

Increases in Food Insecurity due to COVID-19: What Can be Done?

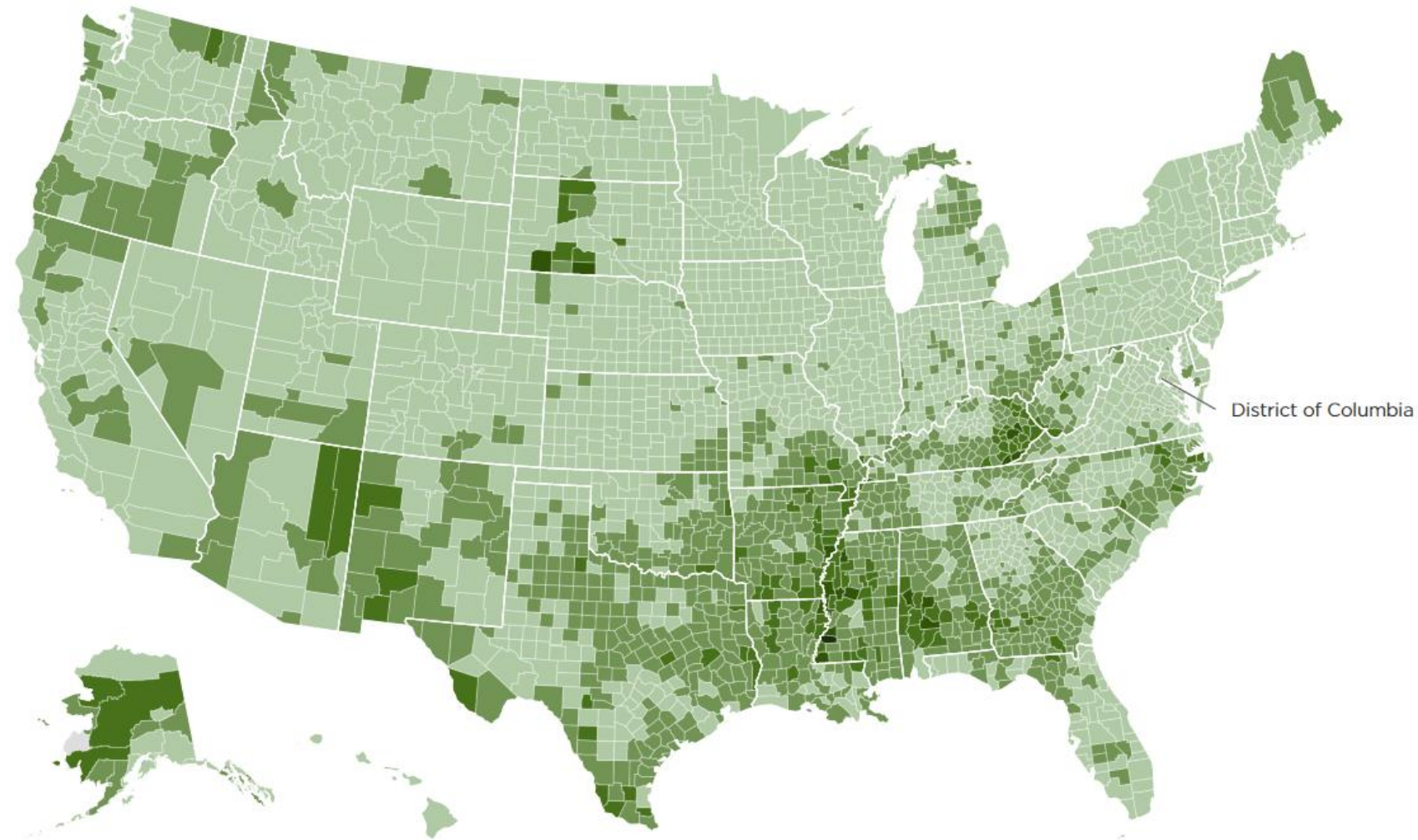
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Defining Food Insecurity

