



**August 2016**

**In This Issue:**

**Reflections on Food Insecurity and SNAP With Dr. Sandra Black**

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Welcome to the 10th issue of Food Insecurity and Hunger in the U.S.: New Research, a periodical created by the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) and Children's HealthWatch.

IN FOCUS for this issue is "Reflections on Food Insecurity and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): An Interview With Dr. Sandra Black." Dr. Black is a distinguished economist whose research focuses on education, labor economics, and early childhood development. She is a member of the White House Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) and led the development of the recent CEA report, *Long-Term Benefits of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program*.

The second section of the issue – NEW RESEARCH – highlights 10 recent studies related to food insecurity, including new research on SNAP, military households, young adults with disabilities, children with special health care needs, and coping strategies.

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**IN FOCUS**

**Reflections on Food Insecurity and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): An Interview With Dr. Sandra Black**

Dr. Sandra Black is a distinguished economist who is a member of the White House Council of Economic Advisers (CEA). She is currently on leave from the University of Texas, Austin, where she holds the Audre and Bernard Rapoport Centennial Chair in Economics and Public Affairs and is a Professor of Economics. Dr. Black has conducted extensive research on education, labor economics, and early childhood development. In addition, she led the development of the December 2015 CEA report, [Long-Term Benefits of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#) (pdf). Earlier this year at the FRAC/Feeding America annual policy conference, Dr. Black was a speaker at a SNAP plenary session. Follow this link to [more information on Dr. Black](#).

[Read the interview...](#)

## NEW RESEARCH

### ***Special Populations***

#### **Prevalence of food insecurity among military households with children 5 years of age and younger**

As reported in *Public Health Nutrition*, 15 percent of military households with children five years old or younger experienced food insecurity. [More...](#)

#### **Food security among young adults with disabilities in the United States: findings from the National Health Interview Survey**

Young adults with disabilities have higher odds of living in a food-insecure household than young adults without disabilities, according to a new study in *Disability and Health Journal*. [More...](#)

#### **Children with special health care needs, Supplemental Security Income, and food insecurity**

Families with young children with special health care needs have higher odds of experiencing household and child food insecurity than families without a child with special health care needs, according to a study in the *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics*. [More...](#)

### ***Federal Nutrition Programs***

#### **Long-run impacts of childhood access to the safety net**

Access to the Food Stamp Program *in utero* and in early childhood has favorable impacts on adult health and, for women, adult economic outcomes, according to research published in *American Economic Review*. [More...](#)

#### **Massachusetts inpatient Medicaid cost response to increased Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits**

According to a study in the *American Journal of Public Health*, Medicaid cost growth fell in Massachusetts after Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits increased, particularly for people with chronic illnesses that are sensitive to nutrition.

[More...](#)

#### **Identifying the effects of WIC on food insecurity among infants and children**

Results from a study reported in *Southern Economic Journal* suggest that participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) “notably reduces the prevalence of food insecurity among infants and children.” [More...](#)

## ***Coping Strategies***

### **Household instability and unpredictable earnings hinder coping in households with food-insecure children**

A mixed-methods study published in the *Journal of Poverty* explored the circumstances and coping strategies of households with food-insecure children and households with children at risk of food insecurity, and found that households with food-insecure children faced more complex circumstances, greater economic uncertainty, and more intense stressors than households with food-secure children. [\*\*More...\*\*](#)

### **Household food insecurity and medication “scrimping” among US adults with diabetes**

A study in *Preventive Medicine* finds that adults with diabetes who live in food-insecure or marginally food-secure households often “scrimp” on prescribed medications because of financial constraints. [\*\*More...\*\*](#)

## ***Physical and Mental Health***

### **Mediators and adverse effects of child poverty in the United States**

A technical report published in the journal *Pediatrics* examines the factors that help explain the associations of long-recognized harmful effects of child poverty (i.e., the lack of a socially acceptable amount of food, clothing, shelter, health care, education, and other basic needs) on children and their families. [\*\*More...\*\*](#)

### **A cross-sectional exploration of food security, depression, and CHAOS in low-income households with children**

A study in the *Journal of Applied Research on Children: Informing Policy for Children at Risk* finds that families who report higher levels of either CHAOS or depression are more likely to also report lower levels of household food security. [\*\*More...\*\*](#)

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