



# SNAP Time Limits: The impact on youth

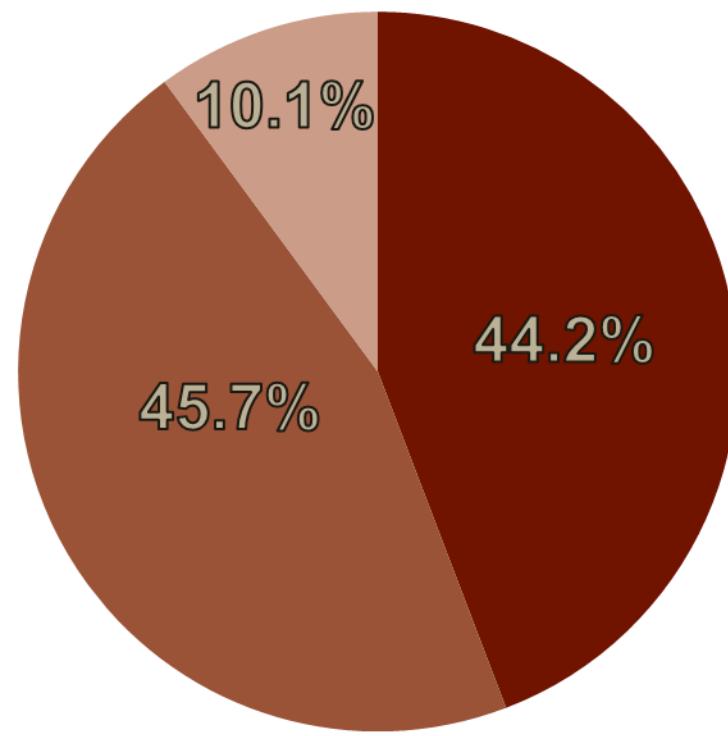
November 2015

# What is SNAP

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is one of the nation's largest and most important anti-hunger and anti-poverty programs.
- Served over 46 million people in low-income households in 2014.
- Maximum monthly allotment for a household of 1 is \$194

## Percent of SNAP Participants by Age

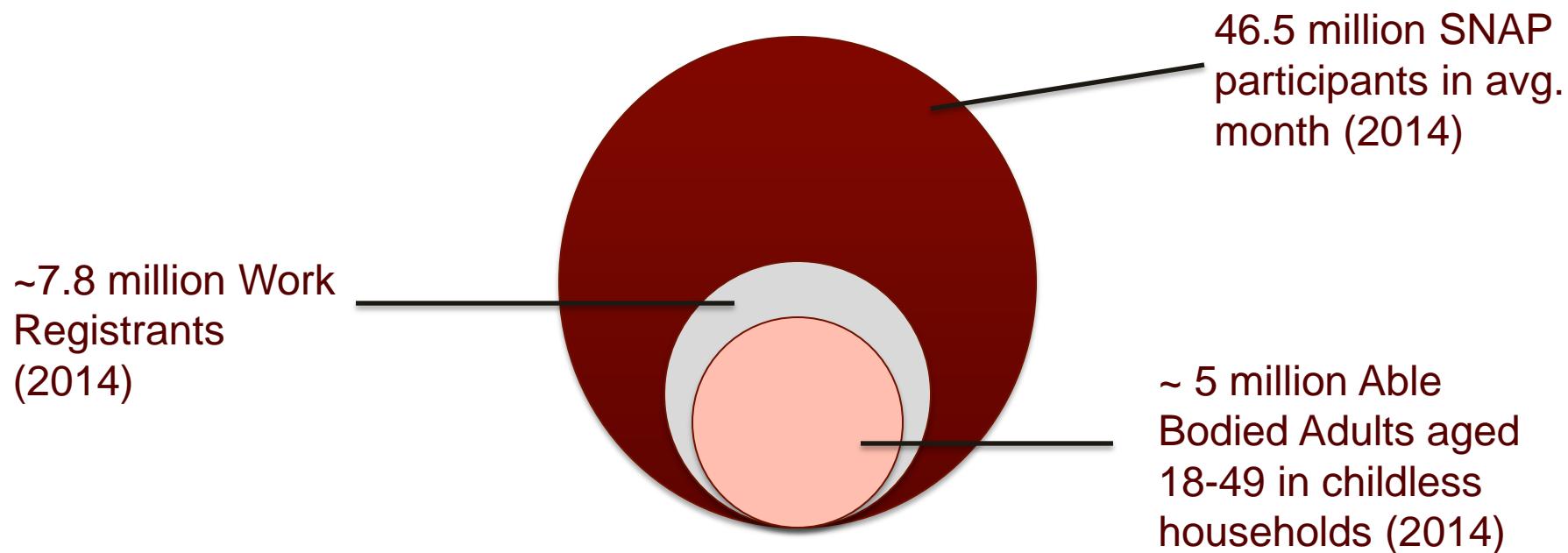
- Children (Age 0-17)
- Non-elderly Adults (Age 18-59)
- Elderly Adults (Age 60+)



