



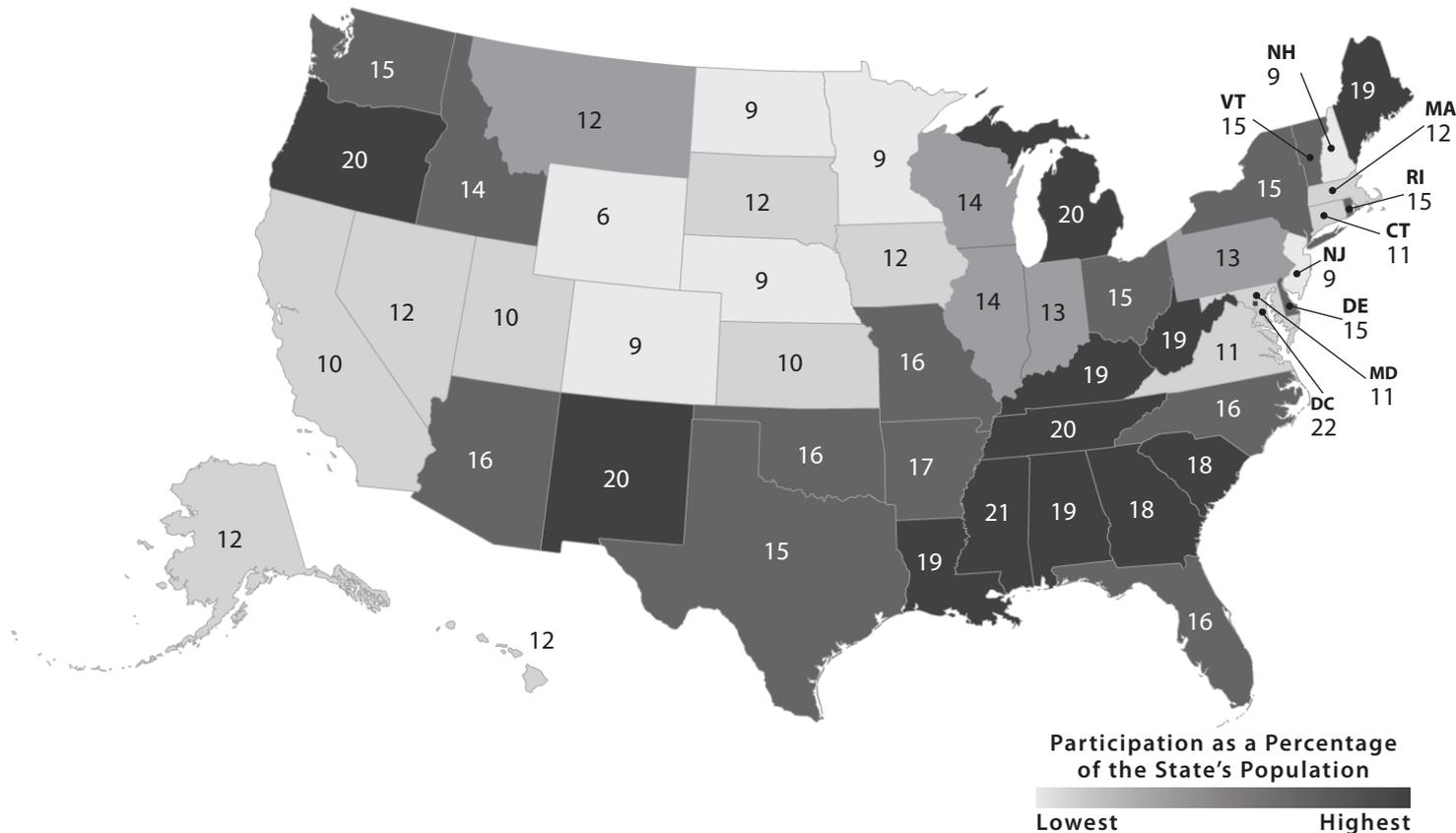
THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly called the Food Stamp program, provides benefits to people in households with low income and few assets to help them purchase food to be eaten at home.

