

# CalFresh Participation Rates in California

Estimating program participation using U.S. Census data

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The Program Access Index (PAI) is one of the measures the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) uses to reward States for high performance in the administration of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Below is the PAI equation from [here](#)

$$\text{PAI} = \frac{a - c}{b - d - e} \quad (1)$$

where (1)  $a$  is CalFresh Participants,  $b$  is Individuals with Income <125% of poverty,  $c$  is Disaster CalFresh Program Participants,  $d$  is Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), and  $e$  is Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients with Income < 125% of poverty.

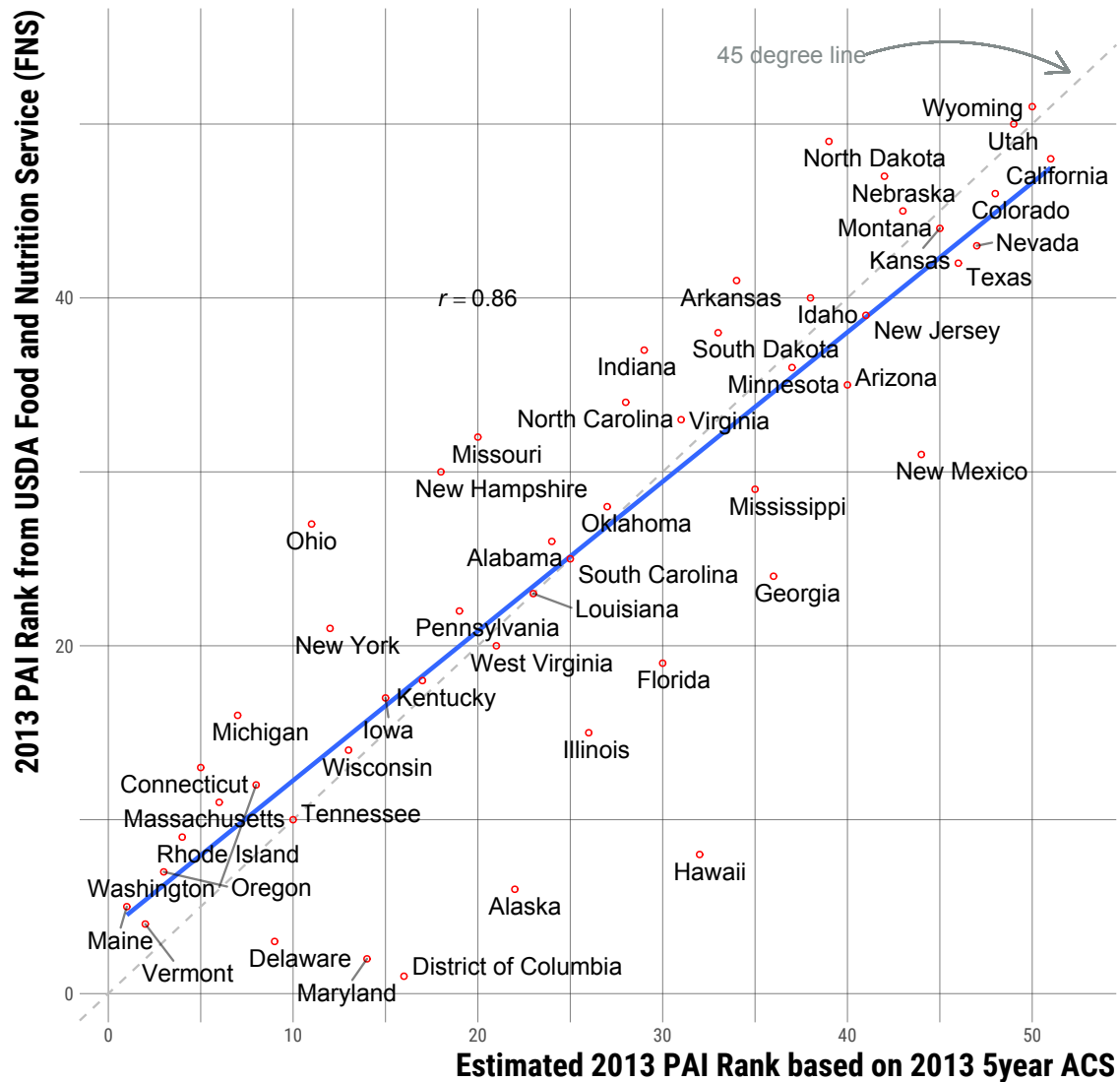
In this analysis the PAI formula (2) was modified where  $a$  CalFresh Participants is divided over  $b$  Individuals with Income <125% of poverty:

$$\text{Modified PAI} = \frac{a}{b} \quad (2)$$

The PAI formula was modified because variables for Disaster CalFresh Program Participants, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients with Income < 125% of poverty were not available.

## Food Stamps participation rank by State

Program Access Index for 2013 (PAI) Actual vs Estimated



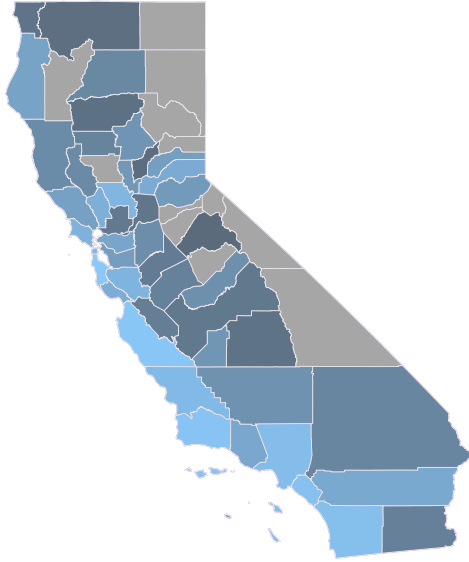
Source: PAI for 2013 from <https://www.cwda.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/pai2013.pdf>  
U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 5-Year American Community Survey

The Pearson correlation coefficient,  $r$ , are in the range from -1 to +1, where +1 indicates the strongest possible agreement and -1 the strongest possible disagreement.

