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

December 2018

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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

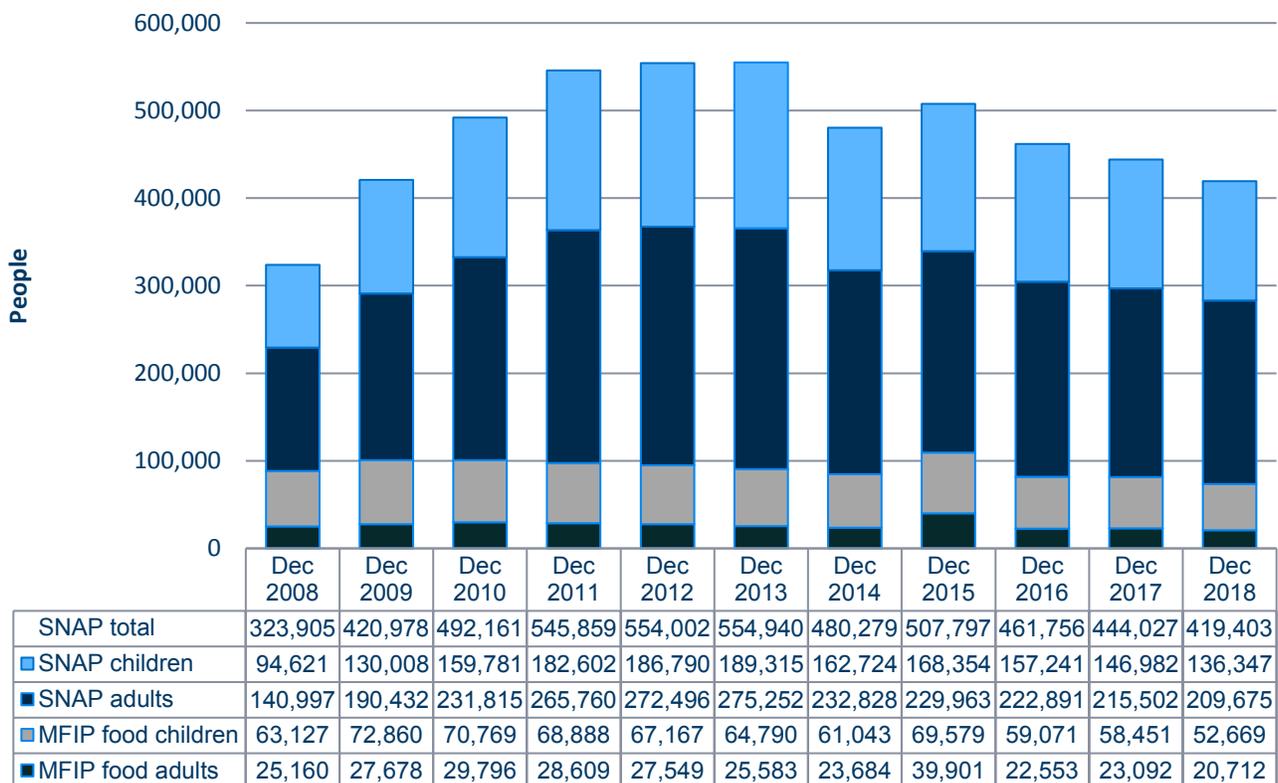
## Executive summary

The federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which is frequently referred to using the former name, Food Stamps, provides a monthly benefit to low-income families, seniors, people with disabilities, and some single adults for the purchase of food. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (department) administers both stand-alone SNAP and the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) that combines 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 2018, 419,403 Minnesotans were enrolled in either stand-alone SNAP or MFIP. This is a decrease of 6% from the 444,027 adults and children enrolled in December 2017, and falling below the number enrolled in 2009 (Figure 1(i)). See the MFIP Characteristics report for information on receipt of SNAP through the MFIP food portion.

**Figure 1(i)**



## Persons enrolled in stand-alone SNAP

This SNAP Characteristics report provides information on the 346,022 [Figure 1(i)] of persons enrolled in stand-alone SNAP, focusing on 209,675 adults.

Figure 2(i)

In December 2018

**346,022** people  
received stand-alone SNAP benefits



● Children (39%) ● Adults with children (20%) ● Seniors (16%) ● Adults with a disability (16%)  
● Other adults, working (2%) ● Other adults, not working (7%)

## SNAP Cases with income from work

Overall, 26% of households receiving SNAP reported income from work. Of these:

- 65% of families with children
- 24% of *other adults*
- 8% of adults with disabilities, and
- 5% of senior cases reporting work.

The average reported earnings for households with workers was \$1,567 per month. Of these, families with children reported the highest earnings, at \$1,875; seniors reported the lowest, with \$621, on average.

## SNAP Cases with no income

For December 2018, 16% of households receiving SNAP (29,540) had no reported income, earned or unearned. Those households included 18,717 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 people with documented disabilities.

## 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 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 that limit is \$2,264 per month.<sup>1</sup> Benefits are based on household size, and amount and types of 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 states and the 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 70s 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 person, 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 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 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 February 2015, more than 46,000 adults without children were removed from SNAP in Minnesota.

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 county financial worker each month. 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>

In September 2017, the department received approval 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

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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.

Families (TANF) program, as a combined benefit. The department 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. 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 in the country 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 2018. 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; 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 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.

