



Rhode Island SNAP Report

May 2021



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INTRODUCTION

The Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS) is an organization of opportunity.

Through the compassionate delivery of critical safety net and other supportive services, DHS is committed to ensuring that individuals and families in Rhode Island have access to the supports they need to achieve their goals. Its vision is that all Rhode Islanders have the opportunity to thrive at home, work and in the community.

The Department's commitment didn't waver during the pandemic. DHS increased its support and advocacy for all Rhode Islanders.

DHS works hand-in-hand with community partners, sister agencies and resources throughout our great State to deliver benefits to more than 300,000 families, adults, children, older adults, individuals with disabilities and veterans every year as well as make a lasting, positive impact on the State's health and future.

One of DHS's largest programs is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). It is the nation's largest program for fighting domestic hunger and has been a critical benefit during COVID-19. Federally funded and State administered, SNAP helps low-income individuals and families by providing monthly benefits to buy food. Eligibility and benefit amounts are based on income, expenses, resources, and the number of individuals in a household. (For more information, go here: <http://www.dhs.ri.gov/Programs/SNAPEligibility.php>.) Benefits are provided to low-income individuals and families in the form of an EBT card which may be used to buy food at grocery stores, supermarkets, convenience stores, farmers markets and some online delivery options.

During the pandemic, in partnership with our federal partners, DHS took several, proactive steps to expand help SNAP individuals and families. Some of the measures include:

- Extending certification periods by six months for those due to recertify
- Increasing household benefits to the maximum benefit for each household size, and in April 2021 ensured all SNAP household received a minimum of at least \$95 more each month
- Issued P-EBT (first state in the nation to issue this benefit). P-EBT is a special SNAP benefit that was made available to children who receive free or reduced-price meals in school when school is in session but were unable to receive those meals at school due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Students are entitled to this benefit if the school is closed or has been operating with reduced attendance or hours for at least 5 consecutive days in the current school year.

DHS will continue to work with all Rhode Islanders who may need us. This report is a snapshot in time, specifically caseload data from March 2021. Data regarding the race/ethnicity and education attainment of SNAP individuals identified as "head of household" is self-reported and voluntary.

Monthly eligibility determination outcomes data from April 2020 through March 2021 and timeliness data from March 2020 through March 2021 are also included.

