



In an average month in 2008, about 351,000 people living in 164,000 households participated in the Food Supplement Program (FSP) in Maryland<sup>1</sup>. Additionally, in an average month, a total of \$34,981,000 in benefits was received.

FSP households are a diverse group. Because benefits are available to most low-income households with few resources, regardless of age, disability status, or family structure, recipients represent a broad cross-section of Maryland's poor. This Maryland summary, based on the USDA report, *Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2008*, provides information about the demographic and economic circumstances of FSP households in fiscal year 2008.

### Findings: General Characteristics

**The average FSP household received a monthly benefit of \$213 in Maryland.** Nationally, the average household received \$222 per month.

**Most FSP recipients in Maryland were children or elderly.** Almost half (45.3 percent) of individual recipients in Maryland were children and another 8.8 percent were age 60 or older. Nationally, nearly half (48.6 percent) were children and another 8.6 percent were 60 or older. In Maryland non-elderly adults accounted for 45.9 percent of FSP recipients, while nationally they accounted for 42.4 percent of all recipients. Of all FSP recipients in Maryland, 16.7 percent were preschool age (0-4 years) and 28.6 percent were school age (5-17 years). Nationally, 16.8 percent were preschool age and 31.8 percent were school-age.

<sup>1</sup> On October 1, 2008, the Food Stamp Program changed its name to the Food Supplement Program (FSP) in Maryland, and nationally to the Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP).

**A portion of FSP recipients in Maryland had jobs.** Almost 25 percent (24.6 percent) of FSP households in Maryland had earnings in 2008. Nationally, 29.2 percent of households had earnings in 2008 and 40 percent of all recipients lived in a household with earnings.

**The majority of FSP households in Maryland did not receive cash welfare benefits.** More than 9 percent (9.3 percent) of all Maryland FSP households received Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits and another 6.4 percent received State General Assistance (GA) benefits. Nationally, 10.6 percent of households received TANF and 5.1 percent received GA. Other sources of income for the elderly and disabled in Maryland: Supplemental Security Income (SSI), received by 25.4 percent and Social Security, received by 23.1 percent. Nationally, it was 26.3 percent receiving SSI, and 24.6 percent receiving Social Security.

**FSP households in Maryland had little income.** Only 14.3 percent had income above the poverty line, while 44.5 percent had incomes at, or below, half the poverty line in Maryland. Nationally, 13.2 percent had incomes above the poverty line, while 40.7 percent had incomes at or below half the poverty line. The average FSP household in Maryland had gross income of \$672 per month. Nationally, it was \$701.

**Most FSP households in Maryland were small.** Average FSP household size in Maryland was 2.1 persons, but varied by household composition. Nationally, the average was 2.2 persons.

**For more information and the full national report, visit the USDA website at:**  
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/ora/MENU/Published/SNAP/FILES/Participation/2008Characteristics.pdf>



# Maryland Hunger Solutions

*Ending hunger and promoting well-being*

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