

# Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Participation in Government Programs, 2009–2012: Who Gets Assistance?

## *Household Economic Studies*

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This report focuses on the participation and characteristics of people who received benefits from any of the following means-tested assistance programs:<sup>1</sup>

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)<sup>2</sup>
- Housing Assistance
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- General Assistance (GA)

The data come from the 2008 Panel of the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) and cover calendar years 2009 through 2012.<sup>3</sup> The SIPP is a longitudinal survey, which means that, unlike periodic point-in-time

<sup>1</sup> Means-tested programs are those that require the income and/or assets of an individual or family to fall below specified thresholds in order to qualify for benefits. There may be additional eligibility requirements to receive these programs, which provide cash and noncash assistance to eligible individuals and families.

<sup>2</sup> The Food Stamp Program was renamed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in 2008.

<sup>3</sup> The 2008 Panel followed the same individuals over a period of 64 months from May 2008 to November 2013. The data in this report were collected from February 2009 through April 2013 in Waves 2–14 of the 2008 SIPP. The population represented (the population universe) is the civilian, noninstitutionalized population living in the United States. The sample of households in SIPP is divided into four interview groups called rotation groups. Each month, one of the four rotation groups is interviewed about the previous 4 months (the reference period). For more detail on the interview procedures, interview waves, or rotation groups, see Chapter 2 of the SIPP User's Guide at <[www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/programs-surveys/sipp/methodology/SIPP\\_USERS\\_Guide\\_Chapter2\\_2009.pdf](http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/programs-surveys/sipp/methodology/SIPP_USERS_Guide_Chapter2_2009.pdf)>.

surveys, such as the Current Population Survey (CPS), the SIPP follows the same people over time.<sup>4</sup> This longitudinal quality allows examination of the SIPP sample from two perspectives.

First, it is possible to observe the same people over a span of time. The number of months within a period of time when individuals received benefits from one or more means-tested assistance programs can be examined, and entry and exit activity for each program can be measured. For example, the number, timing, and duration of people moving into and out of a particular situation within a time period can be studied, such as the length of time an individual continuously receives program benefits.

Second, a population of interest can be analyzed at single points of time over regular intervals measuring gross activity levels. This cross-sectional perspective captures changes over time in the level of an activity, such as the proportion of the population receiving assistance from a particular program at selected points in time.

This report examines means-tested program participation rates and the extent to which the programs are used. The

<sup>4</sup> The longitudinal estimates presented here are based on people who were interviewed in all waves of the reference period or for whom imputed information exists. Efforts were made during the life of the panel to ensure that the sample remained representative of the civilian, noninstitutionalized population of the United States by attempting to follow people who moved to their new address. If the people included in the estimates have different experiences in program participation than those who did not respond initially, left the sample, or missed two or more consecutive waves, these longitudinal estimates may be biased.

appendix tables display the average monthly participation rates in major means-tested programs by selected characteristics and median monthly benefit amounts.

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2012, approximately 52.2 million people, or 21.3 percent of the population, participated in one or more major means-tested assistance programs, on average, each month.<sup>5</sup>

In 2012, the average monthly participation rate for Medicaid (15.3 percent) was higher than those for SNAP (13.4 percent), housing assistance (4.2 percent), SSI (3.0 percent), and TANF/GA (1.0 percent).

About three-quarters of people living in poverty who ever received benefits from a major means-tested program between January 2009 and December 2012 participated between 37 and 48 months during that time.

The average monthly participation rate for children under 18 increased from 34.6 percent in 2009 to 39.2

<sup>5</sup> Estimates in this report (which may be shown in text, figures, and tables) are based on responses from a sample of the population and may differ from actual values because of sampling variability or other factors. As a result, apparent differences between the estimates for two or more groups may not be statistically significant. All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

## PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

This section investigates the degree of involvement in means-tested assistance programs using the following three concepts, each of which explores a different aspect of program participation.<sup>1</sup>

- **Average monthly program participation rates:** These are annual-average rates—one for each of the years 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012. The measure represents the share of the group receiving assistance, on average, during each month of the year in question. The rate is a weighted average of the 12 monthly (cross-sectional) estimates of the proportion of people in the group who participated in means-tested assistance programs.
- **Program participation for 1 or more months in a (specified) year:** Percentages are presented for 2009 to 2012. The measure represents the proportion of people who took part in any means-tested assistance program at any time during a specified year. It is a measure of gross activity and represents the population as it existed at the end of the year in question.
- **Accumulated months of participation in major means-tested programs in the 48-month period from January 2009 to December 2012:** This measure is based on the number of accumulated (not necessarily consecutive) months a person participated in means-tested assistance programs throughout the entire 48-month time span. For purposes of this report, people who participated between 1 and 12 months in the 48-month time span are considered shorter-term participants, while people who participated between 37 and 48 months during this time are considered longer-term participants. This analysis includes only people who participated in one or more major means-tested programs for 1 or more months during the 48-month period. This analysis is limited to respondents who were in the sample for the entire 48-month period and represents the population at the end of the period.

<sup>1</sup> A person is a program participant if he or she receives benefits from the program or is covered under the allotment of someone else's benefits. For example, in a given month, two people in a household received SNAP benefits and two additional people in the household are covered by the benefit. In this case, the number of people from that household who participated in the food stamp program for that month would be counted as "four."

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percent in 2012, and the average monthly participation rate for adults aged 18 to 64 increased from 13.7 percent to 16.6 percent during that time. From 2009 to 2012, there was no change in the average monthly participation rate for adults 65 and older.

People in married-couple families who received benefits from any means-tested program from January 2009 through December 2012 were slightly more likely to be shorter-term program participants (between 1 and 12 accumulated months of participation, 37.3 percent) than longer-term participants (between 37 and 48 accumulated months of participation, 34.8 percent). For people in male-householder families, 34.9 percent were shorter-term program participants and 35.2 percent were longer-term program participants. However, the majority of people in female-householder families were longer-term program participants (58.5 percent).

During an average month in 2012, 37.3 percent of people who did not graduate from high school received means-tested benefits, compared with 21.6 percent of high school graduates and 9.6 percent of individuals with 1 or more years of college.

For people 18 years and older, 33.5 percent of the unemployed received means-tested benefits in an average month of 2012, compared with 25.3 percent of those not in the labor force, 17.6 percent of part-time workers, and 6.7 percent of full-time workers.

### **Program Participation: 2009 through 2012**

In 2012, approximately 52.2 million people, or 21.3 percent of the population, participated in one or more major means-tested assistance programs, on average, each month (Appendix Table 1). The average monthly participation rate in major means-tested programs increased from 18.6 percent in 2009, to 20.2 percent in 2010, and to 20.9 percent in 2011. From 2011 to 2012, there was no statistically significant change in the percentage of people who participated in one or more major means-tested assistance programs, 20.9 percent and 21.3 percent, respectively, (Figure 1).

In 2012, the average monthly participation rate for Medicaid (15.3 percent) was higher than those for SNAP (13.4 percent), housing assistance (4.2 percent), SSI (3.0 percent), and TANF/GA (1.0 percent). The average monthly participation rates for Medicaid, SNAP, and SSI

were higher in 2012 compared with their corresponding rates in 2009. For TANF/GA, the average monthly participation rate in 2012 was lower than that in 2009 (Figure 1). Figure 2 shows the percentage of people who participated in major means-tested programs in 1 or more months of the year for 2009 through 2012. In 2012, 27.1 percent of the population participated in one or more major assistance programs in 1 or more months of the year—up from 25.2 percent in 2009. The percentage of people participating in Medicaid, SNAP, and SSI in 1 or more months of the year increased from 2009 to 2012, while the percentage of people participating in TANF in 1 or more months of the year fell during that time.

Figure 3 shows the accumulated (not necessarily consecutive) months of participation in major means-tested assistance programs for people who received the specified benefit type in 1 or more months over the 48-month observation period. Of people who participated in one or more major means-tested assistance programs between January 2009 and December 2012, a higher percentage of people participated between 37 and 48 months (43.0 percent) than participated between 1 and 12 months (31.2 percent), between 13

Figure 1.  
**Average Monthly Participation Rates for Major Means-Tested Programs: 2009–2012**  
 (Percentage of noninstitutionalized civilian population)

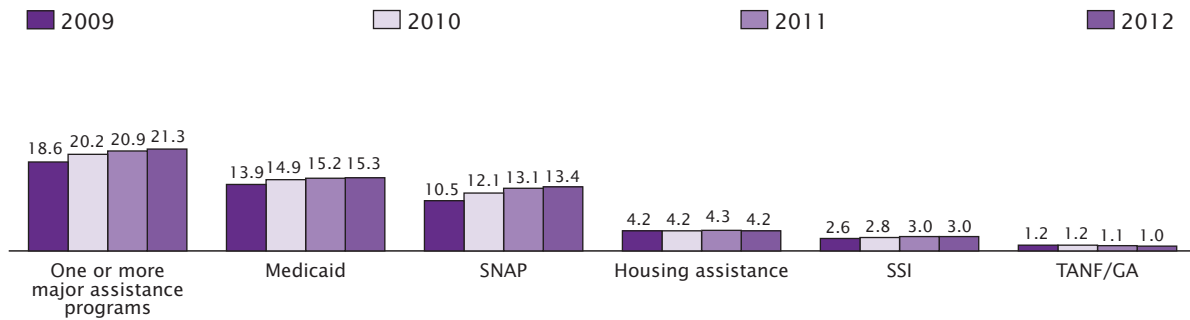


Figure 2.  
**Program Participation Rates for Major Means-Tested Programs (Participated 1 or More Months): 2009–2012**  
 (Percentage of noninstitutionalized civilian population)

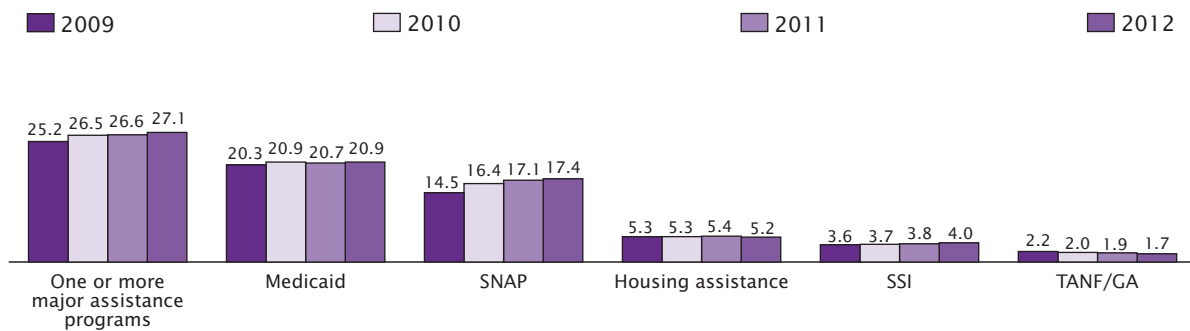
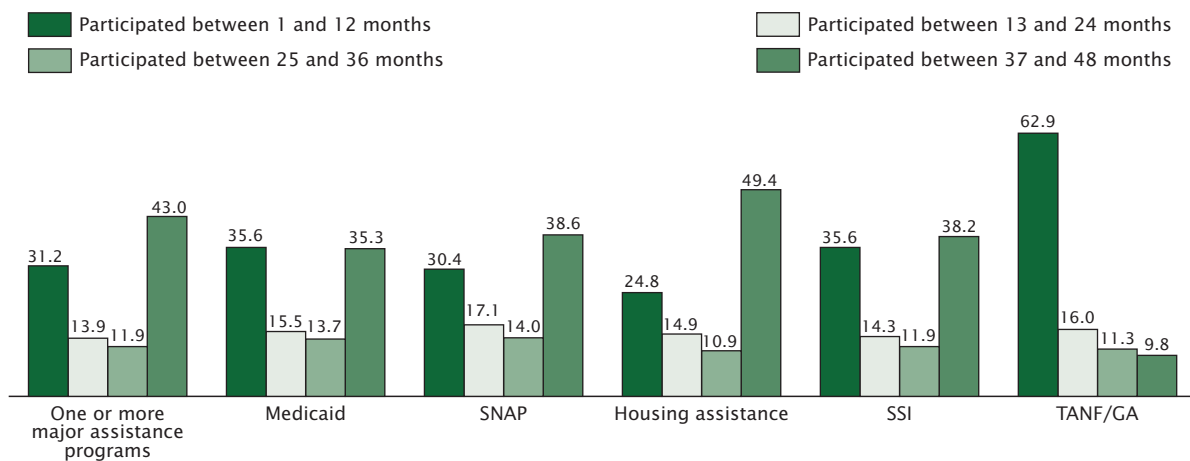


Figure 3.  
**Accumulated Months of Participation in Major Means-Tested Programs: January 2009–December 2012**  
 (Percentage of noninstitutionalized civilian population participating in one or more major means-tested programs, or specific program, for 1 or more months)



Note: Data are not available for calendar year 2008 because data from the 2008 SIPP Panel are not available for the entire period. For concept definitions, see text box "Description of Concepts."  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Waves 2–14.

