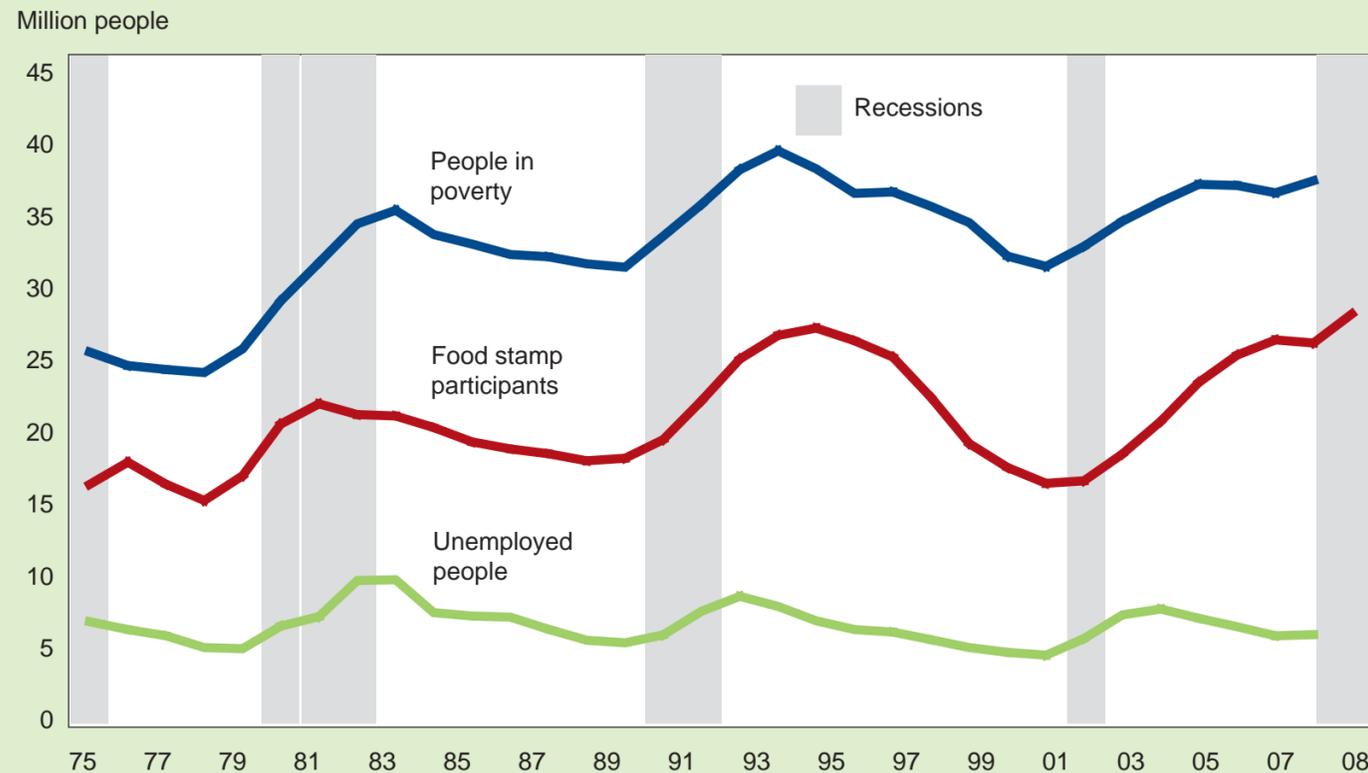


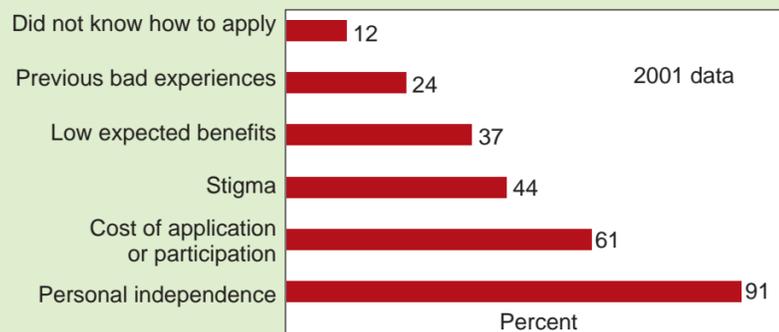
About 1 in 5 Americans participates in at least one of USDA's nutrition assistance programs during the year

A 1-percentage-point increase in the unemployment rate resulted in about 700,000 more **food stamp** recipients during the first year and about 1.3 million additional recipients in the long run. (The Food Stamp Program was renamed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program beginning in fiscal year 2009.)

