

National Summit on America's Children: Income and Family Support

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Public Policies are Written on the Bodies of Babies

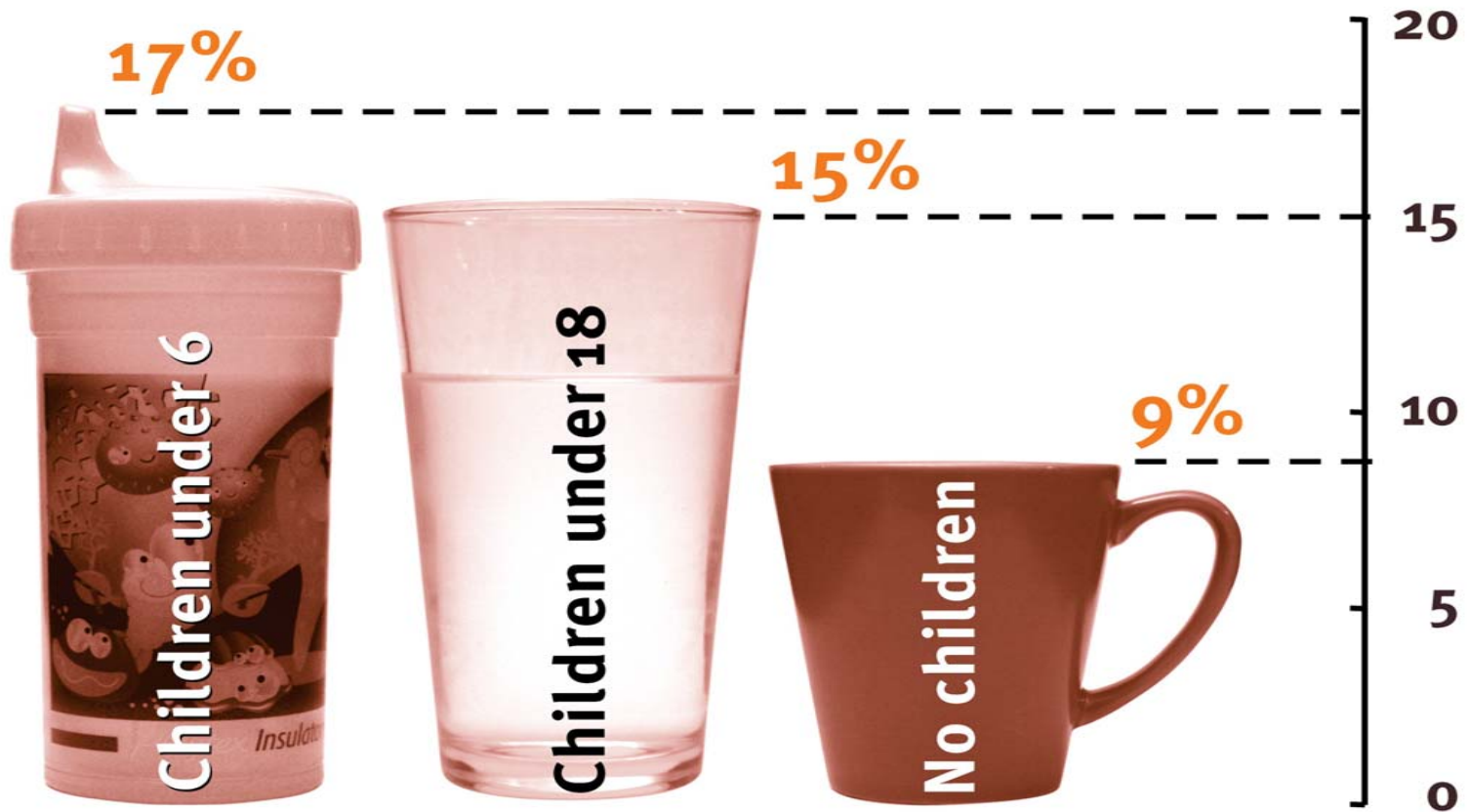
FOOD INSECURITY

**Limited or uncertain availability
of nutritionally adequate foods, or
uncertain ability to acquire acceptable
foods in socially acceptable ways**

