



Florida Hunger Survey

Parents and Even Middle-Income Floridians Are Struggling to Afford Groceries, Want Action from Elected Officials

Hunger in Florida

A new poll from Change Research of 1,045 Florida adults conducted January 2-7, 2023¹ shows that many Floridians experienced hunger in the past 12 months due to lack of money or other resources. Two-in-five adults (41%) report one or more symptoms of food insecurity in the last year. Even those with middle incomes are facing hunger: more than a third (36%) of respondents with annual household incomes between \$50,000 and \$100,000 experienced one or more symptoms of food insecurity since early 2022. (Florida's median household income is [\\$61,777](#).)

Select all that apply. During the last 12 months, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources:

CHANGE RESEARCH™

	All Adults	Parents of Kid(s) in Public School	\$50k-\$99k	Rural Floridians
You were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food	25	29	21	29
You were worried you or members of your household would not have enough food to eat	20	26	13	24
You ate only a few kinds of foods	19	22	20	21
You ate less than you thought you should	14	17	10	11
You were hungry but did not eat	13	18	11	8
You had to skip a meal	13	15	11	11
You went without eating for a whole day	7	8	4	5
Your household ran out of food	7	6	4	2
None of these	59	53	64	52

Parents and rural Floridians are really struggling. Nearly half of parents (47%) and rural respondents (48%) experienced one or more food insecurity experiences in the past year, and a quarter (26% of parents, 24% of rural Floridians) worried that their household would not have enough food to eat. In the survey, several respondents provided anecdotes showcasing current challenges around food and hunger in their own households.

I am a single mom on a low income. I am struggling to keep a roof over our heads, clothes on our backs and food on the table. Some days I skip meals because my kids might want seconds.

(18-34 Female, Miami-Dade County)

I have had to tell my child "no, I can't afford that right now" when he wanted to buy more vegetables and fruit. We eat far more boxed dinners than I am comfortable with because everything got more expensive. [I have gone hungry] recently so my child didn't have to.

(35-49 Male, Hillsborough County)

It's been extremely hard to afford anything anymore. I'm a single mom, and although I ensure my child eats all her meals daily, I myself am only able to eat once a day. It's very stressful and I don't know what to do anymore.

(18-34 Female, Polk County)

¹ Using its Dynamic Online Sampling Engine to obtain a sample reflective of the adult population in Florida, Change Research polled 1,045 people statewide from January 2-7, 2023. The margin of error is 3.7%. Post-stratification weighting was performed on age, race/ethnicity, sex, education, region, and party identification. Weighting parameters were based on US Census data. You can find methodology details and topline results [here](#).

It's Getting Harder and Harder to Afford Groceries

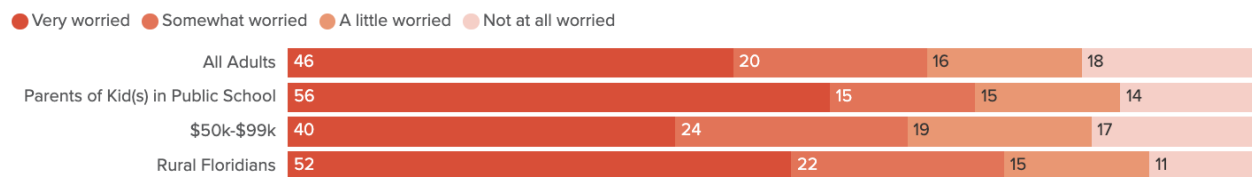
Three-quarters (76%) of Florida's adults are having a harder time affording groceries now compared to early January 2022. The rising cost of food in addition to other essentials (e.g., utilities, clothing, rent, gas, etc.) are the most frequently cited reasons underpinning the increased difficulty of affording groceries. Parents in particular report having to make tough decisions, with nearly one in three (29%) saying that they had to decide between purchasing food versus another necessity at some point in the past year.

Living on the Margin

Many Floridians are just one emergency away from facing hunger. Two-thirds (66%) of respondents say they would be worried about their ability to buy groceries if they had an unexpected \$1,500 expense. Among parents and rural Floridians, this number is even higher at 71% and 74%, respectively.

If you were faced with an unexpected expense, like a \$1,500 car repair or medical bill, how worried would you be about your ability to buy groceries for your household?

CHANGE RESEARCH™



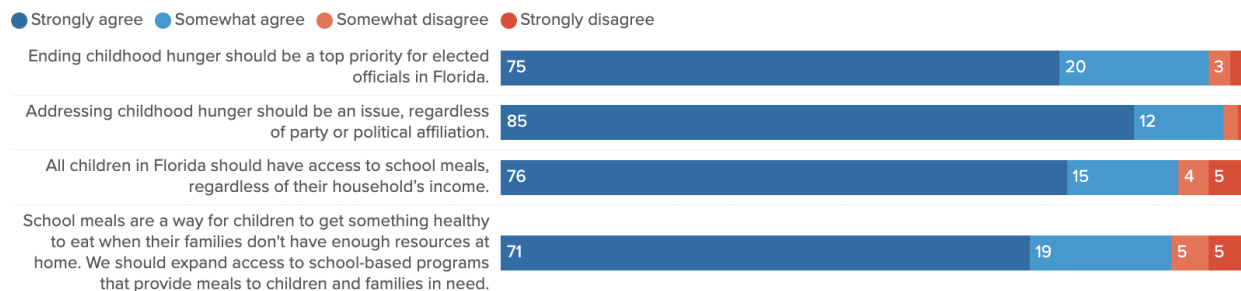
Almost a third (31%) of those who say they would be worried about their ability to buy groceries if they found themselves in this situation also say they would NOT know where to go to access meals or other forms of assistance.

Floridians Want Action to Address Hunger

Nearly all (95%) Floridians agree that ending childhood hunger should be a top priority for the state's elected officials, and 97% say that addressing childhood hunger should be a priority regardless of one's party or political affiliation.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

CHANGE RESEARCH™



Among policies that would help address the hunger crisis, school-based meal programs enjoy wide support. An overwhelming majority (90%) say these programs should be expanded. Elected officials in Florida should consider this and other popular policies that would make a difference in reducing the real struggle that Floridians—especially parents with kids in public school—are facing when it comes to affording groceries and getting enough nutritious food for their households.