

CCRWF FACT SHEET ON FOOD STAMPS Fall 2009

CALIFORNIA

- 1.3 million households (10.2%) on average faced food insecurity between 2005-2007.ⁱ

Participation

- An average of 2.7 million Californians were on food stamps in the month of March 2009:ⁱⁱ
 - 42.4% increase from March 2004.
 - 20.1% increase from March 2008.
 - 2.5% increase from February 2009.
- An average of 892,889 households (2.4%) were on food stamps in 2007-2008, up from 666,368 in 1989-1990:^{iii, iv}
 - 24.5% were White.^v
 - 18.9% were Black.
 - 47.3% were Hispanic.
 - 5.6% were Asian/PI.
- 2 million low-income Californians were on food stamps in 2005:^{vi}
 - 66.3% were children.
 - 87.8% were households with children.

NATIONAL

- 36.2 million Americans faced food insecurity in 2007.^{vii}

Participation

- 33.1 million Americans were on food stamps in the month of March 2009.^{viii}
- 29.5 million Americans were on food stamps in 2008:^{ix}
 - 1 in 5 children (12.6 million) were receiving food stamps.^x
 - Nearly half (49%) of participants were children, 42% were non-elderly adults ages 18 to 59, and 8.7% were elderly ages 60 and above in 2007.^{xi}
- 14 million households (encompassing more than 31 million people) rely on food stamps:^{xii}
 - 47.6% of food stamp households are working families.
 - 75% of all food stamp participants are in families with children.

Characteristics

- In 2007, there were an average of 5.9 million food stamp households with children each month:^{xiii}
 - 63% were headed by single adult and received an average benefit of \$303.
 - 900,000 (24%) received TANF.
 - 500,000 (15%) received SSI.
 - 1.5 million (40%) had earned income, an average of \$736 a month.
 - 17% were headed by married adults and received an average benefit of \$365
 - 194,000 (13%) received TANF.
 - 144,000 (4.5%) received SSI.
 - 1 million (67%) had earned income, an average of \$1,214 a month.

END NOTES

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- ⁱ Center, F. R. a. A. (2009). State of the states 2008: California. In CA.pdf (Ed.). Washington, DC: Food Research and Action Center.
- ⁱⁱ Center, F. R. a. A. (2009). Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. In 2009_03.pdf (Ed.). Washington, DC: Food Research and Action Center.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Services, C. D. o. S. (2008). Federal food stamp program and CFAP average annual households: Fiscal years 1989/90-2007/08. In FSA3.pdf (Ed.). Sacramento: Data Systems and Survey Design Bureau.
- ^{iv} Services, C. D. o. S. (2008). Ratio of food stamp households to total California households by county: Fiscal year 2007/08. In FSA7.pdf (Ed.). Sacramento: Data Systems and Survey Design Bureau.
- ^v Services, C. D. o. S. (2008). Food stamp program households by ethnicity/race: July 2008. In FSA6.pdf (Ed.). Sacramento: Data Systems and Survey Design Bureau.
- ^{vi} Graves, S. (2007). Congress Can Strengthen the Food Stamp Program. Sacramento.
- ^{vii} Center, F. R. a. A. (n.d.). Data Center. Retrieved July 24, 2009, from <http://frac.org/data/>
- ^{viii} Center, F. R. a. A. (n.d.). SNAP/Food Stamp Participation Continues to Set Record Levels; More than 33.1 Million Participate in March 2009. Retrieved July 24, 2009, from http://www.frac.org/html/news/fsp/2009.03_FSP.htm
- ^{ix} Priorities, C. o. B. a. P. (2009). *Introduction to the Food Stamp Program*. Washington, DC.
- ^x Fund, C. s. D. (2008). *Children in the United States*. Washington, DC.
- ^{xi} Wolkwitz K & Leftin J. (2008). *Characteristics of Food Stamp Households: Fiscal Year 2007* (Report No. FSP-09-CHAR). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Research and Analysis.
- ^{xii} *Introduction to the Food Stamp Program*, op. cit.
- ^{xiii} Wolkwitz, op. cit.