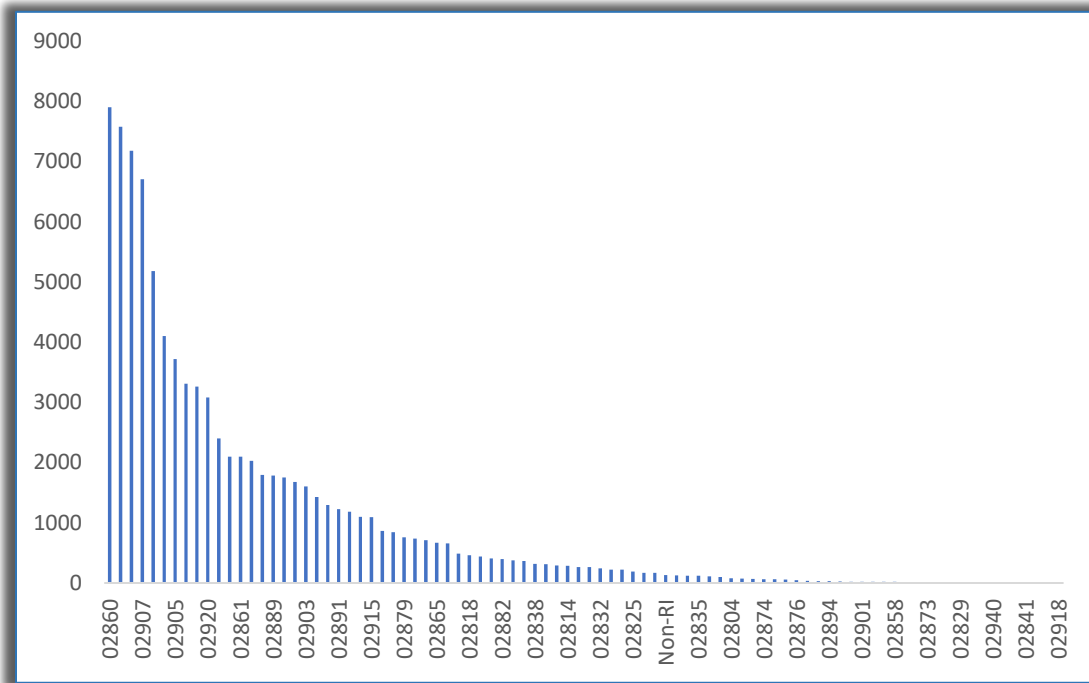
SNAP CASELOAD BY CITY OF RESIDENCE

City/Town	2020 Cases	2021 Cases	Percent increase/decrease
Barrington	248	265	6.85%
Bristol	858	844	-1.63%
Burrillville	725	782	7.86%
Central Falls	3,411	3,314	-2.84%
Charlestown	313	293	-6.39%
Coventry	1,736	1,814	4.49%
Cranston	5,413	5,679	4.91%
Cumberland	1,366	1,428	4.54%
East Greenwich	430	444	3.26%
East Providence	3,510	3,599	2.54%
Exeter	187	220	17.65%
Foster	177	192	8.47%
Glocester	298	337	13.09%
Hopkinton	331	358	8.16%
Jamestown	115	120	4.35%
Johnston	2,348	2,386	1.62%
Lincoln	985	1,019	3.45%
Little Compton	66	73	10.61%
Middletown	682	712	4.40%
Narragansett	395	435	10.13%
New Shoreham	11	18	63.64%

City/Town	2020 Cases	2021 Cases	Percent increase/decrease
Newport	1,751	1,797	2.63%
North Kingstown	1,095	1,134	3.56%
North Providence	2,668	2,803	5.06%
North Smithfield	420	437	4.05%
Pawtucket	10,228	10,018	-2.05%
Portsmouth	499	495	-0.80%
Providence	28,525	27,712	-2.85%
Richmond	245	267	8.98%
Scituate	293	294	0.34%
Smithfield	588	610	3.74%
South Kingstown	857	858	0.12%
Tiverton	657	657	0.00%
Warren	693	736	6.20%
Warwick	4,907	5,030	2.51%
West Greenwich	155	167	7.74%
West Warwick	3,160	3,250	2.85%
Westerly	1,344	1,322	-1.64%
Woonsocket	7,341	7,181	-2.18%
Total	89,031	89,209	.001%

* Point in time data from March 2020 & 2021

NEW SNAP CASELOAD BY ZIP CODES



New to our SNAP Annual Reports is SNAP caseload by zip codes. While Providence has the most cases as shown in the previous SNAP by city of residence data, this shows the zip code for Pawtucket (02860) has the highest by zip code with 7,902. 02909, a zip code in Providence, is next followed by a Woonsocket zip code, 02895, and then two more Providence zip codes, 02907 and 02908.

