



Current Perspectives on SNAP Participation

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
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Service

Office of
Research and
Analysis

Trends in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Participation Rates: 2000 to 2007

Current Perspectives on SNAP Participation

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Trends in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Participation Rates: 2000 to 2007

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp Program (FSP), helps low-income individuals purchase food so that they can obtain a nutritious diet.¹ One important measure of the 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 39 million individuals eligible for SNAP benefits in an average month in 2007, 26 million (66 percent) participated and more than 13 million did not. While SNAP served 66 percent of all eligible individuals, it provided 81 percent of the SNAP benefits that all eligible individuals could receive, essentially the same percentage as in 2006 and an increase of 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 decreased by one percentage point between 2006 and 2007. However, it remains 12 points higher than it was in 2002. The slight decrease in the participation rate from 2006 to 2007 is not statistically significant, and occurred because the 4-percent increase in the number who were eligible was higher than the 2-percent increase in participants. Economic factors, including increases in the number of unemployed people and in the number of people in poverty, contributed to the increase in the number who were eligible for the program from 2006 to 2007.

Since 2002, States have increased outreach to low-income households, implemented program simplifications, and streamlined application processes to make it easier for eligible persons to apply for and receive SNAP benefits. Most States also have reduced the amount of information that recipients must report during their certification period to maintain their eligibility and benefit levels, making it easier for low-income households to participate.

Most demographic and economic subgroups experienced a modest decline in participation rates in 2007. However, most of these decreases were not statistically significant. Rates remained relatively high for children, individuals in households with incomes below the poverty line, and for recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI); at least 82 percent of all eligible individuals within each of these groups participated in 2007.

The participation rate was less than 41 percent for eligible elderly adults, nondisabled childless adults subject to work requirements, individuals living in households with incomes above the poverty line, and individuals in households with benefit levels less than half of the program maximum for their household size. Participation rates for individuals in households with earnings were also lower than average, at 56 percent, as were rates for individuals in households with no income (50 percent), noncitizens (48 percent), and children living with noncitizen adults (55 percent).

¹ On October 1, 2008, the Food Stamp Program changed its name to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The new name reflects the program's mission to not only provide food assistance, but also to increase nutrition to improve the health and well being of low-income people.

INTRODUCTION

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp Program (FSP), helps low-income individuals purchase food so that they can obtain a nutritious diet.¹ The number of people eligible for SNAP benefits under normal program rules² and served in an average month by SNAP increased by nearly two percent from 2006 to 2007, to 26 million. Most individuals are eligible for SNAP benefits 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, 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 SNAP dollars flowing into local markets.

One important measure of the program's performance is its ability to reach its target population. In 2007, the national participation rate among eligible individuals was 66 percent. The one percentage point decrease from 2006 was not statistically significant. The household participation rate was 62 percent in 2007, while the benefit receipt rate was 81 percent.³

In addition to presenting the overall 2007 participation rate, this report presents participation rates for subgroups of the eligible population, describes recent and historical trends in these rates, and describes the estimation methodology employed. Detailed tables on 2007 subgroup

¹ On October 1, 2008, the Food Stamp Program changed its name to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The new name reflects the program's mission to not only provide food assistance, but also to increase nutrition to improve the health and well being of low-income people.

² The participation totals in the series of reports normally do not include those who received disaster assistance, nor do they include ineligible households and some categorically-eligible households who were income-ineligible. We did not exclude disaster assistance recipients from the FY 2007 participation totals because only a small number of people (7,000) spread across 6 States at different times during the year received assistance. However, we removed 539,060 ineligible participants, reflecting 2.0 percent of all participants, and 276,748 participants (1.1 percent) who were categorically-eligible but not income-eligible from our FY 2007 individual participation totals.

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

participation rates are contained in Appendices A and B. Appendix C displays the change in individual SNAP participation rates since 1988. Appendices D and E present an in-depth explanation of the methodology and the sampling error of the participation rate estimates. Appendix F lists historical economic and policy influences on SNAP, Appendix G lists changes in the Current Population Survey (CPS) over time, and Appendix H contains prior years' SNAP eligibility parameters. Rates for 2000 through 2006 are presented in a separate document, "Detailed Tables of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Participation Rates: 2000 to 2006."

The 2007 participation rate estimates in this report are based on calendar year data from the March 2008 CPS and fiscal year (FY) 2007 SNAP administrative data. Previous years' estimates are based on CPS and administrative data from the appropriate years. We made a minor adjustment to the methodology for FY 2007, discussed in Appendix D.

In this report, we do not present 2007 participation rates for racial and ethnic subgroups because data on race and ethnicity for participating household heads in the SNAP Quality Control (SNAP QC) data⁴ are inconsistent with those for eligible household heads in the CPS data. SNAP applicants are now given the option of choosing more than one race to describe themselves. This expansion in possible race and ethnicity categories was implemented for all new applications and recertifications, effective April 1, 2007, but was not fully implemented until April 1, 2009. In FY 2007, only 11 states used the expanded categories for all households. Furthermore, race or ethnicity information was not recorded for a large number of participants (30 percent) in the FY 2007 SNAP QC data. As a result, data on the race and ethnic distribution of SNAP participants in FY 2007 is unreliable.

⁴ In previous years' reports, we referred to this data as FSP Quality Control (FSPQC) data.

SUMMARY OF ESTIMATED PARTICIPATION RATES FOR 2007

Of the 39 million individuals eligible for SNAP under normal rules in an average month of 2007, 26 million actually participated (Table 1). The individual SNAP participation rate reached 66 percent in 2007, a decrease of 1 percentage point from 2006. Since small households were, on average, less likely to participate, the household participation rate (62 percent) in 2007 was slightly lower than the individual rate. The benefit receipt rate in 2007 was 81 percent. This 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.

RECENT TRENDS IN PARTICIPATION RATES

In 2007, the participation rate fell by 1 percentage point to 66 percent for eligible individuals, after previously having increased in four consecutive years (Table 2 and Figure 1). After falling to 54 percent in 2001 and 2002, the rate rose by more than 2 points in 2003, by 5 points in 2004, by almost 4 points in 2005, and by more than 2 points in 2006, before falling by 1 point in 2007. From 2001 to 2005, 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 2005 to 2006, the number participating continued to rise but the eligible number dropped slightly, leading to a continued rise in participation rates. From 2006 to 2007, the number participating increased again, but the number who were eligible increased as well. Because the 4 percent increase in eligibility was higher than the 2 percent increase in participation, participation rates in 2007 fell compared to 2006.

The household participation rate decreased by nearly 3 percentage points between 2000 and 2002, but increased more than 15 points from 2002 to 2006, up to 63 percent. It fell to 62 percent in 2007 but this change was not statistically significant. Likewise, the benefit receipt rate fell

slightly from 83 percent in 2006 to 81 percent in 2007, but this drop also was not statistically significant. The benefit receipt rate remains 16 points higher than in 2001.

The number of eligible individuals decreased between 1999 and 2000, and then increased between 2000 and 2005. Factors that contributed to the increase include expanded vehicle eligibility rules, restoration of eligibility for many legal immigrants, and an increase in unemployment between 2001 and 2003. The number of eligible individuals then decreased by about half a million from 2005 to 2006 before increasing by about one and a half million from 2006 to 2007. This recent fluctuation in eligible individuals can be attributed to changes in the state of the economy; the number of unemployed people decreased from 7.6 million in 2005 to 7.0 million in 2006, before increasing to 7.1 million in 2007. Similarly, the number of people in poverty did not experience a statistically significant change from 2005 to 2006 but increased from 36.5 million in 2006 to 37.2 million in 2007.

The number of individuals participating increased by nearly 9 million between 2001 and 2007, rising by more than one million each year between 2001 and 2005 and by roughly half a million in 2006 and in 2007. The number of eligible individuals who did not participate dropped from about 16 million in 2003 to a low of about 12 million in 2006, before increasing to approximately 13 million in 2007.

PARTICIPATION RATES FOR SUBGROUPS FOR 2007

SNAP participation rates vary by demographic and economic subgroup. Historically, participation rates have been relatively high for children, individuals in households with very low income, and recipients of TANF or SSI. This pattern continued in 2007, with at least 82 percent of all eligible individuals from these groups participating (Tables 3 and 4, Figure 2). The poorest and most needy households, i.e., those below the poverty line, participated at a high rate (82 percent) compared to the 27 percent participation rate for those above the poverty line. Among

all household sizes, medium-sized households (3 or 4 members) had the highest participation rate, at more than 83 percent in 2007.

Historically, participation rates have been low for individuals who are elderly, those living in households with incomes above poverty, and those receiving low monthly benefits (benefit levels less than half of the program maximum for their household sizes), and this continued in 2007 (Tables 4 and 5). Just 32 percent of eligible elderly individuals and only 27 percent of individuals in households above the poverty line participated in 2007. Individuals living in households that received a low monthly benefit (between 1 and 50 percent of the maximum benefit for their household size) participated at a rate of 41 percent in 2007. Participation rates for individuals in eligible households with earnings were also lower than average, at 56 percent, as were rates for individuals in households with no income, at 50 percent.

TRENDS IN PARTICIPATION RATES FOR SUBGROUPS

For most subgroups, there were no statistically significant changes in participation rates between 2006 and 2007, in contrast to the previous several years, when participation rates rose for many subgroups (Table 5). The participation rate for nondisabled childless adults subject to work requirements, for example, decreased from 2000 to 2002, then increased every year beginning in 2003 before stabilizing in 2007. This subgroup had a participation rate of 33 percent in 2000, which decreased 6 points through 2002 to 27 percent. The rate then increased steadily to more than 39 percent by 2007. Similarly, noncitizens had decreasing participation rates through 2004, but the rate increased 10 points between 2004 and 2006, before falling 6 points in 2007. The drop in 2007 was not statistically significant.

Participation rates for individuals in households with earnings fell until 2002, to a low of 45 percent, but then their participation rate increased steadily through 2006, before essentially leveling off at 56 percent in 2007.

The rates for citizen children living with noncitizen adults decreased until 2001, then increased steadily each year through 2005, before decreasing 6 points between 2005 and 2007 (Table 5). Still, the participation rate for this subgroup was up 18 points overall since 2001. Likewise, the participation rate for preschool-age children decreased from 2005 to 2007 but was up 15 points overall since 2001. However, the participation rate for children of all ages essentially has leveled off between 2005 and 2007 at 85 percent, up 15 points from 2001 (Tables 3 and 5).

From 2001 to 2007, the participation rate for individuals in households with benefit levels at the program maximum for their household size increased considerably, from 48 percent to 81. However, the participation rate for individuals in households receiving the minimum benefit decreased 8 points from 2001 to 2005, then increased 4 points in 2006 before leveling off in 2007. Still, the participation rate for this latter subgroup remained low, at 19 percent.

BENEFIT RECEIPT RATES FOR 2007

Individuals eligible for larger benefits tend to participate in SNAP at higher rates than those eligible for smaller benefits, resulting in benefit receipt rates typically higher than individual or household participation rates. Households with children and households with income at 51 to 100 percent of poverty had the highest benefit receipt rates in 2007, receiving more than 94 percent of the benefits to which all eligible households with these characteristics were entitled.⁵ Households with elderly members and individuals living in households above the poverty line had the lowest benefit receipt rates, receiving approximately 38 percent of the benefits for which all eligible households with these characteristics were eligible. Nonelderly adults (ages 18 to 59), unemployed nonelderly adults, and citizen children living with noncitizen adults received some

⁵ See Tables A.1 and A.2 in Appendix A for benefit receipt rates by subgroup.

of the highest percentages of prorated benefits for which they were eligible,⁶ with each group receiving approximately 70 percent or more. Likewise, individuals in households with earnings received 73 percent of the prorated benefits for which they were eligible. Nondisabled childless adults subject to work registration received just 41 percent of the prorated benefits for which they were eligible.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH CHANGES IN PARTICIPATION RATES

As shown in Figure 1 (this figure along with all tables appear at the end of the chapter), 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 an eight-year decrease. This decrease can be attributed to a combination of changes in the economy and 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 households, thus reducing eligibility for and participation in SNAP. In addition, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) reduced eligibility for many noncitizens and nonelderly 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 SNAP participation rates because households not receiving public assistance have been less likely to participate in SNAP.⁹

⁶ An individual's prorated benefits are calculated by dividing the household benefit by the number of people in the household. Benefit receipt rates by individual-level characteristics are calculated by summing the prorated benefits of individuals with the selected characteristic.

⁷ See Appendix C (Table C.1) for the change in individual participation rates from 1988 to 2007.

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

⁹ Individuals who receive TANF are categorically eligible for SNAP. During much of the period of participation rate decline in the 1990s, categorical eligibility was restricted to people receiving cash public assistance. As a result, although most individuals who stopped receiving TANF cash benefits were still eligible for SNAP, some were unaware of their continuing eligibility and others chose not to apply or recertify.

From 2002 to 2006, factors such as increased outreach and improved access to SNAP 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 SNAP benefits. Many State SNAP 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 also have reduced the amount of information that recipients must report during their certification period to maintain their eligibility and benefit levels, which also makes it easier for low-income households to participate. Additionally, 18 States as of November 2007 provide transitional SNAP benefits to individuals moving from the TANF program to work.

From 2006 to 2007, SNAP participation continued to increase as a result of these outreach and access initiatives. However, economic factors, including a higher national poverty rate, resulted in an increase in eligibility as well. The percentage increase in eligibility was higher than the percentage increase in participation, leading to a slightly lower participation rate in 2007 compared to 2006.

METHODOLOGY

The estimates of 2007 participation rates presented in this report were derived using calendar year data from the March 2008 CPS and SNAP administrative data for FY 2007; estimates for previous years were derived using the March CPS and SNAP administrative data appropriate for those years.¹⁰ The participation rate is calculated as the ratio of the number of individuals participating in SNAP to the number of individuals eligible for SNAP, with the ratio expressed as a percentage. The estimates of participants for FY 2007 are from the FY 2007

¹⁰ Because the CPS collects household income data for the previous calendar year, we used the March 2008 CPS to derive estimates of eligible individuals in calendar year 2007.

SNAP Statistical Summary of Operations (Program Operations) and the FY 2007 SNAP Quality Control (SNAP QC) data. Similar data files were used for previous years' participant estimates. We use administrative counts of participants because SNAP participation is underreported in the CPS. From the administrative data, we use the average monthly number of participants during the 12 months of the fiscal year. We exclude ineligible participants and those who receive disaster assistance.¹¹ We also make adjustments to the participant counts to ensure consistency between the participation rate numerators and denominators.

