



MARYLAND SNAP HOUSEHOLDS, 2023

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The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides benefits to low-income households for food purchases (Food and Nutrition Act of 2008). This vital safety net program reduces food insecurity, poverty, and adverse health outcomes (Keith-Jennings et al., 2019) and helps stabilize the economy during recessions; \$1.50 of economic activity is generated for every \$1 spent (Canning & Stacy, 2019). Studies show increased benefits during COVID-19 augment these results (Fox & Burns, 2021; Schanzenbach, 2023; Wheaton & Kwon, 2022; Wolfson & Leung, 2024).

This report explores Maryland SNAP case characteristics during state fiscal year (SFY) 2023 (July 2022–June 2023). The COVID-19 pandemic caused many caseload changes prior to this period. Elevated need and program expansion precipitated caseload increases (Jones & Toossi, 2023) to a peak of over 503,000 Maryland cases in February 2022 (Figure 1). Then, program flexibilities that allowed staff to attend to an influx of cases, such as interview waivers and extended certification periods, expired (Food and Nutrition Service [FNS], n.d.-a; Gagliardi et al., 2023a) and monthly cases dropped sharply to about 343,000 cases in July 2022.

In SFY 2023, the monthly caseload stabilized and began mirroring counts from before the pandemic. SNAP receipt rises with unemployment (Hanson & Oliveira, 2012), and Figure 1 shows unemployment in Maryland declined to record low during SFY 2023 contributing to this stability (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics [BLS], 2023; The Labor Market Information Team, 2023). Additionally, most remaining COVID-19 flexibilities were in effect all of SFY 2023, as shown in Table 1.¹ This differs from SFY 2022 during which many flexibilities expired prompting caseload decline (Gagliardi et al. 2023a).

Two important policy changes occurred during SFY 2023. First, emergency allotments, which provided households with the maximum benefit and decreased food insufficiency (Schanzenbach, 2023) expired after February 2023 (FNS, 2022; Rosenbaum et al., 2023). Food insufficiency increased when these payments ended (Brown, 2023; Richterman et al., 2023; Quinlan & Gaines, 2023). Benefits were increased to account for cost-of-living changes (FNS, 2023b; Urban Institute, 2024), but households still struggled with high grocery and energy costs during the period (Brown, 2023; Huffman, 2023; Quinlan & Gaines, 2023; Webster, 2024). Second,

KEY FINDINGS

- ❖ The SNAP caseload decreased 8% from SFYs 2022 to 2023, and ABAWD households decreased by 43%.
- ❖ Three quarters (73%) of SNAP households had a child, older adult, or adult with a disability.
- ❖ One in 11 (9%) households were brand new to SNAP.
- ❖ Households received SNAP benefits about 4 of the 10 years before SFY 2023, but this varied by across household types.
- ❖ Three fifths (59%) of adults with children and half of ABAWDs (51%) and other adults (47%) worked while on SNAP.
- ❖ Median quarterly earnings while receiving SNAP (\$4,880) decreased from SFY 2021 (\$5,337).
- ❖ Nearly two thirds of employed recipients worked in health care and social services (20%), retail trade (18%), administrative and support services (13%), and accommodation and food services (13%).

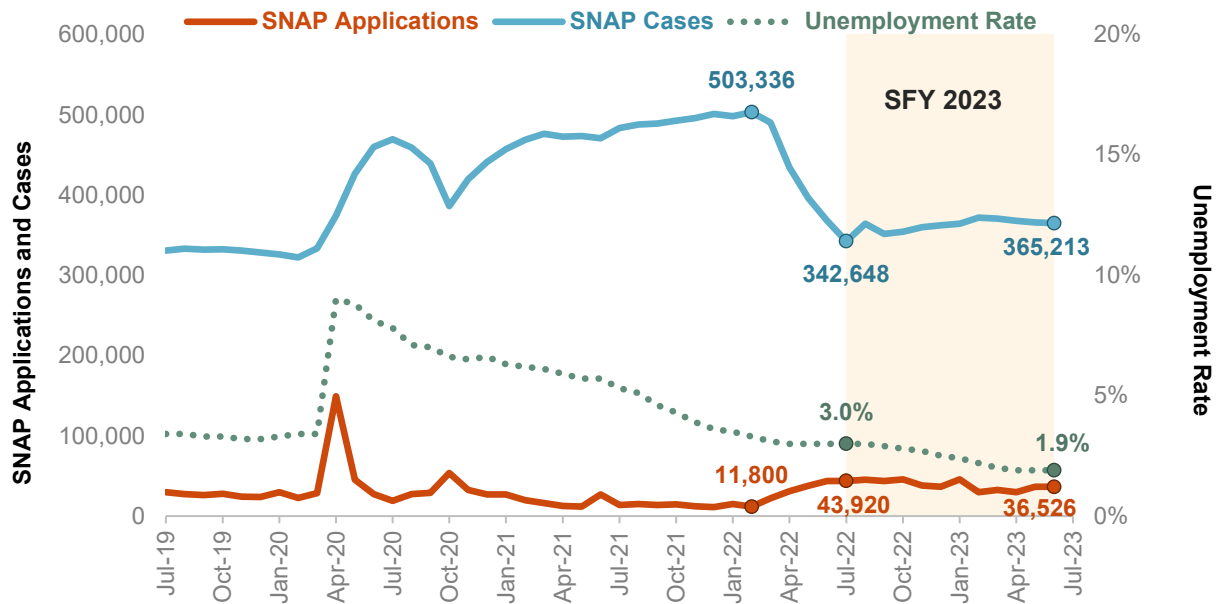
¹ COVID-19 flexibilities that did not impact the size of the SNAP caseload, such as online purchasing and P-EBT are not included in Table 1 but were instrumental to delivering the program during and after the pandemic.

the Public Health Emergency (PHE) ended in May 2023 (Becerra, 2023). Consequently, the remaining COVID-19 flexibilities were set to expire in early SFY 2024.

This report is part of an annual series that describes the Maryland SNAP caseload. It details the characteristics of 492,679 unduplicated households and 504,470 adult recipients who participated in SNAP in SFY

2023. Analyses describe the characteristics of SNAP households and the demographic and employment characteristics of adult recipients in these households. These empirical, descriptive data about the Maryland SNAP caseload can be utilized by stakeholders, such as local government agencies and community partners, to develop policy and make programmatic decisions.

Figure 1. Maryland SNAP Applications, Cases, and Unemployment Rate



Note: The number of applications and cases come from Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) statistical reports. Unemployment data comes from BLS statistical reports.

Table 1. SNAP Policy Context in SFY 2023

SNAP Flexibility or Waiver	MD Status SFY 2023
Emergency Allotments (FNS, 2023a, Family Investment Administration [FIA], 2023a)	Exp. Feb. 2023
ABAWD Time Limit Waiver (FNS, 2020; FIA 2023h)	In Effect
College Student Exemption (FNS, 2021a; FIA, 2021)	In Effect
Face-to-Face Interview Waiver* (FNS, 2021b; 2021c; FIA, 2023c)	In Effect
Expedited SNAP Interview Waiver (FNS, 2021c; FIA, 2023b)	In Effect

Note: *Maryland defaults to electronic interviews but provides face-to-face interviews upon request (FIA, 2023c).

METHODS

Study Population

The study population for this report includes every household that received SNAP for at least one month in SFY 2023 (July 2022 through June 2023). Eligibility for SNAP is based on *households* which include one person or a group of people who live and prepare food together (Food and Nutrition Act of 2008). In SFY 2023, there were 492,679 unduplicated SNAP households and 504,470 unduplicated adult recipients.

Additional Population Information

Households that received SNAP for more than one month in the SFY are included in the population only once. Specifically, this report includes the first month in the SFY that the household received benefits, even if the household participated for more than one month in the SFY or had multiple exits from and re-entries into the program. This report shows demographic and employment analyses for adult recipients only, including adults who were not heads-of-households. Demographic and employment analyses exclude adults who were not recipients, such as heads-of-households who were ineligible for SNAP but received benefits on behalf of other eligible household members.

Defining Recipients

This report defines adult and child recipients using data available in the administrative data system, outlined below:

Adult Recipients include any individual who: (a) has a “recipient” code as their participation status; (b) has an “adult” code for the adult-child indicator; *and* (c) is 16 years or older during the first month in which they received benefits in the SFY.

