



Overview



- Food Insecurity in the US
- SNAP- food safety net
 - Benefits
 - Who participates
- SNAP impacts
- SNAP and legislation
- SNAP and PIH's work

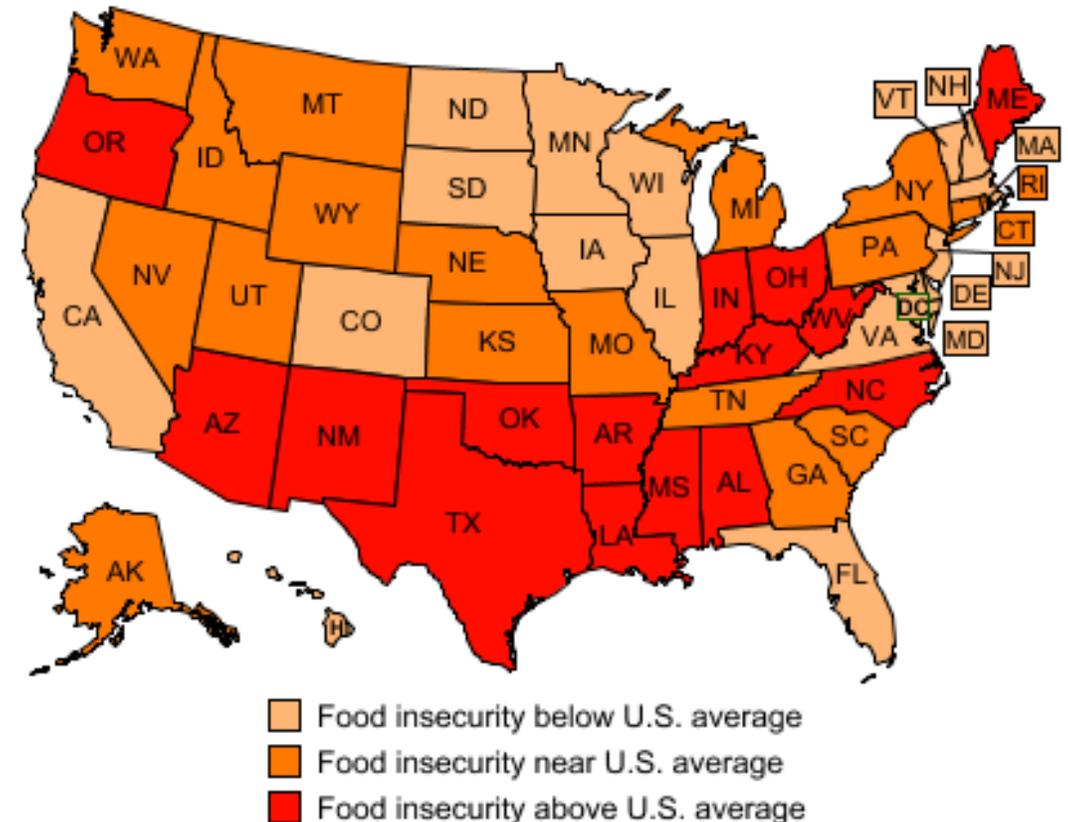


Food Insecurity in the US

The most recent data (2016) shows:

- About **1 in 8 Americans** lived in food insecure households, meaning they did not always have access to enough food to sustain an active, healthy lifestyle.
- That's **12% of the population**
- **41.2 million people**
 - Includes **6.5 million kids**
- Who is food insecure?
 - Households with kids have a substantially higher rate of food insecurity
 - Prevalence is higher for households in non-metropolitan areas (15%) and those in big cities (14%)
 - Regionally, higher in the South (14%), lowest in the Northeast. (10%)

Prevalence of food insecurity, average 2014-16



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, using data from the December 2014, 2015, and 2016 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplements.