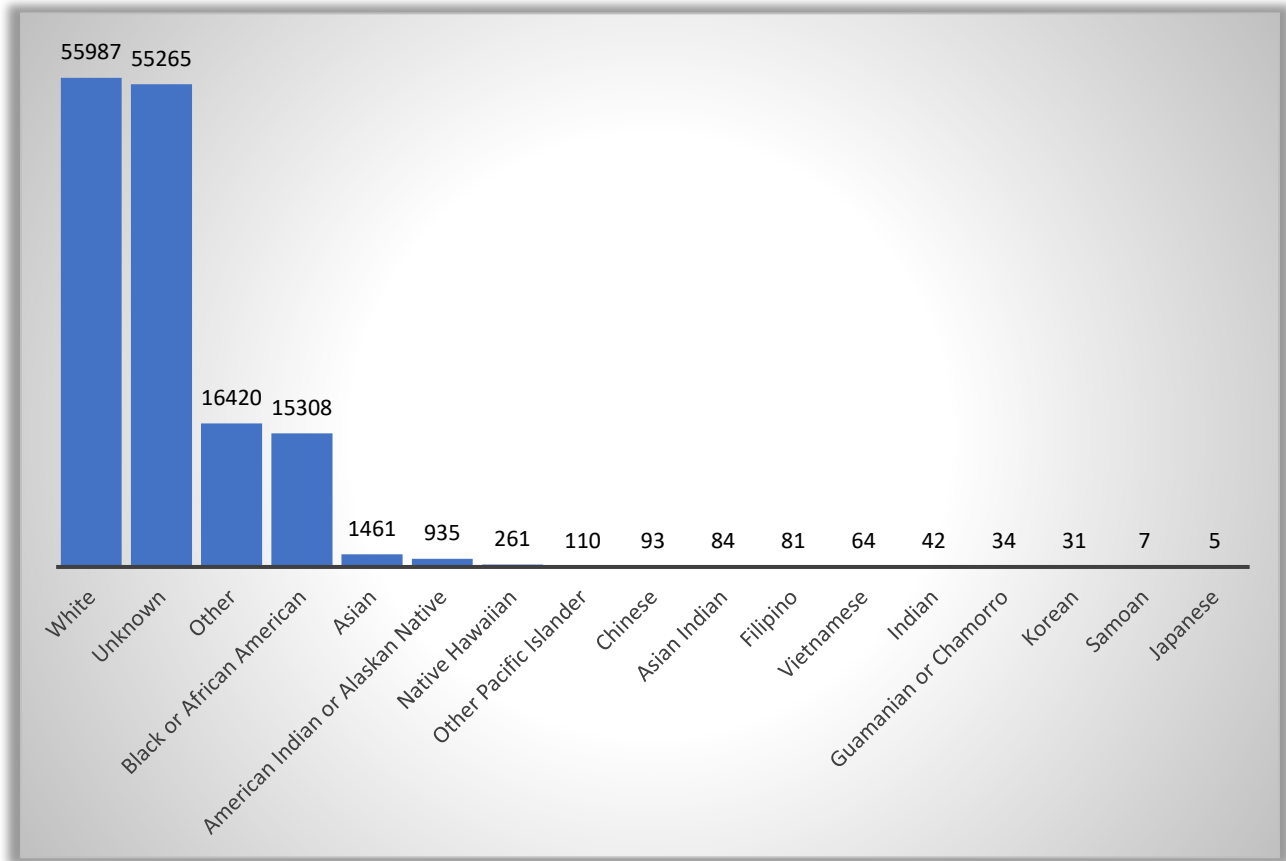
* Point in time data from March 2021

NEW POINT IN TIME

Total SNAP Recipients	144,030	# of SNAP Recipients Age Infant-17	46,503
Total SNAP Households	87,869	# of SNAP Households w/ at least 1 person working	11,489
# of Age 60+ Individuals	30,618	# of HHLDS w/ 60+ & Minor(Infant-17) in same case	388
# of Age 60+ w/ Med deduction	16,030	# of Individuals Attending College	2,582
# of HHLDS w/ Age 60+ Individual	28,601	Average Benefit per HHLD	\$261
# of Age 60+ Individuals Living alone	25,365	Average Benefit for Age 60+ HHLD	\$178
# of Recipients with Disability	52,273	Average Benefit per HHLDS w/ Infant-17	\$449
# of Recipients w/ Disability & Medical Deduction	20,264	# of HHLDS w/ \$50 or more in Benefits	81,080
		# of Age 60+ HHLDS w/ \$50 or more in Benefits	24,797
HHLD = Household of one or more persons that is participating in SNAP			

These point in time numbers are also new to the SNAP Annual Reports this year. SNAP numbers continuously change. This information is a point in time snapshot of SNAP participation numbers from 11:34 AM on March 1, 2021.

