Anchor



Data Week Mini Hack-A-Thon

Using Data Visualization to Analyze the State-by-State Impact of Proposed Changes to SNAP Policy

October 1, 2019

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Background:

On July 24, 2019, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) released a proposed rule that would eliminate broad-based categorical eligibility (BBCE) in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). BBCE allows States the option to extend eligibility for SNAP to households that are receiving cash or noncash benefits from other assistance programs, such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). States can expand eligibility using BBCE in two ways:

1. **States can raise gross income limits from 130 percent of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG) up to 200 percent, allowing households with slightly higher incomes to qualify for SNAP**
2. States can remove or align asset tests with those of state-funded TANF programs, allowing households with savings or assets above the federal limit to qualify for SNAP

Overview of the data:[[1]](#footnote-2)

Using the annual public-use SNAP Quality Control (QC) [data file](https://www.fns.usda.gov/resource/snap-quality-control-data) for fiscal years 2015 through 2017, we have created three state-year-level datasets that include SNAP households, participants in SNAP households, and benefits to SNAP households, respectively, that have gross income greater than 130 percent of poverty and would thus lose eligibility if these changes were to be implemented.[[2]](#footnote-3)

Each of the three datasets includes one observation for each state and year. The variables tabulate the counts and percentages by household characteristic, specifically looking at households with: [[3]](#footnote-4)

* children, defined as individuals age 18 or younger (hhkid)
* no children (hhnokid)
* elderly individuals, defined as individuals age 60 or older (hheld)
* non-elderly individuals with disabilities (hhdis)
* earned income (hhearn)

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| Dataset | Description |
| hh\_stats.csv | State-year-level dataset detailing the impacts of SNAP BBCE changes on SNAP households.  This dataset includes:   1. Counts of SNAP households by household characteristic 2. Counts of SNAP households that would the federal income test by household characteristic 3. SNAP households that would fail the federal income test by household characteristic as a percentage of SNAP households with each household characteristic   ***Example****: Of the 25,725 SNAP households with children in D.C. in 2015,* ***4.3%*** *(1,095 households) would fail the federal SNAP income test.*   1. SNAP households that would fail the federal income test by household characteristic as a percentage of SNAP households that would fail the federal income test.   ***Example****: Of the 4,126 SNAP households that would fail the federal income test in D.C. in 2015,* ***26.5%*** *(1,095 households) have children.* |
| per\_stats.csv | State-year-level dataset detailing the impacts of SNAP BBCE changes on participants in SNAP households.  This dataset includes:   1. Counts of participants in SNAP households by household characteristic 2. Counts of participants in SNAP households that would fail the federal income test by household characteristic 3. Participants in SNAP households that would fail the federal income test by household characteristic as a percentage of participants in SNAP households with each household characteristic   ***Example****: Of the 81,584 participants in SNAP households with children in D.C. in 2015,* ***3.9%*** *(3,138 participants) would fail the federal SNAP income test.*   1. Participants in SNAP households that would fail the federal income test by household characteristic as a percentage of participants in SNAP households that would fail the federal income test.   ***Example****: Of the 6,672 participants in SNAP households that would fail the federal income test in D.C. in 2015,* ***47.0%*** *(3,138 participants) are in households with children.* |
| ben\_stats.csv | State-year-level dataset detailing the impacts of SNAP BBCE changes on benefits to SNAP households.  This dataset includes:   1. Total monthly benefits to SNAP households by household characteristic 2. Total monthly benefits to SNAP households that would fail the federal income test by household characteristic 3. Total monthly benefits to SNAP households that would fail the federal income test by household characteristic as a percentage of the total monthly benefits to SNAP households with each household characteristic   ***Example****: Of the $9.9 million monthly benefits to SNAP households with children in D.C. in 2015,* ***0.5%*** *($52 thousand) are allocated to households that would fail the federal SNAP income test.*   1. Total monthly benefits to SNAP households that would fail the federal income test by household characteristic as a percentage of the total monthly benefits to SNAP households that would fail the federal income test.   ***Example****: Of the $101 thousand monthly benefits to SNAP households that would fail the federal income test in D.C. in 2015,* ***52.0%*** *($52 thousand) are allocated to households with children.* |

