
CHARACTERISTICS OF FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS: FISCAL YEAR 2002 (Advance Report)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

OFFICE OF ANALYSIS, NUTRITION, AND EVALUATION
JULY 2003

The Food Stamp Program (FSP) is the nation's largest food assistance program. In fiscal year 2002, it served an average of 19 million people per month. Over \$18.2 billion was paid out in food stamps that year, with an average benefit of \$80 per person.

Food stamps are available to most low-income households with few resources to supplement their food purchases and help them maintain a healthy diet. In fiscal year 2002, food stamps were over one-fifth of the average participating household's total monthly income (cash plus food stamps). If the value of food stamps were included in gross income, 15.6 percent of food stamp households would move from below to above half the poverty line (Figure 1).

I. COMPOSITION OF FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS

In fiscal year 2002, the majority (54.1 percent) of food stamp households contained children (Table 1). Of these households, 63.6 percent were single-parent households, 17.6 percent were headed by married parents, and 10.8 percent had no members over the age of 17 participating in the FSP (the remaining 8.0 percent were other multiple adult households with children). Households with children had an average size of 3.3 individuals and received an average monthly food stamp benefit of \$254. Single-parent households (3.1 individuals on average) received an average benefit of \$247, and married-couple households with children (4.5 individuals on average) received an average benefit of \$299.

Households containing elderly individuals represented 18.7 percent of all food stamp households. Over three-quarters of them (80.2 percent) lived alone and received an average monthly benefit of \$50. Households containing elderly and other individuals, either elderly or nonelderly, received an average benefit of \$121.

Over one-quarter of food stamp households contained disabled individuals (27.0 percent). Of these households, over half (58.7 percent) lived alone, receiving an average benefit of \$50. Households with disabled individuals and others, either disabled or non-disabled, received an average benefit of \$187.

In households without children, elderly, or disabled individuals, 91.8 percent lived alone, receiving an average benefit of \$122. Households with multiple nonelderly, nondisabled adults and no children received an average benefit of \$201.

II. BENEFITS AND INCOME OF FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS

The average monthly food stamp benefit in fiscal year 2002 was \$173 per household. Over three-quarters (79.4 percent) of all benefits went to households with children, 16.6 percent went to households with disabled individuals, and 6.9 percent went to households containing elderly individuals. The majority (65.4 percent) of food stamp households received monthly benefits of over \$100, and 35.2 percent received over \$200 (Table 2).

FIGURE 1

POVERTY STATUS OF FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT FOOD STAMPS, 2002