Figure 4.  
**Average Monthly Participation Rates for Major Means-Tested Programs by Income-to-Poverty Status: 2009–2012<sup>1</sup>**

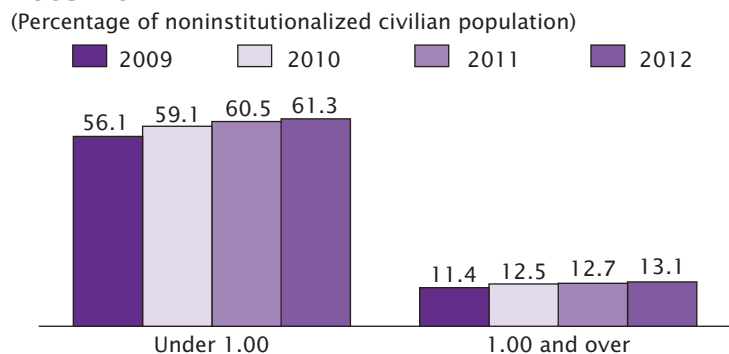


Figure 5.  
**Program Participation Rates in Major Means-Tested Programs by Income-to-Poverty Status (Participated 1 or More Months): 2009–2012<sup>1</sup>**

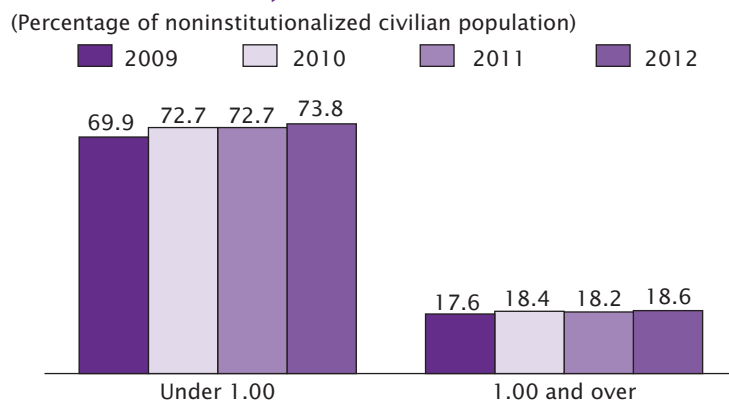
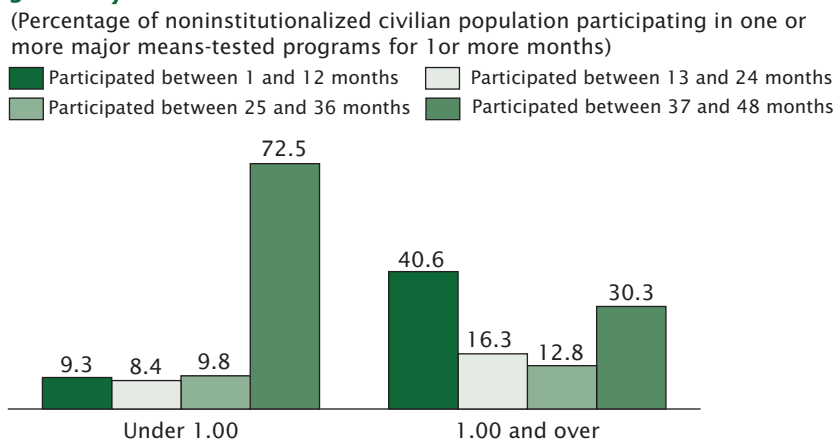


Figure 6.  
**Accumulated Months of Participation in Major Means-Tested Programs by Income-to-Poverty Status: January 2009–December 2012<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> Family income-to-poverty threshold ratio reflects the monthly poverty status. A ratio under 1.00 indicates that a person is in poverty, whereas a ratio of higher than or equal to 1.00 indicates that a person is not in poverty.

Note: Data are not available for calendar year 2008 because data from the 2008 SIPP Panel are not available for the entire period. For concept definitions, see text box "Description of Concepts."

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Waves 2–14.

and 24 months (13.9 percent), and between 25 and 36 months (11.9 percent). Medicaid, SNAP, housing assistance, and SSI recipients between January 2009 and December 2012 tended to be shorter-term participants (between 1 and 12 accumulated months of participation) or longer-term participants (between 37 and 48 accumulated months of participation). However, for TANF, about 60 percent of recipients were short-term program participants (between 1 and 12 accumulated months of participation).

### Participation by Income-to-Poverty Ratio

Among those with family income-to-poverty ratios under 1.00, the average participation rate for at least one type of major means-tested benefit was 61.3 percent in 2012, compared with 13.1 percent for those with family income-to-poverty ratios of 1.00 and over (Figure 4).<sup>6</sup> The average monthly participation rate for people with income-to-poverty ratios under 1.00 rose every year from 2009 to 2012. For people with income-to-poverty ratios of 1.00 and over, the average monthly program participation rate increased from 2009 to 2010 and from 2011 to 2012. In 2012, nearly three-quarters of people with an income-to-poverty ratio of less than 1.00 participated in a means-tested program in 1 or more months of the year—compared with about one-fifth of people with income-to-poverty ratios of 1.00 and over (Figure 5).

<sup>6</sup> The family income-to-poverty threshold ratio reflects the monthly poverty status. A ratio under 1.00 indicates that a person is in poverty, whereas a ratio of higher than or equal to 1.00 indicates that a person is not in poverty. The poverty threshold for a family of three with one child was \$17,268 in 2009, \$17,552 in 2010, \$18,106 in 2011, and \$18,498 in 2012. Data on poverty thresholds by family size and number of children under 18 years for the reported years are available at <[www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/index.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/index.html)>.

About 73 percent of people with income-to-poverty ratios of less than 1.00 who ever participated in one or more major means-tested program from January 2009 through December 2012 did so between 37 and 48 months. By comparison, just 9.3 percent participated between 1 and 12 months, 8.4 percent between 13 and 24 months, and 9.8 percent between 25 and 36 months. Of people with income-to-poverty ratios of 1.00 and over who participated in one or more major means-tested programs at any time between January 2009 and December 2012, about 40 percent participated between 1 and 12 months and about 30 percent between 37 and 48 months (Figure 6).

### Receipt of Means-Tested Assistance by Age

Children under 18 years of age were more likely to receive means-tested benefits than those aged 18 to 64 and those 65 years and older. In an average month during 2012, 39.2 percent of children received some type of means-tested benefit, compared with 16.6 percent of people aged 18 to 64 and 12.6 percent of people 65 years and older (Figure 7). A higher percentage of children under age 18 and adults aged 18 to 64 received some type of means-tested benefit in 1 or more months in 2012 compared with 2009. However, for people 65 and over, a lower percentage received some type of means-tested benefit in 1 or more months in 2012 compared with 2009 (Figure 8).

Of the children that received means-tested assistance, participation tended to be longer-term, with approximately one-half collecting benefits between 37 to 48 months from January 2009 through December 2012, compared with 20.2 percent collecting benefits between 1 and 12 months, 11.9 percent collecting benefits between 13 and 24 months, and 11.9 percent collecting benefits between 25 and 36 months (Figure 9).

### Program Participation by Race and Hispanic Origin

Both the likelihood of receiving means-tested assistance and the length of benefit receipt differed among racial groups. In 2012, the average monthly participation rate for Blacks, 41.6 percent, was higher than that of Asians or Pacific Islanders at 17.8 percent and non-Hispanic Whites at 13.2 percent.<sup>7</sup> The average monthly participation rates for non-Hispanic Whites, Blacks, and Asians was higher in 2012 compared with 2009 (Figure 10). With respect to any participation during the calendar year, rates in 2012 were 48.6 percent for Blacks, 21.9 percent for Asians or Pacific Islanders, and 18.2 percent for non-Hispanic Whites (Figure 11).

The percentage of Blacks who were longer-term program participants

<sup>7</sup> Individuals who responded to the question on race by indicating only one race are referred to as the race-alone population or the group that reported only one race category. This report will refer to the White-alone population as White, the Black-alone population as Black, the Asian-alone population as Asian, and the White-alone non-Hispanic population as White, non-Hispanic, unless otherwise noted.

(between 37 to 48 accumulated months of participation) from January 2009 through December 2012 was larger than the percentage of Asians or Pacific Islanders and of non-Hispanic Whites: 56.3 percent compared with 47.2 percent and 36.9 percent, respectively (Figure 12). The corresponding figures for shorter-term participation (between 1 and 12 accumulated months of participation) were 22.0 percent for Blacks, 29.5 percent for Asians or Pacific Islanders, and 37.3 percent for non-Hispanic Whites.

The likelihood of receiving means-tested assistance varied by ethnicity.<sup>8</sup> In 2012, the average monthly participation rate for Hispanics, 36.4 percent, was higher than that of non-Hispanic Whites, 13.2 percent (Figure 10). Similarly, Hispanics were more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to receive benefits for at least 1 month in 2012—45.7 percent of Hispanics participated in a program for at least 1 month compared with 18.2 percent of non-Hispanic Whites (Figure 11). As shown in Figure 12, Hispanics were more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to be longer-term program participants, with 43.6 percent of Hispanics participating between 37 and 48 months from January 2009 to December 2012, compared with 36.9 percent of non-Hispanic Whites.

<sup>8</sup> Because Hispanics can be any race in this report, data for Hispanics overlap with data for the Black population. Based on data in the 2008 SIPP panel and using the panel weight, 4.2 percent of the Black population was Hispanic. For this report, data for American Indians and Alaska Natives are not presented due to small sample sizes.

Figure 7.

**Average Monthly Participation Rates for Major Means-Tested Programs by Age: 2009–2012**

(Percentage of noninstitutionalized civilian population)

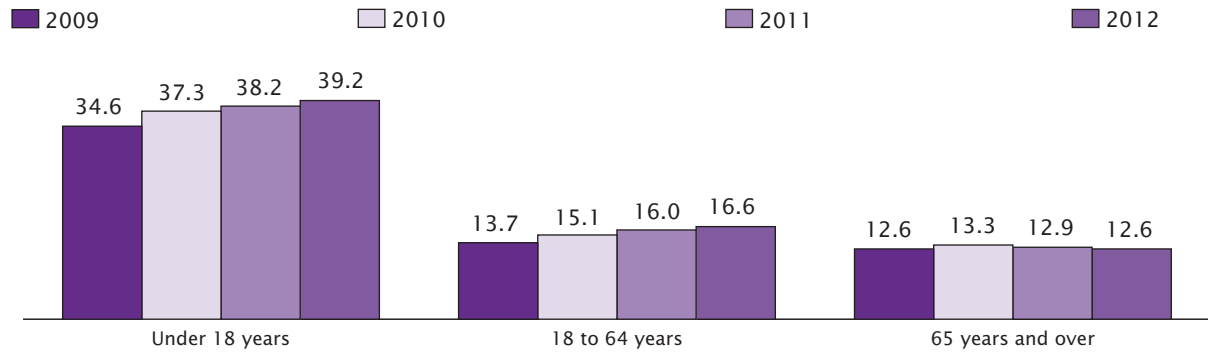


Figure 8.

