



# **SNAP Caseload Growth Due to the Economic Impacts of COVID 19:** Based on Actual State Reported Data for January 2020 and Projections Through January 2021

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# **CAMI**

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## Introduction

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has not reported on state SNAP enrollment since April of 2020. Thus, quantitative evidence confirming the surge in applications had to be collected at the state level, where there is a high level of variability in reporting SNAP enrollment. Most states have not published reports covering all the months since the pandemic, but of those that did, a strong upward trend is observed in nearly every state. This analysis looks at the already increasing SNAP enrollment in 14 states that represent about 60 percent of all SNAP participants nationwide and trends it forward through January 31, 2021.

If the past state reports are indicative of the coming months, we can expect to see this upward trend continue long past the pandemic itself, given that SNAP is a lagging program. A 2016 report from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities confirms this post-crisis lag pattern using data from the 2008 recession: “SNAP caseloads grew significantly between 2007 and 2011 as the recession and lagging recovery led more low-income households to qualify and apply for help. The number of people eligible for SNAP rose from 37 million in 2007 to 45 million in 2009 and 51 million in 2013, USDA data show,” (Rosenbaum and Keith-Jennings, 2016). A 2012 paper from the Urban Institute and Feeding America highlighted that “In 2012, more than 46 million people received SNAP benefits—a 76 percent increase since the recession began in 2007” (Zedlewski and Huber, 2012).

Finally, the report used a growth trend based on state-reported SNAP participation data beginning in January 2020 and trended forward for the 13-month period ending at the end of January 2021. There are no other assumptions in trending growth forward. However, several factors not covered here could make the projected growth trend in SNAP participation even higher including the expiration on July 31, 2020 of federal pandemic unemployment benefits of \$600 monthly (the short-term substitution of a \$300 supplement has also expired). In addition, there could be further economic slowdowns due to the new wave of Covid-19 cases and subsequent job loss, leading to potential newly eligible SNAP recipients as incomes for many individuals and families decline.

State	Time frame	Growth trend
Texas	01/20 - 01/21	36.8%
New York State	01/20 - 01/21	18.8%
New York City	01/20 - 01/21	27.1%
California	01/20 - 01/21	32.7%
Pennsylvania	01/20 - 01/21	18.5%
Illinois	01/20 - 01/21	22.8%
Ohio	01/20 - 01/21	42.1%
Arizona	01/20 - 01/21	26.1%
Minnesota	02/20 - 01/21	25.8%
Wisconsin	01/20 - 01/21	36.9%
Louisiana	01/20 - 01/21	26.4%
Iowa	01/20 - 01/21	13.5%
Massachusetts	01/20 - 01/21	27.2%
Indiana	01/20 - 01/21	77.4%
Virginia	01/20 - 01/21	30.2%

**Table 1.** Growth trends demonstrate the percent change between the real data, beginning in January 2020, and the projected rate of participation in SNAP in January 2021. Data drawn from 15 states—including 6 of the 7 most populous states: California, Texas, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Ohio, respectively—was sourced from state Health and Human Services, Department of Human Services and other government webpages using primary search methodology.

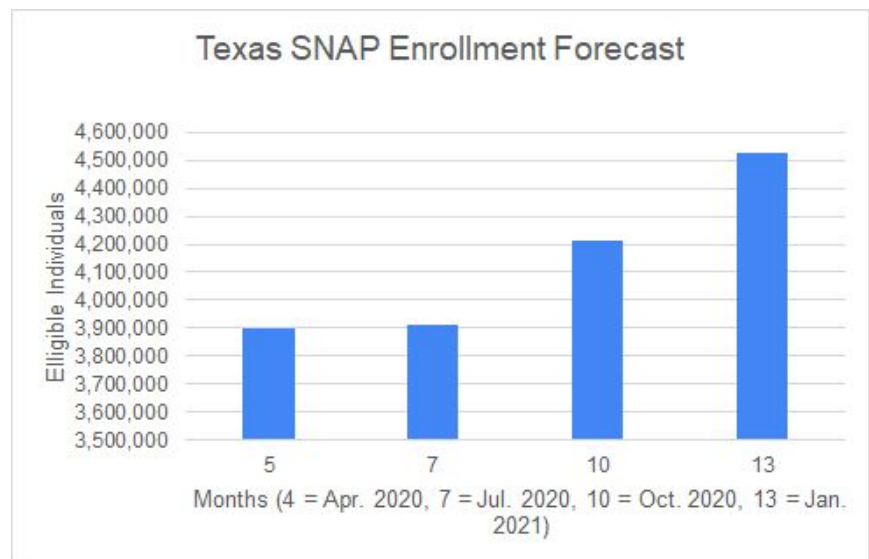
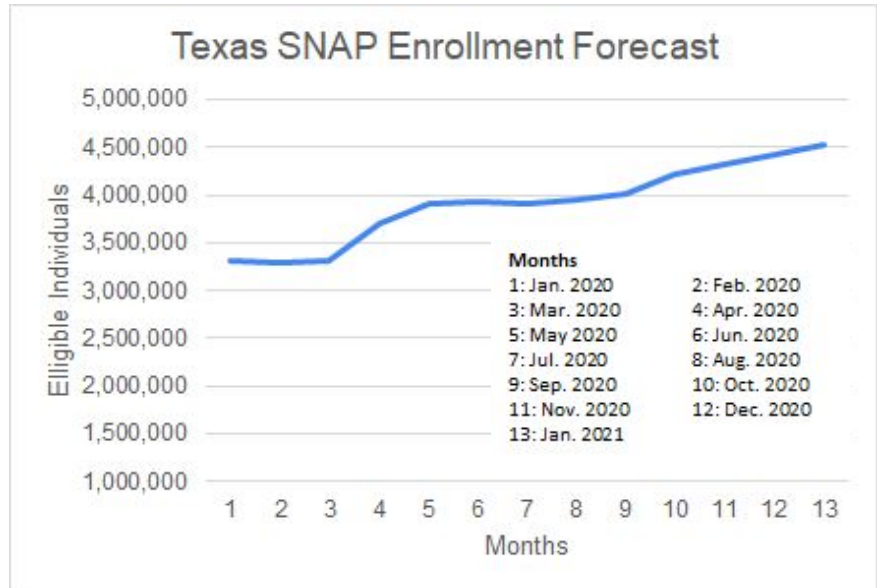


