



# Americans' Views on SNAP and Nutrition Assistance

Findings from a national survey conducted in spring 2023



# Research Conducted



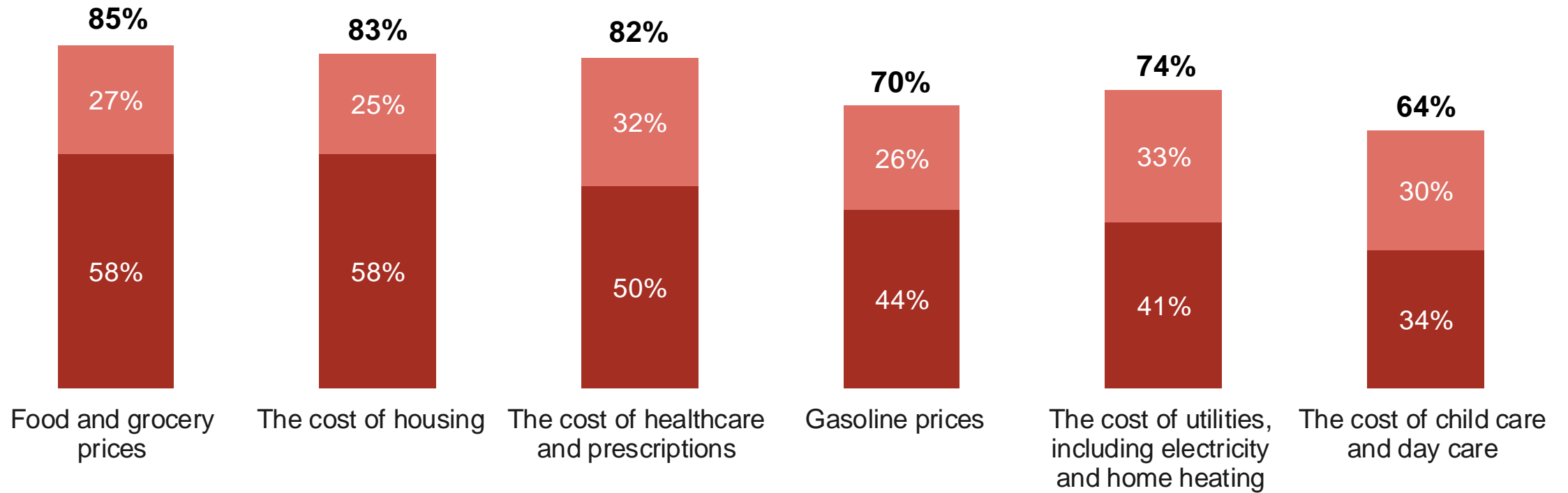
## National Survey

- 1,010 online interviews with registered voters
- Conducted May 31-June 3, 2023
- Credibility interval of  $\pm 3.1$  percentage points
- Sample had equal numbers of Republicans and Democrats (46% apiece)

# Even with inflation slowly receding, food costs remain a major problem.

*% saying each of the following is a big problem right now*

■ A very big problem   ■ A pretty big problem

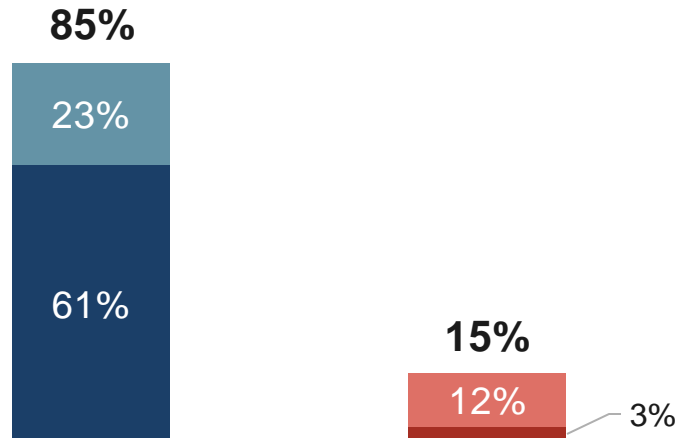


# Voters widely and strongly believe SNAP is important to helping families facing food insecurity.

**Food insecurity** is defined as a lack of consistent access to enough food for every person in a household to live an active, healthy life. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is a federal program that helps families who are facing food insecurity by helping them to afford food. The program is sometimes called SNAP, formerly known as food stamps.