- A household's food insecurity status is based on responses to 18 questions in the Core Food Security Module (CFSM)
- Examples of questions:
 - “I worried whether our food would run out before we got money to buy more”
 - “Did you or the other adults in your household ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food”
 - “Were you ever hungry but did not eat because you couldn't afford enough food”
 - “Did a child in the household ever not eat for a full day because you couldn't afford enough food”
- Categories
 - food insecure if have 3 or more affirmative responses

OVERALL FOOD-INSECURITY RATES



Food Insecurity Rates

4-14%

15-19%

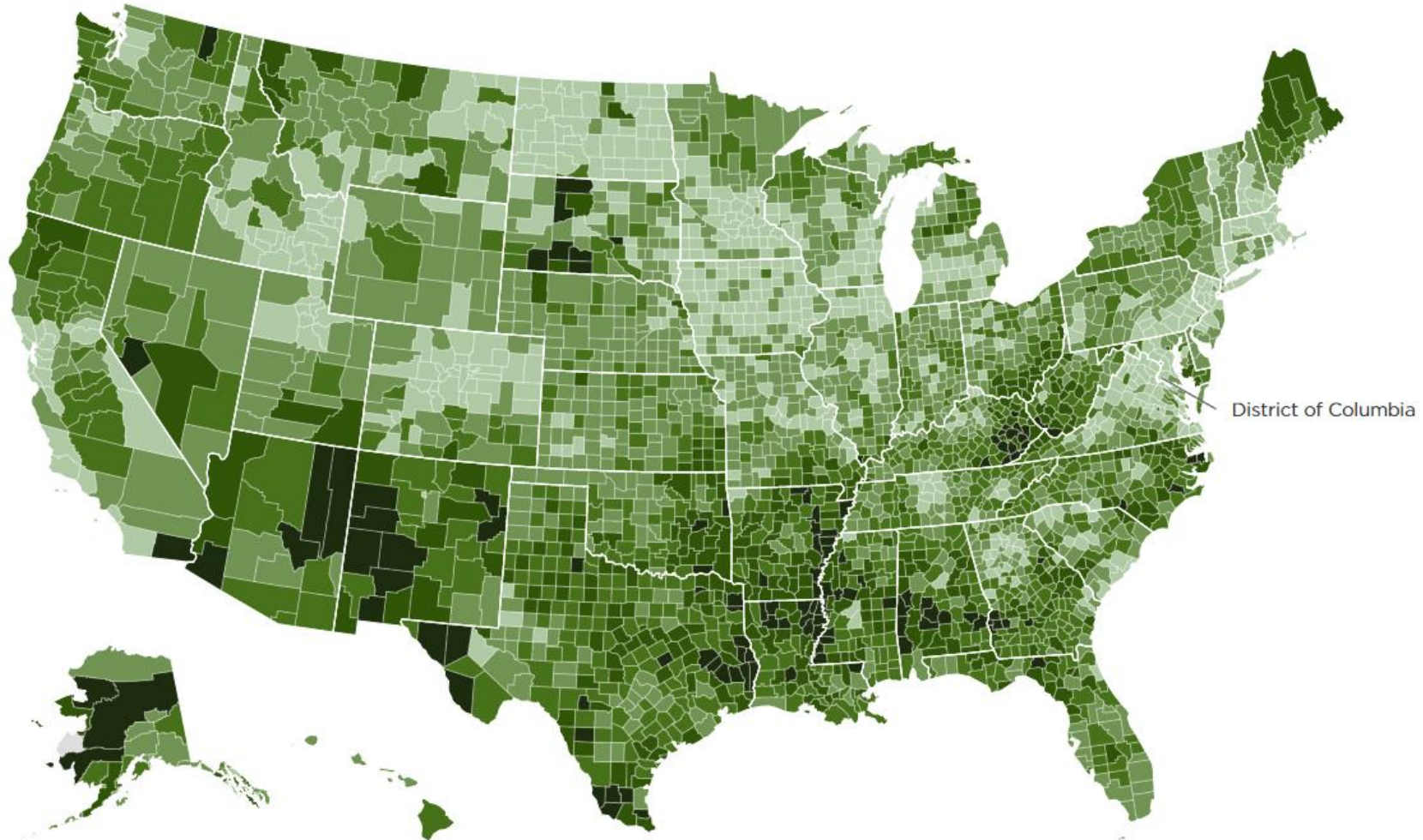