**Program Participation Rates in Major Means-Tested Programs by Age (Participated 1 or More Months): 2009–2012**

(Percentage of noninstitutionalized civilian population)

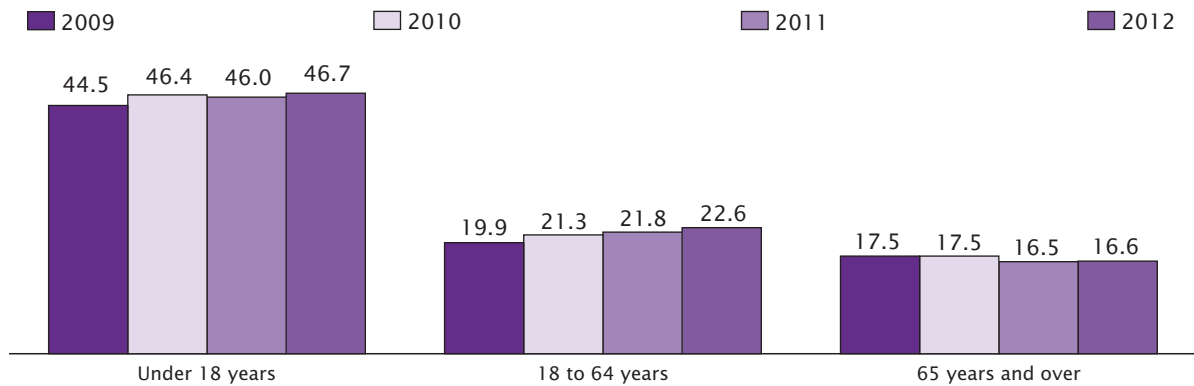
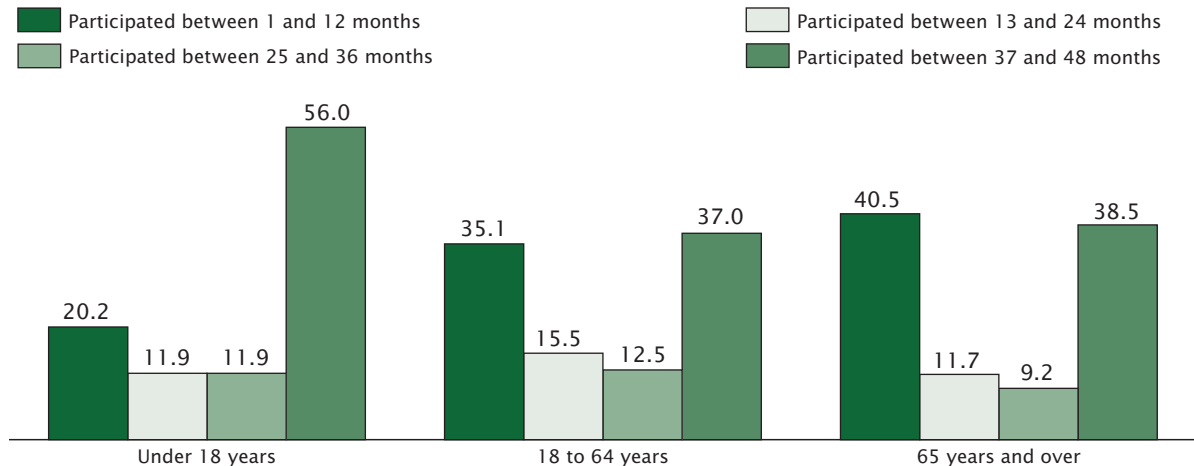


Figure 9.

**Accumulated Months of Participation in Major Means-Tested Programs by Age: January 2009–December 2012**

(Percentage of noninstitutionalized civilian population participating in one or more major means-tested programs for 1 or more months)



Note: Data are not available for calendar year 2008 because data from the 2008 SIPP Panel are not available for the entire period. For concept definitions, see text box "Description of Concepts."

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Waves 2–14.



Figure 10.

**Average Monthly Participation Rates for Major Means-Tested Programs by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2009–2012**

(Percentage of noninstitutionalized civilian population)

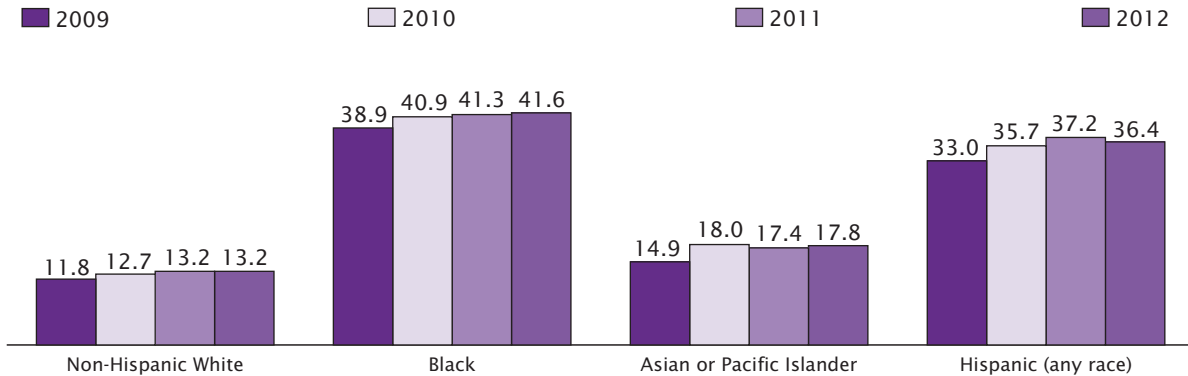


Figure 11.

**Program Participation Rates in Major Means-Tested Programs by Race and Hispanic Origin (Participated 1 or More Months): 2009–2012**

(Percentage of noninstitutionalized civilian population)

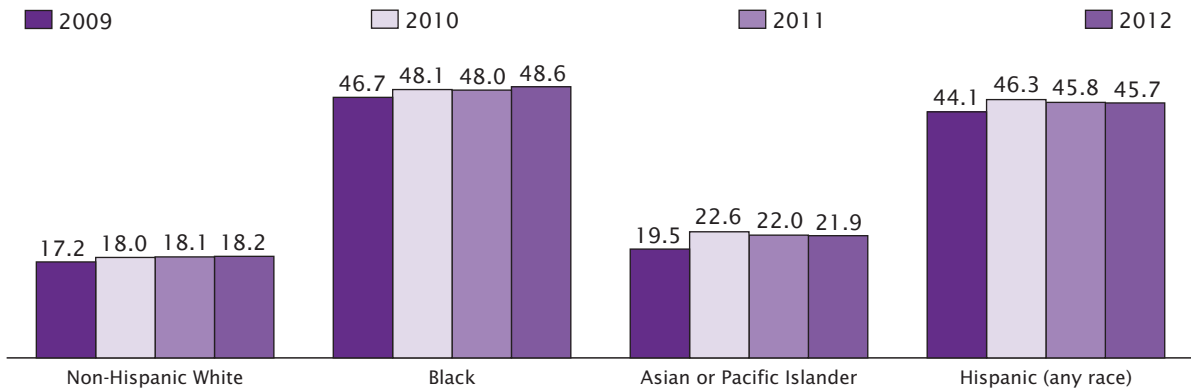
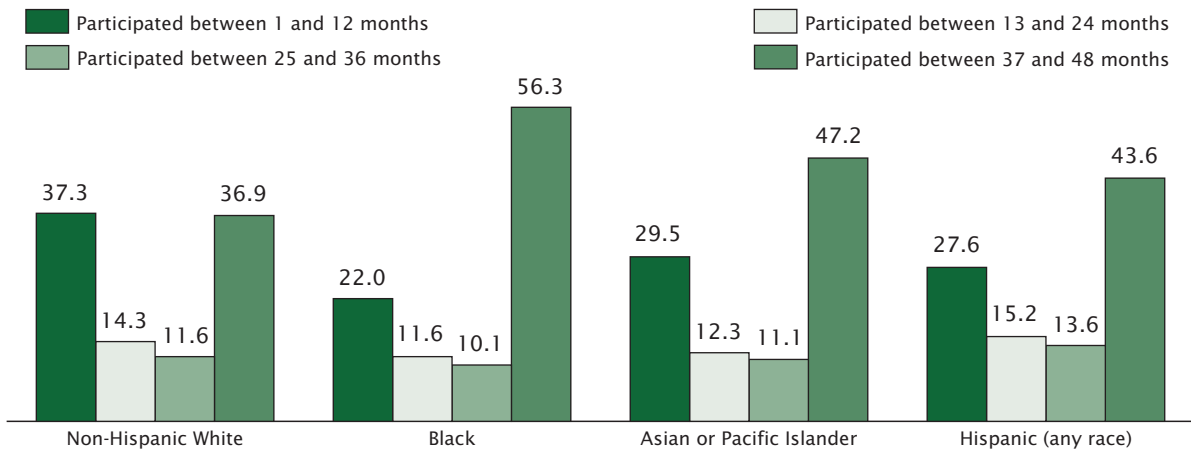


Figure 12.

**Accumulated Months of Participation in Major Means-Tested Programs by Race and Hispanic Origin: January 2009–December 2012**

(Percentage of noninstitutionalized civilian population participating in one or more major means-tested programs for 1 or more months)



Note: Data are not available for calendar year 2008 because data from the 2008 SIPP Panel are not available for the entire period. For concept definitions, see text box "Description of Concepts."

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Waves 2–14.



Figure 13.

**Average Monthly Participation Rates for Major Means-Tested Programs by Family Type: 2009–2012**

(Percentage of noninstitutionalized civilian population)

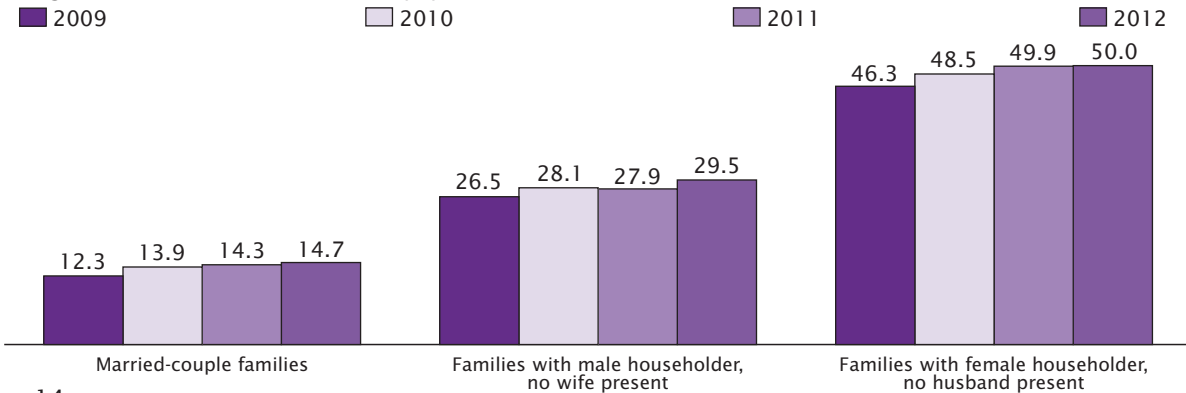


Figure 14.

