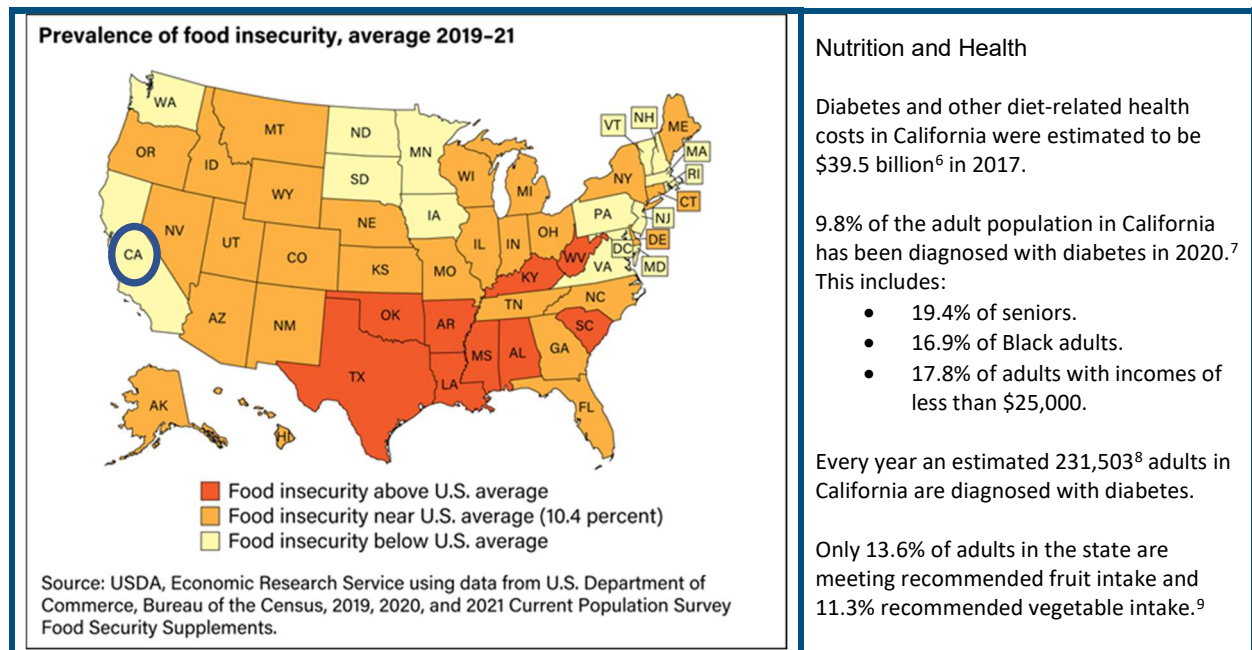


California

A Hunger and Poverty Snapshot

Between 2019-2021:

- Food insecurity in California averaged 9.6%.¹
- California’s food insecurity rate was 8% lower than the national average of 10.4%.²
- The poverty rate in California in 2021 (using the Supplemental Poverty Measure) was 13.2%, which was 5.4 percentage points higher than the nation overall (7.8%).³
- California’s poverty rate is high compared to the rest of the nation in large part because of the high cost of housing. Four in 10 low-income people in California are homeless or pay over half their income for rent.⁴
- SNAP, alone, lifted 833,000 people above the poverty line in California, including 408,000 children, per year between 2013 and 2017, on average.⁵



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 California 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 California.</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 California residents were helped by SNAP.¹⁰</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roughly 1.63 million workers in California live in households that participated in SNAP in 2021.¹¹ • SNAP helps 1 in 11 workers in California put food on the table.¹² • 66% of SNAP participants were in families with children, and 19% in families with members who are older adults or are disabled.¹³ • 70% of all SNAP-eligible people in California participate in the program.¹⁴ 	<p>Bread for the World supports farm policies that promote a more equitable food system in California.</p> <p>The California population is 35.2% white. According to the most recent Census of Agriculture, 80% of farmers and ranchers (producers) in California are white and occupy 85% of all farmland.¹⁵</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hispanic producers represent 12% and occupy 12% of farmland. • Asian producers represent 5% and occupy 3% of farmland. • Indigenous producers represent <1% and occupy <1% of farmland. • Black producers represent <1% and occupy <1% of farmland. 	<p>Bread for the World is committed to eradicating food insecurity by building a more sustainable food system in California.</p> <p>Reducing unnecessary food waste is one way to build a more sustainable food system.</p> <p>In 2019, 14.7 million tons¹⁶ of surplus food in California went to waste instead of reaching those who needed it, an amount equal to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23.8 billion meals unsold or uneaten.¹⁷ • \$51.7 billion in lost sales.¹⁸ <p>Annual CO2 emissions produced by 5,990,045 gasoline-powered cars.^{19,20}</p>

Footnotes

- ¹ <https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/104656/err-309.pdf?v=9924.5>
- ² Bread for the World, based on USDA reporting, See Note 1.
- ³ <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2022/demo/p60-277.pdf>
- ⁴ <https://www.cbpp.org/research/housing/federal-rental-assistance-fact-sheets#CA>
- ⁵ <https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/a-closer-look-at-who-benefits-from-snap-state-by-state-fact-sheets#California>
- ⁶ <https://diabetes.org/about-us/statistics/by-state>
- ⁷ <https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/annual/measure/Diabetes/state/CA>
- ⁸ <https://diabetes.org/about-us/statistics/by-state>
- ⁹ https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7101a1.htm?s_cid=mm7101a1_w#T1_down
- ¹⁰ <https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/a-closer-look-at-who-benefits-from-snap-state-by-state-fact-sheets#California>
- ¹¹ <https://www.cbpp.org/snap-helps-low-wage-workers-in-every-state#California>
- ¹² <https://www.cbpp.org/snap-helps-low-wage-workers-in-every-state#California>
- ¹³ <https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/a-closer-look-at-who-benefits-from-snap-state-by-state-fact-sheets#California>
- ¹⁴ <https://www.fns.usda.gov/usamap>
- ¹⁵ https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/California/index.php
- ¹⁶ https://insights-engine.refed.org/food-waste-monitor?break_by=food_type&indicator=tons-surplus&view=detail&year=2019
- ¹⁷ https://insights-engine.refed.org/food-waste-monitor?break_by=food_type&indicator=tons-surplus&view=detail&year=2019
- ¹⁸ https://insights-engine.refed.org/food-waste-monitor?break_by=food_type&indicator=tons-surplus&view=detail&year=2019
- ¹⁹ https://insights-engine.refed.org/food-waste-monitor?break_by=food_type&indicator=tons-surplus&view=detail&year=2019
- ²⁰ <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>