



Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Insecurity and Nutrition Security





What is nutrition security?

Nutrition security means *all* Americans have consistent and equitable access to healthy, safe, affordable foods essential to optimal health and well-being.

USDA's approach to tackling food and nutrition insecurity aims to:



1) Recognize all Americans are not maintaining an active, healthy life that is consistent with Federal recommendations; and



2) Emphasize taking an equity lens to our efforts

Health equity

- Everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible
- Requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care



Structural racism

The ways in which society fosters discrimination through mutually reinforcing systems that rationalize discriminatory beliefs and justify the distribution of resources (based on those beliefs), which together make it difficult for communities of color to secure quality education, jobs, housing, healthcare, and equal treatment in the criminal justice system



Structural racism in practice

Black Americans have fewer economic and educational opportunities than their White counterparts



Lack of financial resources confers a host of social risks, including food insecurity, housing instability, and limited access to transportation

Underlying structural inequality and COVID



Many historically underserved populations work in essential industries (nursing or home health care, grocery stores, mass transit) where they are more likely to come into close contact with people who are sick



Jobs in essential industries are often poorly paid, and a large proportion of such workers lack health or life insurance



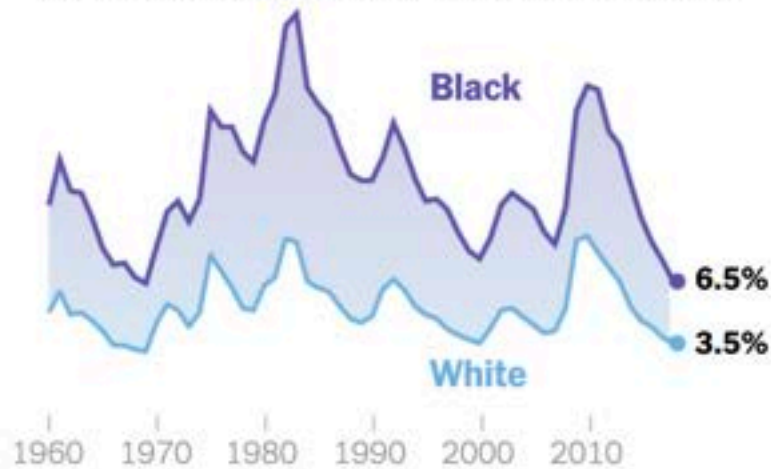
Historically underserved populations have high rates of underlying health conditions, including diabetes, hypertension and heart disease, which are known risk factors for severe illness and death from COVID-19



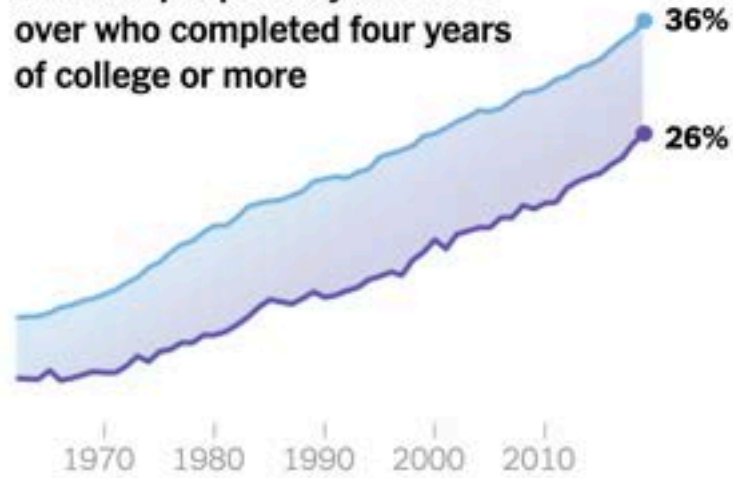
Historically underserved populations are less likely to have equitable access to healthcare

Racial inequity is evident in many domains

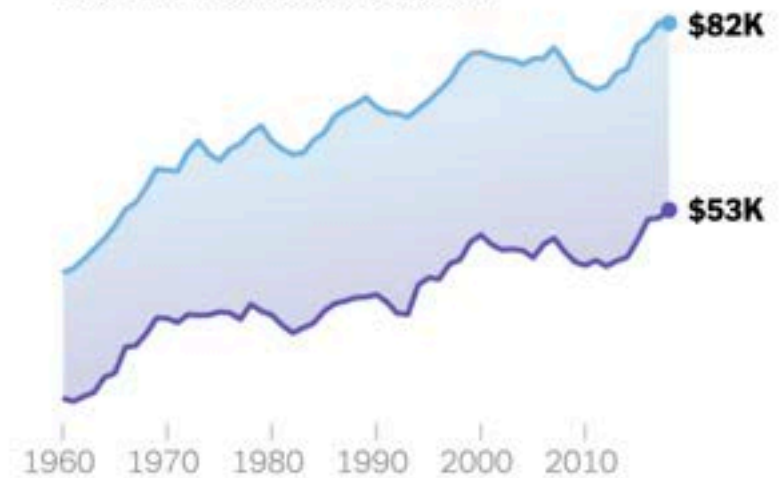
Unemployment rate, age 16 years and over



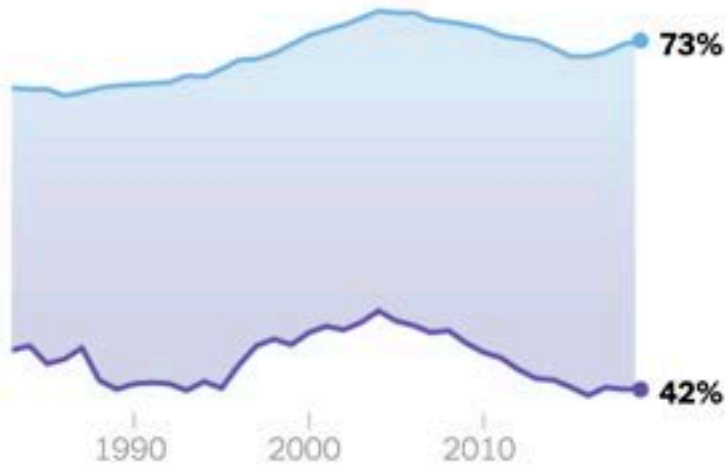
Share of people 25 years and over who completed four years of college or more



