

Economic Reality

Fast Facts from the 2020 Food Policy Dashboard

Local food policy affects - and is affected by - the economic reality of our local residents.

Traditional measures of poverty do not capture the magnitude of people who are struggling financially. For far too many families, the cost of living outpaces what they earn. Our vision is that all residents of Adams County will have access to nutritious, affordable food within a sustainable system that promotes our local economy. Currently, this is not the case. Here are the facts on what it costs to live in Adams County.

Calls to 211, a service of the United Way to connect with local resources, went up from 329 in 2019, to 948 calls in 2020

\$5,248

Monthly cost of living for a single parent with 2 children. This amount requires working full-time for **\$29.81/hr***

10,316 FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

In Adams County, 28% of these households have an income lower than the cost of living. 9% live below 100% of the Federal Poverty Guideline.

*note: this total is a for a single parent and the "families with children" data reflects single and 2 parent households

\$3,493

Monthly cost of living for a 2 senior household in Adams County

11,986 SENIOR HOUSE HOLDS

In Adams County, 39% of these households have an income lower than the cost of living. 7% live below 100% of the Federal Poverty Guideline.

\$2,086

Monthly cost of living for a single adult in Adams County. This amount requires working full-time for **\$11.86/hr**

17,225 SINGLE ADULT/COHABITATING

In Adams County, 31% of these households have an income lower than the cost of living. 8% live below 100% of the Federal Poverty Guideline.

Anti-Hunger

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All Adams County residents, regardless of income, should have the ability to access affordable and culturally relevant food.

While some state and federal programs, such as SNAP (formerly 'food stamps'), WIC (focused on Women, Infants & Children), and Free and Reduced Lunch expand the food budget of participants and provide access to food, there are a number of people who don't qualify for these programs but still face food insecurity. Adams County has many organizations seeking to fill this need, especially in light of the pandemic.

SNAP RECIPIENTS

In 2020, the monthly average of people receiving SNAP (formerly food stamps) was **7,518**. That is up from 6,911 in 2019.

FREE & REDUCED LUNCH

In all Adams County school districts, **5,800** students were enrolled in the Free and Reduced Lunch program. That is **42%** of the total student population.

SENIOR MEALS

Home delivered senior meals went up as the amount of congregate meals served went down. In December 2020, **3,513** meals were delivered and **339** congregate meals were served.

16,207

meals served

The Soup Kitchen served **15,064** meals to adults in 2020, up from 14,253 in 2019. They also served **1,143** meals to kids, up from 791 in 2019.



11,398

This is the number of unique families receiving food from major food pantries across Adams County. **1,289** of these families were new

In 2020, the monthly average of families enrolled in WIC was **1,865**

Healthy Food Access

Fast Facts from the 2020 Food Policy Dashboard

Healthy food access is essential for our community to thrive. We must ensure that everyone has access to affordable and culturally appropriate, healthy food.

The most recent Community Health Needs Assessment conducted in 2018 found that 72% of Adams County residents are overweight or obese. It also found that 13% have diabetes, 34% have high cholesterol, and 41% have high blood pressure. Healthy food access is not just about affordability but rather about public health. The Adams County Food Policy Council currently facilitates three programs to address this need: Healthy Options, Fruit & Veggie Bucks, and Double Dollars.

HEALTHY OPTIONS

In 2020, Healthy Options enabled 130 families and 75 seniors to access fresh produce at the Adams County Farmers Market and Kennies Market, for a total \$60,980 redeemed through the program.

FRUIT & VEGGIE BUCKS

Fruit & Veggie Bucks create a discount at Kennie's Market for customers shopping with SNAP. In 2020, 98 families enrolled in the program and redeemed \$13,398.07 in program dollars.

DOUBLE DOLLARS

The value of SNAP and other food access program vouchers are doubled at the Adams County Farmers Market. In 2020, \$10,652 was spent at the Adams County Farmers Market through SNAP and the matching double dollars, which increased due to the pandemic.

1,540

people receiving FMNP checks

WIC recipients can also receive Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) checks to spend at the Adams County Farmers Market. The Office for Aging distributed Senior FMNP to 654 residents.



\$17,400

FMNP and SFMNP spent

Of the FMNP and SFMNP checks distributed, \$17,400 was spent on fresh items from the Adams County Farmers Market via the checks themselves and the matching tokens provided.

65 unique EBT cardholders (SNAP recipients), shopped at the Farmers Market

Economic Development

Fast Facts from the 2020 Food Policy Dashboard

Economic development is an essential part of our local food system. The Food Policy Council aims to support food access that sustains the local economy.

Food Policy is more than just food access and consumption. It is also about ensuring that consumption supports the local economy. Many of the ACFPC's healthy food access initiatives also benefit the local economy, especially at the Adams County Farmers Market and Kenzie's Marketplace.

