



Current Perspectives on Food Stamp Program Participation

United States
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Food and
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Office of
Analysis,
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Evaluation

Trends in Food Stamp Program Participation Rates: 1999 to 2005

Current Perspectives on Food Stamp Program Participation

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Trends in Food Stamp Program Participation Rates: 1999 to 2005

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Food Stamp Program (FSP) helps low-income individuals purchase food so that they can obtain a nutritious diet. One important measure of a program's performance is its ability to reach its target population, as indicated by the proportion of people eligible for benefits who actually participate.

Of the 38 million individuals who were eligible for food stamp benefits in an average month in 2005, 25 million individuals (65 percent) participated and over 13 million eligible individuals did not. While the FSP served 65 percent of all eligible individuals, it provided 80 percent of the benefits that all eligible individuals could receive, an increase of 5 percentage points from 2004 and 16 percentage points from 2001. This is because the neediest individuals, who were eligible for higher benefits, participated at higher rates than other eligible individuals. Nationally, the participation rate among individuals increased by almost 4 percentage points between 2004 and 2005, and by 11 points since 2001.

Almost every demographic and economic subgroup experienced a rise in participation rates from 2004 to 2005, with particularly large increases in the participation rates of children, noncitizens, citizen children living with noncitizen adults, individuals in households with very low income, and individuals with benefits at or close to the maximum benefit. Rates remained relatively high for individuals in households below the poverty line, in households with children, and for recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), with at least 81 percent of all eligibles from these groups participating in 2005. Among all household sizes, medium-sized households (3 or 4 members) had the highest participation rate, at 80 percent in 2005, and had the largest rate increase from 2004 to 2005.

On the other hand, only one third or less of eligible elderly adults, nondisabled childless adults subject to work registration, and individuals living in households with incomes above the poverty line participated. Participation rates for individuals in eligible households with earnings were also lower than average, at 57 percent. The gap between the participation rates for those in households with earnings and the overall individual participation rate narrowed from 13 points in 1999 to 8 points in 2005. Nondisabled childless adults subject to work registration had lower than average participation, but the rate increased 3 points from 2004 to 34 percent.

While noncitizens had decreasing participation rates through 2004, the rate increased by almost 7 points in 2005 because the number of eligible noncitizens decreased for the first time in several years while the number of participating noncitizens continued to increase. Citizen children living with noncitizen adults also participated at a higher rate in 2005, increasing 10 points from 2004 to 62 percent, and 25 points since 2001.

INTRODUCTION

The Food Stamp Program (FSP) helps low-income individuals purchase food so that they can obtain a nutritious diet. The number of people who were eligible for food stamps under normal program rules¹ served in an average month by the FSP increased from 23 million in fiscal year (FY) 2004 to 25 million in FY 2005, an increase of over 6 percent. Most individuals are eligible for the program if their financial resources fall below certain income and asset thresholds. Not all of those who are eligible participate in the program, however. While some choose not to participate, others are unaware that they are eligible. When eligible individuals do not participate in the FSP, they lose out on nutrition assistance that could stretch their food dollars at the grocery store, and their communities lose out on the economic benefits provided by new food stamp dollars flowing into local markets.

One important measure of a program's performance is its ability to reach its target population. In FY 2005, the national participation rate among eligible individuals was 65 percent, an increase of almost 4 percentage points over FY 2004. The household participation rate was 59 percent in 2005, while the benefit participation rate was 80 percent.

Along with presenting the overall 2005 participation rate, this report presents participation rates for subgroups of the eligible population, describes recent and historical trends in participation rates, and describes the estimation methodology employed. More detailed tables on 2005 subgroup participation rates are contained in Appendix A. Appendix B displays the change in individual FSP participation rates since 1988. Appendices C and D present an in-depth explanation of the methodology and the sampling error of the participation rate estimates.

¹ This report does not include those participants who received disaster assistance in the wake of the Gulf Coast hurricanes in October 2004 and September 2005. An estimated 1.2 million people received disaster assistance in October 2004 and an estimated 1.6 million people received disaster assistance in September 2005.

Appendix E lists historical economic and policy influences on the FSP, Appendix F lists changes in the March CPS over time, and Appendix G contains prior years' FSP eligibility parameters. Revised rates for 1999 through 2004 are presented in a separate Technical Appendices report.

The 2005 participation rate estimates in this report are based on data from the March 2006 Current Population Survey (CPS) and FY 2005 FSP administrative data. Previous years' estimates are based on CPS and administrative data from the appropriate years. For this report, we updated participation rates for years 1999 to 2004 to be methodologically consistent with 2005 rates. This allows us to examine and compare the rates from 1999 to 2005 without any methodological breaks in the trend line.²

SUMMARY OF ESTIMATED RATES

Of the 38 million individuals who were eligible for the FSP under normal rules in an average month of 2005, 25 million individuals actually participated. The individual food stamp participation rate reached 65 percent in 2005, an increase of 4 percentage points from 2004 (Table 1). Since small households were, on average, less likely to participate, the household participation rate (59 percent) in FY 2005 was slightly lower than the individual rate, though it also increased by almost 4 points from 2004. The benefit participation rates increased in 2005 as well, rising to 80 percent.³ The benefit rate is consistently higher than the individual or household rates because the neediest individuals, who are eligible for higher benefits, tend to participate at higher rates than other eligible individuals.

² Because we updated rates for 1999 to 2004 using a consistent methodology, the estimates presented in this report differ from those presented in the previous editions of the report (Barrett and Poikolainen 2006; Cunningham 2005, 2004, 2003, and 2002). These changes are due to improvements in the estimation methodology used to produce participation rates, and are discussed in detail in Appendix C.

³ The benefit participation rate measures the amount of benefits received as a proportion of total benefits that would be paid out if every eligible household participated.

RECENT TRENDS IN PARTICIPATION RATES

In 2005, participation rates increased for the fourth year in a row,⁴ reaching 65 percent for eligible individuals (Table 2 and Figure 1). After falling to 54 percent in 2001 and 2002, the rate rose by over 2 points in 2003, by more than 5 points in 2004, and by almost 4 points in 2005. From 2001 to 2004, the number of individuals eligible for benefits and the number participating both increased; participation rose faster, however, leading to the increases in participation rates. From 2004 to 2005, the number participating continued to rise but the number eligible dropped slightly, leading to a continued rise in participation rates. The household participation rate decreased by nearly 4 percentage points between 1999 and 2002, but has increased over 11 points since 2002. In 2005, the household participation rate was 59 percent. The benefit participation rate increased nearly 16 points since 2001, reaching 80 percent in 2005.

The participation rate fell in 2000 because, while both the number of participants and the number of eligible individuals were decreasing, the number of participants fell more quickly than the number of eligible individuals. In 2001, during a period of expansive eligibility rules for vehicles, the number of individuals eligible for the FSP began to rise, increasing until 2004. The number of eligibles then decreased by about 22,000 individuals from 2004 to 2005. The number of individuals participating increased by nearly 8 million between 2001 and 2005, rising by more than 1 million in 2005 alone. The number of eligible individuals who did not participate dropped from about 15 million in 2004 to about 13 million in 2005.

⁴ Although the estimated participation rate did increase between 2001 and 2002, the increase was small and not statistically significant.

PARTICIPATION RATES FOR SUBGROUPS FOR FY 2005

FSP participation rates vary by demographic and economic subgroup. Historically, participation rates have been relatively high for children, TANF and SSI recipients, and individuals in households with very low incomes. This pattern continued in 2005, with at least 80 percent of all eligibles from these groups participating (Tables 3 and 4, Figure 2). Medium-sized households (3 or 4 members) also had a relatively high participation rate in 2005 (80 percent), especially when compared to small households (1 or 2 members) at 52 percent.

Almost every demographic and economic subgroup experienced a rise in participation rates in 2005, with some subgroups with already high participation rates seeing large increases. The participation rate for children rose by close to 6 points to 88 percent, and the rate for preschool-age children, in particular, increased by nearly 7 points to 93 percent. Medium-sized households had the greatest rate increase from 2004 to 2005 of any household size, rising 7 points to 80 percent. The poorest and most needy households also experienced relatively large gains in participation rates in 2005, with the participation rate of individuals in households below the poverty line increasing by 6 points from 2004 to 2005. These individuals participated at a rate of 81 percent compared to the rate of 25 percent for those above the poverty line.

Participation rates have been historically low for the elderly and for individuals in households with incomes above poverty, and this continued in 2005. Less than a third of eligible elderly individuals participated in 2005 and approximately a quarter of all individuals in households above the poverty line participated. Nondisabled childless adults subject to work registration also had lower than average participation rates, at 34 percent.

Children and adults living in households with children had the highest benefit participation rate, receiving over 95 percent of the benefits to which they were entitled.⁵ The elderly and individuals living in households above the poverty line had the lowest benefit participation rates, receiving approximately one-third of the benefits for which they were eligible.

TRENDS IN PARTICIPATION RATES FOR SUBGROUPS

Some subgroups have experienced several consecutive years of participation rate increases after having years of decreasing rates. The participation rate for nondisabled childless adults that are subject to work registration, for example, decreased from 1999 to 2002, but increased every year beginning in 2003 (Table 5). This subgroup had a participation rate of 49 percent in 1999, which decreased 22 points through 2002 to 27 percent. Then the rate increased steadily to 34 percent by 2005.

Likewise, the rates for citizen children living with noncitizen adults decreased until 2001 but increased each year thereafter. The participation rate was about 40 percent in 1999 and decreased to 37 percent in 2001. However, 62 percent of this subgroup participated in 2005, an increase of 25 points since 2001.

Since 2002, the participation rate for individuals receiving high benefits (51-99 percent of the maximum) has experienced greater increases than the participation rate for those receiving low benefits (1-50 percent of the maximum). While the rate for individuals receiving low benefits has remained relatively steady in the last few years, the rate for those with high benefits rose by 2 points in 2003, by 4 points in 2004, and by over 6 points in 2005, reaching 93 percent in 2005.

⁵ See Table A.8 in Appendix A for benefit participation rates by subgroup.

Noncitizens had decreasing participation rates through 2004. However, the rate increased by almost 7 points in 2005 because the number of eligible noncitizens decreased for the first time in several years—in line with the overall decrease in eligible individuals—while the number of participating noncitizens continued to increase. Expanded eligibility, due to the restoration of eligibility to certain noncitizens under the 2002 Farm Security and Rural Investment Act,⁶ had a major impact on the participation rates of noncitizens through 2004. Noncitizens had a relatively high individual participation rate in 1999 and 2000, at 72 and 83 percent, respectively, but the rate decreased to 44 percent by 2004. Rule changes expanding eligibility often lower participation rates in the short term because it takes time for information about policy changes to make its way into communities, reach the people likely to be affected, and influence their decision to apply for benefits.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH CHANGES IN PARTICIPATION RATES

As shown in Figure 1, overall participation rates increased substantially in the late 1970s, leveled off in the early and mid-1980s, and then increased again through the early 1990s.⁷ After peaking in 1994, individual participation rates began a 7-year decrease. This decrease can be attributed to a combination of changes in the economy, program rules, trends in other public assistance programs, and the participation decisions of eligible people.⁸ Specifically, the strong economy increased job opportunities for low-income families, thus reducing eligibility for and participation in the FSP. In addition, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) reduced eligibility for many noncitizens and nonelderly

⁶ The 2002 Farm Security and Rural Investment Act restored eligibility for qualified noncitizens receiving disability benefits effective October 1, 2002, and to qualified noncitizens who had lived in the United States for over 5 years effective April 1, 2003. Eligibility was restored for qualifying noncitizen children on October 1, 2003.

⁷ See Appendix Table B.1 for the change in individual participation rates from 1988 to 2005.

⁸ See Appendix E for economic and policy influences on participation rates.

nondisabled childless adults and added a new focus on moving people from welfare to work. The increased emphasis on work and the reduced TANF caseload lowered FSP participation rates because households not receiving public assistance are less likely to participate in the FSP.⁹

Since 2001, factors such as increased outreach and improved access to the FSP have contributed to the rise in participation rates. During this period, States increased outreach to low-income households and implemented program simplifications to make it easier for eligible persons to apply for and receive food stamps. Many State FSP agencies, for example, now provide extended hours of operation, waive the requirement for in-person interviews in hardship situations, and have streamlined their overall application process. Most States have also reduced the amount of information that recipients must report during their certification period in order to maintain their eligibility and benefit levels, which also makes it easier for low-income families to participate.

METHODOLOGY

The estimates of FY 2005 participation rates presented in this report were derived using data from the March 2006 CPS and FSP administrative data for FY 2005; estimates for previous years were derived using the March CPS and FSP administrative data appropriate for those years.¹⁰ The participation rate is calculated as the ratio of the number of individuals participating in the FSP to the number of individuals eligible for food stamps, with the ratio expressed as a percentage. The estimates of participants for FY 2005 are from the FY 2005 FSP Statistical

⁹ Individuals who receive TANF are categorically eligible for the FSP. While most individuals who leave TANF still qualify for food stamps, that eligibility is only automatic if the household continues to receive certain in-kind benefits or lives in a State using transitional benefits for TANF leavers. As a result, some individuals are unaware that they are still eligible for the FSP and others choose not to apply or recertify. In 2005, individuals receiving TANF were more than twice as likely to participate in the FSP than individuals not receiving TANF.

¹⁰ Because the CPS collects household income data for the previous calendar year, we used the March 2006 CPS to derive estimates of eligible individuals in calendar year 2005.

Summary of Operations (Program Operations) and the FY 2005 FSP Quality Control (FSPQC) data, and similar data files were used for previous years' participant estimates. We use administrative counts of participants because FSP participation is underreported in the CPS. From the administrative data, we use the average monthly number of participants over the 12 months in the fiscal year. We exclude ineligible participants and participants who received disaster assistance in the wake of the Gulf Coast hurricanes in October 2004 and September 2005. We also make adjustments to the participant counts in order to ensure consistency between the participation rate numerators and denominators.

We estimate the number of eligible individuals by applying the food stamp eligibility rules that were in effect in FY 2005 to households in the CPS using a microsimulation model. These eligibility rules include the food stamp unit formation rules, gross and net income thresholds, and financial and vehicle asset limits. In addition, we impute some missing information that is needed to determine FSP eligibility, and produce an average monthly estimate of the number of eligible individuals.

Minor enhancements to the methodology used to estimate eligibility have improved the accuracy of the participation rate estimates. These enhancements include updates to the model used to impute asset eligibility, to the net income equation used to determine eligibility for the FSP, and to data used to assign undocumented immigrant status to some noncitizens. The estimation methodology also incorporates rules regarding sponsor deeming when determining immigrant eligibility. These methodological enhancements are described in more detail in Appendix C.

Participation rates are calculated by dividing the number of participating individuals based on the adjusted administrative data by the number of eligible individuals based on the CPS-based model of food stamp eligibility. Appendix C describes the methodology in more detail.

TABLE 1

INDIVIDUAL, HOUSEHOLD, AND BENEFIT PARTICIPATION RATES, FISCAL YEAR 2005

| | Participating (000s) | Eligible (000s) | Participation Rate with 90% Confidence Interval |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Individuals | 24,571 | 37,743 | 65.1 +/- 1.2 |
| Food Stamp Households | 10,730 | 18,144 | 59.1 +/- 0.9 |
| Benefits (in dollars) | 2,253,885 | 2,812,052 | 80.2 +/- 1.6 |
| Average Food Stamp Household Size | 2.3 | | |
| Average Per Capita Benefit Per Month | \$91.73 | | |

Sources: FY 2005 FSP Program Operations Data and FSPQC Data, and March 2006 CPS Data

Note: These estimates of participants differ from official participant counts. See Appendix C for details.

TABLE 2

MONTHLY NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE AND PARTICIPATING INDIVIDUALS, HOUSEHOLDS, AND BENEFITS, AND PARTICIPATION RATES, 1976 - 2005

| | Eligible (000's) | | | Participating (000's) ^a | | | Participation Rates (%) | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------|-------------|------------------------------------|------------|-----------|-------------------------|------------|----------|
| | Individuals | Households | Benefits | Individuals | Households | Benefits | Individuals | Households | Benefits |
| September 1976 ^b | 50,061 | 16,282 | \$1,075,819 | 15,880 | 5,308 | \$375,461 | 31.1 | 32.6 | 34.9 |
| February 1978 | 40,175 | 13,984 | 934,427 | 15,387 | 5,286 | 398,066 | 38.3 | 37.8 | 42.6 |
| August 1980 | 36,567 | 14,042 | 1,108,330 | 20,185 | 7,372 | 689,381 | 55.2 | 52.5 | 62.2 |
| August 1982 | 39,364 | 14,538 | 1,352,251 | 20,548 | 7,487 | 785,658 | 52.2 | 51.5 | 58.1 |
| August 1984 | 38,591 | 14,194 | 1,386,231 | 19,990 | 7,324 | 841,442 | 51.8 | 51.6 | 60.7 |
| August 1986 | 40,061 | 15,273 | 1,544,833 | 19,069 | 7,102 | 860,472 | 47.6 | 46.5 | 55.7 |
| August 1988 | 38,166 | 14,896 | 1,646,310 | 18,358 | 7,016 | 907,117 | 48.1 | 47.1 | 55.1 |
| August 1990 | 37,631 | 14,523 | 1,905,141 | 20,396 | 7,973 | 1,188,808 | 54.2 | 54.9 | 62.4 |
| August 1991 | 40,989 | 15,574 | 2,229,403 | 23,364 | 9,204 | 1,471,406 | 57.0 | 59.1 | 66.0 |
| August 1992 | 43,474 | 16,627 | 2,491,671 | 25,759 | 10,238 | 1,749,058 | 59.3 | 61.6 | 70.2 |
| August 1993 | 45,241 | 17,031 | 2,515,761 | 27,260 | 10,900 | 1,839,469 | 60.3 | 64.0 | 73.1 |
| August 1994 | 44,327 | 17,040 | 2,473,299 | 27,207 | 11,005 | 1,873,953 | 61.4 | 64.6 | 75.8 |
| September 1994 | 35,053 | 15,305 | 2,028,290 | 26,229 | 10,659 | 1,747,990 | 74.8 | 69.6 | 86.2 |
| September 1995 | 34,665 | 14,994 | 2,017,983 | 25,213 | 10,374 | 1,751,560 | 72.7 | 69.2 | 86.8 |
| September 1996 | 34,478 | 15,264 | 2,060,242 | 23,874 | 9,934 | 1,706,230 | 69.2 | 65.1 | 82.8 |
| September 1997 | 31,818 | 14,692 | 1,913,367 | 20,365 | 8,446 | 1,407,148 | 64.0 | 57.5 | 73.5 |
| September 1998 | 30,350 | 14,024 | 1,836,184 | 18,152 | 7,606 | 1,253,632 | 59.8 | 54.2 | 68.3 |
| September 1999 | 29,502 | 13,723 | 1,779,829 | 17,081 | 7,280 | 1,199,679 | 57.9 | 53.0 | 67.4 |
| FY 1999 | 30,913 | 14,545 | 1,820,510 | 17,705 | 7,481 | 1,256,625 | 57.3 | 51.4 | 69.0 |
| FY 2000 | 29,550 | 14,281 | 1,749,048 | 16,701 | 7,146 | 1,193,970 | 56.5 | 50.0 | 68.3 |
| FY 2001 | 31,340 | 15,169 | 1,924,151 | 16,834 | 7,250 | 1,240,961 | 53.7 | 47.8 | 64.5 |
| FY 2002 | 34,392 | 16,698 | 2,230,445 | 18,500 | 7,951 | 1,451,229 | 53.8 | 47.6 | 65.1 |
| FY 2003 | 36,737 | 17,882 | 2,512,518 | 20,591 | 8,890 | 1,710,801 | 56.0 | 49.7 | 68.1 |
| FY 2004 | 37,765 | 18,016 | 2,656,592 | 23,153 | 9,990 | 1,980,166 | 61.3 | 55.4 | 74.5 |
| FY 2005 | 37,743 | 18,144 | 2,812,052 | 24,571 | 10,730 | 2,253,885 | 65.1 | 59.1 | 80.2 |

Sources: FSP Program Operations data, FSPQC data, and March CPS data for the years shown.

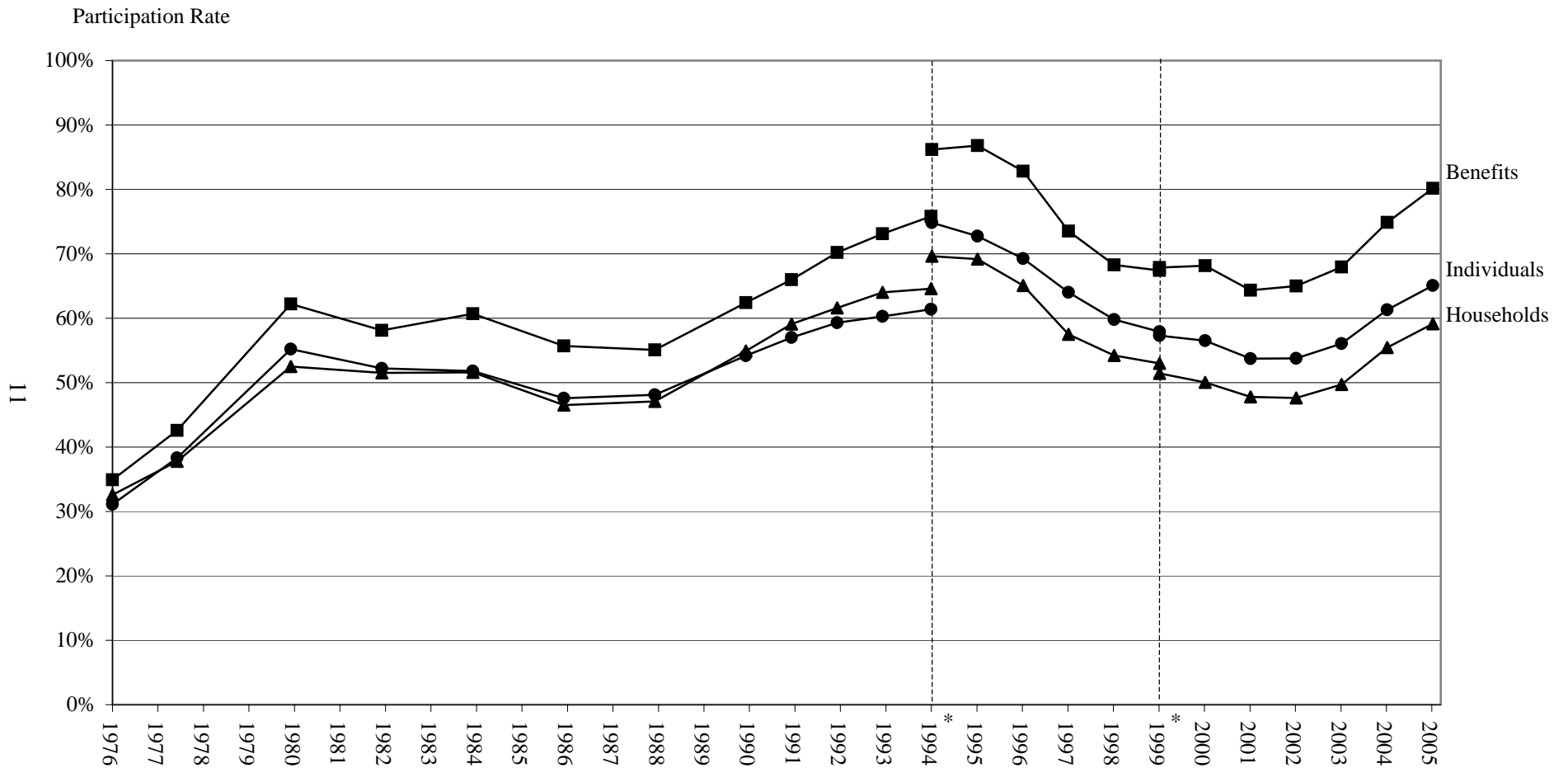
^a The estimates of participants in this report exclude certain participants and thus differ from official participant counts. See Appendix C for details.

