

Alaska Food and Nutrition Security State Profile

Overview

According to the [U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service \(USDA ERS\)](#), 10.6% of households in Alaska (AK) experienced food insecurity between 2018-2020. The prevalence of obesity among adults living in Alaska was 31.9% in 2020 as reported by the [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System \(BRFSS\)](#).

Demographic Overview

2019 U.S. Census data reports Alaska has an estimated population of 731,545. They identify as White (65.3%), Black (3.7%), American Indian and Alaska Native (15.6%), Asian (6.5%), Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (6.5%) only. According to the 2019 Census report, 7.3% identify as Hispanic or Latino. 10.2% of Alaska residents experienced poverty in 2019.

Building Resilient Inclusive Communities (BRIC) - Alaska BRIC Communities

The following counties will be prioritized by the Alaska BRIC project: Anchorage and Northwest Arctic Borough

Food Banks, Pantries and Feeding Programs

There is one food bank that serves the entire state of Alaska.

[Food Bank of Alaska](#)

- Sponsors the [Alaska Food Coalition](#).
- Operates federal nutrition programs such as the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).
- The Food Bank has partner agencies around the state. Learn about [where they are located](#).
- Operates mobile food pantries and conducts SNAP application assistance.

Select Food and Nutrition Security Programs

Healthy Food Incentive Programs

- Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP)
 - *Current Funding:* Produce Prescription Program (2019-2022) led by [Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation](#).

Community Nutrition Education Programs

- Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)
 - [University of Alaska-Fairbanks](#)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-ED)
 - The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services is the state agency responsible for Alaska SNAP-Ed. SNAP-Ed implementing agencies include:

- North Slope Borough Department of Health and Social Services
- Municipality of Anchorage Department of Health
- Rural Alaska Community Action Program
- University of Alaska Cooperative Extension
- [View more information.](#)

COVID Response

- Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) Program resources are available at the [AK Department of Health and Social Services](#).

Food (Policy) Coalitions and Councils

- [Alaska Food Coalition](#)
- [Alaska Food Policy Council](#)
- [Kenai Local Food Connection](#)
- [Sitka Local Foods Network](#)

Other Collaborators to Consider

- [Alaska Farmers Market Association](#) supports and promotes sustainable farmers markets throughout Alaska.
- [Alaska Department of Education and Early Development](#) operates various nutrition programs aimed to ensure children are nourished and ready to learn.
- [Bean's Cafe](#) fights hunger and homelessness.
- [Municipality of Anchorage Department of Health](#)
- [Rural Alaska Community Program](#) empower low-income Alaskans through advocacy, education, affordable housing, and direct services

Data Sources and Resources

- [AK Food System: COVID-19 Adaptations, Collaborations, and Resilience](#)
- [AK Profile of Hunger, Poverty, and Federal Nutrition Programs](#) - Food Research and Action Center
- [Food Insecurity in Alaska: What We Know and How We Know It](#)
- [The Alaskan Way to More Fruits and Veggies: Food Demonstration Manual](#) - Alaska Department of Health and Social Services

The Improving Food Security, Access to Safe Physical Activity, and Social Connectedness (otherwise known as the Building Resilient Inclusive Communities, or BRIC) program is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$7,000,000 with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

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.