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SNHD OFFICE OF CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION & HEALTH PROMOTION

NUTRITION & FOOD SECURITY UPDATE

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD OCTOBER 13, 2025



University of Nevada, Reno
Extension
College of Agriculture,
Biotechnology & Natural Resources

Food Insecurity

Background

Data

Policy and Legislative Impacts

Projects



Food Insecurity

- Food Insecurity replaces the term “food deserts” to more clearly point to the issue.
- Deserts are naturally occurring; food deserts are result of poor planning and systemic inequity
- Field is moving towards Nutrition Security to ensure all people have consistent access to affordable food that promotes a healthy lifestyle.
- People don't have enough to eat and don't know where their next meal will come from.
- There are many more people who do not meet the definition of food insecure who turn to the charitable food sector for support.



Food Insecure Neighborhood

- Food insecure places are those where most residents don't have access to affordable, nutritious foods.
- The USDA defines a census tract as food insecure if it is both:
 - **Low Income:** The area has a poverty rate of at least 20% and
 - **Low Access:** At least 33% of the population lives more than 1 mile from the nearest grocery store in urban areas (or 10 miles in rural areas).⁽¹⁰⁾
- In 2019, the USDA identified **30 census tracts in Clark County** as food insecure.⁽¹¹⁾
- Vehicle access is another key measure for food insecurity with nearly 8% of homeowners and 15% of renters without access to a car in Nevada.⁽¹²⁾

Food Swamp

- Food Swamps are areas that lack grocery stores but have many options for quick, convenient, and often unhealthy food options including fast food restaurants and convenience stores.
- One definition give a general ratio of 4 to 1
- Studies have shown that food swamps are linked to poorer diet and higher obesity rates than food deserts.
- Presence of convenient and affordable but less healthy meal and food options often cancels out any benefits adding grocery stores might bring.

(11)

