

SNAP Program Access Index and Participation Rates: 2002-2013

Year	New York State ¹		New York City ²	
	Program Access Index (PAI)	Participation Rate (PR)	Program Access Index (PAI)	Participation Rate (PR)
2013	n/a	n/a	85.9%	77.0%
2012	80.2%	n/a	83.7%	76.8%
2011	77.9%	79.0%	84.9%	76.6%
2010	78.1%	74.0%	84.9%	77.5%
2009	70.6%	65.0% ³	77.3%	70.7%
2008	60.9%	68.0%	66.0%	74.9% ⁴
2007	54.5%	61.0%	61.6%	69.4%
2006	52.6%	64.0%	59.4%	69.6%
2005	53.5%	60.0%	n/a	n/a
2004	48.6%	55.0%	n/a	n/a
2003	54.4%	47.0%	n/a	n/a
2002	50.7%	51.0%	n/a	n/a

n/a - not available

Note : Participation rates for 2010-2013 should not be compared to prior years because the population base for the 2010 ACS was recalibrated to the 2010 Census.

¹ *Sources* : PAI - USDA, "Calculating the SNAP Program Access Index: A Step-By-Step Guide"; PR - Mathematica, under contract by the USDA, State Food Stamp Participation Rates

² *Sources* : PAI - HRA OER replication of the USDA's methodology for calculating the PAI; PR - HRA OER replication of the USDA's methodology for calculating the PR. Both replications use HRA administrative data and data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

³ Note that in 2014, the USDA released a report with 2011 participation rates by state, as well as updated estimates for 2009 and 2010. Those updated figures are reflected here. They may not be comparable to earlier years. Source: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Reaching2011.pdf>

⁴ Reflects the participation rate using the old eligibility criteria (effective until October 2008). This means that the rate is likely an overestimate because the number of eligible people are undercounted.

Program Access = The program access index (PAI) was designed to indicate the degree to which low income people have access to Food Stamp benefits. It is calculated by dividing the average monthly number of FS recipients by the total population below 125% of the poverty line, using the Census Bureau's official poverty rate. (<http://www.fns.usda.gov/ora/menu/Published/snap/FILES/Other/PAI2010.pdf>)

Participation rate = The percentage of eligible people who participate in the Food Stamp program. The Mathematica methodology uses Census data to approximate FS eligibility requirements. (<http://www.fns.usda.gov/ora/menu/Published/snap/FILES/Participation/techpartrate2006-2008.pdf>)