



**Second Harvest Food Bank  
of Northwest North Carolina**

3655 Reed Street  
Winston-Salem, NC 27107



---

**For Immediate Release**

Contact:

Jenny Moore, Sr. Communications and PR Mgr.  
336.784.5770 | [jmoore3@secondharvest.org](mailto:jmoore3@secondharvest.org)



**STUDY SHOWS CHILD FOOD INSECURITY RATES ACROSS NORTHWEST NORTH CAROLINA ARE HIGHER THAN OVERALL FOOD INSECURITY RATES**

**Winston-Salem, N.C. – May 1, 2019** — Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC announced the release of *Map the Meal Gap 2019*, the latest report by Feeding America® on food insecurity and the cost of food at both the county and congressional district level. It is the only study that provides food insecurity data at the local level.

*Map the Meal Gap 2019* reveals that food insecurity exists in every county in Second Harvest Food Bank’s service area. It also shows that children are more likely to be food insecure, with the child food insecurity rate at 21.4% compared to 14.6% for the overall population for 18 Northwest North Carolina counties.

“There isn’t a single state or county in America free from child hunger, and it is within our collective power to change that and ensure that today’s children are tomorrow’s leaders,” said Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, chief executive officer of Feeding America. “*Map the Meal Gap* highlights that more must be done. Together food banks, corporations, policymakers, donors, volunteers and advocates can solve hunger.”

Overall food insecurity in Northwest North Carolina ranges from a low of 11.4 percent of the population in Davie County up to 17.1% in Guilford County.

The analysis also finds that 27% of residents of Northwest North Carolina who are food insecure are likely ineligible for federal nutrition assistance under current program requirements. This means that many households must rely even more on food assistance from non-profit organizations, such as Second Harvest Food Bank and its 460+ local partner programs.

"I encourage everyone who is concerned about food insecurity and its impact on children to take a look at what hunger looks like in their community at [map.feedingamerica.org](http://map.feedingamerica.org)," said Eric Aft, CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC, the Feeding America affiliate for the region.

"North Carolina continues to rank among the worst states for food insecurity among children. While we are seeing modest decreases at the county level in the rates of food insecurity among kids, in most cases these changes are not statistically significant over last year. Regardless, our children are continuing to suffer the effects of hunger in their lives and this is a call to action for us all to get involved," Aft continued. "One way area residents can get involved right now is to tell Congress to invest in kids during Child Nutrition Reauthorization legislation and increase access to food for kids during the summer. Your voice matters and we can make a difference."

*Map the Meal Gap 2019* uses data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and food price data and analysis provided by Nielsen, a global provider of information and insights. The study is supported by [The Howard G. Buffett Foundation](#), [Conagra Brands Foundation](#) and [Nielsen](#).

The study's findings underscore the extent of need that remains in communities in Northwest North Carolina and across the U.S., despite national measures from the USDA that indicate overall improvement.

Dr. Craig Gundersen, Professor of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois, Executive Director of the National Soybean Research Laboratory and a member of Feeding America's Technical Advisory Group is the lead researcher of *Map the Meal Gap 2019*.

This is the ninth consecutive year that Feeding America has conducted the *Map the Meal Gap* study.

The *Map the Meal Gap 2019* [interactive map](#) allows policymakers, state agencies, corporate partners, food banks and advocates to develop integrated strategies to fight hunger on a community level.

A summary of the findings, an interactive map of the United States, and the full report are available at [map.feedingamerica.org](http://map.feedingamerica.org).

Join the conversation about *Map the Meal Gap 2019* on Twitter using [#MealGap](#).

###

### **About Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC**

Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC works to address hunger today and end hunger tomorrow. We are an essential and central resource for food and support services for a network of more than 460 local food assistance programs (pantries, community kitchens, shelters, and meals programs for children and seniors) serving communities throughout 18 Northwest North Carolina Counties. Every day, we strive to address the critical connections between hunger and healthy, with a focus on alleviating childhood hunger, providing relevant and impactful nutrition education, advocating for programs and policies that strengthen families, and collaborating with others to build locally relevant solutions to hunger and poverty. We are a proud member of Feeding the Carolinas and Feeding America. Learn more about our work and get involved at [hungernwnc.org](http://hungernwnc.org).

### **About Feeding America**

Feeding America® is the largest hunger-relief organization in the United States. Through a network of 200 food banks and 60,000 food pantries and meal programs, we provide meals to more than 46 million people each year. Feeding America also supports programs that prevent food waste and improve food security among the people we serve; educates the public about the problem of hunger; and advocates for legislation that protects people from going hungry. Visit [www.feedingamerica.org](http://www.feedingamerica.org), find us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).