

SNAP ERROR RATES

SNAP error rates do not measure instances of fraud; they are a result of a complex method of processing and certifying SNAP applications.

Overview:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) payment error rate, sometimes abbreviated as PER, is a measure used to track how accurately states determine benefit amounts for eligible households. It reflects the percentage of cases where the state either overpays or underpays SNAP benefits due to mistakes in eligibility or benefit calculations. **SNAP error rates do not measure instances of fraud;** they are a representation of mistakes made during the complex method of processing and certifying SNAP applications and issuing SNAP benefits.

Why This Matters:

- Following the passage of HR 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, in July 2025, a state's error rate will indicate what percentage of SNAP benefits the state must cover, between 0%-15%.
*Beginning October 2027.
- High error rates can result in additional federal penalties and/or increased oversight for states.
- SNAP participants are required to pay back benefit overpayments even if the error was made by the agency.
- Errors may also hurt families who rely on SNAP by causing benefit delays or disruptions.

State SNAP PER	State Share of Benefit	Annual Estimated Cost for OK
<6%	0%	\$0
6 – 7.99%	5%	\$90 million
8 – 9.99%	10%	\$180 million
>10%	15%	\$270 million

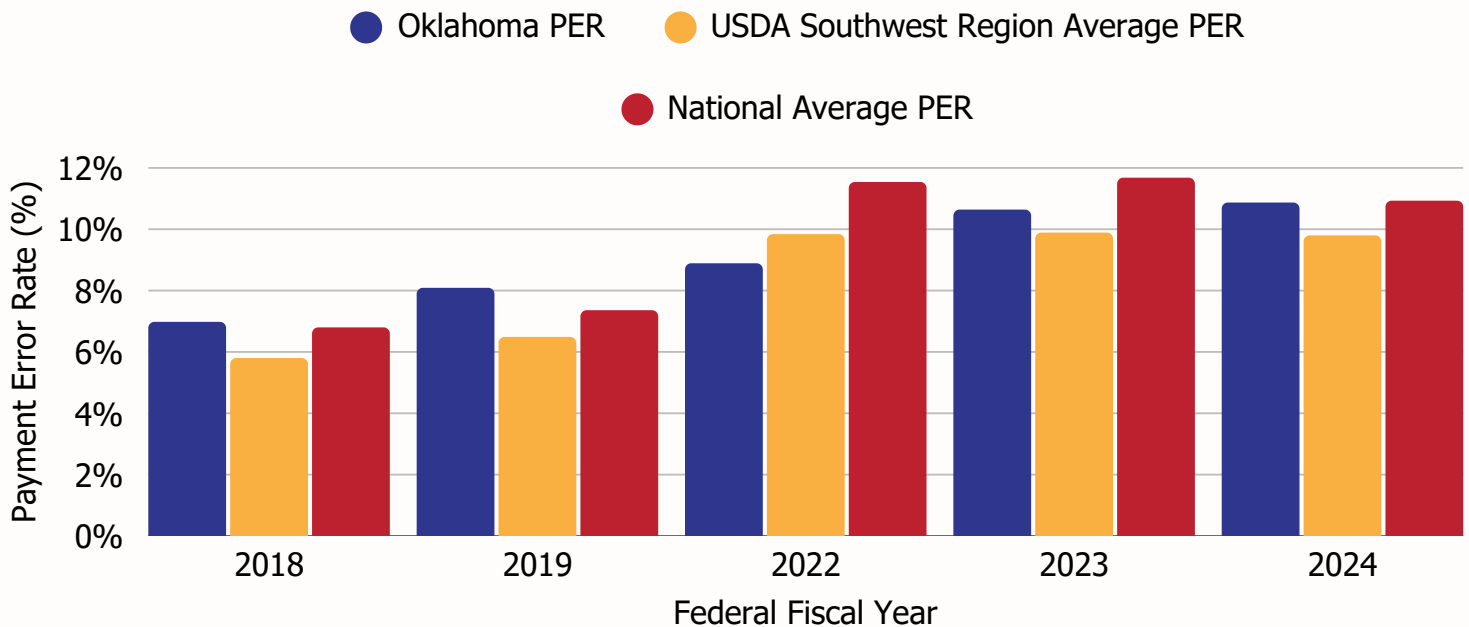
Solutions:

States can reduce error rates by investing in:

- Staff training and support.
- Partnerships with community-based organizations for participant education.
- Improved data systems and verification tools.
- Implementing simplified SNAP verification and certification requirements.

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State, Regional, and National Payment Error Rates



How are Error Rates Tracked?

- Each year, the USDA calculates and publishes payment error rates for each state.
- States are responsible for conducting quality control reviews of a sample of cases to help determine their error rates.
- States have the ability to challenge USDA's error rate findings, though the process can be time-consuming and complex.

Sources/Links to More Information:

hfok.org/SNAP-QC
hfok.org/HR1
hfok.org/SNAP-Error-Rates

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