



**PROGRAMMATIC AND LABOR MARKET OUTCOMES
SNAP/TANF PARTICIPANTS**



ABOUT NSPARC

This report was prepared by NSPARC at Mississippi State University. NSPARC is expanding the boundaries of data science to create knowledge and innovations that drive human progress. Our expertise includes data analytics, predictive analytics, machine learning, artificial intelligence, system of systems, data governance, cybersecurity, cloud technology, and high-performance computing. Known primarily for our work with smart government and more than 50 data innovations, NSPARC has achieved national prominence in the data science field.

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EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

This study was designed to examine the programmatic and labor market outcomes of participants in the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program. Using data from MDHS and the Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES), this study addresses four questions:

1. How have the SNAP and TANF caseloads changed from 2013 to 2017?
2. What are the workforce activities of SNAP and TANF participants while they are on the rolls?
3. What is the rate of return for SNAP and TANF participants who exit the rolls?
4. What are the employment and earnings outcomes of SNAP and TANF participants after they exit the rolls?

The results show that Mississippi SNAP and TANF rolls have undergone substantial declines over the last five years. The results also show that SNAP and TANF participants are engaged with the labor market while receiving benefits, and once they exit, a large percentage do not return within three years. This finding is especially true for participants exiting the TANF program.

SNAP AND TANF CASELOADS: 2013-2017

Between 2013 and 2017, SNAP and TANF caseloads in Mississippi declined. SNAP cases have declined by almost 18 percent, and TANF cases have declined by 51 percent. See Table 1 for year-by-year participant and caseload numbers.

Table 1: Number of SNAP and TANF Participants

Federal Fiscal Year	SNAP		TANF	
	Participants	Cases	Participants	Cases
2013	843,557	384,223	48,289	19,294
2014	832,084	381,482	39,611	15,937
2015	811,006	375,900	31,238	12,837
2016	770,693	357,980	26,271	10,817
2017	698,541	317,187	22,843	9,379

Source: MDHS and NSPARC. Unduplicated SNAP and TANF participant and case counts receiving benefits during the federal fiscal year.



SNAP AND TANF PARTICIPANT WORKFORCE ACTIVITIES

Many SNAP and TANF participants in Mississippi participate in workforce activities while receiving benefits.

Of all SNAP participants in Mississippi, approximately 16 percent used Mississippi Works in 2016, and 46 percent were employed in 2016. Employed SNAP participants earned an average of approximately \$15,000 in 2016.

Of all TANF participants in Mississippi, approximately 46 percent used Mississippi Works in 2016, and 71 percent were employed in 2016. Employed TANF participants earned an average of approximately \$11,000 in 2016.

Figures 1-3 display the workforce activities of SNAP and TANF participants.

Figure 1: Usage of Mississippi Works by SNAP and TANF Participants by Year of Program Participation

