



# **Characteristics of People and Cases on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

December 2017

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## **Abbreviations and acronyms used in this report**

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| ABAWD  | Able Bodied Adult without Dependents                            |
| DWP    | Diversionary Work Program                                       |
| DHS    | Minnesota Department of Human Services (department)             |
| EBT    | Electronic Benefits Transfer                                    |
| FPG    | Federal Poverty Guidelines                                      |
| GA     | General Assistance  |
| MFIP   | Minnesota Family Investment Program                             |
| MSA    | Minnesota Supplemental Aid                                      |
| PRWORA | Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act |
| RCA    | Refugee Cash Assistance   |
| RSDI   | Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance                  |
| SNAP   | Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program                       |
| SSI    | Supplemental Security Income                                    |
| TANF   | Temporary Assistance for Needy Families                         |

## Executive summary

The federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which is frequently referred to using the former name, Food Stamps nationally, provides a monthly benefit to low-income families, seniors, people with disabilities, and some single adults for the purchase of food. SNAP benefits cannot be used to purchase any nonfood items.

### Caseload

In December 2017, 444,027 Minnesotans were enrolled in SNAP, including adults and children in both stand-alone SNAP and in the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), the state's assistance program for families that combines SNAP with cash grants. This is a decrease of 4% from the 461,756 adults and children in both stand-alone SNAP and MFIP in December 2016, but remained above the number enrolled in 2009. Of the 444,027 enrolled in December 2017, 82% were enrolled in stand-alone SNAP. See the MFIP Characteristics report for information on receipt of SNAP through the MFIP food portion.

### Who is enrolled in SNAP?

In December 2017, 215,502 adults were enrolled in stand-alone SNAP, unduplicated in the following hierarchy:

- 35% were in families with minor children
- 25% were seniors aged 60 or older
- 26% were adults with disabilities, and
- 14% were other adults.

There were 146,982 children enrolled in stand-alone SNAP.

### Income from work

Overall, 28% of households receiving SNAP reported income from work. This varied by case category, with:

- 65% of families with children
- 28% of *other adults*
- 8% of adults with disabilities, and
- 5% of senior cases reporting work.

The average reported earnings for households with workers was \$1,543 per month. Of these, families with children reported the highest earnings, with \$1,825, and adults with disabilities reported the lowest, with \$601, on average.

## **Cases with no income**

Fourteen percent of households receiving SNAP (27,290) had no income, earned or unearned, reported for December 2017. Those households included 28,502 adults; 56% were adults under age 60 without disabilities and without children. SNAP may be the only safety net program available for adults under age 60 without disabilities and children, as they are not eligible for income supports available to families with children, seniors aged 60 or older, and people with diagnosed disabilities.

## Introduction

The federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which is sometimes referred to by the former names, Food Stamps nationally, or Food Support in Minnesota, provides a monthly benefit to low-income families, seniors, people with disabilities, and some single adults, for the purchase of food. SNAP benefits cannot be used to purchase hot food or nonfood items like pet food, personal hygiene products, cosmetics, alcohol, tobacco, vitamins or medicines. Households must meet income guidelines which vary by state; in Minnesota, households must have an income of less than 165% of the Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG). For a household of two without seniors or adults with a disability, that limit is \$2,203 per month.<sup>1</sup> Benefits are based on household size, and amount and types of other income and expenses.

### A brief history of SNAP

SNAP was created with the Food Stamp Act of 1964 [HR 10222] introduced under Agriculture Secretary Orville Freeman, a Minnesotan. Goals of the original Food Stamp program were to strengthen the agricultural economy and to increase nutrition in low-income households. The program required households to purchase food stamps to be used to purchase food. Responsibility for the program is divided between the states and federal government, with states responsible for certification and issuance and the federal government for funding and authorizing retailers. The program prohibited discrimination in benefit eligibility by race, creed, national origin and political beliefs. Several legislative acts in the 1960s and 1970s increased state accountability, established national standards of eligibility, and expanded the program to all states and territories.

The Food Stamp Act of 1977 [P.L. 95-113] made major changes that resulted in a program that looks more like the SNAP of today. It set income eligibility criteria using the current Federal Poverty Guidelines according to household size; restricted eligibility of students, some immigrants, and people who voluntarily quit jobs; set requirements for states regarding application processing time; and other provisions meant to make access and certification easier for participants.

Other major legislative changes to the program included provisions in the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996 that required states to eliminate the actual “stamps” by implementing Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) by Oct. 1, 2002.

In addition, PRWORA limited access to SNAP to three months in a three-year period for those that the U.S. Department of Agriculture deems are “able-bodied adults without dependents.” These childless adults aged 18 to 49 are only eligible for SNAP if their income is below the gross income limit, and if they work at least 80 hours per month, or participate in SNAP Employment and Training activities. This time limit does not apply to those who are unable to work due to physical or mental health reasons, pregnant women, those caring for a child or

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<sup>1</sup> Combined Manual 0019.06 (Federal Fiscal Year 2017)

incapacitated family member, or are exempt from general work requirements. States can request to temporarily waive this time limit for SNAP recipients who live in areas with high unemployment.

The Farm Bill of 2008 [H.R. 2419, the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008] changed the program's name to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. It expanded eligibility by indexing asset limits to inflation and excluded combat pay from calculation of benefits, made money available to test point-of-purchase incentives for healthful foods, and set other provisions meant to simplify administration and strengthen program integrity.<sup>2</sup>

On Feb. 7, 2014, the SNAP program was reauthorized through 2018, part of the Agricultural Act of 2014. [P.L. 113-79] On Dec. 20, 2018, the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 became law. [P.L. 115-334] This Farm Bill reauthorized SNAP for another five years. It made changes to program integrity and prioritized job training and other employment-related activities, based on findings from SNAP Employment and Training pilot projects established in the 2014 Farm Bill. It also ended bonuses to states demonstrating significant improvement in program operations.

## **Recent changes affecting Minnesota**

Minnesota received a statewide waiver in 2009 that lifted the three-month time limit and mandatory work requirements for able bodied adults without dependents due to high unemployment across the state in the wake of the Great Recession. As the economy improved and the unemployment rate fell, Minnesota was no longer eligible for a statewide waiver. On Nov. 1, 2013, the time limit and work requirements were reinstated and those who had been covered under the waiver began losing eligibility for SNAP in February 2014. Between February 2014 and February 2015, more than 46,000 adults without children were removed from SNAP in Minnesota.

Minnesota implemented six-month reporting by SNAP households on Mar. 1, 2009, which continues in 2019, with recipients reporting earned and unearned income; their SNAP grant amount is calculated using that income amount for the following six-month period. Prior to this policy change, households with earned income or recent work history reported income to their county financial worker each month. Households must report income changes that result in total gross earnings that exceed 130% of the Federal Poverty Guideline for their household size, although they remain eligible up to 165% of the FPG.<sup>3</sup> Able bodied adults subject to work requirements must report if their work hours or work activities drop below 20 hours a week, or 80 hours a month.

Minnesota continues to have no asset limit for the SNAP program, and the gross income limit for SNAP eligibility remains at 165% of the FPG for most households applying or being recertified.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/short-history-snap> (updated November 2017)

<sup>3</sup> Combined Manual 0007.03.02.

