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

December 2019

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For information on this report, contact:

Dorina Nikolla

Minnesota Department of Human Services

Economic Assistance and Employment Supports Division

Research Unit

444 Lafayette Road

St. Paul, MN 55155

Phone 651-431-4022

[dorina.nikolla@state.mn.us](mailto:dorina.nikolla@state.mn.us)

[mn.gov/dhs](http://mn.gov/dhs)

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# Abbreviations

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Abbreviation	Full Title
ABAWD	Able-bodied Adult without Dependents
DWP	Diversionsary 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

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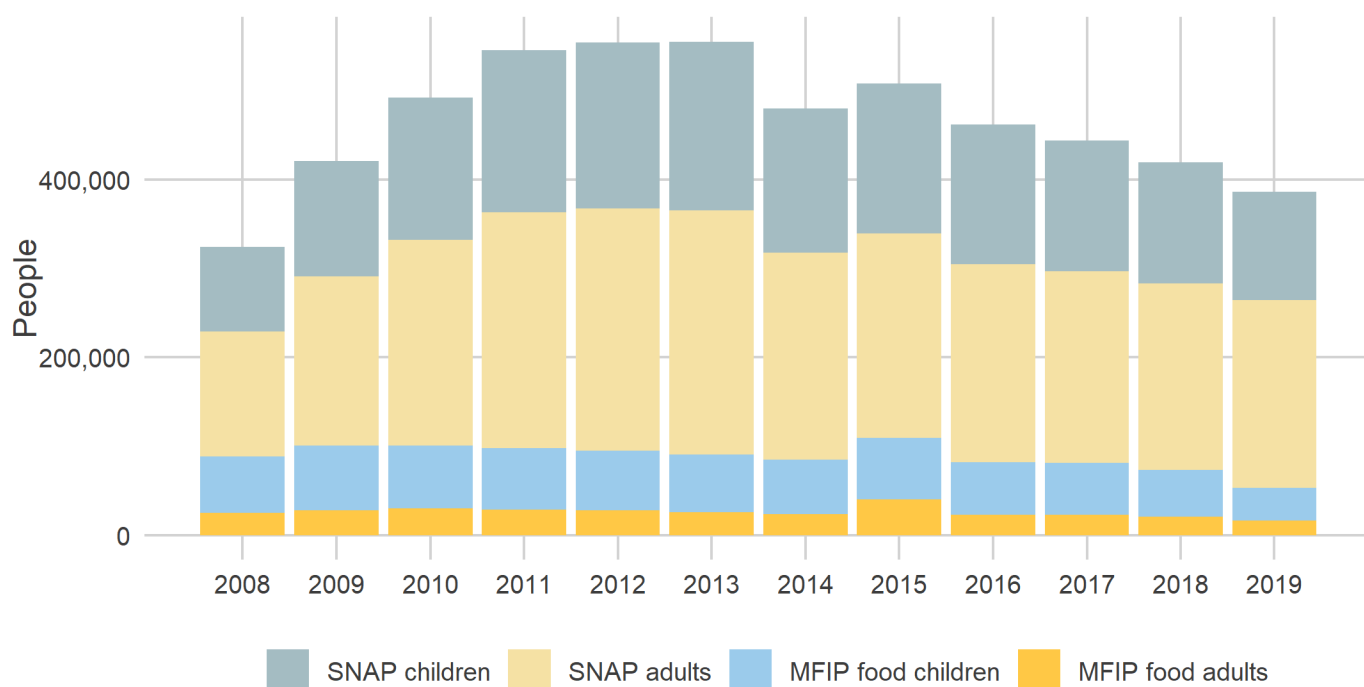
## Executive summary

The federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), frequently referred to by its former name, Food Stamps, provides monthly benefits to low-income families, seniors, persons with disabilities, and some single adults, for purchasing food. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (department) administers both stand-alone SNAP and the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), combining SNAP with cash grants. SNAP benefits are based on household size, amount and types of income and expenses. SNAP benefits cannot be used to purchase nonfood items.

### SNAP and MFIP food trends

In December 2019, 386,305 Minnesotans were enrolled in either stand-alone SNAP or MFIP. This is a decrease of 8% from the 419,403 adults and children enrolled in December 2018, and falling below the number enrolled in 2008 (Figure 1). See the MFIP Characteristics report for information on receipt of SNAP through the MFIP food portion.

**Figure 1. SNAP participants: December 2008 to December 2019**



### Persons enrolled in stand-alone SNAP

This SNAP Characteristics report provides information on the 332,925 persons enrolled in stand-alone SNAP, focusing on 210,981 adults.

## Figure 2. SNAP enrolled adults and children

In December 2019

# 332,925 people

received stand-alone SNAP benefits



### SNAP cases with income from work

Overall, 24% of households receiving SNAP reported income from work. Of these:

- 70% are families with children
- 15% other adults
- 9% of adults with disabilities, and
- 6% of senior cases reporting work.

The average reported earnings for households with workers was \$1,604.64 per month. Of these, families with children reported the highest earnings, at \$1,952.73; seniors reported the lowest, with \$653.85, on average.

### SNAP cases with no income

For December 2019, 22% of households receiving SNAP (39,922) had no reported income, earned or unearned. Those households included 21,593 adults under age 60 without disabilities and no children. SNAP may be the only safety net available for these *other adults*, as they are not eligible for income supports available to families with children, seniors aged 60 or older, and those with documented disabilities.

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# Introduction

The federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), 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 purchasing only 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 that vary by state; in Minnesota, households must have incomes of less than 165% of the Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG). For a household of two that limit is \$2,326 per month.<sup>1</sup> Benefits are based on household size, and amount and types of income and expenses.

## A brief history of SNAP

The first idea of what later would be called the Food Stamp program, appeared in 1939. The next years were filled with research report and legislative proposals to pass food stamp program legislation.

SNAP was officially created with the Food Stamp Act of 1964 [PL 93-86] introduced under Agriculture Secretary Orville Freeman, a Minnesotan. Goals of the original Food Stamp program were to strengthen the agricultural economy and increase the quality of nutrition in low-income households. The program required that households purchase food stamps for only purchasing food. Responsibility for the program is between states, 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 70s increased state accountability, establishing national standards of eligibility, and expanding the program to all states and territories.

The Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 [PL 93-86] created major changes resulting 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 the application processing times; 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) [PL 104-193] of 1996, requiring states to eliminate the actual *stamps* by implementing Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) by Oct. 1, 2002.

PRWORA also 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, those caring for child/ren or an incapacitated person, or otherwise exempt from general work requirements. States can request to waive [PL 110-234] temporarily this time limit for SNAP recipients who live in areas with high unemployment.

