



# END THE FELONY SNAP/TANF BAN

North Carolina should ensure access to food assistance for people reentering society from our criminal legal system.

In 1994, the federal government passed a law that **bans people with a drug-related felony conviction from receiving food stamps and cash assistance programs** (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or "SNAP" and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or "TANF").

**However, the federal law allows states to opt out of the ban to ensure food access for their residents.**

NC has partially opted out of the ban by allowing people convicted of Class H or I drug felonies to access SNAP and TANF after waiting a minimum of **six months** after their conviction or six months after their release from incarceration, and meeting special requirements which include drug treatment. **People convicted of a Class G or higher drug felony are banned from SNAP and TANF benefits for life.**

**33%**

**Adult SNAP recipients are women of color**

**SNAP serves over 17 million children, including 5 million children age four or younger.**

**61% of SNAP households with children were headed by a single adult, 91% of which were headed by women**

# Did You Know?

In 2021,  
**8101**

North Carolinians were convicted of a drug related felony

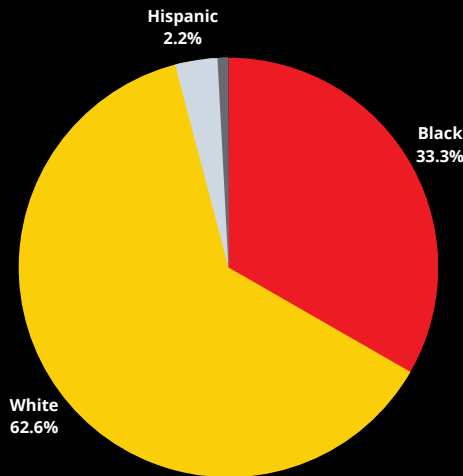
**29 States**

plus the District of Columbia have completely opted out of the Federal Ban on SNAP benefits for people convicted of felonies

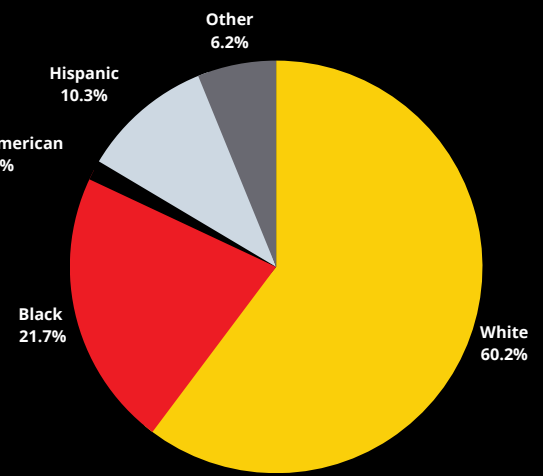
Access to SNAP benefits reduces recidivism, **making our communities safer**

Black and brown communities are convicted of drug felonies at disproportionate rates

**2021 NC Drug Felony Conviction**



**NC Population**



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