

Mapping the Meal Gap 2016

In April, Feeding America released Map the Meal Gap 2016, a report on county and congressional district level food insecurity and food costs. This study used data from 2014 to analyze how much—in real dollars—it would take to close the gap between food insecurity and security.

In Arizona, the percentage of the population that is food insecure had a slight decline, from 17.5% in 2013 to 17.1% in 2014. And while this may seem like good news, when we look more closely at the numbers we see that we are headed in the right direction, but it's also clear that there is so much more work to be done.

The food insecurity rate for children is a staggering 26.8%. **MORE THAN 1 OF EVERY 4 CHILDREN IN ARIZONA IS AT RISK OF HUNGER.** These numbers mean that the most vulnerable in Arizona continue to be in crisis, particularly in rural counties.

Families in the meal gap would need an average of **\$16.15 MORE PER PERSON TO COVER THE SHORTFALL** between being food insecure and having enough to eat. With the current Arizona minimum wage at \$8.05 (gross), that's more than one extra 8 hour day of work per week to fill the gap for a family of four.

Please **SEE THE SPECIAL INSERT** in this issue of Food Lines for more details regarding these numbers. There's also a link to an interactive map of this study on our website at **WWW.AZFOODBANKS.ORG.**



MORE INSIDE



Mother and child at summer feeding site.

OUR MEMBERS



Community Food Bank
of Southern Arizona

HONORHEALTH
Desert Mission
Food Bank



YUMA
COMMUNITY
FOOD
BANK

UNITED
FOOD BANK
Nourishing Arizona Communities
Feeding America

VISIT AZFOODBANKS.ORG

FOLLOW US



want to help?

Visit our website and subscribe to our email list. We'll send you legislative action opportunities so that our elected officials and policymakers will hear your voice!

Mapping the Meal Gap 2016

Map the Meal Gap 2016 is the latest report on county and congressional district level food insecurity and county food costs in the United States. Food insecurity is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's measure of lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members. This study showed that:



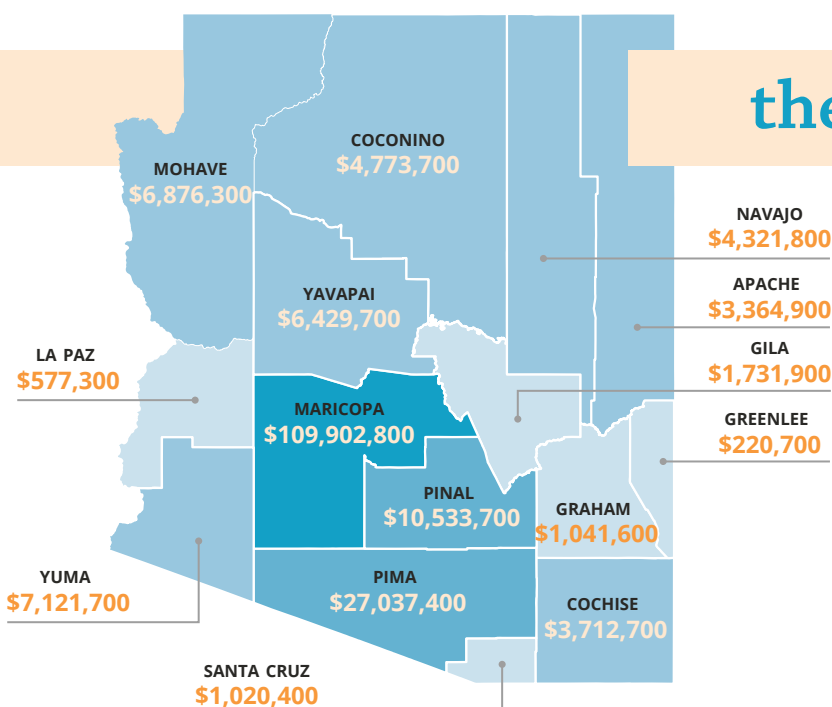
*In Arizona, the number of food insecure individuals is estimated to be **1,150,650**.*

17.1%
OF ADULTS



*With a weekly budget shortfall of **\$16.15** for each one of these people, the total monetary gap to solve food insecurity for everyone in Arizona is more than **\$563 million**.*

MISSING
203
MILLION
MEALS



the meal gap by county

These dollar amounts represent the weekly food-budget shortfalls food insecure people report needing in order to be food secure (weighted by the cost of food in each area).

