



# SNAPSHOT

July 22, 2024

## Louisiana's Food Stamp Usage

Large numbers of Louisiana residents rely on the state's food stamp program to help cover grocery costs.

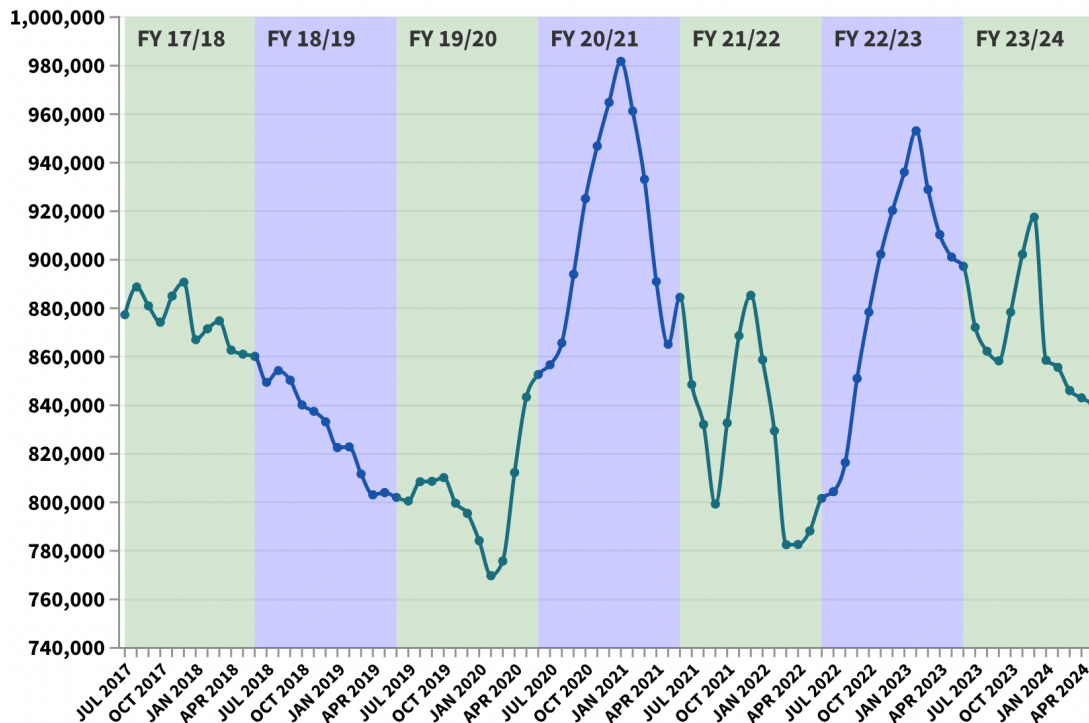
Nearly one in five people in Louisiana, about 867,000 low-income residents on average each month, received financial food aid across the last year through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, according to the [latest data available](#) from the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services.

About 45% of those recipients were children, the data shows.

The amount of SNAP benefits available to a recipient is based on household size and monthly income. Louisiana's average payment per household was \$372.99 a month since July 2023, the state data shows, an average of more than \$159 million in federal aid handed out monthly.

Louisiana provides the benefits to eligible households electronically through a debit-style card called the Louisiana Purchase Card.