# TEXAS

## SNAP Enrollment

January 2020: 3,307,067

January 2021 (Trending): 4,523,818



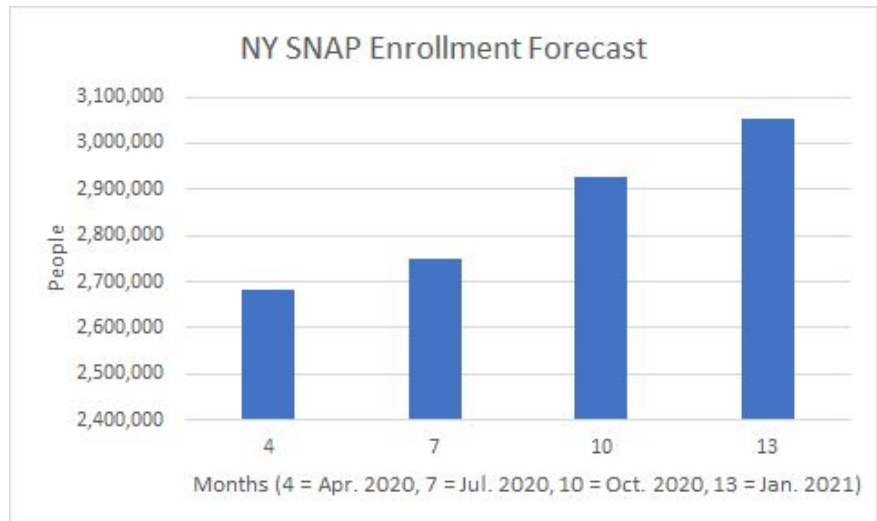
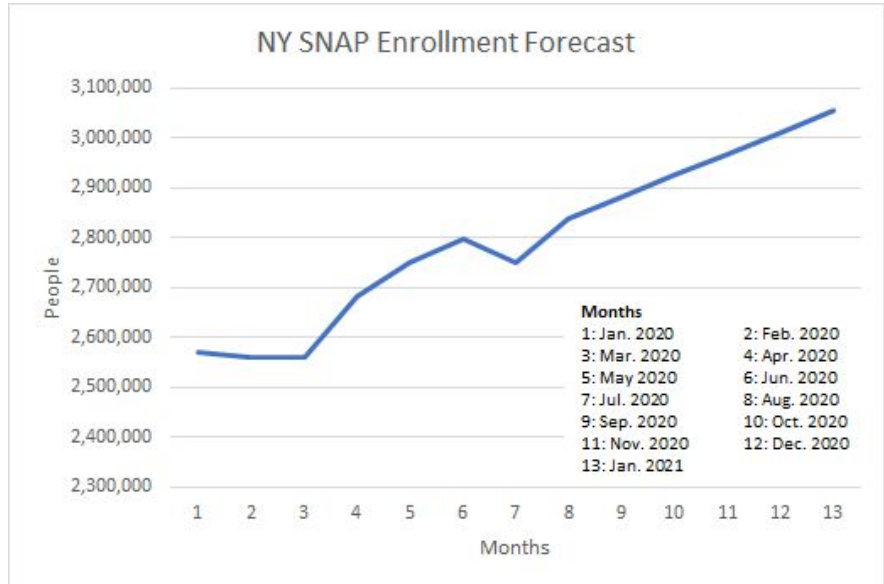


## NEW YORK

### SNAP Enrollment

January 2020: 2,570,601

January 2021 (Trending): 3,054,624



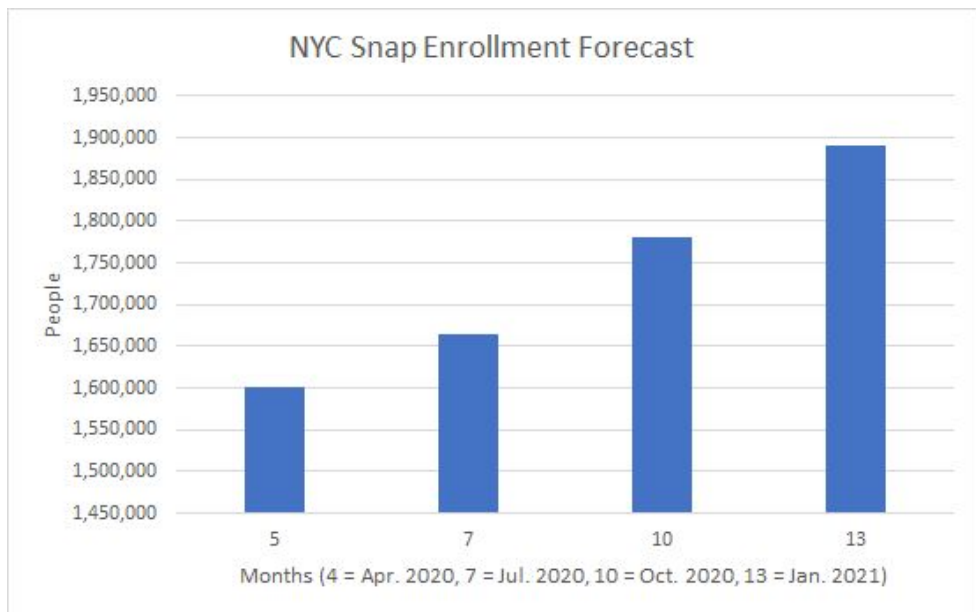
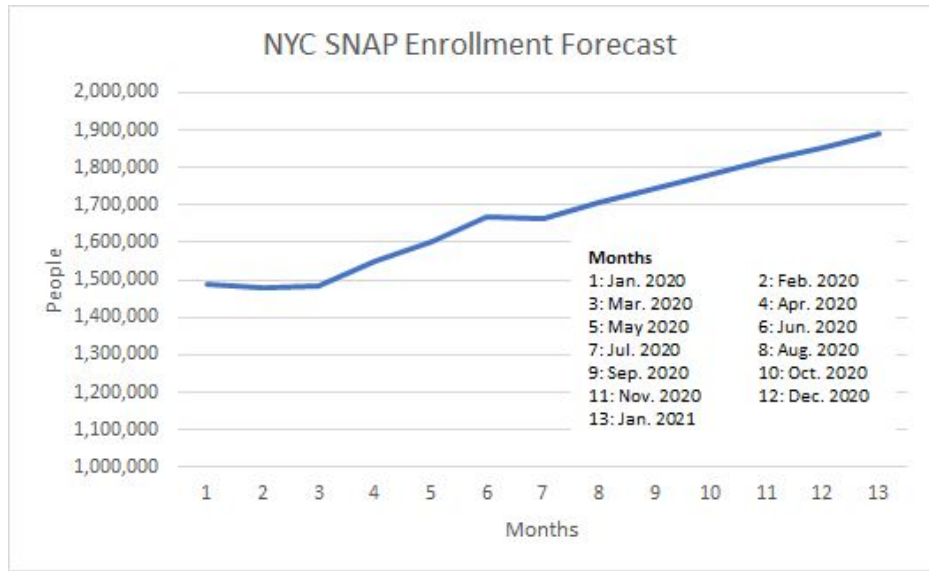