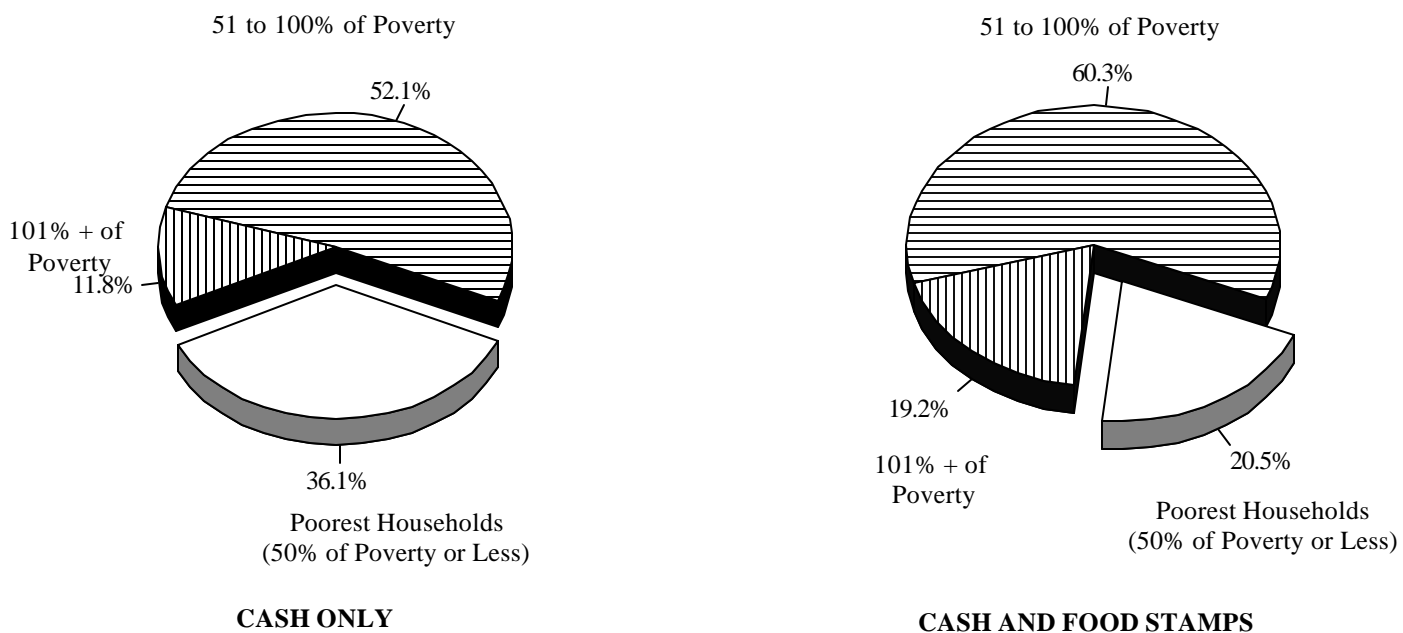
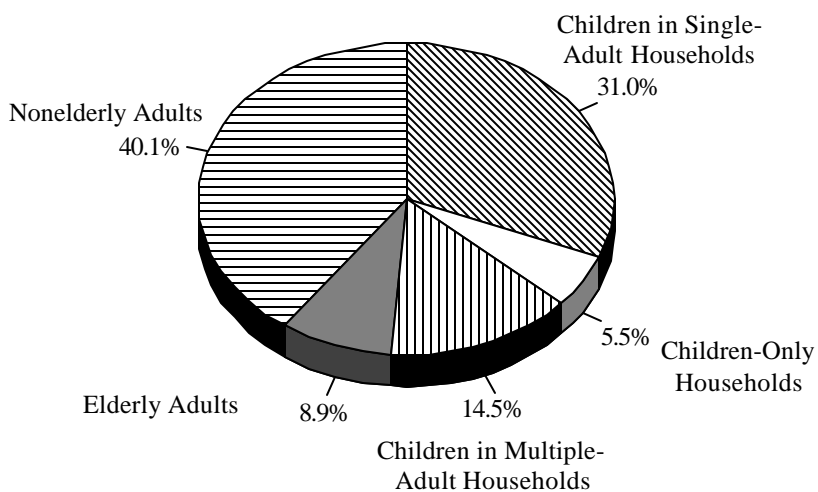


FIGURE 2

DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD STAMP PARTICIPANTS, 2002



Source: 2002 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

The average monthly gross income of food stamp households was \$633 (Table 3). Over one-quarter of households (28.1 percent) had earnings. Three-quarters (75.0 percent) received unearned income from one or more sources. The most common forms of unearned income were Supplemental Security Income (SSI), received by 29.5 percent; Social Security, received by 24.3 percent; and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), received by 20.9 percent. Other sources of unearned income included General Assistance (GA), Unemployment Compensation, contributions, child support, veterans' benefits and educational loans. About 10.5 percent of all participating households had no gross income.

The average total of all deductions claimed by participating food stamp households was \$324 (Table 4). The proportion of households claiming a deduction varied from 59.6 percent claiming the excess shelter deduction to 1.4 percent claiming the child support payment deduction.

III. CHARACTERISTICS OF FOOD STAMP PARTICIPANTS

In fiscal year 2002, slightly over half (51.0 percent) of all food stamp participants were children, the majority of whom lived in single-parent households (Figure 2); 40.1 percent of all food stamp participants were nonelderly adults and 8.9 percent were elderly adults (age 60 or older).

Among adult participants (age 18 or older), 69.2 percent were women, and 30.8 percent were men (Table 4). Of the participating children, one-third (33.2 percent) were preschool age (0 to 4 years), and two-thirds (66.8 percent) were school age (5 to 17 years).

Slightly less than one-quarter (23.9 percent) of nonelderly adult participants (18 to 59 years) were disabled. Nearly one-third (30.4 percent) of participating nonelderly adult males were disabled,

compared to 21.0 percent of participating nonelderly adult females.

