

Food Insecurity

What are SNAP and WIC?

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the largest food safety net program in the United States, providing low-income families with nutritious food. Eligible New Jersey applicants have an income of no more than 185 percent of the federal poverty guidelines or roughly \$46,000 for a family of four in 2018. During that same year, more than 30,000 Newark children lived in families receiving SNAP benefits.

The Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides supplemental nutritious food to pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants and children up to the age of five. WIC is available to New Jersey households with incomes up to 185 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. As of 2018, nine percent of Newark residents eligible for WIC did not receive these benefits. For more information on SNAP and WIC, visit <https://www.fns.usda.gov>.

Children Receiving NJ SNAP (formerly Food Stamps)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Change 14-18
Newark	35,612	33,390	34,532	31,573	30,865	-13
Essex	64,464	62,064	62,327	55,898	54,425	-16
New Jersey	417,044	415,927	406,259	373,920	353,883	-15

Individuals Enrolled in WIC

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Change 14-18
Newark	12,849	12,889	12,709	12,137	12,255	-5
Essex	22,564	22,248	21,825	20,792	20,844	-8
New Jersey	180,154	178,852	171,530	163,305	155,822	-14

WIC Reported Participants

	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		% Change 14-18 Number
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Newark	11,823	92	12,162	94	11,533	91	10,707	88	11,166	91	-6
Essex	20,583	91	20,555	92	19,620	90	18,311	88	18,788	90	-9
New Jersey	166,945	93	161,558	90	154,612	90	146,416	90	139,777	90	-16

School Breakfast Participation, 2017-2018

School District			October 2017			October 2018
	# Receiving Free or Reduced-Price Breakfast	# Receiving Free or Reduced-Price Lunch	Free and Reduced-Price Eligible Student Participation in Breakfast per 100 Participating in Lunch*	# Receiving Free or Reduced-Price Breakfast	# Receiving Free or Reduced-Price Lunch	Free and Reduced-Price Eligible Student Participation in Breakfast per 100 Participating in Lunch*
Newark Public Schools	19,776	21,162	93	17,689	20,034	88
Achieve Community Charter School	N/A	N/A	N/A	94	143	66
Discovery Charter School	97	99	98	97	93	104**
Great Oaks Legacy Charter School	533	978	54	693	1,185	58
Lady Liberty Academy Charter School	301	397	76	N/A	N/A	N/A
LEAD Charter School	14	43	33	15	18	83
Link Community Charter School	121	185	65	146	187	78
Maria L. Varisco-Rogers Charter School	255	421	61	243	415	59
Marion P. Thomas Charter School	447	979	46	608	1,073	57
New Horizons Community Charter School	232	519	45	589	576	102**
Newark Educators Charter School	134	219	61	136	238	57
North Star Academy	1,301	2,723	48	1,444	3,025	48
People's Preparatory Charter High School	82	218	38	154	239	64
Philip's Academy Charter School	138	309	45	268	421	64
Robert Treat Academy Charter School	110	411	27	120	412	29
Roseville Community Charter School	160	240	67	152	278	55
TEAM Academy Charter School	2,128	2,761	77	2,161	2,894	75
The Gray Charter School	42	212	20	62	216	29
University Heights Charter School	78	165	47	366	689	53

*Please note, participation rates cannot be compared with prior publications due to a new methodology of calculating breakfast participation consistent with national methods.

**In October 2018, Discovery Charter School and New Horizons Community Charter School served more free and reduced-price school breakfasts to more low-income children than it served lunches.

Note: Achieve Community Charter School opened in September 2017. Lady Liberty Academy Charter School closed in June 2018.

School Breakfast: How does Newark fare?

Newark continues to be recognized for its school breakfast program on a national level. According to the 2019 Food Research and Action Center's annual report: *School Breakfast: Making it Work in Large School Districts*, the city ranked fourth in school breakfast participation for

the 2017-18 school year out of 76 large school districts across the country. To learn more, visit FRAC's site: <http://www.frac.org/wp-content/uploads/school-breakfast-large-school-districts-sy-2017-2018.pdf>.

■ Data Sources and Technical Notes:

Children Receiving N.J. SNAP (formerly Food Stamps), 2014-2018. As reported by the N.J. Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development. Data are from June of each year.

Individuals Enrolled in WIC, 2014-2018. Number of women, infants and children enrolled in the WIC program, which include healthcare referrals, immunizations screenings, nutrition counseling and a monthly food stipend. As reported by the N.J. Department of Health for the quarter ending June 30th of each year.

WIC Reported Participants, 2014-2018. The number and percentage of women, infants and children receiving nutritional benefits through WIC. As reported by the N.J. Department of Health for the quarter ending June 30th of each year.

School Breakfast Participation, 2017-18 and 2018-19. As reported by the N.J. Department of Agriculture for October of each school year. Percentages represent the total number of students receiving a free or reduced-price breakfast out of the total number of students receiving a free or reduced-price lunch. Please note, participation rates cannot be compared with prior publications due to a new methodology of calculating breakfast participation consistent with national methods.

