This appendix explains the details and data sources for the figures and calculations in the post “Hunger and the Important Role of SNAP as an American Safety Net.”

**Figure 1. Child Food Insecurity Rates by State in 2011**  
*Source: Feeding America 2013.*

Figure 1 shows child food insecurity rates by state in 2011 (data from Feeding America 2013). Children are considered food insecure if they live in a household that has limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.

**Figure 2. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Participation Rate and Unemployment Rate, by Year**  
*Sources: BLS 2012, 2013a, 2013b; CBO 2011, 2013; NBER 2012; USDA 2013a, 2013b; authors’ calculations.*

Figure 2 shows the historical trends of SNAP participation rates and unemployment rates in the United States. Annual average monthly SNAP participation data come from USDA (2013a) and USDA (2013b) for fiscal years 1970 to 2013. Annual civilian noninstitutional population data come from BLS (2012) for the years 1970 to 2013. We calculated the annual average monthly SNAP participation rate by dividing the annual average monthly SNAP participation by the corresponding annual civilian noninstitutional population. Monthly unemployment rate data come from BLS (2013) for the years 1969 to 2013. We calculated the quarterly unemployment rate by taking the average of the monthly unemployment rate data within each quarter for fiscal years 1970 to 2013. For example, the unemployment rate for the first quarter of fiscal year 1970 is the average of the monthly unemployment rates for October, November, and December 1969. Projections of annual average monthly SNAP participation data come from CBO (2013) for fiscal years 2014 to 2020. Projections of annual civilian noninstitutional population data come from CBO (2011) for the years 2014 to 2020. We calculated the projected annual average SNAP
participation rate by dividing the projected annual average monthly SNAP participation by the corresponding projected annual civilian noninstitutional population. Projections of annual unemployment rate data come from CBO (2013) for fiscal years 2014 to 2020. We assigned the projection for each fiscal year to the fourth quarter of that year. We then calculated the value of the unemployment rate for quarters one through three of each fiscal year by taking the difference between the fourth quarter unemployment rates of sequential fiscal years, and smoothing out this difference between the remaining three quarters. Quarterly U.S. economic recession data come from NBER (2012) for fiscal years 1970 to 2013.
Works Cited


