CalFresh Participation Rates in California

Estimating program participation using U.S. Census data

Moises Evangelista

Prepared August 02, 2018

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

$$\text{PAI} = \frac{a - c}{b - d - e} \tag{1}$$

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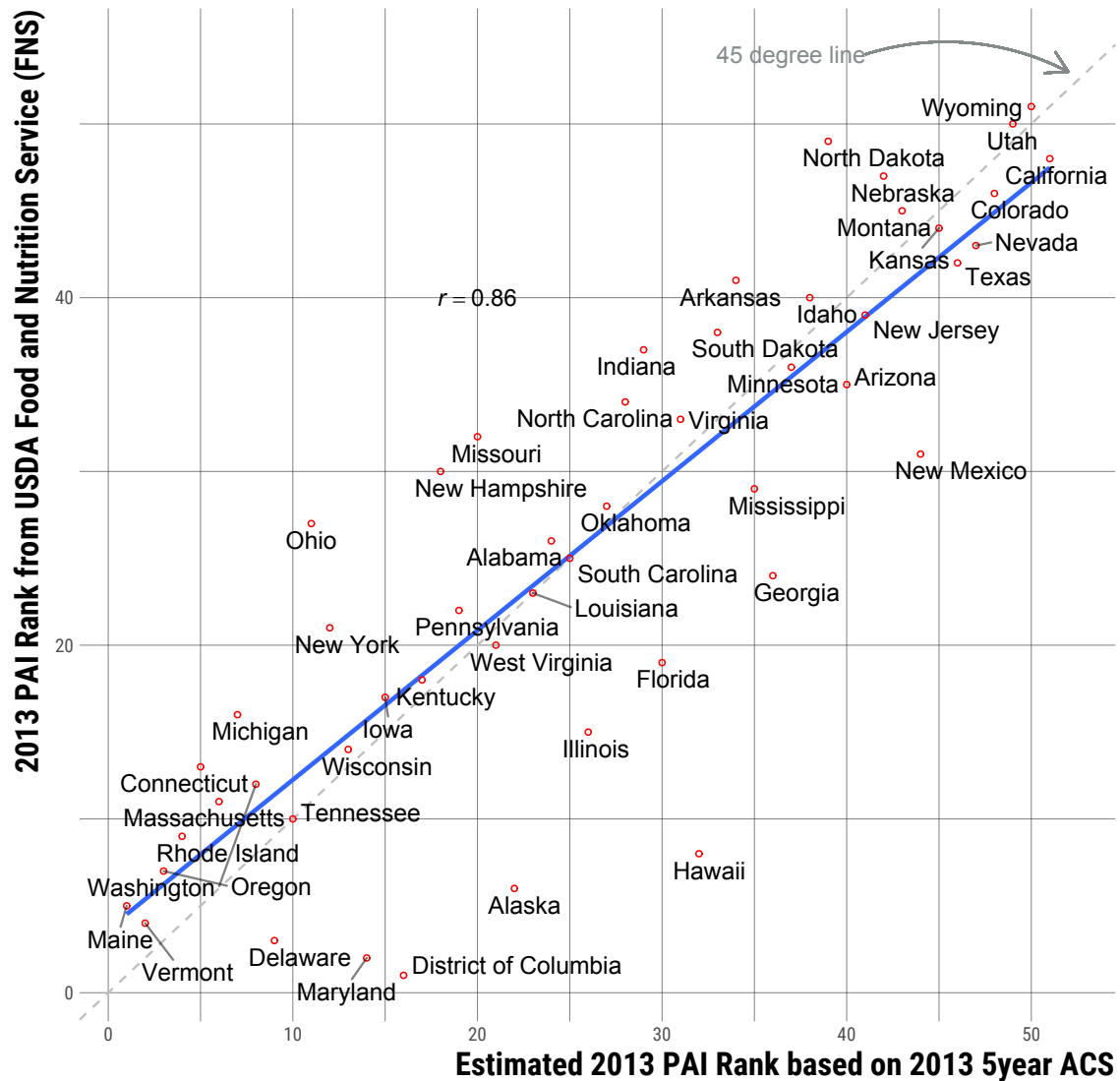
In this analysis the PAI formula (2) was modified where a CalFresh Participants is divided over b Individuals with Income <125% of poverty:

$$\text{Modified PAI} = \frac{a}{b} \tag{2}$$

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

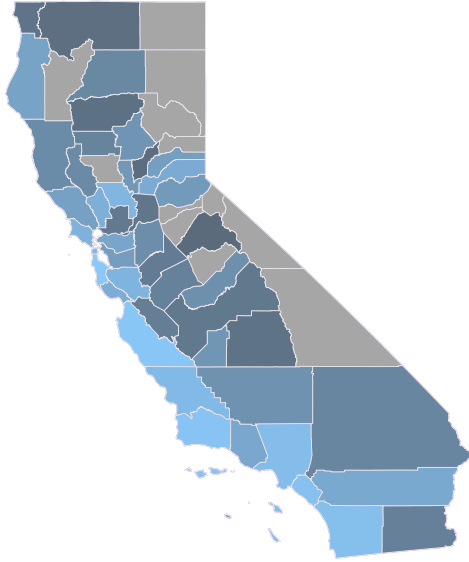Program Access Index for 2013 (PAI) Actual vs Estimated

