

SNAP Participation Among Households with Seniors (60+), at National, State, and County Levels¹

National Findings

Nationally, on average each year between 2012 and 2016, 10.2 percent of all households with seniors (age 60 or older) participated in SNAP.

Top Ten States for SNAP Participation Among Households with Seniors

State	Percent	Margin of Error
District of Columbia	16.3%	0.8%
New York	15.8%	0.7%
Rhode Island	14.5%	1.1%
Oregon	13.8%	1.4%
Mississippi	13.0%	2.7%
Tennessee	12.7%	1.8%
Louisiana	12.6%	1.8%
Maine	12.5%	1.5%
Georgia	12.5%	2.1%
Massachusetts	12.3%	0.7%

State Findings

In every state of our nation, SNAP matters to seniors.

Top Ten States for SNAP Participation Among Households with Seniors for Metro, Small Town, and Rural Areas

Metro Areas			Small Towns			Rural Areas		
State	Percent	Margin of Error	State	Percent	Margin of Error	State	Percent	Margin of Error
District of Columbia	16.3%	0.8%	Arizona	16.0%	2.1%	South Carolina	18.4%	3.5%
New York	16.2%	0.6%	Oregon	15.4%	2.3%	Kentucky	17.5%	4.1%
Rhode Island	14.5%	1.1%	Georgia	14.6%	3.2%	Tennessee	16.6%	3.5%
Oregon	13.5%	1.1%	Louisiana	14.3%	2.5%	North Carolina	15.1%	3.1%
Massachusetts	12.3%	0.7%	Maine	14.2%	1.7%	Louisiana	15.1%	3.7%
Florida	12.1%	0.7%	North Carolina	13.7%	2.1%	Georgia	15.1%	4.1%
Tennessee	12.1%	1.4%	New Mexico	13.2%	2.7%	Arizona	15.0%	2.4%
Louisiana	12.1%	1.5%	Mississippi	13.1%	2.8%	Mississippi	15.0%	3.9%
Michigan	11.9%	0.7%	Virginia	13.0%	2.3%	Florida	14.8%	3.8%
Mississippi	11.9%	2.0%	South Carolina	12.9%	2.1%	Maine	14.4%	2.0%

- In the metro areas of the ten states with the highest senior household SNAP participation rates, at least one in nine senior households participated in SNAP.
- In the small towns of the ten states with the highest senior household SNAP participation rates, at least one in eight senior households participated in SNAP.
- In rural areas of the ten states with the highest senior household SNAP participation rates, at least one in seven senior households participated in SNAP.

¹Source: FRAC analysis of 5-year American Community Survey (ACS) data, 2012-2016.

Thirty-nine states included at least one county with a senior household SNAP participation rate statistically above the national average of 10.2 percent; 21 states had at least ten counties with rates above the national average, and seven states had more than 20 counties with SNAP participation rates in senior households that were higher than 10.2 percent.

In 10 states, at least a third of the counties had rates above the national average.

States Where At Least One-Third (33%) of Counties Have Senior Household SNAP Participation Rates Higher than the National Average Rate, by State, 2012-2016

State	Census Region	FNS Region	Total Number of Counties in State	County SNAP Rate Higher than US Rate	
				Number	Percent of Counties in State
Maine	Northeast	Northeast	16	9	56.3%
Georgia	South	Southeast	159	74	46.5%
Oregon	West	West	36	16	44.4%
Mississippi	South	Southeast	82	32	39.0%
Tennessee	South	Southeast	95	36	37.9%
Connecticut	Northeast	Northeast	8	3	37.5%
North Carolina	South	Southeast	100	36	36.0%
Louisiana	South	Southwest	64	23	35.9%
Kentucky	South	Southeast	120	43	35.8%
Arizona	West	West	15	5	33.3%

Other states with at least 25 percent of counties with senior household SNAP participation rates above the national average include New Mexico (30.3%), Washington (28.2%), South Carolina (28.3%), New York (27.4%), and Alabama and Florida (26.9% each). Elsewhere, 18 counties (20.5%) in Ohio and 32 counties (12.6%) in Texas had rates above the national average of 10.2 percent.