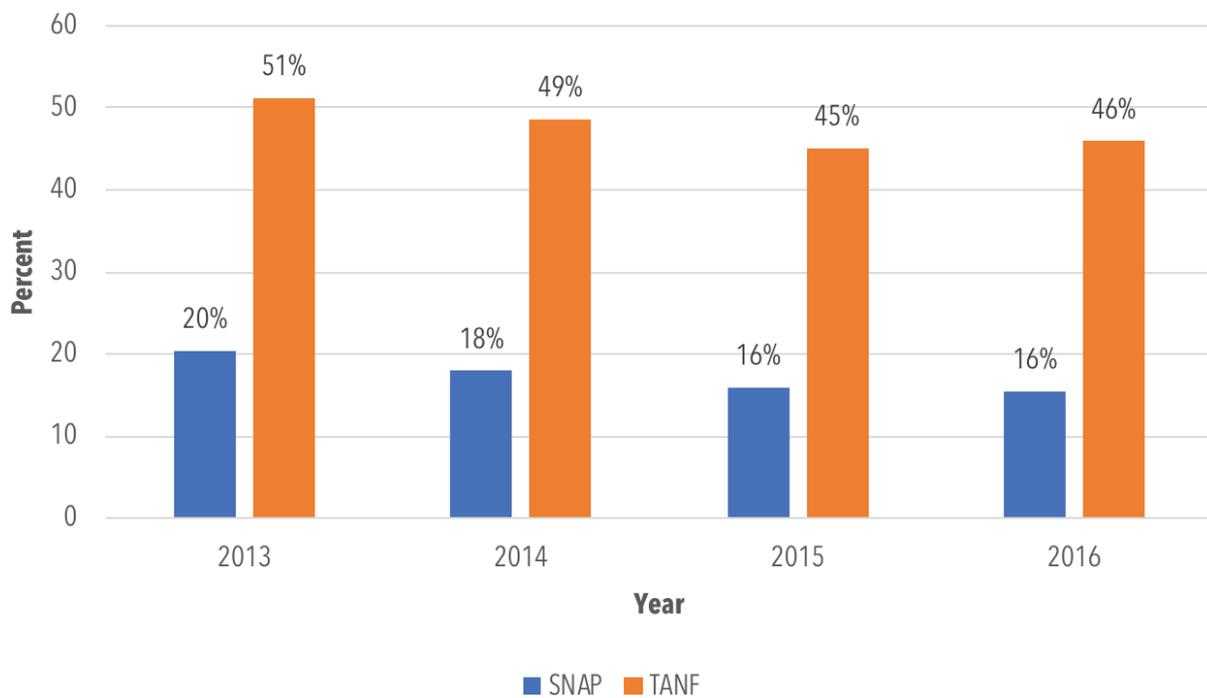


Figure 2: Employment of SNAP and TANF Participants by Year of Program Participation