<sup>4</sup> Combined Manual 0020.12 and 0015.03.



In September 2017, Minnesota received approval to extend through September 2020 the waiver that it has had since 1998 to combine cash and food benefits in its largest family cash assistance program. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, allows the state to provide SNAP to households enrolled in the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), Minnesota’s Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, as a combined benefit. Minnesota also has waivers to reimburse the state for some Housing Support (formerly Group Residential Housing) food expenditures, and to allow community-based organizations serving newly arrived refugees to complete the SNAP application interview. To report the total number of people who receive assistance through SNAP, the Quick facts for December trends on page 7 includes households and people enrolled in SNAP, both as a stand-alone program and through MFIP. The combined SNAP and MFIP caseloads are referred to as the total SNAP caseload. Participants enrolled in SNAP through MFIP are included only in Figure 1.

## **Minnesota tribal nations and SNAP**

Two tribal nations in Minnesota administer SNAP. In October 2017, White Earth Nation was the first tribal nation to meet the merit system requirement to administer SNAP. It serves tribal members in the counties of Becker, Clearwater and Mahnomen. In 2018, Red Lake Nation was the second tribal nation to meet the merit system requirement to administer SNAP, serving tribal members within its boundaries.

In recognition of tribal sovereignty and self-determination, the department partnered with the two tribal nations to meet the merit system requirement. The tribes, department and county agencies partnered to develop a transition plan ensuring a smooth transfer of SNAP duties within tribal geographic boundaries.

## **Report format**

Data are provided on the SNAP caseload, demographics of enrolled adults, length of SNAP enrollment, use of other public assistance, and economic characteristics of cases in December 2017. Because some individuals have multiple characteristics of interest (such as disability status or age), a hierarchy describes the SNAP caseload so each participant or case is counted only once. Households with children are identified first, then seniors over age 59, next adults with a disability, and other adults. Most data are reported at the person-level; the only case data are the grant amounts and income types in Table 4. Most of the report is about adults receiving SNAP.

A case consists of people who live and eat together. Not all persons living in a household are necessarily eligible; some may be disqualified and excluded from the assistance unit. These individuals are not included in the person-level data. People living in the same household may be members of separate cases. A child is in the same case as their parent if they reside together until a youth is age 22. At that point, they become their own case, if eligible. There is no age requirement for SNAP, and those under age 18 may apply as their own case if they are not living with a parent who is a case member.<sup>5</sup>

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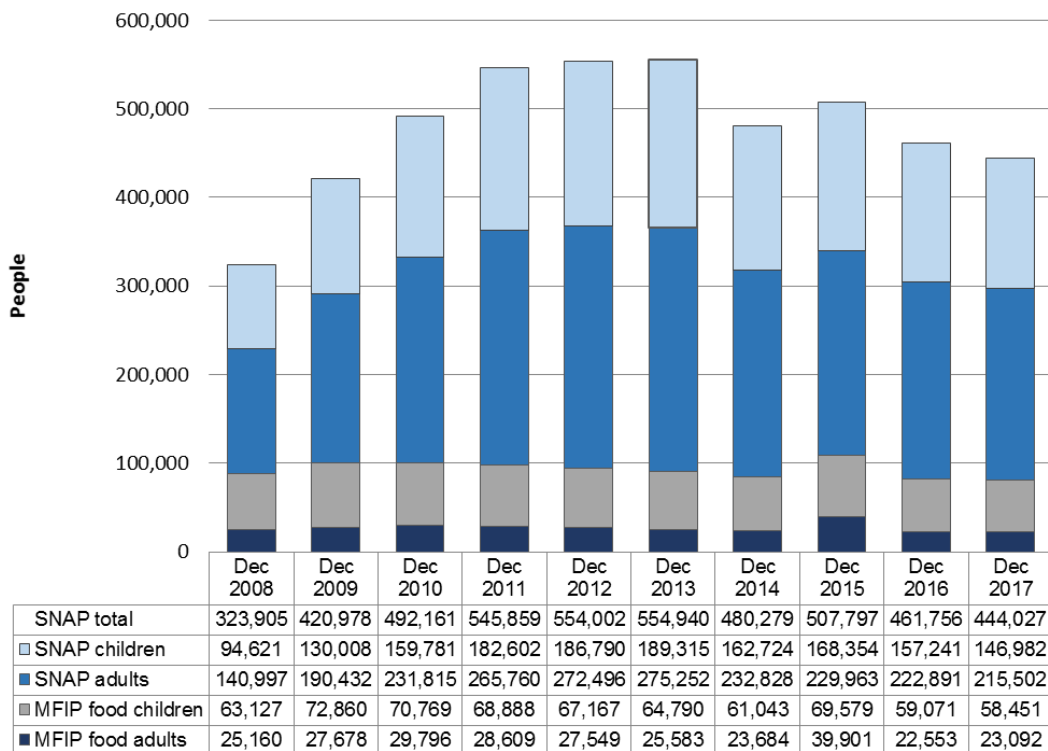
<sup>5</sup> Combined Manual 0014.03.03

Quick facts highlight important information from the larger tables and provide selected trend data using small charts and bulleted text. Data in the tables section are the source for data in quick facts, which cite the table where the data are found (Tables 1 to 4). Detailed policy and data definitions follow the data tables and are important in understanding the tables.

## Quick facts for December trends

- In December 2017, 444,027 individuals were enrolled in Minnesota’s SNAP caseload, including adults and children in the Minnesota Family Investment Program, the state’s largest cash assistance program for families (see Figure 1). The MFIP grant combines food assistance from SNAP with cash assistance. This page reports on all SNAP received, both stand-alone SNAP and the MFIP food portion. The remainder of the report reflects only people receiving stand-alone SNAP and excludes those receiving the MFIP food portion.
- The total number of SNAP participants dropped by 17,729 (4%) since December 2016. The number of MFIP participants was consistent from December 2016 to December 2017, continuing at its lowest point since 2007.
- Of participants enrolled in the MFIP food portion in December 2017, 23,092 were adults and 58,451 were children. The percentage of MFIP food portion participants who are children (72%) was equal to the percentage in December 2016. Of the SNAP-only participants enrolled in December 2017, 146,982, or 41%, were children.