SNAP CASELOAD BY RACE



SNAP CASELOAD BY SECONDARY RACE (WHEN IDENTIFIED)

White	159
Black or African American	266
Asian	26
American Indian or Alaskan Native	97
Other Pacific Islander	0
Native Hawaiian	11
Asian Indian	1
Chinese	3
Vietnamese	0
Guamanian or Chamorro	1
Filipino	2
Other	121
Unknown	135

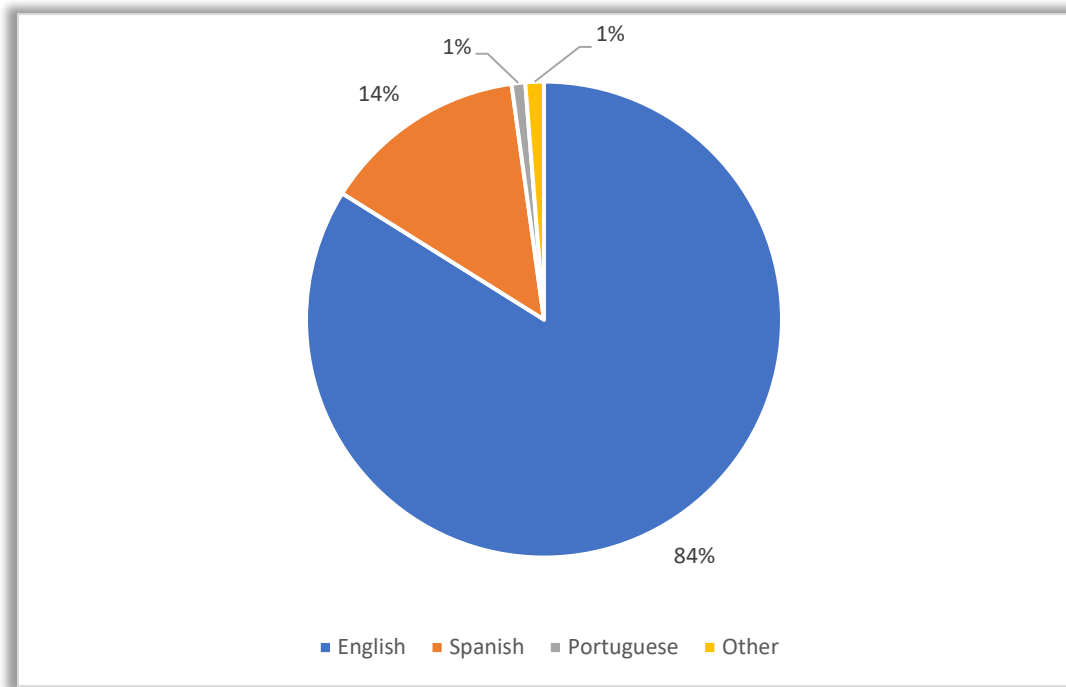
SNAP CASELOAD BY ETHNICITY

Unknown/Null	63,314
Non-Hispanic	55,727
Hispanic	21,884
Puerto Rican	4,824
Mexican	351
Cuban	88

Our SNAP customers have the option to self-identify their race and ethnicity. “Unknown/Null” reflects those who chose not to declare a race or ethnicity.