^b The benefit rates for 1976 and 1978 are based on the net benefit (maximum benefits-purchase requirement). Hence, the benefit rates are consistent over all years.

Note: There are two estimates for both 1994 and 1999 due to revised methodologies for determining food stamp eligibility and the number of participants. The September 1976 - August 1994 estimates are methodologically consistent, as are the September 1994 - September 1999 estimates and the FY 1999 - FY 2005 estimates. Please see Appendix C for details.

FIGURE 1

TRENDS IN MONTHLY FSP PARTICIPATION RATES, 1976 - 2005



Sources: FSP Program Operations data, FSPQC data, and March CPS data for the years shown.

*There are breaks in the time series in 1994 and 1999 due to revisions in the methodology for determining eligibility.

TABLE 3

FSP INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS, FY 2004 AND FY 2005

| | Participating ^a Individuals (000s) | | Eligible Individuals (000s) | | Participation Rate | | |
|---|--|---------|-----------------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|---------------------|
| | FY 2004 | FY 2005 | FY 2004 | FY 2005 | FY 2004 | FY 2005 | Difference With 90% |
| | | | | | | | Confidence Interval |
| Individuals in All Households | 23,153 | 24,571 | 37,765 | 37,743 | 61.3 | 65.1 | 3.8 +/- 1.6 |
| Individuals by Households Size | | | | | | | |
| Small (1-2 members) | 8,235 | 8,983 | 16,697 | 17,199 | 49.3 | 52.2 | 2.9 +/- 1.4 |
| Medium (3-4 members) | 9,333 | 10,075 | 12,819 | 12,565 | 72.8 | 80.2 | 7.4 +/- 4.3 |
| Large (5 or more members) | 5,586 | 5,514 | 8,250 | 7,978 | 67.7 | 69.1 | 1.4 +/- 6.2 |
| Age of Individual | | | | | | | |
| Children | 11,630 | 12,274 | 14,189 | 14,017 | 82.0 | 87.6 | 5.6 +/- 3.4 |
| Preschool Age (0 to 4 years) | 3,908 | 4,224 | 4,558 | 4,564 | 85.7 | 92.6 | 6.8 +/- 5.2 |
| School Age (5 to 17 years) | 7,723 | 8,050 | 9,631 | 9,453 | 80.2 | 85.2 | 5.0 +/- 3.7 |
| Nonelderly Adults (18 to 59 years) | 9,626 | 10,265 | 17,129 | 17,119 | 56.2 | 60.0 | 3.8 +/- 1.6 |
| Elderly Individuals | 1,897 | 2,032 | 6,447 | 6,607 | 29.4 | 30.7 | 1.3 +/- 1.5 |
| Nondisabled Childless Adults Subject to Work Registration ^b | 871 | 919 | 2,844 | 2,735 | 30.6 | 33.6 | 3.0 +/- 2.4 |
| Noncitizens ^c | 900 | 936 | 2,031 | 1,839 | 44.3 | 50.9 | 6.6 +/- 5.3 |
| Citizen Children Living With Noncitizen Adults ^d | 1,491 | 1,781 | 2,872 | 2,860 | 51.9 | 62.3 | 10.4 +/- 6.2 |
| Individuals in Households Without Any Nondisabled Childless Adults Subject to Work Registration or Noncitizens | 20,116 | 21,428 | 30,547 | 30,820 | 65.9 | 69.5 | 3.7 +/- 1.9 |
| Individuals by Household Composition | | | | | | | |
| Households With Children | 17,989 | 18,941 | 23,517 | 23,250 | 76.5 | 81.5 | 5.0 +/- 3.0 |
| One Adult | 10,383 | 10,898 | 9,697 | 9,757 | 107.1 | 111.7 | 4.6 +/- 6.6 |
| Married Household Head | 4,464 | 4,518 | 8,412 | 7,886 | 53.1 | 57.3 | 4.2 +/- 4.6 |
| Other Multiple Adults | 2,076 | 2,156 | 4,096 | 4,217 | 50.7 | 51.1 | 0.4 +/- 5.6 |
| Children Only | 1,066 | 1,369 | 1,312 | 1,390 | 81.2 | 98.5 | 17.3 +/- 12.3 |
| Households Without Children | 5,165 | 5,630 | 14,248 | 14,493 | 36.2 | 38.8 | 2.6 +/- 1.2 |

Sources: FY 2004 and 2005 FSP Program Operations Data and FSPQC Data, and March 2005 and 2006 CPS Data

^a The estimates of participants in this report exclude certain participants and thus differ from official participant counts. See Appendix C for details.

^b Referred to as ABAWDs in previous reports, these individuals are age 18 to 49, not disabled, not living with children under age 18, and are subject to work registration. With some exceptions, these individuals must meet work requirements or face time limits on benefit receipt.

^c Noncitizens who are eligible and/or participating. This row does not include noncitizens who are outside the food stamp unit but reside in the same household.

^d Citizen children living in a household with a noncitizen adult, regardless of the FSP participation or eligibility status of the adult.

Note: Participation rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS. See Appendix C for more information.

TABLE 4

FSP INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLDS, FY 2004 AND FY 2005

| | Participating ^a Individuals (000s) | | Eligible Individuals (000s) | | Participation Rate | | |
|--|--|---------|-----------------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|--|
| | FY 2004 | FY 2005 | FY 2004 | FY 2005 | FY 2004 | FY 2005 | Difference with 90% Confidence Interval |
| | Individuals in All Households | 23,153 | 24,571 | 37,765 | 37,743 | 61.3 | 65.1 |
| Individuals by Household Income Source | | | | | | | |
| Earnings | 9,151 | 9,772 | 17,467 | 17,238 | 52.4 | 56.7 | 4.3 +/- 2.7 |
| TANF | 5,020 | 4,836 | 3,441 | 3,446 | 145.9 | 140.3 | -5.6 +/- 23.8 |
| Elderly SSI | 1,248 | 1,292 | 1,259 | 1,281 | 99.2 | 100.8 | 1.6 +/- 12.7 |
| Nonelderly SSI | 3,740 | 3,954 | 3,701 | 3,757 | 101.1 | 105.2 | 4.2 +/- 9.9 |
| Social Security | 3,848 | 4,049 | 9,403 | 9,502 | 40.9 | 42.6 | 1.7 +/- 2.2 |
| Individuals by Household Income as a Percentage of Poverty Level | | | | | | | |
| Total Below Poverty Line | 20,382 | 21,815 | 27,060 | 26,873 | 75.3 | 81.2 | 5.9 +/- 2.4 |
| No Income | 2,311 | 2,722 | 5,888 | 5,917 | 39.2 | 46.0 | 6.8 +/- 3.0 |
| 1 - 50% | 7,436 | 7,750 | 7,160 | 7,127 | 103.9 | 108.7 | 4.9 +/- 6.8 |
| 51 - 100% | 10,636 | 11,343 | 14,012 | 13,829 | 75.9 | 82.0 | 6.1 +/- 3.6 |
| Total Above Poverty Line | 2,771 | 2,756 | 10,704 | 10,870 | 25.9 | 25.4 | -0.5 +/- 1.6 |
| 101 - 130% | 2,640 | 2,618 | 8,778 | 8,968 | 30.1 | 29.2 | -0.9 +/- 2.0 |
| 131% or more | 131 | 138 | 1,926 | 1,902 | 6.8 | 7.3 | 0.5 +/- 1.3 |
| Individuals by Household Benefit as a Percentage of Maximum Benefit | | | | | | | |
| Minimum benefit (\$10 or less) | 675 | 604 | 4,147 | 4,082 | 16.3 | 14.8 | -1.5 +/- 1.3 |
| 1 - 25% | 2,625 | 2,406 | 9,086 | 8,707 | 28.9 | 27.6 | -1.3 +/- 1.8 |
| 26 - 50% | 4,032 | 4,123 | 8,073 | 8,012 | 49.9 | 51.5 | 1.5 +/- 3.2 |
| 51 - 75% | 5,246 | 5,620 | 7,134 | 7,542 | 73.5 | 74.5 | 1.0 +/- 5.7 |
| 76 - 99% | 5,303 | 5,914 | 5,028 | 4,880 | 105.5 | 121.2 | 15.7 +/- 8.8 |
| 100% | 5,948 | 6,509 | 8,444 | 8,602 | 70.4 | 75.7 | 5.2 +/- 4.0 |

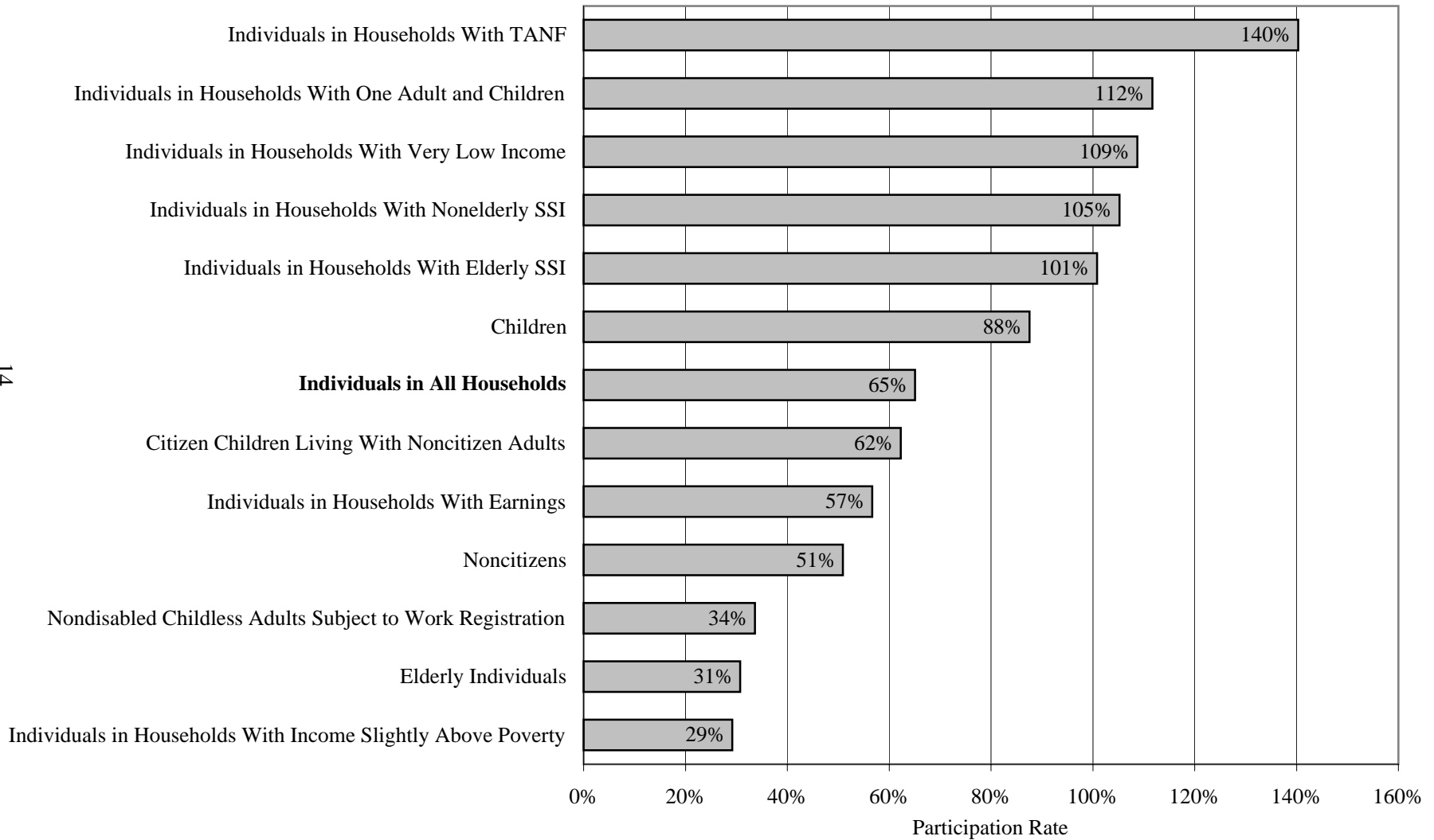
Sources: FY 2004 and 2005 FSP Program Operations Data and FSPQC Data, and March 2005 and 2006 CPS Data

^a The estimates of participants in this report exclude certain participants and thus differ from official participant counts. See Appendix C for details.

Note: Participation rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS. See Appendix C for more information.

FIGURE 2

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY SUBGROUP, FY 2005



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Note: Participation rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS. See Appendix C for more information.

TABLE 5

FSP PARTICIPATION RATES BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS, FY 1999 - FY 2005

| | Participation Rates | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | FY 1999 | FY 2000 | FY 2001 | FY 2002 | FY 2003 | FY 2004 | FY 2005 |
| Individuals in All Households | 57.3 | 56.5 | 53.7 | 53.8 | 56.0 | 61.3 | 65.1 |
| Households by Size | | | | | | | |
| Small (1-2 members) | 45.8 | 44.7 | 42.1 | 42.3 | 43.6 | 49.3 | 52.2 |
| Medium (3-4 members) | 68.7 | 69.2 | 63.1 | 65.0 | 69.0 | 72.8 | 80.2 |
| Large (5 or more members) | 62.6 | 62.0 | 63.9 | 60.5 | 62.6 | 67.7 | 69.1 |
| Age of Individual | | | | | | | |
| Children | 71.9 | 72.6 | 70.1 | 71.0 | 74.8 | 82.0 | 87.6 |
| Preschool Age (0 to 4 years) | 77.0 | 73.4 | 71.9 | 72.8 | 77.4 | 85.7 | 92.6 |
| School Age (5 to 17 years) | 69.7 | 72.2 | 69.2 | 70.1 | 73.6 | 80.2 | 85.2 |
| Nonelderly Adults (18 to 59 years) | 53.8 | 52.6 | 49.7 | 49.7 | 51.6 | 56.2 | 60.0 |
| Elderly Individuals | 30.9 | 30.6 | 28.1 | 26.6 | 27.0 | 29.4 | 30.7 |
| Nondisabled Childless Adults Subject to Work Registration | | | | | | | |
| | 48.5 | 33.4 | 28.4 | 27.4 | 28.8 | 30.6 | 33.6 |
| Noncitizens | | | | | | | |
| | 71.5 | 82.8 | 69.3 | 54.2 | 48.9 | 44.3 | 50.9 |
| Citizen Children Living with Noncitizen Adults | | | | | | | |
| | 39.9 | 39.5 | 36.7 | 43.3 | 46.8 | 51.9 | 62.3 |
| Individuals by Household Composition | | | | | | | |
| Households With Children | 69.4 | 69.4 | 66.0 | 66.2 | 70.0 | 76.5 | 81.5 |
| One Adult | 95.9 | 97.5 | 94.8 | 96.4 | 95.1 | 107.1 | 111.7 |
| Married Household Head | 51.8 | 51.1 | 45.8 | 44.9 | 48.5 | 53.1 | 57.3 |
| Other Multiple Adults | 44.8 | 40.6 | 42.3 | 40.0 | 49.0 | 50.7 | 51.1 |
| Children Only | 41.3 | 48.6 | 45.9 | 60.8 | 71.7 | 81.2 | 98.5 |
| Households Without Children | 34.7 | 34.2 | 32.7 | 32.5 | 32.8 | 36.2 | 38.8 |
| Individuals by Household Income Source | | | | | | | |
| Earnings | 44.4 | 46.1 | 45.0 | 45.0 | 48.2 | 52.4 | 56.7 |
| TANF | 155.4 | 157.3 | 170.1 | 171.2 | 129.4 | 145.9 | 140.3 |
| Elderly SSI | 97.5 | 92.4 | 82.6 | 90.2 | 94.7 | 99.2 | 100.8 |
| Nonelderly SSI | 96.3 | 95.0 | 90.9 | 100.0 | 98.7 | 101.1 | 105.2 |
| Individuals by Household Income as a Percentage of Poverty Level | | | | | | | |
| No Income | 30.5 | 28.5 | 27.5 | 29.5 | 33.6 | 39.2 | 46.0 |
| 1 to 50% | 86.4 | 86.3 | 85.8 | 91.6 | 92.8 | 103.9 | 108.7 |
| 51 to 100% | 74.0 | 74.3 | 71.1 | 69.1 | 71.9 | 75.9 | 82.0 |
| 101 to 130% | 24.9 | 26.4 | 24.0 | 24.7 | 25.6 | 30.1 | 29.2 |
| 131%+ | 7.4 | 8.1 | 7.8 | 6.6 | 5.7 | 6.8 | 7.3 |
| Individuals by Household Benefit as a Percentage of Maximum Benefit | | | | | | | |
| 1 to 50% | 41.4 | 42.5 | 39.7 | 38.4 | 38.7 | 38.8 | 39.0 |
| 51 to 99% | 85.2 | 85.0 | 81.0 | 81.4 | 82.6 | 86.7 | 92.8 |
| 100% | 49.7 | 47.5 | 47.4 | 50.9 | 56.4 | 70.4 | 75.7 |

Sources: FSP Program Operations Data, FSPQC Data, and CPS Data for the years shown

Note: Participation rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS. See Appendix C for more information.

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APPENDIX A

PARTICIPATION RATES IN FY 2005

TABLE A.1

INDIVIDUAL, HOUSEHOLD, AND BENEFIT PARTICIPATION RATES, FISCAL YEAR 2005

| | Participating (QC) | Eligible (CPS) | Participation Rate (QC/CPS) |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Individuals | 24,571,150 | 37,742,807 | 65.10 |
| Food Stamp Household | 10,729,995 | 18,144,164 | 59.14 |
| Benefits | 2,253,884,607 | 2,812,052,025 | 80.15 |
| Average Food Stamp Household Size | 2.29 | | |
| Average Per Capita Benefit | 91.73 | | |

Note: These estimates of participants differ from official participant counts. See Appendix C for details.

TABLE A.2

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE, FISCAL YEAR 2005

| | Participating (QC) | Eligible (CPS) | Participation Rate (QC/CPS) |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Individuals by Household Size | | | |
| 1 Person | 4,609,225 | 9,574,592 | 48.14 |
| 2 People | 4,373,533 | 7,624,760 | 57.36 |
| 3 People | 5,216,557 | 6,552,710 | 79.61 |
| 4 People | 4,857,973 | 6,012,280 | 80.80 |
| 5 People | 3,011,565 | 4,114,646 | 73.19 |
| 6 or More People | 2,502,297 | 3,863,819 | 64.76 |
| Individuals in All Households | 24,571,150 | 37,742,807 | 65.10 |

Note: These estimates of participants differ from official participant counts. See Appendix C for details.

TABLE A.3

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS, FISCAL YEAR 2005

| | Participating (QC) | Eligible (CPS) | Participation Rate (QC/CPS) |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Individuals in All Households | 24,571,150 | 37,742,807 | 65.10 |
| Age of Individual | | | |
| Children Under Age 18 | 12,274,261 | 14,016,517 | 87.57 |
| Preschool | 4,223,848 | 4,563,633 | 92.55 |
| School-age | 8,050,413 | 9,452,884 | 85.16 |
| Adults Age 18 to 59 | 10,265,300 | 17,119,263 | 59.96 |
| Elderly Age 60 and Over | 2,031,590 | 6,607,027 | 30.75 |
| Living Alone | 1,449,584 | 3,616,445 | 40.08 |
| Living with Others | 582,005 | 2,990,582 | 19.46 |
| Nondisabled Childless Adults Subject to Work Registration | 919,383 | 2,734,736 | 33.62 |
| Noncitizens | 936,044 | 1,838,618 | 50.91 |
| Citizen Children Living with Noncitizen Adults | 1,781,234 | 2,860,200 | 62.28 |
| Employment Status of Nonelderly Adults | | | |
| Employed | 2,920,136 | 5,571,029 | 52.42 |
| Not Employed | 7,345,164 | 11,548,234 | 63.60 |
| Individuals by Race/Ethnicity of Household Head | | | |
| Black or African American Only | 8,155,314 | 10,283,637 | 79.30 |
| Hispanic | 4,663,565 | 8,514,411 | 54.77 |
| White Only | 10,825,243 | 17,183,697 | 63.00 |
| Not Tabulated Above | 927,028 | 1,761,062 | 52.64 |
| Individuals by Household Composition | | | |
| Households with Children | 18,941,277 | 23,250,012 | 81.47 |
| One Adult | 10,897,647 | 9,756,733 | 111.69 |
| Married Household Head | 4,518,216 | 7,885,762 | 57.30 |
| Other Multiple Adults | 2,156,428 | 4,217,323 | 51.13 |
| Children Only | 1,368,987 | 1,390,194 | 98.47 |
| Households without Children | 5,629,873 | 14,492,795 | 38.85 |
| Gender of Individual | | | |
| Male | 10,047,355 | 16,270,876 | 61.75 |
| Female | 14,523,795 | 21,471,931 | 67.64 |
| Metropolitan Status | | | |
| Urban | 18,767,877 | 30,306,416 | 61.93 |
| Rural | 5,803,273 | 7,436,391 | 78.04 |

Note: These estimates of participants differ from official participant counts. See Appendix C for details.