**2000-2005 Food Insecurity grew
by 2 million Americans**

**35 Million Americans live in Food
Insecure Households**

Percent of U.S. Households With and Without Children Under 18 that are Food Insecure



Food Stamps Benefits October 2005

- Maximum income eligibility \$25,164 for family of 4 (“Assistance Units”)
- Maximum benefit \$1.40 per meal per person
- Average benefit \$1.00 per meal per person



South Beach



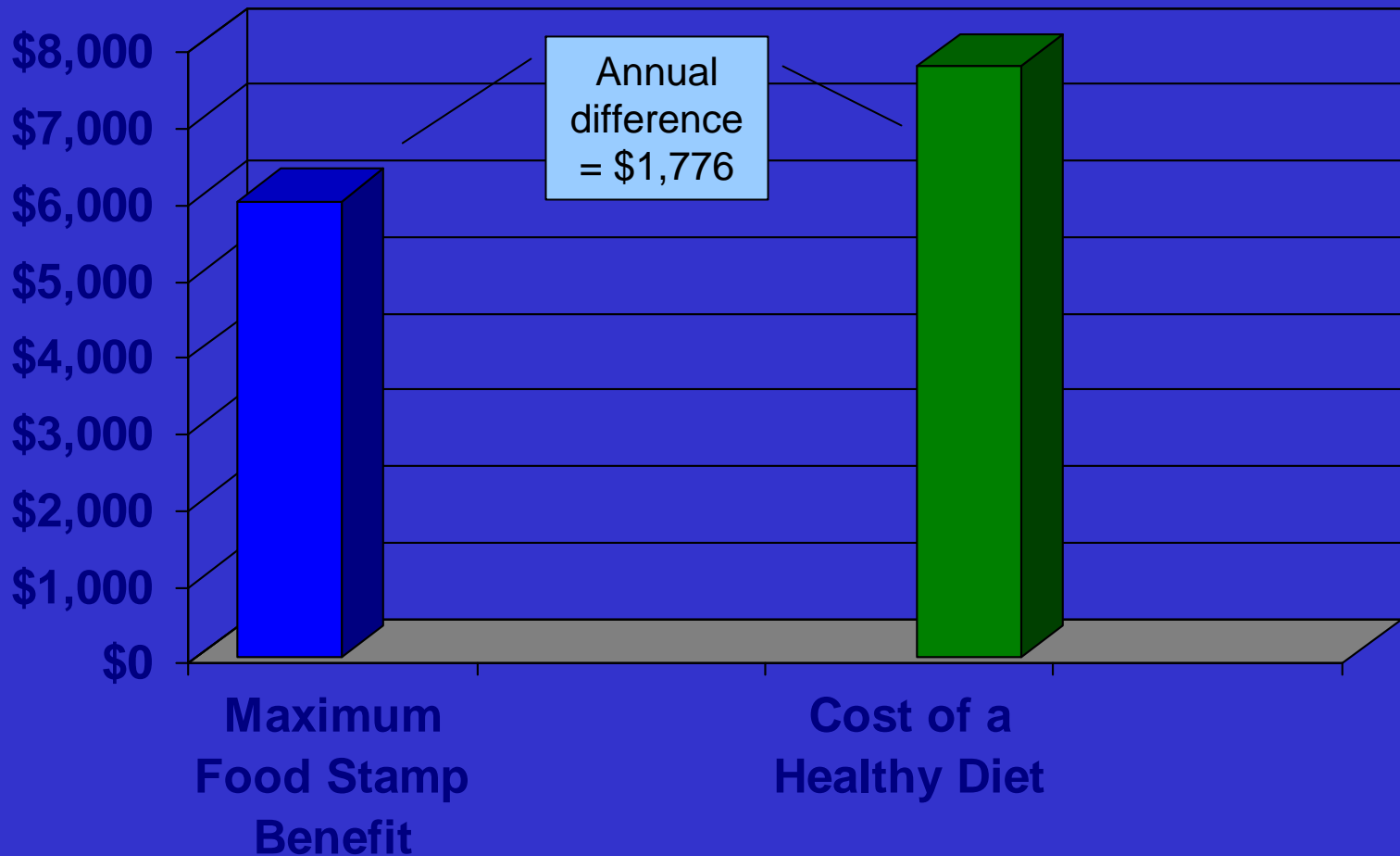
DIET



**HOW MUCH DOES IT COST
FOR ONE PERSON TO EAT
THE SOUTH BEACH DIET
FOR ONE DAY?**

**The maximum that food stamps
allocate for a family of four that
same day**

Annual Gap Between Maximum Monthly Food Stamp Benefit & Cost of Surgeon General's Low-Cost, Healthier Diet







