

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
Senator James C. Rosapepe, Vice Chair

Agenda
February 3, 2026
3 West Miller
Annapolis, Maryland

1:00pm

Nutrition Assistance Programs

Department of Human Services

- **Webster Ye, *Chief of Staff***
- **Larry Handerhan, *Assistant Secretary for Programs***

Stakeholder Organizations

- **Anne Wallerstedt, *Vice President*, Maryland Food Bank**
- **LaMonika Jones, *Director*, Maryland Hunger Solutions**
- **Mary Klato, *Co-chair*, Legislative Committee, Maryland Nutrition Association**
- **George Keleman, *Senior Vice President*, Share Our Strength**
- **Ayesha Holmes, *Director*, No Kid Hungry Maryland**



H.R. 1 (2025) Impact on Marylanders: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Senate Budget and Tax Committee
February 3, 2026

Background

SNAP is vital to America's social safety net. It makes sure families can put food on their tables when they're struggling financially.

SNAP serves over **680,000 Marylanders**, including:

- 262,248 **children**
- 128,705 **people with disabilities**
- 121,615 **seniors**
- 28,843 **unhoused persons**

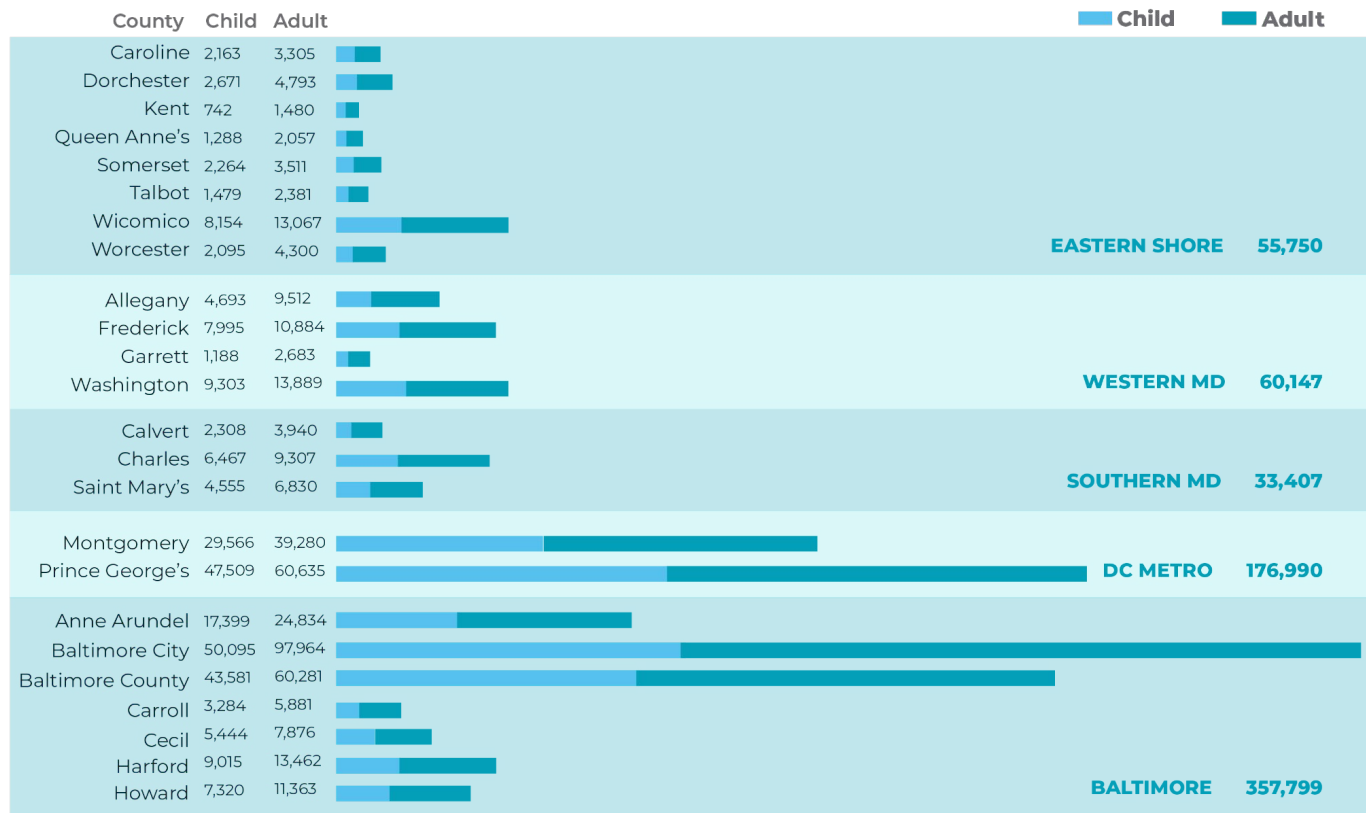
As of May 2025

\$1.6 Billion: total SNAP benefits issued annually to Marylanders

\$180: average monthly SNAP benefit per person

Before H.R.1, SNAP benefits were 100% federally funded and administrative costs were split 50/50 between the federal government and the states.

SNAP Customers Served Monthly Average



Total Served

Child **270,578**

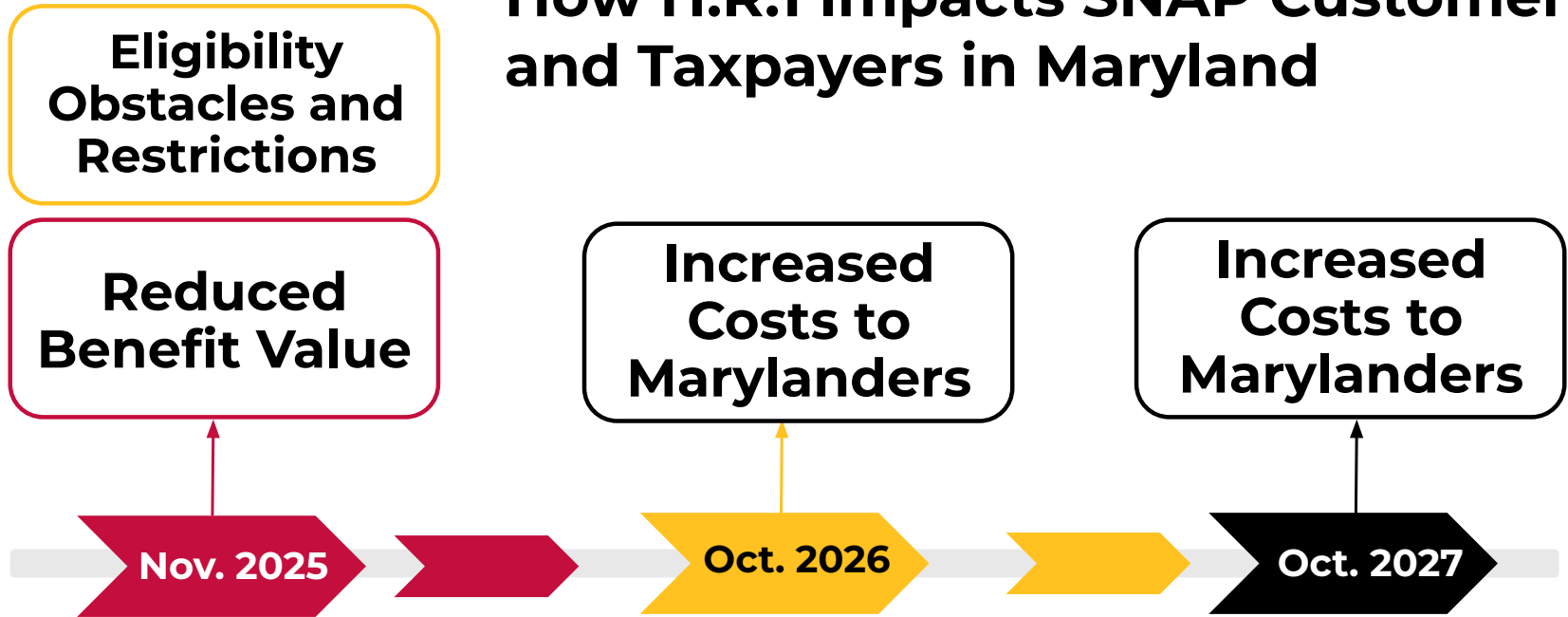
Adult **413,515**

Totals represent monthly average customers served in State Fiscal Year 2025 to date (July 2024 - April 2025). Children are age 0-17.

Federal Shutdown Impact on SNAP

- The Trump Administration stopped funding SNAP on November 1, 2025
- Maryland stepped in to fill the gap:
 - The Moore-Miller Administration [announced a \\$10 million emergency grant](#) to support Maryland's food banks and community food pantries.
 - The Moore-Miller Administration made [\\$62 million available](#) to make SNAP customers whole following a federal judge's order that the federal government provide contingency funding for the program.
- On November 13, the federal shutdown ended and the federal government began funding all SNAP benefits again.
- Maryland rapidly restored SNAP benefits issuance by November 18th.

How H.R.1 Impacts SNAP Customers and Taxpayers in Maryland



H.R. 1 SNAP Changes Currently In Place

As of November 1, Maryland implemented the following required provisions of H.R. 1:

- Expanded work requirements are in effect;
- Most refugees and people granted asylum are no longer eligible for SNAP unless they are also Lawful Permanent Residents; and
- Households without elderly or disabled member no longer automatically receive the Standard Utility Allowance.

New applicants are immediately subject to these restrictions and requirements.

Current participants will feel the effects of these provisions in the months ahead as they recertify their eligibility for SNAP on a rolling basis.

Expanded Work Requirements

- H.R. 1 subjects up to 80,000 additional Marylanders to work requirements, including:
 - Adults aged 55-64;
 - Adults 18-64 who do not have a child younger than 14 in the home;
 - Veterans, homeless individuals, and former foster youth up to age 24 who aged out of care.



Expanded Work Requirements (Continued)

- The table below shows how H.R.1 expanded the universe of who is considered an Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) and therefore subject to work requirements. Our initial estimates indicate **up to 80,000 Marylanders** will be newly considered ABAWDs.

Pre-H.R.1 ABAWDs	Post-H.R.1 ABAWDs
Adults 18-54 who do not have a child under 18 in the house	Adults 18-64 who do not have a child under 14 in the house
Veterans, homeless individuals, and former foster youth under age 24 who aged out of care are exempted	Veterans, homeless individuals, and former foster youth under age 24 who aged out of care are NOT exempted
People who are disabled, who are in an alcohol or drug treatment program, or who are “mentally or physically unfit for employment” are exempted	

Expanded Work Requirements (Continued)

- If subject to work requirements, SNAP recipients must be working, volunteering, or in an employment & training program for 20 hours per week. In most cases, education does not count.
 - Because of how the law is written, someone working at the MD minimum wage needs to work 14.5 hours per week to meet the requirement.
- Marylanders not meeting this requirement can only receive SNAP for 3 months in any 36-month period.



Eligibility Obstacles and Restrictions

H.R.1 **removes SNAP eligibility from refugees and people granted asylum** unless they are also Lawful Permanent Residents (green card holders), Cuban or Haitian entrants, or individuals from the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

On 12/9, FNS issued updated guidance on immigrant eligibility that clarifies refugees and asylees are not subject to the 5-year bar on Lawful Permanent Residents receiving benefits; therefore, these groups will be eligible for SNAP immediately upon converting to LPR status (i.e. getting a green card). Maryland joined multi-state litigation on FNS guidance issued 10/31 that resulted in the corrected 12/9 guidance.

As of January 23, 2026, we have made MD Benefits system improvements to more accurately capture immigration status to help us implement these new federal requirements.



Reduced Benefit Value

Households without an elderly or disabled member no longer automatically receive the Standard Utility Allowance (SUA)

- Marylanders were previously eligible for higher SNAP benefits through a \$557 SUA because they received an energy assistance payment.
- H.R.1 eliminated this flexibility for households without an elderly or disabled member. Some SNAP households will still qualify for the SUA, but will have to provide additional documentation to verify their eligibility.
- This change means **thousands of Marylanders will need to jump through additional hoops to avoid seeing lower SNAP benefit amounts each month.**



Increased Costs to Marylanders

The **state's share of SNAP administrative costs will rise** due to H.R. 1's federal cost sharing from 50% to 75% beginning October 1, 2026 (Q2, SFY27).

- Maryland currently spends approximately \$115 million in General Funds to administer SNAP.
- For SFY27, we estimate the impact to be an additional \$43.1 million, for a new state total of \$158.1 million in General Funds.
- This **does not** include additional funds needed for staffing, IT, employment and training, and other resources needed to comply with more onerous federal requirements from H.R. 1.



Increased Costs to Marylanders

Before H.R. 1, the federal government paid 100% of SNAP benefits. New provisions will require Maryland to pay a portion of benefit costs based on our Payment Error Rate (PER).

- On Oct. 1, 2027 **Maryland could be responsible for 15% of benefit costs, or \$240 million** in SNAP benefits based on $PER \geq 10\%$.
- Our current federally assessed FFY24 PER is 13.64%. The final cost share amount will be based on our FFY25 or FFY26 PER.

Benefit Cost Share Formula

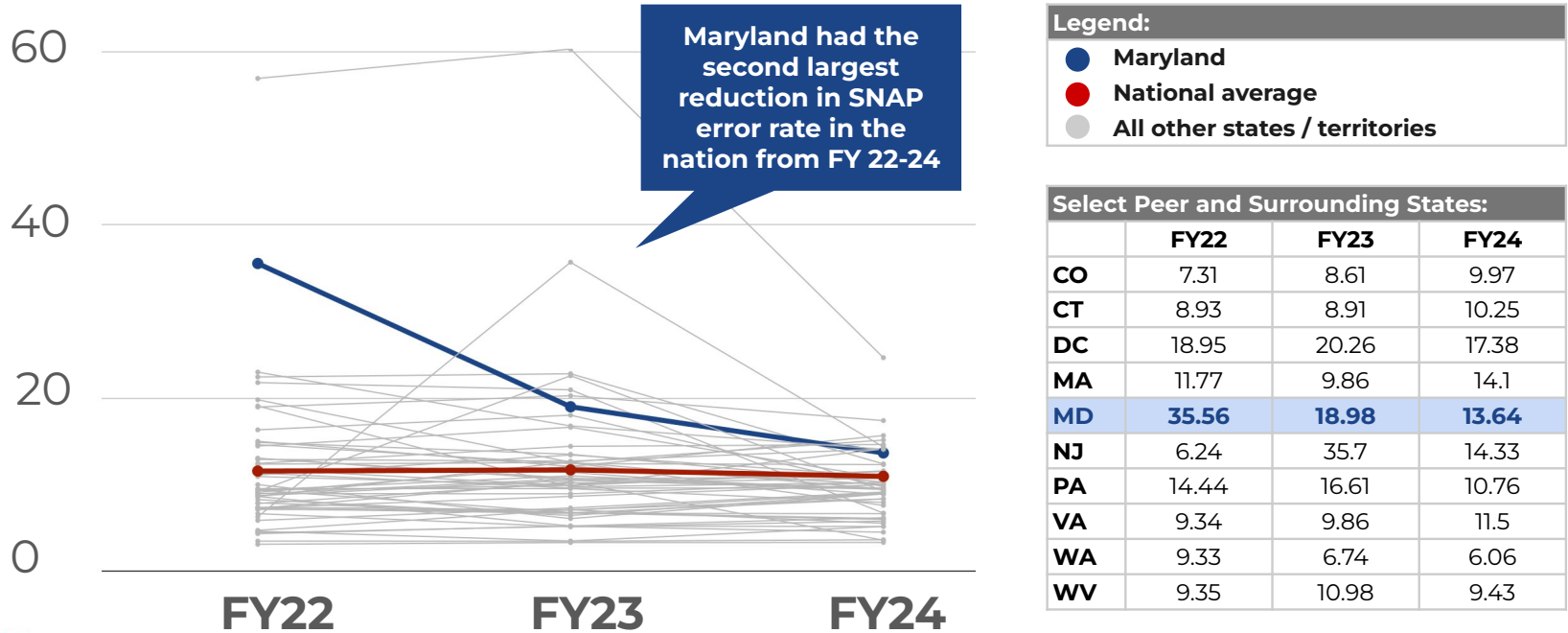
$PER < 6\%$	0% state match
$PER \geq 6\%$ but $< 8\%$	5% state match
$PER \geq 8\%$ but $< 10\%$	10% state match
$PER \geq 10\%$	15% state match



SNAP Payment Error Rate (PER)

- The SNAP Payment Error Rate (PER) is a federal measure of how accurately states determine eligibility and benefit amounts by checking the number of under or overpayments.
 - Underpayments: when a household receives less benefits than they are entitled to
 - Overpayments: when a household receives more benefits than they are entitled to
- The SNAP PER is **not a measure of customer fraud**, nor is it a measure of state fraud, waste, or abuse.
- The Payment Error Rate is a quality control check on a state agency's administrative processes.

Maryland's SNAP Payment Error Rate



Source: US Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, SNAP Payment Error Rates, <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/qc/per>.

