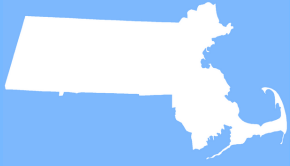
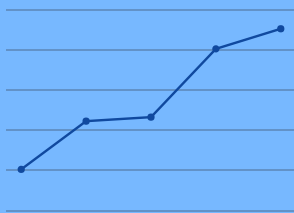


SNAP Matters for Massachusetts



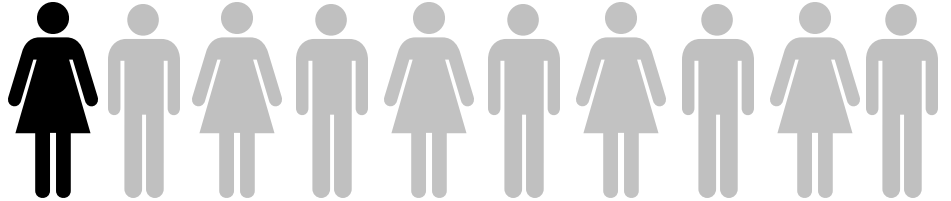
Older Adults (60+) in Massachusetts:

- 21% (1.4 million) of the state population.
- 47% of older adults age 65+ (290,000) live alone.
- 20% of grandparents 65+ living with grandchildren (20,000) are financially responsible for their grandchildren's basic needs.
- 9% (120,000) live below the federal poverty level (\$1,011/month for an individual).



Between 2004 and 2024, the population aged 65+ is expected to increase by 48.6%.

SNAP Helps Older Adults in Massachusetts



One in ten older adults in MA age 60+ receives SNAP, and 1 in 2 SNAP households includes an older adult.

151,685

Over 150,000 older adults in MA currently receive SNAP.

\$137 /mo

The average SNAP benefit for a household with an older adult in Massachusetts is \$137 per month, or \$1.52 per meal.



\$2,100 /yr

According to a five year longitudinal study by Johns Hopkins University, participation in SNAP generates an average of \$2,100 in annual health care savings for older adults, and reduces the likelihood of admission to a nursing home by 23%.

SNAP is the federally funded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as Food Stamps, which is the nation's first line of defense against hunger.

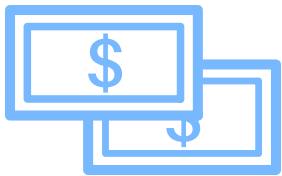
2nd to Last

MA ranks just above Mississippi

According to the Elder Economic Security Index from UMass Boston's Gerontology Institute, Massachusetts is **49th in the country** - second only to Mississippi - in the ability of older adults to meet basic living expenses such as food, housing, transportation, and health care.

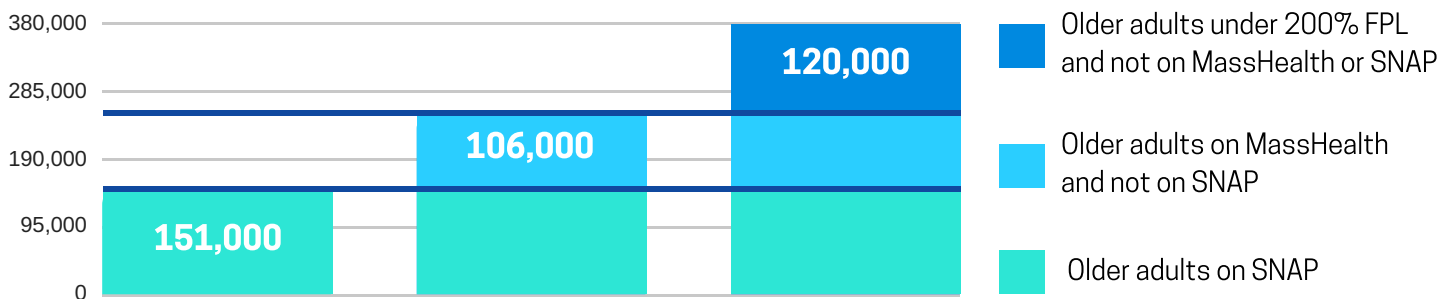


Claiming medical expenses can significantly boost monthly SNAP benefits for older adults and individuals with disabilities. However, only **14 percent** of individuals who qualify for this deduction claim out-of-pocket medical expenses.



SNAP makes good fiscal sense. According to the USDA Economic Research Service every **\$1 spent in SNAP generates \$1.79** in local economic activity.

HOWEVER, Massachusetts still faces a significant “SNAP gap” of older adults eligible for but missing out on SNAP nutrition benefits.



In 2016, the state identified a “SNAP gap” of over 600,000 low-income Massachusetts residents who receive MassHealth (Medicaid) but not SNAP, and are likely eligible for the program. This gap **includes 106,000 low-income older adults**. In addition, another possible **120,000 low-income older adults** under 200% of the Federal Poverty Level are not MassHealth eligible but likely qualify for SNAP.

Data above is from U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Census Bureau, Mass Department of Transitional Assistance, Mass Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Mass Executive Office of Elder Affairs, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Food Research Action Center, UMass Boston Gerontology Institute, and the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Infographic produced by MLRI AmeriCorps Legal Advocate, Jan 2018.