Child Recipients include any individual who: (a) has a “recipient” code as their participation status; (b) has a “child” code for the adult-child indicator; *and* (c) is younger than 19 years of age during the first month in which they received benefits in the SFY.

Household and Adult Types

This report presents analyses by household and adult *types* where appropriate, providing a richer picture of SNAP participation. These types have different program eligibility rules and are based on the household compositions identified in the Food and Nutrition Service’s national report on SNAP households (Monkovic, 2024) and groups specified in the Food and Nutrition Act (2008). Table 2 shows the count of each household and adult types, and the first findings section provides a written description of each type. These types are not mutually exclusive. Household composition can change monthly, and this report captures an entire SFY. Therefore,

Table 2. Count of Households and Adult Recipients, SFY 2023

Type	Households	Adult Recipients
Adults with Child(ren)	175,762	182,649
ABAWDs	69,682	72,123
Adults with a Disability	63,264	64,808
Older Adults	118,651	127,086
Other Adults	73,152	77,235
Unduplicated Total	492,679	504,470

Note: This table represents the entire SFY. Adult recipient and household types are not mutually exclusive categories as family composition and individual circumstances can change throughout the year. Therefore, values do not add up to the unduplicated total, as adult recipients and households may be represented by more than one type.

some households and adult recipients may be represented in multiple types. Although some overlap may occur, separating analyses by type allows stakeholders to understand the nuances between distinct groups of recipients. This report uses the terms *adults with a disability* and *disabled adults* interchangeably to acknowledge and respect the individual preferences of this exceptionally diverse group (Rahman, 2019; Woldridge, 2023).

Comparison Groups

When relevant, this report compares SFY 2023 findings to findings in previous SFYs to illustrate caseload changes. Prior editions of this report are available at the [Family Welfare Research and Training Group website](#).

Data

Study findings are based on analyses of administrative data retrieved from computerized management information systems maintained by the State of Maryland. Demographic and program participation data were extracted from the Eligibility and Enrollment (E&E) system and its predecessor, the Client Automated Resources and Eligibility System (CARES). Employment and earnings data were obtained from BEACON and its predecessor, the Maryland Automated Benefits System (MABS).

E&E and CARES are the administrative data systems for safety net programs

managed by the Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS). CARES was operational between March 1998 and November 2021. The migration to E&E began in April 2021, and all jurisdictions migrated to E&E by November 2021.² Both E&E and CARES provide individual- and case-level program participation data for SNAP and other services, as well as demographic data on participants. Certain demographic data in this report reflect the limited nature of the administrative data systems used (e.g., gender is a binary field). Race (e.g., Black, White) and ethnicity (i.e., Hispanic/Latinx) data represent individuals who self-identify or for whom case managers assign a race and ethnicity (FIA, 2008).³ This report uses the combined non-gendered term Hispanic/Latinx in place of Hispanic or Latino to be inclusive.

BEACON became the administrative data system for Unemployment Insurance (UI) in September 2020 (replacing the MABS) and includes data from all employers covered by the state's UI law and the Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) program. Together, these account for approximately 91% of all Maryland civilian employment. However, BEACON data have a few limitations. First, BEACON provides aggregate earnings on a quarterly basis. Thus, it is not possible to compute or infer hourly wages or weekly or monthly salaries from these data. Second, the data do not include earnings from adults engaged in alternative work arrangements or informal work not covered by UI law.

² The transition to E&E resulted in some data inaccuracies. When we are able to identify data inaccuracies, we exclude analyses or used the CARES data to supplement and correct data. Given the transition to a new data system, there may be additional unknown data issues. Hence, comparisons between years should be interpreted with caution.

³ A final rule published in the Federal Register on December 14, 2023 prohibits using visual observation as a data collection method for race and ethnicity effective February 12, 2024. (SNAP: Revision of Civil Rights Data Collection and Methods, 2023). The data in these analyses were collected prior to the date this policy became effective.

Finally, BEACON does not include out-of-state employment. Out-of-state employment by Maryland residents (14%) is four times greater than the national average (3.3%) and is even higher in certain jurisdictions.⁴ This report excludes some adult recipients from employment analyses due to missing identifying information (n=2,342).

Data Analysis

This report utilizes descriptive statistics to describe households and adult recipients who participated in SNAP, including percentages, medians, and averages. The average represents the total (e.g., all earnings) divided by the number of individuals included in the analysis. The median is sometimes preferred as a better representation of the data and is derived by arranging all values from lowest to highest and selecting the midpoint value. Extreme values do not affect the median, which can sometimes skew averages. This report examines population statistics and therefore does not use inferential statistics which are used to generalize sample findings to the population.

FINDINGS: HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

This section provides an overview of SFY 2023 SNAP household characteristics. Analyses include households by jurisdiction, household types, and number and age of recipients in households. Finally, this section explores households' histories of SNAP receipt. Stakeholders can use these findings to better understand who receives SNAP benefits in Maryland.

⁴ Data are from the U.S. Census Bureau website (<https://data.census.gov/>): 2017–2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates for Sex of

Households by Jurisdiction

Maryland's 24 diverse jurisdictions span urban, suburban, and rural communities. Notably, two thirds of Maryland's counties share a border with one of four neighboring states or the District of Columbia. This geographical diversity significantly impacts the labor market, economic conditions, job opportunities, earnings, access to transportation, and other essential resources within each jurisdiction.

Given this diversity, it is important to note where in the state SNAP recipients are concentrated. Table 3 shows the majority (69%) of SNAP households in SFY 2023 resided in one of Maryland's five most populous jurisdictions, dotted along the interstate 95 corridor. These are Baltimore City (25%), Prince George's County (16%), Baltimore County (13%), Montgomery County (9%), and Anne Arundel County (6%). The remaining jurisdictions largely make up the Western panhandle and the Eastern Shore of Maryland where populations are lower. These jurisdictions each made up 3% or less of SNAP households in SFY 2023.

Across Maryland, cases dropped 8% from SFYs 2022 to 2023 by 43,214 households. This follows a 6% decrease in SFY 2022 (Gagliardi et al., 2023a). The largest declines occurred in the five most populous counties listed above, while cases increased in seven jurisdictions. Despite changes, the distribution of households across jurisdictions changed fewer than 2 percentage points between SFYs 2022 and 2023.

Workers by Place of Work—State and County Level (B08007).

Table 3. Households by Jurisdiction, SFYs 2022 and 2023

Jurisdiction	SFY 2022 %	SFY 2022 n	SFY 2023 %	SFY 2023 n	Change %	Change n
Baltimore City	26%	141,999	25%	122,965	-13%	-19,034
Prince George's	17%	90,781	16%	78,551	-13%	-12,230
Baltimore County	14%	74,612	13%	65,142	-13%	-9,470
Montgomery	9%	46,580	9%	45,339	-3%	-1,241
Anne Arundel	6%	33,482	6%	30,782	-8%	-2,700
Washington	3%	16,148	3%	16,081	-0.4%	-67
Harford	3%	16,165	3%	16,078	-0.5%	-87
Wicomico	3%	13,479	3%	14,003	4%	524
Howard	2%	13,294	3%	13,138	-1.2%	-156
Frederick	2%	11,793	3%	12,605	7%	812
Charles	2%	12,284	2%	11,424	-7%	-860
Allegany	2%	9,575	2%	10,036	5%	461
Cecil	2%	9,232	2%	8,923	-3%	-309
St. Mary's	1%	7,815	2%	7,998	2%	183
Carroll	1%	6,229	1%	6,708	8%	479
Dorchester	1%	5,552	1%	5,384	-3%	-168
Calvert	0.9%	4,581	1%	4,932	8%	351
Worcester	0.9%	4,816	0.9%	4,671	-3%	-145
Caroline	0.7%	3,815	0.8%	3,814	-0.03%	-1
Somerset	0.7%	3,595	0.7%	3,663	2%	68
Talbot	0.6%	2,998	0.6%	2,994	-0.1%	-4
Garrett	0.5%	2,609	0.6%	2,748	5.3%	139
Queen Anne's	0.5%	2,551	0.5%	2,439	-4%	-112
Kent	0.3%	1,867	0.4%	1,838	-2%	-29
Maryland	100%	535,893	100%	492,679	-8%	-43,214

Note: Jurisdictions are sorted by highest percentage of the SFY 2023 caseload. Counts represent the total number of unduplicated households that received SNAP in the SFY. Jurisdictional counts do not sum to the state total due to missing jurisdiction information for some households (SFY 2022 n=41; SFY 2023 n=423). Valid percentages are reported to account for missing data.