FOOD POLICY COUNCIL PROGRAMS

In 2020, **\$61,460** program dollars went to vendors at the Adams County Farmers Market, up from \$54,202 in 2019. This includes spending from Healthy Options, Double Dollars, and more.

\$10,652 SNAP AND DOUBLE DOLLARS

\$10,652 went to vendors through the SNAP Double Dollars program. This was up from \$4,699 in 2019, thanks to the Food Policy Council expanding the amount that can be doubled.

IMPACT AT KENNIE'S MARKET

Our local grocery store, Kenzie's, also feels the benefits of ACFPC programs. **\$13,398** went to Kenzie's through the Fruit and Veggie Bucks program. Healthy Options program spending also contributed **\$31,700** to Kenzie's.

86%
of vendors

said the farmers market season was "profitable" or "very profitable"



73%
of vendors

reported that the Food Policy Council Programs were "valuable" or "extremely valuable" to their business

The Adams County Farmers Market hosted **24 unique small businesses**, 18 of which were regional agribusinesses.

Food Production

Fast Facts from the 2020 Food Policy Dashboard

With a thriving agricultural landscape, food production is essential in Adams County. The ACFPC encourages food to be made, sold, and consumed in Adams County.

Adams County is the #1 apple-producing county in PA and one of the highest-ranked apple-producing counties in the United States. The county has been committed to preserving farmland for production since 1990, when the Agricultural Land Preservation Program was established, in partnership with the State, to protect the agriculture industry for the future and provide locally produced food.

\$42,946

This is the per farm average of farm-related income according to the 2017 Census of Agriculture.

1,146 FARMS

in Adams County as of 2017, and the average farm size is 145 acres.

2,040 PRODUCERS

manage Adams County Farms. 29% of farms hire farm labor and 95% of farms are family farms.

166,227

acres of land

in Adams County,
are farmland



27,075

acres

are preserved, and
will remain farmland

14 of these
farms sell
directly to
consumers

Food Waste Reduction

Fast Facts from the 2020 Food Policy Dashboard

Food loss on local farms and food waste from restaurants are an opportunity to increase access to food for those who can't afford it.

Adams County has two programs reducing loss and food waste. The Gleaning Project, part of South Central Community Action Programs, collects extra or unprofitable produce from local growers. The Campus Kitchen Project works with Gettysburg College staff and students to repurpose donations from local businesses and stores, into meals for various community groups. Both did a lot of work in 2020!

283,078 POUNDS OF FOOD

The Gleaning Project of Adams County collected 283,078 pounds of food in 2020 from 157 growers and backyard/community gardeners. That's 283,078 pounds of local produce that would have gone to waste otherwise.

9,447 EATERS

This is the number of unique individuals who accessed the produce recovered by The Gleaning Project in Adams County. Many of these people returned multiple times to access fresh and local produce.

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

COVID-19 impacted our community in every sense. With unexpected job loss and medical bills, many families faced food insecurity, possibly for the first time. These food waste reduction efforts helped to provide families with a healthy food access option.

130,109

pounds of food

Since 2007, The Gettysburg College Campus Kitchen Project has recovered 130,109 pounds of food from the community.



61,636

meals served

With this recovered food, The Campus Kitchen has served 61,636 meals to Adams County residents.

All of these numbers are up from 2019, meaning that while the need was greater, so was the response

Community Health

Fast Facts from the 2020 Food Policy Dashboard

Community health outcomes are inherently tied to the local food system. The ACFPC seeks to improve overall health through programming.

Through partnerships and direct programming, we are positively affecting the health outcomes of Adams County Residents. Collectively we have reached at least 3,241 active participants through the following programs: Penn State Extension's Dining with Diabetes, WellSpan Health's Diabetes Self-Management Program, Diabetes Forum, A Health You Program, and Get Outdoors Summer Program, Healthy Adams County's Physical Fitness Task Force's Runs, Walks and Hikes, and the Adams County Food Policy Council's food access programs.

Of all Adams County residents:

13%

have
diabetes

41%

have high
blood
pressure

34%

have high
cholesterol

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Diabetes Self-Management Program – **258 individuals**

Diabetes Forum – **120 attendees**

Dining with Diabetes- **37 participants**

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Get Outdoors Program – **710 completed**

A Healthy You - **47 participants**

Walks, Runs and Hikes – **1,069 cumulative attendees**

In 2018, 239 people were involved in the Fruit and Veggie Bucks program, for a total of 605 people. 84% of participants responded to pre and post surveys, which found that:

pre-survey, only **16%** ate 5+ daily servings of fruits and veggies, but post-survey, **36%** ate 5+ daily servings

pre-survey, **38%** ate less than 3 servings of fruits and veggies daily, but post-survey, **only 16%** less than 3 servings daily

Healthy Options, Fruit and Veggie Bucks, and Doubling Programs serve over 1,000 individuals each year.