

Section 1. Household Food Security

Food security—access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life—is one of several conditions necessary for a population to be healthy and well nourished. As part of the U.S. response to the United Nations' 1996 World Food Summit, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Healthy People 2010 initiative set a goal of increasing the rate of food security among U.S. households to 94 percent by the end of the decade. This section provides information on how the United States is progressing toward meeting this goal, based on the September 2000 food security survey—the sixth annual survey in the Nation's food security monitoring system.

Methods

The results presented in all three sections of this report are based on data collected in the Current Population Survey (CPS) food security surveys for the years 1995-2000. The measurement method for statistics presented in Section 1 uses responses to a series of questions about conditions and behaviors known to characterize households having difficulty meeting basic food needs.² Each question asks whether the condition or behavior occurred during the previous 12 months and specifies a lack of money or other resources to obtain food as the reason for the condition or behavior. Voluntary fasting or dieting to lose weight are thereby excluded from the measure. Response frequencies for the 18 items used to classify households are provided in appendix A. Full-question wordings are presented in Bickel et al., 2000, and are available from the ERS Food Security Briefing Room at <www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/foodsecurity>.

²The methods used to measure the extent of food insecurity and hunger have been described in several places (Hamilton et al., 1997a, 1997b; Andrews et al., 1998; Bickel et al., 1998; Carlson et al., 1999; Bickel et al., 2000.) Further details on the development of the measure are provided in appendix B.

Examples of Questions from the CPS Food Security Survey

"We worried whether our food would run out before we got money to buy more." Was that often, sometimes, or never true for you in the last 12 months?

"The food that we bought just didn't last and we didn't have money to get more." Was that often, sometimes, or never true for you in the last 12 months?

In the last 12 months did you or other adults in the household ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?

In the last 12 months were you ever hungry, but didn't eat, because you couldn't afford enough food?

(For households with children) In the last 12 months did any of the children ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food?

Interviewed households are classified into one of three categories—food secure, food insecure without hunger, food insecure with hunger—based on the household's overall pattern of response to all items. Households classified as food insecure with hunger that include children are further classified as to whether both children and adults were hungry or only adults. This classification is based on a subscale of items that ask specifically about conditions among children in the household. Appropriate weighting factors are then applied to the surveyed households to obtain nationally representative prevalence estimates.

Prevalence of Food Insecurity and Hunger—National Conditions and Trends

Nearly 90 percent of U.S. households were food secure throughout the entire year ending in September, 2000. “Food secure” means that all household members had access at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life. The remaining 11 million U.S. households (10.5 percent of all households) were food insecure at some time during the year. That is, they were uncertain of having, or unable to acquire, enough food to meet basic needs for all household members because they had insufficient money and other resources for food. About two-thirds of food-insecure households avoided hunger, in many cases by relying on a few basic foods and reducing variety in their diets. But 3.3 million households (3.1 percent of all U.S. households) were food insecure to the extent that one or more household members were hungry, at least some time during the year, because they couldn’t afford enough food.

When interpreting food security statistics, it is important to keep in mind that households are classified as food insecure, or food insecure with hunger, if they experienced the condition at any time during the previous 12 months. The rates of food insecurity and hunger on any given day are far below the annual rates. The prevalence of hunger on a typical day is estimated to be about 13 to 18 percent of the annual rate (see box), or 430,000 to 600,000 households on a typical day in 2000.

Food insecurity and hunger declined between 1995, when they were first measured at the national level, and 2000 (fig. 1).³ The year-to-year deviations from a consistent downward trend include a substantial 2-year cycle that is believed to result from a seasonal influence on food security prevalence rates. The CPS food security surveys over this period were conducted in April in odd-numbered years and August or September in even-numbered years. Measured prevalence of food insecurity was higher in the August/September collec-

³Because of changes in screening procedures used to reduce respondent burden, food security statistics from 1995 to 1997 are not directly comparable with those from 1998 to 2000. Figure 1 presents statistics for the years 1995-2000, adjusted to be comparable across all years, as well as statistics for 1998-2000 based on data as collected. See Andrews et al. (2000) and Ohls et al. (2001) for detailed information about questionnaire screening and adjustments for comparability.

How often were people hungry in households with hunger?

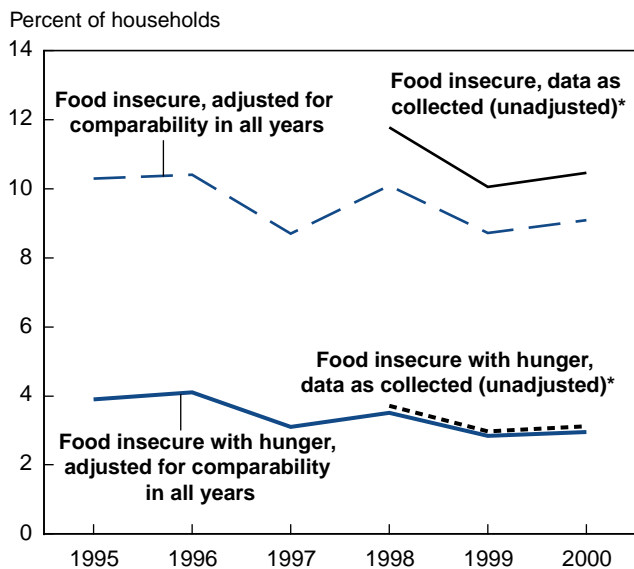
When poverty-linked hunger occurs in the United States, it is, in most cases, occasional or episodic, not chronic. The food security scale on which the statistics in this report are based is designed to register these occasional or episodic occurrences. Most of the questions ask whether a condition, experience, or behavior occurred at any time in the past 12 months. Three of the questions ask how many months a specific condition or behavior occurred, but households can be classified as food insecure or hungry based on a single, severe episode during the year. It is important to keep this aspect of the scale in mind when interpreting food security and hunger statistics. ERS analysis of CPS Food Security Supplement questions additional to those used to calculate the food security scale has found that:

- About one-third of the hunger measured by the standard 12-month measure is rare or occasional, occurring in only 1 or 2 months of the year. Two-thirds is recurring, experienced in 3 or more months of the year.
- For about one-fifth of households classified as food insecure and one-fourth of those classified as hungry, occurrence of the condition was frequent or chronic. That is, it occurred often, or in almost every month.
- The monthly prevalence of resource-constrained hunger in the U.S. is about 60 percent of the annual prevalence, and the daily prevalence of hunger is 13 to 18 percent of the annual prevalence.

(See Nord et al., 2000, for further information about the frequency of food insecurity and hunger.)

tions, suggesting a seasonal response effect. If this is the case, then comparisons of prevalence rates between adjacent years are biased. To avoid this potential bias, statistics for 2000 are compared with 1998 throughout this report. Beginning in 2001, data will be collected in early December of every year, which will avoid further problems of seasonality effects in interpreting annual changes.

Figure 1
Trends in prevalence of food insecurity and hunger in U.S. households, 1995-2000



*Data as collected in 1995-97 are not directly comparable with data collected in 1998-2000.

Source: Calculated by ERS based on Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement data.

Adjusted for population growth, the prevalence of food insecurity declined by 11.3 percent from 1998 to 2000 and the prevalence of food insecurity with hunger declined by 15.6 percent. The number of food-insecure households declined from 12.2 million in 1998 to 11.1 million in 2000, a decline of 8.9 percent (table 1). The number of households that were food insecure with hunger declined from 3.8 million to 3.3 million during the 2-year period, a decline of 13.6 percent. In most households, children were protected from substantial reductions in food intake and ensuing hunger. However in some 255,000 households (0.7 percent of all households with children), food insecurity was sufficiently severe that one or more children in each household were also hungry on one or more days during the year because the household lacked money for enough food. In some households with multiple children, not all the children experienced hunger. In particular, younger children are often protected from hunger even when older children are not.

Table 1—Prevalence of food security, food insecurity, and hunger for households and persons, by year

Unit	Total ¹	Food secure		Food insecure:					
				All		Without hunger		With hunger	
	1,000	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent
Households:									
1998	103,309	91,121	88.2	12,188	11.8	8,353	8.1	3,835	3.7
1999	104,684	94,154	89.9	10,529	10.1	7,420	7.1	3,109	3.0
2000	106,043	94,942	89.5	11,101	10.5	7,786	7.3	3,315	3.1
All individuals (by food security status of household):									
1998	268,366	232,219	86.5	36,147	13.5	26,290	9.8	9,857	3.7
1999	270,318	239,304	88.5	31,015	11.5	23,237	8.6	7,779	2.9
2000	273,685	240,454	87.9	33,231	12.1	24,708	9.0	8,523	3.1
Adults (by food security status of household):									
1998	197,084	174,964	88.8	22,120	11.2	15,632	7.9	6,488	3.3
1999	198,900	179,960	90.5	18,941	9.5	13,869	7.0	5,072	2.5
2000	201,922	181,586	89.9	20,336	10.1	14,763	7.3	5,573	2.8
Children (by food security status of household):									
1998	71,282	57,255	80.3	14,027	19.7	10,658	15.0	3,369	4.7
1999	71,418	59,344	83.1	12,074	16.9	9,368	13.1	2,707	3.8
2000	71,763	58,868	82.0	12,895	18.0	9,945	13.9	2,950	4.1

	Total ¹	Food secure		Food insecure:					
				All		Without hunger among children		With hunger among children	
	1,000	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent
Households with children:									
1998	38,036	31,335	82.4	6,701	17.6	6,370	16.7	331	.9
1999	37,884	32,290	85.2	5,594	14.8	5,375	14.2	219	.6
2000	38,113	31,942	83.8	6,171	16.2	5,916	15.5	255	.7
Children (by food security status of household):									
1998	71,282	57,255	80.3	14,027	19.7	13,311	18.7	716	1.0
1999	71,418	59,344	83.1	12,074	16.9	11,563	16.2	511	.7
2000	71,763	58,867	82.0	12,896	18.0	12,334	17.2	562	.8

¹Totals exclude households whose food security status is unknown because they did not give a valid response to any of the questions in the food security scale. In 2000, these represented 318,000 households (0.3 percent of all households.)

Sources: Calculated by ERS using data from the August 1998, April 1999, and September 2000 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplements.