20-24%

25-29%

30% +



CHILD FOOD-INSECURITY RATES



Food Insecurity Rates

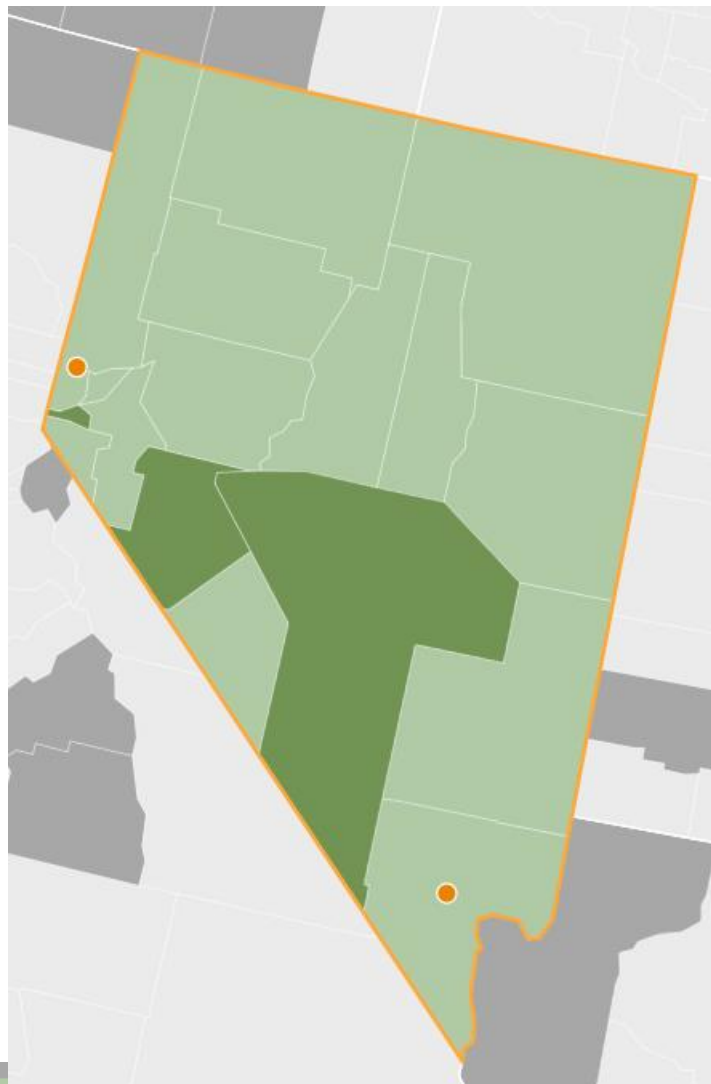
4-14%

15-19%

20-24%

25-29%

30% +



Food Insecurity Rates

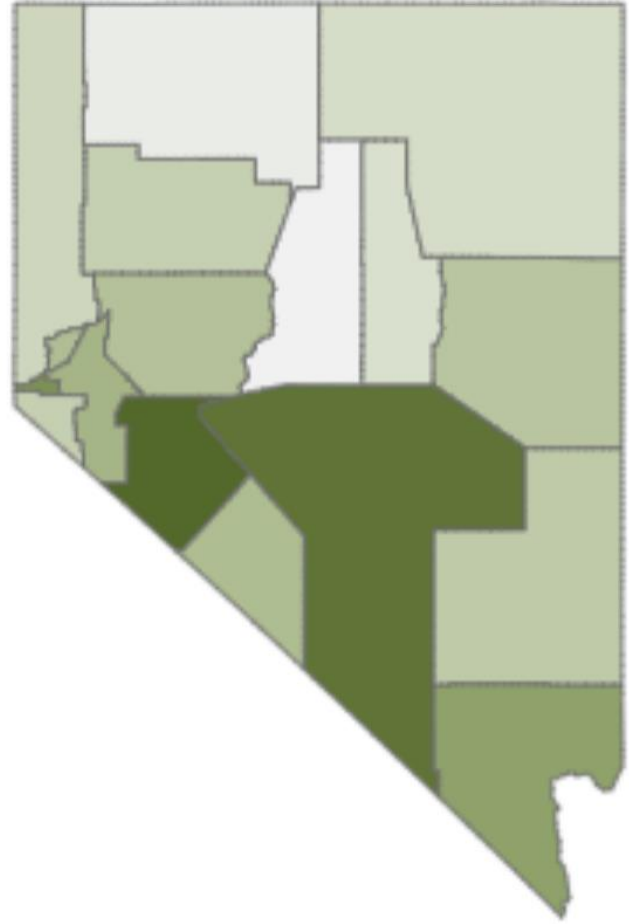
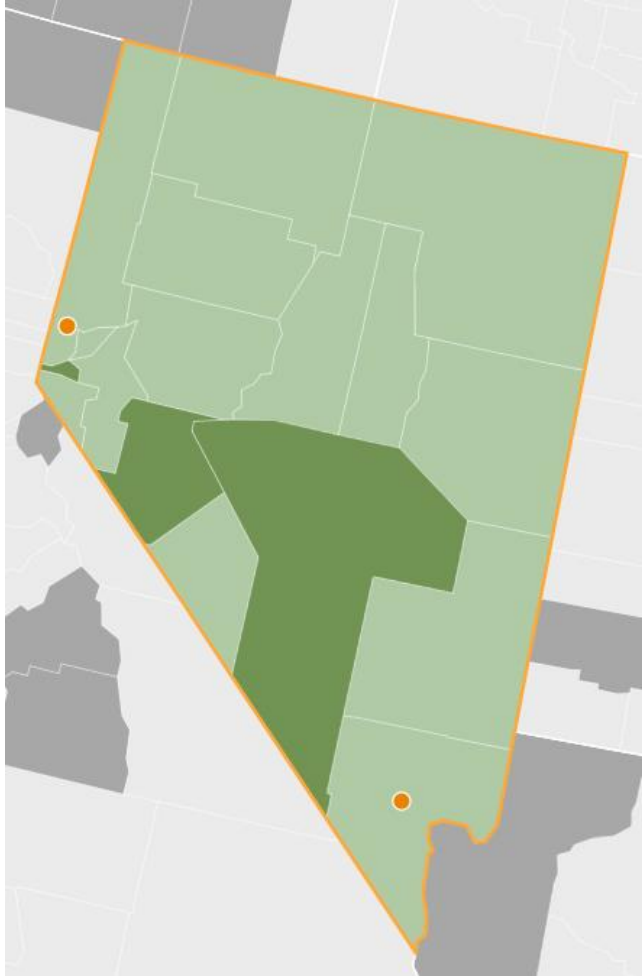
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15-19%

