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September 2014

Household Food Security in the United States in 2013

Statistical Supplement

Alisha Coleman-Jensen
Christian Gregory
Anita Singh



United States Department of Agriculture

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Anita Singh

Note to Readers

This Supplement provides statistics that complement those in the Economic Research Report, *Household Food Security in the United States in 2013* (ERR-173). That research report provides the primary national statistics on household food security, food spending, and use of Federal food and nutrition assistance programs by food-insecure households. This Supplement provides additional statistics on component items of the household food security measure, the frequency of occurrence of food insecure conditions, and selected statistics on household food security, food spending, and use of Federal and community food and nutrition assistance programs.

Keywords: Food security, food insecurity, food spending, food pantry, soup kitchen, emergency kitchen, material well-being, SNAP, Food Stamp Program, National School Lunch Program, WIC

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Household Food Security in the United States in 2013

Statistical Supplement

Alisha Coleman-Jensen, Christian Gregory, and Anita Singh

Introduction

This supplement provides statistics on component items of the household food security measure, the frequency of occurrence of food-insecure conditions, and selected statistics on household food security, food spending, and use of Federal and community food and nutrition assistance programs. It complements *Household Food Security in the United States in 2013* (<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err-economic-research-report/err173.aspx>), which provides the primary national statistics on household food security, food spending, and use of Federal food and nutrition assistance programs by food-insecure households.

The statistics presented here are based on data collected in the Current Population Survey (CPS) Food Security Supplement conducted in December 2013. Information about the survey, data, and methods are available in *Household Food Security in the United States in 2013*. All statistics were calculated by applying the food security supplement weights to responses of the surveyed households to obtain nationally representative prevalence estimates. Unless otherwise noted, statistical differences described in the text are significant at the 90-percent confidence level.¹

¹Standard errors of estimates were calculated using balanced repeated replication (BRR) methods based on replicate weights computed for the Supplement by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Food Insecurity in Low-Income Households

Table S-1 presents food security statistics for households with annual incomes below 130 percent of the poverty line.² Food insecurity is by definition a condition that results from insufficient household resources. However, many factors that might affect a household's food security (such as job loss, divorce, or other unexpected events) are not captured by an annual income measure. Some households experienced episodes of food insecurity, or even very low food security, even though their annual incomes were well above the poverty line (Nord and Brent, 2002; Gundersen and Gruber, 2001). On the other hand, many low-income households manage to remain food secure.

²The Federal poverty line was \$23,624 annual income for a family of four in 2013. Households with monthly income below 130 percent of the poverty line are eligible to receive SNAP benefits, provided they meet other eligibility criteria. Children were eligible for free meals in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs if household income was at or below 130 percent of poverty either annually or monthly.

Table S-1

Households with income below 130 percent of the poverty line by food security status and selected household characteristics, 2013

Category	Total ¹	Food insecure							
		Food secure		All		With low food security		With very low food security	
		1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent
All low-income households	20,715	12,657	61.1	8,058	38.9	4,589	22.2	3,469	16.7
Household composition:									
With children < 18 yrs	8,636	4,819	55.8	3,817	44.2	2,533	29.3	1,284	14.9
With children < 6 yrs	4,686	2,676	57.1	2,010	42.9	1,400	29.9	610	13.0
Married-couple families	3,394	2,059	60.7	1,335	39.3	875	25.8	460	13.6
Female head, no spouse	4,216	2,182	51.8	2,034	48.2	1,370	32.5	664	15.7
Male head, no spouse	842	490	58.2	352	41.8	236	28.0	116	13.8
Other household with child ²	184	89	48.4	95	51.6	52	28.3	43	23.4
With no children < 18 yrs	12,079	7,838	64.9	4,241	35.1	2,056	17.0	2,185	18.1
More than one adult	4,949	3,227	65.2	1,722	34.8	920	18.6	802	16.2
Women living alone	4,270	2,787	65.3	1,483	34.7	698	16.3	785	18.4
Men living alone	2,860	1,825	63.8	1,035	36.2	438	15.3	597	20.9
With elderly	5,143	3,793	73.8	1,350	26.2	823	16.0	527	10.2
Elderly living alone	2,835	2,188	77.2	647	22.8	366	12.9	281	9.9
Race/ethnicity of households:									
White, non-Hispanic	10,071	6,367	63.2	3,704	36.8	1,861	18.5	1,843	18.3
Black, non-Hispanic	4,364	2,332	53.4	2,032	46.6	1,220	28.0	812	18.6
Hispanic ³	4,905	3,018	61.5	1,887	38.5	1,298	26.5	589	12.0
Other	1,376	942	68.5	434	31.5	210	15.3	224	16.3
Area of residence: ⁴									
Inside metropolitan area	16,674	10,149	60.9	6,525	39.1	3,662	22.0	2,863	17.2
In principal cities ⁵	7,140	4,369	61.2	2,771	38.8	1,692	23.7	1,079	15.1
Not in principal cities	6,462	3,948	61.1	2,514	38.9	1,330	20.6	1,184	18.3
Outside metropolitan area	4,041	2,508	62.1	1,533	37.9	927	22.9	606	15.0
Census geographic region:									
Northeast	3,071	1,897	61.8	1,174	38.2	637	20.7	537	17.5
Midwest	4,356	2,695	61.9	1,661	38.1	920	21.1	741	17.0
South	8,734	5,326	61.0	3,408	39.0	2,001	22.9	1,407	16.1
West	4,554	2,740	60.2	1,814	39.8	1,031	22.6	783	17.2

¹Totals exclude households for which income was not reported (about 24 percent of households), and those for which food security status is unknown because they did not give a valid response to any of the questions in the food security scale (0.6 percent of low-income households).

²Households with children in complex living arrangements, e.g., children of other relatives or unrelated roommate or boarder.

³Hispanics may be of any race.

⁴Metropolitan area residence is based on 2003 Office of Management and Budget delineation.

⁵Households within incorporated areas of the largest cities in each metropolitan area. Residence inside or outside of principal cities is not identified for about 18 percent of low-income households in metropolitan statistical areas.

Source: Calculated by USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the December 2013 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

Number of Persons, by Household Food Security Status and Selected Household Characteristics

The food security survey is designed to measure food security status at the household level. While it is informative to examine the number of persons residing in food-insecure households, these statistics should be interpreted carefully (tables S-2 and S-3). Within a food-insecure household, different household members may have been affected differently by the household's food insecurity. Some members—particularly young children—may have experienced only mild effects or none at all, while adults were more severely affected. It is more precise, therefore, to describe these statistics as representing “persons living in food-insecure households” rather than as representing “food-insecure persons.” Similarly, “persons living in households with very low food security” is a more precise description than “persons with very low food security.”