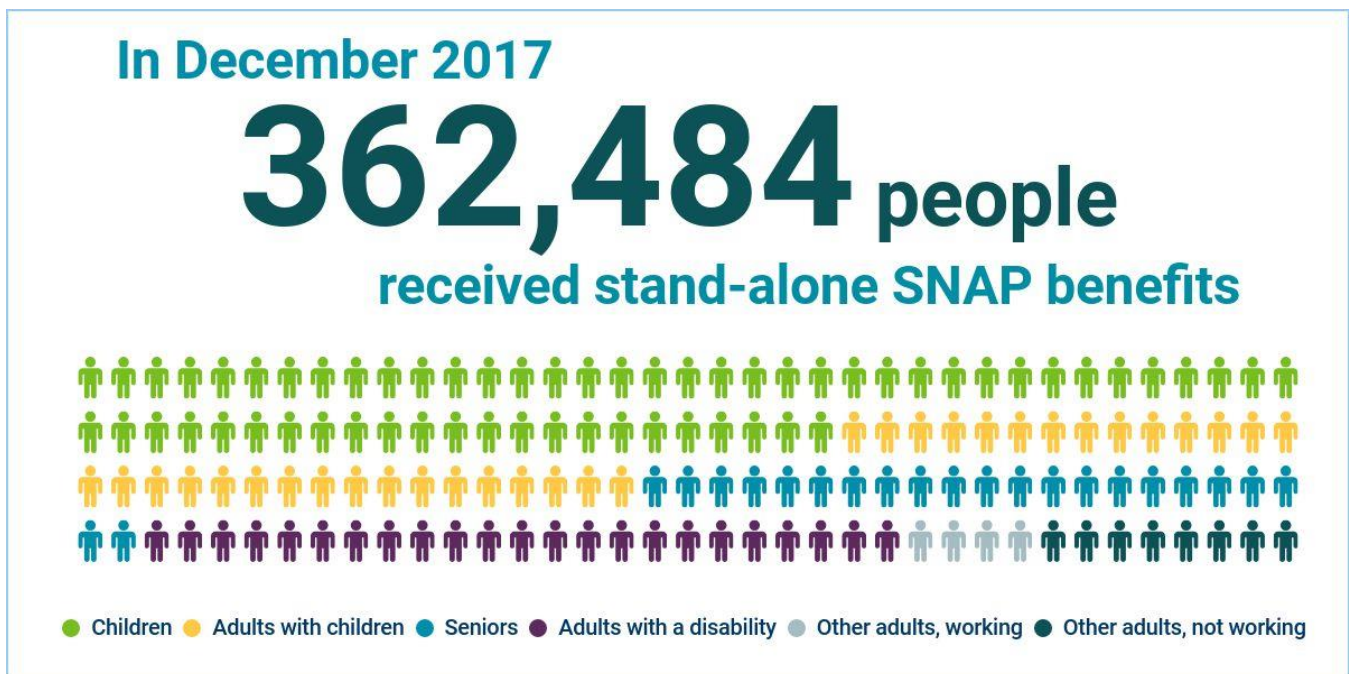
**Figure 1. SNAP participants: December 2008 to December 2017**



## Quick facts for December 2017: Populations on SNAP

- This report organizes participants into distinct groups: Adults with children,<sup>6</sup> seniors, adults with a disability, other adults and children. *Other adults* receive SNAP and are under age 60, not part of a case with children, and do not have a disability.
- Figure 2 shows the unduplicated total enrolled adult and child populations. Sixty-one percent of SNAP participants are children and their families, 15% are seniors, and 16% are adults who have a disability.
- Figure 2 separates the *other adults* group into those who are working and those who are not employed. Much of the current policy debate around work requirements centers on this group. The *other adults* group constitutes 8% of the SNAP caseload in Minnesota.

Figure 2. SNAP enrolled adults and children

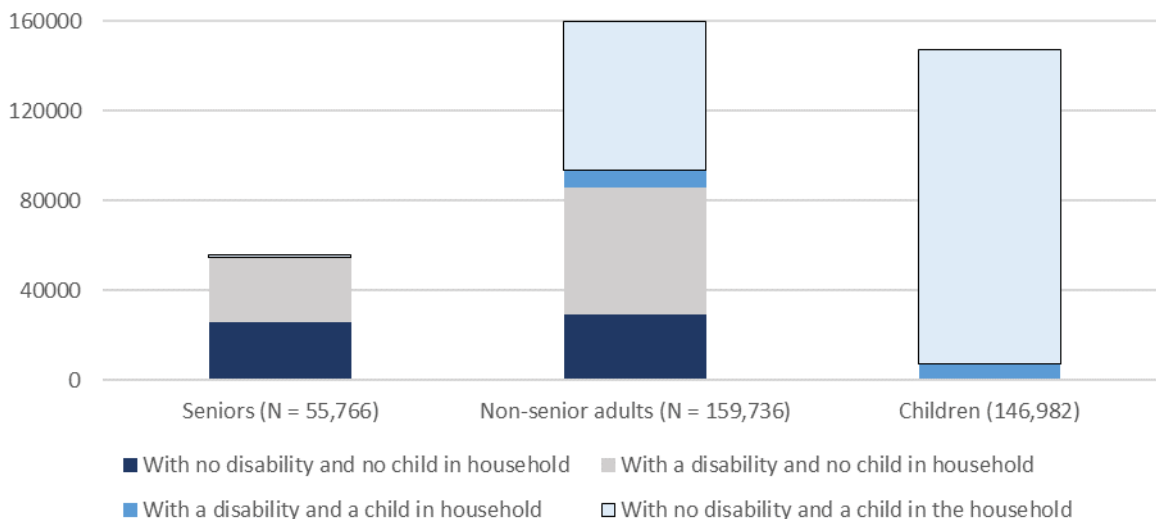


<sup>6</sup> Most often, adults in the adults with children group are parents.

## Quick facts for December 2017: Overlapping characteristics

- SNAP participants can meet the criteria for multiple characteristic groupings; having a disability or a child in the home are not mutually exclusive. Throughout most of this report staff has created a hierarchy to count each SNAP participant only once. However, it is also relevant to describe the overlaps among these categories. Figure 3 shows seniors, non-senior adults, and children by disability status, and whether a child is in a household.
- More than half of seniors (52%) receiving SNAP in December 2017 also had a disability documented in the eligibility system.
- Three percent of seniors had a child in their household.
- Less than 20% of adults under age 60 did not have a documented disability or a child in their household.
- Forty percent of non-senior adults receiving SNAP had a disability, and 5% had a disability and a child in the household.
- Forty-one percent of non-senior adults had a child in their household and did not have a disability.
- Five percent of children receiving SNAP in December 2017 had a documented disability.

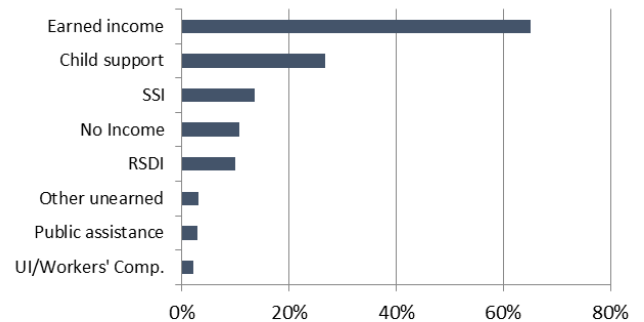
**Figure 3. Overlapping characteristics of SNAP participants in December 2017**



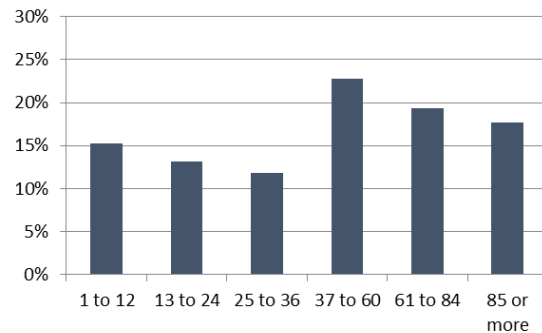
## Quick facts for December 2017: Families with children

- Thirty-five percent of SNAP adults live in households with minor children (75,351 adults). There are 146,982 children receiving SNAP<sup>7</sup> (data from Table 1).
- The average age of adults with children is 36 years, with 43% in their 30s, 70% are female, 73% have at least a high school diploma, 44% never married, 35% are married and living with a spouse, and 49% are white (Table 2).
- Of the 60,819 family cases, 65% report income from work. Twenty-seven percent receive child support, 14% income from SSI, and 3% receive cash public assistance (Figure 4, Table 4).
- Of those who reported work, the average income was \$1,825 per month (Table 4).
- Adults in families with children averaged 49 months of SNAP enrollment since 2009. More than 28% of adults in families have used 24 months or less (Figure 5, Table 3).

