

Colorado Food Insecurity: Issues, Interventions, and Indicators

Food insecurity: Households that experience limited or uncertain availability of safe, nutritious food at some point during the year.

Issues:

Hunger is common in Colorado:

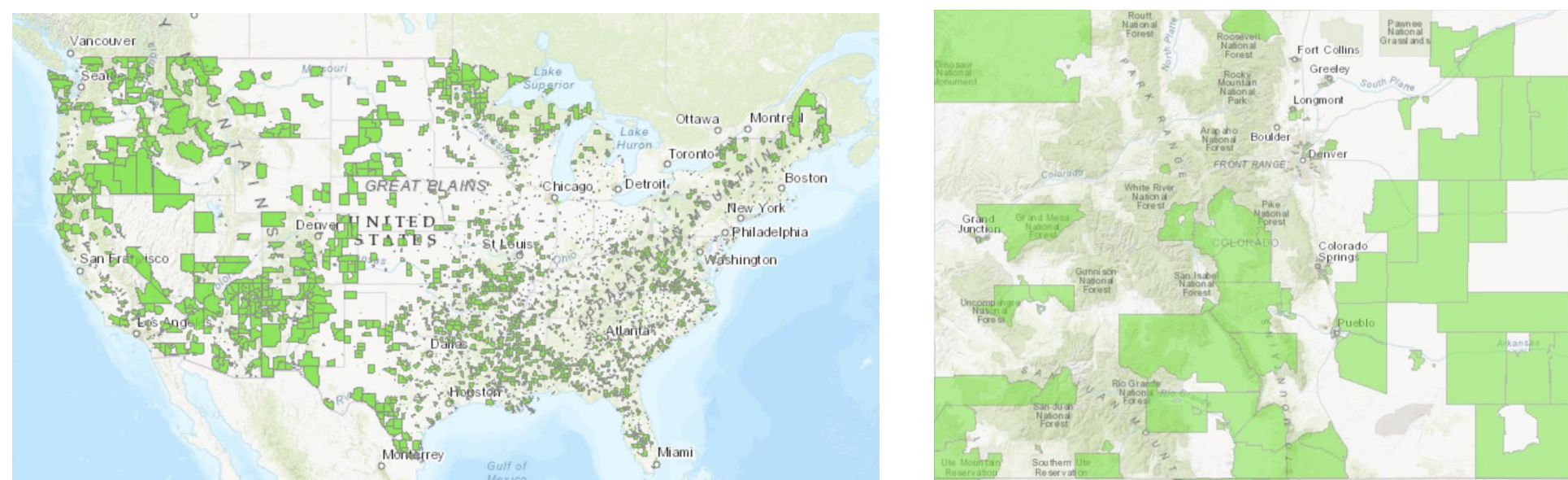
- 11.3% (627,480) Coloradans are food insecure



Source: **HUNGER FREE COLORADO**

Many Coloradans do not have local access to fresh food:

- 759,000 Coloradans live in a food desert (Colorado Health Institute, 2010)