Table S-2

Number of individuals by food security status of households and selected household characteristics, 2013

Category	In food-insecure households								
	Total ¹	In food-secure households		All		In households with low food security		In households with very low food security	
		1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent
All individuals in households	310,853	261,775	84.2	49,078	15.8	31,974	10.3	17,104	5.5
Household composition:									
With children < 18 yrs	158,390	126,593	79.9	31,797	20.1	22,155	14.0	9,642	6.1
With children < 6 yrs	72,966	56,709	77.7	16,257	22.3	11,638	15.9	4,619	6.3
Married-couple families	108,751	93,205	85.7	15,546	14.3	11,008	10.1	4,538	4.2
Female head, no spouse	36,800	23,888	64.9	12,912	35.1	8,805	23.9	4,107	11.2
Male head, no spouse	10,687	8,017	75.0	2,670	25.0	1,967	18.4	703	6.6
Other household with child ²	2,152	1,483	68.9	669	31.1	375	17.4	294	13.7
With no children < 18 yrs	152,463	135,182	88.7	17,281	11.3	9,819	6.4	7,462	4.9
More than one adult	118,514	106,290	89.7	12,224	10.3	7,309	6.2	4,915	4.1
Women living alone	18,686	15,853	84.8	2,833	15.2	1,453	7.8	1,380	7.4
Men living alone	15,263	13,038	85.4	2,225	14.6	1,058	6.9	1,167	7.6
With elderly	66,252	59,477	89.8	6,775	10.2	4,616	7.0	2,159	3.3
Elderly living alone	12,341	11,232	91.0	1,109	9.0	657	5.3	452	3.7
Race/ethnicity of households:									
White, non-Hispanic	198,841	176,305	88.7	22,536	11.3	13,632	6.9	8,904	4.5
Black, non-Hispanic	37,815	26,911	71.2	10,904	28.8	7,086	18.7	3,818	10.1
Hispanic ³	50,867	38,032	74.8	12,835	25.2	9,594	18.9	3,241	6.4
Other	23,330	20,528	88.0	2,802	12.0	1,662	7.1	1,140	4.9
Household income-to-poverty ratio:									
Under 1.00	42,067	23,827	56.6	18,240	43.4	11,057	26.3	7,183	17.1
Under 1.30	56,852	33,435	58.8	23,417	41.2	14,465	25.4	8,952	15.7
Under 1.85	82,052	51,813	63.1	30,239	36.9	19,082	23.3	11,157	13.6
1.85 and over	155,793	145,247	93.2	10,546	6.8	7,445	4.8	3,101	2.0
Income unknown	73,007	64,714	88.6	8,293	11.4	5,447	7.5	2,846	3.9
Area of residence: ⁴									
Inside metropolitan area	262,994	221,874	84.4	41,120	15.6	26,788	10.2	14,332	5.4
In principal cities ⁵	85,886	69,882	81.4	16,004	18.6	10,884	12.7	5,120	6.0
Not in principal cities	134,104	116,218	86.7	17,886	13.3	11,504	8.6	6,382	4.8
Outside metropolitan area	47,859	39,901	83.4	7,958	16.6	5,186	10.8	2,772	5.8
Census geographic region:									
Northeast	55,174	47,919	86.9	7,255	13.1	4,546	8.2	2,709	4.9
Midwest	66,443	56,918	85.7	9,525	14.3	6,185	9.3	3,340	5.0
South	116,174	95,381	82.1	20,793	17.9	13,412	11.5	7,381	6.4
West	73,062	61,558	84.3	11,504	15.7	7,831	10.7	3,673	5.0

¹Totals exclude individuals in households for which food security status is unknown because they did not give a valid response to any of the questions in the food security scale. In 2013, these exclusions represented about 1.1 million individuals (0.4 percent of the U.S. population.)

²Households with children in complex living arrangements, e.g., children of other relatives or unrelated roommate or boarder.

³Hispanics may be of any race.

⁴Metropolitan area residence is based on 2003 Office of Management and Budget delineation.

⁵Households within incorporated areas of the largest cities in each metropolitan area. Residence inside or outside of principal cities is not identified for about 16 percent of individuals living in metropolitan statistical areas.

Source: Calculated by USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the December 2013 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

Table S-3

Number of children by food security status of households and selected household characteristics, 2013

Category	Total ¹	In food-secure households		In food-insecure households ²		In households with food-insecure children ³		In households with very low food security among children	
		1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent
All children	73,634	57,862	78.6	15,772	21.4	8,585	11.7	765	1.0
Household composition:									
With children < 6 yrs	36,257	27,681	76.3	8,576	23.7	4,465	12.3	293	0.8
Married-couple families	48,856	41,679	85.3	7,177	14.7	3,976	8.1	325	0.7
Female head, no spouse	19,121	12,031	62.9	7,090	37.1	3,800	19.9	385	2.0
Male head, no spouse	4,813	3,586	74.5	1,227	25.5	646	13.4	NA	NA
Other household with child ⁴	844	566	67.1	278	32.9	164	19.4	NA	NA
Race/ethnicity of households:									
White, non-Hispanic	41,506	35,121	84.6	6,385	15.4	3,333	8.0	235	0.6
Black, non-Hispanic	10,342	6,604	63.9	3,738	36.1	2,074	20.1	252	2.4
Hispanic ⁵	15,970	11,259	70.5	4,711	29.5	2,664	16.7	237	1.5
Other	5,815	4,877	83.9	938	16.1	514	8.8	NA	NA
Household income-to-poverty ratio:									
Under 1.00	14,899	7,990	53.6	6,909	46.4	4,020	27.0	352	2.4
Under 1.30	19,231	10,479	54.5	8,752	45.5	4,986	25.9	419	2.2
Under 1.85	26,123	15,282	58.5	10,841	41.5	6,110	23.4	513	2.0
1.85 and over	33,126	30,467	92.0	2,659	8.0	1,293	3.9	NA	NA
Income unknown	14,385	12,113	84.2	2,272	15.8	1,183	8.2	179	1.2
Area of residence: ⁶									
Inside metropolitan area	62,577	49,392	78.9	13,185	21.1	7,197	11.5	614	1.0
In principal cities ⁷	20,683	15,494	74.9	5,189	25.1	2,696	13.0	332	1.6
Not in principal cities	31,847	26,209	82.3	5,638	17.7	3,182	10.0	208	0.7
Outside metropolitan area	11,057	8,471	76.6	2,586	23.4	1,388	12.6	150	1.4
Census geographic region:									
Northeast	12,053	9,791	81.2	2,262	18.8	1,266	10.5	107	0.9
Midwest	15,847	12,894	81.4	2,953	18.6	1,314	8.3	136	0.9
South	27,959	21,039	75.2	6,920	24.8	3,994	14.3	339	1.2
West	17,774	14,138	79.5	3,636	20.5	2,011	11.3	184	1.0

NA = Not reported; fewer than 10 households in the survey with this characteristic had very low food security among children.

