Protect Our Kids: CalFresh and the Farm Bill Technical Appendix



This technical appendix serves as a methodological accompaniment to the release of California Food Policy Advocates' (CFPA) <u>congressional district fact sheets on children</u>, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—what California terms CalFresh—and the Farm Bill. This technical appendix is organized by the chronological order of the fact sheets.

- Number and share of households with children participating in CalFresh by congressional district as well as in California are drawn from U.S. Census Bureau's 2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates, "S2201: F00D STAMPS/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)."
- Cost estimate of \$1.52 per meal is drawn from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) analysis of Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) FY2017 SNAP program data. "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Monthly Data FY2017" available at https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/pd/34SNAPmonthly.pdf.
- Increase in number of children in poverty without CalFresh, by congressional district, is drawn from California Budget and Policy Center's (CBPC) analysis of 2013-15 California Poverty Measure (CPM) data produced by the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequity and the Public Policy Institute of California, using 2013-15 ACS data, available at http://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/calfresh-cuts-poverty-congressional-districts/.
- Share of children (under 18) in poverty by congressional district, as well as California poverty rate, are drawn from 2016 ACS 1-year estimates, "S1701: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months." Here, poverty is defined via the Federal Poverty Measure (FPM). The FPM, unlike the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) and the California Poverty Measure (CPM), fails to account for the singularly high cost of living in California, and may understate the scale of poverty in California congressional districts.
- Number of children at risk of hunger and share of children at risk of having not
 adequate access to food, by congressional district and in California are drawn from
 Feeding America analysis of 2001-2015 Current Population Survey on individuals in
 food insecure households; data from the 2015 ACS 1-year estimates on median
 household incomes, poverty rates, homeownership, and race and ethnic
 demographics; and 2015 data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics on unemployment
 rates. "Map the Meal Gap 2017: Child Food Insecurity in California by Congressional
 District in 2015" available at http://www.feedingamerica.org/research/map-the-meal-

gap/2015/MMG AllCounties CDs CFI 2015 1/CA AllCounties CDs CFI 2015.pd f?s src=WXXX1MTMG&s subsrc=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.feedingamerica.org%2 Fresearch%2Fmap-the-meal-gap%2Fchild-food-insecurity-executive-summary.html%3Freferrer%3Dhttp%3A%2F%2Fmap.feedingamerica.org%2F.

They do not directly measure food insecurity, as a validated food insecurity screener would. Nonetheless, they allow us to better understand the state of hardship in both congressional districts and statewide.

- Number and share of CalFresh-participating families with one or more workers is drawn from 2016 ACS 1-year estimates, "B22007: Receipt of Food Stamps/SNAP in the Past 12 Months by Family Type by Number of Workers in Family in the Past 12 Months."
- Approximately half of California parents with children are spending between 10-30% on child care or preschool programs. This is corroborated by an original EdSource survey conducted by Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3). "Parent Experiences with Child Care and Preschool Costs in California: An EdSource survey of California Parents" available at https://edsource.org/2017/parent-experiences-with-child-care-and-preschool-costs-in-california-an-edsource-survey-of-california-parents/577258.
- Many congressional district renters struggling with severe housing burden (i.e. more than half of income spent on housing). This is corroborated by the National Low-Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) 2017 analysis of tabulations of 2009-2013 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data. "Out of Reach 2017: The High Cost of Housing" available at http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/oor/OOR_2017.pdf.