The Maryland SNAP caseload *decreased 8%* between SFYs 2022 and 2023, resulting in *43,214 fewer SNAP households*.

The end of certain COVID flexibilities in SFY 2022 likely triggered caseload decline (Gagliardi et al., 2023a). Specifically, initial and recertification interview waivers, modified recertification requirements, and extended certification periods all ended in late 2021 or early 2022 (Gagliardi et al.,

2023a), and quickly thereafter the monthly caseload plummeted. Ongoing recovery from the economic effects of the pandemic also may have played a role in reducing the caseload. For instance, wages and job openings increased, and unemployment decreased throughout the year (Council of Economic Advisers, 2023).

Household Composition

SNAP is a means-tested program, meaning a household's income must fall below a certain threshold to maintain eligibility. Unlike most means-tested benefit programs, which are restricted to particular categories of low-income individuals,⁵ SNAP is broadly available to households with low incomes. It provides important nutritional support for individuals and families regardless of age and household composition. These program characteristics mean it serves a diverse range of households.

Age of Recipients

Most SNAP recipients—both nationally and in Maryland—are adults (Gagliardi et al., 2023a; Monkovic, 2024). As shown in Figure 2, just under half (45%) of recipients were working-age adults between 16 and 59 years old. Two in five (40%) were children 18 years or younger, and around one in seven (15%) were adults 60 years or older. Although not shown, the total number of recipients decreased by 10% from SFY 2022 with the largest decrease occurring among working-age adults (-18% by 82,072 recipients).

The *number* of working-age adults in SFY 2023 *decreased 18%*, the largest decrease of any age group.

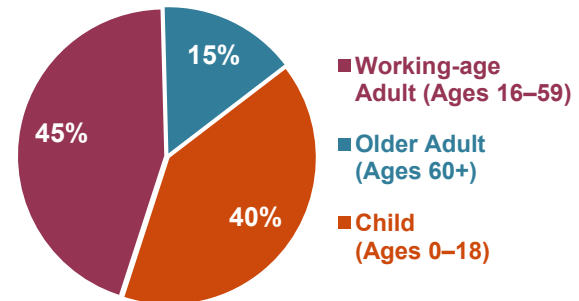
This decrease in the number of working-age adults contributed to a small shift in the distribution of recipients in this age group in SFY 2023. The percentage of working-age

⁵ For example, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program restricts participation to families with dependent children, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is only available to people with disabilities and older adults.

⁶ For example, households with ABAWDs must recertify more frequently than households with

adults decreased 4 percentage points from SFY 2022 (Gagliardi et al., 2023a).

Figure 2. Age of Recipients, SFY 2023



Note: Valid percentages reported to account for missing data.

Household Types

While SNAP does not restrict participation based on household composition, eligibility rules differ depending on the types of recipients in a household.⁶ This section presents analyses for five household types as well as overall summary measures for all households. The five household types align with types identified in federal reports (Monkovic, 2024), including: (a) households with children; (b) households with able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs); (c) households with adults with a disability; (d) households with older adults; and (e) other households that do not meet the definitions of the prior four household types.

disabled adults or older adults (FIA, 2023e). ABAWD recipients also are restricted to 3 months of benefits in a 36-month period if they do not comply with work requirements (FIA, 2023g). Other recipients are not subject to benefit limits.

Households with Children: Households with at least one child recipient 17 years or younger at any point during the SFY. Although uncommon, this can include children aged 16 or 17 who are head-of-households.

Households with an Able-Bodied Adult without Dependents (ABAWD)*: Households with at least one adult recipient between 18 and 49 years who does not have a documented disability and is subject to federal work requirements at any point during the SFY.

Households with an Adult with a Disability: Households with at least one adult recipient between 18 and 59 years who has a temporary or permanent disability exemption at any point during the SFY.

Households with an Older Adult: Households with at least one adult recipient 60 years or older when SNAP receipt began during the SFY.

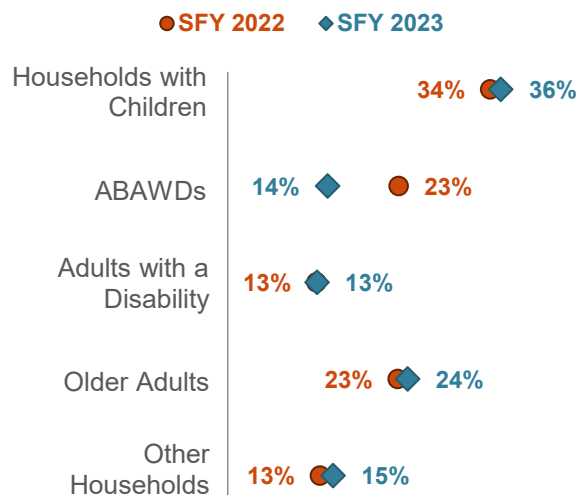
Other Households: Households with at least one adult recipient who does not fit criteria for any other household type at any point during the SFY.

*[The Fiscal Responsibility Act](#) revised the [ABAWD definition](#) in September 2023, after the period of examination in this study.

Figure 3 shows the percentage of households by type in SFYs 2022 and 2023. Households with children (36%) and those with older adults (24%) were most common during SFY 2023. Around one in seven households had ABAWDs (14%) or adults with a disability (13%). The remaining one in seven (15%) households did not fall into any category and are grouped into the *other households* category. The household type distribution was mostly consistent between SFYs 2022 and 2023. Households with children, disabled adults, older adults, and other households each fell within 2 percentage points of each other between years (Gagliardi et al., 2023a). On the other

hand, households with ABAWDs (14%) decreased 9 percentage points from SFY 2022 (23%) and 13 percentage points since SFY 2021 (Hall, 2022a).

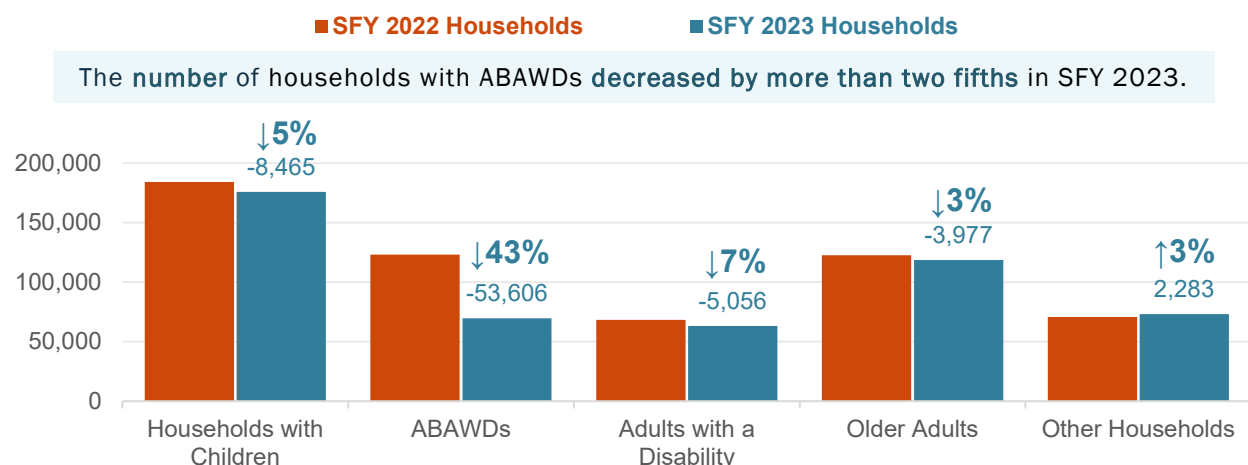
Figure 3. Household Types
SFYs 2022 and 2023



Note: Household types are not mutually exclusive categories, as family composition and individual circumstances can change throughout the SFY. Therefore, percentages for each SFY do not add up to 100%.

Figure 4 shows that the *number* of households decreased across all types between SFYs 2022 and 2023, except among other households which increased by 3%. The decrease was most substantial among households with ABAWDs which declined by over two fifths (43%), representing almost 54,000 ABAWD households leaving the program in 1 year. Households with children, disabled adults, and older adults each declined by fewer than 10,000 cases. Decreases were likely associated with earnings above the eligibility threshold or other eligibility reasons assessed during the reinstated recertification process.

Figure 4. Year-to-year Change by Household Type, SFYs 2022 and 2023



Note: Valid percentages reported to account for missing data.

