

# Use of Food Assistance Varies Widely Across California Counties

## Percentage of People Receiving CalFresh Benefits

Just over 11 percent of all California residents were receiving CalFresh in 2013. But this figure does not express the significant differences among counties. In high-poverty counties like Fresno, Merced, and Tulare, more than 20 percent of residents eat with the help of CalFresh, while in relatively well-off counties such as San Mateo and Marin, only 4 percent of residents do. Low percentages may indicate that fewer people are eligible for food assistance in that county. However, an estimated 43 percent of those eligible for CalFresh statewide are not receiving it, suggesting that many counties – including those with low shares of residents enrolled – may be falling short on outreach and enrollment.

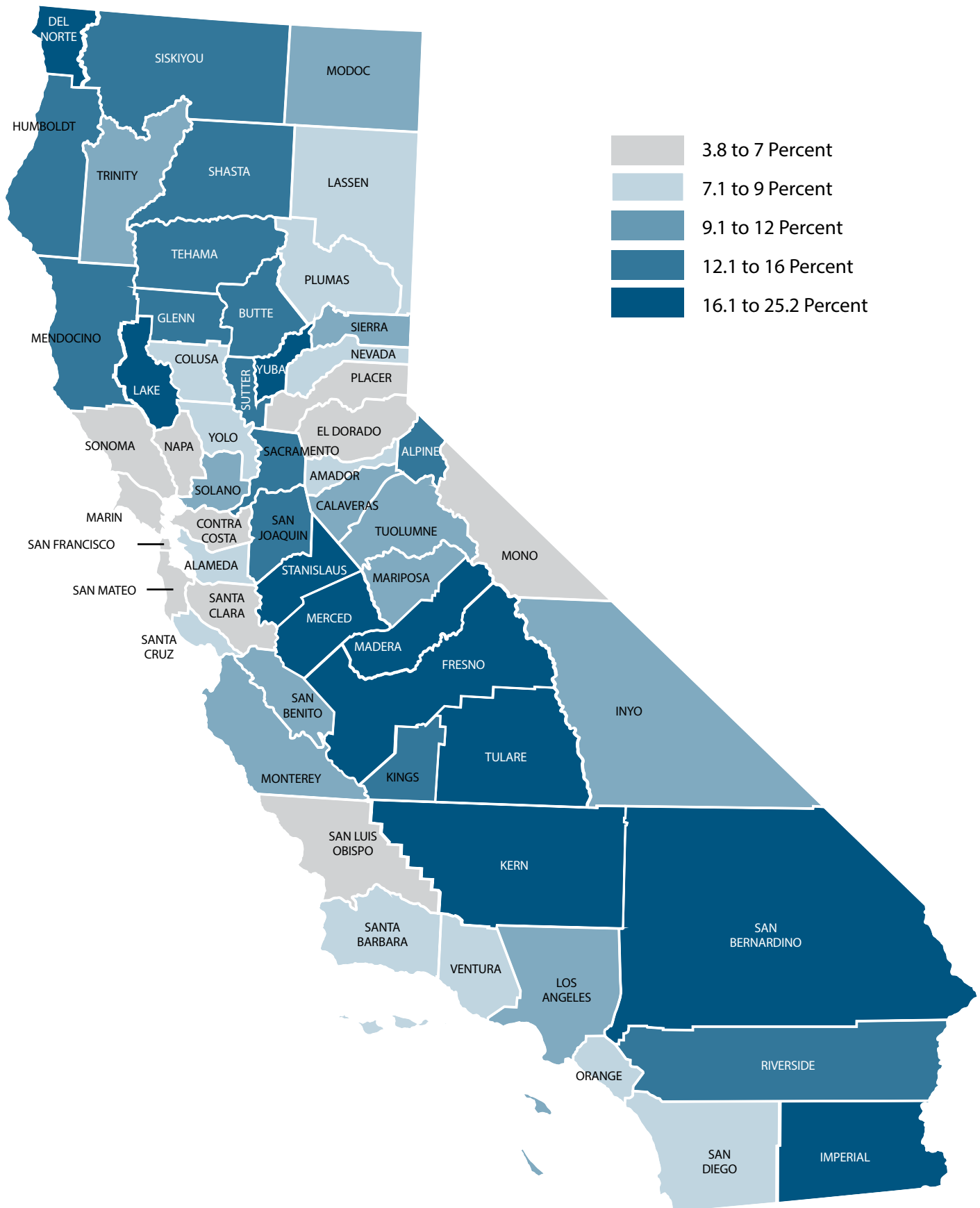
COUNTY	PERCENT SHARE OF TOTAL POPULATION		
	2011	2012	2013
Alameda	7.6%	8.1%	8.1%
Alpine	12.9%	13.0%	15.1%
Amador	7.8%	8.9%	8.9%
Butte	12.5%	13.2%	13.6%
Calaveras	10.5%	11.1%	11.1%
Colusa	8.0%	8.0%	7.8%
Contra Costa	6.1%	6.4%	6.3%
Del Norte	18.7%	19.2%	18.0%
El Dorado	6.2%	6.4%	6.5%
Fresno	22.0%	22.7%	22.7%
Glenn	12.1%	12.1%	12.5%
Humboldt	11.0%	11.5%	12.2%
Imperial	19.4%	20.2%	20.4%
Inyo	9.7%	10.5%	11.4%
Kern	15.9%	16.5%	16.7%
Kings	14.6%	15.2%	15.4%
Lake	15.2%	15.6%	16.2%
Lassen	8.7%	8.7%	8.8%
Los Angeles	10.4%	11.0%	11.5%
Madera	16.9%	17.6%	17.5%
Marin	3.5%	3.7%	3.8%
Mariposa	9.6%	10.1%	10.4%
Mendocino	14.9%	15.4%	14.9%
Merced	19.8%	20.6%	21.0%
Modoc	10.0%	10.5%	9.8%
Mono	4.3%	5.0%	4.6%
Monterey	9.5%	10.5%	10.8%
Napa	5.0%	5.3%	4.8%
Nevada	6.4%	7.2%	7.6%