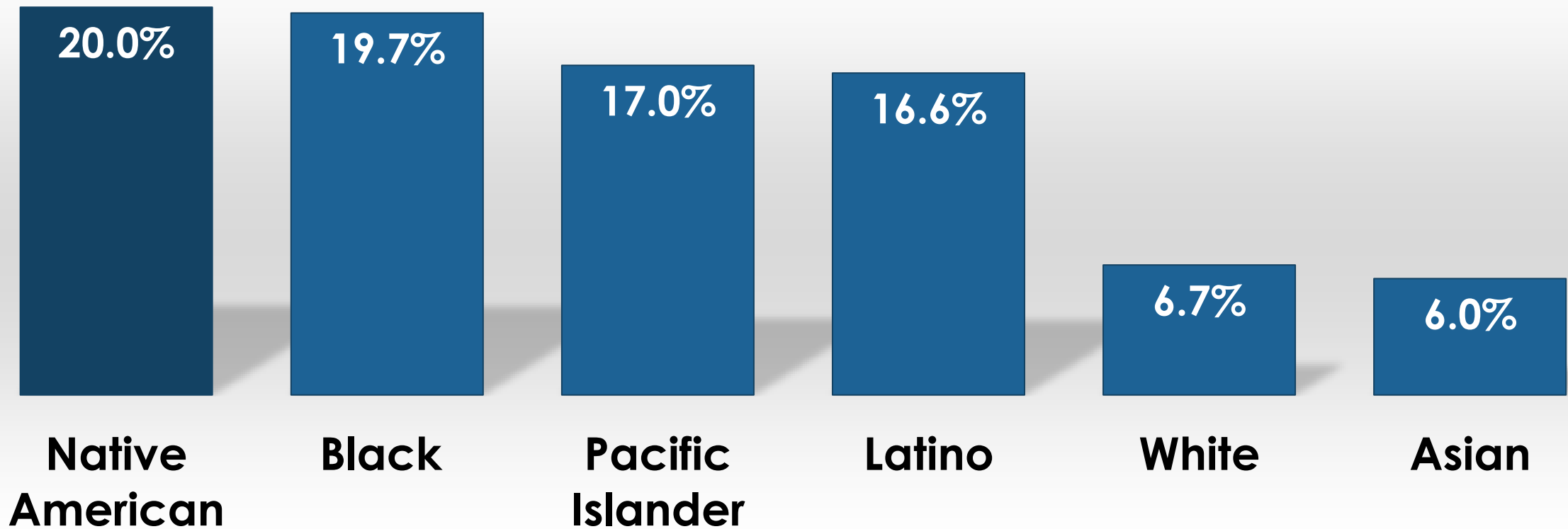


Food Insecurity Rates

- According to Feeding America, over 47 million people in the U.S.—including nearly 14 million children—experienced food insecurity in 2023.⁽¹³⁾
- In that same year, Clark County's food insecurity rate was 16.0%, affecting 366,710 people—higher than both Nevada (15.1%) and the U.S. (14.3%).⁽¹³⁾
- About 22% of children in Clark County, equivalent to 111,180 children, experienced food insecurity in 2023.⁽¹⁴⁾
- In 2023, food insecure residents in Clark County missed an average of 6.26 meals per week. Their average weekly food budget fell short by \$22.71.⁽¹⁴⁾



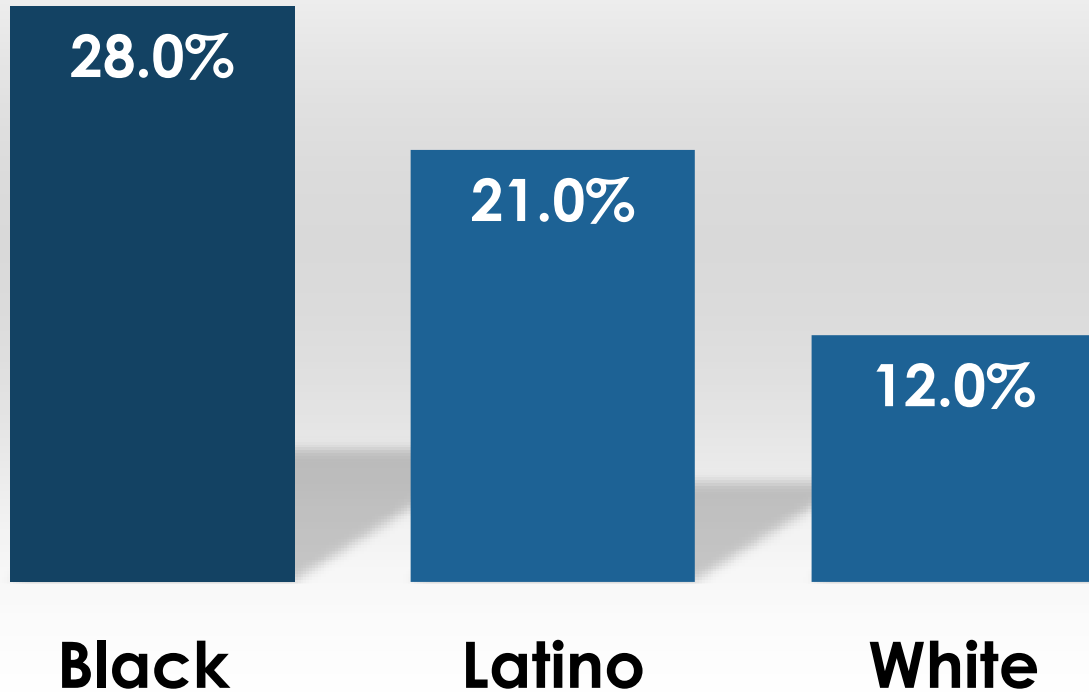
Food Insecurity by Race and Ethnicity in the *U.S.*, 2023