Prevalence of Food Insecurity and Hunger—Conditions and Trends, by Household Characteristics

The prevalence of food insecurity and hunger varied considerably among household types (table 2). Rates of food insecurity were well below the national average of 10.5 percent for households with more than one adult and no children (5.6 percent) and for households with elderly persons (5.9 percent).⁴ Rates of food insecurity substantially higher than the national average were registered by the following groups:

- households with incomes below the official poverty line (36.8 percent),⁵
- households with children, headed by a single woman (31.0 percent),
- Black households (20.5 percent), and
- Hispanic households (21.4 percent).

Overall, households with children reported food insecurity at more than double the rate for households without children (16.2 vs. 7.3 percent). Among households with children, those with married-couple families showed the lowest rate of food insecurity (10.9 percent).

⁴“Elderly” in this report refers to persons age 65 and older.

⁵The Federal poverty line was \$17,463 for a family of four in 2000.

The prevalence of food insecurity for households located in central cities (14.2 percent) and nonmetropolitan areas (11.5 percent) substantially exceeded the rate for households in suburbs and other metropolitan areas outside central cities (7.7 percent). Regionally, the prevalence of food insecurity was higher in the South and West (11.8 and 11.7 percent, respectively) than in the Midwest and Northeast (8.8 and 8.7 percent).

The prevalence of hunger in various types of households followed a pattern similar to that observed for food insecurity. Hunger rates were lowest for married couples with children (1.9 percent), multiple-adult households with no children (1.9 percent), and households with elderly persons (1.5 percent). Hunger rates were much higher than the 3.1 percent national average among families headed by single women (9.0 percent), Black and Hispanic households (6.5 and 4.8 percent, respectively), and households below the poverty line (12.7 percent). Geographically, hunger was more common in central-city households (4.3 percent) and in those in the South and West (3.4 and 3.5 percent, respectively).

The declines in food insecurity and hunger at the national level from 1998 to 2000 were widespread and general, affecting almost all regions and types of households (figs. 2 and 3). Observed rates of food insecurity declined, or changes were statistically insignificant, in all categories studied. The declines were largest for some of the most economically disadvantaged groups, especially for single women with children and for Blacks and Hispanics. Even among lower income households, food insecurity and hunger declined somewhat during the period.

Table 2—Prevalence of food security, food insecurity, and hunger by selected household characteristics, 2000

Category	Total ¹	Food secure		Food insecure:					
		All	Without hunger	With hunger	All		Without hunger		With hunger
	1,000	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent
All households	106,043	94,942	89.5	11,101	10.5	7,786	7.3	3,315	3.1
Household composition:									
With children < 18	38,113	31,942	83.8	6,171	16.2	4,748	12.5	1,423	3.7
With children < 6	17,271	14,229	82.4	3,042	17.6	2,403	13.9	639	3.7
Married-couple families	26,366	23,500	89.1	2,866	10.9	2,355	8.9	511	1.9
Female head, no spouse	9,070	6,255	69.0	2,815	31.0	2,002	22.1	813	9.0
Male head, no spouse	2,099	1,728	82.3	371	17.7	290	13.8	81	3.9
Other household with child ²	578	457	79.1	121	20.9	102	17.6	19	3.3
With no children < 18	67,930	63,000	92.7	4,930	7.3	3,038	4.5	1,892	2.8
More than one adult	40,436	38,160	94.4	2,276	5.6	1,512	3.7	764	1.9
Women living alone	16,157	14,527	89.9	1,630	10.1	976	6.0	654	4.0
Men living alone	11,336	10,313	91.0	1,023	9.0	549	4.8	474	4.2
With elderly	24,926	23,447	94.1	1,479	5.9	1,097	4.4	382	1.5
Elderly living alone	10,125	9,409	92.9	716	7.1	523	5.2	193	1.9
Race/ethnicity of households:									
White non-Hispanic	79,697	73,633	92.4	6,064	7.6	4,147	5.2	1,917	2.4
Black non-Hispanic	12,813	10,182	79.5	2,631	20.5	1,802	14.1	829	6.5
Hispanic ³	9,445	7,428	78.6	2,017	21.4	1,562	16.5	455	4.8
Other non-Hispanic	4,088	3,699	90.5	389	9.5	275	6.7	114	2.8
Household income-to-poverty ratio:									
Under 1.00	12,106	7,657	63.2	4,449	36.8	2,906	24.0	1,543	12.7
Under 1.30	17,583	11,782	67.0	5,801	33.0	3,889	22.1	1,912	10.9
Under 1.85	25,872	18,821	72.7	7,051	27.3	4,837	18.7	2,214	8.6
1.85 and over	63,263	60,336	95.4	2,927	4.6	2,173	3.4	754	1.2
Income unknown	16,908	15,785	93.4	1,123	6.6	776	4.6	347	2.1
Area of residence:									
Inside metropolitan area	85,372	76,652	89.8	8,720	10.2	6,118	7.2	2,602	3.0
In central city ⁴	26,545	22,779	85.8	3,766	14.2	2,631	9.9	1,135	4.3
Not in central city ⁴	43,848	40,486	92.3	3,362	7.7	2,336	5.3	1,026	2.3
Outside metropolitan area	20,671	18,290	88.5	2,381	11.5	1,668	8.1	713	3.4
Census geographic region:									
Northeast	20,124	18,360	91.2	1,764	8.8	1,215	6.0	549	2.7
Midwest	25,264	23,070	91.3	2,194	8.7	1,526	6.0	668	2.6
South	37,658	33,213	88.2	4,445	11.8	3,147	8.4	1,298	3.4
West	22,997	20,299	88.3	2,698	11.7	1,898	8.3	800	3.5

¹Totals exclude households whose food security status is unknown because they did not give a valid response to any of the questions in the food security scale. In 2000, these represented 318,000 households (0.3 percent of all households.)

