

# FOOD



# S T A M P S

*Characteristics Survey*  
*Federal Fiscal Year 1998*  
*October 1997 through September 1998*



California Department of Social Services  
Program Planning and Performance Division  
CalWORKs and Food Stamps Data  
Systems Design Taskforce

**FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD  
CHARACTERISTICS  
SURVEY**

**Social and Economic Characteristics  
of  
Families Receiving Food Stamps**

**Federal Fiscal Year 1998  
October 1997 through September 1998**

**Prepared by**

**The California Department of Social Services**

**CalWORKs and Food Stamps  
Data Systems Design Taskforce**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Forward.....	1
The Food Stamp Program.....	2
California Food Assistance Program.....	2
Survey display.....	2
Survey Document.....	2
Sampling Information.....	3
Data Presentation.....	3
Reliability of Data.....	3
Recipient Profile.....	4

## Food Stamp Tables and Charts

<b><u>Table/Chart Number</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>
1	Gender of the Head of the Food Stamp Household
2	Gender of the Food Stamp Recipients
3	Citizenship Status of the Head of the Food Stamp Household
4	Citizenship Status of the Food Stamp Recipients
5	Age of the Head of the Food Stamp Household
6	Age of the children of the Food Stamp Recipients
7	Education Level of the Head of the Food Stamp Household
8	Student Status of the Head of the Food Stamp Household
9	Amount of Food Stamp Allotment per Household
10	Elderly or Disabled Status of the Head of the Food Stamp Household
11	Refugee Status of the Head of the Food Stamp Household
12	Refugee Status of the Food Stamp Recipients
13	Number of Persons in the Food Stamp Household
14	Number of Persons in the Same Living Quarters not Included In the Food Stamp Household
15	Source of Earned Income
16	Source of Unearned Income
17	Net Income Used to Determine the Food Stamp Allotment
18	Ethnicity of the Head of the Food Stamp Household
19	Ethnicity of the Food Stamp Recipients
20	Number of Uninterrupted Months since the Initial Food Stamp Application
21	Length of Certification Period of the Food Stamp Household
22	Resources Owned by the Food Stamp Household
23	Vehicles Owned by the Food Stamp Household
24	Food Stamp Households Claiming Utility Expenses
25	Food Stamp Households Claiming Standard Utility Allowance
26	Food Stamp Households Allowed a Dependent Care Deduction
27	Food Stamp Application for Expedited Services

## FORWARD

This report presents data on various social and economic characteristics of individuals and families that received benefits through the federal or state food stamp programs in California. The data reflect general characteristics of this population and are based on information obtained from the County Performance Sample survey conducted by the California Department of Social Services for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 1998—October 1997 through September 1998. This publication presents selected characteristics from the survey process.

On August 22, 1996, President Clinton signed into law the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) (Public Law 104-193). PRWORA, commonly called the Welfare Reform Act, overhauled the nation's welfare system and made significant changes to the federal Food Stamp Program. Among the changes were the reduction of food stamps for many participants and the elimination of them, except under certain conditions, for two groups—legal immigrants and able-bodied adults without dependents.

## THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

The Food Stamp Program provides monthly benefits that assist low-income households in purchasing the food they need to maintain adequate nutritional levels.

National eligibility standards and benefit levels are established by Congress while national administration of the program is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service, which funds 100% of the benefits. At the state level, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is responsible for program supervision, with county administration.

Eligibility determination includes an assessment of income level; resources, such as real and personal property; residency; employment status; and citizenship or legal immigrant status. Households in which all members receive federally funded public assistance benefits (CalWORKs) are considered categorically eligible for food stamps.

California's SSI/SSP recipients do not receive food stamps. Instead, they receive cash equivalent (cash-out) as part of their SSI/SSP benefits.

**Public Assistance Food Stamp recipients (PAFS)** are subject to the Food Stamp rules for computing allotment amounts.

**Non-Assistance Food Stamp recipients (NAFS)**, such as General Assistance recipients and other low income people, must undergo a complete eligibility process.

Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDS) ages 18 to 50 are limited to three months of food stamps in three years, unless they work 20 or more hours per week, participate in a workfare assignment, or participate in an allowable work activity for at least 20 hours per week.

## **CALIFORNIA FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

To afford some level of benefit protection to certain legal noncitizens that were deemed ineligible under PRWORA, the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) was implemented. The program became effective September 1, 1997, and provides food stamp benefits to certain legal non-citizens who were deemed ineligible for federal food stamps benefits solely due to their immigration status. **CFAP recipients are included with the federal food stamp recipients presented in this publication.**

## **SURVEY DISPLAY**

For comparison purposes, the tables in this publication display NAFS and PAFS data separately. Where appropriate, accompanying bullets make reference to comparable 1993 data. **It should be noted, however, that the March 1993 information is a point-in-time for that month only whereas the FFY 1998 data is an average of the twelve months ending September 30, 1998.**

Pie charts have also been included as a visual aid to assist the reader in the assimilation of the data.

## **SURVEY DOCUMENT**

Prior to the passage of PRWORA, County Performance Sample staff conducted Quality Control (QC) reviews for the AFDC and Food Stamps Programs. The tool used to accomplish this process, the Quality Control Information System (QCIS), has been modified and expanded to collect data elements and is currently known as Q5. Since the passage of PRWORA, data are collected by County Performance Sample staff using Q5 for federal reporting requirements, policy development, program evaluation, participation rate calculations and characteristic surveys.

Data in this report reflect characteristics of families receiving food stamps at least one of the months during the time period of October 1997 through September 1998.

Information was derived from review of case records, third party verifications and recipient interviews, which were conducted as a means of verifying data in the files and to provide additional information that may not be found in the case records. The Employment Development Department (EDD) base wage file was used to supplement these data. Also, Table 27 data were taken from the aggregate data report form DFA 296X covering FFY 1998, and not the Q5.

### **SAMPLING INFORMATION**

The sample cases for the food stamp portion of this survey were drawn from a county Food Stamp Monthly Issuance File. This file consists of all certified eligible households issued food stamps in a particular month.

Each month, a random sample of open cases is drawn from the 19 largest counties (which represent approximately 90% of the statewide caseload) and an additional sample is drawn from the remaining 39 counties as a whole. The total sample for FFY 1998 consisted of 5,386 cases.

### **DATA PRESENTATION**

The data represented by tables in this publication were developed using statistical methodology to expand the number of sample cases to the average of the actual number of food stamp cases that received food stamps during the twelve-month period. Since the sample was drawn from cases and not persons, the person data were also expanded using statistically derived case weights. Due to sample expansion, the frequencies may or may not be the same as those found in other reports. Also, because of rounding, the frequencies may or may not add to the totals vertically and/or horizontally. The differences are small, however, and not significant.

### **RELIABILITY OF THE DATA.**

Since the information presented in the tables was based on a sample, it may differ somewhat from figures that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken. Comparison of sample data with available actual data and with data from comparable prior studies shows the information to be quite reliable.

**However, as with all sample data, care should be exercised in the interpretation of figures when based on a relatively small number of cases.**

The food stamp survey is based upon a random sample selection process that yields first level data with a confidence level of 95 percent and a precision of plus or minus two percent.

## RECIPIENT PROFILE

Like the population at-large, the food stamp population has a wide range of social and economic characteristics. The following is a selection of some of the key characteristics of the households receiving food stamps.

- Average age of head of household: 35.1 years
- Average age of child: 7.6 years
- Average number of persons per household: 2.7
- Percent of recipients that are U.S. citizens: 89.9%
- Years of education for head of household: 56.7% have 12 or more years
- Average F/S allotment per household: \$189 per month
- Percent of food stamp recipients who also receive CalWORKs benefits: 71.2%
- Percent of food stamp households that also receive CalWORKs benefits: 65.1%
- Ethnicity of the head of household:
  - 35.3% White
  - 30.5% Hispanic
  - 25.9% Black

A more detailed account of recipient data, plus additional characteristics, can be found on the following pages.



Food Stamp Household Characteristics Survey  
Federal Fiscal Year 1998

TABLE 1

GENDER OF THE HEAD OF THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD

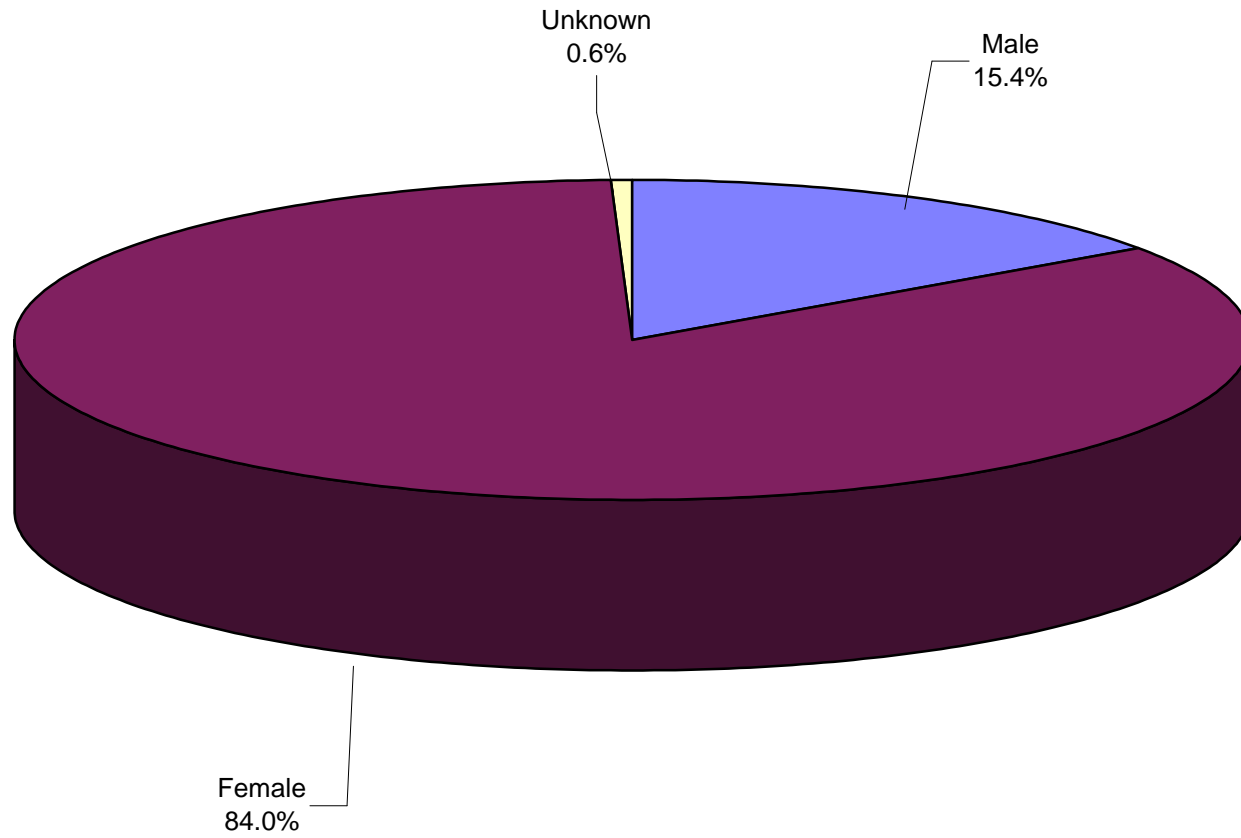
GENDER	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS		CLASSIFICATION			
			PUBLIC ASSISTANCE		NON-ASSISTANCE	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	<u>879,557</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>573,066</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>306,491</u>	<u>100.0</u>
Not Applicable 1/	245,644	27.9	179,826	31.4	65,818	21.5
Head of Household:	<u>633,913</u>	72.1	<u>393,240</u>	68.6	<u>240,673</u>	78.5
Male	97,319	15.4	27,499	7.0	69,819	29.0
Female	532,679	84.0	362,945	92.3	169,734	70.5
Unknown	3,915	0.6	2,795	0.7	1,120	0.5

1/ Not applicable refers to those households in which the parents or responsible household members were not designated as head of household ineligible alien or SSI/SSP recipient status.

- ✓ Females as head of the food stamp household have increased from 75.2% in 1993 to 84.0% for FFY 1998. Non-assistance food stamp households have experienced an even larger increase in female household heads: from 54.6% in 1993 to 70.5% for FFY 1998.

CHART 1

GENDER OF THE HEAD OF THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD



Food Stamp Household characteristics Survey  
Federal Fiscal Year 1998

TABLE 2

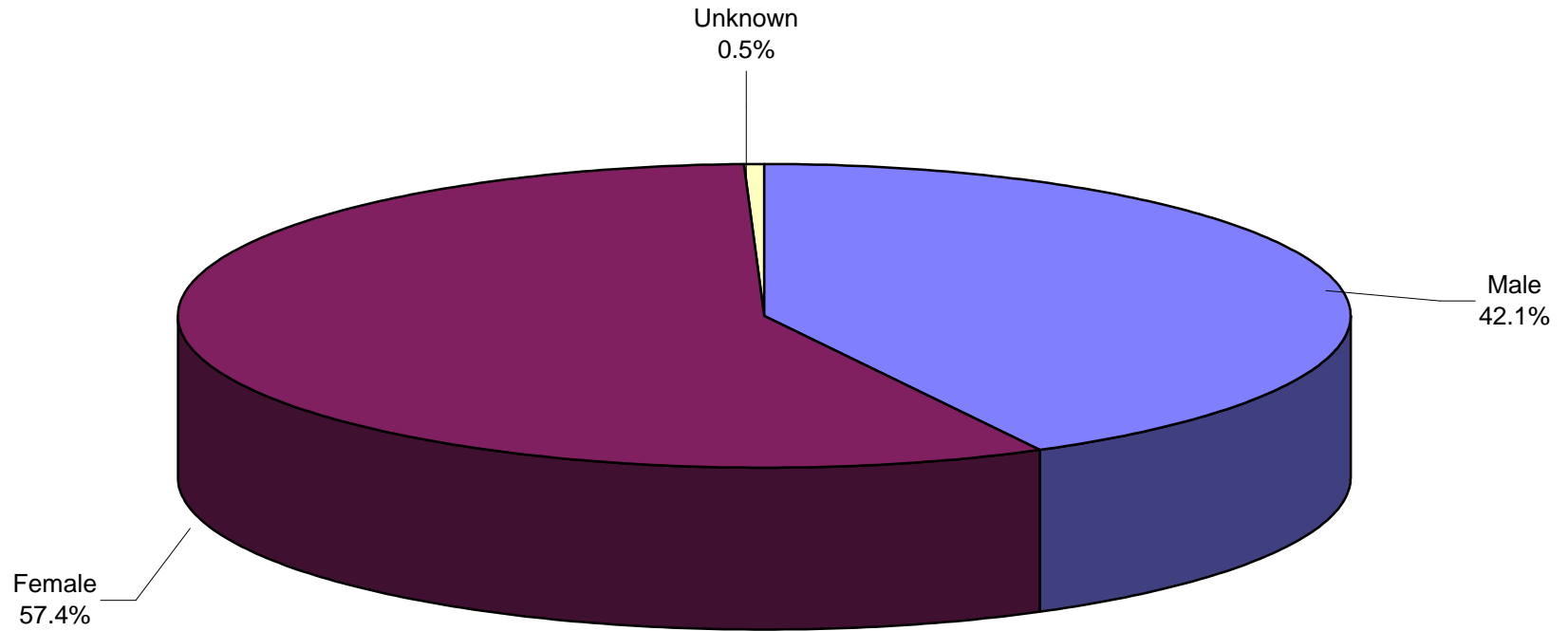
GENDER OF THE FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS

GENDER	TOTAL RECIPIENTS		CLASSIFICATION			
	Number	Percent	PUBLIC ASSISTANCE		NON-ASSISTANCE	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	<u>2,403,998</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>1,712,804</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>691,194</u>	<u>100.0</u>
Male	1,012,920	42.1	704,033	41.1	308,887	44.7
Female	1,379,401	57.4	1,001,897	58.5	377,504	54.6
Unknown	11,677	0.5	6,874	0.4	4,803	0.7

- ✓ Although female heads of household have increased substantially, as noted in Table 1, the overall percentage of female food stamp recipients has remained virtually unchanged: 57.6% in 1993 vs. 57.4% for FFY 1998.