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<sup>1</sup> Combined Manual 0019.06 (Federal Fiscal Year 2019).



The Farm Bill of 2008 (The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008) (PL 110–234) 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. [PL 113-79] On Dec. 20, 2018, the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 became law. [PL 115-334] This Farm Bill 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.

## Important changes affecting Minnesota

Minnesota received a 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; those covered under the waiver began losing eligibility for SNAP in February 2014. Between February 2014 and 2015, more than 46,000 adults without children were removed from SNAP in Minnesota.

Due to approval by Minnesota legislature, on March 1, 2009, SNAP recipients began reporting earned and unearned income every six-months; grant amounts are 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 financial worker monthly. Households must report income changes that result in gross earnings that exceed 130% of the FPG 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 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>

The department received approval in September 2017 to extend the waiver it has had since 1998 to combine cash and food benefits in its largest family cash assistance program through September 2022. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, allows the department 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. The department also has waivers to allow community-based organizations serving newly arrived refugees to complete the SNAP application interview. The Quick facts for December trends on page 11, 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.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/short-history-snap>.

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

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

## Tribal nations in Minnesota and SNAP

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

In recognition of tribal sovereignty and self-determination, the department collaborated with the above two tribal nations to meet Merit system requirements. The tribes, department, and county agencies collaborated 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 2019. Since some individuals have multiple characteristics of interest, such as disability status or age, a hierarchy describes the SNAP caseload, so participants or cases are counted 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 tables 12 to 14. 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 an assistance unit. These individuals are not included in the person-level data. People living in the same household may be members of separate cases. There is no age requirement for SNAP; 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>

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 information in Quick facts; citing the table where data are from (tables 2 to 14). Detailed policy and data definitions follow the data tables and important for understanding tables.

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<sup>5</sup> Combined Manual 0014.03.03.

## Quick facts for 2019: Trends

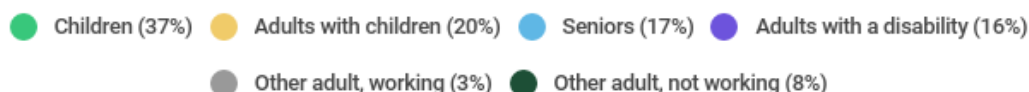
- In December 2019, 386,305 individuals were enrolled in Minnesota's SNAP caseload, including adults and children in the Minnesota Family Investment Program, the state's largest cash assistance program for families (see Figure 1, Table 1). The MFIP grant combines food assistance from SNAP with cash assistance. This page reports on all SNAP received, both stand-alone and MFIP food portion. The remainder of the report reflects only people receiving stand-alone SNAP, excluding those receiving the MFIP food portion.
- The total number of SNAP participants dropped by 33,098 (-9%) since December 2018. The number of MFIP participants dropped by 27% from 2018 to 2019, its lowest point in the past 10 years.
- Of participants enrolled in the MFIP food portion in 2019, 16,641 were adults and 36,739 were children. The percentage of MFIP food portion participants who are children (69%) increased by 3% from 2018. Of the SNAP-only participants enrolled in 2019, 121,944, or 37%, were children.

## Figure 3. SNAP enrolled adults and children

In December 2019

# 332,925 people

received stand-alone SNAP benefits



## Quick facts for December 2019: 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 are those on SNAP who are under age 60, not part of a case with children, and do not have a disability.
- Figure 3 shows the unduplicated total enrolled adult and child populations. 56% of SNAP participants are children and their families, 17% seniors, and 16% adults with a disability.
- Figure 3 separates the other adults group into those who are working and those not employed. Much of the current policy debate around work requirements centers on this group. The other adults group constitutes 11% of those receiving SNAP in Minnesota.

**Table 1. SNAP participants: December 2008 to 2019**

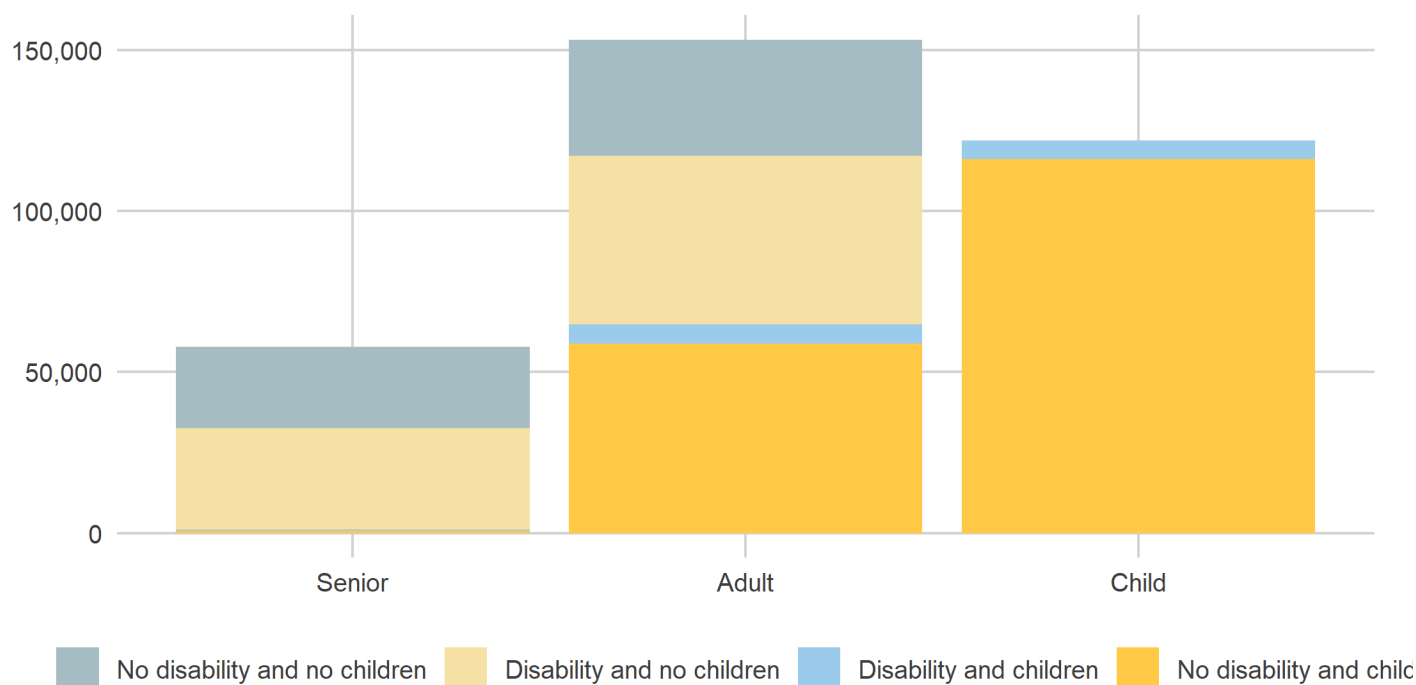
Year	MFIP food adults	MFIP food children	SNAP adults	SNAP children	Total
Dec 2019	16,641	36,739	210,981	121,944	386,305
Dec 2018	20,712	52,669	209,675	136,347	419,403
Dec 2017	23,092	58,451	215,502	146,982	444,027
Dec 2016	22,553	59,071	222,891	157,241	461,756
Dec 2015	39,901	69,579	229,963	168,354	507,797
Dec 2014	23,684	61,043	232,828	162,724	480,279
Dec 2013	25,583	64,790	275,252	189,315	554,940
Dec 2012	27,549	67,167	272,496	186,790	554,002
Dec 2011	28,609	68,888	265,760	182,602	545,859
Dec 2010	29,796	70,769	231,815	159,781	492,161
Dec 2009	27,678	72,860	190,432	130,008	420,978
Dec 2008	25,160	63,127	140,997	94,621	323,905

