

Comparing CalFresh Participation Indicators

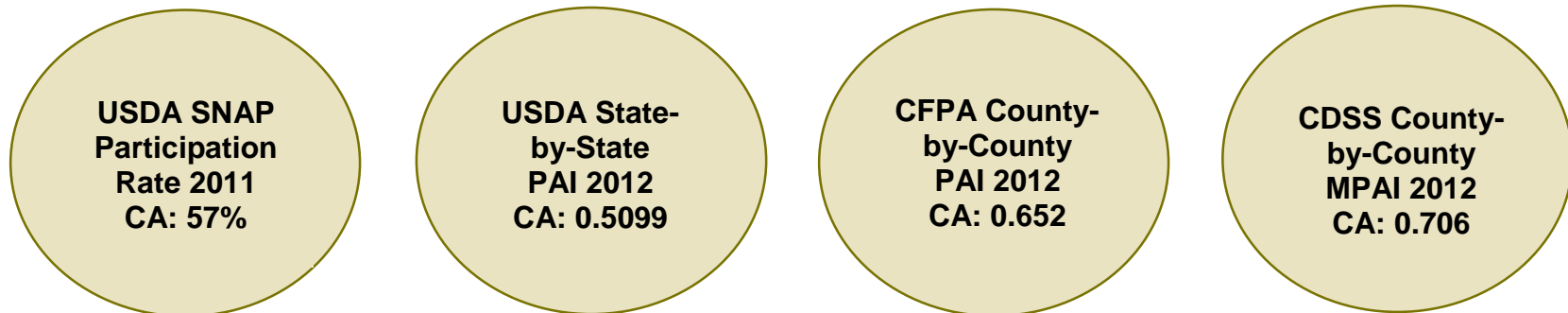
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Measuring CalFresh participation and utilization among likely income eligible individuals in a timely and effective manner can be challenging. This is particularly true at the county level where relatively small populations make it difficult to establish reliable estimates. In addition, time delays in the availability of data limit our ability to measure current eligibility and participation. With that said, several CalFresh participation indicators exist. No one indicator is a definitive measure of real-time participation and each has its own set of limitations. Nonetheless, when considered together, these participation indicators help paint a picture of CalFresh performance.

Four indicators of CalFresh participation are available: (1) USDA's SNAP participation rate, (2) USDA's Program Access Index, (3) CFPA's Program Access Index, and (4) CDSS' Modified Program Access Index. This document presents an overview comparison of the methodology used to calculate each participation indicator (back page).

CalFresh Participation Indicators: Statewide

Note: The CFPA PAI and CDSS MPAI are available county-by-county.



Methodology

USDA Participation

An estimate of SNAP participation among eligible individuals in each state

Most Recent:
2011

USDA Program Access Index

An index of the average monthly SNAP participants over the course of a calendar year to the number of people with income below 125% FPL in each state. Takes into account low-income SSI recipients in California.

Most Recent:
2012

CFPA Program Access Index

An index of the monthly CalFresh participants over the course of a calendar year to the number of individuals with income below 125% FPL in each county. Takes into account all SSI recipients in each county.

Most Recent:
2012

CDSS Modified Program Access Index

An index of the number of CalFresh participants in July of each year to the number of individuals with income below 125% FPL in each county. Takes into account low-income SSI recipients and the estimated number of low-income, undocumented immigrants in each county

Most Recent:
2012

Numerator & Denominator

USDA Participation

(SNAP participants)

(Likely SNAP eligible Individuals) – (SSI recipients <125% FPL)

USDA Program Access Index

(SNAP participants) – (Disaster SNAP participants)

(Individuals with income <125% FPL) – (FDPIR recipients) – (SSI recipients with income <125% FPL)

CFPA Program Access Index

(CalFresh participants) – (Disaster CalFresh participants)

(Individuals with income <125% FPL) – (FDPIR recipients) – (SSI recipients)

CDSS Modified Program Access Index

(CalFresh participants (July 20XX)) – (Disaster CalFresh participants)

(Individuals with income <125% FPL) – (FDPIR recipients) – (Estimated undocumented immigrant individuals with income <125% FPL) – (SSI recipients with income <125% FPL)