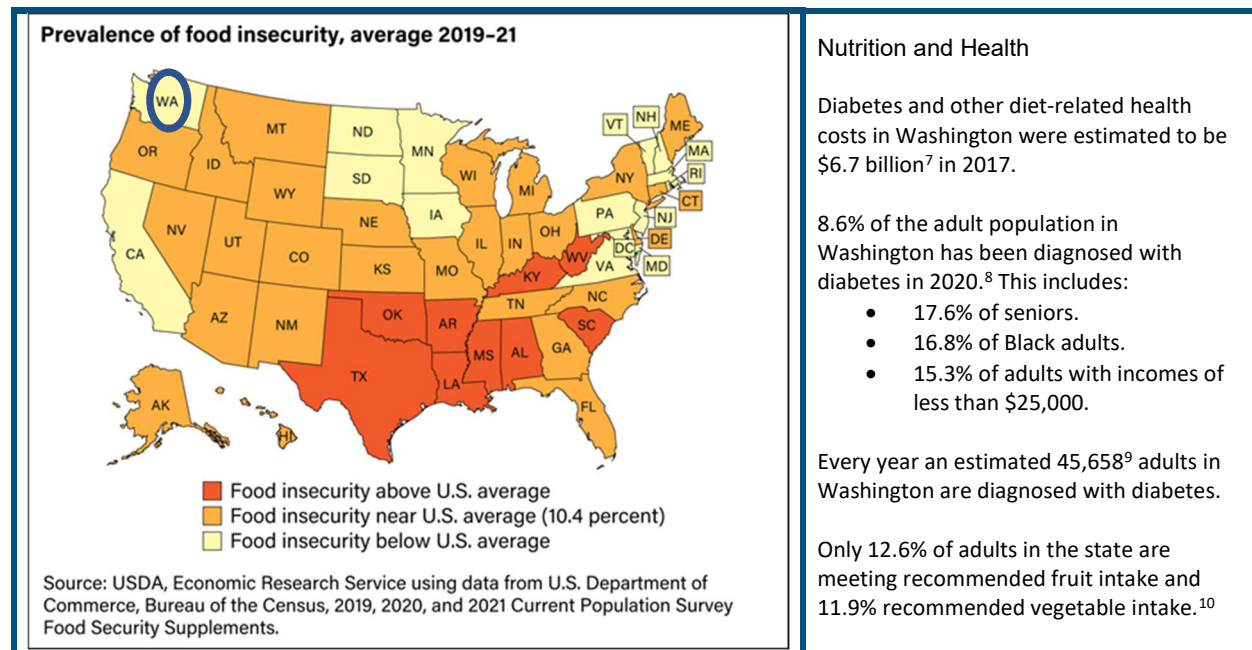


## Washington

### A Hunger and Poverty Snapshot

Between 2019-2021:

- Food insecurity in Washington averaged 7.90%.<sup>1</sup>
- Washington’s food insecurity rate was 24% lower 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 7.6%.<sup>3</sup>
- But using the Supplemental Poverty Measure (which does include safety-net and tax-support income), the poverty rate falls to 7.0%.<sup>4</sup> In other words, these programs reduced the poverty rate in Washington by 8% and the number of people living in poverty by 45,000.<sup>5</sup>
- SNAP, alone, lifted 183,000 people above the poverty line in Washington, including 81,000 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 Washington 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 Washington.</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, 12% of Washington residents were helped by SNAP.<sup>11</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roughly 370,600 workers in Washington live in households that participated in SNAP in 2021.<sup>12</sup></li> <li>SNAP helps 1 in 9 workers in Washington put food on the table.<sup>13</sup></li> <li>55% 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>99% of all SNAP-eligible people in Washington 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 Washington.</p> <p>The Washington population is 66% white. According to the most recent Census of Agriculture, 91% of farmers and ranchers (producers) in Washington are white and occupy 69% of all farmland.<sup>16</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Black producers represent &lt;1% and occupy &lt;1% of farmland.</li> <li>Hispanic producers represent 5% and occupy 11% of farmland.</li> <li>Asian producers represent 1% and occupy &lt;1% of farmland.</li> <li>Indigenous producers represent &lt;1% and occupy 19% of farmland.</li> </ul>	<p>Bread for the World is committed to eradicating food insecurity by building a more sustainable food system in Washington.</p> <p>Reducing unnecessary food waste is one way to build a more sustainable food system.</p> <p>In 2019, 3.59 million tons<sup>17</sup> of surplus food in Washington went to waste instead of reaching those who needed it, an amount equal to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5.79 billion meals unsold or uneaten.<sup>18</sup></li> <li>\$9.24 billion in lost sales.<sup>19</sup></li> <li>Annual CO2 emissions produced by 1,204,473 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#Washington>

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

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

<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#Washington>

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

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

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

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

<sup>16</sup> [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full\\_Report/Census\\_by\\_State/Washington/](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Census_by_State/Washington/)

<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>