

Senior SNAP Maps: Overview of SNAP Participation Among Households with Seniors (60+), at National, State, and County Levelsⁱ

National Findings

Nationally, on average, 10.2 percent of all households with seniors (age 60 or older) participated in SNAP sometime in the previous year.

State Findings

In every state of our nation, SNAP matters to seniors.

Top Ten States for SNAP Participation Among Households with Seniors		
State	Percent	Margin of Error
District of Columbia	16.3%	0.8%
New York	15.8%	0.7%
Rhode Island	14.5%	1.1%
Oregon	13.8%	1.4%
Mississippi	13.0%	2.7%
Tennessee	12.7%	1.8%
Louisiana	12.6%	1.8%
Maine	12.5%	1.5%
Georgia	12.5%	2.1%
Massachusetts	12.3%	0.7%

Top Ten States for SNAP Participation Among Households with Seniors for Metro, Small Town, and Rural Areas								
Metro Areas			Small Towns			Rural Areas		
State	Percent	Margin of Error	State	Percent	Margin of Error	State	Percent	Margin of Error
District of Columbia	16.3%	0.8%	Arizona	16.0%	2.1%	South Carolina	18.4%	3.5%
New York	16.2%	0.6%	Oregon	15.4%	2.3%	Kentucky	17.5%	4.1%
Rhode Island	14.5%	1.1%	Georgia	14.6%	3.2%	Tennessee	16.6%	3.5%
Oregon	13.5%	1.1%	Louisiana	14.3%	2.5%	North Carolina	15.1%	3.1%
Massachusetts	12.3%	0.7%	Maine	14.2%	1.7%	Louisiana	15.1%	3.7%
Florida	12.1%	0.7%	North Carolina	13.7%	2.1%	Georgia	15.1%	4.1%
Tennessee	12.1%	1.4%	New Mexico	13.2%	2.7%	Arizona	15.0%	2.4%
Louisiana	12.1%	1.5%	Mississippi	13.1%	2.8%	Mississippi	15.0%	3.9%
Michigan	11.9%	0.7%	Virginia	13.0%	2.3%	Florida	14.8%	3.8%
Mississippi	11.9%	2.0%	South Carolina	12.9%	2.1%	Maine	14.4%	2.0%

- In the top ten metro area senior household SNAP participation states, at least one in nine senior households participated in SNAP.
- In the top ten small town senior household SNAP participation states, at least one in eight senior households participated in SNAP.
- In the top ten rural senior household SNAP participation states, at least one in seven senior households participated in SNAP.

County Findings

Every county in America has households with seniors who benefit from SNAP. There are 3,142 counties in the United States divided as follows:



Top Ten Counties for SNAP Participation Among Households with Seniors for Metro, Small Town, and Rural Areas								
County	Metro Areas		County	Small Towns		County	Rural Areas	
	Percent	Margin of Error		Percent	Margin of Error		Percent	Margin of Error
Bronx County, New York	36.4%	0.8%	Starr County, Texas	47.7%	4.1%	Kusilvak Census Area, Alaska	46.3%	6.0%
Tunica County, Mississippi	33.8%	8.2%	Maverick County, Texas	35.0%	4.7%	Oglala Lakota County, South Dakota	46.0%	7.8%
Miami-Dade County, Florida	32.2%	0.5%	Coahoma County, Mississippi	27.5%	4.7%	Presidio County, Texas	40.4%	11.4%
Kings County, New York	30.7%	0.4%	Sunflower County, Mississippi	27.2%	3.9%	Owsley County, Kentucky	37.7%	10.4%
Webb County, Texas	30.5%	1.7%	Halifax County, North Carolina	25.7%	2.6%	Buffalo County, South Dakota	35.5%	9.6%
Hidalgo County, Texas	28.9%	1.3%	Northampton County, North Carolina	25.5%	3.7%	Nome Census Area, Alaska	35.4%	2.8%
Clay County, West Virginia	27.2%	6.9%	Knox County, Kentucky	24.7%	4.1%	Loving County, Texas	35.0%	30.3%
Heard County, Georgia	26.4%	5.0%	Haywood County, Tennessee	24.6%	4.7%	Noxubee County, Mississippi	34.7%	6.7%
Suffolk County, Massachusetts	25.4%	1.0%	Bell County, Kentucky	24.3%	4.3%	Greene County, Alabama	34.7%	7.3%
Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania	25.0%	0.7%	Phillips County, Arkansas	24.1%	3.9%	Zavala County, Texas	34.7%	9.3%

- Of the 60 counties with senior household SNAP participation levels at or above 25 percent, 75.0 percent were rural, 10 percent were small town, and 15 percent were metro.
- Nineteen out of 25 counties with the highest percentage of senior households that participated in SNAP were rural, two were small-town counties, and four were metro counties.
- In small town areas, 90 counties had at least 15 percent of their senior households participating in SNAP, with nearly half of these counties concentrated in four states: 15 in Georgia, 7 in Mississippi, 10 in Kentucky, and 10 in North Carolina.

Conclusion

The FRAC [state](#) and [county](#) maps illustrate the importance and reach of SNAP for millions of households with seniors (60+). However, it is important to note that these maps look at the percentage of all households with seniors that participate in SNAP, not the percentage of *eligible* households with seniors that participate in SNAP.

Despite all the benefits for seniors in participating in SNAP, only two out of five eligible households with seniors participate in SNAP.

Source: FRAC analysis of 5-year American Community Survey (ACS) data, 2012-2016.

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