²Households with children in complex living arrangements, e.g., children of other relatives or unrelated roommate or boarder.

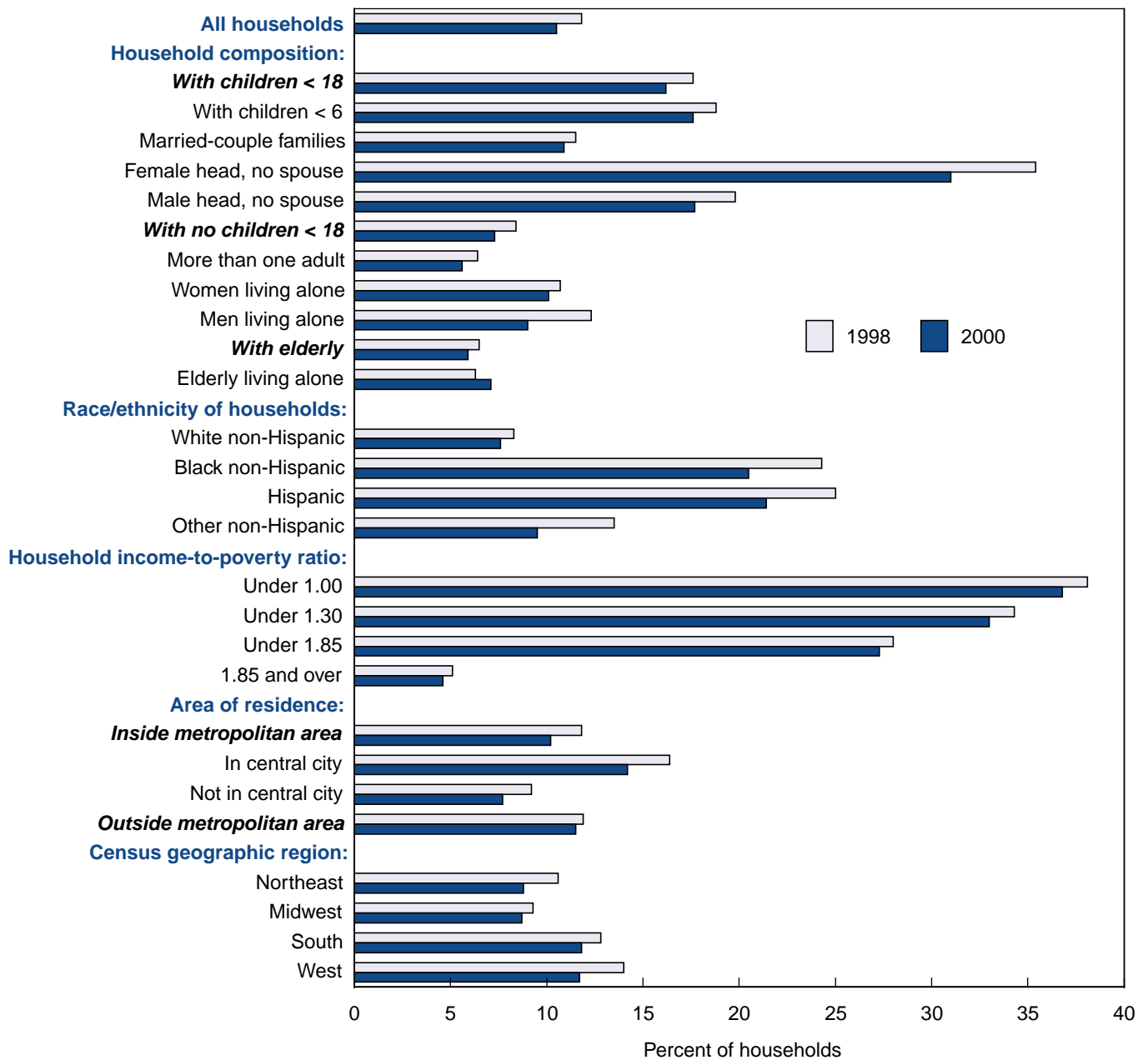
³Hispanics may be of any race.

⁴Metropolitan area subtotals do not add to metropolitan area totals because central-city residence is not identified for about 17 percent of households in metropolitan statistical areas.

