

NUTRITION EDUCATION AND LOCAL FOOD ACCESS DASHBOARD

About the Dashboard

The Nutrition Education and Local Food Access Dashboard is comprised of public data. The goal of the Dashboard is to provide a county-level visualization of FNA nutrition support, specifically nutrition education and local food access, alongside other metrics related to hunger and nutritional health. The Dashboard can be used by Federal, State and Local Agencies, Tribal Nations, and local partners to assess concentration of nutrition resources, as well as gaps, for:

1. Providing collaborative cross-program nutrition technical assistance,
2. Developing nutrition action plans geared to target and optimize resources, and
3. Identifying potential partners for expanding best practices.

Data Sources

ERS Food Environment Atlas - Data included in the ERS Food Environment Atlas comes from a multitude of sources including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Census Bureau, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Bridging the Gap Program, and Feeding America. Data are collected at the county, State, and regional level. ERS Food Environment Atlas - <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-environment-atlas/> Documentation - <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-environment-atlas/documentation/>

Farm to School Intensity Measures - Data for the Farm to School Intensity Measures are from the 2018-19 school year via the 2019 USDA Farm to School Census. Data regarding the number of students in a county comes from the NCES Common Core of Data. As a note, this dataset are missing some counties, those counties are represented by blank spaces on the map.

Farm to School Intensity Measures <https://foodsystems.colostate.edu/research-impacts/farm-to-school/outreach/>

Farm to School Census Link - <https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov/>

NCES Common Core of Data - <https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/>

The Tribal Nations included in this dashboard are mapped using the US Census American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian area geography and attributes file from 2022 available here: https://www2.census.gov/geo/tiger/TIGER_RD18/LAYER/AIANNH/ and documentation is available here: https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/maps-data/data/tiger/tgrshp_rd18/TGRSHPRD18_TechDoc_Ch4.pdf

FNA understands that this file may not represent the historical and geographical accuracy of all Tribal Nations and would appreciate any feedback on a better data source. The boundary information in the TIGER/Line Shapefiles is for statistical data collection and tabulation purposes only. Their depiction and designation for statistical purposes does not constitute a determination of jurisdictional authority or rights of ownership or entitlement and are not legal land descriptions. The maps and data included in the Nutrition Education and Local Food Access Dashboard are for informational purposes only and are not legal documents, nor are they intended to be used as such.

NUTRITION EDUCATION AND LOCAL FOOD ACCESS DASHBOARD

Data Limitations

- A. Farm to School Census data are not necessarily representative of the county or State.
- B. Definitions of "local" can vary across School Food Authorities (SFAs), counties, and States.
- C. These datasets include data from different years.
- D. Users should be cautious in connecting data directly to specific health outcomes for several reasons. One, health outcomes are driven by a wide range of factors other than food insecurity, such as access to care. Two, the data in this Dashboard measure food insecurity risk, as opposed to food insecurity itself.

Methods and Key Definitions

To display the data at the State level, metrics must be aggregated using a weighted average, so counties are not over or underrepresented. For the Food Environment Atlas, the estimated 2018 population in each county are used to weight values and for the Farm to School Intensity Measures, the numbers of students in each county are used. These aggregations can be seen on the State View and County View.

The Farm to School Intensity Measures were created using the data from the 2019 Farm to School Census, which was collected at the School Food Authority (SFA) level for school year 2018-2019. Researchers converted this data to the county level and the NCES Common Core of Data provided the number of students per county for the same school year.

