

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES



Characteristics of People and Cases on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

December 2024

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ADA1 (3-24)

Abbreviations

ABAWD	Able-bodied Adult without Dependents
DCYF	Department of Children, Youth, and Families (department)
DWP	Diversionary Work Program
DHS	Minnesota Department of Human Services (department)
EBT	Electronic Benefits Transfer
FFCRA	Families First Coronavirus Response Act
FPG	Federal Poverty Guidelines
GA	General Assistance
QC	Quality Control
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
TLR	Time-limited Recipients
TOP	Treasury Offset Program

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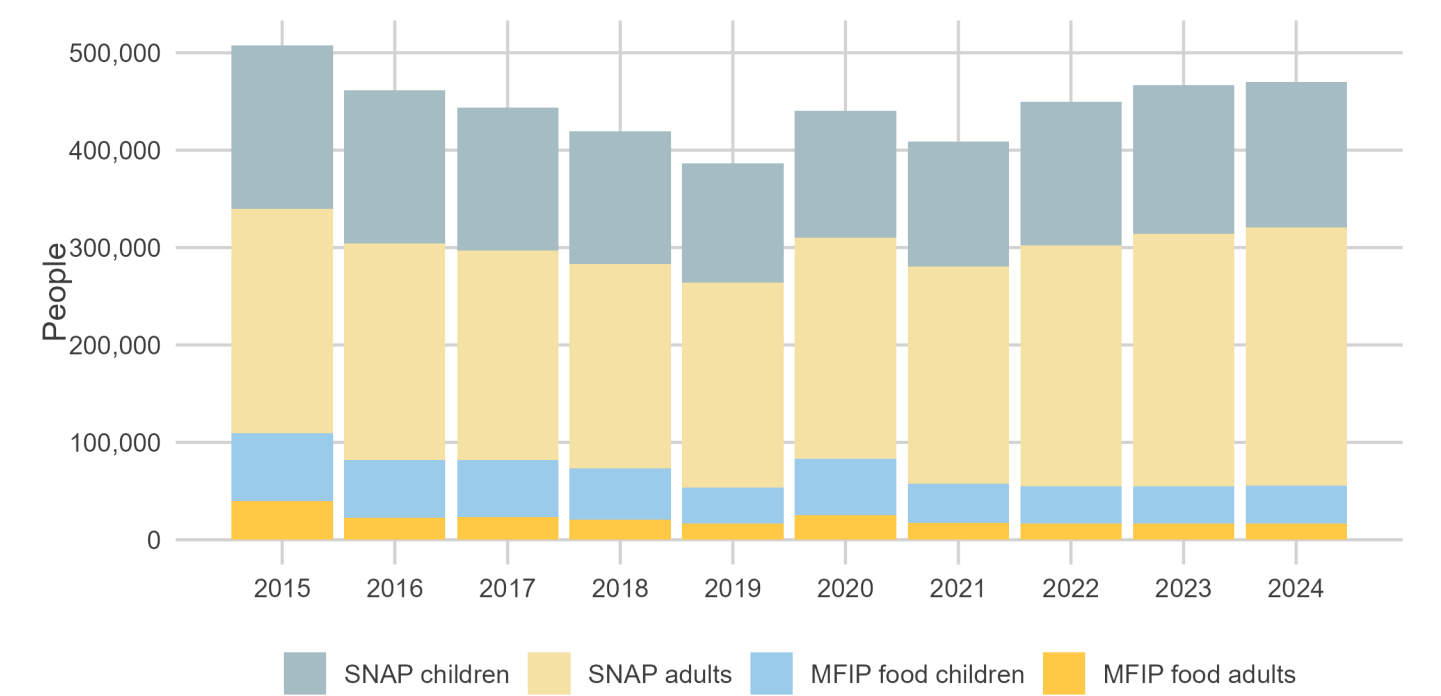
Executive summary

The federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides monthly benefits to low-income families, seniors, persons with disabilities, and some single adults, for purchasing food. The Minnesota Department of Children Youth and Families (department) supervises the administration by counties, county consortia and Tribes of both stand-alone SNAP and the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), combining SNAP with cash grants. SNAP benefits are based on household size and the amount and types of income and expenses. SNAP benefits cannot be used to purchase nonfood items.

SNAP and MFIP food trends.

In December 2024, 470,302 Minnesotans were enrolled in either stand-alone SNAP or MFIP. This is an increase of 1% from the 466,790 adults and children enrolled in December 2023. See the [MFIP Characteristics](#) report for information on receipt of SNAP through the MFIP food portion.

Figure 1. SNAP and MFIP food participants: December 2015 to December 2024



Persons enrolled in stand-alone SNAP

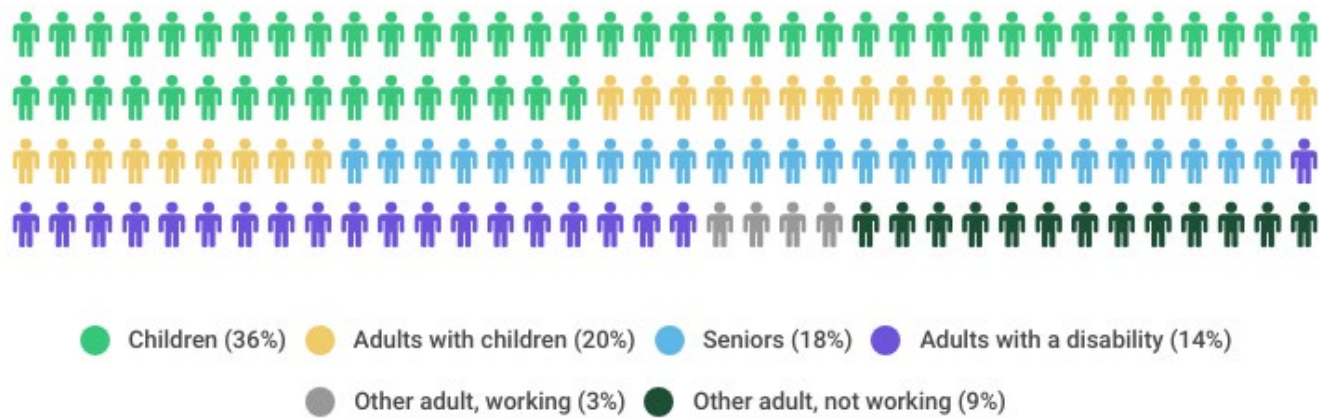
This SNAP Characteristics report provides information on the 415,040 persons enrolled in stand-alone SNAP, focusing on 265,222 adults.

Figure 2. SNAP enrolled adults and children

In December 2024

415,040 people

received stand-alone SNAP benefits



SNAP cases with income from work

Overall, 27% of households receiving SNAP (60,697) reported income from work. Of the households reporting work: 68% are families with children; 18% are other adults; 8% are adults with disabilities; and 6% are seniors.

The average reported earnings for households with workers was \$2,789 per month. Of these, families with children reported the highest earnings, at \$3,000; seniors reported the lowest, with \$1,047, on average.

SNAP cases with no income

For December 2024, 20% of households receiving SNAP (46,820) had no reported income, earned or unearned. Those households included 26,478 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 under 18, seniors aged 60 or older, and those with documented disabilities.

