

Atlantic County Residents Faced Food
Insecurity Even Before Pandemic

Wished you could eat more fruits and vegetables but could not afford them?	28%	16%
Skipped a meal so that your children could eat?	25%	14%
Skipped a meal just because you could not afford to buy enough food?	19%	12%
Gone to a soup kitchen or food pantry for free food or a meal?	21%	5%

Similar discrepancies were found between residents living in Atlantic City and Ventnor and those in the remaining parts of the county. For instance, 25% of Atlantic City-area residents have gone to a food pantry or soup kitchen for free food or a meal in the last year, while only 6% of residents outside Atlantic City say they have.

The poll also found consistent racial and ethnic disparities on the issue of food insecurity. More than twice the rate of Hispanic or Latino residents (34%) have run out of food and not had the money to buy more than non-Hispanic or Latino populations (15%). Further, 45% of Hispanic or Latino residents have wished they could eat more healthy meals but could not afford to, while 28% of remaining populations say the same.

In terms of racial disparities, 9% of white respondents, 21% of black/African American respondents and 22% of respondents who are more than one race have skipped a meal because they could not afford it. A similar racial gap is found among other measures of food security, including those who rely on soup kitchens or food pantries, with 7% of white residents having gone to one for free food or a meal, whereas 18% of black/African American residents and 14% of non-white residents overall have.

Senior citizens tend to have higher food security than younger residents. More than one in five poll respondents younger than 50 report having been unable to afford buying more food or eating healthier. Still, more than one in 10 adults aged 65 and older at times have not been able to afford more food when they run out or to buy more fruits and vegetables. Maurice noted that any percentage of more than 10% reported running out of food and not having



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