## NEW YORK CITY

### SNAP Enrollment

January 2020: 1,487,820

January 2021 (Trending): 1,890,533



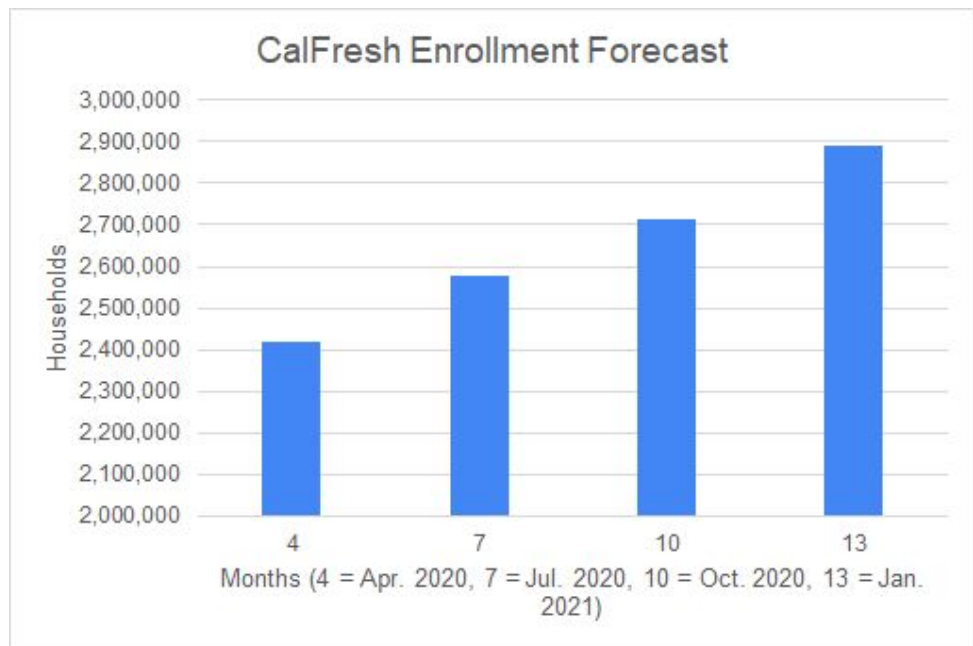
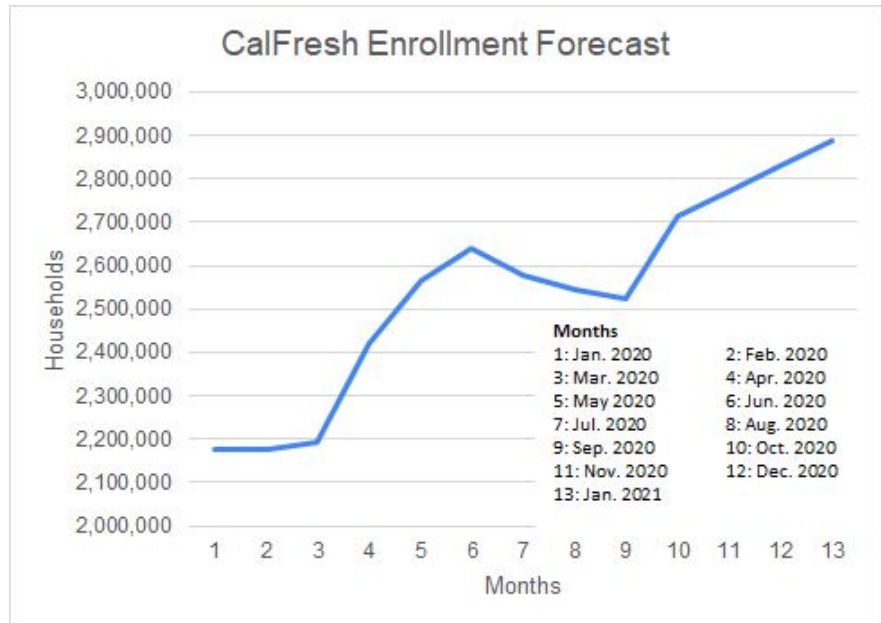


# CALIFORNIA

## SNAP Enrollment

January 2020: 2,176,109

January 2021 (Trending): 2,888,626





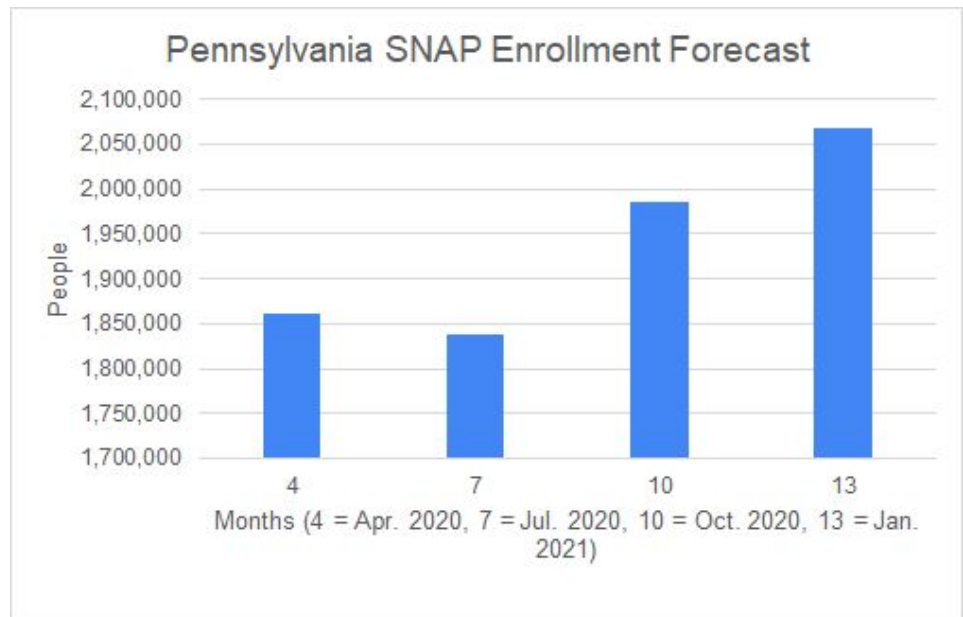
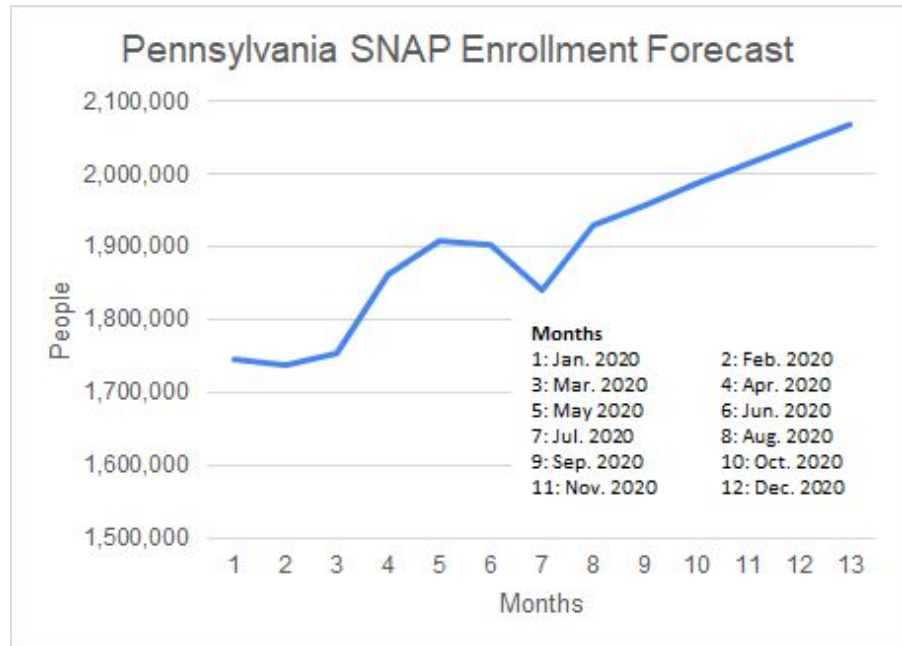


