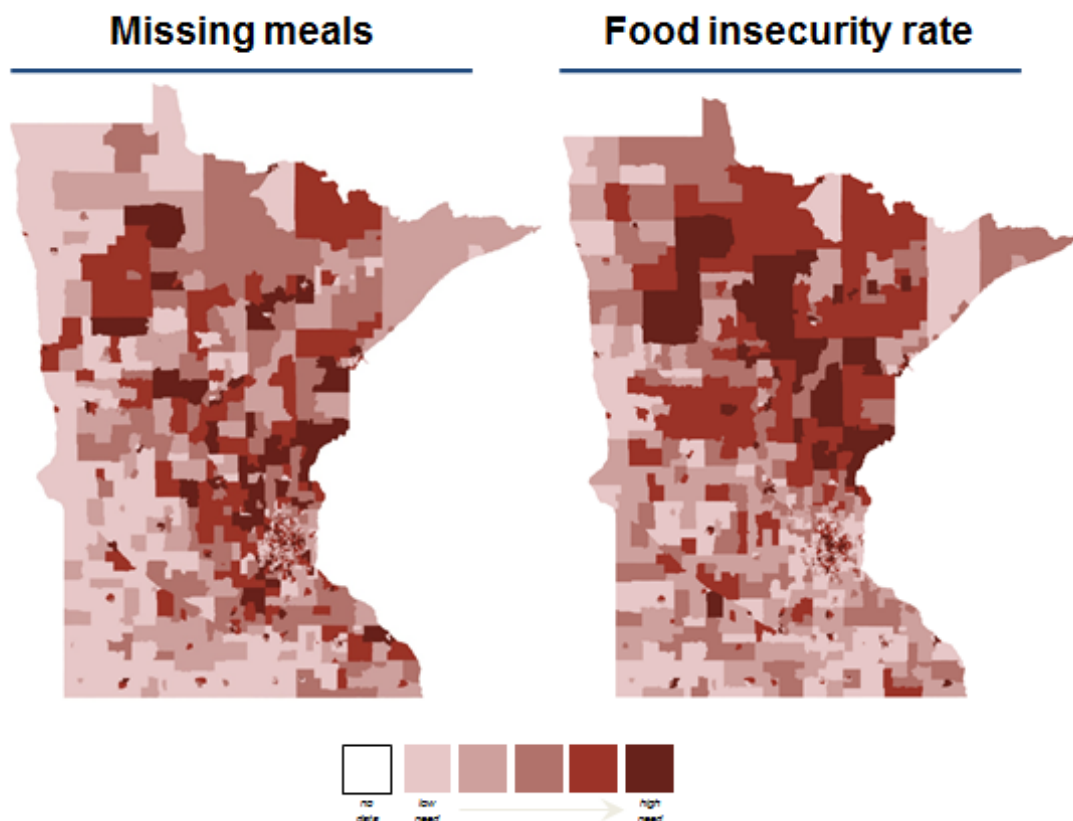




Community Close-Up

Overview

Hunger-Free Minnesota is now offering nonprofit agencies and Minnesota communities fighting hunger a new data-driven tool. **Community Close-Up** combines data on demand for food and current use of government assistance programs and nonprofit food providers within each census tract in Minnesota. The tool includes a dashboard and data maps that can help local communities develop more effective strategies to close their missing meal gap.



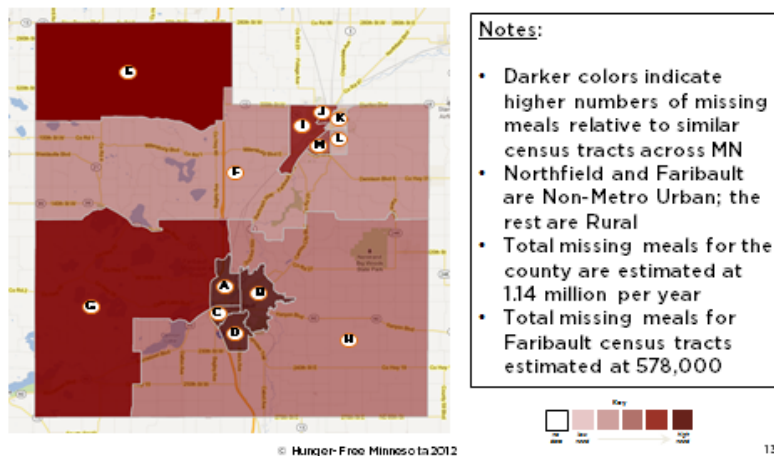
The Boston Consulting Group, in conjunction with Hunger-Free Minnesota, developed the tool using data based on 2010 sources in 1332 census tracts in Minnesota. To identify and compare the areas with the greatest need the census tracts and data were categorized into four segments: Twin Cities Metro Urban, Metro Suburban, Non-Metro Urban and Rural. Hunger-Free Minnesota believes local knowledge is the key to interpreting the data to develop an action plan.



The mapping tool shown below allows users to view the number of missing meals and the food insecurity rate on a local level as well as key demographic indicators. It also provides a breakdown of supply by food shelves, meal programs, government programs and other Emergency Food System sources. Demographic information provided by the 2010 census includes population, median household income, population under the poverty line, unemployment, race/ethnicity, number enrolled in college, number foreign born, children less than five years old, children 5-18 years old and seniors.



Rice County - Missing Meals



Up to \$1 Million in Grant Awards Available

Hunger-Free Minnesota is offering grant awards up to \$50,000 for non-profit hunger relief agencies or government entities such as schools or counties, who plan to use this tool to increase their capacity. Interested organizations will receive training and assistance using the tool to analyze hunger-data for their communities.

Grant awards can be used for, but are not limited to:

- Mapping and analyzing emergency food system needs at a community level, which could be a neighborhood, town, county or part of one, or even a multi-county region
- Increased food shelf or meal program capacity to enable improved service to a targeted community
- New methods of serving hungry Minnesotans for whom going to a food shelf or meal program is difficult
- Communications plans or other outreach to improve awareness and utilization of existing or new hunger-relief programs, including government-funded programs
- Collaboration to improve utilization of SNAP, WIC, after-school or summer meal programs
- Initiatives to access additional sources of food from the farm, processing, retail and/or food service levels