



## Rhode Island SNAP Report



July 2020

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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.

Under the leadership of Director Courtney E. Hawkins, 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, elders, 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, click [here](#).) 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, and farmers markets.

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

- Extending certification periods by six months for those due to recertify
- Allowing all required in-person interviews to happen over the phone
- Increasing household benefits to the maximum benefit for each household size
- 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. Since school were closed due to COVID-19, those children received SNAP benefits in the amount of the value of those school meals.
- Expanded online delivery options for EBT users to include Amazon and participating Walmart stores

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 2020. Data regarding the race/ethnicity and education attainment of SNAP individuals identified as "head of household" is self-reported and voluntary.

Monthly application determination data from May 2019 through March 2020 and timeliness data from April 2019 through March 2020 are also included.

DIRECTOR COURTNEY E. HAWKINS

THE CURRENT HEALTH CRISIS WITH COVID-19 HAS FURTHER DEMONSTRATED HOW CRITICAL AND NECESSARY DHS'S WORK IS TO THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND SUCCESS OF OUR RESIDENTS AND THE ENTIRE STATE. IF WE DON'T SUPPORT VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN MEETING THEIR BASIC NEEDS THEN WE WILL NEVER ACHIEVE OUR BROADER ECONOMIC, EDUCATIONAL AND QUALITY OF LIFE GOALS.

