

LOUISVILLE FOOD SECURITY

Reliable access to affordable and nutritious food is one of the biggest necessities for Louisville residents, and one of the largest components of household spending.

In this report, we examine what a living wage looks like in Louisville. We then examine data on food access and affordability across three areas:

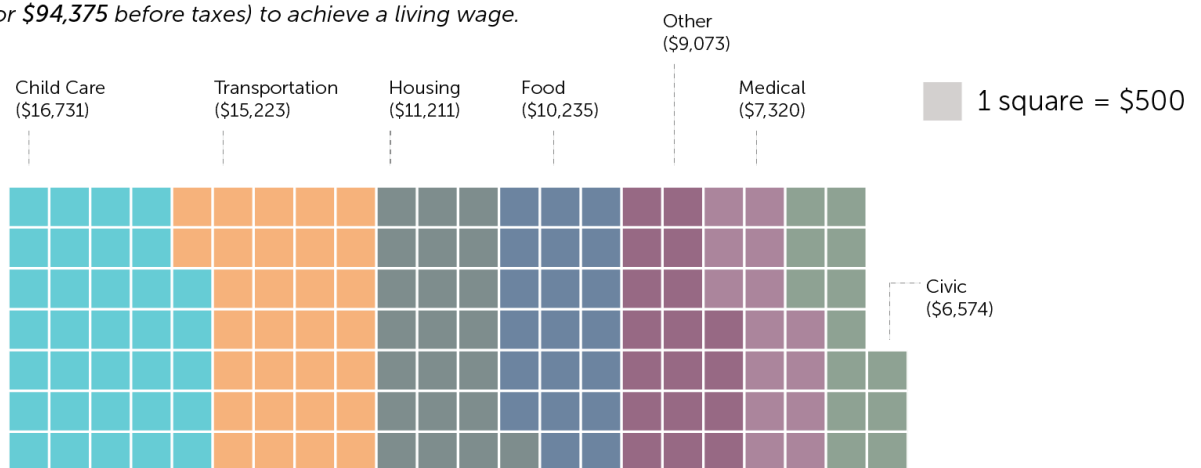
- **Food Insecurity:** the percentage of the population who did not have reliable access to food over the past year
- **Food Environment:** an overview of the various places to buy food in Louisville and its peer cities
- **Food Access:** the percentage of the population who had some barrier to accessing food over the past year — income constraints, limited vehicle access, etc.

LIVING WAGE

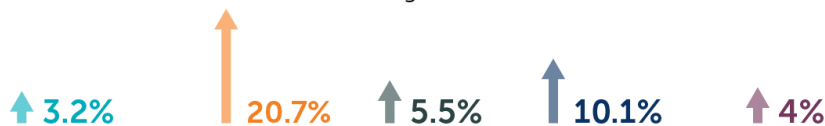
Based on data from the MIT Living Wage Calculator, **70%** of working households in Louisville earned a living wage in 2019 that was enough to cover a basic level of living expenses such as food, childcare, healthcare, transportation, and taxes. That means **30%** of working households in Louisville earn below a living wage; however, that number is much higher for single parents, women, and people of color. **48%** of Black-headed households, and **56%** of Hispanic-headed households, and **38%** of female-headed households earn below a living wage. The chart below shows what a living wage looks like in Louisville for a family of four.

How much is a living wage in Louisville?

*A typical family of 4 (2 working adults and 2 children) in Louisville needs about **\$76,491** eayear after taxes (or **\$94,375** before taxes) to achieve a living wage.*



From May 2021 to May 2022, inflation has caused prices to rise across the board. Nationwide, transportation and food have seen some of the largest increases.

