

Rhode Island Commission for Health Advocacy and Equity

2024 Addendum to 2022 Brief:

Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Food Security in Rhode Island Communities

The purpose of the [Commission for Health Advocacy and Equity](#) (CHAE) is to serve as Rhode Island's statewide body for monitoring health disparities and promoting strategies advancing health equity.

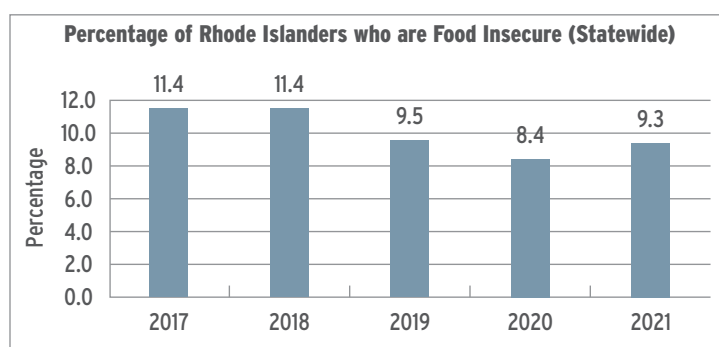
In 2022, CHAE published a brief to highlight how Rhode Islanders were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing specifically on food security and the State's response to food access challenges.

This addendum updates the brief to the most current data and information, while also utilizing the same reference sources, as the 2022 brief reflected a point in time analysis.

Table 1
Percentage of Population Food Insecure Over Time¹

Food Insecurity: Percentage of Population Who Are Food Insecure					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
RI Statewide	11.4	11.4	9.5	8.4	9.3
Providence Co	12.6	12.0	11.0	11.6	9.4
Kent Co	9.7	9.2	8.6	9.4	7.5
Newport Co	10.6	9.0	8.6	8.4	6.9
Bristol Co	9.5	8.1	7.6	7.5	6.0
Washington Co	9.7	7.8	7.4	7.3	5.7

Figure 1
Percentage of Rhode Islanders Who Are Food Insecure¹



The brief and addendum use Rhode Island statewide food insecurity measure data from Feeding America. Additional information related to Rhode Island food insecurity can be found through the Rhode Island Community Food Bank² which utilizes findings from the RI Life Index.³ The CHAE recommends using these data to guide actions that will advance health equity and address inequitable health outcomes.

¹ Feeding America. [Food Insecurity Among Population in Rhode Island](#). Accessed February 2024.

*Feeding America note: Local estimates of food insecurity for 2020 are not directly comparable to estimates for other years.

² Rhode Island Community Food Bank. [2023 Status Report on Hunger in Rhode Island](#). November 2023.

³ Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island. Brown University School of Public Health. [RI Life Index](#). Accessed February 2024.

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