¹Totals exclude households for which food security status is unknown because they did not give a valid response to any of the questions in the food security scale. In 2013, these exclusions represented 298,000 children (0.4 percent.)

²Food-insecure households are those with low or very low food security among adults or children or both.

³Households with food-insecure children are those with low or very low food security among children.

⁴Households with children in complex living arrangements, e.g., children of other relatives or unrelated roommate or boarder.

⁵Hispanics may be of any race.

⁶Metropolitan area residence is based on 2003 Office of Management and Budget delineation.

⁷Households within incorporated areas of the largest cities in each metropolitan area. Residence inside or outside of principal cities is not identified for about 16 percent of children living in metropolitan statistical areas.

Source: Calculated by USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the December 2013 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

Food Security During the 30 Days Prior to the Food Security Survey

The annual food security survey was designed with the primary objective of assessing households' food security during the 12-month period prior to the survey, but information is also collected with reference to the 30-day period prior to the survey. Households that responded affirmatively to each 12-month question were asked whether the same behavior, experience, or condition occurred during the last 30 days. Responses to these questions were used to assess the food security status of households during the 30 days prior to the survey, following the same protocols that were used for the 12-month measure. The 30-day food security measurement protocol was revised in 2005, so 30-day statistics for 2013 are directly comparable with those for 2005 and later years, but not with those reported for 2004 and earlier years.

An estimated 92.0 percent of households were food secure throughout the 30-day period from mid-November to mid-December 2013 (table S-4).³ An estimated 8.0 percent (9.8 million households) were food insecure at some time during that 30-day period, including 3.3 percent (4.1 million) with very low food security. The national-level prevalence rates of food insecurity and very low food security were essentially unchanged from the corresponding 30-day period in 2012 (8.2 percent and 3.3 percent, respectively). However, there were some statistically significant changes in prevalence rates for several subpopulations. From 2012 to 2013, 30-day food insecurity declined for White non-Hispanic households and households in the Midwest Census Region. The prevalence of 30-day food insecurity increased from 2012 to 2013 for other households with children.⁴ From 2012 to 2013, 30-day very low food security declined for households in the Midwest. The prevalence of 30-day very low food security increased from 2012 to 2013 in the South Census Region.

The number of households that were food insecure at some time during the 30 days from mid-November to mid-December was 56 percent of the number that were food insecure at some time during the entire 12 months prior to the survey; the corresponding statistic for very low food security was 60 percent. If food insecurity during this 30-day period was similar to that for other 30-day periods throughout the year, then these comparisons imply that the average household that was food insecure at some time during the year experienced this condition in 7 months of the year. Likewise, the average household with very low food security experienced that condition in 7 months of the year.⁵ However, analysis of food insecurity in different months suggests that food insecurity is somewhat more prevalent in the summer months (July-September) than in March-April and November-December (Cohen et al., 2002; Nord and Romig, 2006; Nord and Kantor, 2006), so typical frequencies may be somewhat higher than the 7 months implied by the December data.

³The food security survey was conducted during the week of December 8-14, 2013.

⁴The 30-day prevalence of food insecurity and very low food security for the category other household with children should be interpreted cautiously. There was a relatively small number of sampled households in this category.

⁵The number of months is estimated as the monthly rate divided by the annual rate multiplied by 12.

Table S-4

Households by food security status during the 30 days prior to the food security survey and selected household characteristics, 2013¹

Category	Food insecure								
	Total ¹	Food secure		All		With low food security		With very low food security	
		1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent
All households	122,573	112,800	92.0	9,773	8.0	5,678	4.6	4,095	3.3
Household composition:									
With children < 18 yrs	38,480	34,254	89.0	4,226	11.0	2,893	7.5	1,333	3.5
With children < 6 yrs	16,936	15,024	88.7	1,912	11.3	1,326	7.8	586	3.5
Married-couple families	24,896	23,112	92.8	1,784	7.2	1,277	5.1	507	2.0
Female head, no spouse	10,019	8,092	80.8	1,927	19.2	1,272	12.7	655	6.5
Male head, no spouse	3,025	2,610	86.3	415	13.7	298	9.9	117	3.9
Other household with child ²	540	440	81.5	100	18.5	46	8.5	54	10.0
With no children < 18 yrs	84,093	78,544	93.4	5,549	6.6	2,786	3.3	2,763	3.3
More than one adult	50,145	47,464	94.7	2,681	5.3	1,378	2.7	1,303	2.6
Women living alone	18,686	17,028	91.1	1,658	8.9	828	4.4	830	4.4
Men living alone	15,263	14,053	92.1	1,210	7.9	581	3.8	629	4.1
With elderly	33,244	31,722	95.4	1,522	4.6	932	2.8	590	1.8
Elderly living alone	12,341	11,760	95.3	581	4.7	358	2.9	223	1.8
Race/ethnicity of households:									
White, non-Hispanic	83,490	78,562	94.1	4,928	5.9	2,645	3.2	2,283	2.7
Black, non-Hispanic	15,311	13,083	85.4	2,228	14.6	1,300	8.5	928	6.1
Hispanic ³	15,648	13,569	86.7	2,079	13.3	1,454	9.3	625	4.0
Other	8,124	7,587	93.4	537	6.6	279	3.4	258	3.2
Household income-to-poverty ratio:									
Under 1.00	14,819	11,089	74.8	3,730	25.2	2,043	13.8	1,687	11.4
Under 1.30	20,715	15,961	77.1	4,754	22.9	2,635	12.7	2,119	10.2
Under 1.85	29,809	23,739	79.6	6,070	20.4	3,447	11.6	2,623	8.8
1.85 and over	62,985	60,920	96.7	2,065	3.3	1,281	2.0	784	1.2
Income unknown	29,780	28,141	94.5	1,639	5.5	950	3.2	689	2.3
Area of residence: ⁴									
Inside metropolitan area	102,936	94,795	92.1	8,141	7.9	4,727	4.6	3,414	3.3
In principal cities ⁵	34,425	31,232	90.7	3,193	9.3	1,886	5.5	1,307	3.8
Not in principal cities	51,077	47,596	93.2	3,481	6.8	1,998	3.9	1,483	2.9
Outside metropolitan area	19,638	18,005	91.7	1,633	8.3	952	4.8	681	3.5
Census geographic region:									
Northeast	21,894	20,307	92.8	1,587	7.2	944	4.3	643	2.9
Midwest	27,097	25,050	92.4	2,047	7.6	1,199	4.4	848	3.1
South	46,256	42,198	91.2	4,058	8.8	2,295	5.0	1,763	3.8
West	27,326	25,244	92.4	2,082	7.6	1,241	4.5	841	3.1