Payment Error Rate: What we know

- DHS is committed to effectively and equitably distributing federal assistance benefits to all eligible Marylanders
- We have been proactively implementing measures to drive down error rate since 2023.
 - When the Moore-Miller Administration came into office, we inherited a **35.56%** SNAP Payment Error Rate, the second-highest in the nation. We've cut the rate by more than **60%**, down to **13.64%**.
- Key drivers of error rate include:
 - Staff caseloads & turnover
 - System issues
 - Changes in federal policy

Payment Error Rate: What We Know (FFY 2024)

SNAP Caseload

Average Total Households	382,044
Average Total Recipients	694,393

Quality Control Sample Data

Total Sampled Cases	1,143
Total Error Cases	146
Total Dollar Value of Errors	\$33,663
Average Error Amount	\$231
Lowest Error Amount	\$13
Highest Error Amount	\$797

Note: Maryland's FFY2023 error rate was derived from a random sampling. This information was used by the USDA to calculate that figure.

Total Overpayment (Statistical Sample)	91
Total Dollar Value of Errors	\$22,385
Average Error Amount	\$246
Lowest Error Amount	\$13
Highest Error Amount	\$789

Total Underpayment (Statistical Sample)	55
Total Dollar Value of Errors	\$11,278
Average Error Amount	\$205
Lowest Error Amount	\$58
Highest Error Amount	\$797

Payment Error Rate: What We Are Doing

Rebuilding the state human services workforce

- Since January 2023, DHS hired nearly 200 new Family Investment caseworkers and supervisors statewide, reducing our vacancy rate by almost three quarters from a peak of 19.4% in April 2022 to 4.28% on January 16, 2026.
- We are focused on continuous hiring to fill every vacancy, and iterative, statewide, consistent training to ensure that all of our staff have the latest information.

Payment Error Rate: What We Are Doing (Continued)

Leveraging technology to reduce administrative burden and improve training

- We are rolling out AI-powered interactive trainings specifically for H.R. 1 changes, including knowledge checks, providing real-life scenarios for caseworkers to practice applying H.R.1 changes for new and existing customers.
- We are automating select functions (such as no-change periodic reports) to free up staff time for work that cannot be automated.

Maryland Benefits H.R.1 Roadmap

Q3 - Q4 2025

- 1 SNAP - Standard Utility Allowance
- 2 SNAP - ABAWD Statutory Exemptions
- 3 SNAP - Citizenship & Immigration Changes
- 4 Refugee Cash Assistance Changes

Q1 2026

- 5 Immigrant Class of Admission Status Change
- 6 Error Rates - No Change MBR Automation
- 7 Error Rates - Automation of Clearances
- 8 Error Rates - NAC Integration
- 9 Data Tracking - CE Requirements

Q2 2026

- 10 CE Compliance SNAP/Medicaid
- 11 ABAWD WORKS CE Updates
- 12 Health Information Exchange - CRISP (Phase 1)
- 13 Error Rates-Redetermination Redesign
- 14 Case Worker AI Policy Assistant
- 15 SMS Based Notifications
- 16 Error Reduction - Audit & QC Findings Changes

Q3 2026

- 17 CE CMS Updates - Citizenship, Retroactive Coverage, Deceased Enrollees Master File Check
- 18 Health Information Exchange - CRISP (Phase 2)
- 19 Error Reduction - Audit & QC Findings Changes

Q4 2026 & Beyond

- 20 AI Assist for Work Verification - PBIF SNAP/Medicaid (Q4'26)
- 21 Work Verification - TRUV/Steady IQ Integration Pilot

- SNAP / Cash
- SNAP + Medicaid
- AI Driven

Payment Error Rate: What We Are Doing (Continued)

Addressing changes in federal policy

- Implementing the National Accuracy Clearinghouse (NAC), a new nationwide data-comparison system that prevents people from receiving SNAP benefits in more than one state simultaneously.
- Partnering with organizations such as Georgetown University, Code for America, U.S. Digital Response, Maryland Benefits to deploy technology solutions implementing HR1 while reducing errors that result from change.
- Leveraging a performance improvement consulting services contract with BerryDunn.

H.R.1 Implementation Approach

Our mission is to **minimize harm** and **preserve lawful benefit access** as we implement this new federal law.

- **Preserve Access:** We will use every tool available to prevent procedural terminations and keep eligible Marylanders connected to benefits.
- **Be Human-Centered:** Building user-friendly tools and using plain language, focusing on the real-world impacts on our clients.
- **Build Practical Solutions:** Creating practical, data-driven solutions—like cross-agency workgroups—to reduce administrative burden.
- **Work in Partnership:** Working transparently with sister agencies and stakeholders to co-design strategies for the challenges ahead.

DHS Strategies to Minimize Harm & Preserve Lawful Benefit Access

- Launched mobile-friendly **Maryland Benefits One Application** to more easily apply for benefits.
- Expanded our **SNAP E&T partner network** from 30 to 48 organizations to support customers and increasing our overall funding by 19%.
- Created a **new ABAWD screening tool** to easily identify exemptions for customers who qualify, and communicate with community orgs and advocates to help explain changes to customers and ensure exemptions are correctly applied.
- Developed a [new webpage](#) as a central hub for all H.R. 1 information.

DHS Strategies to Minimize Harm & Preserve Lawful Benefit Access (Continued)

- Received a grant from the Public Benefits Innovation Fund (PBIF) to **leverage AI and other tools to improve the customer experience.**
- Working with the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) to **use diagnostic data to automatically identify and exempt customers** from the ABAWD requirements based on their medical conditions.
- We are partnering with MD Labor, CBOs, MDOA, and philanthropic partners to expand access to education and training opportunities for ABAWDs.

Additional Resources

- [DHS H.R.1 resource portal](#)
- SNAP [Employment & Training resource page](#)
- Emergency food resources: [The Maryland Food Bank](#) and [Capital Area Food Bank](#), as well as [211 Maryland](#) with customers seeking help finding food.

We encourage Marylanders to continue to update their information, check their eligibility, and apply for help at [MarylandBenefits.gov](#).

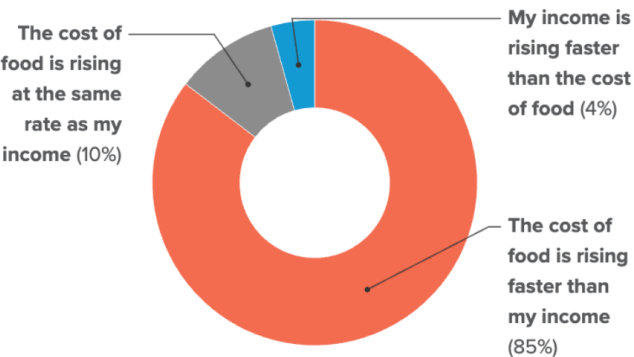
Marylanders with questions are invited to call our Customer Service hotline 1-800-332-6347. For TTY, dial the Maryland Relay Service: 800-735-2258.

Marylanders' Mental Health Suffering Due to Rising Food Costs

Marylanders Making Difficult Tradeoffs Between Affording Food And Paying for Other Necessities, Taking a Toll on Mental Health; Families Hit Hardest, and Even Middle-Income Households Facing Food Hardship

Food Costs Rising Faster Than Incomes, Damaging Mental Health by Forcing Difficult Tradeoffs

A new poll¹ from Change Research on behalf of No Kid Hungry Maryland finds that rising food prices are outpacing Marylanders' incomes. An overwhelming 85% of respondents say food costs are increasing faster than their earnings. Nationally, [a recent AP-NORC poll](#) shows that most Americans are stressed about grocery costs. In Maryland, our polling shows this stress is impacting health, especially mental health, with 58% saying that their mental health has suffered due to the cost of food.

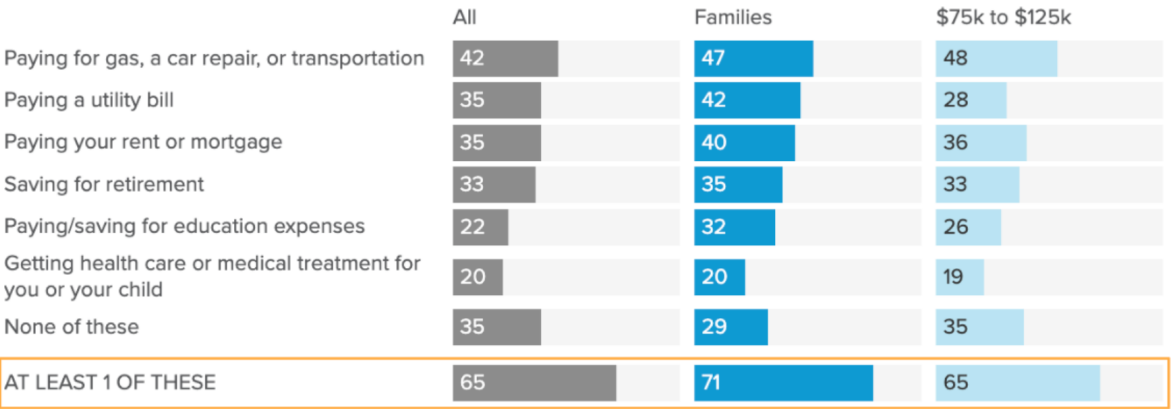


In the past 12 months, has the following suffered due to the cost of food?



Rising food costs are forcing many people to make stressful financial choices. Due to the cost of food, two-in-three (65%) Marylanders had to choose between buying food and paying for another necessity, like transportation, utilities, and rent.

Select all that apply. In the past 12 months, have you had to choose between buying enough nutritious food for your household and:



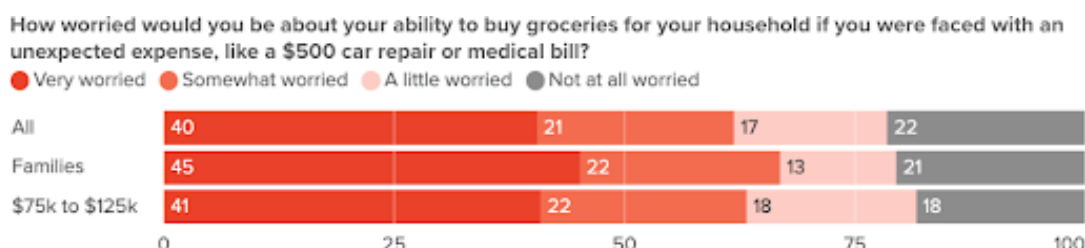
¹Using its Dynamic Online Sampling Engine to obtain a sample reflective of the adult population in Maryland, Change Research polled 1,054 people statewide from July 22-29, 2025. The modeled margin of error is 4.0%. Post-stratification weighting was performed on age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, region, and 2024 presidential vote choice. Weighting parameters were based on US Census and voter file data. See methodology details [here](#).

Middle-income households and especially families—respondents with children under 18 in their household—are struggling. Two-thirds (65%) of respondents with annual household incomes between \$75,000 and \$125,000² and seven-in-ten (71%) families had to choose between buying groceries and another important expense. In the survey, parents shared these anecdotes showcasing the difficulty of affording groceries and other competing necessities.



Living on the Margin

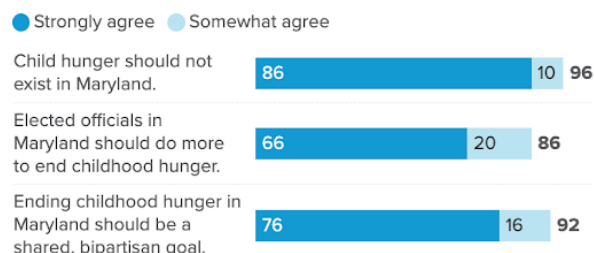
Many Marylanders are just one minor emergency away from facing hunger. More than half (62%) of all respondents and two-thirds (67%) of families say they would be very or somewhat worried about their ability to buy groceries if faced with an unexpected \$500 expense.



Marylanders Expect Bipartisan Action to Protect Food Access

The majority (59%) of Maryland adults hold favorable opinions of SNAP, the federal food assistance program. Just 18% hold unfavorable opinions of SNAP. And 83% say Maryland should continue to participate in Summer EBT to ensure children have a hunger-free summer when school is not in session.

Marylanders want their elected officials to take action to address childhood hunger. Nearly all (96%) agree that child hunger should not exist in the state. More than eight-in-ten would like elected officials to do more to end childhood hunger, and 93% say that ending childhood hunger in Maryland should be a shared, bipartisan goal.



² The median household income in Maryland was \$98,700 in 2023 (Source: US Census Bureau)

Food Insecurity in Maryland

The State of Food Insecurity

- Despite being one of the wealthiest states in the nation, Maryland sees high rates of food insecurity. **About 1 in 3 Marylanders may face food insecurity this year.**
- Hunger is present in every county in Maryland. While each community has its own needs and challenges, the two statewide food banks (Maryland Food Bank and Capital Area Food Bank) serve neighbors in every jurisdiction.
- Prices for food are more than **30% higher** than they were in 2019, causing more Marylanders to struggle to make ends meet.

How the Maryland Food Bank Works

- The Maryland Food Bank (MFB) serves **21 counties and Baltimore City**, distributing nutritious food primarily through a network of **780 partners** (food pantries, schools, senior centers, faith-based locations).
- Between purchased food and in-kind donations from individuals, corporate partners, and government sources, MFB distributed **43.5 million meals** in **FY25**.
- MFB also works to build pathways to thriving, food-secure futures for neighbors and communities—so we can eliminate hunger for more Marylanders.

Lessons Learned from the Government Shutdown and SNAP Stoppage

SNAP is our nation's most important hunger-fighting tool. Nationwide, SNAP provides **9 meals for every 1 meal** provided by the charitable food network.

During the shutdown, MFB saw a **200% increase** visits to the “Find Food” page on our website.

Nearly **90%** of MFB partners reported an increase in visits.

Thanks to additional state funding, MFB was able to act quickly during the shutdown:

2.4 Million
MORE POUNDS OF FOOD

distributed compared to the
same period last year.
(**November thru December**).

53,000
MEALS

distributed through Mobile
Markets in **25 zip codes**
identified as highly impacted
by the shutdown.

\$2 Million
IN STATE FUNDING

distributed directly to
partners in every county
we serve.

SNAP Cost-Shifts Will Increase Hunger, Strain State Budgets, and Deepen Economic Risk

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is one of the most effective federal programs for reducing hunger, stabilizing household finances, and supporting state and local economies. Every \$1 in SNAP benefits generates up to \$1.80 in regional economic activity during an economic downturn, supporting grocery stores, farmers, distributors, and rural retailers.¹ Historically, SNAP benefits have been 100 percent federally funded and have never been included in state budgets. That structure is intentional: SNAP expands during economic downturns, delivering federal dollars to communities precisely when state revenues fall.

H.R. 1 FORCES SNAP INTO STATE BUDGETS FOR THE FIRST TIME

The budget reconciliation law (H.R. 1/OBBBA) fundamentally reshapes SNAP financing by shifting benefit costs and increasing administrative expenses to states. This unprecedented change comes as state budgets are already tightening due to slower revenue growth, rising Medicaid costs, and reduced overall federal fiscal support.²

For the first time in SNAP's history, states must plan for SNAP as a recurring general-fund obligation, which will undermine long-term fiscal planning and budget stability.

ADMINISTRATIVE COST-SHIFT WILL RAISE ERROR RISK

H.R. 1 also reduces the federal share of SNAP administrative costs from 50 percent to 25 percent, requiring states to cover 75 percent of administrative costs starting in fiscal year (FY) 2027.

This directly undermines SNAP payment accuracy by:

- ▶ limiting staffing, training, and caseworker capacity
- ▶ delaying IT modernization and system upgrades
- ▶ increasing churn, backlogs, and paperwork errors

Congress cannot demand higher accuracy while simultaneously removing the resources required to achieve it.

NEW SNAP BENEFIT COST-SHARING CREATES UNFUNDED AND VOLATILE LIABILITIES

Beginning in FY 2028, states must pay a share of SNAP food benefits based on payment error rates:

- ▶ below 6 percent: 0 percent match
- ▶ 6–8 percent: 5 percent match

- ▶ 8–10 percent: 10 percent match
- ▶ over 10 percent: 15 percent match

Based on FY 2024 data, more than 40 states would face new costs, and even states currently below 6 percent remain at risk over time.³ Error rates reflect administrative and technical issues — such as timing of paperwork, income changes, complex household circumstances, system transitions, and shifts in federal guidance — not intentional wrongdoing.⁴ Quality control reviews apply far greater scrutiny than front-line case processing and do not net out underpayments against overpayments, which can inflate reported error rates. In addition, error rates can rise quickly following system or policy disruptions, but it typically takes years and sustained investment in staff, training, technology, and federal technical assistance to reduce rates responsibly.

Penalizing states while cutting funding will undermine benefit program accuracy rather than improve it.

