

Indicator & Source

% of Children 0-17 Food Insecure (Feeding America)

Indicator Notes

This indicator includes all children 0-17. Food security for a household is defined as access by all members at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life and food insecurity is defined as limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods. Food insecure children are children living in households that experienced food insecurity at some point during the year. The child food insecurity indicator presented is sourced from the Feeding America analysis of Current Population Survey data on food-insecure households and American Community survey data on population demographics (both US Census Bureau surveys).

Evidence & Source

Inadequate food intake in children is associated with a number of serious health, behavior, and cognitive deficits. Infants who experience food insecurity are more likely to have insecure attachment relationships, and to perform more poorly on tests of cognitive development. Children in food insecure households have more stomachaches, frequent headaches, and colds than children who are food secure. Higher rates of iron deficiency, chronic health conditions, and hospitalizations are reported among food insecure children. Studies show that food insecurity is associated with higher rates of behavioral problems in three-year-olds; in school-aged children, psychosocial deficits, as well as higher anxiety and depression; and, in adolescents, higher rates of depressive disorder and suicidal symptoms. Food insecure children show smaller gains in math and reading achievement between kindergarten and third grade, and, among those ages 6-11, a higher likelihood of repeating a grade. Food insecurity, when experienced in the primary grades, also has a significant effect on non-cognitive classroom measures, such as interpersonal skills, self-control, and the group of competencies (including attentiveness and persistence) termed “approaches to learning.” (Child Trends Databank, 2016)

For more information see: <http://www.childtrends.org/indicators/food-insecurity/>

OVERALL TREND: Bexar County, 2010-2014

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Food Insecure Children	118,570	124,250	125,290	120,470	111,390
% of Children Food Insecure	26.8%	27.1%	27.0%	25.6%	23.4%

Source: Feeding America, 2016.

POVERTY LEVEL: Bexar County, 2014

	#	%
Above 185% Poverty	34,531	31.0%
At or Below 185% Poverty	76,859	69.0%
Food Insecure Children	111,390	100%

Source: Feeding America, 2016.