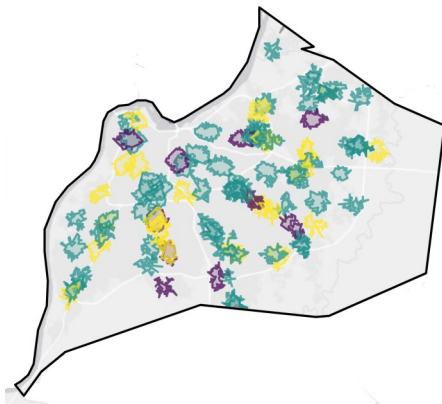
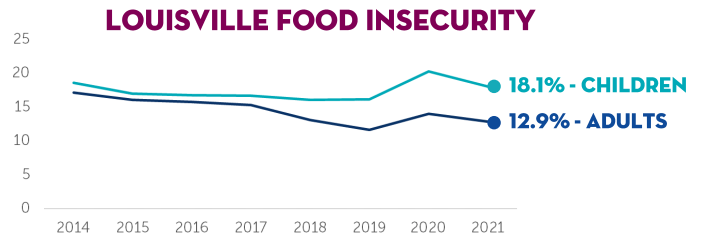


Source: MIT Living Wage Calculator, BLS CPI Inflation Index

FOOD INSECURITY

While adult and child food insecurity hit all-time lows in 2019, they increased sharply during the COVID-19 pandemic. In Louisville and across peer cities, child food insecurity is consistently higher than adult food insecurity.

As of 2021, Louisville ranks **6TH** in overall food insecurity and **9TH** in child food insecurity.



AREAS WITHIN A 1-MILE WALK OR DRIVE OF LARGE GROCERY STORES, APRIL 2022.

KEY
SUPER STORES (LIKE KROGER)
GROCERY STORES (LIKE SAVE-A-LOT)
SUPER MARKETS (LIKE ALDI)

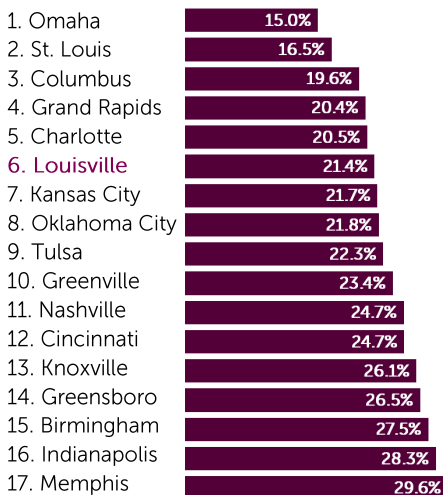
FOOD ENVIRONMENT

Louisville’s food ecosystem provides ample access for some, but not for all. Ample access to grocery stores makes it easier for people to find nutritious food that is within their budget. The closure of two downtown Krogers in the last few years has created a food desert in densely-populated parts of Russell and Old Louisville, highlighting the importance of having more than just one grocery store nearby.

FOOD ACCESS

RESIDENTS LIVING IN A FOOD DESERT, 2021

Income under 200% of poverty and more than 1 mile from a grocery



Distance from a grocery store is especially important when people face other barriers, like limited mobility, lack of access to transportation, or low income. Louisville ranks **8TH** in the percent of low-income residents who live more than a mile from a grocery store, **10TH** in the percent of residents with no vehicle who live more than a mile from a grocery store, **8TH** in the percent of residents receiving SNAP benefits who live more than a mile from a grocery store, and **7TH** in the percent of seniors who live more than a mile from a grocery store.

THE BENEFITS CLIFF

Approximately **30,600** Louisville residents earn too much to qualify for SNAP benefits but don’t earn enough to cover their food needs.

Feeding America estimates the total food budget shortfall for Louisville, or the amount households need to meet their food needs, totals **\$46.4**

Consider a family of 4

(2 working adults and 2 children)

Benefit gap
Households make too much to qualify for SNAP assistance but could still experience food insecurity

\$55,500
Maximum gross income to qualify for SNAP benefits

\$94,375
Gross income needed to achieve a living wage

Source: MIT