

SNAP Policy Training: Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs)

UNDERSTANDING THE NEW SNAP TIME LIMIT AND ITS IMPACT IN MARYLAND

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Training Overview

- A Timeline of the SNAP Time Limit and Reimplementation
- Who is (or is not) an Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents?
 - Defining ABAWDs – Key Criteria
 - Identifying Eligible Exemptions
- The Impact of the SNAP Time Limit in Maryland
- Next Steps for Community Partners
 - Opportunities for SNAP outreach

How Did We Get Here?

An Overview of the SNAP Time Limit

- The 3 month SNAP time limit emerged from the passage of the Welfare Reform Act of 1996.
- Under federal law, individuals identified as Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) are entitled to a maximum of 3 months of SNAP benefits in a 36 month time period.
- ABAWDs are defined as follows:
 - Between the ages of 18-49
 - Not disabled
 - Not living with a dependent child under age 18
- Since the 1990s, most states have granted partial or statewide waivers from the time limit.
- In 2016, over 40 states will reimplement the SNAP time limit, including 23 states that will be reimplementing it for the first time since the recession.
- Maryland's last statewide waiver expired January 1st, 2016 and thousands could be impacted by this change.

Who Is (or is not) an
Able-Bodied Adult
Without Dependents?

Able-Bodied Adults
Without Dependents
(ABAWDs) - Eligibility for
SNAP is limited to 3
months in a 36 month
period.

Defining ABAWDs – Key Criteria

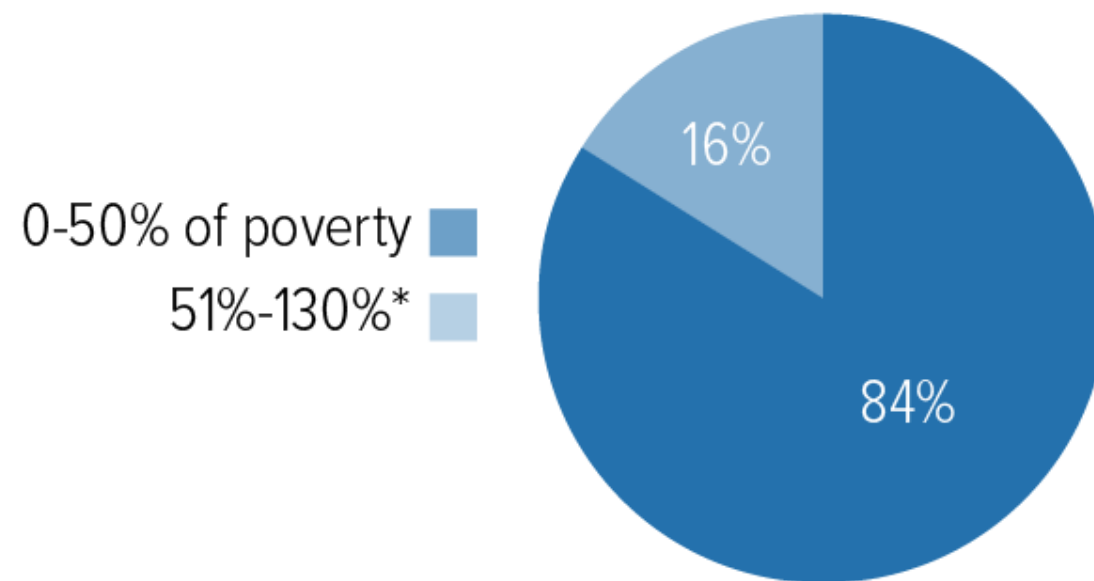
Able-Bodied Adults Without
Dependents meet the following
criteria:

- Age 18-49
- Not disabled
- Not living with a dependent child
under the age of 18

ABAWD Demographic Data

- Impacted individuals are extremely poor
- Over 80% of those subject to the time limit have incomes below 50% of poverty
- SNAP is the primary benefit available to most unemployed, childless workers

