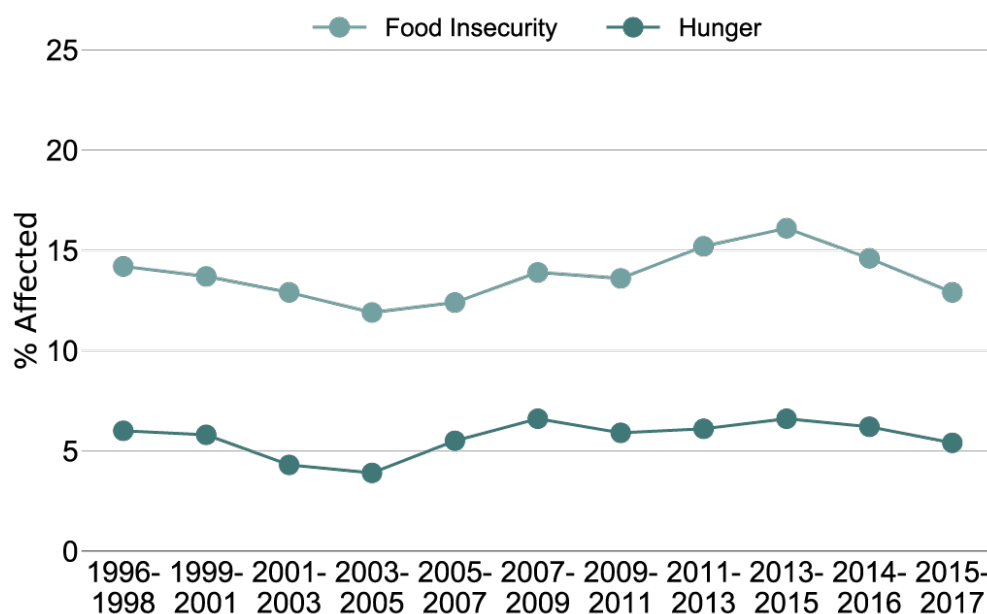


STATUS OF HUNGER IN OREGON 2018

The rates of food insecurity and hunger (or "very low food security") in Oregon continue to decline. According to a December 2018 report from Professor Mark Edwards at Oregon State University, rates of food insecurity and hunger in Oregon now resemble those of the rest of the U.S. as a whole, but still remained higher than before the Great Recession.

Food Insecurity is decreasing, but not to pre-recession levels

The number of Oregonians struggling to put food on the table decreased from 14.6 percent in 2014-2016 to 12.9 percent in 2015-2017, representing about 500,000 Oregon adults and children in food insecure households. However, Oregon has not yet reached its pre-recession levels of 12.4 percent (2005-2007). The more severe experience of hunger, impacts about 209,000 adults and children, or 5.4 percent of Oregon's population.



Impact of economic recovery on hunger is uncertain

The decrease in food insecurity appears to be attributed to the strength of the economic recovery in Oregon, however, it is important to remember that in previous periods of economic expansion (such as in the years leading up to the Great Recession) the hunger rate was surprisingly high. Although Oregon's unemployment is at its lowest since comparable records began in 1976, high costs for housing and stagnant wages mean many people - about 1 in 8 - are still forced to choose between food and rent.

Disparities in experience of hunger persist

Due in large part to historical and current systemic injustices, food insecurity rates continue to be higher among Black, Native American, and Hispanic households, as well as households with children headed by a single woman.

Communities of Color

Although hunger rates have declined in most households of color (excepting Asian and Pacific Islander households, whose rates have increased), it is clear that persistent inequities remain in the experience of food insecurity in Oregon. The economic recovery, while having a positive impact on reducing hunger in Oregon overall, is not providing enough economic opportunities to communities of color, therefore not addressing the inequitable experience of food insecurity and hunger in our state.

Single Mothers

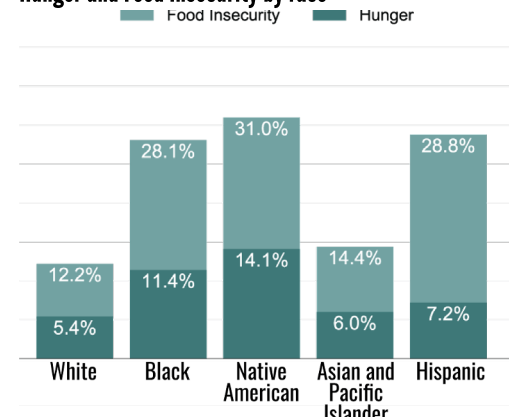
Rates of hunger continue to steeply decline for single mothers, however, they remain the most likely population to experience food insecurity (one in three such households). Women living alone in Oregon also continue to be more at risk for food insecurity than similarly situated women in other states (20.5% v. 15.3%). Female-headed households, with or without dependents, remain the most vulnerable to food insecurity.

Sources

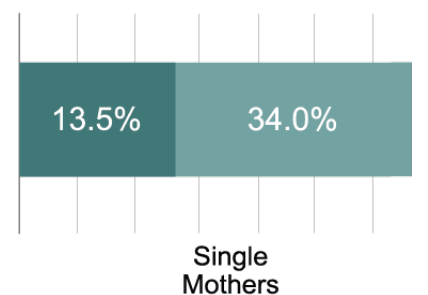
Edwards, Mark, December 2018. "Widespread Declines, Yet Persistent Inequalities: Food Insecurity in Oregon and the U.S. (2015-2017)." School of Public Policy and the Rural Studies Program, Oregon State University.

For more information, visit www.oregonhungertaskforce.org/theproblem

Hunger and Food Insecurity by race



Rates of single mothers experiencing hunger and food insecurity



OREGON HUNGER TASK FORCE

Creating Policies for a Hunger-Free Oregon

Donalda Dodson, Chair, Oregon Child Development Coalition | Liz Adams, Childhood Hunger Initiative, OHSU Child Development and Rehabilitation Center | James Barta, Children First for Oregon | Chelsea Bunch, Oregon Housing and Community Services | John Burt, Farmers Ending Hunger | Sally Bowman, Oregon State University Extension Service | Mark Edwards, Oregon State University School of Public Policy | Anne Goetze, Oregon Dairy and Nutrition Council | Lauren Gottfredson, United Way of the Columbia-Willamette | Rabbi Daniel Isaak, Neveh Shalom Congregation | Howard Kenyon, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon | Jacqueline Leung, Micronesia Islander Community | Dustin Melton, Oregon Dept. of Education, Child Nutrition Programs | Janet Merrell, Community Action Partners of Oregon | Susannah Morgan, Oregon Food Bank | Dawn Myers, Oregon Dept. of Human Services - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program | Representative Jeff Reardon, Oregon State Legislature | Diane Rosenbaum, Former State Senator | Kara Smith, Food for Lane County | Senator Kathleen Taylor, Oregon State Legislature | Senator Chuck Thomsen, Oregon State Legislature | Suzanne Washington, Meals on Wheels People | Sue Woodbury, Oregon Health Authority - Women, Infants, and Children program