

# WHERE ARE WE NOW?

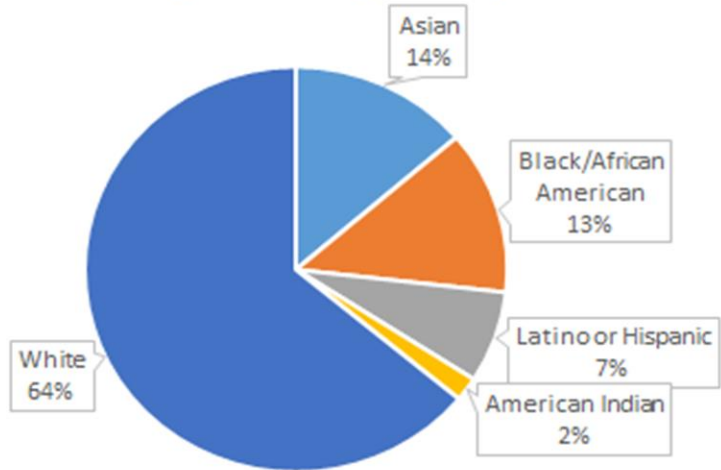
## Ramsey County

**Total Population**  
538,133

## Age span

25% are under 19  
63% are 19- 64  
12% are over 65

### Race or Ethnicity of Ramsey County Residents

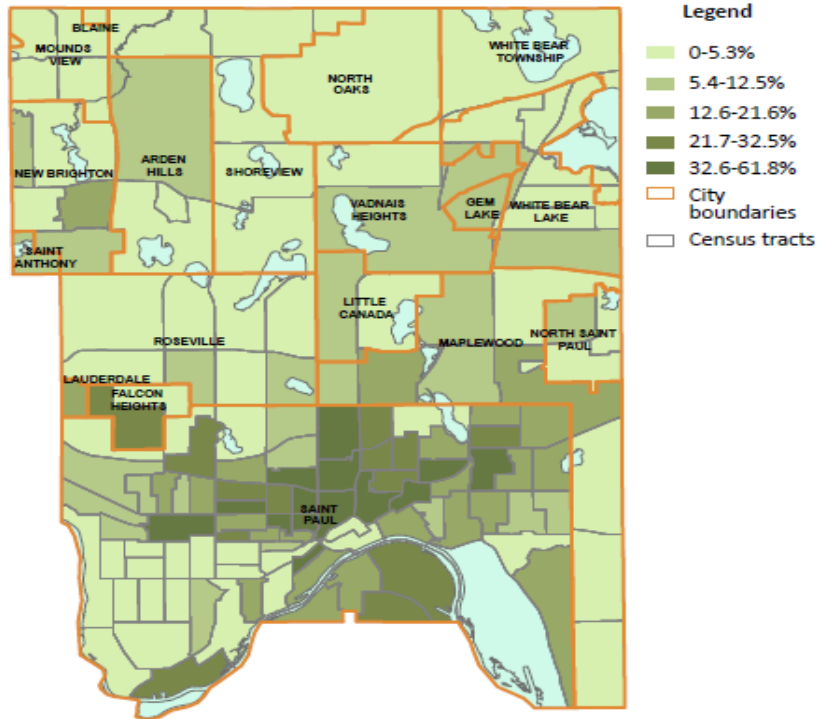


### Percentage of families living in poverty by census tract, Ramsey County, 2010

#### The poverty rate in Ramsey County

- 16.8% total pop.
- 24.6% of that are children

US Census 2015



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). American Community Survey.

## Student Status

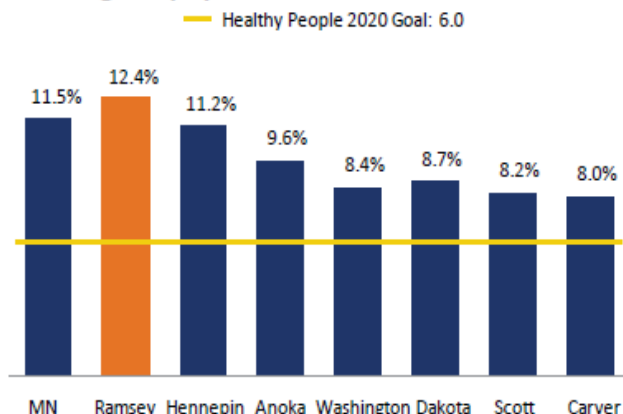
- 57% of students going to a Ramsey County school qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch

### **Minnesota Student Survey for all of Ramsey County school children**

During the last 30 days, have you had to skip a meal because your family did not have enough money to buy food?