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

## Quick facts for December 2019: Overlapping characteristics

- SNAP participants can meet criteria for multiple characteristic groupings; having a disability or child/ren in the home are not mutually exclusive. Throughout this report, department staff has created a hierarchy to count each SNAP participant only once. However, it is also relevant to describe overlaps among these categories. Figure 4 shows seniors, non-senior adults; and children by disability status, and whether a child is in a household.
- More than half of seniors (55%) receiving SNAP in December 2019 also had a disability documented in the eligibility system.
- Only 2% of seniors had a child in their household.

**Figure 4. Overlapping characteristics of SNAP participants in December 2019**

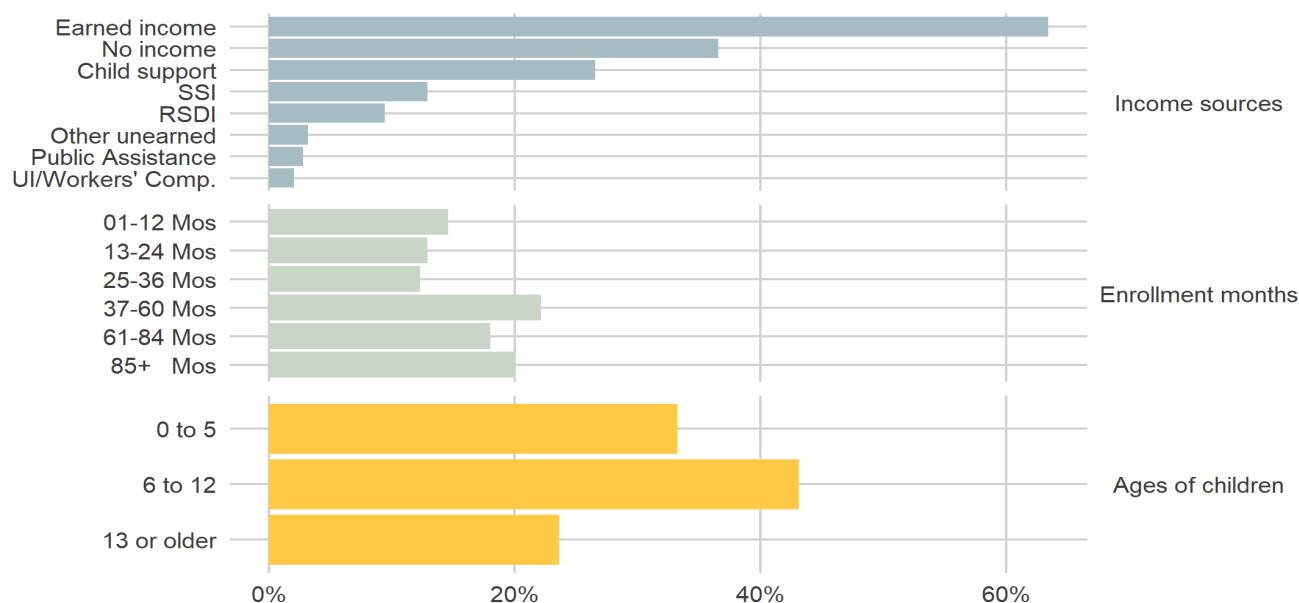


- Twenty-three percent of adults under age 60 did not have a documented disability or a child in their household and fall into the report category of other adults.
- Thirty-eight percent of adults under age 60 had a disability, and 4% had a disability and a child in their household.
- Thirty-eight percent of adults under age 60 had a child in their household and no disability. Four percent of children receiving SNAP in December 2019 had a documented disability.

## Quick facts for December 2019: Families with children

- Thirty-one percent of SNAP adults live in households with minor children (65,912)<sup>7</sup>; 121,944 children receive SNAP<sup>8</sup> (data from Table 2).
- The average age of adults with children is 35, with 21% in their 30s; 86% are female, 53% have at least a high school diploma, 50% never married, 16% are married and living with their spouse. Seventy-two percent are white (Tables 3 to 8).

### Figure 5: SNAP families with minor children



- Of the 49,568 family cases, 63% report income from work, with an average income of \$1,952.73 per month (Figure 5, Table 13).
- For unearned income, 27% receive child support, 13% from SSI and 3% receive cash public assistance (Figure 5, Table 13).
- Adults in families with children averaged 51 months of SNAP enrollment over the previous nine years. Twenty-seven percent of adults in families used 24 months or fewer (Figure 5, Table 10).
- Thirty-three percent of children receiving SNAP are under age 6; 53% of family cases have at least one child under 6. Twenty percent of family cases have at least one person with a disability (Figure 5).