## PENNSYLVANIA

### SNAP Enrollment

January 2020: 1,744,689

January 2021 (Trending): 2,067,800





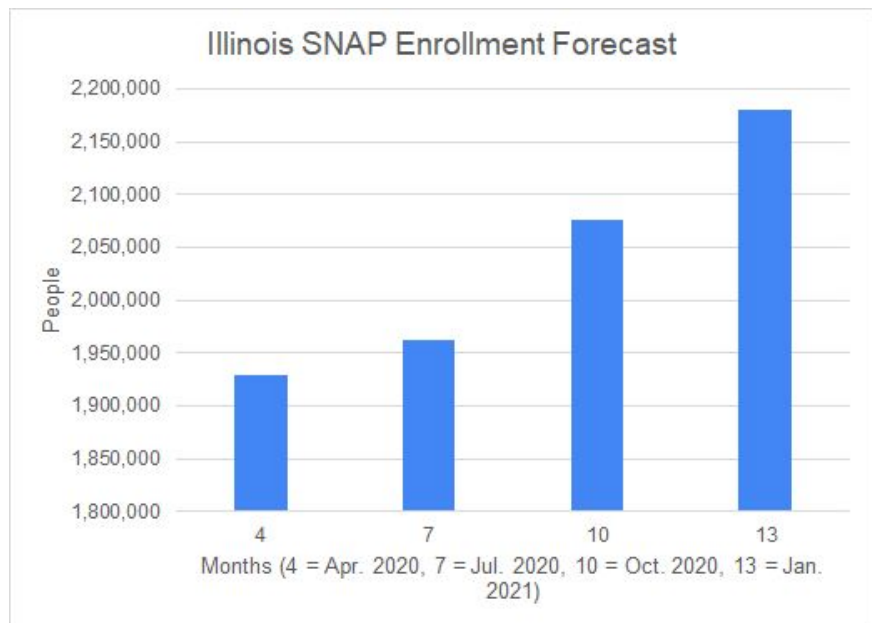
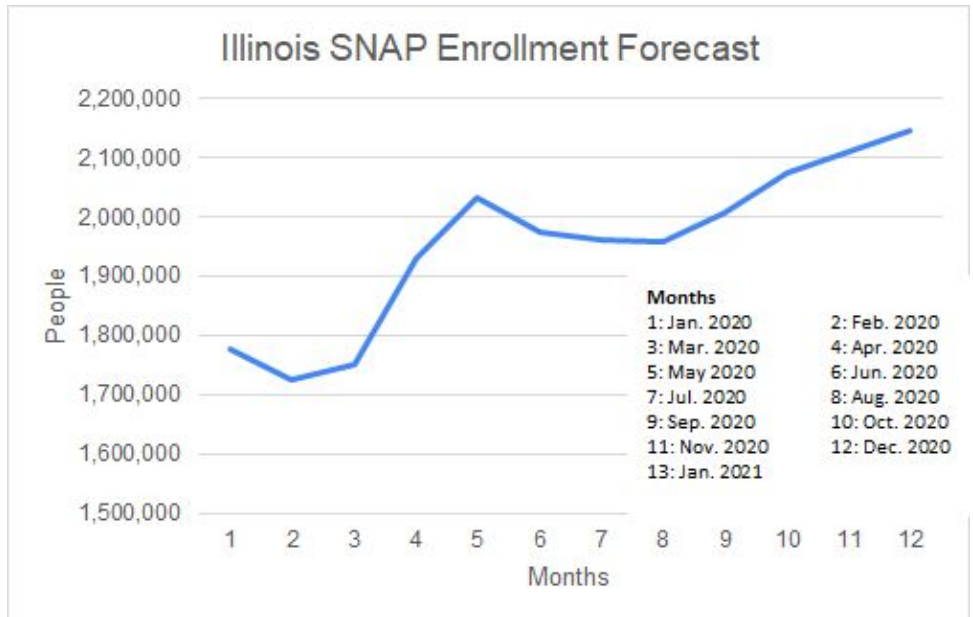


# ILLINOIS

## SNAP Enrollment

January 2020: 1,775,689

January 2021 (Trending): 2,180,854



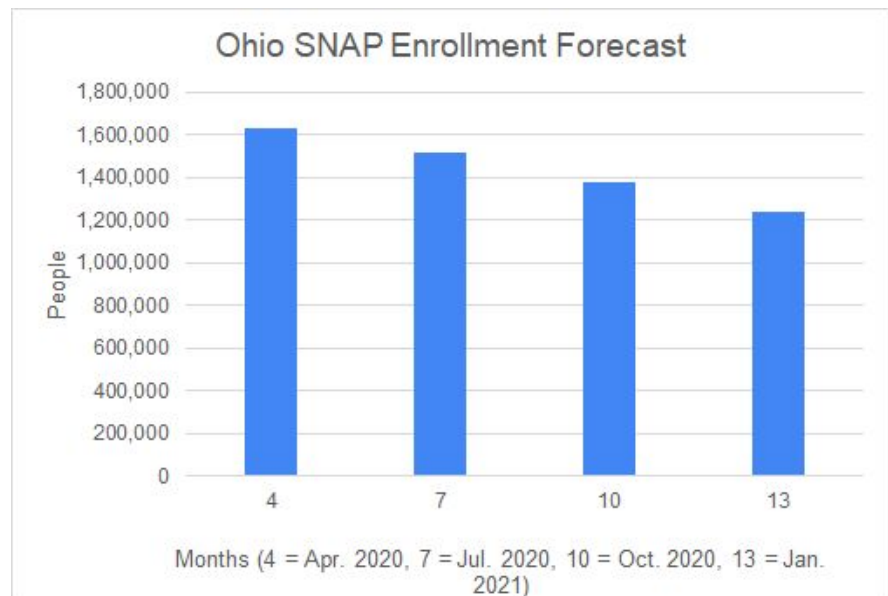
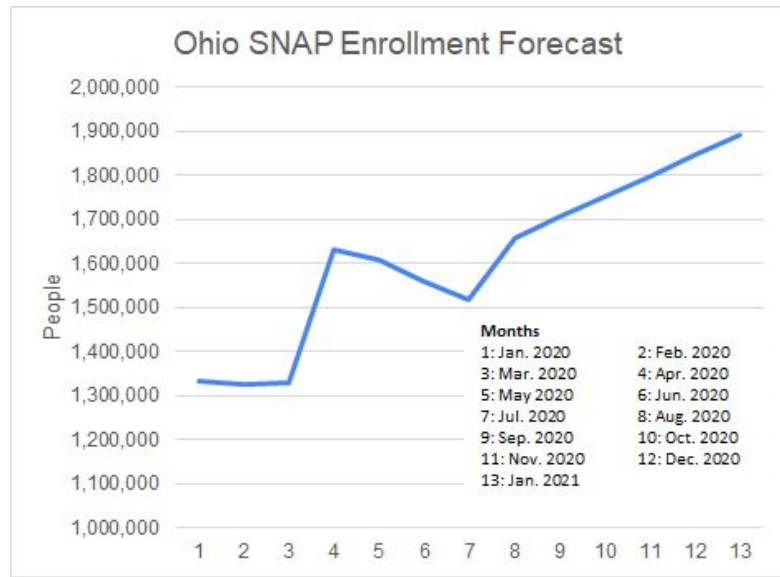


