Ensuring food security

Food insecurity refers to the social and economic problem of lack of food due to resource or other constraints. It is experienced when there is uncertainty about future food availability and access, insufficiency in the amount and kind of food required for health, and/or the need to use socially unacceptable ways to acquire food.

Current novel research efforts at USC include understanding:

i. How children experience food insecurity and how to assess it in children

ii. Why food insecurity is so strongly associated with poor health and development outcomes

iii. The ways in which social and economic contexts place households at risk of food insecurity and affect the potential to benefit from programs designed to alleviate food insecurity

iv. The cumulative impact of food insecurity over the life course

v. How systems science can help identify opportunities to improve responses to food insecurity

vi. The role of food insecurity in the development of obesity, HIV, and chronic disease such as diabetes

vii. Alleviating food insecurity in seniors.