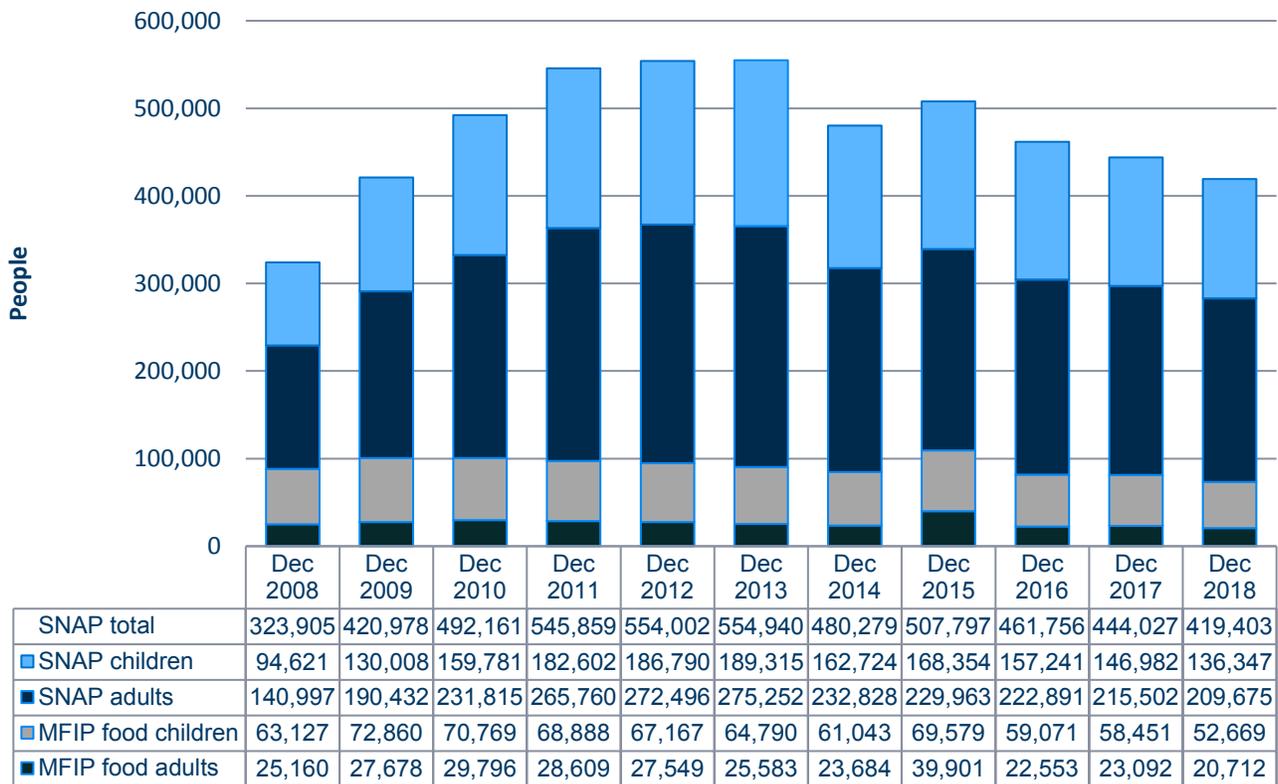
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<sup>5</sup> Combined Manual 0014.03.03.

## Quick facts for December Trends

- In December 2018, 419,403 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 24,624 (6%) since December 2017. The number of MFIP participants dropped by 10% from December 2017 to December 2018, its lowest point in the past 10 years.
- Of participants enrolled in the MFIP food portion in December 2018, 20,712 were adults and 52,669 were children. The percentage of MFIP food portion participants who are children (72%) was equal to the percentage in December 2017. Of the SNAP-only participants enrolled in December 2018, 136,347, or 39%, were children.

**Figure 1. SNAP participants: December 2008 to December 2018**



## Quick facts for December 2018: 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. Fifty-nine percent of SNAP participants are children and their families, 16% are seniors, and 16% are adults who have a disability.
- Figure 2 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 9% of those receiving SNAP in Minnesota.