¹The 30-day prevalence rates refer to the 30-day period from mid-November to mid-December; the survey was conducted during the week of December 8-14, 2013. Totals exclude households for which food security status is unknown because they did not give a valid response to any of the questions in the 30-day food security scale. In 2013, these exclusions represented 439,000 households (0.4 percent of all households.) The 30-day statistics for 2004 and earlier years were based on a different methodology and are not comparable with these statistics.

²Households with children in complex living arrangements, e.g., children of other relatives or unrelated roommate or boarder. The 30-day prevalence of food insecurity and very low food security for the category other household with children should be interpreted cautiously. There was a relatively small number of sampled households in this category.

³Hispanics may be of any race.

⁴Metropolitan area residence is based on 2003 Office of Management and Budget delineation.

⁵Households within incorporated areas of the largest cities in each metropolitan area. Residence inside or outside of principal cities is not identified for about 17 percent of households in metropolitan statistical areas.

Source: Calculated by USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the December 2013 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

Household Responses to Questions in the Food Security Scale

The 18 questions used for the food security measure ask about conditions, experiences, and behaviors that range widely in severity. Those indicating less severe food insecurity are observed in a larger proportion of households and the proportion declines as severity increases (table S-5).

The two least severe questions refer to uncertainty about having enough food and the experience of running out of food. The remaining 16 items indicate reduced quality, variety, or desirability of diets and increasingly severe disruptions of normal eating patterns and reductions in food intake. (See page 12 for the complete wording of these questions.) Three or more affirmative responses are required for a household to be classified as food insecure. Thus, all households in that category affirmed at least one item indicating reduced diet quality or disruption of normal eating patterns or reduction in food intake, and most food-insecure households reported multiple indicators of these conditions (table S-6).

A large majority of households (69.3 percent of households with children and 80.5 percent of those without children) reported no problems or concerns in meeting their food needs. Households that reported only one or two indications of food insecurity (11.2 percent of households with children and 7.6 percent of households without children) are also classified as food secure. Most of these households affirmed one or both of the first two items, indicating uncertainty about having enough food or about exhausting their food supply, but did not indicate actual disruptions of normal eating patterns or reductions in food intake. Although these households are classified as food secure, the food security of some of them may have been marginal at times, especially in the sense that they lacked “assured ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways,” a condition that the Life Sciences Research Office includes in its definition of food security (Anderson, 1990, p. 1,598).⁶ Research examining health and children’s development in these marginally food-secure households generally indicate that outcomes are either intermediate between those in highly food-secure and food-insecure households or more closely resemble those in food-insecure households (Radimer and Nord, 2005; Winicki and Jemison, 2003; Wilde and Peterman, 2006).

⁶The Life Sciences Research Office (LSRO) is a nonprofit organization based in Bethesda, MD. Concepts and definitions of food security and related conditions developed by LSRO for the American Institute of Nutrition (Anderson, 1990) provided key parts of the theoretical underpinnings of the household food security measure.

Table S-5

Responses to items in the food security scale, 2010-13¹

Scale item ²	Households affirming item ³			
	2010	2011	2012	2013
	Percent			
Household items:				
Worried food would run out before (I/we) got money to buy more	19.9	19.7	19.5	18.9
Food bought didn't last and (I/we) didn't have money to get more	15.4	16.2	15.7	15.6
Couldn't afford to eat balanced meals	14.8	15.2	15.0	14.8
Adult items:				
Adult(s) cut size of meals or skipped meals	8.7	9.2	8.9	8.7
Respondent ate less than felt he/she should	8.9	9.2	9.0	8.9
Adult(s) cut size or skipped meals in 3 or more months	6.7	7.1	6.8	6.7
Respondent hungry but didn't eat because couldn't afford	4.4	4.5	4.7	4.5
Respondent lost weight	2.8	3.1	3.0	2.9
Adult(s) did not eat for whole day	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7
Adult(s) did not eat for whole day in 3 or more months	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3
Child items:				
Relied on few kinds of low-cost food to feed child(ren)	17.3	17.5	17.0	16.4
Couldn't feed child(ren) balanced meals	10.4	10.4	10.6	10.0
Child(ren) were not eating enough	4.7	4.6	4.2	4.4
Cut size of child(ren)'s meals	2.2	2.0	2.3	2.3
Child(ren) were hungry	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.3
Child(ren) skipped meals	.7	.7	.8	.8
Child(ren) skipped meals in 3 or more months	.5	.6	.6	.5
Child(ren) did not eat for whole day	.1	.2	.1	.2

¹Survey responses weighted to population totals.

²The full wording of each question includes explicit reference to resource limitation, e.g., "... because (I was/we were) running out of money to buy food," or "... because there wasn't enough money for food." (See box on page 12 for the complete wording of these questions.)

³Households not responding to item are omitted from the calculations. Households without children are omitted from the calculation of child-referenced items.

Source: Calculated by USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the December 2010, December 2011, December 2012, and December 2013 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplements.

Table S-6

Percentage of households by food security raw score, 2013

Panel A: Households with children—18-item household food security scale			
Raw score (number of food-insecure conditions reported)	Percent of households ¹	Cumulative percent of households ¹	Food security status
0	69.32	69.32	Food secure (80.49 percent)
1	6.22	75.54	
2	4.95	80.49	
3	3.91	84.41	Low food security (13.62 percent)
4	2.86	87.27	
5	2.66	89.93	
6	2.22	92.15	
7	1.96	94.11	
8	1.79	95.90	Very low food security (5.89 percent)
9	1.12	97.01	
10	1.04	98.06	
11	.64	98.70	
12	.52	99.22	
13	.25	99.47	
14	.20	99.67	
15	.14	99.81	
16	.07	99.89	
17	.06	99.94	
18	.06	100.00	
Panel B: Households with children—8-item child food security scale			
0	82.17	82.17	Children food secure (90.09 percent)
1	7.92	90.09	
2	5.45	95.53	Low food security among children (8.98 percent)
3	2.38	97.92	
4	1.15	99.07	
5	.47	99.53	Very low food security among children (0.93 percent)
6	.20	99.73	
7	.19	99.92	
8	.08	100.00	
Panel C: Households with no children—10-item adult food security scale			
0	80.54	80.54	Food secure (88.11 percent)
1	4.25	84.79	
2	3.32	88.11	
3	3.42	91.53	Low food security (6.45 percent)
4	1.64	93.18	
5	1.38	94.56	
6	1.81	96.37	Very low food security (5.44 percent)
7	1.47	97.84	
8	.99	98.83	
9	.44	99.27	
10	.73	100.00	

¹Survey responses weighted to population totals.