Number of Recipients

SNAP cases have different numbers of recipients, and Table 4 shows the total number of recipients and the number of child and adult recipients in households. Most (61%) households had a single recipient, typically an adult with no children (64%). Findings highlight that this program plays a huge role in supplementing the income of single working-age adults. A small portion (4%) of households had only child recipients. Generally, this occurs when a child resides with an adult, but the adult is ineligible for SNAP. In these cases, only the child is included in the benefits for the SNAP household (FIA, 2023d).

Most households had *a single adult recipient*. Conversely, most *households with children* had a single adult recipient with one or more children, and nearly one in eight had no adult recipients. For more information, see *Appendix Table A1*.

Table 4. Number of Recipients in Households, SFY 2023

Recipient Category	All Households
Total Number of Recipients	%
1 recipient	61%
2 recipients	17%
3 recipients	11%
4 or more recipients	11%
Number of Child Recipients	%
No children	64%
1 child	16%
2 children	11%
3 or more children	9%
Number of Adult Recipients	%
No adults	4%
1 adult	84%
2 adults	10%
3 or more adults	2%

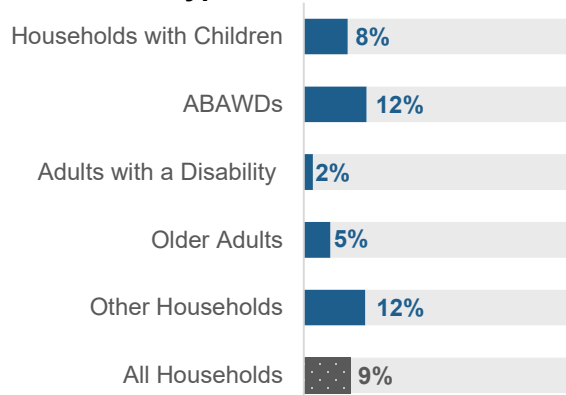
Previous SNAP Receipt

Unlike some means-tested programs, SNAP has no lifetime limit. Some low-income families may use SNAP throughout the years as family and economic circumstances fluctuate while others may have more isolated experiences with the program. The analyses in this section can

help stakeholders understand households' histories with SNAP and patterns of benefit receipt.

Figure 5 shows that across all households, 9% were brand new to the program in SFY 2023, however this varied across household types. Households with ABAWDs (12%) and other households (12%) had the highest percentage of new households while those with disabled adults (2%) and older adults (5%) had the lowest. New households with children (8%) made up a similar percentage of the caseload as the overall percentage of new households. While not shown, these findings reflect a 4 percentage point increase in new recipients among all adults.⁷

Figure 5. Households New to SNAP by Household Type, SFY 2023



Note: *New households* include cases in which the head of household or adult recipients on the case had not participated in SNAP prior to SFY 2023. Percentages are not directly comparable to those provided in previous reports due to a refinement in how we identify new cases in the administrative system for SFY 2023. Valid percentages are reported to account for missing data.

Figure 6 provides households' cumulative receipt over the 10 years prior to SFY 2023. Cumulative receipt includes all months in which SNAP benefits were issued to

households, whether continuous (also known as a SNAP spell) or separated by a period of non-receipt. Overall, the median months of receipt across all households was 50 months, or just over 4 years. The median receipt among households with children (55 months) was similar to the median for all households. Some households, such as those with ABAWDs (24 months) and other households (33 months), accumulated considerably fewer months of receipt. Others, such as households with disabled adults (86 months) and older adults (75 months), accumulated substantially more months of SNAP benefits than the median for all households.

Appendix Table 2A shows *categories of receipt* (e.g., 2 years or less, 2 to 4 years, etc.) over the 10 years prior to SFY 2023 which provides a more detailed look at differences in receipt within household types.

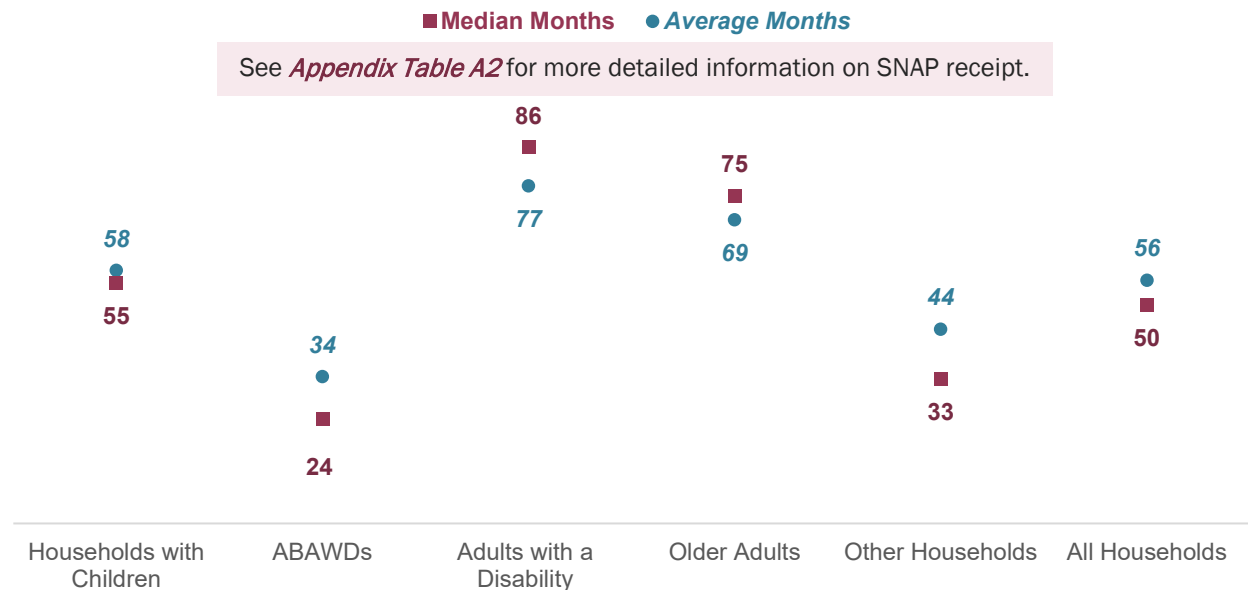
Findings in Figure 6 reflect differences in short-term versus long-term need for assistance and program eligibility rules across groups. Keith-Jennings & Chaudhry (2018) found that many low-income individuals experience brief but frequent employment disruptions and accrue more months of SNAP benefits during these periods than while working. Some households struggle with persistently low earnings and participate in SNAP most of the time, regardless of employment status. ABAWD recipients are required to work or participate in a qualifying work activity to receive benefits, and those who do not meet this requirement are limited to 3 months of

⁷ Due to a change in the method of identifying new households, results are not directly comparable to those published in previous editions of this report.

benefits in a 3-year period regardless of their need (FIA, 2023f). Relatively strong employment histories (Gagliardi et al., 2023a) and the ABAWD time-limit likely contribute to lower cumulative receipt among these households.⁸ Finally, some recipients face persistent barriers to work,

such as dependent care responsibilities or health conditions (Keith-Jennings & Chaudhry, 2018). Adults with children, disabled adults, and older adults often fall into this category and accrue the most benefit-months.

Figure 6. Cumulative SNAP Receipt in the Prior 10 Years by Household Type, SFY 2023



Note: Average and median months of SNAP receipt represent *cumulative* months in the 10 years prior to SFY 2023, but do not indicate *consecutive* months of receipt. Averages reflect extreme values to a greater extent than do medians.

FINDINGS: ADULT RECIPIENTS

This section provides demographics, employment participation, earnings, and employment sectors for adult SNAP recipients in SFY 2023. Demographic characteristics can help provide meaningful context for employment and earnings findings, which in turn help stakeholders understand the financial realities of SNAP households. Findings are presented across adult types which mirror the household types described on page 8.

Demographic Characteristics

As shown in Table 5, the typical adult recipient in SFY 2023 was a 46-year-old female (62%) who was Black (57%) or White (31%), had never married (66%), and had completed high school (74%). This demographic profile was relatively consistent across adult types; however, some notable variations and additional details are described in this section.

Gender. Three fifths (62%) of all adult recipients were female, but this varied by adult type. Four in five (78%) adults with

⁸ It is worth noting the ABAWD time limit was waived in several Maryland jurisdictions for substantial

periods during the 10 years prior to SFY 2023 (Hall, 2022a; Gagliardi et al., 2023a).

children were female, while disabled adults (52%) and other adults (53%) were more equally split across genders. Older adults mirrored the composition of all adults with 62% of these recipients identifying as female. On the other hand, a slight majority (58%) of ABAWDs were male.

