



United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service

Household Food Security and SNAP in the Wake of the 2007-09 Recession

*Economic Research Service
and
Food and Nutrition Service*

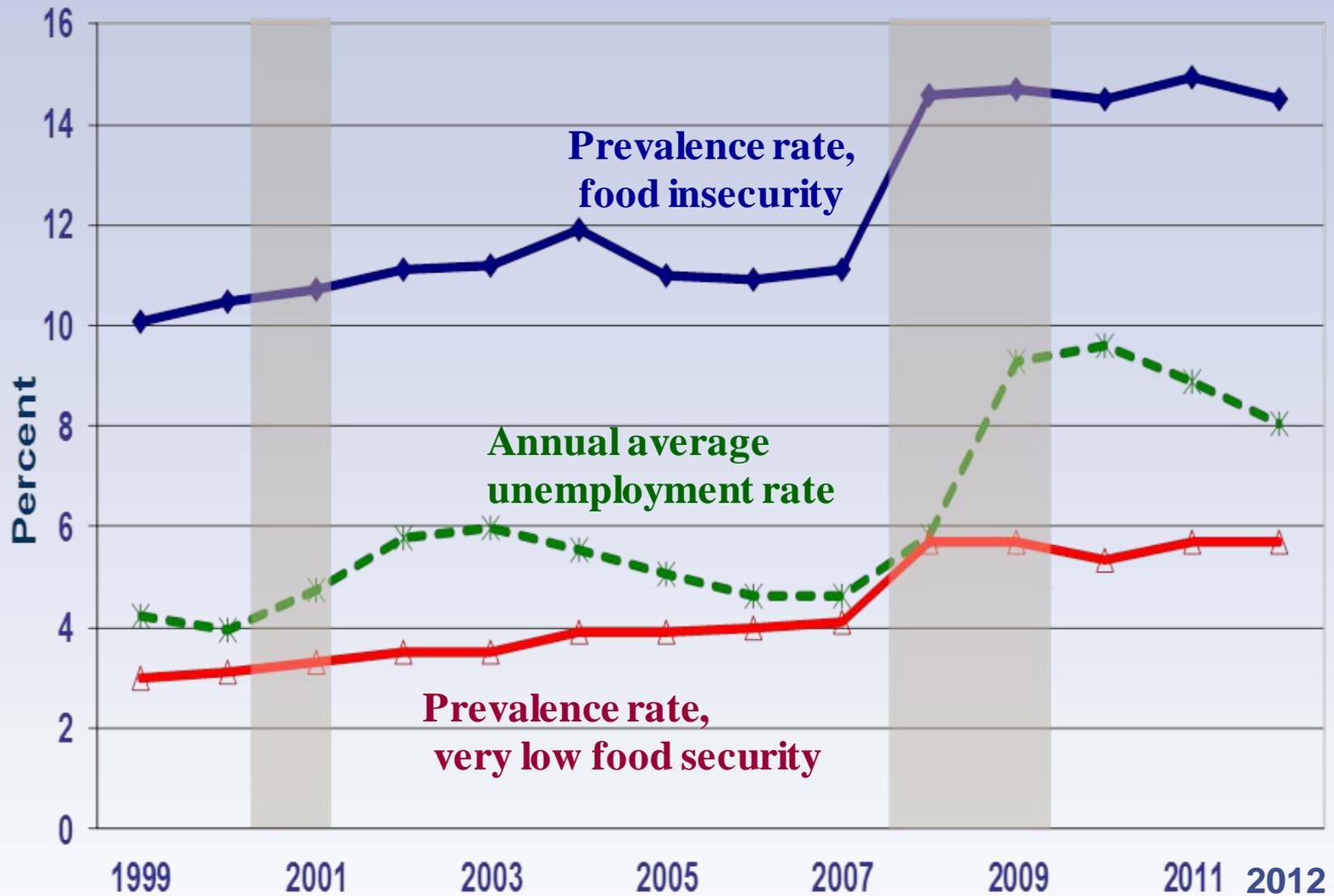
USDA

Household Food Security and SNAP in the Wake of the 2007-09 Recession

% of households unable to put adequate food on the table increased during the recession and remained essentially unchanged through 2012.

