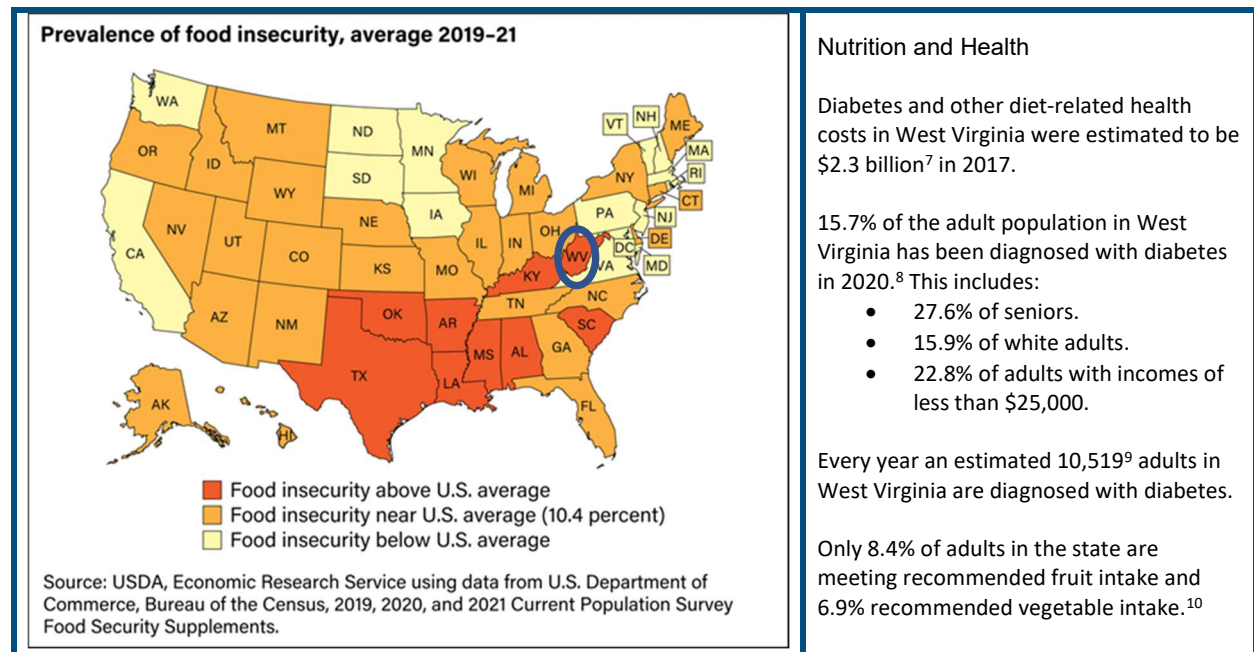


West Virginia

A Hunger and Poverty Snapshot

Between 2019-2021:

- Food insecurity in West Virginia averaged 14%.¹
- That makes West Virginia the 4th hungriest state with a food insecurity rate 34% higher than the national average of 10.4%.²
- The official poverty rate (which does not account for income from safety-net and tax-support programs such as SNAP, EITC, and others) in the state averaged 15.0%.³
- But using the Supplemental Poverty Measure (which does include safety-net and tax-support income), the poverty rate falls to 9.6%.⁴ In other words, these programs reduced the poverty rate in West Virginia by 36% and the number of people living in poverty by 99,000.⁵
- SNAP, alone, lifted 62,000 people above the poverty line in West Virginia, including 21,000 children, per year between 2013 and 2017, on average.⁶



Why Bread for the World is Focused on the Farm Bill

The Farm bill is scheduled to be reauthorized in 2023. No legislation has more impact than a farm bill on the US food system and the nation’s ability to provide healthy food at affordable prices to everyone.

Bread for the World’s farm bill priorities include a focus on nutrition, equity, and sustainability. We believe West Virginia has a lot to gain from a farm bill legislated with these priorities in mind.

Nutrition	Equity	Sustainability
<p>Bread for the World supports strengthening SNAP in West Virginia.</p> <p>Not only is SNAP the flagship food security and nutrition program, it is indispensable to better health outcomes and economic prosperity.</p> <p>In 2021, 17% of West Virginia residents were helped by SNAP.¹¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roughly 82,700 workers in West Virginia live in households that participated in SNAP in 2021.¹² SNAP helps 1 in 9 workers in West Virginia put food on the table.¹³ 59% of SNAP participants were in families with children, and 44% in families with members who are older adults or are disabled.¹⁴ 88% of all SNAP-eligible people in West Virginia participate in the program.¹⁵ 	<p>Bread for the World supports farm policies that promote a more equitable food system in West Virginia.</p> <p>The West Virginia population is 91.5% white. According to the most recent Census of Agriculture, 98% of farmers and ranchers (producers) in West Virginia are white and occupy 98% of all farmland.¹⁶</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black producers represent <1% and occupy <1% of farmland. Hispanic producers represent 1% and occupy 1% of farmland. Asian producers represent <1% and occupy <1% of farmland. Indigenous producers represent <1% and occupy <1% of farmland. 	<p>Bread for the World is committed to eradicating food insecurity by building a more sustainable food system in West Virginia.</p> <p>Reducing unnecessary food waste is one way to build a more sustainable food system.</p> <p>In 2019, 261,000 tons¹⁷ of surplus food in West Virginia went to waste instead of reaching those who needed it, an amount equal to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 418 million meals unsold or uneaten.¹⁸ \$1.66 billion in lost sales.¹⁹ Annual CO2 emissions produced by 262,872 gasoline-powered cars.^{20, 21}

Footnotes

¹ <https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/104656/err-309.pdf?v=9924.5>

² Bread for the World, based on USDA reporting, See Note 1.

³ <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2022/demo/p60-277.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2022/demo/p60-277.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2022/demo/p60-277.pdf>

⁶ https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/a-closer-look-at-who-benefits-from-snap-state-by-state-fact-sheets#West_Virginia

⁷ <https://diabetes.org/about-us/statistics/by-state>

⁸ <https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/annual/measure/Diabetes/state/WV>

⁹ <https://diabetes.org/about-us/statistics/by-state>

¹⁰ https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7101a1.htm?s_cid=mm7101a1_w#T1_down

¹¹ https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/a-closer-look-at-who-benefits-from-snap-state-by-state-fact-sheets#West_Virginia

¹² https://www.cbpp.org/snap-helps-low-wage-workers-in-every-state#West_Virginia

¹³ https://www.cbpp.org/snap-helps-low-wage-workers-in-every-state#West_Virginia

¹⁴ https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/a-closer-look-at-who-benefits-from-snap-state-by-state-fact-sheets#West_Virginia

¹⁵ <https://www.fns.usda.gov/usamap>

¹⁶ https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/West_Virginia/

¹⁷ https://insights-engine.refed.org/food-waste-monitor?break_by=food_type&indicator=tons-surplus&view=detail&year=2019

¹⁸ https://insights-engine.refed.org/food-waste-monitor?break_by=food_type&indicator=tons-surplus&view=detail&year=2019

¹⁹ https://insights-engine.refed.org/food-waste-monitor?break_by=food_type&indicator=tons-surplus&view=detail&year=2019

²⁰ https://insights-engine.refed.org/food-waste-monitor?break_by=food_type&indicator=tons-surplus&view=detail&year=2019

²¹ <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>