Food Insecurity in Washtenaw County, MI

"Food insecurity describes a household's inability to provide enough food for every person to live an active, healthy life" - Feeding America

The Setting

2.5





average household size

total population

% of population under age 18

Data Snapshot*

*All data used can be found at <u>Health for All Washtenaw</u> (healthforallwashtenaw.org)

10.7 %

% of the population in Washtenaw County has experienced food insecurity at some point in the past year (2018)

6.0 %

% of population who are considered low income and have low access to a grocery store (2015) 7.2 %

% of adults who have ever reduced food intake because there wasn't enough money for food in the past year (2015)

40.4 %

% of households that receive Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (i.e. food stamps) have <u>children</u> (2014-2018)



% of Washtenaw County <u>children under 18</u> have experienced food insecurity at some point in their lives (2018)

Food Insecurity during COVID-19

COVID-19 has disrupted nearly every aspect of our lives, including food and our ability to access it. Due to large waves of unemployment, disruptions in the food chain, and other social and economic factors, more people are dealing with food insecurity than before the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are some examples of this in our community.



From the Community



"People were worried that without programs like [<u>Prescription for Health</u>] they were going to have trouble finding food for themselves because they **didn't feel comfortable going into a store setting**" Community Health Worker, September 2020

"You can still see that at times there's a limited amount of product [such as products in the supermarkets]" Community Health Worker, September 2020



From the Health Department



"For accessible food - it's really around our messaging, we've been talking about physical distancing so much but for people who are food insecure, they often rely on other people [to help them get food], which may pose a risk for transmission - so we've been considering our response now through that equity lens, how do you stay safe AND access food" Charles Wilson, Community Health Promotion Supervisor, September 2020

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