SNAP and TANF Expenditures

Session Law 2021-181, Section 9I.10

Report to

The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services

and

Fiscal Research Division By

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

April 20, 2022

Reporting Requirement

North Carolina Session Law 2021-180 Section 9I.10 directs the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) to submit a report on the analysis of certain Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) expenditures.

Session Law 2021-180, Section 9I.10
Report on Certain SNAP and TANF Expenditures

Section 9I.10.(a) Funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services (Division), for each year of the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium for a report on certain Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) expenditures shall be allocated for vendor costs to generate the data regarding expenditures of those programs. The vendor shall generate data to be submitted to the Division that includes, at a minimum, each of the following:

(1) The dollar amount and number of transactions accessed or expended out-of-state, by state, for both SNAP benefits and TANF benefits.
(2) The amount of benefits expended out-of-state, by state, from active cases for both SNAP and TANF.
(3) The dollar amount and number of transactions of benefits accessed or expended in this State, by types of retailers or institutions, for both SNAP and TANF.

Section 9I.10.(b) Upon receiving the expenditures data for SNAP and TANF from the vendor, the Division shall evaluate the data. After evaluating the expenditures data, the Division shall submit a report on its analysis of the data by June 30 and December 31 of each year to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division. The Division shall post its report required by this subsection on its website and otherwise make the data available by June 30 and December 31 of each year. In the first report required by this section, the Division shall report how this data is used to investigate fraud and abuse in both SNAP and TANF. The Division shall also report on other types of data and how that data is utilized in the detection of fraud and abuse.

Section 9I.10.(c) The Division shall maintain the confidentiality of information not public under Chapter 132 of the General Statutes. The Division shall properly redact any information subject to reporting under this section to prevent identification of individual recipients of SNAP or TANF benefits.

SNAP

In February 2022, NCDHHS submitted a request in writing the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the data requested in Session Law 2021-180 Section 9I.10.

USDA was able to provide the SNAP data for requests #1 and #3, which is included in this report. Neither USDA not NCDHHS collects the data requested in #2. USDA confirmed to NCDHHS on March 8, 2022 that they were not able to provide the data for request #2.

TANF

None of the requested TANF data is collected by either the state or federal government, and unfortunately none is feasible to collect. Work First program participants receive cash assistance benefits in the form of direct deposits or electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards and are free to utilize their benefits on a wide variety of expenses with few restrictions, regardless of retailer or state. As a result, it is not possible to comprehensively track TANF transactions or dollar amounts by state or by retailer.

Conclusion

We recognize that NCDHHS is not able to provide some of the data described in this reporting requirement. Thank you for understanding the limitations in our ability to provide the requested data.

Where North Carolina SNAP Households Use Their SNAP Benefits: By State

January—December 2021

Note from USDA: *The percentages in Arkansas and Washington can be attributed to the home offices of Walmart and Amazon being located in those states.*

Store State	Dollar Volume	Number of Purchases	Percentage of Dollar Volume
North Carolina	**$4,934,413,263.66**	**131,309,476**	**90.2%**
Arkansas	$243,341,483.41	3,069,964	4.4%
South Carolina	$70,668,363.85	1,856,432	1.3%
Washington	$42,419,008.76	784,567	0.8%
Florida	$41,686,706.24	752,485	0.8%
Virginia	$38,035,202.25	958,793	0.7%
Georgia	$17,808,758.31	472,583	0.3%
Tennessee	$9,012,670.60	224,663	0.2%
New York	$8,979,608.62	259,441	0.2%
Illinois	$8,139,215.74	126,122	0.1%
Pennsylvania	$7,132,361.30	162,655	0.1%
Texas	$6,586,617.18	155,503	0.1%
Maryland	$5,119,776.05	128,733	0.1%
New Jersey	$4,498,144.02	117,483	0.1%
Ohio	$3,284,054.69	93,501	0.1%
California	$3,163,819.08	84,232	0.1%
Alabama	$2,089,210.69	57,487	0.0%
Michigan	$2,020,983.33	54,796	0.0%
West Virginia	$1,774,737.89	58,666	0.0%
Indiana	$1,592,510.42	43,426	0.0%