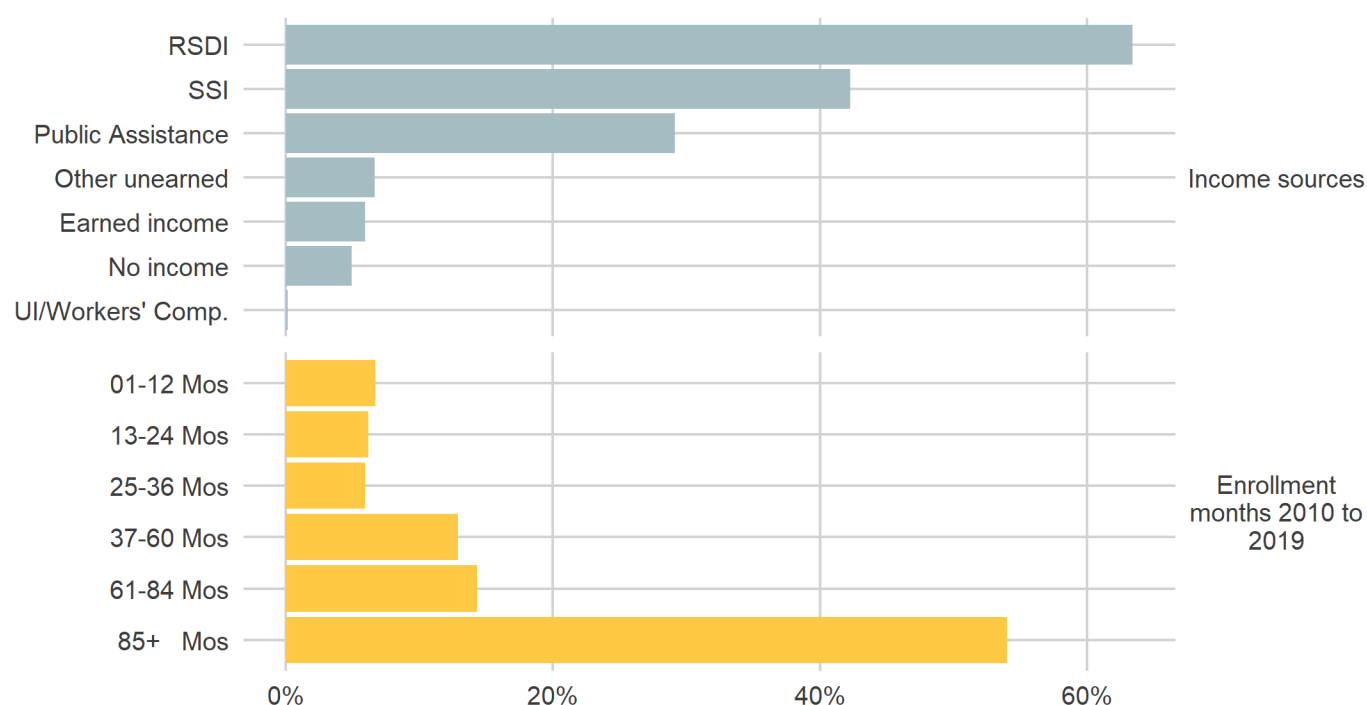
<sup>7</sup> All SNAP participants in households with minor children fall into the report category of families with minor children.

<sup>8</sup> This includes 6,178 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 2019: SNAP seniors

- Twenty-seven percent (57,802) 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 2).
- The average age of seniors on SNAP is 70 (with a minimum age of 60); 61% are female, 66% are high school graduates, 15% are married and living with their spouse, 17% are widowed, and 59% are white (Table 3).
- Nearly all cases (93%) with seniors have unearned income, with RSDI being the most common source (68%), followed by SSI (45%), and public assistance grants (32%). The average amount of unearned income is \$975.94 per month. Five percent reported earned income (Figure 6, Table 14).
- Seniors average about 76 months (six years) of SNAP enrollment over the previous 10 years, with 54% enrolled for more than 84 months (seven years) (Figure 6, Table 10).

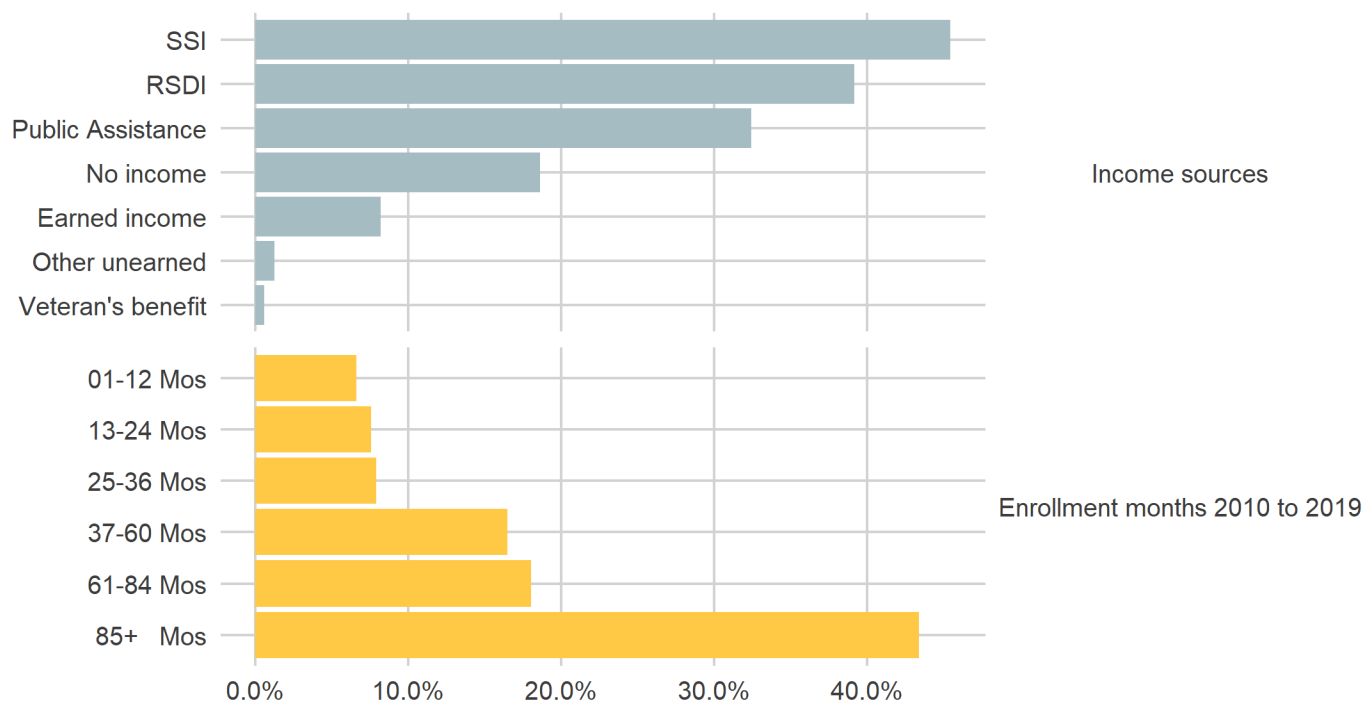
**Figure 6: SNAP seniors**



## Quick facts for December 2019: 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. Fifty percent are female, 71% have at least a high school diploma, and 64% never married (Table 3 to 7).
- Fifty-seven percent of SNAP adults with a disability are white, 27% Black, 5% Asian, 5% American Indian and 3% Hispanic (Table 8).
- Seventy-nine percent of SNAP cases with persons who have a disability report unearned income averaging \$831.35 per month. The most common types are SSI (57%), RSDI (49%), and public assistance (41%), including Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA), General Assistance, Refugee Cash Assistance, MFIP and DWP. Eight percent reported earned income (Figure 7, Tables 13 and 14).
- Adults with disabilities average about 70 months of SNAP enrollment over a nine-year period; 43% were enrolled in SNAP for more than seven years (Figure 7, Table 10).