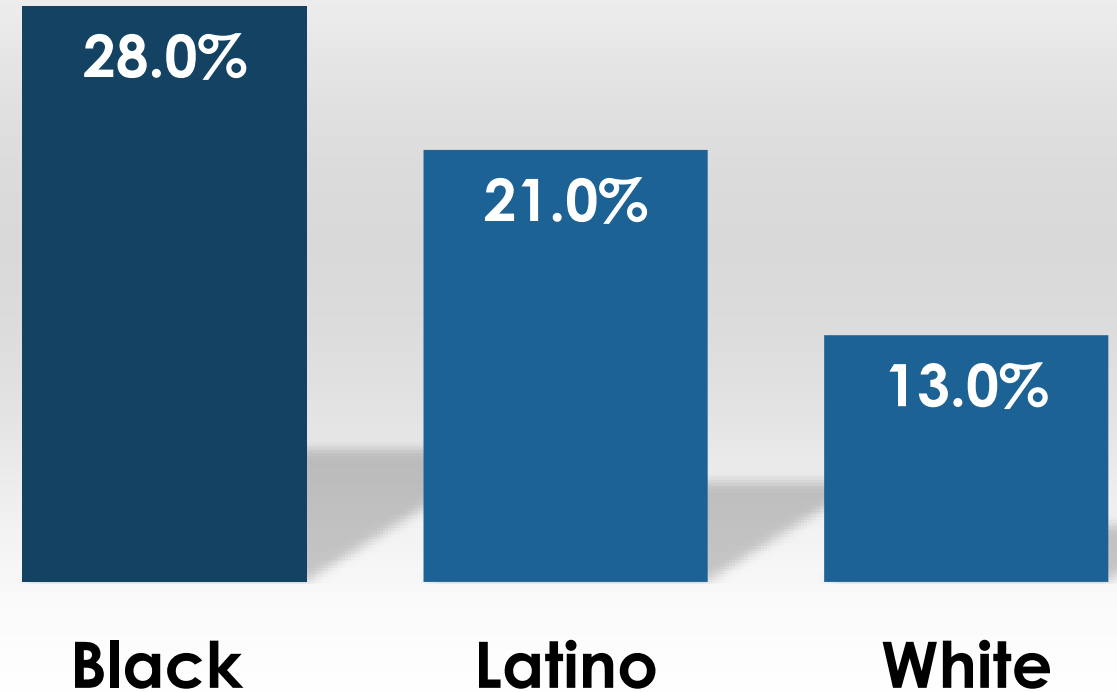
Source: Feeding America, 2025 (based on 2023 data).

Food Insecurity by Race and Ethnicity, 2023

Nevada



Clark County



Source: Feeding America, 2025 (based on 2023 data).

Public Health Impacts

- People who experience food insecurity regularly are more likely to develop chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease than those who are food secure.
- Food insecurity has been linked to poor diet and greater risk of obesity and related health conditions.⁽¹²⁾
- Other Impacts of Food Insecurity
 - Diet quality and nutrition impact experiences of psychological stress
 - Deficient nutrition can affect an individual's mood, energy, and cognition
 - Mental Health: Depression, anxiety, and stress
 - Well Being: Social isolation, stigma, and shame
 - School and Work: Difficulty concentrating, have low energy, or miss school and work due to illness (19)

Policy and Legislative Impacts

Federal

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - In 2021, one in seven Nevada residents (453,000 people) received SNAP assistance.
 - 30% of SNAP recipients are older adults and 62% are families with children.(16)
 - Funding reductions and expanded eligibility restrictions included in the federal budget reconciliation law passed in July 2025
 - Estimated \$170 billion reduction over 10 years to SNAP
 - Expanded work requirements
 - Reduced exemptions
 - Nevada NRS waives cumbersome reporting requirements and barriers to SNAP eligibility. These will be overruled by new federal measures making food access more difficult
 - Estimated 10% of those currently enrolled in SNAP in the U.S. will lose benefits due to these changes. Nevada SNAP reports over 140K people will lose benefits in January 2026
 - USDA announced they will no longer publish their annual report measuring food insecurity in the U.S.

