

SNAP & CEP



Key Points

- **SNAP as a support for families**
- **SNAP, ISP, and the Impact of CEP**
- **SNAP eligibility and participation**
- **Connecting families to information about SNAP**



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SNAP as a support for families

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides monthly benefits to help low-income households buy the food they need.

SNAP Income Guidelines

Family Members	Maximum Monthly Income (before taxes)	Maximum Monthly Income (after taxes)
1	\$1,473	\$1,113
2	\$1,984	\$1,526
3	\$2,495	\$1,920
4	\$3,007	\$2,313
5	\$3,518	\$2,706

SNAP income guidelines are based on 130% of the poverty level, just like NSLP free lunch eligibility.

Generally, if a child is eligible for free lunch, their family is likely to be eligible for SNAP.

SNAP as a support for families

Those who qualify for SNAP include people who:

- Work for low wages,
- Are unemployed or work part-time,
- Receive other assistance payments, or
- Are elderly or disabled and live on a small income.



75% of SNAP families
are working families

Among families who received SNAP benefits for at least one month in a twelve-month period, more than 75% had at least one person working, and about 33% included two or more workers.¹

1. [US Census Bureau, July 2020](#), "About a Third of Families Who Received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits Had Two or More People Working"

SNAP, ISP, and the Impact of CEP



Children who receive SNAP benefits can be directly certified to receive free school lunches.

The percentage of students directly certified for free lunch = the school or district's Identified Student Percentage (ISP).

Schools or districts in which 40 percent or more of the student body is directly certified for free lunch are eligible to offer free meals to all students in the school or district under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).

SNAP, ISP, and the Impact of CEP

Benefits of CEP for Students

Kids who attend CEP-participating schools are half as likely to be food insecure as kids attending schools that are CEP-eligible, but not participating.²

Research also points to increases in school attendance rates and increases in test scores when all children in the district begin receiving free meals.



2. Susan Michelle Gross, Tam Lynne Kelley, Marycatherine Augustyn, Michael J Wilson, Karen Bassarab & Anne Palmer (2021) Household Food Security Status of Families with Children Attending Schools that Participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and Those with Children Attending Schools that are CEP-Eligible, but Not Participating, *Journal of Hunger & Environmental Nutrition*, 16:2, 281-296, DOI: [10.1080/19320248.2019.1679318](https://doi.org/10.1080/19320248.2019.1679318)

SNAP, ISP, and the Impact of CEP

Benefits of CEP for Districts

Districts can also benefit from the switch to CEP with reductions in paperwork and administrative burdens (no more lunch money!)

The financial impact is a major consideration when districts decide whether to adopt CEP.

- The federal funding formula does not automatically reimburse the district at the free rate for all meals served.

Districts can calculate the financial impact of CEP with free online tools like No Kid Hungry's CEP Calculator.



**No Kid Hungry
CEP Calculator**

SNAP, ISP, and the Impact of CEP

DISTRICT RESULTS

See the instructions tab for more information.

SCENARIOS	TOTAL ANNUAL REVENUE
CURRENT PROGRAM REVENUE (STANDARD CLAIMING, NSLP & SBP)	\$0
SCENARIO #1: CEP REVENUE WITH EXPECTED PARTICIPATION RATES OF 47% FOR BREAKFAST AND 73% FOR LUNCH	\$0
SCENARIO #2: CEP REVENUE WITH BIC (65% BREAKFAST AND 73% LUNCH)	\$0
SCENARIO #3: CEP REVENUE, NO CHANGE IN PARTICIPATION	\$0



**No Kid Hungry
CEP Calculator**

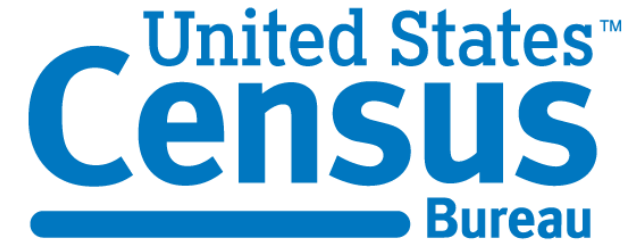
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SNAP Eligibility and Participation

Where are direct certification rates headed?