Race and Ethnicity. While nearly 90% of recipients were either Black or White, one in eight recipients identified as either Hispanic/Latinx (6%), Asian (4%), Indigenous (1%), or a different race (1%). Some percentages for race and ethnicity varied by adult type, but not considerably.

Age. The average age of adult recipients was 46 years. Older adults (70 years) had the highest average age, while ABAWDs (33 years) and adults with children (35 years) were youngest. Disabled adults (44 years) and other adults (42 years) were similar in age to the overall average.

Most adult types are defined by an age range, so variation is expected.⁹ Age categories (e.g., 24 and younger, 25 to 34, etc.) reveal more about the distribution of age by adult type and suggest other factors also influence this variation. For example, the prevalence of disability increases with age (Doyle, 1989), which is why a higher percentage of these recipients were concentrated in older age groups.

Marital Status. Two in three (66%) adult recipients had never married, however there are important differences between adult types. Two in five (40%) older adults had never married, while the vast majority of adults with children (72%), ABAWDs (87%), disabled adults (75%), and other adults (72%) had never married. These findings make sense within the context of the relationship between age and marital status. The percentage of never married adults has doubled over the last several decades, and the median age of never married adults has increased precipitously (Marino, 2023a, 2023b). Additionally, income limits may prohibit many married low-income couples from participating in SNAP, particularly those without dependents who have lower income eligibility thresholds.

Educational Attainment. One quarter (26%) of all adults had not completed high school, three fifths (60%) had completed only high school, and one in seven (14%) had post-secondary education. Educational attainment was relatively consistent across adult types. However, a smaller percentage (9%) of adults with a disability had completed post-secondary education. This finding is similar to those from a nationally representative study of young adults with disabilities (Newman et al., 2011).

⁹ For example, the upper age bound is 49 years for ABAWDs and 59 years for adults with a disability and

other adults. Consequently, ABAWDs tend to be younger than the latter two adult types.

Table 5. Demographic Characteristics of Adult Recipients by Adult Type, SFY 2023

Demographic Category	Adults with Children	ABAWDs	Adults with a Disability	Older Adults	Other Adults	All Adult Recipients
Gender	%	%	%	%	%	%
Female	78%	42%	52%	62%	53%	62%
Male	22%	58%	48%	38%	47%	38%
Race/Ethnicity	%	%	%	%	%	%
Asian [^]	3%	2%	1%	8%	2%	4%
Black [^]	59%	63%	59%	51%	61%	57%
Hispanic/Latinx	9%	4%	3%	6%	5%	6%
Indigenous Peoples ^{^†}	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
White [^]	28%	29%	36%	33%	31%	31%
Other [^]	1%	2%	0.2%	1%	1%	1%
Age (Years)	%	%	%	%	%	%
24 & Younger [*]	17%	22%	8%	–	18%	13%
25 to 34	37%	38%	17%	–	18%	23%
35 to 49	38%	40%	31%	–	18%	25%
50 to 59	6%	1%	43%	–	46%	15%
60 & Older	2%	0% ⁺	–	100%	–	25%
<i>Average Age</i>	35	33	44	70	42	46
Marital Status	%	%	%	%	%	%
Never Married	72%	87%	75%	40%	72%	66%
Married	16%	4%	6%	19%	9%	13%
Previously Married [‡]	12%	9%	20%	41%	19%	21%
Highest Education Level	%	%	%	%	%	%
Did not Complete High School	23%	26%	32%	25%	28%	26%
Completed High School [#]	77%	74%	68%	75%	72%	74%
<i>> Only High School</i>	61%	60%	59%	61%	58%	60%
<i>> Post-secondary Education</i>	15%	14%	9%	14%	15%	14%

Note: Gender, race, and ethnicity categories come from predetermined fields in the state administrative database. [^]Non-Hispanic/Latinx. [†]Includes Native American, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, and Other Pacific Islander. Age is based on the first month of benefit receipt in the SFY. ^{*}Recipients ages 16 to 17 are included in the 24 & younger category if they are the head of household on a case. [‡]Includes divorced, separated, and widowed marital statuses. [#]General Education Development Program (GED) certificates are included in high school completion rates. Column percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding. ⁺Values under 0.1% are rounded to 0%. Valid percentages are reported to account for missing data.

Employment and Earnings

SNAP eligibility rules and benefits structure target financial support to low-income households while also encouraging employment. ABAWDs are required to work or participate in qualifying work activities to receive benefits (FIA, 2023f). In Maryland, such participation is voluntary for all other types of recipients. However, the state operates a SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) program aimed to support the diverse needs of recipients seeking gainful employment (Maryland Center on Economic Policy, 2016). This section explores the percentage of Maryland adult recipients who were employed while receiving SNAP in SFY 2023 and their median quarterly earnings.¹⁰ Additional analyses examine the top sectors of employment and median earnings within sectors.

Previous national-level research provides context to the findings in this section. Several studies demonstrate that most SNAP recipients who can work do so (Rosenbaum, 2013; Keith-Jennings & Chaudry, 2018). However, many experience short- and long-term financial hardship, including low pay, insufficient or unstable hours, and employment instability (Keith-Jennings & Chaudry, 2018; Keith-Jennings & Palacios, 2017). These recipients often rely on SNAP more during periods of financial uncertainty than when employment is stable. Other recipients struggle with disabilities (BLS, n.d.),

¹⁰ Findings are presented for each adult recipient rather than for each household. While a minority of households have multiple working recipients, previous research on exiting SNAP households in Maryland revealed that employment and earnings at the household level are only slightly higher than those at the individual recipient level (Gagliardi et al., 2023b).

¹¹ Employment data is reported on a quarterly basis and only for employment in Maryland. Consequently, analyses in this section may understate (e.g., out of

dependent-care needs (Keith-Jennings & Chaudry, 2018; Maestas et al., n.d.), discrimination (Lang & Spitzer, 2020), or other barriers that result in chronically low engagement in the labor market and long-term use of public benefits.

Employment While Receiving SNAP

Figure 7 focuses on the percentage of adult recipients who received SNAP while employed in *at least one quarter* in SFYs 2021, 2022, and 2023.¹¹ Overall, two fifths (39%) of adult recipients were employed while receiving SNAP in SFY 2023, however this varied substantially by adult type. Three fifths (59%) of adults with children and around half of ABAWDs (51%) and other adults (47%) were employed, while fewer than one in five (18%) disabled adults and one in 11 (9%) older adults were simultaneously employed and receiving SNAP sometime in SFY 2023. Adults with a disability and older adults are exempt from registering for work (FNS, n.d.-c), and these groups also are less likely to work in the general population (BLS, 2024a, 2024b).

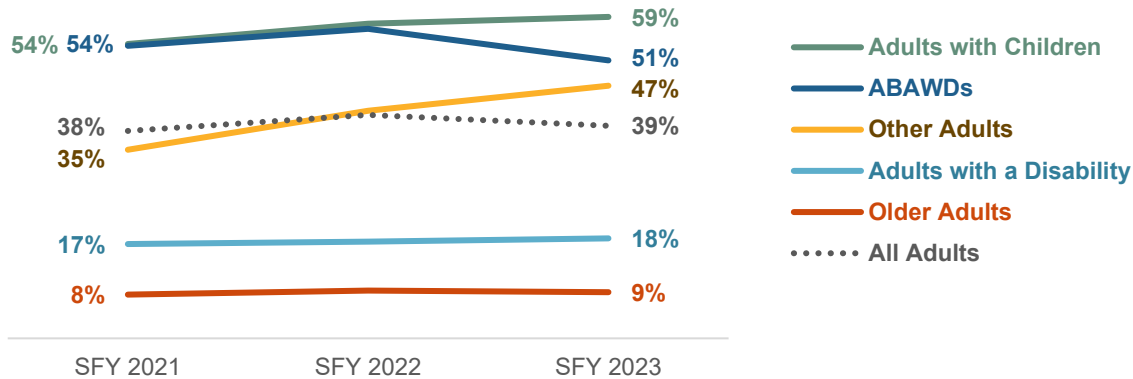
Employment trends also varied substantially by adult type. Adults with children employed while receiving SNAP increased 5 percentage points from SFYs 2021 to 2023. A smaller percentage of adults with children were employed in SFY 2021 likely because many mothers had to divest time from the labor market to care for children during the pandemic (Bauer & Wang, 2023).

state employment) or overstate employment in which adults are both employed and receiving SNAP. For example, if a recipient was employed in January and February of the first quarter of a year but lost employment and began receiving SNAP in March, the data would show employment and SNAP receipt in the same quarter.

