



2024 Garden State Conference on Food Security:  
**Setting a Table for All, for Always**

Presented by the New Jersey Office of the Food Security Advocate

# **Taking Food Security Action:** OFSA Research & Resources for your Toolbox

October 4, 2024

# Knowledge is Power



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**In New Jersey from 2021-2023:**



**347,000**  
households  
experienced food  
insecurity on  
average annually

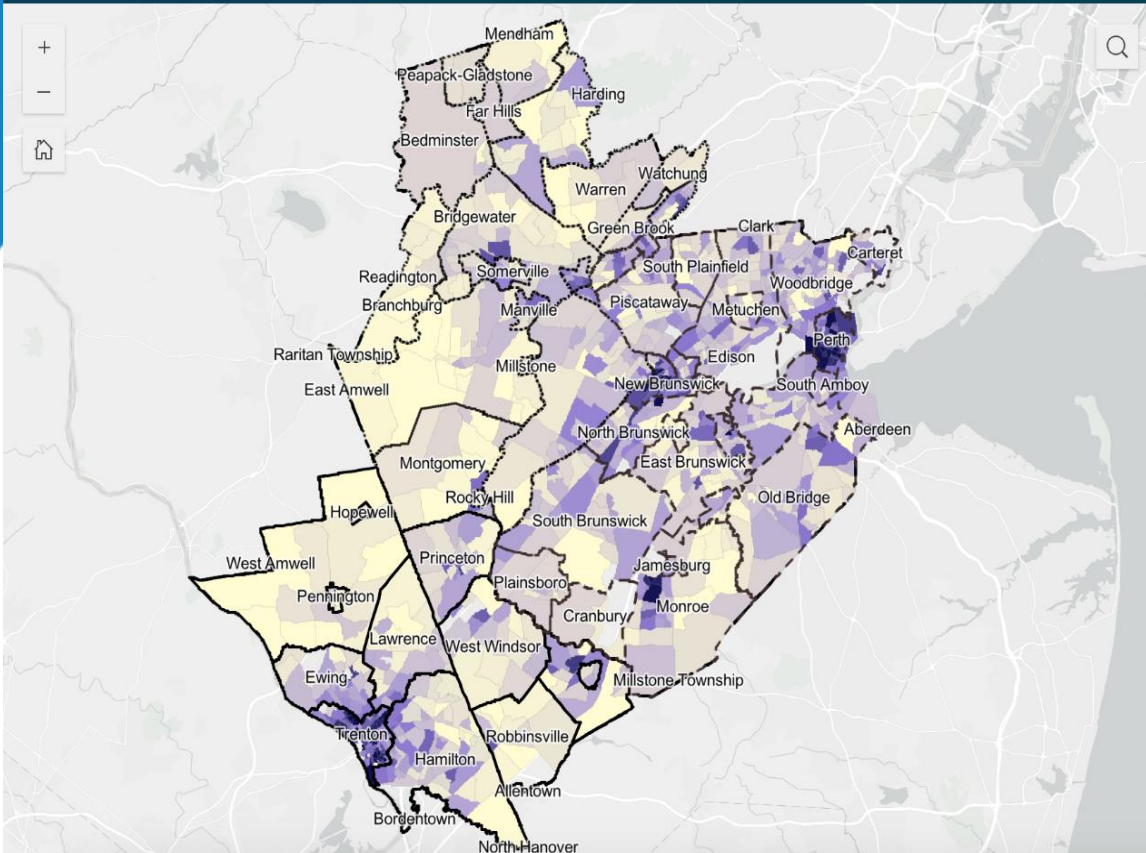
**food  
insecurity  
increased  
16.7%**  
compared to  
2018-2020  
(8.4% to 9.8%)

**Source:** OFSA analysis of USDA 2023 Household Food Security in the U.S. data

- New USDA Food Security data released in September
- There are many ways to define and measure food security and this data only tells part of New Jersey's food security story

View OFSA's blog on the data here



[Home](#)[Food Insecurity Index](#)[County View](#) ▾[Contact Us!](#)[About the Index](#)

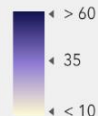
## Food Insecurity

Explore the interactive map to the left! Click on an area to learn more about it, including its food insecurity score and key characteristics. Use the plus and minus buttons in the upper

Food Insecurity Index Score



Food Insecurity Index Score



- ☒ Municipal Boundaries ...
- > ☒ Segment Filters ...
- ☒ Food Insecurity Index Score ...