Source: SNAP QC data for FY 2015 through FY 2017.

hh\_stats.csv

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| Variable | Description |
| statenm | State Name |
| year | Federal Fiscal Year (2015 - 2017) |
| hh\_total | Count of SNAP households |
| hh\_hhkid | Count of SNAP households with children |
| hh\_hhnokid | Count of SNAP households without children |
| hh\_hheld | Count of SNAP households with elderly individuals |
| hh\_hhdis | Count of SNAP households with individuals with disabilities |
| hh\_hhearn | Count of SNAP households with earnings |
| hh\_total\_fail | Count of SNAP households that would fail the federal income test |
| hh\_hhkid\_fail | Count of SNAP households with children that would fail the federal income test |
| hh\_hhnokid\_fail | Count of SNAP households without children that would fail the federal income test |
| hh\_hheld\_fail | Count of SNAP households with elderly individuals that would fail the federal income test |
| hh\_hhdis\_fail | Count of SNAP households with individuals with disabilities that would fail the federal income test |
| hh\_hhearn\_fail | Count of SNAP households with earnings that would fail the federal income test |
| hh\_total\_fail\_pctoftotal | Percent of SNAP households that would fail the federal income test |
| hh\_hhkid\_fail\_pctofhhkid | Percent of SNAP households with children that would fail the federal income test |
| hh\_hhnokid\_fail\_pctofhhnokid | Percent of SNAP households without children that would fail the federal income test |
| hh\_hheld\_fail\_pctofhheld | Percent of SNAP households with elderly individuals that would fail the federal income test |
| hh\_hhdis\_fail\_pctofhhdis | Percent of SNAP households with individuals with disabilities that would fail the federal income test |
| hh\_hhearn\_fail\_pctofhhearn | Percent of SNAP households with earnings that would fail the federal income test |
| hh\_hhkid\_fail\_pctoffail | Percent of SNAP households that would fail the federal income test that include children |
| hh\_hhnokid\_fail\_pctoffail | Percent of SNAP households that would fail the federal income test that do not include children |
| hh\_hheld\_fail\_pctoffail | Percent of SNAP households that would fail the federal income test that include an elderly individual |
| hh\_hhdis\_fail\_pctoffail | Percent of SNAP households that would fail the federal income test that include an individual with a disability |
| hh\_hhearn\_fail\_pctoffail | Percent of SNAP households that would fail the federal income test that have earnings |

per\_stats.csv

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| --- | --- |
| Variable | Description |
| statenm | State Name |
| year | Federal Fiscal Year (2015 - 2017) |
| per\_total | Count of participants in SNAP households |
| per\_hhkid | Count of participants in SNAP households with children |
| per\_hhnokid | Count of participants in SNAP households without children |
| per\_hheld | Count of participants in SNAP households with elderly individuals |
| per\_hhdis | Count of participants in SNAP households with individuals with disabilities |
| per\_hhearn | Count of participants in SNAP households with earnings |
| per\_total\_fail | Count of participants in SNAP households that would fail the federal income test |
| per\_hhkid\_fail | Count of participants in SNAP households with children that would fail the federal income test |
| per\_hhnokid\_fail | Count of participants in SNAP households without children that would fail the federal income test |
| per\_hheld\_fail | Count of participants in SNAP households with elderly individuals that would fail the federal income test |
| per\_hhdis\_fail | Count of participants in SNAP households with individuals with disabilities that would fail the federal income test |
| per\_hhearn\_fail | Count of participants in SNAP households with earnings that would fail the federal income test |
| per\_total\_fail\_pctoftotal | Percent of participants in SNAP households that would fail the federal income test |
| per\_hhkid\_fail\_pctofhhkid | Percent of participants in SNAP households with children that would fail the federal income test |
| per\_hhnokid\_fail\_pctofhhnokid | Percent of participants in SNAP households without children that would fail the federal income test |
| per\_hheld\_fail\_pctofhheld | Percent of participants in SNAP households with elderly individuals that would fail the federal income test |
| per\_hhdis\_fail\_pctofhhdis | Percent of participants in SNAP households with individuals with disabilities that would fail the federal income test |
| per\_hhearn\_fail\_pctofhhearn | Percent of participants in SNAP households with earnings that would fail the federal income test |
| per\_hhkid\_fail\_pctoffail | Percent of participants in SNAP households that would fail the federal income test that include children |
| per\_hhnokid\_fail\_pctoffail | Percent of participants in SNAP households that would fail the federal income test that do not include children |
| per\_hheld\_fail\_pctoffail | Percent of participants in SNAP households that would fail the federal income test that include an elderly individual |
| per\_hhdis\_fail\_pctoffail | Percent of participants in SNAP households that would fail the federal income test that include an individual with a disability |
| per\_hhearn\_fail\_pctoffail | Percent of participants in SNAP households that would fail the federal income test that have earnings |

