

Patch the Holes in the Food Stamp - Nutrition Safety Net

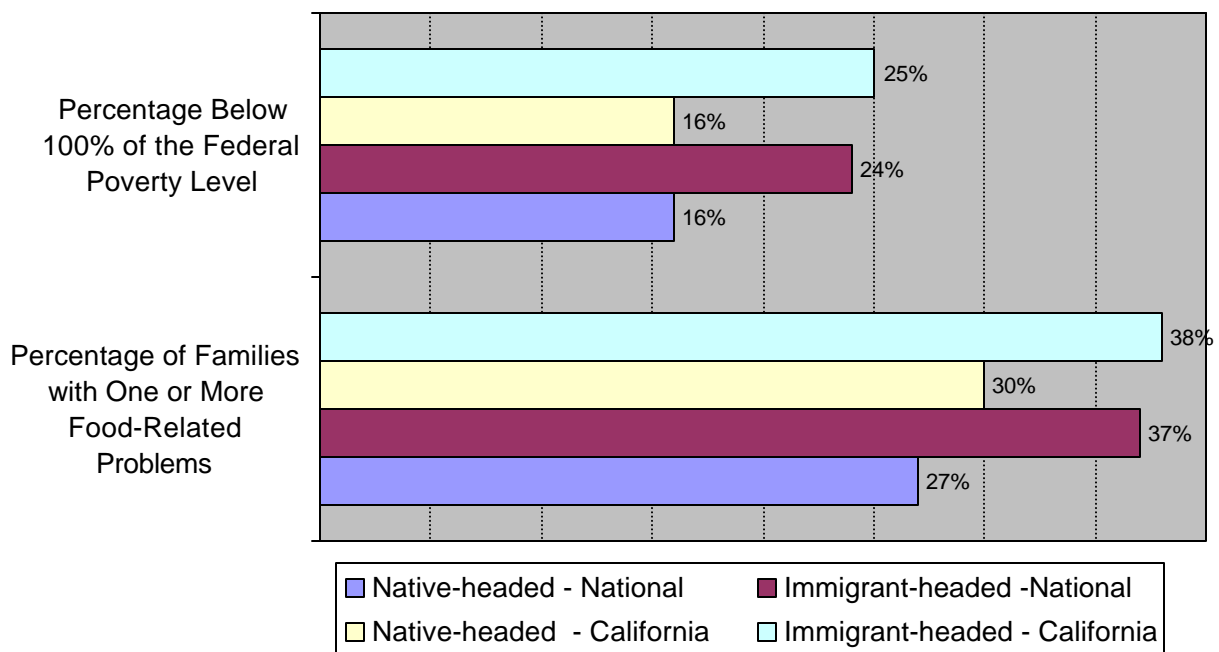
- ▶ **As the USDA Food Stamp outreach brochure says, “Hunger Does Not Discriminate.”**

Immigrants, Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs), people with drug felony convictions, students, and people on strike all suffer from hunger yet are excluded from our nation's most extensive hunger safety net. People in all of these groups face various challenges to immediate employment and success, whether it is language, homelessness, recovery from substance abuse problems, study, or unfair labor conditions. Restoring benefits to these groups federally reinforces the message that adequate nutrition is a prerequisite for health and success.

- ▶ **Citizen children of immigrant parents' participation declined 75%**

This is particularly troubling since their eligibility remained unchanged. The following chart is for all children of immigrants – 80% of whom are citizens.

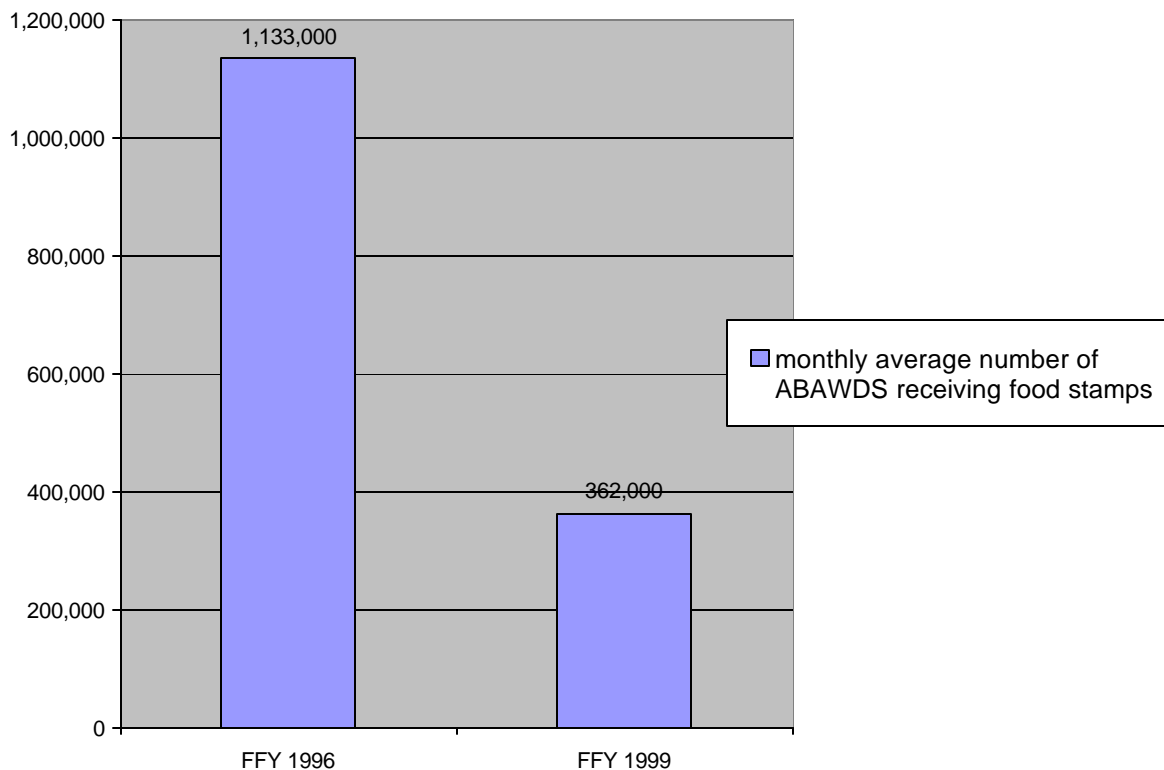
Poverty and Hunger Rates among Children of Native-headed and Immigrant-headed Households



▶ **ABAWD participation has fallen 68%**

The protections designed by Congress to mitigate the effects for those living in high unemployment areas or facing other employment challenges are underutilized – particularly in California. State options to apply for labor surplus waivers and adopt policies to use federally-granted waivers for other individuals have not been implemented in many states. California does not have a current labor surplus waiver despite the fact that over 40 counties qualify, and uses a mere 3% of its allocated exemptions.

Monthly Average Number of ABAWDS Receiving Food Stamps



▶ **What Can Be Done to Patch the Food Stamp – Nutrition Safety Net:**

- ▶ Restore eligibility for all legal immigrants
- ▶ Restore eligibility for ABAWDS
- ▶ Remove state option to exclude people convicted of a drug felony
- ▶ Support training and education by exempting students from work requirements
- ▶ Remove restrictions on strikers and their families