

10 Facts Every Candidate Should Know About Hunger

1. An estimated 47.9 million Americans — about one in seven households, or 13.7 percent — experienced food insecurity, or lack of access to an affordable, nutritious diet in 2024.
2. A higher portion of households in urban areas (16.0 percent) and rural areas (15.9 percent) experienced food insecurity compared to suburbs (11.9 percent) in 2024.
3. Hunger hurts us all. Eliminating hunger would save the nation billions of dollars in doctor and hospital bills, special education costs, and lost economic productivity.
4. Ending hunger is a goal that the American people fully support. Polls have consistently found that voters do not think the government is doing enough to solve hunger.
5. Hunger is an economic condition. Policies that promote a full-employment economy with livable wages and incomes can take the country a long way toward ending hunger.
6. The child nutrition programs, which include school meals, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and meals provided afterschool and at summer meals and child care sites, are profoundly important programs with well-documented benefits to the health and well-being of children and families.
7. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps 36.5 million people, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities, afford to put food on the table.
8. SNAP lifts millions of people out of poverty each year, boosts local economies, improves health, and reduces health care costs.
9. SNAP, Free Healthy School Meals for All (which 79 percent of voters support), and the other child nutrition programs all help reduce the affordability crisis that so many families face today.
10. The private sector — business, labor, and charitable — efforts can bolster government's leadership in alleviating hunger, but cannot take the place of government's steadfast commitment, strong policies, and adequate investments to end it.