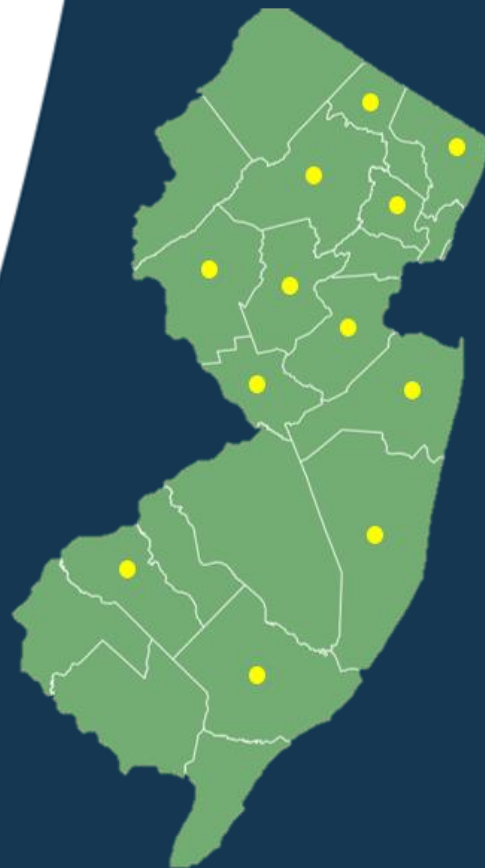
### To use this app:

1. **Check the boxes** of the layers you want to see
2. To see the different segment filters, tap the carrot next to "Segment Filters" layer and click on the box of the layer you would like to see.
3. Make sure any layers you don't want to see are **unchecked**.
4. You can tap the list icon next to the layers to view the **legend** explaining what the colors mean.
5. The **3 dots** can be used to filter and download the layer information
6. **Use the circles below or arrows on right and left** of these instructions for additional information about the segments and data on the counties.

# Building Capacity at Food Banks & Pantries



- Completed capacity assessments with 150 agencies in 12 counties throughout NJ.
- Provided action planning tools.



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## Peer Learning Sessions

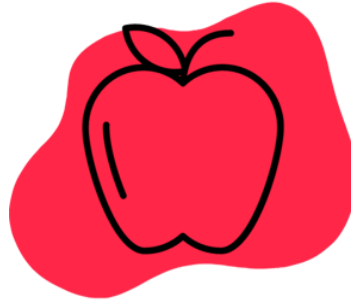
Hosted **7** peer learning calls with participation from **18** food bank and food pantry leaders from across the state. Topics included:



**Creating a  
Welcoming Culture**



**Gathering Neighbor  
Feedback**



**Choice with Dignity**



**Connections to  
Community  
Resources**



**Promoting Healthy  
Food**



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# OFSA's Resources to Understand Food Security



OFSA's Website



Dimensions of  
Food Security  
Primer



Data Chart Book



Public Data  
Catalog







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# Six Dimensions of Food Security Primer

Summary of select text/references to introduce the six dimensions of food security and their application in the context of New Jersey

Includes:

- Factors Impacting Food Security
- Summary of the Six Dimensions
- Impacts of Food Security
- NJ Food Security Work Across Dimensions

**Food Security in New Jersey:**  
A Brief Primer on the Six Dimensions of Food Security

May 2024 | NJ Office of the Food Security Advocate | [www.nj.gov/foodsecurity](http://www.nj.gov/foodsecurity)



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# Data Chart Book

## Definition Summary

## Scan quick facts, including status, trends, and latest year of the data

## Explore State and County level tables, charts, and graphs, and maps

### Map the Meal Gap Food Insecurity Estimates

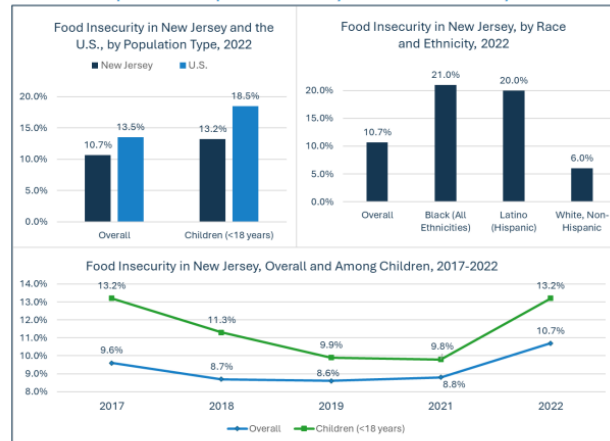
**Metric Source:** [Map the Meal Gap](#)

USDA measures food insecurity in the U.S. and each state at the household level. Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap uses USDA's state-level household data to generate county-level estimates based on associations with closely linked indicators, including poverty, unemployment, homeownership, and disability prevalence. Estimates for 2020 are not comparable to other years' estimates.

#### Quick Facts

**Definition:** A lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life  
**Prevalence in New Jersey:** 10.7%  
**Latest Year of Data:** 2022  
**Trends:** *Getting Worse.* Food insecurity has risen from 8.6% overall in 2019 to 10.7% in 2022 in New Jersey  
**Associated Food Security Dimensions:** Access

#### The State of Map the Meal Gap's Food Insecurity Estimates in New Jersey



\*Data for 2020 is omitted as estimates for 2020 are not comparable to other years' estimates

## Review the methodology, including how the metric is measured and calculated

#### Methodology

**Methodology:** Map the Meal Gap's Estimates of Food Insecurity is a percentage – it is an analysis of a household level survey using associations with closely linked social determinants of health  
**Numerator:** Population with a lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life or with uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods  
**Denominator:** Total population  
**Data source:** [Map the Meal Gap](#)

The State of Food Security in New Jersey: A Data Chart Book | Summer 2024 | [Back to Top](#)

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#### Limitations and Gaps in the Public Data

- Estimates for 2020 are not comparable to other years' estimates. This is because, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on data collection in 2020, the Census Bureau released 5-year (2016-2020) American Community Survey (ACS) data instead of the traditional 1-year estimates that have been historically used to estimate food insecurity.

#### Explore More Related Public Data

- [USDA Food Security Key Statistics & Graphics](#)
- [Household Food Security in the United States in 2022](#)
- [Map the Meal Gap New Jersey 2022](#)

## Understand limitations or gaps in the data

## Find similar data sources



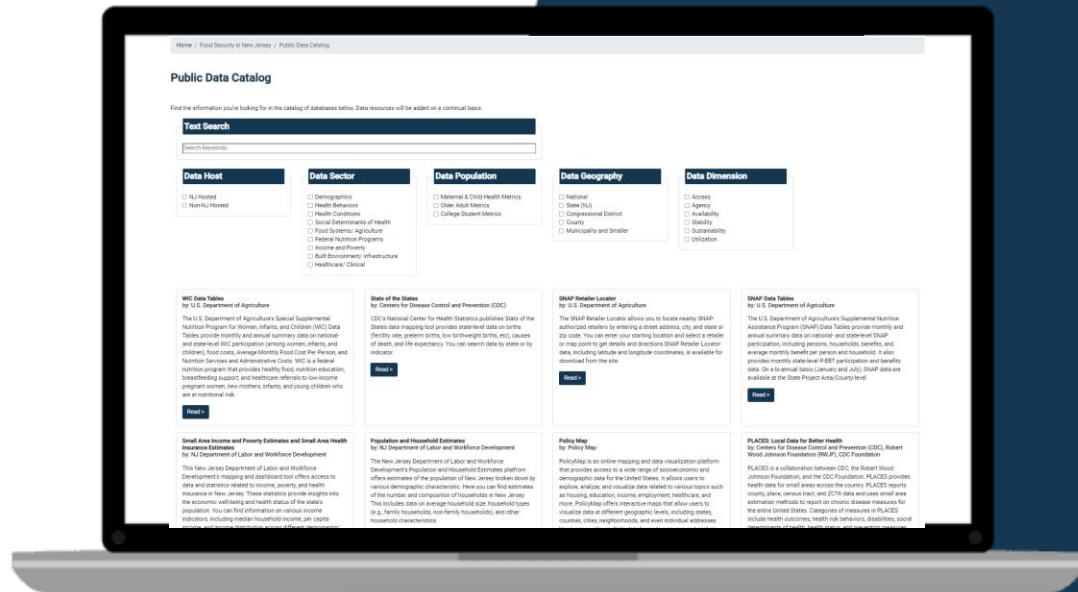


# Public Data Catalog

National and New Jersey public data sources that are related to food security

## Categorized by:

- Author
- Sector
- Geography
- Population, and
- Dimension of Food Security



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