



Benefits Pennsylvania

In PA:

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|---|----------|
| Number of Households receiving SNAP ¹ | 580,000+ |
| Number of Persons receiving SNAP ² | 1.8 mil. |
| Number of Retailers that accept SNAP ³ | 10,400+ |

MYTHS & FACTS

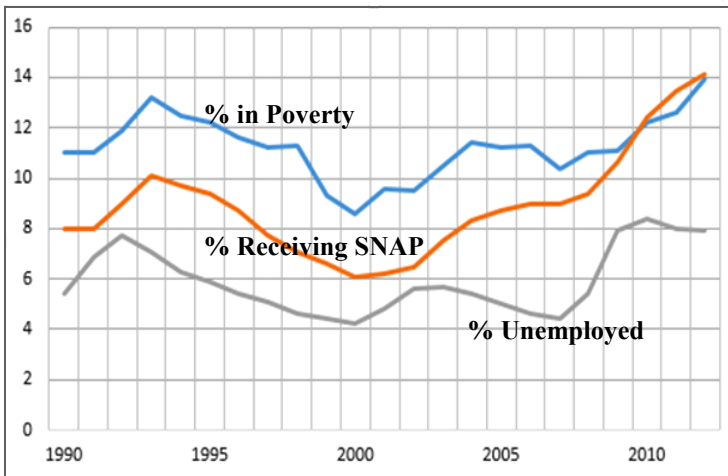
myth ...

Most SNAP recipients don't need the help.

FACT ...

50% of SNAP households have children, 28% have seniors, and 49% have someone with a disability.¹⁰

SNAP RESPONDS TO CHANGES IN THE ECONOMY: 1990-2012⁴



myth ...

People receiving SNAP are lazy.

FACT ...

85% of families receiving SNAP benefits have at least one worker in the home. Over 50% have two or more workers.¹¹

myth ...

SNAP is prone to fraud.

FACT ...

PA's combined error rate (both over and underpayments) is only 3.6%. Most errors are due to honest mistakes made by the recipients and workers responsible for data entry and program eligibility.¹²

**SNAP
KEEPS
ON
GIVING
& THE PUBLIC AGREES**

- Guards against poverty⁵
- Gives nutritional benefits⁶
- Guarantees economic returns⁷
- Grants food production gains⁸
- Generates jobs⁹

82% of the public supports maintaining or increasing government funding for food assistance programs.¹³

Food assistance programs reduce food insecurity and its negative impacts:

Food insecure families who participate in SNAP are **twice as likely to be healthy** than those who don't.¹⁴

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15% of children were lifted out of poverty because their families received SNAP benefits.¹⁵

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Every **\$5 of SNAP benefits generates up to \$9** in economic activity.¹⁶ In 2013, \$2.7 billion of SNAP benefits were redeemed in Pennsylvania.¹⁷ Nationally, **more than 10% of all sales for food** at home are bought with SNAP benefits.¹⁸

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For every additional \$1 billion spent on SNAP, **up to 19,800 jobs are created.**¹⁹

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Employed individuals who are food insecure and receive SNAP benefits are **more likely to be productive and take fewer sick days.**²⁰



Real Benefits of SNAP

Jackie has long brown hair and a smile that she freely gifts to anyone that passes. She has been coming to the food pantry for five years and sees both new and familiar faces. "It's a community," says Jackie, "a community of friends that come to volunteer, receive food, and pray together."

Since her hip replacement surgery a few months ago, Jackie still finds it challenging to do everything she used to. "My recovery is going well and I am thankful to be getting back to work more and more." Jackie chooses to work rather than apply for Social Security because the disability check would amount to \$800 per month—hardly enough to cover rent and utilities, let alone medical bills and food.

Along with the assistance that Jackie receives on a monthly basis from the food pantry, she also receives SNAP benefits (food stamps) and fresh produce from Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. All combined, the food and nutrition assistance programs enable Jackie to receive a balanced diet that's imperative for her continued recovery.



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For more information on hunger and food insecurity visit www.pittsburghfoodbank.org



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