



# *Food Security*

**BY ASHLEY MOORE**

The background of the slide is a collage of fresh food images. In the top left, there are several ripe red tomatoes. In the top right, a light blue bowl is filled with a colorful salad of diced vegetables and herbs. In the bottom left, a dark wooden bowl contains a chili dish with tomatoes, onions, and green herbs. In the bottom right, a woven basket is overflowing with small, bright red cherry tomatoes.

## *Objectives*



- Define Food Security
- USDA Food Security Statistics
- Who's affected by Food Security?
- Factors affecting Food Security
- Next Steps...



# *What is Food Security?*

Food security means that everyone in a single household is able to get enough healthy food to be well and active.

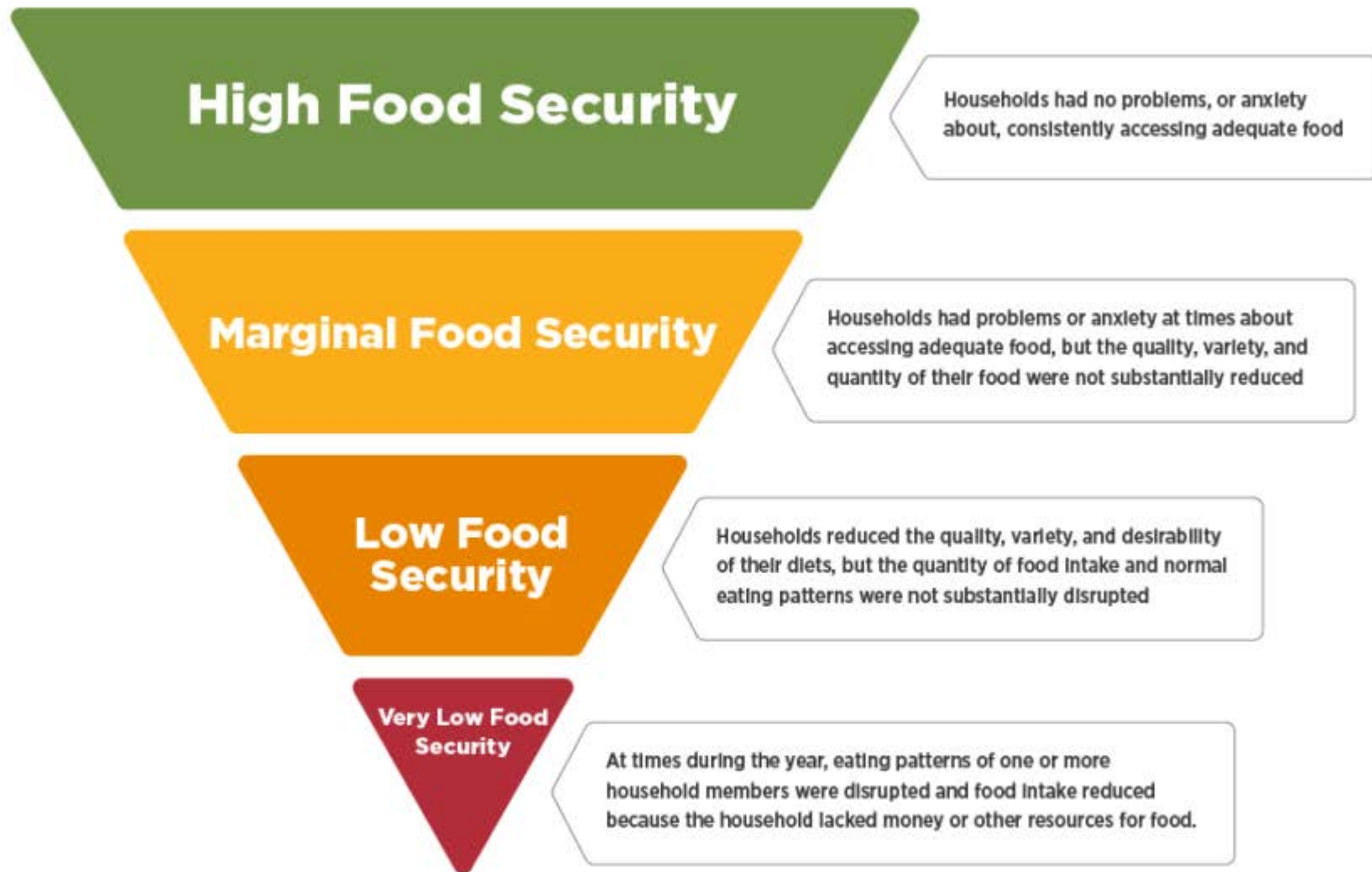
There are four levels to food security

High Food Security

Marginal Food Security

Low Food Security

Very Low Food Security



Source: Adapted from the USDA Economic Research Service.



## *2016, Food Security Statistics for U.S. Households*



- **87.7 percent households had high food security.**
- **12.3 (15.6 million) U.S. households had marginal food security.**
- **7.4 percent (9.4 million) U.S. households had low food security.**
- **4.9 percent (6.1 million) U.S. very low food security.**

2016 USDA food security report executive summary.




## *Who does food security affect?*

- 
- **African Americans**
- **Latinos**
- **Seniors**
- **Children**
- **Rural Communities**
- 
- 
- **In 2016 ,Black/non-Hispanic household food security rate was 12.8 percent; Hispanic (may be of any race) was 12.7 percent, white non-Hispanic food security was 5.5 percent.**



# *Poverty and Food Security*



- 
- Poverty (affordable housing, (project housing) education, social isolation, low wages, unemployment, underemployment) are all driving factors in the lack of resources to purchase food but the root causes of poverty are multifaceted. Other factors affect food security also.



# *Factors affecting Food Security*

---

- Access to healthy food and the food environment
- Agricultural practices (corn and soy mass production for bio-fuel and less vegetables production)
- Food distribution (famine and drought)



*Cont....*



- Environmental factors  
(natural disasters  
Hurricane Harvey,  
Hurricane Marie )
- Economic and Political  
Reasons - (increase  
food cost) mean  
increase in  
food security



## *Solutions*

- Support local small food producers
- Eat foods that are fresh and in season and grown locally
- More access to fresh and affordable food, especially in poor neighborhood communities
- Engage in more dialog with policy makers in hopes that they too will embrace local sustainable community



## References

Food insecurity in the U.S. *United States  
Department of Agriculture Economic Research  
Service*. Retrieved from:  
<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics>

---