Employment among women has since recovered, and employment growth among mothers has outpaced that of women without dependents. Employment among other adults while receiving SNAP increased 12 percentage points from SFYs 2021 to 2023, possibly demonstrating employment rebound from the pandemic. ABAWD employment also initially increased between SFYs 2021 to 2022 prior to decreasing 6 percentage points in SFY 2023. This decrease was likely precipitated

by the expiration of automatic eligibility recertification procedures in SFY 2022 (Gagliardi et al., 2023a). This program change resulted in case closures for ABAWDs with earnings above the income limit, reducing the proportion of employed ABAWDs in SFY 2023. The percentages of disabled and older adults employed while receiving SNAP remained static from SFYs 2021 to 2023 and were similar to the percentages employed before the pandemic (Hall, 2021).

Figure 7. Percentage Employed while Receiving SNAP by Adult Type, SFYs 2021 to 2023



Note: This figure shows the percentage of adults who are both SNAP recipients and employed in the same quarter for *at least one quarter* in each SFY. It excludes recipients for whom identifying information was unavailable. Refer to the *Data* section for data limitations. Valid percentages are reported to account for missing data.

Many SNAP recipients experience sporadic employment throughout the year (Keith-Jennings & Chaudhry, 2018), and employment transitions commonly prompt SNAP entry (Mabli et al., 2014), **Appendix Figure A1** shows the percentage of disabled adult and older adult recipients *employed in the year before receiving SNAP* was higher than the percentage employed while receiving SNAP.

Median Quarterly Earnings

Figure 8 complements Figure 7 by showing the median quarterly earnings of employed

adult recipients from SFYs 2021 to 2023. Overall, adult recipients earned about \$4,900 while receiving SNAP in SFY 2023. Adults with children had higher median quarterly earnings (\$5,907), while the median earnings for the remaining adult types did not exceed the median for all adults. Adults with a disability earned the least at around \$2,600 per quarter. While these earnings are low, they are not surprising given the income eligibility limits for SNAP recipients (Maryland DHS, n.d.-b) Appendix Table A3 shows that earnings among most adult types hovered around the federal poverty level for one to three people. In 2021, two fifths (38%) of all Maryland

residents earned below the minimum amount a household needs to live and work, demonstrating a considerably high living cost in the state (United for ALICE, 2023).

Adult SNAP recipients earned *substantially less* (\$4,880) than the median quarterly earnings of employed Maryland adults (\$14,335) and the 2023 quarterly full-time minimum wage (\$6,890). For more information, see *Appendix Table A3*.

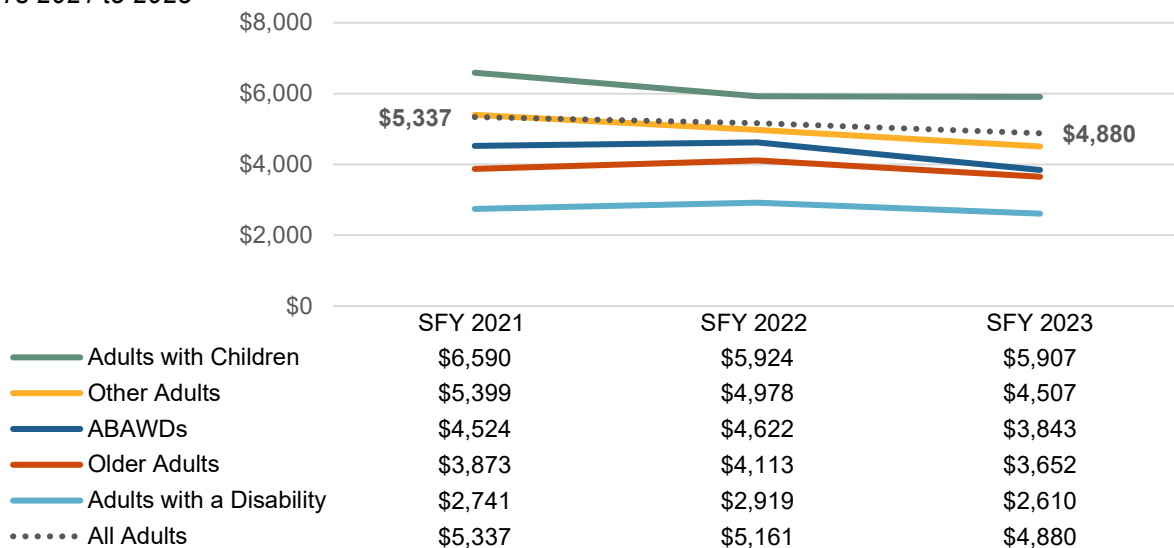
Earnings for all employed adult recipients decreased nearly \$500 from SFY 2021 to 2023, as shown in Figure 8. Earnings decreased most among other adults (-\$892), adults with children (-\$683), and ABAWDs (-\$681) and least among older adults (-\$221) and disabled adults (-\$131).

The decline in earnings is contradictory to national research showing wages in 2023 increased tremendously for low-income workers both with and without adjustments

for inflation (Congressional Budget Office [CBO], 2024; East et al., 2023).¹² Decreased standardized wages among adult SNAP recipients may have resulted from several factors, including caseload decreases after SFY 2022. Some recipients with higher than typical earnings may have joined SNAP in the wake of COVID-19 and have been trickling off the caseload throughout SFY 2023. When eligibility recertification procedures returned to normal, households with earnings above the eligibility limit likely exited the program, resulting in lower median earnings for adults who continued receiving SNAP in SFY 2023. Figure 4 shows many of these exiting recipients were ABAWDs.

Nonetheless, median quarterly earnings among all adult types were considerably low during SFY 2023. Additionally, elevated inflation during the period (Webster, 2024) likely dampened much of the impact of receiving higher earnings.

Figure 8. Median Quarterly Earnings while Receiving SNAP by Adult Type
SFYs 2021 to 2023



Note: Median quarterly earnings are reported for the quarters in which adults are both SNAP recipients and employed in Maryland. Refer to the *Data* section for data limitations. Earnings are standardized to 2023 dollars.

¹² Findings varied depending on analytical method used.

Sectors and Median Earnings

Table 6 shows the top sectors in which employed adult recipients worked while receiving SNAP benefits in SFY 2023. For definitions of each sector, see Appendix Figure A2. The most prevalent sectors of employment included health care and social assistance (20%), retail trade (18%), administrative and support and waste management and remediation services (13%), accommodation and food services (13%), transportation and warehousing (9%), and education services (5%). These six sectors made up three fourths (77%) of all employment among adult recipients in SFY 2023, while the remaining 14 sectors, included in the *other sectors* category, made up one quarter (23%) of employment. Top sectors were similar among SNAP recipients and low-wage workers in the general workforce, as well (Butcher & Schanzenbach, 2018; Jenkins et al., 2023; Keith-Jennings & Palacios, 2017).

Table 6 also shows the median quarterly earnings across employment sectors. These earnings varied considerably and were highest among adults employed in health care and social assistance (\$7,946) and educational services (\$7,549) which both exceeded \$7,500 in quarterly earnings. Recipients employed in accommodation and food services (\$4,526) and retail trade (\$4,782) earned less than \$5,000 quarterly. While not shown, earnings within sectors vary substantially because each is composed of related but unique industries. For example, within the transportation and warehousing sector, couriers and messengers earned substantially less (\$3,774) each quarter than adults employed in transit and ground passenger transportation (\$8,693). Appendix Tables A4

and A5 further show that sectors and earnings varied by adult type.