### SNAP Recipients by Fiscal Year

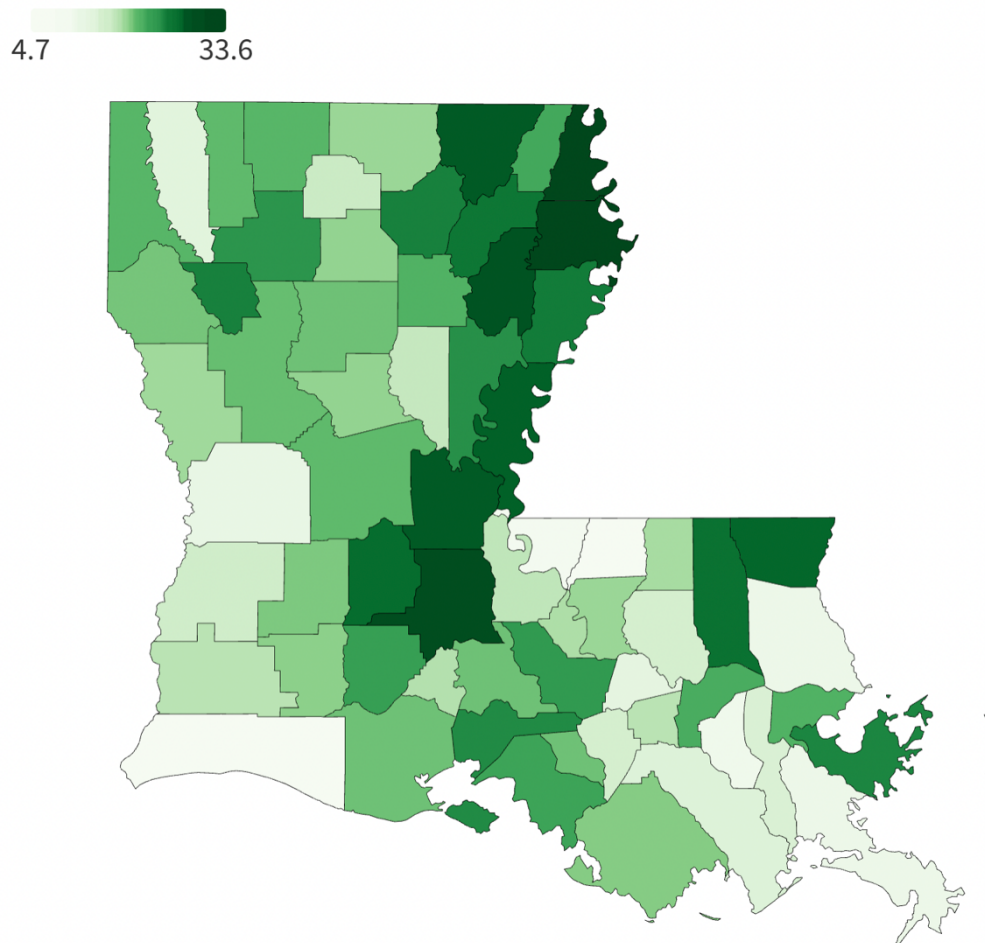


Source: Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services

The [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) increased emergency SNAP benefits in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic. This raised the number of Louisiana residents receiving food aid through the program to a five-year high in January 2021 of 981,751 people, followed by a [decline in 2022](#). The numbers have continued to fluctuate since the sharp drop.

In Louisiana, the Department of Children and Family Services data shows 1 million people live below 125% of the poverty level, which is \$39,000 for a family of four. Of those residents, about 76% are receiving SNAP benefits.

## Percent of Population that Received SNAP, May 2024



**Source:** Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services

The map above shows the total percentage of residents receiving SNAP aid by parish. Some of Louisiana's poorest parishes along the Mississippi River have the highest percentage of people receiving the federally financed food assistance.

The parishes with the lowest percentages of residents participating in the food stamp program are Cameron (4.7%), East Feliciana (8.3%) and West Feliciana (10.7%). Those with the highest percentages of residents receiving SNAP benefits are East Carroll (33.7%), Madison (30.5%) and St. Landry (28.7%).