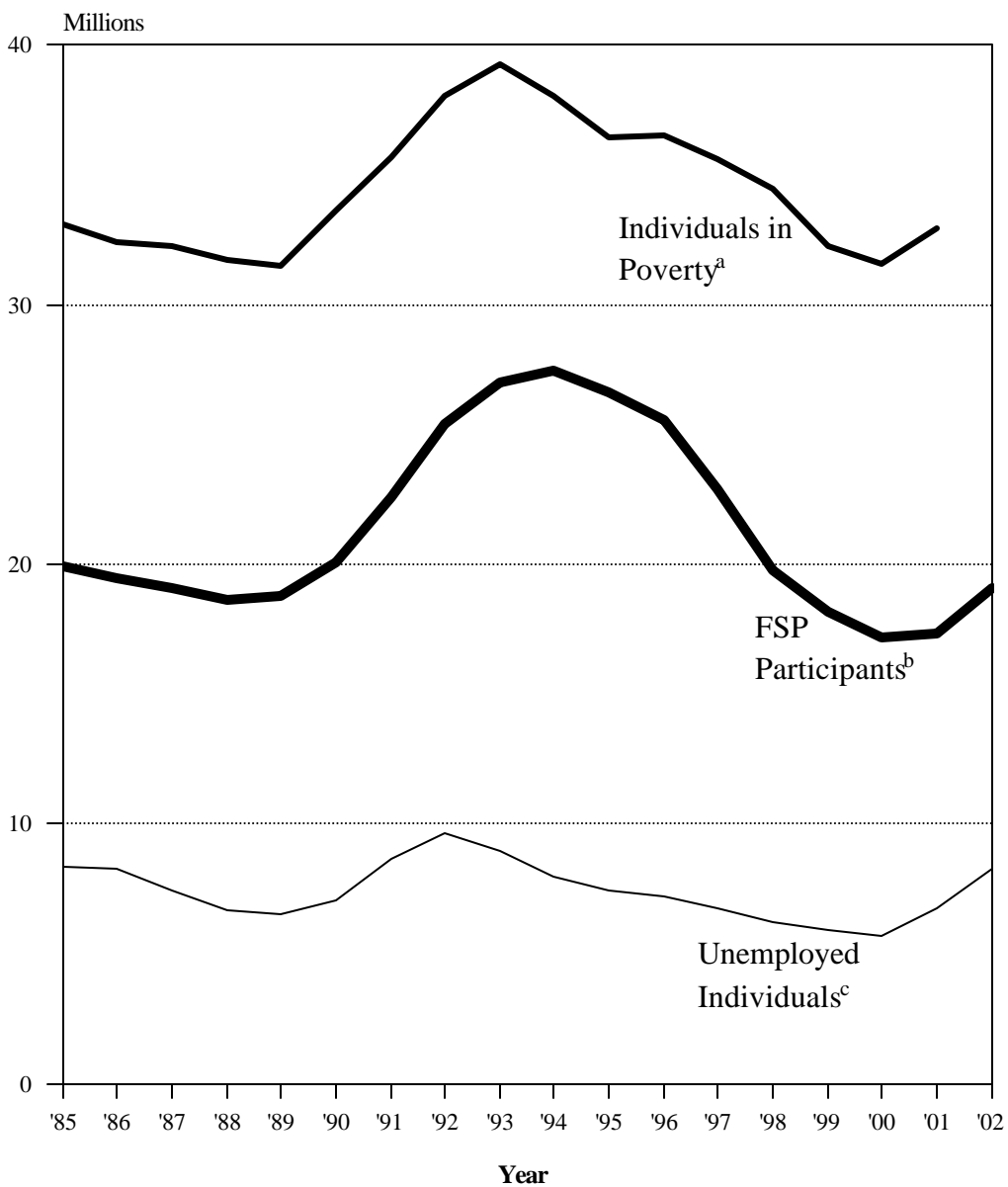
Among all food stamp participants, 3.4 percent were noncitizens. Able-bodied adults living in households without children made up 2.5 percent of all participants, and 6.1 percent of all nonelderly adults (4.1 percent of females and 10.6 percent of males).

The largest proportion of food stamp participants was white, non-Hispanic (41.6 percent), followed by African-American, non-Hispanic (34.9 percent) and Hispanic (18.2 percent). The remaining participants were Asian, Native American, or of another race or ethnicity (Table 5).

IV. CHARACTERISTICS OF FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS BY STATE

In fiscal year 2002, almost half (46.2 percent) of all food stamp households were located in eight states: California, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas (Table 6). The average monthly food stamp benefit varied by state, reflecting differences in income, expenses, household size, and composition. Average monthly benefits were largest in Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and the Virgin Islands because the maximum allotment is set higher in those areas to accommodate higher costs of living. Within the contiguous United States, food stamp benefits were highest (greater than \$195) in Arizona, Louisiana, South Dakota and Texas—states with above-average household sizes. Conversely, average monthly food stamp benefits were lowest (less than \$130) in Connecticut and Maine—states with below-average household sizes.

