



## CONSEQUENCES • FOOD

### BROADER COSTS OF FOOD INSECURITY

The lack of sufficient income to afford enough food or healthy food has consequences not only for ALICE’s health, but also for the strength of the local economy and the future health care costs of the wider community:

- **Food insecurity impacts schools and workplaces.** When children are hungry, they are more likely to have lower academic achievement, more difficulty concentrating, and increased social and behavioral problems, all of which can negatively impact school environments by taxing staff resources and leading to classroom disruption. When adults are hungry in the workplace, they may be less productive and have higher rates of absenteeism.<sup>36</sup>
- **More food-insecure families means higher costs to taxpayers, especially through increased health care spending.**<sup>37</sup> These costs are borne substantially by Medicare and Medicaid, but also by employers and communities. Adults and children suffering from food insecurity are more likely to have no source of usual health care or to ignore health problems until they become severe. As a result, they are more likely to need hospitalization and to visit emergency rooms.<sup>38</sup>

#### Sources

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