NV 2025 Legislative Session Food Policy Bills

- SB 104 School Gardens **PASS**
- SB 233 Home Feeds Nevada **PASS**
- SB 282 Grocery Store Initiative **FAIL**
- AB 246 Prison food study & Good Food Purchasing Program **FAIL**
- AB 268 Universal School Meals **FAIL**
- AB 345 Higher Education Food Security Study **PASS**
- AB 405 Community Garden and Urban Farms **PASS**
- AB 474 Surplus Food Assistance Account DWSS **FAIL**



SB 233 - Home Feeds Nevada

- Council on Food Security to study long-term funding for the Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase Program
- Report due to Legislature by 2027; Council may request one bill draft
- \$800,000 appropriated to support food purchases for the program

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PASSED



AB268 - Universal School Meals

- Providing universal school breakfast and lunch for all students in Nevada for school districts meeting certain requirements.
- Agriculture for the purpose of awarding grants of money to Nevada school districts to provide universal free breakfast and lunch to Nevada pupils the following sums:
 - For the Fiscal Year 2025-2026..... \$43,000,000
 - For the Fiscal Year 2026-2027..... \$43,000,000

AB268 - Universal School Meals

- Providing universal school breakfast and lunch to Nevada for school districts meeting criteria
- Agriculture for Nevada to provide money to Nevada school districts to provide lunch to Nevada pupils the following:
 - For the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 \$43,000,000
 - For the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 \$43,000,000

AB268 - Universal School Meals

No Cost School Meals

This coming school year, the Clark County School District will offer no cost school meals to all students, with no application or paperwork required.

For more information and to view the school menus, visit menu.ccsd.net

***NO-COST MEALS
FOR ALL STUDENTS***

CCSD breakfast and lunch meet all
current federal nutrition standards.

No Application Required.

LEARN MORE

We are
CCSD

SNHD
Southern Nevada Health District

www.gethealthyclarkcounty.org
GET MOVING. EAT BETTER. LIVE TOBACCO-FREE.

AB 345 - Higher Ed Food Security

- Requires the Board of Regents to create a **public data dashboard** by September 1, 2026, tracking:
 - Number of public high school graduates enrolling in NSHE.
 - Number of students enrolled in remedial or corequisite support courses in reading, writing, or math.
 - Average number of years it takes students to graduate.
 - When available, data on students who, within two years of graduating, do not earn wages in Nevada, are not enrolled in NSHE, or receive unemployment/public assistance.
 - Authorizes state agencies & local governments (school districts) to help develop & maintain dashboard.
- Requires the Board of Regents to establish a system-wide policy promoting the use of low-cost and no-cost course materials.
- Requires the Board of Regents to conduct an interim study on financial and food insecurity among NSHE students.
 - **Study must explore causes of temporary withdrawal from academic programs due to these insecurities.**
 - **Evaluate possible solutions and recommend data-driven strategies to reduce student hardship.**

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AB 405 - Community Gardens and Urban Farms

- Directs the Council on Food Security to conduct a statewide study on food insecurity in Nevada.
- Study must include:
 - Review of existing laws and policies addressing food insecurity.
 - Identification of areas for new community gardens or urban farms.
 - Assessment of coordination efforts among state/local entities.
 - Recommendations to improve statewide coordination and reduce food insecurity.
 - Requires a written report submitted to the Department of Agriculture and the Legislature.

