Alan Shannon
Public Affairs Director
Food & Nutrition Service
Midwest Region
U.S. Department of Agriculture
About FNS

Our Vision:
To End Hunger and Improve Nutrition in America

Food Nutrition Service Mission:
Increase food security and reduce hunger by providing children and low-income people access to food, a healthful diet and nutrition education in a way that supports American agriculture and inspires public confidence.
About FNS

Seven Regions:
About FNS

15 Programs

1. SNAP
2. School Meals (breakfast, lunch)
3. TEFAP (emergency food assistance)
4. WIC
5. Child & Adult Care Food
6. Food Distribution on Indian Reservations
7. Summer Food Service
8. Farmers Market (WIC & Seniors)
Agriculture Adjustment Act of 1933

During the depths of the depression, farmers kept producing but no one had money to buy...
In the midst of the Great Depression, Congress wanted to quickly pass a bill that relieved the existing national economic emergency by increasing agriculture purchasing power.

Agriculture Secretary Henry A. Wallace pledged that the government would purchase “agriculture products from those who have too much for those who have too little.”
Projected outlays under the 2014 Farm Act, 2014-2018

- Nutrition: 80%
- Crop insurance: 8%
- Conservation: 6%
- Commodities: 5%
- Other: 1%

Total outlays = $489 billion

NOTE: total outlays from FY2017 to FY2026—$53.148 trillion—excludes offsetting receipts of $2.918 trillion.
IMPACT OF HUNGER

- Loss of Economic Productivity
- Poor Education Outcomes
- Increased Costs for Public Education
- Avoidable Health Care Costs

Source: USDA
Overview

- Over 12% of households in the U.S. report some level of food insecurity; highest rates are in rural America.
- Over one-third of adults (34.9%) and approximately 17% of children in the U.S. are clinically obese.
- FNS works to end food insecurity and obesity through the administration of 15 federal nutrition assistance programs including WIC, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and school meals.
- In partnership with state and tribal governments, FNS programs serve 1 in 4 Americans during the course of a year.
Recent Gallup poll results:

“...among Americans making $30,000 or less a year, 67% worry “a great deal” about hunger and homelessness...up from 52% in 2001/2004; up from 56% in 2007/2008; and up from 51% in 2010/2011.”
THE COST OF HUNGER

- **$130.5 billion**: Illness costs linked to hunger and food insecurity in America
- **$19.2 billion**: Value of poor education outcomes & lower lifetime earnings linked to hunger and food insecurity in America
- **$17.8 billion**: Value of charitable contributions to address hunger and food insecurity in America

*Source: Center for American Progress*
Overview

Figure 1
U.S. households by food security status, 2015

- Food-secure households—87.3%
- Food-insecure households—12.7%
  - Households with low food security—7.7%
  - Households with very low food security—5.0%

1. Nearly two-thirds of those who receive SNAP benefits are children (44%), seniors (11%) and people with disabilities (10%). About 90 percent of SNAP beneficiaries are households with incomes below the poverty line.

2. Average SNAP benefit in FY 2015 was about $125 per person per month.

3. Majority of recipients already work or not expected to work because of age or disability.
About SNAP

Are veterans on SNAP?
Between 2011 and 2013, SNAP HHs included roughly 1.7 million vets
When SNAP benefits are added to gross income, what percentage of SNAP households move above the poverty line?
ANSWER:
When SNAP benefits are added to gross income, 10% of SNAP households move above the poverty line.
SNAP participation reduces likelihood of food insecurity by 5-30% and likelihood of very low food insecurity by 5-20%.
For each $1 billion in SNAP benefits, how many full-time jobs are created?
ANSWER:
Each $1 billion increase in SNAP benefits is estimated to create or maintain 8,900 - 17,900 full-time equivalent jobs, including 3,000 farm jobs.
SNAP puts money back into the economy. Every $1 in new SNAP benefits generates up to $1.80 in total economic impact.
How Many SNAP participants had jobs?
ANSWER: 32% of SNAP households – and 55% of households with children – had earnings in 2015. Overall, 44 percent of SNAP participants lived in a household with earnings.
What is the average monthly benefit for a household?
ANSWER:
The average SNAP household received $254 in monthly benefits.
What’s the average size of a SNAP Household?
Don’t people on SNAP have lots of kids?
ANSWER:
53% of SNAP households contained only one person. Average SNAP household size was 2.0 persons.
About SNAP

Aren’t a lot of people on SNAP also on welfare? What percentage?
ANSWER: In 1990, 42% of all SNAP households received cash welfare benefits and less than 20% had earnings. In 2015, less than 6% received cash welfare, while 32% had earnings.
Other myths or misperceptions... What are you hearing?
1. Per FRAC Food Insecurity Report, Wisconsin ranks 44th in food hardship with a 12% food insecurity rate for 2015.

2. Several metro areas in Midwest in top 50 for high food insecurity rates (none in Wisconsin):

   1. Youngstown (22.3%, 7th)
   2. Dayton (21.7%, 11th)
   3. Detroit (17.9%, 34th)
   4. Toledo (17.7%, 36th)
   5. Indianapolis (17.2%, 43rd)
   6. Cincinnati (17.2%, 43rd)
   7. Cleveland (16.8%, 48th)
Per FRAC Food Insecurity Report, Food Hardship for 2014-2015:

1. Madison (10.2%, 108th)
2. Milwaukee (15%, 74th)
Wisconsin Data

1. SNAP participation rate (FY 14) = 100% (U.S. = 83%)

1. Persons Participating:
   1. FY 15 = 805,540/month
   2. FY 17 to-date = 704,460/month

2. Avg HH Benefit = $213/Month

3. Value of Benefits:
   1. FY 15 = $1.05 billion
   2. FY 16 = $922 million
Programs Provide Significant Support for Food Markets

**Nutrition Assistance Program Support for Food Markets, 2015 (estimate)**

- **Fruits and Vegetables**: $20.3 billion
- **Grain Products**: $18.7 billion
- **Milk and Dairy Products**: $14.9 billion
- **Meat/Meat Alternates**: $28.7 billion
- **Other Foods**: $13.9 billion

*USDA*
FNS Program Accomplishments: Nutrition Outcomes

- Gap between nutrient intakes of lower & higher-income groups has virtually disappeared.
- SNAP increases household food expenditures & nutrient availability.
- WIC participation leads to better pregnancy outcomes – fewer infant deaths, fewer premature births, & increased birth weights.
- School meal participants consume more food energy & key vitamins & minerals.
Regional Partnerships

- GoodGreens
- Farmers Markets
Hunger As a Health Issue

- ProMedica Model
- Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Wholesome Wave & FINI
- USDA Health Care Partners Network
- Root Cause Coalition
Regional Models

- Experimental Station
- Fair Food Network
- Top Box Foods
- Chicago Botanic Garden/Growing Power/Growing Home
SNAP benefits can be used at authorized farmers’ markets

SNAP application and local office finder
Hunger hotline: 1-866-3-HUNGRY

SFSP resources: www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks

FNS website: www.fns.usda.gov

FNS regional office contact information: www.fns.usda.gov/fns-regional-offices
Questions?
For More Information

visit our website at:

www.fns.usda.gov

Or email:

alan.shannon@fns.usda.gov