



# The Issue of Food Insecurity Through the Lens of Catholic Social Teaching

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Capstone for the Minor in Catholic Social Tradition

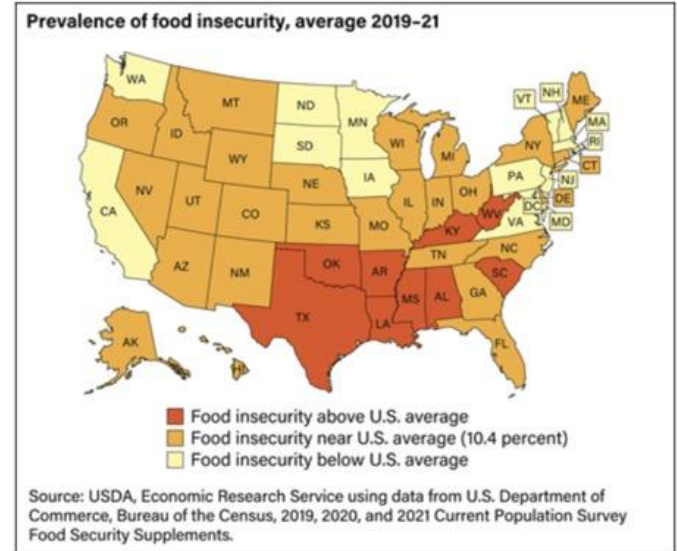
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# Introduction

- Food insecurity- a local, national, and global issue
  - 2 billion people worldwide
  - 19 million people in the U.S.



(Gallegos et al., 2021; *Hunger*; Silva, 2020)

*Food Security and Nutrition Assistance*. (2022). United States Department of Agriculture- Economic Research Service. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/ag-and-food-statistics-charting-the-essentials/food-security-and-nutrition-assistance/>

# CST Themes



- Life and dignity of the human person
- Call to family, community, and participation
- Rights and responsibilities
- Option for the poor and vulnerable
- Dignity of work and the rights of workers
- Solidarity
- Care for God's creation

# Food Insecurity in CST Documents



- *Populorum progressio*- Pope Paul VI, 1967
  - “The imbalance grows with each passing day; while some nations produce a food surplus, other nations are in desperate need of food or are unsure of their export market” (Paul VI, 1967, para. 8).
- *Economic Justice for All: Pastoral Letter on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy*- USCCB, 1986

# Food Insecurity in CST Documents

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- *Caritas in veritate*- Pope Benedict XVI, 2009
  - Food insecurity- “needs to be addressed within a long-term perspective, eliminating the structural causes that give rise to it and promoting the agricultural development of poorer countries” (Benedict XVI, 2009, para. 27).

# Adverse Effects of Food Insecurity



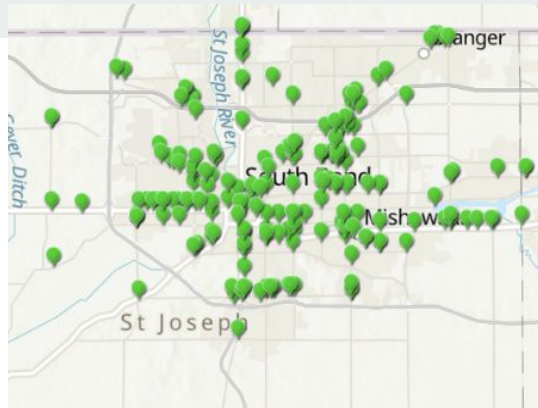
- Food insecurity→ inadequate access to food, lack of essential nutrients, stress, anxiety
- Negative impacts on physical, social, cognitive, and behavioral development of children
- Worse health outcomes for children

# Local Focus: South Bend, IN/Saint Joseph County

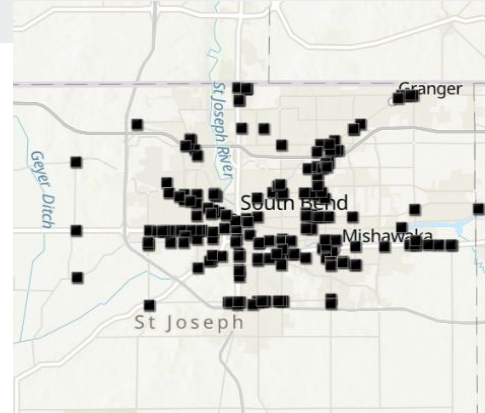
- Food insecurity and food deserts
- Food pantries
- Soup kitchens
- Food assistance programs
  - SNAP
  - WIC



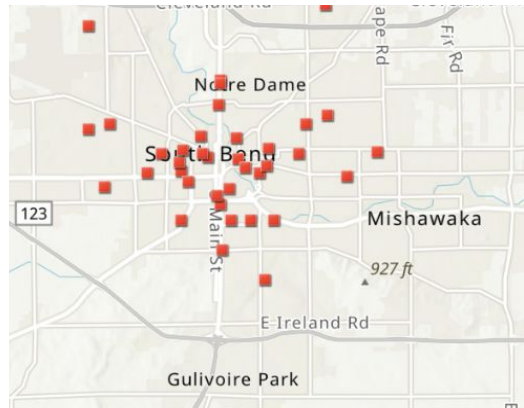
Image Sources:  
<https://feedingindianashungry.org/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap-benefit-changes-made-oct-1-2021/>  
<https://www.communityandfamilyservices.org/wic>