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PASSED

Projects Supporting Food Security

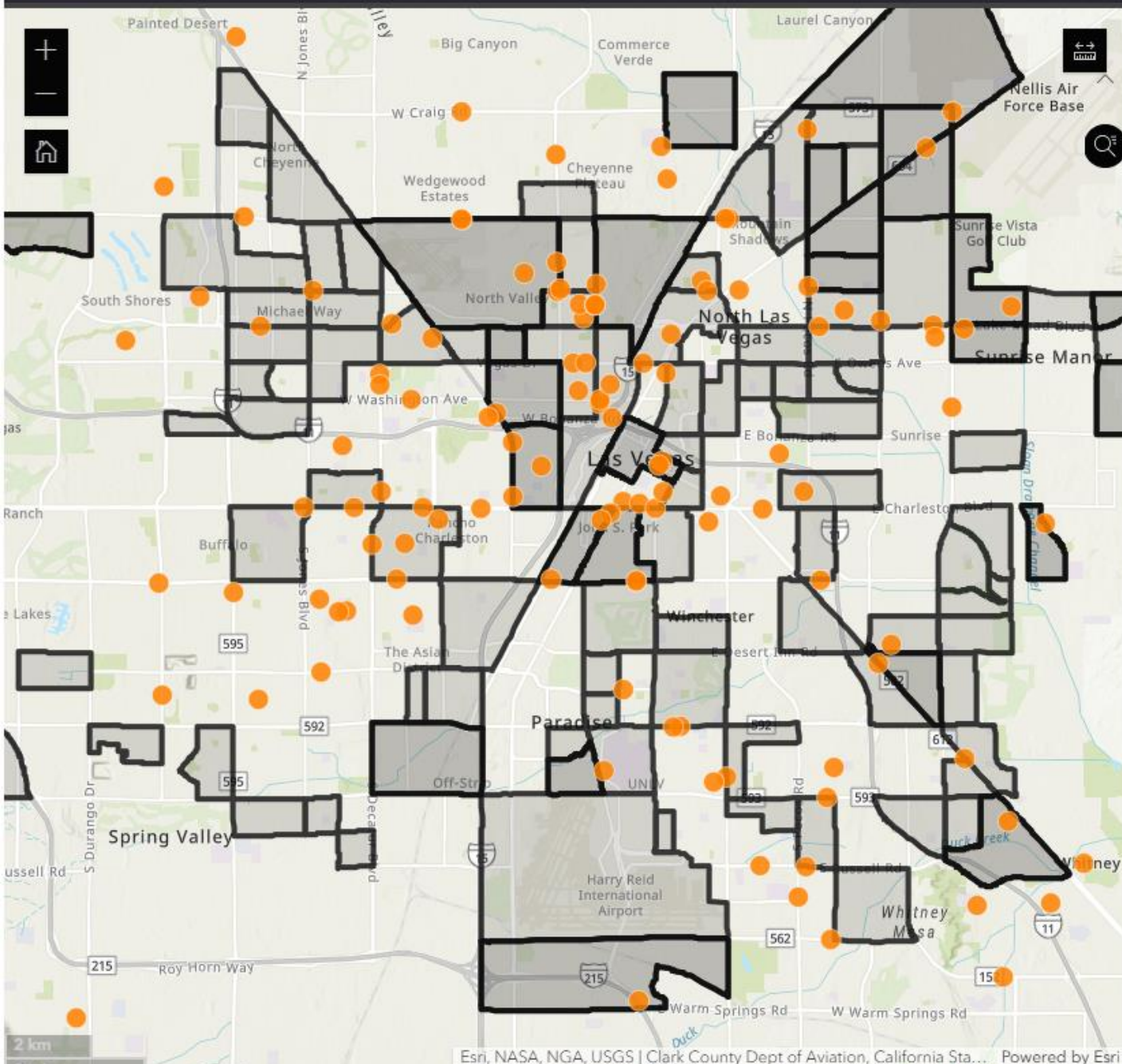
- Healthy Food Access Map
- Farmers Market Promotion Program
- Food Access Policy Assessment
- Food Access Landscape Assessment

- Supporting Wellness at Pantries (SWAP)
- Pop-Up-Produce Stands
- Double Up Food Bucks (DUFB)





The issue is wide spread



Map Layers

[Legend](#) [Options](#)