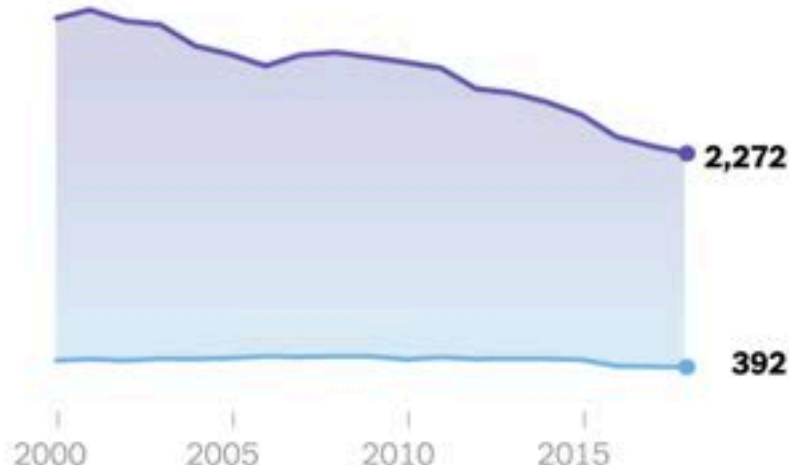
Median household income



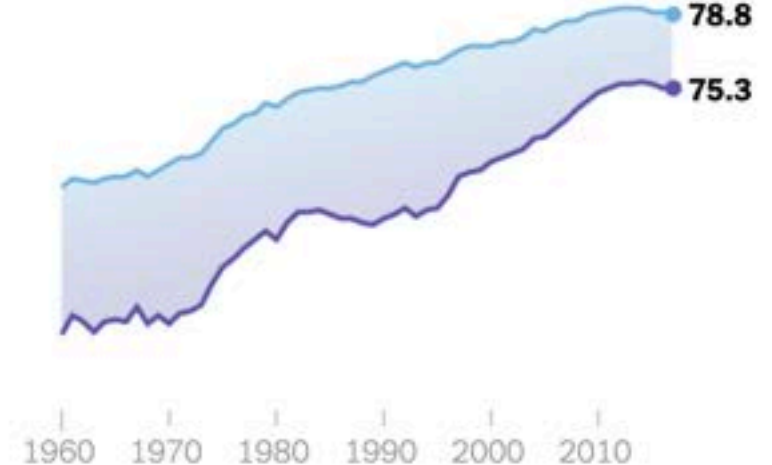
Homeownership rate



Sentenced male prisoners per 100,000 residents of the corresponding group

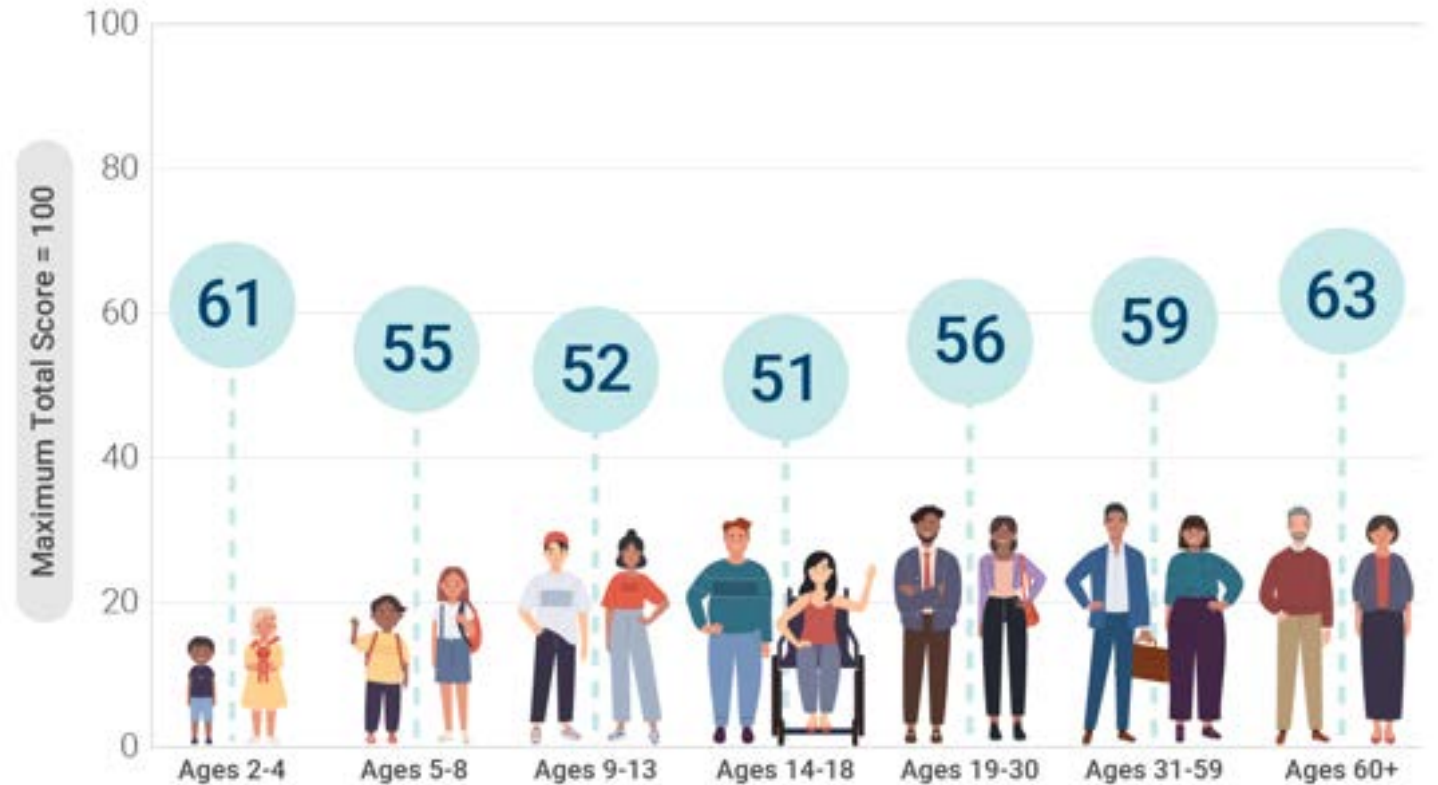


Life expectancy at birth



Improving dietary intake is critical

6 IN 10 ADULTS
are living with one or more
diet-related chronic diseases



NOTE: HEI-2015 total scores are out of 100 possible points. A score of 100 indicates that recommendations on average were met or exceeded. A higher total score indicates a higher quality diet.

