



FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Overview:

MetroWest has seen a significant increase in the use of food assistance programs since last year, with many communities seeing an increase of 50% or more. This report outlines statewide statistics as well as those of individual MetroWest towns. The upward trend is due to the lingering recession and easing of state requirements for applying to the program.

Food Stamp Program, statehealthfacts.org, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

- **Geography:** State
- **Year:** 2009-2010
- **Website:** www.statehealthfacts.org/profileind.jsp?cat=1&sub=7&rgn=23

Key Findings:

- **Massachusetts Persons Participating in the Food Stamp Program:**
 - May, 2009- 640,247 (US-34,409,488)
 - May, 2010-755,739 (US-40,801,392)
- **Massachusetts Average Monthly Participation:** 627,611 (US-33,722,293)
- **Massachusetts Average Monthly Food Stamp Benefits:** \$122.90 (US-\$124.45)

Caseload Information, DTA (Department of Transitional Assistance) Facts and Figures

- **Geography:** State
- **Year:** 2010
- **Website:**
www.mass.gov/?pageID=eohhs2modulechunk&L=4&LO=Home&L1=Government&L2=Departments+and+Divisions&L3=Department+of+Transitional+Assistance&sid=Eeohhs2&b=terminalcontent&f=dtar_finassist_factsfigures&csid=Eeohhs2

Key Findings:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Massachusetts
 - Cases as of May, 2010-411,991 (previous month-409,181); % change from last month-69%
 - *Note: In May, 2009, there were 343,027 cases.*
 - Recipients as of May, 2010-756,739 (previous month-751,393); % change from last month-71%

Food stamp usage spikes in region, Charlie Breitrose/Daily News staff, The MetroWest Daily News

- **Geography:** MetroWest
- **Year:** December 12, 2009
- **Website:**
www.metrowestdailynews.com/news/x962895916/Food-stamp-usage-spikes-in-region

Key Findings:

- Growing numbers of Massachusetts residents are turning to food stamps, with the state doing more to promote the program and make it easier to apply.

- The number of people using food stamps has gone up by 30 percent over the past year, and many communities in the MetroWest, Milford and Franklin areas have seen spikes of 50 percent or more.
- The largest increase was Weston, which jumped 152 percent, but the town has a relatively small number (58) of people receiving food stamps.
- In terms of the numbers of cases, the larger towns and cities had the biggest increase. Framingham had the most with 1,346 more this year, followed by Waltham (1,127), and Milford (814). Significant increases were also seen in Marlborough (785) and Newton (711).