CHART 2

GENDER OF THE FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS



Food Stamp Household Characteristics Survey  
Federal Fiscal Year 1998

TABLE 3  
CITIZENSHIP STATUS OF THE HEAD OF THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD

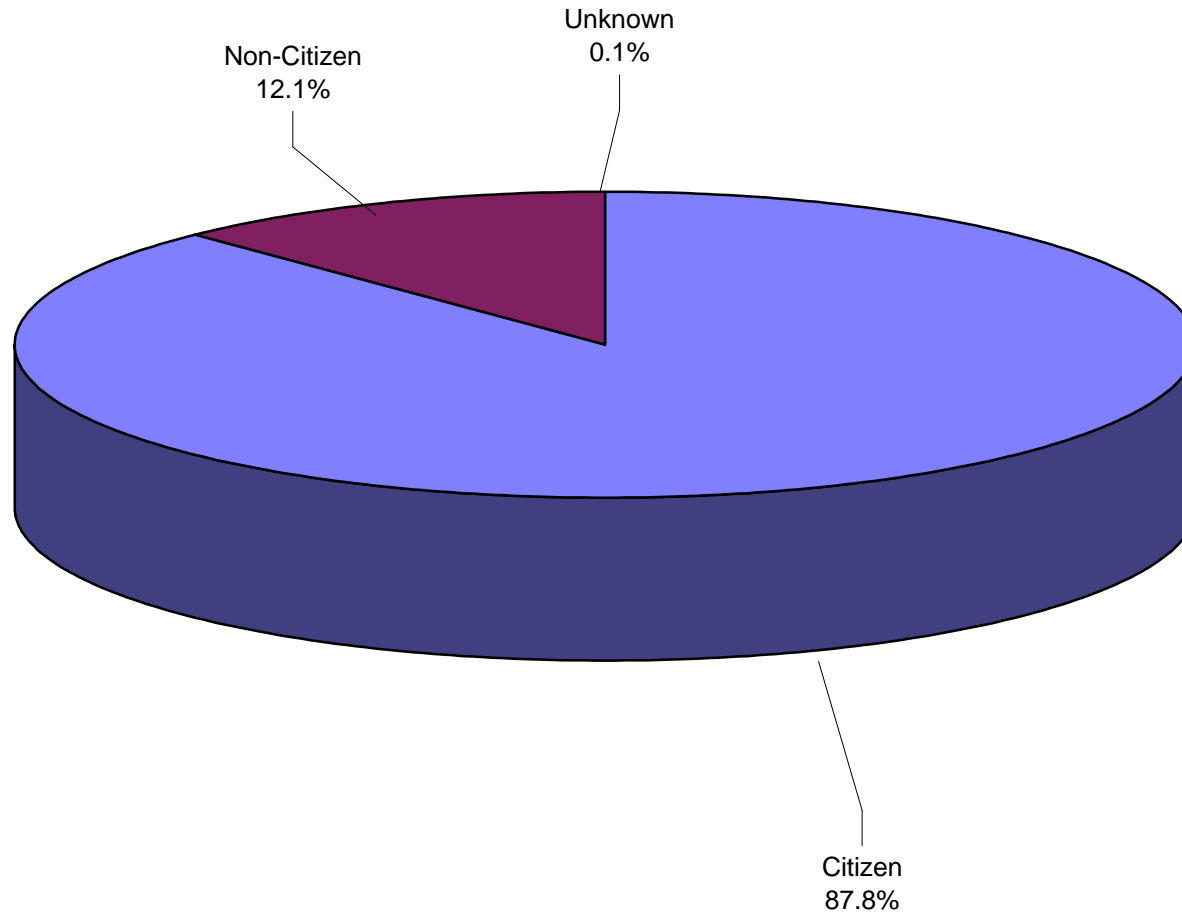
CITIZENSHIP STATUS	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS		CLASSIFICATION			
			PUBLIC ASSISTANCE		NON-ASSISTANCE	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	<u>879,557</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>573,066</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>306,491</u>	<u>100.0</u>
Not Applicable 1/	245,644	27.9	179,826	31.4	65,818	21.5
Head of Household:	<u>633,913</u>	72.1	<u>393,240</u>	68.6	<u>240,673</u>	78.5
Citizen	556,621	87.8	347,456	88.4	209,165	86.9
Non-Citizen	76,979	12.1	45,784	11.6	31,195	13.0
Unknown	313	0.1	0	0.0	313	0.1

1/ Not applicable refers to those households in which the parents or responsible household members were not designated as head of household ineligible alien or SSI/SSP recipient status.

- ✓ Non-citizen heads of household composed 19.8% of total households in 1993. The reduction to 12.1% for FFY 1998 is most likely a reflection of the August 1996 Welfare Reform Act, which made many legal immigrants ineligible for food stamps.

**CHART 3**

**CITIZENSHIP STATUS OF THE HEAD OF THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD**



Food Stamp Household Characteristics Survey  
Federal Fiscal Year 1998

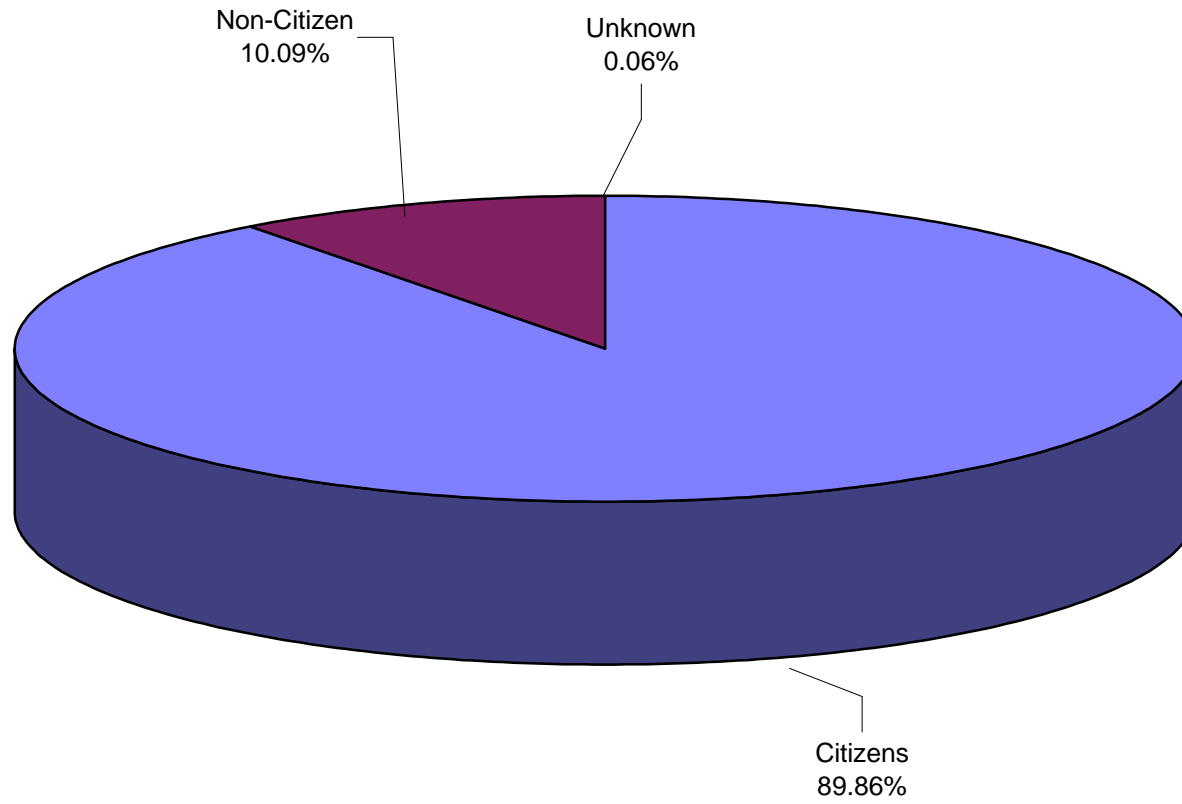
TABLE 4  
CITIZENSHIP STATUS OF THE FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS

CITIZENSHIP STATUS	TOTAL RECIPIENTS		CLASSIFICATION			
			PUBLIC ASSISTANCE		NON-ASSISTANCE	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	<u>2,403,998</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>1,712,804</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>691,194</u>	<u>100.0</u>
Citizens	2,160,139	89.9	1,538,264	89.8	621,875	90.0
Non-Citizen	242,453	10.1	174,540	10.2	67,913	9.8
Unknown	1,406	0.1	0	0.0	1,406	0.2

- ✓ Since 1993, non-citizen recipients have decreased as a percentage of the food stamp population when they composed 13.8% of all recipients. They composed 10.1% of all recipients in 1998. As noted in Table 3, this is likely a reflection of the 1996 Welfare Reform Act.

CHART 4

CITIZENSHIP STATUS OF THE FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS





Food Stamp Household characteristics Survey  
Federal Fiscal Year 1998

TABLE 5

AGE OF THE HEAD OF THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD

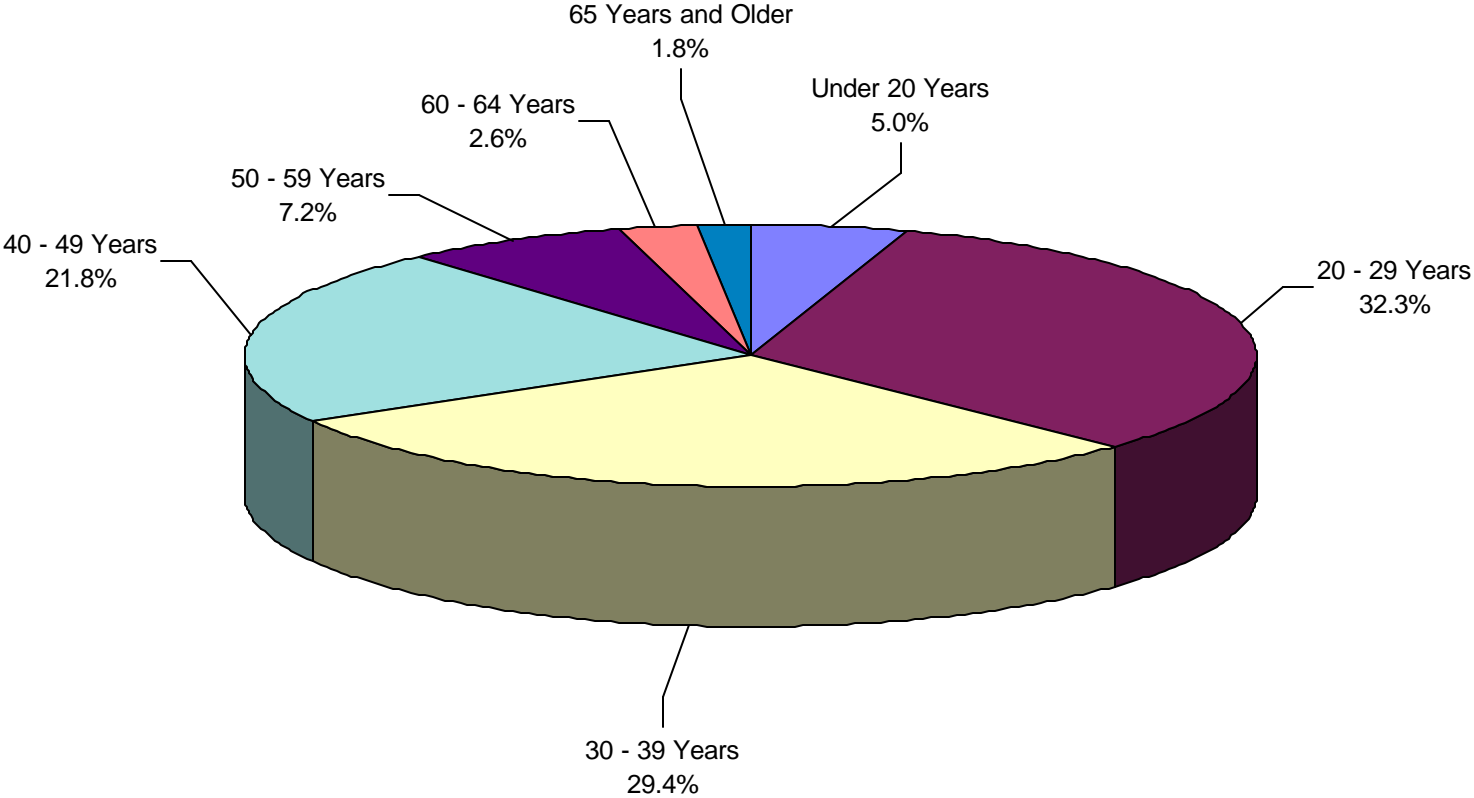
AGE	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS			CLASSIFICATION			
				PUBLIC ASSISTANCE		NON-ASSISTANCE	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total	<u>879,557</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>573,066</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>306,491</u>	<u>100.0</u>	
Not Applicable 1/	245,644	27.9	179,826	31.4	65,818	21.5	
Head of Household:	<u>633,913</u>	72.1	<u>393,240</u>	68.6	<u>240,673</u>	78.5	
Under 20 Years	31,944	5.0	18,531	4.7	13,413	5.6	
20 - 29 Years	204,600	32.3	159,985	40.7	44,615	18.5	
30 - 39 Years	186,349	29.4	124,160	31.6	62,189	25.8	
40 - 49 Years	138,044	21.8	74,540	19.0	63,504	26.4	
50 - 59 Years	45,692	7.2	14,886	3.8	30,806	12.8	
60 - 64 Years	16,175	2.6	802	0.2	15,373	6.4	
65 Years and Older	11,109	1.8	336	0.1	10,773	4.5	
Average Age of Head of HH, in Years	35.1		35.0		40.0		

1/ Not applicable refers to those households in which the parents or responsible household members were not designated as head of household due to ineligible alien or SSI/SSP recipient status.

✓ The average age of the head of the food stamp household has remained about the same since 1993 when it was 34.6 years.

