SNAP: Four Steps to Quality Control

"All those involved in nutrition assistance programs — at the federal, state and local level — are responsible for good stewardship of tax dollars."

STATE REVIEW

1

► State agencies randomly select a sample of households participating in SNAP in their state each month—a total of about **50,000** cases nationwide each year.

► State agency staff interview participants and conduct a detailed examination of their household circumstances.

► This information is used to measure how accurately states determined the selected households' eligibility and benefit amounts.

► States calculate the number of errors – both overpayments and underpayments.

CORRECTIONS

2

► Errors are corrected. Overpayments must be paid back and underpayments are corrected, so each household gets exactly what it was eligible for.

FEDERAL REVIEW

3

► USDA double checks the accuracy of approximately **25,000** of the cases reviewed by the states.

► USDA validates that the states' reviews were done properly and in line with policy.

► If a review is inaccurate, USDA changes the finding so it is correct or sends the case back to the state for further review. The goal is to get an accurate answer.

ANALYSIS

4

► USDA analyzes the data, taking into consideration the size of a state's caseload and other variables.

► Based on that analysis, USDA establishes national and state payment error rates.

Payment error rates are announced EVERY JUNE

THE SNAP PAYMENT ERROR RATE *IS NOT* A FRAUD RATE

The SNAP Payment Error Rate is a measure of how accurately states determine eligibility and benefit amounts.

Common reasons why errors occur include:

Incorrect amounts paid to an eligible client

Payments made to a client incorrectly determined as eligible

Payments for which insufficient or no documentation was found

Eliminating waste, fraud and abuse is a top USDA priority.
For more information on SNAP fraud, visit www.fns.usda.gov/snap/fraud.