



SNAP-UI Data Linkage Project

**Using Linked Administrative Data from Five States to
Understand how the SNAP and Unemployment
Insurance Program Interact to Provide a Safety Net**

**Presenter: Jane Staveley, The Jacob France Institute
University of Baltimore**

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ADARE

Administrative Data Research and Evaluation

- 9 state collaborative partnership whereby universities in each state have negotiated data sharing agreements with state agencies permitting controlled access to administrative data sources for authorized research and evaluation purposes that do not disclose the identity of individuals or businesses.

Consortium Partners

Maryland: The Jacob France Institute

Jane Staveley, David Stevens

Georgia: Andrew Young School of Policy Studies

Erdal Tekin, Lakshmi Pandey

Illinois: Chapin Hall

Robert Goerge

Michigan: Upjohn Institute

Kevin Hollenbeck, Christopher O'Leary

Texas: Ray Marshall Center

Daniel Schroeder

State Unemployment Rates

(seasonally adjusted, percent)

State	Jan 2006	Dec 2007	Jun 2010
Georgia	4.8	5.1	10.0
Illinois	5.2	5.5	10.3
Maryland	3.7	3.5	7.1
Michigan	6.7	7.1	13.2
Texas	5.1	4.4	8.2

Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Households Participating in SNAP

(Average monthly number FY2007-FY2009)

State	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	June 2010
Georgia	387,254	417,427	534,944	705,737
Illinois	569,073	595,832	677,147	786,162
Maryland	147,191	167,174	212,260	275,206
Michigan	555,744	590,930	694,341	894,013
Texas	947,235	994,786	1,183,153	1,474,625

Source: US.Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service

Selected Features of State UI Programs

2009	Georgia	Illinois	Maryland	Michigan	Texas
Minimum UI weekly benefit amount (WBA) (\$)	\$44	51	25-30	117-123	58
Base period earnings (BPE) for Min WBA (\$)	\$1,134	1,600	900	4,306	2,146
Maximum UI WBA (\$)	\$330	385-534	380	362	392
BPE required to qualify for Maximum WBA (\$)	\$13,860	21,255	13,680	13,245	14,504
Average weekly benefit amount 2009Q4(WBA) (\$)	\$282	321	311	304	321
State Average Weekly Wage (AWW) 2009Q4(\$)	\$807	923	920	836	871
Range of entitled duration (weeks)	6–26	26	26	14–26	10–26
Average duration of UI benefit receipt (weeks)	15.3	20.6	18.8	19.4	17.4

Purpose of Study

- Analyze the interaction of SNAP caseload and recipient household composition dynamics aligned with receipt of UI benefits and participation in UI covered employment.
- Demonstrate by state-specific approaches and accomplishments how analyses based on longitudinal files of linked confidential state administrative data files can be replicated in other states, and extended and refined by the partners in the consortium states.

Research Questions – Level 1

- What is the role of SNAP household accessions and terminations on SNAP caseload change?
- How have these components changed over time and by stage of the business cycle?
- What alignment in time is there between individual/household member receipt of UI benefits and SNAP benefits?
- How much overlap occurs in the receipt of benefits?
- How long do UI households receive UI benefits before receiving SNAP benefits?
- What is the interstate variation in these patterns?

Research Questions - Level 2

- What are the characteristics of persons and households newly added to the SNAP caseload?
- Has this composition changed from pre-recession through recession months?
- What are the characteristics of individuals receiving UI benefits and SNAP benefits concurrently?
- What are the characteristics of individuals receiving UI for a given period time before receiving SNAP? How do individual characteristics differ by length of time of UI receipt?

Research Questions – Level 3

- Each of our partner states has unique data strengths
- Interest in the study by state agency partners

Level 1

Components of SNAP Caseload Change

Data Source:

State longitudinal SNAP administrative records
November 2003 to February 2011

Study population:

Current SNAP households - All households in a state with at least 1 month of SNAP benefits in the period Jan 2006 to Dec 2009

New SNAP households - all households in a state with a SNAP benefit in any month from Jan 2006 to Dec 2009 but no SNAP benefit in the preceding 2 months

Exiting SNAP households - all households in a state with a SNAP benefit in any month from Jan 2006 to Dec 2009 but no SNAP benefit in the succeeding 2 months

Components of SNAP Caseload Change - 2

Variables

Identifiers: SSN, AU #, IRN, name, relationship code, financial responsibility code

Location: recipient address, local department code (3 digit- county and sub-county),

Characteristics: birth date, race/ethnicity, gender, marital status, language, citizenship, date entered US, educational attainment, homeless code, tenure

Income: gross income, net income

Benefits: benefit amount, allowable deductions

Program: program type (PA/NPA)

Level 1

Interaction between UI and SNAP Benefit Spells and Duration

Data Sources:

- State longitudinal SNAP administrative records, Nov 2005 to Dec 2009
- State UI claims/benefits files, Jan 2004 to Dec 2010

Study Population:

Current SNAP recipients: SNAP adult recipients who are UI age eligible and received a SNAP benefit in any month from Jan 2006 to Dec 2009

New SNAP recipients: SNAP adult recipients who are UI age eligible and received a SNAP benefit in any month from Jan 2006 to Dec 2009 but no benefit in the preceding 2 months

Interaction between UI and SNAP Benefit Spells and Duration - 2

Variables

UI Claims: SSN, date of UI application, benefit year begin date, benefit year end date, entitled weekly benefit amount, entitled UI duration, maximum benefits payable, date of prior job separation, reason for separation from prior employer

UI Benefits: SSN, benefit year begin date of regular UI claim, ending date of week claimed, type of benefit (regular, extended, emergency), amount of entitled UI compensation received for each week claimed, amount of earnings reported for each week claimed, net balance available at benefit year end date, exhausted entitlement to regular UI benefits

Level 1

Interstate Variation in SNAP Take-up

- How do the answers to the research questions for Level 1 differ by state (Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Texas)?

Next Steps

- Complete data acquisition
- Data processing
- Data analysis – Level 1
- Presentation of results - Level 1
- Level 2
- Level 3

Contact Information

Jane Staveley

Senior Research Associate

The Jacob France Institute

University of Baltimore

1420 North Charles Street

Baltimore, MD 21201

Phone: (410) 837-6552

Fax: (410) 837-5814

E-mail: jstaveley@ubalt.edu