Source: Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: FY 2014

# Work Registrants and ABAWDs

All individuals affected by the ABAWD time limit are work registrants, but not all work registrants are ABAWDs.



# Time Limits

- SNAP is one of the few means-tested benefit programs that is available to non-elderly, non-disabled adults without children
- But, such individuals are subject to time limits on SNAP receipt if they are not working, participating in a qualifying training activity for at least 20 hours per week, or meeting any of the exemptions
- Limited to 3 months in a 36 month period

# Who is Exempt from the Time Limits?

- Individuals already working or participating in an employment and training activity an average of 20 hours per week
- Individuals under 18 or over 49 years of age
- A parent to or residing in a household with a child under 18 years old
- Pregnant
- Individuals who are “physically or mentally unfit for employment”
- Those already **exempt** from SNAP work requirements (see next slide)

# Who is Exempt from the Time Limits?

- Those exempt from SNAP work requirements are also **exempt** from the time limits and include:
  - Individuals who are caregivers of someone with a disability
  - Individuals caring for a child under 6 years old
  - Individuals receiving unemployment compensation (UI)
  - Participants in a drug addiction or alcoholic treatment and rehabilitation program
  - Individuals who are employed or self-employed
  - Students enrolled at least half-time in any recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education

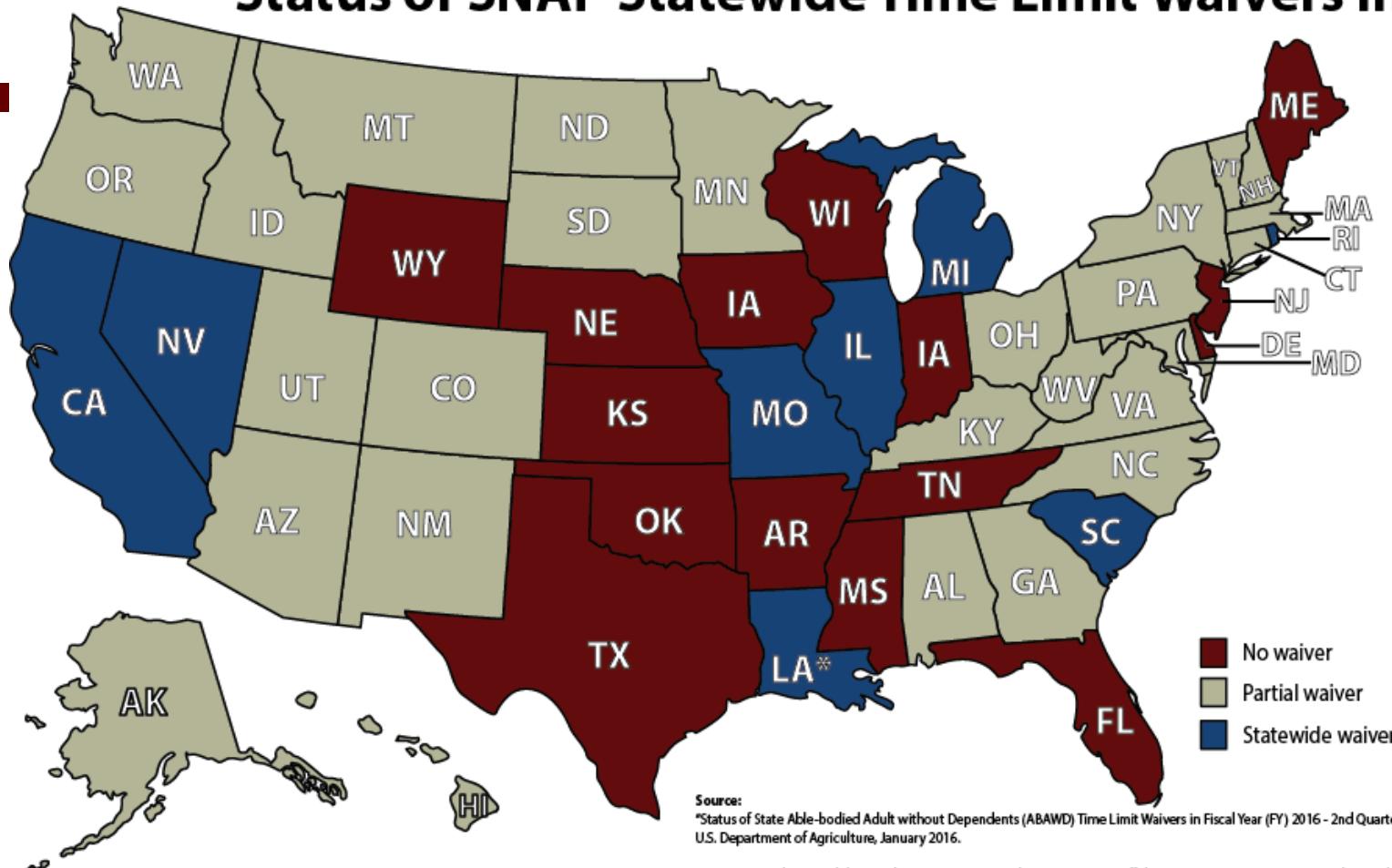
# Who is Exempt from the Time Limits?

- Individuals who are chronically homeless
  - November 2015 the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), which administers SNAP, released a memo that states that. *“a chronically homeless individual who is living on the street may be considered unfit for employment as determined by the state. Federal rules at 273.24(c)(ii) allow states this flexibility...”*

# Time Limits Waived During Recession

- Throughout the recent recession, many states received state-wide waivers, but as economy rebounds, these state-wide waivers are ending
- In most states time limits are returning for the first time in many years in January 2016.
- States still have option to request waivers in areas of high unemployment – but some are declining waivers.

# Status of SNAP Statewide Time Limit Waivers in FY 2016



# Many will lose benefits

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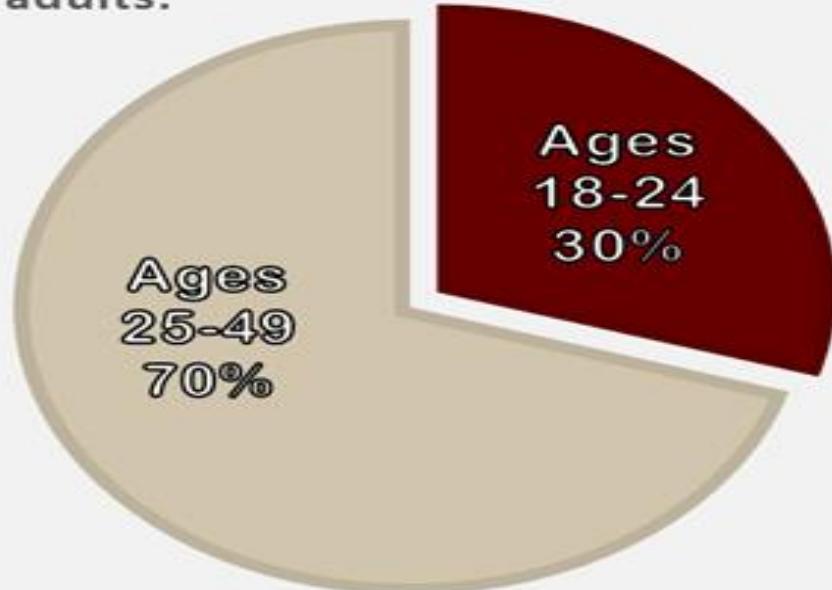
- States are not under obligation to offer a qualifying activity to individuals who are subject to time limits
- People who are willing to participate and actively seeking work may still be cut off
- CBPP estimates that at least 500,000 and as many as 1 million childless adults will lose SNAP benefits in 2016

