Children's Hospital of Philadelphia PolicyLab

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Payment Delays and Food Insecurity Among Hospitalized Children

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The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the nation's largest government nutrition benefit program. Benefit disruptions may lead to increased food insecurity (FI), particularly among households with children. Food insecurity affects approximately 14 million US children annually and is associated with adverse health outcomes, including increases in chronic disease incidence and acute care use.

During the 2025 federal government shutdown, many states delayed disbursement of November 2025 SNAP benefits due to delays in federal funding. In Pennsylvania, delayed SNAP issuance was announced on October 16, 2025, launching a crisis period until a federal court order mandated partial benefit issuance on November 7, 2025. We evaluated the association between delayed SNAP benefits and household FI among hospitalized children at our institution and assessed changes in searches for community-based food resources following the announcement.

The description of this research is pulled from the corresponding JAMA Network Open article.

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