COUNTY	PERCENT SHARE OF TOTAL POPULATION		
	2011	2012	2013
Orange	6.4%	7.1%	7.5%
Placer	4.9%	4.9%	4.9%
Plumas	7.5%	8.5%	8.2%
Riverside	10.9%	11.9%	12.2%
Sacramento	13.7%	14.2%	14.5%
San Benito	11.2%	10.8%	10.9%
San Bernardino	16.2%	17.5%	17.9%
San Diego	7.2%	7.8%	8.2%
San Francisco	6.2%	6.2%	6.1%
San Joaquin	14.6%	15.4%	16.0%
San Luis Obispo	6.2%	6.4%	6.4%
San Mateo	3.2%	3.8%	4.0%
Santa Barbara	7.1%	7.5%	7.5%
Santa Clara	5.6%	5.8%	6.0%
Santa Cruz	7.8%	8.4%	8.5%
Shasta	13.5%	14.0%	13.2%
Sierra	7.5%	9.8%	9.9%
Siskiyou	12.8%	13.7%	14.6%
Solano	9.2%	9.7%	9.9%
Sonoma	6.3%	7.0%	7.0%
Stanislaus	16.1%	17.0%	17.2%
Sutter	12.0%	12.5%	12.9%
Tehama	14.8%	15.6%	15.5%
Trinity	10.5%	11.6%	11.3%
Tulare	23.5%	24.4%	25.1%
Tuolumne	9.2%	9.4%	9.5%
Ventura	7.3%	7.7%	8.0%
Yolo	7.9%	8.3%	8.1%
Yuba	18.0%	17.9%	17.6%

Note: Enrollment data are from July of each year.  
Source: California Department of Social Services

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