**Figure 7: SNAP adults with disabilities**

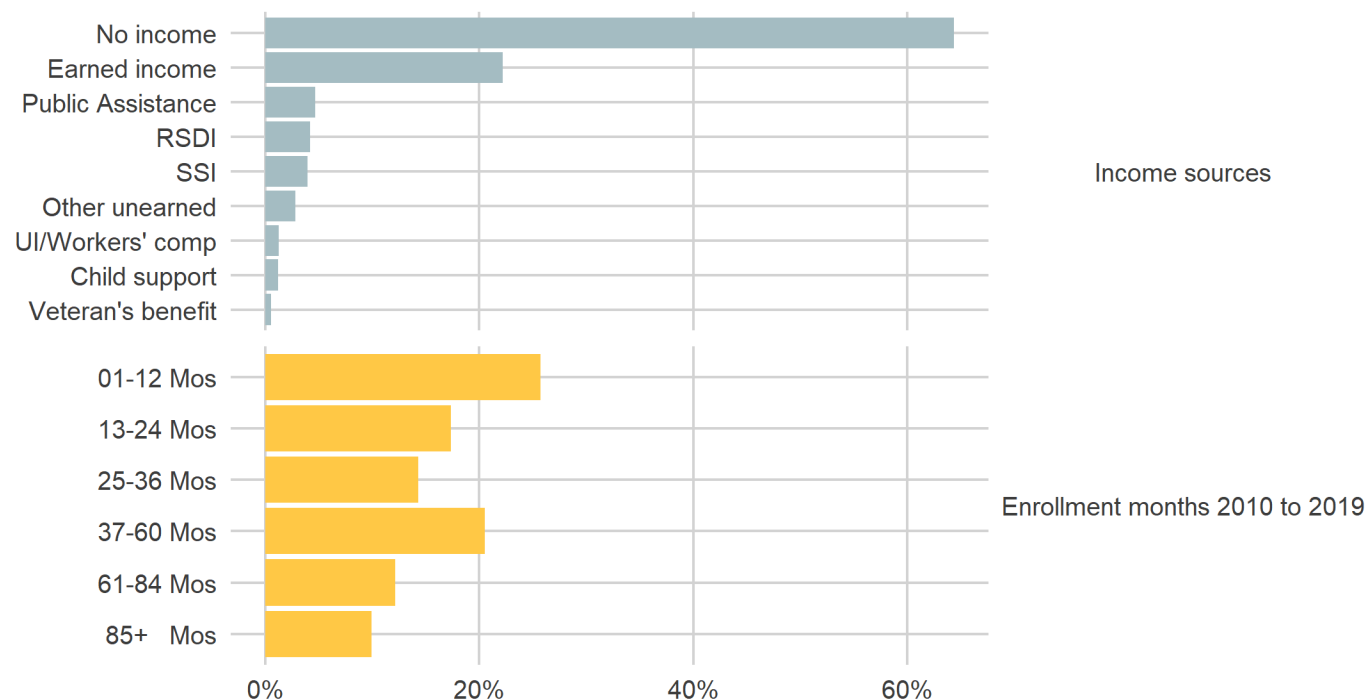




## Quick facts for December 2019: SNAP adults without a disability and without children

- Seventeen percent of SNAP adults (35,979) are other adults. Those in this group do not overlap with other groups, as they have no children, do not have a disability, and are younger than age 60 (Table 2).
- Other adults have an average age of 38. They were more likely to be male (56%), and more likely to have never married than other groups (71%) (Tables 5 and 7).
- As expected, other adults received SNAP an average of 37 months in the past nine years, the lowest average of the various groups (Figure 8, Table 10).

