

New Mexico Should NOT Tax Food

We have better options for raising revenue



New Mexico has **the highest** childhood food insecurity rate in the nation¹

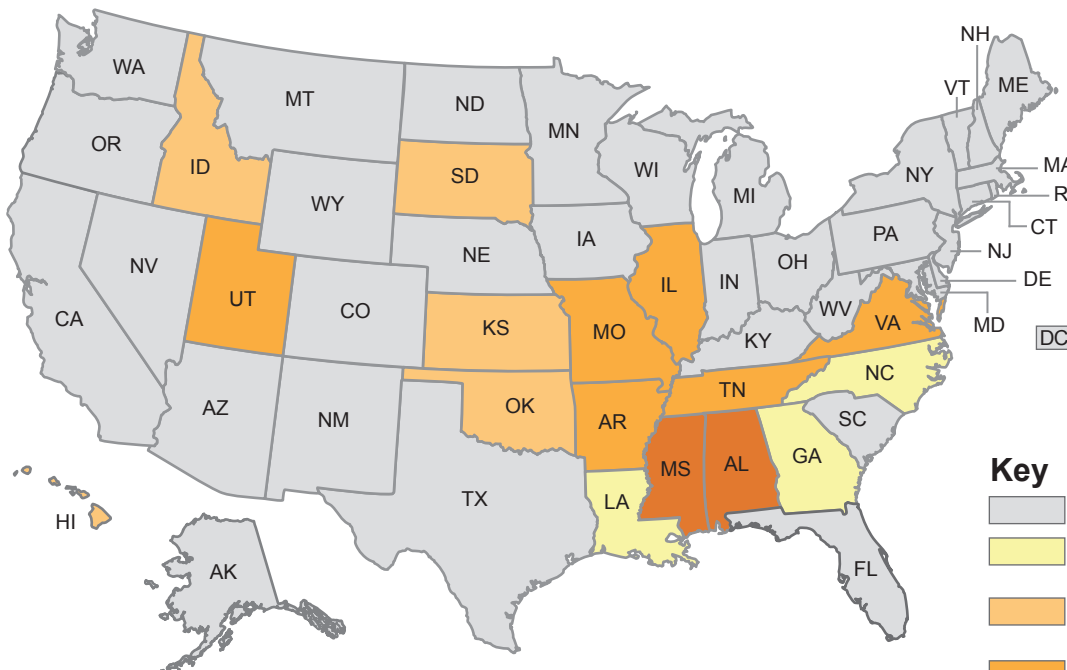


26% of our children don't have access to enough nutritious food

125,200 New Mexico kids are food insecure

That is roughly equivalent to every student in the Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Las Cruces school districts combined not having reliable access to a sufficient amount of nutritious food.

Only **2 states** tax food at the regular rate²



"In the end, the people who we are going to punish with a tax on food are the ones who don't have very much and the ones who can least afford it; the ones who have the least are the ones who are going to pay the highest price."