# What is a Qualified Work or Training Program?

- SNAP Employment and Training (SNAP E&T)
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- Workfare
- Other education and training programs approved by the state
- Work-study

# Many youth are at risk of losing benefits

Thirty percent of non-disabled adults in childless households earning less than the monthly equivalent of federal minimum wage at 20 hours/week are young adults.



Source: CBPP tabulations of FY 2014 USDA SNAP Household Characteristics Quality Control data

# Why is this Important for Young Adults?

- In 2014, 1 in 5 young adults (ages 18-24) lived in households with incomes below the federal poverty line
- Youth and young adults face barriers to employment and account for nearly 30 percent of all unemployed people\*
- SNAP is a critical support and the loss of SNAP due to the time limit can be devastating for individuals struggling to make ends meet

\*\*The youth and young adult data include those who are 16-24 years old. Please note, however, that the ABAWD time limit only affects young people 18 and older.

# Disproportionate Impact on Youth of Color

- Overall unemployment rate for all teens: 25.5%
- Unemployment rate for black teens: 44.5%
- Nearly half of black and one third of Latino young men are looking for but are unable to find work and become attached to the workplace.

Source: Issue Brief: Focus on Employment, Investing in Boys and Young Men of Color, CLASP

# What to do

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- Minimize number of people affected by time limits – waivers, exemptions
- Make sure people already in countable activities are getting credit
- Expand employment and training opportunities

# Minimize those affected

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- States should take up waiver in all areas that qualify based on unemployment, labor surplus area designation
- States should develop processes to identify those who are exempt from time limit due to disability (including those who are not receiving SSI or SSDI), participation in substance abuse treatment, UI receipt, etc.

# Identify those already participating

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- Working at least 20 hours per week
  - Volunteer or in-kind work counts
- Participating in a qualifying employment and training program
- Attending school at least half time
- Combining school and work for 20 hours per week

# Provide Employment and Training Opportunities

- Workforce programs show demonstrable, positive outcomes for those served
- However, federal youth employment and training programs only serve a fraction of the number of young people who could benefit from them
- Opportunities with WIOA and SNAP E&T
- “Workfare” community service slots

# WIOA

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- Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs count as qualifying employment and training programs
- In the reauthorization of WIOA in 2014, more resources were targeted toward out of school youth, and age limit was raised to 24.

# SNAP Employment and Training

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- SNAP E&T supports employment and training activities for individuals receiving SNAP
- States receive a limited allocation of 100% federal funds
- States can draw down additional 50-50 reimbursement funds for non-federal spending
  - Philanthropic, city funding can count

# “Workfare”

- SNAP recipients can retain benefits by “working off” their benefits in community service
- Number of monthly hours required is based on SNAP benefit divided by applicable minimum wage
- Youth-serving organizations can partner in creating slots for participants.

# Example: Minnesota

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- In 2013, MN lost its statewide waiver for ABAWD time limit
- 48,000 individuals subject to the time limit were terminated from SNAP
- The state is eligible for partial waivers for geographic areas of high unemployment, but have only taken up the waivers in a few places

# Example: Ohio

- In 2013, OH lost its statewide waiver for ABAWD time limit; eligible for partial waivers
- December 2013 to September 2014, Ohio Association of Food Banks piloted the Work Experience Program in Franklin County
  - Completed 3,043 assessments of individuals subject to the ABAWD time limit
  - Found that some who could be exempt from the time limit were still being referred to their programs to fulfill the 20 hours a week work experience

# Questions?

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