Data Source: Analysis of What We Eat in America, NHANES 2015-2016, ages 2 and older, day 1 dietary intake data, weighted.

Cost of an unhealthy diet



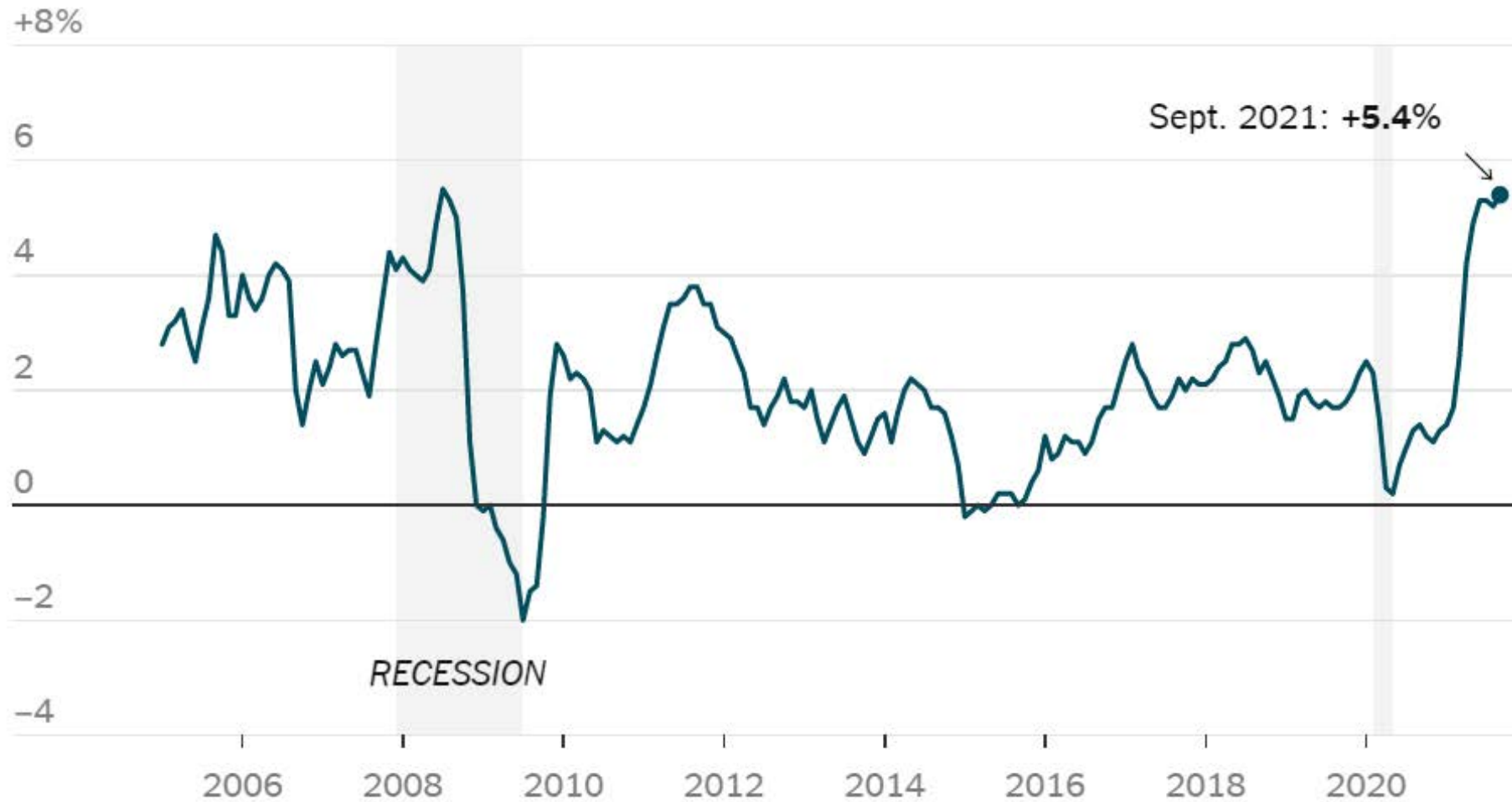
\$50 billion
in US health care costs



20% of US health care costs
from heart disease, stroke, and diabetes

Surging Inflation

Year-over-year change in Consumer Price Index



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics • By The New York Times

USDA's Efforts to Respond to Inflation

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TEMPORARY MAXIMUM MONTHLY ALLOTMENTS OCTOBER 1, 2021 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

Maximum SNAP Allotments for 48 States and D.C.