Source: Calculated by ERS using data from the September 2000 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

Figure 2

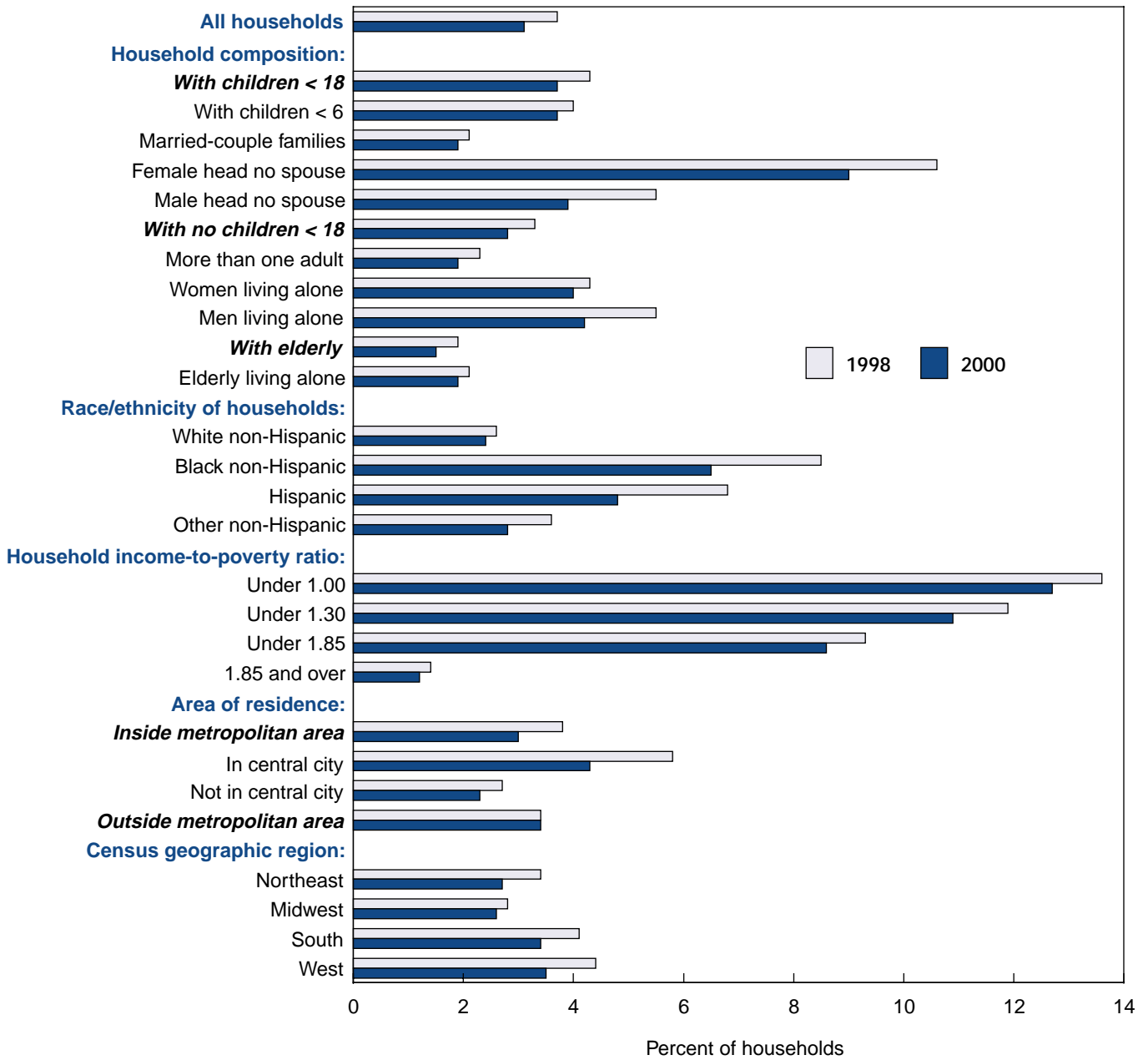
Change in prevalence of food insecurity, 1998-2000



Source: Calculated by ERS based on Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement data, August 1998 and September 2000.

Figure 3

Change in prevalence of hunger, 1998-2000



Source: Calculated by ERS based on Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement data, August 1998 and September 2000.

Food Insecurity and Hunger Among Children

Children—especially younger children—in U.S. households are usually protected from substantial reductions in food intake except when households experience very high levels of food insecurity. Recent research (Nord and Bickel, 2001) has shown that the presence of hunger among children in food-insecure households is more adequately measured by a subscale of the food security questions that ask specifically about the conditions and experiences of children. This subscale identifies food-insecure households in which at least one child, as well as an adult (or adults), was hungry at some time during the year because the household lacked sufficient money for food. Estimates

for the number of households with hunger among children, using this subscale, are shown in the lower panel of table 1.

Nationally, 255,000 households (0.7 percent of all households with children) were classified as food insecure with hunger among children in 2000. This is a 23-percent decline from the 331,000 households with hunger among children in 1998. Households showing the lowest rates of hunger among children were married-couple families, male-headed households, and households with higher incomes (table 3). Children living with a single mother were more affected by resource-constrained hunger, as were Black and Hispanic children.