CHART 5

AGE OF THE HEAD OF THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD



Food Stamp Household Characteristics Survey  
Federal Fiscal Year 1998

TABLE 6

AGE OF CHILDREN OF THE FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS

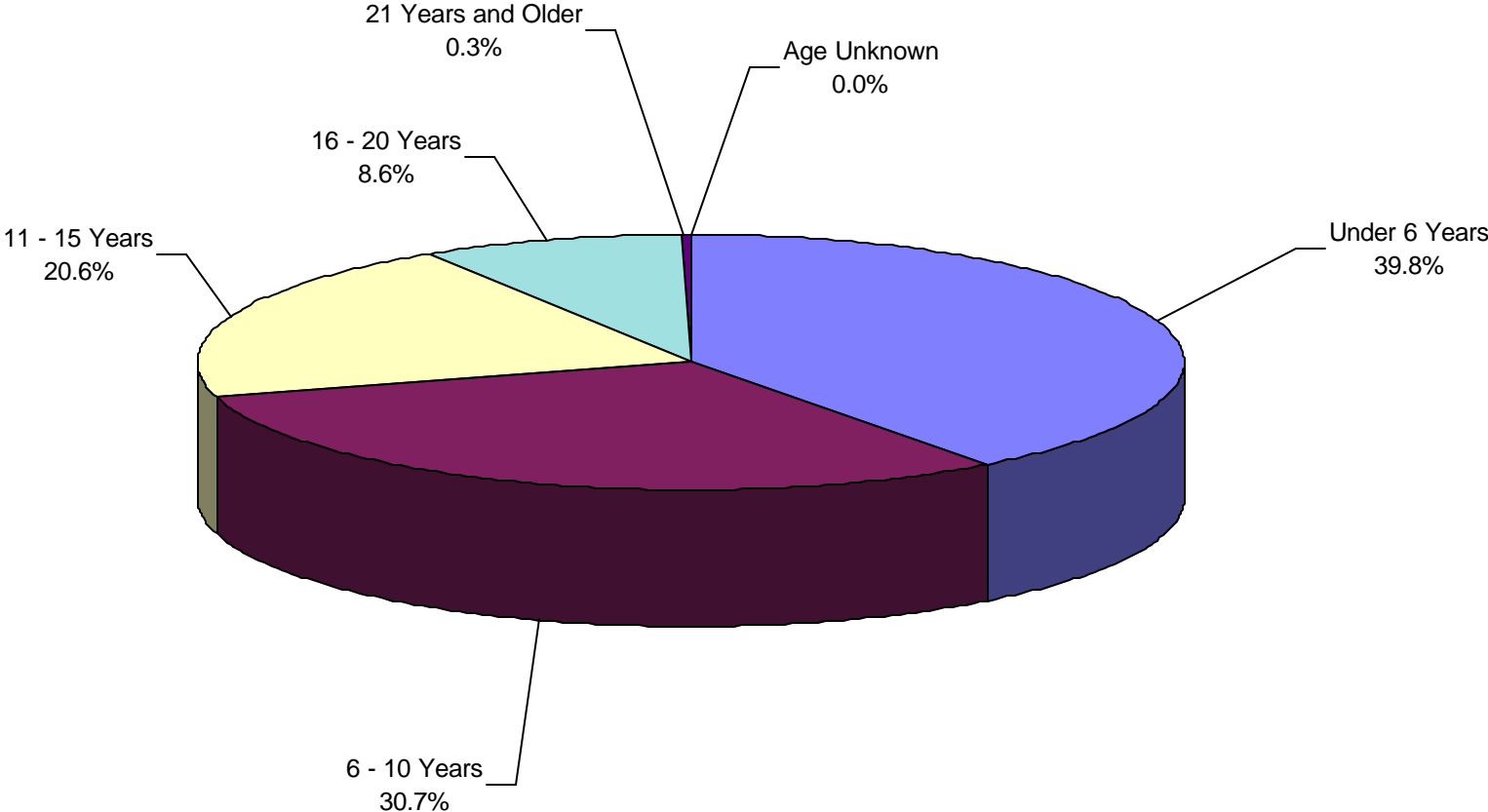
AGE	TOTAL RECIPIENTS		CLASSIFICATION			
			PUBLIC ASSISTANCE		NON-ASSISTANCE	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	<u>2,403,998</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>1,712,804</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>691,194</u>	<u>100.0</u>
Adults in the F/S Household	769,219	32.0	471,727	27.5	297,492	43.0
Children in the F/S Household	<u>1,634,779</u>	68.0	<u>1,239,997</u>	72.5	<u>394,782</u>	57.0
Under 6 Years	650,583	39.8	500,411	40.4	150,172	38.0
6 - 10 Years	501,881	30.7	381,857	30.8	120,024	30.4
11 - 15 Years	336,765	20.6	263,343	21.2	73,422	18.6
16 - 20 Years	140,767	8.6	93,711	7.6	47,056	11.9
21 Years and Older 1/	4,677	0.3	569	0.0	4,108	1.0
Age Unknown	106	0.0	106	0.0	0	0.0
Average Age of Child, in Years	7.6		7.5		8.0	

1/ Adult Children fit this category when they are part of the household and the parents are receiving food stamps.

- ✓ While the average age of children in the food stamp household has remained virtually unchanged--it was 7.7 years in 1993--the percentage of food stamp recipients who are children has risen from 61.6% to 68% for FFY 1998.

CHART 6

AGE OF CHILDREN OF THE FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS



Food Stamp Household Characteristics Survey  
Federal Fiscal Year 1998

TABLE 7  
EDUCATION LEVEL OF THE HEAD OF THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD

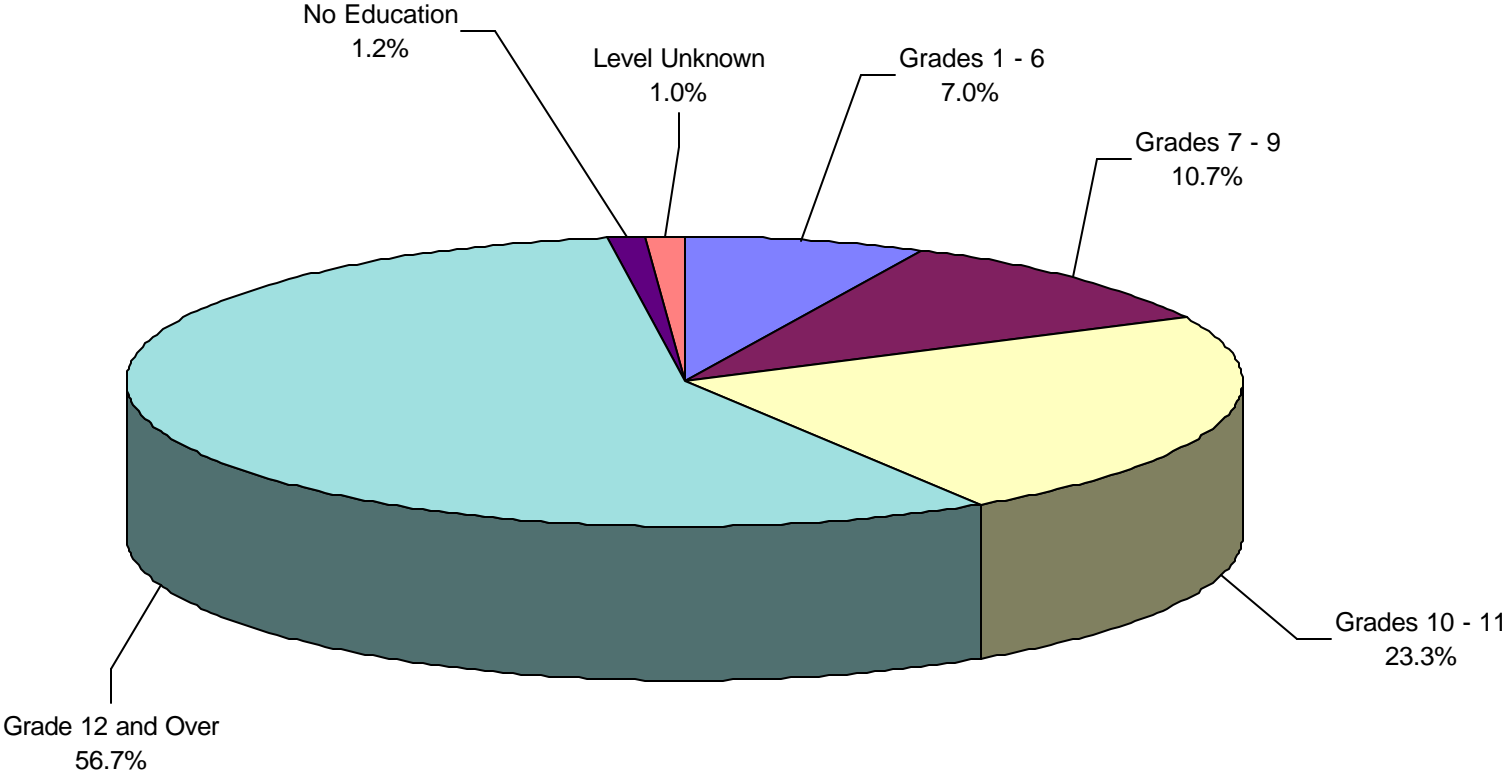
EDUCATION LEVEL	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS		CLASSIFICATION			
			PUBLIC ASSISTANCE		NON-ASSISTANCE	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	<u>879,557</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>573,066</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>306,491</u>	<u>100.0</u>
Not Applicable 1/	245,644	27.9	179,826	31.4	65,818	21.5
Head of Household:	<u>633,913</u>	72.1	<u>393,240</u>	68.6	<u>240,673</u>	78.5
Grades 1 - 6	44,666	7.0	23,660	6.0	21,006	8.7
Grades 7 - 9	67,843	10.7	34,396	8.7	33,447	13.9
Grades 10 - 11	147,690	23.3	103,801	26.4	43,889	18.2
Grade 12 and Over	359,260	56.7	222,669	56.6	136,591	56.8
No Education	7,860	1.2	4,269	1.1	3,591	1.5
Level Unknown	6,594	1.0	4,445	1.1	2,149	0.9

1/ Not applicable refers to those households in which the parents or responsible household members were not designated as head of household ineligible alien or SSI/SSP recipient status.

✓ Roughly 57% of heads of household have finished 12 or more years of education. This information was not captured in the 1993 survey.

CHART 7

EDUCATION LEVEL OF THE HEAD OF THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD



Food Stamp Household Characteristics Survey  
Federal Fiscal Year 1998

TABLE 8

STUDENT STATUS OF THE HEAD OF THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD

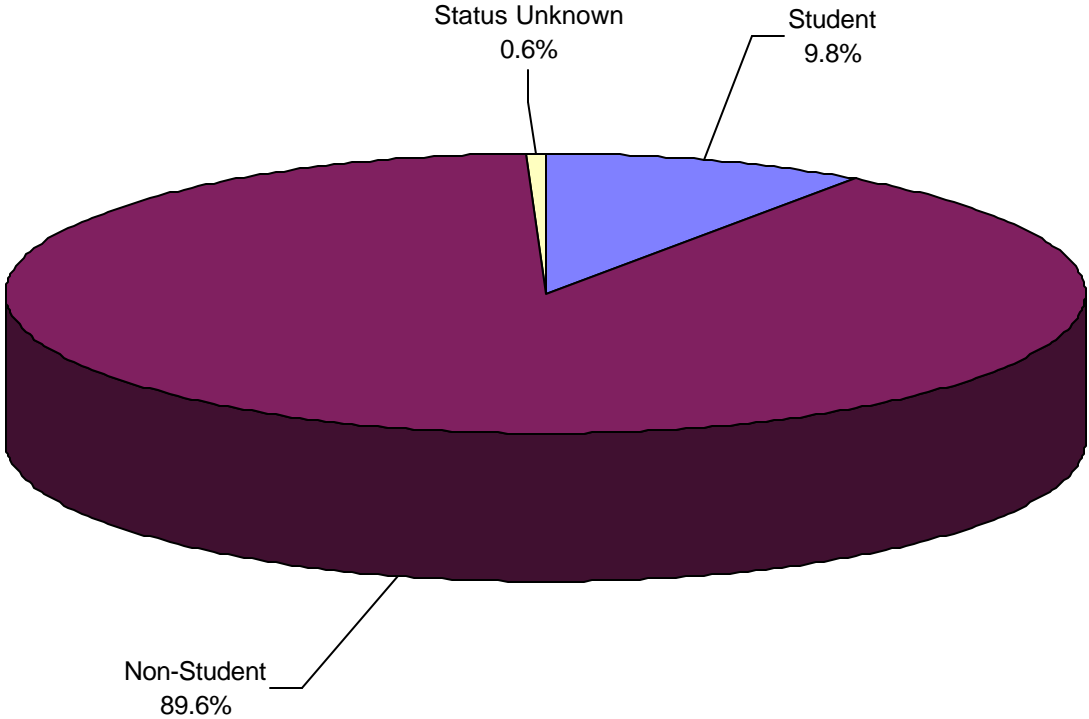
STUDENT STATUS	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS		CLASSIFICATION			
			PUBLIC ASSISTANCE		NON-ASSISTANCE	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	<u>879,557</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>573,066</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>306,491</u>	<u>100.0</u>
Not Applicable 1/	245,644	27.9	179,826	31.4	65,818	21.5
Head of Household:	<u>633,913</u>	72.1	<u>393,240</u>	68.6	<u>240,673</u>	78.5
Student	61,980	9.8	51,216	13.0	10,764	4.5
Non-Student	568,006	89.6	339,306	86.3	228,700	95.0
Status Unknown	3,927	0.6	2,718	0.7	1,209	0.5

1/ Not applicable refers to those households in which the parents or responsible household members were not designated as head of household ineligible alien or SSI/SSP recipient status.

✓ Student head of household recipients increased from 2.6% in 1993 to 9.8% for FFY 1998.

CHART 8

STUDENT STATUS OF THE HEAD OF THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD





Food Stamp Household Characteristics Survey  
Federal Fiscal Year 1998

TABLE 9

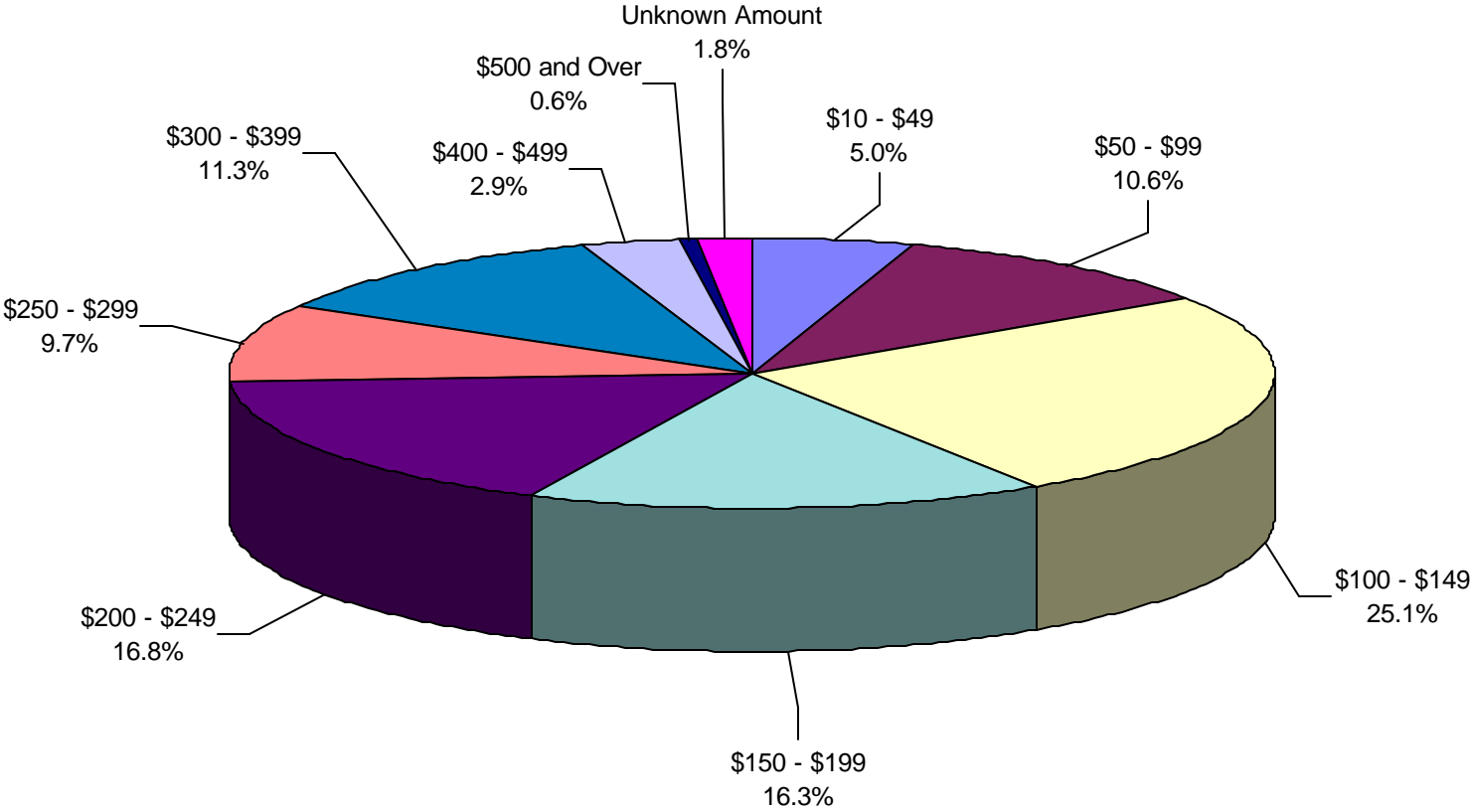
AMOUNT OF FOOD STAMP ALLOTMENT PER HOUSEHOLD