Household Size	48 States and DC
1	\$250
2	\$459
3	\$658
4	\$835
5	\$992
6	\$1,190
7	\$1,316
8	\$1,504
Each additional person	\$188

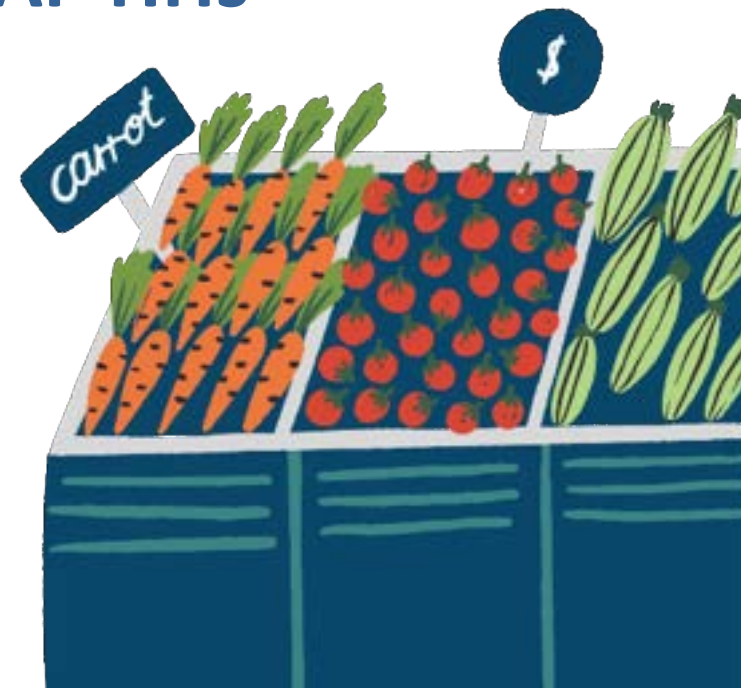


The importance of school meals



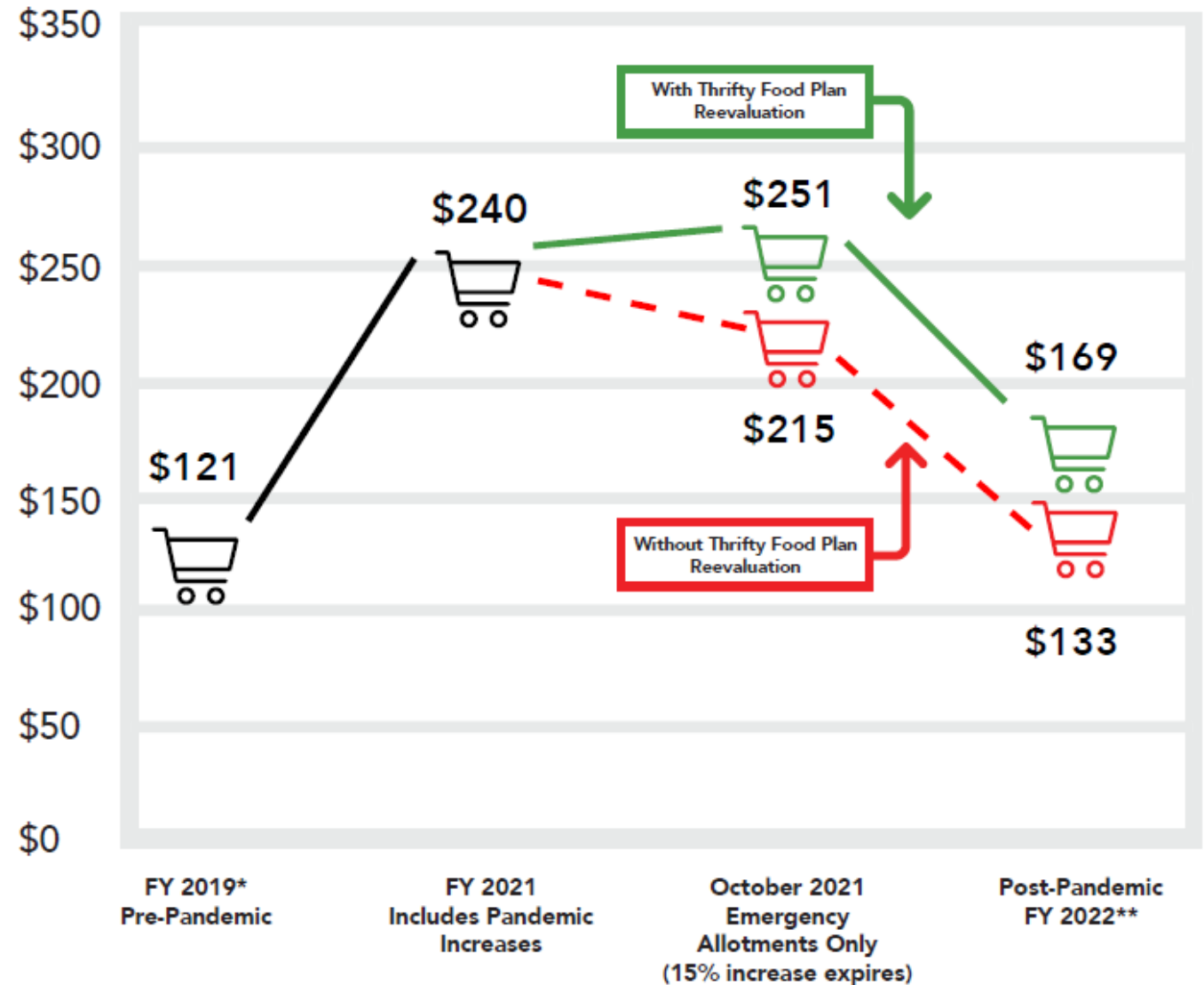
How does the Thrifty translate to SNAP?

