Today’s SNAP Population at a Glance

45 million participants received $134 per month, on average, in 2011

In 2011, 14% of Americans—about 1 in 7—received SNAP benefits
PARTICIPATION

The number of people who receive SNAP varies in response to changes in economic conditions.

Participation following an economic downturn does not always drop back to the level experienced before the downturn.

SPENDING

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that total federal spending on SNAP will peak in fiscal year 2013 at $82 billion.
**HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION and CHARACTERISTICS**

**COMPOSITION**

More than 18 million households participated in SNAP in 2010.

About 3 out of 4 households receiving SNAP benefits included a child, a person age 60 or older, or a disabled person.

**CHARACTERISTICS**

Most people receiving SNAP benefits live in households with very low income.

On average, SNAP benefits in 2010 boosted total monthly income by 39% ($287) for all participating households and by 45% ($419) for households with children.

Note: Sum of household types does not match the total because a household can appear in more than one category.
**IMPLEMENTATION OF STATE POLICY**

**EBT**
Electronic benefit transfer cards provide SNAP benefits electronically

**Simplified Reporting**
Beginning in 2001, households in some states were allowed to report changes in income less frequently

**Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility**
Households in which all members receive noncash benefits from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program are eligible for SNAP

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1990:
- EBT: 0 states
- Simplified Reporting: 0 states
- Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility: 0 states

1995:
- EBT: 4 states
- Simplified Reporting: 0 states
- Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility: 0 states

2000:
- EBT: 38 states
- Simplified Reporting: 0 states
- Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility: 0 states

2005:
- EBT: 50 states
- Simplified Reporting: 44 states
- Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility: 11 states

2010:
- EBT: 50 states
- Simplified Reporting: 49 states
- Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility: 40 states

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CBO
### POLICY OPTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHANGING SNAP</th>
<th>SOURCES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CBO estimated the savings or costs associated with some possible options for changing the program</strong></td>
<td>Congressional Budget Office, Food and Nutrition Service, Census Bureau, Mathematica, StatPlanet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The graph shows the average estimated savings or costs in billions of dollars and as the average percentage of SNAP spending per year</strong></td>
<td>Caroline Danielson and Jacob Klerman, <em>Why Did the Food Stamp Caseload Decline (and Rise)?</em> RAND Labor and Population Working Paper WR-167 (October 2004)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>For more details on these policies, see CBO, <em>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program</em></strong></td>
<td>For more information, see the following CBO publications:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Annual Outlays, 2013 to 2022—Billions of Dollars (Percent)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Budget and Economic Outlook: Fiscal Years 2012 to 2022</strong> <a href="http://go.usa.gov/y2V">http://go.usa.gov/y2V</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average Decrease</strong></td>
<td><strong>Supplemental Data to the Budget and Economic Outlook</strong> <a href="http://go.usa.gov/y2d">http://go.usa.gov/y2d</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average Increase</strong></td>
<td><strong>Prepared by:</strong> Jonathan Schwabish and Courtney Griffith</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Changing Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility
- **Apply income and asset limits to categorically eligible households**
  - $1.2 (1.6%)

#### Changing the Gross Income Limit
- **Lower the gross income limit to 100 percent of the federal poverty guideline in all states**
  - $3.2 (4.1%)
- **Raise the gross income limit to 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline in all states**
  - $1.0 (1.3%)

#### Changing the Asset Test
- **Eliminate the asset test**
  - $0.1 (0.1%)

#### Changing Benefits
- **Increase the maximum benefit to 103 percent of the cost of a nutritious diet**
  - $2.3 (3.0%)
- **Decrease the maximum benefit to 97 percent of the cost of a nutritious diet**
  - $2.7 (3.5%)
- **Increase the earned income deduction to 30 percent**
  - $1.5 (1.9%)
- **Eliminate the automatic deduction for recipients of Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program benefits**