ALLOTMENT	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS		CLASSIFICATION			
			PUBLIC ASSISTANCE		NON-ASSISTANCE	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	<u>879,557</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>573,066</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>306,491</u>	<u>100.0</u>
\$10 - \$49	44,049	5.0	15,212	2.7	28,837	9.4
\$50 - \$99	93,383	10.6	54,527	9.5	38,856	12.7
\$100 - \$149	221,008	25.1	101,232	17.7	119,776	39.1
\$150 - \$199	143,159	16.3	110,610	19.3	32,549	10.6
\$200 - \$249	147,438	16.8	121,413	21.2	26,025	8.5
\$250 - \$299	85,006	9.7	65,783	11.5	19,223	6.3
\$300 - \$399	99,188	11.3	76,017	13.3	23,171	7.6
\$400 - \$499	25,729	2.9	13,857	2.4	11,872	3.9
\$500 and Over	4,937	0.6	3,387	0.6	1,550	0.5
Unknown Amount	15,660	1.8	11,028	1.9	4,632	1.5
Average Food Stamp Allotment	\$189		\$204		\$161	

- ✓ The percentage of households allotted food stamp coupons in the amount of \$300 or more has increased from 5.4% in 1993 to 16.6% (11.3 + 2.9 + 0.6 + 1.8) for FFY 1998. This has resulted in an increase of \$29 for the average food stamp allotment per household over the \$160 average for 1993. The average for PAFS households increased \$31, while NAFS households increased by \$23.

CHART 9

AMOUNT OF FOOD STAMP ALLOTMENT PER HOUSEHOLD



Food Stamp Household Characteristics Survey  
Federal Fiscal Year 1998

TABLE 10

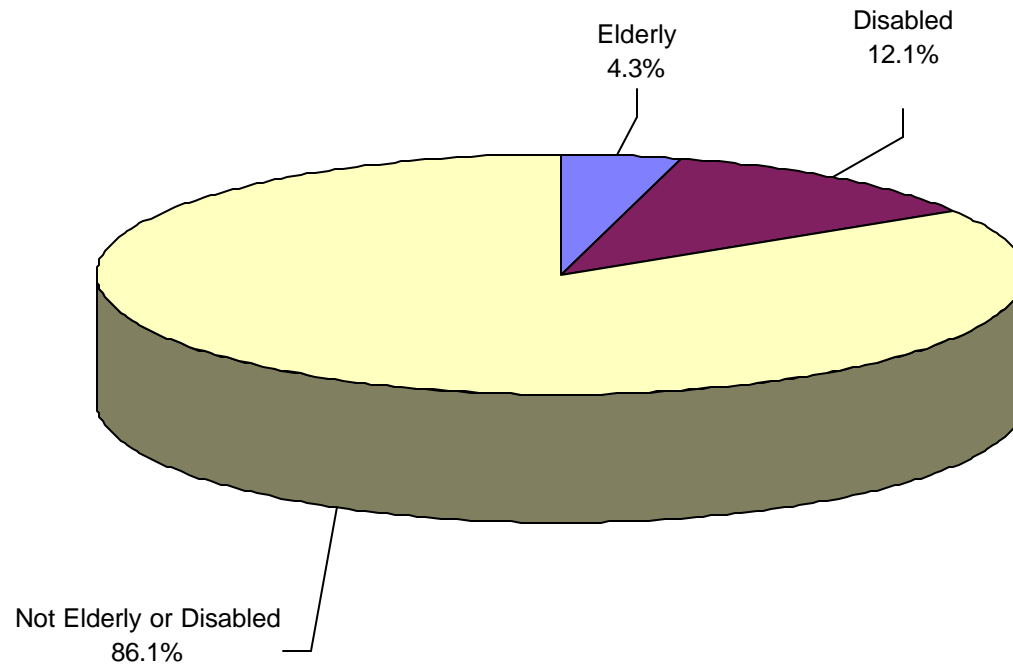
ELDERLY OR DISABLED STATUS OF THE HEAD OF THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD

ELDERLY OR DISABLED STATUS	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS		CLASSIFICATION			
			PUBLIC ASSISTANCE		NON-ASSISTANCE	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	<u>879,557</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>573,066</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>306,491</u>	<u>100.0</u>
Not Applicable 1/	245,644	27.9	179,826	31.4	65,818	21.5
Head of Household: 2/	<u>633,913</u>	72.1	<u>393,240</u>	68.6	<u>240,673</u>	78.5
Elderly	27,284	4.3	1,138	0.3	26,146	10.9
Disabled 3/	76,803	12.1	19,663	5.0	57,140	23.7
Not Elderly or Disabled	545,831	86.1	372,745	94.8	173,086	71.9

- 1/ Not applicable refers to those households in which the parents or responsible household members were not designated as head of household, ineligible alien or SSI/SSP recipient status.
- 2/ Because a case may have more than one of the listed characteristics, the sum of the corresponding numbers exceeds the total number of heads of household. The corresponding percentages are calculated to that subtotal.
- 3/ The Disabled category includes those who are physically/mentally unfit for employment.

CHART 10

ELDERLY OR DISABLED STATUS OF THE HEAD OF THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD



Note: See footnote 2/ Table 10.

Food Stamp Household Characteristics Survey  
Federal Fiscal Year 1998

TABLE 11

REFUGEE STATUS OF THE HEAD OF THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD

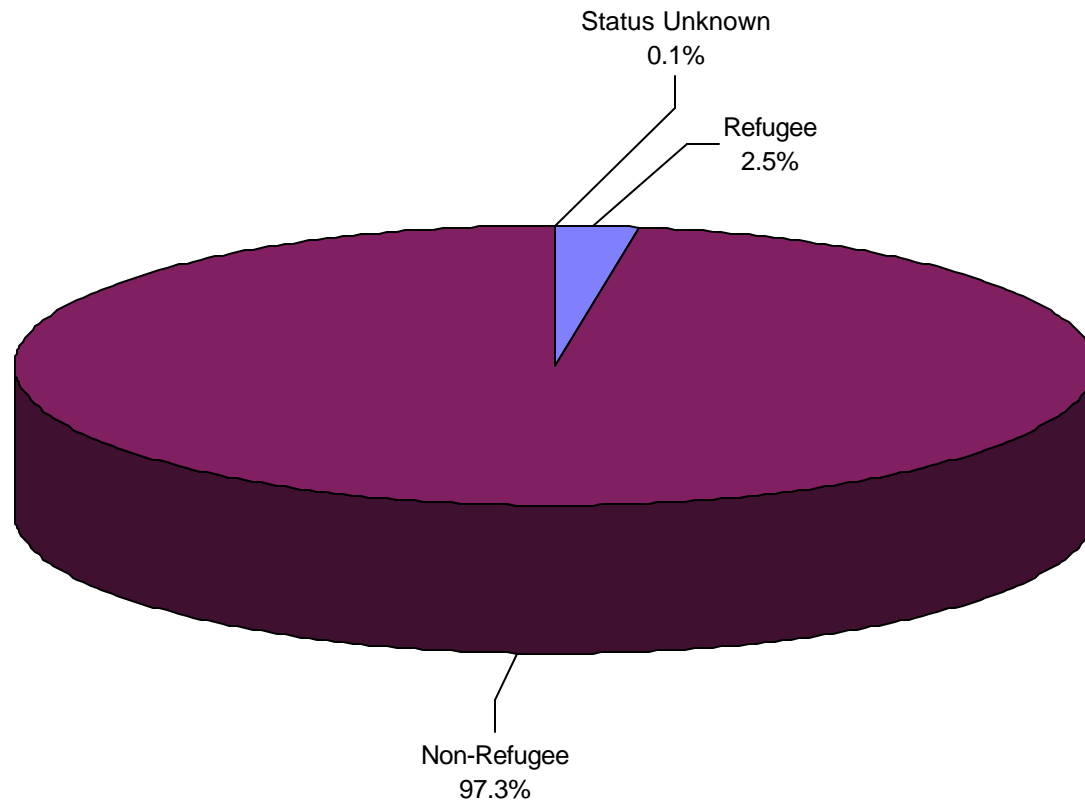
REFUGEE STATUS	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS		CLASSIFICATION			
			PUBLIC ASSISTANCE		NON-ASSISTANCE	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	<u>879,557</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>573,066</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>306,491</u>	<u>100.0</u>
Not Applicable 1/	245,644	27.9	179,826	31.4	65,818	21.5
Head of Household:	<u>633,913</u>	72.1	<u>393,240</u>	68.6	<u>240,673</u>	78.5
Refugee	16,134	2.5	12,018	3.1	4,115	1.7
Non-Refugee	616,962	97.3	380,718	96.8	236,244	98.2
Status Unknown	817	0.1	503	0.1	314	0.1

1/ Not applicable refers to those households in which the parents or responsible household members were not designated as head of household ineligible alien or SSI/SSP recipient status.

- ✓ Refugee status of the head of the food stamp household decreased from 7.5% in 1993 to 2.5% for FFY 1998. The reduction for PAFS households was even more striking: 11.8% in 1993 vs. 3.1% for FFY 1998.

CHART 11

REFUGEE STATUS OF THE HEAD OF THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD



Food Stamp Household Characteristics Survey  
Federal Fiscal Year 1998

TABLE 12

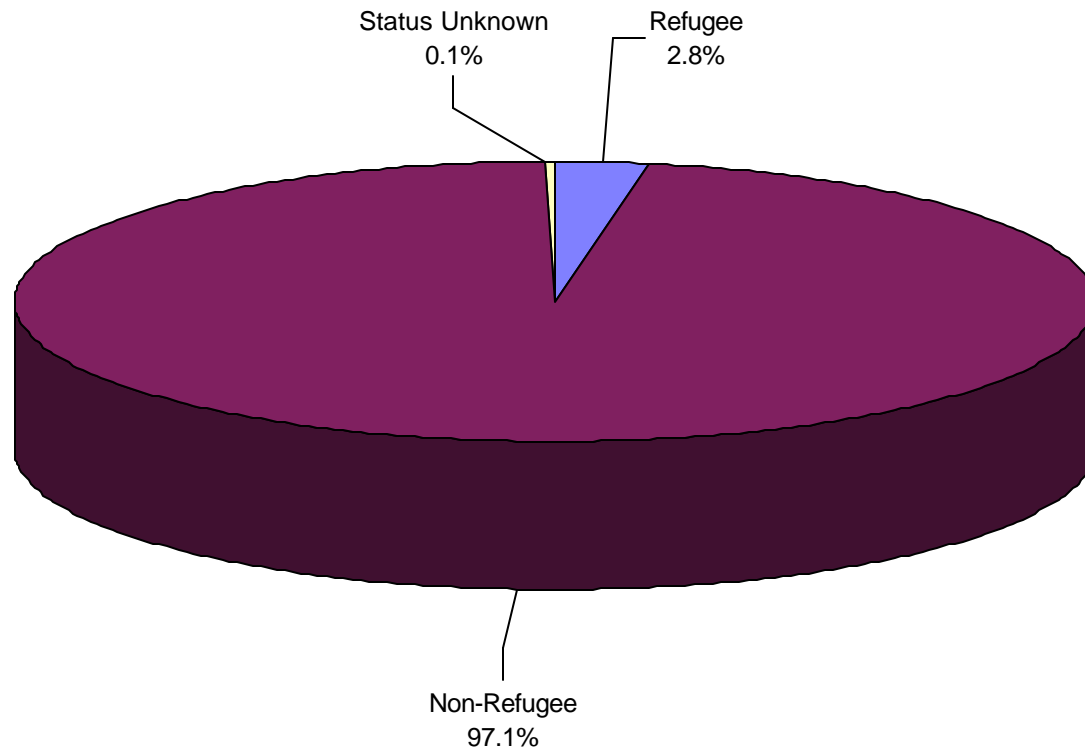
REFUGEE STATUS OF THE FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS

REFUGEE STATUS	TOTAL RECIPIENTS		CLASSIFICATION			
	Number	Percent	PUBLIC ASSISTANCE		NON-ASSISTANCE	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	<u>2,403,998</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>1,712,804</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>691,194</u>	<u>100.0</u>
Refugee	66,912	2.8	55,319	3.2	11,593	1.7
Non-Refugee	2,333,098	97.1	1,655,718	96.7	677,380	98.0
Status Unknown	3,988	0.1	1,767	0.1	2,221	0.3

- ✓ Refugee status of the food stamp recipients decreased from 6.7% in 1993 to 2.8% for FFY 1998. PAFS recipients decreased from 9.2% to 3.2%.

