**Gorge Food Surveys, Data & Reports**

**Source Guide**

This document provides a guide of various studies conducted in the Gorge that contain information pertinent to the Food Security Coalition.

The information in this document is presented in the following manner:

Name of Study, Year (#x) (← hyperlink to original document embedded, click to view study)

*Organization that produced the study* (← hyperlink to organization embedded, click to view)

Scope of data: Geographic region represented by study, typically displayed as counties

Population(s): Populations represented in study (ex: Latinx, elderly, youth, etc.)

Content summary: A brief overview of study objectives and content

Findings summary: Key Food Security Coalition-pertinent takeaways revealed by study

Recommendations: Action items recommended by study. If study does not explicitly state

recommendations, there is “N/A” present.

Please find Tables of Contents on the following pages, organized: alphabetically, by county, population, and observed needs and recommendations.

Contact Kiara Kashuba, [RAREAmeriCorps@oregonstate.edu](mailto:RAREAmeriCorps@oregonstate.edu), with any questions, comments, or recommendations on how to make this guide more useful and clear.

**Table of Contents -- Alphabetical**

[2016-2019 Area Plan Combined Results Survey, Klickitat County (#1)](#_1xlxid380tja)

[Census of Agriculture, 2012 (#2)](#_m0yu2ht141b3)

[Columbia Gorge Regional Community Health Assessment (CHA) Summary, 2016 and Slideshow (#3)](#_g34x5hopushz)

[Community Food Assessment (CFA) Summary, 2007-2010 (#4)](#_t5m4wg7klpip)

[Community Food Systems (CFS) Indicators Report, 2016 (#5)](#_64trfmwk9eh1)

[Community Food Systems Assessment, 2016 (#6)](#_dvo6y5dhopd8)

[Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Community Listening Session Findings Slideshow, 2017 (#7)](#_ehy6quu0s9bz)

[Feeding America Reports, 2015 (#8)](#_ruw3xwp06w6g)

[Food Access Qualitative Insight from Klickitat County (#9)](#_2pay80o3rpbb)

[Food Security in Klickitat County, 2009 (#10)](#_koz7ysyc335k)

[Gorge Agriculture Presentation by Sarah Sullivan (#11)](#_altn6jtme3rf)

[Gorge Wide Food Survey Results, 2017 (#12)](#_jjdor7osw1su)

[Harvesting Health: A Community-Based Participatory Evaluation of the Veggie Rx Program, 2016 (#13)](#_x9tekxynmz38)

[Oregon Food Infrastructure Gap Analysis (#14)](#_zo5388qqru4)

[Organizing to Rebuild Agriculture of the Middle: A needs assessment of AOTM producers supplying Oregon’s foodshed (#15)](#_vnz7a67la6s)

[Producer Survey Preliminary Report, August 2017 (#16)](#_gayb2jpn3mnb)

[Veggie Rx Program, 2016 (#17)](#_tnh6xfer4lts)

[Veggie Rx Survey, 2017 (#18)](#_ov89x2x48m4x)

[White Salmon Preschool and Elementary School Email from Mandi Rae Pope (#19)](#_u5a0mkuze5zb)

**Table of Contents -- by County**

**Gorge-wide**

[Census of Agriculture, 2012 (#2)](#_m0yu2ht141b3)

[Columbia Gorge Regional Community Health Assessment (CHA) Summary, 2016 and Slideshow (#3)](#_g34x5hopushz)

[Community Food Assessment (CFA) Summary, 2007-2010 (#4)](#_t5m4wg7klpip)

[Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Community Listening Session Findings Slideshow, 2017 (#7)](#_ehy6quu0s9bz)

[Feeding America Reports, 2015 (#8)](#_ruw3xwp06w6g)

[Gorge Agriculture Presentation by Sarah Sullivan (#11)](#_altn6jtme3rf)

[Gorge Wide Food Survey Results, 2017 (#12)](#_jjdor7osw1su)

[Harvesting Health: A Community-Based Participatory Evaluation of the Veggie Rx Program, 2016 (#13)](#_x9tekxynmz38)

[Producer Survey Preliminary Report, August 2017 (#14)](#_gayb2jpn3mnb)

[Veggie Rx Program, 2016 (#15)](#_tnh6xfer4lts)

[Veggie Rx Survey, 2017 (#16)](#_ov89x2x48m4x)

**Oregon Side (Hood River, Wasco, and Sherman Counties)**

[Community Food Systems (CFS) Indicators Report, 2016 (#5)](#_64trfmwk9eh1)