# OHIO

## SNAP Enrollment

January 2020: 1,331,462

January 2021 (Trending): 1,891,654



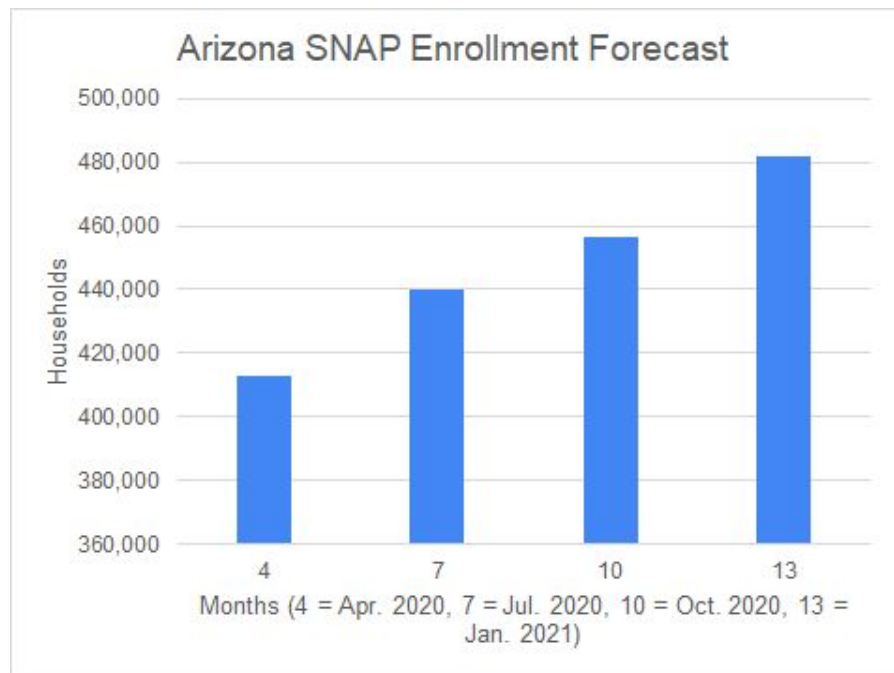
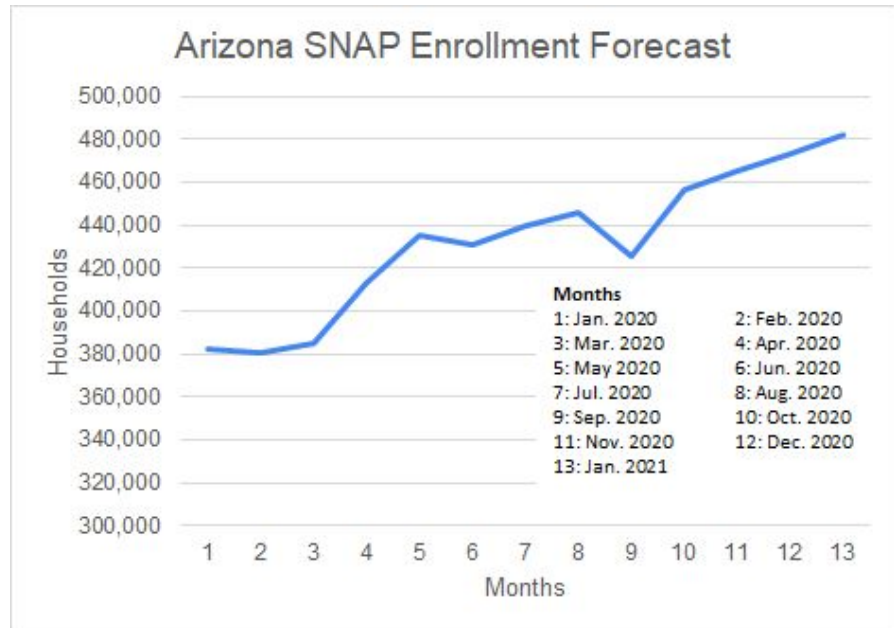


## ARIZONA

### SNAP Enrollment

January 2020: 381,930

January 2021 (Trending): 481,642



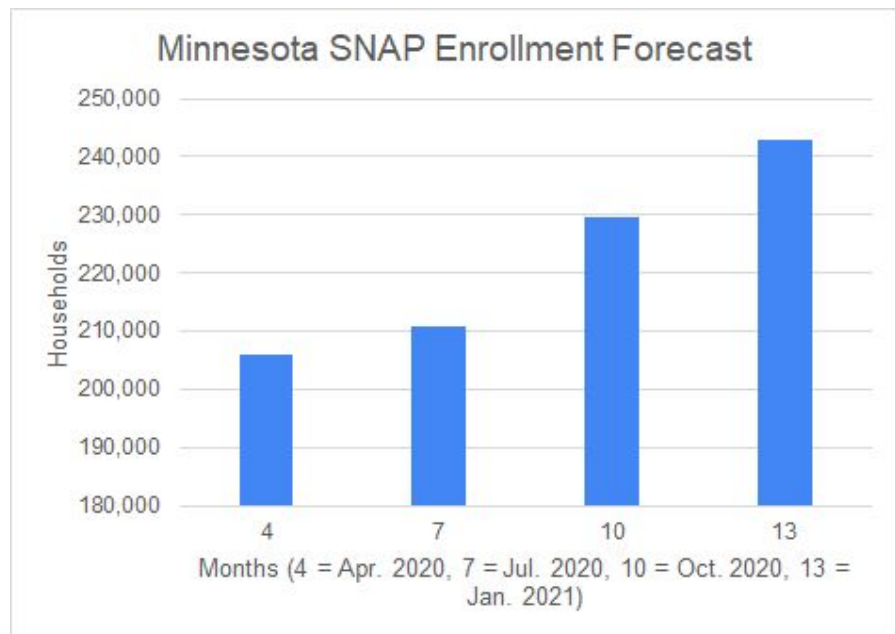
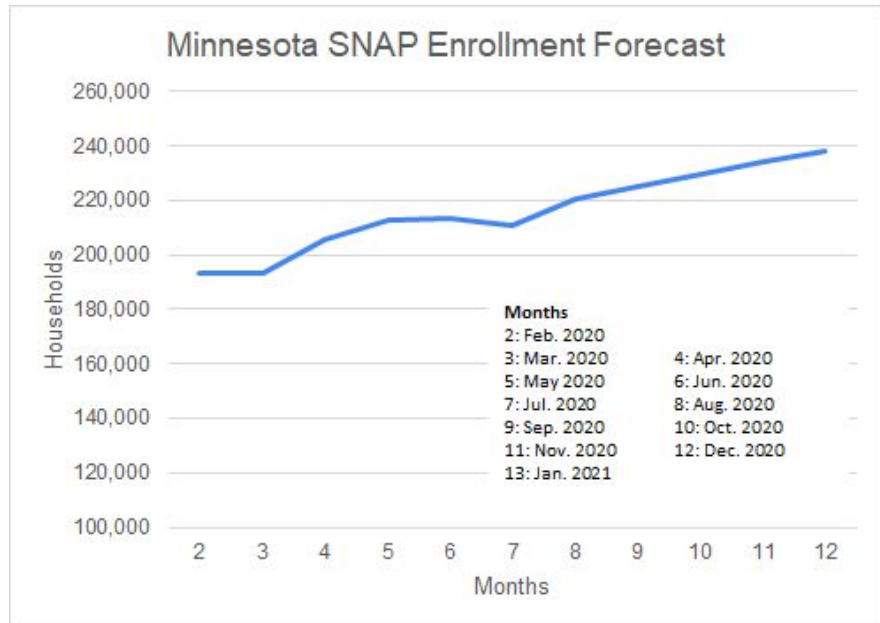