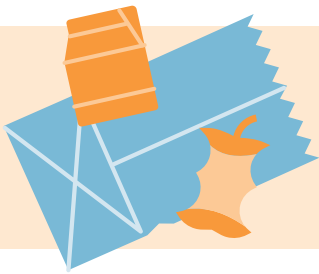


Children and the Meal Gap

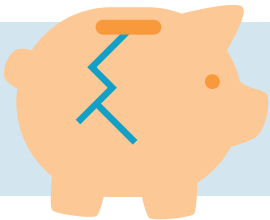


For children in Arizona, the picture is worse. More than **1 in 4** are food insecure.

27%
OF CHILDREN

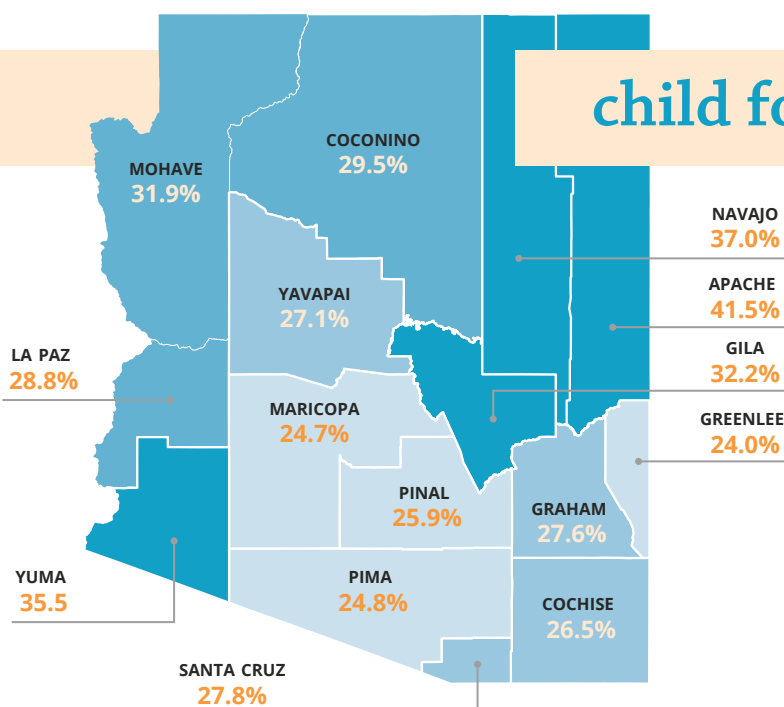


That means an estimated **434,840** children are at risk of being hungry in Arizona. And at 42%, children in Apache County have the **highest risk in the nation**.



More than **139,000** live in households that do not qualify for federal nutrition assistance, based on household income.

child food insecurity by county



Visit our site at WWW.AZFOODBANKS.ORG for an interactive map of this study.

Map the Meal Gap 2016 uses data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and food price data and analysis provided by Nielsen (NYSE: NLSN), a global provider of information and insights. The study was supported by founding sponsor The Howard G. Buffett Foundation, ConAgra Foods Foundation and Nielsen.

SINCE JULY 1, 2015,
*we have delivered over 16
million pounds of food*
TO OUR MEMBER FOOD BANKS.

Transportation

The Arizona Statewide Gleaning Program

Produce, produce, produce! AAFB's transportation team has been hard at work during what we call "produce season." When the Southwest experiences cooler weather, farmers harvest citrus, squash, onions and so much more. Our food bank network receives generous donations from growers all around the state when there is excess, or when they have what is now popularly being called "ugly fruit." Once our member food banks meet the needs of the agencies and people they serve locally, they share with each other. That's when AAFB goes to work moving it. **WE HAVE DELIVERED ALMOST 6 MILLION POUNDS OF PRODUCE SO FAR THIS SEASON—AND WE AREN'T DONE YET!**

Produce season is our favorite time of year. We're able to get much-needed fruits and vegetables to food bank clients. And the health of our clients is very important to us, so the need to get them healthy food is more important than ever. In Arizona, 42% of food bank client households have a member with diabetes, and 54% have a member with high blood pressure. AAFB is committed to delivering as many fruits and vegetables to them as possible. A big thanks goes out to the generous growers and distributors in Arizona—because of them we are able to make this happen!

THANKS FOR VOLUNTEERING!

A big thank you to the 100 volunteers who helped repack beans on April 30 at the Mesa LDS Cannery. Because of your help, a total of **7,500 BAGS THAT ARE NOW A FAMILY FRIENDLY SIZE** will go out to people in need across the state.



