

Indicators of Food Insecurity by County

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Go to the Wisconsin Food Security Project website (<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/cfs>).

This site contains county-level on a variety of food security indicators, as well as a host of data from the US Census. You can create a custom report to obtain your county's data and to make comparisons to other counties and the state. You can also generate custom maps to portray data graphically. Following are some of the key indicators that may be most helpful for your needs assessment. (If you would like help using this website to build your needs assessment, feel free to contact Kadi Row.)

- a. Visit the website and generate a "Custom Report" for your county. Browse the following data:
 - i. Under "FOOD STAMPS"
Look at participation data to find out how many people are enrolled in the food stamp program in your county and how that is changing over time.
 - Percent of population receiving food stamps
 - Number of food stamp recipients per 100 poor persons
 - % change in food stamp recipients between 1999-2005
 - ii. Under "SCHOOL MEALS – BREAKFAST"
Data can reveal if school breakfast is offered in schools and how many children have access.
 - % of lunch sites serving breakfast
 - Percent of low-income children who have access to breakfast in their schools
 - iii. Under "SUMMER MEALS"
Here you can find data that shows if your county offers summer meals and how many eligible children participate.
 - Number of summer meal sites
 - Average daily attendance in summer meals program as percent of participation in free and reduced lunch program during school year
 - iv. Under "ECONOMIC INDICATORS"
While you'll use the Census Bureau website listed in "a" above for some of this data, the Wisconsin Food Security Project website can help you easily compare how your county ranks with other counties in Wisconsin. Particularly useful data may be:
 - Unemployment
 - Poverty rates – individual and child
(Poor households have a greater risk of food insecurity)
 - Percentage of non-elderly adults with a disability
(Households with disabled member have a greater risk of food insecurity)
 - Percentage of family households headed by a single mother
(Single mother households have a greater risk of food insecurity)
- b. Use the mapping function of the website to identify particular areas of need:
 - Click on "Map County Data"
 - Under "Zoom to County" select your county
 - Under "Select Local Characteristics" select poverty rate either by "Municipality" or "Census Tract." This will display intracounty poverty levels, which may help you determine if you are reaching low income residents.
 - Under "Food Related Resources" you can select any number of items to display, such as food pantries or senior meal sites.