



# FAST facts

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## INCLUDES MOST RECENT DATA AVAILABLE AS OF MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2017

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### FOOD BANK FOR NEW YORK CITY

*Source:* Food Bank for New York City, Fiscal Year 2016.

- Food Bank For New York City's food distribution program provides approximately **62.5 million free meals** per year for New Yorkers in need.
- Since 1983, Food Bank For New York City has provided more than **1 billion meals** to New Yorkers in need.
- Food Bank For New York City's income support services, including food stamps (also known as SNAP) and free tax assistance, put more than **\$150 million** each year into the pockets of low-income New Yorkers.
- Food Bank For New York City's nutrition education programs and services empower more than **45,000 children, teens and adults** to sustain a healthy diet on a low budget.
- A **donation of \$1** to Food Bank For New York City helps provide **5 meals**.
- Food Bank For New York City distributes more than **5.1 million kosher meals** per year.

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### EMERGENCY FOOD

*Source:* Hunger's New Normal: Redefining Emergency in Post-Recession New York City. Food Bank For New York City. 2012.

- An estimated **1.4 million** New York City **residents** rely on emergency food programs, including soup kitchens and food pantries, each year.
- Approximately **339,000** New York City **children**, or approximately one out of every five (19 percent), rely on soup kitchens and food pantries.
- Approximately **604,770** New York City adult **women**, or approximately one out of every six (17 percent), rely on soup kitchens and food pantries.
- Approximately **204,000** New York City **seniors**, or approximately one out of every five (20 percent), rely on soup kitchens and food pantries.
- Approximately **70,000** New York City **veterans**, or approximately three out of every ten (30 percent), rely on soup kitchens and food pantries.

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### FOOD INSECURITY

*Sources:*  
US: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). 2016.

**Food security means access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life.**

#### US

- Nearly **48.1 million** United States residents, or **15.4 percent**, are food insecure.

#### NYS

- Over **2.6 million** New York State residents, or **13.5 percent**, are food insecure.

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(Note that this data is released one year after it is collected.)

NYS & NYC: Map the Meals Gap (2014). Feeding America. 2016.

(Note that this data is released two years after it is collected.)

- New York State's food insecurity rate is **12 percent** lower than the national rate.

### NYC

- More than **1.3 million** New York City residents, or **16.4 percent**, are food insecure.
- New York City residents make up over **half (51 percent)** of all food insecure people living in New York State.
- New York City's food insecurity rate is **6 percent** higher than the national rate, and **21.5 percent** higher than the New York State rate.

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## MEAL GAP

Source: Map the Meals Gap (2014). Feeding America. 2016.

(Note that this data is released two years after it is collected.)

**The Meal Gap represents the meals missing from the homes of those struggling to put food on the table.**

### US

- The meal gap for the United States is **8.49 billion**; that is, US residents who experience food insecurity fall short of an adequate diet by 8.49 billion meals in a single year.

### NYS

- The meal gap for New York State is approximately **472 million** (471,801,700); that is, New York State residents who experience food insecurity fall short of an adequate diet by 472 million meals in a single year.

### NYC

- The meal gap for New York City is nearly **242 million** (241,956,200); that is, New York City residents who experience food insecurity fall short of an adequate diet by 242 million meals in a single year. New York City's meal gap makes up over half of New York State's meal gap.

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## AVERAGE COST PER MEAL

Source: Map the Meals Gap (2014). Feeding America. 2016.

(Note that this data is released two years after it is collected.)

### US

- The average cost per meal in the United States is **\$ 2.89**.

### NYS

- The average cost per meal in New York State is **\$2.97**, 2.8 percent higher than the national average.

### NYC

- The average cost per meal in New York City is **\$3.38**, 17 percent higher than the national average, and 14 percent higher than the New York State average.

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## POVERTY

Source: 2015 American Community Survey.

U.S. Census Bureau. 2016.

**The federal poverty level is \$20,160 annually for a household of three.**

### US

- **13.5 percent**, or approximately **43.1 million** United States residents, are living below the federal poverty level.

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(Note that this data is released one year after it is collected.)

## NYS

- **15.4 percent**, or nearly **3 million** New York State residents, are living below the federal poverty level. New York State's poverty rate is 14.1 percent above the national poverty rate.

## NYC

- **20 percent**, or approximately **1.68 million** New York City residents, are living below the federal poverty level. New York City's poverty rate is approximately 48 percent above the federal poverty rate, and nearly 30 percent above the New York State poverty rate.
- New York City residents make up more than half (nearly 57 percent) of all New Yorkers in poverty.

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## UNEMPLOYMENT

Source: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

(Note that this data is released one or two months after it is collected.)

## US

- As of March 2017, the national unemployment rate is **4.5 percent**. Approximately 7.2 million (7,202,000) people are currently unemployed.

## NYS

- As of March 2017, the unemployment rate in New York State is **4.3 percent**. Approximately 409,073 New York State residents are currently unemployed.

## NYC

- As of March 2017, the unemployment rate in New York City is **4.1 percent**. Approximately 173,303 New York City residents are currently unemployed.

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## SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

Sources:  
US: USDA.  
NYS: Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA).  
NYC: Human Resources Administration (HRA).  
(Note that this data is released 2-4 months after it is collected.)

## US

- As of January 2017, approximately **42.7 million** (42,715,121) United States residents participate in SNAP.
- The average monthly household SNAP benefit amount in the United States is **\$248.94**.

## NYS

- As of February 2017, nearly **3 million** (2,922,436) New York State residents participate in SNAP.
- The average monthly household SNAP benefit amount in New York State is **\$247.96**.

## NYC

- As of February 2017, nearly **1.7 million** (1,678,623) New York City residents participate in SNAP.
  - New York City residents make up more than half (57 percent) of all New Yorkers participating in SNAP.
  - The average monthly household SNAP benefit amount in New York City is **\$258.47**.
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## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (GROCERIES)

*Source:* Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). March 2017

*(Note that this data is released two or three months after it is collected.)*

### US

- From March 2016 to March 2017, the cost of groceries decreased by **0.9 percent**.
- Since the start of the Great Recession (December 2007), the cost of groceries in United States has increased by approximately **16.1 percent**.
- Since SNAP benefits were reduced in November 2013, the cost of groceries in the United States has increased by approximately **2.0 percent**.

### New York Metro Statistical Area

- From March 2016 to March 2017, the cost of groceries has not changed significantly.
  - Since the start of the Great Recession (December 2007), the cost of groceries in the New York Metropolitan area has increased by approximately **21.3 percent**.
  - Since SNAP benefits were reduced in November 2013, the cost of groceries in the New York Metropolitan area has increased by approximately **7.3 percent**.
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## POPULATION

*Source:* 2015 American Community Survey. U.S. Census Bureau. 2016.

*(Note that this data is released one year after it is collected.)*

### US

- As of 2015, more than **321.4 million (321,418,821)** people are living in the U.S.

### NYS

- As of 2015, approximately **19.8 million (19,795,791)** people are living in New York State.

### NYC

- As of 2015, more than **8.5 million (8,550,405)** people are living in New York City.
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