

FOOD INSECURITY

Exploring the individual and social bodies' positions within hierarchical food systems through a lens of critical race theory

Abstract

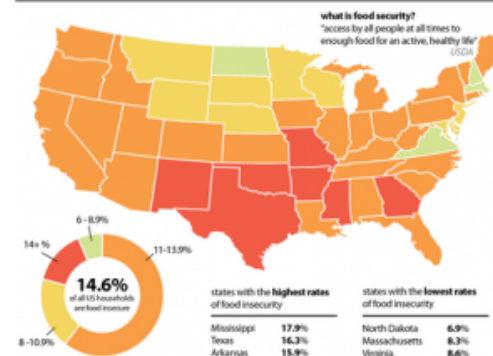
- The concentration of social and economic disadvantages among people of color over the course of life is clearly a significant driver of higher rates of food insecurity
- A recurring theme in many case studies of food insecurity is the feeling of being trapped in a system that never works in favor of minoritized groups
- The highest rates of food insecurity are among low-income Native Americans, African Americans, and Latinos
- The relationship between race and ethnicity and food insecurity is complex and is clearly intertwined with other established determinants of food insecurity including poverty, unemployment, housing, incarceration, and disability

Food Insecurity Background

- Defined as limited and uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods, as well as not having enough food to satisfy an active, healthy life for members of the household
- More than 2.24 million low-income adults in California cannot always make ends meet and afford to put food on the table
- Estimated 8 million low-income Californians - those living in households with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level, and found that more than 8.3% of these low-income adults experience food insecurity with hunger and another 20%, one out of five low-income adults, experience food insecurity that falls short of hunger



food insecurity in the US



Policy Implications/Solutions

- SNAP is one of the few means-tested government benefit programs which provide nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of low income families in order to purchase healthy food and move towards self-sufficiency
- As a fresh approach to solving the problem of food insecurity, Chilton and Rose suggest an adoption of a human rights framework. This approach could actively engage those affected and would ensure that food security monitoring would be compared to benchmarks in national action plans.
- Chilton and Rose include unconventional statements but speak the truth. By convincing others that the right to food is about creating enabling environments and conditions for people to feed themselves; by insisting that nutritious food is not simply a basic need, but a fundamental human right; and by having a clear and convincing definition of food insecurity and hunger, it will be possible to advance a human rights approach.

References

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