Introduction

The federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), sometimes referred to by its former names, Food Stamps, or Food Support, 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 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 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG). For a household of two that limit is \$3,407 per month.¹ Benefits are based on household size, and the amount and types of income and expenses. In Minnesota, the Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF) supervises the administration of SNAP by county, county consortia and Tribes.

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 reports 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 use food stamps for food purchases only.

States and the federal government share responsibility; states manage certification and issuance, the federal government manages funding and retailer authorization.

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 established 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*. In Minnesota they are called time-limited recipients. The Farm Bill of 2008 (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 excluding

¹ Combined Manual 0019.06 (Federal Fiscal Year 2024).

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.²

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.

Recent federal changes

The June 2023 Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) included SNAP provisions that impacted the SNAP work requirement policy, including the exceptions from the able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD)³ time limit, and discretionary exemptions⁴. These changes were enacted in 2023 and 2024 and are reflected in this report. Public Law 119-21 sunset many of the provisions in this law.

In July 2025, Public Law 119-21 was signed into law and sunset many of the provisions in the 2023 FRA. Among other changes, this bill expanded the ABAWD time-limit and work requirements to SNAP recipients who had previously been exempt, including people aged 55 through 64, and parents of children 14 years of age or older, veterans, and individuals aged 24 years and younger who had aged out of foster care. The law also limits legal non-citizens eligible for federal SNAP. The counts in this report do not reflect the impact of these changes.

SNAP in Minnesota

SNAP a federal program funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) must follow federal laws and regulations. That State of Minnesota, through the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families, supervises and oversees the SNAP program statewide. The state sets procedures, ensures compliance with federal rules, monitors performance, compiles and submits federally required reports, conducts federally required [quality control case reviews](#)⁵, and oversees funding distribution for program administration and related services. County human services agencies and equivalent Tribal Nation agencies administer SNAP. They receive applications, conduct interviews, complete eligibility determinations, and recertifications utilizing MAXIS, the statewide eligibility and payment system, and manage cases ongoing.

Tribal Nations in Minnesota and SNAP

Three Tribal Nations in Minnesota administered SNAP at the time of this report. 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 September

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

³ Referred to as Time Limited SNAP Recipients in Minnesota

⁴ Referred to as banked months in Minnesota

⁵ <https://dcyf.mn.gov/snap-quality-control>

2022, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe began serving its tribal members residing in the counties of: Aitkin, Benton, Chisago, Crow Wing, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison and Pine.

In recognition of tribal sovereignty and self-determination, the department collaborated with the above three Tribal Nations to help them 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.

SNAP waivers

Although SNAP is a federal program, federal law and USDA regulations allow states to request waivers and adopt specific options to tailor how the program works in their jurisdiction. Waivers must improve access, increase efficiency, adapt to local conditions, or test innovations. Key waivers in Minnesota include the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) and the Able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) geographic waiver (described below).

Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) waiver

Since 1998, the department has been able to provide SNAP to households enrolled in the in the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) or the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program as a combined benefit. In 2024, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, extended the department's waiver combining cash and food benefits through December 2028.

In this report, participants enrolled in SNAP through MFIP are included in Figure 1 and the Quick Facts for December trends on page 13 include households and people enrolled in SNAP, both as a stand-alone program and through MFIP. The remainder of this report includes information on households and participants enrolled in stand-alone SNAP. See the [MFIP Characteristics](#) report for information on receipt of SNAP through the MFIP food portion.

Able bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD): Time-limits and work requirements geographic waiver

Certain adults aged 18 to 49, without dependents and without documented disabilities are classified under federal law as able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs), referred to as time-limited recipients (TLRs) in Minnesota. These adults may receive SNAP benefits for only three months within a 36-month period unless they meet work requirements by working at least 80 hours per month, participating in SNAP Employment and Training activities, or qualify for an exemption. Exemptions from the time limit include individuals 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. During the Covid-19 public health emergency, Minnesota had a statewide waiver suspending the three-month limit and mandatory work requirements. These requirements were reinstated in July of 2023. Minnesota utilizes a fixed 36-month clock that began in January 2023 and runs through December 2025. States may request waivers of the federal time limit in areas with high unemployment. As of July 2024, and continuing at the time of this report, residents in fifteen counties and ten tribal nations in Minnesota were exempt from the time limits due to high regional unemployment.

Other waivers in place at the time of this report include the: reinstatement, telephonic signature, combined reminder and adequate notice, on demand interview, aligning income reporting timeframes, and no pay for postage on change

report forms waivers. More information on current SNAP waivers can be found on the [SNAP Rule Waivers](#) page of the USDA Food and Nutrition Services website.

SNAP application and eligibility determination

Minnesotans may begin their application to receive SNAP through the [MN Benefits](#) online application⁶ that began receiving applications statewide in late 2021. They may also apply by submitting a paper application form to the appropriate [county or Tribal Nation](#). The information provided on the application and during the in-person or telephone interview is verified with supporting verification documents and electronic data matches. This information is used to assess whether a household meets federal⁷ and state requirements⁸ to receive SNAP and determine the initial benefit amount.

Eligibility decisions are based on many factors including: state residency, determination of SNAP household composition, income sources (both earned and unearned), allowable deductions from income, citizenship or eligible non-citizen status, work requirements and exemptions. Minnesota continues to have no asset limit for categorically eligible households receiving SNAP.

Consistent with federal rules, households with very low incomes may be eligible for expedited SNAP assistance and their application should be processed and benefits issued within 7 days of the application. All other SNAP applications can take up to 30 days to be processed. Approved eligible applicants will be mailed an [Electronic Benefit Transfer \(EBT\) card](#)⁹ that works like a debit card but can only be used to purchase food¹⁰.

SNAP recertification and reporting

Eligibility determination does not end with application. Minnesotans participating in SNAP must recertify their eligibility for SNAP every 12 months¹¹. Households must also report certain changes during the certification period which may impact eligibility or benefit amounts.

Six-month reporting SNAP households¹², are required to complete and submit a six-month report to their eligibility worker during the recertification period to maintain SNAP eligibility. Within recertification and reporting periods, all six-month reporting households must report income changes that result in gross earnings that exceed 130 % of the FPG for their household size, and lottery and gambling winnings over \$4,500¹³, although they may remain eligible up to 200 %

⁶ <https://mnbenefits.mn.gov/>

⁷ [CFR :: 7 CFR Part 273 -- Certification of Eligible Households](#)

⁸ Minnesota Combined Manual

⁹ <https://dcyf.mn.gov/ebt-card>

¹⁰ [What Can SNAP Buy? | Food and Nutrition Service https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligible-food-items](#)

¹¹ Nearly all (95%) SNAP households fully recertify their eligibility for SNAP every 12 months; the remaining households are split among those that recertify at 6 months and 24 months (with agency contact at 12 months)

¹² At the time of this report, nearly half of all SNAP households

¹³ SNAP households with substantial lottery winnings will close in the following month. They may reapply and have eligibility determined, subject to an asset limit. Minnesota Combined Manual 0011.13

of the FPG.^{14, 15} 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. SNAP households known as change reporters have reporting requirements beyond those listed here. All SNAP units have until 10 days following the end of the calendar month in which the change occurred to report the change.

A more detailed overview of reporting requirements for SNAP can be found on the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\) Reporting Requirements](#) website.

Resources for SNAP recipients

The department administers the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training](#) (SNAP E&T)¹⁶ program that offers individualized career planning, short-term training for in-demand jobs, support with job searching, and financial assistance to overcome employment barriers.