Using a microsimulation model, we estimate the number of eligible individuals by applying the SNAP eligibility rules in effect in FY 2007 to households in the CPS. These eligibility rules include the SNAP unit formation rules, gross and net income thresholds, and financial and vehicle asset limits. In addition, we impute some missing information needed to determine SNAP eligibility and produce an average monthly estimate of the number of eligible individuals.

A minor revision to the methodology used to determine pure public assistance status improved the accuracy of the participation rate estimates. This methodological enhancement is described in more detail in Appendix D.

Individual 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 SNAP eligibility. Appendix D describes the methodology in more detail.

¹¹ We did not adjust for disaster assistance in the SNAP QC data file for FY 2007 because so few people (7,000) received such assistance that year.

TABLE 1

INDIVIDUAL AND HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATION RATES AND BENEFIT RECEIPT RATES,
FISCAL YEAR 2007

	Participating (000s)	Eligible (000s)	Participation Rate (%) with 90% Confidence Interval		
Individuals	25,611	38,922	65.8	+/-	1.3
SNAP Households	11,429	18,499	61.8	+/-	1.1
Benefits (in dollars)	2,437,577	2,999,114	81.3	+/-	1.9
Average SNAP Household Size	2.2				
Average Per Capita Benefit Per Month	\$95.18				

Sources: FY 2007 SNAP Program Operations, FY 2007 SNAP QC, and March 2008 CPS data.

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

TABLE 2

NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE AND PARTICIPATING INDIVIDUALS, HOUSEHOLDS, AND BENEFITS, AND PARTICIPATION RATES, 1976 TO 2007

	Eligible (000s)			Participating (000s) ^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 ^c	30,857	14,508	1,812,128	17,705	7,481	1,256,625	57.4	51.6	69.3
FY 2000	29,458	14,235	1,741,177	16,701	7,146	1,193,970	56.7	50.2	68.6
FY 2001	31,223	15,107	1,912,260	16,834	7,250	1,240,961	53.9	48.0	64.9
FY 2002	34,388	16,693	2,230,454	18,500	7,951	1,451,229	53.8	47.6	65.1
FY 2003	36,707	17,784	2,510,933	20,591	8,890	1,710,801	56.1	50.0	68.1
FY 2004	37,921	18,079	2,666,371	23,153	9,990	1,980,166	61.1	55.3	74.3
FY 2005	37,951	18,219	2,826,237	24,571	10,730	2,253,885	64.7	58.9	79.7
FY 2006	37,418	17,779	2,822,736	25,166	11,155	2,337,212	67.3	62.7	82.8
FY 2007	38,922	18,499	2,999,114	25,611	11,429	2,437,577	65.8	61.8	81.3

Sources: SNAP Program Operations data, SNAP QC data, and March CPS data for the years shown.

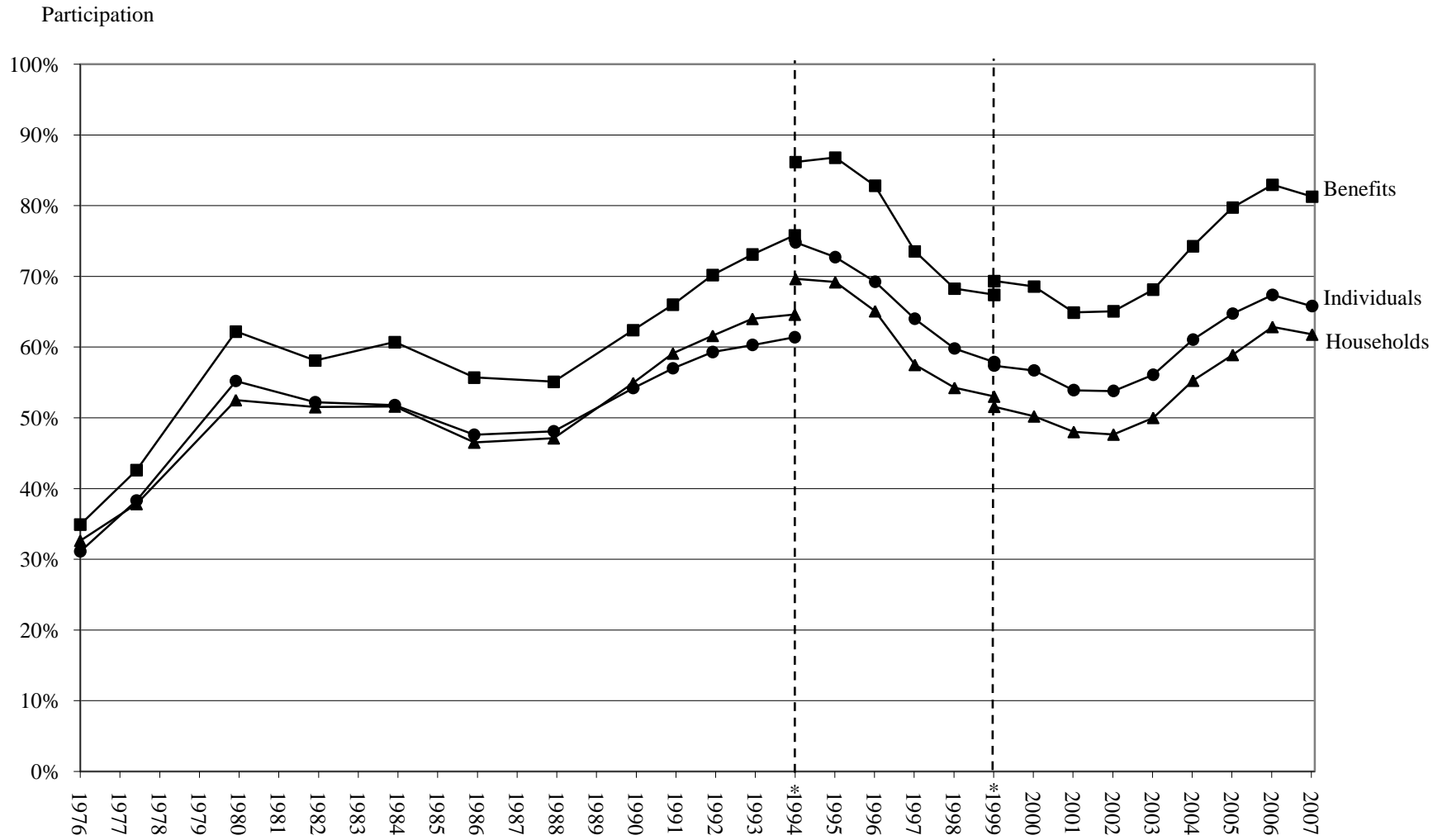
^a The estimates of participants in this report exclude certain participants and thus differ from official participant counts. See Appendix D for details.

^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.

^c All fiscal year numbers are average monthly values.

Note: There are two estimates for both 1994 and 1999 due to revised methodologies for determining SNAP eligibility and the number of participants. The September 1976 to August 1994 estimates are methodologically consistent, as are the September 1994 to September 1999 estimates and the FY 1999 to FY 2007 estimates. Please see Appendix D for details.

FIGURE 1
TRENDS IN SNAP PARTICIPATION RATES, 1976 TO 2007



Sources: SNAP Program Operations data, SNAP QC 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

SNAP INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS, FY 2006 AND FY 2007

	Participating ^a Individuals (000s)		Eligible Individuals (000s)		Participation Rate		
	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2006	FY 2007	Difference With 90% Confidence Interval
Individuals in All Households	25,166	25,611	37,418	38,922	67.3	65.8	-1.5 +/- 1.5
Individuals by Household Size							
Small (1 to 2 members)	9,385	9,600	16,797	17,473	55.9	54.9	-0.9 +/- 1.6
Medium (3 to 4 members)	10,159	10,384	12,591	12,449	80.7	83.4	2.7 +/- 4.5
Large (5 or more members)	5,622	5,627	8,030	9,000	70.0	62.5	-7.5 +/- 6.4
Age of Individual							
Children	12,364	12,576	14,232	14,754	86.9	85.2	-1.6 +/- 3.0
Preschool Age (0 to 4 years)	4,155	4,294	4,705	4,916	88.3	87.4	-0.9 +/- 5.0
School Age (5 to 17 years)	8,209	8,281	9,527	9,839	86.2	84.2	-2.0 +/- 3.3
Nonelderly Adults (18 to 59 years)	10,592	10,793	16,775	17,172	63.1	62.8	-0.3 +/- 1.7
Elderly Individuals	2,210	2,242	6,411	6,995	34.5	32.1	-2.4 +/- 1.6
Nondisabled Childless Adults Subject to Work Registration ^b	984	998	2,530	2,543	38.9	39.3	0.4 +/- 3.3
Noncitizens ^c	962	943	1,790	1,969	53.8	47.9	-5.9 +/- 6.0
Citizen Children Living with Noncitizen Adults ^d	1,782	1,860	3,036	3,398	58.7	54.7	-4.0 +/- 5.7
Individuals in Households without Any Nondisabled Childless Adults Subject to Work Registration or Noncitizens	21,949	22,354	30,744	31,737	71.4	70.4	-1.0 +/- 1.9
Individuals by Household Composition							
Households with Children	19,100	19,347	23,636	24,299	80.8	79.6	-1.2 +/- 2.6
One Adult	11,143	11,274	9,817	9,847	113.5	114.5	1.0 +/- 6.5
Married Household Head	4,357	4,410	7,932	8,142	54.9	54.2	-0.8 +/- 4.1
Other Multiple Adults	2,298	2,299	4,369	4,801	52.6	47.9	-4.7 +/- 5.5
Children Only	1,301	1,364	1,518	1,509	85.7	90.4	4.8 +/- 11.2
Households without Children	6,066	6,263	13,781	14,623	44.0	42.8	-1.2 +/- 1.5

Sources: FY 2006 and 2007 SNAP Program Operations and SNAP QC data, and March 2007 and 2008 CPS data.

^a The estimates of participants in this report exclude certain participants and thus differ from official participant counts. See Appendix D 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 SNAP unit but reside in the same household.

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

Note: Participation rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS that affect identification of certain subgroups. See Appendix D for more

TABLE 4

SNAP INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLDS, FY 2006 AND FY 2007

	Participating ^a Individuals (000s)		Eligible Individuals (000s)		Participation Rate (%)		
	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2006	FY 2007	Difference with 90% Confidence Interval
	Individuals in All Households	25,166	25,611	37,418	38,922	67.3	65.8
Individuals by Household Income Source ^b							
Earnings	10,214	10,400	17,907	18,671	57.0	55.7	-1.3 +/- 2.2
TANF	4,530	4,281	2,930	2,696	154.6	158.8	4.2 +/- 19.0
SSI ^c	5,363	5,704	4,620	4,774	116.1	119.5	3.4 +/- 8.6
Elderly SSI	1,353	1,388	1,149	1,241	117.8	111.8	-6.0 +/- 11.8
Nonelderly SSI	4,079	4,374	3,556	3,666	114.7	119.3	4.6 +/- 10.4
Social Security	4,353	4,561	9,008	9,705	48.3	47.0	-1.3 +/- 2.6
Individuals by Household Income as a Percentage of Poverty Level							
Total Below Poverty Line	21,982	22,526	26,313	27,319	83.5	82.5	-1.1 +/- 2.4
No Income	2,778	3,051	5,845	6,149	47.5	49.6	2.1 +/- 3.8
1 to 50%	7,758	7,691	6,874	7,078	112.9	108.7	-4.2 +/- 7.0
51 to 100%	11,445	11,785	13,594	14,092	84.2	83.6	-0.6 +/- 3.6
Total Above Poverty Line	3,184	3,084	11,105	11,603	28.7	26.6	-2.1 +/- 1.8
101 to 130%	2,999	2,891	9,176	9,362	32.7	30.9	-1.8 +/- 2.3
131% or more	185	193	1,929	2,241	9.6	8.6	-1.0 +/- 1.9
Individuals by Household Benefit as a Percentage of Maximum Benefit							
Minimum benefit (\$10 or less)	735	794	3,896	4,154	18.9	19.1	0.3 +/- 1.5
1 to 25%	2,590	2,704	8,595	8,762	30.1	30.9	0.7 +/- 2.0
26 to 50%	4,352	4,285	8,370	8,485	52.0	50.5	-1.5 +/- 3.2
51 to 75%	5,606	5,728	7,171	7,569	78.2	75.7	-2.5 +/- 6.1
76 to 99%	5,717	5,887	5,174	5,503	110.5	107.0	-3.5 +/- 8.1
100%	6,899	7,007	8,108	8,603	85.1	81.4	-3.7 +/- 5.1

Sources: FY 2006 and 2007 SNAP Program Operations and SNAP QC data, and March 2007 and 2008 CPS data.