*How important do you think SNAP is when it comes to helping families pay for food when they are facing food insecurity?*

■ Very important   ■ Pretty important   ■ Somewhat important   ■ Not important



	Very/Pretty Important %
Democrats	95
Independents	89
Republicans	74
18-34	89
35-49	88
50-64	80
65+	82
White voters	84
Black voters	93
Latino voters	79
Urban	91
Suburban	81
Small town/rural	86

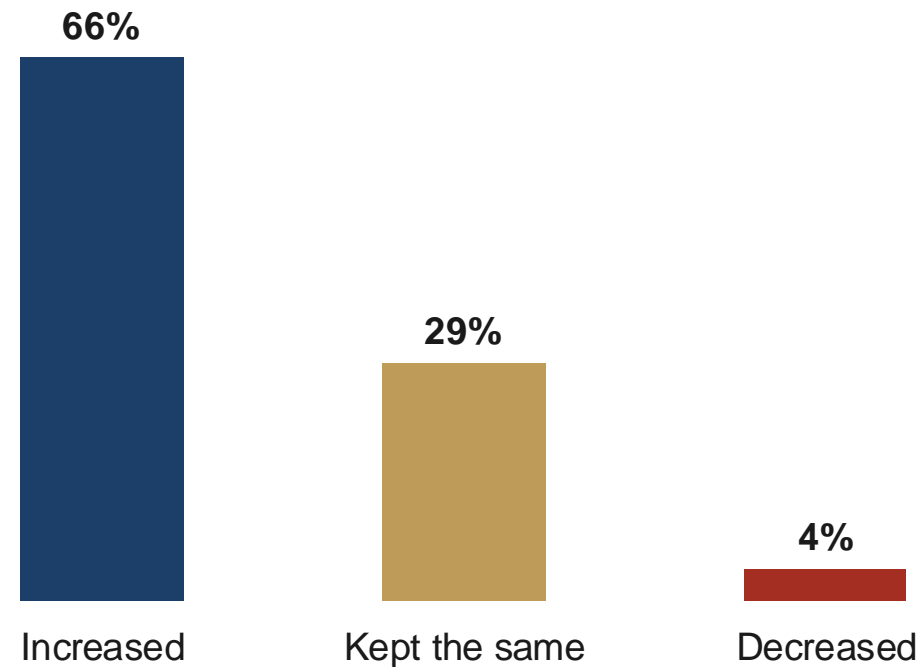
# People vastly overestimate the size of SNAP benefits; reading the actual amount substantially changes people's thinking about the program.



*I think the typical SNAP recipient receives an average of \$\_\_\_ per day.*

Median guess:  
**\$20**

*The typical family of four who receives SNAP benefits receives an average of about \$5.70 per family member per day. Do you think this amount should be...*



**Majorities across the board—including of key GOP constituencies—say SNAP benefits should be increased.**

	<b>% should increase</b>
Democrats	80
Independents	63
Republicans	53
Less conservative	57
Very conservative	42
18-34	72
35-49	71
50-64	66
65+	57
Urban	78
Suburban	65
Small town/rural	61
Current/past SNAP HHs	78
Know SNAP recipient	72
Don't know SNAP recipient	59
White non-college grads	65
White college grads	61
Black voters	83
Latino voters	65

# The \$5.70 figure strikes a chord.



“\$5 per day per person is completely unsustainable in this economy. The only way to feed on that would be canned/processed foods or bare minimum nutrition. This takes pressure off but does not alleviate the issue. Common issue of ‘solving’ symptoms, not problems.”



“How little money SNAP members receive a day, only \$5. That is a measly amount and not enough to support people. It should be at least \$20 a day.”



“I was shocked by how little money is provided per person per day. I expected much more, and I think it SHOULD be much more.”