[Community Food Systems Assessment, 2016 (#6)](#_dvo6y5dhopd8)

**Klickitat County Only**

[2016-2019 Area Plan Combined Results Survey, Klickitat County (#1)](#_1xlxid380tja)

[Food Access Qualitative Insight from Klickitat County (#9)](#_2pay80o3rpbb)

[Food Security in Klickitat County, 2009 (#10)](#_koz7ysyc335k)

[White Salmon Preschool and Elementary School Email from Mandi Rae Pope (#17)](#_u5a0mkuze5zb)

**Table of Contents -- by Population**

**General**

[Columbia Gorge Regional Community Health Assessment (CHA) Summary, 2016 and Slideshow (#3)](#_g34x5hopushz)

[Community Food Assessment (CFA) Summary, 2007-2010 (#4)](#_t5m4wg7klpip)

[Community Food Systems (CFS) Indicators Report, 2016 (#5)](#_64trfmwk9eh1)

[Community Food Systems Assessment, 2016 (#6)](#_dvo6y5dhopd8)

[Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Community Listening Session Findings Slideshow, 2017 (#7)](#_ehy6quu0s9bz)

[Feeding America Reports, 2015 (#8)](#_ruw3xwp06w6g)

[Food Security in Klickitat County, 2009 (#10)](#_koz7ysyc335k)

[Gorge Wide Food Survey Results, 2017 (#12)](#_jjdor7osw1su)

**Youth**

[Columbia Gorge Regional Community Health Assessment (CHA) Summary, 2016 and Slideshow (#3)](#_g34x5hopushz)

[Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Community Listening Session Findings Slideshow, 2017 (#7)](#_ehy6quu0s9bz)

[White Salmon Preschool and Elementary School Email from Mandi Rae Pope (#17)](#_u5a0mkuze5zb)

**Latinx**

[Columbia Gorge Regional Community Health Assessment (CHA) Summary, 2016 and Slideshow (#3)](#_g34x5hopushz)

[Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Community Listening Session Findings Slideshow, 2017 (#7)](#_ehy6quu0s9bz)

[Harvesting Health: A Community-Based Participatory Evaluation of the Veggie Rx Program, 2016 (#13)](#_x9tekxynmz38)

**Native Populations/Tribes**

[Columbia Gorge Regional Community Health Assessment (CHA) Summary, 2016 and Slideshow (#3)](#_g34x5hopushz)

[Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Community Listening Session Findings Slideshow, 2017 (#7)](#_ehy6quu0s9bz)

**Producers**

[Census of Agriculture, 2012 (#2)](#_m0yu2ht141b3)

[Community Food Assessment (CFA) Summary, 2007-2010 (#4)](#_t5m4wg7klpip)

[Community Food Systems (CFS) Indicators Report, 2016 (#5)](#_64trfmwk9eh1)

[Community Food Systems Assessment, 2016 (#6)](#_dvo6y5dhopd8)

[Gorge Agriculture Presentation by Sarah Sullivan (#11)](#_altn6jtme3rf)

[Producer Survey Preliminary Report, August 2017 (#14)](#_gayb2jpn3mnb)

**Seniors**

[2016-2019 Area Plan Combined Results Survey, Klickitat County (#1)](#_1xlxid380tja)

[Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Community Listening Session Findings Slideshow, 2017 (#7)](#_ehy6quu0s9bz)

[Food Access Qualitative Insight from Klickitat County (#9)](#_2pay80o3rpbb)

[Gorge Wide Food Survey Results, 2017 (#12)](#_jjdor7osw1su)

**Veggie Rx users / distributors**

[Harvesting Health: A Community-Based Participatory Evaluation of the Veggie Rx Program, 2016 (#13)](#_x9tekxynmz38)

[Veggie Rx Program, 2016 (#15)](#_tnh6xfer4lts)

[Veggie Rx Survey, 2017 (#16)](#_ov89x2x48m4x)

Note: we lack information on the homeless population, and there is minimal information regarding tribal members.