**Figure 4. SNAP cases with minor children: Income sources**



**Figure 5. SNAP adult participants with minor children: Enrollment months 2009 to 2017**

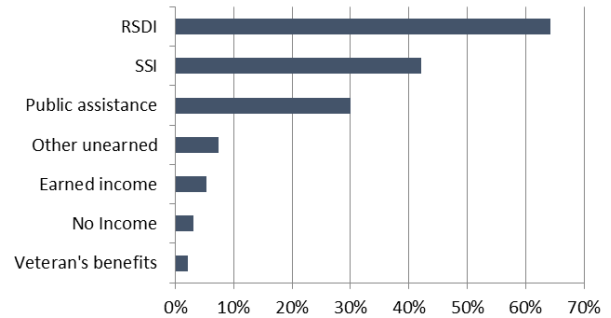


<sup>7</sup> This includes 9,994 children in families where a child is the only member to receive stand-alone SNAP; other family members receive the food portion of MFIP or are ineligible for SNAP because of income or other requirements.

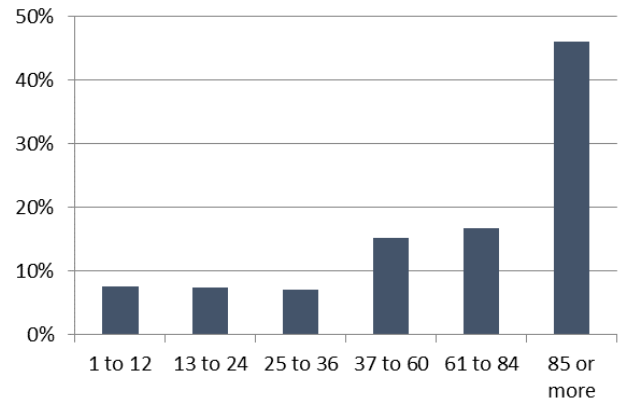
## Quick facts for December 2017: SNAP seniors

- Twenty-five percent (54,323) of SNAP adults are age 60 or older, considered seniors according to SNAP policy, and do not have a child in the household (data from Table 1).
- The average age of seniors on SNAP is 70 (with a minimum age of 60), 62% are female, 65% are high school graduates, 15% are married and living with a spouse, 18% are widowed and 60% are white. Seniors are more likely to be Asian, widowed or divorced, and have less education than other groups (Table 2).
- Nearly all cases with seniors have unearned income, with RSDI being the most common source (64%), followed by SSI (42%), and public assistance grants (30%). The average amount of unearned income is \$932 per month. Five percent reported earned income (Figure 6, Table 4).
- Seniors average about six years of SNAP enrollment over the previous nine years, with 46% enrolled for more than seven years (Figure 7, Table 3).

**Figure 6. SNAP cases with seniors: Income sources**



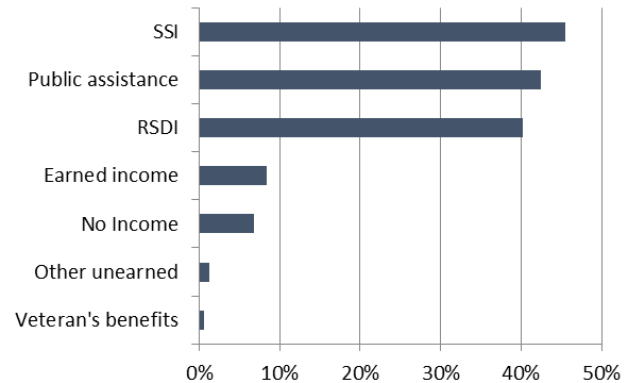
**Figure 7. SNAP seniors: Enrollment months 2009 to 2017**



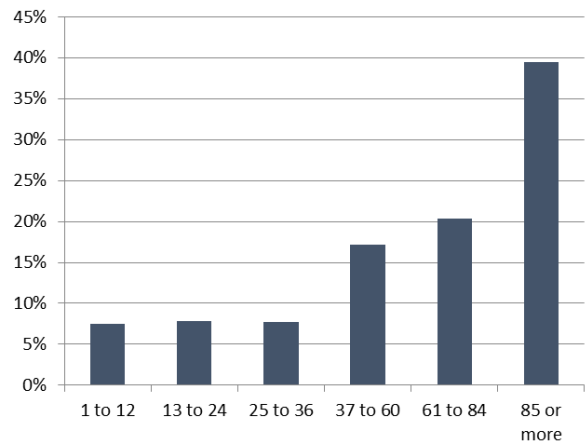
## Quick facts for December 2017: SNAP adults with disabilities

- The average age of non-senior SNAP adults with a disability who are not on a case with a child is 45. Half are female, 71% have at least a high school diploma, and 62% never married (Table 2).
- Fifty-nine percent of SNAP adults with a disability are white, 27% black, 5% Asian, 4% American Indian and 3% Hispanic (Table 2).
- Ninety-one percent of SNAP cases with persons who have a disability report unearned income averaging \$721 per month. The most common types are SSI (46%), RSDI (40%), and public assistance (42%), including Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA), General Assistance, Refugee Cash Assistance, MFIP and DWP. Eight percent reported earned income (Figure 8, Tables 3 and 4).
- Adults with disabilities average about five-and-a-half-years of SNAP enrollment over a nine-year period. Forty percent were enrolled in SNAP for more than seven years (Figure 9, Table 3).

**Figure 8. SNAP cases with adults with disabilities: Income source**



**Figure 9. SNAP adults with disabilities: Enrollment months 2009 to 2017**

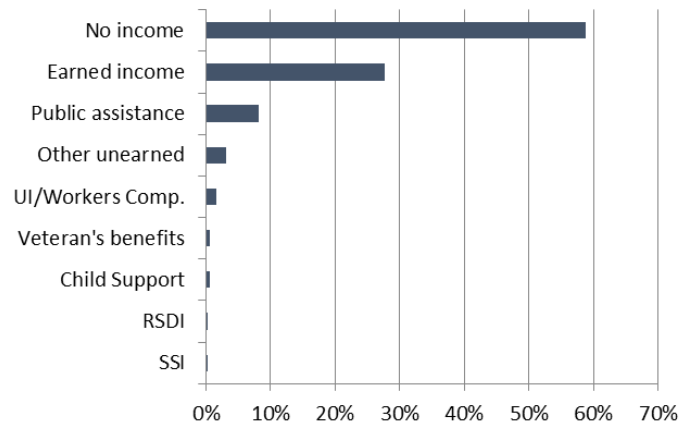




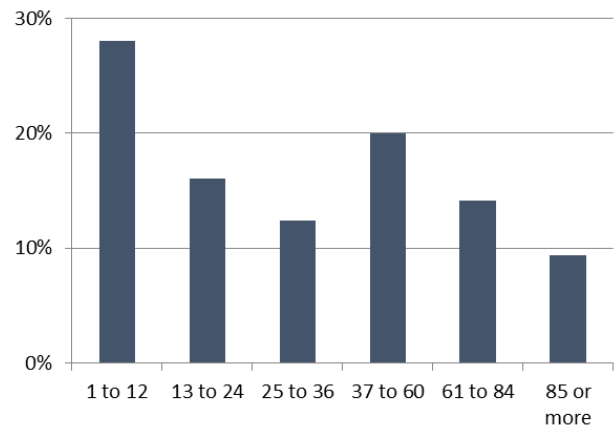
## Quick facts for December 2017: SNAP adults without a disability and without children