Source: Calculated by USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the December 2013 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

Questions Used To Assess the Food Security of Households in the CPS Food Security Survey

1. “We worried whether our food would run out before we got money to buy more.” Was that often, sometimes, or never true for you in the last 12 months?
2. “The food that we bought just didn’t last and we didn’t have money to get more.” Was that often, sometimes, or never true for you in the last 12 months?
3. “We couldn’t afford to eat balanced meals.” Was that often, sometimes, or never true for you in the last 12 months?
4. In the last 12 months, did you or other adults in the household ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn’t enough money for food? (Yes/No)
5. (If yes to question 4) How often did this happen—almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?
6. In the last 12 months, did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn’t enough money for food? (Yes/No)
7. In the last 12 months, were you ever hungry, but didn’t eat, because there wasn’t enough money for food? (Yes/No)
8. In the last 12 months, did you lose weight because there wasn’t enough money for food? (Yes/No)
9. In the last 12 months did you or other adults in your household ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn’t enough money for food? (Yes/No)
10. (If yes to question 9) How often did this happen—almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?

(Questions 11-18 were asked only if the household included children age 0-17)

11. “We relied on only a few kinds of low-cost food to feed our children because we were running out of money to buy food.” Was that often, sometimes, or never true for you in the last 12 months?
12. “We couldn’t feed our children a balanced meal, because we couldn’t afford that.” Was that often, sometimes, or never true for you in the last 12 months?
13. “The children were not eating enough because we just couldn’t afford enough food.” Was that often, sometimes, or never true for you in the last 12 months?
14. In the last 12 months, did you ever cut the size of any of the children’s meals because there wasn’t enough money for food? (Yes/No)
15. In the last 12 months, were the children ever hungry but you just couldn’t afford more food? (Yes/No)
16. In the last 12 months, did any of the children ever skip a meal because there wasn’t enough money for food? (Yes/No)
17. (If yes to question 16) How often did this happen—almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?
18. In the last 12 months did any of the children ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn’t enough money for food? (Yes/No)

Frequency of Occurrence of Behaviors, Experiences, and Conditions That Indicate Food Insecurity

Most of the questions used to calculate the food security scale also elicit information about how often the food-insecure behavior, experience, or condition occurred. The food security scale does not take all of this frequency-of-occurrence information into account, but analysis of these responses can provide insight into the frequency and duration of food insecurity. Frequency-of-occurrence information is collected in the CPS Food Security Supplements using two different methods:

- **Method 1:** A condition is described, and the respondent is asked whether this was often, sometimes, or never true for his or her household during the past 12 months.
- **Method 2:** Respondents who answer “yes” to a yes/no question are asked, “How often did this happen—almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?”

Table S-7 presents responses to each food security question broken down by reported frequency of occurrence for all households interviewed in the December 2013 survey. Questions using Method 1 are presented in the top panel of the table and those using Method 2 are presented in the bottom panel. Most households that responded affirmatively to Method 1 questions reported that the behavior, experience, or condition occurred “sometimes,” while 17 to 26 percent (depending on the specific question), reported that it occurred “often.”

In response to Method 2 questions, 26 to 37 percent of households that responded “yes” to the base question reported that the behavior, experience, or condition occurred “in almost every month;” 37 to 45 percent reported that it occurred in “some months, but not every month;” and 22 to 30 percent reported that it occurred “in only 1 or 2 months.”

Table S-8 presents the same frequency-of-occurrence response statistics for households classified as having very low food security.

Table S-7

Frequency of occurrence of behaviors, experiences, and conditions indicating food insecurity reported by all U.S. households, 2013¹

Condition ²	Ever during the year	Frequency of occurrence			
		Often	Sometimes	Often	Sometimes
		Percent of all households		Percent of "ever during the year"	
Worried food would run out before (I/we) got money to buy more	18.9	4.9	13.9	26	74
Food bought didn't last and (I/we) didn't have money to get more	15.6	3.4	12.2	22	78
Couldn't afford to eat balanced meals	14.8	3.8	11.0	26	74
Relied on few kinds of low-cost food to feed child(ren)	16.4	3.6	12.7	22	78
Couldn't feed child(ren) balanced meals	10.0	1.8	8.2	18	82
Child(ren) were not eating enough	4.4	.7	3.6	17	83

Condition ²	Frequency of occurrence						
	Ever during the year	Almost every month	Some months but not every month	In only 1 or 2 months	Almost every month	Some months but not every month	In only 1 or 2 months
	Percent of all households				Percent of "ever during the year"		
Adult(s) cut size of meals or skipped meals	8.6	3.0	3.7	1.9	35	43	22
Respondent ate less than felt he/she should	8.8	2.8	4.0	2.1	32	45	23
Respondent hungry but didn't eat because couldn't afford	4.4	1.6	1.8	1.0	37	41	22
Respondent lost weight	2.9	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Adult(s) did not eat for whole day	1.7	.6	.7	.4	35	40	25
Cut size of child(ren)'s meals	2.3	.6	1.0	.7	26	44	30
Child(ren) were hungry	1.3	.5	.5	.3	37	37	26
Child(ren) skipped meals	.8	.2	.3	.2	30	42	28
Child(ren) did not eat for whole day	.2	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA = Frequency-of-occurrence information was not collected for these conditions.

¹Survey responses weighted to population totals. Households not responding to an item or not responding to the followup question about frequency of occurrence are omitted from the calculation of percentages for that item. Households without children are omitted from the calculation of percentages for child-referenced items.

²The full wording of each question includes explicit reference to resource limitation, e.g., "...because (I was/we were) running out of money to buy food," or "...because there wasn't enough money for food."