CHART 12

REFUGEE STATUS OF THE FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS





Food Stamp Household Characteristics Survey  
Federal Fiscal Year 1998

TABLE 13

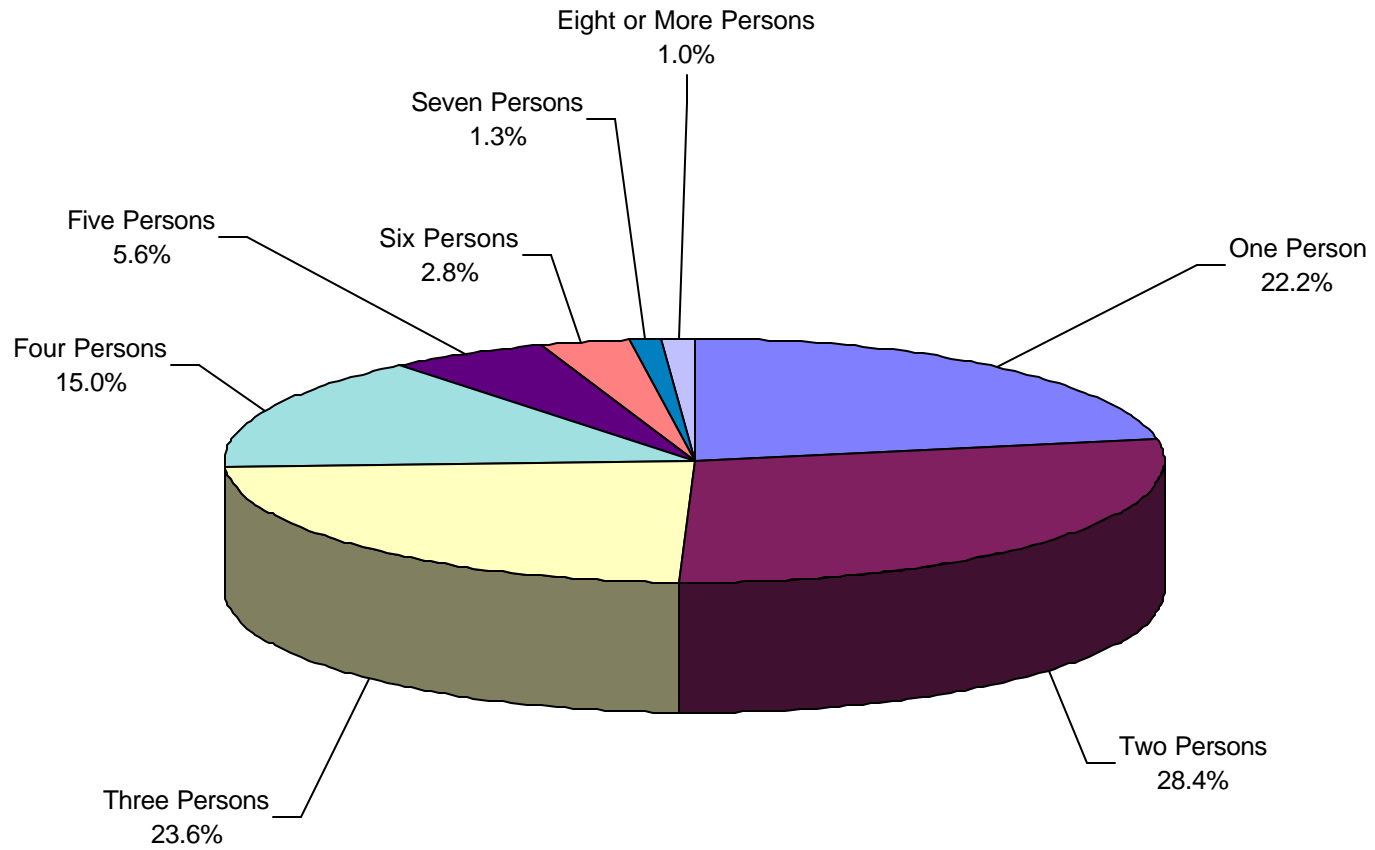
NUMBER OF PERSONS IN THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD

PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLD	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS		CLASSIFICATION			
	Number	Percent	PUBLIC ASSISTANCE		NON-ASSISTANCE	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	<u>879,557</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>573,066</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>306,491</u>	<u>100.0</u>
One Person	195,250	22.2	53,502	9.3	141,748	46.2
Two Persons	249,861	28.4	192,684	33.6	57,177	18.7
Three Persons	207,424	23.6	162,692	28.4	44,732	14.6
Four Persons	132,041	15.0	95,670	16.7	36,371	11.9
Five Persons	49,625	5.6	35,725	6.2	13,900	4.5
Six Persons	24,729	2.8	18,974	3.3	5,755	1.9
Seven Persons	11,448	1.3	6,588	1.1	4,860	1.6
Eight or More Persons	9,179	1.0	7,231	1.3	1,948	0.6
Average Number of Persons		2.7		3.0		2.2

- ✓ The average number of persons in the food stamp household is 2.7, the same as that found in the 1993 survey.

CHART 13

NUMBER OF PERSONS IN THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD



Food Stamp Household Characteristics Survey  
Federal Fiscal Year 1998

TABLE 14

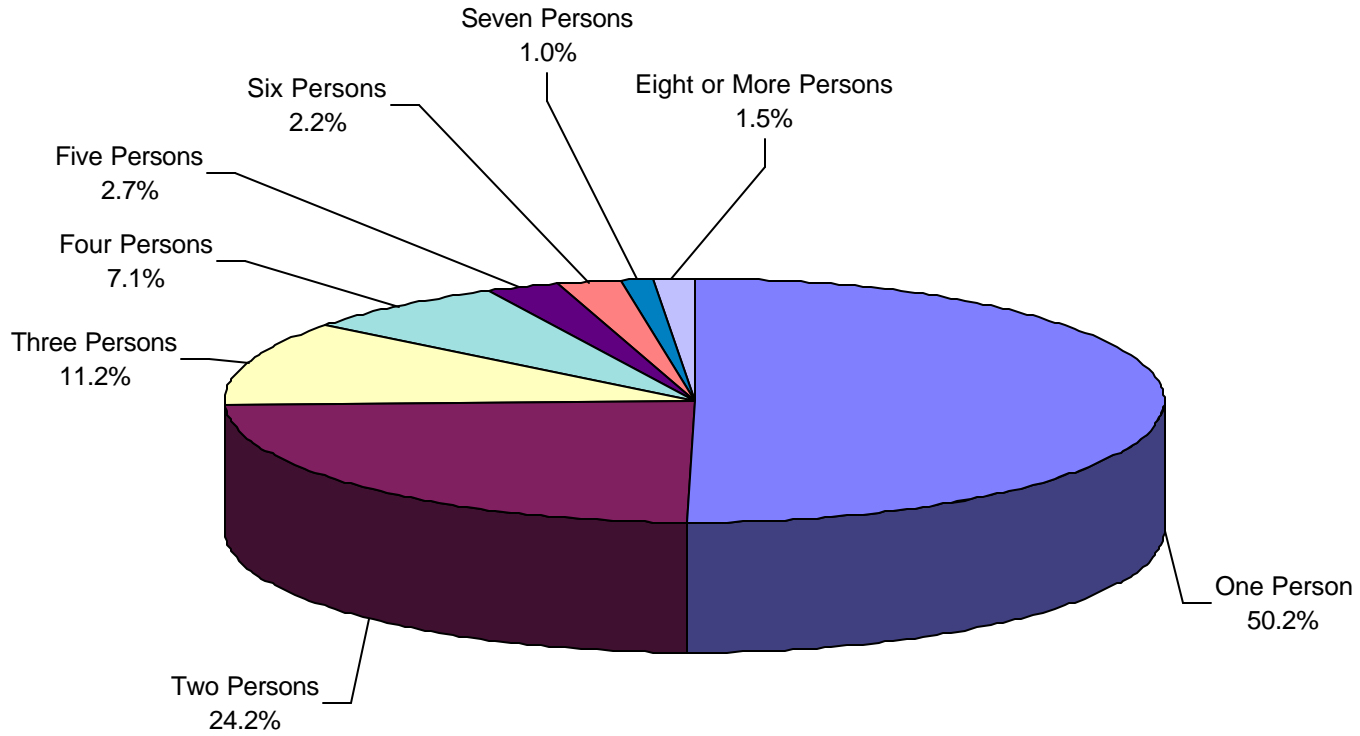
NUMBER OF PERSONS IN THE SAME LIVING QUARTERS  
NOT INCLUDED IN THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLDS WITH OTHER PERSONS	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS		CLASSIFICATION			
	Number	Percent	PUBLIC ASSISTANCE		NON-ASSISTANCE	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	<u>879,557</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>573,066</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>306,491</u>	<u>100.0</u>
Households With No Other Persons	445,294	50.6	289,042	50.4	156,252	51.0
Households With Other Persons:	<u>434,263</u>	49.4	<u>284,024</u>	49.6	<u>150,239</u>	49.0
One Person	217,887	50.2	156,112	55.0	61,775	41.1
Two Persons	105,189	24.2	59,140	20.8	46,049	30.7
Three Persons	48,581	11.2	27,051	9.5	21,530	14.3
Four Persons	30,820	7.1	20,028	7.1	10,792	7.2
Five Persons	11,514	2.7	8,445	3.0	3,069	2.0
Six Persons	9,703	2.2	5,925	2.1	3,778	2.5
Seven Persons	4,174	1.0	2,770	1.0	1,404	0.9
Eight or More Persons	6,395	1.5	4,553	1.6	1,842	1.2
Average Number of Other Persons		2.1		2.0		2.2

- ✓ The 2.1 average number of other persons in the same living quarters but not included in the food stamp household remains unchanged from the 1993 survey.

CHART 14

NUMBER OF PERSONS IN THE SAME LIVING QUARTERS NOT INCLUDED IN THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD



Food Stamp Household Characteristics Survey  
Federal Fiscal Year 1998

TABLE 15  
SOURCE OF EARNED INCOME

SOURCE	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS			CLASSIFICATION					
	Number	Percent	Avg.	PUBLIC ASSISTANCE			NON-ASSISTANCE		
				Number	Percent	Avg.	Number	Percent	Avg.
Total	<u>879,557</u>	<u>100.0</u>		<u>573,066</u>	<u>100.0</u>		<u>306,491</u>	<u>100.0</u>	
No Earned Income	470,517	53.5		305,690	53.3		164,827	53.8	
Earned Income 1/	<u>409,040</u>	46.5	<u>\$651</u>	<u>267,376</u>	46.7	<u>\$629</u>	<u>141,664</u>	46.2	<u>\$692</u>
Salaries and Wages	401,558	98.2	\$643	262,003	98.0	\$617	139,555	98.5	\$692
Self-Employment	16,955	4.1	\$390	10,924	4.1	\$496	6,031	4.3	\$198
Other Earned Income	3,733	0.9	\$379	2,545	1.0	\$422	1,188	0.8	\$286

1/ Because a case may have more than one of the listed characteristics, the sum of the corresponding numbers exceeds the Earned Income. The corresponding percentages are calculated to that subtotal.

- ✓ Only 19.7 % of households reported earned income in the 1993 survey vs. 46.5% for FFY 1998. This is partly due to a better economy though other, unknown dynamics may also have been a factor.
- ✓ The average wage of \$643 for FFY 1998 for households with earned income is \$56 more per household than that reported for 1993, representing a 9.5% increase.

Note: Earned income data were supplemented by data from the EDD wage file.

CHART 15

SOURCE OF EARNED INCOME



Note: See footnote 1/ Table 15.

Food Stamp Household Characteristics Survey  
Federal Fiscal Year 1998

TABLE 16  
SOURCE OF UNEARNED INCOME

UNEARNED INCOME	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS			CLASSIFICATION					
				PUBLIC ASSISTANCE			NON-ASSISTANCE		
	Number	Percent	Avg.	Number	Percent	Avg.	Number	Percent	Avg.
Total	<u>879,557</u>	<u>100.0</u>		<u>573,066</u>	<u>100.0</u>		<u>306,491</u>	<u>100.0</u>	
No Unearned Income	144,849	16.5		0	0.0		144,849	47.3	
Unearned Income 1/	<u>734,708</u>	<u>83.5</u>	<u>\$491</u>	<u>573,066</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>\$504</u>	<u>161,643</u>	<u>52.7</u>	<u>\$446</u>
Public Assistance Grant	626,400	85.3	\$485	573,066	100.0	\$488	53,334	33.0	\$451
GA/GR	55,244	7.5	\$233	0	0.0	\$0	55,244	34.2	\$233
Worker's Compensation	2,994	0.4	\$553	1,692	0.3	\$493	1,302	0.8	\$630
Social Security	3,303	0.4	\$663	2,358	0.4	\$547	945	0.6	\$952
Deemed Income (Sponsored Alie	7,429	1.0	\$603	227	0.0	\$421	7,202	4.5	\$608
Unemployment Compensation	17,011	2.3	\$403	7,218	1.3	\$314	9,793	6.1	\$468
Other Unearned Income 2/	69,915	9.5	\$473	22,521	3.9	\$333	47,394	29.3	\$540

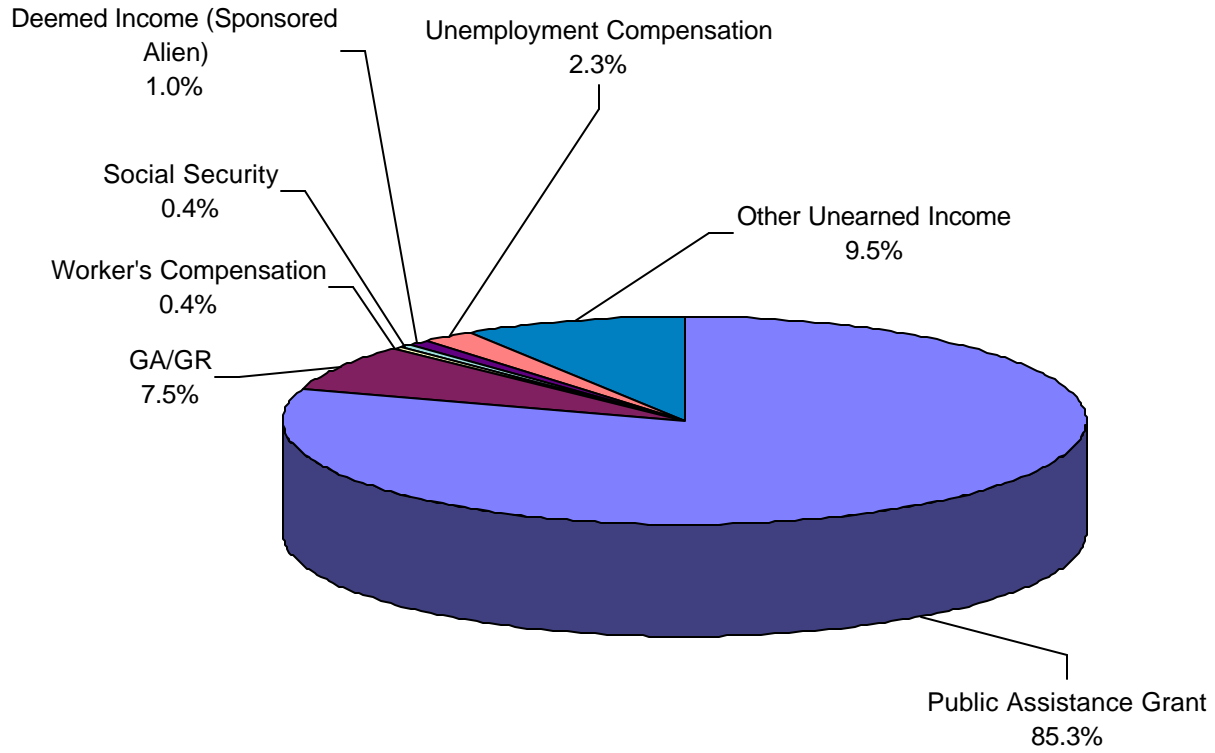
1/ Because a case may have more than one of the listed characteristics, the sum of the corresponding numbers exceeds the Unearned Income s corresponding percentages are calculated to that subtotal.

2/ Includes government and non-government disability, pensions, alimony and veterans benefits.

- ✓ Since 1993, the average amount of unearned income has increased in each of the above categories except Public Assistance Grant, which decreased from \$555 to \$485 for FFY 1998. Increased earnings (see Table 15) is the most likely cause of this grant reduction.

CHART 16

SOURCE OF UNEARNED INCOME



Note: See footnote 1/ of Table 16.



