**Unit 13 Listening –** [**The racial hunger gap in American cities**](https://theconversation.com/drafts/161202/edit) **(5mins)**

1. Prof. Gunderson begins by noting that rates of food insecurity rose in America during the Covid19 pandemic, although not as much as some people predicted. Listen to the first part of the podcast (0 – 2.20mins) and make notes about the 3 main reasons why the rates did not rise as sharply as was predicted.

* The first is that the U.S. government put together the stimulus package, which dramatically raised a lot of people’s income, especially for poor households.
* A second reason is that unemployment benefits were being paid to people who are unemployed. And the reality is these unemployment benefits were higher than what they had when they were working and therefore that also give them more money to spend on food.
* A third and something that’s oftentimes overlooked, is the fact that there wasn’t any sort of rapid pricing increase.

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| **Reasons for food insecurity** | | |
|  | **American Indians** | **Black people** |
| Rate of food insecurity  Location  Causes  Job/economic opportunities  Discrimination | High – averaging 25% between 2000 and 2010.  American Indian reservations.  Location.  There are not many jobs in these areas. The areas have been poor for decades.  ------------------- | Incredibly high.  Very high in the upper Midwest (i.e. Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Detroit).  Much lower rates in the South.  The northern cities have long histories of really serious racial segregation.  These areas are cut off from jobs, cut off from economic opportunities.  Sharp racial disparities within Northern cities. Areas that are predominantly white have really low rates of food insecurity and areas that are predominantly Black have really, really high rates of food insecurity. |