

Food Assistance Programs

Malnutrition in the US

Food insecurity:

- O 11% of U.S. households
- O In households below U.S. poverty level , 36% experience food insecurity
- O Many living in food insecure homes
 - High rates of obesity
 - Why?

Obesity and Food Insecurity

Local Solutions to Food Insecurity

Snap Program

WIC program

School lunch and breakfast program

The Emergency Food Assistance Program

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- Also known as Food Stamp Program
- Largest US food assistance program

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- Participants receive benefits to purchase food in authorized retail food stores
- Benefits via Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card
 - Similar to ATM card
- Benefits inversely related to income
- Restrictions:

SNAP - History

- 1939 – Distributed orange and blue stamps
 - Orange for any food
 - Blue for USDA surplus foods
- 1961 – Eliminated stamps for surplus foods
- 1964 – Food Stamp Act
 - Each state developed eligibility standards
 - All food except alcohol and imported foods allowed
 - Discrimination on basis of race, religion, national origin and political beliefs prohibited
- 1980's

- 1996

- 2000's

SNAP – Eligibility Criteria

- Household
- Monthly gross income test
- Assets
- Maximum SNAP Allowance

SNAP - Eligibility

- Many eligible do not participate