## MINNESOTA

### SNAP Enrollment

February 2020: 193,005

January 2021 (Trending): 242,857



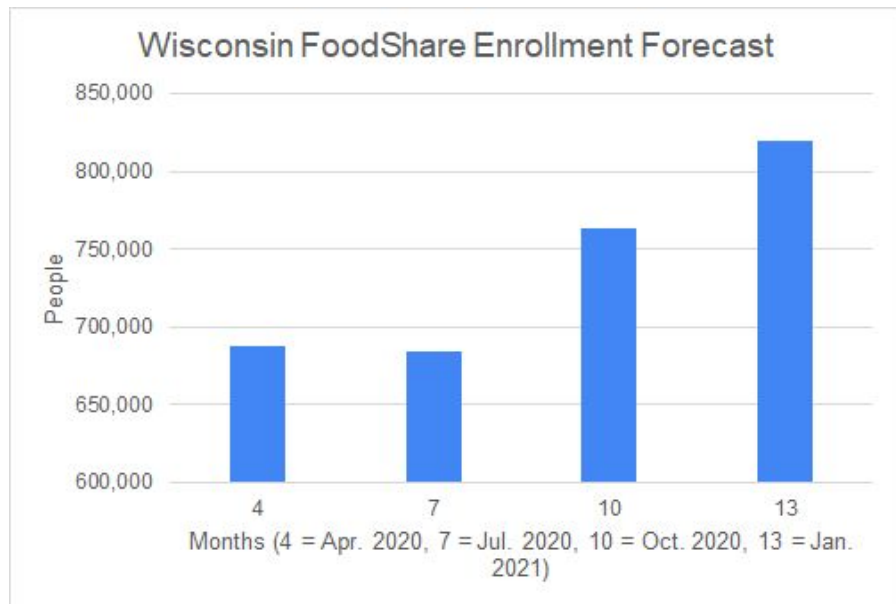
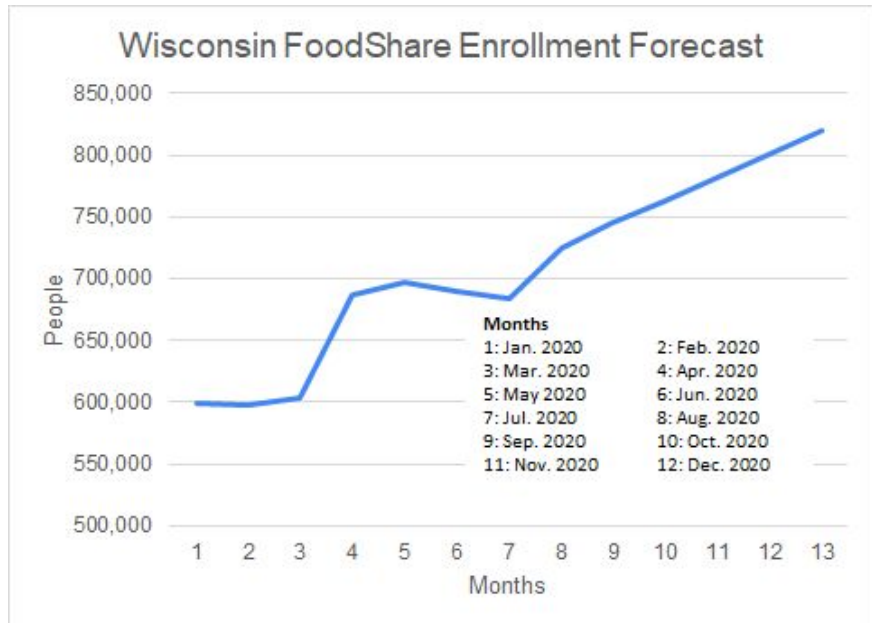


# WISCONSIN

## SNAP Enrollment

January 2020: 598,721

January 2021 (Trending): 819,725



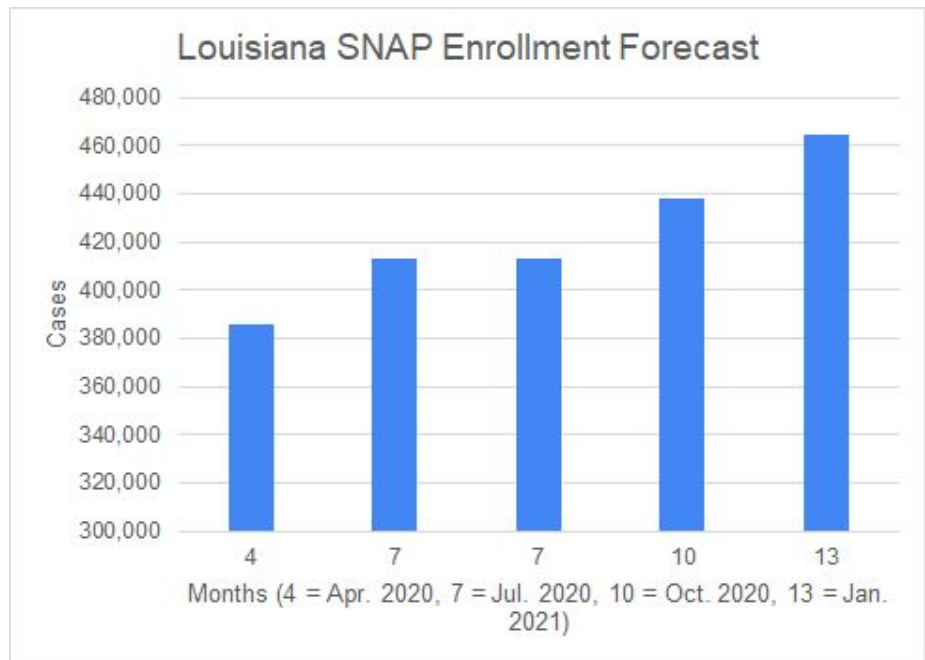
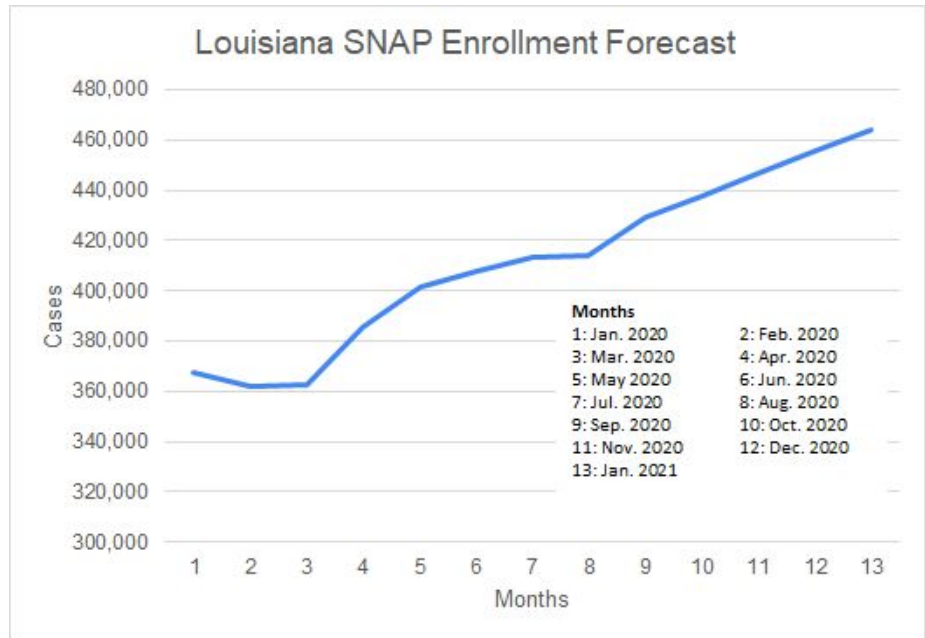