SNAP Outreach can support households applying for SNAP [assistance with their application](#)¹⁷.

The department coordinates with the Minnesota Department of Education to support direct certification for free and reduced-price school lunch (FRPL) for eligible school children whose families receive SNAP or MFIP. In 2025 the department began partnering with the Department of Health to expand outreach to households with children participating in SNAP or MFIP and potentially eligible for WIC.

In 2024, the department began administering the [Sun Bucks program](#), that provides families with \$120 per eligible school-aged child to buy groceries when school is out for the summer. Children between ages 7-17 are automatically enrolled if their household participated in MFIP or SNAP, school based free and reduced priced lunch and other programs in the previous year¹⁸.

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 2024. Since some individuals have multiple characteristics such as disability status and age, SNAP caseloads are described according to a hierarchy, so that participants or cases are counted only once: *households with children* are identified first, then *seniors* age 60 or older, next *adults with a disability*, and then *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 SNAP 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

¹⁴ Minnesota Combined Manual 0007.03.02.

¹⁵ Minnesota Combined Manual 0020.12 and 0015.03.

¹⁶ <https://dcyf.mn.gov/snap-employment-and-training>

¹⁷ <https://mn.gov/dhs/mnfoodhelper>

¹⁸ <https://dcyf.mn.gov/sun-bucks>

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.¹⁹

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. Detailed policy and data definitions follow the data tables and are important for understanding tables. All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percent. Therefore, percentages less than 0.5% will be reported as zero, and totals may not equal 100% when summed across subgroups.

¹⁹ Minnesota Combined Manual 0014.03.03.

Quick facts for December 2024: Trends

- In December 2024, 470,302 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 total number of SNAP participants increased by 3,512 (1%) since December 2023. The number of MFIP participants increased by 358 (1%) from 2023 to 2024.
- Of participants enrolled in the MFIP food portion in 2024, 16,747 were adults and 38,517 were children. The percentage of MFIP food portion participants who are children (70%) did not change from the prior year. Of the SNAP-only participants enrolled in 2024, 149,816, or 36%, were children.

Table 1. SNAP and MFIP Food participants: December 2015 to 2024

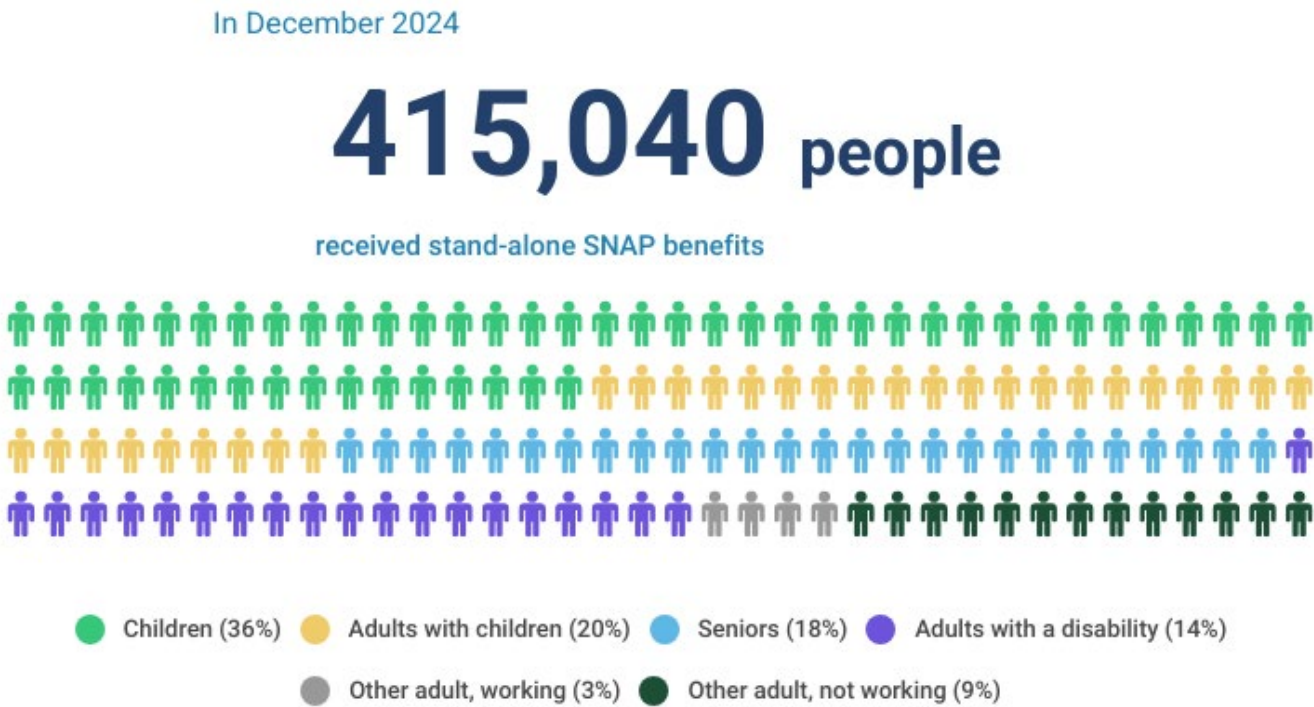
Year	MFIP food adults	MFIP food children	SNAP adults	SNAP children	Total
2024-12-01	16,747	38,517	265,222	149,816	470,302
2023-12-01	16,420	38,486	259,105	152,779	466,790
2022-12-01	16,502	38,164	247,786	147,341	449,793
2021-12-01	17,064	40,548	223,203	127,704	408,519
2020-12-01	25,312	57,715	226,857	130,413	440,297
2019-12-01	16,641	36,739	210,981	121,944	386,305
2018-12-01	20,712	52,669	209,675	136,347	419,403
2017-12-01	23,092	58,451	215,502	146,982	444,027
2016-12-01	22,553	59,071	222,891	157,241	461,756
2015-12-01	39,901	69,579	229,963	168,354	507,797

- Note: The remainder of the report reflects only people receiving stand-alone SNAP, excluding those receiving the MFIP food portion.

Quick facts for December 2024: Populations on SNAP

- This report organizes participants into distinct groups: Adults with children,²⁰ 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. Fifty-six percent of SNAP participants are children and their families, 18% seniors, and 14% 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 12% of those receiving SNAP in Minnesota.