Food Insecurity and Infant Mortality

- **In 3 states infant mortality increased from 2004 to 2005**
- **In those same states Food Insecurity also increased**
- **For example, in Mississippi food insecurity increased from 13.1% (1999-2001) to 16.5% (2003-2005) while infant mortality increased from 9.7 to 11.4/1000 (2004-2005)**

INFANT MORTALITY = DEAD BABY



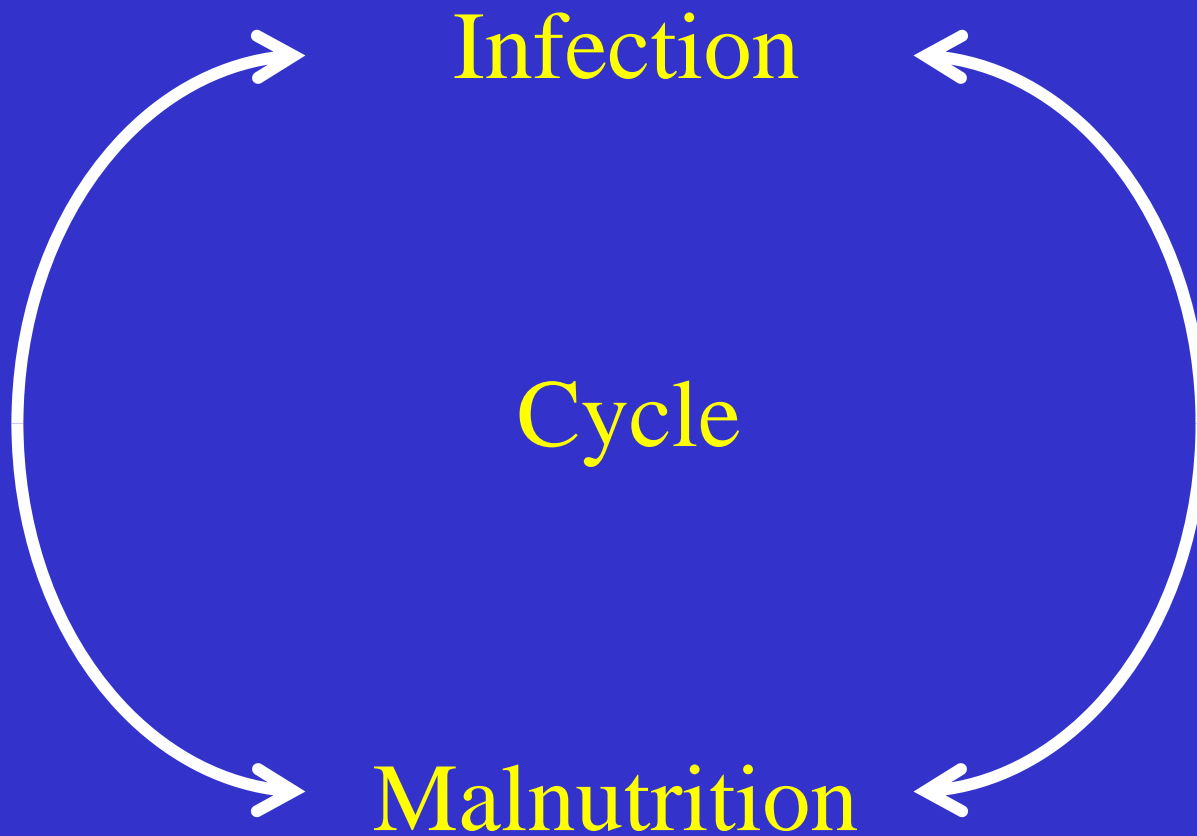
**FOOD INSECURITY IS A
CHILD HEALTH ISSUE**