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

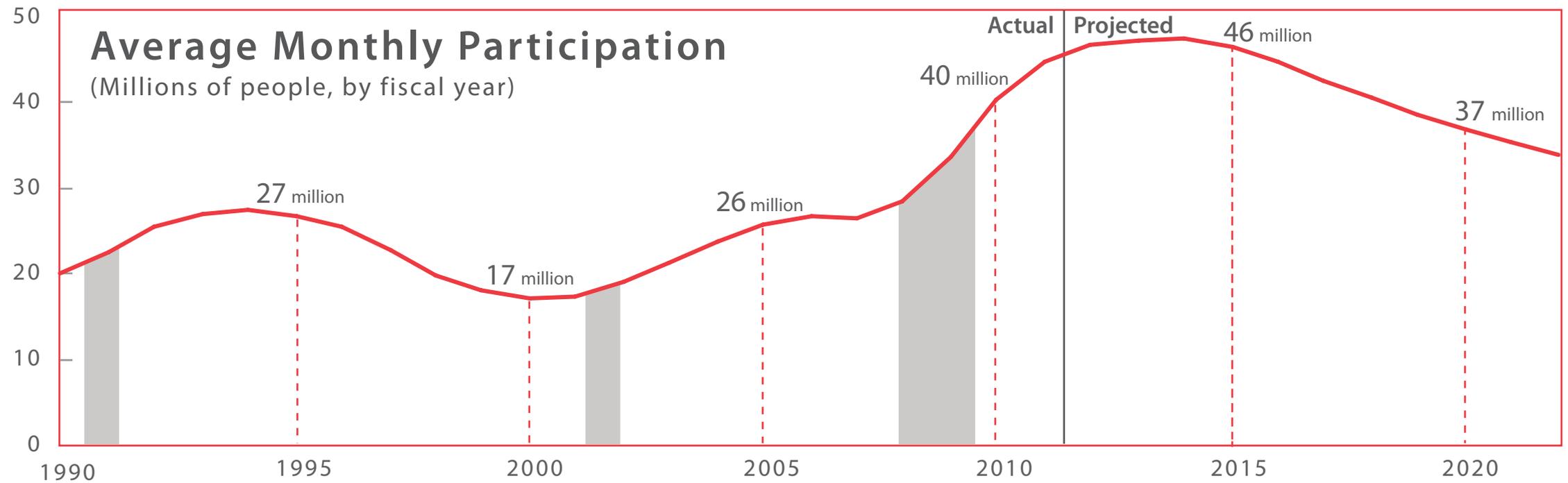


PARTICIPATION and FEDERAL SPENDING

PARTICIPATION

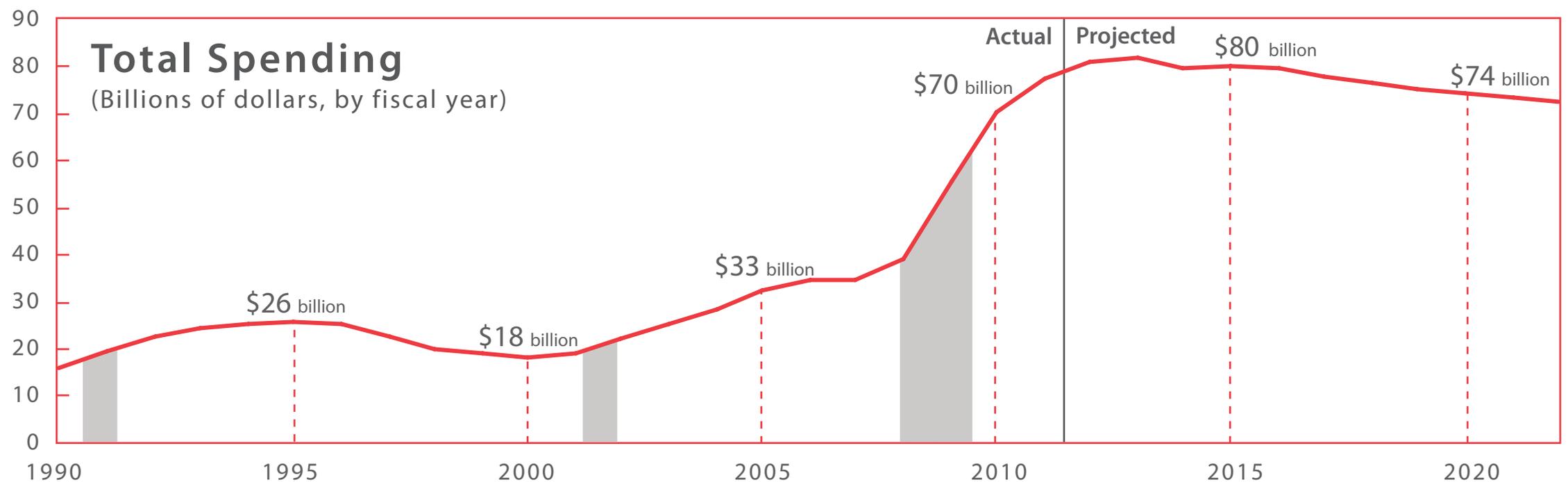
The number of people who receive SNAP varies in response to changes in economic conditions.

