

## Summer EBT: Availability of SNAP Retailers Compared to WIC Vendors

The Summer EBT demonstration pilots studied the utility of providing an electronic benefit card to low-income families to purchase food during the summer months. The evaluation found that Summer EBT reduced very low food insecurity among children by one-third. The pilot tested providing the resources through a SNAP EBT system in Connecticut, Delaware, Missouri, Oregon and Washington and a WIC EBT system in Michigan, Nevada, Texas and the Cherokee and Chickasaw Tribal Nations.

The evaluation found that the WIC model “appeared to pose greater barriers for participation, redemption and exhaustion (of benefits).”<sup>1</sup> One of the primary barriers to Summer EBT through WIC is the extremely limited number of WIC vendors, which can be exacerbated in rural areas and other communities that experience barriers to the Summer Food Service Program. The table below compares the number of SNAP authorized retailers<sup>2</sup> to WIC authorized vendors.<sup>3</sup> To ensure that low-income children with limited access to the Summer Food Service Program have real access to Summer EBT, families must be able to use the resources at authorized SNAP retailers.

State	SNAP Authorized Retailers	WIC Authorized Vendors	Percent difference between SNAP and WIC
Alabama	5,548	634	89%
Alaska	556	163	71%
Arizona	4,256	545	87%
Arkansas	2,845	343	88%
California	27,215	3,987	85%
Colorado	2,889	453	84%
Connecticut	2,619	581	78%
Delaware	815	79	90%
District of Columbia	479	32	93%
Florida	16,176	2,000 <sup>4</sup>	88%
Georgia	10,349	1,444 <sup>5</sup>	86%
Hawaii	1,059	131	88%
Idaho	1,098	191	83%

<sup>1</sup> Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children (SEBTC) Demonstration: Evaluation Findings for the Third Implementation Year 2013 Final Report, p. 45, <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/ops/sebtc2013.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> SNAP authorized retailers data comes from USDA’s 2017 SNAP Retailer Management Year End Summary, <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/snap/2017-SNAP-Retailer-Management-Year-End-Summary.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> WIC authorized vendor data comes directly from state WIC offices and was updated April 2019.

<sup>4</sup> Florida’s State WIC Office was in the middle of an application period at the point of data collection.

<sup>5</sup> This data point was collected in 2015 and has not been updated.

Illinois	9,479	2,104	78%
Indiana	5,299	592	89%
Iowa	2,944	568	81%
Kansas	2,079	343	84%
Kentucky	4,736	646	86%
Louisiana	4,876	529	89%
Maine	1,571	240	85%
Maryland	3,986	633	84%
Massachusetts	5,618	951	83%
Michigan	10,115	1252	88%
Minnesota	3,505	1200	66%
Mississippi	3,623	0 <sup>6</sup>	100%
Missouri	5,041	633	87%
Montana	804	189	76%
Nebraska	1,283	330	74%
Nevada	1,863	214	89%
New Hampshire	1,094	159	85%
New Jersey	6,150	973	84%
New Mexico	1,600	209	87%
New York	18,633	2685	86%
North Carolina	9,693	1815	81%
North Dakota	549	160	71%
Ohio	9,755	1546	84%
Oklahoma	3,626	425	88%
Oregon	3,528	522	85%
Pennsylvania	10,405	1570	85%
Rhode Island	994	230	77%
South Carolina	5,460	636	88%
South Dakota	779	182	77%
Tennessee	7,019	819	88%
Texas	20,126	2224	89%
Utah	1,487	290	80%
Vermont	720	108	85%
Virginia	6,531	833	87%
Washington	5,052	697	86%
West Virginia	2,193	255	88%
Wisconsin	4,247	1084	74%
Wyoming	389	78	80%

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<sup>6</sup> The Mississippi State Department of Health's WIC Program is in the process of transitioning to a "Retail Food Delivery System".