

Mapping Food Insecurity

What You Need to Know About Food Insecurity in the Greater Las Vegas Valley

What is food insecurity?

Food insecurity is defined as individuals and families not having access to sufficient amounts of nutritious food at any point in time to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle. When individuals and families do not have consistent access to such food, they are food insecure.

How is food insecurity measured?

Many demographic and economic variables are used to measure food insecurity:

- Population count
- Household size
- Unemployment rates
- Poverty rates
- Median household income
- Density of Hispanic and African-American populations
- Home ownership (included as of 2012)

Did you know?

Unemployment and poverty are strong determinants of food insecurity since low income families are less able to purchase and have consistent access to nutritious foods.

Food insecurity maps can be found on our website at:
<https://www.threesquare.org/learn-about-hunger/research>

What does this map tell us?

- The average food insecurity rate across Clark County is about 14.4 percent. About one out of every seven people in Clark County is food insecure. This represents about 289,000 people.
- The five ZIP codes with the highest food insecurity rates in 2015 are: 89106 (27.8%), 89101 (22.8%), 89169 (21.9%), 89029 (21.8%), and 89115 (20.9%). Food insecurity rates in these areas have remained high since 2012, when the unemployment rate began to decline again.

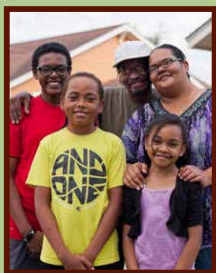
How can we reduce food insecurity?

- Improve the economy. Even with low unemployment, there is hunger. We also need to help people transition out of poverty.
- Increase the number of meals Three Square distributes.
- Increase partnerships to maximize output of federal nutrition programs.

How does food insecurity in the Greater Las Vegas Valley relate to Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap?

In 2011, Feeding America released their first Map the Meal Gap report, including an interactive map that indicates food insecurity rates at the county, state, and national levels. In addition to food insecurity rates, the interactive maps also include information such as the average cost of a meal, the number of food insecure people, and additional money required to eliminate food insecurity at these levels. Currently, To better understand food insecurity on a more localized level, Three Square began releasing supplemental Map the Meal Gap studies (other side), which demonstrates food insecurity rates at the ZIP code level.

For more information, visit Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap at
<http://map.feedingamerica.org>



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