SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) IN ACTION DASHBOARD

About the Dashboard

Purpose

USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps put healthy food within reach for those in need. This dashboard is intended to provide the public with an understanding of how SNAP helps make nutritious food more affordable for low-income households.

Audience

This dashboard is for public audiences, including policymakers, researchers, and SNAP participants interested in the widespread impact of SNAP.

Data Source(s) and Data Collection

This dashboard is based primarily on SNAP Quality Control (QC) FY 2022 data. The SNAP QC data are an edited version of the raw data file generated by SNAP's QC System, which is composed of monthly case reviews conducted by State SNAP agencies.

To view more detailed information on the SNAP QC data, read the technical documentation, and download the publicly available data, visit the SNAP QC webpage (https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/qc/database).

Supplementary data sources, such as SNAP participation and research studies related to SNAP, are noted beside the relevant visual on the dashboard page. The participation data on the SNAP Overview comes from the SNAP Data Tables, National Level Annual Summary and represents the most recent full fiscal year of data available (https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap).

The figures within the dashboard derived from SNAP QC data and SNAP participation data will be updated annually as new data sets become available. Research study highlights will be revised on an ad hoc basis.

Note: In some cases, estimates may not add precisely to expected total due to rounding.

Data Definitions or Conventions

Adult: Adults (also known as working-age adults, or non-elderly adults) are age 18-59. In SNAP, general work requirements apply to people age 16-59, a requirement that also includes teenage children (16-17) applying for SNAP, who would not be considered working-age adults because they fall under the 'child' category (https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/work-requirements). In the dashboard, 'adult' refers to this age group 18-59, unless otherwise specified.

Child: An individual under age 18, with or without a disability.

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<u>Elderly adult</u>: In SNAP, an individual 60 years or older (https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligibility/elderly-disabled-special-rules), with or without a disability.

<u>Emergency allotment (EA)</u>: During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, USDA granted waivers allowing States to provide SNAP households with extra pandemic-related supplemental benefits known as emergency allotments (EA). Please see https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/covid-19-emergency-allotments-guidance for more information.

<u>Federal poverty level (FPL)</u>: The FPL defines the minimum income needed by each household size to cover necessities. It is updated for inflation annually by the Department of Health and Human Services.

<u>Fiscal year</u>: The federal fiscal year runs from October to September. For instance, fiscal year 2023 ran from October 2022 through September 2023.

<u>Food security</u>: Food security means access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life. See https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-u-s/ for more details.

<u>Gross domestic product (GDP)</u>: Gross domestic product measures the value of final goods and services produced within the United States.

<u>Household</u>: In general, everyone who lives together and purchases and prepares meals together is grouped together as one SNAP household. Please see https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/recipient/eligibility for more information. Other people may live in the same residence, but not receive benefits.

<u>Maximum benefit amount</u>: The maximum benefit amount is the maximum possible allotment for a household size. It is a SNAP-specific calculation that is uniform across participants with a given household size, and provides a starting point for determining benefit levels for that household size.

<u>Person with a disability</u>: A *non-elderly* person with a disability according to SNAP rules (https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligibility/elderly-disabled-special-rules). In SNAP, you are a person with a disability if you meet ONE of the following criteria:
   • You receive federal disability or blindness payments under the Social Security Act, including Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security disability or blindness payments. OR
   • You receive state disability or blindness payments based on SSI rules. OR
   • You receive a disability retirement benefit from a governmental agency because of a permanent disability. OR

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   • You receive an annuity under the Railroad Retirement Act and are eligible for Medicare or are considered disabled under SSI. OR
   • You are a veteran who is totally disabled, permanently homebound, or in need of regular aid and attendance. OR
   • You are the surviving spouse or child of a veteran who is receiving VA benefits and is considered permanently disabled.

In some cases, this dashboard refers to 'adults with a disability,' meaning those ages 18 through 59 who meet at least one of the criteria listed above.

Because the QC data file does not directly identify individuals with disabilities, information in the QC data file (such as SSI receipt or work registration status) is used to identify those likely to have a disability. See Appendix B of the technical documentation for more information (https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/qc/database).

Contact Info
If you have any questions on this dashboard or suggestions for improvement, please contact FNSStudies@usda.gov and FNCS.Analytics@usda.gov.