STATES ARE PENALIZED FOR FEDERAL IMPLEMENTATION FAILURES

SNAP error rates have been declining,⁵ but progress depends on clear guidance and sustained federal technical assistance, which has not been consistently provided. H.R. 1 was implemented amid:

- ▶ inconsistent guidance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), sometimes issued within days of each other
- ▶ a federal government shutdown and reduced staffing
- ▶ cuts to USDA's technical assistance capacity

States are now being penalized for administrative instability caused by federal decisions beyond their control.

STATE BUDGETS CANNOT ABSORB THESE COSTS

States cannot run deficits. When federal SNAP costs shift to states, lawmakers will face only a narrow set of options:

- ▶ raise taxes or fees
- ▶ cut funds for education, health care, transportation, or public safety
- ▶ reduce SNAP access or eligibility
- ▶ freeze hiring and delay modernization⁶

Many states are already drawing down reserves and facing structural deficits.² Some have begun opting out of nutrition programs, such as the Summer EBT Program, citing concerns about future SNAP liabilities. With more than 20 states at high risk of recession, these cost-shifts are especially dangerous.⁷

Reduced federal SNAP funding acts as “a stimulus in reverse”— weakening local economies, shrinking tax bases, and increasing health care costs as hunger rises.

CARVE-OUT DELAYS COSTS FOR SOME STATES, UNDERMINES FAIRNESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The new law includes a carve-out that allows only certain states with very high error rates to delay cost-sharing for benefits, whereas other states that make good-faith investments to improve accuracy must pay sooner.

- ▶ States may delay cost-sharing until FY 2029 or FY 2030 if:
 - » FY 2025 error rate $\times 1.5 \geq 20$ percent, or
 - » FY 2026 error rate $\times 1.5 \geq 20$ percent.
- ▶ The delay may be used only once, based on data from either FY 2025 or FY 2026.

Based on FY 2024 data, states likely to benefit include Alaska, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, and the District of Columbia.

PARITY MATTERS, CONGRESS MUST ACT

If Congress believes states need time to adjust, all states should receive the same delay, not just a subset. States working to improve accuracy cannot sustain those investments while also planning for higher administrative costs and new benefit obligations.

Congress should eliminate SNAP benefit cost-sharing and restore 50 percent federal responsibility for administration — or, at a minimum, apply any delay equitably across all states. Without corrective action, states will be forced to raise taxes, cut core services, scale back SNAP, or leave the program.⁸

Endnotes

- ¹ Canning, P., & Morrison, R.M. (2019, July 18). *Quantifying the impact of SNAP benefits on the U.S. economy and jobs*. USDA, Economic Research Service. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/amber-waves/2019/july/quantifying-the-impact-of-snap-benefits-on-the-us-economy-and-jobs/>
- ² Thiess, R., & Theal, J. (2025, November 24). *How states are assessing the impact of federal policy changes*. Pew.org; The Pew Charitable Trusts. <https://www.pew.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2025/11/24/how-states-are-assessing-the-impact-of-federal-policy-changes>; *Fiscal survey of the states - Nasbo*. (n.d.). [www.nasbo.org. https://www.nasbo.org/reports-data/fiscal-survey-of-states](https://www.nasbo.org/reports-data/fiscal-survey-of-states)
- ³ *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Payment error rates fiscal year 2024*. (n.d.). <https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/snap-fy24QC-PER.pdf>
- ⁴ Plata-Nino, G. (2025). *The deep cost of President Trump's and Republicans' SNAP cost-share: 10 Things to know*. Food Research & Action Center. <https://frac.org/blog/the-deep-cost-of-president-trumps-and-republicans-snap-cost-share-10-things-to-know>
- ⁵ Food and Nutrition Service. (n.d.). *SNAP payment error rates*. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/qc/per>
- ⁶ Plata-Nino, G. (2025). *Municipal leaders warn: SNAP cuts would devastate local economies and families*. Food Research & Action Center. <https://frac.org/blog/municipal-leaders-warn-snap-cuts-would-devastate-local-economies-and-families>; <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2025-08/61367-SNAP.pdf>
- ⁷ Zandi, M. (2025, October 22). Nearly one-third of national GDP is produced in states that are either in recession or at high risk of entering one. These regions, spread across every part of the country, are showing signs of strain. Moody's Analytics. LinkedIn.com. <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/23-states-recession-reveal-fragility-us-economy-mark-zandi-dybre/>
- ⁸ Congressional Budget Office Supplemental Information. (2025). <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2025-08/61367-SNAP.pdf>

Maryland Hunger Profiles

May 2025 | WWW.MDHUNGERSOLUTIONS.ORG



Maryland Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger and promoting well-being

Maryland Hunger Profiles

May 2025

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- Morningstar Foundation
- The Abell Foundation
- The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation

Introduction

Maryland is one of the wealthiest states in the nation based on per capita income, but not all Marylanders experience the same financial security. As of February 2025, just under 680,000 Maryland residents participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).¹ Households that experience prolonged food insecurity are at the greatest risk of experiencing hunger.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food insecurity as an economic or social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate quality and quantity of food.² "Very low food security" means that children go to sleep hungry and go to school with unfilled stomachs. To cope, families make difficult decisions — parents, grandparents, and other caregivers may skip meals, eat less, or purchase foods of low nutritional value so that they can feed their children. Many working adults face high costs of living, struggling to earn enough money to put nutritious meals on the table, pay bills, and afford transportation. Older adults and people with disabilities on fixed incomes are often forced to choose between food and medicine. This is true in every county in Maryland.

Since our founding in 2007, Maryland Hunger Solutions (MDHS) has been dedicated to advancing long-term and sustainable solutions to end hunger for all Marylanders. MDHS works with state and community partners to educate people about hunger in Maryland, promote proven solutions to reduce food insecurity, improve public policies, and connect eligible residents to federal and state nutrition programs. MDHS also connects anti-hunger advocates, government agencies, medical professionals, service providers, nonprofits, and food policy councils to make progress toward ending hunger in Maryland.

A core strategy of MDHS is to increase and expand participation in federal nutrition programs, including SNAP, which is often the first line of defense against food insecurity. Another core strategy is promoting maternal and early childhood nutrition programs such as Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), school meals programs, and out-of-school time programs to ensure that children of all ages receive the nutrition that is necessary for their growth and development.

About Maryland Hunger Profiles

The 2025 *Maryland Hunger Profiles* provides accurate local data on federal nutrition program participation, population, and poverty data for each of the 24 jurisdictions. Behind the percentages outlined in the county hunger profiles are the tens of thousands of children, older adults, people living with disabilities, veterans, and low-wage earners in Maryland who would not get the daily nutrition they need to be productive without these programs. Still, many nutrition programs have not yet realized their full capacity of service for thousands of Marylanders.

The purpose of these data profiles is to allow policymakers, partners, and the public to understand the state of hunger within Maryland and to inform ongoing community and policy conversations about ensuring Marylanders have sufficient nutrition and the opportunity to thrive. Everyone is a stakeholder in the fight against hunger, and together, we can create a hunger-free Maryland.

Definition of Terms

Calendar year (CY): The calendar year begins on January 1 and ends on December 31. CY 2024 began on January 1, 2024, and will end on December 31, 2024.

State fiscal year (SFY): The fiscal year in Maryland begins on July 1 and ends on June 30. SFY 2024 started on July 1, 2023, and ended on June 30, 2024.³

School year (SY): For the purposes of this report, SY data covers the months of September–May.

Food insecurity: Defined by the USDA as a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food. Prolonged food insecurity results in the physiological experience of hunger. Food insecurity is measured by the level of food security: very low, low, marginal, and high. Measurement of food insecurity is generally obtained by self-reported survey and indicates a household's level of anxiety over having enough food to eat, the change in diet and quality of food consumed, and the number of times eating patterns have been disrupted.²

Federal poverty level: Annual federal poverty levels (FPL) are issued by the Department of Health and Human Services. Federal nutrition programs use the guidelines (or a percentage from the guidelines, such as 185 percent of the FPL), in determining income eligibility. The FPL varies by household size and has no age distinction.⁴ In 2024, the FPL is \$15,060 for an individual and \$31,200 for a family of four.

Identified student percentage (ISP): This number captures the percentage of enrolled students who are “categorically eligible” (automatically eligible) for free school meals and can be directly certified by the school system without submitting a school meal application. In Maryland, this includes children in households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), as well as children in foster care or Head Start, and migrant, homeless, or runaway youth. This also includes children participating in Medicaid.

Description of Programs

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP): CACFP provides healthy meals and snacks to eligible children and adults in child and adult care centers, afterschool care programs, and day care homes. Children living in emergency shelters, adults with disabilities who are enrolled in day care facilities, and adults ages 60 and above, are also eligible to receive meals through CACFP.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP): CEP allows high-poverty schools to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students without having to collect, process, or verify school meal applications. Any district, group of schools in a district, or individual school can choose to participate if they have an identified student percentage of 25 percent or higher*. Schools that adopt CEP are reimbursed based on the ISP, which is multiplied by 1.6 to determine the percentage of meals that will be reimbursed at the highest rate.

**The Community Eligibility Provision regulations were amended on October 23, 2023, reducing the minimum identified student percentage required for eligibility from 40 percent to 25 percent. This change allows more schools to participate in CEP, enabling them to offer free meals to all students when financially viable.⁵*

National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP): NSLP and SBP provide per meal cash reimbursements to schools as an entitlement to provide nutritious meals to children. Students living in households with an income at or below 130 percent of the federal poverty level are eligible to receive free school meals, and students with a household income of 185 percent of the federal poverty level or below can qualify for reduced-price school meals. All Maryland students who are enrolled in reduced-price meal programs automatically receive free meals.

This data report details free and reduced-price meal enrollment data for SY 2023–2024.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP): SFSP provides free meals to kids and teens ages 18 and under in low-income areas to ensure that children continue to receive meals when school is not in session. Local governments, school districts, and private nonprofits can sponsor summer meal sites, which may be located at schools, parks, community and faith centers, local libraries, recreation centers, housing complexes, and other neighborhood locations. Sponsors are reimbursed for each eligible meal and snack served through the administering state agency. Summer meal sites can either operate as “open” or “closed-enrolled” sites. An “open” site serves meals to all children in the community and must be located in an area where at least 50 percent of the children are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. At a “closed-enrolled” site, only children enrolled can participate. The site qualifies if it is located in a low-income area or if 50 percent or more of the children enrolled in the program are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.

Description of Programs

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):

The WIC serves women who are pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding, and infants and children up to 5 years old. Participants must meet categorical, residential, income, and nutrition-risk requirements. Applicants can be determined income-eligible for WIC based on their participation in or eligibility for other specific income-based programs.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): SNAP provides monetary benefits on an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card to supplement the food budget of families with low incomes so they can purchase the food they need and move toward self-sufficiency. To receive SNAP benefits, participants must apply in the state where they currently live and must meet certain requirements, including resource and income limits, work rules, and citizenship or qualified-immigrant status. There are special SNAP rules for households with elderly or disabled members.

Programs in Maryland

More information for each federal nutrition program can be found through the state agency that administers the program.

- To learn more about CACFP, the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and summer meal programs, please visit the [Maryland Department of Education's Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs](#).
- To learn more about SNAP, please visit the [Maryland Department of Human Services](#).
- To learn more about WIC, please visit the [Maryland Department of Health's Maryland WIC page](#).

Key Takeaways

The 2025 *Maryland Hunger Profiles* offers valuable insights into the state of food insecurity in each jurisdiction in Maryland. Behind the numbers presented in these profiles are Marylanders who struggle to put food on the table due to a variety of factors. These factors include high food prices, cost of living, as well as lasting impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic such as rising unemployment rates and continued financial hardship.⁶

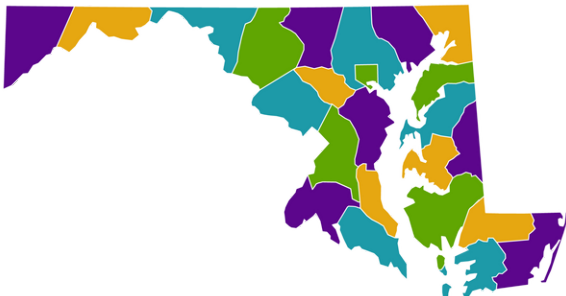
Understanding county-level statistics about demographics and participation in federal nutrition programs is a crucial step in the fight against hunger. Maryland Hunger Solutions aims to collaborate with state and community partners to discover sustainable hunger solutions, with the ultimate goal of achieving a hunger-free Maryland and supporting the well-being of its residents.

- In Maryland, approximately one out of every nine residents were participating in SNAP, with an average of almost 693,000 residents relying on the program each month during the 2024 fiscal year.⁷
- Over half of all Maryland⁸ students were enrolled to receive free or reduced-price school meals in SY 2023-2024.

These statistics underscore the significant role of federal nutrition programs in supporting a considerable number of Maryland residents. County-level data can reveal where participation in nutrition programs is concentrated. For example, in 2023 approximately 75 percent of eligible people in Maryland were enrolled in WIC, but 12 counties had enrollment rates below 70 percent.⁹ Food insecurity takes on a different shape in each community, and these profiles aim to provide a deeper understanding of these variations.

Maryland Hunger Solutions utilizes county-level data to better target our outreach efforts. In addition, the latest nutrition benefits programs participation data help to inform our advocacy for programmatic and policy changes that will increase participation in these vital programs — such as [Healthy School Meals for All](#) and improved SNAP benefit adequacy.

Through these data profiles, policymakers, community partners, and the general public can gain insights into the landscape of hunger in Maryland. This information serves as a foundation for meaningful and productive discussions about ensuring adequate nutrition and opportunities for all Marylanders to flourish and fostering ongoing community engagement and informed policy decisions to work toward ending hunger in Maryland.



MARYLAND STATE

Population (2023)

Total: **6,170,738**

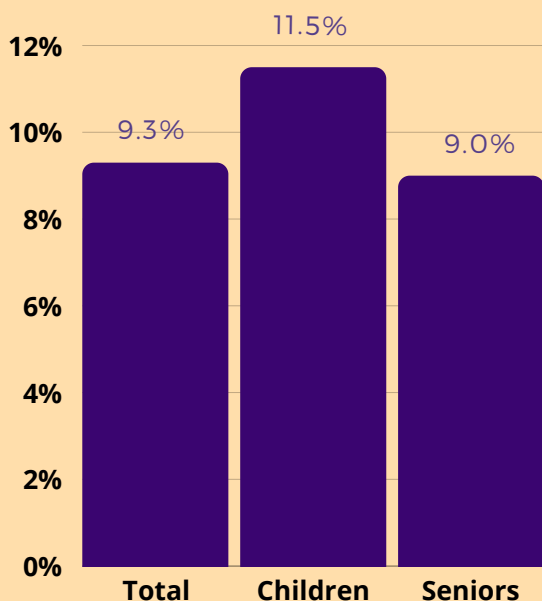
Children (under 18): **1,375,936**

Seniors (over 65): **1,003,219**

Median Household Income (2023)

\$101,652

Percent of the Population Living Below Poverty Level (2023)



School Meal Programs

Student Enrollment (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Meals Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Percentage
893,241	500,155	55.99%

*All MD students enrolled to receive reduced-price meals receive meals for free.

Meal Participation (SY 2023-2024)^{13, 14, 15}

Program	Total Meals Served	Average Daily Participation
School Breakfast	40,959,437	230,050
School Lunch	69,496,685	417,679
Summer Meals*	2,996,681	140,581

*Meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total # of Schools	# of CEP Eligible Schools	# of School Participating in CEP
1,403	1,044	650

*Eligibility is determined on an individual school basis and does not include schools that could be or are made eligible through groupings.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)⁷

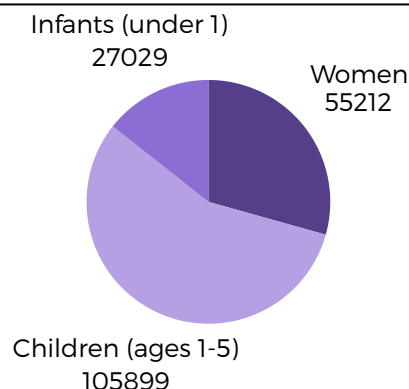
692,966 average participants/month*

*This number presents an average of monthly participation from July 2023-June 2024.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (2023 SFY)⁹

74.79% of eligible people enrolled

188,140 total WIC participants





ALLEGANY COUNTY

Population (2023)

Total: **67,762**

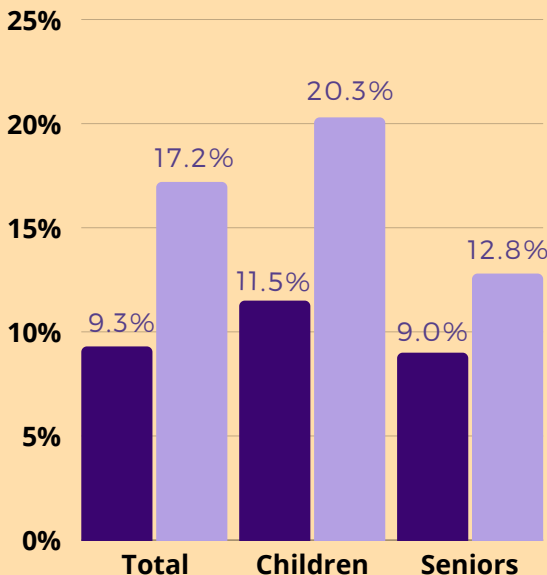
Children (under 18): **12,056**

Seniors (over 65): **14,200**

Median Household Income (2023)

\$57,393

Percent of the Population Living Below Poverty Level (2023)



School Meal Programs

Student Enrollment (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Meals Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Percentage
8,201	5,544	67.6%

*All MD students enrolled to receive reduced-price meals receive meals for free.

