

Food Stamp/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Receipt in the Past 12 Months for Households by State: 2010 and 2011

American Community Survey Briefs

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INTRODUCTION

Many households in the United States continue to rely on food stamp/SNAP benefits to purchase food for their families. This report presents data on food stamp/SNAP receipt for the past 12 months at the national and state levels based on the 2010 and 2011 American Community Survey (ACS). The data in this report are for households, not individuals. If any person living at the sample address at the time of the interview received food stamps/SNAP, the household is included in the count. Respondents were asked to report any spells of food stamp/SNAP receipt for the past 12 months.

For the 2010 ACS questionnaire, we added an instruction including the new program name.

IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, did anyone in this household receive Food Stamps or a Food Stamp benefit card? *Include government benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Do NOT include WIC or the National School Lunch Program.*

- Yes
 No

The Food Stamp Act of 1977 defines this federally-funded program as one intended to “permit low-income households to obtain a more nutritious diet” (from Title XIII of Public Law 95-113, The Food Stamp Act of 1977, declaration of policy). Food purchasing power is increased by providing eligible households with coupons or cards that can be used to purchase food. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) administers the Food Stamp Program through state and local welfare offices. The Food Stamp Program is the major national income support program to which all low-income and low-resource households, regardless of household characteristics, are eligible.

The questions on participation in the Food Stamp Program were designed to identify households in which one or more of the current members received food stamps during the past 12 months.

In 2008, the Food Stamp Program was renamed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Table 1.

Food Stamp/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Receipt in the Past 12 Months for Households by State and Puerto Rico: 2010 and 2011

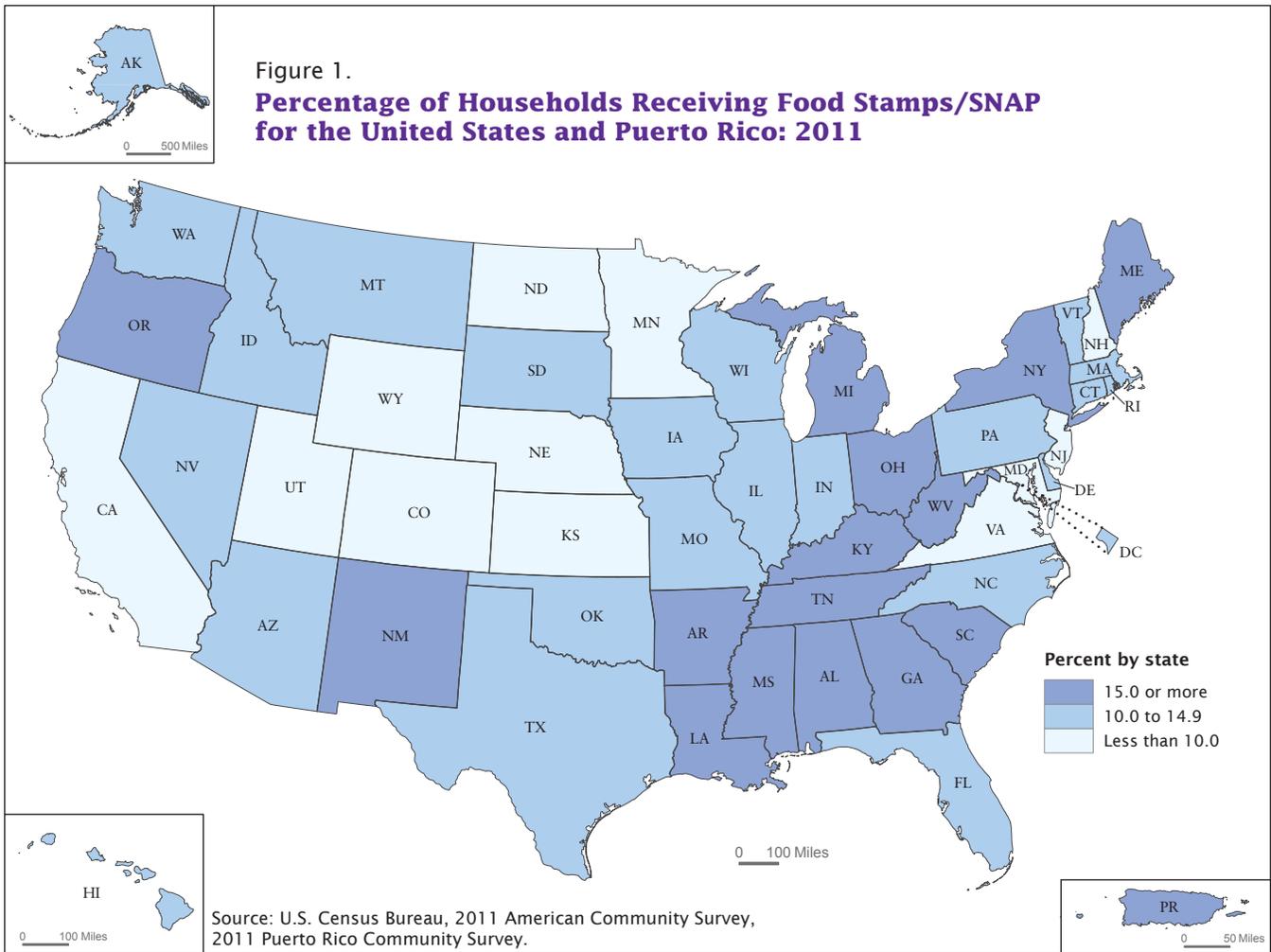
(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)