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

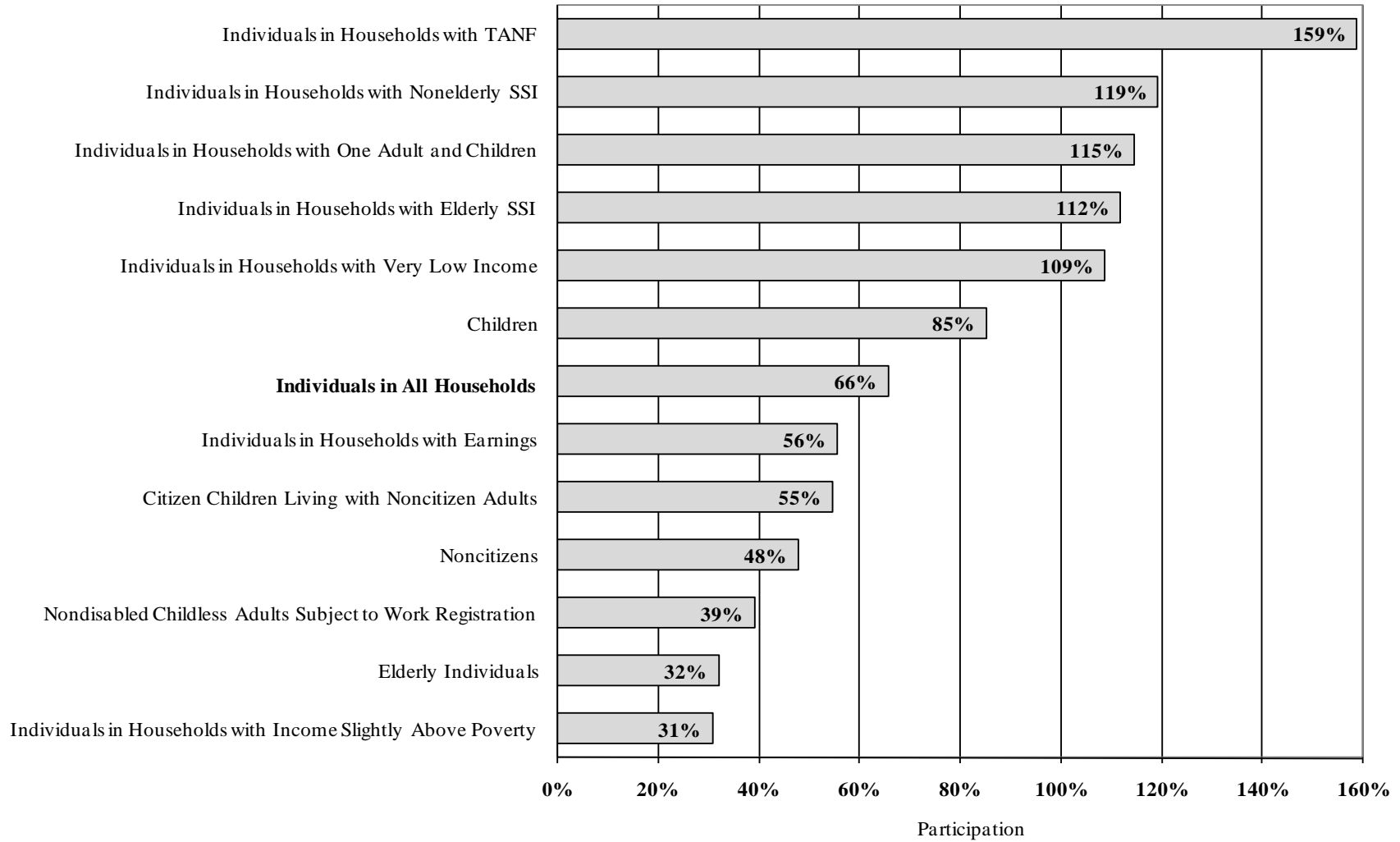
^b These income sources are not mutually exclusive.

^c Households receiving nonelderly SSI income or elderly SSI income are not mutually exclusive.

Note: Participation rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS that affect identification of certain subgroups. See Appendix D for more information.

FIGURE 2

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY SUBGROUP, FY 2007



Note: Participation rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS that affect identification of certain subgroups. See Appendix D for more

TABLE 5

SNAP PARTICIPATION RATES BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS, FY 2000 TO FY 2007

	Participation Rates							
	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Individuals in All Households	56.7	53.9	53.8	56.1	61.1	64.7	67.3	65.8
Households by Size								
Small (1 to 2 members)	44.8	42.3	42.3	43.9	49.1	52.1	55.9	54.9
Medium (3 to 4 members)	69.4	63.3	65.0	68.7	72.5	79.7	80.7	83.4
Large (5 or more members)	62.3	64.0	60.5	62.2	67.3	68.4	70.0	62.5
Age of Individual								
Children	72.8	70.2	71.0	74.4	81.5	86.9	86.9	85.2
Preschool Age (0 to 4 years)	73.5	72.0	72.8	77.1	85.2	91.8	88.3	87.4
School Age (5 to 17 years)	72.4	69.4	70.2	73.2	79.8	84.5	86.2	84.2
Nonelderly Adults (18 to 59 years)	52.7	49.8	49.7	51.6	56.0	59.7	63.1	62.8
Elderly Individuals	30.8	28.4	26.6	27.4	29.4	30.6	34.5	32.1
Nondisabled Childless Adults Subject to Work Registration								
	33.4	28.5	27.4	28.9	30.5	33.6	38.9	39.3
Noncitizens								
Citizen Children Living with Noncitizen Adults	39.5	36.6	43.3	47.0	51.2	61.0	58.7	54.7
Individuals by Household Composition								
Households with Children	69.6	66.2	66.2	69.6	76.1	80.9	80.8	79.6
One Adult	97.7	95.0	96.4	94.1	106.9	111.3	113.5	114.5
Married Household Head	51.4	46.0	44.9	49.0	52.7	56.8	54.9	54.2
Other Multiple Adults	40.7	42.5	40.0	48.0	50.5	50.8	52.6	47.9
Children Only	48.6	45.7	60.7	71.6	79.6	96.1	85.7	90.4
Households without Children	34.3	32.9	32.5	33.2	36.2	38.7	44.0	42.8
Individuals by Household Income Source								
Earnings	46.3	45.1	45.0	48.1	52.0	56.3	57.0	55.7
TANF	157.5	170.0	171.2	129.3	145.5	140.2	154.6	158.8
Elderly SSI	92.5	83.0	90.3	94.4	99.3	100.6	117.8	111.8
Nonelderly SSI	95.7	91.4	99.9	98.4	100.9	105.3	114.7	119.5
Individuals by Household Income as a Percentage of Poverty Level								
No Income	28.5	27.5	29.5	33.5	39.1	45.8	47.5	49.6
1 to 50%	86.3	85.8	91.6	92.7	103.6	108.5	112.9	108.7
51 to 100%	74.3	71.1	69.1	71.8	75.6	81.5	84.2	83.6
101 to 130%	26.6	24.1	24.8	25.8	29.9	29.0	32.7	30.9
131%+	8.4	8.2	6.6	5.8	6.8	7.2	9.6	8.6
Individuals by Household Benefit as a Percentage of Maximum Benefit								
Minimum Benefit (\$10 or less)	23.3	22.6	23.0	19.5	16.2	14.8	18.9	19.1
1 to 50%	42.5	39.7	38.4	38.8	38.6	38.8	40.9	40.5
51 to 99%	85.7	81.9	81.4	82.5	86.4	92.4	91.7	88.9
100%	47.6	47.5	50.9	56.3	70.3	75.3	85.1	81.4

Sources: SNAP Program Operations, SNAP QC, and CPS data for the years shown.

Note: Participation rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS that affect identification of certain subgroups. See Appendix D (pages 54-55) for details about why certain rates may exceed 100 percent.

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APPENDIX A

**SELECTED INDIVIDUAL AND HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATION RATES AND
BENEFIT RECEIPT RATES IN FY 2007**

TABLE A.1

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES AND BENEFIT RECEIPT RATES BY
DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS, FISCAL YEAR 2007

	Individual Participation Rate (%)	Prorated Benefit Receipt Rate (%)
Age of Individual		
Children Under Age 18	85.23	99.08
Preschool	87.36	103.95
School-age	84.17	96.50
Adults Age 18 to 59	62.85	72.74
Elderly Age 60 and Over	32.05	42.90
Living Alone	43.83	64.02
Living with Others	18.39	21.74
Nondisabled Childless Adults Subject to Work Registration	39.26	41.03
Noncitizens	47.91	56.20
Citizen Children Living with Noncitizen Adults	54.73	69.92
Employment Status of Nonelderly Adults		
Employed	53.07	70.01
Not Employed	67.75	73.66
Gender of Individual		
Male	62.83	74.65
Female	68.07	83.53

Notes: Participation rates and benefit receipt rates (%) over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS that affect identification of certain subgroups. These estimates of participants differ from official participant counts. See Appendix D for details. We do not present 2007 participation rates for racial and ethnic subgroups because data on race and ethnicity for participating household heads are inconsistent with those for eligible household heads. See page 2 for more details.

TABLE A.2

PARTICIPATION RATES AND BENEFIT RECEIPT RATES BY HOUSEHOLD-LEVEL
DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS, FISCAL YEAR 2007

	Household Participation Rate (%)	Benefit Receipt Rate (%)
All Households	61.78	81.28
Households with Children	84.49	94.32
Households with Elderly	32.88	38.46
Households with Disabled Nonelderly Adults	68.64	61.73
Households by Composition		
Households with Children	84.49	94.32
One Adult and Children	112.31	125.43
Married Household Head and Children	53.62	63.87
Other Multiple Adults and Children	52.52	56.67
Children Only	84.00	113.07
Households with No Children	48.20	56.98
Households by Income Sources		
Earnings	52.15	72.59
TANF	158.80	195.16
SSI	123.35	160.89
Households by Income as a Percentage of Poverty Level		
No Income	48.46	50.58
1 to 50%	103.82	113.56
51 to 100%	86.92	95.07
101% to 130%	22.65	38.65

Notes: Participation rates and benefit receipt rates (%) over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS that affect identification of certain subgroups. These estimates of participants differ from official participant counts. See Appendix D for details.

APPENDIX B

DETAILED PARTICIPATION RATES IN FY 2007

TABLE B.1

INDIVIDUAL AND HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATION RATES AND BENEFIT RECEIPT RATES,
FISCAL YEAR 2007

	Participating (QC)	Eligible (CPS)	Participation Rate (Percent)
Individuals	25,610,607	38,921,885	65.80
SNAP Households	11,428,697	18,499,131	61.78
Benefits	2,437,576,845	2,999,113,587	81.28
Average SNAP Household Size	2.24		
Average Per Capita Benefit	95.18		

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

TABLE B.2

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE, FISCAL YEAR 2007

	Participating (QC)	Eligible (CPS)	Participation Rate (Percent)
Individuals by Household Size			
1 Person	5,173,645	9,925,090	52.13
2 People	4,426,240	7,547,413	58.65
3 People	5,380,742	6,406,295	83.99
4 People	5,002,886	6,042,913	82.79
5 People	3,024,349	4,614,139	65.55
6 or More People	2,602,744	4,386,035	59.34
Individuals in All Households	25,610,607	38,921,885	65.80

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

TABLE B.3

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS, FISCAL YEAR 2007

	Participating (QC)	Eligible (CPS)	Participation Rate (Percent)
Individuals in All Households	25,610,607	38,921,885	65.80
Age of Individual			
Children Under Age 18	12,575,709	14,754,347	85.23
Preschool	4,294,239	4,915,504	87.36
School-age	8,281,470	9,838,842	84.17
Adults Age 18 to 59	10,792,675	17,172,481	62.85
Elderly Age 60 and Over	2,242,223	6,995,057	32.05
Living Alone	1,646,876	3,757,612	43.83
Living with Others	595,347	3,237,445	18.39
Nondisabled Childless Adults Subject to Work Registration	998,077	2,542,531	39.26
Noncitizens	943,370	1,969,055	47.91
Citizen Children Living with Noncitizen Adults	1,859,588	3,397,603	54.73
Employment Status of Nonelderly Adults			
Employed	3,041,695	5,731,268	53.07
Not Employed	7,750,980	11,441,214	67.75
Individuals by Household Composition			
Households with Children	19,347,335	24,299,034	79.62
One Adult	11,274,455	9,846,676	114.50
Married Household Head	4,409,534	8,142,492	54.15
Other Multiple Adults	2,298,884	4,801,336	47.88
Children Only	1,364,463	1,508,531	90.45
Households without Children	6,263,271	14,622,850	42.83
Gender of Individual			
Male	10,596,523	16,865,413	62.83
Female	15,014,084	22,056,472	68.07
Metropolitan Status			
Urban	19,867,070	31,190,282	63.70
Rural	5,743,537	7,731,603	74.29

Notes: Participation rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS that affect identification of certain subgroups. These estimates of participants differ from official participant counts. See Appendix D for details. We do not present 2007 participation rates for racial and ethnic subgroups because data on race and ethnicity for participating household heads are inconsistent with those for eligible household heads. See page 2 for more details.

TABLE B.4

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLDS, FISCAL YEAR 2007

	Participating (QC)	Eligible (CPS)	Participation Rate (Percent)
Individuals in All Households	25,610,607	38,921,885	65.80
Individuals by Household Income Sources			
No Earnings	15,210,444	20,250,482	75.11
Earnings	10,400,163	18,671,402	55.70
No TANF	9,407,051	17,756,334	52.98
TANF	993,111	915,068	108.53
TANF	4,281,350	2,696,394	158.78
Unemployment Compensation	574,181	370,457	154.99
Nonelderly or Elderly SSI Benefits ^a	5,703,832	4,773,969	119.48
Nonelderly SSI Benefits	4,374,464	3,665,673	119.34
Elderly SSI Benefits	1,387,678	1,241,429	111.78
Social Security	4,560,819	9,705,399	46.99
Individuals by Household Income as a Percentage of Poverty Level			
Total 100% of Poverty or Less	22,526,360	27,318,918	82.46
No Income	3,051,015	6,149,483	49.61
1 to 50%	7,690,808	7,077,823	108.66
51 to 100%	11,784,537	14,091,612	83.63
Total Greater Than 100% of Poverty	3,084,247	11,602,967	26.58
101% to 130%	2,891,023	9,361,974	30.88
131% or more	193,223	2,240,993	8.62
Individuals by Monthly Household Benefit			
\$10 or less	794,316	4,154,090	19.12
\$11 to \$25	324,450	942,698	34.42
\$26 to \$50	784,879	1,527,066	51.40
\$51 to \$75	871,007	1,563,568	55.71
\$76 to \$100	872,683	1,843,850	47.33
\$101 to \$150	2,004,768	3,695,121	54.25
\$151 to \$200	3,598,735	5,863,917	61.37
\$201 or more	16,359,768	19,331,575	84.63
Benefit as a Percentage of Maximum Benefit			
Low Benefits (1 - 50%)	6,988,314	17,247,122	40.52
1 to 25%	2,703,529	8,761,960	30.86
26 to 50%	4,284,785	8,485,162	50.50
High Benefits (51 - 99%)	11,615,657	13,071,761	88.86
51 to 75%	5,728,190	7,569,035	75.68
76 to 99%	5,887,467	5,502,727	106.99
100%	7,006,635	8,603,001	81.44

^aHouseholds receiving nonelderly SSI income or elderly SSI income are not mutually exclusive.

Notes: Participation rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS that affect identification of certain subgroups. These estimates of participants differ from official participant counts. See Appendix D for details.