Individuals Subject to the Time Limit Have Very Low Incomes

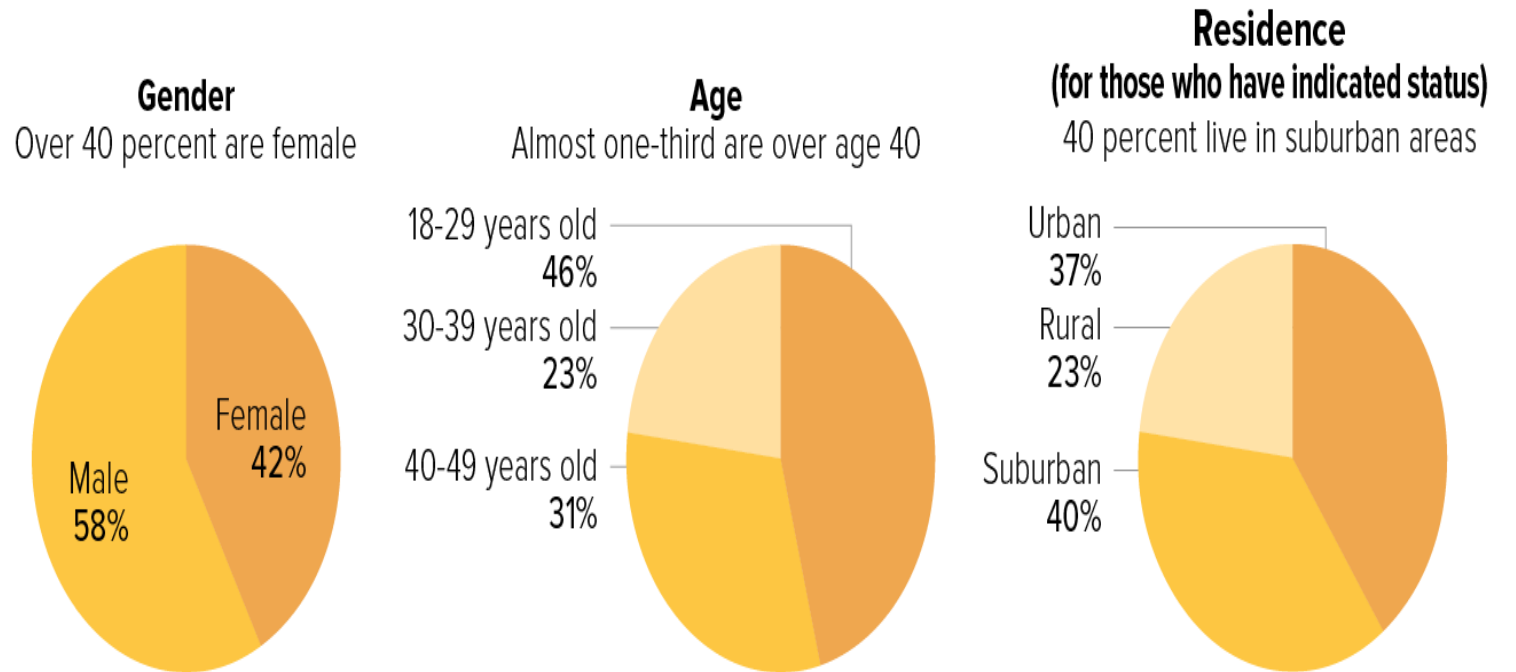


*Less than 1% have incomes above 130 percent of poverty while on SNAP.

Source: CBPP Analysis of the 2014 SNAP Household Characteristics data.

ABAWD Demographic Data

Unemployed, Nondisabled, Childless Adults Are a Diverse Group



Source: CBPP analysis of the 2013 SNAP household characteristics data and March 2014 Current Population Survey data.

Who Is NOT An Able Bodied Adult Without Dependents?

Identifying Eligible Exemptions

- Under age 16 or over age 50
- Living with a child under age 18.
- Caring for a disabled person.
- Homeless, “doubled up,” or don’t have a regular and adequate nighttime residence.
- Women who are pregnant.
- Participating in a drug or alcohol treatment or rehabilitation program.
- Enrolled in school or vocational training at least half time.
- Participating in combination of employment, job training, volunteering and job search activities, for a total of at least 20 hours per week (average of 80 hours per month).
- Have applied for or are receiving unemployment compensation.
- Medically verified as mentally or physically unfit for work

The Impact in Maryland:

Understanding the Local Effect of the Time Limit

The time limit is in effect in the following counties, impacting thousands of Marylanders statewide:

- Anne Arundel County
- Baltimore County
- Carroll County
- Howard County
- Frederick County
- Montgomery County
- Prince George's County
- Washington County

States have the option to waive the ABAWD time limit in areas of high unemployment or in areas that lack sufficient jobs.

In most cases, ABAWD time limit waivers are granted for a 1 year period.

The following areas are exempt from the time limit:

- Baltimore City
- Eastern Shore
- Southern Maryland
- Parts of Western Maryland (Allegany and Garrett Counties)

Helping Marylanders Maintain their Benefits – Work Participation Under the Time Limit

As of April 1, 2016, thousands of Marylanders are at risk of losing their SNAP benefits if they are not identified as either exempt from the requirements or participating in an approved work activity.

ABAWDs can participate in paid, in-kind or unpaid work

- Work 80 hours a month
- Participate in a qualified education or training activity 80 hours a month
- Participate in workfare
- Volunteer work
- Independent job search activities count towards an individual's hourly requirements.
- Job search activities must comprise less than ½ of the total time spent in other qualifying activities.

Take Action: Opportunities for SNAP Outreach

- Receive training to conduct SNAP Outreach
- Conduct pre-screenings to identify potential ABAWDs and screen for eligible exemptions
- Assist individuals in accessing work, training and volunteer activities
- Cultivate relationships with your local Department of Social Services; refer ABAWDs to the local department for additional assistance as needed.

Questions? For more information
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