Source: Calculated by USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the December 2013 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

Table S-8

Frequency of occurrence of behaviors, experiences, and conditions indicating food insecurity reported by households with very low food security, 2013¹

Condition ²	Ever during the year	Frequency of occurrence			
		Often	Sometimes	Often	Sometimes
		Percent of all households		Percent of "ever during the year"	
Worried food would run out before (I/we) got money to buy more	98.6	50.5	48.0	51	49
Food bought didn't last and (I/we) didn't have money to get more	97.5	40.8	56.7	42	58
Couldn't afford to eat balanced meals	94.4	42.4	51.9	45	55
Relied on few kinds of low-cost food to feed child(ren)	92.8	38.4	54.4	41	59
Couldn't feed child(ren) balanced meals	80.5	22.5	58.0	28	72
Child(ren) were not eating enough	51.1	10.7	40.4	21	79

Condition ²	Frequency of occurrence						
	Ever during the year	Almost every month	Some months but not every month	In only 1 or 2 months	Almost every month	Some months but not every month	In only 1 or 2 months
	Percent of all households				Percent of "ever during the year"		
Adult(s) cut size of meals or skipped meals	97.3	46.0	43.2	8.0	47	44	8
Respondent ate less than felt he/she should	95.1	43.1	41.1	10.9	45	43	12
Respondent hungry but didn't eat because couldn't afford	65.6	27.8	27.2	10.7	42	41	16
Respondent lost weight	44.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Adult(s) did not eat for whole day	28.5	10.8	11.7	6.0	38	41	21
Cut size of child(ren)'s meals	29.2	9.6	12.5	7.1	33	43	24
Child(ren) were hungry	20.9	8.3	7.9	4.7	40	38	22
Child(ren) skipped meals	11.6	4.0	5.0	2.6	34	43	23
Child(ren) did not eat for whole day	2.6	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA = Frequency-of-occurrence information was not collected for these conditions.

¹Survey responses weighted to population totals. Households not responding to an item or not responding to the followup question about frequency of occurrence are omitted from the calculation of percentages for that item. Households without children are omitted from the calculation of percentages for child-referenced items.

²The full wording of each question includes explicit reference to resource limitation, e.g., "...because (I was/we were) running out of money to buy food," or "...because there wasn't enough money for food."

Source: Calculated by USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the December 2013 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

Monthly and Daily Occurrence of Food-Insecure Conditions

Respondents also reported whether the behaviors and experiences that indicate food insecurity had occurred during the 30 days prior to the survey. For seven of these behaviors and experiences respondents also reported how many days the condition had occurred during that period. Responses to these questions are summarized in table S-9.⁷

No direct measure of the daily prevalence of very low food security has yet been developed. However, the ratio of daily prevalence to monthly prevalence of the various indicator conditions provides a basis for approximating the average daily prevalence of very low food security during the reference 30-day period. For the adult-referenced items, daily prevalence ranged from 22 to 32 percent of their prevalence at any time during the month (analysis not shown, based on table S-9). The corresponding ranges for daily prevalence of the child-referenced items were 24 to 28 percent of monthly prevalence. These findings are generally consistent with those of Nord et al. (2000), and are used to estimate upper and lower bounds of the daily prevalence of very low food security described in *Household Food Security in the United States in 2013* (<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err-economic-research-report/err173.aspx>).

⁷Average daily prevalence is calculated as the product of the 30-day prevalence and the average number of days divided by 30.

Table S-9

Monthly and daily occurrence of behaviors, experiences, and conditions indicating food insecurity reported by all U.S. households, 2013¹

Condition ²	For households reporting condition at any time during previous 30 days					Average daily prevalence
	Ever during previous 30 days	Number of days out of previous 30 days			Monthly average occurrence	
		1- 7 days	8-14 days	15-30 days		
		Percent ³			Days ³	Percent ³
Worried food would run out before (I/we) got money to buy more	9.16	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Food bought didn't last and (I/we) didn't have money to get more	7.96	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Couldn't afford to eat balanced meals	8.50	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Relied on few kinds of low-cost food to feed child(ren)	5.91	66	16	18	7.9	1.56
Couldn't feed child(ren) balanced meals	5.44	58	18	24	9.6	1.75
Child(ren) were not eating enough	2.93	59	18	23	9.1	0.89
Adult(s) cut size of meals or skipped meals	1.85	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Respondent ate less than felt he/she should	1.16	73	15	12	6.4	0.25
Respondent hungry but didn't eat because couldn't afford	9.15	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Respondent lost weight	5.97	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Adult(s) did not eat for whole day	2.61	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Cut size of child(ren)'s meals	1.57	70	14	16	7.1	0.37
Child(ren) were hungry	0.86	66	13	21	8.3	0.24
Child(ren) skipped meals	0.43	67	16	17	7.6	0.11
Child(ren) did not eat for whole day	0.13	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA = Number of days of occurrence was not collected for these conditions.

¹Survey responses weighted to population totals. The 30-day and daily statistics refer to the 30-day period from mid-November to mid-December; the survey was conducted during the week of December 8-14, 2013.

²The full wording of each question includes explicit reference to resource limitation, e.g., "...because (I was/we were) running out of money to buy food," or "...because there wasn't enough money for food."

³Households without children are excluded from the denominator of child-referenced items.

Source: Calculated by USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the December 2013 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

Food Spending by Food-Secure and Food-Insecure Households

Food-secure households typically spent more on food than food-insecure households of similar age-gender composition. The pattern of higher median food spending relative to the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan by food-secure households was consistent across household structure, race/ethnicity, income, metropolitan residence, and geographic region (table S-10).

Table S-10

Weekly household food spending relative to the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) by food security status and selected household characteristics, 2013

Category	Median weekly food spending relative to TFP ¹	
	Food secure	Food insecure
	<i>Ratio (cost of TFP = 1.0)</i>	
All households	1.21	0.93
Household composition:		
With children < 18 yrs	1.08	.86
At least one child < 6 yrs	1.10	.88
Married couple families	1.11	.82
Female head, no spouse	.99	.90
Male head, no spouse	1.07	.87
Other household with child ²	1.12	NA
With no children < 18 yrs	1.23	1.01
More than one adult	1.21	.85
Women living alone	1.35	1.13
Men living alone	1.54	1.15
With elderly	1.19	.87
Elderly living alone	1.22	1.01
Race/ethnicity of households:		
White, non-Hispanic	1.24	.96
Black, non-Hispanic	1.06	.92
Hispanic ³	1.05	.89
Other	1.15	1.07
Household income-to-poverty ratio:		
Under 1.00	.97	.86
Under 1.30	.98	.87
Under 1.85	.98	.89
1.85 and over	1.30	1.15
Income unknown	1.15	.86
Area of residence: ⁴		
Inside metropolitan area	1.21	.95
In principal cities ⁵	1.21	.95
Not in principal cities	1.22	.94
Outside metropolitan area	1.09	.86
Census geographic region:		
Northeast	1.25	1.04
Midwest	1.15	.93
South	1.20	.91
West	1.21	.92

NA = Median not reported; fewer than 100 interviewed households in the category.

