

Child Food Insecurity and School Experience

Assessing the Impact of Child Food Insecurity on
Problematic Behaviors and Academic Performance

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Does Food Insecurity Impact Health?



Adapted from Seligman and Schillinger,
New England Journal of Medicine, 2010.

Results of Preceding Research

Food
Insecurity



- Lower Academic Achievement
- Behavior Issues (Disobedience and Aggression)

Lower overall
quality of life



Food Insecurity:

“Households are food insecure if they have limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways,” (Huang, Matta Oshima and Kim 2010:1).

Brainstorm:

What are **nutritionally adequate** and **safe** foods?

What does it mean to acquire foods in **socially acceptable** ways?

When children go
hungry they may be
more likely to...



Referenced Studies:

- Fram et al.-“Children Are Aware of Food Insecurity and Take Responsibility for Managing Food Resources,” (2011).
- Huang et al. “Does Food Insecurity Affect Parental Characteristics and Child Behavior? Testing Mediation Effects,” (2010).
- Alaimo et al.-“Food Insufficiency and American School-Aged Children’s Cognitive, Academic, and Psychosocial Development,” (2001).

“Does child food insecurity affect
child school experience?”

Brainstorm:

What do you imagine food insecurity looks like for **students** in a classroom? In the hallway? At lunch?

A stylized illustration of a city skyline with various skyscrapers of different heights and shapes, rendered in a light green color against a white background. The buildings are filled with small dots, suggesting windows. The entire illustration is set against a light green background that transitions into a darker green at the bottom.

Welfare, Children, & Families

A T H R E E C I T Y S T U D Y

Variables:

Food insecurity:

- The ability a household has to access an adequate amount of nutritional food that would aid in all members living a healthy life on a regular basis

Parental stress

- Overall mental health

Child Behavior

- Children displaying both physical and cognitive behaviors in schools (lack of concentration, stomachaches, irritability, disciplinary issues, aggression)

Academic Performance

- Children achieving quality school work (Grades of A's and B's)

Hypothesis:

Child food insecurity negatively impacts children's ability to be successful in schools both academically and behaviorally and parental stress at home exacerbates this relationship.

Food Insecurity and School Behavior

Child Behavior	Food Insecurity Score			Total
	Low	Moderate	High	
Poor	13.1%	27.5%	32.2%	30.8%
Neutral	31.1%	32%	30.6%	30.8%
Good	55.7%	40.5%	37.2%	38.4%
$\chi^2=12.906$	$\gamma=-.168$		$p<.05$	

Food Insecurity and School Behavior

Parent Stress	Child Behavior	Food Insecurity Score			Total
		Low	Moderate	High	
Not Stressed	Poor	14.3%	60.7%	55.5%	54.9%
	Neutral	42.9%	28.6%	23.5%	24.7%
	Good	42.9%	10.7%	21%	20.4%
	$\chi^2=6.560$		$\gamma=-.048$		$p=.161$
Parent Stress	Child Behavior	Food Insecurity Score			Total
		Low	Moderate	High	
Stressed	Poor	13%	20%	27.1%	25.6%
	Neutral	29.6%	32.8%	32.2%	32.1%
	Good	57.4%	47.2%	40.7%	42.3%
	$\chi^2=9.973$		$\gamma=-.193$		$p<.05$

Food Insecurity and Academic Performance

Poor School Work	Food Insecurity Score			Total
	Low	Moderate	High	
Agree	55.6%	69.3%	78.8%	76.8%
Disagree	44.4%	30.7%	21.2%	23.2%
$\chi^2=24.111$	$\gamma=.322$		$\rho<.001$	

Food Insecurity and Academic Performance

Parent Stress	Poor School Work	Food Insecurity Score			Total
		Low	Moderate	High	
Not Stressed	Agree	50%	87.9%	86.1%	85.4%
	Disagree	50%	12.1%	13.9%	14.6%
	$\chi^2=8.284$		$\gamma=.221$		$\rho<.05$
Parent Stress	Poor School Work	Food Insecurity Score			Total
		Low	Moderate	High	
Stressed	Agree	56.4%	64.7%	76.8%	74.5%
	Disagree	43.6%	35.3%	23.2%	25.5%
	$\chi^2=19.112$		$\gamma=.328$		$\rho<.001$

Hypothesis:

Child food insecurity negatively impacts children's ability to be successful in schools both academically and behaviorally and parental stress at home exacerbates this relationship.

Outcomes:

- School Performance
 - Trend generally supported
- School Behavior
 - Hypothesis holds true only for stressed parents
- More generalizable data