Food Stamp Household Characteristics Survey  
Federal Fiscal Year 1998

TABLE 17

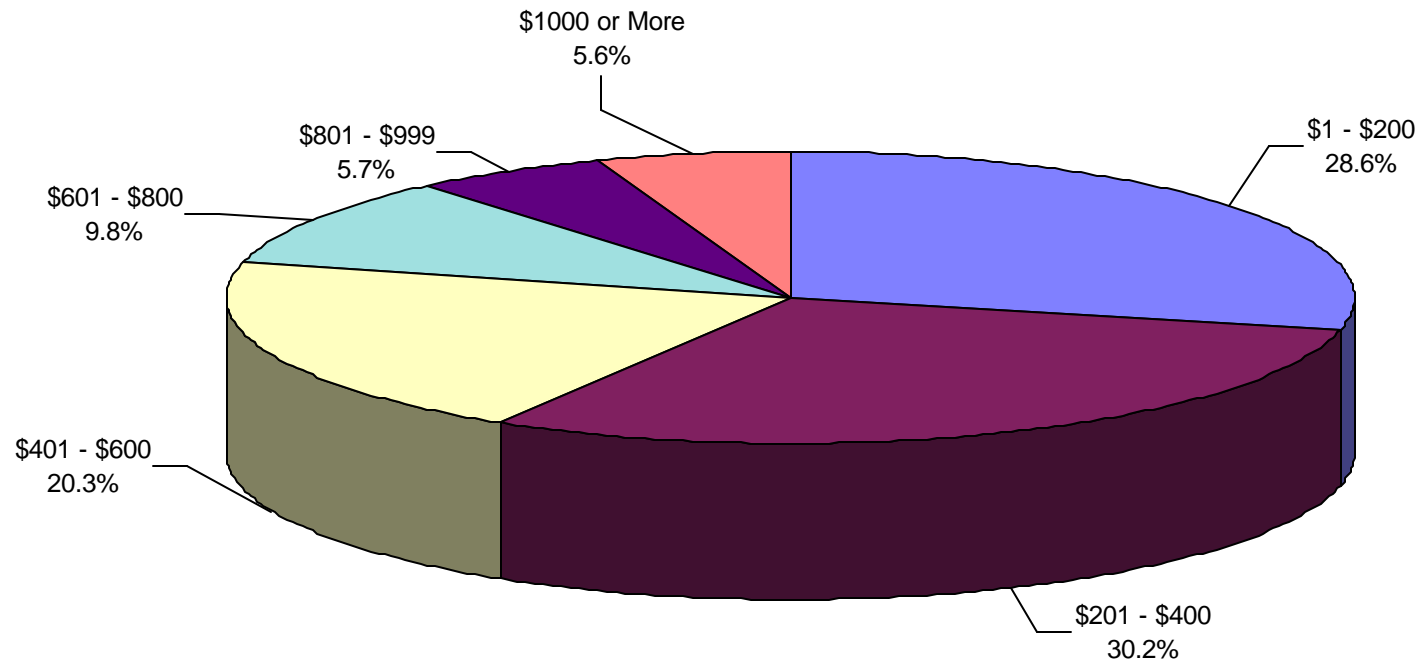
NET INCOME USED TO DETERMINE THE FOOD STAMP ALLOTMENT

NET INCOME	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS		CLASSIFICATION			
			PUBLIC ASSISTANCE		NON-ASSISTANCE	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	<u>879,557</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>573,066</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>306,491</u>	<u>100.0</u>
No Net Income	139,855	15.9	36,440	6.4	103,415	33.7
Net Income	<u>739,702</u>	<u>84.1</u>	<u>536,626</u>	<u>93.6</u>	<u>203,076</u>	<u>66.3</u>
\$1 - \$200	211,346	28.6	153,208	28.6	58,138	28.6
\$201 - \$400	223,056	30.2	171,183	31.9	51,873	25.5
\$401 - \$600	149,833	20.3	112,987	21.1	36,846	18.1
\$601 - \$800	72,293	9.8	44,300	8.3	27,993	13.8
\$801 - \$999	42,022	5.7	28,815	5.4	13,207	6.5
\$1000 or More	41,151	5.6	26,133	4.9	15,018	7.4
Average Amount of Net Income	\$409		\$395		\$444	

- ✓ The percentage of food stamp households having some net income (income after taxes and other deductions) rose from 79.3% in 1993 to 84.1% for FFY 1998.
- ✓ Whereas the \$409 average net income for all households remains the same as 1993, PAFS households reported \$27 less than that reported for 1993 while NAFS households reported \$75 more.

CHART 17

NET INCOME USED TO DETERMINE THE FOOD STAMP ALLOTMENT



Food Stamp Household Characteristics Survey  
Federal Fiscal Year 1998

TABLE 18

ETHNICITY OF THE HEAD OF THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD

ETHNICITY	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS		CLASSIFICATION			
			PUBLIC ASSISTANCE		NON-ASSISTANCE	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	<u>879,557</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>573,066</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>306,491</u>	<u>100.0</u>
Not Applicable 1/	245,644	27.9	179,826	31.4	65,818	21.5
Head of Household:	<u>633,913</u>	72.1	<u>393,240</u>	68.6	<u>240,673</u>	78.5
White	223,974	35.3	133,331	33.9	90,643	37.7
Hispanic	193,235	30.5	123,607	31.4	69,628	28.9
Black	164,287	25.9	102,001	25.9	62,286	25.9
Vietnamese	22,591	3.6	15,854	4.0	6,737	2.8
Other Asian or Pacific Island	25,169	4.0	15,245	3.9	9,924	4.1
Unknown	4,657	0.7	3,202	0.8	1,455	0.6

1/ Not applicable refers to those households in which the parents or responsible household members were not designated as head of household due to their ineligible alien or SSI/SSP recipient status.

CHART 18

ETHNICITY OF THE HEAD OF THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD

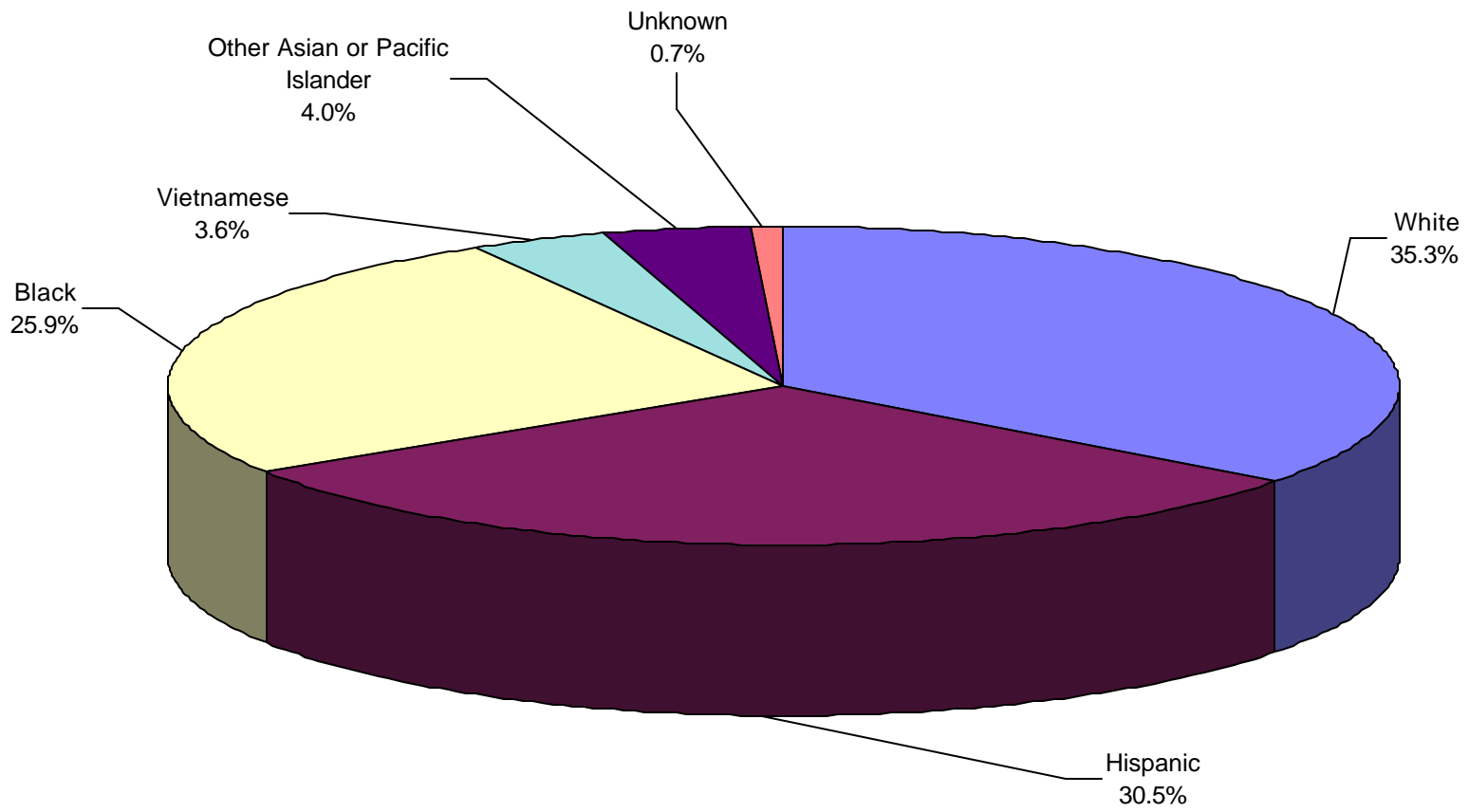


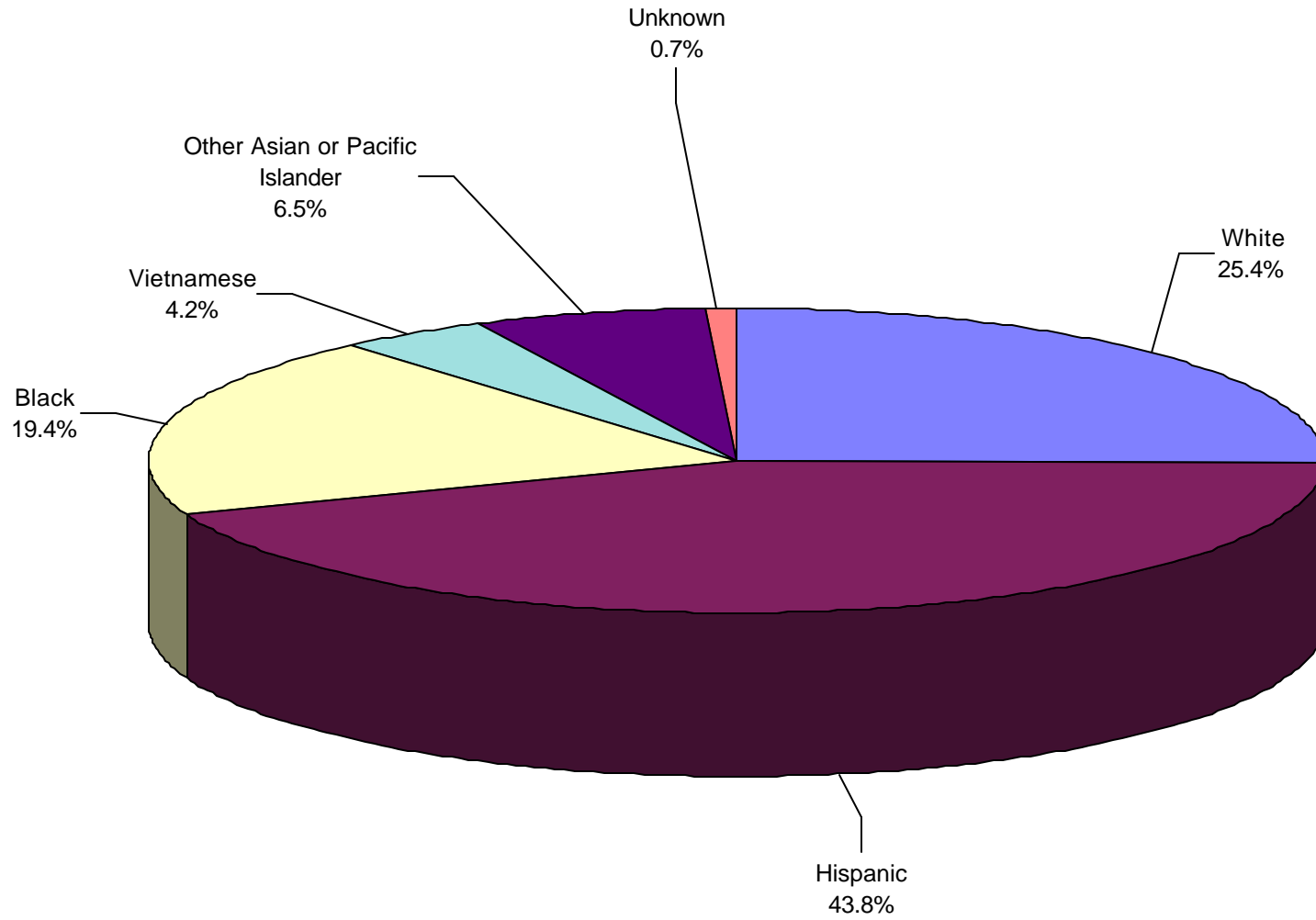
TABLE 19  
ETHNICITY OF THE FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS

ETHNICITY	TOTAL RECIPIENTS		CLASSIFICATION			
	Number	Percent	PUBLIC ASSISTANCE		NON-ASSISTANCE	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	<u>2,403,998</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>1,712,804</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>691,194</u>	<u>100.0</u>
White	610,308	25.4	428,245	25.0	182,063	26.3
Hispanic	1,052,035	43.8	721,502	42.1	330,533	47.8
Black	466,505	19.4	344,098	20.1	122,407	17.7
Vietnamese	101,890	4.2	81,295	4.7	20,595	3.0
Other Asian or Pacific Island	155,303	6.5	128,119	7.5	27,184	3.9
Unknown	17,957	0.7	9,545	0.6	8,412	1.2

- ✓ Whites, Hispanics and Blacks compose 88.6% of food stamp recipients.
- ✓ Hispanics are the largest recipient group, composing 43.8% of food stamp recipients.

