Ohio MCH Fact Sheet

Early Childhood

Food Insecurity for Children Under 6 Years Old

MCH Block Grant
Needs Assessment Information

- Food insecurity in households with children under 6 has been fairly stable since 1999. In 2006, 16.7 percent of U.S. households with children under 6 were food insecure, while 4.2 percent of those were considered to have very low food security.
- Since 1999, children living in female-headed households (no spouse) have had the highest rates of food insecurity, followed by children in male-headed households (no spouse). Children in married-couple households consistently had the lowest rates of food insecurity.
- In 2005, the U.S. percentage of food-insecure children was highest for blacks and Hispanics, and lowest for whites. However, the percentage of food-insecure Hispanic children dropped 5.9 percent.
- In 2005, 42.5 percent of children in food-insecure households were living below 100 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL); 26.4 percent were living between 100 percent and 199 percent of the FPL; and 6 percent were living at 200 percent or above the FPL.

  Source: Second Harvest - The Nation's Food Bank Network, October 2007
- The average rate of food insecurity in all children in Ohio was 19.8 percent for 2003-2005, which was higher than the U.S. average rate of 18 percent for 2003-2005 (figure not shown).

  Source: Cook, John T. Ph.D. "Child Food Insecurity in the United States: 2003 - 2005" America's Second Harvest

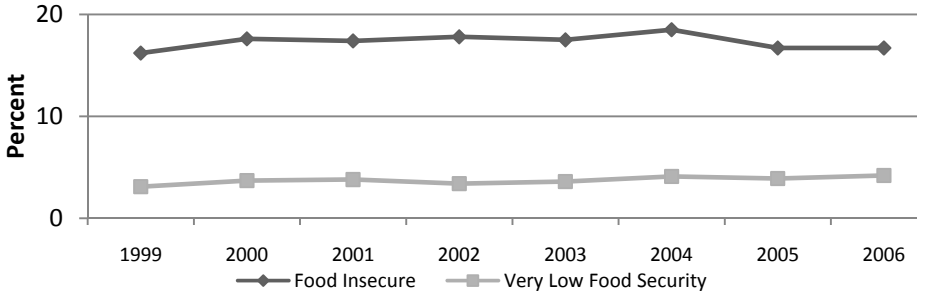
Healthy People 2010 Objective 15-15a

- Increase food security among U.S. households and in doing so reduce hunger. Target: 94 percent of households considered food secure by 2010.

For more complete definitions, go to ***http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/FoodSecurity/trends.htm***

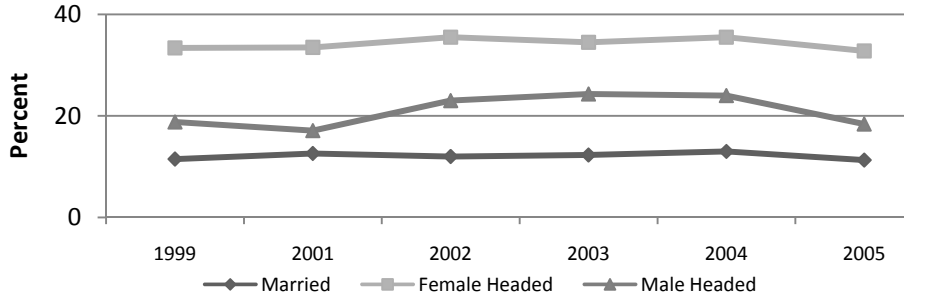
Note: No trend data on child food insecurity were available for Ohio.

Food Insecure and Very Low Food Security Households with Children Under 6 Years Old in the United States, 1999-2006



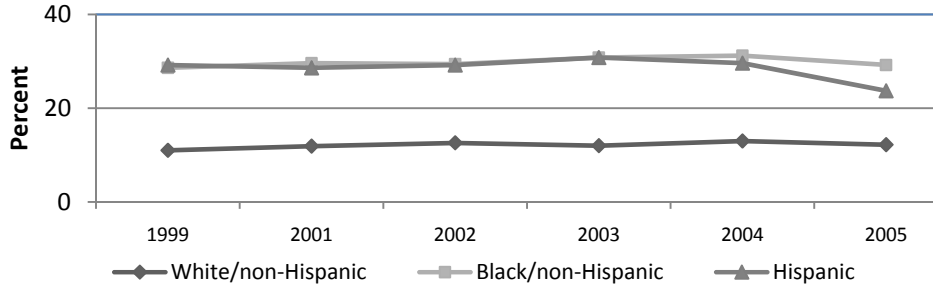
Source: Prepared by the ERS, Household Food Security Reports 1999-2006

Children Living in Food Insecure and Very Low Food Security Households in the United States, 1999-2005



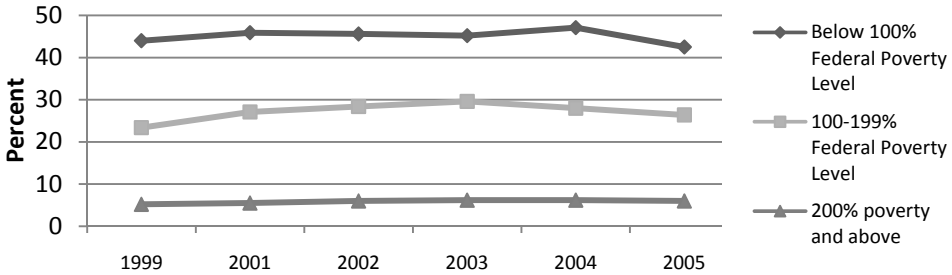
Source: Prepared by ERS based on Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement data

Children in Food Insecure Households in the United States by Race/Ethnicity



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement; tabulated by U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service and Food and Nutrition Service.

Poverty Status of Children in Food Insecure Households in the United States



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement; tabulated by U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service and Food and Nutrition Service.

Food Insecurity: uncertain of having or unable to acquire enough food to meet the needs of a household. Two types: ***Low Food Security*** *(formerly food insecure without hunger) and* ***Very Low Food Security*** *(formerly food insecure with hunger)*

Updated 4/9/09