FIGURE 3
FOOD STAMP PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS,
UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS AND INDIVIDUALS IN POVERTY, 2002



^aAnnual values. The number of individuals in poverty in Fiscal Year 2002 was not available when this report went to print. Source: Bureau of the Census, Poverty in the United States: 2001, Series P60-219.

^bAverage monthly values. Source: Food and Nutrition Service, Fiscal Years 1985-2002 Food Stamp program.

^cAverage monthly values. Source: Economic Report of the President, 2002 Table B-36.

V. CHANGES OVER TIME

The number of individuals participating in the FSP grew substantially from 1989 to 1994 and then declined steadily through July 2000, before rising again through 2002 (Figure 3). Specifically, the number of food stamp participants rose from 18.9 million individuals in 1989 to a record high of 28.0 million in March 1994 and fell to 16.9 million in July 2000. The number of participants then rose to 19.8 million by September 2002.

The percentage of participants who are children has remained relatively stable over time (Table 8). At the same time, the percentage of households with children has declined steadily from 1992 to 2001, but had a slight increase in 2002. The most significant decline occurred between 1998 and 2000.

The percentage of households with disabled individuals increased from 18.9 percent in 1995 to 28.0 percent in 2001, but declined to 27.0 percent in 2002.¹ A similar pattern occurred in households with elderly individuals. A decrease in nonelderly participants resulted in a rise in the proportion of households with elderly from a low of 15.4 percent in 1992 to 21.0 percent in 2000, dropping off to 18.7 percent by 2002.

The proportionate increases in participation by households with disabled and elderly individuals have been accompanied by similar trends in the percentage of households with SSI or Social Security (Table 9). The proportion of households with SSI increased from 18.4 percent in 1992 to 31.9 percent in 2001, but decreased to 29.5 percent in 2002. The proportion with Social Security increased from 17.4 percent in 1992 to 25.5 percent in 2000 before decreasing to 24.3 percent in 2002.

Although the percentage of households with SSI or Social Security decreased in 2002, the number of households with either income source increased.

The number of households with SSI increased 38,000 to 2.42 million, and the number of households with Social Security increased 108,000 to 2.0 million. However, these increases did not keep pace with the increase in households with earnings.

The percentage of households with earnings increased from 19.0 percent in 1990 to 27.2 percent in 2000, decreasing to 26.7 percent in 2001. In 2002, the percentage increased to 28.1 percent, as an additional 311,000 households with earnings began participating. Households with earnings made up a larger share of FSP households than at any point in the analysis period of 1990 – 2002.

The percentage of participating households with AFDC/TANF declined from 42.0 percent in 1990 to 23.0 percent in 2001. While the percentage of households with AFDC/TANF continued to decrease to 20.9 percent in 2002, the number of households remained at 2001 levels.

ECONOMIC CHANGES. Changes in the economy are among the factors that affect participation in the FSP. Figure 3 shows that the surge in FSP participation from 1989 through 1994 was associated with a worsening economy, and the drop in participation since 1994 has been accompanied by an improving economy. The number of FSP participants is still below the numbers in the late 1980s; increases in both the number of FSP participants and unemployment from 2000 to 2002 may be evidence of the most recent economic downturn.

PROGRAM CHANGES. Changes in legislation also affect participation in the FSP. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), enacted August 1996, disqualified most permanent resident aliens from participation in the FSP, placed time limits on unemployed able-bodied adults without dependents, and replaced the AFDC program with

the TANF program. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 allowed states to exempt 15 percent of the unemployed able-bodied, childless adults from the FSP time-limits beginning in FY 1998.

Effective November 1, 1998, the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act restored eligibility to child, elderly, and disabled permanent resident aliens who were present in the United States when welfare reform was enacted in 1996. Additionally, it extended the exemption for refugees, asylees, and deportees from five to seven years. A broader definition of the categorical eligibility regulation also came into effect in November of 2000, expanding the definition of categorical eligibility.

New regulations regarding vehicle rules for food stamp eligibility were implemented in 2001, excluding vehicles with equity less than \$1,500 and exempting one vehicle per adult from the equity test. The Agriculture Appropriations Act for FY2001 also allowed states to use TANF vehicle rules in place of federal FSP rules.