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.



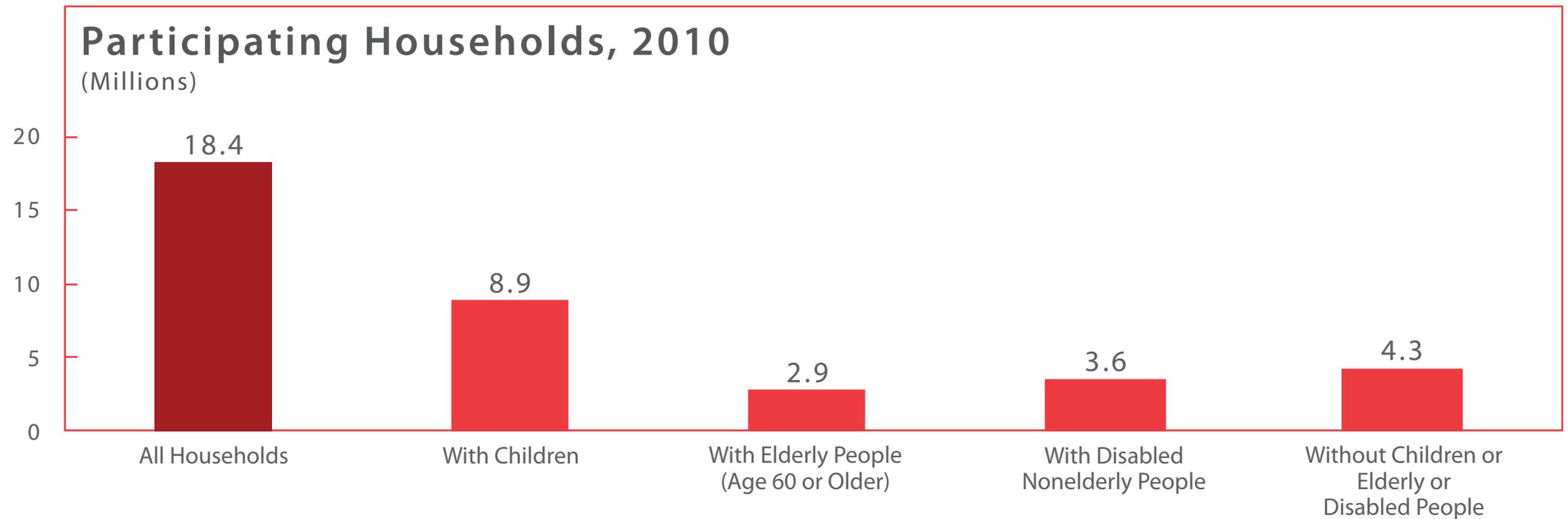
Note: Shaded bars indicate periods of recession.

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION and CHARACTERISTICS

COMPOSITION

More than 18 million households participated in SNAP in 2010.