TABLE B.5A

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION, FISCAL YEAR 2007
Households with Children

	Participating (QC)	Eligible (CPS)	Participation Rate (Percent)
Individuals in Households with Children	19,347,335	24,299,034	79.62
Age of Individual			
Children Under Age 18	12,575,642	14,754,347	85.23
Adults Age 18 to 59	6,653,531	9,092,629	73.17
Elderly Age 60 and Over	118,163	452,059	26.14
Individuals by Household Income Sources			
No Income	1,996,259	3,315,231	60.21
No Earnings	9,698,766	8,879,895	109.22
Earnings	9,648,570	15,419,140	62.58
TANF	4,216,626	2,473,620	170.46
Earnings	982,347	851,861	115.32
No Earnings	3,234,279	1,621,760	199.43
No TANF	15,130,709	21,825,414	69.33
Earnings	8,666,222	14,567,279	59.49
No Earnings	6,464,487	7,258,135	89.07
Social Security	1,979,438	2,698,587	73.35
Individuals by Household Income as a Percentage of Poverty Level			
Total 100% of Poverty or Less	17,076,217	18,062,111	94.54
No Income	1,996,259	3,315,231	60.21
1 to 50%	6,869,530	5,593,360	122.82
51 to 100%	8,210,428	9,153,520	89.70
Total Greater Than 100% of Poverty	2,271,118	6,236,923	36.41
101% to 130%	2,195,781	5,807,552	37.81
131% or more	75,337	429,371	17.55
Individuals by Household Earnings as a Percentage of Poverty Level			
Total 100% of Poverty or Less	18,059,150	19,639,724	91.95
No Earnings	9,718,955	8,879,895	109.45
1 to 50%	3,355,222	3,014,280	111.31
51 to 100%	4,984,973	7,745,550	64.36
Total Greater Than 100% of Poverty	1,288,185	4,659,310	27.65
101% to 130%	1,261,266	4,504,564	28.00
131% or more	26,919	154,746	17.40

Notes: Participation rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS that affect identification of certain subgroups. These estimates of participants differ from official participant counts. See Appendix D for details.

TABLE B.5B

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION, FISCAL YEAR 2007
Households with One Adult and Children

	Participating (QC)	Eligible (CPS)	Participation Rate (Percent)
Individuals in Households with One Adult and Children	11,274,455	9,846,676	114.50
Age of Individual			
Children Under Age 18	7,611,987	6,553,668	116.15
Adults Age 18 to 59	3,605,362	3,175,897	113.52
Elderly Age 60 and Over	57,106	117,110	48.76
Individuals by Household Income Sources			
No Income	1,356,554	1,985,295	68.33
No Earnings	6,639,435	5,092,275	130.38
Earnings	4,635,019	4,754,401	97.49
TANF	2,650,537	1,646,986	160.93
Earnings	424,370	447,729	94.78
No Earnings	2,226,167	1,199,257	185.63
No TANF	8,623,918	8,199,690	105.17
Earnings	4,210,649	4,306,672	97.77
No Earnings	4,413,268	3,893,018	113.36
Social Security	1,067,104	965,430	110.53
Individuals by Household Income as a Percentage of Poverty Level			
Total 100% of Poverty or Less	10,135,629	7,953,677	127.43
No Income	1,356,554	1,985,295	68.33
1 to 50%	4,482,909	2,868,276	156.29
51 to 100%	4,296,166	3,100,106	138.58
Total Greater Than 100% of Poverty	1,138,825	1,892,999	60.16
101% to 130%	1,111,720	1,703,724	65.25
131% or more	27,105	189,274	14.32
Individuals by Household Earnings as a Percentage of Poverty Level			
Total 100% of Poverty or Less	10,712,076	8,565,080	125.07
No Earnings	6,644,235	5,092,275	130.48
1 to 50%	1,694,893	1,105,078	153.37
51 to 100%	2,372,948	2,367,727	100.22
Total Greater Than 100% of Poverty	562,379	1,281,596	43.88
101% to 130%	554,877	1,188,010	46.71
131% or more	7,502	93,586	8.02

Notes: Participation rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS that affect identification of certain subgroups. These estimates of participants differ from official participant counts. See Appendix D for details.

TABLE B.5C

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION, FISCAL YEAR 2007
Households with Married Household Head and Children

	Participating (QC)	Eligible (CPS)	Participation Rate (Percent)
Individuals in Households with Married Household Head and Children	4,409,534	8,142,492	54.15
Age of Individual			
Children Under Age 18	2,468,178	4,454,233	55.41
Adults Age 18 to 59	1,910,121	3,520,578	54.26
Elderly Age 60 and Over	31,235	167,681	18.63
Individuals by Household Income Sources			
No Income	355,617	614,561	57.87
No Earnings	1,403,162	1,751,665	80.10
Earnings	3,006,372	6,390,827	47.04
TANF	603,224	426,906	141.30
Earnings	261,171	214,201	121.93
No Earnings	342,053	212,705	160.81
No TANF	3,806,310	7,715,585	49.33
Earnings	2,745,201	6,176,626	44.44
No Earnings	1,061,110	1,538,959	68.95
Social Security	501,387	800,880	62.60
Individuals by Household Income as a Percentage of Poverty Level			
Total 100% of Poverty or Less	3,641,735	5,294,203	68.79
No Income	355,617	614,561	57.87
1 to 50%	1,055,645	1,276,637	82.69
51 to 100%	2,230,473	3,403,006	65.54
Total Greater Than 100% of Poverty	767,800	2,848,288	26.96
101% to 130%	730,481	2,744,998	26.61
131% or more	37,319	103,291	36.13
Individuals by Household Earnings as a Percentage of Poverty Level			
Total 100% of Poverty or Less	3,867,694	5,851,044	66.10
No Earnings	1,409,978	1,751,665	80.49
1 to 50%	843,726	913,718	92.34
51 to 100%	1,613,990	3,185,661	50.66
Total Greater Than 100% of Poverty	541,840	2,291,448	23.65
101% to 130%	523,463	2,266,171	23.10
131% or more	18,377	25,277	72.70

Notes: Participation rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS that affect identification of certain subgroups. These estimates of participants differ from official participant counts. See Appendix D for details.

TABLE B.5D

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION, FISCAL YEAR 2007
Households with Other Multiple Adults and Children

	Participating (QC)	Eligible (CPS)	Participation Rate (Percent)
Individuals in Households with Other Multiple Adults and Children	2,298,884	4,801,336	47.88
Age of Individual			
Children Under Age 18	1,131,014	2,237,915	50.54
Adults Age 18 to 59	1,138,048	2,396,153	47.49
Elderly Age 60 and Over	29,822	167,268	17.83
Individuals by Household Income Sources			
No Income	155,648	500,690	31.09
No Earnings	1,037,671	1,682,831	61.66
Earnings	1,261,212	3,118,505	40.44
TANF	506,227	399,728	126.64
Earnings	164,226	189,931	86.47
No Earnings	342,001	209,798	163.01
No TANF	1,792,657	4,401,608	40.73
Earnings	1,096,987	2,928,575	37.46
No Earnings	695,670	1,473,033	47.23
Social Security	365,793	928,602	39.39
Individuals by Household Income as a Percentage of Poverty Level			
Total 100% of Poverty or Less	1,991,101	3,567,625	55.81
No Income	155,648	500,690	31.09
1 to 50%	750,605	1,110,263	67.61
51 to 100%	1,084,848	1,956,672	55.44
Total Greater Than 100% of Poverty	307,783	1,233,711	24.95
101% to 130%	298,106	1,098,301	27.14
131% or more	9,677	135,410	7.15
Individuals by Household Earnings as a Percentage of Poverty Level			
Total 100% of Poverty or Less	2,155,819	3,960,946	54.43
No Earnings	1,038,207	1,682,831	61.69
1 to 50%	466,676	748,946	62.31
51 to 100%	650,935	1,529,168	42.57
Total Greater Than 100% of Poverty	143,065	840,390	17.02
101% to 130%	143,065	805,904	17.75
131% or more	0	34,486	0.00

Notes: Participation rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS that affect identification of certain subgroups. These estimates of participants differ from official participant counts. See Appendix D for details.

TABLE B.5E

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION, FISCAL YEAR 2007
Households with No Children

	Participating (QC)	Eligible (CPS)	Participation Rate (Percent)
Individuals in Households with No Children	6,263,271	14,622,850	42.83
Age of Individual			
Children Under Age 18	0	0	0.00
Adults Age 18 to 59	4,139,177	8,079,853	51.23
Elderly Age 60 and Over	2,124,095	6,542,998	32.46
Individuals by Household Income Sources			
No Income	1,054,756	2,834,252	37.21
No Earnings	5,511,678	11,370,588	48.47
Earnings	751,593	3,252,263	23.11
TANF	64,724	222,774	29.05
Earnings	10,764	63,207	17.03
No Earnings	53,960	159,566	33.82
No TANF	6,198,548	14,400,077	43.05
Earnings	740,829	3,189,055	23.23
No Earnings	5,457,719	11,211,022	48.68
Social Security	2,581,380	7,006,812	36.84
Individuals by Household Income as a Percentage of Poverty Level			
Total 100% of Poverty or Less	5,450,143	9,256,806	58.88
No Income	1,054,756	2,834,252	37.21
1 to 50%	821,278	1,484,462	55.32
51 to 100%	3,574,109	4,938,092	72.38
Total Greater Than 100% of Poverty	813,129	5,366,044	15.15
101% to 130%	695,242	3,554,423	19.56
131% or more	117,887	1,811,621	6.51
Individuals by Household Earnings as a Percentage of Poverty Level			
Total 100% of Poverty or Less	6,154,422	13,264,754	46.40
No Earnings	5,514,442	11,370,588	48.50
1 to 50%	364,155	624,686	58.29
51 to 100%	275,825	1,269,480	21.73
Total Greater Than 100% of Poverty	108,849	1,358,096	8.01
101% to 130%	100,725	1,091,391	9.23
131% or more	8,124	266,706	3.05

Notes: These estimates of participants differ from official participant counts. See Appendix D for details.

TABLE B.6

PARTICIPATION RATES FOR INDIVIDUALS IN HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT ANY NONCITIZENS OR
NONDISABLED CHILDLESS ADULTS SUBJECT TO WORK REGISTRATION, FISCAL YEAR 2007

	Participating (QC)	Eligible (CPS)	Participation Rate (Percent)
Individuals in Households without Any Noncitizens or Nondisabled Childless Adults Subject to Work Registration	22,354,252	31,736,632	70.44
Age of Individual			
Children Under Age 18	11,367,546	12,550,431	90.57
Adults Age 18 to 59	9,020,256	12,626,429	71.44
Elderly Age 60 and Over	1,966,450	6,559,773	29.98
Individuals by Household Composition			
One Adult and Children	10,598,636	9,175,396	115.51
Married Household Head and Children	3,505,675	6,034,431	58.09
No Children	4,998,346	10,914,575	45.80
Individuals by Household Income Sources			
Earnings	8,885,803	14,415,394	61.64
No Earnings	13,468,449	17,321,238	77.76
TANF	3,855,472	2,429,902	158.67
Individuals by Household Benefit as a Percentage of Maximum Benefit			
1 to 50%	6,230,820	14,633,865	42.58
51 to 99%	10,181,677	10,685,935	95.28

Notes: Participation rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS that affect identification of certain subgroups. These estimates of participants differ from official participant counts. See Appendix D for details.

TABLE B.7

HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATION RATES, FISCAL YEAR 2007

	Participating (QC)	Eligible (CPS)	Participation Rate (Percent)
Households with Children	5,848,358	6,922,102	84.49
Households with Elderly	2,047,144	6,227,025	32.88
Households with Disabled Nonelderly Adults	2,747,961	4,003,304	68.64
Households by Composition			
Households with Children	5,848,358	6,922,102	84.49
One Adult and Children	3,662,468	3,261,039	112.31
Married Household Head and Children	984,229	1,835,483	53.62
Other Multiple Adults and Children	553,658	1,054,105	52.52
Children Only	648,003	771,475	84.00
Households with No Children	5,580,340	11,577,030	48.20
Households by Income Source			
Earnings	3,353,495	6,430,009	52.15
TANF	1,396,561	879,435	158.80
SSI	3,200,330	2,594,408	123.35
Households with Noncitizens	654,171	1,383,653	47.28
Households with Nondisabled Childless Adults Subject to Work Registration	904,475	2,104,430	42.98
Households by Income as a Percentage of Poverty Level			
No Income	1,668,175	3,442,552	48.46
1 to 50%	2,822,934	2,719,143	103.82
51 to 100%	5,602,970	6,446,091	86.92
101% or more	1,334,618	5,891,345	22.65

Notes: Participation rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS that affect identification of certain subgroups. These estimates of participants differ from official participant counts. See Appendix D for details.

TABLE B.8

BENEFIT RECEIPT RATES BY HOUSEHOLD-LEVEL DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC
CHARACTERISTICS, FISCAL YEAR 2007

	Benefits Received by Participating Households (QC)	Potential Benefits to Eligible Households (CPS)	Benefit Receipt Rate (Percent)
Benefits for All Households	2,437,576,845	2,999,113,587	81.28
Benefits for Households with Children	1,840,792,457	1,951,669,492	94.32
Benefits for Households with Elderly	185,321,870	481,886,662	38.46
Benefits for Households with Disabled Nonelderly Adults	408,575,536	661,826,314	61.73
Benefits by Household Composition			
Households with Children	1,840,792,457	1,951,669,492	94.32
One Adult	1,121,950,540	894,506,155	125.43
Married Household Head	362,867,885	568,100,859	63.87
Other Multiple Adults	197,978,109	349,327,097	56.67
Children Only	157,995,924	139,735,381	113.07
Households without Children	596,784,388	1,047,444,096	56.98
Benefits by Household Income Sources			
No Earnings	1,569,943,280	1,803,940,387	87.03
Earnings	867,633,565	1,195,173,200	72.59
TANF	422,689,441	216,587,686	195.16
Unemployment Compensation	45,098,356	16,235,804	277.77
SSI	432,217,905	268,650,030	160.89
Social Security	312,356,267	518,791,080	60.21
Benefits by Household Income as a Percentage of Poverty Level			
No Income	428,049,590	846,338,027	50.58
1 to 50%	941,541,358	829,114,681	113.56
51 to 100%	940,523,980	989,251,975	95.07
101% to 130%	119,381,982	308,903,050	38.65
131% or more	8,079,935	25,505,853	31.68
Benefits by Monthly Household Benefit			
\$10 or less	7,128,449	35,228,203	20.24
\$11 to \$25	4,851,937	12,564,543	38.62
\$26 to \$50	23,768,216	41,590,094	57.15
\$51 to \$75	41,439,921	66,224,159	62.58
\$76 to \$100	51,522,513	92,681,889	55.59
\$101 to \$150	156,515,917	240,422,164	65.10
\$151 to \$200	414,856,902	623,911,584	66.49
\$201 or more	1,737,492,990	1,886,490,950	92.10
Household Benefits as a Percentage of Maximum Benefit			
1 to 25%	51,788,807	135,175,337	38.31
26 to 50%	228,727,028	428,593,719	53.37
51 to 75%	486,516,988	618,403,304	78.67
76 to 99%	689,195,596	631,828,049	109.08
100%	981,348,427	1,185,113,178	82.81

Notes: Participation rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS that affect identification of certain subgroups. These estimates of participants differ from official participant counts. See Appendix D for details.

