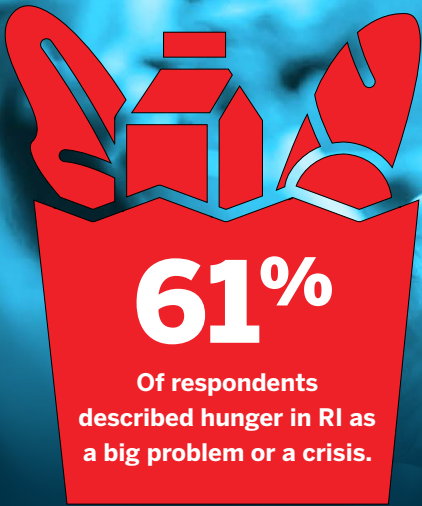




Household Food Access

Rhode Islanders are facing tough choices when it comes to putting food on the table. Through a focused survey of RI Voices panel participants, this report captures how people across the state perceive hunger, food insecurity, and access to healthy, affordable food.



Would you say that hunger in Rhode Island is: **A crisis (20%), A big problem, but not a crisis (41%), A problem (29%), Not a problem (10%)**

Food insecurity in Rhode Island

Respondents experienced food insecurity in the last 12 months



44%

FOOD INSECURE



28%

HIGH FOOD INSECURITY



16%

VERY HIGH FOOD INSECURITY

Trade offs: Paying for food vs. paying for...

In the past 12 months, have you had to make tradeoffs to choose between paying for food or paying for any of the following expenses?



22%

UTILITIES



20%

HOUSING



18%

TRANSPORTATION



13%

PERSCRIPTIONS



10%

MEDICAL CARE

“There are still too many healthy food deserts and people who rely on processed foods because they don’t have access to affordable produce. Food banks sometimes run out of food.”

Responding to “In your opinion, what is the biggest problem in Rhode Island with regard to access to affordable, healthy food?”

Where Rhode Islanders get food

In the last 12 months, from where have you bought or received food? (Mark all that apply)



98%

SUPERMARKET



63%

RESTAURANT



47%

CONVENIENCE STORE



35%

FARMERS MARKET



13%

FOOD PANTRY/SOUP KITCHEN



7%

DONATIONS



5%

COMMUNITY GARDEN



8%

OTHER

“I only buy food from Trader Joe’s, Walmart, and the farmer’s market. ‘Normal’ grocery stores like Stop & Shop, Shaw’s, etc. are too expensive now.”

Responding to “How have increasing grocery prices changed how you shop for food?”

Cost changes behavior

How have increasing grocery prices changed how you shop for food?



60%

SPEND MORE



57%

CHEAPER BRANDS



50%

BUY LESS



50%

CHEAPER ALTERNATIVES



33%

DISCOUNT STORES



31%

SHOP LESS OFTEN



28%

FEWER FRUITS/VEGGIES



27%

LESS HEALTHY

(3% indicated no change, 8% said other changes)

“At least they give me SNAP but the thing is \$175 is nothing compared to the cost of food and I have to go to the food pantry to survive and keep in mind this is me shopping smart! Not buying brand names and I’m spreading out the card.”

Responding to “In your opinion, what do you think Rhode Island is doing well with regard to access to affordable, healthy food?”

Help getting food

Does your household currently receive SNAP benefits or food stamp benefits with a SNAP card or EBT card?



20%

RECEIVE BENEFITS

28%

HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN RECEIVE BENEFITS

If you needed help with accessing food, how confident are you that you could find the support you needed?



7%

NOT AT ALL CONFIDENT



10%

NOT TOO CONFIDENT



52%

SOMEWHAT CONFIDENT



31%

VERY CONFIDENT