- Fourteen percent of SNAP adults (29,424) are *other adults*. Those in the other adults group do not overlap with other groups, as they have no children, do not have a disability, and are younger than 60. (Table 1).
- *Other adults* have an average age of 40. They were more likely to be male (54%), and more likely to have never married than other groups (66%), (Table 2).
- *Other adults* received SNAP for an average of 37 months in the past nine years. This is the lowest average of the various groups. (Figure 11, Table 3).
- Policy note: Adults in this group include able bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDS), a specific group of adults without a disability between the ages of 18 and 50 who have restricted SNAP eligibility to three in 36 months. Many are not eligible for income supports available to families with children, seniors aged 60 and older, and persons with diagnosed disabilities. For them, SNAP may be the only *safety net* assistance program available.
- In December 2017, there were 11,671 people fitting the federal ABAWD definition, and 6,319 of them were utilizing a counted month. Others were living in an area with a time limit waiver or were meeting the work requirement.

**Figure 10. Other adult cases: Income sources**



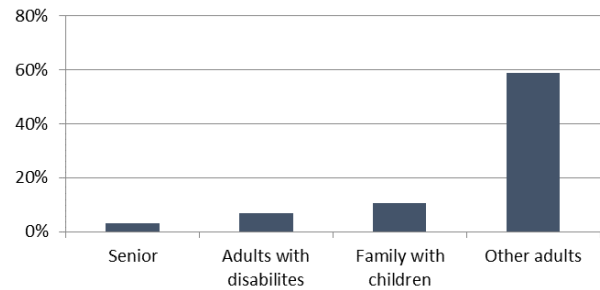
**Figure 11. SNAP other adults: Enrollment months 2009 to 2017**



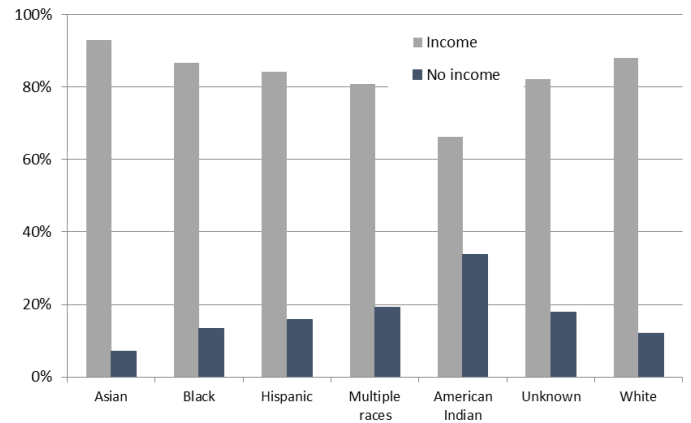
## Quick facts for December 2017: SNAP enrollees with no other income

- Policy note: Households must report all income types, both from unearned sources and from self-employment and jobs. Income information is collected at application, annual recertification, at six-month intervals, and when there is a reported significant increase. Not all income is used to determine grant amounts for eligibility.
- Fourteen percent of SNAP cases (27,290) had no income reported (Table 4).
- Fifty-nine percent of cases with adults without a disability and without children, and under age 60, had no reported income (Table 4).
- Adults in households with no income had similar education levels to those with income. More than 70% of adults in households, either with or without income, had at least a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Adults with no income are more likely to be under age 30, male, and Black or American Indian. They were also more likely to have never married, 67% compared to 43% of participants with income (Figures 13 and 14).

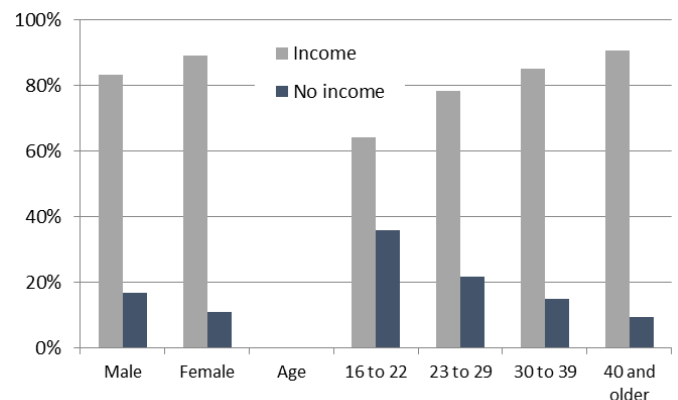
**Figure 12. Percent of SNAP cases with no income by category**



**Figure 13. Race/ethnicity of SNAP adults with and without income**



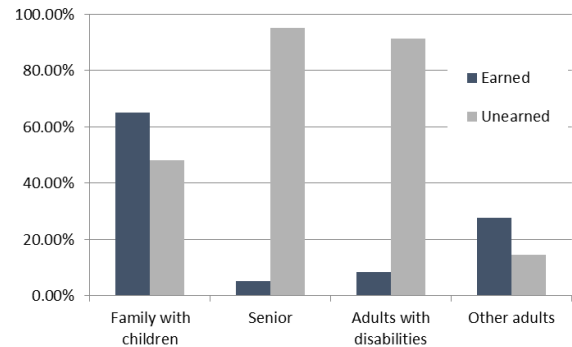
**Figure 14. Gender and age of SNAP adults with and without income**



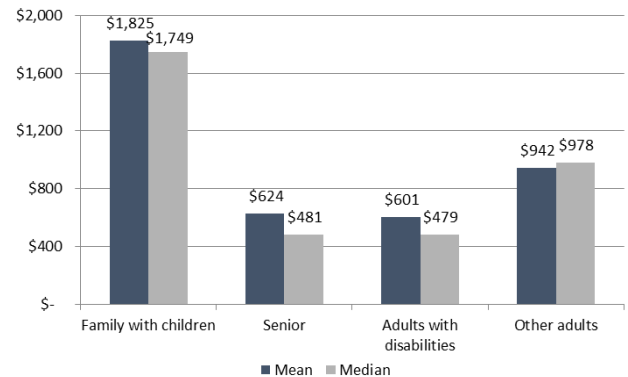
## Quick facts for December 2017: Income and earnings of SNAP households

- Policy note: Most people receiving SNAP report their income every six months. Income changes during that time period do not have to be reported unless household income goes above 130% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, which in December 2017 for a family of three was \$2,212. Decreases in income can also be reported. Reported earnings may occur in any month from July to December 2017.
- Overall, 28% of SNAP cases report income from work. This varies by type of case, with 65% of families with children, 28% of other adults, 8% of adults with disabilities, and 5% of senior cases reporting work (Figure 15, Table 4).
- The average of reported earnings for households with workers was \$1,543 per month. Families with children reported the highest earnings with \$1,825, and adults with disabilities the lowest, with \$601, on average (Figure 16, Table 4).
- Sixty-eight percent of SNAP cases reported unearned income, with a monthly average of \$799 (Table 4).
- The most common types of unearned income vary by case type. Families with children are most likely to have child support (27%), seniors most likely to have RSDI (64%), and adults with disabilities most likely to have SSI (45%), (Table 4).