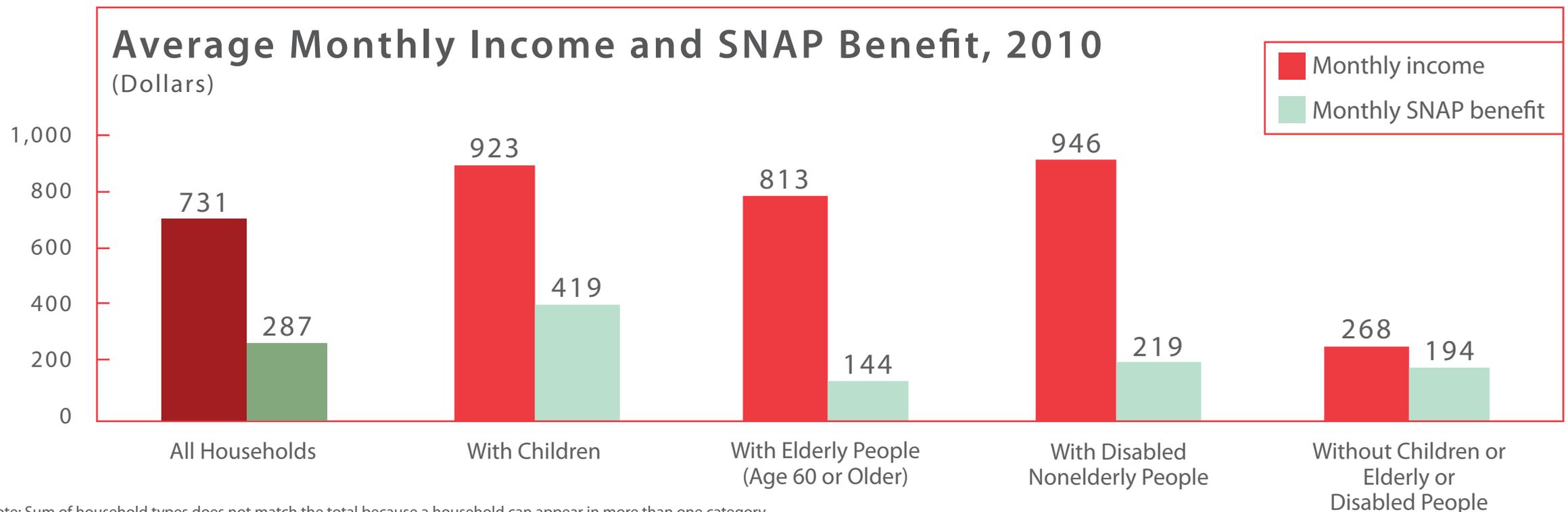
About 3 out of 4 households receiving SNAP benefits included a child, a person age 60 or older, or a disabled person.



