

Correction to 2023 County Food Insecurity Estimates for the Overall and Child Populations

Summary of the update: As we were preparing for the 2026 release of Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap study, we discovered that we made a mistake when calculating the 2023 estimates of overall and child food insecurity for counties included in the 2025 release.¹ The 2023 estimates were calculated using 2022 BLS county unemployment rates instead of 2023 BLS county unemployment rates. Corrected food insecurity estimates are now available and have been integrated into relevant resources.

What was and wasn't impacted: This error affected food insecurity estimates for counties as well as the estimated share of individuals in food-insecure households by income level (i.e., the percentage of all individuals in food-insecure households with incomes that are above and below the SNAP gross income threshold as well as the percentage of children in food-insecure households with incomes that are above and below 185% of the federal poverty level).

The error did not affect estimates of overall and child food insecurity for congressional districts or states. As noted above, the error was limited to the unemployment variable we use to estimate local food insecurity; data for all other variables in our models were correct.

How we resolved the issue: We have completed or are in the process of taking the following steps to resolve the issue:

- Revised the dataset by replacing the original county food insecurity estimates with the corrected estimates, and by replacing the incorrect unemployment rates with corrected rates.
- Updated our [interactive map](#) with the corrected food insecurity estimates for 2023.

Process improvements: We understand the concern this revision may cause. Discovery of this error allowed us to refine our processes for compiling the raw data used as inputs in our model. We implemented an automated process in place of the manual process where the BLS unemployment rates are incorporated. Future plans include utilizing the BLS API for direct data access. Additionally, we implemented data review steps for every geography and population to ensure the data we have compiled for our 2024 estimates are correct.

Please email research@feedingamerica.org with any questions.

¹ Excluding Connecticut, which relied on the 2023 1-Year ACS unemployment rate for counties.