

Council on Food Security

Presentation date TBD

Council on Food Security

- On February 12, 2014, Governor Brian Sandoval established the Governor's Council on Food Security per Executive Order.
- In 2019, the Nevada Legislature made the Council on Food Security permanent within the Department of Health and Human Services (NRS 232).



Council on Food Security Duties

- Hold public hearings to receive public comment and discuss issues related to food security in Nevada.
- Review and comment on any proposed federal, state or local legislation and regulation that would affect Nevada's food policy system.
- Advise and inform the Governor on Nevada food policy.
- On or before January 31 of each year, submit an annual report to the Director and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau concerning the accomplishments and recommendations of the Council concerning food security, including, without limitation, any recommendations concerning community gardens and urban farms.

Note: Additional Council on Food Security duties are listed in the NRS 232.4968

Food & Nutrition Security Definition

- The broad conceptual definitions of food and nutrition security and insecurity developed by the expert panel convened in 1989 by the Life Sciences Research Office (LSRO), have served as the basis for the standardized operational definitions used for estimating food security in the United States.
- Food and Nutrition security, according to the LSRO definition, means access to enough food for an active, healthy life. It includes, at a minimum:
 - The ready availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods.
 - An assured ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways (e.g., without resorting to emergency food supplies, scavenging, stealing or other coping strategies).



Food & Nutrition Insecurity Definition

- Food or Nutrition insecurity exists whenever the availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or the ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways is limited or uncertain.

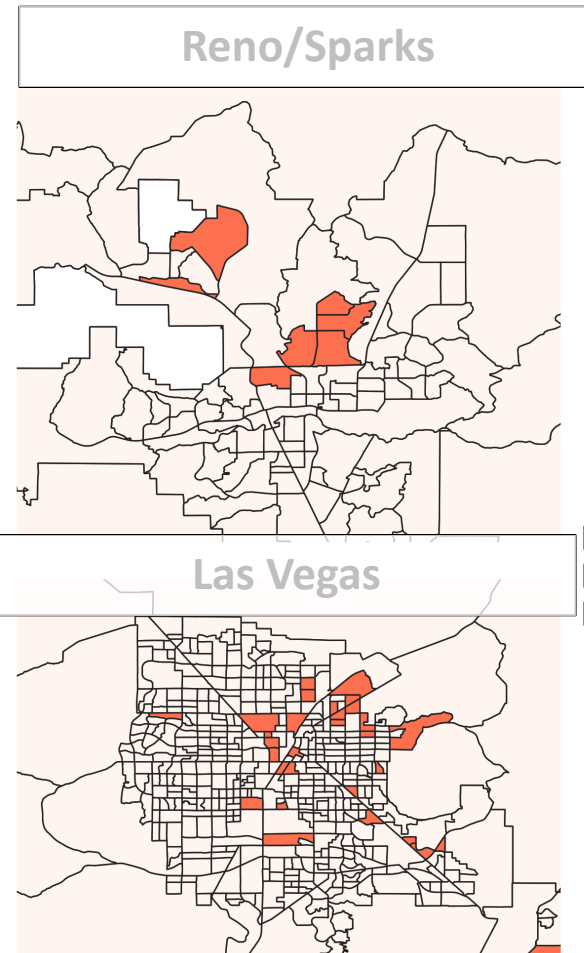
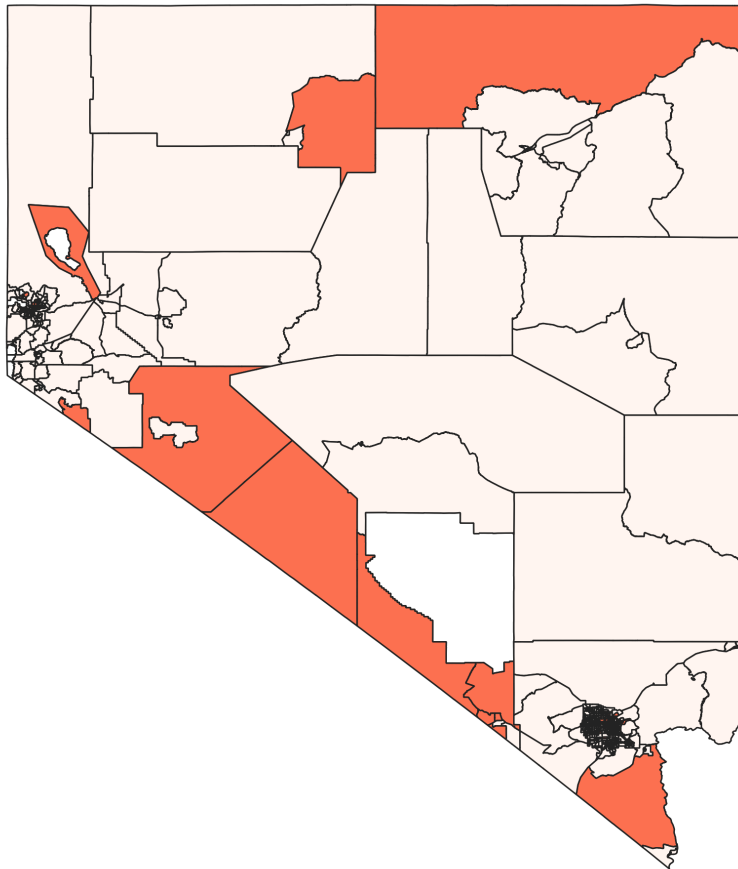