Figure 2. SNAP enrolled adults and children

In December 2018

**346,022** people  
received stand-alone SNAP benefits



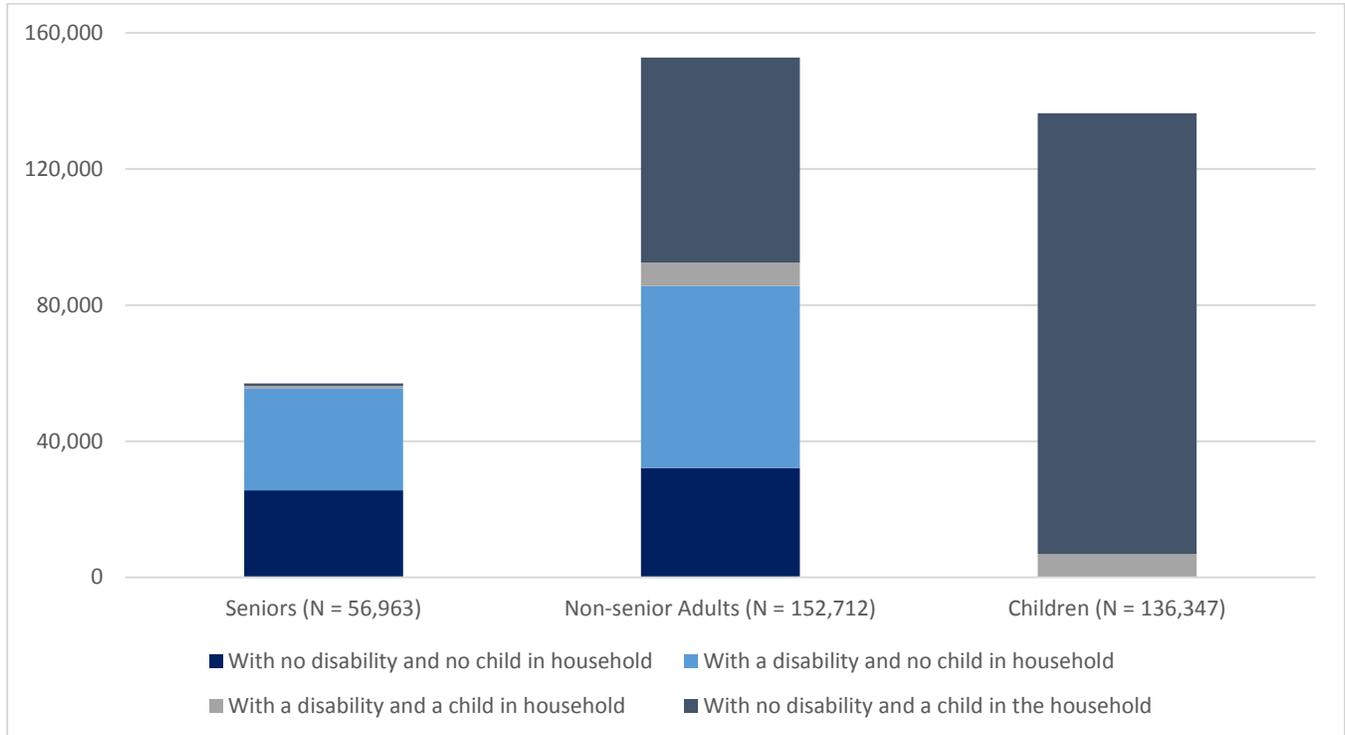
- Children (39%) ● Adults with children (20%) ● Seniors (16%) ● Adults with a disability (16%)
- Other adults, working (2%) ● Other adults, not working (7%)

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

## Quick facts for December 2018: 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, 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 3 shows seniors, non-senior adults, and children by disability status, and whether a child is in a household.
- More than half of seniors (54%) receiving SNAP in December 2018 also had a disability documented in the eligibility system.
- Two percent of seniors had a child in their household.
- Twenty-one 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*.
- Forty percent of adults under age 60 had a disability, and 5% had a disability and a child in their household.
- Thirty-nine percent of adults under age 60 had a child in their house and no disability. Five percent of children receiving SNAP in December 2018 had a documented disability.

**Figure 3. Overlapping characteristics of SNAP participants in December 2018**

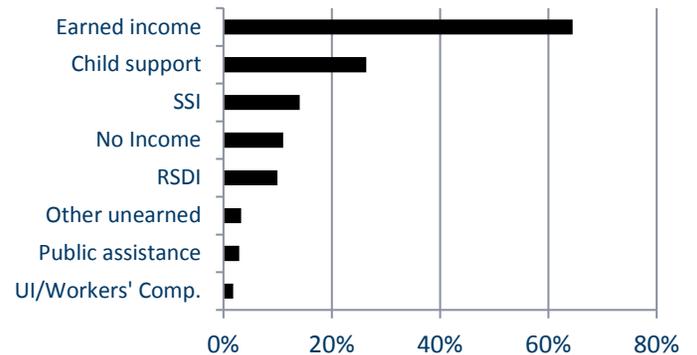


## Quick facts for December 2018: Families with children

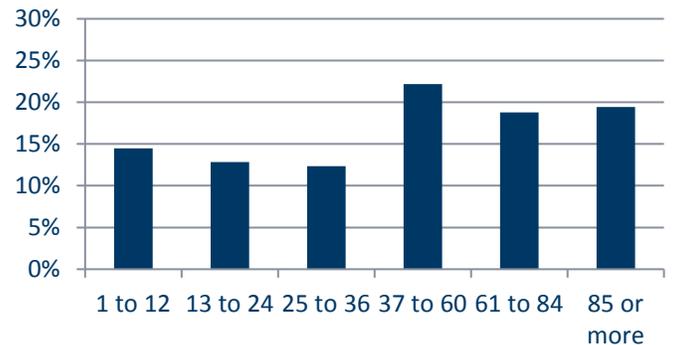
- Thirty-three percent of SNAP adults live in households with minor children (68,522 adults)<sup>7</sup>; 136,347 children receive SNAP<sup>8</sup> (data from Table 1).
- The average age of adults with children is 37 years, with 44% in their 30s, 70% are female, 72% have at least a high school diploma, 44% never married, 35% are married and living with a spouse, and 47% are white (Table 2).
- Of the 55,317 family cases, 65% report income from work, with an average income of \$1,875 per month (Figure 4, Table 4).
- For unearned income, 26% receive child support, 14% income from SSI, and 3% receive cash public assistance (Figure 4, Table 4).
- Adults in families with children averaged 50 months of SNAP enrollment over the previous nine years. More than 27% of adults in families have used 24 months or less (Figure 5, Table 3).