The US Census Bureau uses data from the American Community Survey and SNAP administrative records to estimate:

- The percentage of children ages 0-17 in each MS county who are eligible for SNAP benefits
- The percentage of SNAP eligible children ages 0-17 who are accessing SNAP benefits

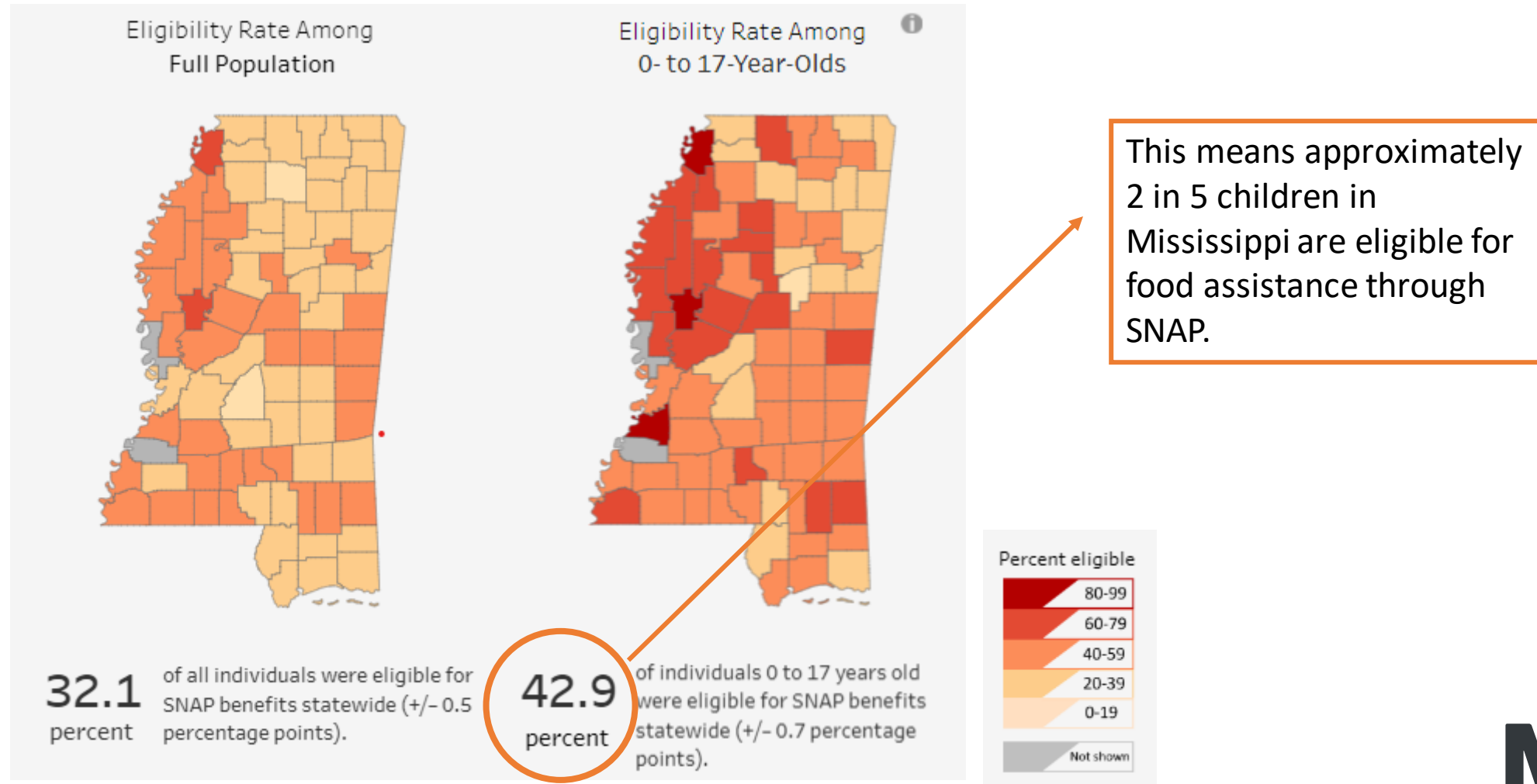


US Census
Bureau SNAP
Program Data

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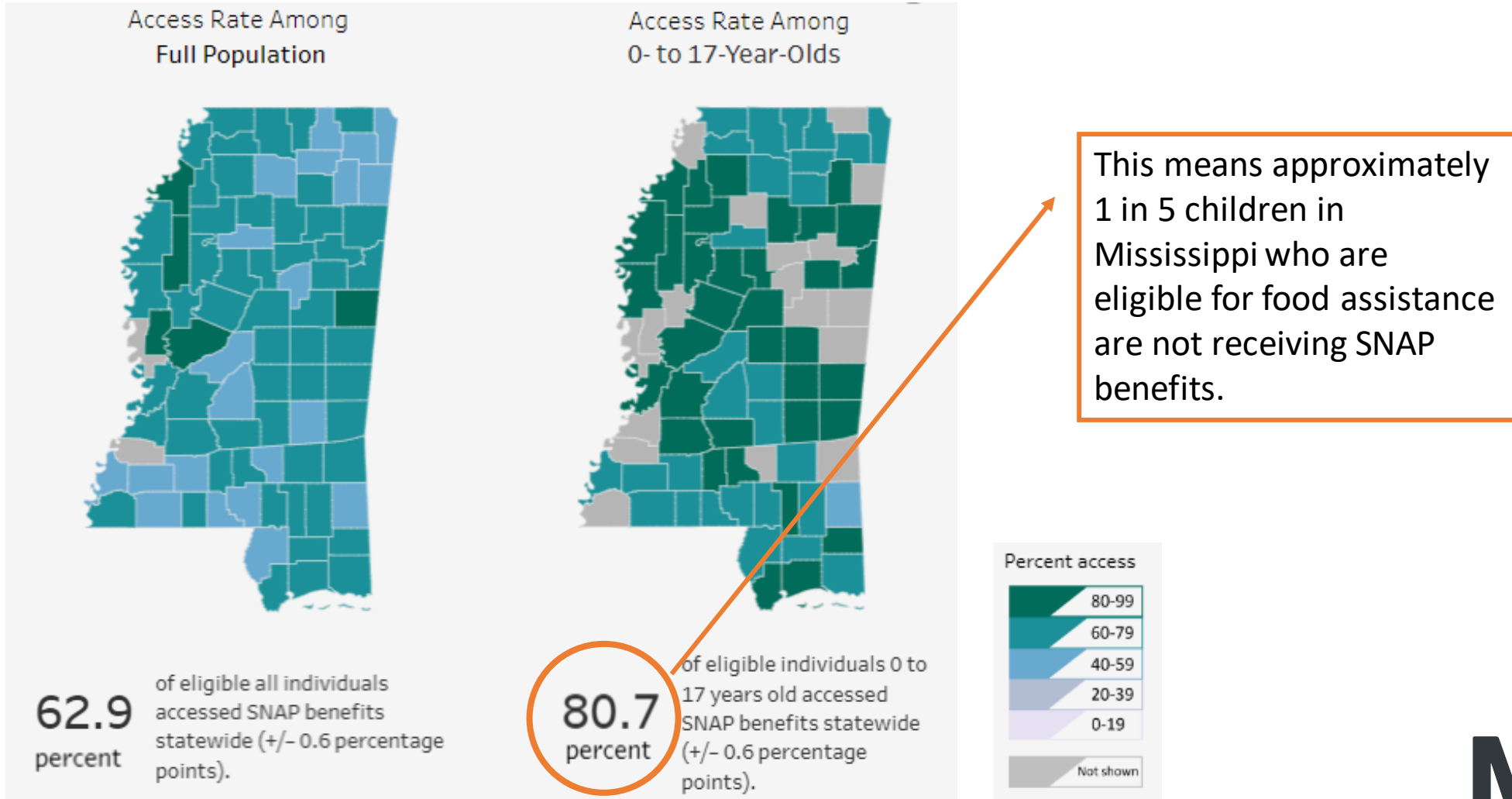


