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More than 6.5 million Americans who receive Food Stamps have no cash income

The number of the poorest Americans continues to grow at an alarming rate, according to a new report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

According to the report, "[Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2011](#)," there were 6.5 million Americans who received Food Stamps but had no other cash income in 2011. This is a significant increase from 2010, when 5.8 million Americans were receiving Food Stamps but had no cash income. In 2009, 4.5 million Americans were receiving Food Stamps but had no cash income.

The report shows that 20 percent of all households and 14.8 percent of all recipients who receive Food Stamps have no cash income.

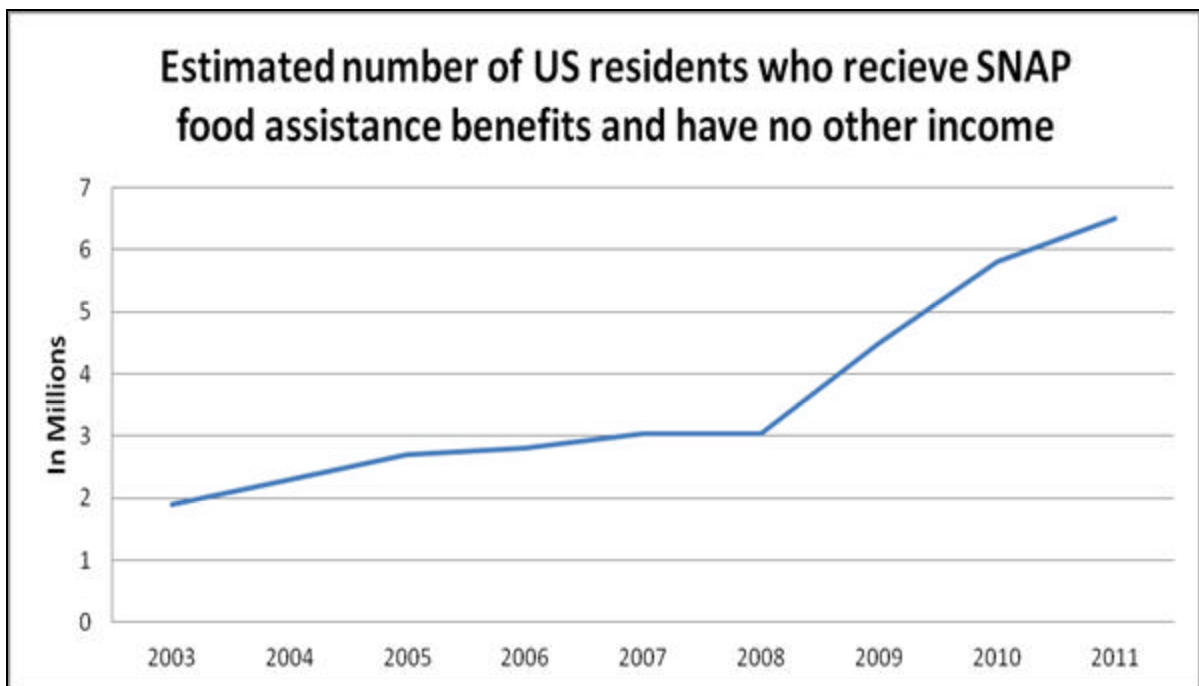
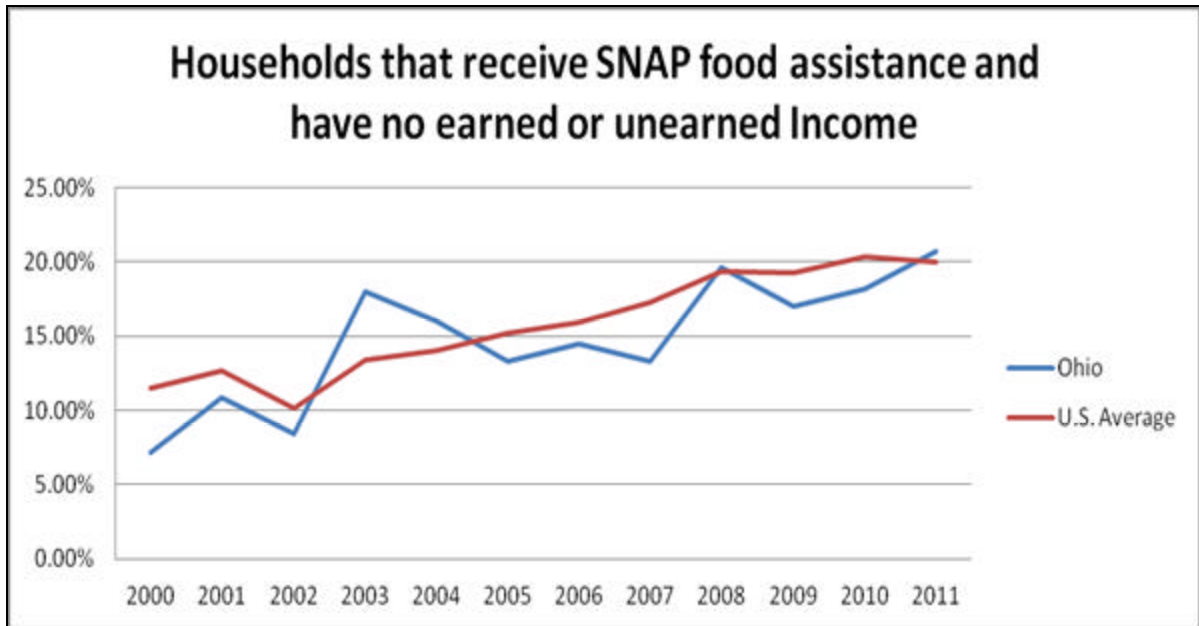
In Ohio, an estimated 259,945 Food Stamps recipients have no cash income. This is an increase from the estimated 227,757 Ohio residents in fiscal year 2010. The statewide percentage of households who receive Food Stamps and have no other income increased from 18.7 percent in 2010 to 20.7 percent in 2011.