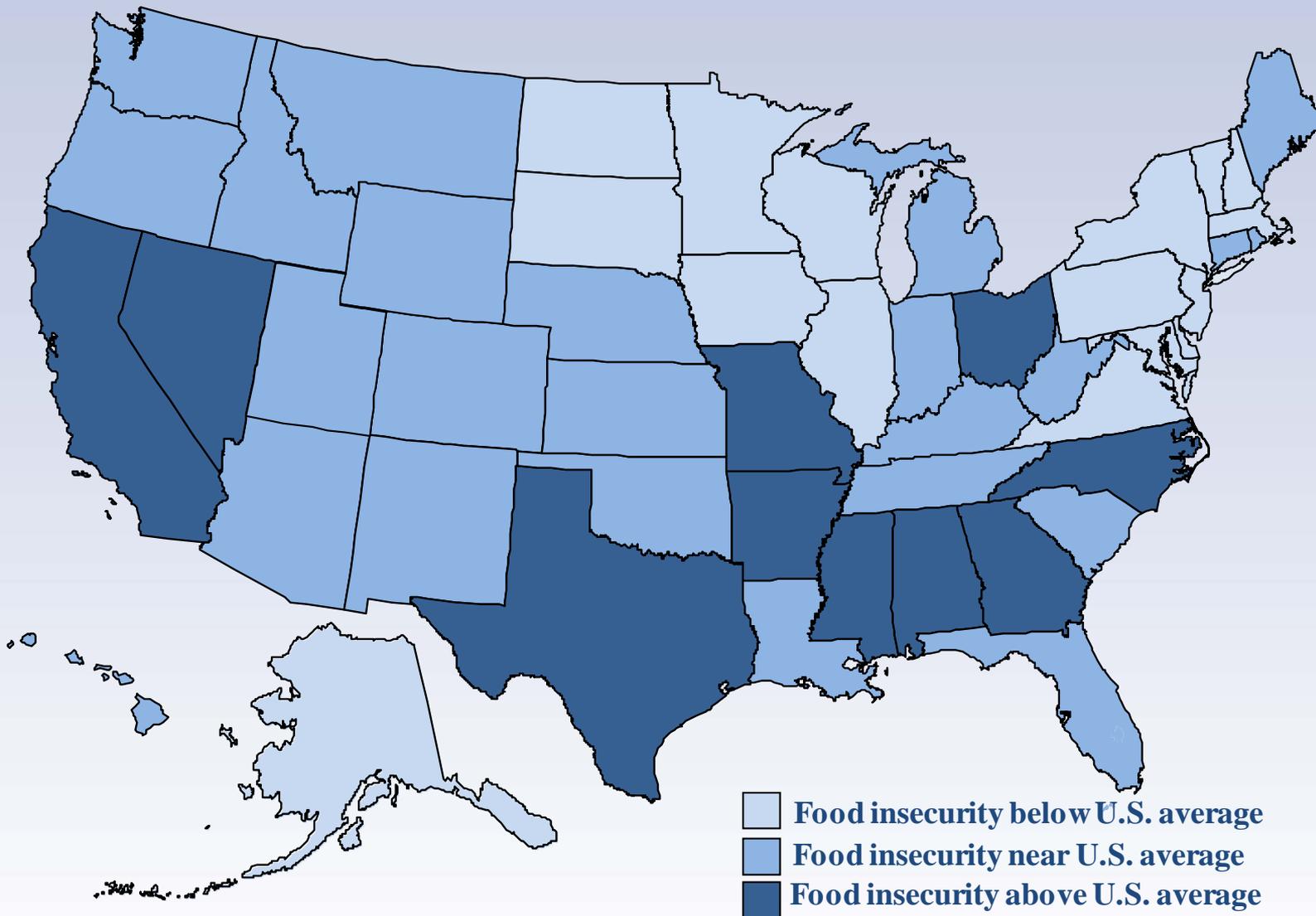
of households receiving assistance from SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) increased during the recession and continued increasing through 2012.