Food Deserts

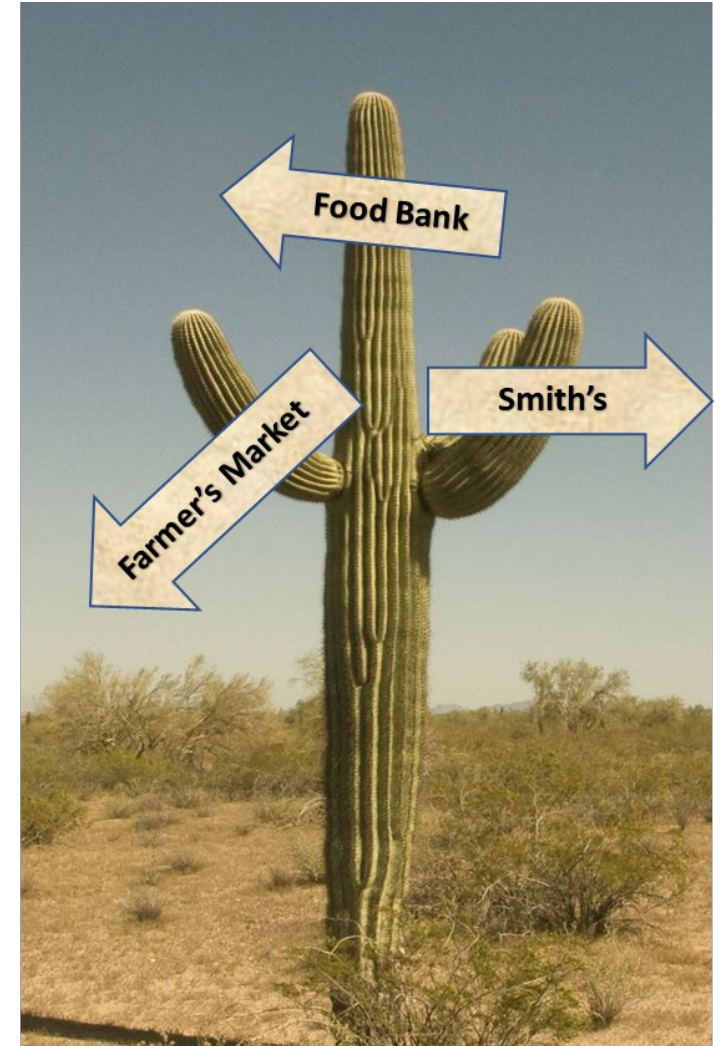
- Food Deserts are identified as Census tracts with low income and low access to nutritious food within one mile (urban) or ten miles (rural). Although food deserts are not included as a social determinant of health, they are presented as they are a known barrier for food insecure older Nevadans.
- The term “food desert” describes areas that lack adequate access to healthy food, typically in the form of a supermarket. The USDA identified food deserts in 40 of 687 census tracts in Nevada. Those living in a food desert may have inadequate options to obtain fruits and vegetables and, consequently, may have difficulty meeting dietary guidelines.