TABLE A.4

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLDS,
FISCAL YEAR 2005

| | Participating (QC) | Eligible (CPS) | Participation Rate (QC/CPS) |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Individuals in All Households | 24,571,150 | 37,742,807 | 65.10 |
| Individuals by Household Income Sources | | | |
| No Earnings | 14,799,149 | 20,504,522 | 72.18 |
| Earnings | 9,772,001 | 17,238,285 | 56.69 |
| No TANF | 8,776,336 | 16,150,352 | 54.34 |
| TANF | 995,666 | 1,087,933 | 91.52 |
| TANF | 4,835,532 | 3,446,488 | 140.30 |
| Unemployment Compensation | 588,626 | 462,439 | 127.29 |
| Nonelderly SSI Benefits | 3,953,768 | 3,757,248 | 105.23 |
| Elderly SSI Benefits | 1,291,805 | 1,281,331 | 100.82 |
| Social Security | 4,049,406 | 9,501,786 | 42.62 |
| Individuals by Household Income as a Percentage of Poverty Level | | | |
| Total 100% of Poverty or Less | 21,815,412 | 26,872,726 | 81.18 |
| No Income | 2,722,360 | 5,917,358 | 46.01 |
| 1 - 50% | 7,749,684 | 7,126,596 | 108.74 |
| 51 - 100% | 11,343,369 | 13,828,772 | 82.03 |
| Total Greater Than 100% of Poverty | 2,755,738 | 10,870,081 | 25.35 |
| 101% - 130% | 2,617,763 | 8,968,407 | 29.19 |
| 131% or more | 137,975 | 1,901,674 | 7.26 |
| Individuals by Monthly Household Benefit | | | |
| \$10 or less | 604,459 | 4,081,623 | 14.81 |
| \$11 - \$25 | 355,854 | 947,510 | 37.56 |
| \$26 - \$50 | 719,504 | 1,753,503 | 41.03 |
| \$51 - \$75 | 871,835 | 1,704,669 | 51.14 |
| \$76 - \$100 | 866,761 | 1,821,398 | 47.59 |
| \$101 - \$150 | 3,876,228 | 6,574,920 | 58.95 |
| \$151 - \$200 | 1,657,222 | 2,937,154 | 56.42 |
| \$201 or more | 15,619,288 | 17,922,030 | 87.15 |
| Benefit as a Percentage of Maximum Benefit | | | |
| Low Benefits (1 - 50%) | 6,528,413 | 16,718,589 | 39.05 |
| 1 - 25% | 2,405,720 | 8,706,916 | 27.63 |
| 26 - 50% | 4,122,694 | 8,011,673 | 51.46 |
| High Benefits (51 - 99%) | 11,533,719 | 12,422,588 | 92.84 |
| 51 - 75% | 5,620,109 | 7,542,493 | 74.51 |
| 76 - 99% | 5,913,610 | 4,880,095 | 121.18 |
| 100% | 6,509,018 | 8,601,629 | 75.67 |

Notes: Participation rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS. See Appendix C for more information. These estimates of participants differ from official participant counts. See Appendix C for details.

TABLE A.5A

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION, FISCAL YEAR 2005
Households with Children

| | Participating (QC) | Eligible (CPS) | Participation Rate (QC/CPS) |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Individuals in Households with Children | 18,941,277 | 23,250,012 | 81.47 |
| Age of Individual | | | |
| Children Under Age 18 | 12,273,792 | 14,016,517 | 87.57 |
| Adults Age 18 to 59 | 6,553,260 | 8,863,043 | 73.94 |
| Elderly Age 60 and Over | 114,225 | 370,452 | 30.83 |
| Individuals by Household Income Sources | | | |
| No Income | 1,796,005 | 3,157,044 | 56.89 |
| No Earnings | 9,864,491 | 9,171,767 | 107.55 |
| Earnings | 9,076,787 | 14,078,245 | 64.47 |
| TANF | 4,780,022 | 3,187,136 | 149.98 |
| Earnings | 987,626 | 992,343 | 99.52 |
| No Earnings | 3,792,396 | 2,194,793 | 172.79 |
| No TANF | 14,161,255 | 20,062,876 | 70.58 |
| Earnings | 8,089,160 | 13,085,902 | 61.82 |
| No Earnings | 6,072,095 | 6,976,974 | 87.03 |
| Social Security | 1,810,404 | 2,538,535 | 71.32 |
| Individuals by Household Income as a Percentage of Poverty Level | | | |
| Total 100% of Poverty or Less | 16,823,534 | 17,637,132 | 95.39 |
| No Income | 1,796,005 | 3,157,044 | 56.89 |
| 1 - 50% | 6,936,125 | 5,515,813 | 125.75 |
| 51 - 100% | 8,091,404 | 8,964,275 | 90.26 |
| Total Greater Than 100% of Poverty | 2,117,743 | 5,612,879 | 37.73 |
| 101% - 130% | 2,070,190 | 5,218,880 | 39.67 |
| 131% or more | 47,553 | 393,999 | 12.07 |
| Individuals by Household Earnings as a Percentage of Poverty Level | | | |
| Total 100% of Poverty or Less | 17,698,735 | 19,088,897 | 92.72 |
| No Earnings | 9,966,139 | 9,171,767 | 108.66 |
| 1 - 50% | 3,086,688 | 2,739,229 | 112.68 |
| 51 - 100% | 4,645,908 | 7,177,902 | 64.73 |
| Total Greater Than 100% of Poverty | 1,242,542 | 4,161,114 | 29.86 |
| 101% - 130% | 1,228,201 | 4,026,315 | 30.50 |
| 131% or more | 14,342 | 134,799 | 10.64 |

Notes: Participation rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS. See Appendix C for more information. These estimates of participants differ from official participant counts. See Appendix C for details.

TABLE A.5B

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION, FISCAL YEAR 2005
Households with One Adult and Children

| | Participating (QC) | Eligible (CPS) | Participation Rate (QC/CPS) |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Individuals in Households with One Adult and Children | 10,897,647 | 9,756,733 | 111.69 |
| Age of Individual | | | |
| Children Under Age 18 | 7,319,327 | 6,426,215 | 113.90 |
| Adults Age 18 to 59 | 3,518,460 | 3,243,077 | 108.49 |
| Elderly Age 60 and Over | 59,405 | 87,442 | 67.94 |
| Individuals by Household Income Sources | | | |
| No Income | 1,167,777 | 1,841,745 | 63.41 |
| No Earnings | 6,639,206 | 5,463,996 | 121.51 |
| Earnings | 4,258,441 | 4,292,737 | 99.20 |
| TANF | 3,102,674 | 2,235,811 | 138.77 |
| Earnings | 500,326 | 580,189 | 86.23 |
| No Earnings | 2,602,348 | 1,655,621 | 157.18 |
| No TANF | 7,794,973 | 7,520,922 | 103.64 |
| Earnings | 3,758,115 | 3,712,548 | 101.23 |
| No Earnings | 4,036,858 | 3,808,375 | 106.00 |
| Social Security | 1,011,462 | 904,877 | 111.78 |
| Individuals by Household Income as a Percentage of Poverty Level | | | |
| Total 100% of Poverty or Less | 9,859,533 | 8,003,646 | 123.19 |
| No Income | 1,167,777 | 1,841,745 | 63.41 |
| 1 - 50% | 4,466,030 | 2,909,494 | 153.50 |
| 51 - 100% | 4,225,726 | 3,252,408 | 129.93 |
| Total Greater Than 100% of Poverty | 1,038,113 | 1,753,087 | 59.22 |
| 101% - 130% | 1,011,013 | 1,516,777 | 66.66 |
| 131% or more | 27,101 | 236,310 | 11.47 |
| Individuals by Household Earnings as a Percentage of Poverty Level | | | |
| Total 100% of Poverty or Less | 10,357,179 | 8,608,481 | 120.31 |
| No Earnings | 6,663,081 | 5,463,996 | 121.95 |
| 1 - 50% | 1,547,713 | 896,593 | 172.62 |
| 51 - 100% | 2,146,385 | 2,247,891 | 95.48 |
| Total Greater Than 100% of Poverty | 540,468 | 1,148,252 | 47.07 |
| 101% - 130% | 534,706 | 1,054,907 | 50.69 |
| 131% or more | 5,762 | 93,346 | 6.17 |

Notes: Participation rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS. See Appendix C for more information. These estimates of participants differ from official participant counts. See Appendix C for details.

TABLE A.5C

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION, FISCAL YEAR 2005
Households with Married Household Head and Children

| | Participating (QC) | Eligible (CPS) | Participation Rate (QC/CPS) |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Individuals in Households with Married Household Head and Children | 4,518,216 | 7,885,762 | 57.30 |
| Age of Individual | | | |
| Children Under Age 18 | 2,522,532 | 4,272,750 | 59.04 |
| Adults Age 18 to 59 | 1,962,022 | 3,463,301 | 56.65 |
| Elderly Age 60 and Over | 33,663 | 149,710 | 22.49 |
| Individuals by Household Income Sources | | | |
| No Income | 341,661 | 640,548 | 53.34 |
| No Earnings | 1,480,421 | 1,827,162 | 81.02 |
| Earnings | 3,037,795 | 6,058,600 | 50.14 |
| TANF | 622,570 | 512,273 | 121.53 |
| Earnings | 213,571 | 248,948 | 85.79 |
| No Earnings | 408,999 | 263,325 | 155.32 |
| No TANF | 3,895,646 | 7,373,489 | 52.83 |
| Earnings | 2,824,225 | 5,809,652 | 48.61 |
| No Earnings | 1,071,422 | 1,563,837 | 68.51 |
| Social Security | 441,389 | 776,146 | 56.87 |
| Individuals by Household Income as a Percentage of Poverty Level | | | |
| Total 100% of Poverty or Less | 3,719,210 | 5,308,101 | 70.07 |
| No Income | 341,661 | 640,548 | 53.34 |
| 1 - 50% | 1,155,164 | 1,299,152 | 88.92 |
| 51 - 100% | 2,222,385 | 3,368,401 | 65.98 |
| Total Greater Than 100% of Poverty | 799,006 | 2,577,661 | 31.00 |
| 101% - 130% | 787,134 | 2,465,475 | 31.93 |
| 131% or more | 11,872 | 112,185 | 10.58 |
| Individuals by Household Earnings as a Percentage of Poverty Level | | | |
| Total 100% of Poverty or Less | 3,967,159 | 5,747,964 | 69.02 |
| No Earnings | 1,498,512 | 1,827,162 | 82.01 |
| 1 - 50% | 854,238 | 981,905 | 87.00 |
| 51 - 100% | 1,614,409 | 2,938,897 | 54.93 |
| Total Greater Than 100% of Poverty | 551,057 | 2,137,797 | 25.78 |
| 101% - 130% | 544,147 | 2,104,823 | 25.85 |
| 131% or more | 6,911 | 32,974 | 20.96 |

Notes: Participation rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS. See Appendix C for more information. These estimates of participants differ from official participant counts. See Appendix C for details.

TABLE A.5D

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION, FISCAL YEAR 2005
Households with Other Multiple Adults and Children

| | Participating (QC) | Eligible (CPS) | Participation Rate (QC/CPS) |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Individuals in Households with Other Multiple Adults and Children | 2,156,428 | 4,217,323 | 51.13 |
| Age of Individual | | | |
| Children Under Age 18 | 1,062,613 | 1,927,358 | 55.13 |
| Adults Age 18 to 59 | 1,072,659 | 2,156,664 | 49.74 |
| Elderly Age 60 and Over | 21,156 | 133,300 | 15.87 |
| Individuals by Household Income Sources | | | |
| No Income | 183,002 | 423,217 | 43.24 |
| No Earnings | 1,038,808 | 1,522,414 | 68.23 |
| Earnings | 1,117,620 | 2,694,909 | 41.47 |
| TANF | 506,202 | 439,052 | 115.29 |
| Earnings | 137,739 | 163,206 | 84.40 |
| No Earnings | 368,463 | 275,846 | 133.58 |
| No TANF | 1,650,226 | 3,778,270 | 43.68 |
| Earnings | 979,881 | 2,531,703 | 38.70 |
| No Earnings | 670,345 | 1,246,567 | 53.78 |
| Social Security | 306,731 | 853,978 | 35.92 |
| Individuals by Household Income as a Percentage of Poverty Level | | | |
| Total 100% of Poverty or Less | 1,928,325 | 3,141,776 | 61.38 |
| No Income | 183,002 | 423,217 | 43.24 |
| 1 - 50% | 708,773 | 997,330 | 71.07 |
| 51 - 100% | 1,036,551 | 1,721,229 | 60.22 |
| Total Greater Than 100% of Poverty | 228,103 | 1,075,547 | 21.21 |
| 101% - 130% | 219,990 | 1,033,984 | 21.28 |
| 131% or more | 8,112 | 41,562 | 19.52 |
| Individuals by Household Earnings as a Percentage of Poverty Level | | | |
| Total 100% of Poverty or Less | 2,037,938 | 3,527,466 | 57.77 |
| No Earnings | 1,042,208 | 1,522,414 | 68.46 |
| 1 - 50% | 397,725 | 601,840 | 66.08 |
| 51 - 100% | 598,006 | 1,403,213 | 42.62 |
| Total Greater Than 100% of Poverty | 118,490 | 689,856 | 17.18 |
| 101% - 130% | 117,289 | 683,885 | 17.15 |
| 131% or more | 1,201 | 5,971 | 20.10 |

Notes: Participation rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS. See Appendix C for more information. These estimates of participants differ from official participant counts. See Appendix C for details.

TABLE A.5E

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION, FISCAL YEAR 2005
Households with No Children

| | Participating (QC) | Eligible (CPS) | Participation Rate (QC/CPS) |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Individuals in Households with No Children | 5,629,873 | 14,492,795 | 38.85 |
| Age of Individual | | | |
| Children Under Age 18 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Adults Age 18 to 59 | 3,712,267 | 8,256,220 | 44.96 |
| Elderly Age 60 and Over | 1,917,606 | 6,236,575 | 30.75 |
| Individuals by Household Income Sources | | | |
| No Income | 926,355 | 2,760,314 | 33.56 |
| No Earnings | 4,934,658 | 11,332,755 | 43.54 |
| Earnings | 695,215 | 3,160,040 | 22.00 |
| TANF | 55,510 | 259,352 | 21.40 |
| Earnings | 8,039 | 95,590 | 8.41 |
| No Earnings | 47,471 | 163,762 | 28.99 |
| No TANF | 5,574,363 | 14,233,443 | 39.16 |
| Earnings | 687,176 | 3,064,450 | 22.42 |
| No Earnings | 4,887,187 | 11,168,993 | 43.76 |
| Social Security | 2,239,002 | 6,963,250 | 32.15 |
| Individuals by Household Income as a Percentage of Poverty Level | | | |
| Total 100% of Poverty or Less | 4,991,878 | 9,235,593 | 54.05 |
| No Income | 926,355 | 2,760,314 | 33.56 |
| 1 - 50% | 813,558 | 1,610,782 | 50.51 |
| 51 - 100% | 3,251,965 | 4,864,496 | 66.85 |
| Total Greater Than 100% of Poverty | 637,995 | 5,257,202 | 12.14 |
| 101% - 130% | 547,573 | 3,749,527 | 14.60 |
| 131% or more | 90,422 | 1,507,675 | 6.00 |
| Individuals by Household Earnings as a Percentage of Poverty Level | | | |
| Total 100% of Poverty or Less | 5,543,361 | 13,181,176 | 42.06 |
| No Earnings | 4,944,109 | 11,332,755 | 43.63 |
| 1 - 50% | 363,151 | 603,250 | 60.20 |
| 51 - 100% | 236,102 | 1,245,172 | 18.96 |
| Total Greater Than 100% of Poverty | 86,512 | 1,311,619 | 6.60 |
| 101% - 130% | 83,044 | 1,116,587 | 7.44 |
| 131% or more | 3,468 | 195,032 | 1.78 |

Note: These estimates of participants differ from official participant counts. See Appendix C for details.

TABLE A.6

PARTICIPATION RATES FOR INDIVIDUALS IN HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT ANY NONCITIZENS OR
NONDISABLED CHILDLESS ADULTS SUBJECT TO WORK REGISTRATION, FISCAL YEAR 2005

| | Participating (QC) | Eligible (CPS) | Participation Rate (QC/CPS) |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Individuals in Households Without Any Noncitizens or Nondisabled Childless Adults Subject to Work Registration | 21,428,204 | 30,820,450 | 69.53 |
| Age of Individual | | | |
| Children Under Age 18 | 11,136,215 | 12,063,249 | 92.32 |
| Adults Age 18 to 59 | 8,551,360 | 12,565,874 | 68.05 |
| Elderly Age 60 and Over | 1,740,628 | 6,191,327 | 28.11 |
| Individuals by Household Composition | | | |
| One Adult and Children | 10,275,919 | 9,170,967 | 112.05 |
| Married Household Head and Children | 3,637,543 | 6,033,782 | 60.29 |
| No Children | 4,405,183 | 10,586,790 | 41.61 |
| Individuals by Household Income Sources | | | |
| Earnings | 8,370,492 | 13,339,990 | 62.75 |
| No Earnings | 13,057,711 | 17,480,461 | 74.70 |
| TANF | 4,432,097 | 3,178,130 | 139.46 |
| Individuals by Household Benefit as a Percentage of Maximum Benefit | | | |
| 1 - 50% | 5,824,207 | 14,237,412 | 40.91 |
| 51 - 99% | 10,113,461 | 10,236,481 | 98.80 |

Notes: Participation rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS. See Appendix C for more information. These estimates of participants differ from official participant counts. See Appendix C for details.

TABLE A.7

HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATION RATES, FISCAL YEAR 2005

| | Participating (QC) | Eligible (CPS) | Participation Rate (QC/CPS) |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Households with Elderly | 1,843,267 | 5,883,036 | 31.33 |
| Households with Children | 5,752,987 | 6,817,070 | 84.39 |
| Households with Disabled Nonelderly Adults | 2,489,501 | 3,873,821 | 64.26 |
| Households by Composition | | | |
| Households with Children | 5,752,987 | 6,817,070 | 84.39 |
| One Adult and Children | 3,578,005 | 3,296,610 | 108.54 |
| Married Household Head and Children | 1,019,224 | 1,815,537 | 56.14 |
| Other Multiple Adults and Children | 514,512 | 951,169 | 54.09 |
| Children Only | 641,245 | 753,755 | 85.07 |
| Households with No Children | 4,977,008 | 11,327,094 | 43.94 |
| Households by Income Source | | | |
| Earnings | 3,138,267 | 6,138,240 | 51.13 |
| TANF | 1,572,589 | 1,136,573 | 138.36 |
| SSI | 2,865,312 | 2,564,851 | 111.71 |
| Households with Noncitizens | 664,263 | 1,247,895 | 53.23 |
| Households with Nondisabled Childless Adults Subject to Work Registration | 829,663 | 2,235,788 | 37.11 |
| Households by Income as a Percentage of Poverty Level | | | |
| No Income | 1,476,562 | 3,338,242 | 44.23 |
| 1 - 50% | 2,839,465 | 2,794,644 | 101.60 |
| 51 - 100% | 5,266,174 | 6,318,850 | 83.34 |
| 101% or more | 1,147,794 | 5,692,428 | 20.16 |

Notes: Participation rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS. See Appendix C for more information. These estimates of participants differ from official participant counts. See Appendix C for details.

TABLE A.8

BENEFIT PARTICIPATION RATES, FISCAL YEAR 2005

| | Participating (QC) | Eligible (CPS) | Participation Rate (QC/CPS) |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Benefits for Elderly | 161,345,006 | 418,716,928 | 38.53 |
| Benefits for Children | 1,737,445,228 | 1,824,897,204 | 95.21 |
| Benefits for Disabled Nonelderly Adults | 361,671,647 | 606,755,285 | 59.61 |
| Benefits by Household Composition | | | |
| Households with Children | 1,737,445,228 | 1,824,897,204 | 95.21 |
| One Adult and Children | 1,050,335,867 | 860,873,161 | 122.01 |
| Married Household Head and Children | 358,923,894 | 540,337,356 | 66.43 |
| Other Multiple Adults and Children | 180,347,053 | 294,550,049 | 61.23 |
| Children Only | 147,838,415 | 129,136,639 | 114.48 |
| Households with No Children | 516,439,379 | 987,154,821 | 52.32 |
| Benefits by Household Income Source | | | |
| Earnings | 783,306,822 | 1,057,546,865 | 74.07 |
| TANF | 460,695,929 | 278,496,058 | 165.42 |
| SSI | 371,105,669 | 259,321,762 | 143.11 |
| Benefits for Households with Noncitizens | 155,526,889 | 262,059,519 | 59.35 |
| Benefits for Households with Nondisabled Childless Adults Subject to Work Registration | 157,443,700 | 343,112,920 | 45.89 |
| Benefits by Household Income as a Percentage of Poverty Level | | | |
| No Income | 368,179,412 | 788,271,483 | 46.71 |
| 1 - 50% | 915,052,022 | 814,790,526 | 112.31 |
| 51 - 100% | 862,020,159 | 920,900,441 | 93.61 |
| 101% or more | 108,633,015 | 288,089,575 | 37.71 |

Notes: Participation rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS. See Appendix C for more information. These estimates of participants differ from official participant counts. See Appendix C for details.

APPENDIX B

CHANGE IN INDIVIDUAL FSP PARTICIPATION RATES, 1988 - 2005

TABLE B.1
CHANGE IN INDIVIDUAL FSP PARTICIPATION RATES
1988 - 2005

| Time Period | Change in Participation Rate | Change in Participants | Change in Eligible Individuals |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1988-1990 | 6.1 points | 11.1% | -1.4% |
| 1990-1991 | 2.8 points | 14.6% | 8.9% |
| 1991-1992 | 2.3 points | 10.3% | 6.1% |
| 1992-1993 | 1.0 points | 5.8% | 4.1% |
| 1993-1994 ^a | 1.1 points | -0.2% | -2.0% |
| 1994-1995 ^a | -2.1 points | -3.9% | -1.1% |
| 1995-1996 | -3.5 points | -5.3% | -0.5% |
| 1996-1997 | -5.2 points | -14.7% | -7.7% |
| 1997-1998 | -4.2 points | -10.9% | -4.6% |
| 1998-1999 ^b | -1.9 points | -5.9% | -2.8% |
| 1999-2000 ^b | -0.8 points | -5.7% | -4.4% |
| 2000-2001 | -2.8 points | 0.8% | 6.1% |
| 2001-2002 | 0.1 points | 9.9% | 9.7% |
| 2002-2003 | 2.3 points | 11.3% | 6.8% |
| 2003-2004 | 5.3 points | 12.4% | 2.8% |
| 2004-2005 | 3.8 points | 6.1% | -0.1% |

Sources: FSP Program Operations data, FSPQC data, and March CPS data for the years shown.