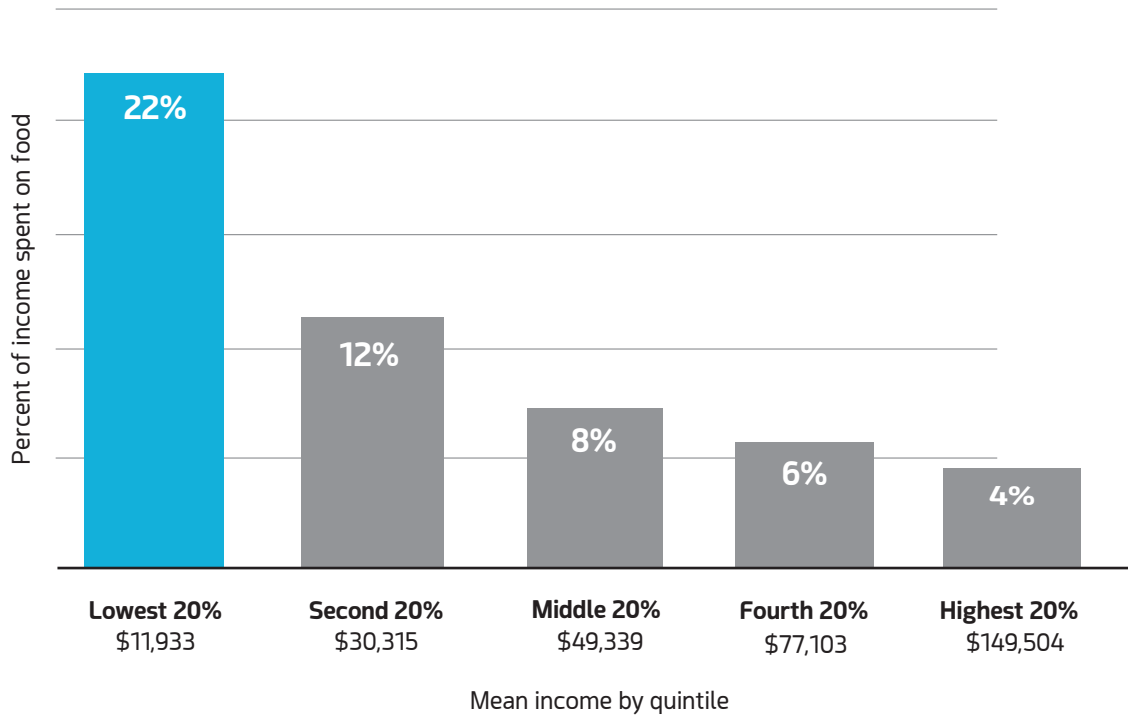
-NM emergency food service provider³

Key

- Food not taxed
- Food not taxed by the state but local governments may tax food
- Food taxed at the regular rate but tax credit provided to offset cost
- Food taxed at a lower rate
- Food taxed at the regular rate

Food is the most basic of human necessities. New Mexico's leaders should be fighting hunger, not making it worse by taxing food.

The lower your income, the higher the share that is spent on food⁴



"Taxing food would be a whole new war on poverty. Only it's been declared on us."

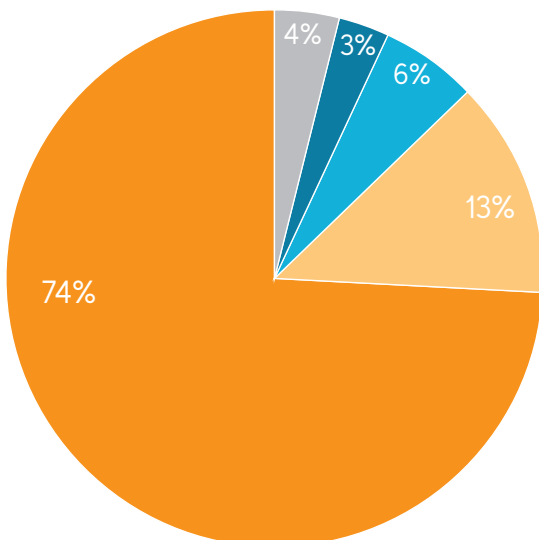
—Hispanic community member, Albuquerque⁵

New Mexicans strongly oppose a food tax⁶

In December 2018 New Mexicans were asked if they would support or oppose the following proposals:

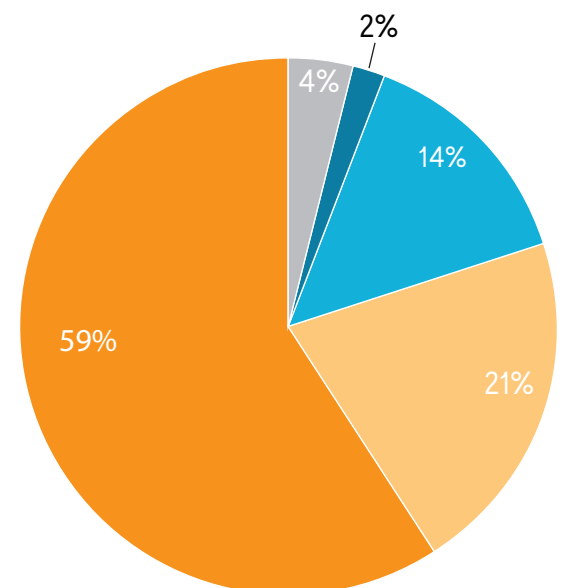
Do you support or oppose charging a sales tax on food?

Oppose: 87% Support: 9%



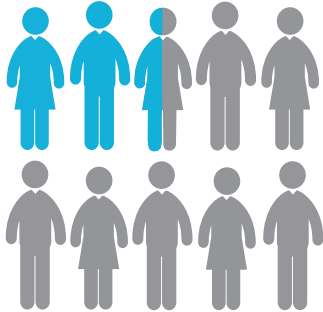
Do you support or oppose charging a sales tax on food but lowering the sales tax on other goods?

