

# THE STATE OF FOOD ACCESS IN MICHIGAN

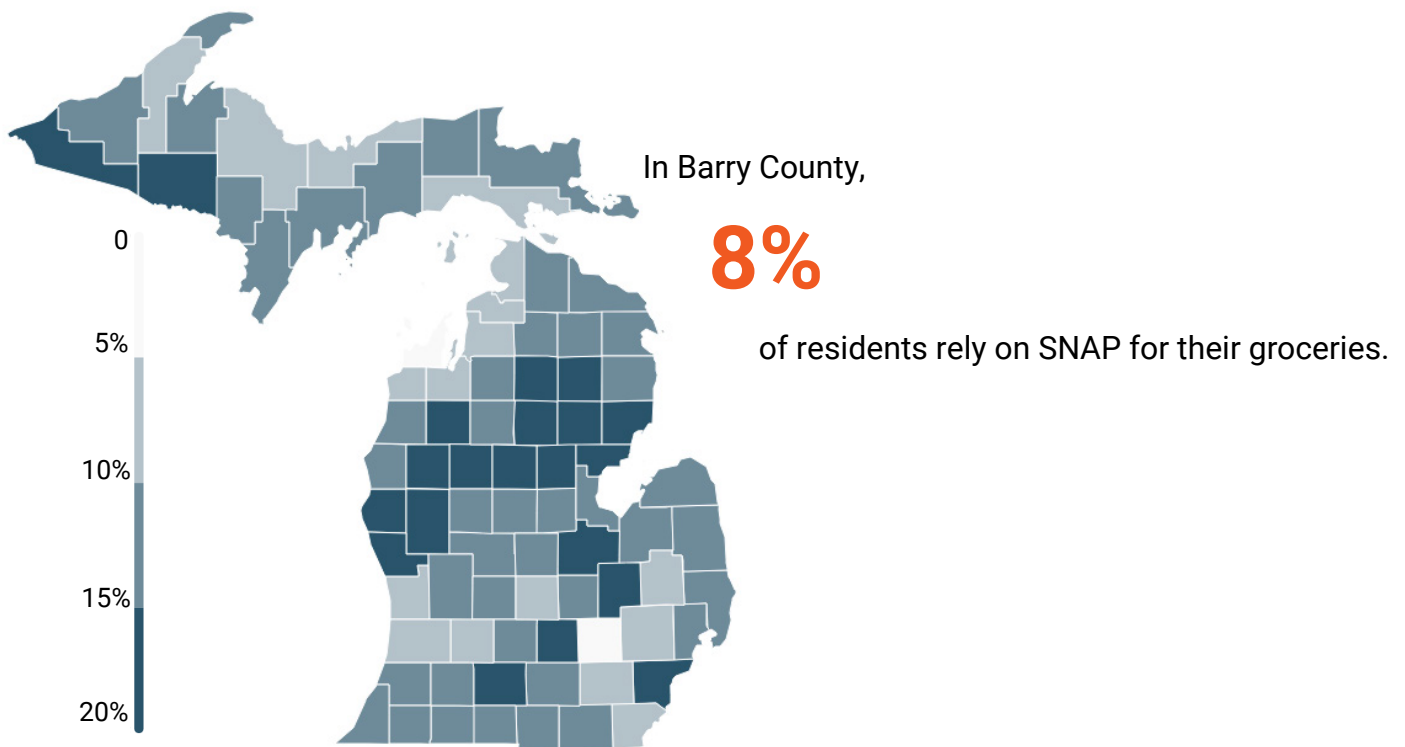
## Spotlight on Barry County

Julie Cassidy | Senior Policy Analyst | Michigan League for Public Policy  
May 2026

All Michigan families should have access to the food they need, but cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as a part of last year's federal megabill will exacerbate food insecurity in Michigan, threatening the 1.4 million Michiganders who participate in this effective and vital program.

### People in every county in Michigan use SNAP to put food on the table.

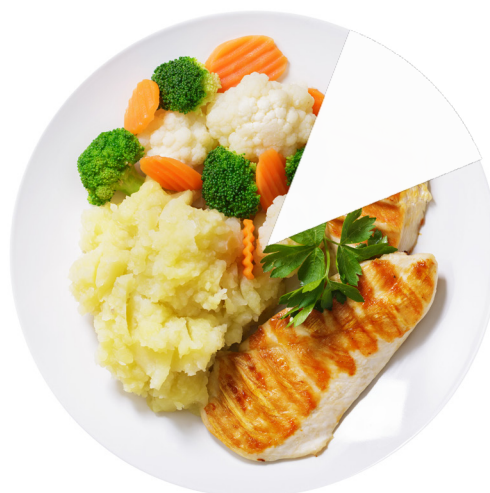
Percentage of residents who use SNAP (by county)



Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, 2025

A modestly priced meal in Barry County costs

**\$3.27.**



At a maximum of \$2.83 per person per meal, current SNAP benefits aren't enough to cover a family's nutrition needs anywhere in the state.

