

# Food Insecurities & Drought/Heat

Sustainable Solano, Olivia Thompson, 2022

Background Information



Food Insecurities



Heat/Drought

# Food Insecurities



## Food Insecurities

Food insecurity is the lack of sufficient food access that cannot be met to a household's needs. In Solano County, the food insecurity rate is approximately 8.5%, which is lower than the national average as 22.0%. In the community, there is a lack of food supply. During the span of the pandemic, the need of food in either smaller or larger households are both majorly needed. With the shortage of food supply, it creates conflict because it effects some families who cannot receive as much food as other households whether its due to number of people or how much food is produced by farmers. When schools, businesses, and other companies that were forced to shut down for long periods of time had larger demands for the stomachs they had to feed or the income they brought into their homes

With there being smaller households in the community, some facilities provide smaller amounts of food due to other larger families in need. This can create conflict because it can put those families in need of more food in a bad situation during the pandemic and would have to either wait for more food from the facilities that schools were assigned to or look for other alternatives/resources that would still have a possibility of not providing as much.

For farmers, these effects their amount of work and demand from the county. Farmers during the 2020-2021 span were forced to work at same salary but with more hours to work to produce more food to sell and provide to the public. Throughout the span of the lockdown, many schools provided food to students and relied on farmers to have the material and water supply to grow crops for the public. From the end of the 2019-2020 school year to the 2020-2021 school year, the community relied on the school to have enough food to share to families, but in some cases, there were school that ran out of food and effected households who had to either wait or find other resources until there were more in stock of food. I think that this could be solved if the neighborhood or community could hold a monthly gardening activity in an accessible location for people to plant and take the necessary amount of food for their households.

# Heat/Drought



In our area, Solano County struggle majorly with the water supply. Our major factors for water supply through the county come from ground water wells, the State Water Project, and the Solano County Water Agency that is located in areas around Lake Berryessa, Napa, Vallejo and Lake Curry. These water projects provide supply for agricultural districts for farmers to produce food and sell the cities. In order for our farmers to be successful, we need the right amount of water distributed throughout the year. But unfortunately, our county is in serious drought, which was declared by the US Small Business Administration which could potentially continue through 2022.

The cause of the drought could potentially be from drastic weather conditions that cause local wildfires or lack of rain, unnecessary use of water supply such as: over watering grass, holding large water events, filling large masses of water that do not benefit households/business, etc. Due to only some of these causes, these make great impacts of the drought in Solano County and makes it harder for farmers and small businesses to produce crops and other necessities for life. This drought has put many businesses in troubled places and effects cities as a whole as a result. As a possible solution of aid as a community, there can be "Water Conservation Days" where households can track how much water they use and coming up with ways to not use as much. Another idea is having a community camping day in safe areas such as a park, where families come together and have a camping day (s) which can conserve water and amounts of electricity in households for numerous days.