

Food Insecurity

Children Receiving NJ SNAP (formerly Food Stamps)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% Change 12-16
Newark	32,255	34,215	35,612	33,390	34,532	7
Essex	61,225	64,362	64,464	62,064	62,327	2
New Jersey	395,999	419,410	417,044	415,927	406,259	3

Women, Infants and Children Receiving Nutritional Benefits (WIC)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% Change 12-16
Newark	13,857	13,552	12,849	12,889	12,709	-8
Essex	24,324	23,849	22,564	22,248	21,825	-10
New Jersey	189,399	185,097	180,154	178,852	171,530	-9

SNAP and WIC: What are They?

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 can have an income of no more than 185 percent of the federal poverty guidelines or \$44,955 for a family of four in 2016.

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. For more information on SNAP and WIC, visit <https://www.fns.usda.gov/>

Number and Percentage of Children Eligible For Free or Reduced-Price School Meals

Eligible for Free School Meals	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	% Change 12-16
Newark District Schools	27,909	29,769	27,833	24,528	26,725	-4
Newark Charter Schools	5,429	7,019	8,020	9,864	11,363	109
Newark Total	33,338	36,788	35,853	34,392	38,088	14
Eligible for Reduced-Price School Meals	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	% Change 12-16
Newark District Schools	2,524	2,688	1,666	1,504	1,588	-37
Newark Charter Schools	1,127	1,367	1,322	1,529	1,587	41
Newark Total	3,651	4,055	2,988	3,033	3,175	-13
Total Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price School Meals	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	% Change 12-16
Newark District Schools	30,433	32,457	29,499	26,032	28,313	-7
Newark Charter Schools	6,556	8,386	9,342	11,393	12,950	98
Newark Total	36,989	40,843	38,841	37,425	41,263	12
Eligible Students as a Percentage of Total Enrollment	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	
Newark District	86	89	84	81	79	
Newark Charter	83	86	81	82	83	
Newark Total	85	88	83	82	80	

Charter Schools Increase in Eligibility

From the 2011-12 school year to the 2015-16 school year, Newark's charter schools saw their number of students qualifying for free or reduced-price meals nearly double. Charters have also increased the number of low-income students receiving school breakfast and lunch. While these efforts are commendable, it is important to note that charter enrollment in the

City of Newark also increased substantially during this same time period, contributing to the charters' notably higher numbers in school meal eligibility and participation. At the same time, while 83 percent of charter students eat lunch at school, fewer than half—46 percent—start the day with school breakfast, compared to 65 percent in Newark's district schools.

Number of Children Receiving Free or Reduced-Price School Breakfast

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17*
Newark District Schools	21,228	20,382	17,906	16,555	18,415
Newark Charter Schools	3,050	3,998	5,045	5,743	6,217
Newark Total	24,278	24,380	22,951	22,298	24,632

**Please note that 2016-17 figures are the first year ACNJ took Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) districts into consideration, which are districts that offer free meals to all enrolled students.*

Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free or Reduced-Price School Breakfast

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17*
Newark District Schools	65	69	69	58	65
Newark Charter Schools	36	43	44	44	46
Newark Total	59	63	61	54	59

**Please note that 2016-17 percentage data are preliminary and based upon the most recent data, which include school meal eligibility data as of the 2015-16 school year and receiving data as of October 2016. Eligibility for this preliminary data has been adjusted to account for CEP programs.*

Number of Children Receiving Free or Reduced-Price School Lunch

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17*
Newark District Schools	23,856	22,363	19,674	18,329	19,755
Newark Charter Schools	6,000	7,284	8,839	10,166	11,157
Newark Total	29,856	29,647	28,513	28,495	30,912

**Please note that 2016-17 figures are the first year ACNJ took CEP districts into consideration.*

Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free or Reduced-Price School Lunch

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17*
Newark District Schools	74	76	76	65	70
Newark Charter Schools	72	78	78	79	83
Newark Total	73	76	76	69	74

**Please note that these 2016-17 percentage data are preliminary and based upon the most recent data, which include school meal eligibility data as of the 2015-16 school year and receiving data as of October 2016. Eligibility for this preliminary data has been adjusted to account for CEP programs.*

Newark: A National Model in School Breakfast

Newark’s traditional district schools ranked 5th nationwide for its student participation in the federal School Breakfast Program during the 2015–16 school year, with 92 percent of students who ate lunch at school also receiving breakfast, according to the Food Research Action Center (FRAC). The district serves breakfast during the first few minutes of the school day in nearly all of its schools. Known as breakfast after the bell, this approach significantly increases student participation in this critical child nutrition program. To read the FRAC report, visit: <http://frac.org/>

■ Data Sources and Technical Notes:

Children Receiving NJ SNAP (formerly Food Stamps), 2012-2016. As reported by the N.J. Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development. Data are from June of each year.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Receiving Nutritional Benefits, 2012-2016. Number of women, infants and children receiving WIC benefits, which include healthcare referrals, immunizations screenings, nutrition counseling and a monthly food stipend. As reported by the N.J. Department of Health and Senior Services for the quarter ending June 30th of each year.

Number and Percentage of Children Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price School Meals, 2011-12 to 2015-16. As reported by the N.J. Department of Education, Enrollment Data. Data include traditional district schools and charter schools. Data are as of October for each school year and do not reflect eligibility under the CEP program. Percentage data out of total school enrollment.

Number of Children Receiving Free or Reduced-Price Breakfast, 2012-13 to 2016-17. As reported by the N.J. Department of Agriculture. Includes children attending traditional district schools and charter schools. Data are as of October for each school year. For the 2016-17 school year, ACNJ took into account schools participating in the CEP program in which all enrolled students are eligible for free breakfast or lunch.

Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free or Reduced-Price School Breakfast, 2012-12 to 2016-17. Rates calculated using eligibility data from the N.J. Department of Education, Enrollment Data, and participation data from the N.J. Department of Agriculture. Includes children attending traditional district schools and charter schools. Please note that the 2016-17 percentage data are preliminary and based upon the most recent data which include school meal eligibility data as of the 2015-16 school year and receiving data as of October 2016. Eligibility data for 2016-17 percentage data has been adjusted to account for schools participating in the CEP program in which all enrolled students are eligible for free breakfast or lunch.

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