Food insecurity is increasing dramatically during COVID-19, disproportionately affecting Black and Hispanic households and individuals with children.

**Tennessee Food Insecurity Rates**

- **2016-2018 Average:**
  - All: 12.4%
  - Hispanic: 17.0%
  - Black: 21.7%
  - White: 10.2%

- **May 5-July 21, 2020 Average:**
  - All: 24.1%
  - Hispanic: 35.0%
  - Black: 32.4%
  - White: 21.6%

- **May 5-July 21, 2020 Average (Individuals with Children):**
  - All: 31.4%
  - Hispanic: 40.6%
  - Black: 39.8%
  - White: 28.0%

**POVERTY**

- **Overall Poverty:**
  - 15% of over 1 million people live below the poverty level in Tennessee, proportionally more than in the U.S. (13.1%)

- **Child Poverty:**
  - 22% or 1 in every 5 children live below the poverty level in Tennessee (2018)
  - 18% of children live below the poverty level nationally
WIC benefits thousands of people and is a vital source of support in Tennessee. However, too few eligible people are reached.

Over 112,000 women, infants, and children in Tennessee participated in WIC in 2019

Less than half (42.9%) of eligible people are enrolled in Tennessee (2017), less than the U.S. average (51.1%)

$109 Million in federal funding flowed into Tennessee in 2019 for WIC. Strengthening WIC has brought additional funding to the state. More needs to be done.

The total number of participants in Tennessee WIC has increased 4.6% from April 2019 to April 2020³