SNAP goes a long way toward helping families access healthy foods, but

**13%**

of each meal is still not covered.

Source: Urban Institute, 2025

**Child food insecurity in Michigan is especially important to address as it can have dire consequences on physical and mental health, as well as academic performance.**

Percentage of children facing food insecurity (by county)

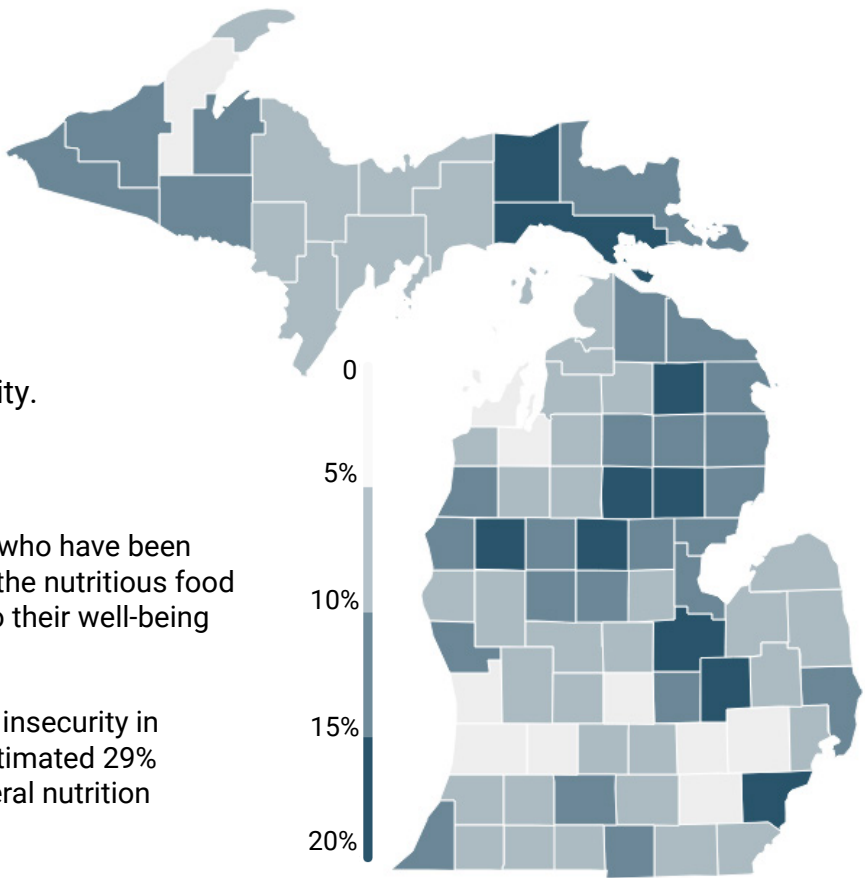
In Barry County,

**13%**

of kids are facing food insecurity.

Ensuring the 1 in 4 children in Michigan who have been supported by SNAP continue to receive the nutritious food they need to grow and thrive is critical to their well-being and their future success.

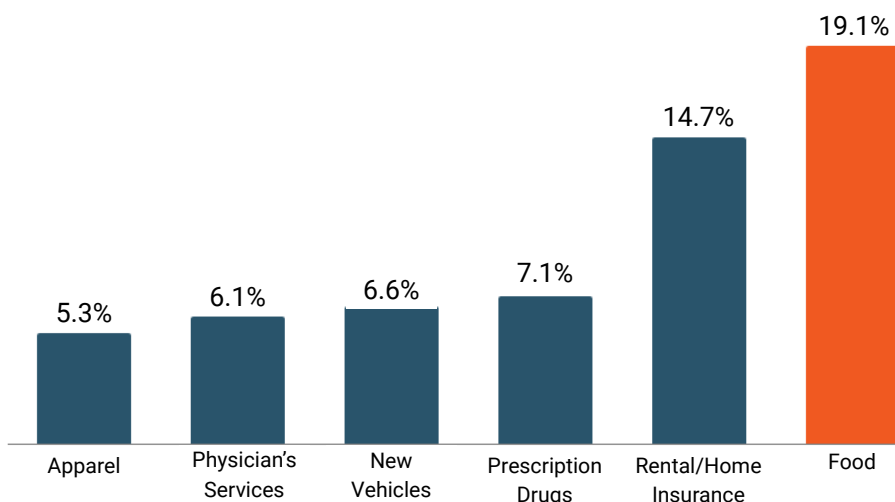
The share of children experiencing food insecurity in Michigan in 2023 was 19.1%, with an estimated 29% of these children likely ineligible for federal nutrition programs.



Source: Feeding America, 2023

**The rising cost of basic needs is putting increasing pressure on families, with food prices among the leading drivers.**

Change in Price for U.S. Household Needs, 2022-2026



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics as reported by CBS News Price Tracker, 2026