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## Child Food Insecurity in Nevada Counties, 2018

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**CHILD FOOD INSECURITY IN NEVADA COUNTIES, 2018**

Health Fact Sheet No. 7 | November 2020

Prepared by: Ally Beckwith, Caitlin J. Saladino, and William E. Brown, Jr.

**PURPOSE:**

This fact sheet synthesizes data on the child hunger discrepancies in Nevada counties from the *Feeding America 2018 Map the Meal Gap Study*.<sup>1</sup> The information focuses on food insecurity experienced by children, and the food budget shortfall in Nevada.

**ABOUT THE DATA:**

Feeding America is an organization that fights hunger using food banks. Each year, Feeding America releases county, state, and national level data on child food insecurity. The 2018 report provides data for Nevada counties, based on the number of estimated food insecure children, estimates for food program eligibility among those who are food insecure, and the additional money needed to meet proper food needs.<sup>2</sup>

Food insecurity is defined by the United States Department of Agriculture as a lack of access to nutritious and affordable food for extended periods of time.<sup>3</sup> Food insecurity does not necessarily mean that households are always food insecure, but that households sometimes must limit food to meet other critical needs.

**KEY FINDINGS:**

1. In Nevada, 75.8 percent of all food insecure children reside in Clark County. 95 percent of all food insecure children in Nevada reside in the following five counties: Clark, Washoe, Carson City, Elko, and Lyon.
2. In 2018, Clark County faced an annual food budget shortfall of over \$153,292,000 million.
3. Among Nevada counties, Clark experienced the highest number of food insecure children (97,140 children) in 2018. With 97,140 food-insecure children in Clark, some 19.3% of children in the Las Vegas metropolitan area are food insecure.

Table 1 shows the number of food insecure children in each Nevada county. Counties are ranked by those with the largest population of children who are food insecure, to the smallest population of children who are food insecure. When looking at the population, Clark County (shown in light red) has the highest number of children facing food insecurity (97,140 children). The top five counties (Clark, plus the counties shown in light grey) account for 121,300 of the 128,160 food insecure children in Nevada.

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<sup>1</sup> See Feeding America, “Map the Meal Gap Child Food Insecurity in Nevada” 2018 (<https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2018/child/nevada>).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

**Table 1: Food Insecure Children, by Nevada County, 2018**

Nevada County	Number, Food Insecure Children	State Percentage Share, Food Insecure Children
Clark	97,140	75.8
Washoe	16,700	13.0
Carson City	2,580	2.0
Elko	2,440	1.9
Lyon	2,440	1.9
Nye	1,930	1.5
Douglas	1,590	1.2
Churchill	990	0.8
Humboldt	730	0.6
White Pine	390	0.3
Lander	310	0.2
Mineral	240	0.2
Pershing	230	0.2
Lincoln	180	0.1
Storey	140	0.1
Eureka	90	0.1
Esmeralda	40	<0.1
<b>NEVADA TOTAL</b>	<b>128,160</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Figure 1 shows the difference in annual food budget shortfall among the top five most populated Nevada counties. The amount of money needed to provide adequate funding and achieve food security varies among counties. Clark County has the highest need, with over \$153,292,000 million needed to provide appropriate food aid to residents.

**Figure 1: Food Budget Shortfall in Top Five Most Populated Nevada Counties, 2018**

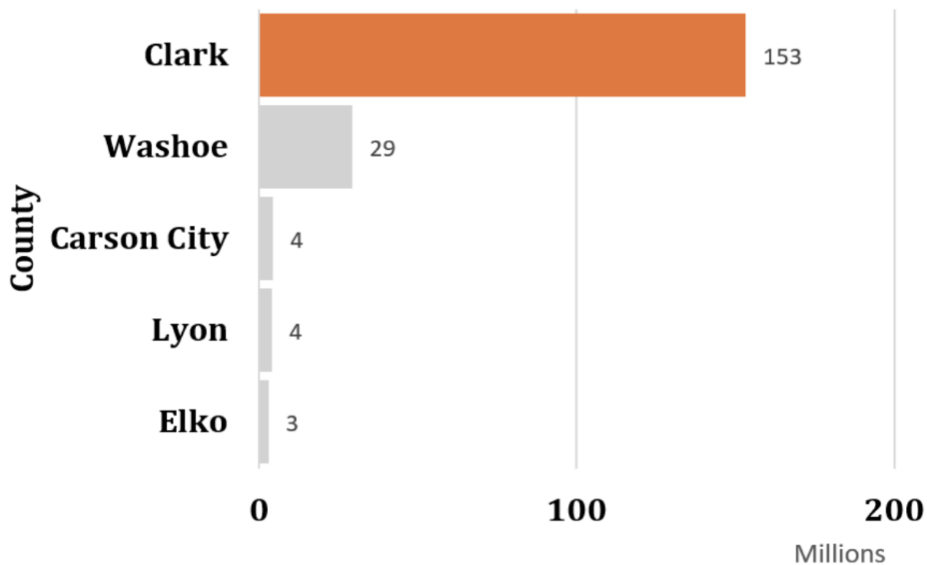


Table 2 shows the percentage of children within each Nevada county who are food insecure. This percentage is determined by dividing the amount of food insecure children in each county (from the Feeding America 2018 Map the Meal Gap study) by the number of children in each county based on the 2018 Census Bureau estimates.<sup>4</sup> In Nevada’s largest county - Clark (shown in light red) - 19.3 percent of children face food insecurity; most Nevada counties range from 18 to 21 percent.

**Table 2: Percentage of Food Insecure Children, by Nevada County, 2018**

Nevada County	Child Population	County Percentage of Food Insecure Children
Clark	504,354	19.3
Washoe	99,352	16.8
Elko	14,389	17.0
Lyon	11,585	21.1
Carson	11,247	22.9
Douglas	8,335	19.1
Nye	7,457	25.9
Churchill	5,479	18.1
Humboldt	4,644	15.7
White Pine	2,005	19.5
Lander	1,678	18.5
Pershing	1,096	21.0
Lincoln	857	21.0
Mineral	769	31.2
Storey	597	23.5
Eureka	436	20.6
Esmeralda	196	20.4
<b>NEVADA TOTAL</b>	<b>674,476</b>	<b>100.00</b>

<sup>4</sup> See U.S. Census Bureau, “Data Profiles” (2018) (<https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/data-profiles/>).