

More Than 25% of Marion County Residents Are Struggling to Put Meals on Their Tables

A study conducted in February and June 2020 revealed the stark truth about hunger and food insecurity in Marion County: more families than ever are struggling to put food on the table. The 2020 Meal Gap Study measures the quantity of meals needed to assure enough food assistance is available for individuals with need.

The results are sobering and should be a call to action for everyone in our community.

MARION COUNTY MEAL GAP

is a **STAGGERING**
9 MILLION
ANNUALLY



740,000

MEALS PER MONTH

*Increase due to COVID-19.

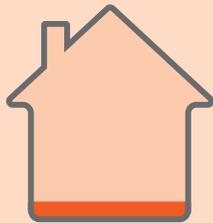
JUNE
2020

380,000

MEALS PER MONTH

FEB
2020

7%
of households
are missing meals
in any given week,



and **60%** of those are missing
FIVE MEALS  or more
WEEKLY.

45% of these food-insecure households have
ONE or more children living in the home.



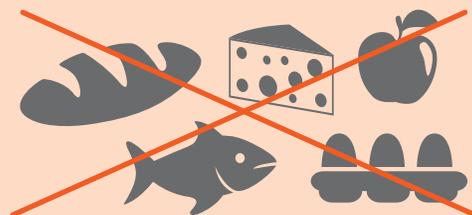
AFRICAN AMERICANS
are disproportionately
impacted, with hunger

50%
HIGHER



than the general population.

NEARLY HALF
of study respondents indicated they
DON'T HAVE THE FOOD THEY NEED
in order to **prepare healthy meals** at home.



There is **ALWAYS HIGHER DEMAND** for food assistance
during the winter

& WINTER 2020-2021
is likely to be worse.



This Is Your Opportunity to Change Lives

The 2020 Meal Gap Study shines a clear light on what is often an unseen problem. Our neighbors are in trouble. Fortunately, when we come together as a community and take action, we can and will have a real impact on reducing and eliminating the meal gap. Here's how you can help:

- Support legislation that maintains and enhances the Federal nutrition programs, such as SNAP and WIC. These programs provide 85% of all food assistance.
- Make a financial donation to support our local not-for-profits that are meeting many community needs.
- Volunteer with a food-assistance organization to help ensure that food gets to those in need.
- Learn more by accessing the full study and finding additional information at indyhunger.org.

The time to get involved is NOW.
Let's take care of our neighbors.

The 2020 Meal Gap Study was sponsored by the City of Indianapolis and the Indiana Minority Health Coalition and was commissioned by the Indy Hunger Network.

