

SNAP and TANF Expenditures

Session Law 2023-134, Section 9J.9.(b)



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**

December 29, 2023

Reporting Requirement

North Carolina Session Law 2023-134, Section 9J.9.(b) 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 2023-134, Section 9J.9

Report on Certain SNAP and TANF Expenditures

Section 9J.9.(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 9J.9.(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 9J.9.(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

NCDHHS submitted a request in writing the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the data requested in Session Law 2023-134, Section 9J.9 for the time period of January 1, 2023, to June 30, 2023.

USDA was able to provide the SNAP data for requests #1 and #3, which is included in this report. Neither USDA nor NCDHHS collects the data requested in #2. USDA confirmed to NCDHHS that they were not able to provide for request #2.

TANF

None of the requested TANF data is collected by either the state or federal government, 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.

Where North Carolina SNAP Households Use Their SNAP Benefits: By State: In response to Session Law 2023-134, Section 9J.9.(a) (1) and Section 9J.9.(b).

January 1, 2023—June 30, 2023

Notes from USDA:

- *Transactions conducted at an on-line retailer (Internet Retailer) were excluded from the results and added as a separate line item. Internet Retailers are monitored based on their headquarters location, not the location where the product was received.*

Store State	Dollar Volume	Number of Purchases	Percentage of Dollar Volume
North Carolina	\$ 1,878,373,770.14	49,306,812	96.14%
South Carolina	\$ 23,911,608.07	635,975	1.22%
Virginia	\$ 12,895,501.00	323,535	0.66%
Florida	\$ 6,467,892.87	167,071	0.33%
Georgia	\$ 5,916,780.88	155,596	0.30%
New York	\$ 3,578,886.91	96,549	0.18%
Tennessee	\$ 3,218,799.45	79,910	0.16%
Texas	\$ 2,533,562.53	54,766	0.13%
Maryland	\$ 1,892,521.27	48,705	0.10%
Pennsylvania	\$ 1,597,424.82	45,130	0.08%
New Jersey	\$ 1,566,548.92	44,591	0.08%
California	\$ 1,465,581.72	29,111	0.08%
Ohio	\$ 1,205,450.13	32,450	0.06%
Alabama	\$ 694,886.85	20,283	0.04%
Illinois	\$ 652,700.30	16,221	0.03%
Michigan	\$ 597,898.56	16,954	0.03%
West Virginia	\$ 569,902.90	18,491	0.03%
Kentucky	\$ 531,646.85	14,399	0.03%
Indiana	\$ 491,264.00	12,425	0.03%
Arizona	\$ 454,670.42	11,203	0.02%
Louisiana	\$ 414,740.11	11,910	0.02%
Connecticut	\$ 398,318.34	9,997	0.02%
Colorado	\$ 331,658.63	9,881	0.02%
Massachusetts	\$ 323,092.60	8,109	0.02%
Mississippi	\$ 318,983.87	8,883	0.02%
Missouri	\$ 318,267.50	9,335	0.02%
Delaware	\$ 310,438.08	9,236	0.02%
Nevada	\$ 285,072.54	8,277	0.01%
Washington	\$ 241,619.43	6,257	0.01%
Arkansas	\$ 207,192.32	6,391	0.01%

Oklahoma	\$ 205,422.01	5,524	0.01%
District of Columbia	\$ 200,886.37	7,521	0.01%
Wisconsin	\$ 194,122.57	5,740	0.01%
Minnesota	\$ 187,110.35	4,792	0.01%
Iowa	\$ 134,000.34	3,786	0.01%
Kansas	\$ 118,346.63	3,274	0.01%
Oregon	\$ 117,810.49	3,319	0.01%
Maine	\$ 103,101.93	2,841	0.01%
Utah	\$ 95,922.18	2,952	0.00%
Hawaii	\$ 93,385.62	2,493	0.00%
New Mexico	\$ 83,311.87	3,075	0.00%
New Hampshire	\$ 80,429.50	1,865	0.00%
Rhode Island	\$ 77,637.86	2,300	0.00%
Nebraska	\$ 72,082.94	1,965	0.00%
Virgin Islands	\$ 56,862.89	1,280	0.00%
Montana	\$ 51,153.05	1,218	0.00%
Idaho	\$ 50,410.33	1,455	0.00%
Alaska	\$ 47,645.17	866	0.00%
North Dakota	\$ 46,342.02	1,175	0.00%
Vermont	\$ 45,299.09	1,037	0.00%
South Dakota	\$ 32,236.78	877	0.00%
Wyoming	\$ 25,289.58	889	0.00%
Guam	\$ 4,043.77	120	0.00%
Totals	\$ 1,953,889,535.35	51,278,817	100.00%
Total Spent Within NC	\$ 1,878,373,770.14	49,306,812	96.1%
Total Spent Out of State	\$ 75,515,765.21	1,972,005	3.9%
Internet Transactions (separate)	\$ 249,403,022.29	3,356,936	

Analysis: Almost 100% of the SNAP benefits are spent in North Carolina.

Where North Carolina SNAP Households Use Their SNAP Benefits: By Retailer Type: In response to Session Law 2023-134, Section 9J.9.(a) (3) and Section 9J.9.(b).

January 1, 2023— June 30, 2023

See next page for definitions of store types

Notes from USDA:

- *The dollar volumes redacted by USDA are due to there being less than four retailers in this category in North Carolina.*
- *North Carolina now contains some Internet Retailers that are located in NC. The Internet Retailer line denotes the activity of NC recipients at these locations.*

Store Type	Dollar Volume	Percentage of Dollar Volume
Supermarket	\$ 863,169,587.37	45.00%
Super Store	\$ 761,479,453.12	39.78%
Seafood Specialty	\$ 112,881,306.77	6.00%
Convenience Store	\$ 80,359,946.56	4.00%
Internet Retailer	\$ 37,736,336.47	2.00%
Medium Grocery Store	\$ 24,327,222.68	1.00%
Large Grocery Store	\$ 17,473,700.64	1.00%
Small Grocery Store	\$ 6,014,787.02	0.00%
Meat/Poultry Specialty	\$ 4,191,264.86	0.00%
Combination Grocery/Other	\$ 3,572,770.40	0.00%
Military Commissary	\$ 1,648,829.81	0.00%
Bakery Specialty	\$ 624,882.66	0.00%
Farmers' Market	\$ 313,137.25	0.00%
Fruits/Veg Specialty	\$ 305,292.25	0.00%
Direct Marketing Farmer	\$ 218,293.20	0.00%
Delivery Route	\$ 126,221.00	0.00%
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
Total	\$1,914,443,032.06	

Analysis: More than 45% of the SNAP benefits are spent at supermarkets, grocery, or super stores. A nominal % of SNAP benefits are spent at convenience, specialty or other stores.

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.