

Sources for FRAC State Profiles

FRAC updates the data as they become available from the sources listed below.

Data in this report are subject to change as state and federal governments update or audit data or modify preliminary numbers.

Population, Income and Poverty Data

Population

Total Population. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Estimates Program. Downloaded from:

<https://www.census.gov/popest/data/state/totals/2015/tables/NST-EST2015-01.xlsx>.

Child Population. Table B09001, U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey (ACS), via:

<http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.

Income

Median Household Income. Table B19013, U.S. Bureau of the Census, ACS via <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.

Poverty and Low-Income Status

Table B17024, U.S. Bureau of the Census, ACS, via <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.

Food Insecurity

Food Insecure and Very Low Food Secure Households

Food Security in the United States in 2015, by Alisha Coleman-Jensen, Matthew P. Rabitt, Christian A. Gregory, and Anita Singh, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Economic Research Service. At the state level, to compensate for smaller sample sizes and higher standard errors, we use USDA's three-year averages from 2013 to 2015 for the state estimates. View the full report here:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/err215/err-215.pdf>.

Definitions of Food Insecurity

USDA measures food insecurity only as related to financial constraints. Food-secure households have access at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life. Food insecure households do not have access to enough food to fully meet basic needs at all times. Food-insecure households are further classified into categories of low and very low food security based on the severity of their circumstances.

Adults in households with low food security are so limited in resources to buy food that they are running out of food, reducing the quality of food their family eats, feeding their children unbalanced diets, skipping meals so their children can eat, or taking other steps that impair the adequacy of the family's diet.

Households with very low food security are those in which adults have decreased the quality and quantity of food they consume because of a lack of financial resources to the point where they are likely to go hungry at times, or in which children's intake has been reduced due to a lack of family financial resources, to the point that children are likely to go hungry at times.

Food Hardship

Household rates of food hardship are based on "yes" responses to the following question in the Gallup-Healthways daily tracking survey:

Have there been times in the past 12 months when you did not have enough money to buy food that you or your family needed?

The Gallup-Healthways survey has been conducted daily since 2008. In 2015, the survey collected 177,281 responses nationwide. State food hardship rates are 2-year averages covering 2014-2015. Read more in FRAC's report on food hardship rates in the nation, states and Metropolitan Statistical Areas: <http://frac.org/pdf/food-hardship-2016.pdf>.

Federal Food Program Data

Data obtained from the USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). The published data can be found at

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/overview>.

The rest of the data are from USDA, Office of Budget and Program Analysis, or are unpublished data obtained by FRAC from USDA.

School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program (NSLP)

Numbers of participating students are reported for the 2014-2015 school year (September 2014 to May 2015) and are estimates generated by the USDA from states' reports of meals served. Because these numbers are estimates, they may not total due to rounding. Numbers of participating schools were reported by states to USDA in October 2014 for the 2014-2015 school year. Federal funding levels are preliminary data for the 2014-2015 school year. Federal funding amounts for the breakfast and lunch programs consist of reimbursements to states for meals. These numbers do not include commodities given to states for use in school meals or any state funding provided for these programs.

The estimated participation ratios are based on the number of children receiving a free or reduced-price breakfast on an average day divided by the number receiving free or reduced-price lunch on an average day. We then estimated how many additional children would be served free or reduced-price school breakfast if each state achieved a ratio of 70 children receiving a free or reduced-price breakfast for every 100 receiving a free or reduced-price lunch, and how much in additional federal reimbursements the state would receive as a result. The information on school breakfast legislative mandates comes from a survey conducted by FRAC in 2015 of state school food officials. All of this information can be found in FRAC's report School Breakfast Scorecard: School Year 2014-2015 at: http://frac.org/pdf/School_Breakfast_Scorecard_SY_2014_2015.pdf.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Participation numbers are reported for July 2015. "Summer Nutrition" participation refers to the combination of child participation in the Summer Food Service Program in July and student participation in free and reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch (NSLP) Program in July. This combination gives a fuller picture of how effectively children are being fed in the summer months.

FRAC estimated the participation rate by dividing the number of children participating in summer nutrition programs on an average day in July 2015 by the number of children receiving a free or reduced-price school lunch during the previous school year. We then estimated how many additional children would be served in the summer – and how much additional federal reimbursements the state would receive – if each state reached 40 children with the summer nutrition programs for every 100 participating in free or reduced-price school lunch during the year. This is a goal that several states have achieved in recent years. For additional information on summer nutrition programs, see FRAC's report, Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation: Summer Nutrition Status Report 2015 http://frac.org/pdf/2016_summer_nutrition_report.pdf.

SNAP/Food Stamp Program

Average Monthly Participation; Average Benefit Per Person; Federal Funding. Participation numbers for SNAP/food stamps are preliminary average monthly participation numbers for fiscal year 2015. Administrative costs represent only the federal share, not state funds, and also do not include federal money for education and training programs sometimes included in the administrative cost category by USDA. 2015 SNAP State Activity Report: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/snap/2015-State-Activity-Report.pdf>.

SNAP Participation Rates. Reaching Those In Need: Estimates of State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Participation Rates in 2013, by Karen E. Cunyningham, Mathematica Policy Research, for USDA/FNS, February 2016. Report and data can be accessed at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/ops/Reaching2013.pdf>

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program For Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

WIC Participation. Average monthly participation in FY 2015 (and FY 2005 for 10-year change) obtained by FRAC from USDA/FNS.

WIC Federal Funding. Total federal funding in FY 2015 obtained from USDA/FNS website:

www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/wic/FY2015-WIC-GRANTS.xlsx.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

FRAC obtained data from USDA/FNS for FY 2015. Data do not include adult participation. The number of childcare centers and average daily attendance for centers include the data for Head Start programs. Unlike participation data in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, average daily attendance is not adjusted for absenteeism.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

FRAC obtained preliminary data obtained from USDA/FNS for FY 2015. Values reported include state TEFAP commodity entitlements (entitlement funding), storage and distribution costs (administrative funding), and bonus commodity funding.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

FRAC obtained preliminary data from USDA/FNS for FY 2015. The federal funding figure includes the federal share of administrative funding as well as the value of entitlement commodities. It excludes the value of bonus commodities and other costs such as storage and transportation.

State Economic Security Policies

State Minimum Wage

The state minimum wage values are from the National Conference of State Legislatures and can be found at:

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/labor-and-employment/state-minimum-wage-chart.aspx#1>.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

The EITC information comes from "State Fact Sheets: The Earned Income and Child Tax Credits," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, updated September 14, 2016: <http://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-tax/state-fact-sheets-the-earned-income-and-child-tax-credits>

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

TANF participation. Downloaded from the Administration for Children and Families: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/resource/tanf-caseload-data-2015>.

Maximum TANF Benefit. FY 2015 benefit levels downloaded from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Administration for Children & Families, Office of Family Assistance: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/resource/tanf-financial-data-fy-2015>.