Table 6. Sectors of Employment and Median Quarterly Earnings, SFY 2023

Sector	% Employed	Median Quarterly Earnings
Health Care & Social Assistance	20%	\$7,946
Retail Trade	18%	\$4,782
Administrative & Support Services [^]	13%	\$5,460
Accommodation & Food Services	13%	\$4,526
Transportation & Warehousing	9%	\$5,435
Educational Services	5%	\$7,549
Other Sectors	23%	\$7,618

Note: [^]The full name of this sector is administrative & support & waste management & remediation services. See the definitions of each sector in Appendix Figure A2. Sector and median quarterly earnings are based on the quarter in SFY 2023 with the highest earnings in which an adult was both receiving SNAP and employed in Maryland. If a recipient had more than one job in the quarter, the job with the highest earnings is used. Analyses exclude recipients who do not have a unique identifier or who were employed but for whom the NAICS code was not identified. Top sectors are sorted in order of the highest to lowest percentage of adult recipients employed, and the *other sectors* category includes 14 sectors, each employing 0.02% to 3% of employed SNAP recipients. Valid percentages are reported to account for missing data.

Across adult types, the Health Care & Social Assistance and Retail Trade sectors employed the highest percentages of recipients, and those employed in Health Care & Social Services or Education Services had the highest median earnings. For more, see Appendix Tables A4 and A5.

Earnings are an important element of job quality, which is tied to economic mobility and labor market outcomes (Congdon &

Katz, 2023). The findings in this section reveal SNAP recipients in SFY 2023 were employed in diverse sectors and industries that require different backgrounds, skills, and support. However, earnings within and across sectors were considerably low and suggest many SNAP recipients may be employed in low quality occupations with limited benefits and growth potential.

CONCLUSION

This report summarizes the characteristics of households and adult recipients of Maryland SNAP benefits in SFY 2023. SNAP helps individuals with short- and long-term financial instability afford nutritious food and is one of the only safety net programs that automatically expands to serve additional households during economic downturns (Jones & Toossi, 2023; Moffitt et al., 2021). This expansion in turn helps stabilize the economy, benefiting not just those who receive SNAP (Canning & Stacy, 2019; Canning & Morrison, 2019).

Public benefits expansions played a significant role in the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic (Gould & DeCourcy, 2024; Hinh & Kimmins, 2023), and administrative flexibilities were essential to delivering SNAP to an influx of recipients (Bresnahan et al., 2021). Some flexibilities came to an end in SFY 2022, including eligibility recertification waivers. Many cases closed when Maryland resumed eligibility recertification. In particular, households with ABAWDs declined substantially (-43%) between SFYs 2022 and 2023 while the entire caseload decreased by 8%.

SNAP helps the most vulnerable populations in Maryland; in SFY 2023 three fourths (73%) of SNAP households had children, older adults, or adults with a

disability. It also serves as one of the only public benefits available to working low-income adults without dependents or disabilities.

These different types of households used the program for varying amounts of time in the 10 years before SFY 2023. Households with ABAWDs and other households had the lowest median cumulative months of receipt at around 2 and 3 years, respectively. Adults with children received benefits for 4.5 years, and older adults received benefits for just over 6 years. Disabled adults received benefits for a median of 7 out of 10 years.

SNAP is designed to promote work, and employment and earnings findings clarify the financial context of SNAP households in SFY 2023. In Maryland, adult recipients are not required to work to receive benefits, except for ABAWD recipients who are typically limited to 3 months of benefits within a 36-month period if they do not work or participate in a qualifying work activity (FIA, 2023f). As such, the percentage of adult recipients employed while receiving SNAP varied considerably by adult type. Many adults with children (59%), ABAWDs (51%), and other adults (47%) worked at some point while receiving benefits. Smaller percentages of older adults (9%) and adults with disabilities (18%) worked while receiving SNAP. Adult types with lower employment also had greater SNAP receipt, indicating they may use SNAP long-term to make up for low employment and earnings.

Median earnings while on SNAP were considerably low across adult types. While low earnings are expected due to income thresholds for the program, certain adults had lower earnings than others. Only adults with children (\$5,907) made above the

median quarterly earnings for all adults (\$4,880) in SFY 2023. The remaining adult types earned between \$2,600 among disabled adults and \$4,500 among other adults. Appendix Table A3 shows that these earnings were considerably low compared to other quarterly earnings, including a quarterly estimate of the 2023 full-time minimum wage in Maryland (\$6,890). Standardized earnings among SNAP recipients decreased over time across adult types. This decrease likely represents changes to the caseload. When eligibility recertification procedures resumed, cases with earnings above the eligibility threshold closed, thus lowering the median earnings of recipients.

National research shows that low-income households may have seen real wage increases in SFY 2023, however wages for low-income households remain extremely low and increases may reverse without strong labor standards (CBO, 2024; East et al., 2023; Gould & DeCourcy, 2024). Additionally, low-income households are disproportionately impacted by inflation underscoring the financial constraint faced by these households (Brainard, 2022; CBO, 2024; Webster, 2024).

Sector analyses are new in this edition of the report and revealed that six out of 20 sectors employed the majority (77%) of adult SNAP recipients. The top two sectors were health care and social assistance (20%) and retail trade (18%). Median quarterly earnings varied by sector, from a high of about \$7,900 among those employed in health care and social assistance to a low of around \$4,500 among those employed in food services. Sectoral earnings varied considerably by adult type, provided in Appendix Table A5.

Recent program changes both nationally and in Maryland expanded support for low-income families. The state was the first to submit a stolen benefits replacement plan amidst a national Electronic Benefit Transmission (EBT) card skimming scandal, and this program was expanded to reach more recipients (Gaines, 2023; Maryland DHS, n.d.-a). Additionally, Maryland launched a permanent Summer Food Service Program that provides nutritious meals or cash benefits to children while school is not in session (Maryland State Department of Education, n.d. The Office of Governor Wes Moore, 2024).

Finally, federal changes to the ABAWD definition will help more Maryland adults struggling with food insecurity. The updated definition exempts from ABAWD work requirements individuals experiencing homelessness, veterans, and youth aging out of foster care beginning September 2023 (Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2023). These individuals will no longer experience benefit limits as a result of unemployment. On the other hand, the ABAWD age limit increases incrementally between September 2023 and October 2025 from 49 to 54, which will result in more individuals subject to benefit limits.

The information in this report series can help stakeholders understand who SNAP recipients are, their histories of SNAP receipt, and their employment and earnings while receiving SNAP. Stakeholders can also glean insight into how policy and economic circumstances impact the SNAP caseload and receipt among individuals and households. Policy changes, such as the expiration of COVID-19 flexibilities, the Fiscal Responsibility Act (2023), and the Farm Bill, will likely alter the profile of SNAP households and adult recipients in future

editions of this report. The administration can further support low-income families by expanding SNAP outreach to populations with historically low participation, including eligible employed adults, older adults including grandparent caretakers, adults without children, and veterans (U.S. Census Bureau, 2023; Cunyningham, 2023; FNS, n.d.-b; Link et al., 2023; Rubinton & Isaacson, 2022).

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APPENDIX A: SUPPLEMENTAL ANALYSES

Table A1. Number of Recipients by Household Type, SFY 2023

Recipient Category	Households with Children	ABAWDs	Adults with a Disability	Older Adults	Other Households	All Households
Total Recipients	%	%	%	%	%	%
1 recipient	5%	87%	75%	86%	85%	61%
2 recipients	36%	10%	13%	11%	12%	17%
3 recipients	29%	2%	6%	1%	2%	11%
4 or more recipients	30%	0.8%	6%	1%	1%	11%
Child Recipients	%	%	%	%	%	%
No children	–	97%	83%	97%	100%	64%
1 child	44%	2%	9%	2%	–	16%
2 children	31%	0.2%	4%	0.7%	–	11%
3 or more children	25%	0% ⁺	3%	0.4%	–	9%
Adult Recipients	%	%	%	%	%	%
No adults	12%	0% ⁺	0% ⁺	0% ⁺	0% ⁺	4%
1 adult	69%	89%	85%	88%	85%	84%
2 adults	17%	8%	12%	11%	12%	10%
3 or more adults	3%	3%	3%	1%	3%	2%