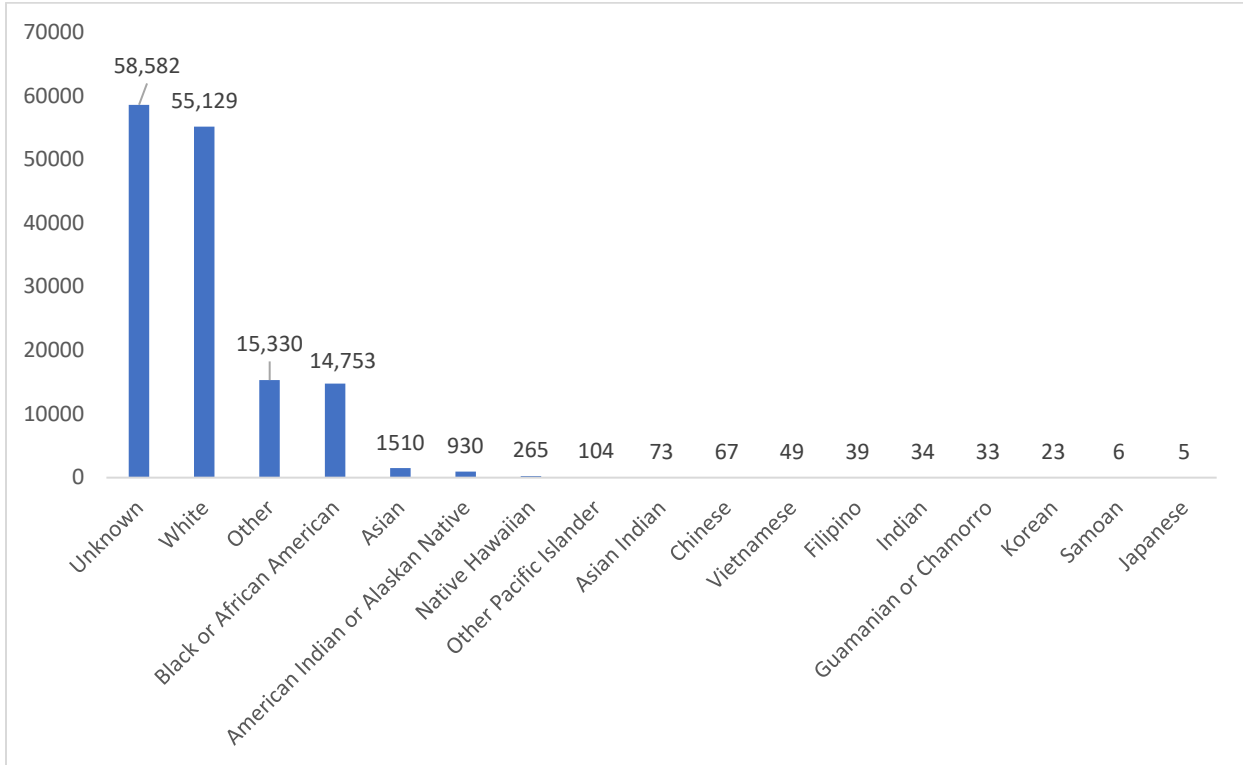
## SNAP CASELOAD BY CITY OF RESIDENCE

City/Town	2019 Cases	2020 Cases	Percent increase/decrease
Barrington	229	248	8%
Bristol	946	858	-10%
Burrillville	777	725	-7%
Central Falls	3,563	3,411	-4%
Charlestown	328	313	-5%
Coventry	1,824	1,736	-5%
Cranston	5,904	5,413	-9%
Cumberland	1,414	1,366	-4%
East Greenwich	458	430	-7%
East Providence	3,639	3,510	-4%
Exeter	206	187	-10%
Foster	180	177	-2%
Glocester	318	298	-7%
Hopkinton	391	331	-18%
Jamestown	111	115	3%
Johnston	2,349	2,348	0%
Lincoln	987	985	0%
Little Compton	78	66	-18%
Middletown	773	682	-13%
Narragansett	442	395	-12%
New Shoreham	19	11	-73%

City/Town	2019 Cases	2020 Cases	Percent increase/decrease
Newport	1,968	1,751	-12%
North Kingstown	1,120	1,095	-2%
North Providence	2,682	2,668	-1%
North Smithfield	431	420	-3%
Pawtucket	10,372	10,228	-1%
Portsmouth	578	499	-16%
Providence	29,196	28,525	-2%
Richmond	268	245	-9%
Scituate	295	293	-1%
Smithfield	586	588	0%
South Kingstown	978	857	-14%
Tiverton	717	657	-9%
Warren	694	693	0%
Warwick	5,123	4,907	-4%
West Greenwich	153	155	1%
West Warwick	3,240	3,160	-3%
Westerly	1,374	1,344	-2%
Woonsocket	7,528	7,341	-3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>92,239</b>	<b>89,031</b>	<b>-4%</b>

*\* Point in time data from March 2019 & 2020*

## SNAP CASELOAD BY RACE



## SNAP CASELOAD BY SECONDARY RACE (WHEN IDENTIFIED)

White	536
Black or African American	246
Asian	41
American Indian or Alaskan Native	36
Other Pacific Islander	12
Asian Indian	9
Filipino	5
Native Hawaiian	5
Chinese	4
Indian	4
Vietnamese	4
Guamanian or Chamorro	3

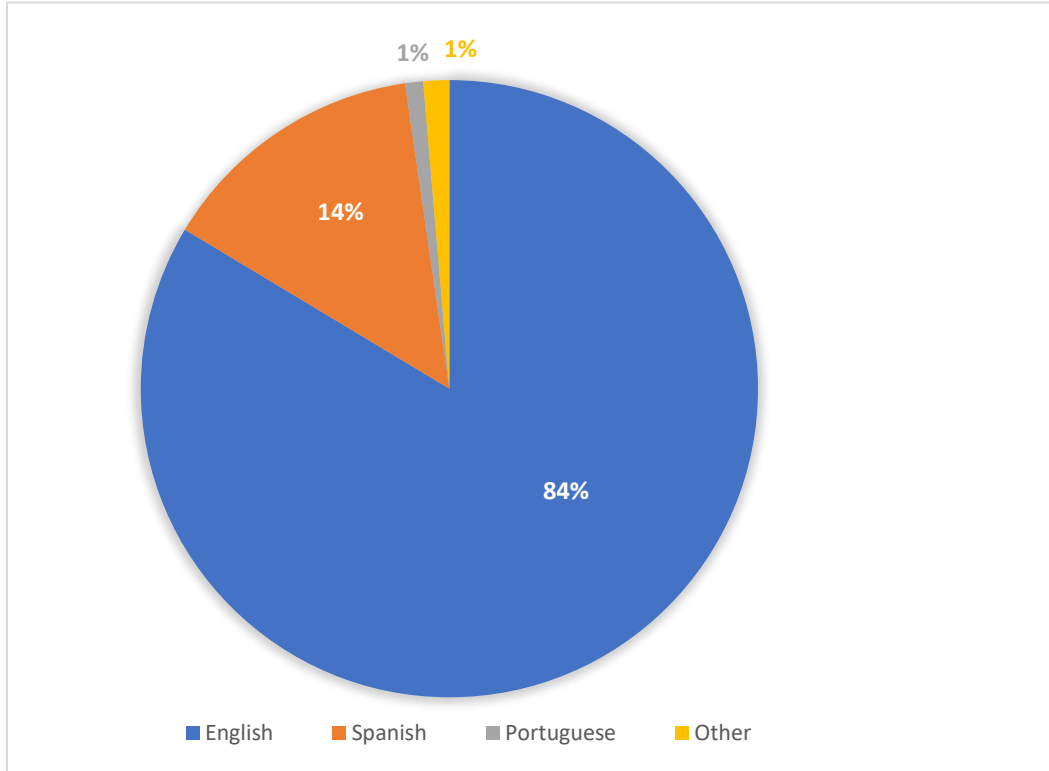
## SNAP CASELOAD BY ETHNICITY

Unknown/Null	68,783
Non-Hispanic	52,370
Hispanic	21,364
Puerto Rican	4,046
Mexican	289
Cuban	80

