

# Data Walk: Sedgwick County HUNGER



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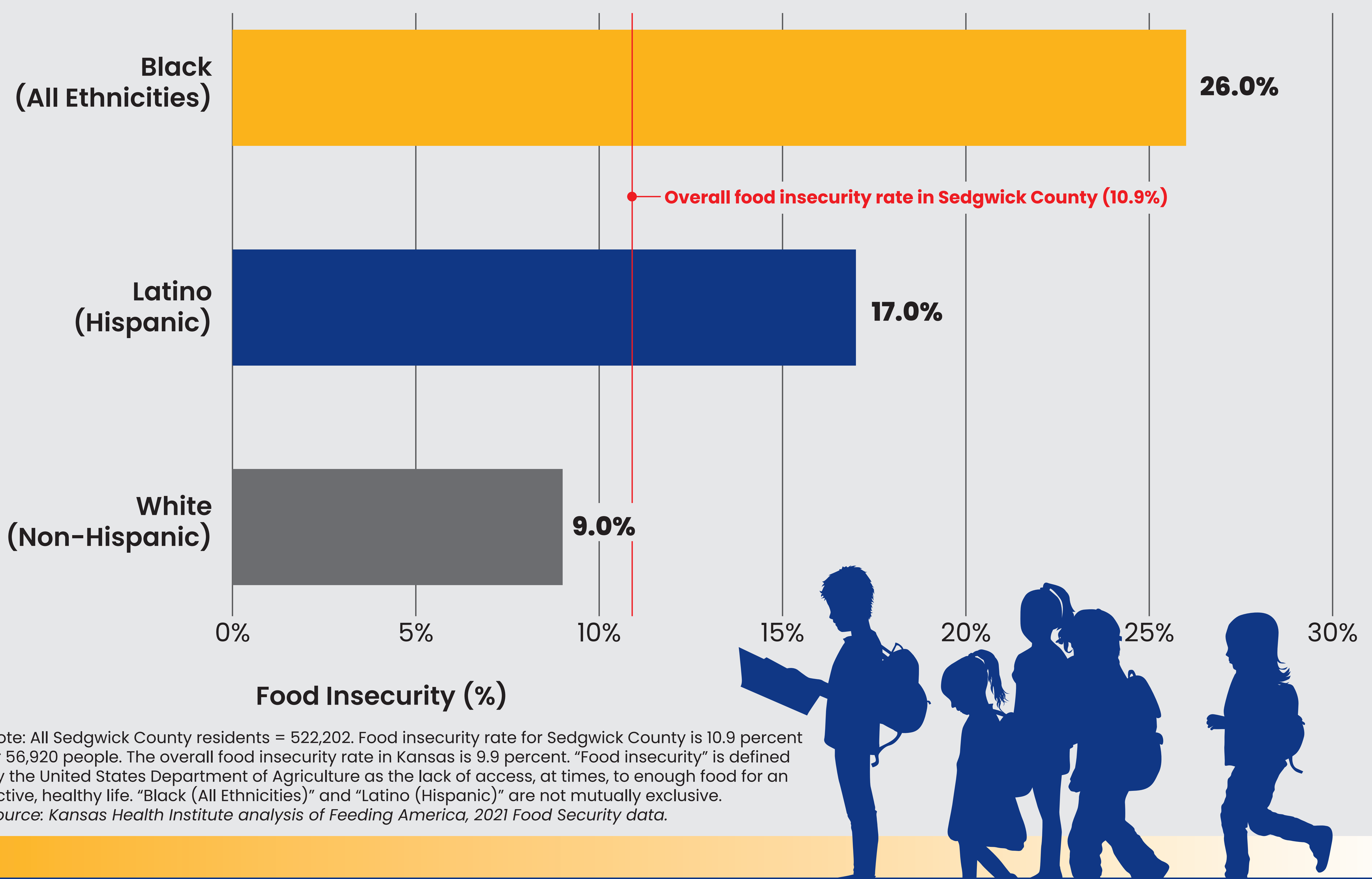
## What This Measures:

Percent of people in Sedgwick County who experience food insecurity.

# 2.5 times higher

The rate of food insecurity for people living in Sedgwick County who identify as Black (26.0 percent) is about 2.5 times higher than the overall rate in Sedgwick County (10.9 percent).

Food Insecurity Rates (All Ages) in Sedgwick County by Race and Ethnicity, 2021



**Why this is important:** Food security or having **access to enough nutritious food to live an active, healthy life** is essential to the health of families and a child's development. Food insecurity, or lack of food security, is tied to experiences of poverty, with many **families forced to decide between food, housing, medical bills and other basic needs**. Food insecurity disproportionately affects people who identify as Black, African American, Hispanic or Latino. Programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are one strategy to increase food security for families experiencing poverty. Limited data exists for the number of children removed into foster care who have experienced food insecurity; however, experiences of poverty can make it more difficult for families to provide basic needs such as food and is a risk factor for neglect. Kansas law requires that removals for neglect must not be due solely to lack of financial means. Children who experience food insecurity may exhibit behaviors such as hoarding or stealing food. More generous state SNAP policies have also been associated with reduced need for child protective services and foster care. **The Healthy People 2030 goal is to reduce household food insecurity to 6.0 percent.**

(Source: National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, Johnson-Motoyama et al. (2022) in JAMA Network Open, Healthy People 2030, Kansas Department for Children and Families, K.S.A. 38-2202)

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