Food Safety Net Programs

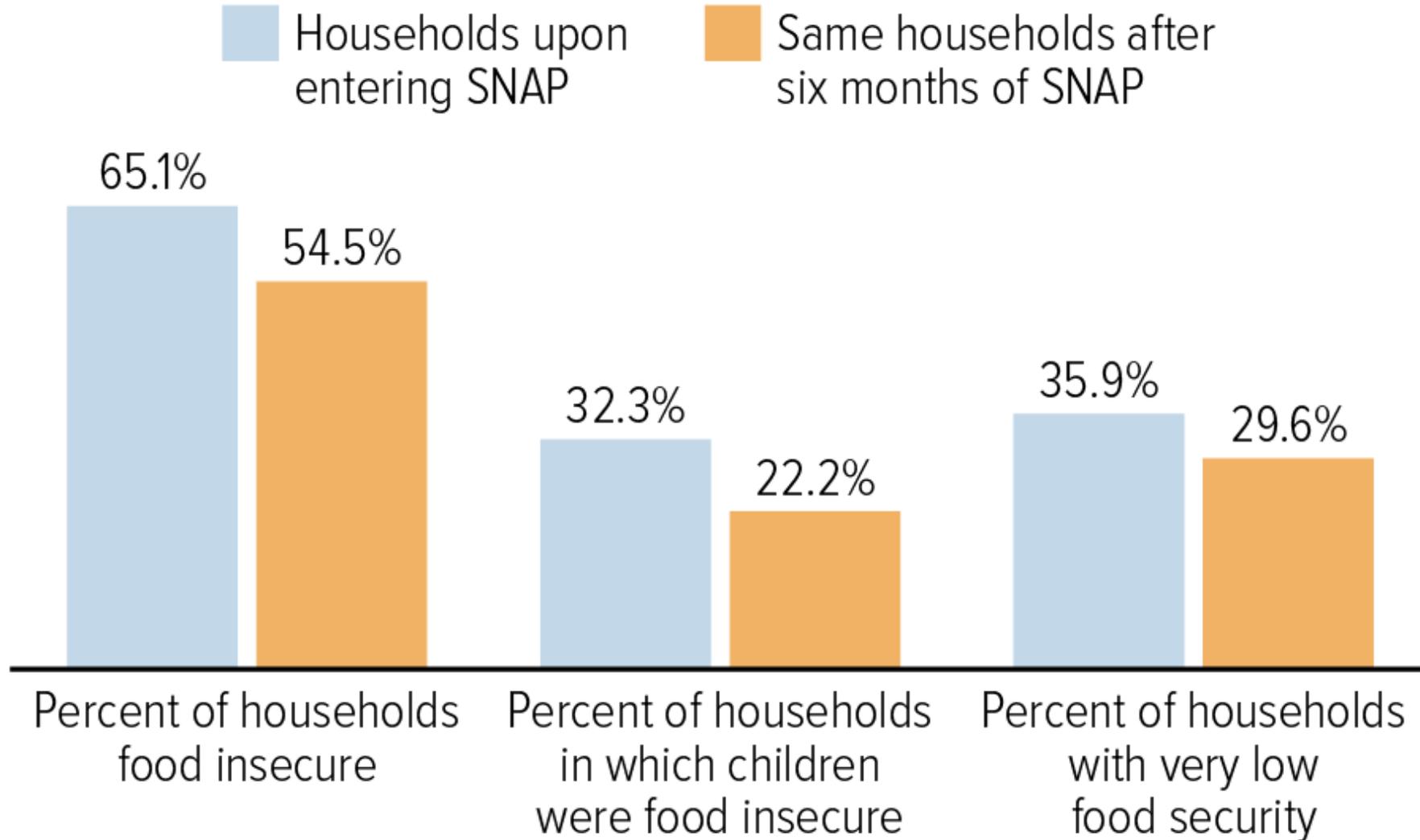
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)



- SNAP is the first line of defense against hunger in the US
- Available to almost all households with low incomes (at or below 130% federal poverty level)
 - Some groups of people are considered “categorically eligible” for SNAP because they receive TANF or SSI
- Benefits are targeted to need: households with less income receive larger benefits, since they need more help to afford an adequate diet.
 - Benefit formula assumes that families will spend 30% of their income for food.



SNAP Helps Families Afford Adequate Food





SNAP Benefits

- The average monthly benefit is **\$120/month**
- Meant to supplement the purchasing power of low-income families
 - SNAP reduces poverty!
- By all measures, this is a modest amount
 - Just **\$1.40 on average per person** per meal
- SNAP benefits do not cover the cost of a low-income meal in 99% of the US
 - [Urban Institute Interactive tool](#)





Who Participates in SNAP



- **92% of SNAP benefits** go to households with incomes below the poverty line
- More than half (56%) goes to households below **HALF the poverty line** (\$10,390/family of three in 2018)
- 68% of SNAP participants are in households with kids
- 1/3 of participants are in families with a senior or person with a disability.



