

## Hunger continues to be a prominent concern for Coloradans. Coloradans of color experience higher rates of food insecurity and impacts are felt unequally around the state.

The Colorado Health Foundation is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization bringing health in reach for all Coloradans by engaging closely with communities across the state through investing, policy advocacy and research. We believe in listening first to understand the experiences and priorities of those who call Colorado “home.” That is why we conduct an annual poll to understand the perspectives and concerns of Coloradans around the state.

According to findings from the fourth annual Pulse Poll, the **cost of living** and **worries about housing affordability** dominate the list of concerns for most Coloradans in 2023. A bipartisan team of researchers collected responses from 2,639 Coloradans between April 8 - May 3, 2023, showed persistently high living costs and housing affordability are presenting a ripple effect across multiple aspects of daily life and fueling worries for the state’s future generations.

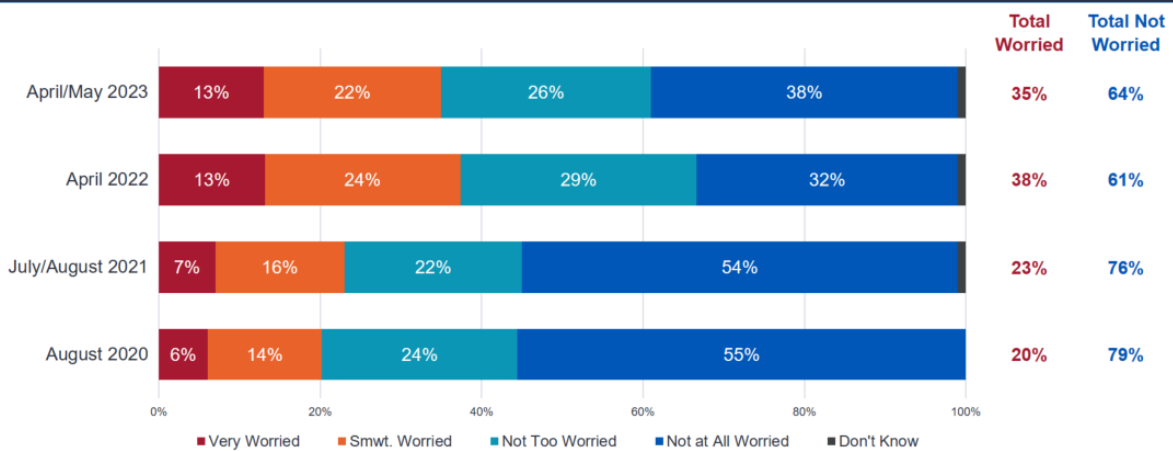
While **hunger** and **food insecurity** wasn’t the top headline of 2023, it remains among the top concerns on the minds of Coloradans.

- 43% of Coloradans indicate that hunger is an “extremely” or “very serious” problem facing Colorado. This represents a 3% increase from 2022.
- More than one-third of Coloradans are worried about affording food.
- Coloradans of color continue to express more concern than White Coloradans about food insecurity
- Latino and Native American respondents and those with incomes under \$50,000 are especially concerned about food insecurity.
- Residents of Pueblo County are more worried about affording food than others.
- More than one in 10 have skipped meals in the last 12 months because they couldn’t afford food.
- Three-quarters of Coloradans say making it easier for low-income people to enroll in safety net programs will be effective in addressing the cost of living.

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## More than one-third are worried about affording food.

Q24. Thinking ahead over the next year, how worried are you that you might not always be able to afford enough food to feed yourself and your family:



43

## Coloradans of color continue to express more concern than White Coloradans about food insecurity.

Q24. Thinking ahead over the next year, how worried are you that you might not always be able to afford enough food to feed yourself and your family:

(Total % Worried)

Demographic Group	2020	2021	2022	2023	Difference (2022-2023)
All	20%	23%	38%	35%	-3%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>					
Asian/Pacific Islander	13%	18%	26%	26%	0%
Black/African American	31%	29%	34%	39%	+5%
Hispanic/Latino	28%	40%	55%	47%	-8%
Native American/Indigenous	--	34%	62%	55%	-7%
White	17%	17%	33%	30%	-3%
Multiracial	--	--	41%	35%	-6%



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Q24. Thinking ahead over the next year, how worried are you that you might not always be able to afford enough food to feed yourself and your family:

Demographic Group	Total Worried	Total Not Worried	Don't Know
All	35%	64%	1%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>			
Asian/Pacific Islander	26%	74%	0%
Black/African American	39%	56%	5%
Hispanic/Latino	47%	53%	0%
Native American/Indigenous	55%	44%	1%
White	30%	69%	1%
Multiracial	35%	65%	0%
<b>Household Income</b>			
<\$30,000	66%	33%	0%
\$30,000-\$50,000	54%	46%	0%
\$50,000-\$75,000	47%	52%	1%
\$75,000-\$100,000	37%	63%	0%
\$100,000-\$150,000	27%	73%	0%
\$150,000+	10%	89%	1%



Residents of Pueblo County are more worried about affording food than are others.

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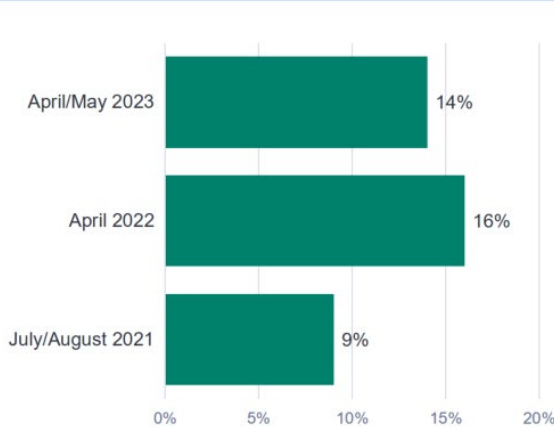
Demographic Group	Total Worried	Total Not Worried	Don't Know
<b>Region</b>			
Eastern Plains	37%	63%	0%
El Paso	40%	60%	0%
Pueblo	55%	45%	0%
Larimer Weld	34%	64%	2%
Denver Metro	32%	66%	1%
Western Slope	37%	62%	1%



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More than one in ten have skipped meals because they couldn't afford food.

Q26a. In the last 12 months, have you experienced any of the following: Skipped meals because you couldn't afford food? (% Yes)



Demographic Group	% Yes
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	
Asian/Pacific Islander	8%
Black/African American	22%
Hispanic/Latino	19%
Native American/Indigenous	35%
White	13%
Multiracial	28%
<b>Household Income</b>	
<\$30,000	40%
\$30,000-\$50,000	28%
\$50,000-\$75,000	24%
\$75,000-\$100,000	9%
\$100,000-\$150,000	5%
\$150,000+	5%



Three-quarters say making it easier for low-income people to enroll in safety net programs will be effective in addressing the cost of living.

Q28. Here are some actions that some people say will address the rising cost of living in Colorado. Please tell me how effective you think it will be in helping Coloradans make ends meet: very effective, somewhat effective, or not too effective.