* Point in time data from March 2021

PRIMARY LANGUAGE OF SNAP HOUSEHOLDS



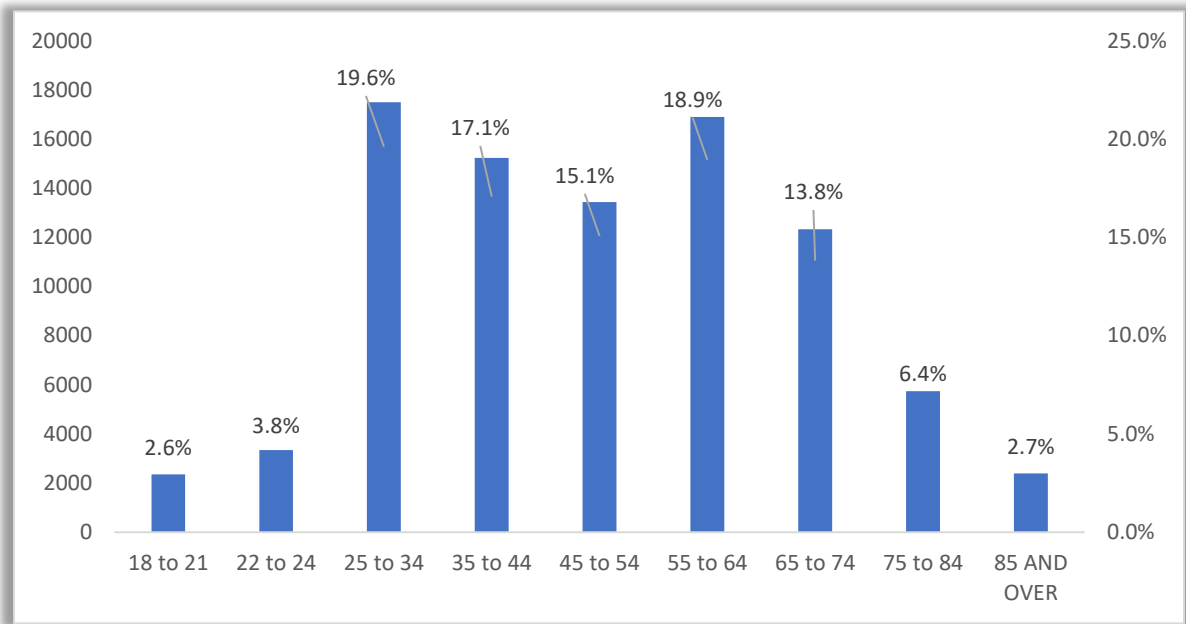
Eighty-four percent (74,846 out of 89,211) of the customers in March 2021 reported English as their primary spoken language. The next highest spoken language represented was Spanish (14 %) and Portuguese (1%). The remaining 1 percent of households reported a different primary language. Those languages included: Cambodian, Laotian, Russian, French, Creole, Hmong, Arabic, Vietnamese, Italian, Swahili, Chinese-Cantonese, Polish, Sign Language, Khmer, Haitian Creole, Armenian, Tigrinya, Turkish, Greek, Croatian, Amharic, Chinese-Mandarin, Farsi, Korean, and Somali.

SNAP HOUSEHOLDS PARTICIPATING IN OTHER DHS PROGRAMS

Other Program	SNAP Recipients Participating in Other Programs	% of SNAP Caseload	% of Other Program Recipients on SNAP
Rhode Island Works	5,133	4%	97.17%
Child Care Assistance Program	4,075	3%	68.70%
Medicaid	87,717	60%	34.95%
General Public Assistance	47	< 0.1%	99%

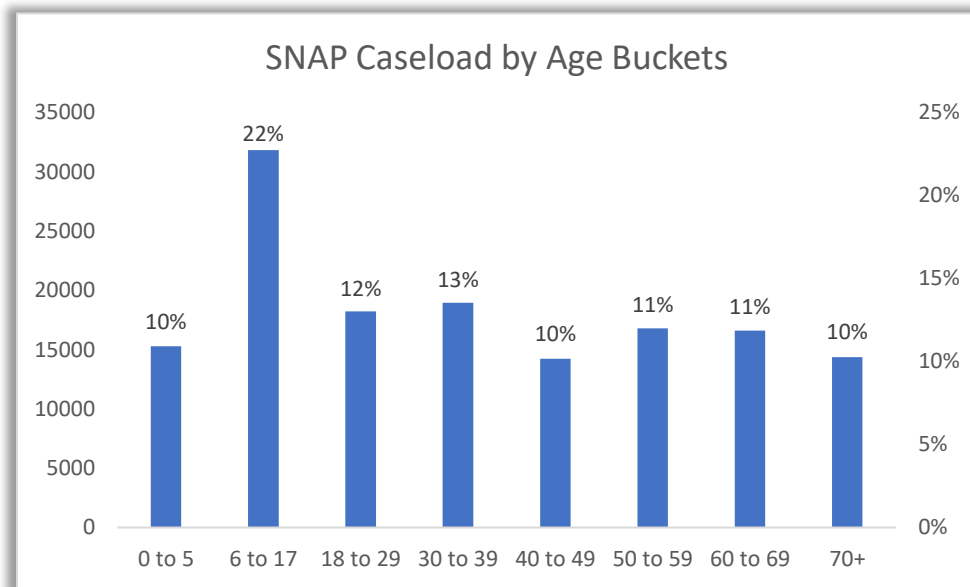
* Point in time data from March 2021

SNAP CASELOAD BY AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD



In March 2021, nearly 20 percent (17,497 of 89,211 cases) of the SNAP cases had a head of household between the ages of 25 to 34. The next highest age demographic was individuals age 55 to 64 years old representing 18.9 percent of that month’s cases, followed by 35 to 44-year-olds with 17.1 percent.

