

Arkansas Food and Nutrition Security State Profile

Overview

According to the [U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service \(USDA ERS\)](#), 12.6% of households in Arkansas (AR) experienced food insecurity between 2018-2020. The prevalence of obesity among adults living in AR was 36.4% in 2020 as reported by the [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System \(BRFSS\)](#).

Demographic Overview

[2019 U.S. Census](#) data reports AR has an estimated population of 3.01 million. They identify as White (79%), Black (15.7%), American Indian and Alaska Native (1%), Asian (1.7%) and, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (0.4%) only. According to the 2019 Census report, 7.8% identify as Hispanic or Latino. 16.2% of AR residents experienced poverty in 2019.

Building Resilient Inclusive Communities (BRIC) - Alaska BRIC Communities

The following counties will be prioritized by the AR BRIC project:, Crittenden (West Memphis), Chicot (Lake Village), Lee (Marianna), Phillips (West Helena) and St. Francis (Forrest City).

Food Banks, Pantries and Feeding Programs

There are six food banks that serve Arkansas.

[Northwest Arkansas Food Bank](#)

- Operates [mobile pantries](#), school pantries, SNAP outreach.
- Has 135 partner agencies, to see where they are located, [click here](#).

[River Valley Regional Food Bank](#)

- Provides backpack assistance, SNAP outreach, and a Nutrition and Wellness Fair.
- To see a list of the 180 partner agencies, [click here](#).

[Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas](#)

- Serves the community of Forrest City.
- Provides a senior food pantry program, CSFP, and a backpack program.
- Partners with growers and gardeners in their Fresh Produce Program.
- Works with 100 partner agencies.

[Arkansas Food Bank](#)

- Serves the communities of West Helena, Marianna, and Lake Village.
- To find a list of partner agencies, [click here](#).
- Hosts mobile food distributions, conducts SNAP outreach, operates backpack programs, provides nutrition education.

[Harvest Regional Food Bank](#)

- Partner agencies and mobile distribution sites can be found [here](#).

Mid-South Food Bank

- Serves the community of West Memphis
- Operate school pantries, backpack programs, Kids Cafes, a diaper bank, SNAP application assistance, and mobile distribution at healthcare clinics.
- For a list of partner agencies, [click here](#).

Select Food and Nutrition Security Programs

Healthy Food Incentive Programs

- [Double Up Food Bucks](#) led by [Arkansas Coalition for Obesity Prevention](#).

Community Nutrition Education Programs

- Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)
 - [The University of Arkansas Extension](#)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-ED)
 - The [Arkansas Department of Human Services](#) is the state agency responsible for AR SNAP-Ed. SNAP-Ed implementing agencies include:
 - [Arkansas Coalition for Obesity Prevention](#)
 - [University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension](#)
 - [University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff](#)
 - For more information, click [here](#).

COVID Response

- Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) Program resources are available at the [AR Department of Human Service](#)

Food (Policy) Coalitions and Councils

- [Arkansas Coalition for Obesity Prevention](#)
- [Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance](#)
- [Arkansas Farm to School Collaborative](#)

Other Collaborators to Consider

- [Arkansas Children's - Access to Healthy Foods Group](#) aims to build evidence, capacity, and support for an equitable food system that fosters the health and wellness of children, families, and communities in Arkansas.
- [The Arkansas Department of Health](#) develops and implements policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry.
- [The Arkansas Farmers Market Association](#) provides a forum where market managers can network and advocate on behalf of Arkansas farmers.
- [The University of Arkansas: Resiliency Center - Resilient Food Initiative](#) develops strategies for increasing the resiliency of critical life-support systems.

Data Sources and Resources

- [AR Profile of Hunger, Poverty and Federal Nutrition Programs](#) - Food Research and Action Center
- [Farm to School and Early Childhood Education in the USDA Report Southeast Region Report](#)

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The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) and its more than 7,000 Members seek to strengthen state-based leadership and expertise for chronic disease prevention and control in states and nationally. For more information, visit chronicdisease.org.