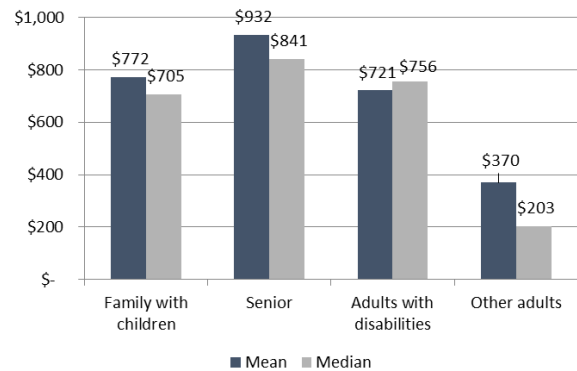
**Figure 15. Percentage of SNAP cases with earned and unearned income by type**



**Figure 16. Average monthly earnings of SNAP cases by type for working cases**



**Figure 17. Average monthly unearned income of SNAP cases by type**



## Data Tables

**Table 1. December 2017 stand-alone SNAP cases and participants categorized by hierarchy<sup>8</sup>**

|                 | Total   | Families with children | Seniors | Adults with disabilities | Other adults |
|-----------------|---------|------------------------|---------|--------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Cases</b>    | 192,345 | 60,819                 | 50,604  | 54,594                   | 26,328       |
|                 | 100%    | 32%                    | 26%     | 28%                      | 14%          |
| <b>Adults</b>   | 215,502 | 75,351                 | 54,323  | 56,404                   | 29,424       |
|                 | 100%    | 35%                    | 25%     | 26%                      | 14%          |
| <b>Children</b> | 146,982 | 146,982                | 0       | 0                        | 0            |
|                 | 100%    | 100%                   | 0%      | 0%                       | 0%           |

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<sup>8</sup> For a description of the hierarchy used in the report see page 5, Report format.

**Table 2. Demographic characteristics of SNAP adults by case types for December 2017**

|                                       |   | Total adults | Adults with children | Seniors | Adults with disabilities | Other adults |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------|----------------------|---------|--------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Enrollees</b>                      | <b>Count</b>                              | 215,502      | 75,351               | 54,323  | 56,404                   | 29,424       |
|                                       | <b>Percent of all enrollees</b>           | 100.0%       | 35.0%                | 25.2%   | 26.2%                    | 13.7%        |
| <b>Age</b>                            | <b>Mean</b>                               | 48           | 36                   | 70      | 45                       | 40           |
|                                       | <b>Median</b>                             | 47           | 35                   | 68      | 48                       | 40           |
|                                       | <b>Minimum</b>                            | 15           | 15                   | 60      | 16                       | 16           |
|                                       | <b>Maximum</b>                            | 107          | 102                  | 107     | 59                       | 59           |
|                                       | <b>Under 23</b>                           | 7,604        | 2,864                | 0       | 1,211                    | 3,529        |
|                                       | <b>Column percent</b>                     | 3.5%         | 3.8%                 | 0.0%    | 2.1%                     | 12.0%        |
|                                       | <b>23 - 29</b>                            | 27,640       | 16,431               | 0       | 5,741                    | 5,468        |
|                                       |   | 12.8%        | 21.8%                | 0.0%    | 10.2%                    | 18.6%        |
|                                       | <b>30 - 39</b>                            | 48,525       | 32,464               | 0       | 10,551                   | 5,510        |
|                                       |   | 22.5%        | 43.1%                | 0.0%    | 18.7%                    | 18.7%        |
|                                       | <b>40 - 49</b>                            | 33,952       | 16,474               | 0       | 13,270                   | 4,208        |
|                                       |   | 15.8%        | 21.9%                | 0.0%    | 23.5%                    | 14.3%        |
|                                       | <b>50 - 59</b>                            | 42,014       | 5,674                | 0       | 25,631                   | 10,709       |
|                                       |   | 19.5%        | 7.5%                 | 0.0%    | 45.4%                    | 36.4%        |
| <b>60 - 64</b>                        | 18,522                                    | 824          | 17,698               | 0       | 0                        |              |
|                                       | 8.6%                                      | 1.1%         | 32.6%                | 0.0%    | 0.0%                     |              |
| <b>65 and over</b>                    | 37,245                                    | 620          | 36,625               | 0       | 0                        |              |
|                                       | 17.3%                                     | 0.8%         | 67.4%                | 0.0%    | 0.0%                     |              |
| <b>Gender</b>                         | <b>Female</b>                             | 128,262      | 52,550               | 33,769  | 28,372                   | 13,571       |
|                                       |   | 59.5%        | 69.7%                | 62.2%   | 50.3%                    | 46.1%        |
|                                       | <b>Male</b>                               | 87,240       | 22,801               | 20,554  | 28,032                   | 15,853       |
|                                       | 40.5%                                     | 30.3%        | 37.8%                | 49.7%   | 53.9%                    |              |
| <b>Education</b>                      | <b>None or pre-first grade or unknown</b> | 18,456       | 6,217                | 8,452   | 2,740                    | 1,047        |
|                                       |   | 8.6%         | 8.3%                 | 15.6%   | 4.9%                     | 3.6%         |
|                                       | <b>Grade school</b>                       | 6,084        | 1,987                | 2,660   | 1,076                    | 361          |
|                                       |   | 2.8%         | 2.6%                 | 4.9%    | 1.9%                     | 1.2%         |
|                                       | <b>Some high school</b>                   | 39,001       | 12,548               | 7,971   | 12,343                   | 6,139        |
|                                       |   | 18.1%        | 16.7%                | 14.7%   | 21.9%                    | 20.9%        |
|                                       | <b>High school graduate</b>               | 116,657      | 40,919               | 26,764  | 32,196                   | 16,778       |
|                                       |   | 54.1%        | 54.3%                | 49.3%   | 57.1%                    | 57.0%        |
|                                       | <b>Some post-secondary</b>                | 25,915       | 10,703               | 5,443   | 6,126                    | 3,643        |
|                                       |   | 12.0%        | 14.2%                | 10.0%   | 10.9%                    | 12.4%        |
|                                       | <b>College graduate</b>                   | 5,147        | 1,879                | 1,451   | 1,035                    | 782          |
|                                       |   | 2.4%         | 2.5%                 | 2.7%    | 1.8%                     | 2.7%         |
|                                       | <b>Graduate degree</b>                    | 4,242        | 1,098                | 1,582   | 888                      | 674          |
|                                       |   | 2.0%         | 1.5%                 | 2.9%    | 1.6%                     | 2.3%         |
| <b>High school graduate or higher</b> | 151,961                                   | 54,599       | 35,240               | 40,245  | 21,877                   |              |
|                                       | 70.5%                                     | 72.5%        | 64.9%                | 71.4%   | 74.4%                    |              |

