

# Food Insecurity Tampa Bay

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The connections between climate, agriculture and food must be made to promote sustainability in local and regional food systems. The science is clear: Climate change causes erratic weather patterns, extreme temperatures and changes in natural resources, threatening farmers' ability to sustainably produce and maintain quality crops.

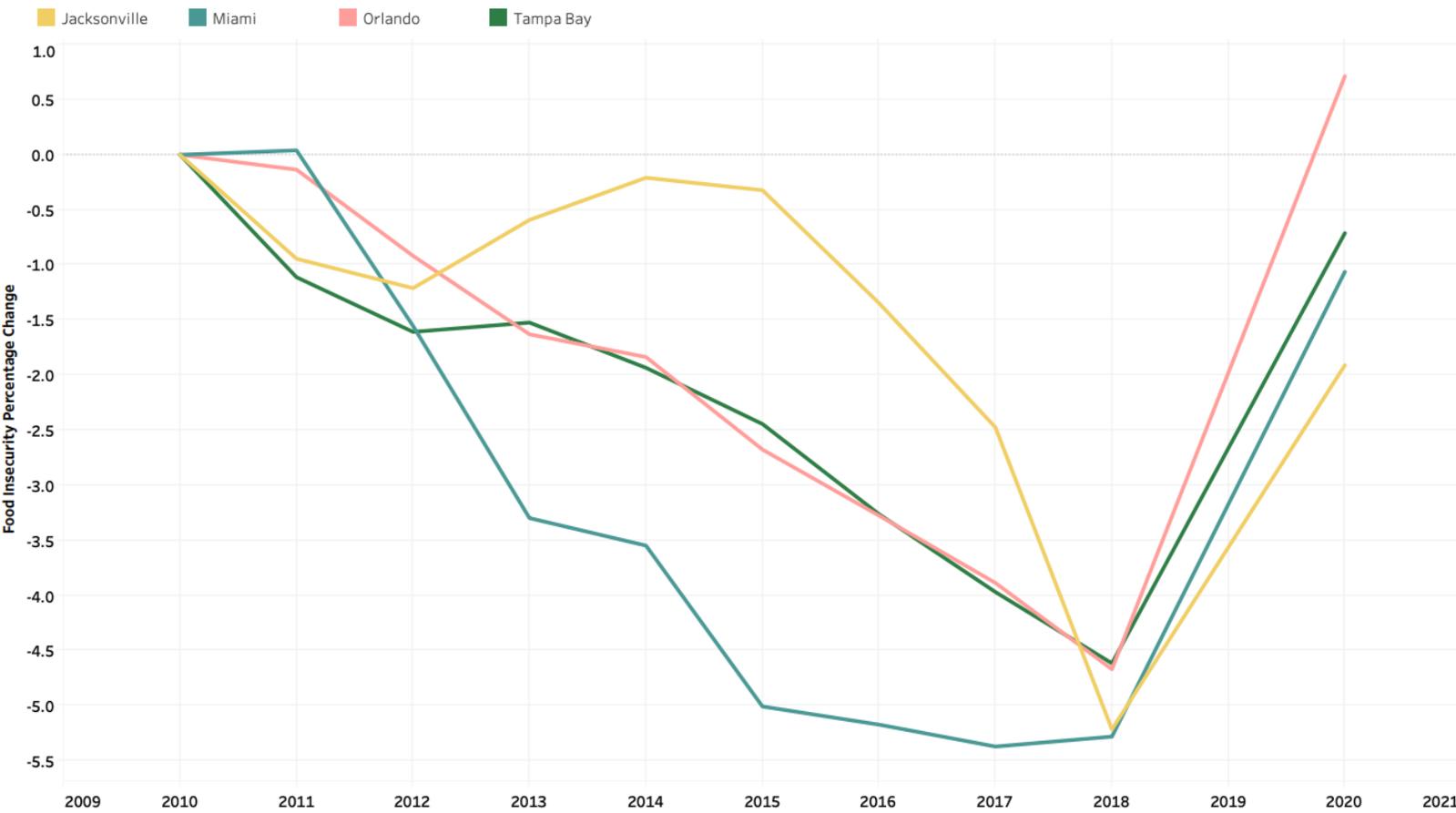
Food insecurity is a lack of consistent access to enough safe, nutritious and socially acceptable food for an active, healthy and productive life. It can be cyclical, or episodic - associated with a crisis like COVID-19. Research has shown that the rate of food insecurity is significantly higher for individuals living near the poverty line, single women with children, and Black and Hispanic households.

In Hillsborough County, 200,000 people or **16.5%** of the county's population are "food insecure." 60% of West Central Florida are eligible for EBT Food Stamps. This is due to the median income in West Tampa (\$21,000 per year).

An equitable food system is one that creates a new paradigm in which all - including those most vulnerable and those living in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color - can fully participate, prosper, and benefit. It is a system that, from farm to table, from processing to disposal, ensures economic opportunity; high-quality jobs with living wages; safe working conditions; access to healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate food; and environmental sustainability.

# Food Insecurity Change in Florida 2009 - 2021

Food Insecurity Change - Florida



University of South Florida research has shown that Tampa Bay food insecurity rate saw a drop over the years, However, it is projected to be back to 2010 levels by 2020.

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## Sources:

- [PolicyLink.org/food-systems/equiatble-food-systems-resource-guide](https://PolicyLink.org/food-systems/equiatble-food-systems-resource-guide)
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- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4929211/>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3661291/>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/healthtopics/healthyfood/community.htm>

*The CLEO Institute works in partnership with local, state, regional and national organizations to support and advocate for bipartisan, intersectional solutions to climate change and its impacts.*