

ANGELA RACHIDI AND LESLIE FORD

A Reform Framework for the

# Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program



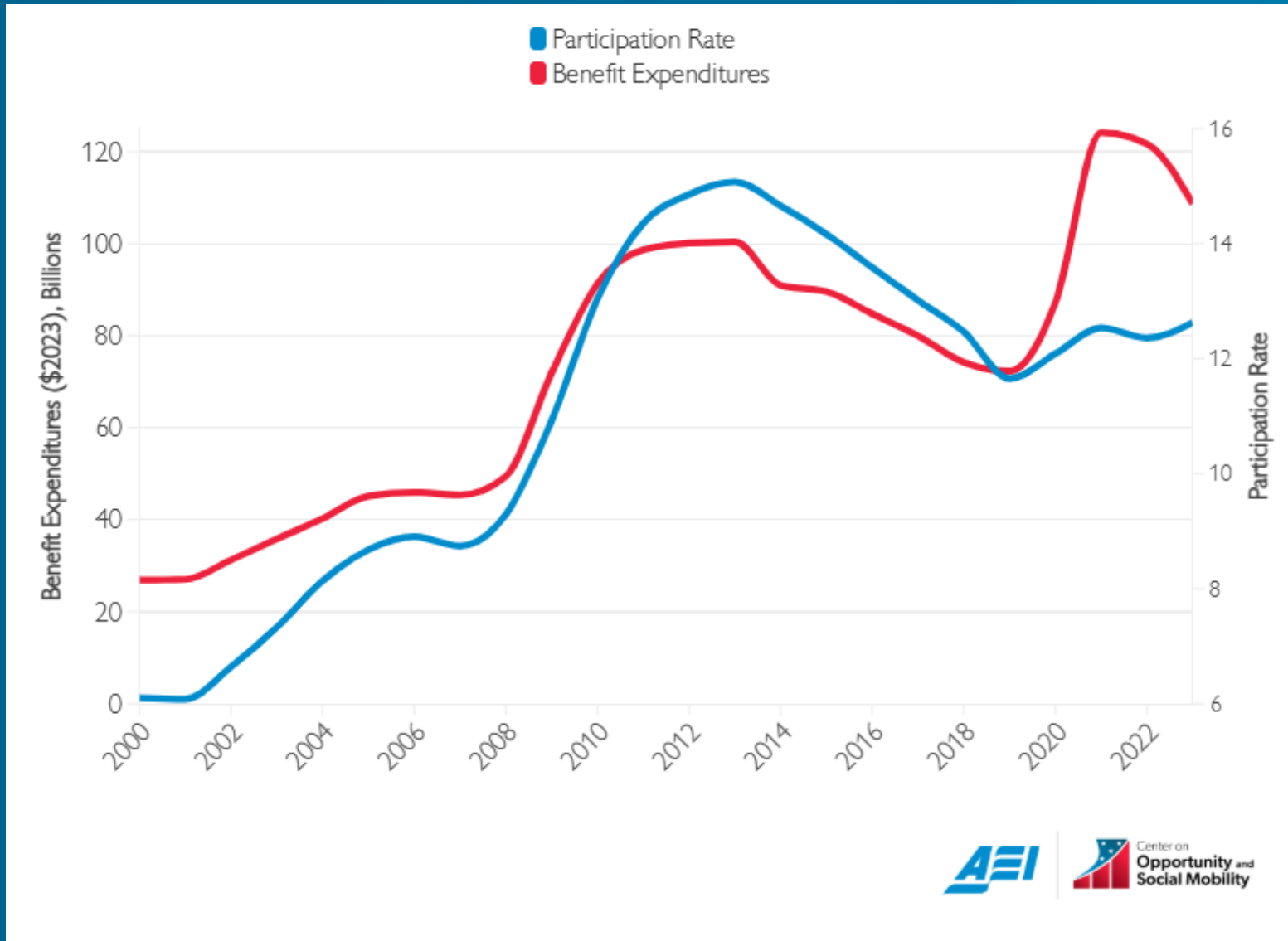
A PROJECT LED BY THE AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