**Table of Contents -- by Observed Needs and Recommendations**

(Relevant to Direct Service / Engagement Workgroup)

**1. Lack of transportation & lack of knowledge of existing transportation resources**

[Columbia Gorge Regional Community Health Assessment (CHA) Summary, 2016 and Slideshow (#3)](#_g34x5hopushz)

[Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Community Listening Session Findings Slideshow, 2017 (#7)](#_ehy6quu0s9bz)

[Food Access Qualitative Insight from Klickitat County (#9)](#_2pay80o3rpbb)

[Gorge Wide Food Survey Results, 2017 (#12)](#_jjdor7osw1su)

[Veggie Rx Survey, 2017 (#16)](#_ov89x2x48m4x)

**2. More nutrition / cooking / food preservation / gardening education**

[2016-2019 Area Plan Combined Results Survey, Klickitat County (#1)](#_1xlxid380tja)

[Community Food Assessment (CFA) Summary, 2007-2010 (#4)](#_t5m4wg7klpip)

[Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Community Listening Session Findings Slideshow, 2017 (#7)](#_ehy6quu0s9bz)

[Food Access Qualitative Insight from Klickitat County (#9)](#_2pay80o3rpbb)

[Food Security in Klickitat County, 2009 (#10)](#_koz7ysyc335k)

[Gorge Wide Food Survey Results, 2017 (#12)](#_jjdor7osw1su)

[Harvesting Health: A Community-Based Participatory Evaluation of the Veggie Rx Program, 2016 (#13)](#_x9tekxynmz38)

**3. Lack of access to fresh produce (pantries, school meals, community meals, community gardens)**

[Community Food Assessment (CFA) Summary, 2007-2010 (#4)](#_t5m4wg7klpip)

[Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Community Listening Session Findings Slideshow, 2017 (#7)](#_ehy6quu0s9bz)

[Food Access Qualitative Insight from Klickitat County (#9)](#_2pay80o3rpbb)

[Gorge Wide Food Survey Results, 2017 (#12)](#_jjdor7osw1su)

**Table of Contents -- by Observed Needs and Recommendations**

(Relevant to Infrastructure Workgroup)

In progress

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### [2016-2019 Area Plan Combined Results Survey, Klickitat County](http://www.helpingelders.org/download/4189/) (#1)

[*Area Agency on Aging & Disabilities of Southwest Washington*](http://www.helpingelders.org/)

Scope of data: Klickitat County

Population(s): Elderly adults (60+) and their family caregivers

Content summary: This study surveyed the populations above, as well as partner agencies, to

ask about needs, concerns, services desired, information availability, health/wellness, caregiver support, transportation, and nutrition access.

Findings summary:

* Providing education about healthy cooking and financial assistance were identified as needs to increase populations’ access to nutritious foods
* Transportation--and information on existing transportation--is a critical barrier to accessing health needs
* Seniors would like to see more senior-focused programs
* Grocery delivery service for seniors

Recommendations: N/A

### [Census of Agriculture, 2012](https://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Full_Report/Census_by_State/) (#2)

*United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)*

Scope of data: profiles available for all counties and states in the U.S.

See profiles for: [Hood River](https://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/Oregon/cp41027.pdf), [Wasco](https://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/Oregon/cp41065.pdf), [Sherman](https://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/Oregon/cp41055.pdf), [Klickitat](https://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/Washington/cp53039.pdf), and [Skamania](https://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/Washington/cp53059.pdf)

counties

Population(s): agricultural producers

Content summary: County-wide data on farm size, market value of products sold, and

government payment amounts; demographic breakdown of farmers; data on production quantity and market value of commodities, crops, and livestock.

Findings summary:

* Generally speaking, the market value of products sold has decreased over time and government payments have increased.
* For many farmers, farming is not their primary occupation.
* Fruit, wheat, and livestock are the dominant agricultural products of the region.

Recommendations: N/A

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### [Columbia Gorge Regional Community Health Assessment (CHA) Summary, 2016](http://www.oregon.gov/gov/admin/regional-solutions/Documents/North%20Central/2017.01.23%20North%20Central%20Meeting%20Materials.pdf) and [Slideshow](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B83soqsttx12dks1RW1YQnJENVE) (#3)

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Full 2016 CHA report (LINK)

Full 2013 CHA report (LINK)

*Columbia Gorge Health Council*

Scope of data: Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Wheeler, Skamania, & Klickitat Counties

Population(s): General population, vulnerable populations, adults, vulnerable adults, youth,

people of color, low-income

Content summary: Assesses subpopulations’ (general, vulnerable, adults, vulnerable adults, youth)

access to and experience with the following categories:

* Basic needs:
  + Income security
  + Food security and healthy eating
  + Housing security
  + Transportation Access
  + Health insurance
* Community and Social Environment:
  + Social support
  + Social cohesion
  + Support for caregivers

Findings summary:

* 1 in 3 of general population worry about running out of food, 1 in 10 had to go without food; 1 in 4 latinx, low-income, uninsured, and medicaid recipients had to go without food
* 13% of general population and 25% of latinx, low-income, uninsured, and medicaid recipients go without transportation
* ⅔ of general population are overweight/obese, and more than half have a chronic condition; ¾ on Medicare have a chronic condition
* ⅓ youth overweight or obese
* 50% not getting two servings of vegetables per day, regardless of race/ethnicity, income, or health insurance; 35% not getting enough fruit; those with children tend to have more servings of fruit and veg per day
* Compared to 2013 report:
  + Housing needs increased
  + Transportation still an issue

Recommendations: N/A

### [Community Food Assessment (CFA) Summary, 2007-2010](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B83soqsttx12dks1RW1YQnJENVE) (#4)

([CFA Full Report](http://www.oregonfoodbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Columbia-Gorge-5-County-CFA-Report-2010_web.pdf))

[*Gorge Grown Food Network*](http://www.gorgegrown.com/communityfood/)

Scope of data: Gorge-wide: Klickitat, Skamania, Hood River, Wasco, and Sherman Counties

Population(s): General population, all food system players: food producers, processors,

Consumers, etc.

Content summary: A CFA is a collaborative, participatory project that takes a big picture look at our

food system in all its parts — production, distribution, consumption — so we can learn how it works and how to improve our food and farms. It shows what our most pressing needs are, as well as the key community assets on which to build.

Study goal: identify both resources and needs in the community surrounding food security, agriculture, and health, and to ultimately improve access to locally grown food, especially for people with low and moderate incomes.

Discusses: food access, transportation barriers to food, recommendations for food skills building, and presents the many economic benefits of making local foods more widespread.

Findings summary: See recommendations:

Recommendations: Food Growing recommendations (see page 7):

* Encourage development of more locally-focused farm and food business, and the success and growth of existing operations
  + Expand and improve producer education and cooperative marketing and networking opportunities to increase farm viability and growth
  + Assist beginning and transitioning farmers in securing land on which to operate and start-up capital and materials
* Develop and improve local markets for local products, including direct to consumer sales opportunities
  + Strengthen and develop new direct to consumer market outlets, such as farmers’ market
  + Identify opportunities for commodity producers to develop products for local direct markets
  + Identify potential new locally marketed value-added products appropriate to local producers
  + Work with large buyers, including institutions and businesses, to encourage and aid them in regularly purchasing locally produced farm products
* Fill in regional supply chain gaps with local businesses and cooperative opportunities for producers
  + Develop stronger food processing (including value added) infrastructure for products designed for local markets
  + Develop stronger food distribution infrastructure, including partnership efforts, for products destined for local and regional markets

Food Access recommendations (see page 10):

* Increase amount of fresh local produce available in food pantries, school meal programs, and community meal sites
  + Coordinate multiple donation streams to ensure steady and sufficient supply from orchards, farmers’ markets, farmstands and home gardens
  + Explore opportunity to use the GGFN truck to pick up and deliver surplus produce and donations in coordination with rural mobile market sites
* Improve local emergency food infrastructure for increased capacity
  + Work with communities lacking food pantries (such as Maupin, Wishram, and Odell) to seek resources and identify potential sites
  + Partner with home gardeners to conduct produce drives
* Increase sustainability of community meal programs and expand into rural county communities
  + Work with community groups to increase volunteer initiative and support
* Support rural food stores to provide a larger quantity of healthy, fresh, and affordable foods
  + Work with rural grocers to evaluate interest and barriers to sourcing fresh produce
* Improve current farmers’ markets outreach and marketing to underrepresented populations and expand the establishment of farmers markets that provide WIC and Senior Nutrition Programs
  + Work with market staff and GGFN to ensure vendors are effectively trained and familiar with the EBT/SNAP program
  + Explore financial incentives to low-income residents to access farm direct shopping (including farmers’ markets) opportunities

Food skills recommendations (see page 12):

* Expand local availability of cooking and nutrition classes
  + Maintain current cooking and nutrition educational opportunities in the region
  + Develop cooking resources and instructions for on-site demonstration at food pantry sites
* Improve and integrate food skills, nutrition, and self-sufficiency help
  + Make home cooking and preserving resources available in easy to find and utilize places in the region
* Expand and coordinate local gardening resources for home gardeners
  + Offer gardening education targeted at the demographic of survey respondents who indicated an interest in learning to garden: younger, low-income, also interested in gaining other food skills
  + Partner with Master Gardeners and other on management of gardens and development of workshops to maximize space in a garden plot, manage pests, etc.
  + Identify additional space and partnership opportunities for community gardens in the region
* Work with school gardens to coordinate efforts, share resources, and expand programs
* Work with schools to find additional means of increasing students’ exposure to and consumption of fresh food, especially fruits and vegetables
  + Work with school districts and community stakeholders to access additional food purchasing funding to make it possible to afford, and thus prioritize, local food and improve quality of school meals.
* Centralize and coordinate food and faith efforts among churches
  + Build a centralized support system for churches doing emergency food outreach