SNAP Eligibility and Participation



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SNAP Eligibility and Participation



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County	% Kids 0-17 SNAP eligible	% Eligible Kids 0-17 Accessing SNAP
Adams	58.7	73.2
Alcorn	35.6	74.1
Amite	53.4	76.4
Attala	61.8	87.3
Benton	56.4	79.7
Bolivar	75.1	89.9
Calhoun	47.1	85.6
Carroll	41.4	88.6
Chickasaw	47.4	88.5
Choctaw	18.4	unavailable
Claiborne	87.3	84.7
Clarke	58.2	82.6
Clay	50.9	unavailable
Coahoma	76.9	93.1
Copiah	53.0	86.3

County	% Kids 0-17 SNAP eligible	% Eligible Kids 0-17 Accessing SNAP
Covington	42.2	unavailable
DeSoto	29.5	75.4
Forrest	56.4	90.3
Franklin	58.7	65.3
George	50.1	86.2
Greene	62.4	44.8
Grenada	60.0	61.4
Hancock	42.8	81.9
Harrison	47.1	85.4
Hinds	58.3	86.6
Holmes	72.5	86.1
Humphreys	86.4	94.5
Issaquena	unavailable	unavailable
Itawamba	34.3	88.6
Jackson	33.1	76.0

County	% Kids 0-17 SNAP eligible	% Eligible Kids 0-17 Accessing SNAP
Jasper	59.9	81.0
Jefferson	unavailable	unavailable
Jeff Davis	61.7	89.0
Jones	45.3	76.5
Kemper	63.7	unavailable
Lafayette	25.1	79.1
Lamar	30.1	73.1
Lauderdale	50.2	84.5
Lawrence	48.6	81.9
Leake	58.5	81.1
Lee	28.3	80.3
Leflore	66.6	91.4
Lincoln	50.7	62.4
Lowndes	39.1	87.7
Madison	31.5	70.3

County	% Kids 0-17 SNAP eligible	% Eligible Kids 0-17 Accessing SNAP
Marion	51.5	64.4
Marshall	67.2	69.2
Monroe	39.7	85.6
Montgomery	72.2	87.0
Neshoba	56.9	87.0
Newton	47.6	86.3
Noxubee	52.1	unavailable
Oktober	36.4	90.3
Panola	41.7	82.6
Pearl River	35.3	69.5
Perry	72.2	74.5
Pike	51.3	78.3
Pontotoc	38.0	68.8
Prentiss	43.8	72.7
Quitman	64.8	87.2

SNAP Eligibility and Participation

On average, we could be trending toward seeing a smaller percentage of children eligible for SNAP and fewer eligible children participating.

However, these are only *estimates* and have a margin of error. And, of course....pandemic data!

Time Period	% of kids 0-17 eligible for SNAP	% of kids 0-17 accessing SNAP
2016-2018	47.50%	85.30%
2017-2019	47.20%	80.40%
2018-2020	42.90%	80.70%

Connecting families to information about SNAP

Schools and districts can help connect families who need food assistance to SNAP.

Why connect families to SNAP?

- Less hunger
- Setting students up for academic and behavioral success
- Moving the district's ISP closer to CEP level
- Reducing administrative burden for the district



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Connecting families to information about SNAP

Potential District Strategies:

- Including information about SNAP eligibility and/or SNAP applications in school registration packets
 - Remember: eligible for free lunch = likely eligible for SNAP
- Sending messages through school communication channels highlighting SNAP eligibility criteria



Connecting families to information about SNAP

Potential District Strategies:

- Mailing materials to FRPL-eligible, non-SNAP participating families in the district, including info on how to apply
- Training key school staff members (counselors, nurses, etc.) on how to support families in completing SNAP applications
- Hosting a “Community Resources Fair” highlighting available community services for children, including SNAP



Connecting families to information about SNAP

How can MDHS help?

- Sharing SNAP informational materials, draft messaging, graphics, etc.
- Providing printed materials like flyers, letters, or posters
- Collaborating on a local strategy



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US Census
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2023 SNAP
Eligibility Flyer



2023 MDHS
Eligibility Flyers

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