

What SNAP cuts could mean for nutrition, food banks

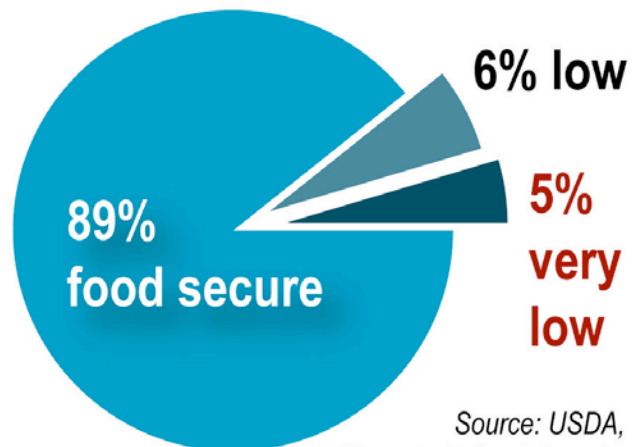
New challenges to safety net for vulnerable families in food assistance proposals

Iowa food insecurity basics

- Food insecurity means lacking consistent access to affordable, nutritious foods.
- In Iowa, 10.7 percent of households were considered food insecure on average from 2014-16.¹
- In 2016, an average of 380,705 Iowans participated in SNAP each month, with an average monthly benefit of \$111.11 per person.²
- Iowa SNAP recipients received \$1.15 per meal in December 2017.³
- SNAP pumps more than \$38 million into the state economy each month.⁴ Like many programs that support low-income families, benefits are turned over — often quickly — in the local economy. SNAP cuts would hurt local businesses.

1 in 9 Iowans are food insecure

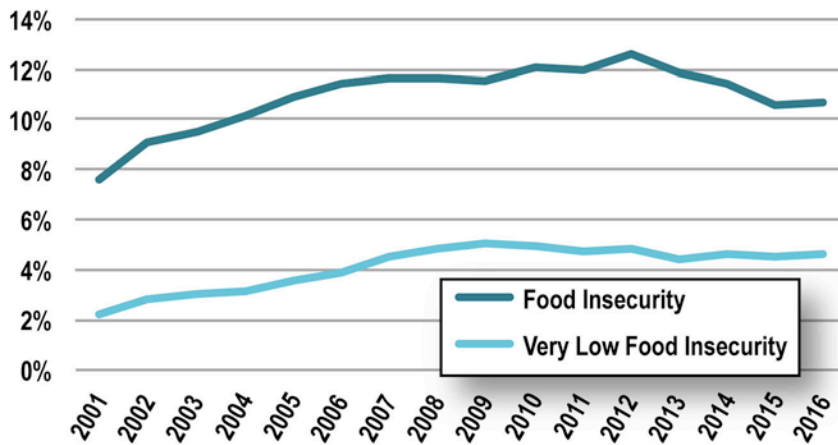
Food Security in Iowa 2014-16



Source: USDA, "Household Food Security in the United States, 2016"



A Persistent Challenge: Food Insecurity in Iowa
Iowa Food Insecurity Rates 2001-2016



 Iowa Fiscal Partnership

Source: USDA

Far reaching impacts of SNAP and addressing food security: Effects are not just economic

Food insecurity is correlated with obesity and chronic disease with adults⁵ and poses serious threats to child development and school performance.⁶