- Maximum allotments increased by 21%,
relative to what they otherwise would have been
 - \$43 increase per month for 1 person HH
 - \$80 increase per month for 2 person HH
- } **70+% of SNAP HHs**
- The SNAP **minimum benefit** increased \$3 per month—to \$20/month
 - On average, most SNAP participants will receive **40 cents more per meal**

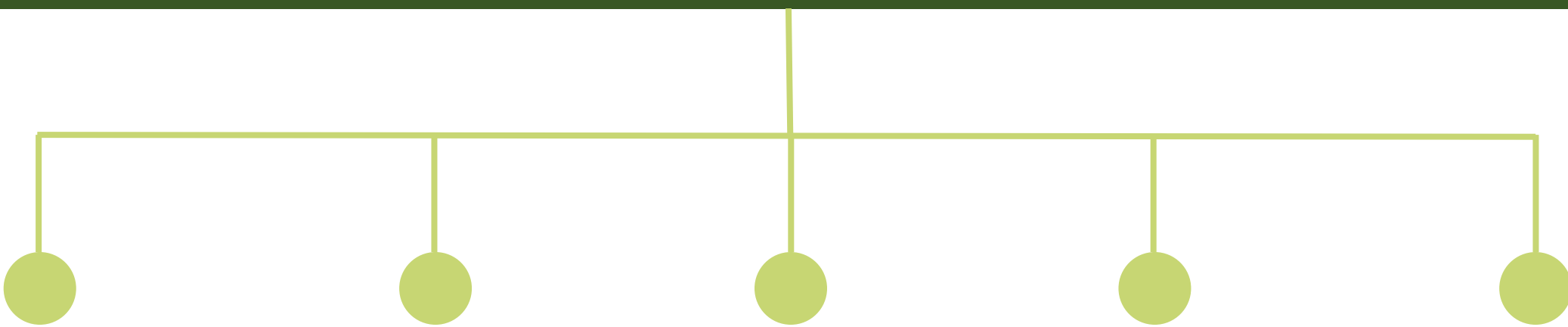


SNAP Average Monthly Per Person Benefits

FY2019 - FY2022
(Projected)



USDA's Core Priorities



Addressing
climate change
via
Climate-Smart
Agriculture
and Forestry

Advancing
racial justice,
equity and
opportunity

Creating
more and
better market
opportunities

Tackling
food and
nutrition
insecurity

Making
USDA a great
place to work
for everyone



USDA's mission includes
fire, farm, and fork



employees with offices in
every county in the country



different mission areas
and Staff Offices




90% of our employees are outside
of the National Capital Region



Over the course of a year,
1 in 4 Americans
is served by one of USDA's 15
nutrition assistance programs.

This includes more than 30 million children each school day and nearly half of all infants in the US, at about 99,000 schools and 250,000 retailers.

A collage of fresh produce including apricots, peaches, basil, tomatoes, and cherries. The background is a mix of these items, with some in brown paper bags and others loose. The text is overlaid on a dark green rectangular background.

FY22 budget of
\$163 billion, traditionally over
70% of the budget

USDA is uniquely positioned to impact nutrition security

Nutrition assistance programs



Nutrition education and promotion



Dietary guidelines & MyPlate



Other USDA Mission Areas



USDA Actions *on* Nutrition Security



Join U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Vilsack at Teachers College, Columbia University where he will deliver an address about USDA Actions on Nutrition Security



Thursday, March 17 • 2:15 pm ET • www.usda.gov/live



<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/usda-actions-nutrition-security.pdf>

Our Commitment to Enhancing Food and Nutrition Security

*At USDA, we are leveraging all our resources
to ensure access to healthy foods that promote
well-being in an equitable way.*



Four Pillars

**Meaningful
Support**

Providing nutrition support throughout all stages of life

**Healthy
Food**

Connecting all Americans with healthy, safe, affordable food sources

**Collaborative
Action**

Developing, translating, and enacting nutrition science through partnership

**Equitable
Systems**

Prioritizing equity every step of the way



USDA's Research Equities



**AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH
SERVICE**



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE
OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE'S
INTEGRATED APPROACH**



Lived Experience



<https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2022/06/01/nutrition-security-action-new-blog-series>

Meaningful Support

Providing nutrition support throughout all stages of life



Updating child nutrition program nutrition standards to reflect the latest nutrition science