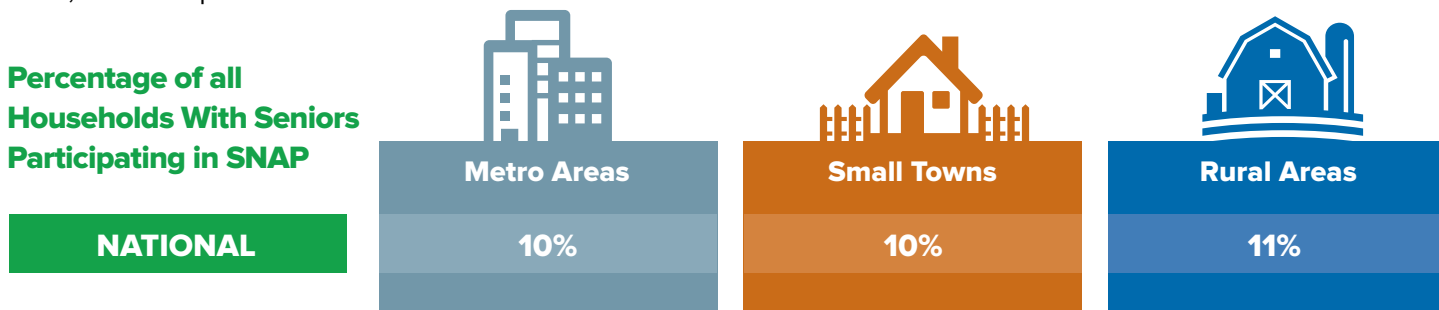
County Findings

Every county in America includes households with seniors who benefit from SNAP. There are 3,142 counties in the United States.

1,167 Metro Area Counties	658 Small Town Counties	1,317 Rural Area Counties
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Seventeen percent of all counties have rates of senior household SNAP participation that are statistically higher than the national average of 10.2 percent, ranging from 12.1 percent in Franklin County, Ohio to 47.7 percent in Starr County, Texas.

Participation among senior households, on average, is consistent for all types of counties across the country, i.e., rural, small town, and metropolitan areas.



Top Ten Counties for SNAP Participation Among Households with Seniors for Metro, Small Town, and Rural Areas

Metro Areas			Small Towns			Rural Areas		
County	Percent	Margin of Error	County	Percent	Margin of Error	County	Percent	Margin of Error
Bronx County, NY	36.4%	0.8%	Starr County, TX	47.7%	4.1%	Kusilvak Census Area, AK	46.3%	6.0%
Tunica County, MS	33.8%	8.2%	Maverick County, TX	35.0%	4.7%	Oglala Lakota County, SD	46.0%	7.8%
Miami-Dade County, FL	32.2%	0.5%	Coahoma County, MS	7.5%	4.7%	Presidio County, TX	40.4%	11.4%
Kings County, NY	30.7%	0.4%	Sunflower County, MS	7.2%	3.9%	Owsley County, KY	37.7%	10.4%
Webb County, TX	30.5%	1.7%	Halifax County, NC	25.7%	2.6%	Buffalo County, SD	35.5%	9.6%
Hidalgo County, TX	28.9%	1.3%	Northampton County, NC	25.5%	3.7%	Nome Census Area, AK	35.4%	2.8%
Clay County, WV	27.2%	6.9%	Knox County, KY	24.7%	4.1%	Loving County, TX	35.0%	30.3%
Heard County, GA	26.4%	5.0%	Haywood County, TN	24.6%	4.7%	Noxubee County, MS	34.7%	6.7%
Suffolk County, MA	25.4%	1.0%	Bell County, KY	24.3%	4.3%	Greene County, AL	34.7%	7.3%
Philadelphia County, PA	25.0%	0.7%	Phillips County, AR	24.1%	3.9%	Zavala County, TX	34.7%	9.3%

- Of the 60 counties with senior household SNAP participation levels at or above 25 percent, 75 percent were rural, 10 percent were small town, and 15 percent were metro.
- Nineteen out of 25 counties with the highest percentage of senior households that participated in SNAP were rural, two were small-town counties, and four were metro counties.
- In small town areas, 90 counties had at least 15 percent of their senior households participating in SNAP, with nearly half of these counties concentrated in four states: 15 in Georgia, 7 in Mississippi, 10 in Kentucky, and 10 in North Carolina.

Conclusion

The FRAC [state](#) and [county](#) maps illustrate the importance and reach of SNAP for millions of households with seniors (60+). However, it is important to note that these maps look at the percentage of all households with seniors that participate in SNAP, not the percentage of *eligible* households with seniors that participate in SNAP.

Despite all the benefits for seniors in participating in SNAP, only two out of five eligible households with seniors participate in SNAP.