2013 PAI Rank from USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

45 degree line

$r = 0.86$

Wyoming
Utah
North Dakota
California
Nebraska
Colorado
Montana
Nevada
Kansas
Texas
Arkansas
Idaho
New Jersey
South Dakota
Minnesota
Arizona
Indiana
North Carolina
Virginia
New Mexico
Missouri
New Hampshire
Mississippi
Oklahoma
Ohio
Alabama
South Carolina
Louisiana
Georgia
Pennsylvania
New York
West Virginia
Florida
Kentucky
Iowa
Michigan
Illinois
Wisconsin
Connecticut
Massachusetts
Tennessee
Rhode Island
Hawaii
Washington
Oregon
Maine
Alaska
Vermont
Delaware
District of Columbia
Maryland

40

20

0

0   10   20   30   40   50

Estimated 2013 PAI Rank based on 2013 5year ACS

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

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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.
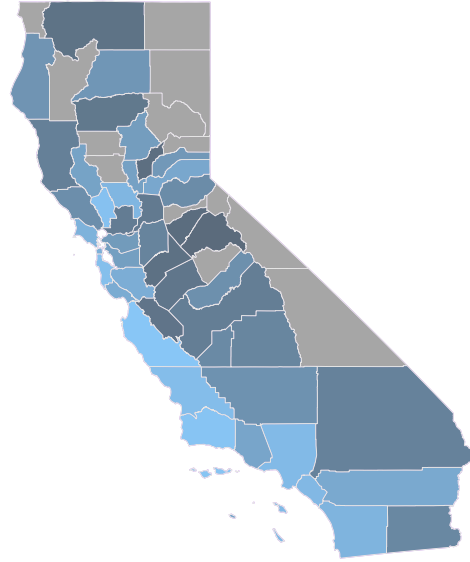
Estimated Food Stamps participation rank by County
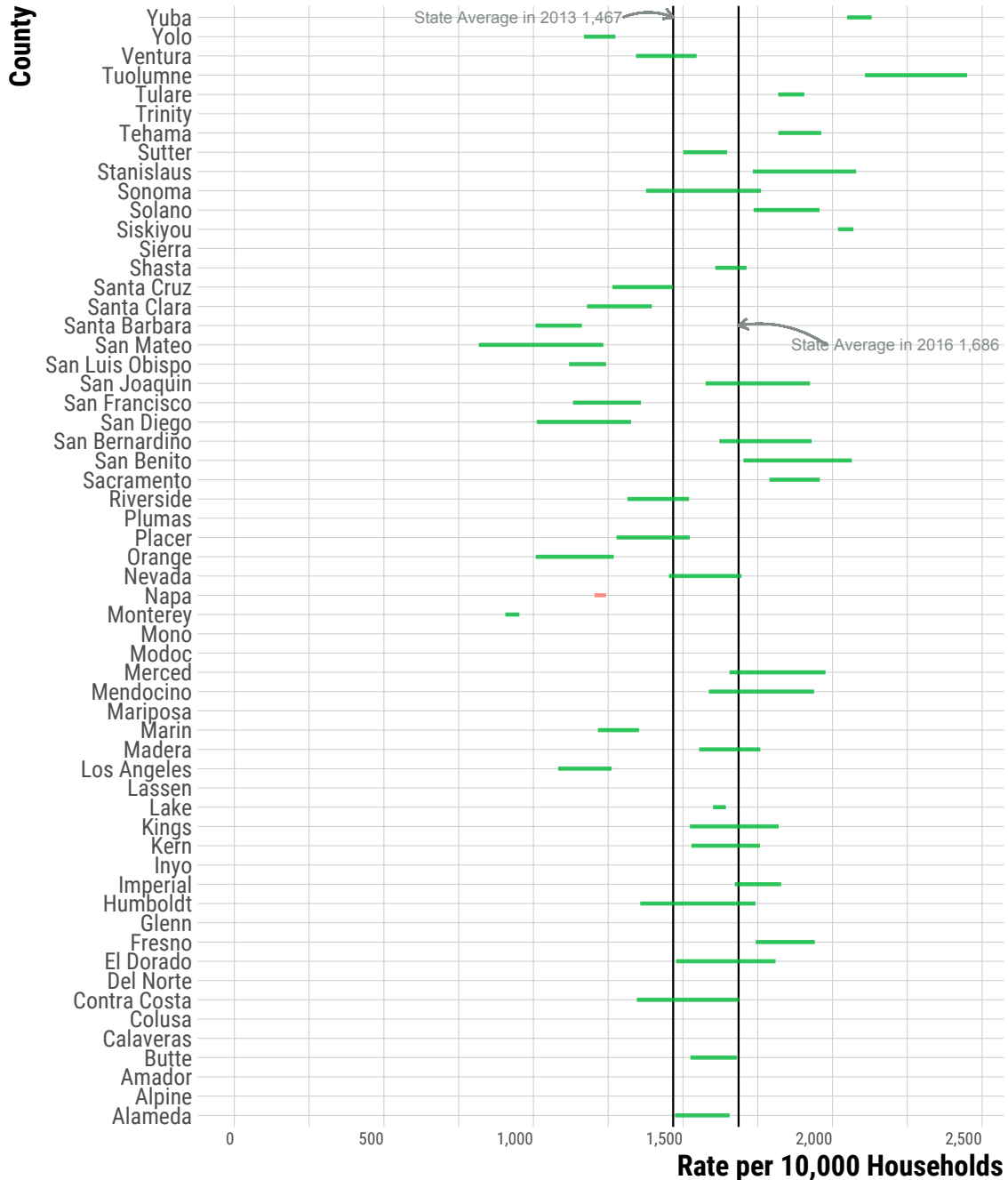
For years 2013 and 2016

13_5YR

16_5YR

County Rank
lighter color is worse   10   20   30   40

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

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