Table 3—Prevalence of food security, food insecurity, and hunger in households with children by selected household characteristics, 2000

Category	Total ¹	Food secure		Food insecure:					
		1,000	Percent	All		Without hunger among children		With hunger among children	
	1,000	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent
All households with children	38,113	31,942	83.8	6,171	16.2	5,916	15.5	255	0.7
Household composition:									
With children < 6	17,271	14,229	82.4	3,042	17.6	2,951	17.1	91	.5
Married-couple families	26,366	23,500	89.1	2,866	10.9	2,773	10.5	93	.4
Female head, no spouse	9,070	6,256	69.0	2,814	31.0	2,660	29.3	154	1.7
Male head, no spouse	2,099	1,729	82.4	370	17.6	365	17.4	5	.2
Other household with child ²	578	456	78.9	122	21.1	118	20.4	4	.7
Race/ethnicity of households:									
White non-Hispanic	25,410	22,463	88.4	2,947	11.6	2,871	11.3	76	.3
Black non-Hispanic	5,497	4,005	72.9	1,492	27.1	1,402	25.5	90	1.6
Hispanic ³	5,433	3,936	72.4	1,497	27.6	1,420	26.1	77	1.4
Other non-Hispanic	1,774	1,538	86.7	236	13.3	223	12.6	13	.7
Household income-to-poverty ratio:									
Under 1.00	5,625	3,062	54.4	2,563	45.6	2,438	43.3	125	2.2
Under 1.30	8,072	4,689	58.1	3,383	41.9	3,224	39.9	159	2.0
Under 1.85	11,344	7,193	63.4	4,151	36.6	3,968	35.0	183	1.6
1.85 and over	22,173	20,692	93.3	1,481	6.7	1,423	6.4	58	.3
Income unknown	4,597	4,058	88.3	539	11.7	525	11.4	14	.3
Area of residence:									
Inside metropolitan area	30,900	26,075	84.4	4,825	15.6	4,609	14.9	216	.7
In central city ⁴	8,920	6,905	77.4	2,015	22.6	1,936	21.7	79	.9
Not in central city ⁴	16,580	14,637	88.3	1,943	11.7	1,833	11.1	110	.7
Outside metropolitan area	7,214	5,868	81.3	1,346	18.7	1,307	18.1	39	.5
Census geographic region:									
Northeast	6,791	5,913	87.1	878	12.9	843	12.4	35	.5
Midwest	8,965	7,719	86.1	1,246	13.9	1,194	13.3	52	.6
South	13,422	11,019	82.1	2,403	17.9	2,302	17.2	101	.8
West	8,935	7,290	81.6	1,645	18.4	1,577	17.6	68	.8
Individuals in households with children:									
All individuals in households									
with children	152,995	127,858	83.6	25,137	16.4	24,055	15.7	1,082	.7
Adults in households with children	81,232	68,990	84.9	12,242	15.1	11,721	14.4	521	.6
Children	71,763	58,867	82.0	12,896	18.0	12,334	17.2	562	.8

¹Totals exclude households whose food security status is unknown because they did not give a valid response to any of the questions in the food security scale. In 2000, these represented 318,000 households (0.3 percent of all households.)

²Households with children in complex living arrangements, e.g., children of other relatives or unrelated roommate or boarder.

³Hispanics may be of any race.

⁴Metropolitan area subtotals do not add to metropolitan area totals because central-city residence is not identified for about 17 percent of households in metropolitan statistical areas.

Source: Calculated by ERS using data from the September 2000 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

Food Insecurity and Hunger in Low-Income Households

Food insecurity and hunger, as reported here, are by definition conditions that result from insufficient household resources. In 2000, food insecurity was six times as prevalent, and hunger seven times as prevalent, in households with annual income below 185 percent of the poverty line as in households with income above that range (table 2). However, many factors that might affect a household's food security (such as job loss, divorce, or other unexpected events) are not captured by an annual income measure. Some households experienced episodes of food insecurity, or even hunger, even though their annual income was well above the poverty line (Gundersen and Gruber, 2001). On the other hand, many low-income households (including almost two-thirds of those with income below the official poverty line) were food secure.

Table 4 presents food security and hunger statistics for households with annual incomes below 130 percent of the poverty line.⁶ One-third of these low-income households were food insecure, and in 10.9 percent household members were hungry at times during the year. Low-income households with children were more affected by food insecurity than households without children (41.9 percent vs. 25.4 percent). However, the prevalence of hunger in the two categories was about the same. Low-income single mothers with children were especially vulnerable to both food insecurity and hunger; 46.5 percent of these households were food insecure, including 14.4 percent in which one or more persons, usually the mother, was hungry at times during the year because of lack of money or other resources for food.

⁶Households with income below 130 percent of the poverty line are eligible to receive food stamps, provided they meet other eligibility criteria. Children in these households are eligible for free meals in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs.

Table 4—Prevalence of food security, food insecurity, and hunger in households with income below 130 percent of the poverty line by selected household characteristics, 2000