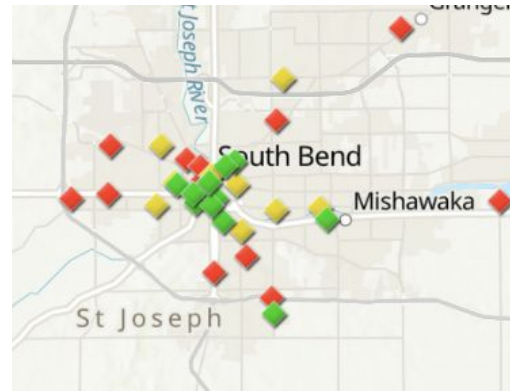
SNAP Store Locations



WIC Store Locations



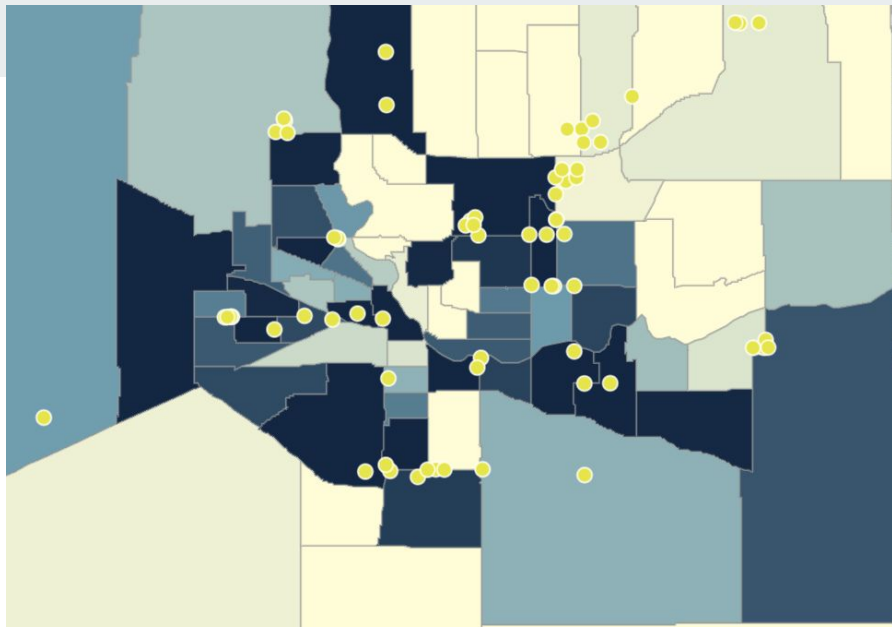
Unity Gardens Locations



Food Pantry Locations

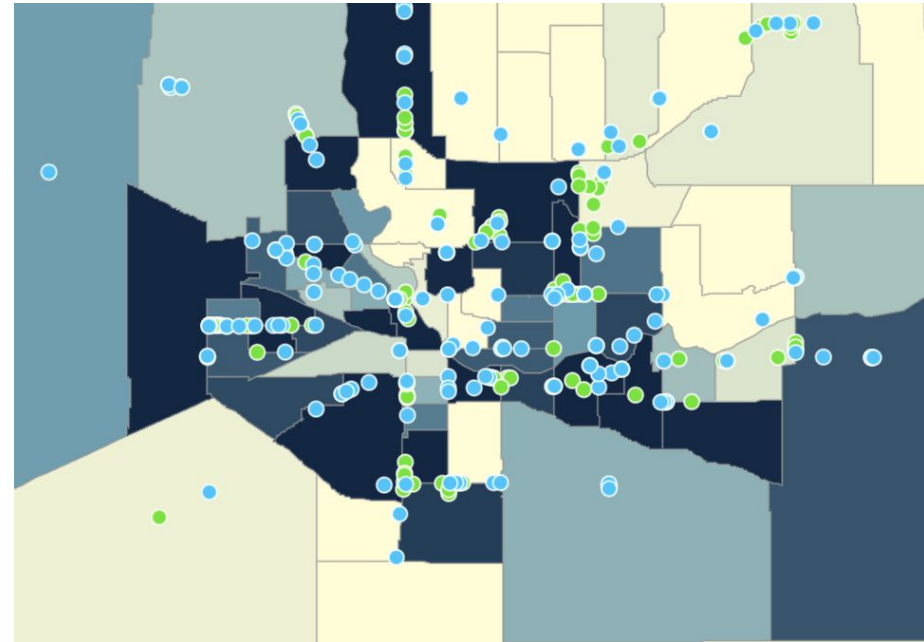
Zheng, E., White, M., Tamura, M., & Wang, Z. (2022). *Food Access in Saint Joseph County*. ArcGIS StoryMaps. <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/c3b6ed1183944db697995d7d76e062d2>





Locations of Grocery Stores

Locations of Gas Stations, Convenience Stores, Liquor Stores, and Fast-Food Restaurants



CSC Food Desert Maps. ArcGIS Map Viewer.  
<https://notredame.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=d2b39dc6152b49efbbb6f43956e21b2>

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