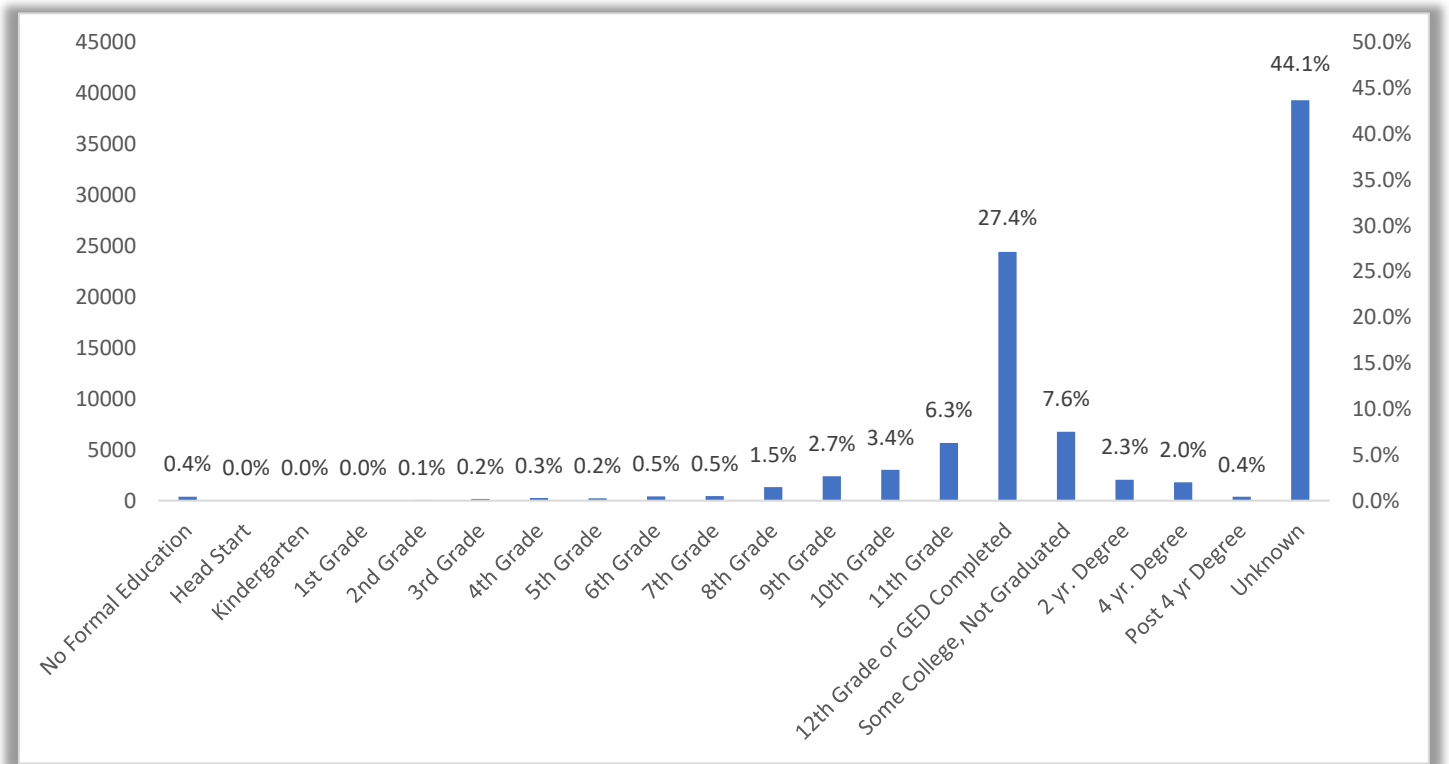
SNAP CASELOAD BY AGE



Thirty-two percent of our 146,188 SNAP participants in March 2021 were under the age of 18. Most recipients, 31,800, were between the ages of 6 and 17, followed by 18,938 individuals between the ages of 30 to 39 and then 18,206 individuals between the ages of 18 to 29.