**Figure 8: SNAP adults without a disability and without children**

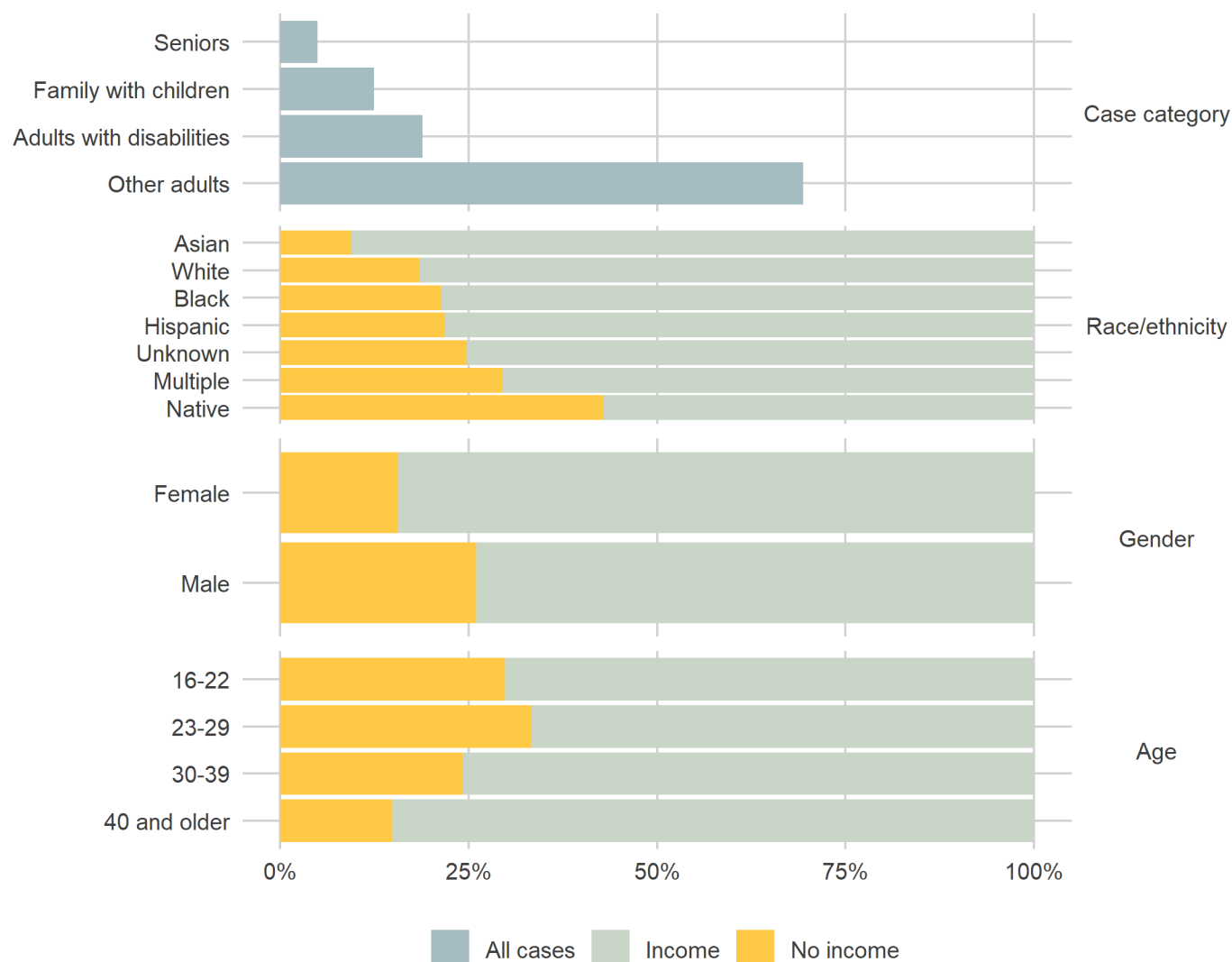


Policy note: Adults in this group include able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDS), a specific, federally defined group of adults without a disability between the ages of 18 and 49 who have restricted SNAP eligibility to three months in a 36-month period. Many are not eligible for income supports 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 available.

## Quick facts for December 2019: SNAP enrollees with no other income

- Twenty-one percent of SNAP cases (39,922) had no income reported (Table 13).
- Sixty-nine percent of cases with adults without a documented disability and no children, and under age 60, had no reported income (21,593) (Figure 9, Table 13).
- Adults in households with no income had similar education levels to those with income. More than 71% of adults in households, either with or without income, had at least a high school diploma or equivalent.

**Figure 9: SNAP enrollees with no other income**

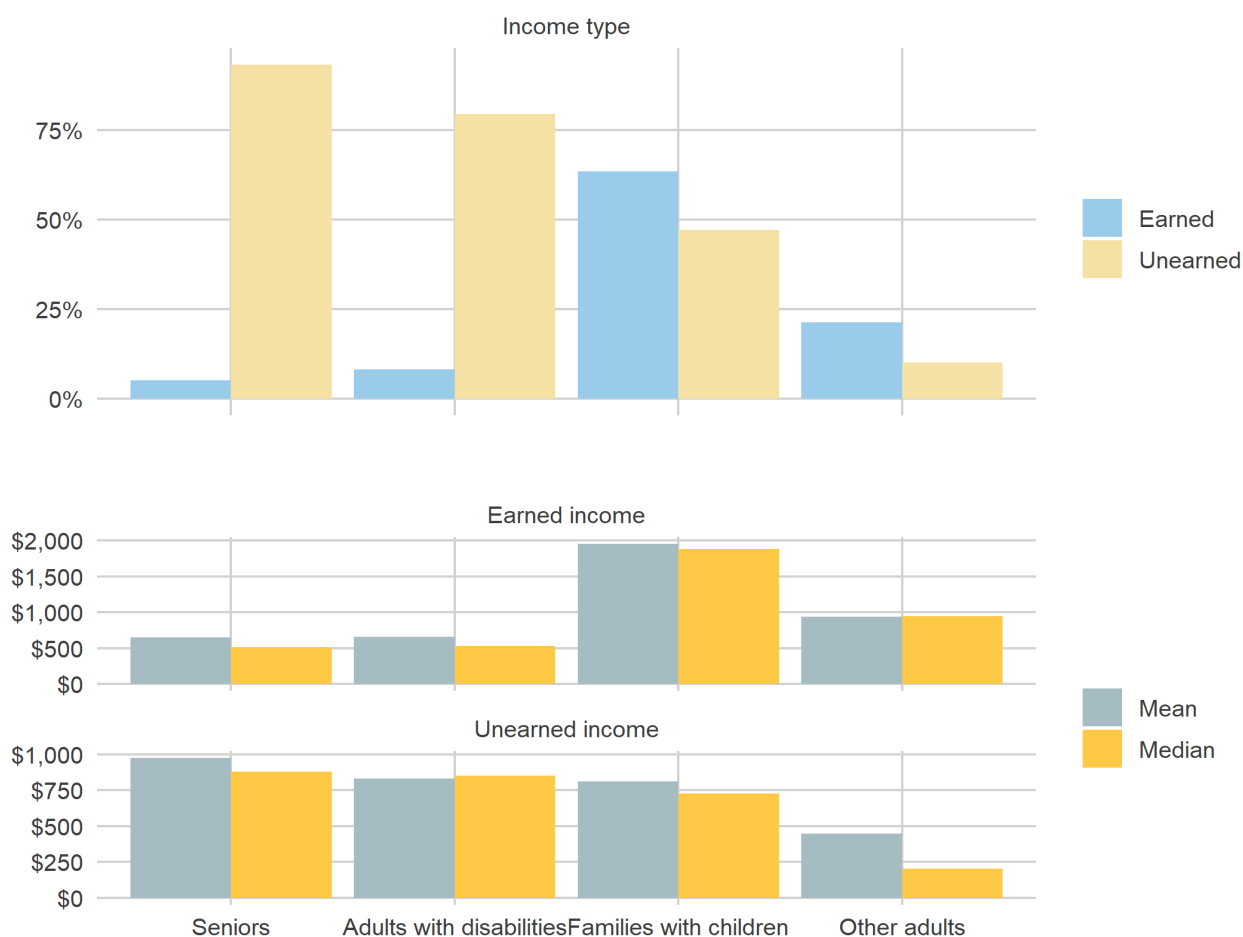


Policy note: Households must report all income types, unearned sources, self-employment and jobs. Income information is collected at application, annual recertification, at six-month intervals, and when a significant increase in income. Not all income is used to determine grant amounts for eligibility.

