How You Look at Work Among SNAP Participants Changes the Story

When viewing SNAP participants in only a single month you see

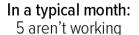
5 are working



In the example above, a point-in-time view understates the level of work for 2 reasons:

- Many SNAP participants who aren't working in a given month have recently worked or soon will
- People are likelier to participate in SNAP when out of work

Let's consider work over a longer period of time among those who weren't working in that single month:





1 year later: 3 didn't work over the year



Of the group who participated in SNAP at some point over several years:

3 worked the whole time



5 worked some



2 didn't work



Most SNAP participants who can work do. SNAP is a key support to them when they are between jobs or managing caretaking responsibilities.

More on this topic: Brynne Keith-Jennings and Raheem Chaudhry, "Most Working-Age SNAP Participants Work, But Often in Unstable Jobs," CBPP, March 15, 2018 https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/most-working-age-snap-participants-work-but -often-in-unstable-jobs

Source: CBPP analysis