**Program Participation Rates in Major Means-Tested Programs by Family Type (Participated 1 or More Months): 2009–2012**

(Percentage of noninstitutionalized civilian population)

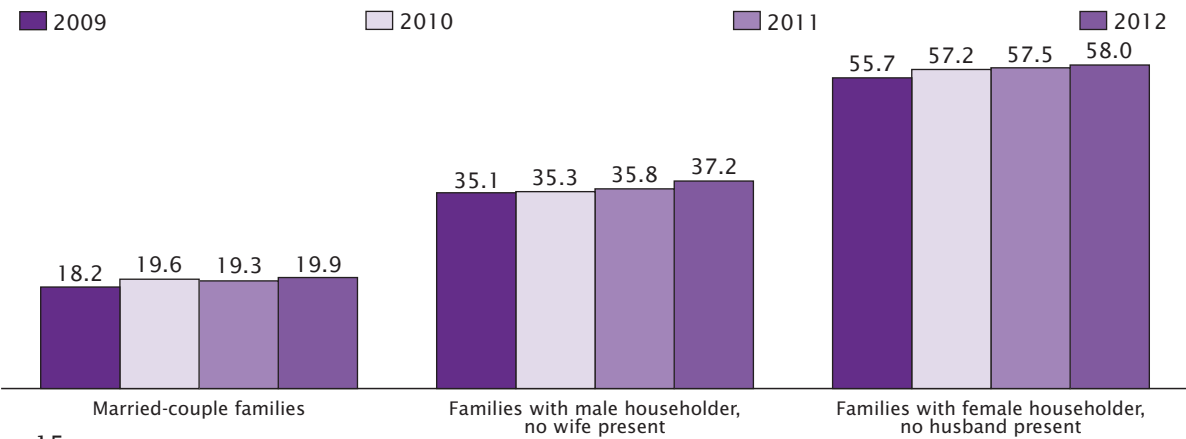
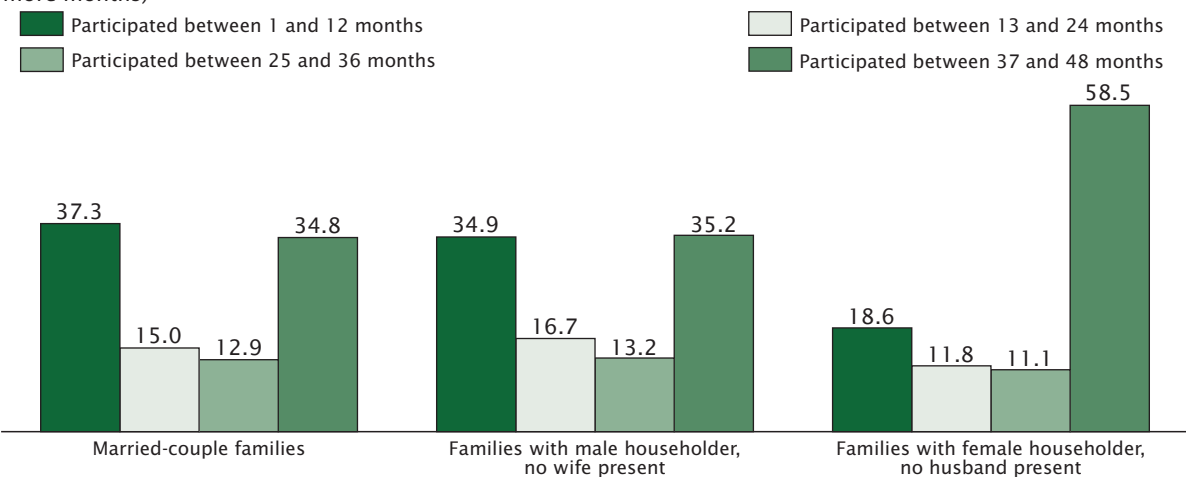


Figure 15.

**Accumulated Months of Participation in Major Means-Tested Programs by Family Type: January 2009–December 2012**

(Percentage of noninstitutionalized civilian population participating in one or more major means-tested programs for 1 or more months)



Note: Data are not available for calendar year 2008 because data from the 2008 SIPP Panel are not available for the entire period. For concept definitions, see text box "Description of Concepts."

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Waves 2–14.

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## Participation Rates by Family Type

Individuals in female-householder families were more likely to participate in major means-tested programs in an average month in 2012 than were people in married-couple families and people in male-householder families—50.0 percent compared with 14.7 percent and 29.5 percent, respectively (Figure 13).<sup>9</sup> Similarly, 58.0 percent of individuals in female-householder families participated in means-tested programs for at least 1 month of 2012, in contrast to 19.9 percent of individuals in married-couple families and 37.2 percent of individuals in male-householder families (Figure 14).

People in married-couple families who received benefits from any means-tested programs from January 2009 through December 2012 were slightly more likely to be shorter-term program participants (between 1 and 12 accumulated months of participation, 37.3 percent) than to be longer-term program participants (between 37 and 48 accumulated months of participation, 34.8 percent).

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<sup>9</sup> In this report, male-householder families and female-householder families are those with no spouse present.

For people in male-householder families, 34.9 percent were shorter-term program participants and 35.2 percent were longer-term participants. However, the majority of people in female-householder families (58.5 percent) were longer-term program participants (Figure 15).

## Participation Rates by Educational Attainment

For people aged 18 and older, lower educational attainment was associated with higher program participation rates. During an average month of 2012, 37.3 percent of people who did not graduate from high school received means-tested benefits, compared with 21.6 percent of high school graduates and 9.6 percent of individuals with 1 or more years of college (Figure 16). Compared with 2009, a higher percentage of people in each education category received benefits from a major means-tested program in 1 or more months of 2012 (Figure 17).

Figure 18 shows that 49.4 percent of people with less than 4 years of high school, who ever received benefits from a major means-tested program between January 2009 and December 2012, were longer-term

program participants (between 37 and 48 accumulated months of participation). By comparison, 39.3 percent of high school graduates and 29.0 percent of those with 1 or more years of college were longer-term participants.

## Receipt of Means-Tested Benefits by Employment Status

People without jobs—those who were unemployed or out of the labor force—were more likely to receive means-tested benefits in an average month of 2012 than were either full-time or part-time workers.<sup>10</sup> For people 18 years and older, 33.5 percent of the unemployed received means-tested benefits in an average month of 2012, compared with 25.3 percent of those not in the labor force, 17.6 percent of part-time workers, and 6.7 percent of full-time workers (Figure 19). About 4 out of 10 unemployed adults participated in means-tested programs for at least 1 month of 2012, in contrast with about 1 out of 10 full-time workers (Figure 20).

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<sup>10</sup> Individuals who are not working and on layoff from a job or are not working and looking for a job are considered unemployed. People who are jobless and not on layoff from a job or looking for work are not in the labor force.

Figure 16.

**Average Monthly Participation Rates for Major Means-Tested Programs by Educational Attainment: 2009–2012**

(Percentage of noninstitutionalized civilian population. People 18 years and older)

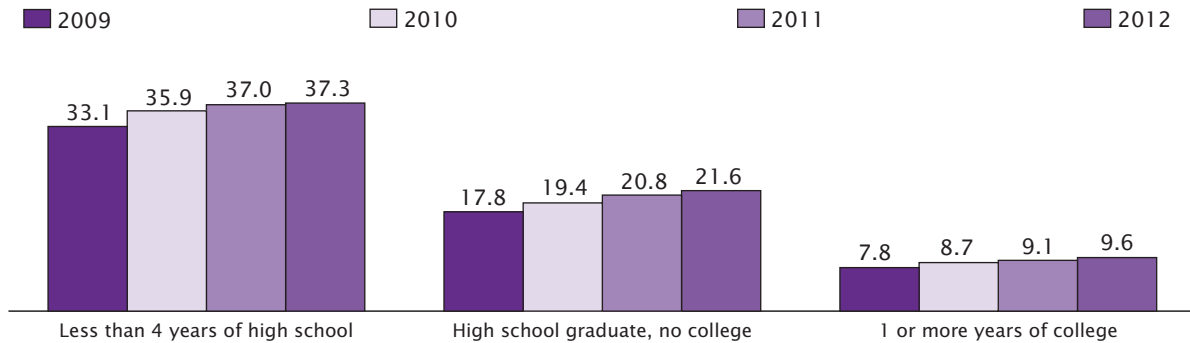


Figure 17.

**Program Participation Rates in Major Means-Tested Programs by Educational Attainment (Participated 1 or More Months): 2009–2012**

(Percentage of noninstitutionalized civilian population. People 18 years and older)

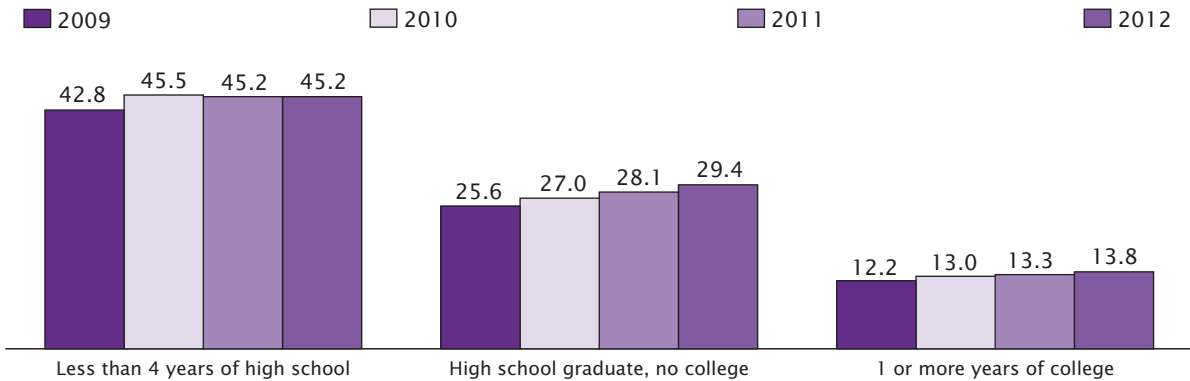
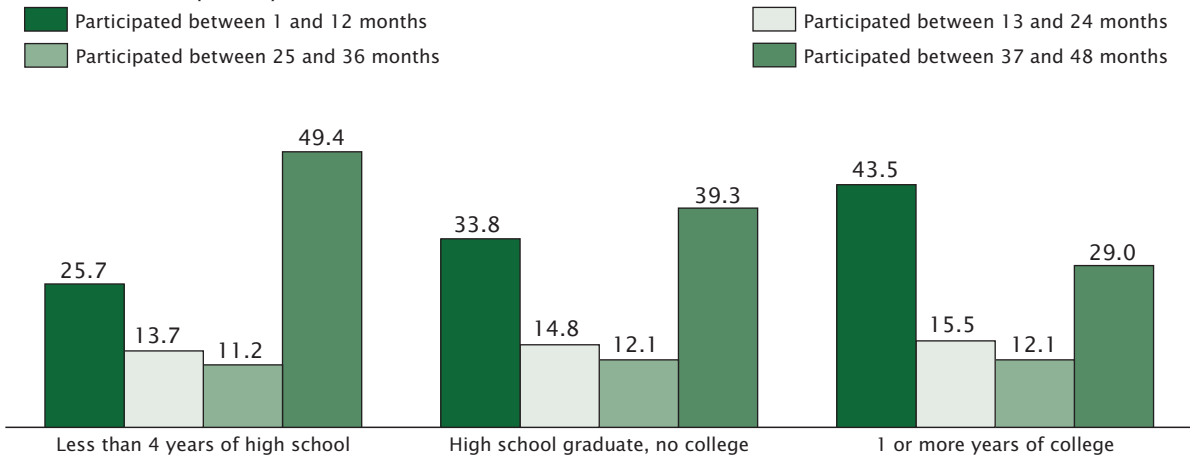


Figure 18.

**Accumulated Months of Participation in Major Means-Tested Programs by Educational Attainment: January 2009–December 2012**

(Percentage of noninstitutionalized civilian population participating in one or more major means-tested programs for 1 or more months. People 18 years and older)



Note: Data are not available for calendar year 2008 because data from the 2008 SIPP Panel are not available for the entire period. For concept definitions, see text box "Description of Concepts."

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Waves 2–14.

Figure 19.

**Average Monthly Participation Rates for Major Means-Tested Programs by Employment Status: 2009–2012**

(Percentage of noninstitutionalized civilian population. People 18 years and older)

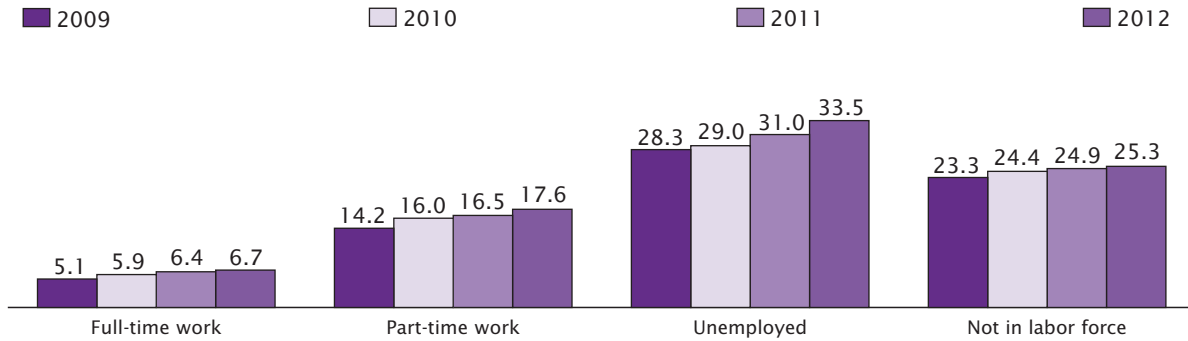


Figure 20.

