



# RESULTS AMERICA

## Food Insecurity

*North Dakota most food secure, Mississippi is least secure*



### HIGHLIGHTS

North Dakota, Virginia, and New Hampshire are the most food secure states.

Mississippi, Arkansas, and Texas are the most food insecure states in the union.

Food insecurity seems linked to a poor economy and long-term poverty.

Results America seeks to use data and logical research to help educate states about their triumphs and challenges. Often in this process, we discover that high-profile issues are far less of an issue, while other problems are far more severe and demand greater policy attention. Food insecurity is one of the latter issues.

enough safe food for their household is part of this goal. Using data from the latest survey by the Food and Drug Administration, we can see that not only is food insecurity an issue, but many states struggle with the matter. The 2012 data gives the percentage of a state's population that were categorized as having "low" or "very low" food security.

### Top 10 States (Food Secure)

State	Percentage of "Low" and "Very Low"	State	Percentage of "Low" and "Very Low"
1. North Dakota	8.7%	6. Massachusetts	11.4%
2. Virginia	9.2%	7. Delaware	11.6%
3. New Hampshire	9.9%	8. Alaska	12.1%
4. Minnesota	10.6%	9. New Jersey	12.1%
5. Wisconsin	11.2%	10. Pennsylvania	12.3%

Strong public health is a goal of every party and government; the ability for a citizen to have

First, of those states in the top 10, North Dakota, Virginia, and New Hampshire are the most food secure. Interesting to note is that the states with the top rankings are also those states with some of the lowest unemployment rates in 2012. This lends to an obvious conclusion that job security yields food security. However, it should be noted that all states have seen food insecurity increase from 2010, due in large part to continued economic troubles.

Mississippi, Arkansas, and Texas are the three most food insecure states.

Mississippi is currently in the midst of some of the worst food insecurity issues on record, with over 20% of the population reporting low or very low food security and access. This during a time when the state faced a 9.2% unemployment rate. This is also not merely a regional (specifically Southern) issue, as states such as Nevada and Ohio also fall into the bottom 10 rankings. Also interesting, and will be explored in later white papers, is the relationship with obesity. Many of the most obese states are also the most food insecure states.

Beside economic concerns, there are interesting demographic and population relationships with food security. African-American and Latino communities, as well as rural areas and senior citizens, are some of the most likely to suffer from food insecurity. It is also not just relegated to the unemployed and uneducated. 23% of the

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participants in the FDA survey who responded with “low” and “very low” had attended college.

This data suggests not a lack of food, but rather a lack of access to food, what are called “food deserts.” Advance techniques such as geospatial data analysis (which would map areas of greatest food security risk) would

serve well those states that are interested in reducing their own food security and access issues.

Bottom 10 States (Food Insecure)			
State	Percentage of “Low” and “Very Low”	State	Percentage of “Low” and “Very Low”
41. Ohio	16.1%	46. North Carolina	17%
42. Tennessee	16.2%	47. Alabama	17.9%
43. Nevada	16.6%	48. Texas	18.4%
44. Missouri	16.7%	49. Arkansas	19.7%
45. Georgia	16.9%	50. Mississippi	20.9%

References & Data Sources

*U.S. Food and Drug Administration*  
*Feeding America.org*

*Results America is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that exists to inspire and enable the spread of results-driven government. Its sole purpose is to demonstrate how focusing government on results is key to fulfilling the promise of America.*

More information and measures data available at [www.resultsamerica.org](http://www.resultsamerica.org)