Thirty-two percent of children receiving SNAP are under age 6; 52% of family cases have at least one child under 6. Twenty-two percent of family cases have at least one person with a disability (Figure 6).

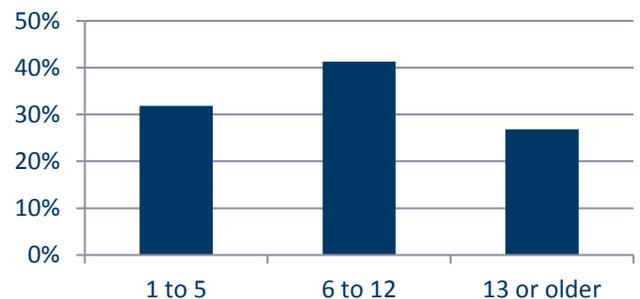
**Figure 4. Families with minor children: Income sources**



**Figure 5. SNAP adult participants with minor children: Enrollment months 2010 to 2018**



**Figure 6. Ages of children**



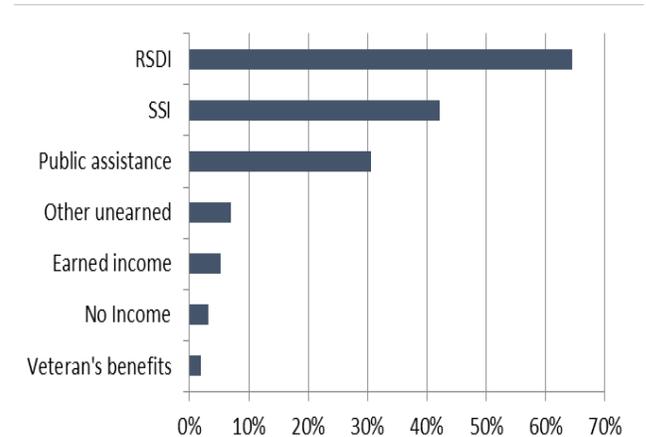
<sup>7</sup> All SNAP participants in households with minor children fall into the report category of families with minor children.

<sup>8</sup> This includes 8,354 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.

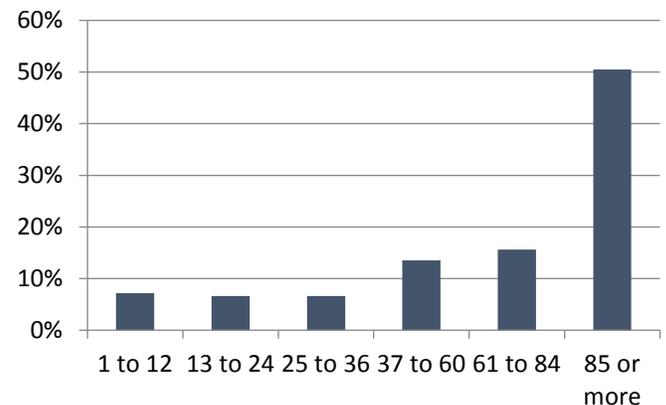
## Quick facts for December 2018: SNAP seniors

- Twenty-seven percent (55,568) 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, 66% 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 (65%), followed by SSI (42%), and public assistance grants (31%). The average amount of unearned income is \$949 per month. Five percent reported earned income (Figure 6, Table 4).
- Seniors average about 72 months (six years) of SNAP enrollment over the previous nine years, with 51% enrolled for more than 84 months (seven years) (Figure 7, Table 3).

**Figure 7. SNAP cases with seniors: Income sources**



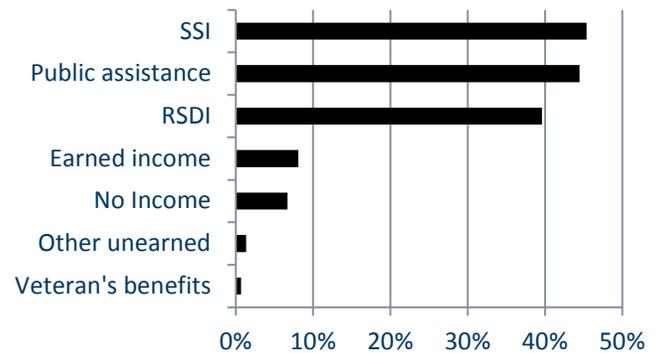
**Figure 8. SNAP seniors: Enrollment months 2010 to 2018**



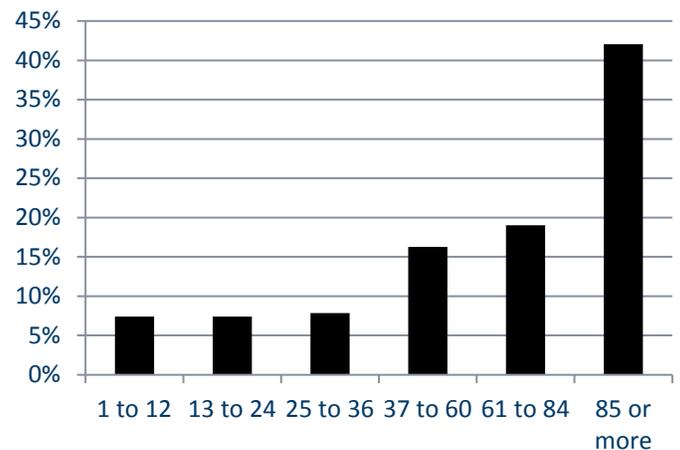
## Quick facts for December 2018: SNAP adults with disabilities

- 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, 72% have at least a high school diploma, and 63% never married (Table 2).
- Fifty-nine percent of SNAP adults with a disability are white, 27% black, 5% Asian, 5% American Indian and 3% Hispanic (Table 2).
- Ninety-two percent of SNAP cases with persons who have a disability report unearned income averaging \$731 per month. The most common types are SSI (45%), RSDI (40%), and public assistance (45%), 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-two percent were enrolled in SNAP for more than seven years (Figure 9, Table 3).

