

## North Dakota Families are Facing Food Hardship During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The U.S. Census Bureau began a new online survey to households to get a pulse on their social and economic situations during the global COVID-19 pandemic. The “[Household Pulse Survey](#)” is reporting weekly starting in April, 2020. Following is a summary of responses from North Dakotans for the first 10 weeks of the survey, beginning the last week of April through the first week of July, 2020.

- **Not enough food or not of the type wanted:** One-third to one-half of adults with children in their families reported recent food insufficiency in the last 7 days prior to answering the survey (enough food but not always the type wanted, sometimes not enough to eat, often not enough to eat, or did not report).
- **Unable to afford food:** Families reported that **children** were not eating enough because food was unaffordable; this was “often the case” in 1 – 15 percent of families, and “sometimes the case” in 19 – 43 percent of families with children who reported recent food insufficiency.
- **Not confident finding food in coming weeks:** Out of the families with children who report recent food insufficiency, 5 – 31 percent were “not at all confident” that they would be able to afford food over the next 4 weeks. In addition, 21 – 40 percent were only “somewhat confident” that they would be able to afford food over the next 4 weeks.
- **Eating more at home:** Families with children who report recent food insufficiency are spending 2 – 4 times as much on food eaten at home as they are on food eaten outside the home. In 2018, household spending on food in the United States was nearly equally divided between food eaten at home and food eaten away from home.
- **North Dakota families find food:** For families with children who reported food insufficiency, up to one-fourth of them obtained free groceries or free meal(s) in the last 7 days prior to answering the survey. People who obtained free groceries or meals relied heavily on food provided by schools, followed by food pantries/food banks, and help from family, friends, and neighbors.
  - In 7 out of 10 weeks, 54% - 94% of families found food at school or other programs aimed at children;
  - In 7 out of 10 weeks, 26% - 50% of people relied on food pantries/food banks;
  - In 2 out of 10 weeks, 52% - 60% got help from family, friends, or neighbors.

Need help with food, or looking for ideas to help others find food? For more information, see the Creating a Hunger Free North Dakota website: <http://hungerfreund.org/>

The U.S. Census Bureau, in collaboration with five federal agencies, is collecting data around employment status, spending patterns, food security, housing, physical and mental health, access to health care, and educational disruption to measure household experiences during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Information and data tables can be accessed at: <https://www.census.gov/householdpulsedata>

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