Oppose: 80% Support: 16%



SNAP benefits are not adequate to address food insecurity

22% of New Mexicans who are poor enough for SNAP **don't receive it**⁷



and they spend over **\$200 million** a year on groceries⁸



80% of SNAP benefits are used up within the **first half of the month**⁹

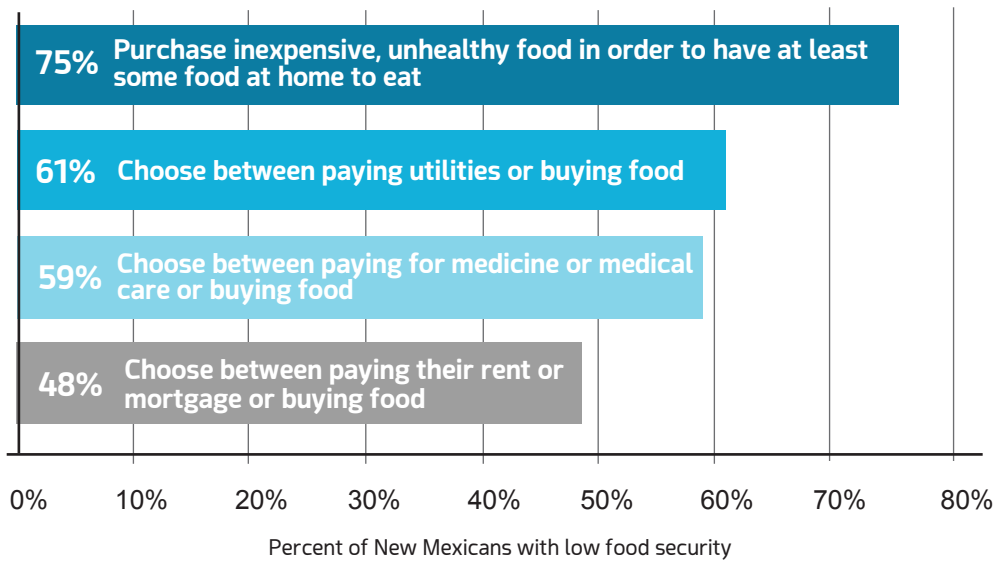


Exhaustion of SNAP benefits at the end of the month **decreases test scores, and increases hospitalization rates and disciplinary action for kids.**¹⁰



Taxing food would worsen food insecurity in New Mexico

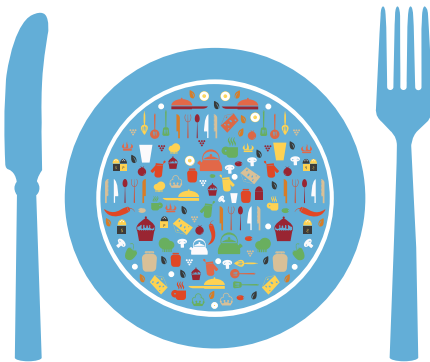
New Mexicans with low food security must make tradeoffs in order to get by¹¹



"\$25 doesn't seem like a lot until you don't have a dollar to your name. Then, it is like a small fortune."

—Hispanic community member, Albuquerque¹²

New Mexicans earning low incomes miss, on average, **3 meals per week**¹³



1 Map the Meal Gap, Feeding America, 2018 (child food insecurity)
2 "State Sales Tax Rates and Food and Drug Exemptions," Federation of Tax Administrators, January 1, 2018 (state food tax policies)
3 A Health Impact Assessment of a Food Tax in New Mexico, NM Voices for Children, 2015 (focus group quote)
4 Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2017 (share spent on food by income level)
5 A Health Impact Assessment of a Food Tax in New Mexico, NM Voices for Children, 2015 (focus group quote)
6 Benenson Strategy Group poll of likely New Mexico Voters, Dec. 2018
7 USDA Food and Nutrition Services Program Access Indicator rating, 2015 (percent not receiving SNAP)
8 NM Voices for Children calculations using USDA Food and Nutrition Services Program Access Indicator rating and average benefits data, 2015 (amount spent)
9 "Benefit Redemption Patterns in SNAP," USDA, 2011 (rate of SNAP usage)
10 Long-Term Benefits of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, White House Council of Economic Advisors, 2015
11 NM Association of Food Banks Survey, and Map the Meal Gap, Feeding America, 2014 (tradeoffs)
12 A Health Impact Assessment of a Food Tax in New Mexico, NM Voices for Children, 2015 (focus group quote)
13 Missing Meals in New Mexico, NM Association of Food Banks, 2010 (missing meals)