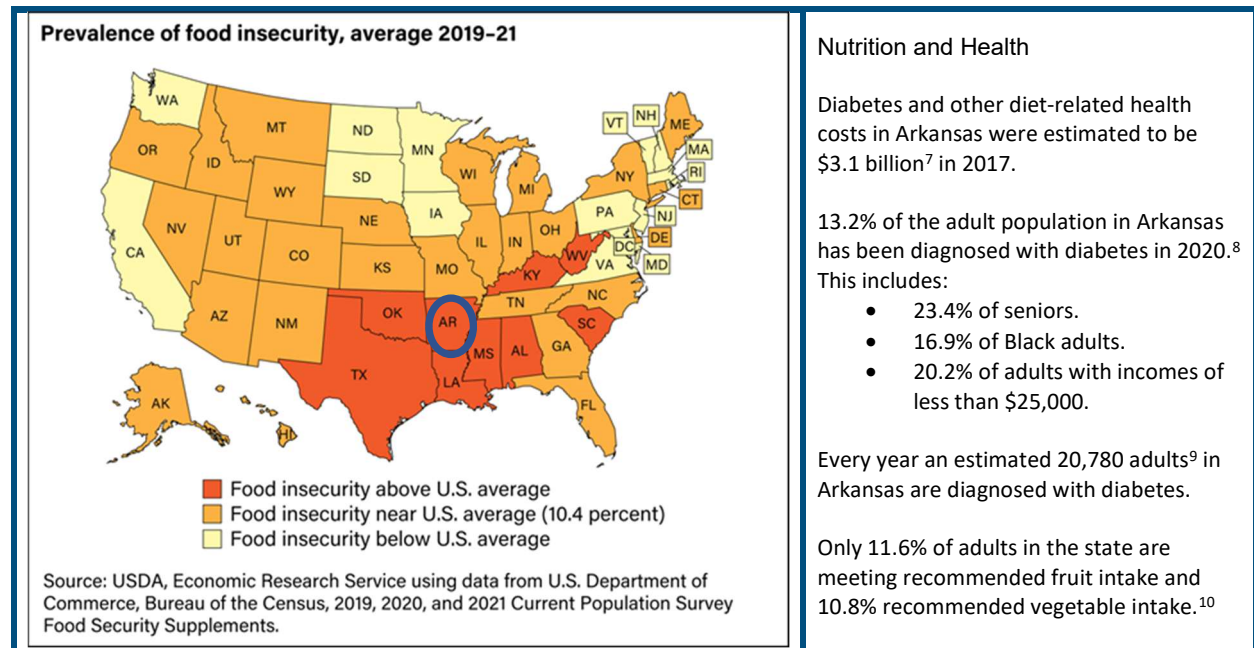


# Arkansas

## A Hunger and Poverty Snapshot

Between 2019-2021:

- Food insecurity in Arkansas averaged 15%.<sup>1</sup>
- That makes Arkansas the 2<sup>nd</sup> hungriest state with a food insecurity rate 44% higher than the national average of 10.4%.<sup>2</sup>
- The official poverty rate (which does not account for income from safety-net and tax-support programs such as SNAP, EITC, and others) in the state averaged 15.1%.<sup>3</sup>
- But using the Supplemental Poverty Measure (which does include safety-net and tax-support income), the poverty rate falls to 9.7%.<sup>4</sup> In other words, these programs reduced the poverty rate in Arkansas by 36% and the number of people living in poverty decreased by 161,000.<sup>5</sup>
- SNAP, alone, lifted 87,000 people above the poverty line in Arkansas, including 43,000 children, per year between 2013 and 2017, on average.<sup>6</sup>



## Why Bread for the World is Focused on the Farm Bill

The Farm bill is scheduled to be reauthorized in 2023. No legislation has more impact than a farm bill on the US food system and the nation’s ability to provide healthy food at affordable prices to everyone.

Bread for the World’s farm bill priorities include a focus on nutrition, equity, and sustainability. We believe Arkansas has a lot to gain from a farm bill legislated with these priorities in mind.