¹Statistics exclude households that did not answer the questions about spending on food or reported zero usual food spending and those that did not provide valid responses to any of the questions on food security. These exclusions represented 8.7 percent of all households.

²Households with children in complex living arrangements, e.g., children of other relatives or unrelated roommate or boarder.

³Hispanics may be of any race.

⁴Metropolitan area residence is based on 2003 Office of Management and Budget delineation.

⁵Households within incorporated areas of the largest cities in each metropolitan area. Residence inside or outside of principal cities is not identified for about 17 percent of households in metropolitan statistical areas.

Source: Calculated by USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the December 2013 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

Use of Food Pantries and Emergency Kitchens

The December 2013 CPS food security survey included questions about the use of two types of community-based food and nutrition assistance programs (see box below, “Community Food and Nutrition Assistance Programs,” for descriptions of these facilities). All households with incomes below 185 percent of the Federal poverty threshold were asked these questions. In order to minimize the burden on respondents, households with incomes above that range were not asked the questions unless they indicated some level of difficulty in meeting their food needs on preliminary screener questions. The questions analyzed in this supplement are:

- “In the last 12 months, did you or other adults in your household ever get emergency food from a church, a food pantry, or food bank?” The use of these resources any time during the last 12 months is referred to as “food pantry use.” Households that reported using a food pantry in the last 12 months were asked, “How often did this happen—almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?” Households reporting that they did not use a food pantry in the last 12 months were asked, “Is there a church, food pantry, or food bank in your community where you could get emergency food if you needed it?”
- “In the last 12 months, did you or other adults in your household ever eat any meals at a soup kitchen?” The use of this resource is referred to as “use of an emergency kitchen” in the following discussion.

Table S-11 presents estimates of the number of households that obtained emergency food from food pantries or ate at an emergency kitchen one or more times during the 12-month period ending in December 2013. Estimates of the proportion of households using emergency kitchens based on the CPS food security surveys almost certainly understate the proportion of the population that actually uses these providers. The CPS selects households to interview from an address-based list and therefore interviews only persons who occupy housing units. People who are homeless at the time of

Community Food and Nutrition Assistance Programs

Food pantries and emergency kitchens are the main direct providers of emergency food assistance. These agencies are locally based and rely heavily on volunteers. The majority of them are affiliated with faith-based organizations (see Ohls et al., 2002, for more information). Most of the food distributed by food pantries and emergency kitchens comes from local resources, but USDA supplements these resources through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). In fiscal year 2013, TEFAP supplied 637 million pounds of commodities to community emergency food providers. Over half of all food pantries and emergency kitchens received TEFAP commodities in 2000, and these commodities accounted for about 14 percent of all food distributed by them (Ohls et al., 2002). Pantries and kitchens play different roles, as follows:

- Food pantries distribute unprepared foods for offsite use. An estimated 32,737 pantries operated in 2000 (the last year for which nationally representative statistics are available) and distributed, on average, 239 million pounds of food per month. Households using food pantries received an average of 38.2 pounds of food per visit.
- Emergency kitchens (sometimes referred to as soup kitchens) provide individuals with prepared food to eat at the site. In 2000 an estimated 5,262 emergency kitchens served a total of 474,000 meals on an average day.

the survey are not included in the sample, and those in tenuous housing arrangements (for instance, temporarily doubled up with another family) also may be missed. These two factors—exclusion of the homeless and under representation of those who are tenuously housed—bias estimates of emergency kitchen use downward, especially among certain subgroups of the population. This is much less true for food pantry users because they need cooking facilities to make use of most items from a food pantry.⁸

The food security of households that used food pantries and emergency kitchens is compared with low-income households that did not use those facilities in table S-12. Use of food pantries by household composition, race and Hispanic ethnicity, income, and residence is provided in table S-13.

Table S-11

Use of food pantries and emergency kitchens, 2013

Category	Pantries			Kitchens		
	Total ¹	Users		Total ¹	Users	
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>
All households	122,194	6,194	5.1	122,216	710	0.6
All persons in households	309,655	17,081	5.5	309,774	1,579	.5
Adults in households	236,482	11,501	4.9	236,529	1,188	.5
Children in households	73,173	5,580	7.6	73,244	391	.5
Households by food security status:						
Food-secure households	104,766	1,669	1.6	104,802	143	.1
Food-insecure households	17,335	4,520	26.1	17,316	562	3.3
Households with low food security	10,590	2,141	20.2	10,585	181	1.7
Households with very low food security	6,745	2,379	35.3	6,731	381	5.7

¹Totals exclude households that did not answer the question about food pantries or emergency kitchens. Totals in the bottom section also exclude households that did not answer any of the questions in the food security scale.

Source: Calculated by USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the December 2013 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

Table S-12

Prevalence of food security and food insecurity of households with annual incomes less than 185 percent of the poverty line, by use of food pantries and emergency kitchens, 2013

Category	Food secure	Food insecure		
		All	With low food security	With very low food security
Percent				
Income less than 185 percent of poverty line:				
Received emergency food from food pantry previous 12 months	27.7	72.3	35.5	36.8
Did not receive emergency food from food pantry previous 12 months	72.0	28.0	17.8	10.2
Ate meal at emergency kitchen previous 12 months	18.3	81.7	28.2	53.5
Did not eat meal at emergency kitchen previous 12 months	66.1	33.9	20.3	13.6

Source: Calculated by USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the December 2013 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement

⁸Previous studies of emergency kitchen users and food pantry users confirm these assumptions. For example, a nationally representative survey of people who use food pantries and emergency kitchens found that about 36 percent of emergency kitchen clients and 8 percent of households that received food from food pantries were homeless in 2001 (Briefel et al., 2003).

