

## Food Security Status – Epidemiology Data

### Food Security Status (Health Canada model)

The Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) uses a comprehensive and validated survey tool (the Household Food Security Survey Module) developed by Health Canada to assess the food security status of households. The tool is based on a set of 18 questions and indicates whether households both with and without children were able to afford the food they needed in the previous 12 months. It captures three kinds of situations:

**Food secure:** No, or one, indication of difficulty with income-related food access.

**Moderately food insecure:** Indication of compromise in quality and/or quantity of food consumed.

**Severely food insecure:** Indication of reduced food intake and disrupted eating patterns.

### Food Security Status: Ottawa compared to the rest of the province

- In 2009/2010, 6.8% (50,400) of residents in Ottawa indicated some level of food insecurity. This is not statistically different from the rest of the province, where 7.6% of the population report some level of food insecurity.
- Note: the difference between the prevalence of food insecure individuals in Ottawa between 2007/2008 and 2009/2010 is not statistically significant.

**Table 1a: Food Security Status (2 categories), Ottawa and the rest of the province 2007/2008 and 2009/2010**

Year	Level of Household Food Security	Ottawa			Ontario-less-Ottawa	
		Number	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
2007/2008	Food secure	643900	92.6	1.7	92.2	0.5
	<b>Food insecure</b>	<b>51400</b>	<b>7.4</b>	1.7	<b>7.8</b>	0.5
2009/2010	Food secure	687500	93.2	2.0	92.4	0.5
	<b>Food insecure</b>	<b>50400</b>	<b>6.8</b>	2.0	<b>7.6</b>	0.5

\*Interpret with caution – high sampling variability

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey, Statistics Canada Share File

**Table 1b: Food Security Status (3 categories), Ottawa and the rest of the province 2007/2008 and 2009/2010**

Year	Level of Household Food Security	Ottawa			Ontario-less-Ottawa	
		Number	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
2007/2008	Food secure	643900	92.6	1.7	92.2	0.5
	Food insecure with MODERATE hunger	<b>30300</b>	<b>4.4</b>	1.1	<b>5.2</b>	0.4
	Food insecure with SEVERE hunger	<b>21200*</b>	<b>3.1*</b>	1.3	<b>2.6</b>	0.3
2009	Food secure	687500	93.2	2.0	92.4	0.5
	Food insecure with MODERATE hunger	<b>33400*</b>	<b>4.5*</b>	1.6	<b>5.1</b>	0.4

	Food insecure with SEVERE hunger	<b>16900*</b>	<b>2.3*</b>	1.2	<b>2.5</b>	0.3
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\*Interpret with caution – high sampling variability

NR = Data is not reportable

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey, Statistics Canada Share File

## Food Security Status: Household Income

- The proportion of food secure households increases with increasing household income (per people living in the household). (Table 2a, Figure 1)
- In 2009/2010, 41%\* of residents living in the lowest income category and 29%\* of residents in the lower middle income category indicated some level of food insecurity. The lowest income and lower middle income category capture residents living below the Low Income Cut-Off.
- Note: the increase from 2007/2008 to 2009/2010 in low income food insecure individuals in Ottawa is not statistically significant.

**Table 2a: Food Security Status by Household Income, Ottawa 2007/2008 and 2009/2010**

Year	Level of Household Food Security	Lowest Income		Lower Middle Income		Upper Middle Income		Highest Income		Not Stated	
		%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
2007/2008	Food secure	62.3	8.8	74.9	8.0	87.0	4.9	99.0	1.0	96.8	5.0
	<b>Food insecure</b>	<b>37.7</b>	8.8	<b>25.1*</b>	8.0	<b>13.0*</b>	4.9	<b>NR</b>		<b>NR</b>	
2009/2010	Food secure	59.0	13.5	71.0	11.0	92.3	4.3	98.8		96.2	
	<b>Food insecure</b>	<b>41.0*</b>	13.5	<b>29.0*</b>	11.0	<b>7.7*</b>	4.3	<b>NR</b>		<b>NR</b>	

\*Interpret with caution – high sampling variability

NR = Data is not reportable

Note: Household income categories are based on household income and the number of people living in the household and are defined as:

Lowest income= <\$15,000 if 1 or 2 people or <\$20,000 if 3 or 4 people or <\$30,000 if 5+ people;

Lower middle income= \$15,000 to <\$30,000 if 1 or 2 people or \$20,000 to <\$40,000 if 3 or 4 people or \$30,000 to <\$60,000 if 5+ people;

Upper middle income= \$30,000 to <\$60,000 if 1 or 2 people or \$40,000 to <\$80,000 if 3 or 4 people or \$60,000 to <\$80,000 if 5+ people; Highest income= >\$60,000 if 1 or 2 people or >\$80,000 if 3+ people

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey, Statistics Canada Share File

**Table 2b: Food Security Status for residents living below the LICO, Ottawa 2007/2008 and 2009/2010**

Year	Level of Household Food Security	Number	Below the LICO (Lowest Income + Lower Middle Income)	
			%	95% CI
2007/2008	Food secure	65600	70.6	6.1
	<b>Food insecure</b>	<b>27300</b>	<b>29.4</b>	6.1
2009/2010	Food secure	65500	67.0	9.3
	<b>Food insecure</b>	<b>32200</b>	<b>33.0</b>	9.3

Note: To assess residents living below the LICO, a combination of the Lowest Income and Lower Middle Income categories and is based on household income and the number of people living in the household. However, income data was captured using ranges of income and do not exactly match the LICO.

<\$15,000 if 1 or 2 people or <\$20,000 if 3 or 4 people or <\$30,000 if 5+ people; \$15,000 to <\$30,000 if 1 or 2 people or \$20,000 to <\$40,000 if 3 or 4 people or \$30,00 to <\$60,000 if 5+ people;  
Source: Canadian Community Health Survey, Statistics Canada Share File