About 1 Million Childless Adults Will Lose SNAP Benefits in 2016

In many parts of the country, childless unemployed adults who can’t find at least a half-time job or a job-training program for 20 hours a week will lose SNAP after three months, regardless of how hard they are looking for work.

The People at Risk Are a Diverse Group

The people at risk of losing SNAP do not fit a particular stereotype.

Gender

- 40 percent are female
  - Male: 60%
  - Female: 40%

Age

- Almost one-third are over age 40
  - 18-29 years old: 46%
  - 30-39 years old: 22%
  - 40-49 years old: 32%

Residence

- 40 percent live in suburban areas
  - Urban: 40%
  - Rural: 20%
  - Suburban: 40%

They Are Extremely Poor

While on SNAP, their average income is just 19% of the poverty line for an individual, or $2,200 on an annual basis. Over 80 percent have incomes below half the poverty line, or $5,835.

4 out of 5 have income below half the poverty line

- 0-50% of poverty: 18%
- 51%-130%*: 82%

*About 1 percent have incomes above 130 percent of poverty.

They Face a Weak Labor Market

The employment-to-population ratio, a good measure of the actual work force since it isn’t lowered artificially when long-term unemployed workers give up looking for work, plummeted in the recession and remains far below pre-recession levels.

Employment - Population Ratio

- 1950: 65%
- 1960: 63%
- 1970: 62%
- 1980: 61%
- 1990: 60%
- 2000: 58%
- 2010: 56%

*About 1 percent have incomes above 130 percent of poverty.

For more information see “Approximately 1 Million Unemployed Childless Adults Will Lose SNAP Benefits in 2016 as State Waivers Expire,” http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=4009