

**Table 22. Household and Persons Having Problems With Access to Food: 2000 to 2005**

[106,043 represents 106,043,000. Food secure means that a household had access at all times to enough food for an active healthy life for all household members with no need for recourse to socially unacceptable food sources or extraordinary coping behaviors to meet their basic food needs. Food-insecure households had limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways. Households with very low food security (a subset of food-insecure households) were those in which food intake of one or more household members was reduced and normal eating patterns disrupted due to inadequate resources for food. The severity of food insecurity in households is measured through a series of questions about experiences and behaviors known to characterize households that are having difficulty meeting basic food needs. These experiences and behaviors generally occur in an ordered sequence as the severity of food insecurity increases. As resources become more constrained, adults in typical households first worry about having enough food, then they stretch household resources and juggle other necessities, then decrease the quality and variety of household members' diets, then decrease the frequency and quantity of adults' food intake, and finally decrease the frequency and quantity of children's food intake. All questions refer to the previous 12 months and include a qualifying phrase reminding respondents to report only those occurrences that resulted from inadequate financial resources. Restrictions to food intake due to dieting or busy schedules are excluded. The omission of homeless persons may be a cause of underreporting. Data are from the Food Security Supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS); for details about the CPS, see text, Section 1, and Appendix III]

Household food security level	Number (1,000)					Percent distribution				
	2000	2002	2003	2004	2005	2000	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Households, total</b> . . . . .	<b>106,043</b>	<b>108,601</b>	<b>112,214</b>	<b>112,967</b>	<b>114,437</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Food secure . . . . .	94,942	96,543	99,631	99,473	101,851	89.5	88.9	88.8	88.1	89.0
Food insecure . . . . .	11,101	12,058	12,583	13,494	12,586	10.5	11.1	11.2	11.9	11.0
With low food security <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	7,786	8,259	8,663	9,045	8,158	7.3	7.6	7.7	8.0	7.1
With very low food security <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	3,315	3,799	3,920	4,449	4,428	3.1	3.5	3.5	3.9	3.9
With very low food security among children <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	255	265	207	274	270	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.7
Adult members . . . . .	<b>201,922</b>	<b>206,493</b>	<b>213,441</b>	<b>215,564</b>	<b>217,897</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
In food-secure households . . . . .	181,586	184,718	190,451	191,236	195,172	89.9	89.5	89.2	88.7	89.6
In food-insecure households . . . . .	20,336	21,775	22,990	24,328	22,725	10.1	10.5	10.8	11.3	10.4
With low food security . . . . .	14,763	15,486	16,358	16,946	15,146	7.3	7.5	7.7	7.9	7.0
With very low food security <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	5,573	6,289	6,632	7,382	7,579	2.8	3.0	3.1	3.4	3.5
Child members . . . . .	<b>71,763</b>	<b>72,542</b>	<b>72,969</b>	<b>73,039</b>	<b>73,604</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
In food-secure households . . . . .	58,867	59,415	59,704	59,171	61,201	82.0	81.9	81.8	81.0	83.1
In food-insecure households . . . . .	12,896	13,127	13,265	13,868	12,403	18.0	18.1	18.2	19.0	16.9
With low food security among adults or children . . . . .	12,334	12,560	12,845	13,323	11,797	17.2	17.3	17.6	18.2	16.0
With very low food security among children <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	562	567	420	545	606	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.8

<sup>1</sup> Prior to 2006, USDA described these households as food insecure without hunger. <sup>2</sup> Food intake of one or more members in these households was reduced and normal eating patterns disrupted at some time during the year because of the household's food insecurity. Prior to 2006, USDA described these households as food insecure with hunger. <sup>3</sup> Food intake of one or more children in these households was reduced and their normal eating patterns were disrupted at some time during the year because of the household's food insecurity. Prior to 2006, USDA described these households as food insecure with hunger among children. Percent distribution of households with very low food security among children excludes households with no child from the denominator.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, *Household Food Security in the United States, 2005*, Economic Research Report Number 29; November 2006; <<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err29/>>.