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, P.L. 107-171, among other changes, restructured the standard deduction to vary by household size, raised the asset limit for households with a disabled member from \$2,000 to \$3,000, and restored eligibility to many legal immigrants. However, these changes do not take effect until FY2003.

VI. DESCRIPTION OF THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

The FSP is unique among means-tested assistance programs in two important ways. First, it offers assistance to nearly all financially needy households, regardless of almost any non-financial categorical criteria. Second, instead of cash, it provides benefits in the form of coupons or electronic benefits that can be redeemed for food in any of about 146,000 authorized stores across the

nation. The cost of providing food stamps to needy individuals is funded fully by the federal government. Administrative costs are shared by federal, state, and local governments.

ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible for food stamps in fiscal year 2002, a household's assets, gross income, and net income (which was based on gross income less deductions permitted under the FSP) could not exceed specified levels that varied by household size, composition, and location. Most permanent resident aliens were ineligible to participate in the FSP, and most able-bodied, non-working, childless adults were limited to 3 months of FSP benefits in any 36-month period. (See above under Program Changes for a description of changes to these rules that occurred after fiscal year 2002.)

FOOD STAMP BENEFIT COMPUTATION AND ISSUANCE. Benefits are computed by subtracting 30 percent of a household's net income from the maximum benefit amount. That maximum is 100 percent of the June cost of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) for a family of four, adjusted for household size and location. The TFP is based on the cost of a market basket of food that provides an economical and nutritious diet. In fiscal year 2002, the maximum benefit for a family of four in the contiguous United States was \$452 per month. Program participants receive their monthly benefits through the mail, directly from the local office, or through an electronic benefit transfer (which is similar to a bank card).

VII. DATA

The estimates presented here are based on data extracted from the Food Stamp Program Quality Control System (FSPQC), which is an ongoing review of food stamp households designed to measure the accuracy with which eligibility and benefit determinations are made. All estimates are based on a full-year sample of 48,230 households.

Food and Nutrition Service administrative records indicate that the FSP served 19.1 million individuals in fiscal year 2002, and food stamp households received an average benefit of \$185 per month. The figures in the attached tables indicate that there are 19.0 million participants with an average household benefit of \$173. These figures vary from the administrative figures because they are estimates from the FSPQC, which weights data by households rather than individuals or benefits. Administrative figures are based on a monthly census of actual FSP participation and benefit issuance.

NOTES

¹The increase in the proportion of households with disabled individuals from 1994 to 1995 is due in part to a change in the definition of households with disabled individuals. However, using the pre-1995 definition, the proportion of households with disabled members still increased from 12.5 percent to 13.3 percent.

Table 1 -- Selected Characteristics of Participating Food Stamp Households, 2002

Household type	Participating households		Average monthly values (dollars)			Average household size (persons)	Percent of Total Benefit Dollars
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Food stamp benefit	Gross income	Net income		
Total	8,201	100.0	173	633	355	2.3	100.0
Children	4,437	54.1	254	747	436	3.3	79.4
Single-adult households	2,820	34.4	247	676	381	3.1	49.1
Married-couple households	780	9.5	299	1058	667	4.5	16.4
Other multiple-adult households	356	4.3	295	944	610	4.3	7.4
Children only households	482	5.9	190	512	253	2.2	6.4
Elderly	1,538	18.8	64	647	369	1.3	6.9
Living alone	1,233	15.0	50	589	316	1.0	4.3
Not living alone	305	3.7	121	880	585	2.4	2.6
Disabled	2,213	27.0	106	739	454	2.0	16.6
Living alone	1,300	15.8	50	596	311	1.0	4.6
Not living alone	914	11.1	187	942	657	3.3	12.0
Other	1,089	13.3	128	198	67	1.1	9.8
Single-person	1,000	12.2	122	174	53	1.0	8.6
Multiple-person	89	1.1	201	474	220	2.2	1.3

Source: 2002 Food Stamp Program Quality Control sample.

Table 2 -- Monthly Food Stamp Benefits of Participating Food Stamp Households, 2002

Monthly food stamp benefit	Participating households	
	Number (thousands)	Percent
Total	8,201	100.0
\$0-50	1,822	22.2
\$51-100	1,014	12.4
\$101-150	1,897	23.1
\$151-200	579	7.1
\$201-250	1,004	12.2
\$251-300	353	4.3
\$301-350	398	4.9
\$351-400	501	6.1
\$401 +	632	7.7

Source: 2002 Food Stamp Program Quality Control sample.

