Social and Economic Context

Food insecurity

Food insecurity influences health status in several ways; level of access to adequate and nutritious food is related to overweight and obesity, hypertension, high cholesterol, and diabetes. In addition, food insecurity affects child development and readiness to learn.

In 2012, 16.7% of Oregonians overall and 27.3% of children were food insecure. This compares to 15.9% in the U.S. overall and 21.6% for children. Oregon has the tenth highest rate of child food insecurity in the U.S.

![Figure 1: Food insecurity among total population and children < 18 years, Oregon and U.S., 2012](Map the Meal Gap, Feeding America, 2012; Household Food Security in the United States, 2012)

Additional Resources: Household Food Security in the United States in 2012; Map the Meal Gap

Food insecurity is defined as limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.

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