^a There are two estimates for 1994 due to revised methodologies for determining food stamp eligibility and for determining the number of participants. The original estimate is used for the change between 1993 and 1994, while the revised estimate is used for the change between 1994 and 1995.

^b There are two estimates for 1999 due to reweighting of the March 2000 - 2003 CPS files to Census 2000 by the Census Bureau and revised methodologies for determining food stamp eligibility. The original estimate is used for the change between 1998 and 1999, while the revised estimate is used for the change between 1999 and 2000.

APPENDIX C
METHODOLOGY

APPENDIX C

The participation rates reported here rely on estimates of individuals eligible for food stamps and individuals participating in the Food Stamp Program (FSP). The estimates of eligible individuals are derived from a microsimulation model that uses data from the U.S. Census Bureau's March Current Population Survey (CPS) and detailed information on program rules to simulate eligibility for the FSP. The estimates of participants are based on FSP Program Operations data and FSP Quality Control (FSPQC) data. The resulting participation rates estimate the percentage of individuals who are eligible for the FSP that choose to participate in the program.¹¹

In the first section of the appendix, we provide a brief introduction to the methodologies used to estimate the number eligible for and the number participating in the FSP. Subsequent sections discuss selected items in detail.

The participation rates presented in this report for FY 1999 through FY 2005 are all methodologically consistent. The rates for FY 1999 through FY 2004 differ slightly from previous published rates due to improvements in the estimation methodology. The improvements made for this report include:

- Updating the algorithm that converts a vehicle's retail value to wholesale value in the model used to impute asset eligibility
- Implementing improvements to the net income imputation including changing the upper cap on net income to be gross income minus both the standard deduction and the earned income deduction, including households with zero gross income, and

¹¹ In an average month in fiscal year 2005, about 98,900 individuals participated in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). Some of these individuals were income and asset eligible for the FSP, but FDPIR participants are not eligible to participate in the FSP at the same time. However, because the number of individuals who are participating in the FDPIR can be estimated only with substantial sampling and nonsampling error, they are included in the number of FSP-eligible individuals in this report. Because FDPIR participants are included in estimates of FSP eligibles, but not in estimates of FSP participants, the participation rates are slightly underestimated.

including additional predictors in the net income equation to capture important characteristics related to net income

- Using a multi-year average to estimate the number of undocumented noncitizens
- Incorporating rules regarding sponsor deeming when determining noncitizen eligibility

Previous improvements newly implemented for the rates for FY 1999 through FY 2002

include:

- A change in the population upon which the participation rates are based. The revised rates are based on a population of participants that excludes those individuals who are categorically eligible for the FSP through receipt of noncash public assistance (PA) benefits but who would fail the applicable FSP income tests. Previous participation rate estimates included these households in the numerator but not the denominator.
- Updating the algorithms used to simulate Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in California.¹²
- Improving the treatment of excluded ineligible household members from the food stamp unit, including prorating income from excluded nondisabled nonelderly childless adults, holding constant the results of the asset imputation and the net income error term when we replicate a household to exclude a household member, and confirming that each household with an excluded member has a nonexcluded head of household.
- Adding precision to participant weighting. In particular, we now adjust for benefits issued to households eligible only under disaster-related rules on the individual and benefit levels as well as the household level. We also now adjust for benefits issued for disasters or to ineligible households on the state level rather than the national level.

To prepare the 2005 file, we updated the data to March 2006 CPS, and updated the food stamp eligibility parameters and rules to FY 2005. In summary, we made the following parameter and eligibility rule changes in the 2005 eligibility file:

- Updated the FSP gross income screen, net income screen, and maximum benefit amounts to reflect the implementation of FY 2005 FSP regulations

¹² In California, SSI recipients are ineligible for the FSP because they receive cash instead of food stamps. Since SSI is under-reported in the CPS, we obtain the most accurate estimate of eligible individuals by simulating SSI participation in California.

- Updated the regression equation used to estimate FSP net income using the FY 2005 FSPQC data
- Estimated a new asset equation simulating asset rules in place in FY 2005
- Updated the percentage of nondisabled nonelderly childless adults who are qualified to receive food stamps, and the estimated percentage of noncitizens who are refugees

The remainder of this appendix describes the methodology used to calculate the participation rates. Appendix Tables C.1 through C.6 list the updated eligibility parameters and other information used in updating the participation rates.

A. DETERMINING FSP-ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS

The March CPS provides income and program participation information for the previous calendar year.¹³ We estimate the number of food stamp eligible individuals with a model that uses March CPS data to simulate the FSP in an average month. Although the model does not capture data specific to a particular month, it does impute monthly income for 12 individual (random) months.¹⁴ We average the results from all 12 simulations to produce an average monthly estimate.

In the simulation procedure, FSP eligibility guidelines that were in effect in 2005 are applied to each household in the CPS. The FSP guidelines include unit formation rules, asset limits, and income limits. Because several types of information needed to determine FSP eligibility are missing from the CPS data, we impute some information to improve the model estimates of eligible households. This estimation procedure is explained below.

¹³ A summary of changes in the March CPS over time is presented in Appendix F.

¹⁴ In the CPS-based estimate of eligibles, we simulate the number of months (or weeks in the case of earnings) that households typically receive various types of income, but we do not know in which months the income is received.

1. Simulating the Composition of the Food Stamp Unit

In the FSP, the food stamp unit is based on shared living quarters and who purchases and prepares food together. While the CPS defines the dwelling unit based on shared living quarters, it does not identify who purchases and prepares food together. As a result, we simulate the formation of food stamp units within each household. For most households, we simulate all household members to be in the same food stamp unit. For some households with certain compositions (e.g., multiple family households, households with unrelated individuals, etc.) we may simulate two or more groups of people to form separate food stamp units. The probability that a household will form multiple units is based on observed rates for similar households from FSPQC data. We also use the following rules in identifying food stamp units:

- We exclude ineligible noncitizens and nondisabled nonelderly childless adults subject to work registration.
- We exclude SSI recipients who are not eligible for the FSP because they receive cash instead of food stamps in SSI cashout States (currently only California).¹⁵
- We exclude all individuals who are living in group quarters, are full-time students, or live in households headed by a member of the Armed Forces.

2. Identifying Eligible Noncitizens and Nondisabled Nonelderly Childless Adults Subject to Work Registration

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) made most noncitizens ineligible and required many nondisabled childless adults to work or face time limits on benefit receipt. However, some noncitizens had their eligibility restored by the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act (AREERA) of 1998 and the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Security Act), while some nondisabled

¹⁵ Since SSI is under-reported in the CPS, we would exclude too few individuals in California, thus artificially increasing the number of eligible individuals and lowering the participation rate, if we used reported SSI. (In other States, the under-reporting may affect benefit levels, but is not as likely to affect the number of eligible individuals.)

childless adults remained eligible through waivers, exemptions, or by meeting the work requirements. Because the CPS does not track all of the information needed to identify eligible noncitizens and nondisabled nonelderly childless adults, we make assumptions about how many and which of these individuals remain eligible. In order to retain sample size, we implement our eligibility assumptions for these populations through weighting adjustments.¹⁶

a. Identifying Eligible Noncitizens

Although some legal noncitizens remain categorically ineligible for the FSP, AREERA and the Farm Security Act restored eligibility to many noncitizens who were otherwise eligible for the FSP. In FY 2005, the following legal resident noncitizens were eligible:

- Noncitizens who had lived legally in the United States for over 5 years (effective April 2003)
- Noncitizens who were receiving disability benefits, regardless of date of entry (effective October 2002)
- Noncitizens who were under age 18, regardless of date of entry (effective October 2003)
- Those admitted as refugees or granted asylum or a stay of deportation (eligible for 7 years after arrival)¹⁷
- Other groups of noncitizens such as lawful permanent residents with a military connection.

The CPS data distinguish between citizens and noncitizens, but do not include more detailed information such as whether a noncitizen is lawfully in the United States, was admitted as a

(continued)

To obtain the most accurate number of eligible individuals as possible, we simulate SSI receipt in California and exclude simulated SSI recipients.

¹⁶ The weighting adjustments reflect the probability that a household of a certain composition is eligible for the FSP. For example, if a household has 1 noncitizen, we duplicate the record for that household. In the first copy of the record, we retain the noncitizen and multiply the household weight by the probability that the noncitizen is eligible for food stamps. In the second copy of the record, we exclude the noncitizen and multiply the household weight by the probability that the noncitizen is ineligible.

¹⁷ A two-year overlap exists between the two pieces of legislation affecting noncitizens.

refugee, or has permanent resident status. Since undocumented noncitizens are ineligible for the FSP, we randomly assign undocumented immigrant status to noncitizens according to estimates of the number of undocumented immigrants in the March CPS by State in 2003 through 2005 and exclude those individuals from the food stamp unit.¹⁸

The CPS file includes information on noncitizens' year of arrival in the United States, so we use this information to determine which noncitizens have been in the country for at least 5 years. We allow qualified noncitizens age 18 and over who have been in the country for at least 5 years to be eligible in 2005. We allow qualified noncitizens under age 18 or who are receiving disability benefits to be eligible in 2005, regardless of year of entry.

We also use CPS year-of-arrival information and data from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to estimate the percentage of noncitizens who were admitted as refugees by year of entry. Using these estimates in our 2005 eligibility determination, we assume 14 percent of noncitizens who entered the United States in 2000 or 2001, 7 percent who entered in 2002 or 2003, and 8 percent who entered in 2004 or 2005 were admitted as refugees. We allow refugees who have been in the United States for 7 years or less to be eligible in 2005.

Recent changes in immigration laws have made it more difficult to estimate the number of noncitizens who are income- and asset-eligible for food assistance. Sponsors of noncitizens who arrived in the United States after 1997 are required to sign a legally enforceable affidavit of support, pledging to financially support the noncitizen for at least ten years. If the noncitizen applies for food stamps within those ten years, the State can sue a non-indigent sponsor to recoup the cost of any benefits issued to the sponsored noncitizen. However, the deeming provision only applies to those who have a sponsor who lives outside the household, since program rules already deem the income of sponsors—typically spouses or parents of minor children—who live

¹⁸ Unpublished estimates of the number of unauthorized migrants included in the March CPS supplements for

with the sponsored immigrant. The deeming provision also does not apply to immigrants without individual sponsors, including those admitted as refugees or granted asylum, and those sponsored by an institution or an employer.

As a result, some noncitizens who appear to be eligible for the FSP based on income and asset tests are in fact subject to deeming of their sponsors' income and assets and therefore are likely either to not be eligible or to choose to remove themselves from the FSP unit to avoid negative repercussions for their sponsors. To account for this, we used data from the New Immigrant Survey to estimate the percentage of all documented non-refugee noncitizens in the CPS who have been in the country between five and ten years, are required to have one or more sponsors who sign an affidavit of support, and who live in a separate household from at least one sponsor. The New Immigrant Survey showed that 26.4 percent of all non-refugee immigrants fit those criteria. We then randomly assigned 26.4 percent of such noncitizens to be subject to deeming from a sponsor and therefore ineligible for the FSP.

The remaining noncitizens are identified as ineligible. We exclude them, along with undocumented noncitizens, from the food stamp unit and assign a prorated portion of their income to the FSP unit. We also consider the excluded members' income and assets when determining the eligibility of the remaining unit members.

b. Identifying Nondisabled Nonelderly Childless Adults Subject to Work Registration

Referred to as ABAWDs in past reports, these individuals are ages 18 to 49, not disabled, not living with children under age 18, and subject to work registration. With some exceptions, these individuals must meet work requirements to participate in the FSP. If they fail to meet the work requirements, they are limited to 3 months of benefit receipt in any 36-month period. They

(continued)

1995 to 1996, and 1998 through 2005 from Jeffrey Passel prepared for the Urban Institute.

may be exempt from these requirements if they live in an area with high unemployment or insufficient jobs (waiver area), participate in an employment and training program, or are covered by their State's 15-percent exemption.

We identify nondisabled nonelderly childless adults subject to work registration by looking at basic demographic characteristics in the CPS.¹⁹ Because we cannot determine from the CPS which of these individuals remain eligible for the FSP, we impute this information. We estimate the proportion who have not reached the time limit based on data from the SIPP and the proportion who are eligible due to the 15-percent exemption, participation in an employment and training program, or because they live in waiver areas using federal and State administrative data.²⁰ The target proportions for nondisabled nonelderly childless adults subject to work registration who are eligible for the FSP are presented in Table C.1. Nondisabled nonelderly childless adults who are not eligible are excluded from the food stamp unit and, as with noncitizens, have a prorated portion of their income assigned to the FSP unit and their assets considered when we determine whether the unit is asset eligible.

3. Identifying Categorically Eligible Food Stamp Units

Certain food stamp units are categorically eligible for the FSP and therefore not subject to income or asset limits. A unit is categorically eligible if all of its members receive SSI, cash or in-kind TANF benefits, or in some places, General Assistance (GA). A broader interpretation of categorical eligibility rules implemented on November 21, 2000 requires States to confer categorical eligibility on families receiving benefits or services that are at least 50 percent funded by TANF or Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funds. States have the option of conferring

¹⁹ The population of nondisabled nonelderly childless adults subject to work registration includes some eligible noncitizens.

²⁰ We estimate the proportion that has received no more than 3 months of benefits while not working using separate estimates for current participants and for non-participants.

categorical eligibility on families receiving benefits or services that are less than 50 percent funded by TANF/MOE. They may also confer categorical eligibility on households where 1 member receives the benefit or service, but the State determines that the whole household benefits. To be categorically eligible for the FSP, households that receive services or benefits from a TANF/MOE-funded program whose purpose is to prevent out-of-wedlock pregnancies or foster or strengthen marriage must have gross incomes under 200 percent of poverty.

All the estimates in this report include households that are categorically eligible due to receipt of cash public assistance benefits (defined as TANF, SSI, or GA income). They also include households that are categorically eligible due to receipt of noncash TANF assistance and that would pass the applicable income tests, regardless of whether they would pass the FSP asset test. However, for reasons discussed below, households that are categorically eligible through noncash TANF assistance but have incomes higher than FSP eligibility limits are not included in either the numerator or the denominator of the estimated participation rates.

Using CPS data, we can identify units in which all members receive some type of cash public assistance benefits. These units are automatically eligible for the FSP program and, as mentioned above, those that qualify for a positive benefit are included in the denominator of the participation rates presented in this report.²¹

There are, however, significant challenges to identifying units that are categorically eligible due to the receipt of noncash public assistance benefits. Some States have very broad programs that provide a simple service—a TANF/MOE funded brochure on domestic violence, for example—to confer categorical eligibility on a large number of households. Other States have a wide variety of smaller programs, such as job training or after-school programs, with specific

²¹ Because of the underreporting of program participation in the CPS, we likely underestimate the number of pure public assistance units.

eligibility requirements for each program. While we are able to identify households that are likely eligible for some of these programs, we do not have data on which households are actually participating in the programs. For other programs, we are unable to ascertain which households may be eligible. Because of these challenges, we present participation rates that do not include individuals who are eligible solely through noncash TANF/MOE programs.²²

Although we do not identify noncash public assistance recipients to include in the denominator of our participation rates, we do simulate asset eligibility based on expanded vehicle rules.²³ Some States expanded their asset rules by aligning their FSP vehicle rules with those from a TANF/MOE-funded program. Other States expanded asset rules through broadly conferred categorical eligibility. We simulate asset rules implemented through either program alignment or categorical eligibility. We do this in order to be consistent with our estimates of participating households.²⁴ As a result, both the numerator and the denominator are restricted to households that are asset eligible based on expanded State-level asset rules and are either income eligible or pure cash public assistance (PA) households.

4. Determining Income Eligibility

Non-categorically eligible food stamp units must meet income limits in order to be eligible for benefits. Food stamp units that do not contain elderly or disabled members must have a gross income below 130 percent of the monthly poverty guidelines. There is no gross income limit for units that contain elderly or disabled members. In addition, all non-categorically eligible food stamp units must have a net income below 100 percent of the poverty guidelines.

²² We are examining approaches for overcoming these data limitations in future reports.

²³ FSP asset rules and our asset-eligibility imputation are described below in Section A.5.

²⁴ Because many households flagged as categorically eligible in the FY 2005 FSPQC data file have no recorded countable assets, we are unable to identify which of these households would fail the asset test if they were not categorically eligible (Section B.1.)

Before determining each household's income eligibility, we estimate monthly income and household net income as follows:

- ***Estimating Monthly Income.*** The CPS database includes information on annual income, but eligibility for the FSP is determined according to monthly income. Therefore, we distribute annual income to months on the basis of patterns of income receipt shown by SIPP data and number of weeks worked shown in CPS data. We then sum the monthly income allocated to each month for each person in the household to determine each household's gross income for each month. Simply dividing annual income by 12 would underestimate the number of eligible individuals in any given month.
- ***Estimating Net Income.*** The CPS database does not include information on the expenses that are deducted from gross income to compute net income. Therefore, we model net income as a function of the household's demographic and economic characteristics for each year. This model is based on patterns observed in the FSPQC data. The estimated relationships (coefficients) are presented in Table C.2.

We use the food stamp gross and net income screens and the maximum benefit amounts to reflect regulations for each fiscal year. We then determine income eligibility for each household based on these regulations. These parameters, along with other FSP eligibility criteria, are presented in Table C.3.

5. Determining Asset Eligibility

To be eligible for FSP benefits, a non-categorically eligible food stamp unit must have countable assets under the applicable FSP asset limit. If the unit contains an elderly or disabled person, the asset limit is \$3,000. For all other households, the asset limit is \$2,000. Since asset balances are not reported in the CPS database, we use equations estimated from our SIPP-based microsimulation model to impute the probability that income-eligible units subject to the asset test are asset eligible and, therefore, fully eligible.

Expansions in FSP vehicle rules were gradually implemented across States throughout 2001 and 2002. Regulations implemented in January 2001 exclude from the asset test the value of vehicles with equity less than \$1,500 and the value of vehicles used to produce income, used as a

home, used to transport a disabled household member, or used to carry fuel or water. In addition, for each adult household member, one vehicle not totally excluded is exempt from the equity test and instead counted at the fair market value (FMV) in excess of \$4,650. One additional vehicle per minor household member that is driven by the minor to work, school, or training is also counted at the vehicle's FMV in excess of \$4,650.

Additional vehicle rule expansions began in July 2001, when States were permitted to align their FSP vehicle rules with rules in place for other programs, such as TANF or child care assistance. In response to this new flexibility, States began gradually changing their vehicle rules. Additional States used broader categorical eligibility rules to exempt more households from the asset test. By the end of FY 2005, all but 2 States had implemented changes in the FSP vehicle rules.

For years prior to 2005, we modeled these rule changes by estimating asset imputation equations at 2 points in time. For instance, for FY 2004, the first set of equations simulates FSP asset rules in place in October 2003 and is used to simulate the first half of 2004. The second set of equations simulates asset rules in place in September 2004 and is used to simulate the second half of 2004. For each time period, we model 20 different vehicle rules to fully capture State-level differences. For FY 2005, since there were no vehicle rule changes during the fiscal year, we model one set of equations to capture the 20 different vehicle rules.

The unweighted counts of households in the March CPS for 1976 through 2005 are listed in Table C.4. Unweighted counts of households by their probability of being eligible in 2005 are listed in Table C.5.

6. Identifying Food Stamp Eligible Units with TANF

Although we simulate food stamp eligible units as described above, we use the reported information in the CPS to identify those food stamp eligible units receiving TANF. Because

TANF receipt is underreported in the CPS, the number of food stamp eligible units with TANF is underestimated. This leads to participation rates for food stamp eligible households receiving TANF that exceed 100 percent. Rates for subgroups that include a large proportion of households with TANF, such as households with single adults and children, also exceed 100 percent. Typically, the number of households reporting TANF receipt in the March CPS is about 75 percent of the administrative totals.

One approach to correct for underreporting of TANF is to simulate TANF eligibility and receipt in the model. Future updates may incorporate a TANF model that would correct for the underreporting of TANF and improve the estimates of participation rates among food stamp units with TANF.²⁵

B. DETERMINING THE NUMBER OF FSP PARTICIPANTS

The number of participants for the participation rate comes from the FSP Statistical Summary of Operations (Program Operations) data and the FSPQC data file. We use these databases because FSP participation is underreported in the CPS data. The Program Operations data provides counts of individuals and households that were issued benefits and the total dollar value of these benefits in each month. The FSPQC data file is an edited version of the raw data file generated by the FSP Quality Control System and contains data on the demographic and economic characteristics of a sample of participating households.

The FY 2005 FSPQC data file is weighted to match program operations counts for households, individuals, and benefits that have been adjusted to account for benefits issued in response to a disaster or issued in error. We adjust for benefits issued under disaster-related rules using data from USDA on the number of households and individuals who received disaster

²⁵ Difficulties correctly identifying the food stamp unit and the overlap between food stamp and TANF units may also add to the problem of rates exceeding 100 percent.

benefits, the amount of benefits issued to those households, and the amount of additional disaster-related benefits issued to existing FSP participants. We reduce the program operations counts of households, individuals, and benefits by the disaster-related counts in the months and states the disaster relief occurred. To adjust the program operations counts for benefits issued in error, we first use the unweighted FSPQC data file to calculate disqualification rates for households, individuals, and benefits, and then reduce the program operations counts by those percentages. The household disqualification rate is the percentage of all participating households that are either ineligible or are eligible but do not qualify for a positive benefit. The individual disqualification rate is the percentage of all participating individuals that are in households that are not eligible for a positive benefit. The benefit disqualification rate is slightly more complex—it takes into account over- and under-issuances to eligible households as well as benefits issued to disqualified households.

FSPQC files for earlier years are not weighted on the individual or benefit level, so for those years we ratio-adjust estimates of eligible participating individuals and benefits to match disaster- and ineligible-adjusted Program Operations counts of participating individuals and issued benefits. To be consistent with the estimated eligible population, we also remove households in Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands and households that are categorically eligible and not income eligible.

For the participation rate numerators, we use the average monthly number of participants over the 12 months in the fiscal year. The sample sizes of participating households in the FSPQC data files are listed in Table C.6.

1. Identifying Categorically Eligible Participating Food Stamp Units

Because the 2005 FSPQC file does not contain the individual level information on TANF receipt that is needed to identify pure cash PA households, we use an algorithm for determining

program coverage.²⁶ First, we assign coverage flags for individual programs. SSI and GA cover only the person coded with the income, whereas TANF can cover additional family members as follows:

- TANF received by the head of the unit or the head's spouse covers the unit head, spouse, and children (as identified by the relationship codes and age)
- TANF received by a child of the head of the unit covers that child and other relatives (presumably the grandchildren of the unit head)
- In child-only units, TANF receipt anywhere in the household covers all the children

After assigning coverage flags, we identify a unit as pure cash PA if everyone in the unit is covered by TANF, SSI, or GA or if the unit has TANF income and all adults are covered by TANF, SSI, or GA. Pure cash PA units are categorically eligible for the FSP and therefore exempt from the income and asset tests. These units still must qualify for a positive benefit.