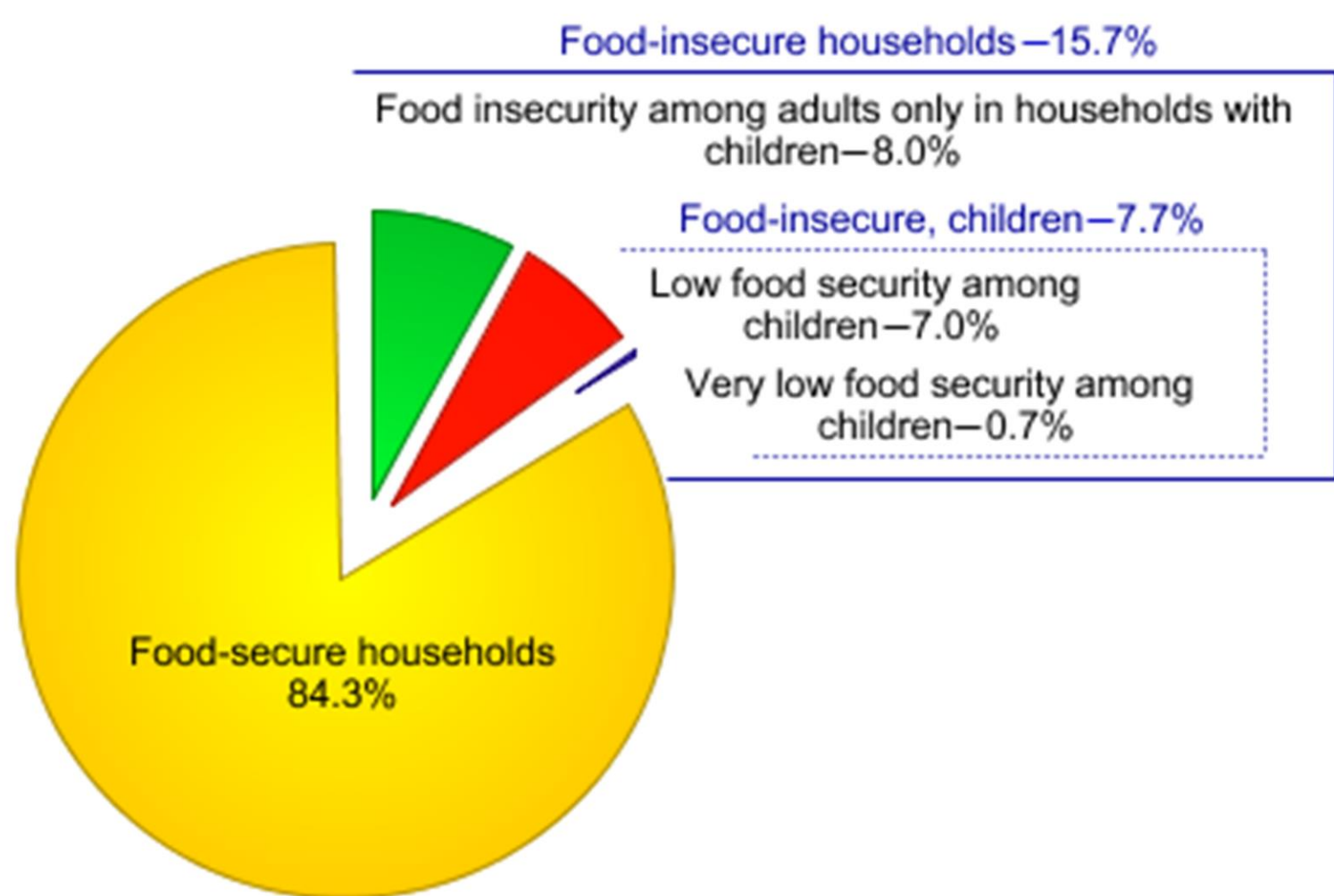
Food Desert: Low-income census tracts where a significant share of residents is more than 1 mile (urban) or 10 miles (rural) from the nearest supermarket.

Source: **USDA** United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service

Colorado children are vulnerable:

- 16.5% (190,780) of Colorado kids experience limited or uncertain availability of safe, nutritious food at some point during the year

U.S. households with children by food security status of adults and children, 2017



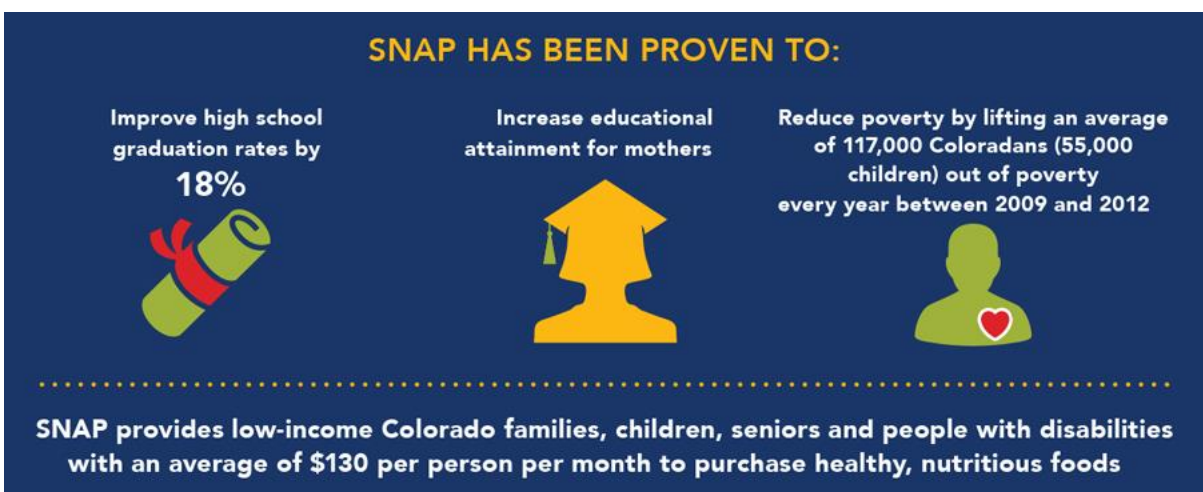
Note: In most instances, when children are food insecure, the adults in the household are also food insecure.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, using data from the December 2017 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