**Program Participation Rates in Major Means-Tested Programs by Employment Status (Participated 1 or More Months): 2009–2012**

(Percentage of noninstitutionalized civilian population. People 18 years and older)

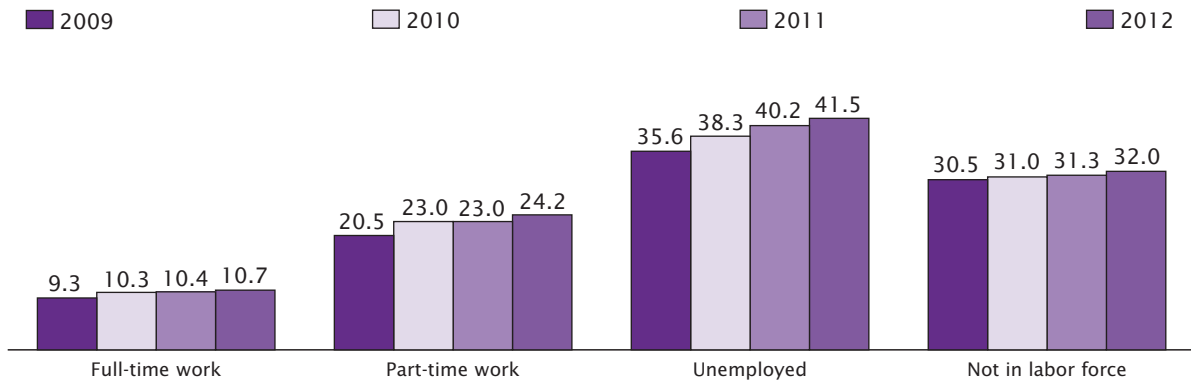


Figure 21.

**Accumulated Months of Participation in Major Means-Tested Programs by Employment Status: January 2009–December 2012**

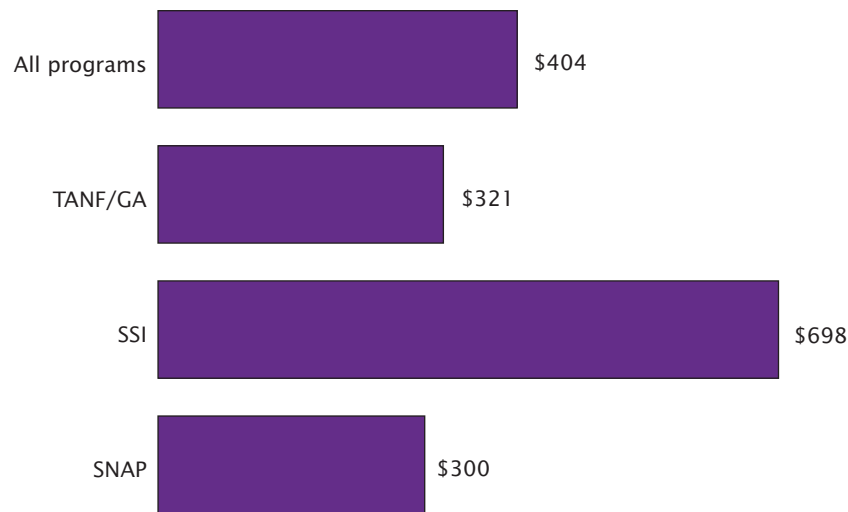
(Percentage of noninstitutionalized civilian population participating in one or more major means-tested programs for 1 or more months. People 18 years and older)



Note: Data are not available for calendar year 2008 because data from the 2008 SIPP Panel are not available for the entire period. For concept definitions, see text box "Description of Concepts."

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Waves 2–14.

Figure 22.  
**Median Monthly Benefit Amount for People Receiving Benefits by Program: 2009–2012**



Note: The dollar amounts are inflation-adjusted to 2012 dollars.  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Waves 2–14.

For full-time and part-time employed adults who ever participated in a major means-tested program between January 2009 and December 2012, participation was most likely to be between 1 and 12 months (48.1 percent and 37.2 percent, respectively). For unemployed adults, 33.4 percent participated between 1 and 12 months and 33.5 percent participated between 37 and 48 months. Participation between 37 and 48 months was most common for adults not in the labor force (47.2 percent, Figure 21).

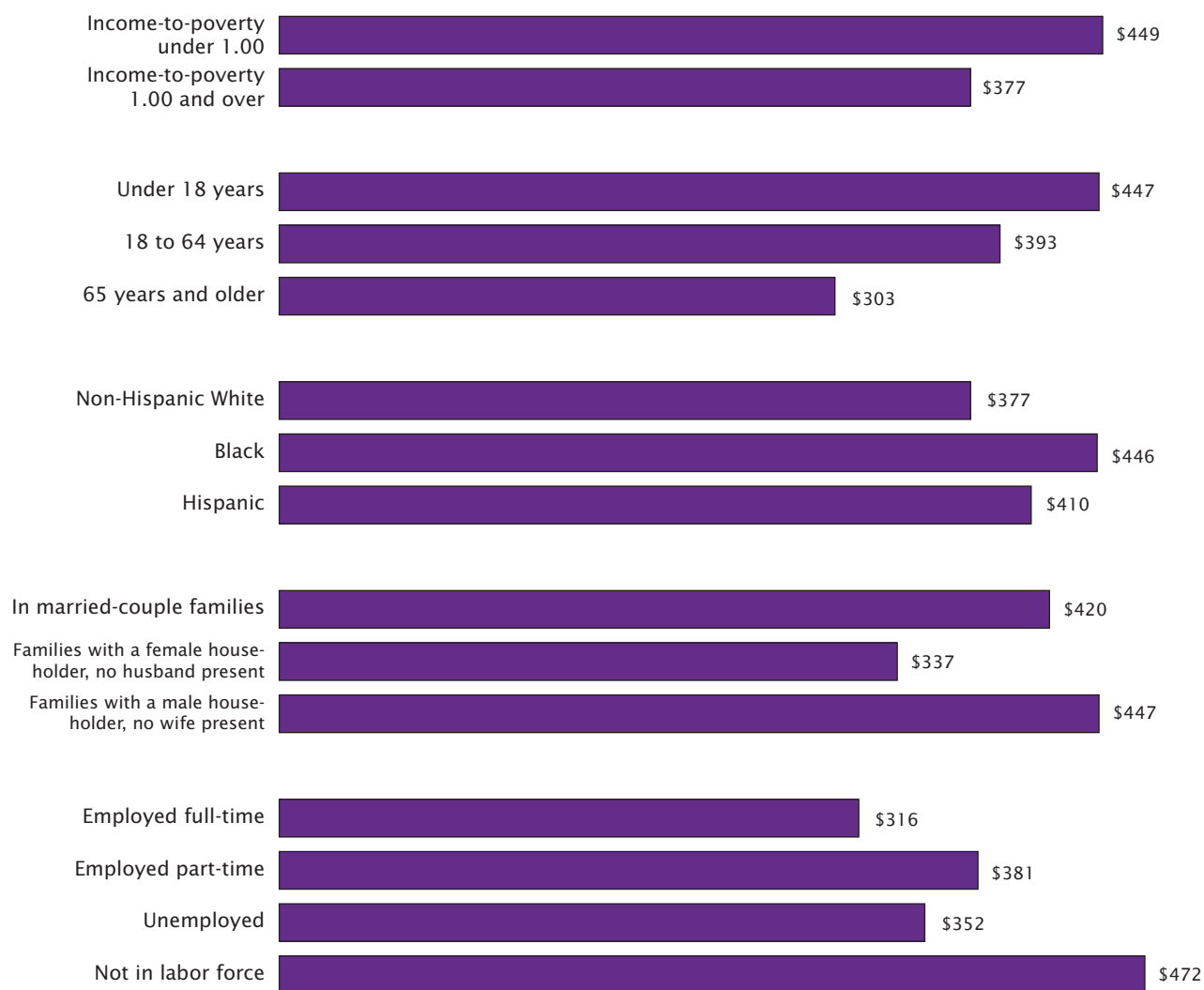
### Monthly Benefit Amounts by Monthly Participation

Figure 22 shows median monthly benefit amounts for people receiving means-tested benefits from TANF/GA, SSI, SNAP, and the total from all programs in the 2009–2012 period.<sup>11</sup> The median monthly benefit amount from all programs was \$404. Median SSI benefit amounts (\$698) were larger than those from TANF/GA (\$321) and SNAP (\$300).

<sup>11</sup> The Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics is used to express the 2009 through 2012 monthly benefit amounts in 2012 dollars.

People with family income-to-poverty ratios less than 1.00 had a median monthly benefit amount of \$449, compared with \$377 for people with family income-to-poverty ratios of 1.00 and over (Figure 23). The median monthly benefit amount for children under 18 (\$447) was higher than that for adults 18 to 64 (\$393) and people 65 and older (\$303). Compared with non-Hispanic Whites (\$377), both Blacks (\$446) and Hispanics (\$410) had higher median monthly benefit amounts. People living in female-householder families had lower median monthly benefit amounts (\$337) than people living in male-householder families (\$447) and those living in married-couple families (\$420). Median monthly benefit amounts were higher for adults not in the labor force (\$472) than for those employed full-time (\$316), employed part-time (\$381), and those who were unemployed (\$352).

Figure 23.  
**Median Monthly Benefit Amount for People Receiving Benefits by Selected Characteristics: 2009–2012**



Note: The dollar amounts are inflation-adjusted to 2012 dollars.  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Waves 2–14.

### SOURCE OF THE DATA

The population represented (the population universe) in the 2008 Panel of the SIPP is the civilian non-institutionalized population in the United States. The SIPP is a longitudinal survey conducted at 4-month intervals. The data in this report were collected from February 2009 through April 2013 in Waves 2–14 of the 2008 SIPP and refer to the

period from January 2009 through December 2012. The institutionalized population, which is excluded from the population universe, is composed primarily of the population in correctional institutions and nursing homes (91 percent of the 4.1 million institutionalized population in Census 2000).

### ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES

Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level, unless otherwise noted. This means the 90 percent confidence interval for the difference between the

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estimates being compared does not include zero.

Nonsampling errors in surveys may be attributed to a variety of sources, such as how the survey is designed, how respondents interpret questions, how able and willing respondents are to provide correct answers, and how accurately the answers are coded and classified. To minimize these errors, the U.S. Census Bureau employs quality control procedures throughout the production process, including the overall design of the surveys, the wording of questions, the review of the work of interviewers and coders, and the statistical review of reports to minimize these errors.

The SIPP weighting procedure uses ratio estimation, whereby sample estimates are adjusted to independent estimates of the national population by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to undercoverage, but biases may still be present when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the survey is not precisely known. All

of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.<sup>12</sup>

For further information on the source of the data and accuracy of the estimates, including standard errors and confidence intervals, go to <[www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/programs-surveys/sipp/tech-documentation/source-accuracy-statements/2008/SIPP%202008%20Panel%20Wave%2004%20-%20Core%20Source%20and%20Accuracy%20Statements.pdf](http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/programs-surveys/sipp/tech-documentation/source-accuracy-statements/2008/SIPP%202008%20Panel%20Wave%2004%20-%20Core%20Source%20and%20Accuracy%20Statements.pdf)>.

Additional information on the SIPP, including questions on the topical modules, can be found at the following Web sites: <[www.census.gov/sipp/](http://www.census.gov/sipp/)> (main SIPP Web site), <[www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/tech-documentation/complete-technical-documentation/complete-documents-2008.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/tech-documentation/complete-technical-documentation/complete-documents-2008.html)> (2008 Panel Complete Technical Documentation), and <[www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/methodology/users-guide.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/methodology/users-guide.html)> (SIPP User's Guide).

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<sup>12</sup> For a more detailed discussion of SIPP sampling and weighting, see <[www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/methodology.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/methodology.html)>.

## CONTACTS

For further information on the source of the data and accuracy of the estimates, including confidence intervals, e-mail Tracy Mattingly of the Census Bureau's Demographic Statistical Methods Division at <[tracy.l.mattingly@census.gov](mailto:tracy.l.mattingly@census.gov)> or Jamie Choi of the Census Bureau's Demographic Statistical Methods Division at <[jamie.choi@census.gov](mailto:jamie.choi@census.gov)>.