CHART 19

ETHNICITY OF THE FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS



Food Stamp Household Characteristics Survey  
Federal Fiscal Year 1998

TABLE 20

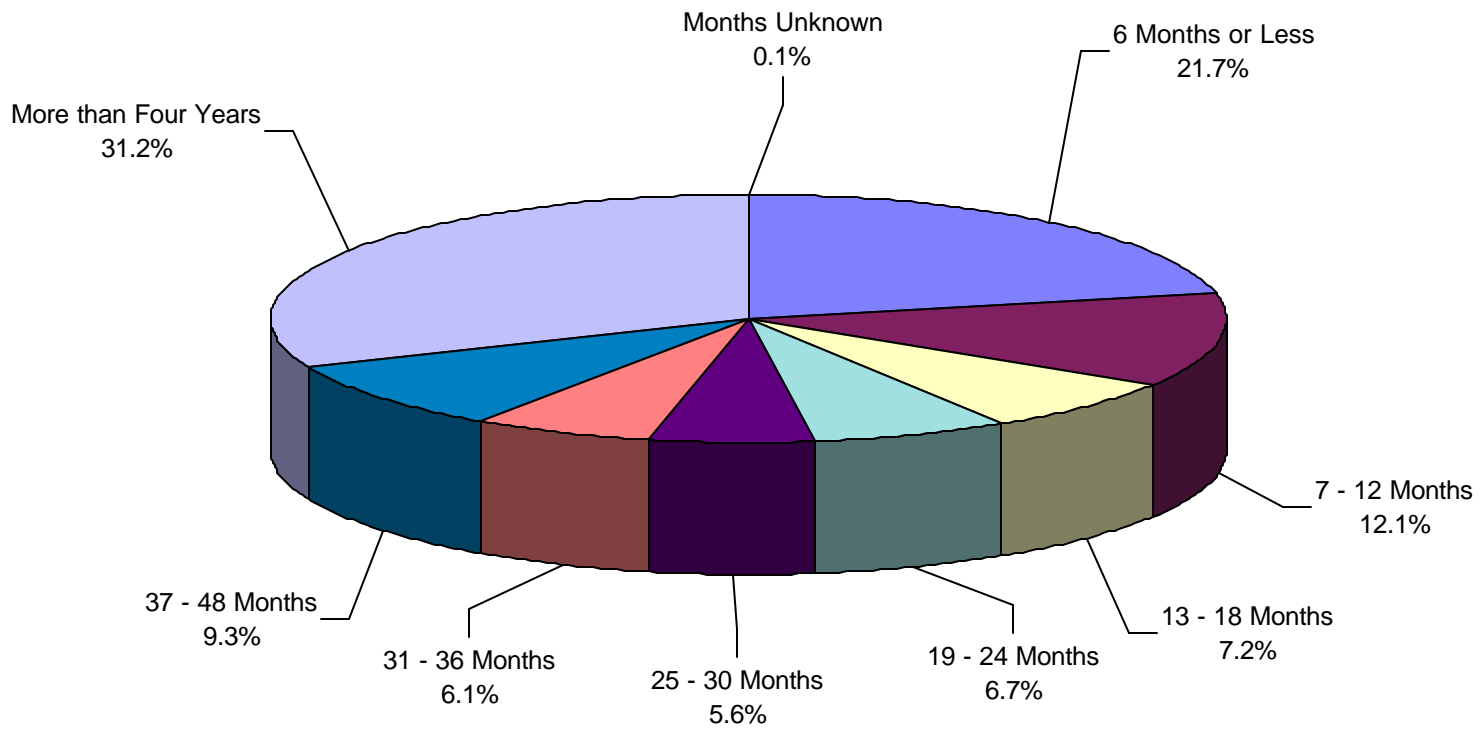
NUMBER OF UNINTERRUPTED MONTHS SINCE THE INITIAL FOOD STAMP APPLICATION

MONTHS	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS		CLASSIFICATION			
			PUBLIC ASSISTANCE		NON-ASSISTANCE	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	<u>879,557</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>573,066</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>306,491</u>	<u>100.0</u>
6 Months or Less	191,041	21.7	85,512	14.9	105,529	34.4
7 - 12 Months	106,311	12.1	64,784	11.3	41,527	13.5
13 - 18 Months	63,138	7.2	31,407	5.5	31,731	10.4
19 - 24 Months	58,774	6.7	33,008	5.8	25,766	8.4
25 - 30 Months	49,689	5.6	30,692	5.4	18,997	6.2
31 - 36 Months	53,575	6.1	44,864	7.8	8,711	2.8
37 - 48 Months	82,154	9.3	60,758	10.6	21,396	7.0
More than Four Years	274,644	31.2	222,040	38.7	52,604	17.2
Months Unknown	231	0.1	0	0.0	231	0.1
Avg. Uninterrupted Period (Months)	42.3		50.2		27.5	

- ✓ Although the food stamp caseload has declined by roughly 24% since 1993, 31.2% of households have nevertheless received food stamps for more than four years.
- ✓ The length of time PAFS households received food stamps is nearly double that of NAFS households. The most likely reason is that PAFS households comprise far more families, which tend to be more long-term dependent than NAFS households.

CHART 20

NUMBER OF UNINTERRUPTED MONTHS SINCE THE INITIAL FOOD STAMP APPLICATION





Food Stamp Household Characteristics Survey  
Federal Fiscal Year 1998

TABLE 21

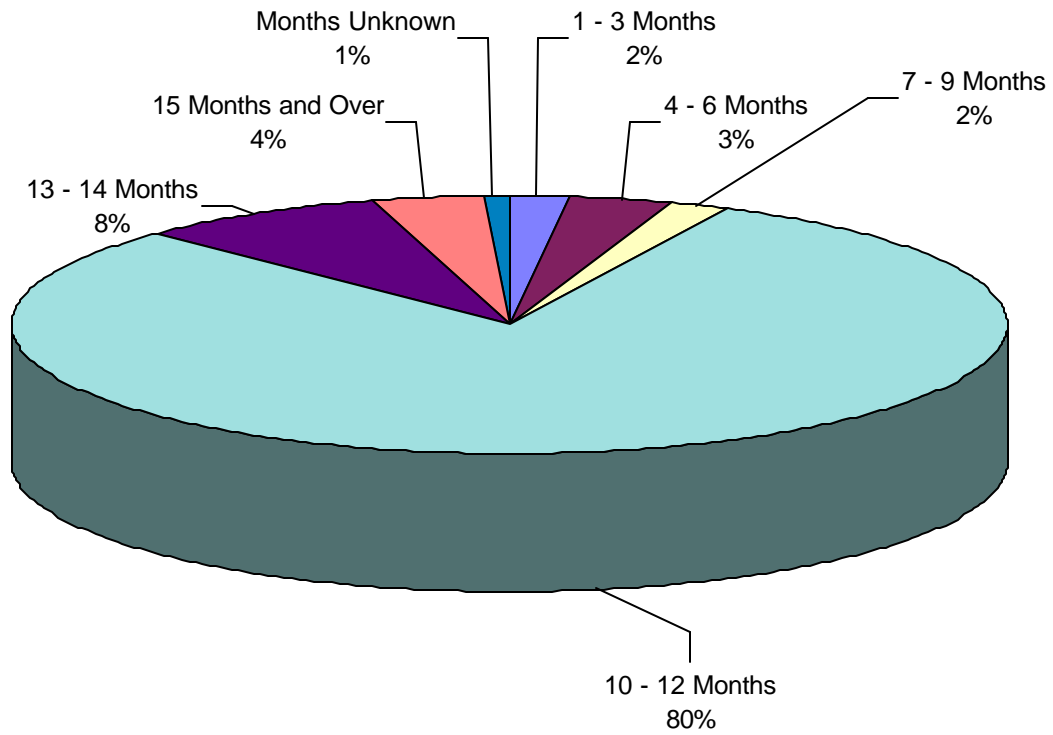
LENGTH OF CERTIFICATION PERIOD OF THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD

CERTIFICATION PERIOD	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS		CLASSIFICATION			
			PUBLIC ASSISTANCE		NON-ASSISTANCE	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	<u>879,557</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>573,066</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>306,491</u>	<u>100.0</u>
1 - 3 Months	17,784	2.0	7,094	1.2	10,690	3.5
4 - 6 Months	29,457	3.3	16,499	2.9	12,958	4.2
7 - 9 Months	16,936	1.9	10,400	1.8	6,536	2.1
10 - 12 Months	704,568	80.1	450,219	78.6	254,349	83.0
13 - 14 Months	72,258	8.2	57,617	10.1	14,641	4.8
15 Months and Over	31,654	3.6	24,432	4.3	7,222	2.4
Months Unknown	6,900	0.8	6,805	1.2	95	0.0
Avg. No. Mo. of Cert. Period	12.3		12.6		11.8	

- ✓ The average length of the certification period has increased from 11.3 months in 1993 to 12.3 months for FFY 1998.
- ✓ Certification periods in excess of 12 months mainly comprise elderly/disabled households.

CHART 21

LENGTH OF CERTIFICATION PERIOD OF THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD



Food Stamp Household Characteristics Survey  
Federal Fiscal Year 1998

TABLE 22

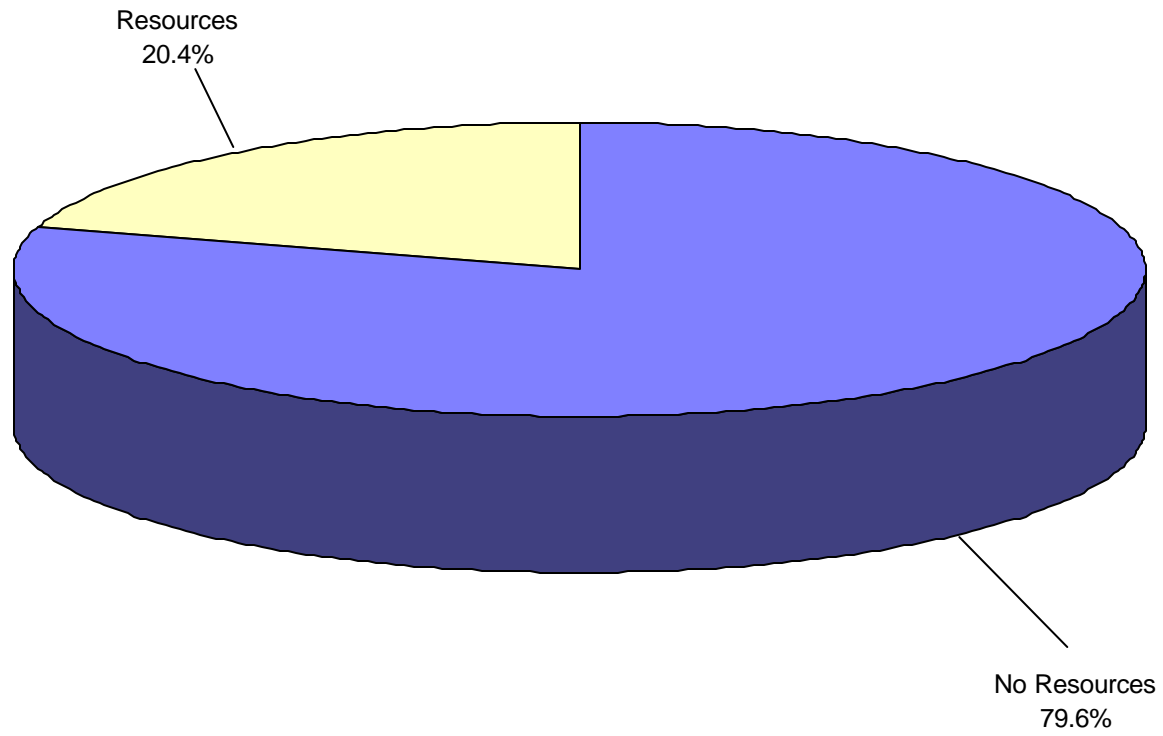
RESOURCES OWNED BY THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD

RESOURCES	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS			CLASSIFICATION					
	Number	Percent	Avg. Amt.	PUBLIC ASSISTANCE			NON-ASSISTANCE		
				Number	Percent	Avg. Amt.	Number	Percent	Avg. Amt.
Total	<u>879,557</u>	<u>100.0</u>		<u>567,121</u>	<u>100.0</u>		<u>312,436</u>	<u>100.0</u>	
No Resources	700,144	79.6		448,344	79.1		251,799	80.6	
Resources	179,413	20.4	\$611	118,777	20.9	\$645	60,637	19.4	\$543

- ✓ Resources of the food stamp household (not including tangible assets, such as vehicles) consisted mainly of checking accounts and savings accounts.

CHART 22

RESOURCES OWNED BY THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD



Food Stamp Household Characteristics Survey  
Federal fiscal Year 1998

TABLE 23

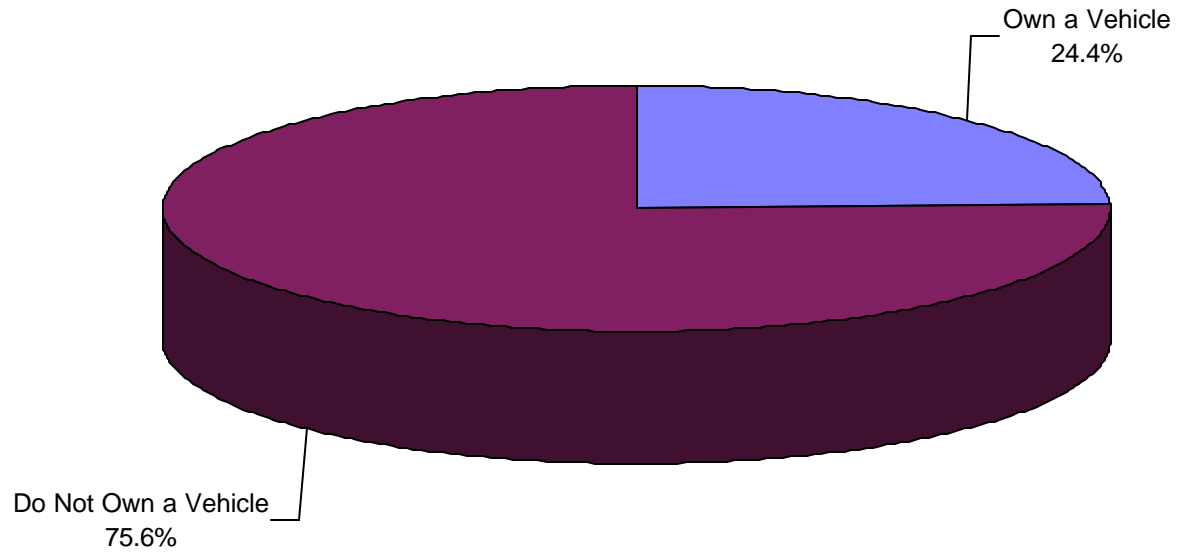
VEHICLES OWNED BY THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD

VEHICLE OWNERSHIP	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS		CLASSIFICATION			
			PUBLIC ASSISTANCE		NON-ASSISTANCE	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	<u>879,557</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>573,066</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>306,491</u>	<u>100.0</u>
Own a Vehicle	214,556	24.4	133,463	23.3	81,093	26.5
Do Not Own a Vehicle	665,001	75.6	439,603	76.7	225,398	73.5

- ✓ The number of food stamp households owning a vehicle has decreased from 28.8% in 1993 to 24.4% for FFY 1998.

CHART 23

VEHICLES OWNED BY THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD



Food Stamp Household Characteristics Survey  
Federal Fiscal Year 1998

TABLE 24

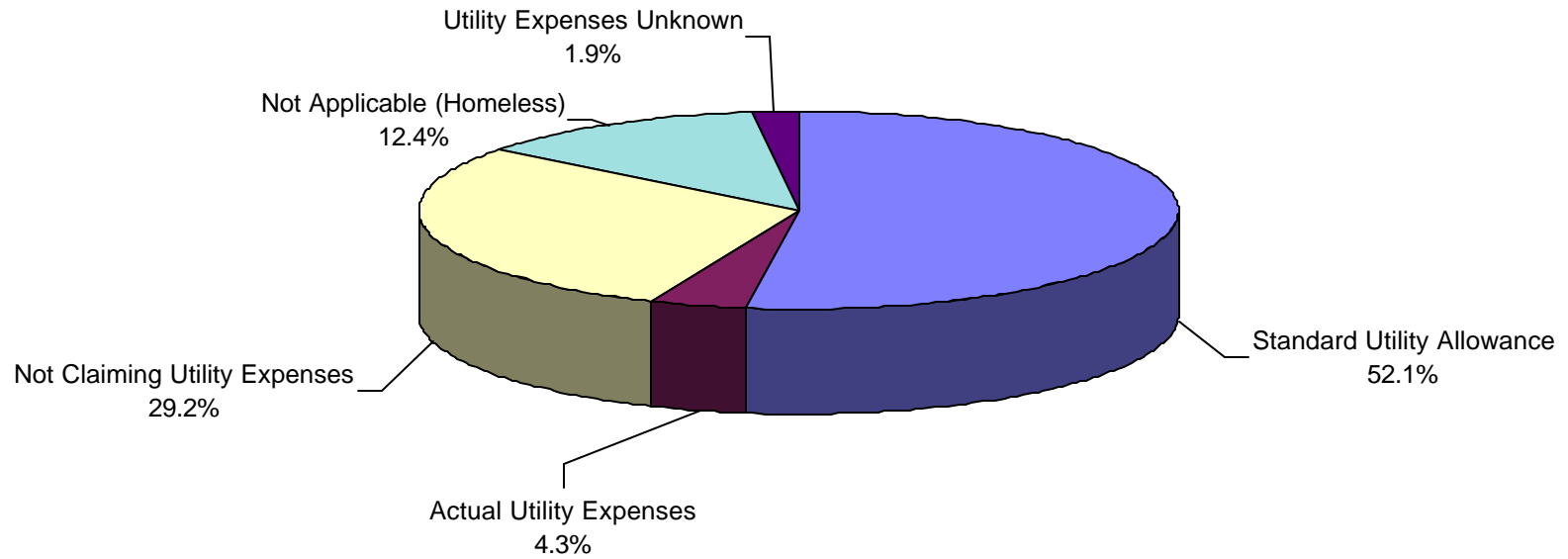
FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS CLAIMING UTILITY EXPENSES

UTILITY EXPENSES	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS		CLASSIFICATION			
	Number	Percent	PUBLIC ASSISTANCE		NON-ASSISTANCE	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	<u>879,557</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>573,066</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>306,491</u>	<u>100.0</u>
Standard Utility Allowance	458,572	52.1	327,836	57.2	130,736	42.7
Actual Utility Expenses	37,727	4.3	18,995	3.3	18,732	6.1
Not Claiming Utility Expens	257,036	29.2	150,605	26.3	106,431	34.7
Not Applicable (Homeless)	109,176	12.4	68,859	12.0	40,317	13.2
Utility Expenses Unknown	17,046	1.9	6,771	1.2	10,275	3.4

- ✓ The Not Applicable category comprises only those who claimed a homeless shelter deduction. At 12.4%, this is more than double the number (5.8%) claiming such a deduction in 1993.