Figure 3. SNAP enrolled adults and children

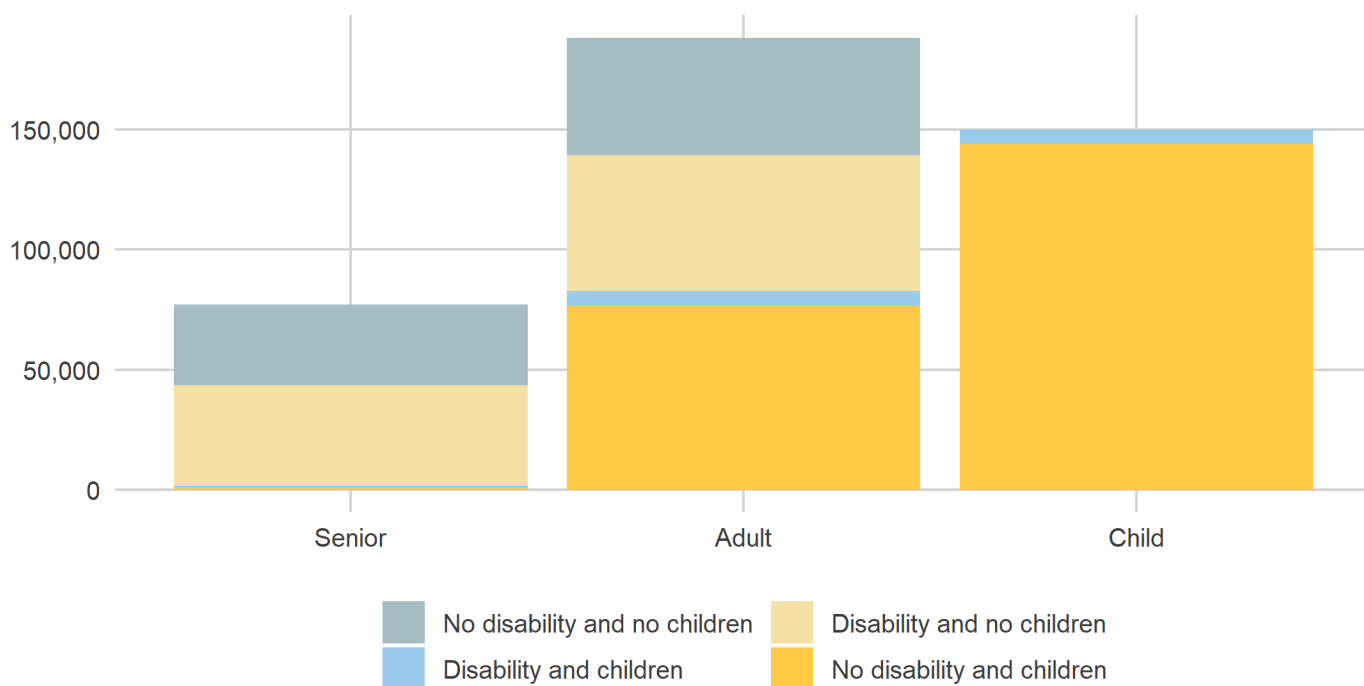


²⁰ Most often, those in the adults with children group are parents.

Quick facts for December 2024: Overlapping characteristics

- SNAP participants can meet criteria for multiple characteristic groupings; having a disability or child/ren in the home are not mutually exclusive. 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 2024 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 2024

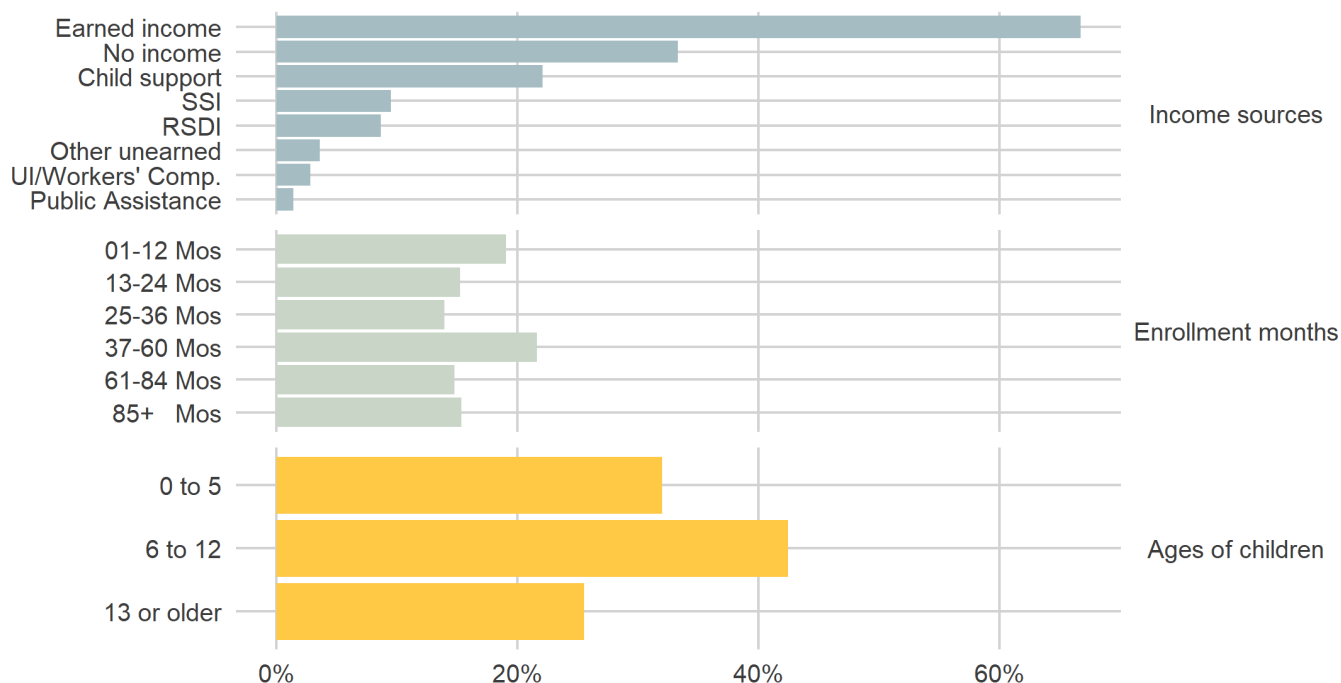


- Twenty-six percent of adults under age 60 did not have a documented disability or a child in their household and fall into the report category of other adults.
- Thirty-three percent of adults under age 60 had a disability, and 3% had a disability and a child in their household.
- Forty-one percent of adults under age 60 had a child in their household and no disability. Four percent of children receiving SNAP in December 2024 had a documented disability.

Quick facts for December 2024: Families with children

- 32% of SNAP adults live in households with children (84,379)²¹; 149,816 children receive SNAP²² (data from Table 2).
- The average age of adults in cases with children is 36, with 41% in their 30s; 69% are female, 53% have a high school diploma, 51% never married, 31% are married and living with their spouse. Forty-three percent are white (Table 3 to 8).

Figure 5: SNAP families with children



- Of the 61,812 family cases, 67% report income from work, with an average income of \$3,000 per month. Sixty-eight percent of cases with income from work belong to families with children (Table 13).
- For unearned income, out of all cases receiving child support 95% pertain to families with children (Table 14). Out of all family cases with children, 22% receive child support, 10% receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and 9% receive Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (RSDI) (Figure 5).
- Adults in families with children averaged 44 months of SNAP enrollment over the previous nine years. Thirty-four percent of adults in families with children used 24 months or fewer (Table 10).
- Thirty-two percent of children receiving SNAP are under age six; 52 percent of family cases have at least one child under age six. Seventeen percent of family cases have at least one person with a disability.