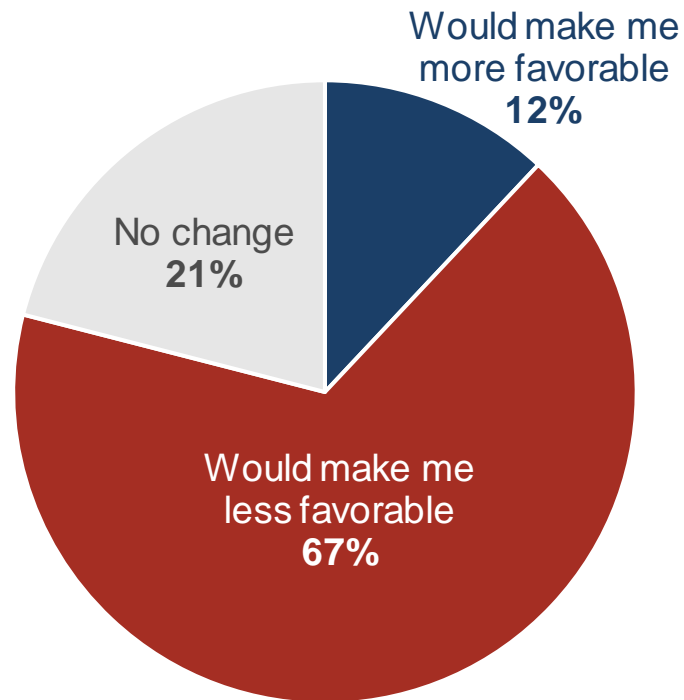
“I was surprised to learn how little each family member gets per day. No way can that cover a nutritional meal for three square meals.”



“Food costs have gone up, but SNAP benefits have not. So SNAP users are getting less food and having to spend more money on food instead of bills.”

# With \$5.70/day in mind, the idea of cutting SNAP benefits leaves a bad taste in voters' mouths.

*If your member of Congress voted to cut SNAP benefits that people can receive, would this make you feel more or less favorable toward your member of Congress, or would it not affect your opinion about them either way?*



	More favorable %	Less favorable %
Democrats	10	81
Independents	9	70
Republicans	15	52
White non-college women	8	69
Latino voters	19	63
Suburban	12	67



# Policies aimed at expanding and strengthening SNAP for recipients are also very popular.

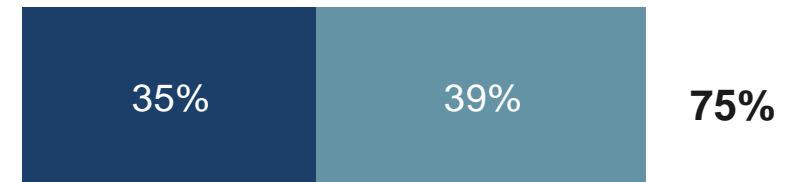
■ Strongly favor    ■ Somewhat favor



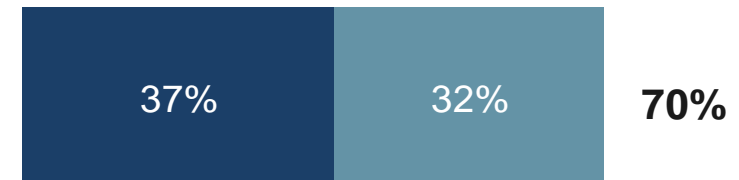
Allowing people more ways to apply for SNAP benefits--in person/face to face, or over the phone if they do not have transportation



Allowing a range of choices of products people can buy with SNAP benefits rather than only certain types of products



Reducing the government paperwork people have to go through in order to apply for SNAP benefits



# All messages against SNAP cuts we tested are compelling.

*% saying each reason to not cut SNAP benefits and not make it harder to qualify are **very persuasive***

<b>Child Poverty</b>	In the richest country in the world, it is unacceptable that nine million children do not have enough food to eat. In the last few years, assistance to families, including nutrition assistance like SNAP, increased because of the pandemic--and child poverty dropped to the lowest level ever recorded. If we cut SNAP benefits, child poverty will increase again, and we can't let that happen.	<b>53%</b>
<b>Still Recovering</b>	The economy has not recovered from the pandemic. Inflation is still high, especially for groceries, and many are still struggling to pay the bills. If we cut SNAP now, it will make things even harder for millions of families who are struggling the most. These families need our empathy and our help while the economy recovers.	<b>48%</b>
<b>A Little Help</b>	The last few years have shown that there are times when people just need help. Food is one of the basic needs people have and is something we can do to help people while they are getting back on their feet. If we cut SNAP benefits, we won't be able to help people when they need it most.	<b>45%</b>
<b>No Fraud</b>	The SNAP program is monitored very closely to make sure people don't take unfair advantage of it. The program's quality control is so effective that it is more than 99% accurate. This is a program with virtually no waste and that fulfills its mission of helping those who are food insecure.	<b>45%</b>
<b>Effective Stimulus</b>	SNAP benefits are important for the U.S. economy overall. When SNAP recipients have more money to spend on food, it ends up providing more money to grocery stores, farms, food producers, transportation companies, and others--meaning more jobs in in all of those areas. Every \$1.00 that SNAP recipients receive puts almost \$1.50 back into the economy.	<b>42%</b>