### [Community Food Systems (CFS) Indicators Report, 2016](http://centerforsmallfarms.oregonstate.edu/sites/centerforsmallfarms.oregonstate.edu/files/CFS/2016_final_or_cfs_indicators_report.pdf) (#5)

*Meyer Memorial Trust, prepared by Matthew Buck Consulting*

Scope of data: Hood River, Wasco, & Sherman Counties

Population(s): All players in food system

Content summary: Offers a set of indicators for community food system concerns, both state and

county-wide, providing baseline measures and a means for monitoring trends.

Indicators are categorized into four areas: 1) food access and food insecurity, 2) community capacity, 3) farm base, and 4) market linkages.

Oregon counties are ranked by how developed and best positioned for progress from a CFS perspective. Hood River was #5 (55%), Wasco #16 (41%), and Sherman #22 (34%).

Findings summary: Hood River ranked relatively high overall. Wasco and Sherman Counties ranked

quite low overall.

Recommendations: Uses the Gorge CFA recommendations

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### Community Food Systems Assessment, 2016 (#6)

Scope of data: Hood River, Wasco, & Sherman Counties

Population(s): General

Content summary: Presents Community Food System Indicator score of each county and region,

info on food and SNAP spending, food insecurity rate, farm data. Also provides a

summary of key organizations and activities in the Gorge area related to food

Systems. This report is also included in the CFS report

Findings summary:

* Hood River ranks higher than the Oregon average in most categories
* Food insecurity rate down from 2009 rates in all three counties
* Average farmland cost increased from 2009 in all three counties

Recommendations: Uses CFA recommendations

### [Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Community Listening Session Findings Slideshow, 2017](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B83soqsttx12NnpjOUpMQUhHYUU/view) (#7)

*Community Advisory Council*

Scope of data: Gorge-wide: Hood River, Wasco, Skamania, and Klickitat Counties

Population(s): targeted recruitment of engaged youth, medicaid recipients, mental health

service recipients, seniors, Native Americans, Latinxs, and LGBTQ+

Content summary: 10 listening sessions inquired into 70 individuals’ experience with:

* Access to health care
  + Physical, mental, dental health
  + Provider coordination
  + Communication with patients
* Community
  + Community safety
  + Social support networks
* Built environment
  + Housing
  + Food access
    - Question asked: “how can we make it easier for people to access healthy food?”
  + Infrastructure
  + Transportation
    - “Many people rely on existing public transportation system, which works (in general) for advanced medical needs, but not day-to-day needs”
    - “Expressed need for an expanded bus system that offers regular, reliable, daily routes”

Findings summary: See slide 30:

* People appreciate available resources for helping people get food who need it
* Buying fresh produce (let alone local, organic produce) can be prohibitively expensive
* Seniors, in particular, experience barriers to eating fresh, healthy food
* Need to expand existing resources and make them easy to access and utilize, such as Veggie Rx and community gardens
* There’s a desire for the schools to lead by example, offer more healthy foods
* Many people believe that education is the key to healthy eating
* Native American access, language barriers, and resource awareness were identified as issues across all sectors of survey

Recommendations: N/A

### [Feeding America Reports, 2015](http://map.feedingamerica.org/) (#8)

See [Hood River](http://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2015/overall/oregon/county/hood-river), [Wasco](http://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2015/overall/oregon/county/wasco), [Sherman](http://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2015/overall/oregon/county/sherman), [Klickitat](http://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2015/overall/washington/county/klickitat), & [Skamania](http://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2015/overall/washington/county/skamania) Counties

Scope of data: Gorge-wide: Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Klickitat, & Skamania Counties

Population(s): General; food insecure folks

Content summary: Food insecurity (FI) rates, average meal costs, and estimated program (SNAP &

other nutrition programs threshold of 185% poverty) eligibility among food insecure folks

Findings summary:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | FI rate | Average meal cost |
| National | 13.4% | $2.94 |
| Oregon | 14.2% | $2.91 |
| Hood River Co. | 8.8% | $3.68 |
| Wasco Co. | 12.8% | $3.34 |
| Sherman Co. | 16.5% | $3.53 |
| Klickitat Co. | 13.3% | $4.53 |
| Skamania Co. | 14% | $3.05 |