TABLE B.9

BENEFIT RECEIPT RATES BY INDIVIDUAL-LEVEL DEMOGRAPHIC
CHARACTERISTICS, FISCAL YEAR 2007

	Prorated Benefits Received by Participating Individuals (QC)	Prorated Potential Benefits to Eligible Individuals (CPS)	Benefit Receipt Rate (Percent)
Benefits by Age of Individual			
Children Under Age 18	1,205,397,297	1,216,573,535	99.08
Preschool	438,460,197	421,787,611	103.95
School-age	766,937,100	794,785,925	96.50
Adults Age 18 to 59	1,072,952,444	1,475,034,984	72.74
Elderly Age 60 and Over	159,227,104	371,162,531	42.90
Living Alone	118,930,447	185,783,564	64.02
Living with Others	40,296,657	185,378,967	21.74
Benefits for Nondisabled Childless Adults Subject to Work	126,194,696	307,562,971	41.03
Benefits for Noncitizens	88,996,024	158,355,017	56.20
Benefits for Citizen Children Living with Noncitizen Adults	189,493,337	271,010,651	69.92
Benefits by Gender of Individual			
Male	1,015,691,448	1,360,583,012	74.65
Female	1,421,885,398	1,702,188,040	83.53
Benefits by Employment Status of Nonelderly Adults			
Employed	259,790,005	371,083,685	70.01
Not Employed	813,162,439	1,103,951,299	73.66

Notes: An individual's prorated benefits are calculated by dividing the household benefit by the number of people in the household. Benefit receipt rates by individual-level characteristics are calculated by summing the prorated benefits of individuals with the selected characteristic. Receipt rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS that affect identification of certain subgroups. These estimates of participants differ from official participant counts. See Appendix D for details. We do not present 2007 participation rates for racial and ethnic subgroups because data on race and ethnicity for participating household heads are inconsistent with those for eligible household heads. See page 2 for more details.

APPENDIX C

CHANGE IN INDIVIDUAL SNAP PARTICIPATION RATES, 1988 - 2007

TABLE C.1

CHANGE IN INDIVIDUAL SNAP PARTICIPATION RATES 1988 TO 2007

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	-0.7 points	-5.7%	-4.5%
2000-2001	-2.8 points	0.8%	6.0%
2001-2002	-0.1 points	9.9%	10.1%
2002-2003	2.3 points	11.3%	6.7%
2003-2004	5.0 points	12.4%	3.3%
2004-2005	3.7 points	6.1%	0.1%
2005-2006	2.5 points	2.4%	-1.4%
2006-2007	-1.5 points	1.8%	4.0%

Sources: SNAP Program Operations data, SNAP QC data, and March CPS data for the years shown.

^a There are two estimates for 1994, due to revised methodologies for determining SNAP eligibility and the number of participants. The original estimate is used for the change between 1993 and 1994; 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 SNAP eligibility. The original estimate is used for the change between 1998 and 1999; the revised estimate is used for the change between 1999 and 2000.

APPENDIX D
METHODOLOGY

METHODOLOGY

The participation rates reported here rely on estimates of individuals eligible for and participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). 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), which provides income and program participation information for the previous calendar year, as well as detailed information on program rules from the fiscal year to simulate eligibility for SNAP. The estimates of participants are based on SNAP Program Operations data and SNAP Quality Control (SNAP QC) data¹ for the fiscal year. The resulting participation rates estimate the percentage of individuals eligible for SNAP that choose to participate in the program.² Usually, the time period difference between the data for participants (fiscal year) and eligible individuals (calendar year) does not impact the rates. However, the difference may affect the rates in periods of major economic fluctuations or program changes.³

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

The participation rates presented in this report for 2000 through 2007 are all consistent methodologically except for one minor methodological change, described in Section B.1 of

¹ In previous years' reports, we referred to this data as FSP Quality Control (FSPQC) data.

² In an average month in FY 2007, about 87,000 individuals participated in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). Some of these individuals were income- and asset-eligible for SNAP, but FDPIR participants are not eligible to also participate in SNAP. 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 SNAP-eligible individuals in this report. Because FDPIR participants are included in estimates of SNAP eligibles, but not in estimates of SNAP participants, participation rates are slightly underestimated.

³ We are currently examining the impact of aligning the eligibility period with the participation period.

Appendix D, made for the 2007 participation estimates. This adjustment was necessary due to an SNAP QC data coding change. Because the effect of the change on the 2006 individual participation rate was only two-tenths of a percentage point, we decided to wait to implement the change for the years prior to 2007 until additional methodological updates are made.

To prepare the 2007 file, we updated the data to the March 2008 CPS and updated the SNAP eligibility parameters and rules through FY 2007. In summary, we made the following parameter and eligibility rule changes in the 2007 eligibility file:

- Updated the SNAP gross income screen, net income screen, standard deduction amounts, and maximum benefit amounts to reflect FY 2007 regulations
- Updated the regression equation used to estimate SNAP net income, using the FY 2007 SNAP QC data
- Averaged the results from two new asset equations simulating vehicle rules in place in the first half of FY 2007 and the second half of FY 2007
- Updated the percentage of nondisabled nonelderly childless adults qualified to receive SNAP benefits 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 D.1 through D.6 list the updated eligibility parameters and other information used to update the participation rates.

A. DETERMINING SNAP-ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS

The March CPS provides income and program participation information for the previous calendar year.⁴ We estimate the number of SNAP-eligible individuals with a microsimulation model that uses March CPS data to simulate SNAP in an average month. Although the model does not capture data specific to a particular month, it does impute monthly income for 12

⁴ A summary of changes in the March CPS over time is presented in Appendix G.

individual (random) months.⁵ We average the results from all 12 simulations to produce an average monthly estimate. Because some States changed their vehicle rules during FY 2007, we ran two sets of 12 simulations. The first set reflects rules in place during the first half of the fiscal year and the second set reflects those in place during the second half. We average the results to simulate asset eligibility using the earlier vehicle rules for the first 6 months of the year and the later vehicle rules for the second 6 months.

In the simulation procedure, SNAP eligibility guidelines in effect in FY 2007 are applied to each household in the CPS. The SNAP guidelines include unit formation rules, asset limits, and income limits. Because several types of information needed to determine SNAP 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.

1. Simulating the Composition of the SNAP Unit

Rules regarding the composition of the SNAP unit (those people who must apply for SNAP together) are 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 SNAP units within each household. For most households, we simulate all household members to be in the same SNAP unit. For some households with certain compositions (e.g., multiple-family households, households with unrelated individuals, etc.), however, we simulate two or more groups of people to form separate SNAP units. The probability of a household forming multiple

⁵ 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 without knowing in which months the income is received.

units is based on observed rates for similar households from SNAP QC data. We also use the following rules in identifying SNAP units:

- We exclude ineligible noncitizens and nondisabled nonelderly childless adults subject to work registration.
- We exclude SSI recipients who are not eligible for SNAP because they receive cash instead of SNAP benefits in SSI cashout States (currently only California).⁶
- We exclude all individuals who are living in group quarters, are full-time students, or are living 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 either to work or face time limits on benefit receipt. However, many 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 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 which noncitizens and nondisabled nonelderly childless adults are not categorically-ineligible for SNAP, we make assumptions about how many and which of these individuals remain eligible.

⁶ Since SSI is underreported in the CPS, if we used reported SSI, we would exclude too few individuals in California, where SSI participants are ineligible for SNAP benefits, thus artificially increasing the number of eligible individuals and lowering the participation rate. In other States, the underreporting may affect benefit levels, but is not as likely to affect the number of eligible individuals. To obtain the most accurate number of eligible individuals possible, we simulate SSI receipt in California and exclude simulated SSI recipients.

To retain sample size, we implement our eligibility assumptions for these populations through weighting adjustments.⁷

a. Identifying Eligible Noncitizens

AREERA and the Farm Security Act restored eligibility to many noncitizens. In FY 2007, the following legal resident noncitizens were eligible:

- Noncitizens who had lived legally in the United States for more than five years (effective April 2003)
- Noncitizens who were receiving disability benefits, regardless of date of entry (effective October 2002)
- Noncitizens legally living in the United States who were under age 18, regardless of date of entry (effective October 2003)
- Noncitizens who were admitted as refugees or granted asylum or a stay of deportation (eligible for seven years after arrival)⁸
- 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 refugee, or has permanent resident status. Since undocumented noncitizens are ineligible for SNAP, we randomly assign undocumented immigrant status to noncitizens according to estimates of the number of undocumented immigrants in the March CPS by State in 2005 through 2007 and exclude those individuals from the SNAP unit.⁹

⁷ The weighting adjustments reflect the probability that a household of a certain composition is eligible for SNAP. For example, if a household has one 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 SNAP benefits. In the second copy, we exclude the noncitizen and multiply the household weight by the probability that the noncitizen is ineligible.

⁸ Refugees typically change their status to Legal Permanent Resident one year after arrival. After five years of residency, both refugees and those granted asylum are eligible under the five-year residency provision.

⁹ Unpublished estimates of the number of unauthorized migrants included in the March CPS supplements for 1995 to 1996 and 1998 to 2007 are from Jeffrey Passel, prepared for the Pew Hispanic Center.

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 five years. We allow qualified noncitizens ages 18 and over who have been in the country for at least five years to be eligible in 2007. We allow qualified noncitizens who are under age 18, or who are receiving disability benefits, to be eligible in 2007, 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 admitted as refugees by year of entry. Using these estimates in our 2007 eligibility determination, we assume that 7 percent of noncitizens who entered the United States in 2002 or 2003, 10 percent who entered in 2004 or 2005, and 8 percent who entered in 2006 or 2007 were admitted as refugees. We allow refugees who have been in the United States for seven years or less to be eligible in 2007.

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 support the noncitizen financially for at least 10 years. If the noncitizen applies for SNAP benefits within those 10 years, the State can sue a nonindigent sponsor to recoup the cost of any benefits issued to the sponsored noncitizen. However, the deeming provision applies only to those who have a sponsor who lives outside of the household, since program rules already deem the income of sponsors—typically spouses or parents of minor children—who live 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 SNAP 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 SNAP unit to avoid negative repercussions on 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 household separate from at least one sponsor. The survey showed that 26.4 percent of all non-refugee immigrants fit those criteria. We then randomly assigned 26.4 percent of noncitizens arriving after December 1997 to be subject to deeming from a sponsor and therefore ineligible for SNAP.

We identify the remaining noncitizens as ineligible. We exclude them from the SNAP unit, along with undocumented noncitizens and noncitizens subject to deeming, and assign a prorated portion of their income to the SNAP unit. We also consider the excluded members' 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 SNAP. If they fail to meet the requirements, they are limited to 3 months of benefit receipt in any 36-month period. They 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.¹⁰

¹⁰ The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (PL 111-5) suspends the work requirement until October 2010. However, this provision did not take effect until April 2009, and thus, does not apply to this report.

We identify nondisabled nonelderly childless adults subject to work registration by looking at basic demographic characteristics in the CPS.¹¹ Because we cannot determine from the CPS which of these individuals remain eligible for SNAP, we impute this information. We estimate the proportion who have not reached the time limit (based on data from the SIPP) and the proportion 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.¹² The target proportions for nondisabled nonelderly childless adults subject to work registration who are eligible for SNAP are presented in Table D.1. Nondisabled nonelderly childless adults who are not eligible are excluded from the SNAP unit and, as with noncitizens, have a prorated portion of their income assigned to the SNAP unit and their assets considered when we determine the unit's eligibility.

3. Identifying Categorically-Eligible SNAP Units

Certain SNAP units are categorically eligible for SNAP 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 at least 50 percent funded by TANF or Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funds. States have the option of conferring categorical eligibility on families receiving benefits or services less than 50 percent funded by TANF/MOE. They also may confer categorical eligibility on households for which one member receives the benefit or service, but the State determines that the whole household benefits. To be categorically

¹¹ The population of nondisabled nonelderly childless adults subject to work registration includes some eligible noncitizens.

¹² 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.

eligible for SNAP, 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.

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 SNAP, and those that qualify for a positive benefit are included in the denominator of the participation rates presented in this report.¹³

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 eligibility requirements for each program. While we are able to identify households that likely are eligible for some of these programs, we do not have data on which households actually are 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.¹⁴ However, our rates do include individuals who are eligible based on expanded vehicle rules.¹⁵

4. Determining Income Eligibility

Noncategorically-eligible SNAP units must meet income limits in order to be eligible for benefits. SNAP units that do not contain elderly or disabled members must have a gross income

¹³ Because of the underreporting of program participation in the CPS, we likely have underestimated the number of pure public assistance units.

¹⁴ We are examining approaches for overcoming these data limitations in future reports.

¹⁵ SNAP asset rules and our asset-eligibility imputation are described in Section A.5 of this appendix.

below 130 percent of the monthly poverty guidelines. There is no gross income limit for units with elderly or disabled members. In addition, all noncategorically-eligible SNAP units must have a net income below 100 percent of the poverty guidelines.

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 SNAP 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 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 SNAP QC data. The estimated relationships (coefficients) are presented in Table D.2.

We use the SNAP gross and net income screens, standard deduction amounts, and 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 SNAP eligibility criteria, are presented in Table D.3.

5. Determining Asset Eligibility

To be eligible for SNAP benefits, a noncategorically-eligible SNAP unit must have countable assets under the applicable SNAP 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 SNAP 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 driven by the minor to work, school, or training also is 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 SNAP vehicle rules with rules in place for other programs, such as TANF or child care assistance. In response to this new flexibility, States gradually began changing their vehicle rules. Additional States used broader categorical eligibility rules to exempt more households from the asset test. By the end of FY 2007, all States had implemented changes in the SNAP vehicle rules.

We simulate vehicle rules implemented through either program alignment or categorical eligibility. We do this to be consistent with our estimates of participating households.¹⁶ As a result, both the numerator and the denominator are restricted to households that either are asset-eligible based on expanded State-level vehicle rules and income-eligible or are pure cash public assistance (PA) households. For September 2007, we simulate thirty States as excluding the value of all vehicles when determining assets, and 12 as excluding at least one vehicle per household.

¹⁶ Because many households flagged as categorically-eligible in the FY 2007 SNAP QC 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.)

For 2007, we modeled these vehicle rule changes by estimating asset imputation equations at two points in time. For FY 2007, the first set of equations simulates SNAP asset rules in place in April 2007 and is used to simulate the first half of the fiscal year. The second set of equations simulates asset rules in place in September 2007 and is used to simulate the second half of the fiscal year. For each time period, we model 20 different vehicle rules to fully capture State-level differences. For 2005 and 2006, since there were no vehicle rule changes during the fiscal year, we modeled one set of equations to capture the 20 different vehicle rules.