Meal Participation (SY 2023-2024)^{13, 14, 15}

Program	Total Meals Served	Average Daily Participation
School Breakfast	455,549	2,771
School Lunch	696,779	4,145
Summer Meals*	17,810	751

*Meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total # of Schools	# of CEP Eligible Schools	# of School Participating in CEP
24	24	5

*Eligibility is determined on an individual school basis and does not include schools that could be or are made eligible through groupings.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)⁷

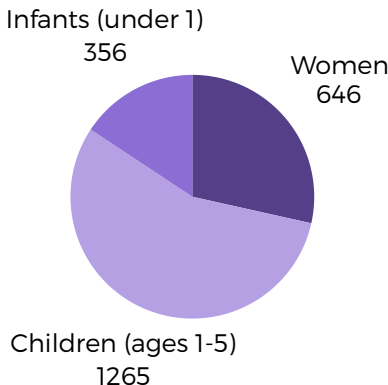
15,051 average participants/month*

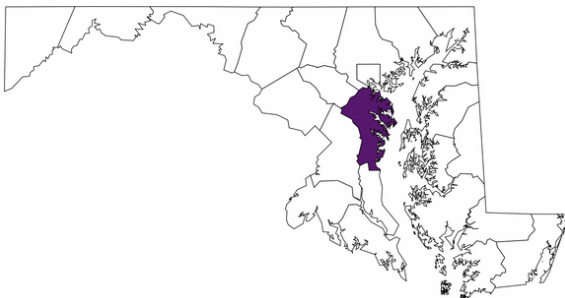
*This number presents an average of monthly participation from July 2023-June 2024.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (2023 SFY)⁹

74.25% of eligible people enrolled

2,267 total WIC participants





ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Population (2023)

Total: **590,936**

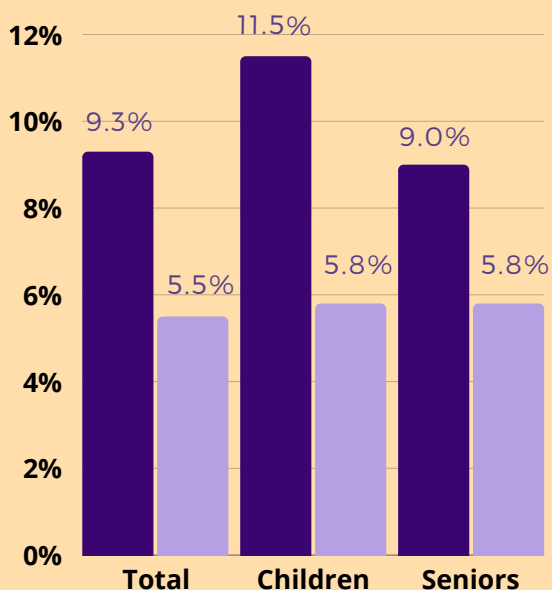
Children
(under 18): **133,885**

Seniors
(over 65): **91,932**

Median Household Income (2023)

\$120,324

Percent of the Population Living Below Poverty Level (2023)



School Meal Programs

Student Enrollment (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Meals Enrollment	Free and Reduced- Price* Percentage
84,531	35,313	41.78%

*All MD students enrolled to receive reduced-price meals receive meals for free.

Meal Participation (SY 2023-2024)^{13, 14, 15}

Program	Total Meals Served	Average Daily Participation
School Breakfast	3,003,804	16.538
School Lunch	5,775,303	34.342
Summer Meals*	106,675	5.603

*Meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total # of Schools	# of CEP Eligible Schools	# of School Participating in CEP
123	72	0

*Eligibility is determined on an individual school basis and does not include schools that could be or are made eligible through groupings.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)⁷

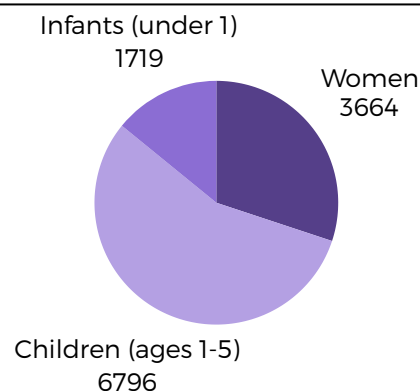
43,266 average participants/month*

*This number presents an average of monthly participation from July 2023-June 2024.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (2023 SFY)⁹

68.0% of eligible
people enrolled

12,179 total WIC
participants





BALTIMORE CITY

Population (2023)

Total: **577,193**

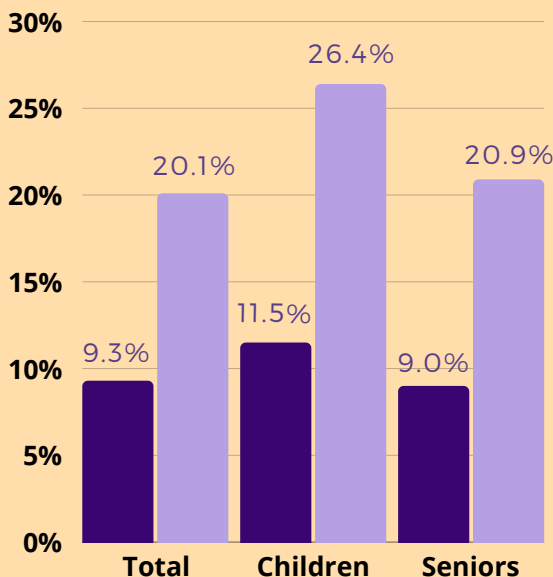
Children (under 18): **120,494**

Seniors (over 65): **86,161**

Median Household Income (2023)

\$59,623

Percent of the Population Living Below Poverty Level (2023)



School Meal Programs

Student Enrollment (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Meals Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Percentage
76,137	71,150	93.45%

*All MD students enrolled to receive reduced-price meals receive meals for free.

Meal Participation (SY 2023-2024)^{13, 14, 15}

Program	Total Meals Served	Average Daily Participation
School Breakfast	3,052,516	17,437
School Lunch	7,071,872	43,144
Summer Meals*	705,092	32,501

*Meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total # of Schools	# of CEP Eligible Schools	# of School Participating in CEP
158	DISTRICTWIDE	

*Eligibility is determined on an individual school basis and does not include schools that could be or are made eligible through groupings.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)⁷

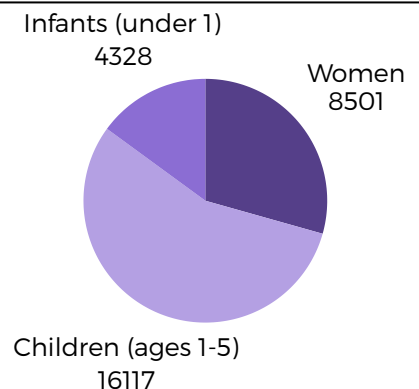
149,264 average participants/month*

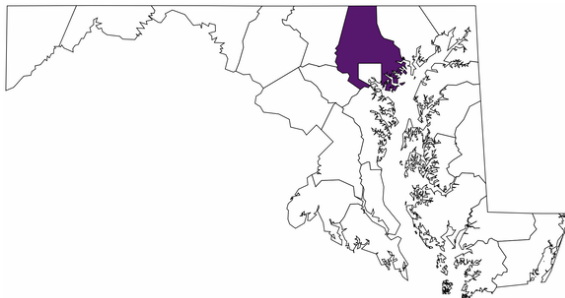
*This number presents an average of monthly participation from July 2023-June 2024.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (2023 SFY)⁹

79.32% of eligible people enrolled

28,946 total WIC participants





BALTIMORE COUNTY

Population (2023)

Total: **849,586**

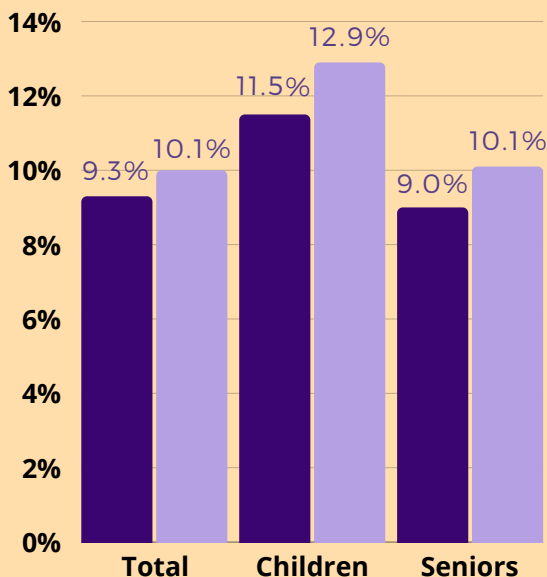
Children (under 18): **186,425**

Seniors (over 65): **150,859**

Median Household Income (2023)

\$90,904

Percent of the Population Living Below Poverty Level (2023)



School Meal Programs

Student Enrollment (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Meals Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Percentage
110,159	81,638	74.11%

*All MD students enrolled to receive reduced-price meals receive meals for free.

Meal Participation (SY 2023-2024)^{13, 14, 15}

Program	Total Meals Served	Average Daily Participation
School Breakfast	6,992,547	39,087
School Lunch	9,475,220	57,387
Summer Meals*	434,482	23,061

*Meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total # of Schools	# of CEP Eligible Schools	# of School Participating in CEP
169	DISTRICTWIDE	

*Eligibility is determined on an individual school basis and does not include schools that could be or are made eligible through groupings.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)⁷

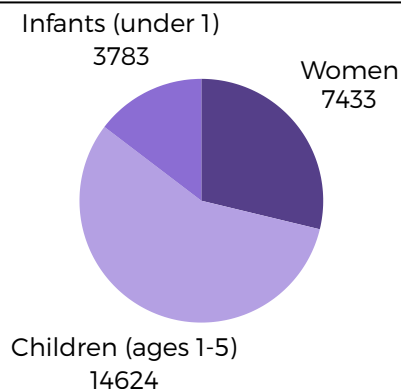
102,883 average participants/month*

*This number presents an average of monthly participation from July 2023-June 2024.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (2023 SFY)⁹

68.47% of eligible people enrolled

25,840 total WIC participants





CALVERT COUNTY

Population (2023)

Total: **93,791**

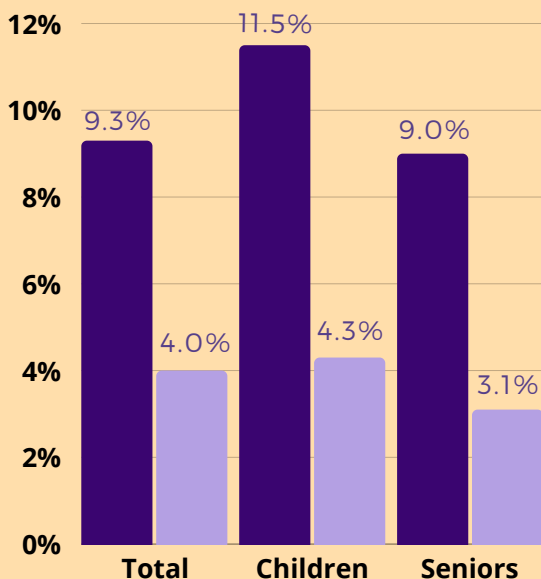
Children (under 18): **21,786**

Seniors (over 65): **14,914**

Median Household Income (2023)

\$132,059

Percent of the Population Living Below Poverty Level (2023)



School Meal Programs

Student Enrollment (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Meals Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Percentage
15,368	4,640	30.19%

*All MD students enrolled to receive reduced-price meals receive meals for free.

Meal Participation (SY 2023-2024)^{13, 14, 15}

Program	Total Meals Served	Average Daily Participation
School Breakfast	204,197	1,123
School Lunch	718,780	4,272
Summer Meals*	13,428	438

*Meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total # of Schools	# of CEP Eligible Schools	# of School Participating in CEP
23	13	0

*Eligibility is determined on an individual school basis and does not include schools that could be or are made eligible through groupings.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)⁷

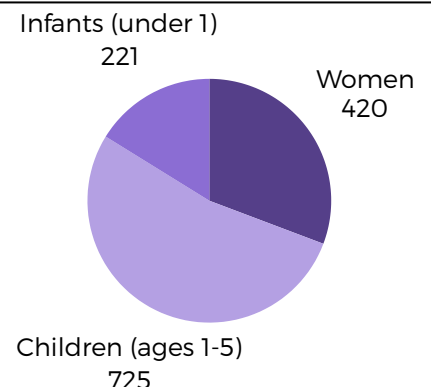
6,843 average participants/month*

*This number presents an average of monthly participation from July 2023-June 2024.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (2023 SFY)⁹

61.02% of eligible people enrolled

1,366 total WIC participants





CAROLINE COUNTY

Population (2023)

Total: **33,406**

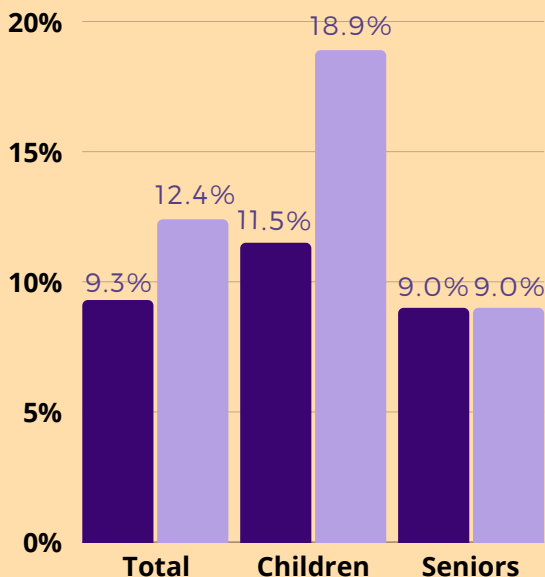
Children
(under 18): **7,926**

Seniors
(over 65): **5,719**

Median Household Income (2023)

\$66,368

Percent of the Population Living Below Poverty Level (2023)



School Meal Programs

Student Enrollment (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Meals Enrollment	Free and Reduced- Price* Percentage
5,709	4,738	82.99%

*All MD students enrolled to receive reduced-price meals receive meals for free.

Meal Participation (SY 2023-2024)^{13, 14, 15}

Program	Total Meals Served	Average Daily Participation
School Breakfast	576,895	3,230
School Lunch	644,204	3,738
Summer Meals*	36,317	1,835

*Meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total # of Schools	# of CEP Eligible Schools	# of School Participating in CEP
9	DISTRICTWIDE	

*Eligibility is determined on an individual school basis and does not include schools that could be or are made eligible through groupings.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)⁷

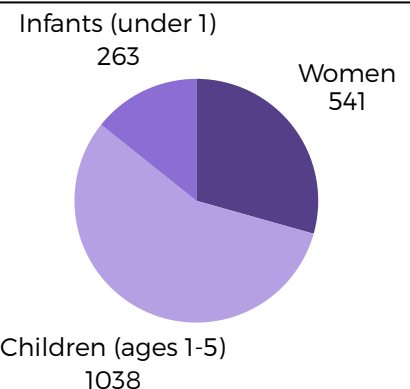
5,906 average participants/month*

*This number presents an average of monthly participation from July 2023-June 2024.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (2023 SFY)⁹

84.33% of eligible
people enrolled

1,842 total WIC
participants





CARROLL COUNTY

Population (2023)

Total: **174,318**

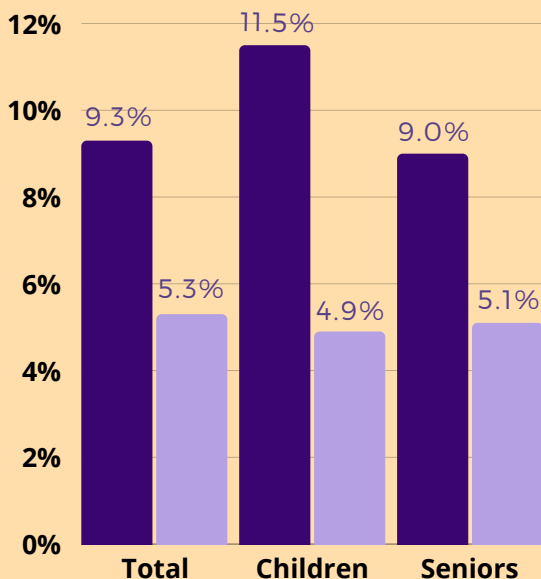
Children (under 18): **38,366**

Seniors (over 65): **30,667**

Median Household Income (2023)

\$115,876

Percent of the Population Living Below Poverty Level (2023)



School Meal Programs

Student Enrollment (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Meals Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Percentage
26,096	7,188	27.54%

*All MD students enrolled to receive reduced-price meals receive meals for free.