For information on the content of the report, e-mail John J. Hisnanick, Chief, Program Participation and Income Transfer Branch at <[john.j.hisnanick@census.gov](mailto:john.j.hisnanick@census.gov)> or 301-763-2295.

## USER COMMENTS

The Census Bureau welcomes the comments and advice of users of its data and reports. If you have any suggestions or comments, please e-mail <[www.ask.census.gov](http://www.ask.census.gov)>.

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Appendix Table 1.

## Average Monthly Participation Rates for Any Major Means-Tested Program by Selected Characteristics: 2009–2012

(In percent)

Characteristic	Participation rates in any means-tested program <sup>1</sup>							
	2009	Margin of error (±)	2010	Margin of error (±)	2011	Margin of error (±)	2012	Margin of error (±)
<b>Total number of recipients (in thousands) . . . .</b>	<b>44,823</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>48,304</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>49,923</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>52,249</b>	<b>635</b>
As percentage of the population . . . . .	18.6	0.2	20.2	0.3	20.9	0.3	21.3	0.3
<b>Family Income-to-Poverty Ratio<sup>2</sup></b>								
Under 1.00 . . . . .	56.1	0.8	59.1	0.8	60.5	0.8	61.3	0.8
1.00 and over . . . . .	11.4	0.2	12.5	0.2	12.7	0.2	13.1	0.2
<b>Age</b>								
Under 18 years . . . . .	34.6	0.6	37.3	0.6	38.2	0.6	39.2	0.6
18 to 64 years . . . . .	13.7	0.3	15.1	0.3	16.0	0.3	16.6	0.3
65 years and over . . . . .	12.6	0.6	13.3	0.6	12.9	0.6	12.6	0.5
<b>Sex</b>								
Male . . . . .	16.6	0.3	18.3	0.4	18.9	0.4	19.3	0.4
Female . . . . .	20.4	0.4	22.1	0.4	22.7	0.4	23.2	0.4
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin<sup>3</sup></b>								
White . . . . .	15.2	0.3	16.7	0.3	17.4	0.3	17.6	0.3
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	11.8	0.3	12.7	0.3	13.2	0.3	13.2	0.3
Black . . . . .	38.9	0.9	40.9	0.9	41.3	0.9	41.6	0.9
Asian or Pacific Islander . . . . .	14.9	1.2	18.0	1.3	17.4	1.2	17.8	1.2
Hispanic . . . . .	33.0	0.8	35.7	0.8	37.2	0.8	36.4	0.7
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	16.0	0.3	17.2	0.3	17.7	0.3	18.1	0.3
<b>Family Status</b>								
In families . . . . .	19.0	0.3	20.8	0.3	21.4	0.3	21.8	0.3
Married-couple families . . . . .	12.3	0.3	13.9	0.3	14.3	0.3	14.7	0.3
Male householder, no wife present . . . . .	26.5	1.3	28.1	1.3	27.9	1.3	29.5	1.3
Female householder, no husband present . . . . .	46.3	0.8	48.5	0.8	49.9	0.8	50.0	0.8
Unrelated individuals . . . . .	16.4	0.6	17.5	0.6	18.4	0.6	18.6	0.6
<b>Marital Status (people 18 and older)</b>								
Married . . . . .	7.9	0.3	9.1	0.3	9.5	0.3	9.8	0.3
Separated, divorced, or widowed . . . . .	20.3	0.7	21.2	0.7	21.7	0.7	22.0	0.7
Never married . . . . .	21.2	0.6	22.5	0.6	23.3	0.6	24.0	0.6
<b>Educational Attainment (people 18 and older)</b>								
Less than high school graduate . . . . .	33.1	1.0	35.9	1.0	37.0	1.1	37.3	1.1
High school graduate, no college . . . . .	17.8	0.6	19.4	0.6	20.8	0.6	21.6	0.6
One or more years of college . . . . .	7.8	0.3	8.7	0.3	9.1	0.3	9.6	0.3
<b>Employment and Labor Force Status (people 18 and older)</b>								
Employed full-time <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	5.1	0.2	5.9	0.3	6.4	0.3	6.7	0.3
Employed part-time . . . . .	14.2	0.6	16.0	0.7	16.5	0.7	17.6	0.7
Unemployed . . . . .	28.3	1.5	29.0	1.5	31.0	1.6	33.5	1.7
Not in labor force . . . . .	23.3	0.5	24.4	0.5	24.9	0.5	25.3	0.5
<b>Disability Status (people 15 to 64 years old)</b>								
With a work disability . . . . .	40.5	1.0	42.3	1.0	44.1	1.0	44.7	1.0
With no work disability . . . . .	10.8	0.3	11.9	0.3	12.3	0.3	13.0	0.3
<b>Residence</b>								
Metropolitan . . . . .	18.0	0.3	19.4	0.3	20.1	0.3	20.5	0.3
Nonmetropolitan . . . . .	21.6	0.6	24.3	0.7	24.8	0.7	24.8	0.7

See notes at end of table.

Appendix Table 1.

**Average Monthly Participation Rates for Any Major Means-Tested Program by Selected Characteristics: 2009–2012—Con.**

(In percent)

Characteristic	Participation rates in any means-tested program <sup>1</sup>							
	2009	Margin of error (±)	2010	Margin of error (±)	2011	Margin of error (±)	2012	Margin of error (±)
<b>Region</b>								
Northeast.....	19.5	0.6	21.2	0.6	21.4	0.6	22.5	0.6
Midwest.....	16.5	0.5	17.8	0.5	18.6	0.5	18.4	0.5
South.....	18.8	0.4	20.7	0.4	21.7	0.4	22.4	0.4
West.....	19.5	0.5	21.0	0.6	21.3	0.5	21.2	0.5

<sup>1</sup> Major means-tested programs include Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), General Assistance (GA), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, and housing assistance.

<sup>2</sup> Family income-to-poverty threshold ratio reflects the monthly poverty status. A ratio under 1.00 indicates that a person is in poverty, whereas a ratio of higher than or equal to 1.00 indicates that a person is not in poverty.

<sup>3</sup> Hispanics may be any race.

<sup>4</sup> Full-time and part-time employment reflect the monthly employment status.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Waves 2–14.

Appendix Table 2.

## Average Monthly Participation Rates for Medicaid by Selected Characteristics: 2009–2012

(In percent)

Characteristic	Medicaid participation rate							
	2009	Margin of error (±)	2010	Margin of error (±)	2011	Margin of error (±)	2012	Margin of error (±)
<b>Total number of recipients (in thousands) . . . .</b>	<b>33,607</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>35,558</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>36,256</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>37,520</b>	<b>559</b>
As percentage of the population . . . . .	13.9	0.2	14.9	0.2	15.2	0.2	15.3	0.2
<b>Family Income-to-Poverty Ratio<sup>1</sup></b>								
Under 1.00 . . . . .	42.5	0.8	44.1	0.8	44.6	0.8	44.3	0.8
1.00 and over . . . . .	8.5	0.2	9.1	0.2	9.1	0.2	9.3	0.2
<b>Age</b>								
Under 18 years . . . . .	30.8	0.6	33.3	0.6	34.0	0.6	34.9	0.6
18 to 64 years . . . . .	8.7	0.2	9.2	0.2	9.4	0.2	9.7	0.2
65 years and over . . . . .	8.4	0.5	8.3	0.5	8.1	0.5	7.8	0.4
<b>Sex</b>								
Male . . . . .	12.5	0.3	13.5	0.3	13.8	0.3	13.9	0.3
Female . . . . .	15.3	0.3	16.2	0.3	16.4	0.3	16.6	0.3
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin<sup>2</sup></b>								
White . . . . .	11.5	0.2	12.3	0.2	12.7	0.2	12.6	0.2
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	8.8	0.2	9.3	0.2	9.4	0.2	9.3	0.2
Black . . . . .	28.3	0.8	29.1	0.8	29.1	0.8	29.3	0.8
Asian or Pacific Islander . . . . .	12.2	1.1	14.5	1.1	14.2	1.1	14.2	1.1
Hispanic . . . . .	25.5	0.7	27.1	0.7	27.9	0.7	26.9	0.7
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	11.8	0.2	12.5	0.2	12.7	0.2	12.9	0.2
<b>Family Status</b>								
In families . . . . .	14.6	0.2	15.7	0.3	16.0	0.3	16.0	0.3
Married-couple families . . . . .	9.4	0.2	10.4	0.2	10.5	0.2	10.7	0.2
Male householder, no wife present . . . . .	19.8	1.2	20.6	1.2	20.9	1.2	21.1	1.2
Female householder, no husband present . . . . .	36.2	0.8	37.5	0.8	38.0	0.8	37.3	0.8
Unrelated individuals . . . . .	10.6	0.5	10.8	0.5	11.1	0.5	11.4	0.5
<b>Marital Status (people 18 and older)</b>								
Married . . . . .	4.6	0.2	5.1	0.2	5.1	0.2	5.2	0.2
Separated, divorced, or widowed . . . . .	13.0	0.6	12.9	0.6	13.0	0.6	13.1	0.6
Never married . . . . .	14.4	0.5	14.8	0.5	15.0	0.5	15.3	0.5
<b>Educational Attainment (people 18 and older)</b>								
Less than high school graduate . . . . .	21.7	0.9	22.7	0.9	23.1	0.9	22.7	0.9
High school graduate, no college . . . . .	11.1	0.5	11.8	0.5	12.3	0.5	12.8	0.5
One or more years of college . . . . .	4.9	0.2	5.2	0.2	5.3	0.2	5.5	0.2
<b>Employment and Labor Force Status (people 18 and older)</b>								
Employed full-time <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	2.4	0.2	2.6	0.2	2.5	0.2	2.7	0.2
Employed part-time . . . . .	8.4	0.5	9.2	0.6	9.3	0.6	9.6	0.6
Unemployed . . . . .	16.0	1.2	15.9	1.2	15.9	1.3	16.4	1.3
Not in labor force . . . . .	16.6	0.5	16.8	0.5	17.1	0.5	17.2	0.5
<b>Disability Status (people 15 to 64 years old)</b>								
With a work disability . . . . .	31.0	1.0	31.7	1.0	33.3	1.0	33.1	1.0
With no work disability . . . . .	6.6	0.2	7.0	0.2	6.9	0.2	7.3	0.2
<b>Residence</b>								
Metropolitan . . . . .	13.6	0.2	14.4	0.2	14.8	0.2	15.0	0.2
Nonmetropolitan . . . . .	15.6	0.6	17.1	0.6	17.1	0.6	16.8	0.6

See notes at end of table.

Appendix Table 2.

**Average Monthly Participation Rates for Medicaid by Selected Characteristics: 2009–2012—Con.**

(In percent)

Characteristic	Medicaid participation rate							
	2009	Margin of error (±)	2010	Margin of error (±)	2011	Margin of error (±)	2012	Margin of error (±)
<b>Region</b>								
Northeast . . . . .	15.6	0.5	16.7	0.6	16.7	0.6	17.3	0.6
Midwest . . . . .	12.2	0.4	13.0	0.5	13.1	0.5	12.8	0.5
South . . . . .	13.0	0.4	14.0	0.4	14.6	0.4	14.8	0.4
West . . . . .	15.8	0.5	16.8	0.5	16.8	0.5	16.9	0.5

<sup>1</sup> Family income-to-poverty threshold ratio reflects the monthly poverty status. A ratio under 1.00 indicates that a person is in poverty, whereas a ratio of higher than or equal to 1.00 indicates that a person is not in poverty.

<sup>2</sup> Hispanics may be any race.

<sup>3</sup> Full-time and part-time employment reflect the monthly employment status.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Waves 2–14.

Appendix Table 3.

