

American Community Survey

Housing: Question on Food Stamps Benefit

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

12 IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, did anyone in this household receive Food Stamps or a Food Stamp benefit card?

Yes

No

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services continues to monitor and report state performance on a variety of outcomes including work status, family formation, and food stamp participation. The question on food stamps can help to assess state performance in the current year, food stamp participation rate for low-income working families with children, and the change in the participation rate of such families in the state over the prior year.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Governments

State and local governments need to compare the number of families and individuals needing food assistance with those receiving food stamps. Special attention needs to be paid to the working poor. Adjusting food stamp eligibility guidelines and instituting supplemental food assistance programs could meet shortfalls that are identified.

Social Services

Faith-based and other nonprofit organizations use information about food assistance needs that are not being met by government programs to plan and budget for food banks, food kitchens, and other programs.

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