The unweighted counts of households in the March CPS for 1976 through 2007 are listed in Table D.4. Unweighted counts of households by their probability of being eligible in 2007 are listed in Table D.5.

6. Identifying SNAP-Eligible Units with TANF

Although we simulate SNAP-eligible units as described above, we use the reported information in the CPS to identify those SNAP-eligible units receiving TANF. Because participation in TANF is underreported in the CPS, the number of SNAP-eligible units with TANF is underestimated. Typically, the number of households reporting TANF receipt in the March CPS is about 75 percent of the administrative totals. This leads to participation rates exceeding 100 percent for SNAP-eligible households receiving TANF.¹⁷

Rates for subgroups that include a large proportion of TANF recipients, such as households with single adults and children, also exceed 100 percent. Difficulties in correctly identifying which household members purchase and prepare food separately, and therefore form their own SNAP unit, may add to the problem of rates exceeding 100 percent. Rates for other subgroups,

¹⁷ While the CPS-based number of eligible SNAP households with TANF (the denominator in the participation rate calculation) is underestimated, the administrative number of participating SNAP households with TANF (the numerator) is not underestimated. The resulting participation rate exceeds 100 percent.

such as SNAP-eligible households with SSI, also exceed 100 percent due to underreporting and possible unit definition issues.

One approach to correcting for underreporting of TANF and SSI is to simulate TANF and SSI eligibility and receipt in the model. Future updates may incorporate TANF and SSI models that would correct for the underreporting of public assistance benefits and improve the estimates of participation rates among SNAP units with TANF, SSI, and related subgroups.

B. DETERMINING THE NUMBER OF SNAP PARTICIPANTS

The number of participants for the participation rate comes from the SNAP Statistical Summary of Operations (Program Operations) data and the SNAP QC data file. We use these databases because SNAP 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 of the fiscal year. The SNAP QC data file is an edited version of the raw data file generated by the SNAP Quality Control System and contains data on the demographic and economic characteristics of a sample of participating households.

The FY 2007 SNAP QC data file is weighted to match Program Operations counts for households, individuals, and benefits, adjusting those totals to exclude benefits issued to individuals found to be ineligible.¹⁸ To adjust the program operations counts for benefits issued in error, we first use the unweighted SNAP QC data file to calculate disqualification rates for households, individuals, and benefits, and then reduce the program operations counts by those percentages.

¹⁸ Typically, we exclude benefits received in response to a disaster. However, in the FY 2007 SNAP QC file, we did not adjust for disaster assistance because the benefits issued in that fiscal year did not result in a noticeable increase in Program Operations totals. In previous years, we determined benefits issued under disaster-related rules by using data from USDA on the number of households and individuals who received disaster benefits, the amount of benefits issued to those households, and the amount of additional disaster-related benefits issued to existing SNAP participants. We reduced the Program Operations counts of households, individuals, and benefits by the disaster-related counts in the months and States in which the disaster relief occurred.

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 in households that are not eligible for a positive benefit.¹⁹ 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.

SNAP QC files for years prior to 2005 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 SNAP QC data files are listed in Table D.6.

1. Identifying Categorically-Eligible Participating SNAP Units

Because the FY 2007 SNAP QC file does not contain the individual-level information on TANF receipt needed to identify pure cash PA households, we use an algorithm for determining program coverage.²⁰ 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:

¹⁹ The individual disqualification rate in FY 2007 was 2.0 percent (539,060 ineligible participants).

²⁰ The FY 2003 through FY 2006 SNAP QC data files also did not contain person-level information on TANF receipt. The FY 2002 and earlier SNAP QC data files included additional person-level information on program participation.

- 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 ages)
- 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 SNAP and therefore exempt from the income and asset tests. These units still must qualify for a positive benefit.

For FY 2007, we implemented a minor correction to the algorithm to adjust for the fact that TANF receipt is no longer reported for participants in the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP). As a result of the missing data, in FY 2005 and FY 2006 some MFIP households were not identified as pure PA and were incorrectly dropped from the participation rate numerator. For 2007, we correctly included these MFIP households.

We also can identify units that are categorically-eligible through noncash PA programs through a variable in the SNAP QC 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 so as to be consistent with our estimates of eligible individuals (Section A.3).²¹ However, because the assets of categorically-eligible units usually are not 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; also, we restrict the denominator to households that are

²¹ We removed 276,748 participants (1.1 percent) who were categorically-eligible but not income-eligible from our FY 2007 participant total.

asset-eligible based on expanded State-level asset rules and are either income-eligible or pure cash PA households.

C. CALCULATING SNAP 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 2007 participation rates are presented in Appendix B.

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) also can be used to measure participation rates. SIPP data contain more of the information needed to estimate eligibility for SNAP, and the methodology used to estimate eligibility with SIPP data more closely replicates the actual SNAP eligibility determination process. However, the SIPP data cover a shorter period than the CPS, and certain types of SIPP data needed to estimate eligible individuals are available for only a limited number of years. In addition, CPS data consistently are 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 D.1). The change in methodology implemented with the 1995 estimates shifted the CPS-based rates up and, as a result, both the trend and the level of the CPS-based rates are more in line with SIPP-based rates.²²

²² See Cody and Trippe (1997) for more information.

TABLE D.1

PERCENT OF NONDISABLED NONELDERLY CHILDLESS ADULTS SUBJECT TO WORK
WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR SNAP BY REASON FOR ELIGIBILITY, 2007

	Percent Eligible by Reason for Eligibility				Total Percent Eligible for SNAP ^a
	Living in Waiver Area	Have Not Exceeded Time Limits ^a	In E & T Program	Received Exemption	
Alabama	21	62 / 72	0	2	71 / 78
Alaska	100	62 / 72	0	0	100
Arizona	31	62 / 72	0	0	74 / 81
Arkansas	60	62 / 72	0	0	85 / 89
California	29	62 / 72	0	0	73 / 80
Colorado	2	62 / 72	100	0	100
Connecticut	40	62 / 72	0	0	77 / 83
Delaware	0	62 / 72	100	0	100
District of Columbia	100	62 / 72	0	0	100
Florida	14	62 / 72	1	0	67 / 76
Georgia	54	62 / 72	0	2	83 / 87
Hawaii	69	62 / 72	1	0	88 / 91
Idaho	18	62 / 72	100	0	100
Illinois	84	62 / 72	0	1	94 / 95
Indiana	47	62 / 72	0	1	80 / 85
Iowa	0	62 / 72	0	0	62 / 72
Kansas	51	62 / 72	0	0	81 / 86
Kentucky	61	62 / 72	0	0	85 / 89
Louisiana	100	62 / 72	0	0	100
Maine	24	62 / 72	0	0	71 / 79
Maryland	33	62 / 72	0	0	74 / 81
Massachusetts	0	62 / 72	100	1	100
Michigan	100	62 / 72	0	0	100
Minnesota	8	62 / 72	0	0	65 / 74
Mississippi	100	62 / 72	0	0	100
Missouri	25	62 / 72	0	0	71 / 79
Montana	18	62 / 72	1	0	69 / 77
Nebraska	1	62 / 72	100	1	100
Nevada	8	62 / 72	0	0	65 / 74
New Hampshire	37	62 / 72	0	0	76 / 82
New Jersey	52	62 / 72	100	0	100
New Mexico	62	62 / 72	0	0	86 / 89
New York	62	62 / 72	100	1	100
North Carolina	74	62 / 72	0	2	90 / 93
North Dakota	15	62 / 72	0	0	68 / 76
Ohio	67	62 / 72	100	0	100
Oklahoma	19	62 / 72	0	6	71 / 79
Oregon	100	62 / 72	5	0	100
Pennsylvania	15	62 / 72	1	0	68 / 76
Rhode Island	45	62 / 72	0	0	79 / 84
South Carolina	100	62 / 72	0	0	100
South Dakota	13	62 / 72	100	0	100
Tennessee	55	62 / 72	0	1	83 / 87
Texas	1	62 / 72	100	0	100
Utah	13	62 / 72	100	0	100
Vermont	8	62 / 72	0	0	65 / 74
Virginia	17	62 / 72	0	0	68 / 77
Washington	100	62 / 72	0	0	100
West Virginia	45	62 / 72	0	0	79 / 85
Wisconsin	38	62 / 72	1	0	77 / 83
Wyoming	7	62 / 72	0	0	64 / 74

^a The first number is for individuals in households reporting receipt of SNAP benefits in the SIPP. The second number is for individuals in households not reporting receipt of SNAP benefits in the SIPP.

TABLE D.2

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

Explanatory Variable	Coefficients Estimated Using Administrative Data For:			
	2000	2001	2002	2003
Constant	-108.45655 *	-112.6822 *	-125.41062 *	-182.95709 *
	(4.17453)	(4.38793)	(4.56782)	(4.71062)
Gross Income Minus Standard and Earned Income Deductions	1.06687 *	1.05739 *	1.06358 *	1.08187 *
	(0.0058)	(0.00584)	(0.00575)	(0.00599)
Flag for No Housing Expenses	64.81552 *	69.38112 *	71.78718 *	88.10331 *
	(1.42363)	(1.51534)	(1.55999)	(1.64417)
Maximum Allowable Shelter Expense	-0.02072 *	-0.02505 *	-0.03376 *	-0.02864 *
	(0.00368)	(0.00396)	(0.00412)	(0.00419)
Maximum Allowable Dependent Care	0.00004003	-0.00729	-0.00637	-0.01036
	(0.00506)	(0.00544)	(0.0056)	(0.00583)
Unit Size	-5.48806 *	-6.25171 *	-6.76042 *	-6.48828 *
	(0.80896)	(0.85948)	(0.86919)	(0.9028)
Flag for Household that Contains a Disabled Member	-10.34573 *	-8.67301 *	0.16096	-7.93387 *
	(1.63115)	(1.75215)	(1.82341)	(1.92109)
SSI Income	0.05188 *	0.05498 *	0.06049 *	0.06932 *
	(0.0032)	(0.00331)	(0.00341)	(0.00345)
TANF Income	0.00606	0.02121 *	0.02046 *	0.01315 *
	(0.00391)	(0.00416)	(0.00446)	(0.00477)
Flag for Gross Income of \$100 or Less	82.74963 *	93.07207 *	100.10238 *	118.88798 *
	(3.31656)	(3.4812)	(3.62107)	(3.72712)
Flag for Gross Income Between \$101 and \$200	84.42101 *	93.9834 *	100.65511 *	121.60384 *
	(3.6197)	(3.83583)	(3.98906)	(4.10418)
Flag for Gross Income Between \$201 and \$300	42.09649 *	48.29603 *	61.03039 *	79.63212 *
	(2.90802)	(3.15632)	(3.30995)	(3.42055)
Flag for Gross Income Between \$301 and \$400	12.31464 *	20.58321 *	28.73629 *	39.48056 *
	(2.64401)	(2.79878)	(2.92568)	(3.10402)
Gross Income as a Percentage of Poverty	-0.3628 *	-0.28379 *	-0.40238 *	-0.56133 *
	(0.06108)	(0.06271)	(0.06552)	(0.0695)
Gross Income as a Percentage of Poverty if White Head of Household	-0.12607 *	-0.11945 *	-0.09646 *	-0.21509 *
	(0.01736)	(0.01839)	(0.01938)	(0.02079)
Gross Income as a Percentage of Poverty if Hispanic Head of Household	-0.13547 *	-0.17943 *	-0.07442 *	-0.07368 *
	(0.02752)	(0.02877)	(0.03025)	(0.03188)
Flag for Households Residing in Alaska	-3.43195	-3.75758	21.52043 *	46.4004 *
	(7.37366)	(7.39527)	(7.14045)	(7.78751)

TABLE D.2, *continued*

Explanatory Variable	Coefficients Estimated Using Administrative Data For:			
	2000	2001	2002	2003
Flag for Households Residing in Hawaii	6.25458 (4.31531)	9.16738 (4.74176)	28.80363 * (4.81748)	79.66978 * (5.22521)
Flag for Households Residing in California	34.26747 * (4.40728)	24.69593 * (4.68272)	29.18724 * (4.91341)	63.80688 * (4.89846)
Flag for Households Residing in New York	-85.22265 * (4.19858)	-88.56049 * (4.3795)	-122.22554 * (4.65071)	55.34711 * (4.72065)
Flag for Households Residing in the Northeast	-25.68244 * (2.56336)	-32.87453 * (2.67895)	-14.87896 * (2.79359)	9.13402 * (2.92204)
Flag for Households Residing in the Mid-Atlantic	-4.27635 (2.29217)	-9.29002 * (2.41658)	-0.47923 (2.48302)	30.34131 * (2.58427)
Flag for Households Residing in the Southeast	9.6197 * (2.19532)	3.79357 (2.29971)	14.8601 * (2.39514)	35.82232 * (2.50708)
Flag for Households Residing in the Midwest	-4.07 (2.24002)	-14.4667 * (2.39445)	-5.70294 * (2.49169)	6.4728 * (2.68803)
Flag for Households Residing in the Southwest	11.22491 * (2.3221)	1.9032 (2.43158)	12.86077 * (2.49545)	42.29309 * (2.62936)
Flag for Households Residing in the Mountain Plains	1.70174 (2.22124)	-1.89416 (2.34561)	2.31958 (2.4043)	31.31009 * (2.48722)
Flag for Households Participating in MFIP	NA	NA	NA	-145.34147 * (6.76489)
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	46,336	46,412	47,452	47,954
R ²	0.8823	0.8741	0.8704	0.862
Adjusted R ²	0.8822	0.8741	0.8704	0.862