Massachusetts	$1,579,269.08	29,944	0.0%
Kentucky	$1,503,531.13	44,259	0.0%
Connecticut	$1,267,632.53	30,846	0.0%
Louisiana	$1,265,961.18	32,524	0.0%
Arizona	$1,216,669.66	35,867	0.0%
Colorado	$1,138,037.54	32,585	0.0%
Nevada	$1,064,293.90	34,036	0.0%
Mississippi	$1,039,728.57	29,017	0.0%
Missouri	$871,867.56	25,841	0.0%
Delaware	$820,819.34	23,958	0.0%
Oklahoma	$749,753.36	21,777	0.0%
District of Columbia	$618,997.69	18,605	0.0%
Wisconsin	$585,181.62	16,549	0.0%
Kansas	$522,505.05	14,249	0.0%
Minnesota	$460,568.72	10,795	0.0%
Iowa	$397,177.46	10,919	0.0%
Oregon	$371,305.59	10,901	0.0%
Maine	$340,612.34	9,306	0.0%
Hawaii	$325,455.16	6,128	0.0%
New Hampshire	$305,989.15	6,299	0.0%
Utah	$305,519.52	8,004	0.0%
Rhode Island	$259,683.77	7,290	0.0%
New Mexico	$255,518.26	7,418	0.0%
Nebraska	$206,410.16	5,880	0.0%
Virgin Islands	$183,857.52	2,751	0.0%
Alaska	$182,220.31	3,310	0.0%
Vermont	$154,166.13	3,826	0.0%
Montana	$150,960.65	3,748	0.0%
North Dakota	$143,688.47	3,502	0.0%
Idaho	$137,461.12	3,555	0.0%
South Dakota	$125,526.47	3,188	0.0%
Wyoming	$123,498.41	3,154	0.0%
Guam	$11,006.50	402	0.0%
Totals	**$5,470,451,370.01**	**141,271,441**	**100.0%**
Total Spent Within NC	**$4,934,413,263.66**	**131,309,476**	**90.2%**
Total Spent Out-of-State	**$536,038,106.35**	**9,961,965**	**9.8%**

Where North Carolina SNAP Households Use Their SNAP Benefits: By Retailer Type

January—December 2021
See next page for definitions of store types

Store Type	Dollar Volume	Percentage
Supermarket	$2,252,529,302.55	45.7%
Super Store	$2,054,212,248.15	41.7%
Combination Grocery/Other	$259,507,455.10	5.3%
Convenience Store	$185,137,326.00	3.8%
Medium Grocery Store	$64,995,189.55	1.3%
Large Grocery Store	$55,101,469.11	1.1%
Small Grocery Store	$18,837,140.63	0.4%
Seafood Specialty	$17,297,549.35	0.4%
Meat/Poultry Specialty	$13,630,566.71	0.3%
Military Commissary	$4,369,681.90	0.1%
Bakery Specialty	$1,573,015.26	0.0%
Fruits/Veg Specialty	$1,021,186.84	0.0%
Delivery Route	$756,945.30	0.0%
Farmers' Market	$725,887.19	0.0%
Direct Marketing Farmer	$663,539.19	0.0%
Drug and/or Alcohol Treatment Program	REDACTED	n/a
Homeless Meal Provider	REDACTED	n/a
Meal Delivery Service	REDACTED	n/a
Food Buying Co-op	REDACTED	n/a

Note: *The dollar volumes redacted by USDA are due to there being less than four retailers in this category in North Carolina.*

Store Type Definitions:

Convenience Store: (CS) Self-service stores that offer a limited line of convenience items and are typically open long hours to provide easy access for customers. Primarily engaged in retail sale of a variety of canned goods, dairy products, pre-packaged meats and other grocery items in limited amounts. Usually sell a large variety of ineligible products; such as hot coffee, alcohol, or tobacco products.

Combination Grocery/Other: (CO) Primary business is sale of general merchandise but also sell a variety of food products. Such stores include independent drug stores, dollar stores, and general stores.

Direct Marketing Farmer: (DF) Designation applies to direct marketing farmers; these are individual producers of agricultural products, particularly fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as meat, fish, dairy, and/or grains that are sold to the general public through a direct marketing venue such as a roadside farm stand, pick-your own operation, and/or market stall within a farmers' market.

Farmers' Market: (FM) A single or multi-stall market that sells agricultural products, particularly fresh fruit and vegetables, to the general public at a single or multiple locations. This designation applies to any organization that operates a farmers' market location.

Large Grocery Store: (LG) A store that carries a wide selection of all four staple food categories. They may sell ineligible items as well, but their primary stock is food items.

Medium Grocery Store: (MG) A store that carries a moderate selection of all four staple food categories. They may sell ineligible items as well, but their primary stock is food items.

Military Commissary: (MC) Designation applies to all retail food entities, located on military installations that sell food and non-food products. Only authorized shoppers may shop at these entities and they must show proper military ID to use the commissary or Base Exchange.

Non-Profit Food Buying Cooperative: (BC) Any store that operates as a "cooperative".

Small Grocery Store: (SG) A store that carries a small selection of all four staple food categories. They may sell ineligible items as well, but their primary stock is food items.

Specialty Food Store - Bakery/Bread: (BB) Food stores specializing in the sale of bread/cereal products. May also carry non-food items or other food items, but such stock is incidental.

Specialty Food Store - Fruits/Vegetables: (FV) Food stores specializing in the sale of fruits and/or vegetables that operates in a fixed or semi-permanent location.

Specialty Food Store - Meat/Poultry Products: (ME) Food stores specializing in the sale of meat products. May also carry non-food items or other food items, but such stock is incidental.

Specialty Food Store - Seafood Products: (SE) Food stores specializing in the sale of seafood products. May also carry non-food items or other food items, but such stock is incidental.

Supermarket: (SM) Establishments commonly known as supermarkets, food stores, grocery stores and food warehouses primarily engaged in the retail sale of an extensive variety of grocery and other store merchandise.

Super Store/Chain Store: (SS) Very large supermarkets, "big box" stores, super stores and food warehouses primarily engaged in the retail sale of a wide variety of grocery and other store merchandise.