Meal Participation (SY 2023-2024)^{13, 14, 15}

Program	Total Meals Served	Average Daily Participation
School Breakfast	755,247	4,188
School Lunch	1,618,259	9,334
Summer Meals*	75,066	2,293

*Meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total # of Schools	# of CEP Eligible Schools	# of School Participating in CEP
41	13	0

*Eligibility is determined on an individual school basis and does not include schools that could be or are made eligible through groupings.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)⁷

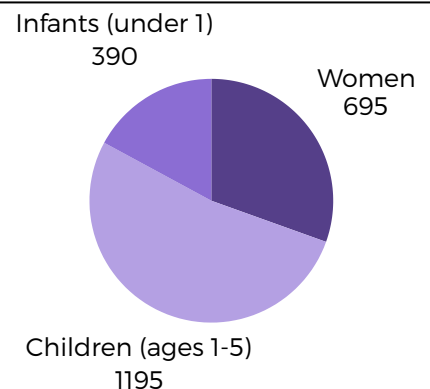
9,445 average participants/month*

*This number presents an average of monthly participation from July 2023-June 2024.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (2023 SFY)⁹

61.3% of eligible people enrolled

2,280 total WIC participants





CECIL COUNTY

Population (2023)

Total: **104,366**

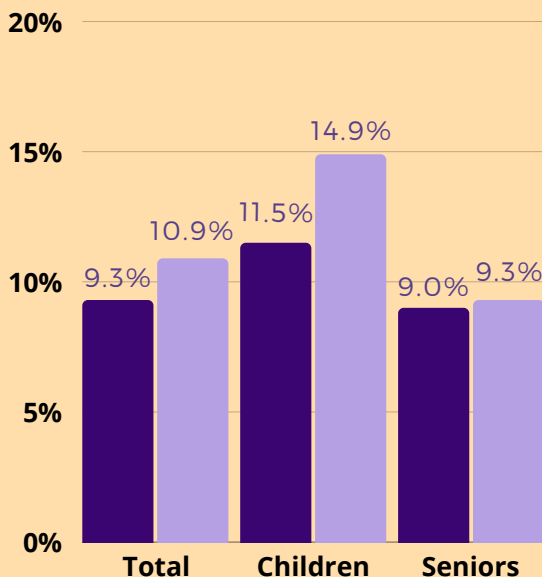
Children (under 18): **23,376**

Seniors (over 65): **17,411**

Median Household Income (2023)

\$91,146

Percent of the Population Living Below Poverty Level (2023)



School Meal Programs

Student Enrollment (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Meals Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Percentage
15,086	8,988	59.58%

*All MD students enrolled to receive reduced-price meals receive meals for free.

Meal Participation (SY 2023-2024)^{13, 14, 15}

Program	Total Meals Served	Average Daily Participation
School Breakfast	987,646	5,675
School Lunch	1,344,992	8,043
Summer Meals*	76,914	2,840

*Meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total # of Schools	# of CEP Eligible Schools	# of School Participating in CEP
31	31	14

*Eligibility is determined on an individual school basis and does not include schools that could be or are made eligible through groupings.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)⁷

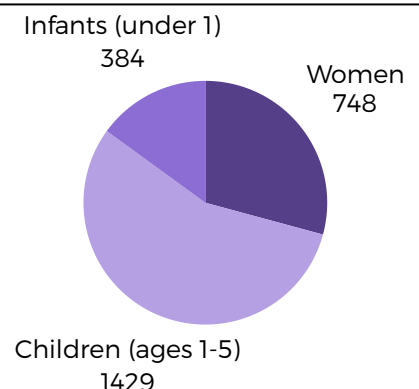
13,662 average participants/month*

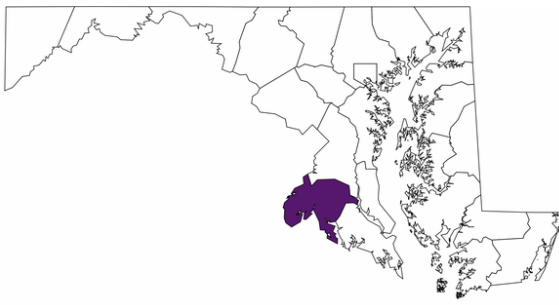
*This number presents an average of monthly participation from July 2023-June 2024.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (2023 SFY)⁹

60.09% of eligible people enrolled

2,561 total WIC participants





CHARLES COUNTY

Population (2023)

Total: **168,710**

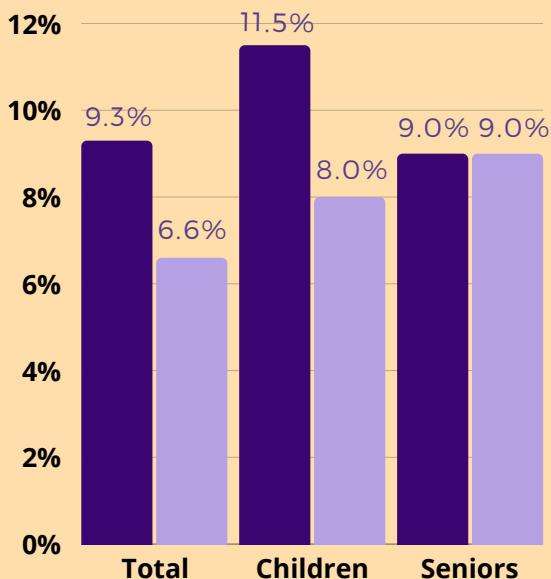
Children (under 18): **40,477**

Seniors (over 65): **22,108**

Median Household Income (2023)

\$120,592

Percent of the Population Living Below Poverty Level (2023)



School Meal Programs

Student Enrollment (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Meals Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Percentage
27,980	13,877	49.60%

*All MD students enrolled to receive reduced-price meals receive meals for free.

Meal Participation (SY 2023-2024)^{13, 14, 15}

Program	Total Meals Served	Average Daily Participation
School Breakfast	1,681,330	9,456
School Lunch	2,631,172	15,485
Summer Meals*	63,646	3,827

*Meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total # of Schools	# of CEP Eligible Schools	# of School Participating in CEP
41	33	12

*Eligibility is determined on an individual school basis and does not include schools that could be or are made eligible through groupings.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)⁷

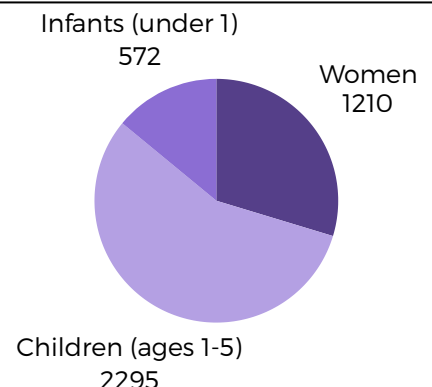
16,075 average participants/month*

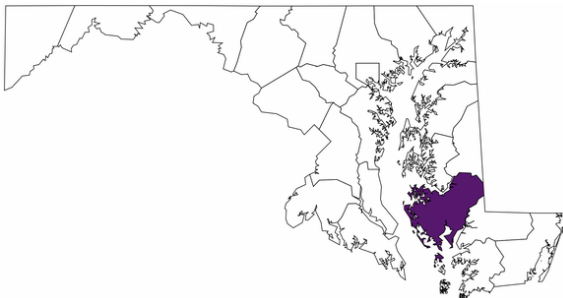
*This number presents an average of monthly participation from July 2023-June 2024.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (2023 SFY)⁹

68.32% of eligible people enrolled

4,077 total WIC participants





DORCHESTER COUNTY

Population (2023)

Total: **32,612**

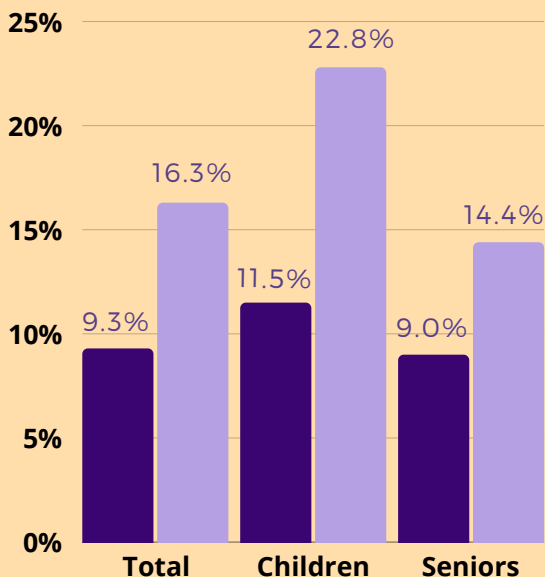
Children (under 18): **6,898**

Seniors (over 65): **7,354**

Median Household Income (2023)

\$60,495

Percent of the Population Living Below Poverty Level (2023)



School Meal Programs

Student Enrollment (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Meals Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Percentage
4,634	4,154	89.64%

*All MD students enrolled to receive reduced-price meals receive meals for free.

Meal Participation (SY 2023-2024)^{13, 14, 15}

Program	Total Meals Served	Average Daily Participation
School Breakfast	405,515	2,283
School Lunch	494,051	2,937
Summer Meals*	23,927	1,051

*Meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total # of Schools	# of CEP Eligible Schools	# of School Participating in CEP
12	DISTRICTWIDE	

*Eligibility is determined on an individual school basis and does not include schools that could be or are made eligible through groupings.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)⁷

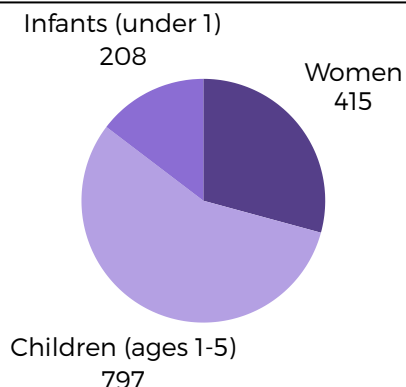
7,550 average participants/month*

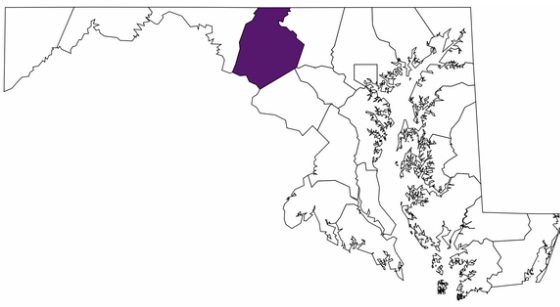
*This number presents an average of monthly participation from July 2023-June 2024.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (2023 SFY)⁹

70.85% of eligible people enrolled

1,420 total WIC participants





FREDERICK COUNTY

Population (2023)

Total: **280,341**

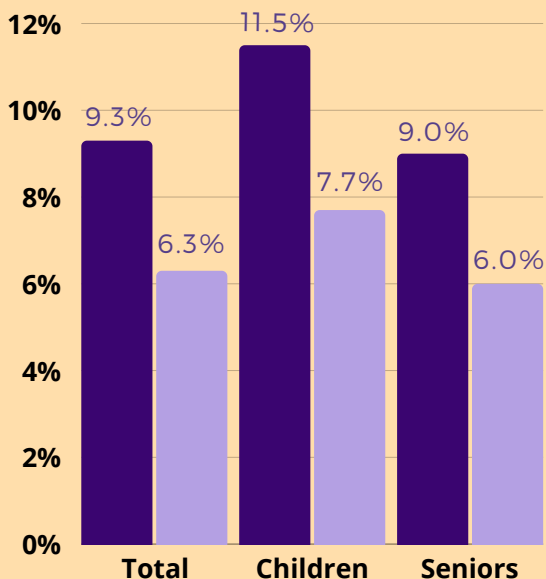
Children
(under 18): **65,575**

Seniors
(over 65): **42,039**

Median Household Income (2023)

\$120,458

Percent of the Population Living Below Poverty Level (2023)



School Meal Programs

Student Enrollment (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Meals Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Percentage
47,897	16,457	34.36%

*All MD students enrolled to receive reduced-price meals receive meals for free.

Meal Participation (SY 2023-2024)^{13, 14, 15}

Program	Total Meals Served	Average Daily Participation
School Breakfast	1,523,747	8,433
School Lunch	2,596,463	15,430
Summer Meals*	38,015	1,840

*Meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total # of Schools	# of CEP Eligible Schools	# of School Participating in CEP
69	32	1

*Eligibility is determined on an individual school basis and does not include schools that could be or are made eligible through groupings.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)⁷

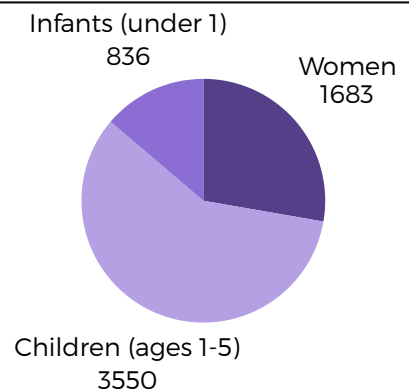
19,157 average participants/month*

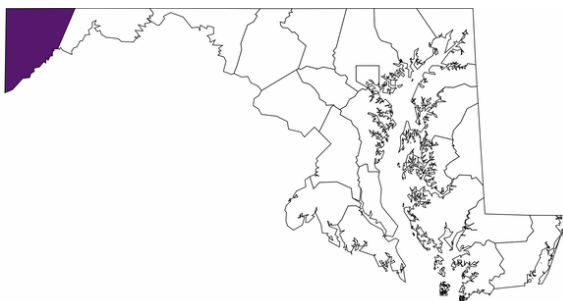
*This number presents an average of monthly participation from July 2023-June 2024.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (2023 SFY)⁹

77.0% of eligible people enrolled

6,069 total WIC participants





GARRETT COUNTY

Population (2023)

Total: **28,713**

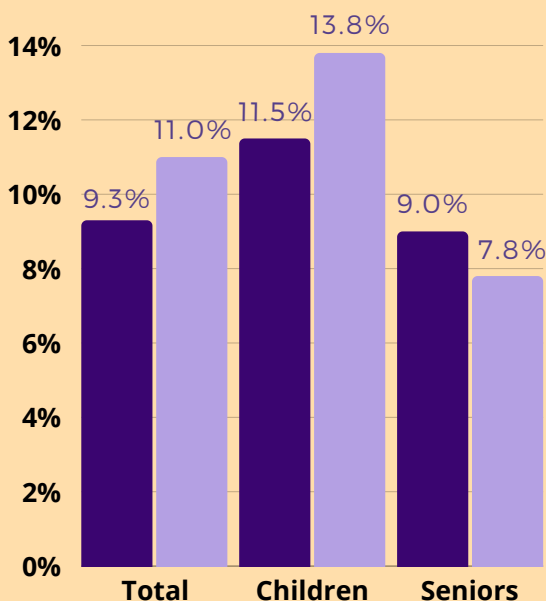
Children
(under 18): **5,143**

Seniors
(over 65): **6,790**

Median Household Income (2023)

\$69,031

Percent of the Population Living Below Poverty Level (2023)



School Meal Programs

Student Enrollment (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Meals Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Percentage
3,554	2,023	56.92%

*All MD students enrolled to receive reduced-price meals receive meals for free.

Meal Participation (SY 2023-2024)^{13, 14, 15}

Program	Total Meals Served	Average Daily Participation
School Breakfast	284,042	1,678
School Lunch	326,317	1,940
Summer Meals*	256,574	5,614

*Meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total # of Schools	# of CEP Eligible Schools	# of School Participating in CEP
14	13	1

*Eligibility is determined on an individual school basis and does not include schools that could be or are made eligible through groupings.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)⁷

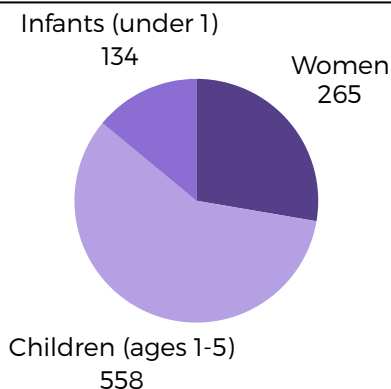
4,087 average participants/month*

*This number presents an average of monthly participation from July 2023-June 2024.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (2023 SFY)⁹

78.12% of eligible people enrolled

957 total WIC participants





HARFORD COUNTY

Population (2023)

Total: **262,509**

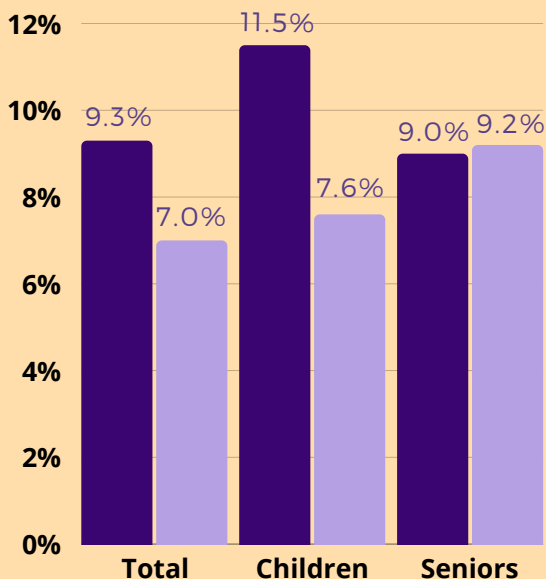
Children
(under 18): **58,790**

Seniors
(over 65): **44,548**

Median Household Income (2023)

\$111,317

Percent of the Population Living Below Poverty Level (2023)



School Meal Programs

Student Enrollment (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Meals Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Percentage
37,802	16,544	43.76%

*All MD students enrolled to receive reduced-price meals receive meals for free.

