

NUTRITION REQUESTS

Protect Hungry Families by Protecting and Strengthening SNAP

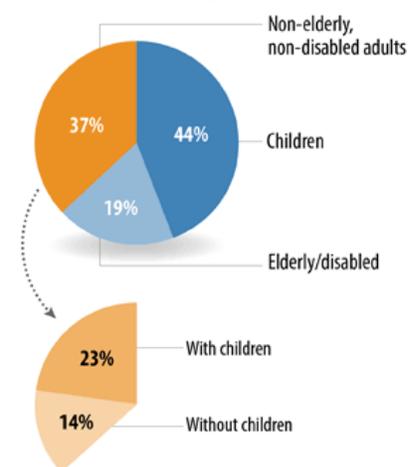
Please protect millions of low-income hungry Americans by speaking directly to congressional leadership urging them to **strongly oppose cuts or structural changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) and other nutrition programs.**

SNAP is Critical to Ending Hunger in America

Millions of Americans are struggling to put food on the table, and SNAP is critical to meeting those needs. In 2014, almost **one in five children in the U.S. were at risk of going to bed hungry at night** (19.2 percent of households, according to USDA). Studies show that children who are regularly hungry suffer from weakened immune systems, slowed and abnormal growth, and anemia. Children in families that do not struggle against hunger tend to be healthier, while young children from food-insecure households are two-thirds more likely to be at risk of developmental problems.

SNAP plays a critical role, helping working families make ends meet and get on their feet. The Census Bureau estimates that **SNAP lifted 4.6 million people above the poverty line in 2015.** More than half of SNAP households with at least one working-age, non-disabled adult, and more than 60 percent of households with children work while participating in SNAP.

Close to Two-Thirds of SNAP Recipients Are Children, Elderly, or Disabled



Source: CBPP tabulations of USDA 2013 SNAP household characteristics data.

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities | cbpp.org

Anti-Poverty Programs are Working – Protect and Strengthen SNAP

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) recently analyzed data from the Urban Institute, revealing the tremendous impact SNAP has on poverty. The safety net, with SNAP playing a key role, reduced the poverty rate from 29.1 percent to 13.8 percent in 2012 and lifted 48 million people above the poverty line, including 12 million children. These programs provide a crucial, often temporary, support for those struggling to make ends meet in low-wage jobs or with irregular hours.

In particular, SNAP is an effective response to hunger in times of emergencies or economic downturn, and it is critical that it continues to be able to react quickly and robustly in times of increased need. RESULTS opposes changes to SNAP (and other nutrition programs) that would harm vulnerable children and families, increase hunger, and reduce SNAP's effectiveness. In particular, while there is a merit to allowing for flexibility and local control, **RESULTS strongly opposes efforts to block grant nutrition programs in the name of "flexibility", which would undermine the core responsibility of the federal government to address hunger and poverty nationwide. Instead, policymakers should strengthen SNAP by increasing benefits** so all families can access quality nutrition throughout the month.