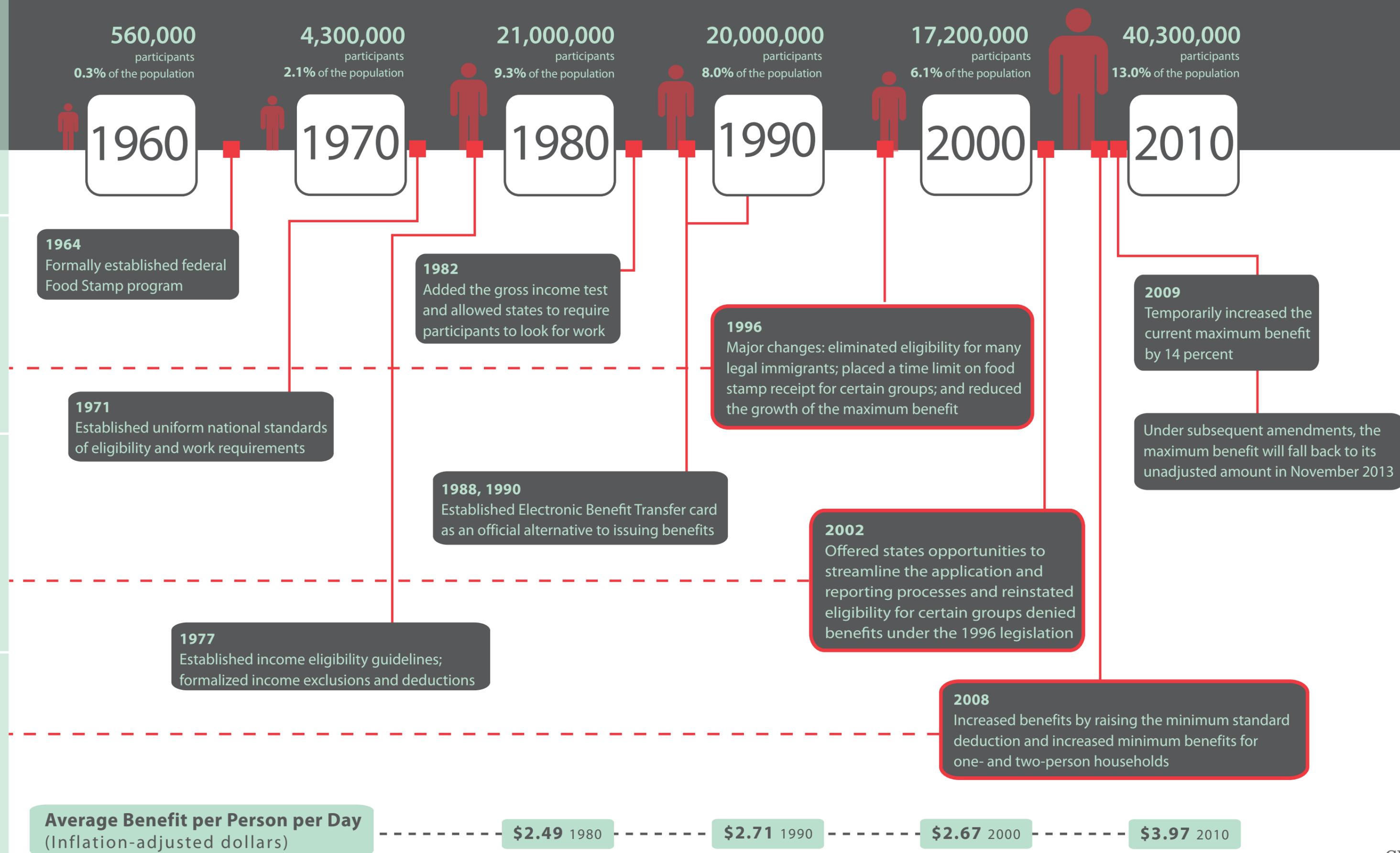
CHARACTERISTICS

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.



KEY SNAP LEGISLATION

1996

Welfare reform produced major cutbacks to the Food Stamp program

2002

Farm bill offered states opportunities to streamline the application process

2008

Farm bill increased benefits and changed the name of the program to SNAP

Average Benefit per Person per Day
(Inflation-adjusted dollars)

