



# Locally Targeted Food Security Interventions

## Executive Summary

Targeted, coordinated, and locally informed interventions are required to promote sustainable food resilience across communities in Nottinghamshire.

Food insecurity is an increasing and location-specific crisis in Nottinghamshire. The 2023 FANSS report shows that approximately 22% of people face some level of food insecurity, potentially impacting around 149,000 adults in the county. The highest rates are found in Gedling, Bassetlaw, and Newark & Sherwood, while Rushcliffe reports the lowest prevalence.

Insights from the Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) (2024), the City as Lab project, and Blake and Cromwell (2022) highlight the geographic, socioeconomic, and health-related aspects of food insecurity. While food insecurity prevails and has led to several policies being introduced, national “one-size-fits-all” policies are insufficient to address local challenges, such as those in Nottinghamshire.

## Policy Recommendations

- Establish food security action zones to foster place-based initiatives aiming to improve food access and work towards community food resilience.
- Strengthen transport and food infrastructure, addressing access disparities via initiatives such as subsidised transport, mobile markets and food pantries.
- Invest in community food hubs, co-locating food, health and social services to facilitate access to ‘whole-life’ support.
- Improve access to national schemes, exploring means of increasing awareness and uptake of Free School Meals, Healthy Start, and Holiday Activity and Food programmes, and deploying targeted outreach.
- Institutionalise mapping as a policymaking tool, conduct research in areas with insufficient data to support decisions and action planning, and develop participatory GIS platforms to gather local insight.

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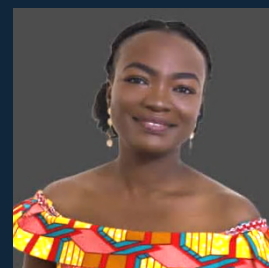
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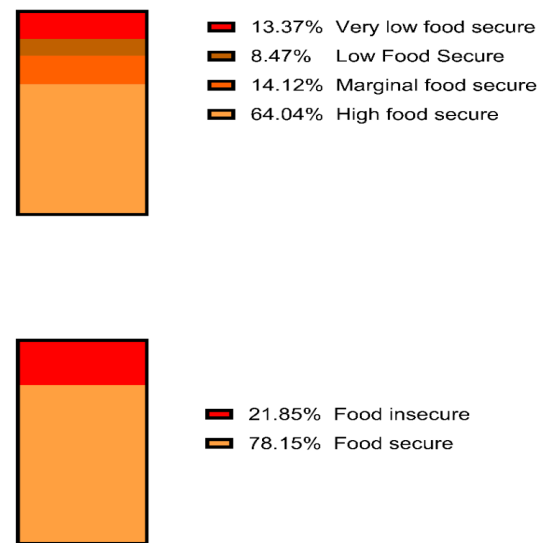
# Locally Informed Food Intervention Needs

Using a mixed-methods, evidence-based approach to examine food insecurity in Nottinghamshire, quantitative data from the Food and Nutrition Security Survey (FANSS, 2023) and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA, 2024) were evaluated to examine prevalence rates, nutritional impacts, and demographic risk factors. These data are further enriched by national insights from Blake and Cromwell's (2022) study, which utilises the Food and You 2 Survey, and the British Academy's (2017) report on the significance of place-based decision-making.

Qualitative and community-centred research from the City as Lab initiative, as well as mapping and Geographic Information System (GIS) tools, revealed local inequalities and spatial patterns. This comprehensive approach ensures that policy recommendations are tailored to local needs instead of being generic. It highlights specific high-risk areas, such as Gedling, Bassetlaw, and Newark & Sherwood, ultimately promoting targeted, community-led solutions.

## Project benefit

This study supports calls to move beyond general national food policies to focus on locally informed, place-based solutions. This research supports multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by enhancing local food security (SDG 2), addressing diet-related health inequalities (SDG 3), reducing inequalities (SDGs 10 and 11), and promoting skills and local capacity (SDGs 4 and 8). Overall, it aims to create healthier, fairer, and more inclusive local food systems.



**KEY FINDINGS FROM FANSS (2023):** Figure 1 Percentage of households in Nottinghamshire adult food security status (n = 531).

- 21.85% of respondents were food insecure: 13.37% very low food secure 8.47% low food secure,
- Estimated 149,000 adults affected countywide

## Further reading

Blake and Cromwell (2022)

<https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/193349/>

Dowler, E., Turner, S., & Dobson, B. (2001)

<https://doi.org/10.1079/BJN2002667>

Loopstra, R., Reeves, A., & Stuckler, D. (2015)

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2015.03.005>