

Section 3

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 \$47,000 for a family of four in 2019. During that same year, more than 28,000 Newark children lived in families receiving SNAP benefits, reflecting a steady decrease in children receiving SNAP benefits since 2015.

The Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides supplemental nutritious food to pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, as well as to 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 2019, 18 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)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	% Change 15-19
Newark	33,390	34,532	31,573	30,865	28,057	-16
Essex	62,064	62,327	55,898	54,425	49,283	-21
New Jersey	415,927	406,259	373,920	353,883	317,566	-24

Individuals Enrolled in WIC

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	% Change 15-19
Newark	12,889	12,709	12,137	12,255	12,818	-1
Essex	22,248	21,825	20,792	20,844	21,901	-2
New Jersey	178,852	171,530	163,305	155,822	161,234	-10

WIC Reported Participants

	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		% Change 15-19 #
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Newark	12,162	94	11,533	91	10,707	88	11,166	91	10,546	82	-13
Essex	20,555	92	19,620	90	18,311	88	18,788	90	17,930	82	-13
New Jersey	161,558	90	154,612	90	146,416	90	139,777	90	135,452	84	-16

School Breakfast Participation*

School District	October 2018			October 2019		
	# 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	17,689	20,034	88	18,891	21,308	89
Achieve Community Charter School	94	143	66	88	151	58
Discovery Charter School**	97	93	104	104	104	100
Great Oaks Legacy Charter School	693	1,185	58	888	1,193	74
LEAD Charter School	15	18	83	22	32	69
Link Community Charter School	146	187	78	136	190	72
Maria L. Varisco-Rogers Charter School	243	415	59	221	433	51
Marion P. Thomas Charter School	608	1,073	57	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Horizons Community Charter School**	589	576	102	392	501	78
Newark Educators Charter School	136	238	57	139	221	63
North Star Academy Charter School	1,444	3,025	48	1,612	3,124	52
People's Preparatory Charter High School	154	239	64	191	252	76
Philip's Academy Charter School	62	211	29	69	155	45
Robert Treat Academy Charter School	120	412	29	N/A	N/A	N/A
Roseville Community Charter School	152	278	55	220	232	95
TEAM Academy Charter School	2,161	2,894	75	2,266	3,109	73
The Gray Charter School	62	216	29	62	210	30
University Heights Charter School	366	689	53	531	739	72

*Please note, participation rates cannot be compared with prior publications due to a new methodology of calculating breakfast participation consistent with national methods. N/A indicates that no data were reported.

**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.

● Data Sources and Technical Notes:

Children Receiving N.J. SNAP (formerly Food Stamps), 2015-2019. 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, 2015-2019. 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, 2015-2019. 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, 2018-2019. 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.

