

**Food Stamp Participation  
in New York State:**

*A Snapshot of Recent  
Government Data*

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**Numbers of Participants**  
*(Listed for the most recent available month and year)*

**United States:**

- During 2004, about 23.8 million Americans received food stamps each month.
- As of August 2005, almost 25.8 million people were getting food stamps.

**New York State:**

- During 2004, approximately 1.6 million New York State residents received food stamps each month.
- As of September 2005, that number increased to 1.75 million people.

**New York City:**

- During 2004, an average of 1 million people in New York City received food stamps each month.
- As of September 2005, about 1.1 million New York City residents were participating in the food stamp program.

	Number of Individuals Receiving Food Stamps during 2004* Monthly Average	Number of Individuals Receiving Food Stamps as of most current month
<b>United States</b>	23,857,607	25,765,739 (August 2005)
<b>New York State</b>	1,641,644	1,757,539 (September 2005)
<b>New York City</b>	1,006,928	1,078,413 (September 2005)
<b>Rest of State (Outside NYC)</b>	634,716	679,126 (September 2005)

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\* U.S. data is based on fiscal year 2004 (October 1, 2003 – September 30, 2004.) New York State, New York City and county level data is based on calendar year 2004 (January 1, 2004 - December 30, 2004).

*Sources of information:* US data – from USDA at [www.fns.usda.gov/pd/fspmain.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/fspmain.htm). NYS, NYC and county data (next page) – from New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance at <http://www.otda.state.ny.us/bdma/default.htm>

**Numbers of Participants – County level**  
*(Listed for the most recent available month and year)*

<b>COUNTY</b>	Number of Individuals Receiving Food Stamps During 2004 (monthly average)	Number of individuals receiving Food Stamps as of September 2005	<b>COUNTY</b>	Number of Individuals Receiving Food Stamps During 2004 (monthly average)	Number of individuals receiving Food Stamps as of September 2005
Albany	19,521	20,389	Oneida	23,469	25,099
Allegany	4,386	4,590	Onondaga	39,119	41,223
Broome	15,433	17,101	Ontario	5,292	5,800
Cattaraugus	6,871	6,979	Orange	20,669	21,856
Cayuga	5,479	6,214	Orleans	3,560	3,724
Chautauqua	14,163	15,257	Oswego	10,584	10,796
Chemung	9,093	9,859	Otsego	3,129	3,121
Chenango	4,745	4,796	Putnam	859	890
Clinton	6,834	7,152	Rensselaer	9,895	10,743
Columbia	2,956	3,026	Rockland	17,736	19,963
Cortland	3,913	4,042	St. Lawrence	9,530	9,961
Delaware	2,654	2,764	Saratoga	6,938	7,371
Dutchess	8,681	10,262	Schenectady	11,846	13,044
Erie	87,051	92,206	Schoharie	1,883	1,868
Essex	2,269	2,213	Schuyler	1,380	1,496
Franklin	4,012	4,235	Seneca	2,027	2,006
Fulton	5,088	5,528	Steuben	8,314	8,296
Genesee	3,465	3,924	Suffolk	33,197	36,032
Greene	3,113	3,170	Sullivan	5,514	5,983
Hamilton	266	254	Tioga	3,416	3,783
Herkimer	5,468	5,767	Tompkins	4,775	5,137
Jefferson	9,328	9,825	Ulster	7,693	8,285
Lewis	2,127	2,103	Warren	3,565	3,753
Livingston	3,912	4,089	Washington	3,949	3,962
Madison	4,199	4,321	Wayne	5,635	6,038
Monroe	72,110	76,378	Westchester	36,548	39,906
Montgomery	5,251	5,342	Wyoming	1,826	1,836
Nassau	22,041	25,551	Yates	1,913	2,175
Niagara	16,030	17,642			

## Characteristics of Food Stamp Participants

Characteristic (FY 2004) *	United States	New York State
Number of households receiving food stamps	10,070,000	793,000
Average monthly household benefit	\$196	\$178
Total benefits issued (average per month)	\$1,978,371,000	\$141,158,000
Average household size (number of persons)	2.3	2
Countable gross income (average per month)	\$643	\$706
Countable resources (average per month)	\$143	\$123
Average certification period (number of months)	10.5	15.4 <i>(longest among all 50 states)</i>
Number of children receiving food stamps	11,797,000	641,000
Percentage of food stamp recipients who are children	50.2%	41.4%
Number of elderly individuals receiving food stamps	1,919,000	252,000 <i>(highest among all 50 states)</i>
Percentage of food stamp recipients who are elderly	8.2%	16.2%
Percentage of food stamp households receiving TANF	16.1%	12.7%
Percentage of food stamp households receiving SSI	26.9%	42.8%
Percentage of food stamp households receiving Social Security	23.0%	25.5%
Percentage of food stamp households with earnings (working families)	28.8%	17.9%

### Some other national characteristics:

- Only 6% of all households received the minimum food stamp benefit. More than 30% got the maximum benefit.
- The overwhelming majority (84%) of all households contained a child, senior citizen or disabled person. These households received 89% of all food stamp benefits.
- Elderly recipients living alone received an average monthly benefit of \$62.

\*From fiscal year 2004, the most recent time period for which data is available.  
County-level data was not included in this report.

*Source of data: USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis, Nutrition and Evaluation, Characteristics of Food Stamp Households: Fiscal Year 2005, FSP-05-CHAR, by Anni Poikolainen.*

**Rates of participation**  
*(Estimating the percentage of eligible individuals who receive food stamps)*

**United States**

**Percentage of Eligible Low-Income Individuals Who Received Food Stamps**

FY 2003	55.6%
FY 2002	53.8%

**Percentage of eligible low income individuals -- by subgroup --  
who received food stamps in FY 2003**

▪ Children	74%
▪ Individuals in all households	56%
▪ Individuals in working families	47%
▪ Citizen children living with non-citizen adults	47%
▪ Eligible non-citizens	47%
▪ Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents	29%
▪ Elderly individuals	28%
▪ Individuals with incomes between 101% and 130% of poverty	25%

**New York State**

**Percentage of Eligible Low-Income Individuals Who Received Food Stamps**

FY 2003	48%
FY 2002	51%

**Note:** FY 2003 is the most recent year for which state-level data is available. There is no official government data measuring participation rates or subgroups on the county level.

*\*Sources of data: Food Stamp Program Participation Rates: 2003 and Trends in Food Stamp Program Participation Rates: 1999-2002, by Karen Cunyngnam; Reaching Those in Need: State Food Stamp Program Participation Rates in 2003, by Laura A. Castner and Allen L. Schirm.*