United States Department of Agriculture

Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Policy Support

March 2015

PROFILE OF SNAP HOUSEHOLDS

Massachusetts Congressional District 5

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 2013, SNAP provided about $1.4 billion dollars in food benefits to a monthly average of 887,619 people in Massachusetts. The program served 93 percent of those eligible for benefits in Massachusetts in 2012. 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 2011-2013 for each Congressional District. More detailed information for the Nation and each State is presented in *Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2013*, available at http://www.fns.usda.gov/ops/research-and-analysis.

Massachusetts Congressional District 5

Characteristic	Households Receiving SNAP	Households not Receiving SNAP	Total
Households	22,160	265,621	287,781
With one or more people 60 years and over	40.3%	34.4%	34.9%
With Children under 18 years	35.5%	29.1%	29.6%
Poverty Status in the past 12 Months			
Below poverty level	43.7%	6.2%	9.1%
Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin of Householder			
White	72.8%	84.8%	83.8%
Black or African American	12.4%	3.4%	4.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.4%	0.1%	0.2%
Asian	8.8%	8.5%	8.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	NA	NA	NA
Some other race	2.8%	1.5%	1.6%
Two or more races	2.7%	1.6%	1.7%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	12.2%	5.3%	5.8%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	66.1%	81.4%	80.2%
Household Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2013 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)			
Median income (dollars)	$16,895	$86,753	$80,814
Work Status			
Families	12,529	165,421	177,950
No workers in the past 12 months	24.3%	8.2%	9.4%
1 worker in the past 12 months	41.0%	26.4%	27.5%
2 or more workers in the past 12 months	34.6%	65.3%	63.2%

Source: USDA FNS SNAP Program Data (downloaded February 2015), Reaching Those in Need: Estimates of State SNAP Participation Rates (February 2015); U.S. Census Bureau 2011-2013 American Community Survey, using 113th Congressional District boundaries

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.