MAP THE MEAL GAP 2018
A LANDMARK ANALYSIS OF FOOD INSECURITY IN THE UNITED STATES

Feeding South Florida is one of 202 member food banks of Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief charity.

Feeding America, in collaboration with the *Howard G. Buffett Foundation* and *The Nielsen Company*, released an update to their landmark analysis of local food insecurity and food costs in the United States, providing an updated look at:

- Food insecurity rates by county and Congressional District.
- Percent of food insecure population likely eligible for federal nutrition programs by county and Congressional District.
- Number of food insecure people by county and Congressional District.
- Food cost variation for every county across the nation.

The study takes a look at 'meals' in a whole new way, using county-level data on food costs from The Nielsen Company to break down the food budget shortfall of our residents into an approximation of the meals missing from the tables of people at risk of hunger in South Florida each year- **an estimated $408.7 million or 120.6 million meals.**

SOUTH FLORIDA OVERVIEW (Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe Counties):

- **11.8%** of the South Florida population is food insecure, with **706,130** people not knowing from where they will get their next meal.
- **83%** of the food insecure population in South Florida qualify based on income for SNAP (Foods Stamps) and other federal nutrition programs, while **17%** do NOT qualify for federal nutrition programs and often must rely on emergency food assistance programs and need better wages and employment opportunities to help them meet their basic needs.
- **$3.39** is the average cost of a meal in South Florida.
- The food budget shortfall per person per week is **$19.08**, with a total shortfall of **$408,758,000**, or **120,661,900** meals.
- **19.4%** of children in South Florida are food insecure, leaving **240,190** children going to bed hungry.

PALM BEACH County has the <u>highest percentage of children likely eligible for federal nutrition assistance</u> (**68%**).

BROWARD County has the <u>highest percentage of food insecure individuals throughout South Florida</u>. (**14.3%**).

MIAMI-DADE County has the <u>highest percentage of food insecure children</u> in South Florida (**20%**).

MONROE County has the <u>highest food cost index</u> in South Florida at **$4.01** per meal and the highest weekly budget shortfall per food at **$22.59**.

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BREAKDOWN BY COUNTY

Palm Beach County
- **13.6%** of the Palm Beach County population is food insecure, with **189,940** people not knowing from where they will get their next meal.
- **71%** of the food insecure population in Palm Beach County qualify based on income for SNAP (Foods Stamps) and other federal nutrition programs, while **29%** do not and often must rely on emergency food assistance programs and need better wages and employment opportunities to help them meet their basic needs.
- **$3.51** is the average price per meal in Palm Beach County.
- The food budget shortfall in Palm Beach County per person per week is **$19.79**, with a total shortfall of **$114,009,000** or **32,456,500** meals.
- **19.5%** of children in Palm Beach County are food insecure, meaning, **53,630** children go to bed hungry.

Broward County
- **14.3%** of the Broward County population is food insecure, with **265,760** people not knowing from where they will get their next meal.
- **76%** of the food insecure population in Broward County qualify based on income for SNAP (Foods Stamps) and other federal nutrition programs, while **24%** do not and often must rely on emergency food assistance programs and need better wages and employment opportunities to help them meet their basic needs.
- **$3.42** is the average price per meal in Broward County.
- The food budget shortfall in Broward County per person per week is **$19.25**, with a total shortfall of **$155,181,000** or **45,412,500** meals.
- **18.6%** of children in Broward County are food insecure, meaning, **74,730** children go to bed hungry.

Miami-Dade County
- **9.1%** of the Miami-Dade County population is food insecure, with **241,620** people not knowing from where they will get their next meal.
- **100%** of the food insecure population in Miami-Dade County qualify based on income for SNAP (Foods Stamps) and other federal nutrition programs, while **0%** do not and often must rely on emergency food assistance programs and need better wages and employment opportunities to help them meet their basic needs.
- **$3.45** is the average price per meal in Miami-Dade County.
- The food budget shortfall in Miami-Dade County per person per week is **$19.45**, with a total shortfall of **$142,536,000** or **41,287,500** meals.
- **20%** of children in Miami-Dade County are food insecure, meaning, **109,780** children go to bed hungry.

Monroe County
- **11.4%** of the Monroe County population is food insecure, with **8,810** people not knowing from where they will get their next meal.
- **71%** of the food insecure population in Palm Beach County qualify based on income for SNAP (Foods Stamps) and other federal nutrition programs, while **29%** do not and often must rely on emergency food assistance programs and need better wages and employment opportunities to help them meet their basic needs.
- **$4.01** is the average price per meal in Monroe County.
- The food budget shortfall in Monroe County per person per week is **$22.59**, with a total shortfall of **$6,036,000** or **1,505,400** meals.
- **17.7%** of children in Monroe County are food insecure, meaning, **2,050** children go to bed hungry.