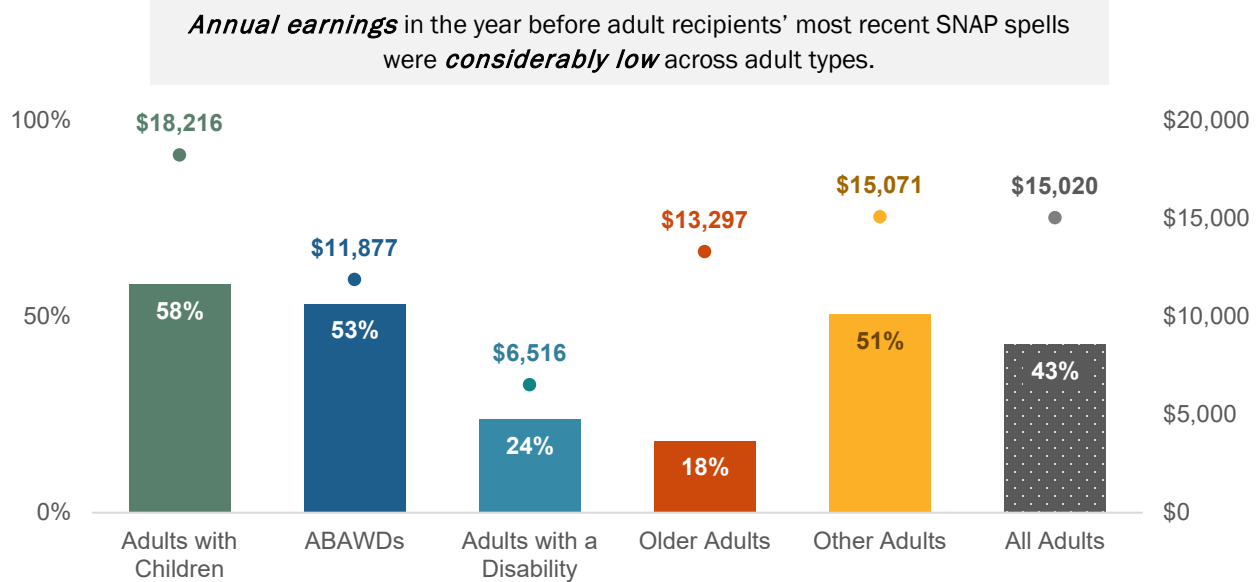
Note: ⁺Values under 0.1% are rounded to 0%. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding. The number of recipients is based on the first month of benefit receipt in the SFY, however the household type is captured for the entire SFY and can change monthly. Consequently, some characteristics may be less intuitive. For example, by definition, a household with an ABAWD does not have children; however, Table A1 shows that some households with ABAWDs had children. This likely means that at some point in the SFY, an adult with children became an ABAWD, or a child joined an ABAWD household.

Table A2. Categories of Receipt in the Prior 10 Years by Household Type, SFY 2023

Receipt Category	Households with Children	ABAWDs	Adults with a Disability	Older Adults	Other Households	All Households
No receipt	9%	13%	2%	6%	13%	10%
2 years or less (1–24 months)	19%	39%	11%	15%	29%	22%
2–6 years (25–72 months)	32%	33%	28%	27%	32%	31%
6–8 years (73–96 months)	15%	8%	17%	13%	11%	13%
8–10 years (97–120 months)	25%	7%	42%	38%	15%	25%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding. Average and median months of SNAP receipt represent *cumulative* months in the 10 years prior to SFY 2023, but do not indicate *consecutive* months of receipt. The category of receipt with the highest percentage of households are distinguished by bold maroon text in each household-type category.

Figure A1. Employment and Earnings the Year Before SNAP Spell by Adult Type SFY 2023



Note: This figure excludes recipients for whom identifying information was unavailable. Valid percentages are reported to account for missing data. A SNAP spell is a period of consecutive months beginning with the most recent application during which households receive benefits without exiting from the program. Earnings represent median annual earnings for adult recipients who were employed in the year before their SNAP spells began and who had earnings in Maryland. Refer to the *Data* section for data limitations.

Table A3. Quarterly Earnings Comparison

Earnings	\$
US Median Earnings	\$11,913
MD Median Earnings	\$14,335
2024 MD Minimum Wage	\$7,800
2023 MD Minimum Wage	\$6,890
Federal Poverty Level for 3	\$6,215
Federal Poverty Level for 2	\$4,930
Federal Poverty Level for 1	\$3,645
SFY 2023 MD SNAP Adult Recipient Median Earnings	\$4,874

Note: All dollar amounts are standardized to 2023 dollars. US and Maryland median earnings are estimated for individuals 16 years and older employed full-time (<https://data.census.gov/>). The Maryland quarterly minimum wages are estimated for full-time employment using the mandated hourly wages: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/>. The minimum hourly wage in Maryland differs in some jurisdictions and for small employers. The quarterly federal poverty level is estimated using 2023 annual poverty guidelines: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/>.

Figure A2. Top Employment Sector Definitions

Healthcare & Social Assistance (NAICS 62): This sector includes establishments that provide health care and social assistance. Both health care and social assistance are included because it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between the boundaries of these two activities. Industries in this sector can include outpatient health care and residential care facilities.

Retail Trade (NAICS 44–45): This sector includes establishments that engaged in retailing merchandise and rendering services incidental to the sale of merchandise. Industries in this sector can include general merchandise retailers and food & beverage retailers.

Administrative & Support & Waste Management & Remediation Services (NAICS 56): Individuals employed in this sector support the day-to-day operations of organizations by providing clerical, cleaning, and temporary employment services, among other activities. Industries include office administration and waste disposal services.

Accommodation & Food Services (NAICS 72): Establishments in this sector provide customers with lodging and/or meals, snacks, and beverages for immediate consumption. Industries include hotels and casinos.

Transportation & Warehousing (NAICS 48–49): This sector includes occupations providing passenger and cargo transportation, scenic and sightseeing transportation, warehousing and storage, and support activities related to modes of transportation. Industries in this sector can include warehousing and cargo transportation.

Educational Services (NAICS 61): Establishments in this sector are specialized in providing instruction and training in diverse subjects. Industries include primary education, secondary education, technical and trade schools, and education support services.

For more information on NAICS sectors, see:
[2022 NAICS reference files.](#)

Table A4. Sectors of Employment while Receiving SNAP, SFY 2023

Sector	Adults with Children	ABAWDs	Adults with a Disability	Older Adults	Other Adults	All Adults
Health Care & Social Assistance	24%	12%	17%	19%	15%	20%
Retail Trade	16%	19%	22%	19%	20%	18%
Administrative & Support Services	11%	17%	15%	13%	14%	13%
Accommodation & Food Services	12%	14%	15%	10%	14%	13%
Transportation & Warehousing	9%	10%	9%	5%	9%	9%
Educational Services	6%	4%	4%	8%	4%	5%
Other Sectors	22%	24%	18%	25%	23%	23%

Note: ^The full name of this sector is Administrative & Support & Waste Management & Remediation Services. *Sector* is based on the quarter in SFY 2023 with the highest earnings in which an adult was both receiving SNAP and employed in Maryland. If a recipient had more than one job in the quarter, the job with the highest earnings is used. Analyses exclude recipients who do not have a unique identifier or who were employed but for whom the NAICS code was not identified. The top six sectors are sorted in order of the highest to lowest percentage of adult recipients employed. The *Other Sectors* category includes 14 sectors, each employing 0.02% to 3% of recipients. The single sectors that employed the highest percentage of adult recipients are distinguished by bold red text in each adult-type category. Valid percentages are reported to account for missing data.

Table A5. Median Quarterly Earnings while Receiving SNAP by Sector, SFY 2023

Sector	Adults with Children	ABAWDs	Adults with a Disability	Older Adults	Other Adults	All Adults
Health Care & Social Assistance	\$8,748	\$6,608	\$4,295	\$4,674	\$6,832	\$7,946
Retail Trade	\$5,488	\$4,177	\$3,252	\$4,034	\$4,668	\$4,782
Administrative & Support Services	\$6,646	\$4,524	\$3,286	\$4,493	\$4,865	\$5,460
Accommodation & Food Services	\$5,148	\$3,782	\$2,791	\$4,369	\$4,447	\$4,526
Transportation & Warehousing	\$6,110	\$4,426	\$3,848	\$5,289	\$5,220	\$5,435
Educational Services	\$8,140	\$6,978	\$3,926	\$5,629	\$6,991	\$7,549
Other Sectors	\$8,980	\$6,318	\$3,650	\$4,364	\$6,379	\$7,618

Note: Median quarterly earnings represent the sector with the highest earnings in which an adult was both receiving SNAP and employed in SFY 2023 in Maryland. If a recipient had more than one job in the quarter, the job with the highest earnings is used. Analyses exclude recipients who do not have a unique identifier or who were employed but for whom the NAICS code was not identified. The top six sectors are sorted in order of the highest to lowest percentage of adult recipients employed. The *Other Sectors* category includes 14 sectors, each employing 0.02% to 3% of recipients. The single sector with the highest median earnings across adult recipients are distinguished by bold red text in each adult-type category.

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