\$2.49 1980

\$2.71 1990

\$2.67 2000

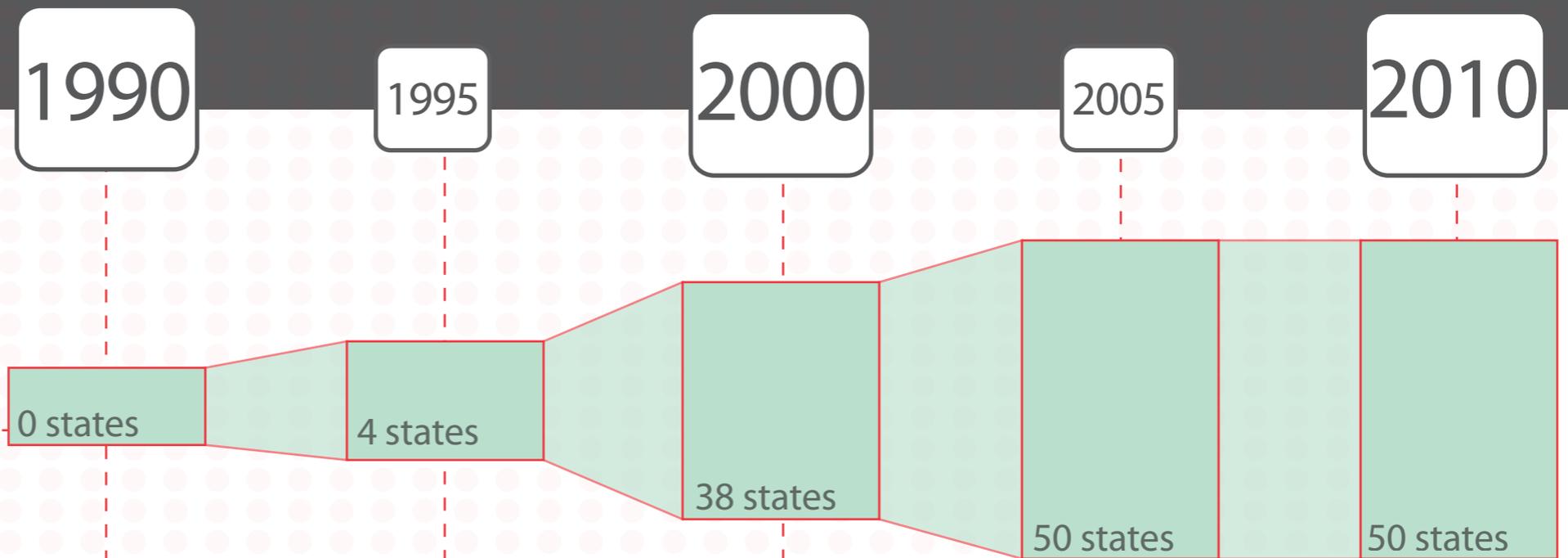
\$3.97 2010

IMPLEMENTATION OF STATE POLICY

EBT

Electronic benefit transfer cards provide SNAP benefits electronically

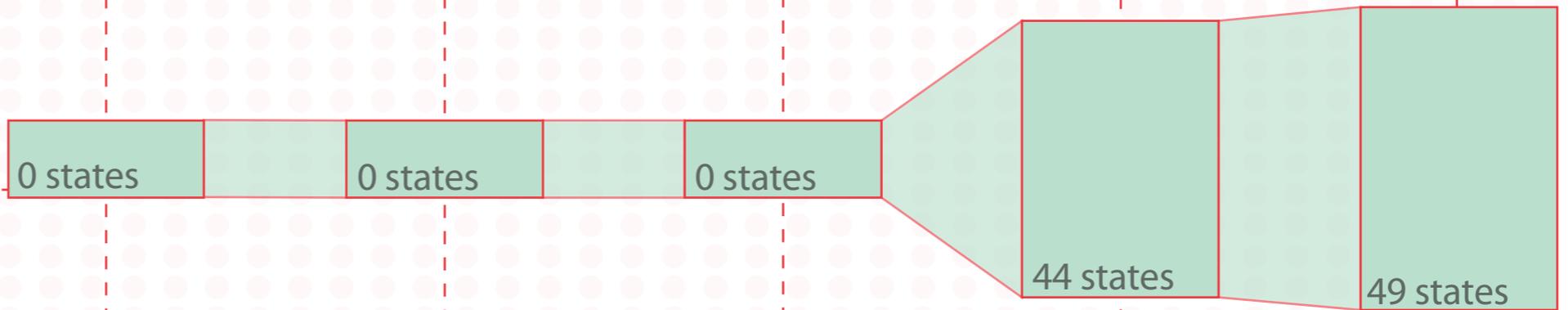
EBT used statewide in



Simplified Reporting

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

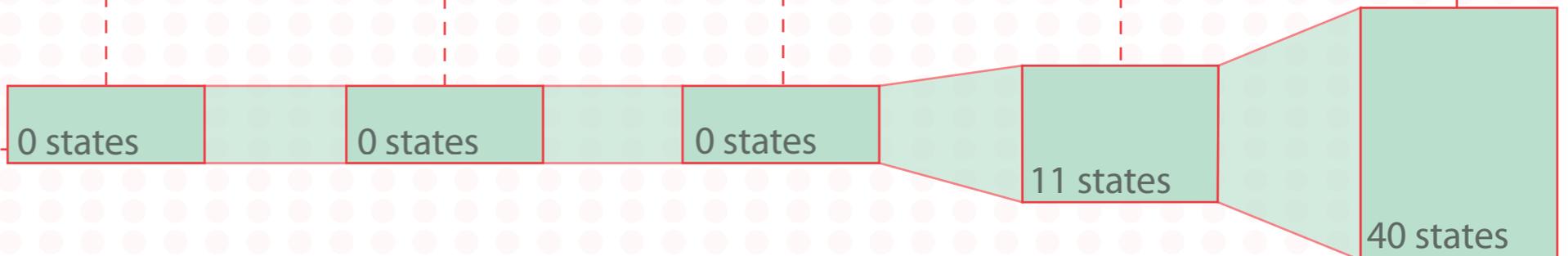
Simplified reporting used statewide in



Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility

Households in which all members receive noncash benefits from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program are eligible for SNAP

Broad-based categorical eligibility used statewide in



POLICY OPTIONS

CHANGING SNAP

CBO estimated the savings or costs associated with some possible options for changing the program

The graph shows the average estimated savings or costs in billions of dollars and as the average percentage of SNAP spending per year

For more details on these policies, see CBO, *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program*
<http://go.usa.gov/y2B>

