

Kentucky Food and Nutrition Security State Profile

Overview

According to the [U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service \(USDA ERS\)](#), 13.8% of households in Kentucky (KY) experienced food insecurity between 2018-2020. The prevalence of obesity among adults living in Kentucky was 36.6% in 2020 as reported by the [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System \(BRFSS\)](#).

Demographic Overview

[2019 U.S. Census](#) data reports Kentucky has an estimated population of 4.46 million. They identify as White (87.5%), Black (8.5%), American Indian and Alaska Native (0.3%), Asian (1.6%), Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (0.1%) only. According to the 2019 Census report, 3.9% identify as Hispanic or Latino. 16.3% of Kentucky residents experienced poverty in 2019.

Building Resilient Inclusive Communities (BRIC) - KY BRIC Communities

The following counties will be prioritized by the KY BRIC project: Frankfort, Fulton, Jefferson (working in Louisville), Lee, and Martin Counties.

Food Banks, Pantries and Feeding Programs

There are seven food banks serving Kentucky. [Feeding Kentucky](#) is the state association supporting the work of the food banks.

- [Tri-State Food Bank](#)
 - Serves Kentucky, Illinois, and Indiana.
 - Operates backpack programs, SNAP application assistance, and CSFP.
 - View a list of [partner agencies in Kentucky](#).
- [Feeding America, Kentucky's Heartland](#)
 - Serves Fulton County.
 - Operates mobile food pantries, backpack programs, CSFP, and TEFAP.
 - Search for one of the 225 [partner agencies](#).
- [God's Pantry Food Bank](#)
 - Serves Lee and Martin Counties.
 - Operates backpack programs, Kids Cafe, school pantries, summer meal programs, and CSFP. Has a produce program, in which they partner with farmers to distribute fresh produce.
 - To find a [partner agency](#).
- [Dare to Care Food Bank](#)
 - Hosts Cooking Matters at the store and a prescriptive pantry.

- Operates backpack programs, summer meal sites, CSFP, mobile pantries, and school pantries.
- To find a [partner agency](#).
- [Freestore Foodbank](#)
 - Based in Ohio with a distribution center in Kentucky.
 - Operates clinic pantries, Produce Pop-ups, Veterans Affairs clinics, and a KIND program with a pediatric clinic.
 - Runs backpack programs, mobile markets, Kids Cafe, summer meals, school pantries, and TEFAP.
- [Facing Hunger Foodbank](#)
 - Serves West Virginia, Kentucky, and Ohio.
 - Operates a mobile pantry program, summer meals, TEFAP, backpack programs, and CSFP.
 - View a list of [partner agencies](#).

Select Food and Nutrition Security Programs

Healthy Food Incentive Programs

- [Kentucky Double Dollars](#) led by [Community Farm Alliance](#) and [Bluegrass Farm to Table](#)
- Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP)
 - *Current Funding:* [Fresh Rx for MOMs](#) (2019-2022) led by the [Community Farm Alliance](#).

Community Nutrition Education Programs

- Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)
 - [Kentucky State University Extension](#)
 - [University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture, Food and Environment](#)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-ED)
 - The Cabinet for Health and Family Services is the state agency responsible for KY SNAP-Ed, called Kentucky Nutrition Education Program. SNAP-Ed implementing agencies include:
 - University of Kentucky Nutrition Education Program
 - Kentucky State University
 - View more [information](#).

COVID Response

- Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) Program resources are available at the [KY Cabinet for Health and Family Services](#).

Food (Policy) Coalitions and Councils

- [Eastern Kentucky Food Systems Collaborative](#)
- [Food in Neighborhoods Community Coalition](#)

Other Collaborator to Consider

- [KY Hunger Initiative](#) aims to “study the sources of hunger, identify the unique issues that affect different regions of the Commonwealth, and take an inventory of resources related to this critical issue facing one in six Kentuckians.”

Data Sources and Resources

- [EFNEP KY 2016 Annual Report](#) - University of Kentucky
- [KY Profile of Hunger, Poverty and Federal Nutrition Programs](#) - Food Research and Action Center

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