Table 3 -- Selected Economic Characteristics of Participating Food Stamp Households, 2002

Income source	Participating households		Persons in households with source		Average income (dollars)		Average food stamp benefit (dollars)	Average household size (persons)
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Gross	From source		
Total	8,201	100.0	19,041	100.0	633	(n/a)	173	2.3
Earned income	2,303	28.1	7,438	39.1	966	781	210	3.2
Wages and salaries	1,923	23.5	6,450	33.9	1020	830	211	3.4
Self-employment	183	2.2	573	3.0	746	433	251	3.1
Other earned income	228	2.8	539	2.8	708	536	182	2.4
Unearned income	6,153	75.0	13,845	72.7	675	551	156	2.3
TANF	1,714	20.9	5,405	28.4	679	369	245	3.2
General Assistance	438	5.3	634	3.3	454	230	130	1.4
Supplemental Security Income	2,417	29.5	4,373	23.0	701	427	98	1.8
Social Security	1,995	24.3	3,193	16.8	719	545	78	1.6
Unemployment	228	2.8	732	3.8	883	622	196	3.2
Contribution ^a	306	3.7	854	4.5	587	210	235	2.8
Child Support	680	8.3	2,424	12.7	839	268	253	3.6
Workers' compensation benefits	33	0.4	102	0.5	912	657	177	3.1
Veterans' benefits	99	1.2	164	0.9	716	295	84	1.7
Other government income ^b	53	0.6	117	0.6	768	359	129	2.2
Other unearned income ^c	457	5.6	1,059	5.6	755	174	148	2.3
No Income	865	10.5	1,558	8.2	0	0	222	1.8

Source: 2002 Food Stamp Program Quality Control sample.

^a Contributions include cash contributions, charity, and in-kind income

^b Examples of other government income include Black Lung Benefits, Railroad Retirement payments, and USDA payments to farmers.

^c Examples of other unearned income include alimony, foster care payments, dividends and interest payments, educational loans and grants, and income deemed from noncitizens' sponsors.

Table 4 - Average Values of Deductions for Participating Food Stamp Households, 2002

Deduction	Households with Deduction		Average Amount of Deduction (Dollars)	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	All Households	With Deduction
Total Deductions	8,201	100.0	324	324
Standard ^a	8,201	100.0	135	135
Excess Shelter	4,889	59.6	131	220
Earned Income	2,295	28.0	44	156
Medical	357	4.4	6	141
Dependent Care	357	4.3	5	120
Child Support Payment	113	1.4	3	203

Source: 2002 Food Stamp Program Quality Control sample.

^a In FY 2002, the standard deduction was \$134 for all households in the continental United States. However, it was higher in Alaska, Hawaii, and Guam, and lower in the Virgin Islands

Table 5 -- Selected Characteristics of Food Stamp Participants, 2002

Participant Characteristic	All participants		Female Participants		Male Participants	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Total	19,041	100.0	11,269	100.0	7,770	100.0
Age						
Child	9,712	51.0	4,821	42.8	4,891	63.0
4 or Less	3,224	16.9	1,597	14.2	1,627	20.9
5-17	6,488	34.1	3,224	28.6	3,264	42.0
Nonelderly Adult	7,636	40.1	5,260	46.7	2,375	30.6
18-35	3,994	21.0	2,983	26.5	1,011	13.0
36-59	3,642	19.1	2,276	20.2	1,364	17.6
Elderly (60 or More)	1,687	8.9	1,187	10.5	501	6.4
Unknown Age	5	0.0	2	0.0	3	0.0
Disabled	2,377	12.5	1,390	12.3	987	12.7
Nonelderly Adults (18-59)	1,828	9.6	1,105	9.8	723	9.3
Citizenship						
Citizen, Born in U.S.	17,755	93.2	10,493	93.1	7,262	93.5
Naturalized Citizen	557	2.9	352	3.1	206	2.6
Native American	75	0.4	41	0.4	35	0.4
Legal Permanent Resident						
Alien	457	2.4	270	2.4	188	2.4
Refugee	177	0.9	103	0.9	74	1.0
Unknown	19	0.1	12	0.1	5	0.1
Able-bodied Adults Living in Households Without Children and Subject to Work Registration^a	468	2.5	216	1.9	251	3.2

Source: 2002 Food Stamp Program Quality Control sample.

