

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:

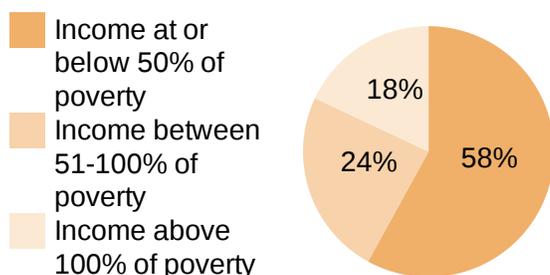
- **3,789,000** California residents, or **10%** of the state population (**1 in 10**)
- **38,000,000** participants in the United States, or **12%** of the total population (**1 in 9**)<sup>a</sup>

<b>CALIFORNIA</b>	almost <b>73%</b> of SNAP participants are in families with children	almost <b>12%</b> are in families with members who are elderly or have disabilities	almost <b>46%</b> are in working families
<b>NATIONALLY</b>	more than <b>67%</b> of SNAP participants are in families with children	almost <b>34%</b> are in families with members who are elderly or have disabilities	more than <b>43%</b> are in working families

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

### Most SNAP Participants in California Are Poor

Share of participants by household income, FY 2018



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

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

- **10.6%** of households were “food insecure,” or struggled to afford a nutritionally adequate diet.
- Median income was **3.4% above** the 2007 level, after adjusting for inflation.
- **12.8%** of the population lived below the poverty line.
- **17.4%** of children lived below the poverty line.
- **10.5%** of elderly lived below the poverty line.

**SNAP reaches needy populations: 72%** of eligible individuals participated in SNAP in **California** in 2016, and **61%** of eligible workers participated.

SNAP kept **846,000** people out of poverty in **California**, including **429,000** children, per year between 2013 and 2016, on average. (These figures adjust for households’ underreporting of benefits.)

<sup>a</sup> 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 California received \$5.98 billion in benefits in 2019.



Fiscal Year 2019

Average monthly SNAP benefit for each household member:

**\$141**

Average SNAP benefit per person per meal:

**\$1.44**

## Average Monthly SNAP Benefit By Demographic Group, FY 2018, California

All Households

\$263

Households with children

\$369

Working households

\$274

Households with seniors

\$131

Households with non-elderly disabled individuals

\$110

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 26,300 in California.



**For more information on SNAP, including California-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/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>

California SNAP program: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/food-nutrition/calfresh>

Advocates: California Food Policy Advocates, <http://cfpa.net/>

**Notes:** In addition to SNAP, in FY 2019, based on preliminary data, an average of about 4,000 individuals in California received benefits through the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), which is a federal program that provides commodity foods to low-income households, including the elderly, living on Indian reservations, and to Native American families residing in designated areas near reservations and in the State of Oklahoma.