



FAST facts

OLDER AMERICANS: HUNGER & POVERTY FACTS

INCLUDES MOST RECENT DATA AVAILABLE AS OF JANUARY 15th 2025

FOOD INSECURITY

Source (US):

United States
Department of
Agriculture (USDA).
2023.
Food Security
Status of U.S.
Households in
2024.

Source (US):

2024 United Health
Foundation.
*America's Health
Rankings*. 2024
Senior Report.

Food security means access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life.

U.S.

- **11 percent, or more than 1.8 million (1,822,000)** United States seniors (65 and older) living alone were food insecure during 2023. This is **13 percent lower** than the national food insecurity rate of 13.5 percent.

NYS

- In its latest report, the [United Health Foundation reported](#) an estimated **11.8 percent** of adults ages 60 and older in New York State to be food insecure.

POVERTY

Source: 2023

American
Community Survey.
U.S. Census
Bureau. 2024.

The U.S. poverty threshold is \$21,960 annually for a household of three.

U.S.

- **11.3 percent**, or approximately **6.5 million (6,523,104)** United States senior residents (65 and older) are considered living below the federal poverty level. The national poverty rate for senior residents (65 and older) is **10 percent lower** than the national poverty rate of 12.5 percent.

NYS

- **14.3 percent**, or approximately **505 thousand (505,368)** New York State senior residents (65 and older) are considered living below the federal poverty level. New York State's poverty rate for senior residents (65 and older) is **comparable to the** New York State's overall poverty rate of 14.2 percent.

NYC

- **21.5 percent**, or more than **300 thousand (300,150)** New York City senior residents (65 and older) are considered living below the federal poverty level. New York City's poverty rate for senior residents (65 and older) is **18.1 percent higher** than New York City's overall poverty rate of 18.2 percent.

BRONX

- **29.7 percent**, or more than **58 thousand (58,693)** Bronx senior residents (65 and older) are considered living below the federal poverty level. Bronx' poverty rate for senior residents (65 and older) is **6.5 percent lower** than Bronx' overall poverty rate of 27.9 percent.

BROOKLYN

- **23 percent**, or more than **93 thousand (93,378)** Brooklyn senior residents (65 and older) are considered living below the federal poverty level. Brooklyn's poverty rate for senior residents (65 and older) is **21 percent higher** than Brooklyn's overall poverty rate of 19 percent.

MANHATTAN

- **22 percent**, or nearly **65 thousand (64,838)** Manhattan senior residents (65 and older) are considered living below the federal poverty level. Manhattan's poverty rate for senior residents (65 and older) is **33 percent higher** than Manhattan's overall poverty rate of 16.5 percent.

QUEENS

- **17.2 percent**, or nearly **71 thousand (70,612)** Queens senior residents (65 and older) are considered living below the federal poverty level. Queens' poverty rate for senior residents (65 and older) is **25.6 percent higher** than Queens' overall poverty rate of 13.70 percent.

STATEN ISLAND

- **14.8 percent**, or nearly **13 thousand (12,629)** Staten Island senior residents (65 and older) are considered living below the federal poverty level. Staten Island's poverty rate for senior residents (65 and older) is **12 percent higher** than Staten Island's overall poverty rate of 13.20 percent.
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SUPPLEMENTAL
NUTRITION
ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM
(SNAP)

Source: 2023
American
Community Survey.
U.S. Census Bureau.
2024.

U.S.

- **41.30 percent**, or more than **6.6 million (6,623,856)** households in the United States with one or more senior in the household (60 and older) rely on SNAP.

NYS

- **49.90 percent**, or more than **632 thousand (632,129)** households in New York State with one or more seniors in the household (60 and older) rely on SNAP.

NYC

- **53.3 percent**, or more than **396 thousand (396,847)** households in New York City with one or more seniors in the household (60 and older) rely on SNAP.

BRONX

- **44.1 percent**, or more than **93 thousand (93,389)** households in the Bronx with one or more seniors in the household (60 and older) rely on SNAP.

BROOKLYN

- **54.5 percent**, or more than **130 thousand (130,104)** households in Brooklyn with one or more seniors in the household (60 and older) rely on SNAP.

MANHATTAN

- **60.6 percent**, or nearly **71 thousand (70,888)** households in Manhattan with one or more seniors in the household (60 and older) rely on SNAP.

QUEENS

- **59.0 percent**, or nearly **90 thousand (90,086)** households in Queens with one or more seniors in the household (60 and older) rely on SNAP.

STATEN ISLAND

- **51.1 percent**, or more than **12 thousand (12,380)** households in Staten Island with one or more senior in the household (60 and older) rely on SNAP.

POPULATION

U.S.

Source: 2020
American
Community Survey.
U.S. Census
Bureau. 2022.

- **Nearly 58 million (57,891,437)** seniors (65 and older) are living in the U.S., or 18 percent of the US population.

(Note that this data is released one year after it is collected.)

NYS

- **More than 3.5 million (3,538,997)** seniors (65 and older) are living in New York State, or nearly 19 percent of New York State residents.

NYC

- **Nearly 1.4 million (1,394,931)** seniors (65 and older) are living in New York City, or 17 percent of New York City residents.

BRONX

- **More than 197 thousand (197,398)** seniors (65 and older) are living in the Bronx, or 15 percent of Bronx residents.

BROOKLYN

- **More than 406 thousand (406,280)** seniors (65 and older) are living in Brooklyn, or 16 percent of Brooklyn residents.

MANHATTAN

- **Nearly 295 thousand (294,665)** seniors (65 and older) are living in Manhattan, or 19 percent of Manhattan residents.

QUEENS

- **More than 411.5 thousand (411,525)** seniors (65 and older) are living in Queens, or 19 percent of Queens residents.

STATEN ISLAND

- **More than 85 thousand (85,063)** seniors (65 and older) are living in Staten Island, or 18 percent of Staten Island residents.

HOMELESS IN NYC

Source: NYC. Department of Homeless Services. DHS Data Dashboard. FY2024.

NYC

- Last year, **2,022 seniors** (65 and older) in New York City were in homeless shelters. This is an increase of **18 percent** when compared to the previous year (1,715 seniors).