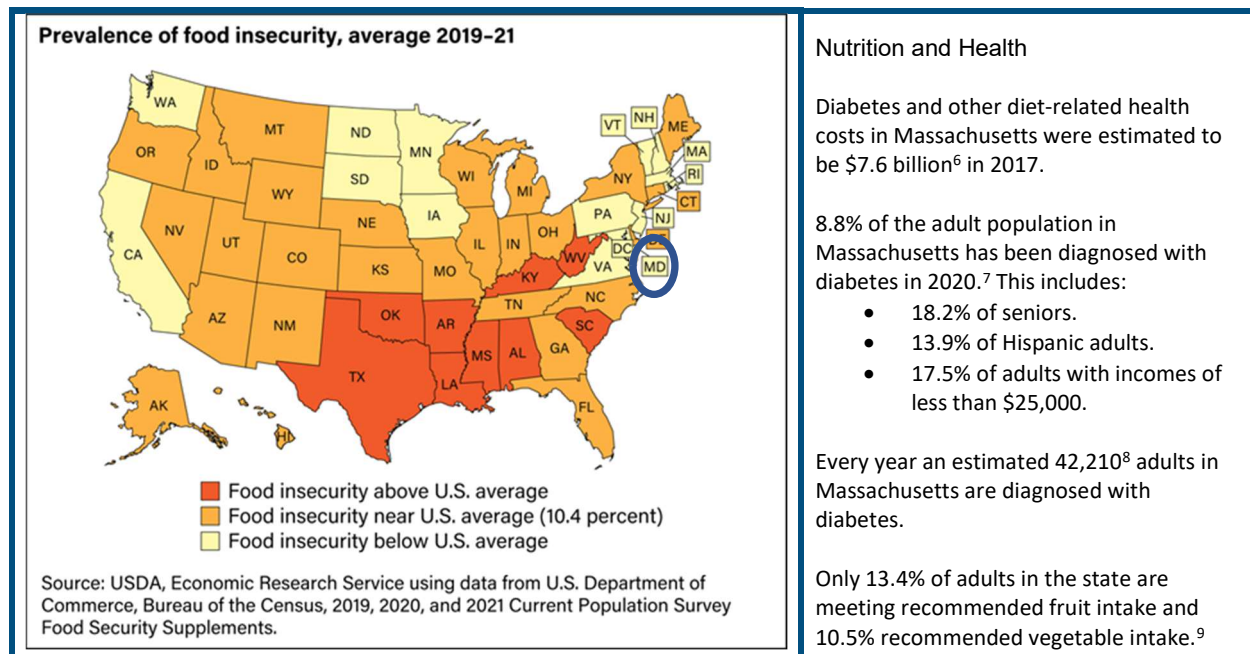


Massachusetts

A Hunger and Poverty Snapshot

Between 2019-2021:

- Food insecurity in Massachusetts averaged 8.40%.¹
- Massachusetts’s food insecurity rate was 19% lower than the national average of 10.4%.²
- The poverty rate in Massachusetts in 2021 (using the Supplemental Poverty Measure) was 8.0%, which was 0.2 percentage points higher than the nation overall (7.8%).³
- Massachusetts’s poverty rate is higher than the national average in large part because of the high cost of housing. Four in 10 low-income people in Massachusetts are homeless or pay over half their income for rent.⁴
- SNAP, alone, lifted 125,000 people above the poverty line in Massachusetts, including 45,000 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 Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts.</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, 13% of Massachusetts residents were helped by SNAP.¹⁰</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roughly 246,700 workers in Massachusetts live in households that participated in SNAP in 2021.¹¹ SNAP helps 1 in 14 workers in Massachusetts put food on the table.¹² 53% of SNAP participants were in families with children, and 51% in families with members who are older adults or are disabled.¹³ 95% of all SNAP-eligible people in Massachusetts participate in the program.¹⁴ 	<p>Bread for the World supports farm policies that promote a more equitable food system in Massachusetts.</p> <p>The Massachusetts population is 70% white. According to the most recent Census of Agriculture, 95% of farmers and ranchers (producers) in Massachusetts are white and occupy 98% of all farmland.¹⁵</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black producers represent 1% and occupy <1% of farmland. Hispanic producers represent <2% and occupy 2% of farmland. Asian producers represent <1% and occupy <1% of farmland. Indigenous 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 Massachusetts.</p> <p>Reducing unnecessary food waste is one way to build a more sustainable food system.</p> <p>In 2019, 1.42 million tons¹⁶ of surplus food in Massachusetts went to waste instead of reaching those who needed it, an amount equal to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.25 billion meals unsold or uneaten.¹⁷ \$9.39 billion in lost sales.¹⁸ Annual CO2 emissions produced by 1,230,329 gasoline-powered cars.^{19, 20}

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#MA>

⁵ <https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/a-closer-look-at-who-benefits-from-snap-state-by-state-fact-sheets#Massachusetts>

⁶ <https://diabetes.org/about-us/statistics/by-state>

⁷ <https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/annual/measure/Diabetes/state/MA>

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#Massachusetts>

¹¹ <https://www.cbpp.org/snap-helps-low-wage-workers-in-every-state#Massachusetts>

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

¹³ <https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/a-closer-look-at-who-benefits-from-snap-state-by-state-fact-sheets#Massachusetts>

¹⁴ <https://www.fns.usda.gov/usamap>

¹⁵ https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Census_by_State/Massachusetts/

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>