# LOUISIANA

## SNAP Enrollment

January 2020: 367,270

January 2021 (Trending): 464,161





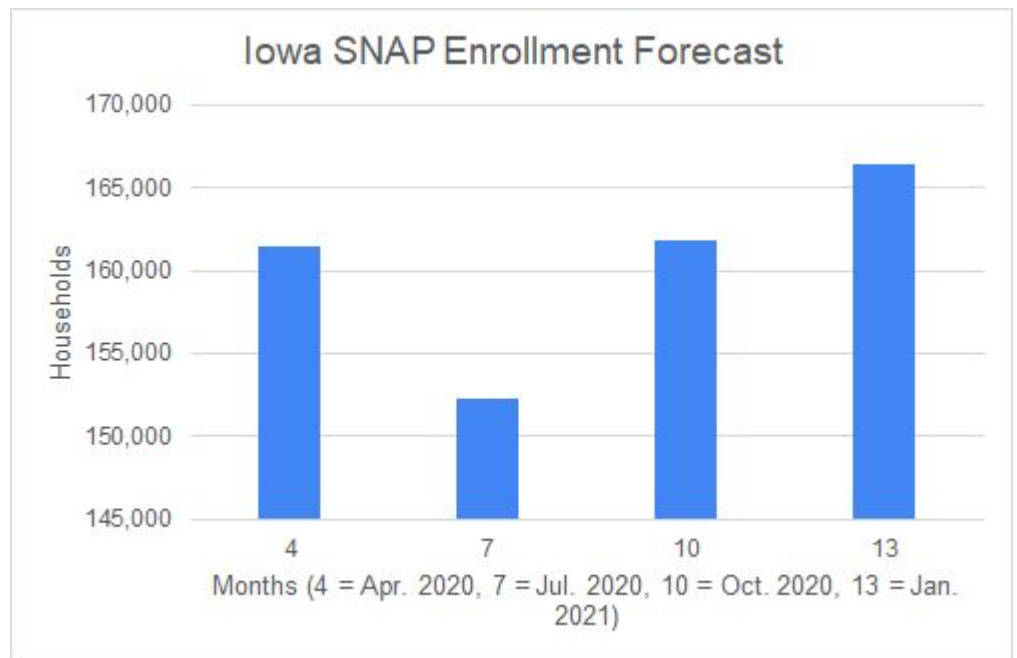
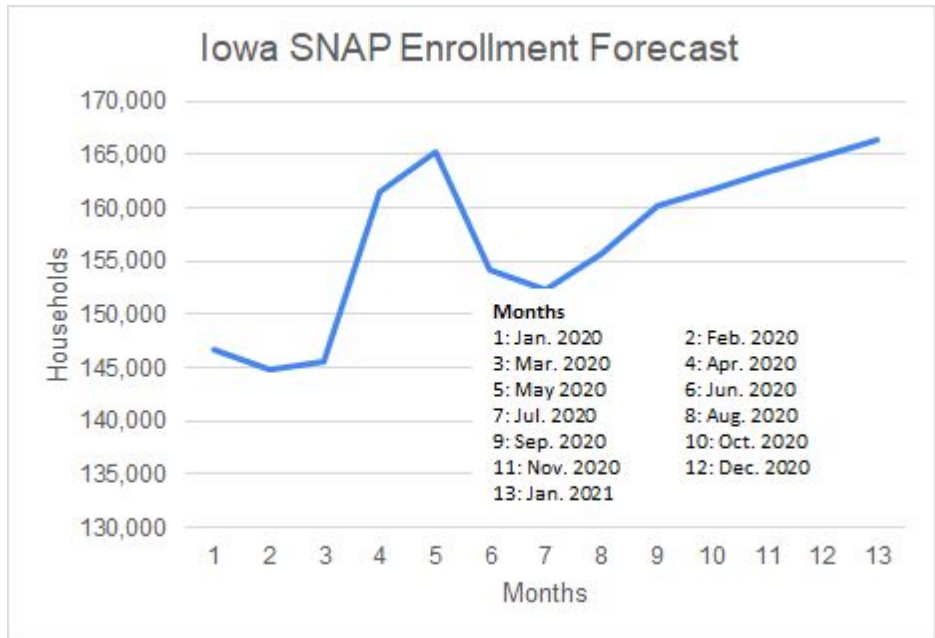


# IOWA

## SNAP Enrollment

January 2020: 146,677

January 2021 (Trending): 166,443





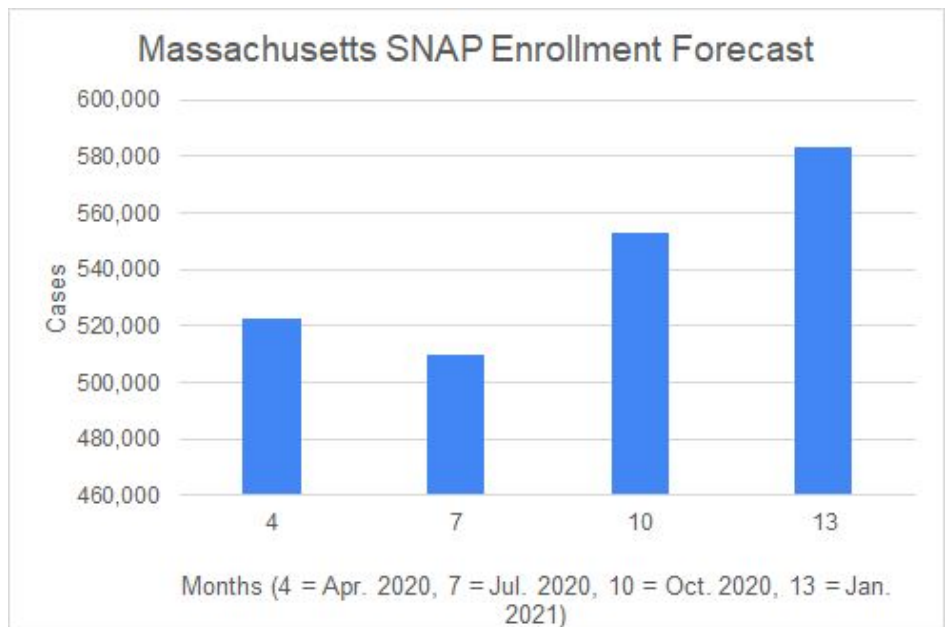
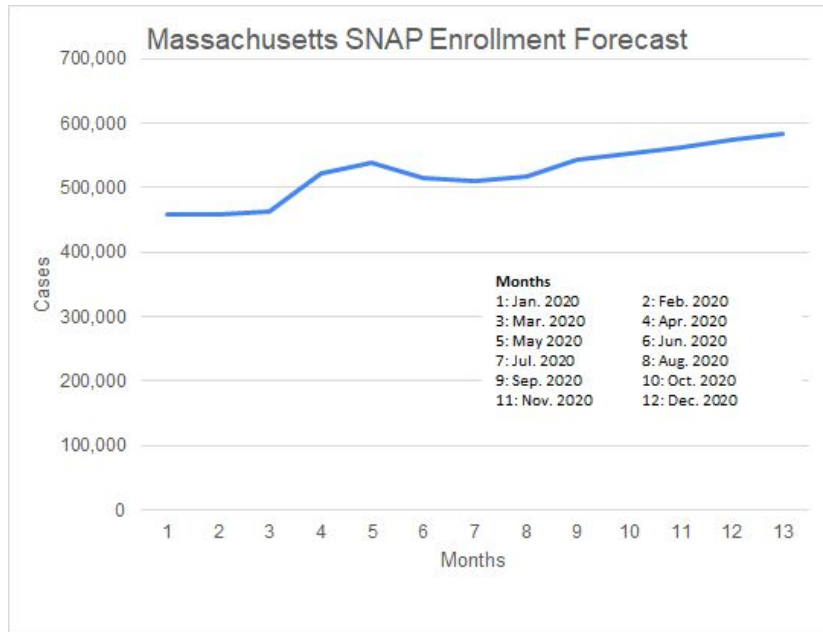