TABLE D.2, *continued*

Explanatory Variable	Coefficients Estimated Using Administrative Data For:			
	2004	2005	2006	2007
Constant	-228.79176 *	-236.66516 *	-228.26556 *	-242.99952 *
	(4.95113)	(5.04374)	(5.27265)	(5.38396)
Gross Income Minus Standard and Earned Income Deductions	0.96967 *	0.97247 *	0.96482 *	0.93917 *
	(0.00575)	(0.00593)	(0.00615)	(0.00598)
Flag for No Housing Expenses	92.69704 *	96.94207 *	102.7976 *	104.02513 *
	(1.77867)	(1.88591)	(2.00290)	(2.07145)
Maximum Allowable Shelter Expense	-0.02156 *	-0.02857 *	-0.04498 *	-0.03487 *
	(0.00442)	(0.00451)	(0.00464)	(0.00469)
Maximum Allowable Dependent Care	-0.02570 *	-0.02642 *	-0.04052 *	-0.03972 *
	(0.00622)	(0.00661)	(0.00720)	(0.00734)
Unit Size	6.72508 *	7.52245 *	7.70777 *	9.70312 *
	(0.90144)	(0.93625)	(1.01042)	(1.01137)
Flag for Household that Contains a Disabled Member	-14.27762 *	-12.19146 *	-14.1958 *	-20.04894 *
	(2.05375)	(2.14437)	(2.27566)	(2.32146)
SSI Income	0.07597 *	0.08601 *	0.07896 *	0.07938 *
	(0.00368)	(0.00378)	(0.00391)	(0.00388)
TANF Income	0.04034 *	0.04491 *	0.03344 *	0.03190 *
	(0.00519)	(0.00553)	(0.00628)	(0.00681)
Flag for Gross Income of \$100 or Less	145.21487 *	149.9315 *	145.72049 *	158.07385 *
	(3.91504)	(4.05408)	(4.22194)	(4.34275)
Flag for Gross Income Between \$101 and \$200	136.73779 *	141.92914 *	148.57149 *	158.26291 *
	(4.37301)	(4.62120)	(4.94720)	(5.17242)
Flag for Gross Income Between \$201 and \$300	85.52055 *	95.26772 *	105.2159 *	115.44586 *
	(3.65884)	(3.92684)	(4.30116)	(4.48934)
Flag for Gross Income Between \$301 and \$400	45.51629 *	46.91855 *	56.56091 *	67.10417 *
	(3.30786)	(3.55714)	(4.00322)	(4.27634)
Gross Income as a Percentage of Poverty	0.40761 *	0.38613 *	0.3198 *	0.32350 *
	(0.06957)	(0.07299)	(0.07694)	(0.07530)
Gross Income as a Percentage of Poverty if White Head of Household	-0.26058 *	-0.30474 *	-0.2638 *	-0.03400
	(0.02251)	(0.02369)	(0.02471)	(0.02354)
Gross Income as a Percentage of Poverty if Hispanic Head of Household	-0.21237 *	-0.22876 *	-0.15963 *	-0.11602 *
	(0.03411)	(0.03659)	(0.03794)	(0.04535)
Flag for Households Residing in Alaska	41.54208 *	37.73781 *	42.47873 *	17.39157 *
	(8.37939)	(7.94323)	(8.47712)	(8.81238)

TABLE D.2, *continued*

Explanatory Variable	Coefficients Estimated Using Administrative Data For:			
	2004	2005	2006	2007
Flag for Households Residing in Hawaii	88.90215 *	84.4869 *	92.84833 *	108.66472 *
	(5.55783)	(5.73912)	(6.14183)	(6.41940)
Flag for Households Residing in California	12.77084 *	13.84785 *	4.16605	-20.72347 *
	(5.47591)	(5.66192)	(5.98781)	(6.15184)
Flag for Households Residing in New York	-80.90515 *	-43.51807 *	-91.96236 *	-67.77581 *
	(5.4125)	(5.8815)	(6.19668)	(6.35245)
Flag for Households Residing in the Northeast	-20.85525 *	-18.19682 *	-42.48817 *	-63.32280 *
	(3.16983)	(3.17959)	(3.37835)	(3.53153)
Flag for Households Residing in the Mid-Atlantic	14.60675 *	18.26132 *	16.86089 *	12.74883 *
	(2.82093)	(2.90475)	(3.09487)	(3.30377)
Flag for Households Residing in the Southeast	28.18480 *	26.63604 *	29.21819 *	24.58465 *
	(2.70949)	(2.7659)	(2.92469)	(3.10871)
Flag for Households Residing in the Midwest	-4.30432	-1.73601	-19.2531 *	-12.69228 *
	(2.94188)	(2.99986)	(3.19838)	(3.15832)
Flag for Households Residing in the Southwest	36.53885 *	41.33699 *	41.3745 *	41.14932 *
	(2.86207)	(3.02181)	(3.20762)	(3.33315)
Flag for Households Residing in the Mountain Plains	16.40894 *	17.22411 *	9.10594 *	2.15176
	(2.71689)	(2.75405)	(2.96399)	(3.14795)
Flag for Households Participating in MFIP	210.56995 *	205.75661 *	104.63726 *	77.26954 *
	(7.42351)	(7.68924)	(7.95268)	(8.42031)
Flag for Households Participating in SSI CAP in KY, LA, MS, NC, NY, PA, SC, TX, or VA	292.87668 *	282.19337 *	266.95631 *	319.14339 *
	(6.41763)	(7.15411)	(7.29981)	(6.23622)
Flag for Households Participating in SSI CAP in FL, MA, or WA	-71.90365 *	-36.1241 *	-22.64272 *	-25.44997 *
	(9.45977)	(5.70086)	(5.67541)	(5.92446)
Sample Size	47,855	45,606	44,704	46,424
R ²	0.8445	0.8437	0.8334	0.8221
Adjusted R ²	0.8444	0.8436	0.8333	0.8220

*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 D.3

FISCAL YEAR 2007 SNAP 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	\$ 817	\$ 1,021	\$ 940
	2	1,100	1,375	1,265
	3	1,384	1,730	1,591
	4	1,667	2,084	1,917
	5	1,950	2,438	2,243
	6	2,234	2,792	2,569
	7	2,517	3,146	2,895
	8	2,800	3,500	3,220
	Each Additional	+ 284	+ 355	+ 326
Standard Deduction	<u>Unit Size</u>	<u>Continental US</u>	<u>Alaska</u>	<u>Hawaii</u>
	1 - 3	\$134	\$229	\$189
	4	139	229	189
	5	162	229	189
	6+	186	232	213
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>
		\$417	\$666	\$562
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	\$155	\$183	\$240
	2	284	336	440
	3	408	482	630
	4	518	612	800
	5	615	726	950
	6	738	872	1,140
	7	816	964	1,260
	8	932	1,101	1,440
	Each Additional	+ 117	+ 138	+ 180
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 D.4
UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE SIZES FOR THE CPS,
1976 TO 2007

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	51,016
2000	78,054
2001	78,265
2002	78,310
2003	77,149
2004	76,447
2005	75,939
2006	75,477
2007	75,872

TABLE D.5

UNWEIGHTED COUNTS OF HOUSEHOLDS BY THE PROBABILITY OF
BEING ELIGIBLE, 2007

	Unweighted Counts
All Households	59,482
Households With a Probability of Being Eligible Greater Than Zero	
Total	14,898
Probability of Being Eligible	
>0.0 to 0.25	1,012
>0.25 to 0.50	691
>0.50 to 0.75	2,861
>0.75 to <1.00	8,567
1.00	1,767

Note: Estimates in this table reflect the number of CPS households in which at least one unit has a nonzero probability of being eligible for SNAP benefits. 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. We multiply the final probability of being eligible by the weight to determine the unit's contribution to the total (weighted) number of eligible units. In households with multiple SNAP units, we combine the probabilities of each unit into one household probability. The data shown in the column reflect the number of households in the month with the median number of households that have a positive probability of being eligible.

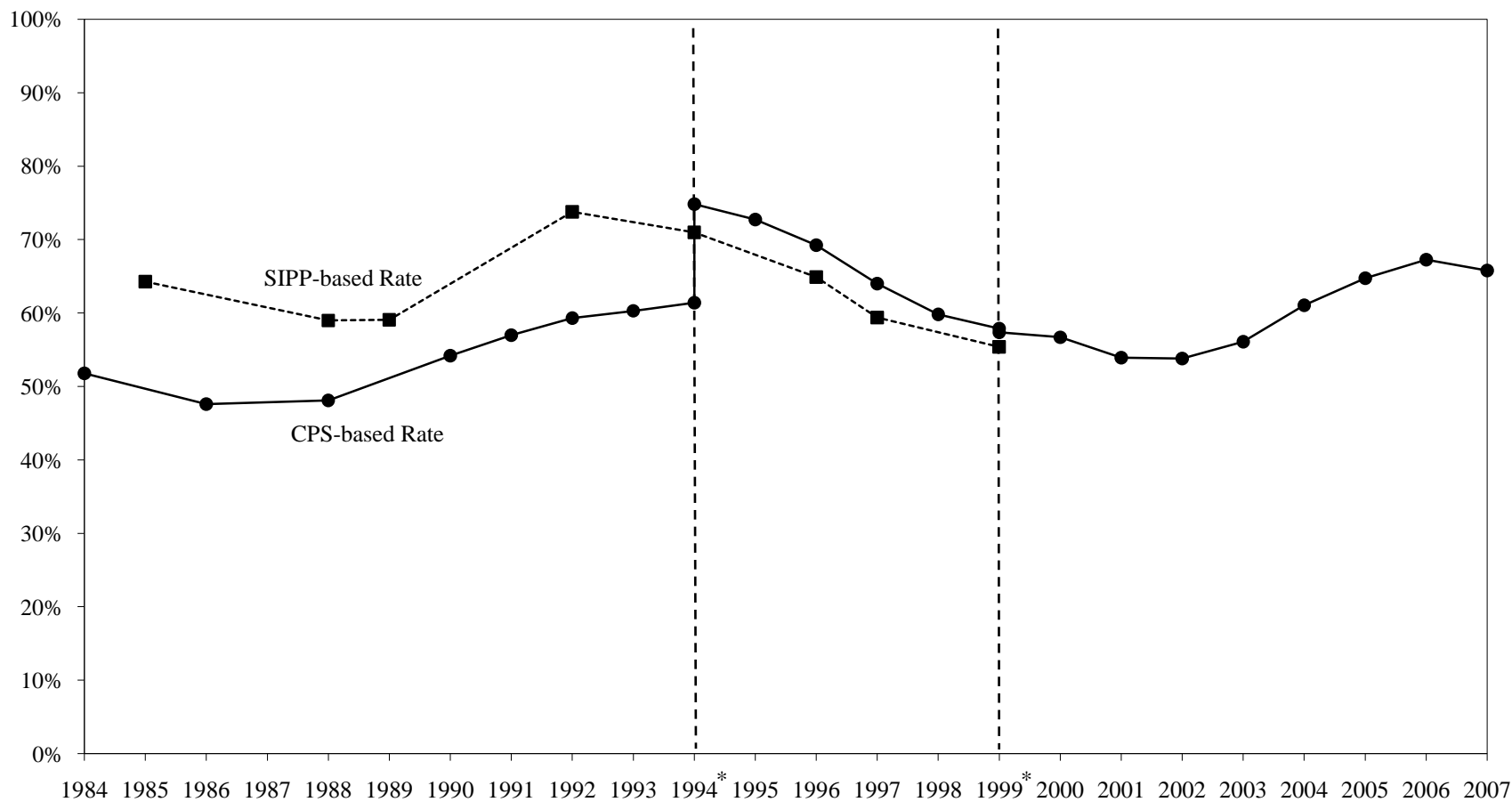
TABLE D.6

UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE SIZES FOR THE SNAP QC CASE RECORDS

Month/Year	SNAP QC 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
Fiscal Year 2006	45,734
Fiscal Year 2007	47,469

FIGURE D.1

TRENDS IN INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY DATA SOURCE, 1984 TO 2007



Sources: SNAP Program Operations, SNAP QC, SIPP , 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 E

SAMPLING ERROR OF PARTICIPATION RATE ESTIMATES

SAMPLING ERROR OF PARTICIPATION RATE ESTIMATES

The participation rates contained in this report represent the ratio of SNAP participants to SNAP-eligible individuals. Participant counts are based on SNAP Program Operations data and SNAP Quality Control (SNAP QC) 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:

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

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

Because the SNAP QC 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 E.1 presents standard errors and confidence intervals for selected participation rates.

TABLE E.1

SAMPLING ERROR ASSOCIATED WITH SELECTED PARTICIPATION RATES, FISCAL YEAR 2007

Variable	Participation Rate with 90% Confidence Interval		Eligibles		Participants	
			Number	Standard Error	Number	Standard Error
	Individuals	65.8 +/- 1.3	38,921,885	479,128	25,610,607	18,971
Households	61.8 +/- 1.1	18,499,131	197,600	11,428,697	7,169	
Benefits	81.3 +/- 1.9	2,999,113,587	41,663,442	2,437,576,845	621,945	
Children	85.2 +/- 2.5	14,754,347	256,133	12,575,709	35,752	
Nonelderly Adults	62.8 +/- 1.4	17,172,481	227,468	10,792,675	41,803	
Elderly Individuals	32.1 +/- 1.3	6,995,057	137,250	2,242,223	32,342	
Nondisabled Childless Adults Subject to Work Registration	39.3 +/- 2.3	2,542,531	73,234	998,077	21,850	
Noncitizens	47.9 +/- 4.4	1,969,055	88,782	943,370	31,543	
Citizen Children Living with Noncitizen Adults	54.7 +/- 4.1	3,397,603	119,086	1,859,588	53,563	
Individuals in Households With Children and One Adult	114.5 +/- 5.3	9,846,676	253,961	11,274,455	133,947	
Individuals In Households						
With Earnings	55.7 +/- 1.7	18,671,402	304,638	10,400,163	97,909	
With TANF	158.8 +/- 14.4	2,696,394	143,140	4,281,350	66,657	
With Nonelderly SSI	119.3 +/- 7.4	3,665,673	126,491	4,374,464	66,488	
With Elderly SSI	111.8 +/- 11.9	1,241,429	75,678	1,387,678	30,858	
Individuals In Households With Very Low Income	108.7 +/- 6.0	7,077,823	223,685	7,690,808	86,603	
Individuals In Households With Income Slightly Above Poverty	30.9 +/- 1.6	9,361,974	223,621	2,891,023	56,661	

Sources: SNAP Program Operations data, SNAP QC data, and March CPS data.

Note: Participation rates over 100 percent are due to reporting errors in the CPS that affect identification of certain subgroups. See Appendix D for more information.

APPENDIX F

ECONOMIC AND POLICY INFLUENCES ON SNAP

TABLE F.1

SUMMARY OF MAJOR INFLUENCES ON SNAP PARTICIPATION RATES, 1976-2007

Period of Change	Major Influences	Effect on Number of Participants and Eligible Individuals	Participation Rate Change
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 1992	Continued Medicaid expansion, recession	Increase in participants. Smaller percent increase in eligible individuals.	Up 5 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 points
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 eligible individuals.	Down 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

TABLE F.1 (continued)

Period of Change	Major Influences	Effect on Number of Participants and Eligible Individuals	Participation Rate Change
2003 to 2004	Increased outreach, increased poverty	Increase in both participants and eligible individuals. Larger increase in participants.	Up 5 points
2004 to 2005	Increased outreach	Increase in both participants and eligible individuals.	Up 4 points
2005 to 2006	Increased outreach, decreased poverty	Increase in participants. Decrease in eligible individuals.	Up 3 points
2006 to 2007	Increased outreach, worsening economy	Increase in participants. Larger increase in eligible individuals.	Down 1 point

Note: The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (PL 110-246) and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (PL 111-5) were enacted after the period that this report covers. Likewise, the current recession falls after the period that this report covers.