# What are the core goals of SNAP?

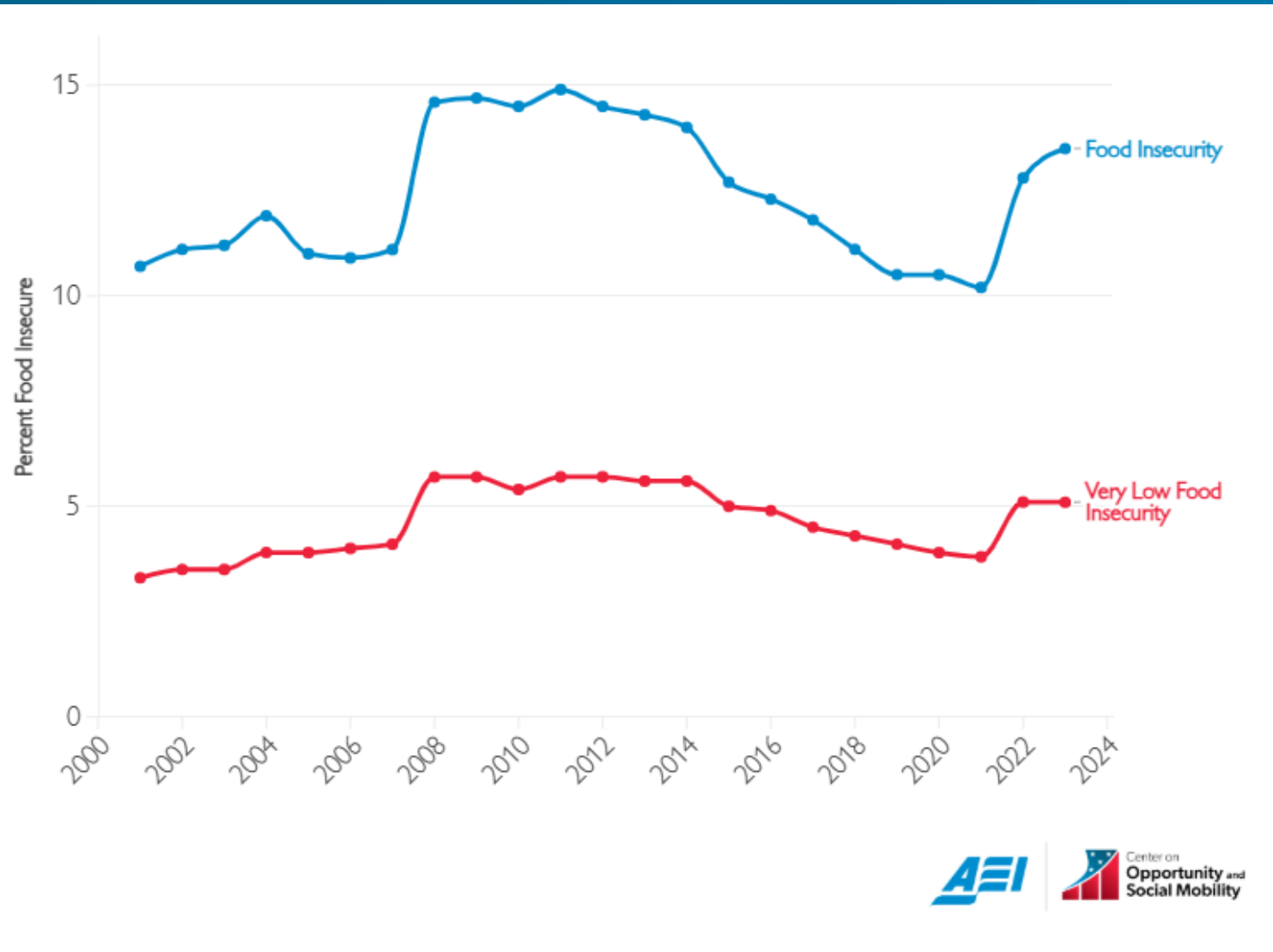
- “It is hereby declared to be the policy of Congress, in order to promote the general welfare, to ***safeguard the health and well-being*** of the Nation’s population by ***raising levels of nutrition among low-income households***. Congress hereby finds that the limited food purchasing power of low-income households contributes to ***hunger and malnutrition*** among members of such households.”

