



A PROFILE OF HISPANIC PARTICIPATION IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Office of Research and Analysis

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The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) served over 5.1 million individuals who identified themselves as Hispanic in an average month in 2009. Still, low-income Hispanics who qualify for SNAP benefits participate at lower than average rates – about 83 percent of the average rate among all eligibles.

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|---|-------|
| Number of households with a Hispanic member (thousands)..... | 2,116 |
| Percent of all households | 14% |
| Number of Hispanic individuals (thousands)..... | 5,103 |
| Percent of all participants | 16% |
| | |
| Average number of household members | 2.6 |
| | |
| Average monthly gross income | \$746 |
| Percent of poverty guidelines | 56% |
| Percent with earned income | 42% |
| Percent with Supplemental Security Income..... | 16% |
| Percent with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families..... | 18% |
| Percent with Social Security Income | 13% |
| Percent with no income | 13% |
| | |
| Average deduction from income | \$523 |
| Percent with excess shelter deduction | 76% |
| | |
| Average monthly benefit per household..... | \$328 |
| Average monthly benefit per person | \$137 |
| Percent with minimum benefit | 2% |
| Percent with maximum benefit | 39% |
| | |
| Average certification period (months) | 12 |
| | |
| Participation rate among eligible Hispanics (2006) | 56% |
| Percent of total benefits that could be issued to Hispanics (2006)..... | 69% |

Note: All statistics are for fiscal year 2009 except where noted. The 2009 data is based on participants who identified themselves as Hispanic and should be interpreted with caution as 22.6 percent of participants chose not to identify their race/ethnicity. For this reason, the data is not comparable to prior years.

Source: Leftin, Gothro, and Eslami (2010). [Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2009](#). Report prepared for the Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

Wolkwitz (2008). [Trends in Food Stamp Program Participation Rates: 2000 to 2006](#). Report prepared for the Food and Nutrition Service, USDA