

Food Stamp/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Receipt in the Past 12 Months for Households by State: 2009 and 2010

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INTRODUCTION

As households continue to face uncertain economic times, food stamp/SNAP participation continues to increase in the United States. This report presents data on food stamp/SNAP receipt for the past 12 months at the national and state levels based on the 2009 and 2010 American Community Surveys (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.

2009:

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

- Yes
 No

2010:

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).

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FOOD STAMP/SNAP RECEIPT IN 2010

In 2010, 13.6 million households reported receiving food stamp/SNAP benefits during the past 12 months. The state with the highest food stamp/SNAP participation was Oregon (17.9 percent). Other states with among the highest food stamp/SNAP participation included Tennessee and Michigan. States with the lowest food stamp/SNAP participation rates included California, New Jersey, and Wyoming (Figure 1).

FOOD STAMP/SNAP RECEIPT IN 2009 AND 2010

In 2010, 11.9 percent of all households reported receipt of food stamps/SNAP, about a 16 percent increase over the 2009 figure of

10.3 percent. Forty-five states experienced an increase in food stamp/SNAP receipt.

Nevada, Idaho, and Rhode Island were among the states with the largest increases between 2009 and 2010.

Altogether, there were 16 states in which the increase in food stamp/SNAP receipt was larger than the national increase of 16.2 percent, and 15 states and the District of Columbia had increases that were smaller than the national increase (Figure 2).

Louisiana was the only state to experience a significant decrease in the receipt of food stamps/SNAP between 2009 and 2010.

Arkansas, Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, and the District of

Columbia did not experience a significant change in the receipt of food stamps/SNAP between 2009 and 2010.

SOURCE AND ACCURACY

Data presented in this report are based on people and households that responded to the ACS in 2009 and 2010. The resulting estimates are representative of the entire population. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level unless otherwise noted. Due to rounding, some details may not sum to totals. For information on sampling and estimation methods, confidentiality protection, and sampling and nonsampling errors, please see the "2010 ACS Accuracy