Food insecurity worsened in the recession, then changed little through 2012

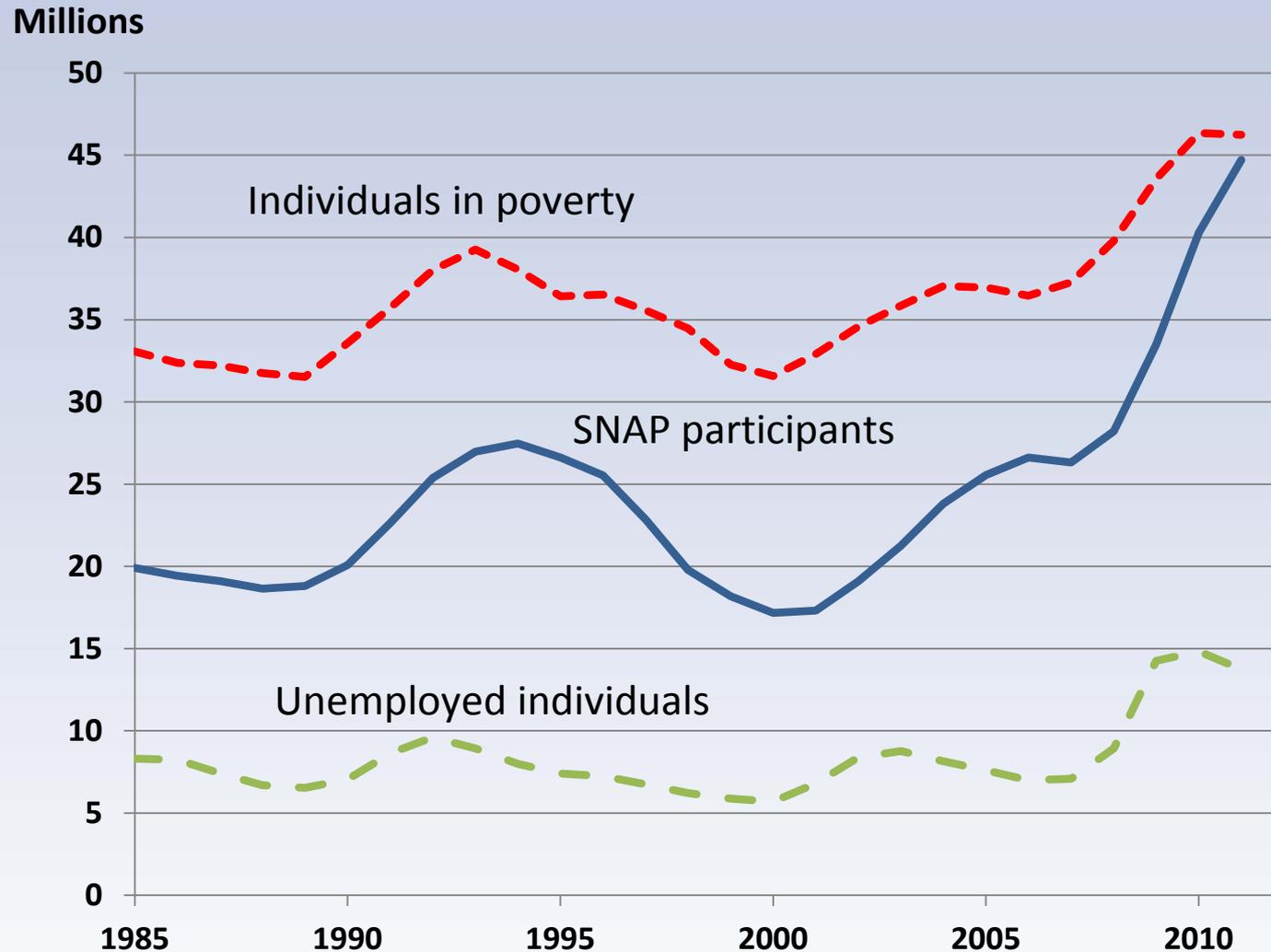


Source: USDA, *Household Food Security in the United States in 2012*; and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service

Food insecurity was more prevalent than the national average in 10 States in 2010-12