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 2020

## PRIMARY LANGUAGE OF SNAP HOUSEHOLDS



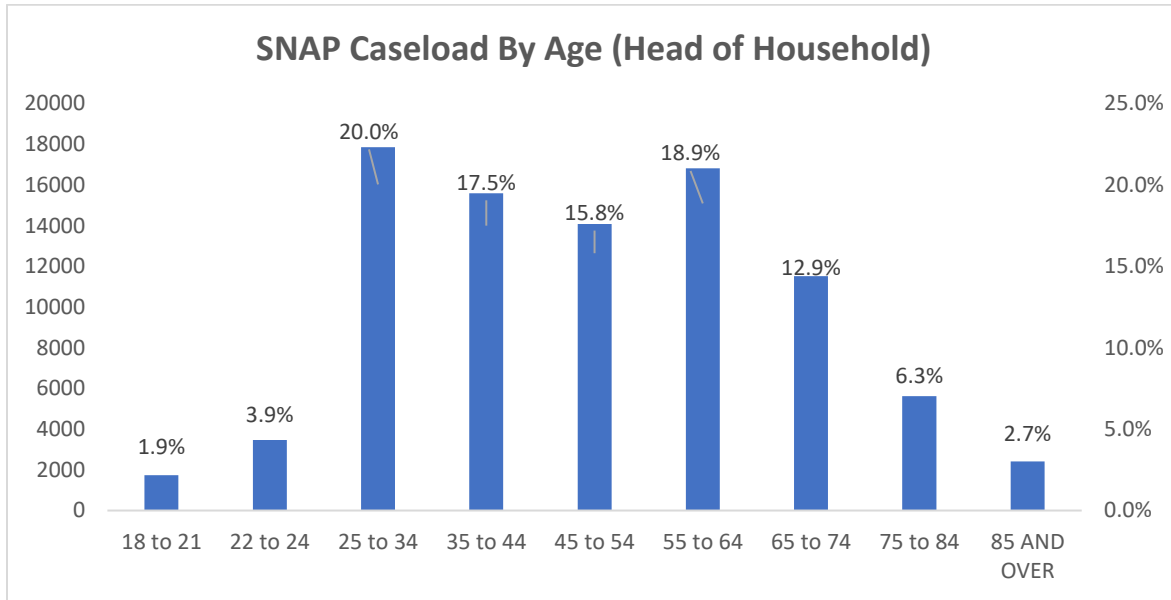
Eighty-four percent (74,527 out of 89,128) of the customers in March 2020 reported English as their primary spoken language. The next highest spoken language represented was Spanish (14 %) and Portuguese (1%). The remaining 1 percent of households reported a different primary language. Those languages 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 Eligible for Other Programs	% of SNAP Caseload	% of Other Program Recipients on SNAP
Rhode Island Works	8,910	6%	97.6%
Child Care Assistance Program	7,320	5%	71.1%
Medicaid	87,338	59.4%	38.8%
General Public Assistance	101	< 0.1%	99%