Recommendations: N/A

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### [Food Access Qualitative Insight from Klickitat County](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Sj5clDOjdzeijZ6gp381B2sTxYQKXTIAkr2FE3FGXBc/edit) (#9)

Sharon Carter, Director of [Klickitat County Senior Services](http://www.klickitatcounty.org/336/Senior-Services) / [Mt. Adams Transportation](http://www.klickitatcounty.org/363/Mount-Adams-Transportation-Service-MATS)

Scope of data: Klickitat County

Population(s): Seniors

Content summary: Sharon Carter writes about general issues the seniors she works with experience

Findings summary: Seniors Sharon’s organizations work with bring up the issues of:

* Affordability of fresh produce during winter months
* Some seniors will not go to food banks even when they are very low-income because they think some people need it more than they do Instead Sharon’s org puts grocery bags together to deliver to seniors
* Some seniors will not go to meal site because they cannot afford suggested donation of $3.50, so they give them free “coupons” to pay with.
* Difficulty affording food and housing
* Winter months especially difficult to get food/supplies
* Many don’t realize the Mt. Adams Transportation service is available

Recommendations: N/A

### [Food Security in Klickitat County, 2009](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B83soqsttx12QnF6c2hvNXVEV3c) (#10)

Lauren Fein, Health Promotion & Education intern for Klickitat County Health Department

Scope of data: Klickitat County

Population(s): General population

Content summary: A very brief summary of Klickitat County’s CFA. Basic info about food

insecurity in general and in Klickitat County.

Findings summary:

* Almost 20% of Klickitat residents worry about where their next meal comes

from.

* This report emphasizes local grocery and convenience stores being the first line of defense against food insecurity.
* The USDA asserts that a family of four can feed themselves on their Thrifty Meal Plan for as little as $580 per month, but the average cost to follow that meal plan in Klickitat county is $1040.
* Average roundtrip distance to a grocery store is 50 miles

Recommendations:

* Local grocery stores first line of defense, so make sure they can offer affordable, healthy foods
* Educate consumers, producers, and grocers to create lasting change in rural communities struggling to achieve food security

### [Gorge Agriculture Presentation by Sarah Sullivan](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B83soqsttx12YmkzdV9rYUtyRmM) (#11)

*Gorge Grown Food Network*

Scope of data: Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Skamania, Klickitat Counties

Population(s): Agricultural producers

Content summary: Slideshow overview of agricultural characteristics in the Gorge. Slideshow

Findings summary:

* 80% of Oregon’s ag is exported out-of-state, 40% exported internationally
* Growing Portland “foodie” market wants local, and will pay for it. Even Portland

Public Schools are contracting locals foods. Consumer base growing rapidly.

* See table below for breakdown of agricultural characteristics by county:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Hood River | Wasco | Sherman | Skamania | Klickitat |
| # of farms | 544 | 670 | 186 | 144 | 760 |
| Relation to 2007 | No change | Up from 649 | Down from 208 | Up from 123 | Down from 893 |
| Land in farms | 25,817 in cropland, 15,169 harvested | 1,427,324 in farmland, 210,020 in cropland, 80,143 harvested | 513,649 in ag, 365,078 total cropland, 140,215 harvested | 6,473 in farmland, 1,312 in cropland, 972 harvested | 551,097 in farmland, 192,258 cropland, 80,898 harvested |
| Average acreage | 47 acres | 2,130 acres | 2,762 acres | 45 acres | 725 acres |
| # of employees (FT and PT) | 7,663 | 7,790 | N/A | 211 | 600 |
| Total market value of products sold | $77.1 million | $89.8 million | $54.5 million | $5.5 million | $72.4 million |
| Top crops: | By value: Pears, cherries, forage | By acreage: Winter wheat, forage, sweet cherries, spring wheat | By acreage:  Winter wheat, barley, spring wheat (all for grain), forage | By acreage:  Forage, grapes, pears, field/grass crops  By value: aquaculture, fruit, cattle, veggies | By acreage: Forage, winter wheat and spring wheat for grain, grapes |
| Top livestock | Bees, cattle, layers, goats, horses/ponies | Cattle, horses, hogs/pigs, layers, bees | Cattle, horses, goats, lamb/sheep, layers | N/A | Cattle, layers, sheep/lamb, horses, goats |

Recommendations:

* Farmers collaborate on production planning to diversify crops and products...Gorge Farmers Association? Does that exist? Or bring more farmers into FSC
* Consider waste streams and creative ways to get around regulations
* Utilize existing infrastructure like canneries, fish processing facilities, commercial kitchens
* Local branding: what is our story?