Table 2: Continued

|                       |                                    | Total adults | Adults with children | Seniors | Adults with disabilities | Other adults |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|---------|--------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Marital status</b> | <b>Divorced</b>                    | 38,844       | 6,817                | 16,374  | 11,144                   | 4,509        |
|                       |                                    | 18.0%        | 9.0%                 | 30.1%   | 19.8%                    | 15.3%        |
|                       | <b>Legally separated</b>           | 723          | 230                  | 206     | 207                      | 80           |
|                       |                                    | 0.3%         | 0.3%                 | 0.4%    | 0.4%                     | 0.3%         |
|                       | <b>Married, living with spouse</b> | 39,987       | 26,577               | 8,374   | 2,706                    | 2,330        |
|                       |                                    | 18.6%        | 35.3%                | 15.4%   | 4.8%                     | 7.9%         |
|                       | <b>Never married</b>               | 99,730       | 32,914               | 12,437  | 34,978                   | 19,401       |
|                       |                                    | 46.3%        | 43.7%                | 22.9%   | 62.0%                    | 65.9%        |
|                       | <b>Married, living apart</b>       | 23,783       | 8,020                | 7,004   | 6,162                    | 2,597        |
|                       |                                    | 11.0%        | 10.6%                | 12.9%   | 10.9%                    | 8.8%         |
|                       | <b>Widowed</b>                     | 12,435       | 794                  | 9,928   | 1,207                    | 506          |
|                       |                                    | 5.8%         | 1.1%                 | 18.3%   | 2.1%                     | 1.7%         |
| <b>Race/ethnicity</b> | <b>Asian</b>                       | 18,787       | 7,904                | 7,234   | 2,675                    | 974          |
|                       |                                    | 8.7%         | 10.5%                | 13.3%   | 4.7%                     | 3.3%         |
|                       | <b>Black</b>                       | 54,245       | 21,534               | 10,587  | 15,301                   | 6,823        |
|                       |                                    | 25.2%        | 28.6%                | 19.5%   | 27.1%                    | 23.2%        |
|                       | <b>Hispanic</b>                    | 9,321        | 4,574                | 1,877   | 1,609                    | 1,261        |
|                       |                                    | 4.3%         | 6.1%                 | 3.5%    | 2.9%                     | 4.3%         |
|                       | <b>American Indian</b>             | 9,102        | 2,619                | 1,083   | 2,435                    | 2,965        |
|                       |                                    | 4.2%         | 3.5%                 | 2.0%    | 4.3%                     | 10.1%        |
|                       | <b>White</b>                       | 119,707      | 36,931               | 32,825  | 33,381                   | 16,570       |
|                       |                                    | 55.5%        | 49.0%                | 60.4%   | 59.2%                    | 56.3%        |
|                       | <b>Multiple</b>                    | 2,386        | 1,125                | 167     | 644                      | 450          |
|                       |                                    | 1.1%         | 1.5%                 | 0.3%    | 1.1%                     | 1.5%         |
|                       | <b>Unknown</b>                     | 1,954        | 664                  | 550     | 359                      | 381          |
|                       |                                    | 0.9%         | 0.9%                 | 1.0%    | 0.6%                     | 1.3%         |
| <b>Citizenship</b>    | <b>Non-U.S.</b>                    | 15,736       | 9,132                | 3,205   | 2,005                    | 1,394        |
|                       |                                    | 7.3%         | 12.1%                | 5.9%    | 3.6%                     | 4.7%         |
|                       | <b>U.S.</b>                        | 199,766      | 66,219               | 51,118  | 54,399                   | 28,030       |
|                       |                                    | 92.7%        | 87.9%                | 94.1%   | 96.4%                    | 95.3%        |

**Table 3. December 2017 SNAP adults: Months of SNAP and cash assistance enrollment**

|                                 |                                 | Total adults  | Adults with children | Seniors | Adults with disabilities | Other adults |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------|--------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Enrollees</b>                | <b>Count</b>                    | 215,502       | 75,351               | 54,323  | 56,404                   | 29,424       |
|                                 | <b>Percent of all enrollees</b> | 100.0%        | 35.0%                | 25.2%   | 26.2%                    | 13.7%        |
| <b>SNAP Months in MN:</b>       | <b>Mean</b>                     | 57.9          | 49.3                 | 71.3    | 67.5                     | 37.1         |
|                                 | <b>2009 - 2017</b>              | <b>Median</b> | 58                   | 47      | 79                       | 72           |
|                                 | <b>1 - 12 Months</b>            | 28,051        | 11,460               | 4,091   | 4,257                    | 8,243        |
|                                 | <b>Column Percent</b>           | 13.0%         | 15.2%                | 7.5%    | 7.5%                     | 28.0%        |
|                                 | <b>13 - 24 Months</b>           | 23,044        | 9,920                | 4,001   | 4,393                    | 4,730        |
|                                 |                                 | 10.7%         | 13.2%                | 7.4%    | 7.8%                     | 16.1%        |
|                                 | <b>25 - 36 Months</b>           | 20,765        | 8,895                | 3,870   | 4,357                    | 3,643        |
|                                 |                                 | 9.6%          | 11.8%                | 7.1%    | 7.7%                     | 12.4%        |
|                                 | <b>37 - 60 Months</b>           | 40,909        | 17,126               | 8,243   | 9,652                    | 5,888        |
|                                 |                                 | 19.0%         | 22.7%                | 15.2%   | 17.1%                    | 20.0%        |
|                                 | <b>61 - 84 Months</b>           | 39,357        | 14,603               | 9,119   | 11,483                   | 4,152        |
|                                 |                                 | 18.3%         | 19.4%                | 16.8%   | 20.4%                    | 14.1%        |
|                                 | <b>85 or More Months</b>        | 63,376        | 13,347               | 24,999  | 22,262                   | 2,768        |
|                                 |                                 | 29.4%         | 17.7%                | 46.0%   | 39.5%                    | 9.4%         |
| <b>Public Assistance in MN:</b> | <b>MFIP/DWP</b>                 | 15,468        | 13,538               | 41      | 671                      | 1,218        |
|                                 | <b>2017</b>                     | 7.2%          | 18.0%                | 0.1%    | 1.2%                     | 4.1%         |
|                                 | <b>MSA</b>                      | 30,730        | 219                  | 15,282  | 15,186                   | 43           |
|                                 |                                 | 14.3%         | 0.3%                 | 28.1%   | 26.9%                    | 0.1%         |
|                                 | <b>GA/RCA</b>                   | 22,541        | 507                  | 2,556   | 14,586                   | 4,892        |
|                                 |                                 | 10.5%         | 0.7%                 | 4.7%    | 25.9%                    | 16.6%        |
|                                 | <b>Emergency Services</b>       | 11,207        | 4,789                | 1,274   | 3,784                    | 1,360        |
|                                 |                                 | 5.2%          | 6.4%                 | 2.3%    | 6.7%                     | 4.6%         |