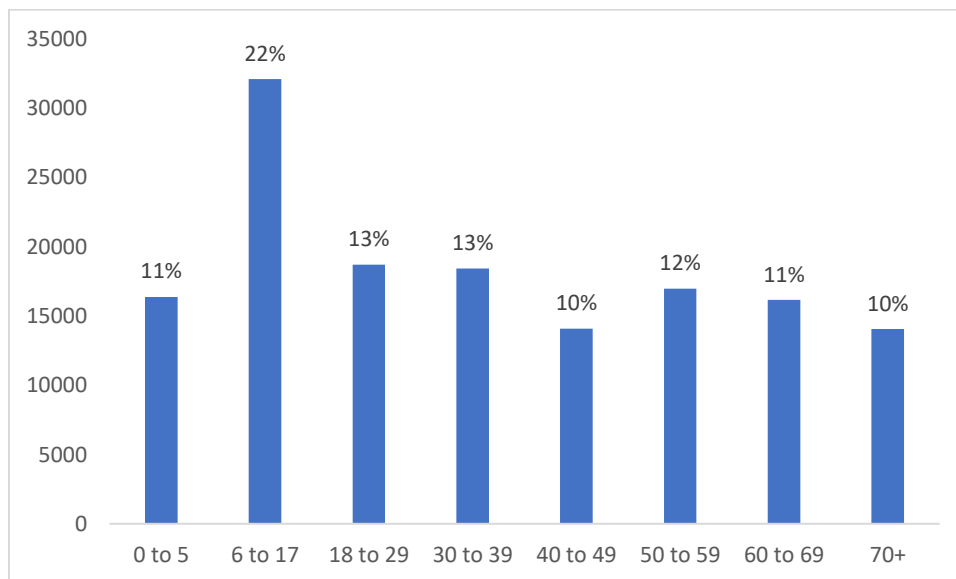
\* Point in time data from March 2020

## SNAP CASELOAD BY AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD



In March 2020, 20 percent (17,859 of 89,128 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 17.5 percent.

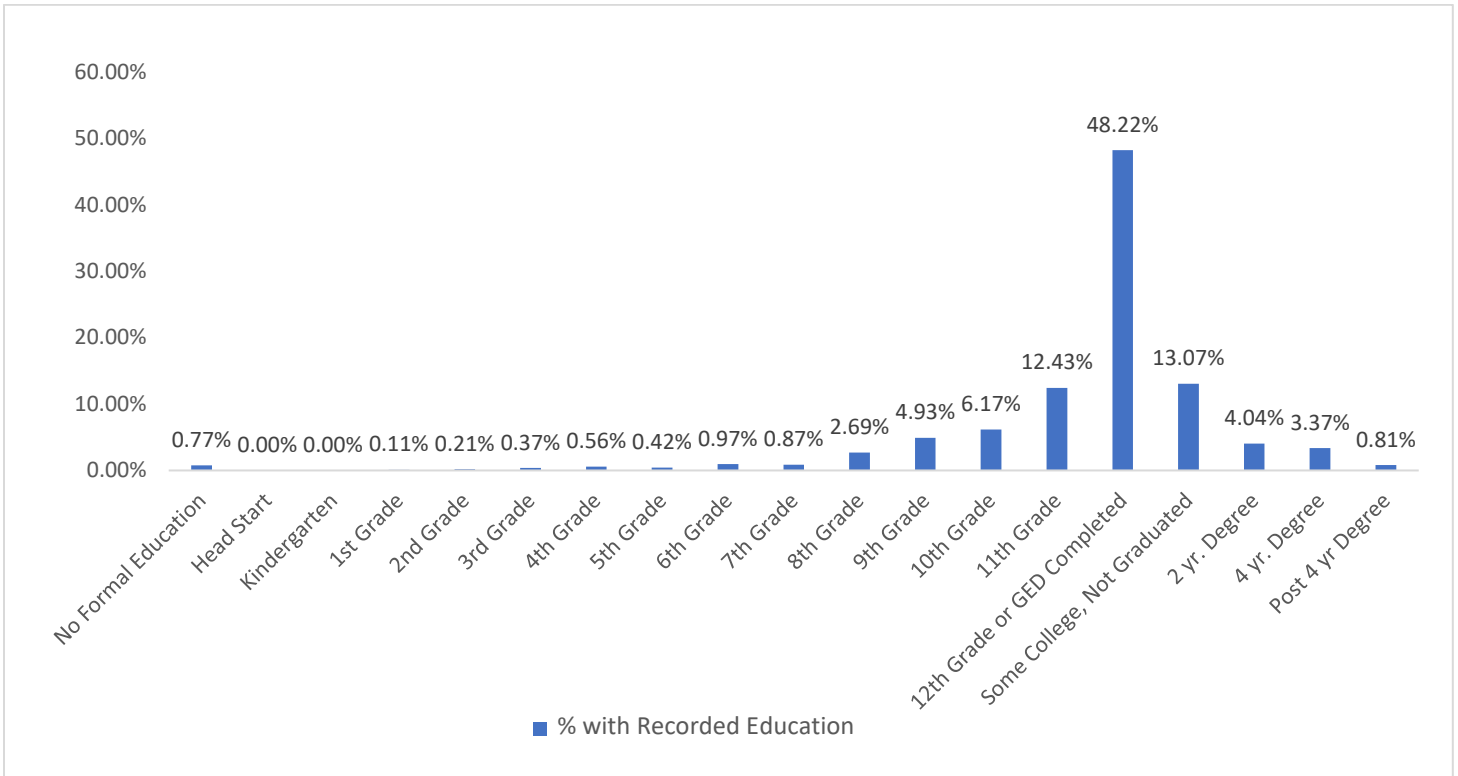
## SNAP CASELOAD BY AGE



Thirty-three percent of our 146,910 SNAP participants in March 2020 were under the age of 18. Most recipients, 32,102, were between the ages of 6 and 17, followed by 18,698 individuals between the ages of 18 to 29 and then 18,440 individuals between the ages of 30 to 39.