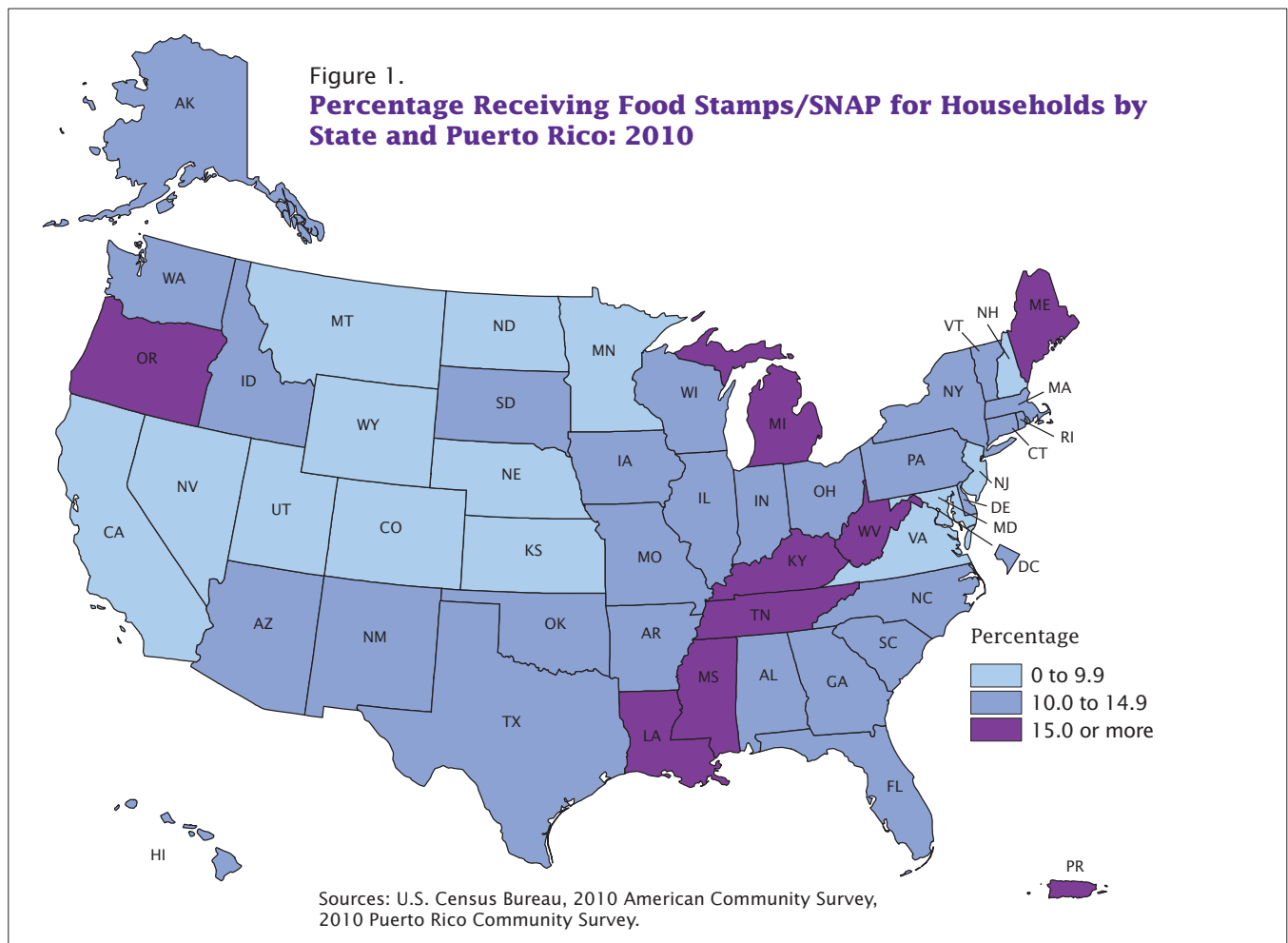
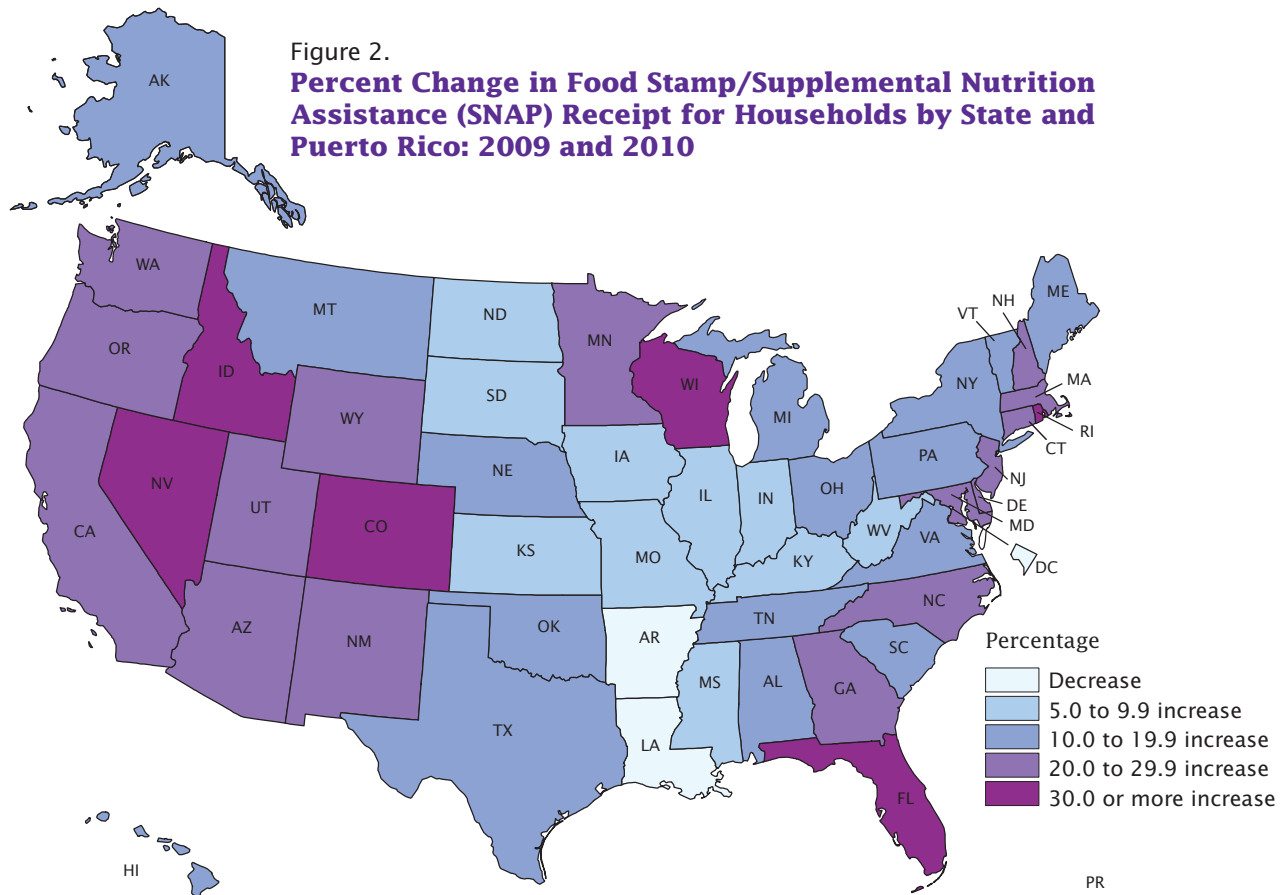