"There is no greater indication of the failure of our safety net programs than the tragic numbers of families and individuals trying to survive on no cash income" Athens County Job and Family Services Director Jack Frech said. "These families and individuals struggle every day just trying to survive. This makes paying for housing, transportation, personal hygiene products and other basic necessities almost impossible."

If all of the U.S. residents who receive Food Stamps but have no cash income were gathered in one place, they would constitute a state with a population about as large as Massachusetts. If all of the Ohio residents who receive Food Stamps and have zero gross income were gathered in one place, they would make up the fifth-largest city in the state.

Despite these huge numbers of people, there is no sense of urgency, or even an acknowledgement about this crisis by our elected officials. It is a crisis, though, and it is getting worse. We call upon our President, Governor and our federal and state representatives to take immediate action to address this problem. For more information, log onto <http://athensjfs.blogspot.com>.

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Households that receive SNAP food assistance benefits but do not have any earned or unearned income

	Ohio	U.S. Average
2000	7.17%	11.50%
2001	10.87%	12.66%
2002	8.40%	10.10%
2003	17.98%	13.40%
2004	15.98%	14.04%
2005	13.29%	15.16%
2006	14.48%	15.93%
2007	13.30%	17.30%
2008	19.63%	19.34%
2009	17.04%	19.25%
2010	18.22%	20.32%
2011	20.70%	20%

	Percent of all U.S. SNAP recipients with no cash income	Number of U.S. SNAP recipients with no cash income	Estimated number of Ohio SNAP recipients with no cash income
2003	9%	1.9 million	73,965
2004	9.90%	2.3 million	91,633
2005	11%	2.7 million	109,125
2006	11.10%	2.8 million	115,941
2007	11.80%	3.05 million	126,208
2008	12.90%	3.5 million	145,324
2009	13.70%	4.5 million	175,948
2010	14.60%	5.8 million	227,757
2011	14.80%	6.5 million	259,945