SNAP participation generally follows trends in poverty and unemployment

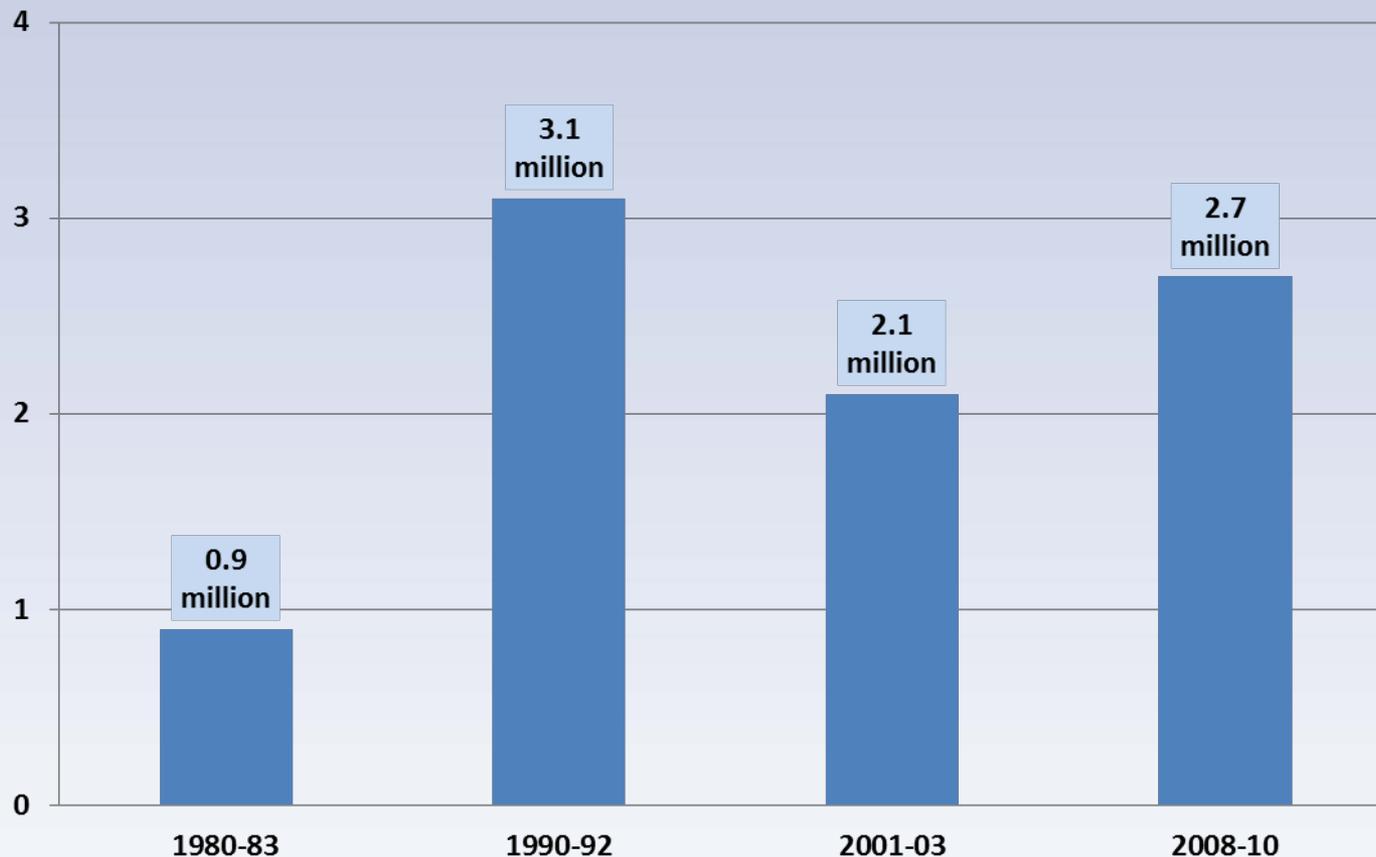


Source: USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, *Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2011*. All statistics are annual averages.