Figure 2.
Percent Change in Food Stamp/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) Receipt for Households by State and Puerto Rico: 2009 and 2010



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 and 2010 American Community Surveys, 2009 and 2010 Puerto Rico Community Surveys.

of the Data” document located at www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2010.pdf.

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 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.

Food Stamp/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Receipt in the Past 12 Months for Households by State and Puerto Rico: 2009 and 2010

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

Area	Food stamp/SNAP receipt in 2009				Food stamp/SNAP receipt in 2010				Change in food stamp/SNAP receipt (2010 less 2009)			
	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)	Per-centage	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)	Per-centage	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)	Per-centage	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)
United States . . .	11,707,519	48,656	10.3	0.1	13,608,177	58,796	11.9	0.1	*1,900,658	76,317	*16.2	0.7
Alabama	235,122	7,393	12.7	0.4	260,140	9,719	14.3	0.5	*25,018	12,211	*10.6	5.4
Alaska	23,699	2,465	10.0	1.0	26,973	2,080	10.6	0.8	3,274	3,225	13.8	14.7
Arizona	244,136	9,376	10.7	0.4	308,610	10,005	13.2	0.4	*64,474	13,711	*26.4	6.4
Arkansas	157,428	5,591	14.0	0.5	153,012	6,075	13.7	0.5	-4,416	8,257	-2.8	5.2
California	754,865	13,278	6.2	0.1	918,290	16,010	7.4	0.1	*163,425	20,800	*21.6	3.0
Colorado	116,941	5,077	6.1	0.3	153,681	6,436	7.8	0.3	*36,740	8,197	*31.4	7.9
Connecticut	107,127	4,818	8.1	0.4	138,205	5,417	10.2	0.4	*31,078	7,249	*29.0	7.7
Delaware	30,371	2,804	9.3	0.9	37,096	2,975	11.3	0.9	*6,725	4,089	*22.1	14.9
District of Columbia	32,032	2,737	12.8	1.1	28,656	2,792	11.4	1.1	-3,376	3,910	-10.5	11.6
Florida	667,567	13,808	9.6	0.2	871,694	13,415	12.4	0.2	*204,127	19,251	*30.6	3.4
Georgia	378,962	8,892	10.9	0.2	469,338	10,718	13.5	0.3	*90,376	13,926	*23.8	4.1
Hawaii	34,900	3,005	7.8	0.7	40,594	3,167	9.1	0.7	*5,694	4,365	*16.3	13.5
Idaho	49,288	3,365	8.8	0.6	71,990	3,633	12.5	0.6	*22,702	4,952	*46.1	12.4
Illinois	486,801	10,413	10.2	0.2	523,580	9,393	11.0	0.2	*36,779	14,023	*7.6	3.0
Indiana	267,661	8,452	10.8	0.3	286,289	8,136	11.6	0.3	*18,628	11,731	*7.0	4.5
Iowa	123,219	5,166	10.0	0.4	132,295	5,162	10.8	0.4	*9,076	7,303	*7.4	6.1
Kansas	91,291	3,873	8.3	0.3	96,281	4,932	8.7	0.4	4,990	6,271	5.5	7.0
Kentucky	255,794	6,607	15.1	0.4	280,171	8,002	16.6	0.5	*24,377	10,377	*9.5	4.2
Louisiana	293,164	8,739	17.4	0.5	258,527	7,669	15.3	0.4	*-34,637	11,626	*-11.8	3.7
Maine	78,873	4,202	14.5	0.8	88,303	3,819	16.2	0.7	*9,430	5,678	*12.0	7.7