- ☒ Food Resources
 - ☐ (SNAP) Large Grocery Stores
 - ☐ (SNAP) Small Food Market/ Specialty Store
 - ☐ (SNAP) Limited Fresh Food
 - ☐ (SNAP) Take Home Meals
 - ☐ (WIC) Grocery Stores
 - ☐ Double Up Food Bucks
- ☒ Meal Sites (Free)
 - ☐ Child and Adult Care Food Program
 - ☐ Summer Food Service Program
 - ☐ Older Adults
 - ☒ Food Pantry
 - ☐ Farmers Market
- ☒ Food Insecure Areas
- ☒ Transportation
- ☒ Food Access Data

- ☒ Food Resources
- ☒ Food Insecure Areas
- ☒ Transportation
 - ☐ RTC Bus Routes
 - ☐ Southern Nevada Transit Coalition Network
 - ☐ Jurisdictions
 - ☒ Percent of Homes without vehicles

% with No Vehicles Available

- ☒ > 40 - 77
- ☐ > 20 - 40
- ☐ > 5 - 20
- ☐ 0 - 5

- ☒ Food Access Data
 - ☒ Population
 - ☒ Income



SNFC Policy Assessment Results 2013-2025

QUESTIONS:

RATING SCALE:

- A How well is it addressing Food Security in Nevada? 1 2 3 4 5
- B Is it assigned to a certain organization? Yes -1 No -0
- C Is there any way to track or measure growth? Yes -1 No -0
- D Is there any fiscal note or money attached? Yes -1 No -0

Total ___/8

SCORING:

Low 1 to 2 Medium 3 to 5 High 6 to 7

4 A'S OF FOOD SECURITY & FOOD SYSTEM

Availability
Consistently stocked

Accessibility
Public transportation/
walkability

Affordability
Median income of
neighborhood

Appropriateness
Diet Quality, Safety, meeting the
cultural/ health/ age diversity



