

Data Walk

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION GUIDE

Analysis and Design by



**KANSAS
HEALTH
INSTITUTE**

Informing Policy. Improving Health.



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Food Insufficiency of Kansas Adults, 2024

Food insufficiency is when someone sometimes or often does not have enough food to eat. This can look like inconsistent access to enough food, skipped meals or dependence on unhealthy food options. Food insufficiency is associated with higher rates of poor nutrition and diet-related conditions and is disproportionately experienced by historically underserved communities.

Source: Mozaffarian (2023) in Circulation, National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health Evidence Center.



Food Insecurity Rates Among Children Age 0-17 in Kansas Counties, 2022

Food insecurity among children varies across regions. These disparities are influenced by limited access to grocery stores, transportation challenges and fewer community food programs in rural areas. Households with children, single-parent families, those with income below the federal poverty level and households in rural areas are disproportionately affected. Food insecurity contributes to higher risks of adverse health outcomes for children, including chronic conditions like asthma and obesity, as well as social and behavioral challenges.

Source: Healthy People 2030, Kansas Health Matters, U.S. Department of Agriculture.



Food Insecurity Rates Among Children in Kansas, 2017-2022

In 2022, food insecurity rates among children increased as food costs rose and temporary programs, such as the expanded child tax credit put in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, expired. Children who are food insecure are more likely to be hospitalized and may be at higher risk for developing chronic diseases. Food-insecure children also may be at higher risk for behavioral and social issues including fighting, hyperactivity, anxiety and bullying.

Source: Kansas Health Matters, Health People 2030, Annie E. Casey Foundation.



Kansas Households Without Affordable Housing by Housing Arrangement, 2023

When families must spend a large portion of their income on housing, they may not have enough money to pay for things like healthy food or health care. This is linked to increased stress, mental health problems and an increased risk of disease. The Healthy People 2030 goal is to reduce the proportion of families without affordable housing to 25.5 percent.

Source: Healthy People 2030.



The Healthy People initiative is a national collaboration of stakeholders started in 1979, and led by the U.S. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health to promote, strengthen and evaluate the nation's efforts to improve the health and well-being of all people.



Poverty Rate by Racial and Ethnic Group in Kansas, 2023

There is persistent over-representation of Black and Hispanic Americans among the population in poverty in the United States. Racial disparities in poverty are byproducts of systemic racism and cumulative disadvantage over the life course, including unequal economic opportunity and barriers to multigenerational social mobility.

Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury, Health Affairs, the Brookings Institution.



Average Annual Grocery Spending and Percent of Pre-Tax Income in United States by Income Group, 2023

The price of groceries in the U.S. rose 5.0 percent from 2022 to 2023, double the 20-year historical inflation level. The cost of food impacts household purchasing power, behavior, community health and nutrition. Higher food costs may result in consumers shifting their purchases to less-nutritious and less-costly foods. Households that spend a greater share of their income on groceries may have difficulty paying for other essentials, such as housing, utilities, transportation, child care and medical costs.

Source: Kansas Health Institute, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Dong et al. (2020) in Agricultural Economics, Wang et al. (2021) in Health Economic Review, U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service.



Social Service Utilization for Food Among Kansas Adults, 2024

Social services are essential for individuals struggling to afford and access food. Access to household economic resources such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), both in utero and in early childhood, have been found to reduce medical conditions such as high blood pressure, heart disease and diabetes later in life and increase financial security for women, including increased educational attainment and income and decreased use of safety net programs. Food banks are also an essential community resource and can be a source of nutrient-rich food. Social services programs support businesses, generating economic activity beyond the benefit's value.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service, Hoynes et al. (2016) in American Economic Review, Bazerghi et al. (2016) in Journal of Community Health.

Kansas Net Farm Income and Federal Insurance Indemnities, 2008-2023

Kansas is a top agricultural leader in the nation, ranked seventh in the U.S. for agricultural sales. Over the past fifty years, farms have been consolidated, shifting to larger operations across fewer farms. Today, 55,500 farms across the state oversee 44,800,000 acres of farmland. Increasingly severe weather creates new challenges for these farms. In 2023, Kansas received the second highest amount nationally of federal insurance indemnities for losses of crops and livestock. Nationally, over half of crop losses are due to fire, high temperatures or drought. Excess moisture due to rain or floods is the next most common cause.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service.

What is Missing?

Data can inform the development of effective decisions, policies and interventions, and can measure progress. Some of this data may be publicly available or could be shared in the future, but some data may require new efforts to collect it. However, there will always be unknowns. Leadership requires becoming comfortable with some uncertainty.

Source: Kansas Health Institute, Kansas Leadership Center.