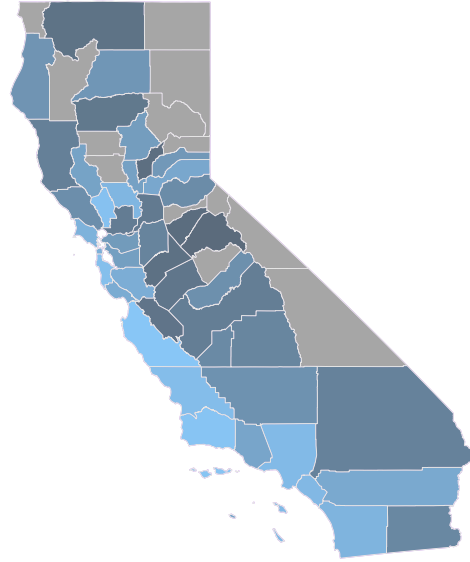
## Estimated Food Stamps participation rank by County

For years 2013 and 2016

13\_5YR



16\_5YR



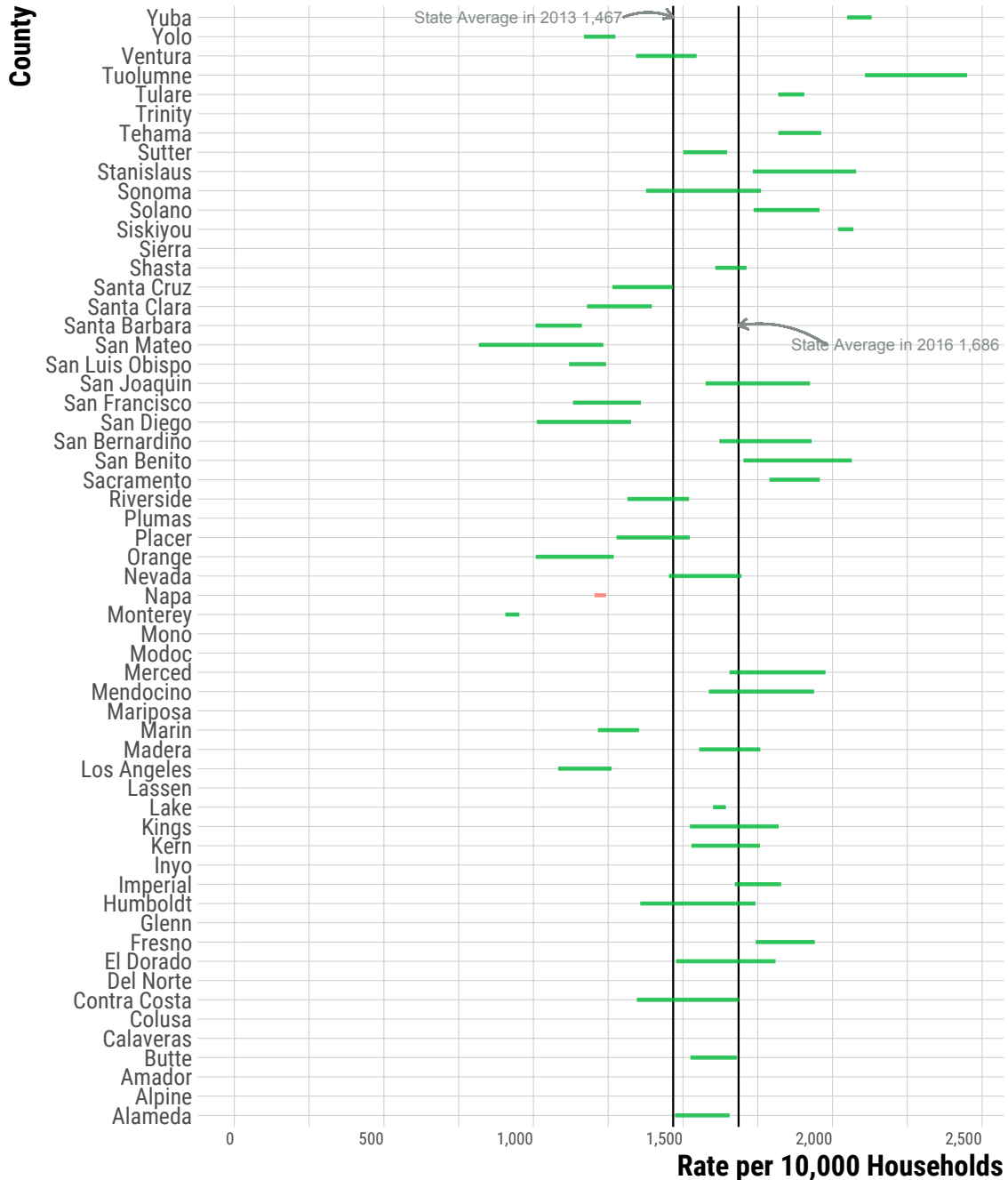
County Rank  
lighter color is worse

Rank	Color
10	Dark Blue
20	Medium Blue
30	Light Blue
40	Very Light Blue

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 and 2012-2016 5-Year American Community Survey  
Note: some counties have no data available

# Estimated Food Stamps participation rate by County

For years 2013 and 2016



Change — Decreased — Increased — Other

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 and 2012-2016 5-Year American Community Survey  
Note: some counties have no data available

# **CalFresh Open cases by top counties** and month

