Food Insecurity In Southern Arizona

MAP Dashboard Presentation: Food Insecurity In Southern Arizona
July 22, 2020 | 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
Today’s Presenters

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Webinar Details

► The webinar will be recorded
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Key Topics Today

► How Food Insecure is Tucson?
  ► How does Tucson compare to peer metro areas?
  ► What percentage of the population has limited access to food?

► How Food Secure are Tucson’s Children?
  ► What percentage of households with children are food insecure?
  ► How many children are enrolled in the Lunch Program?

► Food Related MAP White Papers
  ► Farm-To-School Programs in Southern Arizona
  ► Food Accessibility in Southern Arizona
  ► A Comprehensive Food Access Analysis in Tucson

► How will COVID-19 Impact Food Security?
How Food Insecure is Tucson?

Will COVID-19 Increase Food Insecurity?

Learn More
Prevalence of Food Insecurity in U.S. Households

Percent Food Insecure (2017)

- Albuquerque
- Austin
- Phoenix
- Tucson
- Las Vegas
- Salt Lake City
- Colorado Springs
- Portland
- San Antonio
- San Diego
- Denver
- El Paso

Tucson
Food Insecure: 13.6%

County Health Rankings via MAP (mapazdashboard.arizona.edu)
Percent Food Insecure (2017)

Source: County Health Rankings via MAP Dashboard • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper
How Food Secure are Tucson’s Children?

COVID-19 Impacts Food Insecurity for Children
U.S. Households with Children by Food Security Status (2018)

Federal Nutrition Programs

► SNAP – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
► School Breakfast Program
► Summer Food Service Program
► National School Lunch Program
  ► Free lunch - income less than 130% of the federal poverty level
  ► Reduced lunch – income less than 185% of the federal poverty level
  ► Current federal poverty level for a family of three is $21,720
Children Living in a Household that were Food Insecure at Some Point During the Year

2018
U.S.: 17.0%
Arizona: 17.0%

Kids Count via MAP (mapezdashboard.arizona.edu)
MAP White Paper

► Farm-To-School Programs in Southern Arizona
  ► Encourages local food purchasing by schools to provide fresh, healthy school meal options
  ► Analysis of farm-to-school programs including their characteristics and activities in Southern Arizona

► Food Accessibility in Southern Arizona
  ► Mapping the growth, trajectory, and market base of Tucson farmers’ markets
  ► Analyzes the location of farmer markets to select variables such as households with children, poverty rate, vehicle-less households, and ethnicity.

► A Comprehensive Food Access Analysis in Tucson
  ► Addresses aspects of food store diversity and variety in an evaluation of food access, especially in low-income neighborhoods
Food Deserts and Average Distance to the Nearest Store

Food deserts are areas with low income and low access to food. Exclusion of independent stores increases access for many neighborhoods.

- **All Stores**
- **Chain Only**

Average distance to the nearest store is a major determinant of whether a tract is a food desert.

*Click on a tract for more information.*

**Source:** mapdashboards.arizona.edu

Uncertainty Looms

Will COVID-19 Impact Food Insecurity?

- Food insecurity typically increases during economic downturns
- World Bank
  - additional 135 million people worldwide will face food insecurity
- Feeding America
  - increase of 17.1 million in the U.S.
- U.S. Census Bureau’s Household Pulse Survey
  - 3.9 million children experienced COVID-19 related food shortages in June
Key Takeaways

► **Tucson has a high percentage of food insecure individuals**
  - 4\textsuperscript{th} highest percentage among peer western metros
  - Expected to increase because of COVID-19 pandemic
  - Arizona was slightly higher and third among western states

► **Limited access to food**
  - Arizona’s had the third highest rate among western states
  - Tucson’s rate of 7.7% placed it in the middle of peer metros

► **Children living in food insecure households**
  - In the U.S. nearly 14% of households with children are food insecure
    - Of which 7% have food insecure children
  - Food insecurity has declined since the end of the Great Recession
  - Households with children have been hit the hardest by the financial implications of COVID-19

► **COVID-19 will have an impact on food security worldwide**
  - More data and time is needed to estimate the true impact
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