Ensure benefits are adequate to support healthy eating patterns

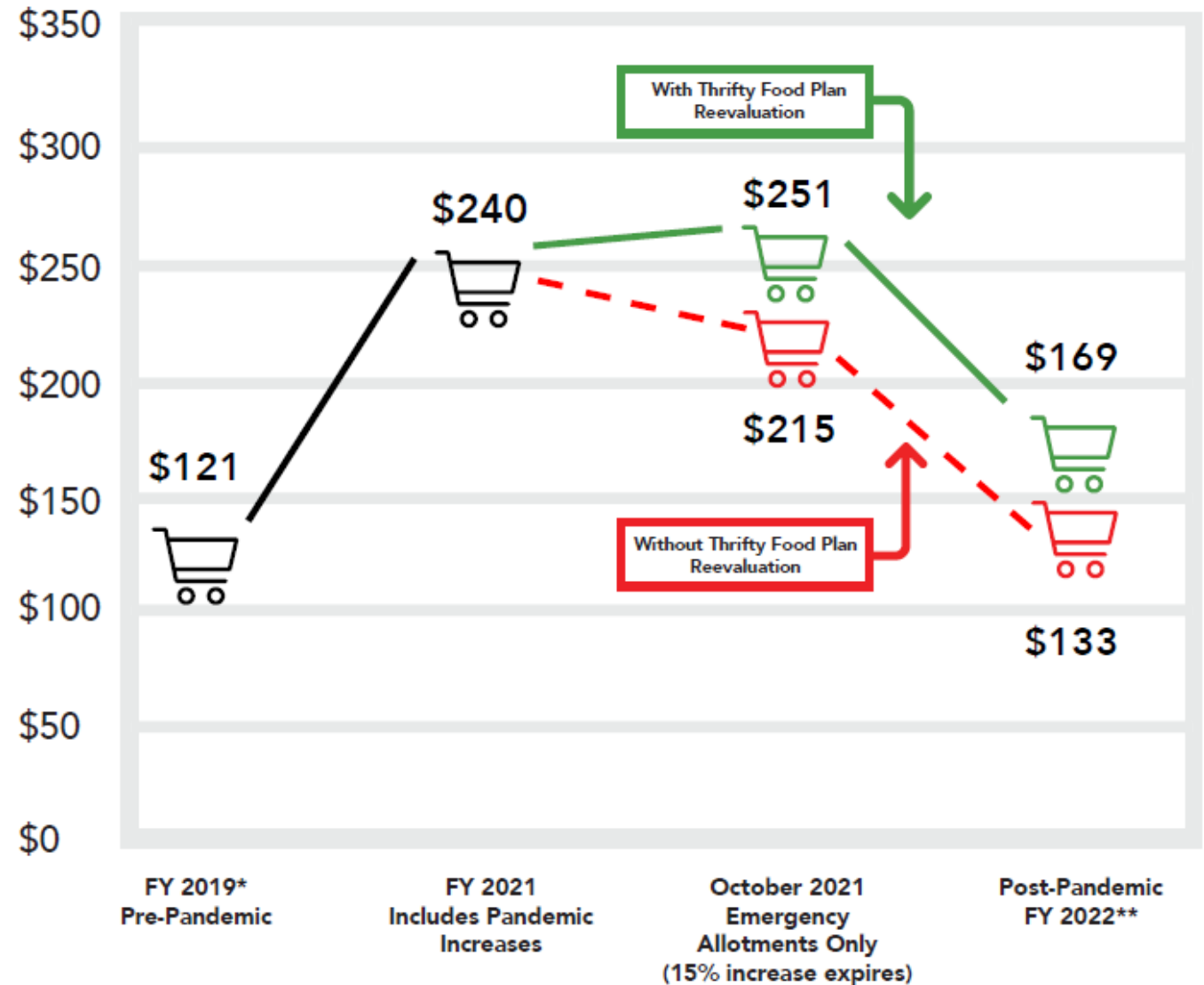


Providing high quality nutrition education

Providing breastfeeding promotion and support

SNAP Average Monthly Per Person Benefits

FY2019 - FY2022
(Projected)