*\* Point in time data from March 2020*

## SELF-REPORTED EDUCATION ATTAINMENT OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD

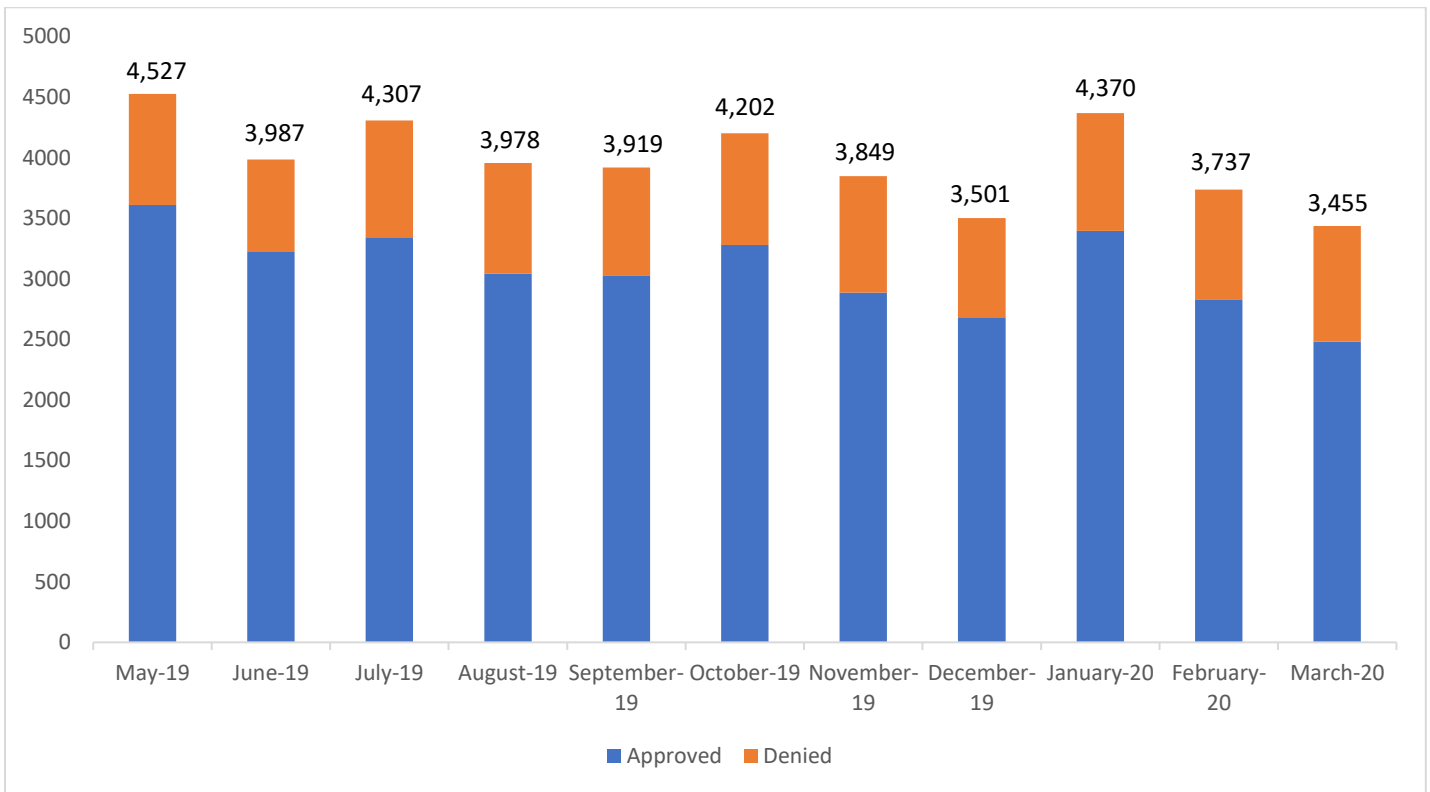


As the report of education attainment level for SNAP participants is voluntary and not required for a determination of eligibility, nearly 48 percent of our SNAP caseload does not have data on the education of the head of household. Of those cases with a head of household education attainment level (represented in the above graph), 48.2% have reported a high school diploma or GED, followed by 12.4% with an 11th grade education and 13% with some college completed but not a diploma.

*\* Point in time data from March 2020*



## 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. To a lesser extent, denials also occur due to failure to meet the residency requirements or immigration status criteria.

*Data from May 2019-March 2020*

## APPLICATION TIMELINESS