### Average Monthly Participation Rates for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by Selected Characteristics: 2009–2012

(In percent)

Characteristic	SNAP participation rate							
	2009	Margin of error (±)	2010	Margin of error (±)	2011	Margin of error (±)	2012	Margin of error (±)
<b>Total number of recipients (in thousands) . . . .</b>	<b>23,254</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>28,970</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>31,239</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>33,032</b>	<b>530</b>
As percentage of the population . . . . .	10.5	0.2	12.1	0.2	13.1	0.2	13.4	0.2
<b>Family Income-to-Poverty Ratio<sup>1</sup></b>								
Under 1.00 . . . . .	41.3	0.8	44.9	0.8	46.9	0.8	47.8	0.8
1.00 and over . . . . .	4.6	0.1	5.6	0.2	6.1	0.2	6.4	0.2
<b>Age</b>								
Under 18 years . . . . .	18.6	0.5	21.1	0.5	22.4	0.5	22.9	0.6
18 to 64 years . . . . .	8.5	0.2	10.0	0.2	10.9	0.3	11.5	0.3
65 years and over . . . . .	5.3	0.4	6.1	0.4	6.6	0.4	6.9	0.4
<b>Sex</b>								
Male . . . . .	9.0	0.3	10.6	0.3	11.4	0.3	11.8	0.3
Female . . . . .	11.9	0.3	13.5	0.3	14.6	0.3	15.0	0.3
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin<sup>2</sup></b>								
White . . . . .	8.1	0.2	9.4	0.2	10.4	0.2	10.6	0.2
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	6.3	0.2	7.3	0.2	8.0	0.2	8.1	0.2
Black . . . . .	26.0	0.8	29.0	0.8	30.1	0.9	30.1	0.8
Asian or Pacific Islander . . . . .	5.4	0.7	7.5	0.9	7.5	0.9	7.9	0.8
Hispanic . . . . .	18.3	0.6	20.8	0.6	22.7	0.7	22.0	0.6
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	9.0	0.2	10.5	0.2	11.2	0.2	11.7	0.2
<b>Family Status</b>								
In families . . . . .	10.9	0.2	12.6	0.2	13.5	0.2	13.8	0.2
Married-couple families . . . . .	5.9	0.2	7.1	0.2	7.7	0.2	8.1	0.2
Male householder, no wife present . . . . .	15.4	1.1	17.2	1.1	17.2	1.1	18.8	1.1
Female householder, no husband present . . . . .	31.4	0.8	34.8	0.8	37.0	0.8	36.7	0.8
Unrelated individuals . . . . .	8.6	0.4	10.0	0.5	11.1	0.5	11.7	0.5
<b>Marital Status (people 18 and older)</b>								
Married . . . . .	4.6	0.2	5.7	0.2	6.3	0.2	6.6	0.2
Separated, divorced, or widowed . . . . .	12.1	0.5	13.4	0.6	14.4	0.6	14.8	0.6
Never married . . . . .	12.2	0.5	14.0	0.5	15.0	0.5	15.7	0.5
<b>Educational Attainment (people 18 and older)</b>								
Less than high school graduate . . . . .	20.2	0.8	23.6	0.9	25.1	0.9	26.4	1.0
High school graduate, no college . . . . .	10.4	0.4	12.0	0.5	13.7	0.5	14.4	0.5
One or more years of college . . . . .	4.4	0.2	5.3	0.2	5.8	0.2	6.1	0.2
<b>Employment and Labor Force Status (people 18 and older)</b>								
Employed full-time <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	3.0	0.2	3.8	0.2	4.3	0.2	4.5	0.2
Employed part-time . . . . .	8.4	0.5	10.1	0.6	11.2	0.6	12.0	0.6
Unemployed . . . . .	21.1	1.4	22.3	1.4	24.7	1.5	26.8	1.6
Not in labor force . . . . .	12.9	0.4	14.5	0.4	15.5	0.5	16.1	0.4
<b>Disability Status (people 15 to 64 years old)</b>								
With a work disability . . . . .	23.0	0.9	25.9	0.9	27.7	0.9	28.7	0.9
With no work disability . . . . .	6.6	0.2	7.7	0.2	8.4	0.2	8.8	0.2
<b>Residence</b>								
Metropolitan . . . . .	9.9	0.2	11.4	0.2	12.4	0.2	12.8	0.2
Nonmetropolitan . . . . .	13.1	0.5	15.7	0.6	16.5	0.6	16.7	0.6

See notes at end of table.

Appendix Table 3.

**Average Monthly Participation Rates for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by Selected Characteristics: 2009–2012—Con.**

(In percent)

Characteristic	SNAP participation rate							
	2009	Margin of error (±)	2010	Margin of error (±)	2011	Margin of error (±)	2012	Margin of error (±)
<b>Region</b>								
Northeast.....	10.1	0.5	12.1	0.5	13.2	0.5	13.7	0.5
Midwest.....	10.0	0.4	11.2	0.4	12.4	0.4	12.4	0.4
South.....	11.7	0.3	13.7	0.4	14.8	0.4	15.5	0.4
West.....	9.2	0.4	10.5	0.4	10.8	0.4	10.9	0.4

<sup>1</sup> Family income-to-poverty threshold ratio reflects the monthly poverty status. A ratio under 1.00 indicates that a person is in poverty, whereas a ratio of higher than or equal to 1.00 indicates that a person is not in poverty.

<sup>2</sup> Hispanics may be any race.

<sup>3</sup> Full-time and part-time employment reflect the monthly employment status.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Waves 2–14.

Appendix Table 4.

### Average Monthly Participation Rates for Housing Assistance by Selected Characteristics: 2009–2012

(In percent)

Characteristic	Housing assistance participation rate							
	2009	Margin of error (±)	2010	Margin of error (±)	2011	Margin of error (±)	2012	Margin of error (±)
<b>Total number of recipients (in thousands) . . . .</b>	<b>10,097</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>10,110</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>10,338</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>10,248</b>	<b>311</b>
As percentage of the population . . . . .	4.2	0.1	4.2	0.1	4.3	0.1	4.2	0.1
<b>Family Income-to-Poverty Ratio<sup>1</sup></b>								
Under 1.00 . . . . .	14.8	0.6	14.5	0.6	14.8	0.6	14.4	0.5
1.00 and over . . . . .	2.2	0.1	2.2	0.1	2.2	0.1	2.1	0.1
<b>Age</b>								
Under 18 years . . . . .	6.2	0.3	6.2	0.3	6.2	0.3	6.1	0.3
18 to 64 years . . . . .	3.3	0.1	3.3	0.1	3.5	0.2	3.4	0.1
65 years and over . . . . .	4.8	0.4	5.1	0.4	4.8	0.4	4.2	0.3
<b>Sex</b>								
Male . . . . .	3.3	0.2	3.3	0.2	3.3	0.2	3.3	0.2
Female . . . . .	5.1	0.2	5.2	0.2	5.3	0.2	5.0	0.2
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin<sup>2</sup></b>								
White . . . . .	2.5	0.1	2.5	0.1	2.5	0.1	2.4	0.1
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	2.0	0.1	2.0	0.1	2.0	0.1	1.9	0.1
Black . . . . .	15.5	0.7	15.4	0.7	15.8	0.7	14.5	0.6
Asian or Pacific Islander . . . . .	2.8	0.5	3.3	0.6	3.7	0.6	3.9	0.6
Hispanic . . . . .	6.0	0.4	5.9	0.4	5.8	0.4	5.3	0.3
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	3.9	0.1	3.9	0.1	4.0	0.1	3.9	0.1
<b>Family Status</b>								
In families . . . . .	3.7	0.1	3.8	0.1	3.8	0.1	3.7	0.1
Married-couple families . . . . .	1.1	0.1	1.2	0.1	1.2	0.1	1.3	0.1
Male householder, no wife present . . . . .	3.1	0.5	2.5	0.5	2.6	0.5	2.3	0.4
Female householder, no husband present . . . . .	15.0	0.6	15.2	0.6	15.4	0.6	14.7	0.6
Unrelated individuals . . . . .	6.6	0.4	6.6	0.4	6.8	0.4	6.5	0.4
<b>Marital Status (people 18 and older)</b>								
Married . . . . .	1.1	0.1	1.2	0.1	1.2	0.1	1.2	0.1
Separated, divorced, or widowed . . . . .	6.5	0.4	6.6	0.4	6.5	0.4	6.1	0.4
Never married . . . . .	6.8	0.4	6.7	0.4	7.0	0.4	6.7	0.4
<b>Educational Attainment (people 18 and older)</b>								
Less than high school graduate . . . . .	8.7	0.6	9.4	0.6	9.3	0.6	8.9	0.6
High school graduate, no college . . . . .	4.5	0.3	4.6	0.3	5.1	0.3	4.8	0.3
One or more years of college . . . . .	2.1	0.1	2.1	0.1	2.1	0.1	2.1	0.1
<b>Employment and Labor Force Status (people 18 and older)</b>								
Employed full-time <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	1.2	0.1	1.1	0.1	1.2	0.1	1.2	0.1
Employed part-time . . . . .	3.0	0.3	3.3	0.3	3.3	0.3	3.5	0.3
Unemployed . . . . .	7.0	0.9	6.3	0.8	7.0	0.9	7.7	1.0
Not in labor force . . . . .	6.7	0.3	6.8	0.3	6.8	0.3	6.3	0.3
<b>Disability Status (people 15 to 64 years old)</b>								
With a work disability . . . . .	10.8	0.7	10.6	0.7	11.4	0.7	10.7	0.6
With no work disability . . . . .	2.4	0.1	2.4	0.1	2.4	0.1	2.4	0.1
<b>Residence</b>								
Metropolitan . . . . .	4.3	0.1	4.3	0.1	4.4	0.1	4.2	0.1
Nonmetropolitan . . . . .	3.8	0.3	4.1	0.3	4.1	0.3	3.8	0.3

See notes at end of table.



Appendix Table 4.

**Average Monthly Participation Rates for Housing Assistance by Selected Characteristics: 2009–2012—Con.**

(In percent)

Characteristic	Housing assistance participation rate							
	2009	Margin of error (±)	2010	Margin of error (±)	2011	Margin of error (±)	2012	Margin of error (±)
<b>Region</b>								
Northeast . . . . .	6.5	0.4	7.1	0.4	7.4	0.4	7.4	0.4
Midwest . . . . .	3.9	0.3	3.5	0.3	3.5	0.3	3.4	0.2
South . . . . .	3.5	0.2	3.6	0.2	3.6	0.2	3.4	0.2
West . . . . .	3.8	0.3	3.8	0.3	3.9	0.3	3.8	0.3

<sup>1</sup> Family income-to-poverty threshold ratio reflects the monthly poverty status. A ratio under 1.00 indicates that a person is in poverty, whereas a ratio of higher than or equal to 1.00 indicates that a person is not in poverty.

<sup>2</sup> Hispanics may be any race.

<sup>3</sup> Full-time and part-time employment reflect the monthly employment status.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Waves 2–14.

Appendix Table 5.