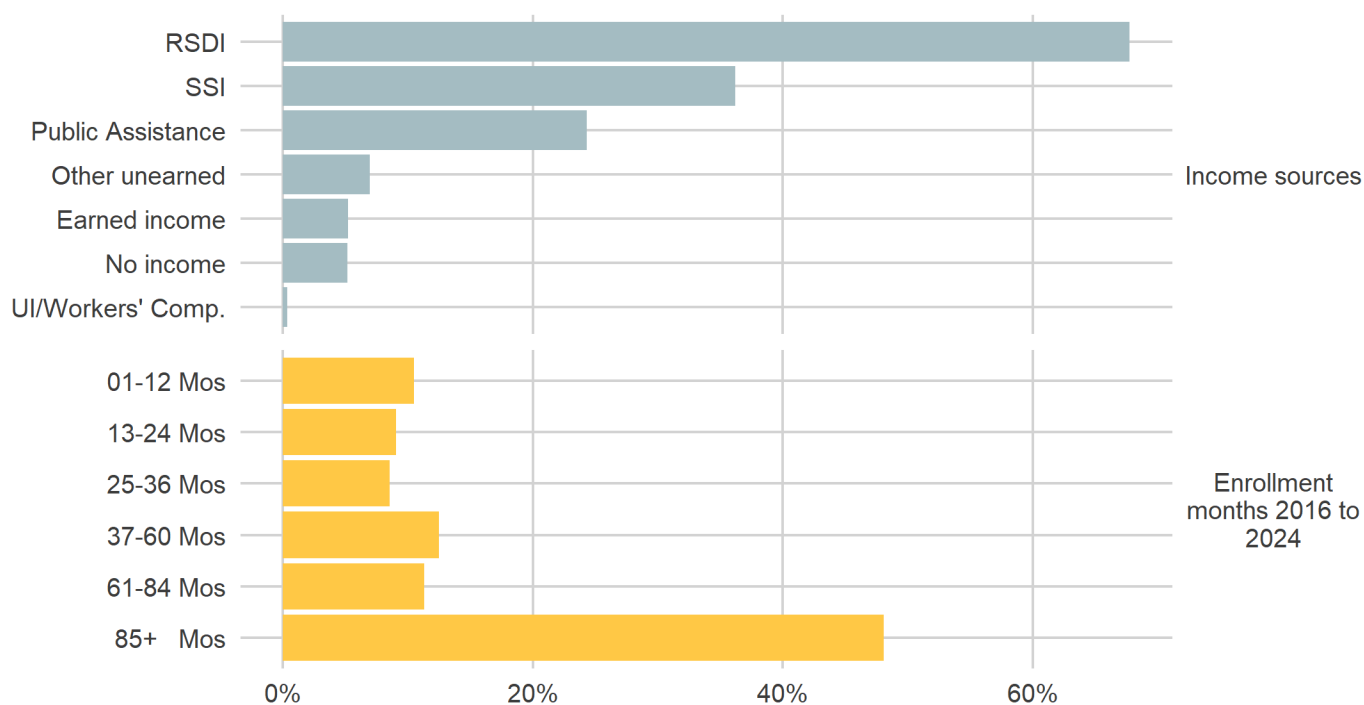
²¹ All SNAP participants in households with minor children fall into the report category of families with minor children.

²² This includes 6,459 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 2024: SNAP seniors

- Twenty-eight percent (75,466) 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 3).
- The average age of adults in SNAP senior cases is 69 (with a minimum age of 60); 60% are female, 51% are high school graduates, 15% are married and living with their spouse, 15% are widowed, and 59% are white (Tables 4-8).
- Nearly all cases (93%) with seniors have unearned income, with RSDI being the most common source (68%), followed by SSI (36%), and public assistance grants (24%). The average amount of unearned income is \$1,303 per month. Five percent reported earned income from work (Figure 6, Table 13).
- Seniors average about 70 months (six years) of SNAP enrollment over the previous 10 years, with 49% enrolled for more than 84 months (seven years) (Figure 6, Table 10).

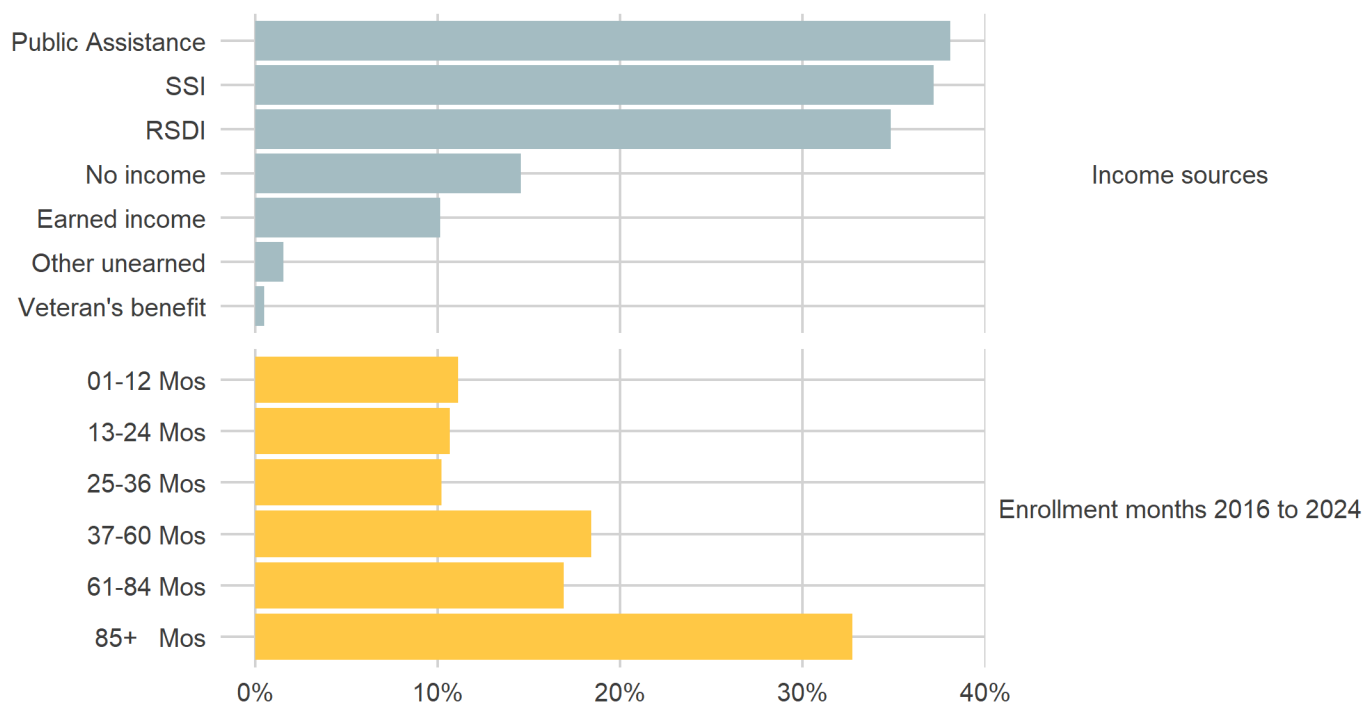
Figure 6: SNAP seniors



Quick facts for December 2024: 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 43. Forty-nine percent are female, 57% have a high school diploma, and 70% never married (Table 3 to 7).
- Fifty-seven percent of SNAP cases with persons who have a disability are white, 26% Black, 5% Asian, 7% American Indian and 4% Hispanic (Table 8).
- Seventy-seven percent of SNAP cases with persons who have a disability report unearned income averaging \$967 per month. The most common types are SSI (45 percent), RSDI (42 percent), and public assistance (48 percent), including Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA), General Assistance, Refugee Cash Assistance, MFIP and DWP.
- Eight percent of cases with disability have earned income (Table 13).
- Adults with disabilities average about 61 months of SNAP enrollment over a nine-year period; 33% were enrolled in SNAP for more than seven years (Figure 7, Table 10).