CHART 24

FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS CLAIMING UTILITY EXPENSES





Food Stamp Household Characteristics Survey  
Federal Fiscal Year 1998

TABLE 25

FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS CLAIMING STANDARD UTILITY ALLOWANCE (SUA)

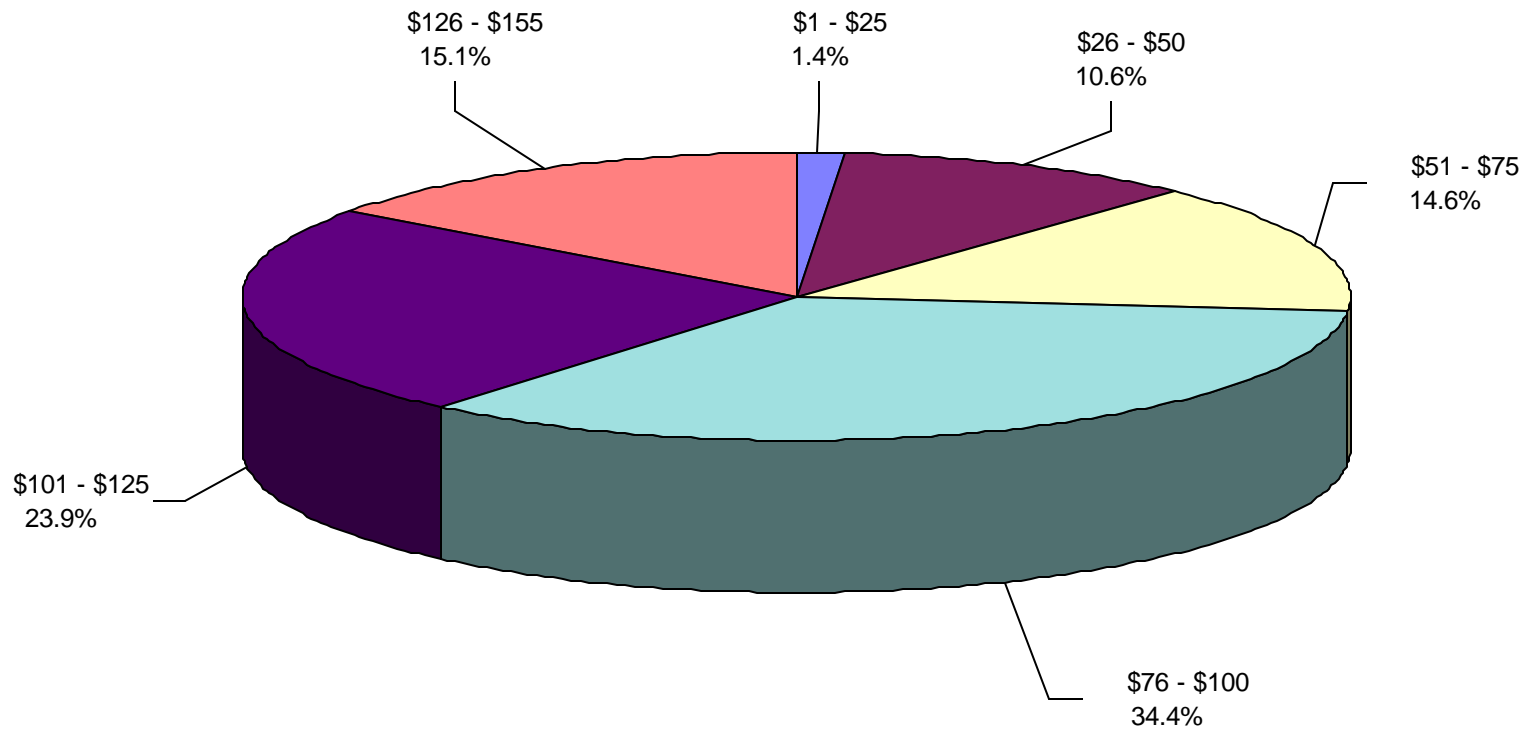
STANDARD UTILITY ALLOWANCE	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS		CLASSIFICATION			
			PUBLIC ASSISTANCE		NON-ASSISTANCE	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	<u>879,557</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>573,066</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>306,491</u>	<u>100.0</u>
Households Claiming Actual Cost	37,727	4.3	18,995	3.3	18,731	6.1
Households Not Claiming SUA 1/	383,258	43.6	226,235	39.5	157,023	51.2
Households Claiming SUA	<u>458,572</u>	<u>52.1</u>	<u>327,836</u>	<u>57.2</u>	<u>130,737</u>	<u>42.7</u>
SUA Not Prorated	275,836	60.2	196,156	59.8	79,680	60.9
SUA (\$155) Prorated	<u>182,736</u>	<u>39.8</u>	<u>131,680</u>	<u>40.2</u>	<u>51,056</u>	<u>39.1</u>
\$1 - \$25	2,525	1.4	1,273	1.0	1,252	2.5
\$26 - \$50	19,379	10.6	13,659	10.4	5,720	11.2
\$51 - \$75	26,678	14.6	17,024	12.9	9,654	18.9
\$76 - \$100	62,899	34.4	47,404	36.0	15,495	30.3
\$101 - \$125	43,652	23.9	32,632	24.8	11,020	21.6
\$126 - \$155	27,602	15.1	19,688	15.0	7,914	15.5
Average Amount of Prorated SUA	\$94		\$95		\$91	

1/ Includes the homeless and those for which utility information is lacking.

✓ Households claiming SUA increased from 50.2% in 1993 to 52.1% for FFY 1998, while the SUA increased from \$141 to \$155 for that period.

CHART 25

FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS CLAIMING STANDARD UTILITY ALLOWANCE (PRORATED AMOUNTS)



Food Stamp Household Characteristics Survey  
Federal Fiscal Year 1998

TABLE 26

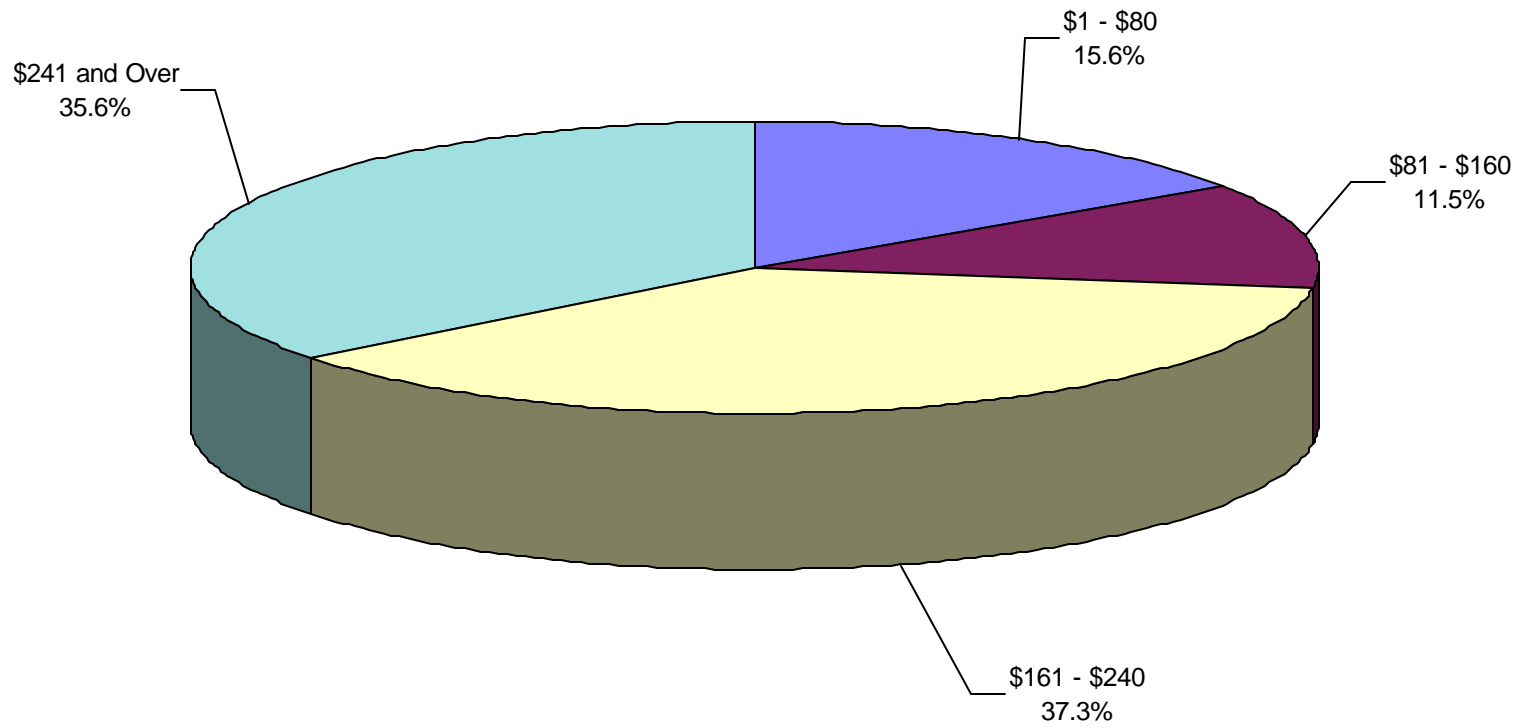
FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS ALLOWED A DEPENDENT CARE DEDUCTION

DEPENDENT CARE	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS		CLASSIFICATION			
			PUBLIC ASSISTANCE		NON-ASSISTANCE	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	<u>879,557</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>573,066</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>306,491</u>	<u>100.0</u>
No Dependent Care Deduction	860,421	97.8	558,603	97.5	301,818	98.5
Dependent Care Deduction	<u>19,136</u>	<u>2.2</u>	<u>14,463</u>	<u>2.5</u>	<u>4,673</u>	<u>1.5</u>
\$1 - \$80	2,980	15.6	2,783	19.2	197	4.2
\$81 - \$160	2,207	11.5	1,542	10.7	665	14.2
\$161 - \$240	7,130	37.3	4,807	33.2	2,323	49.7
\$241 and Over	6,819	35.6	5,331	36.9	1,488	31.8
Avg. Amt. of Dependent Care Deduction	\$214		\$220		\$195	

- ✓ The average amount of dependent care deduction increased from \$152 in 1993 to \$214 for FFY 1998. Among the reasons were (1) an increase in the number of working families, driven by CalWORKs requirements; and (2) procedures for paying the provider directly for child care services (a major component of dependent care) were not fully implemented by the counties until July 1998.

CHART 26

FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS ALLOWED A DEPENDENT CARE DEDUCTION



FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS SURVEY  
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 1998

TABLE 27

FOOD STAMP APPLICATION FOR EXPEDITED SERVICES

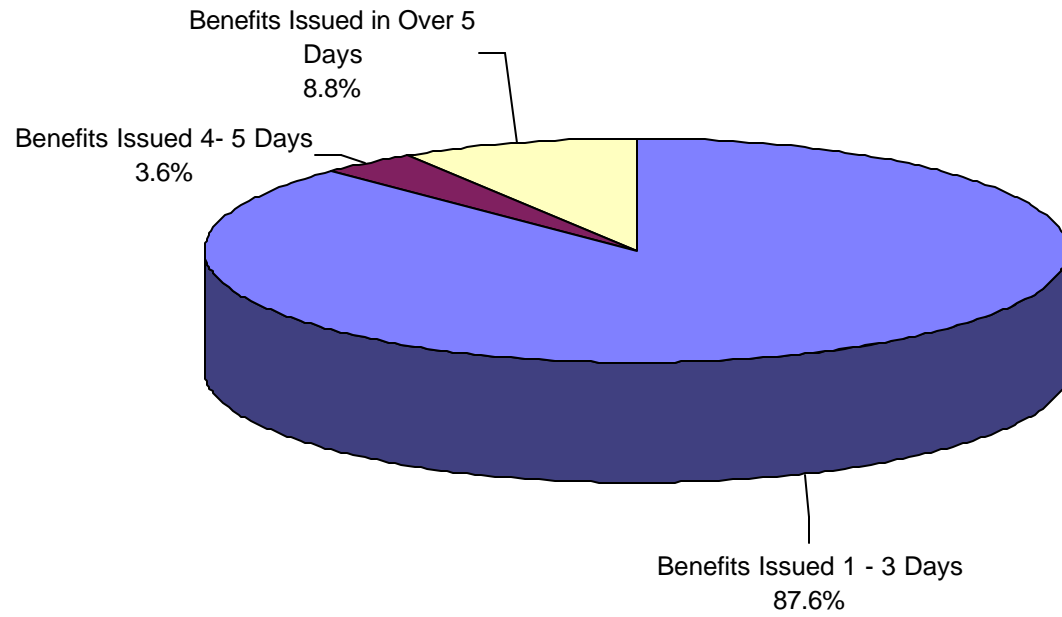
EXPEDITED SERVICES	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS		CLASSIFICATION			
			PUBLIC ASSISTANCE		NON-ASSISTANCE	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	<u>879,557</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>573,066</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>306,491</u>	<u>100.0</u>
Did Not Receive Expedited Services	645,569	73.4	544,876	95.1	100,693	32.9
Received Expedited Services	<u>233,988</u>	26.6	<u>28,190</u>	4.9	<u>205,798</u>	67.1
Benefits Issued 1 - 3 Days	205,036	87.6	24,525	87.0	180,511	87.7
Benefits Issued 4- 5 Days	8,443	3.6	1,227	4.4	7,216	3.5
Benefits Issued in Over 5 Days	20,509	8.8	2,438	8.6	18,071	8.8

✓ Roughly 17% of households received expedited services in 1993 compared to 26.6% for FFY 1998.

Note: Data for this table were taken from the DFA 296X.

CHART 27

FOOD STAMP APPLICATION FOR EXPEDITED SERVICES



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