State	Food stamp/SNAP receipt in 2010				Food stamp/SNAP receipt in 2011				Change in food stamp/SNAP receipt (2011 less 2010)			
	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Per-cent	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Per-cent	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Per-cent difference	Margin of error ¹ (±)
United States..	13,608,177	58,796	11.9	0.1	14,944,642	59,756	13.0	0.1	*1,336,465	83,831	*9.8	0.6
Alabama	260,140	9,719	14.3	0.5	313,871	8,277	17.0	0.4	*53,731	12,766	*20.7	5.5
Alaska	26,973	2,080	10.6	0.8	26,807	2,450	10.4	0.9	-166	3,214	-0.6	11.9
Arizona	308,610	10,005	13.2	0.4	325,811	10,308	13.8	0.4	*17,201	14,365	*5.6	4.8
Arkansas	153,012	6,075	13.7	0.5	172,475	7,533	15.3	0.6	*19,463	9,678	*12.7	6.7
California	918,290	16,010	7.4	0.1	1,040,799	14,953	8.3	0.1	*122,509	21,907	*13.3	2.6
Colorado	153,681	6,436	7.8	0.3	164,571	6,275	8.3	0.3	*10,890	8,988	*7.1	6.1
Connecticut	138,205	5,417	10.2	0.4	152,131	5,261	11.3	0.4	*13,926	7,551	*10.1	5.8
Delaware	37,096	2,975	11.3	0.9	39,761	2,908	11.9	0.9	2,665	4,160	7.2	11.6
District of Columbia	28,656	2,792	11.4	1.1	38,777	2,972	14.4	1.1	*10,121	4,078	*35.3	16.8
Florida	871,694	13,415	12.4	0.2	1,009,671	16,292	14.2	0.2	*137,977	21,104	*15.8	2.6
Georgia	469,338	10,718	13.5	0.3	528,925	11,735	15.1	0.3	*59,587	15,893	*12.7	3.6
Hawaii	40,594	3,167	9.1	0.7	48,347	3,770	10.8	0.8	*7,753	4,923	*19.1	13.1
Idaho	71,990	3,633	12.5	0.6	78,411	4,431	13.5	0.7	*6,421	5,730	*8.9	8.3
Illinois	523,580	9,393	11.0	0.2	574,248	10,994	12.1	0.2	*50,668	14,460	*9.7	2.9
Indiana	286,289	8,136	11.6	0.3	309,162	8,196	12.5	0.3	*22,873	11,548	*8.0	4.2
Iowa	132,295	5,162	10.8	0.4	131,640	5,418	10.8	0.4	-655	7,483	-0.5	5.6
Kansas	96,281	4,932	8.7	0.4	107,137	4,443	9.7	0.4	*10,856	6,638	*11.3	7.3
Kentucky	280,171	8,002	16.6	0.5	290,470	7,415	17.4	0.4	*10,299	10,909	*3.7	4.0
Louisiana	258,527	7,669	15.3	0.4	279,937	8,094	16.4	0.5	*21,410	11,150	*8.3	4.5
Maine	88,303	3,819	16.2	0.7	96,409	4,677	17.5	0.8	*8,106	6,039	*9.2	7.1
Maryland	178,730	6,549	8.4	0.3	212,016	7,143	9.9	0.3	*33,286	9,691	*18.6	5.9
Massachusetts	288,633	7,655	11.5	0.3	307,473	7,794	12.1	0.3	*18,840	10,925	*6.5	3.9
Michigan	641,615	11,644	16.9	0.3	683,932	9,276	18.1	0.2	*42,317	14,887	*6.6	2.4