## Quick facts for December 2019: Income and earnings of SNAP households

- Overall, 24% of SNAP cases report income from work. This varies by type of case, with 63% of families with children, 21% of other adults, 8% of adults with disabilities, and 5% of senior cases reporting work (Figure 10, Table 13).
- Reported earnings of households with workers averaged \$1,604.64 per month. Families with children reported the highest earnings, at \$1,952.73, and seniors the lowest, at \$654.69, on average (Figure 10, Table 5).
- A total of 63% of SNAP cases reported unearned income, with a monthly average of \$878.05 (Table 13).
- The most common types of unearned income vary by case type. Families with children are most likely to have child support (27%), seniors likely to have RSDI (64%), and adults with disabilities likely to have SSI (45%), (Table 14).

**Figure 10: Income and earnings of SNAP households**



## Data tables

**Table 2. December 2019 stand-alone SNAP cases and participants categorized by hierarchy<sup>9</sup>**

Case type	Case count	Case percent	Adult count	Adult percent	Children count	Children percent
Total	184,289	100.0%	210,981	100.0%	121,944	100.0%
Adults with disabilities	50,539	27.4%	53,516	25.4%		
Families with children	49,568	26.9%	65,912	31.2%	121,944	100.0%
Other adults	31,112	16.9%	32,781	15.5%		
Seniors	53,070	28.8%	58,773	27.9%		

**Table 3. SNAP adults by case types for December 2019**

Statistic	Total adults	Adults with children	Seniors	Adults with disabilities	Other adults
Count	210,981	65,912	56,687	52,403	35,979
Percent	100.0%	31.2%	26.9%	24.8%	17.1%

<sup>9</sup> For a description of the hierarchy used in the report see the format section.

**Table 4. Age characteristics of SNAP adults by case types for December 2019**

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Families with children</b>	<b>Seniors</b>	<b>Adults with disabilities</b>	<b>Other adults</b>
Mean	47	35	70	45	38
Median	46	35	68	48	37
Max	107	92	107	59	59
Min	18	18	60	18	18
Under 23 - count	13,670	6,411		1,492	5,767
Under 23 - percent	6.5%	9.7%		2.8%	16.0%
23-29 - count	23,525	12,244		4,869	6,412
23-29 - percent	11.2%	18.6%		9.3%	17.8%
30-39 - count	45,974	27,935		10,197	7,842
30-39 - percent	21.8%	42.4%		19.5%	21.8%
40-49 - count	32,435	13,814		12,509	6,112
40-49 - percent	15.4%	21.0%		23.9%	17.0%
50-59 - count	37,575	4,393		23,336	9,846
50-59 - percent	17.8%	6.7%		44.5%	27.4%
60-64 - count	18,936	650	18,286		
60-64 - percent	9.0%	1.0%	32.3%		
65 and older - count	38,866	465	38,401		
65 and older - percent	18.4%	0.7%	67.7%		

**Table 5. SNAP adults by case type and gender for December 2019**

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Families with children</b>	<b>Seniors</b>	<b>Adults with disabilities</b>	<b>Other adults</b>
Female - count	122,660	45,461	34,944	26,326	15,929
Female - percent	58.1%	69.0%	61.6%	50.2%	44.3%
Male - count	88,321	20,451	21,743	26,077	20,050
Male - percent	41.9%	31.0%	38.4%	49.8%	55.7%

**Table 6. SNAP adults by case type and education for December 2019**

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Families with children</b>	<b>Seniors</b>	<b>Adults with disabilities</b>	<b>Other adults</b>
None or pre-first grade or unknown - count	17,064	5,060	8,351	2,594	1,059
None or pre-first grade or unknown - percent	8.1%	7.7%	14.7%	5.0%	2.9%
Grade school - count	6,060	1,904	2,720	989	447
Grade school - percent	2.9%	2.9%	4.8%	1.9%	1.2%
Some high school - count	41,257	12,977	8,267	11,551	8,462
Some high school - percent	19.6%	19.7%	14.6%	22.0%	23.5%
High school - count	112,535	34,374	28,263	29,627	20,271
High school - percent	53.3%	52.2%	49.9%	56.5%	56.3%
Some post-secondary - count	25,125	9,009	5,954	5,927	4,235
Some post-secondary - percent	11.9%	13.7%	10.5%	11.3%	11.8%
College graduate - count	5,141	1,750	1,549	944	898
College graduate - percent	2.4%	2.7%	2.7%	1.8%	2.5%

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Families with children</b>	<b>Seniors</b>	<b>Adults with disabilities</b>	<b>Other adults</b>
Graduate degree - count	3,799	838	1,583	771	607
Graduate degree - percent	1.8%	1.3%	2.8%	1.5%	1.7%

**Table 7. SNAP adults by case type and marital status for December 2019**

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Families with children</b>	<b>Seniors</b>	<b>Adults with disabilities</b>	<b>Other adults</b>
Divorced - count	37,373	5,327	17,544	9,861	4,641
Divorced - percent	17.7%	8.1%	30.9%	18.8%	12.9%
Legally separated - count	722	198	249	193	82
Legally separated - percent	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.2%
Married living apart - count	22,218	6,627	7,153	5,449	2,989
Married living apart - percent	10.5%	10.1%	12.6%	10.4%	8.3%
Married living with spouse - count	33,883	21,355	8,033	2,333	2,162
Married living with spouse - percent	16.1%	32.4%	14.2%	4.5%	6.0%
Never married - count	104,819	31,798	13,972	33,465	25,584
Never married - percent	49.7%	48.2%	24.6%	63.9%	71.1%
Widowed - count	11,960	604	9,736	1,102	518
Widowed - percent	5.7%	0.9%	17.2%	2.1%	1.4%

**Table 8. SNAP adults by case type and race and ethnicity for December 2019**

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Families with children</b>	<b>Seniors</b>	<b>Adults with disabilities</b>	<b>Other adults</b>
American Indian - count	9,492	2,407	1,159	2,392	3,534
American Indian - percent	4.5%	3.7%	2.0%	4.6%	9.8%
Asian - count	18,531	6,986	7,468	2,699	1,378
Asian - percent	8.8%	10.6%	13.2%	5.2%	3.8%
Black - count	57,353	21,739	11,872	14,449	9,293
Black - percent	27.2%	33.0%	20.9%	27.6%	25.8%
Hispanic - count	8,976	3,975	1,888	1,487	1,626
Hispanic - percent	4.3%	6.0%	3.3%	2.8%	4.5%
Multiple - count	3,119	1,380	207	726	806
Multiple - percent	1.5%	2.1%	0.4%	1.4%	2.2%
Unknown - count	1,636	487	486	282	381
Unknown - percent	0.8%	0.7%	0.9%	0.5%	1.1%
White - count	111,874	28,938	33,607	30,368	18,961
White - percent	53.0%	43.9%	59.3%	58.0%	52.7%