**Figure 9. SNAP cases with adults with disabilities: Income source**



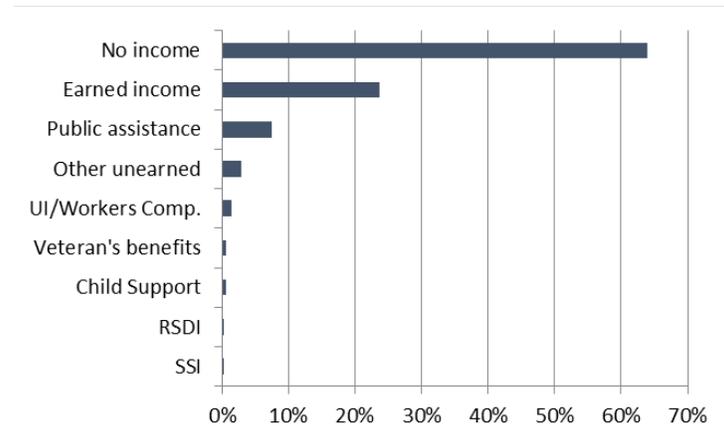
**Figure 10. SNAP adults with disabilities: Enrollment months 2010 to 2018**



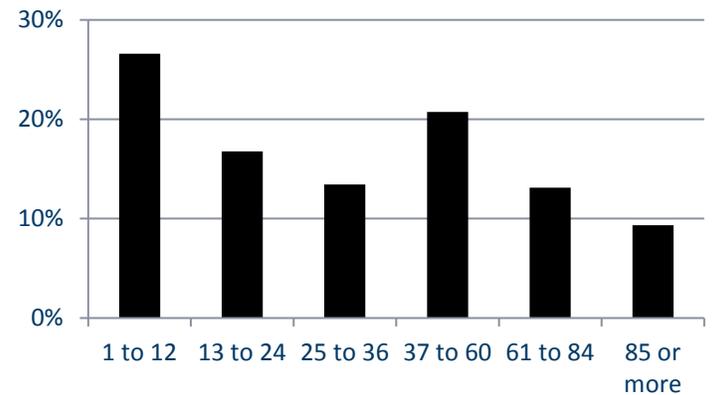
## Quick facts for December 2018: SNAP adults without a disability and without children

- Fifteen percent of SNAP adults (31,603) 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 age 60 (Table 1).
- *Other adults* have an average age of 39. They were more likely to be male (56%), and more likely to have never married than other groups (69%), (Table 2).
- *Other adults* received SNAP an average of 37 months in the past nine years, 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, federally defined group of adults without a disability between the ages of 18 and 49 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 available.
- In December 2018, 14,896 people fit the federal ABAWD definition. This is 47% of *other adults* and 7% of all adults receiving SNAP.
- Sixty-one percent of ABAWDs (9,044) were utilizing a counted month. Others were living in an area with high unemployment where SNAP time limits were waived (5,079), or were meeting the work requirement (773).

**Figure 11. Other adult cases: Income sources**



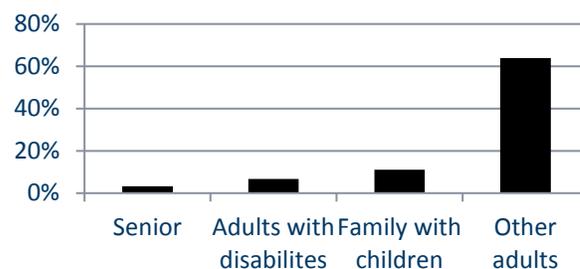
**Figure 12. SNAP *other adults*: Enrollment months 2010 to 2018**



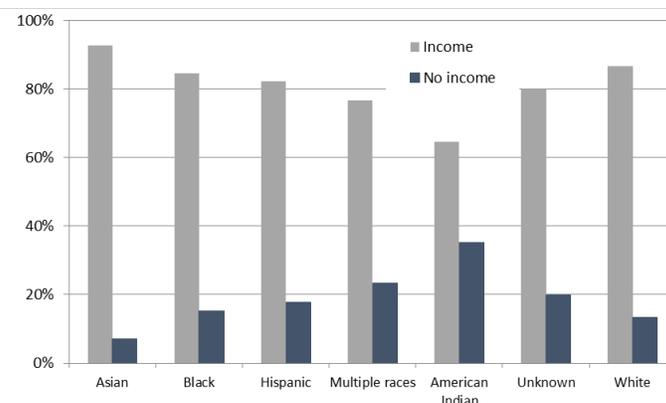
## Quick facts for December 2018: SNAP enrollees with no other income

- 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 there is a significant increase. Not all income is used to determine grant amounts for eligibility.
- Sixteen percent of SNAP cases (29,540) had no income reported (Table 4).
- Sixty-four percent of cases with adults without a disability and no children, 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, black or American Indian. They were also more likely to have never married, 68% compared to 43% of participants with income (Figures 13 and 14).