Minnesota	158,090	5,400	7.6	0.3	179,303	5,343	8.6	0.3	*21,213	7,596	*13.4	5.1
Mississippi	177,433	6,880	16.4	0.6	186,626	6,405	17.3	0.5	9,193	9,400	5.2	5.4
Missouri	313,472	8,367	13.3	0.3	328,652	8,229	14.0	0.3	*15,180	11,735	*4.8	3.8
Montana	37,192	2,610	9.2	0.6	43,998	3,042	10.9	0.7	*6,806	4,008	*18.3	11.7
Nebraska	65,852	3,963	9.2	0.5	66,679	3,508	9.2	0.5	827	5,292	1.3	8.1
Nevada	97,141	5,185	9.8	0.5	105,596	5,587	10.7	0.6	*8,455	7,622	*8.7	8.2
New Hampshire	42,581	2,891	8.3	0.6	42,705	3,173	8.3	0.6	124	4,292	0.3	10.1
New Jersey	214,973	6,929	6.8	0.2	252,112	6,424	8.0	0.2	*37,139	9,449	*17.3	4.8
New Mexico	99,329	4,414	13.0	0.6	117,904	4,825	15.4	0.6	*18,575	6,539	*18.7	7.2
New York	997,131	15,544	13.9	0.2	1,090,747	15,280	15.2	0.2	*93,616	21,797	*9.4	2.3
North Carolina	482,298	11,011	13.1	0.3	543,033	12,447	14.7	0.3	*60,735	16,618	*12.6	3.6
North Dakota	22,964	1,762	8.2	0.6	24,881	2,117	8.8	0.7	1,917	2,755	8.3	12.4
Ohio	637,612	12,202	14.1	0.3	687,866	11,504	15.2	0.2	*50,254	16,770	*7.9	2.7
Oklahoma	195,883	5,242	13.7	0.4	205,876	5,351	14.3	0.4	*9,993	7,490	*5.1	3.9
Oregon	269,533	8,357	17.9	0.5	286,711	8,110	18.9	0.5	*17,178	11,645	*6.4	4.5
Pennsylvania	564,362	11,250	11.4	0.2	627,156	11,239	12.7	0.2	*62,794	15,902	*11.1	3.0
Rhode Island	58,475	3,584	14.5	0.9	60,367	3,235	14.6	0.8	1,892	4,828	3.2	8.4
South Carolina	255,795	8,097	14.5	0.4	273,282	9,639	15.4	0.5	*17,487	12,588	*6.8	5.1
South Dakota	32,558	2,778	10.2	0.9	34,242	2,650	10.6	0.8	1,684	3,839	5.2	12.1
Tennessee	415,861	8,480	17.0	0.3	435,209	9,539	17.6	0.4	*19,348	12,763	*4.7	3.1
Texas	1,123,649	18,084	12.9	0.2	1,205,123	16,422	13.6	0.2	*81,474	24,428	*7.3	2.3
Utah	78,187	3,336	8.9	0.4	87,628	4,506	9.9	0.5	*9,441	5,606	*12.1	7.5
Vermont	33,981	2,465	13.2	1.0	35,258	2,573	13.7	1.0	1,277	3,563	3.8	10.7
Virginia	256,388	7,929	8.6	0.3	287,378	9,050	9.6	0.3	*30,990	12,032	*12.1	4.9
Washington	346,450	8,134	13.3	0.3	382,422	8,810	14.5	0.3	*35,972	11,991	*10.4	3.6
West Virginia	114,433	5,153	15.4	0.7	117,950	4,471	16.0	0.6	3,517	6,822	3.1	6.1
Wisconsin	249,977	6,663	11.0	0.3	289,996	7,227	12.7	0.3	*40,019	9,830	*16.0	4.2
Wyoming	13,874	2,000	6.2	0.9	13,161	1,730	5.9	0.8	-713	2,644	-5.1	18.5
Puerto Rico	484,807	9,039	36.7	0.6	471,272	8,107	37.5	0.6	*-13,535	12,142	*-2.8	2.5

*Statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.

¹ Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. When added to and subtracted from the estimate, the margin of error forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2011 American Community Surveys, and 2010 and 2011 Puerto Rico Community Surveys.



FOOD STAMP/SNAP RECEIPT IN 2011

In 2011, 14.9 million households reported receiving food stamp/SNAP benefits during the past 12 months (Table 1). The state with the highest food stamp/SNAP participation was Oregon (18.9 percent) (Table 1). Other states with high food stamp/SNAP participation included Michigan and Tennessee. States with the lowest food stamp/SNAP participation rates included New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Wyoming (Figure 1).

FOOD STAMP/SNAP RECEIPT IN 2010 AND 2011

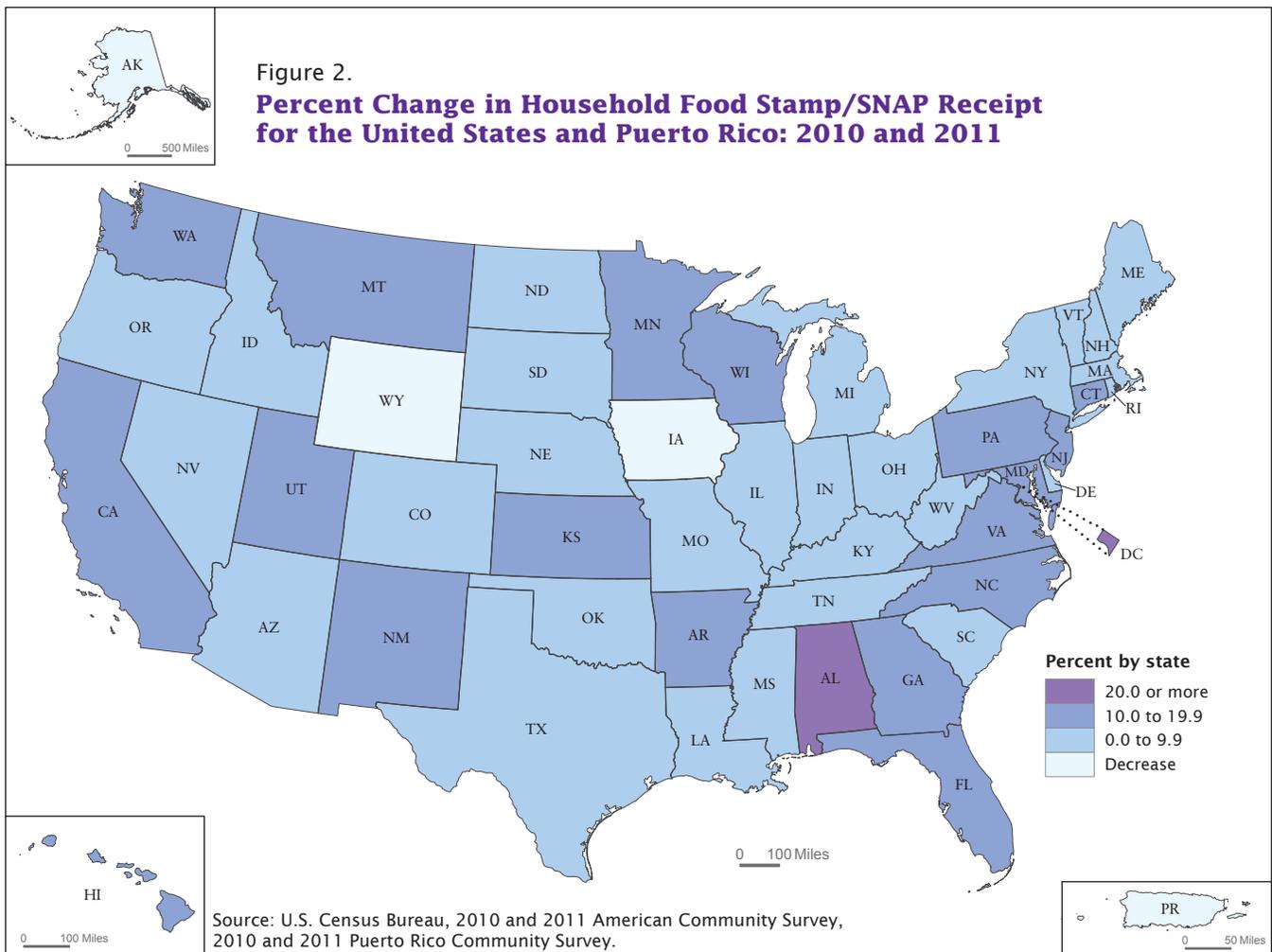
In 2011, 13.0 percent of all households reported receipt of food