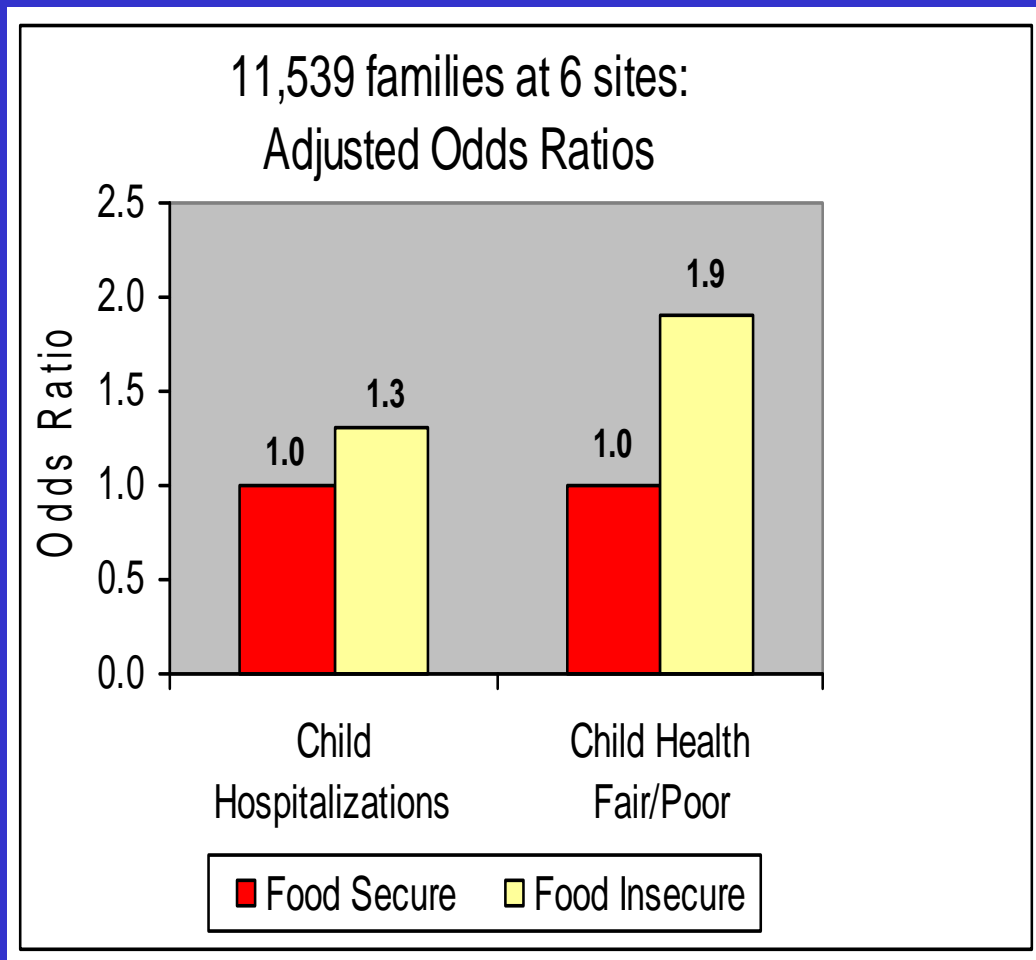
What is C-SNAP?

Children's Sentinel Nutrition Assessment Program

- Since 1998, a multi-site network of pediatricians monitoring the impact of public policies on the food security, health, growth, and developmental risk of young, low-income children



Poor Child Health & More Hospitalizations in Food Insecure Households



Infants and Toddlers in food insecure homes are:

- 30% more likely to have a history of hospitalizations
- 90% more likely to be in fair or poor health
- 2-3 day pediatric hospitalization costs \$11-13,000

C-SNAP Data: Cook et al. *J Nutr* 2004;134:1432-1438

**FOOD INSECURITY IS AN
EARLY LEARNING ISSUE**

Congressional Food Stamp Challenge

- “My focus and coordination are not sharp. I have one thought at a time and I am getting very confused – not to mention crabby.”