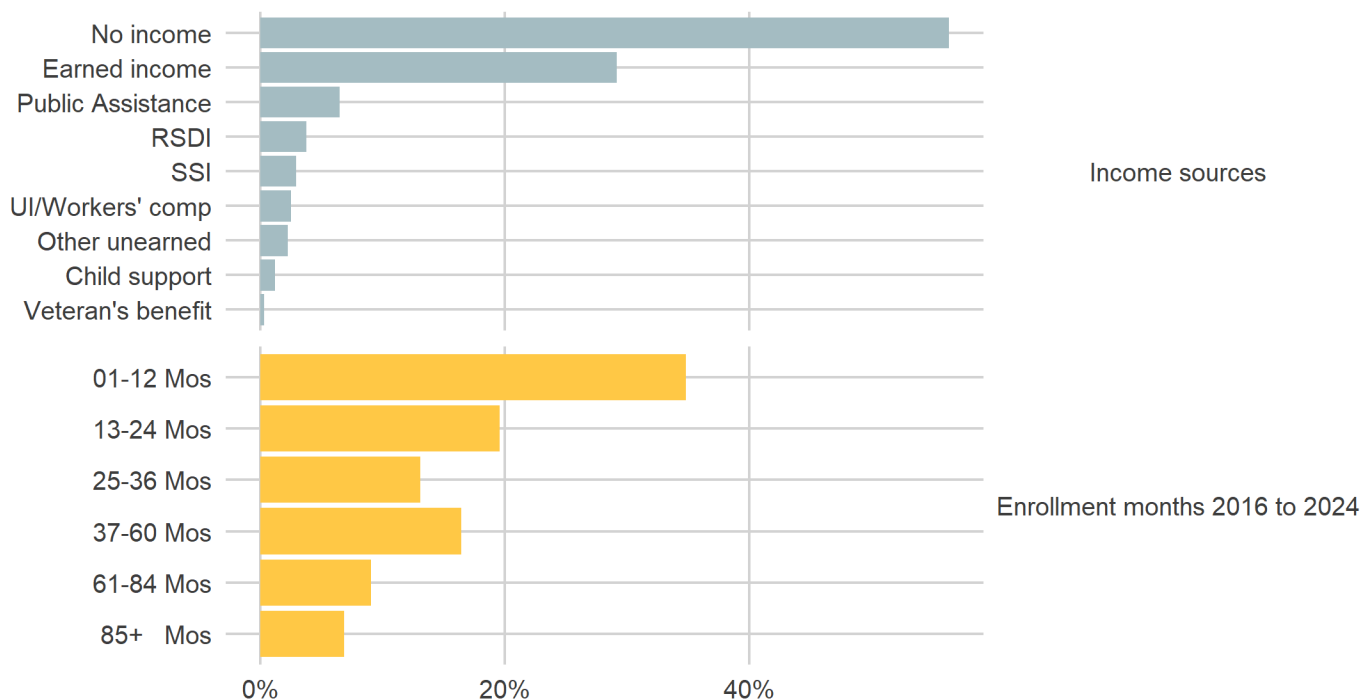
Figure 7: SNAP adults with disabilities



Quick facts for December 2024: SNAP adults without a disability and without children

- Eighteen percent of SNAP adults (48,877) 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 37. They were more likely to be male (55%), and more likely to have never married than other groups (77%) (Tables 4 through 6).
- Consistent with SNAP policy, other adults received SNAP an average of 32 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



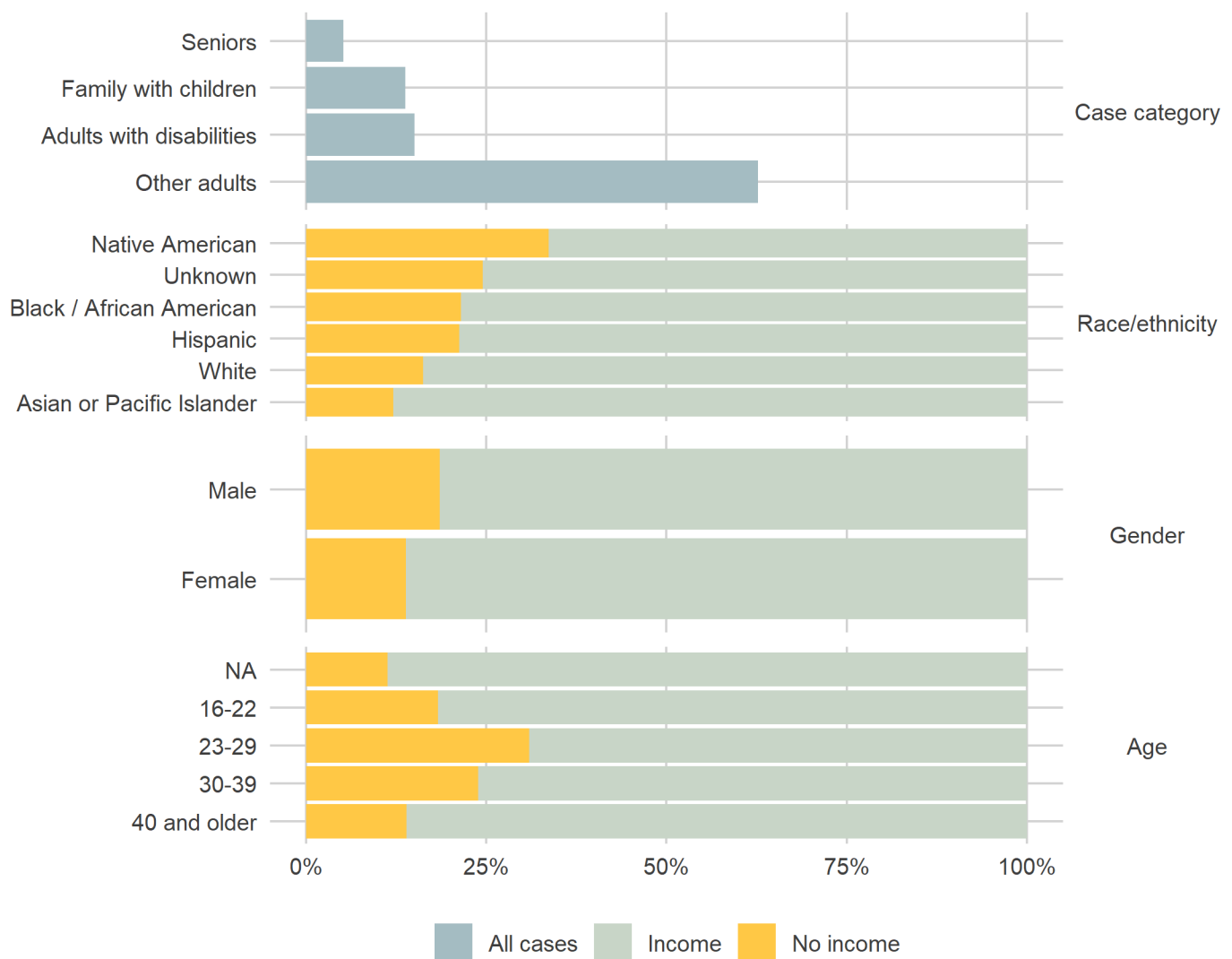
Policy note: Adults in this group include time-limited recipients (previously known as ABAWDS). As of this report date, this group was federally defined as adults ages 18 through 49 without a disability, not residing with a child. This group is subject to work requirements and limited to three months of eligibility 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.