^a These participants are age 18-49, not disabled, not living with participating children under age 18, and not exempt from work registration. With some exceptions (for example, those in waiver areas or receiving state exemptions), these participants must meet work requirements or face time limits on benefit receipt.

Table 6 -- Race/Ethnicity of Food Stamp Participants, 2002

Race	Participants	
	Number (thousands)	Percent
Total	19,044	100.0
White, Non-Hispanic	7,931	41.6
African-American, Non-Hispanic	6,651	34.9
Hispanic	3,465	18.2
Asian	536	2.8
Native American	303	1.6
Other	159	0.8

Source: 2002 Food Stamp Program Quality Control sample.

Table 7 -- Selected Characteristics of Participating Food Stamp Households by State, 2002

State	Total (thousands)	Percent of all households	Average monthly amount					Average house- hold size (persons)
			Food stamp benefit (dollars)	Gross income (dollars)	Net income (dollars)	Total deduction (dollars)	Countable assets (dollars)	
Total	8,201	100.0	173	633	355	324	134	2.3
Alabama	173	2.1	188	620	345	317	62	2.5
Alaska	16	0.2	294	1011	645	421	144	2.9
Arizona	144	1.8	212	621	342	328	103	2.7
Arkansas	113	1.4	195	576	340	299	87	2.5
California	647	7.9	184	688	431	287	142	2.6
Colorado	79	1.0	164	618	343	329	246	2.2
Connecticut	88	1.1	129	595	349	293	117	1.9
Delaware	16	0.2	174	670	383	329	39	2.4
Dist. of Col.	35	0.4	167	442	277	230	17	2.1
Florida	474	5.8	146	621	337	322	222	2.0
Georgia	263	3.2	185	586	348	277	171	2.4
Guam	7	0.1	496	492	192	425	72	3.3
Hawaii	51	0.6	258	698	402	333	252	2.1
Idaho	28	0.3	170	732	423	356	232	2.5
Illinois	393	4.8	170	566	302	317	129	2.2
Indiana	171	2.1	175	622	358	310	215	2.4
Iowa	61	0.7	162	630	384	285	289	2.3
Kansas	63	0.8	162	641	372	321	116	2.3
Kentucky	187	2.3	162	627	401	259	163	2.4
Louisiana	224	2.7	211	634	330	357	97	2.6
Maine	56	0.7	126	689	387	332	232	1.9
Maryland	105	1.3	166	565	311	303	34	2.1
Massachusetts	115	1.4	137	704	430	315	213	2.1
Michigan	328	4.0	174	714	352	413	57	2.3
Minnesota	102	1.2	168	466	276	303	215	2.0
Mississippi	126	1.5	181	607	399	240	131	2.5
Missouri	221	2.7	169	644	373	323	122	2.3
Montana	27	0.3	168	662	389	307	333	2.4
Nebraska	38	0.5	169	666	379	324	159	2.3
Nevada	44	0.5	184	582	298	351	34	2.3
New Hampshire	20	0.2	141	690	368	362	203	2.1
New Jersey	147	1.8	162	626	313	350	80	2.1
New Mexico	66	0.8	182	645	398	288	130	2.5
New York	691	8.4	169	685	264	484	59	2.0
North Carolina	245	3.0	171	611	354	299	132	2.3
North Dakota	16	0.2	169	759	398	399	2	2.4
Ohio	331	4.0	151	610	364	292	172	2.2
Oklahoma	130	1.6	177	636	397	282	84	2.5
Oregon	177	2.2	156	577	322	323	47	2.1
Pennsylvania	351	4.3	150	641	378	291	213	2.2
Rhode Island	33	0.4	157	662	388	294	207	2.2
South Carolina	155	1.9	184	583	359	266	63	2.5
South Dakota	18	0.2	216	625	304	393	186	2.6
Tennessee	256	3.1	166	608	378	268	228	2.3
Texas	570	7.0	216	617	350	313	92	2.7
Utah	36	0.4	182	646	368	331	193	2.5
Vermont	20	0.2	147	676	347	405	138	2.0
Virgin Islands	4	0.1	354	504	308	230	139	3.0
Virginia	159	1.9	152	638	387	281	172	2.2
Washington	163	2.0	145	621	372	292	99	2.1
West Virginia	100	1.2	162	623	372	296	118	2.3
Wisconsin	106	1.3	165	753	478	322	142	2.6
Wyoming	10	0.1	173	623	376	303	267	2.4

Source: 2002 Food Stamp Program Quality Control sample.

