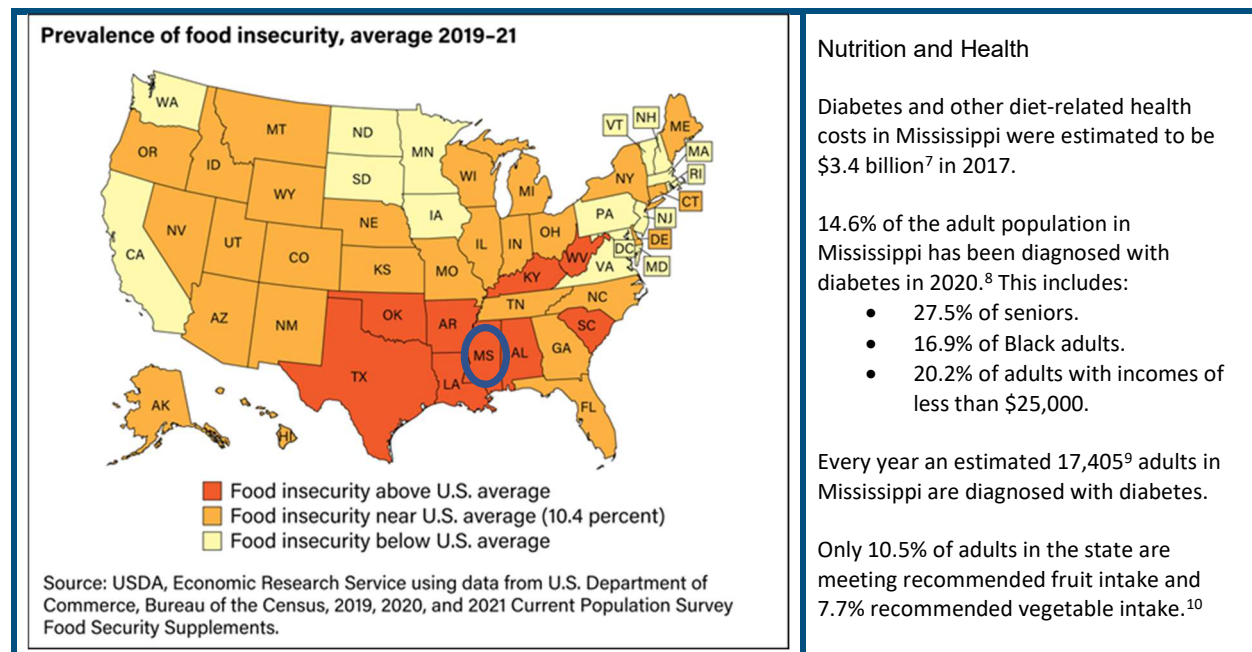


Mississippi

A Hunger and Poverty Snapshot

Between 2019-2021:

- Food insecurity in Mississippi averaged 15.3%.¹
- That makes Mississippi the hungriest state with a food insecurity rate 32% higher than the national average of 10.4%.²
- 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 18.1%.³
- But using the Supplemental Poverty Measure (which does include safety-net and tax-support income), the poverty rate falls to 11.9%.⁴ In other words, these programs reduced the poverty rate in Mississippi by 34% and the number of people living in poverty by 183,000.⁵
- SNAP, alone, lifted 109,000 people above the poverty line in Mississippi, including 49,000 children, per year between 2013 and 2017, on average.⁶



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 Mississippi 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 Mississippi.</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, 14% of Mississippi residents were helped by SNAP.¹¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roughly 147,000 workers in Mississippi live in households that participated in SNAP in 2021.¹² • SNAP helps 1 in 8 workers in Mississippi put food on the table.¹³ • 73% of SNAP participants were in families with children, and 36% in families with members who are older adults or are disabled.¹⁴ • 71% of all SNAP-eligible people in Mississippi participate in the program.¹⁵ 	<p>Bread for the World supports farm policies that promote a more equitable food system in Mississippi.</p> <p>The Mississippi population is 83.5% white. According to the most recent Census of Agriculture, 98% of farmers and ranchers (producers) in Mississippi are white and occupy 99% of all farmland.¹⁶</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black producers represent <1% and occupy <1% of farmland. • Hispanic producers represent <1% and occupy <1% 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 Mississippi.</p> <p>Reducing unnecessary food waste is one way to build a more sustainable food system.</p> <p>In 2019, 557,000 tons¹⁷ of surplus food in Mississippi went to waste instead of reaching those who needed it, an amount equal to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 892 million meals unsold or uneaten.¹⁸ • \$3.21 billion in lost sales.¹⁹ • Annual CO2 emissions produced by 534,364 gasoline-powered cars.^{20,21}

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.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2022/demo/p60-277.pdf>

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

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

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

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

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

¹⁰ https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7101a1.htm?s_cid=mm7101a1_w#T1_down

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

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

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

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

¹⁵ <https://www.fns.usda.gov/usamap>

¹⁶ https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/Mississippi/

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://insights-engine.refed.org/food-waste-monitor?break_by=food_type&indicator=tons-surplus&view=detail&year=2019

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