A Hunger and Poverty Snapshot

Between 2019-2021:

- Food insecurity in Colorado averaged 10.5%.¹
- Colorado’s food insecurity rate was slightly higher (0.1 percentage point) than the national average of 10.4%.²
- The poverty rate in Colorado in 2021 (using the Supplemental Poverty Measure) was 9.4%, which was 1.6 percentage points higher than the nation overall (7.8%).³
- Colorado’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 Colorado are homeless or pay over half their income for rent.⁴
- SNAP, alone, lifted 102,000 people above the poverty line in Colorado, including 49,000 children, per year between 2013 and 2017, on average.⁵

Nutrition and Health

Diabetes and other diet-related health costs in Colorado were estimated to be $3.6 billion⁶ in 2017.

7.6% of the adult population in Colorado has been diagnosed with diabetes in 2020.⁷ This includes:

- 17.7% of seniors.
- 12.1% of Black adults.
- 15.4% of adults with incomes of less than $25,000.

Every year an estimated 34,291⁸ adults in Colorado are diagnosed with diabetes.

Only 12.4% of adults in the state are meeting recommended fruit intake and 10.4% recommended vegetable intake.⁹

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 Colorado has a lot to gain from a farm bill legislated with these priorities in mind.
**Nutrition**

Bread for the World supports strengthening SNAP in Colorado.

Not only is SNAP the flagship food security and nutrition program, it is indispensable to better health outcomes and economic prosperity.

In 2021, 9% of Colorado residents were helped by SNAP.\(^1\)

- Roughly 172,800 million workers in Colorado live in households that participated in SNAP in 2021.\(^1\)
- SNAP helps 1 in 16 workers in Colorado put food on the table.\(^1\)
- 66% of SNAP participants were in families with children, and 34% in families with members who are older adults or are disabled.\(^1\)
- 79% of all SNAP-eligible people in Colorado participate in the program.\(^1\)

**Equity**

Bread for the World supports farm policies that promote a more equitable food system in Colorado.

The Colorado population is 67% white. According to the most recent Census of Agriculture, 91% of farmers and ranchers (producers) in Colorado are white and occupy 93% of all farmland.\(^1\)

- Hispanic producers represent 5% and occupy 4% of farmland.
- Asian producers represent <1% and occupy <1% of farmland.
- Indigenous producers represent <1% and occupy 3% of farmland.
- Black producers represent <1% and occupy <1% of farmland.

**Sustainability**

Bread for the World is committed to eradicating food insecurity by building a more sustainable food system in Colorado.

Reducing unnecessary food waste is one way to build a more sustainable food system.

In 2019, 1.32 million tons\(^1\) of surplus food in Colorado went to waste instead of reaching those who needed it, an amount equal to:

- 2.1 billion meals unsold or uneaten.\(^1\)
- $8.1 billion in lost sales.\(^1\)
- Annual CO2 emissions produced by 1,885,081 gasoline-powered cars.\(^1\)

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**Footnotes**

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](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#CO](https://www.cbpp.org/research/housing/federal-rental-assistance-fact-sheets#CO)
7. [https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/annual/measure/Diabetes/state/CO](https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/annual/measure/Diabetes/state/CO)
9. [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)
20. [https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator](https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator)