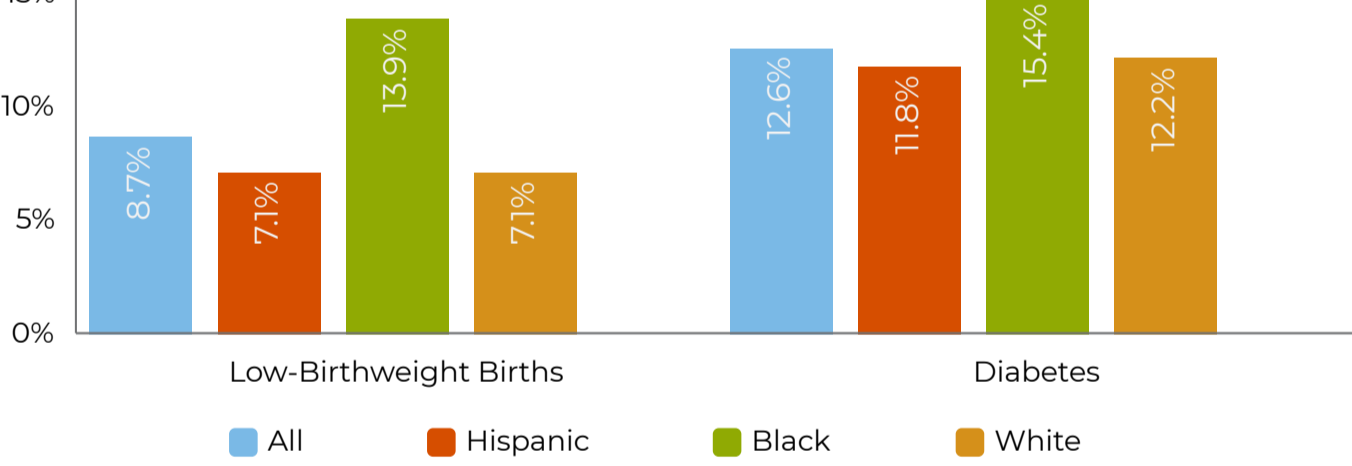


Almost 1 in 3 (30.7%) individuals in Florida has obesity (2018)



The disparity in health status based on high school education in Florida (2018)

Diabetes and Low-Birthweight Births by Race and Ethnicity in Florida (2018)



## FEDERAL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

The federal nutrition programs benefit millions of people and are a vital source of support in Florida. However, too few eligible people are reached.

### SNAP

13.8% or about 2.6 million people in Florida received SNAP benefits in 2018

92% of eligible persons participated in 2016, bringing in over \$4 billion in federal funding to Florida (2018)

\$4 B

### Federal Nutrition Programs:

- Reduce Food Insecurity
- Improve Dietary Intake and Health
- Protect Against Obesity
- Boost Learning and Development
- Support Economic Security
- Lift Families out of Poverty
- Act as Stimulus for Local Economies

### WIC

429 Thousand women, infants, and children in Florida participated in WIC in 2019

Half (50.9%) of eligible people are enrolled in Florida, slightly less than the U.S. 51.1% (2017)



### Child Nutrition Programs

Thousands of children are served each year

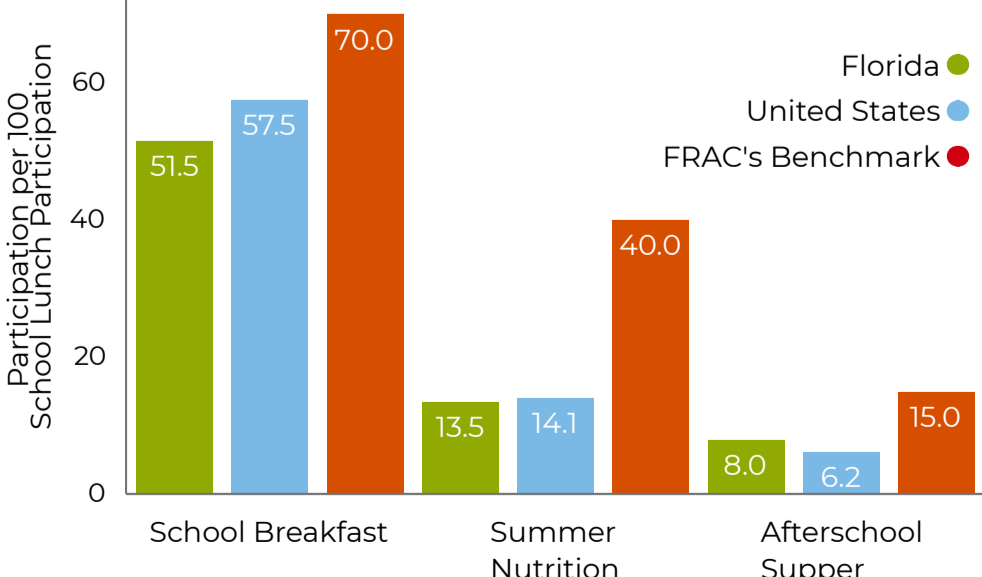
1.7 Million National School Lunch Program (School Year 2018-2019)

866 Thousand School Breakfast Program (School Year 2018-2019)

311 Thousand Child Care Homes and Centers (Fiscal Year 2019)

194 Thousand Summer Meals (July 2018)

Although participation was increasing in Florida before the COVID-19 pandemic, participation in 2018 is low compared to FRAC's benchmarks



1. Gundersen, C., A. Dewey, M. Kato, A. Crumbaugh & M. Strayer. (2019). Map the Meal Gap 2019: A Report on County and Congressional District Food Insecurity and County Food Cost in the United States in 2017.  
2. Schanzenbach, D., Tomeh, N. (2020). Northwestern Institute for Policy Research Visualizing Food Insecurity: Census Pulse Data.