- In December 2024, 16,349 people fit the federal ABAWD definition. This is 33% of other adults and 6% of all adults receiving SNAP.
- Forty-four percent of ABAWDs (7,764) were utilizing a counted month. Others were living in an area with high unemployment where SNAP time limits were waived (2,256) or were meeting the work requirement (531).

Quick facts for December 2024: SNAP enrollees with no other income

- Twenty percent of SNAP cases (46,820) had no income reported (Table 13).
- Fifty-nine percent of cases with adults without a documented disability and no children, and under age 60, had no reported income (26,478) (Figure 9, Table 13).
- In terms of education level, 57% of adults in households with no income had at least high school education, whereas 55 percent of adults in households with income had 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 income changes are reported. Not all income is used to determine grant amounts for eligibility.

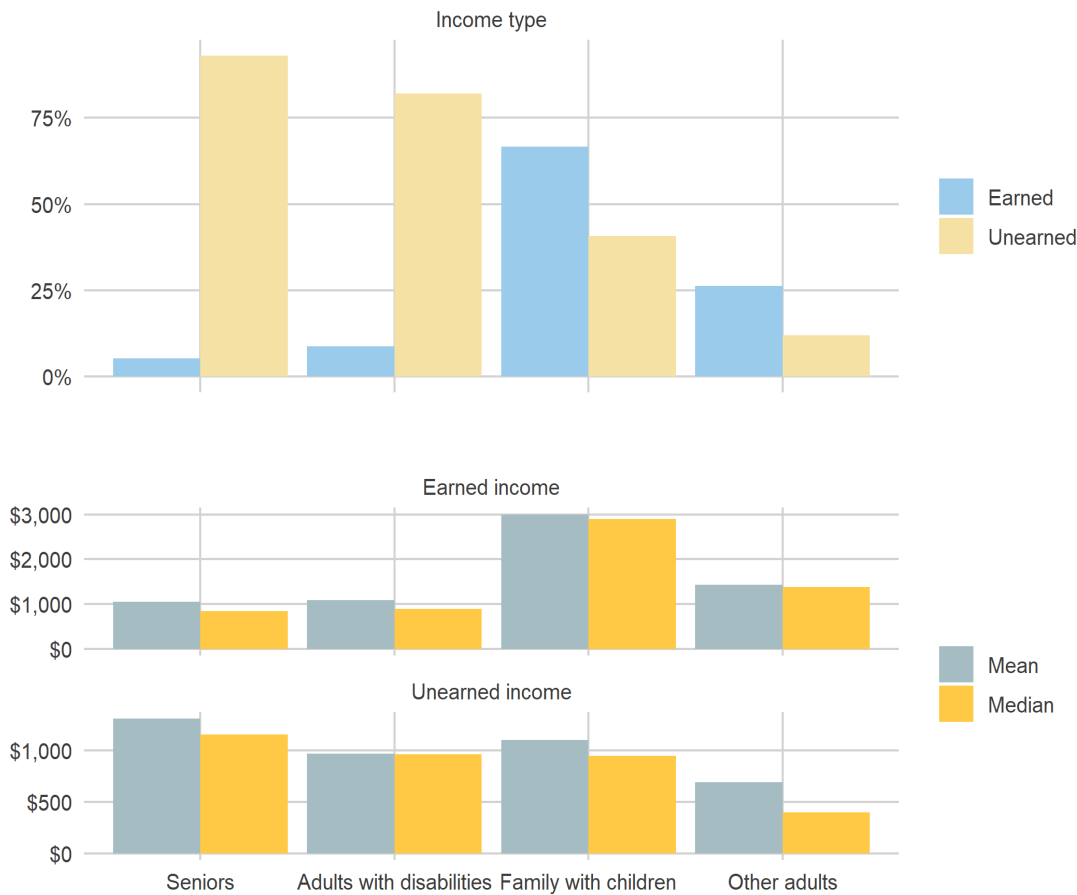
Quick facts for December 2024: Income and earnings of SNAP households

- Overall, 27 percent of SNAP cases report income from work. This varies by type of case, with 68% of families with children, 18% of other adults, 8% of adults with disabilities, and 6% of senior cases reporting work (Figure 10, Table 13).
- Reported earnings of households with workers averaged \$2,789 per month. Of these, families with children reported the highest earnings, at \$3,000; seniors reported the lowest, with \$1,047, on average (Figure 10). A total of 61 percent of SNAP cases reported unearned income, with a monthly average of \$1,124 (Table 13).

The average reported earnings for households with workers was \$2,789 per month. Of these, families with children reported the highest earnings, at \$3,000; seniors reported the lowest, with \$1,047, on average.

- The most common types of unearned income vary by case type. Families with children are most likely to have child support (22 percent), seniors likely to have RSDI (68 percent), and adults with disabilities likely to have SSI (37 percent).

Figure 10: Income and earnings of SNAP households



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

Data tables

Table 2. December 2024 stand-alone SNAP cases and participants categorized by hierarchy ²³

Case type	Case count	Case percent	Adult count	Adult percent	Children count	Children percent
Total	228,960	100%	265,222	100%	149,816	100%
Adults with disabilities	54,428	24%	56,502	21%		
Family with children	61,812	27%	84,379	32%	149,816	100%
Other adults	42,237	18%	48,877	18%		
Seniors	70,483	31%	75,466	28%		

Table 3. SNAP adults by case types for December 2024

Statistic	Total adults	Adults with children	Seniors	Adults with disabilities	Other adults
Count	265,222	84,379	78,073	57,823	44,950
Percent	100%	32%	29%	22%	17%

²³ Persons and cases are assigned in a hierarchical order. 1. Families with children (includes child only cases); 2. Seniors (age >= 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. When a case includes both a Senior and a non-Senior adult, the case will be categorized as a Senior type of case.

Table 4. Age characteristics of SNAP adults by case types for December 2024

Statistic	Total	Family with children	Seniors	Adults with disabilities	Other adults
Mean	47	36	69	43	37
Median	45	36	68	45	36
Max	109	97	109	59	59
Min	18	18	18	18	18
Under 23 - count	19,016	9,129	490	2,961	6,437
Under 23 - percent	7%	11%	1%	5%	14%
23-29 - count	27,232	12,792	290	5,783	8,368
23-29 - percent	10%	15%	0%	10%	19%
30-39 - count	58,755	34,422	307	12,669	11,357
30-39 - percent	22%	41%	0%	22%	25%
40-49 - count	45,670	20,937	261	15,241	9,231
40-49 - percent	17%	25%	0%	26%	21%
50-59 - count	37,390	5,406	1,259	21,169	9,557
50-59 - percent	14%	6%	2%	37%	21%
60-64 - count	23,827	898	22,929		
60-64 - percent	9%	1%	29%		
65 and older - count	53,332	795	52,537		
65 and older - percent	20%	1%	67%		

Table 5. SNAP adults by case type and gender for December 2024

Statistic	Total	Family with children	Seniors	Adults with disabilities	Other adults
Female - count	153,261	57,945	47,021	28,117	20,179
Female - percent	58%	69%	60%	49%	45%
Male - count	111,961	26,434	31,052	29,706	24,771
Male - percent	42%	31%	40%	51%	55%

