



Unit 9

Poverty and Food Security

Outcomes

- Know more about food insecurity in your county and its indicators
- Learn the food related resources that are available
- Understand the relationship between poverty, food insecurity and health behaviors



Overview

While we don't know exactly how many people in each county is food insecure or hungry; we can find clues by looking at indicators of food insecurity. For example we know that poverty is strongly linked to food insecurity and therefore the poverty rate for your county is one indicator. Food insecurity along with poverty increases the likelihood of poor health outcomes and behaviors. Although there are many factors within the food system that contribute to food insecurity WNEP can play a role in reducing some barriers for families and individuals to have more healthy food.



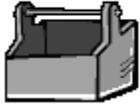
Reading Assignments

Put a check mark in the box as you complete each of these

- Household Food Security in the United States 2012**, U.S. Department of Agriculture, ERS Report Summary for September 2013. Read the **summary** at: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/media/1183204/err-155-report-summary.pdf> and view key statistics and graphics at: http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/key-statistics-graphics.aspx#UiYOnD_8KSp
- Poverty Awareness for Community Engagement (PACE) Curriculum**, Read "Poverty in Wisconsin" and "Hunger in Wisconsin" found at:

<http://blogs.ces.uwex.edu/povertyawareness/files/2011/06/TEpovertyinwisconsin.pdf>

<http://blogs.ces.uwex.edu/povertyawareness/files/2011/06/TEhungerinwisconsin.pdf>.



Learning Activities

Put a check mark in the box as you complete each of these

- Federal Food and Nutrition Assistance Programs.** Go to “Access” at <https://access.wisconsin.gov/> “Am I Eligible” and plug in your information or information for practice. This is a tool to use to determine eligibility for community programs.
 - What if any programs were you eligible?
 - Where there any surprises regarding your eligibility for any programs? Why/Why not?
 - Think about your learners and if this would be a useful tool for them.

- Go to Wisconsin Department of Health Services,** <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/ForwardHealth/index.htm> and review the Nutrition programs that you are not familiar.
 - What information was most surprising? Why?
 - Do you think most of your learners know very much about programs such as these that are available? Why? Or Why Not?
 - How could you use this information to provide or share information about these programs to learners who may qualify?

- Poverty and Food Insecurity County Profiles** <http://foodsecurity.wisc.edu/profiles.php> Go to this site and retrieve specific information for your county (ies)
 - What do you think about the information specific to your county? What about how it compares to the entire state?
 - Does this information surprise you? Why/Why Not?
 - Where do you see poverty most visible in your county? Where do you see it least visible? Describe what you see.



What does food access look like in your community?

What does food access look like in the communities of most of your learners?

How does food access in their communities impact their ability to eat healthy foods?