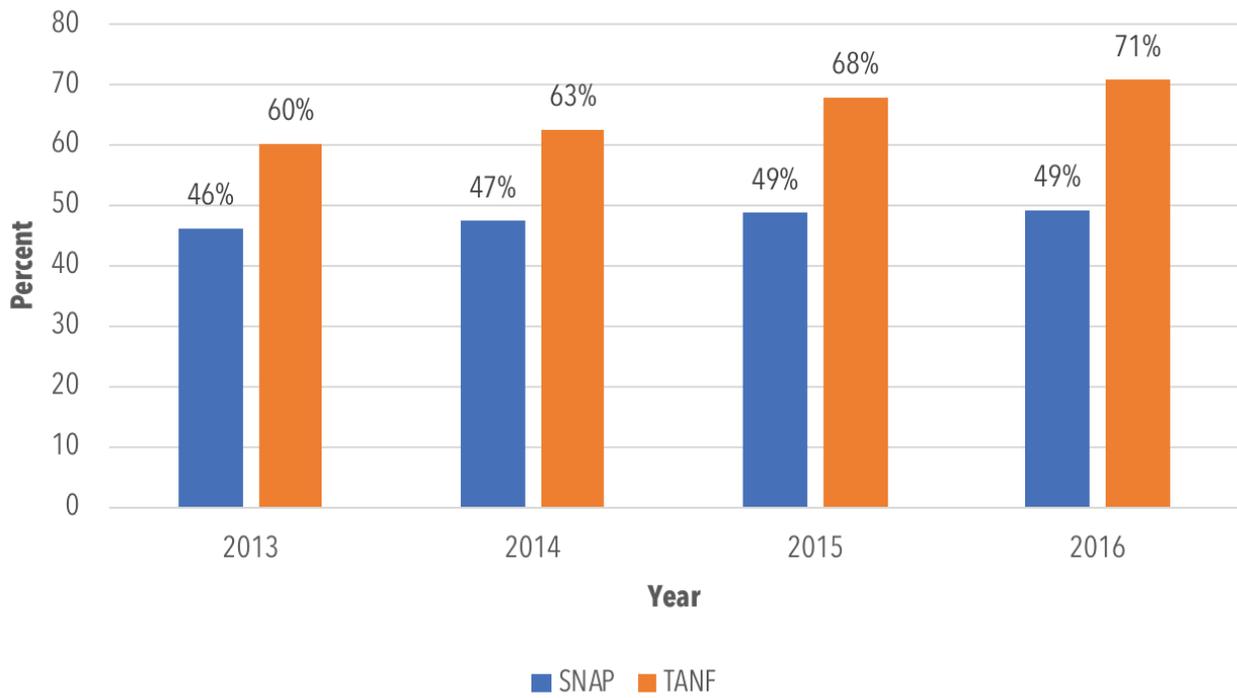


Figure 3: Average Earnings of Employed SNAP and TANF Participants Employed by Year of Program Participation



SNAP AND TANF RATE OF RETURN

The rate of return (recidivism) for SNAP and TANF participants has remained relatively steady from 2013 to 2016. Approximately 50 percent of SNAP exiters returned to the SNAP rolls within three years after exiting based on available data. Approximately 30 percent of TANF exiters returned to the TANF rolls within three years after exiting based on available data.

Tables 2-3 provide information on the annual rate of return for SNAP and TANF exiters.

Table 2: Rate of Return of SNAP Exiters

Federal Fiscal Year	Number of Exiters	Percent Returning Within:		
		One Year	Two Years	Three Years
2013	228,221	33.50	45.91	51.98
2014	237,311	32.69	44.65	50.20
2015	240,271	31.20	42.82	---
2016	275,296	29.27	---	---

Source: MDHS and NSPARC. Exiters are SNAP or TANF recipients, including children, who stopped receiving benefits during the federal fiscal year and resumed receiving benefits within the specified period.

Table 3: Rate of Return of TANF Exiters

Federal Fiscal Year	Number of Exiters	Percent Returning Within:		
		One Year	Two Years	Three Years
2013	31,138	17.69	26.80	30.50
2014	24,877	15.47	24.15	28.37
2015	19,553	14.70	23.61	---
2016	15,903	14.03	---	---

Source: MDHS and NSPARC. Exiters are SNAP or TANF recipients, including children, who stopped receiving benefits during the federal fiscal year and resumed receiving benefits within the specified period.



SNAP AND TANF EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS AFTER EXIT

Many SNAP and TANF participants are active in the Mississippi workforce after exiting the rolls. Fifty-three percent of SNAP exiters were employed in the Mississippi workforce within one year after exiting and 45 percent were employed in the Mississippi workforce within five years after exiting. SNAP program exiters earned an average of \$18,857 within one year after exiting and an average of \$21,696 within five years after exiting. Seventy-one percent of TANF exiters were employed in the Mississippi workforce within one year after exiting, and 62 percent were employed in the Mississippi workforce within five years of exiting. TANF program exiters earned an average of \$12,296 within one year after exiting and an average of \$15,273 within five years after exiting.

Figures 4-5 provide information on the percentage of employed SNAP and TANF exiters and their average earnings after exiting the programs.