**Table 8 -- Selected Characteristics of Food Stamp Households Over Time
Fiscal Year 1989-Fiscal Year 2002**

Fiscal Year	Total		Children		Elderly		Disabled	
	Participants (thousands)	Households (thousands)	Children (percent of all participants)	Households with children (percent of all)	Elderly (percent of all participants)	Households with elderly (percent of all)	Disabled (percent of all participants)	Households with disabled (percent of all)
2002	19,041	8,201	51.0	54.1	8.9	18.7	12.5	27.0
2001	17,288	7,450	51.1	53.5	9.6	20.5	13.2	28.0
2000	17,091	7,335	51.2	53.9	10.0	21.0	12.9	27.5
1999	18,149	7,670	51.5	55.7	9.4	20.1	12.0	26.4
1998	19,969	8,246	52.8	58.3	8.2	18.2	10.8	24.4
1997	23,117	9,452	51.4	58.3	7.9	17.6	9.9	22.3
1996	25,926	10,552	51.0	59.5	7.3	16.2	8.8	20.2
1995	26,955	10,883	51.5	59.7	7.1	16.0	8.2	18.9 ^a
1994	28,009	11,091	51.4	61.1	7.0	15.8	5.5	13.0
1993	27,595	10,791	51.5	62.1	6.8	15.5	4.7	10.7
1992	25,775	10,059	51.9	62.2	6.6	15.4	4.1	9.5
1991	22,988	8,863	52.1	60.4	7.0	16.5	3.8	9.0
1990	20,440	7,811	49.6	60.3	7.7	18.1	3.7	8.9
1989	18,956	9,447	49.8	60.4	8.2	19.3	3.8	9.1

^a Beginning in 1995, disabled households are defined as households with at least one member under age 65 who received SSI, or at least one member age 18 to 61 who received Social Security, veterans benefits, or other government benefits as a result of a disability. For years prior to 1995, disabled households are defined as households with SSI but no members over age 59. The substantial increase in the percentage of households with a disabled member between 1994 and 1995 is due in part to the change in the definition of disabled households. Using the previous definition, 13.3 percent of households included a disabled person in fiscal year 1995.

Source: Food Stamp Program Quality Control samples.

Table 9 -- Sources of Income Among Food Stamp Households Over Time Fiscal Year 1989-Fiscal Year 2002

Fiscal Year	Earned Income		AFDC/TANF		GA		SSI ^a		Social Security		No Income	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
2002	2,303	28.1	1,714	20.9	438	5.3	2,417	29.5	1,995	24.3	865	10.5
2001	1,993	26.7	1,714	23.0	415	5.6	2,379	31.9	1,887	25.3	704	9.5
2000	1,993	27.2	1,891	25.8	395	5.4	2,324	31.7	1,870	25.5	617	8.4
1999	2,058	26.8	2,096	27.3	435	5.7	2,315	30.2	1,897	24.7	649	8.5
1998	2,167	26.3	2,591	31.4	486	5.9	2,263	27.4	1,924	23.3	724	8.8
1997	2,284	24.2	3,270	34.6	588	6.2	2,460	26.0	1,999	21.1	868	9.2
1996	2,379	22.5	3,866	36.6	677	6.4	2,538	24.1	2,034	19.3	1,078	10.2
1995	2,329	21.4	4,171	38.3	786	7.2	2,461	22.6	2,019	18.6	1,053	9.7
1994	2,374	21.4	4,225	38.1	769	6.9	2,371	21.4	1,998	18.0	1,132	10.2
1993	2,226	20.6	4,253	39.4	809	7.5	2,097	19.4	1,908	17.7	1,047	9.7
1992	2,035	20.2	3,972	39.5	871	8.7	1,847	18.4	1,748	17.4	963	9.6
1991	1,757	19.8	3,590	40.5	916	10.3	1,646	18.6	1,585	17.9	733	8.3
1990	1,484	19.0	3,278	42.0	830	10.6	1,530	19.6	1,483	19.0	577	7.4
1989	1,416	19.6	3,023	41.9	727	10.1	1,489	20.6	1,448	20.1	515	7.1

^a A portion of the difference in the proportion of households with SSI from 1996 through 1999 is likely due to changes in the identification of SSI recipients.

Source: Food Stamp Program Quality Control samples.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