### [Gorge Wide Food Survey Results, 2017](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B83soqsttx12dks1RW1YQnJENVE) (#12)

*Columbia Gorge CCO Consumer Advisory Council*

Scope of data: Gorge-wide: Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Klickitat, & Skamania Counties

Population(s): General population

Content summary: almost 2,000 households surveyed on food issues

Findings summary:

* 34% worried about running out of food, 22% ran out of food, 15% regularly skipping meals
* Households on SNAP, WIC, and/or school lunch programs still experience high rates of food insecurity
* 12% of seniors ran out of food, 7% skipped a meal, and only 83% of seniors w/ an income of less than $12,000 receive SNAP
* Cost, distance to the store, and transportation were identified by food insecure individuals as key barriers to accessing food
* Interventions of interest: food preservation classes (29%), cooking classes (26%), nutrition/healthy eating classes (25%), learning to shop on a budget (24%), gardening classes (21%), land to grow a garden on/community garden (14%)

Recommendations:

* Identify a lead agency to increase collaboration/ communication amongst stakeholder agencies
* Create a shared evaluation tool to assess community food insecurity and effectiveness of programs
* Increase focus on education and food skills (shopping, cooking, preserving, growing)
* CCO to continue recognizing food security and social determinants of health in regards to health outcomes
* Food Security Screening performed in various Points of Contact (PCP’s, Social Services, Health Departments)
* Emphasize importance of this issue locally by engaging CCO and other community advocacy groups

### [Harvesting Health: A Community-Based Participatory Evaluation of the Veggie Rx Program](http://oregon.providence.org/~/media/Files/Providence%20OR%20PDF/VeggieRXReport.pdf), 2016 (#13)

*Center for Outcomes Research and Education (CORE) & The Next Door*

Scope of data: Gorge-wide: Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Klickitat, & Skamania Counties

Population(s): Veggie Rx users, Latinx

Content summary: A community-based participatory evaluation of the Veggie Rx program. 3

photovoice focus groups were conducted in Spanish and 3 were conducted in English, based on photographs participants had taken in order to create a participatory evaluation style. Direct quotes are included by study participants.

Findings summary:

* Veggie Rx screening process uncomfortable
* Some participants still learning cooking and budgeting skills, but on a whole cooking and budgeting skills were very proficient. “Little evidence that participants need nutrition education.”
* Program confusing to some
* Gratitude felt towards program
* Positive health, diet, and economic outcomes reported by participants
* Increased food security and improved nutritional intake, improved mental and physical health
* Program aids family finances, and has potential to influence local economy
* Some reported embarrassment and stigmatization from using vouchers

Recommendations: (see Appendix B on page 24 for summary of recommendations)

* Improve access through redesign of the prescription and redemption process. There may be food insecure populations that will not access current screening sites. In order to increase access to program, screening sites should be varied and screening questions should be offered as part of a larger question set. Food banks, workplaces, grocery stores/farmers markets, and more social service organizations should be screening sites.
* Base program refinements on community strengths. Offering more information during the prescribing process will likely increase redemption rates. Furthermore, stigmatization was a challenge, education of retail partners may magnify impact on food insecurity. Finally, participants took joy in supporting local businesses; marketing should highlight this feature of the program.
* Use participant voice to further inform program design. Changes in program design should be based on a logic model, and quantitative data on process and outcomes metrics could test the hypotheses in the logic model. Finally, the leadership team should continue to invite recipients to share feedback, and at least one voucher recipient should have a seat on the leadership team.

### [Oregon Food Infrastructure Gap Analysis](https://ecotrust.org/media/Food-Infrastructure-Report-exec-summary.pdf) (#14)

*Ecotrust, 2015*

Scope of data: Oregon-wide, not specific to the Gorge but

Population(s): Producers, distributors, consumers, etc., all food systems players

Content summary:

Findings summary:

Recommendations:

### [Organizing to Rebuild Agriculture of the Middle: A needs assessment of AOTM producers supplying Oregon’s foodshed](https://ecotrust.org/media/AOTM-Producer-Whitepaper-FINAL.pdf) (#15)

*Ecotrust, 2015*

Scope of data: Oregon-wide, not specific to the Gorge but

Population(s): Producers, distributors, consumers, etc., all food systems players

Content summary:

Findings summary:

Recommendations:

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### [Producer Survey Preliminary Report, August 2017](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B83soqsttx12YmkzdV9rYUtyRmM) (#16)

*WSU and OSU Extensions, and Gorge Grown Food Network*

Scope of data: Gorge-wide: Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Klickitat, Skamania Counties

Population(s): Agricultural producers

Content summary: 109 farms were surveyed about farm/farmer characteristics, and also to gage

interest in agricultural education, assess cold storage needs and resources, food processing plant interest, communication preference

Findings summary:

* Producers generally prefer to learn about new skills or topics by themselves

(reading, online research, other research), or through one-on-one conversations

with experts, or through workshops, classes, and conferences.

