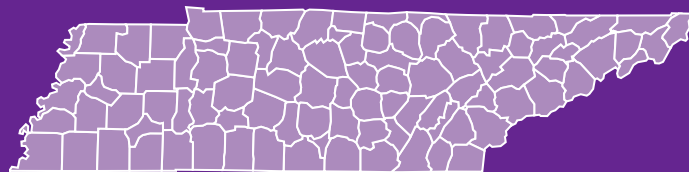


WIC During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Profile of Tennessee

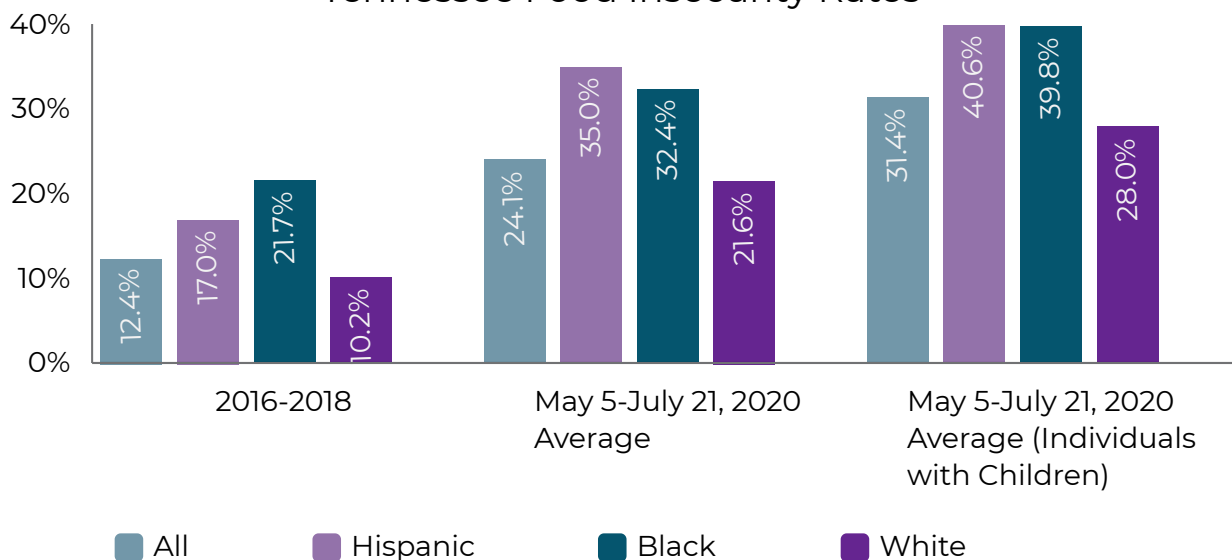


HUNGER



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

Tennessee Food Insecurity Rates^{1,2}



POVERTY

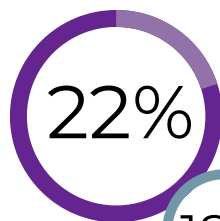
Overall Poverty



15%

or over 1 million people live below the poverty level in Tennessee, proportionally more than in the U.S. (13.1%)

Child Poverty



or 1 in every 5 children live below the poverty level in Tennessee (2018)



of children live below the poverty level nationally

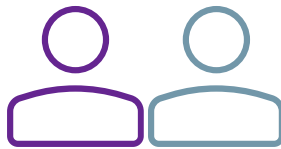


WIC

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

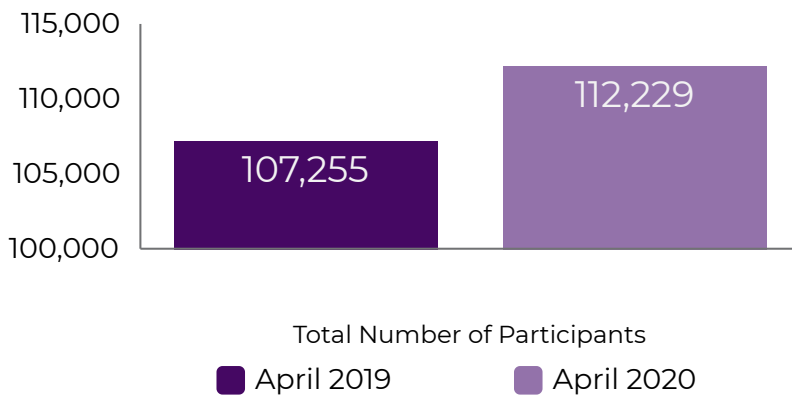
Less than half (42.9%) of eligible people are enrolled in Tennessee (2017), less than the U.S. average (51.1%)



\$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 2020⁴



The Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children:



Reduces Food Insecurity



Improves Dietary Intake and Health



Protects Against Obesity



Boosts Learning and Development



Supports Economic Security



Lifts Families out of Poverty



Acts as Stimulus for Local Economies

1. Henchy, G., Jacobs, K. (2020). Poverty, Hunger, Health, and the Federal Nutrition Programs: A Profile of the Southern Region.
2. Gundersen, C., A. Dewey, M. Kato, A. Crumbaugh & M. Strayer. (2019). Map the Meal Gap 2019: A Report on County and Congressional District Food Insecurity and County Food Cost in the United States in 2017.
3. Schanzenbach, D., Tomeh, N. (2020). Northwestern Institute for Policy Research Visualizing Food Insecurity: Census Pulse Data.
4. USDA FNS. (September 2020). WIC Data Tables. Latest Available Month: State-Level Participation.