Nutrition	Equity	Sustainability
<p>Bread for the World supports strengthening SNAP in Arkansas.</p> <p>Not only is SNAP the flagship food security and nutrition program, it is indispensable to better health outcomes and economic prosperity.</p> <p>In 2021, 11% of Arkansas residents were helped by SNAP.<sup>11</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roughly 117,000 workers in Arkansas live in households that participated in SNAP in 2021.<sup>12</sup></li> <li>SNAP helps 1 in 11 workers in Arkansas put food on the table.<sup>13</sup></li> <li>74% of SNAP participants were in families with children, and 41% in families with members who are older adults or are disabled.<sup>14</sup></li> <li>66% of all SNAP-eligible people in Arkansas participate in the program.<sup>15</sup></li> </ul>	<p>Bread for the World supports farm policies that promote a more equitable food system in Arkansas.</p> <p>The Arkansas population is 78.6% white. According to the most recent Census of Agriculture, 96% of farmers and ranchers (producers) in Arkansas are white and occupy 95% of all farmland.<sup>16</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Black producers represent 3% and occupy 4% of farmland.</li> <li>Hispanic producers represent 2% and occupy 1% of farmland.</li> <li>Indigenous producers represent &lt;1% and occupy &lt;2% of farmland.</li> <li>Asian producers represent &lt;1% and occupy &lt;1% of farmland</li> </ul>	<p>Bread for the World is committed to eradicating food insecurity by building a more sustainable food system in Arkansas.</p> <p>Reducing unnecessary food waste is one way to build a more sustainable food system.</p> <p>In 2019, 521,000 tons<sup>17</sup> of surplus food in Arkansas went to waste instead of reaching those who needed it, an amount equal to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>832 million meals unsold or uneaten.<sup>18</sup></li> <li>\$3.15 billion in lost sales.<sup>19</sup></li> <li>Annual CO2 emissions produced by 521,436 gasoline-powered cars.<sup>20,21</sup></li> </ul>

## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/104656/err-309.pdf?v=9924.5>

<sup>2</sup> Bread for the World, based on USDA reporting, See Note 1.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2022/demo/p60-277.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2022/demo/p60-277.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2022/demo/p60-277.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/a-closer-look-at-who-benefits-from-snap-state-by-state-fact-sheets#Arkansas>

<sup>7</sup> <https://diabetes.org/about-us/statistics/by-state>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/annual/measure/Diabetes/state/AR>

<sup>9</sup> <https://diabetes.org/about-us/statistics/by-state>

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7101a1.htm?s\\_cid=mm7101a1\\_w#T1\\_down](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7101a1.htm?s_cid=mm7101a1_w#T1_down)

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/a-closer-look-at-who-benefits-from-snap-state-by-state-fact-sheets#Arkansas>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.cbpp.org/snap-helps-low-wage-workers-in-every-state#Arkansas>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.cbpp.org/snap-helps-low-wage-workers-in-every-state#Arkansas>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/a-closer-look-at-who-benefits-from-snap-state-by-state-fact-sheets#Arkansas>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.fns.usda.gov/usamap>

<sup>16</sup> [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Online\\_Resources/County\\_Profiles/Arkansas/index.php](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/Arkansas/index.php)

<sup>17</sup> [https://insights-engine.refed.org/food-waste-monitor?break\\_by=food\\_type&indicator=tons-surplus&view=detail&year=2019](https://insights-engine.refed.org/food-waste-monitor?break_by=food_type&indicator=tons-surplus&view=detail&year=2019)

<sup>18</sup> [https://insights-engine.refed.org/food-waste-monitor?break\\_by=food\\_type&indicator=tons-surplus&view=detail&year=2019](https://insights-engine.refed.org/food-waste-monitor?break_by=food_type&indicator=tons-surplus&view=detail&year=2019)

<sup>19</sup> [https://insights-engine.refed.org/food-waste-monitor?break\\_by=food\\_type&indicator=tons-surplus&view=detail&year=2019](https://insights-engine.refed.org/food-waste-monitor?break_by=food_type&indicator=tons-surplus&view=detail&year=2019)

<sup>20</sup> [https://insights-engine.refed.org/food-waste-monitor?break\\_by=food\\_type&indicator=tons-surplus&view=detail&year=2019](https://insights-engine.refed.org/food-waste-monitor?break_by=food_type&indicator=tons-surplus&view=detail&year=2019)

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>