**Table 9. SNAP adults by case type and citizenship for December 2019**

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Families with children</b>	<b>Seniors</b>	<b>Adults with disabilities</b>	<b>Other adults</b>
Non U.S - count	14,395	8,241	2,940	1,707	1,507
Non U.S - percent	6.8%	12.5%	5.2%	3.3%	4.2%
U.S - count	196,580	57,668	53,747	50,696	34,469
U.S - percent	93.2%	87.5%	94.8%	96.7%	95.8%



**Table 10. SNAP adults: Months of SNAP enrollment**

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Adults with children</b>	<b>Seniors</b>	<b>Adults with disabilities</b>	<b>Other adults</b>
Mean	60	51	76	70	37
Median	60	47	91	76	30
1-12 months - count	26,073	9,609	3,745	3,461	9,258
1-12 months - percent	12.4%	14.6%	6.6%	6.6%	25.7%
13-24 months - count	22,182	8,518	3,448	3,975	6,241
13-24 months - percent	10.5%	12.9%	6.1%	7.6%	17.3%
25-36 months - count	20,729	8,117	3,330	4,144	5,138
25-36 months - percent	9.8%	12.3%	5.9%	7.9%	14.3%
37-60 months - count	37,870	14,578	7,261	8,638	7,393
37-60 months - percent	17.9%	22.1%	12.8%	16.5%	20.5%
61-84 months - count	33,805	11,882	8,097	9,450	4,376
61-84 months - percent	16.0%	18.0%	14.3%	18.0%	12.2%
85 or more months - count	70,322	13,208	30,806	22,735	3,573
85 or more months - percent	33.3%	20.0%	54.3%	43.4%	9.9%

**Table 11. SNAP adults in public assistance programs**

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Adults with children</b>	<b>Seniors</b>	<b>Adults with disabilities</b>	<b>Other adults</b>
MFIP/DWP - count	13,784	11,468	28	663	1,625
MFIP/DWP - percent	6.5%	17.4%	0.0%	1.3%	4.5%
MSA - count	31,992	192	16,714	15,002	84
MSA - percent	15.2%	0.3%	29.5%	28.6%	0.2%
GA/RCA - count	20,653	211	2,310	12,564	5,568
GA/RCA - percent	9.8%	0.3%	4.1%	24.0%	15.5%
Emergency services - count	6,114	2,906	812	1,184	1,212
Emergency services - percent	2.9%	4.4%	1.4%	2.3%	3.4%

**Table 12. December 2019 SNAP adult cases and grant size**

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>Total cases</b>	<b>Families with children</b>	<b>Seniors</b>	<b>Adults with disabilities</b>	<b>Other adults</b>
Cases - count	184,289	49,568	53,070	50,539	31,112
Cases - percent	100.0%	26.9%	28.8%	27.4%	16.9%
SNAP grant - mean	180	335	96	119	177
SNAP grant - median	168	326	86	128	194

**Table 13. December 2019 SNAP adult cases: Earned and unearned income by case types**

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>Total cases</b>	<b>Families with children</b>	<b>Seniors</b>	<b>Adults with disabilities</b>	<b>Other adults</b>
No income - count	39,922	6,158	2,630	9,541	21,593
No income - percent	21.7%	12.4%	5.0%	18.9%	69.4%
Income from work - count	44,938	31,428	2,736	4,133	6,641
Income from work - percent	24.4%	63.4%	5.2%	8.2%	21.3%
Earned income at last report - mean	1,605	1,953	654	655	940
Earned income at last report - median	1,451	1,884	516	531	948
December unearned income - count	116,154	23,347	49,495	40,158	3,154
December unearned income - percent	63.0%	47.1%	93.3%	79.5%	10.1%
December unearned income - mean	878	809	976	831	446
December unearned income - median	852	727	880	852	203

**Table 14. December 2019 SNAP adult cases: SNAP grants, unearned income by type**

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Families with children</b>	<b>Seniors</b>	<b>Adults with disabilities</b>	<b>Other adults</b>
Child support	13,831	13,169	74	305	283
Child support percent	7.5%	26.6%	0.1%	0.6%	0.9%
SSI	51,811	6,388	22,506	22,806	111
SSI percent	28.1%	12.9%	42.4%	45.1%	0.4%
RSDI	58,265	4,680	33,850	19,604	131
RSDI percent	31.6%	9.4%	63.8%	38.8%	0.4%
Public assistance grants	34,941	1,385	15,731	16,499	1,326
Public assistance percent	19.0%	2.8%	29.6%	32.6%	4.3%
Unemployment insurance/workers' compensation	1,584	1,013	84	79	408
Unemployment insurance/workers' compensation percent	0.9%	2.0%	0.2%	0.2%	1.3%
Veteran's benefits	1,595	213	966	266	150
Veteran's benefits percent	0.9%	0.4%	1.8%	0.5%	0.5%
Other unearned income	6,500	1,589	3,473	597	841
Other unearned income percent	3.5%	3.2%	6.5%	1.2%	2.7%

## Data notes and definitions

The source of the administrative data in this report is the statewide eligibility and payment system, MAXIS. **Table 1.** This table includes historical and recent data on SNAP participation by category.

**Table 2.** Individuals were enrolled for SNAP in December 2019 if they met eligibility rules, including income, residency, immigrant status and other rules. A SNAP case is any group of people individually enrolled in SNAP, live together, and purchase and prepare food together. A case may have ineligible household members 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 approved eligible for only the MFIP cash portion because they already received stand-alone SNAP later in the month, that person would be included in 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 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. There were 4,940 persons over age 18 categorized as children.

Families with children are households with at least one enrolled member who is a child by the above definition. Note that 6,178 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; and 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 greatest 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.

**Tables 3 to 9 .** 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.

**Tables 10 and 11.** SNAP months are total months in which an individual was enrolled in SNAP in Minnesota between January 2010 and December 2019. 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 2019 is whether an individual is personally enrolled in the listed program. Emergency Services includes Emergency Assistance and Emergency General Assistance programs.

**Tables 12, 13 and 14** are the only case-based table in this report.

All income is from the December 2019 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.

Cases receiving \$0 in SNAP benefit are excluded from mean/median SNAP grant calculations. In December 2019, there were 3,219 eligible SNAP cases (1%) receiving \$0 in SNAP benefit. A SNAP recipient may choose to remain eligible for SNAP while receiving \$0 grant to meet eligibility requirements for other assistance programs, such as free or reduced priced school lunch.

Public assistance grant income includes Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), General Assistance (GA), Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA), Minnesota Family Investment Program, 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 a case had income in Figure 9.