Childhood Hunger

For Far Too Many Children, Summer Means Hunger

In Arizona, 58% of all kids receive a free or reduced price school lunch. And for every 100 students who receive a free or reduced price lunch, 52 students also eat a school breakfast. While these numbers vary year to year, they both show how much Arizona's kids are benefitting from meals served at schools.

WE KNOW THAT HUNGRY KIDS CAN'T LEARN, AND THAT LEADS TO PROBLEMS WITH CONCENTRATION AND KEEPING UP IN CLASS. But thanks to grants from the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust and Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry campaign, AAFB is working to get more kids the food they need.



Boy at summer feeding site.

One of the ways we're doing this is by working to get the children who receive meals at school more support during the summer when classes aren't in session. While key agencies work together to provide meals through the federal Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), there's a large gap between the number of children served when classes are in session and those who benefit from SFSP.

In order **TO UNDERSTAND WHY AGENCIES AREN'T ABLE TO SERVE KIDS IN THE SUMMER, WE HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS THEY FACE.** That's why this summer we're working with the Morrison Institute at Arizona State University to conduct a study to get a sense of the reasons schools and other agencies opt out of serving summer meals.

We know that some challenges have to do with our extreme weather—it's too hot to walk more than a couple of blocks and too expensive to run air conditioning at a level that would keep everyone safe—but other challenges might be more subtle. And once we know those key challenges, we can work together to solve them. Look for the results of the study on our website WWW.AZFOODBANKS.ORG in the fall.

DO YOU KNOW A CHILD WHO NEEDS A SUMMER MEAL? TEXT FOOD TO 877-877 TO GET THE CLOSEST SUMMER FEEDING SITE OR VISIT AZFOODBANKS.ORG. EN ESPAÑOL, ENVÍA EL TEXTO COMIDA AL 877-877.

10TH ANNUAL FARMER IN THE HOUSE DINING SERIES

Once again, Pat Duncan of Duncan's Trading Company invited some of Arizona's most talented chefs to the 10th Annual Farmer in the House dining series. During this series of events from March through May, each chef created a unique wine-paired menu using the freshest, most flavorful fruits and vegetables from Pat's Laveen farm. **THE WEEKLY DINNERS WERE HELD AT RESTAURANTS THROUGHOUT THE VALLEY AND, AS ALWAYS, PROCEEDS WERE DONATED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA FOOD BANKS.** Thanks to Pat and all of the chefs, suppliers and restaurants who made this season's events such a success!



hunger relief license plate

Have you seen this license plate when driving around Arizona, or do you even have one yourself? The Hunger Relief license plate costs \$25 (plus postage and handling) and benefits AAFB. **Get yours when you renew your Arizona license plate** and help end hunger one "plate" at a time. A big thanks to everyone who has this special plate. See you on the road!

From Angie Rodgers

I'm writing this column today wishing I had better news to share with you. Last night, at around 2 a.m., our state legislature wrapped up its budget negotiations, passing a state budget of \$9.6 billion for 2017. No new money was included for hungry people and barriers to help families access nutrition still exist. Arizona may not have a children's health insurance program and there will be no new education money. In short, **IT SEEMS OUR CHILDREN—OUR FUTURE—WERE SHORTCHANGED.**

I will go home tonight to my now 12-year-old son and explain to him what happened. I will tell him we had a chance to help others—to send a message that we care and are willing to invest in services to help make Arizona a better place to live. And we blew it. We will have another chance next year. But in the meantime, we will have an election. This is an opportunity to learn and teach about these issues and to **REMIND OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS THAT THERE ARE STILL SO MANY WHO NEED OUR HELP**—that taking care of someone who doesn't have as much as you do is our priority.

I wonder how my son will take this news. But when I tell him, I will also share some good news: there is a network of caring people—people just like you—who won't stop working to get Arizonans at risk of hunger the help they need. And I'm so grateful for you and your support. Let's get to work.

Angie Rodgers
President & CEO



ABOUT AAFB Established in 1984, AAFB is a private, nonprofit organization serving five member food banks and a network of nearly 1,200 food pantries and agencies. AAFB partners with Feeding America and other hunger relief organizations nationwide to end food insecurity in our state and country. For more than 30 years, AAFB's programs, including transportation, the hunger hotline and getting children meals in school, have helped alleviate hunger in Arizona. Our advocacy efforts target reducing the need for emergency food from the charitable system. For more information about our organization and work, visit our website at www.azfoodbanks.org.

Association of Arizona Food Banks

2100 N Central Ave Ste 230
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-1400
(602) 528-3434 : Local
(800) 445-1914 : Toll-Free
(602) 528-3838 : Fax

A Member of
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