Category	Total ¹	Food secure		Food insecure:					
				All		Without hunger		With hunger	
	1,000	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent
All low-income households	17,583	11,782	67.0	5,801	33.0	3,889	22.1	1,912	10.9
Household composition:									
With children < 18	8,072	4,689	58.1	3,383	41.9	2,527	31.3	856	10.6
With children < 6	4,348	2,597	59.7	1,751	40.3	1,326	30.5	425	9.8
Married-couple families	3,359	2,113	62.9	1,246	37.1	1,015	30.2	231	6.9
Female head, no spouse	3,998	2,138	53.5	1,860	46.5	1,285	32.1	575	14.4
Male head, no spouse	575	366	63.7	209	36.3	168	29.2	41	7.1
Other household with child ²	140	73	52.1	67	47.9	58	41.4	9	6.4
With no children < 18	9,511	7,093	74.6	2,418	25.4	1,362	14.3	1,056	11.1
More than one adult	3,882	2,924	75.3	958	24.7	585	15.1	373	9.6
Women living alone	3,716	2,804	75.5	912	24.5	511	13.8	401	10.8
Men living alone	1,913	1,364	71.3	549	28.7	266	13.9	283	14.8
With elderly	4,172	3,355	80.4	817	19.6	580	13.9	237	5.7
Elderly living alone	2,361	1,947	82.5	414	17.5	291	12.3	123	5.2
Race/ethnicity of households:									
White non-Hispanic	9,454	6,759	71.5	2,695	28.5	1,696	17.9	999	10.6
Black non-Hispanic	4,043	2,432	60.2	1,611	39.8	1,056	26.1	555	13.7
Hispanic ³	3,253	1,967	60.5	1,286	39.5	997	30.6	289	8.9
Other non-Hispanic	833	623	74.8	210	25.2	140	16.8	70	8.4
Area of residence:									
Inside metropolitan area	12,934	8,530	66.0	4,404	34.0	2,969	23.0	1,435	11.1
In central city ⁴	5,501	3,399	61.8	2,102	38.2	1,385	25.2	717	13.0
Not in central city ⁴	4,689	3,277	69.9	1,412	30.1	958	20.4	454	9.7
Outside metropolitan area	4,649	3,252	70.0	1,397	30.0	920	19.8	477	10.3
Census geographic region:									
Northeast	2,821	1,953	69.2	868	30.8	564	20.0	304	10.8
Midwest	3,661	2,556	69.8	1,105	30.2	728	19.9	377	10.3
South	7,240	4,810	66.4	2,430	33.6	1,615	22.3	815	11.3
West	3,861	2,463	63.8	1,398	36.2	981	25.4	417	10.8
Individuals in low-income households (by food security status of household):									
All individuals in low-income households	48,786	30,852	63.2	17,934	36.8	12,991	26.6	4,943	10.1
Adults in low-income households	30,690	20,497	66.8	10,193	33.2	7,157	23.3	3,036	9.9
Children in low-income households	18,096	10,354	57.2	7,742	42.8	5,834	32.2	1,908	10.5

¹Totals exclude households whose food security status is unknown because they did not give a valid response to any of the questions in the food security scale. In 2000, these represented 318,000 households (0.3 percent of all households.)

²Households with children in complex living arrangements, e.g., children of other relatives or unrelated roommate or boarder.

³Hispanics may be of any race.

⁴Metropolitan area subtotals do not add to metropolitan area totals because central-city residence is not identified for about 17 percent of households in metropolitan statistical areas.

Source: Calculated by ERS using data from the September 2000 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

Number of Persons, by Household Food Security Status and Household Type

The food security survey is designed to measure food security status at the household level. While it is informative to examine the number of persons residing in food-insecure households, these estimates should not be used to characterize the number of individuals affected by food insecurity and hunger; not all persons in food-insecure households are food insecure. Similarly, people who live in households classified as food insecure with hunger, especially young children, are not all subject to reductions in food intake and do not all experience hunger.

In 2000, 33.2 million people lived in food-insecure households, down from 36.1 million in 1998 (table 1). They constituted 12.1 percent of the U.S. population and included 20.3 million adults and 12.9 million children. Of these individuals, 5.6 million adults and 3 million children lived in households where someone experienced hunger during the year. The number of children living in households classified as food insecure with hunger among children was 562,000 (0.8 percent of the children in the Nation), down from the 716,000 children living in such households in 1998 (table 1). Tables 5 and 6 present estimates of the numbers of *persons* and *children* in the households in each food security status and household type.

Table 5—Number of individuals by food security status of households and selected household characteristics, 2000

Category	Total ¹	Food secure		Food insecure:					
				All		Without hunger		With hunger	
	1,000	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent
All individuals in households	273,685	240,454	87.9	33,231	12.1	24,708	9.0	8,523	3.1
Household composition:									
With children < 18	152,995	127,857	83.6	25,138	16.4	19,489	12.7	5,649	3.7
With children < 6	72,810	59,413	81.6	13,397	18.4	10,580	14.5	2,817	3.9
Married-couple families	112,734	99,496	88.3	13,238	11.7	10,782	9.6	2,456	2.2
Female head, no spouse	30,705	20,715	67.5	9,990	32.5	7,204	23.5	2,786	9.1
Male head, no spouse	7,410	5,964	80.5	1,446	19.5	1,123	15.2	323	4.4
Other household with child ²	2,146	1,683	78.4	463	21.6	380	17.7	83	3.9
With no children < 18	120,690	112,597	93.3	8,093	6.7	5,219	4.3	2,874	2.4
More than one adult	93,196	87,756	94.2	5,440	5.8	3,694	4.0	1,746	1.9
Women living alone	16,157	14,526	89.9	1,631	10.1	977	6.0	654	4.0
Men living alone	11,336	10,313	91.0	1,023	9.0	549	4.8	474	4.2
With elderly	47,580	44,416	93.4	3,164	6.6	2,396	5.0	768	1.6
Elderly living alone	10,125	9,409	92.9	716	7.1	523	5.2	193	1.9
Race/ethnicity of households:									
White non-Hispanic	195,171	178,962	91.7	16,209	8.3	11,759	6.0	4,450	2.3
Black non-Hispanic	33,505	25,755	76.9	7,750	23.1	5,631	16.8	2,119	6.3
Hispanic ³	32,945	24,920	75.6	8,025	24.4	6,365	19.3	1,660	5.0
Other non-Hispanic	12,065	10,818	89.7	1,247	10.3	953	7.9	294	2.4
Household income-to-poverty ratio:									
Under 1.00	33,447	19,750	59.0	13,697	41.0	9,763	29.2	3,934	11.8
Under 1.30	48,786	30,852	63.2	17,934	36.8	12,991	26.6	4,943	10.1
Under 1.85	71,509	49,402	69.1	22,107	30.9	16,279	22.8	5,828	8.2
1.85 and over	163,288	155,215	95.1	8,073	4.9	6,348	3.9	1,725	1.1
Income unknown	38,888	35,838	92.2	3,050	7.8	2,081	5.4	969	2.5
Area of residence:									
Inside metropolitan area	221,518	195,268	88.1	26,250	11.9	19,467	8.8	6,783	3.1
In central city ⁴	65,772	54,511	82.9	11,261	17.1	8,451	12.8	2,810	4.3
Not in central city ⁴	117,791	107,349	91.1	10,442	8.9	7,579	6.4	2,863	2.4
Outside metropolitan area	52,167	45,186	86.6	6,981	13.4	5,241	10.0	1,740	3.3
Census geographic region:									
Northeast	51,263	46,301	90.3	4,962	9.7	3,637	7.1	1,325	2.6
Midwest	64,650	58,078	89.8	6,572	10.2	4,862	7.5	1,710	2.6
South	95,197	82,340	86.5	12,857	13.5	9,575	10.1	3,282	3.4
West	62,576	53,735	85.9	8,841	14.1	6,634	10.6	2,207	3.5