- 6.2% of 5th graders said yes
- 5.3% 9th graders

## Percentage of population that is food insecure, 2010



Source: Feeding America. (2011). Mind the Meal Gap Study. Retrieved from: <http://feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hunger-studies/mmp-the-meal-gap.aspx>

It is estimated that 62,300 (12.4%) of Ramsey County residents are food insecure, more than double the Healthy People 2020 goal of 6%.

18% of children in Ramsey County are food insecure- the highest rate among the metro counties.

Choices about food spending and diet are influenced by the accessibility and affordability of food retailers--travel time to shopping, availability of healthy foods, and food prices. Low-income families face greater barriers in accessing healthy and affordable food retailers, which may negatively affect diet and food security.<sup>1</sup>

## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

- SNAP provides a monthly benefit to:
    - low-income families
    - the unemployed
    - seniors
    - people with disabilities
    - some single adults for the purchase of food.
  - SNAP benefits cannot be used to purchase any nonfood items.
  - Formerly known as ‘food stamps’
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## SNAP Program Access, Ramsey County

- Population 2013 : 526,714
- Number of People Enrolled 2008: **52,541**
- Estimated number of People Eligible 2008: 87,110
- Percentage of Eligible Residents Participating 2008:  
60.30%
- Number of People Enrolled 2013: **90,970**
- Estimated Number of People Eligible 2013: 110,068
- Percentage of Eligible Residents Participating 2013:  
82.60%
- Change in Number of People Enrolled 2008-2013: **38,429**

Change in SNAP  
Participation Rate 2008-  
2013: **22% increase**

## SNAP Program Access

- **2013:** federal laws changed and able-bodied adults without dependents can only enroll for 3 months.
- **At 3 months:** 89,000 people lost their benefits (more than twice as many as was predicted).
- **2014:** SNAP benefits decreased (thousands lose eligibility)
- **Food shelves** see an increase as people replace SNAP with food shelf programs.
- **SENIORS:** adults aged 50+ is trending upward. \*important characteristic to monitor as our population continues to age.

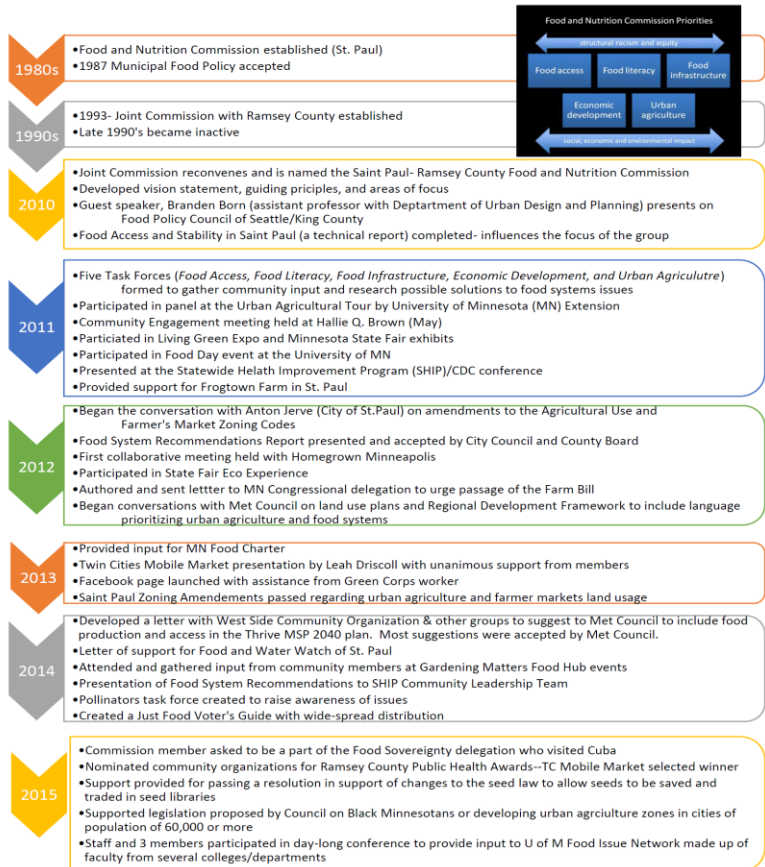


## **Food and Nutrition Commission**

The Saint Paul - Ramsey County Food and Nutrition Commission (FNC) is a forum to share information, assess local food systems, suggest policies, and develop plans to increase access to safe, affordable and nutritious foods. The Commission makes recommendations, creates plans, and conducts activities to achieve a comprehensive vision of expanded access to healthier foods and sustainable local food systems.

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## Saint Paul-Ramsey County Food and Nutrition Commission – 1980s to the present



# Food

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- 1 - buy it with thought
  - 2 - cook it with care
  - 3 - serve just enough
  - 4 - save what will keep
  - 5 - eat what would spoil
  - 6 - home-grown is best
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*don't waste it*

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