Table S-13

Use of food pantries, by selected household characteristics, 2013

Category	Total ¹	Pantry users	
	1,000	1,000	Percent
All households	122,194	6,194	5.1
Household composition:			
With children < 18 yrs	38,251	2,509	6.6
At least one child < 6 yrs	16,807	1,197	7.1
Married-couple families	24,799	958	3.9
Female head, no spouse	9,919	1,263	12.7
Male head, no spouse	3,008	245	8.1
Other household with child ²	526	44	8.4
With no children < 18 yrs	83,943	3,685	4.4
More than one adult	50,067	1,695	3.4
Women living alone	18,636	1,207	6.5
Men living alone	15,240	783	5.1
With elderly	33,160	1,178	3.6
Elderly living alone	12,317	542	4.4
Race/ethnicity of households:			
White, non-Hispanic	83,322	3,310	4.0
Black, non-Hispanic	15,228	1,399	9.2
Hispanic ³	15,540	1,183	7.6
Other	8,104	303	3.7
Household income-to-poverty ratio:			
Under 1.00	14,710	2,926	19.9
Under 1.30	20,541	3,804	18.5
Under 1.85	29,585	4,539	15.3
1.85 and over	62,948	788	1.3
Income unknown	29,662	867	2.9
Area of residence: ⁴			
Inside metropolitan area	102,601	4,907	4.8
In principal cities ⁵	34,272	1,975	5.8
Not in principal cities	50,939	1,974	3.9
Outside metropolitan area	19,593	1,288	6.6
Census geographic region:			
Northeast	21,809	1,026	4.7
Midwest	27,022	1,509	5.6
South	46,116	2,191	4.8
West	27,246	1,469	5.4

¹Totals exclude households that did not answer the question about getting food from a food pantry. These exclusions represented 0.7 percent of all households.

²Households with children in complex living arrangements, e.g., children of other relatives or unrelated roommate or boarder.

³Hispanics may be of any race.

⁴Metropolitan area residence is based on 2003 Office of Management and Budget delineation.

⁵Households within incorporated areas of the largest cities in each metropolitan area. Residence inside or outside of principal cities is not identified for about 17 percent of households in metropolitan statistical areas.

Source: Calculated by USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the December 2013 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

Food Spending by Households That Received Food and Nutrition Assistance

Median food spending relative to the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan by households that received food and nutrition assistance and by non-recipient households in similar low-income ranges is presented in table S-14.⁹

Table S-14

Weekly household food spending relative to the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) by participation in selected Federal and community food and nutrition assistance programs, 2013

Category	Median weekly food spending relative to cost of the TFP <i>Ratio</i> (cost of TFP = 1.0)
Income less than 130 percent of poverty line:	
Received SNAP ¹ benefits previous 30 days	0.90
Did not receive SNAP ¹ benefits previous 30 days	.96
Income less than 185 percent of poverty line; school-age children in household:	
Received free or reduced-price school lunch previous 30 days	.83
Did not receive free or reduced-price school lunch previous 30 days	.87
Income less than 185 percent of poverty line; children under age 5 in household:	
Received WIC ² previous 30 days	.93
Did not receive WIC ³ previous 30 days	.89
Income less than 185 percent of poverty line:	
Received emergency food from food pantry previous 12 months	.86
Did not receive emergency food from food pantry previous 12 months	.96

¹SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly called the Food Stamp Program.

²WIC = Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

Source: Calculated by USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the December 2013 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

⁹Food purchased with SNAP benefits is included in household food spending as calculated here. However, the value of school lunches and food obtained through WIC is not included. Food from these sources supplemented the food purchased by many of these households.

Food Security During the 30 Days Prior to the Food Security Survey in Households That Received Food and Nutrition Assistance

Table S-15 presents prevalence rates of food insecurity and very low food security during the 30-day period just prior to the food security survey for households that received selected types of food and nutrition assistance and for non-recipient households in similar low-income ranges. This complements table 8 of *Household Food Security in the United States in 2013* (<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err-economic-research-report/err173.aspx>), which is based on the 12-month measure. Measured food insecurity and reported use of food and nutrition assistance programs are more likely to refer to contemporaneous conditions when both are referenced to the previous 30 days than when one or both is referenced to the previous 12 months.

Table S-15

Prevalence of food insecurity during the 30 days prior to the food security survey, by participation in selected Federal and community food and nutrition assistance programs, 2013¹

Category	Food insecurity (low or very low food security)	Very low food security
Percent		
Income less than 130 percent of poverty line:		
Received SNAP ² benefits previous 30 days	32.3	14.6
Received SNAP ² benefits in every month during the previous 12 months	32.0	14.9
Received SNAP ² benefits previous 12 months but not previous 30 days (SNAP leavers)	35.6	18.0
Did not receive SNAP ² benefits previous 12 months	15.4	6.5
Income less than 185 percent of poverty line; school-age children in household:		
Received free or reduced-price school lunch previous 30 days	30.0	9.8
Did not receive free or reduced-price school lunch previous 30 days	15.6	4.6
Income less than 185 percent of poverty line; children under age 5 in household:		
Received WIC ³ previous 30 days	22.7	6.8
Did not receive WIC ³ previous 30 days	19.4	6.9
Income less than 185 percent of poverty line:		
Received emergency food from food pantry previous 30 days	58.2	32.5
Did not receive emergency food from food pantry previous 30 days	16.9	6.6

¹The 30-day prevalence rates refer to the 30-day period from mid-November to mid-December; the survey was conducted during the week of December 8-14, 2013. The number of interviewed households reporting use of emergency kitchens during the previous 30 days was too small to provide reliable food security prevalence estimates.

²SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly called the Food Stamp Program.

³WIC = Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

Source: Calculated by USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the December 2013 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

Combined Use of Federal and Community Food and Nutrition Assistance

Both Federal and community food and nutrition assistance programs are important resources for low-income households. To design and manage these programs so that they function together effectively as a nutrition safety net, it is important to know how they complement and supplement each other. The extent to which households that participate in Federal food and nutrition assistance programs also receive assistance from community food assistance programs provides information about these relationships (table S-16).

Table S-16

Combined use of Federal and community food and nutrition assistance programs by low-income households,¹ 2013

Category	Share of category that obtained food from food pantry	Share of food pantry users in category	Share of category that ate meal at emergency kitchen	Share of emergency kitchen users in category
	<i>Percent</i>			
Received SNAP ² benefits previous 30 days	29.0	55.8	3.4	57.3
Received free or reduced-price school lunch previous 30 days	21.1	31.5	1.5	20.2
Received WIC ³ previous 30 days	19.0	11.0	1.2	6.2
Participated in one or more of the three Federal programs	24.4	69.3	2.5	63.5
Did not participate in any of the three Federal programs	8.3	30.7	1.1	36.5

¹Analysis is restricted to households with annual incomes less than 185 percent of the poverty line because most households with incomes above that range were not asked whether they participated in food assistance programs.

²SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly called the Food Stamp Program.

³WIC = Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

Source: Calculated by USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the December 2013 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

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