

Children's Nutrition Assistance Programs: 2024

Survey of Income and Program Participation Snapshots

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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 (70 percent). More than one-quarter of children received assistance from two of these programs (26 percent), while a smaller share received assistance from three or more programs (5 percent).

16% of children ages 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 ages 0 to 4 received WIC benefits, while more than a half of children ages 5 to 17 received free or reduced-price school meals.

6% of children ages 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 33 percent lived in households with income of 200 percent of poverty or higher.

53% of children who received nutrition assistance lived with married parents.

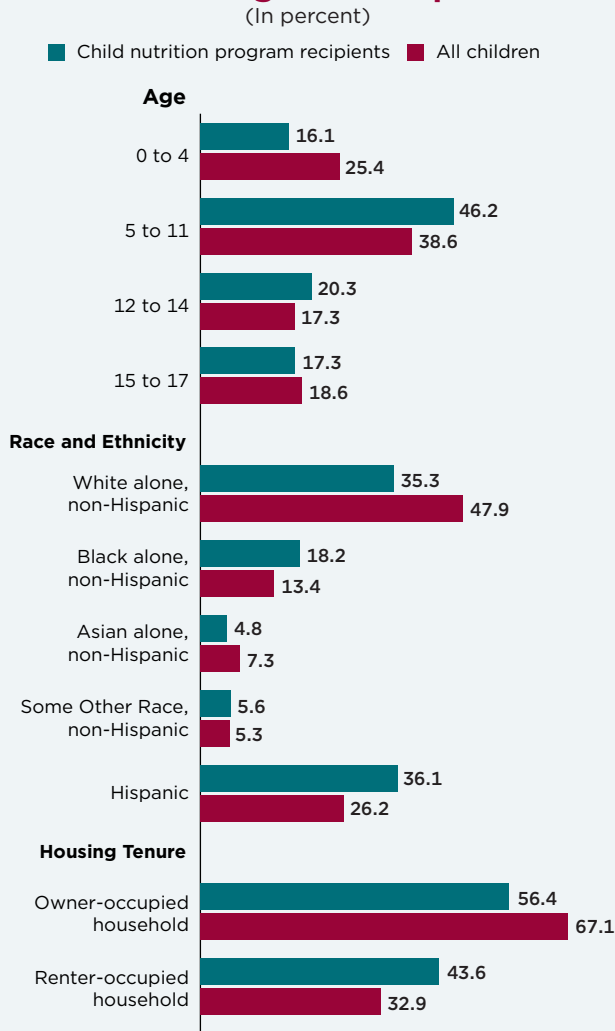
Children receiving assistance were less likely to live with cohabiting parents (8 percent) than married parents. More children who received nutrition assistance lived with only their mother (27 percent) than with only their father (6 percent) or with no parents (6 percent).

What Are Children's Nutrition Assistance Programs?

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. These programs help meet the nutritional needs of children living in households with limited resources.

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: 2024



Children's Nutrition Program Receipt by Age: 2024