SNAP caseload grew in proportion to unemployment in recent periods of economic decline

Millions of additional SNAP participants
per 1 percentage-point increase in unemployment

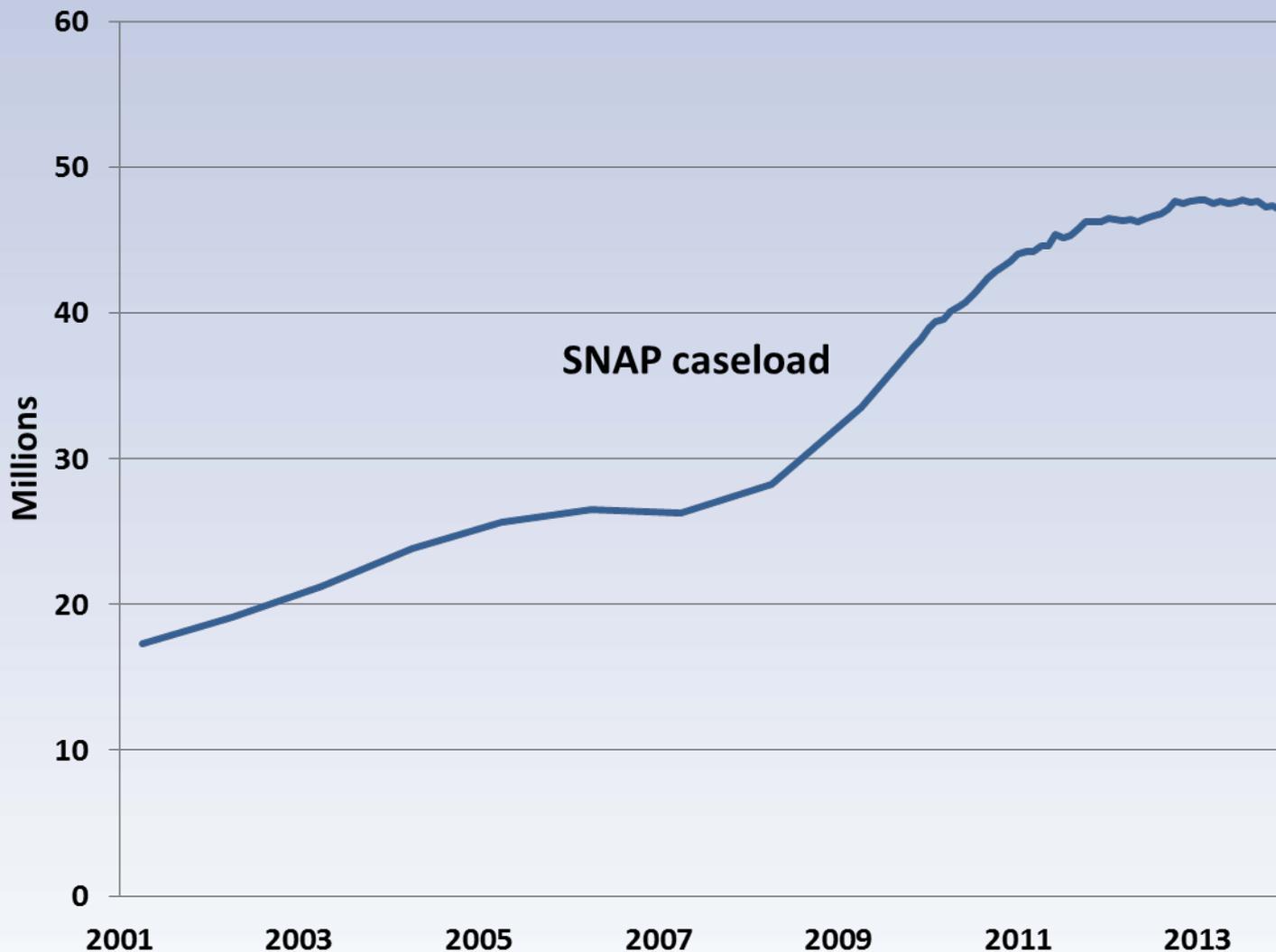


A period of economic decline is defined by a rising annual average unemployment rate.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations based on USDA, Food and Nutrition Service caseload data and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics unemployment statistics



The SNAP caseload leveled off in 2013



Source: USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, administrative data (<http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/SNAPmain.htm>)