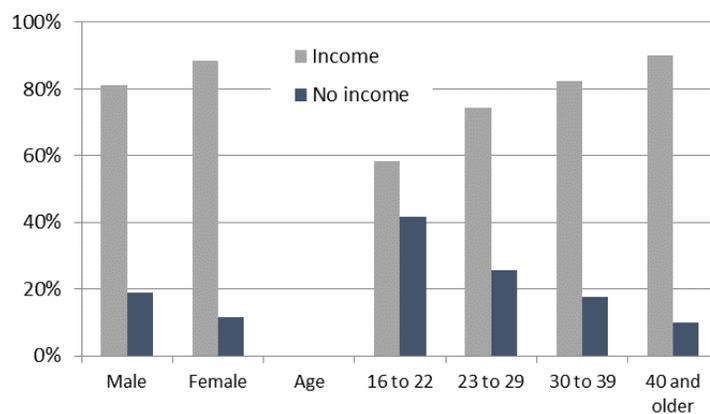
**Figure 13. Percent of SNAP cases with no income by category**



**Figure 14. Race/ethnicity of SNAP adults with and without income**



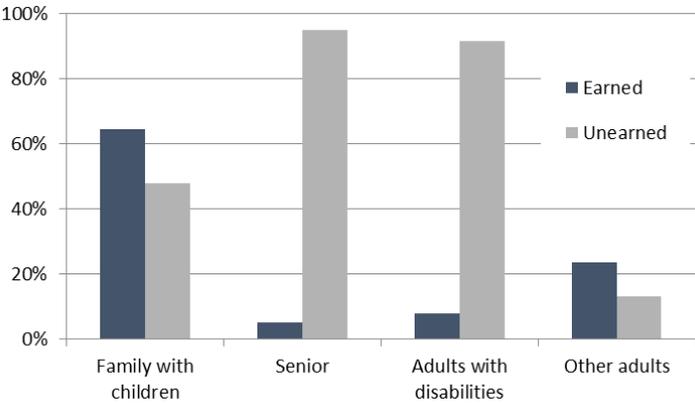
**Figure 15. Gender and age of SNAP adults with and without income**



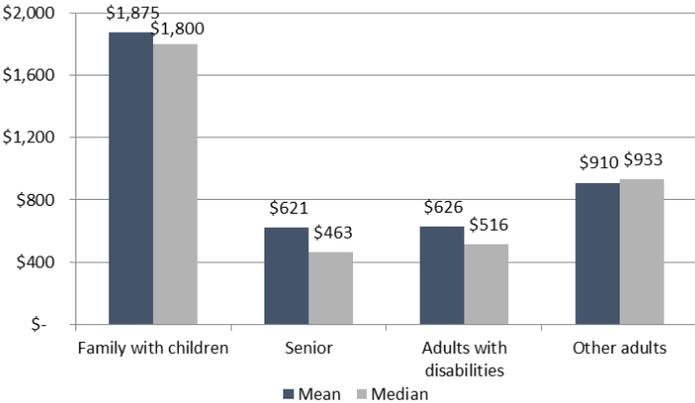
## Quick facts for December 2018: Income and earnings of SNAP households

- 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 there is a significant increase. Not all income is used to determine grant amounts for eligibility.
- Overall, 26% of SNAP cases report income from work. This varies by type of case, with 64% of families with children, 24% 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 \$1,567 per month. Families with children reported the highest earnings, with \$1,875, and seniors the lowest, at \$621, on average (Figure 16, Table 4).
- Sixty-eight percent of SNAP cases reported unearned income, with a monthly average of \$817 (Table 4).
- The most common types of unearned income vary by case type. Families with children are most likely to have child support (26%), seniors likely to have RSDI (65%), and adults with disabilities likely to have SSI (45%), (Table 4).

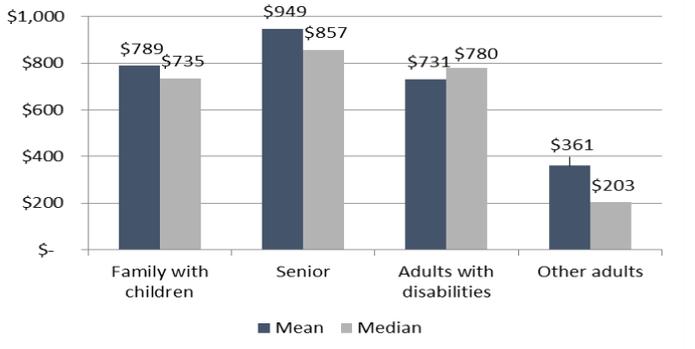
**Figure 16. Percentage of SNAP cases with earned and unearned income by type**



