New Mexico has the 2nd highest food insecurity rate among children. 27% of our children don’t have access to enough nutritious food.

Low-income* New Mexicans miss, on average, 3 meals per week.

Food-insecure New Mexicans miss 13% of their meals.

Missing meals 13%
Meals from public sources 42%
Meals from household income 42%
Meals from private sources 3%

*Low income = $31,244 for a family of 3 (185% of FPL)

Those with the lowest incomes must spend the largest share of it on food.

- Highest 20%: $177,897, 3%
- Fourth 20%: $80,811, 6%
- Middle 20%: $49,607, 7%
- Second 20%: $28,350, 11%
- Lowest 20%: $10,935, 25%

Sources: Map the Meal Gap, Feeding America, 2016 (child food insecurity); Missing Meals in New Mexico, NM Association of Food Banks, 2010 (missing meals); Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2013 (share spent on food by income level).
New Mexicans with low food security must make tradeoffs in order to get by:

- 75% purchase inexpensive, unhealthy food in order to have at least some food at home to eat.
- 61% choose between paying utilities or buying food.
- 59% choose between paying for medicine or medical care or buying food.
- 48% choose between paying their rent or mortgage or buying food.

**SNAP Usage in New Mexico**

- 24% of New Mexicans who are poor enough for SNAP don’t receive it.
- Very low-income New Mexicans spend at least $200 million a year on groceries not using SNAP.

**80% of SNAP benefits are used within the first half of the month.**

- First day of the month: 21%
- 7th day: 59%
- 14th day: 79%
- 21st day: 90%
- Last day of the month: 97%

Sources: “Benefit Redemption Patterns in SNAP,” USDA, 2011 (rate of SNAP usage); USDA Food and Nutrition Services Program Access Indicator rating, 2015 (percent not receiving SNAP); NM Voices for Children calculations using USDA Food and Nutrition Services Program Access Indicator rating and average benefits data, 2015 (amount spent); NM Association of Food Banks Survey, and Map the Meal Gap, Feeding America, 2014 (tradeoffs).
Most states don’t tax food

Of the 15 states that do, only 2 tax it at the regular rate

New Mexico ranks 2nd in the nation for participation in federal school meal programs

Can’t we find a better way to raise revenue?

Source: “State Sales Tax Rates and Food and Drug Exemptions,” Federation of Tax Administrators, January 1, 2015 (state food tax policies); Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), 2013 New Mexico State Profile, February, 2015 (school meal participation)