- Food and Nutrition Act of 2008

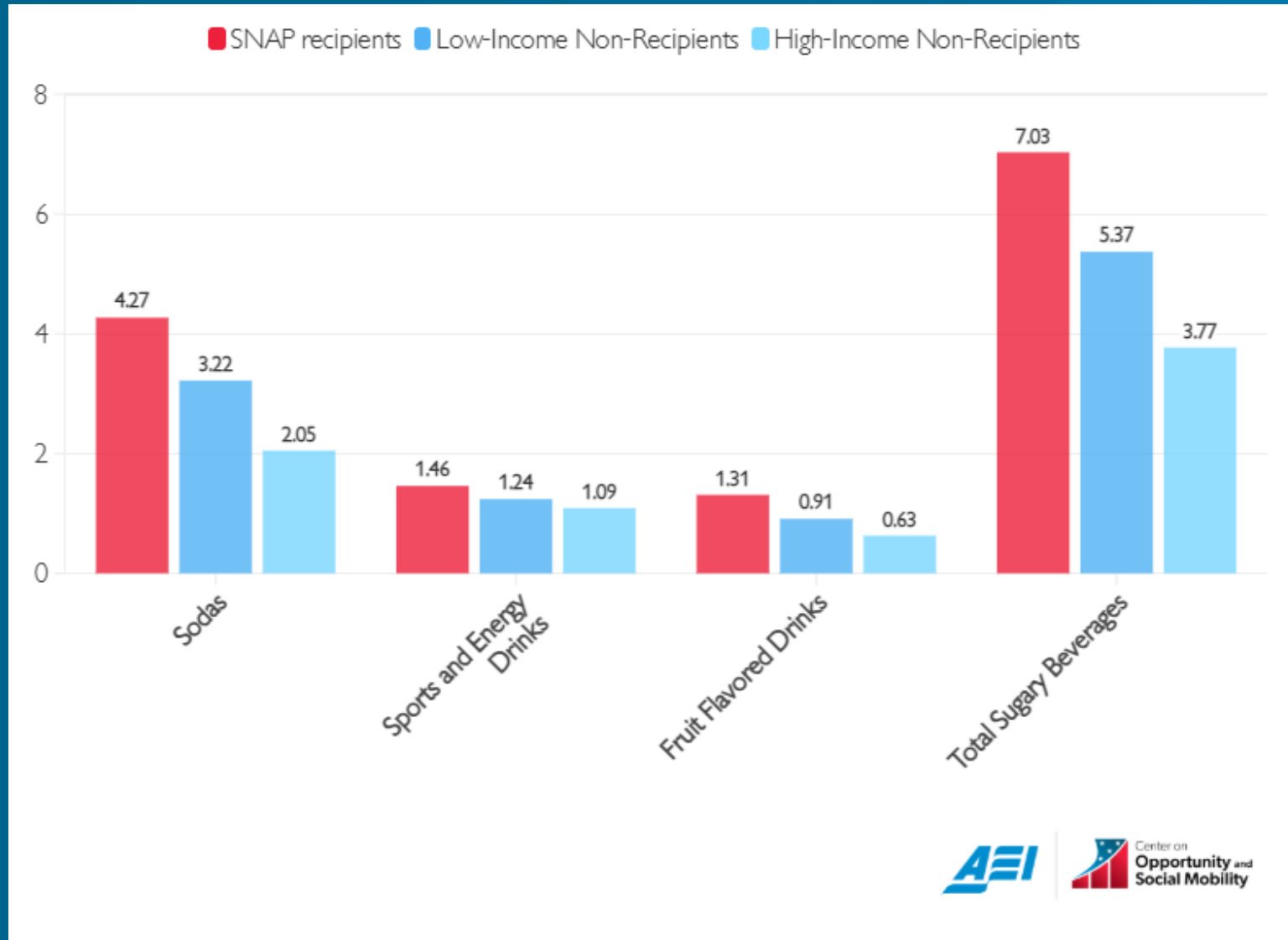
# SNAP participation and expenditures have skyrocketed since 2000