**Average Monthly Participation Rates for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) by Selected Characteristics: 2009–2012**

(In percent)

Characteristic	SSI participation rate							
	2009	Margin of error (±)	2010	Margin of error (±)	2011	Margin of error (±)	2012	Margin of error (±)
<b>Total number of recipients (in thousands) . . . .</b>	<b>6,387</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>6,655</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>7,086</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>7,465</b>	<b>267</b>
As percentage of the population . . . . .	2.6	0.1	2.8	0.1	3.0	0.1	3.0	0.1
<b>Family Income-to-Poverty Ratio<sup>1</sup></b>								
Under 1.00 . . . . .	5.9	0.4	6.3	0.4	6.4	0.4	6.7	0.4
1.00 and over . . . . .	2.0	0.1	2.1	0.1	2.3	0.1	2.3	0.1
<b>Age</b>								
Under 18 years . . . . .	1.6	0.2	1.6	0.2	1.6	0.2	1.8	0.2
18 to 64 years . . . . .	2.7	0.1	2.9	0.1	3.1	0.1	3.2	0.1
65 years and over . . . . .	4.3	0.3	4.4	0.3	4.4	0.3	4.3	0.3
<b>Sex</b>								
Male . . . . .	2.4	0.1	2.5	0.1	2.8	0.2	2.9	0.2
Female . . . . .	2.9	0.2	3.0	0.2	3.1	0.2	3.2	0.2
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin<sup>2</sup></b>								
White . . . . .	2.1	0.1	2.2	0.1	2.3	0.1	2.3	0.1
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	1.9	0.1	2.0	0.1	2.1	0.1	2.1	0.1
Black . . . . .	6.2	0.5	6.4	0.5	6.7	0.5	7.0	0.5
Asian or Pacific Islander . . . . .	3.2	0.6	3.5	0.6	3.9	0.6	3.6	0.6
Hispanic . . . . .	3.0	0.3	3.2	0.3	3.3	0.3	3.4	0.3
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	2.6	0.1	2.7	0.1	2.9	0.1	3.0	0.1
<b>Family Status</b>								
In families . . . . .	2.1	0.1	2.2	0.1	2.4	0.1	2.5	0.1
Married-couple families . . . . .	1.3	0.1	1.4	0.1	1.5	0.1	1.5	0.1
Male householder, no wife present . . . . .	3.5	0.6	3.4	0.5	3.9	0.6	3.8	0.6
Female householder, no husband present . . . . .	5.1	0.4	5.6	0.4	5.7	0.4	6.1	0.4
Unrelated individuals . . . . .	5.4	0.4	5.5	0.4	5.7	0.4	5.8	0.4
<b>Marital Status (people 18 and older)</b>								
Married . . . . .	1.2	0.1	1.4	0.1	1.6	0.1	1.7	0.1
Separated, divorced, or widowed . . . . .	5.9	0.4	6.1	0.4	6.2	0.4	6.2	0.4
Never married . . . . .	4.7	0.3	4.9	0.3	5.2	0.3	5.0	0.3
<b>Educational Attainment (people 18 and older)</b>								
Less than high school graduate . . . . .	9.3	0.6	10.0	0.6	10.3	0.7	10.1	0.7
High school graduate, no college . . . . .	3.8	0.3	3.9	0.3	4.4	0.3	4.4	0.3
One or more years of college . . . . .	1.4	0.1	1.5	0.1	1.7	0.1	1.8	0.1
<b>Employment and Labor Force Status (people 18 and older)</b>								
Employed full-time <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.1
Employed part-time . . . . .	1.2	0.2	1.4	0.2	1.5	0.2	1.7	0.2
Unemployed . . . . .	1.2	0.4	1.6	0.4	1.6	0.4	1.6	0.4
Not in labor force . . . . .	8.1	0.4	8.3	0.3	8.6	0.4	8.4	0.3
<b>Disability Status (people 15 to 64 years old)</b>								
With a work disability . . . . .	18.8	0.8	19.1	0.8	20.2	0.8	20.2	0.8
With no work disability . . . . .	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.6	0.1
<b>Residence</b>								
Metropolitan . . . . .	2.6	0.1	2.7	0.1	2.9	0.1	3.0	0.1
Nonmetropolitan . . . . .	2.8	0.3	3.0	0.3	3.2	0.3	3.4	0.3

See notes at end of table.

Appendix Table 5.

**Average Monthly Participation Rates for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) by Selected Characteristics: 2009–2012—Con.**

(In percent)

Characteristic	SSI participation rate							
	2009	Margin of error (±)	2010	Margin of error (±)	2011	Margin of error (±)	2012	Margin of error (±)
<b>Region</b>								
Northeast.....	3.3	0.3	3.5	0.3	3.7	0.3	3.8	0.3
Midwest.....	2.1	0.2	2.2	0.2	2.2	0.2	2.1	0.2
South.....	2.7	0.2	2.8	0.2	3.1	0.2	3.3	0.2
West.....	2.6	0.2	2.8	0.2	2.9	0.2	3.0	0.2

<sup>1</sup> Family income-to-poverty threshold ratio reflects the monthly poverty status. A ratio under 1.00 indicates that a person is in poverty, whereas a ratio of higher than or equal to 1.00 indicates that a person is not in poverty.

<sup>2</sup> Hispanics may be any race.

<sup>3</sup> Full-time and part-time employment reflect the monthly employment status.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Waves 2–14.

Appendix Table 6.

### Average Monthly Participation Rates for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or General Assistance (GA) by Selected Characteristics: 2009–2012

(In percent)

Characteristic	TANF or GA participation rate							
	2009	Margin of error (±)	2010	Margin of error (±)	2011	Margin of error (±)	2012	Margin of error (±)
<b>Total number of recipients (in thousands) . . . .</b>	<b>2,938</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>2,759</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>2,615</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>2,377</b>	<b>152</b>
As percentage of the population . . . . .	1.2	0.1	1.2	0.1	1.1	0.1	1.0	0.1
<b>Family Income-to-Poverty Ratio<sup>1</sup></b>								
Under 1.00 . . . . .	5.4	0.4	4.6	0.3	4.3	0.3	4.0	0.3
1.00 and over . . . . .	0.4	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0
<b>Age</b>								
Under 18 years . . . . .	3.3	0.2	3.2	0.2	3.0	0.2	2.6	0.2
18 to 64 years . . . . .	0.6	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.5	0.1
65 years and over . . . . .	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
<b>Sex</b>								
Male . . . . .	1.1	0.1	1.0	0.1	0.9	0.1	0.8	0.1
Female . . . . .	1.4	0.1	1.3	0.1	1.2	0.1	1.1	0.1
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin<sup>2</sup></b>								
White . . . . .	0.7	0.1	0.8	0.1	0.8	0.1	0.7	0.1
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.1
Black . . . . .	4.2	0.4	3.4	0.3	3.0	0.3	2.5	0.3
Asian or Pacific Islander . . . . .	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2
Hispanic . . . . .	2.2	0.2	2.3	0.2	2.4	0.2	1.9	0.2
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	1.0	0.1	0.9	0.1	0.8	0.1	0.8	0.1
<b>Family Status</b>								
In families . . . . .	1.4	0.1	1.3	0.1	1.2	0.1	1.1	0.1
Married-couple families . . . . .	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.1
Male householder, no wife present . . . . .	1.3	0.3	1.6	0.4	1.4	0.4	1.2	0.3
Female householder, no husband present . . . . .	5.4	0.4	4.9	0.4	4.6	0.4	3.7	0.3
Unrelated individuals . . . . .	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.1
<b>Marital Status (people 18 and older)</b>								
Married . . . . .	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0
Separated, divorced, or widowed . . . . .	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.5	0.1
Never married . . . . .	1.3	0.2	1.1	0.2	1.0	0.1	0.9	0.1
<b>Educational Attainment (people 18 and older)</b>								
Less than high school graduate . . . . .	1.4	0.2	1.2	0.2	1.1	0.2	1.2	0.2
High school graduate, no college . . . . .	0.7	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.6	0.1
One or more years of college . . . . .	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0
<b>Employment and Labor Force Status (people 18 and older)</b>								
Employed full-time <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Employed part-time . . . . .	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.5	0.1
Unemployed . . . . .	2.0	0.5	1.5	0.4	1.7	0.4	1.6	0.4
Not in labor force . . . . .	1.1	0.1	0.9	0.1	0.9	0.1	0.9	0.1
<b>Disability Status (people 15 to 64 years old)</b>								
With a work disability . . . . .	1.6	0.3	1.6	0.3	1.6	0.3	1.5	0.3
With no work disability . . . . .	0.6	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.1
<b>Residence</b>								
Metropolitan . . . . .	1.3	0.1	1.1	0.1	1.1	0.1	1.0	0.1
Nonmetropolitan . . . . .	1.0	0.2	1.2	0.2	1.0	0.2	0.9	0.1

See notes at end of table.

Appendix Table 6.

**Average Monthly Participation Rates for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or General Assistance (GA) by Selected Characteristics: 2009–2012—Con.**

(In percent)

Characteristic	TANF or GA participation rate							
	2009	Margin of error (±)	2010	Margin of error (±)	2011	Margin of error (±)	2012	Margin of error (±)
<b>Region</b>								
Northeast.....	1.6	0.2	1.4	0.2	1.7	0.2	1.5	0.2
Midwest.....	1.2	0.1	1.2	0.1	1.0	0.1	0.9	0.1
South.....	0.7	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.1
West.....	1.9	0.2	1.9	0.2	1.7	0.2	1.5	0.2

<sup>1</sup> Family income-to-poverty threshold ratio reflects the monthly poverty status. A ratio under 1.00 indicates that a person is in poverty, whereas a ratio of higher than or equal to 1.00 indicates that a person is not in poverty.

<sup>2</sup> Hispanics may be any race.

<sup>3</sup> Full-time and part-time employment reflect the monthly employment status.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Waves 2–14.

Appendix Table 7.

## Median Monthly Benefit Amount for People Receiving Means-Tested Program Benefits by Selected Characteristics: 2009–2012

(In dollars)

Characteristic	Median monthly benefit amount <sup>1</sup>							
	All programs	Margin of error (±)	TANF/GA	Margin of error (±)	SSI	Margin of error (±)	SNAP	Margin of error (±)
<b>All recipients</b> .....	<b>404</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Family Income-to-Poverty Ratio<sup>2</sup></b>								
Under 1.00 .....	449	15	321	26	642	61	361	8
1.00 and over .....	377	12	321	38	725	32	240	13
<b>Age</b>								
Under 18 years .....	447	16	340	38	330	69	385	8
18 to 64 years .....	393	13	316	14	734	22	273	9
65 years and over .....	303	39	277	185	633	61	138	9
<b>Sex</b>								
Male .....	407	14	319	25	700	9	292	12
Female .....	401	12	321	24	693	13	306	10
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin<sup>3</sup></b>								
White .....	386	9	330	32	698	14	294	13
Non-Hispanic .....	377	15	301	30	693	18	267	18
Black .....	446	25	316	25	688	18	316	22
Asian or Pacific Islander .....	561	162	329	357	838	89	238	23
Hispanic .....	410	23	343	50	711	29	336	18
Non-Hispanic .....	401	14	313	19	694	13	287	14
<b>Family Status</b>								
In families .....	432	15	327	29	698	12	337	9
Married-couple families .....	420	14	342	44	722	48	346	14
Male householder, no wife present .....	447	17	319	25	677	40	330	14
Female householder, no husband present .....	337	34	403	98	701	55	229	34
Unrelated individuals .....	212	11	209	64	695	15	141	7
<b>Marital Status (people 18 and older)</b>								
Married .....	410	19	332	44	773	54	314	15
Separated, divorced, or widowed .....	340	24	313	29	694	15	197	7
Never married .....	388	21	306	16	721	26	248	15
<b>Educational Attainment (people 18 and older)</b>								
Less than high school graduate .....	439	29	300	31	717	21	262	17
High school graduate, no college .....	411	26	351	37	744	30	256	19
One or more years of college .....	350	11	294	22	700	9	230	16
<b>Employment and Labor Force Status (people 18 and older)</b>								
Employed full-time <sup>4</sup> .....	316	12	294	42	698	60	265	16
Employed part-time .....	381	15	393	51	710	57	304	19
Unemployed .....	352	20	346	33	710	77	289	38
Not in labor force .....	472	22	300	28	717	13	211	5
<b>Disability Status (people 15 to 64 years old)</b>								
With a work disability .....	577	30	279	31	739	22	206	3
With no work disability .....	370	11	342	31	705	33	314	11
<b>Residence</b>								
Metropolitan .....	410	14	325	29	700	8	296	12
Nonmetropolitan .....	386	20	274	78	677	34	317	17

See notes at end of table.

Appendix Table 7.

**Median Monthly Benefit Amount for People Receiving Means-Tested Program Benefits by Selected Characteristics: 2009–2012—Con.**

(In dollars)

Characteristic	Median monthly benefit amount <sup>1</sup>							
	All programs	Margin of error (±)	TANF/GA	Margin of error (±)	SSI	Margin of error (±)	SNAP	Margin of error (±)
<b>Region</b>								
Northeast.....	444	41	251	59	717	28	237	23
Midwest.....	391	17	345	30	660	38	306	17
South.....	381	10	244	30	686	15	299	11
West.....	467	38	431	60	774	65	326	28

<sup>1</sup> The dollar amounts are inflation-adjusted to 2012 dollars.

<sup>2</sup> Family income-to-poverty threshold ratio reflects the monthly poverty status. A ratio under 1.00 indicates that a person is in poverty, whereas a ratio of higher than or equal to 1.00 indicates that a person is not in poverty.

<sup>3</sup> Hispanics may be any race.

<sup>4</sup> Full-time and part-time employment reflect the monthly employment status.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Waves 2–14.