¹Totals exclude households whose food security status is unknown because they did not give a valid response to any of the questions in the food security scale. In 2000, these represented 318,000 households (0.3 percent of all households.)

²Households with children in complex living arrangements, e.g., children of other relatives or unrelated roommate or boarder.

³Hispanics may be of any race.

⁴Metropolitan area subtotals do not add to metropolitan area totals because central-city residence is not identified for about 17 percent of households in metropolitan statistical areas.

Source: Calculated by ERS using data from the September 2000 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

Table 6—Number of children by food security status of households and selected household characteristics, 2000

Category	Total ¹	Food secure		All		Food insecure:			
		1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	Without hunger among children		With hunger among children	
	1,000	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent
All children	71,763	58,868	82.0	12,895	18.0	12,333	17.2	562	0.8
Household composition:									
With children < 6	36,225	29,084	80.3	7,141	19.7	6,903	19.1	238	.7
Married-couple families	51,104	44,760	87.6	6,344	12.4	6,127	12.0	217	.4
Female head, no spouse	16,301	10,675	65.5	5,626	34.5	5,292	32.5	334	2.0
Male head, no spouse	3,501	2,775	79.3	726	20.7	723	20.7	3	.1
Other household with child ²	857	657	76.7	200	23.3	192	22.4	8	.9
Race/ethnicity of households:									
White non-Hispanic	46,089	40,393	87.6	5,696	12.4	5,553	12.0	143	.3
Black non-Hispanic	10,576	7,378	69.8	3,198	30.2	3,018	28.5	180	1.7
Hispanic ³	11,706	8,186	69.9	3,520	30.1	3,324	28.4	196	1.7
Other non-Hispanic	3,391	2,909	85.8	482	14.2	439	12.9	43	1.3
Household income-to-poverty ratio:									
Under 1.00	12,786	6,756	52.8	6,030	47.2	5,753	45.0	277	2.2
Under 1.30	18,096	10,355	57.2	7,741	42.8	7,384	40.8	357	2.0
Under 1.85	25,150	15,711	62.5	9,439	37.5	9,006	35.8	433	1.7
1.85 and over	39,891	37,290	93.5	2,601	6.5	2,504	6.3	97	.2
Income unknown	6,723	5,868	87.3	855	12.7	824	12.3	31	.5
Area of residence:									
Inside metropolitan area	58,188	48,082	82.6	10,106	17.4	9,627	16.5	479	.8
In central city ⁴	16,904	12,503	74.0	4,401	26.0	4,226	25.0	175	1.0
Not in central city ⁴	31,292	27,336	87.4	3,956	12.6	3,703	11.8	253	.8
Outside metropolitan area	13,575	10,785	79.4	2,790	20.6	2,707	19.9	83	.6
Census geographic region:									
Northeast	12,557	10,804	86.0	1,753	14.0	1,691	13.5	62	.5
Midwest	17,200	14,435	83.9	2,765	16.1	2,620	15.2	145	.8
South	24,541	19,747	80.5	4,794	19.5	4,581	18.7	213	.9
West	17,464	13,879	79.5	3,585	20.5	3,443	19.7	142	.8

¹Totals exclude households whose food security status is unknown because they did not give a valid response to any of the questions in the food security scale. In 2000, these represented 318,000 households (0.3 percent of all households.)

²Households with children in complex living arrangements, e.g., children of other relatives or unrelated roommate or boarder.

³Hispanics may be of any race.

⁴Metropolitan area subtotals do not add to metropolitan area totals because central-city residence is not identified for about 17 percent of households in metropolitan statistical areas.

Source: Calculated by ERS using data from the September 2000 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.