Meal Participation (SY 2023-2024)^{13, 14, 15}

Program	Total Meals Served	Average Daily Participation
School Breakfast	1,423,113	7,936
School Lunch	3,258,162	19,379
Summer Meals*	57,707	2,867

*Meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total # of Schools	# of CEP Eligible Schools	# of School Participating in CEP
55	26	15

*Eligibility is determined on an individual school basis and does not include schools that could be or are made eligible through groupings.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)⁷

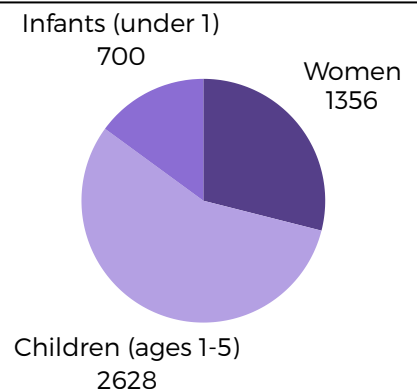
23,374 average participants/month*

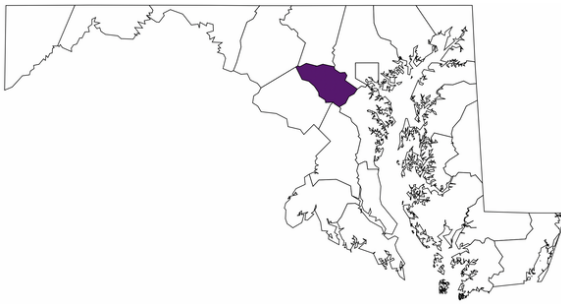
*This number presents an average of monthly participation from July 2023-June 2024.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (2023 SFY)⁹

62.98% of eligible people enrolled

4,684 total WIC participants





HOWARD COUNTY

Population (2023)

Total: **333,916**

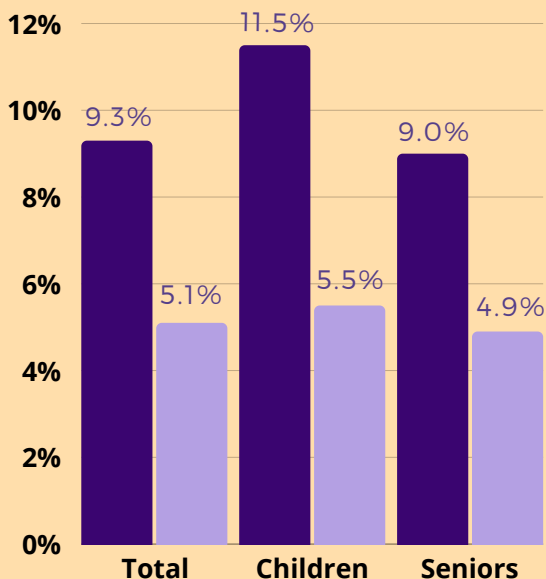
Children
(under 18): **80,273**

Seniors
(over 65): **49,360**

Median Household Income (2023)

\$146,982

Percent of the Population Living Below Poverty Level (2023)



School Meal Programs

Student Enrollment (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Meals Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Percentage
57,871	17,597	30.41%

*All MD students enrolled to receive reduced-price meals receive meals for free.

Meal Participation (SY 2023-2024)^{13, 14, 15}

Program	Total Meals Served	Average Daily Participation
School Breakfast	1,325,494	7,499
School Lunch	3,102,408	18,662
Summer Meals*	83,727	4,571

*Meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total # of Schools	# of CEP Eligible Schools	# of School Participating in CEP
77	32	8

*Eligibility is determined on an individual school basis and does not include schools that could be or are made eligible through groupings.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)⁷

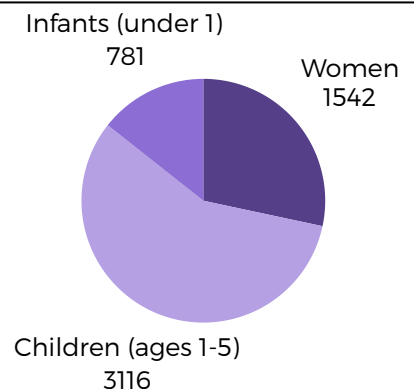
19,605 average participants/month*

*This number presents an average of monthly participation from July 2023-June 2024.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (2023 SFY)⁹

72.2% of eligible people enrolled

5,439 total WIC participants





KENT COUNTY

Population (2023)

Total: **19,265**

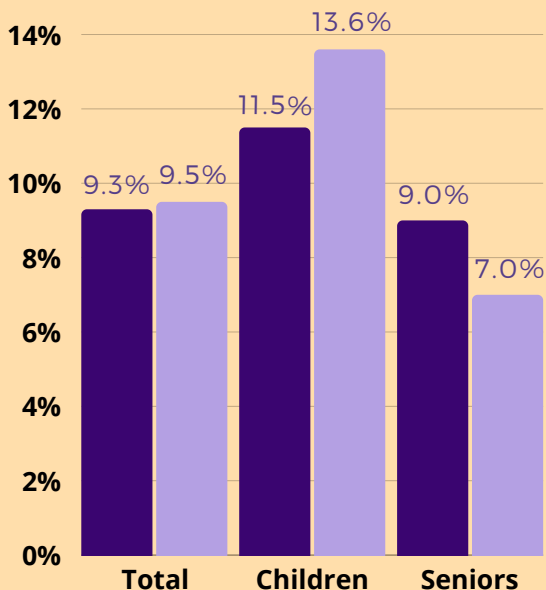
Children
(under 18): **3,013**

Seniors
(over 65): **5,178**

Median Household Income (2023)

\$74,402

Percent of the Population Living Below Poverty Level (2023)



School Meal Programs

Student Enrollment (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Meals Enrollment	Free and Reduced- Price* Percentage
1,746	1,621	92.84%

*All MD students enrolled to receive reduced-price meals receive meals for free.

Meal Participation (SY 2023-2024)^{13, 14, 15}

Program	Total Meals Served	Average Daily Participation
School Breakfast	189,936	1,089
School Lunch	186,831	1,121
Summer Meals*	19,890	912

*Meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total # of Schools	# of CEP Eligible Schools	# of School Participating in CEP
5	DISTRICTWIDE	

*Eligibility is determined on an individual school basis and does not include schools that could be or are made eligible through groupings.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)⁷

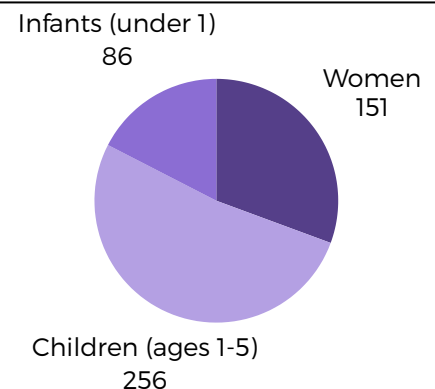
2,379 average participants/month*

*This number presents an average of monthly participation from July 2023-June 2024.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (2023 SFY)⁹

78.49% of eligible
people enrolled

493 total WIC
participants





MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Population (2023)

Total: **1,057,586**

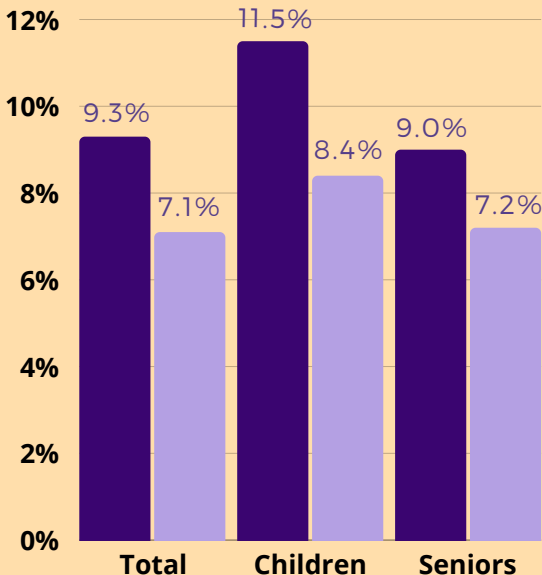
Children (under 18): **242,703**

Seniors (over 65): **175,080**

Median Household Income (2023)

\$128,733

Percent of the Population Living Below Poverty Level (2023)



School Meal Programs

Student Enrollment (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Meals Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Percentage
161,221	69,481	43.10%

*All MD students enrolled to receive reduced-price meals receive meals for free.

Meal Participation (SY 2023-2024)^{13, 14, 15}

Program	Total Meals Served	Average Daily Participation
School Breakfast	6,008,078	33,723
School Lunch	10,721,426	64,546
Summer Meals*	302,514	16,666

*Meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total # of Schools	# of CEP Eligible Schools	# of School Participating in CEP
215	121	59

*Eligibility is determined on an individual school basis and does not include schools that could be or are made eligible through groupings.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)⁷

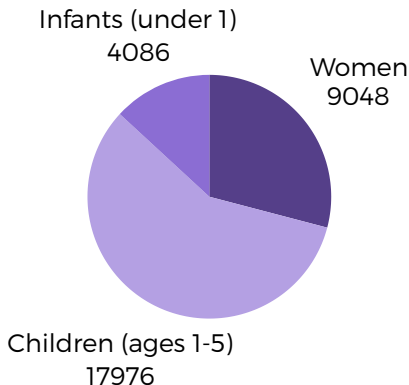
69,369 average participants/month*

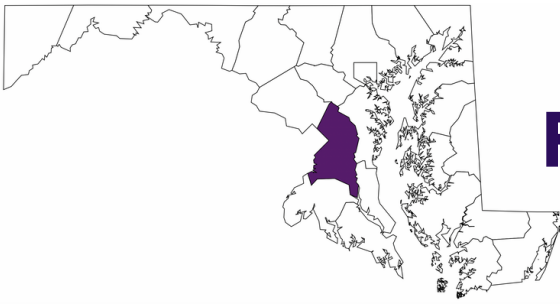
*This number presents an average of monthly participation from July 2023-June 2024.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (2023 SFY)⁹

86.51% of eligible people enrolled

31,110 total WIC participants





PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Population (2023)

Total: **955,584**

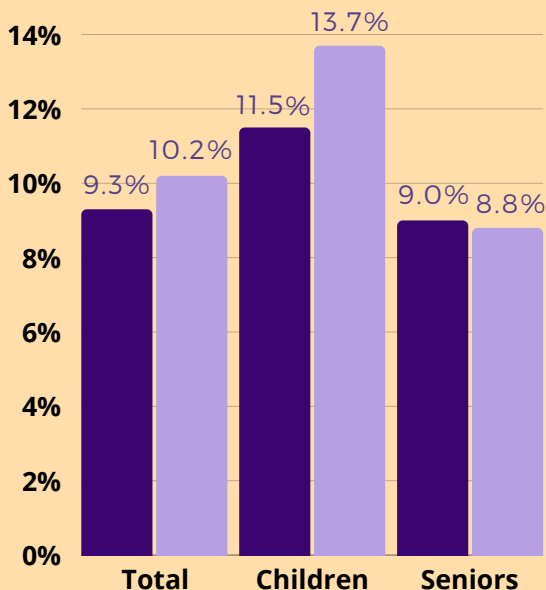
Children
(under 18): **212,476**

Seniors
(over 65): **138,054**

Median Household Income (2023)

\$100,708

Percent of the Population Living Below Poverty Level (2023)



School Meal Programs

Student Enrollment (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Meals Enrollment	Free and Reduced- Price* Percentage
132,435	92,550	69.88%

*All MD students enrolled to receive reduced-price meals receive meals for free.

Meal Participation (SY 2023-2024)^{13, 14, 15}

Program	Total Meals Served	Average Daily Participation
School Breakfast	6,915,635	39,273
School Lunch	11,771,788	71,850
Summer Meals*	253,924	16,549

*Meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total # of Schools	# of CEP Eligible Schools	# of School Participating in CEP
197	187	124

*Eligibility is determined on an individual school basis and does not include schools that could be or are made eligible through groupings.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)⁷

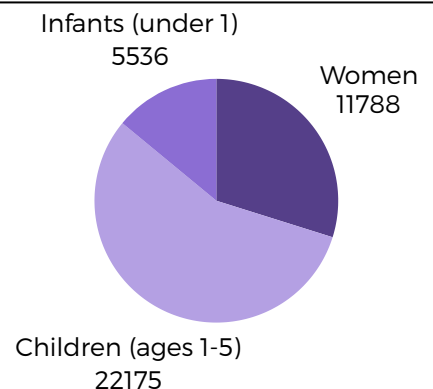
109,023 average participants/month*

*This number presents an average of monthly participation from July 2023-June 2024.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (2023 SFY)⁹

78.19% of eligible
people enrolled

39,499 total WIC
participants





QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

Population (2023)

Total: **50,951**

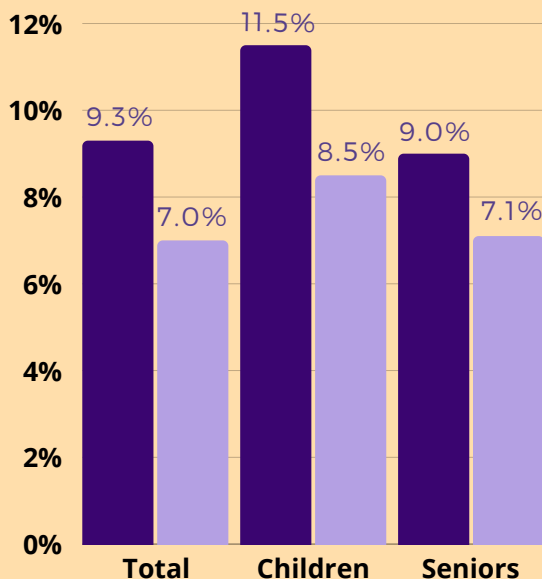
Children (under 18): **10,848**

Seniors (over 65): **10,311**

Median Household Income (2023)

\$113,347

Percent of the Population Living Below Poverty Level (2023)



School Meal Programs

Student Enrollment (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Meals Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Percentage
7,547	2,775	36.77%

*All MD students enrolled to receive reduced-price meals receive meals for free.

Meal Participation (SY 2023-2024)^{13, 14, 15}

Program	Total Meals Served	Average Daily Participation
School Breakfast	260,076	1,457
School Lunch	484,999	2,855
Summer Meals*	6,393	379

*Meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total # of Schools	# of CEP Eligible Schools	# of School Participating in CEP
14	9	0

*Eligibility is determined on an individual school basis and does not include schools that could be or are made eligible through groupings.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)⁷

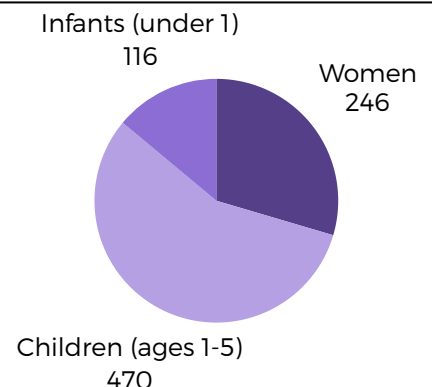
3,400 average participants/month*

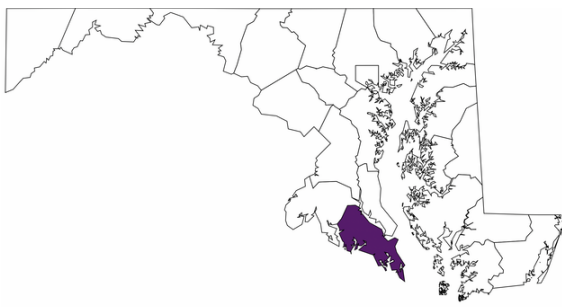
*This number presents an average of monthly participation from July 2023-June 2024.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (2023 SFY)⁹

60.55% of eligible people enrolled

832 total WIC participants





ST. MARY'S COUNTY

Population (2023)

Total: **114,372**

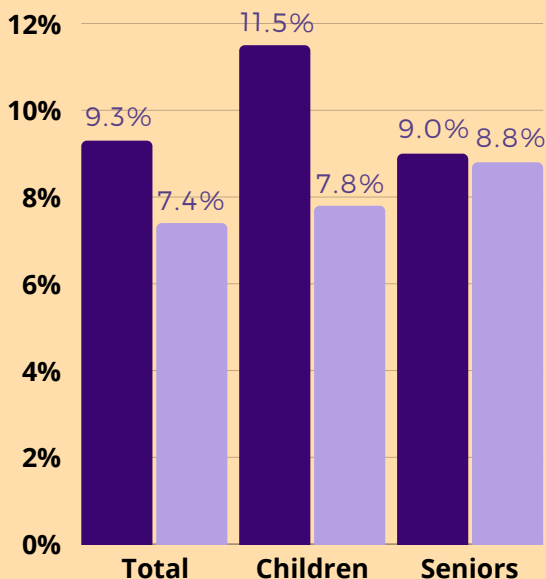
Children (under 18): **27,499**

Seniors (over 65): **15,711**

Median Household Income (2023)

\$114,580

Percent of the Population Living Below Poverty Level (2023)



School Meal Programs

Student Enrollment (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Meals Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Percentage
17,284	7,036	40.71%

*All MD students enrolled to receive reduced-price meals receive meals for free.