Table 6. SNAP adults by case type and education for December 2024

Statistic	Total	Family with children	Seniors	Adults with disabilities	Other adults
None or pre-first grade or unknown - count	21,535	6,100	10,579	2,601	2,255
None or pre-first grade or unknown - percent	8%	7%	14%	4%	5%
Grade school - count	6,683	2,008	3,005	1,017	653
Grade school - percent	3%	2%	4%	2%	1%
Some high school - count	46,778	15,169	10,793	11,845	8,971
Some high school - percent	18%	18%	14%	20%	20%
High school - count	143,494	44,921	40,146	33,183	25,246
High school - percent	54%	53%	51%	57%	56%
Some post-secondary - count	34,779	12,488	9,263	7,223	5,806
Some post-secondary - percent	13%	15%	12%	12%	13%
College graduate - count	7,355	2,522	2,256	1,174	1,403
College graduate - percent	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%
Graduate degree - count	4,598	1,171	2,031	780	616
Graduate degree - percent	2%	1%	3%	1%	1%

Table 7. SNAP adults by case type and marital status for December 2024

Statistic	Total	Family with children	Seniors	Adults with disabilities	Other adults
Divorced - count	46,100	6,844	24,472	9,508	5,276
Divorced - percent	17%	8%	31%	16%	12%
Legally separated - count	1,570	464	514	310	282
Legally separated - percent	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Married living apart - count	22,175	7,069	8,096	4,219	2,791
Married living apart - percent	8%	8%	10%	7%	6%
Married living with spouse - count	41,476	26,184	11,527	2,181	1,585
Married living with spouse - percent	16%	31%	15%	4%	4%
Never married - count	139,603	43,039	21,564	40,553	34,449
Never married - percent	53%	51%	28%	70%	77%
Widowed - count	14,292	774	11,900	1,051	567
Widowed - percent	5%	1%	15%	2%	1%
NA - count	1	1			
NA - percent	0%	0%			

Table 8. SNAP adults by case type and race and ethnicity for December 2024

Statistic	Total	Family with children	Seniors	Adults with disabilities	Other adults
American Indian - count	13,995	3,858	2,046	3,811	4,280
American Indian - percent	5%	5%	3%	7%	10%
Asian - count	22,297	8,572	9,109	2,744	1,872
Asian - percent	8%	10%	12%	5%	4%
Black - count	70,158	26,368	16,224	15,127	12,440
Black - percent	26%	31%	21%	26%	28%
Hispanic - count	14,332	6,580	2,901	2,196	2,655
Hispanic - percent	5%	8%	4%	4%	6%
Unknown - count	6,674	2,484	1,638	966	1,586
Unknown - percent	3%	3%	2%	2%	4%
White - count	137,766	36,517	46,155	32,979	22,117
White - percent	52%	43%	59%	57%	49%

Table 9. SNAP adults by case type and citizenship for December 2024

Statistic	Total	Family with children	Seniors	Adults with disabilities	Other adults
Non U.S - count	14,021	7,110	3,244	1,295	2,373
Non U.S - percent	5%	8%	4%	2%	5%
U.S - count	251,196	77,267	74,828	56,527	42,576
U.S - percent	95%	92%	96%	98%	95%

Table 10. SNAP adults: Months of SNAP enrollment

Statistic	Total	Adults with children	Seniors	Adults with disabilities	Other adults
Mean	53	44	70	61	32
Median	47	38	81	61	24
1-12 months - count	45,607	16,076	7,794	6,028	15,710
1-12 months - percent	17%	19%	10%	11%	32%
13-24 months - count	34,871	12,871	6,800	5,893	9,307
13-24 months - percent	13%	15%	9%	10%	19%
25-36 months - count	30,586	11,760	6,418	5,708	6,701
25-36 months - percent	12%	14%	9%	10%	14%
37-60 months - count	46,836	18,248	9,368	10,372	8,848
37-60 months - percent	18%	22%	12%	18%	18%
61-84 months - count	35,516	12,483	8,464	9,602	4,967
61-84 months - percent	13%	15%	11%	17%	10%
85 or more months - count	71,806	12,941	36,622	18,899	3,344
85 or more months - percent	27%	15%	49%	33%	7%

Table 11. SNAP adults in cash assistance programs

Statistic	Total	Adults with children	Seniors	Adults with disabilities	Other adults
MFIP/DWP - count	265,222	84,379	75,466	56,502	48,877
MFIP/DWP - percent	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 12. December 2024 SNAP adult cases and grant size

Statistic	Total cases	Families with children	Seniors	Adults with disabilities	Other adults
Cases - count	228,960	61,812	70,483	54,428	42,237
Cases - percent	100%	27%	31%	24%	18%
SNAP grant - mean	426	595	168	207	265
SNAP grant - median	292	536	159	219	292

Table 13. December 2024 SNAP adult cases: Earned and unearned income by case types

Statistic	Total cases	Families with children	Seniors	Adults with disabilities	Other adults
No income - count	46,820	8,512	3,638	8,192	26,478
No income - percent	20%	18%	8%	17%	57%
Income from work - count	60,697	41,230	3,688	4,709	11,070
Income from work - percent	27%	68%	6%	8%	18%
Earned income at last report - mean	2,789	3,000	1,047	1,093	1,433
Earned income at last report - median	2,659	2,894	840	894	1,386
December unearned income - count	140,328	25,111	65,529	44,637	5,051
December unearned income - percent	61%	18%	47%	32%	4%
December unearned income - mean	1,124	1,098	1,303	967	692
December unearned income - median	1,024	943	1,153	963	400

Table 14. December 2024 SNAP adult cases: SNAP grants, earned and unearned income by case types

Statistic	Total cases	Families with children	Seniors	Adults with disabilities	Other adults
Child Support income - count	14,404	13,665	110	321	308
Child Support income - percent	6%	95%	1%	2%	2%
SSI - count	51,388	5,883	25,494	19,912	99
SSI - percent	22%	11%	50%	39%	0%
RSDI - count	72,082	5,372	47,749	18,824	137
RSDI - percent	31%	7%	66%	26%	0%
PA Grant - count	42,115	892	17,129	21,505	2,589
PA Grant - percent	18%	2%	41%	51%	6%
Unemployment insurance workers compensation - count	3,254	1,753	266	179	1,056
Unemployment insurance workers compensation - percent	1%	54%	8%	6%	32%
Veterans benefit - count	1,809	325	1,109	263	112
Veterans benefit - percent	1%	18%	61%	15%	6%
Other Earned income - count	8,730	2,220	4,913	771	826
Other Earned income - percent	4%	25%	56%	9%	9%

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 2024 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 and children are those below the age of 18. Those ages 22 and younger living with their parents are considered part of the household and are included in the parent’s SNAP case.

Families with children households have at least one enrolled member who is a child by the above definition. Note that 6,459 children were in families where a child was the only member to receive stand-alone SNAP; other family members received the food portion of MFIP or were ineligible for SNAP because of other requirements. Seniors are those aged 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 >= 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.

Table 10. SNAP months are total months in which an individual was enrolled in SNAP in Minnesota between January 2010 and December 2024. 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.

Table 11. Public assistance eligibility in calendar year 2024 is whether an individual is personally enrolled in the listed program. Emergency Services includes Emergency Assistance and Emergency General Assistance programs.

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

All income is from December 2024 SNAP active budget panel. If income is not reported on the budget panel, it is not included. Earned income is gross wages plus self-employment (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 2024, there were 3,267 eligible SNAP cases 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 adult on a case had income in Figure 9.