

Children's Nutrition Assistance Programs: 2022

Survey of Income and Program Participation Snapshots

By Kelsey J. Drotning
and Katherine G. Giefer
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1 in 2 children received assistance from at least one nutrition program.

Of those children who received benefits from SNAP, WIC, school meals, or other nutrition assistance programs, most received assistance from a single program (66 percent). More than a quarter of children received assistance from two of these programs (28 percent), while a smaller share received assistance from three or more programs (6 percent).

1 in 5 children aged 0 to 17 received SNAP, one of the few nutrition programs without age restrictions.

Most other nutrition programs are targeted to specific age groups. For example, about a quarter of children aged 0 to 4 received WIC benefits, while about half of children aged 5 to 17 received free or reduced-price school meals.

6% of children aged 0 to 17 lived in households that received other types of food assistance such as free groceries or meals.

Among those children living in households that received other types of food assistance, about one-third lived in households where the household income was at or above 200% of poverty.

50% of children who received nutrition assistance lived with married parents.

More children who received nutrition assistance lived with only their mother (30 percent) than with cohabiting parents (8 percent), only their father (6 percent), or with no parents (6 percent).

What are children's nutrition assistance programs?

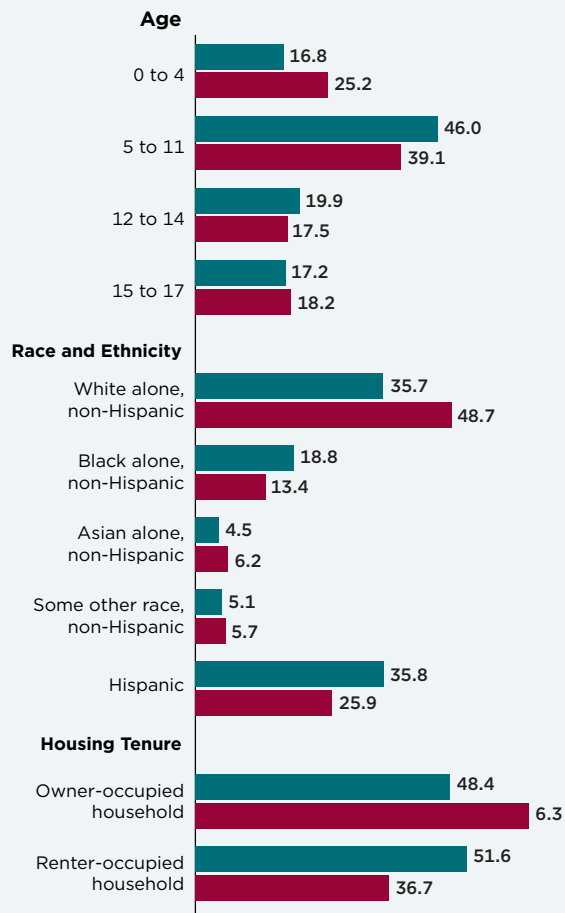
Nutrition assistance programs help meet the nutritional needs of children living in households with limited resources. Social safety net programs that provide nutritional assistance to children include: [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#); [Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\)](#); the [National School Lunch Program \(NSLP\)](#); the [School Breakfast Program \(SBP\)](#); and other food assistance such as free groceries or meals.

More information on children's nutrition assistance and other social safety net programs is available in [fact sheets](#), [detailed program participation tables](#), [interactive data visualizations](#), and [reports](#).

Children's Demographic Characteristics by Nutrition Program Receipt: 2022

(In percent)

Child nutrition program recipients All children



Children's Nutrition Program Receipt by Age: 2022

(In percent)

Two or more nutrition programs SNAP only
Other food assistance only WIC only
School meals only