Figure 4: Percentage Employed After SNAP and TANF Exit

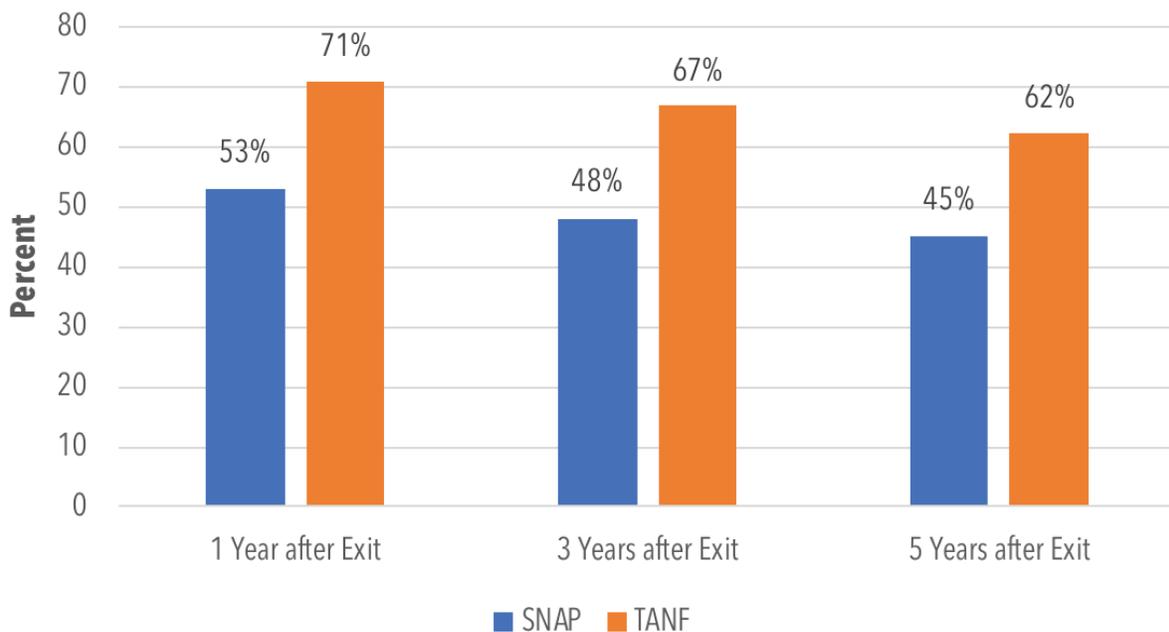
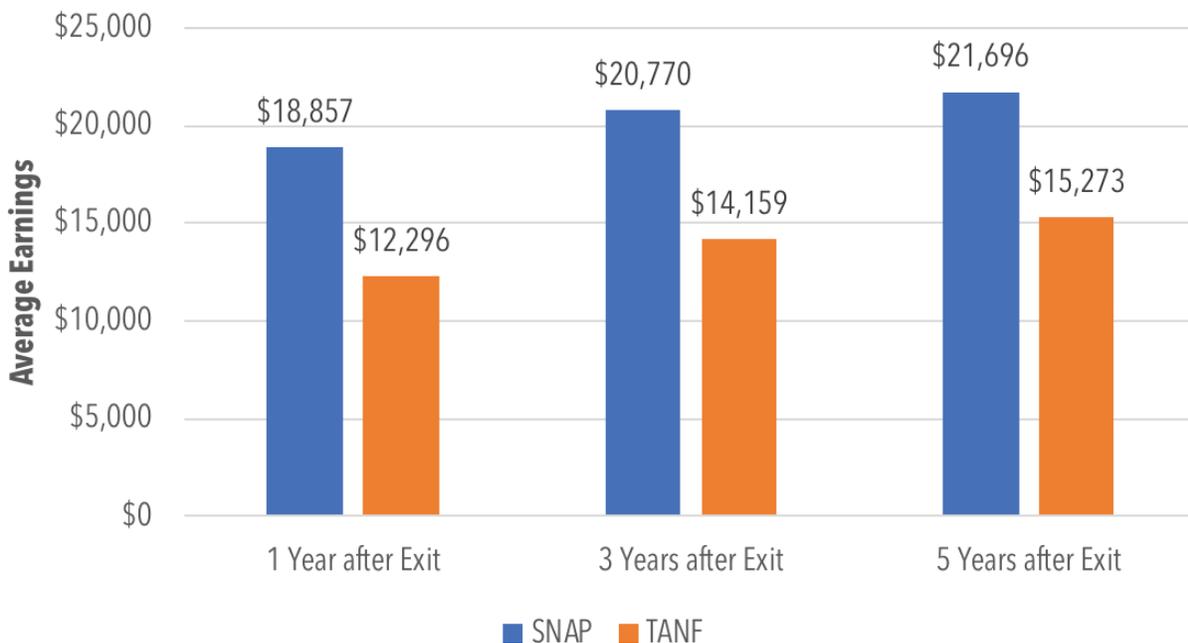


Figure 5: Average Earnings After SNAP and TANF Exit



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