What Is the American Community Survey?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities with reliable and timely demographic, social, economic, and housing data for the nation, states, congressional districts, counties, places, and other localities every year. It has an annual sample size of about 3.3 million addresses across the United States and Puerto Rico and includes both housing units and group quarters (e.g., nursing facilities and prisons). The ACS is conducted in every county throughout the nation, and every municipio in Puerto Rico, where it is called the Puerto Rico Community Survey. Beginning in 2006, ACS data for 2005 were released for geographic areas with populations of 65,000 and greater. For information on the ACS sample design and other topics, visit <www.census.gov/acs/www>.

stamps/SNAP, about a 10 percent increase over the 2010 figure of 11.9 percent (Table 1). Forty-eight states experienced an increase in food stamp/SNAP receipt.

The District of Columbia, Alabama, and Hawaii were among the states with the largest increases between 2010 and 2011.



Altogether, eight states experienced an increase in food stamp/SNAP receipt larger than the national increase of 9.8 percent, and eight states had increases that were smaller than the national increase (Figure 2).

No state experienced a statistically significant decrease in the receipt of food stamps/SNAP between 2010 and 2011.

SOURCE AND ACCURACY

The data presented in this report are based on the ACS sample interviewed in 2011. The estimates

based on this sample approximate the actual values and represent the entire household and group quarters population. Sampling error is the difference between an estimate based in a sample and the corresponding value that would be obtained if the estimate were based on the entire population (as from a census). Measures of the sampling errors are provided in the form of margins of error for all estimates included in this report. All comparative statements in this report have undergone statistical testing, and comparisons are significant at the 90 percent level unless otherwise

noted. In addition to sampling error, nonsampling error may be introduced during any of the operations used to collect and process survey data such as editing, reviewing, or keying data from questionnaires. For more information on sampling and estimation methods, confidentiality protection, and sampling and nonsampling errors, please see the 2011 ACS Accuracy of the Data document located at <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy_of_ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2011.pdf>.