We can also identify units that are categorically eligible through noncash PA programs through a variable in the FSPQC data that flags these units. By applying the applicable income tests, we can determine which of these units are not income eligible and remove them from the participation rate numerator to be consistent with our estimates of eligibles (Section A.3). However, because many of these units do not have any assets recorded on the file, we are unable to identify which of these households would fail the asset test if they were not categorically eligible. As a result, we do not remove any households from the numerator based on their assets and we also restrict the denominator to households that are asset eligible based on expanded State-level asset rules and are either income eligible or pure cash PA households.

²⁶ The 2004 and 2003 FSPQC data files also did not contain person-level information on TANF receipt. The 2002 and previous FSPQC data files included additional person-level information on program participation.

C. CALCULATING FSP PARTICIPATION RATES

We estimate participation rates by dividing the number of participants recorded in the adjusted Program Operations data by the number of eligible individuals simulated on the basis of CPS data. The numbers of participants and eligible individuals used to calculate the 2005 participation rates are presented in Appendix A.

D. COMPARISON WITH SIPP-BASED RATES

In addition to the CPS-based estimates presented in this report, the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) can also be used to measure participation rates. SIPP data contain more of the information needed to estimate eligibility for the FSP, and the methodology used to estimate eligibility with SIPP data more closely replicates the actual FSP eligibility determination process. However, the SIPP data cover a shorter period than the CPS, and certain types of SIPP data that are needed to estimate eligible individuals are available only for a limited number of years. In addition, CPS data are consistently available on a timelier basis than SIPP data.

Historically, the trends identified through the CPS-based data have been consistent with those identified through SIPP-based data (Figure C.1). The change in methodology implemented in the August 1995 report shifted the CPS-based rates up, so that both the trend and the level of the CPS-based rates are more in line with the SIPP-based rates.

TABLE C.1

PERCENT OF NONDISABLED NONELDERLY CHILDLESS ADULTS SUBJECT TO WORK
WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE FSP BY REASON FOR ELIGIBILITY, 2005

| | Percent Eligible by Reason for Eligibility | | | | Total Percent Eligible for the FSP ^a |
|----------------------|--|--|------------------|--------------------|---|
| | Living in Waiver Area | Have Not Exceeded Time Limits ^a | In E & T Program | Received Exemption | |
| Alabama | 29 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 1 | 73 / 80 |
| Alaska | 100 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| Arizona | 23 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 0 | 70 / 78 |
| Arkansas | 31 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 0 | 74 / 81 |
| California | 6 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 0 | 64 / 74 |
| Colorado | 2 | 62 / 72 | 100 | 0 | 100 |
| Connecticut | 22 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 3 | 71 / 79 |
| Delaware | 0 | 62 / 72 | 100 | 0 | 100 |
| District of Columbia | 100 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| Florida | 48 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 0 | 80 / 85 |
| Georgia | 23 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 1 | 71 / 79 |
| Hawaii | 17 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 3 | 70 / 78 |
| Idaho | 100 | 62 / 72 | 100 | 2 | 100 |
| Illinois | 65 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| Indiana | 36 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| Iowa | 0 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 0 | 62 / 72 |
| Kansas | 31 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 0 | 74 / 81 |
| Kentucky | 60 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 2 | 85 / 89 |
| Louisiana | 100 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| Maine | 26 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 4 | 79 / 85 |
| Maryland | 32 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 0 | 74 / 81 |
| Massachusetts | 0 | 62 / 72 | 100 | 0 | 100 |
| Michigan | 100 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| Minnesota | 8 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 0 | 65 / 74 |
| Mississippi | 39 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 3 | 100 |
| Missouri | 39 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 0 | 77 / 83 |
| Montana | 38 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 2 | 77 / 83 |
| Nebraska | 1 | 62 / 72 | 100 | 0 | 100 |
| Nevada | 14 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 0 | 67 / 76 |
| New Hampshire | 37 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 0 | 76 / 82 |
| New Jersey | 41 | 62 / 72 | 100 | 0 | 100 |
| New Mexico | 70 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 1 | 89 / 92 |
| New York | 100 | 62 / 72 | 100 | 0 | 100 |
| North Carolina | 100 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| North Dakota | 6 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 1 | 64 / 74 |
| Ohio | 2 | 62 / 72 | 100 | 0 | 100 |
| Oklahoma | 13 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 0 | 67 / 76 |
| Oregon | 100 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| Pennsylvania | 42 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 0 | 78 / 84 |
| Rhode Island | 51 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 1 | 81 / 86 |
| South Carolina | 100 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| South Dakota | 13 | 62 / 72 | 100 | 0 | 100 |
| Tennessee | 20 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 2 | 70 / 78 |
| Texas | 11 | 62 / 72 | 100 | 0 | 100 |
| Utah | 24 | 62 / 72 | 100 | 1 | 100 |
| Vermont | 8 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 0 | 65 / 74 |
| Virginia | 12 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 0 | 67 / 75 |
| Washington | 100 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| West Virginia | 36 | 62 / 72 | 100 | 0 | 100 |
| Wisconsin | 39 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 0 | 77 / 83 |
| Wyoming | 7 | 62 / 72 | 0 | 0 | 64 / 74 |

^a The lower number is for individuals in households reporting food stamp receipt in the SIPP. The higher number is for individuals in households not reporting food stamp receipt in the SIPP.

TABLE C.2

RESULTS FOR THE FOOD STAMP NET INCOME REGRESSION EQUATIONS
(Standard Error Estimates in Parentheses)

| Explanatory Variable | Coefficients Estimated Using Administrative Data For: | | | |
|--|---|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| Constant | -115.27229 * | -108.45655 * | -112.6822 * | -125.41062 * |
| | (4.10053) | (4.17453) | (4.38793) | (4.56782) |
| Gross Income Minus Standard and Earned Income Deductions | 1.08646 * | 1.06687 * | 1.05739 * | 1.06358 * |
| | (0.00578) | (0.0058) | (0.00584) | (0.00575) |
| Flag for No Housing Expenses | 63.86582 * | 64.81552 * | 69.38112 * | 71.78718 * |
| | (1.38331) | (1.42363) | (1.51534) | (1.55999) |
| Maximum Allowable Shelter Expense | -0.02516 * | -0.02072 * | -0.02505 * | -0.03376 * |
| | (0.00371) | (0.00368) | (0.00396) | (0.00412) |
| Maximum Allowable Dependent Care | -0.01181 * | 0.00004003 | -0.00729 | -0.00637 |
| | (0.00488) | (0.00506) | (0.00544) | (0.0056) |
| Unit Size | -6.19397 * | -5.48806 * | -6.25171 * | -6.76042 * |
| | (0.79618) | (0.80896) | (0.85948) | (0.86919) |
| Flag for Household that Contains a Disabled Member | -7.84665 * | -10.34573 * | -8.67301 * | 0.16096 |
| | (1.61879) | (1.63115) | (1.75215) | (1.82341) |
| SSI Income | 0.05139 * | 0.05188 * | 0.05498 * | 0.06049 * |
| | (0.00325) | (0.0032) | (0.00331) | (0.00341) |
| TANF Income | 0.00055247 | 0.00606 | 0.02121 * | 0.02046 * |
| | (0.00372) | (0.00391) | (0.00416) | (0.00446) |
| Flag for Gross Income of \$100 or Less | 89.05533 * | 82.74963 * | 93.07207 * | 100.10238 * |
| | (3.25959) | (3.31656) | (3.4812) | (3.62107) |
| Flag for Gross Income Between \$101 and \$200 | 89.42006 * | 84.42101 * | 93.9834 * | 100.65511 * |
| | (3.5496) | (3.6197) | (3.83583) | (3.98906) |
| Flag for Gross Income Between \$201 and \$300 | 48.39733 * | 42.09649 * | 48.29603 * | 61.03039 * |
| | (2.72686) | (2.90802) | (3.15632) | (3.30995) |
| Flag for Gross Income Between \$301 and \$400 | 19.12726 * | 12.31464 * | 20.58321 * | 28.73629 * |
| | (2.44842) | (2.64401) | (2.79878) | (2.92568) |
| Gross Income as a Percentage of Poverty | -0.42687 * | -0.3628 * | -0.28379 * | -0.40238 * |
| | (0.05906) | (0.06108) | (0.06271) | (0.06552) |
| Gross Income as a Percentage of Poverty if White Head of Household | -0.1316 * | -0.12607 * | -0.11945 * | -0.09646 * |
| | (0.01695) | (0.01736) | (0.01839) | (0.01938) |
| Gross Income as a Percentage of Poverty if Hispanic Head of Household | -0.15097 * | -0.13547 * | -0.17943 * | -0.07442 * |
| | (0.02763) | (0.02752) | (0.02877) | (0.03025) |
| Flag for Households Residing in Alaska | -6.82545 | -3.43195 | -3.75758 | 21.52043 * |
| | (7.03579) | (7.37366) | (7.39527) | (7.14045) |

TABLE C.2, *continued*

| Explanatory Variable | Coefficients Estimated Using Administrative Data For: | | | |
|---|---|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| Flag for Households Residing in Hawaii | 12.34905 * | 6.25458 | 9.16738 | 28.80363 * |
| | (4.18658) | (4.31531) | (4.74176) | (4.81748) |
| Flag for Households Residing in California | 34.60673 * | 34.26747 * | 24.69593 * | 29.18724 * |
| | (4.28003) | (4.40728) | (4.68272) | (4.91341) |
| Flag for Households Residing in New York | -88.40453 * | -85.22265 * | -88.56049 * | -122.22554 * |
| | (3.99333) | (4.19858) | (4.3795) | (4.65071) |
| Flag for Households Residing in the Northeast | -20.2209 * | -25.68244 * | -32.87453 * | -14.87896 * |
| | (2.48485) | (2.56336) | (2.67895) | (2.79359) |
| Flag for Households Residing in the Mid-Atlantic | -1.679 | -4.27635 | -9.29002 * | -0.47923 |
| | (2.24036) | (2.29217) | (2.41658) | (2.48302) |
| Flag for Households Residing in the Southeast | 15.9707 * | 9.6197 * | 3.79357 | 14.8601 * |
| | (2.13792) | (2.19532) | (2.29971) | (2.39514) |
| Flag for Households Residing in the Midwest | -1.03481 | -4.07 | -14.4667 * | -5.70294 * |
| | (2.21265) | (2.24002) | (2.39445) | (2.49169) |
| Flag for Households Residing in the Southwest | 19.84002 * | 11.22491 * | 1.9032 | 12.86077 * |
| | (2.27681) | (2.3221) | (2.43158) | (2.49545) |
| Flag for Households Residing in the Mountain Plains | 7.42682 * | 1.70174 | -1.89416 | 2.31958 |
| | (2.16482) | (2.22124) | (2.34561) | (2.4043) |
| Flag for Households Participating in MFIP | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Flag for Households Participating in SSI CAP in MS, NC, NY, SC, or TX | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Flag for Households Participating in SSI CAP in FL, MA, or WA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Sample Size | 46,935 | 46,336 | 46,412 | 47,452 |
| R ² | 0.8827 | 0.8823 | 0.8741 | 0.8704 |
| Adjusted R ² | 0.8827 | 0.8822 | 0.8741 | 0.8704 |

TABLE C.2, *continued*

| Explanatory Variable | Coefficients Estimated Using Administrative Data For: | | |
|--|---|--------------|--------------|
| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| Constant | -182.95709 * | -228.79176 * | -236.66516 * |
| | (4.71062) | (-4.95113) | (5.04374) |
| Gross Income Minus Standard and Earned Income Deductions | 1.08187 * | 0.96967 * | 0.97247 * |
| | (0.00599) | (-0.00575) | (0.00593) |
| Flag for No Housing Expenses | 88.10331 * | 92.69704 * | 96.94207 * |
| | (1.64417) | (1.77867) | (1.88591) |
| Maximum Allowable Shelter Expense | -0.02864 * | -0.02156 * | -0.02857 * |
| | (0.00419) | (0.00442) | (0.00451) |
| Maximum Allowable Dependent Care | -0.01036 | -0.02570 * | -0.02642 * |
| | (0.00583) | (0.00622) | (0.00661) |
| Unit Size | -6.48828 * | 6.72508 * | 7.52245 * |
| | (0.9028) | (0.90144) | (0.93625) |
| Flag for Household that Contains a Disabled Member | -7.93387 * | -14.27762 * | -12.19146 * |
| | (1.92109) | (2.05375) | (2.14437) |
| SSI Income | 0.06932 * | 0.07597 * | 0.08601 * |
| | (0.00345) | (0.00368) | (0.00378) |
| TANF Income | 0.01315 * | 0.04034 * | 0.04491 * |
| | (0.00477) | (0.00519) | (0.00553) |
| Flag for Gross Income of \$100 or Less | 118.88798 * | 145.21487 * | 149.9315 * |
| | (3.72712) | (3.91504) | (4.05408) |
| Flag for Gross Income Between \$101 and \$200 | 121.60384 * | 136.73779 * | 141.92914 * |
| | (4.10418) | (4.37301) | (4.6212) |
| Flag for Gross Income Between \$201 and \$300 | 79.63212 * | 85.52055 * | 95.26772 * |
| | (3.42055) | (3.65884) | (3.92684) |
| Flag for Gross Income Between \$301 and \$400 | 39.48056 * | 45.51629 * | 46.91855 * |
| | (3.10402) | (3.30786) | (3.55714) |
| Gross Income as a Percentage of Poverty | -0.56133 * | 0.40761 * | 0.38613 * |
| | (0.0695) | (0.06957) | (0.07299) |
| Gross Income as a Percentage of Poverty if White Head of Household | -0.21509 * | -0.26058 * | -0.30474 * |
| | (0.02079) | (0.02251) | (0.02369) |
| Gross Income as a Percentage of Poverty if Hispanic Head of Household | -0.07368 * | -0.21237 * | -0.22876 * |
| | (0.03188) | (0.03411) | (0.03659) |
| Flag for Households Residing in Alaska | 46.4004 * | 41.54208 * | 37.73781 * |
| | (7.78751) | (8.37939) | (7.94323) |

TABLE C.2, *continued*

| Explanatory Variable | Coefficients Estimated Using Administrative Data For: | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| Flag for Households Residing in Hawaii | 79.66978 * (5.22521) | 88.90215 * (5.55783) | 84.4869 * (5.73912) |
| Flag for Households Residing in California | 63.80688 * (4.89846) | 12.77084 * (5.47591) | 13.84785 * (5.66192) |
| Flag for Households Residing in New York | 55.34711 * (4.72065) | -80.90515 * (5.4125) | -43.51807 * (5.8815) |
| Flag for Households Residing in the Northeast | 9.13402 * (2.92204) | -20.85525 * (3.16983) | -18.19682 * (3.17959) |
| Flag for Households Residing in the Mid-Atlantic | 30.34131 * (2.58427) | 14.60675 * (2.82093) | 18.26132 * (2.90475) |
| Flag for Households Residing in the Southeast | 35.82232 * (2.50708) | 28.18480 * (2.70949) | 26.63604 * (2.7659) |
| Flag for Households Residing in the Midwest | 6.4728 * (2.68803) | -4.30432 (2.94188) | -1.73601 (2.99986) |
| Flag for Households Residing in the Southwest | 42.29309 * (2.62936) | 36.53885 * (2.86207) | 41.33699 * (3.02181) |
| Flag for Households Residing in the Mountain Plains | 31.31009 * (2.48722) | 16.40894 * (2.71689) | 17.22411 * (2.75405) |
| Flag for Households Participating in MFIP | -145.34147 * (6.76489) | 210.56995 * (7.42351) | 205.75661 * (7.68924) |
| Flag for Households Participating in SSI CAP in MS, NC, NY, SC, or TX | NA | 292.87668 * (6.41763) | 282.19337 * (7.15411) |
| Flag for Households Participating in SSI CAP in FL, MA, or WA | NA | -71.90365 * (9.45977) | -36.1241 * (5.70086) |
| Sample Size | 47,954 | 47,855 | 45,606 |
| R ² | 0.862 | 0.8445 | 0.8437 |
| Adjusted R ² | 0.862 | 0.8444 | 0.8436 |

*Indicates significance at the .05 level using a two-tailed t-test. Coefficients identified as significant at the .05 level are those with t-values greater than 1.96.

NA indicates that the variable is not applicable for the specified year.

TABLE C.3

FISCAL YEAR 2005 FSP ELIGIBILITY PARAMETERS

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Countable Assets Screen | \$2,000 for households without elderly or disabled members \$3,000 for households with elderly or disabled members | | | |
| Gross Income Screen | 130 percent of the Monthly Poverty Guidelines | | | |
| Net Income Screen | 100 percent of the Monthly Poverty Guidelines | | | |
| Monthly Poverty Guidelines | <u>Unit Size</u> | <u>Continental US</u> | <u>Alaska</u> | <u>Hawaii</u> |
| | 1 | \$ 776 | \$ 970 | \$ 892 |
| | 2 | 1,041 | 1,301 | 1,197 |
| | 3 | 1,306 | 1,633 | 1,502 |
| | 4 | 1,571 | 1,965 | 1,807 |
| | 5 | 1,836 | 2,296 | 2,112 |
| | 6 | 2,101 | 2,628 | 2,417 |
| | 7 | 2,366 | 2,960 | 2,722 |
| | 8 | 2,631 | 3,291 | 3,027 |
| | Each Additional | + 265 | + 332 | + 305 |
| Standard Deduction | <u>Unit Size</u> | <u>Continental US</u> | <u>Alaska</u> | <u>Hawaii</u> |
| | 1 - 4 | \$134 | \$229 | \$189 |
| | 5 | 153 | 229 | 189 |
| | 6+ | 175 | 229 | 201 |
| Maximum Dependent Care Deduction | \$200 for dependents under age 2, \$175 for dependents age 2 and over | | | |
| Excess Shelter Deduction | | <u>Continental US</u> | <u>Alaska</u> | <u>Hawaii</u> |
| | | \$388 | \$620 | \$523 |
| Benefit Calculation | Benefit = Maximum benefit – 30 percent of Net Income | | | |
| Maximum Monthly Benefit | <u>Unit Size</u> | <u>Continental US</u> | <u>Alaska</u> | <u>Hawaii</u> |
| | 1 | \$149 | \$177 | \$222 |
| | 2 | 274 | 324 | 408 |
| | 3 | 393 | 465 | 585 |
| | 4 | 499 | 590 | 742 |
| | 5 | 592 | 701 | 882 |
| | 6 | 711 | 841 | 1,058 |
| | 7 | 786 | 930 | 1,170 |
| | 8 | 898 | 1,063 | 1,337 |
| | Each Additional | + 112 | + 133 | + 167 |
| Minimum Monthly Benefit | <u>Unit Size</u> | | | |
| | 1 - 2 | \$10 | | |
| | 3+ | \$ 0 | | |
| Categorically Eligible | Receipt of cash or in-kind TANF benefits, SSI, or GA | | | |
| SSI Cashout States | California only | | | |

Note: Eligibility parameters are for the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

TABLE C.4
 UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE SIZES FOR THE CPS,
 1976 – 2005

| Analysis Year | All Households |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1976 | 68,294 |
| 1978 | 68,455 |
| 1980 | 81,451 |
| 1982 | 73,195 |
| 1984 | 74,568 |
| 1986 | 73,843 |
| 1988 | 70,454 |
| 1990 | 75,076 |
| 1991 | 74,236 |
| 1992 | 73,878 |
| 1993 | 73,126 |
| 1994 | 72,152 |
| 1995 | 63,339 |
| 1996 | 64,046 |
| 1997 | 64,659 |
| 1998 | 65,377 |
| 1999 | 64,944 |
| 2000 | 78,054 |
| 2001 | 78,265 |
| 2002 | 78,310 |
| 2003 | 77,149 |
| 2004 | 75,064 |
| 2005 | 75,939 |

TABLE C.5

UNWEIGHTED COUNTS OF HOUSEHOLDS BY THE PROBABILITY OF BEING ELIGIBLE, 2005

| | Unweighted Counts |
|---|-------------------|
| All Households | 59,304 |
| Households With a Probability of Being Eligible Greater Than Zero | |
| Total | 15,198 |
| Probability of Being Eligible | |
| >0.0 - 0.25 | 1,154 |
| >0.25 - 0.50 | 674 |
| >0.50 - 0.75 | 3,005 |
| >0.75 - <1.00 | 8,414 |
| 1.00 | 1,951 |

Note: Estimates in this table reflect the number of CPS households in which at least 1 unit has a non-zero probability of being eligible for food stamps. We determine the probability that a unit is eligible by calculating whether it passes the appropriate income tests and estimating the probability of passing the asset test. The final probability of being eligible is multiplied by the weight to determine the unit's contribution to the total (weighted) number of eligible units. In households with multiple food stamp units, the probabilities of each unit are combined into one household probability. The data shown in each column reflect the number of households in the month with the median number of households with a positive probability of being eligible.