Healthy Food

Connecting all Americans
with healthy, safe, affordable
food sources



Promoting and
supporting fruit and
vegetable consumption

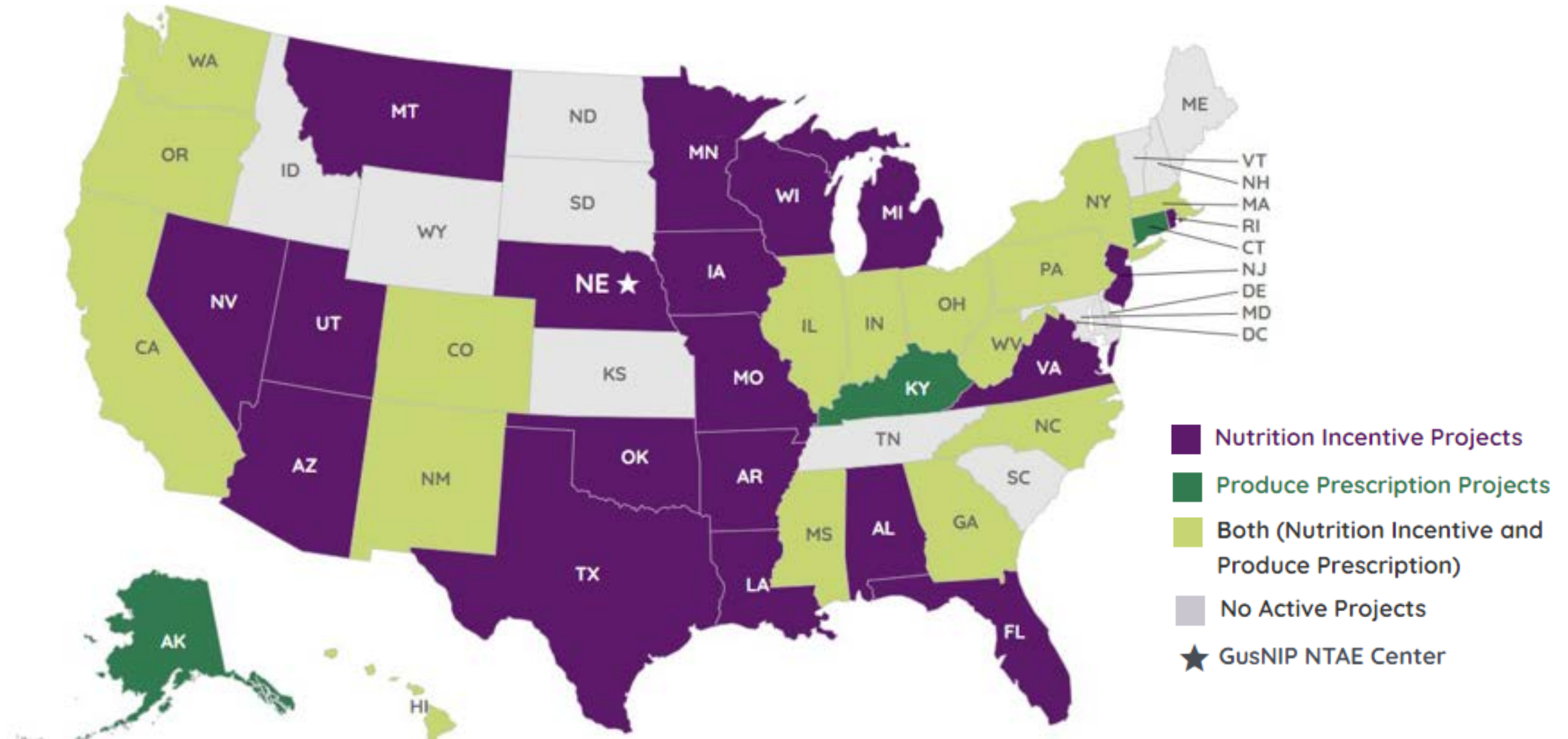


Using incentive programs
to promote access to
healthy eating



Providing USDA Foods
directly to people in need

GusNIP Grantees



<https://www.nutritionincentivehub.org/grantee-projects>



Nutrition
Incentive
Hub

CREATED BY GUSNIP NTAE CENTER

- Increased fruit and vegetable intake
- Purchased more than \$20M in fruits and vegetables from local retailers
- Incentive spending generated an economic impact of approximately \$41M

<https://www.nutritionincentivehub.org/media/fjohmr2n/gusnip-ntae-impact-findings-year-2.pdf>



Food Systems Transformation



Tune in for an announcement by Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack on USDA's framework for shoring up the food supply chain and transforming the food system to be fairer, more competitive, and more resilient.

Wednesday, June 1 • 11:30 am ET
www.usda.gov/live



Collaborative Action

Developing, translating, and enacting nutrition science through partnership

- Updating and building the evidence base for dietary guidance
- Equipping child nutrition program operators
- Translating the latest DGAs into information consumers can use
- Working with industry to help tailor products to our programs

About the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*

- The *Dietary Guidelines* serves as the cornerstone of federal nutrition programs and policies
- Provides science-based advice on what to eat and drink to promote health, help reduce risk of chronic disease, and meet nutrient needs
- Mandated to reflect the preponderance of scientific evidence and be published jointly by USDA and HHS every five years
- Ninth edition was published in December 2020



Critical recent changes to SNAP-Ed



- Creating a new Nutrition Education Branch in SNAP to support SNAP-Ed
- Improving data collection
- Establishing a National license for the Program Evaluation and Reporting Systems or N-PEARS for short
- Encouraging maximum flexibility in the use of policy, systems, and environmental change approaches

Equitable Systems

Prioritizing equity every
step of the way

- Strengthening support to Native American/Tribal School food programs
- Expanding online shopping options for SNAP and WIC participants
- Bridging language barriers to nutrition education resources and recipes
- Reaching underserved populations
- Bringing together diverse partners to foster healthy food options