Food security improved following the SNAP benefit increase mandated by Recovery Act

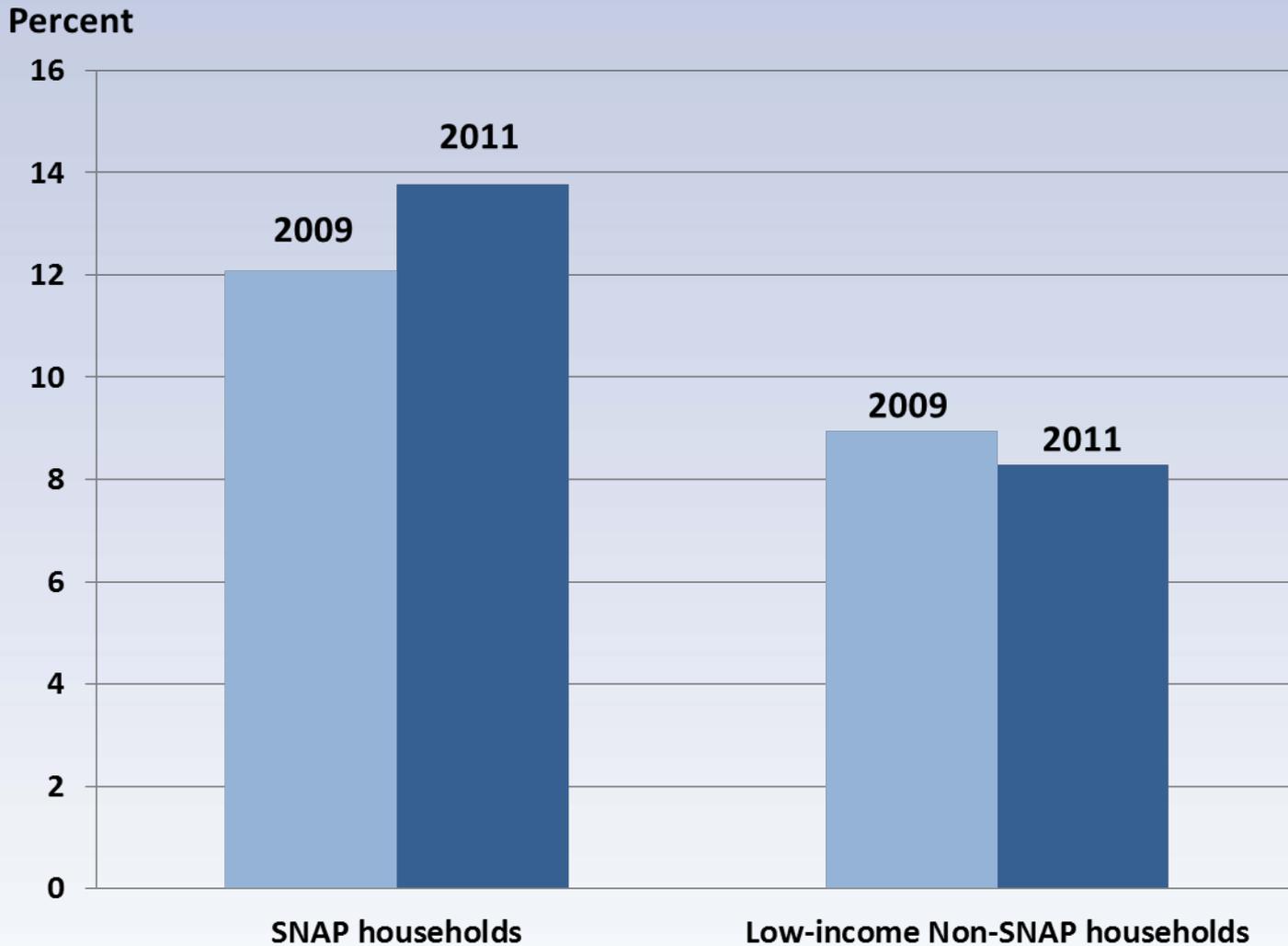


Note: Prevalence rates are adjusted for inter-period differences in income, employment and other household characteristics.