Maryland	147,415	5,156	7.0	0.3	178,730	6,549	8.4	0.3	*31,315	8,335	*21.2	6.1
Massachusetts	233,115	7,834	9.4	0.3	288,633	7,655	11.5	0.3	*55,518	10,953	*23.8	5.3
Michigan	555,220	11,569	14.5	0.3	641,615	11,644	16.9	0.3	*86,395	16,414	*15.6	3.2
Minnesota	131,783	5,803	6.3	0.3	158,090	5,400	7.6	0.3	*26,307	7,927	*20.0	6.7
Mississippi	164,624	6,259	15.0	0.6	177,433	6,880	16.4	0.6	*12,809	9,301	*7.8	5.9
Missouri	293,576	7,316	12.5	0.3	313,472	8,367	13.3	0.3	*19,896	11,114	*6.8	3.9
Montana	32,887	2,497	8.8	0.7	37,192	2,610	9.2	0.6	*4,305	3,612	*13.1	11.7
Nebraska	58,665	4,203	8.2	0.6	65,852	3,963	9.2	0.5	*7,187	5,776	*12.3	10.5
Nevada	65,473	4,578	6.8	0.5	97,141	5,185	9.8	0.5	*31,668	6,917	*48.4	13.1
New Hampshire	35,223	2,786	7.0	0.5	42,581	2,891	8.3	0.6	*7,358	4,014	*20.9	12.6
New Jersey	174,459	7,059	5.5	0.2	214,973	6,929	6.8	0.2	*40,514	9,891	*23.2	6.4
New Mexico	79,217	4,267	10.7	0.6	99,329	4,414	13.0	0.6	*20,112	6,140	*25.4	8.8
New York	891,528	14,154	12.4	0.2	997,131	15,544	13.9	0.2	*105,603	21,022	*11.8	2.5
North Carolina	401,614	10,150	11.0	0.3	482,298	11,011	13.1	0.3	*80,684	14,975	*20.1	4.1
North Dakota	21,168	1,953	7.6	0.7	22,964	1,762	8.2	0.6	1,796	2,631	8.5	13.0
Ohio	569,270	10,381	12.6	0.2	637,612	12,202	14.1	0.3	*68,342	16,021	*12.0	3.0
Oklahoma	172,416	5,857	12.1	0.4	195,883	5,242	13.7	0.4	*23,467	7,860	*13.6	4.9
Oregon	215,791	6,686	14.5	0.4	269,533	8,357	17.9	0.5	*53,742	10,702	*24.9	5.5
Pennsylvania	477,892	8,088	9.7	0.2	564,362	11,250	11.4	0.2	*86,470	13,855	*18.1	3.1
Rhode Island	40,499	3,277	10.0	0.8	58,475	3,584	14.5	0.9	*17,976	4,856	*44.4	14.7
South Carolina	214,770	7,924	12.4	0.4	255,795	8,097	14.5	0.4	*41,025	11,329	*19.1	5.8
South Dakota	30,705	2,768	9.7	0.8	32,558	2,778	10.2	0.9	1,853	3,922	6.0	13.2
Tennessee	375,597	9,373	15.3	0.4	415,861	8,480	17.0	0.3	*40,264	12,640	*10.7	3.6
Texas	979,499	13,447	11.5	0.2	1,123,649	18,084	12.9	0.2	*144,150	22,536	*14.7	2.4
Utah	62,314	3,714	7.2	0.4	78,187	3,336	8.9	0.4	*15,873	4,992	*25.5	9.2
Vermont	28,433	1,982	11.3	0.8	33,981	2,465	13.2	1.0	*5,548	3,163	*19.5	12.0
Virginia	232,617	6,911	7.8	0.2	256,388	7,929	8.6	0.3	*23,771	10,518	*10.2	4.7
Washington	282,907	8,024	11.1	0.3	346,450	8,134	13.3	0.3	*63,543	11,426	*22.5	4.5
West Virginia	106,391	4,809	14.2	0.6	114,433	5,153	15.4	0.7	*8,042	7,049	*7.6	6.9
Wisconsin	192,121	5,720	8.5	0.3	249,977	6,663	11.0	0.3	*57,856	8,781	*30.1	5.2
Wyoming	11,089	1,735	5.2	0.8	13,874	2,000	6.2	0.9	2,785	2,647	25.1	26.6
Puerto Rico	415,075	6,823	35.1	0.5	484,807	9,039	36.7	0.6	*69,732	11,325	*16.8	2.9

* 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.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 and 2010 American Community Surveys, 2009 and 2010 Puerto Rico Community Surveys.