

Food Insecurity

Children Receiving NJ SNAP (formerly Food Stamps)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	% Change 13-17
Newark	34,215	35,612	33,390	34,532	31,573	-8
Essex	64,362	64,464	62,064	62,327	55,898	-13
New Jersey	419,410	417,044	415,927	406,259	373,920	-11

Individuals Enrolled in WIC

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Newark	12,849	12,889	12,709	12,137
Essex	22,564	22,248	21,825	20,792
New Jersey	180,154	178,852	171,530	163,305

WIC Reported Participants

	2014		2015		2016		2017	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Newark	11,823	92	12,162	94	11,533	91	10,707	88
Essex	20,583	91	20,555	92	19,620	90	18,311	88
New Jersey	166,945	93	161,558	90	154,612	90	146,416	90

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 can have an income of no more than 185 percent of the federal poverty guidelines or \$45,510 for a family of four in 2017. 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 2017, 12 percent of Newark residents eligible for WIC did not receive these benefits, an increase from the previous three years. For more information on SNAP and WIC, visit <https://fns.usda.gov>.

What is the Community Eligibility Provision?

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a federal option that allows high-poverty schools to provide free meals to all students. In exchange, these schools receive increased federal reimbursements and reduced paperwork requirements. Schools have the option of implementing the program district-wide or only within specific schools. In order to be

eligible for CEP, 40 percent or more of enrolled students must be “identified students” — meaning they already qualify for free school meals through their participation in programs like TANF or SNAP or because they are homeless or in foster care.

School Breakfast Participation, 2016-17

School District	# of Students Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Breakfast	Eligible Students as % of Total Enrollment	% Eligible Students Served Breakfast
Newark Public Schools	28,466	79	67
Discovery Charter School	105	93	90
Great Oaks Legacy Charter School***	1,154	89	47
Lady Liberty Academy Charter School**	429	96	69
Maria L. Varisco-Rogers Charter School	383	71	58
Marion P. Thomas Charter School	1,199	90	27
Merit Preparatory Charter School**	336	88	92
New Horizons Community Charter School**	465	97	51
Newark Educators Charter School	249	84	48
Newark Prep Charter School**	429	100	11
North Star Academy	3,901	87	29
Paulo Freire Charter School	145	54	12
People's Preparatory Charter High School**	364	96	15
Philip's Academy Charter School	162	43	14
Robert Treat Academy Charter School	508	74	18
Roseville Community Charter School**	277	88	56
Team Academy Charter School	3,253	88	60
The Gray Charter School	227	65	13
University Heights Charter School**	605	87	29

**Indicates full participation in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).

***Indicates partial participation in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).

Note: Supplemental data for Discovery Charter School, Great Oaks Legacy Charter School and People's Preparatory Charter High School came directly from school officials. The 2016-17 school year was the last operational year for Merit Preparatory Charter School, Newark Prep Charter School and Paulo Freire Charter School.

Data Sources and Technical Notes:

Children Receiving N.J. SNAP (formerly Food Stamps), 2013-2017. 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, 2014-2017. 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, 2014-2017. 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, 2016-17. The number of students eligible, or qualifying, for a free or reduced-price breakfast as well as the percentage eligible out of total enrollment as reported by the N.J. Department of Education, Enrollment Data. Percentage eligible students served breakfast represents the average daily number of students receiving a free or reduced-price breakfast over the total number of eligible students. Average daily number of students receiving a free or reduced price breakfast obtained from the N.J. Department of Agriculture as of April 2017. Data account for participation in the CEP program in which all enrolled students are eligible for a free breakfast or lunch. Supplemental data for Discovery Charter School, Great Oaks Legacy Charter School and People's Preparatory Charter High School came directly from school officials. The 2016-17 school year was the last operational year for Merit Preparatory Charter School, Newark Prep Charter School and Paulo Freire Charter School.