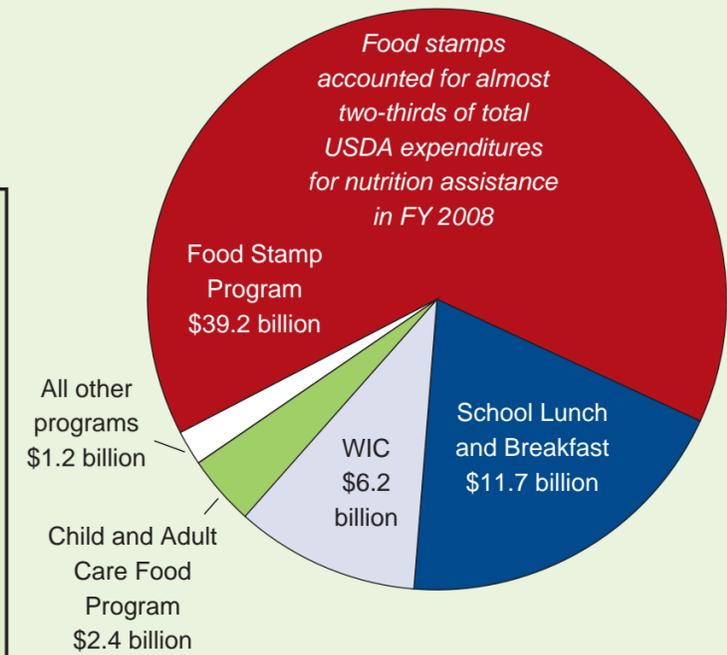


The Food Stamp Program responds quickly to natural disasters. An ERS study estimated that economic effects from Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma in the Gulf Coast increased total food stamp benefits by \$1.2 billion in FY 2005.

Major reasons why, historically, almost one in three people eligible for the Food Stamp Program does not participate.

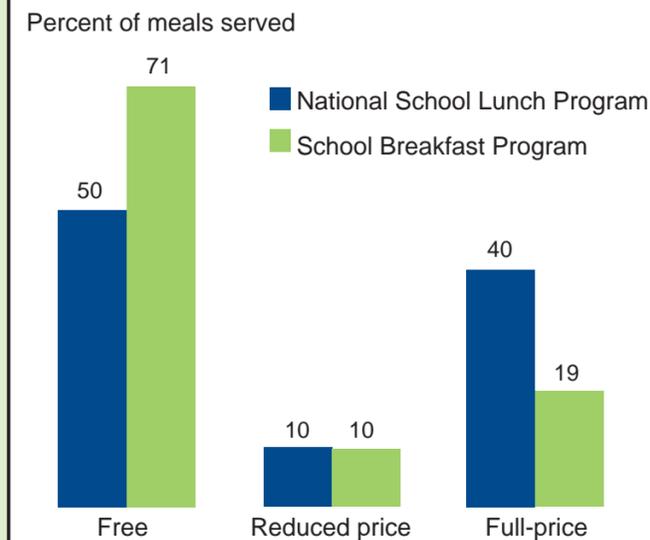


The Food Stamp Program acts as a fiscal stimulus. ERS estimates that every dollar of food stamp benefits stimulates \$1.84 of economic activity.



USDA's investment in the nutrition assistance safety net totaled \$60.7 billion in FY 2008 about 64% of the Department's total outlays

About 55% of all schoolchildren participated in the National School Lunch Program on a typical schoolday in FY 2007



Half of all school lunches and 71% of all school breakfasts were served free in FY 2008.

Over half of all infant formula sold in the United States is purchased through the WIC program*

- About half of all infants born in the United States participate in the WIC program.
- Breastfeeding rates are lower among WIC women than among non-WIC women.
- WIC receives significant rebates (\$1.8 billion in FY 2007) from infant formula manufacturers.
- Infant formula rebates allow WIC to support about 25% more participants than it otherwise could.

*Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.