

MAP THE MEAL GAP 2020 HUNGER STATISTICS

**UNDERSTANDING** THE MEAL GAP DATA AND IMPACT PRE-PANDEMIC

Map the Meal Gap 2020 is the latest Feeding America report on food insecurity at the state and parish level from 2018 data. Pre-pandemic data reflects the lowest food insecurity rates seen since before the Great Recession which means we continue to make a difference with your support. However, the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to reverse the improvements that have occurred over the past decade. The data below does not take into account the impact from the COVID-19 pandemic. **Below are key highlights from our 11-parish service area:**



**20.1**

MILLION MEAL GAP  
IN OUR SERVICE AREA

LOUISIANA LEADS  
THE COUNTRY WITH

**24.6%**

OF CHILDREN WHO  
ARE FOOD INSECURE

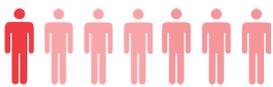


**1 IN 5**

CHILDREN IN OUR SERVICE  
AREA ARE FOOD INSECURE

Federal Nutrition assistance programs, such as SNAP, are the first line of defense against hunger; however, not everyone who is food insecure qualifies for these federal programs. As a result, the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank may be a critical source of food for many individuals and families who are food insecure but ineligible for these programs. This has a tremendous impact on children living in a household who don't qualify for federal nutrition programs. **Statistics show this impacts up to 38% in Ascension Parish alone.**

**INDIVIDUALS & SENIORS** CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE WITH HUNGER LOCALLY



**1 IN 7**

INDIVIDUALS IN LOUISIANA  
ARE FOOD INSECURE



**TOP 3**

STATES WITH HIGHEST  
RATE OF SENIOR HUNGER



**1 IN 9**

SENIORS BATTLING  
FOOD INSECURITY

Many low-income seniors face spending tradeoffs that can lead to or worsen food insecurity such as utilities, transportation, housing and/or health related costs like medicine. In addition, older adults (ages 50-59) face unique challenges as they may begin to experience the economic and health complications that can be associated with aging while being too young to benefit from support services available to seniors.