



## **Defense Health Agency (DHA) Clinical Communities Speaker Series**

### **APR 2023 CCSS: Targeted Interventions Focused on the Whole Health and Wellbeing of the Military Child**

#### **S05: Identifying and Addressing Food Insecurity in Military Members and Families: A Panel Discussion**

##### **Resource List**

In 2006, USDA introduced new language to describe ranges of severity of food insecurity. USDA made these changes in response to recommendations of an expert panel convened at USDA's request by the Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) of the National Academies. Although new labels were introduced, the methods used to assess households' food security remained unchanged, so statistics for 2005 to now are directly comparable with those for earlier years. For more information on this topic return to [USDA](#)

The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020 directed the Secretary of Defense to report on food insecurity among members of the armed forces and their dependents. The directive includes the following elements: an assessment of the current extent of food insecurity among not only service members and their dependents but also those living on post and presumably not receiving the basic allowance for housing (BAH) and three sets of recommendations (for policies, programs, and activities) to address food insecurity among military families. Review additional information regarding this topic: [National Defense Authorization Act \(NDA, 2020\)](#)

The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness provides a strategy and implementation roadmap on strengthening food security in the Force. To read a copy of the memorandum that provides an overview of the implementation plan, please return to [Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness](#)

Children's HealthWatch research and policy analysis specifically focuses on the child health and developmental impacts of economic hardships with a particular focus on food insecurity, unstable housing, health care hardships and inability to afford adequate household energy. A comprehensive review of the current policy and research analysis can be found at [childrenshealthwatch.org](http://childrenshealthwatch.org)

In accordance with the authority in DoD Directive 5124.02, this issuance establishes policy, assigns responsibilities, and prescribes procedures and requirements for supporting military family readiness (MFR) through a system that maximizes access to a network of programs and services that promotes MFR, hereinafter referred to in this issuance as the Military Family Readiness System (MFRS). Review the entire DODI at this link: [DOD Directive 5124.02](#)

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) Climate Snapshot Poll analyzes resource needs among veteran and the active-duty service member populations in key areas such as employment, education, childcare, mental and physical health, along with caregiving resources. Results reveal widespread concern and resources needed among military and veteran community members collectively and independently. This report aims to offer insight and recommendations, to the military community, along with multiple stakeholders including policymakers, practitioners, grant makers, and researchers. Refer others to these resources by returning to the following link: [Resources for Military and Veteran Communities](#)



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### References

Slide 9: US Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, Definitions of food insecurity

(2022) <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/definitions-of-food-security/>

Asch, Beth J., Stephanie Rennane, Thomas E. Trail, Lisa Berdie, Jason M. Ward, Dina Troyanker, Catria Gadwah-Meaden, and Jonas Kempf, Food Insecurity Among Members of the Armed Forces and Their Dependents. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2023.

[https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_reports/RRA1230-1.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA1230-1.html)

Slide 10: U.S. Secretary of Defense. (2021). Memorandum for Senior Pentagon Leadership, Commanders of the Combatant Commands, Defense Agency and DOD Field Activity Directors: Strengthening economic security in the Force.

<https://media.defense.gov/2021/Nov/17/2002894808/-1/-1/1/STRENGTHENING-ECONOMIC-SECURITY-IN-THE-FORCE.PDF>

Slide 11: The Hunger Vital Sign™ - Children's HealthWatch (childrenshealthwatch.org)

Slide 12: DODI 1342.22 "Military Family Readiness"

<https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/documents/DD/issuances/dodi/134222p.pdf>

Slide 13: The Joint Commission E-dition (jcrinc.com) Hospital Standards, Leadership (LD) 0.4.03.08

Slide 14: Rougeau Euto, L., Maury, R., Armstrong, N., Stone, B.M., & Linsner, R. (2020).

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Climate Snapshot Poll: Top resource needs of Veterans and Active-Duty Service Members. Institute for Veterans and Military Families.

<https://surface.syr.edu/ivmf/104/>