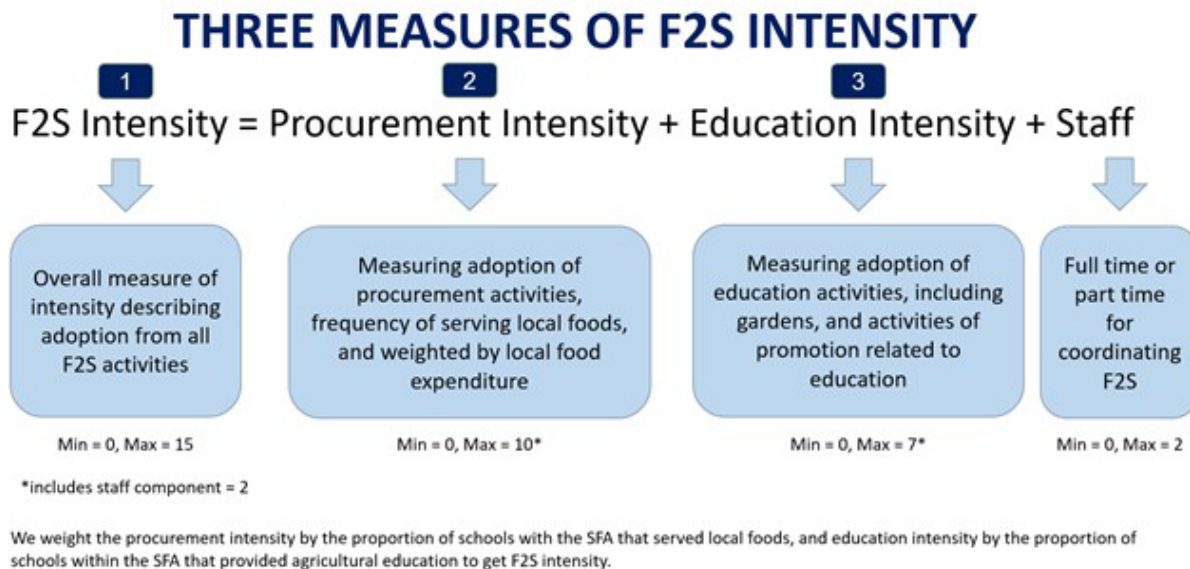
Comparable counties in the County Profile View can be used for collaboration and ideation. The most comparable counties are determined by calculating the Euclidean distance between the normalized values of the given metrics.

Cluster Descriptions (State Level Clustering Only)

- A) Intensity and Size Factors: States with similar intensity profiles and school sizes are grouped together. The datapoints included are F2S Intensity, Intensity of Procurement, Intensity of Education Activities, Number of Students in the County, and Number of Schools in the County.
- B) Intensity Profile: States with similar intensity profiles and efforts are grouped together. The datapoints included are F2S Intensity, Intensity of Procurement, and Intensity of Education Activities.
- C) School Size Profile: States with similar numbers of schools and school sizes are grouped together. The datapoints included are Number of Students in the County, and Number of Schools in the County.
- D) Intensity and Fresh Food Access: States which provide similar fresh food access and intensity to their populations are grouped together. The datapoints included are F2S Intensity, direct farm sales per capita in 2012, farmer's markets per 1,000 population in 2018, grocery stores per 1,000 population in 2016, and the % of the population with low access to stores in 2015.

NUTRITION EDUCATION AND LOCAL FOOD ACCESS DASHBOARD

- E) Intensity and Insecurity: States that have similar intensity values and relative food insecurity are grouped together. The datapoints included are F2S Intensity, the three-year average of household food insecurity from 2015-17, and the % of the population with low access to stores in 2015.
- F) Ethnicity Race Indicator Demographics: Selecting this clustering method will group States based on their demographic makeup. The datapoints included are % White in 2010, % Black in 2010, % Hispanic in 2010, % Asian in 2010, % American Indian or Alaska Native in 2010, and % Hawaiian or Pacific Islander in 2010.
- G) Program Participation: States are grouped based on the participation in various programs offered. The datapoints included are SNAP participants as a % of the eligible population in 2016, the % of children that were School Breakfast Program Participants in 2017, the % of children that were National School Lunch Program Participants in 2017, and the % of the population that were WIC participants in 2017.



Contact Information

For questions, please reach out to FNA.Analytics@usda.gov

For a list of States and associated Regional Offices please visit:
<https://www.fna.usda.gov/about/contact-us/regional-offices>