ben\_stats.csv

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Variable | Description |
| statenm | State Name |
| year | Federal Fiscal Year (2015 - 2017) |
| ben\_total | Total monthly benefits to SNAP households |
| ben\_hhkid | Total monthly benefits to SNAP households with children |
| ben\_hhnokid | Total monthly benefits to SNAP households without children |
| ben\_hheld | Total monthly benefits to SNAP households with elderly individuals |
| ben\_hhdis | Total monthly benefits to SNAP households with individuals with disabilities |
| ben\_hhearn | Total monthly benefits to SNAP households with earnings |
| ben\_total\_fail | Total monthly benefits to SNAP households that would fail the federal income test |
| ben\_hhkid\_fail | Total monthly benefits to SNAP households with children that would fail the federal income test |
| ben\_hhnokid\_fail | Total monthly benefits to SNAP households without children that would fail the federal income test |
| ben\_hheld\_fail | Total monthly benefits to SNAP households with elderly individuals that would fail the federal income test |
| ben\_hhdis\_fail | Total monthly benefits to SNAP households with individuals with disabilities that would fail the federal income test |
| ben\_hhearn\_fail | Total monthly benefits to SNAP households with earnings that would fail the federal income test |
| ben\_total\_fail\_pctoftotal | Percent of monthly SNAP benefits allocated to households that would fail the federal income test |
| ben\_hhkid\_fail\_pctofhhkid | Percent of monthly SNAP benefits allocated to households with children that would fail the federal income test |
| ben\_hhnokid\_fail\_pctofhhnokid | Percent of monthly SNAP benefits allocated to households without children that would fail the federal income test |
| ben\_hheld\_fail\_pctofhheld | Percent of monthly SNAP benefits allocated to households with elderly individuals that would fail the federal income test |
| ben\_hhdis\_fail\_pctofhhdis | Percent of monthly SNAP benefits allocated to households with individuals with disabilities that would fail the federal income test |
| ben\_hhearn\_fail\_pctofhhearn | Percent of monthly SNAP benefits allocated to households with earnings that would fail the federal income test |
| ben\_hhkid\_fail\_pctoffail | Percent of monthly SNAP benefits allocated to households that would fail the federal income test that include children |
| ben\_hhnokid\_fail\_pctoffail | Percent of monthly SNAP benefits allocated to households that would fail the federal income test that do not include children |
| ben\_hheld\_fail\_pctoffail | Percent of monthly SNAP benefits allocated to households that would fail the federal income test that include an elderly individual |
| ben\_hhdis\_fail\_pctoffail | Percent of monthly SNAP benefits allocated to households that would fail the federal income test that include an individual with a disability |
| ben\_hhearn\_fail\_pctoffail | Percent of monthly SNAP benefits allocated to households that would fail the federal income test that have earnings |

1. Constructed data and accompanying documentation for the Data Week Mini Hack-A-Thon are provided by Mathematica for the purpose of this challenge. If you plan to use the data for analysis following the close of this event, we recommend reviewing sample sizes in the QC data or reaching out to Sarah Lauffer at [slauffer@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:slauffer@mathematica-mpr.com) for more information. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. This data varies from what was produced in our analysis conducted for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) as it only includes those who would be income ineligible and does not address households that would become asset ineligible. The prior analysis and data visualization can be found at <https://www.mathematica.org/dataviz/impact-of-bbce-proposal-on-snap-caseloads>. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. The listed household characteristics are not mutually exclusive. For example, a household may have both children and an elderly individual, and would be included in both subgroups. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)