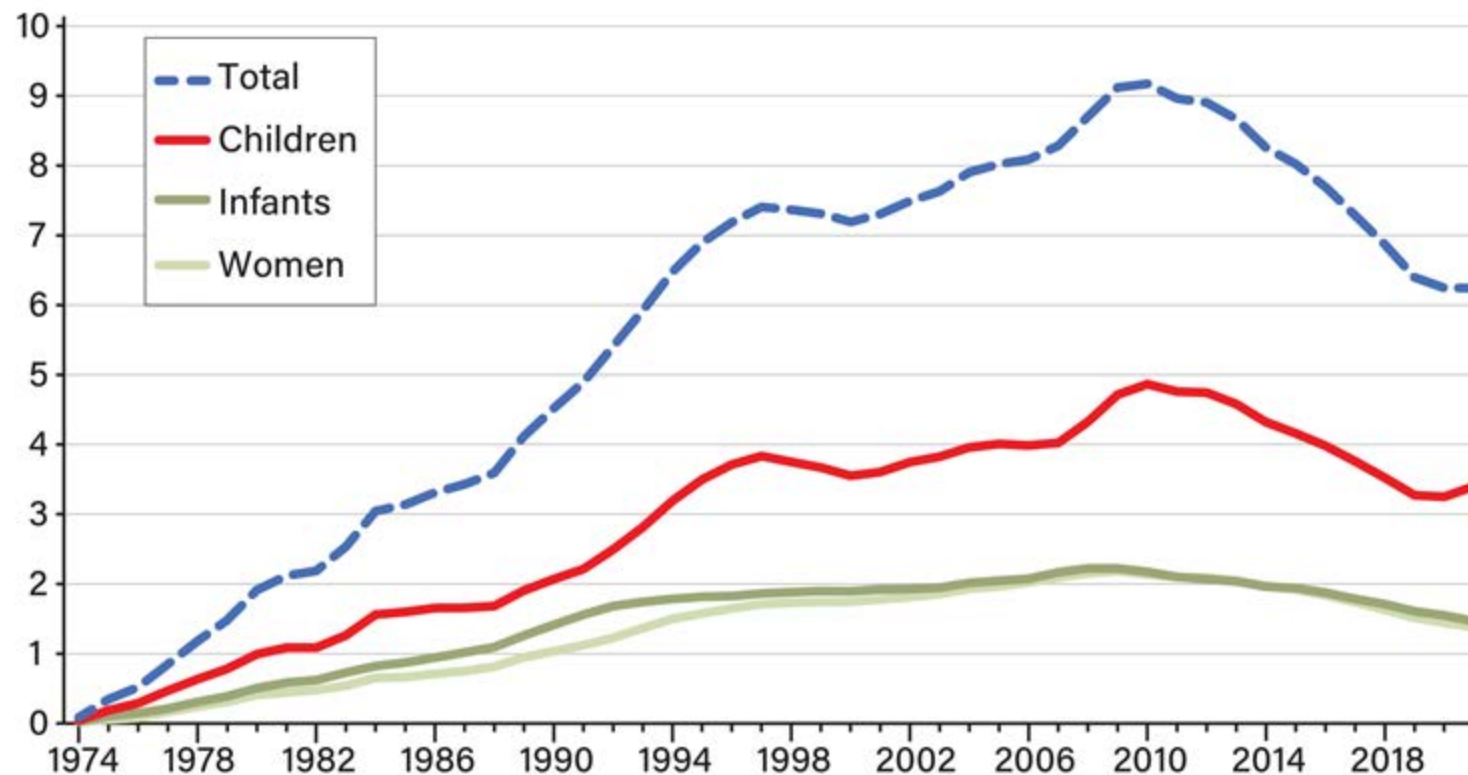




Average monthly WIC participation by group, fiscal years 1974–2021

USDA Economic Research Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Millions of people



Notes: Children refers to children ages 1 through 4 years. WIC = Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. Figure based on preliminary data from the January 2022 Program Information Report (Keydata) released by USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) in April 2022 and September 2021 Keydata released by FNS in December 2021.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from FNS.

Phase 1



Elevate FNS nutrition security activities and strengthen external communication

Phase 2



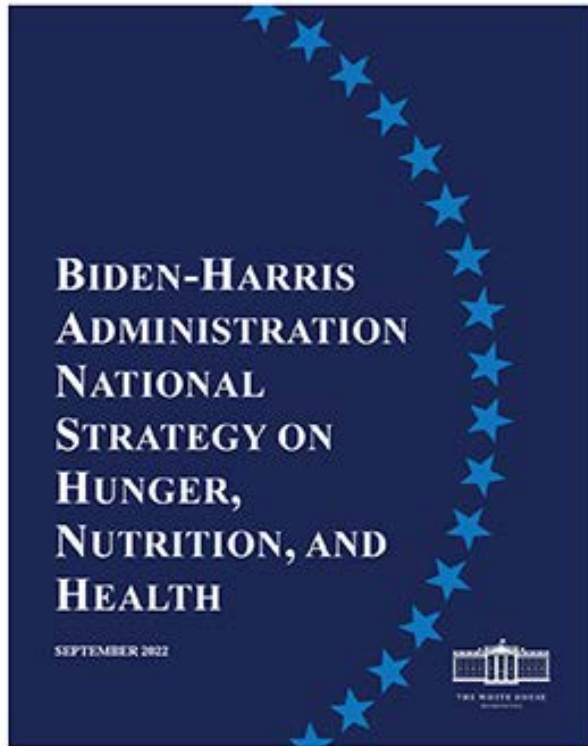
Think strategically about future investments





WHITE HOUSE
CONFERENCE ON
**HUNGER,
NUTRITION,
& HEALTH**

<https://health.gov/our-work/nutrition-physical-activity/white-house-conference-hunger-nutrition-and-health>



The National Strategy Five Pillars

- 1) **Improve Food Access & Affordability**
- 2) **Integrate Nutrition & Health**
- 3) **Empower All Consumers to Make and Have Access to Healthy Choices**
- 4) **Support Physical Activity for All**
- 5) **Enhance Nutrition & Food Security Research**



LEVERAGING THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE
TO PROMOTE AND ELEVATE NUTRITION SECURITY:

The Role of the USDA Food and Nutrition Service

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/nutrition-security/fns-role>

National Strategy Pillar 1: Improve Food Access & Affordability



- **Increasing SNAP Benefits to Support Healthy Eating Patterns at All Life Stages**
- **Bring SNAP and WIC Shopping Online**
- **Modernizing WIC to Improve Our Reach**
- **Reaching More Americans with Emergency Food**
- **Investing in Resilient Child Nutrition Programs Amid Supply Chain Challenges**
- **Expanding Access to FDPIR and Aligning Foods with Traditional Tribal Foodways**

National Strategy Pillar 2: Integrate Nutrition and Health

Supporting a Diverse WIC Workforce



National Strategy Pillar 3:

Empower All Consumers to Make and Have Access to Healthy Choices

- **Making Healthy School Meals that Kids Enjoy**
- **Maximizing WIC Food Packages to Promote Healthy Choices**
- **Promoting Healthy Eating at All Life Stages With SNAP Incentive Programs**
- **Centralizing Consumer Information to Support Healthy Shopping and Meal Prep for Income-Eligible Households**
- **Reestablishing State Nutrition Action Councils (SNACs) through FNS Regional Offices**
- **Unifying Consumer Messages Around Healthy, Affordable Eating**
- **Restructuring SNAP-Ed**
- **Supporting Nutrition Education and Wellness for Kids with Team Nutrition**



National Strategy Pillar 4: Support Physical Activity for All



**Enhancing Online Nutrition Education and
Physical Activity Resources in SNAP-Ed**

National Strategy Pillar 5: Enhance Nutrition and Food Security Research



Strengthening Evidence to Inform FNS Policy and Nutrition Services

Significant efforts underway



Updating the Thrifty Food Plan



Launching tribally-led nutrition initiatives



Expand access and updating the WIC food package



Initiating the next edition of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*



Updating the school meals standard



Restructuring SNAP-Ed

Key takeaways



Food insecurity and diet-related diseases

are high, rising, and disproportionately impact historically underserved populations



This framework is meant to mobilize

the Department's assets to provide *all* Americans access to safe, nutritious, and affordable food



Beyond leveraging USDA equities,

we will need to effectively engage and collaborate with external partners