* About ¼ of farmers are interested in renting cold storage space, but not a single

farmer has spare cold storage space to rent.

* Meat processing plants and commercial kitchen access were identified as the top

two food processing facilities that farmers are interested in accessing (21% and 19% interest). Fruit processing and canning were next (11% and 10%).

* At least 30/109 farmers “very” or “somewhat” interested in: farm link/farmer succession program; small local farm processing plant to wash, cut, store, and distribute products; networking food buyers; local food broker to help aggregate and distribute products to schools and institutions; distributor to deliver food locally or to portland; sharing skills with new farmers (e.g., plumbing and welding).
* Only 62% of farmers have enough water to produce at the scale they would like
* Farmers general prefer communication with community partners via e-newsletters/email listservs

Recommendations: N/A

### Veggie Rx Program, 2016 (#17)

*One Community Health (OCH)*

Scope of data: Gorge-wide: Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Klickitat, & Skamania Counties

Population(s): One Community Health (OCH) Veggie Rx recipients

Content summary: OCH analyzed data of their Veggie Rx recipients. Data includes: demographics

such as age and primary language spoken; food insecurity screening; household poverty level; emergency department use; Veggie Rx program use and refill rate and time between refills.

Findings summary:

* Most participants screened positive for food insecurity only one time over the duration of the program
* 883 people have used Veggie Rx through OCH, but 764 did not request a refill
* 80 requested one refill, 21 requested two refills, and 18 requested three or more refills. For those that did refill their prescription, there was a 2.8 month average time between refills

Recommendations:

* More complete data entry and more accurate data (from OCH personnel)
* Use screenings at each voucher refill encounter. Additionally screen for health outcomes such as hypertension rates, blood glucose, etc.
* Screen participants more carefully to eliminate those who do not truly need this service (study notes that perhaps low refill rate indicates that vouchers were being distributed to folks who did not need them, and those funds could have been put to better use. See page 12)

### Veggie Rx Survey, 2017 (#18)

*One Community Health*

Scope of data: Gorge-wide: Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Klickitat, & Skamania Counties

Population(s): OCH Veggie Rx recipients

Content summary: OCH conducted a survey of 70 patients who had at some point received a Veggie

Rx voucher. 33 received a voucher only once; 37 received at least one refill.

Survey covers demographics, needs, barriers, access and satisfaction with

program.

Findings summary:

First time Veggie Rx users:

* 10/33 of respondents who did not seek a refill did not know refills were an option. The remaining amount knew you could get a refill, but chose not to even though their financial situation had not changed.
* 46% said one voucher was not enough to meet their needs; 53% said it was sufficient
* 43% reported experiencing barriers to getting a Veggie Rx refill. Barriers generally included: not enough time, not enough information about refills, unsure of where to use refills, program inconsistency (distribution sites out of vouchers), no transportation, farmers markets not convenient (survey conducted when vouchers only accepted at farm stands and farmers markets)
* 40% said Veggie Rx was the only form of food assistance they received
* About half of users said they couldn’t use the entire $30 voucher
* 62% reported a generally positive experience with Veggie Rx

Refill Veggie Rx users:

* 90% able to use entire $30 voucher
* Only 4 users said it was not easy to use voucher
* 92% satisfaction with program

Recommendations: N/A

### White Salmon Preschool and Elementary School Email from Mandi Rae Pope (#19)

Scope of data: Klickitat County (White Salmon)

Population(s): Youth

Content summary: This document contains insight regarding food security services at schools from

Mandi Rae Pope, a resident of White Salmon and a mother of young children.

Findings summary:

* Positive response from backpack program
* The preschool director “would be more than happy to have a pantry in the school” and to send along information about services.
* No hunger screening at the preschool or elementary school
* “Overall: It seems that people understand the scope of the hunger issue. Schools are eager to get direct services offered. Now, we just need to figure out how to get it together on the WA side. Maybe we start with a huge bulk up in the backpack program that is already in place?”

Recommendations: N/A

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