

FRAC WEEKLY NEWS DIGEST

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Hunger and Poverty Data

[Digging Through the Data on Recent Hunger & Poverty Research](#) - FRAC Chat, October 20, 2016

In recent weeks, there has been a cascade of research released on the number of Americans struggling against hunger and poverty. Digging through all the latest data sets, whether from the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service (USDA-ERS), or FRAC, can be daunting. Below is a quick summary of how anti-hunger advocates can use particular data to show policymakers what is working, and what more needs to be done.



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

[Stop Defaming SNAP, Start Helping Deserving Families](#) - The Huffington Post, October 17, 2016

"If my colleagues really want to help feed Americans, they should look at ways to make SNAP better," writes Rep. Marcia L. Fudge (D-OH) in this op-ed. Proposals to cut the program focus on misconceptions and stereotypes, although the SNAP has one of the lowest error rates of any federal public benefit program. "Another misconception...is the idea that SNAP benefits are too generous," notes Fudge. SNAP recipients often run out of benefits before the end of the month.



[Rauner averts food stamp cutoff](#) - Chicago Sun-Times, October 18, 2016

Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner will apply to renew a federal waiver exempting the state from instituting time limits for SNAP recipients who are Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents. These recipients would be limited to three months of benefits in a three-

year period. In a letter, more than 100 organizations last month cautioned the governor that the time limit would result in “more hungry people in line at our food banks,” and described these recipients as “veterans struggling to find work, men and women experiencing homelessness or living with...mental illnesses, and mothers and fathers who took time away from the workforce to raise their children.”



[Double The Veggies Please: SNAP Participants Benefit From Food Bucks Program](#) – KLCC, October 12, 2016

The Double Up For Food Bucks program, which doubles the spending power of SNAP recipients at participating farmer’s markets, has added 600 new SNAP shoppers to Lane County Farmer’s Market in Eugene, Oregon. A recent grant of \$35,000 will keep the program going until this winter. “[B]ecause of the funds that will now enable us to get through the end of the year, we can turn [our] attention to raising money for next year,” said Karen Dunne of the Willamette Farm and Food Coalition.



[Should homeless people be able to use food stamp benefits to buy hot food?](#) – OC Register, October 18, 2016

Orange County, California, officials are being urged to approve the Restaurant Meals Program, which would allow homeless, disabled and elderly SNAP participants in the county to use their benefits at participating restaurants. These residents may have difficulty cooking meals for themselves or getting to grocery stores. Eight other counties in the state participate in the Restaurant Meals Program.



School Meals

[Breakfast after the bell gets high school students ready to learn](#) – Philly.com, October 17, 2016

New Jersey’s Woodbury High School saw school breakfast participation increase from 12 percent of students eating school breakfast in the cafeteria four years ago to 60 percent of students participating daily through breakfast after the bell. Only about 12 percent of high schools in New Jersey, compared to nearly a third of the state’s elementary schools, offer breakfast after the bell, according to Advocates for Children of New Jersey. “We’re hoping more high schools will jump on the breakfast bandwagon,” said spokeswoman Nancy Parelo.



[Free breakfast and lunch at Scranton schools increases participation](#) – Scranton Times-Tribune, October 15, 2016

Pennsylvania’s Scranton School District qualifies for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which allows high-poverty schools to serve free breakfast and lunch to all students without collecting meal applications. Since adopting the provision at the start of the school year, breakfast participation has increased eight percent, and lunch participation nine percent. CEP helps remove the stigma attached to free meals. “No one is embarrassed. No one is labeled,” Michael Coleman, principal of Robert Morris Elementary School.



[Washburn Rural Middle School doubles breakfasts served with mobile cart](#) – Topeka Capital-Journal, October 13, 2016

Breakfast participation at Kansas’s Washburn Rural Middle School amounted to 50 out of the school’s 1,000 students before the school received a grant from the Midwest Dairy Council to expand breakfast participation. The school used the grant to offer breakfast

from a mobile cart, stationed near the school's entrance. "We're doubling the number and serving like 130 students – and we just started," said Stan Vallis, director of food service for Unified School District 437.



WIC

[Gap in Kids' Food Program Can Put Families at Risk](#) – KBIA, October 19, 2016

Children aging out of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program at age five but who have not yet started school are at risk for hunger, as they are not yet able to take advantage of free school meals. Their families are also at risk for hunger. "Our research showed that there's a spike in food insecurity right around this age point, when children lose eligibility for WIC," said Colleen Heflin, professor of food policy at the University of Missouri. FRAC has joined with other advocacy groups in urging passage of a Senate bill extending WIC eligibility to age six. The bill passed the Senate Agriculture Committee in early 2016 but has not been voted on by the full Senate.



Hunger in the U.S.

[Many UC workers struggle to feed themselves and their families, study shows](#) – Los Angeles Times, October 16, 2016

A recently-released study found that 45 percent of 2,890 University of California (UC) clerical, administrative and support services workers experienced hunger at times. Most of those surveyed throughout the 10-campus system were full-time employees with college degrees, earning an average of \$22 an hour. In June, a separate study found that 42 percent of 9,000 UC students lacked a consistent source of "high-quality, nutritious food."



About Us: The Food Research and Action Center (www.frac.org) is the leading national organization working for more effective public and private policies to eradicate domestic hunger and undernutrition. Visit our Web site (www.frac.org) to learn more. Click [here](#) to unsubscribe from this e-mail.