## Parishes with Highest Number of SNAP Recipients, May 2024

Parish	Number of SNAP Recipients	Children (Under Age 18)	Adults
East Baton Rouge	79,577	37,417	42,160
Orleans	76,500	31,287	45,213
Jefferson	64,014	29,242	34,772
Caddo	51,728	23,532	28,196
Lafayette	39,661	18,714	20,947
Ouachita	36,049	15,914	20,135

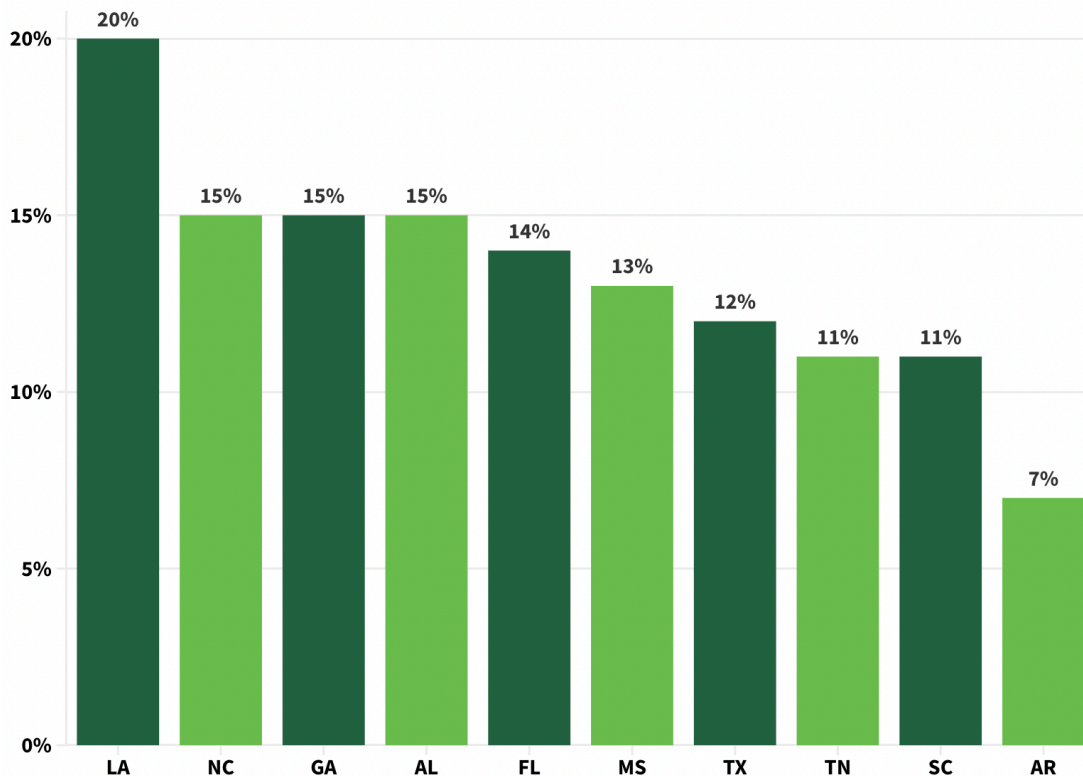
**Source:** Louisiana Department of Children & Family Services

The graphic above shows East Baton Rouge Parish had the highest number of residents in Louisiana receiving SNAP aid in 2024, followed closely by Orleans Parish. In the parishes with the highest number of program recipients, nearly half the beneficiaries were under 18 years old.

Children are getting additional help with food this summer. After initially refusing to participate in a federally funded summer feeding program for children, lawmakers pushed the Department of Children and Family Services to reverse course, and the state rolled out the program in June.

SUN Bucks, also known as the Summer Electronic Benefits (EBT) Program, provided a single payment of \$120 per child for low-income families. More information is online at [sunbucks.la.gov](https://sunbucks.la.gov).

## SNAP Participants as Percentage of Population by Southern State, 2023\*



**Source:** [U.S. Department of Agriculture](https://www.ers.usda.gov/)

\*State Populations Based on Projections by the [U.S. Census Bureau](https://www.census.gov/)

Compared to other Southern states, Louisiana had the most SNAP recipients relative to its total population in 2023.

Emergency allotments temporarily put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic ended nationwide in February 2023. These allotments had allowed households to receive an additional \$95 in SNAP benefits or a maximum benefit for their household size.

For more information on SNAP and other services available through the Department of Children and Family Services, visit [www.dcf.la.gov](http://www.dcf.la.gov) or call 1-888-LAHELP-U (1-888-524-3578).