Today’s piece was prepared by Erin Shea, MD, based on a story from Science Daily, [Food insecurity: A threat to the developmental and psychosocial health of children](https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/02/170201110638.htm)

This article looked at [recent study](https://www-ncbi-nlm-nih-gov.offcampus.lib.washington.edu/pubmed/?term=Shankar+Chung+Rainjade+Frank) published in the Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics that identified adverse developmental and behavioral outcomes associated with food insecurity, based on examination of data from multiple published articles. Outcomes varied based on age. The article did not consider the strength of the research conclusions, but remarks that physicians do not generally consider child-nutrition programs as prevention tools for food insecurity, and continues that children involved in these programs have better behavioral and developmental outcomes. The journalist’s discussion of this systematic review makes a few assumptions, such as food insecurity causing poor behavioral and developmental outcomes, rather than more accurately identifying the finding as an association. Another assumption made is that child nutrition programs improve behavioral and developmental outcomes, but again, the studies don’t clearly make such an examination.

**RESOURCES ON SOCIAL SERVICES SUPPORT:**

[Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics Resources](https://depts.washington.edu/dbpeds/Resources.html#section4_textarea48_heading) *Website maintained by Dr. Zinner that provides resources (listed by category), including Financial and Food support*

And that’s today’s Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics: IN THE NEWS!