Source: *Food Security Improved Following the 2009 ARRA Increase in SNAP Benefits*



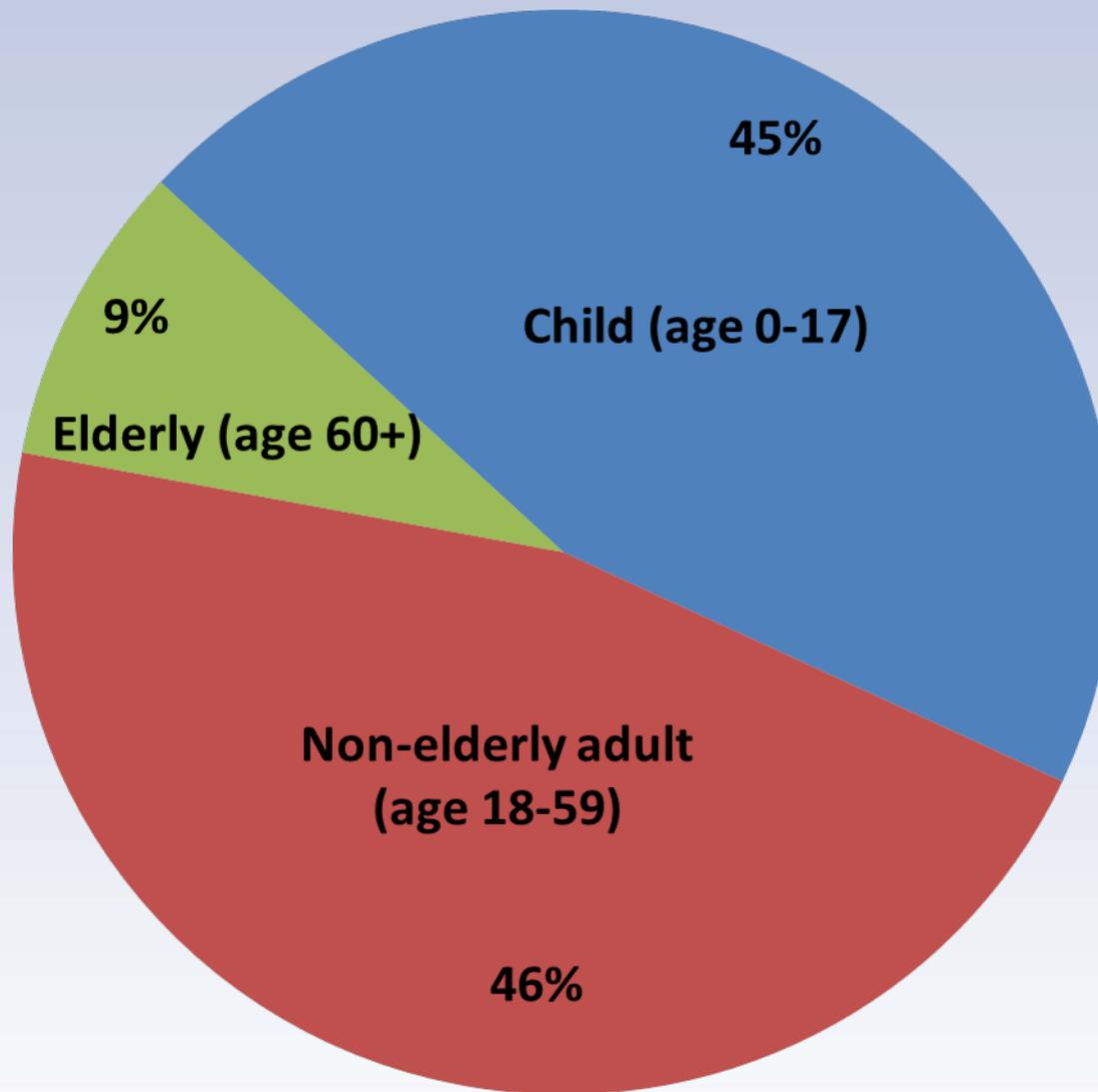
As inflation eroded SNAP value, the % of SNAP households with very low food security increased