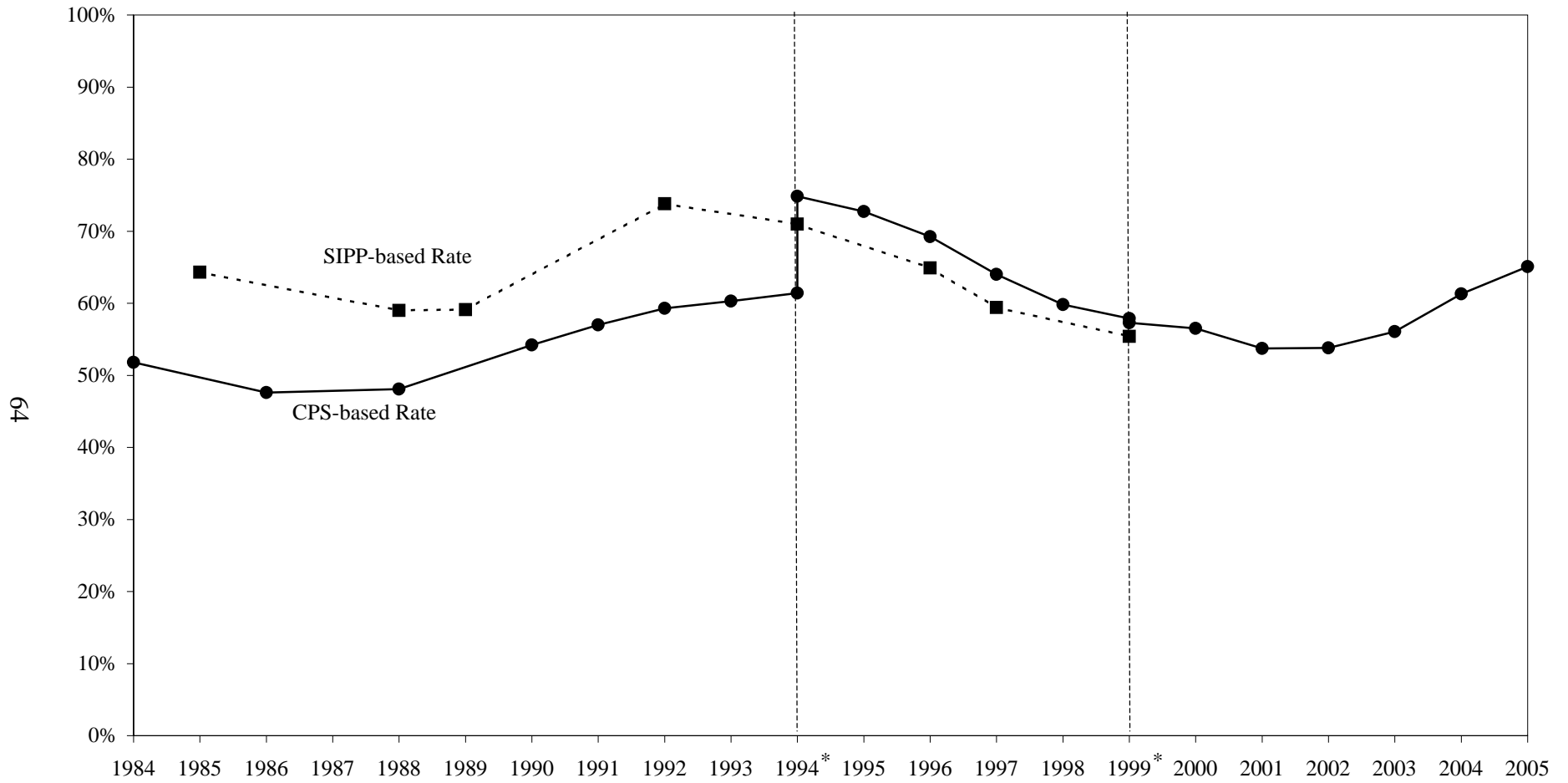
TABLE C.6

UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE SIZES FOR THE FSPQC CASE RECORDS

| Month/Year | FSPQC Case Records |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| September 1976 | 11,038 |
| February 1978 | 14,211 |
| August 1980 | 4,140 |
| August 1982 | 7,224 |
| August 1984 | 6,918 |
| July/August 1986 | 11,010 |
| July/August 1988 | 10,695 |
| July/August 1990 | 10,639 |
| July/August 1991 | 10,602 |
| July/August 1992 | 9,586 |
| July/August 1993 | 9,389 |
| August/September 1994 | 8,933 |
| August/September 1995 | 8,313 |
| August/September 1996 | 8,304 |
| August/September 1997 | 7,907 |
| August/September 1998 | 7,336 |
| August/September 1999 | 7,558 |
| Fiscal Year 1999 | 46,935 |
| Fiscal Year 2000 | 46,336 |
| Fiscal Year 2001 | 46,412 |
| Fiscal Year 2002 | 47,602 |
| Fiscal Year 2003 | 48,896 |
| Fiscal Year 2004 | 48,806 |
| Fiscal Year 2005 | 46,673 |

FIGURE C.1

TRENDS IN INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY DATA SOURCE, 1984-2005



Sources: FSP Program Operations data, FSPQC data, SIPP data, and March CPS data for the years shown.

*There are breaks in the time series in 1994 and 1999 due to revisions in the methodology for determining eligibility.

APPENDIX D

SAMPLING ERROR OF PARTICIPATION RATE ESTIMATES

APPENDIX D

The participation rates contained in this report represent the ratio of FSP participants to FSP eligible individuals. Participant counts are based on FSP Program Operations data and FSP Quality Control (FSPQC) data. Eligible counts are based on March CPS data. Since both counts are derived from samples, both are subject to statistical sampling error, as are the resulting participation rate estimates.

Standard Errors of Participation Rates

One indicator of the magnitude of the sampling error associated with a given estimate is its standard error. Standard errors measure the variation in estimated values that would be observed if multiple replications of the sample were drawn. The magnitude of the standard errors depends on: (1) the degree of variation in the variable within the population from which the sample is drawn; (2) the design of the sample, including such issues as stratification and sampling probabilities; and (3) the size of the sample on which the estimate is based.

Generally, the standard error of a nonlinear variable, such as a participation rate, cannot be estimated directly. Rather, one must estimate the standard error of a linear approximation of the nonlinear variable. To estimate the standard error of participation rates contained in this report, we use a Taylor series expansion to produce a linear approximation of the participation rate. The variance of the participation rate, $\text{var}(r)$, can be expressed as a function of the number of participants (p), the number of eligible individuals (e), and their respective variances:

$$(1) \quad \text{var}(r) = \text{var}(p/e) \doteq (p/e)^2 [\text{var}(p)/p^2 + \text{var}(e)/e^2]$$

The standard error of the participation rate is simply the square root of the variance.

Because the FSPQC sample design is relatively simple, we directly calculated the variance of the number of participants. The CPS, however, has a complex sample design. Therefore, we

estimated the variance of the number of eligible individuals using a "jackknife" estimator. The jackknife method involves calculating alternative estimates of the number of eligible individuals based on subsamples of the CPS, then obtaining a variance by measuring the variability in the estimates.

Confidence Intervals

Standard errors can be used to compute confidence intervals for the estimated participation rates. A confidence interval is a range of values that will contain the true value of an estimated participation rate with a known probability. For instance, a 90-percent confidence interval extends 1.645 standard errors above and below the estimated rate, and indicates that there is a 90-percent chance that the confidence interval will contain the true value. Table D.1 presents standard errors and confidence intervals for selected participation rates.

TABLE D.1

SAMPLING ERROR ASSOCIATED WITH SELECTED PARTICIPATION RATES, FISCAL YEAR 2005

| Variable | Participation | | Eligibles | | Participants | |
|--|---------------------|----------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| | Rate with 90% | | Number | Standard Error | Number | Standard Error |
| | Confidence Interval | | | | | |
| Individuals | 65.1 | +/- 1.2 | 37,742,807 | 413,943 | 24,571,150 | 16,163 |
| Households | 59.1 | +/- 0.9 | 18,144,164 | 168,341 | 10,729,995 | 6,662 |
| Benefits | 80.2 | +/- 1.6 | 2,812,052,025 | 34,215,963 | 2,253,884,607 | 591,351 |
| Children | 87.6 | +/- 2.5 | 14,016,517 | 243,906 | 12,274,261 | 34,473 |
| Nonelderly Adults | 60.0 | +/- 1.2 | 17,119,263 | 202,938 | 10,265,300 | 40,571 |
| Elderly Individuals | 30.7 | +/- 1.2 | 6,607,027 | 130,645 | 2,031,590 | 28,944 |
| Nondisabled Childless Adults Subject to Work Registration | 33.6 | +/- 2.0 | 2,734,736 | 79,174 | 919,383 | 19,799 |
| Noncitizens | 50.9 | +/- 4.0 | 1,838,618 | 64,884 | 936,044 | 29,907 |
| Citizen Children Living With Noncitizen Adults | 62.3 | +/- 4.9 | 2,860,200 | 112,652 | 1,781,234 | 49,480 |
| Individuals in Households With Children and One Adult | 111.7 | +/- 4.9 | 9,756,733 | 240,804 | 10,897,647 | 110,937 |
| Individuals In Households | | | | | | |
| With Earnings | 56.7 | +/- 2.0 | 17,238,285 | 331,789 | 9,772,001 | 88,465 |
| With TANF | 140.3 | +/- 10.1 | 3,446,488 | 140,948 | 4,835,532 | 77,782 |
| With Nonelderly SSI | 105.2 | +/- 7.2 | 3,757,248 | 145,251 | 3,953,768 | 62,250 |
| With Elderly SSI | 100.8 | +/- 10.0 | 1,281,331 | 72,117 | 1,291,805 | 29,007 |
| Individuals In Households With Very Low Income | 108.7 | +/- 4.5 | 7,126,596 | 164,194 | 7,749,684 | 76,335 |
| Individuals In Households With Income Slightly Above Poverty | 29.2 | +/- 1.4 | 8,968,407 | 186,870 | 2,617,763 | 52,080 |

Sources: FSP Program Operations data, FSPQC data, and March CPS data.

Note: Participation rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS. See Appendix C for more information.

APPENDIX E

**ECONOMIC AND POLICY INFLUENCES
ON THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM**

TABLE E.1

SUMMARY OF MAJOR INFLUENCES ON FSP PARTICIPATION RATES, 1976-2005

| Period of Change | Major Influences | Effect on Number of Participants and Eligible Individuals | Participation Rate Change |
|------------------|--|---|---------------------------|
| 1976 to 1978 | Rising inflation and strengthening economy | Almost no change in participants. Substantial decrease in eligible individuals. | Up 7 points |
| 1978 to 1980 | Food Stamp Act of 1977 | Substantial increase in participants. Decrease in eligible individuals. | Up 17 points |
| 1980 to 1982 | Recession | Almost no change in participants. Substantial increase in eligible individuals. | Down 3 points |
| 1982 to 1984 | Economic recovery | Slight decrease in both participants and eligible individuals. | No change |
| 1984 to 1986 | 1985 Food Security Act | Almost no change in participants. Substantial increase in eligible individuals. | Down 4 points |
| 1986 to 1988 | Growth in economy | Small decrease in participants and eligible individuals. | No change |
| 1988 to 1990 | Medicaid expansion, Homeless Assistance Act, IRCA, worsening economy | Increase in participants. Small decrease in eligible individuals. | Up 6 points |
| 1990 to 1991 | Continued Medicaid expansion, recession | Increase in participants. Smaller percent increase in eligible individuals. | Up 3 points |
| 1991 to 1992 | Continued Medicaid expansion, recession | Increase in participants. Smaller percent increase in eligible individuals. | Up 2 points |
| 1992 to 1993 | Improving economy | Increase in participants. Smaller percent increase in eligible individuals. | Up 1 point |
| 1993 to 1994 | Improving economy | No change in participants. Small drop in eligible individuals. | Up 1 point |
| 1994 to 1995 | Improving economy | Decrease in eligible individuals. Relatively larger decrease in participants. | Down 2 point |
| 1995 to 1996 | Improving economy | No change in eligible individuals, decrease in participants. | Down 3 points |
| 1996 to 1997 | Welfare reform, improving economy | Large decrease in participants and eligible individuals. Larger decrease in participants. | Down 5 points |
| 1997 to 1998 | Welfare reform, improving economy | Large decrease in participants and eligible individuals. Larger decrease in participants. | Down 4 points |
| 1998 to 1999 | Welfare reform, improving economy | Decrease in participants and eligible individuals. Larger decrease in participants. | Down 2 points |
| 1999 to 2000 | Welfare reform, improving economy | Decrease in participants and eligible individuals. Larger decrease in participants. | Down less than 1 point |
| 2000 to 2001 | Increased asset eligibility, worsening economy | Slight increase in participants. Large increase in eligible individuals. | Down 3 points |
| 2001 to 2002 | Increased asset eligibility, increased poverty | Large increase in participants and eligible individuals. Larger increase in participants. | Up less than 1 point |
| 2002 to 2003 | Increased outreach, increased eligibility for noncitizens, increased poverty | Increase in both participants and eligible individuals. | Up 2 points |
| 2003 to 2004 | Increased outreach, increased poverty | Increase in both participants and eligible individuals. Large increase in participants | Up 5 points |
| 2004 to 2005 | Increased outreach | Increase in participants, decrease in eligible individuals. | Up 4 points |

TABLE E.2

MAJOR ECONOMIC INDICATORS, CALENDAR YEARS 1976-2005

| Year | Real GDP Increase ^a | Productivity Increase ^b | Unemployment Rate ^c | Inflation Rate ^d | Poverty Rate | Individuals in Poverty (000s) |
|------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| 1976 | 5.3 | 3.1 | 7.7 | 5.8 | 11.8 | 24,975 |
| 1977 | 4.6 | 1.7 | 7.1 | 6.4 | 11.6 | 24,720 |
| 1978 | 5.6 | 1.1 | 6.1 | 7.0 | 11.4 | 24,497 |
| 1979 | 3.2 | 0.0 | 5.8 | 8.3 | 11.7 | 26,072 |
| 1980 | -0.2 | -0.2 | 7.1 | 9.1 | 13.0 | 29,272 |
| 1981 | 2.5 | 2.1 | 7.6 | 9.4 | 14.0 | 31,822 |
| 1982 | -1.9 | -0.8 | 9.7 | 6.1 | 15.0 | 34,398 |
| 1983 | 4.5 | 3.6 | 9.6 | 4.0 | 15.2 | 35,303 |
| 1984 | 7.2 | 2.7 | 7.5 | 3.8 | 14.4 | 33,700 |
| 1985 | 4.1 | 2.2 | 7.2 | 3.0 | 14.0 | 33,064 |
| 1986 | 3.5 | 2.9 | 7.0 | 2.2 | 13.6 | 32,370 |
| 1987 | 3.4 | 0.5 | 6.2 | 2.7 | 13.4 | 32,221 |
| 1988 | 4.1 | 1.5 | 5.5 | 3.4 | 13.0 | 31,745 |
| 1989 | 3.5 | 1.0 | 5.3 | 3.8 | 12.8 | 31,528 |
| 1990 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 5.6 | 3.9 | 13.5 | 33,585 |
| 1991 | -0.2 | 1.6 | 6.8 | 3.5 | 14.2 | 35,708 |
| 1992 | 3.3 | 4.3 | 7.5 | 2.3 | 14.8 | 38,014 |
| 1993 | 2.7 | 0.4 | 6.9 | 2.3 | 15.1 | 39,265 |
| 1994 | 4.0 | 1.0 | 6.1 | 2.1 | 14.5 | 38,059 |
| 1995 | 2.5 | 0.1 | 5.6 | 2.0 | 13.8 | 36,425 |
| 1996 | 3.7 | 3.0 | 5.4 | 1.9 | 13.7 | 36,529 |
| 1997 | 4.5 | 1.9 | 4.9 | 1.7 | 13.3 | 35,574 |
| 1998 | 4.2 | 2.8 | 4.5 | 1.1 | 12.7 | 34,476 |
| 1999 | 4.5 | 3.1 | 4.2 | 1.4 | 11.8 | 32,258 |
| 2000 | 3.7 | 2.9 | 4.0 | 2.2 | 11.3 | 31,581 |
| 2001 | 0.8 | 2.6 | 4.7 | 2.4 | 11.7 | 32,907 |
| 2002 | 1.9 | 4.1 | 5.8 | 1.7 | 12.1 | 34,570 |
| 2003 | 3.0 | 3.8 | 6.0 | 2.1 | 12.5 | 35,861 |
| 2004 | 4.2 | 3.1 | 5.5 | 2.8 | 12.7 | 37,040 |
| 2005 | 3.5 | 2.1 | 5.1 | 3.0 | 12.6 | 36,950 |

Sources (by column of data):

First: Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, National Income and Product Accounts.

Second: Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. "Major Sector Productivity and Costs Index."

Third: Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Fourth: Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, National Income and Product Accounts.

Fifth and sixth: U.S. Census Bureau, *Poverty in the United States*.

^aPercentage change from preceding year.

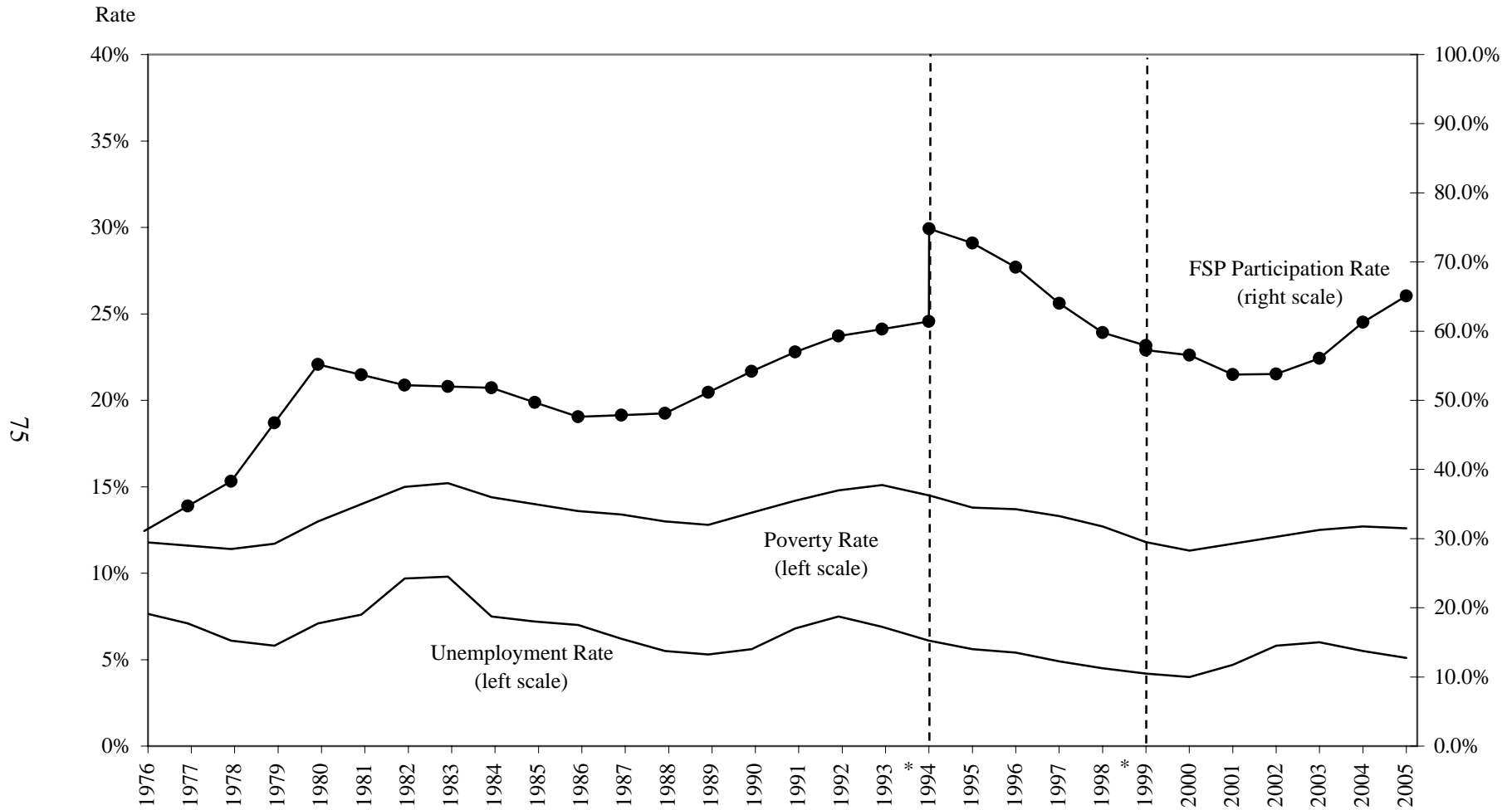
^bPercentage change from preceding year in output per hour, business sector.

^cAll civilian workers.

^dPercentage change from preceding year in the implicit price deflator for Gross Domestic Product.

FIGURE E.1

TRENDS IN FSP PARTICIPATION RATES, POVERTY RATES, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATES, 1976-2005



Sources: Participation rates from FSP Program Operations data, FSPQC data, and March CPS data for the years shown. Poverty rates from U.S. Bureau of the Census, Poverty in the United States. Unemployment rates from Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

*There are breaks in the time series in 1994 and 1999 due to revisions in the methodology for determining eligibility.