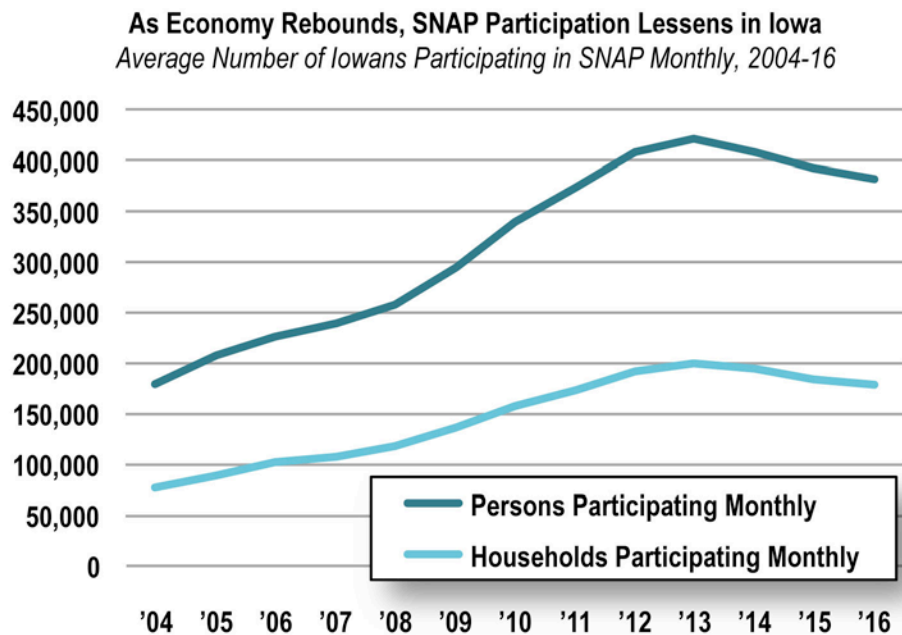
Did you know?

Forty-one percent of Iowa's K-12 students qualify for free or reduced lunch. (Iowa Dept of Educ.)

President's 2019 budget proposal would drastically change nutrition assistance

Trump's 2019 budget proposal

- \$213 billion in cuts to SNAP over the next decade
- Eliminates minimum benefit
- Expands three-month benefit time limit for jobless adults without disability or dependents to ages 18-62 (now 18-49)
- Caps benefits at the six-person household level
- Eliminates all SNAP-Ed funding
- Proposes diverting 40 percent of benefits issued to SNAP recipients to fund non-perishable food boxes⁷



The emergency food system picks up the pieces

Iowa food banks, pantries, and hot meal sites pony up when SNAP benefits are cut, but it is unrealistic to assume they would be able to pick up the significantly increased demand for assistance that would come with the proposed cuts. A report conducted by the Johnson County Hunger Task Force in 2016 found that only half of 473 food pantry clients surveyed participated in SNAP.⁸ This points to “cliff effects” in SNAP: As income rises families lose SNAP eligibility — but the challenge of putting food on the table remains, and food insecurity persists.

[1] U.S. Department of Agriculture, “Household Food Security in the United States in 2016,” September 2017. Table 4: Prevalence of household-level food insecurity and very low food security, average 2014-2016. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/key-statistics-graphics.aspx>

[2] U.S. Department of Agriculture, “Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program State Activity Report Fiscal Year 2016,” September 2017. Table 5: SNAP participation and issuance - FY 2016 & Table 6: SNAP average monthly benefit - FY 2016. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/snap-state-activity-reports>

[3] Iowa Department of Human Services, F-1 Food Assistance Program State Summary — January 2018. <http://publications.iowa.gov/26363/>

[4] Ibid, Iowa Department of Human Services.

[5] Food Research & Action Center, “The Impact of Poverty, Food Insecurity, and Poor Nutrition on Health and Well-Being,” December 2017. <http://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/hunger-health-impact-poverty-food-insecurity-health-well-being.pdf>

[6] Food Research & Action Center, “The Connections between Food Insecurity, the Federal Nutrition Programs, and Student Behavior,” 2018. <http://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/breakfast-for-behavior.pdf>

[7] Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, “President’s Budget Would Cut and Radically Restructure SNAP Food Benefits,” February 2018. <https://www.cbpp.org/blog/presidents-budget-would-cut-and-radically-restructure-snap-food-benefits>

[8] Johnson County, IA Social Services, “Johnson County Hunger Task Force Report,” February 2016. Page 8. <https://www.johnson-county.com/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=19863>