

Pennsylvania

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

March 16th, 2020



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

Whom Does SNAP Reach?

In Fiscal Year 2019, it reached:

- **1,757,000** Pennsylvania residents, or **14%** of the state population (**1 in 7**)
- **38,000,000** participants in the United States, or **12%** of the total population (**1 in 9**)^a

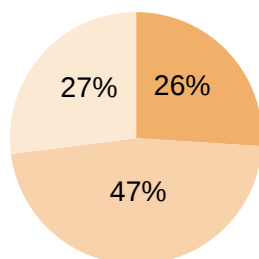
PENNSYLVANIA	more than 59% of SNAP participants are in families with children	more than 43% are in families with members who are elderly or have disabilities	more than 45% are in working families
NATIONALLY	more than 67% of SNAP participants are in families with children	almost 34% are in families with members who are elderly or have disabilities	more than 43% are in working families

Source: CBPP analysis of data from USDA Food and Nutrition Service, FY 2018

Most SNAP Participants in Pennsylvania Are Poor

Share of participants by household income, FY 2018

- Income at or below 50% of poverty
- Income between 51-100% of poverty
- Income above 100% of poverty



Source: CBPP analysis of FY 2018 USDA SNAP Household Characteristics data

Many Pennsylvania households struggle to put food on the table. The most recent data show:

- **11.1%** of households were “food insecure,” or struggled to afford a nutritionally adequate diet.
- Median income was **3.3% above** the 2007 level, after adjusting for inflation.
- **12.2%** of the population lived below the poverty line.
- **16.8%** of children lived below the poverty line.
- **8.3%** of elderly lived below the poverty line.

SNAP reaches needy populations: Between 95 and 100% of eligible individuals participated in SNAP in **Pennsylvania** in 2016, and **91%** of eligible workers participated.

SNAP kept **343,000** people out of poverty in **Pennsylvania**, including **134,000** children, per year between 2013 and 2016, on average. (These figures adjust for households' underreporting of benefits.)

^a Due to data-reporting issues, 2019 SNAP participation data for North Carolina are not available from the Department of Agriculture. This national participation total was calculated using SNAP caseload data from the North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services, and was adjusted to account for the early issuance nationwide of February 2019 SNAP benefits in January 2019.

What Benefits Do SNAP Recipients Receive?

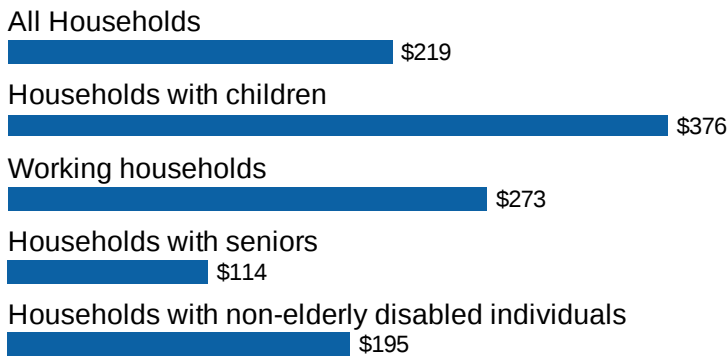
SNAP targets benefits according to need. Very poor households receive more SNAP benefits than households closer to the poverty line since they need more help affording an adequate diet. SNAP recipients in [Pennsylvania](#) received \$2.51 billion in benefits in 2019.



Fiscal Year 2019

Average monthly SNAP benefit for each household member:	\$129
Average SNAP benefit per person per meal:	\$1.31

Average Monthly SNAP Benefit By Demographic Group, FY 2018, Pennsylvania



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Research and Analysis, "Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2018"

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. Households receive SNAP benefits on electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards, which can be used only to purchase food at one of about 247,600 authorized retail locations around the country, including some 10,000 in [Pennsylvania](#).



For more information on SNAP, including Pennsylvania-specific information, please see:

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities Chart Book: <https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/chart-book-snap-helps-struggling-families-put-food-on-the-table>

USDA SNAP data: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>

Pennsylvania SNAP program:

http://www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/supplementalnutritionassistanceprogram/#.Vr4wM_krldU

Advocates: Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger, www.hungercoalition.org