* Point in time data from March 2021

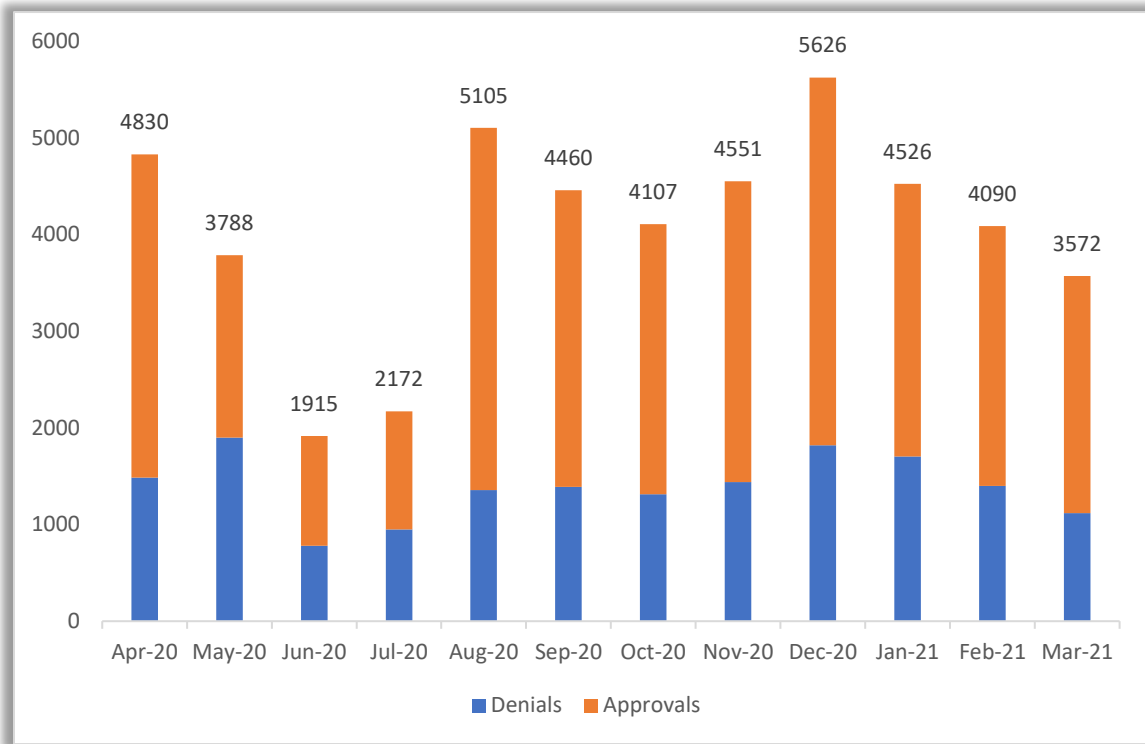
SELF-REPORTED EDUCATION ATTAINMENT OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD



As the report of education attainment level for SNAP participants is voluntary and not required for a determination of eligibility, a little more than 41 percent of our SNAP caseload does not have data on the education of the head of household. Of those cases with a head of household education attainment level (represented in the above graph), 27.4 percent have reported a high school diploma or GED, followed by 7.6 percent with some college completed, but not a diploma and 6.3 percent with an 11th grade education.

* Point in time data from March 2021

ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION OUTCOMES



This chart represents the number of applications approved and denied for the months identified. It does not reflect the number of applications received in that month. Withdrawn applications where eligibility wasn't run are not included.

Reasons for denials include not completing the application process, such as missing an interview or not providing verification documents, as well being above the eligible gross and net income limits. Less frequently, denials also occur due to failure to meet the residency requirements or immigration status criteria.

Data from April 2020-March 2021

APPLICATION TIMELINESS

