

Characteristics of Able-bodied Adults without Dependents¹

How many of these individuals are there in SNAP? 3.8 million SNAP participants (about 8.8 percent of all participants) were nondisabled adults aged 18 through 49 who lived in childless households.

What is the income of these households? The average household income for this group is 33 percent of the federal poverty level, or about \$367 per month. Of those individuals who live alone, about two-thirds have no gross income.

Do they work? About 26 percent of these individuals are working, but their wages are very low. Of those who work, the average earnings are about \$810 per month (about 80 percent of the federal poverty level for a one-person household). Those who are working at least 20 hours per week make more, about \$1,000 per month (equal to the 1-person poverty level), but still qualify for SNAP.

What is the average size of these households? These households tend to be small (1.2 people), and 77 percent of these individuals live alone.

What is the average benefit for this group of individuals? The average monthly benefit for this group is \$163 per person. This is slightly higher than the average per person benefit for the total SNAP caseload of \$123, reflecting these individuals' lower incomes and smaller household sizes.

What are the demographics of this group? As is true of all SNAP participants, this is a demographically diverse group. Just under half (46 percent) are female. This group is fairly evenly distributed by age: one-third are 18 to 25, 27 percent are 26 to 35, and 40 percent are 36 to 49. A recent report by the Ohio Association of Foodbanks indicates that many (about one-fourth in Franklin County, Ohio) are noncustodial parents.

How long do these individuals stay on SNAP? This group makes up a small percentage of long-term SNAP participants. Only 2 percent of those on SNAP for 8 years or longer are nondisabled adults aged 18 through 49 who live in childless households.

¹ This data is primarily based on 2016 SNAP quality control (QC) data on nondisabled adults aged 18 through 49 who live in childless households. Though this group is larger, it is similar to ABAWDs and therefore gives meaningful perspective on the characteristics of ABAWDs. Some individuals in this group are not subject to the ABAWD time limit because they meet another exemption that is not captured in the data. Additionally, some of these individuals live in waived areas and some do not.