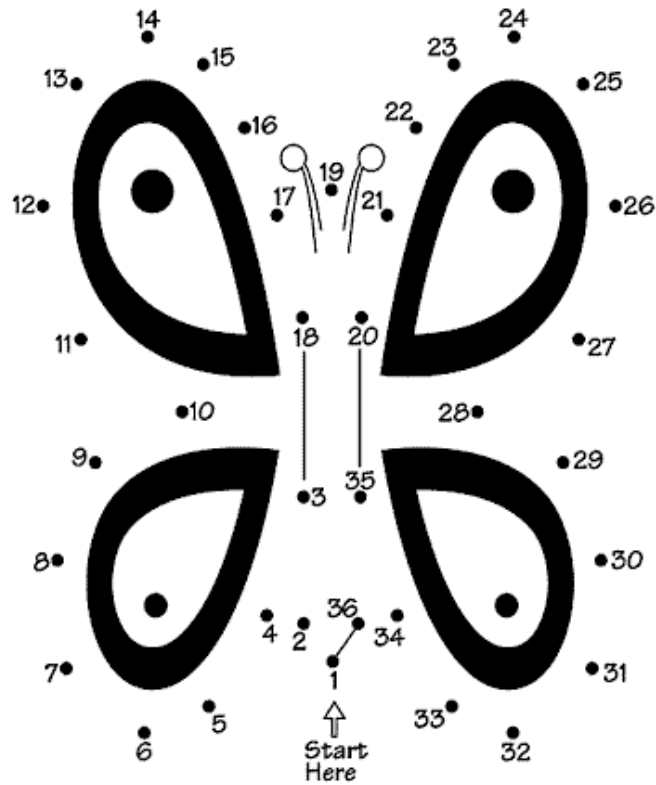
C-SNAP

- Young children from food insecure households are **40% more likely to be at developmental risk**



C O N N E C T

the dots



HEAT OR EAT





C-SNAP FINDINGS

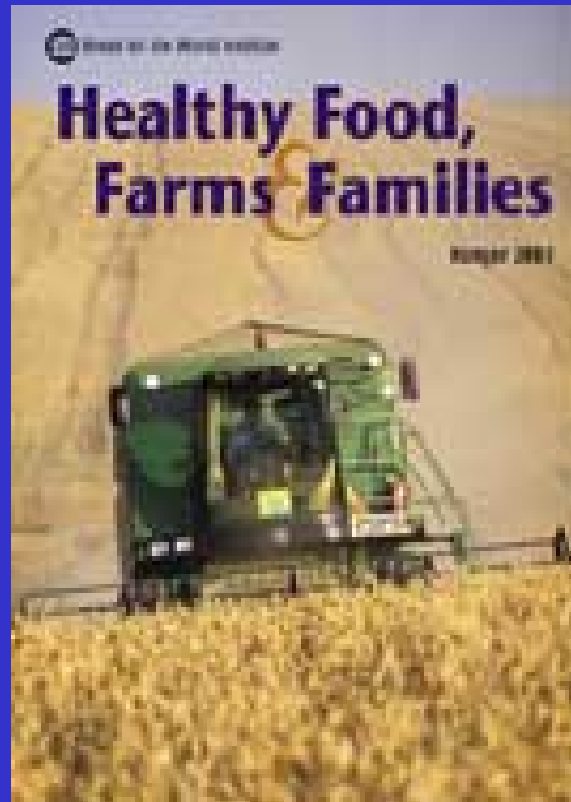
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

- Compared to young children in eligible families who do not receive LIHEAP, those who do (17% of eligible) are 20% are less likely to be undernourished and 30% less likely to require admission on the day of visiting a hospital emergency room.

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WHAT CAN POLICY
MAKERS DO IN THE NEXT
FEW MONTHS?

2007 Farm Bill



Food Stamps

What Pediatricians Want to Know About Food Stamps

1. Will the medicine reach more children (currently 1/5 of eligible children don't get them)?
2. Will the dose be increased from the subtherapeutic to the therapeutic range consistent with the most current nutritional knowledge?



“There is no finer investment for any community than putting milk into babies.”

- Winston Churchill

Children's Sentinel Nutrition Assessment Program



www.c-snap.org