Food Deserts in Nevada



Census Tract
Not a Food Desert
Food Desert
Data Unavailable



Food Insecurity Has Been Linked To:



Food Security

- In order to be food secure, all these social determinates must be met. The lack of any one can result in food insecurity.
 - Enough financial resources to purchase healthy foods.
 - Available transportation to obtain food.
 - Knowledge about which foods are healthy and which foods are unhealthy.
 - Available food preparation and storage facilities.
 - Assistance in obtaining food and/or preparing meals when a physical and/or mental disability is present (caretaker services).
 - Access to healthy food (not living in a “food desert”).
 - A safe physical and/or mental living environment with adequate activities of daily living support services.
 - Regular eating patterns (available time).
 - Accurate and appropriate implementation of Information Technology.

Food Insecure Households

Year	Low or Very Low		Very Low	
	United States	Nevada	United States	Nevada
2004-2006	13%	12.1%	3.9%	3.2%
2011-2013	14.6%	16.2%	5.7%	6.9%
2014-2016	13%	12.1%	5.2%	4.7%
2016-2018	11.7%	12.9%	4.6%	5.4%
2018-2020	10.7%	11.9%	4.1%	4.8%

Average Number of Households		
Year	United States	Nevada
2018-2020	129,775,000	1,192,000

COVID-19 Impacts on Food Insecurity

- Food insecurity increased 26% in Nevada due to the impacts of COVID-19. This is the 2nd largest increase among U.S. states. Nevada now has the 8th highest food insecurity rate in the United States.

COVID-19 Impact on Food Insecurity		
Year	United States	Nevada
2019	10.7%	12.1%
2021	12.9%	15.2%

Legislative Actions to Reduce Food Insecurity

- 2015
 - SB503 – “Breakfast after the Bell” and increased school meal funding
 - SB206 – Enabled Cottage Food-Enabled small farmers to process and sell food at Farmers Markets
 - AB107 – Created public school food service reporting requirements
- 2017
 - SB429 – Created Urban Agricultural Zones
 - SB323 – Expanded Supplement Food Assistance eligibility
 - SB167 – Increased funds for school gardens
- 2019
 - SB178 – Created the Council on Food Security and the Food for People Not Landfills Program
 - SB443 – Increased funding for certain senior meals
 - SB458 – Created school garden education programs
 - SB326 – Increased state funding of healthy food stores in “Food Deserts”
- 2021
 - SB370 – Created Home Feeds Agricultural Food Purchase Program to supplement food distributed by food banks
 - AB138 – Increased eligibility of certain convicted persons for SNAP and the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
 - SB297 – Required vacant and blighted lands master plans to incorporate community gardens or urban farm recommendations

Council on Food Security Public Seminars

Year	Program Title	Participants
2013	<p>“A Place At The Table”</p> <p>(note: The participants created a “Food Security in Nevada: Nevada’s Plan for Action” that called for the creation of a Governor’s Council on Food Security. The Council was created by executive order on February 12, 2014).</p>	165
2018	<p>“Food Security Summit – Improving Connections & Collaboration”</p> <p>(Note: Participants included representatives from government agencies and non-government community organizations)</p>	50
2020	<p>“Virtual Nevada Senior Services Summit”</p> <p>(note: 175 Public & Private Agencies and Organizations were surveyed to determine available services)</p>	111

Impact of Council on Food Security

- School age children
 - In 2014, it was estimated that more than 250,000 children in Nevada entered their first class at school without having eaten breakfast.
 - In 2016, it was determined that no child entered their first class at school without having eaten breakfast.
- Seniors (60+)
 - In 2016, survey findings indicated that about 80,000 senior Nevadans were food insecure and in need of services. This number was projected to increase to 100,000 by 2020.
 - In 2020, survey findings indicated that at least 70,000 food insecure seniors were receiving services.

Recommended Legislative Actions

- Increase funding for the Nevada Cooperative Extension Program to support the integration of the “Nevada County Internet Map of Senior Nutrition Providers” into the nutrition services dashboard.
(<https://arcg.is/1zirLq0>: click “View Application” to launch Senior Nutrition Providers web map)
- Increase funding for home delivered meal programs.
- Increase funding for nutrition education programs.
- Support the Home Feeds Nevada Agricultural Purchase Program.

Council on Food Security 2022 Strategic Plan

- The current strategic planning process began in Fall 2021 to update the existing plan.
 - Coordinated effort with the Office of Food Security, through the Blueprint Collaborative, and the Guinn Center.
 - Began interviews and surveys of food security organizations.
- Recommendations will be ready this winter.
- Council on Food Security will review, amend and adopt recommendations and then submit a report with recommendations.

Questions

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