

According to a 2013 report from the USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) most U.S. households are food secure, meaning that they had consistent, dependable access to enough food for active, healthy living. However, a minority of households face some type of food insecurity, meaning that they had difficulty at some time during the year providing enough food for all household members due to a lack of resources.

The Center for Rural Studies at the University of Vermont conducted research for the Burlington Partnership for a Healthy Community (BPHC) to create a community profile and set of evidence based policy recommendations for improving Burlington's infrastructure in support of food security and access to healthy foods and good nutrition for all members of the community, with a special focus on low-income residents. This report contains information relating to the food security section of the survey and was derived from questions asked to Burlington residents relating to food and food access; n = 282. The questions were based on phone calls using the USDA's Community Food Assessment Toolkit. The report focused on comparing the percentage of Burlington households with children under the age of eighteen who experienced food insecurity to previously gathered information on household food insecurity. A chi square test was used to determine how closely the sample proportions compared to the population. The research results of the Burlington Healthy Food Survey (BHFS) indicate a strong correlation between household food security and the presence of children in the household. These results closely parallel results reported by other research studies.