

## Food Insecurity Factors

### Highlights:

- Households with children (31%) are more likely than households without children (20%), or older adult households (23%) to experience marginal or low food security.
- One-person households, as well as households with 6+ members (and RSJ respondents) are more likely to be food insecure.
- 44% of respondents with disability experience marginal/low food security.
- Traumatic life events (such as death of a family member, job loss, divorce, etc.) are linked to food insecurity, even as no single traumatic event can be said to lead to food insecurity; rather, the accumulation of two or more events of any kind is a predictor of food insecurity.

Food security status by Keeping Kosher			
	Keep Kosher - Yes (n=295)	Keep Kosher Sometime (n=52)	Don't keep Kosher (n=73)
High food security	80%	50%	74%
Marginal food security	11%	25%	12%
Low and very low food security	9%	25%	14%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Food security status by Denomination					
	Orthodox (n=166)	Conservative (n=114)	Reform (n=56)	Secular (n=26)	Other Jewish/Not Jewish (n=28)
High food security	75%	89%	50%	73%	61%
Marginal food security	14%	5%	25%	8%	21%
Low and very low food security	11%	5%	25%	19%	18%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

<b>Food security status by “Household type”</b>			
	<b>Household with children (n=153)</b>	<b>Older Adults (n=183)</b>	<b>Household without children (n=81)</b>
High food security	69%	78%	80%
Marginal food security	15%	13%	10%
Low and very low food security	16%	10%	10%
Total	100%	100%	100%

\*31% of households with children experience marginal or low food security

<b>Food security status by “Finance situation”</b>					
	<b>Living comfortably (n=174)</b>	<b>Meeting your basic expenses with a little left over for extras (n=103)</b>	<b>Just meeting your basic expenses (n=90)</b>	<b>Do not have enough to meet your basic expenses (n=12)</b>	<b>I prefer not to answer (n=23)</b>
High food security	94%	78%	37%	25%	96%
Marginal food security	4%	16%	29%	25%	0%
Low and very low food security	2%	7%	34%	50%	4%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

<b>Food security status by “What best describes your financial situation today compared to five years ago?”</b>					
	<b>Much better today (n=45)</b>	<b>Somewhat better today (n=97)</b>	<b>About the same today (n=174)</b>	<b>Somewhat worse today (n=64)</b>	<b>Much worse today (n=17)</b>
High food security	89%	74%	80%	67%	18%
Marginal food security	7%	16%	13%	13%	12%
Low and very low food security	4%	9%	7%	20%	71%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%



<b>Food security status by Person of Color</b>			
	<b>Yes (n=10)</b>	<b>No (n=370)</b>	<b>I prefer not to answer (n=7)</b>
High food security	50%	75%	57%
Marginal food security	30%	12%	29%
Low and very low food security	20%	12%	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Food security status by Disability</b>			
	<b>Yes (n=55)</b>	<b>No (n=320)</b>	<b>I prefer not to answer (n=11)</b>
High food security	56%	78%	55%
Marginal food security	15%	13%	18%
Low and very low food security	29%	9%	27%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Food security status by Child Disability</b>			
	<b>Yes (n=21)</b>	<b>No (n=355)</b>	<b>I prefer not to answer (n=7)</b>
High food security	76%	75%	43%
Marginal food security	5%	14%	29%
Low and very low food security	19%	12%	29%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Food security status by Work status</b>			
	<b>Yes (n=198)</b>	<b>No, and looking for paid work (n=26)</b>	<b>No, and not looking for paid work (n=155)</b>
High food security	77%	54%	74%
Marginal food security	13%	19%	13%
Low and very low food security	10%	27%	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>In the last 12 months did you or other adults in your household ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?</b>		
	<b>Yes (n=25)</b>	<b>No + I don't want to reply (n=394)</b>
High food security	0%	80%
Marginal food security	4%	13%
Low and very low food security	96%	7%
Total	100%	100%

<b>In the last 12 months, did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money for food?</b>		
	<b>Yes (n=24)</b>	<b>No + I don't want to reply (n=392)</b>
High food security	0%	80%
Marginal food security	17%	13%
Low and very low food security	83%	8%
Total	100%	100%

<b>In the last 12 months, did you skip or delay paying a bill—such as school tuition, rent, electricity, or another regular expense—in order to have enough money for food?</b>		
	<b>Yes (n=40)</b>	<b>No + I don't want to reply (n=375)</b>
High food security	23%	80%
Marginal food security	25%	12%
Low and very low food security	53%	8%
Total	100%	100%

**In the last 12 months... - the food that we bought did not last as long as we needed, and we didn't have money to get more**

	<b>Often true (n=15)</b>	<b>Sometimes true (n=49)</b>	<b>Never true (n=322)</b>	<b>I don't know or prefer not to answer (n=32)</b>
High food security	0%	0%	89%	81%
Marginal food security	20%	39%	8%	13%
Low and very low food security	80%	61%	2%	6%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Do you or someone in your household receive any public food assistance, such as SNAP benefits or WIC benefits?**

	<b>Yes (n=81)</b>	<b>No (n=324)</b>	<b>I don't know or prefer not to answer (n=7)</b>
High food security	36%	85%	43%
Marginal food security	28%	9%	29%
Low and very low food security	36%	6%	29%
Total	100%	100%	100%

In the past 5 years, which of the following, if any, have you experienced?				
	No traumatic events (n=201)	One traumatic event (n=108)	Two traumatic events (n=37)	3 or more traumatic events (n=16)
High food security	80%	72%	59%	50%
Marginal food security	12%	14%	11%	13%
Low and very low food security	7%	14%	30%	38%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

**"Traumatic events" include:**

- Death of a family member
- Long-term disability or chronic illness
- Job loss
- Mental health challenge
- Divorce or separation from a spouse or partner
- Unexpected pregnancy
- Victim of assault or harassment
- Immigration status issue
- Substance use disorder
- Incarceration of yourself or a family member

\*see Economic Precarity set for data on specific traumatic events

	<b>Number of people in the household</b>			
	<b>1 person (n=85)</b>	<b>2 people (n=157)</b>	<b>3-5 people (n=118)</b>	<b>6+ people (n=57)</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
High food security	62%	85%	75%	63%
Marginal food security	19%	8%	12%	19%
Low and very low food security	19%	6%	13%	18%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

	<b>Russian speaking JFS client</b>	
	<b>yes (n=51)</b>	<b>no (n=369)</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
High food security	43%	79%
Marginal food security	31%	10%
Low and very low food security	25%	10%
Total	100%	100%