**Table 4. December 2017 SNAP adult cases: SNAP grants, earned and unearned income by case types**

|                                     |  | Total cases | Families with children | Seniors | Adults with disabilities | Other adults |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------|------------------------|---------|--------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Cases</b>                        | <b>Count</b>   | 192,345     | 60,819                 | 50,604  | 54,594                   | 26,328       |
|                                     | <b>Row Percent</b>                                       | 100.0%      | 31.6%                  | 26.3%   | 28.4%                    | 13.7%        |
| <b>SNAP Grant</b>                   | <b>Mean</b>  | \$187       | \$326                  | \$103   | \$121                    | \$166        |
|                                     | <b>Median</b>  | \$173       | \$314                  | \$102   | \$132                    | \$192        |
| <b>No Income</b>                    | <b>Count of Cases</b>                                    | 27,290      | 6,531                  | 1,562   | 3,718                    | 15,479       |
|                                     | <b>Column Percent</b>                                    | 14.2%       | 10.7%                  | 3.1%    | 6.8%                     | 58.8%        |
| <b>Income from Work</b>             | <b>Count of Cases</b>                                    | 54,126      | 39,577                 | 2,712   | 4,563                    | 7,274        |
|                                     |  | 28.1%       | 65.1%                  | 5.4%    | 8.4%                     | 27.6%        |
| <b>Earned Income at Last Report</b> | <b>Mean of Working Cases</b>                             | \$1,543     | \$1,825                | \$624   | \$601                    | \$942        |
|                                     | <b>Median</b>  | \$1,416     | \$1,749                | \$481   | \$479                    | \$978        |
| <b>December Unearned Income</b>     | <b>Count of Cases</b>                                    | 131,106     | 29,207                 | 48,126  | 49,922                   | 3,851        |
|                                     |  | 68.2%       | 48.0%                  | 95.1%   | 91.4%                    | 14.6%        |
|                                     | <b>Mean of Cases Receiving</b>                           | \$799       | \$772                  | \$932   | \$721                    | \$370        |
|                                     | <b>Median</b>  | \$816       | \$705                  | \$841   | \$756                    | \$203        |
| <b>Unearned Income Types</b>        | <b>Child Support</b>                                     | 16,626      | 16,205                 | 56      | 211                      | 154          |
|                                     |  | 8.6%        | 26.6%                  | 0.1%    | 0.4%                     | 0.6%         |
|                                     | <b>SSI</b>   | 54,487      | 8,276                  | 21,282  | 24,864                   | 65           |
|                                     |  | 28.3%       | 13.6%                  | 42.1%   | 45.5%                    | 0.2%         |
|                                     | <b>RSDI</b>  | 60,536      | 6,017                  | 32,486  | 21,951                   | 82           |
|                                     |  | 31.5%       | 9.9%                   | 64.2%   | 40.2%                    | 0.3%         |
|                                     | <b>Public Assistance Grants</b>                          | 42,328      | 1,761                  | 15,196  | 23,208                   | 2,163        |
|                                     |  | 22.0%       | 2.9%                   | 30.0%   | 42.5%                    | 8.2%         |
|                                     | <b>Unemployment Insurance/<br/>Workers' Compensation</b> | 1,914       | 1,245                  | 111     | 115                      | 443          |
|                                     |  | 1.0%        | 2.0%                   | 0.2%    | 0.2%                     | 1.7%         |
|                                     | <b>Veteran's Benefits</b>                                | 1,932       | 334                    | 1,082   | 352                      | 164          |
|                                     |  | 1.0%        | 0.5%                   | 2.1%    | 0.6%                     | 0.6%         |
| <b>Other</b>                        | 7,192  | 1,909       | 3,717                  | 720     | 846                      |              |
|                                     | 3.7%   | 3.1%        | 7.3%                   | 1.3%    | 3.2%                     |              |



## Data notes and definitions

**Table 1.** Individuals were enrolled for SNAP in December 2017 if they met eligibility rules, including income, residency, immigrant status and other rules. A SNAP case is any group of people that are individually enrolled in SNAP, live together, and purchase and prepare food together. A case may have ineligible household members who are not included in a grant. This table, and all other tables and graphs, except Figure 1, exclude people enrolled in MFIP who received SNAP as the MFIP food portion. Each month, a portion of individuals transfer between SNAP and MFIP, but only receive a food benefit through one of the two programs. In this report, individuals were included in the program in which they received a food benefit. For example, if a person received SNAP benefits at the start of December and then applied for and was approved eligible for only the MFIP cash portion because they had already received stand-alone SNAP later in the month, that person would be included in the SNAP counts rather than MFIP.

In this report, adults are those ages 18 and older with the exception of those ages 22 and younger living with their parents, and youths living independent of their parents. Anyone under age 22 who is living with their natural or adoptive parent(s) or step-parent(s) are considered children. All children were, by definition, categorized as being in cases of families with children.

Families with children are households with at least one enrolled member that is a child by the above definition. Note that 9,994 children were in families where a child was the only member to receive stand-alone SNAP; other family members receive the food portion of MFIP or are ineligible for SNAP because of other requirements. Seniors are age 60 or older. Adults with disabilities are those with a SNAP disability status indicated by the MAXIS disability panel (STAT DISA). Adults with disabilities include those who are temporarily ill or incapacitated for 30 days or more; eligible for Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (RSDI) due to a disability or blindness; eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) due to a disability or blindness; or determined to have a disability or blindness by the State Medical Review Team (SMRT). *Other adults* have no children, are younger than age 60, and have no disability information in MAXIS.

Persons and cases are assigned in a hierarchical fashion in the following order:

1. Families with children (includes child only cases)
2. Seniors (age  $\geq$  60)
3. Adults with disabilities as defined above
4. Other adults (everyone else)

For example, if a senior has a disability they would be categorized as a senior, because that category comes earlier in the hierarchy. In previous reports in this series, people with multiple characteristics of interest were counted in more than one category. The largest impact of this change is a reduction in the count of people identified as having a disability because many of these individuals are now counted as seniors or adults with children.

**Table 2.** Data not required for program eligibility may not be routinely updated after the initial application. Thus, education completion or marital status may be under reported. If a person's education level is unknown, it is coded as if they had no formal education.

Five adults were excluded from the report because they were missing several categorization variables. Nine adults were missing only one categorization element and were assigned to the largest category for that table.

For example, eight adults were missing marital status and were assigned to *Never married* because it is the largest category for that table.

**Table 3.** SNAP months are total months in which an individual was enrolled in SNAP in Minnesota between January 2009 and December 2017. As eligibility follows an individual, the count includes months in other households or cases, and months as a child in their parents' household. These months do not include MFIP food portion months.

Public assistance eligibility in calendar year 2017 is whether an individual is personally enrolled in the listed program. Emergency Services includes Emergency Assistance and Emergency General Assistance programs.

**Table 4** is the only case-based table in this report. Individual income is summed to report total income for the case or household.

All income is from the December 2017 SNAP budget panel for the active budget type (retrospective or prospective). If income is not reported on the budget panel, it is not included. Earned income is gross wages plus self-employment income (gross income less expenses, with a minimum of zero). Mean total income excludes cases with no expected income for the reporting period. Total gross income is earned and unearned income minus farm loss offset.

Public assistance grant income includes Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), General Assistance (GA), Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA), Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), and the Diversionary Work Program (DWP). Other unearned income includes annuity and pension payments, contract for deed income, certain royalties and honoraria, trust disbursements, gambling winnings, severance and tribal payments.

Cases with no income are those with no earned or unearned income known to MAXIS. Adults are counted as having income if any adults on the case had income in Figures 13 & 14.