PRODUCTION

**PROCESSING
AND PLANNING**

CONSUMPTION

DISTRIBUTION

Consumption

Low

Medium

High

AB 545
Higher Ed Food
Security
Group Rank 4

SB 485
SNAP Eligibility
Group Rank 6

SB 505
Breakfast After
the Bell
Group Rank 7

SB 490
Supplemental Food
Program directed by
NDA
Group Rank 6

SB 325 SNAP
Eligibility Work
Requirements
Group Rank 6

AB 158
TANF
Group Rank 6

SB 455
Senior Meal
Reimbursement
Group Rank 6

AB 107
Tracking FRPL
Group Rank 5

Production

Low

Medium

High

SB 429
Urban Agriculture
Zones
Group Rank 1

SB 297 Urban
Farming &
Community
Gardens
Group Rank 3

NRS 252.4966
Creation of Gov
Council on Food
Security
Group Rank 6

SB 167
School Gardens @
Title I Schools
Group Rank 5

SB 104
School Gardens
Group Rank 5

AB 352
Cottage Foods
NDA will be
managing
Group Rank 5

NRS 252.4968
Duties of Gov
Council on Food
Security
Group Rank 6

SB 458 School
Gardens @ Title I
Schools
Group Rank 3

AB 479
Tax on
Agricultural Land
Group Rank 4

AB 335
Nevada State Fair
Grounds
Group Rank 5

AB 405
Community Garden
and Urban Farms
Group Rank 5

Distribution

Low

Medium

High

AB 200
Farm to Fork
Group Rank 2

SB 178
Food for People not
Landfills
Group Rank 4

AB 171
State Quarantine Officer
to Take Action Relating
to Eggs
Group Rank 7

AB 326
Fresh Food Retailers
New Market Jobs Act
Group Rank 2

SB 92
Sidewalk
Vendors
Group Rank 5

SB 370
Creates Home
Feeds Nevada
Group Rank 6

AB 116
Food Delivery
Service Providers
Group Rank 1

NRS 268.0191
Power
Group Rank 4

Ordinance 110.150
Alternative Payment of
Fines Donation
Program
Group Rank 6

NRS 244.291
Ordinance
Group Rank 4

SB 255
Home Feeds
Nevada
Group Rank 6

Processing

Low

Medium

High

SB 390
Poultry Processing
Initiative
Group Rank 3

SB 206
Cottage Food
Expansion
Group Rank 6

SB 441
Craft Food Expansion
Group Rank 6

AB 251
Meat / Poultry
Inspection
Group Rank 5

ELDERS & FOOD SECURITY

Do you have access to affordable, nutritious food? If not, explore these local programs in the FALA!



WHAT IS THE FALA?

In Nevada, over 78,800 older adults above the age of 50 were food insecure in 2021 (Feeding America, 2024). The Food Access Landscape Assessment (FALA), conducted by the Southern Nevada Food Council under the auspices University of Nevada, Reno Extension, is a resource summarizing the programs addressing food security in Southern Nevada. Food security refers to the consistent access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food for a healthy lifestyle. We invite you to explore these programs to discover essential resources.

SAMPLE PROGRAMS FOR OLDER ADULTS

Meals on Wheels

702-385-5284

Catholic Charities deliver nutritionally balanced frozen meals to seniors at no cost.

Three Square's Food Finder

702-765-4030

Three Square's online Food Finder shows the Valley's Food Pantry locations. Over-the-phone help is available at the listed number.

Golden Groceries

702-765-4030

Three Square provides free groceries tailored for low-income seniors through home delivery and curbside options.

Community Meal Programs

702-765-4030

Three Square provides free hot nutritious meals and activities for seniors.

Anytime Dining Program

702-739-3345

Nevada Hand Provides nutritious meals to seniors in assisted living communities, designed to combat food insecurity and social isolation.

Summer Health Series for Seniors

702-633-2550 and 702-633-1600

City of North Las Vegas provides a series of in-person health and wellness events at Silver Mesa and Neighborhood Recreation Centers

Senior Nutrition and Wellness Program (Previously CSFP)

702-462-2253

The Nevada Department of Agriculture Senior Nutrition and Wellness Program (formerly CSFP) delivers nutritious food packages to older adults facing food insecurity.

Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)

775-353-3665

A federal program by the Nevada Department of Agriculture that provides coupons to purchase fresh produce at farmers' markets. Call to find the closest pick-up location. Must meet income requirements.

Dignity Health REACH Education Program

702-616-4902 or 855-631-4646

Classes include: Chronic Pain Self-Management, Dementia with Cognitive Stimulation Therapy, Medicare Assistance, and more!

Food Access Landscape Assessment

FARTHER TOGETHER

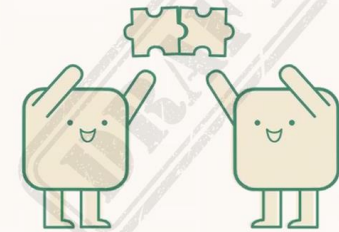
2024 SOUTHERN NEVADA FOOD ACCESS
LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT



A partnership of Nevada Counties
University of Nevada, Reno
U.S. Department of Agriculture



YOU MOVE FAST
ALONE



YOU MOVE FARTHER
TOGETHER

HOW AM I ELIGIBLE?

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Meals on Wheels | 702-385-5284 |
| Individuals aged 60+ who are homebound due to illness or disability. | |
| Three Square's Food Finder | 702-765-4030 |
| Generally open to low-income individuals, including seniors. | |
| Golden Groceries | 702-765-4030 |
| Seniors aged 60 and/or older with limited income. | |
| Community Meal Programs | 702-765-4030 |
| Seniors aged 60 and older who can access congregate meal sites; meals are provided on a first-come, first-served basis. | |
| Anytime Dining Program | 702-739-3345 |
| Seniors aged 55+ living in participating, Nevada Hand communities. | |
| Summer Health Series for Seniors | 702-633-2550 and 702-633-1600 |
| Open to the public, targeted towards individuals aged 55 and older. | |
| Senior Nutrition and Wellness Program (Previously CSFP) | 702-462-2253 |
| Seniors aged 60 and older, must meet income requirements. | |
| Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) | 775-353-3665 |
| Seniors aged 60 and older, must meet income requirements. | |
| Dignity Health REACH Education Program | 702-616-4902 or 855-631-4646 |
| Participants must register online or over the phone. | |