Meal Participation (SY 2023-2024)^{13, 14, 15}

Program	Total Meals Served	Average Daily Participation
School Breakfast	809,808	4,458
School Lunch	1,221,921	1,853
Summer Meals*	220,385	6,550

*Meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total # of Schools	# of CEP Eligible Schools	# of School Participating in CEP
27	18	3

*Eligibility is determined on an individual school basis and does not include schools that could be or are made eligible through groupings.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)⁷

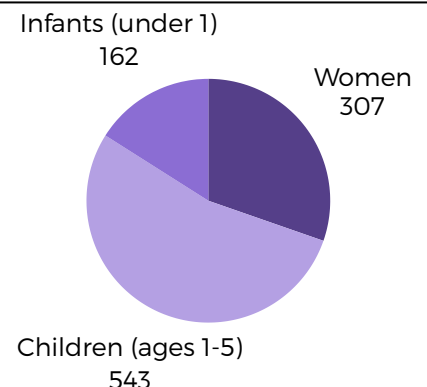
12,216 average participants/month*

*This number presents an average of monthly participation from July 2023-June 2024.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (2023 SFY)⁹

74.27% of eligible people enrolled

1,012 total WIC participants





SOMERSET COUNTY

Population (2023)

Total: **24,685**

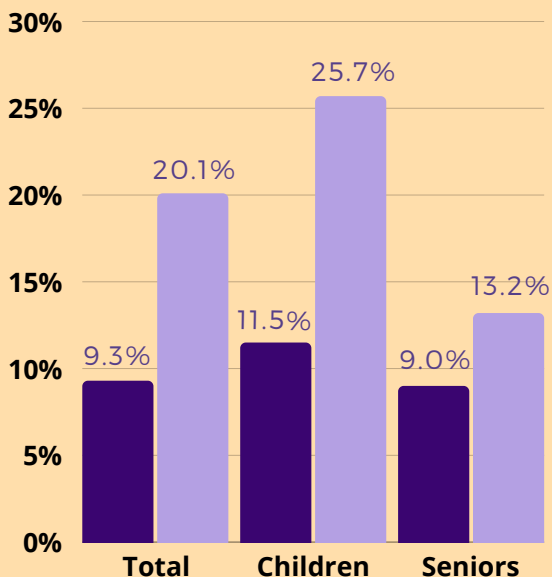
Children
(under 18): **4,311**

Seniors
(over 65): **4,278**

Median Household Income (2023)

\$52,462

Percent of the Population Living Below Poverty Level (2023)



School Meal Programs

Student Enrollment (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Meals Enrollment	Free and Reduced- Price* Percentage
2,894	2,894	100%

*All MD students enrolled to receive reduced-price meals receive meals for free.

Meal Participation (SY 2023-2024)^{13, 14, 15}

Program	Total Meals Served	Average Daily Participation
School Breakfast	324,790	1,885
School Lunch	306,129	7,385
Summer Meals*	18,753	872

*Meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total # of Schools	# of CEP Eligible Schools	# of School Participating in CEP
9	DISTRICTWIDE	

*Eligibility is determined on an individual school basis and does not include schools that could be or are made eligible through groupings.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)⁷

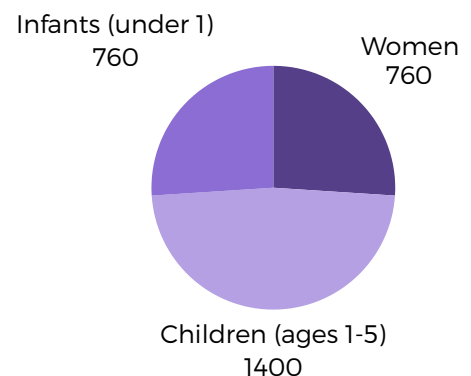
5,975 average participants/month*

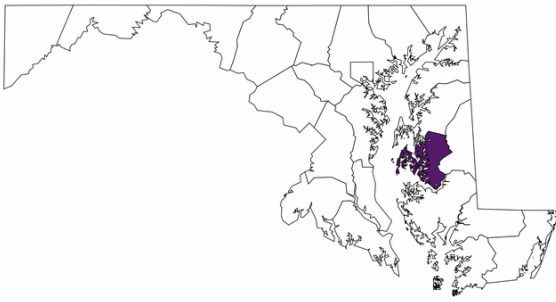
*This number presents an average of monthly participation from July 2023-June 2024.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (2023 SFY)⁹

69.21% of eligible
people enrolled

2,553 total WIC
participants





TALBOT COUNTY

Population (2023)

Total: **37,707**

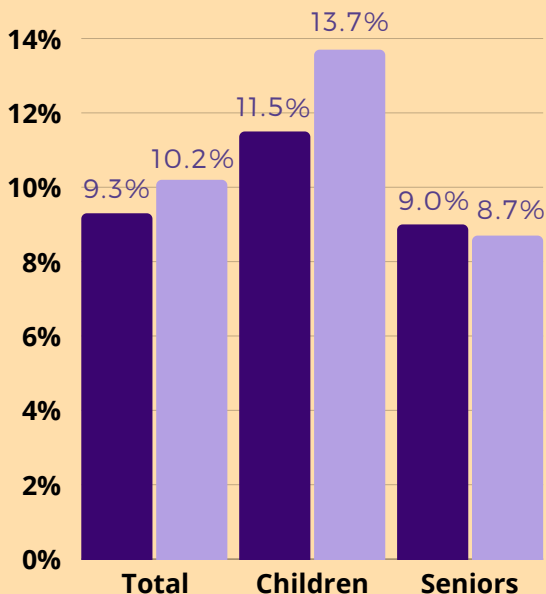
Children
(under 18): **7,071**

Seniors
(over 65): **11,060**

Median Household Income (2023)

\$84,378

Percent of the Population Living Below Poverty Level (2023)



School Meal Programs

Student Enrollment (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Meals Enrollment	Free and Reduced- Price* Percentage
4,530	2,650	58.50%

*All MD students enrolled to receive reduced-price meals receive meals for free.

Meal Participation (SY 2023-2024)^{13, 14, 15}

Program	Total Meals Served	Average Daily Participation
School Breakfast	335,987	1,843
School Lunch	381,255	2,227
Summer Meals*	12,811	775

*Meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total # of Schools	# of CEP Eligible Schools	# of School Participating in CEP
9	7	0

*Eligibility is determined on an individual school basis and does not include schools that could be or are made eligible through groupings.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)⁷

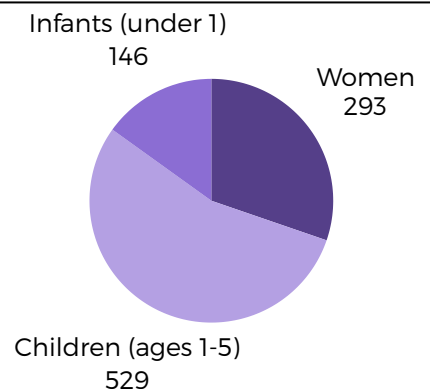
4,175 average participants/month*

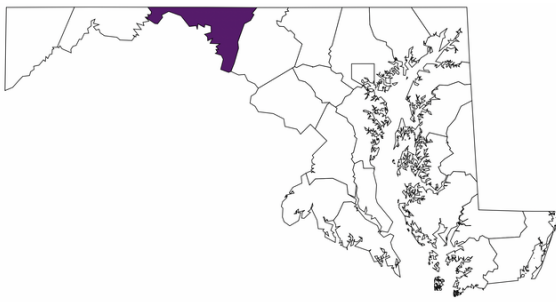
*This number presents an average of monthly participation from July 2023-June 2024.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (2023 SFY)⁹

69.14% of eligible
people enrolled

968 total WIC
participants





WASHINGTON COUNTY

Population (2023)

Total: **155,033**

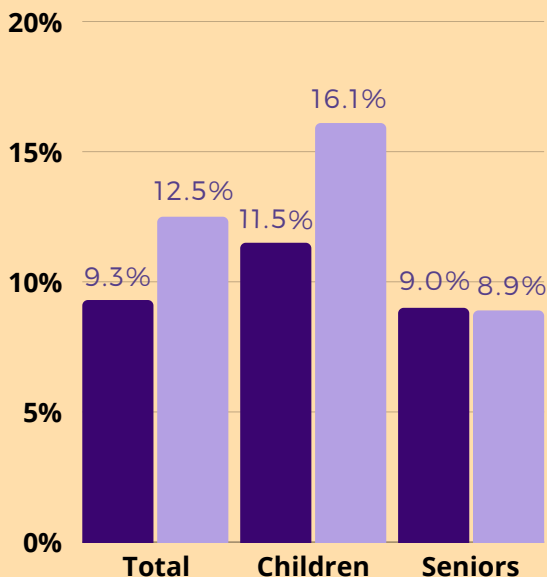
Children
(under 18): **33,904**

Seniors
(over 65): **27,598**

Median Household Income (2023)

\$74,157

Percent of the Population Living Below Poverty Level (2023)



School Meal Programs

Student Enrollment (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Meals Enrollment	Free and Reduced- Price* Percentage
22,161	14,177	63.97%

*All MD students enrolled to receive reduced-price meals receive meals for free.

Meal Participation (SY 2023-2024)^{13, 14, 15}

Program	Total Meals Served	Average Daily Participation
School Breakfast	1,537,060	8,519
School Lunch	1,785,348	10,572
Summer Meals*	113,923	4,842

*Meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total # of Schools	# of CEP Eligible Schools	# of School Participating in CEP
44	40	13

*Eligibility is determined on an individual school basis and does not include schools that could be or are made eligible through groupings.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)⁷

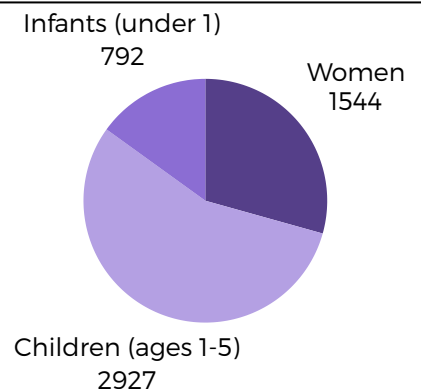
24,020 average participants/month*

*This number presents an average of monthly participation from July 2023-June 2024.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (2023 SFY)⁹

67.59% of eligible
people enrolled

5,263 total WIC
participants





WICOMICO COUNTY

Population (2023)

Total: **104,117**

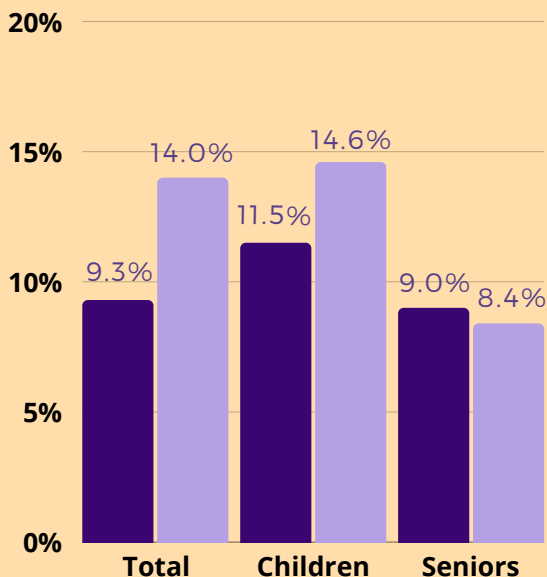
Children
(under 18): **23,435**

Seniors
(over 65): **16,868**

Median Household Income (2023)

\$72,861

Percent of the Population Living Below Poverty Level (2023)



School Meal Programs

Student Enrollment (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Meals Enrollment	Free and Reduced- Price* Percentage
15,122	12,441	82.27%

*All MD students enrolled to receive reduced-price meals receive meals for free.

Meal Participation (SY 2023-2024)^{13, 14, 15}

Program	Total Meals Served	Average Daily Participation
School Breakfast	1,086,315	6,244
School Lunch	1,604,172	9,324
Summer Meals*	38,163	2,723

*Meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total # of Schools	# of CEP Eligible Schools	# of School Participating in CEP
26	DISTRICTWIDE	

*Eligibility is determined on an individual school basis and does not include schools that could be or are made eligible through groupings.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)⁷

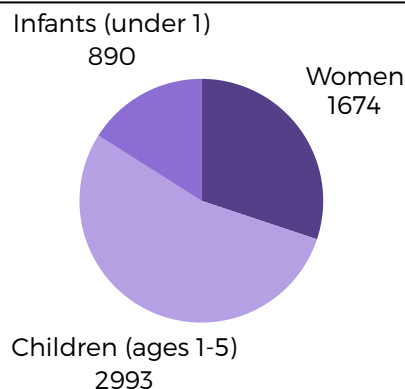
21,609 average participants/month*

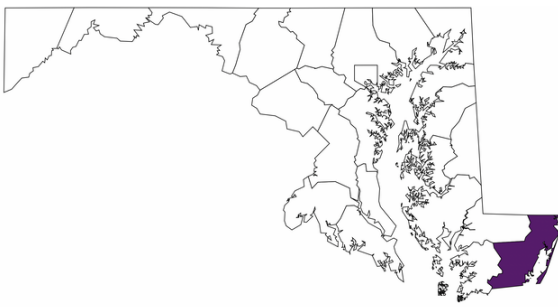
*This number presents an average of monthly participation from July 2023-June 2024.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (2023 SFY)⁹

74.33% of eligible
people enrolled

5,557 total WIC
participants





WORCESTER COUNTY

Population (2023)

Total: **53,279**

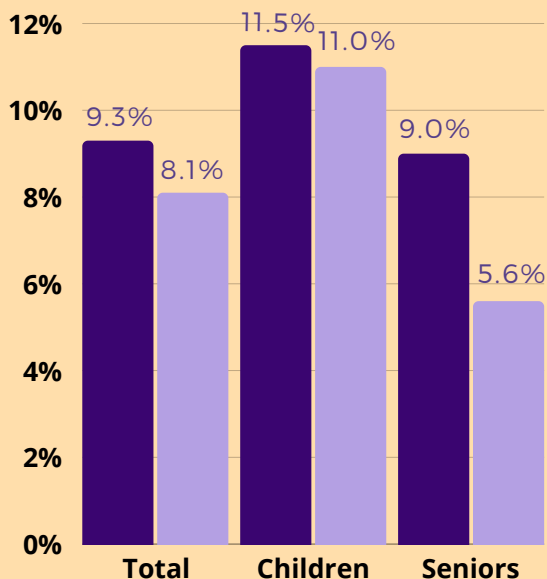
Children
(under 18): **9,206**

Seniors
(over 65): **15,019**

Median Household Income (2023)

\$81,455

Percent of the Population Living Below Poverty Level (2023)



School Meal Programs

Student Enrollment (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total Enrollment	Free and Reduced-Price* Meals Enrollment	Free and Reduced- Price* Percentage
6,875	4,297	62.50%

*All MD students enrolled to receive reduced-price meals receive meals for free.