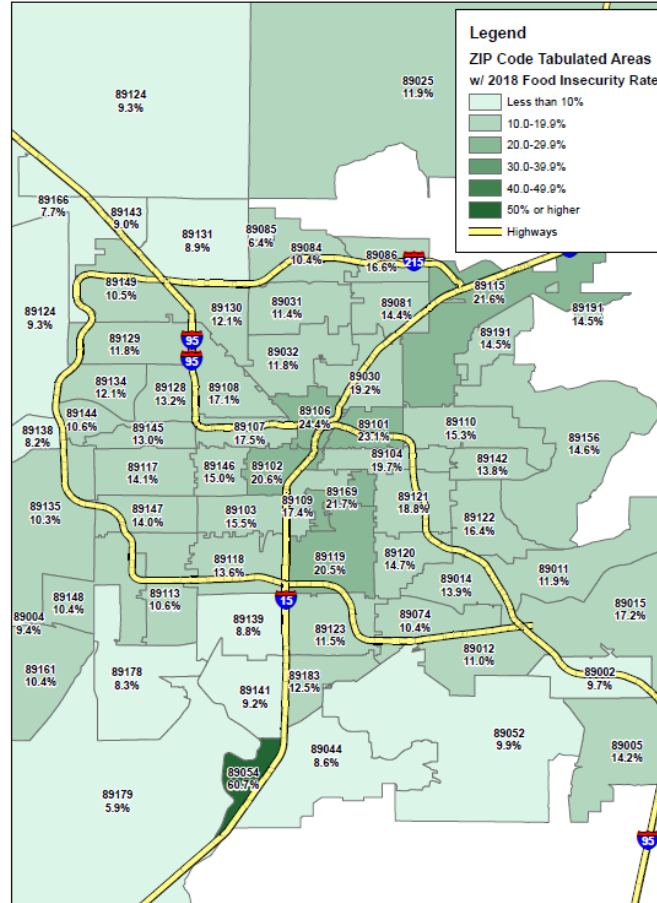
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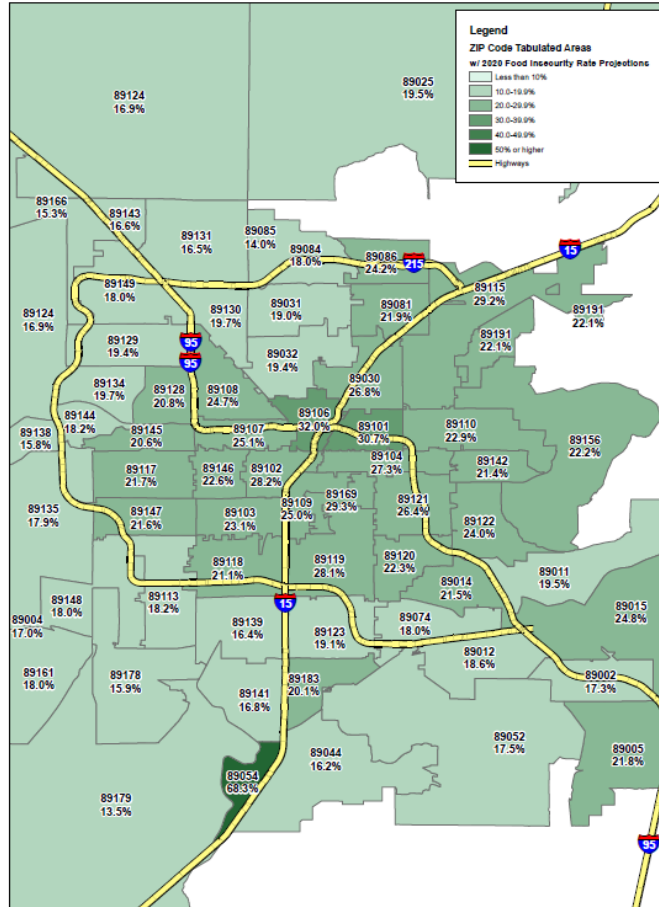
30% +



Map the Meal Gap 2020 - Southern Nevada ZCTAs



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Key Tools to Reduce Food Insecurity

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - In existence for over 50 years
 - Available to eligible Americans of all ages
 - largest “near-cash” assistance program
 - Central goal is to reduce food insecurity
 - succeeds
 - Why does it succeed?
 - reaches those most in need
 - provides a substantial amount of money for food
 - maximum of almost \$700 per month for a family of four
 - can be used at virtually all retail food outlets
 - gives dignity and autonomy to recipients

Key Tools to Reduce Food Insecurity

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - Specific responses during COVID-19
 - interview waiver
 - signature waiver
 - lengthening the recertification period
 - P-EBT
 - temporary boost to maximum benefit
 - online benefits can be used with Walmart and Amazon
 - Demonstrates flexibility of SNAP

Key Tools to Reduce Food Insecurity

- Food banks
 - Nevada food banks
 - Three Square Food Bank
 - Food Bank of Northern Nevada
 - Critical importance to
 - those for whom SNAP benefits are not enough to escape food insecurity
 - those who are ineligible for SNAP
 - over one-in-four food insecure persons are ineligible for SNAP
 - Specific responses during COVID-19
 - quickly expanded distribution of food despite challenges
 - dramatically increased number of pounds distributed