TABLE F.2

MAJOR ECONOMIC INDICATORS, CALENDAR YEARS 1976-2007

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	1.6	4.1	5.8	1.7	12.1	34,570
2003	2.5	3.8	6.0	2.1	12.5	35,861
2004	3.6	2.9	5.5	2.9	12.7	37,040
2005	3.1	2.0	5.1	3.2	12.6	36,950
2006	2.9	1.0	4.6	3.2	12.3	36,460
2007	2.2	1.9	4.6	2.7	12.5	37,277

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.

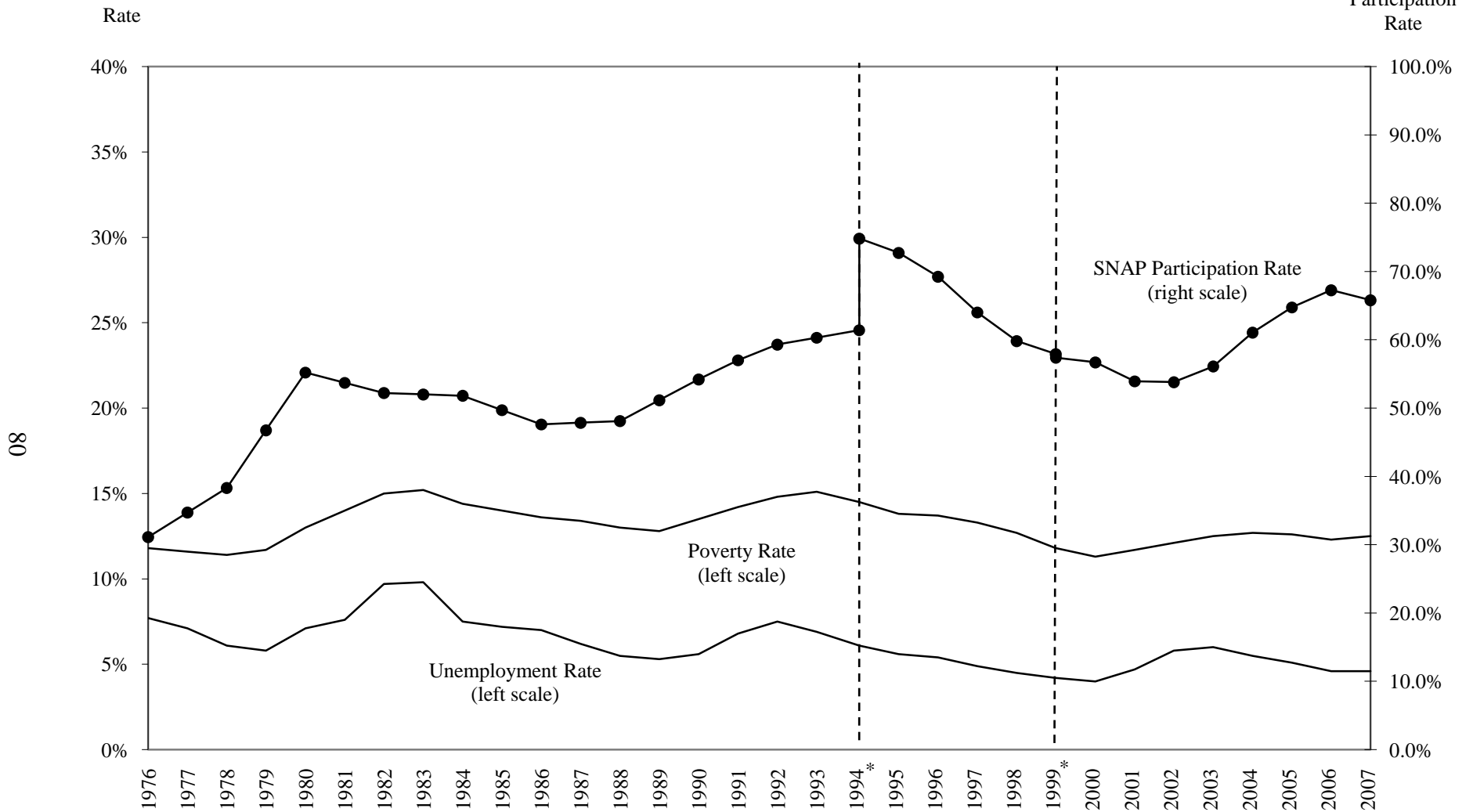
^bPercentage change from preceding year in output per hour, business sector.

^cAll civilian workers.

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

FIGURE F.1

TRENDS IN SNAP PARTICIPATION RATES, POVERTY RATES, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATES, 1976-2007



Sources: Participation rates from SNAP Program Operations data, SNAP QC 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 F.3A

SELECTED FEATURES OF SNAP UNDER PAST 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 SNAP 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 (PL 97-98) 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 from July 1 to October 1 of each year.
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 not counted under the State's TANF cash assistance or Medicaid programs and to treat legally obligated child support payments to a nonhousehold member as an income exclusion rather than a deduction.

Note: The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (PL 110-246) and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (PL 111-5) were enacted after the period that this report covers. Therefore, a discussion of the features of SNAP under these legislation is not included in Tables F.3A – F.3H.

TABLE F.3B

SELECTED FEATURES OF SNAP UNDER PAST 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 (PL 97-98) 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)	Nonliquid 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 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 F.3C

SELECTED FEATURES OF SNAP UNDER PAST 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 F.3D
SELECTED FEATURES OF SNAP UNDER PAST 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 of \$147 on shelter deduction with indexed increases; separate cap of \$160 on dependent care 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 it 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 F.3E

SELECTED FEATURES OF SNAP UNDER PAST 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 either prospective or retrospective with monthly report.	No Change
OBRA of 1981 (PL 86-35) and Food Stamp Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1981 (PL 97-98) 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 F.3F

SELECTED FEATURES OF SNAP UNDER PAST 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 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 (PL 97-98) 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, he or she is limited to 3 months of benefits in any 36-month period. Minimum disqualification periods for individuals who fail to comply with work requirements range from 1 month to permanently, depending on the number of violations.
BBA (PL 105-33)	Increased funds for SNAP 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 subject to the 3-month time limit and eliminated the requirement that 80% of unmatched funds be used for nondisabled childless adults.

TABLE F.3G

SELECTED FEATURES OF SNAP UNDER PAST 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 (PL 97-98) 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 or 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 otherwise eligible for SNAP 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 F.3H

SELECTED FEATURES OF SNAP UNDER PAST 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 (PL 97-98) Effective 10/1/81	Tightened definition of household, no extra benefits for strikers, prorated first month benefits. For Puerto Rico, replaced the FSP with a block grant Nutrition Assistance Program.
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 the Program's 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 Program units. Spouses still must 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 SNAP 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 G

CHANGES IN THE MARCH CPS OVER TIME

TABLE G.1

CHANGES IN THE MARCH CPS OVER TIME

March Year	Data Year	Changes in Design or Weighting From Previous Year
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, topcoded records 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	Reweighted based on Census 2000
01	00	Reweighted 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
07	06	None
08	07	None

APPENDIX H

SNAP ELIGIBILITY PARAMETERS

TABLE H.1

SELECTED SNAP ELIGIBILITY PARAMETERS, 1976 TO 2007

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 SNAP Income						<= Poverty Line					
Asset Eligibility		\$1,500; \$3,000 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											
Monthly SNAP 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 SNAP 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

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; Effective 7/87			<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			\$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		No Automatic Eligibility			Automatically Eligible								
Benefit Calculation		Benefit = Maximum benefit minus 30% of net income											
SSI Cashout States		CA, WI, MA			California, Wisconsin								
Monthly SNAP 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 SNAP 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

Analysis Year		<i>August 1991</i> FACTA of 1991			<i>August 1992</i> FACTA of 1991 and Amendments			<i>August 1993^a</i> FACTA of 1991 and Amendments		
Gross Income Eligibility		<= 1.3 * Poverty Line								
Net Income Eligibility		<= Poverty Line								
Asset Eligibility		\$2,000; \$3,000 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					
Monthly SNAP 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 SNAP 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

Analysis Year		<i>September 1994</i>			<i>September 1995^b</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		\$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 (AFDC/TANF, SSI, or GA)								
Benefit Calculation		Benefit = Maximum benefit minus 30% of net income								
SSI Cashout States		California only								
Monthly SNAP 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 SNAP 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

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 1, 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 SNAP Net Income								
SSI Cashout States		California only								
Monthly SNAP 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 SNAP 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	

Analysis Year		<i>September 2000</i>			<i>FY 2001</i>			<i>FY 2002</i>			<i>FY 2003</i>		
Gross Income Eligibility		<= 1.3 * Poverty Line											
Net Income Eligibility		<= Poverty Line											
Asset Eligibility		\$2,000; \$3,000 for elderly households									\$2,000; \$3,000 for elderly or disabled 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 SNAP Net Income											
SSI Cashout States		California only											
Monthly SNAP 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	687	860	791	696	870	800	716	895	825	739	924	850
	2	922	1,154	1,061	938	1,172	1,078	968	1,210	1,114	995	1,245	1,145
	3	1,157	1,447	1,331	1,180	1,475	1,356	1,220	1,525	1,403	1,252	1,565	1,440
	4	1,392	1,740	1,601	1,421	1,770	1,635	1,471	1,840	1,692	1,507	1,886	1,735
	5	1,627	2,034	1,871	1,663	2,080	1,913	1,723	2,155	1,981	1,765	2,207	2,030
	6	1,862	2,327	2,141	1,905	2,382	2,191	1,975	2,470	2,270	2,022	2,528	2,325
	7	2,097	2,620	2,411	2,146	2,685	2,470	2,226	2,785	2,560	2,279	2,849	2,620
	8	2,332	2,914	2,681	2,388	2,987	2,748	2,478	3,100	2,849	2,535	3,170	2,915
	additional	+ 235	+ 270	+ 270	+ 242	+ 303	+ 279	+ 252	+ 315	+ 290	+ 257	+ 321	+ 295
Monthly Maximum SNAP 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>	<u>US</u>	<u>AK</u>	<u>HI</u>
	1	127	158	199	130	160	199	135	167	204	139	169	212
	2	234	290	365	238	294	366	248	307	374	256	309	389
	3	335	415	523	341	421	524	356	440	536	366	443	557
	4	426	528	664	434	535	665	452	559	680	465	563	707
	5	506	627	789	515	635	790	537	663	808	553	669	840
	6	607	752	947	618	762	948	644	796	970	664	803	1,008
	7	671	831	1,047	683	842	1,048	712	880	1,072	733	887	1,114
	8	767	950	1,196	781	963	1,198	814	1,006	1,225	838	1,014	1,273
	additional	+ 96	+ 119	+ 150	+ 98	+ 120	+ 150	+ 102	+ 126	+ 153	+ 105	+ 127	+ 159

Analysis Year		<i>FY 2004</i>			<i>FY 2005</i>			<i>FY 2006</i>			<i>FY 2007</i>		
Gross Income Eligibility		<= 1.3 * Poverty Line											
Net Income Eligibility		<= Poverty Line											
Asset Eligibility		\$2,000; \$3,000 for elderly or disabled 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 SNAP Net Income											
SSI Cashout States		California only											
Monthly SNAP 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	749	935	861	776	970	892	798	996	918	817	1,021	940
	2	1,010	1,262	1,162	1,041	1,301	1,197	1,070	1,336	1,230	1,100	1,375	1,265
	3	1,272	1,590	1,463	1,306	1,633	1,502	1,341	1,676	1,543	1,384	1,730	1,591
	4	1,534	1,917	1,764	1,571	1,965	1,807	1,613	2,016	1,855	1,667	2,084	1,917
	5	1,795	2,245	2,065	1,836	2,296	2,112	1,885	2,356	2,168	1,950	2,438	2,243
	6	2,057	2,572	2,365	2,101	2,628	2,417	2,156	2,696	2,480	2,234	2,792	2,569
	7	2,319	2,900	2,666	2,366	2,960	2,722	2,428	3,036	2,793	2,517	3,146	2,895
	8	2,580	3,227	2,967	2,631	3,291	3,027	2,700	3,376	3,105	2,800	3,500	3,220
	additional	+ 262	+ 328	+ 301	+ 265	+ 332	+ 305	+ 272	+ 340	+ 313	+ 284	+ 355	+ 326
Monthly Maximum SNAP 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>	<u>US</u>	<u>AK</u>	<u>HI</u>
	1	141	167	210	149	177	222	152	181	229	155	183	240
	2	259	307	386	274	324	408	278	333	421	284	336	440
	3	371	439	553	393	465	585	399	477	602	408	482	630
	4	471	558	702	499	590	742	506	606	765	518	612	800
	5	560	663	834	592	701	882	601	720	909	615	726	950
	6	672	795	1,001	711	841	1,058	722	864	1,090	738	872	1,140
	7	743	879	1,106	786	930	1,170	798	955	1,205	816	964	1,260
	8	849	1,005	1,264	898	1,063	1,337	912	1,091	1,378	932	1,101	1,440
	additional	+ 106	+ 126	+ 158	+ 112	+ 133	+ 167	+ 114	+ 136	+ 172	+ 117	+ 138	+ 180

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.

^a A reduction in the maximum benefit between 1992 and 1993 was prevented by an amendment to the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (PL 102-351).

^b A reduction in the Alaska maximum benefit between 1994 and 1995 was prevented by the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (PL 103-354).

Current Perspectives on SNAP Participation

Titles in this series (continued from inside front cover):

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Trends in Food Stamp Program Participation Rates: 1999 to 2002 Karen Cunnynggham	September 2004
Food Stamp Program Participation Rates: 2003 Karen Cunnynggham	July 2005
Food Stamp Program Participation Rates: 2004 Allison Barrett and Anni Poikolainen	June 2006
Trends in Food Stamp Program Participation Rates: 1999 to 2005 Kari Wolkwitz	June 2007
Trends in Food Stamp Program Participation Rates: 2000 to 2006 Kari Wolkwitz	June 2008