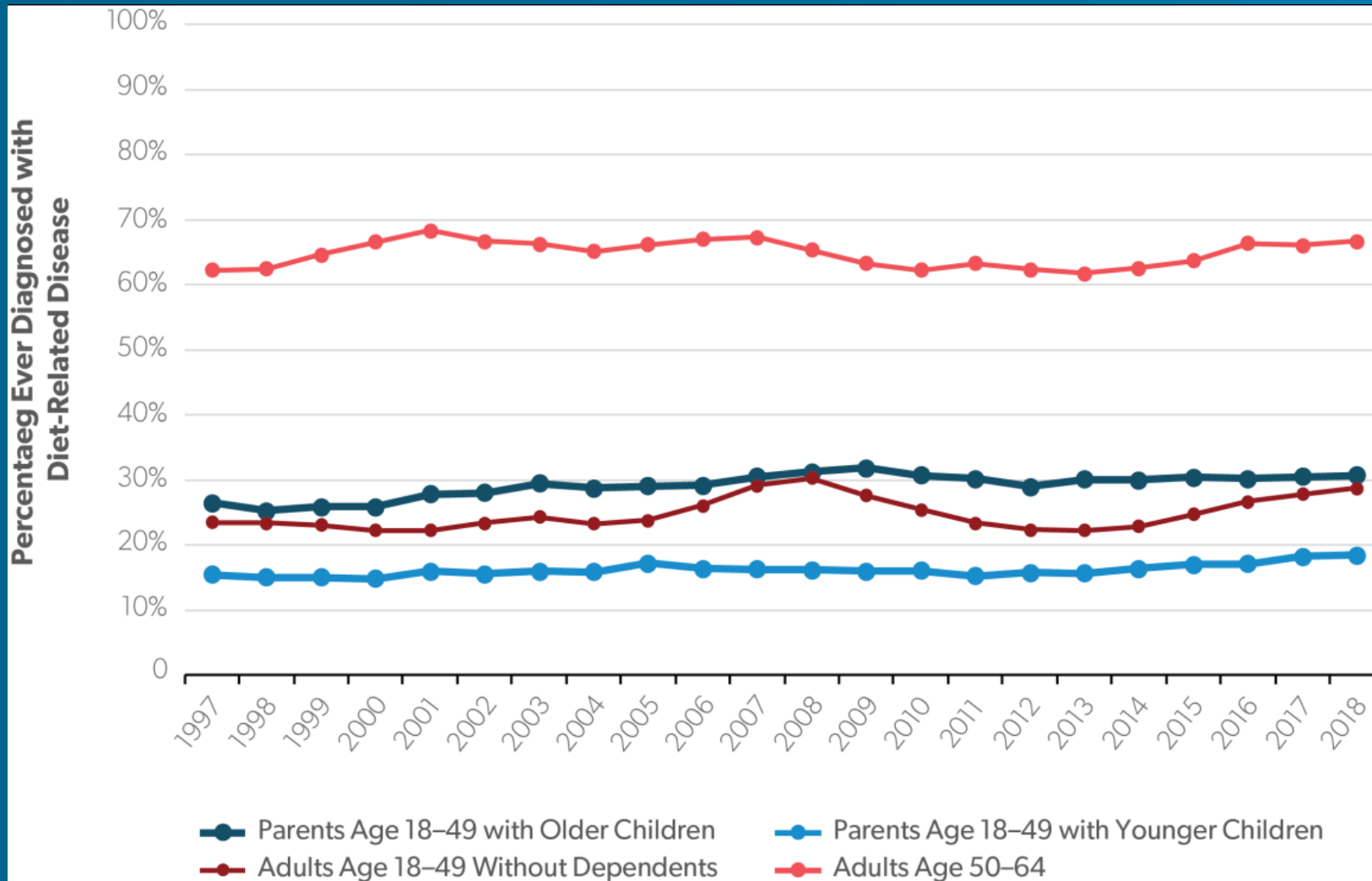
# Despite this increased spending... Food insecurity rates have not budged



# Despite this increased spending... SNAP recipients' have low nutrition levels



# Despite this increased spending... SNAP recipients are no healthier



# Areas of SNAP in need of reform

1. Program Administration
2. Eligibility and Benefit Levels
3. Employment and Poverty Reduction
4. Nutrition Improvement
5. Program Integrity

# Program Administration

- Incentivize states to implement SNAP more efficiently by requiring them to fund a greater share of benefits
- Allow states more flexibility with program rules to experiment with changing benefit levels, phaseout rates, and nutrition standards
- Hold states accountable for recipients' outcomes



# Eligibility and Benefit Levels

- Return benefit levels to their (inflation adjusted) rates before the 2021 Thrifty Food Plan expansion
- End broad-based categorical eligibility
- Improve benefit design to minimize SNAP's work disincentives
- Require that states verify recipient eligibility every 6 months; expand data-matching efforts across programs
- Limit the size and scope of executive emergency expansions to SNAP benefits

# Employment and Poverty Reduction

- Restrict the criteria by which states can waive federal work requirements
- Expand the work requirement for able-bodied adults without dependents from age 54 to 59
- Minimize work disincentives and reduce benefit cliffs by eliminating income deductions

# Nutrition Improvement

- Require the USDA to measure and report nutrition and health outcomes for SNAP recipients
- Evaluate the effectiveness of nutrition-based restrictions
- Encourage retailers to market healthy foods

# Program Integrity

- Incentivize states to detect and prevent errors and fraud by requiring them to fund a larger share of SNAP costs
- Improve eligibility verification efforts
- Allow states to retain a greater share of recouped fraudulent benefits
- Require all household members to be a part of the SNAP case
- Require retailers to share transaction data with USDA

To learn more, read the full report or contact us

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