

SNAP Maps: Overview of SNAP Participation at National, State, and County Levels

SNAP Maps is based on American Community Survey (ACS) five-year data (2012–2016) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2016. Every county is grouped into one of three census categories: Metro, Small Town (micropolitan in Census terminology), and Rural.

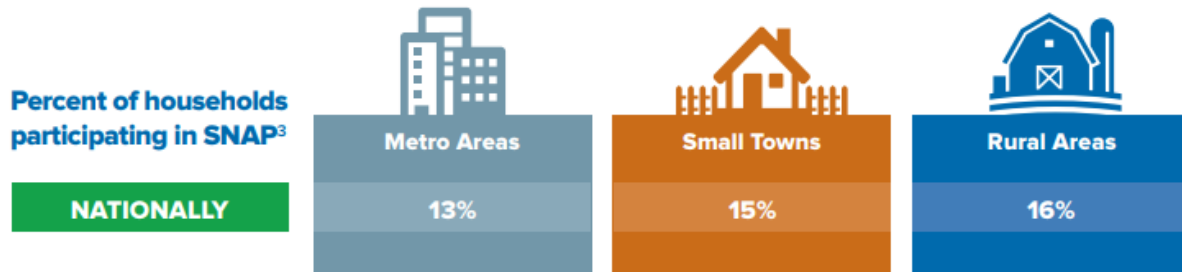
[County SNAP Map](#)

[State SNAP Map](#)

Accompanying the maps is an [interactive, searchable table](#) that allows users to compare household SNAP participation by state and county.

Key Findings

SNAP participation nationally was highest among households in rural (16 percent) and small town (15 percent) counties compared to households in metro counties (13 percent).



Counties:

- Nearly one-quarter (297, or 23 percent) of rural counties had at least 20 percent of households participating in SNAP. Of these, 53 counties (four percent) had at least 30 percent participating in SNAP. By contrast, only 10 percent of all metro counties (112) had participation levels of 20 percent or higher, including less than one percent (8 counties) with levels at or above 30 percent.
- Of the 77 counties with SNAP participation levels at or above 30 percent, two-thirds (69 percent) were in rural counties, 21 percent were in small town counties, and 10 percent were in metro counties.
- Of the 53 rural counties with SNAP participation of at least 30 percent, all but 13 were in the South.

- Twenty-one out of 25 counties with the highest percentage of households that participated in SNAP were rural and three were small-town counties. Only one county in the top 25 (Bronx County in New York) was a metro county.
- In small-town areas, 125 counties had at least 20 percent of their households participating in SNAP, with two-fifths of these counties concentrated in four states: 16 in Georgia, 13 in Mississippi, 12 in Kentucky, and 11 in North Carolina.

States:

- In 34 states, the rural participation rate was higher than the metro rate, in 22 of them by a statistically significant margin.¹ In nine states, the metro rate was higher, but the difference is statistically significant in only two of them. (The remaining five states — Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, New Jersey, and Rhode Island — as well as the District of Columbia, have no rural counties.)
- Of the 10 states with the highest percentage of rural households that received SNAP, nine were in the Census South region (the 10th was Arizona).
- In the top 10 rural SNAP participation states, at least one in five households participated in SNAP. In Kentucky and South Carolina, about one in four households participated in SNAP.
- Seven of the top 10 small-town SNAP participation rates were in the Census South region; the other states with high small town participation were Arizona, Maine, and Oregon.

SNAP and Vulnerable Populations:

- Nationally, over three-quarters (77 percent) of SNAP families had at least one working member in the past 12 months.
- In every state, at least two out of three SNAP families had one or more working members.
- In 39 states, at least three out of four SNAP families had at least one working member.
- In 48 states, less than one in 10 SNAP households also received assistance from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.
- More than two in five (43 percent) SNAP households across the country included children.
- In 34 states, at least two in five SNAP households included children. In five of these, more than half of all SNAP households included children.

¹ In two states, Kansas and North Dakota, the difference between the rural and metro participation rates is less than one-tenth of a percent.