Meal Participation (SY 2023-2024)^{13, 14, 15}

Program	Total Meals Served	Average Daily Participation
School Breakfast	484,186	2,684
School Lunch	544,078	3,174
Summer Meals*	20,545	1,221

*Meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) (SY 2023-2024)⁸

Total # of Schools	# of CEP Eligible Schools	# of School Participating in CEP
13	13	9

*Eligibility is determined on an individual school basis and does not include schools that could be or are made eligible through groupings.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)⁷

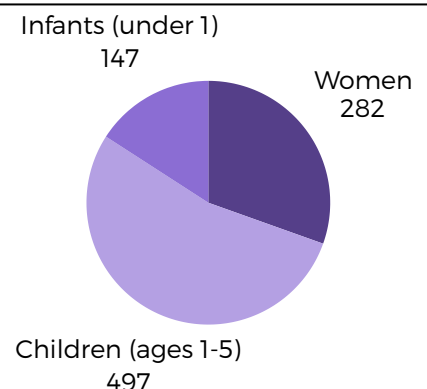
6,631 average participants/month*

*This number presents an average of monthly participation from July 2023-June 2024.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (2023 SFY)⁹

53.87% of eligible
people enrolled

926 total WIC
participants



Technical Notes

- SNAP and WIC data are based on SFY data.
- Child nutrition programs enrollment data and Community Eligibility Provision data are based on SY data.
- School districts make their CEP election decisions based on the previous school year's direct certification data. Both the participating CEP school and CEP eligible school figures in this report reflect 2023–2024 SY data.
- SNAP data is for the SFY 2024 (July 2023–June 2024).

1 Maryland Department of Human Services. (2025). Data and reports, statistical reports: SNAP: Cases, participants, & issuances. Available at <https://dhs.maryland.gov/documents/Data%20and%20Reports/FIA/Statistical%20Reports/SFY-2025-All-Prg-MoStat-Public-Web-w-Charts-data-through-February-2025.pdf>

2 U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service. (2023). Definitions of food security. Available at <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-u-s/definitions-of-food-security>

3 Maryland Department of Budget and Management. (2024). Operating budget. Available at <https://dbm.maryland.gov/budget/Pages/operbudhome.aspx>

4 Office of the Assistant Secretary for Evaluation. (2024). 2024 Poverty guideline computations. Available at <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>

5 U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service. (2023). Final rule: Child nutrition programs – CEP increasing options for schools. Available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/fr-092623>

6 Maryland Food Bank. (2024). Root causes of hunger research. Available at <https://mdfoodbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Maryland-Food-Bank-Root-Causes-of-Hunger-Research-Report.pdf>

7 Maryland Department of Human Services. (2024). Data and reports, statistical reports: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Available at <https://dhs.maryland.gov/documents/Data%20and%20Reports/FIA/Statistical%20Reports/SFY-2024-All-Prg-MoStat-Public-Web-w-Charts-data-through-June-2024.pdf>

8 Maryland State Department of Education School and Community Nutrition Programs Branch. (2024). Community Eligibility Provision district and school level eligibility data. Available at <https://marylandpublicschools.org/programs/SchoolandCommunityNutrition/Pages/CEPData.aspx>

9 Department of Health. Maryland WIC Program. (2023). FY 2023 estimated eligible population Maryland Women, Infants, and Children Program. Received through data request.

10 United States Census Bureau. (2023). American community survey 2023: ACS 5-year estimates subject tables. S0101 Age and sex. Available at [https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2023.S0101?g=040XX00US24.24\\$0500000](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2023.S0101?g=040XX00US24.24$0500000)

11 United States Census Bureau. (2023). American community survey 2023: ACS 5-year estimates subject tables. S0101 Age and sex. Available at [https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2023.S0101?g=040XX00US24.24\\$0500000](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2023.S0101?g=040XX00US24.24$0500000)

12 United States Census Bureau. (2023). American community survey 2023: ACS 5-year estimates subject tables. S0101 Age and sex. Available at [https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2023.S0101?g=040XX00US24.24\\$0500000](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2023.S0101?g=040XX00US24.24$0500000)

13 Maryland State Department of Education School and Community Nutrition Programs Branch. (2024). School meals average daily participation – School breakfast total summary 7/1/2023 through 6/30/2024. Received through data request.

14 Maryland State Department of Education School and Community Nutrition Programs Branch. (2024). School meals average daily participation – Lunch site totals by month 7/1/2023 through 6/30/2024. Received through data request.

15 Maryland State Department of Education School and Community Nutrition Programs Branch. (2024). Summer Food Service Program average daily participation – Site totals by month. Received through data request.



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Ending hunger and promoting well-being

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Table: Economic Strain and New SNAP Cost-Shifts Under H.R. 1 Across All States

This table provides a state-by-state snapshot of economic conditions and the new financial burdens imposed on states by the budget reconciliation law, H.R. 1. It shows that nearly 23 states are in recession or at high risk of entering one, underscoring that economic strain is not isolated but spread across every region of the country.

FOR EACH STATE, THE TABLE PRESENTS:

- ▶ current recession status or risk level;
- ▶ the existing 50 percent state share of SNAP administrative costs and the increase to 75 percent beginning in FY 2027;
- ▶ the state's SNAP payment error rate based on FY 2024 data;
- ▶ the resulting benefit-cost exposure triggered by those error rates; and
- ▶ the projected state costs in FY 2028 when the SNAP benefit cost-share provisions take effect.

Taken together, the table shows that no state is insulated from the fiscal consequences of H.R. 1. States facing economic slowdown are simultaneously asked to absorb unprecedented new SNAP benefit costs — expenses that have never been part of state budgets.

■ Recession/At-Risk ■ Treading Water ■ Expansion

RECESSION, OR AT-RISK, analysis is the one utilized by the business cycle dating committee of the National Bureau of Economic Research. It involves identifying a broad, sustained decline in economic activity. It assesses whether a recession is underway using real-time data that reflect the current state of the economy. Key indicators include payroll and household employment, unemployment rates, industrial production measures, personal income, retail sales, and building permits. Additional data considered are unemployment insurance claims, migration patterns, household credit growth and delinquency rates, house prices, federal surveys, and state tax revenues.

TREADING WATER describes a situation where the economy is neither in a downturn nor experiencing growth.

EXPANSION refers to the normal state of the economy.

State	State Administrative Costs at 50%	Estimated 75% Increase in FY 27	FY 2024 Payment Error Rate	Cost-Share Based on FY 24	Projected SNAP Issuance Shift to State	Estimated FY 28 Total Cost (new admin and cost-share)
Alabama	\$65,049,935	\$104,243,214	8.32	10%	\$173,369,370	\$277,612,584
Alaska*	\$11,531,300	\$18,018,074	24.66	15%	\$37,442,729	\$55,460,803
Arizona	\$70,104,702	\$106,284,449	8.84	10%	\$201,518,500	\$307,802,950
Arkansas	\$43,036,568	\$67,908,888	9.56	10%	\$51,534,315	\$119,443,203
California+	\$1,323,591,408	\$1,945,561,710	10.98	15%	\$1,827,462,833	\$4,434,024,543
Colorado+	\$92,825,326	\$141,830,018	9.97	10%	\$130,317,270	\$272,147,287
Connecticut	\$79,399,639	\$120,146,255	10.25	15%	\$133,922,948	\$254,069,203
Delaware	\$21,695,306	\$32,700,546	12.37	15%	\$38,228,136	\$70,928,682
District of Columbia*	\$37,492,241	\$56,487,983	17.38	15%	\$47,867,876	\$104,355,858
Florida*	\$89,434,186	\$205,075,899	15.13	15%	\$982,271,272	\$1,187,347,171
Georgia*	\$110,092,835	\$190,008,488	15.65	15%	\$477,199,478	\$667,207,966
Hawaii	\$31,155,774	\$48,760,889	6.68	5%	\$36,566,571	\$85,327,460
Idaho	\$9,797,153	\$13,926,377	3.59	-	No expense	\$13,926,377
Illinois	\$166,742,718	\$259,784,181	11.56	15%	\$670,401,273	\$930,185,454
Indiana	\$91,277,405	\$141,884,066	9.52	10%	\$143,595,233	\$285,479,298
Iowa	\$26,136,784	\$40,571,845	6.14	5%	\$26,445,275	\$67,017,120
Kansas	\$29,233,378	\$44,016,364	9.98	10%	\$40,841,017	\$84,857,380
Kentucky	\$105,630,687	\$161,348,621	9.11	10%	\$115,020,117	\$276,368,738
Louisiana	\$83,331,747	\$134,046,572	6.62	5%	\$95,122,790	\$229,169,362
Maine	\$13,476,191	\$20,759,761	10.26	15%	\$54,575,835	\$75,335,595
Maryland*	\$104,649,827	\$164,186,470	13.64	15%	\$224,746,238	\$388,932,708
Massachusetts*	\$85,847,502	\$137,909,692	14.10	15%	\$392,650,005	\$530,559,697

(continued)

■ Recession/At-Risk
 ■ Treading Water
 ■ Expansion

State	State Administrative Costs at 50%	Estimated 75% Increase in FY 27	FY 2024 Payment Error Rate	Cost-Share Based on FY 24	Projected SNAP Issuance Shift to State	Estimated FY 28 Total Cost (new admin and cost-share)
Michigan	\$191,811,874	\$295,827,581	9.53	10%	\$306,136,157	\$601,963,738
Minnesota+	\$87,139,639	\$131,408,259	8.98	10%	\$85,903,862	\$217,312,121
Mississippi	\$29,438,247	\$43,906,431	10.69	15%	\$126,340,059	\$170,246,490
Missouri	\$56,375,847	\$93,994,223	9.42	10%	\$151,257,080	\$245,251,302
Montana	\$13,910,129	\$22,004,528	8.89	10%	\$16,944,687	\$38,949,215
Nebraska	\$24,281,538	\$37,283,458	5.50	-	No expense	\$37,283,458
Nevada	\$42,532,184	\$58,762,992	5.94	-	No expense	\$58,762,992
New Hampshire	\$11,504,762	\$16,529,876	7.57	5%	\$7,712,732	\$24,242,608
New Jersey*+	\$189,952,000	\$288,515,111	14.33	15%	\$288,856,178	\$577,371,288
New Mexico*	\$30,190,208	\$47,373,617	14.61	15%	\$154,213,613	\$201,587,230
New York*+	\$491,937,658	\$745,685,117	14.09	15%	\$1,084,741,675	\$1,830,426,793
North Carolina+	\$136,118,990	\$218,638,473	10.21	15%	\$440,193,962	\$658,832,435
North Dakota+	\$12,713,003	\$19,139,016	7.91	5%	\$5,572,445	\$24,711,461
Ohio+	\$140,998,124	\$218,932,122	9.01	10%	\$318,643,378	\$537,575,500
Oklahoma	\$55,030,314	\$87,001,462	10.87	15%	\$225,948,998	\$312,950,460
Oregon*	\$160,093,107	\$236,644,526	14.06	15%	\$239,487,786	\$476,132,313
Pennsylvania	\$213,747,495	\$338,654,735	10.76	15%	\$640,205,315	\$978,860,049
Rhode Island	\$24,831,811	\$39,064,610	12.29	15%	\$51,459,981	\$90,524,590
South Carolina	\$32,940,703	\$53,586,313	9.25	10%	\$129,358,499	\$182,944,811
South Dakota	\$8,818,497	\$15,006,353	3.28	-	No expense	\$15,006,353
Tennessee	\$124,722,742	\$192,293,698	9.47	10%	\$162,323,108	\$354,616,805
Texas	\$170,074,995	\$285,394,783	8.32	10%	\$733,202,303	\$1,018,597,086
Utah	\$25,566,841	\$38,567,462	5.74	-	No expense	\$38,567,462
Vermont	\$12,329,220	\$18,840,710	5.13	-	No expense	\$18,840,710
Virginia+	\$4,679,544	\$7,568,345	11.50	15%	\$219,779,084	\$227,347,429
Washington	\$126,414,963	\$190,052,964	6.06	5%	\$96,018,751	\$286,071,715
West Virginia	\$18,275,603	\$31,691,663	9.43	10%	\$56,564,759	\$88,256,422
Wisconsin+	\$79,309,041	\$128,425,163	4.47	-	No expense	\$128,425,163
Wyoming	\$8,620,014	\$13,520,452	5.12	-	No expense	\$13,520,452

NOTES:

States would have to pay a percent of SNAP issuance based off of payment error rates:

- » below 6 percent: 0 percent match
- » 6–8 percent: 5 percent match
- » 8–10 percent: 10 percent match
- » over 10 percent: 15 percent match

* The new law allows only high-error states to postpone cost-sharing; others must pay sooner. States can delay until FY 2029 or 2030 if FY 2025 or FY 2026 error rates, multiplied by 1.5, reach 20 percent. This delay can only be claimed once, using data from FY 2025 or FY 2026.

State administrative costs are based on FY 2023 data and are an estimated figure for SNAP expenses.

+ Counties operating in states that cover administrative costs will face higher expenses. The shares for each state are as follows: California 28%, Colorado 40%, Minnesota 79%, New Jersey 100%, New York 100%, North Carolina 100%, North Dakota 0%, Ohio varies annually, Virginia 15.5%, Wisconsin 65%.

Zandi, M. (2025, October 22). Nearly one-third of national GDP is produced in states that are either in recession or at high risk of entering one. These regions, spread across every part of the country, are showing signs of strain. Moody's Analytics. [Linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/23-states-recession-reveal-fragility-useconomy-mark-zandi-dybre/). <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/23-states-recession-reveal-fragility-useconomy-mark-zandi-dybre/>

SCHOOL MEALS SUPPORT CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND LEARNING

Proposed Cuts to School Meals Would Worsen Childhood Hunger, Hurt Struggling Families, and Create Unnecessary Burdens for **393** Schools in **MARYLAND**

House Budget Committee Chair Jodey Arrington (R-TX) has proposed \$12 billion in cuts to school meals programs for the 2025 budget reconciliation. The proposals would substantially decrease the number of schools eligible for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and make it harder for eligible families to apply for free or reduced-price school meals at non-CEP schools. Combined, these proposals would reduce students' access to school meals and raise families' grocery bills, while imposing unnecessary and burdensome paperwork requirements on schools in **MARYLAND**.

What Is Community Eligibility?

CEP allows schools serving large numbers of children from families with low incomes to offer school meals at no charge to all students. Rather than relying on school meal applications to determine a school's federal reimbursements, CEP schools are reimbursed based on the share of students from families with low incomes, as determined through a data-matching process that identifies students' participation in other means-tested programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Currently, schools can adopt CEP if at least 25 percent of students receive these benefits.

CONGRESS MUST REJECT ANY PROPOSAL TO WEAKEN CEP

Chair Arrington's proposal would increase the CEP eligibility threshold for schools from **25** percent to **60** percent of students identified as receiving benefits. This would cut over 24,000 schools nationwide from participating in CEP and undermine the health and learning of more than **12 million children**.

Community Eligibility Supports Students, Families, and Schools

CEP is a win for students, families, and schools. CEP gives all students access to the nutritious school breakfasts and lunches they need to be well-nourished and ready to learn, while reducing the stigma often present in school cafeterias when schools have to track students' eligibility for free, reduced-price, and paid meals. **When students have access to free meals at school, families have lower grocery bills and more money in their household budgets to help make ends meet.**

CEP has grown in popularity since first becoming available nationwide over a decade ago. In the 2023–2024 school year, one out of every two schools that operated the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) participated in CEP. CEP makes school meal operations more efficient and effective: It eliminates the administrative burden associated with school meal applications, strengthens program integrity, and supports school nutrition finances by eliminating school meal debt and increasing participation in school breakfast and lunch, which allows for economies of scale.



IN 2023–2024 SCHOOL YEAR

651 SCHOOLS

in **MARYLAND** — which represents **46** percent of schools that participate in the school lunch program — adopted CEP, reaching **368,909** children each school day.

The proposed cuts to school meals would **increase hardships** for children and families across **MARYLAND**:



393

schools in **MARYLAND** would no longer be able to provide free school meals through CEP and would have to reinstate meal applications.



17

school districts in **MARYLAND**, listed on the reverse page, would be affected.



251,318

MARYLAND children attend schools that would no longer be able to offer meals at no charge to all students through CEP.¹

Rather than reducing access to school meals, **CONGRESS SHOULD INVEST IN CEP** and reduce barriers to applying for free or reduced-price school meals, so families can afford groceries and children have access to the nutritious meals they need to thrive in school and beyond.

The following table identifies the school districts in **MARYLAND**, and the number of schools and children within each district that would lose access to CEP if Congress increases the eligibility threshold to 60 percent of students identified as receiving benefits.

School District	Schools Impacted	Children Impacted
ALLEGANY CO PUB SCH	2	542
BALTIMORE CITY PUB SCH	31	19234
BALTIMORE CO PUB SCH	117	83106
CAROLINE CO PUB SCH	7	4454
CECIL CO PUB SCH	11	5162
CHARLES COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	11	6923
DORCHESTER CO BOARD OF ED	6	1771
HARFORD CO PUB SCH	10	6459
HOWARD CO PUB SCH	8	3667

School District	Schools Impacted	Children Impacted
KENT CO BRD OF ED	2	820
MONTGOMERY CO PUB SCH	58	33993
PRINCE GEORGE'S CO. PUBLIC SCHOOL	100	69817
SEED SCHOOL OF MARYLAND	1	401
ST MARYS CO PUB SCH	1	539
WASHINGTON CO PUB SCH	4	916
WICOMICO CO BRD OF ED	17	10833
WORCESTER CO BRD OF ED	7	2681