Interventions:

Food interventions make a difference:

- Federal food assistance programs reduce hunger and support low-income families



SNAP:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the key nutrition assistance safety net for low-income families
- Benefits are available to people who meet financial and nonfinancial requirements

WIC:

- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides Federal grants to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education
- Benefits are available to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children who are found to be at nutritional risk.

Colorado families are underenrolled:

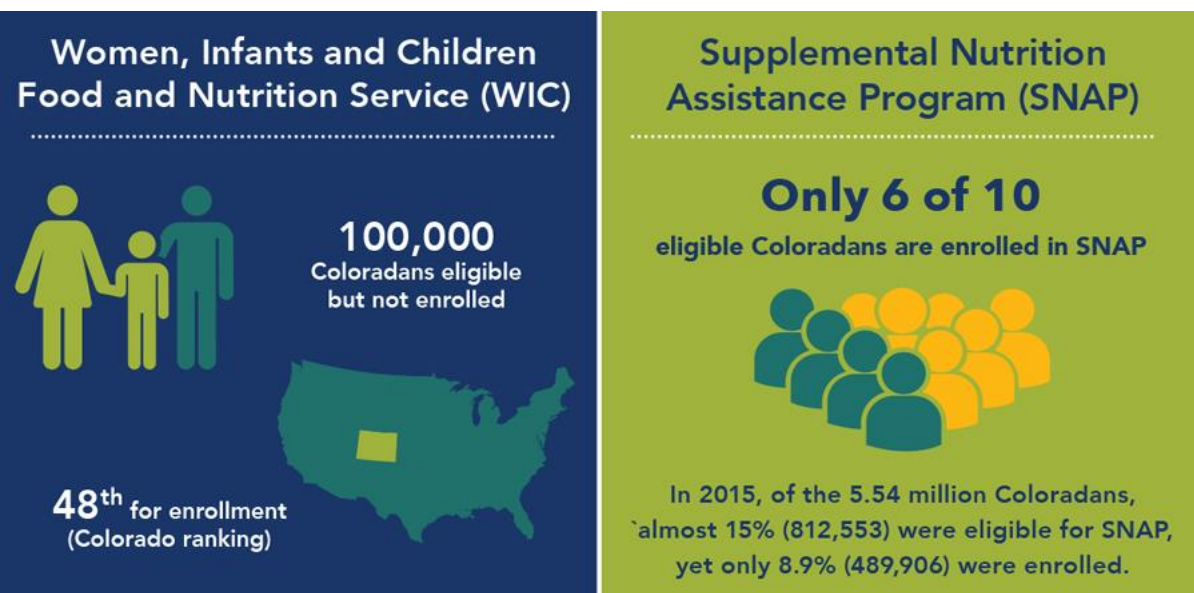
- Many hungry families in Colorado are not on these programs, even though they qualify

WIC:

Eligible: 197,505
Enrolled: 85,912

SNAP:

Eligible: 197,505
Enrolled: 85,912



Indicators:

Food assistance programs are a safety net for hungry families. Participation in these programs provides an important measure of how well we are addressing food insecurity in our state.



Blueprint goals three, four, and five:

- Increase the number of Coloradans who can access food assistance and nutritious food through community-based organizations.



- Maximize SNAP and WIC enrollment to propel Colorado to become a leading state for enrollment in these health and nutrition benefit programs.



- Maximize participation in federal child nutrition programs, making Colorado a national leader in delivering these vital programs.