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LOCATIONS

Anytime Dining Program

At participating Nevada Hand locations

Summer Health Series for Seniors

4025 Allen Ln, North Las Vegas, NV 89032
1638 N Bruce St, North Las Vegas, NV 89030

Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada/Meals on Wheels

1501 Las Vegas Blvd N, Las Vegas, NV 89101

Food Pantry Program

4170 E Bonanza Road, Las Vegas, NV 89110
4285 Hildebrand LN, Las Vegas, NV 89121
1351 Stewart Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89101

Supporting Wellness at Pantries (SWAP)

- Nutrition ranking system to promote healthy food choices at food pantries.
- Ranks foods based on levels of saturated fat, sodium, and added sugars.
 - Shelf tags identify ranked foods by color
 - Flyers, posters and educational presentations help clients understand food rankings
 - Pre/Post assessments measure impact
- Empower clients to make informed nutrition decisions while still preserving the dignity of choice
- Assisted 13 local food pantries to adopt SWAP
- Worked with Three Square Regional Food Bank to support development and adoption of a nutrition standards policy that supports SWAP nutrition standards.
 - Supporting implementation of the policy at Three Square and with key agency partners including Nevada Hand pantries.



Pop-Up-Produce Stands

- Partnership between SNHD, Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada and Prevail Marketplace.
 - 12 pop-ups throughout spring and fall at RTC Bonneville Transit Center
 - Fresh, regionally grown, produce at costs that average between \$1.50 - \$2.50 per pound/bundle
 - Marketed to SNAP and SNAP-eligible and those with financial and transportation barriers to accessing healthy food
- 2024 Markets: \$3,275 in sales (2,471 lbs. of produce); over 25% of sales were SNAP sales





Double Up Food Bucks (DUFB)

- Program existed for several years in our community, funded entirely with a federal grant received by Together We Can
- Fruit and Vegetable nutrition incentive program for people with SNAP benefits
- Provides a dollar-for-dollar matching coupon for fruits and vegetables purchased with SNAP to use later
- SNHD became a sponsor of the DUFB program in 2023
 - Expanded program locations from 3 to 6
 - Prioritized areas where there are limited options to accessing healthy foods
 - Implemented several strategies to increase uptake and utilization of the program in all locations
 - Smaller coupon values in smaller markets
 - Coupon printed on the back of the receipt
 - Marketing efforts including in store and direct mail
 - In store promotion and education

Strategies to Increase Food Security

- Increase funding for federal meal programs including school meals, SNAP, WIC, CACFP
- Expand eligibility and increase utilization of federal meal programs
- Implement Universal School Meals
- Increase access to healthy, affordable foods and provide nutrition education that respects traditions and cultural norms
- Expand nutrition incentive programs like DUFEB and Produce Rx programs
- Address social determinants of health to address upstream and structural drivers of food insecurity including poverty, transportation, housing, etc.
- Accept SNAP and WIC benefits at farmers markets, community gardens, etc.
- Invest in local agriculture and small farms for procurement to improve statewide food security

Reduce Stigma

- Food insecurity is a systemic issue and not a personal failure.
- Structural and societal determinants significantly influence the rates of food insecurity. Many are outside of individual control including structural racism, discrimination, poverty, unemployment, housing instability and lack of access to healthcare.
- Stigma can lead to decreases in health-seeking behaviors and increase a person's risk chronic disease.

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THANK YOU

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