TABLE E.3A

SELECTED FEATURES OF THE FSP UNDER PAST AND CURRENT LEGISLATION
Income Limits

| Legislation | Income Limits |
|---|---|
| Food Stamp Act of 1964 as Amended (PL 88-525) | Net income had to be less than or equal to the maximum food stamp net income which was tied to the maximum coupon allotment. |
| Food Stamp Act of 1977 (PL 95-113) Effective 1/1/79 | Net income had to be less than or equal to the poverty line. |
| Food Stamp Amendments of 1979 and 1980 (PL 96-58 and PL 96-249) | Excluded energy assistance as income. Included income of ineligible aliens less prorated share. |
| OBRA of 1981 (PL 86-35) and Food Stamp Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1981 (PL97-98) Effective 10/1/98 | Gross income had to be less than or equal to 130% of the poverty line, except for elderly and disabled, who kept previous net income limit. |
| Food Stamp Amendments of 1982 (PL 97-253) Effective 10-82 and Continuing Resolution of 1984 (PL 84-473) | Nonelderly and nondisabled subjected to both net and gross income limits. |
| 1985 Food Security Act (PL 99-198) Effective 5-86 | Minor changes in treatment of income. |
| 1987 Homeless Assistance Act (PL 100-77) | Moved annual adjustment in income eligibility guidelines to October 1 of each year from July 1. |
| Hunger Prevention Act of 1988 (PL 100-435) | No Change |
| Farm, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 and 1991 (FACTA) (PL 102-237) | Certain types of educational assistance not counted as income. |
| Amendments to FACTA of 1991 | No Change |
| The Mickey Leland Childhood Hunger Relief Act of 1993 (PL 103-66) | Earnings of students excluded from income through age 21. Excluded as income 100% of vendor payments made to transitional housing facilities on behalf of homeless households and GA vendor payments for utility-cost assistance. |
| The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) (PL 104-193) | Earnings of students excluded from income through age 17. |
| The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA) (PL 105-33) | No Change |
| Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA) (PL 105-185) | No Change |
| Agriculture Appropriations Act of 2001 (PL 106-387) | No Change |
| Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 | State options to exclude certain types of income that are not counted under the State's TANF cash assistance or Medicaid programs and to treat legally obligated child support payments to a non-household member as an income exclusion rather than a deduction. |

TABLE E.3B

SELECTED FEATURES OF THE FSP UNDER PAST AND CURRENT LEGISLATION
Asset Limits

| Legislation | Asset Limits |
|---|---|
| Food Stamp Act of 1964 as Amended (PL 88-525) | \$1,500; \$3,000 for elderly household of at least 2 persons. Excluded vehicles used for employment or handicapped transportation. |
| Food Stamp Act of 1977 (PL 95-113) Effective 1/1/79 | \$1,750; \$3,000 for elderly household of at least 2 persons. Excluded first \$4,500 of the Fair Market Value for vehicles. |
| Food Stamp Amendments of 1979 and 1980 (PL 96-58 and PL 96-249) | \$1,500; \$3,000 for elderly household of at least 2 persons. Excluded vehicles used for handicapped. |
| OBRA of 1981 (PL 86-35) and Food Stamp Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1981 (PL97-98) Effective 10/1/98 | No Change |
| Food Stamp Amendments of 1982 (PL 97-253) Effective 10-82 and Continuing Resolution of 1984 (PL 84-473) | State option to waive asset test for pure AFDC households passing gross income test. IRA KEOGH accounts counted as assets. |
| 1985 Food Security Act (PL 99-198) Effective 5-86 | \$2,000; \$3,000 for households with elderly member(s) (including one-person households). Changed definition of countable resources. |
| 1987 Homeless Assistance Act (PL 100-77) | No Change |
| Hunger Prevention Act of 1988 (PL 100-435) | No Change |
| FACTA (PL 102-237) | Non-liquid resources and those exempted by AFDC and SSI are not counted. |
| Amendments to FACTA of 1991 | Same limits. Asset holding of AFDC and SSI recipients not counted. |
| The Mickey Leland Childhood Hunger Relief Act of 1993 (PL 103-66) | Raised the vehicle Fair Market Value asset limit to \$4,550 on 9/1/94, to \$4,600 on 10/1/95, and \$5,000 on 10/1/96 with annual cost-of-living adjustments thereafter. Excluded vehicles necessary to carry food or water. |
| PRWORA (PL 104-193) | Vehicle Fair Market Value asset limit raised to \$4,650, with no planned future cost-of-living adjustments. |
| BBA (PL 105-33) | No Change |
| AREERA (PL 105-185) | No Change |
| Agriculture Appropriations Act of 2001 (PL 106-387) | Allowed States to use the vehicle limit they use in a TANF assistance program, if it would be result in a lower attribution of resources for the household. |
| Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 | Increased the resource limit for households with a disabled member from \$2,000 to \$3,000. |

TABLE E.3C

SELECTED FEATURES OF THE FSP UNDER PAST AND CURRENT LEGISLATION
Benefits

| Legislation | Maximum Benefit | Minimum Benefit | Benefit Reduction Rate |
|---|--|--|---|
| Food Stamp Act of 1964 as Amended (PL 88-525) | Thrifty Food Plan. Indexed since 1971, indexed semiannually from 1973-1979 based on BLS food price index. | Minimum benefit varied by household size. | Basis of issuance tables (average 30% above lowest levels). |
| Food Stamp Act of 1977 (PL 95-113) Effective 1/1/79 | Indexed semiannually based on Thrifty Food Plan components. | \$10 for one-and two-person households only. | 30% |
| Food Stamp Amendments of 1979 and 1980 (PL 96-58 and PL 96-249) | Indexed annually in January based on September cost of Plan components. | No Change | No Change |
| OBRA of 1981 (PL 86-35) and Food Stamp Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1981 (PL97-98) Effective 10/1/98 | Indexing frozen until 7/1/83, next adjustment 10/1/84 based on June cost of Plan components. | No Change | No Change |
| Food Stamp Amendments of 1982 (PL 97-253) Effective 10-82 and Continuing Resolution of 1984 (PL 84-473) | Indexed to 99% of Thrifty Food Plan cost. Changed back to 100% by PL 98-473. Last step in benefit calculation rounded down. | No Change | No Change |
| 1985 Food Security Act (PL 99-198) Effective 5-86 | No Change | No Change | No Change |
| 1987 Homeless Assistance Act (PL 100-77) | No Change | No Change | No Change |
| Hunger Prevention Act of 1988 (PL 100-435) | Incremental indexing to 103% of Thrifty Food Plan by FY 1991 and thereafter. | No Change | No Change |
| FACTA (PL 102-237) | No Change | Required annual adjustments to the \$10 minimum benefit. | No Change |
| Amendments to FACTA of 1991 | No Change | No Change | No Change |
| The Mickey Leland Childhood Hunger Relief Act of 1993 (PL 103-66) | No Change | No Change | No Change |
| PRWORA (PL 104-193) | Reduced to 100% of Thrifty Food Plan for Continental U.S. and District of Columbia; Alaska and Hawaii remained at 1996 levels. | Removed requirement for indexing of minimum benefit. | No Change |
| BBA (PL 105-33) | No Change | No Change | No Change |
| AREERA (PL 105-185) | No Change | No Change | No Change |
| Agriculture Appropriations Act of 2001 (PL 106-387) | No Change | No Change | No Change |
| Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 | No Change | No Change | No Change |

TABLE E.3D

SELECTED FEATURES OF THE FSP UNDER PAST AND CURRENT LEGISLATION
Deductions

| Legislation | Deductions |
|---|--|
| Food Stamp Act of 1964 as Amended (PL 88-525) | Payroll; 10% of earnings up to \$30; child care; education; medical over \$10; alimony or child support; casualty losses; shelter in excess of 30% of net income. |
| Food Stamp Act of 1977 (PL 95-113) Effective 1/1/79 | Standard \$60. Indexed semi-annually to CPI nonfood components. 20% of earnings; child care up to \$75; shelter in excess of 50% of net not to exceed \$80 in combination with child care. Limit indexed annually in July based on shelter-fuel-utilities component of the CPI. |
| Food Stamp Amendments of 1979 and 1980 (PL 96-58 and PL 96-249) | 1980 Act: standard deduction and shelter/child care cap indexed annually in Jan. based on Sept./Sept. change; 1979 Act: elderly and disabled not subjected to the shelter deduction maximum and allowed medical expenses over \$35.* |
| OBRA of 1981 (PL 86-35) and Food Stamp Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1981 (PL97-98) Effective 10/1/98 | 18% of earnings, shelter/child care cap set at \$115 with next inflation adjustment on 7/1/83, then 10/1/84 and each October thereafter. |
| Food Stamp Amendments of 1982 (PL 97-253) Effective 10-82 and Continuing Resolution of 1984 (PL 84-473) | Standard deduction raised to \$89. Next inflation adjustment delayed until 10/1/83. Limited use of standard utility expense allowances. |
| 1985 Food Security Act (PL 99-198) Effective 5-86 | 20% of earnings; separate cap on shelter deduction of \$147, with indexed increases; separate cap on dependent care of \$160, not indexed. |
| 1987 Homeless Assistance Act (PL 100-77) | Increased cap on shelter deduction for all households certified after 10/1/87. |
| Hunger Prevention Act of 1988 (PL 100-435) | Dependent care deduction increased to \$160 per month per dependent, rather than per household. |
| FACTA (PL 102-237) | No Change |
| Amendments to FACTA of 1991 | No Change |
| The Mickey Leland Childhood Hunger Relief Act of 1993 (PL 103-66) | Increased cap on shelter deductions for all households to \$231 after 7/1/94 and to \$247 after 10/1/95. Raised the dependent care deduction cap to \$200 a month for each child under the age of 2 and \$175 a month for all other dependents. |
| PRWORA (PL 104-193) | Standard deduction frozen at current levels. Raised excess shelter deduction to \$250 on 1/1/97, to \$275 on 10/1/98, to \$300 on 10/1/00. |
| BBA (PL 105-33) | No Change |
| AREERA (PL 105-185) | No Change |
| Agriculture Appropriations Act of 2001 (PL 106-387) | Increased the excess shelter cap to \$340 in fiscal year 2001 and then indexed the cap to changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Consumers each year beginning in fiscal year 2002. |
| Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 | Changed standard deduction to vary according to household size and be adjusted annually for cost-of-living increases, allowed States to simplify the SUA if they elect to use the SUA rather than actual utility costs for all households, and allowed States to use a standard deduction of \$143 per month for homeless households with some shelter expenses. |

*A provision to reduce the medical deduction from \$35 to \$25 was repealed in OBRA and never implemented.

TABLE E.3E

SELECTED FEATURES OF THE FSP UNDER PAST AND CURRENT LEGISLATION
Accounting Period, Categorical Eligibility

| Legislation | Accounting Period | Categorical Eligibility |
|---|---|--|
| Food Stamp Act of 1964 as Amended (PL 88-525) | Prospective month | Public assistance households automatically eligible |
| Food Stamp Act of 1977 (PL 95-113) Effective 1/1/79 | Prospective month | Public assistance households not automatically eligible |
| Food Stamp Amendments of 1979 and 1980 (PL 96-58 and PL 96-249) | State option to use prospective or retrospective with monthly report. | No Change |
| OBRA of 1981 (PL 86-35) and Food Stamp Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1981 (PL97-98) Effective 10/1/98 | Retrospective becomes mandatory 10/1/83 for some households, prospective for others. | No Change |
| Food Stamp Amendments of 1982 (PL 97-253) Effective 10-82 and Continuing Resolution of 1984 (PL 84-473) | Migrant workers, elderly and disabled households with no earnings exempt from monthly reporting. | No Change |
| 1985 Food Security Act (PL 99-198) Effective 5-86 | Retrospective budgeting and monthly reporting required for households with earnings or work history except migrant farmers and elderly or disabled. | Categorical eligibility for pure AFDC or SSI households. |
| 1987 Homeless Assistance Act (PL 100-77) | Exempted seasonal farm workers and households in which all members are homeless from monthly reporting requirements. | No Change |
| Hunger Prevention Act of 1988 (PL 100-435) | No Change | No Change |
| FACTA (PL 102-237) | No Change | Expanded categorical eligibility to recipients of certain State and local general assistance payments. |
| Amendments to FACTA of 1991 | No Change | No Change |
| The Mickey Leland Childhood Hunger Relief Act of 1993 (PL 103-66) | No Change | No Change |
| PRWORA (PL 104-193) | No Change | No Change |
| BBA (PL 105-33) | No Change | No Change |
| AREERA (PL 105-185) | No Change | No Change |
| Agriculture Appropriations Act of 2001 (PL 106-387) | No Change | No Change |
| Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 | No Change | No Change |

TABLE E.3F

SELECTED FEATURES OF THE FSP UNDER PAST AND CURRENT LEGISLATION
Work Registration Requirements and Time Limits

| Legislation | Work Registration Requirements and Time Limits |
|---|---|
| Food Stamp Act of 1964 as Amended (PL 88-525) | Required work registration and employment as a condition of eligibility for able-bodied adults between 18 and 65 years except for individuals with responsibility for care of a dependent child or of an incapacitated adult; students; or persons employed 30 hours/week. |
| Food Stamp Act of 1977 (PL 95-113) Effective 1/1/79 | Lowered age for individuals required to work from 65 to 60 years; added job search as a work requirement; lowered age for caretaker exemption from 18 to 12 years. |
| Food Stamp Amendments of 1979 and 1980 (PL 96-58 and PL 96-249) | No requirement |
| OBRA of 1981 (PL 86-35) and Food Stamp Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1981 (PL97-98) Effective 10/1/98 | Applied disqualification for voluntarily quitting a job to participants as well as applicants; lowered age for caretaker exemption to 6 years old. |
| Food Stamp Amendments of 1982 (PL 97-253) Effective 10-82 and Continuing Resolution of 1984 (PL 84-473) | No requirement |
| 1985 Food Security Act (PL 99-198) Effective 5-86 | Disqualified only violating member rather than entire household unless that member was also head of household; required all States to implement an E&T program by April 1, 1987. |
| 1987 Homeless Assistance Act (PL 100-77) | No requirement |
| Hunger Prevention Act of 1988 (PL 100-435) | No requirement |
| FACTA (PL 102-237) | No requirement |
| Amendments to FACTA of 1991 | No requirement |
| The Mickey Leland Childhood Hunger Relief Act of 1993 (PL 103-66) | No requirement |
| PRWORA (PL 104-193) | Able-bodied adults without dependents required to work at least 20 hours per week in a job or qualified training program. If individual is subject to, but not complying with the requirement, they are limited to 3 months of benefits in any 36-month period. Minimum disqualification periods for individuals who failed to comply with work requirements from 1 month to permanently depending on the number of violations. |
| BBA (PL 105-33) | Increased funds for Food Stamp Employment and Training programs, but restricted the use of the funds (requiring them to earmark 80% for ABAWDs). Made the funds available until expended. Allowed States to grant discretionary exemptions from the time limits for up to 15% of the State's unwaived able-bodied caseload. |
| AREERA (PL 105-185) | No Change |
| Agriculture Appropriations Act of 2001 (PL 106-387) | No Change |
| Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 | Authorized additional funding for States that pledge to offer work slots to all unemployed childless adults who are subject to the 3-month time limit and eliminated the requirement that 80% of unmatched funds be used for nondisabled childless adults. |

TABLE E.3G

SELECTED FEATURES OF THE FSP UNDER PAST AND CURRENT LEGISLATION
Treatment of Noncitizens

| Legislation | Treatment of Noncitizens |
|---|--|
| Food Stamp Act of 1964 as Amended (PL 88-525) | No disqualifications |
| Food Stamp Act of 1977 (PL 95-113) Effective 1/1/79 | No disqualifications |
| Food Stamp Amendments of 1979 and 1980 (PL 96-58 and PL 96-249) | No disqualifications |
| OBRA of 1981 (PL 86-35) and Food Stamp Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1981 (PL97-98) Effective 10/1/98 | The 1980 amendments required certification workers to report an ineligible alien to INS. Income and assets of aliens' sponsors were deemed to alien for 3 years after entry into the country. |
| Food Stamp Amendments of 1982 (PL 97-253) Effective 10-82 and Continuing Resolution of 1984 (PL 84-473) | No disqualifications |
| 1985 Food Security Act (PL 99-198) Effective 5-86 | No disqualifications |
| 1987 Homeless Assistance Act (PL 100-77) | No disqualifications |
| Hunger Prevention Act of 1988 (PL 100-435) | No disqualifications |
| FACTA (PL 102-237) | No disqualifications |
| Amendments to FACTA of 1991 | No disqualifications |
| The Mickey Leland Childhood Hunger Relief Act of 1993 (PL 103-66) | No disqualifications |
| PRWORA (PL 104-193) | Permanent resident aliens disqualified unless they have 40 quarters of qualified work history in the United States, are currently or were formerly members of the U.S. Armed Forces. Members of their family also exempt. Refugees, asylees, and deportees eligible for 5 years after entering the United States. |
| BBA (PL 105-33) | No Change |
| AREERA (PL 105-185) | Restored eligibility to permanent resident aliens lawfully in the United States on August 22, 1996 and disabled, blind, or under age 18, or were 65 or older on August 22, 1996. Extended eligibility for refugees, asylees, and deportees from 5 to 7 years after entering the United States. |
| Agriculture Appropriations Act of 2001 (PL 106-387) | No Change |
| Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 | Restored eligibility to qualified noncitizens who are otherwise eligible for the FSP and who: are receiving disability benefits regardless of date of entry (effective FY 2003); are under 18 regardless of date of entry (effective FY 2004); or have lived in the U.S. for 5 years as a qualified noncitizen (effective April 2003). |

TABLE E.3H

SELECTED FEATURES OF THE FSP UNDER PAST AND CURRENT LEGISLATION
Other Changes

| Legislation | Other Changes |
|---|--|
| Food Stamp Act of 1964 as Amended (PL 88-525) | Nationwide program |
| Food Stamp Act of 1977 (PL 95-113) Effective 1/1/79 | Eliminated purchase requirement |
| Food Stamp Amendments of 1979 and 1980 (PL 96-58 and PL 96-249) | Increased State incentives for reducing error. SSNs required. Limits on eligible students; residents of shelters for battered women and disabled in small groups may participate. Established Quality Control system. |
| OBRA of 1981 (PL 86-35) and Food Stamp Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1981 (PL97-98) Effective 10/1/81 | Tightened definition of household, no extra benefits for strikers, prorated first month benefits. Replaced the FSP with a block grant Nutrition Assistance Program for Puerto Rico. |
| Food Stamp Amendments of 1982 (PL 97-253) Effective 10-82 and Continuing Resolution of 1984 (PL 84-473) | Replaced three-tiered incentive system with increased administrative funding for States with error rates below 5%, limited student eligibility, benefits rounded down, job search requirements, Puerto Rico cashout prohibited. Household unit definition altered. No initial month benefits less than \$10. SSU and SS COLA adjustments disregarded up to 3 months. New definition of disabled. |
| 1985 Food Security Act (PL 99-198) Effective 5-86 | New definition of disabled, Puerto Rico block grant funds, students in JTPA exempt from categorical restriction; residents of publicly operated mental health centers may participate. |
| 1987 Homeless Assistance Act (PL 100-77) | Outreach efforts for homeless persons and other hard-to-serve groups. Simplified application process for these groups. Expanded eligibility for expedited source. |
| Hunger Prevention Act of 1988 (PL 100-435) | Expanded the definition of disabled. Excluded advanced EITC payments as income. |
| FACTA (PL 102-237) | Rules for student eligibility modified. |
| Amendments to FACTA of 1991 | All Title IV payments and Bureau of Indian Affairs educational assistance excluded from food stamp countable income (Higher Education Amendments of 1992 (PL 102-325)). |
| The Mickey Leland Childhood Hunger Relief Act of 1993 (PL 103-66) | Simplified the household definition by allowing persons who live together but do not purchase and prepare food together to be in separate food stamp units. Spouses must still be in the same household. Effective 9/1/94. |
| PRWORA (PL 104-193) | Children under age 22 living with parents must apply as part of the parents' household even if the child is married or has children of his/her own. |
| BBA (PL 105-33) | None |
| AREERA (PL 105-185) | None |
| Agriculture Appropriations Act of 2001 (PL 106-387) | None |
| Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 | Allowed States to offer transitional food stamp benefits for up to 5 months after households lose TANF cash assistance and allowed States to extend semiannual reporting of changes to all households not exempt from periodic reporting. |

APPENDIX F

CHANGES IN THE MARCH CPS OVER TIME

TABLE F.1

CHANGES IN THE MARCH CPS OVER TIME

| March Year | Data Year | Changes in Design or Weighting From Previous Year |
|------------|-----------|---|
| 78 | 77 | None |
| 79 | 78 | Changes in metro/nonmetro definitions. New, more detailed income questions were introduced for 2 rotation groups. |
| 80 | 79 | Definition of adult changed from age 14 to age 15. New concept of families and headship status. New income questions were introduced for all rotation groups. |
| 81 | 80 | New weighting procedure based on 1980 Census was introduced which increased the overall population by 2.3% and had a disproportionate impact on Hispanics. |
| 82 | 81 | Top coding of income variables was increased from \$50,000 to \$75,000. |
| 83 | 82 | New industry and occupation coding. New definition of group quarters. The poverty index was modified slightly (deleting the farm/nonfarm dimension). |
| 84 | 83 | The March 1984 file was issued twice. In the second (unofficial) version, the Bureau of the Census introduced the revised weighting procedure developed for the March 1985 CPS. |
| 85 | 84 | Revised weighting procedures--specifically, the control on Hispanics was changed. This caused a slight increase in poverty with disproportionate impacts on the Hispanic population, male unrelated individuals, and persons in related subfamilies. Changes in the designation of metro/nonmetro, farm/nonfarm, central city/noncentral city statuses. |
| 86 | 85 | More metro/nonmetro changes |
| 87 | 86 | None |
| 88 | 87 | None |
| 89 | 88 | Revised processing procedures increased income overall and reduced poverty. The poverty rate changed more severely for blacks and persons in selected age ranges. |
| 90 | 89 | None |
| 91 | 90 | None |
| 92 | 91 | None |
| 93 | 92(r) | New population controls based on 1990 census and adjustments for the census undercount increased the poverty population. The largest increases in poverty rates were for Hispanic families, families with single female householders, white children, and persons in unrelated subfamilies. |
| 94 | 93 | Survey was redesigned to improve the measurement of labor force concepts and wording of questions, and to implement a computerized questionnaire. |
| 95 | 94 | None |
| 96 | 95 | Sample reduction. Revised earnings topcoding--instead of topcoding earnings variables at 99,999, records that were topcoded were assigned the mean earnings for topcoded individuals with similar characteristics. Revised race edit and allocation. Caution is urged when comparing 1995 and 1996 data on race groups. |
| 97 | 96 | None |
| 98 | 97 | None |
| 99 | 98 | None |
| 00 | 99 | Rewighted based on Census 2000 |
| 01 | 00 | Rewighted based on Census 2000, expanded sample size |
| 02 | 01 | Weights based on Census 2000 |
| 03 | 02 | Expanded racial categories |
| 04 | 03 | None |
| 05 | 04 | None |
| 06 | 05 | None |

APPENDIX G

FSP ELIGIBILITY PARAMETERS

TABLE G.1

SELECTED FOOD STAMP ELIGIBILITY PARAMETERS, 1976 TO 2005

| Analysis Year | | <i>September 1976</i> Food Stamp Act of 1964 As Amended | | | <i>February 1978</i> Food Stamp Act of 1964 As Amended | | | <i>August 1980</i> Food Stamp Act of 1977 As Amended; Effective late 1978, early 1979 | | | <i>August 1982</i> OBRA 1981 As Amended in 1981; Effective 10/81 | | |
|---|------------|---|-----------|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|
| Gross Income Eligibility | | No test | | | | | | | | | <= 1.3 * Poverty Line | | |
| Net Income Eligibility | | <= Maximum Food Stamp Income | | | | | | <= Poverty Line | | | | | |
| Asset Eligibility | | \$1500; \$3000 for elderly households with at least 2 members | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Minimum Benefit | | Varies by household size | | | | | | \$10 for 1 and 2 person households; \$0 for all others | | | | | |
| Eligibility of Pure PA Households | | No Automatic Eligibility | | | Automatically Eligible | | | No Automatic Eligibility | | | | | |
| Benefit Calculation | | Benefit = Maximum benefit (household size) | | | | | | Benefit = Maximum benefit minus 30% of net income | | | | | |
| SSI Cashout States | | California, Wisconsin, Massachusetts | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 91 Monthly Food Stamp Net Income Screen | Unit Size | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> |
| | 1 | 245 | 307 | 273 | 262 | 328 | 286 | 316 | 397 | 365 | 390 | 490 | 450 |
| | 2 | 322 | 413 | 407 | 344 | 447 | 427 | 418 | 524 | 481 | 519 | 650 | 597 |
| | 3 | 433 | 593 | 580 | 460 | 633 | 607 | 520 | 650 | 598 | 647 | 810 | 745 |
| | 4 | 553 | 753 | 740 | 580 | 807 | 773 | 621 | 777 | 715 | 775 | 970 | 892 |
| | 5 | 660 | 893 | 880 | 687 | 960 | 920 | 723 | 904 | 831 | 904 | 1,130 | 1,040 |
| | 6 | 787 | 1,073 | 1,053 | 827 | 1,147 | 1,100 | 825 | 1,030 | 948 | 1,032 | 1,290 | 1,187 |
| | 7 | 873 | 1,187 | 1,167 | 913 | 1,273 | 1,220 | 926 | 1,157 | 1,065 | 1,180 | 1,450 | 1,335 |
| | 8 | 993 | 1,353 | 1,333 | 1,047 | 1,453 | 1,393 | 1,028 | 1,284 | 1,181 | 1,289 | 1,610 | 1,482 |
| | additional | + 127 | + 167 | + 166 | + 133 | + 180 | + 173 | + 102 | + 127 | + 117 | + 129 | + 160 | + 142 |
| Monthly Maximum Food Stamp Allotment | Unit Size | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> |
| | 1 | 50 | 68 | 66 | 52 | 72 | 70 | 63 | 98 | 84 | 70 | 108 | 95 |
| | 2 | 92 | 124 | 122 | 96 | 134 | 128 | 115 | 180 | 158 | 128 | 197 | 175 |
| | 3 | 130 | 178 | 174 | 138 | 190 | 182 | 165 | 258 | 226 | 183 | 293 | 250 |
| | 4 | 166 | 226 | 222 | 174 | 242 | 232 | 209 | 327 | 287 | 233 | 359 | 318 |
| | 5 | 198 | 268 | 264 | 206 | 288 | 276 | 248 | 388 | 341 | 277 | 426 | 378 |
| | 6 | 236 | 322 | 316 | 248 | 344 | 330 | 298 | 466 | 409 | 332 | 512 | 453 |
| | 7 | 262 | 356 | 350 | 274 | 382 | 366 | 329 | 515 | 452 | 367 | 565 | 501 |
| | 8 | 298 | 406 | 400 | 314 | 436 | 418 | 376 | 589 | 517 | 419 | 646 | 572 |
| | additional | + 38 | + 50 | + 50 | + 40 | + 54 | + 52 | + 47 | + 74 | + 65 | + 53 | + 81 | + 72 |

