

**2013 New York City
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Participation
Explanation of Methodology**

STEP I. Numerator: SNAP Recipients¹

- *Reflects the average monthly number of SNAP recipients in New York City*

STEP II. Denominator: Eligible SNAP Population

- ***New York City population:***
Data from the annual American Community Survey (ACS) were used to determine the New York City population. The sample size for the ACS is large enough to be representative at the city level. Note that those residing in group quarters (such as prisons) were excluded from all calculations.
- ***Categorically eligible:***
Households in which all members are receiving SSI are categorically eligible for SNAP benefits. The number of individuals in these households was estimated using data from the ACS, and they are counted as eligible regardless of whether they passed the tests described below.

EXCLUSIONS

- ***Excluding those ineligible due to alien status – undocumented immigrants***
In its 2013 publication "The Newest New Yorkers: Characteristics of the City's Foreign-born Population,"² the NYC Department of City Planning estimates the undocumented population of NYC in 2010 to be 499,000. The non-citizen population of NYC in 2010, calculated using the 2010 ACS, was 1,486,629. Applying 499,000 undocumented immigrants to the ACS estimate of non-citizens results in approximately 33.6% of non-citizens being undocumented. As such, 33.6% was used to exclude undocumented non-citizens from the count of potential food stamp eligible.
- ***Excluding adult immigrants in the country for less than 5 years***
Legal adult immigrants are ineligible for SNAP if they have been in the country for less than 5 years. The ACS provides data on the foreign-born population's year of entry. Foreign-born non-citizens who have been in the country for less than 5 years were therefore excluded from the number of eligible individuals.

¹ Human Resources Administration, Office of Evaluation and Research, average of monthly caseload from HRA administrative data

² <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/census/nyy.shtml>

- **Excluding those who fail the gross test – individuals in households with no elderly or SSI-receiving member, above 130% of poverty**

As of 2008, non-elderly and non-SSI households have different income eligibility criteria than households that contain an elderly or SSI-receiving member. As such, the number of households with no elderly or SSI-receiving member was estimated, using data from the ACS. Once they were determined, all individuals in these households above 130% of poverty were considered not eligible for food stamp benefits and excluded from the eligible population.

- **Excluding those who fail the net income and resource test – individuals in households with elderly or SSI recipient (above 200% of poverty and above net income and asset test)**

Individuals in households with an elderly person or an SSI recipient must be below 200% of the poverty line (the “gross” test). If they do not meet the gross test, they are eligible if they meet a net income and resource test. These individuals were estimated using data from the ACS. Once they were determined, all individuals in these households above 200% of poverty who failed the net income test and asset test were considered ineligible for food stamp benefits and excluded from the eligible population.

STEP III. Estimated SNAP Participation Rate

The estimated SNAP participation rate is the number receiving SNAP benefits (step 1) divided by the number eligible for SNAP benefits (step 2).