



Child Food Insecurity 2017



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MAY 4, 2017

Feeding America, with the support from the ConAgra Foods Foundation, recently updated its study which reveals that children are still struggling with hunger in every county and Congressional District in the country. The findings include:

- The percentage of the Treasure Coast child population who is food insecure.
- The percentage of children on the Treasure Coast that is eligible for assistance from federal nutrition programs like Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), free or reduced-price school meals, and others.
- The percentage of children on the Treasure Coast that is *not* eligible for assistance from federal nutrition programs like Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), free or reduced-price school meals, and others.

The research is based on “Map the Meal Gap 2017: Food Insecurity and Child Food Insecurity Estimates at the County Level”, supported by the Howard G. Buffett Foundation and The Nielsen Company.

On the Treasure Coast,

- ✓ **23.3%** of Treasure Coast children are food insecure, with **28,280** kids not knowing where their next meal is coming from.
- ✓ **76%** of food insecure children on the Treasure Coast qualify based on income for **federal child nutrition programs**.
- ✓ **24%** of food insecure children on the Treasure Coast **do NOT qualify for federal child nutrition programs** and often must rely on charitable food assistance programs.

Okeechobee County is in the top 10 highest food insecurity rates in the state (8th), with 27.5% of children in the county not knowing where their next meal is coming from.

Martin County has the highest percentage of food insecure children on the Treasure Coast who do not qualify for federal nutrition programs (32%).

St. Lucie County has a high child food insecurity percentage at 23.5%, which represents the largest number of children on the Treasure Coast (14,300).

Breakdown by County

St. Lucie County

- ✓ **23.5%** of St. Lucie County children are food insecure, with **14,300** kids not knowing where their next meal is coming from.
- ✓ **77%** of food insecure children in St. Lucie County qualify based on income for **federal child nutrition programs**.
- ✓ **23%** of food insecure children in St. Lucie County **do NOT qualify for federal child nutrition programs** and often must rely on charitable food assistance programs.

Okeechobee County

- ✓ **27.5%** of Okeechobee County children are food insecure, with **2,480** kids not knowing where their next meal is coming from.
- ✓ **85%** of food insecure children in Okeechobee County qualify based on income for **federal child nutrition programs**.
- ✓ **15%** of food insecure children in Okeechobee County **do NOT qualify for federal child nutrition programs** and often must rely on charitable food assistance programs.

Martin County

- ✓ **21.2%** of Martin County children are food insecure, with **5,500** kids not knowing where their next meal is coming from.
- ✓ **68%** of food insecure children in Martin County qualify based on income for **federal child nutrition programs**.
- ✓ **32%** of food insecure children in Martin County **do NOT qualify for federal child nutrition programs** and often must rely on charitable food assistance programs.

Indian River County

- ✓ **23.5%** of Indian River County children are food insecure, with **6,000** kids not knowing where their next meal is coming from.
- ✓ **78%** of food insecure children in Indian River County qualify based on income for **federal child nutrition programs**.
- ✓ **22%** of food insecure children in Indian River County **do NOT qualify for federal child nutrition programs** and often must rely on charitable food assistance programs.