TABLE G.1, *continued*

| Analysis Year | | <i>August 1984</i> OBRA As Amended in 1982; Effective 10/82 | | | <i>August 1986</i> Food Security Act of 1985; Effective 5/86 | | | <i>August 1988</i> 1987 Homeless Assistance Act; | | | <i>August 1990</i> Leland Hunger Prevention Act of 1988 | | |
|--|------------|--|-----------|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|---|-----------|-----------|
| Gross Income Eligibility | | <= 1.3 * Poverty Line | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Net Income Eligibility | | <= Poverty Line | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Asset Eligibility | | \$1,500; \$3,000 for elderly households with 2 or more members | | | \$2000; \$3000 for elderly households | | | | | | | | |
| Minimum Benefit | | \$10 for 1 and 2 person households; \$0 for all others | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eligibility of Pure PA Households | | No Automatic Eligibility | | | Automatically Eligible | | | | | | | | |
| Benefit Calculation | | Benefit = Maximum benefit minus 30% of net income | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SSI Cashout States | | CA, WI, MA | | | California, Wisconsin | | | | | | | | |
| 92 Monthly Food Stamp Net Income Screen | Unit Size | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> |
| | 1 | 415 | 520 | 478 | 447 | 559 | 515 | 459 | 572 | 526 | 499 | 624 | 573 |
| | 2 | 560 | 701 | 645 | 604 | 755 | 695 | 617 | 770 | 709 | 699 | 836 | 769 |
| | 3 | 705 | 882 | 811 | 760 | 950 | 875 | 775 | 969 | 891 | 839 | 1,049 | 965 |
| | 4 | 850 | 1,063 | 978 | 917 | 1,146 | 1,055 | 934 | 1,167 | 1,074 | 1,009 | 1,261 | 1,160 |
| | 5 | 995 | 1,244 | 1,145 | 1,074 | 1,342 | 1,235 | 1,092 | 1,365 | 1,256 | 1,179 | 1,474 | 1,356 |
| | 6 | 1,140 | 1,425 | 1,311 | 1,230 | 1,538 | 1,415 | 1,250 | 1,564 | 1,439 | 1,349 | 1,686 | 1,552 |
| | 7 | 1,285 | 1,605 | 1,478 | 1,387 | 1,732 | 1,595 | 1,409 | 1,762 | 1,621 | 1,519 | 1,899 | 1,748 |
| | 8 | 1,430 | 1,786 | 1,645 | 1,544 | 1,930 | 1,775 | 1,567 | 1,960 | 1,804 | 1,689 | 2,111 | 1,944 |
| | additional | + 145 | + 181 | + 167 | + 157 | + 196 | + 180 | + 158 | + 198 | + 183 | + 170 | + 213 | + 196 |
| Monthly Maximum Food Stamp Allotment | Unit Size | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> |
| | 1 | 76 | 109 | 108 | 80 | 111 | 124 | 87 | 113 | 133 | 99 | 123 | 151 |
| | 2 | 139 | 200 | 198 | 147 | 204 | 228 | 159 | 207 | 244 | 182 | 227 | 276 |
| | 3 | 199 | 286 | 283 | 211 | 293 | 327 | 228 | 297 | 350 | 260 | 325 | 396 |
| | 4 | 253 | 364 | 360 | 268 | 372 | 415 | 290 | 378 | 444 | 331 | 413 | 503 |
| | 5 | 301 | 432 | 427 | 318 | 442 | 493 | 344 | 448 | 527 | 393 | 490 | 598 |
| | 6 | 361 | 518 | 513 | 382 | 530 | 592 | 413 | 538 | 633 | 472 | 588 | 717 |
| | 7 | 399 | 473 | 567 | 422 | 586 | 654 | 457 | 595 | 700 | 521 | 650 | 793 |
| | 8 | 457 | 655 | 648 | 483 | 670 | 748 | 522 | 680 | 800 | 596 | 743 | 906 |
| | additional | + 57 | + 82 | + 81 | + 60 | + 84 | + 94 | + 65 | + 85 | + 100 | + 75 | + 93 | + 113 |

TABLE G.1, *continued*

| Analysis Year | | <i>August 1991</i> FACTA of 1991 | | | <i>August 1992</i> FACTA of 1991 and amendments | | | <i>August 1993</i> FACTA of 1991 and amendments | | |
|---|------------|--|-----------|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|
| Gross Income Eligibility | | <= 1.3 * Poverty Line | | | | | | | | |
| Net Income Eligibility | | <= Poverty Line | | | | | | | | |
| Asset Eligibility | | \$2000; \$3000 for elderly households | | | | | | | | |
| Benefit Reduction Rate | | 0.3 | | | | | | | | |
| Minimum Benefit | | \$10 for 1 and 2 person households; \$0 for all others | | | | | | | | |
| Eligibility of Pure PA Households | | Automatically Eligible (AFDC or SSI) | | | Automatically Eligible (AFDC, SSI, or GA) | | | | | |
| Benefit Calculation | | Benefit = Maximum benefit minus 30% of net income | | | | | | | | |
| SSI Cashout States | | California, Wisconsin | | | California only | | | | | |
| 93 Monthly Food Stamp Net Income Screen | Unit Size | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> |
| | 1 | 524 | 654 | 603 | 552 | 691 | 635 | 568 | 709 | 653 |
| | 2 | 702 | 877 | 808 | 740 | 926 | 851 | 766 | 957 | 881 |
| | 3 | 880 | 1,100 | 1,013 | 929 | 1,161 | 1,068 | 965 | 1,205 | 1,110 |
| | 4 | 1,059 | 1,324 | 1,218 | 1,117 | 1,396 | 1,285 | 1,163 | 1,454 | 1,338 |
| | 5 | 1,237 | 1,547 | 1,428 | 1,305 | 1,631 | 1,501 | 1,361 | 1,702 | 1,566 |
| | 6 | 1,415 | 1,770 | 1,628 | 1,494 | 1,866 | 1,718 | 1,560 | 1,950 | 1,795 |
| | 7 | 1,594 | 1,994 | 1,833 | 1,682 | 2,101 | 1,935 | 1,758 | 2,199 | 2,023 |
| | 8 | 1,772 | 2,217 | 2,038 | 1,870 | 2,336 | 2,151 | 1,956 | 2,447 | 2,251 |
| | additional | + 179 | 224 | + 205 | + 189 | + 235 | + 217 | + 199 | + 249 | + 229 |
| Monthly Maximum Food Stamp Allotment | Unit Size | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> |
| | 1 | 105 | 137 | 172 | 111 | 142 | 181 | 111 | 143 | 182 |
| | 2 | 193 | 252 | 316 | 203 | 261 | 333 | 203 | 262 | 335 |
| | 3 | 277 | 361 | 452 | 292 | 374 | 477 | 292 | 376 | 480 |
| | 4 | 352 | 459 | 574 | 370 | 475 | 606 | 370 | 477 | 609 |
| | 5 | 418 | 545 | 682 | 440 | 564 | 720 | 440 | 567 | 724 |
| | 6 | 502 | 655 | 819 | 528 | 677 | 864 | 528 | 680 | 868 |
| | 7 | 555 | 723 | 905 | 584 | 748 | 955 | 584 | 752 | 960 |
| | 8 | 634 | 827 | 1,034 | 667 | 855 | 1,091 | 667 | 859 | 1,097 |
| | additional | + 79 | + 103 | + 129 | + 83 | + 107 | + 136 | + 83 | + 107 | + 137 |

TABLE G.1, *continued*

| Analysis Year | | <i>September 1994</i> | | | <i>September 1995</i> Mickey Leland Childhood Hunger Relief Act of 1993 | | | <i>September 1996</i> Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 | | |
|---|------------|--|-----------|-----------|---|-----------|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|
| Gross Income Eligibility | | <= 1.3 * Poverty Line | | | | | | | | |
| Net Income Eligibility | | <= Poverty Line | | | | | | | | |
| Asset Eligibility | | \$2000; \$3000 for elderly households | | | | | | | | |
| Minimum Benefit | | \$10 for 1 and 2 person households; \$0 for all others | | | | | | | | |
| Eligibility of Pure PA Households | | Automatically Eligible (AFDC/TANF, SSI, or GA) | | | | | | | | |
| Benefit Calculation | | Benefit = Maximum benefit minus 30% of net income | | | | | | | | |
| SSI Cashout States | | California only | | | | | | | | |
| 94 Monthly Food Stamp Net Income Screen | Unit Size | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> |
| | 1 | 581 | 725 | 670 | 614 | 767 | 706 | 623 | 779 | 718 |
| | 2 | 786 | 982 | 905 | 820 | 1,025 | 944 | 836 | 1,045 | 963 |
| | 3 | 991 | 1,239 | 1,140 | 1,027 | 1,284 | 1,181 | 1,050 | 1,312 | 1,208 |
| | 4 | 1,196 | 1,495 | 1,375 | 1,234 | 1,542 | 1,419 | 1,263 | 1,579 | 1,453 |
| | 5 | 1,401 | 1,752 | 1,610 | 1,440 | 1,800 | 1,656 | 1,476 | 1,845 | 1,698 |
| | 6 | 1,606 | 2,009 | 1,845 | 1,647 | 2,059 | 1,894 | 1,690 | 2,112 | 1,943 |
| | 7 | 1,811 | 2,265 | 2,080 | 1,854 | 2,317 | 2,131 | 1,903 | 2,379 | 2,188 |
| | 8 | 2,016 | 2,522 | 2,315 | 2,060 | 2,575 | 2,369 | 2,116 | 2,645 | 2,433 |
| | additional | + 205 | + 257 | + 235 | + 207 | + 259 | + 238 | + 214 | + 267 | + 245 |
| Monthly Maximum Food Stamp Allotment | Unit Size | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> |
| | 1 | 112 | 147 | 187 | 115 | 147 | 193 | 119 | 153 | 198 |
| | 2 | 206 | 271 | 343 | 212 | 271 | 354 | 218 | 280 | 364 |
| | 3 | 295 | 388 | 492 | 304 | 388 | 508 | 313 | 401 | 522 |
| | 4 | 375 | 492 | 625 | 386 | 492 | 645 | 397 | 510 | 663 |
| | 5 | 446 | 585 | 742 | 459 | 585 | 766 | 472 | 605 | 787 |
| | 6 | 535 | 702 | 890 | 550 | 702 | 919 | 566 | 726 | 945 |
| | 7 | 591 | 776 | 984 | 608 | 776 | 1,016 | 626 | 803 | 1,044 |
| | 8 | 676 | 887 | 1,125 | 695 | 887 | 1,161 | 716 | 918 | 1,193 |
| | additional | + 85 | + 111 | + 141 | + 87 | + 111 | + 145 | +90 | + 115 | + 149 |

TABLE G.1, *continued*

| Analysis Year | | <i>September 1997</i> | | | <i>September 1998</i> | | | <i>September 1999</i> Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998; Effective November 1998 | | |
|---|------------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|---|-----------|-----------|
| Gross Income Eligibility | | <= 1.3 * Poverty Line | | | | | | | | |
| Net Income Eligibility | | <= Poverty Line | | | | | | | | |
| Asset Eligibility | | \$2,000; \$3,000 for elderly households | | | | | | | | |
| Minimum Benefit | | \$10 for 1 and 2 person households; \$0 for all others | | | | | | | | |
| Eligibility of Pure PA Households | | Automatically Eligible (TANF, SSI, or GA) | | | | | | | | |
| Benefit Calculation | | Benefit = Maximum benefit (household size) - .3 x Food Stamp Net Income | | | | | | | | |
| SSI Cashout States | | California only | | | | | | | | |
| 95 Monthly Food Stamp Net Income Screen | Unit Size | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> |
| | 1 | 645 | 805 | 743 | 658 | 823 | 756 | 671 | 840 | 772 |
| | 2 | 864 | 1,079 | 994 | 885 | 1,106 | 1,017 | 905 | 1,131 | 1,040 |
| | 3 | 1,082 | 1,352 | 1,245 | 1,111 | 1,390 | 1,278 | 1,138 | 1,423 | 1,309 |
| | 4 | 1,300 | 1,625 | 1,495 | 1,338 | 1,673 | 1,539 | 1,371 | 1,715 | 1,577 |
| | 5 | 1,519 | 1,899 | 1,746 | 1,565 | 1,956 | 1,800 | 1,605 | 2,006 | 1,845 |
| | 6 | 1,737 | 2,172 | 1,997 | 1,791 | 2,240 | 2,060 | 1,838 | 2,298 | 2,114 |
| | 7 | 1,955 | 2,445 | 2,248 | 2,018 | 2,523 | 2,321 | 2,071 | 2,590 | 2,382 |
| | 8 | 2,174 | 2,719 | 2,499 | 2,245 | 2,806 | 2,582 | 2,305 | 2,881 | 2,650 |
| | additional | + 219 | + 274 | +251 | + 227 | + 284 | + 261 | + 234 | + 292 | + 269 |
| Monthly Maximum Food Stamp Benefits | Unit Size | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> |
| | 1 | 120 | 153 | 198 | 122 | 154 | 197 | 125 | 157 | 197 |
| | 2 | 220 | 280 | 364 | 224 | 283 | 361 | 230 | 287 | 362 |
| | 3 | 315 | 401 | 522 | 321 | 405 | 517 | 329 | 412 | 518 |
| | 4 | 400 | 510 | 663 | 408 | 514 | 657 | 419 | 523 | 658 |
| | 5 | 475 | 605 | 787 | 485 | 611 | 780 | 497 | 621 | 781 |
| | 6 | 570 | 726 | 945 | 582 | 733 | 936 | 597 | 746 | 938 |
| | 7 | 630 | 803 | 1,044 | 643 | 810 | 1,035 | 659 | 824 | 1,036 |
| | 8 | 720 | 918 | 1,193 | 735 | 926 | 1,183 | 754 | 942 | 1,185 |
| additional | + 90 | + 115 | + 149 | +92 | + 116 | + 148 | + 94 | + 118 | + 148 | |

TABLE G.1, *continued*

| Analysis Year | | <i>September 2000</i> | | | <i>FY 2001</i> | | | <i>FY 2002</i> | | |
|---|------------|---|-----------|-----------|----------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Gross Income Eligibility | | <= 1.3 * Poverty Line | | | | | | | | |
| Net Income Eligibility | | <= Poverty Line | | | | | | | | |
| Asset Eligibility | | \$2,000; \$3,000 for elderly households | | | | | | | | |
| Minimum Benefit | | \$10 for 1 and 2 person households; \$0 for all others | | | | | | | | |
| Eligibility of Pure PA Households | | Automatically Eligible (TANF, SSI, or GA) | | | | | | | | |
| Benefit Calculation | | Benefit = Maximum benefit (household size) - .3 x Food Stamp Net Income | | | | | | | | |
| SSI Cashout States | | California only | | | | | | | | |
| Monthly Food Stamp Net Income Screen | Unit Size | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> |
| | 1 | 687 | 860 | 791 | 696 | 870 | 800 | 716 | 895 | 825 |
| | 2 | 922 | 1,154 | 1,061 | 938 | 1,172 | 1,078 | 968 | 1,210 | 1,114 |
| | 3 | 1,157 | 1,447 | 1,331 | 1,180 | 1,475 | 1,356 | 1,220 | 1,525 | 1,403 |
| | 4 | 1,392 | 1,740 | 1,601 | 1,421 | 1,770 | 1,635 | 1,471 | 1,840 | 1,692 |
| | 5 | 1,627 | 2,034 | 1,871 | 1,663 | 2,080 | 1,913 | 1,723 | 2,155 | 1,981 |
| | 6 | 1,862 | 2,327 | 2,141 | 1,905 | 2,382 | 2,191 | 1,975 | 2,470 | 2,270 |
| | 7 | 2,097 | 2,620 | 2,411 | 2,146 | 2,685 | 2,470 | 2,226 | 2,785 | 2,560 |
| | 8 | 2,332 | 2,914 | 2,681 | 2,388 | 2,987 | 2,748 | 2,478 | 3,100 | 2,849 |
| | additional | + 235 | + 270 | + 270 | + 242 | + 303 | + 279 | + 252 | + 315 | + 290 |
| Monthly Maximum Food Stamp Benefits | Unit Size | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> |
| | 1 | 127 | 158 | 199 | 130 | 160 | 199 | 135 | 167 | 204 |
| | 2 | 234 | 290 | 365 | 238 | 294 | 366 | 248 | 307 | 374 |
| | 3 | 335 | 415 | 523 | 341 | 421 | 524 | 356 | 440 | 536 |
| | 4 | 426 | 528 | 664 | 434 | 535 | 665 | 452 | 559 | 680 |
| | 5 | 506 | 627 | 789 | 515 | 635 | 790 | 537 | 663 | 808 |
| | 6 | 607 | 752 | 947 | 618 | 762 | 948 | 644 | 796 | 970 |
| | 7 | 671 | 831 | 1,047 | 683 | 842 | 1,048 | 712 | 880 | 1,072 |
| | 8 | 767 | 950 | 1,196 | 781 | 963 | 1,198 | 814 | 1,006 | 1,225 |
| | additional | + 96 | + 119 | + 150 | + 98 | + 120 | + 150 | + 102 | + 126 | + 153 |

TABLE G.1, *continued*

| Analysis Year | | FY 2003 | | | FY 2004 | | | FY 2005 | | |
|---|------------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Gross Income Eligibility | | <= 1.3 * Poverty Line | | | | | | | | |
| Net Income Eligibility | | <= Poverty Line | | | | | | | | |
| Asset Eligibility | | \$2,000; \$3,000 for elderly households | | | | | | | | |
| Minimum Benefit | | \$10 for 1 and 2 person households; \$0 for all others | | | | | | | | |
| Eligibility of Pure PA Households | | Automatically Eligible (TANF, SSI, or GA) | | | | | | | | |
| Benefit Calculation | | Benefit = Maximum benefit (household size) - .3 x Food Stamp Net Income | | | | | | | | |
| SSI Cashout States | | California only | | | | | | | | |
| Monthly Food Stamp Net Income Screen | Unit Size | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> |
| | 1 | 739 | 924 | 850 | 749 | 935 | 861 | 776 | 970 | 892 |
| | 2 | 995 | 1,245 | 1,145 | 1,010 | 1,262 | 1,162 | 1,041 | 1,301 | 1,197 |
| | 3 | 1,252 | 1,565 | 1,440 | 1,272 | 1,590 | 1,463 | 1,306 | 1,633 | 1,502 |
| | 4 | 1,507 | 1,886 | 1,735 | 1,534 | 1,917 | 1,764 | 1,571 | 1,965 | 1,807 |
| | 5 | 1,765 | 2,207 | 2,030 | 1,795 | 2,245 | 2,065 | 1,836 | 2,296 | 2,112 |
| | 6 | 2,022 | 2,528 | 2,325 | 2,057 | 2,572 | 2,365 | 2,101 | 2,628 | 2,417 |
| | 7 | 2,279 | 2,849 | 2,620 | 2,319 | 2,900 | 2,666 | 2,366 | 2,960 | 2,722 |
| | 8 | 2,535 | 3,170 | 2,915 | 2,580 | 3,227 | 2,967 | 2,631 | 3,291 | 3,027 |
| | additional | + 257 | + 321 | + 295 | + 262 | + 328 | + 301 | + 265 | + 332 | + 305 |
| Monthly Maximum Food Stamp Benefits | Unit Size | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> | <u>US</u> | <u>AK</u> | <u>HI</u> |
| | 1 | 139 | 169 | 212 | 141 | 167 | 210 | 149 | 177 | 222 |
| | 2 | 256 | 309 | 389 | 259 | 307 | 386 | 274 | 324 | 408 |
| | 3 | 366 | 443 | 557 | 371 | 439 | 553 | 393 | 465 | 585 |
| | 4 | 465 | 563 | 707 | 471 | 558 | 702 | 499 | 590 | 742 |
| | 5 | 553 | 669 | 840 | 560 | 663 | 834 | 592 | 701 | 882 |
| | 6 | 664 | 803 | 1,008 | 672 | 795 | 1,001 | 711 | 841 | 1,058 |
| | 7 | 733 | 887 | 1,114 | 743 | 879 | 1,106 | 786 | 930 | 1,170 |
| | 8 | 838 | 1,014 | 1,273 | 849 | 1,005 | 1,264 | 898 | 1,063 | 1,337 |
| additional | + 105 | + 127 | + 159 | + 106 | + 126 | + 158 | + 112 | + 133 | + 167 | |

Notes: Eligibility parameters are for the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Puerto Rico is excluded from data for 1976 and 1978 in order to be consistent with other years, and Guam and the Virgin Islands are excluded for all years.

^aA reduction in the maximum benefit between 1992 and 1993 was prevented by an amendment to the Food Stamp Act of 1977 P.L. 102-351).