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DSC 530

Final

SNAP Analysis

There are many federal and state programs designed to help the lower income population. The SNAP program is designed to help play a role in making certain all lower income households are getting proper meals and nutrition. In the analysis, we can clearly see the program has expanded every year since data has been available. Average benefits per person have also gone up. What is noticeable is there is a sharp increase in the amounts after a certain threshold. What is missing is more data to cross analyze in this set. Could it be possible that the reason the program has expanded is because other assistance programs have shrunk? Could it be that the lower income portion of the population has not been able to move into the middle class over time? These are all questions more datasets would be needed to compare against. Many other programs help the lower income population. Has the WIC program also experienced the same increases? Would these datasets “mirror” each other? The outcome was no surprise in that the program costs and participation has increased over time but more analysis would be to needed to fully answer the question. Some challenges were finding detailed enough data on the subject. It would be interesting to study the data by State and perhaps zip code as well. Obviously, there are poorer areas than others but would an analysis of that data yield new insights? Finding this data would more than likely be a challenge as it appears just the overall numbers are reported. With more data and analysis, we may be able to answer this question along with many others.