United States Department of Agriculture

Food and Nutrition Service **January 2017**

PROFILE OF SNAP HOUSEHOLDS

Pennsylvania Congressional District 17

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the cornerstone of the Nation's nutrition assistance safety net. Benefits are available to most people who meet the financial and nonfinancial requirements, and the program serves a broad spectrum of low income people. In Fiscal Year 2015, SNAP provided about $2.7 billion dollars in food benefits to a monthly average of 1,826,667 people in Pennsylvania. The program served 87.9 percent of those eligible for benefits in Pennsylvania in 2014. SNAP also has an economic multiplier effect; every dollar in new SNAP benefits results in $1.80 in total economic activity.

The American Community Survey provides a snapshot of SNAP participants in 2015 for each Congressional District.[1] More detailed information for the Nation and each State is presented in *Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2015*, available at http://www.fns.usda.gov/ops/research-and-analysis.

Pennsylvania Congressional District 17

Characteristic	Households Receiving SNAP	Households not Receiving SNAP	Total
Households	38,606	226,055	264,661
With one or more people 60 years and over	34.1%	44.6%	43.1%
With Children under 18 years	43.1%	24.5%	27.2%
Poverty Status in the past 12 Months[2]			
Below poverty level	49.0%	6.5%	12.7%
Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin of Householder			
White	81.6%	93.4%	91.7%
Black or African American	11.2%	3.4%	4.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native	N/A	N/A	N/A
Asian	1.9%	1.2%	1.3%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A
Some other race	2.7%	1.0%	1.2%
Two or more races	2.4%	0.9%	1.1%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	16.5%	4.3%	6.0%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	71.2%	90.5%	87.7%
Household Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2015 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)			
Median income (dollars)	$17,531	$56,438	$50,329
Work Status			
Families	23,360	146,311	169,671
No workers in the past 12 months	23.5%	16.1%	17.1%
1 worker in the past 12 months	46.2%	29.1%	31.5%
2 or more workers in the past 12 months	30.3%	54.8%	51.4%

Source: USDA FNS SNAP Program Data (downloaded December 2016), Reaching Those in Need: Estimates of State SNAP Participation Rates (forthcoming); U.S. Census Bureau 2015 American Community Survey (ACS), using 114th Congressional District boundaries.

[1] The ACS employs yearly sampling to produce statistical estimates. The descriptive statistics presented here are, therefore, subject to year-on-year measurement variations due to margins of error in the estimates.

[2] The ACS bases poverty status on annual household income; SNAP eligibility is based on monthly income. Due to this difference in reference periods, poverty status in the ACS may differ from poverty status at the time of SNAP certification.

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