**Figure 17. Average monthly earnings of SNAP cases by type for working cases**



**Figure 18. Average monthly unearned income of SNAP cases by type**



## Data tables

**Table 1. December 2018 stand-alone SNAP cases and participants categorized by hierarchy<sup>9</sup>**

	Total	Families with children	Seniors	Adults with disabilities	Other adults
<b>Cases</b>	188,081	55,317	51,853	52,281	28,630
	100%	29.4%	27.6%	27.8%	15.2%
<b>Adults</b>	209,675	68,522	55,568	53,982	31,603
	100%	32.7%	26.5%	25.7%	15.1%
<b>Children</b>	136,347	136,347	0	0	0
	100%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

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<sup>9</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 2018**

		Total adults	Adults with children	Seniors	Adults with disabilities	Other adults
<b>Enrollees</b>	<b>Count</b>	209,675	68,522	55,568	53,982	31,603
	<b>Percent of all enrollees</b>	100.0%	32.7%	26.5%	25.7%	15.1%
<b>Age</b>	<b>Mean</b>	48	37	70	45	39
	<b>Median</b>	47	35	68	48	38
	<b>Minimum</b>	15	16	60	16	15
	<b>Maximum</b>	108	91	108	59	59
	<b>Under 23</b>	7,360	2,377	0	1,188	3,795
	<b>Column percent</b>	3.5%	3.5%	0.0%	2.2%	12.0%
	<b>23 - 29</b>	25,294	13,936	0	5,327	6,031
		12.1%	20.3%	0.0%	9.9%	19.1%
	<b>30 - 39</b>	47,049	29,915	0	10,327	6,807
		22.4%	43.7%	0.0%	19.1%	21.5%
	<b>40 - 49</b>	33,349	15,517	0	12,694	5,138
		15.9%	22.6%	0.0%	23.5%	16.3%
	<b>50 - 59</b>	39,660	5,382	0	24,446	9,832
		18.9%	7.9%	0.0%	45.3%	31.1%
	<b>60 - 64</b>	18,788	796	17,992	0	0
	9.0%	1.2%	32.4%	0.0%	0.0%	
<b>65 and older</b>	38,175	599	37,576	0	0	
	18.2%	0.9%	67.6%	0.0%	0.0%	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Female</b>	123,659	48,143	34,450	27,094	13,972
		59.0%	70.3%	62.0%	50.2%	44.2%
	<b>Male</b>	86,016	20,379	21,118	26,888	17,631
	41.0%	29.7%	38.0%	49.8%	55.8%	
<b>Education</b>	<b>None or pre-first grade or unknown</b>	17,793	5,878	8,363	2,594	958
		8.5%	8.6%	15.1%	4.8%	3.0%
	<b>Grade school</b>	6,011	1,953	2,702	978	378
		2.9%	2.9%	4.9%	1.8%	1.2%
	<b>Some high school</b>	37,970	11,331	8,030	11,764	6,845
		18.1%	16.5%	14.5%	21.8%	21.7%
	<b>High school graduate</b>	113,201	36,668	27,581	30,796	18,156
		54.0%	53.5%	49.6%	57.0%	57.5%
	<b>Some post-secondary</b>	25,567	9,956	5,772	6,042	3,797
		12.2%	14.5%	10.4%	11.2%	12.0%
	<b>College graduate</b>	5,139	1,794	1,523	994	828
		2.5%	2.6%	2.7%	1.8%	2.6%
	<b>Graduate degree</b>	3,994	942	1,597	814	641
	1.9%	1.4%	2.9%	1.5%	2.0%	
<b>High school graduate or higher</b>	147,901	49,360	36,473	38,646	23,422	
	70.5%	72.0%	65.6%	71.6%	74.1%	

Table 2: Continued

		Total adults	Adults with children	Seniors	Adults with disabilities	Other adults
<b>Marital status</b>	<b>Divorced</b>	38,218	6,225	16,985	10,518	4,490
		18.2%	9.1%	30.6%	19.5%	14.2%
	<b>Legally separated</b>	710	198	232	192	88
		0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%
	<b>Married, living with spouse</b>	36,698	23,964	8,182	2,409	2,143
		17.5%	35.0%	14.7%	4.5%	6.8%
	<b>Never married</b>	98,861	30,071	13,179	33,920	21,691
		47.1%	43.9%	23.7%	62.8%	68.6%
	<b>Married, living apart</b>	22,956	7,320	7,117	5,813	2,706
		10.9%	10.7%	12.8%	10.8%	8.6%
	<b>Widowed</b>	12,232	744	9,873	1,130	485
		5.8%	1.1%	17.8%	2.1%	1.5%
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>	<b>Asian</b>	18,254	7,292	7,328	2,619	1,015
		8.7%	10.6%	13.2%	4.9%	3.2%
	<b>Black</b>	54,325	20,899	11,192	14,474	7,760
		25.9%	30.5%	20.1%	26.8%	24.6%
	<b>Hispanic</b>	8,874	4,077	1,946	1,548	1,303
		4.2%	5.9%	3.5%	2.9%	4.1%
	<b>American Indian</b>	9,171	2,461	1,097	2,475	3,138
		4.4%	3.6%	2.0%	4.6%	9.9%
	<b>White</b>	114,461	31,971	33,231	31,823	17,436
		54.6%	46.7%	59.8%	59.0%	55.2%
	<b>Multiple</b>	2,517	1,154	179	637	547
		1.2%	1.7%	0.3%	1.2%	1.7%
	<b>Unknown</b>	2,073	668	595	406	404
		1.0%	1.0%	1.1%	0.8%	1.3%
<b>Citizenship</b>	<b>Non-U.S.</b>	14,808	8,711	3,091	1,801	1,205
		7.1%	12.7%	5.6%	3.3%	3.8%
	<b>U.S.</b>	194,867	59,811	52,477	52,181	30,398
		92.9%	87.3%	94.4%	96.7%	96.2%

