Households in BC experience household food insecurity.¹

Children in BC live in households that experience household food insecurity.²

Household food insecurity is a serious public health issue that stems from systemic inequities.

Household food insecurity affects people’s physical, social and mental health, and overall wellbeing.

Compared to food secure households, health care costs are up to 76% higher for food insecure households.³

The root cause of household food insecurity isn’t the price of food — it’s lack of income.

1 Numbers don’t capture other costs related to food such as transportation or accessing traditional foods, which can be significant for remote and Indigenous communities.
For example, once low income adults reach the age of 65 and become eligible for seniors’ pension programs (a form of guaranteed basic income), their risk of being food insecure drops by 50%.

Research shows that household food insecurity can’t be fixed through food-based initiatives or charitable efforts like food banks - it needs income-based solutions.

Information on data sources used for these calculations can be found in the food costing report.

The Affordability of Healthy Eating in BC

Average monthly cost of healthy eating for a family of four in Northern Health

Northern Health $1,300

Vancouver Coastal Health $1,311
Island Health $1,366
Interior Health $1,264
Fraser Health $1,193

Northwest $1,571
Northeast $1,104
Northern Interior $1,247
British Columbia $1,263

Individuals, communities and governments all have a role to play in making BC food secure.

FACE the facts on food insecurity

Frame household food insecurity as an income-based problem that needs income-based solutions.

Assess the affordability of healthy eating in your community using BC’s latest data on the cost of food.

Connect and collaborate with others who are working on food security, poverty reduction, affordable housing and other related issues.

Engage in policy action to ensure everyone in BC has equitable access to food that is affordable, culturally preferable, nutritious and safe.

For more information, see the Food Costing in BC 2022 report.