

**Table 553. Selected Characteristics of Food Stamp Households and Participants: 1990 to 2005**

[7,796 represents 7,796,000. For years ending September 30. Data for 1990 exclude Guam and the Virgin Islands. Based on a sample of households from the Food Stamp Quality Control System]

Year	Households				Participants		
	Total (1,000)	Percent of total			Total (1,000)	Percent of total	
		With children	With elderly <sup>1</sup>	With disabled <sup>2</sup>		Children	Elderly <sup>1</sup>
1990 . . . . .	7,796	60.3	18.1	8.9	20,049	49.6	7.7
1995 . . . . .	10,879	59.7	16.0	18.9	26,619	51.5	7.1
2000 . . . . .	7,325	53.9	21.0	27.5	17,139	51.3	10.0
2001 . . . . .	7,447	53.6	20.4	27.7	17,313	51.1	9.6
2002 . . . . .	8,193	54.1	18.7	27.0	19,098	51.0	8.9
2003 . . . . .	9,154	54.7	18.0	23.3	21,260	50.8	8.5
2004 . . . . .	10,279	54.3	17.3	22.9	23,858	50.2	8.2
2005 . . . . .	11,184	53.8	17.1	23.1	25,683	50.0	8.2

<sup>1</sup> Persons 60 years old and over. <sup>2</sup> The substantial increase in 1995 and decrease in 2003 are due in part to the changes in definition of a disabled household. Prior to 1995, disabled households were defined as households with SSI income but no members over age 59. In 1995, that definition changed to households with at least one member under 65 who received SSI, or at least one member age 18–61 who received social security, veterans' benefits, or other government benefits as a result of a disability. Because of changes to the QC data in 2003, the definition of a disabled household changed to households either SSI income or a medical expense deduction and without an elderly person, and households containing a nonelderly adult who does not appear to be working and who is receiving social security, veterans' benefits, or workers' compensation.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Totals obtained from the National Data Bank. Percentages obtained from *Characteristics of Food Stamp Households: Fiscal Year 2005*, September 2006.