

HUNGER & POVERTY IN COLORADO...

Updated: 10/18

- **Nearly 1 in 11 Coloradans (9.2%) struggle with hunger, not always having enough money to buy food.**
(U.S. Department of Agriculture, *Household Food Security in the United States in 2017*, September 2018)
- **More than 1 in 10 Coloradans (10.3%) struggle financially, living below the federal poverty line. This includes more than 1 in 8 kids (13%) with those under the age of 5 most likely to live in poverty.**
(U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey: Poverty*, September 2018)
- **Nearly 1 in 7 Colorado kids (14%) may not always know when or where they will get their next meal.**
(Colorado Children's Campaign, *2018 KIDS COUNT in Colorado!*, March 2018)
- **1 in 30 older adults (3.2%) face hunger in Colorado, forcing them to make choices between purchasing groceries or medication.**
(James Ziliak and Craig Gunderson, *The State of Senior Hunger in America 2017: An Annual Report*, May 2019)
- **1 in 12 Coloradans use food stamps, including working families, children, older adults, veterans and those who are disabled.**
(Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *Colorado Food Assistance Program fact sheet*, December 2018)
- **Of food stamp recipients in Colorado, almost 3 in 4 (70%) live with children, 1 in 4 (28%) live with an elderly or disabled resident, and almost half (42%) are members of working families.**
(Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *Colorado Food Assistance Program fact sheet*, December 2018)
- **A Coloradan, on average, only receives \$1.39 per meal in food stamp benefits, making it a challenge to put healthy food on the table for themselves and their family.**
(Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *Colorado Food Assistance Program fact sheet*, December 2018)
- **About 21,000 veterans in Colorado live in households that participated in food stamps at some point during a 12-month period.**
(Center of Budget Policies and Priorities, *SNAP Helps Almost 1.5 million Low Income Vets, including thousands in every state*, November 2017)
- **Compared to other state participation rates, Colorado ranks 17th in school breakfast participation** for low-income studentsⁱ **and 43rd in SNAP/food stamp access** among low-income individualsⁱⁱ.
(ⁱ Food Research and Action Center, *School Breakfast Scorecard for 2017-2018 School Year*, February 2019; ⁱⁱ U.S. Department of Agriculture, *Program Access Index 2017*, December 2018)
- **While Coloradan participation has improved, statewide numbers still remain low in major nutrition assistance programs.** For example, only 3 in 5 low-income Coloradans (60%) participate in the food stamp program that helps struggling families and individuals purchase groceries.
(U.S. Department of Agriculture, *Program Access Index: 2017*, December 2018)

<https://www.hungerfreecolorado.org/hungerfacts/> Accessed 9.2.2019.