Household food insecurity is when a household worries about or lacks the financial means to buy healthy, safe, personally acceptable food.

Evidence shows that food insecure families struggle to afford a healthy diet and experience greater health and social challenges compared to people who are food secure.

**KEY FINDINGS**

**RATES OF FOOD INSECURITY**

15% in Thompson

14% in Cariboo

14% in Okanagan

14% in Kootenay-Boundary

13% in East Kootenay

14% of households in Interior Health experience food insecurity.
LEVELS OF FOOD INSECURITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BRITISH COLUMBIA</th>
<th>INTERIOR HEALTH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4% MARGINAL</td>
<td>4% MODERATE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5% MODERATE</td>
<td>7% SEVERE</td>
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<tr>
<td>3% SEVERE</td>
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MARGINALLY FOOD INSECURE: Worry about running out of food and/or limit food selection because of lack of money for food.

MODERATELY FOOD INSECURE: Compromise in quality and/or quantity of food due to a lack of money for food.

SEVERELY FOOD INSECURE: Miss meals, reduce food intake and at the most extreme go day(s) without food due to a lack of money for food.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE & FOOD INSECURITY

78% of households on social assistance in Interior Health experience food insecurity.

BC AVERAGE: 76%

FOOD INSECURITY in HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN vs. WITHOUT CHILDREN

BC AVERAGE: 15% WITH CHILDREN ARE FOOD INSECURE

BC AVERAGE: 11% WITHOUT CHILDREN ARE FOOD INSECURE
1 in 10 households (12%) experience food insecurity

1 in 6 children live in food insecure households

The majority are employed

65% employed
15% social assistance
20% other

The majority are single people

43% single people
22% couples without kids
34% people with kids (0-18+)
1% other

Couples with no kids: 6%
Couples with kids (under 18): 11%
Single mothers with kids (under 18): 34%

Rates of food insecurity are more than 5X higher for single mothers with kids compared to couples without kids.
Food insecurity is a public health issue that influences physical and mental health across the lifespan. A recent study shows that people who are food insecure use up to 121% more healthcare dollars compared to those who are food secure, demonstrating that reducing food insecurity could offset considerable public expenditures in healthcare.

The root cause of household food insecurity is lack of income. Policy interventions at the provincial or federal level that address household income can make a significant difference to improve food insecurity.

For more information, including a provincial infographic and the full report, visit www.phsa.ca/populationhealth