

One in seven U.S. homes is food insecure



Interview by Lizzie O'Leary
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That latest job report shows one of the most persistent disconnects in the economy.

The unemployment rate fell below 6 percent for the first time since July 2008, but people are still struggling. They're either dropping out of the labor force or can only get a part-time job.

Here's an interesting trend. That share of the population, what's known as the U6 rate, tracks pretty closely with the share of Americans who receive food assistance through the Supplementary Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

More than 45 million Americans are a part of SNAP, but the gains in the jobs report don't seem to make that budge at the ground level.

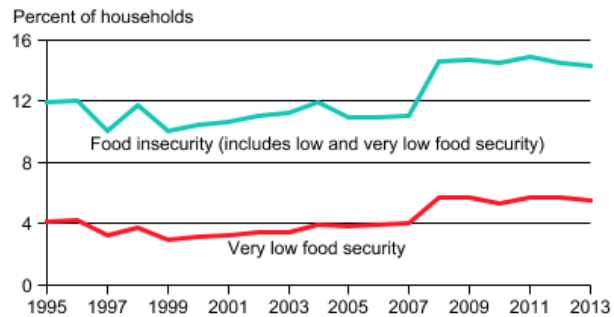
And how people spend their SNAP money is just part of the debate in Washington over food stamp spending. In January, Congress voted to cut 8.6 billion dollars from SNAP over the next ten

years, despite a new report from the agriculture department saying one in seven Americans is food insecure.

That means, in those households, at least one family member goes without the recommended number of meals.

[We visited a food pantry in the Bronx in New York to put food insecurity in context. Click play above to hear more about food insecurity in the U.S.](#)

Trends in prevalence rates of food insecurity and very low food security in U.S. households, 1995-2013



Prevalence rates for 1996 and 1997 were adjusted for the estimated effects of differences in data collection screening protocols used in those years.

Source: Calculated by USDA, Economic Research Service using Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement data.