United States Department of Agriculture

Food and Nutrition Service

Profile of SNAP Households in 2017

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the cornerstone of the Nation's nutrition assistance safety net. The program serves a broad spectrum of low income people as benefits are available to most people who meet the financial and non-financial requirements.

MASSACHUSETTS

$1.16 billion in SNAP issued that year

765,714 people on SNAP per month

91% participation rate

MASSACHUSETTS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 5

6% **of households receive SNAP**

$19,592 **median income of households on SNAP**

$103,252 **median income of households *not* on SNAP**

Characteristic	Households Receiving SNAP	Households *not* Receiving SNAP
Households:		
With one or more people 60 years and over	49.40%	37.60%
With child(ren) under 18 years	36.10%	29.40%
With disabled individual(s)	47.40%	18.50%
Below poverty level[1]	44.60%	5.70%
Race/Ethnicity		
White	68.00%	80.80%
Black or African American	11.10%	4.00%
American Indian and Alaska Native	N/A	N/A
Asian	13.30%	11.40%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A
Other Race	5.10%	1.90%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	15.90%	6.20%
Work Status		
Families With:		
No workers in the past 12 months	18.70%	9.00%
1 worker in the past 12 months	46.40%	25.30%
2 or more workers in the past 12 months	34.90%	65.80%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau 2017 American Community Survey (ACS), using 115th Congressional District boundaries; USDA SNAP program data; and participation rates from Reaching Those in Need: Estimates of State SNAP Participation Rates in 2016. For more information on SNAP households see https://www.fns.usda.gov/research-analysis.

[1] The ACS bases poverty status on annual household income; SNAP eligibility is based on monthly income. Due to this difference in reference periods, poverty status in the ACS may differ from poverty status at the time of SNAP certification.

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