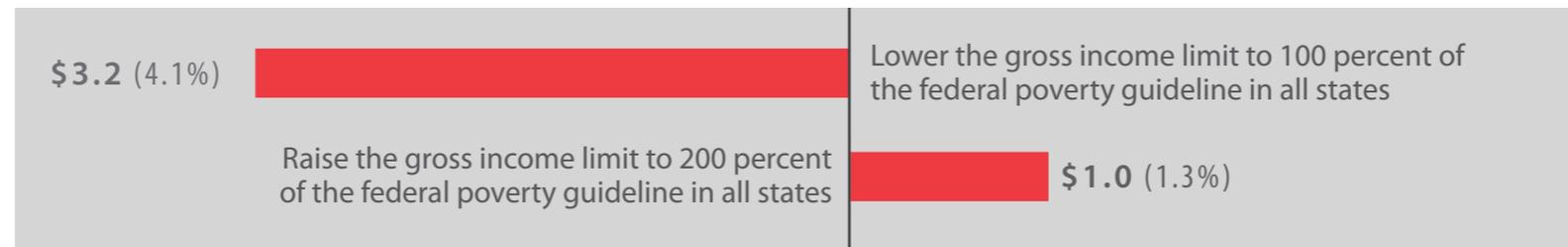
Annual Outlays, 2013 to 2022—Billions of Dollars (Percent)

Average Decrease | Average Increase

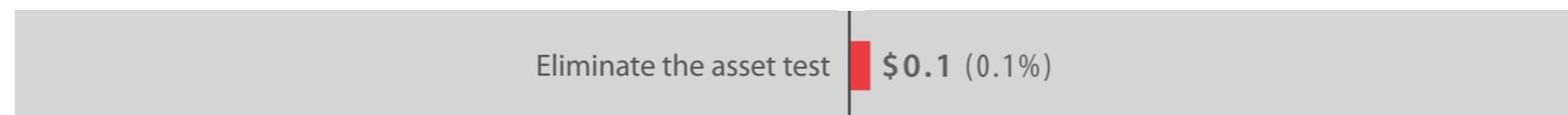
Changing Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility



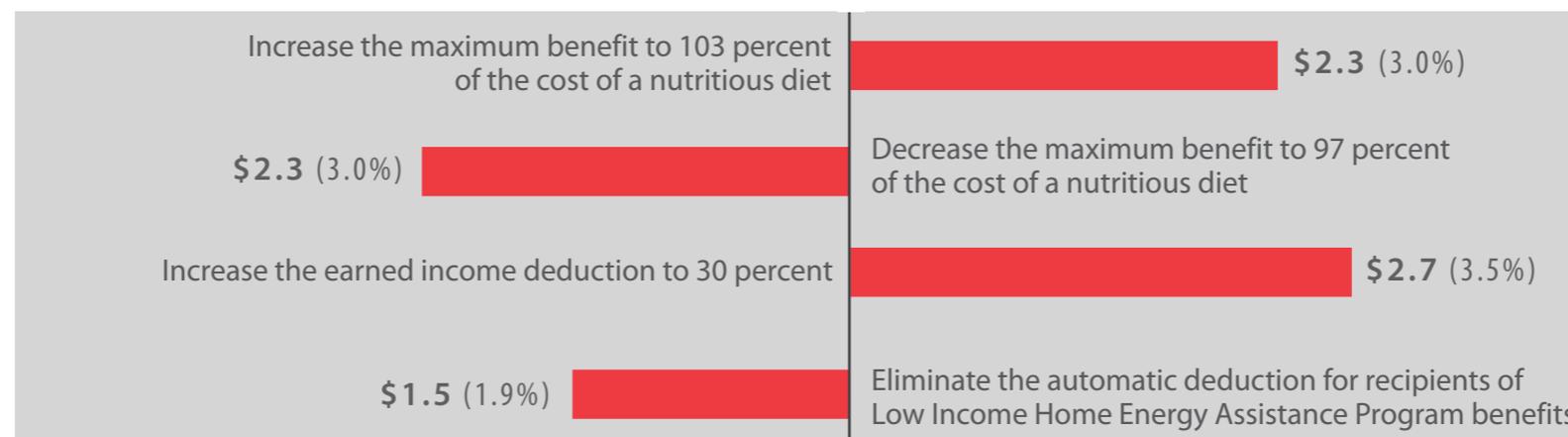
Changing the Gross Income Limit



Changing the Asset Test



Changing Benefits



SOURCES

Congressional Budget Office, Food and Nutrition Service, Census Bureau, Mathematica, StatPlanet

Caroline Danielson and Jacob Klerman, *Why Did the Food Stamp Caseload Decline (and Rise)?* RAND Labor and Population Working Paper WR-167 (October 2004)

For more information, see the following CBO publications:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
<http://go.usa.gov/y2B>



Budget and Economic Outlook: Fiscal Years 2012 to 2022
<http://go.usa.gov/y2V>

Supplemental Data to the *Budget and Economic Outlook*
<http://go.usa.gov/y2d>

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