## MASSACHUSETTS

### SNAP Enrollment

January 2020: 458,378

January 2021 (Trending): 583,145



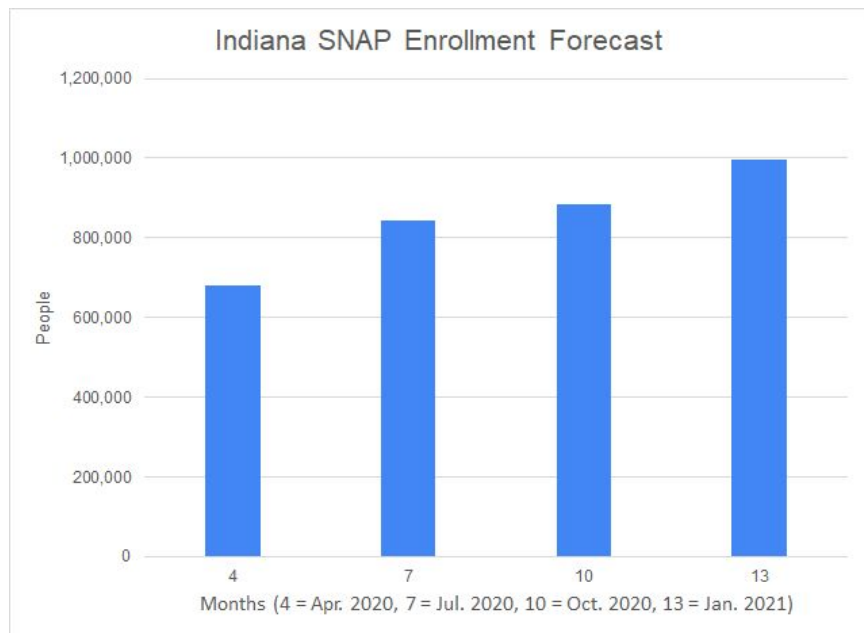
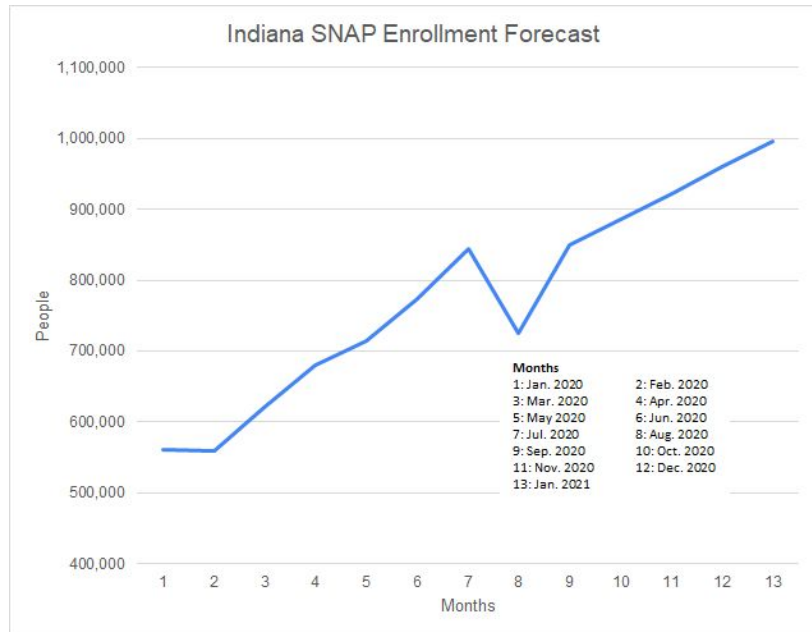


# INDIANA

## SNAP Enrollment

January 2020: 561,268

January 2021 (Trending): 995,650



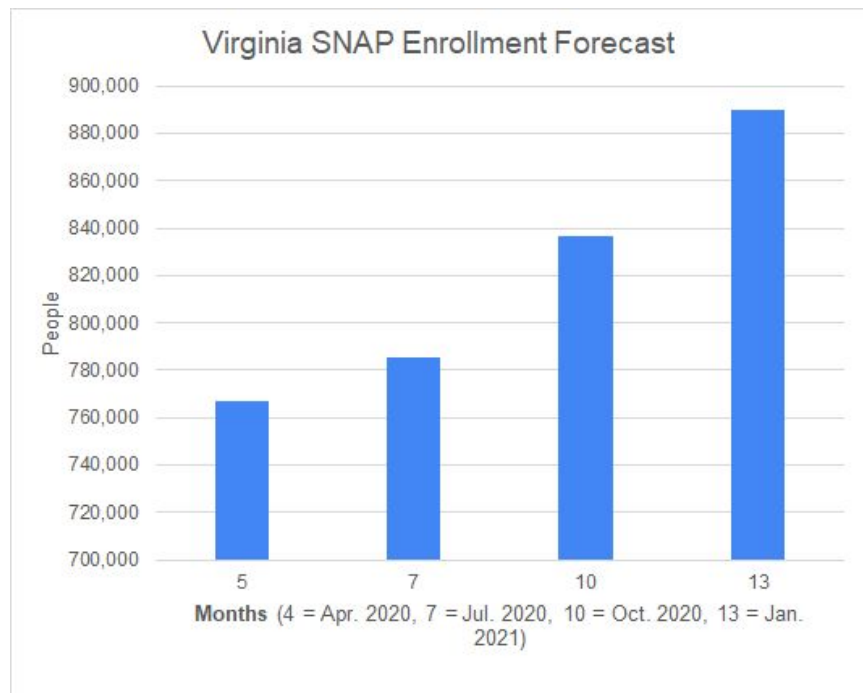
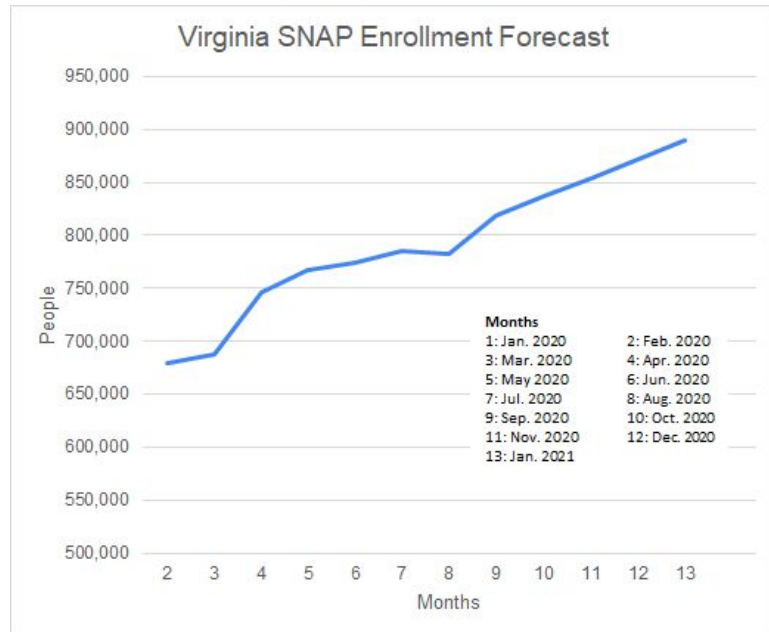


## VIRGINIA

### SNAP Enrollment

January 2020: 683,541

January 2021 (Trending): 889,783





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