**Table 3. December 2018 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>	209,675	68,522	55,568	53,982	31,603
	<b>Percent of all enrollees</b>	100.0%	32.7%	26.5%	25.7%	15.1%
<b>SNAP months in MN: 2010 - 2018</b>	<b>Mean</b>	59.4	50.4	73.9	68.8	37.1
	<b>Median</b>	59	47	85	75	30
	<b>1 - 12 months</b>	26,321	9,916	3,989	4,007	8,409
	<b>Column Percent</b>	12.6%	14.5%	7.2%	7.4%	26.6%
	<b>13 - 24 months</b>	21,736	8,786	3,666	3,989	5,295
		10.4%	12.8%	6.6%	7.4%	16.8%
	<b>25 - 36 months</b>	20,617	8,459	3,668	4,243	4,247
		9.8%	12.3%	6.6%	7.9%	13.4%
	<b>37 - 60 months</b>	38,023	15,193	7,499	8,778	6,553
		18.1%	22.2%	13.5%	16.3%	20.7%
	<b>61 - 84 months</b>	35,956	12,864	8,677	10,269	4,146
		17.1%	18.8%	15.6%	19.0%	13.1%
<b>85 or more months</b>	67,022	13,304	28,069	22,696	2,953	
	32.0%	19.4%	50.5%	42.0%	9.3%	
<b>Public Assistance in MN: 2018</b>	<b>MFIP/DWP</b>	14,425	12,582	34	652	1,157
		6.9%	18.4%	0.1%	1.2%	3.7%
	<b>MSA</b>	31,408	226	15,991	15,130	61
		15.0%	0.3%	28.8%	28.0%	0.2%
	<b>GA/RCA</b>	22,566	482	2,596	14,223	5,265
		10.8%	0.7%	4.7%	26.3%	16.7%
<b>Emergency Services</b>	10,461	4,297	1,386	3,466	1,312	
	5.0%	6.3%	2.5%	6.4%	4.2%	

**Table 4. December 2018 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>	188,081	55,317	51,853	52,281	28,630
	<b>Row percent</b>	100.0%	29.4%	27.6%	27.8%	15.2%
<b>SNAP grant</b>	<b>Mean</b>	\$185	\$346	\$98	\$118	\$172
	<b>Median</b>	\$175	\$337	\$91	\$131	\$192
<b>No income</b>	<b>Count of cases</b>	29,540	6,093	1,654	3,498	18,295
	<b>Column percent</b>	15.7%	11.0%	3.2%	6.7%	63.9%
<b>Income from work</b>	<b>Count of cases</b>	49,394	35,672	2,711	4,236	6,775
		26.3%	64.5%	5.2%	8.1%	23.7%
<b>Earned income at last report</b>	<b>Mean of working cases</b>	\$1,567	\$1,875	\$621	\$626	\$910
	<b>Median</b>	\$1,431	\$1,800	\$463	\$516	\$933
<b>December unearned income</b>	<b>Count of cases</b>	127,598	26,589	49,297	47,892	3,820
		67.8%	48.1%	95.1%	91.6%	13.3%
	<b>Mean of cases receiving</b>	\$817	\$789	\$949	\$731	\$361
	<b>Median</b>	\$831	\$735	\$857	\$780	\$203
<b>Unearned income types</b>	<b>Child support</b>	15,026	14,591	60	198	177
		8.0%	26.4%	0.1%	0.4%	0.6%
	<b>SSI</b>	53,468	7,795	21,871	23,732	70
		28.4%	14.1%	42.2%	45.4%	0.2%
	<b>RSDI</b>	59,758	5,523	33,443	20,713	79
		31.8%	10.0%	64.5%	39.6%	0.3%
	<b>Public assistance grants</b>	42,902	1,604	15,886	23,253	2,159
		22.8%	2.9%	30.6%	44.5%	7.5%
	<b>Unemployment insurance/ workers' compensation</b>	1,580	1,000	106	70	404
		0.8%	1.8%	0.2%	0.1%	1.4%
	<b>Veteran's benefits</b>	1,788	253	1,029	349	157
		1.0%	0.5%	2.0%	0.7%	0.5%
	<b>Other</b>	6,963	1,799	3,628	696	840
		3.7%	3.3%	7.0%	1.3%	2.9%

## Data notes and definitions

The source of the administrative data in this report is the statewide eligibility and payment system, MAXIS.

**Table 1.** Individuals were enrolled for SNAP in December 2018 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 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 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. By these rules, there were 79 persons under age 18 categorized as adults. There were 6,596 persons over age 18 categorized as children.

Families with children are households with at least one enrolled member that is a child by the above definition. Note that 8,354 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 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.

**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.

Eleven adults were excluded from the report because they were missing one or more categorization variables.

**Table 3.** SNAP months are total months in which an individual was enrolled in SNAP in Minnesota between January 2010 and December 2018. 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 2018 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.

All income is from the December 2018 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 2018, there were 3,113 eligible SNAP cases (2%) 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, like 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 (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 a case had income in Figures 13 and 14.