Source: *Effects of the Decline in the Real Value of SNAP Benefits from 2009 to 2011*



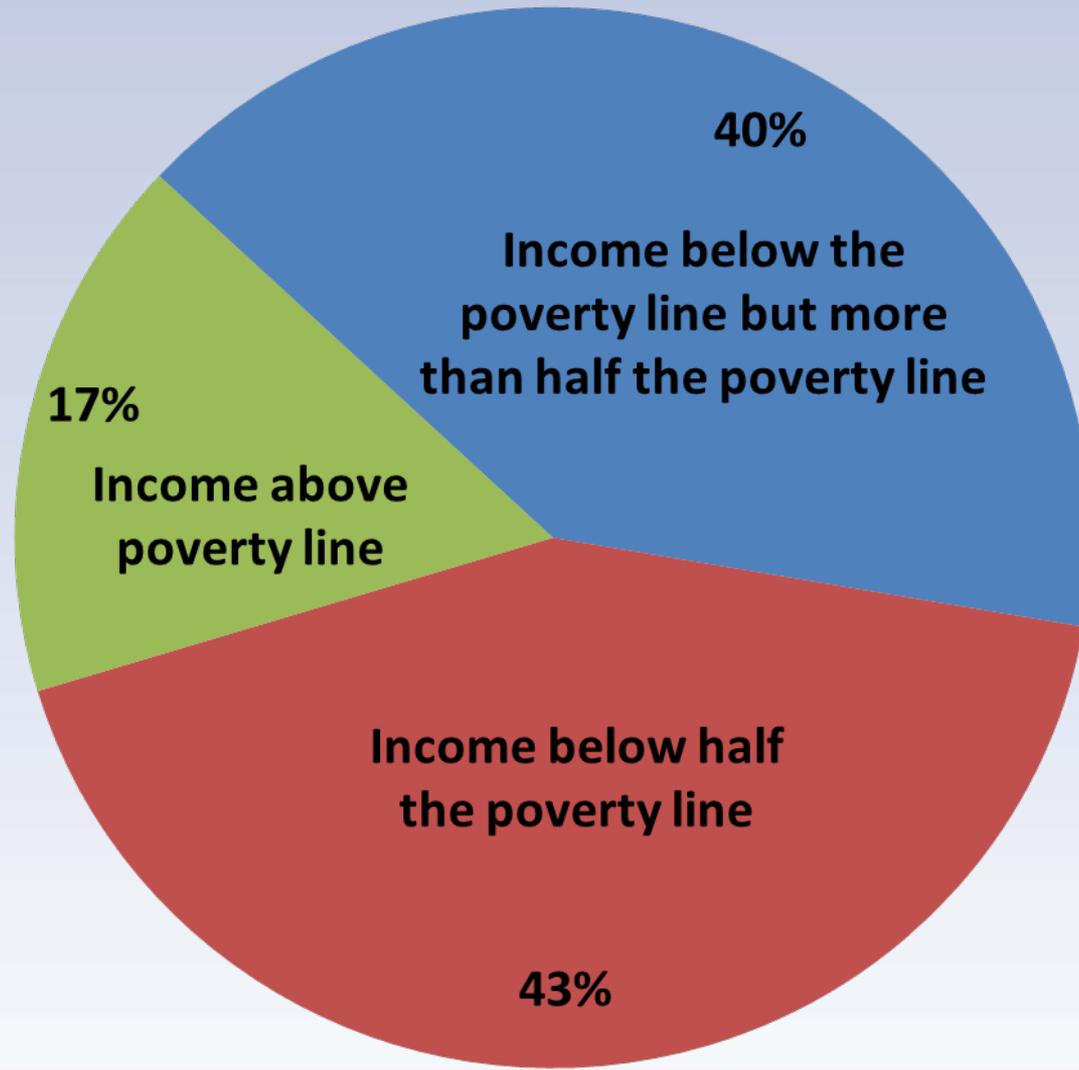
More than half of SNAP recipients are children or elderly



Source: USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, *Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2011*



83% of SNAP households had incomes below the poverty line in FY2011



Source: USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, *Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2011*

For more information...

<http://ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us.aspx>