Impact of SNAP on Health and Well-Being

- Reduces poverty
- Reduces food insecurity
- Protects against obesity
- Improves dietary intake
- Improves health outcomes
 - Reduced hospitalization
 - Lowers spending on health care
 - Improved adherence to medication
- Improves mental health

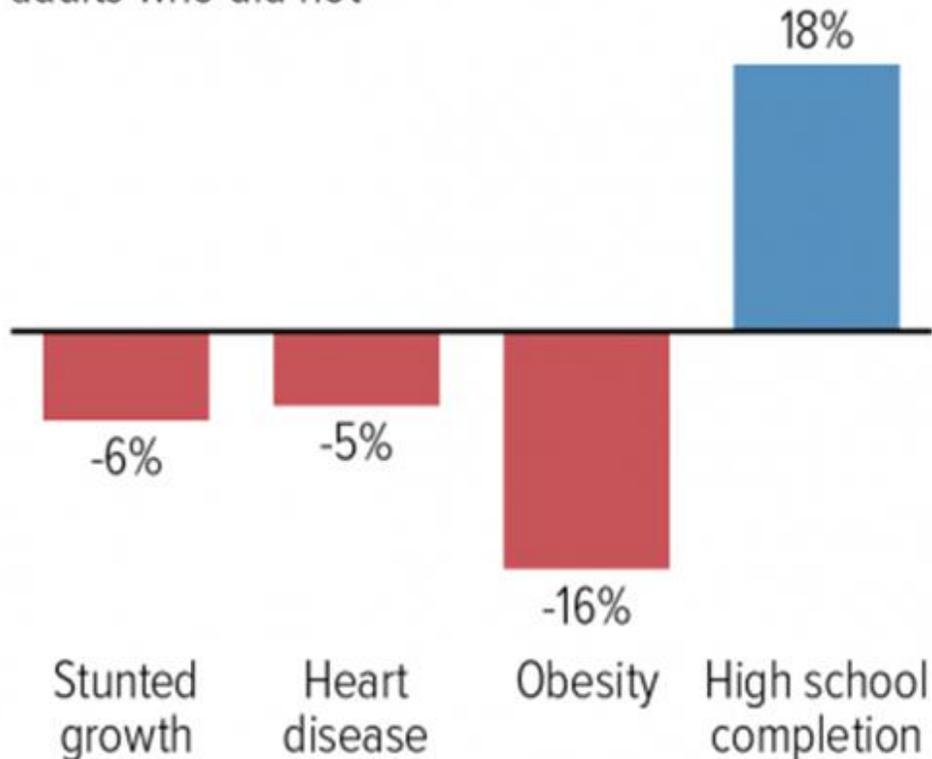




Impact of SNAP- Long Term Improvements

Children With Access to SNAP Fare Better Years Later

Percentage-point change in outcomes for adults who received SNAP as children, compared to adults who did not



- Access to SNAP in utero or during early childhood has been shown to:
 - Increase likelihood of high school graduation
 - Reduce incidence later in life of obesity, hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, and heart attack
 - Increase birth weight
 - Reduce overall poor health and anemia



Impact of SNAP on the Economy

- **Each dollar of federal SNAP benefits generates \$1.70 in economic activity**
 - **SNAP NOT ONLY PAYS FOR ITSELF, IT ADDS TO THE ECONOMY**
- USDA estimates that between 8,900-17,900 full time jobs are created for every \$1 billion in SNAP spending
- Each \$1 billion in retail food demand from SNAP participants generates 3,300 farm jobs
 - SNAP redemptions account for about 10% of all expenditures on food for consumption at home
- Economic conditions- recession, unemployment- impact SNAP enrollment
 - Participation goes up in recession and falls during economic expansion





SNAP and Work Requirements



- Provisions would:
 - Require state agencies to ramp up training and employment programs to an unprecedented level, without being able to tailor these programs to local context
 - Require up to 7 million working-age SNAP participants to report their weekly wages and hours in greater detail
- Effort to document and report work would actually take participants away from actual efforts to work
- Would increase workload for SNAP program managers
- More than 30% of all SNAP households had earning from work in FY 2015, 55% when looking at households with kids.
 - 64% of participants are kids, elderly, or disabled



Food Access and PIH

- Work in Navajo Nation to increase access to healthy foods and improve health outcomes
- FVRx- Fruit and Vegetable prescription program
 - 91% of participants food insecure
 - 74% also enrolled in SNAP
- Voucher for fruit and vegetable purchases in local stores
- Even with support of FVRx and SNAP, families are still food insecure
- Beyond Navajo Nation work, we support the fight against food insecurity and malnutrition at all of the sites that we work at





Thank You!!