

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the nation's most important anti-hunger program.

Who Does SNAP Reach?

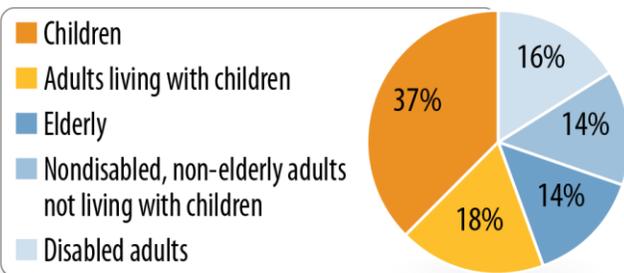
In Fiscal Year 2014, it reached:

- **863,000** Massachusetts residents, or **13%** of the state population (**1 in 8**)
- **46,536,000** participants in the United States, or **15%** of the total population (**1 in 7 people**)

MASSACHUSETTS	almost 61% of all SNAP participants are in families with children	almost 42% of all SNAP participants are in families with elderly or disabled members	almost 32% of all SNAP participants are in working families
NATIONALLY	almost 70% of all SNAP participants are in families with children	almost 29% of all SNAP participants are in families with elderly or disabled members	more than 42% of all SNAP participants are in working families

Source: CBPP analysis of data from USDA Food and Nutrition Service, FY 2013

The majority of SNAP recipients in Massachusetts are children, elderly, or disabled



Source: CBPP analysis of data from USDA Food and Nutrition Service, FY 2013

In Massachusetts many households still struggle to put food on the table:

- **10.6%** of households were “food insecure,” or struggled to afford a nutritionally adequate diet, in 2011-2013.
- **5.5%** of the population was unemployed in December 2014.
- In 2013, average income in Massachusetts was **4.7% below** the 2007 level.
- **11.9%** of the population lived below the poverty line in 2013.
- **16.0%** of children lived below the poverty line in 2013.
- **8.8%** of elderly lived below the poverty line in 2013.

SNAP reaches needy populations: 93% of eligible individuals participated in SNAP in Massachusetts in 2012. In Massachusetts in FY 2013 **75%** of households receiving SNAP had income below the poverty line (about \$23,850 for a family of four in 2014), and **32%** of households were in deep poverty, with income below 50% of the poverty line.

SNAP kept **86,000** people out of poverty from 2009-2012.

What Benefits Do SNAP Recipients Receive?

SNAP targets benefits according to need. Very poor households receive more SNAP benefits than households closer to the poverty line since they need more help affording an adequate diet.

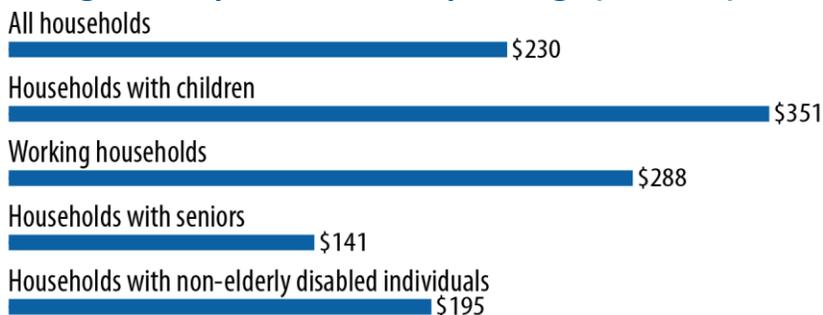
Households receive SNAP benefits on electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards, which can be used only to purchase food at one of the 252,900 authorized retail locations around the country, including 5,200 in Massachusetts.



	October 2013	November 2013- September 2014
Average monthly SNAP benefit for each household member:	\$131*	\$122
Average monthly SNAP benefit per person per meal:	\$1.46*	\$1.36

*This amount includes the temporary boost in benefits provided by the economic recovery legislation, which expired in November 2013.

Average Monthly SNAP Benefit By Demographic Group, FY 2013, Massachusetts



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Research and Analysis, "Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2013"

Note: These amounts also include the temporary boost from the Recovery Act. In FY 2014, benefits will be lower by an average of \$8-10 per person.

How Does SNAP Benefit the Economy?

Moody's Analytics estimates that in a weak economy, \$1 in SNAP benefits generates \$1.70 in economic activity.

SNAP benefits pumped about \$1.3 billion into Massachusetts' economy in 2014.



For more information on the SNAP program, including Massachusetts-specific information, please see:

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities Chart Book: <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3744>

USDA SNAP data: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/snapmain.htm>

MA state SNAP program: <http://www.mass.gov/snap>