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Separating Fact From Fiction

Alanna Angulo

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SEPARATING FACT FROM FICTION

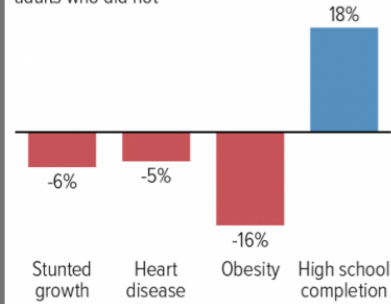


Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

MYTH: SNAP IS ONLY USED TO PURCHASE FAST FOOD.

Children With Access to SNAP Fare Better Years Later

Percentage-point change in outcomes for adults who received SNAP as children, compared to adults who did not



Note: The study compared individuals who had access to SNAP (then food stamps) in early childhood after its introduction in the 1960s and early 1970s to similar children who did not (because they were born before its introduction) in each county.

Source: Hoynes, Schanzenbach, and Almond, "Long-Run Impacts of Childhood Access to the Safety Net," American Economic Review, April 2016.

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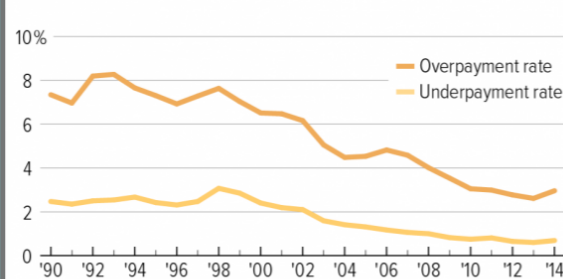
FACT: For each additional dollar that a person receives in SNAP, he or she is more likely to purchase healthy food.

Children who receive SNAP are less likely to suffer from stunted growth, heart disease, and obesity.

SNAP may be used at local farmers markets to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, and other healthy foods.

SNAP Error Rates Near All-Time Lows

Fiscal years 1990-2014



Source: Quality Control Branch, U.S. Food and Nutrition Service

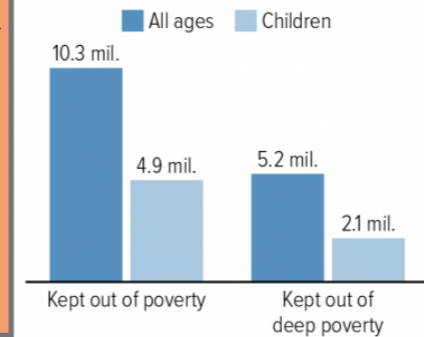
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Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) offers nutrition assistance to 47.5 million eligible low-income individuals and families.

Each month, SNAP benefits are transferred to a card that may be used for groceries.

SNAP allows households to pay for essential items, such as rent, by covering food expenses.

SNAP Kept Millions Out of Poverty and "Deep Poverty" – Below Half the Poverty Line – in 2012



Note: Figures show the number of people lifted above the poverty line using the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) with corrections for underreporting.

Source: CBPP analysis of 2012 Census Bureau data from the March Current Population Survey, SPM public use file; corrections from underreporting from HHS/Urban Institute TRIM model.

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MYTH: SNAP CREATES DEPENDENCY AMONG CLIENTS.

FACT: The average length of time for new recipients on SNAP is 8-10 months.

Receiving SNAP benefits does not enable anyone to live well. The average benefit equates to approximately \$1.49 per meal per day.

MYTH: SNAP BENEFICIARIES CHOOSE NOT TO WORK.

FACT: 40% of households have at least one working person.

SNAP creates more opportunity for individuals to search for work.

MYTH: SNAP IS HEAVILY ABUSED BY RECIPIENTS.

FACT: Ongoing improvements to regulate the program have kept fraud at a historic low of less than 1.5%.

The federal poverty level determines SNAP income limits.

95% of SNAP funding goes to food.

WHAT CAN YOU BUY WITH S.N.A.P. BENEFITS?

The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 says that participants can use SNAP benefits for "any food or food product for home consumption except alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and hot foods or hot food products ready for immediate consumption." The USDA provides a simple breakdown of what can and cannot be purchased.

YES:				NO:			
Breads and cereals	Fruits and vegetables	Meats, fish, and poultry	Dairy products	Beer, wine, or liquor	Cigarettes or tobacco	Non-food items	
Seeds and plants that produce food	Soft drinks	Candy	Cookies	Vitamins or medicine	Hot food or food eaten in the store	Live animals	
Snack crackers	Ice cream	Bows and arrows*		Gift baskets that contain non-food items	Cosmetics	Ornamental gourds	

* In rural Alaska only

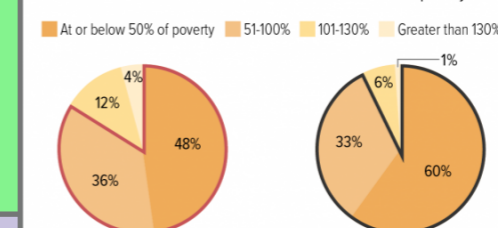
MYTH: SNAP IS USED TO PURCHASE TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL.

FACT: SNAP cannot be used for non-food items, beer, wine, liquor, cigarettes, or tobacco.

SNAP Overwhelmingly Goes to Poor Families

Children: Over 80 percent of SNAP households with children have gross incomes below the poverty line

SNAP Benefits: Over 90 percent of the SNAP benefits for households with children go to those with gross incomes below the poverty line



Source: CBPP analysis of U.S. Agriculture Department 2014 SNAP household characteristics data

Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Standard (185% of FPL)

Figures valid October 2018 – September 2019

Household Size	Max. Allowable Income
1	\$1,872
2	\$2,538
3	\$3,204
4	\$3,870
5	\$4,536
6	\$5,202
7	\$5,868
8	\$6,534
Each Additional Member	+ \$666